

New Anglia Local Enterprise Partnership Board Meeting

Wednesday 20th September 2023

10.00am – 11.30am

By MS Teams

Agenda

No.	Item	
1.	Welcome from the Chair	
2.	Apologies	
3.	Declarations of Interest	
4.	Actions / Minutes from the last meeting	
Strategic		
5.	Integration of the New Anglia Local Enterprise Partnership functions – Confidential Appendix	For Approval
6.	All Energy Industry Council Report	Update
7.	Inward Norfolk & Suffolk Report	Update
Operational		
8.	Business Support	Update
9.	Chief Executive's Report	Update
10.	Board Forward Plan	Update
11.	Any Other Business	Update



Confidential

**New Anglia Board Meeting Minutes (Unconfirmed)
19th July 2023**

Present:

Katy Davies (KD)
C-J Green (CJG)
Claire Cullens (CC)
Pete Joyner (PJ)
Neil MacDonald (NM)
Kay Mason Billig (KMB)
Andrew Mellen (AM)
Johnathan Reynolds (JR)
Carl Smith (CS)
Mike Stonard (MS)

Norfolk Community Foundation
Shorthose Russell
Ipswich Borough Council
Norfolk County Council
Mid Suffolk District Council
Opergy
Gt Yarmouth Borough Council
Norwich City Council

Attendees

Mike Todman (MT)
Chris Starkie (CS)
Rob Hancock (RH)
Iain Dunnett (ID)
Nicky Jeffries (NJ)
Julian Munson (JM)
Chris Starkie (CSt)
Rosanne Wijnberg (RW)
Helen Wilton (HW)

BEIS
Norfolk County Council
Suffolk County Council
New Anglia LEP
New Anglia LEP
New Anglia LEP
New Anglia LEP
New Anglia LEP
New Anglia LEP
Shift Momentum
Brave Goose

Actions from the meeting: (19.7.23)	
None	
1.	Welcome from the Chair
C-J Green (CJG) welcomed all board members to the meeting in particular Carl Smith and Andrew Mellen who were attending their first LEP Board meeting.	
2.	Apologies
Apologies were received from David Pomfret, Steve Oliver, Kathy Atkinson, Mathew Hicks, Peter Brady and Helen Langton.	
3.	Declarations of Interest
Peter Joyner declared an interest in Item 9 - Growing Places Fund Loan Application. Johnathan Reynolds declared an interest in Item 7 - Local Industrial Decarbonisation Plan	
It was agreed that, as the meeting was not quorate, the above board members could remain for the discussion of these items but could not vote on them when decisions were circulated for agreement by written procedures.	
4.	Actions/Minutes from the last Meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 24th May were agreed as accurate.

5. Integration of the New Anglia Local Enterprise Partnership functions

Kay Mason Billig (KMB) presented the board paper and advised that it provided an overview of the current position in the integration planning process.

Rob Hancock (RH) reviewed progress against the plans agreed to date and noted that the Government guidance on LEP integration was still outstanding meaning that plans could not be progressed as much as wished as this point.

RH advised that, given the announcement that the Government is minded to stop funding LEPs, all LEPs are now going through the transition process but New Anglia was already on this path due to the proposed Country Deals.

RH reviewed those areas of work as cited on the Government's list of LEP functions and also noted those cross county areas of work which would also remain. The board was provided with details of the principles to which all partners had agreed:

- Agreed Principals
 - Some specific joint county programmes
 - Funds will be recycled to support businesses and aid growth
 - Assets will be split as per location
 - Advice is being taken on TUPE & staff transfer
 - NAC to be considered separately

RH advised that Suffolk County Council will mobilise a business board responsible for providing strategic direct and priorities. He noted that current proposals may need revisiting following the release of Government guidelines.

Chris Starkie (CSt) advised that due to changes in the leadership and staff within Norfolk County Council the position is not quite as developed as originally planned but work is ongoing around LEP assets and a conversation had been started with districts on the agreed approach with the preferred option being to pool assets. The development of the business board is also being considered.

Mike Todman (MT) confirmed that the guidance would be issued tomorrow accompanied by a ministerial statement and letters to Leaders and LEP chairs/CEOs. He advised that the proposals announced by CSt & RH were in line with the guidance.

Claire Cullens (CC) highlighted the fact that the LEP board has successfully included the 3rd sector and it would be a shame if this voice was lost going forwards specifically in the skills area.

