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These draft proposals provide a framework for discussions with Government on levelling up Lincolnshire. They are subject to the governance and approval processes of participating councils.

Throughout this document our plans to level up Lincolnshire and references to Lincolnshire include the County and Districts of Lincolnshire and the unitary areas of North Lincolnshire and North East Lincolnshire

Levelling up Lincolnshire



SAGA Robotics a Lincolnshire tech company in the UK Food Valley have developed an autonomous robot to perform tasks such as UV-C light treatment, picking fruits and vegetables, spraying and data collection/crop prediction. Reducing costs and labour market challenges in the fruit sector

What levelling up means to Lincolnshire

In July 2021 the Prime Minister invited local leaders to bring forward bold plans for devolution to county areas and to work together to help level up the United Kingdom.

In anticipation of the Government's Levelling Up White Paper Council Leaders across Lincolnshire are working together to develop plans to enable Lincolnshire to reach its potential.

Lincolnshire has huge opportunity for growth and by collaborating to secure devolved powers along with budgets for skills and infrastructure from the Government, we aim to boost the game changing propositions within the Lincolnshire Local Industrial Strategy that will create high wage, high skills jobs, and opportunity for all.

Our ambition is to take action together at the right level to deliver a better future for Lincolnshire; leveling up skills, infrastructure and sectors globally, nationally and locally to spread opportunity, boost living standard and restore local pride.

To do so will require joining up and localising decisions taken across different government departments, government agencies and local councils to work together to bring the right investment into our area.

We will ask the Government to transfer some of its powers, services and budgets through a County Deal so that we can integrate them with our existing local services and target them to local need and growth across our key food, ports and logistics, and green energy sectors.



Levelling Up Globally

Within Lincolnshire we have the opportunity to level up against the best in the world and significantly boost UK plc:

The UK Food Valley: Launched this year the UK Food Valley aims to become a world leading food cluster with the potential to add 50% GVA by 2030 equalling around £2 billion. With its focus on new food chain automation and digital technology the food valley supports the UK's ambition to become a science superpower.

Green Energy and decarbonisation: With global leading projects for offshore renewables, carbon capture, green jet fuel, hydrogen and EV production. A potential offering of £60bn of private investment over the next fifteen years making it a globally competitive sector. Able Marine Energy Park is set to become a bespoke, world-leading facility to serve the needs of the burgeoning offshore renewable energy sectors.



Levelling Up Nationally

Several of our key sectors are of national significance and through levelling up could be at the forefront delivering on national policy:

Ports & Logistics: The Humber Freeport will boost the region's economy to the tune of £3.5bn in initial investment and 7000 jobs. Hull, Goole, Immingham and Grimsby which combined handle around 17% of the nation's trade, and the port handles materials that supply 10% of the nation's energy. A secondary tier of Ports around The Wash provides Regional capacity and further growth potential.

Energy and decarbonisation: Lincolnshire will be home to the UK's first net zero carbon industrial cluster by 2040. This will capture and store around 10% of UK carbon dioxide emissions and develop blue and green hydrogen infrastructure and production. The Race Bank Extension, which would double the size of Grimsby's largest off-shore wind farm and will achieve a level that will meet the equivalent of London's peak demand.



Levelling Up Locally

With disparities within our towns and communities we want to level up to share opportunity throughout all of Lincolnshire:

Skills: Lincolnshire has some unique challenges around skills and employment which impact upon the region's productivity levels and create issues of social and health inequality. There is a high risk that national approaches to specific issues are unlikely to address the underlying challenge within our area.

Infrastructure: As a large rural area Lincolnshire is largely reliant on country roads with limited capacity for residents, tourists, agriculture and freight. Parts of Lincolnshire are also held back by poor connectivity, limited rail, energy and utility grid capacity.

Deprivation: Lincolnshire experiences pockets of urban deprivation and rural deprivation with a largely east-west divide. Eastern coastal communities are often the most deprived with a reliance on low wage seasonal jobs.

The case for levelling up Lincolnshire

Whilst we are already making huge strides in many areas, Lincolnshire's economy is growing at a slower rate than both the East Midlands and the UK.

Lincolnshire is a great place to live but despite many prosperous areas our relative deprivation is high, particularly in pockets within some of our towns, rural areas, and towards the coast.

We have challenges around skills and employment which impact upon the region's productivity levels and create issues of social and health inequality. Towns like Skegness, Grimsby, and Mablethorpe are among the 10% most deprived in the country and are also experiencing population decline.

The City of Lincoln and towns like Scunthorpe and Gainsborough are ready for levelling up and pockets of different need exist throughout the county. The overall level of need in Lincolnshire would have attracted the highest level of EU funding and the UK's exiting the EU creates an investment gap to be filled.

But our local economy has huge potential for growth. Councils working together with business through the Greater Lincolnshire Local Enterprise Partnership have developed a Greater Lincolnshire Local Industrial Strategy and Economic Recovery Plan that with strategic locally led decisions on skills and infrastructure will drive the creation of high wage, high skills jobs across Lincolnshire.

