

OUR DELIVERY OVER THE PAST YEAR, IN NUMBERS

Over the past year we have:

Provided

19 Recycling centres.

14 reuse shops with over

1 million visits in total per year.



**Recycling
centre**

We have processed

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

94% of the remaining
waste was sent to
create energy.



Estate
emissions
fell a further

9%

compared to the
previous year and
they are now

61%

lower

than they were against the 2016/17 baseline.

We deliver a variety of services across
47 libraries, with over

2.2 million visits a year
& nearly **4.8m items loaned**.



Nearly **500,000** residents in Norfolk have had an improvement
in their bus service over the last 12 months.



Satisfaction with bus services has increased from **78% to 87%**.



84% of bus stops in Norfolk are now fully accessible for people
with disabilities.



Delivered
**60 additional EV
chargepoints**.

There are now
around **800** publicly
available chargepoints
across Norfolk

We have seen
consistent growth in
bus patronage year on
year of between **5-16%**

Completed our **Better Broadband** for Norfolk programme,
with gigabit broadband now delivered to **7,800** premises
across Norfolk. Average download speed across
Norfolk increased **55.14%** over the last year.





Upgraded **99.8%** of streetlights to more energy efficient LEDs ahead of schedule, saving a total of **£16.5m and 88.75 million kWhs in energy, reducing CO2 emissions by 26,000 tonnes.**

The Beryl micromobility scheme in Norwich has **93,000** users and there have been **1.8million zero emission journeys** made by bike, e-bike and e-scooter, travelling **3.1million miles.**



61% of Beryl users have replaced a car, van or taxi journey, saving carbon emissions.

Adults

Spent over £1.8m per day, meeting the needs of residents:



Received requests for social care from **38,699** individuals



Carried out **71,690 assessments** for care



Delivered **2,753,672 hours** of home support



Delivered **451,537 hours** of daytime care



All while delivering over **£100m** in savings to ensure long-term sustainability of finances.

Childrens



Kept more families together and reduced the number of children in our care by **5%**



Supported vulnerable asylum-seeking children with over **120** in our care at any point in time



Helped over **6,400** children through our new teams supporting schools with prevention, early help and inclusion



Our Start for Life and Family Hubs have had over **60,000** contacts with families and over **1,000,000** hits on the Family Hubs website



Reached over **60,000** young people, including **11,000** from disadvantaged communities, through the Norfolk Music Service

Norfolk Fire and Rescue Service



16,358
calls



delivering **8789** fires
safety visits to homes



and attending
8708 incidents



Parish Report – June 2025

Cllr Andrew Jamieson

One council for Norfolk is best for residents and services, report says

A new report from Norfolk County Council shows that replacing the county's eight existing councils with a single unitary authority could save £36.2 million annually, enough to repay the £33.7 million setup cost within just one year.

The draft options appraisal, developed in response to Government plans to streamline local government in England, highlights the financial and service benefits of a single council model. It finds that:

- **A single council would deliver the highest savings**—£36.2 million per year—by reducing duplication, cutting senior roles, and achieving economies of scale.
- **Two or three councils would cost more** to set up (£43.2 million and £50.2 million respectively) and would either take years to break even or never recover the investment.
- **Ongoing costs of splitting services** like adult social care and highways could reach up to £33.6 million per year under a three-council model.
- By 2040, two or three councils would cost between £10 million and £31 million more per year than a single council.
- **The west of Norfolk could face a funding shortfall** of up to £21.1 million annually under multi-council options, raising serious concerns about financial sustainability. This, of course, would be in addition to the annual savings of around £60 million a year that are made across the County. Strategic and operational efficiencies are far less difficult to achieve at scale. So an estimated £50million plus revenue gap in west Norfolk's £600m gross budget would quickly lead to lost non statutory services, sharply increased council taxes or both.

The report also warns that dividing services between councils could lead to duplication, inefficiencies, and risks to vulnerable residents who rely on county-wide support.

Norfolk County Council is proposing a single unitary council as its preferred option and will be submitting its findings to Government as part of the national reform process.

