

East of England

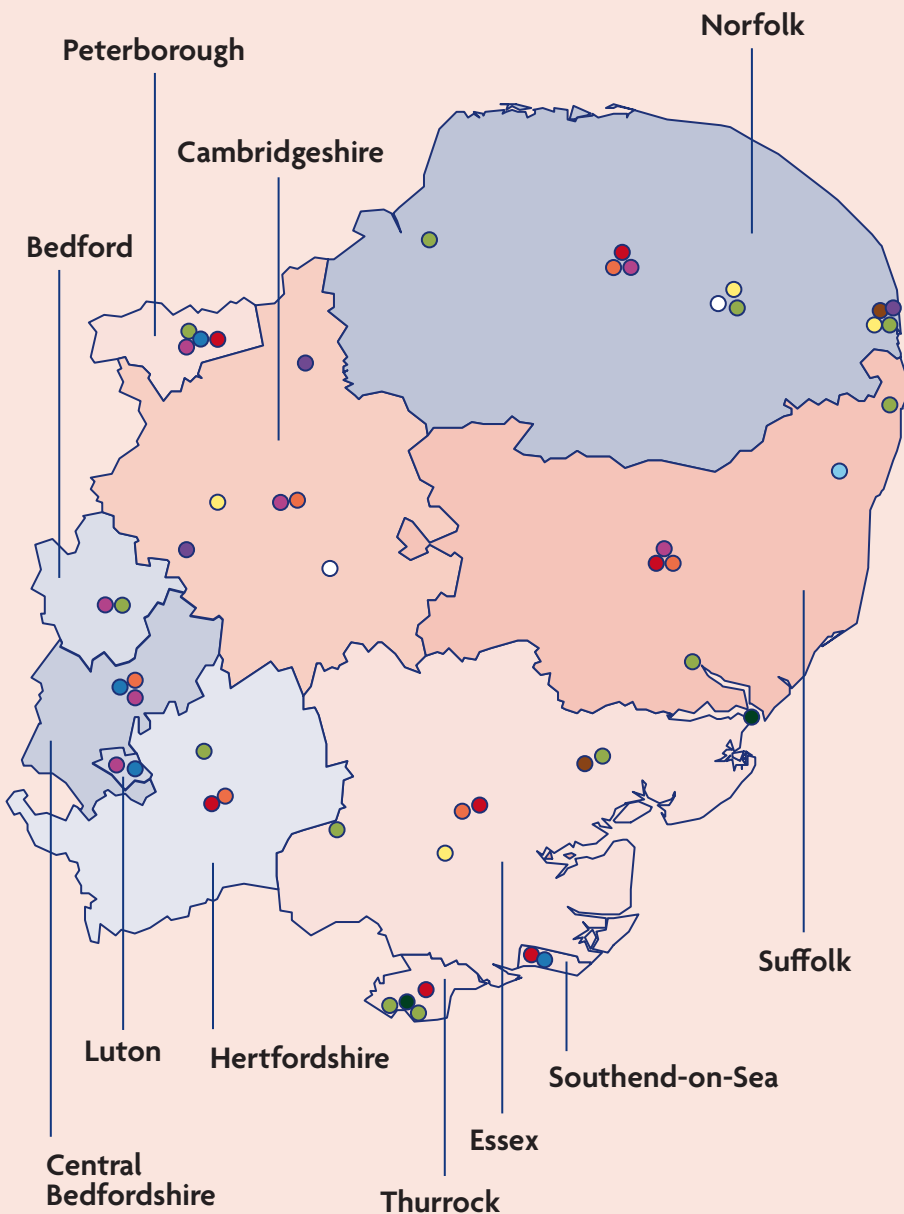
The East of England is already benefiting from investments to boost living standards, spread opportunity, restore local pride and empower local leaders.

An initial **£87m** of investment through Round 1 of the Levelling Up Fund is backing five projects in the East of England. Transport enhancements include reducing congestion and creating new walking and cycling routes in Central Bedfordshire. Coastal attractions at Southend-on-Sea will be upgraded to attract tourism and investment. In Peterborough, a new interactive “Living Lab” within the brand new university will be built and act as a beacon of transformative change in the city. Over 300 new homes and 2,000

square metres of community space will be delivered in Luton, as well as a Community Wellbeing Hub in Houghton Regis.

The Towns Fund is investing over **£287m** across 12 towns in the East of England including in Norwich, Peterborough and Great Yarmouth. Norwich will see delivery of new and improved green spaces and sustainable transport links. Peterborough will see new cultural facilities within the city centre, a lakeside activity centre and new pedestrian links created to improve access to the riverside and its green spaces adjoining the transformational new university. In Great Yarmouth, investment will be spent on reinventing public spaces, growing the arts and cultural scene and creating new jobs.





