



Greater Essex Business Board

*By business, for business, with
business*

Autumn 2024



Welcome

Thank you for your interest in the **Greater Essex Business Board (GEBB)** – a new strategic advisory board of business influencers brought together to advise, advocate, and lobby in the interests of Greater Essex.

This document provides background information on the GEBB, including:

1. The role and purpose of the GEBB;
2. The GEBB's priorities;
3. How the Board will operate; and
4. How to find out more.

The role and purpose of the GEBB

The GEBB will be a strategic advisory board of business influencers – **advising, advocating, and lobbying** in the interests of Greater Essex. It will bring together 10-15 influential and inspiring businesses, reflecting key sectors of the economy and geographical areas of Greater Essex. Board members will work closely with officers from local authorities as well as existing regional and local networks, groups and forums to:

Influence decisions

The Greater Essex Business Board (GEBB) exists to **influence** economic growth policies at both the local and national level.

GEBB will provide **strategic advice** to political decision-makers. It will have the **freedom and autonomy** to set its own agenda, using evidence to develop, its own positions on key issues.

Its advice will help in setting **the strategic direction** for local economic policy, including producing and updating an Economic Strategy for Greater Essex.

Advocate for business

The GEBB will provide the authoritative and authentic **voice of business** in Greater Essex, with the confidence to speak and be heard.

The GEBB will develop **robust mechanisms to engage** with businesses across Greater Essex, listening, gathering intelligence and using this as a basis to inform its work with decision-makers.

The GEBB will develop **connections**, with local, regional and national business networks. It will champion Greater Essex – helping it to stand out and compete.

Deliver Impact

The GEBB will oversee activities that support Greater Essex business, including Growth Hub **business support and skills programmes** (with Essex Chamber of Commerce).

The GEBB will focus its attention on **securing new investment** in Greater Essex, supporting and advocating for

- key growth sectors,
- key sites;
- vital infrastructure;
- workforce skills

GEBB priorities

We would expect that, within its first year of operation, the GEBB's priorities will include:

1. **Developing a new co-owned Economic Strategy** - providing advice and guidance on the economic strategy for Greater Essex
2. Playing a **key role** in future negotiations with Government on a renewed approach to Private/Public sector partnership;
3. **Getting the wider businesses community engaged as Ambassadors** - promoting Greater Essex, attracting private investors and helping to secure investments in growth-enabling infrastructure
4. Establishing appropriate mechanisms for **delivery of government programmes** such as business support activities
5. **Identify routes to unlock improvements in growth and productivity**, ensuring the benefits are distributed across all communities in Greater Essex, including through links with the LSIP **to influence training and skills provision.**

How the GEBB will operate

The GEBB will be chaired by a recognised business leader. It will have appropriate administrative and financial support to undertake its work. It will operate through working groups with expert support to follow-up on the direction set by the Board. **The GEBB's success will lie in its ability to convene partnerships, influence policy and to attract investment to Greater Essex.**

The GEBB will...

...convene business interests from across Greater Essex, the UK and across the globe to gain the best insight into local challenges and potential solutions.

...focus on outcomes and the action required to deliver them, rather than on formal meetings, process and paperwork.

...work in the open promoting transparency in to work to build support and momentum from across Greater Essex business.

...partner with those who have shared interests and can help influence decisions to the benefit of Essex businesses – whoever and wherever they may be.

The GEBB will not...

...work to an agenda constrained by local councils

...simply rubber-stamp decisions that have already been taken;

...have lots of board meetings and spend time just receiving information
...duplicate the work of existing local business groups

...waste time and energy on issues where it cannot and secure impact;

...shy away from delivering difficult messages to those in power

...increase bureaucracy or act as a gatekeeper; or

...act in isolation.

Important information

We envisage that:

1. the board will come together around key activities and meet approximately four times a year;
2. the first GEBB meeting will take place in December 2024;
3. board members will act as ambassadors for Greater Essex Business. They will act in the interests of the business community and be active in promoting the voice of business from across the area;
4. board members will draw upon their national, international, business and government connections to advance the interests of Greater Essex;
5. board members will engage widely, gathering intelligence from the local business community, and sharing this with elected leaders and policy-makers to inform investment priorities and growth enabling policies; and
6. appointments to the Board will be made for a 1-year term in the first instance, allowing for flexibility and to reflect the changing local political and economic environment.

Find out more

For anyone who is interested in applying to be part of the Greater Essex Business Board please read the Chair or Member specification documents.

Please apply by **12:00pm** on **7th November 2024**.

Applications will be considered by a selection panel consisting of local business representatives and elected political leaders. Further discussions with the selection panel may be scheduled for **19th – 21st November**.

For any queries please contact: business.board@essex.gov.uk

Stay up to date via:

- [the Greater Essex Business Board webpage](#)
- [Ambitious Essex LinkedIn](#)