Suffolk County Council

Engagement Strategy

Minerals and Waste Plan

2026

Contents

What is an 'Engagement Strategy' and why are we producing one? 3

National Legislation and Policy Guidance 4

Behavioural and Cultural Changes 5

The principles behind our community involvement 6

The commitment: 6

Table 1: How the public engagement process works in a planning context: 6

Table 2: principles of stakeholder engagement 7

Purpose of engagement: 8

How you can get involved in planning decisions on policy-making. 9

Consultation on the Minerals and Waste plan. 9

Minerals and Waste Plan 10

Public Engagement Opportunities 12

Stakeholder Engagement Workshops 12

Whom will we consult? 13

Equalities 14

Reaching the Seldom Heard 15

How long will consultations last? 15

Reporting Back 15

Joint working 16

APPENDIX 1: Proposed consultation arrangements for producing Minerals and Waste Plan in Suffolk 18

APPENDIX 2: Consultees on the Minerals and Waste Plans 21

APPENDIX 3: Glossary of Terms (terms in italics are explained elsewhere in the Glossary) 25

What is an 'Engagement Strategy' and why are we producing one?

1.1 Sufolk County Council is required to prepare a Minerals and Waste Plan under the new section 15CB inserted into the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004. The Engagement Strategy for the Minerals and Waste Plan sets out how Suffolk County Council will engage communities and stakeholders in preparing a new Minerals and Waste Plan. The content of this document is extracted from the draft Statement of Community Involvement taken through SCC's Cabinet in December 2025 to fit in line with planning reform changes that have since emerged.

1.2 Under the Levelling-up and Regeneration Act 2023 and The Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2026, the Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) is no longer a statutory requirement for new-system plan-making and will be revoked through this document. Instead, the reformed planning system and accompanying statutory guidance require each plan-making authority to prepare an Engagement Strategy (or similar framework) explaining how agile, targeted engagement will be undertaken during the preparation of a new Plan. A new strategy for engaging the community and other key stakeholders (which has regard to government guidance) needs to be in place through the Regulation 46: Gateway 1 self-assessment.

1.3 Accordingly, for Minerals and Waste plan making, this Engagement Strategy now provides the formal framework for community and stakeholder engagement during the plan-making process. It will inform the Project Initiation Document (PID) when the notice of intention to commence is issued, at least 4 months before starting the 30-month plan-making process. The Local Plan Project Initiation Document (PID) is a practical management tool designed to support the successful delivery of the Local Plan and will updated at each key stage of plan-making or when significant changes occur.

1.4 Engagement relating to the determination of planning applications is governed separately by statutory development management procedures, including:

a) Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2015 (as amended)
b) Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990
c) Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017
d) Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015 (as amended)
e) Town and Country Planning (Consultation) (England) Direction 2024
f) NPPF and Planning Practice Guidance

1.5 These processes are addressed through the Council's Development Management engagement procedures, such as the Development Charter which are not affected by the new plan making reforms.

1.6 Unlike the Minerals and Waste Plan itself, this Engagement Strategy is not subject to independent examination by the Planning Inspectorate. Instead, it is an agile document published by Suffolk County Council. It does not form part of any statutory development plan.

1.7 In accordance with the 2026 planning reforms, this strategy is a 'live document' to be reviewed and considered when producing the broader 'Project Initiation Document (PID)' which will be published alongside the 'notice of commencement' when the Minerals and Waste Plan process formally starts.

1.8 The processes for consultation described in this Engagement Strategy are all in conformity with national planning legislation and regulations, but also with broader legislation including:

a. The Data Protection Act 2018 and UK GDPR
b. The Equality Act 2010
c. The Freedom of Information Act 2000
d. The Human Rights Act 1998
e. The Environmental Information Regulations 2004

1.9 Although there is no statutory requirement to do so, this Engagement Strategy has been subject to public consultation so that local communities, stakeholders and interest groups can help shape how the Council will carry out future consultation and engagement.

1.10 The Council is committed to making consultation inclusive, accessible and transparent, and a range of techniques is set out in Appendix 1 including in-person sessions at village halls, virtual meetings and online activities. This includes both traditional approaches, such as notification letters and workshops, and digital tools such as online surveys, interactive mapping and virtual workshops, so that everyone has the opportunity to participate meaningfully in shaping planning policy.

National Legislation and Policy Guidance

2.1 The ES reflects the requirements of the reformed national plan-making system. The Duty to Cooperate, introduced by the Localism Act 2011, has been abolished. In its place, the Levelling-up and Regeneration Act 2023 introduces Alignment Tests, requiring authorities to demonstrate effective collaboration on cross-boundary

issues. The Duty to Cooperate continues to apply to any Local Plans prepared under the previous 2012 Regulations.

2.2 The National Planning Policy Framework (2024) and the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2026 reinforce the need for early, meaningful and transparent engagement throughout the plan-making process. The Regulations set out the statutory requirements for engagement under the new 30-month system.

