

NEWS RELEASE

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Norfolk County Council welcomes £32m in a major cash boost for Norfolk and Suffolk

Two major schemes to boost Norfolk's economy have won Government funding worth £32 million.

Norfolk County Council has welcomed backing for ultra-fast broadband and a base for Great Yarmouth's offshore energy sector.

As part of the Government's Getting Building Fund, which will see £900m invested into projects across the country, the Local Full Fibre Network project and the Great Yarmouth Operations & Maintenance Campus project, will see a direct impact in Norfolk, helping deliver jobs, skills and infrastructure in the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic.

The two Norfolk schemes, which have obtained funding from the Government's Getting Building Fund, are:

Great Yarmouth Operations & Maintenance Campus (£6million)

Creation of an Operations and Maintenance (O&M) Campus for the energy sector in Great Yarmouth. The sector provides the town, and the wider area, with arguably the single most important economic opportunity for a generation. The project will capitalise on land in Borough Council ownership, close to the Southern North Sea wind farm arrays with access to deep water as well as the river port. Repairs and an enhancement package is required to make the facility more accessible and attractive for businesses investing here. Detailed demands and needs analysis have shown that 650 new jobs could be located here.

Local Full Fibre Network (LFFN) (£2 million)

A project to accelerate the implementation of ultra-fast broadband into 80 additional public buildings through the Local Full Fibre Network. Installing gigabit capable fibre infrastructure across Norfolk will allow for the installation of FTTP services into public buildings, specifically within rural communities that are otherwise not commercially attractive to the private sector. It brings increased social and economic benefits for otherwise disadvantaged communities. The additional funding looks to increase the penetration of gigabit capable fibre into 80 additional public sector sites, and therefore into more communities across Norfolk.

Cabinet member for growing the economy, Councillor Graham Plant, said: "This is fantastic news for Norfolk and Great Yarmouth and only serves to see the future of Great Yarmouth and the energy sector in the county shine brighter."

Councillor Tom FitzPatrick, cabinet member for innovation, transformation and performance, said: "This is truly wonderful news for everyone across the county and we welcome the commitment and investment announced today. Having this funding invested into such technology will enable more spaces to be better connected with Full Fibre and is another building block in our aim of creating a truly Digital Norfolk."

A full list of all projects set to receive funding is available and together, the projects will:

- Create 1,100 new jobs
- Safeguard 4,180 jobs
- Leverage more than £10m of private sector match funding

Under the Government's criteria, projects had to be deliverable within 18 months and link with the region's Economic Strategy, Economic Recovery Restart Plan, and the Government's Recovery Plan. They also need to deliver clear economic outputs, such as jobs, housing, or apprenticeships.

Doug Field, chair of New Anglia LEP, said: "These projects will help us deliver on our ambitions to be a fantastic place to live, work and learn. From providing new community facilities and training centres to redeveloping our town centres and supporting our key sectors, the projects will accelerate local growth and support our economic recovery.

It shows the Government's commitment to our area and allows us to work with partners to bring forward key infrastructure projects and help us achieve the goals in the new Economic Recovery Restart Plan and Economic Strategy."

New Anglia Local Enterprise Partnership announced in early July that it had been awarded £32.1m as part of the Government's Getting Building Fund, which will plough £900m into projects across the country to help deliver jobs, skills and infrastructure in the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic.