



Greater Lincolnshire LEP Food Board

Date: 12th May 2022, 4.00-6.00pm

Via MS Teams

Agenda & Papers

Paper 0 - Agenda

The meeting will be held from 4.00-6.00pm online, accessed via this link: [Click here to join the meeting](#)

Item	Brief description	Lead	Status
1 4.00pm	Welcome and introduction <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Apologies • LEP Update 	Sarah Louise Fairburn	Verbal Annex 1
2 4.10pm	Darren Joint, Manufacturing Board Chair of the Manufacturing Board and CEO of Viking Signs - work of the Manufacturing Board	Darren Joint	Verbal
3 4.15pm	Round table discussion on impact of War in Ukraine on the food sector, including for example: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Energy costs • Transport and haulage • Raw materials for food manufacturing (e.g. veg oil) • Raw materials for agriculture (e.g. fertilisers, livestock feed) • Trade and prices Key questions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are the short-term impacts? • What impacts are expected to last longer? • What actions should the industry and government be taking? 	All Board Members	Verbal / Discussion
4 5.00pm	UK Food Bill/Strategy: On 17 th April George Eustice, writing in the Sunday Telegraph said: ‘... recent events, and the impact of the Covid pandemic, are a reminder that domestic food production matters. That is why we will be putting food security at the heart of our food strategy white paper. The UK food industry is bigger than the automotive and aerospace industries combined, as well as being more evenly dispersed across the country. Food manufacturers create jobs, offer apprenticeships and invest in communities throughout the UK - supported by local producers who provide them with high-quality fruit, veg and meat. It’s crucial we do everything we can to support this sector....’ What actions should government take to deliver on this promise?	Martin Collison	Verbal / Discussion
5 5.10pm	Decarbonising Food Transport - road transport and fuel transition: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Freshline input - decarbonisation: where we are at; the challenges as operators (cost of alternatives / manufactures); and timelines • What is the future for road transport for food, what role do EVs, Biomethane and Green 	Martin Collison, Lee Juniper, Ashley Holland	Verbal / Discussion

	<p>Hydrogen have and what future role will air, sea and rail freight play in food distribution?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What can Greater Lincolnshire do to facilitate these changes? 		
<p>6 5.40pm</p>	<p>Devolution:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Devolution process and timelines • UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) and other Levelling Up funds <p>Key question: what does the food sector want from this process?</p>	<p>Pat Doody, Chair of the Greater Lincolnshire LEP</p>	<p>Verbal / Discussion</p>
<p>7 5.55pm</p>	<p>AOB and Future Meeting Dates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dates to be decided: 3rd Meeting potential date - 12th July, 8th Sept, 15th Sept • 4th Meeting potential date - 13th or 15th Dec • What do members want future meetings to focus on? • Future meeting format 	<p>Sarah Louise Fairburn</p>	<p>Verbal / Discussion</p>
<p>8 6.00pm</p>	<p>Meeting close</p>		

Attendees: Sarah Louise Fairburn (Chair) Martin Collison (Agri-food advisor to GLLEP), Amy Conyard, Hugo Marfleet, Mark Suthern, Oliver Shooter, Robert Smith, Simon Pearson, William Burgess, Mark Finn, James Truscott, Duncan Worth, Matthew Naylor, Neal Collishaw

Guests: Duncan Botting (Chair - Greater Lincolnshire LEP Energy Council), Darren Joint (Chair - Greater Lincolnshire LEP Manufacturing Board) Lee Juniper (Freshlinc) Ashley Holland (Freshlinc)

To be confirmed: Alan Metcalfe, Will Naylor, Mos Kalbassi, Mark Aitchison, Justin Brown, Lisa Naylor, James Arnold, George Reed, James Dallas, Richard Priestley

Tentative: Rhonda Thompson, Jonathon Oldfield, John Kerrigan

Apologies: Brendan Legrove, Bill Meredith, Ruth Carver

Officers: Kate Storey, Pat Doody, Amy O’Sullivan (Note-taker)

Annex 1 - LEP Updates

Since the January 2022 meeting, LEP supported activity in the food sector has included:

1. Bids:

- The Community Renewal Fund grant of £430,000 to launch a 6 month UK Food Valley pilot for the seafood sector in North East Lincolnshire, delivered jointly by the Grimsby and Humber Seafood Alliance and NCFM is progressing well with good take up from the industry for skills, business support and small grant activities.
- The University of Lincoln has been successful in multiple additional bids with industry for applied research projects, which will be announced officially by Ministers later in the spring. These successes cements the University's role in applied research on digital, automation and sustainability projects for the food chain.
- The LEP is supporting partners looking to create bids for the forthcoming Levelling Up Fund (LUF) and UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) calls.

2. South Lincolnshire FEZ:

- The first tenant has been announced for Phase 1 of the FEZ with local automation specialist AJS Automation and Control locating alongside the University on the site.
- The Centre of Excellence on the FEZ is open and hosting applied innovation work with employers, with students, schools and businesses all using the site.
- The FEZ Hub Building is due for completion early summer 2022 (has been delayed by material supply). It will provide space for 30 SMEs in the food chain to be co-located and to work with the University and other businesses on the site.
- The Lincoln Institute of Technology building on the FEZ, focused on digital technology and engineering is open and recently hosted a visit by the Levelling UP Taskforce.

