

October 2023 report.

Within this report, as of yesterday, 2<sup>nd</sup> October, the first stage in an initial three-year partnership as the *Feel Good Suffolk* launched a new model to promote a completely new approach to improving the health and wellbeing of Suffolk people, including support to **stop smoking, manage weight** and to **be more physically active**, offering a new approach to support people in Suffolk to improve their health and wellbeing.

I would be most grateful if you could please help to spread the word and share this information with your networks and contacts. If you would like to order copies of *Feel Good Suffolk* posters and/or leaflets, please email [healthandwellbeing@suffolk.gov.uk](mailto:healthandwellbeing@suffolk.gov.uk) to request your copies, stating the quantity required and address for postage.

As we all know the next date for an Lionlink Consultation is this Friday at Leiston Community Centre, Sizewell Road, Leiston 2-8pm. Useful links below. The closing date isn't until the 3<sup>rd</sup> November but as we all know, time flies and it is important that as many people as possible have their say and input.

<https://www.nationalgrid.com/national-grid-ventures/future-developments/lionlink/consultation-materials>

<https://www.nationalgrid.com/document/150441/download>

local groups are suggesting that people do not fill in the feedback form at the event but to take a copy home and look at their feedback guide first.

<https://www.suffolkenergyactionsolutions.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/Feedback-Guide-LionLink-Sep-23-Final-A4.pdf>

Again, as written and verbally mentioned at many recent meetings, please can I urge you all to request updates from all projects and to participate in the conversations and consultation/s. TerraQuest, acting on behalf and commissioned by NGET are visiting many locations in our area turning up unannounced and causing anxiety to many, they are also putting up notices around the area regarding their SeaLink, asking for information that they already have or certainly should have!

Milestone Infrastructure have now begun their new contact, details below. Hopefully they will embed very quickly and as always may I request that people report issues on the reporting tool and keep me updated with the reference number etc.

Many of you are also aware of my role within the Fostering department at SCC, you will note a couple of items below and the link to a short video. Again, I would be grateful of you would share the clip onto your websites etc.

Best wishes  
TJ

## **New highways services arrive in Suffolk as multi-million-pound partnership goes live**

Suffolk Highways' new partnership has launched, as Milestone Infrastructure and Suffolk County Council join forces to deliver highways services fit for the future.

The new contract, will deliver highway projects and improvements across Suffolk for up to 20 years, including maintaining roads, pavements and rights of way, improving drainage, hedge trimming, construction of new road schemes, snow-clearing and gritting and much more.

Milestone Infrastructure, part of M Group Services, was awarded Suffolk's new highways services contract back in February and since then has been working with Suffolk County Council to mobilise the new contract ahead of it commencing on 1 October.

When seeking a new highways partner, the county council wanted a keener focus on delivering greater social value, building on the council's commitment to carbon reduction and protecting the environment, using local skills and talent, and giving young people the opportunity to work in the sector.

With this in mind, the new partnership was built around six key contract objectives, which will form the basis for all that Suffolk Highways delivers going forward. These objectives are:

- Collaboration and Partnership
- Social Value
- Environment and Net Zero Carbon
- Customer Communication and Engagement
- Commercialism and Enterprise
- Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

### **Councillor Paul West, Suffolk County Council's cabinet member for Ipswich, operational highways and flooding, said:**

"I am delighted to welcome our new highways partner, Milestone, to Suffolk. There has been a great deal of work taking place over the past few months to ensure we were ready to start the new partnership on 1 October whilst continuing to deliver services to our residents.

"As highways services tend to impact all those living, working or travelling in our county; it was essential we found the best possible fit for what was needed here in Suffolk.

"Since choosing Milestone as our new delivery partner and getting to know their business and how they operate on other highways partnerships across the country, I am confident they will provide excellent services and value for our residents.

“I want to take this opportunity to thank everyone involved in successfully procuring, awarding and mobilising this new contract, whilst continuing to keep our county safe and moving.”

