

Edition: June 2025

EastSuffolk

Magazine



LET'S SHAPE THE FUTURE OF SUFFOLK TOGETHER!

Local Government Reorganisation – what it means and how YOU can play your part: Page 5



OUR WINNERS!

Photo competition winners capture beauty of East Suffolk!



Welcome from the Leader



Welcome to the latest edition of the East Suffolk magazine, which is delivered to households throughout the district, providing you with a range of information about the different services we deliver and our plans and ambitions for the future.

We have two big changes on the horizon here in East Suffolk which we want to ensure our communities understand and participate in. First is the new 'better recycling programme' which will increase the amount and type of recycling we collect from you each week. The new service will begin next year and there is plenty of information in this edition about what will happen and why.

Additionally, the government's Local Government review programme is underway and this will see the County Council and all the districts and boroughs abolished (including East Suffolk) to be replaced by one or more 'unitary' councils in Suffolk delivering all your services.

Again, there is much more information in this edition and the opportunity to complete a survey expressing your views on local services. Whatever happens, the district and borough councils want YOU to play a key role in shaping the future of local government.

**Cllr Caroline Topping,
Leader, East Suffolk Council**



How are WE doing?

'Our Direction 2028' is our Strategic Plan and presents the council's key ambitions. Our aim is to promote a bright, green, open, free, and fair future for all East Suffolk, and our priorities are Environmental Impact, Sustainable Housing, Tackling Inequalities and a Thriving Economy.

The council wants to work with and empower communities and individuals to conserve what we love about our district, improve services where we need to and adapt to our changing environment - ensuring the district is in the best place possible in 2028.

Our Direction 2028 sets out the themes and priorities for East Suffolk Council. However, it is also important that we are then seen to deliver against these priorities, ensuring real, tangible outcomes for all our communities.

Therefore, we have developed an action plan to show exactly what we are delivering and when. We have also developed what we call our 'scorecard' which presents what we have achieved in the past two years - so that YOU can judge for yourselves.

Head to www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/ourdirection2028 to see how we are doing!





Better Recycling

from 2026!

Next year, East Suffolk Council will supply all households with an additional wheelie bin or other container to separate paper and card from plastics, metal, cartons (including Tetra Pak) and glass bottles and jars. This will be in addition to a brand-new weekly food waste collection service.

This new collection service will increase the bin capacity of households and allow for glass bottles and jars to be collected for recycling from the convenience of the kerbside for the first time. In addition to weekly food waste collections, each wheelie bin will be collected every 3 weeks as part of the new service.

National targets require us to recycle 60% of waste by 2030 and 65% by 2035. The current 'co-mingled' method of collecting all recycling in one bin means that a large amount of the paper and card we collect is often tainted by the other items and cannot be recycled.

The 'twin stream' approach, which we are introducing, will protect the quality of materials for re-use, with huge environmental benefits. This also means that much less general waste will need to be collected.



“Why three-weekly waste collections?”

Suffolk currently has the potential to divert approximately 60% of waste from general waste bins to other recycling and organic waste collections. On this basis, and to encourage improved recycling habits, weekly food waste collections, 'twin stream' recycling and a three-weekly general waste and recycling collection service will greatly increase recycling rates and reduce the waste that is unnecessarily disposed of.

“Will you be collecting less waste and recycling overall?”

No. While a three-weekly collection of general waste would reduce the frequency that these materials are collected, the new recycling service, alongside the weekly collection of food waste, will actually increase the combined bin capacity of each household.

“What if I don't have room for an extra bin?”

As we do currently, we will be able to help residents overcome any legitimate storage concerns that residents may have. Other Councils in England already operate similar services and have supplied additional full-sized bins to the vast majority of their households. However, we will be working with all residents and communities across East Suffolk to ensure the right solutions are provided.

“How will you address hygiene concerns as a result of fewer waste collections?”

The new food waste collection service means that there should be a significant reduction in odorous waste and vermin as a result of less frequent general waste collections. However, in line with our consideration for legitimate storage issues, alternative arrangements will be considered for households with medical needs and those with children in nappies.



Find out more at
[www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/
betterrecycling](http://www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/betterrecycling)



East Suffolk... Through the lens!



A stunning selection of images have triumphed in our competition inviting photographers to showcase East Suffolk 'Through the Lens'!

