

Preparing a New Local Plan in East Suffolk

Local Plan Scoping Consultation on what matters most

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We are starting to prepare a new Local Plan for East Suffolk.

The new Local Plan will replace the existing adopted Local Plans (Suffolk Coastal Local Plan 2020 and Waveney Local Plan 2019).

We are preparing a new Local Plan due to the increase in housing targets (increase of around 80% - 1,658 dwellings per year), changes in national policy and Government requirements for up-to-date plans to be in place.

The new Local Plan is being prepared under the new plan-making system.

The Local Plan will guide growth and development up to 2045.



What is a Local Plan?

The Local Plan is the Council's main planning document and is used in making decisions on planning applications. The new Local Plan will look different to our adopted Local Plans. They are expected to be shorter and more digital.

The new Local Plan will include:

- Vision – setting out how the area is intended to change by 2045
- Aims, objectives and outcomes
- Spatial strategy – including to meet the number of homes required as well as other uses such as employment uses. Including site allocations.
- Infrastructure requirements
- Topic based policies – the new National Planning Policy Framework will set National Decision Making Policies for some topic policies, which the Local Plan cannot duplicate, substantively restate or modify
- Policies map

Local Plan Timetable

Stage	Date
Publication the Local Plan Timetable	29 May 2026
Publication of notice of intention to commence Local Plan preparation	29 May 2026
Local Plan Scoping Consultation	10 June – 29 July 2026
Gateway 1 self-assessment	October 2026
Proposed Local Plan content and evidence consultation	May – June 2027
Gateway 2 assessment	September 2027
Proposed Local Plan consultation	February – March 2028
Gateway 3 assessment	July 2028
Submission	September 2028
Examination*	September 2028 – March 2029
Adoption	April 2029

*Main modifications consultation would add further time, likely 3 months.

Preparation of the Local Plan informed by:



Early progress on the new Local Plan:

- Alignment of working with other Suffolk local planning authorities – aligning plan-making timetables and working together on evidence.
- Local Plans will be adopted by new unitary councils. Local Plan geographies being kept under review in the context of Local Government Reorganisation.
- [Call for Sites](#) (20 October 2025 – 9 January 2026) – approximately 500 sites were submitted. A map showing the submitted sites was published in March, but no decisions have been taken on sites at this stage.
- Commissioning evidence from specialist consultants – key evidence such as housing and employment needs, water cycle study, transport modelling, strategic flood risk assessment, retail needs, etc.

Early progress on the New Local Plan (Continued):

- Publication of the [Local Plan timetable](#) (29 May)
- Issuing of [Notice of Commencement](#) (29 May)
- Publication of 'How We Involve You in Planning' (June 2026) – sets out our principles for engagement across all planning activities, which will be further informed by responses to the Local Plan Scoping Consultation
- **Launch of the Local Plan Scoping Consultation (10 June – 29 July 2026)**
- Also consulting on the Strategic Environmental Assessment Scoping Report (10 June - 29 July)

Scoping Consultation: Background

- High-level, open, and explorative consultation
- Councils must invite the community and key stakeholders to comment on:
 - What **content** to include in the Local Plan
 - How to best **engage** them on the future Local Plan
 - Any other matters the council wish to consult on
- We should consult for a minimum of 21 days – we are consulting for 7 weeks.

Responding to the Local Plan Scoping Consultation

The consultation materials at a glance:

The 'A new Local Plan for East Suffolk' webpage provides a link to the consultation homepage.

The consultation homepage provides links to:

- The consultation **questionnaire** (via our consultation portal, iNovem)
- **Data and background** facts and figures StoryMap
- A new local plan for East Suffolk webpage and **FAQs**

The consultation homepage also includes links to:

- The Local Plan **timetable**
- **Notice of Commencement**
- Link to sign up to **our mailing list** to be kept up to date

We are also consulting on the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Scoping Report. We are only required to consult statutory consultees, but anyone can respond. The link to this consultation is also provided on the Scoping Consultation's homepage.



