



Smarter. Simpler. Better. **ONE SUFFOLK.**

Residents' Summary



Suffolk

Suffolk is a county of contrasts and character: sea views, golden fields, wide skies, charming villages, bustling market towns and vibrant urban centres. Each part is unique, yet all come together to form one extraordinary county.

We're proud of Ipswich, our historic county town. But our pride extends to every community, large or small, that gives Suffolk its rich identity.

Our county boasts world-class food and drink, a thriving visitor economy, cherished heritage sites, National Landscapes, the heart of British horse-racing, cutting-edge clean energy and logistics industries and strong connections to London.

Suffolk is proof that the whole really can be greater than the sum of its parts.

What truly unites us is not just our landscape or economy, but a deep sense of identity and pride. Whether it's Suffolk Day, the Suffolk Show, our university, local media, or even our dialect, there is something that binds us together.

It's more than community spirit, it's a shared belief in Suffolk.

Local Government reorganisation in Suffolk

The Government is planning to simplify how councils operate in Suffolk – a process known as Local Government Reorganisation (LGR).

Currently, there are six councils: a county council and five district and borough councils. Each is responsible for different services and different area, a structure that has been in place for more than 50 years.

Suffolk County Council is proposing a bold and positive change: to bring all six councils together into a single new council, delivering all local and county-wide services.

This would mean replacing the existing councils with one new organisation, complete with a fresh structure, fewer layers of bureaucracy and better ways of working.

Better use of public money

Analysis by PwC shows that one single new council would deliver:



£26m

annual savings each
year after 5 years



£104m

of savings in
the first 5 years



Up to £13m

saved in start-up costs compared
to three separate councils

Why this matters for Suffolk

- **Simpler for residents** – one council, one point of contact.
- **Clearer accountability** – no more confusion over responsibilities.
- **Greater value for money** – less bureaucracy means more money for services or keeping council tax as low as possible.
- **Stronger, safer services** – particularly for social care, with improved links to health and police.
- **Joined-up services** – one organisation means everything under one roof, making it easier to improve services.
- **Better decision-making** – one council means that decisions can be made more quickly.
- **More resident power** – more local input and stronger neighbourhood engagement.
- **Stronger voice** – one clear, strategic leadership team for Suffolk.

The savings could be used for:



fixing and
cleaning roads



waste collection
and disposal



housing



social care



planning



leisure centres



school places
and travel



parks and
open spaces



keeping council tax
as low as possible

More than one council will cost more

There's been talk of dividing Suffolk into two or even three councils, including a 'Greater Ipswich'. This would mean redrawing boundaries to bring in areas like Felixstowe, Woodbridge, Needham Market and surrounding villages.

But more councils means more cost. Splitting services like social care would be not only expensive, over £150 million according to national research, but would also put vulnerable residents at risk.

	1 COUNCIL	2 COUNCILS	3 COUNCILS
break up costs over 5 years	£0	£92m	£155m
annual savings after 5 years	£26m	£9m	-£3m
savings in first 5 years	£104m	£12m	-£52m
one off set up costs	£19m	£26m	£32m

Your voice matters

We're inviting residents, town and parish councils, businesses and community organisations to help shape the future. Change can feel uncertain, but it's also a moment of great opportunity.

Over the next six months, we'll be out in communities asking for your view, from how you want to access services to how decisions should be made and how many councillors you think we need.

This is your county and your voice will help shape its future.

Have your say

We're working with residents, businesses, community and voluntary groups and local councils to choose the best future for Suffolk. This decision will affect you and your community. Please find out more today.

onesuffolkcouncil.co.uk

Learn more

