

## SUFFOLK'S FRAMEWORK FOR INCLUSIVE GROWTH – A SUMMARY

### WHY HAVE WE REVIEWED OUR APPROACH TO GROWTH?

**SUFFOLK LOCAL AUTHORITIES AND PARTNERS RECOGNISE THAT TO MEET OUR COMMUNITIES' FUTURE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL NEEDS WE MUST PLAN FOR GROWTH IN A STRATEGIC AND INTEGRATED WAY.**

We are working together to deliver a Suffolk Framework for Inclusive Growth to drive forward economic growth (our jobs), infrastructure investment (our transport, communication, utilities, education & health facilities) and residential growth (our homes). We want to have a prospering economy, of national and international significance that also unlocks wider benefits so that local people and places thrive. By approaching growth in a coherent and integrated way Suffolk can shape our places to meet our current needs and deliver our future ambitions. The Framework is being developed in partnership, across all District / Borough Councils and the County Council, our LEPs, the University of Suffolk and the Chamber of Commerce with guidance from police and health organisations.

**LEADERS AND CHIEF EXECUTIVES ARE COMMITTED TO SUPPORTING OUR ECONOMY; PROVIDING MORE, HIGHER SKILLED JOBS AT INCREASED WAGE LEVELS; FOR OUR COMMUNITIES.**

Suffolk has a diverse economy with high levels of employment. However, historically wages and productivity have remained lower than the UK average. To remain competitive Suffolk

must move from a low wage economy to one of new and expanding businesses that consolidates our strengths (including energy technology, agriculture & food / drink processing, ICT research & innovation, life sciences including global expertise in equine and bloodstock science) and enables us to secure investment. Within the region we are supporting and drawing value from Cambridge and Norwich, two of the five fastest growing cities in the UK.

**TO SUPPORT OUR EXISTING ECONOMY, CURRENT DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES AND DELIVER SUFFOLK'S FUTURE AMBITIONS WE MUST SECURE SIGNIFICANT INVESTMENT IN NEW AND IMPROVED INFRASTRUCTURE, WHILST ENHANCING OUR ENVIRONMENT.**

We need to invest in infrastructure that **enables development** such as building / maintaining roads; investing in our passenger and freight rail routes; delivering broadband to all areas of Suffolk; providing coastal protection and flood defences; and ensuring consistent, clean, and efficient power and water supplies. We also need to invest in infrastructure that **supports development**, such as schools; health care facilities; green spaces and social facilities including libraries and community centres. We will continue to champion the protection and enhancement of Suffolk's natural and historic environment and our adaptation to climate change, to ensure we maximise the benefits our environment will deliver, to our economic growth and health and wellbeing for now and future generations.

## WHAT WE HAVE DONE SO FAR?

**WE HAVE REVIEWED AND CONSIDERED THE GROWTH AND INVESTMENT PLANS PUT FORWARD BY NEIGHBOURING AUTHORITIES AND RECOGNISE THE COMPETITIVE ENVIRONMENT IN WHICH WE OPERATE.**

Suffolk's neighbours (Essex, Cambridge and Norfolk) have plans for significant growth over the next two decades, much of this growth located along our shared borders. Infrastructure investment will be secured on the back of these plans and Suffolk must ensure that priorities are identified, and investment delivered to provide a coherent approach to planning for the future. We need to secure investment into the region's transport network, utility provision, digital communications infrastructure and flood defences and ensure we connect with our neighbours to deliver the greatest impact from this funding.

**WE HAVE BEEN REVIEWING THE LOCATIONS WHERE GROWTH SHOULD BE FOCUSED AND IDENTIFYING THE INVESTMENT NEEDED TO MAKE SURE THESE LOCATIONS CAN BE DEVELOPED IN AN INCLUSIVE AND SUSTAINABLE WAY.**

