



REPORT TO:	CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
DATE:	20 TH JULY 2021
SUBJECT:	SOUTH EAST LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCILS PARTNERSHIP
PORTFOLIO HOLDER:	COUNCILLOR PAUL SKINNER, LEADER OF THE COUNCIL
REPORT AUTHOR:	ROB BARLOW, JOINT CHIEF EXECUTIVE
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	ALL
EXEMPT REPORT	NO

SUMMARY

On the 28th June, 2021, Council agreed 'in principle' to explore the opportunity to create a 3 Council strategic partnership – if approved at a future Council meeting this would mean extending the existing partnership with East Lindsey District Council to include South Holland District Council.

The model proposed is essentially an extension of the existing two Council alliance model, with each Council retaining its political independence and public accountability; supported by a shared workforce.

The new partnership is proposed to be called the 'South East Lincolnshire Councils Partnership'.

At the 28th June Council meeting there was the following recommendation passed:

That the business case is presented at a member briefing at Boston Borough Council and that the business case is then forwarded to a Scrutiny Panel at Boston Borough Council.

The Business Case will be presented to an all member briefing on 14th July.

This report brings forward the draft Business Case and draft Memorandum of Agreement for scrutiny. The draft Business Case is at Appendix A to this covering report. The draft Memorandum of Agreement is at Appendix B.

In reviewing these documents as part of the scrutiny process it provides the opportunity for members to provide feedback to shape documents that will be acceptable to Council.

In addition to the scrutiny by Corporate and Community Scrutiny Committee, a joint scrutiny panel between Boston and East Lindsey, as current alliance Councils, is being formed to scrutinise the draft Council report and associated documents.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That members review the draft Business Case (Appendix A) and draft Memorandum of Agreement (Appendix B) and provide their findings / recommendations for:

- 1) inclusion as an Appendix to the report to Council on 2 August, 2021, to inform the debate and ensure the governing documents are satisfactory to allow members to progress with the partnership.
- 2) forwarding to those Councillors at BBC and ELDC involved in the joint scrutiny exercise.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

To ensure an informed decision is taken by Council.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

Do nothing isn't an option as Council has requested the scrutiny to inform its decision making.

REPORT

- 1) The summary section provides the background to this report with the Council report from the 28th June giving the wider context.
- 2) At the Council meeting on 28th June, as well as agreeing 'in principle' to a 3 Council partnership, the Council agreed to share its Chief Executive on an interim basis with SHDC (with effective from 2nd July) in order that the Chief Executive can prepare the necessary documents (Business Case, Senior Staffing Structure and Memorandum of Agreement) for a further Council decision.
- 3) The meeting of Corporate and Community Scrutiny Committee will receive a presentation from the Chief Executive by way of an introduction to the draft Business Case and draft Memorandum of Agreement.

- 4) Councillors are asked to provide their recommendations/feedback on the documents to inform the Council debate. The recommendations/feedback will form an Appendix to the Council report.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Whilst precise financial details will only be known as and when individual detailed business plans are developed, the overall saving from the partnership is expected to be around £26m over 10 years. The Boston Borough Council Share of this is expected to be between £5m and £6m.

Adrian Sibley – S151

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

The Business Case and Memorandum of Agreement identify the legal framework in which the model would operate and the reference is made within the presentation to the legislative options that lawfully enable this partnership to be created. In addition, there are many other examples of similar partnerships at slide 32.

Michelle Sacks – Monitoring Officer

CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

None.

EQUALITY AND SAFEGUARDING IMPLICATIONS

None

OTHER IMPLICATIONS

None

APPENDICES

Appendices are listed below and attached to the back of the report: -

APPENDIX A

Draft Business Case

APPENDIX B

Draft Memorandum of Agreement

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Background papers used in the production of this report are listed below: -

Document title	Where the document can be viewed
Report to Council on 28th June, 2021, entitled 'In principle decision – extending the strategic alliance partnership to include South Holland District Council'	The Council's website

CHRONOLOGICAL HISTORY OF THIS REPORT

Name of body	Date
N/a	N/a

REPORT APPROVAL

Report author:	Rob Barlow, Joint Chief Executive
Signed off by:	Councillor Paul Skinner, Leader of the Council
Approved for publication:	Councillor Paul Skinner, Leader of the Council