Norfolk County Council Approves £500k Community Fund to Boost Local Projects

Last month I announced the launch of a new £500k Norfolk Community Fund for 2025/26. I conceived it as a way of answering requests from local voluntary, community, parish and

social enterprise projects in my patch, aimed at supporting grassroots projects that strengthen communities and improve local wellbeing.

Groups can apply for grants between £200 and £2,500 to deliver small-scale initiatives that bring people together, promote inclusion, and enhance quality of life. Each of the county's 84 councillors will be allocated £5,000 to distribute within their divisions, ensuring funding reaches every corner of Norfolk.

The fund builds on the success of previous schemes like the Norfolk Parish Partnership and the Local Members Fund to bring cash down into the local community. It will also encourage match funding through crowdfunding, potentially doubling the impact to £1 million

The Fund will be running from July 1st and I will distribute leaflets shortly; meanwhile, or more information on how to apply, visit www.norfolk.gov.uk.

Norfolk County Council issues over £685,000 in fines for non-compliant road works

Many people have commented on the amount of times they find roads dug up in Norfolk. 75% of these are linked to utilities companies and developers. Extraordinarily, the Council has no power to limit these works as utility firms have the right to repair their equipment immediately. This was entirely reasonable when we dealt with, maybe, a dozen utilities focussed on key services: water, gas and the like. However, with 79 utility companies, cable and so forth, also now having this authority, it has become very hard for NCC to expedite their co-ordinating role. As a result we are significantly increasing the amount of fines issued for use of these powers for non emergency work and for over running repairwork. In 2024/25, Norfolk County Council issued over 44,000 street and roadwork permits, with 75% linked to utility companies and developers. £685,000 fines have been raised and the Council is insisting on better coordination where it can. As I say, however, with 79 utility firms having the legal rights to dig up roads, local control is limited. Norfolk County Council is working with local MP's to get regulations tightened.

Around 7,000 permits were for emergency works, often the most disruptive, and 5,400 applications were rejected. The Council issued 2,809 Fixed Penalty Notices for permit breaches, raising nearly £340,000. A further £345,000 came from 306 overrunning works, causing 1,317 days of disruption.

Two utility companies were successfully prosecuted, resulting in nearly £100,000 in court fines and full costs awarded to the Council.

New Support Package Launched for Norfolk's Rural High Streets

Norfolk County Council has launched a new support package to boost rural high streets, with 100 businesses across eight pilot towns set to join a new Retail Excellence programme this summer and winter.

The initiative, part of the High Streets Matter campaign, aims to build business skills, increase footfall, and strengthen community pride. It includes:

- Retail Excellence programme in Dereham, Diss, Fakenham, North Walsham, Attleborough, Aylsham, Gorleston-on-Sea, and Hunstanton.
- A follow-up High Growth programme for 12 standout businesses.
- Pride of Place funding for community-led projects promoting local high streets.
- Access to a digital retail toolkit, the Go Digital programme, and a Market Towns Conference in October.

The programme builds on successful pilots like the *Love Your Market Town* scheme and responds to national calls for greater support for small firms.

For more information, visit [the High Streets Matter webpages](#) or email nhsm@norfolk.gov.uk.

New Campaign Helps Older Drivers Stay Safe Behind the Wheel

Norfolk County Council has launched a new campaign Drive Safe to help older drivers stay confident and safe on the road for longer.

In partnership with Norfolk Police, Fire and Rescue, and the East of England Ambulance Service, the campaign encourages drivers to reflect on how health changes may affect driving and to seek support early.

Key features include:

- Free workshops and drop-ins
- One-to-one support
- The GOLD course – a one-hour, tailored driving session with an approved instructor
- A new online hub with videos, tips, and booking info

With over 25% of Norfolk's population aged 65+, and a rise in collisions involving older drivers, the campaign aims to ensure people can continue driving safely and independently.

More than 2,000 people have already accessed the new resources since the launch in April. Visit <http://www.norfolk.gov.uk/drivesafe> to learn more.

