

# **Lancashire Combined County Authority**

## **Devolution Deal Consultation Summary Report**

**March 2024**



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# 1 Introduction

## 1.1 Background

On 22 November 2023, the government announced the potential for a devolution deal for Lancashire. The three upper tier councils in Lancashire, (Lancashire County Council, Blackpool Council and Blackburn with Darwen Council) produced a draft proposal (the 'Proposal') and agreed to consult on plans to create a new entity called the Lancashire Combined County Authority (LCCA).

If the proposal is implemented, existing funding and powers would move from central government to Lancashire, with further powers also being available to the LCCA. It is intended that this would enable local voices to play a greater role in decision-making in the area, to secure more investment and to deliver better outcomes for local communities. The proposal would not mean removing or merging local councils. Each council would continue to exist and would still be responsible for public services in their area.

The councils' vision is for the 1.53 million people in Lancashire to be able to enjoy greater health, prosperity and wellbeing through the opportunities available to them within an inclusive and confident Lancashire. It is believed that the funding and powers that would be received as part of creating the proposed LCCA could help to deliver this vision and give more control over the decision-making that affects Lancashire's residents and businesses. The proposal focuses on the eight priorities set out below:

- **Innovation, Trade and Investment**
- **Skills**
- **Transport**
- **Net Zero and Climate Change**
- **Digital and Cyber**
- **Culture and Tourism**
- **Housing and Land**
- **Delivering Our Ambitions**

The three upper tier councils in Lancashire are proposing devolution due to what they believe would have a number of potential benefits. Such benefits include additional government funding to address local issues through the proposed LCCA, new powers to stimulate growth in urban centres and to construct more affordable housing, financial backing for new jobs in growth sectors including low carbon technologies, cyber security and energy, and ensuring the right skills are developed to capitalise on these opportunities. It is also envisaged by the three councils that devolution would facilitate better coordination of investment and management of transport infrastructure to meet regional needs, and drive investment across Lancashire, ensuring all areas benefit.

## 1.2 The public consultation

Before the councils proposing devolution can proceed with their proposal, there is a requirement within Section 45(4) of the Levelling-up and Regeneration Act 2023 to carry out a public consultation.

A public consultation was launched on 1 December 2023 to obtain feedback on the proposal. The consultation ran for eight weeks, closing on 26 January 2024. Anyone with an interest in the proposal, including local businesses, local government organisations, elected representatives, voluntary and community organisations, other organisations, and members of the public were invited to provide their comments. Consultees could provide their views via an online or paper questionnaire, by email and post.

An online consultation website<sup>1</sup> was established by Lancashire County Council, Blackpool Council and Blackburn with Darwen Council. It included a summary of the deal, a copy of the proposal, what it would mean if the proposal was adopted, the likely benefits, and an explanation about how the proposal builds on the pre-existing strengths of the proposed LCCA area. The website included a number of other pages, including associated background information and a detailed FAQ section. Consultees could also take part via email and post.

The independent research agency Ipsos<sup>2</sup> was commissioned to receive responses, and to provide an independent report of the feedback received. This document provides a summary of the feedback. The councils ran a communications campaign prior to and during the consultation period, and held a series of face-to-face events. This activity took place independently of Ipsos UK and the details of the activity are available separately from this report.

### 1.3 Responses received

Overall, there were 1,881 responses received within the consultation period. This included responses from 1,695 individuals and 186 organisations and representative groups. Table 1.1 provides a breakdown of responses by response channel. Most of those who provided their feedback did so via the online response form.

**Table: 1.1 Responses received to the consultation by response channel**

Response channel	Number of responses received
Online response form	1,796
Paper response form	34
Email	51
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,881</b>

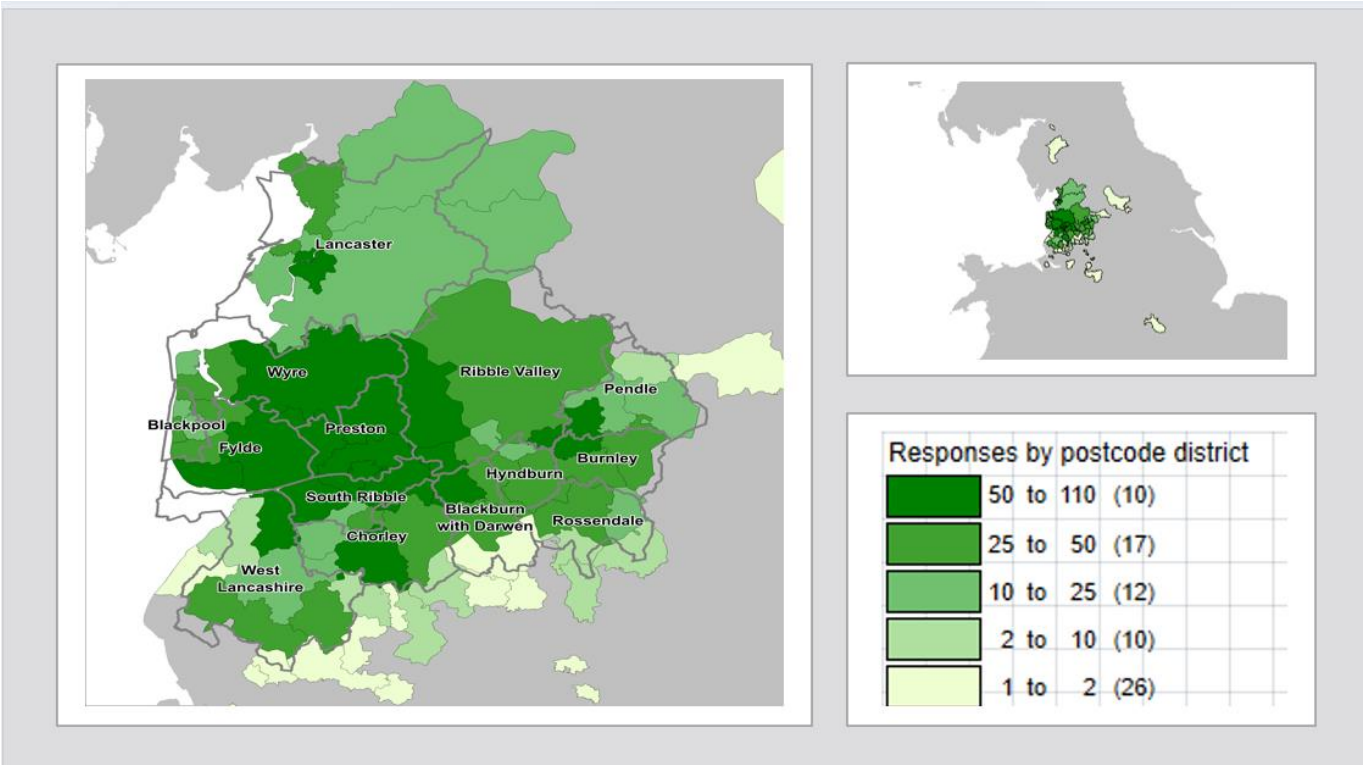
<sup>1</sup> <https://lancashiredevolution.co.uk/>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.ipsos.com/en-uk>

1.3.1 Geographic location of consultees

Those who completed a response form were asked to provide the first part of their postcode. In addition, some of those who took part in the consultation by email also provided their full or partial postcode. Of 1,881 responses received, most (1,714) provided a full or partial postcode, and this allowed Ipsos to plot the responses on a map to see a visual distribution of the responses within Lancashire and beyond.

Figure 1.2: Map showing the postcode location of consultees



### 1.3.2 Responses from individuals

Individuals who used the response form were asked to indicate which local authority area they live in. Table 1.2 provides a breakdown of the number of responses received by local authority area. A total of 1,643 individuals indicated which local authority area they lived in. Most responses received were from Lancashire residents (1,593). Please refer to Appendix D of this report for a breakdown of responses by local authority area to the closed/tick box questions on the response form.

**Table 1.2: Breakdown of responses from individuals by local authority area**

Local authority	Number of responses received
Blackburn with Darwen Council	111
Blackpool Council	103
Burnley Borough Council	117
Chorley Council	141
Fylde Borough Council	129
Hyndburn Borough Council	64
Lancaster City Council	177
Pendle Borough Council	54
Preston City Council	172
Ribble Valley Borough Council	74
Rossendale Borough Council	73
South Ribble Borough Council	182
West Lancashire Borough Council	108
Wyre Borough Council	88
Other / out of area	50
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,643</b>

### 1.3.2 Responses from organisations and representative groups

Those who used the response form to provide their feedback were asked to indicate if their response was on behalf of a business or organisation. For responses received via email, in the majority of cases, it was clear on whose behalf the response was from. Where this was less clear, and/or in cases where two or more responses were claiming to be on behalf of the same organisation, Ipsos used the best of its judgement to assign a response category, and/or to decide on which response was the *official* organisational response, with the other response(s) categorised as responses from individuals.

Where consultees have not identified themselves as responding on behalf of a business, organisation or group, their response has been considered as an individual response. Organisational responses are responses sent on behalf of wider groups rather than individual members of the public.

A breakdown of organisational responses received by category is shown in Table 1.3.

**Table 1.3: Breakdown of responses from organisations by their category**

Category	Number of responses received
Local government and Elected representatives	62
Business	58
Charity	13
Voluntary and community sector	12
Academic	11
Other category of organisation or group	30
<b>Total</b>	<b>186</b>

## 1.4 Receipt and handling of responses

Responses to the consultation were received by Ipsos, provided consultees used the advertised response channels as instructed. Some responses (for example to the individual councils) were also passed on if they represented a bona fide response to the consultation.

The handling of consultation responses was subject to a rigorous process of checking, logging and confirmation to ensure a full audit trail. All responses were securely filed, catalogued and given a serial number for future reference, and handled in accordance with requirements of the Data Protection Act 2018, and General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR).



## 1.5 Analysis and coding of responses

For those who provided comments via email (and not following the response form format), each of their comments were attributed to the relevant questions in the response form. This means that, for example, if a member of the public submitted a response via email and made comments about the investment, trade and innovation proposals (relating to Q1 of the response form) such comments were analysed alongside responses submitted to Q1 of the response form. This approach ensured that responses via all channels were analysed using the same framework.

The purpose of having closed questions was to assess the extent of agreement or disagreement for the devolution of powers relating to a particular priority area within the proposal, whilst the open-ended follow-up question then allowed consultees to further expand upon their opinion or provide reasoning.

### Coding of open question and free text responses

The process of analysing the content of each response to the open-ended follow-up question was based on a system where unique summary 'codes' are applied to specific words or phrases contained in the text of the response. These codes include a sentiment, in this case whether a comment was positive/supportive or negative/unsupportive. A number of consultees also made suggestions and neutral comments, and these are prefixed as such in the codeframe. The application of these summary codes and sub-codes to the content of the responses allows systematic analysis of the data.

Ipsos UK developed an initial coding framework (i.e. a list of codes to be applied) based on the text of the first responses received. This initial set of codes was created by drawing out the common themes and points raised. The initial coding framework was then updated throughout the analysis process to ensure that any newly emerging themes were captured. Developing the coding framework in this way ensured that it would provide an accurate representation of what consultees said.

Ipsos UK used a web-based system called *Ascribe* to manage the coding of all the text in the open question on the response form, and emailed responses. Responses were uploaded into the Ascribe system, where members of the Ipsos UK coding team manually worked systematically through the comments and applied a code to each relevant part(s) of them.

The Ascribe system allowed for detailed monitoring of the coding progress and the organic development of the coding framework (i.e. the addition of new codes to new comments). A team of coders worked to review all of the responses as they were uploaded to the Ascribe system. All coders received a thorough briefing about the objectives of the consultation before they could undertake analysis of responses. It was also necessary for coders to have read the consultation document before undertaking their analysis of responses.

To ensure that no detail was lost, coders were briefed to raise codes that reflected what was being said in responses. These were then collapsed into a smaller number of key themes at the analysis stage to help with reporting. During the initial stages of the coding process, weekly meetings were held with the coding team to ensure a consistent approach in raising new codes and to ensure that all additional codes were appropriately and consistently assigned.

## 1.6 Interpreting feedback received

While a public consultation is a valuable way to gather opinions about a wide-ranging topic, there are some key points which should be kept in mind when interpreting the responses.

Firstly, while the consultation was open to everyone, those who participated were self-selecting. With public consultations there can be a tendency for responses to come from those more likely to consider themselves affected, and therefore more motivated, to express their views. In previous consultations Ipsos has also found that responses tend to be polarised between those who think the proposals will benefit them or their area, and conversely those who think they will have a negative effect. Consultations do not tend to fully capture the views of the ‘silent majority’, who may be less opinionated about the proposals under consideration.

It must therefore be understood that responses to public consultations, as reflected through this report, can only be used to record the various opinions of those who have chosen to respond to the proposals. Due to the self-selecting nature of the method, findings should not be considered as *representative* of the population of Lancashire.

## 1.7 Report structure

This report has been divided into 11 chapters:

- This first chapter covers the background and objectives of the consultation, including how it was carried out, the number of consultees who responded via available channels, and how the responses were analysed and reported on.
- An Executive Summary makes up Chapter two and is a high-level summary of the more detailed chapters.
- Chapters three to eleven include a summary of comments received on the devolution of powers across priority areas: *innovation, trade and investment, skills, transport, net zero and climate change, digital and cyber, culture and tourism, housing and land, delivering our ambitions*, and *other* responses received from the consultation. Each of these chapters follows the same structure:
  - It firstly summarises responses to the closed question with a chart to illustrate the balance of opinion across all responses, followed by a short summary of responses from organisations and representative groups, and individuals/members of the public.
  - This is followed by thematic analysis of open-ended responses from organisations and representative groups, and individuals. Such responses are the verbatim or written responses to the open question in the response form, and from emailed responses.
- The appendices include a copy of the response form, technical details on the coding process, a codeframe, and a breakdown of responses from Lancashire residents to each of the eight closed questions on the response form.

## 2 Executive Summary

### 2.1 Background

On 22 November 2023, the government announced the potential for a devolution deal for Lancashire. The three upper tier councils in Lancashire, (Lancashire County Council, Blackpool Council and Blackburn with Darwen Council) produced a draft proposal (the 'Proposal') and agreed to consult on plans to create a new entity called the Lancashire Combined County Authority (LCCA).

If the proposal is implemented, existing funding and powers would move from central government to Lancashire, with further powers also being available to the LCCA. It is intended that this would enable local voices to play a greater role in decision-making in the area to secure more investment and deliver better outcomes for local communities. The proposal would not mean removing or merging local councils. Each council would continue to exist and would still be responsible for public services in their area.

The proposal focuses on eight priorities: Innovation, Trade and Investment, Skills, Transport, Net Zero and Climate Change, Digital and Cyber, Culture and Tourism, Housing and Land, and Delivering Our Ambitions. The three upper tier councils in Lancashire are proposing devolution due to what they believe would have a number of benefits. However, before a final decision is reached, the councils have a statutory duty to consult with individuals and organisations both within Lancashire and beyond.

### 2.2 The public consultation

A public consultation was launched on 1 December 2023 to obtain feedback on the proposal. The consultation ran for eight weeks, closing on 26 January 2024.

Anyone could provide a response to the consultation. Consultees could provide their views via an online or paper questionnaire, by email and post. An online consultation website<sup>3</sup> was established by Lancashire County Council, Blackpool Council and Blackburn with Darwen Council. It included a summary of the devolution deal, a copy of the proposal, and what it would mean if it were adopted, the likely benefits and an explanation about how the proposed deal has built on the believed pre-existing strengths of the proposed LCCA area. The independent research agency Ipsos was commissioned to receive responses, and to provide an independent report of the feedback received.

### 2.3 Responses received

Overall, there were 1,881 responses received within the consultation period. This included responses from 1,695 individuals and 186 organisations and representative groups. Most of those who took part in

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<sup>3</sup> <https://lancshiredevolution.co.uk/>

the consultation used the online response form/questionnaire (1,796). There were also 34 responses received on a paper response form/questionnaire, and 51 responses by email.

## 2.4 Headline findings

Those who participated in the consultation via the online or paper response form were asked to indicate if they agreed or disagreed with each of the eight priority areas being consulted on. The following table provides a summary breakdown of responses to the closed or tick-box questions on the response form. As is shown, more consultees agreed than disagreed with each of the eight proposals.

<b>Q. To what extent to you agree or disagree with the proposal on (PRIORITY) for the Lancashire Combined County Authority?</b>					
<b>Priority</b>	<b>Number of consultees*</b>	<b>Agree</b>	<b>Disagree</b>	<b>Neither agree nor disagree</b>	<b>Don't know</b>
<b>Innovation, Trade and Investment</b>	1,814	59%	29%	11%	1%
<b>Skills</b>	1,815	64%	25%	10%	1%
<b>Transport</b>	1,816	62%	27%	10%	1%
<b>Net Zero and Climate Change</b>	1,816	56%	28%	15%	1%
<b>Digital and Cyber</b>	1,819	59%	25%	14%	1%
<b>Culture and Tourism</b>	1,816	59%	25%	14%	1%
<b>Housing and Land</b>	1,817	50%	35%	13%	2%
<b>Delivering Our Ambitions</b>	1,819	51%	32%	15%	2%

*\*This is the number of consultees who answered each of the eight closed questions on the response form. Consultees could choose to skip a question if they wished to and so the number answering each question differs slightly.*

## 2.5 Qualitative feedback received on the overall proposal

Those who completed a response form were given the opportunity to provide their comments, including reasons for their agreement or disagreement with the overall proposal and eight priority areas. They could also make suggestions or provide other comments about the proposal. Additionally, those who responded by email were able to provide their feedback to be taken into consideration before a decision is taken on the next steps by the three upper tier authorities in Lancashire.

### Reasons to agree or support the proposal

Many different reasons were put forward in support of, or agreement with, the proposed LCCA and its potential to stimulate local economic growth and provide new opportunities. For some consultees, the stated benefits of devolution for Lancashire were too significant to be missed, while for others, it was a

positive first step on what was anticipated as an ambitious devolution journey for Lancashire. It was suggested that the newly formed LCCA could address current and important issues, including austerity, lack of lobbying power with central government, and the decline of post-industrial towns in the county. The proposal was also viewed as a pragmatic approach, putting residents' interests first, and attracting investment. Some of those who were supportive expressed excitement over the potential impact on, for example, the local visitor economy and the possibility of partnership working across culture, heritage, sport, and communities. It was also believed that the LCCA could bring decision-making closer to local communities, improve accountability, and the better targeting of resources. For some consultees, there was also potential for growth in Lancashire's manufacturing sector. It was considered that a combined authority would be better positioned to take advantage of such opportunities.

### **Concerns and issues raised**

However, not all of those who provided feedback were supportive of the proposal, with a number of concerns raised. One key concern was about how the proposed LCCA could create an additional layer of local government, with high running and administration costs. For some of those who provided their comments, the proposed LCCA was felt unnecessary. Other key concerns raised included a view that the proposed LCCA had potential to disadvantage some districts and rural areas in Lancashire. A number of consultees had reservations, including about insignificant investment, and that for example, the removal of control over the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) from district councils could lead to what was believed to be a potentially unfair allocation of funds. Other concerns included that the proposal could lead to more centralised decision-making, and thereby weakening the influence of district councils. To this effect it was felt that district councils were more effective in understanding and representing their local communities. Some of those who provided their feedback also believed that the LCCA could result in poor or reduced service provision in some areas, as well as reduced opportunities and weakened democratic accountability. In particular, there was a concern about the proposed governance and delivery arrangements, with some areas potentially having less of a voice and less of a say over important local issues. District councils and parish councils in Lancashire were particularly concerned about governance, and the proposed delivery arrangements.

### **Suggestions and other comments**

Many of those who provided their comments and feedback made suggestions about the proposal. A wide range of suggestions were made including that small businesses and SMEs should be prioritised, that certain sectors including the voluntary and community sector needed to have more consideration, that the councils advocating for the LCCA should ensure they bring in and involve expertise to include, for example, a strong business voice. It was also suggested that there should be more emphasis and focus on children's education, social care, and increased investment in public transport and transport infrastructure more generally. Others still suggested more focus on affordable housing, as well as the creation of more and higher paying job opportunities for young people, to upskill local people, and to prevent a *skills drain* to other parts of the country.

Some of those who provided their feedback requested more information, detail and clarity on what was proposed. It was felt by some that not enough information was provided, while for others what was proposed was too theoretical, and that more substance was needed about how the new LCCA would operate and deliver on its priorities.

## Conclusion

Analysis of the responses received to the consultation both through the completed response form and from emailed responses demonstrates a broad support for the proposed devolution. Analysis of the responses also showed support for the proposal from businesses in Lancashire. This is reflected in each of the eight thematic areas set out in the consultation, as well as in the comments received. The consultation responses have also highlighted a number of areas that will require consideration if the proposed devolution proposal were to proceed.

