October 2025 Parish Report
East Suffolk Council GLI Group – Councillor Wilson Update

Big enough to deliver, local enough to care

Plans to transform local services were agreed by Suffolk's district and borough councils, as well as cabinet members, and have been submitted to the Government.

The proposals set out a new model of three unitary councils - replacing the current six - which will save at least £34m a year, with £20m reinvested annually into vital local services. The new councils will be "big enough to deliver, local enough to care", keeping decision-making rooted in communities while cutting duplication and waste.

Backed by independent analysis from the Social Care Institute for Excellence (SCIE), the proposals also show how £67.5m more could be unlocked every year by localising adult and children's services, with a sharper focus on prevention and early help.

The three proposed councils will serve Central & Eastern Suffolk, Western Suffolk and Ipswich & Southern Suffolk. And the proposed model will deliver:

- **Value for money:** Cutting six councils to three, self-funding in five years, unlocking £34m annual savings plus £20m reinvestment. Independent analysis shows a further £67.5m benefit from localised, prevention-led social care.
- **Local first:** Councils rooted in your communities, supporting voluntary groups and ensuring fairer funding.
- **Fairer council tax:** Equalisation within one year, with no household paying more by 2028/29 than they would under the current system.
- **Better services:** Local delivery, tailored to Suffolk's diverse needs, geography and history.
- **Stronger democracy:** Councillors that are close to you and the communities they serve, with deep local knowledge and the capacity to represent you effectively. Smaller wards mean councillors are more accessible, responsive, and attuned to you and your local priorities.
- **Innovation and improvement:** More agile councils, better able to adapt and transform.
- **A louder Suffolk voice**: Stronger representation alongside the new Norfolk & Suffolk mayor.

Central Government is expected to launch a public consultation in November 2025, running until February 2026, before making a final decision.

Nature First Small Grants Scheme

The Nature First small grants fund is provided by East Suffolk Council on behalf of the East Suffolk Greenprint Forum and is available for projects that specifically contribute to the enhancement of local biodiversity and/or its understanding and appreciation by the local community. Eligible projects may include work to restore existing habitats, creation of habitats, provision of nesting / roosting places for birds, pollinators and

other animals, or activities to help local people of any age learn about and enjoy their local biodiversity.

Eligible projects must contribute to the Greenprint Forum's goal of an East Suffolk where the value of nature is recognised by the majority, visitors are attracted because of it and everyone actively cares for it.

If you are considering making an application but aren't sure if this grant scheme is appropriate for your project please contact greenissues@eastsuffolk.gov.uk.

Applications can be submitted at any time, there is no deadline as the Panel will convene approximately once per month (subject to the need) to consider applications on an ongoing, first come first served basis until the funding has all been allocated.

An application form and guidance can be found at: **tinyurl.com/4kx3j9at**

Sizewell C Update

GLI Cabinet Member for Energy and Climate Change Tom Daly and officers across East Suffolk Council were invited by SZC Co to visit the Sizewell C site in August, alongside the Chair and officers of Natural England. The visit included a tour of the Main Development Site and three of their environmental mitigation areas; Wild Aldhurst, Wild Abbey, and Wild Studio.

The three areas form part of the Sizewell C project's commitment to enhancing nature across East Suffolk. The flagship scheme is Wild Aldhurst comprising 65 hectares of grassland, heathland, and wetland to the north of Leiston, and includes areas open to the public for recreational purposes. After the construction period, the temporary elements will be removed and the land within the Sizewell Estate will deliver new landscapes and habitats, and will seek to create a mosaic of valuable habitats to enhance the ecological, landscape, and amenity value of the area.

The visit came soon after two significant financial announcements on the project. The government announced Final Investment Decision in July 2025, confirming the government will become the largest shareholder, alongside private investors EDF, Centrica, La Caisse, and Amber Infrastructure. The announcement followed on from the announcement of an additional £14.2 billion, announced by the government in June as part of the Spending Review.

