

Greater Lincolnshire

Combined County Authority 

The Mayor's Budget Speech

A Blueprint for Greater Lincolnshire

DAME ANDREA JENKYNs

MAYOR *for* GREATER LINCOLNSHIRE

A Blueprint for Greater Lincolnshire



Our Time is Now

Today marks an important milestone for the Greater Lincolnshire Combined County Authority. This budget sets out a clear and responsible plan to use our new powers and investment to deliver real improvements across our towns, villages and rural communities.

A strong economy is built on strong skills and talent, and this year Greater Lincolnshire has taken important steps to strengthen both. We have secured £20 million to transform adult skills provision through employer-led Skills Bootcamps, alongside £53 million to unlock new opportunities for businesses, strengthen infrastructure and support innovation.

Now we move from preparation to delivery, turning investment into real outcomes for our communities, businesses and workforce.



“ For too long, our great county has been treated as a footnote in Westminster. Today, we took back the steering wheel. ”

Skills

Enhanced skills begin with strong foundations. Alongside investment in trades and digital industries, we are committed to ensuring everyone has the literacy skills needed to access opportunity and succeed in work.

We have funded the East Midlands' first Institute of Dental and Oral Health, a cutting-edge centre that will train new dental professionals, upskill the existing workforce and help tackle longstanding regional shortages. We will also explore expanding paediatric dentistry to reduce long waits for children's care, putting investment into action and restoring pride in our communities.

We have brought together Local Authorities, Integrated Care Boards and the Department for Work and Pensions to shape priorities for a Get Lincolnshire Working plan in response to the Government's Get Britain Working initiative.

We have deepened our involvement in the STEP nuclear programme by funding a skills delivery plan for the West Burton site and creating a skills collaboration that brings the training sector together to develop future workforce solutions.

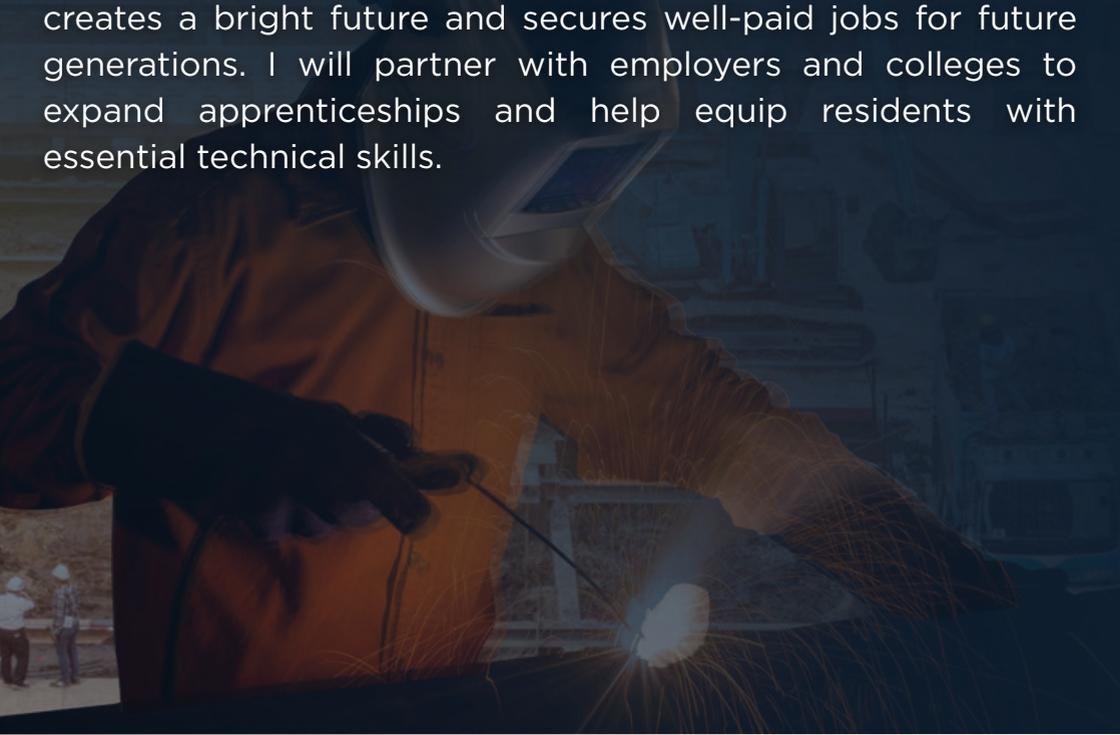
We will teach traditional trades—bricklaying, manufacturing, engineering—bringing forward proposals to improve digital literacy for those undertaking traditional trades courses, ensuring that every relevant course incorporates essential digital skills.

