

MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT
BETWEEN
BOSTON BOROUGH COUNCIL
AND
EAST LINDSEY DISTRICT COUNCIL
AND
SOUTH HOLLAND DISTRICT COUNCIL
REVISED XXXXX 2026 (VERSION 2)

RELATING TO AN INTEGRATED SHARED WORKFORCE STRUCTURE AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF A
PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN THE THREE COUNCILS
(KNOWN AS THE SOUTH & EAST LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCILS PARTNERSHIP)

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Memorandum of Agreement

Dated: **INSERT**

The Parties

(1) **East Lindsey District Council** whose principal office is at The Hub, Mareham Road, Horncastle, Lincolnshire LN9 6PH.

and

(2) **Boston Borough Council** whose principal office is at The Municipal Buildings, West Street, Boston, Lincolnshire PE21 8QR.

and

(3) **South Holland District Council** whose principal office is at Council Offices, Priory Road, Spalding PE11 2XE.

1. Introduction

1.1 This Memorandum of Agreement between the Councils sets out:

- a) The purpose and aims of the South & East Lincolnshire Councils Partnership.
- b) The purpose and aims of the shared workforce structure and agreed areas of joint working; and
- c) The basis on which the Councils shall operate.

2. Background and Overview

- 2.1 Section 113 (1) of the Local Government Act 1972 provides that a local authority may enter into an agreement with another local authority for the placing at the disposal of the latter for the purposes of their functions, on such terms as may be provided by the agreement, the services and officers employed by the former. An officer placed by one local authority at the disposal of another remains employed by the first local authority.
- 2.2 East Lindsey District Council and Boston Borough Council entered into a strategic alliance on 1st July 2020 and that alliance was superseded by the South & East Lincolnshire Councils Partnership. Those councils placed certain members of their staff at the disposal of the other pursuant to an agreement under s113 of the Local Government Act 1972 dated 1 July 2021.
- 2.3 East Lindsey District Council and Boston Borough Council acknowledge and confirm that their agreement dated 1 July, 2020 has been terminated and superseded by the initial agreement signed to form the South & East Lincolnshire Councils Partnership which was signed on 29 September, 2021.
- 2.4 South Holland District Council was formerly part of a shared management arrangement with Breckland District Council. Those arrangements came to an end on 30 April, 2021. All residual shared services under that shared management agreement have now ceased.

- 2.5 The South & East Lincolnshire Councils Partnership between Boston, East Lindsey and South Holland Councils commenced on 1 October 2021.
- 2.6 The Councils are desirous of securing further benefit to their communities through their established three-council strategic partnership and of sharing the costs and benefit from the efficiency savings that are secured through their strategic partnership.
- 2.7 In December 2023, the three Councils agreed a Sub-Regional Strategy that sets out the Strategic, Corporate and Local Priorities for the Partnership and individual Councils, replacing each Council's individual Corporate Strategy. This was a significant step in cementing the Partnership's commitment to future joint working on priority areas.

3. The decision making to form the Partnership

- 3.1 At its meeting on 1 July 2021, South Holland District Council approved the designation of East Lindsey District Council's Head of Paid Service as South Holland District Council's Head of Paid Service and Chief Executive for an interim period being the period necessary to prepare and submit to the Council a business case, draft Memorandum of Agreement and proposed Senior Management Team structure for the formation of the South & East Lincolnshire Councils Partnership.
- 3.2 At their respective meetings on 28th July 2021, East Lindsey District Council and 2nd August 2021, Boston Borough Council and 29th July 2021, South Holland District Council resolved to enter into the South & East Lincolnshire Councils Partnership supported by the Shared Management Team but with the potential for the Councils to share additional posts. The shared Management Team includes a range of senior roles, including Head of Paid Service, Section 151 Officer and Monitoring Officer.

4. Objectives of the South & East Lincolnshire Councils Partnership

- 4.1 The objectives of the South & East Lincolnshire Councils Partnership **facilitated by a Shared Workforce Structure** are:
 - To provide adequate capacity and resilience to the three Councils so that they are individually and collectively better able to deliver on their priorities to local people.
 - Acting together to develop, promote jointly and secure investment in strategic infrastructure that will benefit the three Council areas by assisting economic growth and regeneration.
 - For each council individually to continue to exercise democratically accountable local government in their respective areas and have their own governance arrangements whilst sharing management of agreed internal and external services.
 - To provide opportunities for the joint commissioning of services and sharing resources, including ICT systems, where a business case supports such a decision.
 - To provide more efficient and economical services to local people whilst maintaining or improving the quality of the services that are provided to them.
 - To make financial savings to the combined staffing.

- To create greater opportunities for the Partnership’s workforce to develop their careers.

Although a Shared Workforce Structure may provide opportunities and ease the transition to joint commissioning of services, this agreement does not commit any Council to the commissioning of joint services.

4.2

Whilst many services are now shared following service reviews, in the absence of the formal sharing of officers in any given service area, it is the intention of the Councils to offer each other mutual assistance and support informally and on an ad-hoc basis by adopting a ‘one team’ ethos.

Each year Council will receive a report updating on the work of the Partnership.

