

DRAFT Meeting Note



Northern Transport Forum

Meeting Type: Northern Transport Forum

Meeting held on: Wednesday 5 August 2026

Sizewell C Attendees:

Brian Stewart, Chair
David Peacop, Site Operations Director
David Seal, Offsite Delivery Manager
Marjorie Barnes, Head of READ
Zoe Botten, Community Relations Manager
Rebecca Quigg, Transport Co-ordinator
Darren Benford-Brown, Community Safety Officer
Jez Porter, Stakeholder and External Roads Lead

External Attendees:

Cllr Josie Bassinette, Walberswick PC
Cllr Barry Rowing, Peasenhall PC
Cllr Paul Collins, Theberton and Eastbridge PC
Cllr Nicky Corbett, Leiston-cum-Sizewell TC
Cllr Edwina Galloway, Kelsale-cum-Carlton PC
Cllr Debbie Hughes, Bramfield and Thorington PC
Cllr Charles Macdowell, Middleton cum Fordley PC
Cllr Andrew Turner, Westleton PC
Cllr Tom Haslam, Yoxford PC
Cllr Arthur Blackburn, Darsham PC
Cllr Julia Ewart, Suffolk CC
Cllr Paul Ashton, East Suffolk Council
Cllr Andrew Candler, Sibton PC

External Stakeholders:

Steve Merry, SCC Highways
Suffolk Constabulary
Vidhya Issac-Langford, Network Rail

Apologies and Substitutions:

Cllr John Matthews; Cllr Julia Ewart substituting
Cllr Stuart Walmsley; Cllr Arthur Blackburn substituting
Cllr John Walford; Cllr Tom Haslam substituting
Cllr Matthew Saunders
Richard Bull
Richard Knight
John Marshall
Essex & Suffolk Water

1. Welcome and Introduction of the Chair and Panel
2. Meeting Note and Matters Arising from Previous Meeting (6 May 2026)
3. Essex & Suffolk Water
4. Road and Rail Updates
5. Rail Updates
6. Traffic and Transport
7. Q&A via Town and Parish Council Representatives
8. Date of Next Meeting
9. Close

DRAFT Meeting Notes – 05/08/2026

Minute Ref	Actions/Comments	Who	By when
1	Welcome and Introduction of the Chair and Panel		
1.01	Brian Stewart welcomed the attendees.		

Northern Transport Forum

Minute Ref	Actions/Comments	Who	By when
	Apologies were noted from Cllr John Matthews, Cllr Stuart Walmsley, Cllr John Walford, Cllr Matthew Saunders, Richard Bull, Richard Knight, John Marshall and Essex & Suffolk Water.		
2	Meeting Note and Matters Arising from Previous Meeting (6 May 2026)		
2.01	- Steve Merry had been incorrectly listed as an SZC attendee. - A representative from ESC had observed the meeting in the audience. 3.21 – It was noted that references to Market Place car park should be replaced with Crown Street car park.		
2.02	Subject to the above amendments, the minutes of 6 May 2026 were approved.		
2.03	The matters arising were as follows: 2.04 – 50 parking spaces at the northern park and ride (NPR) would be made available for Network Rail customers. Demand would be reviewed as spaces were being utilised. 3.15 – Letters were circulated to residents, where time allowed, to inform them of road closures. Weekly and monthly communications had been designed to allow town and parish councils to print and share them on their community notice boards. 3.16 – Completed. 3.17 – Completed. 3.20 – To be covered during the meeting. 3.21 – There was no evidence to indicate that SZC-linked contractors were parking in Crown Street car park. 3.22 – Marjorie Barnes stated that there was a tourism working group and tourism implementation plan. The Mediareach campaign had gone live in addition to ongoing PR. Over £1 million had been invested in the tourism fund during 2026. 6.02 – Steve Merry confirmed that he had sent Jez Porter a draft costing for the cycle path along the A12. 6.02 – David Seal stated that Willow Marsh Lane would open in Q3. 6.03 – Marjorie Barnes said SCC supported the aspiration to extend Bridleway 19. An action had been taken to assess the required land. 6.05 – Completed. 6.09 – Completed.		
3	Essex & Suffolk Water		
3.01	The agenda item was not covered.		
4	Road and Rail Updates		
4.01	David Peacop presented drone footage of the site. Substantial blacktop works for the southern park and ride (SPR) were complete. The two-village bypass roundabout was complete; work was taking place on the bridge. The intention was to conclude earthworks by yearend.		
4.02	The Yoxford roundabout was operating; landscaping works would begin through the winter. The NPR had advanced significantly.		
4.03	The trainline had been installed on the Ancillary Construction Area (ACA); planning permission had been granted for the College on the Coast. Considerable work was taking place on the entrance to the temporary construction area (TCA). The temporary batching		



