

Foreword

Improving the quality of life for people in Suffolk is a prime consideration in the work of the County Council. The Structure Plan plays an important part, by setting out a long term 'vision' for new development and the protection of the environment, which will help to make Suffolk a pleasant place to live and work in and to visit for current and future generations.

This new Plan has been prepared at a time of increasing national and international concern over the impact we all have on the world environment. This has been most clearly seen through the Earth Summit at Rio de Janeiro in 1992, where the concept of sustainability was formally embraced, and more recent international conferences on global climate change in Kyoto, The Hague and Bonn. The United Kingdom has committed itself to action to reduce emissions of the most significant greenhouse gases, which are principally created through the use of energy.

The Plan tries to address these global concepts while at the same time accommodating local needs for housing, employment, shopping, leisure and the use of natural resources. The balance between providing for growth and protecting our high quality environment is not an easy one. As far as possible we have sought to reconcile potential conflicts and set a framework for sustainable change. In particular, new policies encourage less energy consumption, by reducing the need to travel, and promoting greater use of public transport.

The Plan allows for development on a scale suited to Suffolk's needs and should also maintain the vitality and viability of our towns and villages, while conserving the countryside and precious natural resources. The policies aim to build on what is distinctive and good about Suffolk. The County Council will be doing its part, while actively involving others in achieving the 'vision' in the plan.



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