

New Single Council for East Suffolk

Message to Residents from Suffolk Coastal & Waveney District Councils

All residents are invited to express their views on the proposal to create a new council for East Suffolk. The following message has been received from Suffolk Coastal & Waveney District councils:

Following a recent independent survey of 1,000 local residents which showed that a clear majority of people are in favour of a new council for east Suffolk, we are now asking all residents for their views.

A decision to combine the Waveney and Suffolk Coastal District Councils, and create a brand new 'super district', delivering services to communities in east Suffolk, will be taken in January; however both councils are determined to hear the views of as many local people as possible before a final decision.

With this in mind, an independent telephone survey by leading research consultancy ComRes was conducted in October. One thousand local people, representing the different backgrounds of people who live in east Suffolk, were asked a number of questions about the proposals. Of these, four out of five respondents (78%) expressed a favourable or neutral view about the proposals and of those who "don't know" (20%), the majority then expressed a favourable view when provided with more information about the plans.

Now, we are asking EVERYONE in the two districts to tell us what they think, as part of an engagement campaign which is running until December 12th. Residents are invited to read the proposal summary and email their views about the plans to merger@eastsuffolk.gov.uk.

It is the view of both Council Leaders that a new, larger organisation would be better placed to address a range of challenges and better serve our local communities by ensuring that crucial services are protected and sustained. Both are determined to do so while maintaining a low council tax base and a new council would be better able to deliver this.

Would it be possible to help get this message out across your parish please? A copy of the proposal is attached – it can also be found online at <http://www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/yourcouncil/new-single-council/>.