

# Essex

a great place to  
do business



**INVEST**  
Essex



Essex County Council



Main Image: Selex Galileo, Basildon, Essex  
Inset Image: Business Park development, Essex  
Cover: Images from across Essex

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**“** Essex is an exciting area to do business. Not only are transport links good – our products arrive by road through the channel ports and are subsequently shipped across Britain again by road – our nationwide staff can reach our Head Office in Basildon by road, rail or air with ease”

John Howard, Head of Marketing,  
Konica Minolta Business Systems (UK) Ltd

# Essex Gateway to UK & Europe

**When you're considering a move for your business, you'll find that Essex provides an ideal base. It's a superb choice for setting up a European headquarters or UK office, opening up a research and development centre, establishing distribution or service facilities, starting a new enterprise or relocating a growing business.**

## **Location is our greatest strength.**

Essex is on the doorstep of London and Cambridge and is the gateway to dynamic growth markets throughout the UK and Europe. With two international ports, links to the national motorway network and London Stansted airport, you'll find it easy to do business on a local, national or global scale.

You'll be able to attract the right people. Essex is at the heart of a thriving knowledge economy, with a highly-skilled workforce, world-class universities and specialist schools that make the county a breeding ground for innovation.

That's why Essex is home to market-leading international companies like Ford, BAE Systems, IFDS and e2v technologies and why it's the focus of some of Europe's largest growth and regeneration projects like Thames Gateway, Haven Gateway and London Gateway Port.

The 2012 London Olympics will give a further boost to the Essex economy, with significant event-related construction and logistics activities in the lead-up to the Games and further regeneration associated with the East London sites after the event. Essex is proud

to host not only the Olympic mountain bike championships at Hadleigh Country Park but also 21 accredited pre-games training camp facilities that includes 6 Paralympic facilities.

Essex also offers a great quality of life, with England's longest coastline, huge areas of unspoilt countryside, busy market towns, an excellent education system and superb leisure facilities.

**You'll find information in this brochure about our location, business environment, growth potential and quality of life. If you would like to find out more about Essex and the opportunities for your business, we are here to help.**



Images clockwise from top:

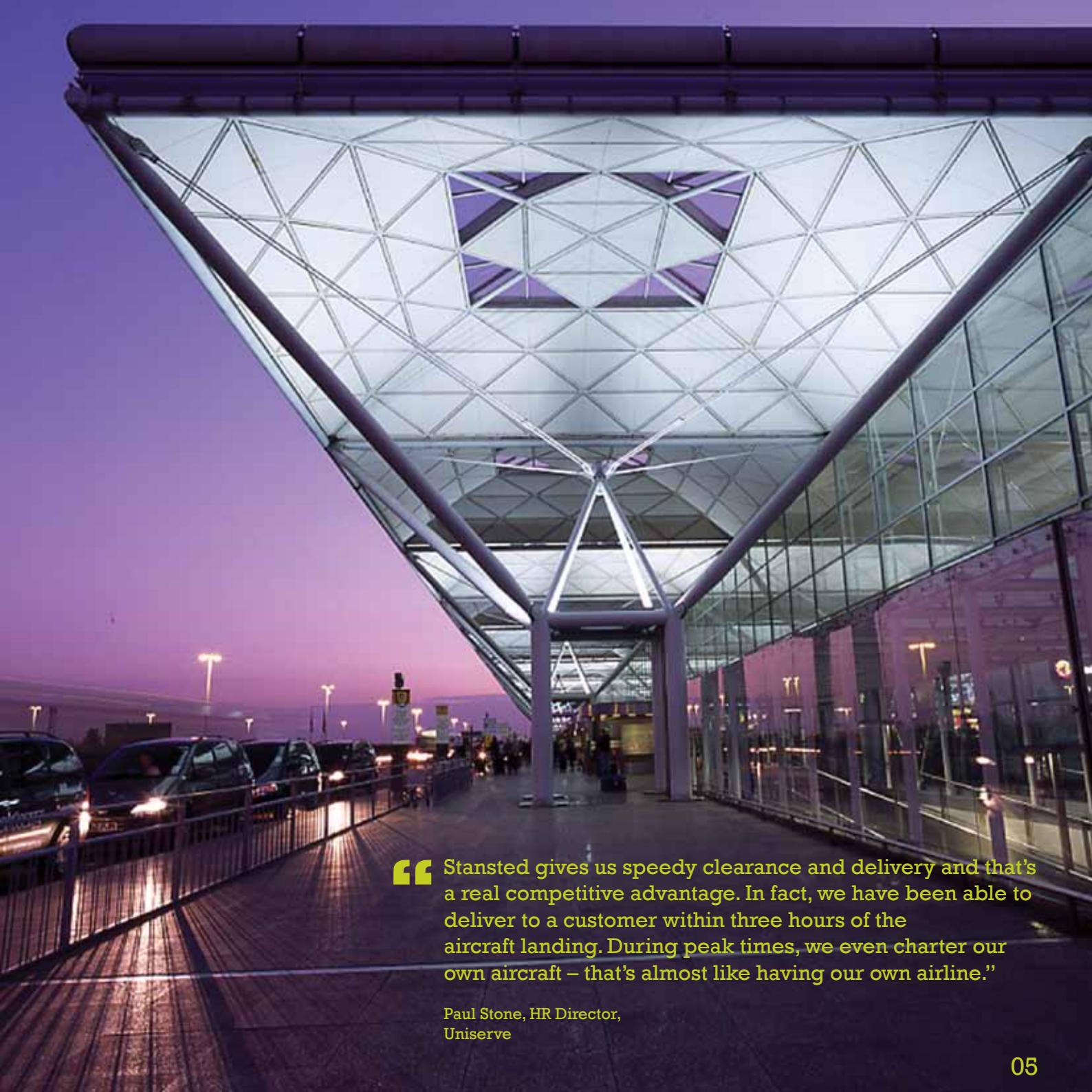
Port of Tilbury

London Stansted Airport

London's main financial district, Swiss Re Tower,

(the Gherkin)

Eurostar



**“** Stansted gives us speedy clearance and delivery and that's a real competitive advantage. In fact, we have been able to deliver to a customer within three hours of the aircraft landing. During peak times, we even charter our own aircraft – that's almost like having our own airline.”

