



Norfolk County Council

Latest Information, Advice, Useful Links and Service Updates

Updated 18 September 2025

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

Service updates: The most up to date information on council services can be found at [Norfolk County Council services disruptions.](#)

Norfolk County Council updates

One Council for Norfolk – strong where it counts. Local where it matters.

People in Norfolk will benefit from better services, local decision making and bigger savings if the county's eight councils are replaced by one - as detailed in the county council's recent draft business case report.

The Government wants to have fewer councils, known as unitary authorities, which run all services in their area. It has asked existing councils to submit detailed proposals by 26 September.

Norfolk County Council has proposed one new council, South Norfolk District Council proposed two and the remaining six district councils proposed three.

The county council's draft business case highlights a range of key benefits of having one council, including:

- Saving £39.8 million per year, compared to the current eight councils - money that can be invested in improving services
- Removing duplication and joining up services that are currently divided between councils, such as adult social services and housing
- A focus on meeting local needs, by setting priorities at neighbourhood area committees, closer working with town and parish councils and voluntary groups and delivering services through integrated neighbourhood teams
- Avoiding the risk of splitting up crucial, county-wide services such as adult social care, children's services and highways
- Being in a strong position to boost Norfolk's economy, by having a plan for the whole county

Norfolk County Council has updated its [Local Government Reorganisation webpages](#) to provide further information. These include information about the benefits of one council for residents, businesses, community groups, town and parish councils, and council employees. There are also separate briefing sheets available for each of those groups, that you can download and print out if you wish. Here are links to those briefing sheets:

-  [PDF - NCC One Norfolk One Council Briefing residents.pdf](#)

-  [PDF - NCC One Norfolk One Council business.pdf](#)
-  [PDF - NCC One Norfolk One Council community groups.pdf](#)
-  [PDF - NCC One Norfolk One Council Briefing town and parish.pdf](#)
-  [PDF - NCC One Norfolk One Council council employees.pdf](#)

The county council's draft business case report will be considered by the council's strategic and corporate select committee on 22 September. You can [read the report in the meeting agenda for 22 September 2025](#). The full council will discuss the report on 25 September, before the cabinet takes a final decision on the business case when it meets later on the same day.

Join the Safe School Run pledge

Norfolk County Council's Public Health Road Safety team are inviting schools, parents, and carers across the county to join the Safe School Run pledge, an initiative that encourages safer, healthier, and more sustainable travel during school drop-off and pick-up times.

Last year nearly sixty schools took part in the pledge. Participating schools report a 10% increase in walking, scooting, or cycling, fewer cars during peak times, and a noticeable improvement in road safety awareness among children and their families.

This year, schools will receive updated resources designed to support safe parking, reduce engine idling, and improve air quality around school gates. These free materials, developed by Norfolk County Council's Public Health Road Safety team with resources from Norfolk Constabulary and Norfolk Fire and Rescue Service, aim to help schools engage their communities in creating safer streets and cleaner air for all.

Schools interested in joining the pledge or accessing the free resources can visit the Norfolk County Council website or contact the Road Safety team directly for support. [Norfolk County Council's website](#).

More electric buses for Norfolk

Norfolk County Council and First Bus have joined forces to bring an additional 24 brand new electric double-decker buses to Norfolk as well as supporting infrastructure at two key bus depots.

Adding to the current fleet of 76 buses already operating, this is another major step forward in the county's journey toward greener public transport.

The £13.8 million investment - £8.9 million of which is funded by First Bus and the remainder supported by Norfolk's Bus Service Improvement Plan grant - will see the new buses operating in Great Yarmouth and Norwich by Autumn 2026.

Get ready for Stoptober

The NHS offers a wide range of free, trusted support to help people quit, including:

- The NHS Quit Smoking app to track your progress and keep you motivated
- A Personal Quit Plan tailored to your needs
- Expert advice and one-to-one support from local stop smoking services
- Encouragement and motivation from the Smokefree Facebook community
- You can also find information about medicines, nicotine replacement therapies and vaping as aids to quitting at nhs.uk/better-health/quit-smoking.

There are a range of services available within Norfolk to help you from [Smokefree Norfolk](#). The Smokefree Norfolk team is dedicated to helping people to quit smoking for good.

With their support, people make sustainable change that will help them improve their wellbeing, become healthier and reduce their chances of developing illnesses. [Visit the Smokefree Norfolk website to find out more.](#)

Our Norfolk County Council webpages, available [here](#), provide further information and sources of support with stopping smoking.

National Updates

Great British Energy vision and priorities

The Energy Secretary, Ed Miliband, this week [set out his vision](#) for Great British Energy, detailing his expectations for how the UK's publicly owned clean power company will deliver on the government's clean energy superpower mission.

The company will drive clean energy deployment across the whole of the UK, as a developer, investor, and owner of clean energy projects – working in tandem with the private sector, devolved governments, local authorities, and community energy groups. It will be required to increase public ownership and community involvement, and support jobs and economic growth across the UK. More detailed information can be found in Ed Miliband's [Statement of Strategic Priorities to Great British Energy](#).

Transforming business rates: interim report

The treasury has [published an interim report](#) summarising findings from the transforming business rates discussion Paper.

The interim report follows their Autumn Budget 2024 discussion paper and reflects stakeholder feedback on reforming the business rates system. It outlines priority areas for change aimed at improving fairness, transparency, and responsiveness.

It includes consideration of local authority views and says that the Government will consider the case for greater local flexibility in the business rates system, including the potential for local authorities to set their own business rates multipliers. This means that they could enable local councils to adjust the rate to better suit local businesses, to encourage growth, or raise funds for services.

Investment for coastal communities

Coastal communities across the UK will benefit from over [£1.1bn in joint government and industry investment](#) for the maritime sector, which is intended to increase growth and jobs, including in the engineering, green technology, and construction sectors.

The funding includes £700m of private investment for major UK ports and leading industry players, as well as £448m of public investment to reduce emissions from UK shipping. The Government says that his new funding will be allocated to projects 'in due course'.

Education Select Committee – solving the SEND crisis

A [new Education Committee report](#) has called for a "radical" overhaul of the way children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) are supported, as the number of children with SEND rose to 1.7 million this year.

The report finds that system is overwhelmed by increased complexity, with many children diagnosed with multiple complex needs. The increasing demand is placing an overwhelming strain on services and professionals across both the education and health sectors and the climbing costs are adding pressure onto council budgets.

Managing Children's residential care - National Audit Office (NAO) report

The NAO's latest report, [Managing children's residential care](#), assesses DfE's response to challenges faced by local authorities in placing looked-after children in residential care in England. The report makes several recommendations to support DfE to establish a productive and resilient residential care system.

The report found that the cost of residential placements for looked-after children in England has nearly doubled in five years - and that councils are forced to compete for spaces, with many children in homes that don't meet their needs, and nearly half placed in homes more than 20 miles away from their local area

In response to the findings, the Local Government Association's Children and Young People Board chair, Cllr Amanda Hopgood, said that 'astronomical' placement costs are siphoning money away from early help for families. She called on the Government to use the Autumn Budget to boost funding for children's social care and crack down on large private care providers' profits, stressing the need for a cross-government strategy to support vulnerable children and care leavers.