

Innovation Advisory Panel

Recruitment Pack

2026

Private sector panel
members and chair

Driving Innovation across Lincolnshire



Introduction from Mayor

Dame Andrea Jenkyns DBE

Greater Lincolnshire isn't just "the gap between the Humber and the Wash"— we are the engine room of the UK. We have the potential to lead the world in the sectors that matter: food security, energy security, defence, AI, and data. These aren't just buzzwords; they are the heart of our Corporate Plan.

I'm looking for doers, not just talkers. To turn our strengths into high-wage jobs and real investment, we need to drive innovation into every corner of our economy—from our smallest start-ups to our industrial giants.

The Innovation Panel is where industry, education, and the public sector actually meet to deliver results. If you have the drive to unlock our full potential, I want to hear from you. Let's get to work.

The Mission: What You'll Be Doing

This isn't a committee for the sake of meetings; this is a strategic leadership body.

Influence and Insight: You will work directly with me and the Combined Authority to shape our innovation narrative and pitch to global investors.

Real Power: You will provide recommendations on the annual innovation budget and help decide where grant funding is prioritized.

Building Flagships: You'll support the development of our Flagship Innovation Zones and create a culture where commercializing research is the norm.

Oversight: You will review our portfolio of business support services to ensure they actually work for local companies.

Who We Are Looking For

We are seeking six private sector leaders (including a Chair) for a three-year term.

Medium and Large Business (4 slots): Senior leaders with a track record in R&D or experience in financing major tech and innovation projects.

Start-ups and Scaling (2 slots): Founders who have built businesses from the ground up through the commercialization of new research.



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Andrea". The script is elegant and cursive, with a large initial 'A'.

Dame Andrea Jenkyns

ROLE AND PURPOSE OF THE INNOVATION ADVISORY PANEL

Influence and Insight

- Work with the Authority, the Mayor and partners across the “triple helix” of public, private and academic/research sectors to provide strategic leadership for the Greater Lincolnshire innovation agenda
- Support the Authority in delivering its Innovation Strategy by shaping the innovation narrative and offer to industry, government and investors
- Provide recommendations to the Authority on the annual innovation budget and the design of the delivery programme
- Provide recommendations on the use of innovation grant funding by identifying, selecting and prioritising projects
- Act as a convening forum for local innovation ecosystem stakeholders, building connections between sectors and institutions
- Build external relationships with other innovation ecosystems and explore collaboration opportunities



Delivery and Oversight

- Oversee the delivery of the innovation programme and project portfolio and make recommendations to project leads as required
- Support the Authority in developing and agreeing an Innovation Action Plan with Innovate UK
- Review the portfolio of innovation-related business advisory, financial and accelerator support services available to local businesses
- Work with partners to identify where capital investments are required to support improvements in the levels of Research and Development across Greater Lincolnshire
- Advise on the development of a programme of activities and events designed to support businesses to engage with, and improve levels of, innovation
- Support the development of place-based propositions which enhance flagship innovation zones
- Explore and support schemes which increase the level of spinouts and commercialisation activity leading on from initial research collaboration opportunities

ABOUT THE ROLE

OF THE INNOVATION ADVISORY PANEL

The panel will act as an expert advisory group to the GLCCA. It will meet quarterly, with the first meeting scheduled for June 2026.

Membership of the panel will represent the public sector, private sector and academic/research organisations.

We are seeking six private sector members, including a Chair, for a three- year term.

Once complete, there will be 14 panel members in total, including a Chair:

- Four panel members appointed from medium and large private sector businesses, one of whom will be Chair
- Two panel members appointed from start-up and/or scale-up private sector businesses;
- Four panel members appointed from academic/research organisations
- Two panel members appointed from the GLCCA
- One panel member representing the British Business Bank
- One panel member representing Innovate UK



WHO WE ARE LOOKING FOR

We are seeking to appoint six business leaders to our Innovation Panel, representing businesses of different types and sizes from across Greater Lincolnshire.

Private Sector Representation – medium and large businesses

(Four representatives including a Chair)

Senior business leaders with a local, national and/or international profile, representing a business which is resident, operating or has significant interests within Greater Lincolnshire. We are interested in business leaders with either:

- A strong track record in R&D and innovation; or
- Interest and experience in financing innovation projects and/or investing in innovative businesses and technologies

Private Sector Representation – start-ups and scaling
(Two representatives).

Founders or leaders of businesses resident or operating within Greater Lincolnshire that have arisen from commercialisation of new research and are at start up or scale up stage.

WHAT WE CAN OFFER YOU

- The opportunity to help shape the innovation agenda for Greater Lincolnshire
- Opportunities to represent Greater Lincolnshire on regional and national platforms, including to government
- Networking opportunities with influential leaders from a variety of sectors
- Opportunities and experiences to enhance your own personal development
- A diverse, dynamic and collaborative environment

INNOVATION ADVISORY PANEL MEMBER - ROLE PROFILE

About the role

A voluntary role with a term of three years, to support the elected Mayor and Combined County Authority in delivering the GLCCA Innovation Strategy.