We asked photographers of all ages and experiences to celebrate the district's unique appeal by capturing the landscapes, wildlife, people, structures and everything that makes East Suffolk amazing.

More than 230 entries were submitted during the seven-week competition – with one amazing photo eventually chosen by a panel of judges as overall winner, along with three runners-up and an under-16 winner.

The overall winner was Jenifer Everett-Day's image of a family on Lowestoft beach. This photograph unanimously impressed the judges with its brightness and colour, perfectly capturing the joy of spending summer days on an East Suffolk beach with loved ones.

The judges were wowed by the three runners-up, including Daniel Brand's unforgettably beautiful image of a misty Shingle Street, Alison Colmans' simplistic but inviting image of Aldeburgh beach showcasing the different ways people come together to enjoy East Suffolk, and Mike Bowden's dynamic action shot of a motorcross scene, which captured a unique element of life in East Suffolk.

In the under-16's category, Summer Rose Crowe came out on top with an image of the newly built Gull Wing Bridge, an embodiment of Lowestoft's tradition and progress.

Councillor Caroline Topping, East Suffolk Council Leader and judging panel member, said:

“

“We were all very impressed by the quality and range of images submitted to our 'East Suffolk Through the Lens' photo competition. The judging panel all agreed that each photograph captured just how amazing our district is.”

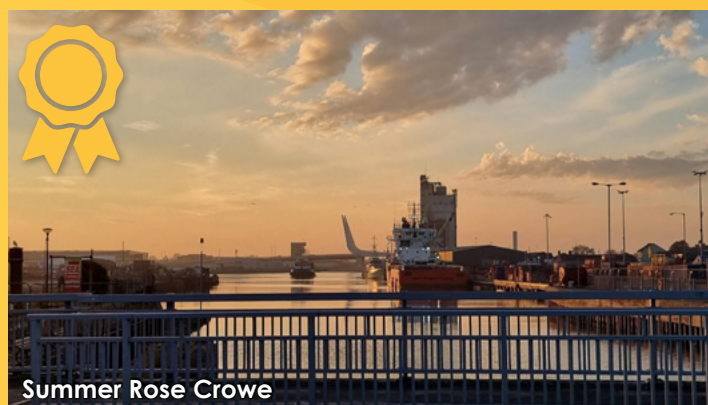
“Each submission captured a unique element about East Suffolk, whether this was family days by the beach, or the lesser-known beauties of our district, all are worthy of praise. Thanks to everyone who entered the competition, and congratulations to our winners.”

”

To see all the incredible photos selected by the judging panel, visit www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/east-suffolk-photo-competition



Jenifer Everett-Day



Summer Rose Crowe



Daniel Brand



Mike Bowden



Alison Colmans

District and Borough Councils' clear message to communities:

“Let's shape the future of Suffolk together!”

Suffolk's five district and borough councils are asking people for their views on the future of vital local government services. This is part of the government's Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) initiative which would see county, district and borough councils replaced and all their services delivered by one or more new unitary councils covering a specific area in the county.

District and borough councils believe that Suffolk would be best served by more than one unitary council. They have submitted their interim report, which sets out the benefits of a multi-unitary model. In a letter sent earlier this month to all Suffolk councils, the government offered clear encouragement for the districts and boroughs to continue developing their proposals.

With this in mind, they are now seeking to further develop the best possible case for a multiple unitary solution in Suffolk, creating councils that are big enough to deliver, but local enough to care; councils that will be efficient and financially sustainable, delivering genuine value for money.

This is the most dramatic change to local government in 50 years and the Leaders of the borough and district councils are committed to ensuring that every community is involved in shaping the new councils and their services.

As part of the wider engagement work the district and borough councils are carrying out, residents, businesses, community groups and other organisations can now have their say on what is important to them, in the areas in which they live and work. Encouraging as many Suffolk people as possible to take part, the Leaders of the five district and borough councils said: “We want to transform public services, so they work for all our citizens and communities, and we want you to help us shape them.

“We are absolutely certain that a multiple unitary model, with each new council delivering all services to different, recognisable parts of Suffolk, is vital to meet the differing needs of our diverse communities. It would ensure strong local leadership and democratic representation, better community engagement, neighbourhood empowerment and more responsive councils. We want more locally targeted, modern and flexible services, to drive better outcomes and value.”

