

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

| Intervention or Action Details (to include Name) | Scale | Delivery Period | Progress Update | Progress Update |
|--|-------------------|---------------------------|---|-----------------|
| Enabler: 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 | 7 grants offered totalling £273,346 with projects leveraging £1,408,664 of private sector match a ratio of just over 1:5. Out of the seven funded projects, we're powering up four manufacturing businesses with cutting-edge heavy machinery to supercharge production. One project is driving innovation through a bold R&D initiative, while another is equipping a media company with state-of-the-art broadcasting gear for live events. 8 applications are in progress totalling £202,637. If these are awarded 48% of the fund will be allocated. There are also a further 11 projects in the pipeline currently undergoing eligibility checks. A social media promotional campaign for the grant will go live early September to raise awareness of the programme and provide examples of they types of projects that the fund aims to support. | G |
| Enabler: BOOSTING INFRASTRUCURE & 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. | Norfolk & Suffolk | To March 2026 | City Science has started work. The Steering Group has met, with strong engagement from local and national partners including NESO and UKPN. Norfolk and Suffolk's energy data was submitted to UKPN for their August window to inform network planning and align with DNO timelines. This is part of a broader effort to align local energy planning with distribution network operator (DNO) processes and timelines. A second opportunity to influence UKPN is expected in early 2026. This future round is expected to allow for more detailed engagement and refinement of the scenario and modelling approach. Stakeholder interviews and workshops are in progress to gather local insights and surface challenges. | G |
| Integrated Water Action Plan (I-WAP) - A joint initiative between Norfolk and Suffolk to address water-related constraints to growth—focusing on supply, reuse, and infrastructure. | Norfolk & Suffolk | To May 26 | A partnership between Norfolk County Council, Suffolk County Council, and Reclaim the Rain has been agreed, with each contributing £50k—totalling £150k in funding. The final draft of the scoping document is complete and has received input from water companies. Reclaim the Rain has also committed to delivering an economic analysis on the value of water scarcity contributing further funding to deliver this. This will feed into the I-WAP. Defra are intrested in the approach that we are taking and keen to see how it progresses, they are considering if they should scale it across the country. The intervention has been marked amber due to the NCC project manager transitioning to a new role. We're awaiting confirmation that they can continue to lead the project, as it aligns with their new responsibilities. This has caused a short delay in procurement, and project delivery is now expected to slip by one month. | A |

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| Enabler: 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 | Oct-25 | Suffolk Economy inviting representatives from SBB and local tech firms/organisations (2 x tables of 10 as part of sponsorship deal). Sponsorship secured to cover costs of event (incl. some corporate sponsors). Shortlisted award nominees announced. Working with comms leads to maximise profile and impact. | G |
| Suffolk Showcase Event -SS Focal event to promote and highlight Suffolk's strengths, innovation and opportunities helping to build pride in place. SS toolkit will support a consistent compelling narrative about Suffolks strengths and opportunities. Aim to be designed to be used by a wide range of advocates and partners to <u>promote Suffolk at events, in meetings and across networks</u> | Suffolk | Ongoing | Attendance confirmed for West Suffolk Business Festival, AI Awards, Innovate Local, Suffolk Convention and East of England Business Bootcamp. Our involvement will include a mix of showcase stands, event sponsorship and speaking opportunities. We are also looking at additional opportunities with the AI Festival, CAS annual conference and October Inward Investment Event | G |
| Suffolk Showcase toolkit -SS Focal event to promote and highlight Suffolk's strengths, innovation and opportunities helping to build pride in place. SS toolkit will support a consistent compelling narrative about Suffolks strengths and opportunities. Aim to be designed to be used by a wide range of advocates and partners to promote Suffolk at events, in meetings and across networks | Suffolk | Ongoing | Discovery session with two creative agencies (Spring, Capsule) to confirm creative direction of the toolkit. Work will be split between the two agencies to deliver: marketing templates, promotional information, case studies, infographics and physical display materials. Materials will be developed by end of September ready for use throughout October and beyond. The toolkit will be downloadable on our website for partner use. | G |

