



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.

Only complete this form if you are aged 16 or older. If you are under the age of 16 and would like to complete the questionnaire then please email us at planningpolicy@eastsuffolk.gov.uk or call 01394 444557.

Name

Organisation (if applicable)

Job title / position (if applicable)

Email address

Address

Please only include your postal address if you do not have an email address.

1. About you

Which of these roles best describes how you are responding?

Please select one.

- ☐ Resident
- ☐ Town/Parish Council
- ☐ Landowner or land manager in East Suffolk
- ☐ Business operating in East Suffolk
- ☐ Developer, land agent, architect or other built environment professional
- ☐ Local community/voluntary organisation
- ☐ Full or part-time student (living in East Suffolk temporarily)
- ☐ Statutory or specialist consultee (e.g. NGOs, infrastructure providers)
- ☐ Neighbouring authority/County Council
- ☐ Prefer not to say
- ☐ Other (please specify below)

Other (please specify)

If you are responding on behalf of a client, please specify organisation / name.

Your vision for planning in East Suffolk

An important part of the Local Plan is setting a vision for how East Suffolk will grow and change by 2045, and deciding on the approach to how development comes forward in the district.

Development could include new housing, shops, offices, leisure, industry, or other types of employment uses. We want to understand what is important to you in shaping and realising that vision.

The next set of questions will ask you about your views on East Suffolk, how it could be improved through new development in the future, and where you think new development should be located.

2. What do you value most about East Suffolk and why?

Think about the places in East Suffolk that are important to you, such as where you live, work, shop, places you enjoy visiting and places that are important to your community. Think also about what these places should be like in 2045.

3. How could new development make the places that are important to you better?

Think about the benefits that development could bring to your community, or the wider communities of East Suffolk.

4. Where do you think new **housing** development should be located in the district?

	Strongly support	Somewhat support	Neutral / no opinion	Somewhat oppose	Strongly oppose
Create entirely new settlement(s) (thousands of new homes)	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Create new large-scale urban extensions (e.g. garden neighbourhoods) adjacent to large towns	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Large towns and market towns with good access to everyday goods and services	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Villages with good access to everyday goods and services	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Small scale development in rural locations	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Close to train stations and rail networks	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Areas close to businesses and jobs	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Utilising opportunities on previously developed land	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Areas where local infrastructure capacity could be improved through new development	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Areas of the district with easy access to the A12/A14	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Specific locations/Other (please state below)	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
I don't have a preference	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

5. Where do you think new **employment** should be located in the district?

	Strongly support	Somewhat support	Neutral / no opinion	Somewhat oppose	Strongly oppose
Within and around villages	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Within and around market towns	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Within and around large towns	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
In or near to existing employment areas	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Utilising opportunities on previously developed land	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Areas of the district with easy access to the A12/A14	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Close to the ports	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Close to nationally significant infrastructure projects	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Close to train stations and rail networks	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

Specific locations / Other (please state)

6. Do you have any other comments about your preferred location(s) for new developments?

Please use the text box to tell us more about your responses to the previous questions. At this stage we are focusing on the vision and broad spatial approach for the Local Plan. However, if you wish to refer to any submitted sites in your comments, please use the site reference number shown on the map of sites submitted

<https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/f1ae5fb5fd204657affb4b2a64bdf075>.

Local Plan topics

The Local Plan will contain policies covering a variety of topics including housing, employment, town centres, tourism, environment, and infrastructure. Policies in the Local Plan will also inform the quality of new development and places, such as the design quality of buildings and spaces, and how places function.

National policy sets a framework for the topics that should be covered in a Local Plan including: planning for a range of housing needs, addressing infrastructure requirements, provision of land for business and employment, supporting town centres, promoting healthy environments, mitigating and adapting to climate change, managing flood risk and coastal change, promoting sustainable transport, achieving well-designed places, and conserving and enhancing natural and historic environments. Policies on some specific matters are expected to be set in national policy, and the Local Plan will not be able to duplicate, substantively restate, or modify these.

The Local Plan does not plan for development which is a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project consented through the national Development Consent Order process, such as Sizewell C.

In answering the questions below, think about what could be improved in East Suffolk or your local area, consider whether there are any barriers or factors which currently prevent improvements from taking place, and think about what you value and would like to maintain or improve.

