

Committee:	Schools Forum
Meeting Date:	16 th July 2026
Title:	School Place Based Planning
Author:	Pete Mumford, Head of Schools Infrastructure
Decision making / consultative / information:	Information Only
Who can vote?	N/A

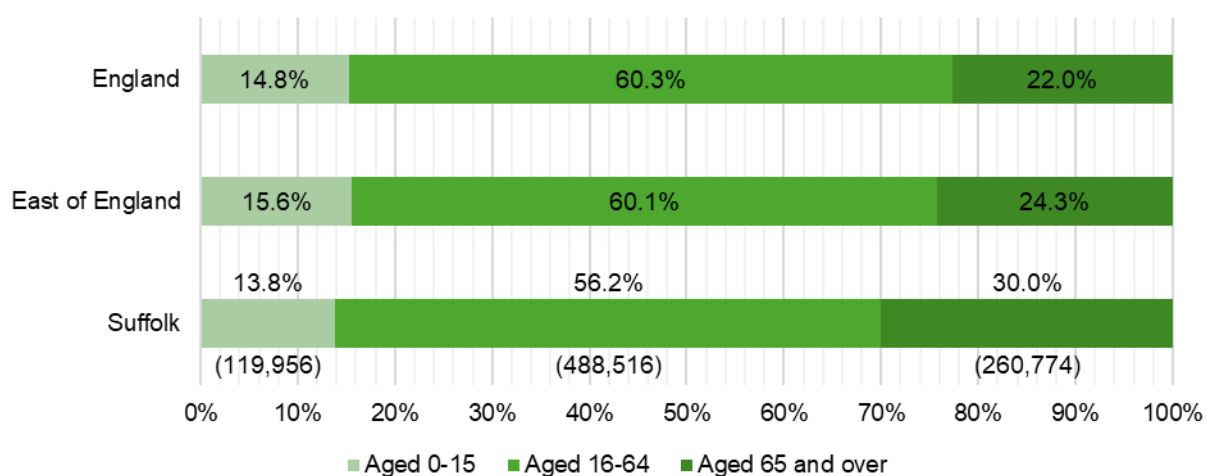
Main body of the Report

1. Background Data

Population Data

Suffolk's population is projected to grow from 786,231 in 2024 to 869,246 by 2047, representing an increase of 10.56%. However, this growth will be accompanied by a significant demographic shift.

By 2047, Suffolk is expected to have a higher proportion of elderly residents and a lower proportion of school-aged children compared to the age distribution in both England and the East of England region. This trend has important implications for future service planning, particularly in education, health, and social care.

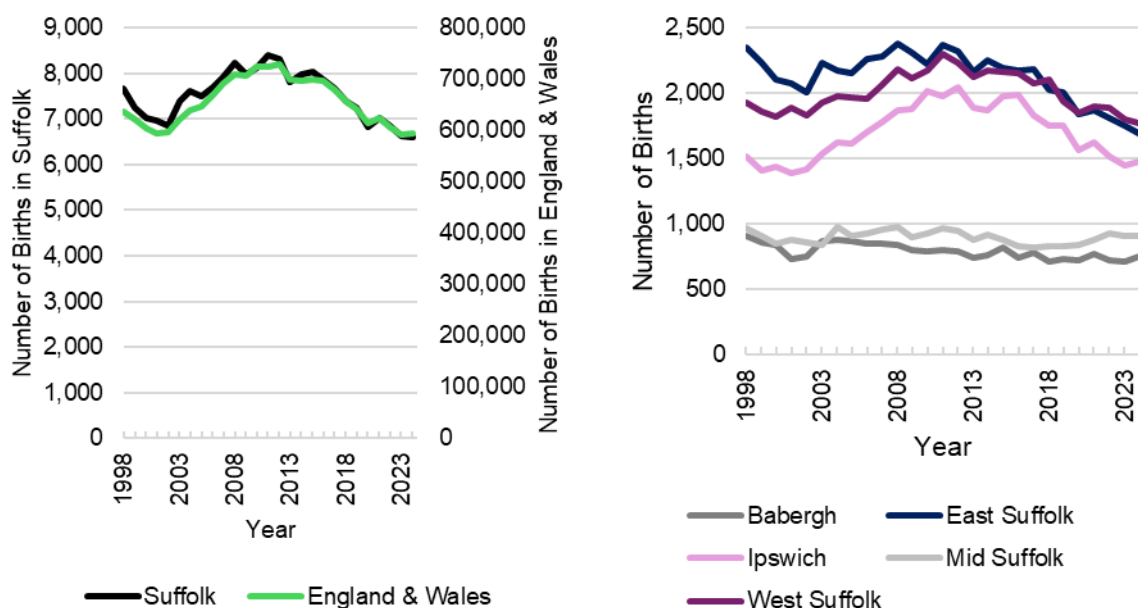


Birth Rate Data

Although Suffolk's total population has continued to grow, the county has seen a significant drop in birth numbers. Suffolk's overall birth trend is primarily influenced by its most populous areas: East Suffolk, Ipswich, and West Suffolk. While birth numbers in Babergh and Mid Suffolk are relatively low, they appear more stable compared to other districts.