[Link: Preparing a New Local Plan in East Suffolk \(Consultation Homepage\)](#)

Questionnaire

The consultation's questions include open and closed questions, including scoring questions. The sections include:

- 1. You**
(Respondent type, organisation, email address)
- 2. Your vision for planning in East Suffolk**
(Views on what is valued about East Suffolk places, how they can be improved, preferred spatial strategy)
- 3. Local Plan topics**
(what you think is key infrastructure, and explorative questions by policy area – e.g. housing, employment, healthy environments)
- 4. Involving you in the Local Plan**
(Views on how to publicise and engage people in the plan making process)
- 5. Age and location**
(Age group and postcode)

Preparing a new **Local Plan** in East Suffolk

Local Plan Scoping Consultation on what matters most



We are preparing a new East Suffolk Local Plan that will guide how the area grows and develops up to 2045.

At this early stage, we'd like to hear your thoughts on what matters most for the Local Plan to address, including:

- What do you value most about East Suffolk and why?
- How can new development improve places you care about?
- What infrastructure or services are important to you?
- How can the new Local Plan support businesses and jobs?
- How can we reach people about the new Local Plan?

Please complete the questionnaire by 5pm on 29 July

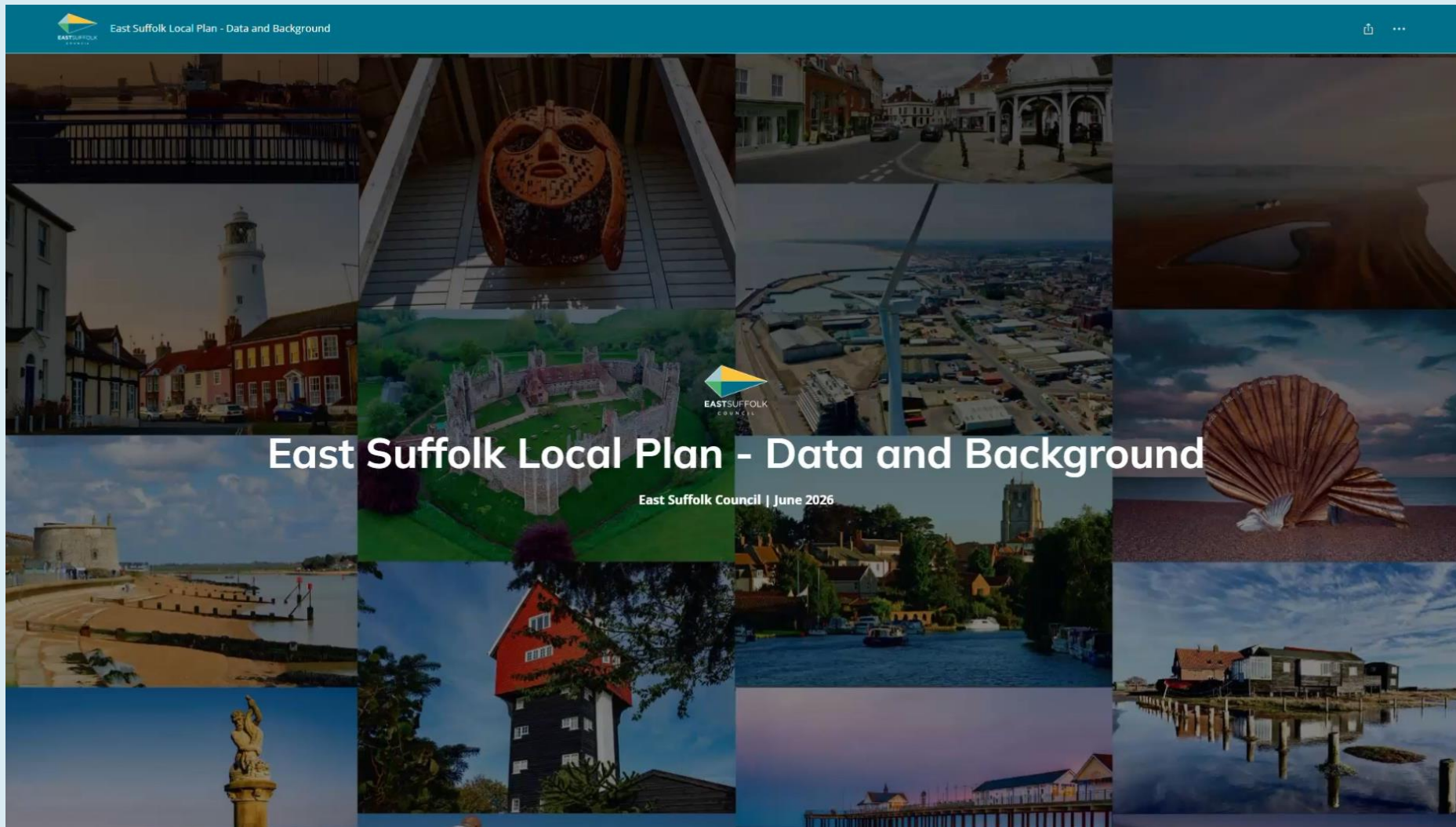
2026. Your feedback will help identify the top priorities

