



Welcome by Ruth Carver, CEO Greater Lincolnshire LEP

It is nearly 18 months since Covid-19 first began to impact our lives in so many ways. During that time, the Greater Lincolnshire food chain has played a leading role in keeping the nation fed and this has been acknowledged locally, nationally, and politically. We have continued to see substantial investment into our food chain and the pandemic has redoubled our collective focus on working together to innovate, grow and safeguard the future of the Greater Lincolnshire food chain which supports 75,000 jobs. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all workers across our diverse food chains for ensuring the supply chain kept the nation fed, both during the early days of the pandemic, and by adapting to the challenges beyond.

The launch of our UK Food Valley will be celebrated later this year at the Greater Lincolnshire LEP conference in early November - and more details on this will feature in future editions of this bulletin as well as being widely promoted.

We are keen that businesses, technology providers, consumers, and third sector bodies all support and celebrate this initiative and would be pleased to talk to anyone who thinks they can help deliver change and growth in our food industry.

SECTOR PROGRESS & HIGHLIGHTS

NATIONAL NEWS:

- National Food Strategy published

YOUR NEWS:

- Fishing Minister visits Seafood Cluster
- Universities Minister opens Lincolnshire Institute of Technology (IoT)
- Icelandic Ambassador visits Grimsby

PROMOTION:

- New UK Ambassador to Iceland Learns About #MADEINGRIMSBY

YOUR NEWS

- £60,000 Hub uses Food Waste to Tackle Poverty
- Greater Lincolnshire Sector Propositions
- University Enterprise Zone (UEZ) Fund Programme
- DIT Agri-Tech Engineering Brochure (spring 2021)
- Greater Lincolnshire to Benefit from £100m Green Funding

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES:

- Agri-tech, Business, and Food

FUTURE EVENTS:

- FPC at the Lincolnshire Showground

Continued...

Publication of the National Food Strategy independent review chaired by Henry Dimbleby earlier this month has received a lot of national media attention and we look forward to working with government as it brings forward proposals for a UK Food Bill.

Meanwhile - and to help to make the continued case for sustained growth of our industry - we have been pleased to welcome a series of high profile visits to our food clusters and major projects in June and July. This has included visits from Universities Minister Michelle Donelan MP who visited Holbeach as part of the launch for the national network of Institutes of Technology and from Fishing Minister Victoria Prentis MP, Iceland's new ambassador to the UK, Sturla Sigurjonsson and the new British Ambassador to Iceland, Dr Bryony Matthews, all of whom visited the UK's largest seafood processing cluster in Grimsby.

It is important that whilst these visits are used to promote the growth and successes of our food sector, we also use them to continue to voice and influence the need for investment to support long term sustainable growth of businesses in the food industry. The LEP continues to welcome your ideas and suggestions on the investments we target, or the sector policy changes we are influencing.

I hope you are all able to enjoy a summer break at some stage in the next few weeks and look forward to welcoming you at our conference in the autumn, when we will move the UK Food Valley to the next exciting stage of its development.

Ruth Carver, Greater Lincolnshire LEP Chief Executive

NATIONAL NEWS



NATIONAL FOOD STRATEGY PUBLISHED

The final report from the National Food Strategy review was published on 15th July and launched with industry and stakeholders in an event hosted by the report's author, Henry Dimbleby, on 21st July. The report concluded that the food system of the future must meet four core goals:

- Make us well instead of sick.
- Be resilient enough to withstand global shocks.
- Help to restore nature and halt climate change so that we hand on a healthier planet to our children.
- Meet the standards the public expect, on health, environment, and animal welfare.

The report and supporting evidence can be accessed at:

[The National Food Strategy - The Plan.](#)

The Greater Lincolnshire LEP and UK Food Valley team welcomes the publication of the report, the first of its kind in

over 70 years, as a first step towards recognising how important food is to our national economy, wellbeing and health. It is expected that the report will lead to a Food Bill by early 2022.

