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Net Zero, Skills and Social Infrastructure (including digital accessibility)

B (I)

Conditions for business growth

Sector Spotlight: Defence & Ports and Logistics (references to Agri-food) but noting that growth is vital across all sectors to realise the wider potential of the GL economy.

Project Spotlight:

- i. Sleaford Moor Enterprise Park
- ii. South Lincolnshire Food Enterprise Zone
- iii. RAF Scampton

Objectives

To deliver focused infrastructure investment that will support business growth and job creation, and will help realise an increased spend in business led R&D to equate to/or exceed the UK average. This investment will increase skilled jobs that capitalise on and grow sectoral strengths and areas of expertise, support innovative ways to address barriers to growth and help overcome polarity of urban/rural economic opportunity.

- i. Develop a supply of serviced land and turnkey 'future proofed' business premises with access to appropriate energy supply, enabling Greater Lincolnshire to respond to inward investment and indigenous business growth. We will deliver land which meets the requirements of our most important sectors. Including:
 - a. Further developing the scale and depth of GL's 3 Food Enterprise Zones and maximise the benefits of the Humber Enterprise Zone.
 - Responding to the growth of the UK Food Valley and the national importance of food production with support for agriculture, creating hubs of excellence and innovation and;
 - c. Enabling employment sites to access the utilities/infrastructure required to facilitate business growth (see 2: III Energy). This will include Somerby Park, Gainsborough, SMEP in North Kesteven and South Humber Bank/North Killingholme Airfield, North Lincolnshire.
- ii. Build on Greater Lincolnshire's' opportunities to grow our priority sectors through innovation and:
 - a. Ensure Greater Lincolnshire is a first-choice destination for defence-related industries, including investment to catalyse the development of the defence sector. This will include a dedicated Defence Innovation Centre as part of Phase 2 on the Lincoln Science and Innovation Park (LSIP) including addressing land assembly and other constraints and promoting the potential land and opportunities available at RAF Scampton.
 - b. As part of the UK Food Valley, ensure that land is available to support food chain development in GL and consider food security and efficiency within land use strategies. In particular;
 - i. investigate options in South Lincolnshire to establish an agricultural and logistics led 'Greenport' – an integrated cluster of linked operations creating an attractive proposition for incentivised investment in primary

and subsidiary sectors with local added value processing and marketing, a technology and skills cluster and shared services.

- c. Promote investment at the Humber Freeport as an opportunity for businesses to benefit from the new operating environment, and ensure the region responds to needs in the supply chain and supporting industries; and
 - i. Explore opportunities to establish Investment Zones in Greater Lincolnshire embedding and expanding the benefits of locational and sectoral advantage and
 - ii. Where appropriate seek to maximise Greenport and Freeport linkages
- d. Explore ways to invest in the University of Lincoln's Centre for Innovation in Rural Health and maximise collaboration with the GL based National Centre for Rural Health & Care, to support innovative rural delivery and service solutions in GL and beyond and
- iii. Support investments in the high streets of our busy market towns, towns and city to create diversified, vibrant places to visit and do business by:
 - a. Supporting our larger towns in the context of their roles in supporting smaller places. Towns such as Boston, Skegness, Mablethorpe, Gainsborough, Boston, Lincoln, Grantham, Grimsby and Scunthorpe where Levelling Up Fund, Future High Streets and Towns Fund investment is helping to deliver inclusive growth. By collaborating to provide infrastructure that supports these programmes we will deliver their full potential, achieve value for money whilst supporting other towns and places.
 - b. Supporting the continued power and scalability of place investment and building on the impact of projects such as the Cornhill, Lincoln with its cross-sector working and transformational change in retailing, hospitality and public realm linked to a transport hub delivering a state of the art bus station and multi storey car parking provision close to the central train station and;
 - c. Recognising and harnessing the role and need for evolution in the development and diversification of place based offers catalysed by the physical growth in Higher and Further Education institutions as well as the drive for innovation from the Higher Education sector as embodied in the Lincoln University's leading contribution to digital networks and associated growth in the city and investment by Further Education in Skegness and Boston .

B (II)

Digital

Sector Spotlight: Defence, Agri-food, visitor economy, energy, logistics, health and care.

Project Spotlight:

- i. Lincoln SMART City, including Lincoln Connected.
- ii. Regional Digital Place programme.

Objective:

Greater Lincolnshire and Rutland will benefit from a high quality Ultrafast universal offer with gigabit capable broadband access to a greater proportion of residential and business properties than is the government target, ensuring that location is not a disadvantage, that the area is future enabled to take advantage of emerging technologies and where people and businesses are enabled to use it effectively.

