

December – January District Council Report

Reece, Carola, Ian

Greater Lincolnshire Devolution funding and decision-making powers welcomed

North Kesteven District Council has backed the devolution deal for Greater Lincolnshire, welcoming the opportunities it represents for skills, jobs and investment both for the District and the wider area.

An agreement has been proposed which will see the Government pledge an additional level of investment worth £720m over 30 years and hand down various powers to enable local determination on how and where that is spent across a number of themes including climate action, economic opportunity, transport infrastructure skills and adult education – within the area of Greater Lincolnshire, from the Humber to the Wash.

It has already been agreed that £2.2million of an additional £28.4m targeted on projects will be allocated to Sleaford Moor Enterprise Park to accelerate delivery of phase two of the project, which could create and/or safeguard 450-500 jobs.

The Lincolnshire County, North Lincolnshire and North East Lincolnshire councils – which are the main partners forming a new Mayoral Combined County Authority operating additionally to all of the existing and ongoing council structures – have already approved the principles of the Greater Lincolnshire Devolution.

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.’

A consultation is currently underway, with a roadshow of drop-in engagement scheduled throughout January, including January 10 in Sleaford at the Source on Southgate; and Lincoln’s Showroom on Tritton Road on January 25, both 3pm to 7pm. Information and consultation details can be found on the Lincolnshire County Council website.

North Kesteven District Council is delivering eco-friendly and energy-saving improvements to the first 200 Council homes in its plan to upgrade at least 600 such properties by 2030.

The £6 million programme will see green measures such as solar panels, heat pumps and boosted insulation installed in the Council properties with the lowest EPC ratings in partnership with energy and regeneration expert Equans.

A Swinderby bungalow is among the latest to have new state-of-the-art, carbon saving technology installed - making it one of the first to receive energy efficiency updates under the priority project.

Householders John and Kathy Nicholls are feeling the benefits of having solar panels with battery storage, air source heat pumps and new loft insulation installed to their 1972 home where they have lived for the past 18 years.

The project will see 200 Council-owned bungalows in almost 40 North Kesteven villages become warmer and more energy efficient - significantly reducing residents’ energy bills each year and increasing Energy Performance Certificate ratings to at least C.