

North Essex Growth Priorities

Council 11 December



Background and context: what are the Growth Priorities?



A shared, **long-term vision** for North Essex developed in **collaboration** between all nine authorities



A framework for guiding **future collaboration** across the public and private sectors, aligning local ambition with **national priorities**



A tool for influencing the focus of the **Mayoralty**, offering early, visible wins and for ensuring North Essex's priorities are reflected in the **MCCA's statutory documents**



The Growth Priorities **are not a statutory** document, a replacement for Local Plans, a **detailed blueprint** for every site or project, or a vehicle for direct **engagement with government**



Background and context: how were the Priorities developed?

- The North Essex Growth Priorities have been developed by officers from all partners working together
- When the Mayoral County Combined Authority forms in Spring 2026 it will develop a suite of strategies and priorities that will shape economic growth and investment in Greater Essex over the long term
- It is critical we have clear, collectively agreed priorities that we can feed into the Mayor and MCCA as well as Government and the new Shadow Authorities as they begin to come together
- These are designed to be a first set of asks – there is more we want to achieve but we cannot ask for everything all at once. It is important to note that not all priorities benefit all partners equally and at the same time.

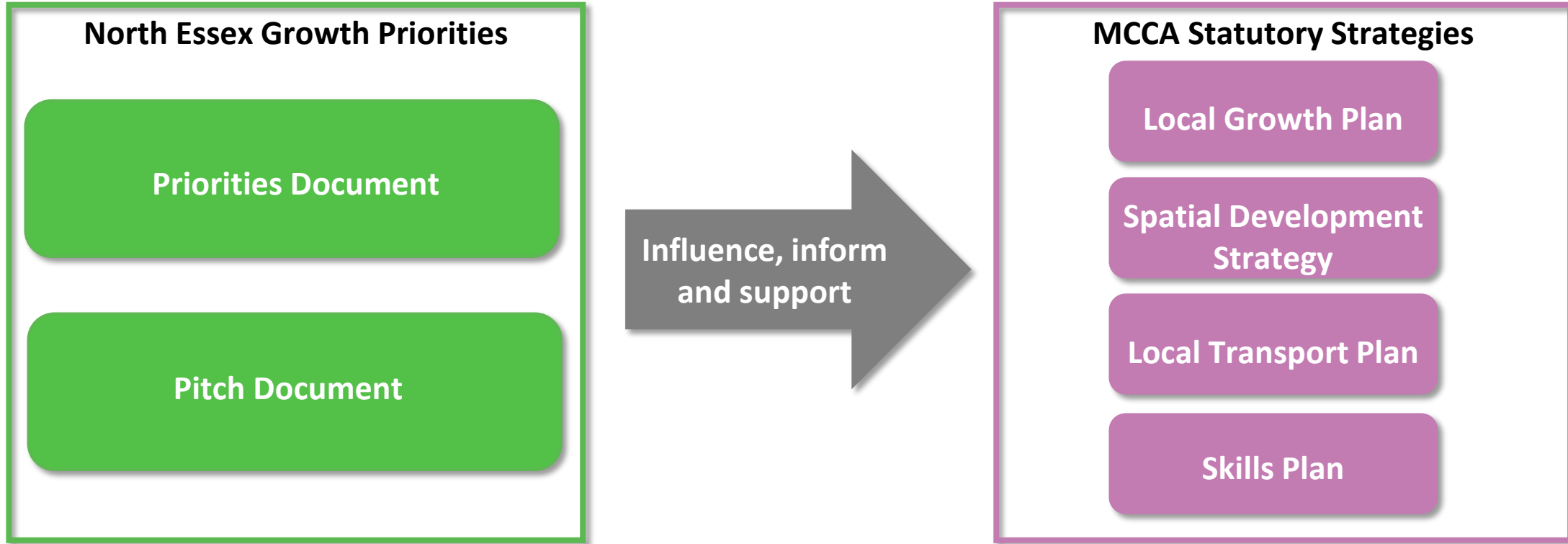


Background and context: why are they important?

- A unified North Essex position strengthens the strategic case for these projects and increases the likelihood of securing support for transformative investment in the North of the county
- By taking a joined up, positive approach to identifying growth and investment priorities we will be better placed to influence policy formation and secure funding
- This work will ensure North Essex's priorities are heard in early decisions on funding, spatial planning and infrastructure investment



Background and context key outputs



Vision and outcomes

Creating a more productive, better-connected and more resilient North Essex where everyone can thrive

North Essex Growth Priorities Outcomes



- Housing growth
- Employment land and business accommodation
- Sector development
- Innovation and R&D
- Business support
- Skills



- Addressing deprivation
- Place regeneration
- Employability support
- Healthy and efficient homes



- Roads, railways, ports and airports
- Digital infrastructure
- Electricity distribution network
- Active travel



- Energy security
- Water security
- Job security
- Healthy and efficient homes

North Essex Growth Priorities



Dualling the A120
(Braintree to A12)



**Upgrading J7
and 8 of the
M11**



**Improving train
services from
Clacton**



**Extending the
North Essex Rapid
Transit System
(RTS)**



**Delivering skills for
growth**



**Realising the potential
of our **three Garden
Communities****



**Delivering Bathside
Bay and realising its
benefits**



**Maximising the
benefits of **Stansted
Airport****



**Delivering the new
**Princess Alexandra
Hospital****



Widening the A12
(Boreham to Marks
Tey)

- These priorities are purposefully **focussed**, prioritising the interventions that can have the **most impact** and align with the document's **vision** and **outcomes**.
- The priorities were designed **in partnership** with all NEC authorities.
- Each priority features smaller, shorter-term and more **deliverable** 'asks' (e.g. Stansted Airport College expansion, sector-focussed business support etc.)
- Following feedback from the officer workshop, a tenth priority was added in Autumn 2025 to reflect **skills for growth**.

Next steps

