



DRIVING ECONOMIC GROWTH

IN GREATER LINCOLNSHIRE

ANNUAL REPORT 2016-17

WAGE GROWTH

IN GREATER LINCOLNSHIRE STRONGER THAN THE NATIONAL AVERAGE

GREATER LINCOLNSHIRE ECONOMY GREW BY OVER **£200M** IN REAL TERMS



FOREWORD FROM THE CHAIR

It is a great pleasure to produce the Greater Lincolnshire LEP's Annual Report which captures the progress we have made in 2016-17 and gives us time to take stock of our achievements and look at how far the Greater Lincolnshire economy has moved forward.

Ursula Lidbetter MBE

Chair, Greater Lincolnshire Local Enterprise Partnership

AIMS

The Greater Lincolnshire LEP works with the public and private sector to deliver sustainable economic growth. We want to help our business sectors increase productivity and innovation, create new employment opportunities and develop the infrastructure that supports this.

We are working hard within the Midlands Engine, the Humber Estuary and the Northern Powerhouse to deliver for Greater Lincolnshire.

We play an important role in the UK economy; we feed the country through our expertise in food production and agri-tech, power the country through our low carbon and power engineering sectors, and entertain through our thriving visitor economy.



Local Enterprise Partnerships nationally continue to go from strength to strength with Greater Lincolnshire arguably one of the most compelling of the 38 across England. We have positioned ourselves strongly amongst our peers and Government policy setters, and are leading the way in nationally important areas including utilities, food and water management, as well as setting the bar amongst LEPs in accountability and policy influencing.

Since the LEP's inception in 2011, we have established and maintained a strong strategic focus. This has enabled us to invest £307 million in our growth plan and bring forward 35 major growth initiatives. Whilst all parts of Greater Lincolnshire have benefited from these ambitious growth programmes and investment plans, half of these initiatives are within our five most deprived areas reflecting the LEP's ambition to drive inclusive economic growth.

The LEP model has already demonstrated an ability to make key decisions which have tested the resilience of its governance structures as well as the maturity of local partners. As part of the LEP's commitment to ensuring it remains fit for purpose and focused on its strategic economic vision and objectives, in 2016-17 the LEP has boosted Board representation from the health and care sectors and the small business community.

We've refreshed our Strategic Economic Plan, launched our Water Management Plan, delivered Big Debates, launched a range of skills programmes, expanded the business support offer through Business Lincolnshire, driven the development of our three Food Enterprise Zones, initiated a new Visitor Economy and Manufacturing Board, and made much headway with our place marketing and Team Lincolnshire toolkit work.

Since the Autumn Statement, the Greater Lincolnshire LEP has been working very closely with the business community and local partners to shape a comprehensive response for Greater Lincolnshire to the Government's Industrial Strategy. This offers us a unique opportunity to further embed ourselves as one of the leading LEPs in nationally important sector areas.

This year saw the Midlands Engine as a platform for close collaboration and working with our neighbours and those who share our economic priorities. This has included securing and publishing a Midlands Science and Innovation Audit and attending the MIPIM property show as part of the Midlands Engine team.

Whilst this annual report provides some highlights of the LEP's achievements over the past year, our LEP Business Live conference on 20th October 2017 and our website captures more detail of the breadth and impact of the LEP's activities over the past 12 months.

I am extremely pleased that over 100 businesses are now actively involved in shaping our strategies, and 80 business people sit on our Boards. The success and extent of this activity is a result of the commitment and high-calibre skill set of the Board itself, with all Directors playing a full role in directing key agendas of the LEP. It is also a result of the maturity of a wide range of partners across Lincolnshire, from within the public, education and private sectors, who have committed with time, expertise and funding resources to support the delivery of the LEP's ambitious growth programme. And finally, it is important to recognise the continued support of Lincolnshire County Council as partner of the LEP and the resource contributions it makes to the delivery of key LEP programmes.

Thank you.



OVER
£307M
OF TRANSFORMATIONAL
ECONOMIC PROGRAMMES
SECURED

GREATER
LINCOLNSHIRE
ECONOMY
GREW BY OVER
£200M

GROWTH HUB
DELIVERING
92%
CUSTOMER 
SATISFACTION
AND CREATING
310 JOBS

HIGHLIGHTS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

80,000
BUSINESSES GENERATING
ALMOST £21 BILLION
TO THE LOCAL ECONOMY

OVER £1.85M
IN RURAL DEVELOPMENT
GRANTS TOWARDS 
SUPPORTING RURAL
BUSINESSES

OVER
£176M 
FOREIGN DIRECT
INVESTMENT
CREATING
**447 NEW
JOBS**

STRATEGIC ECONOMIC PLAN

GREATER LINCOLNSHIRE LEP
**STRATEGIC
ECONOMIC
PLAN**
2014
- 2030



The SEP was refreshed to recognise a changing economic and political climate since the first version was published back in 2014.