**Matthew Riches, Operations Director for Milestone, said:**

“Milestone is delighted to have begun its new partnership with Suffolk County Council, which will see us work in collaboration to leave a positive legacy for Suffolk via improved infrastructure and maintaining the safest possible network for all users, all year round.

“We are also committed to creating jobs for local people, using local supply chain partners to strengthen the Suffolk economy, and providing employment opportunities to hard-to-reach groups, such as care leavers and ex-military veterans.

“In addition, we will support the council to meet its continued commitment to enhancing biodiversity and achieving net-zero, including the use of HVO fuel, and dedicated electric vehicles in our fleet.

“Milestone takes great pride in supporting the local community through a range of initiatives, and we look forward to engaging with Suffolk’s residents and businesses as we deliver highways services fit for the future that bring a wealth of benefits for all.”

### **Views sought on Suffolk walking, wheeling and cycling routes**

Suffolk County Council has been awarded nearly £11.7 million to develop active travel schemes, including measures such as cycle lanes, shared-use paths, and improved crossing points on roads.

It is hoped that the improvements would help more people to walk, wheel and cycle in their everyday lives and to enjoy safer streets, reduced congestion and better health and air quality.

We want active travel to be easy, safe and enjoyable for everyone. By creating high quality pedestrian and cycle routes with safe crossings, we hope to create a culture in which active travel can be residents’ first choice.

It’s important to stress that these ideas are still in development, and we want to hear from residents and businesses about existing challenges and what they would change to ensure we can make the best possible improvements to these routes.

The county council has identified eighteen different routes which could benefit from improvement, including:

- Nacton Road, Ipswich
- Woodbridge Road, Ipswich
- Princes Street, Ipswich
- Ipswich Hospital to Ipswich Waterfront
- Capel St Mary to Copdock Park and Ride
- Grange Road, Felixstowe
- East to West, Bury St Edmunds
- Various other routes located around Ipswich

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Each of the schemes is at a different stage of development; if agreed to proceed following the consultation, some schemes will need additional funding as they move to the construction phase.

Residents can read more about the different routes and have their say at <https://arcg.is/1yDG49>. The surveys close on 23 November 2023.

Although sadly our nearest scheme is possibly Woodbridge, I do urge people to respond, many residents do enjoy walking and cycling and this is an opportunity to request that closer to home is looked at.

### **Exciting new chapter comes with allergy danger for young people. However, some advice for all to consider.**

For many young people this is the time of year when they are about to begin the exciting new chapter in their lives as they go to university or college. Leaving home for the first time, they will be mixing and living with new people of their own age and rightly enjoying all the fun and opportunity this brings.

However, for those suffering from food allergies this can bring new challenges and we would encourage parents to talk to their children about it. Those aged between 16 and 24 are in the most at-risk category when it comes to allergies, so please do encourage your young person to talk to their friends and housemates, to make them aware of their situation and how to spot an allergic reaction.

Most people will already know someone with an allergy and be able to support. However, occasionally housemates are just not able to understand the seriousness of the allergy and it may be wise to speak with the university or college welfare officer to seek alternative accommodation if the allergy relates to their environment. Also, encourage them to carry wipes and clean down surfaces, to reduce the risk of cross contamination before eating or studying around campus.

When eating out, if it is a planned occasion, suggest they look at online menus in advance if available and use social media to find recommendations for suitable places to eat out with allergies. In Suffolk, we regularly get complaints about allergens - 14 different allergen types must be declared in law – and while people focus on nut allergies many others are just as deadly to relevant people. Allergies are increasing and are therefore more important today.

Locally, we took just over 230 food samples last year, around half of which were tested for the presence of undeclared allergens. Of those, approximately 25% of samples were unsatisfactory in that they were either labelled incorrectly, not declaring the correct allergens or if a meal contained an undeclared allergen. Samples are taken either because of complaints, or due to our local knowledge/intelligence of the product/premises type.

Last year we had more than 100 complaints about specific food businesses of which three quarters were complaints about allergens.