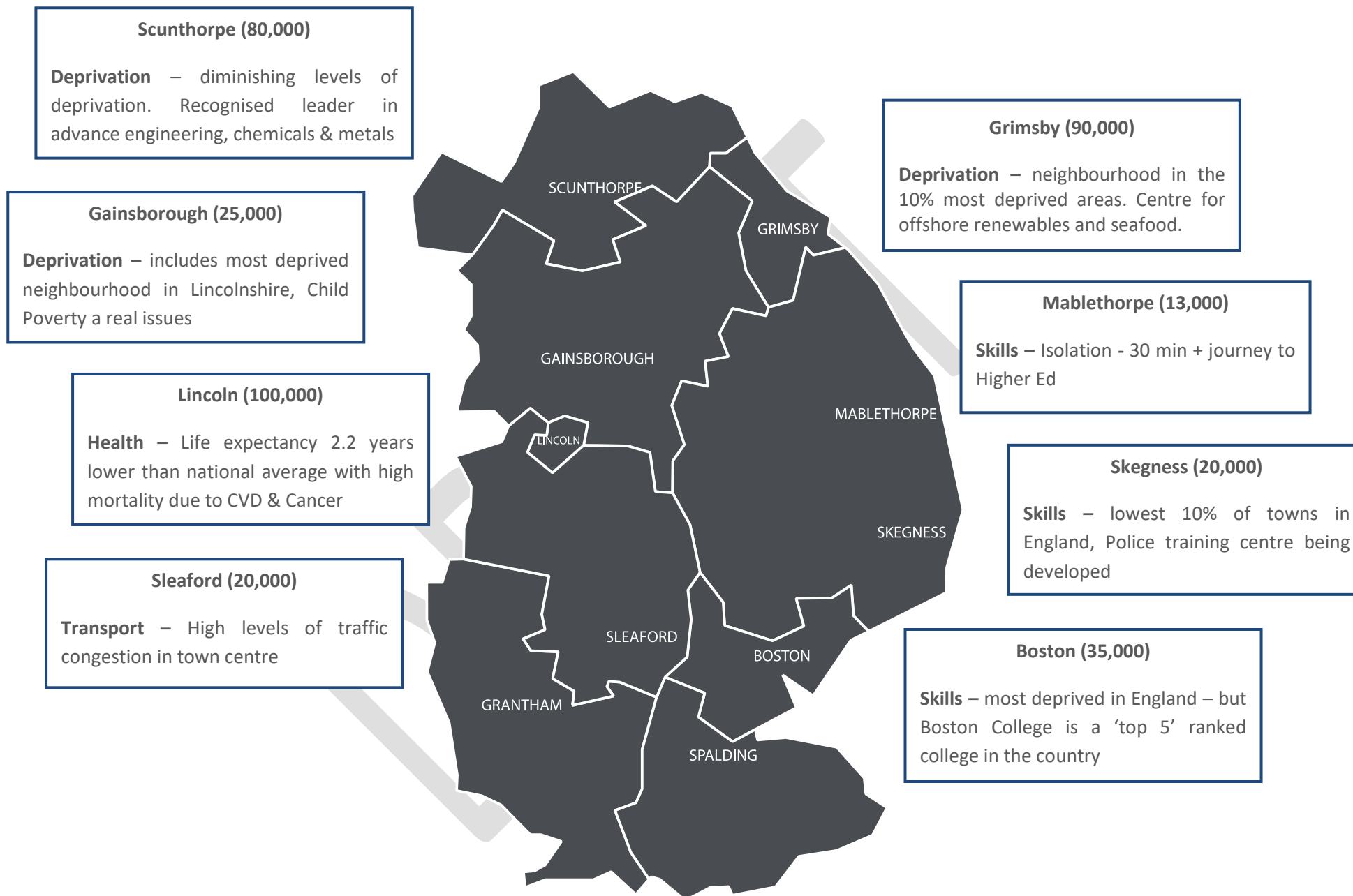
Our primary focus is to boost growth in three key sectors spanning our economic geography and through this document we have included case studies of how our leveling up asks could contribute to growth in these sectors:

- **The UK Food Valley** incorporating agriculture, sea food, food processing and automation
- **Ports and logistics** of national and regional significance and including the Humber Freeport
- **Green energy and decarbonisation** including offshore renewables, hydrogen and carbon capture for industry

Within our Local Industrial Strategy we have also identified two further sectors of economic importance across Lincolnshire that may also benefit from our levelling up asks:

- **Defence** including the growth of defence, space and security related industries and opportunities for former armed forces personnel based around our RAF sites.
- **The visitor economy** and tourism including Lincolnshire's significant heritage offer; the only coast line in the midlands; and the only AONB in the East Midlands

By growing all of these sectors we can create the high skill high wage jobs and opportunities for our residents that will improve the quality of life and level up our communities.



Our plan for levelling up

The Government have set out ambitions for levelling up to make opportunity more equal across the country. Building on the growth in our key sectors and with appropriate national support a strong county deal will enable Lincolnshire to 'Level Up' globally, nationally and locally; and to accelerate the delivery of our local industrial strategy aiming to increase the value of the Lincolnshire economy by over £3 billion, creating more than 13,000 new jobs, and delivering a better future for Lincolnshire.

