

COUNTY COUNCIL MARCH 2013

Budget

SCC has agreed that there will be no increase in council tax for the next 12 months. This is the third consecutive year without an increase.

In February the county council agreed the county's budget for 2013/14. £25m needs to be saved this year, due to reduced government funding and increased demand for services. However, through strong financial stewardship – cutting management and back-office costs and reducing bureaucracy – these savings will be delivered without a serious effect on front-line services

Schools Organisation Review

Raising educational attainment across Suffolk is a top priority. Moving to a consistent 2-tier school structure was a long-overdue step that began in 2006. Change is going ahead in the Stowmarket and Stowupland areas with the Bury St Edmunds area left to complete. Suffolk schools can now start to look forward, and, together with head teachers, school governors and parents, we can work to drive up standards across Suffolk.

Growth Strategy for Suffolk

Economic growth is, along with raising educational attainment, the top priority of the county council. Whilst councils cannot create growth, they have a vital role to play in ensuring that the infrastructure is in place in order to give Suffolk a competitive advantage.

In February SCC, together with partners from around the county, launched the Suffolk Growth Strategy. The strategy is designed to create an environment in which the private sector can develop the economic growth, jobs and increased prosperity that Suffolk needs.

A new, official, 'Invest in Suffolk' website is now up and running - www.investinsuffolk.com.

Vehicle-activated speed signs

SCC and the police have teamed up to provide new speeding signs for Suffolk's roads.

10 temporary vehicle-activated signs (VAS – the type that flashes up the vehicle speed as it passes) and 10 mobile tripod-mounted signs will now be used across the county. The temporary VAS, will move around the county to locations designated by the police, county and parish councils.

Meanwhile, Community Speedwatch groups will have access to the mobile tripod-mounted signs for up to four weeks at a time. Some groups have already made use of the new equipment.

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