In terms of the main product type tested in Suffolk:

- Vegan chocolate – 12 samples were taken of chocolate described as ‘vegan’ – nine of which contained traces of milk. Whilst some did contain a

precautionary allergen label e.g., 'May contain milk' – consumers may not notice this and instead rely on the name of the food and, if they are allergic to dairy, this could be an issue.

- Take-away coffee – 17 samples of take-away coffees, from a mix of independent and high street retailers were taken. Of the nine 'non milk' versions (oat/almond/soya latte) – five contained traces of milk. Again, a vegan customer or someone with a dairy allergy would incorrectly assume there would be no trace of milk.
- Vegan 'ready to eat products' such as sausage rolls, pastries and cakes - 20 samples were taken of which five contained either milk or egg traces.
- Vegan 'takeaway' meals - 16 samples were taken of which six contained traces of either egg, fish or shellfish.

The Chartered Trading Standards Institute is calling for a new legal definition of vegan food to be created to ensure the rules are clear, and that any food manufacturer or restaurant flouting these rules can be held accountable. This would provide clarity for those with allergies, for example to milk or eggs, over whether food labelled as vegan is safe to eat.

Until that happens, consumers should not rely on the vegan description if they have a serious milk allergy.

Similarly, anyone with allergies really needs to read the label on food products properly, including any 'may contains' information. In restaurants/cafes they should not rely on the vegan description alone - always have a conversation with the staff. These are simple steps but can make all the difference.

**\*Anyone with concerns about the labelling of a food product, or wishing to report an allergy or intolerance reaction, can contact Suffolk Trading Standards via Citizens Advice Consumer Service on 0808 223 1133.**

### **New and independent fire control centre gives the best deal for Suffolk**

A new fire control centre fitted with state-of-the-art communications for mobilising and managing Suffolk's firefighters would be in the best interests of the county, a report to councillors says.

Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) announced in June it would be withdrawing from the shared control room arrangement in place since 2011 with Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Fire and Rescue Service, based in Huntingdon.

The report recommending approval to Suffolk County Council's Cabinet, due to sit, today, Tuesday September 12, says fire control would now be brought back into the county by the end of 2024.

The report says the move is necessary because a project to replace the current mobilising technology agreed by both services in 2019, is currently two years overdue.

In addition, the French company providing the new technology entered "Redressment Judiciaire" a form of financial administration which resulted in the freezing of its assets and liabilities. If the company comes out of administration, it will remain with its liabilities to pay.

SFRS concluded the non-delivery and missed milestones by the new technology provider, together with its financial predicament, means continuing with the current IT mobilising project presents an unacceptable risk to firefighters and the public. This risk should be mitigated as soon as possible by Suffolk having its own control room using tried and tested systems.

However, the current system continues to mobilise the emergency response effectively, keeping Suffolk safe.

**The report says:**

“The new control room will forecast and coordinate SFRS resources based on risk modelling and new technology.

“This will ensure resources are deployed efficiently and effectively across the county, maximising fire engine availability, improving response times.

“The new control room will coordinate resources out of hours to provide a swifter service to our most vulnerable residents.”

An initial capital investment of £1.588m would be required for project delivery over three years. Additional revenue service of £1.615m annually will need to be provided to support the operating cost of the control room.

### **Awards for care workers who saved centenarian from international scam**

A Suffolk care worker and her boss who saved a 101-year-old woman from an international scam that saw her fleeced of nearly £50,000 are being formally recognised.

Sally Mills and Paul Watts are to receive Certificates of Merit from Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service for stepping in when they realised the vulnerable woman was being targeted by heartless hoaxers in Austria. They were conning the woman through a clairvoyant scam, where people pose as spiritual guides offering insights into a person’s life and the future.

They typically target the elderly and lonely via mass mailshot letters, often using an image of someone who looks trustworthy to pose as a clairvoyant. In this case it was British actress and model Carol-Anne Goodman, who had no idea her image was being used, and who is backing the Trading Standards campaign to crackdown on the scammers.

