

## **1. Introduction**

As requested by the Board, this meeting will concentrate on current activity and future plans for the economy and skills in East Suffolk.

This has a good fit with the major objective of our new Strategic Business Plan which focusses effort on ensuring that growth in East Suffolk is inclusive and takes account of the wider determinants of health like planning, housing, leisure and open spaces.

In particular this meeting is intended to continue the discussion on how we will deliver the following of your major goals:

- Support residents of East Suffolk to raise their aspirations and access relevant adult learning, work, education or training opportunities.
- Support a vibrant business ecosystem by working with the independent place based organisations and groups who work for, support and provide services for the benefit of the business community.

## **2. Context**

### **2.1 East Suffolk Economic Growth Plan**

Paul Wood, head of Economic Development and Regeneration at the East Suffolk Council's will present the new East Suffolk economic Growth Plan. During 2017 the national and regional economic growth policies were refreshed with the publication of the government's Industrial Strategy and the Norfolk & Suffolk Economic Strategy covering the New Anglia LEP area. We took the decision to thoroughly update our own economic growth plan in light of this and the fact that the economic picture had changed markedly since the time of producing our previous economic strategy in 2013.

The new East Suffolk Economic Growth plan sets out our approach to delivering sustainable economic growth over the next five years. It builds on our core strengths in key sectors such as Energy, Digital/ Creative, Ports & Logistics and Tourism as well as focussing on those areas the evidence suggests will experience significant economic growth in the medium term. The strategy also focusses on those thematic issues which are critical to supporting growth such transport and communications infrastructure, business finance and support, workforce skills development, provision of employment land and marketing/

promotions. The new strategy will be accompanied by a delivery plan highlighting how we will deliver our aspirations both as a Council and in collaboration with our partners.

## **2.2 Suffolk County Council Skills plan / priorities**

Andrea Wood, Head of Skills at Suffolk County Council will present on 'Developing Suffolk Talent' a programme of work that is focused on supporting people to develop the skills to be successful and meet our future economic needs, help them get into work and progress; and supporting employers to grow talent in our priority sectors to drive economic growth. In particular Andrea will focus on the emerging work around the Work and Health agenda, the Adult Learning Offer, youth employment and planned changes to support the growth of Apprenticeships.

## **2.3 Supporting a vibrant small and micro business ecosystem**

Roger Abbott, Chairman of Felixstowe Chamber of Trade and Commerce and Board member representing the East Suffolk Business Association Network will update the Board on how the network provides an invaluable opportunity for business leaders across East Suffolk to discuss mutual challenges and develop practical solutions, which can be shared by all. It has been a great help to improving networking between members of business organisations across East Suffolk, allowing them to share information and costs at minimal expense.

## **3. Going forward - Where the East Suffolk Partnership can contribute**

Members of the Board are asked to consider how the East Suffolk Partnership can:

- i) Continue to contribute to Growth, the economy and skills in East Suffolk in line with our major goals.
- ii) Consider the following proposals to spend East Suffolk Partnership funds to contribute to Growth, the economy and skills in East Suffolk:
  - i) East Suffolk Means Business Programme
  - ii) East Suffolk Returners Project
  - iii) East Suffolk Adult Learning Network