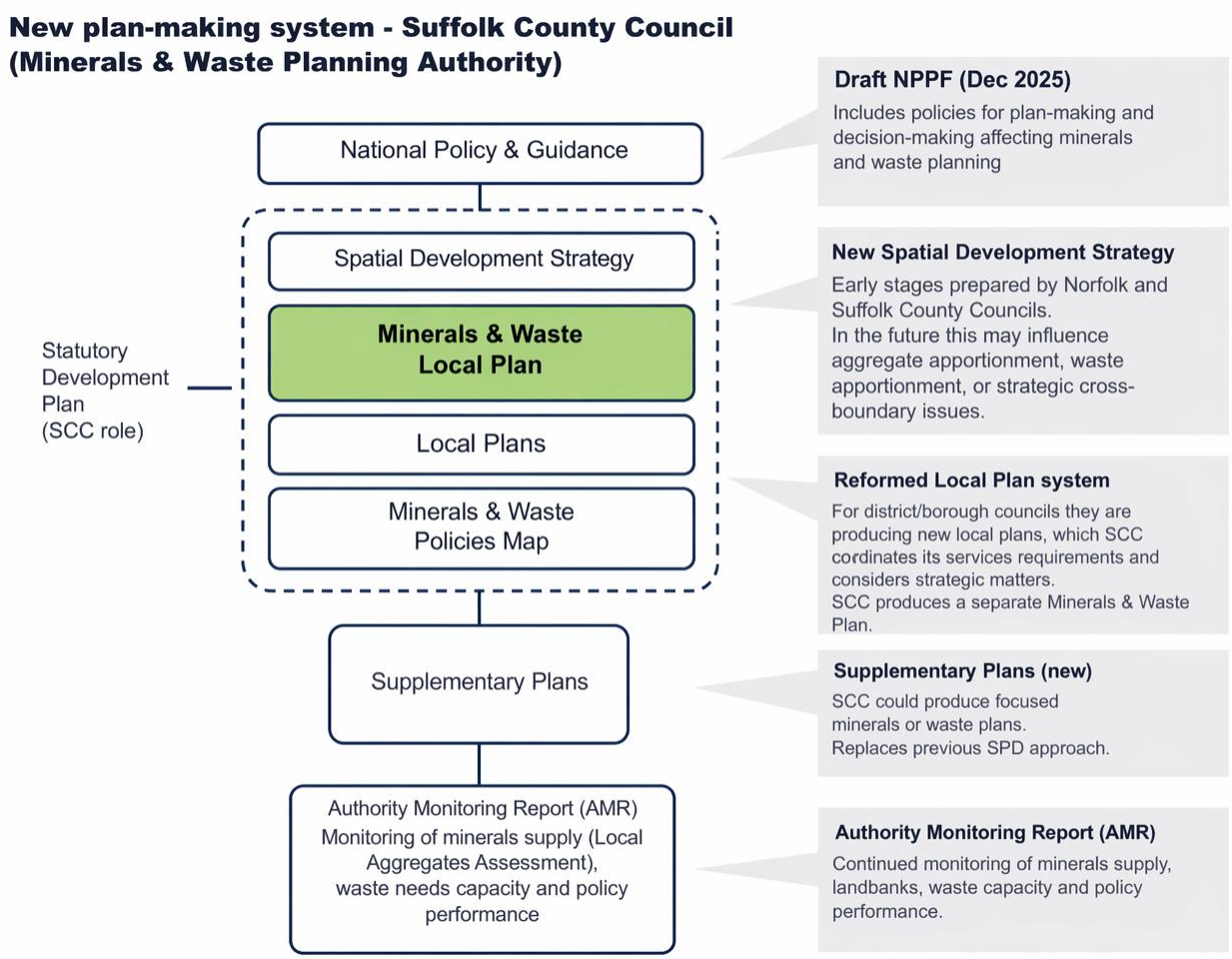


Diagram to show Suffolk County Council's role in Plan Making

Behavioural and Cultural Changes

3.1 Since the formerly required Statement of Community Involvement was drafted in 2006, public expectations around engagement have changed significantly. Communities now expect to:

a) access planning information online
b) respond digitally
c) use interactive tools such as mapping platforms
d) participate through virtual events as well as in-person sessions

3.2 The Engagement Strategy reflects this shift by embedding a digital first but not digital only approach, ensuring that engagement remains inclusive, accessible and proportionate. Digital tools will be used to broaden participation and support the agile engagement required under the 30 month plan making system, the council till provide access to digital services through the library services. Non digital options can be provided if required and appropriate.

The principles behind our community involvement

4.1 All the methods of public consultation used in plan making contribute to the four-fold process of: community involvement, providing information, encouraging consultation and promoting participation. These principles underpin the Council's commitment to early, meaningful, and proportionate engagement throughout the 30-month plan-making process

The commitment:

"Suffolk County Council will ensure that all members of the general public, interest groups and local communities are engaged in the plan making process at the earliest opportunity. The methods of consultation used will vary to best suit the stage of plan making and the nature of the target audience. The County Council welcomes the input of all to the production of the Minerals & Waste Plan and will positively encourage people to participate"

Table 1: How the public engagement process works in a planning context:

Community involvement	• Involving communities, stakeholders and statutory bodies from the earliest stages of plan-making. • Ensuring people understand how they can take part and influence the process. • Offering clear opportunities for individuals and groups to share views, evidence and local knowledge. • Providing accessible routes for participation for all communities, including seldom-heard groups. • Building awareness of the Minerals and Waste Plan and encouraging early engagement.
Providing information	• Explaining how the planning system works for both plan-making • Setting out the spatial and land-use implications of different options. • Using plain English and accessible formats (easy-read, translations, large print, digital formats).

