

HOLLESLEY ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT 2025-2026

Over the last 5 years since 2021, the county council's priorities have been to:

- promote and support the health and wellbeing of all people in Suffolk
- strengthen the local economy
- protect and enhance the environment
- provide value for money for the Suffolk taxpayer.

Below are some of the initiatives taken by SCC in the last year. More details may be found on the county council's website www.suffolk.gov.uk .

March 2025	<p><u>Suffolk County Council confirms decision to bring Library Services back In-House</u> Suffolk County Council confirmed that it will be bringing all 45 libraries back under its care and control.</p> <p><u>200 new specialist SEND places for Suffolk</u> The creation of 200 new specialist places across the county for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) was agreed by Suffolk County Council's cabinet.</p>
April 2025	<p><u>Suffolk County Council Signs the Power of Youth Charter – A Commitment to Empowering the Next Generation To Shape Their Future</u> Suffolk County Council signed the Power of Youth Charter, joining a UK-wide movement to empower young people to take the lead in shaping a better future for themselves, their communities, and society.</p> <p><u>Nature recovery plan aims to revive Suffolk's wildlife</u> A new strategy was drafted to help restore and enhance nature across Suffolk, and a consultation launched for you to share your views.</p>
May 2025	<p><u>Council cites numerous concerns as it formally objects to north Suffolk solar farm plans</u> Suffolk County Council submitted its formal objection to plans for EcoPower's large solar farm proposal in north Suffolk.</p> <p><u>Suffolk Archives wins major Museums + Heritage Award</u> Suffolk Archives celebrated after scooping the Community Engagement Programme of the Year title for its Arrivals: Celebrating Migration to Suffolk project at the prestigious Museums + Heritage Awards last night.</p>
June 2025	<p><u>New Strategy Launched to Tackle Violence Against Women and Girls in Suffolk</u> Partners across Suffolk reaffirmed their shared commitment to tackling Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence with the launch of a bold, united strategy aimed at making Suffolk a safer place for everyone.</p> <p><u>£8m funding for Bus Service improvements</u></p>

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	<p>Suffolk County Council secured a grant of £8m from the Department for Transport for new and enhanced bus services in the county.</p>
July 2025	<p><u>Suffolk’s once-in-a-generation, state-of-the-art fire control room goes live</u> A new era in emergency response began in Suffolk, as Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service unveiled its cutting-edge control room in Ipswich, introducing faster, smarter and more resilient 999 operations.</p> <p>Suffolk Community Libraries in Lowestoft, Brandon, and Stowmarket were the latest buildings to benefit from funding to make them more sustainable and energy efficient.</p>
August 2025	<p><u>Council remains opposed to pylon project, as application submitted</u> National Grid has formally applied to build its Norwich to Tilbury pylon project, but Suffolk County Council remained firm that it is not an appropriate scheme.</p> <p><u>Lowestoft waste upgrades underway</u> Upgrades were put underway at the Lowestoft Recycling Centre and Waste Transfer Station ahead of government’s Simpler Recycling changes coming in 2026.</p> <p><u>New and Improved bus services coming to Suffolk this month</u> 17 new or enhanced bus services will launch across the county between 31 August and mid-September, with a further 7 expected to go live later this year.</p>
September 2025	<p><u>Suffolk’s vision for nature recovery</u> Suffolk’s Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) was drafted following a successful consultation earlier this year.</p> <p><u>32,000 solar panels and counting for Solar Together Suffolk project</u> The successful Solar Together Suffolk scheme opened for registration for 2025.</p> <p><u>Second year of £500,000 Culture Project Fund launched</u> Suffolk County Council announced the second year of its £500,000 Culture Project Fund. This initiative is aimed at strengthening and supporting local arts and museum projects in our local communities across the county.</p> <p><u>Ambitious new plan to Get Suffolk Working</u> An ambitious new plan to tackle economic inactivity and boost employment across the county was considered and agreed by Suffolk County Council’s cabinet.</p> <p><u>One Suffolk plan submitted to government</u> The business case, setting out the proposal for a single unitary authority in Suffolk, explained how One Suffolk would save the county £39.4 million a year and enhance local services.</p>