5. Definitions

In this Agreement the following terms shall have the following meanings:

Term	Meaning
Chief Executive	the officer for the time being appointed as Chief Executive of the Councils
Clause	a Clause in this Agreement
Commencement Date	INSERT
Council	East Lindsey District Council or Boston Borough Council or South Holland District Council (as the case may be)
Councils	Boston Borough Council and East Lindsey District Council and South Holland District Council
Cabinet	The Executive of East Lindsey District Council or the Cabinet of Boston Borough Council or South Holland District Council as the case may be, appointed in accordance with Part IA Chapter 2 of the Local Government Act 2000
Executive Arrangements	Construed in accordance with Part IA Chapter 2 of the Local Government Act 2000
Expenses	Shall be interpreted in accordance with Clause 9
Head of Paid Service	The officer for the time being appointed under Section 4 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 (currently the Chief Executive)
Intellectual Property Rights	All patents, rights to inventions, copyright and related rights, trademarks and service marks, business names and domain names, rights in get-up, goodwill, rights in designs, rights in computer software, database rights, rights to use, and protect the confidentiality of, confidential information (including know-how) and all other intellectual property rights, in each case whether registered or unregistered and including all applications and rights to apply for and be granted, renewals or extensions of, and rights to claim priority from, such rights and all similar or equivalent rights or forms of protection which subsist or will subsist now or in the future in any part of the world.
Leader of the Council	Leader of East Lindsey District Council or Leader of Boston Borough Council or Leader of South Holland District Council for the time being as the case may be.
The Joint Chief Officer Employment Panel	The advisory body established with the terms of reference set out at Schedule 1

Joint Strategy Board	The advisory body established with the terms of reference set out at Schedule 3
Legal Adviser	The person for the time being appointed by East Lindsey District Council or Boston Borough Council or South Holland District Council to provide legal advice to the Council or Councils and may be an officer of the Council or Councils or an external person who is legally qualified.
Monitoring Officer	The officer for the time being appointed under Section 5 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989
Shared Workforce Structure	The Shared Management Team together with such other officers as the Councils may agree in writing from time to time all of whom shall be appointed by one Council and placed at the disposal of the other Councils or one of them.
Shared Management Team	The top three tiers of the Partnership's Management Structure.
Section 151 Officer	The officer for the time being appointed under Section 151 of the Local Government Act 1972
South & East Lincolnshire Councils Partnership	A strategic Partnership established under the terms of this Memorandum of Agreement comprising Boston Borough Council, East Lindsey District Council and South Holland District Council
Joint Stakeholder Group	The advisory body established with the term of reference at Schedule 2

6. Preliminary

6.1 This Agreement is made pursuant to

- (a) Sections 101 and 102 of the Local Government Act 1972 (delegation to joint committees);
- (b) Section 112 of the Local Government Act 1972 (duty to appoint officers);
- (c) Section 113 of the Local Government Act 1972 (power to place staff at the disposal of other local authorities);
- (d) Section 1 of the Localism Act 2011 (local authorities' general power of competence);
- (e) Sections 9EA and 9EB of the Local Government Act 2000 and The Local Authorities (Arrangements for the Discharge of Functions) (England) Regulations 2012/1019 (joint arrangements for the exercise of executive functions) and all other enabling powers.

6.2 This Agreement has been entered into by the Councils by virtue of the resolutions of the Councils at their respective meetings on **INSERT**; and supersedes the previous agreement approved by Council: East Lindsey District Council on 28th July 2021, Boston Borough Council on 2nd August 2021 and South Holland District Council on and 29th July 2021.

6.3 This Agreement shall commence on the Commencement Date and subject to Clause 10 (Termination and Review) shall continue in full force and effect unless and until the Councils agree to terminate it.

6.4 The Councils shall at all times co-operate with each other and shall observe the following key principles:

- trust, transparency, integrity, and respect
- effective working relationships, co-operation, collaboration, and information-sharing whilst respecting the confidentiality of the other Council.
- accountability to their council taxpayers and each other
- openness to change, including the addition of further partners.
- to recognise the values and behaviours of each partner's culture, and promote the Partnership's agreed Values and Behaviours
- systematic and outcome focused in their approach to working together.
- sensitivity to the fact each council operates in a political environment.

6.5 The Councils shall each use their best endeavours to ensure that their contractors and other partners operate and provide their services and service-related information and data to the relevant Council in such a manner as to support the aims of this Agreement generally and in a manner which observes and supports the principles set out in sub-clause 6.4 above.

7. Joint Officer Employment Panel, Joint Strategy Board and Joint Stakeholder Group

7.1 The Councils have established a Joint Chief Officer Employment Panel which shall not be a formal shared committee within the meaning of the Local Government Acts unless and until otherwise resolved. It shall meet, operate, and be serviced in accordance with its terms of reference at Schedule 1. In practical terms this means that the Panel will be advisory in nature and that any decisions affecting any of the Councils will be made by their respective Employment Panel/Committee or Full Council, as appropriate.

7.2 The Councils have established a Joint Stakeholder Group which shall not be a formal shared committee within the meaning of the Local Government Acts. The role of the Stakeholder Group is to oversee strategic direction, assurance, and monitoring. It shall meet, operate, and be serviced in accordance with its terms of reference at Schedule 2.

