

Suffolk Business Board

5th June 2025

Agenda Item 5 - Economic Strategy & Interventions update

Purpose: To update the Board on the progress in developing the Investment and Delivery Plan that supports delivery of the Suffolk Economic Strategy, and to outline next-stage priorities, ongoing assessment of the intervention pipeline and proposed approach to progress reporting.

The Board is invited to:

1. Note the progress made on the Investment and Delivery Plan and the pipeline review.
2. Endorse the updated development priorities for the next wave of interventions.
3. Endorse the proposed approach to reporting intervention progress.
4. Approve a total budget of up to £50,000 to support the delivery of the Suffolk Showcase event and Suffolk Showcase toolkit.

Background: Since the strategy was approved, work has been ongoing to develop a dynamic Investment and Delivery Plan that captures live and emerging interventions, aligned with the strategy's priorities and tested using the EPIC framework.

At the January 2025 meeting, the Business Board agreed four initial interventions as part of a first wave of delivery:

- **Advanced Manufacturing & Engineering (AME) Centre** – Infrastructure to support a major growth sector.
- **Suffolk Economy Grants** – Supporting SME led innovation, sustainability and tech adoption.
- **Local Area Energy Plan (LAEP)** – A foundational intervention to tackle a key challenge and unlock growth.
- **Knowledge Exchange Vouchers** – Business led projects accessing university research and innovation through student placements, focused on digital and sustainability.

In addition to these, outside the Board meeting, the Board Chair approved:

- **Cluster Analysis & Feasibility Study** – Providing the evidence base for future sector-based investment and intervention development. This work is particularly central to the strategy's aims and will help shape the direction of the wider intervention programme.

Pipeline Review and Assessment Progress

The initial longlist of 79 interventions was shaped through a mapping exercise of current activity and early intervention concepts. A light touch assessment has been carried out to identify those that align with the Suffolk Economic Strategy and are expected to deliver against its goals. Of these:

- 40 have been identified as 'live' and already delivering against the strategy and are for inclusion on the Investment and Delivery Plan (Annex A).
- 9 have been identified as high potential interventions needing further development and identified as the next wave of priorities to develop – see table below.
- 3 have been removed from the list, either because they were out of scope or closed.
- 7 have been integrated with other intervention in the pipeline.

- The remaining 20 interventions show strategic potential but are concepts that need to be designed further; or are awaiting national policy guidance; or require significant capital investment.

Of the 40 live interventions, 14 have undergone full strategic and EPIC assessment, with the remainder currently in progress. The EPIC scoring indicates the expected strategic impact of the intervention (where 4 is significant and 1 is low). These scores, are visualised in the heatmap at the end of Annex A. These scores will be used to monitor whether interventions deliver in line with their assessed potential.

Next Wave of Intervention for Prioritisation

To maintain momentum the following are proposed as key areas for development. These interventions will be developed collaboratively across the Suffolk Economy team and wider partners:

Intervention	Summary	Lead	Board Review Date
Adastral Park Innovation Package	Develop and advance plans to support the Adastral Park cluster including a. space cluster activity e.g. UoS Quantum Optical Discovery Lab commercialisation and promotion of Space East; b. Digital ICT Cluster activity e.g. growing Innovation Martlesham business network of start-ups and scale-ups; c. advancing plans for a Regional Tech Showcase opportunity; and d. promoting the AI cluster with attraction and support for National AI Awards and AI Festival.	Julian	a. July b. July c. Sept d. Sept
AI Growth Zone	A new government initiative aimed at accelerating the development and adoption of AI across the UK. Designed to support clusters of innovation by concentrating investment, infrastructure and support in areas with strong AI potential. Suffolk AI coalition is exploring the potential for an AI Growth Zone centred around Adastral Park, with links along the A14 corridor to Cambridge. Government is now formally inviting applications.	Lisa	To be confirmed
Business Finance Support	Asses local business finance landscape to identify gaps and opportunities for new programmes. To include consideration of • Tech Convergence Challenge Fund – Solving infrastructure and growth barriers through innovation. • Growing Suffolk Loan Scheme – Exploring a revolving fund model for business and infrastructure investment.	Lisa	Nov
Business Support Platform	Proposal to be developed for a digital platform to help enhance and streamline access to services for businesses. Next step to discuss and scope out with support organisations including Suffolk Chamber of Commerce, MENTA, FSB and University of Suffolk as part	Julian	Sept