Single-Use Vapes to Be Banned in Norfolk from 1st June

From Sunday 1st June, it was illegal to sell or supply single-use vapes in Norfolk, as new national regulations came into force.

The ban, part of the Environmental Protection (Single-use Vapes) Regulations 2024, aims to reduce fire risks from lithium-ion batteries and tackle environmental damage caused by disposable plastics and nicotine waste.

Businesses must ensure all vapes sold are refillable, rechargeable, and replaceable, and must offer a take-back service for safe disposal. Enforcement action for non-compliance may include fines, product seizures, or prosecution.

Norfolk's 19 recycling centres offer dedicated bins for vape and battery disposal from households.

For business guidance and resources, visit the government's single-use vapes ban page or contact Norfolk Trading Standards at 0344 800 8020.

Norfolk announced as priority area for new powers and funding

Norfolk is set to receive new powers and funding following a Government announcement, with the County being a key focus for devolution and local government reform.

Ministers are aiming for a devolution deal that covers both Norfolk and Suffolk, including the creation of an elected mayor. They also plan to replace the existing "two-tier" system, where key services are shared between county and district councils, with unitary authorities.

For more details on the story so far, including the Government's devolution white paper and answers to frequently asked questions from the Local Government Association, visit www.norfolk.gov.uk/devolution. You can also [watch our video explaining devolution and local government reform](#).

In addition, we have responded to the Government request for an 'Interim Submission' of our views for Local Government Reorganisation. A copy can be read [HERE]

Norfolk's highways set for major investment in the year ahead

This month Norfolk County Council Cabinet has reviewed a series of investments and improvements to the county's highways infrastructure.

Documents reveal how 97 Norfolk parishes will benefit from projects funded through the Council's Parish Partnership scheme. The North Coast Division sees a £12,000 scheme going ahead in Hunstanton. The 2025/26 programme is designed to deliver what local communities have requested, including trods, village gateways, bus shelters, and vehicle-activated signs.

The programme is jointly funded by Norfolk County Council and contributions from Town and Parish Councils. This year, Norfolk County Council plans to contribute £425,476, enabling a total investment of £848,702 for local projects.

Once again, I urge Parish Councils with available CIL funds to come forward with schemes that we can work on together to submit for approval. The scheme is always over subscribed.

The Cabinet has also reviewed the highways capital programme, which highlights successes from the previous year and outlines how highways maintenance funding will be allocated for the coming 12 months. This includes an additional £15 million from the Department for Transport (DfT).

With this extra funding, an additional 100 miles of roads in Norfolk will be resurfaced this year, supporting the Council's proactive approach to highway maintenance that helps

prevent potholes. The funding will also provide additional resources for local repairs and patching across the county.

Funding boost for active travel in Norfolk

Active Travel England have today announced an additional £4.45million for active travel in Norfolk as part of a [wider nationwide funding package totalling almost £300million.](#)

The additional £3.35m for 2025/26 is an outline allocation at this stage and comprises both capital and revenue funding. This means it will be used to fund new active travel initiatives and behaviour change programmes in addition to the delivery of new infrastructure but no decisions on which schemes will be funded have been made.

The next step will be to prepare proposals for Active Travel England once we receive further details on how the allocation can be spent in the coming months.

New apprenticeship starts in Norfolk increase by a staggering 11%

Apprenticeship starts with Norfolk businesses and organisations surged by 11% in the first three months of the 2024/25 academic year, compared to a national increase of less than 1.5%.

From 1 August to 31 October 2024, there were 2,025 new apprenticeship starts in Norfolk, marking a rise of 199 from the same period in 2023/24. This represents the highest number of starts in this timeframe in over five years.

Apprenticeships Norfolk reports growth across all age groups, with starts up by 7.4% for those aged 16-18, 9.6% for 19-24-year-olds, and 14.6% for those aged 25 and over. Notably, the 16-18 age group saw its strongest first-quarter performance in over five years.