We have developed ten big asks to devolve some of Government's powers, services and budgets so that we can integrate them with improved public services targeted at local need, secure strategic investment and level up Lincolnshire.

10 big asks to level up Lincolnshire

Deliver infrastructure for:

1. Strategic growth and jobs in key sectors
2. Green recovery and a low carbon Lincolnshire
3. Transport that connects people to jobs and places
4. Unlocking housing and sustainable growth
5. Managing our unique natural environment

Develop skills and opportunity by

6. Skills culture that promotes aspiration across Lincolnshire
7. Growing skills needed for future jobs in key sectors
8. Creating pathways and apprenticeships into new jobs
9. Increasing employment opportunities and productivity
10. Accelerating innovation, research and technology

We believe that our ten point plan will level up Lincolnshire and passes the Government tests to:

1. Strengthen local leadership to drive real change

Through our ambitious plans we are showing the leadership needed to deliver improvements that level up Lincolnshire. Our plans will drive real change in the jobs that are available to the people that live here - creating high skill high wage jobs.

Our plans will help residents to access those jobs through improved transport and infrastructure in a way that helps protect the planet. And by using devolved powers we can provide the leadership needed to unlock the stuck sites that will deliver the homes for our resident's children and jobs for the future.

2. Raise living standards especially where they are lower

Being able to access a high skill high wage job is fundamental to raising living standards in Lincolnshire and through our plans we intend to make sure that our residents have the opportunity to train for these roles at any stage of their career.

When our business community talks about 'skills gaps' they are describing challenges including: not being able to find the right skills within the local labour market; difficulty in recruiting higher-level and technically skilled workers; and lack of interest to work in their particular sector. Through our plans we intend to change perceptions so that our young people and workforce can see the potential of careers in our most important sectors, providing them with the knowledge they need to make informed decisions about their education, training and an increased range of apprenticeships.

Whilst we have good GCSE results, less young people in Lincolnshire go on to higher level qualifications than on average across the UK. Our new approach will support progression to higher-level qualifications; providing the best possible opportunities for residents who want to progress to further and higher education and meet growing employer demand.

3. Improve public services especially where they are weaker

Lincolnshire benefits from effective partnership working across the ten local authorities and close cooperation with others including the Greater Lincolnshire LEP, business and the University of Lincoln.

Our Plan brings together Government powers, services and budgets through a County Deal and integrates them with our effective existing local services. By targeting integrated services to meet local need we will deliver improvements for residents and growth across our key sectors.

4. Positive change people can see and the pride they feel in the places they call home.

We are already working to level up towns and communities across Lincolnshire through investment, the levelling up fund and towns deals including through the connected coast programme where residents in Skegness and Mablethorpe can already experience improvements to be proud of.

Our residents are proud of Lincolnshire and through local leadership for regeneration funding we can ensure that future investment in our towns and communities is joined up; and that the improvements that people see make sense to them and are supported locally.

A longer term plan for Lincolnshire

Levelling up will be a mixture of quick wins, short term improvements and longer term growth that benefits our county and residents. We have strong evidence base and shared growth and recovery plans that can be reinforced with a county deal now.

But we also want to take advantage of this opportunity to level up Lincolnshire for the future and so we will soon start work on a longer term 2050 vision for Lincolnshire to inform future investment.

We will also explore opportunities to empower our communities at the most local level by identifying powers and services that could be devolved to town and parish councils.



Devolving powers to level up

We want to be in the best possible place to take up opportunities from the government without additional layers of government or bureaucracy. Early conversations are being sought with government, to seek the devolved powers and budgets needed now to empower local leaders to deliver for Lincolnshire.

We have existing joint committees and means of accountability that offer a clear point of leadership for devolution in Lincolnshire and we will review the options for governance presented in the levelling up white paper to determine the most appropriate model for delivering for our residents. Local leaders will also explore opportunities to join up local services with devolved powers and provide an improved experience for residents that support our levelling up ambitions.

Our levelling up plan is centred on three approaches of:

- 1. Full devolution** devolving budgets and responsibility for delivery to meet local need.
- 2. Co-commissioning** customised services to meet local need. Sharing responsibility with Government and its agencies
- 3. Piloting innovation** freedoms and funding to develop new approaches to our local challenges.

Our ten point plan to level up skills and infrastructure is set out over the following pages. Supported by devolved leadership for the Shared Prosperity Fund it will deliver on the Government's principles by focusing on people and place:

- Our vision for place – is that local decisions and investment in infrastructure unlock growth in our county, particularly in key sectors that create high wage, high skills jobs that boost living standards. Long term strategic planning and social investment enable sustainable growth and level up our left behind neighbourhoods, market and industrial towns and city for residents as thriving, attractive communities that they are proud of and competitive destinations for visitors.
- Our vision for people – is that skills, training and employment opportunities in Lincolnshire are tailored to spread opportunity and access to high wage, high skills that can boost living standards; and address labour shortages across our key industrial sectors.
- Funding - continued membership of the EU would have seen Lincolnshire qualify for the highest level of funding that would have been used to support growth and levelling up. The UK's exit from the EU provides an opportunity to take back control of regeneration funding, streamline bidding processes and through local leadership target investment at Lincolnshire's levelling up priorities. Devolved responsibility for regeneration and new funding streams such as the Shared Prosperity Fund would enable this to be targeted at skills, infrastructure and improvements important not only for growth in our key sectors but also for improving the quality of life in our left behind neighbourhoods, market and industrial towns, and city that restore local pride.

