



ESSEX IS OPEN FOR BUSINESS

The Industrial Strategy



A black and white photograph showing two female engineers wearing hard hats and safety gear. They are working on a large, curved metal structure, likely a wind turbine blade. One engineer is in the foreground, focused on a task, while the other is slightly behind her, looking on. The background is blurred, emphasizing the workers and their work.

We have a strong
offer for Government to
deliver on the Industrial
Strategy across Essex
and increase the
productivity of our
economy.

THE INDUSTRIAL STRATEGY: OUR OFFER FOR ESSEX

Essex is a place of opportunity. Outside London, Essex is the 8th largest economy in the UK. We are home to 663,000 jobs. In 2013, we generated Gross Value Added of £32.5 billion to the economy. Essex is home to 1.4 million people, with a further 300,000 forecast to live in the area within the next 25 years – testament to the economic strength and quality of life here. Proximity to London and Cambridge is a great advantage and a unique opportunity – we have a workforce of 733,000 people; and over 149,000 people who travel to London to work every day.

Essex is diverse; from rural villages, market towns, New Towns, urban centres, to our popular coastline. We have fantastic green spaces, and great places to live and work. We have opportunity for economic and housing growth throughout the County, via our two recognised growth corridors – London Stansted Cambridge, and the Thames Gateway, and a new emerging one in North Essex. These connect across Essex, and with key routes and wider economic opportunities throughout London and the South East. They also link housing and employment.

We have strong international links – in Stansted and Harwich and close connections to Southend airport and docks at Thurrock. Essex hosts two great universities, the University of Essex and Anglia Ruskin University. We are home to groundbreaking technology and world-leading firms, including Raytheon, Stansted, e2v and Arrow.

We have great opportunities for energy supply and development in Tendring, linked to offshore wind – building on the CORE (Centre for Offshore Renewable Engineering) status of Harwich and Brightlingsea. The new Bradwell B nuclear power station in Maldon is a nationally significant infrastructure project that will take almost a decade to build from the late 2020s. Maldon and Essex Councils are working together to ensure that the local benefits are maximised.

We are working together with business support groups and business partnerships, such as the Greater Essex Board, the groundbreaking Essex Skills Board, and the Essex Chambers of Commerce to help Essex to become one of the strongest and fastest growing economies in the UK.

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OUR SKILLS OFFER

Pillar: Developing Skills – Give businesses the opportunity to have the basic skills needed in a modern economy

Businesses in Essex face skill shortages and difficulty recruiting people with the right skills to enable firms to thrive. We know this through our comprehensive annual Skills Evidence Base, as well as through employer feedback. The share of people in higher level occupations is below the UK average. Our challenge is to raise skills in key technical disciplines and make them available to industry in far greater volumes. We also need to continue to improve educational achievement in schools, further and higher education.

We make an offer to government to deliver through the ESB, as the first phase of any longer term devolution, the commissioning of careers education, information, advice and guidance.

We are in a unique position through the Essex Employment & Skills Board (ESB), an excellent collaboration of employers, education and local authorities, to better match the provision of careers advice, education and training in Essex to the needs of business. As set out in the recent *Select Committee report on the Industrial Strategy*, we agree that devolved powers would enable us to better address skills gaps by matching training to business needs and we see an enhanced ESB as the most effective strategic vehicle through which to do this.

We already have the relationships, local knowledge, labour market information, and infrastructure to do this and we are ready to make this happen. Following significant investments into apprenticeships locally and in our college facilities, what we now need is the pipeline of young motivated people undertaking the technical training needed by our employers. There are already examples where this is happening. Harlow's education facilities are leading the drive to close skills gaps in key sectors with the recent opening of the Harlow Advanced Manufacturing Centre at Harlow College in addition to its next newly funded project to deliver a Professional and Technical Skills Training Centre at London Stansted Airport. These initiatives, along with the Sir Charles Kao University Technical College are exemplars of employer led curriculum development building a pipeline of skills to meet industry needs.



