

Greater Lincolnshire LEP Board

26th February 2021

Via MS Teams

Minutes

Present: Board Directors:

Pat Doody - Chair (Non-Executive Director), Cllr Philip Jackson - Vice Chair (NELC), Sarah Louise Fairburn - Vice Chair (Imp & Maker), Cllr Colin Davie (LCC), Cllr Craig Leyland (ELDC), Cllr Oliver Hemsley (RCC), Darren Cunningham (Phillips 66), Debbie Barnes (CX LCC), Dean Fathers (Health), Gary Headland (Lincoln College, IOD and Lincs Chamber), Mandy Watson (Ambitions Personnel), Alison Ballard BAE Systems), Nick Worboys (Longhurst), Zoe King (Epix Media), Yvonne Adam (Youngs Seafood), Andrew Hunter (UoL)

Apologies: Suraya Marshall (RAF Cranwell), Alric Blake (Alltech), Cllr Rob Waltham (NLC), Julian Free (UoL), Simon Bird (ABP), Stephen Fidler (DfT)

Observers: Peter Holmes (BEIS), Andrew Crookham (Accountable Body & S151 Officer), Darren Joint (Chair of Manufacturing Board)

LEP Officers: Ruth Carver, James Baty, Sue Groves (Note Taker)

For Agenda items: Martin Collison (Item 1) , Duncan Botting, Andrew Brooks (Item

Apologies and Declarations of Interest - Apologies were noted as above.

Full declarations of interest for each individual Board Director can be found at:

<https://www.greaterlincolnshirelep.co.uk/about/boards/> The LEP Board were reminded that declarations of interest are required as part of LEP governance and must be updated at least annually, and if anything changes to the LEP office at the earliest convenience.

The UK's Food Valley (Paper 1)

Introduction by the Vice Chair Sarah Louise Fairburn, and chair of the Food Board and Martin Collison, lead for the Food Sector from the LEP.

Background

- A series of stakeholder meetings have been held with the public and private sector, and will continue to build support for the approach
- Local and regional stakeholders are very supportive of the UK Food Valley approach as set out in the paper, and recognize the economic impact from the sector, and the need to co-ordinate and elevate into a global cluster.
- The aim of the UK's Food Valley is to grow the existing cluster into a top 10 global cluster, with co-ordinated efforts on inward investment product and marketing, tailored business support and scale up, and focus on research and development and innovation to help and support food sector businesses to invest, thrive and grow. This is a long-term cluster development plan and would align public & private sector investment on a few core themes which deliver growth - themes determined by business. There would need to be a small core team, uniting & developing the role of Councils, LEP, University, Colleges, and business groups in supporting food sector growth.

Comments:

- Research shows that nutrition has deteriorated and need to think about the threads and the improvement of nutrition quality.
- Desire of the Food Board to link up with other sectors and agree to the system approach to add value and be distinctive.
- Important for Greater Lincolnshire and also an opportunity to be the Food Capital being able to advise globally.
- Not only food security is needed, but there is also a need for land security and land protection.
- Jobs and export growth important.
- Power supply required and there is a need for inward investment.
- Grimsby is also an important player - Europe's Food Town and has the largest cold storage facility in Europe.
- Infrastructure is critical to the concept.

Actions:

- ❖ Need to build a core team to co-ordinate and accelerate the sector, an indicative budget of £300k per annum is sought. GL LEP Board agree to an initial contribution of £35,000 to kick start activity and planning, with additional contributions subject to an ongoing budget review and alignment of priorities
- ❖ Presentation to be circulated.

Sarah Louise Fairburn left the meeting

The Chair welcomed Andrew Hunter to the Board, new LEP Board Director

AH introduced himself as being the Deputy Vice Chancellor at the University of Lincoln for 17 years and is interested in innovation and how to link research. Has been involved with Agri-robotics for the last 6 years.