The next set of questions will ask you about your views on Local Plan topics.

7. How can the Local Plan support housing developments that meet the needs of different groups?

Please consider the following key groups when completing your response:

- *People who rent their homes*
- *People who require a type of affordable housing*
- *Older people (including people who require retirement housing, sheltered accommodation, extra care housing, and care homes)*
- *Disabled people*
- *Families with children*
- *Looked after children*
- *People who require specialist community-based accommodation*
- *Students*
- *Gypsies and travellers*
- *People wishing to commission or build their own home (self or custom-build)*
- *People living in remote and rural locations*
- *Other groups such as adult children living with parents, or those that may benefit from specific products such as Build to Rent (please specify).*

8. What do you consider to be key infrastructure?

	Very important	Quite important	Neutral / no opinion	Not very important	Not at all important
Schools	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Healthcare	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Green open space	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Play provision / outdoor exercise provision	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Sports provision (indoor and outdoor)	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Post office or parcel locker	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Community centre	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Allotments and/or community gardens	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Food shops	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Crematorium, burial grounds and funeral services	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Road network	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Public transport	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Walking, cycling and wheeling routes and cycle parking	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Water supply and wastewater treatment	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Energy supply	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Digital connectivity (e.g. broadband and 5g)	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

Other (please specify)

9. Is there anything else you would like to tell us about infrastructure?

10. How can the new Local Plan ensure new developments promote healthy environments and healthy, active lifestyles?

11. How can the new Local Plan support businesses and jobs?

12. How can the new Local Plan help to support sustainable construction, renewable energy and address climate change?

13. How can the new Local Plan help to support the district's natural environment and landscape character?

14. How can the new Local Plan help to support sustainable tourism and cultural facilities in the district?

15. How can the new Local Plan support the district's historic environments?

16. How can the new Local Plan support thriving town centres and neighbourhoods?

17. Is there anything else we should consider in preparing the new Local Plan?

Involving you in the Local Plan

The Scoping Consultation also seeks views on how we can best publicise and consult on the Local Plan during its preparation.

In July to September 2025, we ran a short survey titled 'How to Involve You in Planning Policy'. View the results <https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/af28d4906f6f49078108b29fcad7f702>. We are particularly keen to hear views on how we can involve harder to reach groups, such as younger people – only 9% of those who responded to our survey in Summer 2025 were under the age of 40.

We have also recently published 'How We Involve You in Planning' which sets out ways we will engage our communities and stakeholders in various Planning activities. This contains some principles for consulting on the Local Plan, but we will also produce a consultation and engagement strategy for the new Local Plan following this Scoping Consultation.

The next set of questions will ask for your views about involving people in the preparation of the Local Plan.

18. How and where can we best reach people about the new Local Plan?

Please score the effectiveness of each method according to your preference.

	Very effective	Quite effective	Neutral / no opinion	Not very effective	Not at all effective
Emails	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Letters	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Social media	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Videos	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
East Suffolk Council website	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
The East Suffolk app	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Events	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Leisure centres	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Webinars	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Advertising in public locations (e.g. bus shelters)	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Libraries	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Community centres / village halls	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

Other (please specify)

19. What social media platform(s) would you prefer we used?

Please tick all that apply.

☐ Facebook

☐ LinkedIn

☐ Next Door

☐ Instagram

☐ TikTok

☐ I don't use social media

☐ Other (please specify)

20. How could we better reach under-represented groups in East Suffolk (such as young people and young adults)?

21. Do you have anything else to add on how we can involve you throughout the Local Plan preparation process?

22. Do you have any comments on how this consultation has been publicised?

Finding out about this consultation

23. How did you find out about this consultation?

- ☐ Email
- ☐ Letter
- ☐ Social media
- ☐ Newspaper / online news article
- ☐ The East Suffolk app
- ☐ East Suffolk Council website
- ☐ At a leisure centre
- ☐ At a library
- ☐ At a community centre / village hall / public noticeboard
- ☐ Other (please specify)

Your age and location

24. Which age group do you belong to?

- ☐ 16-21
- ☐ 22-34
- ☐ 35-54
- ☐ 55-64
- ☐ 65+
- ☐ Prefer not to say / not applicable

25. What is your postcode?

Please provide the first five digits only, e.g. IP12 1.