The Digital Academy: While we develop plans for a trades college, we will be launching my Mayoral Digital Academy. We are upskilling our people for the jobs of tomorrow.

The Trades, Advanced Manufacturing and AI Coding: We are instructing a feasibility study to look at the economic landscape and opportunities that STEP Fusion and other emerging industries bring, and to look at where we should best locate a trades college.

We will bring forward plans to fund a new business-led literacy qualification to give the economically disadvantaged a fair shot at the workplace. Our **'Gold Standard' Literacy programme** will ensure that our people are not left behind.

As I said previously as Skills Minister, trade skills and hands-on skills are just as important as academic skills and I am committed to ensuring our great county leads the way and creates a bright future and secures well-paid jobs for future generations. I will partner with employers and colleges to expand apprenticeships and help equip residents with essential technical skills.



Transport and Infrastructure

For decades, transport policy has failed rural and coastal areas. This year, we began to put that right. I established Transport for Greater Lincolnshire (TFGL) and launched the national Rural Transport Group in Parliament to challenge the long-standing urban bias holding rural communities back. I have taken the first steps to reverse the decline in rural transport, advancing the Gainsborough Bridge Study and aligning future transport funding with local priorities.

We have secured **£520,560** in funding for electric vehicle infrastructure through strong and sustained lobbying, alongside more than **£130 million** in transport investment across Lincolnshire to strengthen the foundations of our network. We have allocated **£76 million** to maintain and improve our highways, ensuring safer and more reliable roads, and invested a further **£31 million** in new transport schemes, including junction upgrades, road safety improvements, and enhanced walking and cycling routes.

Now it is time to build on this progress. We will continue working to end the unfair treatment of our rural and coastal communities, bringing forward further improvements to better connect people, support local economies and ensure transport works for every part of Greater Lincolnshire.



Business And Innovation

We have **secured £53 million in additional Local Growth funding**, delivered a highly successful Great Exhibition and convened an economic advisory panel to support long-term growth.

We have approved an Innovation Strategy, advanced work on supporting the Defence AI, AgTech and Seafood sectors, and are bringing forward proposals for a new advanced manufacturing zone.

Launched a Portfolio of Investments at UKREiif: The first time Greater Lincolnshire has pitched collectively to the investment and property community.

The Mayor's Business Guild: We will launch a new platform for our local job-creators. These will be quarterly business conferences that allow businesses to network, meet business angel investors and speak to government decision makers. Let's make Greater Lincolnshire the county that invents, innovates and delivers new technologies and creates new markets.

The Inventors' Angel: I am bringing forward proposals for a seed-to-market fund, along with funds to support innovation. We want to keep world-beating talents and ideas in Greater Lincolnshire.

We are looking to develop business cases for an Inventor's Fund, a Greater Lincolnshire Innovation programme and funding for Agtech and defence.

The Farming Industry, Technology and Innovation Programme: We will be bringing forward proposals to support our farming industry to access innovations and new technologies, as well as bringing forward new ideas.

Global Trade: Lincolnshire is open for business on the world stage. Following on from the success of the Great Exhibition, we are further strengthening our relationships with all our international partners starting with the United States, Taiwan, and Qatar with our ambition to secure inward investment and to help our businesses grow and innovate.

Deepening Devolution: We are preparing the Authority for the next steps on Devolution so Lincolnshire can direct more of the resources to our growth ambitions.



Housing Our Heroes And Our Families

We are considering the feasibility of a new town for Greater Lincolnshire, working closely with Homes England and our member authorities to agree priority housing sites, and examining the viability and delivery options for the Veterans' Village.

We are working with partners on the blueprint so we can deliver this for our heroes most in need, who fought for our country. We owe a debt of honour to those who served, and plan to pay it with dignified homes.

I have commissioned a feasibility study for a new town. We need ambitious plans that unlock growth without destroying the rural character of our existing villages. I always say, "I before E — Infrastructure Before Expansion." We must ensure that Lincolnshire people have the high-quality services they need, before the pressure of new housing.

As a Combined Authority we are developing a collaborative local strategy to help address homelessness.

I have launched the Enhanced Water Partnership to strengthen Greater Lincolnshire's long-term water resilience, supporting our water-intensive industries to grow and working with partners to better align flood protection plans with new developments.

Our Priorities For This Next Year

Transport Hub Pilot: Bringing forward plans for the first pilot transport hubs in North Hykeham and Gainsborough, with plans to expand to additional locations in the future. We will invest in upgrading local bus stations, enhancing facilities, and improving the overall experience for passengers.

