

For discussion only – not for wider circulation

Devolution for Greater Essex

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MALDON DISTRICT COUNCIL



Uttlesford District Council

Why devolution? Essex decisions for Essex people

Greater **local powers and influence** so that we can:

- Do more to accelerate and secure our future prosperity:
 - Economic potential fulfilled / better outcomes for local people
 - Skilled and productive workforces that enable communities and businesses to grow
 - Smarter, speedier and more coordinated infrastructure planning and delivery
 - Reformed public services that are affordable and prevent avoidable demand
- Generate a bigger fiscal gainshare:
 - Greater share of the financial dividend from growth retained locally to re-invest in programmes that secure future growth
- Unlock investment from a wider range of sources:
 - Attract additional money from Govt, Europe and private sector investors.

Devolution – *what's in it for my Authority (1)....*

- A **greater opportunity** to secure ***additional*** influence and resources to ***deliver*** local developments, infrastructure and skills programmes
- with NO loss of existing sovereignty
- The opportunity to continue to **meet our residents needs and aspirations** when there are **significant spending cuts** coming
- The chance to provide a legacy of a more prosperous future for the next generation

Devolution – *what's in it for my Authority (2)....*

- Direct benefits: Specific programmes and projects that unlock growth, build skills and strengthen communities
 - Either new or existing ones enhanced & accelerated
 - Greater opportunities for collaboration
- Indirect benefits:
 - A voice at the table of a major LA consortium that can compete with the largest city/met areas
 - The ripple effect of growth
 - Raise investment funding on a Greater County scale

Devolution – *what have we to lose ...*

We are in a competition...

- **Gov't** using devolution deals and combined authorities to channel and **prioritise spending**
- If we don't collaborate, have a deal or are not bold
 - ...We'll find it **harder to secure additional funding**
 - ...Individual voices will have **less influence** with govt
 - ...Others, inc near neighbours, will become more attractive to investors

Workstreams

Workstream	Leaders	Chief Executive Leads
Fiscal	Louise McKinlay (Roy Whitehead, David Finch)	Margaret Lee Amar Dave
Economic Growth, Infrastructure and Connectivity	Phil Turner Paul Smith	David Marchant Adrian Pritchard Steve Packham
New Homes and Communities	Graham Butland Colin Riley	Glen Chipp Bala Mahendran
Employability and Skills	Ron Woodley Miriam Lewis	Rob Tinlin
Governance	Neil Stock Jon Clempner, Terry Cutmore	Ian Davidson Lynn Carpenter
Communications	Kevin Bentley Colin Riley	

Devolution - strategic priorities overview

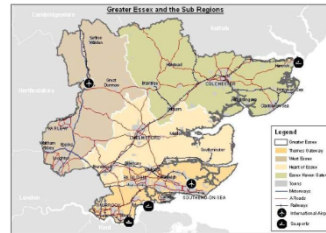
Enabling our four quadrants and local economies to prosper

South

West

Heart

Haven



Local and National growth dividends



GE Strategic programmes that lever accelerated growth in our sub-regions



Fiscal Strategies & Investment planning



Economic Growth

Connectivity & Infrastructure
New Homes & Communities



Skills & Employment



Public Service Reform programmes

1. Health & Social Care
2. Other programmes tbc



Governance

A world class gateway for growth
Accelerating local and national dividends

The Greater Essex ambition

Spring-board to deliver step-change, with benefits for people and businesses of Greater Essex.

Our ambition is that by 2025, with a devolution deal in place, we will have:

- The strongest economy outside London, increasing our economic output from **£33.5bn to £60bn** by supporting our economic growth areas to realise their full potential.
- A reputation as an internationally recognised and successful location for inward investment and have doubled the number of our businesses **exporting from 7% to 14%** in line with UKTI targets to double output by 2020.
- **Outstanding connectivity, both transport and digital**, that enables our businesses to grow and flourish and strengthens links between key transport hubs, including our airports and ports, with London and neighbouring areas.

The Greater Essex ambition

- **Deliver over 130k new homes**, improving the historic rate and reliability of housing delivery by 1.5 times to meet local housing plans. This will include large settlements based on garden city principles which utilise brownfield and public land and link to our economic growth aspirations
- **Most technically skilled workforce** in the UK. We will **increase by 20% the number of higher apprenticeships** completed, focusing upon key sectors across our growth areas, such as advanced manufacturing and engineering, health and life sciences, low carbon and renewables, digital and creative industries and ports and logistics.
- Financially sustainable solutions that **transform complex public services**, focused on supporting sustainable communities, demand management and prevention, promoting economic wellbeing and healthy lifestyles
- **Increased our net return to HMT** and through investment models where we will be **reinvesting in our growth areas and in public services** across Greater Essex, to create a virtuous investment circle

