

Technical Skills Legacy

EELGA Skills Roundtable

22nd May 2023

Context for the research

- Recognition that significant pipeline of civils work coming to the region
- Role of public sector – maximising opportunities for local areas & communities by:
 - understanding the availability of a local workforce to build the infrastructure
 - working with training providers to retain & upskill current & future workforces across key roles – the “right” skills leading to “better” jobs
 - giving confidence to local businesses, workforces and training providers that long term investment in civils skills development is needed and needed now

Overview

Employers and providers are experiencing severe skills gaps and shortages right now

Around £70bn of new infrastructure work is planned for Norfolk & Suffolk between now and 2037

A high proportion of the employment need will be additional to the existing workforce

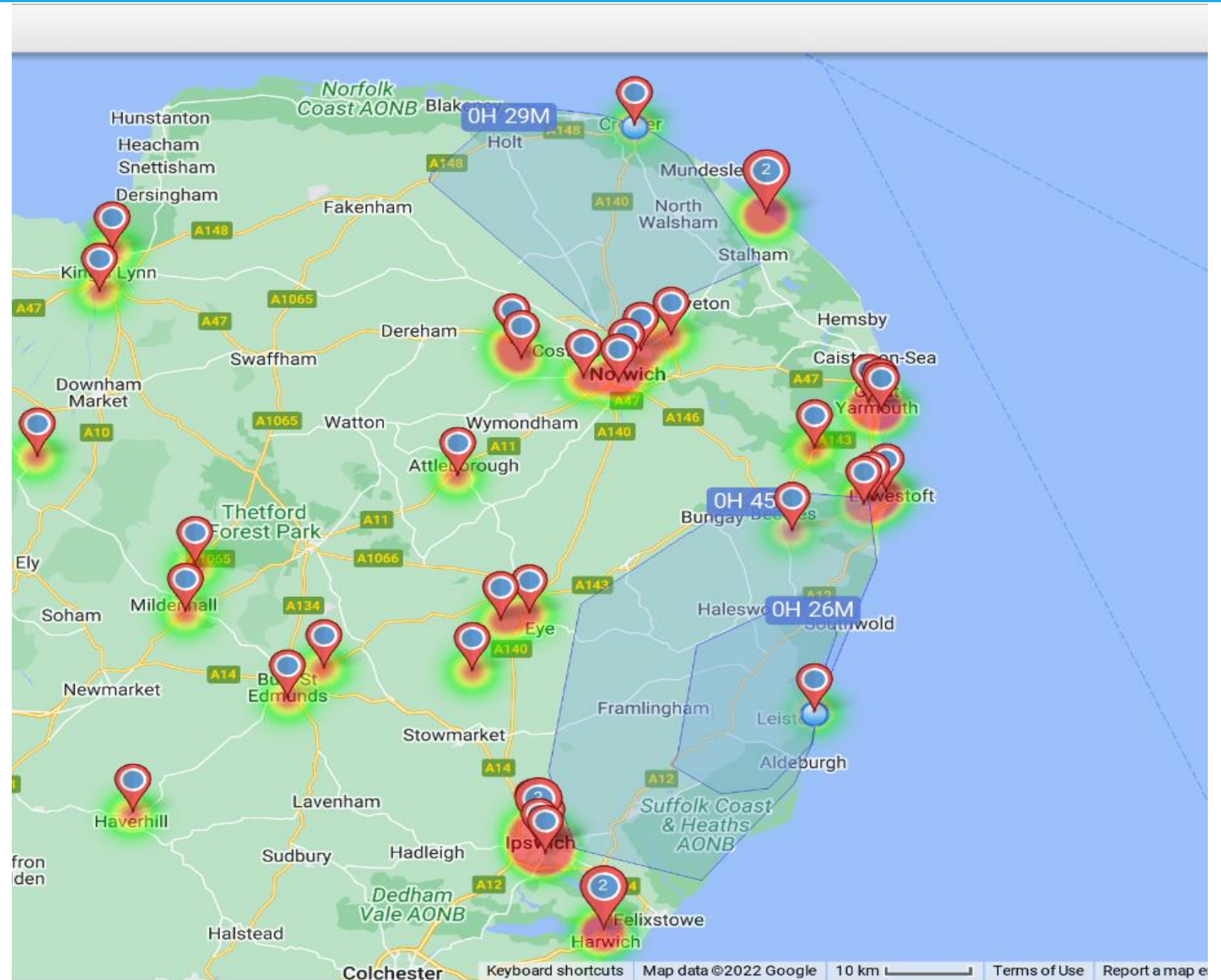
Leading to a need for around **43,000 jobs** (10,000 by 2027)

