

East Suffolk Authority

Monitoring Report 2023/24

Covering the Suffolk Coastal Local Plan area
and the Waveney Local Plan area

An update on progress of the Local Plans,
delivery of policies and proposals and other
monitoring information for East Suffolk

Published January 2025

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Whilst every effort is made to ensure the accuracy of data in this report, it cannot be guaranteed free of errors.

1 Introduction

1.1 East Suffolk is covered by two adopted Local Plans.

Local Plan Document	Adopted date	Geographical coverage
Waveney Local Plan	20 th March 2019	Former district of Waveney (excluding the Broads Authority area)
Suffolk Coastal Local Plan	23 rd September 2020	Former district of Suffolk Coastal

1.2 Authority Monitoring Reports (AMRs) provide an assessment on the progress of the preparation of Local Plans and monitor the effectiveness of policies including the delivery of site-specific allocations.

1.3 The [Broads Authority](#) produces its own authority monitoring report, which includes the parts of East Suffolk which lie within the Broads Authority area.

1.4 Authority Monitoring Reports must include:

- progress on the Local Plan against the timetable in the Local Development Scheme;
- details of any neighbourhood plans or neighbourhood development orders that have been adopted;
- any Community Infrastructure Levy receipts;
- action taken under the Duty to Co-operate;
- details of any policies not being implemented;
- net additional dwellings (and affordable housing) completed in monitoring year; and
- total housing (and affordable housing) completed against annual requirements.

1.5 This Authority Monitoring Report covers the period 1st April 2023 to 31st March 2024. The report is split into two parts. This document reports the detail set out in the regulations as summarised above.

1.6 The [Planning Delivery Dashboard](#) presents information and data for the monitoring year for housing, employment, retail and town centres, climate change, design, and the natural and historic environments and provides an assessment on how the local plan policies are performing. The Dashboard also includes time series data and interactive maps e.g. housing completions, retail and town centre surveys and progress on delivery of site allocations.

1.7 Much of the data used to support the AMR is available to view and download as spreadsheets or shapefiles from the Council's Open Data portal at <https://data-eastsuffolk.opendata.arcgis.com>.

1.8 Planning information can be found on East Suffolk Council's webpages:

Planning Policy and Local Plans www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/localplan

Open Data Portal <https://data-eastsuffolk.opendata.arcgis.com>

Planning Policy Consultations www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/planning-policy-consultations

Neighbourhood Planning www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/neighbourhood-planning

Self Build and Custom Build Register www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/self-build-and-custom-build-register

Brownfield Land Register www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/brownfield-land-register

Community Infrastructure Levy www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/CIL

Planning Applications www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/planning-applications-and-enforcement

Design, Heritage and Ecology www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/planning/design-heritage-ecology-trees-landscape-and-rights-of-way



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2 Progress of Local Plan against Local Development Scheme

- 2.1 The [Suffolk Coastal Local Plan](#) and the [Waveney Local Plan](#) were adopted in September 2020 and March 2019 respectively and no Local Plan preparation work took place during 2023/24.
- 2.2 The Local Development Scheme sets out the timetable for local plan preparation and other planning policy documents. The adopted Local Plans were prepared under the Local Development Schemes in place at the time. In response to the [Written Ministerial Statement of the Secretary of State](#) for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities dated 19th December 2023, in which all local authorities were asked to make sure they have an up to date plan timetable in place, a new [Local Development Scheme](#) for East Suffolk was prepared and published in March 2024. This document sets out the Council's current position on plan-making, an indicative timescale for a future Local Plan and information on the preparation of other planning policy documents. The indicative timescale anticipates beginning work on an East Suffolk Local Plan in 2025, with the detailed timetable subject to when further details on the emerging national plan-making reforms become known.

Waveney Local Plan statutory 5 year review

- 2.3 Local Planning Authorities must review their Local Plans before they reach five years old to consider whether they need to be updated. 'Review' in this context means an assessment to determine whether updates to the plan are currently necessary. The National Planning Policy Framework (2023) states that "Policies in local plans and spatial development strategies should be reviewed to assess whether they need updating at least once every five years, and should then be updated as necessary."
- 2.4 The Waveney Local Plan was adopted 20th March 2019, and the review was therefore completed prior to 20th March 2024. The review assessment used the Planning Advisory Service (PAS) Toolkit Part 1, supported by an assessment of each policy contained in the Waveney Local Plan. The [Waveney Local Plan Statutory 5 year Review Assessment](#) was agreed by Cabinet on 5th March 2024, and concluded that an update is not required at this time.

3 Neighbourhood Plans and Neighbourhood Development Orders

- 3.1 Neighbourhood Plans are optional plans prepared by local communities which set out detailed planning policies and proposals for their specific area e.g. a parish. Once 'made' (adopted), they form part of the Development Plan against which planning applications must be determined.
- 3.2 A Neighbourhood Plan allows communities to create a vision and planning policies for the use and development of land for their area, for example, where new homes should be built and what they should look like.
- 3.3 Neighbourhood Development Plans must be in general conformity with the strategic policies in the relevant adopted Local Plan.
- 3.4 With a Neighbourhood Development Order, communities can grant planning permission for development they want to see go ahead in a neighbourhood, for example allowing home extensions to be built without the need to apply for planning permission. No Neighbourhood Development Orders are currently in place in East Suffolk.
- 3.5 During 2023/24, four Neighbourhood Plans have been made:
- Rushmere St Andrew;
 - Shadingfield, Sotterley, Willingham and Ellough;
 - Saxmundham; and
 - Wickham Market.
- 3.6 As of 31st March 2024, there are 23 made Neighbourhood Plans in East Suffolk.
- 3.7 The most up-to-date information on Neighbourhood Planning, including guidance notes and information on Neighbourhood Plans under preparation can be found at www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/neighbourhoodplanning.

4 Developer Contributions – Community Infrastructure Levy and S106 Agreements (Planning Obligations)

- 4.1 The Community Infrastructure Levy legislation requires the production of annual Infrastructure Funding Statements (IFS). The annual IFS must set out which projects are to be funded by CIL in the future, as well as how much CIL has been collected, what it has been spent on and how much has been passed to parish councils. Similar information is also required to be published in relation to Section 106 legal agreements (planning obligations).
- 4.2 The East Suffolk Infrastructure Funding Statement 2023-24 can be found at <https://www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/infrastructure-funding-statement/>. As a result, the contents are not duplicated in this AMR, other than the summary figures below for 2023/24. Also see the Council's CIL Reporting webpage for more details <https://www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/cil-reporting/>:

CIL received	£7,195,247.65
Total developer contributions (S106 legal agreements & RAMS habitat mitigation) received (including affordable housing commuted sums)	£1,465,349.90

- 4.3 The East Suffolk CIL Charging Schedule was approved by Full Council on 28th June 2023 and came into effect on 1st August 2023. This replaced the former CIL Charging Schedules that were in place for the former Waveney and Suffolk Coastal districts (adopted in 2013 and 2015 respectively). Further information on the Community Infrastructure Levy in East Suffolk can be found at <https://www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/community-infrastructure-levy/>.