	of wider plans for a more collaborative and partnership driven approach to business support provision in Suffolk.		
Halo Programme	Programme delivered in 24/25 by Anglia Capital Group (ACG) with 6 Suffolk companies being supported to become investment ready including 1 through to pitching to ACG investors in June. Sponsored by Suffolk County Council and British Business Bank. Given the success and appetite from local high growth businesses (with 7 further expressions of interest logged), the next phase of the programme is under consideration.	Julian	Sept
Centre of Excellence Feasibility	Feasibility study to assess the potential for both a Centre of Excellence and a Technical Excellence College in Suffolk. The study will explore opportunities in sectors and specialism, working closely with relevant partners including FE colleges to identify local strengths and build an evidence-based case for investment aligned with national skills policy.	Michael / Lisa	Nov
Suffolk High-impact Investment Portfolio	Building on the East of England Investment proposition, assemble focused set of high-impact propositions aligned with Suffolk's economic strategy, clearly segmented for global investors and government audiences. Each will be evidence-backed, deliverable, and positioned to highlight Suffolk's strengths, economic impact, and return on investment. This work is essential to sharpen our offer, compete for funding, and turn potential into investor-grade opportunities that align with national policy, market priorities and opportunities.	Lisa	Nov
Suffolk Showcase	The Board agreed in March to proceed with the development of: A Suffolk Showcasing Toolkit – a set of resources designed to support partners in promoting Suffolk's strengths consistently and effectively; and A Suffolk Showcase Event and Satellite Events – This flagship event will serve as the focal point of the showcasing efforts, complemented by a small number of satellite events throughout the week / week after.	Lisa	June - See Annex B
Integrated Water Action Plan	A joint initiative between Norfolk and Suffolk to address water-related constraints to growth—focusing on supply, reuse, and infrastructure. The plan will be developed in collaboration with water companies and Water Resources East. A working session is scheduled for 10 th June to shape the approach, with a proposal to be presented to the Business Board in July.	Matt Hullis / Lisa	July

Second Half of 2025: Gap Analysis and Evolution of Pipeline

In addition to progressing the interventions above, a key focus in the second half of the year will be to undertake a gap analysis of the current intervention list to identify:

- Missing or underdeveloped opportunities.
- Gaps in enabler and EPIC coverage.
- New and innovative ideas.

We will continue to work with Norfolk County Council and regional partners to develop shared interventions to maximise joint opportunities or address shared challenges. This includes joint workshops with stakeholders including Sector Industry Councils, innovation hubs, and skills networks to test new ideas and refine existing ones.

Progress Reporting

To enable oversight of Economic Strategy delivery, the following approach to reporting on intervention progress is proposed.

Interventions in the Investment and Delivery plan will be categorised:

- **Core interventions:** Those directly managed by Suffolk Economy or where we are a delivery partner or funder. These will be included in each reporting cycle where appropriate.
- **Partner-led interventions:** Those delivered solely by external partners. These will be reported on once a year.

Progress reports will be presented to the Board three times a year May, September and January. The January meeting will include a comprehensive annual report covering all interventions.

In addition to this a small number of interventions, which may be either core or partner-led, would be identified for more detailed updates and discussion. The Board will help shape the selection of these interventions, which will be scheduled into the forward plan and aligned with meeting themes to support deeper strategic input.

Annex C provides the first progress report using this proposed framework. The layout and content included has been updated to reflect feedback from the Board following the March meeting.

The Board is invited to:

1. Note the progress made on the Investment and Delivery Plan and the pipeline review.
2. Endorse the updated development priorities for the next wave of interventions.
3. Endorse the proposed approach to reporting intervention progress.
4. Approve a total budget of up to £75,000 to support the delivery of the Suffolk Showcase event and Suffolk Showcase toolkit.

