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SEPTEMBER 2021 REPORT

REFUGEES FROM AFGANISTAN; all councils in Suffolk are working to provide housing, and at the moment there were just 4 families in need, but I'm sure that will increase. Many people are wishing to donate clothing etc, so it is wise to go onto; [Suffolk.gov.uk/howyoucanhelp](https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/howyoucanhelp) to find out the best place for them to be delivered and what is most wanted.

NEW SOLAR PANEL SCHEME: I have forwarded details of the new round of solar panels scheme to the clerks which could be publicised.

FIRE AND RESCUE APPLICANCES; 4 appliances have now been upgraded and fitted with solar panels.

CLIMATE EMERGENCY

The Green, Liberal Democrat and Independent Group on Council will be putting a motion forward to the next Council Meeting to require the Council to set specific benchmarks and targets each year up to 2030 to encourage the modal shift in behaviour and technology required as without this we believe that the targets set out, laudable though they are, are unlikely to be achieved in practice.

Review of SEND provision

Suffolk County Council commissioned an independent review into Special Educational Needs and Disability provision which has now been completed.

The report, with any recommendations, is due to be published this month on Suffolk County Council's website, shared with those who contributed to it and also scrutinised, in public, by the council's Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Committee. We await it with interest.

Suffolk's expression of interest in discussions with Government on Devolution for Suffolk

A 'levelling up' white paper is to be produced by Government and Robert Jenrick MP (Sec of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government) has invited Councils to express interest in involvement in this. The aim appears to be to allow local 'leaders groups' to have more power in local decision making including 'greater financial efficiency, administrative streamlining and/or more joined up services'. It is not necessary to be a unitary authority although Government want evidence of working together. It is not clear yet what the benefits and draw backs or any details of these proposals are yet.

The 'Suffolk Leader's Group' (Leaders of County Council, District Councils, Ipswich Borough Council, and Police and Crime Commissioner) have written to the Government expressing interest in this proposal.

FLOODING; there still seems to be a problem with landownership. I have asked the cabinet member Cllr Paul West to see if he can help. You h