5 Duty to Co-operate

- 5.1 The Localism Act 2011 requires planning authorities to engage constructively, actively and on an on-going basis with other prescribed bodies in relation to strategic cross-boundary planning matters. There are a number of strategic cross-boundary planning matters that are relevant to East Suffolk, including those which have involved co-operation with adjoining planning authorities throughout the production of the Suffolk Coastal Local Plan and the Waveney Local Plan.

Suffolk Economic Growth

- 5.2 The new Suffolk Economic Growth governance structure became operational in April 2024, following the closure of New Anglia LEP. Following the election of the new Government in July 2024, and its decision in September to no longer offer the Norfolk and Suffolk devolution agreement, the position in relation to Suffolk devolution remains unclear at present.

Coastal Zone Management

- 5.3 East Suffolk Council, along with the Borough Council of King's Lynn and West Norfolk, North Norfolk District Council, Great Yarmouth Borough Council and the Broads Authority signed a [Statement of Common Ground](#) in relation to Coastal Zone Planning in September 2018. This sets out a series of shared aims and an agreed approach in relation to working together on coastal planning issues.
- 5.4 The day-to-day management of the coast in the district is delivered by Coastal Partnership East, a partnership which brings together the coastal management resources and expertise from Great Yarmouth Borough Council, North Norfolk District Council and East Suffolk Council.
- 5.5 A [Coastal Adaptation Supplementary Planning Document](#), covering the coast from Holkham in Norfolk to Felixstowe in Suffolk, was prepared as a partnership between East Suffolk Council, Great Yarmouth Borough Council, North Norfolk District Council, the Broads Authority, and the Coastal Partnership East Team. The SPD was adopted by East Suffolk Council on 5 September 2023 and by the other partnership authorities during September and October 2023.

Ipswich Strategic Planning Area

- 5.6 The Ipswich Strategic Planning Area (ISPA) comprises the geographic area of the former Suffolk Coastal District, along with Ipswich Borough and Babergh and Mid Suffolk Districts. The authorities within this area have a long-established history of working together on cross-boundary planning matters.
- 5.7 The ISPA Board comprises a councillor representative from each of these authorities and Suffolk County Council. The function of the Board, as set out in the Terms of Reference, is to provide a forum in which the five local authorities can work together. The work of the Board has been

documented through the production of a Statement of Common Ground, the latest of which was signed in March 2021 to accompany the submission of the Babergh and Mid Suffolk Joint Local Plan.

- 5.8 Part 1 of the Babergh and Mid Suffolk Joint Local Plan was adopted in November 2023 with a Call for Sites consultation for the Part 2 Local Plan undertaken in January and February 2024.
- 5.9 The Ipswich Local Plan was adopted in March 2022. No Local Plan preparation work took place in 2023/24.
- 5.10 Given the current plan making position of the authorities, it has not been necessary for the Board to meet recently, however officers from across the authorities meet regularly and future Board meetings will be held as needed.
- 5.11 Further information on the Ipswich Strategic Planning Area Board can be viewed on the ISPA website at www.ipswich.gov.uk/content/ipswich-strategic-planning-area.

The Norfolk and Suffolk Broads

- 5.12 The Norfolk and Suffolk Broads is a National Park that include Britain's largest protected wetlands and third largest inland waterway. The National Park covers parts of East Suffolk, South Norfolk, Great Yarmouth, Broadland, Norwich and North Norfolk and is managed by the Broads Authority. The Broads overlaps the northernmost part of East Suffolk along the River Waveney and Oulton Broad and also takes in parts of Bungay and Beccles.
- 5.13 A 'Memorandum of Understanding' with the Broads Authority was signed by all the Authorities that border the Broads Authority area. This notes the statutory purposes imposed by the Norfolk and Suffolk Broads Act 1989 (as amended) and states the Broads Authority will not have a strategic housing target or the need to deliver a particular quantum of housing or employment development. The Districts will assess, for planning purposes, the housing and employment needs for their administrative areas and deliver wholly outside of the Broads area.
- 5.14 The 'Memorandum of Understanding' and 'Statement of Common Ground' with the Broads Authority are reproduced in the Appendices of the 'Duty to Cooperate Statement for the Waveney Local Plan' which can be viewed at www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/assets/Planning/Waveney-Local-Plan/Final-Draft-Local-Plan/Duty-to-Cooperate-Statement.pdf.
- 5.15 A review of the Broads Local Plan is progressing with a 'Preferred Options' consultation running from March to May 2024, to which East Suffolk Council responded. A review of both the 'Memorandum of Understanding' and 'Statement of Common Ground' will be required in due course.
- 5.16 During the monitoring year, there has been joint working on a number of projects which partly or wholly extend into the Broads Authority area, including the Suffolk Coast Recreational Disturbance

Avoidance and Mitigation Strategy (RAMS), and the [Coastal Adaptation Supplementary Planning Document](#).

- 5.17 In addition to ongoing regular liaison, officers from East Suffolk, the Broads and Great Yarmouth meet every three months, with both Suffolk County Council and Norfolk County Council, to collectively discuss strategic and cross boundary planning matters.

Great Yarmouth Borough Council

- 5.18 The former Waveney area and Great Yarmouth Borough Council have an extensive history of working together. Waveney District Council and Great Yarmouth Borough Council signed a 'Memorandum of Understanding' in 2014 that commits the two authorities to work together on strategic planning matters. In February 2020 a [Statement of Common Ground](#) was agreed and signed between East Suffolk Council and Great Yarmouth Borough Council to address cross boundary planning matters.
- 5.19 In addition to ongoing regular liaison, officers from East Suffolk, the Broads Authority, Great Yarmouth Borough Council, Suffolk County Council and Norfolk County Council meet every three months to collectively discuss strategic and cross boundary planning matters.
- 5.20 A review of the Great Yarmouth Local Plan is progressing. The First Draft Local Plan consultation (Regulation 18) ran from March to May 2024, to which East Suffolk Council responded.

6 Performance and effectiveness of the Suffolk Coastal and Waveney Local Plans

- 6.1 This document is supported by the [Planning Delivery Dashboard](#) which provides information and data for the monitoring year for housing, employment, retail and town centres, climate change, design, and the natural and historic environments and provides an assessment on how the local plan policies are performing. The Dashboard also includes time series data and interactive maps e.g. housing completions, retail and town centre surveys and progress on delivery of site allocations.
- 6.2 The table below presents some key statistics from the Planning Delivery Dashboard for 2023/24:

New homes
857 new homes completed 2023/24
275 affordable homes completed 2023/24
61% of all affordable homes completed are for affordable rent
A 66-bedroom care home and 40 sheltered homes completed
Public consultation undertaken for the Custom and Self-Build Housing Supplementary Planning Document to provide guidance for those submitting planning applications for these forms of housebuilding. The document was subsequently adopted in May 2024
Retail and town centres
Lowestoft town centre has the highest vacancy rate at 23% (an improvement from 26% in 2022/23), followed by Bungay at 20% and Halesworth at 12% (data from retail surveys carried out in May 2024)
234 sqm of ground floorspace within the town centres has been lost to uses other than 'town centre and leisure uses' in 2023/24
Away from designated areas (town centres, district and local centres) 478 sqm of town centre and leisure uses floorspace completed in 2023/24
Design
42 planning applications for new residential development refused 2023/24 at least partially on design grounds
All sites of 10 or more homes permitted during 2023/24 meet or exceed the policy requirement to provide a proportion to accessible M4(2) standards. The requirement is 50% in the Suffolk Coastal Local Plan area, and all specialist accommodation, and 40% in the Waveney Local Plan area

