

Monthly Round-Up Newsletter

£1bn Devolution Deal announced for East Anglia

Following weeks of negotiation between central Government, local councils and Local Enterprise Partnerships, a proposed Deal worth in excess of £1bn for East Anglia has been announced by George Osborne MP, Chancellor of the Exchequer.

As part of the proposed Deal, East Anglia would receive:

- £900m (£30million per year for the next 30 years) to invest in infrastructure
- £175m to invest in housing

The proposed Deal, which sets out a fundamentally different relationship between central Government and local public services, was negotiated by Leaders from councils across Suffolk, Norfolk, Cambridgeshire and Peterborough and the New Anglia and Greater Cambridgeshire and Greater Peterborough Local Enterprise Partnerships.

The proposed Deal reflects the fact that Suffolk and the rest of East Anglia delivers some significant economic benefits to UK PLC and beyond through agriculture, on and offshore energy and research and innovation in science and technology.

At this stage, it is important to be very clear that what has been published to date is not a 'done Deal'. It will require ratification by each of the local councils and the LEP Boards.

In addition to seeking further clarification on the specifics of the proposed Deal, there will now also follow an extensive period of engagement over the coming months with local communities and businesses across the county, with feedback being used to inform the paper that each individual council will consider at their full council meetings over the summer.

The proposed Deal, if ratified by the relevant councils and LEP Boards, would see decisions currently being made by Government on such things as infrastructure, growth, employment and skills being made in East Anglia in the future.

As is stands, the proposed Deal will require the creation of a Combined Authority and directly elected Mayor and it is proposed that the first mayoral elections would be in May 2017 alongside county council elections.

The directly elected Mayor would act as Chair to the East Anglia Combined Authority and would exercise the following powers and functions devolved from Government:

- Responsibility for a multi-year, consolidated and, devolved local transport budget
- Responsibility for a new Key Route Network of local authority roads that will be managed and maintained by the Combined Authority on behalf of the Mayor
- Powers over strategic planning and housing, including £175m ring-fenced funding to deliver an ambitious target of new homes

The new East Anglia Combined Authority, working with the Mayor, would receive the following powers:

- Control of a new additional £30 million a year funding allocation over 30 years, to be invested to the East Anglia Single Investment Fund, to boost growth

- Responsibility for chairing an area-based review of 16+ skills provision, the outcomes of which will be taken forward in line with the principles of the devolved arrangements, and devolved 19+ adult skills funding from 2018/19.
- Joint responsibility with the government to co-design the new National Work and Health Programme designed to focus on those with a health condition or disability and the very long term unemployed.

This is the first proposed Deal for East Anglia but, as has happened elsewhere in the country, the local authorities and LEPs are keen to negotiate further Deals over the coming months and years.

The proposed Deal document can be found at: www.gov.uk/government/publications/east-anglia-devolution-deal

New road safety measures in place for Suffolk's towns and villages

Twenty new temporary vehicle activated signs have been purchased by the Suffolk Roadsafe Board in a bid to tackle concerns around speeding, especially in locations where there are vulnerable road users

Speeding is often the biggest contributor to accidents where drivers lose control of their vehicles on changing road surfaces and in areas they are not used to driving frequently. These new signs will serve local communities across the county, providing a warning and deterrent to drivers who drive without due care and attention.

Moving the signs around different locations means that they can be directed to those areas in greatest need and will also ensure their effectiveness as drivers will not become reliant on them being situated in fixed spots.

The Suffolk Roadsafe Board, which comprises of Suffolk County Council, Suffolk's Police and Crime Commissioner and Suffolk Constabulary, has funded the twenty new temporary vehicle activated signs through monies raised by driver diversionary courses. The signs will be moved around the county and each location will share the device for approximately two weeks, three times a year.

This is a further boost to temporary vehicle activated signs already in place across Suffolk and the other road safety measures also used within the county. Only recently it was announced that Suffolk Roadsafe funds have been used to purchase a smaller speed enforcement van to be used in places which currently do not suit the criteria of the Suffolk SafeCam.

Communities are also taking a vested interest in road safety measures in their own areas by becoming part of their local Community Speedwatch and helping by purchasing their own speed indicator devices across their town or village.

