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 Michael Hadwen (Chairman), Leader of the Council

Councillor Philip Faircloth-Mutton, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care

Councillor Vicky Armstrong, Cabinet Member for Finance, Economic Development and Efficiency

Councillor Simon Aalders, Cabinet Member for Children and Young People

Councillor Tony Gould, Cabinet Member for Education and SEND

Councillor Christopher Hudson, Cabinet Member for Transport and Highways

Councillor Tristan Gale, Cabinet Member for Planning, Devolution and the Fire Service

Councillor June Mummery, Cabinet Member for Coastal Affairs, Communities and Public Health

Councillor Morgan Brobyn, Cabinet Member for Food, Waste and Rural Affairs

County Council: A full list of County Councillors is available on the Council's 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.

- 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 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 Decisions: 15 October 2026 to 10 November 2026

Subject:	2026-27 Budget – Quarter 2 Monitoring Report
Is this a key decision?	No
Date key decision to be made:	10 November 2026
Decision maker:	Cabinet
Cabinet Member:	Councillor Vicky Armstrong, Cabinet Member for Finance, Economic Development and Efficiency
Description:	This report summarises the Council's forecast performance against its 2026-27 Revenue Budget and Capital Programme as at Quarter 1. It includes an explanation of budget variances compared to the budget. The report will also show the Council's reserves, virements and the Council's Treasury Management Activities.
Documents to be submitted:	Main Report with Annexes
Lead officer:	Andrew Filby, Head of Corporate Finance, 01473 260776, Andrew.Filby@Suffolk.gov.uk,

Subject:	Suffolk Minerals and Waste Plan preparation
Is this a key decision?	Yes
Date key decision to be made:	10 November 2026
Decision maker:	Cabinet
Cabinet Member:	Councillor Tristan Gale, Cabinet Member for Planning, Devolution and the Fire Service

Description:	The County Council is the Minerals and Waste Planning Authority for Suffolk. The County Council is responsible for preparing a new Minerals and Waste Plan to plan minerals and waste developments for the next 15 years (and beyond). The Council has an adopted plan which is over 5 years old and needs reviewing to ensure it remains up to date. Cabinet is being asked to formally adopt the engagement strategy, endorse the publication of a notice of intent to commence a timetable, scoping consultation and associated supporting documentation that legislation requires as part of the Minerals and Waste Plan. Delegated authority is also sought to progress up until but not including gateway 3 of the plan making process.
Documents to be submitted:	Cabinet Report; Notice of intention to commence; Timetable; Scoping Consultation; Engagement Strategy.
Lead officer:	Andy Rutter, Development Manager, 01473 263766 andy.rutter@suffolk.gov.uk

Subject:	Suffolk Local Access Forum Annual Report 2025/26
Is this a key decision?	No
Date key decision to be made:	10 November 2026
Decision maker:	Cabinet
Cabinet Member:	Councillor Morgan Brobyn, Cabinet Member for Food, Waste and Rural Affairs
Description:	The Suffolk Local Access Forum (SLAF) is a statutory stakeholder body which advises on improving access to the countryside. It is required to submit an annual report of its activities, and the appointing authority (Suffolk County Council) must publish that report. The report details the Forum's activities and highlights its priorities and recommendations.
Documents to be submitted:	Suffolk Local Access Forum Annual Report 2025-26
Lead officer:	Andrew Woodin, Development and Improvement Manager andrew.woodin@suffolk.gov.uk; 01473 264753

Subject:	Decision to consent to laying of the draft Statutory Instrument for devolution across Suffolk and Norfolk
Is this a key decision?	Yes
Date key decision to be made:	10 November 2026
Decision maker:	Cabinet
Cabinet Member:	Councillor Tristan Gale, Cabinet Member for Planning, Devolution and the Fire Service
Description:	Under the Government's devolution arrangements, Suffolk County Council would become a constituent member of the Mayoral Strategic Authority known as a Mayoral Combined County Authority. Therefore, to progress with devolution, Suffolk County Council must decide whether to consent to government laying a Statutory Instrument before Parliament.
Documents to be submitted:	A covering report will be submitted for consideration.
Lead officer:	Caroline Davison, Assistant Director, Corporate Strategy & Service Improvement, caroline.davison@suffolk.gov.uk, 01473 264400

Subject:	Adult Social Care Transformation and Savings
Is this a key decision?	Yes
Date key decision to be made:	10 November 2026
Decision maker:	Cabinet
Cabinet Member:	Councillor Philip Faircloth-Mutton, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care
Description:	Adult Social Care has a successful transformation programme called People at the heart of Care. This strategy was launched in 2023/24 and since then the programme has improved outcomes for residents and increased financial sustainability through the successful delivery of significant savings. Through further investment, there is an opportunity to enhance this programme as well as increasing the savings which have already been included in the Council's medium-term financial plan. The report will set out the outcomes sought and the expected benefits and will seek agreement for the proposed investment.

Documents to be submitted:	Report by Assistant Director, Strategy and Change and Access
Lead officer:	Elissa Rospigliosi, Assistant Director, Strategy and Change and Access elissa.rospigliosi@suffolk.gov.uk, 07355 021729

Subject:	Healthy Child Services Proposals
Is this a key decision?	Yes
Date key decision to be made:	10 November 2026
Decision maker:	Cabinet
Cabinet Member:	Councillor June Mummery, Cabinet Member for Coastal Affairs, Communities and Public Health
Description:	This item is for Cabinet to make a decision and approve the proposals for the changes within the Healthy Child Services. This is following a public consultation to gather feedback on proposals.
Documents to be submitted:	Report; Consultation report including responses with key themes; EIAs.
Lead officer:	Stuart Keeble, Executive Director of Public Health and Communities, Stuart.Keeble@suffolk.gov.uk

Indicative Forward Plan of Key Decisions: 10 Nov 2026 to 17 Jun 2027

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.

