

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 Beccy Hopfensperger	Cabinet Member for Adult Care
Councillor Paul West	Cabinet Member for Ipswich, Operational Highways and Flooding
Councillor Andrew Reid	Cabinet Member for Education and SEND
Councillor Bobby Bennett	Cabinet Member for Children and Young People's Services
Councillor Philip Faircloth-Mutton	Cabinet Member for Environment, Communities and Equality.
Councillor Chris Chambers	Cabinet Member for Transport Strategy, Planning and Waste
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.

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Key Decision: 23 December 2024 to 28 January 2025

Subject:	The English Devolution White Paper Devolution Priority Programme
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Is this a key decision?	Yes
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Date key decision to be made:	9 January 2025
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Decision maker:	Cabinet
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Cabinet Member:	Councillor Matthew Hicks, Leader of the Council
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Description:	The English Devolution White Paper published on 16 December, sets the future direction of devolution policy.
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Government intends to establish a Devolution Priority Programme that will provide eligible areas with accelerated access to the additional powers and funding in the new devolution framework.

Consequently, the Minister asked for:

“a clear commitment to devolution and reorganisation aims from upper-tier councils in an area, including a request from the council/s whose election is to be postponed, on or before Friday 10 January.”

Late item: <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/asset-library/cabinet-9-january-2025.pdf>

Documents to be submitted:	Report by the Chief Executive
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Lead officer: Caroline Davison, Head of Corporate Strategy
01473 264400, caroline.davison@suffolk.gov.uk

Subject: Revenue Budget 2025-26 and Capital Programme 2025-30

Is this a key decision? Yes

Date key decision to be made: 28 January 2025

Decision maker: Cabinet

Cabinet Member: Councillor Richard Smith MVO, Cabinet Member for Finance and Environment

Description: This report summarises the Council's final Revenue and Capital budget for 2024-25 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 2024-25 together with the Capital Programme, its financing and prudential indicators.

Documents to be submitted: Report by the Deputy Chief Executive and Director for Corporate Services and Annexes

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

Subject: The Council's Carbon Report 2023/24

Is this a key decision? No

Date key decision to be made: 28 January 2025

Decision maker: Cabinet

Cabinet Member: Councillor Philip Faircloth-Mutton, Cabinet Member for Environment, Communities and Equality.

Description: As a result of the Climate Emergency declaration in 2019, Cabinet decided to form a Policy Development Panel (PDP) to investigate the ambition of achieving net zero carbon emissions by 2030 and to develop a series of recommendations which were adopted by Cabinet in 2020. One recommendation was for the annual publication and approval of a carbon budget (footprint and reduction pathway) alongside the Council's financial budget to

monitor progress against the net zero target. This report presents that commitment.

Documents to be submitted: Report by the
Lead officer: Ned Harrison
Carbon Negative Nature Positive Programme Manager
01473 264472
Ned.harrison@suffolk.gov.uk

Subject: To Determine School Admission Arrangements for the 2026/2027 School Year

Is this a key decision? Yes

Date key decision to be made: 28 January 2025

Decision maker: Cabinet

Cabinet Member: Cabinet Member for Education and Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)

Description: Cabinet will be asked to approve the Local Authority's School Admission Arrangements for the 2026/2027 School Year. This includes the proposed oversubscription criteria and published admission numbers for maintained community and voluntary controlled schools.

Late item: [Key Decision Forward Plan - Suffolk County Council](#)

Documents to be submitted: Report by the Executive Director of Children and Young People's Services, proposed arrangements including published admission numbers for community and voluntary controlled schools, and pupil forecasts.

Lead officer: Jan Scott / Angela Davey
Senior Education Officers, Admissions and School Travel
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Indicative Forward Plan of Key Decisions: 29 January 2025 to 18 March 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:	Revenue Budget 2025-26 and Capital Programme 2025-30
Is this a key decision?	Yes
Date key decision to be made:	13 February 2025
Decision maker:	County Council
Cabinet Member:	Councillor Richard Smith MVO, Cabinet Member for Finance and Environment
Description:	This report summarises the Council's final Revenue and Capital budget for 2024-25 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 2024-25 together with the Capital Programme, its financing and prudential indicators.
Documents to be submitted:	Report by the Deputy Chief Executive and Director for Corporate Services and Annexes
Lead officer:	Andrew.Filby@Suffolk.gov.uk Head of Corporate Finance 01473 260776

Subject:	To approve the Post-16 Travel Policy Statement for the 2025/2026 School Year
Is this a key decision?	Yes
Date key decision to be made:	25 February 2025
Decision maker:	Cabinet
Cabinet Member:	Councillor Andrew Reid, Cabinet Member for Education and Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)
Description:	Local Authorities have a duty to prepare, consult on and publish an annual Post-16 Travel Policy Statement, by 31 May each year. This report sets out the proposed Post-16 Travel Policy Statement for the 2025/2026 school year and the outcome of the consultation that will be held between 4 November 2024 and 16 December 2024.

Documents to be submitted: Report by the Executive Director of Children and Young People's Services, proposed policy, Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) and consultation analysis.

Lead officer: Jan Scott / Angela Davey
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Subject: Local Transport Plan 2025-2040 and Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan

Is this a key decision? Yes

Date key decision to be made: 25 February 2025

Decision maker: Cabinet

Cabinet Member: Councillor Chris Chambers, Cabinet Member for Transport Strategy, Planning and Waste

Description: The Transport Act 2000 requires every Local Highway Authority to produce and keep current a Local Transport Plan (LTP). An LTP comprises two parts: Part 1 sets the context, policy, and objectives for mobility/transport planning and management; and Part 2 articulates how policy will be implemented. LTPs inform projects' development and delivery, and funding decisions. The Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan supports the LTP by setting out the priorities for investment in walking, wheeling, and cycling infrastructure across the county. This report requests Cabinet adopt the Council's Local Transport Plan 2025-2040, fifteen area plans, and the Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan

Documents to be submitted: Report by the Executive Director of Growth, Highways & Infrastructure, consultation reports, and Equality Impact Assessments. Local Transport Plan 2025-2040, fifteen area plans, and Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan

Lead officer: Graeme Mateer
Head of Transport Strategy
Endeavour House
Tel: 01473 264451

Subject: Suffolk County Council's Relevant Representations to the Planning Inspectorate in relation to Sea Link Grid Reinforcement Development Consent Order application

Is this a key decision? No

Date key decision to be made: 18 March 2025

Decision maker: Cabinet

Cabinet Member: Councillor Matthew Hicks, Leader of the Council

Description: 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.

This report covers SCC's Relevant Representations to the Planning Inspectorate in relation to the Sea Link Grid Reinforcement Scheme Development Consent Order application.

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

Lead officer: Roly Arbon, Project Manager (PMO)

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