

# LINCOLNSHIRE RESEARCH OBSERVATORY

## Executive Steering Group

### Minutes from Meeting held on Friday 13 October 2006

Present:

APa Research Co-ordinator, Economic Regeneration (Chair)  
LM Strategic Information Analyst, City of Lincoln Council  
WR Research Manager, emda  
AH Organisational Development Team, Boston Borough Council  
BC Research Officer, West Lindsey District Council  
KH Acting Service Manager, Lincolnshire County Council  
DM Principal Research Officer, Economic Regeneration  
WB Programme Manager, Climate for Investment, Lincolnshire Enterprise  
RT Knowledge Director, Connexions Lincolnshire & Rutland  
APe Senior Development Assistant, Economic Regeneration  
JH Information and Liaison Officer, Lincolnshire Research Observatory

#### 1. Apologies

Apologies were received from:

MBr Acting Head of Public Health, Lincolnshire Primary Care Trust  
MW Strategic Development Manager (Planning and Review), Lincolnshire County Council  
ED Senior Information Analyst (Public Health), Lincolnshire Primary Care Trust  
MBI Corporate Services, JobCentre Plus  
AE Public Health Specialist, Lincolnshire Primary Care Trust  
JW County Manager – Planning and Review, Lincolnshire County Council  
RW Director of Health Improvement, Lincolnshire Primary Care Trust  
DJ Research and Project Officer, Learning and Skills Council

#### 2. Minutes of Last Meeting

The minutes of the last meeting were accepted as a true and accurate record.

#### 3. Matters Arising

##### Priorities for Action

Partners are invited to contact JH if they would like further information or a demonstration on the GIS. The proposed conference has been postponed to early 2007, in order to coincide with the launch of the new LRO.

##### ESF Funded Research

Information on Round 2 research is still available from JH. Further information on Round 3 research will be given in item 7 on the agenda.

#### **4. Update on Joint Area Review**

RT gave an update on the Joint Area Review (JAR). The inspection is conducted by Ofsted to assess the services on offer to children and young people across the county.

The first stage was the self-assessment, which has been completed; the next stage is to appraise the data provided by Ofsted prior to their inspection during November. Boston has been chosen as the case study area for the inspectors, in addition a number of case reviews will also be assessed.

Ofsted have provided a variety of datasets from a range of sources in order to give a measurement of performance. The LRO has been asked to assist with displaying the data in an easy to understand and accessible format.

*Action: DM to liaise with JAR regarding LRO involvement*

LM asked what the impact JAR will have on current working groups in this area. RT stated that the groups will be re-evaluated after JAR and more joined up working will be encouraged.

KH asked if the LRO would benefit from products developed for the JAR. RT stated that some outcomes will be relevant to children and young people only, but other elements will have a positive impact on other areas.

APa stated that the main challenge is to create one definitive source of data, which has a relevance to users and is held in a suitable place where it is easily accessible. The products developed within the GIS will help.

#### **5. Update on the Local Area Agreement**

APa gave an update on the Local Area Agreement (LAA). The LRO was asked to identify priority geographical areas that should be targeted within the LAA. The focus of the LAA is on the areas that appear in the top 10% deprived on one or more indicator. Areas featured include Boston, Grantham, Lincoln, Gainsborough, South Holland and the coast. The areas cover 14% of Lincolnshire's population.

The key objectives are to raise the standards to the Lincolnshire average in the following areas:

- Increase number of new jobs created
- Improve staff skills
- Reduce instance of long-term illness
- Reduce crime levels

In achieving the targets Lincolnshire's GVA will move up 1% against the UK average.

*Action: JH to forward copy of the report to members*

LM highlighted that the health objective may be difficult to achieve. APa stated that health is a difficult area to measure, throughput of services can be easily gauged but it is more difficult to measure an impact on a community.

The LAA is trying to use current information to solve issues, the LRO can assist by adding the intelligence behind the data to help make better informed decisions.

## 6. Update on GIS

APa gave a presentation to update on the progress of the GIS project.

PlanAccess is now live; improvements are ongoing with additional features being developed. It offers a find-your-nearest facility, giving a point location and additional information. Lincolnshire County Council's Customer Service Centre will use the system as an error reporting facility. Partners can utilise PlanAccess by adding the system on to their website.

The Section 106 model has been developed with the Greater Lincoln Partnership. The system calculates the impact new housing developments will have on local services, including schools and health care.

PlanWeb is currently available within Lincolnshire County Council, and is used initially by staff that will be losing their MapInfo licence. The system can also push through firewalls to enable partners to use it. PlanWeb can handle a range of data and gives the ability to share data across partners. Data currently available on PlanWeb includes Highways, Census and data from the LRO. Contextual data has also been added.

WB asked if third parties would be able to access PlanWeb. APa stated that requests for consultants to access Plan Web would be dealt with on a case-by-case basis.

KH asked which references were used in point data. APa stated that it is preferable to have northing and easting data, however postcode data was also acceptable.

Data can be restricted, however the aim of the GIS project is to promote the effective exchange of data between partners. PlanWeb is available for LCC staff and partners only and will not be a public facing system.

KH asked what level of promotion is happening around the GIS. APa stated that the public sector working group, Chief Executive, internal GIS steering group, external local authorities have all been involved in discussions.

