

Norfolk County Council July Report

Devolution and Local Government Reform

Norfolk County Council has agreed to submit a proposal for one Unitary Authority to cover the whole of Norfolk. Under Devolution this will come under the Mayor that will be elected in May 2026. That Mayor will also be responsible for Suffolk Unitaries.

Norfolk County Council will now continue to put together data and information to support this proposal which has to be submitted to government in September.

Norfolk Community Fund

Cabinet agreed a new Norfolk Community Fund of half a million to provide each member with a £5,000 allocation to use to support local engagement, social inclusion and volunteer opportunities to empower local residents and help create strong supportive networks. Groups can apply for between £200 and £2,500. For bids over £500 groups will be asked to match fund by 50% and NCC is providing a Crowdfunding platform to help groups raise their 50%. The fund was launched on July 1st.

Parish Partnership

£300,000 has been allocated for 2026/27 Parish Partnership schemes in which NCC and local Parish Councils jointly fund local projects. Further information will be sent out to Parish Councils this month.

Summer Reading Challenge

Libraries are launching this year's Summer Reading Challenge for 4 – 11 year olds on July 5th. This years theme is Story Garden – Adventures in Nature and the Great Outdoors. The scheme helps to encourage children continue reading during the school holidays and develop their reading skills and a love of books.

Statistics from the previous year

Adult Social Care spent £1.8 million per day meeting the needs of residents, carried out 71,690 assessments for care and delivered 2,753,672 hours of home support.

Over 100,000 residents have used the Ready to Change webpage which helps people make positive changes to their health, such as stopping smoking.

The council's family hub website has received over one million visits.

Vulnerable asylum seeking children have been supported with around 120 in care at any one time.

The total number of children in care has reduced by 5% over the last year.

In the last year there have been over one million visits to the 19 Recycling Centres and 14 Re use shops.

We have processed 66,000 tonnes of recycling with 74% diverted from landfill.

People paid over 2.2million visits to our 47 libraries and 4.8 million items were loaned.

There are now 800 publicly available EV chargepoints across Norfolk.

Gigabit Broadband has been delivered to 7800 premises across Norfolk via our Better Broadband for Norfolk programme.

Over the last year Norfolk Fire and Rescue Service has responded to 16,358 calls, Carried out 8,789 Fire Safety home visits, and attended 8,708 incidents.

Norse Highways winter gritting service completed 85.7% of routes within the three hour target, to keep roads safe during severe weather.

£25.7 million was saved through the county wide switch to LED streetlighting, cutting energy use and reducing emissions.

We are now starting to look at how we balance next years budget.

Margaret

Cllr. Margaret Dewsbury

Cabinet Member for Communities and Partnerships
Norfolk County Council: Hingham Division
South Norfolk Council: Easton Ward