

Attendee Schedule & Contacts

5.30pm

Greater Lincolnshire LEP Food Board Reception

MacMillan Room
Portcullis House
House of Commons
London SW1A 2TT
Phone: 020 7219 4272



Note

Portcullis House operates an airport style security access policy so please ensure extra time is allowed to access the building and locate the MacMillan Room on the 1st floor. The visitor entrance is located on the Embankment side of the building. Please aim to arrive at the MacMillan Room for 5pm-5.15pm.

LEP House of Commons Reception Continued

Contacts

Robert Thomas	John Hayes' office (Portcullis Hs)
Christianne Paroschi	Portcullis House
Ruth Carver	LEP Director
Martin Collison	Collison & Associates
Reception	One Great George Street

7pm / 8pm

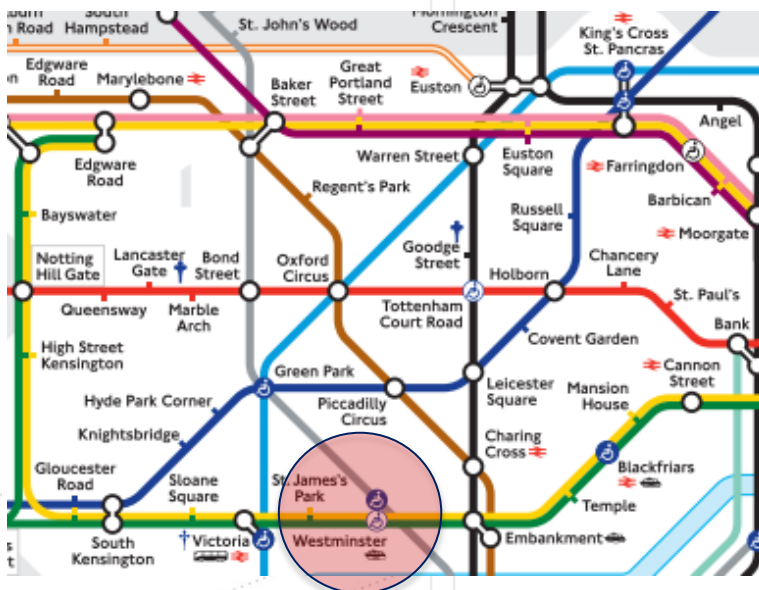
Drinks and Dinner

Stephenson Room
One Great George Street
1 Great George Street
Westminster
London
SW1P 3AA

Note One Great George Street is an Edwardian function room and is a 5 minute walk from Portcullis House. Drinks will be served from 7pm for dinner at 8pm. Please make your way over following the reception.

Dress Code Business dress

Transport Nearest tube is Westminster (2 min walk)



Greater Lincolnshire Agriculture, Food and Technology

The UK food chain is the UK's largest manufacturing sector, employs 3.9million people, has a consumer value of £203 billion and GVA of £108billion. Most value is added beyond the 'farm gate', with only £1 in every £6 spent by consumers on food and drink reaching farmers. Of the total gross value added created in the food chain in the UK, approximately 10% is generated by farmers and fishermen, 40% by food processing, marketing and logistics and 50% by catering and food retail.

Greater Lincolnshire is the largest food producing region in the UK and over 30% of all UK food transport travels through or starts in Lincolnshire. In total the food chain provides 24% of Greater Lincolnshire's jobs (13% nationally) and 21% of its economic output (7% nationally). The future of the food chain is more important to Lincolnshire than any other LEP area.

Greater Lincolnshire is the largest processor of fish with 70% of the UK market, produces over 25% of the potatoes and vegetables and is a major producer of processed food. Greater Lincolnshire is the largest UK producer of cereals, chickens, ducks, potatoes, vegetables, salads, flowers and bulbs. Lincolnshire is leading work on food for the Midlands Engine on Future Food Processing in a region which has 28% of all UK food processing and the largest concentration of food distribution centres.