Gary Headland summarized the recent electronic decisions by the Board to appoint Andrew Hunter, University of Lincoln, Simon Bird, ABP, and Julian Free, University of Lincoln. To also appoint Darren Cunningham and Nick Warboys to the Investment Committee.

Minutes & Matters Arising (Paper 3)

The minutes from the Board meeting held on 19th January 2021 were accepted as a true record, and the Chair ran through the Actions Log (Paper 3.1), and explained the purpose of the decision Log (Paper 3.2).

Chairs Report (Item 4 - Verbal)

- Two Roundtables have been held (Agri-Food and Manufacturing) and had been well received. Board members welcome to join.
- Broadband - meeting held in the south of the county last week - Bourne and Stamford to receive improved Broadband using the BT infrastructure.
 - North East Lincolnshire has convened a Greater Lincolnshire Digital focusing on best practice, co-ordination and the production of market statement for the commercial sector.
 - Midlands Engine Digital has commissioned an interactive map of where digital assets are across the Midlands. Commercial digital infrastructure will be able to use the map to aid deployment and as a tool for inward investment real time information on speeds and reach.
- Humber Freeport - receiving considerable consideration

CX Report (Verbal)

- CX gave an overview of expected budget announcements, around freeports, OWMIS, Town Deals, Levelling up fund and UKSPF
- More than 100 full business cases were submitted for the SIDP (strategic Infrastructure Development Pipeline and the economy call - Update at the May meeting.
- Highlighted the £10 million recovery fund launched by LCC, grants for Lincolnshire business in 4 areas, business recovery, rural, digital and invest for the future.
- Economic Revival Plan to be published

Progress on Collaboration and Transition

CX gave an update on the transition programme.

- Operationally, activities from the Humber LEP are ready to start on 1st April.
- Operation of Growth Hub extending as there are more business issues and there are more business advisers to cover North Lincolnshire, North East Lincolnshire and Rutland, but waiting to hear of the funding settlement.
- Projects that are not completed will stay with Hull City Council for monitoring.

Actions:

- ❖ Meetings to be arranged with Humber and East Yorkshire LEP once it starts on 1st April.

LEP Vision and Priorities for the LEP (Item 6 - Presentation)

- Cllr Oliver Hemwell led this item with members from the Board working group, Zoe King, and Yvonne Adam, and Alric Blake (apologies). This stemmed from the Strategy Day that the Board held in December 2020.
- A presentation was given with the proposed vision and mission statement being approved by the Board.

Discussion took place with the following comments:

- Graphical piece of branding to be consistent and to speak with one voice.
- Can see alignment for all sectors and need to be included in Terms of Reference for committees, and Strategic advisory boards (SAB's)
- It was agreed that each of the SAB would be asked to set out how their priorities address the vision and what the focus on their activity should be in the short term.

Actions:

- ❖ A further discussion on priorities to be held at the March Board meeting.
- ❖ Approach Sub-Boards/Committees for their priorities in order to set out ambitions.

Skills for Jobs DfE White Paper (Paper 3)

- The Skills for Jobs White Paper, published in January 2021, sets out Government's intentions for the post-16 technical education and training system to support people to develop the skills needed to get good jobs and improve national productivity and puts employers at the heart of post-16 skills.
- ESAP with DfE are developing an interim skills statement by mid April, and refreshing the Skills Strategy by November 2021.

Discussion took place with the following comments:

- This is an ongoing consultation between DfE and providers and will shape broad proposals.
- Need to see the proposals firmed up - there is an ongoing pilot, but funding is unknown.
- Agreed that there is a need to meet the needs of the community.
- Need to encourage collaborating rather than being competitive.
- Looking to link business needs to skills.
- As Greater Lincolnshire is a rural area, getting businesses linking to skills will be a challenge.

Actions:

- ❖ Employment and Skills Advisory Panel to discuss the FE White paper further and bring back recommendations to the May meeting.
- ❖ Draft skills statement report to be written for the next Board meeting and considered, ESAP final sign off.