Newly revised and based on wide-ranging consultation with partners and the latest economic data, it sets out how we can make the Greater Lincolnshire economy stronger, more productive and wealthier. Economic analysis shows us we are in a strong position to continue driving the plan forward and we are delighted with the results of the SEP refresh process. We have a strong strategy that is supported by robust economic data and presented in a way that works for all our stakeholders.

INVESTMENT IN GROWTH

The Greater Lincolnshire LEP has a hugely successful track record in securing over £307 million of transformational economic programmes across Greater Lincolnshire which has kick-started 35 major growth initiatives to drive growth, create new jobs and vastly improve the infrastructure.



**GREATER LINCOLNSHIRE
GROWTH-RELATED FUNDING**

£155M 
TOTAL LOCAL GROWTH
FUNDING ACHIEVED TO DATE

33 TRANSFORMATIONAL
PROJECTS FUNDED

2 FULLY COMPLETED  & **18** UNDER WAY 

This investment is also helping to support Greater Lincolnshire's 80,000+ businesses of all sizes, who generate almost £21 billion for the local economy, confirming Greater Lincolnshire's place as one of the most significant economies within the Midlands Engine.

This year we secured a further Growth Deal, bringing our total Local Growth Funding with Government to £180 million. The announcement gives the go-ahead for a number of schemes such as a centre for health science, which will drive growth, productivity, higher level skills and innovation; our three Food Enterprise Zones in Holbeach, Hemswell Cliff and Grimsby, creating employment land and buildings, specifically designed to support the growth and expansion of our agri-food clusters; and a £6.4 million Skills Capital Investment Programme to support the infrastructure to deliver high-quality skills provision within our priority sectors.

Our investments are paying dividends: and both the Boole Technology Centre and Bishop Burton College Riseholme Showground Campus projects have now fully completed and 18 further projects are contracted and under way.

The first homes in our Unlocking Housing Programme in Boston are also ready and occupied and thanks to this success, the scheme has also been instrumental in developing new programme-based activity across other sectors.

The European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) has additionally helped to support over 17 transformational projects focused around our priority sectors, supporting activity in research and innovation initiatives; enhancing the use and access of ICT; making our SMEs more competitive; flood risk management; and protecting or restoring our environment.

Greater Lincolnshire has also benefited from the Rural Development Programme for England (RDPE), targeted at investment in business diversification, food processing facilities, rural tourism, culture, heritage and rural services. Businesses have received over £1.85 million of grant funding towards their projects and over £1.5 million of grant funding towards further projects are currently being reviewed.

Furthermore, through the European Social Fund (ESF) we created a range of new training projects that will support over 5,000 learners to gain the skills needed by employers and to inspire young people with the diverse range of exciting careers that are available in our area and which are now running across Greater Lincolnshire.

A high number of these projects are underway, nearing completion or completed, and are starting to have a significant impact on our priority sectors, housing numbers, the skills agenda and the infrastructure that are needed to increase both business growth and productivity.

A full list of the schemes we are supporting across Greater Lincolnshire can be found on our website at www.greaterlincolnshirelep.co.uk/funding-and-projects/projects/



HIGHLIGHTS
AND ACHIEVEMENTS

GROWING PLACES FUND

The LEP's £9 million Growing Places Fund, known locally as Invest and Grow, has made three commercial investments since its establishment in 2012, and supported 11 feasibility studies. In 2016-17, the fund started planning its fourth investment.



In 2016-17, the LEP's Employment and Skills Board was instrumental in progressing several initiatives. These include the development of a robust evidence base for the Area Review, and commissioning £12 million of training programmes through European funding.

EMPLOYMENT AND SKILLS

These programmes will support over 5,000 learners so that businesses have better access to the skills they need.

EU FUNDING

£120M OF EU FUNDING ALLOCATED TO GREATER LINCOLNSHIRE

17 LARGE STRATEGIC PROJECTS SUPPORTED SECURING OVER

£25M OF EUROPEAN REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT FUNDING SECURED TOWARDS OUR PRIORITY SECTORS

A FURTHER **£16M** OF GRANT APPLICATIONS CURRENTLY BEING ASSESSED

OVER £1.85M IN RURAL DEVELOPMENT GRANTS TOWARDS SUPPORTING RURAL BUSINESSES

SUPPORTING **£18.1M** OF EUROPEAN SOCIAL FUNDING



BUSINESS SUPPORT

The business support arm of the LEP (Business Lincolnshire Growth Hub), continued to provide vital face-to-face advice and has been instrumental in making business-to-business introductions and supporting businesses to accelerate their growth through accessing support programmes, skills training and funding.

Through partnering with professional intermediaries we have been able to deliver high-profile professional events, including the Big Breakfast Export to China, Visitor Economy Digital Masterclass, Digital Conference, Build a Better Business Conference, and the Start Up and Grow Conference.

www.businesslincolnshire.com



BUSINESS LINCOLNSHIRE GROWTH HUB

OVER **3,000** BUSINESSES ENGAGED

310 JOBS CREATED & **32** SAFE-GUARDED

DELIVERING **92%** CUSTOMER SATISFACTION



WORK WITH SECTORS

The LEP has continued to develop a programme of work, specific to sectors identified as key drivers of economic growth, ensuring that existing programmes support growth ambitions in terms of providing access to finance, support to develop leadership and management, innovation support and access to a pool of skilled labour.