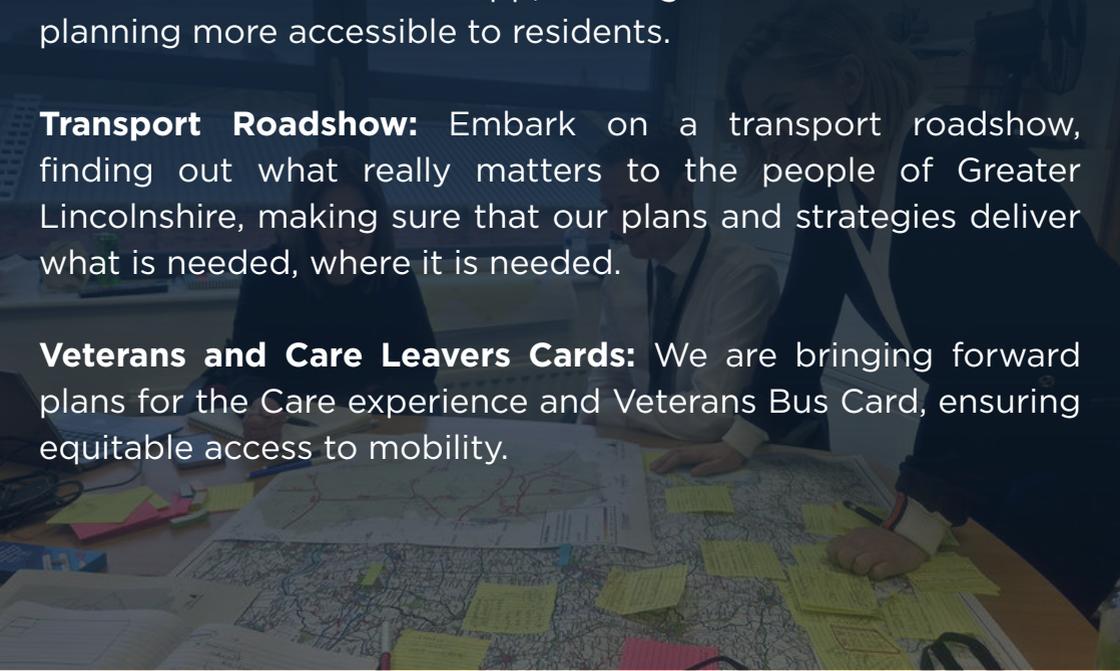
Road Capital Improvements: We are transferring funds to local councils to support our strategic routes with major capital improvements to roads, including headline schemes for 2026/2027 such as A16 and A46 roundabout improvements.

Define The Key Route Network (KRN) to better support local connectivity and infrastructure planning.

Integrated Transport App: Develop proposals for a Transport for Greater Lincolnshire App, making travel information and planning more accessible to residents.

Transport Roadshow: Embark on a transport roadshow, finding out what really matters to the people of Greater Lincolnshire, making sure that our plans and strategies deliver what is needed, where it is needed.

Veterans and Care Leavers Cards: We are bringing forward plans for the Care experience and Veterans Bus Card, ensuring equitable access to mobility.



Shaping the future of Greater Lincolnshire

I remain committed to responsible and transparent leadership, and over the past year we have made strong progress together.

We have avoided introducing a mayoral precept while laying the groundwork for deeper devolution and stronger local powers for our area.