Sally is a community support worker for Caring Moments Ltd, a domiciliary care provider based in Lowestoft which cares for 60 users around the Waveney valley area. She was assigned to care for the woman and became suspicious when on one visit the victim handed her some post to send and when she returned to her car £45 in cash fell out from a pre-paid envelope.

Paul had attended training given by Suffolk Trading Standards officer Lesley Crompton and recognised the victim was sending money to clairvoyant scammers. Lesley worked with the team at Caring Moments to put support and prevention in place to prevent the victim sending any further money, and they have helped provide

statements for an international investigation. It is estimated that the victim has sent over £48,000 over several years.

The victim, who has since celebrated her 103<sup>rd</sup> birthday, now has means to sort her mail, and every letter that she thinks might be a scam is placed in a box for the care team to check when they visit.

**Paul said:**

“Sally came to me as soon as she became concerned, and based on the training I had received I gave the Trading Standards team a call.

“We don’t see this sort of thing very often as most of our service users have family nearby who can keep an eye out for things like this, but this lady’s family live miles away so she was looking after her own post.

“Hopefully this case will open the eyes of those who have, or look after, elderly and vulnerable people and what to do when they spot it.”

Sally has since appeared on ITV’s This Morning show to help highlight the ongoing investigation into clairvoyant scams that is being coordinated by the National Trading Standards Scam Team. In August, Suffolk Trading Standards presented Sally and Paul with flowers and ‘Suffolk Says Thanks’ badges for their intervention.

The teams also nominated them for a Certificate of Merit at the Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service Awards, which they collected at the ceremony on September 27.

Sadly, these sorts of scams are all too common and are particularly unpleasant as they prey on such vulnerable people.

We applaud Sally and Paul for the way they stepped in as soon as they realised something was not right and for letting Trading Standards know so that something could be done. Trading Standards will pursue the scammers at every turn to ensure that, wherever possible, they do not get away with their disgraceful behaviour.

Suffolk Trading Standards encourages people to join the fight against scammers by signing up to become a Trading Standards Champion.

For more details go to the Trading Standards website at [www.suffolk.gov.uk/JoinTheFight](http://www.suffolk.gov.uk/JoinTheFight)

### **Inflation, SEND school transport and care costs contribute to council’s predicted overspend**

Inflation, school transport for children with SEND, and looking after children in care are the main factors for SCC forecasting to over spend.

This is a similar story for many councils across the country, due to higher demand for their services, inflation remaining higher than expected for longer, and interest rates rising to levels not forecast by financial markets.

Recent research by the County Councils Network suggests that England’s largest councils will need to make at least £1bn in savings to balance their current 2023/24 budgets.

A BBC investigation also reported that councils expect to be £5.2bn short of balancing budgets by April 2026, the average council facing a £33m predicted deficit by 2025-26.

Suffolk County Council projects a 4% overspend to be partially offset by an additional Section 31 grant from Government, and additional income from the

pooling of business rates with the district and borough councils in Suffolk, totalling £7m.

**Councillor Richard Rout, Suffolk County Council's Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance and Environment, said:**

"Despite being able to publish a balanced budget in February, we are already having to spend more than we anticipated this year.

"We set this year's budget during a period of highly uncertain economic conditions. Even although the country is now starting to see price rises slowing and energy costs beginning to drop we are still suffering the cost impacts of various global shocks - in particular COVID-19 and the war in Ukraine.

"We are experiencing unexpectedly high demands on certain services, meaning some are spending disproportionately more than others. For example, costs for school transport and children in care make up two-thirds of the total overspend."