Annexes:

- A. Summary of live interventions and emerging EPIC heatmap – Page 5
- B. Suffolk Showcase: Event and Toolkit Proposal – Page 10
- C. Investment & Delivery Plan – Core Interventions Progress Update June 2025 – Page 12

A. Summary of live interventions and emerging EPIC heatmap

Enabler	ID	Intervention Name and Summary	Scale	Category
Attracting Investment	AI001	Inward Investment Service - support existing businesses to grow and attract new companies to relocate to the region, driving inward investment and fostering economic expansion.	Norfolk & Suffolk	Core
	AI002	Enterprise Zones - Two multi-site Enterprise Zones (Great Yarmouth & Lowestoft EZ and Space to Innovate EZ) spanning 10 commercial sites. While business rates relief has ended, they continue to drive growth through sector-led clustering, streamlined planning, and reinvestment of retained business rates, attracting innovation and high-growth industries.	Suffolk	Core
	AI003	Suffolk Economy Grants – Grants for SMEs to drive productive, inclusive, and clean growth by promoting digital transformation, decarbonisation, innovation and sustainable practices. Key focus areas include technology adoption, research and development, sustainability, and talent inclusion.	Suffolk	Core
	AI004	Freeport East – Thousand square kilometres area based around major trade gateway where new economic regulations have been designed to stimulate employment, support trade, boost economic activity and investment in their local area. A bespoke customs operations model that can be applied to any site, anywhere across the geography, designed to support increased trade and investment.	Regional – North Essex and Suffolk	Partner-led
Boosting Infrastructure & Connectivity	BIC001	Local Area Energy Plan (LAEP) - Develop a Local Area Energy Plan to act as an evidence base for the emerging Regional Energy Strategic Plan and guide UKPN's strategic investment in energy infrastructure, supporting Suffolk's net-zero transition and enabling the electrification of the economy.	Suffolk	Core
	BIC002	Retrofit Assessment Vouchers – Focused on supporting domestic properties with the aim to carry out assessments for 640 to identify steps needed to retrofit. Supply chain events to build local capacity which will support the implementation of the assessments.	Suffolk	Partner-led
	BIC003	Warm Homes Suffolk Loan - Interest-free loans to help make residents' homes warmer, safer and cheaper to run. Energy efficiency upgrades such as insulation, solar panels, batteries, glazing, or heat pumps will all be possible with loans of up to £15,000 to be repaid over a maximum of 7 years at 0% interest.	Suffolk	Partner-led
	BIC004	5G Initiative lead by SCoC, aimed at boosting business awareness of 5G mobile technology and speeding up the rollout of the most advanced communications infrastructure across Suffolk.	County / National	Partner-led
	BIC005	Gigabit Broadband Voucher Scheme (GBVS) - focused on helping specific people and communities upgrade their broadband connection. Eligible homes and businesses can apply for up to £4,500 to cover the costs of a gigabit-capable connection.	National	Partner-led
Creating Pride In Place	CPiP001	Suffolk Co-ordination Office: A coordinated lobbying effort led by SCoC to try to secure government support and investment into 10 key priorities identified in both the Economic Strategy, and via Suffolk Convention 2024, including rail upgrades and road upgrades, water supply infrastructure and access to business finance.	Suffolk	Core