As evidence that more consultees agree than disagree with the proposal, net agreement from those who completed a response form is positive for each of the priority areas consulted on. A net score is the percentage of those who agree minus the percentage of those who disagree. For the eight priority areas this is as follows:

- Innovation, Trade and Investment: 59% agreed with the proposals for Innovation, Trade and Investment, compared to 29% disagreeing (+30).
- Skills: 64% agreed with the proposals for Skills, compared to 25% disagreeing (+39).
- Transport: 62% agreed with the proposals for Transport, compared to 27% disagreeing (+35).
- Net Zero and Climate Change: 56% agreed with the proposals for Net zero and climate change, compared to 28% disagreeing (+28).
- Digital and Cyber: 59% agreed with the proposals for Digital and cyber, compared to 25% disagreeing (+34).
- Culture and Tourism: 59% agreed with the proposals for Culture and tourism, compared to 25% disagreeing (+34).
- Housing and Land: 50% agreed with the proposals for Housing and land, compared to 35% disagreeing (+15).
- Delivering Our Ambitions: 51% agreed with the proposals for Delivering our ambitions, compared to 32% disagreeing (+19)

The public consultation has therefore provided an opportunity for individuals and organisations to express their opinions on the proposal for a level 2 devolution in Lancashire. Participants were able to indicate their agreement or disagreement and provide justifications for their views. This report contains both supportive and opposing feedback on different aspects of the proposal.

The next steps will be decided after the county and two unitary authorities in Lancashire have reviewed and considered the responses to the consultation.

## 3 Innovation, Trade and Investment

### 3.1 Background

Before answering this question, consultees were provided with the following information regarding the proposed governance structures and ways of working as detailed in the consultation document.

#### **Innovation, Trade and Investment**

**We will work with local and national stakeholders to become a globally recognised and sustainable economy, distinguished by its quality of life, connectivity and access to opportunities.**

We will use the devolution process to refresh our strategic plans for economic prosperity. These plans will build upon our competitive advantages, exploit opportunities and develop new sectors capable of delivering long-term economic growth and creating high-value jobs. We believe the proposed LCCA would enable Lancashire to produce better strategic cases for investment and gain a greater share of national resources.

The proposed LCCA will plan and deliver the Lancashire area allocation of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) from 2025/26. In spending this flexible funding pot, the proposed LCCA will work closely with district council Leaders in an advisory capacity.

Devolution under the proposal will provide £6 million capital investment to create an innovation hub of international excellence at Samlesbury Enterprise Zone. We believe the new centre will help stimulate the growth of new economic clusters to maximise the county-wide benefits of the £5 billion investment in National Cyber Force to be located in Lancashire.

The proposal will also provide £6 million for the Blackburn Technology Innovation Quarter to create new business space to support the growth of Lancashire's digital, creative and cyber sectors.

Through the proposal, Government departments will consider the potential for future relocations of Government roles to Lancashire as part of the Levelling Up agenda.

To support the proposed LCCA in its initial stages of devolution, the Government will provide £1 million of capacity funding.

**Please find further details on the proposal at [www.lancashiredevolution.co.uk](http://www.lancashiredevolution.co.uk)**



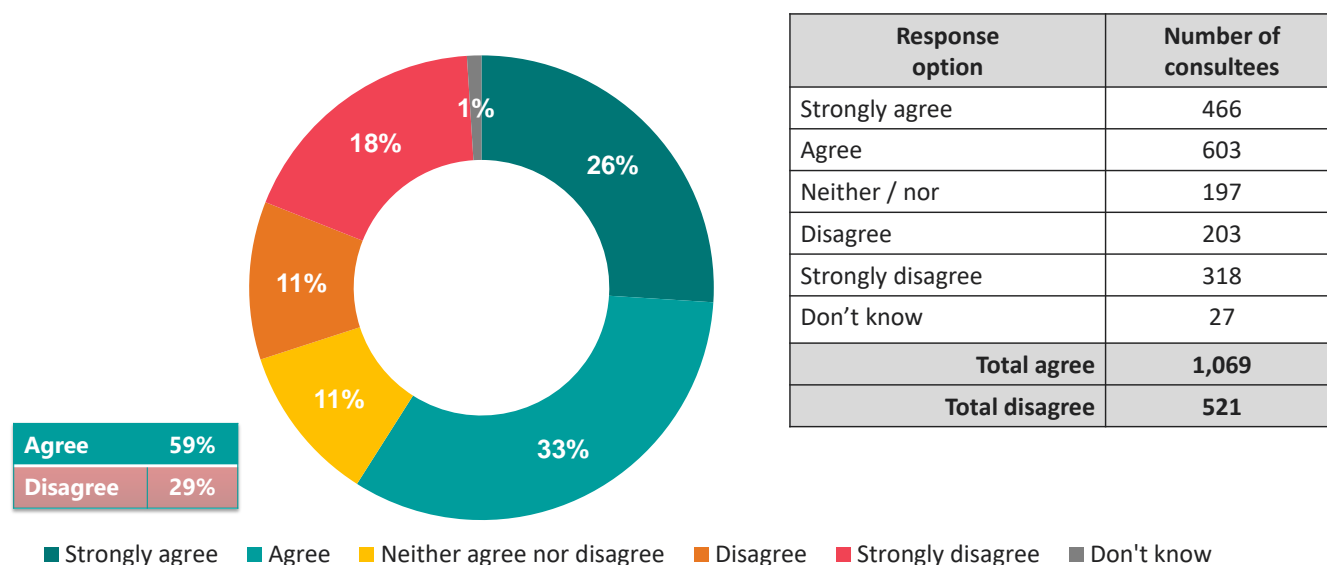
## 3.2 Summary of closed question responses

Consultees were asked about the extent they agreed or disagreed with the proposal on innovation, trade and investment for the Lancashire Combined County Authority. Of the 1,814 who responded to the question on the response form, 1,069 (59%) agreed with the proposal and 521 (29%) disagreed.

**Figure 3.1: Agreement with the proposal on innovation, trade and investment**

### Innovation, Trade and Investment

*Q1. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the proposal on innovation, trade and investment for the Lancashire Combined County Authority?*



*Base: 1,814 consultees who answered the question on the response form  
Consultation period: 1 December 2023 to 26 January 2024*

There were 1,664 individuals who answered the question on the response form. Of these, 944 (57%) agreed with the proposal and 510 (31%) disagreed with it. Of the 150 organisations and representative groups who answered the question, 125 (83%) agreed, and 11 (7%) disagreed. A breakdown of the responses from individuals in each local authority area in Lancashire is included in Appendix D.

## 3.3 Summary of responses from organisations and representative groups

Consultees were given the opportunity to provide comments on the proposal for innovation, trade and investment. In total, 49 organisations and representative groups provided comments on this. It included those who did not use the response form.

Twelve organisations provided positive and supportive comments, while a similar number (13) made negative or opposing comments or raised concerns. Many of those who provided comments on the proposal for innovation, trade and investment provided suggestions, and 17 made other comments about it.

### 3.3.1 Positive and supportive comments

Twelve organisations and representative groups provided positive and supportive comments on the proposal on innovation, trade and investment. Comments included support for, or agreement with the proposal in principle (5), agreement with the provision of an additional £6 million for the Blackburn Technology Innovation Quarter to create new business space (4), a belief that there would be economic benefits for Lancashire (4), and support for development of the Samlesbury Aerospace Enterprise Zone (3). Other comments included the possibility of more integrated working due to additional investment (2), and general support for the proposal (2). Single comments included that investment was needed or overdue, that the proposal would create new opportunities and help Lancashire compete, and also that small businesses and SMEs would benefit if the proposal was implemented.

*"We agree with the proposals to prioritise, Innovation, Trade and Investment...we particularly welcome the proposals to develop Samlesbury Enterprise Zone and Blackburn Technology Quarter..."*

**Stagecoach in South Lancashire and Stagecoach in North Lancashire**

*"...it has been frustrating to see the ambition and level of support provided to businesses...by neighbouring authorities...but not in Lancashire. The proposed LCCA plans to address this...the LCCA would enable Lancashire to compete effectively for resources, skills and inward investment against other regions around the UK and internationally...this is a once in a generation opportunity...it has my full support."*

**eBusiness UK Ltd**

### 3.3.2 Negative comments and concerns

Thirteen organisations expressed negative views or raised concerns on the proposal for innovation, trade and investment. The key issues raised were doubts about the Blackburn Technology Innovation Quarter securing significant or long-term investment, or that the proposed £6m government funding was insignificant (4), concern that rural areas could miss out on investment (4), and that existing functions of the local enterprise partnerships had not been built upon by the proposal (3). Single comments included concerns about potential poor management of investment, the non-necessity of devolution to deliver the proposal, that it would be a short-term solution, and worry about local residents being deprioritised in favour of businesses and profits.

*"The provision of £6 million of capital investment to Samlesbury Enterprise Zone and £6 million to the Blackburn Technology Innovation Quarter is welcome investment in the county, but are small scale and limited in geographic impact."*

**South Ribble Borough Council**

### 3.3.3 Suggestions and other comments

Thirty-three organisations made suggestions on the proposal for innovation, trade and investment. Such suggestions included having continued or renewed focus on stimulating local economic growth (5), to prioritise opportunities for small businesses and SMEs (4), promote more coordinated work with various stakeholders including NGOs and charities (4), to invest in local communities (4), ensure an equitable funding allocation across Lancashire (3), and to increase opportunities for young people (2).

There were also a number of specific suggestions from organisations on trade, innovation and investment, and such suggestions included as follows:

- **Community Futures** suggested that a different approach would be required in rural areas, and that special differences must not in its opinion become an acceptable reason to focus on urban areas. It was suggested that a strong rural voice would be needed, one that would be business and community led.

*"I propose that we appoint a Night Time Economy Advisor for Lancashire...if we can stabilise and regrow the NTE in Lancashire, it will drive regeneration in our towns and city centres, support new jobs (for young people), provide upstream and downstream economic benefits..."*

#### Lancashire Music Association

- **East Lancashire Chamber of Commerce** stated that it and its business audience would be keen to see the investment into the innovations hub firmly linked to clearly outlined outputs for the Lancashire economy. The organisation stated that it did not want to create 'a talking shop' that doesn't have its focus and attention on securing economic benefit in a demonstrable way for Lancashire. It was also suggested that a long-term tenant for the innovation hub was needed, and it referred to difficulties the Greater Manchester Combined Authority had with a similar development in Salford.
- **Northern Automotive Alliance** suggested that if Lancashire is to be heard and to compete on a level playing field, then it would need to operate as one county or region, and not just in terms of in the UK, but more importantly globally and that proposal would permit such opportunity.

*"As a trade association we are only too well aware of the need to operate on a regional level in terms of economic development, innovation, trade and investment. This will allow Lancashire the best opportunity to truly realise its full potential through its county-wide strengths in advanced engineering and manufacturing, digital / cyber and low carbon sectors. These are where the opportunities to truly realise levelling up are in terms of prosperity."*

#### Northern Automotive Alliance

Seventeen organisations and representative groups provided additional comments on the proposal for innovation, trade, and investment. These comments mainly consisted of questions about the proposal or observations that the proposal was lacking in detail, and that more clarity was needed.

*"The council believes that the upper tier authorities proposing the creation of the LCCA need to more clearly explain how future investment will be secured and prioritised, identifying how investment will benefit the whole of the county area."*

**Chorley Council**

### **3.4 Summary of responses from individuals / members of the public**

Overall, there were 94 individuals who commented on the proposal for innovation, trade and investment. This included 10 who provided positive or supportive comments, 26 who made negative or opposing comments, 55 who made suggestions, and 27 who made other comments.

#### **3.3.4 Positive and supportive comments**

There were 10 individuals who provided positive or supportive comments about the proposal. These included general support for the proposal (4), conditional support or support in principle (3), and single comments about improved efficiencies, creation of better or higher paying local jobs, and refurbishment of the Market Hall in Accrington with a levelling up grant.

*"I welcome the opportunity to bring additional investment into Lancashire, creating better employment opportunities...this will lead to improvements to the health and wellbeing of residents."*

**Member of the public**

#### **3.3.5 Negative comments and concerns**

A total of 26 individuals expressed negative views or raised concerns about the proposal for innovation, trade, and investment. The main concerns were a belief that the proposal would not stimulate productivity or economic growth (5), a worry that towns, cities, and major urban areas would receive favouritism over rural areas (4), concerns about local people's needs being overlooked in favour of business and industry (4), worries about exacerbating regional inequalities (3), and fears of overdevelopment, overcrowding, and excessive urbanisation (2). Single comments included criticism of too much focus on the Samlesbury Aerospace Enterprise Zone, and general disagreement with the proposal.

*"There has been too much emphasis on urban interests with little to no regard for the rural communities and businesses of the county...everything has been targeted towards Samlesbury and manufacturing."*

**Member of the public**

#### **3.3.6 Suggestions and other comments**

Out of 55 individuals who made suggestions or noted issues for consideration in the proposal, the main suggestions were to stimulate the local economy (9), further invest in small businesses and SMEs (6), and to invest in local high streets (6) and city centres (5). It was also suggested that various local organisations would need to collaborate to ensure the proposal's success (4), and there was a request for a reduction in business rates (4).

*“Reduced business rates for local businesses, especially for smaller businesses and self-employed people would be welcome...Lancashire should do more to retain money in our local economy.”*

**Member of the public**

Twenty-seven individuals provided additional comments on the proposal. These primarily included questions about the proposal, and a view that it was vague or lacked specific detail.

## 4 Skills

### 4.1 Background

Before answering this question, consultees were provided with the following information regarding the proposals relating to skills as detailed in the consultation document.

#### Skills

**We will work collaboratively with employers, skills and training providers, local authorities and other stakeholders to support people to develop their skills throughout their lives and attract business to Lancashire because of our highly skilled workforce.**

In Lancashire's labour market, the estimated employment rate is below the national rate and has worsened since the pandemic. Lancashire's work force is also characterised by a lower proportion of residents with higher level qualifications.

The proposal includes new powers to better shape local skills provisions to ensure these meet the needs of the local economy. This will include devolution of adult education, the core Adult Education Budget, and the opportunity to further refine the Local Skills Improvement Plan. Funding for Free Courses for Jobs will also be devolved and will be ring-fenced.

A strong, resilient and inclusive economy brings health benefits to its residents. As a combined authority, we believe Lancashire will be better placed to bid to become a pilot on national programmes that support individuals with health conditions to remain in the workplace.

**Please find further details on the proposal at [www.lancashiredevolution.co.uk](http://www.lancashiredevolution.co.uk)**

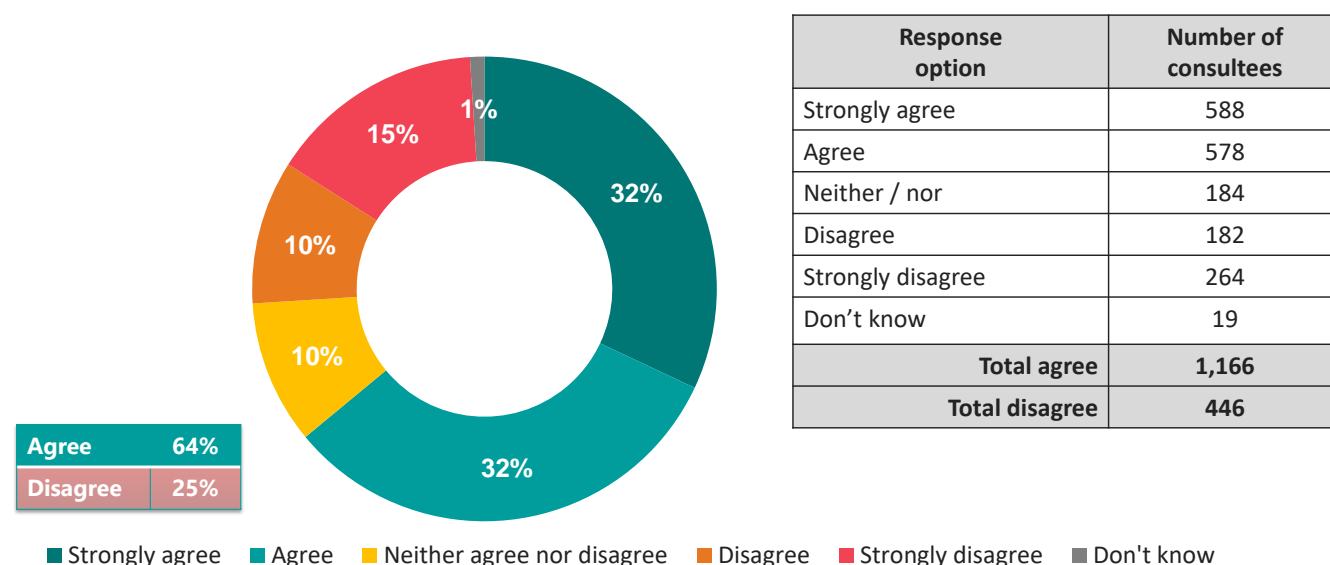
## 4.2 Summary of closed responses

Consultees were asked about the extent they agreed or disagreed with the proposal on skills for the Lancashire Combined County Authority. Of the 1,815 who responded to the question on the response form, 1,166 (64%) agreed with the proposal and 446 (25%) disagreed.

**Figure 4.1: Agreement with the proposal on skills**

### Skills

Q2. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the proposal on skills for the Lancashire Combined County Authority?



Base: 1,815 consultees who answered the question on the response form  
 Consultation period: 1 December 2023 to 26 January 2024

There were 1,665 individuals who answered the question on the response form. Of these, 1,034 (62%) agreed with the proposal and 439 (26%) disagreed with it. Of the 150 organisations and representative groups who answered the question, 132 (88%) agreed, and 7 (5%) disagreed. A breakdown of the responses from individuals in each local authority area in Lancashire is included in Appendix D.

## 4.3 Summary of responses from organisations and representative groups

Consultees were given the opportunity to provide comments on the proposal for skills. In total, 42 organisations and representative groups provided comments on this.

Twenty-two organisations and representative groups provided positive and supportive comments, while four organisations made negative or opposing comments or raised concerns. The majority (35) of those that provided comments on the proposal made suggestions and aspects to be taken into consideration as the proposal for devolution is progressed, and 15 made other comments.

### 4.3.1 Positive and supportive comments

The proposal on skills for the Lancashire Combined County Authority received positive feedback from 22 organisations and groups. The most common comments were on the potential benefits of a devolved

adult education budget to improve local skills (9), general support for the proposal (8), and the potential for economic growth benefiting Lancashire's economy (5). Other comments, though less frequent, included benefits to children's education (2), reduction of inequalities (1), and benefits to local residents (1).

*"A devo deal for Lancashire which enables local prioritisation and targeting of funds so that activity aligns with the needs of local businesses is welcomed. For example, better aligning the Adult Education Budget through devolved funds and by directly commissioning provision will improve local impact."*

**Lancashire Enterprise Partnership**

*"The devolved Adult Education Budget (AEB) is an extremely positive move forward. If commissioned and distributed correctly it has the potential to significantly influence the skills priorities at district level."*

**Lancaster & Morecambe College**

*"Of significant note to our organisation is the proposed investment and co-ordination of adult learning provision. The upskilling of residents, through a long-term planned approach based on financial certainty, will benefit our organisations ambitions to deliver services to local residents and meet the national agenda, in terms of waste and resources."*

**Blackpool Waste Services Ltd**

#### 4.3.2 Negative comments and concerns

Four organisations expressed negative views on the proposal for skills. They argued that devolution wasn't necessary for improving education, doubted the security of long-term investment, didn't believe the proposal would improve the education of children and young people, and expressed concern over the perceived lack of benefits for local universities and the exclusion of the voluntary and charitable sector from the proposals.

*"What concerns me...is that there does not appear to be any representation or any support for the 3rd sector and that the advantages will bring skills, businesses, better housing, climate - but you forget the vast and diverse number of charities and organisations who are part of the financial economy, who are employers and who are also supporting those who are working, not working, in ill health etc etc...there is nothing in this plan about the 3rd sector and voluntary sector which I find remiss of you."*

**Let's Grow Preston**

#### 4.3.3 Suggestions and other comments

Of the organisations and representative groups who commented on the skills proposal, 35 offered suggestions. The main suggestions were to invest in schools and early education (6), focus on improvements in local people's skills to benefit the local economy (6), employment through practical skills (5), to have coordinated efforts with universities and higher education institutions (5), enhanced



opportunities to retrain and upskill local residents (4), and more focus on adult education (4), apprenticeships (4), and on people with disabilities (4).

*"I would like to see the vision for Skills including more opportunities for children and young people to develop their confidence, creativity and transferable skills before leaving school..."*

**Blaze Arts**

Less common suggestions for the skills proposal included providing more training for young people (3), adopting a tailored approach due to differing needs across areas (2), focusing on long-term unemployed individuals (2), and aligning training and education to the needs of local businesses (1).

Fifteen organisations and representative groups provided other comments on the skills proposal. These included questions about the proposal, requests for more information, and observations that the proposal was vague or lacked detail, specifically regarding future funding and provisions for people with special education needs and disabilities. Some of the organisations also felt that the proposals didn't go far enough.

#### **4.4 Summary of responses from individuals / members of the public**

Overall, there were 75 individuals who made comments about the skills proposal. This included nine who made positive or supportive comments, 13 who made negative or opposing comments or raised concerns, and 52 who made suggestions, and 25 who made other comments.

##### **4.4.1 Positive and supportive comments**

A total of nine individuals expressed positive or supportive views on the skills proposal. These included general support for the proposal (4), support in principle (3), agreement or support for a devolved adult education budget (2), and the belief that the proposal would stimulate local economic growth through investment in education.

