

IKEN ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT 2024-2025

Over the last 4 years since 2021, the county council's priorities have been to:

- promote and support the health and wellbeing of all people in Suffolk
- strengthen the local economy
- protect and enhance the environment
- provide value for money for the Suffolk taxpayer.

Below are just some of the initiatives taken by SCC in the last year. More details may be found on the county council's website www.suffolk.gov.uk.

April 2024	Highways Report and Statistics Since Storm Babet in October 2023 (which generally coincided with the commencement of the new highways contract with Milestone) there has been a substantial increase in the number of customer reports received by Suffolk Highways. Annual data from 2022/23 (40,003 customer reports) and 2023/24 (60,043 customer reports to 23 February) shows there was an increase of over 20,000 reports in the intervening period.
May 2024	East of England local authorities join up to appeal for more foster families to work with their council Eleven local authorities across the East of England have joined forces in a bid to collectively recruit more foster carers to look after some of the region's most vulnerable children. There is an ongoing and urgent need for foster carers in the East of England with more than 7,000 vulnerable children already in the care of their local authority, and a further 150 children coming into care every month.
June 2024	Residents advised - don't do business with cold callers Suffolk Trading Standards reminded people to stay alert to the risk of being ripped off by cold callers knocking on their doors. The warning comes after increasing incidents of people approaching householders on the doorstep and touting for business. Suffolk Trading Standards advises people to only use businesses registered with the Suffolk Trusted Trader scheme.
July 2024	Suffolk County Council Backs Youth Justice Plan with a focus on keeping families together Suffolk County Council has backed the Youth Justice Plan 2024/25 at a meeting of the Full Council on the 11th of July 2024. The plan has a focus on supporting young people into education, training and employment and reducing the numbers of young people offending, supporting the council's ambition to keep more families together and to keep Suffolk safe. Councillors recommended to approve an extra £9.1 million for SEND services Suffolk County Council's Cabinet agreed a further investment of £9.1 million over three years to expand special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) services. Improving its SEND services for families and young people is a key priority for the Council.
August 2024	Small improvements needed as children's services' Ofsted report published Ofsted has published its report into Suffolk County Council's children's services. The report rated the service as 'requires improvement to be good'. The ILACS (Inspection of Local Authority Children's Services) report conveys a mixed picture across Suffolk. Importantly, inspectors concluded that children's safeguarding is strong and that the

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	<p>experiences and progress of children in care were good. However, they highlighted weakness in some of the processes and systems in place.</p>
September 2024	<p>Uncertainty looms for 177,000 Suffolk residents currently eligible for winter fuel payments As many as 177,000 Suffolk residents are currently eligible for winter fuel payments and should be protected from Government plans to cut the allowance, Suffolk County Council has warned. Subsequently, winter fuel payments were withdrawn by the Government.</p> <p>Energy projects and the wellbeing of communities Suffolk County Council has produced guidance to help protect the wellbeing of local communities impacted by large Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIPs). The new document - Community Engagement and Wellbeing Supplementary Guidance - complements the council's Energy and Climate Adaptive Infrastructure Policy, and is aimed at project promoters, parish councils and local communities.</p> <p>£500 million investment in Suffolk scrapped by Government Suffolk's proposed in principle devolution deal, which would bring more than £500 million to the county over 30 years, was scrapped by the Government.</p> <p>Plans unveiled for A12 Major Road Network improvements in East Suffolk Suffolk County Council has unveiled its proposals for improvements to the A12 in East Suffolk, between the A14 Seven Hills junction and A1152 Woods Lane in Melton. An investment decision by the government is still awaited.</p>
October 2024	<p>Suffolk County Council set on major investment to further protect Suffolk from flooding as it calls on Government to 'step up'</p> <p>Suffolk County Council has announced its intention to invest another £1.5 million to carry out important flooding prevention work. This is the delivery a first phase of works identified in initial flood investigation reports following Storm Babet in October 2023.</p> <p>The Council also called on Government to recognise the ongoing impact of Storm Babet and fund £20 million of further prevention work urgently needed.</p>
November 2024	<p>Council welcomes news that the Nautilus Interconnector project will not be coming to Suffolk Suffolk County Council welcomed the news that a major energy infrastructure project will no longer impact the Suffolk coast but has asked for urgent clarity on whether another project will simply take its place.</p> <p>Suffolk's new gritting fleet to keep county safe and moving during the colder weather Suffolk's new gritting fleet will commence its winter season shortly, treating thousands of miles of roads to help minimise risk for highways users.</p> <p>Royal opening for the Gull Wing Bridge Her Royal Highness, The Princess Royal officially opened the Gull Wing Bridge (otherwise known as the Third Crossing) in Lowestoft.</p>

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December 2024	<p>Suffolk's rural communities hit by loss of £3 million in Government funding £3 million of vital public funding - designed to support rural communities in Suffolk - will be cut by the government next year, it has been revealed.</p> <p>Suffolk and East of England councils seek fairness in the face of energy projects Suffolk County Council is joining with other local authorities in the region to challenge National Grid and the government on energy projects, demanding fairness for their communities and environment.</p>
January 2025	<p>Council's budget prioritises vulnerable residents and essential services Suffolk County Council has unveiled its proposed budget for 2025/26, with a strong focus on supporting vulnerable residents across the county.</p> <p>Unique landscape to be changed forever by pylons A large area of landscape on the Norfolk/Suffolk border with particular uniqueness, rivalling those of other nationally protected landscapes, is set to be decimated by pylons as part of National Grid's Norwich to Tilbury project.</p>
February 2025	<p>New cabinet role to lead on devolution and local government reform in Suffolk A new Suffolk County Council cabinet role responsible for devolution and local government reform has been created, following a reshuffle announced by council leader Cllr Matthew Hicks. The changes take effect immediately.</p> <p>SCC supports creation of a single unitary</p> <p>Following a recent government announcement that Suffolk's county, district and borough councils will be replaced with a single-tier system, Suffolk County Council argues that consolidating all services under one unitary authority is the only effective way to deliver against the government's criteria for local government reform.</p> <p>Suffolk prepares for another significant solar farm proposal Suffolk County Council is preparing to respond to another large solar farm proposal, set to cover around 1,500 acres, near Eye.</p> <p>£1.6 million investment proposed following inspection of Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service Further funding is earmarked for the county's fire service following a key report by Government inspectors.</p> <p>Funding made available for safer, healthier and accessible travel around Suffolk Suffolk County Council has been awarded £3.7 million to continue to encourage cycling, walking and active travel across the county, and making journeys more accessible.</p> <p>Suffolk County Council confirms 2025/26 budget Suffolk County Council has confirmed how it will spend its money in the forthcoming financial year - an £803.7 million plan focused on protecting essential services and supporting the county's most vulnerable residents. 77% of the budget is spent on Adult Social Care and Children and Young People.</p> <p>Suffolk communities to suffer from lack of energy project coordination National Grid's decision for the LionLink interconnector project to make landfall at Walberswick, will have serious implications for Suffolk's coastal and inland communities, and environment.</p>

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March 2025	<p>Suffolk County Council confirms decision to bring Library Services back In-House Suffolk County Council confirms decision to bring Library Services back In-House</p> <p>County leaders propose one council for Suffolk in Interim Plan to Government One council for Suffolk would make delivering public services simpler, cheaper and quicker, and better meet the needs of residents and businesses, county leaders have said. This has been proposed to Central Government alongside other proposals for 2 and 3 models in the county. Below is a summary of the One Council Model: -</p> <p> Suffolk Local Government Reorgan</p> <p>200 new specialist SEND places for Suffolk The creation of 200 new specialist places across the county for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) is set to be considered by Suffolk County Council's cabinet. This is funded using an existing Department for Education Capital Grant of £18m.</p>
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