

Motion on the establishment of a County Combined Authority for Lancashire

Mover: Cllr Mark Townsend

Seconder: Cllr Sue Graham

This Council:

a. remains committed to securing an ambitious devolution deal for Lancashire. A deal that strengthens Lancashire and gives Burnley & Padiham the ability to shape its own future.

a.b. strongly opposes the establishment of a County Combined Authority (CCA) for Lancashire as detailed in the Chancellor of Exchequer Autumn statement and the Lancashire County Council (LCC) consultation documents.

There are 3-4 major areas of deficit in what is being proposed **by the three upper tier authorities in Lancashire** which can be summarised as follows:-

a. It lacks ambition - Lancashire needs a top tier devolution deal if the inequalities and productivity gaps with other regions are to be closed. The deal on offer goes nowhere near achieving what our current and future residents require.

b. It is undemocratic - No directly elected decision makers from large swathes of the County are included resulting in a lack of credibility for the proposed CCA. The democratic deficit is profound with little/no accountability to residents. Residents will not accept faceless unknown individuals making decisions on their behalf who they cannot have their say over at elections.

c. It has inbuilt unfairness - the proposals do not include any references to burden sharing across the County. Currently high deprivation areas in the County take on the biggest burdens when it comes to tackling big national issues. Until this unfairness is addressed residents in deprived areas will not buy in to the ambitions of devolution.

d. It centralises power- the proposals take powers from local communities and gives the CCA the powers to take functions from District Councils without the consent of those Councils. The proposals already gives responsibility for the UKSPF, LEP and Growth Lancashire totally to the CCA all of which previously had direct District Council involvement.

Council directs the Leader/Chief Executive to :

a. respond to the LCC consultation accordingly, and

b. write to the Secretary of State at the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) expressing the Council's strong opposition to the proposals **whilst also stressing that our long held commitment to establish an ambitious Lancashire devolution deal with strong locally based democratic governance remains.-**