7.3 The Councils have established a Joint Strategy Board which shall not be a formal shared committee within the meaning of the Local Government Acts unless and until resolved otherwise. It shall meet, operate, and be serviced in accordance with its terms of reference at Schedule 3. In practical terms this means that in the first instance the Board will be advisory in nature and that any decisions affecting any of the Councils will be made by their respective Executives or Full Council, as appropriate.

7.4 Notwithstanding Clause 9 (Finance) below each Council shall meet any cost that they incur arising from meetings of the Joint Chief Officer Employment Panel, Joint Stakeholder Group, and the Joint Strategy Board.

8. The Shared Workforce Structure

8.1 The Councils agreed at their respective meetings on 28th July 2021 (East Lindsey District Council) and 2nd August 2021 (Boston Borough Council) and 29th July 2021 (South Holland District Council) to enter into the South & East Lincolnshire Councils Partnership supported by the Shared Management Team together with such other officers as the Councils may agree in writing from

time to time will form part of the Shared Workforce Structure.

- 8.2 If the Councils (or any two of them) propose to share any services they shall prior to any such arrangements being implemented:
- a) Prepare a draft business case in respect of the service to be shared setting out inter alia the proposed legal and financial arrangements.
 - b) Refer the draft business case to the relevant Portfolio Holders for consideration.
 - c) Prepare a final business case taking account of any feedback from the Portfolio Holders and seek approval through each Council's own decision-making governance arrangements.
 - d) Comply with all employment law requirements including but not limited to consultation with officers proposed to be shared.
- 8.3 Notwithstanding clause 8.2 above, individual officers may be shared on a long term or short-term basis via the Council's relevant governance arrangements.
- 8.4 The development of the South & East Lincolnshire Councils Partnership and the Shared Workforce Structure is to be overseen and implemented by the Joint Chief Executive/Head of Paid Service.
- 8.5 The expectation is that the balance of staff employed by each Council within the Shared Workforce will remain broadly proportionate to the balance when the Partnership formed.
- 8.6 Staff within the Shared Workforce Structure may be employed by any one of the Councils and having been so employed shall forthwith be placed at the disposal of the Councils (or one of them) who are not their employer.
- 8.7 For superannuation purposes, service rendered by an officer of one of the Councils whose services are placed at the disposal of the other in pursuance of section 113 of the Local Government Act 1972 and hence in pursuance of this Agreement is service rendered to the Council by whom he/she is employed.
- 8.8 Any member of the Shared Workforce Structure shall be treated for the purposes of any enactment relating to the discharge of functions of a local authority as an officer of the other Council or Councils and members of the Shared Workforce Structure may act and shall have powers to act under the constitutions of the other Councils.
- 8.9 The members of the Shared Workforce Structure shall divide their time fairly and reasonably between the Councils and shall not show bias towards one Council vis-à-vis another. This is important to ensure the precepts on each Council's taxpayers do not cause gain or loss for the other Councils' taxpayers.
- 8.10 The Chief Executive shall be the shared Head of Paid Service in respect of the workforce of the Councils. The Chief Executive shall lead the Shared Management Team. Attendance at and frequency of meetings, terms of reference and other matters relating to the Shared Management Team shall be at the discretion of the Chief Executive.
- 8.11 The Councils shall agree in writing financial arrangements as to the allocation of pension contributions including those relating to payments due in respect of the pension deficits of the Councils upon the transfer, appointment to or employment of staff within the Shared Workforce Structure.

9. Finance

9.1 The costs arising from the creation of the Shared Workforce Structure shall, unless agreed otherwise in writing in accordance with clause 9.1.3, be apportioned as follows:

9.1.1 East Lindsey District Council shall meet 46% per cent and Boston Borough Council 23% per cent and South Holland District Council 31% percent of any redundancy and associated pension strain costs and subsequent redundancy, Employment Tribunal or other dismissal claim costs arising from the creation or ongoing operation of the Shared Workforce Team after the commencement of this Agreement;

9.1.2 East Lindsey District Council shall meet 46% per cent and Boston Borough Council 23% per cent and South Holland District Council 31% percent of the ongoing salary and on-costs, superannuation, national insurance, training, travel, and incidental costs of the Shared Workforce Structure;

9.1.3 The Section 151 Officer may adjust where necessary the apportionment of any on-going costs set out in this clause 9.1 in order to appropriately reflect the use of resources by the Councils, however, in the main the above methodology will be adopted. This may of necessity be required where for example interim or project support requirements significantly vary over the short and medium term. All of these approvals will be captured as part of a regular review process by the Section 151 Officer to ensure that the inter-council charging is appropriate.

9.2 Notwithstanding the provisions of clause 9.1.1 above, the Councils agree to review the apportionment of costs at such time as new population data is released by the Office for National Statistics.

9.3 The Councils shall account for the costs of and savings to each of the Councils in accordance with the budget and accounting systems of each of the Councils and in accordance with all relevant law and guidance including all relevant CIPFA Guidance and to the satisfaction of the Section 151 Officer.