Public consultation undertaken on the [Healthy Environments Supplementary Planning Document](#) to provide guidance on the design of built environments to support health and wellbeing. The document was subsequently adopted in June 2024

Natural and historic environment

There has been no change to sites designated for landscape or wildlife value

31 designated heritage assets included on the [Heritage at Risk](#) register (3 new assets added this year and 2 removed for positive reasons including repair/threat removed)

Five historic parks and gardens formerly on the East Suffolk [Local List of Historic Parks and Gardens](#) have been added to the National Register during 2023/24

Climate change (coastal erosion, flood risk, renewable energy and sustainable construction)

[Coastal Adaptation Supplementary Planning Document](#) prepared and adopted by East Suffolk Council, Great Yarmouth Borough Council, North Norfolk District Council, the Broads Authority, and the shared Coastal Partnership East Team during 2023/24

8 projects for non-domestic renewable energy have been permitted, including two solar farms which are expected to power over 11,500 homes

No planning applications have been approved against the advice of the Environment Agency

Employment development

12,823 sqm net additional employment floorspace (2.96 hectares) delivered in East Suffolk 2023/24

Within the Countryside, 11,167 sqm net additional floorspace (2.54 hectares) delivered 2023/24

2.3 hectares of employment land on allocated sites has been delivered to date, of 92 hectares allocated in the Local Plans

Outside of employment allocations, 29 hectares of land has planning permission for employment uses as at 31 March 2024

Progress on site allocations in Local Plans and Neighbourhood Plans

A total of 110 sites are allocated for housing, employment, open space, care facilities or mixed-used development as at 31 March 2024

Approximately 13,426 new homes are allocated on housing or mixed-use sites. 4,158 new homes have been permitted of which 988 are complete

Approximately 107 hectares of land is allocated for employment development, of which 6 hectares has completed

- 6.3 Given the update to the National Planning Policy Framework in December 2023, with earlier updates in 2021 and 2019, there are now inevitably some inconsistencies with national planning policy in the two Local Plans; these are dealt with on a case-by-case basis in relation to planning applications.
- 6.4 Similarly, some changes to national legislation – for example, to the Use Classes Order in 2020 – also mean that some Local Plan policies/supporting text inevitably do not reflect these changes. However, this does not necessarily mean that these policies are out-of-date for development management purposes.
- 6.5 Information as required by the regulations is set out below:

Appeal decisions

Appeal decisions	East Suffolk	<i>Suffolk Coastal</i>	<i>Waveney</i>
Dismissed	51	31	20
Allowed with conditions	10	9	1
Withdrawn	0	0	0
Total determined	61	40	21

- 6.6 The continuing very high dismissal rate (84% compared to 70% the previous year) shows that the Council was, overall, continuing to make ‘correct’ decisions on planning applications. Even in cases where appeals were allowed, it does not automatically mean that the Council got these decisions ‘wrong’. In many such cases, the Inspector simply reached a different planning judgment on the overall balance.
- 6.7 The policies that were most often pertinent to the appeals during this monitoring year related to design quality, development outside Settlement Boundaries/in the Countryside, development’s appropriateness within conservation areas, landscape character, residential amenity, and biodiversity and geodiversity.
- 6.8 This underscores the importance of the development plan including strong design policies and, in a primarily rural district, a range of key policies to manage development outside of settlements to ensure development is predominately in sustainable locations, with only limited appropriate development permitted in rural areas.
- 6.9 There is also a clear thread showing that a high proportion of the appeals related to refusals due to a lack of quality in design terms (conflicts with the design, landscape character, residential amenity and/or conservation area protection policies), underscoring the Council’s commitment to high quality, sustainable development in the district.
- 6.10 A small number of the appeals highlighted some weaknesses in the wording of the current policies of the adopted Local Plans. These weaknesses may be able to be addressed through amendments to these policies, or the inclusion of new/replacement policies, in the forthcoming East Suffolk Local Plan.
- 6.11 One appeal highlighted that Policy SCLP5.5 Conversions of Buildings in the Countryside for Housing did not explicitly cover in its policy criteria whether or not extensions to buildings, as part of a conversion to housing, would be permitted. Recent changes to Class Q of the General Permitted Development Order also reduces the control the Council has over development that would otherwise be managed through Policy SCLP5.5. Moreover, based on the current trajectory for changes to the planning system, it is likely that this type of issue will be addressed through a National Development Management Policy, therefore making the equivalent local policy either redundant or more limited.

- 6.12 Another appeal highlighted that the restrictiveness of Policy SCLP9.1 Low Carbon & Renewable Energy had the effect of precluding low carbon and renewable energy development in areas without 'made' neighbourhood plans, when this level of restriction may not be necessary. The wording provides no caveat for instances where there is no made neighbourhood plan, but through effective, meaningful, and appropriately extensive community engagement it can be demonstrated that there is sufficient overall community support for the scheme to justify its approval (subject to other material considerations being satisfactory).
- 6.13 Overall, the very high level of success the Council has had in dismissing appeals shows that the adopted Local Plans are performing well, and a high bar for design quality is being maintained.
- 6.14 The quarterly [Strategic Planning Committee](#) receives an update and analysis on the appeal decisions made by planning inspectors following refusal of planning permission by East Suffolk Council.

Local Plan policies not being implemented

- 6.15 Regulation 34 of the Local Planning Regulations 2012 requires local authorities to identify which of their policies are not being implemented, to state the reasons why, and identify the steps (if any) being taken to rectify this. Such policies may need to be amended or replaced, for example if they no longer reflect national guidance or are no longer relevant to the local area.
- 6.16 Suffolk Coastal Local Plan policy SCLP9.2 Sustainable Construction has a requirement that all new developments of more than 10 dwellings should achieve higher energy efficiency standards that result in a 20% reduction in CO₂ emissions below the Target CO₂ Emission Rate (TER) set out in the Building Regulations. This has been superseded by new [Part L Building Regulations](#), which was published in June 2021, with transitional arrangements until June 2023. The updated Part L requires an approximate 30% reduction in CO₂ emissions for new residential buildings relative to the 2013 Part L Building Regulation standards. This planning policy requirement will therefore no longer be monitored.
- 6.17 All other policies are being implemented as intended. A review of permissions issued since the adoption of the Local Plans shows that most of the policies not being used in decision making are generally related to site-specific allocations which have yet to be subject to a planning application.
- 6.18 The only other policies not currently being applied are SCLP5.17 Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople, WLP8.5 Gypsy and Traveller Sites and SCLP5.15 Residential Moorings, Jetties and Slipways. Again, this is because of a lack of relevant applications triggering consideration of these policies.

