



Delivering an infrastructure revolution in Norfolk & Suffolk – in partnership with Government



Our potential by 2036



88,000
net new jobs



£39
GVA per hour



£200
per week median
wage increase



140,000
new homes



30,000
new businesses



66%
of the population with
NVQ 3+ qualification

The impact of the Covid 19 pandemic has been profound. As part of our commitment to the recovery of our local economy, we believe that an infrastructure revolution – with the support of Government – is key to helping our region restart, rebuild and drive economic growth for the future.

Our domestic broadband and phone networks have never been under such pressure, supporting whole organisations working from home and increasing numbers of businesses trading online. Investments in our transport network will need to be made to make sure we can adapt to changing demands and business models, with a greater emphasis on decarbonising transport and increasing opportunities for cycling and walking.

We are keen to ensure that Government investment is targeted at the East of England – where levels of infrastructure investment per head have consistently been lower than other parts of the country, particularly compared with London and the South East.

The counties of Norfolk and Suffolk have huge potential to contribute to the UK's future success, with global leadership in key growth areas such as agri-food, energy, ICT digital and clean growth. This manifesto outlines the dozen connectivity infrastructure improvements that we believe will enable economic recovery, productivity gains and clean growth in Norfolk and Suffolk.

We have supported each of these projects in a number of different ways, including leadership, influencing, funding and delivery. We are committed to continuing to collaborate effectively into the future to help see each of them delivered, allowing our area to continue to grow and thrive into the future.

To do this, and do it well, we need Government support and financial assistance to help deliver an infrastructure revolution in Norfolk, Suffolk and the East of England.



