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A mixed set of results but high confidence going into 2022

CHAMBER QUARTERLY ECONOMIC SURVEY Q4

THE Lincolnshire Chamber of Commerce's Quarterly Economic Survey, part of the UK's largest independent business survey and a leading indicator of UK GDP growth, has found that businesses have high confidence going into 2022, but tempered with significant price pressures constraining activity.

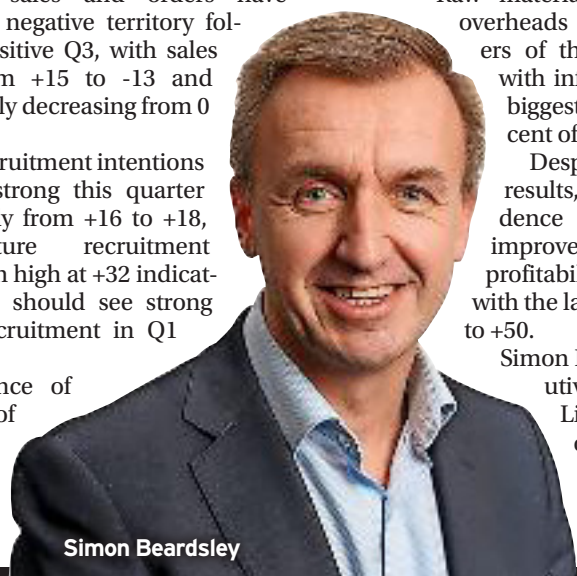
Running from November 1-21, the survey was conducted prior to the Omicron variant impacting on the nation.

UK market figures have seen a small dip but remain relatively strong, with both sales and orders moving further into positive territory and returning to 2018 levels, with sales shifting from +38 to +29 and orders increasing from +27 to +11.

Overseas sales and orders have returned to negative territory following a positive Q3, with sales moving from +15 to -13 and orders slightly decreasing from 0 to -7.

Future recruitment intentions have held strong this quarter rising slightly from +16 to +18, while future recruitment plans remain high at +32 indicating that we should see strong levels of recruitment in Q1 2022.

The balance of responses of businesses expecting to increase prices in



Simon Beardsley

the next three months smashed previous records, increasing from +59 to +68.

Raw material prices and other overheads remain the key drivers of these price pressures, with inflation remaining the biggest concern for 66 per cent of respondents.

Despite the mixed set of results, there is high confidence that 2022 will see improvements in terms of profitability and turnover, with the latter moving from +41 to +50.

Simon Beardsley, chief executive at Lincolnshire Chamber of Commerce, said: "Our latest survey shows a positive outlook for the

economy going in to 2022, however with companies now having to tackle the impact of

Omicron and further changes to rules on imports and exports of goods to the EU, as well as ongoing supply chain disruption and recruitment challenges and rising energy costs, means there are significant hurdles for businesses in the months ahead.

"As a Chamber network we have lobbied for support and if the current restrictions persist or are tightened further then a much more comprehensive support package that matches the scale of any new measures, will need to be put in place.

"The focus is to create an environment for Lincolnshire businesses to grow, thrive and succeed."

Cllr Colin Davie, executive councillor for economy at the county council, said: "There's some renewed confidence that

2022 will see continued recovery for our county businesses, with many looking to recruit now and in the future, and a more positive outlook.

Globally though conditions remain tough with new variants of Covid, price increases and supply chain difficulties all playing a part in continued pressures.

"Before Christmas, the government announced further financial support for specific sectors most affected by the spread of Covid 19.

"We're expecting more information on this soon and along with local support, I hope Lincolnshire businesses will continue to have confidence in an improving outlook."

■ Visit www.lincs-chamber.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/QES-Q4-2021-Report.pdf for full briefing

ChamberMATTERS



Hundreds of donations for Christmas toy appeal

LOCAL people have rallied round and donated an estimated 680 gifts to an urgent Christmas charity drive at the end of 2021.

Through Lincolnshire Co-op's Travel's Toy Bank appeal, hundreds of presents have been delivered to 12 local charitable causes in time for Christmas.