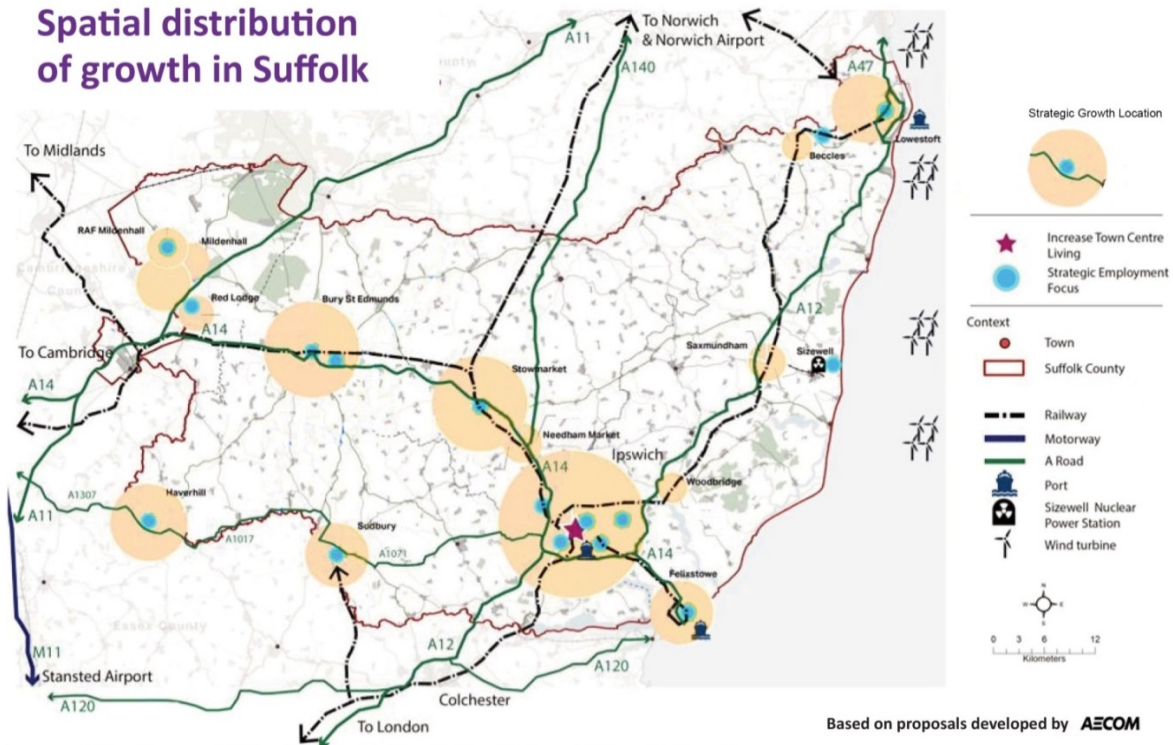
In 2016, as part of our proposals for devolution and a bid to create a Combined Mayoral Authority for Norfolk & Suffolk, the Suffolk Local Authorities commissioned AECOM consultants to develop options for a Suffolk wide approach to spatial planning and to identify the infrastructure required for the future. The proposed spatial pattern put forward by the consultants focuses on the benefits of agglomeration, rather than piecemeal development, and is anticipated to be a better way to secure funding and investment to unlock Suffolk's potential. Initial work has identified **investment of between £2.2bn and £4.7bn** to upgrade and develop the necessary infrastructure to meet Local Plan growth forecasts, as well as the additional growth that is required to secure our economic prosperity in the future.

## OUR STRATEGY GOING FORWARD

**WE WILL PRIORITISE INVESTMENT IN TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURE TO DELIVER GROWTH IN AND AROUND THE IPSWICH AREA AND ALONG OUR STRATEGIC ROUTES (A14, RAIL CORRIDORS, A12, A11)**

Strengthening the role of Ipswich through investment in infrastructure will "unlock" land in the surrounding area enabling both sustainable jobs growth and the delivery of homes. We will explore solutions for development to the North of Ipswich. Such investment will allow Ipswich to strengthen its role as an anchor in the Ipswich – Norwich – Cambridge triangle and will strengthen our connectivity to London – allowing Suffolk to benefit from its proximity to these areas and further boost our economy and our key locations for investment.

## Spatial distribution of growth in Suffolk



## WE RECOGNISE THE DEMOGRAPHIC CHALLENGES WE ARE FACING AND THE IMPACT THESE CHANGES HAVE ON THE NEED TO BUILD MORE NEW HOMES.

Suffolk's population is forecast to increase by over 10% in the next 20 years. Within this growth the proportion of older people increases by nearly 50%. Currently 1 in 5 residents in Suffolk is over 65 and this is forecast to increase to 1 in 3 residents by 2037. This increase in numbers and average life expectancy means we will need significantly more homes in the future. Current estimates of the number of homes needed range from targets in local plans; an allocation of 67,100 new homes by 2036, to an ambitious target of 95,000 new homes set as part of our earlier Norfolk / Suffolk devolution discussions. The latter was predicated on receiving up to £25m per annum from Government with additional housing monies of £15m over five years for Ipswich. The local plan target figure equates

to approximately 3,000 new homes per annum, which is 1% of the UK total. We will work across Suffolk to identify opportunities for increased public-sector delivery of homes where possible.

