

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 Mummary, 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: 16 June to 14 July 2026

Subject:	A12 MRN Scheme – Approval to Promote a Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO) and Authorise Increase At-Risk Expenditure
Is this a key decision?	Yes
Date key decision to be made:	14 July 2026
Decision maker:	Cabinet
Cabinet Member:	Councillor Christopher Hudson, Cabinet Member for Transport and Highways
Description:	This report seeks approval to increase previously agreed at-risk expenditure for the A12 Major Road Network (MRN) scheme, promote a Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO) to acquire land required for the scheme, and authorise the payment of compensation, if required. The CPO will provide a mechanism to secure land where voluntary agreement cannot be reached, ensuring delivery within required timescales. Approval is also sought to enable continued progression of the scheme towards Full Business Case submission in September 2026.
Documents to be submitted:	Report by the Joint Chief Executive (Head of Paid Service)
Lead officer:	Scott Lamont, MRN & Major Scheme Project Manager 07702677172, scott.lamont@suffolk.gov.uk

Subject:	2025-26 Outturn Report
Is this a key decision?	No
Date key decision to be made:	14 July 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 2025-26 Revenue Budget and Capital Programme as at Outturn. 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:	Report by the Joint Chief Executive
Lead officer:	Andrew Filby, Head of Corporate Finance 01473 260776, Andrew.Filby@Suffolk.gov.uk

Subject:	SCC's response to EcoPower Suffolk Ltd Statutory Consultation
Is this a key decision?	Yes
Date key decision to be made:	14 July 2026
Decision maker:	Cabinet
Cabinet Member:	Councillor Tristan Gale, Cabinet Member for Planning, Devolution and the Fire Service
Description:	EcoPower Suffolk is a solar farm and Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) with an anticipated capacity of 250 megawatts (MW) proposed for an area in the vicinity of Yaxley substation. It is a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project due to the scale of the proposals. This report covers Suffolk County Council's (SCC's) response to the Statutory Consultation of the EcoPower Suffolk proposals.
Documents to be submitted:	Report
Lead officer:	Graham Gunby, National Infrastructure Planning Manager Graham.gunby@suffolk.gov.uk , 01473 264807

Subject:	SEND Sufficiency Strategy and SEND Capital Programme
Is this a key decision?	Yes
Date key decision to be made:	14 July 2026
Decision maker:	Cabinet
Cabinet Member:	Councillor Tony Gould, Cabinet Member for Education and SEND
Description:	Cabinet are being asked to agree to how the £18.8m DfE High Needs Funding allocation will be spent over 2026/27, 2027/28 and 2028/29. The proposal is to increase specialist places in Suffolk which will positively impact the Council's revenue pressures. Notice of Late Item
Documents to be submitted:	Cabinet Report
Lead officer:	Gemma Morgan, Head of SEND Funding and Provider Services, 01473 260519, gemma.morgan@suffolk.gov.uk

Indicative Forward Plan of Key Decisions: 14 July 2026 to 17 June 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:	Prince Philip Lock Bridge Refurbishment and Accessible Route
Is this a key decision?	Yes
Date key decision to be made:	17 September 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 Tel: 01473 265923, carl.ashton@suffolk.gov.uk

Subject:	Suffolk Safeguarding Partnership Annual Report 2025-26
Is this a key decision?	No
Date key decision to be made:	17 September 2026
Decision maker:	Cabinet
Cabinet Member:	Councillor Simon Aalders, Cabinet Member for Children and Young People

Description: The annual report presented to the Cabinet sets out the activities of the Safeguarding Partnership for the previous year. 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.

The purpose of this report is:

- To provide an outline of the main activities of Suffolk Safeguarding Partnership and its achievements during 2025-26;
- To provide the public and partner agencies with an overview of the Partnerships safeguarding activity, including lessons learnt from reviews undertaken;
- To identify challenges and areas for improvement in the year ahead.

Documents to be submitted: Report by the Executive Director of Children and Young Peoples Services and the Executive Director, Adult Social Care

Lead officer: Anthony Douglas CBE, Independent Chair, Suffolk Safeguarding Adults Board
01473 265500, anthonydouglasconsultancy@outlook.com
Chris Robson, Independent Scrutineer, Suffolk Safeguarding Children's Board
01473 265500, c.w.robson@outlook.com
Sarah-Jane Smedmor, Executive Director of Children and Young People's Services
01473 260450, Sarah-Jane.Smedmor@suffolk.gov.uk
Will Wright, Interim Partnership Manager, Suffolk Safeguarding Partnership,
01473 265500, Will.wright@suffolksp.org.uk

Subject:	Adult Safeguarding Annual Report
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Is this a key decision?	No
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Date key decision to be made:	17 September 2026
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Decision maker:	Cabinet
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Cabinet Member:	Councillor Philip Faircloth-Mutton, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care
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Description: This annual report to the Cabinet summarises Adult Safeguarding activity across Suffolk and provides assurance on the effectiveness of safeguarding functions delivered by Suffolk County Council. It highlights progress since the previous report, including key developments and improvements, and sets out current and emerging risks. The report also outlines planned actions and mitigation for the year ahead to support continued safe, person-centred practice.

