



GLLEP FOOD BOARD MEETING

13th May 2021 at 4.00pm

MS Teams Meeting

Agenda

4.00pm	Welcome and introduction LEP Update	Sarah Louise Fairburn
4.05	Notes of previous meeting (11th February 2020) & matters arising not covered on the agenda (Annex 1), key issues: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Successful bids: Trusted Bytes; Centre for Food and Fresh Produce Logistics • South Lincolnshire FEZ launch • Food chain investment report • Professor Simon Pearson appointed to co-chair an automation review for DEFRA with Rt. Hon. George Eustice, DEFRA Secretary of State 	Martin Collison
4.10	Low Carbon Food Chains: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Duncan Botting - potential to link the food chain and renewable energy transition • Bruno Gardner, NFU EnZero • Matthew Smith, Vice President Alltech 	Sarah Louise Fairburn
4.35	How can Lincolnshire lead the Low Carbon food chain transition? Facilitated workshop aiming to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Define 3-4 priority areas which the industry could work with innovation partners to address to transition to low carbon • Identify companies who would like to be involved in Low Carbon projects 	Professors Libby John, Mark Swainson, Simon Pearson, University of Lincoln
5.35	Alltech ONE Ideas Conference 25th-27th May 2021	Matthew Smith, Alltech
5.40	UK Food Valley and HPO Updates <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UK Food Valley Communications • Food Valley Bid to Community Renewal Fund 2021-'22 • DIT High Potential Opportunity for Greater Lincolnshire Food Processing and Technology Cluster - launching with overseas DIT posts on 27th May • Food Sector Investment Proposition produced 	Ruth Carver, Martin Collison
5.50	Any Other Business	Sarah Louise Fairburn
5.55	Future Meeting Dates: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 12th August 2021 4-6pm (including potential visit to University of Lincoln AgriRobotics and digital centre) • 17th November 2021 4-6pm • What do members want future meetings to focus on? • Future meeting format (quarterly, virtual and/or face to face when circumstances allow) 	Sarah Louise Fairburn

Attendees

- Sarah Louise Fairburn, Chair
- Martin Collison, Agrifood advisor to GLLEP
- Alric Blake, Brendan Legrove, Duncan Worth, James Arnold James Dallas, James Truscott, Neal Collishaw, Simon Dwyer, Simon Pearson, Rhonda Thompson, Will Naylor, William Burgess, Yvonne Adam

- Ruth Carver, GLLEP Chief Executive
- Kate Storey, GLLEP

Guests:

- Duncan Botting, Chair GLLEP Energy Council
- Bruno Gardner, NFU EnZero
- Matthew Smith, Vice President, Alltech
- Professor Libby John, Head of College of Science, University of Lincoln
- Professor Mark Swainson, National Centre for Food Manufacturing, University of Lincoln

Apologies:

- Robert Smith

Tentative:

- Justin Brown

TBC:

- George Read, Hugo Marfleet, Jonathan Oldfield, Mark Aitchison, Mark Suthern, Mos Kalbassi, Oliver Shooter, Richard Priestley,

Annex 1 - Agreed Actions from February 2021 Meeting:

Action	Progress
<p>Action 1 carried forward - A formal request to be made to all Food Board members to report on the investments they have made in the food chain since 2016. This report will include ongoing refurbishment and equipment upgrades as well as new investments to expand production.</p> <p>Action 2 carried forward - An updated report on food chain investments to be brought back to the Board for review, by the May 2021 meeting, including as far as possible a consideration of how investment in Greater Lincolnshire has performed relative to peers across the UK.</p>	<p>The formal request to Food Board members was sent out in April and further work has been undertaken to collate all major investments made since 2016.</p> <p>Work is continuing and a brief update report is given in annex 2 below on the data collected to date.</p>
<p>Action 3: Robin Price's email to be circulated so members can follow up on WRE's work on water management: robinprice@wre.org.uk</p> <p>Action 4: WRE Membership Application Letter to be circulated (see annex 1)</p>	<p>Complete</p> <p>Complete</p>
<p>Action 5: Workforce supply:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5a Kate Storey (LEP) to work with partners to promote the need for additional staff, settled status scheme, seasonal workforce opportunities etc. • 5b Martin Collison to communicate challenges with labour directly to DEFRA and Food and Drink Sector Council • 5c Martin Collison to work with LEP skills team to explore potential for retraining and to attract staff in from other sectors • 5d Simon Pearson and Martin Collison to feed into DEFRA automation review and task force 	<p>Input to government and Midlands Engine has been made on labour supply, following feedback from Lincolnshire food businesses and the wider region.</p> <p>Simon Pearson has been appointed to co-chair an automation review for DEFRA alongside Rt. Hon. George Eustice, DEFRA Secretary of State.</p> <p>Ideas for retraining staff from other sectors are being incorporated into the proposals for a UK Food Valley bid to the Community Renewal Fund.</p>
<p>Action 6: Brexit transition challenges to be communicated to Martin Collison so they can be raised directly with government and included in LEP input to government (for all sectors) when there is a commonality of problems</p>	<p>The LEP has continued to receive feedback from industry members, notably on rules of origin, groupage consignments and post Brexit paperwork which have been</p>