Andrew Mellen (AM) noted that one district representative on the business board would be lost going forward. RH advised that the make up of the board has not yet been agreed.

Johnathan Reynolds (JR) asked whether there had been any consideration of a joint Norfolk & Suffolk forum to consider overall strategy.

RH and CSt both agreed that this could be useful and a wider conversation would be needed which could also potentially include colleagues from Essex & Cambridgeshire and other areas as required.

CSt noted that within NCC a skills board would be set up to sit alongside the full business board.

Pete Joyner (PJ) asked if it was still realistic to complete the all the work required for the integration within 8 months.

KMB agreed that timing was tight and much depended on Government providing further information in a timely manner.

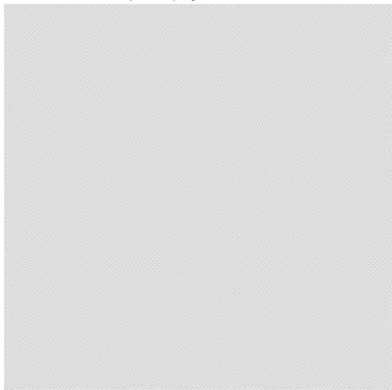
Rosanne Wijnberg (RW) agreed that the window was getting shorter due to delays in receiving the guidance, but the working assumption was still to integrate next April but this was being closely monitored.

The Board agreed:

- To note the content of the report
- To endorse the approach outlined in the paper towards integration
- To receive the integration plans for endorsement when ready for submission

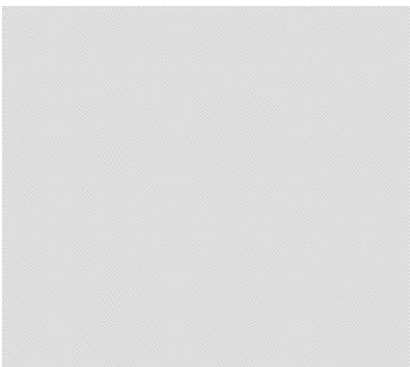
6. Norfolk & Suffolk Enterprise Zones Progress Update

Julian Munson (JM) provided the board with a slide presentation to highlight the progress



made against the EZ five year plan and provided details of key success and current building developments.

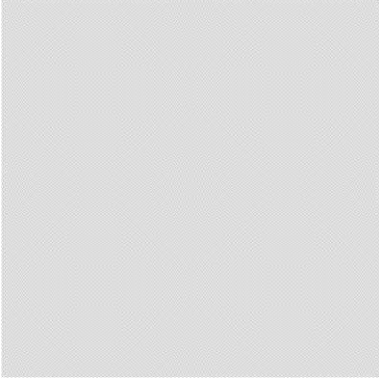
ted that overall the EZs had delivered 5386 jobs, supported 223 businesses and



JM n generated £893m in private and public capital investment. JM also highlighted the successful

partnership working which was evidenced in a number of the sites and cited the Ella May Barnes building, Crane Park and LHD LaDoria as key examples of this.

AM noted that the Gateway 14 site is designated as a EZ and Freeport and further details will be agreed over the next year. The retention of business rates will need to be agreed between



the Freeport board and LEP.

CSt advised that the O&M Campus had won at the LGC awards and noted that it was a great example of partnership working.

JR asked how the New Anglia sites compared with other EZs around the country.

JM advised that reports are submitted twice a year but little information is circulated by

Government although discussions indicate that we are among the most successful.

MT agreed that New Anglia was among the highest performing and that lessons could be learned on site selection and understanding the needs of key sectors.

The Board agreed:

To note the content of the report

7.	Local Industrial Decarbonisation Plan – Confidential
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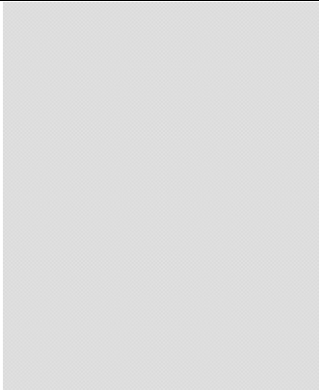
The Board agreed:

- To note the content of the report
- To endorse the outline proposal
- To delegate authority to the LEP leadership team to approve the bid for submission due to tight deadlines