Northern Transport Forum

Minute Ref	Actions/Comments	Who	By when
	plant was now producing concrete. Extensive works continued within the main construction area (MCA). David Peacop presented a slide detailing the rock armour.		
4.04	David Seal reported that water management zones, compound areas and access and haul roads had been created for the Sizewell Link Road (SLR). Piling rigs were in place by the Rookery Park railway bridge. Middleton Moor roundabout was being built. Regarding Pretty Road overbridge, platforms and piling rigs had been installed. David Seal clarified that there would be a full construction site along the SLR, and general cars would be unable to travel across the site.		
4.05	Hawthorn Road and Fordley Road would be closed from 10 August. Early enabling works on the SLR would begin in September. David Seal presented a summary for the main development site (MDS) roads, including autumn closures. The A12 Yoxford, B1122 early years phase 1 and B1387 improvement works were complete; Marlesford works were advanced. Westleton and Essex & Suffolk Water works would begin in Q4.		
4.06	Local road schemes in Leiston would be delayed by up to four weeks. David Seal outlined scheduled works for the B1125 corridor. B1122 early years nighttime work was likely to conclude by September/October. David Seal presented the agreed speed limits for Sizewell Gap.		
4.07	David Peacop stated that SZC continued to collaborate with other NSIPs. The NPR capacity had increased by 350 spaces. The intention was to have 1,250 spaces by yearend. Small improvement works would take place on Darsham pedestrian crossing. Worker parking spaces had been allocated; a point-to-point reliant and efficient bus service would run.		
	Questions and Answers		
4.08	Responding to Cllr Andrew Turner, Steve Merry said he was unaware of any plans to reduce the speed limit on the B1125 south of Westleton below 50mph.		
4.09	Cllr Paul Collins highlighted the B1122 early years works and stated that the priority work for Flash Corner/Potters Street remained outstanding, as did the road markings. David Seal responded that these works would be completed as part of phase 2.		
4.10	Responding to Cllr Arthur Blackburn, David Seal said it was hoped that Willow Marsh Lane would open in Q3. Steve Merry confirmed that Willow Marsh Lane was due to open on 20 August. He requested that SCC be informed of any change of date as soon as possible.		
4.11	Cllr Charles Macdowell questioned how the earlier completion of Middleton Moor roundabout would impact road traffic management for the B1122. David Seal responded that, while there would not be full closure, traffic management would be in place to create the tie-ins. The section would be completed in Q1 2027.		
4.12	Cllr Charles Macdowell referred to two sections within the B1122 early years nighttime work and said he was unaware that road marking and signage works had been completed. David Seal highlighted the complete and incomplete sections. Cllr Charles Macdowell agreed to discuss this topic further offline.		

Northern Transport Forum

Minute Ref	Actions/Comments	Who	By when
4.13	Cllr Josie Bassinette said the B1387 works had not been completed. She also asked if SZC continued to receive the same number of water tankers following the hosepipe ban. David Peacop responded that SZC continued to import water but was being environmentally friendly by minimising its use of the aquifer.		
4.14	Cllr Nicky Corbett requested communication that clearly outlined why Leiston railway would be closed for a further two+ weeks. David Seal acknowledged that the situation was extremely frustrating.		
4.15	Cllr Edwina Galloway asked what action was being taken to address the appalling road surface near the SLR in Kelsale. She also asked whether the 30mph zone could be reduced. Steve Merry responded that there was a temporary 30mph zone that would remain until the road was resurfaced. He understood that the road would be resurfaced imminently.		
4.16	Cllrs Paul Ashton and Julia Ewart commended SZC for assisting with firefighting efforts in Dunwich Heath.		
4.17	Cllr Paul Ashton noted that he had previously asked whether SZC could prioritise its workers using the NPR to reduce worker traffic on the B1125 but had not received a response. David Peacop explained that SZC would now instruct people to park in the areas that their post code fell within. This would provide space to local residents.		
4.18	Cllr Julia Ewart requested that hedge signs along the A12 be cleared and asked when the SLR west roundabout would be completed. David Seal said work was taking place on the SLR west roundabout. The roundabout would not open until the SLR became operational. The work would take three to four months.		
5	Rail Update		
5.01	David Seal presented the update on behalf of John Marshall.		
5.02	All track for the branch line and green rail route (GRR) was complete. Track renewal works at ESK junction had concluded in May; further track renewal works were planned for the last two weeks of September. Signalling work on the ESK branch line continued to plan.		
5.03	The railway-element works for both Buckleswood Road and Abbey Road level crossings were complete. SZC would target getting four trains per night, Monday to Friday, into the TCA. To facilitate this, signalling work would take place in August to first allow at least two trains per night to travel into the TCA. A full signalised railway line would be in place by yearend.		
5.04	Vidhya Issac-Langford explained that the Darsham level crossing upgrade works would be aligned with the SRSA programme to minimise road and rail disruptions. As dialogue was ongoing with the various rail and highway stakeholders, it was not possible to define the timing of the Darsham works. An update would be provided in due course.		
5.05	Autumn engineering works would take place from 24 October to 1 November. Engagement had taken place with Greater Anglia to communicate the works. A rail replacement bus service would operate during the blockade.		
	Questions and Answers		

