



**Engineering
the Future**



Greater Lincolnshire: The Wise Business Choice

Greater Lincolnshire has built on its long engineering and manufacturing heritage to become an important business hub that is home to some cutting-edge companies.

Lincolnshire, North Lincolnshire and North East Lincolnshire offer scores of opportunities to boost your business.

Whether you're a new start-up looking to invest in an expanding area, or a larger firm hoping to take advantage of Lincoln's new Teal Park development – an 87.5-acre site ideal for the engineering sector – there's something for you in Greater Lincolnshire.

Businesses also have the chance to collaborate with the University of Lincoln's purpose-built School of Engineering for research and development.

Developments at the Port of Grimsby and Immingham are also seeing huge strides being made in engineering the future of renewable energy in North-East Lincolnshire, while North Lincolnshire's rich industrial and agricultural heritage has provided a solid foundation for today's successful metals and advanced engineering sector.

The manufacturing and engineering sectors in Greater Lincolnshire employ around 39,000 workers delivering a direct economic value to the local economy of £1.8 billion per year. The Greater Lincolnshire LEP is committed to growing those sectors to increase output and investment. We want to encourage companies to do business with existing firms, as well as attract inward investment.

Our aim is to make the area the heartbeat of the engineering and manufacturing sector in England – and we look forward to helping you get here.

"We have specialist requirements for very highly skilled fabricators, machinists and other craftsmen. We've always found the local people to have very good skills and experience."
Pilbeam Racing Design Ltd,
Lincolnshire

Linking Greater Lincolnshire to the rest of the world

Greater Lincolnshire stretches from the Humber bank in the north to the Wash in the south. It offers a mix of beautiful and diverse countryside, historic buildings, big skies and busy market towns, but it's also a fast-growing economy where unemployment and crime rates are low and schools are well above average.

It is in a prime location, benefiting from a good rail network, access to five international airports and ferry services for both freight cargo and passengers at a number of ports.

The area is well placed to service other major cities such as Leicester, Sheffield, Peterborough, Leeds, Hull and Norwich using the major road links including the newly dualled A46, the M1 and the M180. Transport connections tend to be significantly less congested than those of the south east, making it easier to commute and move goods around.

Lincolnshire is one of the UK's most important agricultural areas, supporting world-class businesses in the packaging, food processing, fertilisers, agricultural machinery and distribution sectors.

To the north, Scunthorpe is a largely industrial town and the UK's third largest centre for steel making, while the Port of Grimsby and Immingham combine to form the UK's largest port by tonnage. The north-east of the region also has one of the biggest concentrations of food manufacturing, research, storage and distribution firms in Europe, while chemical processing and manufacture is another important high-tech industry on the south bank of the Humber.



Key facts

- Population of more than one million people and diverse businesses interests
- 15% of employees work in manufacturing
- Potential to be renewable energy capital of the UK
- Excellent local engineering skills base
- Pioneered the first purpose-built engineering school in 20 years at the University of Lincoln
- There is a higher than average number of SMEs and small businesses



THE SKILLS POOL

Finding the right people to help boost your business can be a challenge – but a thriving skills pool means you can draw on talent that's on your doorstep.

University of Lincoln School of Engineering

In spring 2009 the University of Lincoln and Siemens agreed a £37.5m collaborative venture to establish the first new school of engineering in the UK for over 20 years.

The school has now established itself, employing world-class experts in gas combustion and related technologies and producing industry-ready graduates. It has been supported with contributions from the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE), the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and the local authorities, among others.

The school's purpose-built Lincoln Engineering Hub, which provides space to co-locate Siemens' international customer training team and combines state-of-the-art R&D and teaching facilities, was completed in 2011.

The relationship with Siemens has rapidly established the school at the heart of the engineering cluster, locally and regionally, already engaging with more than 400 engineering businesses and organisations. This has included commissioned research with major names such as Marks & Spencer and Mitsubishi, Knowledge Transfer Partnerships and access to part-time degrees. Income has totalled £1.6 million in the first three years and is growing rapidly.