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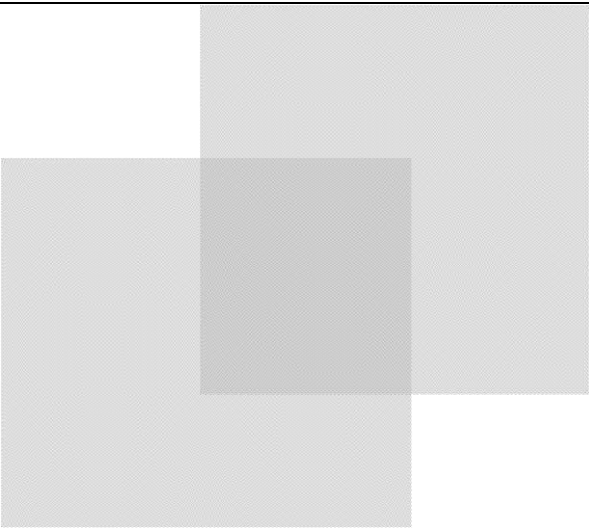
LEP Draft Accounts 2023/2024 – Confidential

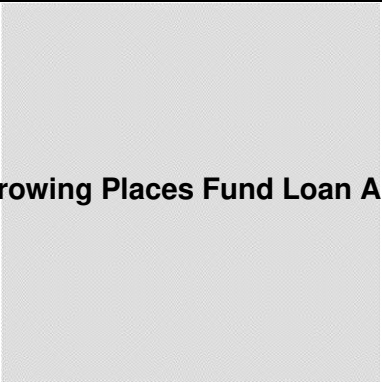


The Board agreed:

- To note the content
-

of the report



9.	 <p>Growing Places Fund Loan Application – Confidential</p>
<p>The Board agreed:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> To note the content of the report</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/></p>	
10.	New Anglia LEP Governance
<p>RW confirmed that the annual review of the LEPs policies and procedures had been completed and presented those requiring board approval:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Modern Slavery Statement • Equality & Diversity Policy and Statement 	

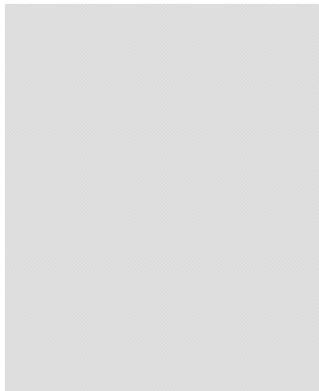
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Board Attendance & Observers Policy <input type="checkbox"/> Gender Pay Gap report. <p>The Board agreed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To note the content of the report • To endorse the policies as listed above 	
11.	Chief Executive’s Report
<p>RW presented the report and highlighted the business support programme advising advised that work is ongoing with districts with the focus on ensuring that there is continuity of support for businesses.</p> <p>RW noted that the UKSPF funded business support activity runs from 1st July 2023 through to 31st March 2025.</p> <p>In Suffolk the LEP is part of a consortium with all the districts and have procured Growth Hub delivery to a third-party provider, YTKO.</p> <p>In Norfolk SLAs have been signed with North Norfolk, West Norfolk and Norwich and the LEP is the final stages of signing SLAs with Breckland and Great Yarmouth.</p> <p>In North Norfolk and West Norfolk the LEP is also delivering their Rural England Prosperity Fund, a £2.3 million grant programme operating until March 2025.</p>	



RW noted that, unfortunately, at this time, there has been no agreement with Broadland or South Norfolk, so there will be a very limited signposting service in those areas.

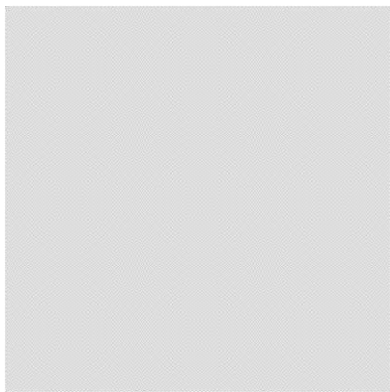
The connected Innovation Programme, new GTI grant scheme and High Growth Programme will o



erate LEP wide.

JR noted that a new provider would be covering Suffolk and highlighted the risks around this in terms of reputation and the quality of service provided as staff were viewed as LEP staff.

RW agreed that it was not an ideal situation but the focus was on provision of service. TUPE will apply from Suffolk Chamber to the YTKO team.