3. Land for food chain development:

- Given the continued strong level of interest in investing in the Lincolnshire food chain, work is being undertaken to ensure that we have the land available for development, both for existing businesses and those who wish to move to or expand in Greater Lincolnshire.
 - Further work is ongoing with landowners to identify additional sites which could be suitable for food chain development (from glasshouses to fish farms, food processing and cold chain and logistics). Any Food Board members with sites they would like to be considered for this process should please contact Martin Collison.
 - The UK Food Valley has started to produce papers to brief planners across Greater Lincolnshire on the growth potential of the food sector and the types of development they can expect to see coming forward, with the aim to advise the
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planners on the scale and type of facilities needed. The first report on greenhouses and controlled environment agriculture has been finished, a second report on logistics is in draft form, and, a third report, on aquaculture and the fish processing sector will be completed by early summer.

4. Energy Sector:

- A UK Food Valley presentation was made to the LEP Energy Council in December 2021 to set out some initial thoughts on the scale of the energy demand in the food sector and the need to decarbonise etc.
- The energy sector is keen to focus on working with the food sector to look at ways to fully understand the sector's energy demand and then to work together to decarbonise production, logistics and cold storage. This will include developing a Local Area Energy Plan for an area where there is a concentration of food production, TBC, but likely to be South Lincolnshire.
- A paper has already been produced on cold stores on the Humber and a wider piece of work to look at the cold storage estate and its development needs across Greater Lincolnshire will be undertaken later in 2022. This will look at capacity, the potential embrace the move to net zero food chains and links to the food logistics sector.

5. UK Food Valley:

- A job advert for a full time programme manager for the UK Food Valley has been launched, see: [Programme Manager Agri-Food Sector \(15301\) – Lincolnshire County Council](#)
- The ninth UK Food Valley newsletter was published in April 2022 and is now reaching a wide audience. We are keen to feature any industry good news or development stories, please send anything you would like to see featured to Martin Collison.
- Three events with Humber are being planned: the first on the morning of 12th May at Forest Pines with Marketing Humber and Team Lincolnshire and 2 events in June with Humber Business Week and the Lincoln International Business School.
- Events were also supported to make the case for food production with the:
 - Humberhead Levels ELMs pilot team and Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust
 - Business Insider breakfast with Team Lincolnshire at the EPIC centre

6. Ukraine, Brexit Transition and Covid-19:

- The LEP continues to collect information on the impact of the War in Ukraine, Brexit Transition and Covid-19 impacts on the food chain and feeds this into government weekly.
 - Please continue to feed issues in as they arise as we have established routes to get these messages into government.
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7. Links to other LEPs:

- A meeting was held to brief the Midlands Engine Operational Board on the infrastructure, innovation and skills needs of the Midlands region food chain in January 2022, followed by a briefing on the sector to the Midlands Engine All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) in March 2022.
- A project to scope the scale, growth and nature of the food sector across the Midlands is now being developed with the Midlands Engine Observatory.

8. Inward investment:

- The LEP and County Council have met with multiple inward investors in fresh produce, innovative foods, aquaculture, new energy sources for the food chain and technology to help them develop plans for expansion into Lincolnshire.
- A number of companies have already landed in Lincolnshire and announcements on these will be made through the UK Food Valley news when they are ready to go public.
- Multiple major investments continue to be made by local businesses and UK wide businesses into Lincolnshire, including for example planning now being secured for a major refurbishment and upgrade to cold storage capacity in Grimsby by Lineage the acquisition of Rookery Farm in South Lincolnshire by the Sarah Raven group. Globalberry have completed the redevelopment of their Nocton site for strawberry production.
- The HPO was launched on 27th May 2021 with further events with overseas investors and DIT staff in autumn 2021. This is now leading to new investors being introduced to Lincolnshire including most recently in aquaculture.

9. Automation policy:

- The University of Lincoln has submitted a feasibility study to government for a National Robotics Proving Ground for agriculture as one of 8 projects supported by government (including sectors such as health, energy, nuclear).
- A review, sponsored by Gatsby and led by the University, is looking at the skills needed to facilitate the transformation of packhouses in the fresh produce sector. One of many similar projects across multiple sectors, it is intended to inform future investment in skills and will report by July 2022. The University is still keen to include more businesses in this project, which has already consulted with circa 50 businesses and organisations across the sector.
- Professor Simon Pearson has concluded the consultation phase of the review co-chaired with Rt. Hon. George Eustice, DEFRA Secretary of State, on the potential for automation in the horticulture sector. The report will be launched shortly.
- It is anticipated that government will announce further support for automation in 2022, aligned to the need to reduce reliance on migration.

10. Liaison meetings and events with delivery partners:

- DEFRA Food SME support team event in Birmingham
- County Council planning and economic development teams
- District councils to ensure that revised development plans take full account of the needs of the food chain
- Humberhead Levels ELMs pilot team and Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust event
- Future Fens Adaptation Taskforce
- Seafood Cluster (fortnightly)
- DIT Agritech Team (quarterly)

If any business, or supply chain partners you work with need support, the LEP is keen to help.