



CABINET DECISION NOTICE

Publication Date: 1st December 2023

At a meeting of special Cabinet held on the 30th November 2023 the following matters were discussed. The decisions of Cabinet are set out below each item along with reasons for the decision and other options considered.

Present: Councillor Jackson (in the Chair)

Councillors Dawkins, Harness, Shepherd, and Shreeve

DN.50 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received for this meeting from Councillors Cracknell and S Swinburn.

DN.51 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interests made from Members with regard to items on the agenda for this meeting.

DN.52 DEVOLUTION PROPOSAL FOR GREATER LINCOLNSHIRE

Cabinet considered a report from the Leader of the Council on a proposed devolution deal for Greater Lincolnshire.

RESOLVED

- 1. That the proposed devolution deal document attached at Appendix A of the report now submitted be approved.**
- 2. That the draft proposal for the creation of a Greater Lincolnshire Combined County Authority attached at Appendix B (“the Proposal”) of the report now submitted, be approved for the purposes of public consultation in accordance with the Levelling Up and Regeneration Act 2023 .**

- 3. That the carrying out of public consultation on the proposal in accordance with paragraphs 1.26 to 1.30 of the report now submitted and the Consultation document at Appendix C; be approved.**
- 4. That authority be delegated to the Chief Executive to approve any minor amendments to the draft proposal or consultation arrangements. This delegation is to be exercised in consultation with the Leader of the Council and is conditional upon agreement to such amendments by the other Constituent Councils.**
- 5. That the report now submitted be referred to Full Council for support.**

REASONS FOR DECISION –

Progress the steps required to deliver on an historic devolution deal for Greater Lincolnshire and to progress the process for creation of a Combined County Authority covering Lincolnshire, North Lincolnshire and North East Lincolnshire in accordance with the Levelling-Up and Regeneration Act as the only mechanism for delivering on that deal.

Ensure that appropriate consultation is undertaken, and comments are sought from stakeholders and are considered prior to consideration of approval of a final proposal for submission to Government.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

1. Not to approve the draft proposal.

This is not recommended because to allow for the maximum amount of devolved powers and funding (a “Level 3” deal), the legislation requires that a Mayoral Combined County Authority must be established in the area. There is no guarantee that a devolution deal and the associated funding would be available to the area in the same way in the future.

2. Not to consult upon the proposal or to delay consultation.

Neither of these options is recommended as failure to consult would mean that a key requirement of the Levelling up and Regeneration Act not being met, and that the proposal could not be put forward to Government, preventing the delivery of the significant additional funding and powers that devolution and the creation of the Greater Lincolnshire Combined County Authority would bring.

3. The timeline to create a Mayoral Combined County Authority by Mayoral elections in May of 2025 requires a consultation on the proposal to be completed by early 2024. Any delay would not allow for the area to meet this timeline.

DN.53 PIONEER BUSINESS PARK

Cabinet considered a report from the Leader of the Council seeking approval of the proposal to sell land at Pioneer Business Park to Associated British Ports.

This item was considered under the Special Urgency requirements as set out in the Council's Constitution, and with the agreement of the Chair of the Economy Scrutiny Panel. It is therefore not subject to the call-in procedure.

RESOLVED

- 1. That the principle of the disposal as set out in the report now submitted be approved.**
- 2. That authority be delegated to the Executive Director Place and Resources to immediately exchange contracts committing the Council to a simultaneous completion of the sale.**
- 3. That the Assistant Director Law and Governance (Monitoring Officer) be authorised to immediately execute all documentation arising.**

REASONS FOR DECISION – To facilitate the further development of Pioneer Business Park whilst also realising a material capital receipt.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

The Council could decide to continue to negotiate with the landowners and seek to assemble the site itself. If negotiations could not be concluded, this would mean reliance on the CPO process which would bring about delay and whilst Counsel is confident of the Council's position, is not without risk.

It would not be reasonably prudent to market the land in isolation as it requires a land assembly exercise to release the value.

DN.54 TOWN CENTRE ACQUISITION

Cabinet considered a report from the Leader of the Council seeking approval to acquire the property known as 19/21 Victoria Street, Grimsby, being the former House of Fraser store.

This item was considered under the Special Urgency requirements as set out in the Council's Constitution, and with the agreement of the Chair of the Economy Scrutiny Panel. It is therefore not subject to the call-in procedure.

RESOLVED

- 1. That the acquisition of the property known as 19/21 Victoria Street, Grimsby (being the former House of Fraser store), as set out in the report now submitted, be approved.**

- 2. That authority be delegated to the Executive Director, Place and Resources in consultation with the Leader of the Council to settle all terms and conditions relating to the acquisition and thereafter immediately exchange and complete the acquisition.**
- 3. That the Assistant Director Law and Governance (Monitoring Officer) be authorised to execute all documentation arising.**

REASON FOR DECISION

The decision allows the Council to proceed with the acquisition of the former House of Fraser building to better allow complementarity with Freshney Place and the wider town centre. Specifically, the decision will allow the Council to enhance the Victoria Street frontage, strategically review the mix of retail/culture/leisure to support a vibrant town centre and mitigate the risk of an opportunistic investor that may not be aligned to the Grimsby Town Centre Masterplan or the importance of the historic frontage.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

The Council does not have to acquire the property and the balance of risks was outlined in the report. At present, it is not felt a third party purchaser will have the commitment to invest in a historic town centre building that is currently required as various aspects of the masterplan continue to be delivered.

DN.54 FLEXIBLE USE OF CAPITAL RECEIPTS STRATEGY 2023/24 UPDATE

Cabinet considered a report from the Portfolio Holder for Finance, Assets and Resources seeking support of the application of additional capital receipts to fund the transformational programme detailed within the updated strategy.

This item was considered under the Special Urgency requirements as set out in the Council's Constitution, and with the agreement of the Chair of the Economy Scrutiny Panel. It is therefore not subject to the call-in procedure.

RESOLVED

- 1. That the application of additional capital receipts to fund the transformational programme detailed within the updated strategy be supported.**
- 2. That the updated strategy be referred to Full Council for approval.**

REASON FOR DECISION

The Council must determine how it is to operate within its forecast financial resources over the medium term. To comply with its legal obligations, the Council must establish a balanced financial position.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

Additional capital receipts generated could alternatively be used to write down the Capital Financing Reserve with associated benefits in terms of reduced capital financing costs (comprising of minimum revenue provision and interest)

However, the write down of the capital Financing Reserve would not support the transformation required within Children's services and ultimately lead to additional service delivery costs over the medium term.