

District Councillor Report for April 2026

- Lots of people are seriously worried about how to pay for their energy bills as a result of the ongoing war in the Middle East. The Government has announced that £27 million will become available to support households in England. The money is to be distributed by 'Local Authorities'. More info about this is expected any day at this time. In Mid Suffolk there is the option of going into <https://www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/energy-fuel-and-utilities> to find out more on how this advice develops. There is also the CAB on 01449 676060. On the website of Mid Suffolk there is a page named Energy, Fuel and Utilities that may also provide further information.
- On the 26th of March there was the last MSDC meeting before the elections in May. The Government did in the end decide to go for three Unitaries in both Suffolk and Norfolk. The elections on the 7th of May this year will be for the County Councils remaining 2 years of life. In May 2027 there'll be elections for the Unitaries. Those elected will spend their first year preparing for the Unitaries to 'go live' in April 2028. After that date the Unitary Councillors will start serving the standard 4 year term. Thus, anyone getting elected in May 2027 will serve 1 + 4 years. Each Unitary will receive £900 000 from the government to help funding this profound change. This won't cover the costs, far from it, but is better than nought.
- A uniform way of deciding about applications for street trading was adopted. All roads and streets will be 'consent streets' except major A roads, like the A 14. The meaning of this will be that applicants will face the same criteria all over Mid Suffolk.
- The Community Governance Review presented the draft recommendations re some Parishes wishing to decrease or increase the number of Parish Councillors. Stradbroke wishes to reduce the number from 13 to 11 and this is now part of the recommendation. This will make it easier to be quorate at meetings. Working Group Recommendations will be ready in August and the Re-organisation order made in the autumn.
- On the 2nd of April there was a briefing on the LGR, an update. At present, the final namings of the different Unitaries aren't yet written in stone, at this stage we will be part of what is called 'Eastern and Central Suffolk'. The number of Councillors is at this stage set by the government at 60. We didn't ask for this and will challenge. The aim is to have as many as needed to be functional. The size (number of Councillors per ward) of the wards within the Unitaries is yet to be determined, this will be consulted upon. There will be joint Committees to prepare for this change, some County and District Councillors will be part. This autumn we expect a 'Structural Change Order', an SCO, to be made. That is the point of no return from the legal point of view. One important thing to note is that the Unitary Councillors elected in May 2027 will not engage with any ongoing matters until after the 1st of April 2028. The existing District and County Councils will continue to their work until they are dissolved.

Yours Sincerely,

Anders Linder