Infrastructure

Lincolnshire has a strong case for investment, supported by the local industrial strategy evidence base, local plans and emerging local transport plans. This solid foundation is already reaping rewards with a multitude of projects underway across the area.

However, there is an opportunity to go further and faster in order to address levelling up challenges within Lincolnshire and between the regional economy and rest of the UK.

In order for Lincolnshire to realise its potential significant investment in infrastructure is required to tackle areas of inequality. These include focusing on enhancing digital connectivity, enabling access to work and addressing the causes of market failures in housing delivery and high speed broadband roll out.

Rail capacity is a constraint on the growth in our ports and with appropriate investment would unlock the potential of the Humber Freeport. The area is held back by poor connectivity with a reliance on congested and rural roads for logistics, tourism and access to amenities and much reduced road maintenance funding from Government.

With coastal and low-lying regions, water management is a crucial aspect of climate resilience, and Lincolnshire has plans to become a rural innovation testbed for energy and water management. Given the low-lying and coastal nature of much of the region, and the vital importance of water to the food sector, Lincolnshire will be at the forefront of the UK's climate strategies.

Our ten point plan has five key infrastructure themes for addressing these challenges and levelling up Lincolnshire:

1. Strategic growth and jobs in key sectors

To level up Lincolnshire we intend to prioritise investment in infrastructure that boosts the strategic opportunities identified in the Local Industrial Strategy and Economic Plan for Growth and support local growth sectors that create high skill high wage jobs.

Midlands Connect has identified the Trans Midlands Trade Corridor and the A1 as priorities. East west movements particularly by rail are recognised as vital for growing ports and linking the Humber and East Midland Free ports and we have a pipeline of infrastructure projects to invest in accelerate growth.

Our asks:

- A multi – year transport infrastructure settlement to be devolved to local leaders to support deliver of strategic infrastructure over at least 5 years.
- A joint digital place strategy supported by DCMS and BEIS that drives digital innovation and commercial investment, underpinned by digital infrastructure including 5G roll out and local commissioning of funding for broadband connectivity, full fibre to premise and accelerated delivery of the rural gigabit scheme.
- Partnership to commission flood prevention and water management work across local government, regulators, suppliers, Government agencies and infrastructure providers (including Environment Agency) to commission strategic infrastructure investment that supports housing growth and growth across Lincolnshire's key sectors.

2. Green recovery and a low carbon Lincolnshire

Lincolnshire is at the forefront of the UK's offshore energy production, hydrogen innovation and the development of decarbonisation for heavy industry but we need to ensure that this is supported by infrastructure such as the energy grid capacity that is required to deliver growth.

We want our residents to be proud of our green credentials in everyday life and as part of levelling up we intend to pilot innovation and an acceleration of the shift to zero emission vehicles, mass transit and decarbonising rail and maritime travel.

Our asks:

- Joint strategy for developing the unique infrastructure required in Lincolnshire to enable carbon capture and storage innovation and other green growth.
- Accelerate the ongoing trials in Northern Lincolnshire to roll out the use of mixed dual fuel methane and hydrogen in the domestic heating network.
- Agree an investment strategy with BEIS, Western Power Distribution and Northern Power Grid that the right energy is delivered at the right time.
- Work together to develop electric charging in rural areas market towns and urban centres and charging for homes without driveways.
- Develop e-bus in 4 urban areas across Lincolnshire.

3. Transport that connects people to jobs and places

Unlike urban areas Lincolnshire is a large geography with limited public transport networks that impacts accessibility and opportunity around travel to work and learning, contributing to greater inequality.

Despite the geographical challenges we face Lincolnshire has been at the forefront of demand responsive transport, developing innovative services that we intend to expand further as we build back better passenger transport services and maximise the network to break the link between poor transport connectivity and the skills gap. We recognise the vital role of rail especially for freight and tourism and have plans to build back patronage and grow beyond pre pandemic levels.

Many parts of our geography are low lying and well suited to active travel and there are also significant opportunities to grow the Green Visitor Economy. A small number of high calibre cycling routes have been identified across Lincolnshire which would enhance the offer for visitors and residents - connecting up important destinations. We seek the support of government departments to further develop these concepts.

Our residents should also feel safe on the highway when not commuting by car. There are a range of additional powers available within the UK that are not currently applicable in a county area that could assist in Lincolnshire to educate drivers, reduce congestion and make the highway safer for all users.

Our asks:

- Local Leadership for rail services to align to local need and priorities including a five year investment plan and timetable for a minimum level of service provision for a 5 year period. This will bring confidence for the travelling public and local stakeholders.
- Local prioritisation of investment for transport and other infrastructure in our market and industrial towns through devolved responsibility for all regeneration funding – such as future High Streets and Towns Fund; Levelling Up Fund; Shared Prosperity Fund and Community Renewal Fund.
- Flexibility in the application of Government regulation and funding for public transport in Lincolnshire to better serve rural areas and create innovative demand responsive travel services suitable for rural areas outside big cities.
- Devolved budgets for locally important active travel routes that support our growth sectors, access to jobs and boost the green economy.
- Extend traffic management and moving contraventions powers used in London to Lincolnshire combined with power to introduce additional local safety schemes.