Paul Stone, HR Director,  
Uniserve

# Location

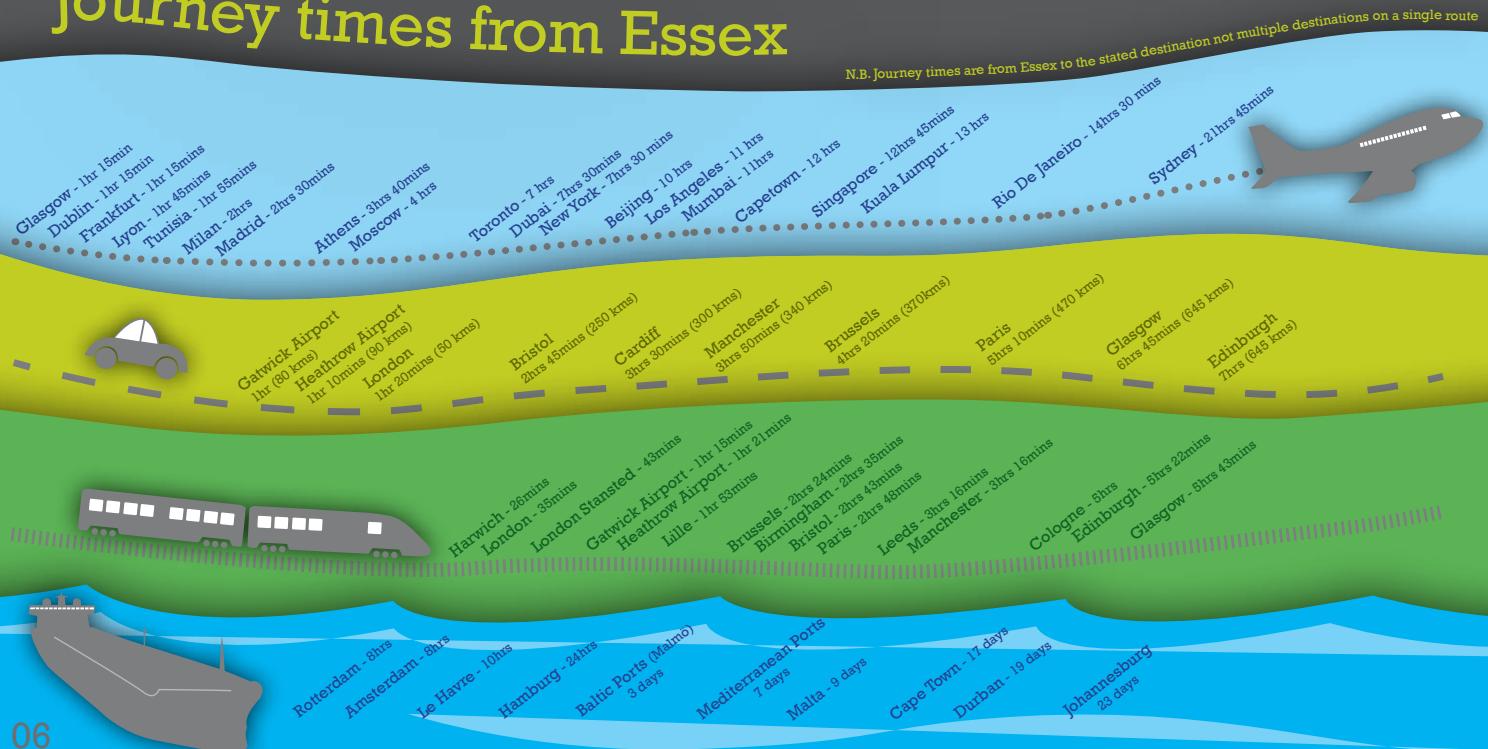
**Essex is superbly positioned for business. The county, which has a population of over 1.7 million and covers 3,670 km<sup>2</sup>, is strategically located in the south-east of England. You'll be in close proximity to other vibrant economies such as London, one of the world's great financial centres, Cambridge, an international centre of research, and the dynamic growth markets of Europe.**

## Rapid access to the UK and Europe

With 30 million consumers living within a 140 km radius and excellent transport links, your business will be at the heart of a national logistics infrastructure that gives fast, easy access to potential markets throughout the UK. Through London Stansted Airport and the seaports of Tilbury, Harwich International and nearby Felixstowe, Essex is a gateway to markets in mainland Europe and the world.

Essex has over 7500 km of roads, with the M11 and M25 motorways, as well as major trunk routes linking all parts of the county. The M11 gives fast access to London, Cambridge, the midlands and the north, while the M25 gives access to the national motorway network that reaches out to all parts of the UK, and across to Europe.

## Journey times from Essex



## Greener integrated transport solutions

Essex is leading the way in integrated solutions that will transform the movement of freight around the UK, reducing road haulage and cutting CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. On completion, London Gateway Port will act as a hub linking sea, road and rail in the south of the county. This will bring an estimated saving of over 95 million HGV kilometres per year - equal to about 2,000 truck movements per day - amounting to a reduction of 148,000 tonnes per annum of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.



**“** Essex has some remarkable transport links. We have Stansted airport, we have networks for rail connections to Europe and also we have port activity for our parts and distribution business so it's a great location for all of our activities”

Graham Hoare,  
Executive Director,  
Power Train UK, Ford

## **Harwich International Port a leading east coast seaport**

Harwich International Port is one of the UK's leading multi-purpose seaports. With nearly two million ferry and cruise passengers every year, it is the country's second busiest ferry terminal. The port has excellent road and rail links to the midlands, London and the south east and is ideally located for North Sea freight and passenger traffic to and from Scandinavia and the Benelux countries.

