

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	14 grants have now been offered totalling £376,358, with projects leveraging £1,684,560 of private sector match, which is a ratio of 1:4.48. The most recent projects include: Purchasing capital equipment to enable a small business to meet additional contracts, specifically with Sizewell C; Purchasing capital equipment to vastly increase production; Equipping a company to establish a dedicated laboratory space for drug investigation; Enabling a business to process large amounts of technical data to develop hydro turbine technology. A further 12 applications are in progress totalling £163,673. The deadline for the completion of projects has been extended to 30/9/26.	G
Enabler: BOOSTING INFRASTRUCTURE & 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's work continues to progress well. Stakeholder engagement has now been completed, providing valuable local insights and highlighting key challenges for the region. The baseline report is in draft, setting out the current energy landscape and informing future scenario development. In parallel, technology reviews are underway, assessing options to support decarbonisation and resilience across Norfolk and Suffolk. The Steering Group remains active, ensuring alignment with local priorities and national initiatives. This work continues to feed into UK Power Networks' planning processes, with Norfolk and Suffolk's energy data already submitted during the August window. A second opportunity to influence UKPN is anticipated in early 2026, which will enable more detailed engagement and refinement of the modelling approach.	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	The partnership between Norfolk County Council, Suffolk County Council, and Reclaim the Rain remains strong, with £150k funding secured. The project has progressed significantly, moving from amber to green as procurement for the Integrated Water Action Plan is now live and out to tender, with a consultant expected to be appointed by early January. This marks a key milestone in getting delivery back on track after earlier delays. Meanwhile, Reclaim the Rain expects to have an early draft of its economic analysis on the value of water in Suffolk and Norfolk before Christmas, this will feed into the main report and strengthen the case for future investment in resilience measures.	G
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	Connected Innovation sponsored the National AI Awards on the 16th October at Adastral Park. The awards evening was a great opportunity to celebrate and recognise the business and individuals who are developing and delivering leading innovative solutions with AI. We were delighted to see regional businesses and members of last year's Slush delegation Developing Experts and SKC Games Studio / 1956 Individuals collect awards on the night, showcasing the region's reputation as leader in this area.	G
Suffolk Showcase Event -A roadshow of events 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	Suffolk Economy had a strong presence at all confirmed events, with a modular exhibition stand, printed copies of the economic strategy, and opportunities for attendees to sign up and learn more about our programmes. We reached 620+ people through the events that we exhibited at, and shared strong calls to action for people to sign up for our newsletter, engage with the Suffolk Economy Grants programme and read the economic strategy.	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	A full suite of physical exhibition materials have been created, allowing us to establish a strong Suffolk Economy presence at events. Digital marketing templates have also now been created, ensuring brand consistency across online work. Agency Spring have also created a series of Fact Sheets and the first three EPIC Talks video case studies. So far the two published videos have attracted 1227 views and 145 engagements across online channels.	G
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 has continued to meet on a regular basis and has an increasingly healthy pipeline of projects to consider. The Board meets on a quarterly basis and further funding has been secured for 26/27.	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	Terms of funding agreement and purchase order details have been agreed and PO is being sent to UoS. They will be invoicing £25k up front and £5k at the end of the programme. 8/9 vouchers to be delivered to SME's in Suffolk. 1 student per business giving 240 supported hours of work. Value of each voucher £3,200. Evaluation to be done by UoS and reported to SCC	G
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	The final analysis and feasibility study are complete, producing two deliverables: the Suffolk Cluster Development Plan and Suffolk Cluster Intervention Cards. Focus areas: clean growth, smart agri-food, and sustainable logistics, anchored by four priority clusters—Advanced Connectivity Technology, Agri-Food and Drink, Clean Energy, and Ports and Logistics.	G