Department for Education (DfE) data also highlights an increase in recruitment, with the number of 'newly recruited' apprentices (those employed for up to three months at the start of their apprenticeship) rising by 10.4% from the previous year. This translates to 94 more starts.

In terms of employer size, non-levy funded apprenticeships, typically started by small to medium-sized businesses, grew by 10.3% (69 more starts) compared to 2023/24. Larger businesses also saw growth, with an 11.2% increase, adding 130 more apprenticeships.

More household hazardous waste days to be held at Norfolk's recycling centres

As part of the Norfolk County Council budget for the upcoming year, additional household hazardous waste events will be held across the county. These events will take place at seven recycling centres this spring, supplementing the usual autumn events.

The free events will be held throughout April and May 2025, and residents must use the recycling centre booking system to attend. Bookings will open one week before each event.

These events are exclusively for residents disposing of hazardous household waste. They are not open to businesses, groups, or other organisations. If residents do not have hazardous waste to dispose of, they will be directed to an alternative site, as the events are expected to be in high demand.

The spring hazardous waste events will be held on the following dates:

- 4 and 5 April at King's Lynn
- 11 and 12 April at Dereham
- 25 and 26 April at Thetford
- 2 and 3 May at Norwich North
- 9 and 10 May at Hempton
- 16 and 17 May at Caister
- 23 and 24 May at Norwich South

Please note, there will be no hazardous waste events over the Easter weekend.

A list of acceptable items for disposal at the hazardous waste days can be found here:

www.norfolk.gov.uk/hazardouswaste

Parish Report 2024-25 – Cllr Andrew Jamieson

Council Delivers Balanced Budget and calls for cost-saving local government reorganisation

Norfolk County Council has approved a balanced budget for the 2025/26 fiscal year, despite facing considerable financial challenges.

Key Details from the Norfolk County Council Budget:

- **Gross Budget:** The council has a gross expenditure budget of £2.2 billion (£1.7 billion excluding schools). This includes:
 - £700 million for Adult Social Care
 - £367 million for Children's Services (non-schools)
 - £283 million for Infrastructure
 - £44 million for Communities and Environment
 - £46 million for Fire Services

Net Budget: The net budget for 2025/26 is £572 million. This represents the amount raised through Council Tax to fund the services provided by the council.

- **Budget Growth:** The 2025/26 budget includes an increase of £121 million, which covers:
 - £31 million for inflationary pressures
 - £35 million for legislative pressures (including the increase in the National Living Wage and higher Employers National Insurance contributions)
 - £15 million for demand and demographic pressures
 - Over £25 million to cover recurrent overspends from Adult and Children's Services in 2024/25.
- **Funding and Savings:** While costs have risen by £121 million, funding has only increased by £32 million. The Government has eliminated the Rural Services Delivery Grant and reallocated funds from rural to metropolitan areas. To balance the budget, savings of £45 million will be implemented.
- **Council Tax:** For 2025/26, Council Tax will increase by 4.99%, which includes a 3% rise for general Council Tax and a 2% increase for the Adult Social Care precept. A Band D household will pay £1,755.63 per year, or around £34 per week, for County Council services in 2025/26.

Norfolk announced as priority area for new powers and funding

Norfolk is set to gain new powers and funding following a significant Government announcement on 5th February 2025. Deputy Prime Minister Angela Rayner revealed that Norfolk would be a priority area for devolution and local government reform. As part of this, the Government is seeking to create a devolution deal for Norfolk and Suffolk, which would include the introduction of an elected mayor.

In addition, there are plans to reshape local government in Norfolk. The Government intends to replace the current two-tier structure, where services are shared between county and district councils, with unitary authorities. This would centralize decision-making and service delivery into a single authority, streamlining local government processes and potentially increasing efficiency and saving taxpayers money.

