

**Report on LEADER by Natalie Moll, Business Development  
at Suffolk County Council**

**1. Introduction**

- 1.1 LEADER is a funding mechanism for the delivery of EU structural funding from 2014. LEADER is not a new concept and has existed within the EU community for more than 20 years.

**2. Current arrangements**

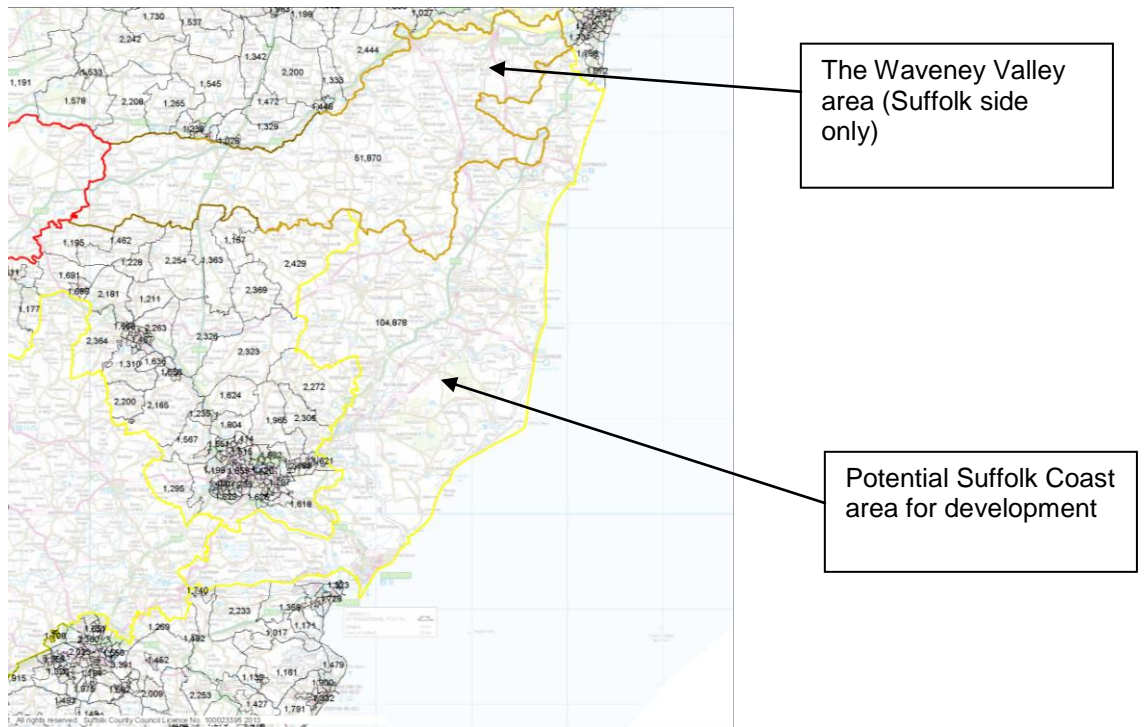
- 2.1 Currently in Suffolk we have two areas of the county that are supported via the LEADER approach; The Brecks in the West of the County and The Waveney Valley in the north East.
- 2.2 Funding for the current programmes is coming to an end. Funding for 2014-2020 is being determined and now is the time to start developing proposals, whether for existing or new areas, that could be supported by this approach.

**3. Future programmes**

- 3.1 The funding for LEADER comes via DEFRA from European Agriculture Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD).
- 3.2 The key features of a LEADER area are that it is bottom up approach to local economic development, where by the local private sector plays a significant role in local decision making both in setting priorities and in deciding the destination of future funding. Each LEADER area can have a maximum population of 150,000 inhabitants.

**4. Indicative areas in 2014 - 2020**

- 4.1 SCC has undertaken a number of events around the county to raise the profile of LEADER in anticipation of the new programme. These events have helped to identify new areas which can come forward in the next programme period. The Waveney Valley Local Action Group who oversee that specific area, are intending on going forward in the next period, and will be supported by Norfolk County Council who currently administer the area. Additionally there has been significant interest in developing an area along the Suffolk Coast. The map below highlights how the two areas may look in the future programme period.



## 5. The potential role of the ESP

- 5.1 SCC will support the development of a Leader programme where there is local grass roots commitment to its realisation. SCC is exploring with the ESP whether further support exists to establish a Coastal Suffolk Leader area following initial interest from the Destination Management Organisation and the Suffolk Coast and Heaths AONB.
- 5.2 SCC would be looking to the ESP for support in developing a Leader programme for the Suffolk Coast if there is backing for it.