Through collaboration and/or sufficient investment we will:

- i. Work with Building Digital UK (BDUK) and commercial suppliers to progress the gigabit capable 5G fixed wireless broadband necessary to provide gigabit capability in remote rural areas, thereby overcoming cost prohibitive Fibre To The Premises (FTTP) provisions.
- ii. Roll out Project Gigabit (Lots 10 and 23) and assess solutions for emerging gaps in connectivity.
- iii. Deliver a Gigahub scheme across GL connecting rural publicly owned 'hub sites' with high speed connections, thus stimulating potential commercial investment to enable the sharing of spare gigabit capacity with nearby residents/businesses and access to full fibre, thereby maximising public investment and creating an environment for commercial interest.
- iv. Continue to work with commercial providers to demonstrate demand and generate further commercial provision with focus on the coast and the west of the GL area.
- v. Promote the digital needs of GL's priority sectors including the Visitor Economy, the agrifood and defence sectors, helping map and determine the right capacity and best technology solution for the right places including which areas need additional capability for future proofed growth.
- vi. Bring forward the digital infrastructure, awareness and knowledge to increase the use of smarter homes technology and drive efficient use of energy to improve environmental gains.
- vii. Take steps to address digital exclusion by driving resident and business access and take up of existing and new provision through raising the digital skills base and;
- viii. Focus on the Campus for Future Living and the NTU Medical Technology Innovation Facility as a digital health catalyst

B (III)

Energy

Sector Spotlight: Energy: link with net zero and work ongoing along the Humber Bank – UK's Energy Estuary

Project Spotlight:

- i. Grantham Southern Gateway Electricity Supply
- ii. Greater Lincolnshire Energy Testbed

Objectives:

Greater Lincolnshire's nationally significant energy assets in the Humber Estuary and the North Sea, combined with its rural geography, mean it is well placed to pioneer novel approaches that contribute to the Government's commitment to reach Net Zero UK carbon emissions by 2050.

Energy is a key enabler of growth, so it is also imperative that Greater Lincolnshire retains local capacity and benefits from investment, to build resilience in local supply and to support

businesses and residents in minimising costs through managed usage and optimised use of green alternatives.

- i. With the support of Government, provide a robust major infrastructure programme that supports both residential and commercial EV provision to encourage a sustainable logistics sector, support the visitor economy, and encourage more uptake of EV's in GL, especially in remoter areas. This must include charging points and ensure energy distribution is prepared for the decarbonisation of our transport network in our urban and rural centres.
 - a. The recently awarded LEVI pilot funding for Lincolnshire (in association with Midlands Connect) will help drive market responses on which we can build future provision.
- ii. Scope opportunity to develop local vehicle to grid trials to further support the uptake of
- iii. Ensure that Greater Lincolnshire benefits from the natural assets of the area, tapping into the clean energy that lands or is generated in Lincolnshire rather than it all going straight to the grid including offshore wind and AD plants with feed-in tariffs or that such infrastructure also provides local infrastructure improvements or creates conditions for linked investment and legacy in recognition of the role that Lincolnshire is likely to play in the future as a hub for the offshore wind industry and expansion in the North Sea. As a region, we need to ensure that development is agreed on the basis that the region benefits from the energy created. As part of this:
 - a. partners will work to ensure that there is a policy for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIP) enabling place leaders to articulate to developers the expectations and ambitions that GL has and how developers can contribute to local advantage, opportunity and legacy and
 - b. ensure co-ordination of investment and opportunity in terms of renewable energy infrastructure to replicate the types of localised benefits emanating from the national scale infrastructure (such as Bicker Fen National Grid Substation) and planned improvement such as Lincolnshire GREEN.
- iv. Become a rural testbed for new energy technologies and their application in rural areas and become an energy disruptor through this testbed approach.
- v. Move to become less dependent on the utility companies and understand how a place-based approach to energy creation can create opportunities for growth. This may include expansion of independent, localised energy generation (through relevant solar power or anaerobic digestion) and storage (through batteries) to address local capacity constraints in isolated areas which are prohibitively difficult to connect to traditional electricity grids, as well as emerging technologies such as hydrogen and carbon capture. Where grids are constrained, it may be possible to generate, store and distribute renewable energy within microgrids (local private networks), whilst simultaneously driving economic growth through reduced energy costs, improved energy security and exploiting opportunities for decarbonisation.
- vi. Pilot the roll-out of the use of mixed dual fuel methane and hydrogen in the domestic heating network which has been tested in northern Lincolnshire; and support

infrastructure which will support the diversification of the logistics and agricultural sectors away from diesel to hydrogen and other replacement fuels; and