*"I am delighted to see the progress being made to create a Combined Authority in our county. The well managed merging and optimisation of resources can only be good for the residents of Lancashire. A focus on core business skills will also augur well for future prosperity."*

**Member of the public**

##### **4.4.2 Negative comments and concerns**

Thirteen individuals expressed negative or opposing views on the skills proposal. The primary concern was a belief that schools and children's education would not benefit from the proposal (6). Other comments included fears that local universities and higher education establishments would not benefit (2), concerns about more remote areas missing out in favour of larger towns and urban centres (2), worries about increasing regional inequalities (1), views that the proposal was unnecessary (1), and doubts that it would prevent a skills drain to regions outside of Lancashire (1).

*“The lack of skilled workers in the area is not down to funding of training, those with the skills and qualifications simply move out of the area because of the low pay for the same job. This will not improve and encourage more businesses into the area as the skilled people will continue to move away.”*

**Member of the public**

#### **4.4.3 Suggestions and other comments**

A total of 52 individuals made suggestions regarding the skills proposal. The main suggestion, with 18 mentions was prioritising and investing further in the education of children and young people. Less frequent suggestions included providing education, skills and training (7), to focus on upskilling local people (5) and young people (5), adopting a tailored approach to meet different needs in different areas across Lancashire (4), focusing on practical skills (4), and promoting apprenticeships (3).

*“In my opinion local services including schools and GPS need investments. ...children's services are hugely underinvested in.”*

**Member of the public**

Twenty-five individuals provided other comments on the proposal for skills. Comments include a request for more information and clarify over what was proposed, and a view that more detailed information was needed.

*“What can the new combined authority do to improve funding in schools, so that our future generations can continue to implement and grow the outlined proposal?”*

**Member of the public**

## 5 Transport

### 5.1 Background

Before answering this question, consultees were provided with the following information regarding the proposals relating to transport as detailed in the consultation document.

#### Transport

**We will work with transport providers inside and outside Lancashire to create better connected infrastructure that links opportunity to need and delivers travel choices that are safe, inclusive, affordable and low carbon.**

The proposal will build on a successful track record of major transport investment, and a new Local Transport Plan will set the direction and priorities for highways and transport investment. This plan will work across the county to secure the benefits of connectivity to widen transport choices and support low carbon travel opportunities. Lancashire has significant plans for road, bus and rail schemes, and active travel projects that it is seeking to fund through devolution.

The proposal includes new powers to improve and better integrate local transport, including the ability to develop the bus service improvement plan (BSIP) partnership and strengthen coordination of local transport functions.

Blackpool Transport Services (BTS) will continue to operate tram services in Blackpool and the surrounding area and Blackpool Council will retain the relevant powers to manage BTS. Maintenance of tram infrastructure and assets will continue to be the responsibility of Blackpool Council in partnership with Lancashire County Council. BTS also provides vital bus services to Blackpool and the surrounding area. BTS will continue to deliver bus services locally.

The proposal includes plans to improve public electric vehicle charging infrastructure to increase the uptake of electric vehicles and reduce carbon emissions.

As set out in a recent Network North announcement:

- The proposed LCCA will receive a proportion of the £2.5 billion announced as part of Network North to transform local transport in areas in the North outside of the big city regions
- The proposed LCCA will receive a proportion of the £770 million of funding for Bus Service Improvement Plans in the North
- The proposed LCCA will receive a proportion of the £3.3 billion funding to fix potholes in the North

We believe devolution will support Lancashire's objective of maintaining a safe and reliable transport network.

**Please find further details on the proposal at [www.lancashiredevolution.co.uk](http://www.lancashiredevolution.co.uk)**

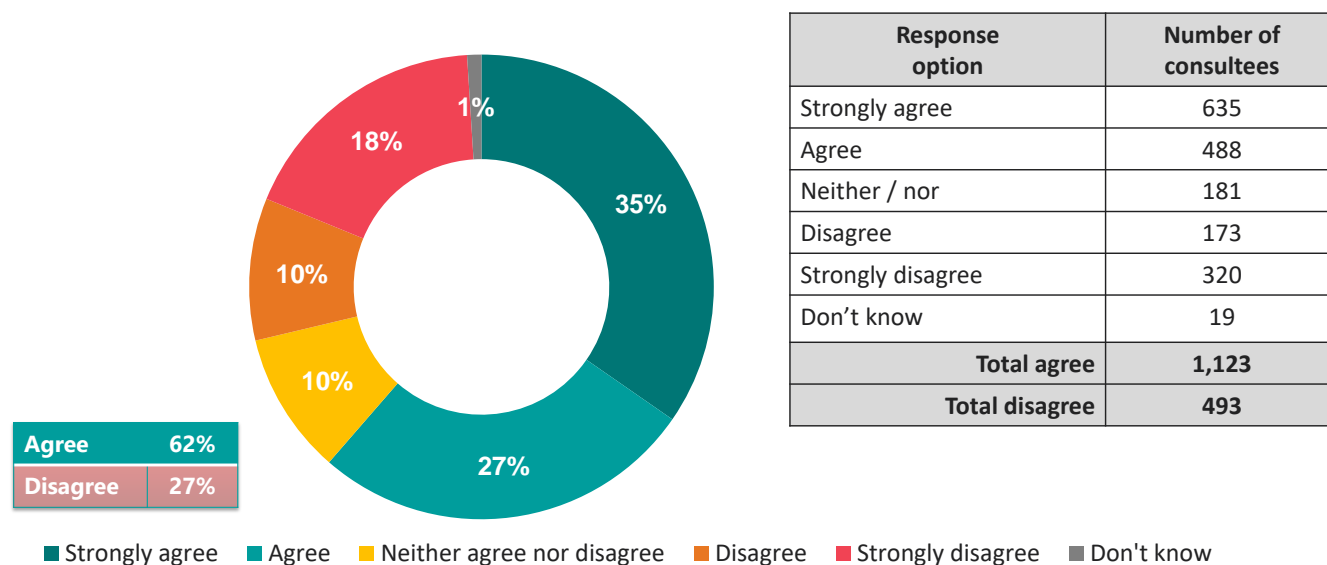
## 5.2 Summary of closed responses

Consultees were asked about the extent they agreed or disagreed with the proposal on transport for the Lancashire Combined County Authority. Of the 1,816 who responded to the question on the response form, 1,123 (62%) agreed with the proposal and 493 (27%) disagreed.

**Figure 5.1: Agreement with the proposal on transport**

### Transport

Q3. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the proposal on transport for the Lancashire Combined County Authority?



Base: 1,816 consultees who answered the question on the response form  
 Consultation period: 1 December 2023 to 26 January 2024

There were 1,666 individuals who answered the question on the response form. Of these, 990 (59%) agreed with the proposal and 487 (29%) disagreed with it. Of the 150 organisations and representative groups that answered the question, 133 (89%) agreed, and six (4%) disagreed. A breakdown of the responses from individuals in each local authority area in Lancashire is included in Appendix D.

## 5.3 Summary of responses from organisations and representative groups

Consultees were given the opportunity to provide comments on the proposal for transport. In total, 39 organisations and representative groups provided comments on this.

There were 14 organisations that generally expressed positive and supportive comments, while six did so about specific types or modes of transport. On the other hand, five organisations expressed general negative or opposing views, and two had concerns about specific modes of transport. Additionally, 25 organisations offered general suggestions, and 22 offered suggestions about specific modes of transport. Lastly, 18 organisations provided other comments about the proposal.

### 5.3.1 Positive and supportive comments

Fourteen organisations and representative groups expressed positive and supportive views on the transport proposal. The main comments included general support for the proposal (4), the advantage of making strategic decisions at a local level (4), the potential benefits of investing in local transport and infrastructure (3), and the creation of an integrated transport network across Lancashire (3).

*“The consultation documents make clear that Northern counties East-to-West connectivity remains a major issue and substantive barrier to socioeconomic growth and development. The LCCA becoming the Local Transport Authority (LTA) following devolution offers an important opportunity to advocate for, and invest in, connectivity to address this fundamental challenge.”*

#### University of Central Lancashire

Other comments included agreement with proposed improvements in Blackpool, benefits to the local economy through transport investment (2), conditional support (1), and potential benefits to local residents in Lancashire (1).

In addition, some of the organisations that provided comments did so about specific modes of transport including:

- Four organisations believed that **local bus services** would be improved as a result of the proposal. This included agreement with the bus service improvement plan, and that bus services would become both more reliable, and also safer.
- Two organisations provided positive comments about **rail services**. There was a belief that local rail services and rail infrastructure needed long-overdue improvement that the proposal would facilitate. There were also positive comments made about how the proposal would allow local people to make decisions about the transport needs of Lancashire for the benefit of those who live and work in the county.
- Two organisation provided positive and supportive comments about how they believed the proposal would be advantageous for making improvements to local **road and transport infrastructure**. It was believed that long-overdue investment would be a positive consequence of the proposal, and issues such as potholes could be repaired.

### 5.3.2 Negative comments and concerns

Five organisations expressed negative views on the transport proposal. The main concerns were doubts about securing significant or long-term investment from the central government and perceived inadequacy of the budget portions (2). Single comments included fears of unequal treatment of areas with rural areas potentially missing out, disagreement with Blackpool's proposals, disbelief in local economic benefits, and views that the proposal was unnecessary.

*“The poor service by public transport in the significant rural areas that make up Lancashire appears to have not been considered, together with the need for significant and equitable investment in the existing network and additions to infrastructure.”*

**Rossendale Borough Council**

Two organisations specifically commented on modes of transport, expressing doubts that devolution would improve local bus services, rail services, or local roads and road infrastructure.

### 5.3.3 Suggestions and other comments

Out of the 39 organisations and representative groups that commented on the transport proposal, 25 offered suggestions. The primary suggestions were the need for investment in local transport and infrastructure (7), the creation of a joined-up or integrated transport network (6), cooperation among local public services to plan and develop cross-border transport services (5), stimulation of local economic growth (4), and investment in public transport (4).

*“Lancashire is a diverse County - both geographically and economically, with untapped potential from a transport investment and development perspective. To this end, the proposals should allow for better coordination and alignment of cross County transport requirements to enhance the region as a whole. This will provide a joined-up approach with stakeholders that provide key transport services to the various conurbations.”*

**Avanti West Coast / West Coast Partnership**

Twenty-two organisations made suggestions about specific modes of transport. This included:

- **Rail services** (13). It was suggested that the local railway network and rail services needed investment and improvement. Suggestions included having an integrated public transport network to include trains running to and from places including Liverpool, Skipton, Preston, Leeds and Colne, and that east-west connectivity would be a key driver of economic growth and create new opportunities.

*“In Pendle we believe that improving East-West connectivity is vital to opening up not just our borough but the whole of the county to new economic and social opportunities. For this reason we have made a commitment in Pendle to campaign for the reinstatement of the Colne-Skipton railway line which would not only benefit our area but improve vital connections between Preston and Leeds.”*

**Pendle Borough Council**

- **Roads and road infrastructure** (10). Those who provided comments suggested that local roads and road infrastructure needed investment as well as motorways within Lancashire including the M65, and M6 and other roads including the A59 and A582, and better links between north and south of the county.

*“...we need to get the A582 dualled in line with Farington Cricket Ground starting to hosting really big games, & certainly before Lancashire Central*

*completed.. We need to start making PLANS for a bridge over the River Ribble at Howick to LINK the A582 & excellent new western distributor to provide another route around Preston.*

#### **County Councillor, Lancashire County Council**

- **Local bus services** (9). It was suggested that local bus services should receive investment to improve reliability and reduce emissions, that there should be an integrated or joined up transport network to include buses, and that the reliability of bus services needed to be better.

*“Bus services in the rural areas need enhancement with a major publicity drive to encourage people to get out of their cars and use the buses and trains. Connectivity links ALL your proposals and should be central to what you wish to achieve and not left to last.”*

#### **OPSTA - Ormskirk Preston Southport Travellers Association**

- **Active Travel - Walking / Cycling** (2). Comments included that active travel, including walking and cycling should receive investment and be improved as this would in turn improve the mental health and wellbeing of local residents. One organisation also mentioned that cycling and bicycles should be affordable.

Eighteen organisations and representative groups provided other comments. Such comments included a view that the proposals lacked ambition, and/or that further detail and clarifications were necessary.

*“Lancaster District’s transport issues are widely acknowledged. Projects like Canal Quarter, Eden, Morecambe regeneration etc highlight the need for action and significant investment in the existing network and additions to infrastructure (eg rail, tram etc). How will the LCCA plan and prioritise that for that? What quantum of investment is required to ensure that Lancashire’s Devolution deal provides the benefits seen in other areas?”*

#### **Lancaster City Council**

### **5.4 Summary of responses from individuals / members of the public**

Overall, there were 226 individuals who made comments about the transport proposal. This included 23 who made positive or supportive comments, 30 who made negative or opposing comments, 99 who made general suggestions, 119 who made suggestions about specific modes of transport, and 50 who made other comments.

#### **5.4.1 Positive and supportive comments**

A total of 23 individuals expressed positive or supportive comments about the transport proposal. Comments included general agreement with the proposal (9), views that overdue investment would be made in local transport infrastructure (7), and belief that the proposal would create an integrated transport network in Lancashire (5), benefiting the local economy (3). Other less frequent comments agreed with improvements in Blackpool, anticipated significant government investment, and general support for the proposal, on the condition it was well-managed (each with 1 mention).

A total of 12 individuals provided positive or supportive comments about specific modes of transport within the transport proposal. These included roads and road infrastructure (5), buses (3), rail services (3), and active travel (2).

*“The most important area to me is transport with a focus on improved connectivity on public transport and for active travel...I believe the LCCA would be a helpful step in ensuring better provisions and development in these areas.”*

**Member of the public**

#### 5.4.2 Negative comments and concerns

A total of 30 individuals expressed general negative or opposing views on the transport proposal. The primary concerns were doubts that local transport would improve (7), fears of inequitable investment with rural areas missing out (5), scepticism that an integrated transport network would not be realised (5), belief that the proposal wouldn't lead to better and more local strategic decisions about transport (5), doubts about local people benefitting (4), and general disagreement with the proposal (4).

*“...transport is poor and will remain so due to Westminster's disinterest and insufficient funding available to any authority devolved or otherwise.”*

**Member of the public**

In addition, there were 48 individuals who made negative or opposing comments about specific modes of transport. This included:

- **Roads and road infrastructure** (31). The main comment was a belief that local roads and road infrastructure would not receive the necessary funding for improvements (14). Less frequent negative comments included doubts that traffic congestion would be alleviated (4), scepticism about proposed opportunities for improvements (3), fears of inadequate funding to fix issues like potholes (2), and doubts that it would lead to improvements that could help meet net zero targets (2).

*“This will have no impact on the condition of our highway. The condition of our crumbling Lancashire highways are a disgrace to all involved in this process. To help residents and business all this money should first be spent on correcting all the missed opportunities to recover Lancashire highways surface especially in the rural communities”*

**Member of the public**

- **Rail** (8). There were five negative comments about how rail services would not be improved, and single comments about how Lancashire would have little or no influence over decision-making, concerns with environmental impact, opposition to electrification of the railways, and that there would not be an integrated rail network to and from regional airports.
- **Buses** (7). There were three comments about bus services not being improved, and single comments including a view that the proposal was unnecessary, and that integrated transport



would not be realised in areas serving Lytham, Nelson, St. Annes-on-the-Sea, and to or from Victoria Hospital.

- **Active travel** (5). There were three comments in disagreement with active travel proposals, one comment about financial cost, and one comment about how local people would not be encouraged to cycle or cycle more.

### 5.4.3 Suggestions and other comments

Out of 99 individuals who provided suggestions for the transport proposal, the most common suggestions were a need for investment in public transport (32), addressing traffic congestion (19), ensuring affordable public transport fares (15), creating an integrated transport network (14), improving the reliability of public transport services (10), and the need for Lancashire's public authorities to collaborate to deliver integrated, cross-border public transport services (10).

*"Preston's main railway station is a place where people catch / change trains to places all over the country. We need to make it a warmer and more attractive place so when people do change trains they do think about staying over and exploring the region. Create a positive lasting impression."*

**Member of the public**

In addition to general suggestions, there were also 119 individuals who made suggestions about specific modes of transport including:

- **Roads and road infrastructure** (57). The primary suggestion from individuals about the transport proposal was the need for investment (15). Other suggestions included addressing potholes and undertaking necessary repairs (6), investing in road safety (5), reducing congestion by banning vehicles in urban centres (4), and improving traffic flow in and around Preston (3).

*"The condition of some of our roads is unacceptable and should be addressed immediately"*

**Member of the public**

- **Trains** (49). The suggestions included a need for an integrated railway network (11), investment in services (9), affordability of services (7), and calls for a railway network connecting various areas including Skipton (8), Preston (6), Colne (5), Liverpool (3), and east to west Lancashire (2).
- **Buses** (37). It was suggested that bus services needed investment (13), that fares should be affordable (8), and that an integrated or joined up bus network was required (7).

*"...the Bee Network in Manchester shows that taking our buses into public ownership can provide greater value for money for users as well as better services and it is a shame that, this proposal does not include plans for this in the transport section."*

**Member of the public**

- **Active Travel** (19). The primary suggestions for the transport proposal were the need for safe routes for pedestrians and cyclists (8), investment in active travel (7), and a greater focus on pedestrianisation of town centres (3).
- **Other transport** (9). The suggestions for the transport proposal included investing in the tram and metro system (3), improving Blackpool Airport (3), investing in air travel (2), and expanding the tram network (2).

*“A combined Lancashire should have an international airport which would open Lancashire up to the rest of the world and regional. Blackpool Airport is in the ideal location for tourist and cargo. Lancashire should invest in the airport taking ownership away from Blackpool Council”*

**Member of the public**

There were 50 individuals who made other comments about the transport proposal. Such comments included that the while the proposal was a step in the right direction, it needed to go further. Some of those who provided comments asked a question or sought clarification around the proposals. And others made comments about the proposal being vague or lacking detail.

## 6 Net Zero and climate change

### 6.1 Background

Before answering this question, consultees were provided with the following information regarding the proposals relating to net zero and climate change as detailed in the consultation document.

#### **Net Zero and Climate Change**

**We will work across Lancashire to meet our low carbon ambitions, promote clean energy, and enhance our natural environment. Our ambition is that Lancashire becomes internationally recognised as a leader in the creation of 'green jobs', building upon our world class engineering and manufacturing capabilities.**

Lancashire's energy and low carbon sector is particularly important due to its capabilities in designing and manufacturing low carbon technologies. The area is forecast to have the highest number of jobs per capita in the energy and low carbon sector in England between 2030 and 2050. Through the proposal, if adopted, the Government will work with the proposed LCCA to enable the continued growth of this sector by supporting the delivery of Lancashire's energy and low carbon sector plans.

Devolution would provide £2 million additional investment to extend eligibility criteria for the 'Cosy Homes in Lancashire' domestic retrofit scheme. We believe this investment will support a reduction in carbon emissions, better quality housing and improved health outcomes.

**Please find further details on the proposal at [www.lancashiredevolution.co.uk](http://www.lancashiredevolution.co.uk)**

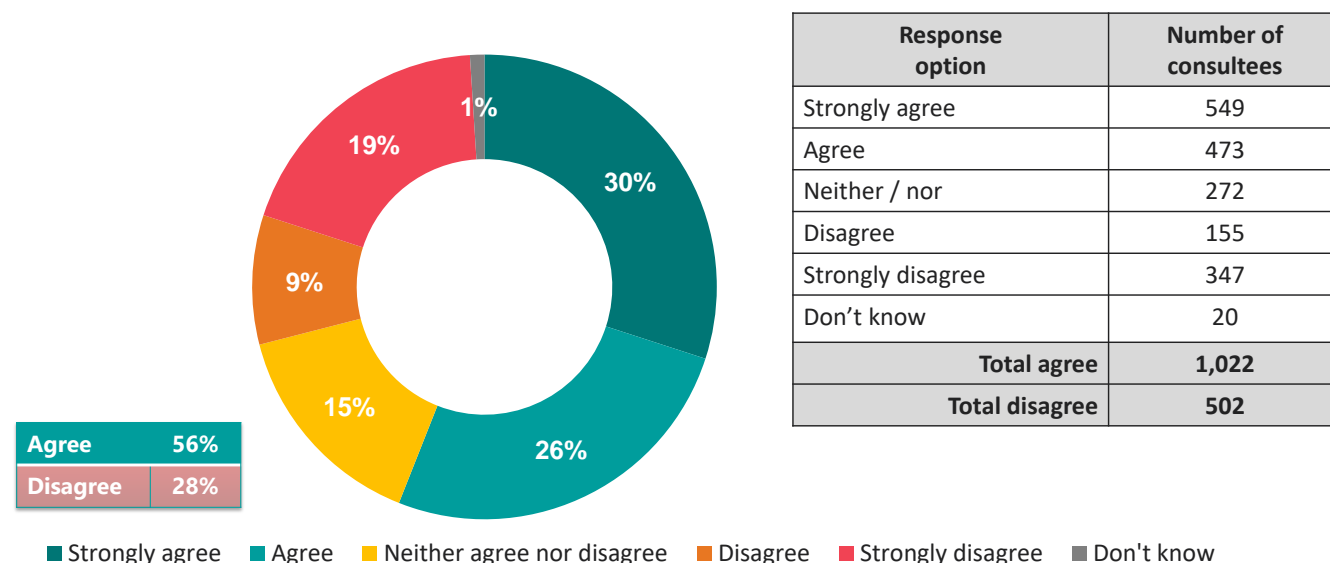
## 6.2 Summary of closed responses

Consultees were asked about the extent they agreed or disagreed with the proposal on net zero and climate change for the Lancashire Combined County Authority. Of the 1,816 who responded to the question on the response form, 1,022 (56%) agreed with the proposal and 502 (28%) disagreed.

