

County Councillor Report



Parish Councils, October 2025

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Devolution and Local Government Reorganisation - SCC took its business case for a single unitary council to Full Council and Cabinet on 16th September, it was endorsed by a majority of councillors and by cabinet, refer to: <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/onesuffolkbusinesscase> Districts and Ipswich Borough Council have submitted an alternative proposal to form three unitary councils in Suffolk under as part of Local Government Reorganisation (LGR). No plans have been prepared for a two-unitary Suffolk. The Government will decide which form to approve.

The second step of the LGR process is for Suffolk (and Norfolk) to consent to the Government to form a Mayoral Authority. Suffolk's proposal was debated at full council on 2nd October and passed almost unanimously. Cabinet subsequently approved *'the making of Norfolk and Suffolk Combined County Authority Regulations as required by s46(1)(d) of the Levelling Up and Regeneration Act 2023 such that Suffolk County Council will be a constituent council of the Authority.'*

As regards Norfolk, on 2nd October, the council published a report to be considered by the strategic and corporate select committee at 10am on 10th October. This will be followed by full council at 10am on 16th October and cabinet will take a final decision following the council meeting. [Read more about the report.](#)

Bus Route 70/70a – There have been reports that this route is routinely late both in the morning and is often too full to pick up all passengers, it is also usually late collecting people from West Suffolk College in the afternoon. I have been in communication with Simon Barnett at SCC who is liaising with Simmonds about these problems, the timetable may need to be adjusted to the realities of the journey. Building works at Tollgate are likely to further delay bus services.

Dangerous Electrical Transport Vehicles Seized - Led by Suffolk Trading Standards' Imports Team and supported by Hertfordshire and Metropolitan Police, the Office for Product Safety and Standards (OPSS) and the Department for Transport, agencies shared intelligence to target goods imported through the Port of Felixstowe. Approximately 630 items were seized as posing a serious risk to safety. Some were CE/UKCA marked but much of the technical documentation supplied was fake and none were legal for the UK, on or off the road. Examples of dangerous goods include:

- 224 counterfeit or grey import Sur-ron electric motorbikes, including Lite Bee, Hyper Bee and Ultra Bee models, some of which can reach 56mph (value £1,027,905)
- 5 Talaria electric motorbikes retailing around £5,000 each
- A high-powered 'Arctic Leopard' electric motorbike valued at £6,000 capable of over 63mph
- A Blade II 'Teverun' electric scooter worth £6,000 and capable of speeds of 53mph
- 40 high-powered electric bikes commonly used by food couriers

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, the NSNRP would come under the authority of the regional mayor is regional devolution goes ahead. Councils in England are required to prepare LNRs 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 (DCO) - 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. The DCO for Norwich to Tilbury has been accepted for examination by the Planning Inspectorate on behalf of the Secretary of State. The application documents are now available to view on the [Planning Inspectorate’s website](#).

This includes a Consultation Report providing responses to the feedback submitted during the 2024 statutory consultation and the targeted consultations which can be found [here](#).

Interested parties may register with the Planning Inspectorate, comment on the application and take part during the examination. Please refer to the guide to registration on its website. [Click here](#)

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

Brecks receives £250,000 National Lottery Heritage Fund Grant - Suffolk County Council has successfully secured significant new funding to help protect the future of the Brecks. The National Lottery Heritage Fund has awarded £248,073 to Suffolk County Council, which will enable the creation of the Brecks Resilience project. The Brecks is home to eight registered parks and gardens, 157 scheduled monuments and over 1,000 listed buildings. For more information go to: www.brecks.org/BFER/

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