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| Enabler: DRIVING ENTERPRISE & INNOVATION | | | | |
| 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 | The Made Smarter Grants Panel met for the first time on September 3rd and has made its first approval. This follows the inaugural meeting of the Programme Board in June. | G |
| 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. (Marked amber due to the 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 | Following the agreement on the three missions and 4 clusters from the Business Board, Plexal is conducting deep dives into each of the for clusters to develop tailored growth plans, using a 12-cross grid framework focused on mission, purpose, and measurable outcomes. Sector interdependencies are being mapped, with contributors, beneficiaries, and enablers identified. Stakeholder engagement is being aligned to the Industrial Strategy, with enhanced opportunities and skills emerging in the Health/VSE sector via business board members. | G |
| 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 permission granted. Pentago Construction sent Letter of Intent for the formal building contract. Mobilisation period expected to start imminently with construction phase expected to start at the end of October. SCC/WSC Funding Agreement sealed and signed by both parties. Subsidy Control Principles Control Assessment submitted. | 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 | A new NAAME Project Manager has been appointed with the previous Manager now running the East of England Made Smarter initiative. Plans are in place to refresh the NAAME Industry Council and plan future activities. | 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 | The network now sits at 28 with Evotech and Norwich Digital Hub joining in June. The Innovation Prospectus is being updated to capture the latest innovation activity through the network with the updated version due to go live in late October. Innovate Local – East of England Innovate UK Event confirmed for 22nd October at The Apex in Bury St Edmunds. Panel sessions on Space, Advanced Manufacturing, and Creative Tech to name a few. Supported by Connected Innovation. | 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 | Uplift in funding secured from UKSA. New Space East board and governance established with new Chair/Vice Chairs. Feasibility work started on developing QOD commercial opportunity and Space Hub for Adastral Park (consultants appointed and working with partners e.g. UoS, BT, SCC, Space East. Additional resource now on board to provide support to Space East. | G |

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| 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 | <p>The next Investment Readiness cohort launches in September in Cambridge during Cambridge Tech Week. Funding round results from May are pending release although applicants have been notified.</p> <p>No further funding has been committed to the Create Growth programme in the East following the Modern Industrial Strategy. Funds are now being committed directly to existing MCCA areas instead.</p> | 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 | <p>Programme now in its third funding phase. Outputs to date are; 537 businesses across Suffolk and Norfolk registered and received advice on their area of innovation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 391 businesses have registered to IGMP Innovation webinars / workshops - 137 applications for 1:1 support reviewed by our Steering Group - 83 businesses approved for Innovation Mentoring and or Bid Writing Coaching from the projects team of experts - 99 bids from businesses on the project into Innovate UK have been supported by our team. Value of bids supported = £17 Million - 21 of these bids into Innovate UK have been successful (to date) - Total successful funding bids supported (to June 2025) = £3.1 Million | 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 | <p>22 high growth potential businesses provided with intensive assistance so far in 25/26. Plans to appoint additional short term resource (6 months) to provide additional support with targeted engagement, triaging and support as well as lead generation for Suffolk Economy grant.</p> | A |
| Future Start-Up Programme (formerly 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 | <p>For Suffolk the Future Tech programme is making good progress with 15 businesses supported this year through 27 evaluation workshops, of which one now benefits from free workspace and startup support. The delivery partner Innovation Labs is also moving to larger premises. Quarterly progress review meetings are taking place with County Councils and Connected Innovation for the Norfolk and Suffolk programme.</p> | G |

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| Fintech East Development and promotion of the fintech cluster for Norfolk and Suffolk building on previous Norfolk CC funded activity and working with Tech East, FIG and FIPS. | Norfolk & Suffolk | Mar-25 | Tech East contracted to deliver and commenced work end Q1. Focus on mapping Suffolk fintech cluster (building on earlier Norfolk work by Tech East) to create a regional ecosystem. FinTech East brand and website under development. | G |

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| Enabler: 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. Delivery beyond depending on DfE | <p>Phase 1 of delivery of the Norfolk and Suffolk Bootcamps Programme for 2025/6 (Wave 6) has commenced with contracts in place across 15 training providers operating 23 programmes from construction groundworks to sustainable project management. These initial contracts, totalling £1.8 million, will support delivery to 587 learners. The County Council is also in the process of procurement for phase 2 of the programme, utilising a further £2.5 million of funding for an additional 827 learners across the region. This includes an additional package provided by the Department for Education specifically for construction bootcamps (£268,000 for 70 learners). Procurement is taking longer than expected (due primarily to a very high number of bids) with new contracts now expected to be confirmed in w/c 22nd September.</p> <p>The Suffolk Economic Strategy, the Norfolk Local Growth Plan and Local Skills Improvement Plan, along with Skills sector groups and a pre-market engagement feedback exercise have shaped the procurement approach and guided us to develop three themes for Skills Bootcamps opportunities in the region:</p> <p>Developing Talent for Infrastructure: Skills Bootcamps will support the equipping of individuals with the skills needed to support the delivery and maintenance of physical infrastructure across Suffolk and Norfolk. It includes training in areas such as construction, engineering, welding, arboriculture, landscaping, and retrofit. The objective is to ensure local people can access employment opportunities linked to infrastructure investment and development</p> <p>Developing Talent for Technology Application and Convergence: Skills Bootcamps will support the integration of digital, AI, clean tech, robotics, and satellite applications with existing industries to drive growth in key sectors. It targets sectors like coding, Agri-tech, AI, and advanced manufacturing. The goal is to drive innovation and productivity by enabling the workforce to apply and adapt to technological change across key growth sectors.</p> <p>Developing Talent to underpin Growth and Employment: Skills Bootcamps will address broader cross-sector workforce needs that support economic growth and employment across Suffolk and Norfolk. It includes training in logistics, leadership and management, early years and education, digital marketing, health and social care, catering and hospitality, and customer service. It also embeds sustainability, efficiency, and net-zero practices, and includes core employment skills to help individuals enter and progress in the labour market</p> <p>.</p> | G |
| 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. | County (and wider region where wider region and Suffolk requirements align) | 2025-2035 | <p>Applications to the fund are being progressed with 4 applications moving to detailed application stage. Expectation that some proposals will have 'agreements in principle' in place to be funded by October. Next Annual Skills Implementation Plan to confirm funds to be made available for allocation in 25/26.</p> | G |

