

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 Nadia Cenci	Cabinet Member for Communities
Councillor Chris Chambers	Cabinet Member for Transport Strategy, Planning and Waste
Councillor Bobby Bennett	Cabinet Member for Children and Young People's Services
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 Reorganisation 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: 9 February 2026 to 24 February 2026

Subject:	Revenue Budget 2026-27 and Capital Programme 2026-30
Is this a key decision?	No
Date key decision to be made:	12 February 2026
Decision maker:	County Council
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

Subject:	2025-26 Budget – Quarter 3 Monitoring Report
Is this a key decision?	No
Date key decision to be made:	24 February 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 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:	SCC LionLink s42 Statutory Consultation Response
Is this a key decision?	Yes
Date key decision to be made:	24 February 2026
Decision maker:	Cabinet
Cabinet Member:	Councillor Richard Rout, Cabinet Member for Devolution, Local Government Reform and NSIPs
Description:	<p>This LionLink is a proposed electricity grid interconnector scheme which will create an undersea link between the United Kingdom and the Netherlands. It is a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project due to the scale of the proposals.</p> <p>This report covers SCC's s42 Statutory Consultation response to the LionLink interconnector proposals.</p>
Documents to be submitted:	Report by the Deputy Chief Executive and Executive Director of Growth, Highways, and Infrastructure

Lead officer: Roly Arbon, Project Manager (PMO)
roland.arbon@suffolk.gov.uk
01473 260013

Subject: Revision of Suffolk County Council's Energy and Climate Adaptive Infrastructure Policy

Is this a key decision? Yes

Date key decision to be made: 24 February 2026

Decision maker: Cabinet

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

Description: This report sets out the proposals, and rationale, for amendments to Suffolk County Council's Energy and Climate Adaptive Infrastructure Policy, following a review, undertaken two years after the policy was approved, in accordance with the decision of the Cabinet on 16th May 2023.

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

Lead officer: Phil Watson Strategic Energy Projects Manager
01473264777

Subject: Pay Policy Statement

Is this a key decision? Yes

Date key decision to be made: 19 March 2026

Decision maker: County Council

Cabinet Member: Councillor Nadia Cenci, Cabinet Member for Communities

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.

Documents to be submitted: Report by the Chief Executive

Lead officer: Tim Jermyn, Assistant Director HR & OD (Interim)
tim.jermyn@suffolk.gov.uk 01473 260336

Subject: Suffolk Youth Justice Plan 2026-2027

Is this a key decision? Yes

Date key decision to be made: 19 March 2026

Decision maker: County Council

Cabinet Member: Councillor Bobby Bennett, Cabinet Member for Children and Young People's Services

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
Email: catherine.bennett@suffolk.gov.uk
Tel: 07753 310241

Subject: Debt Recovery Policy – Proposed Amendments

Is this a key decision? Yes

Date key decision to be made: 24 March 2026

Decision maker: Cabinet

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

Description: To approve changes to the Council's Debt Recovery Policy

Documents to be submitted: Report by the Chief Executive and the Council's Debt Recovery Policy

Lead officer: Andrew Filby;
andrew.filby@suffolk.gov.uk ;
01473 260776

Subject: Suffolk Economy Annual Review

Is this a key decision? No

Date key decision to be made: 24 March 2026

Decision maker: Cabinet

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

Description: Suffolk's Economic Strategy (Local Growth Plan) was developed by the Suffolk Business Board and approved by Cabinet in December 2024. The Annual Review sets out what has been achieved in the first year of delivery.

This includes an update on progress against key economic ambitions, data and KPIs demonstrating the strength of Suffolk's economy and comparison against national performance, key project updates, and case studies from businesses and residents who have benefited.

The Annual Review also sets out our next steps and future projects.

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

Lead officer: Rob Hancock
Assistant Director Housing, Planning and Growth
Rob.Hancock@suffolk.gov.uk

Indicative Forward Plan of Key Decisions: 25 February 2025 to 16 June 2026

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.

There are currently no items for the Cabinet meeting on 16 June 2026.