



**Suffolk**  
County Council

**TOP**  
**50**

**ACHIEVEMENTS**  
SINCE 2021



### **Our Ambitions for Suffolk**



Looking after our health and wellbeing



Strengthening our local economy



Protecting and enhancing our environment



Providing value for money for our residents



# 250,000 trees planted

Since 2021, Suffolk County Council has planted 250,000 trees, helping to keep air clean and creating homes for animals and insects.



## Net Zero ambitions strong with first-ever full carbon budget and biodiversity commitment

In February 2022, Suffolk County Council was one of the first councils in the country to publish an annual carbon budget alongside our financial budget. In the last two years, we have reduced our carbon emissions by 15%.



# Unique project saves 800,000 tonnes of water

Since its launch in February 2021, Suffolk County Council has been a key partner in the FRESH4CS project, preventing over 800,000 tonnes of water being lost to the North Sea at Felixstowe - and reusing it to grow Suffolk crops.



## Suffolk County Council investing £12.8m to decarbonise its buildings

In November 2021, Suffolk County Council committed £12.8m to make our buildings and land more environmentally friendly. This will help us to reduce our carbon emissions in the future.



## Royal Hall of the East Anglian Kings found in Suffolk



In the summer of 2022, Suffolk County Council's Archaeological Service and local volunteers uncovered a 1,400 year-old Royal Hall of the first Kings of East Anglia. This is an internationally important discovery, and contributes to the global understanding of Anglo-Saxon history, thanks to our Rendlesham Revealed project.



# Council installs 100 rural EV charging points, with more on the way

In March 2023, Suffolk County Council's "Plug In Suffolk" project installed its 100th electric vehicle charging point. We are continuing to install chargers at rural locations to make Suffolk a well-connected destination for visitors and residents.



## Record number of residents help shape county council budget

In December 2022, Suffolk County Council received a record number of public responses to our budget survey. Over 2,600 people helped shape how we spend money in 2023/24. This means we can continue to provide the services that people rely on the most and continue to care for the most vulnerable in Suffolk.



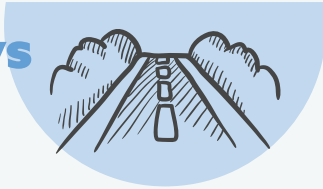


## Negotiation of the Sizewell environmental mitigation package

Suffolk County Council was instrumental in changes made to the proposals to build Sizewell C. We helped negotiate the environmental mitigation package, to help minimise the disruption and impact on the local area. Our involvement will also see Suffolk benefit from nearly £200m of investment.



## New highways contract awarded



A new £1 billion, 20-year highways contract has been awarded to Milestone following a year of procurement activity, with a key focus on better communication and customer service, delivering greater social value, utilising local skills and talent, giving young people the opportunity to work in the sector as well as building on the council's commitment to carbon reduction and protecting the environment.



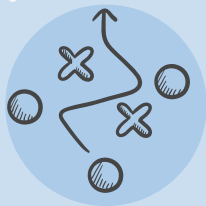
## 280 miles of road resurfaced and 37,093 potholes repaired

Since April 2021, 280 miles of road has been surface dressed or resurfaced to improve Suffolk's highways, reduce the number of potholes and help stop them forming in the first place. Aside from the surfacing programme, the highways teams have also fixed 37,093 potholes.



## Extra £20 million invested in improving footpaths and drainage across Suffolk

In 2021, and in recognition of increasing maintenance demand around footpaths and drains, councillors approved £10 million to deliver additional drainage schemes that deal with problems that affect larger numbers of people, and a further £10 million to improve footpath quality and access. Since committing these funds, Suffolk Highways has acquired extra resource to help tackle flooding issues and invested in two "Combi-units", which are capable of solving simpler issues by root cutting and jetting. Over 125 drainage issues have so far been resolved via this method - which would not have been possible without the extra funding.



## £10.8 million allocated to deliver Ipswich bridges and key town improvements

£8.8 million has been allocated towards building two new bridges on Ipswich's Waterfront. This includes £6 million to fully fund the Prince Philip Lock bridge and a £2.8 million contribution towards the New Cut bridge. This is in addition to £2 million allocated to fund a swathe of improvement projects around the town. The commitment will support regeneration and community improvements with the overall aim of enhancing connectivity, encouraging walking and cycling and improving the environment; whilst ensuring we meet our role in supporting Ipswich's aspirations as Suffolk's county town.



