



○ LEVELLING UP THE EAST OF ENGLAND:

2023-2030

The East of England's progress
towards achieving the Government's
twelve levelling up missions.

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Introduction

- Purpose of the Report.
- **Characteristics of the East of England:**
 - An economic success story with strengths in the economy of the future - life sciences, agri-tech, higher education, tourism and ICT
 - The highest population growth of any region or nation 2011 to 2021 but one of the three lowest for per capita total public expenditure spend.
 - Key corridors that add value to UK plc and link the East of England to London, to the Midlands and to the North.
 - Areas of significant deprivation sit alongside some of the UK's most successful places especially in rural areas and amongst coastal communities.

- Role of local government – as well as national Government - is critical to levelling up. A strong and sustainable local government sector is fundamental to the success of this policy.



High confidence missions



I EMPLOYMENT, PRODUCTIVITY AND PAY

Above average percentage of people in work and the number of jobs available outstripping those looking for work.



II R&D

The East of England has pioneered the relationship between research and commerce and leveraged one of the world's leading innovation ecosystems.



VIII Wellbeing

The East of England is above average in the UK for life satisfaction: despite a downward trend in life satisfaction post Covid-19, it is expected to increase over time.

Medium confidence missions

MEDIUM



IV Digital connectivity

Due to the rurality of the region, vast disparities exist in the quality and reliability of digital connectivity across the geography of our region.

MEDIUM



IX Pride in Place

The East of England is diverse with huge cultural, economic, and environmental differences but united in respecting the importance of place.

MEDIUM



XI Crime

Trends in homicide (stable), serious violence (falling) and neighbourhood crime (falling) follow a similar pattern to nationally and this trend is expected to continue.

Medium confidence missions

MEDIUM



XII Devolution

Deals for three of our areas are welcome but opportunities should be extended to other areas, which necessitates an approach from central government that one size does not fit all.

MEDIUM



XIII Sustainability

While partners are confident levelling up should and will be linked to sustainability issues including net zero and water scarcity there are considerable challenges for local authorities and all partners in delivering rapid progress on climate change.

Low confidence missions

III TRANSPORT

- The East of England relies on the web of public and private transport connections between its major towns, cities and ports and rural and coastal communities.
- The region's 17 ports and airports act as international gateway delivering freight to the rest of the UK and attracting investment.
- Poor access and lack of connections hinder not just economic growth, but also broader determinants of health and wellbeing for example life chances in terms of access to education and skills training, access to housing, quality of life and public health.



Recommendations

- Increased and stable funding for bus services and network maintenance across all Local Transport Authorities.
- Simpler, longer-term funding mechanisms to facilitate stable regional transport investment pipelines that support the priorities already set out in the strategies of the region's two STBs.
- Commitment to early delivery of major rail schemes identified in the Rail Network Enhancement Pipeline including Ely and Haughley Junctions, East-West Rail and four trains an hour to Stansted.



Low confidence missions

VI EDUCATION

- At 64% the East of England is below England average (65%) for expected standard in reading, writing and maths.
- Pandemic and cost of living pressures is making the gap with disadvantaged children wider in the short term.
- 90% not feasible, but over time, and with resources, the inequality gap could be reduced.



Recommendations

- Examine the formula for funding rural schools
- Ensure sufficient SEND money allocated to councils to deliver required support
- Focus on early years and align education policy with health, levelling up, etc.



LOW

Low confidence missions

VII SKILLS

- Employment level in the East of England is the **highest in the UK** so current vacancies exceed those unemployed.
- Widespread skills shortages with mismatches between skills programmes and local employer needs.
- Low participation rates in high-quality skills training (indicative rate 3.6% - the lowest of any region) and low uptake of in-work training (the region is currently in 8th position out of 9 for number of apprenticeships).



Recommendations

- The Government should promote “skills devolution” to allow opportunities for greater local oversight of skills funding and coordination across local partnerships.
- Targeted Government investment will be needed if the mission is to be achieved by 2030.
- Improved messaging from local and national Government around post-19 skills training.



LOW

Low confidence missions

VIII HEALTH

- Healthy life expectancy (HLE) at 65 is just better than national average, but there are inequalities between men and women and 9 year's difference between people living in different places.
- Increasing HLE and reducing inequalities is challenging due to Covid; number of children living in poverty; and impact of debt, homelessness and rent/mortgage arrears due to rising cost of living.
- The existing social care workforce crisis means more older people, those with disabilities and others with care needs are likely to be adversely affected.



Recommendations

- Funding for all health and care services in East of England need to recognise the region's more than 8% population growth in last ten years – and it is still increasing.
- Government should support an integrated NHS and social care workforce strategy.
- Partners in the region will work with and support the East of England's six Integrated Care Systems to maximise the benefits of inclusive growth and reduce inequalities.



Low confidence missions

X HOUSING

- Home ownership in the East of England is the highest of any English region, **standing at 67.4% in 2021**. However, homes to buy are less affordable in the East of England than in the rest of the UK.
- Unfortunately, Government statistics are not available to show the specific numbers of First Time Buyers in the East of England – knowing if the trend is positive or negative has been impossible.
- The region has above average number of non-decent homes in the private rented sector, **almost 1 in 4**. There is also significant shortage in the availability of social and affordable homes to rent.



Recommendations

- The Government should institute a new range of support for First Time Buyers including more support for Shared Ownership and a renewal of Help to Buy 2.
- Urgent Government investment is required to reduce the number of non-decent homes in the PRS.
- The Government should increase investment in much needed genuinely affordable homes, with some funding targeted at social rented properties for low- or no-income households.



LOW

Conclusions



One

This has been a unique and successful collaboration that has produced insightful and illuminating analysis across each of the twelve levelling up ambitions in the White Paper.



Two

Levelling Up is extremely relevant to the people of the East of England and its Parliamentarians and Councillors as well as wider stakeholders.



Three

The goals set are challenging – from more optimistic days – but they remain goals that we all share and should aspire to.



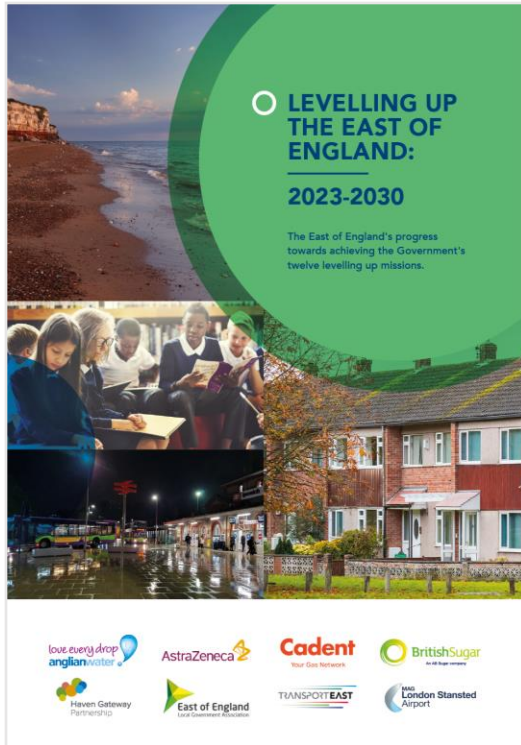
Four

All sectors of the region stand ready to work in partnership with Whitehall and Westminster to address these issues.



Five

Low confidence issues will be the focus for East of England APPG and EELGA in 2023.



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The report was edited by

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Please note the report reflects the views of the APPG and EELGA Chairs only and not those who have provided very welcome advice, information and examples.

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