These changes will empower local areas with more control over their services and funding. It is the County Council's intention to take this once-in-a-generation opportunity to structure Norfolk's services to suit residents, not councils or councillors. Therefore, we will be looking at **maximum value for money, minimum reorganisation costs and disruption of services and an increase in local participation in day to day decisions**. For further details on the progress of devolution and the impact of these reforms, visit www.norfolk.gov.uk/devolution, where you can also find answers to frequently asked questions from the Local Government Association. To watch an informative video [go to our video explaining devolution and local government reform](#).

Norfolk signs historic agreement with Ukrainian region of Lviv

A cooperation agreement has been signed between Norfolk County Council and the Ukrainian region of Lviv which is designed to explore knowledge transfer, educational exchange and trade opportunities.

The historic Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed on Thursday 2 May at the Ukrainian Embassy in London by Leader of Norfolk County Council Kay Mason Billig and in Lviv via video link by Maksym Kozytskyi, Head of the Lviv Regional Military Administration. It is the first such agreement to be signed with Lviv by any part of the UK.

Cllr Mason Billig was joined at the ceremony by Liz Truss MP, as the MP for South West Norfolk, Cllr Fabian Eagle Cabinet Member for Economic Growth, Cllr Chris Dawson, Rural Champion, Chris Starkie, Director of Growth and Investment, and Roberta Willner, Head of Economic Development. Also there to witness the signing of the agreement was Nataliya Klymko, Programmes Coordinator for Growth and Investment.

Both Norwich and Lviv have links to UNESCO: Norwich is a UNESCO City of Literature, and the historic part of Lviv city (300-acre historic centre) is included in the UNESCO World Heritage list. In 2022, Lviv was granted Freedom of the City of Norwich in solidarity with Ukraine, and the MoU - similar to a twinning arrangement - will further celebrate and build on these links.

Norfolk and Lviv have identified several key opportunities for collaborative working, including the TechBridge programme, a strategic partnership between the UK Government, Ukraine Ministry of Digital Transformation and Ukraine Ministry of Foreign Affairs to forge connections between our tech ecosystems.

This partnership currently runs to 2025 but may be extended, providing businesses in both locations access to expert advice and support in navigating the barriers to UK-Ukraine trade. There are also specialist investment accelerator programmes for Ukraine tech SMEs looking to expand overseas.

The skills and knowledge the local Lviv tech sector offers are recognised on the international level. For example, Lviv IT specialists developed the Skype app and special effects for films such as Harry Potter and Spider-Man. Norfolk also has a strong growing ICT/Digital sector with several individual clusters, and the MoU will encourage collaboration within the sector between our regions by participating in mutual events of interest.

This not only benefits cluster growth in a key sector for Norwich and Norfolk's digital services and would benefit Lviv through the contribution to the recovery efforts.

Other opportunities for collaboration include an incoming visit to the Theatre Royal Norwich in October by the Lviv National Philharmonic Orchestra of Ukraine, led by leading conductor, Theodore Kuchar.

Norfolk County Council opposes National Grid pylon scheme

Councillors in Norfolk have objected to a National Grid proposal to construct an electricity transmission line across the county.

National Grid has launched a statutory consultation on plans for an 114 mile overhead power line between Norwich in Norfolk, Bramford in Suffolk and Tilbury in Essex.

In non-statutory consultations, Norfolk County Council has urged National Grid to reconsider the scheme, but the project will be determined by the secretary of state for energy security and net zero as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project.

Norfolk County Council's planning and highways delegations committee have agreed to object to the proposal, arguing that alternative options, including an offshore or underground scheme, had not been adequately considered.

At a recent full council meeting, councillors backed a motion expressing concerns over the proposals.

That motion called for Kay Mason Billig, leader of the Conservative-controlled council to write to National Grid with several requests, including further consideration of an offshore alternative and of putting more of the power line underground.

Norfolk set to receive highest highways maintenance allocation in the region

Norfolk is set to receive more than £56 million for highways maintenance this year.

Funding for every local authority across England today can be used throughout 2025/6 on the roads are in most need of repair, and to deliver immediate fixes for communities across Norfolk.

