



Full Council

Members are invited to the **Annual Meeting of the Full Council** to be held in the Conference Room, Riverside, Lowestoft on **Wednesday, 22 May 2024 at 6.30pm.**

This meeting will be broadcast to the public via the East Suffolk YouTube Channel at <https://youtube.com/live/zw4oEU8-Bzw?feature=share>

Members:

All Councillors

An Agenda is set out below.

Part One – Open to the Public

Pages

- 1 Election of a Chair of the Council**
To elect a Chair of East Suffolk Council for the 2024 / 2025 municipal year.
- 2 Election of a Vice-Chair of the Council**
To elect a Vice-Chair of East Suffolk Council for the 2024 / 2025 municipal year.
- 3 Announcements**
To receive any announcements from the retiring and incoming Chairs.
- 4 Apologies for Absence**
To receive apologies for absence, if any.
- 5 Declarations of Interest**
Members and Officers are invited to make any declarations of interests, and the nature of that interest, that they may have in relation to items on the Agenda and are also reminded to make any declarations at any stage during the Meeting if it becomes apparent that this may be required when a particular item or issue is considered.
- 6 Announcements**
To receive any announcements from the Vice Chair, the Leader of the Council, members of the Cabinet, or the Chief Executive.
- 7 Minutes**
To confirm as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on 27 March 2024.

1 - 16

Part One – Open to the Public		Pages
8	Political Balance and allocation of seats on Committees ES/1954 The report of the Leader of the Council	17 - 27
9	Appointments to Working Groups for 2024/25 ES/1955 Report of the Leader of the Council.	28 - 41
10	Appointments to Outside Bodies for 2024/25 (Non-Executive) ES/1956 Report of the Leader of the Council.	42 - 55
11	Suffolk County Council's County Deal - East Suffolk Council Debate ES/1903 Report of the Leader of the Council.	56 - 103

Part Two – Exempt/Confidential **Pages**

There are no Exempt or Confidential items for this Agenda.

Close



Chris Bally, Chief Executive

If you require this document in large print, audio or Braille or in a different language, please contact the Democratic Services Team on 01502 523521 or email: democraticservices@eastsoffolk.gov.uk

Questions from the public at Full Council meetings

Any resident of East Suffolk who is listed on the electoral register may ask questions to the Chair of the Council, the Leader of the Council, members of the Cabinet, or the Chair or Vice-Chair of any committee or sub-committee of the Council, at any ordinary meeting of the Full Council (this excludes the Council's annual meeting or any extraordinary meetings of the Full Council).

Questions must be submitted in writing or by email to the Proper Officer no later than midday ten working days before the date of the meeting. Each question must give the name and address of the questioner and must name the member of the Council to whom it is to be put. The scope of questions that can be considered can be found in the Council Procedure Rules set out in Part 3 of the [East Suffolk Council Constitution](#).

Although the deadline has passed for questions to be submitted for this meeting of the Full Council, you are able to submit questions for a future meeting. Details on the deadlines for submitting questions to all of the Council's scheduled meetings can be found [on our website](#).

Filming, Videoing, Photography and Audio Recording at Council Meetings

The Council, members of the public and press may record / film / photograph or broadcast this meeting when the public and press are not lawfully excluded.

The Council cannot guarantee public seating areas will not be filmed or recorded. By entering the Conference Room and sitting in the public seating area, those present will be deemed to have consented to the possible use of filmed images and sound recordings. If you do not wish to be recorded, please speak to a member of the Democratic Services team at the earliest opportunity.



The national Charter and Charter Plus Awards for Elected Member Development

East Suffolk Council is committed to achieving excellence in elected member development

www.local.gov.uk/Community-Leadership

Unconfirmed



Minutes of a Meeting of the **Full Council** held in the Deben Conference Room, East Suffolk House, on **Wednesday, 27 March 2024 at 6:30 PM**

Members present:

Councillor Paul Ashdown, Councillor Paul Ashton, Councillor Edward Back, Councillor David Beavan, Councillor Seamus Bennett, Councillor Peter Byatt, Councillor Jan Candy, Councillor Jenny Ceresa, Councillor Dan Clery, Councillor Tom Daly, Councillor Mike Deacon, Councillor Julia Ewart, Councillor John Fisher, Councillor Amanda Folley, Councillor Tess Gandy, Councillor Andree Gee, Councillor Louise Gooch, Councillor Katie Graham, Councillor Alan Green, Councillor Owen Grey, Councillor Toby Hammond, Councillor Colin Hedgley, Councillor Mark Jepson, Councillor Beth Keys-Holloway, Councillor George King, Councillor Vince Langdon-Morris, Councillor Stuart Lawson, Councillor Geoff Lynch, Councillor Stephen Molyneux, Councillor Sally Noble, Councillor Mark Packard, Councillor Graham Parker, Councillor Sarah Plummer, Councillor Lee Reeves, Councillor Craig Rivett, Councillor Sheryl Rumble, Councillor Myles Scrancher, Councillor Rachel Smith-Lyte, Councillor Rosie Smithson, Councillor Anthony Specca, Councillor Ed Thompson, Councillor Caroline Topping, Councillor Geoff Wakeling, Councillor Sarah Whitelock, Councillor Tim Wilson, Councillor Kay Yule

Officers present:

Chris Bally (Chief Executive), Chris Bing (Head of Legal and Democratic Services & Monitoring Officer), Lorraine Fitch (Democratic Services Manager), Phil Harris (Strategic Communications and Marketing Manager), Andy Jarvis (Strategic Director), Nick Khan (Strategic Director), Matt Makin (Democratic Services Officer (Regulatory)), Sue Meeken (Labour Political Group Support Officer), Agnes Ogundiran (Conservative Political Group Support Officer), Philip Ridley (Head of Planning and Coastal Management), Isabel Rolfe (GLI Political Group Support Officer)

1 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Starling, Mallinder, Robinson, Patience Ninnmey, Dean McCallum, Craig and Pitchers.

2 Declarations of Interest

There were no Declarations of Interest.

3 Minutes

On the proposition of Councillor Gandy seconded by Councillor Gee it was unanimously

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting held on 21 February 2024 be agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

4 Announcements

Chair

The Chair announced he had been pleased to attend the production of Draining the Swamp at Beccles Public Hall and Theatre on 4 March 2024.

Vice-Chair

The Vice Chair announced he had attended the following events:

St Johns Ambulance Annual Awards Ceremony in Ipswich on 2 March 2024

Suffolk Community Foundation's Annual Review 2022/23 and High Sheriff Awards at Trinity Park on 12 March 2024

The Suffolk Justice Service Choral Evensong at St Edmundsbury Cathedral on 17 March 2024

The Vice Chair was due to attend 'Understanding Ramadan Iftar' at Suffolk One on 15 March 2024, unfortunately the event had to be cancelled due to a fire the day before.

Leader

The Leader announced that with effect from 6 March 2024 Councillor Noble replaced Councillor Candy on the Environmental Task Group.

With effect from 23 April 2024 Councillor Bennett would replace Councillor Graham on Planning Committee South. On the same date Councillor Graham would replace Councillor Hammond on Planning Committee North.

Councillor Bennett would be replacing Councillor Grey on the Police and Crime panel and Councillor Ninnmey replaced Councillor Grey on Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

The Leader added a second announcement which was related to East Suffolk Trust.

'East Suffolk Trust is the environmental charity being set up by Sizewell C with funding of c£80m during the construction and operation of SzC. The Deed of Obligation requires six founding members – 2 each to be appointed by SZC Co., Suffolk County Council (SCC) and East Suffolk Council (ESC).

SZC Co. have appointed their two members:

Steve Mannings, employed by SZC Co as their Sizewell Environment lead

Julian Roughton, former CEO of Suffolk Wildlife Trust.

Following discussions with myself, Cllr Daly, Officers, and SCC it was decided that ESC and SCC appoint non-political individuals external to the two Councils. This allows the opportunity to bring in people with relevant experience and skills, to bring new ideas and challenges to maximise the effectiveness of the Trust across East Suffolk.

ESC appointments have now been made following a short recruitment campaign and I am delighted to advise Council we have appointed:

Professor Lynn Dicks, Professor of Ecology, Cambridge University Heather Broughton, current (retiring) board member of National Lottery Heritage Fund's Midlands and East Committee

SCC appointments:

Clare Matterson, Director General of the Royal Horticultural Society

Dr Zorzeta Bakaki, University of Essex, Dept of Government

The first meeting of the Trustees has taken place to prepare the formal submission to the Charity Commission.

-
Cabinet Members

-
Councillor Hammond referenced the Lowestoft Heritage Action Zone event which he recently attended. Acknowledgement was given to the Project Manager for their work on driving the project forward.

Councillor Whitlock highlighted the successful annual Community Partnership Forum which was held at Trinity Park on Friday 22 March 2024. It was attended by 200 delegates from 97 organisations including voluntary, faith, local government and community organisations.

The focus was on growing inequalities and there was a range of workshops. In addition there were 30 market stalls offering information on services provided in the district. Feedback received to date had been positive with 92% of respondents stating the

learnt something that would change the way they work. 100% of respondents states the event was useful overall.

Councillor Whitelock thanked the Communities, Democratic Services and Events teams along with the EELGA Trinity Park Events team for their work on organising and delivering the Forum.

Councillor Langdon-Morris updated that a Green Investment account with Barclays had been identified, which the Treasury Manager was comfortable met the required criteria. The modalities for the management of the fund were ongoing with upcoming meetings to finalise, before sharing with Members to agree the future management of the fund.

Councillor Smith-Lyte summarised her attendance at the Ipswich Ramadan Iftar at Ipswich Mosque, the hospitality was very generous, and it was a great event. Councillor Smith-Lyte thanked Councillor Candy for substituting her place on the Environmental Task Group for Councillor Noble.

Councillor Candy added that the Iftar event was excellent and there were interesting talks throughout.

Chief Executive

The Chief Executive announced the retirement of Strategic Director, Andrew Jarvis who would be leaving the East Suffolk Council during July 2024 after 40 years working in local government and 9 years with East Suffolk. The Strategic Director would continue to work in his role with East Suffolk Services Limited (ESSL). There would be a recruitment process, which would commence after the Easter break.

The Chief Executive announced that the Head of Planning and Coastal Management would be moving into the role of Head of Nationally Significant Infrastructure Planning on 1 April 2024. The recruitment for the Head of Planning and Coastal Management would also commence after the East Break.

The Chief Executive concluded his announcements to highlight the East Suffolk Council Staff Awards which took place on 26 March 2024 and shared the names of the award winners and congratulated all who were nominated.

5 Questions from the Public

Question from Michael Warren to Councillor Tom Daly, Cabinet Member with responsibility for Energy and Climate Change

A Council meeting was held on Wednesday 24th July 2019 during which a climate emergency was declared. Since that time nearly five years have passed, but from my observations of our environment in Norfolk, Suffolk, Essex and Cambridgeshire, little or nothing has changed. What, in our surroundings, would we have to observe to conclude that there was/is no emergency, and that the declaration can be withdrawn?

Response from Councillor Daly, Cabinet Member with responsibility for Energy and Climate Change

‘Thank you for this question with its local emphasis. Climate change is a multi-decade and global process where anecdotal observations within narrow timeframes and geographies could be unhelpful. That said though, from a local perspective, I would invite a view from the lane of the garden of Red Lodge in Thorpeness. So recently a large house, now a cliff edge. All predictors are of increasing coastal erosion as sea levels rise as SZC and all other coastal interests must now account for.

I spoke to a farmer last week who told me that heavy rain events that he would expect at most twice a year are now coming ten times a year. We all should know, to the cost of our communities, the heavy toll of flooding this winter with some still not able to access their homes. The weather and our climate is changing. The cause, the independent variable, is by huge scientific consensus, the carbon loading of our atmosphere. This crisis is already burning parts of our world. This is not going away.

East Suffolk Council declared a climate emergency as part of Local Authorities’ commitment across the country to address this challenge. The Climate Change Act commits the UK government by law to reducing greenhouse gas emissions by at least 80% compared to 1990 levels by 2050.

Local Authorities have a duty to help achieve this national target. Locally, East Suffolk Council and Suffolk as a whole has set a 2030 target to achieve net zero greenhouse gas emissions. We must play our part.

Many of the anticipated effects of climate change are already ‘baked-in’ due to the rapid release of greenhouse gases into the atmosphere since the industrial revolution, and positive feedback loops such as thawing tundra releasing carbon which thaws more tundra which releases more carbon. Impacts are predicted to be felt throughout the century and beyond nationally and internationally. Computer modelling is proving disturbingly accurate on this. Therefore, our climate may continue to be in an ‘emergency’ situation way beyond 2050.

May I also refer the constituent to the wider positive benefits from addressing the climate emergency. These include improving air and water quality, restoring our lost biodiversity, reducing reliance on finite fossil fuel reserves and improving energy security. Therefore, addressing the climate emergency is a sound use of public resources and funding in many different ways, beyond our duty to help meet the nation’s legally-binding target. There are multiplier benefits to changing the way we use and consume resources and our behaviours and making them more planet centred. This administration is absolutely committed to this.’

Question from Kate Stott (Member of Use Your Voice Lowestoft) to Councillor Caroline Topping, Leader of the Council

In light of the recent decision by East Suffolk Council to halt work on the Lowestoft tidal barrier, could the Council provide an update on how it sees this project being completed and by when?

In the meantime, how will ESC now respond to planning applications for new developments in areas at risk of flooding due to the lack of the barrier? In particular, given that potential purchasers are likely to be able to secure neither insurance nor mortgages for new properties in these areas.

Given the threat to future jobs and businesses in Lowestoft, what cost-benefit analysis has been done as regards not investing in a tidal barrier?

Response from Councillor Topping, Leader of the Council

Funding for flood defence schemes is awarded through the Environment Agency's Flood Defence Grant in Aid and on the basis of not securing the necessary funding from this or other sources within Central Government, East Suffolk Council had no choice but to halt the work. Conversations have continued with the Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and the Environment Agency in an attempt to secure this funding, and were this achieved, we would look to restart the project, with consideration for the impact caused by the delay and re-profiling of the project. However, we also have to be realistic and develop our plans based on the likelihood that this funding will not be forthcoming - which is, of course, something which no-one in this Chamber wanted.

In May 2023, while building the business case for the Barrier, the Council commissioned additional economic assessments of the scheme and the benefits to wider partners and government departments. It considered the 100 year economic benefit of the scheme which covered both the positives and negatives. The Council widely shared this prospectus in Summer 2023, including with the Environment Agency, other government departments and potential funders. And, together with the MP, we used this to lobby Central Government. We had hoped our discussions would lead to positive outcomes for the barrier project in either the Autumn Statement or Spring Budget given the wider benefits, but sadly this has not happened.

I would like to reassure residents and businesses that in the meantime 1.4km of temporary defences would be deployed along Lake Lothing in the event of a tidal surge. These will work in conjunction with the completed £28.8m Tidal Walls on Hamilton Road, Waveney Road, Station Square and along the South Pier, to provide better protection from the risk to tidal flooding to some of the most vulnerable areas of Lowestoft. This is already a significant improvement from the situation in 2013. And in the likelihood of this being the main additional form of defence into the future, we will continue to ensure that this deployment is well rehearsed and as effective as possible.

However, while the absence of funding for the Barrier is disappointing, it was one of many investments in the future of Lowestoft and we will not let this setback define the outlook for the Town. Lowestoft's flood protection is much better than it was in 2013 and there are other projects which highlight why Lowestoft has such a bright future. I know everyone in the Chamber recognises the importance of a thriving Lowestoft to East Suffolk. The Gullwing Bridge is nearing completion, there is visible investment in the Outer Harbour and 'Power Park' and the Towns Fund projects are progressing well. The Council is currently consulting on its Masterplan for Kirkley Waterfront, work on

the Jubilee Seafront is underway and both the Post Office project and the Town-Council led Town Hall project have recently passed significant milestones.

This Council will continue to work with residents, businesses and partners to promote Lowestoft, to invest in the Town and bring forward projects that will attract future jobs and businesses - creating a thriving economy for local people.

6 Questions from Members

Question from Councillor Amanda Folley to Councillor Toby Hammond, Cabinet Member with responsibility for Economic Development and Transport

As you will be aware, a parking review has recently been completed for Felixstowe. As we all appreciate, tourism is an important source of income for the town, and we want to encourage as many visitors to come here as possible. Is it now the intention of this Council to introduce parking charges along the length of Sea Road, and if that is so, what provision will we make for long-term parking around the town as we need to support the local economy?

Response from Councillor Toby Hammond, Cabinet Member with responsibility for Economic Development and Transport

'There is a strong connection between parking policy and the economic success of the high streets.

We are carrying out a series of town-by-town parking reviews to ensure that our on-street parking arrangement best supports the changing needs of our towns. As part of this process, we have carried out three meetings with Felixstowe town and district Councillors to understand what issues are currently presented by local parking regulations. To date there have been three meetings, most recently on 28 February 2024 East Suffolk Council presented a range of options to Felixstowe town and district Councillors to address some of the issues we'd been told about in previous sessions.

The option of paid on-street parking or time limited parking on Sea Road was presented as one possible approach to better regulate parking in that area. We discussed the advantages and disadvantages, and also suggested alternative approaches which were comprehensively discussed. There was not much support for chargeable parking on sea road at the meeting.

The next stage of this process is to agree which of these options East Suffolk Council and Felixstowe Town Council want to go out to public consultation on. No decisions have been made and the parking review is an ongoing process with opportunity for continued consultation. Once the two Councils have agreed jointly, what the correct approach is to support the town, its residents and its businesses, we will start the legal process to apply for changes to the Traffic Regulation Order (TRO).

Councillor Folley asked the following supplementary question:

The attendees were told that it was the final meeting and there would not be anymore opportunities to put forward concerns or points of view. Councillor Folley questioned how the consultation could continue if there were no more meetings to be arranged.

Councillor Hammond responded to state that Officers would be going back with some information regarding the recommendations which were drawn from what was discussed and this would be forthcoming in the next week.

There may not be another physical meeting, however it was not a unilateral process and was a to be a collaborative process working with Felixstowe Town Council and other stakeholders. Councillor Hammond reassured there would be opportunities to discuss the issues further.

7 Petitions

No petitions have been received as provided by paragraph 30.1 of the Council Procedure Rules.

8 Notices of Motion

Motion from Councillor Peter Byatt, to be seconded by Councillor Mike Deacon

This Council notes that:

1. It declared a Climate Emergency in July 2019 and a Biodiversity and Ecological Emergency in February 2024;
2. The Strategic Plan, Our Direction, includes the Environment as one of only four themes, promising several active programmes that should deliver positive climate, nature and environmental impact;
3. The budget confirmed vast sums of taxpayer money will be allocated to meet our aims, including the bulk of a new Reserve, The Strategic Plan Reserve, at £6 million and
4. A number of other Councils at town, District and County level in the UK that have also declared a Climate Emergency and Biodiversity Emergency have created new Committees to give this topic the weight and importance it deserves.

This Council resolves to:

1. Consider the establishment of a new Committee of Full Council, the Environment Committee, that would replace the Environmental Task Group. This Committee would advise Cabinet and Full Council on the policies, actions and resources required to deliver on our climate change and environmental ambitions and to provide progress on achieving agreed targets and outcomes that will include

- Continuing our commitment to net zero by 2030;
- Supporting sustainable transport;

- Restoring ecosystems and biodiversity;
- Supporting, promoting and implementing green tech;
- Working in partnership to manage coastal adaptation and resilience;
- Focusing on reduction, re-use and recycling of materials;
- Encouraging food self-sufficiency and
- Preserving and maintaining the District's beauty and heritage.

