



Dear Colleague,

Welcome to the second Greater Lincolnshire EU Funding bulletin.

Much has happened since the first edition of our EU Funding bulletin. Due to the result of the EU Referendum, Government officials have been considering how to structure funding and policies once the UK leaves the EU. Until recently, this has meant no further calls for the EU Growth Programme activity and publicity of the EU programmes.

However, this has not stopped work continuing locally where Greater Lincolnshire, through the LEP network, has been contributing to Government thinking on a replacement for the EU's economic development funding programmes.

We also continued to prepare for future calls which included an extra ordinary stakeholder's event on 3rd October 2016. We reviewed where we are at on each of the Growth Programme funds, including LEADER, and also reviewed pipeline projects that are likely to come forward if further calls were to be announced which was good preparation for the recent decision to allow us to open calls in 2017.

The chancellor confirmed that the Government will guarantee EU Funding for Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF) projects signed after the Autumn Statement and which will continue after we have left the EU. ESIF projects will now have funding secured if the agreement is signed before the UK departs the EU, is in line with the domestic strategic priorities and offers good value for money.

This edition provides an update on each of the EU Funding programmes. We are always keen to encourage stakeholder comments so please use the LEP's general enquiries website to provide any feedback: <https://www.greaterlincolnshirelep.co.uk/contact-us>

I wish you all a happy and healthy 2017 - I'm sure it will prove to be a challenging but interesting year of new opportunities for our area.

Pat Doody
Chair of Greater Lincolnshire European Structural & Investment Fund Committee.



Funding Streams



European Regional Development Fund

What does the fund support?

The European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) supports the following 6 priority areas:

Priority Axis 1	Research & Innovation
Priority Axis 2	Enhancing access to and use of Information, Communication & Technology
Priority Axis 3	Promoting SME Competitiveness
Priority Axis 4	Supporting the shift towards a low carbon economy
Priority Axis 5	Promoting Climate change adaptation, risk prevention and management
Priority Axis 6	Preserving and protecting the environment and promoting resource efficiency

ERDF focuses on larger, more strategic schemes which are well co-ordinated and which give maximum impact against specific themes. However, smaller projects and peripherally linked themes may also qualify for funding through collaborative value added partnerships.

What have we delivered to date?

There have been three calls for activity since the ERDF programme launched:

- 11 projects have been contracted requesting £16m of ERDF
- 2 projects have funding agreements in place requesting £1.5m ERDF
- 6 projects are in appraisal requesting £17.6m ERDF

Projects supported to date include: encouraging innovation and research based interventions to SMEs with a key focus on the GLEPs priority and emerging sectors; a range of business support activity aligned to the Business Lincolnshire Growth Hub to provide a wide ranging but comprehensive suite of business support activity; raising flood defences in Boston and Wrangle to provide longer term economic sustainability for the areas; constructing a pumping station & drainage solutions at Killingholme Marshes & creating centres of excellence for our Agri-food sector.

What is happening now?

A fourth call was launched in December 2016, the focus of the calls are specifically targeted at activity covering **Priority Axis 2** Information Communication and Technology, **Priority Axis 3** SME Competitiveness, **Priority Axis 4** Low Carbon, **Priority Axis 5** Climate Change Adaptation and **Priority Axis 6** Preserving and Protecting the Environment.

Follow the link on the GOV.UK– [access the funding finder here](#) website to find all the information needed about the call and to submit outline applications. DCLG anticipate that there will be further call windows in 2017 and 2018.

Call details and events to promote the calls will be published on the Greater Lincolnshire LEP website <https://www.greaterlincolnshirelep.co.uk/whats-new/european-funding-calls/>

Contact: Susannah.Lewis@lincolnshire.gov.uk or Charli.Whittaker@lincolnshire.gov.uk



European Union
European Regional
Development Fund

Funding Streams

European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development

What does the fund support?

The European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD), aims to improve the competitiveness of agriculture and forestry, the environment and the countryside and the quality of life and management of economic activity in rural areas. The main focus areas are:

- Fostering innovation, cooperation and the development of the knowledge base in rural areas
- Facilitating the supply and use of renewable sources of energy, of by products, wastes, residues and other non-food raw material for the purpose of the bio economy
- Fostering local development in rural areas
- Enhancing accessibility to, use and quality of information and communication technologies (ICT) in rural areas.

