

East Suffolk Interim Housing Position Statement

Produced in response to the December 2024 NPPF and
alongside the East Suffolk Local Development Scheme
(LDS) 2025

September 2025 update

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Introduction

1. This Interim Housing Position Statement sets out East Suffolk Council's position in relation to the consideration of housing land supply and consequential matters in connection with planning applications for housing development. The Statement does not have policy status but provides practical guidance for the assistance of applicants and decision makers for planning permission and other affected parties. All planning applications will continue to be determined in accordance with the relevant policies of the statutory development plan unless material considerations indicate otherwise.
2. This Statement updates and replaces the previous Interim Housing Position Statement dated March 2025.
3. East Suffolk Council has two adopted Local Plans – [Suffolk Coastal Local Plan](#) (September 2020) and [Waveney Local Plan](#) (March 2019). Along with 'made' Neighbourhood Plans and [Suffolk County Council's Minerals and Waste Local Plan](#) these form the development plan for the district.
4. The [National Planning Policy Framework](#) (NPPF) is a material consideration in taking decisions on planning applications. The NPPF was updated in December 2024.

Paragraph 231 of the NPPF states for decision making *"The policies in this Framework are material considerations which should be taken into account in dealing with applications from the day of its publication."*

5. In December 2024 changes were made to the NPPF relating to the calculation of housing land supply; and alongside the NPPF a new standard method for calculating housing need was published in the updated [Planning Practice Guidance on Housing and Economic Needs Assessment](#). For East Suffolk the housing need figure, calculated at June 2025, is 1,667 dwellings¹ (compared to 905 under the former standard method, and 916 total annual requirements in both Local Plans).
6. Both the Suffolk Coastal Local Plan (2020) and Waveney Local Plan (2019) have planned positively to meet their respective housing need. The local plans have created an ambitious strategy that allocated land for more dwellings than their respective housing requirements, and also include policies to support appropriate 'windfall' housing development.
7. Paragraph 78 of the National Planning Policy Framework states that:

"Local planning authorities should identify and update annually a supply of specific deliverable sites sufficient to provide a minimum of 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 five years old [39]"

¹ The housing need figure has increased since the publication of the new standard method as in March 2025 new median workplace-based affordability ratios were published that increased the housing need to 1,655 and an update to the base stock figures in June 2025 further increased the housing need to 1,667 per annum.

8. Footnote 39 states *“Unless these strategic policies have been reviewed and found not to require updating. Where local housing need is used as the basis for assessing whether a five year supply of specific deliverable sites exists, it should be calculated using the standard method set out in national planning practice guidance.”*
9. East Suffolk Council meets this requirement through the publication of a [Statement of Housing Land Supply](#) on an annual basis as per paragraph 78. The Statement deals separately with the position in each Local Plan area. Since the adoption of the Local Plans East Suffolk Council has been able to demonstrate at least 5 years supply of deliverable land in its yearly assessments for each Local Plan area. East Suffolk Council last published its Statement of Housing Land Supply in November 2024 which was prior to the latest NPPF and Planning Practice Guidance update.
10. The East Suffolk Statement of Housing Land Supply published in November 2024 shows that, as of 1st April 2024:
 - Suffolk Coastal Local Plan area can demonstrate a supply of 6.39 years
 - Waveney Local Plan area can demonstrate a supply of 5.16 years
11. In March 2025 East Suffolk Council published an Interim Housing Position Statement that set out how the changes to the NPPF affected the East Suffolk Council housing supply, and the consequences this has on decision making. In September 2025 East Suffolk Council published this updated Statement following the Suffolk Coastal Local Plan becoming five years old. The section of this Statement on the Waveney Local Plan area has also been updated to reflect the latest data available, but much of the text remains unaltered.
12. This Position Statement and its conclusions regarding the 5 year housing land supply comes into force on the 23rd September 2025 upon the Suffolk Coastal Local Plan turning 5 years old.

