



B O S T O N

BOROUGH COUNCIL

Municipal Buildings, West Street, Boston, Lincolnshire, PE21 8QR

Councillor Martin Hill
Leader, Lincolnshire County Council

Councillor Philip Jackson
Leader, North East Lincolnshire Council

Councillor Rob Waltham,
Leader, North Lincolnshire Council

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Dear Martin, Phillip and Rob,

Boston Borough Council's response to Devolution Deal consultation

At its meeting on 15 January, 2024, Boston Borough Council discussed the proposed Devolution Deal negotiated by your Councils, with Government, for Greater Lincolnshire. Council also discussed the arrangements for the Mayoral Combined County Authority.

Following the debate, as Leader of the Council, I am writing to provide Boston Borough Council's formal response to the consultation. Whilst I felt appropriate to write to you directly with our response, I have also copied the response to the email address published for the consultation and key officers at Lincolnshire County Council.

At its meeting the Council unanimously approved the following recommendations:

- That Council notes the progress on the Greater Lincolnshire Devolution as part of the 'Level three deal' offer from the Government.
- That Council notes that a consultation is currently taking place on the proposed Devolution Deal for Greater Lincolnshire and that Council Members provide their views to inform the Leader of the Council's response to that consultation.
- That Council is disappointed that the governance arrangements do not allow for each of the 7 District Councils to have a seat on the Mayoral Combined County Authority.
- That Council is concerned that the funding arrangements are not linked to any inflationary increases, therefore, Council questions what the value of £24million per annum will be in the year 2054.
- Given the content of the entire proposal and deal, the Council cannot support it in its current form.

It was quite clear from the debate that Members considered the deal inadequate and the allocation of seats on the Mayoral Combined County Authority as unrepresentative.





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In addition to the recommendations being passed, the following points were made by Members:

- The disappointment that the Districts/Borough Councils were not permitted to actively engage in the detail of the Deal as it was developed.
- The Mayoral Combined County Authority adds an additional layer of bureaucracy and another precept for our residents to pay.
- Data provided by Lincolnshire County Council shows that the Borough of Boston has received less funding than other areas in Lincolnshire for major infrastructure investment in recent years. The Council has little confidence that this will change going forward if the Deal proceeds.
- There was disappointment that Lincolnshire County Council decided that none of the projects put forward by Boston Borough Council for a share of the £20m made available to Districts for 2024/2025, were to receive an allocation.
- Concerns were raised by Councillors regarding the Deal document, and in particular a concern that there remain significantly important details to be resolved and agreed. At this stage, Members would not expect this.
- It was suggested during the Council debate that the consultation is angled to secure a positive response, and that even if a negative response is submitted overall, that the upper tier councils can choose to ignore those opinions.

I would request your Councils and the Government take on board Boston Borough Council's feedback in response to the consultation for Devolution to Greater Lincolnshire.

Yours sincerely,

Councillor Anne Dorrian
Leader, Boston Borough Council