- vii. Promote and encourage investment that will provide Greater Lincolnshire with future proofed energy solutions for our residents and priority sectors, whilst delivering the national and international net zero ambitions. This will include a range of innovations or new industries to Greater Lincolnshire including:
 - a. hydrogen production and storage
 - b. developing Controlled Environment Agriculture (UK Food Valley)
 - c. innovating and maximising the use and application of the heat created from the North Hykeham Energy from Waste facility and lessons learned from it and
 - d. significant development opportunities such as options to redevelop the former gas terminal at Theddlethorpe



B (IV)

Health and Wellbeing

Sector Spotlight: All

Project Spotlight:

- 1. University of Lincoln's Centre for Innovation in Rural Health
- 2. Extra Care Housing Hoplands Accommodation, Sleaford
- 3. Rutland Meditech Facility

See also Campus for Future Living (£8.5m Town Deal, Connected Coast) under Distinctive Places Coastal Lincolnshire Spotlight.

Objectives:

The places we live in have a profound impact on our health and wellbeing. Significant gains in population health can be achieved by working in partnership to improve the built, natural and social environments. Creating healthier places requires co-production, closer working between the NHS, local authority planning teams, developers, public health professionals, voluntary sector organisations and communities themselves.

Improving mental and physical health and wellbeing is central to levelling up GL and to delivering inclusive growth. With spatial and health inequality and pockets of deprivation throughout the region, improved health outcomes will improve a person's ability to fulfil their potential by learning more effectively, being more productive at work and enjoying life to the full. Through developing an evidence based, partnership approach to improving health and wellbeing in GL, infrastructure investment can then be targeted to achieve positive health and wellbeing outcomes for the benefit of residents, support social mobility and inclusion and collectively further the economic growth of the region.

- i. Support further investment in the University of Lincoln's Centre for Innovation in Rural Health and maximise collaboration with the GL based National Centre for Rural Health & Care, to support innovative rural delivery and service solutions in GL. In connection to this, we will investigate the potential for a digital health and care innovation hub, to maximise the use of technology in the delivery of health and care services.
- ii. Build on SIDP 21, and work with NHS providers as anchor organisations to develop, maintain and diversify the local health infrastructure, maximise health outcomes and to ensure that health provision is accessible, in the right place and has the right capacity to support improved health outcomes as demand increases.
- iii. Address any infrastructure constraints to effective capital health provision including digital connectivity, energy, access to nature, parks, green spaces and provision of good public transport combined with infrastructure to support walking and cycling that lead to health gains. This will support access for all including disability access provisions.
- iv. Pilot 'communities of the future' and extra care living for older people with improved physical and digital connectivity to local services including health provision.

- v. Support new efficient and innovative models of care including attracting and retaining health care talent and exploring opportunities to build a cluster of local businesses to create a critical mass using infrastructure to support start-ups and incubators to drive efficient, sustainable and innovative models of care. To include:
 - a. Provision of infrastructure to support the health and care workforce including local, accessible and affordable accommodation
- vi. Ensure health and well-being outcomes are embodied in all other infrastructure activities to drive growth, creating built environments that support positive healthy lifestyle choices and behaviours and help to promote health and wellbeing.
- vii. Develop the housing stock to support healthy living in comfortable, warm environments and create physical and social environments that promote health and wellbeing, and to ensure that residents of new places have access to integrated health and care services and;
- viii. Support investment in the creation of a new digital innovation facility in Oakham as a nationally significant centre for clinical trials; training and development to address skill shortages within healthcare and; for the development of medical technology focused on older people.

B (V)

The Importance of Housing

Project Spotlight:

- 1. GaiThriving Gainsborough 2024
- 2. Grimsby West Urban Extension
- 3. A1/A606 junction capacity Rutland/South Lincolnshire

Note other SUEs are also vital for growth – these will be reflected as a map in this document (format TBC).

Objectives:

To create a diverse, high quality housing stock that meets the housing delivery targets in GL's local plans necessary to support the area's growth ambitions, meeting the needs of residents now and in the future and contributes to Net Zero targets:

- i. Channel the work of the SIDP to encourage collaboration across the region to co-ordinate infrastructure opportunities that will bring about housing growth, especially in SUEs. This will include working with utility companies and regulatory bodies to consider requirements at a regional rather than local level.
- ii. Collaborate with the construction sector, exploring opportunities for testing local energy solutions in strategic housing (and employment sites) focusing on SUEs and work with Homes England to pilot low cost home energy solutions.