Creating Pride In Place	CPiP002	National AI Awards - following successful launch of the National AI Awards in Suffolk in 2024, hosted at Adastral Park, the aim is to secure for 2025 and develop a potential long term plan to sustain AI awards in future.	Suffolk / National	Core
	CPiP003	Ipswich Towns Deal - made up of 10 projects with £25m of government funding. This funding has already contributed to the development of the Integrated Care Academy at the University of Suffolk, the Net Zero Skills Centre at Suffolk New College, and the transformation of the old Post Office on the Cornhill into The Botanist.	Ipswich with wider Suffolk Impact	Partner-led
	CPiP004	SZC Tourism Mitigation Programme - Delivery of the Tourism Mitigation Programme	Regional, hosted by Suffolk	Core
	CPiP005	Invest in Suffolk Ambassadors - bring together people who are passionate about living and working in Suffolk and willing to use their skills and expertise to champion our county as a top business location.	Suffolk	Partner-led
Driving Enterprise & Innovation	DEI001	Cluster Analysis and Feasibility Study - Identify and establish clusters in strategic locations focused on sector specialisations and technology convergence.	Suffolk	Core
	DEI002	Knowledge Exchange Vouchers: A business matched scheme enabling access to research and innovation from the University of Suffolk. Vouchers fund defined projects with SMART objectives, delivered by a student placed within the business for a set period. The initiative focuses on the Digital Futures and Sustainability Institutes at the DigiTech Centre.	Suffolk	Core
	DEI003	AME Centre Bury St Edmunds - New industrial units and centre, 40,000sq ft, to create innovation space for new/growing companies.	West Suffolk with Suffolk wide impact	Core
	DEI004	NAAME - a dynamic community for manufacturing and advanced engineering businesses with 7 local cluster groups to support collaboration, supply chain development, joint funding opportunities and projects to enhance skilled recruitment, innovation, productivity etc.	Norfolk & Suffolk	Core
	DEI005	Connected Innovation – Continue to curate a collaborative network of innovation hubs and clusters. Working with finance and investment partners to support innovative businesses.	Norfolk & Suffolk	Core
	DEI006	Space East - Enhancing the East of England space cluster, growing the network and attracting new investment. Securing Adastral Park as a key strategic location for the space cluster. Enhancing the tech convergence with application of space tech across key sectors.	East of England Hosted by Suffolk	Core
	DEI007	Growth Hub - Designed to help improve the coordination and delivery of business support providing face-to-face professional advice to businesses and signpost them to the best resources from both the public and private sector.	National programme delivered locally	Partner-led

Driving Enterprise & Innovation	DEI008	Create Growth - Provide tailored business support to enable creative sector SMEs to become investment-ready, fostering growth and expansion into new markets.	Norfolk, Suffolk, Cambridge and Peterborough (hosted by Norfolk)	Core
	DEI009	Innovation Grant Mentoring Programme - Offer bespoke mentoring to help businesses identify relevant grant opportunities and develop strong bids to secure funding for innovative projects.	Norfolk and Suffolk (hosted by Norfolk)	Core
	DEI010	Made Smarter - Provide digitalisation support to manufacturing and engineering SMEs, enabling them to adopt new technologies, enhance productivity, and improve competitiveness.	Regional – East of England	Core
	DEI011	North Star High Growth Programme - Support high-growth potential SMEs through the delivery of customised business strategies and action plans to enhance scalability and drive sustained growth.	Suffolk	Core
	DEI012	Barclay's Eagle Lab in partnership with Norfolk and Suffolk. Supports startups and scaleups providing mentoring and resources to help businesses grow, with a specific focus on fostering innovation and driving entrepreneurship. Businesses can access Barclay's lab facilities in London.	Norfolk and Suffolk	Core
	DEI013	Development and promotion of Fintech East , the fintech cluster for Norfolk and Suffolk building on previous Norfolk CC funded activity and working with Tech East, FIG and FIPS.	Norfolk & Suffolk	Core
Talent Development	TD001	Skills Bootcamps - Deliver a range of training programmes connected to the enterprise and skills ecosystem, focusing on sector-specific and human skills gaps. Aim to upskill a minimum of 1,345 learners across Norfolk and Suffolk, with at least 60% achieving job-related outcomes. Skills Bootcamps are short employer led programmes of training for adults (aged 19 or over) aimed at meeting business needs. The training is procured on both a national and a local level and delivered by training providers.	National – delivered regionally Norfolk and Suffolk	Core
	TD002	Asset Skills Enhancement and Capability Fund (SZC) - Invest £7.8m over the lifetime of the SZC project to enhance skills in the local and wider region, creating a long-term skills legacy. Leverage equal investment from other sources to boost the regional skills system and infrastructure.	Regional, hosted by Suffolk	Core
	TD003	Adult Learning - Deliver adult learning programmes, removing barriers to education, training, and employment for Suffolk residents. Widen talent pipelines and enable individuals to progress towards or within employment.	Suffolk	Core

