East of England
All Party Parliamentary Group
Co-Chairs: Jess Asato MP & Pam Cox MP
Vice-Chairs: Blake Stephenson MP & Marie Goldman MP

EAST RDSC

BACKGROUND BRIEFING

Maximising the Defence Dividend in the East of England
Monday 6th July 2026 | 17:00 – 18:30 | House of Commons Committee Room 17

PURPOSE

This briefing paper sets out why the East of England matters to the UK's defence and security landscape, summarises the national policy context created by the Defence Industrial Strategy, and identifies the main policy opportunities for the region.

It is written to inform parliamentarians and stakeholders attending the APPG meeting on Monday 6th July. The main focus of the meeting and this briefing is on how the East of England can raise its visibility in the national and international defence picture, align regional strengths with Government priorities, and make the case for future defence investment, including through place-based mechanisms such as Defence Growth Deals.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The East of England has a significant but under-recognised role in the UK's defence and security landscape. The region combines major operational defence assets with a strong base of defence, aerospace, advanced manufacturing, digital, geospatial intelligence and dual-use innovation capabilities. These strengths are underpinned by leading universities, specialist SMEs and major employers, giving the East a strong foundation from which to make a clearer national defence and growth proposition.

The Government's Defence Industrial Strategy and Defence Investment Plan create a timely opportunity for the East of England to strengthen its national profile. The Strategy positions defence as an engine for economic growth, with a stronger focus on UK-based production, SME participation, innovation, supply chain resilience and place-based investment. New mechanisms such as UK Defence Innovation and Defence Growth Deals are intended to connect defence demand more directly with regional industrial, academic and innovation capability.

While the East of England is not included in the first wave of Defence Growth Deals, the region has many of the core ingredients needed for a future proposition. Its combination of operational military sites, USAF strategic air assets, geospatial intelligence, drone testing, uncrewed systems, ports, manufacturing and research capability aligns closely with the Government's defence and growth priorities.

A future East of England defence proposition could be anchored around an "information-to-action" model, linking RAF Wyton's geospatial intelligence and data capabilities with Colchester and 16 Air Assault Brigade's rapid deployment, drone testing and digitally enabled command-and-control strengths. This could be complemented by the region's growing uncrewed air systems capability, including Ukrspecsystems' investment in Suffolk, and by dual-use innovation assets such as BT's Adastral Park, Freeport East, the East Coast port network and the Oxford-Cambridge Growth Corridor.

To realise this opportunity, the region will need to improve coordination and visibility. The East of England has strong individual assets, but they need to be brought together into a clearer regional proposition that can engage Government, UK Defence Innovation, East RDSC, industry, universities and investors. This should include a focused skills offer, stronger SME routes into defence procurement and innovation programmes, and a long-term approach to supply chain resilience and industrial capacity.

The central opportunity is for Government and regional partners to work together to position the East of England as a nationally significant defence and dual-use innovation and manufacturing region. A future Defence Growth Deal, or similar place-based investment mechanism, could help align public funding, private capital, procurement opportunities and local capability, ensuring the region plays a stronger role in delivering both national security and regional economic growth.

INTRODUCTION: THE DEFENCE DIVIDEND OPPORTUNITY IN THE EAST OF ENGLAND

The East of England plays a pivotal role in the UK's defence and security landscape. It is home to a significant concentration of operational defence assets, spanning air power, Army aviation, geospatial intelligence, rapid deployment capability, drone testing, test and range activity, and strategic allied presence. Key sites include RAF Lakenheath and RAF Mildenhall, RAF Wyton, RAF Marham, MOD Wattisham, MOD Woodbridge, Colchester Garrison and test and range capability on Foulness, connected to the QinetiQ facility at Shoeburyness.

The region hosts leading defence and aerospace businesses, including Airbus, MBDA in Stevenage, MSI Defence in Norfolk, Marshall Aerospace in Cambridge, MEL Group in

Sudbury, BAE Systems in Essex and Lockheed Martin in Bedfordshire. It is also home to a growing network of defence SMEs, including an emerging cluster in Huntingdonshire, while new investment such as Ukrspecsystems' factory, supported by Freeport East's investment concierge service, demonstrates how industrial strategy zones can work with inward defence investors to bring advanced manufacturing into the region.

The Government's Defence Industrial Strategy places renewed emphasis on making defence an engine for growth. Increased investment is intended to strengthen industrial capacity, support supply chains, create skilled jobs and ensure that the benefits of defence spending are felt in communities across the country.