Details of the main areas of overspend are:

- **School transport** - forecast to overspend (39% of the overspend), with much of this being travel costs for children with special education needs and disabilities (SEND). This is largely due to more children with SEND needs, transport operators being in limited supply, and rising costs from those operators who are also feeling the impacts of inflation, especially fuel costs.
- **Children in care** - forecast to overspend by (28% of the overspend). The council has a responsibility to provide care for children and young people under the age of 18. Some of these have incredibly complex needs requiring 24-hour care from multiple carers. There is currently an unexpectedly higher number of children requiring this support, with this costing an average of £22,700 per week.
- **Adult care services** - forecast to overspend by (12% of the overspend) for purchasing care, due to increases in demand, and staffing costs in the sector. The fees paid for residential and nursing placements remain high with 64% of new residential and nursing packages being above the published rate of £806 per week, with some specialist packages being over £1,500 per week.
- **Inflation** - inflation and interest rates have been higher than experienced in a generation, with the legacy of COVID-19 continuing to have a significant impact on various services. As an example, there is an estimated (10% of the overspend) pressure as pay settlements continue to be above historical norms as inflation has remained stubbornly high during 2023 so far. High interest rates mean it has been more costly than anticipated to borrow money, which the council does to help fund big projects, such as upgrading highways, maintaining schools or developing household recycling centres.

In addition to the net overspend from this main budget, the council is forecasting an overspend against its £256.5m budget from the Dedicated Schools Grant and Pupil Premium Grant. This is money from Government specifically to fund schools and services for pupils. This overspend comes solely from resources spent on Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) provision, not including school transport.



Suffolk, like many other local authorities, is seeing a continuous increase in demand which is not being met by the same level of increase in funding.

Despite these challenges, council departments continue to make savings. This year's budget identified savings to be made.

**Councillor Richard Rout continues:**

“Our officers continue to do great work for Suffolk residents, including providing complex levels of support to those most in need, whilst making savings.

“But with these increasing demands and costs, we are seeing councils around the country having to reduce services and put spending freezes in place, so that they can balance their budgets for this year. Unfortunately, we must now have these discussions too.

“For many years, we have made savings through our transformation programmes – essentially ways of working smarter and leaner whilst still delivering services. We have also built up an appropriate level of reserves, meaning we have savings which we are able to call upon now.

“But this is not sustainable and now that Cabinet has been presented with the council's first financial report for this year, we will work with directors to help reduce this predicted overspend.”

The Cabinet at Suffolk County Council will discuss the Q1 2023-24 Revenue Budget paper, at its meeting, today, on 12 September 2023. [Cabinet papers are published on the Suffolk County Council website.](#)

Yesterday, Monday 2 October 2023, ***Feel Good Suffolk*** began to deliver a completely new approach to improving the health and wellbeing of Suffolk people, including support to **stop smoking, manage weight** and to **be more physically active**, offering a new approach to support people in Suffolk to improve their health and wellbeing.

Feel Good Suffolk is a unique partnership of Suffolk County Council and all district and borough councils and health colleagues working together, building on their close links with communities. By maximising the detailed knowledge of communities represented by partner organisations and other local groups, the service aims to offer more choice, coupled with flexible support as and when people need it and offering communities to offer greater choice and flexibility of services to meet the needs of residents.

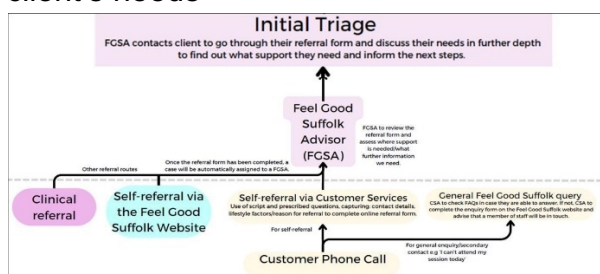
How will it work?

The *Feel Good Suffolk* model is different to previous arrangements in which public health commissioned a commercial provider to deliver the healthy behaviours service.

The new website ([www.feelgoodsuffolk.co.uk](http://www.feelgoodsuffolk.co.uk)) provides a wealth of information about health and wellbeing, while also offering anyone who needs more intensive support the option to refer to one of the partnership's trained Feel Good Suffolk Advisors (FGSAs).

People will be able to self-refer into the service via a simple online form, telephone or email. Meanwhile, professionals can make third-party referrals on a client's behalf using referral forms or via the 'self-referral form' on the Feel Good Suffolk website. The completed referral forms will be

picked up and triaged by the district and borough team best suited to meet the client's needs



To keep up to date or contact the Feel Good Suffolk service, please either email, call or visit the website.

