

<p>GREATER LINCOLNSHIRE</p> <p>JOINT STRATEGIC OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE</p>
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GREATER LINCOLNSHIRE ECONOMIC ADVISORY PANEL

1. OBJECT AND KEY POINTS IN THIS REPORT

Purpose

To consider the next steps for developing an Economic Advisory Panel (EAP) as part of the Greater Lincolnshire Combined County Authority (GLCCA).

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.1 The proposal for a Greater Lincolnshire Combined County Authority (GLCCA) identified business as an important partner to be involved in long term decisions to grow the area's economy.
- 2.2 It set out that the GLCCA will establish a business board to be known as the Greater Lincolnshire Economic Advisory Panel (EAP). It is intended that the Economic Advisory Panel will be a shared resource for the Mayor and the GLCCA.
- 2.3 The Economic Advisory Panel would be a core component in the governance arrangements for the GLCCA. It would provide the opportunity for decision makers to engage proactively with business leaders in the development and implementation of economic policy for Greater Lincolnshire.
- 2.4 The purpose of the Economic Advisory Panel, as set out in the Terms of Reference is:
 - To work with the Authority and the Mayor to shape thinking on short and long-term issues of importance to businesses and the region's economic future.
 - To support the Authority to prepare the region's economic assessment and other evidence that inform the design of innovative policies and programmes across Greater Lincolnshire.

- To ensure that the region's economic needs and strengths are heard and considered by local and national decision makers.
- To act as a representative of the business group/sector that they represent when appointed to this Panel.
- To sit as the strategic business voice to the Authority, the Mayor, Authority Boards and Officers. To provide strategic business advice on the economy, business, skills, transport, employment, housing, UKSPF and future devolution deals.
- To act as the lead business voice to the Authority for the area, representing business to the Authority.
- To play an integral role in the development of economic growth strategy iterations for the Authority through close working with the Authority, the responsible Officer, and the relevant Authority Lead Member.
- To influence the development of proposals for strategy and key policy for Authority consideration, engaging key stakeholders and partners to assist with achieving the Authority's strategic objectives.
- To engage specific business sectors, as and when required, to provide advice, guidance and responses to consultation to the Authority.
- Membership will individually act as sector champions for their areas of expertise – leading on engaging with local and national networks, bringing insight into Authority discussions, and supporting stakeholder engagement with Authority officers on specific pieces of work.
- To work with the Authority to identify key opportunities to engage with the business community on influencing priorities with Government and maintain a role of developing local to support this.

2.5 The devolution deal also made provision for a UK Food Valley Programme Board, a Coastal Partnership, an Innovation Board, and an Enhanced Water Partnership. It is expected that business will play a significant role in each of these groupings. Other boards with business representation may be considered at a later stage.

3. DETAIL OF OPTIONS/PROPOSAL

- 3.1 The creation of an Economic Advisory Panel will be comprised of 12 business leaders and would enable the GLCCA's objectives and priorities to be amplified by the private sector. It is proposed that this panel would be a new body of business leaders who want to be "part of the journey" for the GLCCA.
- 3.2 To enable a strong business voice in decision making of the GLCCA, it is expected that a Chair of the Economic Advisory Panel would be selected to be the Associate Member (Business Voice) (non-voting) to sit on the GLCCA, along with two named substitutes from the EAP, for a period of two years. The EAP may also select a Vice Chair. Both the

Chair and the Vice Chair candidates would be nominated by the Mayor and confirmed by the GLCCA.

3.3 The Panel: The EAP will be a non-political advisory panel to both the GLCCA and to the Mayor, and the membership of the panel should be aligned to the areas of focus from the deal, and aim to consist of the following:

- A good geographical and sector balance
- Diverse and inclusive
- A panel membership for the local Business Representative Organisations (BRO) *
- A panel membership for the education sector*
- The other 10 members should predominately be from the private sector
 - The Mayor and lead members will be invited to attend and participate in meetings of the panel

*A BRO membership should be rotated annually between the FSB, the Chambers, CBI and the IOD. The annual BRO should be representative and work with all the regional BRO's.

** Education Sector – should be rotated between FE/HE sectors annually, and the representatives should work with the sector.

The Panel may be requested to nominate other members of the EAP to sit on other GLCAA Boards and Committees from time to time.

4. RESOURCE AND LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 Recruiting to the new EAP will be an open and transparent process with a recruitment campaign undertaken as appropriate. This opportunity will be advertised openly on a variety of platforms including local and regional press as well as via the Combined Authority and local authorities to ensure that people across the business community have an opportunity to apply
- 4.2 A draft Member profile is attached at [Annex 1](#) for approval alongside a draft Recruitment policy at [Annex 2](#) for approval.
- 4.3 The Combined Authority's interim officers will develop a recruitment pack, compose an appropriate advertisement and agree a suitable deadline for applications.
- 4.4 At the Growth Summit in November 24, expressions of interest were sought from the audience to join the Economic Advisory Panel. Those that have expressed interest alongside a long list of potential candidates drawn up by officers will be considered by the Business and Infrastructure Sounding Board and targeted to apply when recruitment opens.

- 4.5 Following the advertised deadline, applications will be reviewed to ensure that candidates are eligible for the position and their suitability will be assessed against the role profile. The EAP Chair and the Combined Authority's Interim staff will agree a short-list of candidates, who may then be invited to meet with an interview panel.
- 4.6 The interview panel for private sector representatives could consist of the EAP Chair, a private sector representative and a local authority representative with appropriate Combined Authority interim officers in attendance in an advisory capacity.
- 4.7 Each candidate will be assessed by the interview panel on merit, based on aptitude and ability assessed against the role profile for the position, considering their application, interview, and references.
- 4.8 In respect of private sector representatives on the EAP, the Combined Authority's Interim Staff will report the recommendations of any interview to the Combined Authority Board, who will make any appointments.
- 4.9 Recruitment for the Chair of the Economic Advisory Panel and Interim Arrangements. GLLEP has led the business engagement over devolution so far, which has been welcomed by Government and by the business community alike, and it is therefore proposed that the Chair of the GLLEP would be selected as the interim Chair of the EAP and the Associate Member (Business Voice) on the GLCCA until the EAP is appointed, and a Chair recruited.
- 4.10 This would provide the opportunity for a smooth transition between existing arrangements and the involvement of the Mayor in the GLCCA.
- 4.11 It is recommended that the Chair role is sought as a separate role, due to the time commitments involved, and the position on the Combined Authority.

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

- 5.1 The proposal is about strengthening governance and the voice and role of the business community in the proposed MCCA. The recruitment for panel members will include specifically targeting recruitment campaigns so that they reach a diverse audience. The recruitment campaigns will also make it clear that applications are welcomed from underrepresented groups.

6. CONSULTATION/ENGAGEMENT

- 6.1 This report provides a proposal for the role and membership for the Economic Advisory Panel. It is anticipated that once the constituent councils are happy with the approach, that the launch takes place at the end of May 25, with a closing date of the end of July 25, with shortlisting

and interviews during September 2025, and a first meeting of the EAP in October 25.

- 6.2 Alternatively, this can be launched at the end of February 25, with closing date end of April, and shortlisting and interviews during May and June, with the first meeting being in July 25.

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

7.1 RECOMMENDATIONS

- To approve the approach taken in recruiting an Economic Advisory Panel for the Greater Lincolnshire County Combined Authority and ask the interim staff of the GLCCA to prepare for the launch at the end of Feb or May 25.
- To approve the member profile and recruitment process for new EAP members and the Chair.
- To propose that the current LEP Chair is invited to take the Associate Member (Business Voice) role on the GLCCA on an interim basis, to help to embed new business engagement arrangements and until the new EAP is convened and the Chair is appointed.

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Background Papers used in the preparation of this report – None.

Annex 1 – Member Profile



Economic Advisory Panel - Member Profile

To ensure the Economic Advisory Panel is effective, members will be expected to

- advise the Mayor and the Authority on responses to strategy, policy, proposals, and opportunities to bid for funding in support of economic growth;
- engage with investors, businesses, and advisors to investigate growth opportunities
- to advise and consult on regional economic policy, programmes and interventions designed to maximise growth
- to provide advice to the Mayor and the GLCCA on leadership in key themes and priorities to promote growth including policy development
- to review policy performance and assist the Mayor in ensuring that the work of the GLCCA is providing maximum support to businesses

About the Roles

These are voluntary roles that support the Mayor and Combined County Authority with growing the economy. The time commitment is expected to be quarterly meetings which are likely to last half a day and will be held in different venues around Greater Lincolnshire plus additional reading and travel time, likely to be a total of 6 days a year. The term is two years.

As a Panel Member, you will:

- Be responsible for shaping the economic growth agenda for Greater Lincolnshire
- Use your significant expertise to shape and influence strategic thinking, policy, and funding decisions for Greater Lincolnshire
- Be a voice for industry to advocate across sectors, geographies, and business types. This will be at a local and, when required, a national level.
- Help us to create an environment where local business can flourish and grow our economy

Commitments - As a Panel Member, you should be willing and able to commit time to:

- Meeting 4 to 6 times a year
- Read papers and prepare for meetings
- Maintain your local currency as an expert in your sector
- This should equate to 1 day per month or equivalent.

Who are we looking for? - We are looking for people from across Greater Lincolnshire and beyond, from businesses of different types and sizes. Representation of one or more of the following regions and sectors:

- Resident or business operations in Greater Lincolnshire
- Geographical – Urban; Rural; Coastal
- Growth Sectors – Agritech and Food, Clean Energy, Ports and Logistics, Defence and Advanced Manufacturing
- Core Sectors – Education, Housing and Construction, Transport and Infrastructure, Small Business and Visitor Economy

Skills - Applicants should have the following skills, experience, and outlook:

- Significant experience in a senior appointment or leading a business which has local, national, and/or international profile
- Natural collaborators
- Dynamic and successful representative for their sector
- Analytical thinking
- Evidence-based problem solving
- A drive to put what is best for Greater Lincolnshire first and prepared to make the case for Greater Lincolnshire within and outside of their networks
Excellent communication skills
- Influencing and well connected to decision makers in government and industry
- a strong commitment to, and understanding of the Greater Lincolnshire economy, and in particular challenges and barriers to growth
- have experience of serving on groups or boards of senior executives
- can quickly understand, analyse, and distil complex issues and to contribute to discussions about strategy
- have strong interpersonal and communication skills, be articulate and passionate and have an ability to influence and network
- have experience of working in a partnership environment and have a strong commitment to collaborative and partnership working, including the public sector and social enterprise
- have a commitment to equality of opportunity and diversity, including an understanding of the barriers and challenges faced by economically or socially excluded groups
- be willing to provide the time commitment to the Economic Advisory Panel Board and who potentially sees the personal development opportunity provided by the appointment
- Panel members will be expected to be able to individually act as sector champions for their areas of expertise, leading on engaging with local and national networks, bringing insight into GLCCA discussions, and supporting stakeholder engagement with GLCCA officers on specific pieces of work
- Adhere to the Nolan Principles and code of conduct for the GLCCA

Remuneration - There is no financial payment for this role. It is a voluntary role.

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Annex 2 EAP Members Recruitment Policy



EAP Members Recruitment Policy

Introduction

Members of the GLCCA's Economic Advisory Panel are appointed to the GLCCA's Economic Advisory Panel for a period of two years. The GLCCA's Constitution provides the Terms of Reference for the non-decision-making Advisory Panel. These are reviewed annually and published on the GLCCA's website.

All private sector vacancies on the EAP shall be openly advertised and communicated widely via the GLCCA's website, press release and social media.

Panel Members

Applicants for Panel Members are asked to submit a covering letter and a CV which will be considered for shortlisting by the Chair of the EAP, A Senior Officer within the GLCCA and an economic portfolio holder from one of the Constituent Authorities.

Shortlisted candidates will be assessed against the advertised criteria and skills and experience required by the EAP. All shortlisted candidates will be interviewed before being brought to the Combined Authority for ratification.

All Panel Members need to comply with the GLCCA's code of conduct and complete a register of interest form. The registers of interest are published and reviewed annually.

Members are appointed for no more than one two-year term and can re-apply for a further term of two years. Where a Panel members two-year term has concluded, the Chair of the EAP shall write to the member asking for their intentions in writing for a subsequent term, and if they wish to re-apply their application will be considered by the EAP Chair and the GLCCA taking into account the members skill set and experience for another term.

Some posts represent a sector or type of organisation, and where this is the case, the EAP and the GLCCA may consider other applications at this point.

To maintain continuity and a functioning Panel, as well as allowing for succession planning, several of the Panel (to be determined and agreed by the Panel) shall be considered for reappointment each year.

Appointment of the EAP Chair and the Vice Chair

The need to appoint a Chair is triggered when the existing Chair resigns or gives notice to resign. This could arise for several reasons including:

- The Chair has come to the end of a term and does not wish to be appointed for a further two-year term.
- The Chair wishes to remain on the Board for a second term but not as Chair;
- The Chair wishes to resign from the Board for business or personal reasons.

At the end of the term, the Chair would indicate whether they were prepared to remain as Chair. The agreed process for future appointments of Chair is as follows:

The current Chair first informs the Mayor, the GLCCA and the EAP in writing of a wish to remain or resign. In the case of a wish to remain, the EAP considers and seeks approval from the Mayor and the GLCCA.

In the case of resignation, a new Chair would be recruited by an open recruitment process of internal and external candidates and would follow the same selection process set out above for members of the panel, namely shortlisting and interviews. The Chair will be selected against the agreed role profile and before the interview, each shortlisted candidate may be asked to provide contact details for two referees. Each candidate will be assessed by the interview panel on merit, based on aptitude and ability assessed against the role profile for the position, considering their application, interview, and references.

The Chair will be selected by a balanced Appointments Panel, members of which will be agreed by the Mayor and the Combined Authority. The Chair will be nominated by the Mayor and confirmed by the Combined County Authority.

Deputy Chair

The EAP will decide whether a Deputy Chair is required to fulfil its advisory role. The Deputy Chair would be nominated by the Chair of the EAP and the Mayor and confirmed by the Combined County Authority.

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