

Economic Development Sub- Committee

**Minutes of the Meeting held on 26 November 2015 at 10.00 am at
County Hall.**

Present:

Mrs C Walker (Chairman)

Mr J Childs

Mr S Clancy

Mr D Crawford

Mr T Garrod

Mr T Jermy

Mr B Spratt

Mr J Timewell

Mr M Wilby

Also Present: Mr R Coke, Chairman of Environment, Development and Transport Committee

1 Apologies and Substitutions

Apologies received from Mr I Mackie (substituted by Mr T Garrod), Mr R Bird (substituted by Mr D Crawford)

2 Minutes

- 2.1 The minutes of the meeting held on 21st September were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.
- 2.2 In reference to point 8.1 regarding the Scottow Enterprise Park update the Chairman of the Working Group informed the Chairman of the Sub-Committee that there had been a very low turnout at the welcome meeting and absences at the first group meeting since the membership had changed.
The Chairman of the Sub-Committee advised she would look into this and would report back at the next meeting.

3 Declaration of Interest

- 3.1 No declarations were made.

4 Items of Urgent Business

- 4.1 The Chairman allowed Mr B Spratt to raise an issue regarding the sale of Eastport and was advised that an update would be provided at the next meeting.

- 4.2 The Chairman allowed Mr M Wilby to raise a query regarding the NDR asking that now Government funding had been received when work would start on the ground. The Sub-Committee were advised that the contract with Balfour Beatty should be finally signed this week and preliminary works would start as soon as possible – Members would be advised on any ground breaking ceremony.

Members agreed that a push should now be made on developing the Western link.

The Sub-Committee congratulated the hard work done on this project, in particular by Tom McCabe and David Allfrey.

- 4.3 The Chairman allowed Mr B Spratt to raise a concern regarding the continuing problems on the Acle straight and suggested that the interim works to put in double white lines and reduce the speed limit to 50mph be progressed swiftly.

Members agreed that the Chairman of EDT Committee should contact Highways England to invite them to a Committee meeting so the importance of the works required could be highlighted.

5 Local Member Issues / Questions

- 5.1 Mr S Clancy raised the issue of the increasing risk around the future of the UK steel industry. Could the Chair of Economic Development Sub-Committee and the Chairman of the EDT Committee write to the Local Government Association and local MP's to draw attention to this important issue and start a campaign to save the UK steel industry.

The Chair agreed and advised that officers would compose letter to send on the Sub-Committee's behalf.

6. Update from Outside Bodies.

6.1 County Farms

- Cllr Spratt made the point that the tenant farmers worked very hard for very little profit.

6.2 Norfolk Rail Group

- The Chair of the Group, Mrs C Walker informed the Sub-Committee of the latest meeting held where the views and concerns regarding the current rolling stock were highlighted.
- Members expressed their disappointment at the news that improvement works to the Ely loop junction had been postponed.

6.3 Scottow Enterprise Park Working Group

- The Chairman of the group, Mr J Timewell reported that the suggested pedal park that had been in the news had not been agreed yet but that the company

was very keen and there was lots to be discussed when it was brought to the working group.

- Phase 2 of the solar farm was being worked up and could result with us having one of the largest in the UK.
- There were many projects in the pipeline but none had been agreed yet, the focus was mainly on getting businesses interested at the moment.

6.4 Norfolk, Suffolk, Essex China Partnership

- A decision had been taken that the partnership would continue but at a reduced rate.

7. France (Channel) England Programme annual report

7.1 The Sub-Committee received a presentation (Appendix A) from Marie Pierre Tighe which gave an update on the France England Programme.

7.2 The following points were raised during the discussion:-

- It was explained that the name Interreg referred to Inter-regional co-operation. The France (Channel) England programme aims at funding projects involving partners both in French regions and in English regions.
- It was noted that there had been only 18 applications in the second call for projects which was a drop from 44 during the first call but that this drop had been expected. It is planned to have 2 calls for projects every year until 2019.
- No money had been allocated to any projects yet, a selection committee in March 2016 will be the first instance when any decisions would be made and funds allocated to successful project bids.
- The team supports potential project applicants to develop their project within the guidelines set by the programme, and facilitators are helping partnerships with the aim to get successful bids through.
- That Norfolk was the first local authority in the UK to achieve this role was a real opportunity and by working with the partners should help to secure positive project funding for Norfolk in the future.

7.3 The Sub-Committee thanked Marie Pierre Tighe for her hard work and asked that condolences were passed on to French colleagues following the events in Paris last week.