The UK Food Valley particularly welcomes recommendations which support increased consumption of naturally good for you foods such as fresh fruit and vegetables, defining minimum standards for food imported into the UK, addressing climate change and increasing investment in food chain innovation. All of these align with the key priorities for the food chain set out by the Greater Lincolnshire Food Board.

YOUR NEWS

Fishing Minister Victoria Prentis visits Seafood Cluster

On 1st July 2021 DEFRA Fisheries Minister, Victoria Prentis MP, visited the Grimsby Seafood Cluster to meet seafood businesses and participate in a Q&A session with Grimsby based processors of all types of fish and seafood.

Together with Great Grimsby MP, Lia Nici (pictured with the Minister), the Minister toured Flatfish Limited with CEO of the Seafish Industry Authority, Marcus Coleman. They also visited Young's Seafood to meet Simon Smith, CEO and Andy Rutherford, CFO

At Flatfish the Minister heard about their plans to make a £5m investment to expand production to process more UK caught fish. Flatfish which is over 40 years old now has a 138 person team and is part of the Nissui Corporation from Japan, which also owns Caistor Seafoods in Grimsby and recently acquired Three Oceans in Hull, making it a significant player in the Humber seafood sector with a total of 3 seafood brands and 400 staff.

After also hearing about the 400 jobs Young's are creating following their acquisition by Canadian Sofina group in spring 2021, a virtual round table Q&A took place with the industry.



Facilitated by Cluster Director, Simon Dwyer, the Minister listened to the fish sector's experiences post-Brexit with exports to the EU and Northern Ireland and import concerns for fresh fish from Norway and Iceland post-1st October, following new import rule changes. Patrick Salmon of Alfred Enderby also talked to the Minister about traditional smoked fish Geographical Indicator (GI) status for Smoked Haddock and the importance of promoting the Town's fish products so that more consumers eat fish from Grimsby.

The Minister commented that she is confident that Grimsby is well placed to exploit the benefits of a growing local economy with a specialism in seafood.

Whilst in the area, the Minister also visited the new Border Control Post (BCP) which is being constructed at Immingham to facilitate the inspections needed for cross border trade as part of a national programme to increase the number of BCPs.

Universities Minister Opens Lincolnshire Institute of Technology (IoT)

Universities Minister, Michelle Donelan, visited the University of Lincoln's National Centre for Food Manufacturing (NCFM) to launch the Lincolnshire Institute of Technology (IoT) on 8th July.

The visit was one of several high-profile events arranged by the Department of Education to celebrate the national launch of the Institutes of Technologies. The Minister was joined by Karl McCartney, MP for Lincoln.

YOUR NEWS



Pictured: Michelle Donelan MP, Minister for Universities, is joined by Professor Val Braybrooks, Dean of the National Centre for Food Manufacturing and representatives from the University of Lincoln, Lincolnshire County Council, South Holland District and Boston Borough Councils.

Continued...

The Lincolnshire Institute of Technology is a unique collaboration between the University of Lincoln, employers and Colleges across Greater Lincolnshire, which has enjoyed £13 million of investment to create state-of-the-art facilities to meet the higher-level scientific and technical skills needs of Lincolnshire's key sectors, of which the Agri-food sector is clearly a priority. In parallel, new courses are being designed with employers to develop essential skills and provide the experience needed by over 3,000 students to access a range of high-quality technical careers with local employers.

Investment from the IoT and the Greater Lincolnshire Local Enterprise Partnership will see a new £2.4 million Digital Food Manufacturing Technologies Centre established on the South Lincolnshire Food Enterprise Zone to complement the £7million investment in the flagship Centre of Excellence in Agri-food Technologies which has recently opened.

During the visit the Minister met staff and students, employers and representatives from the Lincolnshire IoT, Greater Lincolnshire Local Enterprise Partnership, Lincolnshire County Council, South Holland District and

Boston Borough Councils as she toured the Centre of Excellence and the Food Automation, Robotics and Process Technologies Research Centre.