The partnership between the school and Siemens was recognised in 2011 with the prestigious Lord Stafford Open Collaboration Award and in 2012 with a Times Higher Education award for Outstanding Employer Engagement. In September 2013 the school's first cohort of students graduated at Lincoln Cathedral, and nine of the graduates went on to join the renowned Siemens graduate scheme.

Forming part of the larger campus development, the Lincoln School of Engineering has taken its place in a truly 21st century university environment.

“With the recent opening of the School of Engineering at the University of Lincoln we have had access to research and development on our doorstep. This has had significant benefits, including easy co-location and co-operation of teams, enabling university research to be carried out on real live hardware and the alignment of research methods for easy approval and introduction.”
Siemens, Lincolnshire



Further Education

As well as higher education training, Greater Lincolnshire is investing in the skills pool from school age.

Plans are under way to create a new University Technical College (UTC) in Lincoln which will offer a fresh pool of graduates for engineering companies to recruit from.

The project, aimed at inspiring a new generation of engineering and scientific talent in the region, is supported by the University of Lincoln, working with lead partners Siemens and Lincoln College, and a range of local companies. It will specialise in engineering and core science.

University Technical Colleges are a new initiative in high-quality technical schooling for 14 to 19-year-old students, promoted by the Baker Dearing Educational Trust. Learning at UTCs is delivered in a very practical way, integrating National Curriculum requirements with technical and vocational elements. The UTC ethos and curriculum will be heavily influenced by local and national employers who also provide support and work inspiration for students.

Other existing courses include a BTEC National Diploma in engineering at Lincoln College. The course is day release and aimed at mechanical engineering technicians employed in design, manufacturing, maintenance, energy supply industries, the Royal Air Force, regional hospitals or local authorities.

North Lindsey College has a range of courses including foundation degrees in mechanical and electrical engineering. Training at Boston College includes engineering diplomas as well as apprenticeships schemes, which local employers are encouraged to support. New College Stamford is also catering for the renewable energy sector with its course Level 3 Extended Diploma in Renewable Energy, while Grantham College offers more than 20 courses in the engineering and manufacturing sectors.



National Centre for Food Manufacture

The word 'food' has long been synonymous with Lincolnshire. The industry contributes an estimated £1 billion to the county's economy and is the third biggest sector in terms of value and employment, with around 35,000 people working in agriculture or food production.

On top of this, thousands more work in related fields such as farm equipment manufacturing, distribution, packaging and food importation. This is where a dedicated facility which offers training, support and access to hi-tech facilities comes in.

The National Centre for Food Manufacturing (NCFM) at the University of Lincoln's Holbeach campus helps ensure that businesses operating in the area can access state-of-the-art advice, equipment and support.

The campus serves the UK's largest concentration of food manufacturing businesses and provides purpose-built facilities including a product development kitchen, food manufacturing hall, conference rooms and food microbiology and chemistry analytical labs.

The centre actively works with local companies to undertake technical projects tackling some of the challenges facing the food industry today, including new product development and food testing.

Services offered by the NCFM team include support in creating a new product, guidance on consumer research, product benchmarking and market analysis. Other services include advice on legislation, risk assessments, crisis management and quality assurance policies, as well as operations and infrastructure advice on building factories, machinery and product process design and manufacturing techniques.

The range of support available is broad and is aimed at any size of organisation. In some circumstances financial support can be attracted to support the consultancy process.

34% of England's fresh produce comes from East of England, including Lincolnshire



Images courtesy of Ishida Europe

Lincolnshire

From aeroplanes and tanks to gas turbines, Lincolnshire has an engineering heritage dating back centuries – and it's still going strong.

Lincolnshire-based companies have paved the way for creating a reputation in the sector which is second-to-none. Be it design engineering, advanced materials and manufacturing, these businesses are renowned for their innovation and commitment to research and development.

The sector employs around 12,900 people in Lincolnshire alone and brings in approximately £550 million to the local economy every year.

