

The East's Institute of Technology

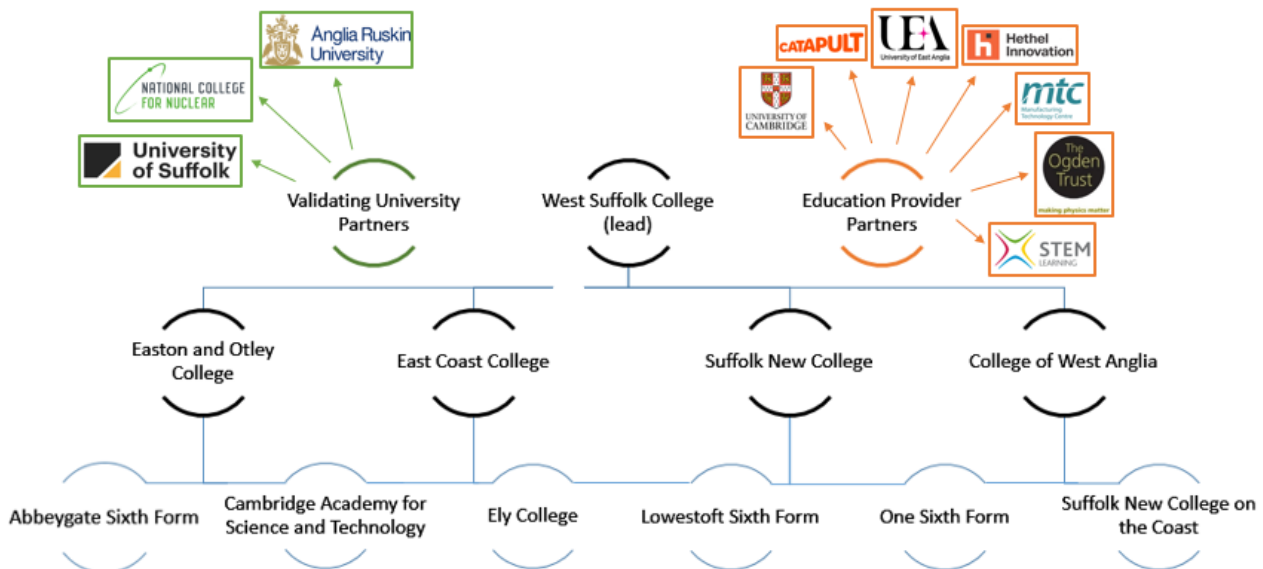
Our Vision

To create a skills pipeline; drawing young people into technical careers through the offer of attractive and aspirational career pathways; providing the East's higher-value **Advanced Manufacturing, Agri-Tech, Engineering, Energy, and Digital** businesses with a reliable and sustainable supply of technical professionals. This can be achieved by creating **The East's Institute of Technology (IoT)**.

The East's IoT model has drawn from existing models from around the world such as: Community Colleges (America and Canada); Polytechnics (UK); Institutes of Technology (Republic of Ireland) and individual examples such as the Centre for Engineering and Manufacturing Excellence (UK), Advanced Manufacturing Research Centre (UK), the Rotterdam Academy and Rotterdam University of Applied Sciences (Holland) and University of the Highlands and Islands (UK). It recognises that the "training-work-retirement" model is no longer applicable to our fast-moving new skills, new jobs industries; and so The East's IoT seeks to provide technical education and training that ensures the area's workforce is reactive and able adjust their skills in response to labour-market needs.

Applying Our Vision to the Eastern Region

The IoT model, though founded on extensive research and experience, must be flexible when applied to a region like the East of England. The Eastern region, **home to 5.8 million people and worth £146 billion**, is far from homogenous; it has a unique mix of urban, rural and coastal communities, all with distinct needs. The East's IoT will unite the rural and urban pockets of the East into a **'virtual learning city'**, thereby delivering a custom skills solution capable of meeting the needs of the region overall.



Our Model

The East's IoT builds upon the existing infrastructure of and investment in colleges (as well as from the LEPs and local government); effectively creating specialised centres in a manner that meets the specific needs of the region whilst minimising costs and duplication. The IoT will be structured as a decentralised cooperative network of the collaborative partner colleges.