	• Making information available through both traditional and digital channels (websites, interactive mapping and physical copied available on request).
Encouraging Consultation	• Inviting comments at each stage of policy development. • Expanding the range of consultees, with a focus on reaching underrepresented and seldom-heard groups. • Demonstrating how feedback has been considered in the next stage of policy development and in published consultation reports. • Making it easier to participate through online surveys, virtual consultations, and in-person events.
Promoting Participation.	• Providing opportunities for active involvement at local level. • Ensuring engagement is inclusive, representative, and accessible to all. • Using creative and engaging methods (workshops, interactive tools) to encourage wider participation.

We also place great emphasis on transparency and inclusivity in plan making, as illustrated below.

Table 2: principles of stakeholder engagement

Inclusiveness	We will actively seek to involve all stakeholders individuals, communities, and organisations who have an interest in, or will be effected by plan making. Particular attention will be given to engaging groups who have historically been underrepresented.
Transparency, openness and clarity	We will provide to stakeholders clear, accessible information about planning processes, including what can and cannot be influenced. Where information is limited or uncertain, this will be communicated openly. We will use plain English and visual formats where appropriate to support understanding.
Commitment	We are committed to meaningful engagement and will allocate appropriate time and resources to ensure stakeholders are heard. Responses will be considered respectfully and transparently, with engagement embedded throughout the planning process, not just at formal stages.
Accessibility	Engagement opportunities will be designed to be accessible to all, including through digital platforms, in-person events, and alternative formats. We will ensure that venues, materials, and technologies used are inclusive and responsive to different needs, including language, disability, and digital access.
Accountability/ Feedback	We will provide a summary of consultation after each regulatory consultation stage. This will include summaries of

	consultation responses, explaining how they were consulted, and keeping participants informed of next steps.
Productivity	Engagement will be purposeful and outcome-focused, aiming to improve the quality and legitimacy of Minerals and Waste Plans . By fostering trust and collaboration, SCC ultimately aim to strengthen public confidence in the planning system and ensure it reflects community priorities.

Purpose of engagement:

5.1 Planning affects everyone. It shapes the places where we live, work and spend time. Residents, businesses, community groups and statutory bodies all have a role in delivering effective, inclusive and timely planning outcomes.

5.2 To ensure development is sustainable and locally appropriate, communities must be involved in shaping the vision for their area and in helping to implement that vision. Early, meaningful engagement helps build consensus, and foster public confidence in the planning system.

5.3 The County Council is committed to ensuring that all relevant organisations and members of the public have the opportunity to contribute ideas, express views, and influence the content and direction of minerals and waste planning in Suffolk. We aim to provide clear information, accessible engagement opportunities, and timely feedback throughout the planning process.

5.4 Good communication is essential. By setting out our approach to engagement from the outset, we aim to meet statutory requirements and ensure that our processes are transparent, inclusive, and responsive.

Our aim is:

To involve Suffolk communities in the preparation of the Minerals and Waste Plan, in order to deliver sustainable outcomes that reflect local priorities.

5.6 Ultimately, engagement should improve how the planning system operates and strengthen public trust and confidence in its outcomes.

How you can get involved in planning decisions on policy-making.

6.1 Everyone in Suffolk uses minerals in some form and discards waste. Therefore everyone in Suffolk is a stakeholder in these industries, and will be affected by the planning policy decisions taken in these areas.

These are some ways in which you can get involved:

6.2 Read this Engagement Strategy document and early stage Minerals and Waste Plan documents as they are published. Send us your comments:

a) **On line:** during the consultation period via the appropriate link on Suffolk County Council consultation page.
b) **By email:** to mineralsandwasteplan@suffolk.gov.uk
c) **By post:** to Planning, Suffolk County Council, Endeavour House, 8 Russell Road, Ipswich, IP1 2BX.
d) **Check our website:** at https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/planning-waste-and-environment/suffolk-minerals-and-waste-plan for details of new proposals and let us have your views.

6.3 If you want to be added to our mailing list please contact: mineralsandwasteplan@suffolk.gov.uk We will consider any request in line with data protection legislation and the Council's statutory duties. We will only use your contact details to notify you of Minerals and Waste Plan consultations and opportunities to make representations. We do not use this database for marketing purposes.

6.4 **If you don't have a computer:** You can use IT facilities for free (including accessible formats) in all local libraries, including some evenings and weekends (call 01473 263838 for more information). If you need help to view or understand documents or plans, remember that assistance is available in local libraries and that we can make information available in alternative formats or languages (see back cover).

Consultation on the Minerals and Waste plan.

