Meeting	Ipswich Strategic Planning Area Board
Date	Thursday 29th January 2026
Time	17:00
Location	Microsoft Teams
Attendees	Cllr Carole Jones (Ipswich Borough Council) (Chair) Cllr Mark Packard (East Suffolk Council) Cllr Sallie Davies (Babergh District Council) Cllr Paul West (Suffolk County Council) Cllr Andrew Stringer (Mid Suffolk District Council) Cllr Frank Stennett (West Suffolk Council) Peter Freer (Suffolk County Council) (PF) Robert Hobbs (Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils) (RH) Dee O'Rourke (Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils) (DO) Philip Isbell (Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils) (PI) 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) Boyd Nicholas (West Suffolk Council) (BN)
Distribution	Attendees
Apologies tendered in advance	Marie Smith (West Suffolk Council) (MS) Graeme Mateer (Suffolk County Council) (GM) Luke Barber (Suffolk County Council) (LB) Natalie Beal (Broads Authority) (NB)

Items:

	Item	Action
1. 1.1	**Apologies for absence** Marie Smith (West Suffolk Council) (MS) Graeme Mateer (Suffolk County Council) (GM) Luke Barber (Suffolk County Council) (LB) Natalie Beal (Broads Authority) (NB)	
2. 2.1	**Agreement of Action Notes from previous meeting** Agreed subject to rewording action 6.1 to reflect that meetings can be held in person if necessary.	 IP to amend as agreed.
3. 3.1	**NPPF consultation and new plan-making guidance** **AM** presented an update to members on the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) consultation and the emerging plan-making guidance. **Cllr Jones** noted that the authorities are already working collaboratively and therefore expressed encouragement to continue working as we are whilst waiting for further clarity as the national guidance evolves.	
4. 4.1 4.2	**Call for Sites** **JB** provided an update to members regarding progress with the Call for Sites. **Cllr Jones** welcomed the news that a broadly aligned assessment template and methodology is being used consistently across the county, noting that this is reassuring. **Cllr Stringer** asked whether all authorities would be applying the same spatial distribution methodology and whether everyone was progressing at a similar pace. **JB** explained that a basic map of sites submitted will be published shortly, though decision-making will come later in the process after sites have been appropriately assessed. **JB** explained that authorities are broadly aligned and that the intention is for the assessment work to remain closely aligned as well. **JB** also emphasised the importance of maintaining strong engagement between authorities during Stage 3 of site selection (determining draft allocations). **Cllr Stringer** questioned whether there would be value in issuing early public communications to highlight the positive level of responses received. **JB** explained that this had not yet been discussed but could be something that is considered, either as joint or individual communications. **BW** added that some Town and Parish Councils have already been in contact requesting	

	information. ESC will be hosting Town and Parish Council forums shortly, but information regarding the Call for Sites will not be shared with them until it is ready to be published officially.	
5. 5.1 5.2	**Local Plan preparation including evidence** **RH** presented a progress update to members, noting that the recent stakeholder engagement event had been very successful. Other officers agreed with this assessment. **BW** highlighted that resourcing will be a critical issue moving forward, given that multiple Local Plans are progressing simultaneously across Suffolk. **Cllr Jones** asked whether notes from the workshop were available. **AM** confirmed that a substantial amount of notes had been taken and explained that the next steps will be agreed at the upcoming sub-group meeting, particularly in terms of how future engagement will be undertaken. **AM** added that this is an item that will be brought to a future ISPA Board meeting.	
6. 6.1 6.2	**Progress on future Governance arrangements** **AM** presented an update to members on future Governance arrangements. **Cllr Jones** asked whether it would be possible to share the draft ideas before the next meeting. **Cllr Jones** queried whether, depending on how Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) progresses, any challenges or changes to the arrangements might be required. **AM** confirmed that a mechanism will be needed to enable the group to review the Terms of Reference once LGR comes into effect in 2028. **Cllr Stringer** noted that the Local Plan work being undertaken will not be fully completed by the time LGR takes effect, but it will be significantly progressed. **Cllr Stennett** added that there will be gateways throughout the process, which will provide some protection and continuity when LGR is implemented. **PI** highlighted that another important consideration will be the increasing role of the shadow council(s) and the associated budgeting responsibilities.	
7. 7.1	**AOB** None.	