Housing delivery

Indicator	East Suffolk	Suffolk Coastal	Waveney
Net additional homes completed 2023/24	857	533	324
Affordable homes completed 2023/24 (subset of net additional homes completed)	275	191	84
Number of bed spaces in care homes / equivalent dwellings completed 2023/24	66 bed spaces/ 37 dwellings	66 bed spaces / 37 dwellings	0 bed spaces / 0 dwellings
Gypsy and Traveller pitches permitted / completed 2023/24	0 permitted 0 completed	0 permitted 0 completed	0 permitted 0 completed
Total housing delivered within plan period (plan period date) net additional homes + equivalent dwellings provided in care homes	N/A	3,311 (2018-2036)	2,520 (2014-2036)

- 6.19 Housing completions in the Suffolk Coastal Local Plan area are just over the requirement to date (3,311 completions against 3,252 requirement). In the Waveney Local Plan area, despite housing completions generally increasing year on year, there has been under-delivery across the plan period (2,520 completions against 3,740 requirement). As in previous years, this is not due to a lack of available sites and planning permissions, but more due to housing market weakness in the former Waveney area, where values are lower than in the former Suffolk Coastal area (high mortgage rates, high materials costs and a relative lack of competition for some sites, for example).
- 6.20 The provision of housing for older people within care homes (residential institutions, use class C2) can be included in housing delivery figures. The contribution is based on the accommodation released in the housing market - for every 1.8 bed spaces in an institution, 1 housing unit is assumed.
- 70 equivalent dwellings in the Suffolk Coastal Local Plan area (2018-2024)
 - 39 equivalent dwellings in the Waveney Local Plan area (2014-2024)

Gypsy and Traveller Pitches

- 6.21 The [Gypsy, Traveller, Travelling Showpeople and Boat Dwellers Accommodation Needs Assessment \(2017\)](#) identifies a requirement for 15 additional pitches in the Suffolk Coastal Local Plan area and 17 additional pitches in the Waveney Local Plan area over the period 2016-2036. As at 31 March 2024, 4 additional pitches have been permitted and completed in the Waveney Local Plan area (in 2018) and none in the Suffolk Coastal Local Plan area.
- 6.22 For the period of 2021-2026 there is an unmet need for 3 pitches in the Suffolk Coastal Local Plan area and an unmet need for 11 pitches in the Waveney Local Plan area. As at 31 March 2024, there are no planning permissions for additional pitches in East Suffolk.

Small-scale housing development in the Countryside

6.23 Both Local Plans have policies allowing small-scale housing development within settlements within the Countryside (WLP8.7 and SCLP5.4). Although there are slight differences between them, both permit small amounts of additional housing where there are defined 'gaps' within existing built development. The [Housing in Clusters and Small Scale Residential Development in the Countryside Supplementary Planning Document](#) was published in 2022 to provide more guidance.

6.24 Figures reported are permissions granted rather than completions due to the lag between permissions and completions and the recent adoption dates of the two Local Plans. Net approval figures against SCLP5.4 and WLP8.7 are:

- **Suffolk Coastal: 25 dwellings (for the period 2020/21 – 2023/24)**
- **Waveney: 7 dwellings (for the period 2019/20 – 2023/24)**

Waveney Local Plan

6.25 The need for the cumulative impact of the policies to be assessed is highlighted in the Local Plan supporting text. Waveney Local Plan Policy WLP8.7 requires that proposals of up to 5 dwellings will need to be assessed cumulatively with other developments in the Countryside (WLP8.6, WLP8.8 and WLP8.11, as well as others already consented under WLP8.7) to ensure that the level of development overall is not contrary to the Local Plan's spatial strategy (i.e. the distribution of growth between the different tiers of settlement size), with most of the growth going to the largest settlements and relatively little to the Countryside.

6.26 In Waveney, a more detailed breakdown of permissions granted in the Countryside is as follows (figures are net to account for any demolitions/rebuilds):

- WLP8.6 Affordable Housing in the Countryside: 0
- WLP8.7 Small Scale Residential Development in the Countryside: 7
- WLP8.8 Rural Workers Dwellings in the Countryside: 2
- WLP8.11 Conversion of Rural Buildings to Residential Use: 18

6.27 As at 31st March 2024, planning permission breakdown for the spatial strategy is as follows (with the WLP1.1 breakdown for expected overall growth in brackets):

- **Lowestoft area (56%): 408 (20.4%)**
- **Beccles and Worlingham (16%): 320 (16%)**
- **Halesworth and Holton (8%): 586 (29.2)**

- **Bungay (6%): 182 (9.1%)**
- **Southwold and Reydon (4%): 254 (12.7%)**
- **Rural Area (10%, with 70% of that in the larger villages, 20% in smaller villages and 10% in other rural settlements in the Countryside): 254 (12.7%)**

6.28 The overall conclusion in Waveney is that the scale of permissions in the Countryside is, whilst appearing slightly out of 'balance', it is not clearly disproportionate to either the Rural Area split or the overall distribution throughout the settlement hierarchy. A number of the larger allocated sites (such as North of Lowestoft Garden Village) will inevitably take more time to be approved and constructed, hence why the current Lowestoft figure appears low, at 20.4%. Therefore, there is not considered to be a case for, in principle, refusing new residential schemes of up to 5 dwellings under WLP8.7 at the current time.

Suffolk Coastal Local Plan

6.29 Policy SCLP5.4 says that the cumulative impact of 'clusters' proposals will be a consideration in relation to individual applications. In total, 25 net dwellings have been consented since 2020 (the adoption date of the Local Plan). No parish has seen more than 7 (net) dwellings consented (Sweffling) and therefore there is not considered to be a clear case for concluding that there might be significant cumulative impacts in any particular parish. However, each application will be considered on their own merits, so this does not rule out that any particular proposals may be refused (at least in part) on cumulative impact. It is important to note that there is no threshold related to the number of dwellings, and the Housing in Clusters and Small Scale Residential Development in the Countryside Supplementary Planning Document (2022) explains that the cumulative impact of permissions and completions will be considered in relation to the impact on the character of the cluster.

Allocations in newly-made Neighbourhood Plans

6.30 This monitoring year, two new housing sites have been allocated in [Wickham Market Neighbourhood Plan](#):

- Policy WICK12 Land at Old School Farm for up to 85 homes
- Policy WICK13 Land at Simon's Cross for up to 25 homes

Statement of Housing Land Supply (5-year land supply)

- 6.31 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) requires local planning authorities to identify and update annually a supply of specific deliverable sites that are sufficient to provide five years' worth of housing against their housing requirement set out in adopted strategic policies, or against their local housing need where the strategic policies are more than 5 years old. The supply is required to include a 20% buffer where there has been a persistent under-delivery of housing as evidenced through the Housing Delivery Test (NPPF para. 77). For sites to be considered deliverable they should be available now, offer a suitable location for development now, and be achievable with a realistic prospect that housing will be delivered on the site within the five years. Changes to the NPPF in December 2023 mean that there is now no requirement to demonstrate a five year supply where Local Plans are less than five years old. This applies to the Suffolk Coastal Local Plan, which will not be five years old until 23rd September 2025, however we have updated the Housing Land Supply position as it is considered beneficial to maintain an understanding of the sites coming forward.
- 6.32 The East Suffolk Statement of Housing Land Supply 2024 confirms (as at 31st March 2024):
- The Suffolk Coastal Local Plan area of East Suffolk has a housing land supply of 6.39 years.
 - The Waveney Local Plan area of East Suffolk has a housing land supply of 5.15 years.
- 6.33 Further information can be found at <https://www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/housing-land-supply/>.