HAVE YOUR SAY...

Shaping
Suffolk
Together

Complete the
survey here!



The Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) initiative would see county, district and borough councils in Suffolk replaced, and all of their services delivered by one or more new 'unitary' councils covering a specific area in the county. The Government will make a final decision early next year.



Cllr John Ward,
Babergh



Cllr Caroline Topping,
East Suffolk



Cllr Neil McDonald,
Ipswich



Cllr Andy Mellen,
Mid Suffolk



Cllr Cliff Waterman,
West Suffolk

£4.8 million for local leisure centres

East Suffolk Council successfully secured a £2.8million grant from the Government's Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme and, with an additional £2m investment of its own, will now move forward with ambitious plans to upgrade and decarbonise three of the district's leisure centres – Leiston, Waterlane, and Deben.

The funding will help the Council take a major step towards its goal of becoming carbon neutral by 2030. Leisure centres currently represent the single largest contributor to the Council's greenhouse gas emissions – now accounting for around 42% of the total. Tackling emissions from these buildings is crucial to reaching overall carbon reduction targets.

The planned upgrades will focus on replacing outdated gas boilers with cutting-edge Air Source Heat Pump systems for heating, and CO₂ heat pumps for hot water in some locations. These cleaner, highly efficient systems will significantly cut energy use and emissions at all three sites.

Additionally, Deben Leisure Centre will benefit from a new roof, and all three centres will see further solar panel installations to help offset the increased electricity use from the switch to electric-only systems. This funding will also help future-proof the centres by supporting the replacement of ageing equipment that is due for renewal – reducing the carbon footprint while avoiding major upfront costs to the Council.



The transformation of Leiston, Waterlane and Deben Leisure Centres is part of the Council's wider commitment to sustainability, with previous work already completed including improved insulation, LED lighting, solar panels, and pool covers to reduce heat loss. All schemes will be implemented within two years. The project marks a significant step towards a greener, more sustainable future for East Suffolk, benefitting both the environment and the local community.

East Suffolk Council hosts a number of fantastic state-of-the-art leisure centres throughout the district. Find out more about our incredible venues and their value for money memberships and classes!
www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/sport-and-leisure-centres



Supporting River Recovery

East Suffolk Council has signed an agreement with the Deben Climate Centre (DCC) to roll out an ambitious community action project with a focus on four rivers across the district.

The '4 Rivers Recovery Programme' will focus on each of our major rivers - The Waveney, Blyth, Alde & Ore and the Deben and community workshops will produce recommendations and work packages designed to help restore the more obviously degraded sections of the river catchments.

Citizen Science groups will be supported and grown to more extensively monitor the state of our rivers.

Through the participatory decision-making process a number of small-scale nature-based measures will be implemented to help reduce levels of flooding and to contribute towards nature recovery.

Most of the UK's rivers are seriously degraded, and only 14% of English rivers are in good ecological status. None of them have attained good chemical status. Most of our rivers and their floodplains are simply not able to cope with the rainfall levels which we are now seeing. Localised flooding is regularly impacting on the lives and wellbeing of our communities. Suffolk's rivers have deteriorated in line with the national picture.

Despite this, Suffolk's inland waterways form extensive and important blue/green corridors. Clean rivers are major natural capital assets, both in the recovery of nature and in combating the impacts of climate change. Some of the most significant environments in the UK are the rivers of East Suffolk and their floodplains.



Nature at Work!



East Suffolk Council has partnered with environmental charity Groundwork East to launch 'Nature at Work' – a campaign responding to the climate and nature emergency by helping nature to thrive at hundreds of community sites across East Suffolk.

The campaign will develop and promote the biodiversity of 116 existing council owned spaces, including improved and interactive signage. There is also a renewed focus to support schools, parish councils and community groups on the wider benefits nature-rich spaces can bring to local ecosystems.

Ten schools throughout East Suffolk are being supported by Groundwork to create native wildflower meadows and habitats for wildlife on their school grounds. These spaces can then be used for learning activities, encouraging future generations to be conscious of and inspired by the natural world.

Why do we need to give nature space to work?

Since the 1930s, the UK has lost over 97% of its wildflower meadows and species-rich grasslands which now only account for 1% of land.

Nature at Work is recognising the value of local green spaces to revive biodiversity, supporting existing and developing a new network of small species rich meadow areas across East Suffolk.

Its goal is to not shy away from the reality of the situation, while inspiring communities to get involved in habitat regeneration, providing support and guidance on positive actions we can make for future.



Find out more and get involved!
eastsuffolk.gov.uk/nature-at-work



Landowners: Can you help plant 250,000 trees and create new hedgerows across East Suffolk?

East Suffolk Council is working with local landowners to plant trees and hedgerows across the district. If you have land available of any size that could host new native trees or hedgerows we are keen to work with you. By working closely with the Woodland Trust we can connect you with the funding and advice to enable native trees to be planted on your land.

The aim is to enable 250,000 trees to be planted and new hedgerows to be created across East Suffolk by the end of 2027. This is part of a new Tree and Hedgerow Strategy announced in July 2024.

East Suffolk Council is already actively planting trees and changing the way we manage existing trees and woodland – but local landowners of all types and sizes will be key to delivering this work at scale.

By working with the Woodland Trust, East Suffolk Council can connect you with funding for tree and hedgerow planting, including for materials and labour. We can offer support and advice on appropriate species, techniques and locations (including site visits for larger sites) and make tree packs available for smaller scale project (10-30 trees).



To register your interest please contact our Climate Sustainability team:
climate.sustainability@eastsuffolk.gov.uk

Investing one million pounds in East Suffolk car parks!

East Suffolk Council is investing £1 million in car park infrastructure, including new contactless payment terminals, EV chargers, new cycle racks and signage, as well as introducing a suite of new parking tariffs in the district.

As part of an annual review of its fees and charges, the Council agreed to retain the 30 minutes free parking available in many council-owned car parks and to introduce several new tariffs to reduce congestion at peak times of the year.

To reflect the increased number of visitors coming to the district from further afield during the summer, new seasonal tariffs will be introduced in car parks in popular tourist destinations. Running from 1 April to 31 October in some council-owned car parks in Aldeburgh, Felixstowe, Lowestoft and Southwold, the new seasonal tariff will be higher than off-season and aims to ease the demand on busy car parks during the main tourism season.

New tariffs will also be introduced to allow campervans and motorhomes, HGVs and coaches to park in designated car parks in the district, with limitations on the length of stay.

The new parking fees include an increase to parking costs for the first time since 2020. Despite increased costs for running the parking service, tariffs remained unchanged in council-owned car parks for four years.

Cllr Tim Wilson, East Suffolk's cabinet member for Economic Development and Transport said: **"We are investing a much needed £1million into our car parks to improve parking for the benefit of residents, visitors and businesses across the district. Car parking fees must be spent on car parking infrastructure and other local facilities, so we can look forward to better maintenance of our car parks and their surroundings too."**

"Parking fees haven't risen in four years, and over that time the council has carried the cost of inflation – now we need to catch parking fees up with inflation, so that's where it will now be, and no higher. Parking in a council-owned car park still compares favourably with other similar locations, with council-owned car park fees being approximately 20% cheaper than alternative parking options, and our new charges still compare favourably to other tourism destinations and our neighbouring councils."



Other changes include the option to park for longer in short-stay car parks and reduced parking prices in car parks out of town centres to encourage people to park further afield and walk into town. Contactless payment terminals will be introduced to give drivers greater choice when paying for parking. This will be in addition to paying through a parking app or with cash.

Too many apps?

Motorists parking in East Suffolk Council-owned car parks can choose from a selection of cashless payment providers! Drivers have the choice to use their preferred parking app or website, rather than a provider which the Council has chosen on their behalf. This makes paying for parking easier, quicker and more convenient.

In addition to RingGo, there will now be other parking providers to use when paying for parking cashlessly in all 73 chargeable Council-owned car parks across East Suffolk. Currently: PayByPhone, JustPark, APCOA Connect and AppyParking+.

For information on parking in East Suffolk: www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/car-parks



East Suffolk Community Help Hub

Our Community Help Hub Team is here to provide front line support for some of our most vulnerable residents.

The team works to support everyone who lives in East Suffolk, with a particular focus on deprived, marginalised and excluded communities. They operate a supported access model – a bridge into services and support – with the aim of increasing confidence, feelings of self-worth and motivation, improving communication skills and increasing trust in services.