Harwich offers first-class ro-ro, ferry, container and bulk operations and has recently benefited from significant investment in new facilities, a wider range of port services and highly-trained staff. The future development of Bathside Bay will significantly increase capacity as a deep-sea container port by 2016.

## **Port of Tilbury London's major seaport**

Strategically located on the River Thames, the Port of Tilbury is London's major seaport and an international hub for distribution. Tilbury is one of the key gateways to London and the south east and has direct links to the UK's motorway network. The port has a wide international customer base, broad range of cargo handling operations and a highly-skilled workforce.

Tilbury is now the UK's leading paper and timber handling port and has a strong position in containers, bulk commodities and construction and building materials. It is also the natural distribution point for Thames Gateway and developments such as the 2012 London Olympics.

## **London Stansted a major international airport**

London Stansted is the third busiest airport in the UK, with more than 29 scheduled and charter airlines serving 162 destinations across 34 countries, and almost 23 million passengers a year. It is also the UK's second largest airfreight terminal, with a worldwide reputation as a cargo hub carrying around 203,000 tonnes of freight a year.

As well as London Stansted Airport, Essex is within easy travelling distance of other international terminals like Gatwick, Heathrow and London City Airport.

## **London Gateway a new regional distribution hub**

The new London Gateway container port, a £1.5 billion investment at a former oil refinery, will become one of the UK's most important hubs, enhancing the competitiveness of Essex businesses.

Part of this vast development is a huge logistics and business park providing nearly one million sq metres of commercial and distribution accommodation, direct access to an international deep sea container port and ro-ro terminal, rail-connected facilities, and excellent road access to the motorway network.



## **London Southend airport**

London Southend Airport is the Eastern Gateway to London and a key element of the Thames Gateway programme. A new airport railway station, providing fast and frequent train services direct to London, forms part of a multi-million development scheme - including a new control tower, terminal building and high-quality hotel - currently being developed to extend the range of passenger services.

## **Rail transport**

Stratford International Station, adjacent to the London 2012 Olympic Village, opened in 2009 as part of the Channel Tunnel Rail Link, providing high-speed rail services to France and Belgium.

Image left:  
Cargo Plane at Stansted



Main Image: Port of Tilbury  
Inset Image: Harwich International Port

# Business Environment



## The choice of world-leading companies

You'll be in good company in Essex. World leaders in many different market sectors recognise that Essex provides a great environment for business. Almost 60,000 VAT registered companies, more than a quarter of the total in the east of England, operate in Essex. They employ more than 641,000 people and the county is home to an ever-increasing number of early-stage businesses and entrepreneurs.

Our business profile is diverse, with key sectors including high technology, financial and business services, ports and logistics, construction, creative and cultural industries, environmental technologies, public sector, health and education, retail and leisure, advanced manufacturing and tourism.

You can choose from a good stock of available commercial land and premises for your business.

Ford  
Small and Medium Vehicle Centre



## People and services to grow your business

You will be able to attract the right employees from a large, skilled and highly-motivated workforce. With our excellent educational and training infrastructure, you can be confident that further skills are developed for the future. You can also draw on a high-quality network of marketing and design services, suppliers and professional services to supplement your own skills and accelerate your business growth.

## A knowledge economy

Winning companies know that knowledge is vital to innovation, growth and competitive advantage. Technology companies in Essex recognise that the county has developed a strong innovation community, with world-class firms building highly efficient local supply chains through collaboration. By locating in Essex, you will benefit from the county's leading role in the knowledge economy with world-class universities, specialist schools and colleges and centres of excellence helping to transfer knowledge and provide high-quality research support.

## Specialist schools focused on business

Essex schools are laying the foundation, developing the knowledge workers of the future with the skills and attitude to make a positive contribution to your business. Setting the pace is Hassenbrook School, a specialist technology college, one of the first schools in the UK to have an i-Lab (innovation laboratory) designed to encourage students to think creatively, develop ideas, brainstorm and work in teams to take ideas forward.