9.4 The Head of Paid Service, Monitoring Officer and Section 151 Officer collectively shall keep the arrangements under review to ensure that the legal basis for the arrangements remains appropriate and that the financial arrangements are a fair and reasonable reflection of the time spent by officers of the Shared Workforce Structure on the business and functions of each Council.

9.5 The Section 151 Officer shall confirm as part of the annual budget report in consultation with the Head of Paid Service and the Monitoring Officer that the legal basis and financial arrangements for the Shared Workforce Structure remain appropriate. Any particular financial matters of concern will be raised through the regular financial reports to Members or through separate reports as required.

9.6 Costs incurred upon termination shall be apportioned in accordance with clause 10 below.

10. Termination and Review

10.1 This Agreement shall continue unless terminated in accordance with this Clause 10 PROVIDED

ALWAYS THAT the provisions of this Clause 10 shall be subject to any other provision of this Agreement extending financial liability beyond termination.

- 10.2 Any of the Councils may withdraw from the Agreement wholly or in relation to part of the shared services in accordance with the following procedure:
- a. Any decision to withdraw from or terminate this Agreement may only be approved by the respective Full Council.
 - b. A Council which wishes to withdraw from this Agreement shall give not less than 18 months written notice to the other Councils and to the Joint Chief Executive of its intention to do so.
 - c. The Joint Chief Executive shall prepare a report to the Joint Strategy Board about the implications of any withdrawal or termination of the arrangements. The Joint Strategy Board will have ongoing oversight of the arrangements.
 - d. The Joint Chief Executive shall liaise with the withdrawing Council(s) in respect of the plans for an orderly withdrawal from the Partnership and agreement in respect of allocation of assets, resources, staffing implications and the implementation of the exit plan prepared pursuant to sub-clause e.
 - e. The Joint Chief Executive shall consult the Councils upon which notice has been served giving consideration to:
 - i. any financial consequences of the withdrawal to include for example, loss of funding, clawback of funding, potential liability, damage claim or expense;
 - ii. potential service delivery implications and implications for staff and reputational damage. The preparation, agreement and implementation of an exit plan to deal with allocation of resources, assets and staff and appropriate consultation and communication with staff and other relevant parties.
 - f. A Council wishing to withdraw from this Agreement undertakes as a condition of such withdrawal, to agree to such reasonable payment or payments which fairly reflect the actual losses caused by or anticipated as a result of the withdrawal, as shall be determined by the other Council or Councils and can be established at that point in time. No notice of withdrawal shall take effect until such an agreement has been made.
 - g. A Council which has given written notice of its intention to withdraw from this Agreement shall between the date of that notice and the date of withdrawal, provide reasonable assistance to the other Councils to enable the transfer of functions to the other Councils. The Councils shall take all steps as may be reasonably necessary to agree in good faith and effect handover arrangements with the withdrawing Council(s) to enable the continuation of activities and functions with minimum interference and inconvenience to the other Council(s) or service users.
 - h. Each Council reserves the right to recover from every other Council the costs of any claims, costs, expenses, losses or liabilities of any nature which have been caused by any act or omission of a Council and which are discovered following withdrawal of a Council or Councils from this Agreement.
- 10.3 Where all the Councils jointly agree to terminate or withdraw from this Agreement, they shall do so by each giving the other not less than 18 months' prior written notice and such a decision to

terminate or withdraw may only be made by all the Councils acting by their full Council.

10.4 In the event of a termination for any reason the Councils shall:

- (a) co-operate in terminating, modifying, restructuring, assigning, or novating contractual arrangements entered into to mutual advantage and properly and timeously execute any documents necessary;
- (b) use best endeavours to secure an amicable and equitable financial settlement;
- (c) as soon as possible and in any event within three months transfer or return any property including data belonging to the other Councils;
- (d) to the extent that any of the Councils has a materially disproportionate number of shared officers compared to the proportions at the Commencement Date, ensure that each Council is allocated a fair and reasonable proportion of the members of the Shared Workforce Team subject to any necessary actions being taken as required by employment law or by the policies of the transferring council so that (1) each Council can maintain continuity in the provision of its services at a reasonable level of effectiveness and efficiency and (2) they become employed by the Council to which they are transferred.

10.5 In the event of any dispute which cannot be resolved in respect of any matter referred to under Clause 10.4, Clause 13 shall apply.

10.6 In the event of a termination however and whenever occurring the costs consequential upon such termination including costs of recruitment selection, termination costs, administration but not salary costs, after the date of termination shall be subject always to clauses 9.1.1 and 9.1.3 be apportioned between the Councils and each Council shall indemnify and keep indemnified the other Councils in respect of that Council's share from and against any actions and causes of action, claims, demands, proceedings, damages, losses, costs, charges and expenses whatsoever arising from or in connection with such termination or withdrawal and such indemnity shall continue after the termination of this Agreement.

10.7 The Councils will, through a shared scrutiny process, review and monitor areas of significance for the Partnership, including understanding its effectiveness and opportunities for further development. The areas to be scrutinised will be agreed collectively by the Chairs of the 3 Councils scrutiny committees.