The team work with people to help them formulate a plan based around what the person feels would improve their life, including:

- **improved mental and physical health**
- **improved family relationships**
- **increased trust in services**
- **help to secure appropriate housing**
- **help to secure employment, education or training**
- **reduced social isolation and loneliness**

However, please do bear in mind that the team will not work with individuals who are already being supported by a named practitioner, e.g. adult social care or mental health services.



To make a referral head to www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/help-hub or call Customer services **0333 016 2000**

Continuing to 'Ease the Squeeze'

The Council's 'Ease the Squeeze' programme, set up to support residents to survive rises in the cost of living, is continuing for at least two more years. The programme started in late 2022 and initially included ten projects. We've looked at which of these have worked best and are now focussing on five key projects:

- **Grants for communities to host 'Warm Welcomes' to help people to stay warm, fed and connected**
- **Field to Fork Growing Space grants – helping people to grow their own at home and in community spaces**
- **Cooking on a Budget classes – helping people to understand how to cook healthy nutritious meals**
- **Low energy cooking equipment like hobs, microwaves, slow cookers and air fryers**
- **Support for food projects – ongoing support for local food projects**

We will also be running a Cost of Living Grant scheme in the early autumn which will make small grants to community projects that help people to keep warm, eat well, help families to access school uniform and help people to stay connected.

Our Field to Fork project was one of six projects out of almost forty entries to be shortlisted in the national MJ Awards in the 'Innovation in Delivering Sustainability and Social Value' category. We will find out whether we have been successful at the Award Ceremony on 20th June. Our entry focussed on feedback from residents about our Field to Fork Growing Kits and Growing Space Grants, including "It has helped not only with the cost of food but has supported my family to be more sustainable" and "My children and I spent time together planting and nurturing the plants and the children loved watching them grow". Fingers crossed!

www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/community/squeeze



EASE THE SQUEEZE



Charity art trail hopping to East Suffolk!

The Hop to it! art trail is coming to East Suffolk and St Elizabeth Hospice has chosen Felixstowe, Woodbridge, Beccles and Lowestoft as locations to host the trail, alongside Suffolk's county town, Ipswich.

Similar to previous art trails, such as The Big Hoot 2022, several sculptures will be installed in these locations from 21 June. This year's animal is the hare, chosen to reflect how the hospice delivers care swiftly to people across Suffolk. By creating this event, the hospice hopes to bring joy to the community and provide a fun and free activity for families in Suffolk. You can complete the trail at your own pace, choosing when you visit the hares and how many you see.

East Suffolk Council is a proud presenting partner of the trail, and we want to raise as much money as possible for this brilliant service.

East Suffolk Council has been allocated two hares for the trail, one large and one small. Cllrs Caroline Topping and Sarah Whitelock chose Sarah Edwards, a registered nurse at the hospice, to paint the large hare. Sarah has named the hare 'Summer', and it will be on display in Lowestoft throughout the trail.



Sarah Bennett was chosen to paint the small hare, which is named 'Messing about on the river'. Its name takes inspiration from the chosen location for this hare, in Beccles.

This is a great event and one that's fun and free for the whole family. Whether you visit one hare, or all of them (which would be impressive), it's all for a great cause.

70% of St Elizabeth Hospice's funding comes from public support. Even visiting the hares will help raise the profile of the hospice and could lead to more funding, which enables them to continue to support our community.

If you're looking for a low-cost thing to do throughout the summer holidays, why not try one of the trails?

Getting outside and spending time with your family and friends is a great way to improve mental health and wellbeing. Don't forget the benefits to your health if you walk the trail! You could even 'hop' on the train as all the towns are accessible by the East Suffolk Line.

Download the app

For this year's trail, there's a helpful app for you to track your progress. Download the Hop to it! Suffolk 2025 app from the App Store or Google Play and start finding those hares!

The app has several features including a map showing the locations of each hare, a pedometer to track your steps, sculpture stats and more.

Make sure you look out for the 'unlock code' at each sculpture location, so you can track your progress. You can even vote for our sculptures in the app too – we're hoping for lots of votes, so make sure you help us out!

Let us know if you're taking part by sending your social media posts.

www.stelizabethhospice.org.uk/hop-to-it-suffolk-2025



Summer days out on the Suffolk Coast

The summer holidays are almost here, and there's plenty on offer across the Suffolk Coast to keep the whole family entertained; a day out at one of the region's top attractions, an outdoor adventure, a festival or carnival or something fun and free!