Talent Development	TD004	Apprenticeships Suffolk Service (from March 2025) - Increase apprenticeship starts, particularly for young people, educational settings, vulnerable groups, and those with 'untapped potential.' Maximise the strategic use of the Apprenticeship Levy to align with Suffolk's ambitions for talent development.	Suffolk	Core
	TD005	Suffolk Future Skills Fair Programme - Provide work inspiration for young people through employer engagement events, supporting schools to meet Gatsby Benchmarks. Enable businesses to showcase opportunities, helping prepare young people for employment.	Suffolk	Partner-led
	TD006	Norfolk and Suffolk Careers Hub - Support schools and colleges in improving their careers education against Gatsby Benchmarks. Increase employer engagement and improve student access to career-related experiences.	National Programme delivered across Norfolk & Suffolk	Core
	TD007	Thrive Young People - Support economically inactive young people (aged 16-25) in moving into education, employment, or training through targeted interventions. Help meet statutory participation obligations.	Suffolk	Core
	TD008	Skills Deals Programme - Provide matched grants to foster deeper strategic partnerships between employers and training providers, enabling the creation of new courses or enhancement of existing training in line with regional needs. Grants can be used for both capital and revenue spend, depending on the need.	Suffolk	Core
	TD009	Code Institute - In collaboration with Norfolk and Suffolk County Councils, the Code Institute will assess AI-related skills in key areas (Governance, People, Technology, Data, Value, and Strategy) across a minimum of 20 local organisations. In the short-term this will help immediate organisational AI skills gaps to be identified and in the longer term, the development of tailored AI training courses to uplift AI capabilities across the region to inform local stakeholders how to respond.	Norfolk & Suffolk	Core
	TD010	SZC Outreach Fund - Invest in programmes that support disadvantaged individuals, helping them develop the attributes and skills necessary to become work-ready for roles in the SZC project and related infrastructure developments.	Regional, hosted by Suffolk	Core
	TD011	Good Work and Health - Reduce sickness absence, improve staff retention, and boost productivity through a navigator service for SMEs in Suffolk. Provide one-on-one guidance to help employers identify and address challenges, creating healthier and more productive workforces.	Suffolk	Partner-led
	TD012	SEND Internship Programme - Enhance the quality and availability of SEND internships, increasing the number of young people with SEND entering the Suffolk workforce by providing tailored support to both employers and participants.	Suffolk	Core
	TD013	Regional Skills Coordination Function (SZC) - Coordinate skills activity for large-scale developments such as SZC, minimising negative impacts like labour displacement and wage inflation while maximising local employment benefits.	Regional	Core

Emerging Intervention EPIC Heatmap – Assessed expected impact

Enabler Theme	Name	E	P	I	C
Attracting Investment	Freeport East	4	4	4	3
Boosting Infrastructure & Connectivity	LAEP	3	3	3	4
Driving Enterprise & Innovation	North Star	4	4	3	2
Driving Enterprise & Innovation	Made Smarter	4	4	3	3
Driving Enterprise & Innovation	Create Growth	3	3	3	2
Driving Enterprise & Innovation	Cluster Analysis	4	4	4	4
Driving Enterprise & Innovation	Space East	4	4	4	3
Driving Enterprise & Innovation	NAAME	4	4	4	3
Driving Enterprise & Innovation	IGMP	3	3	3	2
Driving Enterprise & Innovation	AME	4	4	3	3
Driving Enterprise & Innovation	Connected Innovation	4	4	3	3
Driving Enterprise & Innovation	Suffolk Economy Grants	4	4	4	4
Talent Development	Code Institute	3	3	3	2
Talent Development	Apprenticeships Suffolk	4	3	4	2

4 – Significant impact (Green), 3- High impact (Yellow), 2 – Moderate Impact (Orange), 1- Low impact (Red)

B. Suffolk Showcase: Event and Toolkit Proposal

Context

As part of the "Pride in Place" enabler, this proposal outlines a dual initiative: the Suffolk Showcase event and a Suffolk Showcase toolkit. These interventions aim to raise Suffolk's profile, celebrate its economic strengths, and attract investment. The proposal responds to the Board's request in March for a costed plan.