## £2.5 million saved on energy costs as LED streetlight project nears completion

A project to replace all 43,400 streetlights across Suffolk with sustainable, longer-lasting, and cost-saving LED bulbs is nearing completion and has saved more than £2.5 million so far. The change to LED streetlights supports Suffolk County Council's aim to reduce carbon emissions, light pollution, and bring down ongoing maintenance costs for the council, all whilst providing the best value to residents.



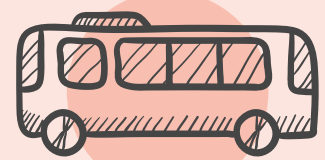
## Securing millions to promote walking and cycling across Suffolk



Since 2020, Suffolk County Council has successfully bid for funding totalling nearly £13 million from Active Travel England - which has been used to promote a wide range of walking and cycling schemes across the county. This includes innovative mini-Holland systems for Woodbridge.



## Better bus ticketing on its way



Bus passengers in Suffolk will have the best possible ticketing, service information and cleaner buses thanks to the Bus Passenger Charter delivered by the Enhanced Partnership agreement between Suffolk County Council and bus operators. In June 2022, Suffolk County Council held the Rural Conversation, where more than 100 delegates got together to discuss ways to develop and enhance rural public transport.



## 300 miles of country roads now designated quiet lanes

Since 2020, Suffolk County Council has worked closely with Quiet Lanes Suffolk to help parish councils establish a network of more than 300 miles of country roads as designated 'Quiet Lanes' for vulnerable users such as pedestrians, horse riders and cyclists.



## Thousands of environmentally-friendly homes to be built on SCC land

Nearly 3,000 environmentally-friendly and much-needed homes will be delivered on former council land across Suffolk thanks to a ground-breaking collaboration between Suffolk County Council and Lovell Partnerships.



## Gull Wing Bridge taking shape

Work is now well underway on building the long awaited and much needed Gull Wing bridge, an iconic third crossing over Lake Lothing in Lowestoft that will boost jobs, businesses and connectivity around the town and surrounding area. Recently, two major sections of the bridge arrived on site, ready to be lifted into place.



## Investing in waste recycling centres across Suffolk

In 2022, Suffolk County Council began work on a £7.8 million redevelopment of Foxhall recycling centre near Ipswich which, when complete, will give better access for users and much greater capacity to meet future growth. Work is also set to start this summer on a brand-new recycling centre for Haverhill, providing a modern state-of-the-art facility for the growing population of west Suffolk.





## The launch of Freeport East



Suffolk County Council is an important partner in Freeport East, which will link the UK's largest container port at Felixstowe and the Gateway 14 business and logistics park at Stowmarket with ferry connections to Europe. This will provide a springboard into Europe for UK businesses and inward investors, stimulating green technology such as hydrogen while boosting existing relationships with the likes of BT's research centre at Adastral Park, and creating an estimated 13,500 new jobs.



## Suffolk residents stepped up to show support for Ukraine

In the last year, Suffolk County Council has supported more than 1,200 Ukrainian refugees via Homes for Ukraine sponsorships. The council has been instrumental in setting up support networks for hosts, alongside our partners at Community Action Suffolk, Suffolk Refugee Support, Access Community Trust, Suffolk Libraries and the district and borough councils.



## Cost of Living support to residents

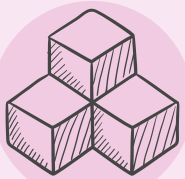
Since 2021, SCC has distributed over £15.3m of funding to residents in hardship through our Household Support Fund. To date, over 160,000 people have been supported.



## CoronaWatch wins Data Science Project of the Year award

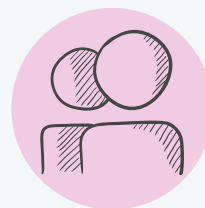


In November 2022, SCC and partners won one of the UK's most important national IT awards for the development of The Coronawatch Dashboard, a critical data gathering and reporting tool used during the COVID-19 pandemic.