The Minister was introduced to representatives from OAL and Bakkavor, the IoT's Anchor Employers. Samantha Norman, Director of OAL said: "As we move into an increasingly digital world, the food and drink industry is having to adapt. To pioneer in this new space, companies will be looking for young people with technical skills and this great facility will provide young people with the digital skills they need to carve out a great career in the sector."

Representing employers, Sarah Louise Fairburn, Deputy Chair of Greater Lincolnshire Local Enterprise Partnership and Director of Imp & Maker, said: "Achieving carbon-neutral targets across the sector is going to need major investment in skills and technology and it is great that businesses can be supported by these excellent facilities and the expertise available at the National Centre for Food Manufacturing."



NATIONAL CENTRE FOR
FOOD MANUFACTURING

YOUR NEWS

Icelandic Ambassador visits Grimsby



On 24th June Iceland's new Ambassador to the UK, Sturla Sigurjonsson, visited Grimsby for key meetings with the seafood processing cluster and the supply chain.

The Ambassador, pictured with Grimsby Fish Merchants Association Chairperson, Mike Woods of Jaines Seafoods, also met with Simon Dwyer of the Fish Merchants Association, and the Seafood Grimsby & Humber Alliance and their Chairperson, Simon Smith, CEO of Young's Seafood. Discussions focused on trade and the supply of both fresh and frozen Icelandic cod and haddock which arrives weekly at Grimsby's seafood processing cluster.

The Ambassador also held meetings with Associated British Ports (ABP), who are building a multi-million pound Border Control Post (BCP) at Immingham where the vast majority of Icelandic seafood is landed and Eimskip, the Icelandic shipping line that transports the seafood.

Simon Dwyer commented: "It was a pleasure to meet the Ambassador and we had some fruitful discussions about the future landscape for supplies. We're both concerned about the UK government requirement, from 1st October 2021, for Icelandic exporters of seafood, to supply Export Health Certificates (EHCs) in their original paper form when the seafood arrives in Immingham. We agreed to maintain a close dialogue with our respective government representatives on the matter."

During a fish and chip lunch the Ambassador was keen to hear about the credentials and scale of the Grimsby seafood cluster and Mike Woods presented the Ambassador with a #MadeGreatInGrimsby baseball cap. The Ambassador also had a tour of the Flatfish Limited processing facility where he was able to view the processing of Icelandic fish for Waitrose.

PROMOTION

New UK Ambassador to Iceland Learns About #MADEGREATINGRIMSBY

The newly appointed British Ambassador to Iceland, Dr Bryony Matthews, visited Grimsby on 12th July 2021 to meet representatives of the #MadeGreatInGrimsby seafood and trading cluster.

Bryony was hosted by the CEO of Seafish Industry Authority, Marcus Coleman, along with Cluster Director, Simon Dwyer.

Over a working lunch with Mike Woods, Grimsby FMA Chairman, Iceland Consulate, Jonathan Goolden (both pictured with Bryony) and Ruth Carver, CEO of the Greater Lincolnshire LEP, Bryony heard at first hand about the importance of the fish import trade from Iceland into Grimsby which is then distributed throughout the UK to major retailers as well as thousands of fish and chip shops and mobile fishmongers.

Mike Woods, who recently met the Icelandic Ambassador to the UK, expressed concerns about UK government requirement of veterinary authorised Export Health Certificates (EHCs) having to be supplied by Icelandic exporters from 1st October this year. He explained that a hard copy of the document should be physically presented with the fresh fish arrivals into the UK prior to customs clearance. Mike explained this was a major challenge for senders and fish transporters. Mike commented: "It was important to meet Bryony and discuss trade links. Icelandic fresh fish imports from 1st October are a major talking point. This bureaucratic requirement is potentially a major obstacle for trade continuity, especially with fresh cod and haddock supplies. Transportation friction and associated delays could have devastating impacts on our cluster and consumers."