Key

- **Levelling Up Fund:** Southend-on-Sea, Peterborough, Luton and Central Bedfordshire.
- **Towns Fund:** Bedford, Great Yarmouth, Ipswich, King’s Lynn, Colchester, Grays, Harlow, Stevenage, Tilbury, Lowestoft, Norwich and Peterborough.
- **Future High Streets Fund:** March, St Neots and Great Yarmouth.
- **Community Renewal Fund:** Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, Essex, Norfolk, Southend-on-Sea, Thurrock, Hertfordshire and Suffolk.
- **Community Ownership Fund:** Westhall.
- **Project Gigabit:** Cambridgeshire, Norfolk, Suffolk, Hertfordshire, Bedfordshire, Essex.
- **Brownfield Land Release Fund:** Colchester, Great Yarmouth.
- **Freeports:** Felixstowe/Harwich and Tilbury/London Gateway in Thurrock.
- **Education Investment Areas:** Peterborough, Bedford, Central Bedfordshire, Norfolk, Luton, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire.
- **Transport upgrades:** Norwich, Great Yarmouth, Huntingdon and Chelmsford.
- **Transforming Cities Fund:** Norwich and Cambridge.



A new Freeport for the East of England

Centred around the Port of Felixstowe and Harwich International Port, **Freeport East** will take advantage of its close proximity to major European and global trade routes. The Freeport will drive regeneration in the area and support the subregional and regional economy recover from the pandemic. It will provide high skilled, high paying jobs, building on the already well-established industries situated in and around the ports.

The UK Government has been taking action to level up the East of England:



Empowering local leaders and communities

£600m over 30 years through the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority Devolution Deal, devolving new powers over transport, planning and skills, and providing investment funding to grow the local economy and to deliver new homes.

£500m City Deal with Greater Cambridge to enable a new wave of innovation-led growth by investing in infrastructure, housing and skills.

Both **Norfolk and Suffolk** have been invited to agree new devolution deals.

£87m for five projects from the Levelling Up Fund, including upgrading coastal attractions at Southend-on-Sea, building a new science lab and education space in Peterborough and building over 300 new homes and 2,000 square metres of community space in Luton.

Almost £24m from the Future High Streets Fund to renew and reshape high streets in March, St Neots and Great Yarmouth.

Over £287m through the Towns Fund for 12 towns and cities, supporting economic growth, to boost local economies, create jobs and new homes, transform public spaces, and revamp cultural attractions.



Boosting productivity, pay, jobs and living standards

Local Growth Deals are delivering major growth opportunities such as building the East Coast College Skills Centre in Lowestoft, regenerating the Luton Hat district and providing a new rail station in Chelmsford.

£39m through the Transforming Cities Fund for a new mobility hub at Norwich Rail Station.

Road upgrades in the East of England include the Great Yarmouth Third River Crossing, Lower Thames Crossing and the A14 from Cambridge to Huntingdon, and further A road improvements.

£462m for local roads maintenance between 2022-23 and 2024-25, and £88m for transport improvements across the East of England.

30 zero emission buses for Cambridge and Peterborough from the £70m Zero Emission Bus Regional Areas Fund.

Gigabit broadband coverage in the East of England increased from 5% in November 2019 to 61% in January 2022, and is forecast to reach 70-80% by 2025.

£500m committed across the UK through the Shared Rural Network programme to improve 4G coverage by 2025, increasing coverage to 99% in the East of England.

359,275 new businesses created in the East of England between 2010 and 2020.

830,800 jobs were furloughed and protected in the East of England through the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme.



Spreading opportunity and improving public services

£292m extra for mainstream schools is forecast for the East of England in 2022-23, an increase of 5.9% per pupil, compared to 2021-22. This per pupil increase excludes “growth” funding, which is additional funding, provided for schools seeing significant increases in pupil numbers.

New Education Investment Areas announced for local authority districts including Peterborough, Bedford, Central Bedfordshire, Norfolk, Luton, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire, to drive improvements in educational attainment.

A new Institute of Technology in development with South Essex College covering the South East LEP area.

31,800 apprenticeships started in the East of England in 2019-20.

1,053 more doctors and 2,599 more nurses working in hospitals in the East of England between September 2019 and September 2021.

Building five new hospitals in the East of England as part of the Government’s commitment to build 40 new hospitals by 2030, including the rebuild of James Paget Hospital and West Suffolk Hospital; a new cancer hospital at Addenbrookes; a new integrated, high-tech healthcare campus to replace the ageing Princess Alexandra Hospital in Harlow; new hospital buildings at Watford General Hospital; and the refurbishment of Hemel Hempstead and St Albans City hospitals.

8,990 Kickstart jobs started by young people and 21 youth hubs opened to help young jobseekers access local training and job opportunities.



Restoring local pride

996 extra police officers recruited in the East of England since the start of the uplift programme in October 2019.

£96,600 from the Community Ownership Fund awarded to the Racehorse Inn in Westhall.

Over £3m from the Brownfield Land Release Fund towards the regeneration of two estates, the Heart of Greenstead regeneration project in Colchester and the Middlegate Estate in Great Yarmouth.

Over £17m for 33 Community Renewal Fund projects, including funding culture-led regeneration through the film industry in Hertfordshire, Net Zero business support in Norfolk and digital skills transformation in Essex.

Over £4m from the Green Homes Grant Local Authority Delivery Scheme for Central Bedfordshire to improve the energy efficiency of homes of low-income households, helping reduce fuel poverty.

£4m granted by the Football Foundation to improve grassroots sports facilities and increase opportunities for people to get involved in sports, especially in communities most in need.