Colleagues ran a 'toy bank' drive from Monday 8th November to Wednesday 1st December. The campaign called on people to donate new toys at any of the society's 14 travel branches.

Disadvantaged families in the area then received the donations, often via welfare officers from schools or social services. Gifts were varied to suit ages 0-16 and include toiletries, cuddly toys, and gadgets for older children.

One of the causes to benefit is Bridge Church, based in Lincoln. According to the charity, it's important that members of the community know that others are looking out for them around the holidays.

The festive campaign works in conjunction with Lincolnshire Co-op's existing year-round initiative that offers customers the option of donating £1 to the cause when booking their holiday through the society's travel agents.



Callum Pirie and Chloe Lawson

Allison Group's Larkfleet Homes takes on new name

MOVE WILL INTRODUCE ALLISON HOMES TO NEW REGIONS

AS Allison Group embraces an ambitious growth strategy, it has announced that Larkfleet Homes will be rebranded as Allison Homes.

The move comes after both brands were purchased by management and US investment firm PIMCO in November 2021.

The Group has developments in Lincolnshire, Rutland, Cambridgeshire, Devon, Somerset, Norfolk and Suffolk will be rebranding all current and future sites to Allison Homes.

The move will introduce Allison Homes to new regions and mark the start of the company's transition to becoming a national housebuilder.

John Anderson, CEO of Allison Group said: "Allison is a very well-known and respected name in the East Midlands and as we establish the foundations for our ambitious growth, we felt we needed to consolidate the business under one, strong professional brand.

"The team is making great progress in many key areas including build quality and service and using the Allison Homes brand everywhere will only reinforce engagement and harness our strengths"

The rebrand has also given the team the opportunity to refine the vision and values that shape the business as it is introduced to a much wider audience.

John continues: "Refining our vision and values has been an



incredibly interesting and rewarding process.

"Now every member of our team has a clear understanding of our overarching ambition for this new era: To build high quality homes and thriving communities, while caring for the environment, our customers and our people.

"We are building relationships, not just great homes. Durable relationships, not only with our customers but with our supply chain, landowners, agents and all key stakeholders.

"The purchase by PIMCO has given us significant resources to reshape our business and drive our strategic growth, which will see us deliver 2,000 homes a year within the next five years.

"Despite these ambitious plans our values which include, kindness, integrity, and continuous improvement, will be central to our operation.

"This will ensure that the customer and their needs are the driving force as we strive to deliver high-quality developments using innovative technology and construction methods."

To support the company's renewed commitment to shaping their growth around the customer, their needs and experience, Allison Homes has started a major recruitment drive.

Plans are in place for the head office team to grow further, along with the expansion of existing local offices in Tiverton, Devon

and East Tuddenham, Norfolk.

John concludes: "Ultimately, we are a retail business and therefore the customer must be central to our approach.

"Improving their experience while delivering outstanding new homes, in the right places, will be key to meeting our growth ambitions.

"We're all excited about the future as we move forward together as Allison Homes.

"There's fantastic energy amongst all members of the team whether they are based on site or in the offices. And a renewed understanding of, and determination to place, customers back at the heart of our activity as we create houses they are proud to call home."

Chamber Network finds rising cyber-attack fears

MORE than half of firms believe their exposure to cyber attacks has increased due to working from home arrangements.

One in ten firms have been the victim of a cyber-attack in the last year.

This rises to more than one in seven for larger firms with more than 50 employees.

Only one in five firms have cyber-security accreditations in place.

A new survey of almost 1,000 UK firms, of all sectors and sizes, has revealed that more than half believe their IT systems have been left more exposed to attack following the huge increase in people working from home during the pandemic.

