

## Key Decision Forward Plan

### Purpose

The purpose of this document is to give sufficient notice to people affected by key decisions to exercise their rights to see papers and make an input into the decision-making process.

### Key Decisions

At Suffolk County Council, most key decisions are made by the Cabinet. Setting the budget is a decision of the County Council. Some key decisions may be made under specifically delegated authority as defined in the Council's [Constitution](#).

Regulation 8 of the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Access to Information) (England) Regulations Part III [Statutory Instruments 2000 No 3272] states:

8 (1) In these regulations a 'key decision' means an executive decision which is likely:

- a) to result in the relevant local authority incurring expenditure which is, or the making of savings which are, significant having regard to the local authority's budget for the service or function to which the decision relates; or
- b) to be significant in terms of its effects on communities living or working in an area comprising two or more wards or electoral divisions in the area of the relevant local authority.

### Threshold

Suffolk County Council has adopted a threshold of £500,000 for key decisions.

This plan includes decisions which the decision maker has decided are key decisions in that they:

- a) involve significant expenditure or savings; or
- b) have a significant effect on communities,

even though they are either below the adopted threshold or impact on people in one electoral division only.

### Decision Makers

#### Cabinet:

Councillor Matthew Hicks	Leader of the Council.
Councillor Richard Smith MVO	Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance, Economic Development and Skills.
Councillor Nadia Cenci	Cabinet Member for Communities
Councillor Chris Chambers	Cabinet Member for Transport Strategy, Planning and Waste
Councillor Bobby Bennett	Cabinet Member for Children and Young People's Services
Councillor Beccy Hopfensperger	Cabinet Member for Adult Care
Councillor Andrew Reid	Cabinet Member for SEND and Education
Councillor Richard Rout	Cabinet Member for Devolution, Local Government Reorganisation and NSIPs
Councillor Paul West	Cabinet Member for Ipswich, Operational Highways and Flooding.

**County Council:** A full list of [County Councillors](#) is available on the SCC website.

**Delegated Authority:** Where a key decision is to be made under delegated authority, the name and title of that individual will be provided under that item.

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- The information provided for each key decision below includes a list of the documents which will be submitted to the decision maker for consideration in relation to the matter in respect of the key decision to be made. Subject to any restriction on their disclosure, copies of, or extracts from, any document listed will be available on Suffolk County Council’s website or be available for inspection at Endeavour House, 8 Russell Road, Ipswich, IP1 2BX at least five clear days before the meeting (please contact Democratic Services on 01473 265119 or email: [committee.services@suffolk.gov.uk](mailto:committee.services@suffolk.gov.uk) for further information).
  - Further documents relevant to those matters may be submitted to the decision maker. If you wish to submit further documentation relevant to a decision being made or you require details of those documents (if any) as they become available, please contact Democratic Services (contact details above).
  - The list below also includes items that are not key decisions (if any) which will be considered by the Cabinet.

### Key Decision: 23 March 2026 to 16 June 2026

<b>Subject:</b>	Suffolk Economy Annual Review
<b>Is this a key decision?</b>	No
<b>Date key decision to be made:</b>	24 March 2026
<b>Decision maker:</b>	Cabinet
<b>Cabinet Member:</b>	Councillor Richard Smith, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance, Economic Development & Skills
<b>Description:</b>	<p>Suffolk’s Economic Strategy (Local Growth Plan) was developed by the Suffolk Business Board and approved by Cabinet in December 2024. The Annual Review sets out what has been achieved in the first year of delivery.</p> <p>This includes an update on progress against key economic ambitions, data and KPIs demonstrating the strength of Suffolk’s economy and comparison against national performance, key project updates, and case studies from businesses and residents who have benefited.</p> <p>The Annual Review also sets out our next steps and future projects.</p>

**Documents to be submitted:** Report by the Deputy Chief Executive and Executive Director of Growth, Highways, and Infrastructure

**Lead officer:** Rob Hancock  
Assistant Director Housing, Planning and Growth  
[Rob.Hancock@suffolk.gov.uk](mailto:Rob.Hancock@suffolk.gov.uk)

**Subject:** GHI Public Rights of Way Structures Capital Programme 2026 - 2028

**Is this a key decision?** Yes

**Date key decision to be made:** 24 March 2026

**Decision maker:** Cabinet

**Cabinet Member:** Councillor Paul West, Cabinet Member for Ipswich, Operational Highways and Flooding.

**Description:** The Council is legally responsible for maintaining Suffolk's Public Rights of Way network, which provides more than 3,500 miles of public access for walking, cycling and horse riding. There are 3,770 structures, such as bridges, across the network, that are essential for keeping routes open, accessible and available for public use.

