

Civic University Agreement



UNIVERSITY OF
LINCOLN



BISHOP
GROSSETESTE
UNIVERSITY



CITY OF
Lincoln
COUNCIL

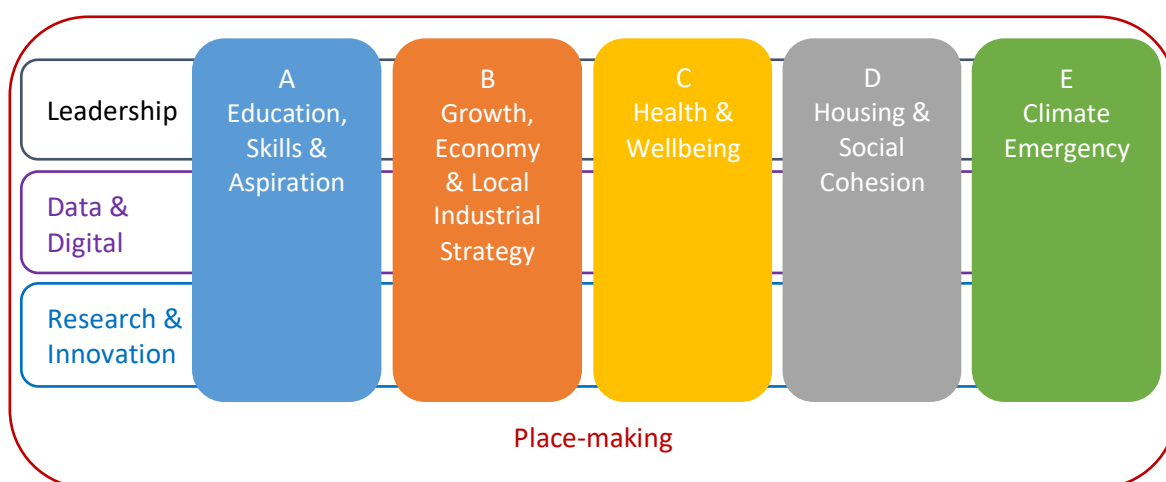
Introduction

1. The University of Lincoln ('UoL') and Bishop Grosseteste University ('BGU') are committed to working in partnership with their communities.
2. In signing this Civic University Agreement ('Agreement') with the City of Lincoln Council ('CoLC'), UoL and BGU seek to:
 - build on their own institutional strengths and current civic activities;
 - reflect the priorities of the people of Lincoln, and what they want from their universities;
 - work with other local institutions, businesses and community organisations, local authorities and plans to deliver a unified vision for the city;
 - develop a clear set of priorities, collaborating and aligning resources and activities with each other and with the City of Lincoln Council, the Greater Lincolnshire Local Enterprise Partnership ('GLLEP'), and the NHS;
 - articulate a clear plan of action for the five-year period 2020–2025.
3. UoL and BGU are already involved, separately and jointly, in a wide range of civic activities, listed later in this document.
4. This Agreement has been informed by a Citizens Panel survey conducted during the autumn of 2019. The survey was sent to 627 members, of whom 284 (45%) responded. Respondents were aged between 20 and 85+; 54% of respondents were female, 44% male. Respondents ranked the top five purposes of universities as follows (starting with the most popular): to educate/inspire learning; to do research that shapes future thinking; to do research that solves current problems; to help students find work/develop their careers; and to support the local economy. Respondents felt that universities should strongly prioritise external partnerships with schools, colleges and businesses; partnerships between universities and the City & County Councils and healthcare providers were also supported. Respondents had a strong awareness of universities' involvement in education and skills; industrial and economic support; arts, culture and heritage; health and wellbeing. There was less awareness of universities' activities associated with the environment, leisure/being active, and social inclusion. 91% of respondents agreed that universities have a role to support their communities.
5. Respondents to the Citizens Panel survey ranked education and skills, industrial and economic support, and health and wellbeing as the three most important activities for universities to undertake in their community.

