

**West Suffolk Strategic Framework 2020-24 – Leader’s Foreword**

This is the first strategic framework for the new West Suffolk Council. It outlines our vision and the outcomes that we aim to achieve with, and in support of our communities and businesses.

Put simply, our strategic framework is at the heart of all we do. It guides our work and services to make sure our residents, economy and environment continue to prosper in all parts of West Suffolk, with its diverse communities and its mix of market towns and rural areas.

Our vision:

**To be ambitious in supporting and investing in our West Suffolk communities, businesses and the environment, and to encourage and manage growth, prosperity and quality of life for all.**

This framework builds on the great work of the two previous councils while helping us set a new course to both meet challenges and seize opportunities in the future.

It guides our work building capacity in our communities through our innovative families and communities work. At the same time, it will be a central pillar to our investment and commercial strategies, ensuring we attract an income to support services while helping our communities to achieve more.

It makes sure we focus on challenging areas such as helping people secure the right homes, staying healthy, supporting the most vulnerable and protecting our environment while managing change and growth for current and future generations.

It will help us to ensure that we continue to support business, grow our economy and encourage investment and suitable development while making sure we also have the necessary infrastructure to match these aspirations.

This framework has our residents at the heart of its design. It is part of the way we continue to transform local government and continue to deliver tailored services together with our communities and partners. The strategy reinforces our work with partners in delivering public service hubs in West Suffolk, not only making access to public services easier but delivering more effective results and outcomes.

Under this framework we can continue to look beyond our geographic and organisational boundaries to meet our ambitions around challenging areas such as improving health and wellbeing, skills and education as well as investment in infrastructure and business.

The document highlights the council’s renewed commitment to behaving in an environmentally responsible way and prioritising actions that aim to tackle climate change. It also helps us with our work in rural areas to not only tackle issues but help create opportunities and lobby Government.

Our strategic framework has been created with councillors across the authority and through our ongoing engagement with partners, communities and businesses. It will help us make sure their ambitions remain ours and that we deliver on that vision to continue to improve our prosperity and quality of life.

**Footnote:**

*At the time of writing this we have two taskforces working on environment and climate change as well as rural issues. Some initial actions are included in the body of the framework, under the three priorities of Growth, Families and Communities and Housing, but further actions will be taken forward once the Taskforces have finalised their implementation plans.*