



Suffolk  
Chamber of  
Commerce

# Welcome to the Central Suffolk Forum

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# AGENDA

- **Welcome by Forum Chair – Peter Funnell, Oakmere Solutions Ltd**
- **Introduction to our hosts – Dave McMahon, Siemens Healthineers**
- **Sustainable economic growth in Babergh – Cllr. Deborah Saw**
- **Sustainable building in Babergh – Darren Howard, Mbloc Ltd**
- **Sustainable energy in Babergh – Jason Lawrence, Heatweb Solutions**
- **Sustainable entrepreneurship in Babergh – Kevin Withane, Diversity X**
- **Sustainable workplaces in Babergh – Michal Boguslawski, Optima**
- **Suffolk Chamber of Commerce policy update & dates for diaries – Toby Warren, Suffolk Chamber of Commerce**
- **Chair’s closing remarks and date & venue of next forum meeting**
- **Close and optional tour of Siemens Healthineers**



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**Suffolk Chamber of Commerce**

**Central Suffolk Forum**

**7 November 2024**

**Dave McMahon –**

*Head of Operations, Siemens Healthineers*

***Introduction to our hosts***



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**Cllr. Deborah Saw –**

*Leader, Babergh District Council*

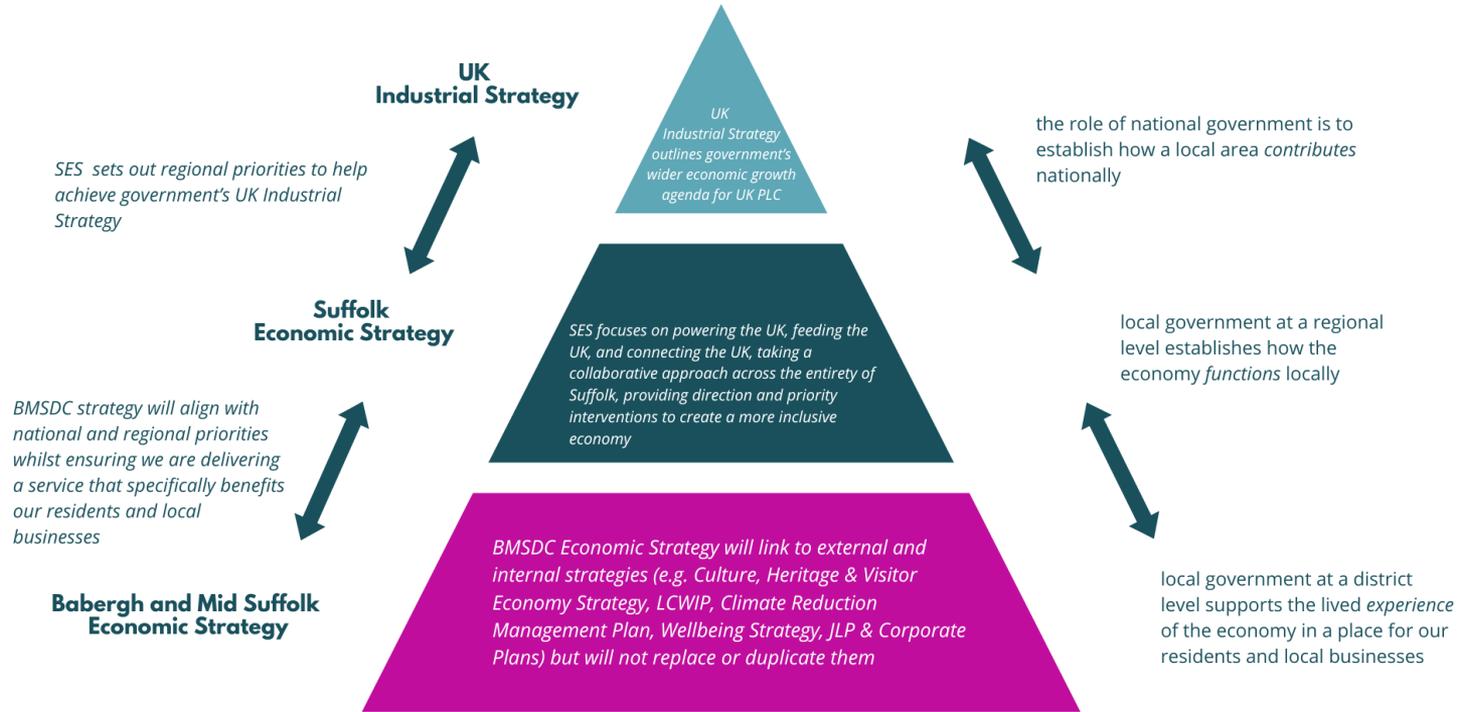
***Sustainable economic growth in Babergh***

# Sustainable Economic Growth in Babergh

*The Direction of Travel*

Cllr Deborah Saw  
Leader  
Babergh District Council

# Overview – Where we fit:



# Consultation Overview

In-person sessions held at Endeavour House, Sudbury Arts Centre and The Mix, Stowmarket in July and October 2024

Online Business Survey

“deep dive” sessions help on specific topics including ports & logistics, agri-tech,

# Suffolk's Economic Strategy

*The Opportunity*

# The Suffolk Economy today

## £21BN GVA

£21bn GVA, average growth rate of 3.3%

30,945 BUSINESSES

59% OF EMPLOYMENT IN LARGER BUSINESSES

## TRADE

36% UK'S CONTAINERISED TRADE



112% NEW HOUSING TARGET

Suffolk Local Authorities delivered 112% of their new housing targets over most recent 5-year period

330 BROWNFIELD SITES

with potential for further 11,500 homes

## BUSINESS MAKE-UP

	Businesses	Jobs	Revenue
Micro (0-9)	88.6%	12.2%	8.1%
Small (10-49)	9.4%	15.4%	14.5%
Medium (50-249)	1.6%	13.3%	16.5%
Large (250+)	0.4%	59.1%	60.8%



## PRODUCTIVITY

GVA £30.96

Per hour, England average £35.86



## 19 NSIP SCHEMES

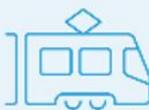
19 NSIP schemes approved, submitted or proposed over recent years including 14 energy projects in development

## NATURAL CAPITAL

2 National Landscape areas, 1 National Park and 148 Sites of Special Scientific Interest

## STRATEGIC TRANSPORT

Regular fast connections to London, strategic growth corridors along A11, A12 and A14



BUSINESS BIRTH RATE 10.5% (ENGLAND 11.6%)

BUSINESS DEATH RATE 10.1% (ENGLAND 12.0%)

96% EMPLOYMENT RATE

Population of 757,000 with 350,000 economically active

£31K AVERAGE WAGE

Below UK average with room to grow

# Economic Strategy: Summary

## OUR SECTORS

## OUR WORKSTREAMS

### TECH CONVERGENCE

*The integration of diverse technologies such as digital, AI clean tech and satellite applications into established industry sectors provides significant opportunity to drive clean, productive economic growth.*

#### HIGH GROWTH

*Agri-Food & Drink,  
Clean Energy and Ports  
and Logistics*

Sector strengths which are driving our economy and contributing to UK plc with significant growth projected.

#### EMERGING GROWTH

*ICT Digital Creative,  
Life Science and Biotech,  
Financial Services*

Smaller sectors with regional comparative advantages so potential for future expansion.

#### VALUE GROWTH

*Advance Manufacturing & Engineering, Construction, Health & Social Care, Visitor Economy*

Large employment sectors with opportunities to improve productivity and quality of jobs.

#### INVESTMENT ATTRACTION

#### ENHANCING INFRASTRUCTURE AND CONNECTIVITY

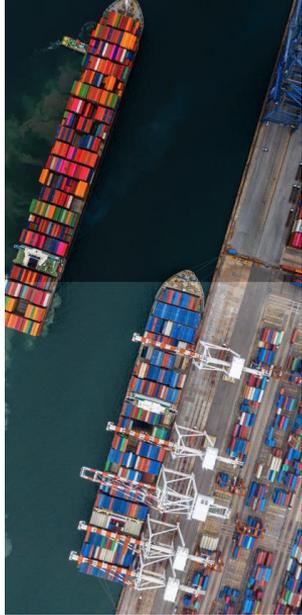
#### FOSTERING ENTERPRISE & INNOVATION

#### TALENT DEVELOPMENT

#### PRIDE OF PLACE

#### COLLABORATE TO GROW

## Economic Strategy: Key concepts



- Business led and business focused
- Suffolk focused but plugs into regional landscape as needed
- Stronger place narrative
- Nationally significant and locally important sector clusters
- Tech convergence – potential super growth enabler

## EPIC SUFFOLK

### ECONOMIC WELL-BEING

Achieving financial resilience & improved living standards for all.

### PRODUCTIVE

Driving Innovation and boosting economic efficiency.

### INCLUSIVE

Ensuring equitable access to opportunities and shared prosperity.

### CLEAN

Leading in clean growth for a prosperous, sustainable future.

# Babergh & Mid Suffolk Economic Strategy

*Vision, people, prosperity, place*

## PEOPLE

# BABERGH ECONOMY AT A GLANCE

## PROSPERITY

### 27%

OLDER THAN AVERAGE  
POPULATION PROFILE WITH 27% OF  
RESIDENTS AGED 65 YEARS AND  
OVER



### 41%

41% OF RESIDENTS HAVE OBTAINED  
LEVEL 4+ QUALIFICATIONS



77% OF WORKERS LIVE AND WORK IN BABERGH

### 77%



PROJECTED POPULATION INCREASES FOR THE PERIOD 2023-2043  
SUGGEST SIGNIFICANT INCREASES IN THOSE AGED 70 AND ABOVE WITH  
OVER 100% INCREASE IN THOSE AGED ABOVE 90 YEARS OLD



### 93%

HIGH EMPLOYMENT, 93% OF THE  
ECONOMICALLY ACTIVE POPULATION  
WITHIN EMPLOYMENT



### £30,901

MEDIAN RESIDENTS EARNINGS £30,901



### 4,690

APPROX 4,690 BUSINESS



### SMALL BUSINESS

### 98.4%

98.4% CLASSED AS MICRO OR SMALL BUSINESSES

## PROMINENT SECTORS IN BABERGH (2023)

ADVANCED MANUFACTURING & ENGINEERING

AGRI-FOOD TECH

LIFE SCIENCES & BIO-TECH

VISITOR ECONOMY



## FOOD AND DRINK SECTOR

24.1% OF OUR WORKFORCE ARE WITHIN THE FOOD SUPPLY CHAIN

12.9% OF WORKFORCE ARE WITHIN FOOD PRODUCTION, PROCESSING, AND DISTRIBUTION

17% OF TOTAL GVA IS WITHIN THE FOOD AND DRINK SECTOR

£10.1BN OVERALL INDUSTRY ASSET VALUE (BASED ON FARMLAND & RELATED ASSETS)

PLACE



# BABERGH ECONOMY AT A GLANCE

PLANET



69%

69% OF THE POPULATION CLASSED AS LIVING IN A RURAL AREA



5%

BABERGH IS IN THE 5% MOST DEPRIVED DISTRICTS FOR THE GEOGRAPHICAL BARRIERS TO SERVICES

12%

ONLY 12% OF PREMISES HAVE ULTRA-FAST BROADBAND AVAILABILITY, COMPARED WITH 58% ACROSS ENGLAND



10.72 X

MEDIAN HOUSE PRICES WERE 10.72 TIMES MEDIAN RESIDENCE-BASED EARNINGS IN 2023

7%

TOWN CENTRE VACANCY RETAIL VACANCY RATES IN SUBBURY FOR JULY 2024 WAS 7%, WHICH IS BELOW THE 2023 UK AVERAGE OF 15.3%



ACCOUNTED FOR 11.8% OF GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS IN SUFFOLK

11.8%



39.9%

TRANSPORT SECTOR WAS THE BIGGEST CONTRIBUTOR OF GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS AT 39.9%

-38%

GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS WITHIN THE DISTRICT REDUCED BY 38% BETWEEN 2005 – 2021



# Our Vision

Our overall vision is to help create a resilient, more sustainable future, with and for, all the residents and communities of Babergh and Mid Suffolk.

Our Economic Strategy will deliver sustainable, inclusive growth focused on people, prosperity and place while ensuring we have a positive impact on the planet in everything we do.

We will champion our Districts, supporting green skills, decarbonisation of local businesses, business resilience, workforce development and tackling infrastructure challenges to ensure our Districts are great places to live, work and visit.

# Objectives

The key objectives of our strategy are:

- A shared economic vision for the Districts.
- Short-term actions and longer-term priorities.
- Prioritising our resources.
- Consistent messaging on our economic priorities, to help strengthen future funding bids or lobbying opportunities.
- Shared objectives with our regional partners and local stakeholders.

# People

This pillar is about developing a skilled and adaptable workforce that meets the needs of our evolving economy.

1. Encourage life-long learning
2. Support leadership and innovation amongst business leaders
3. Support businesses to invest in workforce development, grow our working age population and attract and retain talent
4. Promote the importance of creating opportunities, work experience placements and connections that benefit our residents amongst our new and existing businesses
5. Help drive the transition to a green economy through supporting and championing green skills development

# Prosperity

This pillar focuses on fostering an environment where businesses can thrive, innovate and grow

Provide continuing support for existing clusters of businesses and focus on enabling growth of new clusters that take advantage of changing markets.