**Figure 6.1: Agreement with the proposal on net zero and climate change**

### Net Zero and Climate Change

*Q4. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the proposal on net zero and climate change for the Lancashire Combined County Authority?*



*Base: 1,816 consultees who answered the question on the response form  
Consultation period: 1 December 2023 to 26 January 2024*

There were 1,666 individuals who answered the question on the response form. Of these, 893 (54%) agreed with the proposal and 494 (30%) disagreed with it. Of the 150 organisations and representative groups that answered the question, 129 (86%) agreed, and eight (5%) disagreed. A breakdown of the responses from individuals in each local authority area in Lancashire is included in Appendix D.

## 6.3 Summary of responses from organisations and representative groups

Consultees were given the opportunity to provide comments on the proposal for net zero and climate change. In total, 32 organisations and representative groups provided comments on this.

Table 6.1 provides a breakdown of the number of organisations making comments by broad category. Fourteen organisations provided positive and supportive comments, while six provided negative or opposing comments or raised concerns. In addition, 21 organisations made suggestions and 12 provided other comments about the proposal.

### 6.3.1 Positive and supportive comments

The proposal for net zero and climate change was positively received by 14 organisations and representative groups. Most (10) expressed general support for, or agreement with the proposal. Other comments, though less frequent, highlighted the urgency of focusing on net zero and climate change (3), the benefit of more localised decision-making on the issue (2), and potential economic benefits through job creation in the green industry (2). Individual comments praised the proposal's potential to reduce emissions and to elevate Lancashire's international reputation.

*"We are extremely encouraged in the proposals...ambition of Lancashire becoming internationally recognised as a leader in the creation of 'green jobs', building upon their world class engineering and manufacturing capabilities...."*

**Electricity North West**

*"Devolution provides the chance to drive forward Net Zero more strategically across the county...the new LCCA can act as a convenor for businesses, educators and policymakers to explore with the University sector: what degree and extent of retrofitting skills might be needed; and what interventions might be developed in a more holistic manner than at present."*

**University of Central Lancashire**

### 6.3.2 Negative comments and concerns

Six organisations had concerns about the proposal for net zero and climate change. It was argued that devolution isn't necessary for a focus on net zero and climate change (3), and others doubted the feasibility of achieving the objectives, for example, because of insufficient funding or investment (2). Individual comments suggested that the proposal would fail, promises would be broken, the focus across Lancashire wouldn't be even, and local people would see no benefits.

*"We are concerned that a £2million fund for retrofit will have little impact across the whole of Lancashire, a much more larger amount of funding is required."*

**Lancaster City Council**

### 6.3.3 Suggestions and other comments

Out of the 32 organisations and representative groups providing comments on the proposal for net zero and climate change, 21 made suggestions. The most common suggestions were that the focus should be on long-term sustainability and solutions for climate change (5), and on investing in and reducing carbon emissions (5). Other suggestions included implementing an integrated approach (3), investing in green jobs (3), and prioritising the climate emergency (2). There were also suggestions for an energy plan for Lancashire and for alignment of Lancashire's focus with national and international strategies and policies.

*"We would wish to see the proposal's heading, 'Net Zero and Climate Change'...amended to read 'Net Zero, Climate Change, and Nature's Recovery. We are in the middle of a planet-wide climate and nature emergency, and the two are inextricably linked. Climate change is driving nature's decline, and the loss of wildlife and wild places leaves us ill-equipped to reduce carbon emissions and adapt to change. One cannot be solved without the other."*

### **The Wildlife Trust for Lancashire, Manchester & North Merseyside**

A total of 12 organisations and representative groups made other comments on the net zero and climate change proposal. There was some criticism of the proposal for being vague or lacking detail, for not being ambitious enough, and a request for further clarification on how the proposal would work to achieve objectives.

## **6.4 Summary of responses from individuals / members of the public**

Overall, there were 102 individuals who made comments about the proposal on net zero and climate change. This included 15 who made positive or supportive comments, 52 who made negative or opposing comments, and 43 who made suggestions. There were also 35 individuals who made other comments about the proposal.

### **6.4.1 Positive and supportive comments**

Fifteen individuals expressed support for the proposal on net zero and climate change. The majority of the comments were general agreement with the proposal (7), and a belief that addressing climate change was overdue and necessary (6). There were also individual comments suggesting that the proposal would lead to investment in electric vehicles and associated infrastructure, allow more strategic and localised climate change planning in Lancashire, and economic benefits through the creation of green jobs.

*"I think reaching net-zero whilst improving people's lives and opportunities should be the number one priority and focus."*

**Member of the public**

### **6.4.2 Negative comments and concerns**

A total of 52 individuals expressed negative views on the proposal for net zero and climate change. The main comment revolved around general opposition or disagreement with the proposal (21). Other concerns raised included a view that targets were unrealistic (10), a perception that the proposal was a revenue-generating exercise (8), or an added and unwelcome tax on local residents, opposition to an ultra-low emission zone (ULEZ), (8), the high cost and unaffordability of electric vehicles for residents (8), and disapproval of the potential pedestrianisation of town centres (6).

*“Regarding Net Zero, this is dangerous for our county, no other major industrialised has gone as far as us in the UK and this puts us at a huge industrial and social disadvantage. Implementation would cost each household dearly.”*

**Member of the public**

A few individuals expressed less frequent negative views on the net zero and climate change proposal. These included belief that the proposal was a bad idea or would be poorly managed, that it would bring few benefits to local people, and that there would be environmental and ethical issues associated with electric vehicles.

*“Most “green” energy is anything but environmentally friendly and often simply moves the problem into other areas (most electricity comes from fossil fuels, most electric vehicles take years to become less polluting when manufacturing is taken into account for even before looking at the ethical and environmental considerations of where the raw materials for batteries come from.”*

**Member of the public**

#### **6.4.3 Suggestions and other comments**

There were 43 individuals who made suggestions about the proposal. The key suggestions included reducing carbon emissions (8), prioritising tackling the climate emergency (5), focusing on green and open spaces (4), maintaining cleanliness of the local environment (4), investing in electric vehicle infrastructure including charging points (4), increasing biodiversity (3), and improving local air quality (3).

*“Whatever happens with the devolution process, climate change should be top of the list. We need to protect the environment for our descendants. Plants, trees, animals, insects are the creatures that we need to protect in order to help us survive. So, reduce emissions, create more green areas.”*

**Member of the public**

Thirty-five individuals made other comments about the proposal. Such comments included that the proposals were vague or lacked detail, that the proposals should go further, and that more detail or clarification was needed about how the proposal would work.

## 7 Digital and cyber

### 7.1 Background

Before answering this question, consultees were provided with the following information regarding the reducing digital and cyber proposals as detailed in the consultation document.

#### **Digital and Cyber**

**We will work across Lancashire to continue to transform our digital infrastructure and knowledge-based sectors to balance and modernise our industrial base.**

Lancashire has continued the development of the Lancashire Infrastructure Plan and supported rollout of Openreach and gigabit programmes, including establishing Superfast Atlantic connection with the North Atlantic Loop at Blackpool Enterprise Zone. This increased digital connectivity provides competitive advantages to attract more cutting-edge, technology-based industries.

Locating the National Cyber Force in Lancashire will attract significant investment and create over 2,000 new jobs. The proposed LCCA will work with the Department for Science, Innovation and Technology, to fully capture the investment, business, research and skills benefits of this new location. These activities will create opportunities and new careers for residents, develop markets and technologies of local businesses and help to establish a North West Cyber Corridor.

Devolution under the proposal would provide £6 million investment for a Low Carbon Data Demonstrator Centre at Blackpool Enterprise Zone. The project will provide new business space to support Lancashire's low carbon and digital innovation ambitions.

**Please find further details on the proposal at [www.lancashiredevolution.co.uk](http://www.lancashiredevolution.co.uk).**



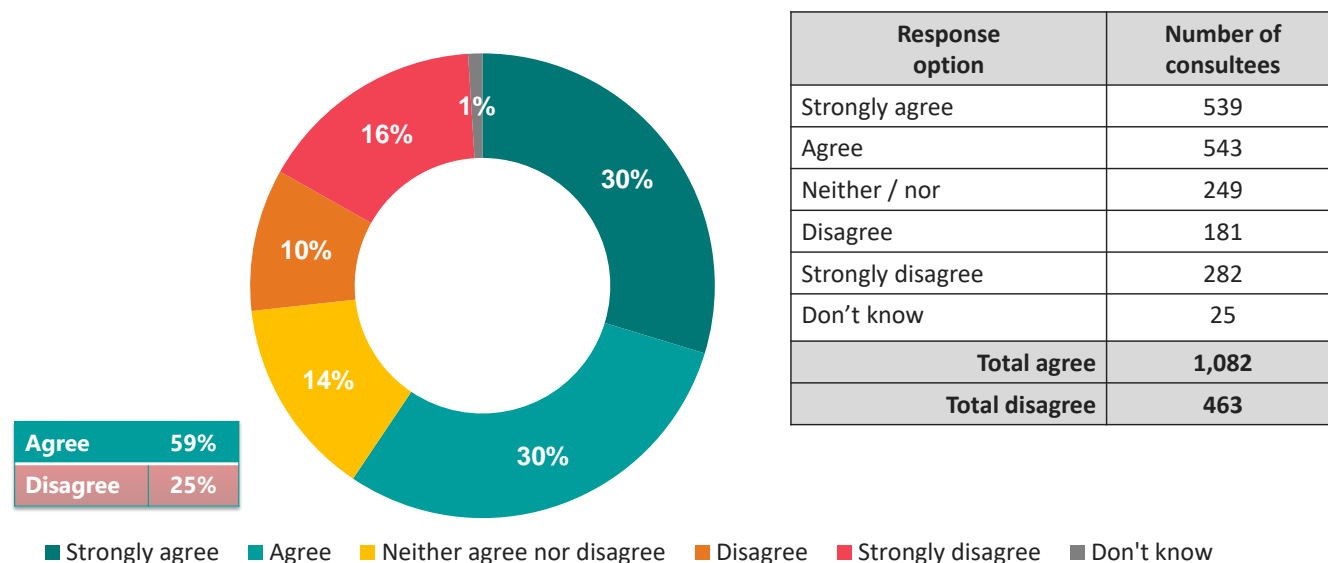
## 7.2 Summary of closed responses

Consultees were asked about the extent they agreed or disagreed with the proposal on digital and cyber for the Lancashire Combined County Authority. Of the 1,819 who responded to the question on the response form, 1,082 (59%) agreed with the proposal and 463 (25%) disagreed.

**Figure 7.1: Agreement with the proposal on digital and cyber**

### Digital and Cyber

Q5. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the proposal on digital and cyber for the Lancashire Combined County Authority?



Base: 1,819 consultees who answered the question on the response form  
 Consultation period: 1 December 2023 to 26 January 2024

There were 1,669 individuals who answered the question on the response form. Of these, 961 (58%) agreed with the proposal and 456 (27%) disagreed with it. Of the 150 organisations and representative groups that answered the question, 121 (81%) agreed, and seven (5%) disagreed. A breakdown of the responses from individuals in each local authority area in Lancashire is included in Appendix D.

## 7.3 Summary of responses from organisations and representative groups

Consultees were given the opportunity to provide comments on the proposal for digital and cyber. In total, 18 organisations and representative groups provided comments on this.

There were eight organisations that provided positive and supportive comments, while five made negative or opposing comments. Suggestions were received from eight organisations, and six made other comments about the proposal.

### 7.3.1 Positive and supportive comments

Eight organisations and representative groups provided positive and supportive comments on the proposal for digital and cyber. The comments included general support for the proposal (4), agreement with the Samlesbury National Cyber Force proposition (3), conditional support (2), and agreement with the provision of additional investment and funding for the Blackpool Enterprise Zone (2). There were also individual comments supporting the North West Cyber Corridor, suggesting that investment was overdue and would be a positive outcome from the proposal, and agreement with a Low Carbon Data Demonstrator Centre.

*“Any improvement from the patchy system we currently have would be welcome...”*

**Broughton in Amounderness Parish Council**

### 7.3.2 Negative comments and concerns

Five organisations made negative comments about the digital and cyber proposal. Four of these organisations stated that devolution was not necessary to achieve ambitions and objectives, and one stated that devolution wasn't required to set up a Samlesbury National Cyber Force.

### 7.3.3 Suggestions and other comments

Out of 18 organisations and representative groups commenting on the digital and cyber proposal, eight made suggestions. These included a need for a unified and integrated approach (3), ensuring fairness so urban centres aren't favoured over rural areas (2), and working with partners to coordinate and deliver the proposal (2). There was emphasis on economic growth to benefit Lancashire, equality of opportunity for locals, necessity of super-fast digital services, leadership by skilled and knowledgeable individuals, and close cooperation with local universities and colleges.

There were also six organisations that provided other comments. Such comments included that the proposal should do further, that they were vague or lacking in detail, and that further clarification was needed.

## 7.4 Summary of responses from individuals / members of the public

Overall, there were 33 individuals who made comments about the digital and cyber proposal. This included eight who made positive or supportive comments, 17 who made negative or opposing comments, and 12 who made suggestions. There were also six individuals who made other comments about the proposal.

### 7.4.1 Positive and supportive comments

Eight individuals provided positive comments about the skills proposal, including agreement with the Samlesbury National Cyber Force (2), general support for the proposal (2), conditional support (2), and support due to the proposal's potential to encourage economic growth (2). There were also individual

comments agreeing with the North West Cyber Corridor, noting benefits for local people, and support for a Low Carbon Data Demonstrator Centre.

*“Cybersecurity is also an area which will be subject to increasing change so the idea of a North West Cyber Corridor is encouraging.”*

**Member of the public**

#### **7.4.2 Negative comments and concerns**

Seventeen individuals made negative comments about the proposal. The main concerns were about increased CCTV and erosion of privacy (5), a fear of urban centres being favoured over rural areas (3), general disagreement with the proposal (3), and resentment to increased focus on the Blackpool Enterprise Zone, potentially leading to other areas in Lancashire.

#### **7.4.3 Suggestions and other comments**

There were 12 individuals who made suggestions for a proposal. The main suggestions included embodying equality of opportunity for local people (3) and providing affordable Wi-Fi and internet connections for local residents. Single comments suggested stakeholders should collaborate to deliver the proposal, neighbouring local authorities should work together on objectives, and the proposal should stimulate economic growth for the benefit of Lancashire and its residents.

*“Cyber abilities must go across the board with affordable WIFI for every household.”*

**Member of the public**

There were also six individuals who made other comments about the digital and cyber proposal. This included questions about the proposal, comments about the proposal lacking in detail or its “vagueness”, and that further details and clarifications were needed.

## 8 Culture and tourism

### 8.1 Background

Before answering this question, consultees were provided with the following information regarding the culture and tourism proposals and ways of working as detailed in the consultation document.

#### **Culture and Tourism**

**We recognise the fundamental importance of our culture and tourism assets and will work with stakeholders across Lancashire to strengthen these. This work includes the creation of a Local Visitor Economy Partnership for the region to help further develop the region's visitor economy.**

Lancashire's rich heritage and culture has an important role in the area's plans to attract and retain skilled workers, and in contributing to 'pride in place' in the region. Tourism and the visitor economy are crucial industries for Lancashire, with the area amongst the UK's most prolific visitor destinations every year. Blackpool is the nation's No1 seaside resort, with some 20 million visits per year, and represents a £1.5 billion visitor economy.

If the proposal is adopted, LCCA could work with the government to hold a series of exploratory conversations to test the region's appetite and capacity for partnership working across culture, heritage, sport, communities and the visitor economy.

Under the proposal, VisitEngland and the LCCA would work with the accredited Local Visitor Economy Partnership to help further develop the region's visitor economy. This collaborative work, across those areas set out in the Government's Tourism Recovery Plan, could include harnessing the region's potential to grow domestic and international visitor spend, and encouraging visits throughout the year rather than just during the traditional tourist season.

**Please find further details on the proposal at [www.lancashiredevolution.co.uk](http://www.lancashiredevolution.co.uk)**

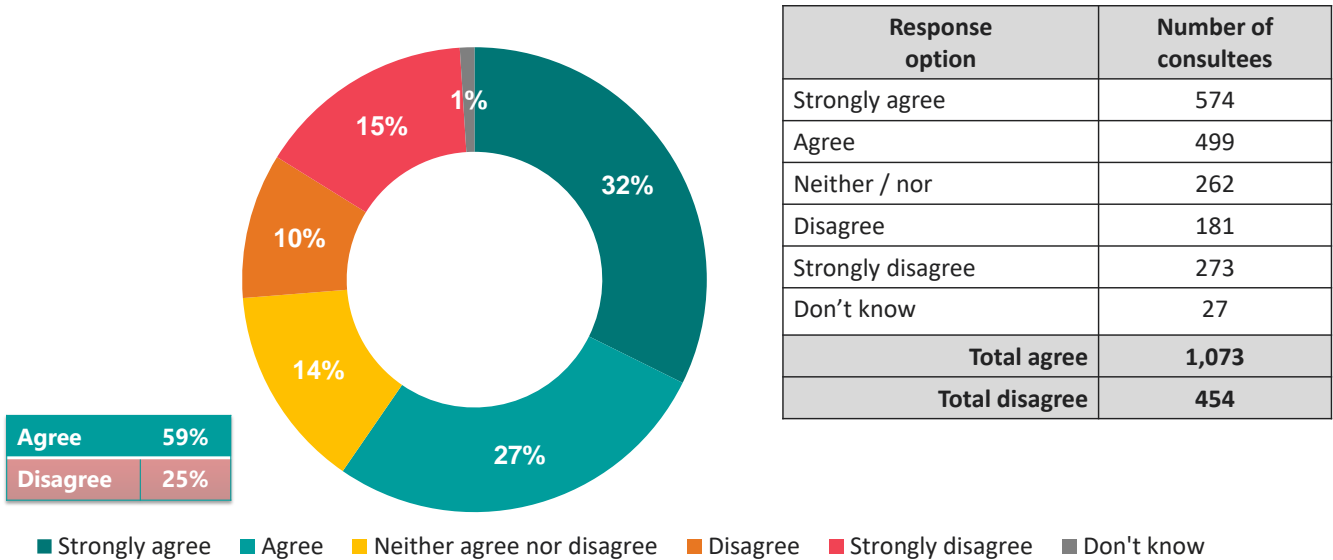
### 8.2 Summary of closed responses

Consultees were asked about the extent they agreed or disagreed with the proposal on culture and tourism for the Lancashire Combined County Authority. Of the 1,816 who responded to the question on the response form, 1,073 (59%) agreed with the proposal and 454 (29%) disagreed.

Figure 8.1: Agreement with the proposal on culture and tourism

#### Culture and Tourism

Q6. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the proposal on culture and tourism for the Lancashire Combined County Authority?



Base: 1,816 consultees who answered the question on the response form  
Consultation period: 1 December 2023 to 26 January 2024

There were 1,816 individuals who answered the question on the response form. Of these, 954 (57%) agreed with the proposal and 446 (27%) disagreed with it. Of the 150 organisations and representative groups that answered the question, 119 (79%) agreed, and eight (5%) disagreed. A breakdown of the responses from individuals in each local authority area in Lancashire is included in Appendix D.

### 8.3 Summary of responses from organisations and representative groups

Consultees were given the opportunity to provide comments on the proposal for culture and tourism. In total, 26 organisations and representative groups provided comments on this.

There were 15 organisations that provided positive and supportive comments, and seven that made negative or opposing comments. Most of those who provided comments on the proposal made suggestions and aspects to be taken into consideration as the proposal for devolution is progressed, and 13 organisations made other comments about the proposal.

### 8.3.1 Positive and supportive comments

There were 15 organisations and representative groups that commented on the culture and tourism proposal. The main feedback included general support for the proposal (7), the need for prioritisation of this aspect (5), conditional support (3), and agreement with the Local Visitor Economy Partnership (3).

*"I'm delighted to read on page 34 of the Proposal a section on Culture and Tourism. The proposed LCCA will strengthen the local visitor economy, reinforcing Lancashire's attractive and vibrant cultural and creative sector through the formation of a Local Visitor Economy Partnership. This will help further develop the region's visitor economy, not just to the seaside resorts along the coast but elsewhere - our rural beauty spots and our towns, villages and urban centres..."*

**County Councillor, Lancashire County Council**

Less frequent positive comments about the proposal included potential benefits for locals (2), improved health and wellbeing of Lancashire residents (2), and better decision-making by giving power to local people (2). Single comments referred to the proposal creating an integrated and efficient approach, generating new opportunities within the culture and tourism sector, and benefiting the local economy.