What have we achieved to date?

3 agri-food projects have been contracted requesting £668,000 to invest in the automation of a pack house to improve the efficiency, product flow and quality of spinach and kale; an automated flower bunching line and a new facility to house four existing brassica processing lines.

2 tourism projects have also been contracted requesting just under £244,000 which includes a cycle path to link to the Sustrans 64 cycle route and to provide a new all-weather multi-themed activity centre.

What is happening now?

It is anticipated that new calls for Tourism Infrastructure, Business Development and Food Processing projects will be announced the week beginning 9th January 2017. The calls will be open over a 9 month rolling period.

A Tourism Co-operation call will also be launched however this will be later next year.

For further information contact:

Susannah.Lewis@lincolnshire.gov.uk



The European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development
Europe investing in rural areas

Funding Streams



European Social Fund

What does the fund support

The European Social Fund (ESF) is the strand of European funding that supports people into jobs and provides training, and better employment prospects, for those already in work. It supports job-seekers as well as those who are not actively seeking work; young people; people in low paid or low skilled jobs; people who need additional training to progress in-work; and it can be used to improve the relevance of education and training so that it better meets the needs of the local labour market.

The Greater Lincolnshire area has been allocated £45m over a seven-year period.

In order to bring forward projects for delivery, our local ESF allocation requires match funding at a rate of 40%; so around £26m in total. Three national organisations will provide some of this match funding because the area has chosen to 'opt-in' to their match funding proposals.

- DWP - providing support and mentoring to unemployed individuals
- Big Lottery –helping individuals furthest away from the labour market to make steps towards employment
- Skills Funding Agency – providing skills training and qualifications to individuals who are in work and who are unemployed

These organisations are known as opt-in partners.

What have we achieved to date

DWP Match funding

The Department for Work & Pensions Opt In proposal for unemployed people is nearly complete subject to some last minute queries from the lead LEP (Humber). Tenders were out in late May/ early June 2016. A provider has now been appointed to the contract, and activity will be delivered January 17 onwards.

Big Lottery Match funding

The GLLEP have been working with the Big Lottery Fund to develop a European Social Fund programme that supports social inclusion. The Building Better Opportunities Fund offers organisations the opportunity to apply for funding to tackle the issues raised within each of the grant calls offered for the Greater Lincolnshire area.

We have already developed programmes covering:

- Considering Employment options
 - Engagement into learning
 - Money and debt advice



Funding Streams

The final tendering process for the final programme supporting the economically inactive is due to be completed soon, and will start early in the new year.

SFA Match Funding

The Skills Funding Agency opt-in proposal has seven projects that will provide training, or to make training more relevant and appropriate.

Following local development of the specifications, all seven projects have now been procured by the SFA and will run until July 2018.

They are:

1. Skills Support to the Workforce – providing eligible training to employees working for Greater Lincolnshire.
2. Apprenticeship Growth Programme - supporting businesses through the process to recruit an Apprentice and supporting unemployed residents to apply for Apprenticeship vacancies;
3. NEET Information, Advice and Guidance – preparing unemployed young people for local jobs by providing inspiration about local jobs and industry;
4. Specialist Skills Advisor Network – helping business owners to articulate their skills needs and matching that with appropriate training;
5. Industry Specialists Teaching & Knowledge Exchange Programme – supporting businesses to collaborate with local Colleges and Training Providers so that curriculums and knowledge within local training organisations is current;
6. Skills Support to the Unemployed – training for residents who are unemployed
7. Greater Lincolnshire Careers and Industry project - developing a local online resource of information about local industry/sectors, helping to change perceptions about skills needs.

The LEP and the SFA are already working closely with the provider of the Skills Support to the Workforce contract to ensure that outcomes are met, as this was the first project to be procured. Meetings will be taking place with the other six projects in January 2017.

What is happening now

Under the programme there is still money available to support skills and training within the programme, and subject to government guidance over the coming months of how this may be used, we will be seeking ideas locally. If you have any thoughts on this particular issue, and would like an initial discussion then please contact Andrew.Brooks@lincolnshire.gov.uk for more information.