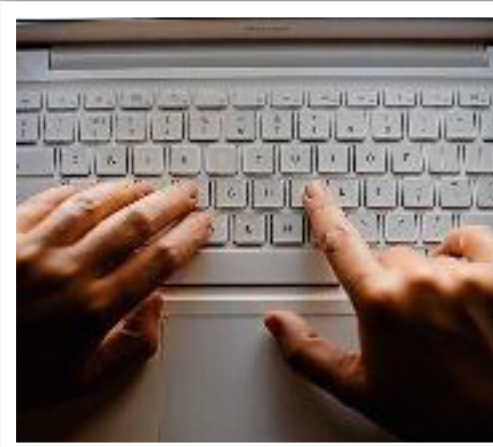
The research by the British Chambers of

Commerce and IT company, Cisco, also found that one in 10 firms said they had been the victim of a cyber-attack in the last year, rising to more than one in seven for larger firms.

Yet despite this, four out of five firms said they did not currently have accredited cyber-security measures in place to protect against attacks.

Lincolnshire Chamber of Commerce members can make use of a 24/7 Cyber Security Helpline, and receive exclusive cyber security discounts from our Business Savings partner Custodia Continuity.

■ To find more about this offering and to upgrade your cyber security, visit www.lincs-chamber.co.uk/business-savings/



ChamberMATTERS

Launch of Lincoln to Nottingham rail business survey

MIDLANDS Connect is currently exploring options to improve the rail service between Lincoln and Nottingham, a critical route connecting the East and West Midlands.

Evidence suggests that the rail network may be under-serving the potential market and they are keen to understand how improvements to the service may impact you, your business, and your employees.

Improvements to the Lincoln to Nottingham rail line could make it easier for your staff to commute, help your company grow and give

you better access to the East Midlands freeport.

The organisation would appreciate you taking the time to complete a short survey, which will support their future strategy along this route.

This survey will close on February 11, 2022, with results to be announced soon after.

■ **To take the survey, which will take just a few minutes to complete, visit: www.midlandsconnect.consultationonline.co.uk/lincoln-nottingham**



Emergency service LIVES shortlisted for NHS Award

LINCOLNSHIRE'S emergency service charity LIVES is delighted to announce that its Community Emergency Medicine Service (CEMS) and Falls Response Unit have been shortlisted for Best Not for Profit Working in Partnership with the NHS at the HSJ Partnership Awards 2022.

The development of the charity's CEMS and Falls Response services have helped improve patient care, save resources across the healthcare system, and deliver an excellent patient experience. Both services use LIVES emergency responding skills to bring care to those unwell patients who might otherwise be admitted to hospital.

Working with East Midlands Ambulance Service (EMAS) and NHS Lincolnshire, LIVES deploy their doctors, paramedics and nurses to emergencies that have originated via a 999 or 111 call. The main aim is to provide treatment and care for unwell patients within their own homes or communities, helping to avoid visits to A&E and hospital admissions.

During 2020-21, the CEMS team were called to 2,437 unwell patients; 56% of those were able to stay at home with no further treatment, 28% of patients attended A&E, while 11% were referred to another healthcare professional. From August 2020 to year end, the Falls Response Unit has attended 1,538 patients. Of these, 54% have remained at home following their 999 call.

The HSJ Partnership Awards recognise the outstanding contributions made to healthcare in what has been an exceptional and challenging period in the sector.

Chris Cole, head of operations at LIVES, said: "We are delighted to have been shortlisted for this award, recognising the collaborative efforts and dedication of our staff members to successfully implement our CEMS and Falls Response services."

"We are committed to delivering improved outcomes for our patients, and to be chosen among the other incredible nominees is a wonderful achievement. This nomination has been a tremendous boost to our staff and volunteers at LIVES and I am sure it will bolster our continued efforts to improve our services."

The official HSJ Partnership Awards ceremony will be held on Thursday, March 24, at Westminster Park Plaza in London.

Ongo's big 2021 roundup

IT WAS A SUCCESSFUL YEAR

ONGO is thanking their customers and colleagues after a successful year of new homes, community projects, supporting each other and more involvement than ever with tenants.

Some of their key highlights include over 180 new homes over the last 12 months. Building 78 homes for affordable rent, shared ownership, rent to buy and outright sale, along with acquiring 111 properties in Lincoln.