Suffolk Coastal Local Plan area

13. The Suffolk Coastal Local Plan was adopted on 23rd September 2020 and relates to the former Suffolk Coastal district. It was prepared and examined against the February 2019 version of the NPPF and its housing requirement was based on a local housing need calculated under the former standard method (and amounting to 542 dwellings per annum).
14. Paragraph 78 of the NPPF states “Local planning authorities should identify and update annually a supply of specific deliverable sites sufficient to provide a minimum of 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 five years old.[39]”
15. Footnote 39, which covers the outcome of Regulation 10A reviews states *“Unless these strategic policies have been reviewed and found not to require updating. Where local housing need is used as the basis for assessing whether a five year supply of specific deliverable sites exists, it should be calculated using the standard method set out in national planning practice guidance.”*

16. The East Suffolk Housing Land Supply Statement published in November 2024 shows that the Suffolk Coastal Local Plan area has a housing land supply of 6.39 years.
17. On 12th December 2024, the Government published a new standard method for calculating housing need, set out in the Planning Practice Guidance on Housing and Economic Needs Assessment, which increased the East Suffolk housing need figure from 905 dwellings per year to 1,644 dwellings per year. In March 2025 new median workplace-based affordability ratios were published that increased the housing need to 1,655 and an update to the base stock figures in June 2025 further increased the housing need to 1,667 per annum. The calculation is shown below. The new standard method does not directly provide separate local housing need figures for the Waveney Local Plan and Suffolk Coastal Local Plan areas.

Housing Stock 2024	0.8% of housing stock	Affordability Ratio	Affordability Adjustment	Standard Method Housing Need
123,016	984.128	8.65	1.6935	1,667

18. Paragraph 231 of the NPPF states for decision making *“The policies in this Framework are material considerations which should be taken into account in dealing with applications from the day of its publication.”*
19. Paragraph 34 of the National Planning Policy Framework 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” and “Relevant strategic policies will need updating at least once every five years if their applicable local housing need figure has changed significantly; and they are likely to require earlier review if local housing need is expected to change significantly in the near future.”*
20. Paragraph 232 of the NPPF states *“Where a local planning authority can demonstrate a five year supply of deliverable housing sites (with the appropriate buffer as set out in paragraph 78) and where the Housing Delivery Test indicates that the delivery of housing is more than 75% of the housing requirement over the previous three years, policies should not be regarded as out-of-date on the basis that the most up to date local housing need figure (calculated using the standard method set out in planning practice guidance) is greater than the housing requirement set out in adopted strategic policies, for a period of five years from the date of the plan’s adoption.”*
21. In accordance with Regulation 10A of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 (as amended) a review was carried out prior to the fifth anniversary of the adoption of the Suffolk Coastal Local Plan to consider whether the Plan needs to be updated. The review concludes that due to the significant uplift in housing need the strategic policies relating to housing supply require a review. This will be achieved by the preparation of a district-wide East Suffolk Local Plan, with work commencing in 2025.
22. Therefore, under paragraph 78 of the NPPF, the Housing Land Supply position in the Suffolk Coastal area has been re-assessed against the housing need figure calculated under the standard method (to the extent that it is possible to identify a Suffolk Coastal specific figure).

In December 2024 paragraph 78 of the NPPF also reintroduced the requirement to add a 5% buffer to the housing requirement in the housing land supply calculation.

23. There is no available guidance for determining the exact housing need for the Suffolk Coastal area due to much of the data being based on East Suffolk as a whole. Therefore, and in accordance with Planning Practice Guidance on Housing and Economic Development Needs Assessment (Paragraph ID: 2a-014-20241212) a suitable alternative approach which has regard to the data available and the guidance in the Planning Practice Guidance has been used. This alternative method uses the data available for the Suffolk Coastal area and applies the standard method formula to this. Based on the data available the need is an estimated 981 dwellings per year. The calculation has been detailed below and uses our best available data. Should the approach and data sources be clarified the calculation can be updated.

Suffolk Coastal Local Plan area disaggregation

Housing Stock	0.8% of housing stock	Affordability Ratio	Affordability Adjustment	Standard Method Housing Need
64,897	519.176	9.68	1.8892	981

The evidence used to determine the Suffolk Coastal housing need incorporates the latest published housing stock data that was published solely for Suffolk Coastal which was in 2019.

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/664da823f34f9b5a56adcbf2/LT_125.ods

Total housing completions and losses for Suffolk Coastal for each year have been added to this 2019 figure to ascertain the overall stock for Suffolk Coastal as shown below.

Year	2019 (last published)	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	Current Housing stock
Housing Stock or completions	62,244	660	511	499	450	533	64,897

The affordability ratio for Suffolk Coastal is not available on the link within the PPG, instead an alternative data set from the ONS has been used which is found here:

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/housing/datasets/ratioofhouseprice-to-workplace-based-earnings-for-former-local-authorities>

The most recent data shows an average 5 year affordability ratio in the Suffolk Coastal area as 9.68.

