

Minutes of a meeting of the **SOUTH HOLLAND DISTRICT COUNCIL** held in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, Priory Road, Spalding, on Wednesday, 26 October 2016 at 6.30 pm.

PRESENT

M D Seymour (Chairman)  
R Grocock (Vice-Chairman)

B Alcock	M G Chandler	A M Newton
G R Aley	R Clark	G A Porter
D Ashby	G K Dark	M J Pullen
J R Astill	H Drury	J L Reynolds
F Biggadike	L J Eldridge	S-A Slade
M D Booth	P C Foyster	E J Sneath
C J T H Brewis	R Gambba-Jones	A C Tennant
P E Coupland	A Harrison	J Tyrrell
G J Taylor	C N Johnson	A R Woolf
T A Carter	C J Lawton	C N Worth
A Casson	J D McLean	

Apologies for absence were received from or on behalf of Councillors J Avery, J L King and P A Williams,

In Attendance: Executive Director – Place, Interim Section 151 Officer, Independent Advisor, Executive Manager – Growth and Prosperity, Executive Manager – Governance and Democratic Services Manager.

**48. MINUTE SILENCE IN REMEMBRANCE OF MR STEVE MORRIS**

The Chairman led a minute's silence to mark the recent death of Steve Morris who had previously served as Vice-Chairman on the District Council's Standards Committee.

**49. MINUTES**

Councillors considered the minutes of the meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> September 2016.

**DECISION:**

That the minutes be agreed as a correct record and be signed by the Chairman.

**50. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS.**

There were no declarations of interest.

Action By

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**51. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS.**

The Chairman thanked Annette Faulkner and Diane Fenton Fairchild for their contribution towards the recent 'In Bloom' success and presented them with a crystal bowl for their achievement.

**52. ANNOUNCEMENTS BY LEADER AND MEMBERS OF THE CABINET.**

The Leader advised of his recent appointment to United Cities and Local Government (UCLG).

Councillor Lawton advised that at the last meeting of Council a visit to the new Gypsy and Travellers site was requested by Councillor Alcock. A small group of Councillors had visited the site which was functional and had been delivered without excessive expenditure.

**53. QUESTIONS ASKED ON NOTICE UNDER STANDING ORDER 6**

There were no questions asked under Standing Order 6.

**54. QUESTIONS ASKED WITHOUT NOTICE UNDER STANDING ORDER 7**

**Question to:** Councillor Gambba-Jones  
**Question from:** Councillor Newton  
**Subject:** Update on Garden Waste pilot

Councillor Newton asked for an update on the Garden Waste pilot.

Councillor Gambba-Jones advised that to date the scheme had been a resounding success and there would be further details in due course. The big challenge was where to go next whilst continuing to ensure value for money and looking at resources already in use. It was important not to rush into anything and he reminded members that this was a two year pilot. Councillor Gambba-Jones thanked the team for their efforts and advised that there would be a full detailed report in due course.

**Question to:** Councillor Lawton  
**Question from:** Councillor Alcock  
**Subject:** Housing Need

Councillor Alcock advised that the housing revenue account was

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in desperate need of more houses and asked what progress the authority was making as he had spoken to local developers who were getting mixed messages and didn't seem to know the authority's plans.

Councillor Lawton advised that the authority was currently in the process of co-ordinating with developers to see how best to bring forward new housing. The authority was continuing to work to encourage new developments.

**55. COMMITTEE MINUTES**

Performance Monitoring Panel – 30 August 2016

**DECISION:**

That the minutes be received.

Planning Committee – 31 August 2016

**DECISION:**

That the minutes be received.

Governance and Audit Committee – 15 September 2016

**DECISION:**

That the minutes be received.

Planning Committee – 28 September 2016

**DECISION:**

That the minutes be received.

**56. KEY DECISION PLAN**

Consideration was given to the Key Decision Plan.

**DECISION:**

That the Key Decision Plan be received.

**57. GREATER LINCOLNSHIRE DEVOLUTION PROPOSAL**

The Council considered a report which set out the latest position in relation to the implementation of the devolution agreement for

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Greater Lincolnshire.

Councillors recalled that on the 11th May 2016 Council received the results of a Governance Review under section 108 of the Local Democracy Economic Development and Construction Act 2009. On 24 June 2016 the Leader of the Council considered the results of the Review. On the basis of that Review the Council supported, and the Leader approved, the preparation and publication of a Scheme for consultation under section 109 of the Act.

The report provided confirmation on the outcome of the consultation exercise undertaken by the ten local authorities in the Greater Lincolnshire area and sought to determine whether the Council supported the giving of consent on behalf of South Holland District Council to the creation of a Combined Authority in Greater Lincolnshire and if so the basis on which to do so.

The Portfolio Holder for Strategy, Governance and Transformation spoke on the report and advised that through a combined authority board consisting of the Leaders as representatives of the constituent councils, the director or representative of the GLEP representing the business community and headed up by an independently elected Chair would develop growth across the whole of the county.

The final decision to proceed rested with the Leader of the council and the recommendations within the report. Recommendation three gave assurance that this would finally be made when the full details of the Order were known and deemed satisfactory.

