

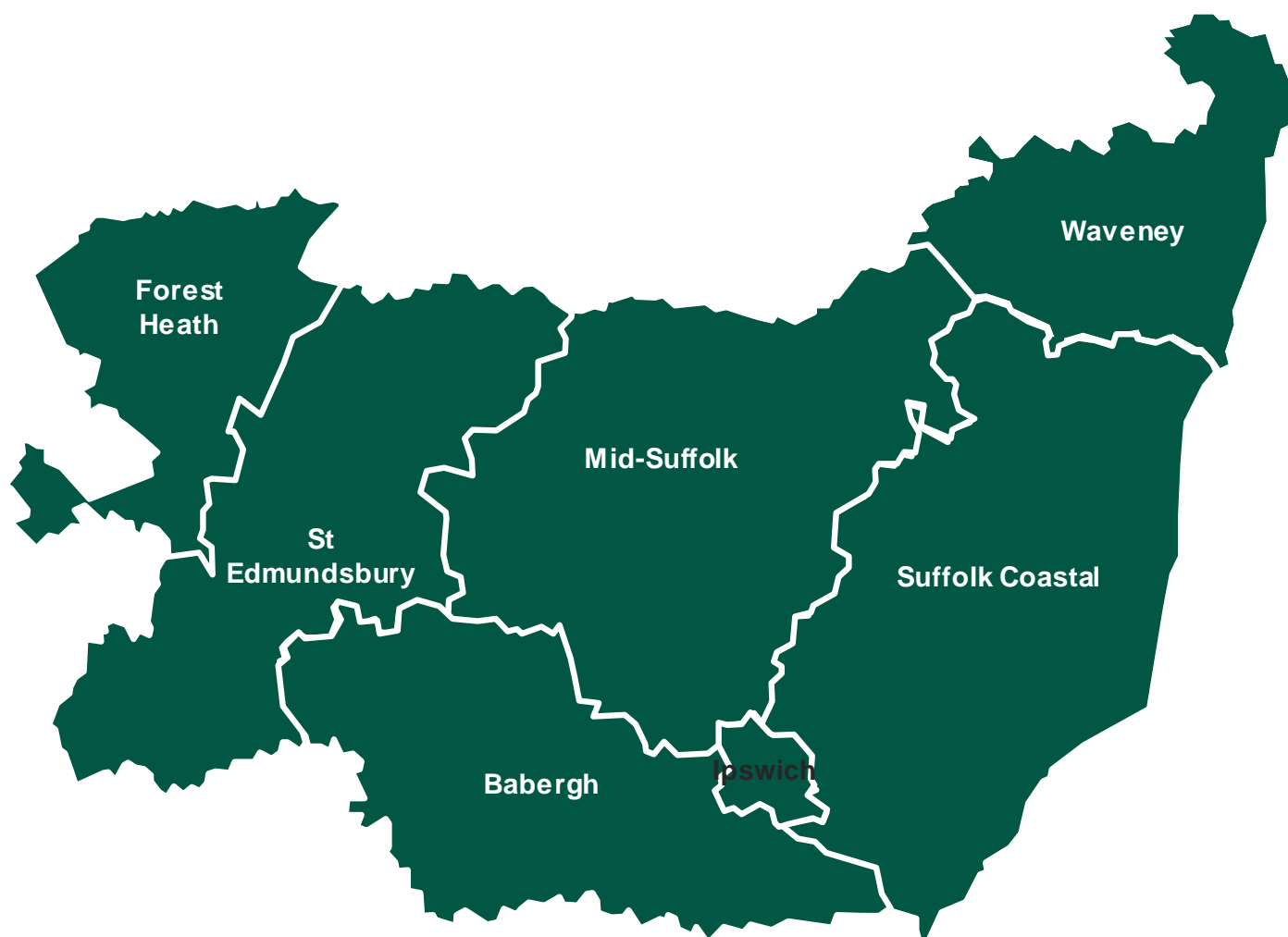


Local Planning Authority Update | Suffolk

Covid-19 and current working arrangements

May 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, and is intended to provide an accurate position as at 7 May 2020. 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 first virtual Planning Committee is scheduled for 13th May.- All decisions are still being made within the statutory time scale.- All pre-application meetings are being held over the phone or through virtual means using Microsoft Teams. Written feedback is still being provided.- Site visits will be unavailable until further notice.- West Suffolk Council previously anticipated consultation for a Regulation 18 Issues and Options iteration between May to July 2020. This has now been delayed until October 2020.
Ipswich	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- All Planning and Development Committee meetings suspended for the foreseeable future. Virtual Planning Committees have not yet taken place; this is expected to occur in the future although the timescale of this has not yet been announced.- Delegated powers have not been increased to permit Officers to decide more applications. Applications are however still being decided in the statutory timescale.- Pre-application meetings are being conducted through telephone calls or via virtual means, with Microsoft Teams the Council's preferred platform.- Case Officer site visits will continue.- Preparation of the emerging Local Plan submission has been suspended until further notice.
Mid-Suffolk & Babergh	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- All Planning Committees are being conducted virtually.- Additionally, increased delegated powers have been given to the Chief Planning Officer to determine some applications that would previously have been decided at a Planning Committee.- Decisions will be made in the statutory timescale, if they are likely to require a longer period Officers are requesting an extension of time. These decisions are being made on a case by case basis.- 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.- Pre-application meetings are being conducted virtually via Skype or Microsoft Teams. Written feedback is also provided.- There are no known changes to the schedule of the new Local Plan at the moment. The public consultation is not planned until later this year.
East Suffolk (Suffolk Coastal and Waveney)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Delegated powers have been increased to the Head of Planning and Coastal Management so that he can decide applications that would ordinarily go to Committee, in consultation with Advisory Panels. The Advisory Panel will meet by Skype/telephone and will advise the Head of Planning and Coastal Management who will then take in to account those views before making the determination. The Head of Planning and Coastal Management may decide to defer a determination and await the reinstatement of the Planning Committees- The Council are considering arrangements for ongoing consultations.- Case Officer site visits will continue.- Pre-application meetings, if required, can be conducted via virtual means.- Consultation on Main Modifications to the Suffolk Coastal Local Plan runs from 1st May until 10th July 2020. Adoption was anticipated for summer 2020, no update has been provided regarding the impacts of COVID-19 on the emerging Plans adoption.



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