4. Unlocking housing and sustainable growth

Levelling up cannot be delivered overnight and across Lincolnshire we are committed to a long term plan to level up our county and deliver green growth - as well as the short term actions to improve living standards now.

Delivering sustainable growth requires growth sites to get the right infrastructure at the right time and enabling housing delivery at pace that supports economic growth. There have been many ambitious and high quality new developments across Lincolnshire; however there is an opportunity to develop a spatial plan for our area.

Aligned with other policy and investment decisions the spatial plan would facilitate sustainable growth to meet the varying needs across Lincolnshire, providing a framework for infrastructure at the right geographical scale to give effect to national priorities aimed at supporting sustainable growth and improving the overall wellbeing of the environment and communities.

Access to high quality housing is important to improve the health outcomes and life chances of residents. Key to the spatial plan will be unlocking infrastructure barriers to new homes for our residents through local decision making for spatial planning and infrastructure.

We are proud of Lincolnshire's heritage and connection to the armed forces and want to ensure that as the RAF estate is consolidated into Coningsby, Waddington and Cranwell the Government, MOD and regulators work with local leaders to ensure the timely release of strategically important sites for growth - such as RAF Scampton - with the infrastructure required for housing and business.

We also intend to level up our left behind neighbourhoods, market towns, urban centres and city for residents as thriving, attractive communities and competitive destinations for visitors.

Our asks:

- Spatial planning powers to develop strategic planning policy for future sustainable growth and land use across Lincolnshire aligned to national policy and our plans for infrastructure and economic growth.
- Seed funding to develop infrastructure projects that unlock and bring forward “stuck sites” and a ring-fenced 10 year Homes England co-investment programme for infrastructure that enables housing growth.
- A joint board with Government to determine disposal and investment in all central government and public agency land in Lincolnshire to create a true “one public estate and unlock land for sustainable growth with infrastructure for housing and employment.
- Extend a duty to cooperate to all public sector organisations when locating services and buildings through the Lincolnshire One Public Sector initiative.

- Devolved responsibility for all regeneration funding – notably future High Streets and Towns Fund; Leveling Up Fund; Community Renewal Fund; and the Shared Prosperity Fund to prioritise leveling up that supports communities and growth.
- Greater powers to drive improvement and consistency for the people that live in over 90,000 private rented sector homes across Lincolnshire, by enabling local ownership of regulatory powers, including the implementation and management of selective licensing schemes.

5. Growth that levels up our natural environment

Greater Lincolnshire is the second largest county area in England, with a largely rural, low-lying landscape including nationally important natural treasures such as lime woods, chalk streams, saltmarsh and the only AONB in the East Midlands covering the Lincolnshire Wolds.

Our diverse geography is vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, with high levels of risk from coastal flooding only increasing as sea levels rise. This also provides us with enormous opportunities to accelerate the drive towards nature recovery, to match the energy ambitions and attack both climate change and biodiversity loss.

We have one of the oldest Wildlife Trusts in England, a long-established and collaborative Local Nature Partnership with a long tradition of working co-operatively, and the location for two of the environmental land management scheme test pilots, providing us with a head start in the transition towards a successful nature recovery network

Our asks:

- Government funding to update the strategic work streams of our Local Nature Partnership, to enable it to meet the challenge of implementing a single Local Nature recovery Network for the whole of Greater Lincolnshire
- A multi-year resource to allow strategic planning and delivery of ecological mitigation ahead of development, to promote a balance between biodiversity and growth and enable creation of new habitats to offset developments.

- Alignment of Environmental land management schemes planning/ awards, to support faster expansion of the nature recovery network/LNRS
- Government support to enable greater alignment of national and local flood resilience work with environmental management, local climate change adaptation and biodiversity net gain targets, potentially based on the model of the way in which we currently co-operate as Lead Local flood Authorities
- Development of a Water Sustainability Agency to protect the country from food shortages caused by floods and droughts, to include water management plan, waste management, flood risk management priorities, and the ability to set local tax incentives for business to develop water resources and water efficiency management on their sites and contributing to flood relief schemes

Skills and employment

Developing skills in Lincolnshire is key to sharing opportunity and raising living standards. Our leading sectors have the potential to create high skill high wage jobs that can level up Lincolnshire. Our vision is to provide access to the right training that enables our residents to take up those jobs either straight out of education, through apprenticeships or by retraining and address labour shortages across our key industrial sectors.

Lincolnshire currently experiences low productivity, seasonal employment and lower wages. There is spatial inequality, with pockets of deprivation and health inequality within the county. Many employees are paid below the real living wage.

We will develop a skills eco-system where employers are at the forefront of demand, creating a sustainable and commercial skills offer and aligning routes into work that attract residents to new opportunities in our growing sectors.