### 8.3.2 Negative comments and concerns

Seven organisations made negative comments about the culture and tourism proposal, mainly stating that devolution isn't required to improve Lancashire's culture and tourism (4). An example of this was provided by Lancaster City Council which noted that Eden Morecambe was announced before the proposal had been announced. Other single comments suggested the proposal is motivated by profits, and expressed concern that benefits would not be evenly distributed across Lancashire.

### 8.3.3 Suggestions and other comments

Of the 28 organisations and representative groups commenting on the culture and tourism proposal, 22 made suggestions. Key suggestions included stimulating economic growth and benefiting the local economy (11), local councils working closely with other Lancashire organisations for planning and coordination (8), having an efficient approach to meeting objectives (7), leadership by skilled and knowledgeable individuals (6), and that there would be benefits for the Eden Project in Morecambe (5).

*"As a future major employer within Lancashire, Eden Project Morecambe will be a transformational project: economically, environmentally and socially. The proposals outlined in this consultation for the Lancashire Combined County Authority have clear relationships to many of the outcomes, outputs and wider benefits of Eden Project Morecambe and we will continue to work with the County Council and other Public Authorities in the best interests of project delivery, Morecambe and the wider region."*

**The Eden Project**

Less frequent suggestions for the proposal included benefits for locals (4), creation of a strong and distinctive Lancashire brand (4), prioritising the creative sector (3), investment in culture and tourism to retain creative and young talent (2), a need for a flexible approach due to various needs of different Lancashire areas (2), and creating opportunities for young people (2).

*"...Arts and culture must play a significant role in the growth of the region to support and retain creative talent in Lancashire and to attract arts and culture from the UK and internationally to present in the area."*

**Fit The Bill Limited**

*"I am also very concerned about student retention and the migration of young talent to Manchester and London, again a vibrant cultural scene will go some way in preventing this."*

**Panaz**

There were also 13 organisations and representative groups that provided other comments. Such comments included that the proposals lacked detail and were vague, or that they weren't ambitious enough, or that further clarification was needed.

*"Generally agree with the proposals, however I'm concerned where priorities will lie with such diverse and different aims and needs of individual councils. le Tourism is a huge priority for us in Blackpool, Wyre & Fylde but less so for say Blackburn, Burnley etc. Who determines what gets prioritised?"*

**Coastal Radio DAB**

## **8.4 Summary of responses from individuals / members of the public**

Overall, there were 52 individuals who made comments about the culture and tourism proposal. This included 13 who made positive or supportive comments, eight who made negative or opposing comments, and 38 who made suggestions. There were also 14 individuals who made other comments about the proposals.

### **8.4.1 Positive and supportive comments**

Thirteen individuals provided positive comments about the culture and tourism proposal. These included general support for the proposal (5), a need for investment and prioritisation in the local culture and tourism sector (4), and conditional support (4). There were also single comments in support of the Local Visitor Economy Partnership and a belief that the proposal would create an integrated and efficient approach.

### **8.4.2 Negative comments and concerns**

Eight individuals made negative comments about the proposal, including a view that the proposals were motivated by money and profit (3), that devolution wasn't necessary to generally improve the sector (2) or to set up a Local Visitor Economy Partnership (1). Individual comments included a belief that some

parts of Lancashire would benefit more than others, that proposals would increase regional inequality, and that local people would not benefit.

*“Tourism - Blackpool will benefit what about Lancashire in general seems very much a one-sided deal.”*

**Member of the public**

#### **8.4.3 Suggestions and other comments**

There were 38 individuals who made suggestions about the proposal. The key suggestions included investing in festivals and outdoor events (9), running a media or brand campaign to increase tourism (7), and ensuring that the regions heritage is respected (3). Less frequent suggestions included creating an eco-holiday village (2) and investing in local museums and galleries (2).

*“There are incredible opportunities in tourism that have not been developed. Yorkshire for example has an excellent tourist offer backed up by media campaigns, I believe that we have even more to offer as a destination, but this is not given the profile locally, nationally and internationally that it deserves. This would involve investment but also a cohesive brand and media campaign which could encourage tourism and repay the financial investment.”*

**Member of the public**

There were 14 individuals who made other comments about the proposal. As with comments on other priorities and proposals, a similar theme emerged with comments about the proposal being vague or lacking in detail, and that further information and clarification was needed.



## 9 Housing and land

### 9.1 Background

Before answering this question, consultees were provided with the following information regarding the housing and land proposals and ways of working as detailed in the consultation document.

#### **Housing and Land**

**We will support the delivery of decent, affordable, and low carbon housing for every community. High quality housing will benefit existing residents, as well as attract and retain the people required to drive the economy over the long term.**

The proposal would give Lancashire the ability to exercise compulsory purchase powers (subject to the agreement of the Local Authority where the land is located) to help drive regeneration and build more affordable homes, boosting supply and bringing down the cost of newly built dwellings.

The proposal supports our ambition to deliver a pipeline of strategic development sites and infrastructure opportunities faster and more strategically than would otherwise be the case.

**Please find further details on the proposal at [www.lancashiredevolution.co.uk](http://www.lancashiredevolution.co.uk)**

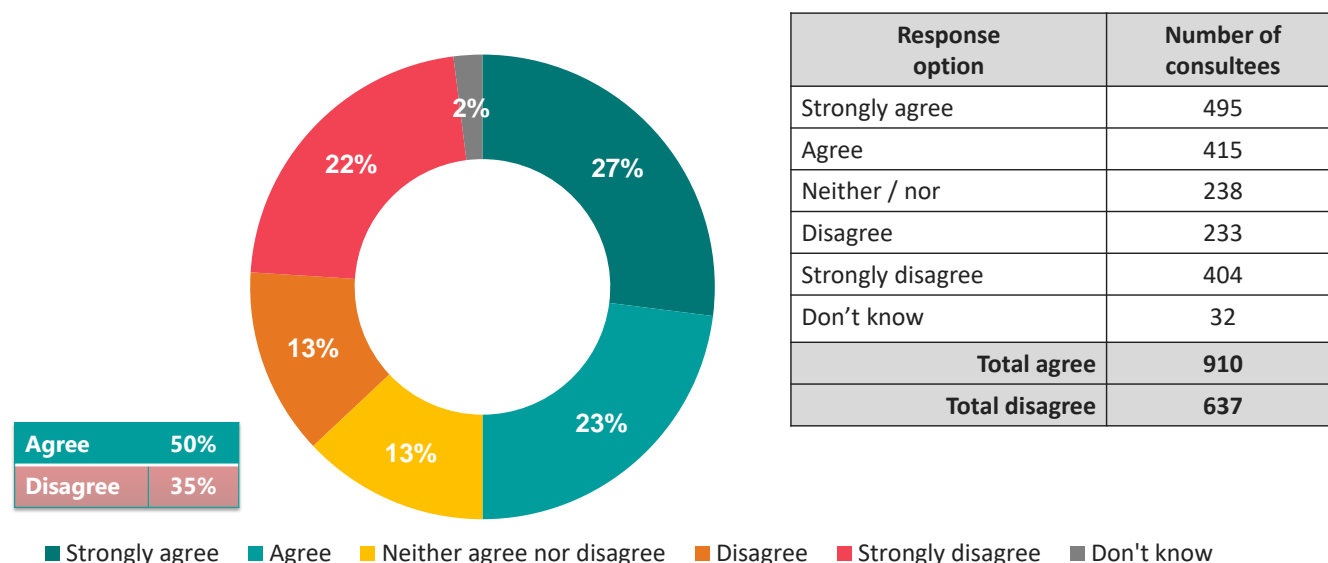
## 9.2 Summary of closed responses

Consultees were asked about the extent they agreed or disagreed with the proposal on housing and land for the Lancashire Combined County Authority. Of the 1,817 who responded to the question on the response form, 910 (50%) agreed with the proposal and 637 (35%) disagreed.

**Figure 9.1: Agreement with the proposal on culture and tourism**

### Housing and Land

*Q7. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the proposal on housing and land for the Lancashire Combined County Authority?*



Base: 1,817 consultees who answered the question on the response form  
 Consultation period: 1 December 2023 to 26 January 2024

There were 1,667 individuals who answered the question on the response form. Of these, 797 (48%) agreed with the proposal and 626 (38%) disagreed with it. Of the 150 organisations and representative groups that answered the question, 113 (75%) agreed, and 11 (7%) disagreed. A breakdown of the responses from individuals in each local authority area in Lancashire is included in Appendix D.

## 9.3 Summary of responses from organisations and representative groups

Consultees were given the opportunity to provide comments on the proposal for housing and land. In total, 34 organisations and representative groups provided comments on this.

Thirteen organisations provided positive and supportive comments, while nine made negative or opposing comments. Eighteen organisations made suggestions and aspects to be taken into consideration as the proposal for devolution is progressed, and 11 made other comments.

### 9.3.1 Positive and supportive comments

Positive and supportive comments were received from 13 organisations on the proposal on housing and land. The main comments included general support for the proposal (4), agreement with the Cosy Homes scheme (3), conditional support (2), and agreement with proposed powers for compulsory land purchase (2). Individual comments mentioned the proposal ensuring provision of affordable homes, making homes more energy efficient, and associated economic benefits.

### 9.3.2 Negative comments and concerns

Nine organisations provided negative comments on the proposal. The main concerns included a view that additional funds would be inadequate (5), and devolution was not necessary to deliver the proposals (3). Single comments opposed the proposed compulsory purchase of land, claimed local people wouldn't be able to make beneficial decisions for their area, stated a new LCCA wouldn't have more power than local authorities have at present, worry that some areas would be overlooked, and that devolution wasn't a prerequisite for compulsory purchase.

### 9.3.3 Suggestions and other comments

Of the 34 organisations and representative groups commenting on the housing and land proposal, 18 made suggestions. Key suggestions included making housing affordable (6), aligning plans with national and international housing policies (3), using or renovating brownfield sites and derelict houses (3), investing in social housing (3), and investing in related infrastructure and services (3). Less frequent suggestions include ensuring homes are well-insulated and energy-efficient (2), the importance of sustainable housing (2), and investing in student accommodation (1).

*"It is important for there to be a focus on ensuring delivery of new affordable homes by social housing providers as well as through section 106, therefore access to land and planning permissions are crucial..."*

#### Progress Housing Group

There were also 11 organisations and representative groups who provided other comments. Such comments included that proposals were vague or lacking in detail, and that further clarification was needed.

## 9.4 Summary of responses from individuals / members of the public

Overall, there were 203 individuals who made comments about the homes and land proposal. This included 27 who made positive or supportive comments, 96 who made negative or opposing comments, and 134 who made suggestions. There were also 52 individuals who made other comments on the proposal.

### 9.4.1 Positive and supportive comments

In total, 27 individuals provided positive comments about the housing and land proposal. These included general support for the proposal (6), support for the Cosy Homes Scheme (4), conditional support (4),

more affordable homes resulting from the proposal (4), agreement with plans for a compulsory purchase scheme (3), investment improving housing and homes (2), and that improvement was overdue and necessary.

*“...I am glad there will be a focus on housing and hope that this will include a focus on ensuring a better supply of decent and affordable homes for those individuals and families who find themselves extremely vulnerable and in need of support.”*

**Member of the public**

#### **9.4.2 Negative comments and concerns**

There were 96 individuals who made negative or opposing comments about the proposal. The main concerns included a view that the proposal could lead to overdevelopment and overcrowding (28), negative impacts on the countryside and open spaces (27), overstretched services not keeping up with housing developments (24), disagreement or concern with compulsory purchase (23), belief that the proposal wouldn't deliver more affordable homes (12), and general disagreement with the proposal (8).

*“I have some worries about 'compulsory purchase' orders with regard to housing, and wonder if 'affordable' housing means affordable for 2 income households or whether you are also intending to build for those who are single and on a low wage.”*

**Member of the public**

#### **9.4.3 Suggestions and other comments**

There were 134 individuals who made suggestions or things that they wanted to be considered in the proposal. Key suggestions included protecting countryside and open spaces (41), making housing affordable (34), increasing investment in support services (34), redeveloping or renovating older buildings, derelict houses, and brownfield sites (31), investing in social housing (16), preventing overdevelopment and overcrowding (15), and prioritising high-quality housing (10).

*“On housing, I agree this is needed but Lancashire should maintain its green spaces and seek to protect its green spaces.”*

**Member of the public**

There were 41 individuals who made other comments about the proposal. The main comments were that the proposals were vague or lacked detail, and that further clarification would be needed.

# 10 Delivering our ambitions

## 10.1 Background

Before answering this question, consultees were provided with the following information regarding the proposal on delivering our ambitions and ways of working as detailed in the consultation document.

### **Delivering Our Ambitions**

**We will implement streamlined management and decision-making arrangements with a strong business voice to address the big opportunities and challenges for Lancashire.**

In order that powers and funding are available, suitable management and decision-making arrangements must be put in place. These arrangements provide the Government with assurance that funding will be spent appropriately, and statutory functions will be delivered effectively and efficiently.

We believe that this priority will allow the creation of a powerful LCCA with strong leadership and effective governance to drive growth in Lancashire and across the north of England. To achieve this, our proposals include the integration of the Lancashire Local Enterprise Partnership with wider structures and the formation of a new Business Board. This change will help ensure there continues to be a strong and independent local business voice that informs local decision-making and strategic economic planning. The model places a strengthened private sector voice at the heart of growth strategy development.

The governance model proposed would build upon existing structures and recognises the significant role for the 12 district councils (who would be able to nominate two representatives to the proposed LCCA through the Lancashire District Council Leaders Forum). Our proposals also include new delivery arrangements for transport and skills to enable partners to collaborate more effectively and focus on the big opportunities and challenges for Lancashire.

**Please find further details on the proposal at [www.lancashiredevolution.co.uk](http://www.lancashiredevolution.co.uk)**

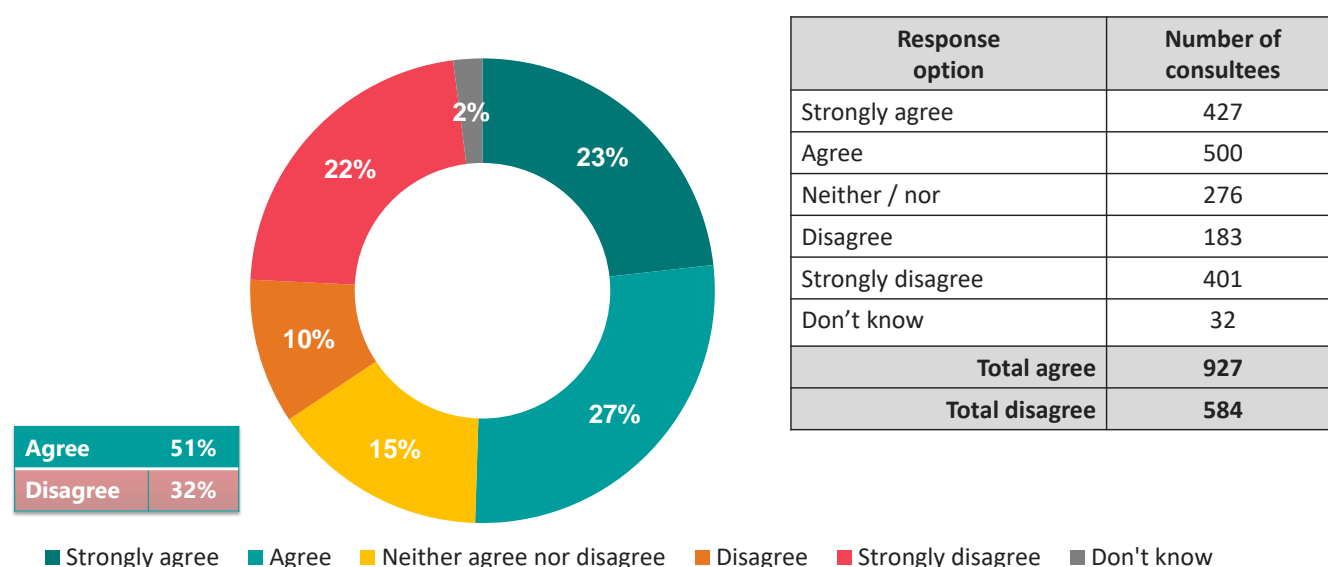
## 10.2 Summary of closed responses

Consultees were asked about the extent they agreed or disagreed with the proposed delivery arrangements for the Lancashire Combined County Authority. Of the 1,819 who responded to the question on the response form, 927 (51%) agreed and 584 (32%) disagreed with the proposed delivery arrangements.

**Figure 10.1: Agreement with the proposed delivery arrangements**

### Delivering Our Ambitions

Q8. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the proposed delivery arrangements for the Lancashire Combined County Authority?



Base: 1,819 consultees who answered the question on the response form  
Consultation period: 1 December 2023 to 26 January 2024

There were 1,670 individuals who answered the question on the response form. Of these, 805 (48%) agreed and 572 (34%) disagreed with the proposed delivery arrangements. Of the 149 organisations and representative groups that answered the question, 122 (82%) agreed, and 12 (8%) disagreed. A breakdown of the responses from individuals in each local authority area in Lancashire is included in Appendix D.

## 10.3 Summary of responses from organisations and representative groups

Consultees were given the opportunity to provide their comments on the proposed delivery arrangements. In total, 71 organisations and representative groups provided comments on governance and delivery arrangements.

Eighteen organisations provided positive and supportive comments, while 30 made negative or opposing comments or raised concerns. Fifty-two organisations made suggestions about the proposed delivery arrangements, and 24 made other comments.

### 10.3.1 Positive and supportive comments

There were 18 organisations and representative groups that provided positive comments on the proposal delivery arrangements. The main comments included: agreement with the centralisation and control of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) by the newly formed LCCA (6), allowing more strategic decisions for Lancashire's benefit (5), agreement with the new structure of the LCCA (3), representation of the whole of Lancashire by the LCCA (3) including a step towards greater local engagement, and empowerment of local decision-makers for the benefit of Lancashire residents (3).

*"Burnley Borough Councils ("Council") Full Council met on 24<sup>th</sup> January to discuss its consultation response to the...proposal. The Council resolved to support the proposal (without amendments)...the following reasons were provided in support of the Council's resolution: (1) the proposal is supported by businesses. (2) We need to get on the first step of the journey and work towards greater local engagement. (3) If we aren't art of it we'll be left behind."*

**Burnley Council**

*"...it is to be commended that this deal has been able to bring together a majority of partners, on what is a fragmented local government landscape."*

**Police and Crime Commissioner for Lancashire**

Less frequent positive comments about the proposed delivery arrangements included fairness and reduction of regional inequalities (2), general agreement with the proposed arrangements (2), and increased transparency and accountability (1).

### 10.3.2 Negative comments and concerns

Thirty organisations and representative groups made negative comments on the proposed delivery arrangements. Key concerns were that the new LCCA wouldn't represent district and borough councils, as the three unitary councils were thought to have more power and control (23), the centralisation of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund to the detriment of district and borough councils (7), an inequitable allocation of funding (7), undemocratic new arrangements (5), reduced transparency and accountability (4), inadequate representation of the voluntary and community sector (3), and doubts about securing or realising significant, long-term investment (3). Other, less frequently mentioned concerns included how funding would be allocated across Lancashire (2), that there would be a lack of necessary skills and expertise in the LCCA to deliver the proposals (2), and a belief that there would not be any benefits for local people (1).

Looking at some specific concerns raised, these included as follows:

- **Pendle Borough Council** stated that the 'County Deal' would not lead to any significant devolution of powers or funding to Lancashire and it would have no benefit for people living in Pendle. The council was concerned that Pendle and other district councils would lose millions of pounds of funding. It was also stated that local people would not have any say in decision-making and as such, the council did not support the County Deal.

- **Lib Dem Group, Lancaster City Council** was among a number of consultees who were concerned about the removal of control of UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) funding from district councils, that this would be unfair and unjust because the CAA would benefit at the expense of the districts.
- **Cat Smith, MP for Lancaster and Fleetwood** and **Our West Lancashire** were among a number of consultees who raised concerns about proposed governance arrangements, and how such arrangements could weaken the power and influence of district councils.

*"I am concerned the current proposals mean that district councils like Lancaster City Council and Wyre Borough Council in my constituency will have less influence on their communities than they do currently. Without a vote on decisions they will be weakened..."*

**Cat Smith, MP for Lancaster and Fleetwood**

*"The proposals can only be given a lukewarm welcome...we do not support the proposed governance arrangements. They fail to recognise the important role of district councils in understanding and representing local communities..."*

**Our West Lancashire**

### 10.3.3 Suggestions and other comments

Fifty-two organisations and representative groups made suggestions about the proposed new arrangements. Key suggestions included a need for the LCCA to represent all local authorities in Lancashire, not just the three upper tier authorities (18), that the UK Shared Prosperity Fund should not be centralised (14), close collaboration among different Lancashire organisations for proposal development and delivery (7), importance of a strong business voice (6), and a necessity for the LCCA to have the skills, knowledge, and expertise to deliver the proposals (5).

Looking at some specific suggestions, these included as follows:

- **Lancaster University** stated that it would want to ensure that the proposed LCCA recognises the role of universities, and that local universities should be represented on the Business Board.

