



Suffolk Growth Officer workshop: How can Suffolk create the environment for carbon neutral growth?

Workshop summary report: 15 January 2021

Overview

Suffolk Growth Partnership (SGP) facilitated a workshop in conjunction with Suffolk's Climate Change, Environment & Energy Board (CCEEB) to discuss challenges and opportunities in delivering inclusive growth in a carbon neutral environment. The focus of the workshop was on identifying short term actions to be taken forward in the short term and aligned with the wider work of delivering the Suffolk Climate Emergency Plan.

This paper provides a summary of the discussions and actions that took place at the workshop.

Suffolk Growth Partnership and Suffolk's Climate Change, Environment & Energy Board will use the workshop outputs to develop and inform future work programmes.

A full list of attendees can be found at the end of this report.

Presentations

Three guest speakers presented at the workshop:

- Suffolk's Climate Change, Environment & Energy Board (CCEEB) Jill Korwin, Strategic Director West Suffolk Council & Chair
- David Walton, Suffolk Climate Change Partnership Lead
- GSEEH Hub Guide: presentation & Q&A Peter Gudde, Greater South East Energy Hub (GSEEH)

The full presentation from the workshop is available as a PDF and has been appended to this note.

Feedback

As part of the workshop attendees were put into 4 breakout groups and asked to consider 4 key questions. Participants discussed the questions and feedback was captured during a plenary session. The responses to the questions have been summarised below:

About Suffolk Growth:

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How have you already moved the carbon neutral agenda on through your role and what enabled you to do that?

- **Declared a climate emergency** – meaning commitment from politicians is there, greater level of organisation but this also brings with it expectations and we need to consider how we manage these
- Various local task forces in place
- **Skills and employment:** skills deal programme (ensuring provision for technical energy skills), decarbonisation academy, IoT bid development (post 16 technical offer).
- **Local plans updated:** now gone as far as we can with the current national policy. Local policies reflect this.
- ES Environmental Guidance note for construction & cycling and walking strategy in place. IBC low carbonisation guidance note.
- ES, IBC & BMS collaborating on modal shift within local plans. What will funding mechanisms look like?
- **Good engagement between ISPA authorities** – including transport modelling and low emission strategy (reduce demand and fundamental changes in design to improve air quality)
- **Procurement social value policies** – ability to reduce emissions in buildings; and energy purchase challenge on carbon neutrality.
- **Visitor economy** – golden thread of Suffolk Growth development programme going forward – links to SMEs, attractions and active travel. Strong link to clean growth within NALEP/Visit East of England Tourism zone proposals for 2022.

What do you need to be able to develop further your impact on this agenda?

- Keeping the focus, don't let the distractions detract, make the environment considerations the norm
- Consistent evidence base across the piece and eliminating / minimising the time lag of data coming through
- Innovative ways to bring forward educational skills infrastructure and programmes
- Lobbying government, on a joint basis across Suffolk, on local needs - **NPPF**
 - Differences between national and local policies: match Gov 10-point plan
- Heat networks, evidence timeframes and development timeframes did not match up – need to balance vision with commercial realities. Need to encourage developers to see beyond traditional development.
 - Commercial opportunities: how do we build our local supply chains? Communicate public sector vision.
 - Collaboration on business cases for innovative ways of working
 - Thermal imaging of homes to help identify energy saving measures needed – not just Council house stock – **retrofitting existing stock**
- Local procurement approaches for suppliers heat pumps etc
- Finance-National green grants – looks complicated and not seemingly accessible- ; financial lending as part of house purchase – thinking to accommodate for eg heat pump upgrade – can we influence now as we reset;

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What are your frustrations?

- Pace / time lag of people catching up with the issues – beyond CC deniers but still people who are not on board with what is needed
- Understanding of what can be delivered through existing policies – e.g. developments that are both viable (financially) and sustainable
- Focus on planning & new development when biggest issue is existing stock – cost of retro-fitting is 5x cost of doing it right the first time
- Local priorities don't always mirror national – e.g. delivering homes, local priorities are not just focused on volume delivery – where are the building regs to back up the national focus?
- Difficulty in matching supply and demand in skills provision – constant balance required.
 - Cause: time to develop the educational infrastructure
- Big delay in rolling out electric waste vehicles
- There is a struggle to update housing regulations in decarbonisation
- Policy lags – causing differences across Suffolk
- Targets need to be tangible and really make a difference. Improve data analysis.
- Local level political engagement with wider aspirations – not as much engagement between members across District areas (impact of Election year)
- Can't influence PD or retrospective improvements through developing planning policy – how can we influence development in existing homes
- Government taking a disparate approach to this in policy – not consistent messaging (e.g. national tree strategy) and no co-ordinated strategy (skills/supply chain/economic impacts)

How can colleagues from other services and councils support you?