7.1 Consultation on the Minerals and Waste Plan is an essential part of the statutory plan-making process. Planning affects everyone in the county, from those who live in towns to those in rural areas, and involves balancing the need for development with the protection of important environmental assets. Under the reformed national planning system, each Minerals and waste planning authority must prepare a Plan setting out how development will be managed in its area. For Suffolk County Council, this responsibility relates specifically to minerals and waste planning, and consultation enables communities and stakeholders to help shape the policies and site allocations that will guide future minerals and waste development.

Minerals and Waste Plan

8.1 Under the reformed national plan-making system, Plans must be prepared within a statutory 30-month timeframe, beginning with the Notice of Commencement. The Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2026 form the core legal framework for preparing Local Plans, including those for minerals and waste.

8.2 The Levelling-up and Regeneration Act 2023 introduces significant reforms, including the abolition of the Duty to Cooperate and the introduction of Alignment Tests, which require effective collaboration on cross-boundary issues. Engagement will focus on:

a. the preparation of the Minerals and Waste Plan and the supporting evidence base, including
b. The Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA).

8.3 This diagram illustrates the sequence of key local plan-making steps which will be required under Part 2 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (“PCPA 2004”) (once amended by Schedule 7 to The Act) and the new regulations.



8.4 The Engagement Strategy itself is not a statutory consultation document but provides the framework for how engagement will be undertaken.

8.5 Under the 2026 Regulations, the main consultation steps in the Minerals and Waste Plan process are:

a) Scoping consultation (Regulation 45)
Early engagement on the scope, issues and evidence of The Plan.

b) Consultation on proposed content and evidence (Regulation 48)
Engagement on emerging policy approaches, reasonable alternatives and supporting evidence.

c) Consultation on the proposed Plan (Regulation 52)
Publication of the proposed Plan for representations prior to submission.

8.6 Each stage of engagement informs the next, ensuring that the Plan is shaped by evidence, collaboration and community input.

8.7 **Suffolk Minerals & Waste Plan (SMWP):**
This is a single, focused document containing the core policies for minerals and waste development in Suffolk. It includes policies on environmental protection, community impacts (e.g. noise, dust, traffic), site allocations, and a monitoring framework. All Supplementary Plans must align with this plan.

8.8 **Engagement Strategy (ES):**
This Strategy replaces the former Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) for the new plan making system. It explains how individuals, communities and organisations can participate in shaping the Minerals and Waste Plan, it is an evolving document and will inform the Project initiation Document (PID) later in The Plan process.

8.9 **Sustainability Appraisal (SA) and Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA):**
These assessments are carried out throughout the plan-making process to evaluate the environmental, social, and economic impacts of proposed policies and site allocations. They help ensure the plan promotes sustainable development and mitigates negative effects.

8.10 Appendix 1 sets out the County Council's proposed approach to consultation on the Minerals and Waste Plan.

8.11 Under the Levelling-up and Regeneration Act 2023, Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs) have been replaced by Supplementary Plans. Supplementary

Plans will form part of the development plan and will be subject to independent examination. Suffolk County Council does not currently intend to prepare any Supplementary Plans for minerals and waste planning.

Public Engagement Opportunities

9.1 The Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2026 set out the statutory requirements for consultation during the plan-making process. Under the reformed system, there are three formal consultation stages: the Regulation 45 scoping consultation, the Regulation 48 consultation on proposed content and evidence, and the Regulation 52 consultation on the Proposed Plan prior to submission. These stages are designed to streamline the process while maintaining transparency and public involvement

9.2 Engagement activities must be proportionate to available resources, and a pragmatic approach is taken to ensure meaningful involvement. At each stage of plan preparation, engagement helps the Council understand the views and perceptions of interested parties. Increasingly, digital tools and interactive platforms are used to improve accessibility and broaden participation.

9.3 Public engagement continues, after policies are implemented, through the publication of annual monitoring reports, available on the Council's website. These reports assess whether policies are being delivered effectively and whether development is occurring as planned. If not, the findings may trigger a review of the plan. While formal consultation stages are regulated, they can be supplemented by other engagement methods such as workshops, targeted consultations, surveys, public meetings, and information leaflets, all of which remain valuable tools for inclusive planning.

Stakeholder Engagement Workshops

9.4 Suffolk County Council, working collaboratively with other Suffolk Authorities, have begun a programme of early, collaborative engagement with statutory consultees and key stakeholders to support the new 30-month plan-making system. In January 2026, a joint stakeholder workshop brought together around 25 representatives from national bodies, infrastructure providers and environmental organisations, alongside officers from Suffolk's Local authorities and administrative departments (E.g. SCC Highways, SCC Floods (LLFA)).

9.5 The session focused on improving joint working, clarifying expectations under the reformed planning system, and identifying shared spatial issues, pressures and opportunities across the county. Feedback emphasised the value of early engagement, clearer information requirements, consistent approaches across

authorities, and the need for ongoing dialogue to address county-wide matters such as water, transport, green infrastructure, minerals and waste.

9.6 The workshop helped to gather contact information and establish ‘best engagement practices’ across a range of stakeholders operating at both the national and local levels, while reinforcing consultation protocols and best practice engagement for the Suffolk Authorities.

9.7 Stakeholders expressed strong support for continuing this model of engagement, including regular topic-based workshops. Future workshops will be held at key stages of the plan-making process to maintain early dialogue, strengthen collaborative working, and ensure that strategic issues are identified and addressed in a timely and consistent manner.