Subject:	Revision of Suffolk County Council's Energy, Water, Commercial Transport and Adaptive Infrastructure Policy
Is this a key decision?	Yes
Date key decision to be made:	10 December 2026
Decision maker:	Cabinet
Cabinet Member:	Councillor Tristan Gale, Cabinet Member for Planning, Devolution and the Fire Service
Description:	This report sets out the proposals and rationale for amendments to Suffolk County Council's Energy, Water, Commercial transport and Adaptive Infrastructure Policy, following a review.
Documents to be submitted:	A draft copy of the revised Energy, Water, Commercial transport and Adaptive Infrastructure Policy setting out the proposed amendments, in addition to the Cabinet Report.
Lead officer:	Phil Watson, Strategic Energy Projects Manager, 01473 264777, phil.watson@suffolk.gov.uk

Subject:	Prince Philip Lock Bridge Refurbishment and Accessible Route
Is this a key decision?	Yes
Date key decision to be made:	10 December 2026
Decision maker:	Cabinet
Cabinet Member:	Councillor Christopher Hudson, Cabinet Member for Transport and Highways

Description:	In 2023, the Cabinet confirmed support for the Ipswich Town Deal's submission for the Prince Philip Lock Bridge and committed financial support in the region of £3m towards its delivery. A further Cabinet paper confirming the delivery mechanism, procurement approach and final cost estimates was required, which this report provides.
Documents to be submitted:	Report by the Joint Chief Executive (Head of Paid Service)
Lead officer:	Carl Ashton, Transport Planning Manager 01473 265923, carl.ashton@suffolk.gov.uk

Subject:	Revenue Budget 2027-28 and Capital Programme 2027-30
Is this a key decision?	Yes
Date key decision to be made:	28 January 2027
Decision maker:	Cabinet
Cabinet Member:	Councillor Vicky Armstrong, Cabinet Member for Finance, Economic Development and Efficiency
Description:	This report summarises the Council's final Revenue and Capital budget for 2027-28 and outlines the background, financial environment, scrutiny and consultation arrangements. It details the savings proposals being recommended together with the Council's Treasury Management arrangements and Prudential Indicators. It makes recommendations to Council on the budget requirement and council tax for 2027-28 together with the Capital Programme, its financing and prudential indicators.
Documents to be submitted:	Main Report and Annexes
Lead officer:	Andrew Filby, Head of Corporate Finance, 01473 260776, Andrew.Filby@Suffolk.gov.uk,

Subject:	Revenue Budget 2027-28 and Capital Programme 2027-30
Is this a key decision?	Yes
Date key decision to be made:	11 February 2027
Decision maker:	County Council
Cabinet Member:	Councillor Vicky Armstrong, Cabinet Member for Finance, Economic Development and Efficiency

Description:	This report summarises the Council's final Revenue and Capital budget for 2027-28 and outlines the background, financial environment, scrutiny and consultation arrangements. It details the savings proposals being recommended together with the Council's Treasury Management arrangements and Prudential Indicators. It makes recommendations to Council on the budget requirement and council tax for 2027-28 together with the Capital Programme, its financing and prudential indicators.
Documents to be submitted:	Main Report and Annexes
Lead officer:	Andrew Filby, Head of Corporate Finance, 01473 260776, Andrew.Filby@Suffolk.gov.uk

Subject:	2026-27 Budget – Quarter 3 Monitoring Report
Is this a key decision?	No
Date key decision to be made:	25 February 2027
Decision maker:	Cabinet
Cabinet Member:	Councillor Vicky Armstrong, Cabinet Member for Finance, Economic Development and Efficiency
Description:	This report summarises the Council's forecast performance against its 2026-27 Revenue Budget and Capital Programme as at Quarter 1. It includes an explanation of budget variances compared to the budget. The report will also show the Council's reserves, virements and the Council's Treasury Management Activities.
Documents to be submitted:	Main Report with Annexes
Lead officer:	Andrew Filby, Head of Corporate Finance, 01473 260776, Andrew.Filby@Suffolk.gov.uk

There are currently no items scheduled for the Cabinet meeting on 25 March 2027.

There are currently no items scheduled for the Cabinet meeting on 22 April 2027.

There are currently no items scheduled for the Cabinet meeting on 20 May 2027.

Subject:	2026-27 Budget – Outturn Report
Is this a key decision?	No
Date key decision to be made:	17 June 2027
Decision maker:	Cabinet
Cabinet Member:	Councillor Vicky Armstrong, Cabinet Member for Finance, Economic Development and Efficiency
Description:	This report summarises the Council's forecast performance against its 2026-27 Revenue Budget and Capital Programme as at Quarter 1. It includes an explanation of budget variances compared to the budget. The report will also show the Council's reserves, virements and the Council's Treasury Management Activities.
Documents to be submitted:	Main Report with Annexes
Lead officer:	Andrew Filby, Head of Corporate Finance, 01473 260776, Andrew.Filby@Suffolk.gov.uk