

Duty to Cooperate
Statement of Common Ground
Between the Broads Authority and Suffolk County Council
September 2026

1. Introduction

Part of the Broads Authority Executive Area overlays part of Suffolk County Council. The Broads Authority is the Local Planning Authority for that area, but so too is Suffolk County Council as the Minerals and Waste Planning Authority. Suffolk County Council also undertake typical County Council functions such as Education, Transport, Public Health, Libraries and Social Care.

This Statement of Common Ground relates to the Duty to Cooperate – it sets out how the Broads Authority and Suffolk County Council cooperate on strategic cross-boundary matters. It is produced to support the production of the Local Plan for the Broads.

2. Suffolk County Council Minerals and Waste Local Plan

[Suffolk Minerals and Waste Plan](#) provides the policy framework for the determination of minerals and waste planning applications and for the safeguarding of existing facilities and was adopted in July 2020. This is now under review with Suffolk County Council at the early stages of producing a [new-style Local Plan](#).

The Local Plan for the Broads is in conformity with the Minerals and Waste Local Plan.

3. Meetings

Three to four times a year, there is an officer meeting between Great Yarmouth Borough Council, East Suffolk Council, Norfolk County Council, Suffolk County Council and the Broads Authority that relates to cross boundary matters. At these meetings, general cross boundary issues are discussed, as well as specific settlement or transport corridor issues.

Around twice a year, there is a meeting between Norfolk Local Planning Authorities and Suffolk Local Planning Authorities. At these meetings, general cross boundary issues are discussed, as well as specific settlement or transport corridor issues.

Suffolk Local Planning Authorities tended to meet together around 5 times a year. The group included Heads of Development Management and Heads of Planning Policy. Since the start

of 2025, the two areas of work have split and have separate development management and policy meetings. Again, general cross boundary issues are discussed as well as location specific issues. The group also discusses issues such as Biodiversity Net Gain and changes to the planning system.

The Broads Authority and Suffolk County Council agree that both parties have cooperated well during the production of the Broads Local Plan as well as in relation to other wider planning matters and the meetings are central to that cooperation.

4. Suffolk LPAs and new-style Local Plans

During 2025, the Local Planning Authorities in Suffolk have started to work together on new style Local Plans. An approach to aligned working has been agreed via the Suffolk Chief Officers Leadership Team. Various subgroups have been established including stakeholder engagement, call for sites and sustainability appraisal. All Suffolk Local Planning Authorities are represented on each group. While the Broads Authority is at Regulation 19 and producing a Local Plan under the current plan-making system, in line with the 2024 NPPF, the Authority still takes part in these group meetings.

5. Health Protocol

The Planning in Health Protocol¹ (2024) presents a process describing how relevant NHS organisations, Norfolk & Suffolk County Council Public Health and the Norfolk and East Suffolk Local Planning Authorities jointly consult to ensure that health considerations are adequately accounted for in plan making and in planning applications and their subsequent developments.

Suffolk County Council and the Broads Authority agree to use the Planning in Health Protocol in decision making functions.

6. Developers' Guide to Infrastructure

Suffolk County Council has produced the Developers' Guide to Infrastructure Contributions², which was most recently updated in July 2026 and subject to review and updating. The purpose of the Developers Guide is to provide guidance to developers, relevant Local Planning Authorities and other interested stakeholders on a wide range of county council infrastructure issues that may need to be considered by the relevant LPA when determining development proposals.

¹ https://www.broads-authority.gov.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0023/133880/Planning-in-Health-Protocol-2024-ICB-v1.1.pdf

² <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/planning-waste-and-environment/planning-and-development-advice/section-106-planning-obligations/developers-guide-to-infrastructure-contributions-in-suffolk>

The Broads Authority agree to use this document and SCC agree to notify the Broads Authority of any updates or changes to this guidance.

7. Conclusion

Suffolk County Council and the Broads Authority have a long-standing working relationship. As this Statement of Common Ground sets out, we work closely together on cross boundary issues ranging from minerals and waste to transport.

For Suffolk County Council: *Graham Gunby* (Head of Planning), 18 September 2026

For Broads Authority: *Ruth Sainsbury*, Head of Planning, 22 September 2026