

Annex B: Geography proposal response template
LEP Name: Greater Lincolnshire Local Enterprise Partnership

Please outline the LEP's plans to address the geography recommendations below, noting the guidance provided by the Unit. In your response, you should outline any key milestones, risks and issues.

Proposals should be submitted to LEPpolicy@communities.gsi.gov.uk **no later than 28 September 2018**, copying in your Area Lead.

Geography

Recommendation:

As Local Enterprise Partnerships are central to future economic growth, Government will ask Local Enterprise Partnership Chairs and local stakeholders to come forward with considered **proposals by the end of September on geographies which best reflect real functional economic areas, remove overlaps and, where appropriate, propose wider changes such as mergers.** ...These proposals should be submitted by 28 September 2018. Government will respond to these proposals in the autumn and future capacity funding will be contingent on successfully achieving this.

Information required in geography proposal:

All LEPs should outline their response to the Government's recommendations on geography no later than **28 September 2018**.

Those LEPs proposing geography changes should provide detail of the proposed changes.

In your response you should outline why these changes would be suitable for your local area. These proposals should include timescales for the transition to different geographies. LEPs should work with the LEP Network and neighbouring LEPs to ensure a shared understanding of the geography changes being proposed exists.

For LEPs who are proposing no changes you should respond briefly outlining why no change is required. For LEPs in MCA areas, these proposals should consider the current relationship between the MCA and LEP geographies. All LEPs should aim to have revised geographies (if required), by **spring 2020**.

LEP response

Please outline the LEP's response to the recommendation. The response should consider the information required, outlined above:

A task and finish group of the LEP Board has undertaken a review of LEP geography. It considered five options for functional economic geography and tested their workability (scale and ambition, deliverability, and views of stakeholders), and also reviewed proposals

for enhanced collaboration – these are included in Appendix 1.

Rutland County Council has also confirmed an "in principle" interest in joining Greater Lincolnshire LEP, with which it has a history of joint working (notably on employment and skills) and sectoral commonalities (Housing growth, Manufacturing, Food, and Visitor Economy)

Ultimately, two proposals were submitted to and agreed by the full LEP board on 21st September, namely:

1 Greater Lincolnshire LEP (and Rutland)

Greater Lincolnshire is a real and natural economic functional area with a clear cultural identity. It has a high level of self-containment (average figure of 90%) and high geographical and sectorial similarity. Greater Lincolnshire's economic strategy sees North and North East Lincolnshire, the areas of overlap, as key areas for growth, and has invested significant sums (£32 million and £30 million respectively).

The Greater Lincolnshire LEP proposal for geography includes all 11 Lincolnshire and Rutland local authorities. The LEP Board **strongly supports** the Greater Lincolnshire geography along with stakeholders from the public sector, business community, business representative organisations, and HE and FE. The LEP Board is supportive of the addition of Rutland.

Many existing external organisations and partnerships operate at this spatial level, such as the Leaders Board, Federation of Colleges, Nature Partnerships, sector groups and Business rep organisations. A number of other programmes have or are being developed within this geography, such as DFE pilots, Institutes of Technology, Growth Hubs etc,

Greater Lincolnshire has a strong track record of strategy formulation and delivery, and is well placed to implement the LEP review, and immediately deliver future local growth funding and UK SPF.

2 Humber and Lincolnshire merger (and Rutland)

The preferred option of the LEP is a Greater Lincolnshire LEP. A second option was considered and supported by the Greater Lincolnshire LEP Board, a merger that would both deliver the removal of the overlapping geography, and the creation of a larger and ambitious LEP, creating an economic corridor between the Northern Powerhouse and the Midlands Engine – an eastern gateway. The Humber and Lincolnshire geography passes the functional economic test with little impact on the strategy and very similar containment, economies, issues and opportunities. **Appendix one explores this further.**

Key milestones

Please indicate any key milestones the LEP is required to meet to address the above recommendation:

- Response from government tbc
- Follow up meeting with the Humber and Government
- Revised proposals November 2018 Board meeting
- Progress Rutland proposals – December 2018
- LEP Board agreement to proposals (depending on proposals) – January Board meeting 2018
- Amend mem and arts to reflect geography and LEP Review – Agree at LEP Directors Board during January 2019
- Undertake review including Implications for Projects, Single Local Growth Fund, dowry – January 2019
- Agree formal collaboration proposals with neighbouring LEP's and agree at LEP Board, and Lincolnshire Leaders Board – January/Feb 2019
- Special AGM to agree the Implementation of geography – February 2018
- Implementation End of March 2019
- Operational in New Financial Year 1st April 2019
- Transition period to implement strategy focus such as SEP, skills strategies, membership of LEP strategy groups – during 2019 until December 2019 – utilising additional funding

Key risks and/or issues

Please indicate any risks or issues that may prevent the LEP meeting the recommendation above. The LEP should also outline how it is mitigating these risks.

- Timely response to the proposal from government
- Additional Resource required to implement both geography proposals and implementation of the LEP Review. Recruit additional resource as a compliance manager within the team.
- Greater Lincs, Humber and HMG being unable to agree a georgraphy that is acceptable to all parties.
- Agreement to proposal from local partners – open communication and stakeholder engagement from the LEP executive team