**Action:** *Partners to contact JH with details of when they would like to discuss PlanWeb being made available to them*

Geo Reveal will be the public view of the GIS and will be designed for the casual user of maps. It offers a simple way to retrieve data from the central data source. Geo Reveal is still in the development stage, so further developments can still be made.

**Action:** *Partners to contact JH to give feedback on how they would like the LRO to operate*

Geo Reveal will launch in March 2007 and work is being done to ensure it is accessible to all users and is easy to use.

The main aim of the GIS project is to effectively share data, so far work has mostly been focussed internally at Lincolnshire County Council, the focus is now moving to working with partners.

**Action:** *Partners to contact JH regarding having access to systems and their data requirements*

## 7. Update on ESF Funded Research

APe gave a presentation to update the group on progress and developments for ESF Round 3 research.

Skills Business Barometer - conducted by BMG Research

- Quarterly questionnaire sent to 1000 businesses
- Surveys to be sent out November 2006 and March 2007
- Survey will broaden from the LSC skills survey
- Survey will be qualitative
- Focus will be on school leavers and graduates
- Project ending May 2007 following extension of ESF funding
- Will run internally following end of funding

**Action:** *JH to forward first questionnaire to members*

WR stated that emda are looking to conduct similar research regionally.

**Action:** *APe to forward details to WR to discuss how Lincolnshire can join up regionally*

It is anticipated that over time the survey will broaden out, group to give a steer on future direction.

Skills in Areas Affected by Rural Decline - conducted by Warwick Institute of Employment Research with Cambridge Econometrics

- Secondary research, following primary research that has previously been completed
- Electronic model will be developed enabling partners to do their own analysis
- Report will also be produced

WB asked if migrant workers would be included. APe stated that they would be included in general but would not be specifically targeted.

WR stated that emda have conducted a regional project on migrant workers, also conducted by Warwick Institute of Employment. It is difficult to obtain a definitive number of migrant workers, emda are producing a sub-regional picture of migrant workers which will indicate the labour on offer, the sector in which they work and the extent of their work. This is due to be available by the end of 2006.

WR stated that emda are undertaking a second project that investigates migrant flows and the contribution to demographic change that migrant labour has. The research is due to be completed by February 2007. The initial research may be followed up with more qualitative research in the future.

**Action:** *APe to look at the possibility of linking emda and ESF work*

Converting Skills to Wealth - contract still to be finalised, preferred supplier Experian

- Research will look at the barriers for young people qualifying above NVQ2
- Mosaic Public Sector will enable access to more data than from the census
- Social research, will highlight which affects affect decision making
- Report will be produced on findings and data associated with the analysis
- Data will be available to partners to access

RT stated that Connexions have data available to help identify young people with no qualifications, in addition it was stated that it was difficult to engage young people who have little desire to improve their qualifications.

**Action:** APe to contact RT to discuss identifying young people with no qualifications

APa suggested that a small group be established in order to ensure the research develops in the correct direction.

**Action:** Partners to contact JH if they are interested in being involved with a working group

There is a current underspend of £23,000 for ESF Round 3 research, discussions are currently taking place to ensure a contract for research can be agreed outside of the spend deadline of December 2006. Partners are asked for feedback on where the money should be spent, the research must be concerning skills.

**Action:** Partners to contact JH regarding an additional research topic

## **8. Community Involvement**

JH discussed the community involvement project. The LRO has been asked to take responsibility for a database of 300 organisations that are classed as hard-to-reach. In accepting the database the LRO needs to be aware of the potential issues of the data and must act responsibly with the contact details. The organisations classed as hard-to-reach include religious, community and disabled groups.

RT asked if the definition of hard-to-reach was based around groups or individuals. APa stated that the work is based around individuals.

LM stated that it is difficult to meet the needs of the hard-to-reach, for example housing and health. City of Lincoln Council has looked at commissioning work around targeting hard-to-reach groups in the city.

WB stated that Lincolnshire Enterprise have a rural team that touch on the issues associated with hard-to-reach groups

The members present agreed that the LRO is the most suitable place to store the data.

## **8. Any Other Business**

WR informed the group of the Intelligence East Midlands conference on Wednesday 15 November 2006 at The Walker Stadium in Leicester between 10am and 4pm. The conference is free to attend.

Keynote speakers include Tim Jackson from the University of Surrey who will be talking about measuring wellbeing and Ron Martin from Cambridge University who will be talking about competitiveness. The afternoon will feature a number of breakout sessions covering topics including demography, economy and productivity, labour market, deprivation and economic inclusion, transport, infrastructure and development, environment.

APa stated that the LRO has been invited to have a stand at the Intelligence East Midlands conference.

Further information can be found by going to [www.intelligenceeastmidlands.org.uk](http://www.intelligenceeastmidlands.org.uk)

WR informed the group of two additional pieces of research currently being undertaken by emda, focusing on migration. The first will look at commuting flows. The second will look at the nature and extent of home / remote working, both from the viewpoint of the individual and the employer.

## **9. Date of Next Meeting**

It was agreed that the date of the next Steering Group meeting would be held in the New Year, date to be confirmed in due course.