Chelmer Valley High School, one of a number of specialist schools in Essex, has set up a specialist engineering department and has strong links with industry and universities to give students a clear, practical insight into business. Greensward College, an award-winning specialist technology college, offers students a wide range of entrepreneurial vocational courses and has also established an enterprise centre for students setting up in business.

Images from left:

Ford Dunton Research Centre, Basildon, Essex  
Businessmen  
University of Essex, Colchester

## **University of Essex, world-class university research**

Our universities are at the forefront of cutting edge research and knowledge transfer. The University of Essex is the top-ranked UK university for Social Sciences research with a five-star rating. Its Photonics Group has become the leading European research institute for optoelectronics, and the Robot Arena is one of the premier mobile robotics research facilities in the UK.

The University's new research park, the Knowledge Gateway, currently under development at the Colchester campus, will create a community that supports research, training and knowledge transfer involving partners from the University, Government and business. This reflects its strengths in electronic systems engineering, computer science, robotics and biological sciences.

In all of these fields, the university is involved in internationally recognised leading-edge research and has built up strong links with industrial partners. It has also formed a number of spin-out businesses to bring its research to the marketplace. The University has the facilities to support new businesses at the Business Incubation Centre, part of the Business Hub at the Southend campus. As well as office or development space, the Centre also offers advice and guidance to help businesses through the early stages.

## **Anglia Ruskin University, international business school**

Anglia Ruskin University is home to the Ashcroft International Business School (AIBS), offering undergraduate courses in business, through to postgraduate and professional programmes, as well as bespoke projects with individual businesses. The Business School also carries out extensive research and consultancy.

AIBS staff engage in research and consultancy with clients in retail, international manufacturing and the public sector. The Business School has a strong international focus to its work, attracting overseas students to campuses in Cambridge, Chelmsford and Harlow and developing bespoke courses with international partners around the world.



## **Writtle College, innovative environmental research**

Writtle College has a reputation for inspiring innovation, creativity and entrepreneurship in the land-based sector. It focuses on Environment and Rural Affairs, Arts and Design in the Environment, and Equine and Animal Science. The college is responsible for a number of innovative programmes that deliver rural development and environmental expertise throughout Europe and to developing Third World countries.



Images from left:  
University of Essex Lecture Theatre  
South East Essex College  
University of Essex Biochemistry

**“Our business relies on talented managers. We've set up a management training programme in partnership with the local University of Essex campus and that will help us attract the right calibre of people” John Rowe, Group Financial Controller, Olympus KeyMed**

## **South Essex College**

South Essex College provides a wide range of courses with a strong vocational and professional focus - a key resource for the Essex economy. It has numerous accreditations and membership of a number of National Skills Academies including those of Logistics, Retail Skills, Creative and Cultural Skills and Financial Services.



## **University/business research links**

With strong links between universities and business, world leaders like Visteon, Ford and BAE Systems have based their own research and development centres in Essex. Many other companies have partnered with universities to enhance their own research capacity and draw on the expertise available.

Local universities have a long history of working with Essex companies to add business value through collaborative research, knowledge transfer partnerships, access to expertise through consultancy, management training and conference facilities, as well as support for growing businesses and start-ups.

## **Breeding ground for innovation**

The Essex knowledge economy is a great stepping stone for the start-ups and spin-off companies that play such a key role in innovation. Essex entrepreneurs work in partnership with the county's established players to create a business environment that accelerates growth for everyone.

Essex has a rich history of entrepreneurship and innovation and is recognised as a breeding ground of technological innovation, inspirational creativity and talent. The entrepreneurial spirit, creative diversity and unflinching determination of Essex companies, both market leaders and new start-ups, are all key factors in the thriving business profile of the county.



