

SALC member survey 2024

Thank you for selecting to contribute to the SALC annual survey giving your council the opportunity to help direct the work we do on your behalf.

The deadline for responses is 29th March 2024.

As in previous years, we will share the results by publishing them on our website and updating our business plan accordingly. For information here is a [link to 2023 survey results](#).

Thank you in anticipation

1. Please rate the following issues in order of priority for your council and the communities you serve.

	High priority	Medium priority	Low priority	Not a priority
Environment and climate	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Planning including major infrastructure projects	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Community safety	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Highways management	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Managing your community assets	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Local council financial management including CIL spending, grants, treasury funds	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Isolation and loneliness in your community	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Public transport need in your community	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Supporting the local economy including town centres	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Recruiting / retaining local councillors	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Recruiting / retaining council officers	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Recruiting / retaining / managing volunteers

Community engagement - how to find out what your community needs

Impact of the cost of living on members in your communities

Impact of the cost of living on local council finances and budgets

Improving health and wellbeing in your community

Improving skills and knowledge in your council

Improving standards, processes and procedures in your council

Business continuity including succession planning

Emergency planning to help your community respond

And if there is anything else we have missed - let us know here



SALC member survey 2024

Next we want to ask your council in a bit more detail what else we can do in terms of extra support or representation. You will notice we are also asking about your awareness of SALC activities in these areas to help us assess knowledge or impact of our work on your behalf.

2. ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE

	Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Not applicable
SALC's climate forum and dedicated page is useful and influenced our approach	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
We are concerned about flooding and want to know if we can do anything locally to address this	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
We have a climate action plan but little interest or help in our community to support the council	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
We would like to have a climate action plan but dont know where to start	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
We dont have the resources to consider this	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
We would like more information about what districts and the county council is doing on this subject	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
More funding and professional support is needed	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
We have heard about Biodiversity Net Gain but don't understand what our duties are	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
We are aware of our duties in relation to Biodiversity Net Gain but would like to know about the opportunities it brings too	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

If you have answered disagree or not applicable please explain why or if you have any other comments you wish to add

3. PLANNING

	Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Not applicable

We understand and deal with planning applications as a consultee	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
We have a good working relationship with our local planning authority (District Council)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
We have attended briefings, training and forums set up by our local planning authority	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
We find information and support provided by our local planning authority to be useful	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Over the past 12 months we have noticed improvements in support and guidance available from our local planning authority	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
We have a neighbourhood development plan and find it valuable	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
We are in the process of producing our neighbourhood development plan	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
We are considering reviewing our neighbourhood development plan	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
We would like to have a neighbourhood development plan but not sure where to start or the merits of having one	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
We have looked at the new online resources from NALC on planning	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
We are aware of potential changes to planning law	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
We are aware of the guide for parish councils co-produced by SALC and Suffolk	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

CC on energy
projects

We have watched
the video from the
recent SALC
conference covering
planning reforms
presented by
Birketts

If you have answered disagree or not applicable please explain why or if you have any other comments you wish to add

4. COMMUNITY SAFETY

	Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Not applicable
We have a speed camera(s)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
We think speed cameras are a good deterrent	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
We have had the opportunity to use ANPR technology and it has made a difference	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
We dont know anything about ANPR technology and how to access it	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
We are interested in finding out more about getting a speed camera (s)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
We know who our local community engagement officer is	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
We understand how local policing works in Suffolk	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
We are aware there will be some changes in Suffolk to local policing	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
When given the opportunity we respond to surveys and questionnaires relating to changes to local policing	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

If you have answered disagree or not applicable please explain why or if you have any other comments you wish to add

5. HIGHWAY MANAGEMENT

	Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Not applicable
We are aware that Milestone Infrastructure are the new Suffolk CC partner for highways	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
We are aware Milestone are keen to work with SALC	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

as a partner to improve communication



We have started to see a difference since Milestone became Suffolk's new partner



We are aware and use the quick guides available on Suffolk Highway's dedicated webpages



We think an online highways forum run by SALC allowing parishes to receive updates from Milestone and ask questions would be useful



We are aware of of the community self-help scheme



The opportunity for SALC to work closely with Milestone Infrastructure on communications is welcomed