- iii. Identify and understand the supply chain requirements that will be a catalyst for Modern Methods of Construction (MMC) in the region with a view to developing a centre of excellence to train and drive growth in MMC focused on creating a sustainable, low carbon, local solutions to growing housing stock.
 - MMC & sustainability seven GL LAs and the LGA have jointly commissioned SQW Group to complete a study into what is desirable / realistic in a rural setting like GL and what the barriers are that deter SME developers from using MMC – this is due to report in October 2022.
- iv. Work with Homes England to develop housing pipelines and support national partners and suppliers to understand the opportunities for investment in housing in Greater Lincolnshire and work to:
 - o overcome investment and other barriers to get the housing market moving
 - o address physical barriers focused on developing a flood resilient housing stock and
 - o ensure the capacity of the strategic highway network is not an inhibitor to growth.
- v. Support the delivery of affordable quality homes in areas of greatest need.
- vi. Seek powers to improve sub-standard private rented housing across GL and
- vii. Harness the drive for net zero by maximizing opportunities for private sector led retrofitting to reduce embodied carbon, operational emissions and deliver affordable warmth.

B (VI)

Theme: Movement of People and goods

Sector Spotlight: Agri-food, Ports and Logistics (including the Humber Freeport and Port of Boston)

Project Spotlight:

- i. The North Hykeham Relief Road 2021 SIDP project update on significance of the scheme
- ii. A17/16 Economic Corridor
 - a. Improvement to the highway along the economic corridor that allows efficient movement of goods and people, particular to support the UK Food Valley and
 - b. Sutton Bridge: highlighting the risk of failure and the impact internal to GL&R and on the food supply chain nationally.

Objectives:

Through investment in the way we move people and goods, we will level up and drive inclusive economic growth and contribute to decarbonisation and climate adaptation.

- i. Open strategically important routes, corridors and sites and improve connectivity throughout Greater Lincolnshire, to the East Midlands, the rest of the UK and beyond and ensure a resilient and reliable transport system for the movement of people, goods and services. We will do this by:
 - a. **A1** improvements to promote safer journeys and to improve capacity and route speed for freight journeys and ensure capacity does not constrain growth.
 - b. **A15** understanding the opportunities to improve the route for freight and as an economic growth corridor (e.g. Scampton, Hemswell FEZ, Agricultural EZ, links to Freeport/Humber Ports, Europarc and UK Food Valley)
 - c. **A17/A16** investment to maximise UK Food Valley freight efficiency including access to the A1, Trans -Midlands Trade Corridor, national strategic road network and international air and sea gateways.
 - d. Rail developing additional capacity on the network that enables freight growth including a rail freight interchange, with benefits for GL's businesses as well as regional freight movement (GL to London, West Midlands, Leeds, Manchester, Liverpool) and supporting improved passenger services within GL and to regional centres and London– including price, speed, frequency, electrification and quality of services; and.
 - e. **Ports** -supporting other transport infrastructure developments that deliver improved connectivity to and from the ports of Immingham, Grimsby, Boston, New Holland and Sutton Bridge to help drive domestic and international trade and logistics via faster, safer and more resilient freight movements as well as supporting the development of the Humber Freeport and potential Investment Zone
- ii. Reduce transport related carbon dioxide emissions and protect and enhance the natural and built environments through sustainable transport solutions supporting the introduction of low-carbon technologies and reducing reliance on fossil fuels by:
 - a. Establish active travel routes that support our growth sectors, access to jobs and boost the green economy.
 - b. Support the introduction of low carbon technologies and developing universal access to alternative transport fuels including hydrogen. This will include options for the development of an alternative fuel demonstrator supported by refuelling infrastructure to further the competitive advantage of our freight and logistics sector and enabling the effective operation of a net zero public transport and refuse fleet (see also waste and circular economy).
 - c. Developing the availability and location of publicly accessible EV charging points and energy distribution to further enable the decarbonisation of Greater Lincolnshire's transport networks (see also Energy) and;
 - d. Invest in upgrading the region's bus fleet to improve the uptake of public transport to meet the green agenda and create passenger growth / post pandemic recovery to include:
 - i. A pilot e-bus programme in urban areas across Lincolnshire
 - ii. Improved road infrastructure and prioritisation to support efficient bus
- iii. Providing equal opportunities through improvements in accessibility to key local hubs and services by sustainable modes of transport enabling areas of disadvantage and remote

areas to connect with employment, healthcare, social and leisure opportunities. We will focus on:

- a. Improved internal connectivity- promoting focused investment to enable residents to access jobs, training and leisure opportunities within GL including through active travel and green transport solutions.
- Rurality using opportunities to address the associated challenges in connectivity (including social exclusion) and accessibility of affordable, convenient transport.
 This will include providing infrastructure that allows green travel in our rural areas (including by car) and access to Demand Responsive Transport and;
- c. Coastal Connectivity enabling resident flow from the coast to essential services, including access to employment and healthcare. The visitor economy is essential to the viability of growth in the coastal areas of Greater Lincolnshire, and accessibility of these resorts by car, rail and public transport is essential to the sector thriving.