This comes just a few weeks after Norfolk took the top spot for the second year in a row in the National Highways and Transport (NHT) survey on roads and transport. People from across the county gave Norfolk the highest (above average) score in satisfaction with the condition of the highways.

More than 5,300 potholes have been fixed across Norfolk since April this year and of those 99% were repaired by our contractors within the agreed response times. If you see a pothole - don't assume someone else has reported it. Let us know by completing our online form: www.norfolk.gov.uk/potholes

Norfolk's highways set for major investment in the year ahead

This month Norfolk County Council Cabinet has reviewed a series of investments and improvements to the county's highways infrastructure.

Documents reveal how 97 parishes, from Antingham to Worstead, will benefit from projects funded through the Council's Parish Partnership scheme. The 2025/26 programme is designed to deliver what local communities have requested, including trods, village gateways, bus shelters, and vehicle-activated signs.

The programme is jointly funded by Norfolk County Council and contributions from Town and Parish Councils. This year, Norfolk County Council plans to contribute £425,476, enabling a total investment of £848,702 for local projects.

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With this extra funding, an additional 100 miles of roads in Norfolk will be resurfaced this year, supporting the Council's proactive approach to highway maintenance that helps prevent potholes. The funding will also provide additional resources for local repairs and patching across the county.

Herring Bridge receives further national awards

The new Herring Bridge in Great Yarmouth, which opened in February, received further national recognition at a Highway Awards ceremony in London last night.

Norfolk County Council's nationally significant infrastructure project won the Major Project of Year award and was also later announced as winner for the Highways Special Merit award across all shortlisted finalists.

This follows the bridge already receiving Major Project of the Year at the New Civil Engineer awards early this summer.

The Highway Awards were held on Tuesday 24th September at Park Plaza, Westminster Bridge in London, with shortlisted entries decided by an expert panel of twelve judges.

Norfolk's entry was a joint submission with consultants WSP who worked with the council and partners to take the project, constructed by BAM Farrans joint venture, from its inception through to delivery.

Norfolk County Council committed over £1m to keep people warm last winter

Proposals to support some of Norfolk's most vulnerable people this winter have been set out today.

Norfolk County Council is looking to use £1.15m of the £6.7m allocated to the county through the Household Support Fund to keep people warm and help them make ends meet.

The county council will use £0.75m to partner with local organisations, including Age UK and Citizens Advice Bureau, to reach some of those most affected by the changes to the Winter Fuel Payments. They will also put £400k into the 'warm spaces' scheme which provides vital respite in community spaces across the county.

The proposals also include £3.6m to continue providing cost-of-living vouchers for families eligible for means tested free school meals. This is in addition to:

- £1.00m to Norfolk Assistance Scheme. Delivered by the Norfolk County Council, the scheme includes direct award of assistance, the provision of household items and emergency help, alongside a range of support and guidance
- £0.70m to local councils across Norfolk to provide proactive and crisis support
- £0.25m to Adult Learning to continue free access to a range of courses to help with cooking at home, budgeting, and digital skills.

New strategy puts Norfolk at the forefront of the UK economy

Ambitious plans for Norfolk's economy have been unveiled in a new strategy to be presented to the county council's cabinet in November.

The strategy seeks to build on Norfolk's influence in key sectors, including clean energy, agri-tech and cutting-edge research.

Norfolk's Economic Strategy, also known as a Local Growth Plan, sets out an overview of the local economy and key priority areas for economic growth.

Norfolk is already at the forefront of some of the UK's most strategically important sectors.

Norfolk is a global leader for offshore wind with £39bn of clean energy investment forecasted over the next 20 years. In Great Yarmouth, the new Operations and Maintenance Campus is expected to create 650 new jobs and new commercial space for the offshore renewable energy sector. This £24.8m partnership project is a collaboration with Great Yarmouth Borough Council, with enabling works well underway.

Work is also underway to examine how to decarbonise the gas supply through the development of a 'Bacton Energy Hub', reusing existing North Sea assets for carbon storage, and blue/green hydrogen production.

The local Agri-Food and Agri-Tech economy puts Norfolk at the epicentre of addressing challenges around food security and climate change. Norwich Research Park is a world-leading research base at the forefront of global food and health research. It is Europe's largest single site hub of research, training, education, and enterprise in food and health.

Norfolk is already well known for a visitor economy which accounts for nearly 20% of all employment. The county was recently successful in bidding to become a Local Visitor Economy Partnership, alongside Visit East of England and Suffolk County Council. This put them on an even footing with the likes of Cornwall, the Peak District, and the Cotswolds who have the same level of Visit England accreditation.

Major infrastructure projects continue to transform how residents and businesses get around. The completion of the Herring Bridge and the start of construction on the long-awaited Long Stratton Bypass will bring a major boost for the local economy. Norfolk has also seen year-on-year growth in bus passenger numbers and the introduction of a major electric bus fleet.

The county council continues to push for improvements along the A47, with an ongoing campaign to improve connectivity and safety through further dualling in key areas.

Norfolk has built an increasingly enterprising culture, supporting residents to start up their own business, and for new start-ups to survive and thrive. Norfolk has a better than UK average for survival of new businesses at 63% after 3 years, compared to the UK average of 56%.

New Anglia Growth Hub acts as the 'front door' for local businesses looking for support. Over the past 10 years, the Growth Hub has supported over 14,000 businesses with free, impartial support and advice.

Norfolk County Council supports Norfolk's Family Farms

Conservative-led Norfolk County Council is taking proactive steps to support the county's hard-working family farms in response to recent budget announcements from the Labour Government. Recognizing the essential role that farming plays in the local economy, the Council is submitting and debating a motion aimed at ensuring that Norfolk's farmers are well-supported as they navigate the challenges brought on by these new policies.

The motion reflects the Council's strong commitment to championing local businesses, with a particular focus on protecting the livelihoods of those who sustain Norfolk's agricultural heritage. Norfolk's family farms are the backbone of rural communities, and the Conservative-led Council is dedicated to ensuring that their voices are heard and their concerns are addressed.

Understanding the issues that local farmers face, ranging from financial pressures to complex regulatory changes, the motion highlights the importance of offering practical support.

Norfolk County Council is committed to creating a future where local farmers can thrive, ensuring a sustainable and prosperous agricultural sector for generations to come.

Norfolk street lighting goes green

Norfolk is leading the way in energy efficiency with the successful completion of its street lighting upgrade project, finishing almost a year ahead of schedule. This major initiative will cut CO2 emissions by over 200 tonnes annually, helping the county make significant strides toward a greener, more sustainable future.

The upgrade, carried out by Amey on behalf of Norfolk County Council, involved replacing 16,800 traditional High-Intensity Discharge (HID) lights with 15,531 state-of-the-art LED lanterns. This transition, which began in August 2023, will ensure that, starting in November 2024, 100% of Norfolk County Council's street lighting will use low-energy LEDs.

The final phase of this project will save approximately 1,099,032 kWh of energy each year, translating to an estimated £380,000 in savings based on current electricity prices.

Since the first LED streetlights were installed in 2008, the county has saved around 71 million kWh of energy, reducing carbon dioxide emissions by over 22,200 tonnes, equivalent to the carbon savings of 6.7 million litres of diesel. This project marks another significant achievement in Norfolk's ongoing commitment to reducing its environmental impact and promoting energy sustainability.

Discover the Best of Norfolk: Explore 1,500 Miles of Scenic Trails for Walking, Cycling, and Horse-Riding