The partnership possess a limited number of signs but some organisations, such as parish, town, borough and district councils are also opting to buy their own signs. More information can be found by visiting www.suffolkroadsafe.net

It is estimated that there are currently 110 permanent VAS and a further 70 Temporary VAS in Suffolk. Locations of the new temporary VAS sites can be found at:

<http://www.suffolkroadsafe.net/suffolk-info/speeding-in-suffolk/>

Government green light for third crossing at Lake Lothing in Lowestoft and the Wet Dock crossing in Ipswich

As part of the Chancellor's budget announcements, Suffolk featured strongly with the green light being given for both Lowestoft's third crossing over Lake Lothing and the new Wet Dock crossing in Ipswich.

Lowestoft will get the third crossing over Lake Lothing after many years of campaigning and a recent petition signed by over 10,000 people. The Prime Minister committed to the crossing prior to the last General Election, committing the Government to deliver a new crossing by 2020. With this further pledge of £70 million the county council finally has the funding firmly in place to press ahead with the detailed planning required in order to bring about a third crossing over Lake Lothing. This is a massive piece of work and is estimated to cost in the region of £80-100 million, but in addition to the £70 million pledged by central Government, the county council will work to source the remaining money from local funding sources.

The third crossing will provide critical regional infrastructure for Suffolk and the wider eastern counties, as people and businesses move through Lowestoft to access the growing enterprise zone with its array of business and development opportunities.

The approved business case by Suffolk County Council and the New Anglia LEP followed extensive analysis of options and potential impact and consultation and engagement with the local business community. The benefits of the scheme in the business case are reduced journey times for commuters and businesses and the alleviation of congestion. The project supports the continued development of future business growth in Lowestoft and the town's regeneration.

To view the approved Outline Business Case for Lowestoft's third crossing, please visit the Suffolk County Council's website at <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/public-transport-and-planning/consultations-and-studies> and click on the third tab **'Transport Studies'**

In addition to the third crossing in Lowestoft, the go-ahead has also been given for a new wet dock crossing in Ipswich, which will span the waterfront area of the town to connect communities with a new road infrastructure that will also serve a business and innovation centre based on an island in the dock itself. There now needs to be a review of the decision to determine funding for this ambitious project.

Suffolk County Council has now been given permission to proceed with developing the proposal and moving forward towards a timeframe for construction. This is another significant piece of work and is estimated to cost around £90 - £100million. The business case sets out the ambition to transform and develop the island site within Ipswich waterfront to bring in new business opportunities, job opportunities and development for residential and leisure use.

This scheme will be a catalyst for economic growth worth more than £8 billion to the local economy. Work has shown that, in addition to its likely effect on economic development, the new crossing will result in a significant reduction in congestion in the Star Lane area, one of the most congested parts of town, and will also relieve congestion on the A14 Orwell Bridge by providing an alternative route for local traffic.

The project has a lot of support locally and demonstrates the county council's ongoing commitment to supporting Ipswich's continued economic development as part of the wider Ipswich Vision.

To view the approved Outline Business Case for the Wet Dock crossing, please visit the Suffolk County Council's website at <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/public-transport-and-planning/consultations-and-studies> and click on the third tab **'Transport Studies'**

New health campaign launched to keep Suffolk residents healthier and living longer

Suffolk people who look after their health in middle age could double their chances of being healthy by the time they reach 70; this is the main message of a new health campaign which kicked off earlier this month.

Launched by Public Health England, *One You* aims to help adults avoid future diseases caused by modern day life by making changes to everyday habits. The new *One You* campaign will help Suffolk adults to move more, eat well, drink less and be smoke free. *One You* will also provide information on how people can reduce their stress levels and sleep better.

The campaign starts with a call to take part in a new online health quiz called 'How Are You', which provides personalised recommendations based on your results. It can also signpost people to tools and advice to take action where it's most needed.

For more information and to take the 'How Are You' online quiz, visit www.healthysuffolk.org.uk or search for 'One You' online

This campaign is about setting realistic goals; it is a real opportunity to join millions of others around the country to make small changes to look and feel healthier. This can pay dividends in the longer term and can make all the difference to how well we feel in day-to-day life.

The 2015 Annual Public Health Report, entitled *Is prevention better than the cure?* focuses on measures that the Suffolk population can take to lead healthier lives over the next five to 10 years to prevent longer term ill health. Its main focus is to maximise the years of healthy life expectancy so that we're not just living longer lives, but also healthier lives.

The scale of the campaign is unprecedented and includes new public and commercial partnerships with Amazon, Asda, BBC Get Inspired, Slimming World and the Armed Forces. This will see *One You* in every community, on every high street, in local health services, on websites and in social media.

Please be sure to spread the word out in your own communities - it is never too late to get your health back on track.