AME Centre 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	Pentago Construction awarded construction contract for the AME Centre. Original start date has slipped by 6 weeks to 24th February 2026 (still to be confirmed) with a 48-week programme for completion January 2027. Groundworks, electrical, mechanical and partitions & ceilings value engineering underway in Design Stage RIBA 4. Concertus appointed as mechanical, electrical & plumbing technical Advisor. End user discussions underway.	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	Jamie Podgers was appointed as NAAME project manager in August 2025. Since then he has made great progress in refreshing the NAAME brand, the NAAME Industry Council and planning 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	Connected Innovation announced the expansion of the programme to include Essex at the Innovate Local event on the 22nd October. This expansion has seen an additional 8 innovation hubs join the network, providing an opportunity to scale the delivery of the programme and the expertise across the ecosystem. Following the continued success of the Future Tech Programme, the Connected Innovation team, supported by Norfolk and Suffolk Unlimited, took a delegation of six companies from the programme to Slush in Helsinki in November. As well as providing them a platform to meet a global base of investors, partners and organisations developing cutting edge solutions, they also joined the UK House event and a reception at the British Ambassador's Residence. This was the inaugural UK House and Connected Innovation were delighted to be a partner on this landmark event showcasing our innovation ecosystem to a global audience.	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	Space East is the first cluster to pilot a 'Space Ecosystem Champion'. Funded by the UK Space Agency, we are working with Victoria Christmas, a space funding expert, to offer support and advice for cluster member and the wider community. Reports have been produced for the 'Space Hub' opportunity at Adastral Park and to support UoS with the commercial strategy for the QoD lab. UKSA have selected some project ideas from our agri-work with Space Scotland for ongoing funding support	G
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	81 companies have been supported across five cohorts to date. Applications are open for the final Creative East cohort (under DCMS funding) which will commence in January 2026 in Norwich. This has been promoted with case studies by the Suffolk Economy team, working together with Connected Innovation and Creative East. Founders who took part in the programme have already raised £2.25m and this is expected to increase in the following years. Additionally, this programme has seen locked-off Innovate UK funding competitions which saw creative industries businesses from Norfolk and Suffolk securing c.£965k across the competitions.	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	Programme now in its third funding phase. Outputs to date are; 562 businesses across Suffolk and Norfolk registered and received advice on their area of innovation - 391 businesses have registered to IGMP Innovation webinars / workshops - 144 applications for 1:1 support reviewed by our Steering Group - 90 businesses approved for Innovation Mentoring and or Bid Writing Coaching from the projects team of experts - 100 bids from businesses on the project into Innovate UK have been supported by our team. Value of bids supported = £20.5 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	28 (24) businesses received a minimum of 12 hours intensive support from the SCC High Growth Team, 24 business received medium touch IDB up to 3 hours, 18 businesses received light-touch triage, 9 businesses were referred to Skills Bootcamps. Intensive support directly secured £265,822.25 in Suffolk Economy Grant funding, alongside matched investment and job creation outcomes. Sector-Specific Collaboration: The team worked in close partnership to broker intensive support for clients in the manufacturing sector. 6 businesses referred to Made Smarter, supporting a large proportion of the regional allocation was successfully filled through cross team working. Thomas Undrill appointed to provide additional Support-triage and advice. Team Working on Suffolk Digital Support Platform ready for launch March 2026 providing navigation and triage to Suffolk Businesses	G
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	For Suffolk the Future Tech programme, delivered by Innovation Labs, is making good progress . The programme supports and scales early-stage tech founders from across a wide range of technology sub-sectors. Key results to date: 79 businesses engaged through the programme, 42 workshops delivered across Norfolk & Suffolk covering business models, IP, investment, marketing & PR 42 companies given free desk-space and memberships 36 companies supported through the Future Programme Over £2m+ investment has been raised by companies across the two cohorts, with c.£4m more being pitched for £435,000+ in grant funding secured by companies on the cohorts Estimated £1m of commercial deals introduced and secured	G
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
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	SCC has now completed its procurement for the 2025/26 Skills Bootcamp programme. We have contracted 34 providers to deliver a total of 71 programmes to learners and business across Suffolk and Norfolk. Programmes include: AI Literacy, Bus and HGV Driving, Practical horticulture, Heat Pump and Solar PV systems installation, Offshore Wind Vessel support crew, Accountancy, Events and hospitality, Data technician. Our Skills Bootcamp Success Stories webpage detailing case studies of learners and employers is regularly updated, with or most recent article detailing how Bacton Logistics have used the programme to fill skills gaps in the HGV industry.	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	The ASEC projects have continued to progress towards final decisions being made on the requested funding. Four applications have now reached the full application stage. At least one of these is likely to move to approval in principle before the end of December. The ASEC fund remains open to new expressions of interest for phase 1 and 2 of the Sizewell C Project and also for phase 3, the Mechanical, Electrical and Heating phase	G