Local Area Energy Plans (Paper 4)

- Local Area Energy Plans (LAEP's) are a means by which we can develop an understanding of our energy needs, and identify direct economic opportunities to improve them. The GLLEP area boasts multiple different place based energy resources; offshore wind, anaerobic digestion, energy from waste, hydrogen (blue, grey, brown and green), solar, tidal, etc.
- However current guidance on LAEPs (in the way of toolkits) needs to be treated, with the following caveats:
 - Local distinctiveness will need to be carefully thought through, in what are ostensibly a set of checklists, that have been developed with a urban/metropolitan baseline.
 - Rurality and sparsity may not give credence to viable business case options if not handled carefully, when competitive funding regimes are a mechanism for energy delivery, or full BCR business models need to be justified
 - The Greater Lincolnshire Local Enterprise Partnership area covers many different needs from an energy perspective; agricultural, industrial, tourism, healthcare, transport, food-processing, logistics, horticultural, ports, rural, urban, commercial, residential and all aspects of our local economy.
 - The LAEP process allows for the preparation for Net Zero, and the baseline to support a wider

clean growth strategy for Greater Lincolnshire.

Discussion took place with the following comments:

- There is a need to work out and understand what the energy needs are.
- Grade 1 (agricultural) land should not be planted with solar panels.
- Turbines on the Lincolnshire landscape would not be supported.
- New buildings should install solar panels in order to reduce carbon output.
- From 2025, gas boilers will not be installed in new builds, which will have an impact on affordable housing, but would welcome affordable new technologies.
- Cost of new technology is not market friendly, given the housing requirements for Greater Lincolnshire.
- Need to look to offshore wind where the costs have been reduced - cost is an important factor in decarbonisation.
- Siemens are building a gigafactory which will be an opportunity for jobs and growth.

Decision:

- ❖ Board support for the approach, however financial contribution from the LEP would be considered at the budget realignment.

Yvonne Adam left the meeting

Update from Health and Care Enterprise Board (Paper 5)

- The health and care sector in Greater Lincolnshire has a direct economic output of around £1.8bn, about 8.5% of total economic output. The sector employs some 62,000 people in Greater Lincolnshire, around 14% of the total workforce which is a higher share of workforce than the UK average. The sector locally has experienced jobs growth of 11% over the past two years, compared to under 4% nationally.
- Presentation showed what the impact of Covid-19 had been and that personal/medicare is at the core. There are 24,000 jobs in the healthcare sector.
- Future opportunities include Health on the High Street and NHS Carbon neutral, which provide two incentives for the NHS to act as an economic anchor and will link into both the Town and Energy strategies being deployed by the LEP. Our cleaner energy strategies also reduce pollution providing a positive impact on the health of the local workforce thereby potentially increasing their productivity too.

Discussion took place with the following comments:

- If the Humber Freeport is approved, opportunities for pharmaceutical companies in the area.
- Board were asked to build on this report and commission a report to find the gaps and ensure robust solutions

Actions:

- ❖ Supportive of finding the gaps, but the request for commissioning a report would be discussed as part of the budget process.
- ❖ Presentation to be circulated.

Dean Fathers left the meeting

MP Engagement Plan (Paper 6)

- Explained that the Chair and CX meet with all Greater Lincolnshire MPs on a two monthly basis and individually every 4 months.
- There is a need to update the current engagement plan so that new Board members could be linked to Greater Lincolnshire MPs.
- At the meetings, strategies are discussed in order to get support from MPs, briefings are provided and would encourage Board members to join meetings if available.

Forward Plan (Paper 9) - CX**Actions:**

- To be circulated.

Any Other Business

- Update given on Careers Fair held on the 25th February with good feedback received:
 - Increase in engagement with 70 exhibitors and more than 7,000 visitors.
 - Individual engagement between exhibitors and visitors numbered 200.
 - Board members were invited to volunteer to provide an opening video, with GH, DC and MW volunteering.

Meeting closed