



Norfolk County Council

Latest Information, Advice, Useful Links and Service Updates

Updated 30 October 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

Norfolk County Council Budget Consultation

The council's annual budget consultation launched on 27 October and people are being urged to take a look at the proposals and have their say.

Overall spending by the council is expected to increase next year, but this will not be enough to keep pace with inflation (the costs of providing our services) and expected increases in demand for our services - particularly in adult social care and children's services.

The county council is working to set a balanced budget, despite the need to save £41.6m in 2026-27.

The council want to find out what people think about their 2026-27 budget proposals. This year they are consulting on proposals to increase council tax and to seek feedback on saving proposals to help close the budget gap.

The county council have produced a [Budget Factsheet](#), a brief guide to the annual budget – what it means, where the money comes from and where it goes, why council tax is going up, the challenges local authorities face, and our plans to fix the budget gap.

The consultation survey offers residents and local communities the opportunity to share any ideas they may have for saving public money.

The consultation closes on 15 December 2025.

Findings and final decisions will be made by the council in February 2026.

People can find out more and have their say at www.norfolk.gov.uk/budget.

Please encourage parish councils and local residents to feedback to us.

People in Norfolk encouraged to attend organised displays this Bonfire Night

Norfolk Fire and Rescue Service is encouraging people to attend public fireworks displays this bonfire night, rather than setting off fireworks at home.

The advice comes from the service's Prevention team which works to keep people in the county safe by stopping fires from occurring.

Giving Tree for children in care

Norfolk County Council welcomes back the Giving Tree appeal for Christmas 2025, a popular initiative that brings the magic of books to children in care across the county.

Hosted at Waterstones, Castle Street, Norwich, the Giving Tree is decorated with tags, each representing a child and the book or genre they'd love to receive.

Shoppers can select a tag, purchase the chosen book, and hand it in at the till.

Norfolk County Council will then wrap and deliver the gifts in time for Christmas Day.

Books need to be purchased by 7 December, to ensure they reach children in time for Christmas.

Avian flu in Norfolk

The Avian Influenza Prevention Zone (AIPZ) in England with mandatory biosecurity measures remains in place. This means all bird keepers (whether they have pet birds, commercial flocks or just a few birds in a backyard flock) are required by law to take biosecurity precautions.

From 30 October 2025 Norfolk became one of the high risk areas where additional housing measures will apply to help protect birds from bird flu.

In Norfolk you must now house your birds if you keep either:

- more than 50 birds of any species
- any number of poultry (meaning birds that are kept to give away or sell eggs, poultry products or live birds)

You will not have to house your birds if you keep less than 50 birds and their eggs or poultry products are for your own use only.

Links to government updates are available on the county council's trading standards web pages [here](#).

If you wish to report breaches of bird flu rules, please email trading.standards@norfolk.gov.uk.

National Updates

Bus Services Act

The Bus Services Bill became [law](#) on 27 October 2025, which the Government intends will protect services and hand more power to local authorities.

It aims to empower local authorities to take greater control of bus services, improve reliability, and protect socially necessary routes.

The Act tightens requirements for cancelling routes and empowers councils to identify services which they deem as 'socially necessary'.

The Act also includes plans to mandate staff – drivers and those based at bus stations – to undertake training to recognise and handle incidents of anti-social behaviour and crime, including violence against women and girls.

Further funding for local authorities running bus services will be agreed in the coming weeks.

Carbon budget and growth delivery plan

The Government's new [Carbon Budget and Growth Delivery Plan](#) sets out how they propose to meet statutory carbon requirements under the Climate Change Act 2008 and reduce emissions in a way that lowers bills and secures good jobs. This is in line with their wider strategy, [Unlocking the benefits of the clean energy economy](#), published alongside the delivery plan.

Priorities include:

- Energy security and lower bills.
- Meeting decarbonisation targets.
- Good jobs and economic growth – creating new clean energy jobs.
- Improving nature and air quality to improve health.
- Retrofitting 5 million homes (with insulation, heat pumps, solar).
- Expanding EV infrastructure and zero-emission transport.

CQC State of Care report published

The Care Quality Commission's latest State of Care report highlights the severe pressures on adult social care – chronic workforce shortages, rising care requests (especially among working-age adults), and persistent underfunding.

Responding for the Local Government Association, Wendy Taylor praised councils' efforts to support growing numbers of people with innovative, preventative care, but said that the current trajectory was not sustainable, calling for improved funding with a long-term workforce strategy, stronger prevention and early intervention, and an overarching reform programme to help councils deliver on the Government's ambitions for care.

Menopause to be included in NHS Health Checks

The Department of Health has [announced](#) that menopause support will be added to England's routine NHS Health Checks for women over 40.

The addition of dedicated questions to the NHS Health Check about the menopause - free assessments offered to eligible adults aged 40 to 74 every 5 years - will benefit nearly 5 million women.