



Suffolk Growth Programme Board March 2019 Newsletter

Welcome!

by Suffolk Growth Programme Board

WELCOME

This is the sixth newsletter of the SGPB. It is designed to provide information and updates to all SGPB member organisations, and those working across the wider growth agenda, about our work and the outcomes we are looking to deliver.

The SGPB is chaired by Stephen Baker, Chief Executive of East Suffolk Councils with membership drawn from Suffolk Local Authorities; New Anglia LEP; the University of Suffolk and Suffolk Chamber of Commerce.

Role

The role of the Growth Programme Board, as agreed in December 2016, is to:

i. **lead:** the Suffolk Growth Framework at officer level, and through collaboration across the County ensure GPB outcomes are communicated to all staff and members.

ii. **deliver:** Suffolk's economic vision and achieve impact through the coordination of programmes and projects

directly managed by the GPB and through facilitated work with partners

iii. **influence (through engagement):** public / private stakeholders, businesses and politicians about the priorities for growth in Suffolk and the opportunities for improving the region's competitive position and prosperity

iv. **manage risk:** by understanding upcoming risks / unknowns and responding to these through a flexible & innovative approach to economic growth

Our work programme is designed to contribute to the following growth outcomes:

- Secure investment to deliver infrastructure that will enable development to the longer term benefit of Suffolk's communities and businesses
- Create a consistent, efficient, and transparent approach to planning to improve land supply
- Make Suffolk an optimal location for commercial innovation, investment, and business expansion
- Meet clearly identified skills, employment and economic development needs
- Deliver the homes that Suffolk needs to match current and future demand.
- Operate system wide approach to funding and finance supporting place based initiatives over the medium and long term

Event & Meeting Calendar!

The calendar below shows upcoming meetings, events, consultations and funding deadlines over the next three months. We are working on developing a forward look for the whole of 2019 and will continue to update this as we get information through.

Our draft calendar for the full year is available by [clicking here!](#)

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
				1 st March SPSL
4 th Brexit Task Force	5 th LIS Workshop – Leaders / CEXs	6 th	7 th Health and Wellbeing Board	8 th Transport East Forum
11 th Suffolk Design – Essex Study Tour E-W Rail Consultation closes	12 th	13 th E-W Rail Consortium	14 th Building Growth Growth Portfolio Holders	15 th
18 th	19 th	20 th Ely Area Enhancements	21 st	22 nd SGPB Meeting
25 th Transport East Officer Group	26 th	27 th NALEP Board Suffolk Design – Masterclass 2	28 th LIS Action Learning Set	29 th SPSL Sizewell C public consultation closes
1 st April East Suffolk Merger West Suffolk Merger	2 nd Economic Strategy Coordinating Delivery Board Chamber Transport Infrastructure Board	3 rd	4 th Suffolk Design – Masterclass 3	5 th
8 th	9 th	10 th Suffolk Infrastructure Group	11 th	12 th
15 th	16 th	17 th Ely Area Enhancements	18 th	19 th SGPB Meeting
22 nd	23 rd	24 th	25 th LIS Action Learning Set	26 th
29 th Suffolk Design – Masterclass 4	30 th	1 st May	2 nd East Suffolk Election	3 rd
6 th	7 th	8 th	9 th	10 th
13 th	14 th Economic Strategy Coordinating Delivery Board	15 th Growth Portfolio Holders	16 th Health and Wellbeing Board	17 th SGPB Meeting
20 th	21 st	22 nd Ely Area Enhancements	23 rd	24 th SPSL
27 th	28 th	29 th Suffolk Infrastructure Group	30 th	31 st

SGPB will... Lead

Suffolk's Framework for Growth

The Framework for Growth has been agreed by the Suffolk Growth Portfolio Holders and Leaders of all Local Authorities. The Framework is the document where we bring together the work that is being taken forward by across Suffolk into a single, cohesive programme. The Framework:

- (i) Presents our starting point and ambitions to allow us to engage with communities, partners and Government with a clear and consistent message
- (ii) Sets out a single, concise summary of the work being taken forward to plan, coordinate and deliver growth across Suffolk
- (iii) Enables connections between programmes of work across the public sector, thereby minimising duplication and ensuring greater benefit is delivered through our investments

It builds on our conversations with Government, our partners and our communities, which started with our proposals for devolution and have been built on through our responses to both the Industrial Strategy and the Housing White Paper. It provides the mechanism for monitoring our successes and realigning work that is not achieving the outcomes we anticipate.

The FRAMEWORK FOR GROWTH is coordinated through the Suffolk Growth Portfolio Holders (GP/H) and will continue to be taken forward by the Suffolk Growth Programme Board (SGPB). It is through this partnership approach that we will be able to deliver our ambitions. It will continue to be reviewed and updated as projects are developed and as our shared growth agenda is delivered.