	<p>submitted to government.</p> <p>The LEP also worked with Councils to report to government on challenges with labour supply, self-isolation and how the food chain has supported staff during Covid.</p>
<p>Action 7: UK Food Valley</p> <p>7a The LEP to develop the ‘UK Food Valley’ proposals further into a programme and consult with the Food Board on this plan in May 2021.</p> <p>7b Send invitation to the South Lincolnshire (Holbeach) Food Enterprise Zone event to Food Board members.</p> <p>7c Set up virtual demonstration event at the University to showcase robotics and/or host physical event when this is possible again.</p>	<p>The South Lincolnshire FEZ launch event was promoted to Food Board members and held on 17th March.</p> <p>Further work on the UK Food Valley has continued, with an initial LEP budget provided, a comms programme initiated and progress made on establishing a team.</p> <p>An event at the University on automation should be possible physically in summer 2021.</p>

Annex 2 - LEP Updates

Since the February 2021 meeting, LEP supported activity in the food sector has included:

1. Successful bids:

- Trusted Bytes is a £2.8m project led by South Lincolnshire partners (FPN, Worldwide Fruit, Fesa and others) and the University to create traceability in the food logistics sector. It includes HMRC, FSA and BSI and will therefore also directly support government policy
- The Centre for Food and Fresh Produce Logistics is a proposed £3m project to develop a skills programme and innovation cluster focused on food logistics and trade. It has been provisionally approved as part of the Boston Town Deal and has to produce a final business plan for government approval by late 2021. It is led by NCFM and Boston College working with the Port of Boston and food industry
- Major partnership bids have also been made to government calls for Made Smarter digital supply chains and smart factories with the LEP/University as partners in these national programmes and results should be known in May

2. South Lincolnshire FEZ:

- A successful launch event was held on 17th March which attracted 450 registrations with a keynote input by Judith Batchelar of Sainsburys
- This has led to a large number of enquiries and as a result all of phase 1 is now under offer and part of phase 2 is also subject to offers
- Planning permission has been achieved for the FEZ Hub Building and with funding in place, this new building with space for 30 start-ups and events will be open in early Spring 2022, to complement the new University Centre of Excellence (opened March 2021) and the Lincoln Institute of Technology building (due for completion autumn 2021)

3. Food Chain Investment:

- Work has continued on mapping investment in the Greater Lincolnshire food chain since 2016, with the total now over £2.3billion and over 6,000 jobs created. This broadly breaks down to over £1.5bn of new capacity, over £100m of automation and equipment, over £100m of R&D and skills projects, over £600m of acquisitions
- We are still short of details on about 1/3 of the schemes identified and think the true total is in excess of £3.5billion and over 8,500 jobs created
- We are keen to receive further input from Board Members to this work and intend to produce a summary report later in 2021 to use with government and investors to demonstrate the strong track record on growth in our food sector

4. UK Food Valley:

- Meetings with potential delivery partners have continued and the LEP Board have agreed to support the start-up phase of the project