1. Work with partners to focus on helping businesses become more resilient - future proofing the business to help them succeed and reduce chances of failure.
2. Attract new and emerging businesses.
3. Targeted support for growth sectors to capitalise on opportunities that will improve productivity, sustainability and move them up the value chain.
4. Work with partners to offer all businesses the opportunity to access tailored support, funding and premises (particularly to help them decarbonise, reduce their carbon footprint and achieve net zero).

# Place

This pillar focuses enhancing infrastructure to support our Town Centres as thriving prosperous places whilst supporting our Districts to be places businesses can locate and grow.

1. Invest in the Districts' town centres, and work alongside partners to improve the physical environment and enhance their vibrancy and vitality - making them accessible for all.
2. Recognising our rurality, work with businesses and local partners to maximise the opportunities and minimise the constraints of our settings
3. Working with partners and neighbours to influence and improve the Districts' physical and digital infrastructure.
4. Enabling businesses to have access to sites that provide the right mix of commercial space and utilities, in the right place,

# Next steps – Key dates



**Final Cabinet sign-off for adoption of the Economic Strategy 7<sup>th</sup> January 2025.**



**Publication of the Economic Strategy and the Action Plan detailing our role and key performance indicators alongside the underpinning Evidence Base expected early January 2025.**

# What do you think?

Are the proposed priorities right?

Is anything missing?

What would make Babergh a better place for business?

What actions do we need to take to support your businesses?

Finally –  
some  
opportunities  
and asks

Consider becoming a Babergh Business  
“Networker.”

Could you be a young person’s mentor or  
offer work experience?

Tell us how you would like BDC to engage  
with the Chamber and your business



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**Darren Howard –**

*Director, Mbloc Ltd*

***Sustainable building in Babergh***

**<https://www.mbloc.co.uk/showhome>**



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**Jason Lawrence –**

*Managing Director, Heatweb Solutions*

***Sustainable energy in Babergh***



**HEATWEB**  
INTEGRATED THERMAL TECHNOLOGY

# Energy Efficiency Monitoring and Management

Jason Lawrence – Managing Director

# About Us



- Founded in August 2023
- Based in Sudbury & London
- Over 50 years of experience
- Design & Manufacture of Domestic & Commercial heating systems
- Experts in District Heating Networks
- Specialists in Energy Efficiency monitoring & management
- Now a team of 9 people

# What we do...

- Detailed feasibility studies
- Site acceptance testing
- Design & Fault Finding
- 3D Scanning & CAD
- Energy Efficiency Monitoring & Control / Cloud Services
- BMS Strategy & Integration
- HNES Optimisation studies
- Regulatory Compliance (Ofgem)



# Some of our customers



Formerly Pinnacle Power

Vistry Group

Countryside  
Partnerships



Ministry  
of Defence



Flamco



Formerly Engie



1999 - 2019 20 years of building sustainable communities



ISLINGTON



An ADNEC Group Company



Prifysgol  
Abertawe  
Swansea  
University

# Types of Heat Network

- Residential networks [with HIUs]
- Commercial & retail buildings
- Council buildings & civic centres
- Hospital, libraries and schools
- Paint Spray Booths