Northern Transport Forum

Minute Ref	Actions/Comments	Who	By when
5.06	Cllr Nicky Corbett said she had understood that no trains would travel to the TCA overnight. David Seal stated that SZC hoped to run a maximum of two trains into TCA until the signalling and signalised level crossing works were complete. Trains would travel through Leiston overnight. Cllr Nicky Corbett agreed to discuss this offline.		
5.07	Cllr Josie Bassinette requested a rough timeline for the Darsham level crossing works. Vidhya Issac-Langford responded that the works would be accompanied by a long lead time to allow for sufficient planning.		
5.08	Brian Stewart said he recognised that the forum was becoming impatient following the lack of information on the Darsham level crossing works. He requested that Network Rail provide more definitive detail. ACTION: Network Rail to provide more definitive detail in relation to the Darsham level crossing works.	NR	
5.09	Cllr Julia Ewart called on all parties to collaborate to avoid the autumn engineering works creating a bottleneck in Saxmundham and Woodbridge.		
5.10	Cllr Andrew Turner asked whether the Darsham level crossing works would include daytime closures. Vidhya Issac-Langford replied that, while Network Rail would try to focus on nighttime closures, some daytime closures might occur.		
5.11	Cllr Andrew Turner asked how SZC buses would travel from the NPR and to site if the Darsham level crossing works included daytime closures. David Peacop said SZC also awaited definitive detail in relation to the Darsham level crossing works. Cllr Andrew Turner stated that it would be unacceptable for any buses to travel through Westleton.		
5.12	Cllr Andrew Candler asked whether SZC should contribute to the resurfacing of the A12 road by Kelsale. Steve Merry explained that there was an existing fund whereby SCC would work with SZC to reclaim structural maintenance costs. The fund only covered evolved roads. SCC and SZC had also developed a proposal that covered recovering costs for damage caused by extraordinary traffic.		
5.13	Responding to Cllr Andrew Candler, Steve Merry confirmed that improvement works were scheduled for the A144/A12 junction at Halesworth.		
5.14	Cllr Paul Collins asked whether SZC intended to produce signage during the plaza roundabout and B1122 closures that outlined that there was no direct access from Church Lane/Onners Lane to Leiston. David Peacop agreed to produce signage.		
5.15	Cllr Debbie Hughes requested that diversion signs in Bramfield and Thorington be modified. She also cautioned that any daytime closure of Darsham level crossing would cause havoc in Bramfield and Thorington.		
6	Traffic and Transport		
6.01	Rebecca Quigg presented the transport monitoring report for Q1 2026. Maximum daily HDV movement had slightly exceeded the target in February and March. This had followed the Transport Review Group's (TRG) decision to allow for an additional 23 HDVs within the HDV cap. The directional split of HGV movements had shifted back towards the target		

