

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: 18 August 2025 to 16 September 2025

Subject:	2025-26 Budget – Quarter 1 Monitoring Report
Is this a key decision?	No
Date key decision to be made:	9 September 2025
Decision maker:	Cabinet
Cabinet Member:	Councillor Richard Smith, Cabinet Member for Finance, Economic Development and Skills
Description:	This report summarises the Council’s forecast performance against its 2025-26 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:	Report by the Chief Executive
Lead officer:	Andrew.Filby@Suffolk.gov.uk Head of Corporate Finance 01473 260776

Subject:	Suffolk's Local Nature Recovery Strategy
Is this a key decision?	Yes
Date key decision to be made:	9 September 2025
Decision maker:	Cabinet
Cabinet Member:	Councillor Philip Faircloth-Mutton, Cabinet Member for Environment, Communities and Equality
Description:	This report describes the work led by Suffolk County Council as Responsible Authority to develop and consult on a Local Nature Recovery Strategy for Suffolk. It seeks approval from Cabinet to consult with the Supporting Authorities on the proposed LNRS for publication, and to delegate final approval of the strategy for publication to the Cabinet Member for Environment, Communities and Equality and Executive Director for Growth, Highways & Infrastructure following that.
Documents to be submitted:	Report by the Executive Director of Growth, Highways & Infrastructure
Lead officer:	Tim De-Keyzer, Head of Natural & Historic Environment, Tim.De-Keyzer@suffolk.gov.uk tel. 07732604171

Subject:	Suffolk Pension Fund Investment Pooling
Is this a key decision?	Yes
Date key decision to be made:	16 September 2025
Decision maker:	County Council
Cabinet Member:	Councillor Richard Smith MVO, Cabinet Member for Finance, Economic Development and Skills.
Description:	<p>New legislation requires the Suffolk Pension Fund to exit its current investment pooling arrangements and partner with an Investment Pool that is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA), within a strict and tight timescale.</p> <p>The Pension Fund Committee requests the delegation of authority to enter into any legal documentation to give effect to any decisions made including a shareholder agreement with an existing LGPS asset pool and for the County Council thereby to become a shareholder of the relevant company.</p>
Documents to be submitted:	Report by the Chief Executive

Lead officer: Tracey Woods, Head of Pensions, 01473 265639, tracey.woods@suffolk.gov.uk

Subject: Devolution Priority Programme: Suffolk County Council's Local Government Reorganisation Business Case Proposal

Is this a key decision? Yes

Date key decision to be made: 16 September 2025

Decision maker: Cabinet

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

Description: As a member of the Government's Devolution Priority Programme (DPP) the Council has committed to implement devolution and local government reorganisation (LGR) at an accelerated timeline. As outlined in the LGR Ministerial invitation letter of 5 February 2025, councils in DPP areas are requested to submit proposals for LGR by 26 September 2025. This report accompanies the requested "robust and evidenced unitary proposal" developed by Suffolk County Council for LGR in Suffolk, so that Cabinet may consider whether it should be submitted to government.

Documents to be submitted: Report by the Executive Director Organisational Change and Local Government Reorganisation and a robust, evidence based business case proposal for a single countywide unitary council.

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

Indicative Forward Plan of Key Decisions: 10 September 2025 to January 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: Get Suffolk Working

Is this a key decision? Yes

Date key decision to be made: 2 October 2025

Decision maker: Cabinet

Cabinet Member: Councillor Richard Smith, Cabinet Member for Finance, Economic Development and Skills

Description: Government published the 'Get Britain Working' white paper in November 2024 setting out an ambition to raise the national employment rate and to address economic inactivity. Local Get Britain Working plans are central to delivering on Government's ambitions.

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

Lead officer: Michael Gray, Head of Skills, 01473 264053, michael.gray@suffolk.gov.uk

There are currently no items for the Cabinet meeting on 16 October 2026 (reserve date).

Subject:	2025-26 Budget – Quarter 2 Monitoring Report
Is this a key decision?	No
Date key decision to be made:	4 November 2025
Decision maker:	Cabinet
Cabinet Member:	Councillor Richard Smith, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance, Economic Development & Skills
Description:	This report summarises the Council's forecast performance against its 2025-26 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:	Report by the Chief Executive with Annexes
Lead officer:	Andrew.Filby@Suffolk.gov.uk Head of Corporate Finance 01473 260776

Subject:	Suffolk County Council Relevant Representations in respect of the Norwich to Tilbury Development Consent Order Application
Is this a key decision?	Yes
Date key decision to be made:	4 November 2025
Decision maker:	Cabinet
Cabinet Member:	Councillor Richard Rout, Cabinet Member for Devolution, Local Government Reform and NSIPs
Description:	<p>SCC Relevant Representations to the Planning Inspectorate (PINS) in respect of the submitted Norwich to Tilbury 400kV Grid Reinforcement Development Consent Order application. Authority under delegated powers to make further representations to PINS during the course of the Examination in Public.</p> <p>This decision is urgent as not making the decision on this date would mean that Cabinet will not have a chance to discuss the SCC Relevant Representations before they are submitted.</p>
Documents to be submitted:	Report by the Executive Director of Growth, Highways & Infrastructure
Lead officer:	<p>Graham Gunby, National Infrastructure Planning Manager, graham.gunby@suffolk.gov.uk</p> <p>01473 264807</p>

There are currently no items for the Cabinet meeting on 2 December 2025.

Subject:	Revenue Budget 2026-27 and Capital Programme 2026-30
Is this a key decision?	No
Date key decision to be made:	27 January 2026
Decision maker:	Cabinet
Cabinet Member:	Councillor Richard Smith, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance, Economic Development & Skills
Description:	This report summarises the Council's final Revenue and Capital budget for 2026-27 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 2026-27 together with the Capital Programme, its financing and prudential indicators.

Documents to be submitted: Report by the Chief Executive with Annexes

Lead officer: Andrew.Filby@Suffolk.gov.uk

Head of Corporate Finance

01473 260776