

DEVOLUTION

Within the Chancellor of the Exchequer's Autumn Statement in late November, there was the announcement of the devolution deal between the Government and the local authorities of Lincolnshire County Council, North Lincolnshire Council and North East Lincolnshire Council – the area known as Greater Lincolnshire.

The Government said this was an “historic deal” marking a “new devolution agreement” that would see “the creation of a Greater Lincolnshire Mayoral Combined County Authority (MCCA), alongside a directly elected mayor for the area”, with the first mayoral election to be held in May 2025.

In recent days the three constituent councils of the mayoral authority (LCC, North Lincs and North East Lincs) have agreed and adopted the Greater Lincolnshire devolution Proposal, and an eight week consultation with residents in the Greater Lincolnshire area is underway to get their

views alongside views before deciding whether to submit the Proposal to government either in its current form or an amended version. The consultation closes on January 20th.

The devolution deal transfers new powers and funding to the Greater Lincolnshire MCCA, alongside a £720 million long term investment fund (spread over 30 years) to drive economic growth and take forward local priorities. Alongside this, the deal also includes £8.6 million of investment in brownfield funding, devolution of the Adult Education Budget, and £28 million of capital funding in advance of the inaugural election to drive place-based economic regeneration in Greater Lincolnshire (subject to business cases).

Through a majority decision, Councillors at North Kesteven District Council have now agreed to “continue to engage positively with the implementation of the devolution arrangements, based on delivery of Greater Lincolnshire Vision for 2050 and those benefits that will come to the area through Devolution”.

There are various drop in sessions taking place across the Greater Lincolnshire area. Locally the Sleaford one is on Wednesday January 10th, 3pm – 7pm at the Source, Southgate, and in Lincoln at the Showroom, Tritton Road, on Thu January 25th, 3pm – 7pm and also in Bourne, Boston and Grantham.

LEADER FOR THE DAY

Earlier last month, the Council hosted a creative writing competition called “Leader for a Day”, where primary school students from key stage 2 across the whole district were invited to say what they would do if they were Leader of NKDC for the Day and share how they would make their communities an even and better place to live.

NKDC were blown away with the entries – so many excellent ideas! In fact, some of the ideas are so good that (with permission) they have decided to share all entries with the relevant parish councils so they can see what the hot topics are for the young people in their communities! So watch this space – NKDC will contact relevant councils individually. They will also be sharing the submissions with various teams across North Kesteven District Council, so that the children's ideas can potentially feed into the future projects in North Kesteven.

The overall winner was Dominic Hunter, aged nine from Winchelsea Primary School in Ruskington, expressed some really great ideas about access and engagement within the community, and considered various environmental aspects such as beehives, planting flowers and litter picking. The judging panel were particularly impressed at Dominic's reasoning behind all his ideas – he provided clear justification for all his ideas.

ART COMPETITION FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

To mark Holocaust Memorial Day, NKDC is holding an educational art competition for ages 11 – 16 year olds.

Holocaust Memorial Day (HMD) is an international day that takes place on January 27th. The Holocaust Memorial Day Trust advocate reflection and remembrance of the six million Jews murdered during the Holocaust and the millions of people who lost their lives due to the discrimination inflicted upon them by the Nazis.

Holocaust Memorial Day is for everyone. In our world horrific genocides shockingly still take place, of which the Holocaust Memorial Day Trust encourage individuals “ to come together to learn more emphasise more and do more”

The theme of 2024’s Holocaust Memorial Day is “Fragility of Freedom” which has a different definition to every individual, in every genocide that has taken place across the world, one similarity is clear – individual freedom is restricted and removed.

Students are invited to express their unique identities and “freedoms” through a self portrait; encouraging them to include aspects of their life such as interest, emotions, and aspirations. NKDC are asking for entries to be as creative and unique as possible and completed in any medium or multi media.

A range of shortlisted entries will be showcased in a collated space at the Hub, Sleaford from Saturday 27th January through to Saturday 3rd February where visitors will be able to nominate their favourites.

FLOODING GUIDANCE

When severe weather such as heavy rain is expected, NKDC Officers work with their partners from the Environmental Agency, Lincolnshire County Council, Police and Fire and Rescue to ensure a coordinated and joined up response which provides the most effective use of available resources across the District and county.

During periods of heavy rain, residents may identify watercourses with unusually high levels. Many of our watercourse levels are managed through a complex system of interlinked assets such as the internal drains which can be found through the county and discharge areas or floodplains which may be used to manage water levels ,many miles away.

Road and surface water discharge may also appear different as a result of agencies managing river and drain levels and this may result in slower than the normal surface water run off.

Lincolnshire County Council is the Lead local Flood Authority for the county and flooding should be reported either by – phone 01522 782082 (24 hours).

It is important to report flooding so an understanding of the situation across the district can be gained and the most effective response provided to those who need it most however:

Sandbags are not provided as a precaution and should only be requested when there is an imminent high likelihood of flood water entering properties.

Sandbags are not provided by NKDC but may be available from LCC if reported through the channel above.

NKDC provide support and resources to those agencies responding to flooding such as LCC, police and fire and rescue.

NKDC may provide additional resources through their repairs contractor to protect council assets occupied by tenants.

Sandbags will not be provided to protect garages, gardens and outbuildings.

Sandbags are not the most effective way to protect properties, there are other assets such as high volume water pumps and booms which may be better suited to the conditions and these may be deployed when emergency services identify a need.

If life is at risk ring 999 or 101 should be used to alert the emergency services.

Alternatively flooding can be reported through the Environmental Agency’s national Floodline:

Telephone – 0345 988 1188

Teletext - 0345 602 6340

TREECYCLING

Here's a great tree-cycling opportunity for when the Christmas decorations get packed away. In order to make the best organic use of fresh trees – and support ongoing patient care, St Barnabas Hospice is launching it's scheme to pick up, chip and re-purpose Christmas trees as garden mulch or agriculture fertiliser. Collection will take place on specified days between January 6th and 10th, in return for a charitable donation. You can register to participate up to January 3rd. Last year NKDC area made up to 26.3% of 2000 plus collections countywide.

All I have left to say is that I hope everyone has a Happy and Healthy New Year. If you can forward the dates of your meetings for 2024 it will be a big help and I can get them in my diary.

Best Wishes
Lucille



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