

Levelling Up White Paper: East of England Local Authority Implications at a Glance

Levelling Up Mission Theme	Implications for East of England Local Authorities
Pay, employment and productivity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is no additional support for SMEs in the East of England Via the British Business Bank Regional Investment funds • The geography and boundaries for the Local Government Pension System Fund investment are not yet clear
R&D investment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is a risk that the BEIS commitment on spend outside of the 'Greater South East' may result in reduced R&D investment in the East of England. • The DHSC's commitment on spend on Biomedical Research and Clinical Research centres and facilities outside of London, Oxford and Cambridge could see a decrease to funding in our region • Will the East of England benefit from the £299m of funding to trial zero-emissions road freight and maritime emissions reductions?
Local public transport connectivity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Large proportion of transport improvement funding going to city-regions, not rural areas. • Luton will receive funding for bus improvement. • Will the East of England as a whole will miss out on investment for bus service improvements due to its rurality? • It is uncertain how much funding the East will receive through Active Travel Funding. • A428 and A12 work will go ahead.
Digital infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How will government target areas in our region lagging behind to achieve its new target of 100% coverage by 2030? • No new funding announcements for digital infrastructure
Increasing numeracy and literacy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The following areas in our region announced as Education Investment Areas: Cambridgeshire, Central Bedfordshire, Luton, Norfolk, Peterborough, Suffolk • A new specialist 16-19 maths school opened in Cambridge and a further two planned to be opened in the region; well above the national average. • EIAs in the East of England will be able to bid for the opening of new 16-19 free schools.
High-quality skills training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are no authorities in the East of England stated as being part of the DfE and Food Standards Authority project on school food standards.

<p>Healthy life expectancy</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will areas in the East of England be defined as having the 'most pressing skills needs' and therefore be prioritised for Local Skills Improvement Plans. • How will local authorities be involved in the development of Local Skills Improvement Plans in the areas without directly elected mayors? • The region's SMEs should benefit from the 'enhanced recruitment service' for apprenticeships. • None of the new skills 'pathfinder areas' will be located in our region. • Will MCAs and local authorities have access to the data from the Unit for Future Skills? • South Essex College will be a lead organisation for a new Institute of Technology - collaborations between colleges, universities and employers to deliver high tech education.
<p>Pride in place</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ending the 80/20 rule regarding the spending of housing funding could lead to more housing investment in the East of England. • The Brownfield Housing Fund is mentioned, but Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority appears to not be on the list of supported authorities. • 11 authorities in the region highlighted as part of the new round of the High Streets Task Force.
<p>Path to homeownership</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New measures to support tenants and improve rented accommodation will potentially have an impact on local authorities as landlords in some case • The ability to charge additional council tax of vacant homes could be relevant in some local authorities with resort towns. • Local Plans may come under greater scrutiny.
<p>Crime reduction</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The increase in unpaid hours to be worked by offenders could be used by local authorities.
<p>Devolution of powers and funding</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Suffolk and Norfolk have received offers to start formal negotiations for a county deal. • We have one MCA in the East of England (Cambridge and Peterborough Combined Authority) • Unitary and district councils in the region will be responsible for the planning and delivery of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund. • The devolution framework should help areas better understand what kind of devolution is on offer.
