



Greater Lincolnshire LEP Board

Minutes of 31st May 2022

Via MS Teams

Present: Board Directors: Pat Doody (Non-Executive Director and Chair), Cllr Philip Jackson - Vice Chair (NELC), Debbie Barnes (CX, LCC), Simon Bird (ABP), Cllr Colin Davie (LCC), Cllr Craig Leyland (ELDC), Dean Fathers (Health), Julian Free (UoL), Jo Hardy (Hardy's Farm), Andrew Hunter (UoL), Zoe King (Epix Media), Nick Worboys (Longhurst)

Apologies from Directors: Sarah Louise Fairburn - Vice Chair (IMP & Maker), Alison Ballard (BAE Systems), Darren Cunningham (Phillips66), Air Commodore Andrew Dickens (RAF Cranwell), Mandy Watson (Ambitions Personnel), Cllr Rob Waltham (NLC)

Observers: Katherine Cousins (BEIS), Simon Green (NELC), Elizabeth Badger (LCC)

Apologies from Observers: Pete Holmes (BEIS), Stephen Fidler (DfT), Clive Tritton (NLC), Andrew Crookham (S151 Officer & Accountable Body)

LEP Team: Halina Davies, Caroline Illingworth, Amy O'Sullivan (Note Taker)

Apologies from LEP Team: Ruth Carver

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.

Minutes & Matters Arising (Paper 1) - Chair

Minutes from the meeting held on 26th April 2022 accepted as a true record, and the Chair ran through the matters arising.

Matters arising:

Clean Energy Accelerator Fund: Halina Davies, LEP team gave brief update on number of applications. Upon advice from the Investment Board, 6 applicants were asked if they could scale down their projects, due to strong projects having larger asks than funding availability. 5 out of the 6 have agreed to proceed, and now awaiting their business case over the next 6-8 weeks.

Labour Market Support Fund: Halina Davies, LEP Team gave brief update on 21 reviewed projects, and going back to clarify the outputs on some of the applications. These will be taken through a panel process with experts such as DWP and asked key questions on challenges, value for money and sustainability. Final scoring and feedback will be given after this review by the end of June. Should be in a position to present findings in early July. £8.8 million worth of ask; highlighting the overall demand.

UK Food Valley Programme Manager Post: Strong candidates unfortunately withdrew from interview, resulting in post being readvertised imminently, however for a longer period of time to encourage interest. Board discussed current challenges with recruitment and the need for multiple streams of social media and networks to be utilised within the partnership in order to promote further, highlighting importance of supporting the ever-changing workforce.

Timescales of recruitment was discussed and how this could be detrimental to recruiting and retaining talent within the application and interview process. Candidates ideally needing to be seen as soon as possible, potentially before closing dates to ensure counter offers are not being considered due to large competition.

ACTION: Halina to action and speak to HR regarding closing date of post/recruitment processes

Annual Performance Review: Halina met with Katherine Cousins (BEIS) to discuss the spending by due date matter as previously raised, and reassurance of the grant being spent on both programmes was confirmed with the Board. On track with the projects that were still outstanding. Return has been submitted and do not envisage any other issues to be raised.

Decision Log & Review of Actions (Papers 1.1 and 1.2)

Action Log of 26th April - no comments.

Greater Lincolnshire Devolution Discussion - Simon Green (NELC)

Simon Green presented the discussion on Devolution in order to highlight overview, process and next steps.

Central to governments levelling up agenda. Encouraged all local authorities, to have some form of devolution as part of the levelling up agenda by 2030.

Within this framework, the government have set out three options for devolution:

- Level 3 - A single body with a directly elected mayor across an area
- Level 2 - A single body without a directly elected mayor, across an area;
- Level 1 - Local authorities working together across an area e.g. through a joint committee

The Greater Lincolnshire LEP has been asked to undertake on behalf of the Councils of Lincolnshire some early engagement with the local business community through face to face and online roundtables, 10 in total which currently have been well attended. Greater Lincolnshire in this context is Humber to the wash and will work across this geography to drive economic growth and strategy.

Roundtables are due to take place until the end of June with the last session taking place at the Lincolnshire Show on the 23rd of June. After this feedback from sessions and the online survey will be collated. Board members were encouraged to share website and survey across networks.