Membership of Partnership Scrutiny Task Groups will be decided through the agreed process at each Council's relevant parent scrutiny committee, unless subsequent constitutional updates require otherwise.

10.8 Should the Councils cease to exist as legal entities, the South & East Lincolnshire Councils Partnership will also cease to exist and this agreement will expire.

10.9 No deletion, addition, or modification to this Agreement shall be valid unless agreed in writing and sealed by the Councils.

11. Head of Paid Service: Application of section 4 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989

11.1 The Chief Executive has been appointed Head of Paid Service by the Councils.

11.2 The Councils shall provide that officer with such staff accommodation and other resources as are in his/her opinion sufficient to allow his/her duties to be performed.

11.3 It shall be the duty of the Head of Paid Service where he/she considers it appropriate to do so in respect of any proposals of his/hers with respect to any of the matters specified below to prepare a report to either one or each of the Councils setting out his/her proposals. The matters are:

11.3.1 the manner in which the discharge by the Councils of their different functions is coordinated;

11.3.2 the number and grades of staff required by the Councils for the discharge of their functions;

11.3.3 the organisation of the staff of the Councils; and

11.3.4 the appointment and proper management of the staff of the Councils.

11.4 It shall be the duty of the Head of Paid Service, as soon as practicable after he/she has prepared such a report, to arrange for a copy of it to be sent to each member of the three Councils as the case may be.

11.5 It shall be the duty of each of the Councils separately to consider any such report by the Head of Paid Service at a meeting held not more than three months after copies of the report are first sent to councillors at each Council.

12. Head of Paid Service: Supplementary

12.1 Without prejudice to Clause 11 above it shall be the duty of the Head of Paid Service to ensure that all Councillors have such access to and support from all officers of their Council and to the Head of Paid Service and Shared Workforce Team as they may reasonably expect.

12.2 Without prejudice to Clause 11 above the duties of the Head of Paid Service shall include advising the Executive/Cabinet of each Council in respect of executive functions within the meaning of the Local Authorities (Functions and Responsibilities) Regulations 2000 (as amended) and the Local Authorities (Arrangements for the Discharge of Functions) (England) Regulations 2012 or the full Council or relevant committee of each Council in respect of non-executive functions within the meaning of the said regulations and the duty of the Head of Paid Service to advise the Councils shall include but not be limited to providing advice on:

(a) The structure of the Shared Workforce Structure of the Councils;

(b) The host employer for each post; and

(c) Performance management of the Shared Workforce Structure.

13. Dispute Resolution

13.1 In the event of a dispute concerning the construction or effect of this Agreement it should first be discussed for resolution by the Joint Strategy Board. The Joint Strategy Board shall take all

reasonable steps to conciliate and resolve such dispute or difference whether by negotiation, mediation, or any other form of dispute resolution procedures (with a view to resolution by discussion and negotiation).

13.2 In the event that a matter in dispute cannot be resolved under Clause 13.1 above the matter shall (unless the Councils agree otherwise in writing) be referred to an arbitrator under Clause 13.3 below.

13.3 The arbitrator shall be appointed with the agreement of the Councils or in the event that agreement cannot be reached, by the President or other chief officer of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators or such other professional body appropriate to the matter in dispute (such body to be determined by the Chief Executive). The costs of arbitration shall be borne by the Councils in the following proportions: East Lindsey District Council shall meet 46% per cent and Boston Borough Council 23% per cent and South Holland District Council 31%.

13.4 For the avoidance of doubt this Clause shall remain in effect after the termination or expiry of this Agreement to confer powers on the Councils to resolve matters remaining in dispute.

14. No Fetter of Discretion

14.1 Nothing in this Agreement shall fetter the discretion of the Councils.

15. Liabilities

15.1 The Councils shall be jointly and severally liable to any third parties in respect of all actions and causes of action, claims, demands, proceedings, damages, losses, costs, charges, and expenses directly arising from this Agreement. Each council shall indemnify and keep indemnified the other Council(s) from and against the extent of the indemnifying Council's liability for any actions and causes of action, claims, demands, proceedings, damages, losses, costs, charges, and expenses directly arising from or in connection with this Agreement and such liability and indemnity shall continue after the termination of this Agreement.

15.2 East Lindsey District Council and Boston Borough Council shall indemnify South Holland District Council in respect of any liability, loss, claim, costs, damage or proceedings arising from actions between 1 July 2020 and 30 September 2021 as a result of the defaulting Council's negligence, acts, or omissions or breach of its obligations under their Agreement dated 1 July 2020.

15.3 Each Council shall ensure that it has all appropriate insurances relating to public liability, employee liability, professional indemnity, and Member indemnity to cover any liabilities arising under this Agreement.

15.4 Each Council shall ensure that officers placed at its disposal shall when acting on its behalf be insured under that Council's public liability, employee liability and professional indemnity insurances notwithstanding the fact that such officers may be employed by one of the other Councils.

15.5 Where a claim is brought against any of the Councils that is or may be or may become a liability under this Agreement that Council shall notify the other Councils forthwith and shall ensure that it notifies its insurers in accordance with any relevant insurance policy.