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| 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. | County | Ongoing | All contracts now agreed with providers for provision resulting from the additional skills funding provided by Government for academic year 25/26 (focused on infrastructure skills, tech application and convergence and skills for key growth and employment areas) alongside the extension of current contracts for our main providers including Realise Futures. Service remains a 'Good' service (by both self-assessment and OFSTED rating serving 2000+ adults in Suffolk each year. | G |
| 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. | County | March 2025 - March 2026 | Apprenticeships Suffolk have supported 277 participants from commencing new UKSPF funding on 1st April 2025 to date. Apprenticeships Suffolk continues to work with participants of all ages who are considering, or ready for, an apprenticeship, especially those who face barriers to accessing education or employment and are the furthest from the labour market. This includes school leavers considering their post-16 options, those not in education, employment or training, care leavers, those with SEND, unemployed individuals and the prison leaver community. Apprenticeships Suffolk have received a further £100k of funding from Suffolk Bright Futures to support individuals 19+ who wish to explore an apprenticeship as either a means to either enter employment or change career and work towards achieving a qualification at the same time. The funding also requires collaboration and equipping external partners and networks with current apprenticeship IAG and on-ward support as required. | G |
| 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. | County | Oct-25 | The Suffolk Future Skills Fair Programme will take place on November 3rd at Ipswich Suffolk New College Campus. The main sponsor is Sizewell C. More information: https://www.suffolk.ac.uk/college-life/events/futureskills-fair/ | A |
| 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 | Now - August 2026 | Careers Hub continuing to make progress in supporting performance of schools against the Gatsby Benchmarks. Changes to Gatsby Benchmarks for academic year 25/26 and new requirements for work experience will see focus shift for 25/26. Strategy and delivery plan being developed. National funding from the Careers & Enterprise Company has been confirmed. Suffolk to provide £88k of match already ringfenced for this purpose. | G |

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| 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. | County | March 2025- March 2026 | Over 250 young people have now seen a positive EET outcome across the two years of the project. The project has been continuing to work closely with Sally Hill to convene meetings across Suffolk to explore how as a project we can work with other organisations and what young people need. The result of this is the creation of 'info@' sessions across the county once a month in youth provision settings. These are informal drop-ins that Thrive, along with other providers, DWP and SCC Young Persons Coaches and Workers attend to offer support and guidance to young people. Suffolk New College is a key co-ordinator and has set up Padlets and flyers for each session. Lofty Heights has continued delivering, developing and onboarding for Skills Academies – with Jumpstart Stowmarket running through June and an employability carousel in conjunction with Suffolk new College, Hospitality skills academy and an online CSCS card. | G |
| 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. | County | Now - January 2026 | All Skills Deals agreements with each college in place and projects proceeding as expected. Progress reports due from each project in October. This will be the last phase of the long-running Skills Deals Programme. | 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 | The AI Skills Assessment is still available for local employer to complete. Code Institute will be hosting a second webinar on 23rd September to attract further employers across both Norfolk and Suffolk to undertake the AI Skills Assessment. The webinar will focus on what the employer report looks like, how employers can utilise it and some local testimonies/ case studies. Following the second webinar we will review the additional cohort size and agree a date for our final regional report. | G |
| 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. | Suffolk | Now - 2035 | The Outreach thematic group has been established and will help to inform the specification for the Outreach fund. The fund itself is expected to be launched before the end of the calendar year. | G |
| 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 | Now - March 2026 | The PH&C commissioned Good Health @ Work programme continues to have a positive impact on local small and medium enterprises. In just 9 months of delivery: •50+ Good Health @ Work awards have been completed. •280 referrals have been made into the service. •Engagement with the resource hub has exceeded target by 183%. | G |

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| Supported Internship Programme - Enhance the quality and availability of Supported internships, increasing the number of young people with barriers (often those with SEND) entering the Suffolk workforce by providing tailored support to both employers and participants. | Suffolk | Now - March 2026 | We have doubled the number of supported internship placements within the county. We hold regular SEND employment forums which are hosted by SCC and aimed at employers, providers, DWP and council officers to support further development of opportunities for young people with disabilities. All local providers of SIs have now under done the Supported Internship Quality Assurance Framework independent assessment of their SI programmes. | G |
| 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 | Now - 2035 | The RSCF is operational and continuing to work to coordinate the requirements of the SZC project with regional needs working between local parties (e.g. Suffolk colleges) and the project. The function is coordinating the production of the Annual Skills Implementation Plan due to be produced and agreed before the end of September. | G |