6. This Agreement is intended to be an evolving document, which will adapt and change to the changing needs and priorities of the city of Lincoln. As well as seeking to align and join up the current civic activities of UoL and BGU, it also articulates a set of goals for further joint working with CoLC and other local bodies. The parties invite other local partners to sign up to the Agreement as it evolves.
7. This Agreement articulates a set of goals covering the period 2020 to 2025, alongside the first annual action plan for 2020–21. Progress against the annual action plan will be monitored towards the end of each twelve-month period, and progress against the longer-term goals reviewed after three years.
8. This document will be supported by a comprehensive delivery plan which will operationalise the aspirations contained within the agreement on an annual basis. This will enable it to flex and change to respond to emerging local challenges and reflect the contribution of a wider cohort of partners as they become signatories to this agreement.

Pillars and enablers

9. Aligned with the responses to the Citizens Panel survey and CoLC’s *Vision2025* strategy, this Agreement identifies five interconnected pillars of civic university engagement:
 - education, skills and aspiration;
 - growth, economy and the local industrial strategy, with a focus on creating a digital city and vibrant city centre which includes arts, culture and heritage;
 - health and wellbeing, including leisure and lifestyle;
 - housing and social cohesion;
 - responding to the climate emergency, including energy, travel and transport.
10. These five interconnected pillars are supported by three cross-cutting enablers:
 - leadership – using the institutions’ convening power to provide City-wide leadership;
 - data and digital technologies – maximising the use of data and technology to evidence and provide solutions;
 - research and innovation – aligning the research strengths of the universities to tackle local challenges.
11. Place-making is the unifying theme of this Agreement, with all goals and actions designed to contribute towards the enhancement of Lincoln as a place to live, work and visit.



Education, Skills & Aspiration

BGU

- Aspiration-raising Taster Days for schools
- Teenage Market supporting 10-29 year-olds
- Supporting schools with careers / enterprise events
- Headteacher Steering Group
- 'Reading for pleasure' group for teachers
- First Steps 2 Study and Next Steps 2 Study
- Young Enterprise Partnership
- Autism Ideas Café
- ESFA skills projects
- MOVE project for unemployed adults
- Host of the Sandford Award and Sandford Cascade for heritage education projects

COLC

- Delivered training courses with local provider to equip residents with the skills to enter/ re-enter employment

UOL

- Saturday Club and Summer Schools for local children
- Sponsorship of the Lincoln UTC
- Schools outreach programme
- Sponsorship of The Lincolnshire Educational Trust
- Leadership of the Lincolnshire Institute of Technology
- Provision of degree apprenticeships
- Partnership with Bishop Burton College to deliver skills for the agricultural sector
- Catalyst funding to develop a digital skills curriculum for the fourth industrial revolution (Industry 4.0)
- Knowledge Transfer Partnerships (KTPs)
- Commitment to lifelong learning

SHARED ACTIVITIES

- LiNC Higher, part of the OIS Uni Connect Programme
- Lincolnshire Children's University
- Higher Education
- Public Engagement with Research
- Working with partners to develop Town Investment Plan to enhance skills and enterprise infrastructure
- Town Investment Plan

5-year goals

A1. Implementation of the Town Investment Plan

A2. Increase graduate retention within the Greater Lincoln area:

- Supporting a reduction in 'hard to fill vacancies' across priority sectors and occupations, particularly in health and care, IT and engineering
- Supporting adult training/re-training programmes to meet local business needs

A3. Develop a robust baseline evidence for the skills needs of businesses and the labour market, in support of Lincoln economic and inclusive growth strategies.

