



COUNCIL MEETING

Agenda

Thursday, 26th June, 2025
at 5.00 pm

In the Assembly Room
Town Hall
Saturday Market Place
King's Lynn

Available for the public to view on [WestNorfolkBC on You Tube](#)



King's Court, Chapel Street, King's Lynn, Norfolk, PE30 1EX
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18 June 2025

Dear Councillor

You are hereby summoned to attend a meeting of the **Borough Council of King's Lynn and West Norfolk** which will commence at **5.00 pm** on **Thursday, 26th June, 2025** in the Assembly Room, Town Hall, Saturday Market Place, King's Lynn to transact the business shown below.

Yours sincerely

Kate Blakemore
Chief Executive

BUSINESS TO BE TRANSACTED

1. PRAYERS

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

3. MINUTES (Pages 6 - 18)

To confirm as a correct record the Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 27 March and Annual Council on 15 May 2025.

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (Page 19)

Please indicate if there are any interests which should be declared. A declaration of an interest should indicate the nature of the interest (if not already declared on the Register of Interests) and the agenda item to which it relates. If a disclosable pecuniary interest is declared, the member should withdraw from the room whilst the matter is discussed.

5. MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

To receive Mayor's communications and announcements.

6. URGENT BUSINESS

To receive any items of business which in the opinion of the Mayor are urgent.

7. PETITIONS AND PUBLIC QUESTIONS

To receive petitions and public questions in accordance with Procedure Rule 20.

8. REVIEW OF PROPORTIONALITY (Pages 20 - 22)

9. RECOMMENDATIONS FROM COUNCIL BODIES

(Members are reminded this is a debate, not a question and answer session)

To consider the following recommendations to Council:

1) Cabinet: 15 April 2025 (Pages 23 - 24)

CAB171: Code of Corporate Governance

CAB173: Corporate Enforcement Policy

CAB174: Review of Outside Bodies

2) Cabinet: 10th June 2025 (Pages 25 - 26)

CAB10: Corporate Debt Recovery Policy

CAB12: Appointment of Honorary Alderman.

10. NOTICE OF MOTION

None.

11. CABINET MEMBERS REPORTS (Pages 27 - 77)

In accordance with Council procedure rule 8, to receive reports from Cabinet Members to be moved en bloc. Members of the Council may ask up to four questions of Cabinet Members on their reports and portfolio areas.

The order of putting questions shall commence with a Member from the largest opposition group, proceeding in descending order to the smallest opposition group, then non aligned members, followed by a Member from the ruling group. This order shall repeat until the time for questions has elapsed or there are no more questions to be put.

The period of time for putting questions and receiving responses shall not exceed 60 minutes for all Cabinet Members and the Leader

Climate Change and Biodiversity – Councillor M de Whalley

Culture and Events – Councillor S Lintern

Planning and Licensing – Councillor J Moriarty

Environment and Coastal - Councillor S Squire

Finance – Councillor C Morley

People and Communities – Councillor J Rust

Deputy Leader and Business – Cllr S Ring

Leader - Councillor A Beales

12. MEMBER'S QUESTION TIME

In accordance with Procedure rule 9, Members of the Council may ask any questions of the Chair of any Council Body (except the Cabinet).

Kate Blakemore
Chief Executive

BOROUGH COUNCIL OF KING'S LYNN & WEST NORFOLK**COUNCIL**

**Minutes from the Meeting of the Council held on
Thursday, 27th March, 2025 at 5.00 pm in the Assembly Room, Town Hall,
Saturday Market Place, King's Lynn PE30 5DQ**

PRESENT: Councillor P Bland (Mayor)
Councillors T Barclay, P Beal, A Beales, S Bearshaw, P Bland, R Blunt, F Bone,
A Bubb, A Bullen, R Coates, Mrs J Collingham, R Colwell, C J Crofts,
M de Whalley, P Devulapalli, S Everett, D Heneghan, C Joyce, A Kemp,
P Kunes, S Lintern, B Long, J Moriarty, C Morley, S Nash, T Parish, S Ring,
C Rose, J Rust, A Ryves, D Sayers, S Squire, M Storey and A Ware

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors B Anota, J Bhondi,
S Collop, S Dark, A Dickinson, P Hodson, H Humphrey, B Jones, J Kirk,
A Lawrence, J Lowe, J Osborne, J Ratcliffe, S Sandell, Mrs V Spikings, D Tyler
and M Wilkinson

C:105 **PRAYERS**

Prayers were led by Bishop Norman Banks.

C:106 **MINUTES**

RESOLVED: The Minutes of the meetings held on 13 and 27 February
2025 and 19 March 2025 were approved as a correct record.

C:107 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

C:108 **MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

None

C:109 **URGENT BUSINESS**

None

C:110 **PETITIONS AND PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

Public Question from Mary Davies

[Click here to view the recording of this item on YouTube](#)

"I have recently had the distressing experience of my sister being moved into a Care Home against her will, and as a direct result of me raising serious concerns about her Rights and Care, the Home banned me from visiting her. Broken hearted, her health rapidly deteriorated and she died in the Home.

Along with the associated anguish and stress which affected my own health too, it was extremely challenging trying to obtain active support and guidance. I felt isolated and powerless whilst my sister pleaded my help in her vulnerable situation.

The Care Quality Commission was recently described as "not fit for purpose" by Health and Social Care Secretary, Wes Streeting. Every year, over two and a half million elderly people in the UK are affected by abuse in one form or another, in their own homes or in Care Homes, but these issues are shockingly overlooked. West Norfolk has a high and increasing proportion of elderly residents.

The Borough LILY service provides support to help tackle Loneliness and Social Isolation in our community, but what vital support can the Borough Council provide to ensure the wellbeing and safety of the elderly and residents of Care homes, to support those of us who have concerns for our loved ones in care and to ensure protection for anyone in similar circumstances to which I have referred.

Supplementary Question

The Borough Council is to be commended for signing up to the White Ribbon Promise to prevent men's violence against women and girls

I am now an active supporter of Hourglass, the UK-wide charity dedicated to protecting older people and building a safer ageing society.

Will the Borough Council also sign up to the Hourglass Oath to fight against the abuse, harm, exploitation and neglect of older people?"

Councillor Rust gave the following response:

"I am so sorry to hear of your distressing and upsetting experience. I offer my sincere sympathy at the distress that you went through after your sister was moved. I actually sent your question to the cabinet member at Norfolk County Council because it is a county function to fund provision of care homes for residents who are eligible. It does not fall under the remit of the borough. The Care Quality Commission (CQC), regulates and monitors care homes and they are meant to ensure that they meet quality and safety standards. The CQC use something called Key Lines of Enquiry (KLOEs) to monitor a service and they focus on Safety, effectiveness, care, responsiveness and leadership. Their inspection reports are public, meaning that members of the public can access them to help them make informed choices

about care services. If the standards are not met the CQC can take enforcement action. So while our Lily service, who do amazing work over a variety of different areas, including reducing social isolation and loneliness, they wouldn't be able to offer specific advice on concerns over the care provided by a care home. If you called our Council Information Service, I'm confident that they would signpost you to the CQC for complaints and concerns.

I have personally signed up to the Hourglass Oath and pledged to fight against the abuse, harm, exploitation and neglect of older people. In addition to that, as an organisation, we are working to become a marmot place and to reduce health inequalities and I have requested that as a part of that we also look into becoming an ageing better community which will work to make our workplaces, homes and communities inclusive of older people and build an age friendly movement so that society sees ageing in a more positive and realistic way."

Q2 – Robert Shippey

[Click here to view the recording of this item on YouTube](#)

"A district-wide carbon emissions report uploaded to the council website "West Norfolk emissions" page this month features data for district carbon emissions in west Norfolk for 2019 to 2022. It replaced links to all previous district emissions reports. The 2019 data in that report seems to suggest approx 1.27kilo tonnes of carbon emitted in 2019 in west Norfolk. This directly contradicts the previous reports for 2019 which has now been taken off the website. That listed 2019 emissions at 1.91kilo tonnes and noted that all historic emissions up to 2019 were re-calculated to include an adjusted land-use methodology which resulted in higher calculated emissions - importantly emissions which always existed but were simply missing from calculations. This discrepancy throws into question the data also shown in the latest report for more recent years. Why has the previous report (showing higher emissions levels and updated methodology) been pulled from the website, and which 2019 data is actually correct? The lower levels presented now, or higher levels since removed based on the new methodology?"

Councillor de Whalley gave the following response:

"The government publishes data on territorial carbon emissions annually. The data has a two-year lag and the calculation of the emissions data is affected by adjustments in methodology. As part of a general update to this Council's website, a revised set of comparative data was published. The data set is from an external source; and uses the most recent published data. New statistics will be published by the Department for Energy Security & Net Zero in the summer and this Council's webpage will be updated in due course."

By way of supplementary Mr Shippey asked if the data sets on the website could be updated so the public could see all the information.

Councillor de Whalley explained that the latest data was on the web site, but he would provide a further response in writing.

Q3 – Trudy Clark

[Click here to view the recording of this item on YouTube](#)

“In January the Council made a decision on how to manage Parkway east / Florence Fen wildlife site. This is to be done with the guidance of NWT, and a management plan submitted by Aaron Brown in 2021, updated May 2023. Aaron is the NWT County Wildlife Sites Adviser. I would like to know when there was last a discussion between Aaron the Council re: this site, and if regular contact is maintained with NWT, as they are to play a pivotal role in advising the Council regarding Parkway east / Florence Fen wildlife site.”

Councillor de Whalley gave the following response:

“Regular contact is maintained with Norfolk Wildlife Trust regarding the Florence Fen Site. Since the authority decided to formally have the site designated as a county wildlife site in January this year the council has been in frequent communication with the trust regarding the designation process, to update them on our proposals for the site and discuss with them the management plans. The most recent meeting with Aaron took place on the 19th of March 2025.”

By way of supplementary Ms Clark drew attention to dredging of ditches which had been carried out where she said water voles were resident, and that some areas should have been left, she asked who was responsible.

Councillor de Whalley stated that he would respond in writing.

C:111 VACANCIES ON KINGS LYNN CONSERVANCY BOARD AND INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARDS

[Click here to view the recording of this item on YouTube](#)

Council was invited to make nominations to the Southery, Stringsides and Stoke Ferry Internal Drainage Boards. No nominations were received.

No nominations were received for the William Cleave Educational Foundation.

Council was invited to make nominations for 2 positions on the King's Lynn Conservancy Board. Councillor de Whalley, seconded by Councillor Moriarty proposed Councillor Bearshaw and Jill Bennett. Councillor Long, seconded by Councillor Blunt proposed Councillor Bubb, Councillor Rose, seconded by Councillor Kemp, proposed Councillor Kemp.

Members were invited to complete the voting slips provided and hand back to S Winter at the end of the meeting. The results of the ballot would be reported the following day.

Following the count on Friday, councillor Bearshaw and Jill Bennett were elected to serve on the King's Lynn Conservancy Board.

RESOLVED: 1) That Councillor Bearshaw and Jill Bennett be appointed as representatives to serve on King's Lynn Conservancy Board

2) That no nominations be made for the Southery, Stringside and Stoke Ferry Internal Drainage Boards.

3) That no nominations be made to the William Cleave Educational Foundation.

C:112 **ANNUAL REPORT FROM THE CHAIR OF THE CORPORATE PERFORMANCE PANEL**

[Click here to view the recording of this item on YouTube](#)

Councillor Long presented his annual report from the Corporate Performance Panel.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

C:113 **RECOMMENDATIONS FROM COUNCIL BODIES**

i **Cabinet: 4 March 2025**

[Click here to view the recording of this item on YouTube](#)

Councillor Beales proposed the recommendations from the Cabinet meeting on 4 March 2024, seconded by Councillor Ring.

CAB136: Planning Member Code of Practice

CAB138: Appointments Board/ IDC Terms of Reference

RESOLVED: That the recommendations from 4 March 2025 be approved.

ii **Cabinet: 20 March 2025**

[Click here to view the recording of this item on YouTube](#)

Councillor Moriarty proposed the CAB159: Local Plan 2021- 2040 Proposed Adoption, seconded by Councillor Blunt. Councillor Moriarty thanked all the members, officers and the public who had contributed to the local plan in order to get it to this stage following and long process by the Local Plan Task Group, through Cabinet and a rigorous Examination process by the Inspectors.

Council debated the recommendations and on being put to the vote it was agreed.

Councillor Beales proposed CAB161: Redundancy and Pay Policy Review (Exempt Report), seconded by Councillor Ring. It was noted that once the policy was approved it would become a public document. On being put to the vote the recommendation was approved.

RESOLVED: That the recommendations from Cabinet on 20 March 2025 be approved.

C:114

CABINET MEMBERS REPORTS

[Click here to view the recording of this item on YouTube](#)

Councillor Beales moved the Cabinet Members reports and gave an update on Local Government Review including a letter from the Minister which set out that the LGR would have an outline of a support plan going forward. The final submission would be made in September.

Councillor Ring gave an update on the award of the Rural Prosperity Fund which showed a 40% drop on the previous year. The King's Lynn SPF also showed a 50% drop on previous years.

Councillor Squire gave an update on the contamination being washed ashore on the west Norfolk beaches following the ship collision in the Channel. A large quantity of plastic nurdles were washing up and were being cleared by a joint task force, including the Borough Council. She explained that there would be an option for volunteers to get involved in due course. She praised the work being carried out. In response to a question, she confirmed a claim would be made to the insurers of the ships.

Councillor de Whalley gave an update on the Ferry where officers continued to work with the contractors to bring it back into use. He thanked the officers and the operators for their continued diligence.

Councillor Moriarty gave an update on a letter received from the Minister for Housing and Communities regard the Planning Housing Delivery Test figures which had been challenged by the authority as incorrect. The letter now acknowledged that the figure issued by the Ministry was incorrect and the Council's figures had been re calculated.

Cabinet Members responded to questions on the following subject areas:

- The further engagement of key people and groups on the issue of the riverfront redevelopment.
- The work going on to re-open the ferry for business
- The potential for the imposition of a condition on licensed premises regarding Crime and Disorder, which could be requested for consideration by a Panel.
- The potential for the transfer of council assets into the new authority once agreed, which it was pointed out were in public ownership, but along with all other issues would need to be looked at in due course.
- The increase in costs of dog bins in parishes which was notified after the budgets were set, following which it had been agreed to distribute a draft figure in future years.
- The next steps to combat the health inequalities in King's Lynn, to which it was explained that the gaps in health inequalities were being identified and a raft of measures already in place were being identified linking with Marmot Place work.
- Update on the Youth Council was that a recent meeting was held with the Youth Advisory Board where a number of queries had been raised, with a further one the following week.
- Following the Heathrow substation fire incident, whether there was an emergency plan in place should something happen with the Walpole sub station. The Leader undertook to ascertain what plans were in place.
- Any conditions being imposed on The Garage taking over the lease of the Carnegie Library to prevent it being sold in future times to which it was explained that the protection of assets was paramount.
- The encouragement of MPs to attend the debate on incinerators, a letter would be sent to them. It was hoped that the government proposals on deposit schemes and recycling would help improve proper recycling and mitigate need for incinerators.
- The accessing of funding by bus companies for routes, to which it was explained that companies like the West Norfolk Community Transport ran pilot schemes and could make a strong case to the county council for funding.
- The number of vacancies to industrial and office spaces in the council's new builds within its estate was 2 light industrial units which may be repurposed to suit a different dynamic. Two interim appointments had been made. A list of vacancies would be circulated.
- What was the delay in holding Neighbourhood Planning Referendums, to which information would be sought on the timings.
- Regarding the payment for the solar panel installation on the KLIC building which budget was it coming from, to which it was explained that the cost benefit ratio had been undertaken and it was understood that it was to be funded from the Invest to Save budget.