Whom will we consult?

10.1 Consultation on the Minerals and Waste Plan will be open to all. Under the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2026, Suffolk County Council must engage specific and general consultation bodies, alongside residents, businesses and stakeholders it considers appropriate. A full list of statutory consultees is provided in. (Appendix 2)

10.2 Over time, the Minerals and Waste Planning team has built a comprehensive database of individuals and organisations who wish to be involved in consultations. In addition to statutory consultees (Appendix 2), this includes:

a) Individuals with an interest in minerals and waste planning or who may be affected by proposals.
b) Residents living within 250 metres of a proposed site, who will be contacted via direct neighbour notification, or;
c) People who have previously responded to consultations or expressed interest through drop-in sessions, workshops, or online engagement.
d) Where site-specific issues arise during plan preparation, the Council may undertake targeted engagement with communities likely to be affected, ensuring that local knowledge and concerns are captured at an early stage.

10.3 Individuals or organisation wishing to be consulted can request to be added to the database at any time. Similarly, individuals or organisations may ask to be removed from the list.

Equalities

11.1 Suffolk County Council is committed to ensuring that engagement on the Minerals and Waste Plan is inclusive, accessible and compliant with the Equality Act 2010 and the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED). Engagement activities will be designed to ensure that all communities (including those who are seldom heard or historically under represented in minerals and waste planning) have meaningful opportunities to participate throughout the 30 month plan making process.

11.2 An Equalities Impact Assessment (EqIA) screening has been undertaken for the draft SCI which this Engagement Strategy originated from. The EqIA assessed whether engagement methods are fair, inclusive and responsive to the needs of people with different protected characteristics. Where the assessment identified actions and improvements were implemented into this document when drafted. The Strategy will be regularly reviewed to ensure compliance with the Equality Act and to strengthen inclusive practice when require

11.3 Consultation with affected communities and neighbourhoods is integral to the planning process, especially where site-specific considerations arise. Engagement approaches will be tailored to each stage of consultation to ensure that all communities, including those historically under-represented in minerals and waste planning, have opportunities to participate. Suffolk County Council maintains a database of representative groups and will continue to seek inclusive engagement.

11.4 Using a variety of engagement techniques is key to reaching diverse communities and forms part of the Council's engagement strategy. Work continues to identify suitable methods, including digital platforms, community-led events, and accessible formats. It is recognised that some groups may be more difficult to engage, including young people, disabled individuals, and people from minority ethnic backgrounds. Tailored approaches will be used to ensure their voices are heard.

11.5 The Council will continue to comply with the general duty under the Equality Act 2010, having due regard to the need to:

a. Eliminate unlawful discrimination
b. Advance equality of opportunity
c. Foster good relations between people with and without protected characteristics

11.6 The council also has a role to play in the promotion of community cohesion and will comply with the Equalities Act 2010 by not discriminating against protected characteristic groups and providing an equal quality of service

Reaching the Seldom Heard

12.1 The term “seldom heard” refers to individuals and communities who are less likely to participate in public consultations, often because they are not part of formal organisations or networks. Suffolk County Council recognises the importance of reaching these groups to ensure inclusive decision-making. Direct neighbour notification, drop-in sessions, and collaboration with local parish councils remain among the most effective methods of engagement.

How long will consultations last?

13.1 Consultation periods for the Minerals and Waste Plan will follow the requirements of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2026 and the principles of proportionate, meaningful engagement set out in this Strategy.

13.2 Under the reformed plan-making system, there is no single statutory minimum period applicable to all stages. Instead, each consultation stage has its own requirements:

a) **Regulation 45 – Scoping consultation** Engagement at this stage will be proportionate to the issues being explored and is intended to support early, exploratory dialogue with stakeholders. The regulations don’t set a timescale for consulting, although the Create or Update a Local Plan (CULP guidance) says a minimum of 21 days.

b) **Regulation 48 – Consultation on proposed content and evidence** The regulations state a minimum consultation period of 6 weeks and will allow stakeholders to consider emerging approaches, options and supporting evidence.

c) **Regulation 52 – Consultation on the proposed Plan** The regulations state a minimum consultation period of 8 weeks.

13.3 Where consultations overlap with major holiday periods or coincide with other significant consultations, the Council may extend the period, typically by two weeks, to support effective engagement.

13.4 All consultation periods will be clearly publicised in advance, with details provided on the Council’s website and through direct notifications to statutory consultees and those on the consultation database.

Reporting Back

14.1 The results of engagement activities (including workshops, meetings with community groups and discussions with site liaison groups) will be recorded and used to inform the preparation of the Minerals and Waste Plan.

14.2 In accordance with the Town and County Planning (Local Planning)(England) Regulations 2026, Suffolk County Council will publish a statutory summary of consultations at each stage of the plan making process:

a. **Regulation 47** – Publication of ‘Summary of Scoping consultation’
b. **Regulation 49** – Publications of ‘Summary of consultation on the proposed Minerals and Waste plan content and evidence.
c. **Regulation 55** – Publication of ‘Summary of consultation on the proposed Minerals and Waste plan’.