- Get the focus & keep it
- Use existing expertise and delivery interventions much more than we do currently – e.g. university and behaviour change work
- Planning policy & building control to work more closely together
- Share comms across the piece
- What evidence can we bring to bear on demonstrating to the community the true cost of badly built house is? Use Suffolk Design to demonstrate these messages and get political buy-in to the process
- Use SuDS example to demonstrate how to develop approach to build costs, long term sustainability and work with industry to develop a standard
- Cross reference of our goals and link aspirations: collaborative projects
- Working with SODA to ensure consistent & up to date evidence base is available
- Requirement for informed councillors / members
- Countywide support to advise and support communities the best ways to use CIL to achieve net zero in their village/town.
- Can we incentivise the purchase of 0 carbon homes through no stamp duty, no C tax, no planning fee, grants to build and recoup some of the cost of that by increasing C tax / B rates on properties that are less efficient, rewarding them when they retrofit with a reduction?

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Going forward

From the plenary session it was agreed:

| Action | Lead organisation / group | Timeline / next steps |
|--|--|--|
| Single, compelling vision is needed to deliver for Suffolk. This vision has to capture expectations and be explicit in how they will be met. | EECCB | Next 3 months Work to be taken forward as SCEP is developed. Draft vision to be circulated for comment to Suffolk Growth / wider partners. |
| Development of the Suffolk Climate Emergency Plan and fine-tuning of actions | EECCB / Climate Change Partnership All public sector organisations in Suffolk to support development and contribute to delivery | On-going with aim to take plan to Leaders in Spring 2021 Work with EECCB to support delivery against themes and define key outcomes. Themes are: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Transport b. Homes c. Industry and Commercial energy use d. Power e. Cross Cutting Issues & Community Actions f. Finance |
| Social value / procurement – take forward work to develop shared statement on embedding carbon neutral goals & measures into procurements | Suffolk Growth Partnership & wider procurement leads / corporate teams | Next 6 months Discussions with SCC / SCOLT representatives in progress |
| Further development of planning actions / planning policy levers that could support carbon neutrality | Suffolk Growth Partnership & planning teams via Suffolk Design work | Next 6 months SGP to convene further discussions with planners (engage D. Walton) to link with work being taken forward via SCEP |

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Please visit the following websites for further information on the work of Suffolk Growth Partnership and Suffolk Design.

www.suffolkdesign.uk

www.suffolkgrowth.co.uk

Thank you for attending, please refer any queries to: info@suffolkgrowth.co.uk

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Suffolk Growth & Suffolk CCEEB representatives

| Name | Organisation |
|---------------------|--|
| Karen Chapman | Suffolk Growth Partnership |
| Kay Bonning-Schmitt | Suffolk Growth Partnership |
| Richard Hunt | Suffolk Growth Partnership |
| David Walton | Suffolk County Council & Suffolk CCEEB |
| Jill Korwin | West Suffolk Council & Suffolk CCEEB |

Attendees

| Name | Organisation |
|------------------|---|
| Amy Wright | West Suffolk Council |
| Andrea Mayley | West Suffolk Council |
| Anette Gilham | Ipswich Borough Council |
| Bron Curtis | Babergh & Mid Suffolk District Councils |
| Caroline Davison | Suffolk County Council |
| Cath Bicknell | Suffolk County Council |
| Desi Reed | East Suffolk Council |
| Dina Hamdy | Suffolk County Council |
| Gareth Davies | Suffolk Chamber of Commerce |
| Jackie Ward | West Suffolk Council |
| Jai Raithatha | Suffolk County Council |
| James Mallinder | East Suffolk Council |
| Lisa Roberts | New Anglia LEP |
| Marie Smith | West Suffolk Council |
| Matt Hullis | Suffolk County Council |
| Megan Rodwell | East Suffolk Council |

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|-----------------|---|
| Michael Chapman | Suffolk Chamber of Commerce Trade Advisor |
| Michael Gray | Suffolk County Council |
| Michelle Gordon | Babergh & Mid Suffolk District Councils |
| Natalie Beal | Broads Authority |
| Peter Gudde | Greater South East Energy Hub |
| Philip Ridley | East Suffolk Council |
| Ruth Bishop | East Suffolk Council |
| Ruth Chittock | Ipswich Borough Council |
| Sally Minns | Ipswich Borough Council |
| Stefanie Thorne | University of Suffolk |

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