7.4 The Sub-Committee noted the presentation.

8. Apprenticeships – Update

8.1 The Sub-Committee received an update on the apprenticeships programme.

8.2 The following points were raised during the discussion:-

- The team were making themselves ready for the challenges faced with the upcoming funding reforms for apprenticeships due between now and July 2016. The introduction of the Apprenticeship Levy would only be applied to larger organisations with smaller business not being required to pay.
- Suffolk's apprenticeship programme was launching the campaign about getting 500 new apprentice's starting in 100 days with the aim of encouraging employers to sign up. Norfolk's apprenticeship programme was focusing more on creating quality applications as this was where there was currently a concern; this was a national issue though and the team were in discussions with partners nationally to investigate this further.
- As part of their apprenticeship, the apprentice's taken on within the team were looking into how to market the programme at 16-18 year olds.
- The Norfolk Chamber of Commerce was involved with the apprenticeships programme and the relationship was important in promoting apprenticeships to chamber members
- In response to a question regarding Academy Schools, the members were informed that there were many academies involved with the apprenticeships programme.
- The Sub-Committee were assured that the strategies of the programme were working and that this was shown with the increase in apprenticeships being 2% higher than the national figure for the period August 2014 – July 2015, however they could not guarantee that this would be sustainable but that the team were working very hard and would continue to do so.
- In reference to the handout provided to the Sub-Committee (Appendix B) the officers were asked what could be done regarding the low number of apprenticeships in the areas of leisure and construction.

Officers advised that there had been an increase in construction but that this was a difficult industry to get involved as many construction companies did not want to invest in apprenticeships but rather required immediate skilled labour.

In regards to the leisure industry, while an important area of industry for Norfolk it was difficult to create good apprenticeships as there was a lot of seasonal work but that this was an area to be looked into further.

- The Apprenticeship's Norfolk network engage with partners to ensure they know what the employers require, provide support and bring different groups together. There are intermediary organisations involved who bring a more holistic approach to the network, such as support and guidance. The team work closely with Children's Services colleagues to ensure that colleagues working with young carers and those not in education are also

provided with support, guidance and information regarding applying for an apprenticeship.

- 8.3 The Sub-Committee thanked the officers for their hard work and noted the update.

9. Finance and Performance Monitoring report

- 9.1 The Committee received the report from the Executive Director of Community and Environmental Services which provided the Sub-Committee with the financial position for the service to the end of October, including the planned use of reserves. It also gave an overview of progress in relation to the service's 2015/16 service plan priorities, as at the end of quarter 2.

- 9.2 It was noted that the final bullet point on point 2 of the report which referred to the France England funding programme was incorrect and no money had been committed yet.

- 9.3 The Sub-Committee asked if more geographical information could be provided to help highlight the economic activity around the county and officers agreed to provide this for the next report.

- 9.4 The Sub-Committee noted the report.

10. Forward Plan

- 10.1 The Committee received the report from the Executive Director of Community and Environmental Services which set out the items/decisions programmed to be brought to this Sub-Committee for consideration in relation to economic development issues in Norfolk.

- 10.2 The Sub-Committee asked if an update on the Tourist Board and the Eastport could be provided at the next meeting.

- 10.3 Mr B Spratt proposed, seconded by Mr M Wilby that the January meeting be moved forward to the 7th January as there were important topics to be discussed.

The motion **Fell** with **4 vote For** and **5 votes Against**.

- 10.3 The Committee agreed the Forward Plan.

The meeting closed at 12:00pm.

Chairman



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INTERREG VA France (Channel) England Programme

Presentation to the **Economic Development Sub-Committee**

26/11/2015



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1. Winning the bid
2. Developing the Cooperation Programme
3. Presentation of the Cooperation Programme
4. The stakeholders
5. Project development



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1. Winning the bid

- Competition process in June 2013
- NCC as Managing Authority was formally approved in September 2013
- NCC is the first Managing Authority in England for European Territorial Cooperation programmes
- The bid was built on previous delivery models