Data and Background facts and figures

- We encourage all respondents to read through this information before completing the questionnaire.
- Compiles helpful contextual 'facts and figures' information for East Suffolk using evidence available at this early stage.
- Available as a StoryMap or downloadable PDF

Topics covered include:

- Population – age, households, deprivation
- Housing – existing housing stock, completions, outstanding permissions, etc.
- Economy and employment data
- Town centres and retail
- Tourism
- Natural environment and landscape
- The coast
- Climate change
- Historic environment
- Travel and transport
- Infrastructure
- Energy
- Settlements



[Link: East Suffolk Local Plan - Data and Background](#)

New Local Plan webpage: FAQs

The ['A new Local Plan for East Suffolk'](#) webpage includes an extensive list of FAQs to support respondents to better understand:

- The overall plan-making process,
- How the Scoping Consultation fits into to the wider process, and
- How they can respond.

New Local Plan webpage: FAQs

Key questions include (summarised):

- What is the Scoping Consultation, and how can you respond?
- What is a Local Plan? What's the process?
- Why are we preparing a new Local Plan?
- How will the Local Plan address key topics like housing, settlement boundaries, climate change, infrastructure, etc.?
- How will the Local Plan process be impacted by LGR in Suffolk? By national plan-making policy and legislation changes?
- Will neighbourhood plans be impacted?
- What will happen to adopted SPDs?
- What is an SEA Scoping Report?

Publicity and engagement

Publicity and engagement: Who we are consulting

We are consulting widely, including:

- **The public** – anyone can comment – including residents, local businesses, community groups, etc. - just need to register on the consultation system
- **Town and parish councils**
- **Developers and agents**
- **Statutory consultees** – e.g. Natural England, The Environment Agency, Historic England, infrastructure providers, and other organisations

Publicity and engagement

Publicity and engagement: How we are engaging

- Our Local Plan and Planning Policy mailing list
- Social media
- The [East Suffolk app](#)
- Press release
- The East Suffolk Magazine (May)
- Planning and Building Control Newsletter (later in June)
- The [ESC 'Have your say' consultation portal](#)
- Other ESC networks

Publicity and engagement: How we are engaging

Available at libraries, customer service desks,
and ESC offices:

- Notice of Scoping Consultation
- Data and background information document
- Questionnaires

Posters sent to:

- Town and parish councils
- Libraries
- GP surgeries
- Leisure centres

**HELP SHAPE THE
NEW LOCAL PLAN**

Scoping consultation on what matters most

We are preparing a new Local Plan for East Suffolk that will guide how the area grows and develops up to 2045. We'd like to hear your thoughts on what matters most for the Local Plan to address.

