

Freedom of Information Request – Response – 27925

In light of the increased fees by the Planning Portal, which we understand to be a private company now, we are not aware of any legislation that prevents us submitting applications directly via consultants or as individuals.

I am trying to understand the methods allowed by your planning department according to any internal rules or guidance that you might hold. I am not looking for any planning advice in this request, merely your policies as determined by your planning department.

1. In light of this, please can you advise me as to whether we can submit a planning applications or prior approval requests directly to the local authority in accordance with the relevant legislation as laid down by the government.

A – Yes, planning applications can be submitted directly to Suffolk County Council (SCC); however, please note that SCC **only** manages the following types of planning applications:

- Minerals
- Waste
- County council developments, such as schools or fire stations.

For all other types of planning applications, the appropriate local district or borough council should be contacted as follows:

- [Babergh District Council](#)
- [Ipswich Borough Council](#)
- [Mid Suffolk District Council](#)
- [East Suffolk Council](#) (Suffolk Coastal and Waveney District Councils)
- [West Suffolk Council](#) (Forest Heath and St Edmundsbury Councils)

2. Please advise as to whether any forms are acceptable, provided they contain the same information as contained in forms supplied by the Planning Portal or via forms that contain your local authority branding as hosted by the Planning Portal.

A – Suffolk County Council can provide the specific forms related to different types of application upon request.

3. Please advise as to which email address the forms should be submitted.

A – planning@suffolk.gov.uk

4. Please also advise as to how payment should be made to the local authority for the correct fee.

A – Payments for planning fees can be paid via our website
<https://residents.suffolk.gov.uk/PlanningPayment>

5. Finally please advise on any additional fee to submit directly and the reasons for this fee

A – There is no additional fee to submit directly to Suffolk County Council.