

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 Rout	Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance and Environment
Councillor Bobby Bennett	Cabinet Member for Equality and Communities
Councillor Rachel Hood	Cabinet Member for Education, SEND and Skills
Councillor Beccy Hopfensperger	Cabinet Member for Adult Care.
Councillor James Reeder	Cabinet Member for Children and Young People's Services
Councillor Andrew Reid	Cabinet Member for Public Health and Public Protection.
Councillor Richard Smith MVO	Cabinet Member for Economic Development, Transport Strategy and Waste
Councillor Paul West	Cabinet Member for Ipswich, Operational Highways and Flooding

County Council: A full list of [Suffolk 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.

- 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: 20 March to 18 April 2023

Subject:	Children and Young People's Directorate – Capital Programme
Is this a key decision?	Yes
Date key decision to be made:	21 March 2023
Decision maker:	Cabinet
Cabinet Member:	Cabinet Member for Education, SEND and Skills
Description:	<p>Suffolk County Council has a statutory duty to meet the demand for school places and also has the responsibility to manage the existing maintained school estate. The CYP directorate is facing significant financial pressures to meet these duties due to increased build costs and changing specifications, reductions in grant funding provided by central government and the requirement to maintain an aging school estate and implement net zero objectives.</p> <p>Without additional funding provided to the CYP capital programme there is a considerable risk to the sufficient provision of school places due to not being able to build new or expand existing schools and the likelihood that schools may have to close due to buildings not being up to operational / regulatory standards.</p>

Documents to be submitted: Report by the Corporate Director for Children and Young People outlining the need and reasoning for the additional funding required, project by project, for the forthcoming CYP Capital Programme.

Lead officer: Pete Mumford
Head of Schools Infrastructure
Pete.mumford@suffolk.gov.uk
01473 260767

Subject: Ipswich Policy Development Panel. The County Councils role in enabling the future prosperity of Ipswich as our County Town

Is this a key decision? Yes

Date key decision to be made: 21 March 2023

Decision maker: Cabinet

Cabinet Member: Cabinet Member for Ipswich, Operational Highways and Flooding

Description: The item will report on the findings and recommendations of the Ipswich PDP that was formed to consider the role that SCC has in ensuring Ipswich meets its aspirations and to help articulate the Councils ambition for Ipswich as the County Town of Suffolk.

Documents to be submitted: Report by the Executive Director for Growth, Highways and Infrastructure, PDP Report with draft policy recommendations

Lead officer: Matthew West, Head of Assets and Investment,
matthew.west@suffolk.gov.uk 01473 265242

Subject: Commitment to the delivery of the Ipswich Wet Dock Pedestrian and Cycle Bridge and associated funding

Is this a key decision? Yes

Date key decision to be made: 21 March 2023

Decision maker: Cabinet

Cabinet Member: Cabinet Member for Ipswich, Operational Highways and Flooding

Description: Following the cancellation of the Upper Orwell Crossings Project it was agreed that Suffolk County Council would hold

the remaining local contribution as a funding commitment towards the delivery of the two smaller Wet Dock bridges. Subsequently, Ipswich Borough Council have been awarded Town Deal Funding and secured funding of £1.31m towards the Prince Philip Lock bridge. This report reconfirms Suffolk County Council's support and financial contribution to this project, up to £10.8m, and for the remainder to be committed to other projects in Ipswich.

Documents to be submitted: Report by the Executive Director for Growth, Highways and Infrastructure, EIA screening

Lead officer: Graeme Mateer, Head of Transport Strategy, 01473 264451, graeme.mateer@suffolk.gov.uk

Subject: To determine Post-16 Travel Policy 2023/2024

Is this a key decision? Yes

Date key decision to be made: 18 April 2023

Decision maker: Cabinet

Cabinet Member: Rachel Hood, Cabinet Member for Education, SEND and Skills

Description: Local Authorities have a duty to prepare, consult on and publish an annual Post-16 Travel Policy Statement, by 31st May each year.

Documents to be submitted: Report by the Corporate Director for Children and Young People, proposed policy, EIA and consultation analysis.

Lead officer: Jan Scott, Senior Education Officer (Admissions and School Travel)

Tel: 01473 262657

Email: jan.scott@suffolk.gov.uk

Subject: SCC Response to Five Estuaries Offshore Wind Farm Statutory Consultation

Is this a key decision? Yes

Date key decision to be made: 18 April 2023

Decision maker: Cabinet

Cabinet Member: Richard Rout, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance and Environment

Description: SCC Response to Five Estuaries Offshore Wind Farm Statutory Consultation.

Documents to be submitted: Report by the Executive Director for Growth, Highways and Infrastructure, EIA screening

Lead officer: Andy Rutter, Development Manager,
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Indicative List: 19 April 2023 to 13 June 2023

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: To consider interim funding options to support Suffolk Library Services

Is this a key decision? Yes

Date key decision to be made: 16 May 2023

Decision maker: Cabinet

Cabinet Member: Councillor Bobby Bennett, Cabinet Member for Equality and Communities

Description: Suffolk Library Services (SLS) has identified significant deficit in its budget. The deficit demonstrates an underlying problem within the finance model and has been compounded by recent inflation rises and a post covid shift in the way people and organisations use the buildings/service. This has led to an unexpected drop in revenue streams such as room hire.

SLS have approached the Council to work in partnership and explore options for change during the current contract term, with some suggested short- and medium-term options.

This item is proposed to be heard in private: [Private Meetings](#)

Documents to be submitted: Report by the Director of Public Protection and Communities

Lead officer: Gemma Levi, Senior Manager Public Health & Communities, gemma.levi@suffolk.gov.uk

There are currently no items for the Cabinet meeting on 13 June 2023.