## Supporting Citizens Advice

Suffolk County Council has increased its funding in the 2023/24 financial year to local Citizens Advice by £45,000 to support Suffolk residents during the current Cost of Living challenges.



## More funding for mental health services

Suffolk County Council has allocated £2.5m funding from the 'Covid Outbreak Management Fund' or The Suffolk Public Mental Health programme, which aims to support, enable and strengthen good mental wellbeing. A significant proportion of the funding has been invested in grassroots community projects across Suffolk, which address wellbeing priorities that have been co-produced with key stakeholders.



## Arts, museums and culture funding boost secured

Suffolk's arts and museums secured a £1 million increase in Arts Council Funding, from £4.6 million in 2022-23 to £5.6 million in 2023-24. This funding was secured in Autumn 2022 and is guaranteed for 3 years, starting in April 2023. This is great news for Suffolk as it means that organisations can develop and deliver a wide range of creative and cultural experiences across the county.



## Cultural Investment Fund success

In March 2023, the Government announced that three SCC supported organisations will benefit from the Cultural Investment Fund, delivered by Arts Council England – Suffolk Libraries, The Food Museum and The Long Shop Museum.



## Suffolk's leaving care service highly praised by Ofsted

In 2022, Suffolk County Council's services for children and young people leaving care were highly praised by Ofsted, three years after the wider service was rated 'Outstanding'.



## Schools in Suffolk rated good or outstanding

98% of all of Suffolk's local authority run schools are rated as good or outstanding. If you include schools run by other organisations, such as Academy Trusts, it's 88%.



## Children's Homes in Suffolk all rated good



All our Children's Homes are now rated as good.



## Thousands of new specialist school places for SEND pupils

Suffolk County Council will have delivered up to 1,275 new specialist school places for SEND pupils by 2025, an investment of £55million.



## More school places created across Suffolk

We have created an additional 1,705 new school places since 2020, and have allocated an additional £32 million to create 11 new schools across Suffolk.



## Schools best in the region for offering students their top 3 choice of schools

98% of all Year 6 students were offered a place at their top 3 choice of secondary schools in 2023. This is the best in the East of England.



## Thousands of new apprenticeships started

In 2021/22, 3,850 new apprenticeships started in Suffolk for all ages.



## More financial support for foster carers



Our foster carers received a substantial increase in both their fostering allowances and fostering fees in 2023. The allowance was uplifted for this financial year by 12.43%, in line with the agreed national minimum fostering allowances. The fees we pay our in-house foster carers have also increased by 7.1%.



## Stand taking against Russian-owned Gazprom

In 2022, Suffolk County Council made national headlines by being the first council to announce it was to end its contract with Russian-owned utilities company Gazprom. This action was later followed by other councils.



## Devolution deal signed

In December 2022, Suffolk County Council signed a provisional landmark devolution deal with the Government. If approved following public consultation, this would see Suffolk handed greater powers and control over half a billion pounds of investment over the next 30 years.



## Digital care and innovation success through Cassius and Virtual Reality for Dementia.



Suffolk County Council, through its multi-award winning Cassius Partnership and VR for Dementia ambitions, has firmly established itself at the forefront of Digital Care Technology. By installing 4,500 pieces of digital care technology by March 2023, Suffolk has helped to improve the lives of 2,200 people, their families, and carers: whilst saving an estimated £12.3 million by avoiding more expensive care options. Cassius has won multiple awards.



## Leading Operation London Bridge

Suffolk County Council successfully led work (including communications and archives) to mark the death of HM The Queen. We managed and co-ordinated the work of partners from across the public sector to ensure high profile, highly visible, large scale public events marking a national occasion were able to proceed successfully without issue. This included leading the media coverage for the East of England around the Proclamation of the Accession in Ipswich with 10,000 people attending.



## Working with people to launch Suffolk Joint Learning Disability Strategy

Following 8 workshops and engagement with 500 people, the co-produced Suffolk Joint Learning Disability Strategy was launched in 2022. The strategy aims to ensure that people with learning disabilities live good lives as part of their community with the right support, at the right time, from the right people.