The sector's strength in Greater Lincolnshire is based on both a vibrant farming (over 4,300 farms) and SME food business base and more than 70 larger food chain companies which add value to food. Many of these larger companies are international, both those which are owned overseas (e.g. Moy Park) and local businesses which trade nationally and internationally (e.g. Frontier).

Greater Lincolnshire is committed to promoting economic growth in the whole food chain by responding to growth in the global food economy where spending is growing at a compound annual growth rate of 6% in an industry worth £8trillion – five times the size of the automotive sector.

Competitive pressure is driving new business models and innovation in the food chain focused on:

- Increasing labour efficiency and promoting the use of robots and automation
- Reducing waste and addressing resource constraints including water and energy supplies
- Improving traceability, provenance and quality assurance in the food chain

Lincolnshire is leading thinking and innovation in all these areas and has been working with government to increase the use of robotics and automated systems to improve labour productivity in the food chain, with the *Made Smarter Review* for Government (30th October 2017) including a Food Chain theme led by Lincolnshire. The University of Lincoln has the highest number of food technology students in the UK and is the leading provider of industry linked research for the industry with World leading expertise in robotics and Internet of Things technology for the food chain.

Greater Lincolnshire is home to three of the 17 Food Enterprise Zones (FEZs) in the UK established to expand the physical infrastructure for food companies and the technology providers which support them. Two of the FEZs at Europarc on the Humber and Hemswell Cliff in West Lindsey are focused on providing space for the growth of food processing, logistics and marketing companies. The third FEZ, in Holbeach is focused on creating a cluster of food technology companies alongside the National Centre for Food Manufacturing which is relocating onto the FEZ site as anchor tenant.

House of Commons Greater Lincolnshire LEP Food Board Meeting
5.30-6.30pm, MacMillan Room, 1st Floor in Portcullis House

5.30	Reception commences	
5.40-5.45	Welcome and introductory remarks	Rt. Hon John Hayes MP, Minister for Transport Legislation and Maritime
5.45-5.50	Overview of Greater Lincolnshire food sector key objectives	Mark Tinsley, Chairman GLLEP Food Board
3 x five minute pitches on the importance of core issues to the food sector:		
5mins	Trade	1 st Simon Dwyer (Seafox) & 2 nd Will Naylor (Bakkavor)
5mins	Labour supply	1 st Simon Telfer (Branston) & 2 nd Steve Evans (Freshtime)
5mins	Innovation	1 st Duncan Worth (QV foods) & 2 nd Prof Simon Pearson (LIAT)
6.10	Concluding remarks	Rt. Hon John Hayes MP, Minister for Transport
Until 6.30	Networking	

House of Commons Speeches

[Minister - John Hayes – welcome and introduction]

Mark Tinsley – Greater Lincolnshire LEP Food Board

Good afternoon and thank you John for hosting us. We are honoured to be here and I would like to take a few minutes in my capacity as Chair of the Food Board to explain agriculture and the food sector and Lincolnshire's leading role in the sector to set the scene.

As I know we have told you before the food sector is the most important industry in Lincolnshire and accounts for a quarter of all our jobs. We are the national centre for fish processing, food logistics, the fresh produce industry and home to concentrations of poultry, processed food and grains.

We are also focused on adding value in the food chain because we think that the best way to support agriculture is to have a dynamic food chain to provide a market.

But competitive pressures in the food chain are driving new business models in Lincolnshire's food chain as much as anywhere and it is important that we all work together to grow the food economy.

Our food businesses do have concerns about trade and labour supply in the light of Brexit which we wish to discuss with you this evening, but we are also being proactive in embracing industry wide challenges such as: how to reduce waste; manage water supplies and improve efficiency.