2. Request that the Constitution Review Working Group works out the detail of the Environment Committee, to be agreed by Full Council, such as its terms of reference, membership, how often it meets etc.

Councillor Byatt introduced the Motion and outlined that the Council had shown admirable foresight by declaring a climate emergency in July 2019 and a biodiversity and ecological emergency in February 2024.

The GLI group had established a new strategic plan 'Our Direction' which had the environment one of its four pivotal themes with significant funds allocated to deliver the programmes within 'Our Direction'

Councillor Byatt highlighted that other authorities had implemented committees to tackle environmental issues.

The new committee would serve as the beacon for delivering action on tackling environmental matters. The committee would have a much broader responsibility. The current Environmental Task Group (ETG) does not hold meeting in public, which would allow observers and did not currently have the breadth of influence a committee structure could.

The motion was seconded by Councillor Deacon who reserved his right to speak.

Councillor Jepson supported the motion and expressed his concern from recent Overview and Scrutiny meetings where a lack of strategic vision and direction was evident. Councillor Jepson echoed that Members wanted to see change.

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Topping outlined the Terms of Reference from the ETG and welcomed intention of the motion. Councillor Topping outlined that transparency was important to the administration, the agendas, and minutes from the ETG meetings were available for Members to access.

Councillor Topping advised that the group's terms of reference would be adjusted to allow members to attend and contribute to the meeting at the discretion of the Chair.

Councillor Hammond proposed an amendment to three parts of the motion

Under the 'Council notes that' the amendment would strike the word only from point two

It would read

2. The Strategic Plan, Our Direction, includes the Environment as one of four themes, promising several active programmes that should deliver positive climate, nature and environmental impact;

The second amendment would strike the words 'vast sums of taxpayers money' from point three and replace with the word 'funding'

It would read

3. The budget confirmed funding will be allocated to meet our aims, including the bulk of a new Reserve, The Strategic Plan Reserve, at £6 million and

The proposed amendment would see clause two of 'The Council resolves to' be removed.

Councillor Hammond talked to the rationale for the proposed amendments. The removal of clause two under 'This Council Resolves To' connected to governance model of operation at East Suffolk Council being a Leader and Cabinet one. Councillor Hammond summed up that the appropriate place for environmental policy decisions would be with Cabinet.

Councillor Deacon raised a point of order querying that the removal of clause two would negate the motion itself.

The Chair advised that as clause one stated 'to consider the establishment of' not 'to establish a new committee' it would it would not negate the motion to remove clause two.

The proposed amendment was seconded by Councillor Smith-Lyte who stated that the motion seemed a rhetorical one, the ETG was transparent and had recently appointed Councillor Gooch from the Labour group with a cross party approach. The group was inherited from the previous administration in its current form and changes could be made. Councillor Smith-Lyte stated the group was working through priorities and she would be taking recommendations to cabinet.

Councillor Rivett agreed with Councillor Deacon that removal of part two would fundamentally change the principle of motion and he would not support the amendment.

The Chair reiterated that the removal of clause two would not undermine the motion because the motion was asking Council to consider forming a committee.

After a considered debate across the chamber the proposed amendment to the motion was passed with 27 members voting in favour of the amendment and 19 against.

The amendment passed and became the substantive motion being debated by Full Council.

Councillor Deacon proposed a further amendment, seconded by Councillor Byatt. The amendment proposed under clause one of 'This council resolves to'

1, 'Establish a new committee.'

Councillor Byatt highlighted the importance of Full Council being able to have robust debate and felt strongly that a Committee was needed.

Councillor Jepson reiterated the concern regarding the strategic direction of the ETG in it's current form and stated he would be supporting the amendment.

Councillor Deacon summed up the debate for the amendment.

The amendment was put to a vote, 19 Members voted in favour, 27 opposed and the amendment did not pass

Full Council considered the substantive motion and Councillor Byatt summed up that Councillor Topping, in her inaugural speech in May 2023 stated 'this new Council was a great opportunity to establish a new way of doing things' and the intention of the motion was talking about a new way of doing things.

Councillor Byatt wanted to see transparency with environmental matters at the core. The environment was a concern of everyone.

The substantive motion as amended was put to a vote with 27 Members voting in favour and 19 against.

It was therefore

RESOLVED:

This Council notes that:

1. It declared a Climate Emergency in July 2019 and a Biodiversity and Ecological Emergency in February 2024;
2. The Strategic Plan, Our Direction, includes the Environment as one of four themes, promising several active programmes that should deliver positive climate, nature and environmental impact;
3. The budget confirmed funding will be allocated to meet our aims, including the bulk of a new Reserve, The Strategic Plan Reserve, at £6 million and
4. A number of other Councils at town, District and County level in the UK that have also declared a Climate Emergency and Biodiversity Emergency have created new Committees to give this topic the weight and importance it deserves.

This Council resolves to:

1. Consider the establishment of a new Committee of Full Council, the Environment Committee, that would replace the Environmental Task Group.

This Committee would advise Cabinet and Full Council on the policies, actions and resources required to deliver on our climate change and environmental ambitions and to provide progress on achieving agreed targets and outcomes that will include;

- Continuing our commitment to net zero by 2030;
- Supporting sustainable transport; - Restoring ecosystems and biodiversity;
- Supporting, promoting and implementing green tech;
- Working in partnership to manage coastal adaptation and resilience;
- Focusing on reduction, re-use and recycling of materials;
- Encouraging food self-sufficiency and
- Preserving and maintaining the District's beauty and heritage.

9 Review of East Suffolk's Model District Council on 9 February 2024, and recommendations to establish a permanent East Suffolk Youth Council

The Chair introduced the report which related to the Review of East Suffolk's Model District Council (MDC) on 9 February 2024, and recommendations to establish a permanent East Suffolk Youth Council.

Councillor Speca stated that Councillors would have been aware of MDC which took place on 9 February with 53 students attending the Riverside Officers to play the role of Councillors for a day. The Chair offered his thanks to the Monitoring Officer for the report presented, and Democratic Services and Communities Teams for their work on the project to date.

An outcome of the day was to put forward consideration to establish a Youth Council. There would be no budgetary impact with funding coming from the Civic Budget to support the implementation of a new Youth Council for East Suffolk.

The Youth Council could not have the same legal processes as Full Council, however Councillor Speca would be working to ensure there was a mechanism for the work of the Youth Council to be heard at Full Council.

Councillor Speca moved the recommendations which were seconded by Councillor Whitelock and Councillor Byatt.

Councillor Whitelock stated that future lies in hand of young people and it was important they understand democratic process. Councillor Byatt added that it was a brilliant event and he looked forward to seeing the development of a Youth Council.

Councillor Ashdown recalled there was a Youth Council with Waveney District Council which worked well. Councillor Ashdown remembered the work of Councillor Mortimer working with the Youth Council at the time. The youth council used to provide updates to Full Council. Councillor Ashdown supported the recommendations.

Councillor Gandy supported the paper and raised that it would be helpful to look at lessons learned from previous versions of local youth councils.

Councillor Speca confirmed that the Waveney Youth Council continues to exist and there would be a plan to expand it to cover the south of the district and it was

important to build in effective lines of communication between the Youth Council and East Suffolk Council.

Councillor Smithson queried if there would be connection with Suffolk Youth Parliament.

Councillor Specca responded there was a wider context, which would consider connections to Suffolk Youth Parliament and there was a likelihood that some of the young people who become involved would participate in both.

The Leader, Councillor Topping stated that the day was brilliant and recognised the importance of engaging young people in local government, voting, and providing opportunities for them to understand the work of the Council. Councillor Topping supported the recommendations.

Councillor Gooch endorsed Councillor Topping and commended the design of the participant guides which were produced for the MDC. With a great deal of voter apathy during difficult circumstances for people both nationally and internationally increasing voter turnout and engagement was needed. Councillor Gooch stated she would love to be involved and commented on the poor delivery of political education.

Councillor Bennett discussed the use of technology in the voting process from registration to physically voting and was interested to see how young people would feel about the modernisation of voting when currently it is done with paper and pencil.

Councillor King commented that voter turnout was 47% for the youngest demographic in the 2019 and over 65s was 74%. Councillor King stated the work being done was brilliant. Councillor King queried if the Youth Council would be able to push for motions to Full Council which could be voted on, and if there would be a link to support young people to register to vote in the packs.

Councillor Specca took the second question as an excellent recommendation to carry forward.

Regarding the connection to Full Council, Councillor Specca favoured a robust connection within the legal parameters available in the Local Government Act 2000. There was a mechanism for the public to participate, one of which could be deputation. With agreement, there could be a change to the constitution to include petitions being a way for the Youth Council to engage.

Councillor Langdon-Morris said he recently attended a local school and observed that the young people there did not seem aware of government structure and operation. There was an opportunity for young people to shadow Councillors, which would be something to consider in the future, if possible.

Councillor Grey very much aligned with what had been said and seconded Councillor King in supporting the youth council to feed back and there was a lot that would be done within boundaries of creativity, drawing experience from his previous work with NATO.

Councillor Plummer had a young person shadow her for a week's work experience and recommended this opportunity.

Councillor Speca was heartened to hear the support of members in the chamber and the ideas present.

On the proposition of Councillor Speca seconded by Councillor Whitelock it was unanimously

RESOLVED

That Full Council

1. Welcomes and acknowledges the motion unanimously passed by youth participants in the Model District Council of 9 February 2024, calling on East Suffolk Council to establish a permanent East Suffolk Youth Council for youth at secondary-school, and further to establish lines of communication and exchange between the East Suffolk Youth Council and East Suffolk Council.

2. Establishes a permanent East Suffolk Youth Council as soon as practicably possible.

3. Delegates to the Head of Legal and Democratic Services the authority, in consultation with the Chair of East Suffolk Council, the Constitution Review Working Group and in partnership with the Head of Communities and Leisure, to develop and implement plans for a permanent East Suffolk Youth Council.

10 Cabinet Members' Report and Outside Bodies Representatives' Reports to Council

Full Council received report ES/1904, which was presented by Councillor Topping, the Leader of the Council, and provided individual Cabinet Members' reports on their areas of responsibility, as well as reports from those Members appointed to represent East Suffolk Council on Outside Bodies. The Leader stated that the written reports could be taken as read and he invited relevant questions on their contents.

Clerk's Note: After the meeting, an error was noticed in the figures used within the Housing Needs update, in relation to the number of successful prevention and relief cases. In the report, it stated: *"Since April 2023 we have been able to prevent 513 households from becoming homeless and an additional 517 where homelessness has been relieved. This is an average of 103 cases per month with a positive outcome"*. The error was that this was the number of cases where we had accepted either a 'Prevention' or 'Relief' Duty. The correct sentence should read: "Since April 2023 we have been able to prevent 285 households from becoming homeless and an additional 150 where homelessness has been relieved. This is an average of 36 cases per month with a positive outcome." This is a total of 435 successful outcomes. For comparison, last year it was 469.

Councillor Deacon asked a question to Councillor Topping relating to page two of the report and asked if the Leader could expand on the paragraph which stated: 'providing advice on contracts for Felixstowe Socio-Economic Analysis and Land Use Strategy' and

outline who was undertaking the analysis and strategy, on whose behalf and why.

Councillor Topping responded that she would find out the answer to the question and feedback.

Councillor Jepson referenced the section on housing needs, and asked if Councillor Beavan could expand on the context of the figures provided in 4th paragraph relating to how the council had prevented 513 households from becoming homeless.

Councillor Beavan responded that the team were working hard with small recourses. It was especially challenging when people have to move out of their area. There was a recognised need to up the numbers of local temporary housing options and Councillor Beavan was hoping to bring something Cabinet in the coming months.

Councillor Jepson stated he would like more context about what the housing team are doing to prevent people from being homeless.

Councillor Beavan responded that there was the prevent and relief duty and summarised both.

Councillor Jepson would continue the discussion outside of the meeting.

Councillor Ashdown referenced the upcoming conclusion of Lowestoft Rising and queried if the Council was going to recognise the excellent work that Phil Aves had done working in the Lowestoft area.

Councillor Whitelock commented that Phil Aves name comes up in many forums, his work and contribution would be recognised and he would be missed. Councillor Whitelock assured colleagues that the Lowestoft Place Board, The Waveney Health and Wellbeing Partnership Board and Lowestoft and other Villages Community Partnership were all in place and would provide ongoing work to deliver the aims of Lowestoft rising.

Councillor Folley referenced the Safer Suffolk renters conference on page 68 of the report and asked if there were the right delegates in attendance and were there any solutions identified during the day.

Councillor Beavan responded that there are continued discussions with responsible landlords who want to the right thing by their tenants, and Councillor Folley was likely correct in the more 'rogue' landlords not attending the Conference. Councillor Beavan requested Members to continue to email him directly with concerns.

Councillor Gooch asked a question relating to paragraph three of page 67 of the report concerning housing and temporary accommodation. The report stated that there was 132 households in temporary accommodation and 24 placed under the Rough Sleeping

Initiative. Of those currently under a statutory placement, 85 households are families with dependent children and 47 are single households.

Councillor Gooch drew light to BBC Radio 4 programme which highlighted the mental health issues effecting young people who are living in temporary accommodation. Councillor Gooch questioned what the Council was doing to support the mental health of children in temporary accommodation.

Councillor Beavan responded that parties and all politicians had failed on housing and continued to recognise the need cross party support; the hot house was still planned to discuss housing needs further. Councillor Beavan stated he would speak with the Housing Needs Team and find out what was in place to support young people's mental health.

Councillor Byatt referenced the new Procurement Strategy and queried if there was a means to measure social value, which should be embedded across council activities.

Councillor Langdon-Morris responded to state he would get back to Councillor Byatt.

The meeting concluded at 8:36pm

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Chair



Committee	Full Council
Date	22/05/2024
Subject	Political Balance and allocation of seats on Committees 2024/25
Cabinet Member	Councillor Caroline Topping Leader of the Council
Report Author(s)	Lorraine Fitch Democratic Services Manager Lorraine.fitch@east Suffolk.gov.uk
Head of Service	Chris Bing Head of Legal and Democratic Services and Monitoring Officer Chris.bing@east Suffolk.gov.uk
Director	Kate Blakemore Strategic Director Kate.blakemore@east Suffolk.gov.uk

Key Decision?	No
Is the report Open or Exempt?	OPEN

Category of Exempt Information and reason why it is NOT in the public interest to disclose the exempt information.	Not applicable
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Purpose/Summary

Membership of the Committees of East Suffolk Council is determined under the terms of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 and the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990.

Those provisions require the Authority to review the representation of political groups and individuals on the Committees, Sub-Committees, and other appropriate bodies to ensure that the seats on Committees are allocated by Group Leaders in proportion to the political groups' membership of the Council.

This report contains recommendations on the allocation of seats on the Council's Committees and Sub-Committees, reviewed to reflect the Council's political balance. The number of Green Members on the Council is 16, there are 15 Conservative Members, 12 Labour Members, 11 Liberal Democrat Members and 1 Independent Member.

The Green, Liberal Democrat and Independent Members have formed a coalition, called the GLI.

There are currently no vacancies on the Council.

Recommendation(s)

That Full Council approves:

1. That, with effect from 22 May 2024, in order to meet statutory requirements, seats on Committees and Sub-Committees of the Council be allocated in accordance with the contents of this report and Appendix A.
2. That the Leader be granted Delegated Authority to make any necessary changes to the membership of the Committees for the remainder of the 2024/25 Municipal Year, in consultation with the other Group Leaders.

Strategic plan

How does this proposal support Our Direction 2028?

Environmental Impact	Delivering positive climate, nature and environmental impacts through the decisions we make and actions we take.
Sustainable Housing	All homes in East Suffolk are safe, suitable and sustainable, in communities where residents are proud to live.
Tackling Inequalities	Improving quality of life across the district by tackling financial, social and health inequalities.
Thriving Economy	Enabling residents to benefit from, and contribute to, a thriving economy.

**Our Foundations /
governance of the
organisation**

Membership of Committees of East Suffolk Council is determined under the terms of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 and the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990. The Regulations require that the total number of seats for each group equates to the number of places on each Committee to which political balance requirements apply.

Appointment to these bodies gives Members an opportunity to carry out their community leadership role and enables cross party views to be given on specific issues which is healthy for democracy and good decision-making.

Justification for recommendations

1. Background

- 1.1 Membership of Committees of East Suffolk Council is determined under the terms of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 and the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990.

Those provisions require the Council to review the representation of political groups and individuals on Committees, Sub-Committees, and other appropriate bodies in order to ensure that:

- (1) No single political group has all seats on a Committee.
- (2) The majority of seats on a Committee is allocated to the majority political group.
- (3) The total number of seats on a Council's Committee is allocated in proportion to political groups' membership of the Council.
- (4) The seats on Committees are allocated in proportion to the political groups' membership of the Council.

- 1.2 This report contains recommendations on the allocation of seats on the Council's Committees and Sub-Committees. There are 55 Council seats in total, on the Council.

- 1.3 The Green, Liberal Democrat and Independent Councillors have formed a Group, which is known as the GLI.

2. Introduction

2.1 THE COUNCIL'S DEMOCRATIC STRUCTURE

Cabinet

The Full Council appoints the Leader of the Council for a four year term of office and it then rests for the newly appointed Leader to appoint his / her Cabinet, including the Deputy Leader.

The Cabinet (including the Deputy Leader) can be comprised of up to 10 Members and is exempt from the political proportionality rules under the Local Government Act 2000. It does not therefore form part of the Council's Committees. The Leader will determine the nature of the different portfolios that the Cabinet Members will be responsible for.

Audit and Governance Committee

The Audit and Governance Committee is comprised of 9 Members and the political proportionality rules apply.

Members of the Cabinet are not able to sit on the Audit and Governance Committee.

Overview and Scrutiny Committee

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee is comprised of 13 Members and the political proportionality rules apply.

Scrutiny activity is undertaken by one Committee. The Committee will carry out detailed reviews, policy development and may call-in Cabinet decisions. It may appoint task and finish groups, which will be established for a specific purpose and be time bound. It may also undertake joint reviews or those involving the Council's partners.

Members of the Cabinet are not able to sit on the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

Planning Committee (North)

The Planning Committee has 9 seats, which are allocated on a politically proportionate basis. This Committee considers planning applications which relate to the North of the District.

All Members and Substitute Members are required to have undertaken recent and relevant training on planning matters before they are able to serve on this Committee or instigate the Call-in process for planning applications.

All Members of the Planning Committee (North) also sit on the Strategic Planning Committee, along with the Members of the Planning Committee (South) and they provide high level, strategic direction regarding planning matters.

Planning Committee (South)

The Planning Committee has 9 seats, which are allocated on a politically proportionate basis. This Committee considers planning applications which relate to the South of the District.

All Members and Substitute Members are required to have undertaken recent and relevant training on planning matters before they are able to serve on this Committee or instigate the Call-in process for planning applications.

All Members of the Planning Committee (South) also sit on the Strategic Planning Committee, along with the Members of the Planning Committee (North) and they provide high level, strategic direction regarding planning matters.

Strategic Planning Committee

As the Strategic Planning Committee is made up of the Members of the North and South Planning Committees and the Cabinet Member who is the Portfolio Holder for Planning, the seats on the Strategic Planning Committee have not been included in the total number of Committee seats, below.

Licensing

The Licensing Committee is comprised of 15 seats.