Higher-level qualifications will be validated by **Anglia Ruskin University** and the **University of Suffolk**, and the curriculum development informed and shaped by our prestigious education provider partners (the **Manufacturing Training Centre catapult centre**, **University of Cambridge's Institute for Manufacturing**, **University of East Anglia's Institute of Productivity**, **STEM Learning UK**, **Hethel Engineering and Innovation Centre**, and the **University Technical College Cambridge**).

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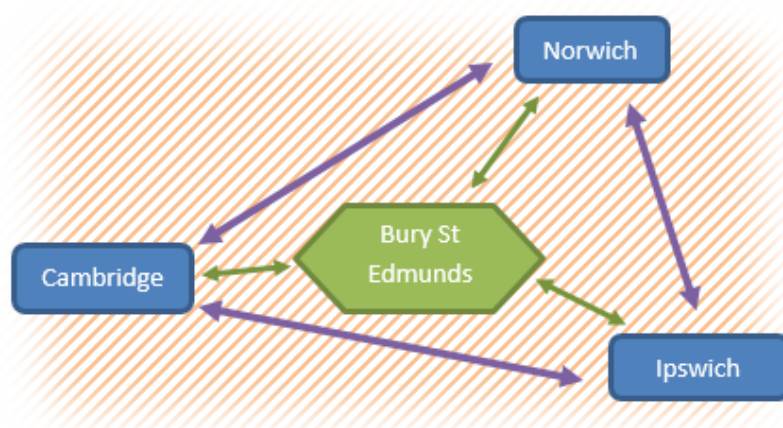
It will also be shaped, and endorsed, by our **region's businesses**:



The college partners will create a pipeline:

- At one end of which the East's IoT will work closely with universities and businesses; to create the technical higher-level qualifications that our large, cutting-edge, and highly technical infrastructure projects (such as: the **Sizewell nuclear complex**, off the Suffolk coast at Leiston, and the **offshore wind complex off Great Yarmouth and Lowestoft**) need.
- At the other end of the pipeline, the partners will work with and **train Primary and Secondary School Teachers** in the delivery of STEM subjects to drive up the quality and quantity of skilled technical professionals available to the high-value technology sector in the Eastern region long-term, strengthening the link between schools, FE and HE and creating a **region-wide STEM focus**. This engagement will help raise aspirations and attract students into these high-value industries (which aligns to the objectives of the **Opportunity Areas**), will help to **close the region's attainment gap**, and will **boost the region's productivity** long-term.