The introduction of Defence Growth Deals, in particular, suggests a more place-based approach. These Deals are intended to bring together national and local government, industry and academia to unlock regional strengths and support long-term economic growth.

For the East of England, the opportunity is to make a clearer regional proposition. The region is already home to significant defence, aerospace, data, geospatial intelligence, digital and advanced manufacturing assets, but needs stronger coordination and visibility to benefit fully from the next phase of national defence investment and to support the Government's wider economic growth mission.

As part of this, partners should consider whether the region has a sufficiently clear evidence base to map its defence and dual-use assets, or whether this needs to be commissioned. A stronger understanding of what dual-use capability means in the East, and where those assets are located, would provide the foundation for a regional defence-focused economic strategy.

This aligns with Opportunity East, Local Government East's regional growth agenda, which makes the case for the East to speak with one voice, unlock its full economic potential and deliver against national missions through stronger coordination between local government, business, academia and central government.

Recommendation: Government and regional partners should work together to ensure that the East of England is recognised as a nationally significant defence and dual-use innovation and manufacturing region, with a clear role in future Defence Growth Deals, UK Defence Innovation activity and regional defence cluster development.

2: NATIONAL POLICY CONTEXT

The 2025 paper Defence Industrial Strategy 2025: Making Defence an Engine for Growth marks a deliberate shift in government policy to align defence expenditure more closely with wider economic objectives. It is framed around a sustained increase in defence spending, rising to 2.6% of GDP by 2027, with longer-term ambitions beyond this, and an expectation that this expenditure should deliver measurable economic returns alongside military capability.

The Strategy is structured around six priority outcomes:

- Making defence an engine for growth by linking defence spending to productivity, jobs and regional development
- Backing UK-based businesses by increasing domestic procurement and SME participation
- Positioning the UK at the leading edge of defence innovation through increased R&D and the creation of UK Defence Innovation to centralise and align capacity
- Developing a resilient UK industrial base, strengthening sovereign capability and supply chains
- Transforming procurement and acquisition systems, especially by reducing delays and increasing delivery speed
- Forging new and enduring partnerships across industry, academia, finance and international allies

The Strategy includes a strong emphasis on place-based delivery, reflecting the recognition that the economic impacts of defence spending are geographically uneven and depend on local capability. Defence activity already supports a significant number of jobs across the UK, but the distribution of future investment will depend on how effectively local areas can align with national and international priorities.

Mechanisms such as Defence Growth Deals are intended to provide a structured means of linking defence spending to regional economic development. Their impact will depend on local institutional capacity, the strength of existing industrial clusters, and the ability to coordinate across multiple policy domains.

For local areas, this creates both an opportunity and a challenge. Regions with established defence assets, supply chains or research strengths may be better positioned to attract investment, but realising economic benefits will require active alignment with defence priorities, including in skills provision, innovation systems and infrastructure.

The East of England should therefore use this meeting to take the conversation to the next stage. There is already shared recognition of the region's defence strengths. The task now is to turn that into a coordinated effort to raise the East's visibility in the national defence.

Recommendation: Government should ensure that the place-based elements of the Defence Industrial Strategy are implemented in a way that recognises established and emerging defence regions, including areas such as the East of England where military assets, advanced manufacturing, research capability and dual-use innovation already coexist.

3: THE EAST OF ENGLAND'S DEFENCE AND SECURITY ASSETS

The East of England has a significant defence footprint, combining operational military assets, defence technology businesses, aerospace capability, research institutions, advanced manufacturing and dual-use innovation strengths. This sits within the wider Opportunity East growth agenda, which highlights the region's strengths in advanced manufacturing, digital technology, R and D, ports and clean energy. The region now has an opportunity to connect these assets into a stronger defence proposition.

