



ISSUE 5

GREATER LINCOLNSHIRE LEP FOOD SECURITY

Latest news and updates

13th May 2020

The Greater Lincolnshire LEP continues to work closely with businesses, facilitators, and government to support the Covid19 impact on the food chain and support the food sector to continue feeding the nation. The schemes which are widely promoted and operating now are [Pick for Britain](#) and [Feed the Nation](#).

Please follow the latest updates on our website www.greaterlincolnshirelep.co.uk and follow us on [@GreaterLincsLEP](#) and through [LinkedIn](#) and on our new Instagram platform at GreaterLincsLEP created to target the Student Land Army campaign.

Latest Announcements

Lockdown Modification

The Government is cautiously modifying lockdown measures and has released a [Recovery Plan](#). The priority remains to protect the public and save lives and it will ensure any adjustments made are first compatible with five tests. To support business owners to create safe working environments 12 guides have been created to support a range of work settings with those closely aligned to the food sector available as follows:

- [Construction and other outdoor work](#)
- [Factories, plants and warehouses](#)
- [Vehicles](#)
- [Safe Travel](#)
- [Risk Assessments](#)
- [Safe cleaning](#)

Extension to Furlough Scheme

The Chancellor has also announced an extension of the Furlough Scheme to the end of October but has said the government will ask companies to begin sharing the cost of the scheme from August.

The scheme will continue for all sectors and regions of the country but with greater flexibility to support the transition back to work. Employers currently using the scheme will then be able to bring furloughed employees back part-time. More information will follow shortly.

Garden Centre Success

Greater Lincolnshire LEP welcomes the announcement by government to allow garden centres to re-open from Wednesday 13th May as long as they keep their cafes closed and enforce social distancing measures. The LEP has been instrumental in pressing for this change alongside many other industry bodies, because as a 'relative' of the food sector, the ornamental plant sector in Lincolnshire is worth over £200m per year and Lincolnshire is also home to many garden centres. This change will allow our important ornamental plant sector to help gardeners access the plants they need, at a time when the importance of gardening has been recognised in a report from Natural England about the importance of time spent in gardens to both mental and physical health. Read more [here](#).

Information and Links

Lincolnshire Together Website

A new website has been designed which brings together both requests and offers of support across Lincolnshire linking the business community, health and care, education, and voluntary sectors (to include donations of food supplies) in support of the Covid-19 pandemic. For more information or to submit your offer visit www.lincolnshiretogether.co.uk

#Student Land Army campaign

The Greater Lincolnshire LEP has developed a campaign in response to the imminent labour need to bring in the UK harvest and to drive this targeted group to the national [Pick for Britain](#) scheme. This follows on-going conversations with the food and farming sectors in response to expected gaps in labour from June onwards coinciding with the furloughed scheme transitioning, and the main picking season in Lincolnshire beginning.

Our local #StudentLandArmy campaign has been widely shared and promoted. This is being supported by the NFU and CLA and we are in discussions with DEFRA to additionally promote and register students within the portal. **Farming and food employers are now urgently encouraged to register and upload their requirements to capture the huge interest generated.**

Testing for essential workers continues

If you're an essential worker who is self-isolating (not able to leave home), continue to visit the [LEP website](#) or book at test directly [here](#).

Seafood Sector

The seafood sector is running a series of promotions, supported by DEFRA, to target UK consumers to consume more UK caught fish due to Covid-19 had disruption to export markets - [#SeaForYourself](#). The Seafood sector is a critical part of Greater Lincolnshire's food sector, with 70% of national fish processing capacity in and around Grimsby employing over 10,000 across the supply chain. [Fish is the Dish](#) is also assisting consumers to [buy fish online](#), which includes 7 companies in the Humber South Bank cluster, including specialists such as Alfred Enderby's smoked haddock.

DIT Agritech survey

The Department for International Trade is developing a LEP survey to gather input on agritech, trade, and the food chain to feed into government. We will be posting details of how to engage in the survey soon.

Coronavirus

- Visit [Business Lincolnshire](#) or call 01522 782189 for continued support to your Greater Lincolnshire or Rutland business
- Some businesses are being encouraged to cautiously reopen. Read the Government's plan for the next phase [here](#)
- Industry guides to support business owners to enable employees to work safely across a range of different sectors can be found [here](#)
- Feed business impacts into our [Business Intelligence](#) platform to help us continue to develop solutions with Government.
- Visit [here](#) to submit your details if you can provide masks, gowns or hand sanitiser nationally or locally to [Lincolnshire Together](#)