

## **Cabinet Member Report to County Council**

**8 December 2016**

<b>Cabinet Member:</b>	Councillor Colin Noble Cabinet Member for Economic Development
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### **Devolution Update**

Toward the end of November all councils across Norfolk and Suffolk that agreed in June 2016 to endorse the Norfolk and Suffolk Devolution Deal and consult on it, were scheduled to meet to consent to the final process in establishing the governance and implementing the Deal. Following the vote by King's Lynn and West Norfolk Borough Council on 17 November 2016 not to proceed with the Norfolk and Suffolk Devolution Deal, the Secretary of State wrote to Leaders withdrawing the Norfolk and Suffolk Devolution Deal.

Consequently, at the extraordinary County Council meeting on 23 November 2016, Suffolk County Councillors agreed amended recommendations that included: to reiterate its commitment to devolution; seek a meeting with Secretary of State and pursue an alternative devolution deal and bring future reports to Council as the process progresses. All councils across Suffolk voted in favour of these amended recommendations and therefore, Leaders are now seeking time in the Secretary of State's diary.

### **Economic Development**

#### **Cambridge to Norwich Tech Corridor**

The Cambridge Norwich Tech Corridor was launched on 8 November 2016 at the House of Commons. The launch was hosted by Elizabeth Truss, MP for South West Norfolk, Secretary of State for Justice and the Lord Chancellor. The 15 year vision for the Corridor is to create £558m of economic growth both in and between the two cities and space for 20,000 new homes and 9,000 new jobs by 2031.

The Corridor was established to address three opportunities:

- To encourage collaboration between existing communities of expertise within the corridor: digital, agri-tech/food, bio-tech and advanced engineering.
- To create greater awareness of the concentration of affordable growth space within close proximity of Cambridge and Norwich
- To attract government funding to further enhance and consolidate the corridor

The key partners are: Breckland District Council, Cambridgeshire County Council, East Cambridgeshire District Council, Forest Heath District Council, Greater Cambridge Greater Peterborough Enterprise Partnership, New Anglia Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP), Norfolk County Council, Norwich City Council, South Norfolk Council, St Edmundsbury Borough Council and Suffolk County Council. Further information can be found at: [www.techcorridor.co.uk](http://www.techcorridor.co.uk)

### **Innovation New Anglia**

Suffolk County Council is a partner in the *Innovation New Anglia* (INA) ERDF project. The project has been set up to provide innovation-led business support and advice to companies across the region for a three year period and is focussed on the biotech, info-tech and advanced manufacturing sectors.

So far the INA team have developed dedicated innovation training packages for both start up and established businesses as well as running a series of collaborative workshops designed to promote better engagement between local universities, students and SMEs. Work in Suffolk has focussed around running innovation workshops with the University of Suffolk and the development of activities to support the Advanced Manufacturing Sector including an event on the 23 November 2016 which will be attended by over 130 businesses from the region. Further information can be found at: <http://innovationnewanglia.com>

### **MIPIM UK**

I was pleased to support officers from the County Council, the districts and boroughs and New Anglia LEP who were staffing the Invest in Suffolk stand at the recent MIPIM UK property event in London. MIPIM UK is the UK's largest exhibition and conference for property professionals. It provides a marketplace for industry players and international investors to meet, discuss projects and opportunities, and do business. Suffolk worked in partnership with colleagues in Norfolk and at New Anglia to develop joint branding and a prospectus of sites for the Suffolk and Norfolk stands. A copy of the brochure prepared for the event can be accessed via <http://www.newanglia.co.uk/investeast>. We had over 70 enquiries at the stand and more than half of these require further follow up. This is being carried out by Economic Development Officers from the County, district and borough council Economic Development teams.

### **New Anglia LEP Growth Deal**

Norfolk and Suffolk have once again secured sizeable Government funding to boost the region's skills, improve transport and infrastructure, drive innovation and target support to help small businesses grow.

The Government has awarded New Anglia LEP a third Growth Deal offering funding to be spent in the region in the period 2019-2021. The award will be spent on delivering a range of projects including flood defence at Lowestoft, a capital infrastructure fund and measures to improve productivity and innovation.

## **Celebrating Success**

### **Institute of Internal Auditor's Awards**

In my last report I mentioned that our in-house legal team was the only local government team to have been shortlisted in three categories in the **Law Society Excellence Awards**, and I am very pleased to confirm that they were Highly Commended for their entry in the Learning and Development category.

Following on from this success I am delighted to announce that last month the team won Legal Team of the Year at the **Lawyers in Local Government Awards**, so congratulations to everyone involved.

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