The size of the Committee reflects both the statutory licensing responsibilities and the need to appoint Members to Licensing Sub-Committees (3 Members plus one Substitute) and to hear licensing appeals. All Members serving on the Licensing Committee are required to have received appropriate training before they undertake their role on the main Committee or serve on a Licensing Sub-Committee given their quasi-judicial nature.

Appointments Committee

The Appointments Committee has three seats.

The Committee must comprise the Leader (or Deputy Leader in their absence).

The Appointments Committee is politically balanced.

The purpose of the Committee is to appoint the Heads of Service for the Council. The Committee can also consider the dismissal of the Head of Paid Service, Monitoring Officer and Chief Finance Officer.

2.2 The Regulations require that the total number of seats for each group equates to the number of places on each Committee to which political balance requirements apply.

Under the Council's current structure, there are 58 seats available on Committees to which the Regulations will apply:

- Audit and Governance Committee: 9 seats
- Licensing Committee: 15 seats
- Planning Committee (North): 9 seats
- Planning Committee (South): 9 seats
- Scrutiny Committee: 13 seats
- Appointments Committee: 3 seats

3. Proposal

3.1

	Seats	GLI	Conservative	Labour
Current Seats as at May 2024 number of Councillors - 55	55	28	15	12
Distribution of the 58 Committee placings	58	32	14	12
	Number of places	GLI	Conservative	Labour
Audit & Governance Committee	9	5	2	2
Licensing Committee	15	8	4	3
Planning Committee North	9	5	2	2
Planning Committee South	9	5	2	2
Overview & Scrutiny Committee	13	7	3	3
Appointments Committee	3	2	1	0

3.2 It is proposed that the allocation of Committee places to the different political groups be allocated, as above.

4. Financial Implications

4.1 Councillors can claim expenses for attending Council meetings which will be met from within the Council's agreed Scheme of Members' Allowances. In addition, positions such as Chairmen of Committees are awarded a Special Responsibility Allowance recognising the additional responsibilities that these positions have.

5. Legal Implications

5.1 Membership of the Committees and Sub-Committees of East Suffolk Council is determined under the terms of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 and the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990. Specific legislation applies to the regulatory committees that exercise quasi-judicial powers and separate legislation is in place for the Cabinet.

6. Risk Implications

6.1 Not appointing Councillors to the Committees. This is not an option, as the Council needs to appoint to its Committees and Sub-Committees in order to carry out its business effectively.

7. Options

7.1 None. The Council needs to appoint to its Committees and Sub-Committees to carry out its business effectively. Appointment to these bodies gives Members an opportunity to carry out their community leadership role and enables cross party views to be given on specific issues which is healthy for democracy and good decision-making.

8. Recommendations

- a) That, with effect from 22 May 2024, in order to meet statutory requirements, seats on Committees and Sub-Committees of the Council be allocated in accordance with the contents of this report and Appendix A.
- b) That the Leader be granted Delegated Authority to make any necessary changes to the membership of the Committees for the remainder of the 2024/25 Municipal Year, in consultation with the other Group Leaders.

9. Reasons for Recommendations

- 9.1 To ensure that Members are appointed to Committees for the 2023/24 Municipal Year in accordance with the political proportionality rules and that decision-making is undertaken in a democratic way.

10. Conclusions/Next Steps

- 10.1 That the appointments to Committees be approved as per Appendix A to this report.

Areas of consideration comments

Section 151 Officer comments:

Councillors can claim expenses for attending Council meetings which will be met from within the Council’s agreed Scheme of Members’ Allowances. In addition, positions such as Chairmen of Committees are awarded a Special Responsibility Allowance recognising the additional responsibilities that these positions have.

Monitoring Officer comments:

Membership of the Committees and Sub-Committees of East Suffolk Council is determined under the terms of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 and the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990. Specific legislation applies to the regulatory committees that exercise quasi-judicial powers and separate legislation is in place for the Cabinet.

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion/EQIA:

Appointments to Committees enable Members to carry out their community leadership role and in considering the issues before them, help build a stronger, healthier, and just society.

The decision to constitute and appoint to Committees will not in itself lead to the tackling of inequality, disadvantage, and discrimination (particularly for the most vulnerable), but it will provide the framework for those issues to be addressed when making decisions or reviewing policies / services.

Safeguarding:

Not applicable

Crime and Disorder:

Not applicable

Corporate Services implications:

Not applicable

Residents and Businesses consultation/consideration:

External consultation is not required. The Leaders of the Political Groups were asked to nominate the members of the Council whom they wish to see occupy certain seats.

Appendices:

Appendix A	The nominations from the Group Leaders for the allocation of Members to each Committee – appendix to follow
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Background reference papers:

None.



COMMITTEE ALLOCATIONS FOR 2024/25

including the Cabinet and Assistant Cabinet Members and Community Partnership Chairs

<p>Audit and Governance Committee (9 Members)</p>	<p>GLI (5 seats) Cllr Owen Grey (LD) (Chair) Cllr Stephen Molyneux (G) (Vice Chair) Cllr Lee Reeves (LD) Cllr Anthony Speca (G) Cllr Ed Thompson (LD)</p>	<p>Conservative (2 seats) Cllr Edward Back Cllr Geoff Lynch</p>	<p>Labour (2 seats) Cllr Tess Gandy Cllr George King</p>
<p>Licensing Committee (15 Members)</p>	<p>GLI (8 seats) Cllr Tim Wilson (G) (Chair) Cllr John Fisher (I) Cllr Vince Langdon-Morris (G) Cllr Sarah Plummer (G) Cllr Lee Reeves (LD) Cllr Rachel Smith-Lyte (G) Cllr Ed Thompson (LD) Cllr Caroline Topping (G)</p>	<p>Conservative (4 seats) Cllr Deborah Dean Cllr Colin Hedgley Cllr Mark Jepson Cllr Keith Robinson</p>	<p>Labour (3 seats) Cllr Keith Patience (Vice Chair) Cllr Janet Craig Cllr Alan Green</p> <p>Note: Cllr Alan Green will be replaced by Cllr Amanda Folley on 1 July 2024</p>

Updated 20 May 2024

Planning Committee (North) (9 Members)	GLI (5 seats) Cllr Sarah Plummer (G) (Chair) Cllr Julia Ewart (LD) (Vice Chair) Cllr Paul Ashton (LD) Cllr Katie Graham (G) Cllr Geoff Wakeling (G)	Conservative (2 seats) Cllr Paul Ashdown Cllr Andree Gee	Labour (2 seats) Cllr Graham Parker Cllr Malcolm Pitchers
Planning Committee (South) (9 Members)	GLI (5 seats) Cllr Mark Packard (LD) (Chair) Cllr John Fisher (I) (Vice Chair) Cllr Tom Daly (G) Cllr Seamus Bennett (LD) Cllr Mike Ninnmey (LD)	Conservative (2 seats) Cllr Colin Hedgley Cllr Debbie McCallum	Labour (2 seats) Cllr Mike Deacon Cllr Rosie Smithson
Overview & Scrutiny Committee (13 Members)	GLI (7 seats) Cllr Dan Clery (G) (Vice Chair) Cllr Seamus Bennett (LD) Cllr Stephen Molyneux (G) Cllr Mike Ninnmey (LD) Cllr Sarah Plummer (G) Cllr Ed Thompson (LD) 1 vacancy	Conservative (3 seats) Cllr Edward Back Cllr Mark Jepson Cllr Geoff Lynch	Labour (3 seats) Cllr Mike Deacon (Chair) Cllr Amanda Cllr Louise Gooch Note: Cllr Amanda Folley will be replaced by Cllr Alan Green on 1 July 2024
Appointments Committee (3 Members)	Administration (2 seats) Cllr Caroline Topping (Leader) and the relevant Cabinet Member	Opposition (1 seat) Cllr Jepson, Leader of the Conservative Group	Labour (0 seats)

Updated 20 May 2024

The Cabinet and Assistant Cabinet Members

Cabinet Members	Assistant Cabinet Members
Cllr Caroline Topping – Leader of the Council	
Cllr David Beavan – Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member with responsibility for Housing	
Cllr Tom Daly – Cabinet Member with responsibility for Energy and Climate Change	
Cllr Toby Hammond – Cabinet with responsibility for Economic Development and Transport	Cllr Dan Clery
Cllr Sarah Whitelock – Cabinet Member with responsibility for Communities, Culture, Leisure and Tourism	Cllr Katie Graham
Cllr Jan Candy – Cabinet Member with responsibility for Community Health	Cllr Lee Reeves
Cllr Paul Ashton – Cabinet Member with responsibility for Corporate Services – Digital, Customer Services, HR and Assets	
Cllr Kay Yule – Cabinet Member with responsibility for Planning and Coastal Management	Cllr Stephen Molyneux
Cllr Vince Langdon-Morris – Cabinet Member with responsibility for Resources and Value for Money	Cllr Tim Wilson
Cllr Sally Noble – Cabinet Member with responsibility for the Environment	Cllr Rachel Smith-Lyte

Heritage Champion – Councillor Caroline Topping, Leader of the Council

Armed Forces Champion – Councillor Lee Reeves, Assistant Cabinet Member for Community Health

Chair	Community Partnership
Councillor Katie Graham	Aldeburgh, Leiston, Saxmundham and villages Community Partnership
Councillor Sheryl Rumble	Beccles, Bungay, Halesworth and villages Community Partnership
Councillor Alan Green	Carlton Colville, Kessingland, Southwold and villages Community Partnership
Councillor Rosie Smithson	Felixstowe Peninsula Community Partnership
Councillor Sally Noble	Framlingham, Wickham Market, Kelsale, Yoxford and villages Community Partnership
Councillor Ed Thompson	Kesgrave, Rushmere St Andrew, Martlesham, Carlford and Fynn Valley Community Partnership
Councillor Paul Ashdown	Lowestoft and norther parishes Community Partnership
Councillor Stephen Molyneux	Melton, Woodbridge and Deben Peninsula Community Partnership

Updated 20 May 2024



Committee	Full Council
Date	22/05/2024
Subject	Appointments to Working Groups for 2024/25
Cabinet Member	Councillor Caroline Topping Leader of the Council
Report Author(s)	Lorraine Fitch Democratic Services Manager Lorraine.fitch@eastsoffolk.gov.uk
Head of Service	Chris Bing Head of Legal and Democratic Services and Monitoring Officer Chris.bing@eastsoffolk.gov.uk
Director	Kate Blakemore Strategic Director Kate.blakemore@eastsoffolk.gov.uk

Key Decision?	No
Is the report Open or Exempt?	OPEN

Category of Exempt Information and reason why it is NOT in the public interest to disclose the exempt information.	Not applicable
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Purpose/Summary

Council is asked to consider Appointments to Working Groups for the 2024/25 Municipal Year, as outlined at Appendix A of this report.

Members are also asked to approve the creation of and the appointments to a new Working Group – the Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects Working Group.

Members are also asked to appoint to the Cycling, Walking and Wheeling Working Group.

Recommendation(s)

1. That Members agree to the creation of, and appointments, to the Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects Working Group and the Cycling, Walking and Wheeling Working Group and note the Terms of Reference at Appendix A.
2. That the membership of Working Groups for the 2024/25 Municipal Year, as agreed by the Political Group Leaders and detailed at Appendix A, be appointed.
3. That the Leader of the Council be granted Delegated Authority to make any necessary changes to the membership of the Working Groups for the remainder of the 2024/2 Municipal Year, in consultation with the other Group Leaders.

Strategic plan

How does this proposal support Our Direction 2028?

Environmental Impact	Delivering positive climate, nature and environmental impacts through the decisions we make and actions we take.
Sustainable Housing	All homes in East Suffolk are safe, suitable and sustainable, in communities where residents are proud to live.
Tackling Inequalities	Improving quality of life across the district by tackling financial, social and health inequalities.
Thriving Economy	Enabling residents to benefit from, and contribute to, a thriving economy.
Our Foundations / governance of the organisation	Appointment to Working Groups enables more in-depth consideration to be given to specific issues. Reviewing Councillor representation on Working Groups ensures that they remain relevant and fit for purpose and allows back bench Councillors to concentrate on their community leadership roles within their own Wards.

Justification for recommendations

1. Background

The Council appoints to Working Groups each year as part of its corporate governance framework and in support of the democratic process and decision-making arrangements.

2. Introduction

- 2.1. Members were last appointed to Working Groups in 2023/24 by Full Council at its Annual meeting in May 2023.
- 2.2. The Council currently has the following Working Groups that it appoints to on an annual basis:
 - The Local Plan Working Group
 - The Member Development Steering Group

3. Proposal

- 3.1. In addition to the 2 Working Groups above, it is proposed that Members be appointed to 2 additional Working Groups.
- 3.2. The East Suffolk District currently has a number of nationally significant infrastructure projects and several more are planned. It is therefore proposed that an additional Working Group be created to have oversight and understanding of these projects, and to provide their views and comments to help inform the Cabinet Member for Energy and Climate Change's position on these projects which individually and cumulatively have a potentially significant impact on our area and communities. The new Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project Working Group will contain 12 Members. It will meet 6 times per year and will be led and supported by Philip Ridley, Head of Nationally Significant Infrastructure Planning. The draft terms of reference for this Working Group, which will be considered at its first meeting are attached at Appendix A.
- 3.3. It is also proposed that the Cycling, Walking and Wheeling Working Group be appointed to, which has the overarching purpose of promoting active travel ie cycling, walking and wheeling, throughout East Suffolk. The Working Group will help facilitate the delivery of the East Suffolk Cycling and Walking Strategy and to promote modal shift.
- 3.4. Taking account of all information provided within the report, Members are asked to consider and agree the appointments to the 4 Working Groups contained in Appendix A.

4. Financial Implications

- 4.1 Those Councillors formally appointed to the Council's Working Groups are able to claim travel expenses in accordance with the Members Allowance Scheme. These costs can be met from existing resources.

5. Legal Implications

- 4.1 None.

6. Risk Implications

- 6.1 Risk Implications will be mitigated by Councillors being appointed to these Working Groups, as Councillors are able to examine matters in great depth and have local input at an early stage of the process.
- 7. Options**
- 7.1 Appointing Councillors to Working Groups. Working Groups are set up to examine specific issues in-depth prior to recommendations being put forward to the relevant decision-making body.
- 7.2 Not appointing Councillors to Working Groups. Should the Council decide not to appoint to the Working Groups, then the opportunity for more in-depth consideration of issues could be lost.
- 8. Recommendations**
- That Members agree to the creation of, and appointment to, the Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects Working Group and the Cycling, Walking and Wheeling Working Group and note the Terms of Reference at Appendix A.
 - That the membership of Working Groups for the 2024/25 Municipal Year, as agreed by the Political Group Leaders and detailed at Appendix A, be appointed.
 - That the Leader of the Council be granted Delegated Authority to make any necessary changes to the membership of the Working Groups for the remainder of the 2024/25 Municipal Year, in consultation with the other Group Leaders.
- 9. Reasons for Recommendations**
- 9.1 To ensure that Members are appointed to Working Groups for 2024/25.
- 10. Conclusions/Next Steps**
- 10.1 That the appointments to the Working Groups be approved as per Appendix A to this report.

Areas of consideration comments

Section 151 Officer comments:

Those Councillors formally appointed to the Council’s Working Groups as the Council’s representative are able to claim travel expenses in accordance with the Members’ Allowance Scheme. These costs can be met from existing resources.

Monitoring Officer comments:

The process of Council approving appointments to Working Groups, where the role relates to a Non-Executive function of the Council, adheres to the requirements of the Council’s Constitution.

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion/EQIA:

Not applicable

Safeguarding:

Not applicable

Crime and Disorder:

Not applicable

Corporate Services implications:

Not applicable

Residents and Businesses consultation/consideration:

Not applicable

Appendices:

Appendix A	Proposed list of appointments to Working Groups for 2024/25 – appendix to follow
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Background reference papers:

None



APPOINTMENTS TO WORKING GROUPS 2024/25

1. NSIP Energy Projects Working Group

Terms of Reference:

Over-arching role: To act in an advisory/consultative capacity to the Cabinet Member for Energy and Climate Change (as appropriate) through him/her to Cabinet/Full Council.

- To work with officers to provide
 - An overview of the NSIP Energy projects in and affecting East Suffolk
 - To consider the impacts of individual projects on the communities of East Suffolk to inform the submission to formal and informal consultations and to advise the Cabinet Member on possible positions and responses through Examinations.
 - Advise and inform on the delivery of consented NSIP Energy projects and reporting through the associated governance, the mitigation and compensation aspects of each project, to ensure the impacts can be fully considered and reported. This includes appropriate updates on spending grants and delivery of associated mitigation as well as receipt of funds for the council to implement its work requirements.
 - Provide a steer for engaging with national government to ensure there is genuine joined up coordination of all the NSIP Energy Projects affecting East Suffolk
- To scrutinise and advise on the preparation of submission documents and other documents where appropriate to ensure they best promote East Suffolk's position.
- To feed in local knowledge and information to inform the preparation of Local Impact Reports, Relevant Representations submissions and other documents associated with the DCO process where relevant and necessary.
- To consider the findings of evidence base documents (such as a cumulative Tourism Study) to help inform the preparation of documents and submissions.
- To consider representations made to consultation documents (where time allows) and recommend amendments for approval by Cabinet or Full Council, as appropriate.

- To provide views, via the Cabinet Member for Energy and Climate Change into any local authority joint working on NSIP energy projects that have a wider impact than just East Suffolk.
- To act as the focal point for knowledge and information about NSIP Energy projects and related documents both for members and the community at large.

The Working Group will meet bi-monthly on an on-going basis, subject to there being the necessary business.

Additional meetings can be arranged, if necessary, with the agreement of the Chair.

Vice Chair to be elected at the first NSIP Energy Projects Working Group meeting of the municipal year.

Other members can be invited at the discretion of the Chair of the Working Group.

Membership – 12

Cabinet Member with responsibility for Energy and Climate Change (Chair)

Councillor Tom Daly

2 x Relevant Cabinet Members

Councillor Paul Ashton
Councillor Katie Graham

2 x Forum Reps and/or affected Wards

Councillor Sarah Whitelock
Councillor Sally Noble

2 x Chair of Planning Committees (Vice-Chair to substitute if necessary)

Chair of Planning Committee North –
Councillor Sarah Plummer (Vice-Chair –
Councillor Julia Ewart – she is on this working group in her own right)

Chair of Planning Committee South –
Councillor Mark Packard (Vice-Chair –
Councillor John Fisher)

5 x Other Ward Cllrs

Councillor Mike Deacon
Councillor Peter Byatt
Councillor David Beavan
Councillor Julia Ewart
Councillor John Fisher

2. Local Plan Working Group

Terms of Reference:

Over-arching role: To act in an advisory/consultative capacity to the Cabinet Member for Planning and Coastal Management and (as appropriate) through him/her to Cabinet/Full Council.