C:115 MEMBERS QUESTION TIME

There were no questions.

The meeting closed at 6.55 pm

BOROUGH COUNCIL OF KING'S LYNN & WEST NORFOLK

ANNUAL COUNCIL

Minutes from the Meeting of Annual Council held on Thursday, 15th May, 2025 at 5.00 pm in the Assembly Room, Town Hall, Saturday Market Place, King's Lynn PE30 5DQ

PRESENT: Councillors Bland, Bullen, Bearshaw, Anot, Barclay, Beales, Bhondi, Blunt, Bone, Bubb, Coates, Colwell, Crofts, Dark, de Whalley, de Winton, Devulapalli, Dickinson, Everett, Heneghan, Humphrey, Jamieson, Jones, Kemp, Kirk, Kunes, Lawrence, Lintern, Long, Lowe, Moriarty, Morley, Nash, Osborne, Parish, Ratcliffe, Ring, Rose, Rust, Sandell, Sayers, Spikings, Squire, Storey and Ware.

C:1 PRAYERS

Prayers were led by Rev Canon Ling.

C:2 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Ayres, Collingham, Collop, Hodson and Ryves.

C:3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were none.

C:4 MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were none.

C:5 URGENT BUSINESS

There was no urgent business.

C:6 ELECTION OF A COUNCILLOR TO HOLD OFFICE AS MAYOR OF THE BOROUGH OF KING'S LYNN AND WEST NORFOLK AND TO BE CHAIR OF THE COUNCIL FOR THE MUNICIPAL YEAR 2025/2026

[Click here to view the recording of this item on You Tube.](#)

Councillor Beales proposed Councillor Andy Bullen for the position of Mayor and Chair of the Council for the 2025/2026 Municipal Year. This was seconded by Councillor Long. Both Members spoke in support of the proposal.

RESOLVED: That Councillor Andy Bullen be appointed as Mayor and Chair for the 2025/2026 Municipal Year.

C:7 **ELECTION OF A COUNCILLOR TO HOLD OFFICE AS DEPUTY MAYOR OF THE BOROUGH OF KING'S LYNN AND WEST NORFOLK AND TO BE VICE-CHAIR OF THE COUNCIL FOR THE MUNICIPAL YEAR 2025/26**

[Click here to view the recording of this item on You Tube.](#)

Councillor Bone proposed Councillor Steve Bearshaw as Deputy Mayor for the Municipal Year 2025/2026. Councillor Ring seconded the proposal. Both Members spoke in support of the proposal.

RESOLVED: That Councillor Steve Bearshaw be appointed as Deputy Mayor and Vice Chair of the Council for the 2025/2026 Municipal Year.

C:8 **ADMINISTER OATH TO THE MAYOR**

[Click here to view the recording of this item on You Tube.](#)

Councillor Bullen read and signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office and informed the Council that his sister Jane would be his Consort.

Councillor Bullen informed the Council that the Mayor's Chaplain for the year would be Father Adrian Ling.

The Mayor also informed the Council of his appointed Mayor's Cadets and bestowed badges on the Cadets.

The Mayor informed the Council that the Mayor's Charities would be the Swan Project and 42 King's Lynn Air Cadets.

C:9 **ADMINISTER OATH TO THE DEPUTY MAYOR**

[Click here to view the recording of this item on You Tube.](#)

Councillor Bearshaw read and signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office and informed the Council that his wife would be his Deputy Mayoress.

C:10 **CONVEYANCE OF THANKS TO THE RETIRING MAYOR AND MAYORESS**

[Click here to view the recording of this item on You Tube.](#)

Councillor Ring proposed a conveyance of thanks to the retiring Mayor and Mayoress.

C:11 **TO MAKE PRESENTATIONS TO THE RETIRING MAYOR AND MAYORESS AND RECEIVE RESPONSE**

[Click here to view the recording of this item on You Tube.](#)

Council was informed that gifts and flowers for the outgoing Mayor and Mayoress were placed at the front of the stage.

Councillor Bland thanked Councillors, Council Officers, the Civics Team and the community for their support during the year.

He presented retiring Mace Bearer Roy Williamson with a retirement gift and thanked him for his service.

C:12 **PROPORTIONAL ALLOCATION OF SEATS**

[Click here to view the recording of this item on You Tube.](#)

RESOLVED: The Committee Membership sheet which was tabled at the meeting (and attached) was agreed by Council.

C:13 **APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRS AND VICE-CHAIRS**

[Click here to view the recording of this item on You Tube.](#)

RESOLVED: Chairs and Vice Chairs were appointed as set out in the Council Body Membership sheet which was tabled at the meeting (a copy is also attached).

C:14 **MEMBERSHIP OF SUB GROUP/TASK GROUPS**

[Click here to view the recording of this item on You Tube.](#)

RESOLVED: That any members previously appointed to a sub group/task group continue to serve until the first meeting of their appointing body in the new Municipal Year.

C:15 **OUTSIDE BODY MEMBERSHIP**

[Click here to view the recording of this item on You Tube.](#)

RESOLVED: That any Member appointed to an outside body the previous year continues to serve until the Cabinet meeting on 15 July 2025 or the Council meeting on 31 July 2025, as appropriate.

C:16 **PROPORTIONALITY OF TASK GROUPS**

[Click here to view the recording of this item on You Tube.](#)

RESOLVED: The following allocation for Task Groups was agreed:

Task Groups with 10 Members – 4 Independent Partnership, 3 Conservative, 1 Labour, 1 Progressive, 1 Reform

Task Groups with 9 Members – 4 Independent Partnership, 3 Conservative, 1 Labour and 1 Reform or 1 Progressive.

Task Groups with 7 Members – 3 Independent Partnership, 3 Conservative, 1 Labour

Task Groups with 5 Members – 2 Independent Partnership, 2 Conservative, 1 Labour.

The meeting closed at 5.48 pm

COUNCIL BODY MEMBERSHIP 2025/2026

Key to Groups:

(IP) – Independent Partnership (22), (C) – Conservative (19), (L) – Labour (7),
(PG) – Progressive Group (2), (R) - Reform UK (2), Non aligned – (1)
and 2 vacancies

CABINET

(Leader + 7 Members)

Chair - Leader – A Beales (IP)
Deputy Leader– S Ring (IP)
S Lintern (IP)
J Moriarty (IP)
C Morley (IP)
J Rust (IP)
S Squire (IP)
M de Whalley (IP)

AUDIT COMMITTEE

(9 Members – 5 Ind, 3 Con, 1 Lab)

Chair – A Ryves (IP)
Vice-Chair – to be confirmed at 1st meeting

S Bearshaw (IP)
P Bland (IP)
S Dark (C)
P Devulapalli (IP)
B Jones (L)
B Long (C)
T de Winton (C)
S Nash (IP)

LICENSING COMMITTEE

(Licensing Act 2003 & Gambling Act)
**(13 Members – 5 Ind, 5 Con, 1 Lab, 1
Prog, 1 Ref)**

Chair – J Bhondi (IP)
Vice-Chair – S Everett (L)

B Anota (IP)
B Ayres (C)
A Bubbb (C)
R Coates (C)
C Crofts (C)
A Kemp (PG)
J Kirk (R)
J Moriarty (IP)
T Parish (IP)
J Rust (IP)
D Tyler (C)

APPOINTMENTS

**BOARD/INVESTIGATING AND
DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE**

(9 Members – 4 Ind, 3 Con, 2 Lab)

Chair – A Beales (IP)
Vice-Chair – A Ware (IP)

F Bone (L)
R Blunt (C)
B Long (C)
C Morley (IP)
S Ring (IP)
S Sandell (C)

STANDARDS COMMITTEE

(7 Members – 3 Ind, 3 Con, 1 Lab)
(2 Parish, 1 Ind person)

Chair – A Ware (IP)
Vice Chair – S Sandell (C)

B Ayres (C)
S Bearshaw (IP)
J Osborne (L)
S Ring (IP)
D Tyler (C)

LICENSING AND APPEALS BOARD

(All other Licensing and Appeals matters)
**(13 Members – 5 Ind, 4 Con, 2 Lab, 1
Prog, 1 Ref)**

Chair – B Jones (L)
Vice-Chair – C Rose (PG)

B Anota (IP)
B Ayres (C)
J Bhondi (IP)
T Bubbb (C)
R Coates (C)
C Crofts (C)
S Everett (L)
J Kirk (R)
S Nash (IP)
T Parish (IP)
S Squire (IP)

PLANNING COMMITTEE

(15 members – 6 Ind, 5 Con, 2 Lab, 1 Prog, 1 Ref)

Chair – F Bone (L)

Vice-Chair – V Spikings (C)

B Anota (IP)

T Barclay (C)

R Blunt (C)

A Bubb (C)

P Devulapalli (IP)

S Everett (L)

J Kirk (R)

S Lintern (IP)

C Rose (PG)

A Ryves (IP)

M Storey (C)

M de Whalley (IP)

T de Winton (C) Gifted by IP

REGENERATION AND DEVELOPMENT PANEL

(12 Members – 5 Ind, 4 Con, 2 Lab, 1 Ref)

Chair: T Parish (IP)

Vice-Chair – to be confirmed at 1st meeting

P Beal (IP)

P Bland (IP)

R Blunt (C)

F Bone (L)

A Bubb (C)

J Collingham (C)

R Colwell (IP)

C Crofts (C)

P Hodson (R)

J Osborne (L)

J Ratcliffe (IP)

ENVIRONMENT AND COMMUNITY PANEL

(12 Members – 5 Ind, 5 Con, 2 Lab)

Chair – S Collop (L)

Vice-Chair – to be confirmed at 1st meeting

T Barclay (C)

A Bullen (IP)

R Colwell (IP)

S Dark (C)

P Devulapalli (IP)

A Dickinson (C)

D Heneghan (L)

A Kemp (PG) Gifted by IP

P Kunes (C)

S Sandell (C)

A Ware (IP)

CORPORATE PERFORMANCE PANEL

(12 Members – 5 Ind, 5 Con, 1 Lab, 1 Prog)

Chair – B Long (C)

Vice-Chair – to be confirmed at 1st meeting

S Bearshaw (IP)

J Bhondi (IP)

R Blunt (C)

J Collingham (C)

B Jones (L)

C Rose (PG)

S Nash (IP)

T Ryves (IP)

S Sandell (C)

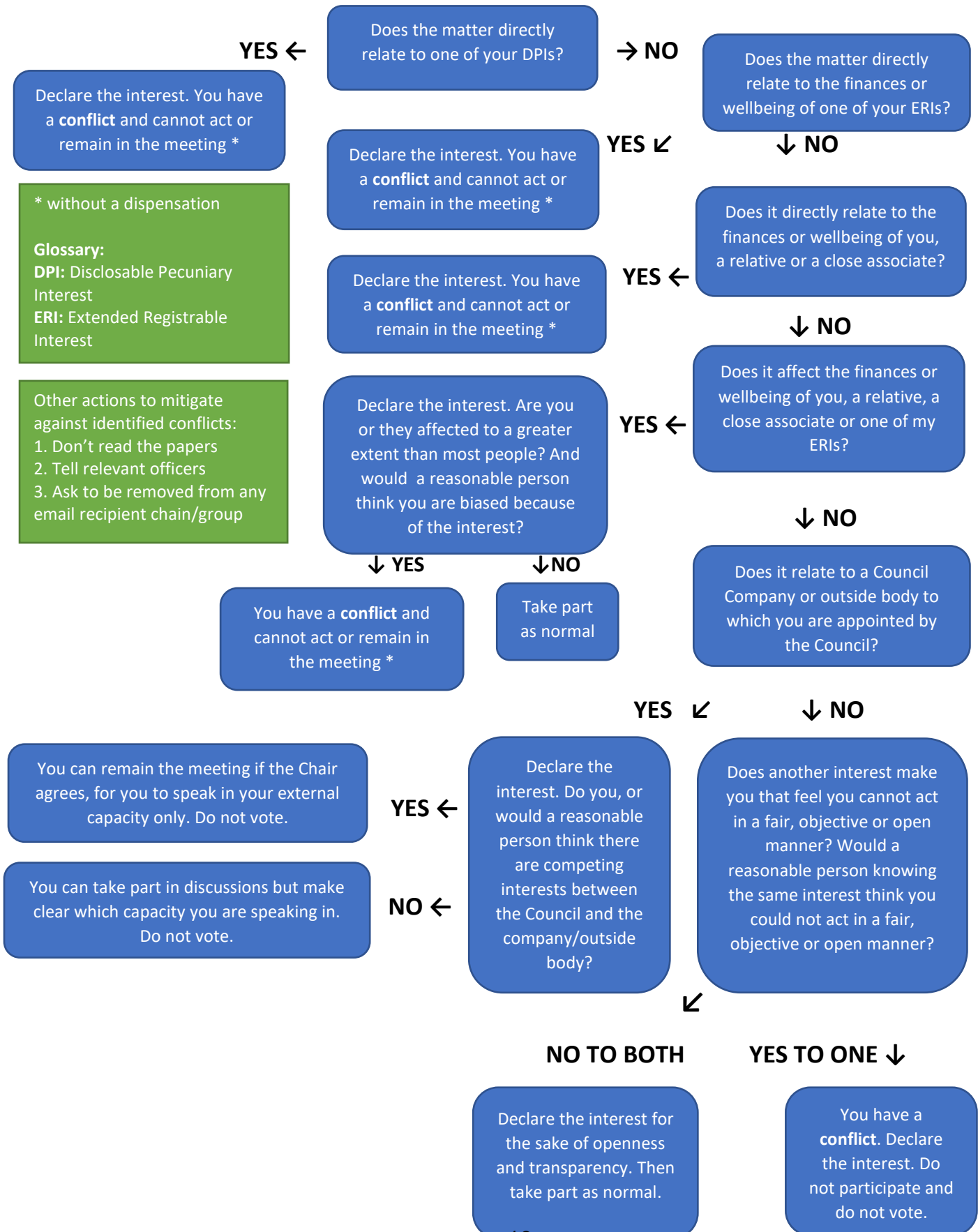
D Sayers (IP)

V Spikings (C)

DECLARING AN INTEREST AND MANAGING ANY CONFLICTS FLOWCHART



START



REPORT TO COUNCIL

Open					
Lead Member: Councillor Alistair Beales Email: cllr.alistair.beales@west-norfolk.gov.uk					
Lead Officer: Rebecca Parker E-mail: rebecca.parker@west-norfolk.gov.uk			Other Officers consulted: Chief Executive and Monitoring Officer		
Financial Implications NO	Policy/Personnel Implications NO	Statutory Implications YES	Equality Impact Assessment req'd NO	Risk Management Implications NO	Environmental Implications NO

Date of Meeting: 26th June 2025

REVIEW OF PROPORTIONALITY

It is the duty of the Council to annually review the entitlement of political groups to seats on committees in line with the proportionality rules set out in the Local Government and Housing Act 1989. When changes are made to Group Memberships a further review can be undertaken on request in accordance with the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990.

