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Dear Prime Minister,

The East of England: A Partner in Delivering Growth in Every Postcode

On behalf of Local Government East, I wanted to write following your recent speech setting out your vision for economic growth, devolution and a renewed partnership between national and local government. We were particularly encouraged by your commitment to achieving “growth in every postcode”, strengthening the role of local authorities, and ensuring that every part of the country is equipped to contribute to national prosperity.

Local Government East is the membership body representing all 50 councils across the East of England and the region’s only Combined Mayoral Authority as it stands (Cambridgeshire and Peterborough). Local Government East works with local authorities, private and public sector partners and stakeholders to champion the interests of a region that is already one of the UK’s most significant economic assets, and one that has the potential to contribute even more to the nation’s success.

The East of England is home to a £214 billion economy, attracts almost £10 billion of private sector research and development investment annually, and combines world-leading strengths in science, technology, life sciences, defence, advanced manufacturing, food production, clean energy and international trade. The East of England helps feed the nation, provides a substantial part of Britain’s energy, connects the country to international markets and is now bringing together offshore wind, gas, nuclear, electricity transmission, hydrogen and carbon capture to help build the UK’s future energy system.

Yet there remains a striking imbalance between the scale of the East’s contribution to the UK economy and the level of public investment it receives. While our region continues to generate growth, jobs, exports and tax revenues, constraints in transport, housing, water, energy and skills infrastructure are increasingly limiting our ability to meet national ambitions. These are not simply regional challenges; they are barriers to UK growth.

Your emphasis on empowering places, supporting local leadership and building stronger regional economies resonates strongly with us. The East is ready to play its full part in delivering the outcomes you have identified; inclusive economic growth, energy security, housing delivery, skills development, industrial renewal, national security and stronger local communities. However, achieving this will require recognition that areas like ours are not simply successful regions

requiring little support, but nationally significant economic assets whose continued success is critical to the success of the United Kingdom as a whole.

We were particularly interested in your focus on industrial strategy, place-based investment and the role of local and strategic authorities in driving growth. The East is uniquely placed to support these ambitions. Through our leadership in life sciences and innovation, our role as Britain's clean energy coast, our contribution to food security, and our status as a gateway to international trade through ports and logistics infrastructure, the East can help deliver the economic future you have outlined.

We have attached a short narrative setting out the strategic case for the East of England and the opportunities that a stronger partnership with government could unlock. Our central message is simple: investment in the East is not a request for special treatment, but a proposition for national growth. The East is already delivering for Britain and, with the right partnership, can deliver significantly more.

Given the alignment between your ambitions and the opportunities within our region, we would very much welcome the opportunity to meet with you and a small group of East of England leaders to discuss how we can work together to accelerate growth, unlock nationally significant investment opportunities, and help deliver your objective of growth in every postcode. Such a discussion would provide an opportunity to explore the practical barriers currently constraining growth and identify the actions that could unlock the East's full contribution to the UK economy. We would be delighted to arrange a meeting at a time convenient to you and would welcome the opportunity to continue this conversation in person.

Yours sincerely,

Cllr Carl Smith
Chair of Local Government East
Leader of Great Yarmouth Council