



### Challenges facing the sector

Despite these strengths the sector faces challenges including the need for more connections between research and industry; weak road linkages to national markets; long-term pressures on water supply; an over-reliance on migrant workers; and relatively low levels of investment in technology compared to some overseas competitors.

The Greater Lincolnshire food sector must therefore be ambitious and deliver a clear plan to sustain its market-leading position.



### We need your input

Despite the good progress we have made, the targets for the Greater Lincolnshire food sector remain challenging and will require continued efforts by everyone. If you believe that you can help us, or have project ideas that would help to deliver the vision we have for the food chain, we would be delighted to speak to you.

To see the full Agri-food Sector Plan please visit the Greater Lincolnshire LEP website

[www.greaterlincolnshirelep.co.uk/growth/agri-food](http://www.greaterlincolnshirelep.co.uk/growth/agri-food)





# An ambitious vision for Greater Lincolnshire's agri-food sector

## The Agri-food Sector Plan 2014-2020

The Greater Lincolnshire Local Enterprise Partnership's Agri-food Sector Plan sets out a vision for how Greater Lincolnshire will enable future expansion of the food chain through investment by the private and public sector.

The vision for the Greater Lincolnshire agri-food sector is:

The Greater Lincolnshire agri-food sector will double its contribution to the economy by 2030 through an ambitious programme of investment in productive capacity, skills and knowledge to drive an increase in high-value-added sales to UK and export markets.

To deliver this vision the industry will, by 2030, work to:

- Reinforce its position as the national centre for investment in high-value agri-food production in sectors including fresh produce, fish, poultry, ornamentals and arable crops
- Increase employment by over 10% and GVA per employee by over 75% by raising skills levels and using new technology



- Exploit direct motorway links to the Midlands, London and the south east to replace 10% of UK manufactured food imports with Lincolnshire produce
- Treble exports of food and drink from the Greater Lincolnshire LEP area by building on the area's ports to service priority markets in northern Europe and emerging economies.



## The food and drink sector

The UK food and drink sector has grown faster than any other major industry in the last eight years and is the UK's largest manufacturing sector. The food chain employs 3.8 million people, generates sales of over £198 billion and has a Gross Value Added (GVA) of £103 billion.

With large increases in global food demand predicted, driven both by population growth and changing diets, the prospects for future sustained growth are very positive. Global constraints on food production, notably water, land, climate change and energy, mean we will need new technology to deliver sustainable intensification: producing more whilst using resources more efficiently.

The Greater Lincolnshire agri-food sector is truly a national leader in this growing industry and is fortunate to have the UK's largest and most progressive food sector, based on clusters of dynamic businesses and well developed supply chains.

Employs over  
**3.8 m**



Food and drink is the UK's largest manufacturing sector

## Growing Greater Lincolnshire's agri-food sector

We have already started...

Since the Sector Plan was published in 2014, the Greater Lincolnshire LEP and its partners have been implementing the priority actions identified in the plan, including:

- Food Board
- Food Enterprise Zones
- Skills and R&D
- Water Plan
- Growth Deal and other investment



The Greater Lincolnshire Local Enterprise Partnership is led by the private sector and aims to improve infrastructure and conditions for business in the Greater Lincolnshire area.

For more information visit [www.greaterlincolnshirelep.co.uk](http://www.greaterlincolnshirelep.co.uk)



## Food Board

We launched a Food Board with senior leaders from over 20 businesses covering all the main sectors of the food chain to help shape delivery of the plan. Grimsby's fish processing cluster also hosted the 2015 World Seafood Congress.

## Food Enterprise Zones

Building on existing food clusters, Greater Lincolnshire was delighted to receive support from DEFRA for planning work on three Food Enterprise Zones (FEZs):

- Europarc 4 in Grimsby to build on the existing fish and food processing cluster
- Central Lincolnshire at Riseholme and Hemswell Cliff to build on the arable sector
- Holbeach to build on the south Lincolnshire fresh produce cluster.

Each FEZ will provide growing businesses and investors with easier planning, access to investment incentives and a supportive business community in which to grow. In total our FEZs will provide over 120 hectares of new commercial food chain industrial space.

## Skills and R&D

Investments have been made in Bishop Burton's Riseholme College Showground Campus and at the University of Lincoln's National Centre for Food Manufacturing in Holbeach, with the University establishing the Lincoln Institute For Agri-food Technology. These investments support continued growth in food sector skills and applied research provision to support businesses.



## Water Plan

The LEP has led work on a 25-year Water Plan for Greater Lincolnshire to tackle flooding risk and to make sure we have the water needed for growth. For the first time this includes planning for agri-food water needs alongside domestic water supplies.

## Growth Deal and other investment

Investment from the Growth Deal includes £2.4m for improvements to the Peppermint Junction on the A17 to enable the Holbeach FEZ to be developed and £4m for the South Humber Industrial Infrastructure Plan (SHIIP) to enable the Europarc 4 FEZ to be developed.

The LEP has also launched its EU funding programme with the first £1m allocated to food sector investments, and we secured five LEADER areas worth a total of £5m to invest in the rural economy.