European Union
European
Social Fund

Funding Streams

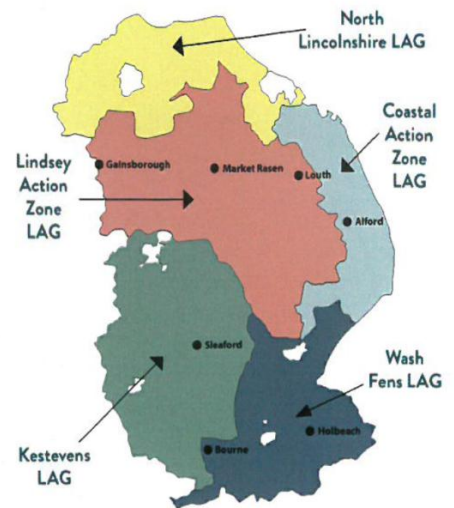
LEADER (Liaison Entre Actions De Développement de L'Économie Rurale)

What does the fund support?

LEADER funding is for small rural business and communities delivered through Local Action Groups (LAG). All projects must create jobs or economic growth in the rural economy and support one or more of the 6 national priorities for LEADER.

These are to:

- Support micro and small businesses and farm diversification
- Boost rural tourism
- Increase farm productivity
- Increase forestry productivity
- Provide rural services
- Provide cultural and heritage activities



What have we achieved to date?

We have four areas across Lincolnshire eligible for LEADER funding where we have currently got 32 applications that are in the process and 20 projects have now been contracted of which 6 of these are now financially complete. Projects contracted include:



A mustard plant has been awarded a grant to purchase and install an up-to-date mustard seed cleaning, conveying and drying piece of equipment which will increase productivity and reduce electricity consumption and a play barn which will support farm diversification and improve a visitor attraction in the area.



The Aswarby Sawmill project was awarded a grant to help purchase a woodland forwarder. The business identified an opportunity to utilise part of the crop that currently has no market and for it to be converted into woodchip for biomass fuel.



British Hardwood Trees were awarded a grant to build a new warehouse that will provide additional covered and secure space which will adjoin an existing building. This will enable the business to have additional storage and processing facilities for both tree and sundries which include products such as tree guards, spiral tubes, stakes etc. The existing field entrance will be upgraded to help cope with the articulated lorries which will enable lorries to have a direct route into the warehouse area. And eliminate risks to the workforce and visitors from going through the main yard.

Contact details for LAG Managers:

Coastal and Lindsey LAG: Judy Bell (01507 354561)
 Kestevens LAG: Wendy Moore (01522 552223)
 Wash Fens LAG: Frances McIntyre (01775 764496)
 North Lincs LAG: Shalon Perkins (01724 297768)



Kestevens LEADER Fund

Commerce, Community and Countryside

Lindsey Action Zone

Commerce, Community and Countryside

Upcoming Events/Workshops

Business Lincolnshire Growth Hub/ ERDF Events			
Date	Venue	Time	Focus of the events
17 th January	Forest Pines, Scunthorpe	All day event	To specifically promote: <i>ERDF Priority Axis 4b Promoting energy efficiency and renewable energy use in enterprises</i> as a joint call with Humber, York North Yorkshire and East Riding & Greater Lincolnshire LEP to deliver business support to the food sector and associated supply chain. Each LEP area will also promote other ERDF calls that will be open to applicants in the New Year. For Greater Lincolnshire this will include Priority Axis 2,3,4,5 and 6.
31 st January	Hemswell Court, Gainsborough	10am – 12pm	To promote the Business Lincolnshire Growth Hub and ERDF calls for activity that are currently open.
14 th March	The Brackenborough Hotel	10am – 12pm	
20 th June	The Vine Hotel, Skegness	10am – 12pm	
Business Lincolnshire Growth Hub/EAFRD and LEADER Events			
24 th January	National Centre for Food Manufacturing, Holbeach	10am – 12pm	To promote: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rural funding opportunities to micro, small and medium sized enterprises in the Greater Lincolnshire area New calls for activity are due to be announced early in the New Year under the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) which will focus on food processing, business development and tourism projects To promote our LEADER funding which is targeted at our small rural businesses and communities and focuses on: Supporting micro and small businesses and farm diversification; boost rural tourism, farm productivity, forestry productivity, provide rural services and cultural/heritage activities
14 th March	The Brackenborough Hotel, Louth	1:30 – 3:30pm	
20 th June	The Vine Hotel, Skegness	1:30 – 3:30pm	