The Portfolio Holder for Strategy, Governance and Transformation advised that he believed this represented an excellent opportunity for greater Lincolnshire as a whole and for South Holland. It was the first step towards a number of new powers that otherwise would not be available to the county and the ten local authorities within Lincolnshire.

He fully supported the recommendations and proposed that council accepted and approved them. He stated that seven of the ten councils were already willing to be included in a devolution deal for Greater Lincolnshire and the authority's aim should be to secure the best opportunity for South Holland. Devolution would give powers to exercise locally a number of functions currently exercised by the Secretary of State or other public authorities on behalf of central government.

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The objective was to provide accelerated growth across the whole of Lincolnshire with more decisions about spending on some public services being made locally rather than nationally.

Councillors were informed of the expected benefits from devolution and that there would be new powers funding and responsibilities that would provide additional investment for housing and infrastructure. Those powers were in addition to the services already provided by councils to accelerate the delivery of the strategic economic plan which aimed to increase the value of greater Lincolnshire economy by over £8billion creating more than 29,000 new jobs and delivering at least 100,000 new homes. He added that it also represented an opportunity to build on key sectors such as agriculture and food, energy, manufacturing, visitor economy and 16+ and 19+ education and skills.

The Leader of the Council reminded members that the Council had supported the deal throughout. He urged the Council to support the proposals again and undertook to bring them back to Council should the Final Order not deliver what members expected.

Members noted that two of the Councils had not supported the proposals – although the leaders of those two Councils had yet to make the final decision.

Members agreed that there were risks involved but the risks of not being involved in the deal were greater.

Thanks were given to Councillor Chandler and the officers involved for keeping everyone up to date with information through regular briefings.

In accordance with Standing Order number 16 a recorded vote was requested and supported by twelve other members of Council, as follows:

Name	For	Against	Abstain
Alcock B	✓		
Aley G R	✓		
Ashby D	✓		
Astill J R	✓		
Avery J E	<b>Apologies</b>	<b>Apologies</b>	<b>Apologies</b>

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Biggadike F		✓	
Booth M D	✓		
Brewis C J T H	✓		
Carter T A	✓		
Casson A	✓		
Chandler M G	✓		
Clark R		✓	
Coupland P E	✓		
Dark G K	✓		
Drury H T	✓		
Eldridge L J	✓		
Foyster P C		✓	
Gambba-Jones R	✓		
Grocock R	✓		
Harrison A	✓		
Johnson C N	✓		
King J	<b>Apologies</b>	<b>Apologies</b>	<b>Apologies</b>
Lawton C J	✓		
McLean J D	✓		
Newton A M	✓		
Porter G A	✓		
Pullen M J	✓		
Reynolds J L	✓		
Seymour M D	✓		
Slade S	✓		

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Sneath E	✓		
Taylor G J	✓		
Tennant A C	✓		
Tyrrell J	✓		
Williams P A	<b>Apologies</b>	<b>Apologies</b>	<b>Apologies</b>
Woolf A R	✓		
Worth C N	✓		
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>

**DECISION:**

That the Council: -

- 1 Notes the contents of the consultation report at Appendix 1 ("the Consultation Report").
- 2 Supports the giving of consent on behalf of South Holland District Council, as a constituent council of the proposed combined authority for the Greater Lincolnshire area, to the making by the Secretary of State of an order: -
  - (a) for the establishment of a combined authority for the Greater Lincolnshire area pursuant to section 110 of the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009 (LDEDCA).
  - (b) for the making of constitutional provisions in relation to the Combined Authority pursuant to section 104 of LDEDCA.
  - (c) for the delegation to the Combined Authority of the transport functions of the Secretary of State and the other functions of public authorities pursuant to sections 104 and 105A of LDEDCA.
  - (d) for the functions of the Mayoral Combined Authority specified in the Order to be exercisable only by the mayor subject to the conditions and limitations specified in the Order pursuant to S107D of LDEDCA.
  - (e) for Chapter 1 Part 1 of the Localism Act 2011 to have effect in relation to the combined authority as it has in effect to a local authority.
  - (f) for the combined authority to be treated as a levying

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body for the purposes of section 74 of the Local Government Finance Act 1988 in respect of the expenses of the combined authority that are reasonably attributable to the exercise of any of its functions other than the mayoral functions.

(g) for the combined authority to be given power to borrow under section 1 of the Local Government Act 2003 for a purpose relevant to any of its functions

- 3 Supports delegating to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, authority to approve the giving of consent to the matters referred to in paragraph 2 of the report when the terms of the Order are known
- 4 Notes and has due regard to the content of the Equalities Impact Analysis at Appendix 2 of the report.
- 5 Notes that the Council's 2017/18 Budget to be considered by Council on 16th February 2017, will contain a proposal for provision of an anticipated contribution to the Mayoral Combined Authority of a maximum £50,000 per annum and another to provide additional management arrangements and staffing to ensure that the Council plays a full part in activities relating to the Greater Lincolnshire Mayoral Combined Authority.