As a result of two Reform UK Councillors being elected at the by-election in June, proportionality is updated as per the attached table for Council to consider.

RECOMMENDED: That the proportional allocation of seats be amended in accordance with the table set out within the report.

1 Background

1.1 The rules relating to proportionality are set out below:

- a) No political group can have all the places on a Committee (the exception is the Cabinet).
- b) The Group that has the overall majority on the Council is entitled to the majority of seats on each Committee.
- c) The aggregate number of seats across all Committees is allocated in accordance with each group's entitlement.
- d) The number of seats on each Committee is allocated in accordance with each group's entitlement.

2 Changes to Proportionality

2.1 Following the by-elections on 5th June, resulting in two Reform UK Councillors filling two vacancies, it has been requested that proportionality be reviewed.

2.2 Current Political make up of the Council is as follows:

- 22 – Independent Partnership
- 19 – Conservative
- 7 – Labour
- 4 – Reform UK
- 2 – Progressive Group
- 1 – Non-aligned.

2.3 To take into account the amended proportionality, Council is invited to approve the amended proportionality as set out in Appendix 1.

This will result in the following changes to Committee Membership previously agreed at Annual Council in May.

Standards Committee

Conservatives lose one seat and Reform gain one seat.

Environment and Community Panel

Conservatives lose one seat and Reform gain one seat.

Appointments Board

Labour lose one seat and Reform gain one seat

Audit Committee

Independent lose one seat and reform gain one seat

Corporate Performance Panel

Conservatives and Progressive Group lose one seat each and Labour and Reform UK gain one seat.

APPENDIX 1:

POLITICAL PROPORTIONALITY TO BE AGREED BY FULL COUNCIL- **26 JUNE 2025**

	Total Membership	Conservative	Independent Partnership	Labour	Progressive	Reform	Check Total
Total No. of Members	54 plus 1 non-aligned	19	22	7	2	4	55
Appointments Board	9	3	4	1	0	1	9
Planning Committee	15	5	6	2	1	1	15
Licensing Committee	13	5	5	1	1	1	13
Licensing & Appeals Board	13	4	5	2	1	1	13
Standards Committee	7	2	3	1	0	1	7
Corporate Performance Panel	12	4	5	2	0	1	12
Environment & Community Panel	12	4	5	2	0	1	12
Regeneration & Development Panel	12	4	5	2	0	1	12
Audit Committee	9	3	4	1	0	1	9
Total Seats	102	34	42	14	3	9	102

Political make up of Task Groups

As agreed at Annual Council	Revised – to be agreed
10 Member – 4 IP, 3 Con, 1 Lab, 1 PG, 1 Reform	10 Member – 4 IP, 3 Con, 1 Lab, 1 PG, 1 Reform
9 Member – 4 IP, 3 Con, 1 Lab, 1 Reform or PG	4IP, 3 Con, 1 Lab, 1 Reform.
7 Member – 3 IP, 3 Con, 1 Lab	3IP, 2 Con, 1 Lab, 1 Reform.
5 Member – 2 IP, 2 Con, 1 Lab	2IP, 2 Con, 1 Lab

**RECOMMENDATIONS FROM 15 APRIL 2025 CABINET MEETING TO COUNCIL
ON 26 JUNE 2025**

CAB171 CODE OF CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

Assistant Director H Howell presented a report which proposed the approval and adoption of an updated Code of Corporate Governance (attached as Appendix 1 to the report) in accordance with best practices, statutory requirements and the Council's commitment to effective governance.

The Code of Corporate Governance provided the framework in which the Annual Governance Statement could be assessed and was the place where the fundamental aspects of the Council's Governance Framework were set out.

Audit Committee had also considered and accepted the draft Code on 17 March 2025.

Councillor Morley expressed the view that Appendix c of the report was not required, to which it was explained that going forward this would be removed from the Annual Governance Statement.

RECOMMENDED: 1) That the Code of Corporate Governance at Appendix 1 to the report be adopted.

2) That authority be delegated to the Monitoring Officer in consultation with the Leader to make non-material amendments to the Code of Corporate Governance to reflect decisions which impact on the Council's governance framework.

Reason for Decision

To support the Council's governance framework and its system of internal control and assurance.

CAB173 CORPORATE ENFORCEMENT POLICY

The Legal Services Manager presented an updated version of the Council's Enforcement Policy, which required approval by Full Council. He explained that the proposed policy had been benchmarked with other policies recently updated elsewhere. It emphasised that the council would try to work with people to resolve an enforcement issue rather than move straight to enforcement action. It was also pointed out that the recovery of debts was not included in this policy.

It was noted that the Corporate Performance Panel had supported the recommendations.

RECOMMENDED: That the updated Enforcement Policy be adopted.

Reason for Decision

To ensure the Council's policies are kept up-to-date and consistent with current regulation and best practice.

CAB174 **REVIEW OF OUTSIDE BODIES**

The Democratic Services Manager presented the report which presented information on the next steps, following a questionnaire that had been sent to all Councillors that served on Outside Bodies and all Organisations to which members were appointed to serve. The report also presented a revised Guidance Note for members appointed to Outside Bodies for approval.

It was explained that the report gave members the ability to review the outside bodies as required.

Under standing order 34 Councillor Lawrence asked if it was known what would happen to the outside bodies after local government review. The Chair explained that at this stage it was not known what would happen to them. However it was pointed out that Internal Drainage Boards were statutory bodies so the Government would decide the representation on them.

The Deputy Chief Executive also pointed out that in reviewing any outside bodies, account would need to be taken of whether ceasing to provide representatives would render the body unable to take decisions as it would no longer be quorate.

It was noted that the Corporate Performance Panel had supported the recommendations with some additional requests that would be taken into account.

RECOMMENDED: 1) That the Draft Guidance to Councillors serving on Outside Bodies, attached at Appendix 1 to the report be adopted.

2) That the Scheme of Delegation be amended to Delegate Authority to the Monitoring Officer/Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader and relevant Portfolio Holder to add/remove Outside Bodies from the list of Outside Body Appointments made by Cabinet and Council as appropriate.

Reason for Decision

To ensure continued and effective involvement by the Council with external organisations, promoting the Corporate Priorities of the Council.

**RECOMMENDATIONS FROM 10 JUNE 2025 CABINET MEETING TO COUNCIL
ON 26 JUNE 2025**

CAB10: CORPORATE DEBT RECOVERY POLICY

The Corporate Performance Panel had considered this Policy and supported the Cabinet Recommendations.

The Portfolio Holder for Finance reminded the Cabinet that this Policy was being introduced following internal audit recommendations. He explained that published procedures would also sit alongside the Policy and asked the Deputy Monitoring Officer to circulate the associated procedures to Cabinet Members for information.

The Deputy Monitoring Officer explained that legislation set out the requirements of how certain payments were collected and this policy dealt with those not bound by legislation to ensure consistency. He explained that cases would be considered dependant on individual circumstances and provisions made for those that were genuinely vulnerable.

Cabinet discussed debt levels and it was noted that the scale of debt being pursued was quite small. The Chair, Councillor Ring explained that public money needed protecting therefore it was essential that the Council collected debt, and this Policy ensured that it was done in a correct way.

The Portfolio Holder for Finance commented that he had assurance from the debt recovery team that they did not stop pursuing debt at the end of year and made every effort to collect.

RECOMMENDED: That Council adopt the Debt Recovery Policy as presented.

REASON FOR DECISION: To ensure the Council's policies are comprehensive and consistent with current regulation and best practice.

CAB12: APPOINTMENT OF HONORARY ALDERMAN

Cabinet supported this proposal, felt that it was well deserved and were pleased that Mrs Margaret Wilkinson's hard work was being recognised.

RECOMMENDATION:

1. That the Council places on record its deep appreciation of the eminent services to the Borough and the Council rendered by former Councillor Mrs Margaret Wilkinson.
2. That an Extraordinary Meeting of the Council to confer the title of Honorary Alderman on former Councillor Mrs Margaret Wilkinson is to be held after the Council meeting on 17 July 2025, and the engrossment of the recommendation above and an Aldermanic badge be presented to Mrs Margaret Wilkinson at that Council Meeting.

REASON FOR DECISION: To award Honorary Alderman status.

CABINET MEMBERS REPORT TO COUNCIL

26 June 2025

COUNCILLOR MICHAEL de WHALLEY - CABINET MEMBER FOR CLIMATE CHANGE AND BIODIVERSITY

For the period 18 March 2025 to 18 June 2025

1 Progress on Portfolio Matters.

Vehicle Fleet Review

The project seeks to decarbonise the Council's vehicle fleet. To inform this, Mitie were commissioned to analyse the fleet and recommend a decarbonisation pathway. The final report has been received and is due to be considered by Corporate Leadership Team.

Schools Climate Competition Project

Schools are pre-recording their entries to be judged by a panel on 2 July at an online celebration event.

Judging Panel:

Cllr Rust / Cllr de Whalley / Tim Baldwin / Elena Almey-Parish / Laura Ferrier (from Groundwork East).

Solar Together

The group buying scheme was promoted this year via a targeted mailshot. Installations that have been completed:

- 65 solar Photo Voltaic (PV) installations
- 5 battery installations
- 7 EV charging point installations

Total householder investment in the 2024 solar PV scheme was £480,518 with an estimated saving of 57 tCO₂e.

Since the council has participated in Solar Together, householders have invested over £1.9 million in solar PV with an estimated annual carbon saving of 161 tCO₂e.

Carbon Audit

The 2023/24 carbon audit is available on our website and work is underway on the 2024/25 audit. We are looking at processes to expedite and automate this and any data collection it requires.

Carbon Literacy Training

Our e-learning provider is processing the training material for use in the council's e-learning platform which will be made available for all staff shortly.

Beuys' Acorns

Following a successful application for Community Infrastructure Funding, a circle of seven oak trees have been planted on a landmark site near Harding's Way, South Lynn and will form part of a nationwide environmental focused art project called "Beuys' Acorns". This work has been undertaken in collaboration with GroundWork Gallery, Harding's Pits Community Association, artists Ackroyd and Harvey, Whitefriars Primary Academy and Lynn Museum. The circular footpath has been laid, with seating and interpretation board to follow by the end of the summer. The first community events have taken place led by the artists Ackroyd and Harvey including a presentation at the town hall on 11 June 2025.

Ferry

Repair works were commissioned on 6 June 2025 with contractors instructed to commence work on the landing stages and handrails on both sides of the river. Works commenced on 11 June with the expectation that the ferry service will resume in time for the School Summer Holidays.

This Council has committed significant resources and continues to support, and work closely with, Norfolk County Council, The Conservancy Board and the operators to ensure that the ferry service resumes as safely and quickly as possible. Please note that the contractors, working in and adjacent to the river, face challenging conditions affected by the tide and weather, which means it is not possible to provide a definitive timeline.

Regular public updates on our progress are being posted on our council social media, shared with the local press and on the website, link below...

<https://www.west-norfolk.gov.uk/ferry>

Norfolk Climate Change Partnership (NCCP)

Recent meetings have received updates on the Norfolk and Suffolk Energy Plan and Integrated Water Strategy, Norfolk Net Zero Communities project and Carbon Trust report on community energy in Norfolk.

The Partnership Manager attended the council's Climate Change Informal Working Group on 19 May 2025 to provide a briefing on activities.

Norfolk Net Zero Communities

The project reaches a conclusion in July 2025 with research findings considered by several workshops that involved the 7 participating communities. Workshop attendees discussed the project's legacy and potential for future action.

A final report will be published for the project's funders Innovate UK.

LED Lighting

Draft proposals for internal upgrades for the Depot, Lynnsport, Regis Place and Oasis have been received, which are designed for a short payback period and are currently under review.

Additional external lighting has been identified for upgrade on Lynnsport's external MUGA, Tennis and Hockey (in consultation with the Pelicans Hockey Club) pitches.

Streetlighting Phase II

The Contract has been awarded to Amey for the upgrade of 595 streetlights. Works are expected to begin in July 2025.

Re:Fit

The contractor has continued to make efficiency improvements but a shortfall on the anticipated contractual savings is forecast for the end of the measurement and verification period. An options paper is being prepared by officers to address this.

Solar Panels

Proposals for Downham Leisure and the KLIC have been progressed to the formal offer stage and presented to the Corporate Leadership Team on 17 June 2025. The Corn Exchange proposal is pending formal offer from the contractor following finalisation of the mounting system.

Energy Company Obligation Scheme

The Energy Company Obligation (ECO) is an energy efficiency scheme designed to tackle fuel poverty and help reduce carbon emissions. ECO is an obligation placed on energy companies to deliver energy efficiency measures to domestic premises across the United Kingdom. The fourth iteration of this scheme commenced in April 2022 and will conclude in March 2026.

Through the ECO scheme, local authorities can widen the eligibility criteria through a household referral mechanism, 'ECO Flex'.

A declaration of eligibility is a local authority's notification to Ofgem that a household has met the criteria for accessing the scheme's funding for energy-saving measures. Whilst this confirmation doesn't automatically guarantee funding, it does establish eligibility for financial assistance prior to a retrofit assessment and technical survey taking place.

As of 18 June 2025, 431 declarations of eligibility have been issued to households across King's Lynn & West Norfolk.

Biodiversity Competition

This council has launched a new competition to celebrate wildlife in West Norfolk gardens.

Residents can enter one of four individual categories:

Best window box garden
Best child under 14 garden
Best small garden
Best large garden

There are also two community special categories:

Nature friendly Parish or Ward
Longest Pollinator Corridor in the Borough

Entries should be accompanied by a maximum of four representative photographs and when entering for one of the special categories your entry should include a plan of the area being entered. One entry is permitted per household.

The competition is open for entries and the closing date for receipt is 12pm on Friday 1 August 2025.

For more details please visit:
<https://west-norfolk.gov.uk/gardenwildlifecompetition>.

Climate

May 2025 was the second-warmest May on record globally, with an average surface air temperature of 15.79°C, 0.14°C cooler than the record set in May 2024. May was about 1.40°C warmer than an estimate of the February average for 1850-1900, the designated pre-industrial reference period.

The average global sea surface temperature (SST) for May 2025 over 60°S to 60°N was 20.79°C, the second-highest for the month in the dataset, 0.14°C below the record set in May 2024. Sea surface temperature is defined over the global extrapolar ocean, from 60°S to 60°N. This is used as a standard diagnostic for climate monitoring.

