

# MEDIA RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

## **New Anglia LEP publishes its Plan for Growth and invites feedback**

New Anglia Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) has published the first draft of its Plan for Growth, which sets out its vision and strategy for economic growth in Norfolk and Suffolk.

The LEP is inviting feedback on the document to enable it to further shape the plan to ensure the right decision-making focus on investment priorities and growth.

The initial framework for the Plan for Growth was created in early 2013, when local business groups were asked to help shape the first stage document. All 39 LEPs in England have been asked by Government to prepare growth plans for their areas.

The New Anglia Plan for Growth is a 'bottom up' strategy – built from local plans including economic strategies for Norfolk and Suffolk. Its aim is to strengthen the local economy and create new jobs in areas such as improving skills, boosting enterprise and innovation, investing in infrastructure and promoting green growth.

Developing a single coherent plan will enable Suffolk and Norfolk to be in a strong position to take advantage of investment opportunities presented by the Government's decision to create a Single Local Growth Fund for economic development and the development of the new European funding programme.

The Plan focuses on growing key sectors, such as tourism, energy, advanced manufacturing and engineering and life sciences, plus the LEP Green Economy manifesto, creating a skilled workforce, supporting businesses and other vital areas.

New Anglia LEP Chairman, Andy Wood OBE, commented: "We are ambitious to transform the economy of Norfolk and Suffolk and to establish New Anglia as a centre of business excellence within the UK and across the global economy. The Plan for Growth sets out our vision and strategy and invites you to help shape our Plan and inform the right decision-making as we focus on investment priorities and growth.

"This is an important opportunity for businesses, private investors, local authorities, community representatives and leaders, voluntary organisations – and all those who live and work in Norfolk and Suffolk - to work with us to share priorities for the future.

"Working together, we have proved ourselves to be a formidable team, ambitious for the future of New Anglia and capable of delivering spectacular results for the local economy. I am very excited about the potential here, and invite you to contribute to this consultation and help shape the exciting future that lies ahead."

New Anglia is also holding a series of consultation events in Suffolk and Norfolk to gather feedback from the business community on the EU Structural and Investment Fund Strategy. The LEP has secured funding to support the community and business growth. For more information about EU funding visit [www.newanglia.co.uk](http://www.newanglia.co.uk)

The Plan for Growth can be viewed at [www.newanglia.co.uk](http://www.newanglia.co.uk). Please send feedback and views to [iain.dunnett@newanglia.co.uk](mailto:iain.dunnett@newanglia.co.uk) by 23 August.

In September the document will be redrafted in light of the consultation feedback and shared with Government. Stakeholders will then get a second opportunity to make comments in the Autumn before the final document is submitted to Government in January 2014.

End.

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### **Notes for Editors**

New Anglia's website is [www.newanglia.co.uk](http://www.newanglia.co.uk)

New Anglia is the Local Enterprise Partnership for Suffolk and Norfolk.

One of 39 Local Enterprise Partnerships, New Anglia has been established as a catalyst to create jobs and remove the barriers to business growth.