



ISSUE 11

GREATER LINCOLNSHIRE LEP FOOD SECURITY

14th August 2020

Sector Progress & Highlights

In this issue we cover the recent key highlights and announcements both locally and nationally. As these briefings grow in content, please click on a link below to take you directly to the stories for quicker review.

- [**National Food Strategy**](#) Stage 1 Report Launched
- [**Holbeach FEZ**](#) wins Funding from Get Building Fund
- [**Local companies support Food Schemes**](#) during Covid-19
- [**Barclays Eagle Lab AgriTech**](#) [Webinar Series](#)
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National Food Strategy Stage 1 Report Launched

On 29th July 2020, the first stage report for the independent review leading to a National Food Strategy was published by government. The review, chaired by Henry Dimbleby; Non Executive lead at DEFRA and restaurant entrepreneur, will publish a 2nd stage report in 2021 which will focus on the food chain and make recommendations for its development.

In launching the Stage 1 Report in July, Henry noted that Covid-19 has changed the context for the strategy, and arguably has made it even more essential, and has subsequently changed the issues for the focus in his Stage 1 Report. Stage 1 focuses on two main issues:

1. The link between diet and health:-
 - This theme is particularly focused on children and the dis-advantaged. As a previous national review chair for school food, Henry is passionate about the need to give all children a good start in life through access to a healthy diet.
 - At the launch event Henry also noted that the Covid crisis has reinforced the importance of this theme, with evidence now mounting of a significant difference in the severity of Covid-19 on patients dependent on their underlying health, with obesity a key risk factor.
 - It is expected that more detailed recommendations on these issues will be brought forward in the final report, in 2021.
2. What happens at the end of the Brexit Transition period:
 - The report is very clear that Free Trade Deals (FTAs) are not tenable, as disadvantage the UK industry by allowing in food produced to lower standards. However, it notes that many current

imports come from production systems which use different standards to those applied in the UK, including some products imported from the EU.

- However, the over-riding message is that consumers expect standards to be maintained and that the UK having regained its sovereignty should use this wisely and scrutinise all proposed Free Trade Agreements (in Parliament) to ensure that we protect UK standards and promote them in countries which wish to export to the UK.

Part 2 of the National Food Strategy will focus on the whole food chain, from farm to fork and deal with issues such as jobs, climate change etc. Part 1 of the strategy and executive summary is available [here](#).

Holbeach FEZ wins Funding from Get Building Fund

The South Lincolnshire Food Enterprise Zone (FEZ) at Holbeach, has been awarded a grant to deliver an £8.5m accelerated development project as part of the Government's Get Building Fund. It is one of 7 projects supported in Greater Lincolnshire which received a total of £25.8m from the fund, and is targeted on Covid recovery.

The project is a partnership between Lincolnshire County Council, South Holland District Council and the University of Lincoln. With work expected to start in October 2020 and finish by March 2022, the project will create a new 'Central Hub' building, providing high quality business and collaboration space for small and start-up businesses working in the food supply chain and related sectors. The project also includes further access roads to open up additional plots.

The Hub building will complement the purpose-built Food Centre of Excellence on Phase 1 of the FEZ which is due to be completed in February 2021. This will enable most of the National Centre for Food Manufacturing (NCFM) team to relocate to the FEZ site, supported by a third development as the FEZ is also the site for the new Lincolnshire Institute of Technology.

Local companies support Food Schemes during Covid-19

UK Fresh Produce Network (FPN). At the start of lockdown, UK FPN Lincolnshire organised free deliveries of fresh produce to 10 care homes in South Holland. Members, Davis Worldwide, Greencell, Karsten UK, LFP and Worldwide Fruit, donated a total of 28 pallets of fresh produce, and Fresca donated a series of fruit boxes. The produce was collected and distributed by TopUp (Freshlinc) to 10 local care homes and also to food banks. Because of this generosity over 300 vulnerable people received much needed nutrition.

Louth Community Partnership and Generations Church. Food company owner Peter Davis, of Boston based David Worldwide, who supported the UK FPN project is now working with his church and Louth Community Partnership to provide free packed lunches, over the school summer holidays, for families in need. Schools and churches have offered their canteens free for food preparation in a Covid secure environment.

The project helps local families in Louth and surrounding villages who may be struggling financially. Although this is a Generations Church project, it is being run from the Trinity Centre in Eastgate, a local community hub which is easily accessible for many people.

Up to and including Thursday 27 August, the project offers a FREE packed lunch for children and young people (and parents too if required). These lunches are available for collection from the Trinity Centre between 11am and 12.30pm on the relevant dates. The project is feeding around 80 people each session.

Read the full story [here](#).



Barclays Eagle Lab AgriTech Webinar Series

Barclays Eagle Labs are hosting a week-long series of webinars to promote the role of AgriTech from 17th to the 21st August.

Greater Lincolnshire's food sector is to feature in the webinar programme, with the chance on Friday 21st August to hear from Greater Lincolnshire LEP Deputy Chair Sarah Louise Fairburn who is speaking about how industry adopts and uses agritech. Martin Collison, agrifood expert and advisor to the LEP, was also interviewed for the webinars and will appear in a short video earlier in the week.

View a previous discussion from the series on [The future outlook for Agriculture through the use of AI and Agri-robotics](#) featuring Professor Simon Pearson from the Lincolnshire Institute for Agri-Tech (LIAT) at the University of Lincoln.

Click [here](#) for more information and to join.

Key Future Focus

Food Board

The Greater Lincolnshire Food Board met virtually on 13th August to discuss the future growth and development of the food chain. The meeting was joined by guests Nick Downing, Commercial Director of the IGD and Rick Bourne of Scriven Green Food Consultants, to evaluate the impact of Covid-19 on the food chain and what this might mean for future development of the supply chain.

The board debated Part 1 of the Report from the National Food Strategy and discussed the challenges and opportunities arising from the end of the Transition Period at the end of December 2020. All of these topics will be fed into the future plans the LEP develops with partners to support the growth of the food chain.

National Food Industry Updates

New small business leadership and problem-solving programmes

Two new leadership programmes to help small business leaders grow their companies in the wake of the coronavirus pandemic have been launched:-

- The [Small Business Leadership Programme](#) will equip business leaders with the confidence and leadership skills to plan for the future of their business, and ensure that they are in a great position to recover from the impacts of coronavirus. Find out more and [apply here](#).
 - The [Peer Networks Programme](#) will focus on helping business owners improve their problem-solving skills, through a series of guided exercises. Members of the programme will be given skills in areas such as leadership and management, sales and marketing that they need to tackle these challenges head-on while growing their business. Find out more and [apply here](#).
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To be added to the LRF economic & business updates distribution list click [here](#).

The Greater Lincolnshire LEP continues to work closely with businesses, facilitators, and government to address the impact of Covid19 on the food chain and support the food sector to continue feeding the nation and to plan the recovery phase and interventions. Please follow the latest updates on our website www.greaterlincolnshirelep.co.uk and follow us on [@GreaterLincsLEP](#) and through [LinkedIn](#)

Covid-19

- Visit [Business Lincolnshire](#) or call 01522 782189 for continued support to your business
- View the Government Covid-secure guidance by sector [here](#)
- Click [here](#) if you can provide Covid-19 testing capacity
- Feed business impacts into [Business Intelligence](#)