<http://www.devolutionlincolnshire.co.uk/> and <https://www.greaterlincolnshirelep.co.uk/priorities-and-plans/devolution-lincolnshire/survey> However a clearer understanding of what Devolution is and what it could mean for the county also needs to be shared before survey is completed

Current feedback themes/priorities - When will this happen? How do we fix skill gaps? Road & Digital infrastructure and housing.

Vision for Greater Lincolnshire workshop proved very useful and members have asked for pre-reading pack to be circulated. Dean Fathers stated that this information would also be of use to the Health & Care Enterprise Board.

Feedback

- How do we enable our businesses to become more flexible and understand what the future workplace will look like and what new skills will these new working models require?
- Housing, for young people in particular and first-time buyers, education and support systems - how do we level up everywhere as well as prioritising our green spaces?
- Appetite to level up socially across the county
- Any model that is brought forward, has to have the ability of core and flex, learning that any final bid brought forward will have an anecdotal approach from our market research, adding strength to our local business voice.
- Infrastructure - road and rail are still high on the agenda and needs to be a major consideration. Discussions will differ dependent on the local area of focus
- Unique geography of the county may lead to further challenges as well as the ageing population

Defence Priorities - Julian Free (University of Lincoln and Chair of the Defence & Security Advisory Board) Paper 2.0

Julian Free presented an update to the Board on the key priorities and vision of the Defence & Security Advisory Board.

GLLEP Defence & Security Advisory Board Vision:

“To establish Lincoln/Greater Lincolnshire as a national Defence & Security innovation, production and service hub.”

GLLEP Defence & Security Advisory Board Mission:

“To sell Greater Lincolnshire’s ability to enhance, develop and support Government and Industry defence and security capabilities and/or programmes in order to increase regional wealth through greater public and private inward investment and the creation of high skill, high value, better paid jobs.”

Board priorities and deliverables were confirmed as below:

1. Establish and run the Greater Lincolnshire Defence & Security Network (GL DSN).
2. Bid to the Defence & Security Accelerator (DASA) to establish a Greater Lincolnshire Regional Defence & Security Cluster (GL RDSC).
3. Create & launch GL DSN / GL RDSC website.
4. Plan attendance at DSEI 23.

Deliverables:

1. Defence & Security Network (DSN).
2. SME access to DASA / Dstl RD&I funds.
3. SME matching to Defence challenges.
4. SME matching to University academics.
5. SME-Prime Contractor matching.
6. Commercialisation and export support.
7. 4 x networking events per annum.

Requirements:

1. RDSC lead & steering group.
2. An administrator.
3. Website and webmaster.
4. Operating budget.

Stretch target: GL D&S Expo, Lincolnshire Showground, 2026.

Julian discussed the challenges with mapping the sector due largely to classification challenges, centralised contracts and a lack of sector specific data.

Total personnel employed directly by the MoD across GL in 2021 = 9,490

(87% in military roles and 13% are in civilian roles - £350m in wages).

Total GL military presence = 5% of the total military personnel based in UK.

In terms of military roles in GL 76% are in the RAF.

To increase the engagement for the Defence Sector Network a formal dinner took place in March. Positive feedback received from those who attended the dinner, complimenting the venue location, speakers and the beneficial networking opportunities which the dinner offered. Positive conversations have taken place during and after the dinner with Jas Shanker and Jim Pennycook from DASA (Defence and Security Accelerator) who both support what the Board are trying to achieve.

In order for the network to develop into the cluster the below is required:

- LEP support
- MOD support
- University support and access to science/innovation park
- “sufficient mass of industrial, commercial, academic and applied research capability and supporting supply chain aligned to a local MoD or security capability which supports the establishment of the RDSC”

The GL RDSC Opportunity

1. UK ISTAR Centre of Excellence - RAF Waddington.
2. ISTAR platforms, sensors, systems.
3. Data science.
4. Decision support.
5. Automation & uncrewed vehicles.
6. Communications technologies.
7. Electronic warfare technologies.
8. Cyber security technologies.
9. Synthetics and simulation.
10. Engineering support.
11. Agri-tech cross over.
12. Supply chain.
13. Clustering: LSIP, Teal Park & RAF Waddington.
14. Defence Net Zero Strategy.

Forecast of events has been created and membership fee of £200 has been agreed by the Defence & Security Advisory Board in order to join the network. **Julian to action speaking to Simon regarding fee structure.** Networking event in September will lead to an invitation to the RAF Waddington Industry Day in November.

