

Mablethorpe & Sutton Town Council response to ELDC consultation on proposal for Mayoral Combined Authority for Greater Lincolnshire – 25th July 2016

At its meeting held on Monday 25th July 2016, following an in depth discussion around the issues raised by the proposal for a Mayoral combined Authority for Greater Lincolnshire, the Town Council raised the following:-

- Deep concerns and objections to an elected Mayor were raised in respect of the undemocratic process which would be employed in the selection and overall composition of the proposed Authority;
- Profound concerns were raised in respect of costs within the first year pertaining to:
 - The Deputy Mayor
 - Administration Support
 - Salary Implications
 - Location: Mayoral Office and offices
 - Officer Time: having impact on existing service provision
- The Mayor would be the only directly elected member of the composition of this proposed new combined authority.
- Deep concerns over a further tier of Authority and cost implications, noting prior emphasis and support being placed on a Lincolnshire Unitary Authority.
- The Town Council has deep concerns and reservations that the only directly elected member of the combined authority could be side-lined by the veto process.
- The Mayor was not wanted in the original scheme and only included on insistence from Central Government.
- There were deep reservations in respect of the 1st year operation of this proposed Authority in respect of disproportionate funding, the cost of administration during times of austerity measures where drastic cuts are being made to front line local services having negative impact on service delivery.
- There are questions around the benefits for Lincolnshire with the level of funding (£15m p.a.) perceived to be too low for the size of the County.
- Concerns were raised in respect of member council charges (one tenth of the running costs, paid by each member council) in the first year and spending of funds could be disproportional and would not cover future cost implications of large projects, such as sea defences.
- Deep concern was also raised for future years as the mayor will have the power to precept a further 2% on council tax and the authority could hit our struggling businesses with an extra 2% on business rates.

For these reasons the Town Council strongly objects and urges ELDC not to support the current proposal for a Mayoral Combined Authority for Greater Lincolnshire.