We are concerned that further budget cuts at Suffolk County Council will impact highway maintenance which is already underfunded



We follow Suffolk Highways on social media and share their updates across our community



If you have answered disagree or not applicable please explain why or if you have any other comments you wish to add

6. FINANCE

	Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Not applicable
We are concerned about the adequacy of our budget to meet increasing costs	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
We plan to increase our precept this year	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
We cannot afford any more resources to help us manage workloads	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
We have a financial management package to help with administering council finances	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
We use a simple spreadsheet to manage council finances	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
We understand the requirements of the Transparency Code	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
We need to find an internal auditor for 2024	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
We would like to know the cost of using the SALC internal audit service	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
We are interested in using the SALC payroll service	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
We would like more support on where to find grant funding that town and parishes can apply fo	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
We would like to manage our grant giving function better and learn from others	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

If you have answered disagree or not applicable please explain why or if you have any other comments you wish to add

7. COMMUNITY ASSETS

	Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Not applicable
We have a number of community assets in our parish/town	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
We provide funding or help manage local community assets or groups using them	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
We are aware of support from other teams/organisations that help us manage these	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
We are being offered local assets but unsure how to evaluate if this would be good for our community or manageable for us	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

If you have answered disagree or not applicable please explain why or if you have any other comments you wish to add

8. SOCIAL ISOLATION

	Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Not applicable
We have concerns in our community about social isolation	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
We have a number of initiatives in place to help with social isolation	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
We provide funding to local clubs and groups to help address isolation and wellbeing	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
We are aware of support and initiatives available through other agencies and regularly promote these	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
We have an informal Good Neighbour Scheme	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
We use the Rural Coffee Caravan	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

If you have answered disagree or not applicable please explain why or if you have any other comments you wish to add

9. COUNCILLOR RECRUITMENT

	Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Not applicable
We have councillor vacancies on our council	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
We struggle to attract interest in the work of the town or parish council	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
We regularly promote what we do in our local magazine or social media	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
We have a good cross-section of the community on our council including those from minority groups	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
A SALC campaign to raise awareness of the work of local councils would be helpful	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
We have some good case studies we could offer SALC to help promote our work and therefore interest	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Sharing ideas of what worked in other parishes to recruit councillors would be useful	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
We offer new councillors training and support to help them understand their role	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

If you have answered disagree or not applicable please explain why or if you have any other comments you wish to add

10. CLERK/OFFICER RECRUITMENT and/ or RETENTION

	Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Not applicable
We are currently looking for a new clerk/RFO	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
A campaign by SALC to help raise awareness of the role would be useful	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
We are aware that SALC offer a service to promote vacancies	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
We are aware of Suffolk Jobs Direct who offer a low cost job advertising service	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Online tools to help with recruitment from SALC would be useful	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

If you have answered disagree or not applicable please explain why or if you have any other comments you wish to add

11. VOLUNTEERS

	Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Not applicable
We have plenty of volunteers who help across our community in lots of different ways	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
We are aware of the annual volunteering campaign in Suffolk run by Community Action Suffolk	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
We would be able to provide case studies on how volunteers make a difference in our community to help raise awareness	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
We have procedures in place to help us manage volunteers	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
We are signed up to the regular newsletters from Community Action Suffolk	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
We would like SALC to continue to raise awareness of campaigns to promote more interest in local volunteering	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

If you have answered disagree or not applicable please explain why or if you have any other comments you wish to add

12. PUBLIC TRANSPORT

	Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Not applicable
Rural transport remains an issue for our local community	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
We have a local community transport scheme that works well in our area	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
We would like to know how to find out about how to set up a local scheme	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
We are aware of Transport East and the work they are doing to help the eastern region	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

If you have answered disagree or not applicable please explain why or if you have any other comments you wish to add

13. EMERGENCY PLANNING

	Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Not applicable
We have an emergency plan	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
We test and update our plan regularly	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
We recognise we need an emergency plan	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
We would like more information to help us develop a plan	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
We understand roles and responsibilities across the network in relation to flooding	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
We have contributed to the calls for evidence from Suffolk CC circulated by SALC about flooding	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
We would like to see an awareness campaign by SALC and other agencies so communities can prepare better	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
We would be willing to provide a case study on how we manage our emergency plan and how it works	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