“Defence in Lincolnshire” Exhibition stand has been confirmed at DSEI 2023 at ExCel, Victoria Docks, London (12-15th September 2023).

Aims:

- To showcase Greater Lincolnshire as an anchor region for the sector
- Highlight the focus on Defence & Security as a key sector for our organisations
- Increase knowledge & understanding of sector challenges & opportunities
- Promote opportunities to delegates:
 - o Our range of supply chain SMEs - SMEs represented on the stand
 - o Academic expertise, collaborative research & education portfolio
 - o Greater Lincolnshire as a place to grow a business
 - o Support mechanisms available
- Establish new partnerships

A mini “Lincoln pavilion” 25m2 stand to include:

- GLLEP, UoL & GL RDSC branding, materials and representation
- Meeting space
- SME spotlight area
- Increased use of DSEI Connect capabilities

Bronze, silver and gold “packages” for SME’s to purchase, each to include a combination of:

- Entry tickets
- Logo promotion
- “Time slot” on the stand for exhibiting/meetings
- Materials displayed
- Inclusion in digital materials
- Pre-event promo

Quotations and design concepts from exhibition stand builders are currently being gathered in order to understand the total cost to UoL and GLLEP, as well as attending a briefing webinar or similar with Clarion events organised by Charlotte Kirton. Tiered packages for SME spotlight opportunities, i.e. costs and inclusions need to be finalised

Defence & Security Advisory Board Budget

- Initial budget £40k.
- Expense to date: Board Dinner, DSEI pitch, stand design and build.
- Budget remaining £23-24k.
- Outstanding task is to produce a full budget and business case.

Vice-Chair, Alison Ballard and her team are leading on Governance Plan for the Greater Lincolnshire Regional Defence & Security Cluster (RDSC)

Feedback:

- Board members approved the work plan for the Defence & Security Board and praised Julian's presentation
- Digital security and surveillance was raised as another matter of importance to address, regarding data management and what/how information is stored. This highlighted the communication streams of what is being promoted and ensuring that the ethics behind this have been considered.
- Vulnerability of security discussion to take place regarding reevaluating connections and business dealings as a Board, dependent on the wider political situation
- Health security sectors to be addressed within the heat map of Defence companies. Potential for more innovation within Health & Security, to which the pandemic slowed down Defence, aviation and medicine developments between the University of Lincoln and RAF Cranwell. Frank Tanser has voiced interest. **Julian and Dean to action connecting with Frank**
- Links to agri-tech were discussed and suggestions of joint bids between agri-tech and defence to UKRI could be a possibility. Julian confirmed that Agri-tech team at the University of Lincoln and RAF Waddington are submitting a joint bid.

Decision: The LEP Board approved the workplan for the Defence Board and allocation of budget.

DRAFT

Chair & CX Report (Paper 3.0) Chair

- ❖ Devolution work - 3 out of 10 roundtables have taken place with the next due to take place at the Think Tank in Lincoln, 52 surveys have been returned, over 700 views of the website. Board members to encourage visit to the website and completion of survey by sharing across networks.
- ❖ A highly successful 5th Greater Lincolnshire Manufacturing Conference took place on Friday 20 May, sponsored by the GLEAM Network, focusing on sustainability and net zero
- ❖ Careers Hub, confirmation that the Careers and Enterprise Company will provide 50% of funding for the new academic year starting September 2022. Currently compiling impact reports from this year which will be shared with LCC and the unitaries as part of the conversations regarding the match funding ask for the next academic year.
- ❖ LSIP - Expressions of interest to become the representative body are due to be submitted on the 6th of June, aware that Lincolnshire Chamber of Commerce have submitted.

Comments

- ❖ Wider conversation to be had ensuring that all partners are joined up on the LSIP to compliment rather than overlapping or duplicating.

Any Other Business

- ❖ For information, Cllr Oliver Helmsley will be stepping down from the Board
- ❖ Greater Lincolnshire LEP Board Directors and SAB Chairs/Vice Chairs Lunch is taking place at Washingborough Hall on the 10th of June, focusing on the themes of the 4 game changers
- ❖ Approved that Gary Headland is taking a 6-month sabbatical from his role as NED on the GL LEP Board.

The meeting closed at 1700 hours.

Actions:

- Review recruitment of UKFV programme manager process
- Incorporate feedback from Board into Devolution Lincolnshire