Our approach to skills will be employer led, promoting the introduction of T levels, Traineeships and Apprenticeships. It will complement the wider investments in the Lincolnshire Institute of Technology and our Universities as well as enabling collaboration with the FE, sixth form colleges and private training providers to advance digital technology adoption and deliver productivity growth and high value jobs.

We have five key skills themes for levelling up Lincolnshire:

6. A skills culture that promotes aspiration across Lincolnshire

We have a large working age population that left school with few, if any, qualifications, working in often seasonal and casual roles. We have lower levels of young people progressing into a traditional higher education pathway, families needing or choosing to earn rather than learn.

We want to change this deeply engrained culture by raising awareness of the wide range of new industries, offering exciting opportunities but requiring different skills which many of our residents don't know; promoting employment opportunities to increase the number of graduates; and encourage them to gain employment locally and to stay in our region.

We want more adults to participate in learning and progress into and through employment raising the qualification levels of the workforce, reversing the decline and gap with national performance levels and support the existing workforce to access high skill high wage jobs that raise living standards.

Our asks:

- Introduce an all-age career service with advisers required to spend time in Lincolnshire industries to be better informed about the local career opportunities.
- Introduce an adult retraining scheme building on the learning from national pilots.
- Accelerate implementation of the new lifelong learning allowance in Lincolnshire now rather than 2025 and lead a viable level 3 skills offer across Lincolnshire.

- Introduce an individual learning account from all 16-year-olds and pilot innovative skills voucher entitlement approaches towards this aim to help address the post Covid fall out of employment.

7. Growing skills needed for future jobs in key sectors

With huge potential for high skill high wage jobs in our growth sectors, aligning skills and training to employment is crucial to growth in Lincolnshire and providing opportunity for all.

Our approach to skills will be employer led, developing and enhancing collaboration with the FE, sixth form colleges and private training providers. It will enable local flexibility to fund and deliver strategic short courses in specific shortage areas, including the skill needs for jobs in new green and digital technology sectors.

Alongside ensuring the right training is available, we will also tackle the social inequalities, barriers and attitudes to learning. We aim to broaden eligibility to support a more flexible, bite sized and online learning offer that can respond to employers and individual needs.

Our asks:

- The Adult Education Budget be fully devolved to our area to maximise the use and impact of its investment.
- Devolved responsibility for the Shared Prosperity Fund to support skills and employment.

8. Creating pathways and apprenticeships into new jobs

Developing access to academic skills training will not suit everyone and in some cases will not meet the needs of employers.

Apprenticeships can provide an alternative pathway into high skill high wage jobs but apprenticeship starts have declined across the whole country over the last 5 years.

We want to provide an Apprenticeship place for everyone in Lincolnshire that wants one but we need flexibility within the funding of apprenticeships to boost participation. We also intend to pilot new Occupational Traineeships to increase young people progressing onto apprenticeships and employment.

As well as apprenticeships we want to provide more support for T Level work placements through our employer partnerships and provider networks so that every young person studying can gain a guaranteed local placement.

Our asks:

- Devolve skills budget from the Shared Prosperity Fund, coupled with existing funding and associated underspends on initiatives such as the Apprentice Levy
 - Pilot new occupational traineeships with the Education and Skills Funding Agency to increase young people progressing onto apprenticeships and employment.
- Develop bespoke apprenticeship arrangements for Lincolnshire including a Lincolnshire portal for apprenticeship requests and facilitate the match of transfer of Levy funds via the Digital Apprenticeship System
 - To introduce an Apprenticeship Levy Fund, learning from the experience of West Midlands Combined Authority to broker employer pledges for a share of Levy funds to support more non levy employers to take on a new apprentice.

9. Increasing employment opportunities and productivity

We believe there should be an obligation on all nationally commissioned DWP providers to consult and work jointly with local authorities. We want greater flexibility to wrap the support necessary across public services for people to take steps towards the workplace and the attractive jobs offered by growth in Lincolnshire.

We need to offer more support to get those of working age to be economically active and providing an appropriately skilled and available labour pool.

Everyone, irrespective of their background, should be able to achieve their full potential. Lincolnshire is a diverse area where social mobility from some of the most socially mobile to some of the least. This means that people born into low-income families, regardless of their talent, or their hard work, do not have the same access to opportunities as those born into more privileged circumstances.

We intend to address issues of social mobility and the recommendations of the Social Mobility Commission.

Our asks:

- Devolved management arrangements for local delivery of DWP's programmes and activity to meet need in Lincolnshire including
 - extend and target the work of DWP to reach those that are economically inactive and in low paid work

- extend the DWP 'Work Coaches' network to widen the mentoring and progression support that can be offered to unemployed and disadvantaged young people
- changes to worklessness programmes to include the ability to commission the work-based learning academy in a model of seamless progression.
- joint delivery partnership with Kickstart and Restart
- Integrate DWP commissioned contractors and sub-contractors at the local level into Local Government in Lincolnshire similar to the previous Public Health approach.
- Include Lincolnshire in the 12 Opportunity Areas currently attracting additional investment to pilot new approaches to increasing social mobility.
- A duty to cooperate for all public sector organisations and agencies to
 - provide support on key barriers to employment
 - secure employment and training provision for all care leavers.

