

Lincolnshire Collaborative Annual Accountability Statement

May 2024

Introduction

Providers in Greater Lincolnshire see collaborative working as an important and essential aspect of how they (as individual entities) and how we (as a region) meet the skills needs of Greater Lincolnshire's communities and stakeholders. This is evidenced by the many successes that have been achieved through joined-up bidding for essential capital and resource funding that has benefited our learners and further contributed to closing the skills gap.

Place

Greater Lincolnshire has a population of approximately 1.13m people and is largely made up of hamlets, villages, and market towns, with just one city, Lincoln. Jobs density is 0.79 compared to the national average of 0.87 which does present challenges in linking labour supply to demand. The areas rural nature and spread, twinned with transport challenges, can make accessing education difficult in some areas. Despite this, the county boasts a strong and growing mixed economy with ambitions to add £3.2bn to GVA by 2030.

SOURCE: GL LSIP Report - FSB

Partners

The colleges making up this region are:



Collaborative projects

Examples of how providers in the region have worked together to address skills needs include the following examples.

Institute of Technology (LIoT)

Led by the University of Lincoln, this partnership has provided funding to deliver higher technical qualifications in automotive, computing, and electronics. Employers like Krypto Kloud, Halfords, and the NHS have supported the development of the LIoT and Professional Skills Centre training.

Lincolnshire Federation of FE Colleges

Currently chaired by Lincoln College, this group brings together seven colleges in the region to enhance and coordinate its approach to skills in Lincolnshire.

Building Better Opportunities

Led by Grantham College, the Building Better Opportunities project (lottery funded) enabled participating partners to support some of the most vulnerable and hardest to reach in our communities, resulting in excellent outcomes in terms of moving people closer to the labour market and/or into employment or training.

Higher Technical Qualifications

Supported by successful consortia bids (SIF1 and SIF2) the region has developed a range of Higher Technical Qualifications which are underpinned by formal agreements with multiple Universities including the University of Lincoln, the University of Hull, the University of Derby, and Bishop Grosseteste. These agreements recognise the skills and expertise of respective members of the partnership and that alignment of activity is critically important in shaping the region's curriculum offer and supporting the IoT.

T levels

As a Wave 1 adopters of T levels, Franklin College, TEC Partnership, IEG Group, and Grantham College were able to access CDF funding to expediate their ability to take T Levels to market. Other partners, whilst not accessing this funding, we're also early to market with these priority qualifications, including DN Colleges Group.

Local Skills Improvement Fund

Led by TEC Partnership, the Local Skills Improvement Fund (LSIF) has been a key opportunity for collaborative activity between providers. Based on LSIP recommendations, the area has focused on three key priority areas to address through LSIF funding:

- Employability
- Digital
- Engineering

SDF

Led by TEC Partnership and involving all college providers in the region, the Skills Development Fund was a key contributor to the regions skills development activities, focusing mainly on Low Carbon/ Green Energy.

Lincolnshire Healthcare Pipeline Group

Led by Lincoln College, providers came together to articulate its collective offer for the NHS, in order to support progression choices and careers aspirations in the region. This also helped to identify gaps in curriculum and aided in shaping curriculum planning.

Humber Freeport Skills and Offshore Wind Cluster membership.

Providers including TEC Partnership, DN Colleges Group, John Leggott College, and Franklin College are members of many Humber-specific groups. This ensures that provision meets the needs of the current, emerging, and future activity expected in the jobs market, both north and south of the river and particularly in green energy.

Air and Defence College

Lincoln College and IEG in partnership with the RAF and defence companies over the last 5 years have provided an enrichment wrapper around study programmes to develop young people for careers into the RAF and Defence. This has seen a near 100% pass rate for students entering RAF basic training.

LSIP

Led by the Federation for Small Businesses, partners are involved in phase two of LSIP activities that are focussing mainly on digital, renewable and essential skills providing both capital to purchase equipment and revenue to develop collaborative training solutions like a Retrofit Academy.

We expect future collaborative work to include:

- Building on LSIF progress to make most effective use of innovation and new technology to transform the curriculum.
- How networked technology could help greater Lincolnshire with shared teaching and curriculum development in light of staffing challenges.
- Supporting the development of nuclear facilities within the region, the renewable energy sector, and bids for high quality equipment to support new provision through LIoT.
- Working collectively to deliver trained personnel to support the NHS strategic workforce plan across Lincolnshire.