*"We request that the LCCA recognises the role of universities as major employers, knowledge creators, educators and enablers of commercialisation with appropriate representation of the Lancashire universities on the Business Board, and that this representation should be inclusive, for example by rotating membership of the Lancashire HEIs. In this context, we commend the model of the Greater Manchester Business Board".*

**Lancaster University**

- **University of Central Lancashire** suggested that while health and wellbeing was present in some elements of the proposal, this was not firmly drawn out as a standalone area, and that it did not underpin all of the areas where health and wellbeing are central enablers or, or critical barriers to success. It was suggested that this was "doubly important" given that a new Integrated Care



Board (ICB) for Lancashire and South Cumbria had been established and this this would be a powerful corollary and enabler of devolution. It was suggested that further deals should aim to align with these related regional developments, and build upon work being undertaken through Lancashire 2050.

- **The Lancashire Colleges** stated that it would strongly encourage the involvement of key stakeholders in the detailed planning and development of fuller proposals to ensure that devolution has a positive, rather than a destabilising impact on the status quo.
- **East Lancashire Chamber of Commerce** suggested that while the proposed LCCA would have four voting and four non-voting members, it would prefer all eight members and the chair of the business board to be full voting members, and to all, in its words, “*the business voice to matter*”.
- **Treales, Roseacre and Wharles Parish Council** also made suggestions about voting rights.

*“...LCC Blackpool UA and Blackburn with Darwen UA should have one constituent LCCA member vote each. All the 12 District, Borough and City members should participate in all LCCA matters and would have 3 nominees who would hold constituent member status with a vote each. It would be for the 12 councils to determine how the nominated representatives votes are to be managed. In that way there would be a greater balance between more local representation and county wide shared services.”*

#### **Treales, Roseacre & Wharles Parish Council**

- **Ribble Valley Borough Council**, while supportive of the proposal also made suggestions on voting rights, as well as how the UK Shared Prosperity Fund would be allocated to district councils in Lancashire by the LCCA.

*“Ribble Valley Borough Council broadly supports the creation of the County Combined Authority as set out in the Consultation document. However, we would like to see the two district representatives being given full voting rights on the LCCA Board. We would also ask that a share of any UK Shared Prosperity Fund received by the LCCA is allocated to District Councils in the same proportions as currently received by those authorities.”*

#### **Ribble Valley Borough Council**

Less frequent suggestions for the new arrangements included pushing for a level 3 devolution deal with an elected mayor (3), belief that an elected mayor would provide a stronger voice for the region (3), the need for a more democratic new structure (3), that the LCCA should work closely with local universities and higher education establishment and institutions in Lancashire (3), and giving more weight to consultation responses from the 12 district councils in Lancashire (1).

*“A tier 2 devolution deal is not ambitious enough for Lancashire, a Tier 3 deal with an elected mayor would have delivered so much more in terms of devolved powers and funding.”*

#### **Leader of West Lancashire Borough Council**

Twenty-four organisations and representative groups provided other comments. Such comments included a request for more information, in particular about the Business Board, and clarification on the proposed new arrangements, that the proposed arrangements could do further, and that proposals were vague or lacking detail.

Looking at some specific examples of other comments, these included as follows:

- **Nigel Evans, MP for Ribble Valley** said that the proposal must go further to ensure that any money that is given from central government to the LCCA is then further allocated fairly between the different districts to address the specific needs of each one.
- **Lancashire Women** stated that there needed to greater emphasis and input from the voluntary sector which it stated, “seems to have been missed”. It questioned if there would be an opportunity for the sector to be represented on the board.

## 10.4 Summary of responses from individuals / members of the public

Overall, there were 399 individuals who made comments about the proposal delivery arrangements. This included 15 who made positive or supportive comments, 275 who made negative or opposing comments, and 179 who made suggestions. There were also 58 individuals who made other comments.

### 10.4.1 Positive / supportive comments

Fifteen individuals provided positive comments on the proposal delivery arrangements. The main comments included general support or the devolution proposal (7), that the LCCA would be representative of the whole of Lancashire (4), and that there would be increased efficiencies due to having a joined up and co-ordinated approach (2).

*“Please implement to help make the authorities more accountable. Reduce the hundreds of councillors at different levels and parties none of whom are accountable and just play party politics across the current tiers costing a fortune and duplicating democracy.”*

**Member of the public**

### 10.4.2 Negative / opposing comments

There were 275 individuals who provided negative comments on the proposal delivery arrangements. Key concerns raised were a lack of representation of district and borough councils in Lancashire (129), inadequacy of local councils and councillors (51), negative opinions of Lancashire County Council and its councillors (48), lack of expertise to deliver the proposals (31), concerns about democracy (26), worry about mismanagement of budgets and funds (26), general opposition to new arrangements (21), and concerns about a lack of oversight, accountability, and transparency (20).

*"I believe to put such powers in the hands of 4 people is dangerous and undemocratic. Not to give a voice to the 12 district Councils is wrong at so many levels. LCC representatives and the 2 unitary authority representative will be able to ignore the districts with no democratic accountability. I do not support this idea."*

**Member of the public**

Less common negative comments and concerns about the new arrangements included worries about high administrative or running costs (9), potential increase in regional inequalities (7), lack of value for money (3), and potential increase in council tax (2).

*"The LCCA adds another level to local governance with all the additional costs and bureaucracy and costs..."*

**Member of the public**

#### **10.4.3 Suggestions and other comments**

There were 179 individuals who made suggestions about the proposed new arrangements. Key suggestions include ensuring the new arrangements represent the whole of Lancashire, including district and borough councils (49), advocating for a level 3 devolution deal with an elected mayor (42), perceived benefits of a level 3 devolution deal (32), an elected mayor ensuring accountability (21) and providing a strong voice for Lancashire (15). Other suggestions include not centralising the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) (9), dissolving the three unitary authorities in Lancashire (9), and creating smaller unitary authorities in Lancashire (7).

*"Fully support the idea of a Lancashire Combined County Authority but it should be level 3 or not at all."*

**Member of the public**

Fifty-eight individuals also made other comments about the proposed arrangements for the Lancashire LCCA. Such comments included requests for further information and clarifications, and that the proposals lacked detail.

*"Some of the details published so far appear to be a little bit 'woolly'. There should be clearer facts published in simple text to enable all of the local population to fully understand how their local democracy will be run in the future ; with the advantages and any disadvantages made clear at the outset..."*

**Member of the public**

# 11 Overall opinions on devolution and other comments

As well as receiving specific comments on each of the proposals and priority areas, consultees were also able to provide their comments on devolution more generally. Overall, there were 938 consultees who provided comments about devolution. Comments were received from 121 organisations and representative groups, and from 817 individuals. This chapter provides a brief summary of the comments received from both organisations and individuals.

## 11.1 Summary of responses from organisations and representative groups

### 11.1.1 Positive / supportive comments

Of the 121 organisations and representative groups that provided comments, 85 provided positive and supportive comments about devolution in general and about what was being proposed in Lancashire. The main comments received were:

- General support for devolution and for what was being proposed in Lancashire (39)
- Positivity for being locally focussed and placing more power in the hands of local-decision-makers to the benefit of people in Lancashire (28)
- A constructive step forward to raise the profile of Lancashire (27)
- Beneficial for local people and local communities (23)
- Economic benefits and benefits to the Lancashire economy (23)
- A devolution deal would secure significant investment (21)

*"The University welcomes the proposed Devolution Deal as a step forward in unlocking devolution of the Adult Education budget; coordinating policy and projects to attract funds that lever local strengths and bringing much-needed capital investment into Lancashire."*

**Lancaster University**

- Improved efficiencies as a result of joined up working (18)
- And that devolution would open up new opportunities for Lancashire (16).

*"I strongly agree with what is being proposed so far...Lancashire cannot afford to miss out...Lancashire has suffered from austerity; lack of lobbying power with central government; not properly recognised what combined or emerging combined authorities are managing to achieve. I could list a raft of other reasons why we have to embrace devolution".*

**Lancaster Civic Vision**

Less frequently made positive comments about devolution in Lancashire included the view that it would help deliver the government's objective of 'levelling up' and closing the north/south divide (8), benefits

and improvements to local people’s health and wellbeing (5), new opportunities for investment (5), and benefits for local businesses (4).

*“This deal represents the best opportunity for Lancashire to benefit from devolution based around the levelling-up agenda and access to additional central government funding without the encumbrance of central government decision-making allowing Lancashire to make decisions which are in its own self-interest at long last.”*

**Whalley Parish Council**

### 11.1.2 Negative or opposing comments

Thirty-four organisations made negative or opposing comments about devolution in Lancashire. The main comments were general disagreement with Lancashire’s devolution proposal (15), a belief that it would not improve local-decision making (15), that there would not be the stated benefits or that promises would be broken (14), that the proposal would not secure significant investment or that investment would be in the short-term only (13), a belief that regional inequality would be increased or worsened (9), and that it would not be equitable nor fair with some areas, particularly rural areas, missing out and being overlooked (7).

*“...the LCCA will favour Blackpool, Preston and Blackburn and actively disadvantage other districts.... we are 10% approx. of the Lancashire population and I see no possibility of that percentage of any funding being spent in, or for the benefit of, our district.”*

**Lib Dem Group, Lancaster City Council**

Other concerns about devolution included doubts about improved efficiencies (6), lack of transparency and accountability (6), failure to stimulate economic growth (6), a costly and wasteful exercise with high administrative costs (4), potential rise in taxation and council tax to fund new structures and arrangements (4), and belief that the current proposal was poor and should be rejected (3).

*“I’m concerned about the democratic course and the wrong people making the decisions based on being voted in elsewhere.”*

**Care Network**

### 11.1.3 Suggestions and other comments

The proposal for devolution in Lancashire received suggestions from 57 organisations. The main suggestions included comments about a need for investment and focus on healthcare, social care and the wellbeing of local residents (15), that there should be benefits to the local economy (13), that any devolution deal should deliver benefits to the local area and to local people (12), that allocation of funding should be fair and equitable (10), that a planned and co-ordinated approach would be necessary to make devolution a success (9), and a suggestion that there should be more funding and investment to deliver the government’s levelling up agenda (8).

Looking at some of the specific suggestions, these included as follows:

- **Heskin Parish Council** suggested that the amount of money needed for levelling up would be insignificant compared to Greater Manchester and Greater Merseyside, and this issue needed to be widely discussed.
- **Broughton in Amounderness Parish Council** said that it was “staggered” that the proposal did not have social care as a priority, and that this should be a priority across Lancashire.
- **Lancashire Constabulary** made a number of suggestions including guarding against complexity and that it would be important to prioritise children’s social care.

*“If ambitions are to be realised...the deal needs to ensure it guards against making the system more complex. The transition period will be critical. It is also important that the devolution reaches deep into core services such as children’s social care, etc, without over complicating things...”*

#### **Lancashire Constabulary**

- **Lancashire and South Cumbria NHS Foundation Trust** made suggestions about health inequalities and children’s mental health services needing to be prioritised.

*“I believe it is fundamental that any devolution deal giving more local control needs to see health inequalities and the link between physical and mental health strengthened. Getting children’s mental health services alongside learning disability and autism is key to support education attainment and employment.”*

#### **Lancashire and South Cumbria NHS Foundation Trust**

Fifty-three organisations made other comments which included a view that further information and clarification was necessary (19), that current proposals and plans needed to do further (14), or that current plans and the objectives of devolution were unclear and needed more clarity (8).

*“The council believes that Lancashire County Council with Blackburn with Darwen and Blackpool councils in proposing the creation of the LCCA need to more clearly explain how future investment will be secured and prioritised, identifying how investment will benefit the whole of the county area.”*

#### **Preston City Council**

## **11.2 Summary of responses from individuals**

### **11.2.1 Positive / supportive comments**

There were 229 individuals who provided positive and supportive comments about devolution and the devolution proposals in Lancashire. The main comments resolved around support in principle for devolution (88), or agreement with the Lancashire devolution proposal (81). Other positive and supportive comments included a view that it would help local decision-makers make decisions for Lancashire (30), that it would improve the efficiency of local government in Lancashire through joined up working (30), that significant local investment would be secured (29), that devolved government was necessary and overdue (24), that it would aid economic growth and benefit the local Lancashire economy

(19), and a view that it would work well provided it was properly managed as evidenced from elsewhere (19).

*“Devolution is vital for Lancashire to secure a fair share of funding, to strengthen local voice and enable place-based decision making.”*

**Member of the public**

### 11.2.2 Negative and opposing comments

Despite a number of positive and supportive comments about devolution, there was a higher number of consultees who provided negative or opposing comments about it, or who raised concerns. In total, there were 513 individuals who were concerned about devolution and what was proposed in Lancashire. Major themes included disagreement or opposition to the proposal (150), concerns about creating additional bureaucracy and another government tier (121), worries about high administrative and running costs (110), fears that some areas would be overlooked or miss out (84), doubts about it facilitating local decision-making (77), scepticism about its success (76), fears that proposed benefits would not materialise (76), concerns that significant and long-term investment would not be realised (63), and worries that the proposal could increase regional inequalities (61).

*“I disagree with the proposal for a combined authority. It’s just another layer of bureaucracy for services and a further financial burden on the public and potential for more bickering by unelected officials in pointless roles.”*

**Member of the public**

Less frequently cited concerns regarding the proposal for Lancashire included views that devolution would be unnecessary (36), that it would not improve accountability and transparency (32), or that it wouldn't deliver on 'levelling up' (16), that it would create artificial boundaries (12), and that it would represent a negative or even a backward step (8).

### 11.2.3 Suggestions and other comments

There were 231 individuals who made suggestions about devolution and the proposal in Lancashire. Key suggestions included: devolution should empower local people and benefit local areas (33); it should promote fairness (33); it should improve healthcare and local resident wellbeing (28); it should enhance local government efficiencies (27); it should streamline local government and reduce bureaucracy (20); it should deliver fairness and reduce regional inequalities (18); and it should increase accountability and transparency of local government (15).

*“I would like to see the Borough Council structure retained and not absorbed into the main or county body at a later date. I would like to see that there is equality of benefit for all residents and not just those in the unitary authority areas.”*

**Member of the public**

There were 283 individuals who made other comments about devolution. Such comments were mainly questions and requests for further clarification about the proposal and what it would mean for Lancashire (66), and comments about the vagueness of the proposal and the need for more details (57).

*"All good ambitions but I have reservations about the delivery. Will each of the existing councils work effectively with this new layer of admin? Will there be a true focus on deliverable objectives, recognising and dealing with the barriers of existing deprivation areas, poor housing and poor health and unequal education attainment?"*

**Member of the public**

### **11.3 Other comments**

In total there were 152 consultees who were concerned about how the proposal could be unfair with some areas overlooked in favour of other areas, Comments were received from 13 organisations and representative groups and from 139 individuals. The primary concern was that larger urban areas could disproportionately benefit from the proposal. This included 53 comments that Blackpool would receive more benefits. Other urban areas perceived to also be likely to receive greater benefits included Blackburn (43), Preston (26), and Burnley (22).

*"The majority of Councillors present at the meeting felt that the more rural areas of Pendle would not get any representation and would not get any kind of say in how the funding is spent. Consequently, it is unlikely the more rural areas like Colne, Trawden, Laneshawbridge and Foulridge, would benefit from any additional funding. It was proposed at the meeting that Colne Town Council oppose the presented devolution proposal."*

**Colne Town Council**

There were 153 consultees who provided comments about the consultation itself, including 17 organisations and 136 individuals. Of these, 90 consultees criticised the consultation process and/or documentation, 63 directed criticism towards the government and Conservative politicians, and 11 were critical of the opposition and Labour politicians.



# Appendix A – Response form



## Lancashire Devolution Consultation

The consultation will run from 1 December until 11.59pm on 26 January 2024.

### What is the proposed Lancashire Combined County Authority?

On 22 November 2023 the government announced the potential for a devolution deal for Lancashire. The three upper tier councils in Lancashire, (Lancashire County Council, Blackpool Council and Blackburn with Darwen Council) have produced a draft proposal (the 'Proposal') and have agreed to consult on the Proposal to create a new entity called the Lancashire Combined County Authority (CCA).

If the Proposal is implemented, existing funding and powers will move from central government to Lancashire, with further powers also being available to the CCA. This will enable local voices to play a greater role in decision-making in the area to secure more investment and deliver better outcomes for local communities.

The Proposal would not mean removing or merging local councils. Each council would continue to exist and would still be responsible for public services in their area.

### Why are we proposing these changes?

Our vision is for the 1.53 million people in Lancashire to be able to enjoy greater health, prosperity and wellbeing through the opportunities available to them within an inclusive and confident Lancashire.

We believe that the funding and powers we would receive as part of creating the proposed CCA can help us to deliver this vision and give us more control over the decision-making that affects Lancashire's residents and businesses.



Map (above) of the proposed Lancashire CCA Area and local authority boundaries. The area covered by Lancashire County Council is shown in light blue.

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### **Our shared objectives are designed to ensure a positive future for our county and its people by:**

- Boosting productivity, pay, skills, jobs and living standards
- Spreading opportunities and improving public services
- Restoring a sense of community, local pride and belonging
- Empowering local leaders and communities

We believe the time is now for devolution for Lancashire – drawing power from Whitehall to give Lancashire greater control over our public services and funding.

### **We have identified several priority areas**

We propose to use devolution to build upon Lancashire's substantial strengths in delivering benefits for its residents. This Proposal focuses on the eight priorities set out below.

- |                                    |                            |
|------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| • Innovation, Trade and Investment | • Digital and Cyber        |
| • Skills                           | • Culture and Tourism      |
| • Transport                        | • Housing and Land         |
| • Net Zero and Climate Change      | • Delivering Our Ambitions |

### **What would devolution mean?**

We believe that devolution in Lancashire would:

- Ensure we benefit from a boost in Government funding, allowing the proposed CCA to tackle the issues that matter most to the people of Lancashire
- Give us new powers to drive regeneration in our town and city centres and build more affordable homes across Lancashire
- Enable us to support new jobs in growing industries such as low carbon technologies, cyber security and energy, making sure we have the right skills to take advantage of these opportunities
- Ensure that our transport infrastructure meets the needs of people across the region by enabling greater coordination of investment and management of our expertise and local priorities
- Drive investment across Lancashire, ensuring that no area is left behind

### **What do you think?**

Please read the frequently asked questions (FAQ) and Proposal at: [www.lancshirededevolution.co.uk](http://www.lancshirededevolution.co.uk) before responding to this survey. Other useful information is also available on the website.

This consultation asks for your views on the different priorities proposed for the Lancashire CCA. At the end of the survey, you will have the opportunity to provide comments on the Proposal more generally.

The survey is split up into several sections and should take around 20-30 minutes to complete.

There will also be an option to sign up to a newsletter to receive progress updates on Lancashire's Devolution process.

The results of the consultation will be considered in the first quarter of 2024 before the three upper-tier councils are asked to consider whether to submit the Proposal to the Government as drafted, make amendments before submission to the Government or not to submit the Proposal.

If the Proposal (whether in its current form or amended) is submitted to the Government, it will be considered by the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, and if they are content that the Proposal meets the relevant requirements in law, the devolution process will then be progressed, and legislation creating the proposed Lancashire CCA will be laid subject to the councils consenting to the draft legislation.

## Confidentiality and data protection

Information provided in response to this consultation, including personal information, may be subject to publication or disclosure in accordance with the access to information regimes. These are primarily the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA), the Environmental Information Regulations (EIR) 2004, the Data Protection Act (DPA) 2018, and the UK General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).

Please be aware that, under the FOIA and the EIR, there is a statutory Code of Practice with which public authorities must comply and which deals with, among other things, obligations of confidence.

In view of this, it would be helpful if you could explain to us why you regard the information you have provided as confidential. If we receive a request for disclosure of the information we will take full account of your explanation, but we cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances. An automatic confidentiality disclaimer generated by your IT system will not, in itself, be regarded as binding on Lancashire County Council, Blackpool Council and Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council.

If you want information that you provide to be treated as confidential, please tick the box below and give your reason/s.

☐ I want my response to be treated as confidential

PLEASE WRITE YOUR REASON/S IN THE BOX BELOW

Lancashire County Council, Blackpool Council and Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council will process your personal data in accordance with the DPA 2018 and UK GDPR. We may share your personal information with our partner agencies and government, when doing so enables us to fully consider your response. If you change your mind about us using your personal information you have the right to have the relevant information deleted. If this is the case, please email [dpo@lancashire.gov.uk](mailto:dpo@lancashire.gov.uk) or [accesstoinformation@blackburn.gov.uk](mailto:accesstoinformation@blackburn.gov.uk) or [dataprotectionofficer@blackpool.gov.uk](mailto:dataprotectionofficer@blackpool.gov.uk).

To view our full privacy notice please visit <https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/council/transparency/access-to-information/privacy-notice/> and <https://www.blackburn.gov.uk/data-and-information/privacy-policy> and <https://www.blackpool.gov.uk/Your-Council/Transparency-and-open-data/Data-protection/Privacy-notices/Privacy-notices.aspx>

## Questionnaire

How are you responding to this consultation?

