

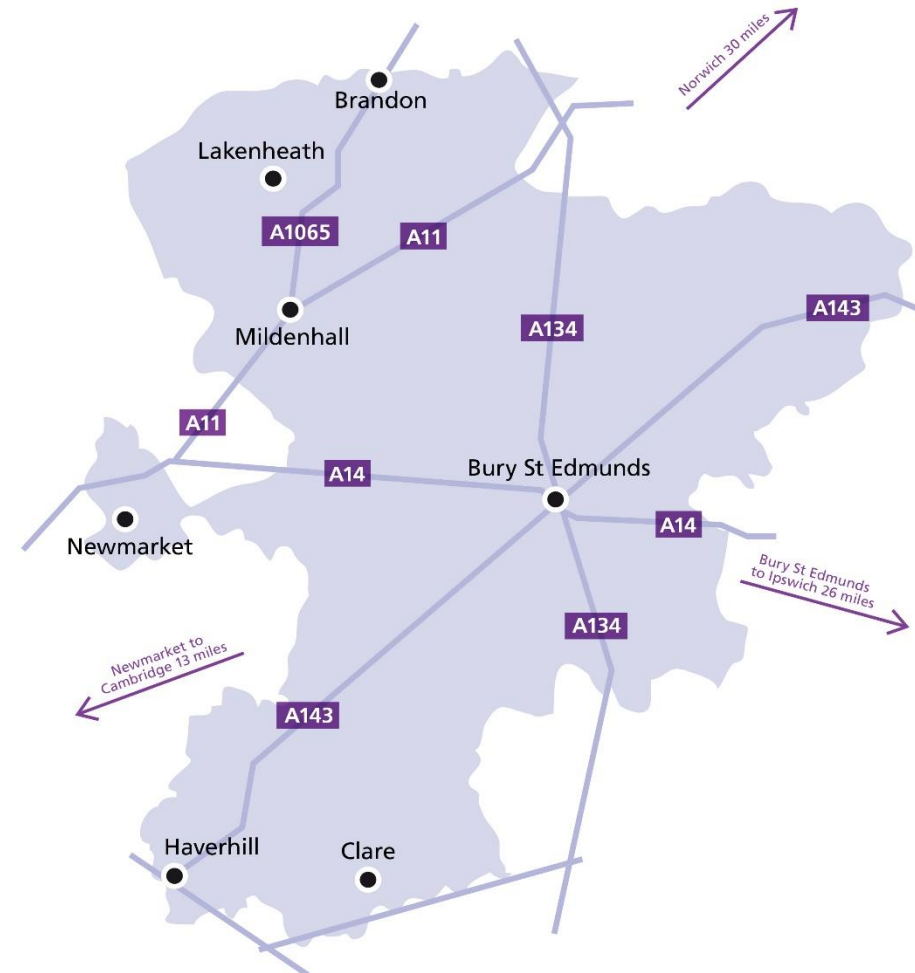
# Creating a single council for West Suffolk

Forest Heath & St Edmundsbury councils

**West Suffolk**  
working together

**Councillor Carol Bull**  
Cabinet Member for Future  
Governance

**Ben Smith**  
Programme Manager: Single  
Council Implementation




# About the councils...

Forest Heath and St Edmundsbury councils are adjacent district councils in the west of Suffolk, a county with two-tier governance (Suffolk County Council plus 7 district councils). The councils are members of both New Anglia and Greater Cambridge Greater Peterborough LEPS. They are not part of any current or proposed future combined authorities.

