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 **East of England NSIPs Centre of Excellence Conference**

8 May 2024, The Apex, Bury St Edmunds

**Agenda**

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| **Time** | **Session**  |
| 09:30  | Registration and Refreshments  |
| 10:00  | **Welcome Address and Centre of Excellence Overview*** Cllr Richard Rout, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance and Environment, Suffolk County Council
* Andrew Cook, Executive Director for Growth, Highways and Infrastructure, Suffolk County Council
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| 10:10 | **Great Grid Upgrade**Tom McGarry, Deputy Director of External Affairs, National Grid Infrastructure |
| 10:30 | **Future Electricity System Operator**Hannah Small, Public Affairs and Policy Manager, National Grid Electricity System Operator (ESO) |
| 10:50 | **Question and answer session with morning speakers**  |
| 11:00 | **Emerging NSIP Reform**Josh Wainman/Anna Payne, National Infrastructure Planning, Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) |
| 11:20 | Refreshments and Networking  |
| 11:40 | **Panel Discussion: NSIP Reform** Chaired by Andrew Cook, Executive Director for Growth, Highways and Infrastructure, Suffolk County CouncilPanellists: * Alicia Ford, Deputy Director – Planning Infrastructure, Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC)
* Philip Ridley, Head of National Infrastructure Planning, East Suffolk Council
* Jan Bessell, Strategic Planning Advisor, Pinsent Masons LLP and Board Chair, National Infrastructure Planning Association (NIPA)
* Neil McBride, Head of Planning, Lincolnshire County Council
* Cllr Richard Rout, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance and Environment, Suffolk County Council
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| 12:25 | **Introduction to Table Discussions**Andrew Cook, Executive Director for Growth, Highways and Infrastructure, Suffolk County Council  |
| 12:30 | Lunch and Networking  |
| 13:15 | **Table Discussions: Dealing with NSIPs – The Good and the Bad** Facilitated by Frances Fernandes, Managing Director, Infrastructure Matters  |
| 13:55 | **Assessing the effectiveness of NSIP EIA Predictions in Practice**Professor John Glasson, Oxford Brookes University  |
| 14:15 | **Critical Infrastructure Priorities: What Will the New Policy Presumption Mean in Practice**Sarah Clark, Partner, BDB Pitmans  |
| 14:35 | **Gull Wing Lowestoft: The Third Crossing of Lake Lothing**Simon Bretherton, Project Director, Suffolk County Council |
| 14:55 | **Closing Remarks** Chair Andrew Cook, Executive Director for Growth, Highways and Infrastructure, Suffolk County Council |
| 15:00 | Close  |