The Greater Lincolnshire LEP is working hard to create an environment which encourages inward investment and allows businesses to see the benefit of bringing their manufacturing and engineering efforts to the area. The aim is to continue to develop innovative ideas and put Lincolnshire on the map as a global manufacturing hub.

Demand for UK-manufactured goods is ever increasing, with more and more firms seeking out products that have been developed in Britain so they can feel confident they are getting a pedigree of design and development stretching back hundreds of years.

Confidence in the area's manufacturing industry has been boosted by gas turbine giant Siemens, which invested millions into a new development at Teal Park near Lincoln. The business had been looking to expand its operations and opted for Teal Park after deciding it offered the best opportunities for expansion following the UK-wide search for a new site.

You will be in great company in Lincolnshire, with businesses including Hoval, Mastenbroek Ltd, Micrometric, Pilbeam Racing Designs and Siemens.

In 1905 Richard Hornsby & Sons, an agricultural machine company based in Grantham, developed the caterpillar track design for their tractors





Dynex Semiconductor Ltd

Dynex Semiconductor Ltd was established in 2000 when Dynex Power Inc – a small, publicly quoted Canadian company – formed Dynex Semiconductor Ltd to purchase the assets of Mitel Semiconductors, and subsequently all operations were consolidated at Lincoln

In 2008 a Chinese railway systems company – CSR Times Electric – brought a 75% share in Dynex, and has supported its growth and expansion at Lincoln. Employing more than 300 people at its Lincoln site, Dynex is one of Greater Lincolnshire's most successful businesses.

Increasing its turnover from £22.8 million in 2011 to £24.9 million in 2012 – the eighth successive year it has seen growth – the company has also shown a commitment to remaining in the area by expanding its R&D activity.

This has included developing new power products and undertaking research into new semiconductor technologies to match demand from its customers. It has contracts on a global level to deliver new products and technologies for the power electronic systems sectors.

Customers are primarily original equipment manufacturers (OEMs) and maintenance providers across the following industries: rail, electric power transmission and distribution, renewables, steel and mining, marine, factory automation, automotive and aero sectors.

www.dynexsemi.com

Clayton & Shuttleworth, based in Lincoln, built Howitzer guns and the Vickers bomber during the Second World War



BGB Innovation

BGB Innovation launched in 1976 and has been based in Grantham for more than 20 years.

Its core business is the design and manufacture of electrical and electronic slip ring assemblies and associated components, underwater lighting and monitoring systems. The company's biggest sector is the energy market, namely wind energy. BGB designs and manufactures its own tooling, produces its own prototypes and then follows the process through to production.

BGB has established itself as a key player in the global exports market, working across countries including Australia, Chile, China, Denmark, France, India, Korea, Mexico and the Netherlands. The export side of the business accounts for more than 90 per cent of BGB's £19 million turnover.

With 102 staff already working at its existing site, BGB Innovation is also planning to expand its operations by investing in a two-storey, 7,000 square foot extension. The development will allow BGB to move all pieces of plant and machinery into a more efficient and lean layout. Work is expected to begin in January 2014.

A further development of another two-storey building, this time an office, is also planned for 2016 to accommodate increased numbers of staff such as admin, sales, design engineering and R&D.

www.bgbinnovation.com



TEAL PARK, LINCOLN:

Inspiring business growth in Lincolnshire

Teal Park is a fully serviced 87.5 acre (35.4 hectare) commercial development owned by established Lincoln-based developers Taylor Lindsey, which is working in partnership with Lincolnshire County Council.

Since it opened, Teal Park has become a new base for industrial gas turbine giant Siemens, which took occupation of a new 155,000 sq ft facility in October 2012. The remainder of Teal Park is suitable for a variety of commercial uses and will be capable of supporting up to 4,000 jobs.

New buildings will be constructed to occupiers' requirements and offered to let, normally on a full repairing and insuring lease and for a minimum term of 10 years. Freehold sales of completed buildings may also be considered.

The sole marketing agents for the site are Hodgson Elkington LLP, Lincoln-based commercial agents which have worked closely with Taylor Lindsey and the council to move the project forward. On-going negotiations are progressing with a number of other potential occupiers considering a move to Teal Park.