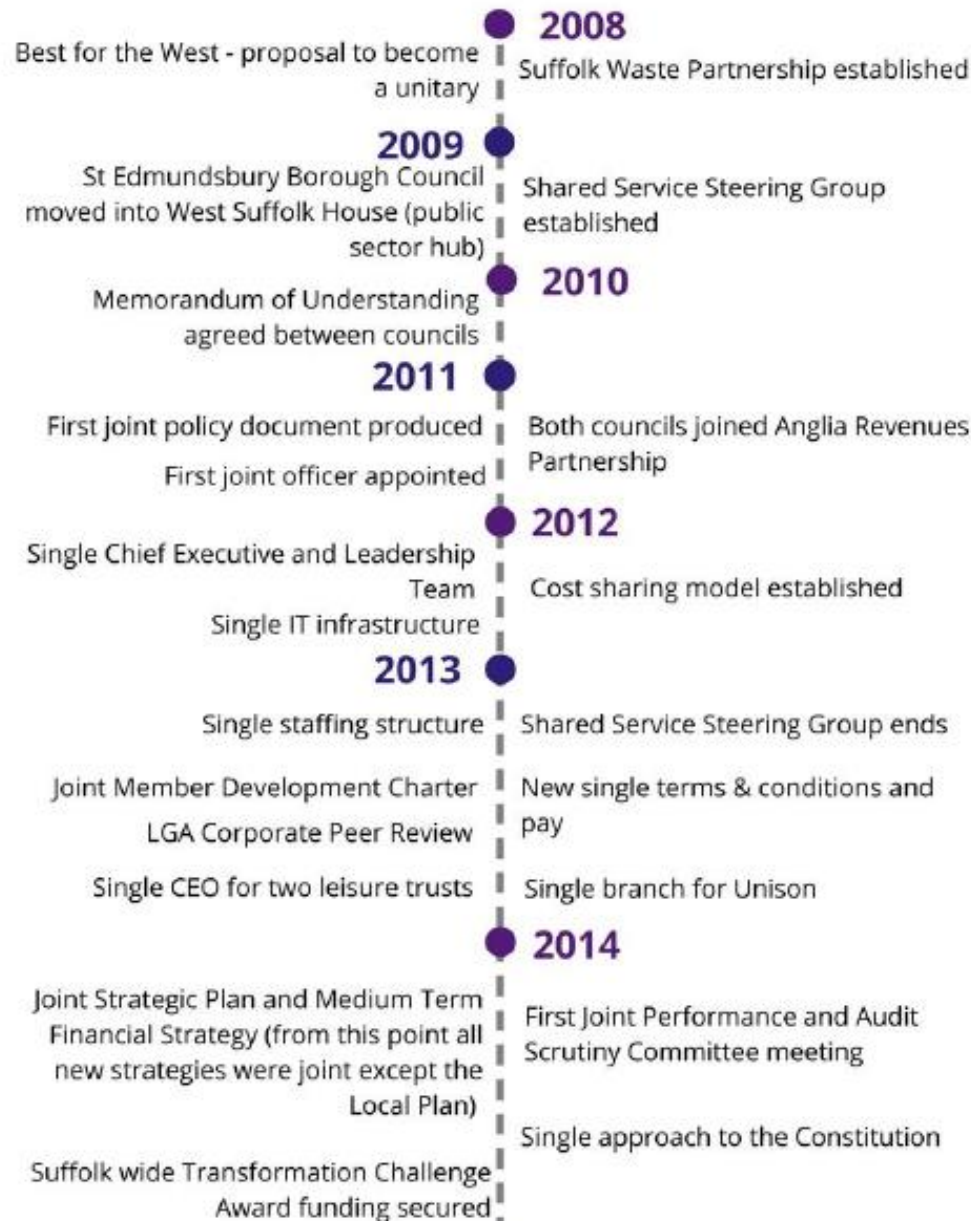
	<b>Population (2015)</b>	<b>Number of Councillors</b>	<b>Revenue budget (2017-2018)*</b>
Forest Heath	63,691	27	£31.5m
St Edmundsbury	112,523	45	£62.1m

