

SENT VIA EMAIL

Rt Hon Angela Rayner MP
Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and
Communities

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Ref: LS/MJH/FC

Dear Angela,

Thank you for your recent letter regarding the devolution white paper and the opportunities for local government reform in two tier areas. Greater Lincolnshire Leaders have always been clear that we are supportive of reorganisation once we have achieved our ambitions for devolution.

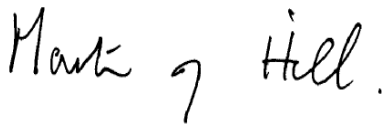
We are now in the final stages of establishing the Greater Lincolnshire Combined County Authority and subject to parliamentary approval, expect the inaugural meeting to take place in March 2025. We believe that now is the time for Greater Lincolnshire to embrace unitary government. This would bring together the ten authorities operating within Greater Lincolnshire to create a more efficient and sustainable model of local government for the 1.1m residents living here.

We have the support and capacity in place to move at pace to bring forward a new model of local government for Greater Lincolnshire.

We have established strong working relationships in place with your department, have consistently demonstrated an ability to deliver, at pace, and have worked with partners to secure pragmatic solutions which serve the best interests of Greater Lincolnshire's business, residents and communities. We are clear that moving to a unitary model for Greater Lincolnshire would deliver considerable financial savings to the public purse and enable essential services to be protected.

We would welcome the opportunity to work at pace with you and your officials to advance our shared ambitions at your earliest opportunity and to ensure that Greater Lincolnshire is not disadvantaged because we have already embraced the Mayoral model of devolution. We would be open to deferring the elections in 2025 and are confident that our preferred proposal of 2 unitary authorities for Greater Lincolnshire would get support. In the specific case of North East Lincolnshire, the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) has commenced a ward boundary review leading, at present, to an all-out Council election in May 2026. Should Local Government Reorganisation proceed across Greater Lincolnshire (including North East Lincolnshire), it is requested that consideration is given to the merits of holding that election in the circumstances.

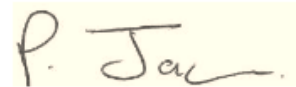
Yours sincerely



**Councillor Martin Hill OBE
Leader, Lincolnshire County
Council**



**Councillor Rob Waltham MBE
Leader, North Lincolnshire
Council**



**Councillor Philip Jackson
Leader, North East
Lincolnshire Council**