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Boston votes for powers to be handed down from Government

On Monday night Boston Borough Council was the latest of the Greater Lincolnshire councils to vote for devolution.

The last council to vote will be South Holland, on October 26. Every one of the ten councils has to be in if powers are to be devolved from Government to a new Greater Lincolnshire Combined Authority.

If all ten agree what will it mean for Boston borough? Cllr Peter Bedford, Leader of Boston Borough Council, is the current chairman of the Greater Lincolnshire Leadership Board. He makes no bones about his support for the project – “It’s the only game in town,” he says.

“First of all, there has been a long and meticulous public consultation exercise about this. The public has indicated that it is broadly in agreement with devolution.

“The only real sticking point was the requirement for a new combined authority to have an elected mayor. Some were concerned that this would be another needless level of

bureaucracy that we can ill afford.

“Together with some other Lincolnshire council leaders I recently met in Birmingham with Sajid Javid, the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government to seek clarification on some important points. His written reply to us is printed below.

“He made it clear that it is an absolute necessity from Government that devolved powers cannot happen without an elected mayor. The Government wants one point of contact with any new combined authorities, so it would be better to think in terms of the elected mayor as chairman of the new authority.

“In essence devolution means some of what the Government currently does centrally, being handed down to local areas. This will mean decisions affecting Lincolnshire and Boston borough which are currently made by Government being made here. And the money will come here from Government too. This will be grass roots democracy in action – with the money to back it.

Read more at <http://bit.ly/2dSMlB8>

Mud, mud, not so glorious mud

A muddy pit at Swineshead is being restored as a village amenity thanks to a revolutionary machine not seen in this country before. The village pond was last dredged by steam engine and over the decades has silted up and impenetrable beds of rushes and reeds have encroached. *Read more at <http://bit.ly/2dGDzhN>*



Free family ‘spectacular’ this Sunday

This Sunday will be a little bit special in Boston Market Place – the Sunday Spectacular will fill the pedestrianised event area from noon to 3pm with a range of free activities from crafts and face painting to dance and theatre.

Read more at <http://bit.ly/2di3Ke5>



Grand day out

Boston’s waterways heritage was the focus when more than 60 people gathered alongside the River Witham to commemorate the 250th anniversary of Grand Sluice on Monday.

Read more at <http://bit.ly/2dSRbVM>



Local Democracy Week – 10 to 16 October 2016

Local Democracy Week is an annual campaign led locally by the council’s democratic services department. The event aims to engage young people in local politics and provide an opportunity for them to voice their concerns. *Read more at <http://bit.ly/2e3bsMc>*



Can you be the canned art project winner?

A project to develop artwork for Boston made from recycled aluminium cans has been launched with a competition for 13 to 18-year-olds to design a logo.

Read more at <http://bit.ly/2dlwlc1>



Tonight councillors will vote on new legislation for Boston which will require dog owners to prove they have the ability to clean up after their pets – or face a £100 fine. Dog poo bags are available, for free, from the council.