As a panel member, you will:

- shape the innovation agenda for Greater Lincolnshire
- influence strategic thinking, policy, and funding decisions for Greater Lincolnshire
- advocate across different sectors, geographies, and business types, locally, regionally and, when required, at national level
- support the creation of an “innovation culture” across the business landscape of Greater Lincolnshire

Commitment

As a panel member, we will ask you to:

- attend quarterly face-to-face Panel meetings; we anticipate these will be two hours per meeting
- travel to the meetings held in different venues across Greater Lincolnshire
- read papers and prepare for meetings, anticipated to be 0.25 day per month or equivalent
- maintain your local currency as an expert in your sector

Remuneration

Panel membership is a voluntary role and therefore does not attract a financial payment. Travel expenses are paid.



INNOVATION ADVISORY PANEL PERSON SPECIFICATION

Applicants should be willing to provide the required time commitment to the Innovation Panel and have the following skills, experience, and outlook:

- Hold a leadership appointment in a business which has local, national, and/or international profile, is based in or operates within Greater Lincolnshire
- Have a strong track record in delivering or financing innovation programmes or projects; and/or
- Have experience of delivering finance to businesses operating within the innovation arena



Skills

- Analytical thinking and evidence-based problem solving with the ability to quickly understand, analyse, and distil complex issues to contribute to strategic discussions
- Strong interpersonal and communication skills, being articulate and passionate
- Influencing and networking skills, with connections to decision makers in government and industry
- Able to individually act as champions for their areas of expertise, bringing insight and supporting stakeholder engagement with GLCCA officers on specific pieces of work
- Natural collaborators, being knowledgeable and strongly committed to working in a partnership environment across the “triple helix” of private sector, public sector and academia/research

Outlook

- A strong commitment to, and understanding of, innovation ecosystems, and the interventions required to support and grow those ecosystems
- 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
- Adhere to the Nolan Principles and code of conduct for the GLCCA.

ECONOMIC ADVISORY PANEL CHAIR - ROLE PROFILE

About the role

A voluntary role with a term of three years to lead support to the elected Mayor and Combined County Authority delivering the GLCCA Innovation Strategy

Remuneration

Both Chair and panel membership are voluntary roles and therefore do not attract a financial payment. Travel expenses are paid.

Commitment

As Panel Chair, the commitment required will be to:

- lead the Innovation Panel in shaping the innovation agenda for Greater Lincolnshire
- influence strategic thinking, policy, and funding decisions for Greater Lincolnshire
- advocate across different sectors, geographies, and business types, locally, regionally and, when required, at national level
- support the creation of an “innovation culture” across the business landscape of Greater Lincolnshire



ECONOMIC ADVISORY PANEL - CHAIR PERSON SPECIFICATION

Applicants should be willing to provide the time commitment to the Innovation Panel, and have the following skills, experience, and outlook:



Experience

- Hold a significant leadership appointment in a business which has local, national, and/or international profile and is based in or operates within Greater Lincolnshire
- Leadership, and demonstrated credibility, on groups or boards within Greater Lincolnshire and beyond, ideally focusing on innovation
- Have a strong track record in delivering or financing innovation programmes or projects; and/or
- Have experience of delivering finance to businesses operating within the innovation arena

Skills

- Analytical thinking and evidence-based problem solving with the ability to quickly understand, analyse, and distil complex issues to contribute to strategic discussions
- Strong interpersonal and communication skills, being articulate and passionate
- Influencing and networking skills, with connections to decision makers in government and industry
- Able to individually act as champions for their areas of expertise, bringing insight and supporting stakeholder engagement with GLCCA officers on specific pieces of work
- Natural collaborators, being knowledgeable and strongly committed to working in a partnership environment across the “triple helix” of private sector, public sector and academia/research

Outlook

- A strong commitment to, and understanding of, innovation ecosystems, and the interventions required to support and grow those ecosystems
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RECRUITMENT PROCESS AND TIMESCALE



Fri 6 March

Recruitment closes

**Mon 19 Mar -
Fri 20 Mar**

Shortlisting

23rd March

Application
replies and
interview invites

**30th March -
Friday 10th
April**

Interview on
teams

13th April:

Appointments
ratified by
GLCCA Board
Candidates
notified of results

29th April:

Successful
candidates
inducted

Fri 5th June

Inaugural
meeting

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

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.

HOW TO APPLY

Applicants are asked to email their CV and covering letter, explaining why you are a good fit for the role, to:

caroline.illingworth@greaterlincolnshire-cca.gov.uk

(Caroline Illingworth, Interim Strategic Lead for
Community & Business Engagement)

Please specify within your cover letter whether you are applying for panel member and/or Chair of the panel.

Applications must be received by 5pm on Friday 6th
March 2026.

All applicants will be assessed against the advertised
criteria, skills and experience provided within this
recruitment pack.

All shortlisted candidates will be interviewed via
Teams. Recommended appointments will
subsequently be proposed to the GLCCA Board for
ratification.