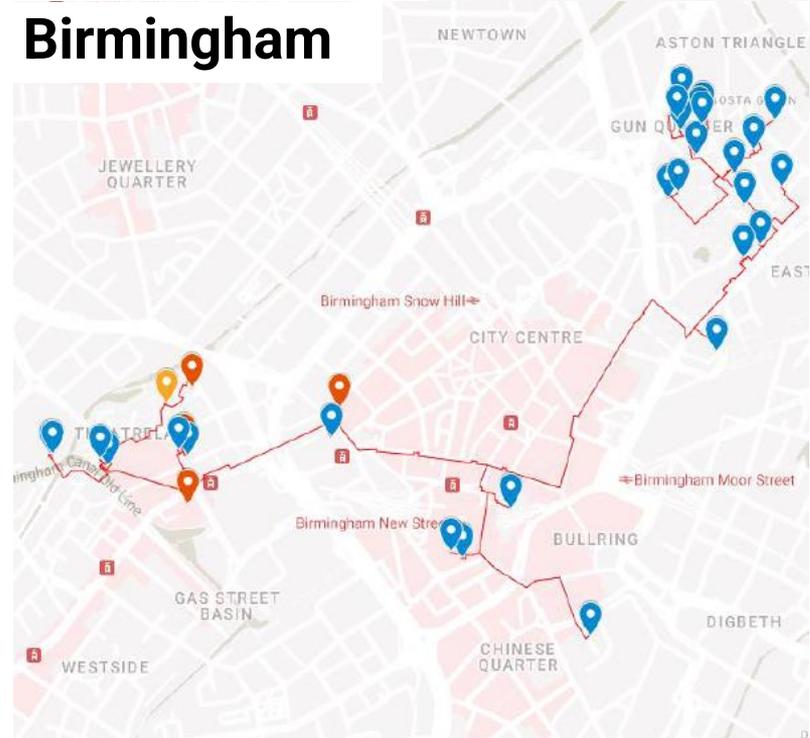


# Optimising Cities

## Southampton



## Birmingham



# Cloud based Monitoring platform





# What does the Governor say ?

*“On some measures we only have 10 years left at current emissions rates before we have blown through 1.5 degrees of warming and moved to more catastrophic levels.”*

*“We all know that what gets measured gets managed. Climate change is not yet consistently measured, although the private sector has moved in this direction since Paris. We now need to make measurement and disclosure mandatory.”*



*Mark Carney  
Governor of The Bank of England  
2013 to 2020*

# Thank you!



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**Kevin Withane –**

*Founder, Diversity X*

***Sustainable entrepreneurship in Babergh***

HI, EVERYONE! MY NAME IS

---

# Kevin Withane

---

Thank you for having me.



# Fun Facts About Me

1

## ANTARCTICA

Is the only continent I have not done a transaction on.

---

2

## TRAVEL

I love to travel. I have lived and worked around the world including in China, Russia, Hong Kong, and the USA.

---

3

## WINNER

||

# What Keeps Me Inspired

THINGS THAT MAKE ME HAPPY AND MOTIVATED

1

## Problem Solving

I love working with people solving problems, particular startup founders and SMEs.

2

## Support

I use my skills to help others make a positive impact on the world

3

## Learning

I am constantly seeking to learn to be able to better support clients and those in the Diversity X community.

# What I'm Working On

1

IKIGAI LEGAL (SOON TO BE IMPACT LAWYERS)

---

2

DIVERSITY X

---

3

NED/ADVISOR



# IKIGAI

## legal

### **ABOUT US**

***Bespoke legal and strategy consulting services for early-stage companies, VCs, and SMEs.***

**WITH YOU**

**FROM IDEA**

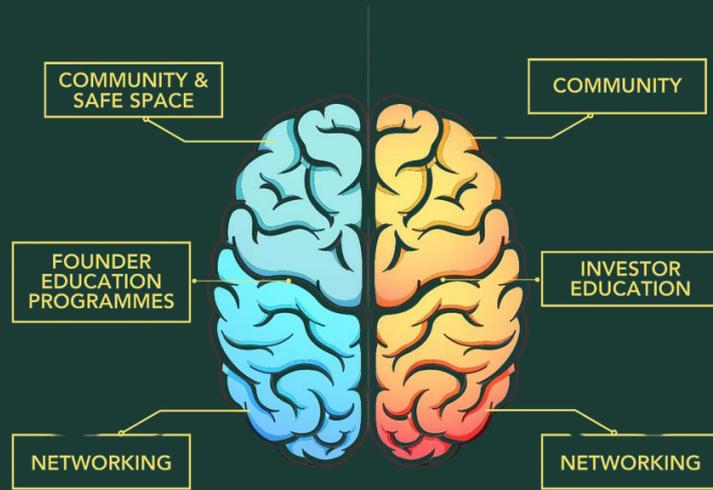
**TO EXIT**

*I focus on delivering bespoke legal and strategy consulting services. Help includes advice and guidance on M&A readiness, company culture, DE&I and ethics and compliance.*

# Diversity -X

**FOUNDER**

**INVESTOR**



**KEVIN@DIVERSITYX.VC**

# STAY IN TOUCH WITH US!



07395253310



kevin@ikigailegal.com





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**Michal Boguslawski –**

Optima

***Sustainable workplaces in Babergh***



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**Toby Warren –**

*Head of Policy, Suffolk Chamber of Commerce*

***Suffolk Chamber policy update & dates for diaries***

***Date & Venue of next forum meeting***



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*Close*

*Optional tour of Siemens Healthineers*