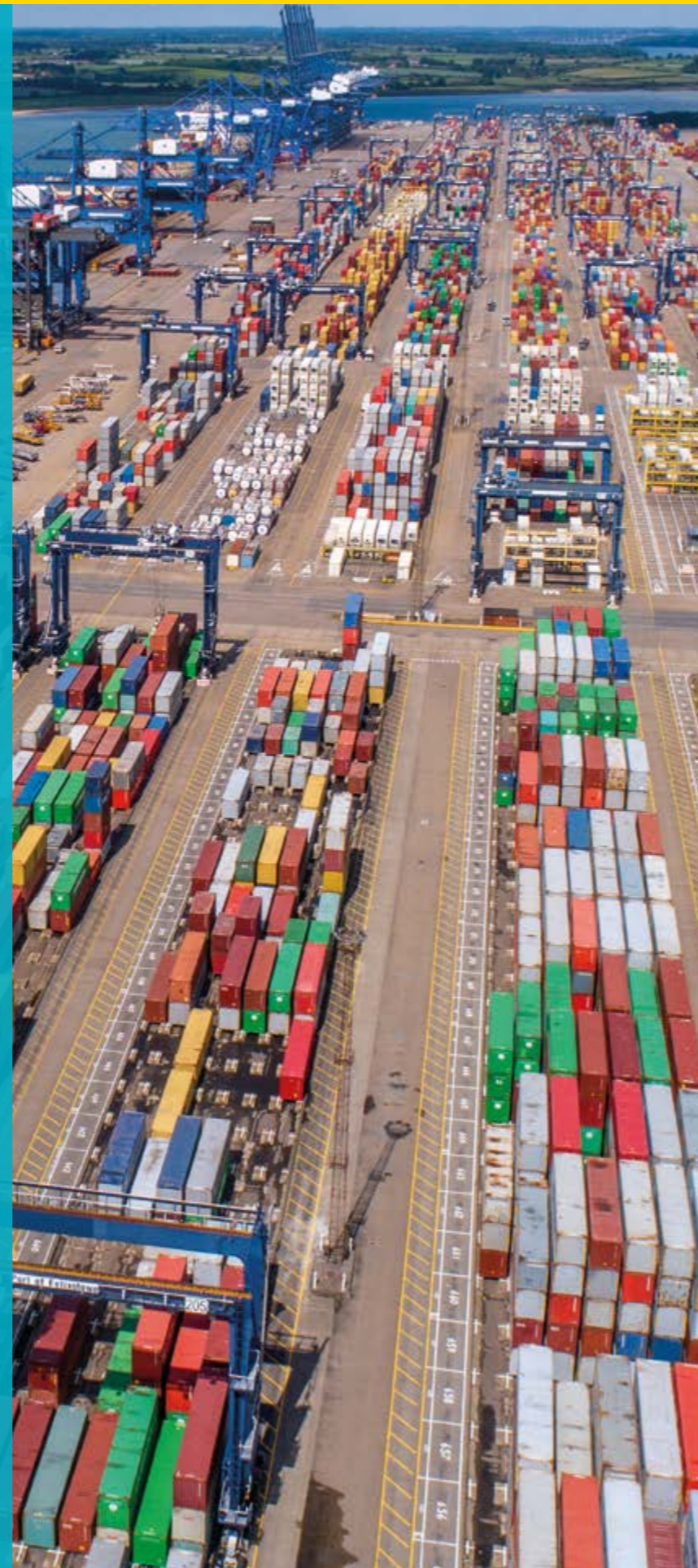
DOUG FIELD,
CHAIR, NEW ANGLIA
LOCAL ENTERPRISE
PARTNERSHIP



MATTHEW HICKS,
LEADER,
SUFFOLK COUNTY
COUNCIL



ANDREW PROCTOR,
LEADER,
NORFOLK COUNTY
COUNCIL



Delivery

1. Ely and east-west rail connectivity

Improvements to east-west rail connections are critical to our key growth corridors between Ipswich/Norwich and Cambridge. Improvements at Ely are particularly critical for significant forecast growth in sustainable freight services using the Port of Felixstowe – the busiest container port in the country – current franchise commitments between Ipswich and Peterborough and King's Lynn and London, and further increased passenger services on east-west routes. Improvements at Ely would see current throughput increased from a maximum of 8½ trains per hour to up to 14 trains per hour.

We have accelerated the development of this scheme through our Growth Deal, but we ask that the Department for Transport approves the Strategic Outline Business Case as soon as possible, intervenes to ensure Network Rail delivers the current work programme and that Government commits to funding the improvements required in the Ely area.

2. A47 scheme delivery

In 2014, the Government awarded a multi-million-pound funding package for dualling and junction improvement schemes along the A47. Improvements would see a significant number of new homes and jobs delivered along the corridor supporting growth and connectivity. The original construction for RIS1 schemes was due to be completed by 2020. Since this original commitment, the timetable for schemes on the A47 has altered more than once, while other schemes nationally have progressed.



We ask the Department for Transport to intervene and hold Highways England to account and ensure delivery commences on these schemes at the earliest possible opportunity.

3. Improved mobile connectivity including 5G

Mobile connectivity in Norfolk and Suffolk is poor in many areas. Both County Councils have mapped real-life connectivity and we are committed to work with providers and Government to improve mobile connectivity, so people and businesses can access services and work on the move. Unprecedented numbers of people have been working, shopping, schooling and socialising online at home, highlighting the urgent need for investment in faster broadband speeds and 5G technology. We are committed to supporting 5G pilots connecting our innovation hubs and competitive clusters, working with BT and Felixstowe Port to develop 5G opportunities.

We wish to meet with Government to secure support for these pilots and explore opportunities in rural areas, asking the Government to accelerate the deployment of the Shared Rural Network through prioritising pilots for partial and full not-spots across Norfolk and Suffolk.



Leadership



4. Fibre to the Premises

Significant progress has been made in the delivery of superfast broadband in Norfolk and Suffol, with funding support from both Government and the New Anglia LEP. While coverage is not yet 100%, we believe **Fibre to the Premises** through the Government's 'inside out' approach would deliver significant benefits to the area. As such, we have already gained funding from the Local Full Fibre Network programme. Our submitted Local Industrial Strategy looks to achieve full fibre coverage across the two counties by 2025.

We wish to meet with Government to accelerate activity to support and complement our rollout of Fibre to the Premises and address any gaps in coverage.

5. Local energy solutions

Norfolk and Suffolk suffer from a challenging **electricity distribution network** in that many of our growing priority places have a lack of traditional connection opportunities at an affordable price. Indeed, regulatory challenges compound the problem from a delivery perspective, stalling the delivery of housing and business parks. We are already working through the Greater South East Energy Hub to increase the number of **local energy** solutions being delivered in the area, but we want to accelerate this further as part of our clean growth agenda. An EV strategy for the area is being developed.

We would like to discuss with Government the issue around the lack of grid connectivity caused by regulatory issues which is holding back growth across our two counties.

6. Sizewell C sustainable transport

New Anglia LEP and Suffolk County Council have been working with local partners and EDF to proactively ensure the local benefits of the proposed Sizewell C scheme are realised at the earliest opportunity. It is our view that part of this is a **sustainable transport strategy** focussing on rail and marine as viable alternatives to road. The Development Consent Order for Sizewell C was submitted in May 2020.

We want to continue to work with EDF, Network Rail and Government to find a locally suitable solution to this challenge, appropriately aligned to potential construction timetables.