Housing Action Plan

- 6.34 East Suffolk Council produces an annual Housing Action Plan to check the progress and success of actions to secure housing delivery and enable the Council to take early steps to minimise any future risk of under delivery. The Housing Action Plans can be found at www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/housing-action-plan/.
- 6.35 The latest Housing Action Plan (HAP) was published in April 2024. Previous Housing Action Plans reported on progress and delivery made over the previous year. The 2024 HAP is focused on assessing and understanding housing delivery across allocated sites in the two Local Plans which have either not yet come forward at all or have planning permission but are being built out very slowly or appear to have stalled. There is no one clear reason, but mortgage rates and materials costs are still higher when compared to the pre-Ukraine war situation, whilst housing values have not increased as much. There remains an apparent lack of competition for some housing sites, particularly in the Waveney Local Plan area, perhaps reflecting the continued decline in the number of small and medium housebuilders operating.

Employment land delivery

- 6.36 12,823 sqm floor area of net employment uses completed in 2023/24. The largest development was for a new build B8 storage building of 3,257 sqm (0.55 hectares site area).
- 7,157 sqm (1.85 hectares) completed in the Suffolk Coastal Local Plan area
 - 5,666 sqm (1.11 hectares) completed in the Waveney Local Plan area
- 6.37 The Local Plans identify a need for approximately 54.7 hectares of new employment land with 92.61 hectares allocated to meet and exceed the identified need. Five sites, totalling 61 hectares, are solely for employment development. A further 6 sites are for mixed-use, generally residential-led, and will include some employment land. The largest site is a 20-hectare extension of the South Lowestoft Industrial Estate (Policy WLP2.17).
- 6.38 To date, approximately 2.3 hectares has been developed across 3 sites. The first [Employment Land Action Plan](#) has been produced to review the delivery of the allocated employment sites to the period up to 31 March 2023. The document highlights issues that are influencing delivery and identify actions the Council proposes to undertake to encourage delivery of employment development. The Employment Land Action Plan will be updated annually.

Environmental policies

- 6.39 Air quality in the district is generally good. Following revocation of the Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) in Woodbridge in September 2022, there is now one small, localised area where the objective for annual mean dioxide (NO₂) has been exceeded in the past, and for which an AQMA is currently declared at Stratford St Andrew. Due to consistently improved air quality in recent years, however, a public consultation on the proposed formal revocation commenced in October 2024.
- 6.40 During 2023/24, 9 proposals were refused at least partially as being contrary to the Historic Environment policy SCLP11.3 or WLP8.37.
- 6.41 The [Aldeburgh Park](#) Conservation Area was designated in October 2023. This new Conservation Area will further the preservation of the Aldeburgh Park area, which broadly follows the Garrett Era Area as identified on the policies map and in policy SCLP12.26 (Strategy for Aldeburgh).

7 Sustainability Appraisal

- 7.1 The Sustainability Appraisal (SA) is an important part of the Local Plan making process. The Sustainability Appraisal process can be simplified as: (Stage A) collecting and analysing baseline evidence to help identify the key issues pertinent for the next Local Plan to address (setting Sustainability Objectives and a sustainability appraisal framework for assessing site allocations and policies), and then (Stage B) working as an iterative assessment of the sustainability of the emerging Local Plan's site allocations and policies, in a parallel process running alongside plan-making, up to the report collation and consultation stages (Stages C and D).

'Significant effects'

- 7.2 During this process the Sustainability Appraisal identifies which site allocations and policies may have 'significant effects' (positive or negative) against the Sustainability Objectives. The Sustainability Appraisal also establishes monitoring indicators related to the Sustainability Objectives e.g. to meet housing need > monitor how many homes are delivered. The SA monitoring indicators are distinct from, but often overlap with, the Local Plan monitoring indicators reported in the Planning Delivery Dashboard with some key statistics provided in Chapter 6. Local Authorities are only required to monitor the performance of Local Plans against Sustainability Objectives where the potential for 'significant effects' was identified. This helps to ensure that any unforeseen adverse effects can be identified, and remedial action taken if required.
- 7.3 This chapter therefore reports on the performance of the Local Plans for the 2023/24 monitoring period against the subset of Sustainability Appraisal monitoring indicators where 'significant effects' were identified. The findings for the significant effects indicators for each Local Plan are reported in Appendix 1.
- 7.4 Whilst some indicators are monitored annually by the Council or external bodies, others are monitored less frequently, for example through the national Census. Results for some indicators will change rapidly to signal recent changes such as housing completions or employment figures, whilst others such as health indicators will show changes and trends over a longer timescale. This means that it is not always possible, practical or useful to report on every indicator every year. Where data is not available, this has been noted in the table in Appendix 1.

Suffolk Coastal Local Plan Significant Effects

- 7.5 The Sustainability Appraisal of the Suffolk Coastal Local Plan identified one significant negative effect of the plan, namely the impact on soil and mineral resources. The SA of the Local Plan also identified two significant positive impacts: meeting the housing requirements of the whole community and achieving sustainable levels of prosperity and economic growth throughout the plan area.

Analysis of current monitoring year: Suffolk Coastal Local Plan

7.6 Sustainability Objective: to meet the housing requirements of the whole community

A total of 533 new homes have completed this year, 83 more than the previous monitoring year (450 total in 2022/23). Housing completions (including care home equivalent dwellings) are just over the requirement to date (3,311 completions and 3,252 requirement). 191 affordable homes were completed this year, 78 more than the previous year of 113 completions. The policies to deliver the overall housing requirement and affordable homes appear to be performing well.

7.7 For affordable home tenures, the Local Plan requires 50% for rent, 25% for shared ownership and 25% for discounted market sale. For 2023/24 completions, 58% are affordable rent; 38% shared ownership; 1% discounted market sale and 4% First Homes. However, a number of these sites were approved under the previous policy which required 75% for rent tenures. As more sites approved under the current policies are developed the proportions of rent and ownership tenures are expected to even out. In 2021 the Government's First Homes Policy came into force. The Planning Practice Guidance suggests that 25% of all affordable housing delivered through developer obligations should be First Homes. The 25% First Homes can be accommodated with the Suffolk Coastal Local Plan Policy SCLP5.10 under the discounted market sale.

7.8 71% of all new homes delivered this monitoring year were houses, a 9% decrease on the previous year. There was an 11% increase in the number of flats (22%) delivered. 53% of the homes delivered were smaller properties (1 and 2 bedroom), with 28% being 3 bedroom homes and 19% being 4+ bedroom homes. The Suffolk Coastal Local Plan requires at least 40% of all new homes to be smaller, 1 and 2 bedroom homes; therefore, completions this year meet that requirement.

7.9 One new care home completed this monitoring year, providing 66 bedrooms. Over the plan period, 124 additional bedrooms have been provided in care homes. There is a significant need over the plan period for this housing type. However, much of this will be delivered through the build out of a number of housing allocations in the Local Plan with a specific requirement to provide housing for older people (sites listed at paragraph 5.45 of the Suffolk Coastal Local Plan).

7.10 Sustainability Objective: to conserve and enhance soil and mineral resources

During 2023/24, 30% of new homes completed were on brownfield land (previously developed land) rather than on greenfield land. This is an improvement on the previous figure of 11% and whilst this is positive there will be significant annual change because of the limited supply of sustainably located brownfield land in East Suffolk. Data is not available at district level for changes in recorded soil quality, though information for individual sites is available via the UK Soil Observatory.

