

**RECORD OF DECISION TAKEN UNDER
DELEGATED AUTHORITY FROM
EXECUTIVE/COUNCIL/COMMITTEE
DELEGATED POWERS OUTLINED IN
THE CONSTITUTION**



DELEGATED OFFICER DECISION TAKEN BY:	Chief Executive
DELEGATED BY:	Council 14 th March 2024
IN CONSULTATION WITH:	Leader
PORTFOLIO AREA:	Leader

SUBJECT: Granting consent for the Lancashire Combined County Authority Regulations 2024

1. DECISION

That the Chief Executive, after consultation with the Leader of the Council, gives consent to the making of the Lancashire Combined County Authority Regulations 2024

2. REASON FOR DECISION

At the meeting of the Council Forum on 14 March 2024, the Council granted approval to the Proposal to create the Lancashire Combined County Authority and delegated the authority to grant consent to the final drafting of the necessary regulations to establish the Combined County Authority to the Chief Executive, after consultation with the Leader. This report seeks approval to grant such consent to the making of the relevant Regulations.

3. BACKGROUND

In March 2024, the three constituent councils, Blackburn with Darwen Council, Blackpool Council and Lancashire County Council, each agreed a formal proposal for the establishment of a Combined County Authority for the area. This decision followed a full public consultation, as set out in the report to Council Forum.

Council Forum agreed that "Consent be given to the making of the necessary Regulations to create the Lancashire Combined County Authority in accordance with the arrangements and principles set out in the report, now presented, and the Chief Executive be delegated, after

consultation with the Leader of the Council, and subject to the approval of the other two Constituent Councils, to give final approval of the draft Regulations, subject to those Regulations reflecting the principles agreed in the Proposal document and this report”.

The resolution is also subject to approval of the other two constituent Councils and the Regulations reflect the principles agreed. Blackburn with Darwen Council is in agreement with the two constituent Councils with making the Regulations and nothing substantive has changed.

Civil Servants have been working with officers from the three Councils to draft the relevant Regulations to implement the Devolution Deal. On 18 November, the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government wrote to the three Councils attaching the final draft of the Lancashire Combined County Authority Regulations 2024 and asking for consent from the constituent authorities to the making of these Regulations. They requested that confirmation be provided no later than 4pm on 18 November so that the Regulations can be laid around 26 November. The exact wording of the Regulations has to remain confidential until it is laid before Parliament, however a summary of the provisions of the Regulations is attached at Appendix 1. The Regulations will provide for the establishment, including governance arrangements, of the Lancashire Combined County Authority (LCCA) and confers transport, housing and economic functions onto it. It is envisaged that the Combined County Authority will be created in early 2025, depending on the parliamentary timetable.

The Chief Executive has consulted with the Leader of the Council with regard to the drafting of the Regulations.

4. KEY ISSUES AND RISKS

The key issues and risks of the Devolution Deal were considered in the previous reports that are identified in the background papers to this report, including the Council decision in March 2024.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The financial implications of the Devolution Deal were considered in the previous reports that are identified in the background papers to this report, including the Council decision in March 2024. This report purely seeks to provide the final administrative steps in granting consent for the Regulations to be made.

6. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

The Levelling-up and Regeneration Act 2023 enables the Secretary of State to make regulations to create a CCA and confer functions onto it. The Lancashire Combined County Authority Regulations 2024 use the powers available from the 2023 Act to implement the agreement and establish the LCCA. The government has confirmed that the relevant statutory tests as set out in the 2023 Act have been met.

The legal implications of creating a Combined County Authority have been considered in previous reports to Council Forum.

7. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

The resource implications of the Devolution Deal were considered in the previous reports that are identified in the background papers to this report, including the Council decision in March 2024. This report purely seeks to provide the final administrative steps in granting consent for the Regulations to be made.

8. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

The equality implications for the Devolution Deal were considered at the Full Council in March 2024. This report purely seeks to provide the final administrative steps in granting consent for the Regulations to be made and therefore there are no additional equality implications of this decision.

9. OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

The Chief Executive could choose to refuse granting consent to the Regulations or attempt to seek further changes. However, on the basis that the draft Regulations delivers the Devolution Deal that has been consulted upon, it is considered appropriate to recommend approval of the making of the Regulations which will unlock the ability to obtain additional funding from Government and deliver the Devolution Deal.

9. CONSULTATIONS

The findings of the consultations undertaken regarding the Devolution Deal were considered in the previous reports that are identified in the background papers to this report, including the Council decision in March 2024.

10. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

All Declarations of Interest of the officer with delegation and any Member who has been consulted, and note of any dispensation granted should be recorded below:

VERSION:	1
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CONTACT OFFICER:	Denise Park
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DATE:	18 November 2024
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BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS:	Appendix A – The Lancashire Combined County Authority Regulations 2024 – Main Provisions Appendix B – Council Forum Report, 14th March 2024 – Devolution To Lancashire – Proposal to create the Lancashire Combined County Authority Appendix C – Policy Council Report – 30th November 2024 – Devolution to Lancashire – Proposal and Consultation
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