The board agreed:

To note the content of the report

12. Quarterly Management Accounts

<p>RW presented the June .EP's finances</p> <p>The oard agreed: B note the <input type="checkbox"/> T</p>		<p>board with an update on theyg 30th for the 3 months endi 2023.</p> <p>content of the report</p>	
<p>13.</p>	<p>July Performance Report</p>		
<p>RW presented the performance reports for July namely the reports for the Careers Hub and the Community Renewal Fund.</p> <p>The B oard agreed: <input type="checkbox"/> T note the content of the reports</p>		<p>14.</p>	<p>Board Forward Plan</p>
<p>CJG reviewed the items on the agenda for the September meeting.</p> <p>The B oard agreed: <input type="checkbox"/> T note the content of the plan</p>		<p>15.</p>	<p>Any Other Business</p>
<p>None</p>			

New Anglia Local Enterprise Partnership Board
Wednesday 20th September 2023

Agenda Item 5

Norfolk and Suffolk LEP (Local Enterprise Partnership) Integration Plans

Authors: Roberta Willner - Business Development Manager, Norfolk County Council and Rob Hancock – Assistant Director for Housing, Economic Growth and Planning, Suffolk County Council

Summary

LEP integration into upper tier local authorities was announced in the Chancellor's March 2023 budget statement. The Chancellor announced that the Government would launch a consultation into transferring responsibilities for local economic growth and development from LEPs to local authorities from April 2024.

Following an information gathering exercise, on 4th August 2023 Government confirmed its decision to integrate LEPs into upper tier local authorities. Government's view is that there is likely to be scope for greater join-up, efficiencies, and clarity for the private sector by LEP functions being discharged within mayoral combined authorities, devolution deal areas, and upper tier local authorities.

Government confirmed its sponsorship and core funding of LEPs will now cease, and it will now support local authorities to take on LEPs' functions as set out in the Government's March 2022 LEP integration guidance and previously supported by annual core funding. These functions include business representation, strategic economic planning, and responsibility for the delivery of government programmes where directed.

Government expects these functions to be exercised by upper tier local authorities, which in Norfolk and Suffolk are the two county councils.

Government is providing some revenue funding to local authorities in 2024/25, to support them to deliver the functions currently delivered by LEPs. Details of this support will be confirmed in due course. Funding beyond 2024/25 will be subject to future Spending Review decisions.

The purpose of this report is to provide the LEP board with an overview of the approach being undertaken by the two county councils and the LEP executive to integrate the LEP into the two county councils by April 2024.

Attached are the Norfolk LEP Integration Plan (Appendix A) and the Suffolk LEP Integration Plan (Appendix B).

These are the documents which must be agreed by the LEP and councils and then submitted to Government to outline the measures being taken to integrate the LEP into the two authorities.

Options have been explored with partners and stakeholders, who continue to be briefed and involved in discussions.

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For example, workshops to discuss LEP integration and establishment of a Business Board were held with Norfolk district council chief executive officers on 17 July and 21 August 2023. The LEP Integration approach was also presented to Norfolk Leaders on 27 July 2023. In Suffolk, Suffolk Public Sector Leaders oversaw and funded work by external consultants, Red Quadrant, to examine options for LEP integration including examples of good practice from elsewhere in UK local government. This work largely took place in 2022 and reported to SPSL in February 2023 where the outline future state was agreed. The integrated LEP designed has subsequently been further developed by the County Council in collaboration with the four Suffolk District & Borough Councils.

Stakeholders for the LEP integration include county councils, district council leaders, as well as business and education representatives. Business and education leaders have been engaged through LEP sector groups and sub-boards and the LEP board received an update at its July 2023 board meeting. The councils would also be keen to engage with LEP subgroups and boards.

If the report's recommendations are agreed by the LEP board, the plans will be passed for endorsement by Norfolk and Suffolk County Councils and submitted to Government by end of October 2023.

Recommendation

1. The LEP Board is asked to endorse the Norfolk and Suffolk LEP Integration Plans and to give the chair authorisation to sign the final plans.
2. Further progress reports on LEP Integration are brought back to the LEP Board.

1. Background

1.1 New Anglia Local Enterprise Partnership is one of 38 LEPs established under the Coalition Government in 2011 and covers the counties of Norfolk and Suffolk. At the time of its establishment, Government wanted LEPs to cover a minimum of two upper tier council areas.

1.2 The partnership was established as a company limited by guarantee with 16 board members, who serve as directors of the company, from local authorities, business and education. The leader of Norfolk County Council and the leader of Suffolk County Council are board members and directors of the company.

