



Local Planning Authority Update | Suffolk

Covid-19 and current working arrangements

April 2020

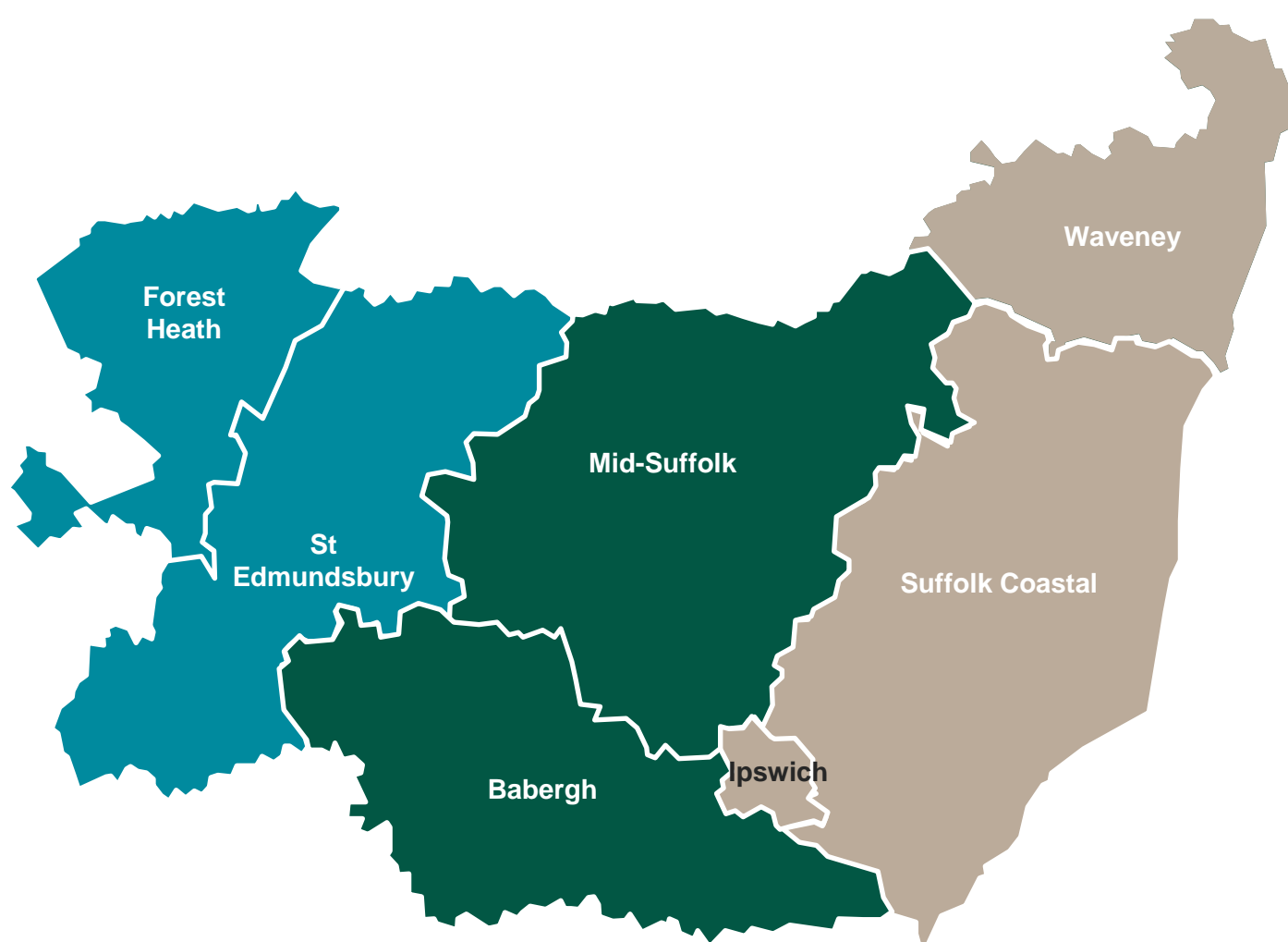
No information provided

Holding meetings via telephone

Holding meetings virtually

Providing written responses

All meetings cancelled / postponed



The following provides latest available information on how Local Planning Authorities are responding in the face of the current public health situation. It is based on information obtained from discussions with officers of the respective Councils, and from information published by Councils. It is intended to provide an accurate a position as possible as at 1 April 2020, and is subject to change. The map above relates to Local Planning Authorities' approach to engaging with applicants / prospective applicants at this time.

| LOCAL AUTHORITY | CURRENT SITUATION |
|--|---|
| West Suffolk (Forest Heath and St. Edmundsbury) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – The Council are currently reviewing alternative ways of running Planning Committees. No scheduled Planning Committees have been rescheduled. – All pre-application meetings will be changed to telephone appointments. – Site visits will be unavailable until further notice. – There has been no update provided regarding the impact of the current situation on the preparation of West Suffolk's Local Plan. West Suffolk Council previously anticipated consultation for a Regulation 18 Issues and Options iteration between May to July 2020. As such, it is unknown whether this will still go ahead within this timescale. |
| Ipswich | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – All Planning and Development Committee meetings suspended until at least 30th April 2020. – Until further notice all planning applications will be determined by Officers, under powers delegated to them by the Council's Constitution. – Case Officer site visits will continue. – Planning applications are still being accepted as usual. – The emerging Local Plan submission has been suspended until further notice. |
| Mid-Suffolk & Babergh | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – All meetings are being held remotely. – All Planning Committees are cancelled at this present time. The discussion for virtual Planning Committee meetings is progressing, and although firm dates have not yet been established the Council is looking to provide an update within the next two weeks. – Decisions will be made in the normal manner. However, the council warned if applications require a consultation response from the Parish Council this may cause a delay as they may not be able to hold meetings / Planning Committees at this present time. – Some decisions previously referred to Committee have since been made under the Chief Planning Officers additional delegated powers. – There are no known changes to the schedule of the new Local Plan at the moment, this is however dependent on timely engagement with key Councillors to sign off aspects of the work. |
| East Suffolk (Suffolk Coastal and Waveney) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – All Planning Committees have been cancelled until the end of April and will be kept under review. The Council are working on establishing a robust method of determining planning applications which are scheduled for Planning Committee. This will be published when a decision is made. – The Council are considering arrangements for ongoing consultations. – Case Officer site visits are planned to continue. – All planning face-to-face meeting are cancelled until further notice. Alternative arrangements are being considered on a case by case basis. – Adoption of Suffolk Coastal's Local Plan was anticipated for summer 2020. The Council did not comment on the likelihood of this adoption being impacted by the current situation. – Preparation of the Council's CIL Spending Strategy has been paused for 6 months, until 31 September. The Council has stressed that Infrastructure Team working are working remotely, and remain available to support developers, communities and infrastructure providers. |



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