

GREATER LINCOLNSHIRE REGIONAL DEFENCE AND SECURITY CLUSTER

CHARTER

2026

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1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. Lincolnshire is home to one of the UK's most significant networks of ISTAR (Intelligence, Surveillance, Target Acquisition and Reconnaissance) businesses, with a defence and security supply chain forged over decades at the heart of RAF operations. The Greater Lincolnshire Regional Defence and Security Cluster (GLRDSC) brings together national and international users, manufacturers, and research, development and innovation expertise to overcome sector challenges and identify business opportunities - as well as forging links with hotbeds of advanced engineering and data science in other sectors locally and connecting into the heart of the UK's low carbon energy production along the Humber.
- 1.2. The Greater Lincolnshire Regional Defence and Security Cluster (GLRDSC) is an unincorporated association that brings together a collection of organisations, bound together by the aims of the GLRDSC, and in agreement to the Charter as outlined below.

2. PURPOSE AND AIMS

- 2.1. The GLRDSC seeks to aggregate and raise the profile of regional defence and security capability to stimulate greater sector knowledge, business, economic growth and productivity across the Greater Lincolnshire region.
- 2.2. Our aim is to bring more defence and security investment into the Greater Lincolnshire region. There are benefits of this aggregation to all. For SMEs, looking for a route to market, they have local access to prime defence contractors. They in turn get visibility of new and emerging technology they may wish to acquire. UKG and its executive agencies can set challenges or funding rounds targeted at this part of the sector.
- 2.3. The GLRDSC will:
 - 2.3.1. Guide local businesses towards funding opportunities, research programmes and procurement initiatives;
 - 2.3.2. Alert national organisations and prime contractors to the capabilities and achievements of Lincolnshire's defence and security businesses;
 - 2.3.3. Create and support events and activities to encourage learning and collaboration throughout the supply chain.

3. STEERING GROUP

- 3.1. The Defence and Security Advisory Panel; initially established by the Greater Lincolnshire Local Enterprise Partnership, shall act as the Steering Group for the GLRDSC, until such time that the Cluster becomes self-sustaining, with the Chair of the Defence and Security Advisory Panel also acting as Chair of the GLRDSC Steering Group.
- 3.2. The role of the Steering Group is to:
- 3.2.1. Represent the GLRDSC membership and act as Ambassadors to promote its activity and value proposition;
 - 3.2.2. Provide leadership and strategic guidance to its development, programmes, activity and standing;
 - 3.2.3. Agree spend of previous collated membership fees, UK Defence Innovation (UKDI) Funding and other funding on activities to promote and enhance the GLRDSC;
 - 3.2.4. Agree the governance structure and procedures of the GLRDSC.
- 3.3. Appointments to and Terms of Service of the Steering Group are described in the [GLCCA Defence and Security Advisory Panel Terms of Reference](#)

4. MEMBERSHIP

- 4.1. Membership levels are as follows:
- 4.1.1. **Full members**
Full membership encompasses any industry organisation or academic body active within the GLRDSC's geography offering products, services, R&D and technology solutions that can be applied in a defence and security domain;
 - 4.1.2. **Affiliates**
Affiliate membership will be given on an opportunity basis to those organisations located out of region that can help the Cluster address specific gaps in capability.
 - 4.1.3. **Strategic partners**

As a sub-set of the full membership, public sector organisations such as Government agencies, D&S Trade Bodies and Funding Bodies (Including UKDI) that can support and add value to the Cluster, will be offered membership as 'Strategic Partners';
- 4.2. Full and affiliate membership of the GLRDSC will be free of charge.

5. FUNDING

- 5.1. UK Defence Innovation (UKDI) will provide the main funding for the GLRDSC. This will be managed by Lincolnshire County Council as the Accountable Body in accordance with the Grant Funding Agreement and submitted Risk Assessment. A Joint Oversight Group will meet quarterly to oversee the grant performance drawing on representatives of the Accountable Body, the funder and GLRDSC and a member of UKDI will be invited to sit on the GLRDSC Advisory Panel.
- 5.2. The GLRDSC will seek additional funding through sponsor partners where reasonable and required.
- 5.3. The GLRDSC Steering Group and wider members will actively engage in cluster activity through the provision of pro-bono support and/or other resourcing to enable cluster objectives.
- 5.4. Funds will be held by Lincolnshire County Council as the accountable body.
- 5.5. Spend of funds will be agreed by the Defence and Security Advisory Panel acting as the Steering Group for the GLRDSC.

6. PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT

- 6.1. The GLRDSC Steering Group will be responsible for establishing annual objectives and KPIs for the GLRDSC as appropriate.
- 6.2. The GLRDSC Steering Group will agree the GLRDSC Charter and any additional Terms of Reference as appropriate. These will be reviewed on an annual basis.
- 6.3. The GLRDSC secretariat function will be provided by the Lincolnshire County Council, supported by the University of Lincoln.

7. POLICIES

- 7.1. The GLRDSC will operate under the policy structure of the Lincolnshire County Council . Relevant policies can be found on the Lincolnshire County Council [website](#)

8. COMPETITION

- 8.1. Meetings of competitors under the guidance of the GLRDSC are not prevented by competition law.
- 8.2. GLRDSC members must not use the forum provided by the GLRDSC in order to coordinate their commercial activities or to influence the conduct of a competitor. Each GLRDSC member must exercise its independent business judgment in pricing its

products and services, dealing with its customers and suppliers, and choosing the markets in which it will compete.

- 8.3. Our inclusiveness of non-private sector organisations such as County Combined Authorities, Universities and government organisations helps to ensure commercial agendas are not discussed at GLRDSC meetings. Any activity that could create even the appearance of a restriction or distortion of competition must be strictly avoided.
- 8.4. Whilst GLRDSC expects all its members to comply with this Charter in the course of its dealings with GLRDSC, members must take individual responsibility for complying with competition law and are advised to seek legal advice if they are unsure about the application of these rules.