Necessitating a ramp up towards at least

10% more

education and training places in technical skills by 2027

- Top 50 with project-heat indication and sample travel to work areas



Our Wider Approach - examples

Understand

- Technical Skills Legacy
- CITB Reports
- Individual Project Early Workforce Information
- Planning Teams

Prepare

Suffolk £ - Business events

High level overview of research presented highlighting significant shortfall in workforce

Sessions attended by local civils businesses & business groups (e.g. CECA) with presentations from major infrastructure providers including:

- AB Ports / US Visiting Forces / West Suffolk Hospital / Lovells (Suffolk County Housing JV) / Crest Nicholson (housing) / Western Way development Bury St Edmunds / Suffolk County / Concertus

Comments from those attending included:

- *"Skills is the buzz word – how do we make this happen?"*
- *"Very enlightening"*

Business procurement training

- How to bid sessions
- Diagnostic tool

Suffolk £ - Planning agreements

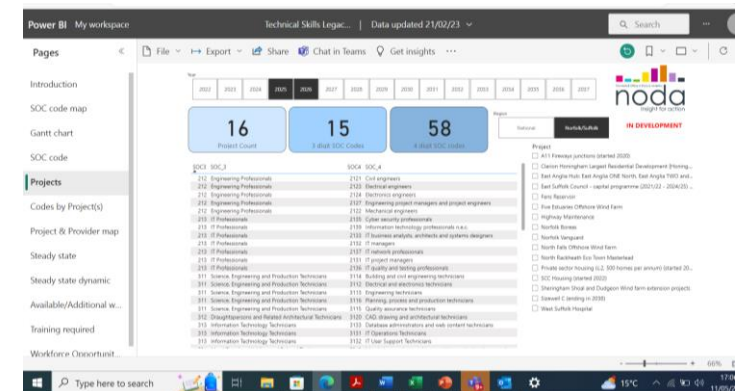
Work with major national housebuilder requiring commitment to employing local staff / apprentices to deliver project & develop legacy roles.

Next Steps

Sizewell C / Regional skills coordination

- Need to identify where specific project need aligns with regional priorities

Power BI Dashboard developed with NODA – dynamic tool that will be maintained to monitor and update demand



Are skills an issue for our businesses?

(Nov.22 survey results)

Major impact on business

Global economy / rising inflation
Skills supply (competences)
Labour supply (numbers)
Supply chains

Very significant impact

Work culture
Concerns over China

Significant impact

Energy costs / use
Brexit employment impacts (labour)
Brexit trade impacts

A majority of employer respondents say they are experiencing shortages of specific skills or roles and that these shortages are becoming worse.

Recruitment conditions are also worsening – employers report 3-9 months to fill technical roles and providers saying that some of their tech roles are taking up to 18 months to fill.

EELGA Roundtable discussion points

- Recognise the significant opportunity to build local skills base and deliver national strategies (e.g. Energy Policy) and projects (Sizewell C)
- Use the shared evidence base in future investment and planning strategies
- Build on existing policy levers (e.g. social value asks) to maximise benefits from investment in infrastructure (economic, environmental, community)
- Promote the research with training providers, colleges and businesses to improve shared understanding of current & future labour market
- Share ideas / actions to help coordinate and respond. What is our role and what do we need from Government?
- How can EELGA support?