Work with the manufacturing sector has been focused primarily on establishing a Manufacturing Board and conference to understand the impact of new technologies and whether changes such as Brexit have impacted on orders and investment plans.

Work with the food sector has been focused on influencing the industrial strategy and Government policy on automation, labour supply and trade.

Work with the visitor economy has led to the establishment of the new Visitor Economy Board, an action plan and work on place marketing.



INWARD INVESTMENT ACTIVITY

INVESTMENT

43 
FOREIGN
DIRECT INVESTMENT
COMPANIES ENGAGED

**447 NEW
JOBS** 
CREATED
FOR FOREIGN DIRECT
INVESTMENTS

TOTALLING
MORE THAN 
£176M
FOREIGN DIRECT
INVESTMENT

In support of the LEP and partners efforts to raise the profile of Greater Lincolnshire, partners have continued to work with the Department for International Trade (DIT) to respond to specific inward investment enquiries and to develop propositions to attract and retain foreign investment.

Over the year to March 2017, a total of 18 foreign investment successes were ratified by the Department for International Trade. Of these, seven had some element of assistance from either national or local partners'.

EVENTS

In addition to our popular series of Big Debates, our 2016 LEP Business Live conference attracted around 300 business people, combining talks by business leaders including Sir John Peace, Director of the Midlands Engine, and Steve Smith, Olympic high jumper, with our best yet trade exhibition which included a full-size combine harvester simulator, two FreshLinc articulated trucks decorated with local landscapes and promoting us nationally, the UKTI Export Hub truck, and the Visit Lincoln tour bus.





FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

£500,000 of core funding from national Government was allocated to the LEP for the financial year consisting of £250,000 utilised primarily for staffing costs, and £250,000 for operational expenditure covering company requirements, communication and events, sector support, and the implementation of the Growth Deal.

Our Invest and Grow fund held a balance of £5.773 million at the start of the year with a net spend within the year of £3.255 million. The Invest and Grow fund allocated a further £375,982 to the Feasibility Pot and this was launched in February 2016.

The Local Growth Fund held contracts to the total spend value of £235 million with an agreed grant contribution of £79.754 million. Within the year we received our further tranche of growth deal monies totalling £47.863 million, and distributed across the Growth Deal projects in line with projected spend profiles and agreed with Government.

The Greater Lincolnshire LEP also secured £246,000 of revenue funding from The Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) to continue the operation of the Growth Hub service.

We are governed by a Board of up to 16 private and public sector Board Directors and supported by a number of formal Boards alongside strategic and advisory forums. As the accountable body, Lincolnshire County Council retains overall legal accountability for the Greater Lincolnshire LEP investment programme.

We are transparent and accountable in all our activity. Overall risk to LEP activity and delivery of the Strategic Economic Plan is identified, recorded and reviewed at each Finance and Audit Committee whilst Local Growth Funding risk is robustly monitored and mitigated through the Assurance Framework and monthly meetings with the local Government representative from the Department for BEIS.

Further details can be found in our Financial Report on our website www.greaterlincolnshirelep.co.uk



WHAT'S NEXT?

KEY AREAS OF ACTIVITY FOR 2017-18 WILL INCLUDE:

Building on the Greater Lincolnshire LEP's strong track record for delivery, we are moving forward with a clear set of priorities for the next three years.

Working with our local partners, the LEP will continue to work to ensure the development of a strategic project pipeline to take advantage of local and national investment streams and policy initiatives.




- Readiness to compete for new Local Growth funding opportunities
- Renewed place-based growth strategies
- A greater focus on the drivers of productivity, innovation and internationalisation to maximise opportunities within the new national Industrial Strategy
- Playing our full role within the Midlands Engine
- Ensuring Greater Lincolnshire is at the forefront of new national approaches to vocational education and training and supporting local partners to improve educational attainment levels in areas of deprivation
- Supporting our businesses to become ambassadors for Greater Lincolnshire through Team Lincolnshire
- Continued, successful delivery and evolution of the LEP's Growth Deal Programme
- Sustaining funding for the Business Lincolnshire Growth Hub and building an offer for rapidly growing scale-up businesses
- Championing key sectors and supply chains
- Raising the profile of Greater Lincolnshire as an inward investment location of choice
- Actively marketing the Food Enterprise Zones as the place to locate your food business
- Continuing to make the best use of European Structural Investment Funds whilst they remain available and case-making for successor funds

Greater Lincolnshire
Local Enterprise Partnership
Unit 4 | Witham Park House
Waterside South | Lincoln | LN5 7JN

T: 01522 550540

E: enquiries@greaterlincolnshirelep.co.uk

 GreaterLincsLEP

www.greaterlincolnshirelep.co.uk