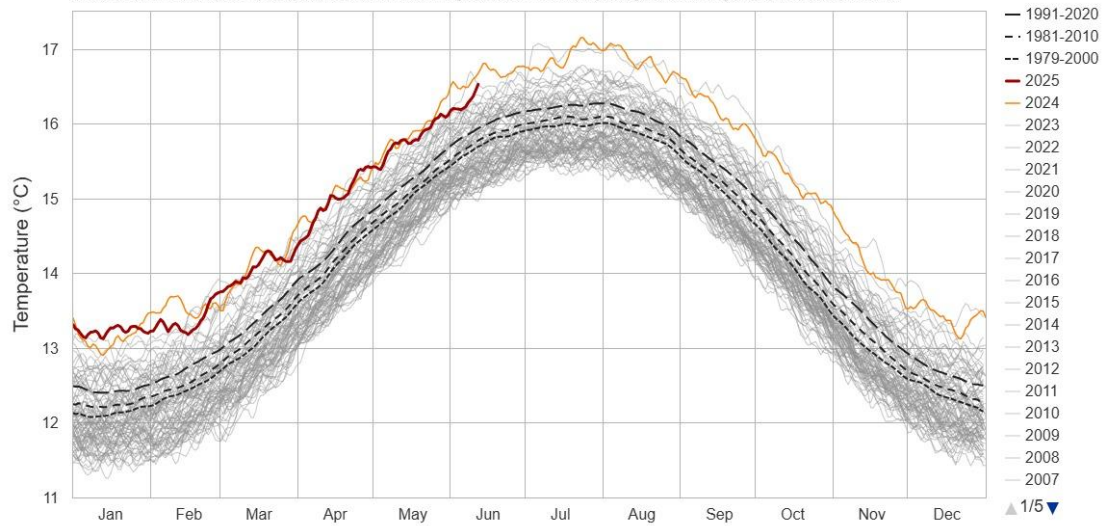
Arctic sea ice extent for May was 12.7 million km², circa 2% (0.3 million km²) below the 1991–2020 average, the 9th lowest monthly extent for May in the 47-year satellite record.

The average Antarctic sea ice extent for the month was 9.6 million km², about 9% (1.0 million km²) below the 1991–2020 average, ranking as the fifth lowest May extent in the satellite record.

Data source: European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts - ERA5.

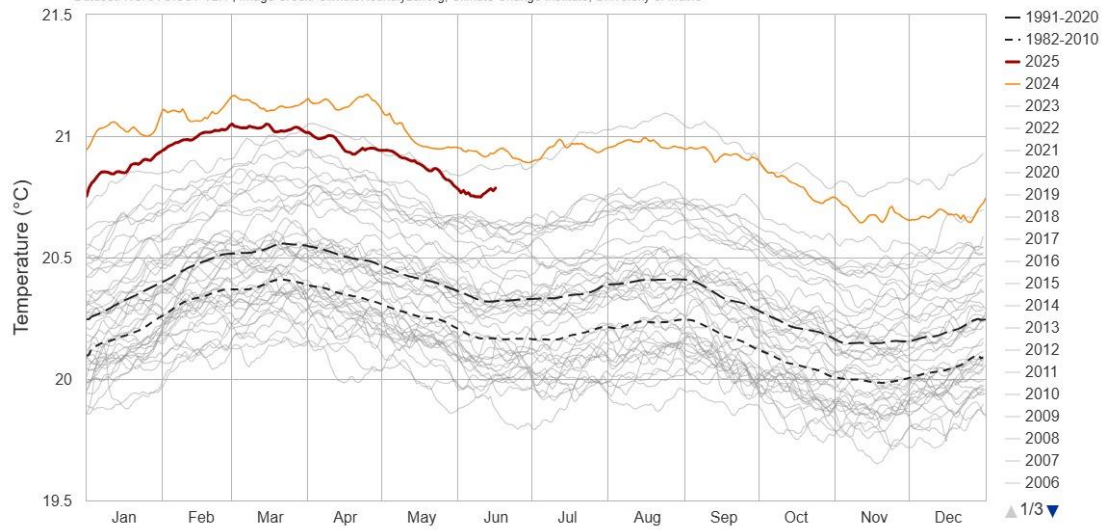
Daily Surface Air Temperature, World (90°S–90°N, 0–360°E)

Dataset: ECMWF Reanalysis v5 (ERA5) downloaded from C3S | Image Credit: ClimateReanalyzer.org, Climate Change Institute, University of Maine



Daily Sea Surface Temperature, World (60°S–60°N, 0–360°E)

Dataset: NOAA OISST V2.1 | Image Credit: ClimateReanalyzer.org, Climate Change Institute, University of Maine



2 Forthcoming Activities and Developments.

Beat Your Bills Roadshow

Feltwell (Village Fete) – 21/06/2025 10:00-15:00

Stoke Ferry (Village Fete) – 25/08/2025 12:00-16:00

The Autum/Winter timetable is being compiled.

Kings Lynn Climate Change Business Expo

Scheduled to take place on Tuesday, 23 September 2025 at The Corn Exchange, King's Lynn. This will build on the success of the inaugural expo in June 2022. The event is for local businesses to showcase work undertaken to reduce their carbon emissions. It is also a networking opportunity.

3 Meetings Attended and Meetings Scheduled

Cabinet Briefings

Cabinet Sifting

Cabinet

Climate Change Informal Working Group

Environmental Groups

The Reef Leisure Centre

Environment and Community Panel

Norfolk Climate Change Partnership – Portfolio Holders' Group

Regeneration and Development Panel

Norfolk Records Committee

Norfolk Joint Museums Committee

Nelson Academy Earth Day

Member Briefing – Safety and Security

Digital & ICT Review Findings

West Norfolk Transport & Infrastructure Steering Group

Leisure Facilities Options Member working Group

King's Lynn Conservancy Board

King's Lynn Internal Drainage Board

Active & Clean Connectivity Project Board meeting

Mens' Shed

Sibelco Liaison Committee

NetZero Norfolk Communities findings and next steps - Stakeholder event

King's Lynn and West Norfolk Area Museums Committee

Reception for Coastal Pollution Volunteers

Portfolio Holder Briefings and updates:

Climate Change Weekly Updates

Ferry Updates

Florence Fields Update

CABINET MEMBERS REPORT TO COUNCIL

26th June 2025

COUNCILLOR SUE LINTERN - CABINET MEMBER FOR CULTURE AND EVENTS

For the period 8th april to 16th June 2025

1 Progress on Portfolio Matters.

I am grateful for the opportunity to serve on the Cabinet and to contribute to shaping policies that positively impact our communities. This role offers a valuable platform to work alongside talented colleagues at the Borough Council to drive meaningful change, and I approach the challenges ahead with energy and commitment.

Portfolio Scope and Initial Focus - The first few weeks in post have been focused on gaining a deeper understanding of the portfolio's breadth. In addition to responsibilities for culture and events, I will also be liaising with town and parish councils—a crucial tier of local government. I plan to engage closely with the Norfolk Association of Local Councils (NALC) and to support the continuation of opportunities for Parish Councils to meet directly with the Leader of the Council. These meetings are invaluable for fostering dialogue, sharing information about Council initiatives, and addressing local concerns.

Key Areas of Activity

1. Review of Council Grants and Service Level Agreements (SLAs):

A comprehensive review of all grants awarded by the Borough Council and associated SLAs is underway, in collaboration with fellow Cabinet members. This exercise aims to ensure that funding and in-kind support are allocated where most needed, including rural areas that may have been previously underrepresented. It is essential that this work aligns with our Cultural Strategy, ensuring that public support reflects our wider aims around inclusion, accessibility, and community enrichment through culture. The scale and complexity of this task mean it will be ongoing for some time, with officers currently compiling detailed data.

2. Summer Events Programme

As we move into the busy summer season, I have had the opportunity to observe the meticulous work of our events team in planning and delivering a range of successful events in King's Lynn and Hunstanton. Their commitment to ensuring these events are safe and enjoyable for all participants is commendable.

3. Hansa 20 Projection Art Commission:

I have been involved in the selection process for the Hansa 20 projection art commission. Out of eight submissions, one artist has been selected to deliver a series of community-partnered projection artworks on three historic buildings in King's Lynn. This initiative is aligned with the Council's Culture and Heritage Strategy and will run from the end of October through November, as part of the town's Hansa 20 celebrations.

4. Attendance at Local Events:

I was pleased to attend the launches of several key events:

- **Hunstanton:** *Beat the Tide beach run* and the *Soapbox Derby*, both of which continue to be well-loved by residents and visitors.
- **King's Lynn:** *King's Lynn Festival* and *Festival Too*, both long-established cultural highlights supported by the Borough Council.
- **Hansa Festival networking event**

5. Sandi Starfish Safety Initiative:

I participated in media activities to promote the Sandi Starfish project, a beach safety initiative designed to assist in quickly reuniting lost children with their families. The use of what3words location technology, along with parent awareness campaigns, forms a proactive approach to ensuring family safety on our beaches this summer.

This report outlines just the beginning of my work within this portfolio. I look forward to continuing to engage with stakeholders, support local initiatives, and ensure that our policies reflect the diverse needs of our communities.

2 Forthcoming Activities and Developments.

A number of key engagements and initiatives are scheduled over the coming weeks:

1. Event Attendance

Attendance is planned at several major summer events, including:

- King's Lynn Festival (KL Festival)
- Festival Too
- The Hanse Festival

These events offer valuable opportunities for community engagement and cultural promotion.

2. Cultural Strategy Steering Group

Efforts will be directed towards initiating the Cultural Strategy Steering Group. The objective is to commence discussions and planning around the strategic direction of local cultural development.

3. Site Visit – Aickman's Yard

A tour of Aickman's Yard has been undertaken to evaluate the artwork, explore display possibilities, and consider its potential contribution to future cultural or tourism initiatives.

4. Stakeholder Engagement

A meeting is planned with the Tourism Officer to discuss collaborative opportunities, upcoming campaigns, and strategies to enhance the region's cultural and tourism offering.

3 Meetings Attended and Meetings Scheduled

APRIL

8/4 - introductions and overview of portfolio
10/4 - review of SLA's – TFH, SR, JC, DH
10/4 - events team briefing
10/4 – tour of stories of Lynn museum
22/4 – meeting with AB, SR + DH – Aickmans yard
23/4 – review with Cllr Rust – grants
23/4 – Hunstanton annual town meeting
28/4 – portfolio update with MC, DM, MP, AW
28/4 – planning training on teams for new Local Plan
30/4 – safety briefing on teams

MAY

6/5 – planning committee
6/5 – Constitutional Working Group
7/5 – planning sifting
7/5 – meeting with DH, JB
7/5 – cabinet briefing
8/5 – R&D
9/5 – meeting with DMTC clerk and Cllr Bullen
12/5 – cabinet sifting
16/5 – LGR webinar
19/5 – meeting with RA, and Cllr Ware - culture prog.
19/5 – meeting with PE - Hansa20 art project
19/5 – NCC teams meeting - ICT and digital change
21/5 – Hunstanton
21/5 – DH, RA – cultural strategy
21/5 – CPP
21/5 – NALC agm
28/5 – hansa20 art project interviews
28/5 – national grid briefing - teams

JUNE

2/6 – planning committee
3/6 – portfolio meeting with MC
3/6 – E&C
4/6 – Transformation programme board meeting
4/6 – cabinet briefing
9/6 – cabinet meeting
11/6 – portfolio meeting with DH
11/6 – Aickman's yard visit
11/6 – constitution informal working group meeting
12/6 – culture champion meeting to discuss scope
13/6 – Hansa Festival networking event
13/6 – meeting with SD



CABINET MEMBERS REPORT TO COUNCIL

26 June 2025

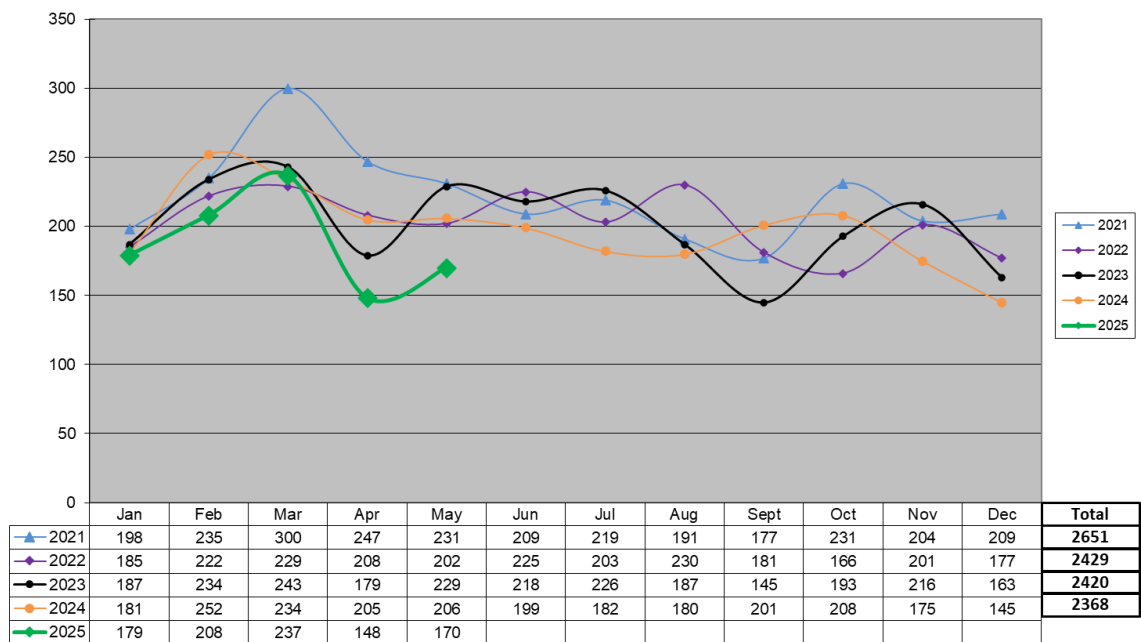
COUNCILLOR JIM MORIARTY - CABINET MEMBER FOR PLANNING & LICENSING

PLANNING

Planning and Discharge of Conditions applications received

Application numbers at the end of May are down compared to same period last year, -136 applications.

Planning and discharge of condition applications received



Major and Minor dwelling applications and householder applications received comparison

	1/6/22 – 31/5/23	1/6/23 – 31/5/24	1/6/24 – 31/5/25
No. of Major dwelling applications rec'd	17	12	29
No. of Minor dwelling applications rec'd	336	215	266
No. of Householder applications rec'd	711	601	594
Total	1064	828	889

*Minor dwelling applications = up to 10 units

*Major dwelling applications = over 10 units

2025 performance for determining planning applications 1/1/25 – 31/5/25

	National target	Performance
Major	60%	81%
Non – Major	70%	93%

Appeal Performance – appeal decisions made by The Planning Inspectorate between 1/6/24 – 31/5/25. This measure is different to the ‘quality of decision’ measure.

	Officer delegated		Committee overturns		Total	
Appeals	Dismissed	Allowed	Dismissed	Allowed	Dismissed	Allowed
Planning	53	13	6	3	59	16
	80%	20%	67%	33%	79%	21%
Enforcement	3	1				
	75%	25%				

Quality of decisions

This measure calculates the percentage of the total number of decisions made by the Local Planning Authority on applications that are then overturned at Appeal.

The Assessment period for this measure is two years up to and including the most recent quarter plus 9 months. Therefore, performance at the end of May 2025 is calculated as follows:

Planning applications determined by the Local Planning Authority between 01/9/2022 to 31/8/2024 (not the date the Local Planning Authority receives the appeal decision from the Inspectorate) plus 9 months to allow appeals to be determined by the Planning Inspectorate = 31/5/2025.

The threshold for designation for both Major and Non-Major is 10% - this is the figure that should not be exceeded, otherwise there is a risk of the Authority being designated by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG).

MAJOR		
No. of Decisions Issued	No. Allowed on Appeal	% Overturned
97	3	3.09%

NON-MAJOR		
No. of Decisions Issued	No. Allowed on Appeal	% Overturned
2939	28	0.95%

Revenue income for financial year 2025/26 (Planning and Discharge income)

Figures are based on a full year projected income budget of £1,218,500.

Projected	Actual	Variance with projected
April 25 – May 25	April 25 – May 25	
£203,083	£200,969	-£2,114

Performance and extensions of time

The DM staff are continuing to reduce the reliance on EoTs (Extension of Time) with performance exceeding government targets, as evidenced above.

Development Management staff update

We have recently appointed two new members of staff:

- Julie Barrow, Principal Planner – starts mid-June
- Jack Ibbotson, Senior Planner – started in May

We held further interviews on the 17th June as a result of which we hope to appoint a further Principal Planner and a Senior Planner / Planner.

Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)

Over the last couple of months, Officers and the CIL Spending Panel have had meetings with a Planning Advisory Service (PAS) Consultant, to review the current allocation and spending arrangements for CIL, linked to the latest legislation for Infrastructure Delivery in line with the Council's approved Local Plan and Corporate Objectives.

Work will now start on reviewing the PAS recommendations, which will initially be presented to the Spending Panel in July with expected completion of a Draft Report for Cabinet approval in September/October.

CIL Income

The CIL Officers are in the process of collating data for the Annual Infrastructure Funding Statement (IFS) which provides full details of all developer contributions linked to CIL & 106 Planning Obligations and will be published later in the year. The previous IFS Reports can be found on our webpage:

https://www.west-norfolk.gov.uk/info/20223/cil_financial_reports/687/cil_infrastructure_funding_statements .

The CIL accounts for FY24/25 have now been ratified - the table below shows the amount of CIL payments received and how the money is distributed in each financial year in line with the CIL Regulations:

Annual Payments Received 62704		Amount Received 8840	Admin 5%- 8820	Parish Payment - 4407	CIL Fund Pot- 8841
	Annual Total: FY 17/18	£116,052.00	£5,802.60	£21,779.94	£88,469.46
	Annual Total: FY 18/19	£553,901.40	£27,695.07	£97,403.79	£428,802.54
	Annual Total: FY 19/20	£756,302.41	£37,815.12	£141,616.81	£576,870.48
	Annual Total: FY 20/21	£1,019,254.68	£50,962.73	£167,860.33	£800,431.61
	Annual Total: FY 21/22	£1,346,424.43	£67,321.22	£216,930.02	£1,062,173.18
	Annual Total: FY 22/23	£1,259,826.21	£62,991.31	£217,296.59	£979,538.31
	Annual Total: FY 23/24	£2,069,528.85	£103,476.44	£386,603.04	£1,579,449.37
	Annual Total: FY 24/25	£3,283,755.71	£164,180.50	£594,935.97	£2,524,639.24
	Annual Total: FY 24/25	£320,253.24	£16,012.66	£61,114.72	£243,125.86
TOTAL PAYMENTS RECEIVED:		£10,725,298.93	£536,257.66	£1,905,541.22	£8,283,500.05

- Parishes are automatically paid in April & October each year, where money has been paid by developers.
- The CIL Officers are fully funded through the 5% Admin fee which pays staff wages, training and on-costs, IT software and updates, legal charges and anything else to support the administration of CIL.
- The remaining funds are ring-fenced for Infrastructure Projects from the CIL Fund Pot.

- Bank Interest accrued goes into the Council's General Reserves Fund and is not included.

New Software System / Exacom

Exacom is a project management tool, specifically designed for developer contributions including CIL, S106 and the new BNG charges.

The CIL Team have been working hard over the last few months, to transfer all CIL data into this new 'front facing' software. Exacom will provide officers with an effective tool to monitor all income and expenditure. It also has a Public Facing Module (PFM), which will allow anyone to see details of CIL income and expenditure for each Parish and CIL funded Infrastructure Project progress. The final stage involves testing and linking documents from the planning system, which should be completed in the next few weeks. Once the PFM is running on our website, CIL Officers will provide guidance on how it works to all Councillors and Parish Clerks.

The S106 elements will follow, the input of historic data will take longer to be completed.

CIL Infrastructure Projects

There have been 8 rounds of CIL Project Funding to 274 projects within the Borough. To date 221 projects have been completed with an additional 32 active projects receiving payment for phased completions.

The table below shows the CIL Fund Project Allocation and Spend to date:

CIL Infrastructure Fund	
As of 05/06/2025	Totals
Spent	£4,896,544.50
Allocated - Not Spent	£1,744,414.39
Not Allocated	£1,642,541.16

Local Plan / Planning Policy

The Borough Council formally adopted its Local Plan (2021-2040) on the 27/03/2025. The Local Plan and the accompanying policies maps, including an interactive online version of mapping, supporting and adoption documents are available to view via the following link (physical copies are also available for inspection at King's Court, and the libraries):

[Local Plan 2021-2040 | Local Plan 2021-2040 | Borough Council of King's Lynn & West Norfolk](#)

The Local Plan guides development and the use of land. It will steer and shape new development, setting out the long-term plans for the borough. It contains a number of borough wide policies to help shape new development and provides the spatial strategy for growth within the borough (i.e. what development goes where, when and how it can be delivered). I'd like once more thank all those have been involved in the local plan process.

To support the implementation of the Local Plan we have held session for members, officers, agents, and will be doing so for parish councils. We have also published two explanatory notes. The first covers how the new Local Plan Policy for Accessible & Adaptable Homes (LP30) will be applied in practice. The second covers how Custom & Self-Build proposals (linking to the legislation, national policy, and to Local Plan Policy LP31) will likely be

considered. These can be viewed via the link above. We are going further, and to enable greater ease of use of the Local Plan we are in the process of creating an online interactive version and I'll let you know more once this is available.

Currently the Policy Team and supporting teams are carrying out a monitoring refresh. This will provide us with the latest picture of housing development and progress towards delivery across the borough. It involves, site visits, GIS data, and collating information from developers/agents/house builders. The outputs will be an updated housing trajectory, an updated 5-year housing land supply position, an updated Housing Delivery Test Action Plan (following our successful challenge of Government on our results, details of which can be viewed [here](#)), an updated custom & self-build position, and an interactive monitoring dashboard/map. I'll update you further on these aspects once this body of work has been completed.

It is the case that the reward for successfully adopting and publishing a local plan, is that you get to start again. This is chiefly driven by a legal obligation to do so and that the Government's new method for calculating local housing need is much higher than it was previously. We'll need to do this as soon as we can but in the new plan-making system which Government have indicated will be in place during the Autumn. Currently we are considering this and emerging details carefully. I'll provide an update as the position becomes clearer from Government and look to reconvene the Local Plan Task Group.

Neighbourhood Planning Update

As of June 2025, there are 22 "made" (adopted) neighbourhood plans in place, covering 25 parishes. This includes, most recently, the Ringstead Neighbourhood Plan 2021-2036, passed at referendum on 13th February 2025 and "made" on 20th February 2025. Details of recently made and emerging neighbourhood plans are set out below:

Neighbourhood Plans recently "Made" (2024-2025)

	Current position
Grimston, Pott Row, Roydon and Congham Neighbourhood Plan 2017-2036	Passed at referendum, 22 August 2024; "made" 27 August 2024
North Wootton Neighbourhood Plan 2022-2036	Passed at referendum, 14 November 2024; "made" 27 November 2024
Ringstead Neighbourhood Plan 2021-2036	Passed at referendum, 13 February 2025; "made" 20 February 2025

Emerging Neighbourhood Plans

	Current position
Docking	Preliminary draft Plan Strategic Environmental Assessment/ Habitat Regulations Assessment consultation with Environment Agency/ Historic England/ Natural England (January 2025) 1 st draft Plan (Regulation 14) consultation, 17 February – 31 March 2025; anticipated submission autumn 2025.
Ingoldisthorpe	Draft evidence documents under preparation (e.g. Design Codes, Housing Needs Assessment) prepared late 2024/ early 2025; anticipated

	Regulation 14 consultation late summer/ autumn 2025
Marshland St James	1 st draft Plan (Regulation 14) consultation, 1 November – 13 December 2024 (inclusive); submitted 11 March 2025 (Regulation 15). Regulation 16 consultation, 24 March – 12 May 2025 (inclusive), followed by independent examination, due to commence June 2025; referendum anticipated late-autumn/ winter 2025.
Pentney	1 st draft Plan (Regulation 14) consultation March-May 2023; Plan submission anticipated autumn/ winter 2025
Syderstone	1 st draft Plan (Regulation 14) consultation, 4 November – 16 December 2024 (inclusive); submitted 21 February 2025. Regulation 16 consultation, 24 March – 12 May 2025 (inclusive), followed by independent examination, due to commence June 2025; referendum anticipated late-autumn/ winter 2025.
Walpole	1 st draft Plan (Regulation 14) consultation, 21 October – 2 December 2024 (inclusive); submitted 13 February 2025 (Regulation 15). Regulation 16 consultation, 24 March – 12 May 2025 (inclusive), followed by independent examination, due to commence June 2025; referendum anticipated late-autumn/ winter 2025.
Walpole Cross Keys (review of 2017 Neighbourhood Plan)	1 st draft Plan (Regulation 14) consultation, 21 October – 2 December 2024 (inclusive); submitted 31 January 2025 (Regulation 15). Regulation 16 consultation, 24 March – 12 May 2025 (inclusive), followed by independent examination, due to commence June 2025; referendum anticipated late-autumn/ winter 2025.
In addition, several other Parishes are designated Neighbourhood Areas, but progress with plan-making is unknown, or at an early stage	Burnham Overy; Dersingham; Downham Market; Great Massingham; Outwell; Shouldham; Tilney St Lawrence; West Dereham
Recent expressions of interest (2024-25)	King's Lynn Area Committee; Little Massingham Parish Council; Titchwell Parish Meeting

Parish Updates

We held two update sessions for Parish Councils in June. These were hybrid meetings attended by representatives from 39 parishes. My thanks go out to staff giving the updates and handling questions, and to colleagues working in the background to ensure the IT behaved.

LICENSING

- Legislation requires we review our Licensing Act Policy this year and have a new one in place by Jan 2026 – consultation underway, ends August 31/08/2025 and will then go through E+C, Cabinet, Full Council.
- The Tobacco and Vapes Bill is now at committee stage in the House of Lords, and is said to require any premises selling tobacco, vapes and associated products to have a premises licence, and any person a personal licence. <https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3703> To be administered by Local Authorities and enforced by Trading Standards (may change?!). This will have a big impact on workload if it is implemented as per the bill.
- The Lynn News has recently reported that BCKLWN are in the top five in terms of numbers of licensed dog breeders, and the top 2 in terms of total number of inspections undertaken in England and Wales - 'In 2023, there were 66 licensed dog breeders in Kings Lynn and West Norfolk. 37 applications were submitted for dog breeding licences and 121 inspections undertaken – this is the 5th highest application to inspection ratio in the UK. In terms of total number of inspections undertaken the authority was second only to Carmarthenshire with 159.'
- We are currently undertaking the first round of inspections at Gambling premises licensed within the borough – we will inspect twice each year. Premises includes - Adult Gaming Centres, Betting shops, Family Entertainment Centres, Bingo Premises and Gaming Machines in Pubs.

CABINET MEMBERS REPORT TO COUNCIL

26th June 2025

COUNCILLOR SANDRA SQUIRE - CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND COASTAL

For the period to 16th June 2025

1 Progress on Portfolio Matters.

I have quite a lot I'd like to report on this month, so please bear with me.

Beach Pollution

We have dealt with the immediate aftermath and the number of plastic nurdles being collected from our beaches has dropped for the time being. Although a lot of nurdle pollution has been collected from the shoreline, some still remains, with Scolt Head Island to be cleaned in the Autumn. Our officers continue to meet with stakeholders and other agencies, although this will be less going forwards.

As the response moves into different phase, we continue to support landowners and have provided skips and equipment for continued nurdle collection. Larger pieces of nurdle mats can still be reported if found here: [Report a coastal issue | Report a coastal issue | Borough Council of King's Lynn & West Norfolk](#)



On Monday 9th June we held a Thank You event at the Town Hall for those involved with the beach clean up response.

It was important the herculean efforts to clean our beaches were recognised. I've never received so many emails and messages from across West Norfolk thanking our staff for all of their efforts.

The response involved a lot of people from both the council and other agencies, all playing a valuable part, so bringing them together for some tea and cake really seemed like the least we could do.

From the emergency planning team, to public open space, the comms team, environmental health, the waste team, those who held the fort while colleagues were on the beaches, the MCA, Kings Lynn Conservancy Board, the RSPB and other landowners and stakeholders, the beach clean up was a great example of West Norfolk pulling together a great collaborative effort.

We didn't cause the pollution that arrived on our beaches, we couldn't have foreseen it, I certainly never thought I would ever be reporting to council that we were literally having to vacuum the beaches!

But when the call came, everyone rose to the occasion. Not all heroes wear capes, but they mostly seem to live and work in West Norfolk.



Wash East Coast Management Strategy (WECMS) Stakeholder Forum

We held another WECMS Stakeholder meeting at the Valentine Road offices in Hunstanton in May.

There were updates on our coastline, including the cliffs. The EA advised of the process for the update of the Management Strategy and how that has been slightly delayed due to beach pollution. Although work has started and more updates will be given at the next meeting.

Anyone interested in the update and shoreline management going forward is welcome to come along to the next meeting. Cookies or cakes are usually available!

All Party Flood Prevention Summit

On 2nd June I attended an event at Parliament organised by George Freeman MP in relation to his upcoming Inland Flooding Prevention Bill.

The event was organised to give a wide range of stakeholders, the ability to input into the bill, share ideas and to develop a manifesto to present to ministers.

Topics discussed included responsibilities; essentially who does what and who is accountable, which currently is really complex and not at all obvious. Liabilities; who should be held accountable when they fail to make adequate provision for flood provision and obviously funding.

Several MP's were present, plus representatives from several councils, IDB's, water companies, the Fire Service and other stakeholders. It was a lively intense session that everyone who attended had the opportunity to input ideas into.

Suggestions included changing how funding is distributed, moving funding and decision making from the EA to a more locally based organisation, changing housing targets to take into account areas at high risk of flooding, taking a more holistic catchment based approach, not just looking at individual sites. Enforcing riparian maintenance, not relying on residents groups to undertake riparian maintenance for new developments, and my personal suggestion – changing how IDB's are funded to relieve the financial pressure from local authorities. My point being further supported by the representative from Boston.

