

Open Letter to the Prime Minister

Thursday 19th November 2020

Dear Mr Johnson

New Anglia Local Enterprise Partnership welcomes the Government's ambitious Ten Point Plan for a Green Industrial Revolution.

As the UK's clean growth region, Norfolk and Suffolk is at the forefront of tackling the challenges and opportunities of climate change. Strengths in energy generation and usage, and high-tech, sustainable agri-food present major opportunities, in particular the cross-sector opportunities which will have a major contribution to building a sustainable, resilient economy and the UK's transition to a post-carbon economy.

Clean growth is the golden thread running through our Local Industrial Strategy, published earlier this year, and Norfolk & Suffolk Unlimited, our inward investment brand. We are already showing clear leadership in many of the priority areas identified and are keen for the Government to recognise the significant role we can play in delivering its Ten Point Plan.

Set out below are some examples of our leadership in the 10 areas of the plan.

1. Offshore Wind

Norfolk and Suffolk is home to the UK's leading offshore wind cluster and currently hosts 4.6GW of the UK's 10.4GW total installed capacity, amounting to more than 1,000 turbines. The growth capacity in operations and development off our coast has the potential, with the right investment, to provide more than 50% of the UK Government's 40GW target by 2030 and at least 30% of the longer term 75GW ambition by 2050. The growth opportunity, set out in the Government's Offshore Wind Sector Deal, could create more than 6,000 well-paid skilled jobs by 2032.

The ScottishPower Renewables East Anglia ONE offshore wind farm was connected to the grid in 2020 with a capacity of 714MW from 102 wind turbines. The company has also invested £25 million in a state-of-the-art Operations & Maintenance base at Lowestoft Port, delivering 100 skilled jobs.

Vattenfall's Norfolk Vanguard and Norfolk Boreas offshore wind farms, scheduled to come online in the mid-2020s, will together have an installed capacity of 3.6 GW and produce enough electricity to power 3.9 million homes in the UK.

We are keen to work with Government to continue the rollout of offshore wind, which will bring with it manufacturing and operations and maintenance jobs, as well as working to minimise the impact of cabling and substations on our landscape. Our ports are playing a critical role in the growth of this sector and with Government support are ready to do even more.

2. Hydrogen

Hydrogen East was launched this summer to analyse the potential pathways for the development of a regional hydrogen economy that will support delivery of other regional economic and clean growth priorities. The network is supported by leading businesses in the sector, including New Anglia Local Enterprise Partnership, and will work with public and private sectors to identify options to deliver a viable route map that sees this area as a leading 'hydrogen region'.

This work strategically aligns with the aims and aspirations of the Norfolk and Suffolk Local Industrial Strategy and focus on clean growth, with hydrogen being an important part of the energy mix going forward. The 'decarbonising' of the whole energy system and drive towards net zero is a key priority. This work is also supported by the All Energy Industry Council.

The Bacton Gas Terminal on the northeast Norfolk coast is already a major infrastructure asset and energy hub and provides a gateway for access of one third of total gas to the British market. There is scope for the site to be developed into a major innovation and demonstration project (Bacton 2.0) for new energy, including hydrogen.

3. Nuclear

We are supportive in principle of Sizewell C, the proposed new nuclear power station on the Suffolk coast, and are working with EDF Energy to both maximise the economic benefits and minimise the environmental impact of the development.

The plant would be expected to meet 7% of the UK's demand when it comes into service. Estimates say it would inject up to £200m a year into the regional economy during peak construction and £40m per year during its 60 years of operation. Furthermore, it would create 25,000 roles during the construction phase with 900 permanent operational jobs created, plus the need for an 'outage' workforce.

To ensure the region maximises these opportunities, the LEP is working with local councils and colleges to support local businesses with upskilling their workforce as well as encouraging support for new apprenticeships and jobs. The supply chain opportunities will be realised through collaborative work with Suffolk Chamber of Commerce, EDF Energy, local colleges and other partners to empower local businesses to bid for a range of contracts in the nuclear industry, both across the UK and internationally.

4. Electric vehicles

Our Local Industrial Strategy recognises that the electrification of transport, including last mile connectivity, and wider innovation in engineering, technology and business models, are critical to meeting the ambitions set out in the future of mobility Grand Challenge and supporting the Government's ambition for all new cars to be electric by 2030.

Norfolk car manufacturer Lotus has secured government support to develop an all-new electric vehicle (EV) platform. Lotus is developing a Lightweight Electric Vehicle Architecture (LEVA), which is planned to serve as "a showcase for pioneering new BEV chassis and powertrain concepts" and underpin a range of next-generation EVs.

The Hethel Innovation Centre, situated next to Lotus, is already a centre of excellence for engineering, with a real focus on electric vehicle technology and we

are working with the Department for International Trade to bring a Gigafactory to our area.

Norfolk is also home to Equipmake, a pioneering electrification company which last year opened a new factory to manufacture its fully integrated electric bus chassis, enabling any bus coachbuilder to become a full electric bus manufacturer almost overnight. The facility provides the complete electric mobility solution – whatever the sector – offering the capability to design, test and manufacture everything from motors to fully electrified platforms.

EO Charging, based in Suffolk, is developing and manufacturing EV charging stations and infrastructure, operating in more than 30 countries – literally leading the charge for the UK as a global export success.