14.3 The summaries will set out:

a) a summary of the representations received

b) how engagement has influenced the development of the Plan

c) how statutory requirements under the 2026 Planning Regulations have been taken into account

14.4 At Submission, The Council will prepare a statutory Regulation 56 consultation statement, which will bring together all engagement undertaken during the plan-making process and demonstrate how the requirements of the 2026 regulations have been met.

14.5 To ensure transparency:

a) Summaries of consultation responses and engagement outcomes will be published on the Council’s website.

b) Stakeholders who participated will be notified of outcomes and next steps, including how their input has shaped the Plan.

c) Reporting back will follow the principles of Suffolk’s Consultation and Engagement Charter, ensuring contributors receive timely and meaningful feedback.

Joint working

15.1 The Suffolk local authorities have been working together on local plan preparation to support a consistent approach and effective cross-boundary working ahead of Local Government Reorganisation and the creation of three new unitary authorities in April 2028. Across Suffolk, local plan timetables have been aligned. To minimise duplication, maximise resources, and reduce consultation fatigue among key consultees, the County Council will collaborate with these authorities to ensure coordinated and effective engagement at all stages.

15.2 Joint working will be carried out in accordance with the Equality Act 2010 and any subsequent reforms introduced under national equality legislation. Particular efforts will be made to engage seldom-heard and under-represented groups, including those identified in the Suffolk Association of Voluntary Organisations contact list,

covering diversity categories such as disability, age, ethnicity, race, gender, and sexual orientation. A database of such groups will continue to be maintained and updated. Collaboration will increasingly involve digital platforms and virtual engagement tools to improve accessibility and efficiency.

15.3 Suffolk County Council will also continue its active participation in the East of England Aggregates Working Party (EEAWP), working with neighbouring Mineral Planning Authorities to share best practice and coordinate regional minerals planning.

15.4 Under the Levelling-up and Regeneration Act 2023, joint working will also support the new Alignment Tests, which replace the old duty to cooperate, ensuring effective collaboration on cross-boundary minerals and waste matters

APPENDIX 1: Proposed consultation arrangements for producing Minerals and Waste Plan in Suffolk

Key milestones	Reason for consultation and target audience	Examples of methods of consultation to be carried out
• Call for Sites (early stage engagement, ahead of the Notice of commencement)	• To invite landowners, operators, community organisations and other stakeholders to submit land for potential minerals extraction, waste management or safeguarding; to inform the evidence base and identification of reasonable alternatives	• The council will run a call for sites consultation and invite the submission of sites through an online survey; direct emails to operators, landowners and statutory consultees; targeted contact with industry bodies and parish/town councils; guidance note and submission form available online; promotion via social media (LinkedIn) and existing liaison groups.
• Notice of Intention to Commence; publication of the Plan Timetable and Project Initiation Document (PID)	• To formally begin the 30-month plan-making process; inform all stakeholders of scope, timetable and engagement expectations	• Notice on website; email notifications to stakeholders; digital briefing note; targeted updates to liaison groups and operators.
• Evidence gathering; identifying issues; preparing Scoping material (pre regulation 45)	• To understand baseline conditions; identify issues and opportunities; engage early with communities,	- Discussions with specific consultation bodies; digital information; targeted outreach; SCC joint member

	operators, statutory bodies and seldom heard groups	Panel. stakeholder workshop.
• Scoping consultation (Regulation 45)	• To confirm the scope of the Plan, assessments and evidence; invite early views from all stakeholders	• Online consultation; email/website submissions; accessible format
• Prepare emerging policy approaches, reasonable alternatives and supporting evidence	• To develop options and approaches informed by Reg 45 feedback and technical evidence.	• Stakeholder targeted meetings; topic-based workshops; digital mapping tools; SCC Joint member panel.
• Consultation on proposed content and evidence (**Regulation 48)**	• To invite formal representations on proposed Plan content, options and supporting documentation. • Minimum consultation period 6 weeks.	• Engagement of consultees by email. Website publication; digital consultation; paper copies at Endeavour House; virtual exhibitions; webinars; social media.
• Prepare the Proposed Plan. Incorporating Reg 48 feedback and updated evidence	• To prepare the draft Plan for publication.	• Stakeholder updates; targeted engagement where site-specific issues arise; SCC Joint member panel.
• Consultation on the Proposed Plan. **(Regulation 52)**	• To invite formal representations prior to submission for examination; target audience includes all stakeholders and members of the public	• Notify all consultees; publish on website; digital accessibility tools; online forms; Social media; virtual/in-person exhibitions;

	• Minimum consultation period 8 weeks.	targeted outreach to affected communities
• Examination in Public	• The submission of the Plan and supporting documents to the planning inspectorate for public examination,. Required step under the 2026 Regulations; includes Consultation Statement, evidence base and assessments	• Summary of consultation. • Notify consultees; publish submission documents online; digital updates; Examination Library • Publish hearing dates on website; digital updates.
• Adoption	• Regulation 64. Final stage; Plan becomes part of the statutory development plan	• Publish adopted Plan; notify stakeholders; notify those to those who made representations; website updates
• Annual Monitoring reports.	• To inform stakeholders of progress and effectiveness of policies	• Publish AMRs online, on the ‘minerals and waste plan page’.

APPENDIX 2: Consultees on the Minerals and Waste Plans

The current Regulations require us to consult:

a. such of the specific bodies as we consider may have an interest in the subject of the proposed document;

b. such of the general consultation bodies as we consider appropriate and

c. such residents or other persons carrying on business in the area from which we consider it appropriate to invite representations.

a) Specific Consultation Bodies

· A relevant authority any part of whose area is in or adjoins Suffolk, namely:

· Suffolk Districts, Borough and The Broads Authority.

· Suffolk Parish or Town Councils

· Neighbouring County Councils

· Neighbouring Districts or Boroughs

· Neighbouring Parish/Town Councils

· Police and Crime Commissioner.

· The Coal Authority

· The Environment Agency

· Historic England

· The Marine Management Organisation

· Natural England

· Network Rail Infrastructure Limited

· National Highways

· Any person who owns or controls electronic communications apparatus situated in any part of Suffolk

· Any person to whom the electronic communications code applies (under section 106(3)9a) of the Communications Act 2003

· Any of the following exercising functions in Suffolk:

· NHS Suffolk and North East Essex Integrated Care Board (ICB);

· A person to whom a license has been granted under section 6(1)(b) or (c) of the Electricity Act 1989;

· A person to whom a license has been granted under section 7(2) of the Gas Act1986;

· Sewerage undertakers

· Water undertakers

· Homes England

Also:

· Greater London Authority

· Appropriate government departments, including Defra, MOD, Department for Transport etc.

b) General Consultees

· Voluntary bodies some or all of whose activities benefit any part of Suffolk Bodies which represent the interests of different racial, ethnic or national groups in Suffolk

· Bodies which represent the interests of different racial, ethnic or national groups in Suffolk

· Bodies which represent the interests of different religious groups in Suffolk

· Bodies which represent the interests of disabled persons in Suffolk

· Bodies which represent the interests of persons carrying on business in Suffolk

· Age UK

· Airport operators

· British Geological Survey

· Canal and River Trust, canal owners and navigation authorities

· Centre for Ecology & Hydrology

· Chamber of Commerce, local CBI and local branches of Institute of Directors

· Church Commissioners

· Civic societies

· Civil Aviation Authority

· Community groups

· Crown Estate Office

· Design Council

· Dedham Vale National Landscape

· Stour Valley Project

· Suffolk Coast & Heaths National Landscape

· Diocesan Board of Finance

· Disabled Persons Transport Advisory

· Environmental groups at national, regional and local level, including:

    · Council for the Protection of Rural England;

    · Friends of the Earth

    · RSPB

    · Wildlife Trusts

    · Local Wildlife Action Group

    · Equality and Human Rights Commission

· Fire and Rescue Services

· Friends, Families & Travellers

· Fields in Trust

· Forestry Commission

· Freight Transport Association

· Gypsy Council

· Health and Safety Executive

· Home Builders Federation

· Education and skill funding Agency (ESFA)

· Local transport authorities

· Local transport operators

· Mineral Products Association

· Passenger transport authorities

· Passenger transport executive

· Police architectural liaison officer/crime prevention design advisors

· Port operators

· Royal mail Group Property Holdings. (formerly Post Office Property Holdings)

· Rail Freight Group

· Road Haulage Association

· Waste Industry

· Sport England

· Transport for London

c) Other Consultees

To support the Alignment Tests introduced by the Levelling-up and Regeneration Act 2023, the following relevant bodies will be engaged as appropriate

- Norfolk and Suffolk Nature Recovery Partnership
- Neighbouring LNRS partnerships.
- Neighbouring Minerals and Waste Planning Authorities
- East of England Aggregates Working Party (EEAWP)

Office for environmental protection.

National Infrastructure and Service Transformation Authority (NISTA)

Regional Flood and Coastal Committees.

APPENDIX 3: Glossary of Terms (terms in italics are explained elsewhere in the Glossary)

Alignment Tests: New statutory tests introduced by the Levelling Up and Regeneration Act 2023 to replace the Duty to Cooperate, ensuring effective collaboration on cross-boundary planning issues

Authority Monitoring Report: Supporting the Minerals & Waste Plan, The Authority monitoring report assesses the implementation of the Minerals & Waste Development Documents and the extent to which policies in Local Development Documents are being successfully implemented. (sometimes referred to as the Annual monitoring report)

Engagement Strategy (ES): Sets out how Suffolk County Council will engage communities, stakeholders and statutory bodies during preparation of the Minerals and Waste Plan. It replaces the former Statement of Community Involvement and reflects the requirements of the 2026 Local Plan Regulations and the 30-month plan-making system. The ES establishes the principles, methods and standards for consultation, including transparency, accessibility, inclusivity and timely feedback at each stage.

Consultation Statement A document published at each statutory consultation stage summarising who was consulted, how engagement was carried out, the main issues raised, and how the Council has responded. The Consultation Statement forms part of the evidence submitted to the Planning Inspectorate at Regulation 52 and supports transparency throughout the plan making process.

