

# January 2026 Samford Report

## 20mph Speed Limit Policy

Suffolk County Council is introducing a simplified policy allowing communities to more easily apply for 20mph limits in residential and pedestrian-heavy areas. Schemes will be locally funded and assessed based on traffic speeds, road character, and presence of vulnerable road users.

## Council Budget 2026/27

The Council outlines an £850m budget focused on protecting frontline services amid rising demand—especially in adult and children’s social care. Proposals include £46.5m in savings, a 4.99% Council Tax rise, and continued capital investment in transport, education, and infrastructure.

## Fostering Documentary with Adam Buxton

A new short documentary follows local foster families to raise awareness of the urgent need for more carers. The film highlights real experiences and encourages families to consider fostering.

## SEND Improvement Recognised

The Department for Education notes significant progress in Suffolk’s SEND services—particularly governance, leadership, and timeliness—but sets clear expectations for further improvement, especially around communication and lived experience of families.

## One Suffolk Local Government Reform

The Council confirms its support for “One Suffolk,” a proposal for a single unitary authority. It argues this model will save money, streamline services, and protect vulnerable residents, versus alternative plans to split the county into three authorities.

## Major Anglo-Saxon Burial Ground Found at Sizewell C

Archaeologists uncover a nationally significant early medieval burial site, including elite “princely” burials with weapons and a horse. The dig is one of the largest of its kind and will feature on BBC Two’s *Digging for Britain*.

## Highways Rating Appeal

The Council is challenging a Department for Transport “Red” rating, stating that £10m of expenditure was incorrectly omitted and would have resulted in an “Amber” rating instead.

## **Youth-Led Public Health Report**

Young people shaped the 2025 Annual Public Health Report through three hackathon events, focusing on wellbeing, mental health, and community action. The report is video-based and highlights lived experiences from youth across Suffolk.

## **£350k Investment in Northgate Running Track**

Funding has been approved to resurface the athletics track at Northgate Sports Centre, ensuring its use for the next 20 years, with Northgate High School taking on operational management from April 2026.

## **New Provision for Children with Complex Needs**

Plans are progressing for a new Ofsted-registered residential facility in Saxmundham to support children with complex needs, reducing reliance on costly private placements and improving local care provision.

## **Two New Primary Schools**

The Council proposes appointing academy trusts for new primary schools planned for North Felixstowe and Brightwell Lakes, both expected to open in 2028 and designed with carbon-neutral standards.

## **Mayor of Ipswich Visits Fire & Rescue Service**

The Mayor spent a day with Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service to deepen understanding of prevention, protection, and operational response.

## **Free Meal Planner to Help Reduce Food Waste**

Feel Good Suffolk is partnering with FiveDinners.com to offer households free access to personalised meal planning tools to support healthy eating, reduce food waste, and save money.