



The Rt Hon Grant Shapps
Secretary of State for Transport

Your ref:
Our ref: DW/jj
Date: 10 December 2020

By email only:
TransportSecretary@dft.gov.uk

Email: james.mallinder@eastsuffolk.gov.uk

Dear Secretary of State

Climate change commitments

We are writing to you on behalf of the East Suffolk Greenprint Forum (ESGF) and East Suffolk Council's Environment Task Group (ETG).

ESGF is a voluntary network of individuals, organisations, businesses and community groups, founded in 1996, in response to the Rio Earth Summit. Their vision is to work with the people of East Suffolk to improve our quality of life and living standards, whilst reducing our impact on the environment.

East Suffolk Council has a strong environmental vision and places the environmental agenda at the heart of all it seeks to do. In recognising the existence of the climate emergency, East Suffolk Council has committed to working towards carbon neutrality across our own estate and operations by 2030, as well as continuing to play a key role as a member of the Suffolk Climate Change Partnership in making the whole county of Suffolk carbon neutral by that date.

In order for this to happen, it will be essential for all local councils to be provided with the correct legislative framework, systems and resources to make our vision a reality, and this will only happen with your help.

In particular, insofar as the DfT is positioned to act, we want to see a significant modal shift from dependency on internal-combustion engine car travel to cleaner modes, in particular active and sustainable modes of travel. We urge the DfT to legislate for:

- Incentives and legislative controls to encourage the rapid transition from diesel and petrol vehicles to alternative clean low-emission modes of transport.
- The implementation of proposed improvements to the Highway Code, including the inclusion of a Hierarchy of Road Users, to recognise and highlight the relative vulnerability

LEGAL ADDRESS East Suffolk House, Station Road, Melton, Woodbridge IP12 1RT

POSTAL ADDRESS Riverside, 4 Canning Road, Lowestoft NR33 0EQ

of non-motorised road users, and other measures that have the effect of making the road network safer for those using active and sustainable modes.

- A commitment to enable and communicate on the national stage, a modal shift from single-occupancy car journeys to public transport and, in particular, active travel such as walking and cycling given the additional benefits to health and wellbeing they bring. To enable local government to play their part in delivering this vision, the Government would need to:
 - Provide sufficient funding to large rural counties such as Suffolk specifically to deliver schemes to enable walking and cycling as realistic and attractive first choices for ordinary people making essential journeys such as commuting and shopping.
 - Commit to provide sufficient funding to counties like Suffolk to support a comprehensive and effective network of public transport to connect our isolated rural communities and encourage people out of their cars.

We hope that this letter sets out our shared vision, and our suggestions for how we can work together to achieve this in a constructive way. We look forward to receiving your response.

Yours sincerely



**CLlr James Mallinder | Chair
Environment Task Group**

Yours sincerely



**Jane Healey | Chair
East Suffolk Greenprint Forum**



Copies to:

The Rt Hon Therese Coffey	MP for Suffolk Coastal
Dr Daniel Poulter	MP for Central Suffolk and North Ipswich
Peter Aldous	MP for Waveney