



CABINET

Tuesday 1 October 2019

NORFOLK AND SUFFOLK LOCAL INDUSTRIAL STRATEGY

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. In November 2017, central government published the National Industrial Strategy and has now asked all parts of England to develop local industrial strategies. Over recent months, local authorities, businesses, universities and colleges have been working together with New Anglia Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) to develop a Local Industrial Strategy for Norfolk and Suffolk.
2. The strategies are led by LEPs and, where they exist, mayoral combined authorities, and are being developed with and signed off by central government. The Norfolk and Suffolk Local Industrial Strategy is in the second wave of strategies and is expected to be signed off by central government and published in October 2019.
3. In order to show the collective commitment and buy in of the local industrial strategy, all local authorities and partners such as business groups and colleges and universities are being invited to endorse the local industrial strategy. Accordingly, Cabinet is now invited to endorse the draft strategy.

Is the report Open or Exempt?	Open
Wards Affected:	All wards
Cabinet Member:	Cllr Craig Rivett, Cabinet Member for Economic Development

Supporting Officer:	Paul Wood Head of Economic Development & Regeneration 01394 444249 Paul.wood@eastsuffolk.gov.uk
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1 INTRODUCTION (Use numbered paragraphs below for each new paragraph)

1.1 The Norfolk and Suffolk Local Industrial Strategy has been developed in partnership between New Anglia LEP, Suffolk and Norfolk's local authorities and leaders from business and education.

1.2 The process began in March 2019 with a session involving leaders from local authorities, business and education where the overall approach and aims for the strategy were agreed, these were:

- The Local Industrial Strategy is an opportunity to further drive the implementation of the Norfolk and Suffolk Economic Strategy which was agreed in 2017
- The Local industrial Strategy should focus on the global and national trends that will shape the future of Suffolk's businesses and communities and focus on the actions needed to continue to support businesses to take the opportunities ahead as the post-Brexit economy evolves
- The Local Industrial Strategy will set out the case for continued investment in the Norfolk and Suffolk economy and identify how the biggest opportunities for growth and productivity can be delivered
- The Local Industrial Strategy should be built around the three large scale economic opportunities that are identified in the Norfolk and Suffolk Economic Strategy, where our economies have the strongest competitive advantage. These opportunities are; agri-food / agri-tech, clean energy, and ICT and digital
- Each of these opportunities provides significant scope for increasing the number of high skilled jobs, building on existing supply chains for businesses and improving in-work progression and skills for our communities. The Local Industrial Strategy proposes to reinforce the actions set out in the Economic Strategy for Norfolk and Suffolk to drive overall business growth and productivity.

2 DEVELOPING THE LOCAL INDUSTRIAL STRATEGY

2.1 Since March 2019 more than 20 consultation events have been held with stakeholders involving around 400 individuals to examine the economic evidence, develop ideas and test proposed interventions. In addition, an Independent Economic Expert Panel was established to act as a critical friend, offering independent expert advice. This panel reviewed the evidence, the proposed interventions and made a number of recommendations. Members of this panel were Professor Tim Besley from London School of Economics, Rebecca Riley from

University of Birmingham, Alex Plant from Anglian Water and David Campbell from the Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy.

- 2.2 An initial draft of the strategy has now been produced reflecting input from all stakeholders, the independent expert panel as well as from central government. The document has been developed to align with the Government's framework for local industrial strategies and to link with the National Industrial Strategy.
- 2.3 The local industrial strategy focuses on three opportunity areas - clean energy, agri-food and ICT/digital creative. The strategy does also recognise a number of other underpinning sectors, such as ports and logistics and culture and the visitor economy. The East Suffolk economy displays key strengths in each of these opportunity areas and underpinning sectors and as such is well placed to benefit from any future investment linked to the LIS.
- 2.4 The golden thread which runs through the local industrial strategy is clean growth – with Norfolk and Suffolk positioned as the UK's clean growth region.
- 2.5 Each of the three opportunity areas has a number of proposed interventions aimed at capitalising on these opportunities.
- 2.6 The strategy is structured around the five foundations of growth identified in the national industrial strategy and sets out Norfolk and Suffolk's response to these foundations. The foundations are; ideas, people, infrastructure, business environment and places. The strategy outlines the New Anglia area's assets in these areas and proposed interventions to boost productivity, support inclusive growth and capitalise on the three opportunity areas.

3 HOW DOES THIS RELATE TO THE EAST SUFFOLK BUSINESS PLAN?

- 3.1 The aim of the LIS is to focus and exploit the region's economic strengths. East Suffolk as a key economic driver for the wider region is well placed to disproportionately benefit as it has key strengths in the opportunity areas and underpinning sectors. This therefore aligns with and complements the economic growth strategic pillar of the East Suffolk Business Plan. Furthermore, continued investment into the East Suffolk economy resulting from the LIS will support the continued delivery of a wide range of the Economic Growth-related actions.
- 3.2 The LIS will also contribute to ESC's health and wellbeing objectives through its goal to exploit the region's economic growth opportunities. This in turn will create more employment opportunities for East Suffolk and being in work is important for everyone's general health and well-being: it gives us a purpose (and an income), promotes independence, allows us to develop social contacts, and is a factor in preventing both physical and mental health problems. www.mentalhealth.org.uk

4 FINANCIAL AND GOVERNANCE IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The Norfolk and Suffolk Local Industrial Strategy does not have any financial implications for the Council.
- 4.2 Whilst there is no funding specifically set aside by central government for the implementation of local industrial strategies, by signing up to the document the government

is endorsing its aims and ambitions. This means that existing central government policy and future plans will need to take into account the local industrial strategy.

- 4.3 The Economic Strategy Delivery Co-ordinating Board has co-ordinated the development of the LIS. This group consists of the LEP along with local authorities and Chambers of Commerce across Norfolk and Suffolk.

5 OTHER KEY ISSUES

- 5.1 The Equality Impact Assessment shows no negative impact in relation to any of the Protected Characteristic groups. On the contrary there will be positive benefits in terms of greater employment opportunities arising from the LIS.

6 CONSULTATION

- 6.1 The development of the LIS has been the subject of wide consultation with local authorities, business and education from across Norfolk and Suffolk.

7 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 7.1 Cabinet could choose not to endorse the Norfolk and Suffolk Local Industrial Strategy, but this would be contrary to the Council's business plan priority to enable inclusive economic growth and to build on the Council's strong relationship with New Anglia LEP. If the Council is not able to endorse the strategy then this may weaken the region's credibility with government, limit any future funding that can be negotiated and impact on the level of central government resources that are ultimately allocated to the New Anglia area.

8 REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION

- 8.1 The LIS sets out the economic opportunity areas in the region along with the area's underpinning sectors and as such highlights and promotes economic growth opportunities in East Suffolk. Furthermore, the LIS will be an instrumental document in guiding future government investment in the regional economy growth and East Suffolk is well placed to benefit significantly from this. As such Cabinet's endorsement of the LIS supports our continuing objective to enable economic growth in the district.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That Cabinet endorses the draft Norfolk and Suffolk Local Industrial Strategy prior to its submission to central government.
2. That Cabinet delegates authority to the Head of Economic Development and Regeneration in consultation with the Cabinet member for Economic Development to agree any changes to the draft Norfolk and Suffolk Local Industrial Strategy prior to its submission to central government.

APPENDICES (List the title of each separate Appendix below)

Appendix A	Draft Norfolk and Suffolk Local Industrial Strategy
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BACKGROUND PAPERS: None.