Headlines

- Combined Authority
 - A tool to negotiate and talk to government
- Combined Authority arrangements are being co-designed with Government
- Need to be flexible and continue negotiation
 - Manchester deals agreed after CA agreed

Principles

- Sovereignty - Councils preserve the right of sovereignty on basis that sovereignty is councils to give or share and not to be taken.
- All Leaders have said that growth areas are key, although these will need to be flexible
- Each Council's vote at Combined Authority is equal
- Scrutiny committee based on representation from each constituent member
- Each authority will have an effective veto based on issues having a substantial physical effect on its area
- CA is vehicle for further negotiation with government

What it is

- Sovereignty - Councils preserve the right of sovereignty. However, that is on the basis that sovereignty is councils to give or share and not to be taken.
- All Leaders have said that growth areas are key, although these will be flexible
- Each Council's vote at Combined Authority is equal value
- A scrutiny committee is based on representation from each constituent member
- Each authority will have an effective veto based on issues having a substantial physical effect on its area
- Vehicle of devolution for negotiation with government

What it is *NOT*

- Another bureaucratic organisation
- A costly bureaucracy
- Another tier of central government
- Imposed loss of sovereignty
- Unitary government by the back door
- Accepting a Mayor for greater Essex

Growth Areas (Quadrants)

- Direction for economic and growth
- Based on functional economic areas
- Needs to be flexible as some issues will see different partnerships
 - E.g. Being Tendring parochial
 - A120 is functional economic area with Colchester & Braintree
 - Issues of skills and deprivation – may be Harlow & Basildon

Fiscal Devolution

Critical to achieving our ambitions is a package of devolved fiscal freedoms and responsibilities from Government that include the following:

- **Pool and manage grant funding (Capital and Revenue), across longer budget cycles** without restrictions or ring fencing; and multi - year settlements of up to 10 years for strategic infrastructure investment to provide long term certainty, enable Greater Essex to target funding of most need, finance growth-promoting activity in collaboration with other sectors
- Creation of **single public sector land commission.**
- Freedom to **further reform Council Tax.**
- Link local growth to net national increase in GDP and calculate an associated **return on investment for Greater Essex.**

Economic growth and connectivity

Our transformation in delivery will be focussed on creating world class connectivity and infrastructure to enable our key growth opportunities. We will develop a portfolio of transformation programmes focussed on four key areas:

1. Major infrastructure:

- The game changing infrastructure programmes that will enable major economic growth and increases in productivity

2. Growth hubs:

- Growth areas for new inward investment; development of key growth sectors; an economy of high value and high productivity businesses

3. World class Transport:

- Integrate local passenger transport network; increase capacity & quality; and, regional solutions for our major road and rail arteries

4. Smart Greater Essex

- Providing the ultrafast broadband and the digital infrastructure for transport and new communities and developments

New Homes and Sustainable Communities

Stronger role in the shape, pace, quality and sustainability of housing delivery

1. Greater flexibility in meeting our Greater Essex housing need through:
 - a bottom-up Greater Essex spatial plan
 - better use of brownfield land
 2. More control and risk sharing over housing development through:
 - Power to create local development corporations
 - Delivery through LA joint venture local development companies
 - Forward funding of infrastructure
 3. Better quality and more sustainable housing which strengthens communities
 - Applying garden settlement principles where appropriate (*Tendring*)
 - Housing quality consistent with economic growth and social needs of areas
 - new approach to housing for older people and people with learning disabilities, promoting independence
 - opportunity to test new forms of housing development, including off-site
- Create new strategic programmes that transform delivery across boundaries

Employability and Skills

Whole system change to ensure business has suitably skilled workforce. Secure the supply-chain of talent over short, medium and long term. Stimulate growth in higher value jobs. Develop employment and progression for our young people.

- Joint Venture Partnership vehicle (JVP) between Business, Local Authorities & Gov't :
 - Single employment & skills system working– breaking down traditional silos and barriers
 - Shared priorities & aligned investment plan
 - Multi-agency, multi-year, financial model – enabling separate funding streams to come together to drive integration and alignment of both commissioning and delivery
- JVP will oversee Strategic Programmes focused on three major themes:
 - **The provider market place** - Shaping and commissioning the education and training market place to ensure that it is fit for our business needs and that it operates in the most efficient and effective way possible in line with area reviews.
 - **Workplace skills and productivity** - Working across the whole system to accelerate and increase higher level skills take-up in our key growth sectors and areas
 - **Economically inactive** – Bring whole system of support together to increase numbers of long-term economically inactive to enter the workplace and enjoy career progression

