

## Report to the Greater Lincolnshire Combined County Authority

Meeting on 6 March 2025

### Adoption of Policy

#### Purpose of the report

This report asks the Combined County Authority to consider and approve the initial policies required to enable the establishment and operation of the new strategic authority.

#### Recommendation

It is recommended that the Combined County Authority

#### Approves the:

- a. **Anti-Fraud Policy**
- b. **Anti-Bribery Policy**
- c. **Reporting a Concern (Whistleblowing) Policy**
- d. **Audit Arrangements and Risk Management Policy**
- e. **Treasury Management Policy**
- f. **Complaints Policy**
- g. **Freedom of Information Policy**
- h. **Data Protection Policy**
- i. **Information Handling Policy**
- j. **Security Incident Reporting Policy**
- k. **Privacy Notice**

#### Voting and consent arrangements

Simple majority vote to include the mayor (or chairman prior to first mayoral election). There are no consent requirements for this decision

#### Contact details for the report

Report on behalf of: Debbie Barnes OBE, Chief Executive, Lincolnshire County Council  
Report prepared by: Matthew Garrard, Head of Policy, Lincolnshire County Council

## Information

- 1 Policy provides a set of rules to govern the behaviour of an organisation. The Combined County Authority's policies establish the principles that the organisation will follow in:
  - i. according with the Council's constitution
  - ii. implementing the Greater Lincolnshire Plan
  - iii. all decision making
  - iv. developing, improving and commissioning services
  - v. representing the views, needs and strengths of Greater Lincolnshire.
  
- 2 As a new strategic authority established on 5 February 2025 the Greater Lincolnshire Combined County Authority (GLCCA) has no existing agreed policies. The attached policies have been identified as the minimum requirements necessary to enable the commencement of the GLCCA:
  - Anti-Fraud Policy
  - Anti-Bribery Policy
  - Reporting a Concern (Whistleblowing) Policy
  - Audit Arrangements and Risk Management Policy
  - Treasury Management Policy
  - Complaints Policy
  - Freedom of Information Policy
  - Data Protection Policy
  - Information Handling Policy
  - Security Incident Reporting Policy
  - Privacy Notice
  
- 3 The proposed policies have been prepared drawing upon best practice from across the three constituent councils and with regard to the proposed service level agreements to support the proposed interim organisational structure of the GLCCA. Further policy will be developed through the governance arrangements of the GLCCA as the authority commences its work.
  
- 4 The GLCCA constitution sets out that policy, plans and strategy should be determined at meetings of the authority, except for a limited number of mayoral functions. Agreed policy will be published in a policy library on the authority's website.

## Alternative options considered

- 5 To not agree one or more of the policies set out in the report. This is not recommended because the policies are considered necessary to enable the operation of the GLCCA.

### **Reason for the recommendation**

- 6 The proposed policies are deemed necessary to ensure compliance with a range of requirements and for the good governance of the new Combined County Authority as set out in the individual policy documents.

### **Implications, advice and guidance**

- 7 The proposed policies will be applicable to the Combined County Authority in its work across the whole of the Greater Lincolnshire. The policies will be reviewed as the Combined County Authority becomes established.

### **Public sector equality duty implications**

- 8 No specific implications were identified in the preparation of this decision.

### **Legal implications / comments**

- 9 Approval and/or amendments to policies of the Combined County Authority is a function reserved to the Combined County Authority.

### **Finance and resource implications / comments**

- 10 There are no specific financial implications arising from the suite of policies presented. However, the policies collectively will contribute towards a sound internal control environment and the efficient and effective management of public funds.

### **Alignment with Greater Lincolnshire policy / comments**

- 11 The establishment of the combined county authority arises from the Greater Lincolnshire Devolution Deal and the proposed policies are necessary as part of that establishment.
- 12 The policies are drawn from the policy of the constituent councils providing some consistency to employees transferring to the new authority and residents.

### **Consultation, Boards, Overview and Scrutiny / comments**

The following have been consulted in the preparation of this report:

- In advance of the establishment of the combined county authority, council leaders were consulted on the preparation of this decision.

## Appendices included with this report

The following documents are included:

- Anti-Fraud Policy
- Anti-Bribery Policy
- Reporting a Concern (Whistleblowing) Policy
- Audit arrangements and Risk Management Policy
- Treasury Management Policy
- Complaints Policy
- Freedom of Information Policy
- Data Protection Policy
- Information Handling Policy
- Security Incident Reporting Policy
- Privacy Notice

## Background Papers used in the preparation of this report

The following background papers within Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972 were used in the preparation of this report.

Background Paper	Where it can be viewed
nil	