- 15.6 The cost of any claim arising from or in connection with this Agreement shall be shared except where only one or two of the Councils is at fault in which case that Council or those Councils shall bear the cost and shall indemnify and keep indemnified the other Council or Councils from and against the extent of the indemnifying Council's liability.
- 15.7 None of the Councils shall take any action which would result in any claim being refused by its insurers or either of the other Councils' insurers in respect of any liability arising in connection with this Agreement.

16. Intellectual Property Rights

- 16.1 Each Council shall retain the ownership of all Intellectual Property Rights it owns as at the Commencement Date in any materials which it has created or the creation of which was undertaken by a third party which it commissioned to create those materials.
- 16.2 Any new material created jointly by the Councils in the course of provision of the Shared Workforce Team shall belong to the Councils jointly unless otherwise agreed in writing.
- 16.3 Each Council hereby grants a licence to the other to use its Intellectual Property Rights incorporated in or appearing from the materials referred to in clauses 16.1 and 16.2 for the purposes of the performance of this Agreement and the delivery of all services by the Councils.

17. Notices

- 17.1 Any notice to be served under this Agreement shall be valid and effective if it is addressed to the Chief Executive and delivered by email, prepaid recorded delivery post, or delivered by hand to the other Councils' principal office.

18. Rights and Duties Reserved

- 18.1 Nothing in this Agreement shall prejudice or fetter the proper exercise of any function by the Councils or their officers.

19. Legal and other Fees

- 19.1 Each Council shall bear its own legal and other fees in relation to the preparation and completion of this Agreement.

20. Provision of Statistical Information Accounts and other Documents etc.

- 20.1 Each Council shall make available to the other such statistical information which each Council may from time to time reasonably require.
- 20.2 Without prejudice to any provision in this Agreement requiring the keeping of records the supply of statistics or the provision of information the Councils shall keep such other records and details of or concerning the Shared Workforce Team or their performance as the Councils may require and shall produce or provide to the other copies whether kept electronically or in paper format of such accounts, invoices, orders, contracts, receipts, statistics and other information or documents touching or concerning or arising from this Agreement or their performance of this Agreement as and when and in such form as each Council may reasonably require.

20.3 Without prejudice to any provision in this Agreement the Councils shall keep and maintain all necessary information and shall provide all necessary assistance to enable each Council to complete all necessary official returns or statistics related to this Agreement.

20.4 The Councils shall supply each other with such assistance and information as each Council may require to enable it to allocate such expenditure as each Council may incur under this Agreement.

21. Audit

21.1 Each Council's external and internal auditors shall have the powers set out in the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 and any subsequent amending repealing and superseding legislation. Each Council shall at all reasonable times (including following the termination for whatever reason of this Agreement) allow or procure for any auditor for the purposes of an external or internal audit immediate access to and permission to copy and remove any copies of and permission to remove the originals of any books records and information in the possession or control of the Councils which in any way relates to or are or were used in connection with this Agreement including (but without limitation) any of each Council's data and any such information stored on a computer system operated by a contractor servant or agent of the other Council.

21.2 Each Council will provide all practicable co-operation and afford all appropriate access to personnel and records in order to assist the requesting Council in carrying out any investigations which are already under way at the Commencement Date and any investigations which are carried out after the termination or expiry of this Agreement, but which relate to any period during which the Shared Workforce Structure was in effect.

22. No Legal Partnership

22.1 Nothing in this Agreement shall be construed as establishing or implying any legal partnership or joint venture between the Councils although the parties may decide to form partnerships and joint ventures as they develop closer collaborative working arrangements. Any such partnership or joint venture shall only be effective if approved by the Council meeting of each authority and set out in a deed sealed by each authority.

23. Anti-Corruption

23.1 Any of the Councils may cancel this Agreement at any time and recover from such other Council(s) as may be at fault the amount of any loss resulting from such cancellation if any of the following apply:

- (a) One or both of the other Councils has offered or given or agreed to give to any person any gift or consideration as an inducement or reward (1) for doing or forbearing to do or for having done or forborne to do any action in relation to the obtaining or execution of the Agreement or any other contract with the Council (2) for showing or forbearing to show favour or disfavour to any person in relation to the Agreement or any other contract with the Council;
- (b) any person employed by or acting on behalf of one of the other Councils (whether with or without the other Councils' knowledge or consent) acts in similar manner to that set

out in sub-Clause (a) above;

- (c) in relation to any contract or potential contract with the Council one or both of the other Councils or any person employed by or acting on behalf of one or both of the other Councils shall have committed any offence under the Prevention of Corruption Acts 1889 to 1916 or any amendment or replacement of them or shall have given any fee or reward the receipt of which is an offence under Sub Section (2) of Section 117 of the Local Government Act 1972.

24. Discrimination

- 24.1 The Councils shall not unlawfully discriminate within the meaning and scope of the provisions of the Equality Act 2010 and any other legislation prohibiting discrimination on any grounds whatsoever. The Councils shall take all reasonable steps to secure the observance of these provisions and any statutory provisions amending or replacing the same by its employees in the performance of the Agreement.