Data protection statement

Only complete this form if you are aged 16 or older. If you are under the age of 16 and would like to complete the questionnaire then please email us at planningpolicy@eastssuffolk.gov.uk or call 01394 444557.

The information you have supplied is being collected in accordance with the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) England Regulations 2026 and will be used to inform the preparation and adoption of the East Suffolk Local Plan.

By responding to this consultation, you are accepting that your name and response will be made available for public inspection and published online in accordance with the Act stated above. However, other personal information such as email addresses and telephone numbers will not be published or shared with third parties. Your personal information will be retained until the end of the plan period (2045) plus one year or until superseded plus one year.

Data will be processed and held securely and in accordance with the Data Protection Act 2018 and UK General Data Protection Regulation (and any updates).

(Data protection text updated 25 June 2026).

Further information about data protection and your rights can be found in our Privacy Notice <https://www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/your-council/access-to-information/uk-gdpr-and-data-protection-act/uk-gdpr-privacy-notice-12>.

You can request to be notified of the any of the following stages:

1. Public consultation on the proposed local plan content and evidence.
Regulation 23(1)(b)
2. The publication of observations or advice received from a person appointed by the Secretary of State. This is also known as Gateway 2.
Section 15CA(5) of the Act
3. Public consultation on the proposed local plan.
Regulation 27(1)(b)
4. Submission of the proposed local plan to the Secretary of State for independent examination.
Section 15D(1) of the Act
5. Publication of the date, time and place of the examination hearings and the name of the Examiner.
Regulation 35(2) and 35(1)(a)
6. If the examination is paused by the Examiner for further work to be carried out.
Section 15D(7) and 15DA of the Act
7. The publication of a document and any evidence sent to the Examiner and/or published whilst the Examination is paused.
Section 15DA(7) and 15DA(6) of the Act
8. The publication of the Examiner's recommendations and reasons.
Section 15D or 15DA of the Act
9. The adoption of the local plan.
Part 2 of the Act

Regulations refer to Town and Country Planning (Local Planning)(England) Regulations 2026
The Act refers to the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended)

If you wish to be notified at these stages, please sign up to our Local Plan and Planning Policy mailing list at www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/newlocalplan. If you wish to be notified for a selection of these stages, please email planningpolicy@eastsuffolk.gov.uk or write to us at Planning Policy and Delivery Team, East Suffolk Council, Riverside, 4 Canning Road, Lowestoft, NR33 0EQ.

Local Plan and planning policy mailing list

Subscribe to receive East Suffolk planning policy consultations and updates.

Would you like to join the Local Plan and planning policy mailing list?

We will use the details you provided at the start of this questionnaire.

☐ Yes

☐ No

Privacy statement

Please only register for the East Suffolk Local Plan and Planning Policy mailing list if you are over the age of 16. The information you have supplied is being collected to add you to the East Suffolk mailing list for Planning Policy which will include new policy, updates to policy and new guidance, Local Plans and Neighbourhood Plans. By completing this form, you consent to East Suffolk Council using your information to add you to the mailing list and to contact you regarding Planning Policy, such as obtaining your feedback and input on the implementation, delivery and engagement of the Local Plan. If you do not provide your consent, we will not be able to notify you about the preparation of and consultations on Local Plans, Neighbourhood Plans or other planning policy guidance implementation and/or delivery for East Suffolk.

Your information will not be used for any other purpose unless we obtain your consent or as permitted by law. Your information will be shared with our email service provider, Brevo, to manage and administrate the East Suffolk Planning Policy and Local Plan mailing list, and will not be shared with any other third parties. Your information will be retained until you withdraw your consent. You can request that your information is deleted at any time. Data will be processed and held securely and in accordance with the Data Protection Act 2018 and UK General Data Protection Regulation (and any updates). Further information about data protection and your rights can be found in our Privacy Notice <https://www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/your-council/access-to-information/uk-gdpr-and-data-protection-act/uk-gdpr-privacy-notices-12>.

Submitting your questionnaire

Thank you for completing this questionnaire. Your feedback will help shape the options and policies developed at later stages.

Please return this questionnaire to:

Planning Policy and Delivery Team
Riverside
4 Canning Road
Lowestoft
Suffolk
NR33 0EQ



www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/newlocalplan



 planningpolicy@eastsuffolk.gov.uk

 01394 444557