Myos House, Ongo's outstanding dementia care scheme, was just one of the developments completing this year. It's made up of 25, modern two-bedroom apartments and specially designed, spacious communal spaces for residents to socialise and relax.

Over 670 people have been given employment support, with 400 now in work or training. Their mental health services have supported more than 300 individuals since



March, making it their busiest year yet.

Huge new projects have been launched. These include Kickstart, a government funded scheme, to get young people into placements. To date Ongo has supported 70 young people into jobs within 31 companies, with many being taken on full time after their placement is up.

Endeavour which supports disadvantaged people from communities across North Lincolnshire, focusing on mental health issues and barriers to work also begun. And My Move, an online platform allowing users to browse homes and apply direct, along with Reconnect, a post-pandemic programme to re-engage members of the community.

Over 600 people have been given support to improve their financial situation, with £692,732 of extra income gained. More than 280 tenants have been helped to sustain their tenancy, and overall there has been a decrease in rent arrears.

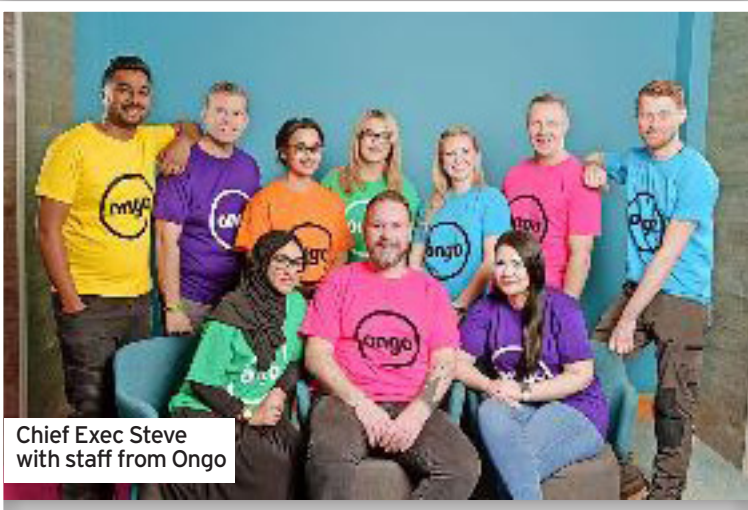
Partnership working has continued with the Police on a number of operations, with Ongo's cuckooing work winning 'Project of the year' at the National Resolve ASB awards, and their Safer Streets project in Westcliff being hailed a huge success.

One further exciting achievement was appointing a Sustainability and Carbon Reduction Manager to coordinate and deliver their aim of being a net zero organisation by 2050.

Financially they have remained at a V1 rating, with their governance being upgraded to G2.

Steve Hepworth, Chief Exec at Ongo said: "Looking ahead we're going to have a real focus on delivering great services to our tenants as well as building new homes and developing our environmental work to reduce our carbon footprint."

■ **To find out more about Ongo and their homes, projects or services, follow them on social media or go to: www.ongo.co.uk**



Chief Exec Steve with staff from Ongo

ChamberMATTERS

St Barnabas Hospice leads the way for innovative healthcare in Lincolnshire

THE SERVICE HAS BEEN AWARDED PERMANENT SUPPORT AND FUNDING

ON the back of winning the Michael Howard Award from Hospice UK, the Community Care Nurse Specialists at St Barnabas Hospice have recently picked up the Innovation in Healthcare and Wellbeing award at the Lincolnshire Technology and Innovation Awards hosted by CityX.

Coupled with their double award win, the Hospice is delighted to announce that this service, which was originally given funding from Lincolnshire County Council for two years, has now been awarded permanent support and funding going forwards.

Tracey Perrett, Head of Service, Hospitals and Special Projects at Lincolnshire County Council said, "This is a great example of the impact of collaboration and innovative working – delivered with a shared vision and making a difference to people and their families at the end of life.

"Lincolnshire is the only place that has this service, with the county council grant funding.

"And the great news going forward is that it's been agreed to support this service on a permanent basis."

The service came about when Kerry Bareham, Nurse Consultant at St Barnabas Hospice, penned a dissertation for her MSc which highlighted the need for more support in hospitals in identifying palliative care needs.