The region includes:

- Colchester Garrison, home to 3 PARA and 16 Air Assault Brigade, which spearhead the Army's drone test capability
- RAF Wyton in Cambridgeshire, a UK Strategic Command Station and home to the National Centre for Geospatial Intelligence, which provides intelligence support to UK Armed Forces on operations globally
- RAF Marham in Norfolk, one of the UK's key operational air bases
- MOD Wattisham in Suffolk, a major Army aviation site
- RAF Lakenheath and RAF Mildenhall, which are home to USAF strategic air assets
- The emerging defence cluster in Huntingdonshire, which demonstrates the potential to build a stronger SME defence and advanced manufacturing base in the region
- BT's Adastral Park, a major advanced communications research asset with strengths in advanced and quantum communications and clear dual-use applications for the East's defence ecosystem

- Freeport East, the region's only Industrial Strategy Zone, with structures and investment support that can help strengthen a competitive defence manufacturing base, including its support for Ukrspecsystems' investment into the region
- Harwich Haven and the wider East Coast port network, with maritime technology potential, port scale and naval connections that could support defence and security activity
- Sizewell C, a critical national infrastructure asset on the East Coast, with relevance to regional resilience, energy security, and the role of the defence and security sector in protecting exposed strategic infrastructure.
- Test and range capability on Foulness, connected to the QinetiQ facility at Shoeburyness
- A growing uncrewed systems presence, including Ukrspecsystems' investment in drone manufacturing, testing and training facilities in Suffolk
- A strong regional innovation ecosystem through the education sector, including Anglia Ruskin University, the University of Essex, Cranfield University, the University of Hertfordshire, the University of East Anglia, the University of Cambridge, including the Whittle Laboratory and Institute for Manufacturing
- A high-value defence technology and dual-use business base, including BAE Systems, Teledyne e2v, Concurrent Technologies, Leonardo, Raytheon, Airbus, MBDA, MASS and many others
- Wider industrial strengths in advanced manufacturing, the space economy, semiconductors, robotics, software, electronics manufacturing, battery supply chains, logistics, advanced materials, composites, AI and data infrastructure

Taken together, these assets give the East of England a strong basis for a defence growth proposition. The region combines operational capability, advanced manufacturing, digital expertise, research excellence and innovation-led SMEs. A future proposition could be anchored around RAF Wyton and 16 Air Assault Brigade in Colchester, linking intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance capability with rapid deployment, drone testing and digitally enabled command-and-control.

Recommendation: The immediate opportunity is to bring these strengths together into a clearer offer to Government, linked to the Defence Industrial Strategy, UK Defence Innovation and future Defence Growth Deals. As part of this, partners should explore commissioning an evidence base to map and fully understand defence and security assets across the East of England. This could support the development of a stronger regional proposition, building on the kind of exercise Space East has undertaken to understand space activity in the region.

4: UK DEFENCE INNOVATION AND REGIONAL DEFENCE CLUSTERS

The Defence Industrial Strategy establishes UK Defence Innovation as a central institutional reform. It is designed to address fragmentation in the defence innovation system and accelerate the translation of research into deployable capability and economic growth.

UK Defence Innovation is intended to operate as a single, coherent organisation bringing together Ministry of Defence innovation activity. Its mandate is to deliver capability at pace while driving growth across high-tech sectors. It is backed by a ringfenced annual budget of at least £400 million and supported by a wider commitment that at least 10% of defence equipment procurement spending will be directed towards novel technologies.

The organisation is intended to operate with greater autonomy, commercial flexibility and risk tolerance than traditional defence structures, enabling it to move at "wartime pace" in areas such as artificial intelligence, autonomy, quantum technologies and digital systems. It is designed to improve military capability, crowd in private investment, support SMEs and scale-ups, and strengthen the UK's wider technology ecosystem.

A key feature of UK Defence Innovation is its intended role as a connector across the national and regional innovation landscape, linking defence demand with the UK's distributed network of industrial and academic clusters.

Much of the UK's most dynamic innovation capacity, particularly in dual-use technologies, is located outside traditional defence primes. It can often be found within regional ecosystems that include universities, start-ups and specialised manufacturing clusters.

Alongside the establishment of UK Defence Innovation, there has been an ongoing effort to build Regional Defence and Security Clusters across the UK to identify and engage the full scope of the country's industrial and intellectual capability.

For the East of England, the local cluster is East RDSC, covering Essex, Suffolk, Norfolk, Hertfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Bedfordshire. The Cluster aims to run regular events and communicate opportunities for industry engagement through its LinkedIn page and website.

UK Defence Innovation, combined with regional clusters, should enable more effective collaboration between the Ministry of Defence, industry and academia. For the East of England, the key policy issue is how to ensure that regional businesses, universities and research institutions can access these new structures and are visible within national innovation pipelines.

