**Comprehensive Spending Review 2020 and East of England transport investment**

 TO: Chancellor, Rishi Sunak and Secretary of State for Transport, Grant Shapps

As political and business representatives from across the East of England, we are writing in support of Transport East’s submission to the Comprehensive Spending Review. Through Transport East we are accelerating the delivery of our existing investment programme and prioritising a new generation of projects. Working in partnership with government and coordinating with other sub-national transport bodies, we are identifying new models for transport delivery.

The East of England is a vibrant economy worth £73bn and a net contributor to the Exchequer. It is one of the fastest growing areas outside of London and crucial to the economic recovery of the UK. We urge you to support the transport investment required to unlock the significant opportunities across our region.

Our vision is a thriving economy with modern, fast, reliable, resilient and low-carbon transport networks. We aim to encourage new investment, deliver growth in support of the wider UK economy and provide the transport connections necessary to level up our diverse communities. Our developing Transport Strategy will establish a framework for investment and set out clear priorities that meet both local and national ambitions.

We are integral to achieving the Government’s ten-point plan for a Green Industrial Revolution. Unleashing the potential of our energised coast to support the planned 1,000+ offshore wind turbines generating some 14GW of power over the next decade, requires upgrading the transport infrastructure it depends on. The A47 corridor is critical to the energy centres of excellence in Great Yarmouth and Lowestoft and needs significant investment. The Government’s commitment to Sizewell C re-emphasises the region’s importance to a green energy future with further potential provided by Bradwell B, both reliant on improvements to the A12.

While the East is leading the way in the decarbonisation of our energy supply, transport in the region emits 5% of the UK’s overall carbon emissions. Our recent [Decarbonisation report](https://www.transporteast.org.uk/strategy/greener-transport/) provides a roadmap for tackling this challenge.

We have more major seaports and airports than any other region forming a crucial link between international markets and businesses in all parts of the UK. The region lifted more goods in million tonnes in 2018 than any other. Felixstowe handles 48% of Britain’s containerised trade, Tilbury has an annual throughput worth £8.7bn and growing, the Port of Ipswich leads the UK’s grain export and DP World London Gateway Port incorporates the largest logistics park in Europe. Our major airports at Stansted, Norwich and Southend enhance our role as a global connector still further.

These gateways are only as reliable as the roads and railways that serve them, particularly east-west routes and connections through south Essex, Southend and Thurrock. Without further investment in our aging and limited transport networks, delays are inevitable with consequent costs to the UK economy.

We have growing towns and cities across the region, with strengths in motive technology, higher education, medicine, agri-technology, life sciences and engineering. Enhancing links on six strategic corridors between our fastest growing places and business clusters further enables the area to function as a coherent economy, boosting productivity and value.

In the short-term, we are reliant on the investment programmes of Network Rail, Highways England and capital funding for local authorities’ roads and active travel programmes as articulated in our first [Investment and Delivery Plan](http://ttps://www.transporteast.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/Investment-and-Delivery-Plan.pdf). We are seeking your support for our vision through allocations of enhanced funding to our five highways authorities and the infrastructure bodies, who have come together to kick start the delivery of our ambitious plan.

Over the next year Transport East will identify and prioritise a programme of investment to 2050, in support of the UK’s recovery and aligned to the delivery of long-term growth. Funding certainty for Transport East itself would take our partnership to the next level of success and deliver for communities in the East of England and the whole of the UK.

**Signatories**

Cllr Kevin Bentley, Chairman of Transport East, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Infrastructure, Essex County Council

Cllr Martin Wilby, Vice-Chairman of Transport East, Chairman of Environment, Development and Transport Committee at Norfolk County Council

Cllr Andrew Reid, Cabinet Member for Highways, Suffolk County Council

Cllr Ron Woodley, Deputy Leader, Southend-on-sea Borough Council

Cllr Mark Coxshall, Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Strategic Planning, Thurrock Council

Cllr Graham Butland, Leader of Braintree District Council and Transport East Representative of Essex District Councils

Cllr Phil Smart, Portfolio Holder for Environment and Climate Change, Ipswich Borough Council and Transport East Representative of Suffolk District Councils

Cllr Graham Plant, Chairman of Economic Development Committee, Great Yarmouth Borough Council and Transport East Representative of Norfolk District Councils

Laura Waters, Infrastructure Lead, New Anglia Local Enterprise Partnership

Perry Glading, Board Member, South East Local Enterprise Partnership

David Burch, Director of Policy, Essex Chamber of Commerce

Nova Fairbank, Head of Policy, Norfolk Chamber of Commerce

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