B (VII)

Water Management and flooding

Sector Spotlight: Agri-food

Project Spotlight:

i. Lincolnshire Reservoir

Objectives:

Working collaboratively across GL and wider to manage the effective supply and management of water to support sustainable residential and economic growth balancing the need for a cohesive approach to East Coast flood risk management and climate adaptation whilst maintaining water supply to water intensive sectors during dry periods. The SIDP will help co-ordinate infrastructure investment and multi-agency responses to:

- i. Help reduce the risk to agricultural land from the risk of coastal and river flooding to protect UK food production.
- ii. Minimise the risk and impact of tidal and fluvial flooding to the area's residents and businesses including:
 - a. The use of local planning processes and development design in bringing forward appropriate development (new and retrofit), critical infrastructure and inward investment that mitigates the risk of flooding and manages water locally and where possible provides environmental enhancements i.e. through sustainable drainage systems (SuDS); and
 - b. Seeking to work with partners and Government to adopt approaches to maintain and improve flood defence infrastructure to protect existing communities, and support adaption to increased flood risk as a result of climate change
- iii. Become more efficient at using water in domestic and commercial settings, to reduce water wastage, ensure a resilient supply and to retain excess water and redistribute it during arid periods to include:
 - a. The potential of on farm water management infrastructure (reservoirs, abstraction points, underground distribution systems and software/sensors to optimise water application)
 - b. Commercialisation of Agri-tech innovation pilots

- iv. Develop the contribution and relevance of the Future Fens project to GL and raising the importance of this initiative as part of a national conversation; and
- v. Support the need and development of the nationally significant South Lincolnshire Reservoir whilst maximising its benefits for GL

Additionally, to ensure 'no regret' decision making, all partners will take account of the future Adaptation Strategy for the East Coast and its impact and importance on planning for future strategic infrastructure in Greater Lincolnshire.

B (VIII)

Theme: Waste and the Circular Economy

Sector Spotlight: all

Project Spotlight:

i. Global Berry

Objectives:

To drive clean growth by addressing emerging market needs and opportunities through new technologies, industrial symbiosis, energy from waste and supporting sector strengths to develop Anaerobic Digestion (AD).

- i. Support investment in AD, that brings waste products back into the economy, located strategically across GL, building on the success of private investments such as the Biogas food waste recycling plant at Hemswell (including agricultural bi-products) and the utilisation of the 30,000 tonnes of food waste generated in GL each year.
- ii. Focus support to develop GL's circular economy starting with a feasibility and strategy led by the GLLEP in October 2022.
- iii. Develop waste services across GL that can respond to the domestic and commercial growth of the area and find a productive use for all forms of waste. Including:
 - a. maximising opportunities to deal with national waste issues and
 - b. leveraging cluster opportunities to bring about opportunities for carbon capture
- iv. Seek investment which helps businesses in all sectors to easily invest their waste into the circular economy providing support for further green growth in GL.
- v. Support localisation and the shortening of supply chains through:
 - a. inward investment/business support
 - b. partner review of procurement rules to help embed circularity
 - c. ensuring planning and other regularity requirements support where possible development and growth in circular economy activities
- vi. Promote commercial innovation around the utilisation of food waste/road verge and garden waste to produce fuel ethanol, food grade CO2 and via lignin processing, hydrogen which in turn can look to fuel waste fleets.

Distinctive Places

C (I)

Distinctive place: Coastal Lincolnshire (East Lindsey and parts of North East Lincolnshire)

Greater Lincolnshire is unique within the Midlands in that it is the only part of the Midlands Engine area which has a coastline.

There exists 50 miles of coastline in Greater Lincolnshire and Skegness is the UK's 4th most popular holiday resort; the strong visitor economy (a priority sector for the region) contributes more than £2bn to the Greater Lincolnshire economy and supports at least 30,000 full time equivalent jobs

A strong sense of place, identity, and cultural offer. The traditional coastal resort towns such as Mablethorpe and Skegness have different economies, challenges and opportunities to other towns in Greater Lincolnshire. These places have a reliance on retail and hospitality, meaning they are economically vulnerable due to the impacts of COVID-19 and the cost of living crisis.