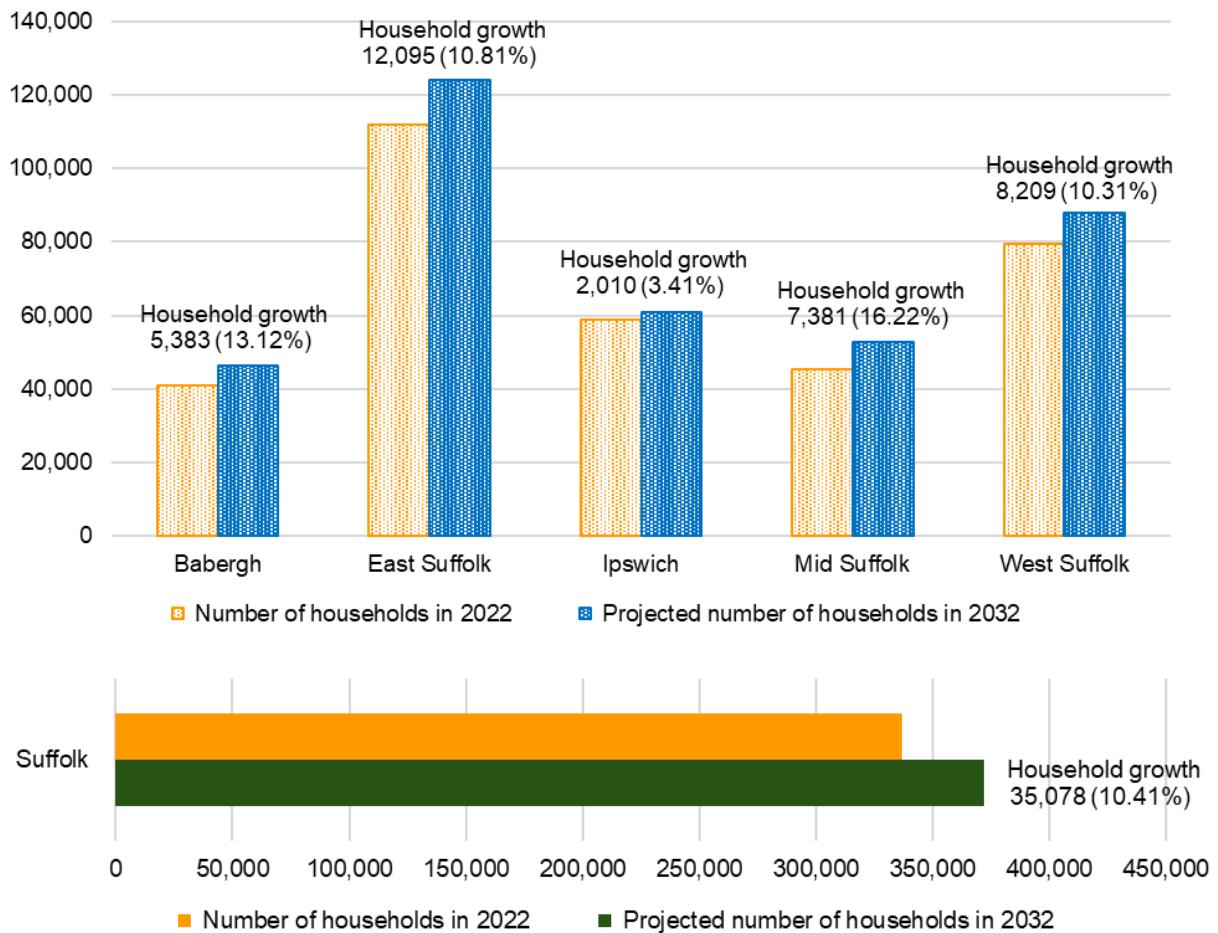
Overall, Suffolk reflects a similar pattern to England and Wales, with total births peaking around 2010–2012 and then gradually declining through to today. This trend has significant implications for long-term education planning and resource allocation.

The graphs below shows the recent decline in birthrates across the 5 district and borough areas and as a national trend.



Housing Projections

Suffolk is facing a period of significant new housing development, with the prospect of around 35,000 new homes planned in total, across its 5 districts and boroughs between 2022 and 2032, although local plans are about to come under further review with the likelihood of more growth across all districts/boroughs.



New housing developments can significantly influence the demand for school places. To assess this impact, Suffolk County Council applies county-specific pupil yield data provided using the Department for Education guidance. This data considers the number of bedrooms in new houses and flats, which indicates the potential to accommodate children.

2. School Place Based Planning

A PowerPoint presentation will be delivered at the meeting.