- A team is being created to lead the UK Food Valley programme
 - A website, logo and initial promotional campaign contract has been let by the LEP, with a launch planned for late spring 2021
 - A major £multi million bid is being submitted to the Community Renewal Fund to kick start a business support and innovation programme linked to the UK Food Valley
5. Brexit Transition and Covid-19:
- The LEP continues to collect information on Brexit Transition and Covid-19 impacts on the food chain and feeding this into government, including contributing to a regional study for Midlands Engine
6. Midlands Engine food group:
- Martin Collison and Simon Pearson have been working with regional partners to create a new Food Group for the Midlands (LEPs from the Welsh border to Lincolnshire) to lobby government for investment in the sector. The first meeting will be in June 2021 with 3 of the 12 proposed seats currently earmarked for Lincolnshire representatives
 - Sir John Peace, Chairman of the Midlands Engine, is taking a real interest in the food sector and is keen to work with Lincolnshire to promote our track record on investment and the UK Food Valley programme with central government
7. Inward investment:
- Briefings on the Greater Lincolnshire food cluster for potential investors continue to be given alongside colleagues at DIT and the Inward Investment team in the County Council
 - A food sector investment prospectus has been produced with the Inward Investment Team in the County Council
 - The LEP have met with multiple inward investors in fresh produce, innovative foods, aquaculture and technology to help them develop plans for expansion into Lincolnshire
 - A national briefing for DIT is planned for 17th May to promote Lincolnshire's food sector potential
 - A presentation is being made to a UK/China AgriFood Tech event on 28th May organised by the China British Business Council
 - A regional food sector meeting is planned with the Midlands Make UK team for 3rd quarter 2021
8. High Potential Opportunity (HPO) for food processing and automation:
- The HPO has now been finalised with DIT as a 30 slide pack setting out the scale and ambition of the Greater Lincolnshire food sector and automation cluster

- The HPO is being launched on 27th May in two webinars (early morning for countries East of UK) and late afternoon (for US and S America), so that overseas DIT teams and embassies are briefed on our food sector
 - DIT are very keen to identify trade events we can promote the sector in, and the LEP would welcome any suggestions on this
9. Automation policy:
- Professor Simon Pearson has been appointed to co-chair a national review with Rt Hon George Eustice, DEFRA Secretary of State on the potential for automation
10. Monthly Food Newsletters issued, plus food specific articles written for other LEP newsletters (e.g. logistics)
11. Liaison meetings with delivery partners:
- Food and Drink Sector Council Export Working Group (6 weekly)
 - County Council/LEP Inward Investment Team
 - Seafood Cluster (fortnightly)
 - Barclays Eagle Farm Lab Team
 - DIT Agritech Team (quarterly meeting)
 - Food from England
 - 2 hour briefing event on the Greater Lincolnshire food sector was held for over 25 County Council staff in March to increase their awareness of the food sector

Summary:

In March 2021, the LEP Board re-affirmed their commitment to food sector growth, alongside the other major focus for Greater Lincolnshire which is the energy sector (led by one of today's guests Duncan Botting) and in particular the growth of the renewables and low carbon energy sector on the Humber and through the growth of the offshore industries. Major projects such as the new renewable energy Port on the Humber, the development of a green hydrogen cluster and the Viking Link from Bicker Fen to Denmark, are cementing the area's role in the national energy transition.

Given the importance of energy to the food chain, for production and processing, the cool chain and transport, the LEP is very keen to see the energy transition work aligned with energy needs in the food chain. This will in turn help the Greater Lincolnshire food chain to lead the development of net zero food chains.

Since February 2021 the main themes the LEP has been working on include:

- **Growth and Investment** - developing new projects and supporting businesses who have development ideas or investment propositions. Whilst the end of the Brexit Transition and Covid-19 continue to cause disruption, the industry is exploring growth opportunities and there are many new investment propositions in development.

Investment enquiries remain strong and the FEZ launch event in March 2021 has stimulated a lot of additional enquiries;

- **Promotion** - the LEP continues to work with partners both locally, regionally and nationally (e.g. DIT) to increase promotional activity to showcase the Greater Lincolnshire food cluster, including direct support work with potential investors on finding sites, making local connections and market intelligence. With both a food sector proposition (prospectus) now finalised, the HPO about to be launched and a UK Food Valley website due to be live from May 2021, promotion of the food sector in Greater Lincolnshire is being increased substantially;
- **Development** - the LEP continues to work with local and national partners to secure support for new innovation, skills and business support programmes. There is a lot of activity nationally and we expect this to continue during 2021 as government develops new, post Brexit, interventions to support food chain growth and development. Recent project wins and further major bids are helping the area to secure substantial support for innovation and skills investments and leading to growing national recognition that Greater Lincolnshire is the place to invest in food;
- **Transitions** - the LEP is working, often alongside the University, to develop new projects targeting a number of transition issues in the food chain, aligned with the key focus areas the Food Board agreed: productivity growth enabled by digitalisation and robotics; clean growth and carbon reduction; dietary change focusing on naturally good for you food and protein transition.

The May 2021 Food Board focuses on the clean growth part of this agenda with the aim to lead to the creation of 3-4 major projects to deliver on this focus. Assuming there is business support, the aim is to create a collaborative, multi-project, programme of Low Carbon innovation mirroring the success the area has seen with automation and digitalisation in recent years.

If any business, or supply chain partners you work with, need support the LEP is keen to help.