



Devolution for Norfolk and Suffolk

To Andy Wood, Independent Chair of the East Anglia Leaders Group:

The business community across Suffolk and Norfolk is writing to you to demonstrate our strong support and endorsement of the Devolution deal for the East that could help further transform our economy and create even greater opportunities for growth.

New Anglia LEP has already secured a £221 million Growth Deal with Government, investing in new roads, digital infrastructure, skills and targeted business support. Together with our partners, we have helped create 350 new businesses and 4,400 jobs so far. But devolution brings with it an opportunity to do so much more, and we firmly believe none of us can afford to let it pass.

The additional devolved powers and funding on offer - £25 million a year for 30 years and £130 million for new homes - will help us realise our ambition to create a £43 billion economy in the East.

Public consultation has already begun and we want the Government and local authorities to hear the powerful voice of business as we take this important step.

There is majority support from local authorities across Suffolk and Norfolk and the New Anglia LEP board has already unanimously endorsed the proposed devolution deal. Already we have secured support from leading businesses and education leaders across the East, including Aviva, the East of England Co-op, Suffolk and Norfolk Chambers of Commerce, UEA, University of Suffolk, NUA and West Suffolk College.

This is all about establishing The East as truly international economy; competing and winning in the UK and global marketplace; a secure base for businesses and their supply chains; a modern, mobile and accessible economy too; with thriving sectors including all-energy, ICT and digital, food and health research and financial services, with world-leading research and innovation hubs; and with our schools, colleges and universities investing and inspiring young people into better skills.

The devolution deal will build on this and help us deliver many more of the crucial projects we need to support our economic growth; improving infrastructure from road and rail links to high speed broadband and mobile coverage, offering funding and advice to support business, and empowering the next generation with the skills to drive our economy.

We hope you will take this message from business to the heart of Government. The scale and scope of our ambition needs to be heard loud and clear. We are determined to make the East one of the best places to live, work and learn.

Mark Pendlington
Chairman, New Anglia LEP

John Dugmore
Chief Executive, Suffolk
Chamber of Commerce

Caroline Williams
Chief Executive, Norfolk
Chamber of Commerce