7.11 Sustainability Objective: to achieve sustainable levels of prosperity and economic growth throughout the plan area

An overall gain of 7,157 sqm employment floorspace / 1.85 hectares site area was completed this year (8,298 sqm gained – 1,141 sqm lost). This is compared to a net gain of 56,000 sqm the previous year almost entirely due one single development. No development was completed on sites allocated for employment use.

- 7.12 Within the rural areas (outside of existing employment areas, employment allocations, or Settlement Boundaries), a net gain of 6,262 sqm employment floorspace was delivered, compared to 2,700 sqm the previous year. Just over half of this floorspace is from the change of use of agricultural buildings to employment use and 1,625 sqm was retrospective consent.
- 7.13 Between the previous (2022) and latest year (2023), there were no significant shifts in the proportions of employment by sector. The biggest change is in the 'Construction' and 'Education' sectors, both showing a decrease of 1.1% and 'Transport & storage' and 'Arts, entertainment, recreation' sectors both recording a 1% increase. The largest sector remains the 'Wholesale and retail (including motor sales)' sector at 15%, followed by the 'Transport and storage (including postal)' sector at 11.6% with 'Accommodation and food services' and 'Health' sectors, both at 10.5%.

Waveney Local Plan Significant Effects

- 7.14 The Sustainability Appraisal of the Waveney Local Plan identified one significant negative effect against the objective of conserving natural resources. As identified in the Sustainability Appraisal report, this relates primarily to the strategy of distributing growth around the Local Plan area which involves a level of development on greenfield sites which cannot be entirely mitigated for. The Local Plan was also predicted to have significant positive impacts, across a range of social, environmental and economic sustainability objectives, specifically: conserving natural resources, improving health and well-being, access to key services, meeting housing need, achieving economic growth, and enhancing the rural economy.

Analysis of current monitoring year data: Waveney Local Plan

- 7.15 **Sustainability Objective: to conserve natural resources**
During 2023/24, 29% of new homes completed were on brownfield land (previously developed land) rather than on greenfield land. This is a decrease of 6% on the previous year however it is expected that there will be significant annual change because of the limited supply of sustainably located brownfield land in East Suffolk. However, the Kirkley Waterfront and Sustainable Urban Neighbourhood allocation is predominately brownfield land and once developed will provide 1,380 new homes in the heart of Lowestoft.
- 7.16 **Sustainability Objective: to improve the health and well-being of the population**
It is anticipated that as recommendations set out in the [East Suffolk Cycling and Walking Strategy](#) (October 2022) are implemented, cycling and walking to work and school will increase amongst groups that are travelling to a place of work or education and to, from and within centres.
- 7.17 The percentage of adults (16+) that are active for an average of 150 minutes per week is available at district level. The latest data (November 2022-November 2023) shows 64.4% of adults are participating in physical activity, a slight decrease from 65.8% in the previous period.

- 7.18 The percentage of children aged 10-11 years that are overweight (including obese) has decreased in East Suffolk from 35.2% in 2022/23 compared to 39% in 2021/22. For comparison, the East of England average figure is 34.2% and the national average figure is 36.6%.
- 7.19 The percentage of adults (aged 18+) who are overweight (including obese) in East Suffolk is 72.5% in 2022/23, an increase from 63.9% the previous year. For comparison, the East of England average figure is 64.8% and national average figure is 64%.
- 7.20 Life expectancy in East Suffolk shows that people under the age of one between 2020-2022 can expect to live to 83.5 years of age if they are female, or 80 years of age if they are male. These figures are higher than the England figures of 82.8 for females and 78.9 years for males. However, overall life expectancy varies significantly between the different wards of the district. Healthy life expectancy and disability-free life expectancy is measured at Suffolk level.
- 7.21 The [Healthy Environments Supplementary Planning Document](#) (adopted June 2024) will guide the delivery of built environments that support health, wellbeing and greater inclusivity through better active travel infrastructure, higher quality green open space and play provision, and homes, schools, and workplaces. It is intended that healthier development over time contributes towards improvements to key public health indicators such as healthy life expectancy, disability-free life expectancy, weekly activity engagement, and healthier weight status for adults and children.
- 7.22 **Sustainability Objective: to improve access to key services and facilities**
No specific metrics for monitoring the performance of the Waveney Local Plan against this Sustainability Objective have been identified. However, the drive to improve the accessibility of key services and facilities has been part of the impetus to bring forward the [East Suffolk Cycling and Walking Strategy](#) (adopted October 2022) and the [Healthy Environments Supplementary Planning Document](#) (adopted June 2024).
- 7.23 **Sustainability Objective: to meet the housing requirements of the whole community**
A total of 324 new homes have completed this year, 36 fewer than last year's total of 360. This remains below the annual target of 374 new homes per year. Despite housing completions generally increasing year on year, there has been under-delivery across the plan period (2,520 completions against 3,740 requirement) – includes care home equivalent dwellings.
- 7.24 The number of affordable homes completed this year increased to 84 compared to 42 the previous year. On average 63 new affordable homes are completed each year. Across the plan period, 26% of all new homes are affordable homes (638 of 2,481).
- 7.25 The Local Plan requires at least 35% of new homes to be smaller 1 or 2 bedroom homes. It is likely that major sites of 10 or more homes have the greatest capacity to deliver a range of house sizes. 49% of all new homes completed this year are smaller (1 or 2 bedroom), a similar figure to the previous year of 51%.
- 7.26 Social and affordable rent tenures account for 76% of affordable completions this year, compared to 41% the previous year. As sites approved under the current policy (50% rent and 50% shared

ownership or discounted market sale) are built out the balance between rent and ownership tenures is anticipated to even out.

- 7.27 No care homes were completed this year. Over the plan period, 69 additional bedrooms have been provided in care homes. There is a significant need for specialist housing, including care homes and nursing homes, over the plan period. Some of this need will be met through the requirement to provide retirement communities as part of the development on allocations such as Kirkley Waterfront and Sustainable Urban Neighbourhood (WLP2.4) and North of Lowestoft Garden Village (WLP2.13).
- 7.28 **Sustainability Objective: to achieve sustained and resilient economic growth**
An overall net gain of 5,666 sqm employment floorspace (1.11 hectares, site area) was recorded this year (7,398 sqm gained – 1,7325 sqm lost). This compares to a net gain of 1,614 sqm / 0.04 hectares the previous year. No development was completed within the sites allocated for employment use. General industrial (B2) and storage or distribution (B8) recorded net gains of 3,000 sqm. Most of the employment development (4,905 sqm) was for the expansion of existing storage and brewery businesses within the rural areas - outside of settlement boundaries and protected employment areas and employment allocations.
- 7.29 An overall net loss of 31 sqm of town centre uses and leisure floorspace was recorded this year (469 sqm gained but 500 sqm lost), compared to an overall net loss of 92 sqm floorspace the previous year. Overall, retail uses recorded a net loss of 54 sqm; cafes/restaurants a net gain of 469 sqm, and financial and professional services a net loss of 446 sqm. Within Lowestoft town centre, 446 sqm floorspace was lost through the change of use of a 3-storey building formerly in use as a solicitors office to 9 self-contained flats (following relocation elsewhere within the town centre of the solicitors practice).
- 7.30 Retail unit vacancy rates in the Waveney Local Plan area's town centres vary from 9% (Southwold) to 23% (Lowestoft). Over the last year, the most significant change is in Lowestoft town centre which has 12 fewer vacant units than in 2023, a welcome 3% decrease from last year's figure of 26%. Bungay has a 20% vacancy rate and has historically had a much higher rate than the other market towns. Although vacancy rates are an important indicator of local economic performance, they should be considered within the context of the general economic and cultural shift away from communities wanting their centres to be mainly for meeting retail needs, to wanting them to offer a more holistic social, leisure and entertainment experience, and opting to meet some or most of their retail needs online instead. Though this general shift will not affect all centres equally, it may be necessary for the resilience of some centres to shrink their overall retail areas, and instead offer a 'quality over quantity' range of goods, services and experiences to their communities.
- 7.31 There have been some shifts between all occupation types between the current (2023/24) and previous year (2022/23). The most significant changes are those employed in 'skilled trades occupations' (increase from 8.9% to 11.7%), 'associate professional occupations' (increase from 16.9% to 19.2%) and 'elementary occupations' (decrease from 13.9% to 8.9%).

