

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 Chris Chambers	Cabinet Member for Transport Strategy, Planning and Waste
Councillor Bobby Bennett	Cabinet Member for Children and Young People's Services
Councillor Philip Faircloth-Mutton	Cabinet Member for Environment, Communities and Equality
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 Reform 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 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: 26 February 2025 to 1 April 2025

Subject:	Pay Policy Statement
Is this a key decision?	No
Date key decision to be made:	13 March 2025
Decision maker:	County Council
Cabinet Member:	Cabinet Member for Environment, Communities and Equality
Description:	The Pay Policy Statement includes our policy on the level and elements of remuneration for Chief Officers, the remuneration of the lowest paid employees, the relationship between the remuneration of Chief Officers and other officers and other aspects of Chief Officer remuneration, fees and charges and other discretionary payments. It will also include the data relating to Gender Pay Gap Reporting required to be published by 30/03/2025.
Documents to be submitted:	Report by the Deputy Chief Executive and Director for Corporate Services
Lead officer:	Tim Jermyn, HR Operations Manager tim.jermyn@suffolk.gov.uk 01473 260336

Subject:	Provision of Library Services (Update)
Is this a key decision?	Yes
Date key decision to be made:	18 March 2025
Decision maker:	Cabinet
Cabinet Member:	Councillor Philip Faircloth Mutton, Cabinet Member for Environment, Communities and Equality
Description:	<p>There is a requirement, according to the Public Libraries and Museums Act 1964, for SCC to deliver library services.</p> <p>Cabinet is asked to consider and agree the proposals for the future delivery of the service</p> <p>Late Item:</p> <p>Key Decision Forward Plan - Suffolk County Council</p>
Documents to be submitted:	Report by the Director of Public Health and Communities
Lead officer:	<p>Gemma Levi</p> <p>Senior Manager</p> <p>gvlevi@suffolk.gov.uk</p>

Subject:	Devolution Priority Programme Local Government Reorganisation – Interim Plan
Is this a key decision?	Yes
Date key decision to be made:	18 March 2025
Decision maker:	Cabinet
Cabinet Member:	Councillor Richard Rout, Cabinet Member for Devolution, Local Government Reform and NSIPs
Description:	<p>As part of the government’s Devolution Priority Programme, Suffolk County Council has committed to delivering devolution and local government reorganisation in parallel to an accelerated timetable. On 5 February the Minister for Local Government wrote to all Leaders in Suffolk asking for proposals for local government reorganisation to be submitted by 26 September 2025. Simultaneously, he requested that councils submit an “interim plan” by 21 March 2025 which should “set out your progress on developing proposals in line with the criteria and guidance.”</p>

Documents to be submitted: Report by the Chief Executive

Lead officer: Caroline Davison, Head of Corporate Strategy, 01473 264400, caroline.davison@suffolk.gov.uk

Subject: SEND Capital Programme and Next Steps

Is this a key decision? Yes

Date key decision to be made: 1 April 2025

Decision maker: Cabinet

Cabinet Member: Councillor Andrew Reid, Cabinet Member for Education and Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)

Description: Cabinet is asked to decide if the provision agreed as part of Phase 3 of the SEND Capital Programme can be changed from eight Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) Units attached to mainstream schools to other specialist provision within the local offer.

Cabinet is being asked to consider options for spending the SEND capital funding from the Department for Education (DfE) .

Documents to be submitted: Report by the Executive Director of Children and Young People's Services

Lead officer: Gemma Morgan
Head of SEND Funding and Provider Services
Telephone: 01473 260519
Email: gemma.morgan@suffolk.gov.uk

Subject: Devolution Priority Programme, Devolution: Suffolk County Council Response to Government Consultation.

Is this a key decision? Yes

Date key decision to be made: 1 April 2025

Decision maker: Cabinet

Cabinet Member: Councillor Richard Rout, Cabinet Member for Devolution, Local Government Reform and NSIPs

Description: The Government has run an eight week public consultation on its proposals for devolution in Suffolk and Norfolk. The

results will form part of the evidence for the Minister to consider whether to proceed with the devolution proposals outlined in the consultation. Suffolk and Suffolk County Council will be directly impacted by government's proposed devolution approach; therefore, it is incumbent on the County Council to offer its views and respond to the consultation.

Late Item: [Key Decision Forward Plan - Suffolk County Council](#)

Documents to be submitted: Report by the Executive Director of Growth Highways and Infrastructure

Lead officer: Caroline Davison, Head of Corporate Strategy, 01473 264400, caroline.davison@suffolk.gov.uk

Subject: His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services - Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service Inspection Report 2024 and Action Plan

Is this a key decision? Yes

Date key decision to be made: 1 April 2025

Decision maker: Cabinet

Cabinet Member: Councillor Steve Wiles, Cabinet Member for Public Health and Public Protection

Description: In July 2017, His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICRS) extended its remit to include inspections of England's fire and rescue services.

The Fire and Rescue National Framework for England published by the Home Office May 2018, states that fire and rescue authorities must give due regard to the report and recommendations made by HMICFRS.

An inspection of Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service took place in September 2024 and was published in February 2025. This was the third inspection of the Service, with new inspection methodology, criteria and grading. ([link to Report](#)).

The inspection highlighted areas of Good, Adequate, and Requires Improvement in the Service with one Cause of Concern area. Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service have developed an Action Plan to address the inspection recommendations.

The purpose of the Cabinet decision is to agree £1.6m funding for the implementation of the Action Plan.

Late Item: [Key Decision Forward Plan - Suffolk County Council](#)

Documents to be submitted: Report by the Director of Fire and Public Safety, Chief Fire Officer

Lead officer: Jon Lacey, Chief Fire Officer
Email: jon.lacey@suffolk.gov.uk
07535 290980

Indicative Forward Plan of Key Decisions: 19 March 2025 to 13 May 2025

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: SCC's Relevant Representations to the Planning Inspectorate in relation to Sea Link Grid Reinforcement Development Consent Order application

Is this a key decision? Yes

Date key decision to be made: 13 May 2025

Decision maker: Cabinet

Cabinet Member: Councillor Matthew Hicks, Leader of the Council

Description: The Sea Link project is an electricity grid reinforcement scheme creating an undersea link between Suffolk and Kent, which also includes the construction of a converter station in Saxmundham. It is a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project due to the scale of the proposals.

This report covers SCC's Relevant Representations to the Planning Inspectorate in relation to the Sea Link Grid Reinforcement Scheme Development Consent Order application.

Documents to be submitted: Report by the Executive Director of Growth, Highways & Infrastructure

Lead officer: Roly Arbon, Project Manager (PMO)
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