International comparator: Okinawa, Japan

One area for further exploration is whether the East of England could learn from other defence-intensive regions with a strong mix of military assets, allied presence, universities, SMEs and dual-use innovation capacity.
Okinawa may offer one useful comparator. It hosts US Air Force, Marine Corps and Japan Self-Defense Force assets, alongside geospatial, intelligence and dual-use capabilities. It has also sought to use defence-related infrastructure as part of a wider economic diversification strategy, including through links with universities and local businesses.

This may be relevant as UK-Japan defence cooperation deepens, including through the Hiroshima Accord, the UK-Japan Reciprocal Access Agreement and the Global Combat Air Programme.

The East of England should be positioned as a strong candidate for UK Defence Innovation engagement, particularly in areas such as artificial intelligence, data science, geospatial technologies, autonomy, digital systems and advanced manufacturing.

The East of England should also leverage inter-regional collaboration such as through the Oxford-Cambridge Growth Corridor which includes UK Space Command at RAF High Wycombe and the Defence and Security Cluster at Harwell Campus. Such relationships will promote innovation and the deployment of cutting edge and dual-use technologies. This would help ensure that the East is not viewed in isolation, but as part of a wider high-growth innovation geography with significant defence, space, data and advanced technology strengths.

Recommendation: Government should ensure that UK Defence Innovation and Regional Defence and Security Clusters provide clear routes for regional SMEs, universities and specialised manufacturers to engage with defence innovation programmes and procurement opportunities.

5: DEFENCE GROWTH DEALS AND PLACE-BASED INVESTMENT

Defence Growth Deals are intended as place-based partnership agreements that align national defence investment with local economic growth opportunities. They bring together central government, including the Ministry of Defence, local and devolved authorities, industry and academia to focus investment on regions with existing or emerging defence strengths.

These Deals are designed to integrate multiple policy levers, such as skills, infrastructure, innovation and business support, into a single coordinated package that reflects both local capabilities and national strategic priorities. They aim to create a more direct link between increased defence spending and regional prosperity, ensuring that the defence dividend is realised across the UK.

Each Deal is co-designed around a region's comparative advantage in priority defence sub-sectors or frontier industries. They are delivered through long-term partnerships that combine public funding with private investment. This involves aligning defence procurement pipelines, innovation programmes such as UK Defence Innovation, and wider industrial strategy interventions to support cluster development, strengthen supply chains and accelerate the growth of SMEs.

The first five announced Deals are:

- **Plymouth**, home to the largest naval base in Western Europe, which will see £4 billion of investment over a 10-year period and has recently been designated as the national centre for marine autonomy
- **South Yorkshire**, a key region for research, development and engineering of high-grade components and materials critical to next-generation maritime, land and air capabilities
- **Wales**, which is becoming a leader in UAV development and testing, supported by companies, testing sites and academic institutions
- **Scotland**, which has strengths in space, maritime innovation and critical technology superclusters anchored by academic institutions
- **Northern Ireland**, which has a diverse range of defence and dual-use SMEs, is recognised as a cyber security hub, and is home to companies critical to support for Ukraine and maritime strength

The East of England is not currently listed among these first Deals. However, the region has assets that align strongly with the logic of the Defence Growth Deal model:

Operational military presence, advanced manufacturing, geospatial intelligence, aerospace, dual-use technologies, universities, SMEs and wider supply chain strengths in areas such as AI, cyber, semiconductors, quantum, robotics, electronics, advanced materials and data infrastructure.

The region also has additional points of difference that could strengthen a future Defence Growth Deal proposition. These include the potential to use industrial strategy zones and investment support mechanisms to build a more competitive defence manufacturing base, alongside nationally significant advanced communications research capability with clear dual-use applications.

The East of England therefore has many of the core ingredients for a future Defence Growth Deal. The central opportunity is to bring these constituent parts together into a funded regional proposition, linking defence demand with the region's industrial base, research capability, innovation ecosystem and private investment potential. However, the region should not wait for a future Defence Growth Deal to begin this work.

Regional partners can start now by building the evidence base, strengthening coordination through East RDSC, engaging industry bodies such as Make UK and Make UK Defence, and developing a clearer pipeline of investment-ready defence and dual-use opportunities.

East RDSC provides a practical channel through which this could be developed. With the right support from Government, it could help convene industry, academia, local partners and parliamentarians, identify priority projects, and align the region's strengths with the Defence Industrial Strategy, UK Defence Innovation and future procurement opportunities.

