



GLCCA Accountability Statement



DN COLLEGES GROUP



Regional Collaboration Addresses Employment and Skills Needs

For many years, colleges and independent training providers within Greater Lincolnshire areas have collaborated on projects designed to meet the needs of local people and industry. The importance of collaborative working has long been recognised as a primary means of leveraging capital and revenue funding. This collective approach develops the advanced learning resources required to fuel the unique needs of the regional economy.

The Greater Lincolnshire region is home to a total resident population of approximately 1.12 million, with a core working-age group (aged 16–64) of 665,700. While urban hubs like Lincoln and Scunthorpe maintain a steady core of working-age residents, the wider county and coastal areas face a rapidly aging population. Over 23.6% of the regional population is currently aged 65 or over, which sits significantly higher than the national average.

The current employment rate in Greater Lincolnshire stands at 75.4% and is broadly the same as the East Midlands (75.2%) and England (75.8%).

However, coastal areas like Skegness and Mablethorpe suffer from severe seasonal employment fluctuations, transport barriers, and lower job density.

Greater Lincolnshire has a lower job density than the England average, indicating fewer jobs relative to its working-age population. North East Lincolnshire sits significantly below the national benchmark (around 0.70 compared to 0.87), while North Lincolnshire shows the strongest labour market balance within the area (around 0.76). This suggests that residents are more likely to commute to other areas for work, reflecting a reliance on employment opportunities outside the local economy.



Long-term
collaborations leverage
funding to build learning
resources and meet
local skills needs.

The regional business base spans approximately 40,560 enterprises across the combined area. The area is structurally driven by an exceptionally high proportion of micro-businesses and small businesses (98%) which account for the vast majority of the entire regional economy.

Wholesale and Retail Trade is the largest employment industry in Greater Lincolnshire, accounting for 71,000 jobs (15.8% of the workforce).

Greater Lincolnshire has a significantly higher proportion of Manufacturing jobs (14.1%) compared to England as a whole (7.2%).

The region lags behind the national average in high-tech and corporate sectors, particularly Information and Communication (1.4% vs 4.8%), Professional, Scientific and Technical activities (5.5% vs 9.7%) and Financial and Insurance activities (0.8% vs 3.4%).

However, the area has a greater concentration of Human Health and Social Work activities (15.7% vs 13.8%).

The area relies slightly more on part-time employment (32.6%) than the rest of England (30.4%).

Greater Lincolnshire supports a robust labour market of 515,000 people in active employment. 41% of all in employment are in SOC code 1-3. Nearly 24% fall in to: process, plant and machine operatives, and elementary occupations.



Greater Lincolnshire significantly trails behind both regional and national averages at higher education levels. Only 34.2% of its population holds a degree level or equivalent qualification, compared to 41.1% regionally and 48.0% nationally—a 13.8 percentage point deficit against England.

There is a mid-level attainment deficit for Level 3 and above where Greater Lincolnshire sits at 58.4%. This is notably lower than the East Midlands (63.7%) and England (68.7%).

The gap narrows significantly at foundational levels where Greater Lincolnshire (87.1%) is nearly identical to the East Midlands (87.7%) and closely tracks England (89.4%).

8.2% of the working-age population in Greater Lincolnshire holds no formal qualifications at all. This is higher than the regional average of 6.9% and the national average of 6.1%.



The partners serving this region are:

- TEC Partnership
- Bishop Burton College
- CATCH
- DN Colleges Group
- Franklin Sixth Form College
- Lincoln College
- Boston College
- Grantham College
- John Leggott College
- Stamford College
- CATCH
- HETA

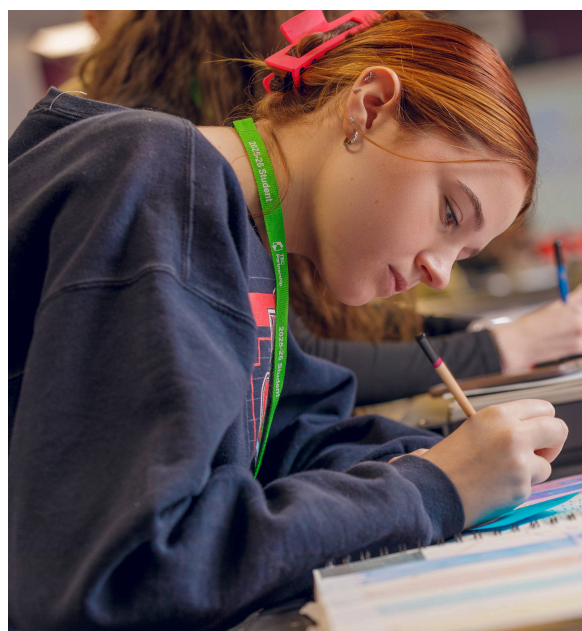


Collaborative Projects

Over the past year colleges providers in Greater Lincolnshire have continued to explore employer-driven collaborative project opportunities. A Collaborative Projects Group (Lincolnshire Colleges) has been established to maintain momentum.

In the last year, colleges have been working together on the replacement for the ESOL offer within the region in response to the policy shift by the Greater Lincolnshire Combined County Authority due to come in force from 2027.

Colleges are working together to design a new, integrated syllabus that merges English language development with functional employment literacy. The goal is to build an alternative framework before the 2027 change, ensuring that everyone, regardless of background, has access to essential communication skills.



Local Skills Improvement Plan

The Local Skills Improvement Plan (LSIP)—delivered by the Federation of Small Businesses (FSB) in partnership with the Greater Lincolnshire Combined County Authority (GLCCA)—focuses on structural demands through 2029.

The work is centered on three core strategic themes to bridge the gap between education and the local economy:

Focusing on Priority Growth Sectors

Aligning training directly to agri-tech, clean energy/decarbonisation, advanced manufacturing, defence, and ports/logistics.

Cultivating Essential Soft Skills

Eradicating the widespread struggle to recruit workers with adequate communication, teamwork, and localised resilience traits.

Industry-Standard Instructor Knowledge

Ensuring technical tutors hold up-to-date industry experience to teach modern automation, robotics, and industrial digital systems.

Lincolnshire Institute of Technology (LloT)

Founded in 2019, the LloT partnership has built on existing provision and strong employer relationships to continue to develop and deliver training and qualifications that meet regional needs.

College and training providers support the LloT STEM Challenge, which is an annual STEM event for Year 9 students across Greater Lincolnshire.