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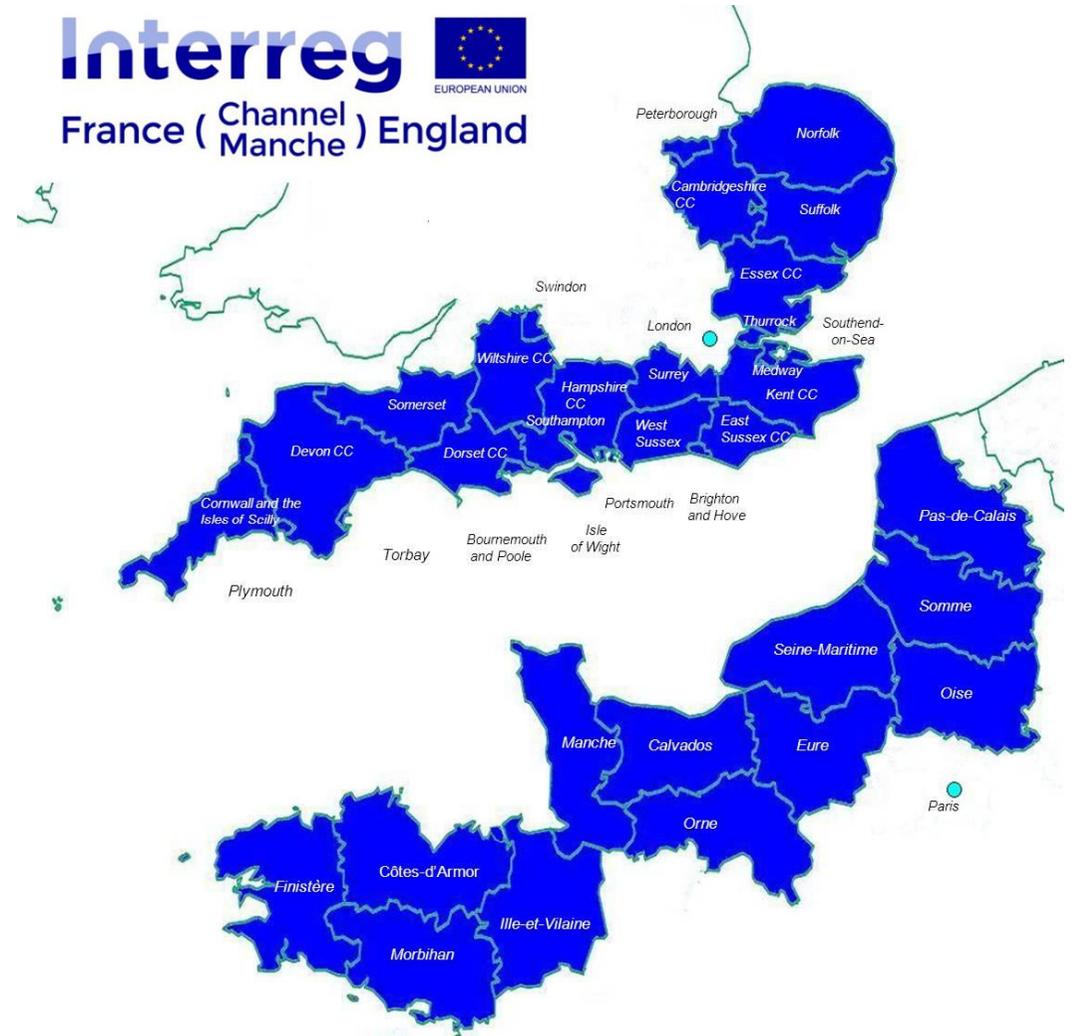


2. Developing the Cooperation Programme

- Difficult process (needs agreement of the UK and French delegations, and approval by the EU)
- The Cooperation Programme was built on an analysis of the programme area (Buiten report)
- First draft was submitted to the European Commission in October 2014
- Formal adoption of the Cooperation Programme by the European Commission in October 2015

3. Presentation of the Cooperation Programme

Eligible area



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The new programme

- 5 Specific Objectives
- Indicators to deliver against
- Co-funding rate up to 69%
- Two-stage application
- Reduction of administrative burden
- 223 millions euros of ERDF



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Programme priorities



Research & Innovation

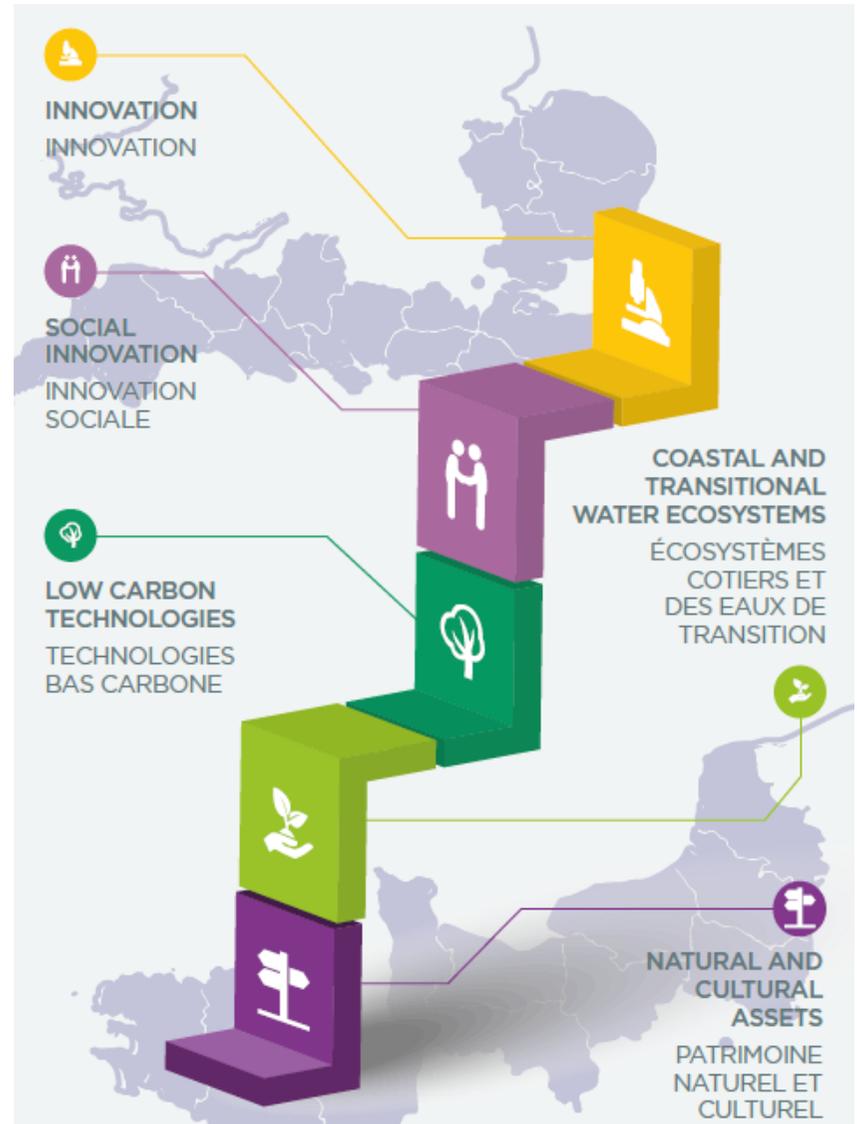


Low-Carbon Economy

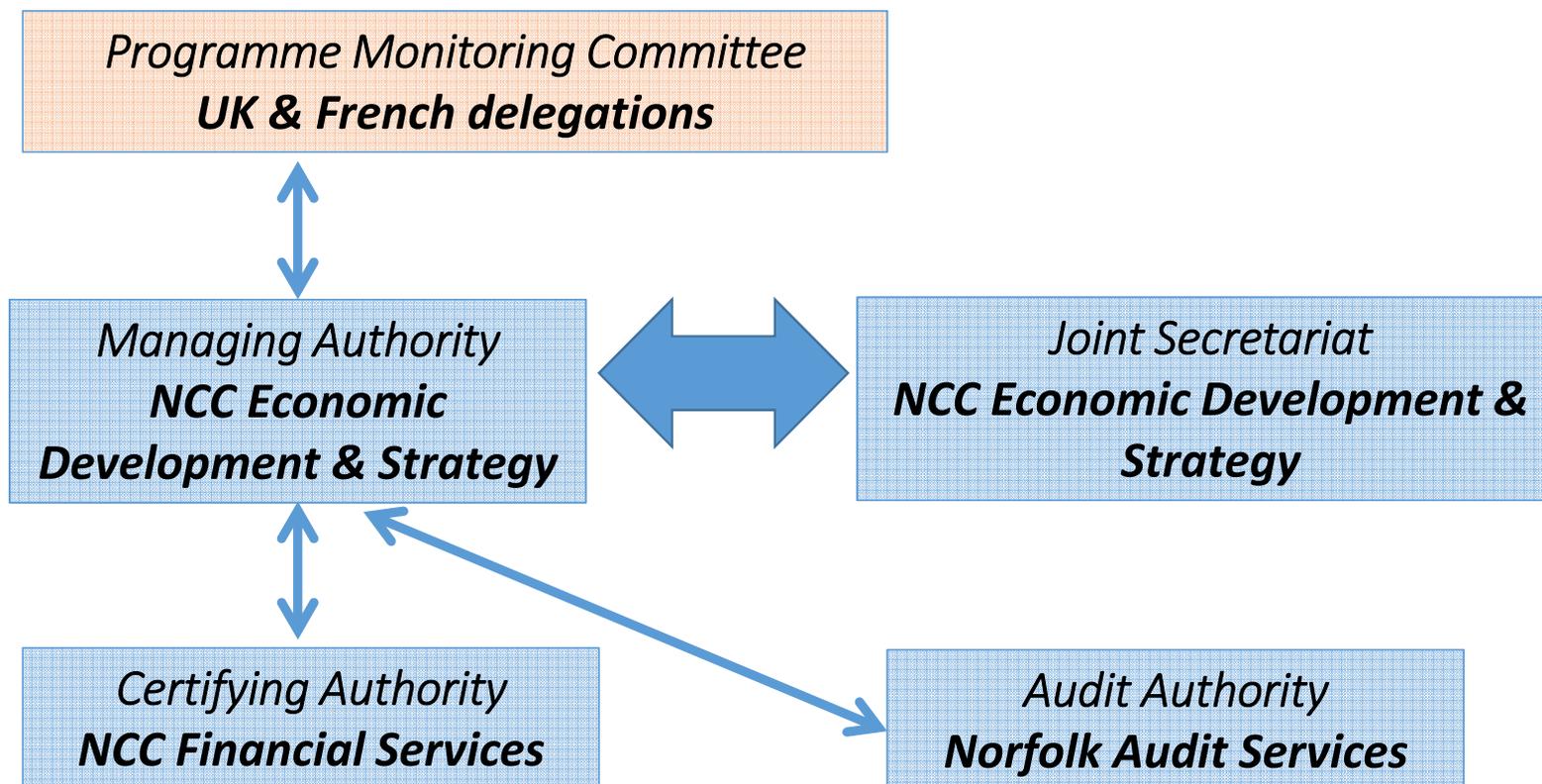


Attractiveness of the area

Programme objectives



4. Stakeholders – NCC bodies

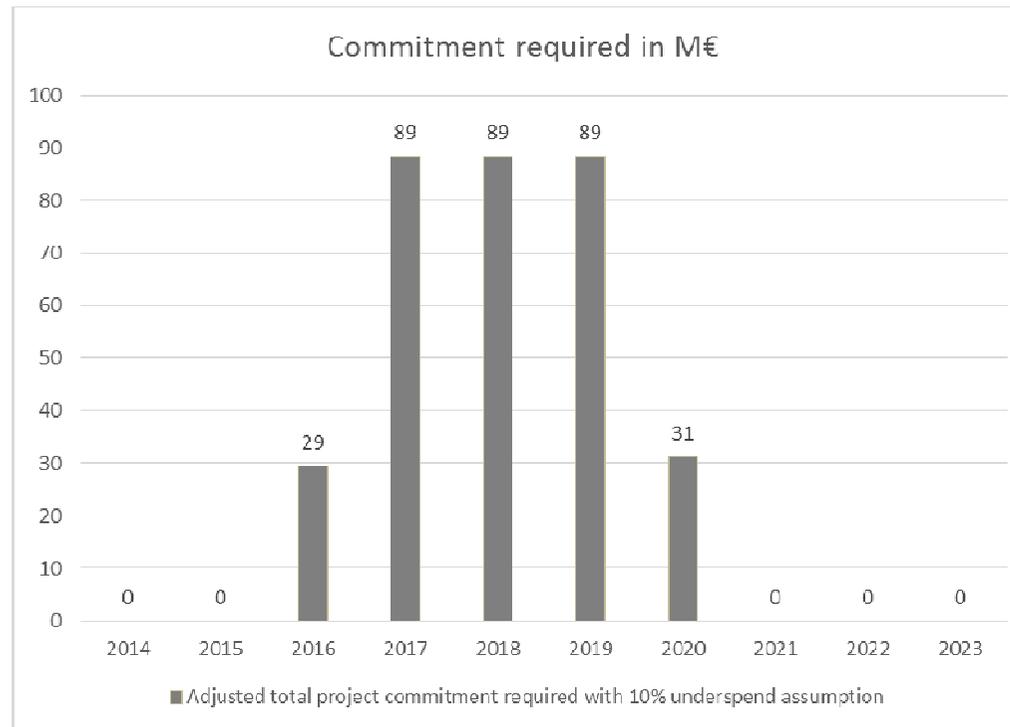


5. Project development

Promotion of the programme

- Facilitators (JS staff)
- Programme partners' networks
- European networks (Interact)
- Social media (Twitter, LinkedIn)
- Website (including programme manual)
- Annual event (planned in 2016)

Delivery strategy



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Pipeline of projects

- About 180 projects currently in the pipeline, at different phases of their development
- First call for projects (March - April 2015): 44 applications
- Second call for projects (September to October 2015): 18 applications
- Third call for projects (23rd February - 24th March 2016)
- The list of projects under development in Norfolk is available, if you would like to know more

East of England Contact

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