

The purpose of a Civic University

1. The University of Lincoln was established by and for our communities; alongside our core mission to educate students, develop scholarship, and conduct and translate research for the benefit of society, we therefore have particular responsibilities as an anchor institution to engage and work with our communities, and to enhance and support our region socially, economically and culturally.
2. We interpret the role of a Civic University as comprising a set of values, principles and actions which can be applied globally as well as locally. This strategy sets out the core elements of this engagement, and follows on from the University's overall mission to 'look to the future' – seeking opportunities for our development which also benefit society locally, regionally, nationally and internationally.

Guiding principles

3. Mission: Civic engagement is a recognised part of the overall University strategy and is embedded in our core activities of education, scholarship, research and knowledge exchange. We have a clear understanding of the institutional role in civic engagement, its purposes and beneficiaries.
4. Collaborative practice: We are committed to working in partnership with our communities. We have clear access points, engagement mechanisms and policies developed to align with the needs of our partners.
5. Recognition and reward: We recognise the achievements of our staff and students involved in civic engagement, and we support a range of wide activities from volunteering to more formal projects.
6. Evaluating success: We strive to share best practice, and we undertake regular monitoring and review of our civic engagement to facilitate continuous improvement.

Vision and ambition

7. Our vision for being a 21st-century Civic University is rooted in the belief that we should support our communities to prosper and thrive. We are not merely a university in a particular locality, but a university that seeks to be a place-maker, providing leadership in Lincolnshire and beyond.
8. We will strive to educate our students and staff in the meaning and value of active citizenship and of a Civic University actively engaged with its communities to mutual benefit.
9. We are committed to thought-leadership in addressing the challenges facing the world in the 21st century, many of which are evident in our locality. We see a synergy between tackling global challenges and supporting our region. In research, we will work with our region as a 'living laboratory' to develop local solutions that can be translated to the world. We also recognise our responsibility to act as a conduit for global ideas, information and opportunities into our region.
10. We will be a permeable institution, with campuses that are open and accessible to the University's own community of staff and students and to the wider community. In our estates strategy, we will seek appropriate opportunities to enable the community to access our facilities.
11. Each year we will set goals for our civic engagement across a wide range of activities, and we will measure success to ensure we are acting effectively.

Activities

12. Education
 - a) We will support pupils, schools and colleges in our region by sponsoring schools through the Lincolnshire Educational Trust; providing tailored support and enrichment to pupils; and providing initial and on-going teacher training in partnership with schools.
 - b) We will provide adult education, professional development and lifelong learning opportunities in our communities, both formally and informally, in partnership with employers, to support inclusive economic growth.

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- c) We will work in partnership with employers and FE colleges in our region to develop new education and training opportunities, aligned with regional sector priorities, and to support the expansion of higher education as an integral component of local regeneration plans.
 - d) We are committed to widening participation, and we will explore models of university education that support civic engagement, for example through the creation of social enterprises.
13. Economic development
- a) We will support our public and voluntary sectors to enhance our economies and local social infrastructure, to support inclusive growth in a volatile, dynamic and rapidly evolving economy.
 - b) We will work with our Local Enterprise Partnership, providing advice and support for the local industrial strategy, and offering aligned provision and R&D relevant to regional priorities, to create sustainable and successful businesses in our communities.
 - c) As an anchor institution in Lincolnshire, we will work with our local authorities to support growth, and offer our expertise to facilitate their plans and ambitions.
 - d) We will work with employers to provide consultancy and training for their workforce development and growth.
 - e) We will work with partners to support the creation, incubation and acceleration of new businesses, and we will engage in knowledge exchange to support the development of novel technologies, processes and products to support economic growth in our region.
14. Research
- a) We will align our research expertise to address regional concerns where there are synergies with global challenges. Our focus on research impact complements our civic mission.
 - b) We have developed a *Charter for Public Engagement with Research*, and will support public engagement to share university research with wider society, making it more accessible, relevant, valuable, visible, transparent and accountable.
15. Professional practice
- a) We will share our expertise with local industries and organisations, engaging with employers to ensure that our students are educated in line with current professional practice.
 - b) We will support the professions to adapt to 21st-century ways of working through consultancy, work-based learning, and sabbatical opportunities.
16. Arts, science, culture and heritage
- a) We will support the local arts, science, cultural, creative and heritage sectors to grow and thrive, for example by working with local groups and venues to ensure their sustainability and bid for resources; and by creating partnerships that benefit our students and the local community.
 - b) We will facilitate dialogue between these sectors and our local authorities, to plan suitable infrastructure and raise ambitions.
17. Health and wellbeing
- a) We will support and work closely with the health and care eco-system in our region. We will address the needs and support the future success of the regional health workforce through education, professional development, research, consultancy and scholarship. We will work to provide evidence and solutions to improve the outcomes for people living in rural areas.
 - b) We will work in partnership with the health and care community to develop opportunities for our staff and students to enhance their own wellbeing.
18. Safety and security
- a) We will work with local residents and community groups to enhance the quality of life and environment, and to promote sustainability in our city and region.
 - b) We take seriously our responsibility to provide a safe space for debate and discussion for our university and the wider community.
 - c) We will work with local authorities, the police and local communities to enhance safety and security, to enable our staff, students and the local community to live well and peacefully.
 - d) We will work with the armed forces in our region to ensure we support their ambitions for workforce education and meet their research needs.