Bryony also toured Flatfish Limited, a major importer of Icelandic fresh fish, in whole and filleted form, and the

construction site for the new Border Control Post (BCP) adjacent to Immingham port. The BCP will be inspecting products of animal origin for human consumption from 1st January 2022 including fish and seafood from Iceland.

Bryony said "This was a great opportunity for me to better understand the various stages of the supply chain involved in getting Icelandic fish into the UK. What struck me in particular was the speed at which each stage needs to be completed and the potential scale of the impact of a delay to any part of the process. There are clearly very strong links between Grimsby and Iceland and I look forward to finding ways to further strengthen these when I start as Ambassador next month."

Bryony takes up her role based in Reykjavik in August.



YOUR NEWS

£60,000 HUB USES FOOD WASTE TO TACKLE POVERTY

The first food redistribution hub in Lincolnshire has opened, part of a pioneering project to divert surplus food to organisations fighting food poverty.

Unsold food – such as fruit and veg, bread and baked goods and chilled food – will be collected from retailers and suppliers and taken to the hub. It's then shared between organisations that can use it to support people in need, including food banks, community larders, school holiday clubs and community cafes. The hub, which is based at Vulcan Park off George Street in Lincoln, is run by charity FareShare. The £60,000 project has been funded by Lincolnshire Co-op and the Lincolnshire Community Foundation.

Initially, the food will come from 21 Lincolnshire Co-op food stores in Lincoln and the surrounding villages, and from Gousto, a major food supplier with two sites in Spalding. It will be shared between charities in Lincoln, East Lindsey and North East Lincolnshire who are members of FareShare.

FareShare Midlands is working closely with FareShare Hull and Humber to encourage more organisations in those areas to sign

up to a FareShare Community Food Membership. This enables groups to access food for a nominal fee, which covers operational costs.

FareShare Midlands Director Simone Connolly said: "The effects of Covid-19 have hit people hard, and by working with the food industry we want to unlock more surplus food to be shared with charities and community groups who are getting food to those who need it most."

Supermarkets, suppliers and food production and manufacturing firms are being encouraged to join the scheme, which is supported by The Lincolnshire Food Partnership. The hub aims to redistribute the equivalent of 1,200 meals to each community organisation every month. The hub – which will be called the FareShare Food Redistribution Hub – is initially a six-month pilot.

To sign up to be a FareShare member and benefit from the Lincolnshire Food Redistribution Hub or to volunteer or donate surplus food, go to

<https://www.faresharemidlands.org.uk/lincolnhub>



YOUR NEWS

Greater Lincolnshire Sector Propositions

The Greater Lincolnshire LEP with Lincolnshire County Council in partnership with other contributors has published three sector proposition and industry opportunity brochures with additional sectors to follow. Hot off the press is the [Low Carbon Energy & Industry](#) edition to complement [Agrifood](#) and [Advanced Engineering and Manufacturing](#).

DIT AgriTech Engineering Brochure (spring 2021)

DIT has released a brochure with the Agricultural Engineers Association (AEA) to promote UK expertise in the agritech engineering sector. This features six leading Greater Lincolnshire engineering companies: Garford Engineering, Househam Sprayers, Tong, Stanhay, Martin Lishman and Knights Farm Machinery.

The report is available to read [here](#).

University Enterprise Zone (UEZ) Fund Programme

The UEZ Fund Programme which ran during 2019-21 supported 71 SME food businesses with a combination of business support, technical advice, training events and a linked small grants scheme.

The final report showed that the food companies supported were overwhelmingly positive about the support provided, with many using it to expand and grow even during Covid-19. They particularly liked the fact that they could speak to staff with first hand industry experience at NCFM and that they could access a package of support in one place. One local company which benefitted from the programme was The Lincoln Distillery. The Lincoln Distillery is a family business formed in 2017 for the manufacture and sale of craft alcohol products. It was the first 'legal' distillery in Lincoln since Victorian times and is now located in a modern unit on the banks of the historic Foss Dyke Navigation at Saxilby.