This research informed a business case for the role of Community Care Nurse Specialists.

These nurses, employed by St Barnabas Hospice, were placed in Lincoln County and Boston Pilgrim hospitals to educate clinicians on how to identify patients in their last year of life and develop person-centred planning.

Without support from United

Receiving the award
Photo: CityX



Lincolnshire Hospitals NHS Trust and the Adult Social Care team at Lincolnshire County Council, the roles would not have been possible.

The two nurses – Ashleigh Robinson (Lincoln) and Holly Musgrave (Boston) began their roles as Community Care Nurse Specialists in 2019. In the past years, they

have been pivotal in having important conversations with patients and families around future care needs.

In their first year in the role, they supported an incredible 552 patients to access end-of-life care sooner.

This is a phenomenal increase of

36.1% compared to before their roles existed.

The Community Care Nurse Specialist roles are now a highly valued part of the local healthcare system, and it is anticipated that this work will be able to expand across other hospital settings that care for the residents of Lincolnshire.

Local commercial storage experts flex with Brexit and Covid

OWNER and Managing Director of Raxel Storage Systems, Matt Daniele, shines a light on the impact of Brexit and Covid on the warehousing, racking and shelving industry.

"We've been extremely busy over the recent months. The extra demand caused by the shipping difficulties as a result of Brexit has meant that businesses are holding more stock in the UK. This obviously has a knock-on effect on businesses like ours, that are here to help businesses expand and optimise their storage space."

The recent changes in the commercial world caused by Brexit and the growth of internet sales caused by Covid have led to some major projects for Raxel. One, in particular, is its work supporting



Bleckmann, the global, third-party logistics giant, with its expansion plans in the UK.

Raxel won the contract with Bleckmann to build and install a large three-tier new mezzanine floor, lighting,

data cabling, power upgrades and sprinkler systems at the new multi-customer distribution centre based in Magna Park, Lutterworth.

"We had the best design concept and overall support package, which included site management, health and safety and all on-site installation for this huge £2+M project which covered a total floor space of over 16,000m²," added Matt.

"We offer so much more than installation as we also handle all the technical aspects and support which gives our customers total confidence in our ability to manage the project from end-to-end."

■ To find out more about how Raxel can optimise your facilities, contact Matt on 01476 569 392 or visit www.raxel.co.uk



International TRADE



TRADE MANIFESTO



New generation of exporters are needed to power economic growth

RESEARCH CONTINUES TO SHOW POOR OVERSEAS TRADE GROWTH

THE Chamber Network, headed by British Chambers of Commerce (BCC), is setting out its manifesto to recruit legions of new UK exporters as its research continues to show poor overseas trade growth:

■ **In Q4 of 2021, just over a quarter of exporting firms (29%) saw their overseas sales increase**

■ **Almost half (47%) saw no change, and a quarter (24%) reported a decrease.**

■ **This is despite substantially more firms reporting improved domestic conditions, with 45% confirming increased UK sales in Q4.**

BCC research also shows that exporters are uniquely facing a wide range of issues, from unprecedented inflationary pressures and global supply chain crises to a raft of new requirements flowing from the EU trade deal.

The Manifesto sets out a comprehensive list of steps to get more UK businesses, currently just 10%, involved in

international trade.

This compares to more than 60% of companies which are members of an Accredited Chamber of Commerce.

To do this the BCC is working with the whole of its Global Business Network, both within the UK and in 76 markets across the world, to help encourage the shift.

It is making the move after 23% of firms surveyed said finding a business partner or distributor overseas would encourage them to either start exporting or export more.

A further 16% of firms also said support with trade documentation would encourage them to start exporting or increase the amount of business they do overseas.

The manifesto sets out a number of steps that the UK government could take to help firms trade with the EU and to make sure that any new trade agreements put the interests of business at their heart.

