

May 2025 Blyford and Sotherton Parish Council District Report East Suffolk Council GLI Group – Councillor Update

Apprenticeship Opportunities in East Suffolk

East Suffolk Council is helping people to enhance their skills and boost their career ambitions with the return of its successful apprenticeship scheme.

Apprenticeships provide the opportunity to gain workplace experience, high quality training, and a recognised qualification, while in paid employment.

There are six new opportunities available in a number of teams, including Organisational Development and EDI, ICT, Property and Place, Legal, Private Sector Housing and Environment and Climate Change.

Potential apprentices can learn more about the scheme and about working for the council by attending a special open evening, which will take place between 5.30pm and 7pm at East Suffolk House in Melton on Tuesday 13 May, and at Riverside in Lowestoft on Wednesday 21 May. Please email HR@eastsoffolk.gov.uk to book your place.

Those applying for the apprenticeship within the ICT Team should note that officers from the Digital Management Team will not be in attendance at the open evening in Melton. If you would like to speak to representatives from this team, please attend the Lowestoft opening evening on Wednesday 21 May.

East Suffolk Council's Chief Executive Chris Bally said:

"We are proud of our apprenticeship scheme and the talented individuals that we take on and develop.

"Apprenticeships provide an opportunity for people to gain both training and a recognised qualification while working in paid employment. Our apprentices spend much of the working week here at the council, while also studying independently and completing assignments for their qualifications.

"We aim to help each of them gain the tools for a future of sustained employment and for the good of the local economy. At the same time, the council benefits from their ideas, insights and perspectives.

"I'm looking forward to welcoming the next group of apprentices and would encourage anyone to apply - you never know where it might take you."

Government Feedback on Interim Council Proposals

With the future of East Suffolk shifting as the county shifts in a unitary council, our local districts and borough are advocating a multi (two or three) unitary council solution, while the County Council is supporting a single unitary council for all of Suffolk.

In response to the interim proposals for Local Government Reorganisation submitted by Suffolk's councils, the Government have now provided their feedback.

In a joint statement Babergh District Council, East Suffolk Council, Ipswich Borough Council, Mid Suffolk District Council and West Suffolk Council said:

"We have just received the Government's response which supports us moving our proposals

forward. We will now be looking through the feedback in detail to ensure the final proposals we submit in September not only meet the guidance set by Government but crucially provide better outcomes for our communities.

“Multiple unitaries are vital in order to keep councils truly local to the people they serve and to meet the differing needs and aspirations of our county’s diverse communities. Providing a locally based unitary authority big enough to deliver but small enough to care.

“We will be sharing further information over coming days and look forward to continuing our engagement and conversation with partners, businesses and communities.”

Multiple unitary authorities would ensure strong democratic representation, whereas one council would be too remote for residents to be heard. It offers the best solution to ensure decision makers and the communities they represent remain at the heart of local government and guarantees that services are designed and delivered in a tailored way, built on local knowledge. Resulting in both value for money and better outcomes.

Supporting Mental Health in Young People

Primary school children across East Suffolk will shortly receive a new resource to help support their mental wellbeing.

Developed by local parent and author Jen Rose, and funded by East Suffolk Council’s Community Partnership Board, *Me (and My Mind)* aims to be a relevant, accessible, and supportive resource for children during a key transitional stage in their lives.

Over the coming weeks, every Year 6 pupil across East Suffolk will receive a copy of *Me (and My Mind)* – an engaging, interactive colouring journal designed to support young people in beginning to understand and manage their mental health. This unique resource (each with its own pack of colouring pencils) is fully funded by the Community Partnership Board.

The journal offers a fun and creative way to help children explore who they are, understand their emotions, and learn strategies to recognise and manage when they might not be feeling ok. They are designed to complement PHSE lessons in schools and can be used in class, in smaller groups, or individually. They are also suitable to take home and be shared with parents, carers, and family members.

Cllr Sarah Whitelock, East Suffolk’s cabinet member for Communities, Culture, Leisure and Tourism said: *“The Community Partnership Board together with other public, voluntary and business sector partners work together to find solutions to local issues. With mental health challenges among young people on the rise, this project is a vital step in equipping them with the knowledge and skills to care for their mental wellbeing.”*

This initiative reflects East Suffolk Council’s ongoing commitment to supporting young people's mental health and fostering resilient communities.

Ease the Squeeze on Cost of Living

Are you, or someone you know, worried about the increasing cost of living? We understand the pressures faced by many people today and we are working closely with key partners to ensure support is available to help ease the squeeze for households in East Suffolk.

To make it as easy as possible for you to access the services and support available, locally and nationally, we have gathered information about them in one place:

www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/community/squeeze/

For the most up to date information regarding East Suffolk Council, please visit:

www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk

View the Well Minds East Suffolk booklet: tinyurl.com/9xhka624