

November Report

NCC Annual Budget

The Council's Annual Budget was launched on October 27th and people are being urged to have their say. The Council is working to set a balanced budget for next year but is expecting increased demand for services, particularly Adult Services and Children's Services. The consultation offers local people and communities the opportunity to share any ideas they may have for saving public money. Budget planning for 2026/27 is based on an assumption of an increase and asks people which they think is most appropriate, 3%, 5% or more than 5%. The consultation can be found on www.norfolk.gov.uk/budget and it closes on December 15th. The final decision on the budget will be made in February.

Avian Influenza

From October 30th Norfolk became one of the high-risk areas for Avian Influenza and a Prevention Zone, which means all bird keepers are required by law to take biosecurity precautions.

If you keep 50 birds or more of any species they must be housed to help keep them safe. You do not have to house them if you keep fewer than 50 birds and their eggs or poultry products are for your own use only.

To report any breaches of bird flu rules email trading.standards@norfolk.gov.uk

Highways Contract

Norfolk County Council has appointed Kier as its new long-term contractor responsible for the maintenance and construction of the county's highway network of over 6,000 miles of roads as well as its pedestrian and cycle paths.

Healthy Ageing

Norfolk County Council's Public Health Department has launched a new campaign to encourage residents aged 50 and over to prioritise their health. A new website called 'It's never too late' has been launched to highlight resources and opportunities, to help residents make positive changes to their health and wellbeing. Information can be found on www.norfolk.gov.uk/healthyageing

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Adoption

Although there has been a 12% drop in families considering adoption nationally, Norfolk has seen a rise in households approved for adoption. In 2024/25 43 households were approved but there is still a need for more. If anyone is considering adoption, they can call 01603 638343 for a chat and to obtain information.

Norfolk Youth Parliament

Norfolk County Council is inviting young people aged 11 – 18 years to apply for a seat on Norfolk Youth Parliament to represent the views of young people in Norfolk. Youth Parliament members are elected every two years and any 11 – 18-year-old can stand or vote in the election. Applications are open until November 7th, for more information contact Rebekah.wakefield@norfolk.gov.uk

Margaret

Cllr. Margaret Dewsbury
Cabinet Member for Communities and Partnerships
Norfolk County Council: Hingham Division
South Norfolk Council: Easton Ward