Further meetings are planned, I will update development and progress of the bill when we have more information.

Surveillance of Shellfish Waters

Our Environmental Health teams have been increasing the amount of shellfish testing they are undertaking, although this is usual in the summer months.

Local authorities are responsible for ensuring the safety of shellfish harvested in their areas by conducting regular sampling of both the shellfish and surrounding waters. This monitoring focuses on microbiological contamination, such as E. coli, and the presence of marine biotoxins.

During the warmer months, the food safety team increases sampling efforts to enhance surveillance of marine biotoxins. This may include resampling when initial results indicate elevated levels, as these toxins can accumulate in shellfish and pose serious health risks to humans. Marine biotoxins are produced by certain naturally occurring algae. Shellfish become contaminated by feeding on these algae, and since the toxins are not destroyed by normal cooking processes, they must be closely monitored.

If toxin levels exceed permitted thresholds, local authorities are required to close affected shellfish harvesting areas until levels return to safe limits.

Although such closures are rare in this region, the presence of marine biotoxins in local waters makes ongoing surveillance essential. This vigilance helps maintain public health and supports confidence in the shellfish industry both locally and internationally.

Promoting Water Safety: Empowering Schools for Drowning Prevention Week

193 people lost their lives to accidental drowning in the UK in 2024. 61% of those occurred in inland waterways including rivers, lakes, canals and reservoirs. 84% of those who lost their lives were male. 37% occurred in people who never expected to enter the water.

We're proud to continue championing water safety by equipping schools with learning resources during Drowning Prevention Week (June 14th to 21st).

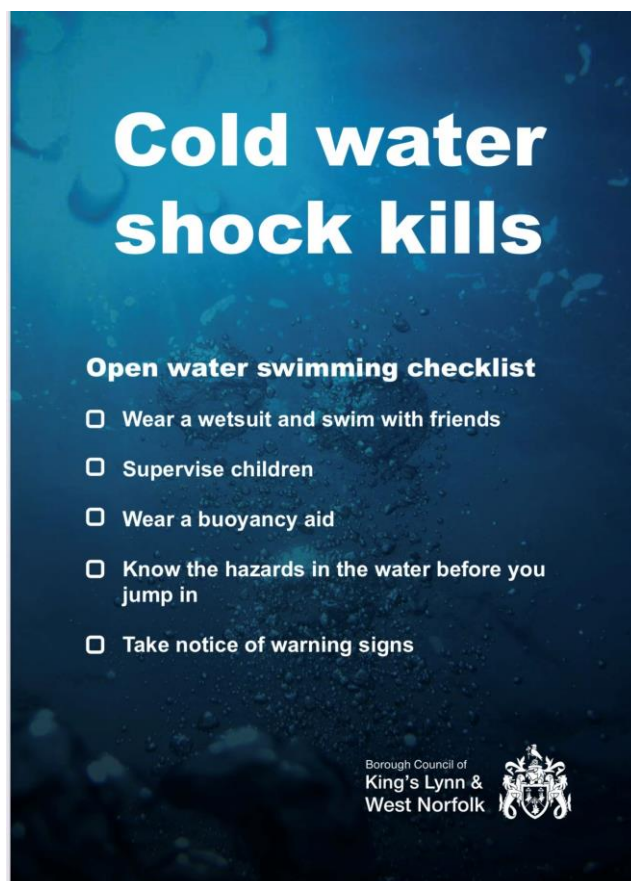
As part of our campaign, we've distributed multilingual posters—available in English, Portuguese, Russian, and Lithuanian—highlighting the dangers of cold water shock and essential tips for staying safe around water.

To further support schools, we've referenced the Royal Life Saving Society's comprehensive school packs and spotlighted Alive's free swimming sessions, helping children build confidence and life-saving skills in the water.

The water becomes more attractive in warmer weather, which is when most accidental drownings occur. Often the water can be colder than it appears.

Please follow water safety advice; never swim alone, take notice of warning signs, ensure you know what to do if you enter the water unexpectedly. Don't panic or thrash about, focus on floating to control your breathing.

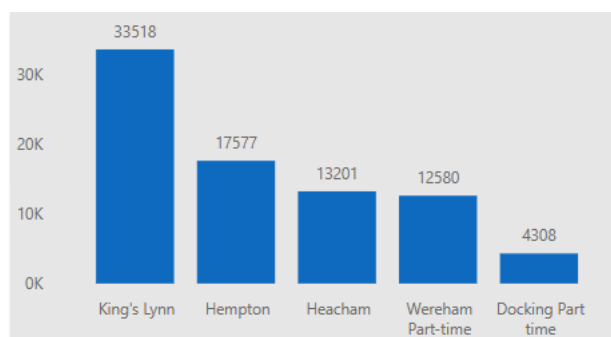
For more information on Drowning Prevention Week: [Royal Life Saving Society UK's Drowning Prevention Week](#)



Recycling Centre Booking System

Since the booking system was introduced in Nov 2024, as at the end of May, 450,000 bookings had been made to visit Norfolk recycling centres. 82,661 of those were in West Norfolk, representing some 19% of total bookings.

Some 13,500 visits have involved bringing DIY waste. The booking system has allowed this to be monitored more closely to ensure fair use of the system.

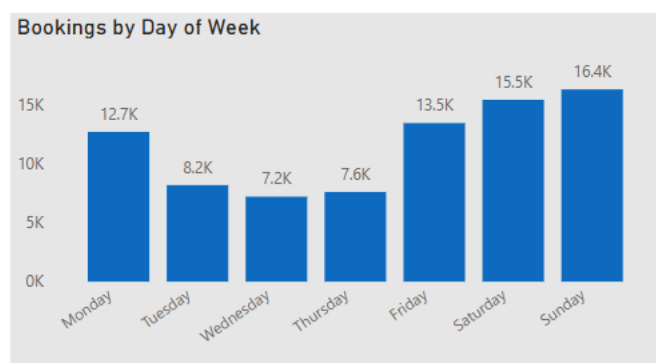


While we continue to monitor the situation, it appears that the introduction of the booking system has had no effect on fly tipping rates.

Visits to recycling centres run smoothly, incidents of abuse to staff are reducing. While anecdotally numbers of visits to the recycling centres has reduced, it also appears that people are saving up more waste to take it all in one trip rather than making multiple trips for small numbers of items.

No Waste Wednesdays

From June 2025, all recycling centres will be closed on a Wednesday, in line with Wednesday being the quietest day of the week.



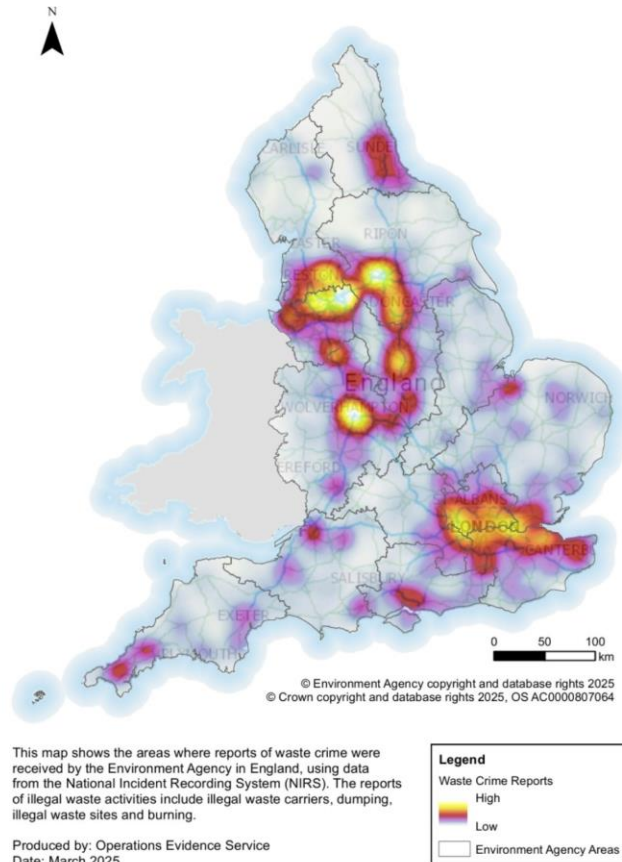
Waste Crime Heatmap & Fly Tipping

You may have seen that the EA have published a heatmap for waste crime including fly tipping.

Waste crime reports

England

1st January 2023 to 31st December 2024



The map essentially puts a hot spot in the area around Terrington St Clements. We are struggling to understand why we are showing as a hotter area than the rest of Norfolk.

Although, the waste crime doesn't just take into account fly tipping cases. It may be that other well known crimes currently being investigated and prosecuted by the EA have an effect on the figures. We have no details on what information was used to develop the map.

As when we look at the fly tipping cases reported across the county by district, the number of cases reported in West Norfolk isn't obviously higher than elsewhere and doesn't apparently justify any hotspot. Great Yarmouth recently changed how cases were reported which explains the anomaly in their 24-25 figures.

Local Authority	18-19	19-20	20-21	21-22	22-23	23-24	24-25
Breckland Council	1009	984	1103	975	760	915	830
Broadland District Council	515	438	629	508	887	785	914
Great Yarmouth Borough Council	1555	1491	2146	1869	1171	1153	7720
Kings Lynn and West Norfolk Borough Council	1460	1261	1188	1326	1676	1838	1831
North Norfolk District Council	569	517	473	397	504	353	385
Norwich City Council	5290	4937	4755	4805	5297	5392	5638
South Norfolk Council	888	725	971	881	763	729	567
Countywide total	11286	10353	11265	10761	11058	11165	17885
Total exc. Yarmouth	9731	8862	9119	8892	9887	10012	10165

Fly tipping cases are much too high. Although from the number of cases reported it seems the public are confident that we will not only clear dumped waste, but will investigate and fine or prosecute where we can. Having a dedicated team to investigate fly tipping has led to an increase in reports, not necessarily an increase in cases. We're just hearing about them more, which can only be a good thing.

Our residents are our eyes and ears. Please do continue to report fly tipping cases and if you have any evidence which would be useful in our investigations, please get in touch with the waste team.

Fly Tippers are not welcome in West Norfolk and we will do all that we can to find those responsible.

Food and Safety Newsletters

We have a new webpage that has just gone live where our food and safety newsletters are now available for anyone to access online. A new newsletter will go out in July.

The information and advice would be relevant to anyone involved in food preparation, including in the home so is worth a look.

The QR code links to the page



2 Forthcoming Activities and Developments.

Water Summit – 19th June 2025

What's in the water?

"Top of the plops"

"Another brown flag award"

"Go in at your peril"

We've all seen the headlines but do they really give an accurate picture of water quality locally. Well the answer is yes, and also no.

The North Sea is shallow and silty, suspended silt giving a brown appearance. Algal blooms and wave agitation are a common source of sea foam. So often what you see, isn't what you think it is.

There has been a lot of focus on bathing water quality and this can only be a good thing. But often focus is on the headlines which can give a misleading picture.

So lets start with the testing regime itself and what the picture is nationally. Designated bathing waters are tested for Intestinal Enterococci (IE) and Escherichia coli (E Coli – EC). These bacteria can indicate the presence of faecal matter in the water, sources of both bacteria can include wildlife, sewage, agricultural livestock, domestic animals, birds and road drainage.

Each test represents only a moment in time. Testing results can vary day to day, or even at different times on the same day.

The results of each test are published by the Environment Agency and are updated online a few days after each test. Bathing waters are tested on 20 occasions each year between May and September.

The results for each year are combined with the results of the previous three years, to provide a classification for that bathing water site for the following year.

So even if a bathing site shows good results for one year, if the previous three years weren't good, the classification will reflect this. Equally, if the results show improvements, that won't necessarily be reflected in the classifications for a few years after the improvements occurred.

Bathing waters can be classified either Excellent, Good, Sufficient or Poor. In 2021 94.7% of bathing waters tested were rated Excellent or Good, in 2022 that had dropped to 92.9%, in 2023 that dropped again to 89.8% and in 2024 it dropped even further to 85.3%.

2021 saw only 4 sites classified as having poor bathing water quality, in 2022 that rose to 12, 2023 saw it rise again to 18, in 2024 it rose again to 37.

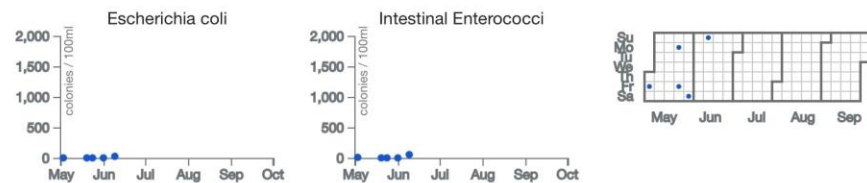
It should be considered that in 2024 there was also a rise in the total number of bathing sites tested, however the 37 still represents 8.2% of the total number tested, whereas in 2021 poor results only accounted for 1% of sites tested.

Further details can be found at: [2024 Statistics on English coastal and inland bathing waters: A summary of compliance with the 2013 bathing water regulations - GOV.UK](#)

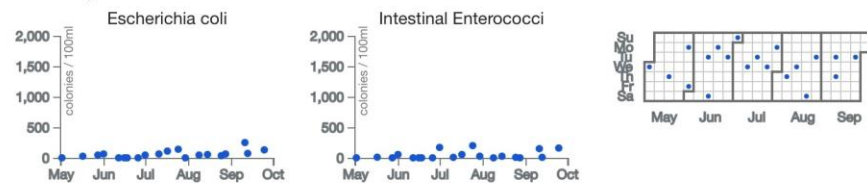
Here are the results for Heacham from 2021 to 2024. The latest published test (at time of writing) being taken on 8th June 2025:

Heacham

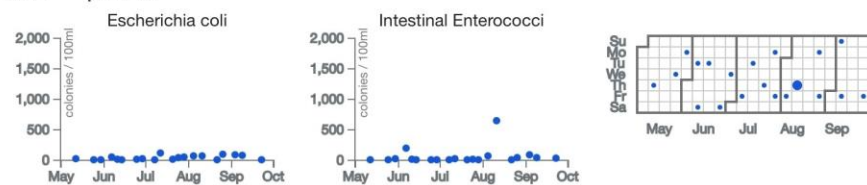
2025



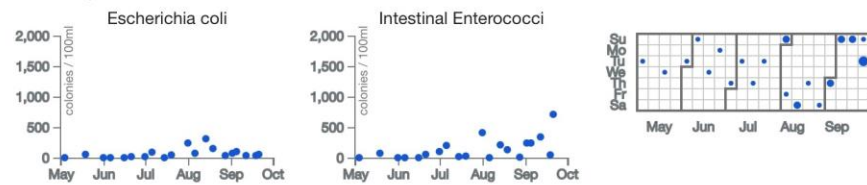
2024 — poor ?



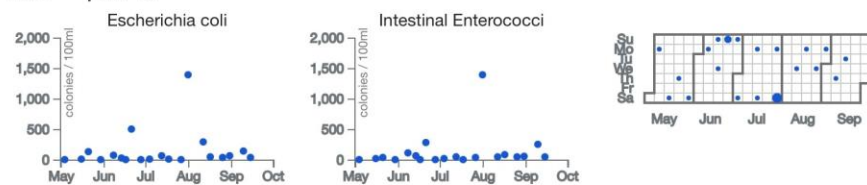
2023 — poor ?