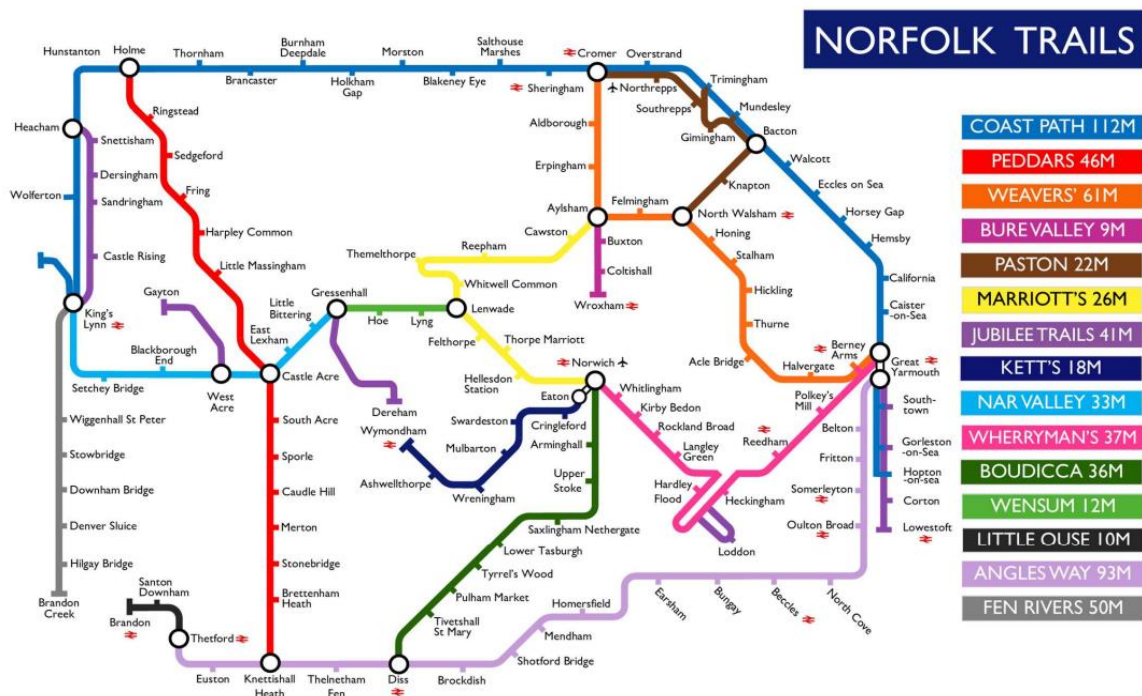
Norfolk offers over 1,500 miles of beautiful walking, cycling, and horse-riding routes, each showcasing the county's unique nature and rich cultural heritage. Whether you're exploring tranquil river valleys, historic landscapes, or scenic coastal paths, Norfolk's trails offer something for every adventurer.

Highlights include the **Angles Way**, a 93-mile walking route through woodlands and heathland, and the **Boudicca Way**, a 36-mile journey through ancient Roman and Iceni heritage sites. For those seeking to explore the Broads, the **Bure Valley Path** offers a 9-mile route along a heritage railway. History buffs will enjoy the **Kett's Country Trail**, which follows the story of Kett's Rebellion, while the **Peddars Way** takes you along an ancient Roman road.

Other stunning routes include the **Norfolk Coast Path** (a 112-mile National Trail), the **Marriott's Way** (26 miles of scenic walking, cycling, and horse-riding), and the **Wherryman's Way**, a 40-mile trek through the beautiful Broads National Park.

Whether you're interested in history, nature, or simply exploring the countryside, Norfolk's extensive network of trails provides the perfect way to experience this beautiful region.

For more information please visit www.norfolk.gov.uk/article/42852/Norfolk-Trails



Working Well Norfolk helping people with long-term health issues to keep working

A scheme to support people in Norfolk with long-term health issues get back into employment or continue in their jobs has already helped more than 1,100 participants.

The Working Well Norfolk programme, launched in October 2023, supports individuals with long-term health issues to return to or stay in work. It has already helped over 1,100 participants, with 200 moving into work and 150 staying employed despite health challenges. The programme has received 1,600 referrals and will continue for another 18 months, with additional funding to help 730 more people, totalling 1,830 participants by September 2026. The £5.2m project is managed by Norfolk County Council and delivered by Seetec Pluss and Standguide Ltd. For more info or to refer, visit [Working Well Norfolk - Seetec Pluss](#) or call 01603 561054.

