



Suffolk Growth Programme Board

ISSUE 4

OCTOBER 2018

Welcome

This is the fourth newsletter of the SGPB. It is designed to provide information and updates to all SGPB member organisations about the work of the Board and the outcomes we are looking to deliver.

The GPB 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



Upcoming events

It's a busy time of year for all staff...here are just a few of the upcoming events that the SGPB is delivering, sponsoring or attending.

Month	Event	Date
October	West Suffolk Business Festival	2 nd (for 10 days)
	<i>Suffolk Design</i> staff workshop	5 th
	SGPB meeting	12 th
	Building foundations for the future – housing conference	16 th
	Suffolk Chamber Transport & Infrastructure Board	16 th
	Suffolk Skills Show	17 th
	LGA Procurement masterclass	19 th
	Lakenheath procurement event	22 nd
	<i>Suffolk Design</i> Roundtable (2)	23 rd
	Procurement training for firms	24 th
	<i>Suffolk Design</i> (Roundtable (3)	29 th
	East Suffolk Business Festival	29 th (for 10 days)
November	Local Energy East workshop	2 nd
	NALEP Building Growth Group	8 th
	<i>Suffolk Design</i> Roundtable (4)	14 th
	Biodiversity conference	22 nd
	SGPB Funding & Finance seminar	23 rd
	Procurement training for firms	29 th / 30 th
December	Transport East partnership forum	17 th
	SGPB meeting	21 st

Our programmes & projects - Report back!

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 – a full programme of events is underway and our first survey has been launched on our website:

www.suffolkdesign.uk

Our first Roundtable was held at Christchurch Mansion, Ipswich focusing on “good growth”. Some quotes from the day....

“We need to rethink how to engage communities. Too often it is late and based on tick boxes. It needs to be open and early.”

“Evidence base is there but deliverability in the end wins which is not necessarily good growth.. but how do we push forward most sustainable sites rather just the deliverable ones?”

“My experience of where the masterplanned process has worked well we rarely get objections from local community by the time it gets to planning application. The local community has been significantly engaged at masterplan stage.”

“Agree the home is changing, rapidly. We need to plan for different demographics and an ageing population. Above all we need to shift the discussion to be about homes rather than houses; the delivery of detached houses is an inefficient use of land.”

Going forward

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 6 months the better the outcome will be.

Building Growth Group (NALEP): Utilities workshop

20th September

An interesting day run by the Building Growth Group. Attendees were Local Authorities, Utility Companies and a few developers. There were 4 workshops looking at:

1. Regulations and whether they are barriers to productivity. It was agreed that improved clarity was needed and that ideally there would be common regulations between different utility companies.
2. Relationships and how the barriers should be addressed (more transparency, information sharing, openness and continuity). It was agreed that more strategic dialogue would be useful and a utilities event should be held annually.
3. Resourcing (staffing shortages, lack of communication and lack of understanding about different roles). It was agreed that there could be a fast-track option (focussed teams for strategic sites), collaborative partnerships and

the skills gaps need to be more of a priority with the sector being made a more attractive career option.

4. Funding – requires innovative thinking: a paradigm shift for new technology for construction rather than just continuing building using the old methods; a mechanism for sharing financial risk; an enabling fund could be used to make infrastructure more investable.

Going forward

Ensuring we can deliver the utilities we need to enable growth is crucial if we are to achieve our aim of investing in enabling infrastructure in advance of development. A further workshop is scheduled for 2nd November at Endeavour House to consider strategic priorities and local needs. Staff attending the workshop are asked to complete this short survey before Friday 5th October.

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdvvdKX9oUUDvDDqQ4T6dyTgbCpcaQSOMIbXG1EDeL7B-84AA/viewform>



A review of public sector procurement – our survey of firms

Summary of key business survey findings: The survey generated a high response level (391 firms) and was representative by company size and market sector of the business community across Suffolk. A high percentage of respondents had tendered for public sector contracts and of these over half were successful.