**PLEASE TICK ONE BOX ONLY**

- ☐ I am a member of the public, giving my views as an individual
- ☐ I am responding on behalf of, or as a representative of, a business or organisation

Please provide the first part of your postcode (e.g. PR1)

**Please write in the box**



## Section 1 – Innovation, Trade and Investment

**We will work with local and national stakeholders to become a globally recognised and sustainable economy, distinguished by its quality of life, connectivity and access to opportunities.**

We will use the devolution process to refresh our strategic plans for economic prosperity. These plans will build upon our competitive advantages, exploit opportunities and develop new sectors capable of delivering long-term economic growth and creating high-value jobs. We believe the proposed CCA would enable Lancashire to produce better strategic cases for investment and gain a greater share of national resources.

The proposed CCA will plan and deliver the Lancashire area allocation of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) from 2025/26. In spending this flexible funding pot, the proposed CCA will work closely with district council Leaders in an advisory capacity.

Devolution under the Proposal will provide £6 million capital investment to create an innovation hub of international excellence at Samlesbury Enterprise Zone. We believe the new centre will help stimulate the growth of new economic clusters to maximise the county-wide benefits of the £5 billion investment in National Cyber Force to be located in Lancashire.

The Proposal will also provide £6 million for the Blackburn Technology Innovation Quarter to create new business space to support the growth of Lancashire’s digital, creative and cyber sectors.

Through the Proposal, Government departments will consider the potential for future relocations of Government roles to Lancashire as part of the Levelling Up agenda.

To support the proposed Lancashire CCA in its initial stages of devolution, the Government will provide £1 million of capacity funding.

Please find further details on the Proposal at [www.lancashiredevolution.co.uk](http://www.lancashiredevolution.co.uk)

**Q1 To what extent do you agree or disagree with the proposal on innovation, trade and investment for the Lancashire Combined County Authority?**

**PLEASE TICK ONE BOX ONLY**

Strongly  
agree  
☐

Agree  
☐

Neither agree  
nor disagree  
☐

Disagree  
☐

Strongly  
disagree  
☐

Don't know  
☐

**If you have any comments you would like to make around the innovation, trade and investment proposal, you will have the opportunity at the end of the questionnaire.**

## Section 2 – Skills

We will work collaboratively with employers, skills and training providers, local authorities and other stakeholders to support people to develop their skills throughout their lives and attract business to Lancashire because of our highly skilled workforce.

In Lancashire's labour market, the estimated employment rate is below the national rate and has worsened since the pandemic. Lancashire's work force is also characterised by a lower proportion of residents with higher level qualifications.

The Proposal includes new powers to better shape local skills provisions to ensure these meet the needs of the local economy. This will include devolution of adult education, the core Adult Education Budget, and the opportunity to further refine the Local Skills Improvement Plan. Funding for Free Courses for Jobs will also be devolved and will be ring-fenced.

A strong, resilient and inclusive economy brings health benefits to its residents. As a combined authority, we believe Lancashire will be better placed to bid to become a pilot on national programmes that support individuals with health conditions to remain in the workplace.

Please find further details on the Proposal at [www.lancashiredevolution.co.uk](http://www.lancashiredevolution.co.uk)

**Q2** To what extent do you agree or disagree with the proposal on skills for the Lancashire Combined County Authority?

**PLEASE TICK ONE BOX ONLY**

Strongly  
agree

☐

Agree

☐

Neither agree  
nor disagree

☐

Disagree

☐

Strongly  
disagree

☐

Don't know

☐

If you have any comments you would like to make around the skills proposal, you will have the opportunity at the end of the questionnaire.

### Section 3 – Transport

**We will work with transport providers inside and outside Lancashire to create better connected infrastructure that links opportunity to need and delivers travel choices that are safe, inclusive, affordable and low carbon.**

The Proposal will build on a successful track record of major transport investment, and a new Local Transport Plan will set the direction and priorities for highways and transport investment. This plan will work across the county to secure the benefits of connectivity to widen transport choices and support low carbon travel opportunities. Lancashire has significant plans for road, bus and rail schemes, and active travel projects that it is seeking to fund through devolution.

The Proposal includes new powers to improve and better integrate local transport, including the ability to develop the bus service improvement plan (BSIP) partnership and strengthen coordination of local transport functions.

Blackpool Transport Services (BTS) will continue to operate tram services in Blackpool and the surrounding area and Blackpool Council will retain the relevant powers to manage BTS. Maintenance of tram infrastructure and assets will continue to be the responsibility of Blackpool Council in partnership with Lancashire County Council. BTS also provides vital bus services to Blackpool and the surrounding area. BTS will continue to deliver bus services locally.

The Proposal includes plans to improve public electric vehicle charging infrastructure to increase the uptake of electric vehicles and reduce carbon emissions.

As set out in a recent Network North announcement:

- The proposed CCA will receive a proportion of the £2.5 billion announced as part of Network North to transform local transport in areas in the North outside of the big city regions
- The proposed CCA will receive a proportion of the £770 million of funding for Bus Service Improvement Plans in the North
- The proposed CCA will receive a proportion of the £3.3 billion funding to fix potholes in the North

We believe devolution will support Lancashire’s objective of maintaining a safe and reliable transport network.

Please find further details on the Proposal at [www.lancashiredevolution.co.uk](http://www.lancashiredevolution.co.uk)

Q3 To what extent do you agree or disagree with the proposal on transport for the Lancashire Combined County Authority?

PLEASE TICK ONE BOX ONLY

Strongly agree

☐

Agree

☐

Neither agree nor disagree

☐

Disagree

☐

Strongly disagree

☐

Don't know

☐

If you have any comments you would like to make around the transport proposal, you will have the opportunity at the end of the questionnaire.



## Section 4 – Net Zero and Climate Change

We will work across Lancashire to meet our low carbon ambitions, promote clean energy, and enhance our natural environment. Our ambition is that Lancashire becomes internationally recognised as a leader in the creation of ‘green jobs’, building upon our world class engineering and manufacturing capabilities.

Lancashire’s energy and low carbon sector is particularly important due to its capabilities in designing and manufacturing low carbon technologies. The area is forecast to have the highest number of jobs per capita in the energy and low carbon sector in England between 2030 and 2050. Through the Proposal, if adopted, the Government will work with the proposed CCA to enable the continued growth of this sector by supporting the delivery of Lancashire’s energy and low carbon sector plans.

Devolution would provide £2 million additional investment to extend eligibility criteria for the ‘Cosy Homes in Lancashire’ domestic retrofit scheme. We believe this investment will support a reduction in carbon emissions, better quality housing and improved health outcomes.

Please find further details on the Proposal at [www.lancashiredevolution.co.uk](http://www.lancashiredevolution.co.uk)

**Q4** To what extent do you agree or disagree with the proposal on net zero and climate change for the Lancashire Combined County Authority?

**PLEASE TICK ONE BOX ONLY**

Strongly  
agree

☐

Agree

☐

Neither agree  
nor disagree

☐

Disagree

☐

Strongly  
disagree

☐

Don't know

☐

If you have any comments you would like to make around the net zero and climate change proposal, you will have the opportunity at the end of the questionnaire.

## Section 5 – Digital and Cyber

**We will work across Lancashire to continue to transform our digital infrastructure and knowledge-based sectors to balance and modernise our industrial base.**

Lancashire has continued the development of the Lancashire Infrastructure Plan and supported rollout of Openreach and gigabit programmes, including establishing Superfast Atlantic connection with the North Atlantic Loop at Blackpool Enterprise Zone. This increased digital connectivity provides competitive advantages to attract more cutting-edge, technology-based industries.

Locating the National Cyber Force in Lancashire will attract significant investment and create over 2,000 new jobs. The proposed Lancashire CCA will work with the Department for Science, Innovation and Technology, to fully capture the investment, business, research and skills benefits of this new location. These activities will create opportunities and new careers for residents, develop markets and technologies of local businesses and help to establish a North West Cyber Corridor.

Devolution under the Proposal would provide £6 million investment for a Low Carbon Data Demonstrator Centre at Blackpool Enterprise Zone. The project will provide new business space to support Lancashire's low carbon and digital innovation ambitions.

Please find further details on the Proposal at [www.lancashiredevolution.co.uk](http://www.lancashiredevolution.co.uk)

**Q5 To what extent do you agree or disagree with the proposal on digital and cyber for the Lancashire Combined County Authority?**

**PLEASE TICK ONE BOX ONLY**

Strongly  
agree  
☐

Agree  
☐

Neither agree  
nor disagree  
☐

Disagree  
☐

Strongly  
disagree  
☐

Don't know  
☐

**If you have any comments you would like to make around the digital and cyber proposal, you will have the opportunity at the end of the questionnaire.**

## Section 6 – Culture and Tourism

**We recognise the fundamental importance of our culture and tourism assets and will work with stakeholders across Lancashire to strengthen these. This work includes the creation of a Local Visitor Economy Partnership for the region to help further develop the region's visitor economy.**

Lancashire's rich heritage and culture has an important role in the area's plans to attract and retain skilled workers, and in contributing to 'pride in place' in the region. Tourism and the visitor economy are crucial industries for Lancashire, with the area amongst the UK's most prolific visitor destinations every year. Blackpool is the nation's No1 seaside resort, with some 20 million visits per year, and represents a £1.5 billion visitor economy.

If the Proposal is adopted, Lancashire CCA could work with the government to hold a series of exploratory conversations to test the region's appetite and capacity for partnership working across culture, heritage, sport, communities and the visitor economy.

Under the Proposal, VisitEngland and the Lancashire CCA would work with the accredited Local Visitor Economy Partnership to help further develop the region's visitor economy. This collaborative work, across those areas set out in the Government's Tourism Recovery Plan, could include harnessing the region's potential to grow domestic and international visitor spend, and encouraging visits throughout the year rather than just during the traditional tourist season.

Please find further details on the Proposal at [www.lancshirededevolution.co.uk](http://www.lancshirededevolution.co.uk)

**Q6 To what extent do you agree or disagree with the proposal on culture and tourism for the Lancashire Combined County Authority?**

**PLEASE TICK ONE BOX ONLY**

Strongly  
agree  
☐

Agree  
☐

Neither agree  
nor disagree  
☐

Disagree  
☐

Strongly  
disagree  
☐

Don't know  
☐

**If you have any comments you would like to make around the culture and tourism proposal, you will have the opportunity at the end of the questionnaire.**

**Section 7 – Housing and Land**

**We will support the delivery of decent, affordable, and low carbon housing for every community. High quality housing will benefit existing residents, as well as attract and retain the people required to drive the economy over the long term.**

The proposal would give Lancashire the ability to exercise compulsory purchase powers (subject to the agreement of the Local Authority where the land is located) to help drive regeneration and build more affordable homes, boosting supply and bringing down the cost of newly built dwellings.

The Proposal supports our ambition to deliver a pipeline of strategic development sites and infrastructure opportunities faster and more strategically than would otherwise be the case.

Please find further details on the Proposal at [www.lancashiredevolution.co.uk](http://www.lancashiredevolution.co.uk)

**Q7 To what extent do you agree or disagree with the proposal on housing and land for the Lancashire Combined County Authority?**

**PLEASE TICK ONE BOX ONLY**

Strongly  
agree  
☐

Agree  
☐

Neither agree  
nor disagree  
☐

Disagree  
☐

Strongly  
disagree  
☐

Don't know  
☐

**It should be: If you have any comments you would like to make around the housing and land proposal, you will have the opportunity at the end of the questionnaire.**

## Section 8 – Delivering Our Ambitions

**We will implement streamlined management and decision-making arrangements with a strong business voice to address the big opportunities and challenges for Lancashire.**

In order that powers and funding are available, suitable management and decision-making arrangements must be put in place. These arrangements provide the Government with assurance that funding will be spent appropriately, and statutory functions will be delivered effectively and efficiently.

We believe that this priority will allow the creation of a powerful CCA with strong leadership and effective governance to drive growth in Lancashire and across the north of England.

To achieve this, our proposals include the integration of the Lancashire Local Enterprise Partnership with wider structures and the formation of a new Business Board. This change will help ensure there continues to be a strong and independent local business voice that informs local decision-making and strategic economic planning. The model places a strengthened private sector voice at the heart of growth strategy development.

The governance model proposed would build upon existing structures and recognises the significant role for the 12 district councils (who would be able to nominate two representatives to the proposed CCA, potentially through the Lancashire District Council Leaders Forum). Our proposals also include new delivery arrangements for transport and skills to enable partners to collaborate more effectively and focus on the big opportunities and challenges for Lancashire.

Please find further details on the Proposal at [www.lancashiredevolution.co.uk](http://www.lancashiredevolution.co.uk)

**Q8 To what extent do you agree or disagree with the proposed delivery arrangements for the Lancashire Combined County Authority?**

**PLEASE TICK ONE BOX ONLY**

Strongly  
agree

☐

Agree

☐

Neither agree  
nor disagree

☐

Disagree

☐

Strongly  
disagree

☐

Don't know

☐

If you have any comments you would like to make around the delivery proposal, you will have the opportunity at the end of the questionnaire.

## Your comments

**Q9** If you have any comments you would like to make about the proposals for the Lancashire Combined County Authority, please tell us using the space below.

PLEASE WRITE IN THE BOX BELOW

This image shows a single page of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There is a vertical margin line on the left side, creating a narrow left margin. The paper appears to be from a notebook or a standard ruled sheet of paper.



## About you

So that we can ensure we capture a diverse range of views through this consultation, it would be helpful if you could provide some information about yourself. This information is not compulsory, so please complete the questions where you feel comfortable.

The personal information you provide will only be used in the manner described in the privacy policy, which is included with this questionnaire. In addition to the information provided in the privacy policy, any information submitted via this document will also be processed, analysed, and reported by Ipsos on behalf of Lancashire County Council, Blackpool Council and Blackburn with Darwen Council.

If you told us you are responding to the consultation with views that represent a group or organisation, please complete questions 10, 11 and 12.

If you told us you are responding as an individual, please skip ahead to question 13.

### RESPONDING ON BEHALF OF A GROUP OR ORGANISATION

**Q10** Please provide your name and role, along with the name and postal address of your organisation or group in the box below.

Please note that the name and details of the organisation or group may be subject to publication or appear in the final report, unless you have requested confidentiality on this form.

#### PLEASE WRITE IN THE BOXES

Your name:

Your role:

Name of organisation or group:

Address of organisation or group:

Postcode of organisation or group:

**Q11** Please select the sector that best describes your organisation or group.

**PLEASE TICK ONE OPTION ONLY**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> County council   | <input type="checkbox"/> Elected representative of a parish council |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Unitary council  | <input type="checkbox"/> Other elected representative               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> District council   | <input type="checkbox"/> Voluntary and community sector             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Parish council   | <input type="checkbox"/> Civil service or government                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Elected representative of a county council                         | <input type="checkbox"/> Charity                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Elected representative of a unitary council                        | <input type="checkbox"/> Academic                                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Elected representative of a district council                       | <input type="checkbox"/> Action group                               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other category of organisation or group<br>PLEASE WRITE IN THE BOX | <input type="checkbox"/> Transport                                  |
|   | <input type="checkbox"/> Business                                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prefer not to say  |   |

**Q12** Please tell us whom the organisation or group represents and, where applicable, how you assembled the views of members.

**PLEASE WRITE IN THE BOX BELOW.**

--



## RESPONDING AS AN INDIVIDUAL

**Q13** Please tell us which local authority area you live in. (This is the council named on your bins.)

**PLEASE TICK ONE OPTION ONLY**

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Blackburn with Darwen Council                        | <input type="checkbox"/> Pendle Borough Council                          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Blackpool Council                                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Preston City Council                            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Burnley Borough Council                              | <input type="checkbox"/> Ribble Valley Borough Council                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Chorley Council                                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Rossendale Borough Council                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fylde Borough Council                                | <input type="checkbox"/> South Ribble Borough Council                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hyndburn Borough Council                             | <input type="checkbox"/> West Lancashire Borough Council                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lancaster City Council                               | <input type="checkbox"/> Wyre Borough Council                            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other/out of area.<br><b>PLEASE WRITE IN THE BOX</b> | <div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 20px; width: 400px;"></div> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prefer not to say                                    |  |

**Q14** Your gender. Are you...?

**PLEASE TICK ONE OPTION ONLY**

- ☐ Female
- ☐ Male
- ☐ Gender non-conforming
- ☐ Other
- ☐ Prefer not to say

**Q15** Is your gender identity the same as the gender you were assigned at birth?

**PLEASE TICK ONE OPTION ONLY**

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Prefer not to say

**Q16 What age group do you belong to?**

**PLEASE TICK ONE OPTION ONLY**

- ☐ Under 18
- ☐ 18-24
- ☐ 25-34
- ☐ 35-44
- ☐ 45-54
- ☐ 55-64
- ☐ 65-74
- ☐ 75+
- ☐ Prefer not to say

**Q17 Do you consider yourself to be a Deaf person or to have a disability?**

**PLEASE TICK ONE OPTION ONLY**

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Prefer not to say

**Q18 Which best describes your ethnic background?**

**PLEASE TICK ONE OPTION ONLY**

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> English, Welsh, Scottish, Northern Irish or British | <input type="checkbox"/> Pakistani   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Irish   | <input type="checkbox"/> Bangladeshi   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gypsy or Irish Traveller                            | <input type="checkbox"/> Chinese   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Roma  | <input type="checkbox"/> Any other Asian background                                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Any other White background                          | <input type="checkbox"/> Caribbean   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> White and Black Caribbean                           | <input type="checkbox"/> African   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> White and Black African                             | <input type="checkbox"/> Any other Black, Black British, Caribbean or African background |
| <input type="checkbox"/> White and Asian                                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Arab  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Any other Mixed or Multiple backgrounds             | <input type="checkbox"/> Any other ethnic group  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Indian  | <input type="checkbox"/> Prefer not to say   |

**Q19 What is your religion or belief?**

**PLEASE TICK ONE OPTION ONLY**

- ☐ Buddhist
- ☐ Christian (including Church of England, Catholic, Protestant and all other Christian denominations)
- ☐ Hindu
- ☐ Jewish
- ☐ Muslim
- ☐ Sikh
- ☐ Any other religious belief
- ☐ Any other spiritual belief
- ☐ No religion or belief
- ☐ Prefer not to say

**Q20 Please indicate your sexual orientation.**

**PLEASE TICK ONE OPTION ONLY**

- ☐ Bisexual
- ☐ Gay man
- ☐ Heterosexual/straight
- ☐ Lesbian/gay woman
- ☐ Other
- ☐ Prefer not to say

Thank you for completing the consultation document.  
Your feedback is important to us.

**Please return your completed questionnaire to us in an envelope via our freepost address (no stamp required):**

**Freepost LANCASHIRE DEVOLUTION CONSULTATION  
by 26 January 2024.**



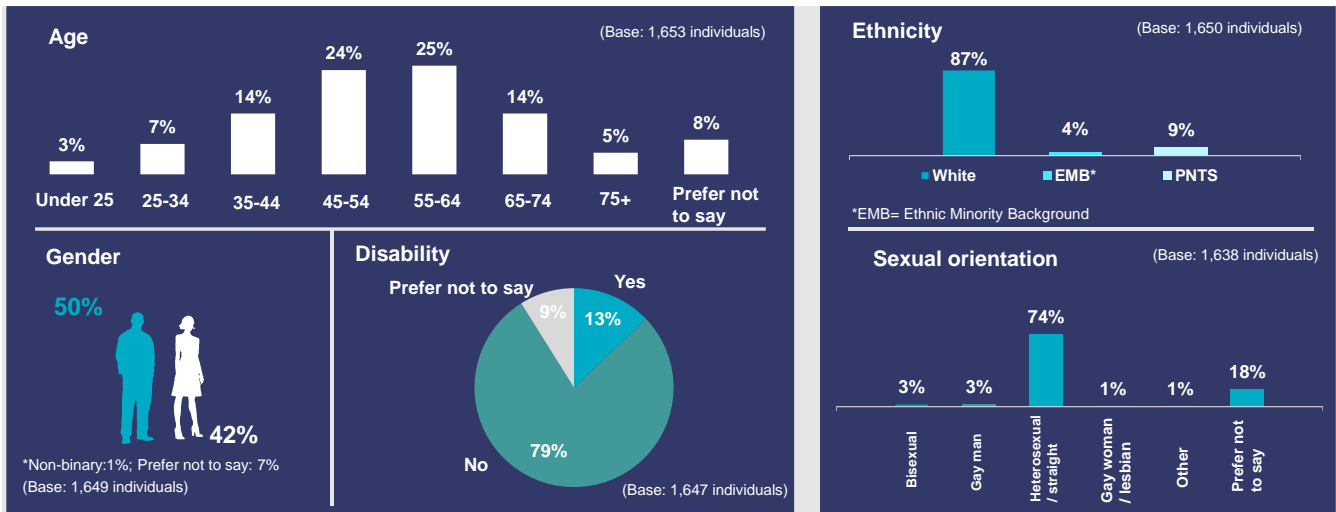
## **Appendix B – Codeframe**

The codeframe is a separate document, available on request

# Appendix C – Participant profile

Individuals who responded to the consultation using the response form were asked if they wished to provide more information about themselves. This section includes a summary graphic of those who chose to provide additional demographic information. It excludes those who did not use the response form.

**Figure C1: Number of individuals / members of the public who responded using the response form by key group**



## Appendix D – Local authority breakdown

This appendix breaks down the responses by local authority. The base size indicates the number of consultees who provided information about where they live (NB – the total base across all local authorities does not add up to the total participating in the consultation because some (a) were residing out of the area and/or (b) preferred not to say.