- 7.32 Between the previous (2022) and latest year (2023), there were no significant shifts in the proportions of employment by sector. The biggest change is in the 'Construction' and 'Education' sectors, both showing a decrease of 1.1% and 'Transport & storage' and 'Arts, entertainment, recreation' sectors both recording a 1% increase. The largest sector remains the 'Wholesale and retail (including motor sales)' sector at 15%, followed by the 'Transport and storage (including postal)' sector at 11.6% with 'Accommodation and food services' and 'Health' sectors both at 10.5%.
- 7.33 **Sustainability Objective: to enhance the rural economy**
A net gain of 4,905 sqm was completed in the rural areas (outside of Settlement Boundaries, existing employment areas and employment allocations), the majority was for the expansion of existing storage and brewery businesses.
- 7.34 A total of 183 additional new homes (53 affordable) were completed in the rural areas (outside of Settlement Boundaries), during 2023/24. However, 130 (47 affordable) of these are on sites allocated in the Local Plan at Beccles, Bungay and Wrentham. No care homes, extra care or sheltered housing was delivered outside of Settlement Boundaries during the 2023/24 monitoring year.

Appendix 1 - Sustainability Appraisal significant effects indicators

Suffolk Coastal Local Plan – Sustainability Appraisal indicators with significant effects

Suffolk Coastal Sustainability Objective	Type of effect	SA Indicator	2023/24 data (unless stated) (performance compared with previous monitoring period)
To meet the housing requirements of the whole community	Positive	New homes completed in the monitoring year	Total: 533 (increase, +83) of which affordable homes: 113 (increase, +78)
		New homes approved in the monitoring year <i>Figures include approval of reserved matters and renewal of consent approved in previous years</i>	Total: 801 (decrease, -47) of which affordable homes: 217 (decrease, -96)
		Recorded homelessness rates	MHCLG Homelessness statistics East Suffolk, 2023-24 1,160 Households assessed; 1,113 Households assessed as owed a duty (95.9%) (decrease, -1.8% assessed as owed a duty)
		Net additional dwellings – type, size and tenure	<u>Type</u> House: 71% (decrease, -9%) Bungalow: 7% (decrease, -2%) Flat: 22% (increase, +11%) Mobile Home 0% (no change) <u>Size (number of bedrooms)</u>

Suffolk Coastal Sustainability Objective	Type of effect	SA Indicator	2023/24 data (unless stated) (performance compared with previous monitoring period)
			<p>1 bedroom: 20% (increase, +4%) 2 bedrooms: 33% (increase, +7%) 3 bedrooms: 28% (decrease, -6%) 4+ bedrooms: 19% (decrease, -5) Not known: 0% (previous year, <1%)</p> <p><u>Affordable housing tenure types</u></p> <p>Social rent: 0 (decrease, -4%) Affordable rent: 58% (decrease, -3%) Shared ownership: 38% (increase, +15%) Shared equity: 0% (decrease, -2%) Discounted market sale: 1% (increase, +1%) First Homes: 4% (decrease, -7%)</p> <p><u>Care homes</u></p> <p>Care home completions: One 66-bed care home (increase, no completions previous year)</p>
To conserve and enhance soil and mineral resources	Negative	Percentage of development recorded on greenfield or brownfield land (previously developed land)	<p><u>New homes</u></p> <p>Greenfield land: 70% (decrease, -19%) Brownfield land: 30% (increase, +19%)</p>
		Change in recorded soil quality	Data not available at Local Authority level – information on soil quality on individual sites is available via the UK Soil Observatory
		Allocations recorded on best agricultural land quality (1,2,3)	Agricultural land quality impacts were considered during the assessment of site-specific policies of the Suffolk Coastal Local Plan. The wording of this indicator does not specifically require us to monitor change. The most useful information regarding

Suffolk Coastal Sustainability Objective	Type of effect	SA Indicator	2023/24 data (unless stated) (performance compared with previous monitoring period)
			soil quality impacts is the percentage split of greenfield and brownfield development over this monitoring period as presented above.
To achieve sustainable levels of prosperity and economic growth throughout the plan area	Positive	Estimated new job creation	No data available.
		Net additional gains in employment land development <i>Use classes E(g), B2 and B8</i>	Gains: 8,298 sqm / 2.16 hectares Losses: 1,141 sqm / 0.31 hectares Net change: 7,157 sqm / 1.85 hectares (decrease, -42,560 sqm)
		Business formation rate	ONS, Business demography, UK, 2022 East Suffolk figures: Births: 845 (decrease, -205) Deaths: 930 (increase, +40) Active Enterprises: 9,575 (increase, -135) <i>NB 2021 data reported in last year's AMR has since been updated and changes between 2021 and 2022 reported here relate to updated data.</i>
		Number of businesses paying business rates	No data available.
		Numbers employed by industry <i>NB proportions are more useful</i>	NOMIS, Business Register and Employment Survey, 2023 East Suffolk figures: Agriculture, forestry & fishing (A): 1.8%; Mining, quarrying & utilities (B, D and E): 1.6%; Manufacturing (C): 9.5%; Construction (F): 5.3%; Wholesale and retail including motor trades (G): 15%; Transport & storage (incl. postal) (H): 11%; Accommodation & food services (I): 10.5%; Information & communication (J): 4.2%; Financial & insurance (K): 0.8%; Property (L): 1.3%; Professional, scientific & technical (M): 5.3%; Business administration & support services (N): 3.7%; Public

Suffolk Coastal Sustainability Objective	Type of effect	SA Indicator	2023/24 data (unless stated) (performance compared with previous monitoring period)
			administration & defence (O): 4.7%; Education (P): 7.4%; Health (Q): 10.5%; Arts, entertainment, recreation & other services (R,S,T and U): 4.7%

Waveney Local Plan – Sustainability Appraisal indicators with significant effects