They are seeing considerable investment through the Towns Fund - £23.9m and £24.5m respectively for Mablethorpe and Skegness. This is being delivered by the Connected Coast Board, a strategic body of private, public and voluntary partners providing leadership to deliver investment plans for the towns.

National nature reserves at Gibraltar Point and Donna Nook and the SSSI salt marsh at Cleethorpes combine with the Wolds AONB to draw a national and international audience including the development of the English Coastal Path.

The labour market is markedly seasonal compared to other areas and connectivity is a major constraint. It is difficult for workers, students and visitors to travel to and from Coastal Lincolnshire particularly when using public transport.

The distribution of good broadband connectivity is often poor in coastal regions and the risk of coastal flooding restricts housing and business growth.

Coastal settings see an ageing demographic profile and certain vital sectors such as health and care have seen a dependency on migrant labour to address local skills shortages and hard to fill vacancies.

The Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) sees a strong East/West split in Lincolnshire. Coastal communities in particular struggle with multiple deprivation and social exclusion in part due to poor connectivity and accessibility to higher education, skilled jobs and growth.

Sector Spotlight: Visitor economy, Energy/Net Zero, Health and Care

Project Spotlight: Campus for Future Living (£8.5m Town Deal, Connected Coast)

Priorities:

Coastal Flood defences to support sustainable growth in Skegness and Mablehorpe

- ii. Increased capacity, efficiency and cost-effectiveness of transport links, including road and rail links, to support the movement of freight (particularly benefiting the Energy Sector), and people (to support the Visitor Economy). This includes creating a 'connected community' through improving local routes for public transport and active travel, such as the Mablethorpe Mobi-hub
- iii. Develop digital connectivity to support economic growth in key sectors, particularly the visitor economy, SME's and health care
- **iv.** Deliver innovative health services, responding to the areas' aging population and current level of poor health outcomes.

C(II)

Distinctive place: Greater Lincoln (comprising City of Lincoln Council and North Kesteven and rural fringe of Wes Lindsey)

Greater Lincoln is based around the County's major urban centre with the City being a focus for innovation and development with Lincoln accounting for 12% of total GVA within Greater Lincolnshire. Lincoln's status as a regional centre for business investment, leisure and education is vital to the continued growth and productivity of Greater Lincolnshire with the growth of both University's and the Lincoln Science and Innovation Park being of significant note. Coupled with the city's historic, cultural and strong retail offer Lincoln has many attributes for attracting and stimulating innovative growth particularly among SMEs.

Lincoln is a focus for manufacturing jobs, while the highly specialised and growing Defence Sector draws on a concentration of RAF bases across the area, which provides an opportunity for growth.

Lincoln's status as a regional centre for business investment, leisure, education is vital to continued growth and productivity in GL with growth of the university and science park being of significant note. Coupled with the city's historic, cultural and strong retail offer Lincoln can attract and stimulate innovative growth particularly among SMEs.

It has a high job density and the second highest business density in Greater Lincolnshire.

Lincoln exhibits youthful age profiles, and is seeing population growth, especially in Central Lincoln, with clusters of deprivation similar to Coastal Lincolnshire often combined with low levels of employment.

Lincoln City is an established tourist designation, with internationally attractive visitor attractions including Lincoln Cathedral, Lincoln Castle, and the International Bomber Command Centre (IBBC) (all of which have recently seen major investment and projects). The City is central to the Visitor Economy in Greater Lincolnshire and Rutland, attracting tourism all year round and bringing in visitors from international destinations. In 2018, Visitor Spend generated over £216millon for the local economy, providing over 2,500 full time equivalent jobs.

The Lincoln Town Fund will provide urban regeneration, sustainable transport and digital investment to grow the City. Urban regeneration to support arts, culture, heritage and enterprise infrastructure will include works to the Central Market, renovation of the Drill Hall to deliver a continued programme of arts and performance to sustain the venue, deliver new workspace close

to the City's Transport Hub and restore a redundant heritage asset to deliver bespoke workspace for the creative sector. Sustainable transport will include highway and active travel routes, and digital investment will include specialist support to SME's and digitalisation of the high street and heritage offer.