2022 — poor ?



2021 — poor ?



As you can see, generally there has been an improvement over the last two years, however because of the way the classifications are calculated, that wouldn't show in the current classification. Also what isn't shown is that the last two years results taken on their own would have resulted in a "Good" classification and that 85% of results were in the "Excellent" range.

It is also worth noting that it is the levels of Intestinal Enterococci cause our water quality issues in West Norfolk. Levels of E.Coli at Heacham for instance are within the 'Excellent' range, which is Blue Flag quality.

So what is going on?

It's all too easy to point the finger at water companies and lay the blame at their door. In many instances that may well be the case, but it really is just one contributing factor amongst many.

The pollution risk forecasting system itself is also confusing and often misunderstood, leaving both councils and the public frustrated by a lack of consistent and accurate information. It is just that, a forecast, to be used as a guide, not necessarily as a definite indicator that pollution is present. It highlights for instance that where heavy rainfall occurs, there may be more pollution washed in the sea. As heavy rain flushes everything down, which may not be sewage at all.

Anglian Water publishes details of storm overflow events, which can be found on their storm overflow map which can be found here: [What we're doing to improve your local rivers & coastline](#). Where you can see the locations and times of any overflows.

The last storm overflow event in West Norfolk was actually today (16th June) at 1327 for 2 minutes. There were also overflows over the weekend in North Norfolk. I can't say that storm overflows are acceptable, as they aren't, but investments and improvements are being made. Like it or not, storm overflows are only one issue in what is a complex picture with many factors involved.

Even in cases where DNA testing is undertaken to ascertain the source of the pollution, no simple solution is identified. Over here in the Wash, with our internationally important designations and bird populations, we weren't surprised to see seabird DNA as a huge marker accounting for over 60% of the DNA found, but human, dog and ruminant DNA were also found. In the case of North Norfolk, even chicken DNA was identified in the sea water.

While we could say that decades of underinvestment in our sewage and ground water system has left us with systems that can't cope and our rivers and seas are being used as dumping grounds, unless North Norfolk has a breed of lesser spotted sea-chicken, or toilet trained chickens, that DNA found its way onto the beach another way.

Run off, misconnections and surface water drains all play a part, but even that is only part of the picture. We know that microplastics, transport run off, agriculture, coastal landfills and industrial pollution are all playing a part all around the country, it's just hard to ascertain to what extent and where.

Which is why improvements require a co-ordinated and collaborative approach.

This council has worked closely with Anglian Water and the Environment Agency to try to ascertain what the issues are locally and to try to bring about improvements. I am extremely grateful for their collaborative approach and everything they've contributed so far. This work was started by Cllr's Dark and Parish and continues today. Improvements as you can see have been made. There has been much work and analysis going on behind the scenes, which often goes unreported.

Clear evidence was found for an association between the presence of dog DNA and high indicator bacterial concentrations, however the evidence also suggests that if dogs were removed, while there would be improvements in water quality, it would not affect the overall classifications.

Clear evidence was found for an association between higher concentrations of both human-specific DNA and human-specific bacterial DNA with high indicator bacterial concentrations.

There are actually very limited storm overflows in this area, there is also a UV plant at Heacham, the result suggests misconnections or other third party foul arrangements, for example septic tanks could be an issue. Misconnection surveys have been carried out and none have currently been identified.

There is also clear evidence of an association between higher concentrations of ruminant-specific bacterial DNA and high indicator bacterial concentrations. However there has been limited grazing in recent years so this may suggest markers may be from further upstream.

Then we come back to the clear evidence of an association between higher concentrations of seabird bacterial DNA and high intestinal enterococci concentrations. There is no getting away from the fact that we have a lot of seabirds.

In terms of the DNA testing itself, it's also worth noting that the testing analysis picks up both live and dead bacteria, so while the bacteria may be present, it may also be dead.

So as you can see, focussing on one single potential issue, doesn't give us a complete picture.

The LGA Coastal SIG (Special Interest Group) surveyed its members to evaluate the water quality issues facing coastal councils and communities. The results paint a stark picture of many councils becoming increasingly concerned about water quality in their area. Coastal communities rely on tourism together with our local fishing and shellfish industries. If we want to have healthy, successful, sustainable coastal communities for the future, we need to start addressing these issues and tackling them at source. However, we also need to start looking at the evidence not clickbait headlines.

A testing regime that only covers the summer months also isn't providing a complete picture of what is going on in our waters, it's just a small snapshot in time. More water quality testing, with year round monitoring and a new reporting system that everyone understands would help.

Currently we know that bacteria levels are highest in July and August. Is that because of the increased tourism levels? Higher Temperatures? Less rainfall? More rainfall? Bird breeding season? We don't know. Why are more bathing sites being rated as poor? Again, we don't know.

Year round testing would give us a much better idea. More catchment testing would also pick up where this pollution is coming from. Just testing the bathing water at the beach doesn't give us enough information to be able to tackle issues.

As your Cabinet Member, the Member Champion for coastal water quality for the LGA Coastal SIG and chair of their Water Quality Working Group, I work with other councils, the Environment Agency and other agencies including OFWAT to highlight issues around water quality.

By working together we can share information and ideas, our voices are magnified and we can target our work to where we feel we can have the biggest impact.

This was the idea behind the Water Summit, which was originally planned to be an in person event here in West Norfolk, however due to several factors, is now to be held online on 19th June.

With speakers from Defra, the Environment Agency, OFWAT, Anglian Water, Durham University, Surfers Against Sewage, The Marine Conservation Society and others, including Alison Hume MP, with the LGA Coastal SIG we are bringing together many organisations and councils. The day isn't to focus on what has gone on in the past, or to point fingers and blame, but to look to the future - How can we all work together to improve our water quality.

Changes and improvements are coming, the Government has pledged to improve water quality and has set up the Independent Water Commission, which we'll be hearing more about at the summit, but lets be clear - every single person can make a difference.

Even very small actions can help, from not leaving litter to picking up after your dog, not just on the beach – everywhere. As it all washes up on the beach eventually and will be reflected in those test results we spend so much time analysing the results.

3 Meetings Attended and Meetings Scheduled

Various Portfolio Briefings
Cabinet Sifting
Cabinet Briefing
Cabinet
Norfolk Coast Protected Landscape Strategy Meeting
Norfolk Coast Protected Landscape CMG Meeting
Various LGA Coastal SIG meetings re Water Summit
RFCC Training on funding
WECMS Stakeholder meeting
NEWS Board meeting
All Party Flood Summit
Coastal Nature Recovery Meeting
Meeting with the EA re coastal funding
Beach clean up thank you reception
Water Summit

CABINET MEMBERS REPORT TO COUNCIL

26th June 2025

COUNCILLOR CHRIS MORLEY CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE
For the period April to 16 th June 2025

1 Progress on Portfolio Matters.
BUDGET OUTTURN FORECAST 24/25
<p>When I last reported in March I advised that I was confident that we would improve on the funded budgeted figure which needed a draw from General Reserves of £2.2m. This confidence has proved to be well placed as the final outturn expenditure was such that no draw on General Reserves will be needed and we have a balanced position.</p> <p>However, there are some significant unfunded revenue programmes ahead of us, not least the statutory commencement of a new Local Plan.</p> <p>Therefore, we have decided to use some of our General Reserves to balance 24/25 accounts but supplement Earmarked Reserves for 25/26. The supplements and their allocations are being reviewed this week with the Corporate Leadership Team but at present I anticipate a draw from reserves of £0.8m for 24/25 and a supplement of £1.4m for 25/26.</p>
BUDGET 25/26
<p>July results will provide our first indication of how this incredibly challenging budget is being met. A budget which includes further efficiencies and cost reduction.</p>
INTERNAL AUDIT
<p>There is a database of Audits if any Member requires or wishes to examine the Opinions given on many aspects of Council performance. The most recent report of June '25 covered key controls and assurance around strategic financial planning, budget and monitoring, and risk management. Overall, the audit gave assurance that work was being carried out effectively.</p> <p>As for any audit report, there is a follow up process to ensure that any recommendations for improvement are completed.</p>

PROCUREMENT

The new Contract Standing Orders are now in place and the higher thresholds for operational use are providing headroom for our small procurement team to focus more sharply on higher value purchases and contract management.

We are receiving support from the LGA Talent Bank to help train Officers on conducting Requests for Quotations with an on-line session for those who could not attend in person.

The Officer Procurement Handbook for operating under the new Procurement rules is nearing completion and will be available when the new Intranet is launched.

Members will recall that we have a new Social Value Policy in place under the new Procurement Act. This is part of the Government's strategy for using the purchasing leverage of local councils to grow local business and skills – particularly through SMEs. Accordingly, our bid evaluation criteria includes wider facets of economics, not merely bid quotes, and we have introduced a set of KPIs relating to those local SMEs engaged either directly or sub contracted to our purchases for goods and works.

2nd HOME COUNCIL TAX PREMIUM

2ND Home owners appear to be particularly resilient to the imposition of this cost. A cost imposed to help Councils counter the distortions to their local housing market. Although we assumed that there would be a 30% reduction in retaining these properties the figure to date is 15% and the number of questions from home owners has dropped to manageable proportions.

Fuller details are scheduled to be contained in a July report to Council. For 25/26 the extra money secured from these premiums and in accordance with our agreement with the County, will be used to fund a post dedicated to bringing empty homes back into use together with our homelessness services and strategy.

ICT

Paul Lowes, Assistant Director Corporate Services, has brought the ICT team into his encompass, The team has significant challenges which they are pursuing with vigour, including, as a “potpourri” :

Improving Meeting and Comm's technology.

In particular AV at the Town Hall with better cameras, cabling, hearing loop together with an improved business internet leased line.

Improving the digital workplace.

Refreshed desk top technology.

Launching new intranet.

New Care & Repair website.

Improved systems for Alive.

A new security and risk management programme.

Improved ICT service desk

Digital skills and Innovation

Best use of AI tools within our organisation and County wide.

A Transformation Road Map.**WINS**

We continue to promote this lottery through various channels including social media and a “live” advert on the digi-screen outside the railway station.

There are currently 78 live good causes regularly receiving funds via this lottery. Those with the biggest support are:

West Norfolk Deaf Association

British Polio Fellowship (Kings Lynn Group)

RSPCA Eau Brink West Norfolk.

This Council is also a good cause and we retain a small pot of funds for minor emergency and unfunded events.

This lottery has raised over £200,000 for good causes since its take up by this Council.

2 Forthcoming Activities and Developments.

Final accounts 24/25
Budget Monitoring
Contract Management Roll out
ICT transformation.

3 Meetings Attended and Meetings Scheduled

Regular Portfolio Meetings
Independent Group Meetings

Cabinet Briefing and Meetings
Major Project Board
Shareholder Board
All Corporate Performance Panels and Audit Committees
Ward Parish Council Meetings

MEMBERS REPORT TO COUNCIL

26th June 2025

COUNCILLOR – JO RUST CABINET MEMBER FOR – PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES

For the period 13th March 2025 – 16th June 2025

1 Progress on Portfolio Matters. – Creating Communities

On Saturday 15th March I attended creating communities' event at the Beacon Church in North Lynn. The reason why these events are held is to bring together members of the community who live in the same area, but who might have been established at different times, thus leading to the potential to create newcomers versus those who have been established for longer. When we put on events that bring everyone together, it builds stronger and more cohesive communities. It was a fun event, with games, food, chat and stalls from our partner organisations about these services that are on offer locally which help support the various needs that residents have. The Beacon Church is an established community space and Jon and Vicki and their team really are embedded in their community. I have previously written about the work the police are doing to support the area (and we've had a couple of meetings about the Rise survey results and the work being planned around them), as well as Cllr Ben Jones, the targeted youth support team and staff from Active Norfolk. All services working together to hear from the residents about what they'd like to see being offered or supported. It's also about empowering the residents to do it themselves by upskilling, informing and signposting – moving away from a culture where the residents are "done unto" and then, when funding runs out, left high and dry.

On Tuesday 18th march I went to County Hall in Norwich to attend Behavioural Insights training. This was a session which helped me, and those others present to understand how the decisions and choices that we make are influenced by a variety of different factors and how this knowledge and awareness can be used to design "interventions" that promote the behaviour that we desire to see which can improve outcomes and address challenges. We heard some very practical real-life examples of interventions that change behaviour; such as getting a strike if one didn't attend a gym session that had been booked and 3 strikes means no online booking for a week - designed to change behaviour and encourage attendance at the gym session or cancellation within the deadline. The reason why this is important is because as an authority, we might decide to offer services that can encourage people to adopt different lifestyle choices through the implementation of certain "pulls" or "pushes" established as a

part of that decision making. We're working hard to encourage residents take up a more active lifestyle and to cook food from scratch, there are things we can attach to these which would see a higher take up. One of the ways we're hoping to support making food from scratch is by working with an organisation set up by celebrity chef, Theo Michaels to provide personalised meal plans with a single shopping list which cuts out the stress of having to decide every single day what you're going to cook and works to avoid costly food waste. We've not yet signed up to it, but there's a strong desire to do so, so watch this space.

All councillors have been attending numerous meetings about local government reform and devolution. In some respects, Devolution is simpler to deal with – we will have a strategic Mayoral Authority encompassing Norfolk and Suffolk with one mayor making decisions about roads, education etc. While the shape of local government reform is still to be decided. Will we have one mega unitary council with people in Norwich making decisions about us here in King's Lynn? Or will we have another model with retains decision making closer to us. I know which one I'd prefer. Along with that work is also the work to look at the formation of a town council. Now, this is not a new idea, it's been on the plans since the Independent group got into administration. But the changes that LGR will see happen, make it all a bit more urgent. Some of you might have attended the civic event making Andy Bullen our new Mayor. We want to retain those traditions here in King's Lynn and not lose them to Norwich. A town council will help support that. After all, King's Lynn has had a mayor for over 800 years, we can't lose it now. These traditions mean a lots to the people and communities who live here. Not least the young people who might not have had the experiences older people have. It's also one of the reasons why we're working with the Youth Advisory Board to set up a youth council with representatives from a variety of local youth groups. Being able to get involved and see decision making and mayor making up close will give young people more confidence to get involved themselves.

I attended some safeguarding training delivered at Tapping House on March 28th. Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility and having an awareness of the steps that should be taken if you have a concern is something more of us should be aware of.

I was proud to be just one of a large number of people: councillors, church, police, council staff and volunteers from the Pizza Project (to name just a few) who took part in the community clean up in North Lynn on Wednesday 9th April. For me, being a part of a community means working to make it better. Sometimes that's lobbying for significant and important pieces of infrastructure or services, but often it can be things like bringing a community together to tidy up their area and give them more of a sense of pride about it. There were over 50 people in attendance, some of them young people giving up a day of their Easter holiday to improve their public open spaces. I was one of a group which went down the cycle path towards the back of Wickes. We picked up a large number of bags and were shown

appreciation when members of the public went by. I'm organising a litter pick in my own ward on Saturday 14th June. Anyone can arrange a litter pick, you just use the link on the borough council's website - [Organised litter picks | Organised litter picks | Borough Council of King's Lynn & West Norfolk](#) and complete the online form. There are 16 kits available for use so it's highly unlikely that you wouldn't be able to get hold of one to use.