- To work with officers to prepare and review Local Plan documents and related documents, such as Supplementary Planning Documents, Development Briefs, the Statement of Community Involvement, Local Development Scheme, the Authority Monitoring Report and Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Charging Schedule, and on Conservation Area designation, appraisal and review and other planning related guidance documents as appropriate.
- To scrutinise the preparation of Local Plan documents and other documents to ensure they comply with all the regulatory requirements.
- To feed in local knowledge and information to inform the preparation of Local Plan documents and other documents.
- To consider the findings of evidence base documents to inform the preparation of documents.
- To work with officers to agree and publish consultation papers and other draft documents on which to consult the community and other stakeholders.
- To work with officers to determine the appropriate consultation methods at specific plan/document making stages, taking into account the Council's Statement of Community Involvement and resources.
- To consider representations made to documents and recommend amendments for approval by Cabinet or Full Council, as appropriate.
- To provide views, via the Cabinet Member for Planning and Coastal Management, into any Board(s) overseeing local authority joint working on Local Plans and related documents.
- In preparing Local Plans and other related documents, take into account the wider strategic planning issues and collaboration with other local authorities.
- To act in an advisory capacity for any other relevant issues relating to the preparation of Local Plan and other documents.
- To act as a focal point for knowledge and information about the Local Plan and related documents both for members and the community at large.
- To work with officers on Conservation Area designation, appraisal and review including advising on proposals for the commencement of designation/appraisal/review; working with officers to agree and publish draft documents for public consultation; and considering representations made to the draft documents and any appropriate amendments, for provision to the Strategic Planning Committee for approval.
- To work with officers on the creation and review of Article 4 Directions.

To receive progress updates on the preparation of Neighbourhood Plans and other projects, as relevant.

The Working Group will meet monthly on an on-going basis, subject to there being the necessary business.

Additional meetings can be arranged if necessary, with the agreement of the Chair.

Vice Chair to be elected at the first Local Plan Working Group meeting of the municipal year.

No substitutes other than Vice Chairs of the North and South Planning Committees, where necessary. Other members can be invited at the discretion of the Chair of the Working Group.

The Working Group maintains a standing invitation to the Cabinet Member and relevant officers responsible for the Great Yarmouth, Ipswich, and Babergh & Mid Suffolk Local Plans in the interests of strategic planning issues of a cross boundary nature, when necessary. Other local authority representatives, neighbourhood plan groups and organisations may also be invited as and when appropriate, with the agreement of the Chairman.

Membership – 12

Cabinet Member with responsibility for Planning and Coastal Management (Chair)

Councillor Kay Yule

2 x Relevant Cabinet Members

Councillor David Beavan, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member with responsibility for Housing

Councillor Toby Hammond, Cabinet Member with responsibility for Economic Development and Transport

Assistant Cabinet Member with responsibility for the Planning and Coastal Management

Councillor Stephen Molyneux

2 x Chairs of Planning Committees (Vice-Chairman to substitute if necessary)

Chair of Planning Committee North – Councillor Sarah Plummer (Vice-Chair – Councillor Julia Ewart)

Chair of Planning Committee South – Councillor Mark Packard (Vice-Chair – Councillor John Fisher)

2 x Planning Committee Members	Councillor Malcolm Pitchers (North) and Councillor Mike Deacon (South)
Broads Authority Representative	Councillor Andree Gee
3 x Other Members	Councillor Peter Byatt Councillor Rosie Smithson Councillor Paul Ashdown

3. Cycling, Walking and Wheeling Working Group

Terms of Reference:

Overarching Purpose - Promote active travel (cycling, walking, and wheeling) throughout East Suffolk and help facilitate the delivery of the East Suffolk Cycling and Walking Strategy and promote modal shift.

- To Prioritise the recommendations within the Cycling and Walking Strategy.
- To consider and identify opportunities for funding and implementation of the recommendations.
- To work with officers to create cases in support of any recommendation and subsequent funding bid.
- To feed in local knowledge and information into the process.
- To assist with promotion and education of the benefits of active travel improvements to the wider public as appropriate.
- Receive progress updates on the delivery of new cycling and walking infrastructure.
- Work with the Local Plan Working Group on any future reviews of the strategy.
- Monitor the implementation of the strategy to inform future work of the group.

The Working Group will meet approximately every one to two months, subject to business. Additional meetings will be arranged if needed.

A Vice Chair will be elected at the first meeting of the municipal year.

The Working Group maintains a standing invite to relevant officers of the Council and other local authority representatives and organisations will also be invited as and when appropriate.

An officer(s) from Suffolk County Council will be invited to each meeting to provide technical support.

No substitutes. Other Members can only be invited at the discretion of the Chair of the Cycling and Walking Working Group.

Membership

Councillor Seamus Bennett (Chair)

Councillor Kay Yule (Cabinet Member for Planning and Coastal Management)

Councillor Stephen Molyneux (Assistant Cabinet Member for Planning and Coastal Management)

Councillor Dan Clery

Councillor Tess Gandy

Councillor Edward Back

4. Member Development Steering Group

The Member Development Steering Group is comprised of Councillors from all political parties. The Group will ordinarily meet on a quarterly basis, subject to business, to agree and review training and development activities for Elected Members.

The purpose of the Steering Group is:

- To establish a comprehensive and robust Member Training and Development process/programme.
- To ensure that Member Development becomes part of the overall mainstream organisational development activities.

Terms of Reference:

- To champion and encourage Member development.
- To monitor and review the Strategy and associated documents/processes on an at least an annual basis.
- To shape and prioritise Member Development, e.g. New Member induction Programme, Prospective Councillor Events, training and development needs identified through MDP or other means etc.
- To oversee the development of a comprehensive Member Development Programme, that takes advantage of partnership opportunities with other local authorities and promotes best practice for the delivery of Member Development.
- To ensure that the Council provides Member Development that complies with the principles of the Charter and / or Charter Plus for Member Development.
- To encourage effective Member / officer working relationships and to ensure that all Councillor roles are explained clearly.
- To assist in the development of effective evaluation to ensure the effectiveness of the Member Development Programme and to make best use of resources.
- To maintain a dialogue with national and regional bodies supporting Member Development and to explore external sources of funding for Member Development.
- To receive regular update reports on Member Development within the Council, to review Member attendance at Member Development events and to retain an overview of the Member Development budget.
- To ensure equal access for all Councillors to training and development and to promote the use of information technology for and by Members.

Membership:

Leader of the Council (who will also be
Chair of the Steering Group)

Councillor Caroline Topping

Main Opposition Group Leaders

Councillor Peter Byatt and Councillor Mark
Jepson

Four Members
(3 GLI and 1 Conservative)

Councillor Anthony Specca
Councillor Sarah Whitelock
Councillor Julia Ewart
Councillor Paul Ashdown

Committee	Full Council
Date	22/05/2024
Subject	Appointments to Outside Bodies for 2024/25 (Non-Executive)
Cabinet Member	Councillor Caroline Topping Leader of the Council
Report Author(s)	Lorraine Fitch Democratic Services Manager Lorraine.fitch@east Suffolk.gov.uk
Head of Service	Chris Bing Head of Legal and Democratic Services and Monitoring Officer Chris.bing@east Suffolk.gov.uk
Director	Kate Blakemore Strategic Director Kate.blakemore@east Suffolk.gov.uk

Key Decision?	No
Is the report Open or Exempt?	OPEN

Category of Exempt Information and reason why it is NOT in the public interest to disclose the exempt information.	Not applicable
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Purpose/Summary

Council is asked to consider Appointments to Outside Bodies (Non-Executive) for the 2024/25 Municipal Year, as outlined at Appendix A of this report.

Recommendation(s)

That Full Council approves:

1. That Councillors be appointed to those Outside Bodies (Non-Executive) listed in Appendix A for the 2024/25 Municipal Year.
2. That the Leader of the Council be authorised to fill any outstanding vacancies left unfilled by Council.
3. That the Leader be granted delegated authority to make any necessary changes to the membership of the Outside Bodies for the remainder of the 2024/25 Municipal Year, in consultation with the other Group Leaders.
4. That the Terms of Reference for the Police and Crime Panel be amended to include a requirement at Section 5b that Independent Co-opted Members of the Panel must live or work in Suffolk.

Strategic plan

How does this proposal support Our Direction 2028?

Environmental Impact	Delivering positive climate, nature and environmental impacts through the decisions we make and actions we take.
Sustainable Housing	All homes in East Suffolk are safe, suitable and sustainable, in communities where residents are proud to live.
Tackling Inequalities	Improving quality of life across the district by tackling financial, social and health inequalities.
Thriving Economy	Enabling residents to benefit from, and contribute to, a thriving economy.
Our Foundations / governance of the organisation	<p>Appointments to Outside Bodies may be made under the general power in Section 2 of the Local Government Act 2000 – to do anything which is likely to promote the economic, social or environmental wellbeing of the area, unless specifically prohibited.</p> <p>The process of Council approving appointments to Outside Bodies, where the role relates to a Non-Executive function of the Council, adheres to the requirements of the Council’s Constitution.</p> <p>Details of the Council’s representation on Outside Bodies are included on the Council’s website.</p> <p>Members appointed to Outside Bodies will be asked to present a short report to Full Council, at least once per year, on the work of the Outside Body.</p>

Justification for recommendations

1. Background

- 1.1 The Council appoints annually to a wide range of diverse Outside Bodies. The Council considers member representation on Outside Bodies when the role relates to a Non-Executive function carried out by the local authority; the Executive (the Cabinet) considers representation on Outside Bodies where the role relates to an Executive function of the local authority; and the Scrutiny Committee considers representation on Outside Bodies where the role relates to a Scrutiny function of the local authority.
- 1.2 Some appointments to Outside Bodies are made because of a statutory requirement to appoint one or more members to them. Most appointments to Outside Bodies are discretionary, taking into consideration how representation on them adds value.
- 1.3 Appointment of members to Outside Bodies provides support to the organisation concerned and enables members to fulfil their community leadership roles.
- 1.4 Members appointed to Outside Bodies are able to work with and alongside local community groups, helping to empower them in terms of addressing local issues and delivering sustainable solutions.

2. Introduction

- 2.1. Members were last appointed to Outside Bodies (Non-Executive) in 2023/24 by Full Council at its Annual meeting in May 2023.
- 2.2. At its meeting on 26 January 2024, the Suffolk Police and Crime Panel recommended to the Suffolk Public Sector Leaders Group that a requirement be added at Section 5 b) of its [Panel Arrangements](#), that Independent Co-opted Members of the Panel must live or work in Suffolk. Members are asked to agree the amendment.
- 2.3. An extensive review of all the Outside Bodies appointments was undertaken during March 2024.
- 2.4. The following Outside Bodies (Non-Executive) have been removed from the list, as they no longer meet or it has been agreed that East Suffolk Councillors will no longer be appointed to them:
 - Aldeburgh Community and Sports Trust
 - Fauconberge Educational Trust

3. Proposal

- 3.1 Outside Bodies can gain a number of benefits from having a Council representative on them, which include:
 - To represent the interests of the Council and to promote the strategic aims of its Strategic Plan;
 - To provide knowledge, skills and expertise which may not otherwise be available;
 - To provide local accountability or democratic legitimacy through the appointment of an elected representative;
 - To ensure that good relationships can be maintained with the body;
 - To deliver a partnership project that requires the input of other organisations or community groups;
 - To protect the Council's investments or assets i.e., if the Council has provided grant funding or provides funding for service delivery;
 - To lever in external funding which is not available to the Council on its own.

3.2 Taking account of all information provided within the report, Members are asked to consider the content of Appendix A.

4 Financial Implications

4.1 Those Councillors formally appointed to external organisations as the Council's representative are able to claim travel expenses in accordance with the Members Allowance Scheme. These costs can be met from existing resources.

5 Legal Implications

5.1 Appointments to Outside Bodies may be made under the general power in Section 2 of the Local Government Act 2000 – to do anything which is likely to promote the economic, social or environmental wellbeing of the area, unless specifically prohibited.

5.2 The process of Council approving appointments to Outside Bodies, where the role relates to a Non-Executive function of the Council, adheres to the requirements of the Council's Constitution.

6 Risk Implications

6.1 Members must consider the implications and responsibilities of being involved with Outside Bodies as they must continue to comply with the District Council's Code of Conduct when they are acting as a representative of the Council; comply with the Code of Conduct of the Outside Body they are appointed to if one exists; and declare a personal interest in any business of the District Council, as necessary.

7 Options

7.1 The Council needs and wishes to engage and work with external organisations, including the Outside Bodies listed in Appendix A, to continue to deliver the priorities identified in the East Suffolk Strategic Plan.

8 Recommendations

- That Councillors be appointed to those Outside Bodies listed in Appendix A for the 2024/25 Municipal Year.
- That the Leader of the Council be authorised to fill any outstanding vacancies left unfilled by Council.
- That the Leader be granted delegated authority to make any necessary changes to the membership of the Outside Bodies for the remainder of the 2024/25 Municipal Year, in consultation with the other Group Leaders.
- That the Terms of Reference for the Police and Crime Panel be amended to include a requirement at Section 5b that Independent Co-opted Members of the Panel must live or work in Suffolk.

9 Reasons for Recommendations

9.1 To ensure that Members are appointed to Outside Bodies (Non-Executive) for 2024/25.

10 Conclusions/Next Steps

10.1 That the appointments to the Outside Bodies (Non-Executive) be approved as per Appendix A to this report.

Areas of consideration comments

Section 151 Officer comments:

Those Councillors formally appointed to external organisations as the Council's representative are able to claim travel expenses in accordance with the Members' Allowance Scheme. These costs can be met from existing resources.

Monitoring Officer comments:

Appointments to Outside Bodies may be made under the general power in Section 2 of the Local Government Act 2000 – to do anything which is likely to promote the economic, social or environmental wellbeing of the area, unless specifically prohibited.

The process of Council approving appointments to Outside Bodies, where the role relates to a Non-Executive function of the Council, adheres to the requirements of the Council's Constitution.

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion/EQIA:

Not applicable

Safeguarding:

Not applicable

Crime and Disorder:

Not applicable

Corporate Services implications:

Not applicable

Residents and Businesses consultation/consideration:

Not applicable

Appendices:

Appendix A	Proposed list of appointments to Outside Bodies (Non-Executive) for 2024/25 – appendix to follow
Appendix B	Current Panel Arrangements for the Police and Crime Panel, prior to any amendment being made

Background reference papers:

None



APPOINTMENT TO OUTSIDE BODIES 2024/25 (NON-EXECUTIVE FUNCTIONS)

OUTSIDE BODY	NUMBER OF MEETINGS PER YEAR (If known)	NUMBER OF MEMBERS TO BE APPOINTED	MEMBERS APPOINTED
Access and Amenity Fund		1	Cllr Ed Thompson
Anglia Revenues & Benefits Partnership Joint Committee (ARP)	4/5 per annum	1 2 Named Substitutes	Cllr Paul Ashton Cllr Peter Byatt – Substitute Cllr Ed Thompson – Substitute
Alde and Ore Community Partnership		2	Cllr Julia Ewart Cllr Tim Wilson
Association of Suffolk Museums		1	Cllr Julia Ewart
Beccles in Bloom	Monthly	1	Cllr Sarah Plummer
Broads Authority	Bi-monthly	1	Cllr Andree Gee

Updated 20 May 2024

OUTSIDE BODY	NUMBER OF MEETINGS PER YEAR (If known)	NUMBER OF MEMBERS TO BE APPOINTED	MEMBERS APPOINTED
Citizens' Advice for East Suffolk	3/4 per annum	1	Cllr Malcolm Pitchers
Corton Poors Land Trust		1	Cllr Paul Ashdown
Corton Alms House Charity		1	Cllr Paul Ashdown
Disability Advice Service			
(i) East Suffolk	12	1	Cllr Ed Thompson – East Suffolk
(ii) North East Suffolk		1	Cllr Ed Thompson – North East Suffolk
Disability Forums			
(i) Northern	4	1	Cllr Ed Thompson – Northern
(ii) Southern		1	Cllr Ed Thompson – Southern
East Suffolk Travel Association (ESTA)		2	Cllr John Fisher Cllr Louise Gooch
East Suffolk Water Management Board		5	Cllr Rosie Smithson Cllr David Beavan Cllr Julia Ewart Cllr Sarah Plummer Cllr Peter Byatt

Updated 20 May 2024

OUTSIDE BODY	NUMBER OF MEETINGS PER YEAR (If known)	NUMBER OF MEMBERS TO BE APPOINTED	MEMBERS APPOINTED
Felixstowe Dock Local Authority Liaison Committee	2 per annum (March and September)	2	Clr Mike Deacon Clr Mark Jepson
Felixstowe Travel Watch		1	Clr Jan Candy
Greenways Countryside Project Joint Advisory Committee	2 per annum	2	Clr Jan Candy Clr Rachel Smith-Lyte
Kyson (River Deben) Fairways Committee	5/6 per annum	1	Clr Kay Yule
Love Woodbridge and Melton		1	Clr Stephen Molyneux
Merchant Navy Welfare Board	2 per annum	1	Clr Lee Reeves
Oulton Community Centre		2	Clr Edward Back Clr Keith Robinson
Sparsity Partnership for Authorities Delivering Rural Services (SPARSE)	4 per annum	1	Clr Mike Ninnmey
Suffolk Coast Forum		2	Clr David Beavan Clr Jan Candy

Updated 20 May 2024

OUTSIDE BODY	NUMBER OF MEETINGS PER YEAR (If known)	NUMBER OF MEMBERS TO BE APPOINTED	MEMBERS APPOINTED
Suffolk Local Access Forum	4 per annum (minimum)	1	Cllr Ed Thompson Cllr Sarah Whitelock – Substitute
Suffolk Police and Crime Panel (This Panel is politically proportionate across the County, including substitutes)	4 per annum (minimum)	2 2 Named Substitutes	Cllr Seamus Bennett (LD) Cllr Tom Daley (G) Cllr Lee Reeves (LD) Cllr xx (G)
Waveney, Lower Yare and Lothingland Internal Drainage Board	2 per annum	1	Cllr Peter Byatt

Suffolk Police and Crime Panel

Panel Arrangements

1. These Panel Arrangements relate to the establishment of the Police and Crime Panel for Suffolk (referred to in this document as the Panel) to meet the requirements of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 (the Act) in relation to providing regular public scrutiny of the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) for Suffolk.
2. The Panel is a Joint Committee for Suffolk and is supported and operated on behalf of Suffolk local authorities by Suffolk County Council as the 'host' Council for the purposes of the Act. The rules of procedure within the Suffolk County Council's Constitution will apply unless otherwise stated. Councillors will be subject to the code of conduct operated by their authority and the independent co-optees will be subject to the County Council code.

Membership

3. The Panel in Suffolk must have at least 10 councillors and 2 independent co-optees. Any additional members, whether councillors or independent members, may only be appointed up to a maximum of 20 and with the approval of the Secretary of State and the Panel.
4. Part 4 of Schedule 6 of the Act 2011 imposes a duty on local authorities collectively to produce a balanced Panel. This means that the membership of the Panel as a whole should:
 - a) represent all parts of the police area (by having at least one elected member from each authority);
 - b) represent the political make-up of the relevant local authorities (membership to be politically proportionate across the whole of Suffolk); and
 - c) have the skills, knowledge and experience necessary for the Panel to discharge its functions effectively.
5. The Panel will include:
 - a) Eleven local authority councillor representatives appointed to achieve political proportionality across Suffolk. The agreed approach for achieving this is:
 - four from Suffolk County Council;
 - two each from East Suffolk Council and West Suffolk Council;
 - one each from Babergh District Council, Ipswich Borough Council, and Mid Suffolk District Council;
 - the councillor's term of office must not extend beyond their term of office with the appointing authority;
 - political representation will initially be apportioned on the basis of the number of councillors for all local authorities in Suffolk against each councillor's declared political affiliation at 8 May 2012, and reviewed annually following May elections;

- for each nominated member, each authority shall also appoint a named substitute of the same political affiliation;
- the Panel's primary role is as a scrutiny function to challenge and support the PCC, and the appointments to the Panel should be made on the basis that his or her other responsibilities within that local authority, or for it, do not make it inappropriate to do so.

