

**GREATER LINCOLNSHIRE
JOINT STRATEGIC OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE**

UK FOOD VALLEY

1. OBJECTIVE AND KEY POINTS IN THIS REPORT

- 1.1 To confirm the strategic support for the delivery of the UK Food Valley ambition and the development of the proposition as set out in the GL LEP Board report.
- 1.2 To recognise the future resource implications arising from this commitment

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.1 The Greater Lincolnshire Local Enterprise Partnership (GL LEP) has been developing a concept based on demonstrating and accelerating the current Greater Lincolnshire food cluster of land and sea to the UK economy and positioning Greater Lincolnshire as the UK's Food Valley. A paper was considered by the GL LEP Board on Friday 26 February (attached as Appendix A). The recommendations in the report were endorsed by the GL LEP Board.

3. DETAIL OF OPTIONS/PROPOSAL

3.1 Alignment to strategic priorities

The ambitions and aspirations set out in the GL LEP Board report align with the strategic priorities being agreed by the joint committee and link closely with a range of existing projects and initiatives across Greater Lincolnshire and which each of the three upper tier authorities are engaged in.

The strategy sets out a longer term approach to a) positioning Greater Lincolnshire as the UK's Food Valley b) aligning existing and future activity to the position, and c) developing programmes that enhance and support the

ambition of becoming the UK's Food Valley from the public sector, the private sector and the education and research sectors.

4. RESOURCE AND LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 None arising directly from the report.

4.2 In legal terms, future local government involvement in the development of the initiative could raise issues around subsidy control depending on what form that involvement takes. Local government action in support of the Food Valley may require specific decision-making within each Council supported by legal comments and assessment of equality impacts.

4.3 Specific Council funding contributions or other initiatives will require appropriate budget provision and business case approval. Other implications could relate to the need to resource project development and delivery

5. RISKS AND OPPORTUNITIES (INCLUDE EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT IF RELEVANT)

5.1 None arising directly from this report

6. CONSULTATION/ENGAGEMENT

6.1 No engagement beyond that set out in the GL LEP report has been carried out to date

7. GOVERNANCE – DECISION(S) FOR MEMBER COUNCIL'S REQUIRED (in accordance with the Joint Committee's Terms of Reference).

7.1 Discussion

Confirmation of the political alignment to this concept will ensure effective engagement with the initiative being taken forward by the GL LEP and (subject to appropriate decision-making and governance within each Council) enable effective resource allocation to support the activities that will require local authority delivery of eg infrastructure provision.

7.2 Individual authorities to review their project capacity, resource and support to the GL LEP project arrangements

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

8..1 The Joint Committee confirm their support for the UK's Food Valley strategy.

- 8.2 The Joint Committee recognise the need for appropriate resource and capacity to be aligned to supporting the GL LEP project and developing appropriate detailed delivery support as required.
- 8.3 The Joint Committee request a report back setting out governance and resource proposals.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF PLACE
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Background Papers used in the preparation of this report –
Appendix A – UK Food Valley – Sustainable Food from Land and Sea

UK Food Valley - Sustainable Food from Land & Sea

Introduction

The UK's Food Valley¹ has been debated widely across Greater Lincolnshire since early 2020 and the LEP Food Board and the LEP Board are supporting a two pronged approach:

- Creating a business environment, support and investment package cementing Greater Lincolnshire's² role as the premier food chain investment location in the UK.

This package will include investment in infrastructure, utilities, skills, business support and innovation to help businesses expand or invest, supported by accelerated streamlined planning processes.

- Promoting the scale, diversity and capacity of the existing food cluster.

Using this promotional programme to attract further investment, customers, collaboration and policy support to continue the cluster's growth.

The overall aim will be to secure Greater Lincolnshire's position as a global top 10 cluster for the food chain based on a triple helix of: industry investment; aligned with a World class knowledge cluster; and, enabled by a proactive, dynamic public sector providing the conditions for growth.

