



The Rt Hon Robert Jenrick MP
Secretary of State for Housing,
Communities and Local Government

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

Email: james.mallinder@eastsuffolk.gov.uk

By email only:
psrobertjenrick@communities.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 MHCLG is positioned to act, we want to see developments that are sustainable in themselves and enable those who live and work in them to use them sustainably going forward. The Council has already published its own Environmental Guidance Note to inform developers and renovators which you can view via the link below:

<https://www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/assets/Environment/Environment-Guidance/Environmental-Guidance-Note.pdf>

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

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However, this is non-binding and to help the Council play its part more effectively, we would urge the MHCLG to legislate for:

- Enhanced powers to enable Local Planning Authorities to make decisions in full alignment with our Climate Emergency commitments, supported by binding National Planning Guidance that requires all new development to be fit for the future, enhance biodiversity, encourage and enable the modal shift from cars to active and sustainable modes of travel, and incorporates best practice and technology in energy efficiency and generation.
- Tax incentives to ensure that new housing developments are zero-carbon.
- Long term financial and policy support to create and sustain Community Hubs where they don't already exist, and to identify and bring more services to them where gaps exist, addressing local needs such as education, training, skills, health inequalities, loneliness and isolation whilst reducing the need to travel.

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



**Clr 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