1.3. Since 2011 the LEP has invested more than £300million in Norfolk and Suffolk and generated at least £1.3bn in matched funding. Its investments have created approximately 15,000 jobs in the county, and more than 14,000 businesses provided with one-to-one support.

1.4. In a letter to LEPs and local authorities in March 2022 Government outlined its future plan for LEPs:

“Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs) have played an important role in supporting local economic growth since their inception in 2011. LEPs have brought businesses, education, and local government together, delivered large capital investment schemes, provided vital support to businesses during COVID-19, hosted impactful programmes on behalf of government departments and developed economic strategies for their areas. Government values the contribution LEPs have made and continue to make to their local economies.”

“The publication of the Levelling Up White Paper marked a turning point for local growth policy. It set out a series of ambitious missions to level up by, for example, increasing pay, employment, skills, and productivity, ensuring every area has a globally competitive city, and offering every part of England a devolution deal that wants one within the new devolution framework. The missions will be cross-government, cross-society efforts, and it will be vital that the private sector plays a role in delivering against them. Government recognises the strategic

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value of involving business leaders and other stakeholders in local decision-making, and of locally-led economic strategies covering functional economic areas. Government have therefore advised they will be re-wiring the system to ensure it is fit for purpose, including by integrating the functions and roles of LEPs into unitary and upper tier local authorities....

“Government wants to ensure that businesses will continue to be able to access the support, insights and representation that LEPs provide, and to ensure that an independent business and stakeholder voice continues to play its vital role supporting growth in all parts of England.”

1.5 In the Budget Statement, 15th March 2023, the Chancellor developed the Government’s position, announcing that the Government would launch a consultation into transferring responsibilities for local economic growth and development from LEPs to local authorities, from April 2024. The Government is minded to stop core funding from 24/25, with LEP functions to be delivered by local government.

1.6 The Department for Levelling up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) requested that each local authority and Local Enterprise Partnership submit a questionnaire with relating to LEP integration. During May 2023, Norfolk County Council, Suffolk County Council and New Anglia LEP worked together to coordinate their responses to the questionnaire.

1.7 Following this national information gathering exercise, on 4th August 2023 Government confirmed its decision to integrate LEPs into upper tier local authorities. Government’s view is that there is likely to be scope for greater join-up, efficiencies, and clarity for the private sector by LEP functions being discharged within mayoral combined authorities, devolution deal areas, and upper tier local authorities, working together as appropriate.

1.8 Government said its sponsorship and core funding of LEPs will now cease. As private enterprises, LEPs may choose to continue operating, but government will now support local authorities to take on LEPs’ functions as set out in the Government’s March 2022 LEP integration guidance and previously supported by annual core funding – namely, business representation, strategic economic planning, and responsibility for the delivery of government programmes where directed.

1.9 Government has agreed to provide some revenue funding to local and combined authorities in 2024/25 to support them to deliver the functions currently delivered by LEPs. Details of this support will be confirmed in due course. Funding beyond 2024/25 will be subject to future Spending Review decisions.

1.10 The purpose of this report is to outline the LEP Integration Plan for Norfolk LEP Integration Plan (Appendix A) and the Suffolk LEP Integration Plan (Appendix B), following a period of consultation with stakeholders who include district and borough colleagues as well as representatives from business, education and the voluntary sector.

1.11 The report recommends that the Norfolk and Suffolk LEP Integration Plans are endorsed by the New Anglia LEP Board. The LEP Integration Plans will then be reviewed by Norfolk and Suffolk’s County Councils and if endorsed in October 2023, the plans will be submitted to Government.

Key Issues

2. LEP integration principles

2.1 The two county councils recognise the enormous amount of work which has been carried out by the LEP board and team and the high regard in which the organisation is held.

2.2 The councils and partners therefore wish to build where possible on the work delivered to date. This means continuing programmes, projects and groups where possible and where funding is in place.

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2.3 The councils are keen to ensure the transition is as seamless as possible and there are no cliff edges in activity or support for businesses.

2.4 The councils will also be seeking to utilise the skills and expertise of board members and members of other LEP subgroups and boards where possible.

3. Integration of Government prescribed functions

3.1 New Anglia LEP delivers a number of economic development and skills functions locally on behalf of Government, for which it either receives core Government funding or separate grant funding (eg Growth Hubs, Careers Hub, Skills Boot Camps).

3.2 The Government has highlighted which LEP functions it wishes to see continue. This was set out in a letter to LEPs in March 2022. Government expects the following LEP functions to continue:

- Strong independent **business voice** via new Norfolk and Suffolk Business Boards
- Strategic **economic planning** in partnership with local leaders which clearly articulates the area's economic priorities and strengths
- **Delivery of functions** on behalf of Government including (but not limited to) Growth Hubs, Careers Hubs, Enterprise Zones
- **Skills analysis** to support Local Skills Improvement Plans
- Monitoring and assurance of existing local growth programmes of funds for which LEPs are responsible (e.g. Growth Deal and Getting Building Fund).

3.3 The LEP has a wide range of functions and programmes to consider which go beyond the Government's core list:

- **Inward Investment** – Invest Norfolk and Suffolk
- Growth Hub and **wider business support** eg Scale Up New Anglia
- **Business grant and loan programmes** eg Growing Places Fund, Growth Through Innovation
- **Industry councils** and sector groups such as Agri-tech, Energy and ICT Digital, plus programmes such as NAAME, Creative East and Space East
- **Innovation Board** and Connected Innovation programme
- **Skills advisory panel** • **Skills Boot Camps** programme • **New Anglia Capital**

3.4 The LEP also has responsibilities to monitor existing and legacy programmes, which Government has indicated need including in the transition. These include:

- Growth Deal and Getting Building Fund
- Growing Business Fund
- Enterprise Zones
- ERDF Growth Programme (Growth Hub, small grants programme)

4. LEP Assets

4.1 The LEP has a number of assets, which are not covered by the transfer of functions. These assets include:

- Enterprise Zone agreements and revenues
- Property investments and loans
- New Anglia Capital portfolio

4.2 Local agreements are being developed between NCC (Norfolk County Council), SCC (Suffolk County Council), district partners and the LEP over how these assets are managed as part of LEP integration.

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4.3 Norfolk and Suffolk County Councils have agreed, in principle, the assets will be split by geographies – Norfolk County Council will manage assets relating to Norfolk as part of the transition, and Suffolk will manage assets relating to Suffolk.

4.4 New Anglia LEP has a number of Enterprise Zone agreements in Norfolk and Suffolk. These enterprise zones generate revenue through retained business rates, a proportion of which is currently ring-fenced for New Anglia LEP to deliver economic development. Therefore, management of future income is being considered as part of the two integration plans. There are also monitoring responsibilities for existing Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) agreements for each enterprise zone.

4.5 New Anglia LEP also has a number of property investments and loans, which will require agreements between local partners as to how these are handled as part of the LEP integration.

4.6 There is also the New Anglia Capital portfolio - New Anglia Capital is a separate legal entity (100% owned by NALEP) which makes investments in potential high growth companies who do not have access to mainstream finance. Essentially it exists to address a market failure in the finance sector. It is not financially viable to split the portfolio, so discussions are being held between the two county councils over which will take on management of NAC on behalf of both authorities.

4.7 New Anglia LEP liabilities have also been considered as part of the transition process. The LEP has sufficient reserves for transfer of assets, staff and functions. Loans outstanding were provided by Government grant funding. As such, this does not create a liability for Norfolk and Suffolk County Councils, however, it is important that sufficient funds are provided from the Government transition funding, to enable the county councils to monitor and process loan repayment commitments for Norfolk and Suffolk projects.

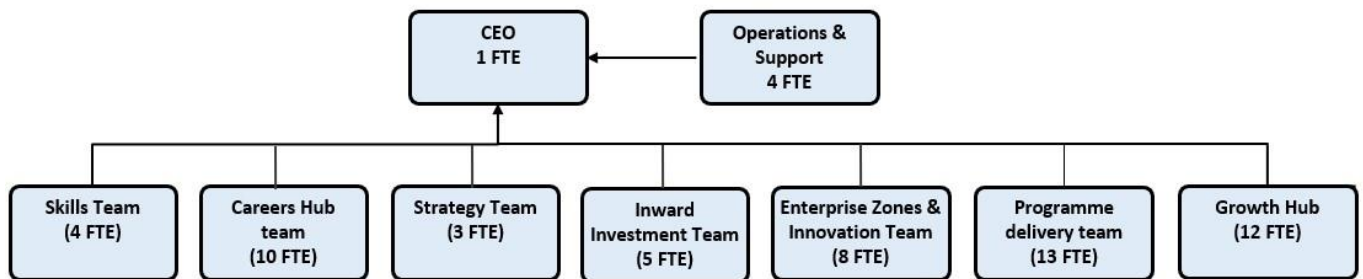
5. LEP Staff

5.1 New Anglia LEP currently directly employs staff across its services and core business responsibilities.

5.2 The LEP Integration plan includes the LEP's current organisational structure. New Anglia LEP is currently taking specialist advice around TUPE.