[Click here](#) to see the Framework!

Deliver

The SGPB delivers projects and programme which help support Suffolk's Framework for Growth.

Further detail on all our programmes and projects is available from the Partnership Manager or any of the SGPB representatives. The following summaries *report back* on key aspects of some of the work we are currently undertaking and how it will be taken forward.

Suffolk Design!

Since the last newsletter in January 2019, there has been 4 more events as part of the Suffolk Design Programme. These events were:

Study Tour 1 – Cambridge!

The first of the three planned study tours took place on Friday, 1st February 2019. Attendees included 10 LA Officers, 12 Councillors and 4 Designers. The tour included 4 sites which focused on a wide range of housing projects, including:

North-west Cambridge: an extension to the city of Cambridge.

Abode, Great Kneighton: a major housing and mixed-use development in South Cambridge deploying varied housing types to suit the transition from urban to rural edge. Led by Proctor Matthews Architects.

Trumpington Meadows: a development set within a 148-acre country park. Led by Barratt Homes.



Study Tour 2 – Norwich and Kings Lynn

The second of the three planned study tours took place on Wednesday, 20th February 2019. The tour included visits to 4 sites, with a focus on providing high-quality, sustainable, affordable, Passivhaus-inspired homes that respond sensitively to the context. These sites were:

Goldsmith Street: A council-led, high-density, affordable Passivhaus standard development of fifty homes and fifty apartments. Led by James Turner, Mikhail Riches Architects.

Hillington Square: A sensitive and low environmental impact approach to remodel an existing estate. Led by Alex Ely, Mae Architects.

Carrowbreck Meadow: A low-density settlement of Passivhaus certified homes with an over-provision affordable homes. Led by Hamson Barron Smith.

The Enterprise Centre at UEA



Masterclass 1 – Proactive Planning

The first of the four planned masterclass training sessions began on Monday, 25th February 2019, taking place at Ipswich, focusing on Proactive Planning. The event included guest speakers;

Amy Burbidge, Design Action Manager, North Northamptonshire Joint Planning Unit

Dhruv Sookhoo, Head Research & Practice Innovation, Metropolitan Workshop LLP

Anna Rose, Head of the Planning Advisory Service (PAS), Local Government Association.

Attendees included: 26 LA Staff, 4 Stakeholders and 3 developers.



Parish and Neighborhood Engagement Event –

In partnership with Suffolk Association of Local Councils (SALC), a workshop was hosted to give Parish and Neighbourhoods the opportunity to help shape Suffolk Design. This event took place on Tuesday, 26th February 2019. A total of 51 Parish Councillors and Chairmen attended the event.



Next Steps for Suffolk Design! -

Delivering the Suffolk Design programme is the first step in developing and embedding a new approach to design and community engagement across the planning system. This work is not simply a planning project though and to be successful will require buy-in across all elements of development, those in the public sector and private industry. The wider the input we can gain during the next few months the better the outcome will be. There are many events planned for the following months, including further engagement events and training opportunities.

Please see our website www.suffolkdesign.uk for more information. To see a full list of events and attendees please [click here](#).

Procurement!

5 training events have now been held in Lowestoft, Bury St Edmunds, Ipswich, Stowmarket and Haverhill and another event is scheduled in Woodbridge for 2019 (see calendar of events).

The SGPB are working with the Procurement Leads across Suffolk, including LAs, CCG and

FE/HE, to carry out work on social value, identifying training that would be beneficial for Procurement Officers and carrying out a spend analysis for 2018 and breaking this down into categories.

Next steps for SGPB Procurement!

Additional training to ensure firms are "fit to bid"

Improved promotion of opportunities and / or better publicising of large contracts that have been awarded and may require additional input from sub-contractors / other firms in the Suffolk supply chain

Joint tendering opportunities across the public sector, e.g. can we generate a greater economic impact by coordinating our tender opportunities and minimising the time firms spend bidding for similar contracts? How do we balance this with ensuring appropriate competition?

Improved processes and systems for procurement resulting in more efficient working practices across the public sector

Sector specific initiatives, e.g. with construction firms, to better understand Suffolk's supply chains and their capacity to respond. This work will link with a number of skills development programmes that are being taken forward across the region.

Skills and employment!

The SGPB are working together with the skills team from SCC to produce a Skills Legacy Brief – focusing on the construction and energy sector. The aim of the project is to map the demand for and supply of the technical skills required in Suffolk over the next 10 – 15 year period with a specific focus on the construction roles required for key infrastructure development projects.

To meet our long-term growth ambitions Suffolk businesses must have access to a sufficient volume of the technical skills that significant infrastructure developments will require. In order to best ensure that this demand is met we require a comprehensive, current assessment of these technical roles - and both the foundation skillsets and the changing competencies that will be required to fulfil them – at both an absolute level and with a more detailed breakdown of the higher skilled, higher wage, roles.