Come and see what we can do: Linking our HE provision to innovative sectors.

Universities are key to the UK's future economic growth – in terms of productivity, investment in research and development and educating the people that make business prosper. We are lucky enough to have two universities in Essex.

University of Essex:

Delivers specialisms of national importance across three sites in Essex. In Colchester a new state-of-the-art centre for STEM skills is being built, with a new Innovation Centre to accommodate 50 start-up businesses. This includes Hi-Tech businesses, and alongside the Essex Business School on the Research and Innovation Park, it hosts Knowledge Gateway: hot-desking, financial and business support for new business via a Start Up Hub. Their award-winning Games Hub nurtures innovation in game design and complements the development of the digital, creative and cultural innovation cluster growing in Colchester. These developments at the university support the R&D and skills requirements of business, together with existing strengths in data analytics, the new Higher Apprenticeships, and Digital and Technology Solutions.

Anglia Ruskin University (ARU):

ARU is one of the largest Universities in the East of England with sites in Chelmsford, Cambridge and Peterborough. It focuses on education, research and training across health and medical sciences, engineering, technology and business. Working closely in partnership with industry, public services, third sector organisations and government, ARU is committed to being a key player in driving regional economic growth and innovation.

PROCAT National Institute for Advanced Technologies:

The advanced technology institute, including an HE campus, will help attract and upskill younger workers to replenish an ageing workforce. It will focus on the requirement we have right now, and are likely to have into the foreseeable future, for technical engineers capable and skilled in software design and developing applications.

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OUR GREEN TECHNOLOGY OFFER

Pillar: Investment in science, research and innovation; delivering affordable energy and low carbon growth; cultivating world leading sectors

We have identified the need in Essex to focus on growing firms in key sectors of national significance – advanced manufacturing, low carbon and renewables, life sciences and healthcare, digital and creative, financial and business services, and logistics.

Basildon has 5,000 employment opportunities in the creative and digital sector, the largest concentration in Essex and faster growing than both Cambridge and London. As well as this, in 2016 NESTA's report *Geography of Creativity in the UK*, listed Colchester as one of the locations nationally ranked 20th in the UK for high concentration of growth in the digital sector, accounting for 7.5% of GVA, and over 6,800 employed in the sector.

