



## **Suffolk County Council headlines, recorded as they happened during the year, noted from March 2024 to April 2025**

### **March 2024**

A new campaign urging Suffolk's drivers to switch off their engines when parked has launched.

Suffolk County Council to spend £3.6 million of Government funding over the next two years on strengthening and expanding Suffolk's bus network.

Suffolk County Council secured £7.3 millions of funding to help develop electric vehicle (EV) charging across the county.

Even more potholes filled as "Roadmender" trial hits Suffolk, the county sees a 34% increase in pothole repairs through extra investment, more resource, and new ways of working.

### **April 2024**

Highways Report and Statistics Since Storm Babet in October 2023 (which generally coincided with the commencement of the new highways contract with Milestone) there has been a substantial increase in the number of customer reports received by Suffolk Highways.

### **May 2024**

Eleven local authorities across the East of England have joined forces in a bid to collectively recruit more foster carers to look after some of the region's most vulnerable children.

### **June 2024**

Residents advised - don't do business with cold callers. Suffolk Trading Standards is reminding people to stay alert to the risk of being ripped off by cold callers knocking on their doors.

### **July 2024**

Suffolk County Council Backs Youth Justice Plan with a focus on keeping families together  
Suffolk County Council has backed the Youth Justice Plan 2024/25 at a meeting of the Full Council on the 11th of July 2024.

Councillors recommended to approve an extra £9.1 million for SEND services

New All-Age Autism Strategy launched in Suffolk to help support autistic people of any age and their families.

Major flood investigation report published as Suffolk continues response to Storm Babet.

### **August 2024**

Small improvements needed as children's services' Ofsted report published Ofsted has published its report into Suffolk County Council's children's services.

### **September 2024**

Suffolk County Council warned that uncertainty looms for 177,000 Suffolk residents currently eligible for winter fuel payments they should be protected from Government plans to cut the allowance,

Energy projects and the wellbeing of communities.

Suffolk County Council has produced guidance to help protect the wellbeing of local communities impacted by large Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIPs).

Suffolk's proposed in principle devolution deal, which would bring more than £500 million to the county over 30 years, has been scrapped by the Government.

Suffolk County Council unveiled its proposals for improvements to the A12 in East Suffolk, between the A14 Seven Hills junction and A1152 Woods Lane in Melton.

### **October 2024th**

Suffolk County Council set on major investment to further protect Suffolk from flooding as it calls on Government to 'step up'

Suffolk County Council has announced its intention to invest another £1.5 million to carry out important flooding prevention work.

### **November 2024**

Suffolk Launches Good Health at Work Programme Suffolk County Council has officially launched the Good Health at Work Programme, a new initiative aimed at improving the health and wellbeing of the working-age population across Suffolk.

The Stronger Families Partnership which delivers innovative family therapy has as of 30th September supported 584 children at risk of being taken into care, or who have returned to their families from care, to remain safely with their families.

Council welcomes news that the Nautilus Interconnector project will not be coming to Suffolk. Suffolk County Council has welcomed the news that a major energy infrastructure project will no longer impact the Suffolk coast but has asked for urgent clarity on whether another project will simply take its place.

Suffolk celebrates as local organisations are awarded the King's Award for Voluntary Service It has been announced that five voluntary organisations in Suffolk have been awarded the King's Award for Voluntary Service.

Suffolk's new gritting fleet to keep county safe and moving during the colder weather With temperatures forecast to drop this week, Suffolk's new gritting fleet will commence its winter season shortly, treating thousands of miles of roads to help minimise risk for highways users.

Royal opening for the Gull Wing bridge Her Royal Highness, The Princess Royal has officially opened the Gull Wing Bridge in Lowestoft.

New study considers impacts of nuclear and major infrastructure projects A new study published considers the impact of the construction of the nuclear power station, Hinkley Point C.

New Deputy Chief Fire Officer for Suffolk is appointe. Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service has appointed Henry Griffin as its new Deputy Chief Fire Officer.

## **December 2024**

Suffolk's rural communities hit by loss of £3 million in Government funding

£3 million of vital public funding - designed to support rural communities in Suffolk - will be cut by the government next year, it has been revealed.

Cabinet approves bold new vision for Suffolk's future

Suffolk County Council's Cabinet has approved ambitious new plans to position Suffolk as a national leader in sustainable growth and innovation.

Council calls on government to prevent scrapping of the Airfield Advisory Team.

Suffolk and East of England councils seek fairness in the face of energy projects. Suffolk County Council is joining with other local authorities in the region to challenge National Grid and the government on energy projects, demanding fairness for their communities and environment.

## **January 2025**

Council's budget prioritises vulnerable residents and essential services. Suffolk County Council has unveiled its proposed budget for 2025/26, with a strong focus on supporting vulnerable residents across the county.

Unique landscape to be changed forever by pylons. A large area of landscape on the Norfolk/Suffolk border with particular uniqueness, rivalling those of other nationally protected landscapes, is set to be decimated by pylons as part of National Grid's Norwich to Tilbury project.

## **February 2025**

New cabinet role to lead on devolution and local government reform in Suffolk A new Suffolk County Council cabinet role responsible for devolution and local government reform has been created, following a reshuffle announced by council leader Cllr Matthew Hicks. The changes take effect immediately.

Suffolk County Council is preparing to respond to yet another large solar farm proposal, set to cover around 1,500 acres, near Eye.

£1.6 million investment proposed following inspection of Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service. Further funding is earmarked for the county's fire service following a key report by Government inspectors.

Funding made available for safer, healthier and accessible travel around Suffolk. Suffolk County Council has been awarded £3.7 million to continue to encourage cycling, walking and active travel across the county, and making journeys more accessible.

Suffolk County Council confirms 2025/26 budget. Suffolk County Council has confirmed how it will spend its money in the forthcoming financial year - an £803.7 million plan focused on protecting essential services and supporting the county's most vulnerable residents.

Arts organisations and museums across Suffolk get £500,000 funding boost. Thirty-three arts organisations and museums from across Suffolk have been awarded funding from Suffolk County Council's £500,000 Culture Project Fund.

Suffolk communities to suffer from lack of energy project coordination. National Grid's decision for the LionLink interconnector project to make landfall at Walberswick, will have serious implications for Suffolk's coastal and inland communities, and environment.

County leaders to propose one council for Suffolk. One council for Suffolk would make delivering public services simpler, cheaper and quicker, and better meet the needs of residents and businesses, county leaders have said.

## **March 2025**

Suffolk County Council confirms decision to bring Library Services back In-House.

200 new specialist SEND places for Suffolk. The creation of 200 new specialist places across the county for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) is set to be considered by Suffolk County Council's cabinet.

## **April 2025**

Cabinet confirm an extra £1.6 million for the Suffolk Fire Service.