Meeting	Ipswich Strategic Planning Area Board
Date	Thursday 27th November 2025
Time	17:00
Location	Orwell Room, Grafton House, Ipswich
Attendees	Cllr Carole Jones (Ipswich Borough Council) (Chair) Cllr Mark Packard (East Suffolk Council) Cllr Sally Davies (Babergh District Council) Cllr Frank Stennett (West Suffolk Council) James Cutting (Suffolk County Council) (JC) Peter Freer (Suffolk County Council) (PF) Graeme Mateer (Suffolk County Council) (GM) Dee O'Rourke (Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils) (DO) James Mann (Ipswich Borough Council) (JM) Anna Roe (Ipswich Borough Council) (AR) Ben Woolnough (East Suffolk Council) (BW) Andrea McMillan (East Suffolk Council) (AM) Jason Beck (East Suffolk Council) (JB) Isaac Plummer (East Suffolk Council) (IP) Marie Smith (East Suffolk Council) (MS)
Distribution	Attendees
Apologies tendered in advance	Cllr Paul West (Suffolk County Council) Cllr Andrew Stringer (Mid Suffolk District Council) Robert Hobbs (Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils) (RH)

Items:

	Item	Action
1.	**Apologies for absence**	
1.1	Cllr Andrew Stringer (Mid Suffolk District Council) Robert Hobbs (Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils)	
2.	**Agreement of Action Notes from previous meeting**	
2.1	Agreed.	
3.	**Suffolk wide working**	
3.1	**AM** presented a progress update on the Suffolk-wide working currently being undertaken by officers. **DO** asked how this work would differ from the former Duty to Co-operate requirements. **AM** explained that many authorities had previously 'failed' the Duty to Co-operate at Examination, which functioned as a strict pass/fail test. Under the new approach, the system is expected to change in a way that makes it easier to demonstrate effective cross-boundary working.	
3.2	Officers then provided brief updates on each of the sub-groups. During the discussion, **Cllr Packard** raised a question regarding reservoirs. **BW** responded with an update on two potential Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIPs) from Essex and Suffolk Water, which would involve the delivery of two major reservoirs along with the associated distribution infrastructure.	
3.3	In relation to stakeholder engagement, **Cllr Packard** queried how the coast would be addressed. **AM** explained that the Marine Management Organisation is the statutory consultee for matters relating to the coast.	
3.4	**JM** noted that the work within the sub-groups is progressing very positively, but emphasised the need to consider the potential impacts of Local Government Reorganisation as early as possible to ensure any risks are mitigated.	

3.5	**AM** also presented a timeline chart outlining each Local Planning Authority's Local Development Scheme (LDS) timeframe. **Cllr Packard** asked whether the Local Plans would be adopted before Local Government Reorganisation comes into effect. **AM** explained that it is anticipated that draft Local Plans will have been prepared by the time the reforms take effect.	
4.	**Future Board arrangements**	
4.1	**AM** provided an overview of the considerations relating to future governance arrangements and opened the discussion to the group. **MS** highlighted that the evolving governance structure presents an opportunity for the Board to play a meaningful role in shaping key Suffolk-wide decisions that will emerge. **BW** added that having clear agreement at member level across all Suffolk authorities is valuable and can support the adoption of a Local Plan.	
4.2	**Cllr Jones** suggested that, given workload pressures, quarterly meetings may be more appropriate for future Board sessions, and holding meetings online could offer additional benefits. **Cllr Jones** also noted that she is willing to continue chairing the group, though she recognised that SCC has chaired in the past due to being slightly more removed from the day-to-day operations of the other authorities in relation to Local Plans.	
4.3	**Cllr Packard** commented that there is no immediate need for significant changes to the existing arrangements, as the current approach is functioning well. **Cllr Stennett** added that it may be preferable to consider a change of Chair once there is greater clarity regarding Local Government Reorganisation. **AM** suggested that any new arrangements could usefully begin in the new municipal year, at which point more information about Local Government Reorganisation should be available.	
5.	**Call for sites**	
5.1	**JB** provided members with an update on the Call for Sites, including the ongoing work and discussions taking place within the sub-group. **Cllr Packard** noted that ESC has received a significant pre-application submission from Bloor Homes in Martlesham and asked whether any other Local Planning Authorities had received similar proposals.	
5.2	**Cllr Stennett** requested that the final figures from the Call for Sites be shared once it concludes. **JB** confirmed	

	that ESC will publish a map or similar resource to present the overall figures and key information.	
5.3	**Cllr Jones** expressed her satisfaction that the Government is placing a greater emphasis on development near train stations. **PI** noted that **Cllr Stringer** had raised a question about the potential for "forest villages" or "forest cities." In response, **AM** emphasised the need to be proactive in identifying opportunities around stations and engaging early with landowners, agents, developers, and other stakeholders.	
6.	**AOB**	
6.1	**AM** informed the group that there will be a scheduling clash with the upcoming ISPA Board meetings. As a result, the meetings will need to be rearranged to take place at an alternative time. **AM** also noted that there is potential for these meetings to be held online in the future and this was agreed.	Officers to re-arrange the dates of future ISPA Board meetings. Future ISPA Board meetings to be held online via MS Teams.