Northern Transport Forum

Minute Ref	Actions/Comments	Who	By when
	distribution of 85% southbound and 15% northbound. LGV movements remained consistently below the limit.		
6.02	The parish council monitoring workshop had taken place on 17 June. The latest figures for the most recent round of surveys had been ratified by the TRG and circulated to the parishes. Rebecca Quigg had held one-to-one meetings with over 25% of traffic monitoring parish councils. The TRG had agreed to fund a feasibility study for Knodishall following the results of traffic surveys. Financial administration for the permanent traffic monitoring points was complete. Installation would take place as soon as possible. Once installed, traffic monitoring reporting would take place quarterly.		
6.03	The Q2 TRG had taken place, during which support had been expressed for electric charging points for buses at the park and ride sites. Routes and HGV limits for OSI sites had been agreed; rail freight movements and passenger transport operations had also been discussed.		
6.04	Cllr Charles Macdowell said it was odd that the forum was reviewing traffic data that was six months old. Rebecca Quigg agreed to consider a better a way to provide the data.		
6.05	Cllr Andrew Turner asked when SZC was expected to achieve the target distribution of 85% southbound and 15% northbound movements. David Peacop said the amount of aggregate from the north would reduce once rail usage began.		
6.06	Cllr Edwina Galloway requested that Tiggins Lane not be used as a diversion route. Steve Merry explained that diversion routes should be like-for-like.		
6.07	Cllr Andrew Candler requested that the [back road that crossed over Willow Marsh Lane?] not be used as a diversion route. Steve Merry agreed to check this with Network Assurance.		
7	Q&A via Town and Parish Council Representatives		
7.01	Kelsale-cum-Carlton PC – Request for the traffic management data to be circulated within a timely manner. Kelsale-cum-Carlton has been waiting several weeks for data that was going to be shared with the PC about the B1121 and Clay Hills Road. Cllr Edwina Galloway confirmed that the question had been addressed.		
7.02	Westleton PC – Currently, SZC blue-badged vehicles which originate from accommodation to the west of the A12 and/or north of Blythburgh will still be able to travel to site for the duration of the build using the B1125 as SZC is not imposing controls on these vehicles. However, SZC is committed to keeping traffic off local roads as per the DCO Consolidated Transport Assessment which commits to ‘Transport the construction workforce to the main development site and associated development sites, whilst minimising the impact on local roads and communities’. Will SZC therefore require that these vehicles have to stay on the A12 until the B1122/SLR to get to SZC sites for the duration of the build and enforce the condition by installing trackers on the vehicles as SZC does with contracted HGVs, and impose the same conditions/penalties as for HGVs? As SZC is to require workers to be housed at the Hinton High Lodge Leisure accommodation travel to SZC sites using the NPR, can you commit to requiring that all blue-badged SZC vehicles originating/based at Hinton High Lodge Leisure – and any other HMO within the area		

Northern Transport Forum

Minute Ref	Actions/Comments	Who	By when
	<i>to the east of the A12 and south of Blythburgh – be required to use the A12 and B1122/SLR to get to SZC sites for the duration of the build?</i> David Peacop stated that 17 blue badge passes had been rescinded within the last three weeks. Seven first warnings and two final warnings had been issued for fly parking during the same period. Cllr Andrew Turner asked whether SZC vehicles would remain identifiable. David Peacop responded that they would. SZC needed to determine how its vehicles would be identifiable. Cllr Andrew Turner requested that SZC track blue badge vehicles to ensure that they remained on the A12 and B1122/SLR. David Peacop said, while this was unlikely, he would review this. ACTION: SZC to assess whether it can track blue badge vehicles to ensure that they remain on the A12 and B1122/SLR. AFTERNOTE: LGVs will not be tracked, looking to reduce number of 4x4s and continue to issue regular comms for prescribed routes. <i>Workers being accommodated at HMOs (Hinton High Lodge Leisure, Darsham Priory, and any others) may want to use the facilities at the accommodation campus at Eastbridge (medical, sports, recreational, catering). This could result in hundreds more weekly vehicles on the B1125 unless SZC ensures that the B1125 may not be used for these trips. Will SZC commit to require that all workers in such accommodation use the A12 and B1122/SLR – and not the B1125 – for such journeys?</i> David Peacop stated that SZC would run a bus service from Darsham to the final campus. Cllr Andrew Turner asked whether there would be amenities at the accommodation campus that would be used by workers residing at Hinton. David Peacop replied that there might be amenities. Cllr Andrew Turner asked if SZC would police this by not allowing parking spaces at the accommodation campus. David Peacop responded that SZC would.	DP	
7.03	Theberton and Eastbridge PC – Can you please give dates for the works surrounding the Darsham Level crossing including: <i>Whether it will be a full closure of the A12.</i> <i>Whether it will be a full closure of the East Suffolk line.</i> <i>Approximate duration of A12/rail closure.</i> <i>Start Date.</i> <i>Projected end date.</i> <i>Proposed road diversion routes and impact on NPR busses.</i> <i>Proposed rail replacement strategy.</i> It was noted that the question had been addressed during the meeting. Green Rail route and Leiston rail route to ACA: <i>What are the expected dates for routine rail traffic into the TCA?</i> <i>What are the expected dates for routine rail traffic into the ACA?</i> <i>What are the expected gate closure periods for passing trains and frequencies at both locations?</i> <i>Please give an updated plan for the numbers of trains and frequencies over the period of use of both level crossings.</i>		