**58. GREATER LINCOLNSHIRE LOCAL ENTERPRISE GROWTH AND EFFICIENCY PROGRAMME (GL-LEGE) (GRANTS4GROWTH2)**

Councillors noted that in November 2015, South Holland District Council submitted a bid to DCLG for the Greater Lincolnshire Local Enterprise Growth and Efficiency Programme, GL-LEGE, also known as Grants4growth2, under Priority Axis 3, Enhancing the Competitiveness of Small and Medium sized Enterprises (SME's).

This application followed on from the completion of the original East Midlands Local Enterprise Growth and Efficiency Programme, EM-LEGE, also known as Grants4growth, a £1.1m ERDF funded project providing capital grants to businesses as a catalyst for investment by small and medium sized enterprises to purchase/install efficient new processes, production facilities, and clean tech/ efficiency equipment, helping them invest to grow.

The proposed new programme which was the subject of the report was an innovative package of grant based support centred on the administration and distribution of capital grants as a

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catalyst for investment by SME's. Delivery would be focussed on the geographical area covered by the Greater Lincolnshire Local Enterprise Partnership.

GL-LEGE would be marketed under the well-established and well regarded Grants4growth brand and will be embedded in the LEP's Growth Hub, a suite of support services sitting within the Business Lincolnshire offer.

The programme would be contracted to support at least 210 SME's from across Greater Lincolnshire, aiming to work with a diverse group of small businesses in terms of size, sector, geographic location and ownership. It was anticipated the programme would deliver a range of measurable outcomes and results including the creation of new jobs, securing private investment by SME's; cost savings and efficiency gains; jobs safeguarded, CO2 emission reductions and the adoption of new processes.

NB

**DECISION:**

That subject to the satisfactory completion of all necessary legal, and contractual due diligence, any negotiation with the funding body that arises from that process, and being satisfied that the project remains in the best interests of the Council and Greater Lincolnshire area the Chief Executive be given delegated authority to sign the contract for the GL-LEGE project.

**59. ANNUAL TREASURY MANAGEMENT REVIEW 2015/16**

It was noted that the Council was required by regulations issued under the Local Government Act 2003 to produce an annual treasury management review of activities and the actual prudential and treasury indicators for 2015/16. The report met the requirements of both the CIPFA Code of Practice on Treasury Management (the Code) and the CIPFA Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities (the Prudential Code).

**DECISION:**

That the Council receives and approves the Annual Treasury Management Review 2014/15 as required by the Local Government Act 2003.

KT

**60. APPOINTMENT OF EXTERNAL AUDITORS**

It was noted that the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 (the Act) introduced the necessity for Local Authorities to establish an

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auditor panel and manage their own procurement. The council could appoint auditors directly but this was not recommended as it would be costly to run our own procurement exercise, and being an individual Authority we would be unlikely to benefit from economies of scale and achieve a competitive price.

Auditors could be appointed in conjunction with other local authorities. This was initially explored with Lincolnshire County Council leading on a potential County wide procurement exercise. However again this was not recommended as it would incur procurement costs for the authorities involved and would also mean each Authority would then need to manage and monitor the performance of the contract that was entered into.

To avoid prohibitive costs and ensure a sound contractual framework was in place for assessment of Auditors, the Council was recommended to join the National scheme subject to the applicable terms and conditions being acceptable to the Council and within the constitution.

KT

**DECISION:**

- 1) That the Council agrees to join a national collective scheme, led by the Public Sector Audit Appointments (PSAA).
- 2) That delegated authority be given to the Section 151 officer (or deputy in their absence) to communicate the willingness of the council to join the scheme, led by PSAA and to enter into the scheme after a satisfactory examination / negotiation of the proposed terms & conditions is concluded.

**61. GOVERNANCE AND AUDIT ANNUAL REPORT 2015-16**

Councillors considered the Governance and Audit annual Report 2015-2016.

**DECISION:**

That the Governance and Audit Annual Report 2015-16 be received.

CM

**62. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY ANNUAL REPORT 2015-16**

Councillors considered the Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2015-16.

CM

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**DECISION:**

That the Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2015-16 be received.

**63. NOMINATIONS FOR COMMITTEES AND OTHER SEATS AND PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE CONSTITUTION.**

No nominations were received.

**64. ANY OTHER ITEMS WHICH THE CHAIRMAN DECIDES ARE URGENT**

There were no urgent items.

**65. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

**DECISION:**

That, under section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 4 of Schedule 12(A) of the Act.

**66. DEMOCRATIC SERVICES REVIEW**

The Executive Manager Governance introduced the report which related to the staffing structure of the Democratic Services Team which had been reviewed as part of the organisational design strand of the Transformation Programme.

The report sought approval to a proposed structure that would be fit for purpose in a modern local authority. In addition to a revised staffing structure various service improvements and cost savings would be implemented.

**DECISION:**

That Council approve the revised staffing structure for the Democratic Services Team as detailed in the report and authorises officers to proceed with implementing the new structure.

MS

(The meeting ended at 8.20 pm)  
(End of minutes)