“

The Manifesto sets out a comprehensive list of steps to get more UK businesses, involved in international trade

Here at the Lincolnshire Chamber of Commerce we have built an International Trade Hub as an advisory service to support our members, whether you are new to exporting and looking for advice in several areas, or you have a specific issue which you need advice on, such as immigration, tax issues and more.

■ **To visit the Hub and get exporting support, visit www.lincs-chamber.co.uk/trade-hub**

Visit www.lincs-chamber.co.uk/trade-manifesto to download the manifesto as PDF



New ChamberCustoms UK Import Tax Calculator for international trade

A NEW UK import tax calculator, developed by the experts at ChamberCustoms and Exabler is quick, easy and free to use.

It can work out the different rates of duty available to your business when importing goods.

Now that the UK has left the EU Common Market, any goods coming from abroad will most likely attract duty and VAT. This fact concerns traders, businesses and private individuals buying goods from other countries. When comparing prices, you will now need to factor in import taxes.

ChamberCustoms wants to help traders keep trading, simplifying tasks as much as possible. As a starting point, you can use our calculator to quickly work out what needs to be paid to HMRC.

We believe our calculator can assist anyone importing goods, from a one-man-band to a large corporation.

Please note that this calculator only understands the duties payable in the UK. It's not going to help you work out what duty may be expected in a foreign country

to import goods from the UK into other countries.

How does this customs duty calculator for the UK work?

■ **Step 1. Firstly, we recommend that you consult the HMRC Tariff to ensure you select the correct Commodity Code for the goods you are importing.**

Input the correct commodity code ('classification' or 'HS Code') in the calculator.

■ **Step 2. Next, you need to select the origin of the goods. The calculator will now require that you provide the value of the goods delivered to the United Kingdom.**

■ **Step 3. The calculator is now able to work out the different rates of duty available to you.**

Assuming the information you provided is correct, and the required supporting documentation is available, the calculator will provide you with an estimated calculation of the duty payable.

■ **To use the UK Import Tax Calculator, visit <https://www.lincs-chamber.co.uk/international-trade/chamber-customs>**



< logistics >



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Flight simulator lands at IASTI

INSTITUTE'S ASPIRING PILOTS ARE DELIGHTED

STUDENTS at the UK's first International Air and Space Training Institute (IASTI) Newark will receive virtual flight training thanks to its in-house simulator.

The Alsim ALX worth £35,000, is a standout feature of the newly developed workshop at Newark College's interim IASTI site, where students get hands-on with the tools and technologies used within the aviation industry.

The institute's aspiring pilots are

delighted to have access to this incredible facility as part of their everyday training.

Through virtual flight training, aspiring pilots at the IASTI can safely hone their skills, practising against a range of variables including day and nighttime flying, weather conditions and even different aircraft types.

Meanwhile, learners on the engineering pathway can become accustomed to what happens while an aircraft is in flight and how to

address faults as they occur.

Jim Guthrie, the Learning and Skills Lead at IASTI Newark, said: "We're excited to have the simulator system here at IASTI Newark. It will provide extraordinary experience and training for learners, allowing preparation for fully powered flight within light aircraft.

"The simulator allows experience within different aircraft types that will prove both enjoyable and important whilst allowing progress from light aircraft to small multi engine aircraft within the simulator environment."

The IASTI enables students to learn from aviation professionals as



they develop the skills needed to become pilots, engineers or flight dispatchers, leading to Level 3 Diplomas in Aviation Operations or Aircraft Maintenance.

Bespoke study programmes are co-designed by industry experts to provide a sustainable talent pipeline within the sector.

The IASTI is one of nine priority projects developed by Newark

Towns Fund Board and is funded through the Government's Towns Fund initiative.

A planning application, which will see a multi-million-pound premises for IASTI built in the Centre of Newark by 2023, is awaiting approval.

Until then students are based at the specialised interim IASTI facility at the Newark College campus.



Lincs & Notts Air Ambulance sign off 2021 as busiest year

A LOT has happened at LNAA in 2021, from moving to a new headquarters to upgrading the helicopter, the charity hasn't stood still through what has been a monumental year of change.

