

Date: 28 September 2026
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By e-mail only: GNLP@norfolk.gov.uk

Dear Greater Norwich Local Plan Review Team,

Greater Norwich Local Plan Scoping Consultation

Thank you for consulting Suffolk County Council (SCC) on the Scoping for the emerging Greater Norwich Local Plan.

The main purpose of this letter is to ensure considerations for the spatial distribution strategy, and any potential cross boundary impacts to Suffolk.

Education

SCC has the statutory responsibility for education in Suffolk, and has a duty to ensure there are sufficient school places to meet the needs of the population now and in the future. This is achieved by accounting for existing demand and new approved housing developments (including those that have not yet commenced or completed). SCC, therefore, produces and annually updates a five-year pupil forecast of future school rolls, and uses 95% capacity for school place planning to accommodate variables which cannot be forecast (e.g. parental preference, in-year admissions, contingency planning, and accommodation of pupils arising from development of less than 10 dwellings).

SCC considers that there could be the potential for cross-boundary impacts to school and educational infrastructure arising from development close to the Suffolk borders, such as Diss and Harleston. Conversely, any future development to Beccles and Bungay could also pose potential impacts to educational capacities into South Norfolk district.

SCC would welcome further conversations and engagement with the Greater Norwich Local Plan as it progresses, to help identify and resolve any cross-boundary educational issues.

Minerals and Waste

Suffolk County Council is the Minerals and Waste Planning Authority for Suffolk. This means that SCC makes planning policies and decisions in relation to minerals and waste. The relevant policy document is the Suffolk Minerals and Waste Local Plan¹, adopted in July 2020,

¹<https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/planning-waste-and-environment/minerals-and-waste-policy/suffolk-minerals-and-waste-development-scheme/>

which forms part of the Local Development Plan. Suffolk County Council is beginning the process of reviewing and updating this plan.

SCC would recommend that consideration should be given to the Suffolk Minerals and Waste Local Plan and notably its safeguarding policies MP10 and WP18, when looking to allocate sites. There are the following Sewage Treatment Works (STW) and minerals sites close to the Norfolk-Suffolk border, as displayed on the interactive map²:

- Diss STW & safeguard area (300m)
- Mendham STW & safeguard area (300m)
- Homersfield STW & safeguard area (300m)
- Flixton-Buck Plant STW & safeguard area (300m)
- Flixton quarry: current extraction site M13, Concrete batching plant CB4 & safeguard areas (250m)
- Somerleyton-Marsh La STW & safeguard areas (300m)

Transport

SCC, as the Local Highway Authority for Suffolk, has a duty to ensure that roads are maintained and safe as well as providing and managing flood risk for highway drainage and roadside ditches.

SCC considers that there could be the potential for cross-boundary impacts to the highways network arising from development close to the Suffolk borders, such as Diss and Harleston. Conversely, any future development to Beccles and Bungay could also pose potential transport and highways impacts into South Norfolk district.

The rail network connects Norwich to London via Ipswich, as well as links to Lowestoft from Norwich.

SCC would welcome further conversations and engagement with the Greater Norwich Local Plan as it progresses, to help identify and resolve any cross-boundary transport issues.

Questionnaire

SCC has also reviewed the questions provided as part of this consultation, and wishes to offer the following comments in regard to Question 15:

Infrastructure: Question 15 - How can infrastructure delivery be well co-ordinated and funded to support growth?

The GNLP should include a clear commitment to ongoing engagement with Suffolk County Council Schools Infrastructure Team to assess potential cross-boundary impacts where growth may influence pupil demand beyond the Greater Norwich administrative area.

² <https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/bb2462fa5986427d8983d067cbc36579>

The GNLP should have considerations for any potential cross boundary impacts to the highways network, when considering site allocations.

I hope that these comments are helpful. SCC is always willing to discuss issues or queries you may have. If there is anything that I have raised that you would like to discuss, please use my contact information at the top of this letter.

Yours sincerely,

Georgia Teague

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Growth, Highways, and Infrastructure