# Growth in Essex

**Government-backed growth is creating new markets and business opportunities, and attracting even more skilled people to the county. It is receiving an extra boost from the huge investment surrounding the London Olympics. Growth on this scale is creating an economic vibrancy that opens up unique investment opportunities for local, national and international businesses. Essex has two main growth areas: Thames Gateway in south Essex, part of Europe's largest regeneration programme and Haven Gateway in north east Essex, focused around the port complex of Harwich and Felixstowe. The Government has set high growth targets across the county: 131,000 new jobs by 2021 - more than a quarter of the total target for the East of England region.**

## Thames Gateway Europe's largest growth area

The Thames Gateway in South Essex is an economic powerhouse, producing energy, manufacturing goods, importing goods from abroad and distributing them across the UK. It provides 70% of London's port capacity and manufactures 10% of UK transport fuel. Between 2001 and 2016, around 42,500 jobs will be created in the area attracting major inward investment, business retention and skills development, as well as transport.

The Gateway is Western Europe's largest investment and regeneration project and offers huge benefits for businesses moving and growing here. It has a unique position between London and Europe and is served by two airports, two international rail stations and will be served by Crossrail in 2017. Many key sectors invest in Thames Gateway ranging from business and financial services, ports and logistics to advanced manufacturing.

## Haven Gateway

Haven Gateway is one of the fastest growing areas of the UK and the European Union. The five Haven ports of Felixstowe, Harwich International, Harwich Navyard, Ipswich and Mistley represent the single most important cluster of seaports in the UK.

Haven Gateway is also home to a wide variety of industries including financial services, technology, print and publishing, food and research. It has excellent road communications with London, Cambridge and the south, the midlands and the north of the UK. By rail, efficient container services run to multiple inland destinations.

## Bathside Bay

Bathside Bay at Harwich International Port is a planned £300 million deep sea container port development that is likely to begin around 2016. It will enable the port to handle multiple deep-sea container vessels simultaneously, making Harwich International Port potentially the second largest container port in the UK.

The development will lead to the creation of some 800 direct jobs, with many thousands more resulting from inward investment by companies seeking to be close to this major seaport.

Images from left:  
London Gateway Port development  
Cycling





## Impact of the Olympics

The London 2012 Olympics are centered around Stratford on the eastern fringes of London. The Olympic Village, a massive infrastructure development, is well underway and this has created major investment opportunities. The area around Stratford is also subject to major regeneration with further developments set to follow a legacy of the Olympics. The Olympic programme has an estimated budget of some £9 billion. The transport infrastructure is being updated in preparation for the Games with the opening of Stratford International Station and links to the Channel Rail Tunnel, as well as improvements to the local road network.

