

November 2025

# Parish Report

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## **Devolution and the new Mayoral Authority for Norfolk and Suffolk**

At Council on 2 October, Suffolk County Council voted to give the government their consent to create the Norfolk and Suffolk Combined Authority, which will be led by a mayor for Norfolk and Suffolk. Both Norfolk County Council and Suffolk County Council are involved in creating the new authority, which will have powers for the two counties including economic development, transport, skills and employment, public safety and housing and strategic planning. The authority will be led by the mayor, with four other members, two appointed by Suffolk County Council and two appointed by Norfolk County Council, and decisions will be made by majority, but the majority must include the vote of the mayor or the deputy mayor if the mayor is not present. The authority can also have associate members (for example, somebody from a local college or university) or a non-constituent member, for example from a district or borough council. As previously reported, the election of mayor for Norfolk and Suffolk will be held on Thursday 7 May 2026.

## **Get Suffolk Working Plan**

On 2 October, Cabinet voted to approve the draft Get Suffolk Working plan which was prepared by the council's Skills team. This is the local version of the government's Get Britain Working initiative and aims to support people of working age who are not currently working to get into employment and address barriers they may face to employment, for example poor health, lack of transport, low qualifications and digital exclusion. Once the plan is approved by NHS partners in Suffolk and the Department of Work Pensions (DWP), a Get Suffolk Working Partnership Board will be created to oversee the work. The plan includes the launch of the Connect to Work programme, which will be funded by up to £9.5m from the DWP over five years (the amount of funding received depends on level of participation in the scheme). This programme is to provide tailored training, support and job placements and match people with suitable employers based on their preferences, strengths and previous work experience.

Get Britain Working plans will become the responsibility of the mayor of Norfolk and Suffolk and the mayoral authority once in place, so Suffolk County Council is working with Norfolk County Council to make sure their plans are aligned.

You can read more about the Connect to Work programme here: <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/jobs-and-careers/support-finding-employment/connect-to-work>

## **Dental Services in Suffolk**

At Health Scrutiny Committee on 8 October, colleagues from the NHS joined the meeting to update the committee on improving dental services in Suffolk. This is not a council service, and health partners from the two ICBs that cover the county (Suffolk and North East Essex, Norfolk and Waveney) ran through their progress to increase access to NHS dentists, increase the number of urgent appointments available and ensure that there are enough dental practices across the county. They are also undertaking outreach work on oral health and preventing issues with children and older adults

People who need a dentist appointment can contact NHS 111 to get one, as well as contacting dental practises directly.

### **Recycling Centres Raise £500,000 for Charity**

Re-use shops at Suffolk's recycling centres at Bury St Edmunds and Foxhall have raised over half a million for local charity The Benjamin Foundation, which operates the shops and provides families with childcare, mental health, youth and housing support. White goods play a key role, as The Benjamin Foundation repairs broken appliances and sells them on, which not only prolongs the life of the appliance, but also helps families access affordable household goods. The shop at Foxhall opened in 2016 and the one in Bury St Edmunds opened in 2020, and they have together repurposed over 4,200 tonnes of waste so far. Suffolk residents do not need to book a slot at the recycling centre to visit or donate to the shops.

### **Budget Survey**

The council has launched its annual budget survey where it asks Suffolk residents their opinions and priorities for how it should spend money in the 2026-2027 financial year. The first look at the new budget will be early January 2026, with councillors voting on the proposed budget in its February full council meeting. The consultation has been open since 14 October and will close on Tuesday 25 November, and can be accessed using this link: <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/budget-council-tax-and-finance/the-budget-for-suffolk>

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## **Social Media and Helpful Links**

### **Follow us on:**

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**Instagram** – [https://www.instagram.com/suffolkgli\\_group/](https://www.instagram.com/suffolkgli_group/)

**Facebook** - [Suffolk GLI - Green, Liberal Democrat & Independent Group | Facebook](#)

**Website** - [Suffolk Green, Liberal Democrat and Independent Group – The GLI Group at Suffolk County Council \(suffolkgli.wordpress.com\)](#)

Cost of Living help and advice:

<https://infolink.suffolk.gov.uk/kb5/suffolk/infolink/family.page?familychannel=6>

Benefits advice and support:

<https://infolink.suffolk.gov.uk/kb5/suffolk/infolink/adult.page?adultchannel=0>

Flood preparation advice: <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/suffolk-fire-and-rescue-service/fire-and-rescue-safety-advice-in-the-community/what-to-do-in-a-flood>

<https://suffolkprepared.co.uk/get-prepared/risk-advice/flooding/>

Flood recovery advice and support: <http://www.suffolk.gov.uk/about/flood-recovery-information-for-suffolk>