It is located on Whisby Road, to the south-west of Lincoln city centre, in the city's prime commercial and business district. Linked directly to the A46 Lincoln bypass, it provides excellent road access to the M1 at Leicester, the A1 at Newark, the north via the A15 to the M180 Humber Bridge and ports of Immingham, Grimsby and Hull. The port of Boston is also accessible to the east, while regional airports at East Midlands and Humberside are also a short trip away.

Key facts about Teal Park

- Total investment of £500 million on completion
- Largest employment park in the East Midlands offering access to markets in the Midlands
- Delivered by a private and public sector partnership

"Teal Park has the potential to attract £500m of business investment in the next 10 to 15 years. Lincolnshire County Council is proud to be part of this exciting project."

Paul Wheatley, Head of Regeneration, Lincolnshire County Council



North East Lincolnshire

Renewable and bio energy are two of the fastest growing sectors in the engineering industry and North East Lincolnshire's coastal location means it's perfectly placed to take advantage.

Within North East Lincolnshire, the ports of Immingham and Grimsby have emerged as the destination of choice for a large number of blue chip energy firms working in the offshore wind industry - Centrica, E.ON and Dong have all chosen to locate there. Siemens could also soon be investing up to £300 million in offshore projects in the area.

North East Lincolnshire's geographical position plays a key role in making it stand out: Grimsby is an ideal base for construction, service and operational staff working on the wind farms along the east coast.

The coastline falls into the Humber Enterprise Zone, an initiative which has the full support of the Greater Lincolnshire LEP. The Humber offers the UK's largest development sites available adjacent to a deep water port. At 484 hectares, equivalent to 780 football pitches, the Enterprise Zone offers original equipment manufacturers (OEMs) and their supply chains the opportunity to co-locate, resulting in cost reductions on a major scale.

A key benefit of development land within the Enterprise Zone is the simplified planning process, speeding up the construction of sites for tenants. Businesses can also access an allowance of £50 million in their first year for plant and machinery equipment. Property tax breaks of up to €400,000 over five years are also available, making it an ideal place to relocate.

Other industries also thrive in North East Lincolnshire, including petrochemicals, commodity and speciality chemicals, composite materials, pigments and paints and pharmaceuticals.

Its food manufacturing and processing sectors are also big business in the area. With the increase in economic activity North East Lincolnshire is rising to the challenge of equipping the local population with the right mix of engineering and technical skills to support growth. Whatever the area of your engineering speciality, there is something for you in North East Lincolnshire.





Waldeck

For almost 15 years multi-disciplinary consulting engineering firm Waldeck has been at the fore of the renewable and low carbon energy sector. It has established centres of excellence in Hull, Grimsby and Lincoln as well as London and Taunton providing advisory services to clients in the wind, biomass and nuclear generation markets.

Waldeck is currently involved in several major UK renewable energy projects including a £175 million wind turbine manufacturing facility in Hull, a £65 million renewable fuels terminal in Immingham and a £150 million new build wood pellet burning combined heat and power energy centre - also in Hull.

In addition to low carbon and sustainability consultancy, Waldeck also offers civil and structural and mechanical and electrical engineering and has worked in a wide range of sectors including heavy manufacturing in the food, automotive and pharmaceutical industry and multi-modal logistics.

For clients looking for a complete service from inception to completion, Waldeck's Total Project Solutions team can manage the entire project. This offers the advantage of being able to draw upon the firm's multitude of professional in-house disciplines while only having to deal with a single point of contact.

Waldeck also specialises in Building Information Modelling (BIM) and has integrated it across the business to help increase efficiency and bring added value to construction projects.

Waldeck is currently working on the redevelopment of London Bridge Station which was recently named BIM Initiative of the Year at the prestigious Building Awards 2013.

The firm was appointed by Charcon Specialist Products to design and detail the pre-cast concrete platforms and using Tekla BIM software has produced a detailed, as-built 3D model of the station.

