

Freedom of Information – Response – 27193

I am therefore formally requesting full disclosure of the following:

Please note that for some of the following information held by Suffolk County Council (SCC), the information is readily accessible to you, as it is already in the public domain.

Section 21 of the FOIA states that a public authority does not need to provide information under section 1 of the Act if that information is reasonably accessible to the applicant by other means.

Please use the links provided to access the requested information.

SECTION 1: FULL EXPENDITURE BREAKDOWN

A complete, itemised breakdown of all Council Tax expenditure for the most recent complete financial year, including departmental allocations and all spending categories. The Council revenue expenditure resourced from its core funding for 2024-25 can be found in the paragraphs 22 to 132 of Agenda Item 6 reported to Cabinet on 17 June 2025. Council Tax forms part of the core funding, as detailed within the report. Apart from the Adult Social Care Precept element of the Council Tax, the Council does not hypothecate Council Tax to particular types of expenditure.

[Suffolk County Council - Cabinet Meeting - 17 June 2025 - Reports](#)

A report detailing the Council's expenditure resourced from its core funding for 2025-26 is due to be taken to Council's Cabinet meeting on 16 July 2026.

SECTION 2: SPECIFIC AREAS OF CONCERN

Detailed figures relating to:

All expenditure on council buildings, including headquarters, refurbishments, and capital projects, with total costs and justifications.

The Council's capital expenditure for 2024-25 can be found in the paragraphs 136 to 200 of Agenda Item 6 reported to Cabinet on 17 June 2025.

[Suffolk County Council - Cabinet Meeting - 17 June 2025 - Reports](#)

A report detailing the Council's capital expenditure for 2025-26 is due to be taken to Council's Cabinet meeting on 16 July 2026.

Total spending on external recruitment consultants and agencies, with a breakdown by contract or supplier where possible.

SCC's HR team cannot provide a spend figure on recruitment consultants as this information is not held.

Below is the spend for the last year on two contracts held with HR for agency workers.

Opus People Solutions temporary spend -

Directorate	25/26 Q1 (£)	25/26 Q2 (£)	25/26 Q3 (£)	25/26 Q4 (£)	Total (£)
Adult & Community Services	273,220	485,276	490,682	261,761	1,510,939
Children and Young People	990,095	1,228,292	1,221,125	1,220,076	4,659,588
Corporate Services	161,316	177,068	100,821	97,934	537,139
Fire and Public Safety	4,818	11,372	2,132	1,787	20,109
Growth Highways & Infrastructure	102,140	121,996	96,792	105,049	425,977
Public Health and Communities	43,470	66,383	49,463	40,452	199,768
TOTAL	1,575,059	2,090,387	1,961,015	1,727,059	7,353,520

Tile Hill - temporary spend for calendar year 2025 is £1,259,151.

Please note - managers across Suffolk County Council can engage directly with agencies or recruitment consultants and this information is not held by HR.

The number of employees earning £100,000 or more, their job titles, and the total salary cost of these roles to the public purse.

This salary information for roles over £50,000 can be found on the Suffolk County Council website via the following link: <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/asset-library/scc-organisational-structure-28-02-25.xlsx>

All expenditure on events, hospitality, catering, food, drink, and provisions for councillors and officers, itemised by occasion or category.

This information can be found on our transparency pages located by the link below and filtering each spreadsheet on the subjective column with 37500 for hospitality:

<https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/open-data-suffolk/council-data-and-transparency/council-expenditure-and-contracts/expenditure-exceeding-250>

It is not possible to break the spend down to type of occasion (although the type of supplier may give a clue).

SECTION 3: CORE PUBLIC SERVICE EXPENDITURE

A clear breakdown of spending on services that directly affect residents:

Road maintenance and pothole repair, including the number of reported defects versus repairs completed.

A full breakdown of all road maintenance expenditure was published June 2025 and can be found at [SCC Local highways maintenance transparency report June 25 Final V0.01](#)

The final out turn for 2025/26 is now estimated at; capital spend £41.346m revenue spend £23.991m

Pothole figures are as per table below

Financial Year	Repairs	Repair Costs	Pothole reports
2024/25	18,310	£ 8,841,252.62	13,606*
2025/26	17,185	£ 10,264,771.99**	17,940*

* will include multiple reports for the same pothole.

** figure is estimated as accounting process has not been completed

Waste collection, including any changes to collection frequency in the past two financial years and any associated cost savings.

Maintenance, investment in, or closure of public parks and play areas.

The information you requested is not held by Suffolk County Council.

If you have not already done so, then you may wish to write to the Borough and District Councils of Suffolk:

- Babergh Mid Suffolk District Council

[Freedom of Information - Babergh District Council - babergh.gov.uk / midsuffolk.gov.uk](https://www.babergh.gov.uk / midsuffolk.gov.uk)

- East Suffolk

https://www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/home/SearchForm/?url=/home/SearchForm&Search=freedom+of+information&fo=8&action_results=Go

- West Suffolk

<https://www.westsuffolk.gov.uk/Council/Data-and-information/freedom-of-information.cfm>

- Ipswich Borough Council

<https://www.ipswich.gov.uk/search?s=freedom+of+information>

Recycling centre operations, including any reductions in opening hours or accessibility.

Annual cost for 2025/26 for the Recycling Centres in Suffolk was as follows:

- Site operation and overheads = £3.572m
- Residual (black bag) waste haulage and disposal = £2.66m
- Recyclable materials haulage and recycling = £380k
- Garden waste haulage and composting = £368k

SECTION 4: COST-SAVING MEASURES

Full details of any cost-saving measures implemented by the council in the two financial years prior to the decision to increase Council Tax, including what savings were achieved

and how they were reinvested into front-line services.

This information can be found in the Quarterly Budget Monitoring Papers submitted to Cabinet in June 2025 – Agenda Item 6 (Appendix D) & Cabinet February 2026 – Agenda Item 8 (Appendix D) located via the following links:

[https://committeeminutes.suffolk.gov.uk/DocSetPage.aspx?MeetingTitle=\(17-06-2025\),%20The%20Cabinet](https://committeeminutes.suffolk.gov.uk/DocSetPage.aspx?MeetingTitle=(17-06-2025),%20The%20Cabinet)

[https://committeeminutes.suffolk.gov.uk/DocSetPage.aspx?MeetingTitle=\(24-02-2026\),%20The%20Cabinet](https://committeeminutes.suffolk.gov.uk/DocSetPage.aspx?MeetingTitle=(24-02-2026),%20The%20Cabinet)

Savings generated are used to offset inflationary, demographic and other unavoidable pressure, and enable a balanced budget to be set.

SECTION 5: JUSTIFICATION FOR THE PROPOSED INCREASE

Copies of, or direct access to, any internal reports, financial assessments, impact analyses, or documented justifications used to support the proposed Council Tax increase, including projected outcomes for residents and any performance metrics or service improvement targets attached to this increase.

All Budget proposals are subject to review by Scrutiny Committee before being put forward to Cabinet and Council for approval, and the papers for 2026 Scrutiny Committee can be found via the following link:

[Meeting Documents - Committee Minutes](#)

The Section 151 Officer also has to give their justification to the budget proposals via a report which can also be found in Appendix A of the Budget Papers to 2026 County Council accessed via link below:

[Meeting Documents - Committee Minutes](#)