24. The housing land supply figure for the Suffolk Coastal area as at 31.3.2024, on this basis, is updated to 3.36 years as detailed below:
- a 5 year supply target (5 x 981) 4,905
 - b 5% buffer (a x 5%) 245

- c 5% buffer applied 5,150

Number of units and years identified against the requirement:

- a 5 year supply requirement 5,150
- b annual requirement (a / 5) 1,030
- c total number of units identified 3,461
- d number of units above or below 5 year supply requirement (c-a) -1,689
- e number of years of deliverable housing land (c / b) **3.36 years**

Waveney Local Plan area

25. The Waveney Local Plan was adopted on 20th March 2019 and relates to the former Waveney district (outside of the Broads, for which the Broads Authority is the Local Planning Authority and prepare their own Local Plan). The Waveney Local Plan was prepared and examined against the original March 2012 version of the NPPF and its housing requirement was not derived from the local housing need of the former standard method, but from the [Strategic Housing Market Assessment](#). The housing requirement is 374 dwellings per year.
26. Paragraph 78 of the NPPF states *“Local planning authorities should identify and update annually a supply of specific deliverable sites sufficient to provide a minimum of 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 five years old.[39]”*

Footnote 39, which covers the outcome of Regulation 10A reviews states, *“Unless these strategic policies have been reviewed and found not to require updating. Where local housing need is used as the basis for assessing whether a five year supply of specific deliverable sites exists, it should be calculated using the standard method set out in national planning practice guidance.”*
27. The East Suffolk Housing Land Supply Statement published in November 2024 shows that the Waveney Local Plan area has a housing land supply of 5.16 years.
28. The [Waveney Local Plan Review Assessment](#) was undertaken in accordance with regulation 10A of Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 (as amended) and published in March 2024, as required by legislation prior to the Local Plan becoming five years old, and concluded that the policies of the Local Plan did not need to be updated. This conclusion was informed by the fact that the housing need calculated under the then standard method had remained similar to the housing requirement in the plan of 374 dwellings per year. The November 2024 Housing Land Supply was therefore calculated based on the Local Plan housing requirement (in line with the applicable guidance in the then operative version of the NPPF (December 2023)).
29. On 12th December 2024, the Government published a new standard method for calculating housing need, set out in the Planning Practice Guidance on Housing and Economic Needs

Assessment, which increased the East Suffolk housing need figure from 905 dwellings per year to 1,644 dwellings per year. In March 2025 new median workplace-based affordability ratios were published that increased the housing need to 1,655 and an update to the base stock figures in June 2025 further increased the housing need to 1,667 per annum. The new standard method does not directly provide separate local housing need figures for the Waveney Local Plan and Suffolk Coastal Local Plan areas.

30. Paragraph 231 of the NPPF states for decision making *“The policies in this Framework are material considerations which should be taken into account in dealing with applications from the day of its publication.”*
31. Paragraph 34 of the National Planning Policy Framework 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”* and *“Relevant strategic policies will need updating at least once every five years if their applicable local housing need figure has changed significantly; and they are likely to require earlier review if local housing need is expected to change significantly in the near future.”*
32. Paragraph 232 of the NPPF states *“Where a local planning authority can demonstrate a five year supply of deliverable housing sites (with the appropriate buffer as set out in paragraph 78) and where the Housing Delivery Test indicates that the delivery of housing is more than 75% of the housing requirement over the previous three years, policies should not be regarded as out-of-date on the basis that the most up to date local housing need figure (calculated using the standard method set out in planning practice guidance) is greater than the housing requirement set out in adopted strategic policies, for a period of five years from the date of the plan’s adoption.”*
33. Despite undertaking a Regulation 10A review in 2024 that found that the plan did not need updating, it is open to the Council to carry out further reviews from time to time as occasion requires before the next five year anniversary arises in 2029. This is authorised by section 12(1) of the Interpretation Act 1978. Paragraph 34 of the NPPF gives guidance on circumstances when an earlier than five yearly review may be required. It is considered that in the Waveney Local Plan area the new standard method creates an increase in housing need to such a significant extent that it would trigger the need for a review of relevant strategic policies relating to housing need and supply in accordance with paragraph 34 of the NPPF. An [update to the 2024 review of the Waveney Local Plan](#) was produced in March 2025 and concluded that due to the changes to the NPPF and the resultant uplift in housing need the strategic policies relating to housing supply require a review. This will be achieved by the preparation of a district-wide East Suffolk Local Plan, with work commencing in 2025.
34. Therefore, under paragraph 78 of the NPPF, the Housing Land Supply position in the Waveney area would therefore be assessed against the housing need figure calculated under the standard method (to the extent that it is possible to identify a Waveney-specific figure).
35. Paragraph 78 of the NPPF also reintroduced the requirement to add a 5% buffer to the housing requirement. If this buffer of 5% was applied to the latest Housing Land Supply (November 2024) figures without applying the new standard method the Waveney Area

