Civic University Agreement

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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Leadership</th>
<th>A</th>
<th>B</th>
<th>C</th>
<th>D</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Data &amp; Digital</td>
<td>Education, Skills &amp; Aspiration</td>
<td>Growth, Economy &amp; Local Industrial Strategy</td>
<td>Health &amp; Wellbeing</td>
<td>Housing &amp; Social Cohesion</td>
<td>Climate Emergency</td>
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Place-making
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
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. 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
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
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
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