7. Strategic water planning and delivery for sustainability

We recognise that **water resources** will be an increasing challenge into the future for our area and as such we have collectively recently joined Water Resources East.

There is a need to enable a range of initiatives, including water trading and storage projects in Norfolk and Suffolk, and we believe that working together can enable greater sustainability of water supply and an effective mechanism for future planning and delivery.

We urge the Government to endorse and develop the commitment to regional Water Management Plans and to put resources in place to enable key regional initiatives to proceed.



Influencing

Funding

10. Transforming Cities Fund, Norwich

Norwich has already been successful in securing phase one funding from the **Transforming Cities Fund**, with a phase two bid submitted towards the end of 2019. The programme submitted will further improve sustainable transport movements within the whole Greater Norwich area to increase access to jobs and training, boost social inclusion and improve air quality. It will also deliver new mobility systems and technology to boost the passenger experience and drive modal shift.

We ask Government to commit funding to Norwich from the Transforming Cities Fund at the earliest opportunity, so these benefits can be realised by 2023.



8. Norfolk and Suffolk Energy Coast local benefit

Norfolk and Suffolk are set to see investment in **offshore renewables and nuclear** that will produce power for 58% of the UK's homes. There is a need to take a longer term and more strategic view of these opportunities rather than, as seems to us at the present, a series of ad hoc decisions that appear to be taken by National Grid based solely on available capacity. This may include the opportunity for hybrid offshore projects, linking together offshore wind schemes as well as inter-connectors, to reduce environmental harm while minimising costs.

It is also critical that **national energy projects** in Norfolk and Suffolk are delivered not only for the benefit of the nation, but to our local businesses and communities too. It is vital these energy assets avoid unnecessary impact. Decisions for the Norfolk Vanguard and Hornsea Project Three Wind Farm proposals have been delayed and the hearings for the Boreas projects are extended to October.

We want to work with Government to ensure the projects and the infrastructure to support them is delivered in a timely and coordinated way across departments.

We require an urgent meeting with Government to discuss the issue of multiple grid connections coming ashore in Norfolk and Suffolk and the negative impact this is having on our residents.

9. Great Eastern Mainline: Haughley and Trowse

The **Great Eastern Mainline** is a critical rail route connecting Ipswich and Norwich with London. We welcome the introduction of quicker services and new rolling stock on this route. But work is currently ongoing to develop the business case for further improvements along the route which could deliver wider economic benefits totalling £4.5bn.

Improvements at **Haughley** would deliver significant, quick and affordable gains on both the GEML and the Felixstowe to Nuneaton lines, supporting the Port of Felixstowe, and this has been financially supported by public sector leaders in Suffolk to the value of £1m. Development of **Trowse**, when combined with east-west journeys out of Norwich, is critical not only to improve rail connectivity, but also deliver a significant regeneration opportunity in the city too.

It is vital that each of these are considered for Government funding at the earliest possible opportunity.



11. RIS2 improvements: A14, A47, A11 and A12 and A47 full dualling

Alongside currently committed RIS (Road Investment Strategy) schemes, Norfolk and Suffolk are promoting a number of other improvements on the **Strategic Road Network** that are needed to support growth in our area. The Britain's Premier Trade Route and Investing in East-West Success campaigns on the A14 and A47 respectively are well supported by business locally. These need to be delivered by 2025 in order to help accelerate growth on these two economic corridors.

Improvements on the A14 would contribute an extra £825m in GVA and save £700m a year in avoided delays. Improvements on the A47 could meanwhile help deliver 125,000 new homes and 75,000 new jobs along its route.

In addition to these two campaigns, improvements are also sought on the A11 and A12 corridors.

We ask that Government commits to funding to these schemes early in 2020 and ensures the delivery of them by 2025.

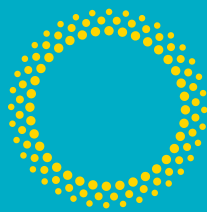
12. Transport East priorities: Large Local Majors and Major Road Network projects

We have been working collectively through Transport East to develop a Regional Evidence Base that supports the business case for both **Large Local Majors and Major Road Network** schemes in Norfolk and Suffolk. It is vital these improvements are delivered to realise continued prosperity for our area in the future.

We ask that Government commits to supporting and funding Transport East and its promoted schemes early in 2020 and ensures the commencement of relevant schemes by 2025 at the latest.

"The counties of Norfolk and Suffolk have huge potential to contribute to the UK's future success"

DOUG FIELD, CHAIR, NEW ANGLIA LEP



Norfolk
& Suffolk
Unlimited

norfolksuffolkunlimited.co.uk

info@newanglia.co.uk

01603 510070

Cover photo: Mike Page