Sector Spotlight: Defence, Visitor Economy, Energy

Project Spotlight:

- i. A15 economic corridor
- ii. Lincoln Science and Innovation Park
- iii. Western Growth Corridor

Priorities:

- i. Transport A15, A46 North Hykeham Relief Road and Lincoln Transport priorities including active travel
- ii. Digital bringing about a Smart City in Lincoln to support defence and growth, building digital capacity to support the redevelopment of RAF Scampton and expansion of RAF Waddington.
- iii. Support to the sustainable growth of Lincoln via Town Deal investment

C (III)

Distinctive place: Rural Heartland (comprises North Kesteven and parts of East and West Lindsey including Gainsborough)

At the heart of Lincolnshire, the rural spatial corridor is central to Greater Lincolnshire's status as the UK's Food Valley. Combined with the coast and large amount of Grade 1 agricultural land, the Rural Heartland is endowed with a variety of natural assets, which make a strong contribution to the economy and quality of place

The area has food production, defence assets in RAF Cranwell and Coningsby, manufacturing, and with access out to the growing port of Boston and coastal visitor assets. Horncastle presents opportunities as a gateway to the AONB and the coast. Access to the coast via a proposed Coastal Highway will become a major connectivity route.

The area includes market towns like Sleaford, Horncastle, Louth, Woodhall Spa and Market Rasen as well as the town of Gainsborough. Transport – particularly public transport – connectivity is challenging in Market Rasen and Caistor

Sleaford is an important rural hub that is located centrally to the region, with some good connections to the other Greater Lincolnshire corridors and Strategic Road Network and rail network, however rail service frequency can be poor. Sleaford has low unemployment and thriving industrial estates; recent years saw rapid population growth; and there are further housing and regeneration opportunities.

Gainsborough is a growth point with Housing Zone status due to the availability and affordability of land and proximity to towns and assets such as Scunthorpe, Lincoln and Doncaster.

The Rural Heartland includes natural assets, like Lincolnshire's Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, the Lincolnshire Wolds, which is a substantial Visitor Economy strength with 14 sites of special scientific interest, as well as small settlements.

Parts of the area are undergoing rapid population ageing, and deprivation is relatively high. There is employment growth in the area, but wages remain lower than the regional average. Gainsborough on the other hand has a youthful age profiles and some population growth but has clusters of deprivation similar to Coastal Lincolnshire often combined with low levels of employment.

Particularly in Gainsborough, infrastructure investment should recognise the need for innovative education solutions in the HE sector, where provision is especially limited. (a task force is being created in response to Lincoln College Group withdrawing from direct delivery in the town)

Gainsborough has benefited from Levelling Up Funding to deliver the 'Thriving Gainsborough 2024' project. The programme involves the development of a new cinema, retail opportunities, public realm, development of the bus state, redesign of the streetscape of the market place, and a townscape heritage initiative. Investment in the area will enhance Gainsborough, making it a better place for residents and business to experience and grow.

Transport – particularly public transport – connectivity is challenging. Rail service frequency can be poor.

Many of the rural residents have limited access to local amenities and public services. In some places less than 10% of the population are aged between 20 and 34; some locations have limited energy supply (no access to the grid); and low levels of connectivity (broadband, public transport and roads); the result is pockets of significant deprivation and isolation.

Sector Spotlight: Defence (RAF Cranwell and RAF Coningsby), Visitor Economy

Project Spotlight: Coastal Highway

Priorities:

- i. Rural Connectivity, both physical and digital
 - a. Future proofed digital to enable defence cluster related innovation
- ii. Making land available for business growth eg SMEP
- iii. Town Centre regeneration and re-purposing to improve accessibility for residents, viability for businesses and to enrich the visitor offer– eg Market Rasen, Horncastle, Louth, Sleaford.
- iv. Future proofed digital services

C(IV)

Distinctive place: South Humber Bank (comprising North Lincolnshire and North East Lincolnshire)

The South Humber Bank brings economic strengthens to the region with significant opportunities in decarbonisation and advanced manufacturing – a huge opportunity for Greater Lincolnshire to contribute to UKPLC.

The South Humber Bank spatial corridor is linked to Hull by the Humber Bridge, with assets on both sides of the estuary serving as a nationally significant Energy cluster with growth in Offshore Wind.

Manufacturing is also a key sector locally with some of the highest concentrations in Greater Lincolnshire.

Port and Logistics is growing as a sector and the area is set to be home to one of the first Freeports in the country. Launching Humber Freeport, which includes the South Bank Ports of Grimsby, Immingham and Able will attract FDI and local business growth through incentives and investment opportunities and support further growth in the area's key sectors particularly farming, food, construction, and manufacturing.

Connectivity in the corridor is strengthened by the M180 motorway allowing access to the North and West and rail links, alongside the Humberside Airport.

Improved Rail connectivity continues to be a priority for the area, as partners collaboratively lobby for improved east-west connectivity from Cleethorpes via Scunthorpe to Sheffield and the North West.