Matt the distiller is passionate about the quality and marketing of the flagship product 'Lincoln Gin' as well as developing new ones. The micro distillery industry is vibrant and highly competitive. It is little appreciated that there are many aspects of the business operation which are far removed from, but inextricably linked with, the mysterious skills of distillation.

Collaborative working with the programme team at NCFM and the ongoing technical and manufacturing support were vital for business development. NCFM scientists were able to advise on

recipe development, legal requirements and testing criteria as this artisan distillery looked to develop a new range of products.

Throughout lockdown NCFM was able to advise on recipe formulation and labelling as this resourceful business turned to hand sanitiser production. Further support was given around process and equipment design as the business looked to develop. UEZ Fund Programme grant funding was utilised towards the setup of an e-commerce website and then for capital spend on production equipment. In particular, the Anton Parr Snap 41 portable alcohol meter has transformed the time-consuming task of cutting the alcoholic strength of the distillation process to that required for bottling. A new bottle washing machine has also aided quality and speed of work. The university is keen to run similar programmes in the future and is working with the UK Food Valley team to try to secure further funding.



YOUR NEWS



Greater Lincolnshire food sector to benefit from £100m green funding

British Power Group (BPG) is offering food businesses in Greater Lincolnshire and Rutland a special opportunity to switch to renewable energy at zero-capital cost. The Kirmington-based sustainable energy provider has £100m of private investments in place to fund renewable energy projects for any food-related business interested in reducing its energy bills and embracing green energy for the future.

The company provides a comprehensive range of green energy solutions, including solar PV, voltage optimisation, electric vehicle chargers, and energy brokerage. Its new collective offering includes the benefits of EV chargers and voltage optimisation, should they be required, completely free of charge when ordering solar PV, making it an attractive and rounded opportunity to benefit from multiple energy solutions.

BPG has capital available for any green project in Lincolnshire over the next two-year period. The management team are particularly keen to work with food industry businesses, in particular for solar PV projects, as the solar panels lend themselves perfectly to the larger roof space that factories, farms and production plants offer.

Not only are the solar PV projects available at zero capital cost, but they offer cost savings on energy prices in the future, making them an excellent choice for companies that want to lower bills and embrace greener technology to ensure sustainable measures are put in place for future generations.

Through its network of trusted energy partners, BPG provides over 25 years of experience in the renewables industry. Steven Cullum, Managing Director of British Power Group, said: "Now more than ever we need to collectively work towards employing sustainable technology and preserving the planet for future generations. As a Lincolnshire business ourselves, we are delighted to launch this green initiative to other Lincolnshire businesses so they can save substantial amounts on their current and future energy spend. The really good news is this is locked into projected future price increases, so the reduced rates payable over the contract period will always be less than expected energy price increases. We'd love to hear from other Lincolnshire businesses and to start a dialogue on how we can help."

For a confidential discussion please visit the BPG website to book an appointment: www.britishpowergroup.co.uk

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Agri-tech, business and food

The agri-tech 'hot funding' list – a regular list of funding opportunities in agri-tech. If you are working in agriculture, farming or food production, then these funds may help.

The agri-tech research teams at the University of Lincoln are experts at working with industry to build practical solutions to productivity, transportation and growing challenges for food and farming.

If you have a process, resource or technology challenge inside your farm or food business, then please do get in touch with us at: LAR@lincoln.ac.uk ; or for Innovate UK enquiries at the University of Lincoln: mvals@lincoln.ac.uk

ERA-Net FOSC and SUSFOOD2 joint call – innovative solutions for resilient, climate-smart and sustainable food systems

ERA-Net SUSFOOD2 and ERA-Net FOSC invite proposals for their joint call on innovative solutions for resilient, climate-smart and sustainable food systems. This supports projects that facilitate the transition from current linear food systems to resilient circular systems, including an optimal use of resources and less vulnerability to shocks under consideration of the interdependencies within the systems and its stakeholders. Proposals should include research on one of the following topics:

Topic I – innovations to improve food systems sustainability, with a focus on increasing resource efficiency and reducing waste;

Topic II – food systems adaptation and resilience to system shocks.