Northern Transport Forum

Minute Ref	Actions/Comments	Who	By when
	David Seal said the objective was to run two trains into the TCA by September and four trains by yearend. It was likely that one train per day would run into the ACA. He also agreed to check the length of time it would take for a train to pass the crossings. ACTION: David Seal to check the length of time it will take for a train to pass the crossings.	DS	
7.04	Middleton PC – While we await the planned SLR specific meeting, can you tell us whether some sections will be completed earlier than the late 2027 finish date to allow cross traffic on existing lanes that are currently severed? David Seal said individual sections of the SLR could not be opened early to restore cross-traffic. What action is being taken in respect of our resident's Notice of Official Complaint and statement that SZC is violating both the Code of Construction Practice (CoCP) and Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) in respect of severe airborne dust arising from the SLR works, currently ongoing adjacent to Fordley Road? Has a visit been undertaken and dust been reviewed? Marjorie Barnes stated that SZC continually monitored dust levels and was not in breach of the CoCP or CEMP. Monthly test results were shared with ESC. It was agreed that a SZC representative would visit the resident who had submitted the question.		
7.05	Cllr Paul Collins suggested that SZC review the dust levels by Onners Lane.		
7.06	Leiston-cum-Sizewell TC – question from a resident: 'I see SZC buses passing my house in both directions all day long. They always seem to be empty. Is SZC monitoring their routes and adjusting them to avoid unnecessary journeys?' David Peacop said, while the SZC buses might appear empty when travelling in one direction, they were not empty when travelling in the opposite direction. While we await the improvements to the town centre, the situation with illegal parking on both yellow lines and pavements is worsening, particularly outside the pharmacy, takeaways, barbers and the launderette. While we understand this is not all directly related to SZC workers (although some is), it does make driving and walking around the town hazardous. The times of day when this is happening are mostly outside the working hours of the parking enforcement team at ESC. Please can SZC work with Suffolk Highways and ESC to implement interim measures to alleviate the problem while we await the town centre improvements? For example, in the form of pavement furniture and extra signage. Marjorie Barnes said SZC was acutely aware of the issue of illegal parking. There was a parking team in place, in addition to daily checks. SZC would continue to address the issue. Cllr Paul Ashton said ESC could act if the general public were responsible for the illegal parking. David Peacop stated that SZC was identifying problem areas. Active monitoring was taking place between 16.00 and 18.00. It was agreed that the matter would be addressed offline.		
7.07	Yoxford PC – On Wednesday 15 July at 10.27 going to Leiston I met with a heavy load from Sizewell with police escorts and warning vehicles just before Theberton and past the B2115. The load itself was a large silver object almost like an egg timer. It was too wide for the road and counter traffic had to go on verges to let it by. HGVs heading to Sizewell meant both lanes of traffic were very slow, barely above walking pace when not stationary. As I passed the load I counted 54 vehicles in the tailback. With all your GPS systems, your park and rides with lorry spaces, your much vaunted lessons learnt from Hinckley, how was such a situation with this load not		



Northern Transport Forum

Minute Ref	Actions/Comments	Who	By when
	<i>seen in advance, nor was there any proactive attempt to clear the road to facilitate a smooth traffic flow? A few days prior to this was an accident on the Yoxford roundabout which led to a tailback almost to the park and ride entrance, certainly well past the garage and Darsham turn offs. My question is simply that we were always told that once the roundabouts were finished traffic would cease to be an issue. On the contrary it is getting worse, hence the situation of the B2115 rat run scenario. Are Sizewell actually on top of the traffic problems or is this to be the reality of our roads as it is down at Hinckley?</i> David Peacop stated that the load had belonged to Sizewell B. David Seal added that Friday Street flowed better as a junction.		
7.08	Cllr Charles Macdowell queried the working hours during the construction of the SLR. David Seal responded that the working hours would be Monday to Friday from 07.30 to 18.00 and Saturday mornings.		
7.09	Cllr Charles Macdowell asked when the SLR would open. David Seal said the contractor programme would run until the end of 2027.		
8	Date of Next Meeting		
8.01	Brian Stewart confirmed that the next meeting would take place on Wednesday 4 November.		
8.02	Brian Stewart noted that Carolyn Barnes was attending her last meeting before retirement and thanked her for her work.		
9	Close		
9.01	Brian Stewart closed the meeting at 19.41.		