Documents to be submitted: Report by the Executive Director, Adult Social Care

Lead officer: Clement Mawoyo, Area Director West Suffolk, HomeFirst & Adult Safeguarding,
07732603657, clement.mawoyo@suffolk.gov.uk
Nichola Bennett, Head of Adult Safeguarding
01473 263238, nichola.bennett@suffolk.gov.uk

Subject: Corporate Parenting Board and Children in Care Council (C2C) – Annual Report

Is this a key decision? No

Date key decision to be made: 17 September 2026

Decision maker: Cabinet

Cabinet Member: Councillor Simon Aalders, Cabinet Member for Children and Young People

Description: This is an annual report that is presented to Cabinet together with a report from C2C Council setting out the service activity and progress in relation to the local authorities' duties as a Corporate Parent.

Documents to be submitted: Report by the Executive Director of Children and Young People's Services and the Corporate Parenting Board and Children in Care Council (C2C) – Annual Report

Lead officer: Andrew Borwick-Fox, Assistant Director Corporate Parenting: Andrew.Borwick-Fox@suffolk.gov.uk

Subject: 2026-27 Budget – Quarter 1 Monitoring Report

Is this a key decision? No

Date key decision to be made: 17 September 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,
Andrew.Filby@Suffolk.gov.uk, 01473 260776

Subject: Best Start Family Hub Development

Is this a key decision? Yes

Date key decision to be made: 17 September 2026

Decision maker: Cabinet

Cabinet Member: Councillor Simon Aalders, Cabinet Member for Children and Young People

Description: The report sets out proposals for the development of the Best Start Family Hub Network to improve access to integrated support for children, young people and families. It includes recommendations for changes to the use of a number of council-owned premises to support the delivery of improved information and support for children and families in line with national guidance and local priorities. In accordance with Children's Centre statutory guidance, the report seeks approval to undertake public consultation on the proposed changes, ensuring that local communities, stakeholders and service users have the opportunity to inform decision-making.

Documents to be submitted: Report and EIA

Lead officer: Rebecca Watson, Best Start Family Hub Programme Lead
Rebecca.watson@suffolk.gov.uk, 01473264278

Subject:	A14 Orwell Bridge / Ipswich Transport Resilience – Development of the Business Case
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Is this a key decision?	Yes
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Date key decision to be made:	17 September 2026
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Decision maker:	Cabinet
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Cabinet Member:	Councillor Christopher Hudson, Cabinet Member for Transport and Highways
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Description:	Following a Motion to Full Council, the Council resolved to commission a comprehensive strategic feasibility assessment examining all realistic long-term Orwell crossing and freight resilience solutions. This report considers the work undertaken to date, identifies the strategic options to be considered, confirms objectives and outcomes, and timeline / processes for taking this work forward.
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This report recommends proceeding with the preparation of a Pre-Strategic Outline Business case, to address the lack of transport network resilience within Ipswich and on the A14 Orwell Bridge, in order to be able to identify a preferred option.

Documents to be submitted:	Cabinet report, technical report
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Lead officer:	Luke Barber, Strategic Transport and Policy Manager 01473 264412, luke.barber@suffolk.gov.uk
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Subject:	Suffolk Youth Justice Plan 2026-2027
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Is this a key decision?	Yes
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Date key decision to be made:	8 October 2026
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Decision maker:	County Council
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Cabinet Member:	Councillor Simon Aalders, Cabinet Member for Children and Young People
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Description:	Suffolk Youth Justice Plan for 2026-27 is a review of activity during 25-26 and a forward work plan for the coming year. 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. The plan should address the functions assigned to a Youth Justice Service, including how services will prevent offending behaviour and reduce reoffending.
Documents to be submitted:	Report by the Executive Director of Children and Young People's Services
Lead officer:	Catherine Bennett, Head of Suffolk Youth Justice Service 07753 310241, catherine.bennett@suffolk.gov.uk

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:	15 October 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:	2026-27 Budget – Quarter 2 Monitoring Report
Is this a key decision?	No
Date key decision to be made:	12 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, Andrew.Filby@Suffolk.gov.uk , 01473 260776

There are currently no items for the Cabinet meeting on 10 December 2026.

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, Andrew.Filby@Suffolk.gov.uk , 01473 260776

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,
Andrew.Filby@Suffolk.gov.uk, 01473 260776

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,
Andrew.Filby@Suffolk.gov.uk, 01473 260776

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

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

There are currently no items 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, Andrew.Filby@Suffolk.gov.uk , 01473 260776