would still be unable to demonstrate a 5-year housing land supply albeit it would be close to meeting its supply need. With the 5% applied only, Waveney would be able to demonstrate a supply of 4.91 years.

36. There is no available guidance for determining the exact housing need for the Waveney area due to much of the data being based on East Suffolk as a whole. Therefore, and in accordance with Planning Practice Guidance on Housing and Economic Development Needs Assessment (Paragraph ID: 2a-014-20241212) a suitable alternative approach which has regard to the data available and the guidance on the Planning Practice Guidance has been used. This alternative method uses the data available for the Waveney area and applies the standard method formula to this. Based on the data available the current need is an estimated 723 dwellings per year. The calculation has been detailed below and uses our best available data. Should the approach and data sources be clarified the calculation can be updated.

Waveney Local Plan area disaggregation

Housing Stock	0.8% of housing stock	Affordability Ratio	Affordability Adjustment	Standard Method Housing Need
57,925	463.4	7.95	1.5605	723

The evidence used to determine the Waveney housing need incorporates the latest published housing stock data that was published solely for Waveney which was in 2019.

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/664da823f34f9b5a56adcbf2/LT_125.ods

Total housing completions and losses for Waveney for each year have been added to this 2019 figure to ascertain the overall stock for Waveney as shown below.

Year	2019 (last published)	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	Current Housing stock
Housing Stock or completions	56,561	156	201	323	360	324	57,925

The affordability ratio for Waveney is not available on the link within the PPG instead an alternative data set from the ONS has been used which is found here:

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/housing/datasets/ratioofhousepricestoworkplacebasedearningsforformerlocalauthorities>

The most recent data shows an average 5 year affordability ratio in the Waveney area as 7.95.

37. Planning Practice Guidance on [Housing Supply and Delivery](#) (paragraph ID 68-031-20190722) states that, “Where the standard method for assessing local housing need is used as the starting point in forming the planned requirement for housing, Step 2 of the standard method factors in past under-delivery as part of the affordability ratio, so there is no

requirement to specifically address under-delivery separately when establishing the minimum annual local housing need figure."

38. The calculation for the Waveney Local Plan 5 Year Housing Land Supply Assessment undertaken in November 2024 had included a shortfall from previous year. However, when applying the new standard method this previous shortfall no longer needs to be applied as the affordability adjustment factor covers previous years shortfall.
39. The housing land supply figure for the Waveney area as at 31.3.2024, on this basis, is updated to 3.23 years as detailed below:

Housing requirement:

- a 5 year supply target (5 x 723) 3,615
- b 5% buffer (a x 5%) 181
- c Total 5-year supply target (a + b) 3,796

Number of units and years identified against the requirement:

- a 5 year supply requirement 3,796
- b annual requirement (a / 5) 759
- c total number of units identified 2,455
- d number of units above or below 5 year supply requirement (c-a) -1,341
- e number of years of deliverable housing land (c / b) **3.23 years**

East Suffolk

40. East Suffolk Council was created in 2019 combining both the Waveney District Council and the Suffolk Coastal District Council. Similar to the annual Housing Land Supply Statements the East Suffolk position has also been calculated.
41. Unlike the individual local plan areas, the data that informs the standard method calculation comes from the sources directly provided within Planning Practice Guidance on Housing and Economic Development Needs Assessment (Paragraph ID: 2a-005-20241212).