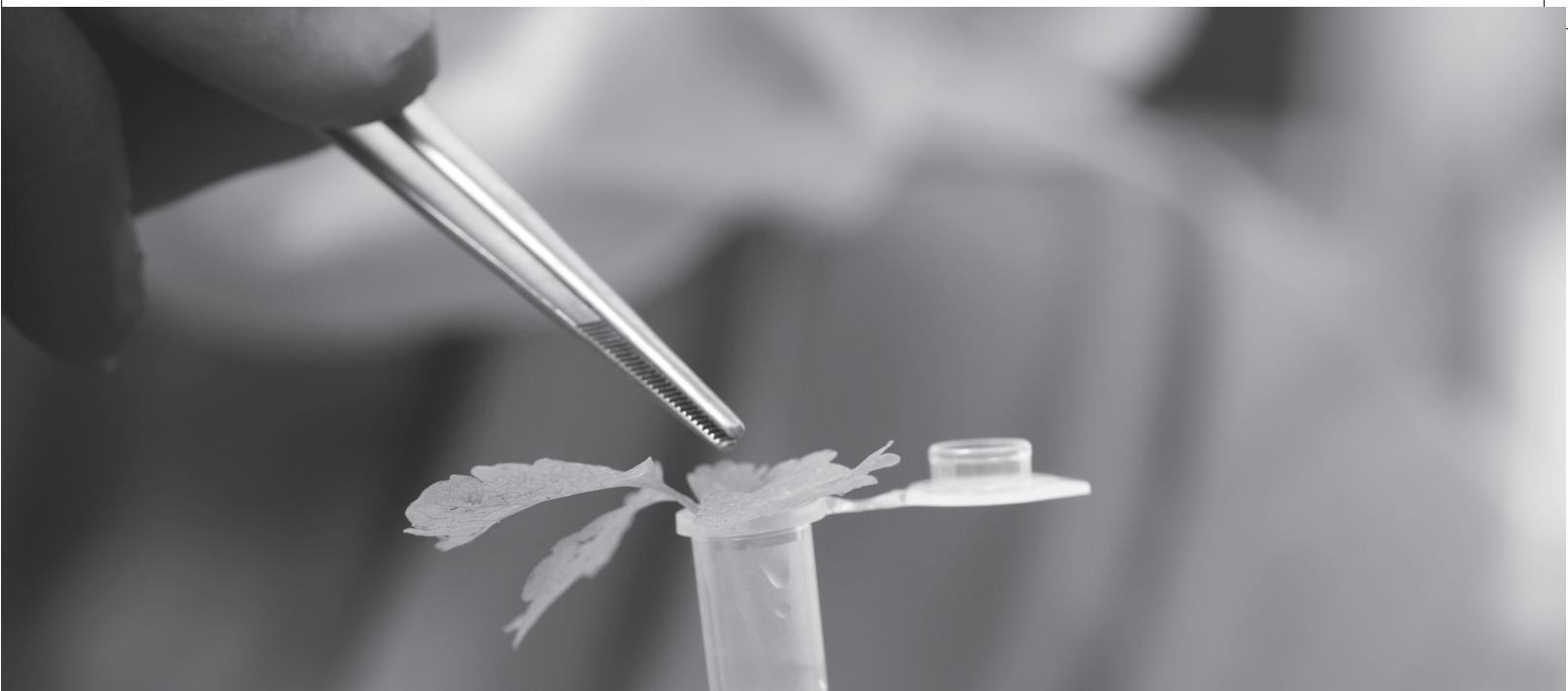
There are also opportunities present for us to exploit new technologies under development in Essex, including automotive engineering, aerospace and advanced manufacturing and in renewable and sustainable energy.

We have begun to develop policies that will help to deliver affordable energy and low carbon growth – encouraging new technology opportunities, working with universities and businesses at the forefront of renewable and new nuclear energy.

We are working to ensure that in future energy is affordable for business and residents. We will work to support carbon reduction and reduced energy costs for the public and community sector, and reduce the cost of our estate to the taxpayer.

We are planning for significant housing growth in Essex, providing the opportunity to promote low carbon growth through the design of sustainable housing and communities, supporting the transition to low emission vehicles. The next version of our internationally renowned Essex Design Guide will embed our approach. We will also be promoting a transition to a decentralised responsive energy network with greater reliance on renewable energy.

We make an offer to Government to work with us to shape our emerging strategy, share our learning with world leaders in the field who are based in Essex, and help us to deliver on this challenge.



Come and see what we can do: Linking enterprise and cutting-edge technology.

Harlow Enterprise Zone:

Life sciences, advanced manufacturing and ICT – 51 hectares of employment land, with potential to deliver 5,000 jobs, and lever in over £150m in private sector investment.

Med Tech Campus:

One of the world's largest health innovation spaces, in partnership with Anglia Ruskin University. Focus on science, engineering and computing, spread across 3 sites. It will establish Essex, and the UK as a global centre for health and innovation.

Public Health England:

The new Public Health science hub at Harlow is a critical move to meeting the challenges to protecting and improving the health of the population. Maximising opportunities which result from proximity to Cambridge, and the London Stansted Corridor. This programme will deliver 2,750 jobs through a £400m capital investment from central government, and is expected to have a major impact on the local and regional economy.

Chesterford Research Park:

The thriving scientific community home to innovative bio-tech and pharmaceutical companies also provides a focal point for growth in this sector.