To further capitalise on the opportunities being created in the construction sector by the rise of the digital economy Waldeck has also set up a BIM Academy to upskill young people coming into the profession.

The students will initially be trained in CAD (computer aided design) and will then progress to BIM and have the opportunity to work on real-life projects.

In addition to its centres in Hull, Grimsby, Lincoln, London and Taunton, Waldeck has offices in Birmingham, Bristol, Nottingham, Peterborough, Sleaford, Sheffield and Warrington.

www.waldeckconsulting.com



Blackrow Engineering

Established in 1980, Blackrow Engineering has evolved to become a leading brand in the engineering industry.

As a global service provider to a wide range of industries, the company employs just under 150 people, ranging from apprentice electricians, fabricators and designers to draughtsmen and project managers.

Commanding a 100,000 square foot engineering facility on the south bank of the River Humber, Blackrow boasts excellent connections to all parts of the UK by road and rail, as well as direct access to the country's largest port at Grimsby. This location means as well as working across the UK, the company regularly works globally with clients in USA, Europe and Asia.

Last year, its global trade grew even further when a Blackrow Engineering team undertook a £5 million project in the Democratic Republic of Congo. They are about to begin a software project in Hong Kong for the national Mass Transit Railway (MTR), further strengthening their brand and reputation.

Other projects include manufacturing and installing a 40MW waste-to-energy plant in Birmingham. The project will encompass all of Blackrow Engineering's skill set and will further entrench the eight-year relationship with the client. Two more plants are in the pipeline over the next two years in Liverpool and London

The scope of the facility means that on site there is a 9,000sqm fabrication zone, equipped with 10 and 20 tonne overhead cranes, which enables the firm's metal workers, fabricators and pipe fitters to manufacture products on a large scale.

As a multi-disciplinary engineering services provider, Blackrow Engineering can draw upon a range of skills and expertise which sees them work across the food, renewables, power generation and petrochemical sectors.

Services include the design and manufacture of conveyor systems, food handling machinery and process lines, heavy fabrication, on-site installations, machining, laser cutting, electrical contracting and software work with control and automation systems. Blackrow also has a health and safety consultancy business called Group Safety Services. The business offers support ranging from health and safety policy development through to managing health and safety projects.

www.blackrow.com



North Lincolnshire

A rich industrial and agricultural heritage has provided a solid foundation for today's successful engineering industry in North Lincolnshire. The jewel in the area's economic crown is the wealth of experience and opportunities offered in the metals and advanced engineering sector.

With more than 80 businesses employing almost 6,000 people, the area provides instant access to an established support infrastructure – not to mention significant operational advantages with the ports of Grimsby and Immingham on the doorstep.

Businesses looking to engage with those in the sector will find something for them here, while there is also an opportunity to establish a presence themselves in what is a growing engineering hub.

Expertise in the area includes a full spectrum of specialist products and services from design, fabrication, manufacturing and assembly operations through to project management, installation, maintenance and repair.

Many of these skills are well established in North Lincolnshire's strong offshore gas and oil exploration industries. This offers an advantage for anyone working in the fields of civil engineering, special marine coating, lifting and safety equipment, supply and servicing, and non-destructive testing.

North Lincolnshire businesses have also become synonymous with cutting-edge techniques and take a global lead in advancing the technology and supply of the oil and gas industry as well as the chemical and utilities sectors.

One of the world's top 10 steel producers, Tata Steel, is also based in the heart of Scunthorpe, supplying steel for construction, shipbuilding, rail track and wind turbines on the European mainland.

A strong support network provided by groups such as the Team Humber Marine Alliance and Invest in North Lincolnshire is also available for businesses, offering expert advice and guidance.

"Since establishing ATC in 2006, we have found there to be a wide range of very high quality business support networks and groups. These include North Lincolnshire Council, North Lincolnshire Business Network, the Kingsway Business Centre, Hull Chamber of Commerce and the Federation of Small Businesses."

