



# Greater Lincolnshire LEP Board

Minutes of 25<sup>th</sup> March 2022

Via MS Teams

**Present: Board Directors:** Pat Doody (Non-Executive Director and Chair), Cllr Philip Jackson - Vice Chair (NELC), Cllr Colin Davie (LCC), Cllr Oliver Hemsley (Rutland CC), Cllr Crag Leyland (ELDC), Alison Ballard (BAE Systems), Air Commodore Andrew Dickens (RAF Cranwell), Dean Fathers (Health), Julian Free (UoL), Jo Hardy (Hardy's Farm), Andrew Hunter (UoL), Zoe King (Epix Media), Nick Worboys (Longhurst)

**Apologies from Directors:** Sarah Louise Fairburn - Vice Chair (IMP & Maker), Debbie Barnes (CX, LCC), Simon Bird (ABP), Darren Cunningham (Phillips66), Gary Headland (Lincoln College, IoD & Lincs Chamber), Mandy Watson (Ambitions Personnel), Cllr Rob Waltham (NLC),

**Observers:** Pete Holmes (BEIS), Katherine Cousins (BEIS), Simon Green (NELC), Matthew Garrard (on behalf of Debbie Barnes)

**Apologies from Observers:** Stephen Fidler (DfT), Mick Lazarus (BEIS), Clive Tritton (NLC), Andrew Crookham (S151 Officer & Accountable Body)

**LEP Team:** Ruth Carver, Caroline Illingworth, Sue Groves (Note Taker) -

**Guests:** David Gwynne (Humber Freeport), Simon Smith (Youngs Seafood), Simon Dwyer (Seafox)

**Apologies and Declarations of Interest** - Apologies were noted as above. Full declarations of interest for each individual Board Director can be found at: <https://www.greaterlincolnshirelep.co.uk/about/boards/>  
The LEP Board were reminded that declarations of interest are required as part of LEP governance and must be updated at least annually, and if anything changes to the LEP office at the earliest convenience.

#### **Minutes & Matters Arising (Paper 1) - Chair**

Minutes from the meeting held on 22nd February 2022 accepted as a true record, and the CX ran through the matters arising.

#### **Matters arising:**

**Labour Market Support Fund** - was launched on 15th March and closes at the end of April. This is looking at innovative ways of getting people back into work and filling vacancies across all sectors. Approximately £4m from uncommitted reserves was for this fund and the Clean Growth Accelerator Fund, which has now closed, six applications received and currently carrying out due diligence.

**Rail Connectivity** - discussion regarding the freight line around Immingham across the Pennines into Liverpool. Stephen Fidler introduced Ruth and Halina to his national level freight rail team, with whom a positive meeting has been held but have asked for further information which has been requested from Humber Freeport and ABP.

The issue to get Transport for the North and Midlands Connect to work together, Cllr Waltham to lead a roundtable on this, but not arranged yet. Opening conversations have been held.

**ACTION Halina Davies**

**Opportunity Humber** - 4 local authority leaders and 2 LEPs had written to the minister responsible to request that they are more closely engaged. Minister has responded that he will facilitate a meeting.

**Innovation Council:** Meeting to be arranged with leads of the East Midlands LEPS Innovation Councils.

#### **Decision Log & Review of Actions (Papers 1.1 and 1.2)**

Action Log of 22nd February - no comments.

#### **Greater Lincolnshire Devolution Proposals and Business Engagement - Simon Green (NELC) and Ruth Carver LEP**

Simon Green presented the paper on the framework for devolution outlined in the Levelling up White Paper and the ambitions of the Greater Lincolnshire local authorities around devolution.

He outlined the content of a “levelling up prospectus” which may form the basis of a devolution deal with 10 points in skills and infrastructure.

