

# Suffolk Chamber update on 'Connecting the East, Accessing the World'



The Voice of Business



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# Transport in the Chamber

Transport is a key issue for Suffolk Chamber of Commerce, consequently the Chamber is involved in a number of boards and have created our transport manifesto based on the feedback we receive from members.

## Governance structures:

- 1 – The Suffolk Chamber of Commerce **Transport Manifesto** maps out the issues which our members care about the most, this provides the Chamber with a focus
- 2 – We host the **Transport & Infrastructure Board** which informally acts as the ‘Suffolk leg’ of the New Anglia Local Transport Board. This board discusses key transport matters including roads, rail, ports and other issues such as electric vehicles, broadband and mobile network enhancements
- 3 – We host the **A14 Strategy Board** which provides a focal point for our A14 campaign, allowing members to discuss key issues and explore further opportunities for influencing Government/DfT and Highways England
- 4 – The Chamber has a seat on the **Suffolk Growth Programme Board**, a grouping which sets out to contribute to economic growth in Suffolk, key partners include Local Authorities, New Anglia LEP, and higher education providers



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# The A14 & Felixstowe

To aid the business community of Suffolk, and to support the LEP's Integrated Transport Strategy, we are leading on the 'No More A14 Delays in Suffolk' campaign.

Key priorities:

- Gaining significant investment in the A14 (£150m)
- Making sure the Government, DfT and Highways England include the A14 in RIS2
- Ensuring the A14 is classified as an expressway (motorway standard two-lane highways)
- Keeping Felixstowe Port, key businesses and freight operators along the A14 flowing safely and reliably

Resulting in:

- Enhancements would reduce travel delays by 15 minutes per day
- The creation of 5,000 jobs during construction and 36,500 in the long term
- Saving the British economy approximately £700m a year by avoiding delays
- Contribute an extra £825m in GVA to the UK economy
- Unlock land for the building of 35,000 new homes
- Ensure the continued success of Felixstowe Port



# The A14 & Felixstowe

Recent actions and going forward:

- House of Commons reception: attended by all of Suffolk's MPs, Secretary of State for Transport (Chris Grayling), and the Brexit Secretary (Stephen Barclay) as well as 45 influential businesses from across Suffolk. This included key speeches from Mark Pendlington, Chair of A14 Strategy Board, Cllr Mary Evans, John Williams of Maritime and Trevor Tyrell from CLAAS.
- Follow-up letter sent to Secretary of State for Transport
- Further collateral could include additional letters sent to DfT and Highways England
- **New Anglia LEP / Public Sector Leaders could support by co-signing or authoring a letter?**

***The A14 is absolutely vital for connecting the wider UK and East with the World via Felixstowe***



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# The A1307

The A1307 is key to linking West Suffolk with the international hub of Cambridge and onwards to the Midlands, as well as London Stansted Airport. As part of this, the Chamber is working with Matt Hancock MP to complete the dualling of the road and to ensure it continues to feature on the Major Road Network.

- We currently have partial funding for a Strategic Outline Business Case but this is predicated on raising the rest of the funding from the Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Combined Authority. Discussions are ongoing.

Our aims:

- Dualling of the road to improve journey times and reduce delays
- Safety improvements to reduce the number of fatalities
- **To continue working with the Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Combined Authority & Public Sector Bodies to push this project forward for the benefit of West Suffolk**



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# Rail (Great Eastern Main Line)

Suffolk Chamber believes rail is key to the future prosperity of Suffolk, and as such, we are supporting the Great Eastern Main Line Taskforce which the LEP facilitates and is involved in:

Our aims:

- To support the Great Eastern Main Line Taskforce
- To support Suffolk County Council and other organisations in pushing the case for further investment in rail
- Adding our support to the necessary campaigns to improve Ely and Haughley Junctions
- To support Greater Anglia's push for an hourly service from Ipswich to Peterborough
- Working with Network Rail and Greater Anglia to push the business case for rail investment including standing invitations to both to attend the Chamber Transport & Infrastructure Board

We will continue to support the LEP wherever possible with their rail strategy



# Sizewell C and associated infrastructure

If Sizewell C goes ahead, this foreign investment will have a profound effect on local infrastructure, as such, Suffolk Chamber of Commerce is working with EDF and local authorities to ensure the infrastructure improvements will match the scope of the project. Despite the effects being local, the infrastructure will be of national importance for those in the supply-chain.

Our aims:

- The Chambers tentative position is to support EDF's rail-led strategy over the road-lead strategy, which would reduce the number of HGVs on the roads (300 less movements a day). The rail-led strategy would also provide long-lasting benefits for the rail network and important upgrades to many level crossings in East Suffolk.
- To support the Theberton Bypass under the rail-led strategy
- Support the upgrades to the A12 at Farnham and Stratford St. Andrew

New Anglia LEP can support the infrastructure improvements related to Sizewell C by responding to the third-stage consultation in line with the above



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# Other transport priorities

Suffolk Chamber of Commerce will continue to support the following projects which are key to the success of Suffolk and the wider region:

- The Upper Orwell Crossings (Bridges B & C)
- Work to the existing Orwell Bridge to ensure it continues to operate in adverse weather
- The Lake Lothing Third Crossing
- The A47 enhancements and the A47 Alliance
- Further enhancements to the A11
- Other road and rail enhancements benefitting Suffolk





# Accessing the world via tech

Suffolk Chamber is also working on other means of infrastructure to access the world, mainly broadband and mobile technologies.

- Suffolk Chamber of Commerce is working with Local Authorities and the NA LEP to support the 'Better Broadband for Suffolk' campaign with the roll-out of superfast broadband across Suffolk
- Working with the British Chambers of Commerce on the 'No More Not Spots' campaign to eradicate mobile phone black spots across Suffolk. As part of this, we held a digital summit with West Suffolk MP, and former Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, Matt Hancock MP.
- We will continue to lobby and work with Mobile UK and mobile network providers for a complete 4G roll out across East Anglia



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