

OPPORTUNITY EAST

HOW THE EAST OF ENGLAND WILL
DRIVE NATIONAL PRODUCTIVITY
THROUGH INNOVATION

#OpportunityEast

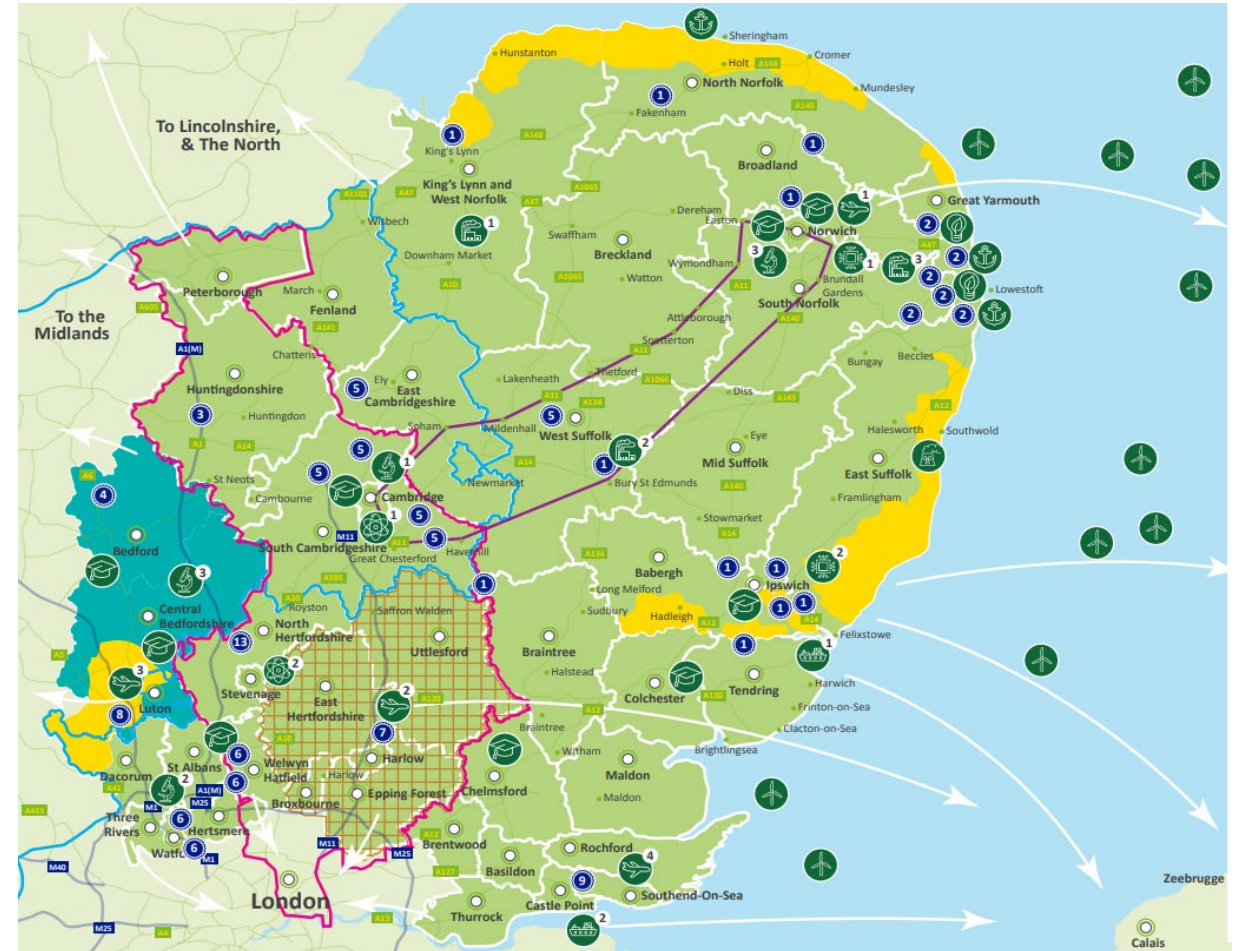


Background, Purpose and Method

- Partnership – EELGA, APPG, Chambers East, MetroDynamics
- Economic and Infrastructure challenges and opportunities
- Strong evidence base and understand needs
- Started November 2023
- Literature review
- Stakeholder engagement
- Data analysis

The East of England

- Over 19,000 square kilometres
- 6.4 million population
- £163bn economy
- Good quality of life
- Diverse geography
- Transport links



