



Norfolk County Council

Latest Information, Advice, Useful Links and Service Updates

Updated 4 November 2021

This weekly briefing is intended as a resource to keep you up to date with the latest information and advice.

COVID-19 Trusted sources of information

The most recent **verified data on cases in the UK and Norfolk** is available from [Public Health England](#) and [Norfolk Insights](#).

Everyone has a key role in promoting www.nhs.uk/coronavirus and www.gov.uk/coronavirus as trusted sources of information to the public. It is important to ensure people go to the right sources of information and keep up to date with how to look after themselves.

Keep up to date: We have [a dedicated webpage for coronavirus updates](#) in Norfolk and impact on Norfolk County Council services. This is updated regularly so please do re-visit this page.

Service updates: The most up to date information on council services can be found at [Norfolk County Council services disruptions](#). The council will continue to monitor its services and, if regulations and circumstances change, it will review its current plans.

Latest national announcements

COVID-19

Booster jabs:

A reminder that Covid booster jabs are available to book if there's been six months since your last dose AND you are:

- An adult aged 50+
- Living in a residential care home for older adults
- A frontline health or social care worker, including in residential and nursing homes for older adults
- Aged 16-49 with underlying health conditions that put you at higher risk of severe COVID-19 (as set out [here](#))
- An adult carer aged 16+
- An adult household contact of someone who is immunosuppressed

People can make an appointment for a booster via the National Booking Service if you're eligible: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-vaccination/> or call 119 for free between 7am-11pm seven days a week.

Booster jabs are being offered in line with national and Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation guidance.

Adult Social Care:

The Carers Self-Help Hub is an online platform for unpaid carers. It brings together, in one place, online learning to support carers to manage the practical and emotional aspects of caring, as well as their own health and wellbeing.

It is delivered by Norfolk & Suffolk Care Support in conjunction with Carers Matter Norfolk and has training and useful information targeted at adult, young and parent carers.

<https://carersselfhelphub.org.uk/>

Please do share and promote this within your constituents to encourage them to signpost carers to this support.

Public Health:

Transport

Bus service improvement plan for Norfolk

This is part of a commitment to improving bus services in Norfolk and will help gain access to some of the government's £3bn National Bus Strategy funding.

Supported by all Norfolk's bus operators, over the next 5 years Norfolk's Bus Service Improvement Plan aims to simplify ticketing and journey information, cut fares for under 25s, bring in cleaner and greener buses, improve accessibility and bus stops, and make better and more frequent links between the places people live, work and shop.

The approach will also take account of future transport challenges arising from the need to decarbonise transport while continuing to stimulate economic growth and recovery following the Covid 19 pandemic.

More details of this plan will be developed once we know how much funding has been allocated to Norfolk. Stakeholders will be invited to give their views on schemes and measures that may affect them.

For more details visit: www.norfolk.gov.uk/busstrategy

Environment

Natural Norfolk: Progress on delivering the Environmental Policy

A report to Cabinet for discussion 8 November says that, since 2018/19, the Council has:

Reduced carbon emissions from heating its buildings by 19 per cent, and transport emissions from its lease cars by 65%.

Other achievements include:

- Since 2008, 22,000 streetlights have been converted to LED
- Creation of a pollinator action plan
- Greenways to greenspaces initiative, to meet active travel and habitat diversity targets
- More than 51,000 trees planted over the past two growing seasons
- Major work on promoting low carbon or active travel, including cycling and walking infrastructure plans for Dereham, Great Yarmouth, King's Lynn and Norwich and extension of the e-bikes scheme
- Creating an environmental learning hub at Gressenhall Farm and Workhouse, growing native Norfolk trees and supporting residents in making positive changes in their areas

Next steps include:

- Continuing to deliver the Council's one million trees for Norfolk pledge
- Creating a local Nature Recovery Plan for Norfolk
- Ceasing to buy petrol and diesel cars and vans for council use
- Buying 10 electric fire service emergency response vehicles
- Ceasing to buy gas or oil boilers for council buildings, where there is an alternative
- Saving energy from computer servers, by shifting more information technology systems into the cloud
- Upgrading a further 15,000 streetlights to LED by July 2023
- Developing a Norfolk-wide cycling and walking plan
- Developing on-street electric vehicle charge-points in areas with limited off-road parking
- Working with construction, highways and transport contractors, including school buses and park and ride, to reduce carbon emissions

County Council budget

A report to Cabinet for discussion 8 November says that cabinet wants to avoid a Council Tax rise over three per cent and has asked officers to find £5 million of extra savings. The report says that, until the financial settlement for councils is confirmed in December, there is considerable uncertainty over the council's funding, plus rising pressures:

- Most of the additional Government funding for adult social care reform will be focussed on the NHS in the next three years

- The Government's fair funding review and reforms to business rates were not mentioned in the budget and may be postponed again
- There is no new funding for Covid pressures
- The end of the pay freeze, inflation and the National Insurance increase will add to pressures, particularly for adult social care providers

The council must bridge a £39 million budget gap next year. It has already identified £2.2 million of savings and is now bringing forward new proposals, worth £24.4 million.

EDP award nominations for Stars of Norfolk

Nominations for entries for the Stars of Norfolk and Waveney Awards 2021 close on Sunday 7 November. The categories for nominating a hero of the year 2021 are: carer, police/fire person, charity, community, education, NHS, outstanding bravery, team/community group, unsung hero/heroine, young person of the year, village/town of the year.

Further details and a nominations form can be found here:

<https://www.edp24.co.uk/lifestyle/enter-stars-of-norfolk-and-waveney-2021-8409334>