Email [feelgoodsuffolk@suffolk.gov.uk](mailto:feelgoodsuffolk@suffolk.gov.uk)

Visit [www.feelgoodsuffolk.co.uk](http://www.feelgoodsuffolk.co.uk)

Telephone: 0345 603 4060

## **Successful Suffolk care leaver project rolls out across UK**

A Suffolk programme which supports care leavers when they reach 18 has proved so successful it is now being rolled out across the country by the Government.

Staying Close, which was launched by Suffolk County Council in 2017, provides a package of support and guidance to young people leaving care. This includes ensuring they have accommodation, resources, and practical and emotional help to help them thrive as independent adults. This support is provided by a staff member who already works with them, so they have a consistent and stable relationship as they move into adulthood.

22-year-old Suffolk care leaver Charlotte, who has been in care since she was 13 years old, said Staying Close had been a big help to her.

“Before Staying Close, at 17 or 18 you almost said goodbye to your support network, it was daunting. But now I have the help and support I need in all areas of my life. It’s reassuring to me.”

Coin Leonard, Staying Close Engagement and Coproduction Lead at Suffolk County Council, said:

“We have had lots of positive outcomes with Staying Close – it has been an overwhelming success. We are often dealing with very complex young people who have joined the project and are now managing their own accommodation and their own wellbeing.”

SCC said

“We are rightly very proud of our Staying Close programme. It has made a significant difference to the lives of more than a hundred young people as they move into independent living. The team like to think of themselves as family – always there if they need anything. We wouldn’t expect anything less for our own children.”

The Staying Close programme has approximately 150 young people being helped by the team.

In September, the Children and Families Minister, David Johnston MP, heard first hand from young people in Suffolk who have benefited from Staying Close. His visit marked the launch of another 27 Staying Close programmes which will be rolled out within local authorities across the country.

Children and Families Minister, David Johnston, said:

“We are making significant strides in our ambition to transform children’s social care services for some of our most vulnerable children and young people across the country.

“At the heart of today’s developments are the needs of children in care and care leavers. Our work on advocacy standards will make sure they’re listened to and supported, while the fantastic Staying Close programme is helping give them the tools they need to thrive as young adults.”

**Suffolk’s public sector leaders have today announced a £100k fund to spark net zero innovation across the county.**



The ‘Net Zero Innovation Fund’ will provide grants to businesses for innovative solutions that drive the county towards its net zero target.

Successful applicants will act as a beacon for other organisations to follow and help to secure Suffolk’s standing as a pathfinder for net zero innovation.

**Together, we can build a thriving, resilient, and carbon-neutral county**  
**Councillor Neil MacDonald, Chair, Suffolk Public Sector Leaders**

The fund is being coordinated by the [Carbon Charter](#), Suffolk’s hub for sustainable business. It has been launched as one strand of a package of work to deliver the Suffolk Climate Emergency Plan, which sets out the shared ambition of a net zero county by 2030.

*“Here in Suffolk, we, as in many local areas across the UK, are striving to build a sustainable future by helping our businesses and residents to reduce carbon*

*emissions. We anticipate that the Net Zero Innovation Fund will not only contribute to our net zero ambitions, but that technology, materials or processes developed by businesses as an outcome of this fund can be adopted elsewhere. By championing innovation and collaboration, Suffolk aims to become a trailblazer in the journey towards a net zero economy.*" Councillor Gerald Kelly says, Portfolio Holder for Governance, Regulatory and Environment, West Suffolk Council and Chair of the Environment Portfolio Holders Group.

Championing the role of businesses in helping the county reach net zero has long been a priority for Suffolk's public sector leaders.

Starting today, businesses are invited to express their interest in the Suffolk Net Zero Innovation Fund, with a more detailed application process to follow.

Funding will be awarded to businesses with a concept that...

- Shows a clear link to net zero transition.
- Is scalable.
- Has potential for data collection and evaluation.
- Can be evidenced as an original idea.
- Can deliver outcomes by the end of 2024.

The application process is expected to be competitive and will be undertaken in successive funding rounds until fully committed. The process will involve the completion of a project summary that will be judged by an independent panel of specialists, followed by a pitch.

Councillor Neil MacDonald, Chair, Suffolk Public Sector Leaders, comments on the significance of this funding opportunity: *"This exciting new fund could define sustainable economic growth in the county and give Suffolk businesses the opportunity to be at the forefront of emerging technologies that shape our future. We encourage businesses, big and small, to take advantage of this opportunity to lead the way. Together, we can build a thriving, resilient, and carbon-neutral county."*

To find out more information and to apply, visit <https://carboncharter.org/nzifs/>

SMEs (small to medium enterprises) looking for general help to decarbonise their operations can also access grants to support this as well as free business consultancy delivered by our partners Groundwork East: [Carbon Charter | Net Zero Business Advisor Service](#)

### **Powerful fostering film 'Any Of Us' launched**

Suffolk County Council is excited to announce the launch of "Any Of Us," a compelling fostering film that sends a universal message that anyone with the capacity to care can become a foster carer.

The film spotlights three normal people demonstrating the caring qualities essential

to becoming a foster carer. Their stories intertwine with Chloe's journey into fostering, creating the narrative that any of us can foster. Fostering with your council or children's trust means supporting your community by offering safe, nurturing homes to children in need.

Any Of Us is an excellent film that illustrates how any of us can become foster carers. It is a heartfelt reminder that we need caring individuals to step forward and provide loving homes for children here in Suffolk

The film has been produced by Reel TwentyFive and project managed by CAN Digital/Rachel Brown. This is the sixth film produced by a growing partnership of councils and children's trusts to promote local authority fostering. The national launch took place at Birmingham's Everyman cinema on 26 September 26.

If you are interested in becoming a foster carer request your free foster carer pack and find out about the training, support and allowances you'll receive:

[Visit the foster page](#)

Call us: 01473 264800

Email us: [fosterandadopt@suffolk.gov.uk](mailto:fosterandadopt@suffolk.gov.uk)

<https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/council-news/powerful-fostering-film-any-of-us-launched>

Further away.

### **Public views sought over improvements to A140**

Suffolk County Council has identified three junctions on the A140 – the Thornham Magna junction, the A1120 Earl Stonham junction, and the A140/B1078 junction, which also connects to the A14 – as pinch-point areas that may benefit from improvement.

The assessments show that these junctions are likely to suffer from increasing traffic congestion and associated road safety problems in the future.

Analysis has also shown that they lack sufficient infrastructure for active travel and passenger transport.

With these concerns in mind, the county council is seeking the public's feedback to inform future bids for funding from the Department of Transport to improve the junctions.

The A140 is a strategically important road, providing a key connection between Ipswich and Norwich and linking into the A14 in Suffolk and the A47 in Norfolk. Therefore, it is crucial that we ensure it is fit for purpose, and safe for road users and pedestrians. The views of residents, businesses and stakeholders will be used as much as possible to develop our bids for funding and I would urge anyone who uses the A140 to let us know what they think.

A public survey has launched today and will run for six weeks, closing on Sunday 15 October. More information can be found at [www.suffolk.gov.uk/a140](http://www.suffolk.gov.uk/a140)  
Take part in the survey: [www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/A140MRNsurvey](http://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/A140MRNsurvey)

## **Suffolk Highways to support three abnormal load movements through October**

Suffolk Highways has been working with Allelys, National Highways, Suffolk Police, as well as J McCann and Swarco, Suffolks new street lighting and traffic signal providers to prepare for three abnormal load movements, on behalf of Drax Group, a renewable energy company who are working with the Government to help provide a more resilient power network for the country.

These movements will be the largest, combined effort for Suffolk Highways to date. The moves will commence on Sunday 22 October, departing from Ipswich Docks in early hours of each morning, starting its journey to Eye Airfield, Progress Power Station.