25. Human Rights

- 25.1 The Councils in the performance of this Agreement shall comply with the provisions of the Human Rights Act 1998. The Councils shall indemnify and keep indemnified one another against all actions and causes of action claims, demands, proceedings, damages, losses, costs, charges, and expenses whatsoever in respect of any breach of this Clause and such indemnity shall continue after the termination of this Agreement.

26. Freedom of Information

- 26.1 It is agreed that the Councils are subject to the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. Any release of or exemption applicable to this Agreement shall be considered under that Act.

27. Survival of this Agreement

- 27.1 In so far as any of the rights and powers of the Councils provided for in this Agreement shall or may be exercised or exercisable after the termination or expiry of this Agreement the provisions of this Agreement conferring such rights and powers shall survive and remain in full force and effect notwithstanding such termination or expiry.
- 27.2 In so far as any of the obligations of the Councils provided for in this Agreement remain to be discharged after the termination or expiry of this Agreement the provisions of this Agreement imposing such obligations shall survive and remain in full force and effect notwithstanding such termination or expiry.

28. Whole Agreement

- 28.1 This Agreement constitutes the whole agreement and understanding of the Councils as to its subject matter.
- 28.2 This agreement expressly acknowledges any prior agreements each Council has with any one or more other Council in respect of any matters that shall continue under those prior

agreements. Unless the contrary is specifically indicated, this agreement is not intended to supersede those prior agreements or amend or replace any matters existing or agreed within them.

29. Waiver

29.1 Failure by any of the Councils at any time to enforce any provision of this Agreement or to require performance by the other or others of any of the provisions of this Agreement shall not be construed as a waiver of any such provisions and shall not affect the validity of this Agreement or any part or the right of that party to enforce any terms and provision of this Agreement.

30. Severance

30.1 If any term or provision of this Agreement shall in whole or in part become or shall be declared by any court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid or unenforceable in any way, such invalidity or unenforceability shall in no way impair or affect any other term or provision all of which shall remain in full force and effect.

31. Headings

31.1 Headings contained in this Agreement are for reference purposes only and shall not affect the validity or construction of this Agreement.

32. Governing Law

32.1 This Agreement shall be governed by and interpreted in accordance with English law and the Councils submit to the exclusive jurisdiction of the English courts.

33. Contracts (Rights of Third Parties) Act 1999

33.1 The Councils do not intend that any term of this Agreement should be enforceable by any third party as provided by the Contracts (Rights of Third Parties) Act 1999.

34. Non-assignment

34.1 None of the Councils shall be entitled to assign this Agreement or any of its rights and obligations under it without the written consent of the others (which consent the other Councils may in their absolute discretion withhold).

35. Disruption

35.1 The Councils shall take reasonable care to ensure that in the execution of this Agreement it does not disrupt the operations of the other Councils, their employees or any other third party.

36. Health and Safety

36.1 Each Council shall promptly notify the others of any health and safety hazards which may arise in connection with the performance of this Agreement and shall promptly notify each of the others

of any health and safety hazards which may exist or arise at a Council's premises, and which may affect the performance of this Agreement.

36.2 While on Councils premises, the Shared Workforce Team shall comply with any health and safety measures implemented by the Council in respect of employees and other persons working on those premises.

36.3 Each Council shall notify the others immediately in the event of any incident occurring in the performance of this Agreement on the Council's premises where that incident causes any personal injury or damage to property which could give rise to personal injury.

36.4 The Councils shall comply with the requirements of the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974 and any other acts, orders, regulations, and codes of practice relating to health and safety, which may apply to employees and other persons working on Council premises in the performance of this Agreement.

36.5 The Councils shall ensure that their health and safety policy statements (as required by the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974) are made available to each other on request.

IN WITNESS of which this Agreement has been executed as a Deed on the first day before written

**The Common Seal of East Lindsey
District Council was fixed here in the
presence of:**

Authorised Officer

**The Common Seal of Boston Borough Council
was fixed here in the presence of:**

Authorised Officer

**The Common Seal of South Holland District
Council was fixed here in the presence of:**

Authorised Officer

SCHEDULE 1

JOINT CHIEF OFFICER EMPLOYMENT PANEL

Quorum 6

Composition

- 3 members appointed by East Lindsey District Council and
- 3 members appointed by Boston Borough Council and
- 3 members appointed by South Holland District Council;
- Appointments shall be made in accordance with the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990/1553;
- At least one member of the Panel shall be a member of East Lindsey District Council's Executive Board and at least one member shall be a member of Boston Borough Council's Cabinet and at least one member shall be a member of South Holland District Council's Cabinet.

Note: A quorum of 6 which must include at least two members (including at least one Cabinet member) from each Council

Terms of Reference:

The Panel's terms of reference will be as follows:

- (a) The arrangements for the Joint Chief Officer Employment Panel are for permanent staffing appointments to Chief Executive, Executive Directors, Section 151 Officer and Monitoring Officer posts only and will not include appointments made on a temporary basis.
- (b) Providing feedback and representations to the employing Council in respect of the appointment of the Head of the Paid Service/Chief Executive.
- (c) Providing feedback and representations to the employing Council in respect of the appointment to those positions at sub-clause (a).
- (d) Providing feedback and representations to the employing Council on the dismissal of, or the taking of any disciplinary or performance action against those positions at sub-clause (a).