East Suffolk as a whole

Housing Stock	0.8% of housing stock	Affordability Ratio	Affordability Adjustment	Standard Method Housing Need
123,016	984.128	8.65	1.6935	1,667

42. The housing land supply figure for the whole of East Suffolk as at 31.3.2024, on this basis, is updated to 3.38 years as detailed below

Housing requirement:

- a 5 year supply target (5 x 1,667) 8,335
- b 5% buffer (a x 5%) 417
- c Total 5-year supply target (a + b) 8,752

Number of units and years identified against the requirement:

- a 5 year supply requirement 8,752
- b annual requirement (a / 5) 1750
- c total number of units identified 5,916
- d number of units above or below 5 year supply requirement (c-a) -2,836
- e number of years of deliverable housing land (c / b) 3.38 years

Five year supply position

43. In light of the published NPPF update and the most recent Regulation 10A reviews East Suffolk Council is not able to demonstrate a 5-year housing land supply in both Local Plan areas (Waveney Local Plan area and Suffolk Coastal Local Plan area). Paragraph 11(d) of the NPPF, the 'presumption in favour of sustainable development', will therefore apply in decision making on planning applications for housing development in the East Suffolk Local Planning Authority area².

Paragraph 11(d) of the NPPF (the titled balance)

44. East Suffolk Council will apply paragraph 11(d) in decision making. Paragraph 11(d) is detailed below:

*"Plans and decisions should apply a presumption in favour of sustainable development.
For decision-taking this means:*

d) where there are no relevant development plan policies, or the policies which are most important for determining the application are out-of-date, granting permission unless:

i. the application of policies in this Framework that protect areas or assets of particular importance provides a strong reason for refusing the development proposed; or

ii. any adverse impacts of doing so would significantly and demonstrably outweigh the benefits, when assessed against the policies in this Framework taken as a whole, having particular regard to key policies for directing development to sustainable locations, making effective use of land, securing

² The East Suffolk Local Planning Authority Area does not cover the Broads Authority area.

well-designed places and providing affordable homes, individually or in combination”

45. The presumption in favour of sustainable development, often referred to as the ‘tilted balance’ means that the Council would apply much greater weight to the contribution to housing supply from sustainable housing proposals. In particular, proposals for housing that are sustainable but that would be contrary to Local Plan policies on housing development may be granted planning permission. Importantly, all planning applications for housing development will continue to be carefully and thoroughly considered against all policies within the development plan and other applicable paragraphs of the NPPF.

Part i)

46. Paragraph 11(d) part i) sets out that the presumption does not apply where the application of policies in the NPPF that protect areas or assets of particular importance provide a strong reason for refusal. Within this text under footnote 7, the NPPF provides further detail as to what protected areas or assets of particular importance relates to.

47. Footnote 7 states:

“The policies referred to are those in this Framework (rather than those in development plans) relating to: habitats sites (and those sites listed in paragraph 194) and/or designated as Sites of Special Scientific Interest; land designated as Green Belt, Local Green Space, a National Landscape, a National Park (or within the Broads Authority) or defined as Heritage Coast; irreplaceable habitats; designated heritage assets (and other heritage assets of archaeological interest referred to in footnote 75); and areas at risk of flooding or coastal change.”

48. Applications will be expected to fully comply with all relevant habitat regulation requirements.

Part ii)

49. Under Part ii) of paragraph 11(d) Local Authorities would be expected to refuse applications where any adverse impacts arising from the permission would significantly and demonstrably outweigh the benefits. It then further directs decision makers to have particular regard to certain key policy areas which are; directing development to sustainable locations, making effective use of land, securing well-designed places and providing affordable homes, individually or in combination.

50. Paragraph 11 requires a decision maker to apply a presumption in favour of sustainable development with part 11(d) giving particular regard to sustainable locations. Greater weight will be given to the benefits of proposals that are well related to settlements, services and facilities, particularly the larger towns and market towns that have a higher level of services whilst avoiding isolated and unsustainable locations. In the Suffolk Coastal Local Plan area, for new developments in the rural areas (under policy SCLP12.34), policy SCLP3.2 will be of relevance in understanding the sustainability of a settlement. In the Waveney Local Plan area, for new developments in Rural Areas (as defined under policy

WLP1.1), policy WLP7.1 will be of relevance in understanding the sustainability of a settlement.

51. In accordance with Paragraph 115 of the NPPF the provision of sustainable transport opportunities as part of an application will be a consideration in determining the sites overall sustainability. The paragraph includes provisions (amongst other considerations) that sustainable transport modes are prioritised.

