

## **MAYORAL HUMBER GROWTH BOARD**

**25<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2026**

### **LOCAL INNOVATION PARTNERSHIP FUND (LIPF) BIDS**

#### **1. Purpose**

- 1.1 This paper presents the context of the Local Innovation Partnership Fund (LIPF) programme, the outline areas of activity in the two proposals for the region, and presents an opportunity for the Board to set the strategic drivers for the programmes' further development.
- 1.2 The (LIPF) programmes being developed across the Humber provide an optimal opportunity for the Board to shape innovation activity in the region in the clean energy, agri-tech, defence and advanced manufacturing sectors.
- 1.3 The Board is recommended to:
  - a. Note the contents of this report.
  - b. Endorse the principles of a Humber-Teesside partnership LIPF programme.
  - c. Endorse the principles of the Lincolnshire LIPF programme.

#### **2. LIPF context**

- 2.1 The LIPF is a £500m research and development funding programme run by UK Research and Innovation (UKRI). It aims to unlock regional economic growth through innovation activities by providing funding for 'triple helix' partnerships between civic institutions, industry, and universities.
- 2.2 Through co-creation with UKRI, these organisations identify and assemble a compelling portfolio of activities that draw upon local research and innovation strengths and support the high-potential 'innovation clusters' within their region, empowering innovation leadership and delivering impact, at scale.

2.3 UKRI named ten earmarked regions that could each receive up to £30m of funding. This did not include Hull and East Yorkshire, Greater Lincolnshire, or the Humber.

2.4 LIPF also includes a competitive strand for high-potential innovation clusters not covered by an earmarked award. In February 2026, two LIPF proposals relevant to the Humber were submitted to the competed strand.

### **3. Humber Innovation Accelerator for Clean Energy**

3.1 Hull and East Yorkshire Combined Authority led the submission of a Humber Innovation Accelerator for Clean Energy (HIACE) programme. This programme focusses on enabling clean energy industries on both sides of the Humber to progress with innovation activities that will allow them to effectively deploy their projects to maximise local growth and job creation.

3.2 In April 2026, UKRI confirmed that the HIACE programme was selected to receive up to £30m of funding provided that it developed a partnership approach with the Teesside LIPF programme, which targeted similar themes.

3.3 A Humber-Teesside partnership programme is now being developed and will submit its final proposal to UKRI on 7 September. See Appendix 1 for further detail on the Humber-Teesside partnership programme.

### **4. Lincolnshire Engine for Dual-use Growth & Excellence**

4.1 Greater Lincolnshire Combined County Authority led the submission of the Lincolnshire Engine for Dual-use Growth & Excellence (EDGE) proposal. The programme will develop an innovation cluster operating in the dual-use crossover space between agri-tech and defence and security, optimising the growth potential of dual-use technologies such as:

- a) Multi-platform sensing, data integration and real-time analytics;
- b) AI and machine learning for high-speed decision support;
- c) Cyber security, digital twins and secure data environments;
- d) Autonomous systems and advanced robotics.

4.2 In April 2026, UKRI confirmed that the Lincolnshire EDGE programme was selected to receive up to £20m of funding.

4.3 The Lincolnshire EDGE programme is now being further developed and will submit its final proposal to UKRI on 7 September. See Appendix 2 for further detail on the Lincolnshire EDGE programme.

## **5. Conclusion and next steps**

- 5.1 The LIPF programmes being developed across Humber and Greater Lincolnshire provide an opportunity for the Mayoral Humber Growth Board to shape innovation activity in the region in the clean energy, agri-tech, defence and advanced manufacturing sectors.
- 5.2 Further work will progress in both programme areas over the summer, ahead of the submission of funded programme portfolios in Autumn 2026.
- 5.3 These portfolios will be considered by a UKRI panel and funding awards will be confirmed following further discussion. Funded programmes will receive their awards directly from UKRI, with both Combined Authorities playing key roles, working with business leaders and universities, to coordinate and amplify the opportunities presented by this work.
- 5.4 It is recommended that the Board receive a further update once the outcome of funding awards is confirmed, and discuss how best to ensure this investment can be targeted to benefit Humber residents and businesses.