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	<p><u>Active Travel works to improve pedestrian safety by Ipswich Waterfront</u> The works re-located pedestrian crossings used to access the popular entertainment area.</p> <p><u>Gull Wing Bridge celebrates first anniversary</u> The award-winning Gull Wing Bridge, which has transformed traffic in Lowestoft, celebrated its first anniversary.</p>
October 2025	<p><u>Councillors approve historic devolution deal, paving the way for major investment for Suffolk</u> Suffolk County Council's cabinet voted in favour of creating a new mayoral authority for Norfolk and Suffolk.</p> <p><u>Suffolk celebrates five years of investment in the National Cycle Network</u> The county looks to the future after five years that has seen £5 million invested in the network.</p>
November 2025	<p><u>Suffolk County Council announces £63m A12 highway improvement proposals</u> A full planning application for improvements between the A12/A14 Seven Hills Junction and Woods Lane junction north of Woodbridge was submitted in late November.</p> <p><u>Project Celebrating Disability in Suffolk gets £139k grant from the National Lottery Heritage Fund</u> Suffolk Archives was awarded a grant of £139,107 to deliver Beyond Labels: Celebrating Disability in Suffolk which will shine a light on the lives, achievements, and challenges of people with disabilities across the county - past and present.</p>
December 2025	<p><u>Council secures £2.9 million from DfT Incentive Fund for 2025/26</u> Suffolk received extra Government funding under a scheme that rewards excellence in highways asset management and efficiency.</p> <p><u>Inspectorate satisfied with Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service's improvement progress</u> His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS) confirmed it was satisfied with the progress Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service is making to address improvements identified during its previous inspection</p> <p><u>Suffolk secures more than £26 million bus funding over three years</u> Government funding for public transport in Suffolk is confirmed for three years.</p> <p><u>£12m Active Travel funding over four years announced for Suffolk</u> Suffolk County Council schemes promoting walking, cycling and wheeling received funding for another four years from the government.</p>

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	<p><u>Objection lodged to Red House Farm planning approval over school funding shortfall</u> Suffolk County Council formally objected to Ipswich Borough Council’s proposed planning approval of over 1,000 new homes at Red House Farm on Westerfield Road, part of the Ipswich Garden Suburb development, due to a significant shortfall in funding for essential education infrastructure.</p> <p><u>Scheme to boost biodiversity and tackle flooding on the River Tin at Bungay</u> Suffolk County Council, in partnership with the River Waveney Trust, secured more than £50,000 for a natural flood management plan.</p> <p><u>New heating solution for central Ipswich</u> Some of central Ipswich’s key workplaces and community buildings could be heated in a revolutionary way, thanks to a new heat network.</p>
January 2026	<p><u>Suffolk County Council proposes new 20mph speed limit policy for communities</u> A scheme to make it easier to introduce 20mph speed limits was considered and agreed by councillors.</p> <p><u>Department for Education acknowledges progress - and sets clear expectations for Suffolk’s SEND improvement</u> The partnership responsible for overseeing and delivering services for children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) in Suffolk was praised for making important improvements by the Department for Education.</p> <p><u>County Council set to approve much-needed provision for children with complex needs</u> Suffolk County Council discussed and agreed at its Cabinet meeting on 27th January the development of a new children’s home in Saxmundham, for children with complex needs.</p>
February 2026	<p><u>Council budget protects frontline services amid rising costs and demand</u> Suffolk County Council agreed an £850 million budget for 2026/27, prioritising and protecting frontline services despite rising costs, increasing demand and continued shortfalls in national funding.</p> <p><u>Council objects to LionLink slamming lack of coordination and fears for communities</u> Suffolk County Council maintains its objection to LionLink plans, with concerns for the many negative impacts on local communities and environment.</p>

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