An East of England Defence Growth Deal could provide a mechanism to align public funding, private capital and industry investment within a long-term partnership framework. It could crowd in investment, accelerate innovation and reinforce the region's role within the UK's defence and industrial landscape.

Recommendation: Government should clarify how future Defence Growth Deals will be selected, what criteria regions will need to meet, and how areas such as the East of England can position themselves for future rounds. It should also consider how East RDSC could be supported to develop a funded Defence Growth Deal proposition for the East of England, bringing together the region's defence, industrial, academic and innovation strengths.

6: BUILDING AN EAST OF ENGLAND DEFENCE CAPABILITY CLUSTER

A potential East of England defence proposition could be framed around the region's ability to connect operational defence assets with dual-use innovation and industrial capability.

The relocation of Defence Intelligence assets to RAF Wyton, and Project Fairfax could support a stronger regional focus on defence data, geospatial intelligence and intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance, while Colchester and 16 Air Assault Brigade could support the testing and deployment of rapidly adaptable capabilities, including drone systems, autonomy and digitally enabled command-and-control. In combination, these assets could help position the region as a testbed for turning information, innovation and operational need into deployable capability.

Together, these assets could support an "information-to-action" proposition for the East of England, linking geospatial intelligence, data analysis, rapid deployment forces, drone testing and digitally enabled command-and-control. This would give the region a clearer role in supporting multi-domain integration and faster routes from innovation to frontline capability.

The East of England also has a growing opportunity in uncrewed air systems. Ukrspecsystems' investment in drone manufacturing, testing and training facilities in Suffolk, alongside existing regional aerospace and dual-use capability, strengthens the case for exploring a larger role for the East in the UK's UAS supply chain.

This could include testing the case for a second UK uncrewed air systems hub, complementing existing national capability and adding resilience to the defence supply chain. With investment from Ukrspecsystems, and subject to further input on the role of Cambridge Aerospace and other regional partners, the East could make a practical contribution to UK-based UAS production, testing and supply chain resilience.

Case study: Whittle Laboratory, University of Cambridge

The Whittle Laboratory demonstrates how the East of England can help Defence move from slow, incremental innovation to faster, mission-driven capability development.

By combining world-leading expertise in aerothermal science, frontier AI and

advanced engineering, the Whittle helps maintain the UK's technological edge in aerospace, defence and other strategic industries. Its work is directly relevant to one of Defence's biggest challenges: shortening the time between concept, testing and deployment.

Through autonomous laboratories that combine AI, robotics and rapid design-build-test processes, the Whittle can reduce engineering test cycles by 100 to 1,000 times. This points to the potential for a new model of defence innovation, where promising technologies can be identified, tested and fielded much more quickly.

The Laboratory is also pioneering "physical AI", where AI systems generate designs, run experiments, analyse results and manufacture components. This accelerates the discovery and validation of real-world defence capabilities, rather than simply using AI to support digital workflows.

This approach would align closely with the Defence Industrial Strategy's emphasis on innovation at pace, UK-based production, supply chain resilience and stronger links between defence demand and industrial capability.

A Defence Growth Deal could help connect these assets more directly to defence demand. This could include support for a RAF Wyton-linked digital defence cluster, dual-use innovation test bed, and investment opportunities in advanced manufacturing, secure communications, sensors and other technologies with both defence and civil applications.

Recommendation: Government and regional partners should assess how the East of England's operational, industrial and innovation assets could be brought together into a clearer national defence proposition, linked to UK Defence Innovation, East RDSC and future Defence Growth Deals.

7: SKILLS AND THE WORKFORCE

A future East of England defence proposition should include a clear skills component. The Defence Industrial Strategy's growth ambitions will depend on whether regions can

develop the workforce needed to support defence innovation, advanced manufacturing, digital systems, aerospace and operational capability.

In the East of England, this means aligning local skills provision with the needs of defence employers and with national initiatives such as expansion of Defence Technical Excellence Colleges and the Defence Universities Alliance. A regional skills offer could focus on engineering, digital, data, ISR-related capabilities and other specialist areas linked to the region's defence and dual-use strengths. It should also recognise that many advanced manufacturing and digital skills are shared with adjacent sectors. There is therefore a risk that defence employers will compete for the same workforce as clean energy, advanced manufacturing, infrastructure and technology businesses unless the region develops a coherent skills offer that supports sustainable growth across the wider economy.

This could also support veterans and mid-career professionals transitioning into defence roles, helping to build a resilient workforce capable of supporting both operational requirements and long-term industrial growth.

