

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.
Councillor Steve Wiles	Cabinet Member for Public Health and Public Protection

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: 14 April 2025 to 13 May 2026

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:	<p>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.</p> <p>This report covers SCC's Relevant Representations to the Planning Inspectorate in relation to the Sea Link Grid Reinforcement Scheme Development Consent Order application.</p>
Documents to be submitted:	Report by the Executive Director of Growth, Highways & Infrastructure
Lead officer:	Roly Arbon, Project Manager (PMO) roland.arbon@suffolk.gov.uk 01473 260013

Subject:	Care Market Strategy (CMS) 2025 - 2030
Is this a key decision?	Yes
Date key decision to be made:	13 May 2025
Decision maker:	Cabinet
Cabinet Member:	Councillor Beccy Hopfensperger, Cabinet Member for Adult Care
Description:	<p>The Care Act 2014 requires Local Authorities to ensure people can access the care and support they need, and to cultivate a market with a variety of high-quality services for all.</p> <p>The previous three year Care and Support Market Sustainability Strategy was published in March 2021. However, the covid pandemic led to delays with undertaking market shaping and commissioning activity and resulted in new challenges for care providers.</p> <p>The CMS builds on the Market Sustainability Strategy, and sets out priority areas to address demand challenges, facilitate choice and control, tackle workforce issues, and look at sustainability of costs</p>
Documents to be submitted:	Report by the Executive Director of Adult Social Care
Lead officer:	<p>Clare Smith, Assistant Director for Service Development and Contracts.</p> <p>Clare.Smith@suffolk.gov.uk</p>

Indicative Forward Plan of Key Decisions: 14 May 2025 to 9 September 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:	2024-25 Outturn Report
Is this a key decision?	No
Date key decision to be made:	17 June 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 2024-25 Revenue Budget and Capital Programme as at Outturn. 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 Deputy Chief Executive and Corporate Services Director

Lead officer: Andrew.Filby@Suffolk.gov.uk
Head of Corporate Finance
01473 260776

Subject: Annual Corporate parenting and Children in Care Council (C2C)

Is this a key decision? No

Date key decision to be made: 15 July 2025

Decision maker: Cabinet

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

Description: This is an annual report that is presented to Cabinet together with a report from C2C Council setting out the service activity and progress in relation to the local authorities' duties as a Corporate Parent.

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

Lead officer: Glynn Smith Head of Service – Corporate Parenting
Glynn.Smith@suffolk.gov.uk

Subject: Suffolk Youth Justice Plan 2025-2026

Is this a key decision? Yes

Date key decision to be made: 10 July 2025

Decision maker: County Council

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

Description:	<p>Suffolk Youth Justice Plan for 2025-26, is a review of activity during 24-25 and a forward work plan for the coming year.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>The plan should address the functions assigned to a Youth Justice Service, including how services will prevent offending behaviour and reduce reoffending.</p>
Documents to be submitted:	Report by the Executive Director of Children and Young People's Services
Lead officer:	<p>Catherine Bennett</p> <p>Head of Suffolk Youth Justice Service</p> <p>Email: catherine.bennett@suffolk.gov.uk</p> <p>Tel: 07753 310241</p>

The Cabinet does not meet in the month of August.

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:	<p>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.</p>
Documents to be submitted:	Report by the Deputy Chief Executive and Corporate Services Director
Lead officer:	<p>Andrew.Filby@Suffolk.gov.uk</p> <p>Head of Corporate Finance</p> <p>01473 260776</p>