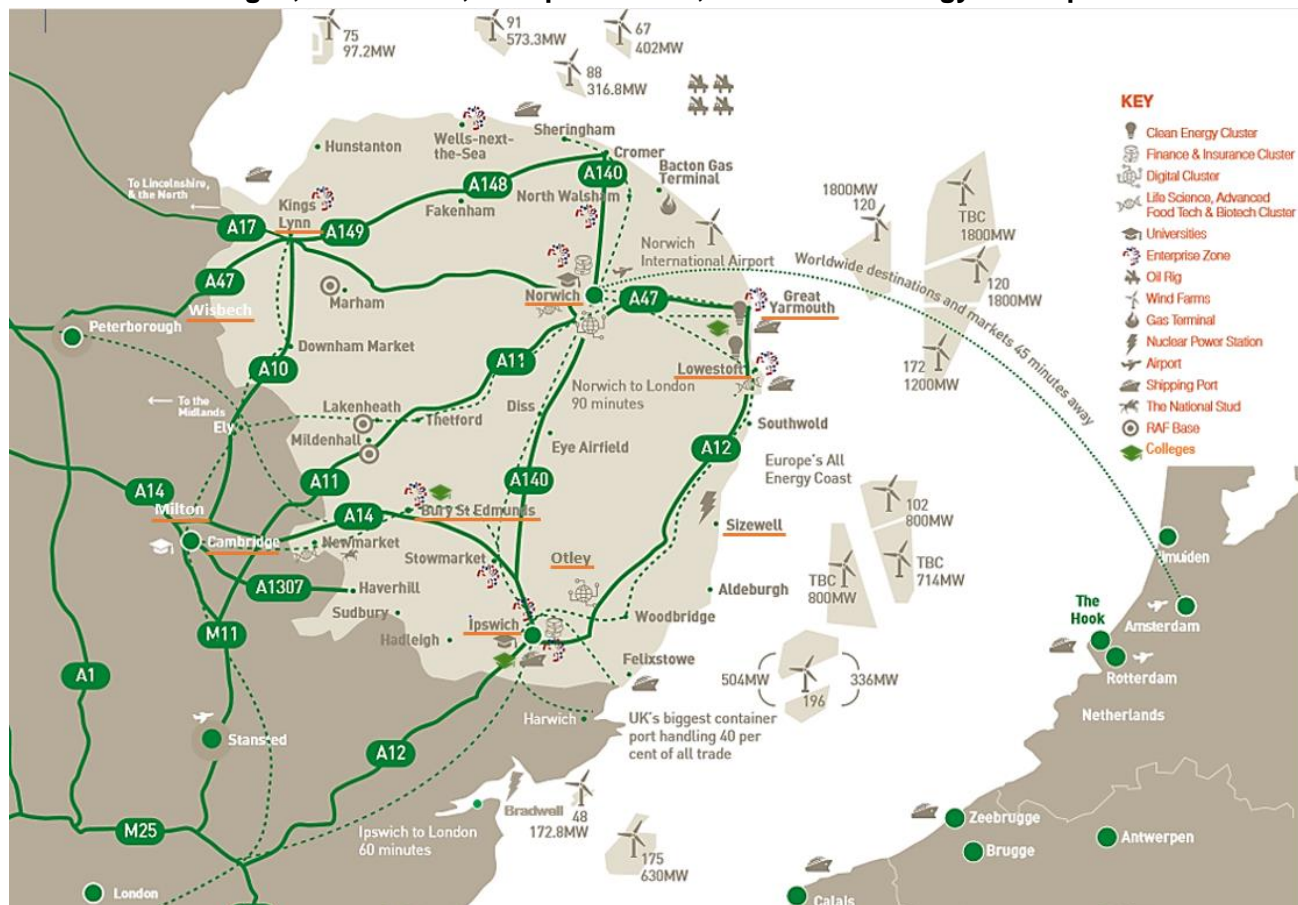
With sizeable investment from the LEPs, "The East" is striving to tackle the problems associated with its unique geography and upgrade its infrastructure to: improve connectivity; build new houses to stimulate business growth and enterprise; and raise aspirations across a region which has **3 Opportunity Areas (Fenland and East Cambridgeshire, Ipswich and Norwich)**, **3 City Deals (Greater Cambridgeshire, Ipswich and Norwich)** and pockets of high deprivation.



But this is not enough. The next step to maximise return on this investment in the region is to finesse our skills offer, to deliver the **technical 'medium level' skills** our sectors need to achieve their growth potential. By creating an Eastern Institute of Technology (IoT), we can **upskill and reskill employees and students** in a region with **high growth potential, unparalleled opportunities from planned Advanced Manufacturing, Agri-Tech, Engineering and Energy infrastructure developments** as well as the capacity and infrastructure to support growth.

The East's Institute of Technology

Locations of colleges, universities, enterprise zones, clusters and energy developments in the East



Despite the Eastern region's economy being **one of the fastest growing areas** of the UK, the region's working-age population is significantly below average for higher-level skills; only 31.3% have NVQ4 and above (vs. 38.2% GB) and only 50.2% have NVQ3 and above (vs. 56.9% GB), with a rapidly aging population, facing a significant loss of skills as older workers retire. It **desperately needs an IoT** to upskill and reskill employees and students to support our vital high-value skills-and-knowledge based economy and rapidly increase productivity.

Far Reaching Benefit for the East of England

The East's IoT will support the highly valuable GVA cities of Cambridge and Norwich, which are overheating. In these cities, housing density as well as the insufficient availability and affordability of accommodation is leading to increased travel to work/learn times, and many families are now relocating into commuting distance towns within the East's IoT catchment. As such, an IoT located within the Eastern region will have far reaching benefits across borders as workers can upskill and reskill nearer their homes, meaning workers can **stay in their employment, contribute to our region's economy and relieve pressure on local councils to provide affordable housing** and/or subsidise housing costs for these vital workers in these expensive and scarce inner-city locations.

By locating an IoT distinctly outside, yet still near these city locations, it will also **support businesses** who due to insufficient business space availability and the costs of inner-city rents, are moving out of cities to larger, custom built premises in the Eastern region. By remaining within travelling distances businesses can **relocate to the Eastern region**, to benefit from the region's infrastructure and available workforce to enable their businesses to grow, without having to break and rebuild existing supply chains which would have a wider ripple effect on the local economy.