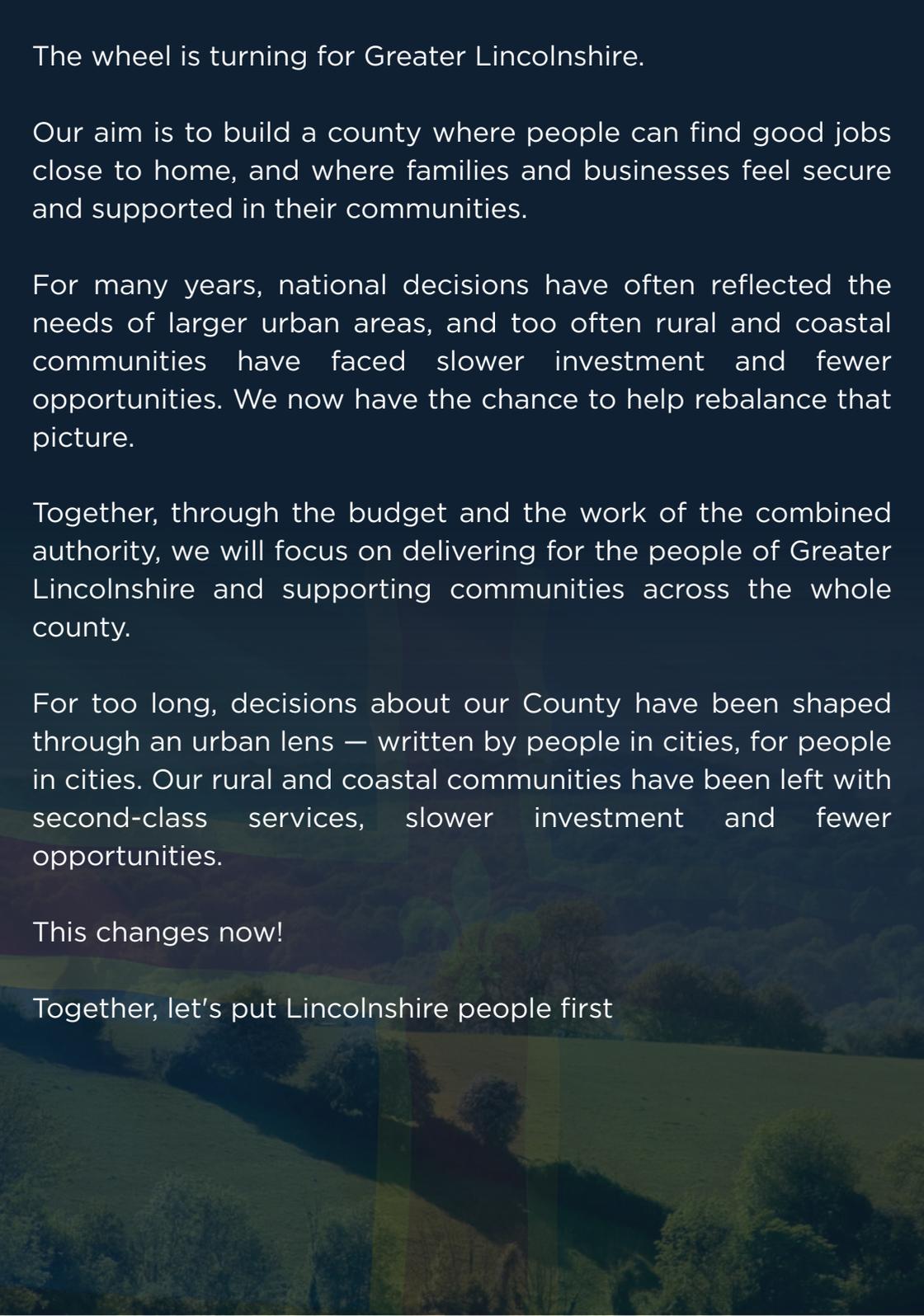
We have also supported a renewed focus on collaborative, in-person working across the Combined Authority, helping teams work more closely together as this transition began last month.

Now the focus is on building momentum and delivering meaningful change for our county. We will continue working towards a deeper devolution deal and making the case for fairer funding for our rural and coastal communities.

We will move forward with plans for new transport hubs and priority road schemes, expand employer-led skills and apprenticeships, roll out high-tech dental training to support our dental workforce, launch our business start-up fund to support innovation programmes and encourage local enterprise ensuring Greater Lincolnshire's voice is clearly heard in Westminster.

We will do this openly and efficiently, working alongside partners and residents to shape every decision and help build a stronger, better-connected Greater Lincolnshire.

A faint, low-angle photograph of a tractor in a field, serving as a background for the bottom portion of the page.



The wheel is turning for Greater Lincolnshire.

Our aim is to build a county where people can find good jobs close to home, and where families and businesses feel secure and supported in their communities.

For many years, national decisions have often reflected the needs of larger urban areas, and too often rural and coastal communities have faced slower investment and fewer opportunities. We now have the chance to help rebalance that picture.

Together, through the budget and the work of the combined authority, we will focus on delivering for the people of Greater Lincolnshire and supporting communities across the whole county.

For too long, decisions about our County have been shaped through an urban lens — written by people in cities, for people in cities. Our rural and coastal communities have been left with second-class services, slower investment and fewer opportunities.

This changes now!

Together, let's put Lincolnshire people first

What We're Delivering



**FIRST PILOT
TRANSPORT HUBS
FOR HYKEHAM &
GAINSBOROUGH**

Greater Lincolnshire
Combined County Authority

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**£31 MILLION
FOR
TRANSPORT SCHEMES
JUNCTION UPGRADES
SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS**

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**NEW DENTAL
COLLEGE TO TRAIN
LINCOLNSHIRE
DENTISTS**

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MAYOR for GREATER LINCOLNSHIRE



**SHOWCASING
LINCOLNSHIRE AT
THE GREAT
EXHIBITION**

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MAYOR for GREATER LINCOLNSHIRE



**HIGH QUALITY
DIGNIFIED
HOMES FOR
VETERANS**

Greater Lincolnshire
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MAYOR for GREATER LINCOLNSHIRE



**£76 MILLION TO
MAINTAIN AND
IMPROVE OUR
HIGHWAYS**

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