Economic Contribution



Economic Output (GVA):
£163bn



Economy has grown
46% since 1998:
36% UK



Tax Revenue:
£86.7bn
£13,665 per person



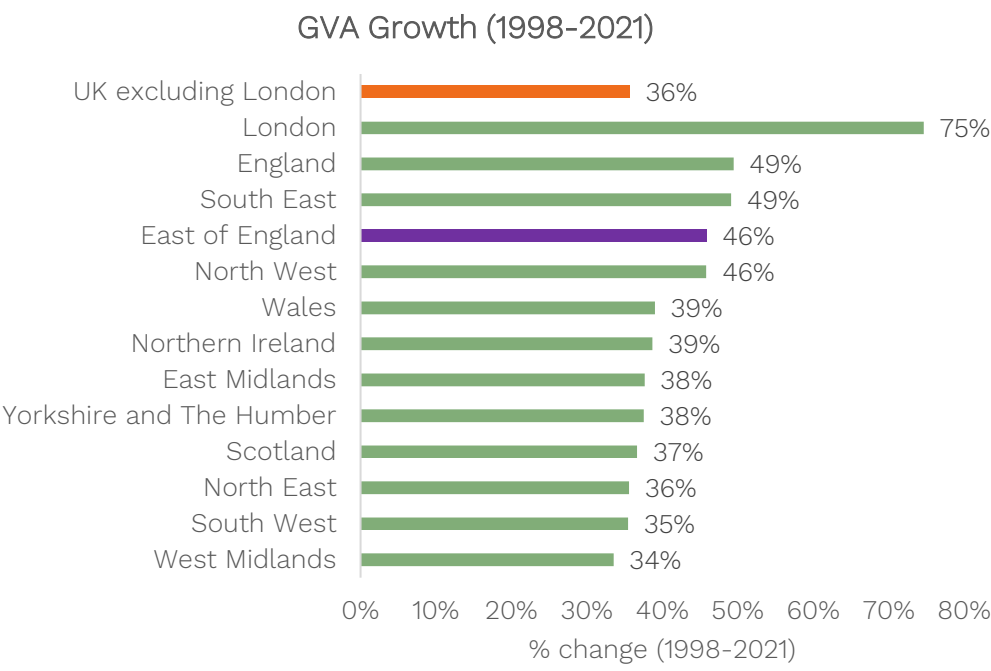
Exports:
£51.1bn in goods
and services



Labour:
76.3% employment
20.8% inactivity



Wages:
£36,400 median
earnings



Productivity and Innovation

**GVA per hour
£36 - 1.5%
above UK
average exc.
London**

**Total R&D
£6.9bn
making up
18% of UK
total**

**Highest
business R&D
per capita of
any region**

R&D per head of population (2019)



Nationally Important Assets



Net Zero & Energy Security

- Powers equivalent of 32% of all UK homes and could rise to 90% by 2035
- Sizewell C – estimated to power 7% of UK needs
- Plans to develop clean hydrogen cluster and Freeport East 'green energy hub' at Harwich.



Food Security

- 15% of the England total farmland
- A third of UK grade 1 agricultural land.
- Highest farming income in UK.
- 12% of UK agricultural labour.
- Leading in a number of food and plant health research fields



International Trade

- Half of UK's containerised goods move through the region
- Two of five busiest airports nationally with opportunities to expand
- Freeport East and Thames Freeport major opportunities for the region

Regional Infrastructure Challenges

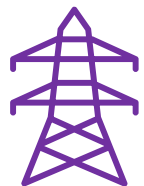
The East of England receives £8bn less per year than the national average. This consistent underinvestment threatens long-term growth and prosperity of our residents.



Significant congestion problems on our roads and poor east-west connectivity by road and rail.



5G and gigabit coverage lower than national average.



Grid constraints preventing further solar/wind sites



Scarce water supplies constraining business growth and housing developments.



Most vulnerable region to climate change. Significant risk of drought, as well as high risk of flooding with a fifth of the region below sea level.

Industrial Strategy

Manifesto Pledge

“Labour will introduce a new industrial strategy. Our approach will be mission-driven and focused on the future”

Our Opportunities

- ✓ Opportunity East provides a blueprint for seizing the economic opportunities and removing barriers to growth in the East of England
- ✓ Our detailed sectoral analysis shows significant advantages in the region including life sciences, advanced manufacturing and creative industries
- ✓ Regional partners are ready to engage with the Government via the Industrial Strategy Council on the development of the Industrial Strategy



Infrastructure Strategy

Manifesto Pledge

“Labour will develop a ten-year infrastructure strategy, aligned with our industrial strategy and regional development priorities”

Our Opportunities

- ✓ Significant economic growth potential can be unlocked with infrastructure investment – £220bn+ economy by 2035
- ✓ The nation’s food and energy security and trade routes can be secured with infrastructure investment in our region
- ✓ Opportunity East provides an evidence-base for infrastructure investment and coordination in the East of England



Rail Connectivity

Manifesto Pledges

“Labour will overhaul Britain’s railways” & “There will be a duty to promote and grow the use of rail freight”

Our Opportunities

- ✓ Proximity to London, the Midlands and the Continent
- ✓ Housing and business growth potential
- ✓ Reduction in carbon emissions and congestion through sustainable transport choices



Climate Change

Manifesto Pledge

“Labour will improve [climate change] resilience and preparation across central government, local authorities, local communities, and emergency services.”

Our Opportunities

- ✓ Local authorities, working with resilience partners, are well placed to assess climate risks and develop adaptation and resilience strategies
- ✓ The Regional Climate Change Forum brings councils in the East of England together to collaborate on net zero and adaptation activity



Green Energy

Manifesto Pledge

“Labour will work with the private sector to double onshore wind, triple solar power, and quadruple offshore wind by 2030”

Our Opportunities

- ✓ The region currently powers equivalent of 32% of all UK homes and could rise to 90% of home power requirements in the UK by 2035.
- ✓ Plans to develop clean hydrogen cluster and Freeport East ‘green energy hub’ at Harwich
- ✓ It is estimated that Sizewell C will power 7% of UK needs



Delivering #OpportunityEast

- Ongoing regional partnership
- Regional brand and identity
- Engagement with the Government



Scan here to
download a copy of
the report

