

## UK Food Valley Programme Panel

### *Terms of Reference*

This is a standing advisory group to the Authority and the Mayor; it seeks to provide a clear and measurable strategy for the [UK Food Valley](#), in support of the exercise of Combined County Authority and Mayoral functions. The UKFV Programme Panel will build upon the work which was undertaken by the Greater Lincolnshire LEP Food Board.

The purpose of the UK Food Valley programme is to position Greater Lincolnshire's agri-food sector as a top 10 global food cluster. It supports growth and encourages inward investment through promoting the scale, diversity and importance of the Greater Lincolnshire food sector, and by ensuring that existing food sector companies and new investors are supported.

The secretariat function of the UKFV Programme Panel will be delivered by Lincolnshire County Council on behalf of the GLCCA. The UKFV Programme Panel will report in to the GLCCA Business & Infrastructure Board once per year.

The Panel may appoint one or more sub-groups for the purpose of discharging any of the Panel's roles or responsibilities.

### Purpose

The purpose of the UK Food Valley Programme Panel is to deliver the UK Food Valley strategy by exploring, developing, and commissioning solutions around:

- Giving domestic businesses and inward investors the confidence to invest, notably:
  - o Identifying areas in which the UK is a big net importer of food where domestic production could be sustainably and competitively expanded;
  - o Taking R&D out of the lab into the field or onto the factory floor, by supporting the innovation to commercialisation journey, increasing skills to adopt innovative technology in industry and by prioritising higher level skills activity in the sector;
- Ensuring that industry is supported to invest by addressing key enablers of business expansion, by advising the GLCCA on how best to:
  - o Support commercial investment in the industry to increase production volumes and modernisation through globally competitive investment incentives including agri-tech, food manufacture, and aquaculture;
  - o Support the industry with a positive planning framework and premises supply strategy to support businesses from start-ups looking for their first food grade unit, to multi-nationals investing in large scale sites. The GLCCA will prepare

and deliver an investment programme which provides the right combination of developable sites and ready-to-use business premises for the food sector in the area;

- o Support food chain investment with modern infrastructure including access to sustainable energy and water supplies; high speed digital connectivity; and transport infrastructure. Defra will support the Panel in its aims by being an active champion of the sector across government;
- o Provide specialist food chain innovation to accelerate technology innovation, commercialisation, and adoption. Defra will support this aim by providing updates and information around programmes and incentives for the agricultural sector to diversify into high value food production.
- Acting as champions of, and advocates for, the UK Food Valley, supporting promotional activity to increase awareness of the opportunities, capabilities and potential within the UK Food Valley.

## Membership

The membership of the UK Food Valley Programme Panel shall consist of a maximum of 12 members, typically constituted of:

### Private Sector Representation – large businesses (7 Representatives)

Senior business leaders with a local, national and/or international profile, representing an agri-food business which is resident and/or operating within Greater Lincolnshire;

### Private Sector Representation – SMEs (3 Representatives)

Business leaders from SMEs in the agri-food sector, resident and/or operating within Greater Lincolnshire;

### Academia (2 Representatives)

Senior leaders of academic organisations with demonstrable research and innovation interests relating to the agri-food sector, resident and/or operating within Greater Lincolnshire, or directly linked to one or more of the UK Food Valley's priorities;

A member will cease to be a member of the Panel if they fail to attend three meetings in a rolling twelve-month period.

All members of the UK Food Valley Programme Panel will be appointed for a term of three years.

All Private Sector Representation will be recruited to through an open recruitment process which will be managed by Lincolnshire County Council. Appointments will be confirmed by the Combined County Authority.

Academic representatives will be coordinated by the UK Food Valley Programme Manager.

Defra will meet annually with the Panel to discuss key topics of value to its members.

### Chairing the Committee

The UK Food Valley Programme Panel Chair will be a Private Sector Representative, who is nominated by the Mayor and confirmed by the Combined County Authority.

A Vice-Chair will be appointed by the UK Food Valley Programme Panel from amongst the panel membership.

In the absence of the appointed Chair or Vice-Chair the UK Food Valley Programme Panel will appoint a Chair for the meeting.

### Reporting

The UK Food Valley Programme Panel will nominate a representative to report findings and recommendations to the following Authority governance bodies:

1. Business and Infrastructure Board

If the nominated member is unable to attend a Board meeting, then they may nominate a delegate from the UK Food Valley Programme Panel to attend on their behalf.

### Quorum

The quorum will be four voting members including the Chair (or Deputy Chair)

### Voting

Any matters that are to be decided by the UK Food Valley Programme Panel are to be decided by consensus where possible.

All Members of the Panel will be entitled to vote. The Chair will not have a casting vote.

### Frequency

There will be a minimum of three UK Food Valley Programme Panel meetings each municipal year, meetings are not required to be held in public with provision for Public Forum.

## Review

The terms of reference are to be reviewed on an annual basis as part of the annual Constitutional review.

Document version control	
Version:	1.0
Date:	June 2025
Document approved by:	GLCCA Board
To be of effect from:	4 <sup>th</sup> June 2025