And the numbers reflect the pace of transformation with the crew having responded to more than 1,400 missions in 2021. Compared to 1,095 in 2020 and 877 in 2019, it's a significant leap.

The addition of a second helicopter in the summer came in response to an anticipated surge in visitors to the Lincolnshire coast as lock-down measures eased.

This contributed to the rise in call-outs as it became the busiest summer the charity had ever had.

Throughout the year additional, highly skilled doctors and paramedics have joined LNAA with some travelling from Aberdeen, Kent and even Lisbon to be part of a team that

is leading the way in this specialist sector. This meant that by September, crews were able to respond day and night using a mix of the helicopter and critical care cars.

The charity teams and crew moved into a new, purpose-built headquarters in Lincoln and celebrated the official opening in September when HRH The Earl of Wessex, officially opened the building.

Another stride in clinical care came with the introduction of blood plasma.

Blood was already carried on board but plasma was added because it is the component of blood that helps it to clot - integral to the care given at the scene of a traumatic incident, anywhere within the 3,500sq miles LNAA covers.

"Our crews continue to be out there and, just like their NHS colleagues,

they are dealing with the added pressure and complexity the spread of Covid brings, said CEO Karen Jobling. The only difference is that we are there purely because of the generous donations we receive from our communities.

She added: "We are so pleased that we have been able to be there for more patients in 2021.

Of course, with each mission costing on average £3,500, it comes at a cost.

It is only because of the generosity of our supporters that more patients have been helped by a crew with the highest skills and standards in pre-hospital care.

Everyone here at LNAA would like to send all of our wonderful supporters our whole-hearted thanks."

■ Visit www.ambucopter.org.uk/ donate to help save lives.



Crew members

ChamberMATTERS

Visual Print and Design welcomes new Project Delivery Manager

LINCOLN-BASED print and design company, Visual Print and Design, has welcomed Project Delivery Manager, Andrew Axford.

Andrew has over 20 years of varied experience in the print industry and his speciality is in print finishing and fulfilment.

Andrew will be responsible for delivering a wide variety of print and design projects and ensuring customer satisfaction throughout.

Before joining Visual Print and Design, Andrew helped run a family-owned trade print finishing business before venturing into food and drink sales.

His career has now come full circle and is excited to be returning to the world of print and working closely with businesses to help them achieve great results from their print marketing.

Andrew Axford said: "I'm thrilled to be back working in print and with such an innovative company as Visual Print and Design.

What attracted me to the role was the variety of services they offer and the types of customers they work with.

We've got some ambitious goals for the next 12 months and I can't wait to help us achieve them."

This new hire has come after Visual Print and Design welcomed three new members to the team and promoted a fourth internally at the end of 2021 as demand for its print and design services grow.

Visual Print and Design help organisations across the UK make the right first impression through a wide selection of bespoke print services, promotional merchandise and creative design.

■ To find out more visit, www.visualprint.co.uk



Langleys Solicitors start year with two senior promotions

24-YEAR SERVICE REWARDED

LANGLEYS Solicitors, the Lincoln-based commercial and private client law firm has promoted Helen Murphy to Partner, and James Spittlehouse to Senior Associate, as it recognises the continued dedication of its staff.

With 24 years spent working at Langleys, Helen has vast experience in dealing with personal injury cases, primarily accidents for people who have suffered from serious injuries, catastrophic injuries or fatalities and clinical negligence claims for people who have suffered harm due to negligent treatment.

For many years, Helen has been a trustee/volunteer for Headway Lincolnshire, a registered charity that provides support for people who have suffered from brain injuries and their families and carers.

In her new role as Partner, Helen will continue with her diverse caseload and will remain as the lead

of the Serious Injury Department. Helen is a member of the Law Society Personal Accreditation Scheme and is classed as a Senior Litigator by the Association of Personal Injury Lawyers.

Helen said: "Helping an injured person is not just about getting any compensation they deserve, it is also about supporting them through what can be a long and difficult process".

As Partner Helen will continue to grow and expand the Serious Injury Team.

Alongside Helen's appointment, Langleys has also promoted James Spittlehouse to senior associate after joining the firm in 2012.

