

## **County Councillors Report January 2024**

### **Devolution Deal for Norfolk:**

On Tuesday the 12<sup>th</sup> December Council debated the recommendation from Cabinet to proceed with the level 3 devolution deal proposed by government. It was decided that the required election of a directly elected leader will take place in May 2025, not May 2024 as originally proposed. The change in the council's constitution to accommodate the directly elected leader will require approval at Council in July 2024.

### **Household DIY Waste:**

The government has announced plans to limit charges for households disposing of DIY waste at recycling centres from 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023. This means that householders will be able to dispose of some DIY waste for free. This applies to small scale projects carried out by householders on their own home.

From 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023 householders will be able to:-

- Take a small amount of DIY waste to your local recycling centre free of charge, up to a maximum of 2x 50 litre sacks of one item per visit. No single item should be more than 200cm x 75cm x 70cm in size.
- Make four single visits with DIY waste within any 4-week period.

For DIY waste over the free amount there will be a charge in accordance with the “pay as you throw” charging schedule. The schedule is available on the NCC website.

Recycling centres will continue to accept other types of domestic waste for free such as furniture, white goods, electrical items and garden waste. There is no limit on the number of visits that can be made to dispose of this kind of waste.

### **Highway Flooding:**

The recent persistent and sometimes heavy rain has caused some flooding to local roads. When the rain is heavy the highway drainage system may be overwhelmed, and gullies may back up and cause temporary “ponding” which generally disperses fairly rapidly when the rain ceases. The highway drainage system, maintained by NCC, is only designed to cope with rain that falls on the carriageway. Roadside ditches are not generally owned or maintained by NCC. In periods of persistent rain the land adjacent to the highway becomes waterlogged and further rain causes that rainfall to “run off” towards the carriageway, thus putting unexpected pressure on the highway system. Over 90% of recently reported highway flooding has been caused by that “run off”.

Much of the excess water emanating from “run off” could possibly be dealt with by local landowners maintaining the ditches on their land. In the last 2 years numerous flooding problems have been solved with the cooperation of landowners and by talking to residents with local knowledge. Where that co-operation is not forthcoming NCC do not have the budget to carry out work on private land to prevent highway flooding.

The occurrences of prolonged and heavy rainfall are becoming more frequent and highway flooding is increasing. NCC needs to become more aggressive with any third party which is guilty of depositing flood water on the highway, and I am currently highlighting my concerns with NCC management.

Please report all instances of highway flooding using the “report it” facility on the NCC website.

Mark Kiddle-Morris, Norfolk County Council,  
Member for Necton & Launditch.

2<sup>nd</sup> January 2024.