5.3 Figure 1 below, demonstrates the teams linked to the LEP functions. Please note, the High level structure information is based on headcount. and information is correct at of 23 August 2023.

Figure 1: LEP Staff by LEP Function



5.4 Once it is understood which roles are in scope where TUPE applies, a process taking place now and concluding in winter 2023, Norfolk and Suffolk County Councils will agree how these roles will be hosted across the separate authorities.

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5.5 The LEP has reserves set aside to cover any potential staff liabilities arising from the transition. This mitigates the financial risk of staff transferring to the county council.

6. LEP Integration plans

6.1 Norfolk County Council, Suffolk County Council and the LEP must submit a plan to Government outlining the approach that partners will take towards integration, ensuring alignment with the Government's ambitions.

6.2 More details of the plan can be found at Appendix 1 and Appendix 2– please note sections relating to finance (section five) and staffing (section six) remain confidential in line with Government guidance because of the sensitive nature of those ongoing discussions.

6.3 Business Voice

The role of business is seen as critical in the process of LEP integration and Government has mandated the creation of Business Boards as part of the transition into upper tier authorities. The Government's English devolution accountability framework published in March 2023 says: "All institutions with devolved powers should embed a strong, independent, and diverse local business voice into their decision-making processes...This business board should build on the success of existing LEP boards wherever possible."

Norfolk County Council and Suffolk County Council have started engaging with business representatives on the development of business boards, in addition to district authorities, with work due to step up with members and stakeholders over the optimum terms of reference including governance and responsibilities of the business board.

6.4 In Norfolk it is proposed that the Norfolk Business Board will be a dedicated business board with the following purpose:

- A partnership between business, education and local government to enable sustainable growth in Norfolk.
- A strategic board designed to shape policies and create actions to improve Norfolk businesses and employees.

6.5 The Norfolk Business Board will consist of 16 members. This will include business leaders (VCSE), local authority leaders (county and district) and education representatives (FE & HE). Members will be recruited through external advertisement. A 3-year term is anticipated.

6.6 In Suffolk, it is proposed the Suffolk Business Board will include representation from Business, from local government, and from education. Business representatives will form the majority of the Board, which will be between 12-16 members. The Business Board will advise on the overall economic strategy for Suffolk as well as key integration LEP programmes. Engagement with business ahead of recruitment to the Board will take place over winter 2023.

6.7 The responsibilities of each Business Board will include:

- To develop an ambitious evidence based economic strategy for the counties
- To act an advocate for Norfolk and Suffolk's economies to raise the county's profile with Government
- To work to attract new business investment into the county
- To convene businesses to understand their needs and ambitions
- To act as an enabling vehicle for sector specific councils and groups
- To develop and oversee programmes to support business growth (including start-up and increasing innovation and productivity).
- To make recommendations for funding projects and programmes to support business growth

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6.8 In both Norfolk and Suffolk, it is intended the Business Boards will be an unincorporated partnership with the county council as the accountable body. Norfolk County Council and Suffolk County council would hold funds on behalf of their business board and employ any staff dedicated to the board.

6.9 Projects, Programmes and Services

The implementation plan outlines the list of projects, programmes and services delivered by the LEP and how these will be transferred to Norfolk County Council and Suffolk County Council.

6.10 These include: Growth Hub, Inward Investment service, Enterprise Zones management, sector groups and industry councils, Innovation board and programmes, clean growth, skills boot camps, Careers Hub, skills hub, business grant and loan programmes, management of legacy programmes, economic strategy development and evidence base.

6.11 These activities will be transferred into Norfolk County Council and Suffolk County Council and funded through a combination of residual LEP funding, and ongoing funding from Government and other external sources such as the Careers and Enterprise Company.

6.12 We anticipate most of the services being transferred will continue during 24/25 financial year. However, further budget planning is being completed between now and the end of 2023 as Government confirms what level of transition funding it will make available and the level of LEP residual funding and other external funding is established.

