

I LOVE MY JOB!

Ellen Goodwin, Infrastructure Manager, New Anglia LEP



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for Norfolk and Suffolk

- **Where did you go to school?** Queen's School, Wisbech and Neale Wade Community College, March
- **What path did you take to get to your current position?** I joined Norfolk County Council back in 2008 as a planning analyst. My degree in Meteorology had sparked the interest of the recruiter who decided I'd had an analytic mindset! I worked in that role for 3 or 4 years before being promoted to a project manager because of my strong organisational skills. I also worked for a national association focussed on 'place' which gave me access to strategic leaders in this field and took me all over the country. I then took on a role for the Greater Norwich Growth Board, a partnership of Local Authorities and the New Anglia LEP looking at delivering infrastructure to support growth in and around the Norwich area.
- **What subjects did you study?** Maths, Physics and Geography at A-level, Meteorology at Degree and Climatology at Masters
- **How many jobs have you had, and can you name them?** 3 in retail, 2 at Norfolk County Council, 1 at the Association of Directors for the Environment, Economy, Planning and Transport, 1 at the Greater Norwich Growth Board and 1 at the New Anglia LEP.
- **What school subjects link to your career?** Maths – analytical skills and statistics; Geography – focus on place and social impact; English – report writing and communicating with colleagues/partners. Presentation skills; Science – understanding complex things ; IT – using computers on a daily basis; Art – understanding how to communicate visually
- **A typical day in your current role looks like:** I usually get to work about 8.30 but it depends on whether I'm travelling anywhere in particular, sometimes my day can start around 7.00. I'll respond to some emails and then usually settle down to read a report or some information that I need to digest to help inform my work. I usually have 3 or 4 meetings a day, some are internal with colleagues, others are with partners who are interested in improving the economic prospects of Norfolk and Suffolk through infrastructure improvements. Often these meetings will be with colleagues from outside the region as connectivity is critical to my role. I may need to present complex information to colleagues or Board members so that they can make critical decisions.

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- **What is the number #1 piece of advice you've been given that helped you with your career choice?** Consider your strengths and weaknesses but also where you want to be/want you want from your career. Combine the two with a want to learn and you can't go far wrong!
- **Where do you see yourself in 5 years?** Maybe in my boss' job!
- **What is the average salary for this role?** £45,000 per year
- **If you could have done anything differently on your career journey, what would it be?** Be more confident in my abilities/talents. You don't need to know everything at the start but you do need to be enthusiastic and willing to learn. We never stop growing!

Why do you love your job?

I am trusted and respected for my opinion and my knowledge and I have the freedom to be the master of my own destiny. I have a good support structure in place and I know I can always seek advice when I need it. I feel like I have the power to really make a difference and I aim to do so in an economic, social and environmentally sustainable way.