## THIS PATTERN OF INVESTMENT AND DEVELOPMENT WILL STRENGTHEN THE ROLE OF OUR PORTS; FELIXSTOWE, IPSWICH AND LOWESTOFT; AS VITAL GATEWAYS FOR UK TRADE.

The Port of Felixstowe is recognised as a major gateway with over 40% of all container traffic entering the UK coming through the Port. A coherent invest to grow strategy for the Ipswich area and East West transport axis (both along the A14 and East West passenger / freight rail routes) will enable Felixstowe and our other ports to support the wider expansion and improvement of the logistics and distribution sector in Suffolk, increasing the sector's contribution to the local, regional and national economy.

**SUFFOLK'S COAST IS RECOGNISED AS A CENTRE FOR ENERGY GENERATION, PIONEERING INNOVATIVE APPROACHES TO RENEWABLE TECHNOLOGIES AND TARGETED INVESTMENT WILL ALLOW FURTHER ECONOMIC BENEFITS TO BE REALISED.**

To maximise Suffolk's strengths in energy generation and renewable energy technologies requires significant investment in infrastructure, not least transport connectivity along the A12, the development of Sizewell C and investment in Lowestoft, as Suffolk's second town. This investment has started, through the commitment to the Third Crossing at Lake Lothing but more needs to be done if we are to remain at the forefront of the energy sector.

**EXPANDING THE OPPORTUNITIES OFFERED BY OUR POST 16 EDUCATION AND TRAINING PROVIDERS IS CRUCIAL TO RAISING ASPIRATIONS AND DELIVERING THE SKILLED EMPLOYEES NEEDED FOR THE FUTURE.**

The University of Suffolk and Suffolk's post 16 training providers, including our FE colleges, must continue to grow and work together to deliver increased impact. This growth will improve Suffolk's ability to both attract and retain graduates, boosting Suffolk's skills base and leading to a cycle of improvements in education and skills training (both facilities and provision) throughout the workforce at all ages.

**WE WILL WORK TOGETHER TO PLAN AND SECURE INVESTMENT IN OUR INFRASTRUCTURE, SO WE HAVE CONNECTED PLACES THAT CAN SUSTAIN THE JOBS AND HOMES SUFFOLK NEEDS.**

Our priorities for investment will focus on strengthening the key transport corridors into and across Suffolk (including A14, A12, A140 and the A11 and river crossings in Ipswich and Lowestoft), our rail routes (GEM1 and East West rail connectivity), and our utility needs (additional electricity sub-stations, water and sewer improvements, gas reinforcements and digital communications to all areas). We will also invest in coastal and flood management defences, waste and recycling operations, schools and health care facilities, to meet both current resident and business needs and future demand. The London–Ipswich–Norwich–Cambridge diamond encompasses seven airports and the two largest ports in Britain.

*Through additional investment in our infrastructure Suffolk will continue to:*

- provide the largest gateway for UK plc trade through national and internationally significant ports;
- lead the UK in energy technology, delivering both significant generation from existing and new sources and innovative solutions to long term energy demand through renewables development;
- deliver world leading research, development and implementation of ICT solutions building on the success of BT and the existing cluster at Adastral Park, and benefitting from investment into the Cambridge Norwich Tech Corridor (A11).

## **GOVERNMENT ARE EXPLORING OPTIONS TO ENCOURAGE GREATER JOINT PLANNING ACROSS DISTRICT AND BOROUGH BOUNDARIES AND SUFFOLK LEADERS ARE KEEN TO DEVELOP THEIR APPROACH IN PARTNERSHIP WITH GOVERNMENT.**

Our Districts and Boroughs have Local Plans that allocate land for jobs and homes within their boundaries and that are approved by Government inspectors. To respond to the challenges facing our economy and our need for homes, Government are now asking local authorities to work in partnership to develop joint approaches to wider areas.

These joint documents (to be known as Statements of Common Ground) can be developed on either a County wide basis or for specific geographic areas / transport corridors. Suffolk Authorities will work with Government to develop Statements of Common Ground alongside our work to finalise existing Local Plans and we will engage with communities throughout the process.

## **KEY MESSAGES ALREADY REPORTED TO GOVERNMENT**

- Suffolk is developing an innovative approach to planning for the future, developing a framework for infrastructure investment aligning with plan making and delivering place based community growth
- Suffolk is willing to test approach to Statement of Common Ground (SoCG) approach as outlined in the Government's Housing White Paper and building on the work of our planning and infrastructure framework
- Suffolk is keen to implement the housing elements of the devolution agreement that was previously developed and secure more homes for its residents
- With additional powers and investment in infrastructure Suffolk councils could enable additional homes to be delivered, meeting resident demand both now and in the future.