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OUR INFRASTRUCTURE OFFER

Pillar: Upgrading infrastructure

- Upgrade performance on digital, energy, transport, water and flood defence infrastructure. Better align central government infrastructure investment with local growth priorities

In Essex, the road and rail routes that define our economic corridors are already under pressure. If we do nothing, congestion will only increase with rising population, expansion of housing in Essex and expected growth of ports and logistics capacity. Investment that improves efficiency of traffic and enhances connectivity is key. People need to get to work, and firms need to transport freight. Economic growth in Essex relies on access to international airports and sea ports; travel between major towns and cities; and locally within towns.

We are planning for 136,000 more homes in Essex in the next 20 years. We have a major garden communities programme across the county. In North Essex we are seeking to adopt a new approach, which will see 30,000 homes in the coming decades with commensurate infrastructure investment, outstanding urban and architectural design and innovation in sustainability. We want to work alongside Government to maximise opportunities through the Housing Infrastructure Fund to unlock transport schemes that deliver housing growth. We are already investing to develop these proposals.

We make an offer to Government for a Housing and Growth deal. We propose a joint working group with Essex, DfT, BEIS and DCLG, focused on accelerating housing and infrastructure delivery in Essex – so growth and infrastructure go hand in hand. We want to ensure that corridors for growth flow freely through Essex, profiting not just Essex, but the whole of London and the South East.



Come and see what we can do: Linking homes and employment

North Essex Garden settlements:

80,000 people, 30,000+ homes, exploiting the opportunities of a new economic corridor between Stansted Airport and the Harwich ports which requires infrastructure investment to facilitate their development.

This is a new approach to planning public services, that prioritises prevention and early intervention to enable new, self-reliant communities. Innovations are focused on technological advances in waste management, transport management, utilities and independent living. The Garden Communities will provide an exemplar that enhances the UK's reputation for scientific advances that are scalable and applicable in live environments. This a collaboration between three councils Braintree, Tendring and Colchester District Councils, alongside Essex County Council, Higher Education Institutions and the private sector.

Harlow North:

Garden settlement for 10,000 homes includes **Gilston Park** proposal for 8,500 new homes across six new villages. These mark a new approach to planning public services, one that prioritises prevention and early intervention, maximising the opportunities that collaboration and digital offer.

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OUR TRADE AND INVESTMENT OFFER

Pillar: Trade and Inward Investment

Essex has major opportunities around life sciences, health, big data and commercialisation of research into advanced manufacturing – Essex is home to a number of cutting-edge employers in this area.

Essex is part of the East of England Science and Innovation Audit (EESIA). Working with GCGP, New Anglia and Herts LEPs, businesses, our Universities and wider research institutions, we are establishing greater linkages, co-operation and commercialisation of research across four areas: life sciences and health, advanced manufacturing and materials, agri-tech, and digital. These audits conclude in May and will be vital to the development of opportunities for the growth of the economy in Essex, in particular the London Stansted Cambridge Corridor (LSCC). The audits will complement our opportunities in low carbon and renewables, financial and business services, and logistics.

We have strengthened the approach taken by Government, bringing wider research expertise to the audit. The audit will enable us to better target resources around inward investment activities – focusing on the right businesses, matching intelligence with our marketing activity, helping us to channel existing funding. We offer to share this work and the learning from it, to work with Government.

We make an offer to Government to deepen the partnership between Essex and national Inward Investment teams in Department of Industry (DIT). As part of our new approach to Inward Investment we are enhancing delivery through ERDF Investment and strengthening our strategic links with partners, including DIT. Using the learning from the Science and innovation Audit, alongside sources such as the Economic Commission for Essex we will focus on attracting high value jobs in our key opportunity sectors. We will highlight investment opportunities that can be marketed internationally, and we will look to DIT to work with us and our LEP partners to promote those opportunities collectively.





Essex County Council



University of Essex



PART OF M&G



#essexmeansbusiness

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