Recommendation: The Government should work with East RDSC, employers, universities, colleges and local partners to identify the region's defence skills needs and develop a coordinated skills pipeline linked to any future Defence Growth Deal.

8: SUPPLY CHAINS, SMEs AND INDUSTRIAL CAPACITY

The Defence Industrial Strategy places emphasis on backing UK-based businesses, increasing SME participation and strengthening the resilience of the UK industrial base.

The East of England has existing manufacturing strengths and a high-value defence technology sector. It also has businesses involved in aerospace, electronics, sensors, advanced materials and systems integration. Many of these businesses are SME's, supporting the high level of SME diversity in the East of England will promote the development and deployment of innovative products and services.

A future East of England defence proposition could strengthen supply chain resilience and industrial capacity across the region. Targeted interventions could improve SME access to defence contracts and finance, contributing to the Strategy's ambition to expand SME participation and increase productivity across the defence industrial base.

The central policy issue is whether local firms, particularly SMEs and dual-use businesses, can navigate defence procurement and innovation systems effectively. Without clear routes into procurement, innovation programmes and finance, the economic benefits of increased defence spending may be concentrated in areas or firms already strongly embedded in national defence supply chains.

Recommendation: Government should improve SME access to defence contracts, finance and innovation programmes, ensuring that firms in regions such as the East of England can participate in defence supply chains and benefit from increased domestic procurement.

9: THE DEFENCE INVESTMENT PLAN

The Defence Investment Plan provides further context for the East of England's defence growth opportunity. Backed by £298 billion of investment over the next four years, the Plan sets out the Government's major investment choices for UK Defence and is intended to show Parliament, the public and industry how increased defence spending will be directed.

For the East of England, the most relevant elements are the Plan's focus on autonomy, AI, digital targeting, space, cyber, advanced manufacturing, skills, supply chain resilience and place-based growth. The Plan commits more than £5 billion to advanced uncrewed systems over the rest of this Parliament, including investment in drones and AI-enabled digital targeting. It also includes £1.6 billion for UK Defence Innovation over four years, £2.5 billion for cyber and the electromagnetic domain, and £3.2 billion for space capabilities.

The Plan also strengthens the economic case for regional defence propositions. It applies a "growth lens" to investment choices, with criteria including R&D, frontier industries, market competitiveness, skills and place. It also confirms that the five Defence Growth Deals are backed by £250 million over five years and are intended to strengthen strategically important regional defence clusters.

For the East of England, this reinforces the need to move from a list of assets to a clear investment proposition. The region's strengths in geospatial intelligence, uncrewed systems, advanced communications, AI, cyber, advanced manufacturing, ports, energy resilience and dual-use innovation align closely with the capabilities and growth criteria identified in the Defence Investment Plan.

Recommendation: Government and regional partners should use the Defence Investment Plan as a framework for identifying where the East of England can contribute to national defence priorities, and where a future regional proposition could attract public funding, private capital and procurement opportunities.

10: NEXT STEPS FOR THE EAST OF ENGLAND

The East of England has a strong basis on which to make a national defence and growth proposition. The region combines operational military assets, USAF strategic air assets, geospatial intelligence, drone testing capability, aerospace, advanced manufacturing, universities, digital capability and dual-use SMEs.

However, the current challenge is coordination. The East needs to raise its visibility in the national picture and come together to champion the region as a destination for defence investment.

The policy opportunity is to turn a dispersed set of assets into a clearer regional proposition, linked to the Defence Industrial Strategy, UK Defence Innovation, Regional Defence and Security Clusters and future Defence Growth Deals.

The East of England APPG will use this meeting to progress a conversation about:

- How the East of England should define its defence and dual-use comparative advantage
- Whether the region should pursue a future Defence Growth Deal
- How local industry, universities and public bodies can engage with UK Defence Innovation and East RDSC
- What skills, infrastructure, innovation and finance barriers need to be addressed
- How parliamentarians can help raise the region's profile in national defence policy discussions
- How Strategic Authorities, East RDSC, Make UK, Make UK Defence, universities and industry can work together to develop a regional defence-focused economic strategy

APPG background briefing compiled by the East Regional Defence and Security Cluster and East of England APPG Secretariat with input from a range of partners of the East of England APPG.

The East of England APPG is kindly supported by:

The academic partners of the East of England APPG are:

The business partners of the East of England APPG are: