



**Suffolk Public Sector  
Leaders Report 2020-22**

**The Suffolk Public Sector Leaders group was formed in 2009 to consider issues of strategic importance to the county.**

**From inclusive economic growth and community safety to climate change and strong communities, its priorities are focussed where collaborative action delivers the biggest benefits.**

**Suffolk's leaders have invested over £9 million of pooled Business Rates into addressing these.**

**This collaborative leadership, and a longstanding commitment to devolution to achieve better outcomes, has also resulted in Suffolk being one of the first areas to have a proposed Devolution Deal with Government.**

**This short report provides information about the impact of just some of SPSL's work.**

## **Since 2020, the current membership of the group is:**

**Cllr Suzie Morley** (chair), Mid Suffolk District Council leader

**Cllr Matthew Hicks**, Suffolk County Council leader

**Cllr John Ward**, Babergh District Council leader

**Cllr John Griffiths**, West Suffolk Council leader

**Cllr Steve Gallant**, East Suffolk Council leader

**Cllr David Ellesmere**, Ipswich Borough Council leader

**Ed Garratt**, Chief Executive, NHS Suffolk and North East Essex Integrated Care Board

**Tracey Bleakley**, Chief Executive, NHS Norfolk and Waveney Integrated Care Board

**Tim Passmore**, Suffolk Police and Crime Commissioner

**Rachel Kearton**, Chief Constable, Suffolk Constabulary

**Nicola Beach**, Chief Executive, Suffolk County Council

**Chris Bally**, Chief Executive, East Suffolk Council

**Arthur Charvonia**, Chief Executive, Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils

**Helen Pluck**, Interim Chief Executive, Ipswich Borough Council

**Ian Gallin**, Chief Executive, West Suffolk Council

**Andrew St Ledger**, Head of Communications, Suffolk County Council

**Chris Starkie**, Chief Executive, New Anglia LEP

**C J Green**, Chair of New Anglia LEP

# Funding Timeline 2020-22

## Some of the key projects backed by SPSL

### Tackling criminal exploitation

£1,352,202 pledged in July 2020, focused on prevention, enforcement, training and coordination to reduce harm to individuals, families and communities.

### Suffolk Inclusive Growth Investment Fund

£1.4m pledged since September 2020 to support local, place-based economic recovery.

### Delivering Suffolk Climate Emergency Plan

£1.5m invested since 2021 on a series of measures to pursue the county's ambition to be carbon neutral by 2030.

### Integrated Care Academy

£200,000 pledged in June 2021 to expand capacity, with focus on supporting young people and their mental health. Partnership with University of Suffolk and Suffolk and North East Essex ICB).

### Supporting vulnerable people

£500,000 pledged in June 2021 to Collaborative Communities Board to improve evidence-led preventative work.

### Suffolk Growth

£300,000 agreed in June 2021 - £200,000 on the county's economic recovery programme, and £100,000 on the Suffolk Pound, supporting supply chain development, legacy skills and training engagement.

### Suffolk Family Focus

£400,000 pledged in June 2021 to support the most vulnerable and prevent people tipping into crisis.

### Get Suffolk Reading

£500,000 invested in May 2022 towards 10-year project to improve early literacy.

### Hardship Local Welfare Assistance Service

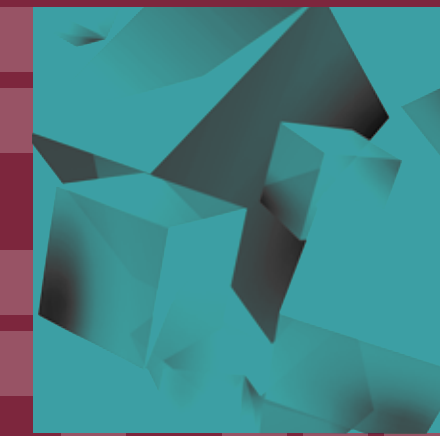
£1million pledged in May 2022 to support Suffolk residents facing financial hardship

### Screen Suffolk

£80,000 agreed in July 2022 to build on success of Screen Suffolk promoting county as a site for filming.

### Warm Homes

£756,000 invested over three years from September 2022 to improve the energy-efficiency of homes in Suffolk.





# Tackling county lines and criminal exploitation

## What have we done?

We've committed £1,352,202 over three years to set up specialist hubs (costing £1.17m), develop training and coordinate resource (costing £176,181).

This work has addressed challenges around gangs, county lines, trafficking and grooming.

## How have we done it?

The hubs in Ipswich, Bury St Edmunds and Lowestoft target criminal exploitation and some of the underlying reasons why youngsters get caught up in county lines.

Outreach work includes targeted action to stop vulnerable youngsters at a high risk of becoming involved, as well as work with those in the hardest to reach areas.

Education programmes also play a part, while the hubs bring together key organisations in Suffolk, including businesses and the third sector, to work together on this important issue.

## The impact has included:

- 20 county lines have already been removed, more than 150 people arrested for county lines drugs offences, and £1.8m worth of drugs seized.
- Webinars, workshops and training courses have been delivered, with around 1,500 attendees. A dedicated training resource in this area has been welcomed by partners.
- The Police School Liaison team delivered One Stop Cop sessions, reaching thousands of pupils.
- Modern slavery legislation has been used as an enforcement tool.
- In a separate project, around 900 domestic abuse champions have been created to help address abuse in the county, encouraging disclosure and providing a professional response.

# Supporting inclusive economic growth in Suffolk

## What have we done?

We've pledged £2.44 million over three years to champion Suffolk as a place to do business locally, nationally and internationally, strengthen the county's economic resilience and provide support to Suffolk businesses and town centres to restore confidence post-pandemic.

## How did we do it?:

We have provided funds for a partnership approach through Suffolk Growth to:

- **Establish the Suffolk Inclusive Growth Investment Fund – year two monitoring and evaluation report available.**
- **Maximise the impact of investment in the county by supporting supply chain development and promoting awareness of infrastructure programmes through Suffolk £.**
- **Implement a strategic approach to our visitor economy, bringing together partners across local authorities, business representative groups and sector bodies, e.g. Visit East of England, to build a shared framework that will lead to a stronger year round visitor offer.**
- **Develop and embed a Suffolk wide Trade Policy and funded trade advisors to support local businesses and key sectors**
- **Expand and grow our local evidence and research base of issues facing businesses through e.g. a Suffolk wide annual business survey (issued in June each year) and engagement with business groups to contextualise and analyse the results**
- **Continued engagement across council growth teams (e.g. planning & development, highways & infrastructure, environment) to share best practice and address common challenges, e.g. the establishment of the Suffolk Water Forum (councils, water companies, Water Resources East, Environment Agency) and support to Transport East via the Transport East Senior Officer Group.**

## The impact has included...

Investing £1.99m through SIGIF into 19 local projects, securing matched funding of just over £8m and delivering direct jobs forecast of 277 over the coming three years with the development of 5 new managed workspaces and significantly more project specific outcomes.

### Projects include:

- **Connected Innovation - connecting innovation hubs in towns across Suffolk through both physical and virtual networking**
- **Women's Tour - supporting a stage finish of the 2022 Women's Tour in Bury St Edmunds**
- **Virtual High Street - pilot work in Sudbury and implemented in other towns across BMS and wider**
- **Ipswich South Street Studios & St Stephen's redevelopment - enhanced music production and recording facilities and major training programmes with investment in a new music venue in the centre of Ipswich**
- **Celebration Markets - markets and events in East Suffolk's towns**

Procurement teams develop consistent approaches and monitor local spend (c.50% of total spend is local). Business events held to raise awareness and capacity to supply the region's pipeline of infrastructure projects. Joint research with skills teams to identify the forecast number of skilled jobs needed in the construction and engineering sectors by 2027 – current estimate of 10,000 shortfall in labour force.

Nationally leading research on improving accessibility and inclusion across the visitor economy with the benefit of securing an additional c.£330m per annum via the Purple Pound.

Work with local companies to develop an international network to drive business between Suffolk and other areas and improve access to European / global markets and overcome regulatory and technical barriers.

Emerging green trade policy that is embedded with wider growth objectives and will enable Suffolk to align trade and environmental strategies.

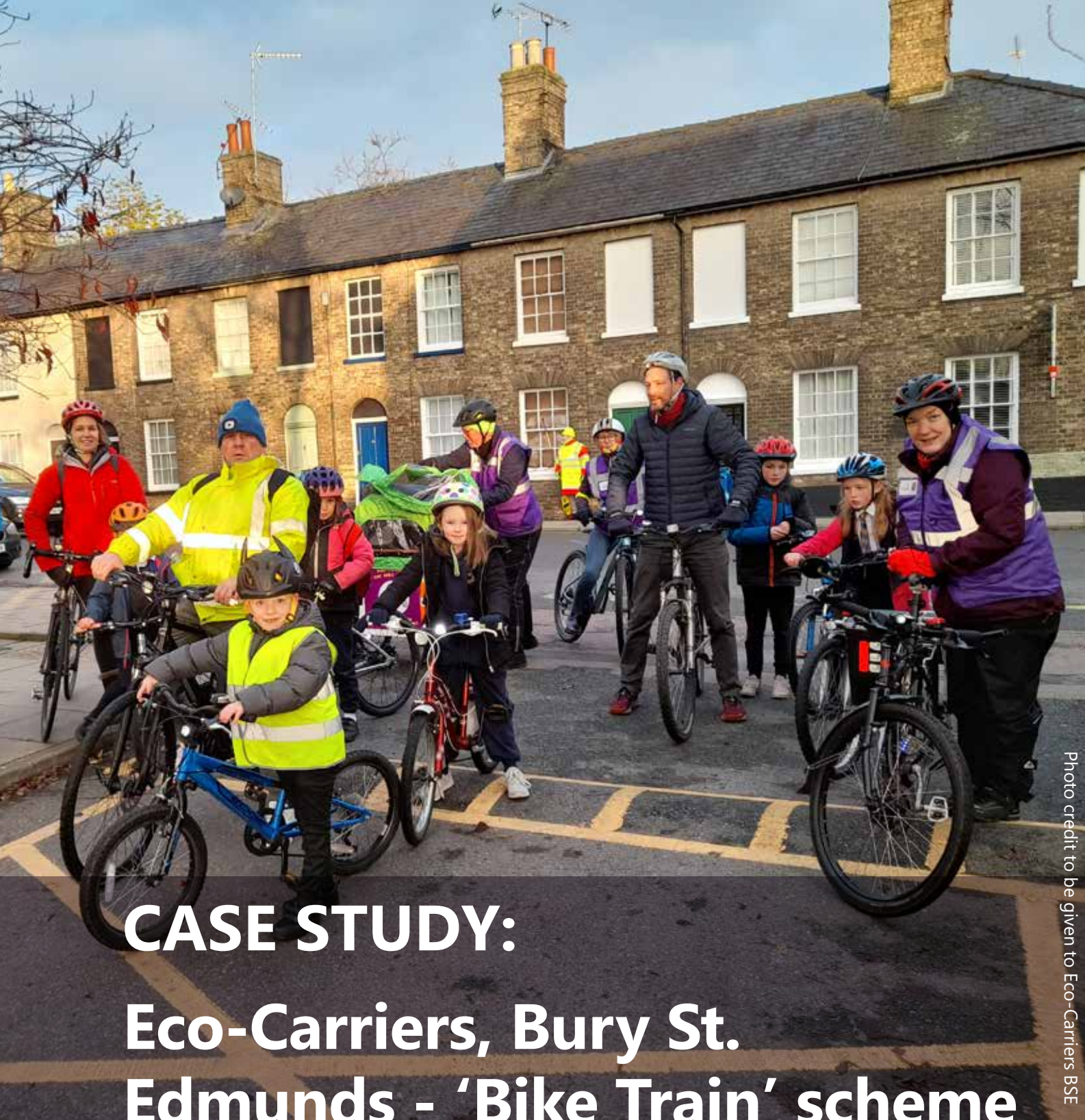


Photo credit to be given to Eco-Carriers BSE

# Tackling the climate emergency

## What have we done?

We have pledged £1.5million since 2020 to support Suffolk's ambition to be net zero by 2030, developing initiatives to reduce carbon emissions in the county and tackle the effects of climate change.

## What action have we taken?

Important progress has been made through the enabling of a range of impactful projects. Local measures have been financed, community action has been leveraged, educational and behavioural change campaigns have been developed, and the energy efficiency of homes has been improved to name but a few accomplishments.

New projects planned include the development of Suffolk's EV charging infrastructure, consultancy for Suffolk businesses driving towards net zero, support for Suffolk communities determined to move away from fossil fuels, An overhaul of the greensuffolk.org website experience and developing sustainable itineraries for the visitor economy.

The impact has included:

- Suffolk Climate Action Community Match Funder launched to support community carbon reduction projects, supporting 25 communities to date.
- A Net Zero Knowledge Hub service launched and businesses are receiving support: including carbon footprinting, energy audits and solar feasibility studies.
- A new dashboard on the Suffolk Observatory to track environmental performance across the county. This has been hailed by the East of England Local Government Association as an example of best practise.
- The Green Suffolk website promoting low-impact living has been visited by more than 7,300 people, with 98,000 people reached via social media channels.
- The development of an energy industry supply chain business database is underway: increasing awareness of the wider supply chain and providing an opportunity to identify trends, predict future growth needs and target support.

## CASE STUDY:

### Eco-Carriers, Bury St. Edmunds - 'Bike Train' scheme

Eco-Carriers BSE run a successful school Bike Train scheme, thanks to match-funding from the SPSL-funded Suffolk Climate Action Community Match Funder.

EcoCarriers BSE is a not-for-profit Community Benefit Society, and their Bike Train initiative enables primary-aged pupils across Bury St. Edmunds to cycle safely to and from school, while promoting cycling as a low-carbon mode of transport to parents and children alike.

The Bike Train successfully ran 53 Bike Trains, taking 198 passengers throughout the 2022 Autumn term. The project is continuing into 2023 with more routes planned across the town, reaching more families in the area.



# Creating warmer, more energy-efficient homes

## What have we done?

As part of the Suffolk climate emergency plan, we've invested £756,000 over three years to improve the energy-efficiency of homes in Suffolk.

## What action are we taking?

More than 62,000 properties in the county are thought to have the worst Energy Performance Certificates of E, F or G. And an estimated 28% of homes - 95,000 households – are in fuel poverty, almost double the number in 2019.

The Warm Homes Suffolk project is addressing this in a number of ways. It provides valuable advice to people, while a Fuel Poverty Retrofit Delivery Team has been created to help secure funding, develop a pipeline of work and ensure the most vulnerable households benefit.

Measures could include the installation of insulation, fitting air source heat pumps and replacing single glazing.

The impact has included:

- **The projected value of the work completed by the new team is set to be £50m, with combined potential savings for householders of nearly £4.8m.**
- **It will also enforce minimum standards for the private rental sector, create a loan fund for those who are just above the financial eligibility cap, and support the installer supply chain.**
- **The number of installations could rise from 250 a year, to 500 in the first year, to 750 in the second, and eventually reaching up to 1,500 annually.**

## CASE STUDY:

### Laura, 35, single mum from Ipswich

Laura lives with her two girls, seven and two, following the recent loss of her husband to illness. The couple had purchased the property during lockdown and were aware it would need work - but had not anticipated the scale of the damp and cold that would make the house inhabitable.

The family had stretched themselves to purchase the property, and were unable to complete the essential work. When Laura's husband died, she needed more than ever to turn the house into a safe and warm home for her children and so contacted the Suffolk Warm Homes team for help.

Family and friends helped her fix a hole in the roof, while a team of retrofit contractors were able to provide external wall and loft insulation that has completely transformed the house and dramatically improved its external aesthetic.

Laura said: "It has changed my life, given me hope for the future, and has made me proud of our country's welfare system. The work has been fantastic, I would encourage anyone that is struggling with a cold or damp home to get in touch with Suffolk Warm Homes."



## Screen Suffolk - putting the county on film

### What have we done?

SPSL originally invested in Screen Suffolk in 2016, ensuring it could compete for location filming – a fast-growing sector which brings money into the local economy and generates opportunities for young people. In 2022, we agreed a further £80,000 over five years to continue developing this work.

### What action was taken?

Suffolk wants to continue to build its share of location filming, and be one of the best places for location shooting in the UK. To do this, through Screen Suffolk it offers a wide range of well-managed locations, a comprehensive local crew and business database and a swift permitting system. Screen Suffolk's work will maximise film sector spend and employment in the local economy.

## The impact since funding began in 2016 includes:

- Around 900 filming days to date
- £11.5 million into the local economy
- Total public investment over 6 years £ 284,000
- 548 locations registered for filming
- 549 local crew registered
- 392 local work experience registered
- A comprehensive film permitting service
- Partnership working on Film Studio development (Brantham, Bentwaters).
- Films such as *Yesterday*, *The Dig*, *The Personal History of David Copperfield*, *Downton Abbey 2* filmed in the county
- TV shows such as *The Power*, *The Grand Tour*, *The Ride*, *The Detectivists*, *Countryfile*, *A Child in Time*, *Magpie Murders* filmed in the county





# Getting more young people reading

## What have we done?

Studies show literacy is more impactful on long-term outcomes for children than parents' socio-economic status – and is linked to wellbeing, life expectation, and aspirations. SPSL pledged £500,000 over two years towards Suffolk County Council's Get Suffolk Reading initiative.

## What action did we take?

The ambitious, 10-year Get Suffolk Reading campaign was launched by Suffolk County Council and the National Literacy Trust, and is particularly trying to reach families where reading is not a habit. It recognises how children with a book of their own are six times more likely to read above the level expected for their age.

There has been a particular focus on Stowmarket, Haverhill and Lowestoft.

## The impact has included:

- More than 45,000 books have been given to Suffolk children in the first year of the project.
- More than 250 'literacy champions' have been created, with dozens of businesses also getting behind the scheme.
- More than 6,500 people took part in the first Literacy Trust event (named Take 10), 3,000 attendees at a virtual author event, and community 'reading-corners' have been established.
- At the 'The Little Big Book Club' in Stowmarket, a survey showed 100% of parents would recommend it and 96% of children found the activity 'fun'.



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