Digital Consultation An online platform used to host consultation documents, interactive maps, evidence, and submission forms. The portal enables stakeholders to view information, make representations, and track consultation stages in an accessible and user friendly format.

Engagement Outcomes Report: A summary document published after each consultation, detailing participation metrics, key themes raised, and how feedback influenced decisions.

Equalities impact assessment (EQIA): A process to assess how policies or practices may affect people with protected characteristics under the Equality Act 2010, ensuring fair and inclusive engagement.

Focus Group: A group of people brought together to discuss a particular subject in order to solve a problem or suggest ideas. Members for the focus groups will be selected by public consultation experts MORI from the existing “Suffolk Speaks” panel.

Government Gateways Internal checkpoints between the Council and the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) used to monitor progress and ensure the Local Plan remains on track within the 30 month timetable. Gateways are not public consultation stages but may influence the timing of engagement activities.

Interactive mapping: A digital tool used during consultations to allow users to explore spatial data and proposed site allocations visually.

Plan Timetable Dataset A statutory digital dataset required under the 2026 Regulations. It sets out the key milestones and dates for preparing The Plan, including consultation stages, submission and adoption. The dataset must be kept up to date and published in an open, machine readable format.

Minerals & Waste Plan: The name for the Plan for Minerals & Waste issues and a responsibility of County Councils.

Minerals & Waste Planning webpage: A dedicated online platform for accessing consultation documents, submitting comments, and tracking planning applications related to minerals and waste.

Planning Inspectorate: The independent body responsible for examining Local Plans and other planning documents submitted by local authorities.

Policies Map A map that illustrates geographically the policies and site allocations contained in The Plan. The Policies Map must be updated whenever The Plan is adopted or revised and forms part of the statutory development plan.

Policies map: A map that illustrates geographically the policies and site allocations contained in the Plan.

Project Initiation Document (PID) A core project management document required under the 30 month plan making system. The PID sets out the scope, objectives, governance, resources, risks and programme for preparing the Minerals and Waste

Plan. It provides the foundation for project control and is used to support Government Gateway checks.

Regulation 45 Scoping Consultation The first statutory consultation stage under the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2026. Regulation 45 seeks views on the proposed scope of the Minerals and Waste Plan, the issues it should address, and the scope of assessments such as the Sustainability Appraisal and Strategic Environmental Assessment. It provides an early opportunity for stakeholders to influence the direction and focus of the Plan.

Regulation 48 Consultation on Proposed Content and Evidence A statutory consultation stage where the Council publishes emerging policy approaches, reasonable alternatives and supporting evidence. Regulation 48 invites formal representations on the proposed content of the Plan before the draft Proposed Plan is prepared. Feedback at this stage helps refine policy direction and identify any gaps in the evidence base.

Regulation 52 Consultation on the Proposed Plan The formal consultation on the draft Minerals and Waste Plan that the Council intends to submit for examination. Regulation 52 invites representations on the soundness, legal compliance and evidence supporting the Proposed Plan. Responses received at this stage are submitted to the Planning Inspectorate and considered during the Examination.

Site(s) Liaison Groups: Formed in relation to any mineral and/or waste operation (e.g. a quarry or landfill). Their aim is to encourage honest and open dialogue between the site operator, the local community, and professional officers of the County and/or District Council to advance understanding of respective interests, needs, and expectations during the lifetime of the operation.

Spatial Planning Documents: Planning documents that influence the use of land (e.g. by allocating land for waste management operations).

Spatial Development Strategy
A plan containing policies on the development and use of land on matters of strategic importance to the area prepared by strategic planning authorities 112 and the Mayor of London

Specific Site Allocations: Sites identified within the Minerals and Waste Plan for particular minerals or waste uses, or for safeguarding. Allocations include any site

specific requirements or constraints and form part of the statutory development plan once the Plan is adopted..

Stakeholder: Any person, group, or organisation that has an interest in the Minerals and Waste Plan.

Statement of Common Ground: A document prepared jointly by planning authorities and relevant bodies to record areas of agreement on cross boundary planning matters. Under the Levelling up and Regeneration Act 2023, Statements of Common Ground now support the 'Alignment Tests', replacing the former Duty to Cooperate

Statement of Community Involvement: a superseded document which set out the standards to be adopted by the Council for engaging the community and key stakeholders in the plan-making process. – this has been replaced by the community engagement strategy (this document)

Strategic Environmental Assessment: A generic term used to describe environmental assessment as applied to policies, plans, and programmes.

Sustainability Appraisal: A tool for appraising policies to ensure they reflect sustainable development objectives (i.e. social, environmental, and economic factors). Required in the Act to be undertaken for all Local Development Documents.)

The Plan / The Minerals and Waste plan: The statutory Minerals and Waste Plan prepared under the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2026. It is a single document that sets out the spatial strategy, policies and site allocations for the area. The Plan is supported by a Policies Map, a The Plan Timetable, a Consultation Statement, a Sustainability Appraisal and an Authority Monitoring Report. Together, these documents provide the framework for guiding development and managing minerals and waste planning in Suffolk.

END OF DOCUMENT