

Innovation



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network

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- Innovation – the successful exploitation of new ideas
- As important to existing businesses as to new start ups
- Essex Innovation Network
- "Create an environment in Essex that makes it one of the best places to develop new ideas. "

What does all this mean?



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- new products and services being trialled
- new technologies, products and services being brought to market
- licencing deals secured
- new product designs
- manufacturing arrangements being put in place
- equity investment secured and/or businesses investment-ready
- Proof of Concept and Grants for R&D funding secured
- an increase in R&D projects undertaken
- increased sales and new markets accessed
- robust business plans and models being established
- new jobs created

Plenty of Strategies

- Europe - Lisbon etc
- UK – Dti Innovation Strategy etc
- Regional – EEDA’s Regional Economic Strategy
- Sub-Regional – Essex Innovation Network Strategy, Thames Gateway Economic Strategy
- Local – Local Area Agreements, Local Strategic Plans, Thurrock Economic Strategy etc



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However, in Essex.....

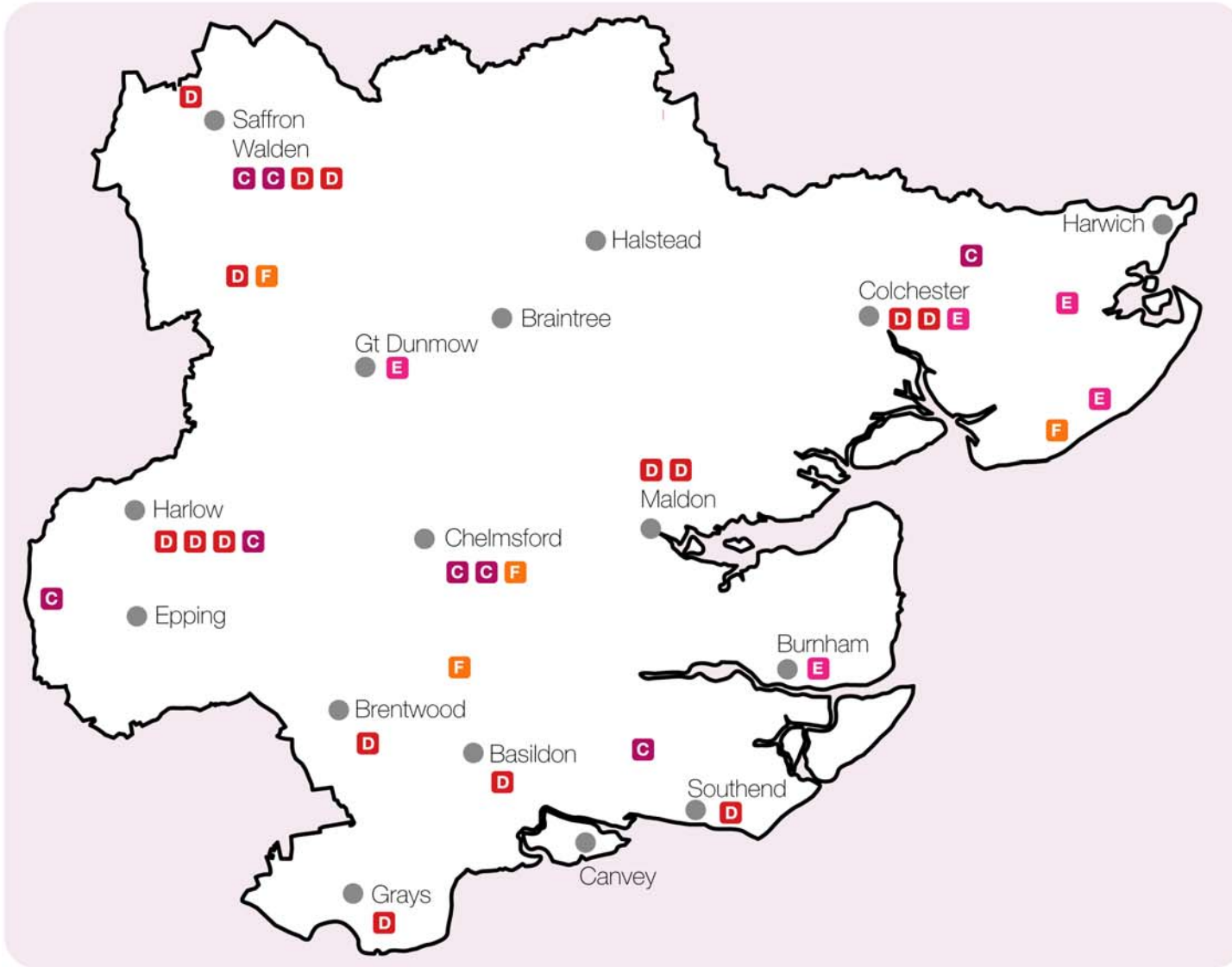
Vast majority of businesses are:

- small
- often working in isolation from each other
- only partially/not served by generic business support
- failing to take up programmes aimed at stimulating innovation
- rating design as low in importance to their business
- without specialist incubation facilities
- untouched by EU innovation programmes



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Take up of innovation support prior to Essex Innovation Network



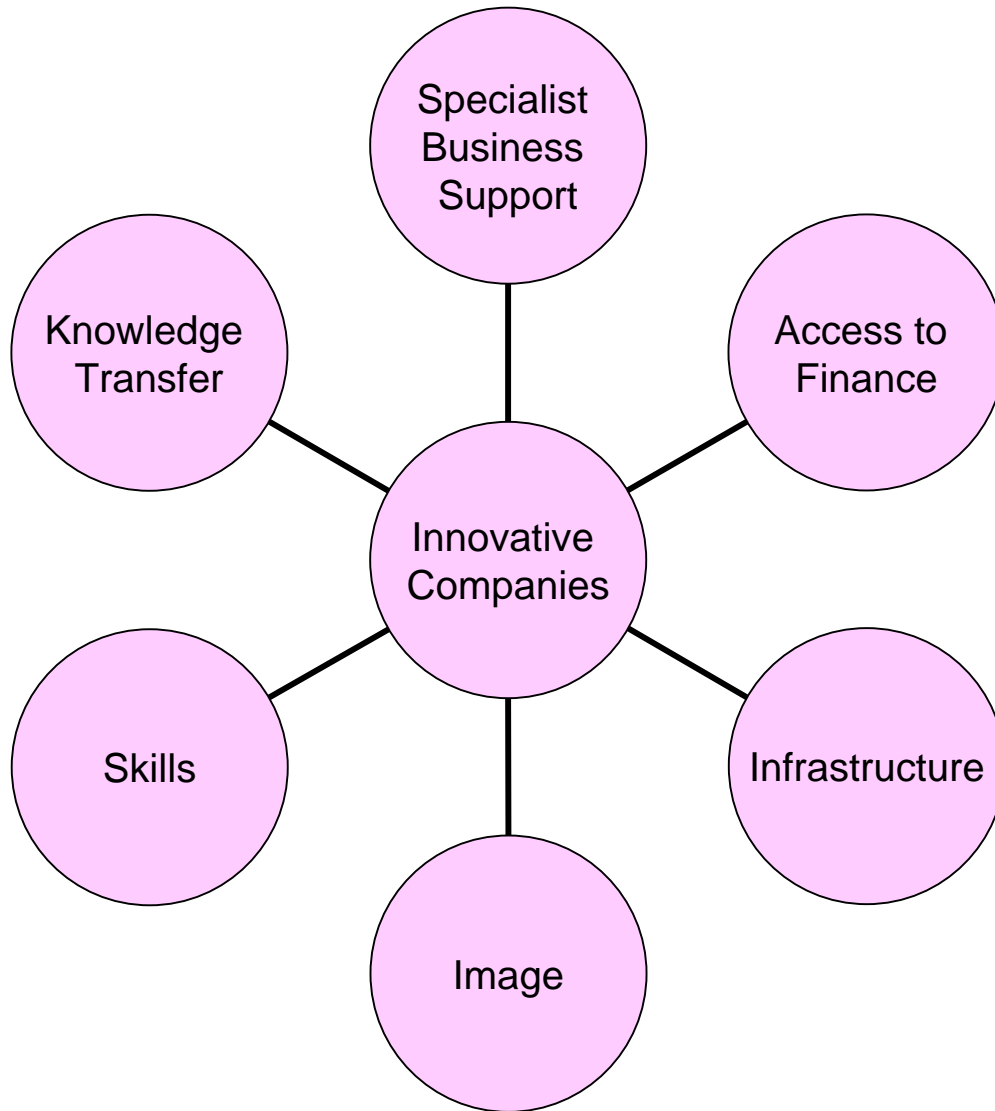
Key

- C** Knowledge Transfer Partnerships
- D** Grants for R&D Support Scheme 02 - 06
- E** Proof of Concept 06
- F** 'Running the Gauntlet' (Last 50 - 2006)
- TBA** Innovation Relay Centre Engagements
- TBA** Framework 6 Programme



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.....but we are working on it!