Since then, James has worked within the property team at Langleys and has been busy building up a reputation as a safe pair of hands for complicated and high value land and commercial property deals.

It is also about supporting them through what can be a long and difficult process

Helen Murphy



ChamberMATTERS



Greater Lincolnshire LEP launches £2m Fund for the Clean Growth Accelerator

IT AIMS TO TACKLE THE IMPACT OF CLIMATE CHANGE

THE Greater Lincolnshire Local Enterprise Partnership is to reallocate £2m of its existing funding towards a new Clean Growth Accelerator Fund to help tackle the impact of climate change.

Building on the Government's Ten Point Plan for a Green Industrial Revolution and the recently released UK Innovation Strategy, the LEP is inviting organisations and businesses to submit projects that will help to develop innovation and R&D ideas focused on decarbonisation and clean growth.

"We are delighted to announce our new Clean Growth Accelerator Fund for Greater Lincolnshire and Rutland," said Pat Doody, Chair of the Greater Lincolnshire LEP.

"Not only will this fund help us to achieve our Net Zero ambitions,

but it will also ensure that innovation remains at the heart of our economic growth."

The essential criteria for this fund are as follows:

- **proposals should be capital focused but can include a revenue element which should not exceed 10% of the project cost**
- **schemes must be more than £1m in overall value with a minimum grant requested of £500,000**
- **projects that are related to clean growth and driven by R&D and innovation will be considered, but they must relate to one of the following LEP game changers or sectors:**
 - UK Food Valley
 - Humber Freeport
 - Clean energy
 - Defence

- Visitor economy
- Health and care

"The funds must be spent by July 2024, and outcomes must be delivered by 2026/27, so any proposals submitted need to be already well progressed in terms of design, planning and match funding," said Pat Doody.

Match funding identified must be a minimum of 50% (further grant funding level restrictions may apply to SMEs according to government subsidy regulations).

Schemes must demonstrate direct public/private investment leverage and job creation and/or research and development outputs with clear clean growth-related outcomes.

Examples could include:

- **an innovation, research and development project focused on**

clean growth / net zero

- **reducing carbon emissions by 2027 reducing nitrogen oxide and particulate emissions**
- **contributing to Green Masterplan Net Zero targets**
- **decarbonisation of the National Grid or heat production**
- **creating EV charging points**
- **demonstrating the use of Modern Methods of Construction (MMC)**
- **introduction of new clean growth-related products to the market**

Applicants must be located in Greater Lincolnshire and Rutland. The closing date for submissions is 5pm on Monday 28th February 2022.

■ Visit www.greaterlincolnshirelep.co.uk for more information and to submit your application.

Upcoming events ...

Networking Under the Moon

10th February 2022
6.30pm - 8.00pm
Lincoln Cathedral

An Introduction to Export Procedures Workshop

15th February 2022
10.00am - 2.00pm
Zoom

Lincolnshire Construction & Property Network

15th February 2022
12.30pm - 2.30pm
Lincoln Golf Centre

An Introduction to Import Procedures Workshop

17th February 2022
10.00am - 2.00pm
Zoom

ChamberConnect: Networking our way through 2022 - A How-To Webinar

22nd February 2022
10.00am - 11.00am
Zoom

Create Impressive Images with your Smartphone Workshop

23rd February 2022
10.00am - 1.00pm
Lincoln Golf Centre

For more events and bookings, please see our events page: www.lincs-chamber.co.uk/events or call the team on 01522 523333.

New members

■ Amplify Marketing
www.amplifysolutions.co.uk

■ Complete Warehouse Services Ltd
www.completewarehouse-services.co.uk

■ EJ Parker Technical Services (Louth) Ltd
www.edwinjamesgroup.co.uk

■ Micronclean Ltd
www.micronclean.com

■ PJI Building and Groundwork
www.pji-building-groundwork.business.site

■ Revesby Estate Office
www.revesbyestate.co.uk

■ Rimai Ltd

■ Ritchie Services
www.ritchie-services.co.uk