52. Paragraph 11(d) also directs decision makers to have particular regard to making effective use of land. Paragraph 129 of the NPPF states:

“Planning policies and decisions should support development that makes efficient use of land, taking into account:

a) the identified need for different types of housing and other forms of development, and the availability of land suitable for accommodating it;

b) local market conditions and viability;

c) the availability and capacity of infrastructure and services – both existing and proposed – as well as their potential for further improvement and the scope to promote sustainable travel modes that limit future car use;

d) the desirability of maintaining an area’s prevailing character and setting (including residential gardens), or of promoting regeneration and change; and

e) the importance of securing well-designed, attractive and healthy places.”

53. Applications will be assessed against paragraph 129 in determining whether the site provides an appropriate density. Schemes that do not make the best use of land by proposing an unreasonable low-density scheme are unlikely to provide significant benefit when weighed against the adverse impacts.

54. Paragraph 11(d) also directs decision makers to have particular regard to making well-designed places. Paragraph 139 states that developments that are not well designed should be refused whilst developments that reflect local and national design guidance or provide outstanding or innovative design should be approved.

55. Paragraph 135 of the NPPF sets out the criteria for a well-designed scheme that decision makers must apply. The paragraph is detailed below:

“Planning policies and decisions should ensure that developments:

a) will function well and add to the overall quality of the area, not just for the short term but over the lifetime of the development;

b) are visually attractive as a result of good architecture, layout and appropriate and effective landscaping;

c) are sympathetic to local character and history, including the surrounding built environment and landscape setting, while not preventing or discouraging appropriate innovation or change (such as increased densities);

d) establish or maintain a strong sense of place, using the arrangement of streets, spaces, building types and materials to create attractive, welcoming and distinctive places to live, work and visit;

e) optimise the potential of the site to accommodate and sustain an appropriate amount and mix of development (including green and other public space) and support local facilities and transport networks; and

f) create places that are safe, inclusive and accessible and which promote health and well-being, with a high standard of amenity for existing and future users; and where crime and disorder, and the fear of crime, do not undermine the quality of life or community cohesion and resilience.”

56. Paragraph 11(d) also directs decision makers to have particular regard to policies on affordable housing and the footnote directs decision makers to paragraph 66 of the NPPF which states:

“Where major development involving the provision of housing is proposed, planning policies and decisions should expect that the mix of affordable housing required meets identified local needs, across Social Rent, other affordable housing for rent and affordable home ownership tenures.”

57. Accordingly, the application of paragraph 11(d) is not expected to reduce the weight applied to affordable housing in determining planning applications.

Other considerations

58. The exact weight to apply to a housing scheme, deemed to be a sustainable development, when weighed against the adverse impacts, will remain a matter of judgement for the decision maker; however, the level of under-supply as determined under the 5 year housing land supply assessment will clearly be a factor.
59. Small scale developments make an important contribution to the district’s housing supply; however, a small-scale scheme is unlikely to significantly address an under-supply on its own. There will be a presumption in favour of sustainable development and the benefits of the development when weighed against the potential adverse impacts will be a matter of judgement.
60. A Local Planning Authority is required to demonstrate 5 years’ worth of deliverable sites against 5 years’ worth of housing requirement. To address any under-supply that emerges through the 5 year housing land supply assessment will require deliverable land for housing applications that can feasibly provide completions in the next 5 years.
61. Outline permissions will often take longer to start delivering as they require further reserved matters applications to provide the required information to acquire full permission status.

This all takes time and reduces the potential that it will deliver in the next 5 years whilst a full planning application will be in a better position to deliver new homes upon receiving permission so carries greater benefit in addressing any under-supply.

62. Furthermore, applications that provide supporting evidence that effectively shows a strong potential for delivery within the next 5 years could be considered by the decision maker to be of increased benefit due to its potential to address an under-supply of deliverable land in the more immediate future.
63. Applicants should be particularly mindful of the importance of early engagement with the community on proposals for housing development that would be contrary to the development plan.
64. In the majority of the District, development may affect Habitats Sites and require strategic and/or on site mitigation. Of importance to this, given the effect of Paragraph 11, is the following paragraph 195 of the NPPF:

“The presumption in favour of sustainable development does not apply where the plan or project is likely to have a significant effect on a habitats site (either alone or in combination with other plans or projects), unless an appropriate assessment has concluded that the plan or project will not adversely affect the integrity of the habitats site.”