Suffolk Showcase

A series of high-profile events in October presents a major opportunity to spotlight Suffolk's innovation and economic strengths:

- **Innovate Local East of England – 14 October, Bury St Edmunds:** Led by Innovate UK, this event will focus on digital and immersive tech in sectors like health, education, manufacturing, energy, and agri-food.
- **Suffolk AI Festival – 15–16 October, Bury St Edmunds:** A two-day showcase of Suffolk's AI capabilities, culminating in the National AI Awards at Adastral Park on 16 Oct.
- **Suffolk Convention – 24 October, Adastral Park:** Organised by the Suffolk Chamber of Commerce, is a by-invitation-only summit designed to bring together key decision-makers and influencers from across Suffolk.

We propose a roadshow model rather than a single focus event, integrating with these events and others. Further opportunities will be identified through the year to add to the roadshow programme which will be developed to ensure geographical and sectoral coverage. A dedicated budget will support participation, promotion, and stakeholder engagement across the programme.

Suffolk Showcase Toolkit: A comprehensive set of branded, co-usable resources designed to enable partners to promote Suffolk's economic strengths at their own events. The toolkit will include:

- A welcome and overview guide
- A Suffolk Economy-branded presentation deck with talking points
- Short promotional videos (1–3 mins) featuring Suffolk businesses and institutions
- Sector fact sheets and infographics (e.g. clean energy, agri-food, ICT, logistics)
- Case studies and testimonials in video, slide, and print formats
- An interactive map of key sectors and success stories
- Marketing templates (e.g. reports, flyers, email signatures, LinkedIn posts)
- Physical display materials (e.g. modular stand, pop-up banners, display boards) for use by the Suffolk Economy team only.
- A mechanism for digital distribution via the Suffolk Economy website

Expected Outcomes

- Increased visibility of Suffolk's economic strengths and opportunities
- Stronger business and investor engagement
- Growth in the Suffolk Champion network and toolkit usage
- Measurable media and social media reach
- Formation of new partnerships and investment leads

Resources

Delivery: Suffolk Economy team supported by commissioned local suppliers (quotes sought from three companies for both event and toolkit delivery) The communications group, which meets fortnightly, led by Kelly Boosey, will oversee and provide the day to day direction for delivery.

Total Funding Required: Up to £50k

C. Investment & Delivery Plan – Core Interventions Progress Update – June 2025

Key for progress status - **Green** - On track, **Amber** - Some issues/ risk of delay, **Red** - Significant issues / delayed

Enabler	Intervention or Action Details (to include Name)	Scale	Delivery Period	Progress Update	Progress Update
Attracting Investment	Suffolk Economy Grants – Grants for SMEs to drive productive, inclusive, and clean growth by promoting digital transformation, decarbonisation, innovation and sustainable practices. Key focus areas include technology adoption, research and development, sustainability, and talent inclusion.	Suffolk	Until funds are exhausted	A new system for applying for grants has been implemented - Submit.com portal – which is helping streamline the process and anticipate reduction in time to process an application. There are currently 113 enquiries under first stage eligibility review. Programme advisers are following up to assess needs, signpost support, or assist with applications if deemed eligible. There are 11 live applications requesting £447,374 in grants. However, the pipeline is overstated as some of these exceed funding limits. We are working with those businesses to explore whether their projects can proceed within the eligible funding limits. It is expected that the first couple of applications will be ready for panel review in July.	G
Boosting Infrastructure & Connectivity	Local Area Energy Plan (LAEP) - Develop a Local Area Energy Plan to act as an evidence base for the emerging Regional Energy Strategic Plan and guide UKPN's strategic investment in energy infrastructure, supporting Suffolk's net-zero transition and enabling the electrification of the economy.	Suffolk	To March 2026	Consultants have been selected through a Norfolk County Council-led procurement, with Suffolk support. We are currently in the cooling-off period and cannot announce the outcome yet. Work is expected to begin in the next couple of weeks, with delivery still on track for March 2026.	G
Boosting Infrastructure & Connectivity	Made Smarter - Provide digitalisation support to manufacturing and engineering SMEs, enabling them to adopt new technologies, enhance productivity, and improve competitiveness.	Regional – East of England	2025-26	Made Smarter Programme launched in May 2025 and now live and actively promoted via networks such as NAAME.	G