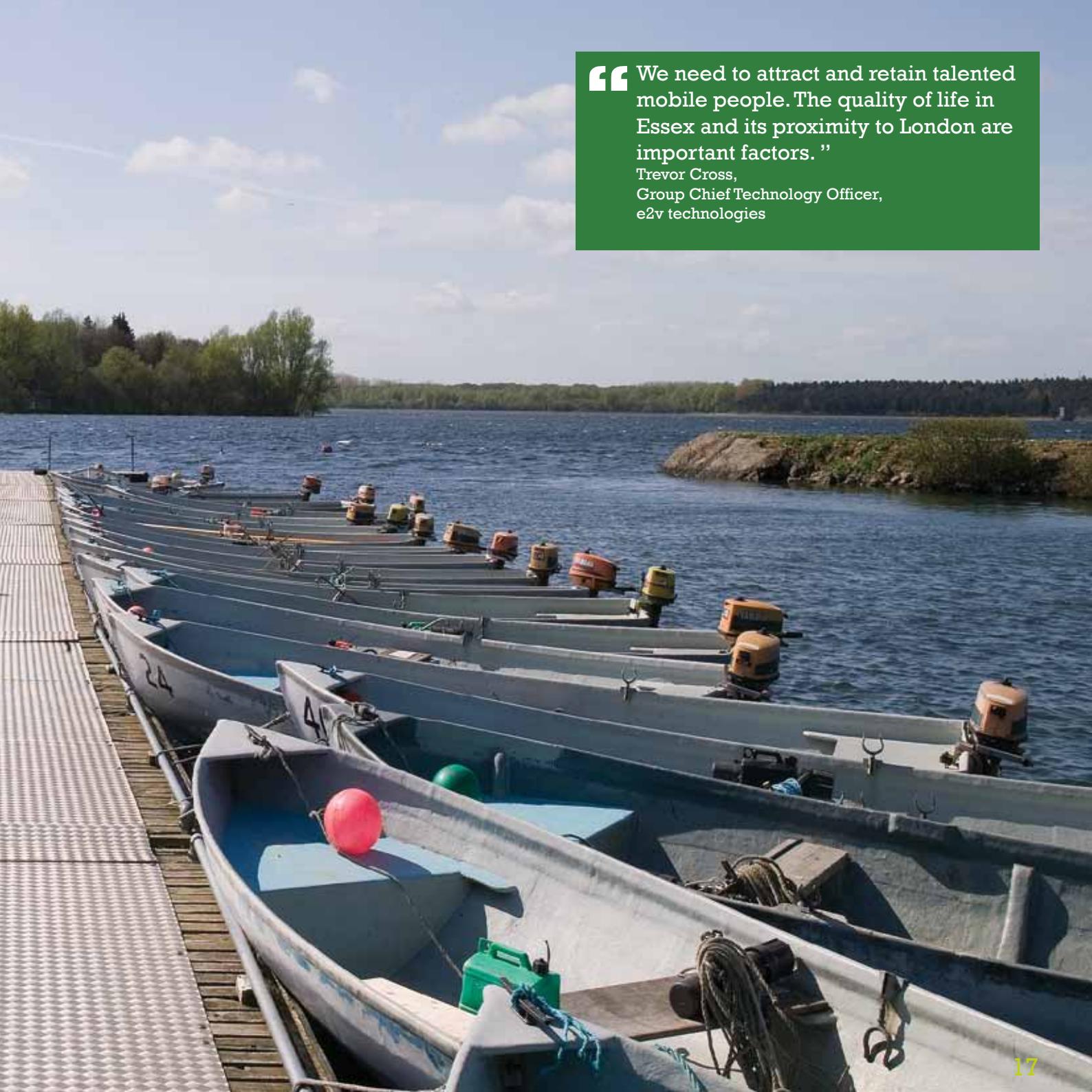
Sports facilities will also benefit with Olympic mountain biking based at Hadleigh near Southend and some water sports events to be held in the Lee Valley Regional Sports Centre. There will be an additional legacy of world-class sporting venues such as Basildon Sporting Village, the new Diving Centre at Southend with a total of 21 accredited pre-games training camps including 6 Paralympic facilities around the county.

# Quality of Life

Essex is a great place to live and work, with a huge choice of quality homes at reasonable prices, excellent schools and universities, first-class leisure facilities and an environment that gives the right work-life balance. It's also on the doorstep of London and Cambridge.



Image: Hanningfield Reservoir, Essex

A photograph showing a row of small, white aluminum boats with outboard motors docked at a wooden pier on a large body of water. The boats are numbered (24, 4, 7) and have various equipment like buoys and ropes attached. In the background, there's a rocky island and a forested shoreline under a blue sky with some clouds.

**“**We need to attract and retain talented mobile people. The quality of life in Essex and its proximity to London are important factors.”

Trevor Cross,  
Group Chief Technology Officer,  
e2v technologies

## **Choice of quality, affordable homes**

You'll find a great variety of homes in bustling town centres, quiet countryside, seaside towns, historic villages or new towns, with a choice of flats, period houses, modern homes, country houses and character homes like thatched cottages.

Prices for first-time properties, family accommodation and luxury homes are competitive and considerably lower than London, Cambridge and many other counties in the south of England. With new housing development across the county, Essex will continue to offer you and your employees real choice.

## **Excellent education system**

Essex has an excellent education system, with a number of outstanding selective schools regularly featuring in the top ten English state schools. As well as their primary academic focus, many forward-thinking Essex schools have introduced departments specialising in technology and engineering.

More than 90 Essex secondary and primary schools are actively engaged in curriculum links with schools in Jiangsu, China and 34 are teaching Mandarin. The Anglo-European School at Ingatestone offers baccalaureate type courses and provides pupils with a strong European dimension to their education.

