

News

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Morgan Sindall Construction & Infrastructure is playing a pivotal role in delivering Essex's next generation of school places

One of the UK's largest counties, Essex is currently home to 1.4 million people, a population that's expected to grow by 300,000 within the next 20 years.

The region's strategic location between London and European markets, combined with its outstanding quality of life, is driving growth, with attractive rural towns and villages in close proximity to major urban hubs. It is also the home of Europe's most continentally well-connected airport, London Stansted.

This location means that Essex is a critical port and gateway, with more than 130,000 businesses supporting over 1.3 million jobs across the region. Although this growth is testament to the region's many strengths, providing the infrastructure to support a fast-growing population is not without its challenges.

New homes and schools are required to provide ongoing sustainable growth. Essex County Council is delivering an ambitious strategy to create the facilities needed to support these vibrant new communities.

New school places are particularly in demand, and the council is meeting this growing need with a record investment in new school places. This major development pipeline will see 22,000 new school places over the next 10 years, delivered through new build schools, permanent expansions and refurbishments.

Framework mechanisms are in place to support this vision, streamline the procurement process, and ensure compliance and best quality. The majority of education projects were initially procured directly by the council through the SmarteEast Alliance framework. This has since been superseded by the £300 million, four year Essex Construction Framework (ECF), which has subsequently supported the procurement of tens of thousands of new school places.

Morgan Sindall, the construction and infrastructure company, is playing a key role in the delivery of Essex's new generation of school places, having delivered over 1,000 school places to date, with a further 1,700 places due to be completed over the next two years.

Morgan Sindall's construction teams have completed seven school projects since 2011. These new buildings offer modern and spacious classrooms with outstanding acoustics and natural lighting, allowing students and staff to work in first-class learning environments.