



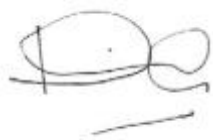
## Foreword

The East of England set out its long-term vision for the future in its regional economic and spatial strategies published in 2008. These set ambitious targets for economic growth, housing and affordable homes, employment, skills, the environment and more efficient use of resources.

The East of England Implementation Plan sets out how the region will deliver that vision. It creates a common framework for the alignment of national, regional and local investment and sets out compelling evidence to accelerate the funding and delivery of key schemes. This is critical at a time when there are growing pressures on public spending and the East of England already receives one of the lowest levels of public spending per head of any region of the UK. The need to align the funding and activities of partners against commonly shared priorities is greater than ever.

The East of England is the first region to integrate the delivery of its economic and spatial strategies in one Implementation Plan – and on the basis of a shared evidence base. It has been led by the East of England Development Agency (EEDA) and the East of England Regional Assembly (EERA) and developed through consultation with a wide range of stakeholders in the public, private and third sectors. It demonstrates how we are working together to drive forward sustainable economic growth in a challenging environment and to improve the quality of life for everyone who lives and works in the region.

The region will need to overcome many challenges in the future, from improving our transport infrastructure to building the skills level of our workforce, to addressing the supply and affordability of housing and tackling climate change. As this Implementation Plan is taken forward, it will need to be updated to take account of new priorities, legislative developments and constraints on public spending that affect how the objectives of the economic and spatial strategies are delivered. Under the guidance of the new Regional Strategy Board, it is anticipated that this Implementation Plan will assist in the process of future prioritisation and form the basis of a new Single Regional Strategy.



Richard Ellis

Chair, East of England Development Agency



John Reynolds

Chairman, East of England Regional Assembly