Head to www.thesuffolkcoast.co.uk



Energy efficiency funding to help make social housing greener and warmer

East Suffolk Council has secured a provisional allocation of £5.9million to help improve the energy performance of social housing as part of the Government's Warm Homes Plan. Funding will contribute to a total £12m programme to allow the installation of energy efficiency upgrades and low-carbon heating measures in social homes across East Suffolk – supporting climate goals and helping to protect tenants from risk of fuel poverty.

East Suffolk Council has been offered a provisional allocation of £5,905,116 as one of 127 'Challenge Fund' projects announced in the third wave of the programme, administered by the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero, and formerly known as the Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund.

The programme aims to raise the energy performance of England's 1.2m social homes currently below EPC (Energy Performance Certificate) band C. This funding will allow the Council to upgrade a significant amount of social housing stock to be more energy-efficient – helping to drive down emissions and bills, supporting lower income families, and improving the health and wellbeing of tenants. An important step towards addressing fuel poverty and achieving net zero ambitions.



Looking to let your property?

East Suffolk Lettings is a hassle-free way to let your property. This free service, including rent guarantee, has been introduced to help increase resident access to the private rented sector and therefore create more affordable housing!

The new scheme aims to encourage landlords to work with the council, by charging a lower rent, at Local Housing Allowance or within 10%. Landlords will be offered a financial incentive based on the difference in cost between what they would have been able to charge, compared to the lower rate they are charging.

In return, the council will guarantee the rent is paid on time, each month and will provide support to the tenant to ensure the tenancy is managed appropriately. This will include completing inventories, three-monthly home visits to check on the condition of the property, supporting with benefit claims, and managing utilities

Why choose East Suffolk Lettings?

- **Cash incentive**
- **Guaranteed rent for the term of the tenancy**
- **Inventories**
- **Regular inspections**
- **Tenancy management and support**
- **2-5 year contracts**
- **Payments during void periods**
- **Accompanied viewings**
- **Check out reports**
- **No Fee - No commission**
- **50% contributions towards HMO license fee**

East Suffolk Lettings will support you as the landlord to ensure that the tenancy and property meet all the legal requirements. Providing a professional, comprehensive no fee, lettings service to private sector landlords with a property to let.



More information here!

www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/East-Suffolk-Lettings

Email: EastSuffolkLettings@eastsuffolk.gov.uk

Call: 0333 016 2000

Funding for the local economy, people, and communities

Following the great success of the 2022-25 East Suffolk UK Shared Prosperity Fund programme - a government funding scheme aimed at kickstarting the local economy - East Suffolk Council have been awarded a further circa £901,000 for 2025/26 that will support local businesses, people, and communities. This is in addition to the £334,000 awarded to East Suffolk Council for the Rural England Prosperity Fund.

Over
£900,000 for
East Suffolk!

During 2022-25, East Suffolk Council supported over 750 businesses to start, grow and sustain through advice, guidance, and grants, supported over 470 economically inactive people to train in life and work ready skills, 269 people to gain a qualification and invested almost £400k in high street and town centre projects which included small high street improvements, facilitating events, and providing funding to improve shop fronts.



For 2025-26 East Suffolk Council is investing in:

- Advice and guidance to over 100 entrepreneurs and potential start-up businesses through our start-up business support services: menta.org.uk/our-programmes/business-start-up-support
- Supporting over 330 businesses to sustain and grow through support via the New Anglia Growth Hub, and providing specific support and workshops to businesses on AI and digital / tech / communications.
- Providing an energy efficiency and net zero business consultancy service.
- Rural specific grant schemes that will support the development of rural community facilities and rural businesses to diversify and invest in new products and facilities.
- East Suffolk Start-Up Business Grant scheme: Grants of between £500 - £2,500 to fund small capital equipment and items that will enable new businesses to start and grow within their first 12-months of trading.

- Supporting young people and adults who are economically inactive/experience significant barriers to work, by providing pre ready to work coaching, work ready coaching, and basic skills tutoring, to support people into employment, education and training destinations and outcomes.



- Delivering a series of accredited hospitality workshops for those who are economically inactive/ have serious barriers to work, and provide CPD opportunities for East Coast College staff to continue to deliver workshops past the end of the project.