Creating Pride In Place	National AI Awards - following successful launch of the National AI Awards in Suffolk in 2024, hosted at Adastral Park, the aim is to secure for 2025 and develop a potential long-term plan to sustain AI awards in future.	Suffolk / National	45931	National AI Awards confirmed for October 16th 2025 to be hosted at Adastral Park. Private sector sponsorship needs to be identified and secured.	G
Driving Enterprise & Innovation	Knowledge Exchange Vouchers - A business matched scheme enabling access to research and innovation from the University of Suffolk. Vouchers fund defined projects with SMART objectives, delivered by a student placed within the business for a set period. The initiative focuses on the Digital Futures and Sustainability Institutes at the DigiTech Centre.	Suffolk	To March 2026	Discussions with the University of Suffolk are ongoing to finalise the scheme's timing, reporting framework, and expected outcomes. There is potential to launch the scheme for expressions of interest on 1st July, aligned with the Business Solutions Centre launch event. Marked amber due to a short delay while final details are agreed with UoS.	A
	Cluster Analysis and Feasibility Study - Identify and establish clusters in strategic locations focused on sector specialisations and technology convergence (e.g. FinTech)	Suffolk	To October 2026	The first phase of work is nearing completion - a Landscape Review that maps Suffolk's key sectors, highlighting growth trends, assets, skills pipelines, and innovation potential. This review focuses on six priority sectors and is due for delivery in early June, following a series of checkpoint meetings. The next phase —Prioritisation—will be shaped through a series of sector-specific workshops throughout June, culminating in a cross-sector Tech Convergence session at the end of the month and a presentation to the Board in July.	G

Driving Enterprise & Innovation	AME units Bury St Edmunds - New industrial units, 40,000sq ft, to create innovation space for new/growing companies.	West Suffolk with Suffolk wide impact	2025 - 2042	AME Centre planning application submitted. RG Carter, Pentaco Construction & Barnes Construction will be submitting a tender for the build SCC/WSC Funding Agreement progressed to point of signature Subsidy Control Principles Control Assessment submitted to DBT for feedback	G
	NAAME - a dynamic community for manufacturing and advanced engineering businesses with 7 local cluster groups to support collaboration, supply chain development, joint funding opportunities and projects to enhance skilled recruitment, innovation, productivity etc.	Norfolk & Suffolk	2025-2026	NAAME manufacturing groups continue to meet and network.	G
	Connected Innovation – Continue to curate a collaborative network of innovation hubs and clusters. Working with finance and investment partners to support innovative businesses.	Norfolk & Suffolk	2025-2026	Connected Innovation Programme continues to be delivered for 25/26 with joint team hosted by NCC and SCC. 27 innovation hubs form the Norfolk/Suffolk wide network, including Freeport East.	G
	Space East - Enhancing the East of England space cluster, growing the network and attracting new investment. Securing Adastral Park as a key strategic location for the space cluster. Enhancing the tech convergence with application of space tech across key sectors.	East of England Hosted by Suffolk	2025-2026	Initial funding for Space East secured from UKSA and 5 of the 6 counties in the EoE. Additional funding bid submitted to UKSA in May for further uplift to scale up activity e.g. to support QOD commercialisation at Adastral Park and also support development of new EoE Space Strategy. New industry led board and Governance model under development.	G

