

# November 2025 report for SCC Martlesham Division

## One Suffolk plan being reviewed as Government launches consultation

The Government launched a [consultation on the future of local councils in Suffolk](#), which is likely to see either one or as many as three councils tasked with delivering services for the next 50 years.

Millions of pounds of taxpayers' money is at stake, as is the sustainability and delivery of critical public services like social care, highways and housing.

The time has come for everyone in Suffolk to let the government know their views on the future of local councils.

Detailed analysis has shown that One Suffolk would save £39.4 million each year, meaning town and parish councils can be empowered to do more if they want, our highways services can be revitalised and a new deal for market towns backed by a £40 million capital investment fund can be launched. This is all possible without any loss of local identity or understanding. It will only strengthen it.

Thousands have already engaged with Suffolk County Council and helped shape the One Suffolk proposal. The council urge everyone to have their say in the public consultation.

In addition to financial resilience, the One Suffolk plan spells out how the proposed unitary council creates key benefits for the county, including:

- Harmonising Council Tax to the lowest level across Suffolk in year one. Based on current levels, this would result in Band D properties seeing a reduction of £245 in Ipswich, £17 in East Suffolk, £29 in West Suffolk, £19 in Babergh and a freeze in Mid Suffolk.
- A new deal for market towns, including Ipswich, backed by a £40 million capital investment fund, and a review of car parking charges and markets conducted in consultation with traders, businesses and representative bodies.
- Empowering communities by offering powers and funding to town and parish councils where these councils express a desire for additional responsibilities. Creating a new town council for Ipswich to enhance democratic representation.
- Building a strong, flourishing, and resilient local economy that serves all residents, businesses, and communities.
- A stronger voice for Suffolk through effective collaboration with the new mayor, focusing on clear investment priorities that maximise benefits.

One Suffolk is one of two proposals being consulted on by the government. The alternative, from Suffolk's districts and borough councils, would see Suffolk split into three arbitrary council areas, putting key services such as social care at serious risk and costing millions to set up.

Not only would three councils cost significantly more than a single unitary for Suffolk - it would also cost more than the current two-tier system. By creating three new areas across Suffolk, essential county-wide services like adult social care and children's services must be disaggregated - resulting in higher costs and a postcode lottery for the county's most vulnerable residents.

The public [consultation on the future of local councils in Suffolk](#) will be live until **11 January 2026**. After the consultation period, Government ministers will be making their final decision on how to proceed with LGR in Suffolk in early 2026.

## Discover Suffolk through 'Wonderlust by Bus'

"Wonderlust by Bus" is a new map, featuring many popular tourist locations across the county, helping visitors to plan their journeys through passenger transport and active travel options.

A play on the word Wanderlust, meaning a desire to travel, "Wonderlust by Bus" showcases all of the Wonders that can be seen when travelling across Suffolk.

The map features bus route and timetable information via SuffolkOnBoard and directs people to Good Journey, for walking and cycling routes, a cycling journey planner and discounts on entry to Good Journey destinations such as cafés and gift shops, for visitors who have travelled using sustainable transport.

The interactive map can be viewed online at: [www.wonderlustbybus.co.uk](http://www.wonderlustbybus.co.uk)

## Leading from the Front: Football Club Boss Gets Checked to Inspire Fans

Ipswich Town Chairman Mark Ashton has stepped up to take a free NHS Health Check in an effort to inspire fans and local residents to prioritise their health and wellbeing.

NHS Health Checks aim to detect early signs of conditions such as heart disease, stroke, diabetes, kidney disease, and dementia. Undertaken by a trained healthcare professional from Suffolk GP Federation they are open to people between the ages of 40 and 74 years that are registered with a Suffolk GP practice, haven't had a check in the last 5 years and don't have a pre-diagnosed condition.

It takes just 20–30 minutes and can help people take proactive steps to improve their health and reduce future risks.

Mark Ashton said:

"It's about setting an example, if we want our community to stay match fit, we've got to lead the way.

"Having a check is a great way to get an assessment of your overall health, identifying and addressing any problems that might be lurking round the corner. It's quick, easy, and could make all the difference. My message is, if I can do it, so can you."

For more information or to book your free NHS Health Check, which are available throughout Suffolk at GP practices, pharmacies and community venues, visit [www.suffolkfed.org.uk/healthcare-services/nhs-health-checks](http://www.suffolkfed.org.uk/healthcare-services/nhs-health-checks)