**Mandy Torn, Director,
A Torn Construction Ltd,
North Lincolnshire**



Tata Steel

The history of steel in Scunthorpe dates back to the mid-1800s and Tata Steel took over the Scunthorpe steelworks in 2007. It is an established global brand with a 2,000-acre site boasting a 15-mile perimeter, containing 100 miles of rail and 39 miles of road. The largest building on the site, the Basic Oxygen Steelmaking plant, could house St Paul's Cathedral!

The integrated steelmaking site is one of Britain's busiest manufacturing locations and the firm's raw materials and finished goods account for more than 60 per cent of the cargo shipped up and down the River Humber. These materials are imported from countries around the world such as Australia, Brazil, Poland and Canada.

The facility is completely self-sufficient for gas and 70 per cent self-sufficient for electricity.

Steel produced in Scunthorpe is used in everything from ship building and wind farm towers to the steel wire used to hold the Humber Bridge up.

The section mill produces construction steel which is often the material of choice for demanding projects such as the Olympic Park in London and the Shard building, while the plate steel, some of which has been designed to withstand Antarctic conditions at the South Pole, is used to make diggers and bulldozers as well as going into electricity power stations.

In the next year Tata Steel will be supplying train tracks to Saudi Arabia which will be laid across the desert from Medina to Mecca.

With around 4,000 employees and a further 2,500 contractors working from the site, Tata Steel has the ability to make around three million tonnes of steel each year and is one of only two integrated steelworks in the UK. The other is the Tata Steel plant in Port Talbot.

www.tatasteeleurope.com





The Supply Chain

Engineering a great product is only one half of the job – the second is getting it to its destination. This is where a well-established supply chain network across Greater Lincolnshire comes in.

Whether you're moving car parts, turbines, steel work or plastic mouldings, the overseas market is readily accessible from the ports of Grimsby and Immingham, which combine to form the UK's largest port by tonnage, handling up to 55 million tonnes of cargo each year.

At the Grimsby port there is a major focus on the handling of imported trade cars, with more than 600,000 vehicles imported through Grimsby each year. The Association of British Ports, which runs the site, is also about to embark on a £25 million investment in the development of the Grimsby Riverside Terminal in order to handle the largest car carriers in operation.

Immingham is the UK's premier energy port, handling oil and petrochemicals, coal, iron ore, and renewable fuels for industry. The location of the ports also place Greater Lincolnshire at the forefront of supplying people and parts for offshore wind farms and oil rigs.

There are currently plans underway to create the world's biggest offshore wind farm off the Lincolnshire coast called Triton Knoll, which will see 288 giant wind turbines created for the £3.6bn project.

A rail freight hub in Immingham also means products can get to the ports from anywhere in the UK, as well as be distributed throughout the country after they have been imported. Greater Lincolnshire is also well placed when it comes to accessing the UK's road network. The M180 helps link North and North East Lincolnshire to rest of Northern England, while further south there is the recently dualled A46 taking cargo south and linking to the M1.

Cadbury's Roses chocolates are named after William Rose of Gainsborough who invented a machine for wrapping sweets



Lifestyle

It's the perfect location: wide open spaces, a high quality of life and friendly people. Greater Lincolnshire is one of the best places in the UK to live, with a competitive housing market, good transport network, historical attractions, a bustling waterfront in Lincoln city centre and stunning coastal sites.

From the Humber to the Wash there are more than 50 miles of coastline, combining traditional seaside resorts such as Cleethorpes in North East Lincolnshire and Skegness, Mablethorpe and Sutton-on-Sea in Lincolnshire, which hold the coveted Blue Flag status, which is only awarded to the country's best beaches. The miles of secluded sandy beaches and nature reserves also include Donna Nook and Gibraltar Point.

History and heritage is brought alive in Lincolnshire, with Lincoln's magnificent cathedral and castle, while North Lincolnshire offers a wealth of cultural opportunities including art galleries and the £14m Baths Hall entertainment centre. The jewel in North Lincolnshire's crown, however, has to be Normanby Hall Country Park, with 300 acres of parkland and gardens, while those looking for a business meeting on the golf course will be well catered for at the prestigious 27-hole championship golf course at Forest Pines Hotel & Golf Resort.