The decarbonisation agenda is strong in this region. Examples including 3 projects which have been shortlisted as part of the Cluster sequencing Phase 2 projects (power CCUS, hydrogen and ICC). The projects selected under Phase 2 are identified as having the potential to accelerate decarbonisation ambitions, kickstart the hydrogen economy and, realise significant economic benefits in the Humber region. The 3 projects in the East Coast Cluster are:

- o Power CCUS Keadby 3 Carbo Capture Power Station
- o Industrial Carbon capture (ICC) Humber Zero Phillips 66 Humber Refinery
- o Industrial Carbon Capture (ICC) Prax Lindsey Oil Refinery Carbon Capture Project

Town Centre Regeneration: There has been significant investment in the area with two allocations from the Towns Fund for Grimsby and Scunthorpe

Grimsby is a major industrial centre on the Humber Bank. It is Greater Lincolnshire's largest town by population, and 47% of these residents are below the age of 35.

Grimsby has a strong heritage in food production, most notably in its fishing and seafood processing industry and is home to the largest port by tonnage in the U. and the Europarc Food Enterprise Zone which houses the likes of Morrisons, Ultimate Packaging and 2 Sisters Food Group employing over 2000 people as well as being home to the £5.6m Humber Seafood Institute and Innovation centre.

Scunthorpe has a substantial manufacturing industry, including a steel industry, which provides employment for over 3,000 people and is integral to local and national supply chains.

The South Humber bank has some high concentrations of relative deprivation and parts of the spatial corridor are seeing population decline and poor health outcomes.

The pace and scale of industrial change in the area has created low wages and productivity, high unemployment and challenges retaining businesses and skills.

Sector Spotlight: Energy/NetZero, Ports and Logistics

Project Spotlight: Humber Freeport – Britain's Global Gateway

Priorities:

- i. Water Management, particularly to support alternative energy production.
- ii. Promote the Humber Energy Estuary, supporting the decarbonisation agenda through the development of the decarbonisation cluster and enabling the area to become the UK's centre for low carbon energy generation, including opportunities to test innovative technologies such as hydrogen fuel and carbon capture.
- iii. Building capacity on the road and rail freight links, including the A15, and exploring options to strengthen East West rail connectivity to support the supply chain and opportunities of the Freeport.
- iv. Bringing about infrastructure that will maximise the benefits of Humberside Airport.

C (V)

Distinctive place: South Lincolnshire and Rutland (comprising South Holland, Boston Borough, South Kesteven and Rutland)

The Southern Lincolnshire spatial corridor borders significant regional economic hubs like Nottingham, Leicester, Corby and Peterborough, which link to a growing concentration of Logistics jobs around Spalding as well as a substantial freight and logistics sector in Boston.

Port of Boston serves as a focal point for the town and an important growth driver harnessing its freight capacity and expertise and capitalising on its strategic location and good rail links.

There is ambition for the strategically located Port of Boston and its associated rail links, to be to a focus for growth, particularly in respect of its handling of major elements of the food supply chain across South Lincolnshire and beyond, steel for the West Midlands automotives sector and the scale of warehousing and expertise available.

The A1, A17, A16 and A15 create major corridors and are central to Greater Lincolnshire's nationally important food sector.

Southern Lincolnshire is relatively well connected compared to other places within Lincolnshire, including access to the East Coast Mainline, although cars remain the pre-dominant form of transport.

Towns like Oakham, Uppingham, Grantham, Bourne and Stamford offer a high quality of life with commuter access to local employment hubs.

Up to 40% of employment is within the food sector and its associated supply chain. And it is not just the towns which benefit from the strong Agrifood sector.

Water management is vital in this area. The food and energy sector require high levels of water, but yet it is a dry area. Innovation in how water can be provided in a sustainable way to these sectors needs further collaboration and investment.

Housing affordability is a challenge, especially around Stanford and in Rutland, whilst housing viability is an issue in Boston and South Holland.

Southern Lincolnshire scores better on deprivation than the rest of Greater Lincolnshire, although there are pockets of deprivation in Grantham and on the Eastern Coast, while Boston sees higher levels of deprivation and a more youthful and growing population which has grown rapidly in the past 20 years.

There is a lack of electricity capacity in Rutland which is constraining growth and opportunity for renewable energy generation.

Sector Spotlight: Agri-food

Project Spotlight:

- i. UK Food Valley
- ii. Centre for Fresh Produce and Logistics

Priorities:

- i. Logistics recognised as a key sector, including the Port of Boston
- ii. Connectivity within the area, and to the rest of the UK.
- iii. Land the right land, in the right place, right services/price/size
- iv. Infrastructure to support Cluster growth enabling future phases of FEZ's or equivalent

