



Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government

Alex Norris MP

*Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for
Building Safety, Fire and Local Growth*
2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DF

Cllr. Matthew Hicks
Leader, Suffolk County Council
By email

26 June 2025

Dear Matthew,

THE INDUSTRIAL STRATEGY AND THE GREAT YARMOUTH & LOWESTOFT AND SPACE TO INNOVATE ENTERPRISE ZONES

I am writing to you regarding the recently published Industrial Strategy and the its impacts on your Enterprise Zones (EZs). As you may know, we have been considering the role of EZs in the Industrial Strategy, and I am pleased to be able to share the outcome of this work with you. The changes brought about through the Industrial Strategy are designed to support and enhance the delivery of key EZs, ensuring they continue to drive economic growth and innovation.

As part of the Industrial Strategy, the government is bringing the Freeports and Investment Zones programmes under a shared umbrella – **Industrial Strategy Zones**. These will be a key element of the overall Industrial Strategy, helping to support the development of thriving clusters in the sectors of the future across the UK, and the recently published Industrial Strategy Zones Action Plan sets out the additional support that government will provide to Industrial Strategy Zones to ensure their success.

In England, many EZs overlap with an Industrial Strategy Zone and share a similar focus, including Great Yarmouth & Lowestoft EZ and Space to Innovate EZ, and in particular the elements of these EZs that exist in Suffolk. Recognising this, and to support such EZs to achieve their full potential, the government is asking them to integrate with Industrial Strategy Zones, giving them access to enhanced support, better regional integration, and clear association with one of the government's flagship national agendas.

Industrial Strategy Zones will benefit from an ambitious cross-government package of support announced through the Industrial Strategy Zone Action Plan. This includes advisory support from the National Wealth Fund, introducing a new grid connections accelerator service, and support from the Office for Investment to refine value propositions for major investor opportunities and capital projects. The full suite of actions has been set out in the Action Plan which can be found [here](#).

To benefit from the Industrial Strategy Zone label and the enhanced government support set out in the Action Plan, Great Yarmouth & Lowestoft EZ and/or Space to Innovate EZ would need to be more closely aligned with Freeport East. Any integration will require the consent of the governing bodies for both the Industrial Strategy Zone and EZs. The expectation would be that, through integration, the EZs would be brought under the Industrial Strategy Zone's governance (adapted as required), and that the Retained Business Rates income generated

by the EZ considered as part of the wider Industrial Strategy Zone package for the area as a whole. Both Great Yarmouth & Lowestoft EZ and Space to Innovate EZ should also integrate into the planned Norfolk and Suffolk Combined Authority once it has been established, ensuring that future Mayors have a comprehensive set of tools with which to deliver local growth. The exact governance structure and mechanisms for administering the EZ within the Mayoral Strategic Authority are local decisions.

This is an exciting time and the Industrial Strategy and the resulting changes to our approach to local growth are another positive step towards achieving sustainable growth across the UK.

I look forward to continuing to work together on driving economic growth and delivering for communities across the UK, and I thank you for everything you have done in service of this critical mission to date.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'AN', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Alex Norris MP

Cc'd: Councillor Kay Mason Billig, Leader, Norfolk County Council; Nicola Beach, Chief Executive, Suffolk County Council