Also announced this summer is the East Suffolk Trust (EaST), a new charity jointly established by Sizewell C, East Suffolk Council, and Suffolk County Council. EaST is a new grant-giving charity set up to enhance biodiversity and restore landscapes in East Suffolk and the wider county. SZC Co has pledged at least £78m over the next 70 years, with the aim of making East Suffolk the most ecologically diverse and resilient area in England

GLI Cllr Daly said "Despite ESC opposition to this project, it is heartening to see that SZC are committed to these immediate and long term environmental and landscape works. It is essential that environment is at the centre of all we do. The impact of the

new build and associated works are enormous, the mitigations and view for the future need to be at a similar scale. SZC Co's absolute insistence on “doing the job right” in this respect is to be applauded.”

Free parking for Remembrance events

Parking charges will again be lifted for Remembrance Sunday events in communities across East Suffolk.

As in previous years, free parking will be provided in many East Suffolk Council car parks to support commemorations on Sunday 9 November.

Parking charges will be suspended for a period of five hours – either between 8am and 1pm, or 1pm and 6pm – depending on the preference of participating town and parish councils.

- Aldeburgh: 8am-1pm
- Beccles: 1pm-6pm
- Bungay: 1pm-6pm
- Felixstowe: 8am-1pm
- Framlingham: 8am-1pm
- Halesworth: 1pm-6pm
- Leiston: 8am-1pm
- Lowestoft: 8am-1pm
- Oulton Broad: 8am-1pm
- Saxmundham: 1pm-6pm
- Southwold: 8am-1pm
- Wickham Market: 8am-1pm
- Woodbridge: 8am-1pm

GLI Cllr Tim Wilson, East Suffolk’s cabinet member for Economic Development and Transport, said:

“I am delighted that free parking will again be provided for Remembrance Sunday in more than a dozen locations across the district.

“Parking charges will be temporarily suspended in selected car parks to support public commemorations – but we also encourage people to consider alternatives to travelling by car, if possible, such as walking, cycling, or using public transport.”

Planning Update

Suffolk Coastal Local Plan 5 year review assessment

Local Planning Authorities must review their Local Plans before they reach five years old, to consider whether they need to be updated. The review of the Suffolk Coastal Local Plan has been undertaken. The review concludes that, principally due to the significant increase in the housing need figure for East Suffolk, the plan needs to be

updated. The assessment is available at: https://www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/planning/planning-policy-and-local-plans/local-plans/

Interim Housing Position Statement

Local Planning Authorities are required to update annually a statement setting out the supply of deliverable sites for housing. The East Suffolk Statement of Housing Land Supply for the period 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2029 was published in November 2024 which identified a 5 year land supply in both Local Plan areas. In December 2024 an updated National Planning Policy Framework and an updated methodology for calculating housing need were published. Accordingly, an updated Interim Housing Position Statement (September 2025) outlines East Suffolk's new housing land supply position in response to the updated methodology and both plans turning 5 years old. The statement confirms that the Suffolk Coastal Local Plan area of East Suffolk has a housing land supply of 3.36 years and that the Waveney Local Plan area has a housing land supply of 3.23 years. The statement is available at: https://www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/planning/planning-policy-and-local-plans/open-data/housing-land-supply/

The East Suffolk Planning and Building Control Newsletters can be found at: **tinyurl.com/33h3b5ej**

Ease the Squeeze on Cost of Living

Are you, or someone you know, worried about the increasing cost of living? We understand the pressures faced by many people today and we are working closely with key partners to ensure support is available to help ease the squeeze for households in East Suffolk.

To make it as easy as possible for you to access the services and support available, locally and nationally, we have gathered information about them in one place: **www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/community/squeeze/**

For the most up to date information regarding East Suffolk Council, please visit: **www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk**

View the Well Minds East Suffolk booklet: tinyurl.com/9xhka624