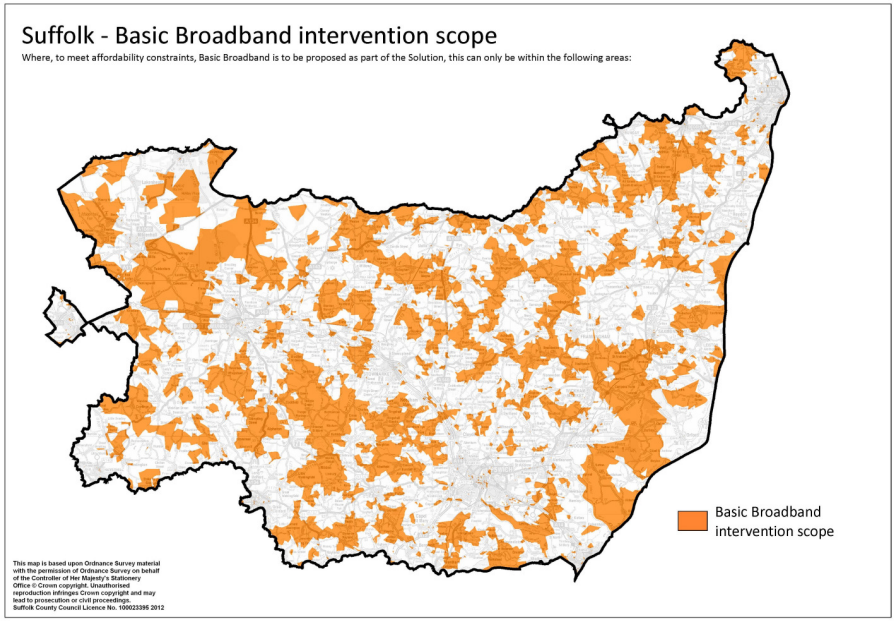
Linking Economic Development and Spatial Planning



James Cutting – Principal Spatial Planner – Suffolk County Council

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National Policy Linkages

National Planning Policy Framework states what planners should do

- emphasises support for economic growth and market signals

*"Each local planning authority should ensure that the Local Plan is based on adequate, up-to-date and relevant evidence about the economic, social and environmental characteristics and prospects of the area. Local planning authorities should ensure that their assessment of and strategies for housing, employment and other uses are **integrated**, and that they take full account of relevant market and economic signals."*

(Paragraph 158)

- What does this mean?
- There are many plans and strategies; how can they all be integrated?

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What does it mean? Is there any guidance?

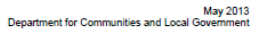
"…we do not want it to be overly prescriptive, and that will mean that there are, to some extent, slightly painful uncertainties for authorities, as indeed there are in interpreting the National Planning Policy Framework and implanting those policies into a local plan."

Nick Boles MP, 30 January 2013

Government response to the external review of government planning practice guidance consultation and report

Clearly local planning authorities should:

- Centre evidence on the economy
- Integrate assessments (Economic, SHMAs, JSNAs) and strategies (tenancy, transport, open space)
- Use forecasts, not just current conditions
- Provide a meaningful review of economic conditions



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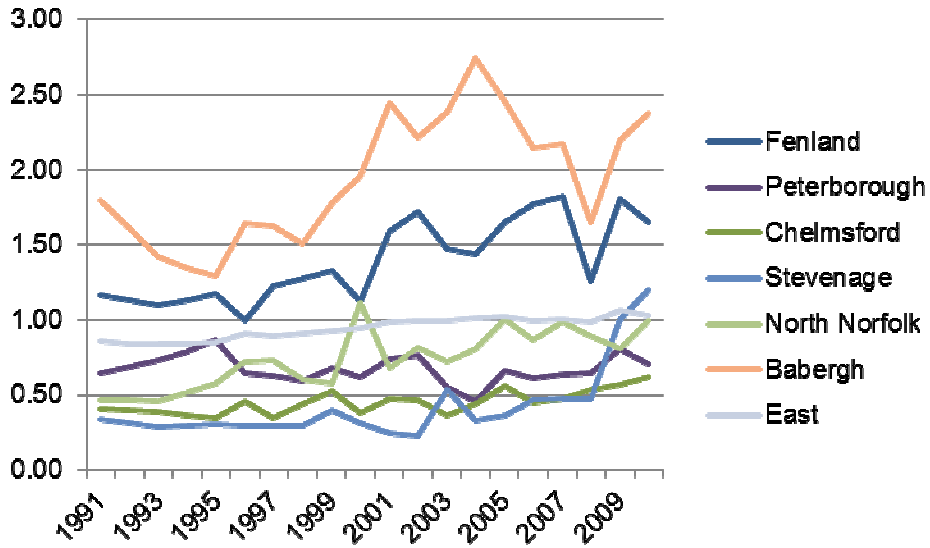
Using the EEFM in economic strategies

EEFM holds data to consider:

- Gross Value Added
- Employment by sector
- Self employment
- Unemployment
- Population
- Location quotients



Informing:

- prospects for growth
- promotion of sectors
- location and amount of land – the linkage to spatial planning
- skills requirements

Provides a reality check

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Using the EEFM to support funding bids

Prospects for growth

Helps with the linkage between local labour market with elsewhere

How skills could be enhanced

Successful bids deliver growth - the National Planning Policy Framework is about delivery

GVA (£M)						
B1	B2	B8	A1	Dwelling GVA	Total £m	% Suffolk GVA
663	395	308	0	145	1511	12%

Gross Value Added can be estimated using:

- Broad land allocations;
- the use (typically B1-B8 but A1);
- plot ratios;
- employment density, and
- EEFM GVA

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Potential further developments

The East of England Forecasting Model could be enhanced to:

•Provide occupations - informing skills strategies

•Using HCA's employment density guide, the floorspace requirements

•Linking occupations and earnings data to then indicate affordable housing needs

•Even pre-school places

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Use it

The East of England Forecasting Model:

- Integrates employment and housing needs
- It indicates the prospects
- Provides vital data to support funding bids
- Will only be useful if it is used

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