2020–2021 action plan

A1. Development of the Town Investment Plan with skills as an identified priority

A2. Active representation on the Greater Lincolnshire Skills officer group, which aims to consider and discuss the skill needs of the wider area

A3. Work collaboratively on skill-based initiatives identified through the GLLEP working group

Growth, Economy and Local Industrial Strategy

BGU

- BG Futures business incubation
- ERDF Business Inspiration project supporting small businesses in Lincolnshire
- Lincolnshire Open Research and Innovation Centre
- Involvement in Lincoln Book Festival, Heritage Lincoln Partnership with Lincoln Theological Society and Historical Association
- The Venue Cinema
- Steampunk festival venue

COLC

- Lead Council for the Town Deal Programme
- Transport Task Force & Transport Strategy
- Digital City
- The Terrace and Greetwell Place business incubators
- Inward investment and small business support
- Be Lincoln Place Marketing
- City Centre Vibrancy: Central Market, City Square & Cornhill; Tentercroft Street, Waterside East; public realm and connectivity
- Heritage Action Zone
- Western Growth Corridor, leisure village and employment land

UOL

- Sparkhouse and ThinkTank business incubators
- Lincoln Science and Innovation Park
- Productivity Programme for Greater Lincolnshire
- LIBS Connect
- Strategic partnerships with local engineering firms
- Lincoln Cultural and Arts Partnership
- Centre for Culture and Creativity
- Mansions of the Future
- Lincoln Performing Arts Centre
- Frequency Festival
- Siren FM community radio

SHARED ACTIVITIES

- OfS project to support student projects with industry
- Significant employer in Lincoln City region
- Student expenditure supports jobs in the City
- Public lectures
- Town Deal and Town Investment Plan

5-year goals

- B1. Create a Town Deal Board to oversee development and delivery of a Town Investment Plan
- B2. Promote Lincoln as a destination to live and work, with a vibrant city centre and flourishing twilight and evening economies
- B3. Develop Lincoln as a Smart City
- B4. B4. Support the development of the Lincoln Science & Innovation Park and associated business links/clusters
- B5. Achieve national recognition for Lincoln's events and festivals
- B6. Preserve and develop our cultural assets for future generations, working in partnership to meet the 10-year Arts Council strategy: social justice, disengaged communities, young people
- B7. Rationalise assets under the 'One Public Estate' framework

2020–2021 action plan

- B1. Launch the 'Be in Lincoln' marketing campaign, building on the Tourist Information service returning into City Council operation from April 2020
- B2. Work in partnership to secure the future of the Usher Gallery and Drill Hall
- B3. Develop work placements between the universities and CoLC
- B4. Develop a creative industries workspace
- B5. Contribute in partnership to an events and festivals strategy to build further the city's offer
- B6. Establish the Town Deal Board and support the submission of a Town Investment Plan

Health and Wellbeing

BGU

- Carers Quality Award registration
- Project to support teacher wellbeing and workload
- General Practice Nursing Fundamentals Programme
- Chair of Lincolnshire FE/HE Sports Forum

COLC

- Operator of public facilities in the city - two leisure centres, a range of sports pitches (grass and artificial surface), community centres, Commons, country park, formal and informal parks and open spaces and play areas
- Deliver a range of targeted interventions around homelessness
- Digital City opportunities for test bed initiatives for future health/leisure service delivery/access

UOL

- School of Health & Social Care
- School of Pharmacy
- Lincoln Medical School
- National Institute for Health Research (East Midlands)
- Human Performance Centre
- Community and Health Research Unit
- School of Psychology
- School of Sport & Exercise Science
- Degree training of paramedics
- Degrees, apprenticeships and CPD in nursing and allied health professions
- Inter-professional education
- Sports Therapy Clinic

SHARED ACTIVITIES

- National Centre for Rural Health & Care
- Partnership with Lincoln City Football Club

5-year goals

- C1. Work together to develop sports-based leisure facilities of regional significance and which are accessible to all.
- C2. Pursue a range of sports- and leisure-based initiatives to tackle social isolation and loneliness
- C3. Make significant progress against some of the health challenges in the city, centred around circulatory diseases and cancer, by developing a range of accessible lifestyle initiatives
- C4. Support expansion in the number of qualified health professionals and retention in the local area

2020–2021 action plan

- C1. Maximise our collective existing leisure facilities for public use and develop new leisure offers on BGU and UoL Riseholme estates in partnership with local stakeholders
- C2. Launch a project to tackle social isolation via an enhanced sports and leisure offer
- C3. Scope the feasibility of introducing a unified booking system for the City's leisure facilities
- C4. Start work on a future leisure strategy for Lincoln