Suffolk's Trading Standards team continue the fight against underage alcohol sales with two key prosecutions

Suffolk County Council's Trading Standards team is continuing its fight against underage alcohol sales with further prosecutions against those selling alcohol to youngsters under the legal age limit.

In Ipswich, Mr Seevaratnam Thasan, the Premises Licence Holder of Dobbs Lane Stores pleaded guilty to selling alcohol to underage children under Section 146 of the Licensing Act 2003. He was fined a total of £670 – a £335 fine plus £300 in prosecution costs and a £35 victim surcharge

Suffolk Trading Standards received intelligence of alcohol sales to minors from Dobbs Lane Store, located on Dobbs Lane, Kesgrave. In response to this Suffolk Trading Standards and Suffolk Police carried out an underage alcohol test purchase operation in December 2014 using volunteers under the age of 18.

Alcohol was sold to the volunteer by Mr. Regei Glarance Atputharajah; the seller was issued with a £90 Penalty Notice for Disorder (PND). This was the second recorded underage sale at the premises within a year.

In addition to this, representatives of Martin McColl Ltd's Wickham Market and Great Cornard stores appeared at Ipswich Magistrates Court as the shops had continued to sell alcohol to young people despite earlier warnings and interventions by Suffolk Trading Standards. The company pleaded guilty to all three counts under section 146 Licensing Act- selling alcohol to underage persons which carries a maximum £5000 fine.

The Wickham Market branch was fined £6000 for two incidents whilst the Great Cornard branch was fined £4000. McColl Ltd was also ordered to pay £1618.63 in costs and a £200 victim surcharge.

The Magistrates took into consideration the guilty pleas, and the fact that McColl Ltd had cooperated with the investigation. The company have also reviewed and updated their procedures since the sales took place. One of the aggravating factors of the case was that one of the sellers was only 16 years old and had been using a manager's till access code at the time of the sales.

Underage sales test purchase operations take place across the county targeting a variety of premises such as supermarkets, off licences, pubs, bars, and clubs. This critical work plays an important part in reducing anti-social behaviour and reducing the associated health risks which underage drinking has on young people. Both Suffolk's Trading Standards team and the Police work collaboratively, sharing intelligence to crack down on the offenders.

Retailers know the law and that it is illegal to sell alcohol to anyone under 18 years old. Trading Standards advice is to operate a 'Challenge 25' policy so anyone who looks under 25 should be asked for ID.

It is important that action is taken against traders who sell alcohol to children; in particular, those traders who repeatedly break these laws, which are in place to protect these young people from the associated health risks that underage drinking has on them.

Anyone with information about illegal sales of alcohol, tobacco, knives, butane gas or other age-restricted products can inform Trading Standards by contacting the ***Citizens Advice Consumer Helpline on 03454 040506.***

Suffolk to invest in the Screen Industries

Suffolk Public Sector Leaders have agreed to invest up to £230k of the Business Rates Pool, into establishing a Suffolk Film office initiative.

The UK film and television industry is a success story with a strong reputation for creativity, skilled people and businesses. The evolving wider sector including content for websites and advertising can be termed "Screen Industries". This is one of the fastest growing sectors in the UK economy and Suffolk is positioning itself to be a pillar of excellence in this growing market, beginning with a long term commitment to growing this sector in the county

The Film Office initiative has been developed by a collaboration of those working in the screen industries, and Suffolk's local authorities. This programme will:

- **Build** on the existing community of Screen Industry professionals based in the county, fostering a cohesive and collaborative culture.
- **Promote Suffolk** as a diverse, culturally rich and talented place with a beautiful landscape that can meet the needs of local, national and international Screen Industries.
- **Attract** the Screen Industries to the region, and all associated disciplines, to further generate economic growth and inward investment.

- **Create a film friendly licensing and permissions process** across Suffolk that is efficient, effective and ensures residents and businesses are able to support productions in Suffolk.

In 2014/15 there were 37% more productions shooting in the English regions and 25% more shooting days on location, compared to the previous year.

Suffolk is perfectly placed to benefit from this growing market and the county council, in partnership with other public sector leaders, wants to promote our county as a viable location for film production companies. This is a great opportunity for young people in the county to access the creative sector right on their own doorstep and Suffolk will now be able to compete nationally to attract more of the industry to the county.

The Suffolk coast is already featuring highly as a desirable location for filming – it has played host to two major TV series – BBC’s *Springwatch* and BBC 4’s comedy drama *The Detectorists*. The county’s beautiful natural landscape, wealth of history and ease of access from London make it an ideal location for screen productions.”

Suffolk County Council will put a contract to tender out for this initiative in April.