Note: As statute only provides for 10 elected members for Suffolk, the permission of the Secretary of State has been sought and subsequently obtained to allow the Panel to include an additional elected member in order to achieve political balance. This also required the agreement of the Panel.

- b) Two independent co-opted members, who cannot be elected members, will be recruited through an open recruitment process involving Panel members, and will be confirmed by the Panel having regard to the following factors:
 - skills and experience in spheres relevant to police and crime;
 - experience which complements the knowledge and experience of the political membership of the Panel;
 - experience of resource utilisation across a range of policy and service/business objectives and performance targets; and
 - knowledge of the voluntary and community sector.
 - c) The term of office of independent co-opted members shall be for an initial period of four years, extendable by a further 4-year term on the approval of the Panel. Following either the end of this second 4-year term, or the resignation of any Independent Co-opted Member, an open recruitment process shall take place.
6. The following are excluded from membership of the Panel by law:
- the PCC;
 - staff of the PCC of Suffolk;
 - civilian staff of Suffolk Police;
 - Members of Parliament and Members of the Scottish or European Parliament or the National Assembly of Wales; and
 - serving police officers (on the grounds that the Home Office regards co-option to the Panel for the purpose of scrutinising an elected PCC as taking part in politics).

Attendance at meetings

7. Every effort should be made to ensure nominated members attend scheduled meetings of the Panel. However, in the event of a member not being able to attend, the named substitute appointed in accordance with paragraph 5 above will participate fully, including voting on decisions.

Terms of Reference of the Panel

8. The Panel provides checks and balances in relation to the performance of the PCC. In doing so it may challenge the PCC but it must also exercise its functions with a view to supporting the effective exercise of the PCC's functions.
9. The Panel's powers and duties include:
 - a) Requiring the PCC and members of the Commissioner's staff to attend the Panel to answer questions at a Panel meeting.

- b) Asking His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services for a professional view when the PCC intends to dismiss a Chief Constable.
 - c) Reviewing the draft Police and Crime Plan, or draft variation, and making recommendations at a Panel meeting which the PCC must attend.
 - d) Reviewing the PCC's Annual Report and making reports and recommendations at a Panel meeting which the PCC must attend.
 - e) Requiring relevant reports and information in the PCC's possession (except those which are operationally sensitive) to enable it to fulfil its statutory obligations.
 - f) Appointing an acting PCC where the elected PCC is incapacitated, resigns or is disqualified.
 - g) Responsibility for complaints about a PCC, although serious complaints and misconduct must be passed to the Independent Office for Police Conduct.
 - h) Powers of veto by a two thirds majority of the total Panel membership over:
 - the level of the PCC's proposed precept; and
 - the proposed appointment of a Chief Constable.
10. The Panel must hold a confirmation hearing for a proposed appointment of a Chief Constable by the PCC within three weeks of notification by the PCC of the proposed appointment.
11. The Panel must hold confirmation hearings for proposed senior appointments by the PCC within three weeks of notification by the PCC of the proposed senior appointment. Senior appointments include the Commissioner's Chief Executive, the Commissioner's Chief Finance Officer, or the Deputy PCC (in accordance with the requirements set out in Schedule 1 of the Act.)
12. Where the Panel makes reports and recommendations it shall include:
- a) an explanation of the matter reviewed or scrutinised;
 - b) a summary of the evidence considered;
 - c) a list of the participants involved in the review or scrutiny;
 - d) any recommendations on the matter reviewed or scrutinised; and
 - e) other information as may be prescribed by legislation or statutory guidance.
13. Copies of the reports and recommendations must be sent to each local authority in the Suffolk policing area and will be made available on the County Council's website.
14. The Panel may also establish a sub-committee, or a scrutiny task and finish group of up to five members. In commissioning a sub-committee or a working party, the Panel will have regard to the relevant Rules of Procedure.

Monitoring Officer

15. The County Council's Monitoring Officer will provide procedural advice and support to the Panel.

Officer Support

16. Suffolk County Council's Head of Legal Services will provide legal advice to the Panel.

17. Suffolk County Council's statutory designated Scrutiny Officer will ensure the provision of appropriate scrutiny officer support, scrutiny advice and guidance to the Panel and facilitate the provision of information for the Panel.
18. Suffolk County Council will also be responsible for ensuring that the role of the Panel is promoted and that support and guidance is given to members, executive members and officers of the Suffolk local authorities.
19. Each local authority will provide a local officer contact for their councillor member and substitute member.
20. Each local authority may provide staffing support to assist with holding meetings at different locations across Suffolk. This support would include, for example, reception, provision of refreshments and technical support.

Maintaining Knowledge and Understanding

21. Each member and substitute member of the Panel will be expected to develop and maintain awareness of issues in relation to the remit of the Panel and good scrutiny practice. This will include, among other things:
 - the role of the PCP;
 - exercising the right to veto;
 - how the Police and Crime Plan is developed;
 - relationships with the PCC, staff and the force; and
 - an understanding of the practice and operation of effective scrutiny.

Review of the Panel Arrangements, Rules of Procedure and operation of the Panel

22. The Panel should review the Panel Arrangements, Rules of Procedure and the operation of the Panel:
 - approximately 6 months after it has been formed; and
 - approximately 6 months prior to the election of a new PCC.
23. The Panel should make a report of their review to the Suffolk Public Sector Leaders and include any recommendations for changes to either the Panel Arrangements, the Rules of Procedure or the operation of the Panel, or relating to the skills and knowledge balance of the membership.

Financial Arrangements

24. The Home Office will provide funding of £53,000 for each Panel each year to cover the support and running costs. The Home Office will also make available up to £920 per member of the Panel (including additional co-optees) to fund necessary expenses. This funding will be paid to the 'host' authority.
25. Funding for 2012-13 will be about half of the amount specified above to reflect that the Panel will only be in place for 6 months of the financial year.

Travel and Subsistence Allowances

26. All Panel members shall be eligible to receive travel and subsistence allowances:
 - a) For representatives of local authorities these allowances should be at a rate set out in their respective local authority's Members' Allowance Scheme. Each local authority in Suffolk should be reimbursed for the costs of travel and subsistence allowances paid to Panel members and substitute members financed from the Home Office Police and Crime Panel Grant.

b) For independent co-opted members the relevant travel and subsistence allowances are those set out in Suffolk County Council’s Members’ Allowance Scheme.

27. All named substitute members shall also be eligible to receive travel and subsistence for attendance at training and information update sessions specifically in relation to the role or work of the Panel.

Other allowances

28. An attendance allowance will be paid to independent co-opted members in accordance with the Members’ Allowance Scheme in operation at Suffolk County Council at that time.

29. The Chairman of the Suffolk Police and Crime Panel will receive a Special Responsibility Allowance of 0.5 of the Basic Allowance of County Councillors.

30. The Chairman’s allowance will be paid with effect from 1 April 2014 and is irrespective of whether or not the Chairman is a local authority member.

Code of Conduct

31. All parties will be expected to abide by the seven principles as set out in Standards in Public Life: First Report of the Committee on Standards in Public Life (known as “the Nolan Principles”) and as referred to in the Suffolk Code for Members.

32. Any alleged breaches relating to representatives of district and borough councils will be referred to the relevant Monitoring Officer of their nominating authority. All other alleged breaches will be referred to the County Council’s Monitoring Officer.

Document History

Issue	Date	Details
1	July 2012	Panel Arrangements agreed by the Suffolk Public Sector Leaders and Suffolk Local Authorities.
2	March 2013	Section 26 updated, following the Suffolk Public Sector Leaders meeting on 22 March 2013.
3	April 2014	Sections 29 and 30 amended, following the Suffolk Public Sector Leaders meeting on 14 March 2014.
4	October 2015	Panel Arrangements reviewed by Police and Crime Panel at its meeting on 9 October 2015.
5	October 2019	Section 5 amended to reflect the establishment of East Suffolk and West Suffolk Councils in April 2019. Approved by Police and Crime Panel at its meeting on 4 October 2019. Suffolk Public Sector Leaders approved the constitution of the Panel in June 2019 to achieve political proportionality.
6	October 2022	Paragraph 5c added following consideration by the Police and Crime Panel on 7 October 2022 and Suffolk Public Sector Leaders and the Monitoring Officer of each constituent council during February 2023.
7	July 2023	Paragraph 29 typographical error amended (0.5% should have read 0.5).



Committee	Full Council
Date	22/05/2024
Subject	Suffolk County Council's County Deal – East Suffolk Council Debate
Cabinet Member	Cllr Caroline Topping, Leader of the Council
Report Author(s)	Jo Jonas Executive Officer to the Chief Executive and Leader joanna.jonas@eastsoffolk.gov.uk
Director / Chief Executive	Chris Bally Chief Executive chris.bally@eastsoffolk.gov.uk

Key Decision?	No
Is the report Open or Exempt?	OPEN

Purpose/Summary

Since 2011 with the commencement of the Greater Manchester Combined Authority, Government policy on devolution to local areas has continued to evolve. Devolution ‘Deals,’ as they have become known, are an agreement whereby the Government passes control of decisions, elements of funding and areas of policy to local councils in return for more directly elected local democratic arrangements such as a Directly Elected Mayor.

In 2016, Suffolk and Norfolk collaborated on the development of a Mayoral Combined Authority which was ultimately rejected in Norfolk.

The Levelling Up and Regeneration Act, passed earlier this year, enables a new model of devolution to three-tier local government areas, a County Deal with a directly elected Leader of the County Council. Suffolk County Council and Suffolk’s five district and borough councils expressed an interest in a Suffolk Devolution Deal and in December 2022, Suffolk County Council and the Government signed an in-principle Deal. At the time of this in-principle Deal, all the district and borough councils supported it.

If the proposed Deal is agreed, Suffolk would receive new decision-making powers and greater local control of funding in areas including adult education, regeneration and transport, as well as control of a new investment fund worth £480 million over the next thirty years. The proposed Deal would also mean that, for the first time, the Leader of Suffolk County Council would be directly elected by the people of Suffolk.

Suffolk County Council has launched a public consultation on the Suffolk Devolution Deal and this report highlights the content of the proposed Devolution Deal to enable all councillors to have an opportunity to express its views which will be collated and submitted to Suffolk County Council as part of the consultation process.

Recommendation

That Full Council:

1. Expresses its views on the Suffolk Devolution Deal and delegates authority to the Leader of the Council to collate and submit those views to Suffolk County Council as part of the public consultation process.

Strategic plan

How does this proposal support Our Direction 2028?

Environmental Impact	<p>The Deal contains a number of environmental elements including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• A commitment from the Government to explore the potential benefits of and design options for a place-based approach to delivering retrofit measures.• To explore how to simplify and consolidate funds which target net zero initiatives at the local level where this provides the best approach to tackling climate change.• To establish heat network zoning to decarbonise heating and hot water with Suffolk County Council acting as Zoning Coordinator.• An integrated approach to flood risk and water resources management that reduces flood risk, protects the environment and secures a sustainable water supply for all.• Suffolk County Council to act as the responsible authority for the preparation of the Local Nature Recovery Strategy.
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That new environmental land management schemes are implemented in line with local needs and priorities which support the delivery of the Government's 25 Year Environment Plan. • To consider Suffolk as a testbed to pilot innovative climate mitigation and adaptation initiatives.
Sustainable Housing	<p>The Deal gives Suffolk County Council broad powers to acquire and dispose of land to build houses and to invest to deliver housing in collaboration with district and borough councils. They will also have land assembly and compulsory purchase powers and will be awarded £5.8 million of devolved capital funding to support the building of new homes on brownfield land in collaboration with district and borough councils.</p> <p>The Deal also states that Suffolk County Council will work with Homes England to unlock the barriers to affordable housing delivery, regeneration and wider housing growth through the development of a pipeline for the region underpinned by an action plan and will explore how wider measures, including viability assessments and the planning system, could better support Suffolk's plans to increase much needed rural affordable housing supply.</p>
Tackling Inequalities	<p>The proposed Devolution Deal will provide new powers and long-term, devolved funding to enable Suffolk to tackle its challenges, raise living standards and make a full contribution to the UK economy. There will also be new powers to better shape local skills provision to match the needs of the local economy and local people, including devolution of the core adult education budget, as well as input into the new Local Skills Improvement Plans. East Suffolk Council works in partnership with Suffolk County Council and a range of other partners through structures like the Collaborative Communities Board and Tackling Poverty Sub Group currently and these arrangements will become even more important following the devolution deal.</p>
Thriving Economy	<p>The Deal states that Government will work with the accredited Local Visitor Economy Partnership to help develop Suffolk's visitor economy including its potential to grow domestic and international visitor spend, expand business tourism by capitalising on existing gateway links with northern Europe and harnessing Suffolk's voice in delivering green tourism and its ambition to become England's first net zero visitor destination.</p> <p>There is an Investment Fund of £16 million per year for 30 years included in the proposed Deal. In addition, there is the ability to have greater local autonomy over individual policy areas, such as housing, transport and skills.</p>
Our Foundations / governance of the organisation	<p>The Devolution Deal requires Suffolk County Council to move to adopt a directly elected Leader and cabinet executive governance model which will require them adapting their Constitution. If the Deal is approved, the election for the new Leader will take place in May 2025. Whilst the Devolution Deal is between the Government and Suffolk County Council and will therefore have</p>

negligible impact on our own local governance arrangements in East Suffolk, the Deal specifically recognises that delivery must be a collaborative partnership between district and borough councils and the County Council, alongside other local partners. Suffolk has a reputation for working collaboratively as a system with a well-established Suffolk Public Sector Leaders group and various joint-working arrangements and the intention is to use these existing arrangements to exercise the powers, functions and funding devolved through the Deal. The exercise of certain functions may require the consent of this Council as the Local Planning Authority.

Justification for recommendations

1. Background

- 1.1. In July 2021, the Government wrote to councils setting out its ambition to make available to county areas the kind of devolved decision-making powers and public funding enjoyed by larger cities and urban areas.
- 1.2. In August 2021, in a joint letter to the then Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, the Leaders of Suffolk's six councils and the Police and Crime Commissioner expressed an interest in a possible devolution deal for Suffolk.
- 1.3. In February 2022, the Government published its 'Levelling Up the United Kingdom White Paper' setting out its twelve levelling up missions including that, by 2030, every part of England that wants one will have a devolution deal with powers at or approaching the highest level of devolution and a simplified, long-term funding settlement. The White Paper announced nine geographic areas to start formal negotiations to agree new devolution deals and Suffolk was one of the nine areas selected.
- 1.4. In December 2022, Suffolk County Council and the Government signed an in-principle deal to transfer certain powers and funding from London to Suffolk. At the time of this in-principle deal, all the district and borough councils supported it. A copy of the Suffolk Devolution Deal can be found at Appendix A.

2. Introduction

- 2.1. The proposed Suffolk Devolution Deal seeks to support Suffolk in harnessing the area's strengths to drive opportunity for all. If approved, it will provide new powers and long-term, devolved funding and will represent a step change in Suffolk's relationship with the Government.
- 2.2. The proposals in the Deal seek to focus devolution where it can deliver the greatest additional benefit to Suffolk.

3. Proposal

- 3.1. When the in-principle Deal was signed in December 2022, it was recognised that the involvement of district and borough councils would be pivotal to the successful delivery of the Devolution Deal and that the existing Suffolk Public Sector Leaders group would be an important vehicle through which delivery of the Devolution Deal could be achieved.
- 3.2. The Devolution Deal includes:
- Control of a £16 million per year allocation of investment funding over 30 years to drive growth and take forward Suffolk’s priorities over the long-term.
 - An integrated transport settlement.
 - A commitment to explore a local partnership with Great British Railways to improve local rail services.
 - New powers to shape local skills provision to match the needs of the local economy and local people, including devolution of the core adult education budget, as well as input into new Local Skills Improvement Plans.
 - £5.8 million for the building of new homes on brownfield land subject to sufficient eligible projects for funding being identified and working in partnership with local planning authorities to deliver.
 - Suffolk County Council to plan and deliver the UK Shared Prosperity Fund from 2025/26 and will work in collaboration to deliver this.
 - The future integration of the New Anglia Local Enterprise Partnership to ensure there continues to be a strong and independent local business voice.
- 3.3. If the Deal is approved, Suffolk County Council will work with the Government, the Suffolk Public Sector Leaders group and local partners to develop a full implementation plan covering each policy area in the Deal. This must be completed ahead of implementation and must be approved by the Government prior to delivery.
- 3.4. A ten-week public consultation on the proposed Suffolk Devolution Deal was launched by Suffolk County Council on 18 March 2024 with an end date of 26 May 2024. The consultation document can be found at Appendix B of this report. Councillors will recall being invited to attend a pre-consultation briefing session with the County Council in early March prior to the start of the formal consultation period.
- 3.5. The purpose of this report is to give East Suffolk Councillors an opportunity to express their views on the proposed Deal so that those views can be collated and submitted to Suffolk County Council for consideration as part of the process.

4. Financial Implications

- 4.1. It is not anticipated that the Devolution Deal will have any financial implications for the Council. The Deal does, however, provide the potential for additional investment in the district.

5. Legal Implications

- 5.1. There are no legal implications for the Council; the Deal is between Suffolk County Council and the Government.

6. Risk Implications

- 6.1. As 5.1 above. The Council will not be a signatory to the Deal and there are no direct risk implications for East Suffolk Council. The decision on whether or not to enter into the Deal is ultimately a matter for Suffolk County Council.

7. Options

- 7.1. East Suffolk Council participated in discussions with Suffolk County Council and the other Suffolk local authorities which led to the in-principle Deal being signed in December 2022. The agreement reached was for a 'Level 3' devolution deal, which involves the maximum possible devolution of powers and funding currently available alongside the introduction of a Directly Elected Council Leader. There is currently no other offer on the table.
- 7.2. As a result of the consultation feedback received, the County Council can reject the proposed Deal or it can propose amendments. If the amendments proposed are considered by the Government to significantly alter the proposed Deal, Suffolk County Council may be required to restart discussions and there is no guarantee that this would be possible.

8. Recommendations

- 8.1. That Council expresses its views on the Suffolk Devolution Deal and delegates authority to the Leader of the Council to collate those views and respond to Suffolk County Council as part of the public consultation process.

9. Reasons for Recommendations

- 9.1. The Devolution Deal represents an important decision for Suffolk's future and it is therefore important that Councillors are given the opportunity to consider and debate the Deal and its potential impact on East Suffolk.

10. Conclusions/Next Steps

- 10.1. The consultation closes on 26 May 2024. All consultation responses will be considered by Suffolk County Council and Government Ministers as part of the decision-making process.

Areas of consideration comments

Section 151 Officer comments:

There are no financial impacts as a result of this report.

Monitoring Officer comments:

The Monitoring Officer has been consulted and has no additional comments.

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion/EQIA:

Suffolk County Council will be responsible for carrying out a full Equality Impact Assessment as part of their due diligence process.

Safeguarding:

Not applicable.

Crime and Disorder:

Not applicable.

Corporate Services implications:

(i.e., Legal, Finance, Procurement, Human Resources, Digital, Customer Services, Asset Management)

Not applicable.

Residents and Businesses consultation/consideration:

This is the responsibility of Suffolk County Council who is undertaking widespread consultation in a number of different forms and in accordance with best practice.

Appendices:

Appendix A	Suffolk Devolution Deal
Appendix B	Empowering Suffolk's Future - public consultation document

Background reference papers:

None

Suffolk Devolution Deal

Subject to the statutory requirements referred to within this document, including the consent of Suffolk County Council and parliamentary approval of the secondary legislation implementing the provisions of this deal.



Department for Levelling Up,
Housing & Communities



Suffolk
County Council

Signature Page

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael Gove". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'M'.

The Rt Hon Michael Gove MP

Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dehenna". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Dehenna Davison MP

Minister for Levelling Up

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Matthew Hicks". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'M' and a horizontal line underlining the name.

Cllr Matthew Hicks

Leader, Suffolk County Council

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Introduction

1. The Government has set itself a mission that, by 2030, every part of England that wants a devolution deal will have a devolution deal, with powers at or approaching the highest level of devolution, with a simplified, long-term funding settlement. The 2022 Levelling Up White Paper makes clear the case for devolution as the engine room of improved productivity and reduced regional disparities. Devolution will be critical to delivering our 12 headline Levelling Up missions, strengthening local leadership to act more flexibly and innovatively to respond to local need, whether on transport, skills or regeneration.
2. In the White Paper, the Government published a devolution framework for the first time, setting out a clear menu of options for places in England that wish to unlock the benefits of devolution. This framework places a strong emphasis on the importance of high profile, directly elected local leadership, strong local governance, and joint working across sensible and coherent economic geographies. The most comprehensive package is a Level 3 deal, for areas with a single institution over a sensible geography, with the strongest and most accountable leadership, such as a single county or unitary council with a directly elected leader, or a mayoral combined authority (MCA).¹ The Level 2 offer is for devolution to single institutions without a directly elected leader, such as combined authorities, or a single upper tier local authority covering a functional economic area or the whole county geography with the leader and cabinet governance model. The Level 1 offer is for local authorities with looser joint working arrangements, such as a joint committee model.
3. This document sets out the terms of an agreement for a Level 3 devolution deal between the Government and Suffolk County Council subject to ratification by the Council and the statutory requirements for making the secondary legislation implementing the deal. This document describes both the offer of powers and budgets from the Government and the reforms and measures that Suffolk will need to deliver, working in partnership with district and borough councils and other local partners. Central to this is the election of a directly elected leader across the deal area, to champion the area's interests, deliver on local priorities, and be accountable to local people.
4. Suffolk County Council will undertake a public consultation on the deal proposals with other public sector partners, including district and borough councils as well as local communities and business. The statutory requirements include the council consenting to the legislation and Parliament approving it. Once this legislation is approved and made, the devolution deal will be confirmed.

¹ Subject to the provisions on alternate titles making it through the passage of the Levelling up and Regeneration Bill and the bill receiving royal assent.

5. Suffolk County Council and Government are hereby minded to agree a historic devolution deal which will provide powers and funding to enable Suffolk to level up, raise living standards for its communities, and increase its contribution to the UK economy. The deal shows how levelling up can be done in practice – with clear alignment to the 12 headline levelling up missions and long-term, devolved funding underpinning it.
6. Sitting within East Anglia, Suffolk is a largely rural county, with unique economic potential. Home to around 761,000 citizens and 31,000 businesses, Suffolk boasts a diverse and far-reaching economy, with 81% of people aged between 16-64 classed as economically active. Suffolk is home to Felixstowe, the UK's largest container port, which connects the UK to the rest of the world and is starting to realise its potential as part of Freeport East. Adastral Park is home to a technology cluster of over 150 global ICT companies and BT's global research, development and innovation labs.
7. Suffolk is a leader in the green industrial revolution with its energy offer, including the existing Sizewell nuclear power plant, the world's largest offshore wind market, and Orbis Energy, which is a centre of excellence and incubation centre for energy businesses. The Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy has granted development consent for a new nuclear power station (Sizewell C), and the county council will work collaboratively to maximise the economic opportunities of Sizewell C for the county, whilst minimising any impact on Suffolk's residents and unique natural environment.
8. In addition, the Government and Suffolk County Council will continue to work in collaboration to maximise the local and national economic opportunities presented by Sizewell C, recognising the 'clustering' benefits to the local area of job creation, supply chain opportunities, apprenticeships, and spreading innovation.
9. There are 14 Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIPs) located across Suffolk, representing 10% of the total for the UK. Suffolk also boasts strong food, drink and agriculture sectors, a strong tourism and cultural offer, and – in Newmarket – the centre of the thriving, multi-million-pound horse-racing and equine industry. Building on these unique sector strengths is economically vital. Ipswich, Suffolk's county town, is a key economic driver with its historic waterfront, the University of Suffolk, key ports and logistics, financial sectors, and cultural offer.
10. While many benefit from Suffolk's unique economic and environmental strengths, the county faces a number of challenges which continue to constrain its economic potential and ability to level up opportunity for all. Over 40% of Suffolk residents live in rural areas where access and connectivity are often poor. Skills shortages, low wages and relatively low levels of productivity hamper the county's growth, while deprivation, often in very local communities, continues to impact Suffolk's social mobility levels and health outcomes. Greater local powers are needed to tackle these persistent challenges and to target opportunities to the local communities most in need of support to fulfil their full potential. Suffolk's deal is underpinned by Suffolk's clean and secure energy; connectivity, trade, innovation

and natural capital offers. This deal will maximise Suffolk's strengths in driving opportunity for all and most importantly, targeting those opportunities to the often very local communities most in need of support to fulfil their potential.

11. Government investment in the county looks to tackle these challenges. In March 2021, Ipswich and Lowestoft were both awarded Town Deal funding, receiving £25 million and £24.9 million respectively, enabling the towns to generate sustainable economic growth and spread opportunity more fairly. New Anglia LEP, which sits across Suffolk and neighbouring Norfolk, has received £223.5 million from the Local Growth Fund and £32.1 million from the Getting Building Fund, which supported a number of vital infrastructure projects across Suffolk. The county is home to Freeport East, a flagship freeport, which is set to create 13,500 new jobs and generate a GVA of £5.5 billion over the next 10 years. Currently, the Government is investing £8.3 million of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) in Suffolk, empowering local leaders to direct funding towards their own locally-identified projects.
12. The Suffolk devolution deal will support Suffolk County Council in harnessing the area's unique strengths to drive opportunity for all. The Government recognises that devolution is a journey, not a one-off event. This agreement is the first step in a process of further devolution. As institutions mature, they can gain greater responsibility, and Suffolk County Council will be able to deepen their devolution arrangements over time, and subject to Government agreement. The Government will continue to work with Suffolk to use the county's unique economic, environmental and delivery strengths to drive opportunity for all and support residents in fulfilling their potential.
13. It is the intention of Suffolk, subject to clauses in paragraphs 16-17, to call the new directly elected person who will lead Suffolk County Council, qualifying it for a Level 3 devolution deal, the "elected leader" of the county council. Where necessary, this deal refers to 'Mayor and Mayoral' to confer specific powers or denote specific governance models as they exist in statute. This does not preclude, subject to the clauses in paragraphs 16-17, the directly elected person who will lead Suffolk County Council from using the title 'elected leader' of the county council.
14. As an area with a Level 3 devolution deal, Suffolk will be a key partner of central government to drive regional growth and productivity, joining the existing areas with a Level 3 devolution deal in engagement with the Government from the date of this deal.

Summary of the devolution deal between the Government and Suffolk County Council

The Government and Suffolk County Council are minded to agree a devolution deal which will provide the area with new powers and funding to increase opportunities and living standards through inclusive growth and productivity improvements.

A devolution agreement is contingent upon Suffolk County Council proceeding through the steps necessary to meet the governance criteria required for a Level 3 devolution deal.

This devolution agreement includes:

- Control of a £16 million per year allocation of investment funding over 30 years, 40% capital and 60% revenue, to be invested by Suffolk County Council to drive growth and take forward its priorities over the long term.
- An integrated transport settlement starting in 2024/25. Government will work with Suffolk to agree an integrated multi-year transport settlement at the next Spending Review, at which point opportunities for expanding the integrated transport settlement offer will also be explored.
- A commitment to explore a local partnership with Great British Railways so that the new directly elected leader can help to shape and improve local rail services.
- New powers to better shape local skills provision to better match the needs of the local economy and local people, including devolution of the core Adult Education Budget, as well as input into the new Local Skills Improvement Plans.
- New powers to drive the regeneration of the area and to build more affordable homes including compulsory purchase powers and the ability to establish Mayoral Development Corporations.²
- £5.8 million for the building of new homes on brownfield land in 2024/25, subject to sufficient eligible projects for funding being identified.
- Suffolk County Council will plan and deliver the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) from 2025/26. It will work in collaboration with local partners, particularly district and borough councils to deliver the UKSPF.
- A county council resolution to change executive governance to the model described in statute as the directly '*elected mayor and cabinet model*'; a resolution to make use of the '*elected leader*' alternate title in place of '*mayor*'³, and following this, the election of a directly elected leader to provide overall vision and leadership, seek the best value for taxpayer's money, be directly accountable to the county's electorate and to receive new powers on transport, housing and skills.

² As Suffolk wishes to make use of a title other than mayor, it should be noted too that 'Mayoral Development Corporation' is the type of body corporate established by statute but that the word 'mayoral' does not need to be included in the name given to any development corporation the elected leader might wish to establish.

³ Subject to the provisions in the Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill on alternate titles receiving royal assent.

- The future integration of New Anglia Local Enterprise Partnership to ensure there continues to be a strong and independent local business voice which informs local decision making and strategic economic planning. The integration will be evidence-led, collaboratively developed and focussed on delivering the best economic outcomes for Suffolk.

More detail on these commitments is given in the main body of the document below.

Further powers may be agreed over time and included in future legislation. Involvement in and benefit from other Government processes is not precluded by a devolution deal.

Governance

15. Strong local leadership is essential for delivering better local outcomes and more joined up public services. It provides a focal point for innovation and local collaboration, with local accountability. The Government's devolution framework, as set out in the Levelling Up White Paper, states that a Level 3 devolution deal - the highest-level deal with the greatest powers - requires a directly elected leader.
16. As part of this agreement, therefore, Suffolk County Council will move to adopt what is described in statute as the directly '*elected mayor and cabinet*' executive governance model⁴ adapting their constitution - subject to a resolution of full council to be scheduled for 19 October 2023 - giving the people of Suffolk a direct say in who will take forward the new opportunities created by this ambitious devolution deal.
17. Subject to the Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill (with its current provisions on titles) receiving Royal Assent and coming into force and subject to council resolution, Suffolk would call the directly elected person, who would otherwise be known as an elected mayor, the "elected leader" of the county council. The same 'subject to the Bill receiving Royal Assent and resolution by full council' caveat applies throughout the deal document where reference is made to the elected leader.
18. Suffolk County Council will hold their first elected leader election on Thursday 2 May 2024 coinciding with the county-wide Police & Crime Commissioner (PCC) election. The second election will be held on Thursday 3 May 2029 coinciding with all-out county council elections, making the first elected leader's term 5 years. The second term, and the term of the leader thereafter shall be 4 years. The electorate will be registered local government electors in the area of Suffolk County Council.
19. The elected leader will appoint a cabinet as determined by the county council's constitution, made up of the elected leader and between 2-9 members of the council, of which one will be appointed deputy leader.
20. The elected leader:
 - Will provide overall leadership of Suffolk County Council;
 - May choose to delegate function(s) to members of the executive. Where this is the case, the member to which a specific directly elected leader-function has been delegated will exercise that function on behalf of the elected leader.
 - More generally, members of the executive may also act to support and advise the elected leader in the exercise of directly elected leader functions.

⁴ One of the acceptable forms of Local Authority governance as set out by the Local Government Act 2000 (Chapter 2).

- The council may establish an independent remuneration panel consistent with existing constitutional processes, to recommend allowances payable to the elected leader.
21. To access Level 3 powers and flexibilities, it is important that devolution deals are based on geographies that local people recognise, as well as being sensible economic areas with a single institution in place across that geographic footprint.
 22. Suffolk has a single institution, namely the county council, that covers the whole geography of Suffolk. This is an established, democratic structure, able to adopt a governance model that includes a directly elected leader accountable to Suffolk's electorate, with a long history of working collaboratively to serve the people of Suffolk. It is, therefore, best placed to be the institution over which the new elected leader will have control and to which powers are devolved from Westminster.
 23. Suffolk County Council shares the Government's view that the involvement of district and borough councils will be pivotal to the successful delivery of the devolution deal.
 24. Suffolk County Council considers the Suffolk Public Sector Leaders group (SPSL) to be an important vehicle through which district and borough councils, together with other public sector leaders, can join in creating a renewed vision for Suffolk in the context of successful delivery of the devolution deal.
 25. Suffolk has a strong history of collaboration. Associated local agreements and partnership arrangements will be used to deliver Suffolk's devolution deal. SPSL is well established in providing collaborative leadership, through its membership of leaders and chief executives of all local authorities, the PCC and Chief Constable, chief officers of the Integrated Care System, and the LEP Chair and Chief Executive. Collaboration is embedded in the 'Suffolk Way' of working. Since establishing a business rates pool in 2013, SPSL has used its share to invest over £19 million in activity to build social and economic capacity in policy areas reflective of the 12 Levelling Up missions, such as, technology, social mobility, skills, worklessness, economic growth programmes, community safety, and housing.
 26. Suffolk's devolution deal will also continue to ensure local arrangements provide for the right activity at the right level, flowing to and from the strategic countywide level, to place level, and on to very local level responsibilities and across the public sector (not just local authorities).
 27. Whilst this deal is between the Government and Suffolk County Council, it is recognised that the delivery of the deal will be a collaborative partnership endeavour between district and borough councils and the county council, alongside other local partners. Suffolk has a reputation for working collaboratively as a system with a well-established SPSL and various joint-working arrangements across the county. These strong and purposeful relationships will underpin the delivery of the elements of the Suffolk devolution deal and further strengthen collaborative working in two-tier council areas.

28. The county council will wish to act collaboratively or in partnership with the districts and borough councils and other local partners when exercising the powers, functions, and funding devolved through this deal. In particular, the exercise of the functions below will be with the consent of the relevant planning authorities in whose area the function is being exercised:
- a. Ability to establish a Mayoral Development Corporation.⁵
 - b. Homes England compulsory purchase powers.
29. Functions contained in this deal document will be devolved to Suffolk County Council by the Government, subject to a number of conditions, including the adoption of what is described in statute as a directly '*elected mayor and cabinet*' governance model. Some of these functions will be exercisable by the elected leader and some by the council.
30. Suffolk County Council is to be given powers in relation to:
- Economic development and regeneration functions.
 - Adult education and skills functions.
 - Housing functions relating to compulsory purchase (subject to the consent of the local planning authority affected by the exercise of the function), plus provision of housing and land, land acquisition and disposal, and development and regeneration of land.
31. The directly elected leader for Suffolk County Council will autonomously exercise their new functions with personal accountability to the electorate, devolved from Government and set out in legislation. These functions are to be:
- Power to designate a Mayoral⁶ Development Area and then set up a Mayoral Development Corporation (see consent requirements below).
 - Homes England housing and land acquisition powers (see consent requirements below) to support housing, regeneration, infrastructure and community development and wellbeing.
32. The council's executive - and full council where it is a full council matter - will vote on functions that have been devolved via the council's usual governance method. Any questions that are to be decided by the council's executive are to be decided by a simple majority of the members present and voting, unless otherwise provided for in legislation.
33. Suffolk County Council will be scrutinised and held to account for their devolution deal by the council's Scrutiny Committee and Select Committees as appropriate. The Chair of the Scrutiny Committee will be appointed by council.
34. The Levelling Up White Paper committed the Government to produce a reformed accountability framework for all areas with a devolution deal in England. The

^{5,6} As Suffolk wishes to make use of a title other than mayor, it should be noted that 'Mayoral Development Corporation' is the type of body corporate established by statute but that the word 'mayoral' does not need to be included in the name given to any development corporation the elected leader might wish to establish.

Government, Suffolk County Council and other areas with devolution deals will work together to determine how this can best work in practice, so that we can improve the consistency of data and reporting, streamline our approach to focus on clear and transparent outcomes and ensure the right mechanisms are in place to promote good practice, as well as address serious concerns. This is to ensure that local people have confidence that devolution is leading to improvements in their area. This framework will apply to Suffolk as well as all existing areas that have agreed devolution deals and all future areas.

35. The proposals in this devolution deal are subject to ratification by Suffolk County Council through their normal executive decision-making processes. The implementation of the deal will require consultation on the proposals with other public sector partners, including district and borough councils as well as local communities and business. Implementation is also subject to the Secretary of State for the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) being satisfied that the required statutory requirements have been met, the consent of the council and parliamentary approval of the required secondary legislation. If Suffolk County Council does not resolve to adopt what is described in statute as the '*elected mayor and cabinet*' governance model, this devolution deal agreement does not hold.

LEP Integration

36. The Levelling Up White Paper announced the Government's intention to support the integration of LEP functions and roles into local democratic institutions to ensure a strong business voice at the heart of local decision making. Further guidance on integration was published on 31 March 2022. The future operating model of New Anglia LEP will be subject to an integration plan developed by Norfolk and Suffolk county councils, working with local partners, and subject to Government endorsement and agreement from New Anglia LEP.
37. Any long-term future funding for the integration of LEP functions and roles will be subject to future funding decisions and business planning. The Government reserves the right to modify the functions and roles set out in section 10 of the guidance on LEP integration.

Finance and Investment

38. Suffolk County Council will create a fully devolved funding programme covering all budgets for devolved functions (the “Suffolk Investment Fund”), accountable to Suffolk County Council.
39. Suffolk County Council will use the Suffolk Investment Fund to deliver a programme of transformational long-term investment. The Government agrees to allocate £16 million per annum for 30 years, 40% capital and 60% revenue, which will form part of the Suffolk Investment Fund. This will be subject to five-yearly gateway review assessments to confirm that the investment has contributed to economic growth and levelling up. Once the county’s Assurance Framework is confirmed with Government and the Order conferring powers to Suffolk County Council has been made, Suffolk may have access to the Investment Fund prior to the election of a directly elected leader, subject to the agreement with the Government of suitable caps.
40. The costs of Suffolk County Council will be met from the overall resources of the Suffolk County Council. To support Suffolk County Council in the early stages of this deal, the Government will provide £250,000 capacity funding in 2023/24 - once the establishing legislation is made and the Assurance Framework confirmed with the Government - and £500,000 in 2024/25. Any future capacity funding will be subject to Spending Review, in line with arrangements for other devolution deals. Additional activities or capital allocations from the Government will be supported by revenue allocated to Suffolk County Council in line with practice for existing areas with a Level 3 devolution deal.
41. Suffolk County Council will be the lead local authority for the planning and delivery of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund UKSPF from 2025/26 if there is a continuation of the Fund and the delivery geographies remains the same. The Suffolk UKSPF allocation - which is set to rise to £5.24 million in 2024/25 - will be subject to a future Spending Review and reconfirmation of overall UKSPF policy and delivery arrangements from 2025/26. If the delivery model remains the same as the previous Spending Review period, it is anticipated that Suffolk County Council will have overall accountability for the funding and how the Fund operates in the area, with wide flexibility to invest and deliver according to local needs. For Suffolk, it will be essential to work with local partners, particularly district and borough councils, building on established partnership arrangements to do so. This will encompass ‘Suffolk’s Way’ of collaborative delivery that is evidence led and delivered at the appropriate geography (from the sub national; to countywide; to place based; on to the very local). Most importantly, this collaborative approach will ensure that the UKSPF invests to deliver the best possible outcomes for Suffolk communities.

Labour Market and Skills

Adult Education

43. Wage levels in Suffolk consistently lag behind the national average and that gap has been widening. Between 2015-2021 earnings in Suffolk increased by 9.6% compared to a national average of 13.1%. Qualification levels also remain relatively low with 54.5% of those aged 16-64 holding a Level 3 qualification or above compared to 61.5% nationally. This presents complex and varied challenges to making the most of strategic opportunities (such as Sizewell C and Freeport East) and improving outcomes for people and places in Suffolk.
44. Suffolk plans to future proof its skills offer and grow demand for provision that will supply the competencies and capabilities for future workforce needs in key sectors, enabling Suffolk to capitalise on opportunities to help drive both national and local strategic objectives including levelling up and clean growth. These key sectors include digital, engineering, and agri-tech.
45. The Government will fully devolve the Adult Education Budget (AEB) to Suffolk County Council from academic year 2025/26, subject to readiness conditions and parliamentary approval of the required secondary legislation conferring the appropriate functions. These arrangements do not cover apprenticeships or traineeships, even though the latter is funded through the AEB.
46. Prior to full devolution of AEB, the Government will work with Suffolk to support their preparations for taking on the relevant functions, including offering implementation funding on a 'matched-funded' basis and awarded through a business case process.
47. Upon devolution of AEB, Suffolk County Council will be responsible for making allocations to providers and the outcomes to be achieved, consistent with statutory entitlements. The Government will not seek to second guess these decisions, but it will set proportionate requirements about outcome information to be collected in order to allow students to make informed choices.
48. The Government will consult with Suffolk on a funding formula for calculating the size of the grant to be paid to Suffolk County Council for the purpose of exercising these devolved functions.
49. In order to proceed with devolution, the Government needs to be assured of the following readiness conditions:
 - a. The Secretary of State for Education and appropriate accounting officer are assured that Suffolk County Council is operationally ready to administer AEB and is satisfied the required statutory tests have been met.
 - b. Parliament has legislated to enable transfer to Suffolk County Council of the current statutory duties on the Secretary of State to secure appropriate

facilities for further education for adults from this budget and for provision to be free in certain circumstances.

- c. Agreement to a memorandum of understanding between the Department for Education and Suffolk County Council that provides appropriate assurance that the named parties will work together to ensure the future financial stability of the provider base, including for sharing financial risk and managing provider failure.
- d. Learner protection arrangements are agreed between parties.

Skills and Employment

50. Local Skills Improvement Plans (LSIPs) will set out the current and future skills needs of the area and how local provision needs to change to help people develop the skills they need to get good jobs and increase their prospects. They will build a stronger and more dynamic partnership between employers and providers and allow provision to be more responsive to the skills needs of employers in local labour markets.

51. Working with the designated Employer Representative Body, utilising and sharing the local labour market intelligence and analysis developed⁷, Suffolk County Council will support and provide input into the LSIP for the area.

52. Suffolk County Council will be considered alongside other areas with a Level 3 devolution deal at future Spending Reviews with regard to the devolution of skills funding.

53. The Government recognises the challenges facing Suffolk, with coastal and rural communities experiencing a complex range of issues, such as poor connectivity. There is a need to develop and deliver targeted programmes to address the unique and very different challenges across such a large and diverse county. Suffolk will work in partnership to develop proactive support for priority groups through ongoing engagement with local Department for Work and Pensions Jobcentre Plus.

54. The Government and the county will also work together to better target employment support by understanding and utilising publicly available local labour market intelligence and analysis⁸. As part of the development of the economic framework, the Government is committed to working together on the county's strategic priorities and supporting the development of the county's economic framework.

⁷ This includes analysis produced previously by the New Anglia LEP and its Skills Advisory Panel (funded by a Department for Education grant up until March 2023).

⁸ This includes analysis produced previously by the New Anglia LEP and its Skills Advisory Panel (funded by a Department for Education grant up until March 2023).

55. The Department for Work and Pensions and Suffolk County Council will work together on its strategic priorities for employment through enhanced engagement by way of:
- a. Membership of the joint Department for Work and Pensions and Department for Education Mayoral Combined Authority Advisory Group.
 - b. Regular engagement with the regional Employer and Partnership team in Jobcentre Plus, and strategic labour market partnership teams.
56. The Department for Work and Pensions will also consider what role Suffolk could have in the design and delivery of future contracted employment programmes.

Housing and Land

57. Suffolk County Council will have broad powers to acquire and dispose of land to build houses, commercial space and infrastructure, for growth and regeneration. They will be able to invest to deliver housing for the area. To effectively deliver the best outcomes, Suffolk will work in collaboration with district and borough councils.
58. Suffolk County Council will have land assembly and compulsory purchase powers, subject to the consent of the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities.
59. The directly elected leader will have the power to designate a Mayoral Development Area and to create Mayoral Development Corporations, which will support delivery on strategic sites in Suffolk.⁹ This power may be exercised only with the consent of the planning authority in the area in which the Development Corporation is to be established.
60. Suffolk County Council will be awarded £5.8 million of devolved capital funding in 2024/25 to support the building of new homes on brownfield land, subject to sufficient eligible projects for funding being identified. To effectively deliver the best outcomes, Suffolk will work in collaboration with district and borough councils.
61. To support Suffolk to identify and bring forward a pipeline of housing projects, the Government will also provide £317,000 in capacity funding across 2023/24 and 2024/25.
62. Government will also work with Suffolk County Council to build on the success of the One Public Estate model to better understand and utilise public land in the area. This will include considering how best to engage with Suffolk when planning for changes to public estates in the county.

Working with Homes England

63. Suffolk County Council and Homes England are committed, with the support of DLUHC, to working collaboratively – combining their skills and capacity – to unlock the barriers to affordable housing delivery, regeneration and wider housing growth through the development of a pipeline for the region. This will be underpinned by a clear Action Plan setting out workstreams, timescales and milestones, as well as respective roles and responsibilities.
64. Homes England and DLUHC will explore the potential for investing in the delivery of this pipeline through current and future funding streams, including the Affordable Housing Programme. As stated in paragraph 23 collaborative work with local

⁹ As Suffolk wishes to make use of a title other than mayor, it should be noted that ‘Mayoral Development Corporation’ is the type of body corporate established by statute but that the word ‘mayoral’ does not need to be included in the name given to any development corporation the elected leader might wish to establish.

partners, particularly district and borough councils across Suffolk, will be pivotal to delivery.

65. Homes England, DLUHC, and Suffolk will also collectively explore how wider measures – including viability assessments and the planning system – could better support Suffolk’s plans to increase much needed rural affordable housing supply, and in partnership test how the developing Homes England rural strategy could assist in this.

Transport

66. Suffolk County Council is already responsible for transport planning and delivery and will continue to exercise these functions and powers.

Transport plans

67. In line with best practice as set out in new local transport plan guidance planned for early 2023, Suffolk will develop a provisional area-wide local transport plan by March 2024 to be finalised by the elected leader once elected. Suffolk will be provided with an additional £250,000 of revenue funding in 2023/24 and 2024/25 to accelerate this work and implement quantifiable carbon reductions to the higher standard recommended in related guidance. The investment in local transport planning and the consolidated transport budget will provide Suffolk with the opportunity to design a pipeline of transport schemes.

Consolidated transport budget

68. The elected leader will be responsible for a devolved and consolidated integrated local transport budget for the area of Suffolk, consisting initially of the local highways maintenance funding (pothole and highways maintenance block funding) and integrated transport block. The integrated transport settlement will be available to Suffolk following the first directly elected leader election in May 2024, for the final year (2024/25) of the current Spending Review period. The Government acknowledges that Suffolk desire longer-term certainty that the integrated transport settlement will continue beyond 2025 and will therefore work with Suffolk to agree an integrated multi-year transport settlement at the next Spending Review. At this point opportunities for expanding the integrated transport settlement offer will also be explored.

Roads

69. The Government acknowledges the challenges Suffolk faces with transport connectivity as a large rural area. The Government also recognises the aspirations of Suffolk to improve public electric vehicle charging infrastructure across the county, which would increase the uptake of electric vehicles in the county and reduce carbon emissions by supporting all motorists in making the switch. Government is introducing a new £450 million local electric vehicle infrastructure (LEVI) scheme for local authorities to support local EV infrastructure delivery and will work with Suffolk to ensure the area is well placed to respond once funding arrangements are announced.

70. Government is committed to improving the Strategic Road Network serving Suffolk. In Road Period 1, ending in 2020, Government completed the £1.5 billion 12 mile A14 Cambridge to Huntingdon upgrade, improving long distance connectivity between the East of England and the Midlands and North. In the current Road

Period (2020 – 2025), Government will begin widening the A12 between Junction 19 (Chelmsford) and Junction 25 (A120 interchange), subject to completion of the usual statutory processes, to ease congestion on this key East-West corridor and cope with increasing traffic demands. This £1-1.3 billion scheme is scheduled to begin construction in 2023/24 and complete in the next Road Period (2025-2030). Government is also considering improvements to the A12/A14 Copdock Interchange as one of 33 schemes in the RIS3 Pipeline. National Highways undertook an options consultation on the scheme in 2021. Final decisions on this and other Pipeline schemes will be taken as part of the RIS3 setting process. The Lake Lothing Third Crossing “Gull Wing” is also currently under construction, with funding from the Department for Transport of £75 million, and which is due to be completed by the end of 2023.

71. Government recognises the importance of the A12 to Suffolk, the significance of the proposed improvements in supporting housing and economic growth to local stakeholders, and that opportunities provided by the growth of the energy sector should be realised for the people and businesses of Suffolk. Government also acknowledges that the construction of a new nuclear power plant at Sizewell will have implications for the existing highway infrastructure. Government is considering the proposals for the A12 improvement scheme from A14 Seven Hills to A1152 Woods Lane as part of decisions on the Major Road Network (MRN) programme, taking into account its economic benefits balanced against wider factors.

Buses

72. Suffolk County Council has implemented an initial Enhanced Partnership to deliver high quality bus services as part of an integrated local transport system. If Suffolk concludes that bus franchising is likely to deliver better outcomes, the Government will consider conferring franchising powers from the Transport Act 2000 where Suffolk demonstrates they have the capability and intention to deliver their chosen franchise model and that franchising will deliver better services than their enhanced partnership without needlessly delaying benefits to passengers. In any partnership or franchising arrangements, Suffolk should seek within available resources to facilitate the delivery of smart, simple integrated ticketing across all local modes of transport. Suffolk will continue to work with relevant partners – Transport East, bus and rail operators, Great British Railways and the Department for Transport – to realise this ambition.
73. As per the commitment in the National Bus Strategy the Government is working on the reform of the Bus Service Operators Grant (BSOG). Following the reform of BSOG, should Suffolk request BSOG be devolved to them the Department of Transport will work with Suffolk to devolve BSOG to them in line with the consultation outcome.

Rail

74. Government will support Suffolk in seeking a new rail partnership with Great British Railways, once established, so that their priorities can be taken into consideration in future decisions regarding their local network. Suffolk, similarly to other areas with a Level 3 devolution deal, will be considered a priority for these agreements which will provide the ability to influence the local rail offer. Local priorities will need to be coordinated and compatible with surrounding areas and the needs of the national network.

Active Travel

75. Suffolk will work with Active Travel England (ATE) on any future walking and cycling schemes to ensure schemes are delivered to high standards, including compliance with Local Transport Note 1/20 (LTN 1/20). All cycling and walking schemes must be approved by ATE as complying with LTN 1/20.

Net Zero and Climate Change

76. As part of its Net Zero Strategy, the Government recognises that devolved and local government can play an essential role in meeting national net zero ambitions. Local leaders in Suffolk and elsewhere are well placed to engage with all parts of their communities and to understand local policy, political, social, and economic nuances relevant to climate action. This is why the devolution framework grants places the opportunity to adopt innovative local proposals to deliver action on climate change and the UK's net zero targets. Suffolk and local partners are already working together to achieve ambitious net zero targets. As well as net zero commitments made by Suffolk councils, public sector partners are working with local businesses and communities to deliver the ambitious Suffolk Climate Emergency Plan.
77. The Local Net Zero Forum, chaired by the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, is cross-Government and brings together national and local government senior officials. Through representative organisations on the forum – the Local Government Association (LGA), Association for Public Service Excellence (APSE), Core Cities and the Association of Directors of Environment, Economy, Planning & Transport (ADEPT) – Suffolk will get the opportunity to discuss local net zero policy and delivery issues in the round.

Networks

78. Government recognises the need to increase Suffolk's electricity network capacity to meet future electricity demand. We are committed to ensuring that local areas, such as those with a devolution deal, including Suffolk County Council have a meaningful role in planning our future energy system for net zero.

Buildings

79. Government commits to explore the potential benefits of and design options for a place-based approach to delivering retrofit measures, as part of the Government's commitment in the Net Zero Strategy to explore how we could simplify and consolidate funds which target net zero initiatives at the local level where this provides the best approach to tackling climate change. This work will involve inviting Suffolk to work with Government through the relevant representative organisations to consider if such an approach could accelerate the meeting of net zero goals and provide better value for money.
80. The Government will make a one-off investment of £3 million in 2022/23 to expand Suffolk County Council's Greener Homes 0% Loan Scheme to improve energy efficiency and renewable generation in households across Suffolk.

Clean heat

81. Government has confirmed its intention to establish heat network zoning in England. Under the zoning proposals, Zoning Coordinators within local government will be able to designate areas as heat network zones where heat

networks are going to be the most cost-effective way to decarbonise heating and hot water within the zone. This will enable Suffolk County Council to assume the role of heat network Zoning Coordinator for its locality, and play a key role in the delivery of heat decarbonisation infrastructure. This includes requiring certain buildings to connect to heat networks within the zones. Government is committed to have heat network zoning in place by 2025.

Net zero infrastructure

82. The UK Infrastructure Bank (“the Bank”) will increase infrastructure investment across the UK by partnering with the private sector and local government to help tackle climate change and support regional and local economic growth. The Bank’s advisory service, when launched, could offer advice and support to local actors, including Suffolk County Council, to help deliver on their objectives, including driving investment into net zero infrastructure and innovative local projects. It can also act as a convenor, bringing together local actors for collaborative projects, and where appropriate identifying where projects can be aggregated to achieve greater impacts.

Green jobs

83. Through the Green Jobs Delivery Group, the Government is working to ensure that workers, businesses and local areas, including Suffolk, are supported through the net zero transition. Suffolk County Council now has the opportunity to deliver green skills interventions at a local level through having a greater role in delivering the Adult Education Budget and UKSPF.

Flooding and Water Resource

84. Government recognises that an integrated approach to flood risk and water resources management can benefit the needs of communities, businesses and the environment across Suffolk. Government would therefore encourage Suffolk County Council’s ambition for closer working between Flood Risk Management Authorities, Water Resources East, agricultural water users and managers of the natural environment to build a strong collaborative approach to holistic water management that reduces flood risk, protects our environment and secures a sustainable water supply for all. This will not change the role and responsibilities of existing Risk Management Authorities.

Nature Recovery

85. Suffolk County Council has provisionally agreed to act as the responsible authority for the preparation of the Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) for the area. Formal appointment of responsible authorities will be made following publication of relevant regulations and guidance and confirmation of funding. The Strategy will: map the most valuable existing habitat for nature; map proposals for creating or improving habitat for nature and wider environmental goals, and; agree priorities for nature’s recovery. Defra agree to consider the role of Suffolk County Council in the LNRS in due course.

86. Government will ensure the new environmental land management schemes are implemented in line with local needs and priorities, including those of Suffolk.
87. Government will work with Suffolk to ensure that local environmental policies, including Suffolk's LNRS and existing and potential protected landscapes, support the delivery of Government's 25 Year Environment Plan. Government recognises the ambition of Suffolk to pilot innovative climate mitigation and adaptation initiatives and will consider Suffolk as a test-bed geography for future policies.

Culture and Tourism

88. The Department for Digital, Culture Media, and Sport (DCMS) will work with its Arm's Length Bodies to explore the potential for partnership working with Suffolk and its local partners. This partnership could develop and deliver strategies to realise Suffolk's creative, cultural and heritage potential in ways that complement its broader ambitions around place-making, enhancing wellbeing, the sustainability of its historic environment, attracting and retaining young people, and supporting the growth of the visitor economy, creative industries and skills.
89. Tourism and the visitor economy are crucial industries for Suffolk, with the county attracting large numbers of leisure and business visitors every year. DCMS will work with the accredited Local Visitor Economy Partnership for the region to help develop Suffolk's visitor economy, with a view to harnessing Suffolk's potential to grow domestic and international visitor spend, and encourage visits throughout the year rather than just during the traditional tourist season. This collaborative work, across those areas set out in the Government's Tourism Recovery Plan, could include the potential to expand major events and festivals and drive up the economic and place-making potential of these; expansion of business tourism by capitalising on our gateway links with Northern Europe; and harnessing Suffolk's leading voice in delivering green tourism and its ambition to become England's first fully net zero visitor destination.

Digital

90. The Government recognises that high quality digital connectivity is crucial for future economic growth and productivity in Suffolk. While rollout of broadband and mobile infrastructure will be delivered nationally through DCMS, the Government will engage with Suffolk on a regular basis on delivery plans in the region, particularly where they involve hard to reach rural areas. The Government is committed to achieving nationwide coverage of gigabit capable broadband by 2030 and to ensuring that rural areas are not left behind including in Suffolk. Procurements covering Suffolk commenced in April 2022, and regular Project Gigabit programme updates will be provided demonstrating progress in delivering for communities across the area.

Innovation, Trade and Investment

91. Through the deeper devolution trailblazer deals announced in the Levelling Up White Paper, Government will bring together a holistic package of powers, roles, functions and strategic relationships to grow the private sector at a local level.
92. The trailblazers are designed as a blueprint for other institutions with a Level 3 devolution deal, and Government will draw lessons from this approach to make a similarly broad and holistic offer to Suffolk in due course. This offer aims to build the resilience of businesses and households in Suffolk to cost of living pressures, strengthen Suffolk's global competitiveness and empower local entrepreneurs.
93. This offer will explore the following, and potentially other, options to:
 - a. Empower Suffolk to be able to secure greater private investment in local priorities.
 - b. Strengthen Suffolk's local innovation capacity to help realise the potential of local innovation assets and the innovation potential of small and medium enterprises.
 - c. Help to realise the global export potential of local businesses in Suffolk and maximise the local benefits of international trade, recognising Suffolk's high ambition to leverage the opportunities presented by green trade and its own green growth potential as, for example, Freeport East develops.
 - d. See Suffolk play a greater role in supporting local businesses to improve their productivity.
 - e. Engage Suffolk in the delivery of digital infrastructure and potential economic and public service applications of data and data science.

Public Service Reform

94. Government supports Suffolk in its ambition for public service reform. Government commits to working with Suffolk to explore initiatives to improve delivery of public services jointly with local partners, such as how best to support residents with multiple complex needs. Where appropriate, and as part of its Levelling Up agenda, Government will also consider devolving further powers to Suffolk County Council to support public service reform.
95. Good quality data are essential for understanding local need and the place-specific issues affecting people in an area. As part of the Government Statistical Service's Subnational Data Strategy, the Government is working to improve the dissemination of subnational statistics to empower local decision makers, including in Suffolk, to use data-led evidence to respond to local priorities.
96. Suffolk County Council will work with the Government to understand the existing barriers to data sharing and utilisation in their area, and explore where improvements to the quality of, or access to, data could support them in achieving Suffolk's local ambitions.
97. Suffolk, in partnership with the Government, will work with the Suffolk Police and Crime Commissioner to agree an appropriate arrangement to ensure close collaboration and productive joint working on public safety.

Suffolk County Council's commitments underpinning the deal

98. Suffolk County Council will work with the Government to develop a full implementation plan, covering each policy agreed in this deal, to be completed ahead of implementation. This plan must be approved by the Government prior to delivery. Any issues of concern with the subsequent delivery of this deal will be escalated to ministers and leaders to resolve, in keeping with the letter and spirit of devolution.
99. Suffolk County Council will be required to evaluate the impact of the Suffolk Investment Fund. Suffolk County Council and the Government will jointly commission an independent assessment of the economic benefits and economic impact of the investments made under the scheme, including whether the projects have been delivered on time and to budget. This assessment will be funded by Suffolk County Council but agreed at the outset with DLUHC and HM Treasury and will take place every five years. The next five-year tranche of funding will be unlocked if the Government is satisfied that the independent assessment shows the investment to have met the objectives and contributed to economic growth. The gateway assessment, as outlined in paragraph 40, should be consistent with the HM Treasury Green Book, which sets out the framework for evaluation of all policies and programmes. The assessment should also take into account the latest developments in economic evaluation methodology. The Government would expect the assessment to show that the activity funded through the scheme represents better value for money than comparable projects, defined in terms of a benefit-to-cost ratio and considered in the strategic context of local ambitions for inclusive growth across the whole geography.
100. As part of the implementation of the deal, Suffolk County Council and the Government will agree a process to manage local financial risk relating to the deal provisions.
101. Prior to the first directly elected leader election, the Government will work with Suffolk County Council to give the public and stakeholders – including Parliament – a clear understanding of: the powers and funding that are being devolved to Suffolk; where accountability sits as a result of this deal; and how decisions are made.
102. Suffolk County Council will continue to adhere to their public sector equality duties, for both existing and newly devolved responsibilities.

THE END

EMPOWERING SUFFOLK'S FUTURE

**Public consultation
on the proposed
Suffolk Devolution Deal**

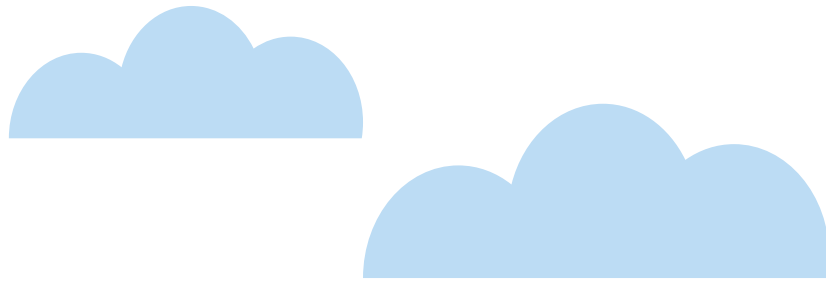
Have your say

18 MARCH - 26 MAY 2024

EMPOWERING SUFFOLK'S FUTURE

In December 2022, the Government and Suffolk County Council signed a proposed, in principle, devolution deal which would transfer certain powers and funding from the Government to Suffolk. It would mean more decisions about Suffolk's future being made in Suffolk, rather than nationally. This type of county-level devolution deal is new, and Suffolk is one of the first areas to explore it.





WHAT IS A DEVOLUTION DEAL?

Councils make many decisions about public services. Much of the country, including Suffolk, has two tiers of local government: district and borough councils, which provide more local services; and county councils, which generally provide more strategic functions and services that cover the whole county, such as adult and children's social care, household waste sites, transport, environment, economic development, skills, registrars and trading standards.

Local authorities have three main sources of income: council tax, business rates, and direct funding from the Government. In some cases, although councils may be responsible for delivering the services, the Government still makes some of the decisions about how and where funding is spent locally, e.g. in areas such as adult education, transport and the environment.

A devolution deal is an agreement whereby the Government passes control of decisions over some of this funding and areas of policy to local councils. This has already happened in some other areas, including Greater London, Liverpool, West Midlands and Greater Manchester.

A DEVOLUTION DEAL FOR SUFFOLK

If the proposed deal is finalised, Suffolk would receive new decision-making powers and greater local control of funding in areas including adult education, regeneration and transport, as well as control of a new investment fund worth £480 million over the next thirty years. This could help us to create new jobs, offer local business support and invest in infrastructure.

The proposed deal would also mean that, for the first time, the leader of Suffolk County Council would be directly elected by the people of Suffolk. Once every four years, residents would be given two votes and empowered to elect their local county councillor AND the leader of the county council. The first election would take place on 1 May 2025.

This consultation is an important part of the process. This document contains information about the proposed deal to help you complete the consultation. The results of the survey will be analysed and presented to county councillors and the Secretary of State when they come to make a final decision on how to proceed. This is your opportunity to have your say.

WHAT IS THE ALTERNATIVE TO A DEAL?

Suffolk's proposed, in principle, devolution deal was agreed following months of discussions between Suffolk County Council and the Government. The agreement reached was for a 'Level 3' devolution deal, which involves the maximum possible devolution of powers and funding currently available as defined in the Levelling Up white paper. There is currently no other offer on the table, so the alternative is to reject the proposed deal. If we wanted a different deal, we would have to restart discussions, and there is no guarantee this would be possible.



What are the key points from Suffolk's proposed devolution deal?

£480M INVESTMENT FUND

Under this deal, Suffolk County Council would be given control over an investment fund worth £16 million per year over thirty years - a total of £480 million.

This is money we would not otherwise receive. It would be for Suffolk County Council, working with local partners, to decide how best to invest this money but, by way of example, other areas with a devolution deal have used their investment funds on:

- local business support
- regeneration, e.g. by clearing up brownfield sites to make them available for development
- housing infrastructure (for example, providing funding for supported housing for people with learning disabilities and mental health conditions)
- helping young people access free bus travel
- supporting victims of domestic violence
- investing in transport infrastructure.

It would also be possible to borrow larger sums of money and use this funding to pay the interest on it. This could mean that larger infrastructure projects could be developed and started, secure in the knowledge that we have the money to pay for them. This is very common in local government.

The fund is not 'index-linked', which means that its value would decline over time if inflation went up. This is the same for all devolution deals. Government funding arrangements over longer periods of time are usually not index-linked.

In addition to the investment fund, the deal would transfer budgets and decision-making in key areas which will be explored in the following pages.



ADULT EDUCATION BUDGET

The 'Adult Education Budget' funds learning and training courses for adults over the age of 19 and is managed at a national level by the Education and Skills Funding Agency. In simple terms, the agency decides what types of courses should be made available and allocates funding to provide them based on a set financial formula.

Suffolk receives a percentage of the national pot of money available for adult education. Most of this funding is allocated directly to training providers (including our main Further Education colleges) who are restricted on how they can use this by the national formula. There is no direct link between any local skills strategy and the allocation of money to education providers. This means there can be a mismatch between what is needed and what is on offer locally.

Under the proposed deal, Suffolk County Council would become responsible for commissioning adult education in Suffolk and would work with local businesses and adult education providers to understand the skills needed for Suffolk people and deliver the necessary courses.

The county council would be given the money that the Government currently allocates to the county – so that it can invest in skills training more closely aligned with local employment and community needs. Based on the current arrangement, this would be **£9.4 million in 2025/26**. This amount could change over time based on the Government's approach to funding adult education. The funding is not index-linked.

Regardless of the amount, this money would be coming to Suffolk anyway. But under the deal, local partners in Suffolk would have control over how it is spent.

As is the case with other areas with devolved control of adult education, Suffolk County Council will need to use a small percentage of the funding to administer the programme. In other areas, this is between 4% and 5%.

Suffolk County Council will look to build on national good practice and ensure that key stakeholders are actively engaged in deciding what training is most needed in Suffolk. Meeting the needs of local businesses and local people would be the key to success.



REGENERATION

There are currently more than 200 brownfield sites across Suffolk which could be appropriate for development. This includes many derelict industrial sites standing empty. These sites have been identified in partnership with Suffolk's five district and borough councils. Sometimes, all it takes is for a brownfield site to be cleared up and prepared for development in order for it to become financially-viable for potential developers. This includes confirming ownership, demolition and decontamination. As it stands, Suffolk County Council or district and borough councils must bid for funding from the Government to clean up brownfield land.

Instead of bidding for funding on a case-by-case basis, under devolution Suffolk County Council would get a one-off lump sum. In 2024/25, this would be **£5.8 million** which could help unlock the building of new homes on some of that otherwise redundant brownfield land.

Under devolution, Suffolk County Council would work with local council partners, through their Local Plans, to decide which sites are supported for development. Making more brownfield sites available for development can mean that less development is proposed on greenfield sites.

This would help create the right locations to increase affordable housing. Decisions would be made in consultation with district and borough councils, as they are responsible for planning decisions and housing.

The deal would also mean that the county council, working closely with district and borough councils and other relevant partners, would get new powers to buy land to support development, regeneration and infrastructure projects that are in the public interest. These compulsory purchase powers would be transferred from the Government's housing and regeneration agency 'Homes England' to Suffolk County Council. With the consent of the local planning authority, Suffolk County Council could also create 'Development Corporations' - legal bodies that support the regeneration of a defined area by using a wide range of powers to acquire, hold, dispose of and develop land and property and develop infrastructure.

TRANSPORT

As the Local Transport Authority, Suffolk County Council already has transport planning and delivery powers. Suffolk Highways is responsible for Suffolk's roads, and Suffolk's 'Enhanced Partnership' (which also represents local bus operators) makes decisions about how to deliver and improve local bus services. This would continue under devolution. Currently, the Government offers transport funding to Suffolk County Council on an annual basis. This funds a variety of services including pothole repairs and drain clearing. There is also sometimes one-off funding offered on a case-by-case basis, but this is not guaranteed.

Under devolution, Suffolk County Council would begin to receive multi-year transport funding from Government, which would provide greater certainty for longer-term planning.

It is not yet clear how much money would be available as part of the multi-year funding. However, this guaranteed investment could help us to

- better plan road improvement schemes
- reduce congestion and carbon emissions by making public transport more attractive
- introduce Oyster card-style smart ticketing
- improve the bus offer in rural areas.

In addition to the multi-year funding, the county council would receive **£250,000** each year for two years to support the development of Suffolk's Local Transport Plan, which sets the strategy for the management, maintenance and development of the county's transport system. This funding could be used to pay for research, consultation and developing business cases.

Finally, evidence from other devolved areas suggests that they are more successful in securing Government financial support for locally important projects. One of the reasons for this may be because devolved areas seem to have a higher profile with Government and are therefore in a stronger position to start negotiations.

LOCAL DECISION-MAKING

If the proposed devolution deal is approved, Suffolk County Council's governance structure would change.

Currently, all elected county councillors vote on who should be the leader of the council. The leader is usually from the party with the most elected members. The leader then appoints other councillors to the Cabinet and together they make key decisions within the policy framework set by the Full Council. The leader and cabinet members are held accountable by the rest of the elected councillors via the county council's various committees, which scrutinise the cabinet's decisions and make recommendations. This is how it works in most parts of the country.

Under devolution, the leader of Suffolk County Council would be directly elected by the people of Suffolk. Once every four years, residents would be given two votes and empowered to elect their local county councillor AND the leader of the county council.

The first election would take place in May 2025, under a 'first past the post' system, meaning that whoever receives the highest number of votes wins.

There would be no new layer of local government or additional offices – the directly elected leader would remain part of Suffolk County Council, and they would not be able to set their own council tax demand. Any extra costs would mainly be around running the election once every four years – alongside the election of county councillors that is already taking place.

This change would create the possibility of new dynamics surrounding the council's leadership. For example, it could be the case that a leader is elected from a different political party than the majority of councillors on the council, or from no political party at all. As now, the directly elected leader would be free to choose any elected members to serve in their cabinet, whether from the majority party, a minority party, or no party.

The Government has a clear preference for directly elected council leaders, and evidence from places like Manchester and the West Midlands suggests that people in similar roles have a higher profile and greater influence with the Government and have been able to negotiate additional devolution for their areas. For example, in March 2024 the Government announced £160 million of funding to create a new Tees Valley Investment Zone to increase productivity and create jobs in that region's digital and creative industries. This investment was secured by the directly-elected Mayor of Tees Valley, the Tees Valley Combined Authority and Teesside University.

In reality, the current decision-making arrangements would continue under a directly-elected leader model. The main difference in Suffolk's case would be how the leader is elected.

ACCOUNTABILITY AND COOPERATION

Councillors work to reflect the views of their local communities. Residents can contact their local representative in writing, by phone or by email to make their voice heard.

To make important decisions about how public services are delivered and money is used, Suffolk County Council consults and engages with residents, service users, businesses, partners and staff. This would continue under devolution.

Whilst the powers and funding would be devolved to the county council specifically, Suffolk's strong history of collaboration is already written into the text of the proposed deal. The deal's implementation would therefore be a collaborative endeavour with local partners, including the district and borough councils, town and parish councils, business, education partners and others. For example, the county council would work with the district and borough councils, as the local planning authorities, to decide which brownfield sites to clear up; with local transport operators to identify and develop opportunities for new transport projects; and with business partners to develop a local skills strategy.

Directly Elected and Indirectly Elected Council Leader: Key Differences and Similarities

HOW IT WORKS NOW

Appointed by Full Council

Represents a particular electoral division

WHAT WOULD STAY THE SAME

Responsible for executive functions

Appoints a cabinet of between 2 and 9 other councillors

Decides and allocates cabinet portfolios; delegates executive functions to cabinet members

Appoints deputy leader

Recommends the strategic and budgetary framework to Full Council for approval

Subject to the council's scrutiny arrangements

Subject to the Elected Member Code of Conduct

Receives an allowance in accordance with the Elected Member Scheme of Allowances

THE PROPOSED CHANGES

Directly elected by Suffolk voters

Does not represent a particular electoral division

NEW OPPORTUNITIES FOR SUFFOLK

Devolution is a journey, not a one-off event. Evidence from other areas shows that devolution opens the door to greater powers and funding over time. For example, Greater Manchester has now negotiated seven devolution deals, covering areas such as planning, transport, and health and social care. The West Midlands has recently agreed a Deeper Devolution Deal with a budget windfall in excess of £1.5 billion to level up the region.

The Government has already announced a fourth level of devolution which would grant even more powers and funding around skills, transport, housing, net zero and other policy areas.

This first deal would pave the way for deeper devolution in the future.

SUFFOLK'S PROPOSED DEVOLUTION DEAL TEXT IN FULL

The full text of Suffolk's proposed devolution deal with Government can be found at www.suffolk.gov.uk/devolution

This in-principle deal was signed by Suffolk County Council and the Government on 8 December 2022 at the home of Claas UK in Little Saxham, near Bury St Edmunds. This proposed deal is now being consulted on publicly.

The deal in numbers

£480 MILLION INVESTMENT FUND

New Investment Fund worth £16 million per year for 30 years (£480 million in total)

£9.4 MILLION* ADULT EDUCATION BUDGET

Local control of the Adult Education Budget each year

*This is the expected allocation for 2024/25

£5.8 MILLION REGENERATION FUND

One-off funding to prepare brownfield sites for use

MULTI-YEAR TRANSPORT FUNDING

£500,000 over two year to develop proposals for the Local Transport Plan



MORE INFORMATION

More information about Suffolk's proposed devolution deal, including answers to frequently asked questions and a three-minute video explaining the deal, is available at www.suffolk.gov.uk/devolution

Equalities Impact Assessment screenings have been completed for this consultation and the impacts of the deal itself. Both are available on our devolution webpage.

A consultation on a previous devolution proposal for Norfolk and Suffolk was held in 2016. This deal was not progressed. An analysis of responses to that consultation has however informed the current consultation.

GETTING SUFFOLK READY FOR THIS CONSULTATION

Throughout February and early March 2024, Suffolk County Council spoke to more than 1,500 people to tell them about the proposed deal and that the consultation will be launched on 18 March 2024.

This included sharing information and holding online and face to face meetings with representatives from a wide range of organisations and sectors, including:

- Businesses and business federations
- Community organisations and other public bodies
- Town and parish council elected members and staff
- District and borough council elected members and staff
- Suffolk County Council elected members and staff
- Suffolk's MPs.

Feedback from the discussions have further informed the design of the consultation. Key points included the need to:

- Not assume knowledge and explain clearly how things work now and would work under a deal
- Explain that the investment fund is not index-linked and so it could decrease in value over time if inflation rises
- Explain the possibility that a directly elected leader could be from a different political party to the majority of elected councillors, or no political party at all
- Explain the important role that working with partners would play in delivering the deal
- Confirm that the governance changes would not require any new layer of local government and nor would the directly elected leader be able to set their own council tax demand
- Explain that this type of county-level devolution deal is new and that Suffolk one of the first to explore it.

Suffolk County Council also published information about the proposed deal on its website and made available a three-minute video explaining the deal and the consultation. At the time of going to consultation, more than 43,000 people had viewed the video for 15 seconds or more and more than 800 people had accessed the webpage www.suffolk.gov.uk/devolution

IMPARTIAL CONSULTATION PROCESS

Holding an impartial and independent consultation is very important, so we have enlisted the help of the Consultation Institute and Ipsos. We are following the Consultation Institute's rigorous Quality Assurance programme which ultimately determines whether our consultation approach meets their high standards.

The Institute has confirmed that it is content that the council's approach to the planning of this consultation and its documentation is consistent with industry good practice standards.

We have also commissioned Ipsos to conduct an independent sample survey of 1,000 Suffolk residents and three focus groups. The work to complete this survey and focus groups will take place during the 10-week consultation period. This survey will complement our wider public survey.

The results of all parts of the consultation will be analysed by Suffolk County Council staff and presented as part of a report on the consultation. Suffolk county councillors and Government ministers will consider the consultation responses as part of the decision-making process on whether or not to proceed with Suffolk's devolution deal.

HOW TO RESPOND

The consultation will run from 18 March to 26 May (10 weeks) and is open to anyone who lives or works in Suffolk. You can either complete the survey online, via www.suffolk.gov.uk/devolution, or in hard copy. Copies of the consultation are available in all Suffolk library buildings or can be requested by contacting Suffolk County Council's customer services team. If you need assistance completing the survey, please phone our customer services team.

You can also send comments via letter and email, and these will be analysed for the final report. Although we will be using the media and social media to promote awareness of the consultation, comments received via these channels will not be considered as consultation responses. We will be running online drop-in sessions during the consultation where you can ask further questions. Details are available on our website, on social media or by contacting Suffolk County Council.

This consultation document is available in other languages and formats and these are available on request.



What happens next?

18 MARCH 2024

Consultation opens

26 MAY 2024

Consultation closes

JULY 2024

Suffolk County Council Cabinet considers the outcome of the public consultation. Full Council considers whether to change Suffolk County Council's governance structure and submit consultation result to the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities

1 MAY 2025

Election of Leader of Suffolk County Council (if approved) and all County Councillors (guaranteed)

How to contact Suffolk County Council

Phone: **0345 603 1842**.

Lines are open Monday to Friday, 8:30am to 5:30pm (excluding Bank Holidays).

0345 numbers are charged at the same rate as standard landline numbers that start with 01 or 02. If your phone tariff offers inclusive calls to landlines, calls to 0345 numbers will also be included on the same basis.

Email: **devolution@suffolk.gov.uk**

Post: Consultation Team, Suffolk County Council, Endeavour House, 8 Russell Road, Ipswich, IP1 2BX