*\*Gross budget including Housing Benefit payments*



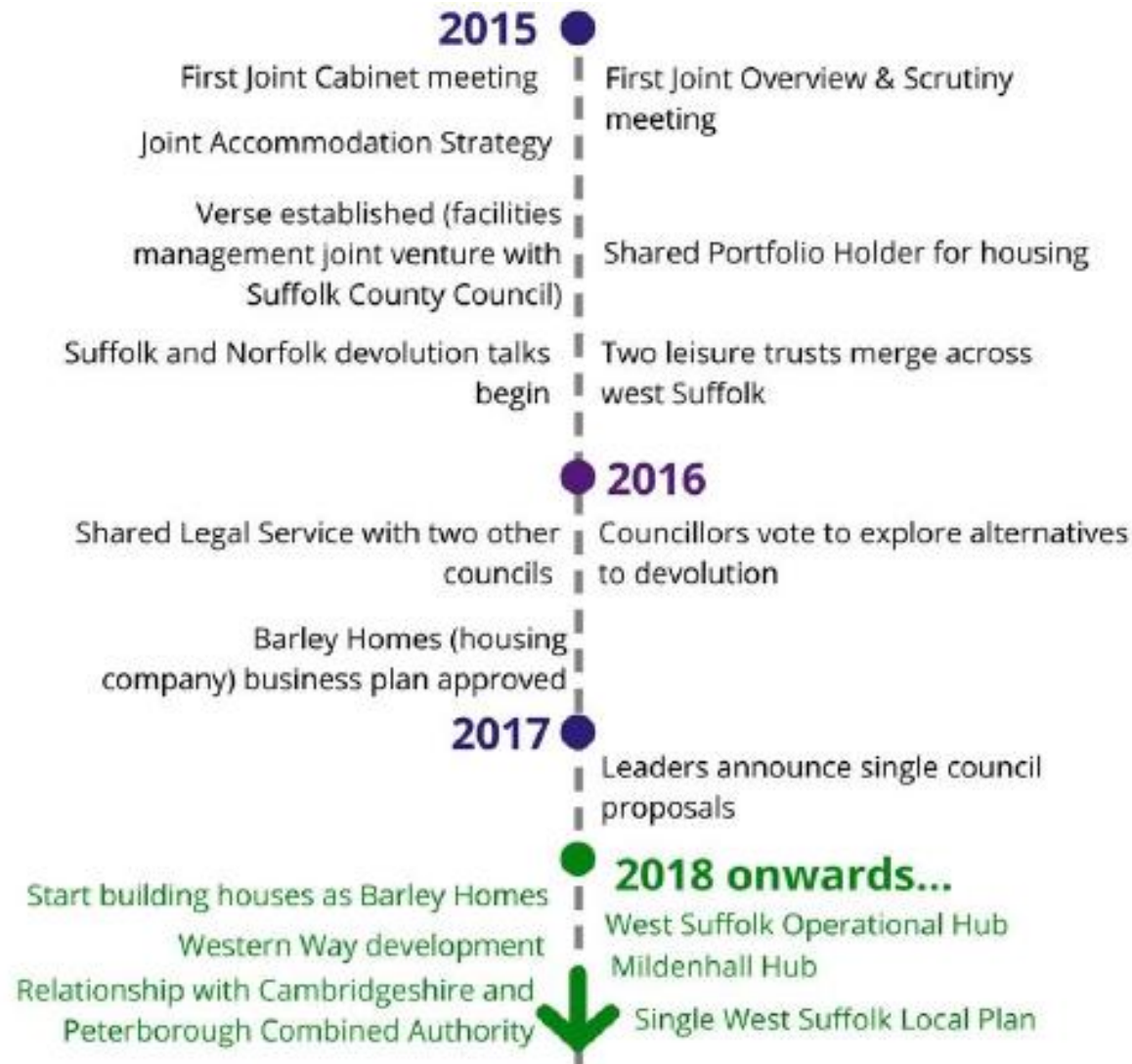
# West Suffolk

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## The councils proposal...

- Creating a single council is shaped by our commitment to:
  - a strong and growing economy;
  - strong families and communities;
  - self-sufficient and resilient local government;
  - using our commercial approach to invest back into our communities; and
  - efficient, effective services, offering value for money.

# What did the government want to see?

- ***Criteria***

- better local/public services;
- significant cost savings;
- greater value for money;
- stronger and more accountable local leadership; and
- sustainability in the medium to long term.

# A new West Suffolk Council will...

- Be stronger and financially resilient to surpass the challenges of reduced public funding and any changes to local government.
- Be the right size to continue to represent and support our local villages, towns and communities but with a larger and stronger unified voice to more effectively lobby Government and attract internationally recognised businesses.
- Have a unified strategic vision for the whole area enabling us to be even more pro-active and able to capitalise on commercial opportunities.
- Continue the shared service working that has saved millions and build on this to deliver even better value and savings to invest back into high quality services and local community initiatives.

# A new West Suffolk Council will...

- Be better placed to offer extra support in many areas particularly working with communities to improve health and wellbeing.
- Have the leadership available to work more effectively with partners and others to manage increased growth, jobs and challenges that will drive the local economy and benefit our communities.
- Make sure we can provide more and the right kind of homes for our residents and cut unnecessary red tape for local businesses and traders.
- Keep the same overall boundaries as the Borough and District Council our communities call home while having the long term stability to deliver high quality services.



## Member perspective

- Accountability to the electorate
- How we are dealing with potential ward changes
- Issues around sovereignty or loss of sovereignty from the existing councils
- Key lessons learned for other similar rural councils who may be considering the same route in the future

# Any questions?

- For more information:  
[www.westsuffolk.gov.uk/singlecouncil](http://www.westsuffolk.gov.uk/singlecouncil)
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