Given the Transport East Decarbonisation Study found 39% of carbon emissions in the region are emitted from transport and of this 98% were from road vehicles in 2017, the shift to EVs in our region can make a significant contribution to achieving targets both regionally and nationally.

5. Public transport, cycling and walking

We are committed with our partners to deliver an integrated approach to infrastructure and inter-regional connectivity to maximise clean growth impacts locally and for UK plc. We are working with Network Rail and train operators to secure improvements on our rail network and we are also liaising with Connected Places Catapult to maximise the future of mobility opportunities locally.

We are working alongside Transport East, which has established two COVID-19 recovery action groups focused on Active Travel and Passenger Transport/Rural Connectivity to ensure low carbon modes are central to economic recovery. Funding has been awarded to Transport East by the DfT to support the work of these two groups. The Active Travel subgroup has scoped a brief to develop a strategic approach in the east, drawing on the significant potential and opportunities for walking and cycling, aligning with the Government's Gear Change strategy. The Passenger Transport and Rural Connectivity Sub-Group are also developing a sub-regional evidence base to help define a better operational model for both passenger transport and rural connectivity.

Local authorities, led by the two county councils, are meanwhile leading the way in investing in cycling and pedestrian infrastructure in our major towns and rural areas and we are keen to go even further and faster.

6. Jet zero and greener maritime

The Felixstowe Blue Tech Transformation project is using 5G-enabled capabilities to transform the services and connected business ecosystem of Britain's biggest and busiest container port. Felixstowe plays a pivotal role in keeping the UK's trade moving, and this initiative will transform its efficiency, capacity, flexibility and carbon footprint, to create a true world leader in logistics management.

Linked both physically and virtually to the Cambridge Norwich Tech Corridor, the project will connect high-tech companies, start-ups and research institutions, setting and solving tech and logistics challenges, and enabling innovative solutions to connectivity, logistics and trade.

Meanwhile, the region's most prominent energy, marine and environmental science research centres, together with regional business, are partnering on a new

collaborative bid which will further enhance East Anglia as a clean energy powerhouse for the UK and promote economic and environmental sustainability. Suffolk & Norfolk Research & Innovation on the Sustainable Energy Coast is led by the University of East Anglia, working with the UK's Centre for the Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (Cefas), headquartered in Lowestoft, and the Offshore Renewable Energy (ORE) Catapult.

7. Homes and public buildings

Councils across Norfolk and Suffolk is committed to greener, warmer and more environmentally sustainable homes and buildings, with an estate made up of almost 100 ultra-low-energy homes winning Norwich City Council the prestigious Stirling Prize for architecture last year.

The Energy Systems Catapult estimates that five homes need to be decarbonised every minute to achieve the governments net zero by 2050 target. We are working alongside the ESC and partners as one of two pilot areas selected by the Greater South East Energy Hub to develop a global and whole house skills and training approach that is needed to meet this challenge. The Decarbonisation Academy pilot is an opportunity to deliver both regional and national green growth aspirations by improving and adding to training for installers and builders, developing new curriculum, delivering demonstrator programmes and creating regional learning factories. There is potential to:

- Retrofit over 75,000 social houses.
- Apply knowledge and learning from pilot to build 146,000 energy efficient new homes by 2036, retrofit over 650,000 private homes, commercial space and 135 significant infrastructure projects in the New Anglia area.
- Save £5, for every £1 spent on an energy efficient new build, retrofitting to the necessary standard in the future.
- Deliver the wider decarbonisation of transport, manufacturing, energy and construction and address labour and skills shortages identified in the sector skills plans.

8. Carbon capture

The Southern North Sea gas fields are ideally positioned to play a key role in carbon capture, and we are keen to see the existing infrastructure used to support this. New and innovative energy technology concepts are being investigated in Norfolk & Suffolk, including offshore desalination, leading to hydrogen fuel production; carbon capture and storage; and gas to wire developments linked to the rejuvenation of the Southern North Sea.

We are keen to engage further with Government to enable the region to become a 'test and demonstration zone', highlighting its national and global value.

9. Nature

Norfolk and Suffolk is blessed with some of the most attractive and environmentally sensitive locations in the country and the Broads Authority and local councils have ambitious plans to protect and restore the natural environment, working with landowners. There are significant opportunities to adapt agricultural land use to reduce the region's carbon footprint as well as plans to plant significant numbers of trees.

10. Innovation and finance

When it comes to climate change, the University of East Anglia (UEA) is world-leading and in 2000 the UK Government chose the UEA as the site for the Tyndal

Centre for Climate Change Research, which brings together scientists, economists, engineers and social scientists. Along with our region's burgeoning renewable energy sector and expertise in technologies such as AI and machine learning, it is helping us achieve our goal of being the UK's clean growth region.

We are also working with the Government's Catapult network where there are several research projects and capabilities we are keen to develop to support the Government's Green Industrial Revolution. One example is an exciting new concept, led by the Offshore Renewable Energy (ORE) Catapult with a range of partners across Government, education and industry, that will deliver a collaborative, cross-sector, integrated energy system Centre of Excellence. The key driver for this project is to develop a combined, holistic approach to energy production, transmission, distribution and consumption through a cleaner, decarbonised, integrated energy system which will move the UK closer to the net zero target.

I hope this update on the ongoing work in Norfolk and Suffolk is useful and highlights the key role that, with Government support, we can play in the UK's drive towards net zero.

Yours sincerely

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