

# EAST SUFFOLK BUSINESS PLAN 2015 - 2023



## CASE STUDY

### FINANCIAL SELF-SUFFICIENCY

# COASTAL PARTNERSHIP EAST

Our Business Plan sets out a vision where we work in partnership with other organisations to increase efficiency and share knowledge, skills and resources to better enable engagement, growth and development.

[eastsuffolk.gov.uk/east-suffolk-business-plan](http://eastsuffolk.gov.uk/east-suffolk-business-plan)



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# INTEGRATED COASTAL MANAGEMENT EXPERTISE FOR IMPROVED EFFICIENCY



## WHAT WE DID?

The Councils' Coastal Management Team has an overall objective to appropriately manage the risk to life, property and the environment from coastal erosion and related flooding. In order to ensure the most effective delivery of services, a new and innovative partnership; Coastal Partnership East, was created. The partnership, launched in June 2016, manages 220km of coastline stretching between Holkham in North Norfolk and Landguard Point in Felixstowe. The partnership brings together coastal management resources and expertise from Great Yarmouth Borough Council, North Norfolk District Council and Suffolk Coastal and Waveney District Councils. Governance arrangements are actively in place comprising a board with Committee Chair, Portfolio Holders and Senior Officers Group from each authority which meets regularly to direct and monitor progress. Coastal Partnership East works in partnership with the Environment Agency, the Water Management Alliance, as well as coast and estuary community partnerships.

COMBINING THE EXPERTISE OF 4  
LOCAL AUTHORITIES



## WHY WE DID IT?

The new partnership shows a progressive approach to coastal management and allows all involved organisations to benefit from combined expertise. Working in partnership ensures local intelligence is retained and the knowledge and experience of existing staff close to retirement is passed on within the partnership creating greater resilience for the future.

The staffing structure transcends traditional geopolitical boundaries so that resources are focused on resolving the issues affecting our coast rather than being limited to geographical areas. Expertise can therefore be applied to the problem wherever it is needed along the coast instead of being confined by local authority boundaries.

Our commitment to partnership working protects essential front-line services and delivers value for money for the taxpayer.



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## THE DIFFERENCE THIS MADE?

Work relating to the Gorleston to Lowestoft Coastal Strategy saw officers from within Coastal Partnership East utilising their knowledge and expertise, in terms of engineering, funding and community engagement. Before the formation of the partnership, this work would have been brought in from external consultants. The partnership has been visible on the local and national stage, including a mention in Parliament.



"Together we can take advantage of a larger resource of local knowledge and a higher degree of efficiency. The results will be positive for all involved partly because the marine environment takes no notice of district boundaries."

- CLLR DAVID RITCHIE & CLLR ANDY SMITH  
EAST SUFFOLK COUNCILS