## **Diversity of shopping**

Shopping in Essex is a great leisure experience, with leading national high-street stores in all major towns and one of the largest retail centres in Europe at Thurrock's Lakeside. Chelmsford town centre has recently benefitted from significant expansion as part of a regeneration in the town's west end.

Freeport retail village at Braintree offers a wide choice of designer brands, while towns such as Halstead, Saffron Walden and Maldon have smaller specialist shops offering unique products, attractive antique centres and regular markets selling local produce.

## **An environment for living**

The quality of life in Essex is superb. The close proximity of central London, less than 16 km from West Essex, means you can enjoy the benefits of being close to a world-famous capital city while living and working in such an attractive county. Essex has a coastline more than 560 km long, with busy resorts at Southend, Clacton, Frinton, Walton and Dovercourt as well as quieter riverside and estuary towns such as Mistley, Mersea, Burnham and Maldon.

Major redevelopment in the county's resorts is leading to a coastal renaissance. That makes Essex great for sailing, windsurfing, cruising and other water sports along the coast or on the county's many rivers and inland waterways.



## Recreation for everyone

You can enjoy many types of sport and recreation in Essex, with over 50 golf courses, well-equipped leisure centres, sports clubs and facilities where you can take part in most types of indoor or outdoor activity. There are many country parks where you can enjoy walking, cycling and other outdoor pursuits in safe, pleasant surroundings, including new parklands at Rainham Marshes and Thurrock Thameside Nature Park.

The London Olympics will improve many of the training facilities in the county and bring international sport to Hadleigh Country Park. Work has started on the Basildon Sporting Village which aims to be the best sports and leisure facility in Essex. It will be equipped with a 50 metre international size pool and much more, offering a wealth of activities and services for all.



## Vibrant cultural life

The county has a vibrant cultural life with local and regional theatres and arts centres offering events and performances of the highest standard. The new Royal Opera House Production Campus at Thurrock opened in 2008, followed by the National Skills Academy for the Live Performing Arts in 2009. Construction is underway on the new firstsite:newsite visual arts facility in Colchester, which will provide a remarkable contemporary art space of international significance.

Essex is now a destination of choice for national and international events such as the annual V Festival at Hylands Park in Chelmsford which continues to be one of the highlights of the country's summer music scene attracting more than 150,000 people.



## Rich heritage

Essex is also a county with a long proud history, celebrated in its many museums, castles, churches and historic houses. Colchester, for example, is Britain's oldest recorded town and was the first Roman capital of Britain.

Almost three quarters of the county is beautiful unspoilt countryside, with rolling farmland, ancient woodlands like Hatfield Forest or Epping Forest, thatched cottages, timber-framed farmhouses and windmills.

Images from left:  
Essex Housing Development  
Essex Beach Huts  
BMX Racing, Braintree  
V Festival, Hylands Park, Chelmsford\*  
Castle Hedingham



\* image courtesy of Catherine Murray

# Support

## **Maximise your competitive advantage**

Essex could be the perfect place for your next move. We can help you get your business off to the best possible start, maximise your potential and take advantage of all the opportunities Essex can offer.

We can provide help to find you the right site and put you in touch with professionals and suppliers who can help you establish and grow your business.

## **Access to local knowledge and expertise**

We have experience of working with businesses of all sizes and have helped many companies to relocate to Essex. You can draw on our extensive local knowledge of the Essex business environment, markets and supply chain as well as our established contacts with all the regional and national bodies who support inward investment. Our property database makes it easy to find the ideal location in offices, business parks, industrial units or retail centres.

**We are committed to your success and we look forward to welcoming your business to Essex.**

### **Contact details :**

**INVEST Essex  
Aquila House  
Waterloo Lane  
Essex  
CM1 1BD  
UK**

**Tel:** +44 (0) 1245 702480  
**Email:** [contact@investessex.co.uk](mailto:contact@investessex.co.uk)  
**Web:** [www.investessex.co.uk](http://www.investessex.co.uk)

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