For more information click [here](#). Deadline 16th August 2021.

European Innovation Council - Horizon Europe: Innovative Europe - accelerator open call

This supports high-impact innovative products, services or business models that could create new markets or disrupt existing ones. Funding supports innovations building on scientific discovery or technological breakthroughs in any field of technology or application. Funding has two components: an investment component, with equity investments in the form of a convertible loan worth between €500,000 and €15 million, and a grant component, normally worth €2.5 million. The fund targets SMEs established within EU member states or associated countries, or natural or legal entities aiming to establish an SME in an eligible territory. For more information, [visit here](#).

BBSRC: Horticultural Quality and Food Loss Network applications

The Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council, part of UK Research and Innovation, invites applications for its quality and food loss network. This supports projects addressing key issues in the area of food quality and losses which will strengthen the quality, collaborative, including industry involvement, and cross-disciplinary nature of future innovative and novel grant proposals to UKRI-BBSRC. For more information [visit here](#).

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Agri-tech, business and food

Knowledge Transfer Partnership

The [Knowledge Transfer Partnership \(KTP\)](#) scheme helps businesses in the UK to innovate and grow. It does this by linking them with an academic or research organisation and a graduate. A KTP enables a business to bring in new skills and the latest academic thinking to deliver a specific, strategic innovation project through a knowledge-based partnership.' For more information [click here](#)

The Productivity Programme for Greater Lincolnshire

The Productivity Programme, delivered by the University of Lincoln and funded by the European Regional Development Fund, is designed to enable micro, small and medium businesses to do things differently through grant funding, business support and collaboration with the academic capacity of the university.

To find out more, please head to the Productivity Programme website [here](#).

PRODUCTIVITY HUBs PROGRAMME

The Productivity HUBs Programme is a University of Lincoln initiative, funded by the ERDF.

The programme is aimed at helping businesses in Scunthorpe, Boston and Grimsby to develop, grow and thrive. Eligible business will be provided with either one or both of the following:

- **Business Development** - Access to a business development manager who will work with you to identify key challenges and opportunities and help you to develop a plan to drive your business forwards to increased productivity and profitability.

- **Business Acceleration** - Aimed at ambitious start-ups that are committed to accelerating the growth of their

business. Eligible businesses will get a package of intensive support designed to improve performance and drive growth, and an opportunity to pitch for seed-funding grants of up to £10,000.

More information is available [here](#).

Contact Gary Mumby, Business Advisor, on: GMumby@lincoln.ac.uk

Or call: 07989 868 969.



Barclays Eagle Lab Farm Lincoln

Find out about how Barclays Eagle Labs can support your business. Based at the University's Riseholme Campus, the team can provide support and advice about business start-up and growth within the agri-tech community. Find out more [here](#).

FUTURE EVENTS

FPC Future and FPC Careers Event

4th November 2021, Lincolnshire Showground

This event will showcase the latest developments in agri-robotics and automation technologies. All are welcome, and there are still opportunities for sponsorship and to exhibit, so please do get in touch.

FPC Future is arranged by the Fresh Produce Consortium (UK association for fresh fruit, vegetables and flowers) in association with Lincoln Institute for Agri-food Technology. There will be an opportunity to sign up for tours of the University's Riseholme Campus too showcasing the University's AI, robotics and engineering projects. The showground event will be co-located with FPC Careers - an

event that will encourage students to consider a career in fresh produce, horticulture and related sectors as a first career choice. It will be open too to other young people who are seeking a second career within the industry or career change.

For more information about exhibiting or attending click [here](#)





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