



Greater Lincolnshire LEP Defence & Security Advisory Board

13th May 2021

Via MS Teams

Draft Minutes

Present: Board Directors:

Julian Free (UoL) - Chair, Alison Ballard (BAE Systems) - Vice Chair, Suraya Marshall (RAF Cranwell), Kevin Longman (Northrop Grumman Corporation), Harry Leyland (Leonardo), Dominic Smith (Eagle Eye Innovations), Tony Burnell (Metis Aerospace Ltd), Tom Marsden (Lincoln College), Kelvin Truss, Steve Kilvington (RAF Waddington), Cllr Richard Davies (LCC), Flash Gordon (Tepidoil)

LEP Officers: Ruth Carver, Sue Groves (Note Taker)

Introductions

Julian welcomed the members to the inaugural meeting, and asked each of the members to introduce themselves and their organisations, as well as their background and reason for joining the LEP defence and security board.

Mission

The aim is to try and grow the defence cluster in Lincoln/Lincolnshire. One way of knowing whether the Board has been successful is when people mention either Lincoln/Lincolnshire or defence and security they view them as synonymous much as they do with Cambridge and digital technology.

Beyond the vision, it is about promoting Lincolnshire to the wider defence and security community, i.e. the supply chain, support, etc.

Publication by Government of Defence Strategy for sustainability and decarbonisation is imminent. The military is also focused on the green agenda and reducing their carbon footprint as the MoD is 50% of the Government's emissions. If the Government is to make any headway, they need to focus on defence also. This Board needs to concentrate on what the (potential) connections are between the Sector and Lincolnshire and the Sector's areas of focus and how to influence Government to encourage them to promote Lincolnshire to the Sector's businesses/industries.

The Terms of Reference have been agreed by the LEP Board and a discussion took place about the Vision and Mission (ToRs to be circulated).

The vision is to establish Lincoln/Lincolnshire as a national Defence & Security innovation, production and service hub.

The mission is to sell Lincoln/Lincolnshire's ability to enhance, develop and support Government and Industry's defence and security capabilities and programmes in order to increase regional wealth through greater public and private inward investment and the creation of high-value, better paid jobs, particularly with the opportunities in Lincolnshire at Waddington, Cranwell and Coningsby, as well as other defence institutions and organisations.

Tasks

- Establish the extent of the Defence & Security Sector (public and private) in Greater Lincolnshire's area of interest.
 - *The sector needs to be defined in more detail.*
- Establish the size, distribution and make-up of the ex-defence and security population (military and civilian) in Greater Lincolnshire.
 - *This is quite a challenge because Defence does not track its veterans currently, but JF will share some information from the University of Northumbria, who have collated information from various sources, which gives a good overview of the veteran community in various regions.*
 - *Suggested that this information would be available from the Census, but this information is not yet available.*
 - *Asked if the RAF tracks veterans. RAF is trying to do better and Career Management is looking to launch a survey of serving and retired people in the future.*
 - *Job opportunities are not as visible as they could be; there is a need to be able to advertise as to*

why Lincolnshire is the place to be.

- *Services Veterans Agency may have information.*
- *Would it tie in with the Reserves 30/40 Strategy that has been published (A copy of the full report can be downloaded from GOV.UK here: <https://www2.rfca.org.uk/e/343221/ons-reserve-forces-review-2030/22ctgml/797940765?h=HJvAaXo2RZpwUEs4-lweLLzTXBheBbrQcb3NTD1aa9g>) and asked if there would be merit in establishing a Veterans Hub that could be used as a forum for advertising job opportunities.*
- *The purpose of understanding the data and the make-up is around the talent management within Greater Lincolnshire and to understand what skills we have to attract inward investment from companies and to work with other organisations to see if we can do to match and highlight where the opportunities are. Team already working with Waddington to see how we can improve sharing of opportunities, promoting Lincolnshire, ensuring that manufacturing and engineering companies are attending Open Days to promote their particular job vacancies.*
- *Suggested that LinkedIn is good for gathering data and asked if there was an opportunity to set up a group for those in Greater Lincolnshire and set up a survey to capture skills and experience.*
- *Establish which Defence & Security Sector capabilities should be Greater Lincolnshire's priority areas of focus.*
 - *There is a need to know what the military are doing in the region and what the skills sets are.*
- *Conduct gap analysis between priority areas and Defence & Security Sector presence (public and private).*
 - *RC - Will develop a prospectus for the sector with a sub-sector specialism.*
- *Assess Greater Lincolnshire's R&D (academic & industrial) against priority areas of focus.*
 - *R&D funding is available, which is one of the attractions of this area, but need to understand what capabilities and capacity we have across the region is important and the academic pieces by the University, the Colleges and the IoT to support the progression of young people into high technical jobs.*
 - *Need to include innovation and successes, i.e. space axis between Lincoln and Leicester and look at more innovative work, particularly in the green space. JF to re-phrase the task.*
 - *R&D is outdated, needs to be innovation. LSIP, could this be brought into this roadmap.*
 - *I-Star building is now full before being built and another building will be needed. LSIP Phase 2 has already been approved by the LEP Board.*
 - *Agree we must ensure there is enough space for people/companies to move to Lincolnshire, there is a need to ensure the current the current the air space control freedoms above Lincolnshire is preserved as it is a unique capability when combined with the Region's long North Sea coastline. It enables greater R&D/innovation to test and evaluate innovative systems.*
 - *The LEP needs to understand what is available, i.e. assets and capability, what is needed to support existing businesses, also future-proofing, what is missing in the eco-system and how are the gaps filled. May need a Task and Finish Group to move this forward.*
 - *University is having discussions with Innovate UK about creating a defence and security cluster.*
- *Create a Greater Lincolnshire Roadmap to establish a national Defence & Security hub in the Region.*
- *Shape the GLLEP funded, Lincoln Science & Innovation Park-based Defence Technologies ISTAR Research Institute's approach to support the Roadmap and attract more R&D to Greater Lincolnshire.*
- *Influence the Government's national and regional policy to locate more Defence & Security activity in Greater Lincolnshire.*
 - *What links there are to government policy around the levelling up agenda in terms of government departments, i.e. moving staff around the country.*
 - *Levelling up is a huge agenda and this is ongoing, i.e. Treasury moving to Darlington, MHCLG setting up in the West Midlands and looking to move civil servants out of London. Early conversations with local senior civil servant, there where GLLEP has identified Lincolnshire as a good place for Defra and had initial conversations with the Director General of the MoD to understand whether there is an appetite for Lincolnshire to be considered.*
 - *Influence needs to be targeted with more specific propositions, using the local MP network. Proposals need to be linked to the defence area, i.e. infrastructure, internet connections, power distribution.*