Deliver infrastructure for:

- Strategic growth and jobs in key sectors
- Green recovery and a low carbon Lincolnshire
- Transport that connects people to jobs and places
- Unlocking housing and sustainable growth
- Managing our unique natural environment

Develop skills and opportunity by:

- Skills culture that promotes aspiration across Lincolnshire
- Growth skills needed for future jobs in key sectors
- Creating pathways and apprenticeships into new jobs
- Increasing employment opportunities and productivity
- Accelerating innovation, research and technology

Ruth Carver outlined an initial proposal for business engagement on devolution and sought the LEP Boards support in leading a programme of business engagement over the forthcoming months.

The Chair asked the Board Directors their opinions, concerns and what they believe the opportunities are. He did stress that he believes that business has a voice in the devolution bid when the prospectus is finalised and prior to submission.

### **Decision**

The LEP Board welcomed the report on devolution and agreed to the proposal that the LEP team lead on a business engagement programme for Greater Lincolnshire devolution proposals. The programme would be added to the delivery plan, and updates provided.

### **Humber Freeport Update - David Gwynne (Acting CEO Humber Freeport)**

David Gwynne presented an update to the Board on the progress of the Humber Freeport. Freeports have 3 key policy objectives from government, namely National hubs for trade and investment, regeneration and Innovation.

The way the bidding process was set was to set up, an outer boundary at 45km across an economic geography with up to 3 separate tax sites of 200 hectares each, with an ability to propose a number of custom sites, a consortium was brought together and coordinated across a large number of partners, including Greater Lincolnshire LEP and is in the process of starting to create an executive team to be able to fulfil those functions and populate a number of subgroups. Greater Lincolnshire LEP has played a key role in the development of the Freeport, being a core member of the Steer Co from the start. Bid was submitted in February 2021, successful in March in the Chancellor’s Statement, Outline Business Case was approved in October 2021 and first tax sites designated in November 2021. The Full Business Case was submitted in January 2022 and awaiting approval in Spring 2022 which will lead to recruitment for a permanent CEO, starting in the summer. The tax sites are:

1. AMEP at Immingham in North Lincolnshire
2. The site at Goole, adjacent to the Siemens Mobility Rail factory
3. Hull East tax site, centred around the salt and chemicals park

- ❖ The core concept is to develop tax sites which will create new business rates on those sites which have been retained within the region, which then get pooled and reinvested. A number of priorities have been set for those retained business rates to be spent across the Freeport region, across innovation, skills and infrastructure.
- ❖ There are 5 sets of different tax relief which will benefit the site: structures and buildings, allowance, stamp duty, land tax, capital allowances, business rate relief subject to approval from the local Council if the scheme qualifies with the Freeport objectives and National Insurance Relief.
- ❖ Custom Zones - incremental benefits are less clear for derogations, but there will be niche

opportunities for businesses.

**Action:**

Humber Freeport to provide an update in 6 months.

**UKFV - Seafood Sector Opportunities & Proposals - Simon Smith, CX Youngs Seafood & Simon Dwyer, Seafox.**

RC gave an introduction of behalf of Sarah Louise Fairburn, Deputy Chair, who has sent apologies. UK Food Valley is one of the game-changers for Greater Lincolnshire. It was launched in November 2021 with an investor conference creating a number of inward investment enquiries. There are still some challenges within the sector, as with all sectors, ie, cost of fuel, energy, security, labour market costs etc. The Food Board and the UK Food Valley team are focused on the following issues: accelerating robotics and automation, accelerating decarbonisation, skills, labour market and innovation.

Over the last six months, the LEP has been facilitating conversations, as part of the UK Food Valley, which has resulted in the development of some proposals which Simon Smith and Simon Dwyer will talk about.

Simon Smith, CX at Young Seafood, gave an overview of the opportunities and challenges within the sector. The seafood processing cluster in Grimsby is probably the best example of any industrial cluster in the UK and is the largest seafood processing cluster, employing approximately 10,000 people either directly or indirectly. Leaders of significant major seafood processing businesses in the UK are fully committed to make the seafood cluster work. Over the past 18 months, the cluster has been working on training and skills, which is a constant need and demand, working with a number of bodies, including the University of Lincoln. Visited the National Centre for Food Manufacturing to learn more about how they can further integrate there.