6.13 It should also be recognised that enquiries continue to be received regarding investments, grants and loans and a pipeline of business enquiries and projects for potential loan and grant support will follow as part of the transition. Suffolk and Norfolk County council staff are already trained users and partners of the LEP CRM. Data transfer for business programmes is being assessed. There are no concerns at this stage.

6.14 Some programmes will continue to be managed on a two-county basis. This is where both county councils agree the service operates more efficiently on a two-county footing and/or where external funding requires a two-county service.

6.15 In these instances – for example Skills Boot Camps and Careers Hub – one of the two county councils will act as the lead partner with an agreement in place between the two authorities on the management of the programme.

- 6.16 This approach builds on the successful joint inward investment service Invest Norfolk and Suffolk where staff are employed by two councils but work as a joint service.
- 6.17 In some instances services will be split. For example, Enterprise Zones and property assets. In Norfolk, Norfolk County Council is working with the LEP and district and borough colleagues to reach agreement on the future use of Enterprise Zone revenues. These revenues are ring fenced for economic development. Options include pooling the EZ receipts across Norfolk to enable all areas to benefit from the growth, or the district which contains the EZ pooling with the county council and for funds only to be restricted for use in that district. The former approach is the preference of the county council as it is in line with previous use of the funding.
- 6.18 In Suffolk, Enterprise Zone revenues will be pooled in a new vehicle, Suffolk Investments which will be operated by Suffolk County Council. The new vehicle, Suffolk Investments, is intended to ensure that EZ revenues are invested in Suffolk wide priorities. Suffolk Investments will have its own investment board including all Districts, County, and Business Board representatives.

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- 6.19 Norfolk County Council are also working with district colleagues on agreement over the use of revenues generated of a small number of property assets. Finances generated by these assets is also ringfenced for economic development. There are no property assets in Suffolk.

6.20 LEP staffing

The two authorities are working with the LEP on an appropriate split of staffing and funding in a way which ensures continuity of service and maximises operational efficiencies as well as honouring TUPE responsibilities. It is anticipated that there will be some staff who are in scope of this work and would transfer to Norfolk and Suffolk County Councils within timescales to be agreed.

6.21 Transition plan

A number of discussions have been taking place over the past two months with Government, to determine expectations and more specific timescales for individual streams of work. Workshops with partners and stakeholders continue to ensure options explore meet their needs and expectations.

- 6.22 Both Norfolk and Suffolk County Councils will work with relevant Officers, Members and external partners to ensure the transition plans are delivered in line with expectation.

7. Alternative Options

7.1 A number of alternative options have been considered and rejected. These are listed as follows:

7.2 Allowing the LEP to continue operating as now. This option is permitted in the Government's guidance but is not their preferred option. It has also been rejected by Suffolk and Norfolk County Councils and the LEP as not a financially viable option given the Government has said it will no longer fund LEPs.

7.3 Demerging the LEP to create a Norfolk only LEP. This option would leave the LEP as a single county entity. Rejected as the Government has said it will no longer fund LEPs.

7.4 Allowing the LEP to close and not transferring functions to NCC or SCC. Rejected as this option would be against the Government's guidance and would also mean the county would miss out on services provided by the LEP.

7.5 Allowing the LEP to close and transferring functions to a range of partners – eg districts. Rejected as this option is against the Government’s guidance, and therefore would miss out on Government funding. It would also be far more complex from a legal and TUPE perspective, be more costly and is not supported by the LEP board.

8. Key Milestones

8.1. Following the Government publication of its decision on 4th Aug 2023, the following key milestones are outlined below:

- NCC Cabinet consider sign off of proposed Norfolk LEP Integration Plan –2nd October 2023
- Norfolk and Suffolk LEP Integration Plans submitted to Government – end October 2023
- Arrangement of transfer of assets and staff notifications – October to December 2023
- Closure of New Anglia LEP - Norfolk and Suffolk County Council LEP Integration completes – end March 2024. However, there will be processes relating to closure of the company and auditing that will go beyond this period into Summer 2024.

8

Recommendation

1. The LEP Board is asked to endorse the Norfolk and Suffolk LEP Integration Plans and to give the chair authorisation to sign the final plans.
2. Further progress reports on the LEP Integration are brought back to the LEP Board.

9. Background Papers

Appendix A Norfolk LEP Transition Plan

Appendix B Suffolk LEP Transition Plan

Local Enterprise Partnerships: integration of LEP functions into local democratic institutions - <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/local-enterprise-partnerships-integrationof-lep-functions-into-local-democratic-institutions>