## Working with people to launch Suffolk's first All-Age Carers Strategy

In 2022, Suffolk was proud to launch, for the first time, an all-age carers strategy – which was co-produced by carers of all ages, to help ensure that family and unpaid carers receive the support they need. It also ensured for the first time that young carers were to be given the same level of standing as adult carers, whilst being seen as children first and carers second.

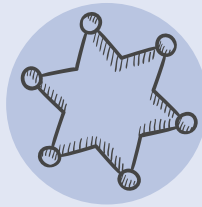


## Financially supporting the Social Care sector

Suffolk County Council continued to support financially the care sector during lockdown and beyond, funding things like infection control measures, rapid testing of staff and customers and workforce capacity issues. During 2021/22, £27.4m was paid out to support the Suffolk care sector without which many providers would have been forced to close.



## Working in partnership to launch the country's first Integrated Care Academy



Working in partnership with the University of Suffolk, health partners and others, Suffolk launched the Integrated Care Academy (ICA) the first of its kind in the country in May 2021. The ICA brings together the four pillars of higher education, health and care, local government, and the voluntary and community sector to support best integrated care for all through training, research and academic opportunities.

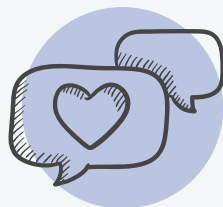


## State-of-the-art emergency services hubs see Suffolk heralded as an exemplar for partnership working

Collaborative working remains a priority for Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service as part of their ongoing commitment to providing excellent value for money for Suffolk residents. There are currently 18 combined emergency service hubs across Suffolk, including the recently opened Stowmarket and Princes Street, enabling efficient, effective, and environmentally responsible emergency services for the county's communities.



## Talking about Social Care in a new way



In December 2021, we officially launched the Social Care I CARE campaign in Suffolk and since then it has grown in strength and recognition, with over 200k people in Suffolk seeing the campaign on social media. It is something those working in the Social Care Sector are proud of. Celebrating success, creating a much-needed community between providers, and promoting careers in social care, the campaign is making all things social care more visible to the public and attracting people to the sector.



## Council commits to multi-million-pound fleet replacement for Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service

Suffolk County Council has committed to spending over £5.3m on Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service's vehicle fleet as part of its ongoing ambition to look after the health and wellbeing of the county's residents. The funding will enable the replacement of 20 fire engines, including nine new vehicles ready for use by the end of 2023, meaning that by around 2026, over half of Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service's rescue vehicles will be replaced with state-of-the-art alternatives to help deliver the fastest response in an emergency.





## Fire service finalises plan to protect Suffolk's communities

Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service has finalised its new Community Risk Management Plan (CRMP), outlining how it will manage and reduce risks across the county for the next four years. This follows public feedback to inform the plan, ensuring that the document reflects the unique nature of Suffolk and enables Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service to protect all those who live in, work in, and visit the county.



## HMICFRS inspection rates Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service as "Good"



Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service was recently rated as "Good" for its effectiveness and how well it manages staff by inspectors from His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS) following a comprehensive review of the service, from how it responds to emergencies to its equality, diversity, and inclusion policies. The review praised many aspects of Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service, with inspectors highlighting that "the service is good at identifying risk in the communities it serves" and "works well with others to reduce the number of fires", in addition to "being good for how it promotes the right values and culture".



## Trading Standards works tirelessly to protect Suffolk from rogue traders

Over the past year, Suffolk Trading Standards has secured justice for the victims of multiple scams, helping to create a level playing field for legitimate businesses and looking after the health and wellbeing of the county's residents. Their recent work has enabled £50,000 in compensation to be paid out to victims of a callous company chief who promised life-improving products but failed to deliver these, as well as the 34-month custodial sentencing of a Newmarket lettings agent convicted of defrauding his customers of over £80,000.



## Suffolk Resilience Forum keeps Suffolk safe during major incident

In February 2022, Storm Eunice hit Suffolk, resulting in the county facing an unprecedented deluge of strong winds and torrential rain and the declaration of a major incident by Suffolk Resilience Forum, with multiple agencies working together to keep people safe and the county moving. On the day of the storm itself, Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service attended 51 incidents; and Suffolk Highways also reported one of their busiest periods, with 342 reports of fallen trees and road obstructions received during the weekend of the storm.