- 5G is being rolled out in Lincoln, Grantham and Spalding, but the biggest barrier is local opposition to 5G masts. There are 3 fibre suppliers working in the south of the county rolling out commercial fibre networks. Lincolnshire has approximately 93% coverage for Superfast Broadband and hoping for 100% in the next few years which would be a good selling point in the future.
- Regarding infrastructure, RAF Cranwell is expecting a £½bn investment being confirmed later this month, which will increase the number of people on the site on the training and aviation medicalside. There is a need to facilitate the extension of infrastructure to help the base expand, also at Waddington.
- Encourage industry to expand its footprint creating more jobs in Greater Lincolnshire to support the Defence & Security Sector including its supply chain.
- Attend DSEI 21.
 - An opportunity to promote Lincolnshire as a place for defence and it was suggested that a large company could be asked to fund this.
 - Other opportunities available, event at Earls Court is smaller and is supportive of small companies to have stands, possibly find 20-30 companies who would agree to have a collective stand.
- Work with the Lincoln Science and Innovation Park to ensure innovation helps grow the sector.
 - Ask Tom Blount to talk about the opportunities at LSIP.
- Liaise with the Skills Board and others as needed to fulfil the objective.

Comments

- AB asked if there is any ranking of regions in terms of how much defence activity there is where GVA is measured.
- HL said that the company has a large volume of sales from the Lincoln office, but a high proportion of those sales go to various parts of the country, so where does the turnover benefit the county

Actions

- ❖ Agreed vision and mission.
- ❖ Circulate revised Terms of Reference.
- ❖ All to look at what the defence and security is in terms of Lincolnshire.
- ❖ All to think about what are the gaps in the region, what are the big issues. To be collated in the next month by 15th June.
- ❖ All to think about differentiators, why people should choose Lincolnshire and what makes Lincolnshire different.
- ❖ RC will explore LinkedIn for a Veteran Hub, but will need assistance with contacts.
- ❖ RC to make enquiries about measuring GDP, but believes the South West and Bristol may have the largest cluster of companies is located, but will feedback at the next meeting. TM also to make enquiries with contacts in Scotland.
- ❖ JF to share information from University of Northumbria regarding veteran community.
- ❖ All to ask their defence colleagues about information regarding locating veterans.
- ❖ TM to contact the Veterans Agency to enquire about the whereabouts of veterans. Will also contact East Midlands Veterans Association.
- ❖ All to suggest a list of capabilities that can be discussed at the next meeting.
- ❖ All to look at any issues on R&D funding and feedback at next meeting.
- ❖ HL to feedback on lobbying Government.
- ❖ SK and TB to look into what air space with air safety organisations.
- ❖ FG to discuss innovation with the Defence and Security Accelerator and DSTL to give them a regional focus on the work they are already carrying out and report back to the Board.
- ❖ JF to follow up regarding DSEI with various organisations.
- ❖ TB to make enquiries about the Expo at Earls Court.
- ❖ RC to get Team Lincolnshire with volunteers from the Board (JF and TB) to look at ways of promoting Greater Lincolnshire at events (DSEI, Earls Court, etc) possibly September 2023.
- ❖ JF to invite Tom Blount to talk about the opportunities at LSIP and Phase 2.
- ❖ KL to circulate MoD regional expenditure document.

KPIs

- All to think about what KPIs would be useful and how they would be monitored as JF would need to feedback to the LEP Board on progress.

Budget

- The budget is £40k over the next 2 years which can be used for anything, i.e. events, match funding, SME programme, etc.

Any Other Business

- Set a time period for when a generic pack could be put together to enable the promotion of Greater Lincolnshire.
-This could be ready for the summer, but will need specific content.

Next meeting to be arranged for mid-July

DRAFT