### **Sunday 22 October 2023 (Load 1) - Generator measuring 12m in length and weighting 327.5 tonne.**

6.30am – Depart Ipswich Docks - The generator will be moved in one day. To allow for the shorter day light hours, the last two loads will take place over two weekends each. The A140 will be closed on 22 October, 5 November, and 26 November only.

The second half of the first loads journey will be reviewed when it reaches Old Ipswich Road, Claydon and will only continue to Eye Airfield if safe to do so. This will be reviewed on the day and if it is deemed unsafe to continue, the second half of the journey will continue on Sunday 29 October 2023, meaning the following weekends will be pushed back by 1 week. To allow for this, the A140 will be closed on 29 October, 19 November, and 3 December only.

### **Sunday 29 October 2023 (Load 2) - Turbine measuring 10.93m in length and weighing 332 tonne.**

8.30am – Depart Ipswich Docks and hold the load at Old Ipswich Road, Claydon (bus section south of Hill View Business Park)

### **Sunday 5 November 2023 (Load 2)**

8.30am – Continue the move from Old Ipswich Road, Claydon (bus section south of Hill View Business Park) to Eye Airfield (A140 road closure)

No move will take place on Sunday 12 November 2023, to avoid disruption to the Remembrance Sunday parade.

### **Sunday 19 November 2023 (Load 3) - Transformer measuring 10.6m length and weighing 221.8 tonne.**

8.30am – Depart Ipswich Docks and hold the load at Old Ipswich Road, Claydon (bus section south of Hill View Business Park)

### **Sunday 26 November 2023 (Load 3)**

8.30am – Continue the move from Old Ipswich Road, Claydon (bus section south of Hill View Business Park) to Eye Airfield (A140 road closure)

**Provisional Sunday 3 December 2023 (Completion date of load 3 if required)**

8.30am – Continue the move from Old Ipswich Road, Claydon (bus section south of Hill View Business Park) to Eye Airfield (A140 road closure)

The total length of each vehicle will be 80m and approx. 500 – 600 tonnes total weight.

Prior to the previous abnormal loads in 2021, Suffolk Highways anticipated future abnormal load movements so works were carried out to replace permanent street furniture with easily removable bollards. This limits the amount of work and disruption required during the lead up to abnormal load movements. As this load will be taking a different route to previous years, additional pre works have been required to install removable street furniture and undertake extensive vegetation removal work along the full route.

On the day of the transformer movement, highways teams will be leading and following the vehicle to prepare the route, temporarily removing and reinstating street furniture and trimming trees (where required A140, Claydon, Barham/Coddenham and several locations in Ipswich). This will enable the loads to be transported whilst keeping disruption to a minimum for members of the public.

A temporary road closure of A140 will be necessary whilst the load moves to its destination to Eye Airfield. A temporary overbridge at Brockford will be installed to protect the county's roads and structure.

Once the load has safely passed the overbridge and the road is deemed safe for public use, the overbridge will be dismantled in readiness for when the A140 can be reopened. The closure could be in place for several hours from midday; however, the Suffolk Highways twitter account will be providing accurate timings and updates throughout the day. Other restrictions will also be in place, such as parking and weight limit restrictions, the suspension of any double yellow lines along the route and the closure of B1075 Tomline Road, Ipswich and the St Matthews Street, Ipswich subway.

To allow the load to navigate safely around permanent street furniture on the day of the move, the load will be travelling on the opposite side of the carriageway at times. Suffolk Highways' Traffic Management teams will be leading the load, whilst Suffolk Police will manage traffic.

To limit the impact on the travelling public, there may be temporary stop points along the journeys.

A great deal of careful planning and joint working goes into an operation such as this one. I am confident that those involved will ensure the safe and successful delivery of parts on behalf of Drax Group. I want to thank communities that may be affected by this move for their understanding and cooperation. Similarly previous abnormal

load moves, we will be providing live location updates throughout the move via Suffolk Highways Twitter account @Suff\_highways, for those wanting to plan their journeys to avoid disruption, or to catch a glimpse of the huge structure in transit!”