Key results:

- A broad spread of business sectors represented, with the largest being construction and development, business consultancy and management, training and education, ICT, tech and digital and advanced manufacturing and engineering
- 160 organisations (41%) had begun the tender process for public sector contracts in the last five years (34% completed the process, 7% started but did not complete)
- Overall, 66 organisations reported that they had been awarded a contract
- Respondents tendered to a wide range of public sector bodies, with 54% doing so to Suffolk County Council and 36% to a borough or district council
- 18% reported tendering to 'other'. On examination, these fall into three main categories: separately listed public sector bodies - usually councils, sub contracts for providers of services to public sector bodies and out of county public sector organisations
- There was no one overwhelming individual barriers or group of barriers identified, suggesting that there is a broad based perception of a range of challenges that have been or could be encountered in tendering for public sector contracts
- 159 organisations suggested they'd be interested in attending a workshop about overcoming barriers to bidding with the vast majority leaving their contact details for our follow-up

WE ARE DELIVERING A SERIES OF TRAINING EVENTS FOR FIRMS BASED ON THE FEEDBACK RECEIVED

<https://www.google.com/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=1&cad=rja&uact=8&ved=2ahUKEwjiuq2WwuXdaAhUMCsAKHe8eDekQFjAAegQIBRAD&url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.suffolkchamber.co.uk%2F&usg=AOvVaw1bT3KGaCra0GxEXAMf5S7M>

[2F%2Fwww.suffolkchamber.co.uk%2F&usg=AOvVaw1bT3KGaCra0GxEXAMf5S7M](https://www.suffolkchamber.co.uk%2F&usg=AOvVaw1bT3KGaCra0GxEXAMf5S7M)

Quotes from the Survey

"The tender system is confusing as you cannot delete old tenders and the new tenders do not come in order so you have to trawl through pages and pages of tenders." (Medium business - transport, freight and logistics)

"It is just too difficult to be recognized for procurement when you are small and you lack support as well as the experience." (Micro business – education and training)

"Excessive bid costs, caused by uncertain requirements, extended timescales, lack of information and uncertain decision timescales are the most significant barrier to bidding in our experience." (Micro business – construction and development)

Going forward

Our procurement work will be brought together in an Action Plan to be taken forward by the SGPB & CWPG. Our aim is to better understand how we can impact on the local economy through procurement. This could include:

- 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 would link with a number of skills development programmes that are being taken forward across the region.



Our outcomes

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

Regional working

Recent and upcoming regional meetings and groups that SGPB attends to either support Members and / or ensure alignment of, and contribution to, the delivery of our growth ambitions include:

MOST ACTIVE COUNTY

Most Active County

(MAC) Strategic Group: Suffolk's Director of Public Health & Protection has established a new Strategic Group to take forward the MAC partnership (which was moved to the Public Health Directorate in 2017). The GPPM has been invited to join the Strategic Group and ensure the work of GPB is aligned with MAC initiatives aimed at improving levels of physical activity across Suffolk and contributing to our wider, shared, inclusive growth ambitions. The second meeting is scheduled for 14th December.

Economic Strategy Coordinating Delivery Board

NALEP has established a Coordinating Delivery Board to develop and oversee the implementation of the Economic Strategy for Norfolk & Suffolk. This Board will also oversee the development of the Local Industrial Strategy. Board members, drawn from Norfolk & Suffolk include: Chambers, FSB, CBI, District Chief Executives, County Economic Development Directors, Growth Board representatives. The Board is currently considering how to demonstrate & report progress against the Economic Strategy and how the uncertainty of Brexit should be reflected.



Transport East

SGPB provides officer support to Members on Transport East – the sub national transport body across the Eastern region of England.

Transport East meets 4x per annum the officer group to develop the TE strategy based on the 3 key themes of: Ports & Airports / connecting our centres of growth / coastal communities.

<http://www.eelga.gov.uk/meetings/transport-east-forum/>

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



Babergh Mid Suffolk District Councils: Tom Barker, Assistant Director Planning for Growth; Phil Isbell, Corporate Manager Growth & Sustainable Planning

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

Suffolk County Council: Jai Raithatha, Head of Economic Development; / John Pitchford, Head of Planning / Sue Roper, Assistant Director Strategic Development / Andrea Wood, Head of Skills

University of Suffolk: Tim Greenacre, Registrar

West Suffolk Councils: Andrea Mayley, Head of Service, Economic Development

Suffolk Constabulary and colleagues from Cambridgeshire / Peterborough have an open invitation to attend all meetings of SGPB.

OUR NEXT NEWSLETTER WILL BE PUBLISHED JANUARY 2019

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Please contact Karen Chapman, karen.chapman@eastsuffolk.gov.uk

If you wish to unsubscribe from the newsletter please contact Karen.