Lincolnshire is leading thinking and innovation in all these areas, both within our companies and with the support of the University and technology providers

We are also developing three Food Enterprise Zones as business parks for food chain companies

- Two of these are focused on food processing, logistics and marketing at Europarc in North Lincolnshire and Hemswell just North of Lincoln
- With the third one focused on creating a cluster of food technology companies at Holbeach alongside the National Centre for Food Manufacturing run by the University of Lincoln

I now want to invite members of the Food Board to introduce a series of quick items and will start with Simon Dwyer of Seafox who will focus on future trade relationships:

The second issue we want to focus on is Labour Supply which will be introduced by Simon Telfer of Branston:

Finally, we wanted to conclude with a real positive. Whilst there are many challenges we do think that in Lincolnshire the innovation agenda has real potential to improve the industry and so I will ask Duncan Worth of QV Foods to explain what innovation means to industry followed by Professor Simon Pearson who will explain a little about what they are doing at the University to address this need:

To conclude I would like to thank John for hosting us this evening, it is much appreciated. I know many of you are joining us at One George Street for dinner, with drinks from 7pm and I look forward to seeing you there where I hope we can continue the debate. At the dinner we would like to focus on transport and logistics.

For those leaving us soon, thank you for your attention and I hope that we have opened up a vital dialogue at a time of great change. We are confident that with the right policies we can continue to grow our food economy and we look forward to working with you all in delivering this.

One Great George Street, Stephenson Room – Dinner - 7-11pm

NB the Dinner timings are subject to change due to MPs potential need to vote

Over dinner the debate will focus on Transport and Infrastructure (John Hayes MP is Transport Minister and Brexit Lead in the DfT).

Agenda / Format for dinner:

7pm	Drinks reception	
8.00pm	Dinner	
8.00pm	Welcome	Ursula Lidbetter, Chair of Greater Lincolnshire LEP
TBC	Transport and infrastructure: opening remarks by: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Steve Broadbent, Dalehead• Robert Smith, Danish Crown• Simon Dwyer, Seafox Reply by: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Rt. Hon John Hayes MP, Minister for Transport• Debate/open discussion	
TBC	Close and thanks	Ursula Lidbetter, Chair of Greater Lincolnshire LEP

Dinner - Ursula Lidbetter welcome – over starters

As Chair of the LEP I am very pleased to be here this evening and wanted to start by thanking Mark Tinsley for his work for the LEP and for chairing the Food Board and the Minister of State John Hayes for hosting us in Portcullis House earlier today.

As we discussed earlier the food sector is the largest industry in Greater Lincolnshire and so it is right that the LEP invests a great deal of time and effort in working to ensure we can help it to survive and thrive in the future, particularly in a post Brexit environment.

As we heard earlier industry members do understandably have some concerns about the future, but I hope you also picked up a sense of optimism that, with the right support, the industry can continue to grow. As a LEP, as we start to develop our local industrial strategy we shall certainly incorporate the views of today, in areas such as skills, labour market supply, innovation, and investment in new technology.

In addition to the areas we heard about earlier, another area the LEP is actively engaged in is infrastructure and so I would like to suggest that over dinner we discuss this important topic and why it is important to the food industry.

In Greater Lincolnshire the South Bank of the Humber ports are the largest port by volume in the country with over 1million tonnes of freight movement per week.

The food industry is a major user of the roads with nearly 30% of UK road freight relating to the food chain and all our ports see major flows of food products. Spalding daily sends over 1,000 lorry loads of food into the UK food chain making it the largest food logistics hub in the country.

I for one hope that we see a growth in the food exports from our ports as we continue to grow our trade after Brexit, but we have to remember that many of food companies also use imported ingredients and so the continued free flow of goods into the country is vital to the industry.

To sustain industry growth the UK has to have the strategic infrastructure to support a modern and dynamic food industry so we can get our products to customers in a cost effective way, whether they are in the UK or overseas. I would therefore now like to call on members of our food board to speak about the impact that infrastructure has on their businesses and will start with Steve Broadbent of Dalehead:

As transport minister I would now like John to reply on how we can work together to ensure that our future growth and trade is supported by investment in our infrastructure:

Greater Lincolnshire Agriculture, Food and Technology – One pager for background

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Martin Collison, Agri Food Advisor to GLLEP, October 2017