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	During the period from August to October 31st, 2025, Suffolk Adult Learning Service has made good progress in delivering its adult learning provision. Delivery is underway through a mix of FE Colleges and community providers, with Realise Futures as the principal contributor. Early indicators show strong retention (99%) and pass rates (95%), with the first Qualification Achievement Rates expected in December. Contract performance remains on track, and curriculum priorities—Breaking Down Barriers, Improving Essential Skills, and Developing Work Readiness—continue to support learners with complex needs and those furthest from the labour market. Evidence suggests that engagement targets are likely to be met or exceeded. In excess of 900 learners have already been engaged on learning programmes which contributes to over 1200 starts (enrolments). Further details and mapping to curriculum areas will be completed after the first data and funding return to DWP in December.	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 312 participants from commencing new UKSPF funding on 1st April 2025 to end of October 2025, of these 211 were classed as unemployed. 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.	G

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	Government continuing to co-fund Careers Hub activity in academic years 25/26 and 26/27. Norfolk and Suffolk Careers Hub have confirmed their delivery plan for this academic year and are focused on preparing the local landscape for the modern work experience guarantee, significantly expand the capacity and quality of employer engagement with specific SME focus, intensify school focus towards careers activity at SLT level, develop understanding of local careers landscape and related pathways within parental, carer, teacher and employer networks, better capture youth voice, promote technical and vocational routes, prioritise interventions towards tackling disadvantage; access for all. Moved to Amber rating due to not delivering against Gatsby benchmark.	A
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	Thrive Youth continue to deliver vital support and guidance to young people from across Suffolk. At the end of September 367 young people have now seen a positive EET outcome across the two years of the project and a total of 900 young people have been engaged and supported. The project has been continuing to work closely with Sally Hill and participation colleagues to convene meetings across Suffolk to explore how to join up Thrive and other services to provide a clear coherent offer to young people from across the county. One result of this is the innovative 'info@' sessions which bring providers and youth workers together in one place. 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.	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	Skills Deal 3.0 Programme is proceeding as expected. All activity is due to end by 31st December 2025. To date, our three grant recipients have collectively engaged 121 employers, developed 14 new courses and supported 56 individuals to gain new skills. In order to maximise the impact of the programme and its learning, learning will be captured and shared with other training providers and interested stakeholder.	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	Code Institute hosted a second webinar to attract further employers across both Norfolk and Suffolk to undertake the AI Skills Assessment. The webinar focused on what the employer report looks like, how employers can utilise it and some local testimonies/ case studies. We are now awaiting our Regional Report which will support our understanding of Norfolk and Suffolk local employer's AI capabilities. Moved to Amber rating due to delay in receipt of regional report due to resource issues within Code Institute.	A
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 specification for the Employment Outreach fund is now at final draft stage, having been circulated for comments both internally and externally via the thematic group. The fund will 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 Good Health @ Work programme continues to make positive progress on supporting local small and medium enterprises with the health and wellbeing of their workforce. After 12 months of delivery the following outcomes have been recorded: 398 businesses have been referred into the service. In quarter two 25/26, engagement with the resource hub increased by over 100% when compared to quarter one. Additionally, employer reported improvements in workforce and/or employee health and wellbeing outcomes remained stable at 90%.	G
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	Our Suffolk County Council SEND Employment forums continue, with fresh input from Connect to Work and the inclusion of a 3step pathway format to identify any unseen barriers to supporting young people with EHCPs into work. We are also currently undertaking a 'Reimagining Supported Internships' project, incorporating partners from across the SI partnership in our project steering group, with a view to onboarding senior leadership and actioning SIQAF recommendations across the programme. To improve programme delivery and offer best outcomes for SI employers and Interns. With our SEND Employment Forums, Reimagining Supported Internships project and the SCC role of Preparing for Adulthood Strategic Lead commencing in December, we are looking to further grow and increase programme quality for the next academic year and beyond. We would welcome members from the Suffolk Business Board to our forum – leeann.ling@suffolk.gov.uk	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 Annual Skills Implementation Plan, approved in October, prioritises expanding data-led skills evidence. This includes establishing the Skills Need Repository to support ASEC funding decisions, as well as founding the Major Infrastructure Skills Forum with EEEGR, Essex and Norfolk County Councils to address strategic workforce challenges	G