- Funding the Apprenticeship Suffolk service to help connect employers and young people to apprenticeship opportunities within the area.
- Continued funding support for the East Suffolk Ease the Squeeze programme that will specifically fund Growing Space Grants, Warm Welcomes and Cooking on a Budget classes.
- Targeted work in some of our most deprived communities to work with a small cohort of individuals and families to try and break cycles of deprivation by offering extensive, one-to-one support to help people navigate, and get the most benefit from, the support ecosystem that already exists around jobs, education, money, family, health and housing.

Find out more:
www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/uk-shared-prosperity-fund



The Kittiwakes of Lowestoft

- How East Suffolk is supporting this vulnerable seabird



East Suffolk Council is aiming to ensure that kittiwakes can continue to nest safely in Lowestoft, while helping businesses and building owners to deal with the challenges of nesting on buildings in a way that doesn't harm the birds.

From around March to September each year, black-legged kittiwakes return home from their journey to the Arctic to nest on Lowestoft's buildings. They can be distinguished from herring gulls by their diet and nesting habits, feeding on invertebrates and small fish. They won't touch 'human food' like chips! They nest in close groups and enjoy living in the busiest parts of Lowestoft. However, the most distinctive feature of the kittiwake is their call, which is said to sound like they're saying "Kitt-ee-wake!"

The Lowestoft Kittiwake Partnership includes East Suffolk Council, Lowestoft Town Council, the RSPB, Suffolk Wildlife Trust, the Marina Theatre, Lowestoft Vision and Lowestoft South Pier Ltd. The partnership is here to support both kittiwakes and the people of Lowestoft, carrying out conservation work, community engagement, street cleansing, and advocacy for local businesses, alongside a range of other support.

The people of Lowestoft, alongside several dedicated local organisations, play an important role in protecting this rare colony. Whether it's through hosting nests on buildings, supporting education and outreach, or monitoring the birds each season, their efforts help ensure that kittiwakes have a place here. With continued care and collaboration, Lowestoft can maintain its status as a critical site for the preservation of this vulnerable species.



Lowestoft: a refuge for endangered seabirds

The global population of kittiwakes has declined by 40% since the 1970s. In 1958, Lowestoft's first colony was officially established with just two pairs of kittiwakes. Since then, a growing number of kittiwakes have taken refuge in Lowestoft with over 100 pairs in 2004. In 2023 around 3000 kittiwakes called Lowestoft home, making ours one of the most successful colonies in the country.

Clean energy cluster on horizon as work complete on Nexus development

An innovative new commercial development has opened its doors in the heart of Lowestoft's PowerPark energy hub. Delivered by East Suffolk Council, The Nexus is home to 16 modern business units for office and light industrial uses – positioned at the forefront of the region's renewable energy sector.

Work began on redeveloping the Newcombe Road industrial site in November 2023 – following two years of design and planning work to create an ideal base for start-ups and more established businesses, with a particular focus on clean energy enterprise.

Concertus Design and Property Consultants provided initial design and planning assistance for the project, with construction led by SEH French, marketing for the

various-sized units carried out by Bycroft Commercial, and Allman Woodcock administering the project as employer's agent.

Councillor Paul Ashton, Deputy Leader of East Suffolk Council and Cabinet member for Corporate Services, said: "Lowestoft is poised to solidify its position as a hub in the renewable and clean energy sector, following a series of strategic investments and developments, both by the public and private sector.

"Developments such as The Nexus will support high skilled job creation whilst creating a sustainable future for the town and the wider area. The clean energy sector has the potential to create hundreds of jobs in Lowestoft, from engineering and technical roles to supply chain and administrative positions."

With allocated on-site EV parking, the site includes units varying in size between 35m² and 117m², creating potential for a cluster of clean energy sector businesses and enhancing ongoing investment in the area, with easy access to the Port of Lowestoft, OrbisEnergy and East Coast College's Energy Skills Centre.



THE NEXUS

Port Health at Felixstowe

– keeping **YOU** safe around the clock!

Many residents will either have visited the viewing point for the Port of Felixstowe, or noticed the cranes on the skyline, or simply be aware that the biggest container port in the UK is near their doorstep!

The Port of Felixstowe is critical national infrastructure, facilitating the import and export of goods, that, for imports, end up all over the UK, and for exports all over the world.

