



Department  
for Transport

Councillor Kevin Bentley  
Chair, Transport East  
Suffolk County Council  
Endeavour House  
8 Russell Road, Ipswich  
IP1 2BX

From the Parliamentary  
Under Secretary of State  
Richard Holden MP

Great Minster House  
33 Horseferry Road  
London  
SW1P 4DR

Tel: 0300 330 3000  
E-Mail: richard.holden@dft.gov.uk

Web site: [www.gov.uk/dft](http://www.gov.uk/dft)

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Dear

*Kevin*

Thank you for the submission of Transport's East (TE) Transport Strategy.

What particularly interested me was your goals 5 to 7 on connecting growing towns and cities and how you want to help open up economic development and opportunity, and also goals 8 and 9 to benefit rural and coastal communities. I am sure that others across Government, notably the Secretary of State for the Department of the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, would be interested in this too. I am particularly impressed by the scale of the work carried out and how it supports your vision of a 'thriving Eastern region' and goals 10-12 really highlight your vision of the East of England as one of the United Kingdom's key international gateways. I believe this complements the Government's objectives for faster adoption of digital technology and investment in sustainable transport whilst striving for a highly productive economy.

What is vitally important is that as we seek to decarbonise, we do it in a way that ensures the UK is at the heart of next generation manufacturing relating to low carbon industries. It is also important that we provide positive alternatives in terms of public transport and active travel to support realistic alternatives to encourage modal shift which recognise the needs and desire of individuals, their families and unique circumstances.

The strategy sets out a useful framework for how TE can work together with Government. I have asked my officials to ensure they have regard to this strategy when developing new policies. I look forward to seeing TE continue to work closely with the department and in seeing how you build upon the strategy through the Region Connectivity Studies. I would encourage you to continue to engage and work closely with my officials.

Best wishes,



**RICHARD HOLDEN MP**

**MINISTER FOR ROADS AND LOCAL TRANSPORT**