In consulting on these proposals the following key aspects or attributes of the proposal have been stressed by stakeholders, which are picked up in the proposals which follow:

- The cluster has to be, *and be seen to be*, World class given the number of major global investors already in the GLLEP food chain and the desire to attract more;
- Other areas of the UK are developing food chain development programmes, but to date these are being positioned as regional programmes, whereas Lincolnshire should position the Food Valley as an international cluster;
- The programme needs to be developed at pace so that first mover advantage is not lost;
- A 'cluster development programme on steroids' is needed;
- The cluster has to act 'more like an American' can do programme, rather than a traditional UK programme, with a proactive, dynamic feel to how it works;
- Infrastructure is a key enabler in attracting business to invest and grow, with roads, rail, ports, clean energy, water and digital connectivity all important to the food industry;

¹ Or other name to be determined

² Potentially ultimately a wider area

- Layering of support is needed e.g. planning, promotion, skills, innovation etc. all accessed through one structure, but based on uniting the efforts of multiple partners;
- Innovation has to be a key differentiator for the cluster as the speed of change accelerates, with a particular focus on showing leadership in:
 - low or Net Zero food chains and supply chain efficiency;
 - diet and health;
 - automation will increasingly break the link between staff numbers and output and the cluster should build on its existing R&D leadership in this area;
- Attracting talent has to be at the core of the work the cluster does and additional staff will be needed with higher skills levels to succeed in applying digital and automation technologies
- The cluster should champion businesses and organisations involved in all aspects of the production and distribution of food and drink, including the wider technology and professional services cluster, from inputs supplied to farms through to the factory gate and warehouse. Whilst not excluding working with retailers or food service, the cluster will focus on developing the production end of the food chain.

The proposals set out below, envisage an 18 month development phase (mid 2021-December 2022), followed by a growth phase from 2023-25 and moving towards a maturity phase from 2026 onwards.

Next Steps

Proposed key next steps (see full GANTT in the following proposals for more details):

- By June 2021 - Secure a development budget (in cash and in kind) for the 18 month development phase.
- October 2021 - launch initial co-ordinated core programme of business support.
- By November 2021 - have a Board in place, private sector led, to guide the development.
- By December 2021 - have a full development team in place to lead development work and have a full brand and website ready to launch in January 2022.
- November 2022 - food sector investment conference, building on the 'UK Food Valley' programme, and setting out plans for the 2023-2025 growth phase.

UK's Food Valley - Sustainable Food from Land & Sea

Development Plan 2021-'25

The concept of developing a strong programme for the UK Food Valley was endorsed by the Greater Lincolnshire Food Board in November 2020 and by the LEP Board in February 2021. This plan sets out:

- The objectives and scope of the Food Valley, including the activities it will deliver;
- Proposals for management and decision making;
- Phasing of the development and indicative budget for phase 1.

Objectives and Scope

The five objectives of the UK Food Valley are:

- **Obj 1 Promotion** - promote the UK Food Valley cluster as an international top 10 centre of excellence and concentration in the food chain to attract customers and investors;
- **Obj 2 Knowledge, Innovation & Skills** - provide a co-ordinated skills, innovation and business support programme for food chain companies which continues to be enhanced and developed;
- **Obj 3 Investment** - attract investment into the food cluster through providing a comprehensive package of investment support and proactive marketing of the investment opportunity;
- **Obj 4 Workforce** - promote the region's food industry as a career of choice for young people and career changers;
- **Obj 5 Infrastructure & Utilities** - co-ordinate intelligence on industry needs in relation to premises, infrastructure and utilities and work with the public sector to provide a supportive investment climate combining ease of planning with World class infrastructure.

The public sector (LEP, Councils, Education sector, government agencies) will support the delivery of the UK Food Valley programme and work with industry trade bodies to deliver industry support.

Recent industry feedback, from the GLLEP Food Board and other sources, suggests that there are a few key innovation or thematic areas which all food chain business need to embrace in the next 5-10 years.

It is therefore suggested that the Food Valley should focus its innovation and skills activities initially on key industry needs where there are pre-competitive opportunities for industry leadership including:

- **Environment and Low Carbon** - the UK's commitment to Net Zero and pressure from consumers and the supply chain means that delivering low carbon, low environmental impact food chains is essential across the sector. Leadership in this area will position the food chain as a globally leading cluster.
- **Automation and Labour** - the food chain, from end to end, is facing increased competition for workers and rising costs of employment. As a sector wide challenge, the cluster should continue to work with the University's UK leading centre of food chain automation and digitalisation to accelerate adoption of new technologies. This should be complemented by an industry wide programme of skills development to deliver higher skilled, more productive and higher paid jobs to attract a future workforce.
- **New Product Development (NPD)** - NPD is needed in terms of the core food product, packaging and distribution to ensure that the industry responds to rapid changes in the commercial market. Helping develop a cluster approach to innovation on NPD will create synergies and accelerate the NPD process benefitting all businesses in the cluster. The NPD programme will also embrace the protein transition and the demand for naturally good for you foods, e.g. fish, plant proteins, vegetables, in which Greater Lincolnshire is the leading UK centre of production.

Geographic area

The prime area covered by the UK Food Valley will be Greater Lincolnshire, with the option, after the initial start-up phase, to extend its geographic coverage to include other areas subject to agreement by the industry led Food Valley Board.

Scope

The scope of the Food Valley programme will encompass all companies involved in the production, processing and distribution of food and drink (and non-food co and by products, e.g. bioplastics) caught, grown or produced up to the 'factory gate'. The industries supported will thus include:

- Fisheries and aquaculture businesses;
- Farmers and horticultural producers;
- Food producers and manufacturers;
- Food storage, logistics and distribution companies;
- Input suppliers to the industry e.g. machinery, technology, packaging, fertilisers, banks etc.;
- Professional advisors to the industry e.g. accountants, lawyers, consultants;
- Research, innovation and skills providers.

Challenges and Opportunities

The challenges and opportunities the Food Valley programme is keen to respond to include:

- The food chain is undergoing a period of rapid change and growth, with Greater Lincolnshire at the forefront of this growth and keen to develop its role as the UK's premier food cluster.
- There is an opportunity to grow the cluster even faster by focusing on key enablers of growth, e.g.: innovation; workforce supply; commercial space availability and planning; infrastructure; trade and inward investment opportunities. However, Lincolnshire is not alone in seeing growth potential in the food industry and so needs to redouble its focus on supporting sector growth.
- International connectivity is a key feature of the Greater Lincolnshire food chain, from a high dependency on imports in the seafood and fresh produce clusters, to growing exports, the increasing number of inward investors and the development of overseas ventures by Lincolnshire based companies. Post Brexit and Covid, the reconfiguration of international supply chains and new opportunities for trade means that the industry must continue to embrace an outward looking international mindset to food chain development.
- Greater Lincolnshire has a large number of public and private sector led bodies who support the food sector, and links with many regional and national support agencies. However, at present this support is fragmented and managed as a series of discrete activities rather than as one co-ordinated programme. The many staff involved in this work do collaborate informally, but strengthening and formalising the 'team' approach would deliver more impact and help promote Greater Lincolnshire as a truly global food cluster.

The leading clusters typically have:

- **Combinations of Promotion and Industry Support Programmes** - they combine a clear promotional agenda to market their food cluster and its member companies, with a programme of investment support and services to help businesses in the cluster grow and thrive.
- **Management** - they are managed by a board which includes industry leadership, often supported by regional government agencies and knowledge (University, research centre) sector board members, who collectively promote the triple helix of: business investment; supported by a proactive public sector; drawing on regional clusters of innovation and skills development support.
- **Longevity** - they are long term (permanent) programmes/organisations. Most appear to continue to grow and broaden their remit for at least 20 years after establishment, with the largest having core teams of 25 or more staff who co-ordinate a broad programme of sector development activity.

- **Scale** - they vary greatly in scale³, but the largest bring together hundreds of companies with large teams of public sector support bodies. The Rotterdam food cluster, for example supports a regional sector with 43,000 jobs, and companies with a combined turnover of €25billion.
- **Physical and virtual** - most have a physical hub, typically an innovation centre or food business park, which normally hosts their core team, and a wider programme of events and business support services which reach out across the region. Other examples also include a hub and spoke model, with a central hub and other linked delivery sites and teams.
- **Priority themes** - most of the clusters have developed a focus on a few, industry led, priority themes for industry development. In many cases these mirror the areas Greater Lincolnshire's food sector is targeting e.g. many of the other clusters focus on: digitalisation and innovation; sustainability and low carbon food; protein transition and new food product development.
- **International** - they often have very active programmes of international engagement and collaboration to develop trade and knowledge exchange links. These internationalisation programmes are used to attract investors and trade to the cluster and to promote collaborative programmes of skills, research and innovation.

Based on this international best practice the recommended approach to the UK Food Valley is that it should be led by an industry led Board. Industry members should join a Company Limited by Guarantee which will give them access to its services. The Food Valley will work in pre-competitive areas including attracting investment and support to the cluster, skills, innovation and collaborative project development. It will not engage directly in food production or trading activities, which will remain the sole domain of businesses in the industry.

Activities

The Food Valley will deliver four main areas of activity

1. **Business Support** - the UK Food Valley business support programme will co-ordinate all existing support services for the food industry and work with partners to secure additional investment in business services and investment support. This will include:
 - Skills and workforce development programmes;
 - Innovation, R&D and technology deployment programmes;
 - Investment grants and support for capital projects;

³ To some extent depending on when they were first established and whether they focus just on one food sector, e.g. the Norwegian Centre of Excellence in Seafood Innovation, or cover all types of food in a region

- A monthly newsletter will update cluster members on the services and support opportunities available
2. **Branding of the Food Cluster** - the UK Food Valley will be developed as a brand for the area's food chain for industry development purposes (but not for food sales to the public). It will work alongside district, county and national investment promotion bodies to champion the sector both in the UK and internationally. A linked programme of promotion will include:
 - Promotional events and trade shows;
 - Participation in trade missions;
 - An annual food chain investment conference to promote the Greater Lincolnshire food chain cluster.
 3. **Inward Investment Support** - to secure new investments into the cluster the UK Food Valley team, in partnership with District and Unitary Councils, the County Council Place and Investment Team and DIT, will work to promote the area as the premier inward investment location for the food chain in the UK. The aim will be to accelerate growth of the industry so that the cluster continues to grow creating a virtuous circle for existing companies, through supporting the growth of sector specific infrastructure and support.
 4. **Promoting the Industry's Development Needs** - the UK Food Valley will remain politically neutral, but will ensure that the development needs of the food industry are clearly promoted with decision makers at every level. This will include working with Councils and other local bodies to ensure that the food industry's needs are met e.g. in relation to the availability of premises and planning permission, utilities, transport infrastructure etc.

After the initial development phase, ending in December 2022, a fifth activity strand will be added on internationalisation. This will build on the High Potential Opportunity (HPO) in food processing and automation which Greater Lincolnshire will launch in 2021 with DIT, and expand international work to develop more collaborative projects.

Phase 1 will develop the regional support package and establish the membership and brand to give real credibility to the cluster, so it competes with other leading global food clusters (see annex 1).

Management & Decision Making

The UK Food Valley will be incorporated as a Company Limited by Guarantee, owned by its members and funding partners and able to contract independently of any of its members and funders. The Greater Lincolnshire Food Board will act as a wider industry advisory board for the main Strategic Board and meet quarterly. This will be developed and agreed with partners.

UK Food Valley Board

The UK Food Valley will be overseen by a **Strategic Board**, comprising:

- An industry chair;
- 2 additional industry representatives;
- 1 Greater LEP representative;
- 1 rep from Lincolnshire County Council
- 1 representative of North Lincolnshire (for North and North East Lincolnshire Unitaries);
- 1 representatives on behalf of the Districts;
- 1 representative from Rutland

The UK Food Valley Cluster Director (after appointment) will attend the Board on a non-voting basis.

The **Food Valley Strategic Board** will meet bi-monthly for the first year and move to every 3 months from year 2. It will be responsible for the budget, direction and development of the Food Valley. Operation of the Board, and its future structure, will be reviewed at the end of phase 1 (December 2022) and subsequently every three years (or sooner if recommended by the Board).

To support the work of the Strategic Board there will be two sub-boards:

- A **Food Innovation and Enterprise Board**, led by the LEP, industry and knowledge sector, to work collaboratively on programmes to drive investment in commercial food chain companies. This will cover innovation, skills and investment in the industry including grant schemes and other commercial investment incentives;
- An **Infrastructure and Planning Board** with representatives of planning authorities, infrastructure (transport, water and energy), statutory agencies (e.g. EA) and industry who will meet to agree how to ensure industry growth is enabled by a proactive approach to infrastructure development and the provision of sites for food chain expansion.

Operations

A small core operational team will be established, based at a food cluster hub. The location of the central team will be decided by the Board by summer 2021, with sites such as the Hub Building being constructed at South Lincolnshire Food Enterprise Zone a potential location. The core team, by the end of 2022, is expected to include:

- UK Food Valley Cluster Director;
- Head of events, communications and PR;
- Head of programmes (skills, innovation and business support);
- Administrative assistant.

The core team will include opportunities for secondments from partner bodies. The core team will be complemented by existing posts and activities in partner delivery bodies who will either align their activities with the UK Food Valley programme and/or second staff into the Food Valley team. The wider team of delivery bodies includes:

- Greater Lincolnshire LEP and Growth Hub;
- Lincolnshire County Council Inward Investment Team (Place and Investment);
- Unitary, District and Borough Council Economic Development Teams;
- Europarc III, Central Lincolnshire and South Lincolnshire Food Enterprise Zones;
- University of Lincoln: National Centre for Food Manufacturing (NCFM); Lincoln Institute for AgriFood Technology (LIAT); Lincoln Agri-Robotics;
- Colleges and Higher Education providers including the Food Research and Process Engineering Research Centre (FRPERC) at Grimsby Institute;
- Lincolnshire Institute of Technology (IoT) which focuses on technology skills for the food chain;
- Barclays Eagle Farm Lab at Riseholme which supports agritech start ups;
- Food Sector & Business Groups supporting the industry, including: Seafood Grimsby and Humber, Lincolnshire Chamber of Commerce, UK Fresh Produce Network;
- Agriculture Groups: NFU, CLA, Lincolnshire Agricultural Society, Lincolnshire Institute of Agricultural Management (IAgrM).

An early target for the Food Valley will be to create a platform for promotion of industry information, support events and project development activities, draws on all partner organisations. The aim will be make it easier for food chain companies to identify the support they need and to access all of this through one portal.

Links to national bodies

Where applicable the Food Valley portal will also signpost food business to national programmes which can support their development. The Food Valley will ensure that it draws on input from regional and national bodies which support food chain growth, through collaborating on food chain events, support programmes and investment support. Key partners include:

- Department for International Trade (DIT) which is working with Greater Lincolnshire on a High Potential Opportunity (HPO) for the region's food processing and linked technology cluster, as well as supporting wider inward investment work;
- Seafish, DEFRA arms-length body for the sea food sector headquartered in Grimsby;
- Food and Drink Sector Council (FDSC) which is managed by DEFRA and which advises government on future food chain policy;
- Food and Drink Federation (FDF);

- Institute of Grocery and Distribution (IGD);
- Agricultural and Horticultural Development Board (AHDB);
- Manufacturing Technology Centre (MTC) and the Catapult Network.

Phasing

Phase 1 UK Food Valley Establishment (Mid 2021- December 2022)

Phase 1 of the UK Food Valley programme is focused on capacity building to align the work of the many organisations that currently support the food industry in Greater Lincolnshire. The aim, by December 2022, is to have a detailed development and business plan to deliver faster industry growth, through co-ordination and growth of the business support and growth services provided to the food cluster.

Phase 2 Growth (2023-2025)

The size of team, targets and focus for phase 2 will be determined by the Strategic Board in 2022, based on experience from phase 1. It is anticipated that the core team will grow modestly (potentially to 5-6 staff), but will be reinforced by project based staff as a result of successful bids the UK Food Valley will participate in. In phase 2 more focus will be placed on international connectivity with the aim to conclude formal partnerships with overseas food clusters.

Phase 3 Moving Towards Maturity (2026 onwards)

In phase 3 the aim will be that the UK Food Valley is recognised nationally and internationally as a globally competitive food cluster, supported by an established team of specialist staff.

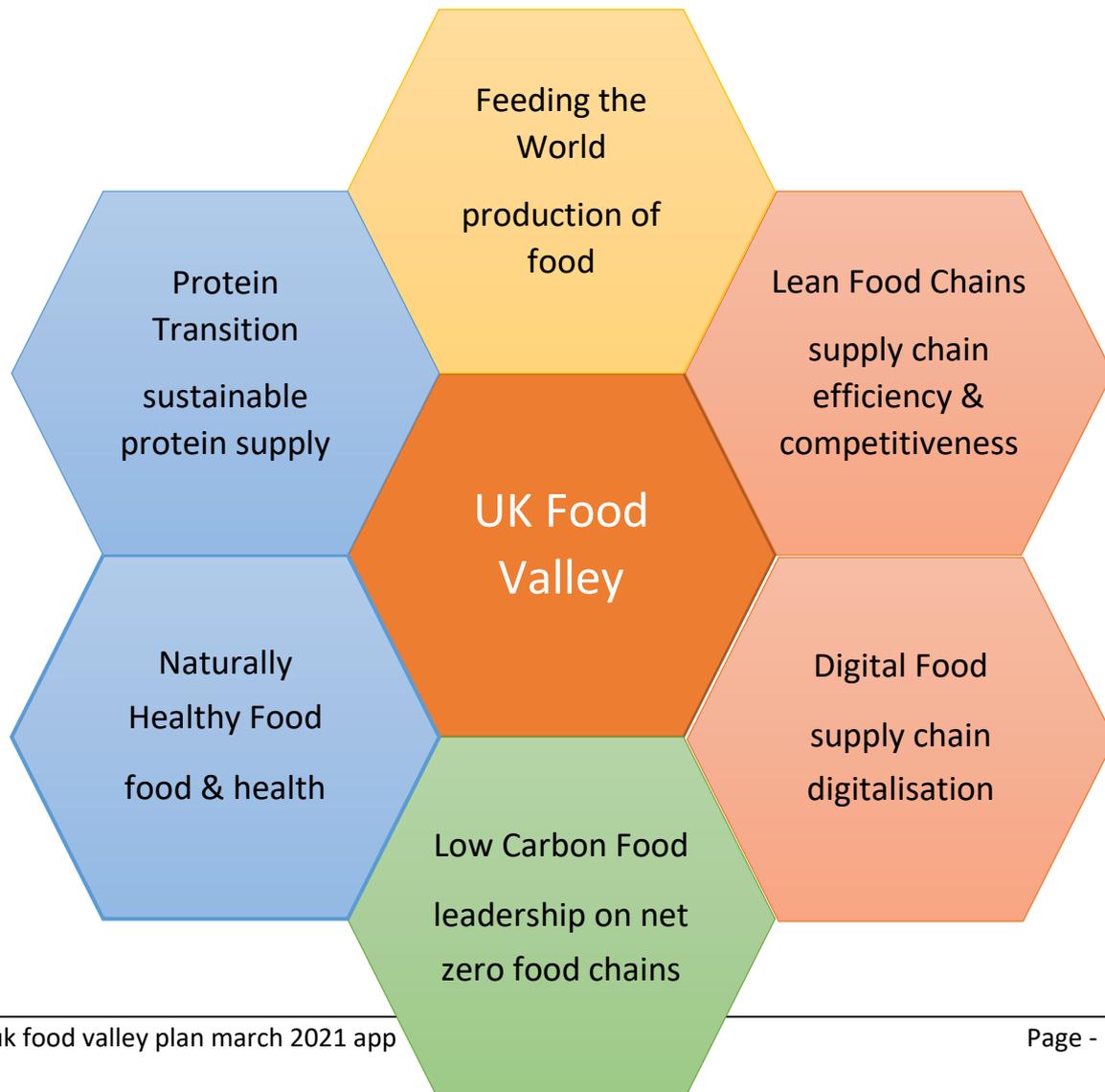
Vision 2030 - Greater Lincolnshire's Food Chain in 2030

The proposed approach is to develop a 'UK Food Valley' ecosystem focused on a few themes in which we can provide thought and delivery leadership, to address two key questions:

- What do we want to be known for?
- How to do we communicate a clarity of vision nationally and internationally to attract further investment and partnership opportunities to our food chain?

Given the international nature of our food chain (more than 75 large national and international food companies in the area), it is important to focus on the global drivers of the food chain to enable the region to attract investment from international companies and supply chains, by aligning with the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the role the food chain plays in their delivery.

The UK Food Valley - Sustainable Food from Land & Sea



The UK Food Valley - Sustainable Food from Land & Sea

Theme	Alignment with UN Sustainable Development Goals ⁴	Alignment with Greater Lincolnshire Local Industrial Strategy (LIS - June 2020 draft)	Opportunity
Feeding the World	<p>Goal 2 Zero Hunger - In 2019, 750 million people were exposed to severe levels of food insecurity and an estimated 2 billion people did not have regular access to safe, nutritious and sufficient food in 2019</p> <p>Goal 8 Decent Work and Economic Growth - which includes the need to deliver good jobs and growth without transgressing planetary boundaries or ecological limits</p>	<p>Agrifood is 18% of the local economy (3% nationally), the source of 43% of new jobs locally and the heart of food innovation through the Lincoln Institute for Agrifood Technology (LIAT), National Centre for Food Manufacturing (NCFM), Riseholme College and three Food Enterprise Zones. As new technologies develop there will be opportunities to deliver food more efficiently to a growing global population</p>	<p>Greater Lincolnshire's food businesses have the scale, capacity and ambition to grow accelerating sector growth, substituting imports and increasing exports. The opportunity for Greater Lincolnshire is to capitalise on these trends and use innovation to improve productivity not only locally but in food production across the globe, taking a leadership role for this sector nationally</p>
Lean Food Chains	<p>Goal 12 Responsible Consumption & Production - an estimated 1.3 billion tons of food, worth around \$1 trillion – ends up rotting in the bins of consumers and retailers, or spoiling due to poor transportation and harvesting practices</p>	<p>The LIS commits to increasing the international competitiveness of its agrifood sector by championing automation and resource efficiency to benefit its food chain. The LIS also sets out plans to develop a Memorandum of</p>	<p>Greater Lincolnshire based R&D and innovation teams have spearheaded the development of Europe's largest digital food chain team in the last 5 years. This positions the area to lead this agenda as the speed of technology adoption</p>

⁴ UN (2017), Sustainable Development Goals 2015-2030

Theme	Alignment with UN Sustainable Development Goals ⁴	Alignment with Greater Lincolnshire Local Industrial Strategy (LIS - June 2020 draft)	Opportunity
Digital Food	Goal 9 Industries, Infrastructure & Innovation - 96% of the world's population lived within reach of a mobile-cellular signal (2018), and 90% of people could access the Internet through a 3G or higher-quality network	Understanding with BEIS, DEFRA and UKRI to collaborate on development of a local innovation plan for priority sectors building on the area's traditional strengths in manufacturing. This will link to emerging relevant sector deals and Made Smarter, which features the food sector	accelerates. The development of automation, energy and waste efficiency technologies and a focus on manufacturing, positions the region well to lead the development and deployment of lean manufacturing principles to the food chain, building on local industry champions
Protein Transition	Goal 2 Zero Hunger - In 2019, close to 750 million people, nearly 10%, were exposed to severe levels of food insecurity and an estimated 2 billion people did not have regular access to safe, nutritious and sufficient food in 2019	The LIS includes a focus on Health and Care with a particular focus on ageing. As people age their nutritional needs change, they need more protein and fresh produce and less carbohydrates, which fits well with the profile of Greater Lincolnshire's food sector	Greater Lincolnshire is the centre of the UK fresh produce (vegetables, salads and fruit) and fish sectors, both of which are naturally healthy foods with clear recommendations to increase consumption. It is also a major producer of potatoes, cereals and lean meats, including poultry, eggs and pork products, which are part of a balanced diet. This strong local focus on healthy foods positions the sector well for growth as the focus on dietary health and sustainable protein grows post Covid and due to an ageing population
Naturally Healthy Food	Goal 14 Life Below Water - marine fisheries directly or indirectly employ over 200 million people		

Theme	Alignment with UN Sustainable Development Goals ⁴	Alignment with Greater Lincolnshire Local Industrial Strategy (LIS - June 2020 draft)	Opportunity
Low Carbon Food	<p>Goal 13: Take Urgent Action to Combat Climate Change and its Impacts - 2019 was the second warmest year on record and the end of the warmest decade (2010-2019) ever recorded. Carbon dioxide (CO₂) levels and other greenhouse gases in the atmosphere rose to new records in 2019</p>	<p>The LIS seeks to support clean energy generation, storage and distribution, and maximise benefits from the energy cluster by adopting new 'whole of system' thinking to manage energy and support industrial decarbonisation. This will be enabled by innovation and the adoption of digital technologies.</p> <p>The LIS also aims to increase the capacity of the area's ports and logistics sector to deliver clean growth by helping deliver the Clean Maritime Plan and by facilitating modal shift to rail freight</p>	<p>Greater Lincolnshire has a large and rapidly growing low carbon sector and is championing smart grids and similar technologies. Its research base has focused on more efficient food cool chain solutions and reductions in waste. The growth in the use of AD, solar and wind power in the sector is strong. Foods such as fish, white meat and fresh produce also have lower carbon footprints. The industry is also developing new ports and logistics solutions with an emphasis on using lower carbon transport options</p>