This will help ensure we drive local employment, training and upskilling in the

technical skills that are currently in demand and that have likely applications in future infrastructure development (i.e. a 'legacy' skillset), thus mitigating against the risk of training for unemployment.

Suffolk Infrastructure Plan!

The SGPB have drafted a Suffolk Infrastructure Plan which is going to be further developed by the Suffolk Infrastructure Group (SIG). Initial discussions are focused on (i) the purpose of the plan and (ii) the projects to be included. If anyone else would like the opportunity to comment please contact Kay for a current version of the plan.

A14 / rail Economic Impact Assessment

The SGPB commissioned Hatch Regeneris to provide supporting economic / social impact assessment for A14 junctions / rail corridor improvements. Analysis from the commission was fed into Chamber A14 Strategy Board's refreshed brochure and Transport East members have been updated on the work. [Click here](#) to see the A14 infographic.

Influence

The SGPB are committed to influencing the growth priorities through engagement. The following shows some of the meetings, organisations, consultations and forums we are currently engaged with.

Economic Strategy Delivery Coordinating Board

NALEP 5th March Leaders / Business engagement event – the SGPB have submitted case studies to NALEP that can be used for the Leaders LIS Workshop. These will support the understanding of what has been delivered to support the Economic Strategy.

Further work is currently being carried out on the development of LIS evidence base and input into the strategy development focusing on what it is that makes Suffolk DISTINCTIVE.

Transport East

Transport East: At the next forum meeting the focus for SGPB is to promote A14 corridor as critical to region's economic

prosperity. The SGPB has also carried out a consultation with young people, asking two short questions:

Question 1: "Thinking about the next 12 months what is the single biggest constraint to the transport network for young people in this region?"

Question 2: "What do you think is the single biggest improvement that could be made to our transport network over the next 10 years?"

The consultation had 311 responses in a 10 day period. The feedback will be presented at the next Transport East Forum. The full report can be accessed by [clicking here](#).

Brexit Task Force

Brexit Task Force: Nick Khan (Strategic Director, East Suffolk Council) and Caroline Davison (Head of Policy, Suffolk County Council) are leading the Brexit Task Group. This is a small cross public sector task group of officers (including NALEP) to coordinate the Suffolk wide aspects of Brexit.

The SGPB have recently carried out a survey to all Procurement Leads across Suffolk. The survey consisted of 3 questions on the actual/potential concern with supply of labour, cost increases, legislation changes, in which they were asked to rate their concern 0-5 (0 being the not at all, 3 being somewhat concerned and 5 being extremely concerned). The overall feedback showed that there were no responses that showed any high level concern about the three topics and the additional comments made were mainly surrounding mitigation strategies, such as risk impact reviews.

The SGPB project co-ordinator is supporting the weekly intelligence and research briefing leading on updates on funding opportunities, consultations and important information relating to growth.

SGPB Photo Gallery!



Growth Programme Board Staff & Representatives

Listed below are the organisations and individuals on Growth Programme Board. Please contact any of these representatives to find out more about the role and work of GPB and understand how our work aligns with that of your team / organisation.

Chair: Stephen Baker, Chief Executive East Suffolk Councils, Growth Lead for Suffolk Authorities

Growth Programme Partnership Manager: Karen Chapman

Growth Programme Project Coordinator: Kay Bonning-Schmitt

Babergh Mid Suffolk District Councils:

Tom Barker, Assistant Director Planning for Growth; Phil Isbell, Corporate Manager Growth & Sustainable Planning / Marc Cole, Assistant Director Economic Development & Regeneration

East Suffolk Councils: Philip Ridley, Head of Planning / Paul Wood, Head of Economic Development

Ipswich Borough Council: Martyn Fulcher, Head of Development; Michelle Gordon, Economic Development Project Manager

New Anglia Local Economic Partnership: Chris Starkie, Chief Executive Officer

Suffolk Chamber of Commerce: Nick Burfield, Director of Policy / Andy Walker, Head of Policy & Research

Suffolk County Council: Jai Raithatha, Head of Economic Development; / John Pitchford, Head of Planning / Sue Roper, Assistant Director Strategic Development / Michael Gray, Skills and Employment Manager

Suffolk Housing Board: to be confirmed

University of Suffolk: Tim Greenacre, Registrar

West Suffolk Councils: Andrea Mayley, Head of Service, Economic Development / Julie Baird, Assistant Director of Growth

Suffolk Constabulary and colleagues from Cambridgeshire / Peterborough have an open invitation to attend

Suffolk
Growth
Programme
Board
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Newsletter

OUR NEXT NEWSLETTER WILL BE PUBLISHED MAY 2019

For more information:

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