Housing & Social Cohesion

BGU

- BGU Foundation Fund support for community projects
- Enactus: social action projects
- Lincoln Neighbourhood Team partnership
- Lincoln Prevent Steering Group members

COLC

- Strategic Housing Authority
- Landlord to almost 8,000 council houses
- Developer of new accommodation across a range of tenures: New Homes Programme
- Western Growth Corridor SUE – land owner, developer and promoter
- Local Planning Authority – both spatial planning and Development management function. Article 4 in place.
- Regulatory services including maintaining housing standards in the private rented sector
- Initiatives to promote high standards in private rented sector – Trusted Landlord scheme
- Grant funding for improvements in private rented sector
- Introduced Lincoln Social Responsibility Charter
- Delivered a Neighbourhood office in Sincil Bank
- Launched a community lottery benefitting local good causes
- Through many heritage led activities ranging from statutory functions to community initiatives such as Bricks and Bones, to celebrate the city's rich history in a way that brings communities together

UOL

- Pop-up Social Science Park
- Law Clinic
- Sincil Bank design hub
- Community Operational Research Unit

SHARED ACTIVITIES

- Construction and management of purpose built student accommodation
- Student and staff volunteering

5-year goals

- D1. Ensure that all accommodation in the private rented sector is of a safe, high standard
- D2. Work in partnership to develop an appropriate and sustainable balance between purpose-built student accommodation and private rented student accommodation to create balanced communities
- D3. Enhance community cohesion, social mobility and aspiration across the City
- D4. Develop a framework, under corporate social responsibility, for using our combined purchasing power to maximise social value from contracts

2020–2021 action plan

- D1. Implement effective data sharing on private rented accommodation and develop a referral pathway for tenants
- D2. Establish a task force to start work on a framework for extracting social value from our combined purchasing power
- D3. Identify additional projects in Sincil Bank as a priority intervention area for enhancing community cohesion

Climate Emergency

BGU

- Research to support education for resilient international development
- Ongoing reduction of waste to landfill
- 'Switch it off' campaigns
- Promotion of sustainable modes of transport
- Maintenance and enhancement of biodiversity on campus
- Installation of energy monitoring equipment/software
- Installation of energy saving equipment at end of existing product life
- Promotion of locally sourced goods and services to reduce delivery miles

COLC

- Member of Lincoln Climate Commission
- Declared a climate emergency & formulating an action plan building on our roles as a service provider, education/ interaction with residents (eg waste and recycling) and through our community leadership role with other stakeholders in the city
- Statutory protection of the Environment through National Planning Policy Framework as Local Planning Authority.

UOL

- Membership of Lincoln Climate Commission (low carbon and climate resilience for Lincoln)
- Ongoing reduction of campus carbon footprint
- Climate Action Days
- Travel to work strategy
- Lincoln Institute for Agri-Food Technology (carbon storage and energy reduction in agri-food sector)
- Research on climate change impacts and adaptation
- Research to support low carbon energy sector
- Comprehensive education package for staff and students
- Elimination of single-use plastics
- Meat-free Mondays
- Sourcing more food locally

SHARED ACTIVITIES

- Leadership role in development of local infrastructure strategies including movement, energy, water resource and communication networks.
- Support the development and delivery of the Lincoln Transport Strategy

5-year goals

- E1. Through the Climate Commission, build further on our collective role as thought leaders, and major employers bringing stakeholders together
- E2. Drive local and global environmental solutions through research and knowledge transfer
- E3. Fully embrace the low carbon agenda as major employers, working towards a carbon neutral city
- E4. Develop joint initiatives around reducing waste and recycling

2020–2021 action plan

- E1. Publish the Climate Commission roadmap and recommendations
- E2. Support the development of a sustainable travel and transport strategy for Lincoln
- E3. Initiate tree-planting schemes in appropriate locations and trial the establishment of wildlife meadows
- E4. Explore a staff volunteering scheme for environmental projects
- E5. Work to encourage recycling from student accommodation on campus