Waveney Sustainability Objective	Type of effect	SA Indicator	2023/2024 data (unless stated) (performance compared with previous monitoring period)
To conserve natural resources	Negative	Number and percentage of dwellings completed on previously developed land	Brownfield land: 29% (decrease, -6%) Greenfield land: 71% (increase, +6%)
		Area of high grade agricultural land lost to housing and economic development	<u>Housing - sites of 10 or more dwellings (or 0.5 hectare or more)</u> None (no change) <u>Employment development – floorspace of 1,000sqm or more (or 1 hectare or more)</u> None (no change)
To improve the health and well-being of the population	Positive	Proportion of journeys to work on foot or by cycle	The 2021 Census was taken on 21 st March 2021. The national lockdown, associated guidance and furlough measures will have affected the travel to work topic. Figures based on Wards within the former Waveney district: Working mainly at or from home: 20% (increase, +15%) Travelling to work by bicycle: 4% (decrease, -2%) Travelling to work on foot: 9% (decrease, -2%)

Waveney Sustainability Objective	Type of effect	SA Indicator	2023/2024 data (unless stated) (performance compared with previous monitoring period)
		Percentage of population completing 3 x 30 minutes physical activity per week <i>Data no longer available</i>	Sport England, Active Lives Online , November 2022-November 2023. Adults 16+ active an average of 150+ minutes a week, East Suffolk figures: 64.4% (decrease, -1.4%)
		Obesity in the population	Public Health England, Public Health Profiles , National Child Measurement Programme, 2022/23. East Suffolk figures: Children aged 10-11 (Year 6): 35.2% (decrease, -3.8%). Public Health England, Public Health Profiles , Active Lives Survey, Sport England, 2022/23. East Suffolk level: Adults aged 18+: 72.5% (increase, +8.6%)
		Life expectancy	Life expectancy for local areas: between 2001 to 2003 and 2020 to 2022, ONS , Life expectancy at <1 (East Suffolk, 2020-2022) 79.94 Males (decrease, previous figures: 80.15, 2019-2021) 83.47 Females (decrease, previous figure: 83.68, 2019-2021)
To improve access to key services & facilities	Positive	Accessibility to key services and facilities	No data available.
To meet the housing requirements of the whole community	Positive	Amount and type of new housing, including extra care/sheltered housing and number of care/nursing home beds	Total: 324 (increase, +36) of which affordable homes: 84 (increase, +42) <u>Type</u> House: 60% (decrease, -20%) Bungalow: 14% (increase, +5%) Flat: 25% (increase, +14%) Mobile Home: 1% (increase, +1%) <u>Size (number of bedrooms)</u> 1 bedroom: 23% (increase, +5%)

Waveney Sustainability Objective	Type of effect	SA Indicator	2023/2024 data (unless stated) (performance compared with previous monitoring period)
			<p>2 bedrooms: 26% (decrease, -7%) 3 bedrooms: 31% (increase, +2%) 4+ bedrooms: 18% (decrease -1%) Not known: 2% (increase, +1%)</p> <p><u>Affordable housing tenure types</u></p> <p>Social rent: 7% (increase, +5%) Affordable rent: 69% (increase, +26%) Shared ownership: 21% (decrease, -39%) Shared equity: 0% (decrease, -4%) Discounted market sale: 0 (no change) First Homes: 2% (this is the first time this tenure has been delivered in the Waveney Local Plan area)</p> <p><u>Care homes</u></p> <p>Care home completions: none completed (improvement on previous year of net loss of 13-bed care home to a house in multiple occupation)</p>
To achieve sustained and resilient economic growth	Positive	<p>Amount and type of employment development <i>Use classes E(g), B2 and B8</i></p> <p>Amount and type of retail and leisure development <i>Use classes E(a)-E(c), SG drinking</i></p>	<p><u>Employment development</u></p> <p>Gains: 7,398 sqm / 1.31 hectares Losses: 1,732 sqm / 0.20 hectares Net change: 5,666 sqm / 1.11 hectares (improvement, 2022/23 reported a net change of 1,614 sqm / 0.04 hectares)</p> <p><u>Retail and leisure development</u></p> <p>Gains: 469 sqm Losses: 500 sqm</p>

Waveney Sustainability Objective	Type of effect	SA Indicator	2023/2024 data (unless stated) (performance compared with previous monitoring period)
		<i>establishments, SG hot hood takeaways, E(d) and SG cinema</i>	Net change: -31 sqm (improvement, 2022/23 reported a net change of -92 sqm)
		Jobs density	NOMIS, Jobs Density , 2022 East Suffolk - 0.82 (0.80, 2021)
		Employment by occupation	NOMIS, Annual Population Survey , 2023/24 East Suffolk figures: Managers, directors and senior officials: 8.1%; Professional occupations: 17%; Associate professional occupations: 19.2%; Administrative and secretarial occupations: 12.3%; Skilled trades occupations: 11.7%; Caring, leisure and other service occupations: 13.1%; Sales and customer service occupations: 3.5; Process, plant and machine operatives: 6.2%; Elementary occupations: 8.9%
		Employee jobs by industry	NOMIS, Business Register and Employment Survey , 2023 East Suffolk figures: Agriculture, forestry & fishing (A): 1.8%; Mining, quarrying & utilities (B, D and E): 1.6%; Manufacturing (C): 9.5%; Construction (F): 5.3%; Wholesale and retail including motor trades (G):15%; Transport & storage (incl. postal) (H): 11.6%; Accommodation & food services (I): 10.5%; Information & communication (J): 4.2%; Financial & insurance (K): 0.8%; Property (L): 1.3%; Professional, scientific & technical (M): 5.3%; Business administration & support services (N): 3.7%; Public administration & defence (O): 4.7%; Education (P): 7.4%; Health (Q): 10.5%; Arts, entertainment, recreation & other services (R,S,T and U): 4.7%

Waveney Sustainability Objective	Type of effect	SA Indicator	2023/2024 data (unless stated) (performance compared with previous monitoring period)
To enhance the rural economy	Positive	Employment uses (E(g), B2 and B8) completed in the rural areas. <i>Rural areas defined as outside of Settlement Boundaries (WLP1.2), existing employment areas (WLP8.12) and employment allocations</i>	<u>Employment uses completed:</u> 4,905 sqm gains (increase, +4,500 sqm) 0 losses (no change) 4,905 sqm net gain (increase, +4500 sqm) New storage building (Ilketshall St John) and new brewery (St Peter South Elmham)
		Amount and type of new housing, including extra care/sheltered housing and number of care/nursing home beds within the rural areas <i>Rural areas defined as outside of Settlement Boundaries (WLP1.2).</i>	<u>Net additional homes completed:</u> 56% of all new homes have completed outside of settlement boundaries (183 of 324). However, 130 of these new homes are within housing allocations (policy WLP3.2 - Beccles, WLP5.2 - Bungay and WLP7.8 - Wrentham). If excluding these plan-led housing allocations, the figure reduces to 12% <u>Affordable homes completed:</u> 63% of all affordable homes have completed outside of settlement boundaries (53 of 84). However, 47 of these homes are within housing allocations (policy WLP3.2 - Beccles, WLP5.2 - Bungay and WLP7.8 - Wrentham). If excluding these plan-led housing allocations, the figure reduces to 5% <u>Housing for older people:</u> No care home completions (no change)



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