Additional capital investment is required to maintain and replace an ageing structures asset base and avoid significant revenue costs that would otherwise result from increased network closures. Capital funding has been limited and unchanged for over five years, its value further reduced by rising costs and updated specifications.

**Documents to be submitted:** Report by the Deputy Chief Executive and Executive Director of Growth, Highways, and Infrastructure

**Lead officer:** Claire Dickson  
Operations Manager, Public Rights of Way and Access  
[Claire.dickson@suffolk.gov.uk](mailto:Claire.dickson@suffolk.gov.uk)  
01284 741354

There are currently no items for the Cabinet meeting on 16 June 2026

## Indicative Forward Plan of Key Decisions: 17 June 2026 to 15 September 2026

This section provides an indicative list of key decisions that the Cabinet, County Council or a delegated officer is likely to make between the dates indicated above. Suffolk County Council aims to keep to the dates shown below however as new circumstances come to light, it may be necessary to reschedule some items and add or remove others.

The list below also includes items that are not key decisions (if any) which may be considered by the Cabinet.

<b>Subject:</b>	Suffolk Safeguarding Partnership Annual Report 2025-26
<b>Is this a key decision?</b>	No
<b>Date key decision to be made:</b>	14 July 2026
<b>Decision maker:</b>	Cabinet
<b>Cabinet Member:</b>	Councillors Bobby Bennett and Beccy Hopfensperger
<b>Description:</b>	<p>The annual report presented to Cabinet sets out the activities of the Safeguarding Partnership for the previous year.</p> <p>This report seeks to provide a rigorous and transparent assessment of the performance and effectiveness of local safeguarding provision. It is the intention of the Partnership to share this report with all partner agencies and with those that have influence over the services provided to the people of Suffolk.</p> <p>The purpose of this report is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• to provide an outline of the main activities of Suffolk Safeguarding Partnership and its achievements during 2025-26;</li><li>• To provide the public and partner agencies with an overview of the Partnerships safeguarding activity, including lessons learnt from reviews undertaken;</li><li>• To identify challenges and areas for improvement in the year ahead.</li></ul>
<b>Documents to be submitted:</b>	Report by the Executive Director of Children and Young Peoples Services and the Director of Adult Social Care
<b>Lead officer:</b>	<p>Anthony Douglas CBE, Independent Chair, Suffolk Safeguarding Adults Board</p> <p>Email: <a href="mailto:anthonydouglasconsultancy@outlook.com">anthonydouglasconsultancy@outlook.com</a></p> <p>Tel: 01473 265500</p> <p>Chris Robson, Independent Scrutineer, Suffolk Safeguarding Children's Board</p> <p>Email: <a href="mailto:c.w.robson@outlook.com">c.w.robson@outlook.com</a></p>

Tel: 01473 265500

Sarah-Jane Smedmor, Executive Director of Children and Young People's Services

Email: [Sarah-Jane.Smedmor@suffolk.gov.uk](mailto:Sarah-Jane.Smedmor@suffolk.gov.uk)

Tel: 01473260450

Will Wright, Interim Partnership Manager, Suffolk Safeguarding Partnership

Email: [Will.wright@suffolksp.org.uk](mailto:Will.wright@suffolksp.org.uk)

Tel: 01473 265500

<b>Subject:</b>	Suffolk Youth Justice Plan 2026-2027
<b>Is this a key decision?</b>	Yes
<b>Date key decision to be made:</b>	16 July 2026
<b>Decision maker:</b>	County Council
<b>Cabinet Member:</b>	Councillor Bobby Bennett, Cabinet Member for Children and Young People's Services
<b>Description:</b>	<p>Suffolk Youth Justice Plan for 2026-27 is a review of activity during 25-26 and a forward work plan for the coming year.</p> <p>Local Authorities have a statutory duty to submit an annual Youth Justice Plan, relating to their provision of Youth Justice Services. Section 40 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 sets out the Youth Justice partnership's responsibilities in producing a plan.</p> <p>The plan should address the functions assigned to a Youth Justice Service, including how services will prevent offending behaviour and reduce reoffending.</p>
<b>Documents to be submitted:</b>	Report by the Executive Director of Children and Young People's Services
<b>Lead officer:</b>	Catherine Bennett Head of Suffolk Youth Justice Service Email: <a href="mailto:catherine.bennett@suffolk.gov.uk">catherine.bennett@suffolk.gov.uk</a> Tel: 07753 310241

There are currently no items for the Cabinet meeting on 15 September.