Greater Lincolnshire is an area of contrasts, and that variety is reflected in the housing stock that's available. You can pick from an extensive range of Victorian and Edwardian houses in mature, sought-after locations and boasting many original features, or go for a quiet coastal retreat or country pile – and all within easy reach of good road networks, rail links, and airports.

Whatever your choice, you will pay a below-average price compared to elsewhere in the UK. Indeed, in March 2013, the average house price in North Lincolnshire was £97,457 – more than £60,000 less than the UK average.

Access to good education is also a crucial factor for many people when considering where to live. The schools in Greater Lincolnshire are among the best in the country, while there are also a number of colleges offering a wide range of courses and two well established universities. Whatever your reason for moving to Greater Lincolnshire, you'll be met with a lifestyle that's as busy or relaxed as you want it to be.

Why do companies invest in the UK?

Highly Cost-Effective

The UK provides an unrivalled and highly cost-effective environment for global companies to thrive. It is a recognised leader in the fields of creativity and innovation, and is the sixth largest economy in the world.

The World Bank report 'Doing Business 2013' states that the UK is the best place to do business in the European Union (EU), second only to Denmark; the UK also remained the most successful country in Europe at attracting Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in 2012 according to the Ernst and Young European Attractiveness Survey 2013.

Setting Up a Business

According to the World Bank, the UK is one of the easiest places to set up and run a business in Europe. It ranks third in Europe and seventh in the world for ease of doing business.

Flexible Workforce

The UK's labour market is one of the world's most flexible. This combined with its strong skills base results in its excellent record of attracting major organisations from all over the world.

Internationally Competitive for Tax

The UK is extremely competitive for tax. It has one of the lowest main corporate tax rates in the EU, generous tax allowances and competitive personal rates. The UK boasts the most extensive network of double taxation treaties in the world and low social welfare contributions. It also has the fewest barriers to entrepreneurship in the world and has the third fewest barriers to trade and investment in the world.

A Springboard for Europe

The UK is a great access point to the 27 member states of the EU. It offers world-class transport links, and more expansions are planned for international airports, ports and the rail network.

High Quality of Life

UK residents enjoy a high standard of living, education and recreation. Publicly funded health care is free to all. The UK also has an abundance of cultural heritage sites along with excellent leisure provision.

"The Lincoln Engineering Breakfast meetings are an opportunity for local companies to come together to network, and above all create a strong infrastructure for success. By acting together shared opportunities arise."

Andrew Vaughan, Chair of Lincoln Engineering Breakfast Group



Advice and support

The Greater Lincolnshire LEP is a private and public sector partnership which lobbies for better business conditions and improved infrastructure. The organisation is there to help you and your business succeed, and has a number of advice and support networks it can signpost you to.

Relocating your business to Greater Lincolnshire – or doing business with companies already operating here – is made easier by the wealth of support and expert advice available for free.

Accessing the portals available, you can get the information you need on Greater Lincolnshire's economy and cost base, its thriving companies, communications networks, education and training facilities.

1. Advice on investments and business development in Lincolnshire can be found through Select Lincolnshire for Business, a Lincolnshire County Council initiative which aims to encourage and nurture new businesses in the county. Visit the business pages at www.selectlincolnshire.com for more details and follow @Lovelincsbiz on Twitter.

2. North Lincolnshire Council offers a range of services and advice for businesses, including advice on relocation sites, finance, networking and investment opportunities. All the help and support can be accessed on www.investinnorthlincolnshire.co.uk or by calling 01724 297330.

3. Those looking to invest in the North East Lincolnshire area can also learn more about the sites which are ripe for development, businesses already operating in the local area and how to access support from the local authority. Contact the North East Lincolnshire Council Inward Investment team on 01472 324615 or email business@nelincs.gov.uk.

The first barcodes were printed in Boston by Norprint with a small shop in Spalding being the first place that barcodes were ever used in Britain in 1979