Sites allocated in the Local Plans

65. The application of paragraph 11 (d) to the decision making process is not expected to change the Council’s position in regards to its allocated sites which are still expected to come forward in accordance with that policy. The allocation policies were thoroughly assessed through the Local Plan examinations and the policy stipulations are required to deliver a sustainable and well-designed site. This statement is instead aimed towards windfall development that would otherwise be contrary to the relevant Local Plan.

Neighbourhood Plans

66. Under paragraph 14 of the NPPF, there are provisions for Neighbourhood Plans which states:

“In situations where the presumption (at paragraph 11d) applies to applications involving the provision of housing, the adverse impact of allowing development that conflicts with the neighbourhood plan is likely to significantly and demonstrably outweigh the benefits, provided the following apply:

a) the neighbourhood plan became part of the development plan five years or less before the date on which the decision is made; and

b) the neighbourhood plan contains policies and allocations to meet its identified housing requirement (see paragraphs 69-70)”

67. Planning Practice Guidance under paragraph (Paragraph ID: 2a-005-20241212) provides additional guidance to part b).

“In order for a neighbourhood plan to meet the criteria set in paragraph 14b of the Framework, the ‘policies and allocations’ in the plan should meet the identified housing requirement in full, whether it is derived from the housing figure for the neighbourhood area set out in the relevant strategic policies, an indicative figure provided by the local planning authority, or where it has exceptionally been determined by the neighbourhood planning body. For example, a neighbourhood housing requirement of 50 units could be met through 2 sites allocated for 20 housing units each and a policy for a windfall allowance of 10 units. However, a policy on a windfall allowance alone would not be sufficient.

Policies and allocations within other development plan documents, for example strategic site allocations or windfall development set out in a local plan or spatial development strategy, will not meet criterion 14b of the National Planning Policy Framework.”

68. In the Suffolk Coastal Local Plan area, this currently applies to the [Bredfield Neighbourhood Plan](#) area up to 26 May 2026, [Ufford Neighbourhood Plan](#) area up to 16 July 2030 and [Wickham Market Neighbourhood Plan](#) area up to 22 November 2028.

69. The [Easton Neighbourhood Plan](#) contains an allocation (policy ETN3) for approximately 12 dwellings and makes reference to small windfall delivery (policy ETN1) however, in terms of the PPG wording as set out above, it is inconclusive whether the Neighbourhood Plan policies when considered together meet the full housing requirement as opposed to being dependent on policies elsewhere. If necessary, this will be tested/established through the planning application process and if it is determined that the neighbourhood plan does fully plan for its housing requirement it would also comply with paragraph 14 of the NPPF up to 24 July 2029.

70. In the Waveney Local Plan area, this currently applies to the [Bungay Neighbourhood Plan](#) area, up to 23 November 2027.

First Homes

71. The [East Suffolk Affordable Housing SPD](#) was adopted in May 2022 and it set out the Council's position on First Homes which reflected the legislation and National Planning Policy Framework of that time. The latest version of the National Planning Policy Framework published in December 2024 removes the requirement to deliver a minimum of 25% of affordable housing as First Homes. East Suffolk Council will now implement the Local Plan policies on affordable housing without expecting provision of First Homes, but will continue to seek other tenure types such as affordable rent, social rent and shared ownership.

How long does this statement remain in place?

72. This Interim Housing Position Statement reflects East Suffolk Council's position as of September 2025. However, it will be revisited should there be a material change in circumstance such as any future Statement of Housing Land Supply which determines that either the Suffolk Coastal or Waveney Local Plan area can demonstrate a 5 year housing land supply.
73. A Housing Land Supply assessment is undertaken yearly with the most recently adopted version published in November 2024. A new Housing Land Supply Assessment will be undertaken in late 2025, taking account of monitoring data for 2024/25 and the available supply as at 31st March 2025, and the results of this assessment may render this statement obsolete should a demonstrable 5 year supply be shown for either Local Plan area.
74. A Housing Action Plan which identifies actions to support the delivery of planned housing growth across the East Suffolk area is published annually, and most recently in July 2025.

Write to us



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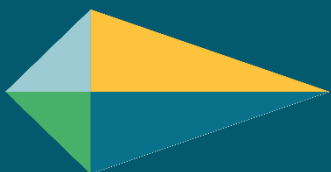


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