### Innovation, Trade and Investment

Q1. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the proposal on innovation, trade and investment for the Lancashire Combined County Authority?														
	Blackburn with Darwen Council	Blackpool Council	Burnley Borough Council	Chorley Council	Fylde Borough Council	Hyndburn Borough Council	Lancaster City Council	Pendle Borough Council	Preston City Council	Ribble Valley Borough Council	Rossendale Borough Council	South Ribble Borough Council	West Lancashire Borough	Wyre Borough Council
<b>Base</b>	109	102	117	140	129	64	176	53	170	74	72	181	107	87
<b>Strongly agree</b>	34%	25%	12%	22%	23%	20%	23%	17%	26%	32%	17%	24%	16%	28%
<b>Agree</b>	35%	32%	19%	41%	41%	38%	30%	23%	39%	35%	36%	32%	26%	32%
<b>Neither/ nor</b>	11%	9%	23%	10%	5%	3%	13%	19%	8%	8%	8%	12%	17%	13%
<b>Disagree</b>	3%	16%	10%	14%	9%	6%	15%	17%	12%	4%	21%	10%	21%	9%
<b>Strongly disagree</b>	15%	16%	35%	11%	22%	33%	18%	25%	13%	19%	18%	19%	20%	18%
<b>Don't know</b>	3%	2%	1%	2%	-	-	1%	-	2%	1%	-	2%	1%	-
<b>TOTAL AGREE</b>	<b>69%</b>	<b>58%</b>	<b>31%</b>	<b>63%</b>	<b>64%</b>	<b>58%</b>	<b>52%</b>	<b>40%</b>	<b>66%</b>	<b>68%</b>	<b>53%</b>	<b>56%</b>	<b>42%</b>	<b>60%</b>
<b>TOTAL DISAGREE</b>	<b>17%</b>	<b>31%</b>	<b>45%</b>	<b>25%</b>	<b>30%</b>	<b>39%</b>	<b>34%</b>	<b>42%</b>	<b>25%</b>	<b>23%</b>	<b>39%</b>	<b>30%</b>	<b>40%</b>	<b>28%</b>

## Skills

Q2. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the proposal on skills for the Lancashire Combined County Authority?														
	Blackburn with Darwen Council	Blackpool Council	Burnley Borough Council	Chorley Council	Fylde Borough Council	Hyndburn Borough Council	Lancaster City Council	Pendle Borough Council	Preston City Council	Ribble Valley Borough Council	Rossendale Borough Council	South Ribble Borough Council	West Lancashire Borough	Wyre Borough Council
<b>Base</b>	109	102	117	140	128	64	176	53	171	74	72	181	108	87
<b>Strongly agree</b>	43%	31%	14%	33%	35%	30%	27%	32%	30%	35%	17%	28%	23%	34%
<b>Agree</b>	30%	33%	25%	33%	30%	30%	38%	15%	36%	31%	40%	34%	28%	33%
<b>Neither/ nor</b>	7%	10%	18%	14%	7%	6%	7%	13%	11%	8%	10%	10%	19%	9%
<b>Disagree</b>	6%	13%	12%	11%	11%	8%	13%	17%	11%	7%	19%	10%	12%	8%
<b>Strongly disagree</b>	12%	13%	31%	9%	16%	27%	14%	19%	11%	19%	14%	16%	17%	15%
<b>Don't know</b>	2%	-	1%	1%	-	-	1%	4%	1%	-	-	2%	1%	-
<b>TOTAL AGREE</b>	<b>73%</b>	<b>65%</b>	<b>38%</b>	<b>66%</b>	<b>66%</b>	<b>59%</b>	<b>65%</b>	<b>47%</b>	<b>66%</b>	<b>66%</b>	<b>57%</b>	<b>61%</b>	<b>51%</b>	<b>68%</b>
<b>TOTAL DISAGREE</b>	<b>17%</b>	<b>25%</b>	<b>43%</b>	<b>20%</b>	<b>27%</b>	<b>34%</b>	<b>27%</b>	<b>36%</b>	<b>22%</b>	<b>26%</b>	<b>33%</b>	<b>26%</b>	<b>29%</b>	<b>23%</b>



## Transport

Q3: To what extent do you agree or disagree with the proposal on transport for the Lancashire Combined County Authority?														
	Blackburn with Darwen Council	Blackpool Council	Burnley Borough Council	Chorley Council	Fylde Borough Council	Hyndburn Borough Council	Lancaster City Council	Pendle Borough Council	Preston City Council	Ribble Valley Borough Council	Rossendale Borough Council	South Ribble Borough Council	West Lancashire Borough	Wyre Borough Council
<b>Base</b>	109	103	117	140	128	64	175	53	172	74	72	181	108	87
<b>Strongly agree</b>	41%	39%	22%	36%	33%	23%	32%	30%	34%	41%	26%	33%	24%	31%
<b>Agree</b>	30%	28%	16%	31%	34%	33%	23%	15%	28%	22%	26%	24%	23%	32%
<b>Neither/ nor</b>	9%	7%	18%	14%	4%	5%	12%	15%	12%	5%	4%	10%	16%	11%
<b>Disagree</b>	7%	7%	8%	9%	7%	17%	13%	13%	10%	11%	19%	12%	8%	8%
<b>Strongly disagree</b>	10%	18%	35%	10%	22%	22%	18%	25%	14%	22%	22%	19%	28%	17%
<b>Don't know</b>	2%	1%	1%	-	-	-	2%	2%	1%	-	1%	1%	1%	-
<b>TOTAL AGREE</b>	<b>72%</b>	<b>67%</b>	<b>38%</b>	<b>67%</b>	<b>67%</b>	<b>56%</b>	<b>55%</b>	<b>45%</b>	<b>63%</b>	<b>62%</b>	<b>53%</b>	<b>57%</b>	<b>47%</b>	<b>63%</b>
<b>TOTAL DISAGREE</b>	<b>17%</b>	<b>25%</b>	<b>43%</b>	<b>19%</b>	<b>29%</b>	<b>39%</b>	<b>31%</b>	<b>38%</b>	<b>24%</b>	<b>32%</b>	<b>42%</b>	<b>31%</b>	<b>36%</b>	<b>25%</b>

## Net Zero and Climate Change

Q4: To what extent do you agree or disagree with the proposal on net zero and climate change for the Lancashire Combined County Authority?														
	Blackburn with Darwen Council	Blackpool Council	Burnley Borough Council	Chorley Council	Fylde Borough Council	Hyndburn Borough Council	Lancaster City Council	Pendle Borough Council	Preston City Council	Ribble Valley Borough Council	Rossendale Borough Council	South Ribble Borough Council	West Lancashire Borough	Wyre Borough Council
<b>Base</b>	109	103	117	140	128	64	175	53	172	73	73	181	108	87
<b>Strongly agree</b>	39%	23%	9%	33%	29%	19%	31%	30%	31%	37%	18%	30%	20%	26%
<b>Agree</b>	24%	24%	26%	20%	26%	30%	26%	19%	32%	22%	18%	25%	31%	28%
<b>Neither/ nor</b>	14%	17%	16%	24%	14%	17%	11%	13%	12%	16%	15%	18%	16%	20%
<b>Disagree</b>	6%	9%	15%	10%	6%	9%	10%	9%	10%	1%	21%	8%	8%	9%
<b>Strongly disagree</b>	17%	26%	32%	13%	25%	25%	21%	26%	13%	23%	29%	17%	21%	17%
<b>Don't know</b>	1%	-	1%	1%	-	-	1%	2%	1%	-	-	2%	3%	-
<b>TOTAL AGREE</b>	<b>63%</b>	<b>48%</b>	<b>35%</b>	<b>53%</b>	<b>55%</b>	<b>48%</b>	<b>57%</b>	<b>49%</b>	<b>63%</b>	<b>59%</b>	<b>36%</b>	<b>55%</b>	<b>52%</b>	<b>54%</b>
<b>TOTAL DISAGREE</b>	<b>22%</b>	<b>35%</b>	<b>48%</b>	<b>23%</b>	<b>31%</b>	<b>34%</b>	<b>31%</b>	<b>36%</b>	<b>23%</b>	<b>25%</b>	<b>49%</b>	<b>25%</b>	<b>30%</b>	<b>26%</b>

## Digital and Cyber

Q5: To what extent do you agree or disagree with the proposal on digital and cyber for the Lancashire Combined County Authority?														
	Blackburn with Darwen Council	Blackpool Council	Burnley Borough Council	Chorley Council	Fylde Borough Council	Hyndburn Borough Council	Lancaster City Council	Pendle Borough Council	Preston City Council	Ribble Valley Borough Council	Rossendale Borough Council	South Ribble Borough Council	West Lancashire Borough	Wyre Borough Council
<b>Base</b>	108	103	117	140	129	64	176	54	172	74	73	181	108	87
<b>Strongly agree</b>	38%	26%	9%	31%	33%	19%	26%	24%	31%	35%	22%	28%	18%	36%
<b>Agree</b>	30%	37%	21%	28%	35%	36%	30%	19%	37%	26%	23%	32%	29%	29%
<b>Neither/ nor</b>	12%	13%	22%	18%	7%	11%	12%	19%	11%	15%	16%	13%	18%	11%
<b>Disagree</b>	7%	10%	13%	13%	5%	11%	14%	11%	9%	7%	21%	9%	15%	9%
<b>Strongly disagree</b>	12%	15%	34%	9%	20%	23%	16%	26%	11%	15%	18%	15%	20%	14%
<b>Don't know</b>	1%	-	2%	1%	1%	-	2%	2%	1%	3%	-	2%	1%	1%
<b>TOTAL AGREE</b>	<b>68%</b>	<b>63%</b>	<b>29%</b>	<b>59%</b>	<b>67%</b>	<b>55%</b>	<b>56%</b>	<b>43%</b>	<b>68%</b>	<b>61%</b>	<b>45%</b>	<b>60%</b>	<b>46%</b>	<b>64%</b>
<b>TOTAL DISAGREE</b>	<b>19%</b>	<b>24%</b>	<b>47%</b>	<b>22%</b>	<b>25%</b>	<b>34%</b>	<b>30%</b>	<b>37%</b>	<b>20%</b>	<b>22%</b>	<b>38%</b>	<b>25%</b>	<b>35%</b>	<b>23%</b>

## Culture and Tourism

Q6. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the proposal on culture and tourism for the Lancashire Combined County Authority?														
	Blackburn with Darwen Council	Blackpool Council	Burnley Borough Council	Chorley Council	Fylde Borough Council	Hyndburn Borough Council	Lancaster City Council	Pendle Borough Council	Preston City Council	Ribble Valley Borough Council	Rosendale Borough Council	South Ribble Borough Council	West Lancashire Borough	Wyre Borough Council
<b>Base</b>	109	103	117	140	129	64	175	54	171	73	73	180	108	87
<b>Strongly agree</b>	39%	35%	11%	30%	32%	22%	32%	24%	34%	33%	27%	28%	22%	32%
<b>Agree</b>	28%	29%	25%	29%	31%	33%	25%	22%	33%	27%	29%	30%	20%	20%
<b>Neither/ nor</b>	16%	9%	18%	18%	12%	13%	10%	19%	11%	16%	12%	14%	21%	23%
<b>Disagree</b>	4%	12%	15%	11%	7%	8%	14%	9%	10%	10%	14%	12%	15%	11%
<b>Strongly disagree</b>	13%	16%	31%	11%	19%	25%	17%	24%	12%	14%	16%	14%	18%	14%
<b>Don't know</b>	1%	-	1%	2%	-	-	2%	2%	1%	-	1%	2%	4%	-
<b>TOTAL AGREE</b>	<b>67%</b>	<b>64%</b>	<b>36%</b>	<b>59%</b>	<b>63%</b>	<b>55%</b>	<b>57%</b>	<b>46%</b>	<b>67%</b>	<b>60%</b>	<b>56%</b>	<b>58%</b>	<b>43%</b>	<b>52%</b>
<b>TOTAL DISAGREE</b>	<b>17%</b>	<b>27%</b>	<b>45%</b>	<b>21%</b>	<b>26%</b>	<b>33%</b>	<b>31%</b>	<b>33%</b>	<b>22%</b>	<b>23%</b>	<b>30%</b>	<b>26%</b>	<b>32%</b>	<b>25%</b>

## Housing and Land

Q7. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the proposal on housing and land for the Lancashire Combined County Authority?														
	Blackburn with Darwen Council	Blackpool Council	Burnley Borough Council	Chorley Council	Fylde Borough Council	Hyndburn Borough Council	Lancaster City Council	Pendle Borough Council	Preston City Council	Ribble Valley Borough Council	Rossendale Borough Council	South Ribble Borough Council	West Lancashire Borough	Wyre Borough Council
<b>Base</b>	109	103	116	140	129	64	176	54	172	73	73	180	108	87
<b>Strongly agree</b>	34%	29%	11%	22%	26%	25%	26%	28%	28%	33%	16%	28%	19%	23%
<b>Agree</b>	23%	31%	15%	21%	25%	28%	22%	13%	24%	18%	27%	19%	24%	24%
<b>Neither/ nor</b>	15%	10%	18%	18%	12%	3%	10%	15%	10%	14%	14%	12%	16%	13%
<b>Disagree</b>	7%	9%	19%	14%	9%	16%	18%	13%	15%	12%	19%	12%	13%	14%
<b>Strongly disagree</b>	19%	20%	36%	23%	26%	28%	22%	30%	21%	23%	22%	26%	26%	26%
<b>Don't know</b>	2%	1%	1%	2%	2%	-	2%	2%	2%	-	1%	3%	3%	-
<b>TOTAL AGREE</b>	<b>57%</b>	<b>60%</b>	<b>26%</b>	<b>44%</b>	<b>51%</b>	<b>53%</b>	<b>48%</b>	<b>41%</b>	<b>52%</b>	<b>51%</b>	<b>44%</b>	<b>47%</b>	<b>43%</b>	<b>47%</b>
<b>TOTAL DISAGREE</b>	<b>27%</b>	<b>29%</b>	<b>55%</b>	<b>36%</b>	<b>36%</b>	<b>44%</b>	<b>40%</b>	<b>43%</b>	<b>35%</b>	<b>36%</b>	<b>41%</b>	<b>38%</b>	<b>39%</b>	<b>40%</b>

## Delivering our Ambitions

Q8. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the proposed delivery arrangements for the Lancashire Combined County Authority?														
	Blackburn with Darwen Council	Blackpool Council	Burnley Borough Council	Chorley Council	Fylde Borough Council	Hyndburn Borough Council	Lancaster City Council	Pendle Borough Council	Preston City Council	Ribble Valley Borough Council	Rosendale Borough Council	South Ribble Borough Council	West Lancashire Borough	Wyre Borough Council
<b>Base</b>	109	103	117	140	129	64	175	54	172	73	73	181	108	88
<b>Strongly agree</b>	30%	23%	7%	21%	23%	20%	21%	20%	22%	25%	12%	24%	13%	19%
<b>Agree</b>	32%	34%	16%	29%	30%	27%	25%	17%	34%	27%	25%	25%	23%	33%
<b>Neither/ nor</b>	17%	11%	17%	19%	15%	13%	16%	15%	13%	18%	19%	14%	23%	16%
<b>Disagree</b>	4%	10%	12%	11%	9%	9%	13%	15%	12%	8%	18%	9%	16%	9%
<b>Strongly disagree</b>	15%	22%	48%	20%	22%	31%	23%	31%	17%	21%	25%	25%	22%	22%
<b>Don't know</b>	2%	-	-	1%	1%	-	2%	2%	2%	1%	1%	2%	3%	1%
<b>TOTAL AGREE</b>	<b>62%</b>	<b>57%</b>	<b>23%</b>	<b>49%</b>	<b>53%</b>	<b>47%</b>	<b>46%</b>	<b>37%</b>	<b>56%</b>	<b>52%</b>	<b>37%</b>	<b>49%</b>	<b>36%</b>	<b>52%</b>
<b>TOTAL DISAGREE</b>	<b>18%</b>	<b>32%</b>	<b>60%</b>	<b>31%</b>	<b>31%</b>	<b>41%</b>	<b>35%</b>	<b>46%</b>	<b>30%</b>	<b>29%</b>	<b>42%</b>	<b>35%</b>	<b>38%</b>	<b>31%</b>

# Appendix E – Technical note on coding and interpreting the feedback received

## Receipt and handling of responses

The handling of responses to the public consultation was subject to a process of checking, logging and confirmation to ensure a full audit trail. All original electronic and hard copy responses were securely filed, catalogued and given a serial number for future reference, in line with requirements of the Data Protection Act (2018), and General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR).

## Analysis of responses

The process of analysing the content of each response was based on a system where unique summary 'codes' are applied to specific words or phrases contained in the text of the response. The application of these summary codes and sub-codes to the content of the responses allows systematic analysis of the data.

Ipsos developed an initial coding framework (i.e. a list of codes to be applied) based on the text of the first responses received. This initial set of codes was created by drawing out the common themes and points raised. The initial coding framework was then updated throughout the analysis process to ensure that any newly emerging themes were captured. Developing the coding framework in this way ensured that it would provide an accurate representation of what consultees said.

Ipsos used a web-based system called *Ascribe* to manage the coding of all the text to open/free-text question responses (including those received offline). Ascribe is a system which has been used on numerous large-scale public consultations. Responses were uploaded into the Ascribe system, where members of the Ipsos coding team worked systematically through the comments and applied a code to each relevant part(s) of them.

The Ascribe system allowed for detailed monitoring of coding progress, the organic development of the coding framework (i.e. the addition of new codes to new comments). A team of coders worked to review all of the responses as they were uploaded to the Ascribe system. The coding team were fully briefed on the scope of the consultation before they commenced work.

To ensure that no detail was lost, coders were briefed to raise codes that reflected the exact sentiment of a response, and these were then collapsed into a smaller number of key themes at the analysis stage to help with reporting. During the initial stages of the coding process, weekly meetings were held with the coding team to ensure consistent approach in raising new codes and to ensure that all additional codes were appropriately and consistently assigned.

## Interpreting the consultation findings

A public consultation is a valuable way to gather opinions about a topic, but there are a number of points to bear in mind when interpreting the responses received. While the consultation was open to everyone, those who provided a response were self-selecting, and certain categories of people may have been more likely to contribute than others. This means that the responses can never be 'representative' of the population as a whole, as would be the case with a representative sample survey.

Typically, with any consultation, there can be a tendency for responses to come from those more likely to consider themselves affected and more motivated to express their views.

It must be understood, therefore, that the consultation, as reflected through this report, can only aim to catalogue the various opinions of the members of the public and organisations who have chosen to respond to the consultation. It can never measure the exact strength of particular views or concerns amongst members of the local community, nor may the responses have fully explained the views of those responding on every relevant matter. It cannot, therefore, be taken as a comprehensive, representative statement of opinion.

While attempts are made to draw out the variations between the different audiences, it is important to note that responses are not directly comparable. Those who have provided their feedback will have chosen to access differing levels of information about the proposal. Some responses are therefore based on more information than others and may also reflect differing degrees of interest.

It is important to note that the aim of a public consultation is not to gauge the popularity of a proposal or proposals; rather it is a process for identifying new and relevant information that should be considered in the decision-making process. All relevant issues are, therefore, considered equally, whether they are raised by a single consultee or a majority of consultees. A consultation is not a referendum.

## Respondents vs. comments made

Please note that throughout the report, findings are reported on in terms of the number of consultees (or respondents) who made comments, and/or the number of comments made. It is important to bear in mind that a consultee can make both positive and negative comments, as well as suggestions and other comments. When numbers are mentioned, the report makes clear that this is either the number of consultees who made comments, or the number of comments made. This will explain why for example that the number of comments made will generally add up to more than the number of consultees who made comments. It is important to bear this in mind when interpreting the consultation findings.

## Organisational responses

Those who responded on behalf of an organisation or group were classified as responses from organisations and representative groups. Those classified as organisations included businesses, elected representatives, community groups, and local government organisations (including county, district, parish and town councils).



The response form asked consultees to indicate whether they were responding on behalf of a business or organisation, or as an individual. Those who said they were responding on behalf of a business or organisation were generally classified as a organisations and representative groups, unless it was clear from their response that they were actually members of the public.

The response form asked organisations to indicate the category of organisation they felt best described themselves from a pre-determined list. For the purposes of consistency of reporting, Ipsos has occasionally chosen to reallocate organisations to a different category to the one that they self-selected. However, consultees' own selections have been largely respected. Organisations that responded by email were allocated to categories by Ipsos, to the best of its judgement.

### **General public responses**

Those who said they were providing their own response in the online and paper response form were generally classified as members of the public, unless it was clear from their response that they were responding on behalf of a group or organisation (i.e. they self-identified as such on the tick-box question on the response form). Those who responded by email were classified as members of the public, unless it was clear that they were responding on behalf of an organisation or group.

Where two or more responses were received from the same organisation, Ipsos reviewed each response and made a decision as to which was the official response and which was not. Those that were considered not to be representing the organisation were then categorised as responses from individuals / members of the public. Their responses are still included in the report, but not attributed to the organisation they were claiming to be responding on behalf of. There cannot be more than one official response from an organisation.