Keeping imports safe is a function performed by a number of regulatory bodies, and one of those is Suffolk Coastal Port Health Authority (SCPHA), part of the Environmental Services and Port Health team here at East Suffolk Council.

SCPHA is responsible for Public and Animal Health controls at the border, which includes checks on all manner of imported foodstuffs. And the last 12 months have seen a significant change to their service. A year ago, alongside their normal day to day activities, the team were involved in a project to stop the illegal import of meat to prevent the importation of African Swine Fever (ASF) – this work continues today, but new threats, such as Foot and Mouth disease have emerged, and introduction of the Border Target Operating Model (BTOM) in May 2024 significantly expanded their remit.

The BTOM moved the UK's import regime from one that focuses on goods from Third Countries to a regime that encompassed goods from the EU. It also introduced a risk-based approach to controls. This significant change has been assimilated into SCPHA's daily work with virtually no impact on trade flow, minimal delays at the border and, importantly, maintaining the regulatory and biosecurity controls – a major achievement considering the scale of change.

To achieve this the size of the team has expanded to around 130 colleagues, working 7 days a week, and virtually 24 hours to not only keep goods flowing but to protect public and animal health. The SCPHA team is recognised by Government for the work it does, it is engaged with Government on new border initiatives and works with other Port Health authorities around the UK to promote and develop vital border biosecurity controls.

East Suffolk Council is proud to have a dedicated, experienced and effective team delivering nationally significant service within its district. Find out more at www.porthealth.uk



This vital service, with international implications, does not cost East Suffolk residents a penny! It is a cost neutral service, funded through fees and charges to the trade.



**SUFFOLK
COASTAL
PORT
HEALTH
AUTHORITY**



Our Roadshows... **HERE** for you!

Following a successful series of events last year, East Suffolk officers and councillors are once again visiting towns around the district this summer, chatting to local people about council services and asking how they feel about what we do.

Having been to Saxmundham, Lowestoft and Kesgrave already in this latest round, we'll be in Beccles in July, Felixstowe and Southwold in August, finishing in Framlingham in September.

We're listening to local people, chatting about our plans, our services and how we are looking to improve lives and outcomes not only in the towns we visit but throughout East Suffolk.

Cllr Caroline Topping, Leader of East Suffolk Council said: "Last year's roadshows were very popular, with residents taking time to speak with us about local issues and concerns. It is incredibly important that residents have an opportunity to ask us questions and there is no better way to get a real sense of how local people feel about the services we deliver than getting out and meeting them."



East Suffolk Council - HERE For You! Come and find us in:

- 16 July Beccles
- 6 August Felixstowe
- 27 August Southwold
- 24 Sept Framlingham

All events are from
10am until 1pm.



We want to know what **YOU** think!

We want to know more about the people who live and work in East Suffolk, to help us deliver services that **YOU** need. We would like to know what matters most to you and where we should be spending our money. Take part and help shape East Suffolk!

The survey is always live, without a deadline, and makes a real difference to our approach to the services we plan and deliver. A paper copy is included in alternate editions of this magazine – so the next one will be included in our Spring publication.



It's easiest to complete the survey at www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/survey, or using the QR code to access it from your mobile device.



Worried about new legislation?

Mayo we suggest

our glass waste service?

As of 31st March 2025, all workplaces with 10 or more full-time equivalent employees (FTE) in England are legally required to recycle waste separately.



For more information please scan the QR Code or contact us via our email: customerservices@eastsuffolkservices.co.uk or call us on 03300 166 111



Paperless Billing

– Make the Switch Today

Have you recently received your annual Council Tax or Business Rates bill through the post?

Why not join the growing number of East Suffolk residents who are signed up for paperless billing and receive your future bills from East Suffolk Council directly to your email inbox?

It's quick, easy and convenient, and great for the environment too.

Once you've signed up, you'll receive all future bills securely by email – no need to log into an online portal or sort through piles of paper. Your bill will be right there in your inbox whenever you need it.

Make the switch today by completing our quick and easy paperless billing sign up form: www.angliarevenues.gov.uk/eastsuffolk

All you need is your **Council Tax** or **Business Rates** reference number (found on your latest bill) and your **postcode**.



Contact us... and useful information

You can find a range of useful information and do more online at www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk

Call us 0333 016 2000 (local rate number)

Email us customerservices@eastsuffolk.gov.uk



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