

County Councillor Report



Parish Councils, January 2026

Happy New Year!

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Devolution and Norfolk and Suffolk County Combined Authority – An Extraordinary Meeting of County Council will take place on **Monday 12 January 2026** at 10.00 a.m. in the King Edmund Chamber, 2nd Floor, Endeavour House, Ipswich, IP1 2BX. The Council has been asked to consider a Ministerial invitation (see Written Ministerial Statement in Appendix A to the papers) and a Letter to the Leader (appendix B). This invitation is to:

“set out your views on the postponement of your local election and if you consider this could release essential capacity to deliver local government reorganisation in your area and so allow reorganisation to progress effectively”. (Letter from Minister McGovern to Suffolk County Council’s Leader, 18 December 2025).

1. Response to this invitation is an Executive decision; therefore the County Council’s recommendation will be considered by Cabinet in their decision which follows. A response is requested no later than 15th January.
2. It should also be noted that the legal powers to postpone local elections rest with His Majesty’s Government and that the Government is seeking local views to assist with any decision it may make to postpone elections.

Please refer to: [Extraordinary County Council - 12 January 2026](#)

The meeting will be held in public and viewable through the Council’s web page.

Information about devolution and local government re-organisation can be found at Suffolk County Council’s web site: <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/devolution>

Government Consultation on LGR – Deadline approaching - This statutory consultation seeks views on several sets of proposals that the Ministry of Housing Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) closes on 11th January 2026. Details can be found at: [Local government reorganisation in Norfolk and Suffolk - GOV.UK](#)

Suffolk County Council proposes new 20mph speed limit policy - Suffolk County Council’s Cabinet is considering a proposal to amend the current 20-mph speed limit criteria, this gives communities greater opportunity to reduce the speed limit, where appropriate, in residential and high-pedestrian areas to 20mph. The full cabinet paper can be read on the [Suffolk County Council website](#).

Battery Disposal - Hidden batteries can spark Christmas chaos: Suffolk residents are urged to correctly dispose of items with small (and large) batteries, to avoid sparking fires. Items such as toys, power tools, vapes, small gadgets and even Christmas cards can contain hidden batteries, often

difficult to remove. These can overheat or explode at recycling centres and waste transfer stations, even in waste collection vehicles, or at home. Therefore:

- Do not put batteries or items containing batteries in any of your bins at home
- Take them to the battery recycling point at your local recycling centre, or local shops – [use the battery recycling locator](#) to check your nearest location
- If you are unsure if your item contains a battery, do not throw it in any of your bins at home, take it to your local recycling centre for experts to check

£26 million bus funding coming to Suffolk from DfT - Government funding for public transport in Suffolk is confirmed for three years. This funding will enable the continuation and expansion of new and improved services introduced over the past two years through LABG support and its predecessor, the Bus Services Improvement Grant (BSIP), many of which were shaped by community feedback.

New 20-mph Speed Limit Policy to be Considered – changes to the existing 20mph speed limit policy to enhance road safety and improve quality of life across Suffolk's communities will be considered on 9th January. Suffolk County Council's Cabinet is to consider a proposal to give communities greater opportunity to reduce the speed limit, where appropriate, in residential and high-pedestrian areas to 20mph. Please refer to the Agenda for the Cabinet meeting on Friday, 9 January together with a link to papers: [Meeting Documents - Committee Minutes](#)

Bird Flu – Sadly, outbreaks continue in Suffolk. DEFRA's Animal & Plant Health Agency (APHA) has imposed restrictions on the premises. Information on the locations of outbreaks can be found at: [APHA Interactive Avian Influenza Disease Map](#) SCC Trading Standards is managing controls.

Consultation for a Proposed New Reservoir, Thrandeston – Essex & Suffolk Water are proposing to construct a new drinking water storage reservoir (large concrete storage tank) and other water supply facilities in the area of Thrandeston and/ or Eye. A second reservoir is planned near Sipton. Refer to <https://suffolkwaternetwork.co.uk/>

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