Note 1: The role of the Panel is to provide feedback, given that any officer recruited (or disciplined) will have provided or will in the future provide services to the two non-employing Councils and it is understood and accepted that the knowledge, skills, and behaviour of shared officers will have a direct impact on all of the Councils.

The Panel's role, however, is limited to the provision of feedback and representations to the

employing Council as decisions on recruitment and discipline may only be taken by the Council which employs the officer in question.

Note 2: Disciplinary and performance action against a statutory Chief Officer is subject to certain statutory and procedural requirements, including the appointment of an Independent Investigator. Any Independent Investigator will be informed of the shared management arrangements and will be invited to seek comments from each of the non-employing councils as part of any investigation.

Place of Meeting:

Meetings of the Joint Chief Officer Employment Panel may be held wherever it is considered to be most appropriate (including remotely) depending on the agenda for the particular meeting. The Chairman of the Joint Panel may give directions.

Training:

Members of the Joint Panel may be required to undertake appropriate training associated with recruitment.

Chairing Joint Chief Officers Employment Panel:

Chairmanship of the Joint Panel alternates between the three Councils for each meeting.

Servicing the Joint Panel:

The Joint Panel may be serviced by staff from any of the Councils.

SCHEDULE 2

STAKEHOLDER GROUP

Quorum

3 Members (to include a Member from each Council)

Membership

- 3 Council Leaders
- 3 Council Deputy Leaders
- Joint Chief Executive
- Joint Section 151 Officer
- Joint Monitoring Officer

Based on the work programme of the Group, other Members and Officers may be invited to join the meeting at the invitation of the Leaders, Statutory Officers or Service Director – Corporate.

Substitutions

Leaders may appoint another member of their Executive/Cabinet to act as substitute.

Terms of Reference

To be responsible for overseeing strategic direction and assurance and monitoring of the programme across organisations (including service reviews), ensuring the programme delivers to agreed strategic objectives as set by the Joint Strategy Board.

Frequency of Meetings

A minimum of twice a year but at the discretion of Leaders and Joint Chief Executive based on the work programme of the Group.

Place of Meetings

Meetings of Stakeholder Group may be held wherever/however it is considered to be most appropriate, including remotely.

Chairing Joint Appointment Appeals Committees

Chairmanship alternates between the three Council Leaders at each meeting.

Servicing the Stakeholder Group

The Group may be serviced by staff from any of the Councils.

SCHEDULE 3

East Lindsey District Council and Boston Borough Council and South Holland District Council Joint Strategy Board

Terms of Reference

Background

East Lindsey District Council and Boston Borough Council and South Holland District Council entered into a shared workforce arrangement from the Commencement Date. The Agreement remains in force until terminated by any of the three Councils. To support the shared workforce structure and joint working of the councils, it has been agreed that meetings of the Joint Strategy Board will be held to consider matters of interest, opportunities for joint working and any potential further joint working of the three councils.

Role and function

The Shared Strategy Board is an informal non-decision-making group.

The Shared Strategy Board will have the following roles and functions:

1. Monitoring the Partnership and shared workforce arrangements
2. Considering proposals to withdraw from the arrangements (clause 10) and disputes (clause 13) referred to by any of the Councils.
3. To identify, develop and oversee the implementation of opportunities for the joint and mutually advantageous promotion of, and investment in, each of the authorities' areas by central and local government, other bodies, and agencies (including, but not limited to the Environment Agency, the Lincolnshire Enterprise Partnership, Historic England, Highways England, The Arts Council, Sport England and Homes England, Lincolnshire County Council)
4. To consider and develop (if so minded) proposals for the expansion of the South and East Lincolnshire Councils Partnership insofar as that would be consistent with the purposes of this Agreement.
5. To identify those issues which arise and are likely to affect the future prosperity and democratic arrangements in both areas and project a joint voice in respect of such matters with the object of ensuring any change benefits to the greatest extent the Councils and their inhabitants.
6. To explore areas of Corporate Planning that are of mutual interest.
7. To consider areas of innovation and budget efficiencies across both Councils
8. To submit proposals arising from 2 to 7 above through formal decision-making process at each council.

Membership/Attendance

The Joint Strategy Board will comprise:

- All Cabinet members of each Council
- The Chief Executive

- No substitutions to be

allowed.

Other officers and/or members may be invited to attend meetings of the Joint Strategy Board by the Chief Executive or by the Leaders of the three Councils (who must agree any such an invitation in advance of the meeting)

Meetings

The Joint Strategy Board will meet on at least two occasions in each year normally in March, and September.

The meetings will be chaired alternately by the Leader of each Council.

Administration for the meeting will be undertaken by the Democratic Services Team at each Council.

Action points will be prepared by the Chief Executive and will be circulated to the Executive/Cabinet Members and the Partnership's Corporate Management Team.

Shared staff shall undertake all actions allocated to them or shall allocate and disseminate those actions to staff for whom they are responsible. Shared staff shall report back to the Joint Strategy Board as required by the Board.