

County Councillor Report



Parish Councils, September 2025

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Devolution and Local Government Reorganisation - SCC believes that a new single local council is the simplest and most cost-efficient option for Suffolk and is developing its business case on this basis. The proposal will be debated at full council on September 16th and a vote taken followed by a decision by cabinet. The council argues that any alternative would have to justify breaking up critical services like social care, education and highways. A single unitary council would be able to function more effectively and provide a stronger voice when it comes to collaboration with a regional mayor.

The estimated cost of breaking Suffolk into two or even three would be £7 million to £13 million more than a single new council (circa £19m), and in the longer term would result in very little savings or none at all in the case of 3 new unitaries.

Suffolk Local Nature Recovery Strategy Draft – Cabinet has approved the Final Draft Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) for Suffolk for publication, subject to a statutory 28-day pre-publication consultation with Supporting Authorities (Districts, Borough, Broads Authority and Natural England). When final, the LNRS will have standing as ‘material considerations’ in planning terms and the content will need to be ‘taken account of’. SCC is working with the Norfolk and Suffolk Nature Recovery Partnership (NSNRP <https://www.nsnrp.org>), ensuring collaboration the two counties. Councils in England are required to prepare LNRSs by section 105 of the Environment Act, 2021. Refer to Agenda Item 6, SCC Cabinet, 9th September 2025:

[https://committeeminutes.suffolk.gov.uk/DocSetPage.aspx?MeetingTitle=\(09-09-2025\),%20The%20Cabinet](https://committeeminutes.suffolk.gov.uk/DocSetPage.aspx?MeetingTitle=(09-09-2025),%20The%20Cabinet)

National Grid Pylon Scheme - The application for the Development Consent Order - essentially planning permission - was submitted to the Planning Inspectorate (PINS) by National Grid on Friday 29 August. PINS has 28 days to determine whether or not to accept the application. Should it be accepted, full details of the project will then be published, with the six-month Examination period likely to begin in early 2026. If consent was then granted, construction could begin in 2027.

The County Council’s position remains in opposition to the current scheme and contends that less damaging alternatives to the project have not been properly considered. Information is available on – nationalgrid.com/norwich-to-tilbury

Ancestry and The Hold - Suffolk’s parish registers and transcripts have been professionally digitalised with Ancestry and as of 8th August are now available free at The Hold. Suffolk Archives is the official record repository for the diocese. The archives service makes it easier to access the records and ensure they are readily available to everyone.” Viewing from home

requires an Ancestry subscription with royalties supporting the archive services. Advice on using Ancestry is available online at - www.suffolkarchives.co.uk

Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service – is offering an online (Microsoft Teams) information session on Tuesday 9 September at 6 pm for people interested in joining the Service as a firefighter. Register via Eventbrite - [Suffolk Fire and Rescue Wholetime Taster Session- Virtual Tickets, Multiple Dates | Eventbrite](#)

Please get in touch with me if you have questions or comments: Jessica.fleming@suffolk.gov.uk
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