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Current focus and priorities

- Supporting budding entrepreneurs and early stage innovative businesses
 - Specialist mentoring
 - Incubation
 - Access to finance
 - International opportunities
 - Events, networking opportunities
 - Contacts and collaboration



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Current focus and priorities (continued)

- Extension of this to established innovative businesses with clear potential
- Encouragement of R&D activities
 - Grants for Research & Development
 - Heads of R&D Network
 - Framework 7



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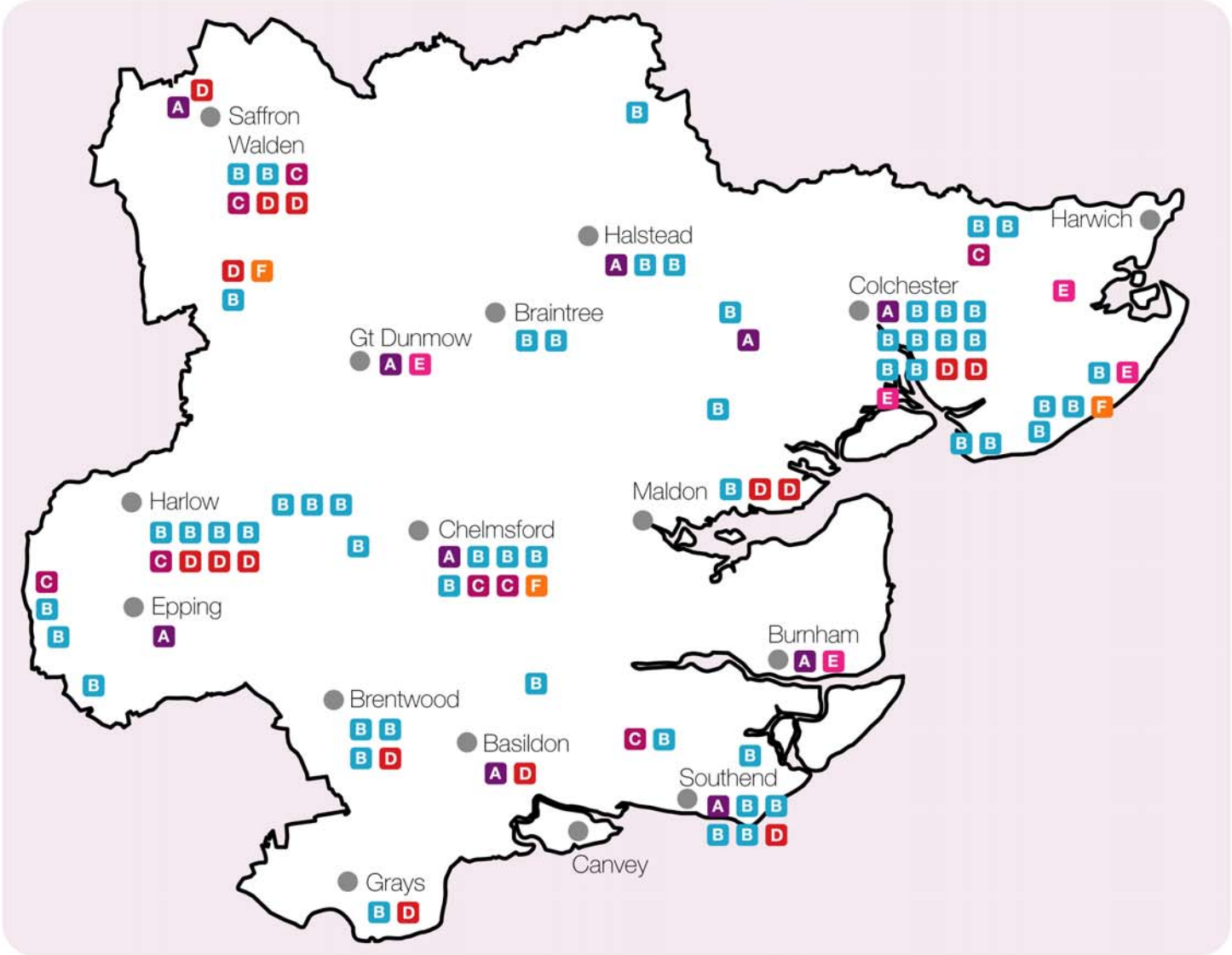
Current focus and priorities (continued)

- Supporting key knowledge based sectors
 - Multimedia & ICT
 - Design
 - Environmental Technologies
- Developing collaborative opportunities through networks of innovative businesses and organisations



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Take up of Essex Innovation Network Programmes by Greater Essex Companies and Entrepreneurs



Key

- A** Grants for R&D Support Scheme 06/07
- B** New Ideas & Developing Innovative Business programmes
- C** Knowledge Transfer Partnerships
- D** Grants for R&D Support Scheme 02 - 06
- E** Proof of Concept 06
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.....but

- Despite all the strategy, funding is an issue
 - lack of, what there is is
 - sporadic
 - available to fund consultants but not delivery
 - geared towards Higher Education



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