10. Accelerating innovation, research and technology

We want to keep up our momentum of advancement in renewables, robotics, digital logistics, seafood processing and food technologies by attracting and placing more graduates to work across our growing clusters and contribute to the UK's ambition to become a science superpower.

We want more people to progress into higher education and more businesses to take up the opportunities of working closely with a University. We will promote and build on the Graduates into SMEs schemes further reinforcing the links between higher education and knowledge transfer whilst also addressing cost and return within smaller business enterprises.

Innovation and growth in our fish, seafood and vegetable businesses can offer wider benefits for the national health, but small Lincolnshire businesses can find bidding for UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) competitions restrictive and a constraint on innovation in fast moving industries.

We want more businesses across Lincolnshire to be able to access innovation programmes and be supported to compete for funding through streamlined processes that can unleash further creative innovation in our key sectors.

Our asks:

- Accelerate funding towards developing a true Cluster ecosystem for Renewables and Food Technology through two Government innovation "Catapult" initiatives in the county. (e.g. ORE Catapult).
- Co-commissioning of UKRI and Innovate UK programmes to drive business innovation across Lincolnshire.

Using Devolution to level up Lincolnshire

Case studies on levelling up skills and infrastructure to boost growth in our key sectors



The UK Food Valley

Why Lincolnshire: We have an international reputation for food, seafood, and farming and one of the largest concentrations of food manufacturing, seafood processing, research, storage and distribution areas in Europe:

- Lincolnshire supply 70% of seafood consumed in the UK, 30% of the nation's vegetables, 18% of poultry, with a total agricultural output of over £2bn in 2019,
- Lincolnshire is home to a major food logistics cluster supporting the area's seafood processing, agriculture and food manufacturing industries.
- The food chain provides 24% of jobs throughout Lincolnshire rising to 40% in South Holland; with 75,000 employees in the farm to factory gate supply chain.
- We lead the UK developing the skills needed to transform the agri-food sector. Through the National Centre for Food Manufacturing, the Agri-Food Centre of Excellence and the work of our academic partners we are driving the application of new technologies and increased productivity in this sector.

Our ambition: In an area with a mix of coastal, urban and rural deprivation, low wages and health inequalities the UK Food Valley aspires to be a top 10 global cluster by 2030 contributing to the creation of more high skill, high wage jobs in the future and making the food chain a career of choice for aspirational young people through innovation including.

- Lincolnshire is home to Europe's largest Agri-food Tech automation and robotics cluster, attracting a variety of businesses which are investing heavily in automation. This creates an ideal test bed for investors as recognised in the publication, with DIT, 'High Potential Opportunity (HPO) for Automation in Food Processing' published in spring 2021.
- Leading national efforts to reduce carbon emissions from food production and manufacturing. This will focus on how new technology and skills, new energy sources and production processes can be used to reduce the carbon emissions from production, processing, transport and storage of food.

How we will level up:

1. With 25% of the UK's grade 1 land, local place leadership is needed to deliver the right investment in flood protection for agricultural land and the innovative water supply initiatives that will be key to the UK's food security and the future success of food production and processing in Lincolnshire. Long term strategic planning is needed to secure land use and investment in utilities that enable future growth in the sector and address challenges such as the UK shortfall in cold storage space.

Infrastructure improvements to ports, rail and roads including the A46, A16, A17, A1 and A15 are needed to move towards an efficient, carbon neutral supply chain for agri-food industry and would be informed by our leading edge cold chain and food logistic expertise.

2. Attracting further businesses to invest heavily in our Agri-food Tech automation and robotics cluster is dependent upon the availability of digital infrastructure. Our proposal for a digital place strategy will support the growth in new technology and skills, new energy sources and production processes which can be used to reduce the carbon emissions in automation. Lincolnshire's agricultural and rural communities' should benefit from high-speed connectivity comparable to urban areas that will enable growth in R&D, smart agriculture and automation of food processing in remote rural areas.

3. Growth in Lincolnshire's Agri-food Tech automation and robotics cluster and initiatives to reduce carbon emissions in the Food Valley require investment in skills to grow. We want to ensure that training opportunities in our rural deprived communities have significant focus on these higher skilled jobs in food production, manufacturing, research, storage and distribution and also address shortages in the supply of labour.



Ports and Logistics

Why Lincolnshire: Lincolnshire is the UK gateway to Europe for the Midlands Engine and Northern Powerhouse:

- The Ports & Logistics sector employs around 18,000 people: £700 million economic value to the Lincolnshire economy and accounts for over 25% of UK rail freight
- The Ports of Grimsby and Immingham handled over 59m tonnes of cargo in 2014, making them the busiest in the UK with around 16% of the nation's trade by tonnage.
- The South Humber Bank is home to one of the UK's most important port logistics hubs, providing businesses with fast, multimodal access to UK and international markets.
- Our South Lincolnshire Logistics Hub is strategically located within the UK's leading food production area, enabling fast access to UK population centres and international markets.
- As the only coastal part of the Midlands, the ports of Boston, Gainsborough and waterways to Wisbech have regional significance.
- Lincolnshire provides investing businesses with direct access to leading edge, multidisciplinary logistics, supply chain, digitalisation and automation research and technologies.

Our ambition: The ports of Lincolnshire are vital to the UK economy. As well as supporting the energy sector and energy-intensive industries on the Humber estuary, they are vital for a wide range of manufacturers across the UK, importing materials and components and exporting their products. Our ambitious plans include:

- The Humber freeport has the potential to become the largest of the UK freeports and a powerful driver of economic growth in local manufacturing firms and logistics. Unlocking investment in infrastructure is critical to its success and clean growth in net zero industries to create high skilled jobs that level up Lincolnshire.
- A proposal for a Centre for Food Logistics based around the Boston port, providing training in logistics, and allowing agrifood firms across the UK Food Valley to import inputs close to home reducing costs

How we will level up:

1. Co-operation between the freeport cluster, education providers and the new Logistic Research Centre for Digital and Sustainable Transformation (a collaboration of Lincoln and Hull universities) is critical if we are to maximise the potential of the sector. Targeting of the Adult Education Budget and the creation of a Lincolnshire Skills and Employment Plan with powers to require cooperation from key partners will ensure a focus on new higher skilled roles and apprenticeships in ports and logistics that can level up our communities.
2. Our ports and logistics expertise can only be as good as the roads and rail servicing it. Local leadership for infrastructure improvements can support these sectors by ensuring that the right investment is prioritised at the right time to enable growth in ports and supply chains including:
 - Rail freight capacity to our ports;
 - The Trans-Midlands trade corridor (A46 and Newark);
 - Connectivity between the Humber and East Midlands freeport and East Midlands Development Corporation.
 - Integration of key projects into the Transport for the North and Midland Engines Investment plans to deliver and enhance multi-modal inter and intra transport network for the Lincolnshire area.
3. Supported by the new Logistic Research Centre for Digital and Sustainable Transformation Lincolnshire is at the forefront of innovation in digital logistics. To enable future growth we need to ensure that our rural areas benefit from the digital infrastructure - 5G technology and broadband connectivity – needed for digital logistics. Long term strategic planning should also secure land use and the timely release of strategically important sites that enables future growth in ports.



Green energy and decarbonisation

Why Lincolnshire: The Humber Estuary is fundamentally connected with at least 25% of the UK's energy production and Lincolnshire is forefront of the UK's Green Industrial Revolution, creating profitable opportunities for low carbon energy and industrial businesses aligned with ambitious national sustainability goal:

- The low carbon economy and energy production across Lincolnshire are already worth £1.2bn per annum to the economy.
- Grimsby is home to the largest offshore wind operations and maintenance cluster in the world, serving the largest windfarms in the world, delivering green energy and offering opportunity to retrain into new high skill high wage jobs.
- Scunthorpe has strategically important steel, engineering and industrial expertise to support green energy and manufacturing opportunities while at the same time maximising steel and logistics opportunities in the town.
- Ground-breaking projects for industrial decarbonisation, green jet fuel, carbon capture and hydrogen offer global leadership, could protect jobs in steel, chemicals and manufacturing across Lincolnshire and inspire the move to net zero across the UK.

Our Ambition: Already employing over 12,000 people, there are major opportunities for growth in offshore wind as well as global leading projects for carbon capture, green jet fuel and hydrogen which could significantly contribute to the UK's green targets, protect jobs in heavy industry across Lincolnshire and more highly skilled jobs in the future through major projects including.

- Developments such as the Humber Zero Carbon Capture Project and the Killingholme Marshes Drainage Scheme will significantly increase demand for skilled engineers to support both construction and manufacturing, requiring employers to up-skill their existing workforce to meet evolving industry training standard.
- Proposals such as the Race Bank Extension, which would double the size of Grimsby's largest off-shore wind farm and achieve a level that would meet the equivalent of London's peak demand, could create high skilled jobs responsible for well over a third of the 30GW envisaged for the UK by 2030.

How we will level up:

1. The former gas terminal site at Theddlethorpe in Lincolnshire has the potential to be at the heart of new UK leading carbon capture and hydrogen projects or the UK's new Geological Disposal Facility. This brown field site is being actively considered by a range of scheme promoters because of its pipelines into empty gas fields in the North Sea and its relative proximity to heavy industry in Northern Lincolnshire.

Our levelling up asks would: deliver greatest benefit from this brown field site; determine appropriate future land use; and secure key infrastructure requirements such as carbon capture and hydrogen pipelines and off-site related strategic infrastructure; as well as providing routes into employment within the high skill high wage jobs that these projects would create.

Through local leadership we can objectively review the most appropriate use of this strategically significant site and ensure that investment in this delivers for both the UK and levels up the surrounding communities.

2. The expansion in offshore wind energy in the North Sea off the Lincolnshire coast and green growth across the county increases the number of high skilled jobs available in the sector. We want to ensure that Lincolnshire Post-16 training opportunities and careers advice in urban centres like Scunthorpe and deprived rural communities have significant focus on the green jobs revolution in low carbon energy innovation, hydrogen, offshore renewable energy, carbon capture and decarbonisation and inspire our young people into a career in the sector.

Creative use of the Shared Prosperity Fund could support the design and implementation of a graduate into SMEs scheme in these growing industries to provide opportunities to continue to innovate in Lincolnshire with benefits for the whole UK.