Driving Enterprise & Innovation	Create Growth - Provide tailored business support to enable creative sector SMEs to become investment-ready, fostering growth and expansion into new markets.	Norfolk, Suffolk, Cambridge and Peterborough (hosted by Norfolk)	2025-26	Create Growth Programme continues for 25/26 with two further regional cohorts and a major creative sector event planned in Ipswich.	G
	Innovation Grant Mentoring Programme - Offer bespoke mentoring to help businesses identify relevant grant opportunities and develop strong bids to secure funding for innovative projects.	Norfolk and Suffolk (hosted by Norfolk)	2025-26	IMGP continues for 25/26. £3.1m worth of bids have been supported to date. 21 Innovate UK bids have been successful.	G
	North Star High Growth Programme - Support high-growth potential SMEs through the delivery of customised business strategies and action plans to enhance scalability and drive sustained growth.	Suffolk	2025-26	North Star High Growth programme continues for 25/26 with strong alignment with the Suffolk Economy Grants programme.	G
	Barclay's Eagle Lab in partnership with Norfolk and Suffolk. Supports startups and scaleups providing mentoring and resources to help businesses grow, with a specific focus on fostering innovation and driving entrepreneurship. Businesses can access Barclay's lab facilities in London.	Norfolk and Suffolk	2025-26	The Future Tech Start-up programme continues for Suffolk, delivered by Innovation Labs to March 2026. 25+ tech start-ups already supported and 18 pitched for investment. Barclays Eagle Labs no longer involved directly. Amber - Barclays are no longer providing funding. Given the success of the initiative a Norfolk and Suffolk will continue with the programme but on a slightly smaller scale.	A

Talent Development	Skills Bootcamps - Deliver a range of training programmes connected to the enterprise and skills ecosystem, focusing on sector-specific and human skills gaps. Aim to upskill a minimum of 1,345 learners across Norfolk and Suffolk, with at least 60% achieving job-related outcomes. Skills Bootcamps are short employer led programmes of training for adults (aged 19 or over) aimed at meeting business needs. The training is procured on both a national and a local level and delivered by training providers.	National – delivered regionally Norfolk and Suffolk	To March 2026. Deliver y beyond depen ding on DfE	Norfolk and Suffolk Wave 5 Bootcamp Programme for 24/25 ranks 6th in the country in terms of percentage achieved against initial targets for learner starts. In 2024, SCC submitted proposals to the Department for Education (DfE) for further Skills Bootcamps delivery, totalling £4.1m for Norfolk and Suffolk in the 2025/6 funding year. DfE approved funding earlier in the year, enabling training for 1,345 learners across 14 sectors, from Agriculture to the Visitor Economy, aligning with regional requirements. Provider Contracts: Most current 'Wave 5' providers have had contracts extended due to strong performance in 24/25 and demonstrated need for continued provision (15 of 18 providers). DfE recently confirmed additional funding of £268,500 to support 69 learners in construction-specific Skills Bootcamps in Norfolk and Suffolk. Future Procurement: Up to £2.5m remains available for new Skills Bootcamp provision during 25/26, with new contracts expected to be in place by August.	G
	Code Institute - In collaboration with Norfolk and Suffolk County Councils, the Code Institute will assess AI-related skills in key areas (Governance, People, Technology, Data, Value, and Strategy) across a minimum of 20 local organisations. In the short-term this will help immediate organisational AI skills gaps to be identified and in the longer term, the development of tailored AI training courses to uplift AI capabilities across the region to inform local stakeholders how to respond.	Norfolk & Suffolk	To August 2025	Employers from Norfolk and Suffolk, representing a small cross-section of the economy, were identified through a promotional campaign. Several employers attended a workshop outlining the benefits of engaging in an AI Maturity Assessment and explaining the process. Around 20 employers have completed the first steps of the assessment. Reviewing with Code Institute the potential to work with another cohort to increase the sample size before running the report.	G