If you have answered disagree or not applicable please explain why or if you have any other comments you wish to add

14. BUSINESS CONTINUITY

	Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Not applicable
We have processes in place to help with business continuity	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Our plans include loss of expertise such as our clerk, RFO or experienced councillors/chair	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
We are aware of these risks and would like help to manage them better	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
We have lost an experienced officer and would be willing to share lessons learnt to help develop guidance to help others in this situation	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
We manage all our risks through our risk register and would be willing to share our approach to help others adopt good practice more easily	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

If you have answered disagree or not applicable please explain why or if you have any other comments you wish to add

15. TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT

	Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Not applicable
We have a training and development policy for councillors and officers	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
We would like to develop a training and development policy	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
We ring-fence monies in our budget for training	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
We have a CiLCA qualified clerk	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
We would like a CiLCA qualified	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

clerk

We would be interested in a bursary scheme to help us manage the cost of studying for CiLCA

Our clerk has the community governance degree

We are interested in finding out more about funding degree-level training to our officers/clerk

We are aware of the new Masters qualification for leadership

We are aware of the SALC training and development pathway for councillors

We are aware of the SALC training and development pathway for officers

We are aware of the Local Council Award Scheme

We would like to find out more about the Local Council Award Scheme

If you have answered disagree or not applicable please explain why or if you have any other comments you wish to add

16. SALC have launched councillor and officer development programmes that caters for all sizes of councils and our online basics training remain popular.

We like to annually refresh the offer of specialist topics and where we can offer these at a low-cost or free of charge where we can attract funding.

Please indicate below which topics are of particular interest to your council in the coming 12 months.

- | | |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Planning - all aspects | <input type="checkbox"/> Cyber security |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Understanding Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects | <input type="checkbox"/> Using Office 365 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Biodiversity net gain | <input type="checkbox"/> Emergency planning including business continuity |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Using social media | <input type="checkbox"/> Neighbourhood development plans - adding environmental and climate considerations |
| <input type="checkbox"/> The council being a good employer including recruitment | <input type="checkbox"/> Conflict management |
| <input type="checkbox"/> The council managing performance | <input type="checkbox"/> Safeguarding |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Data Protection fundamentals | <input type="checkbox"/> Mental wellbeing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Working with the LGA Councillor Code of Conduct | <input type="checkbox"/> Managing commons and village greens |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Website accessibility | <input type="checkbox"/> Recruiting and managing volunteers |

17. What is your view on future SALC face-to-face SALC events

	Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Not applicable
A central location that allows all parishes and towns in Suffolk is important	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Moving to different locations that is closer for some would be our preference	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
If the location is too far away we are unlikely to attend	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
We attended the SALC conference at The Hold, Ipswich and it was ideal with great facilities	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
We prefer online events	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
We would like to see an annual face-to-face SALC conference	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
We would be happy with a bi-annual face-to-face SALC conference	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Any other comments

18. Please provide some ideas of the types of topics your council would find useful to help us plan for future events

19. SALC MEMBER SERVICES

	Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Not applicable
We have a SALC rep on our council who provides regular updates	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
We are aware of SALC area forums	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Our representative attends area forums when they can/watches the	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

recording/provides an update				
We value area forums as a network to share ideas, hear the latest updates and connect with others	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
We value SALC training	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
We value SALC news bulletins	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
We regularly benefit from the information SALC cascades that is relevant to our sector	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
When necessary we use the advisory service and it is timely and responsive	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
We are aware of the SALC payroll service	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
We are aware of the SALC internal audit service	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
We were aware of the SALC conference in November 2023	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
We have watched recordings of the sessions from the conference that include updates on planning, data for councils, community climate action, AI and the panel session with Milestone Infrastructure	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Our clerk always cascades the weekly SALC bulletin containing updates	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Our council has signed up to the NALC newsletter	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
We circulate or are signed up to SALC's quarterly TLC e-magazine	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

If you have answered disagree or not applicable please explain why or if you have any other comments you wish to add

20. Are there any other challenges, issues or training topics not listed above that you consider should be part of our considerations

21. Name of your council

22. Your district