What infrastructure or services are important to you?

What do you value most about East Suffolk and why?

How can new development improve places you care about?

How can the new Local plan support businesses and jobs?

How can we reach people about the new Local Plan?

Complete the survey by 5pm on 29 July 2026

www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/newlocalplan

EASTSUFFOLK COUNCIL

EASTSUFFOLK COUNCIL

**Local Plan
Data and
background**

Published 10 June 2026

EASTSUFFOLK COUNCIL

East Suffolk Local Plan 2026 - 2045
Notice of Local Plan Scoping Consultation

Preparing a New Local Plan in East Suffolk

Local Plan Scoping Consultation on what matters most

This Notice is published under the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2026 (Regulation 20(1)(b)).

East Suffolk Council is preparing a new Local Plan. The Scoping Consultation is the first consultation for the preparation of the new local plan, and is being carried out under Regulation 20 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2026.

Consultation period

The consultation opens Wednesday 10 June and closes 5pm Wednesday 29 July 2026.

Consultation matters

This consultation is seeking views on:

- Matters relevant to the preparation of the local plan, including what the plan should contain, and
- How we should engage with you in preparing the local plan.

How to view the consultation materials

- On the East Suffolk Council website (including Frequently Asked Questions) (www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/newlocalplan)
- At East Suffolk Council Customer Service Centres – please note that where these are within a library it is available at the library desk (www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/contact-us)
- At libraries within East Suffolk (<https://suffolkcommunitylibraries.co.uk>)

How to respond

- Complete the online questionnaire www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/newlocalplan
- Email your response to planningpolicy@eastsuffolk.gov.uk

Questionnaire

Preparing a New Local Plan in East Suffolk

Local Plan Scoping Consultation on what matters most

East Suffolk Council is preparing a new Local Plan – and your views matter. The Local Plan will set out a vision and strategy for the future growth of the district – identifying locations where new development can enable new homes, jobs, shops, community spaces, and infrastructure.

The purpose of this consultation is to inform the content of the East Suffolk Local Plan, and the methods we should use to engage with our communities and stakeholders during the plan preparation process. This consultation is the first public consultation on the new Local Plan, and your responses will help us to prepare the draft Local Plan which will also be subject to consultation.

The questionnaire asks for your views on:

- Your vision for East Suffolk
- Local Plan Topics
- Involving you in the Local Plan

Please note that this consultation is intended to inform the new Local Plan's preparation process only. This is a separate process from town/parish councils' preparation of neighbourhood plans. The Local Plan will not be able to address matters that are outside of the control of local planning policy, such as nationally consented development (e.g. Sizewell C). This consultation should not be used to comment on consultations related to planning applications, which can be accessed through Public Access <https://publicaccess.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/online-applications/>.

This questionnaire is accompanied by 'East Suffolk Local Plan - Data and Background' which contains information you may find useful as you complete the questionnaire.

The consultation is open between 10 June to 29 July 2026. **All comments must be received by 5pm on Wednesday 29th July 2026.**

For further information on the Local Plan, including the Local Plan Timetable, and to join the Local Plan and Planning Policy Mailing List, please visit the East Suffolk new Local Plan pages www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/newlocalplan.

Publicity and engagement

Publicity and engagement: How we are engaging

- Town and parish council briefings
- Stalls at Events: e.g. Suffolk Show, ESC Roadshow (Bungay, 3 July)
- ESC Youth Council Local Plan Focus Group
- Youth Survey
- Potentially 'VanESSA' trips (if ready during consultation)
- Community Partnerships

Animated videos



We have produced a short video (40 seconds) to support engagement with the Local Plan Scoping Consultation.

The video will be shared via:

- ESC's social media accounts, and
- The '[A new Local Plan for East Suffolk](#)' webpage

The Suffolk Show (27 & 28 May 2026)



Q&A

Any questions?

Consultation: www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/newlocalplan

Contact: planningpolicy@eastsuffolk.gov.uk