There is a need for better facilities for a technical laboratory testing within the cluster and businesses have recognised that this is something the cluster could benefit from having first class facilities that would protect all their activities and also be able to offer to the outside world. A partnership with Eurofins has been developed, which will lead to greater investment in the local area.

Cluster is also focused on trade, ensuring that the access to companies and trade routes are maintained.

Key theme going forward is low carbon and looking for help in recording and monitoring measurement and being able to do things consistently and food security.

Should also look at potential of aquaculture as this could be the future way of being able to supply seafood over the next 50 to 100 years to a global population.

Simon Dwyer gave an overview on the progress of a national centre for seafood processing.

**Decisions:**

- The Board agreed to support the concept of a National Centre for Seafood Processing
- The Board noted and supported the incremental steps to see the University of Lincoln and NCFM develop a footprint, grow an impactful and profitable skills and training business on a national basis, and one that can grow internationally in terms of research and innovation.
- The Board via the Food Board agreed to work closely with NCFM and SGHA in identifying future capital and revenue funding opportunities, in addition to the present Defra Seafood industry skills and infrastructure rounds.
- The Board agreed to explore with the Food Board an approach on aquaculture for Greater Lincolnshire.

### **Chair & CX Report (Paper 5) Chair & CX**

- ❖ Ukraine - the LEP is gathering intelligence from the business community on supply chain issues and other challenges and feeding into national government and partners. A Ukraine support page has been developed, and LEP is working with the Northern Powerhouse to connect businesses with those seeking short term work.
- ❖ All LEPs are still awaiting the letter from national government regarding core functions and funding and also for Growth Hub funding.
- ❖ Julian Free gave a brief update on the work of the Defence & Security Advisory Board, and in particular the forthcoming defence dinner. The aim is to convince the Defence and Security Accelerator (DASA) to work with Greater Lincolnshire to create a Defence cluster, with help from representatives from civil and political leadership across the county and from SMEs and prime contractors. Former Chief of Defence is attending and will talk about his background in intelligence. The aim will be to announce that a bid is to be submitted during the course of the dinner. Will give an update to the next Board meeting.

### **LEP Delivery Plan and budget options (Paper 6) - Caroline Illingworth LEP**

Caroline, the Operations and Delivery Manager in the LEP team presented two scenarios for funding for the LEPs activities in 2022/2023 to discuss with the LEP Board. At the time of writing, there had been no confirmation of role nor funding from government although a response was expected imminently.

One scenario is based on the full amount of £500k from government, which gives an overall operating budget of £1.4m, the second scenario being based on a settlement of £250k, which gives a operating budget of £1.1m.

Caroline then ran through the second scenario, and highlighted to the board some of the areas of reduction in activity that may need to be considered. Under the first scenario, that will allow the LEP to deliver a full programme which is comparable to the year 2021/2022, but the second scenario would be more challenging and would require the LEP to reduce and remove some areas of activity.

The delivery plan has been developed around a set of strategic themes and within each theme with a set of key performance indicators, with the aim to capture activities of the LEP rather than business as usual activity. Each KPI has one or more specific delivery targets and sitting underneath that there is a set of detailed metrics that has been developed and reporting thresholds each quarter, a performance report with consistent comparable results can be provided to the Board via the Directors dashboard. The board questioned the team around the likelihood of the scenarios.

#### **Decisions**

- The LEP Board agreed that once the core funding was in place, that a summary of current finances and delivery plan be brought back to the LEP Board.
- The LEP Board agreed that the CX would work to the existing budget envelope until that point.

### **Forward Plan (Paper 7)**

- ❖ All Board Directors asked to think about any topics for discussion at future Board meetings.

### **Any Other Business**

- ❖ For information, Pete Holmes will be retiring in June.
- ❖ Approved that Gary Headland is taking a 6-month sabbatical from his role as NED on the GL LEP Board.

**The meeting closed at 1700 hours.**