I've met with local residents and the ward councillor over concerns about housing standards within a park home site. Park homes are regulated about standards and privately owned sites must have a licence from the local council. The park owner must clearly display the licence. It will usually have conditions for: how many homes can be in the park, services and amenities and health and safety. If you have residents who live in park homes and they have complaints about the conditions or standards of the site, there is support that they can be given to seek redress. I will be following up this site with the ward councillor, the resident's association and the site owner when we meet on June 25th

I attended the meeting of the West Norfolk Youth Advisory Board (YAB) on Wednesday 16th April and heard about their lobbying around the initiative which I have written about before called "everyone has the right to play". Which seeks to make our play areas accessible and inclusive for all. There are still too many play areas which don't have accessible play equipment or surfaces, which sees children and their families barred for playing alongside their peers. The group have lobbied the High Sheriff and the local MP and will do a radio interview on International Day of Play in June. These young people are actively engaged in decision making about things that are important to them and are funded by the YABs, but there are so many other decisions which are made about things that impact on them, that they don't have any influence over. It's why our council, following the motion put forward by Councillor Jones, is working with the YAB to set up a youth council. So that they can have a voice at local government level, and we can take, wherever possible, their views into consideration. These could be the councillors or MPs of the future with our support. It also supports our corporate plan and cultural plan around supporting volunteers and supporting young people.

We have held two of our regular Health and Wellbeing Partnership meetings since my last report. One in person on 17th April and our first one on Teams on Thursday 5th June. We discussed the pilot, proof of concept data sharing work between the NHS and our council. We don't have access to any personal information about the residents, just their name and address and the knowledge that if this information has been shared, they are eligible for the energy efficiency measures facilitated, but not delivered by, our energy efficiency officer. As a council this helps us meet our corporate plan around delivering a more efficient services and supporting our communities. All organisations associated with Health and Wellbeing and acute hospitals are working to reduce health inequalities. It's at the heart of our Marmot work, but we know we have a long way to travel as our children's health weight level is higher here

than in Norfolk and the UK and we have more dental decay and lower levels of physical activity. The following week one of our officers, Lisa, had organised a networking help-hub meeting that brought to the same room and the statutory, voluntary and VCSE groups that we work with to bring about improvements to the lives and experiences of our residents. Our children and young people are an important part of this work and if we can get it right from the start – Starting Well, then we can move forward from a strong position.

One of the main things that impacts on the health and lives of our residents is housing and secure, decent and affordable accommodation in a sustainable location – one which has good travel to work and school routes and is services by local shops, communities' centres of whatever sort and access to green, open spaces. Developments such as Florence Fields are perfect in so many ways as they meet all the above criteria. Surprisingly we have many empty homes in the borough which, if brought back in stock, could have a significant and positive impact on the lives of people who live here. It's something that we're planning to take forward, so this is another watch this space moment! Following on from that, our officer already currently monitors the standards of housing in both the private and social sector and the Renters Rights Bill, when it becomes an Act of law, should make it easier for those in rented accommodation to get sub standard accommodation improved or repaired without risking a no fault eviction. The removal of Section 21 will likely mean more tenants will come forward and complain about their housing standards and it'll add more duties to the council. We already have a Housing, Health and Safety Rating System with 9 categories that we can assess. Under the Renters Rights Act we'll be able to issue a penalty immediately. There'll also be a registration requirement for landlords within the Act and a requirement for us to engage with them.

Freebridge have restarted their out and about days, where members of staff and the board go out and visit residents to ask their view on Freebridge as an organisation and if there are any outstanding repairs. I went out with Sarra and Matt on Thursday 17th April to Fairstead Estate and with Dan and Tom on Thursday 15th May around Hillington Square. The care and compassion showed by the people I was out with was clear to see. They really do take the views of their residents on board and worked to try to alleviate issues there and then. There was a really emotional moment when we were on Hillington Square, when a resident said that every day, she thanked Freebridge for her property and said prayers for the staff. It reinforced exactly what I've referred to above, that decent, secure, affordable homes improve the lives of our residents. There are evidently issues with the quality of some of the housing stock, damp and mould are areas that really require attention in some properties. The teams I was out with were clear to residents, any level of damp and mould deserves to be worked on and should be reported. As one of our main Registered Housing Providers Freebridge will be instrumental in our council succeeding in meeting our housing needs and we must work collegiately to achieve this, being a critical friend when necessary.

I was so privileged to be able to attend the Local heroes Award celebrations. Sponsored by Iliffe Media on 23rd April. These awards celebrate the services given by those who work, volunteer, live and support our neighbourhoods. It's always an emotional evening and to be able to see members of our community who I have written about in this report, being celebrated, is a real honour. Well done to every person and member of a community who was nominated. You're all winners. Our council seeks to support people who want to volunteer, so if there was an area that you had an interest in, I'm confident that you'll find support for it on our volunteers on the Lily webpage - [LILY | Learning, work and volunteering](#)

I've undertaken some community campaigning at the weekends, supporting the trans community who were left feeling under attack and marginalised by High Court rulings, among others. It was heartening to see all the support out there for this group of vulnerable people.

It was wonderful to see the armed forces community out in such force on Monday 5th May, accompanied by many members of the civilian community in support. It's important that we continue to remember important events like this in order that we don't forget the horrific impact that war has on the lives of people. We now have a serving member of the armed forces as our new Deputy Mayor – welcome Steve Bearshaw. It was great to be present when Andy and Steve were formally signed in at our council AGM. And then to attend the event at the Minster which did it in the company of the “great and the good”!

There are still attempts to move forward with improving dentistry services in our area. Whether they come to fruition is something mainly beyond our control due to a variety of different factors, including the national contracts, training etc. But if our council can support anything that helps this situation, it will do so.

The work which we're all seeing towards Devolution and Local Government Review continues at pace. In many respects, Devolution is a simpler issue, as we will have one Mayor with power over the Strategic Authority of Norfolk and Suffolk. They'll make decisions over big ticket items such as transport, skills, economic development, housing, and the environment. But LGR remains an unknown at the moment in terms of its shape for Norfolk. Running alongside this of course, is the work to create a town council to ensure that the people of King's Lynn are not losing out in terms of a democratic deficit as wards in the town centre areas currently are unparished with no representation in the way that residents are familiar with. While a town council is the first tier of local government, work to create one is no less problematic and challenging for those tasked to complete it than LGR!

I attended a number of different locally delivered training sessions and I'd urge you all to sign up for these if you're able to. They really do help us deal with the needs of our residents more efficiently and effectively.

On May 8th I attended the ICS district council meeting where we heard that we had a new Interim CEO to replace Tracey Bleakley who stepped down. Ed Garrett will be holding that post with William Pope as the interim chair. It's a difficult time at the ICS as there are funding cuts of 57% coming at a time when there's a great deal of focus on early intervention. For example, in Adult Social Services, there is increasing demand both upstream and downstream and a lack of market sufficiency. There is provider failure, workforce issues and financial pressures on all those services which support people, whether that's day centres, care at home, supported living or care homes. However, devolution will give the capacity for change by transforming commissioning to deliver better care outcomes and better value. The intention is to build an adult social services directorate that's fit for the future. At the meeting we heard more about the important work undertaken by the Community Alcohol Partnerships, something I've previously written about. Andy Nederpel is our officer, and he also deals with ASB issues. I was pleased to speak about the work here in King's Lynn as the Pizza Project received CAP funding and it had reduced the instances of ASB to nearly zero. We also heard about work to become an Age Friendly Community, which is something our authority is working on as part of our Marmot work. Health in All Our Policies was also raised, with a health impact assessment being proposed to run along side an equality impact assessment.

On May 13th I attended a pharmaceutical needs assessment, which I found interesting! In Norfolk we have 144 community pharmacies for a population of around 925,695. Plus 56 dispensing doctor practices providing pharmaceutical services from a total of 80 sites. The assessment was to see if there are gaps in dispensing services, not judge the services themselves. Different types of pharmacy provision deliver different services. A recent report by NHS found that about 47% of pharmacies weren't profitable in their last accounting year. Services delivered by pharmacies include collection and delivery services, language services, services for less able people, electronic prescribing, out of hours and more. The Community Pharmacy Contractual Framework is made up of 3 types of service – Essential, Advanced and Enhanced. It was judged that we currently have no gaps in our services.

On May 14th I attended a meeting of Together for Mental Wellbeing which was seeking to capture the voice and experience of those who have got drug and alcohol use to ensure that the recovery services are appropriate and add value. This project is linked with the design of the dual diagnosis pathway. The group facilitators asked that we support and publicise this project.

I enjoyed a half term holiday away with the family – 4 generations of us!

On 4th June I went to Carrow Road (the hallowed ground) to attend a Mental Health Summit. It was incredibly powerful to hear from people of their actual experiences. I was moved to tears by some of the experiences. The first person to speak with Nick Little who founded a group called the 12th Man.

It was set up at Carrow Road and refers to the fact that in football, the crowd are the 12th man, and their support can turn around a game. This organization is to promote positive mental health discussions as well as encouraging men to open up about their feelings earlier, rather than waiting until crisis point. The theme was Change the Record and Nick referenced several songs, written by man, which demonstrate how men wait until crisis point before discussing their feelings. John Lennon's Help me if you can I'm feeling down, Fleetwood Mac's Peter Green song which referenced suicidal ideation, and the Tears of a Clown are all such songs. Nick wants us to get to a stage where mental health conversations become normal rather than exceptional leading to situations more like the Led Zeppelin song Good Times, Bad Times where we acknowledge life has ups and downs. 1 in 4 people will go through a mental health crisis every year and our services are designed around crisis intervention. But Nick wants mental health services to be designed more like how health and safety is delivered – designed to avoid accidents. We then heard from Trevor Stevens whose daughter took her own life after making 5 suicide attempts in quick succession, calling for help each time. The final time she was asked to wait 30 minutes to see how she felt and it was in those 30 minutes that she made her final, successful suicide attempt. He explained that when 1 person takes their own life, 135 people are affected by it. The final speaker was Hollie who told how her husband and her looked outwardly successful, both running their own business, but inwardly her husband had kept his feelings contained until he tried to take his own life. Tragically, they then lost their baby to a sudden and unexplained death. Hollie was dealing with a toddler, a suicidal husband and her own mum who was present when Hollie was performing CPR on her dead baby. Because Hollie was not displaying grief in the way people expected grief to be shown, she was told that she was cold, lacked empathy and more. Yet she was dealing with so much. The day she spoke was the birthday of Rory, her little boy who died. We were honoured to have heard from her. This event will help those organisations which work around mental health deliver their services more effectively.

On 5th June I attended the launch of the Marmot stakeholder event in Hunstanton. Key organisations who will help our authority deliver on reducing health inequalities were present to set out what assets we currently have and where any gaps might be. This finished with the organisations making a pledge to deliver their service and contribute towards reducing health inequalities. There is another Marmot stakeholder event taking place in Downham Market on July ?? and we would really like to see more councillors attend. The final event is at the Dukes Head in September, date to be confirmed.

The week ended with the launch of the anti-poverty alliance, delivered by David Powles the CEO of Norfolk Community Law Project. We have close links through the health and wellbeing partnership with the Norfolk Community Advice Service and NCLS deliver an immigration legal advice service once a month from the Beacon Church in North Lynn. The ultimate aim is to establish a King's Lynn office to deliver the same services as are in Norwich, as opposed to having outreach here. Because demand in King's

Lynn has grown by 10%. NCLS works closely with the CAB, who will refer the more complex cases to them, The launch of the alliance was well attended and we heard from our officer, Mark Whitmore, about Marmot. Julie Chaplin from the Hanseatic Union, spoke so movingly about the impact that poverty had on her life and how it impacts on the lives of our residents. I also learned from Karen, of Tech Skills for Life, that people in receipt on social security benefits **must** have a mobile phone in order to be able to claim. So, when we hear unsympathetic comments such as “they can’t be that badly off, they have a mobile phone” or even, they should sell their mobile phone and get the cash, it would actually see them losing their benefits. On that morning Karen had done an emergency visit to a person living in their car, to drop off a refurbished mobile phone. Theirs had broken and as a result, their benefits had been stopped because they couldn’t respond to a text sent by the DWP. At the same time as Karen was dropping off the phone, an emergency food parcel was being delivered. This person’s life was difficult, to day the least, but to add the necessity of owning a mobile phone to it added extra pressure and stress to them.

I was at County Hall for a regular Health and Wellbeing Board meeting on Wednesday 11th June where we heard a very interesting report about the impact that climate change has on our health, and specifically, the health of our most vulnerable residents, those we’re actively trying to gain more health equity for. The report – Health and climate change, can be found in the public papers attached , and I’d urge you to read it. [250611 Health and Wellbeing Board and Integrated Care Partnership agenda A4.pdf](#) It sets out the impact of climate change on health, extreme weather, air quality, coastal change and flooding, agriculture and the spread of disease and pests. There are co-benefits of climate action which can support both public health and Norfolk’s wider economy. The report provides a broad overview of opportunities for individuals and organisations. It seeks to raise awareness, encourage reflection and support system wide conversations. We also heard from Ed Garrat about coastal communities and health inequalities. This will link directly to our work on becoming a Marmot place.

On Thursday 12th I attended a public consultation about the national grid upgrade from Grimsby to Walpole and asked for further information about a community funding pot that will be available.

That evening I attended a public meeting about the planned design of the QEH. I do feel that if all comes to fruition in the way set out, that it has the power to be transformational for both patients and staff. Let’s hope so.

I took part if a small, but effective litter pick on Saturday in my ward. And the following day enjoyed the Hanse Fest. Our events team really know how to put on amazing events. Well done to all. A real show of how people and communities come together.

This report was concluded on Tuesday 17th June, so outstanding meetings will be reported on in the future.

2 Forthcoming Activities and Developments.

CPP - Styleman Court discussion
Car parking Springwood
Freebridge Out and About – The Walpoles
Transport East
KLAC
Carers Voice
Guildhall Briefing
Full Council

3 Meetings Attended and Meetings Scheduled

Portfolio briefings – Health and Wellbeing
Portfolio Briefings – CIC
Portfolio Briefing - Housing
Full Council
Health and wellbeing partnership meetings (monthly)
E&C
Freebridge briefing
Joint Group Meetings
Cabinet/special cabinet/cabinet sifting/Cabinet Briefings
IDB meeting
Food for Thought
Homelessness and housing delivery briefing
ICB at NCC
Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment
KLAC
West Norfolk Community Transport meeting
Beacon Church Creating Communities event
North Lynn Clean up
Special council meeting
Health and Wellbeing Board event
Marmot stakeholder launch
Planning training
Equality Impact Assessment Training
Behavioural Insights Training
Member briefing on Safety and Security
Getting ready for the social housing inspection regime
Housing standards and ASB portfolio meeting
Leisure facilities meeting

Cabinet Members Report to Council

26th June 2025

COUNCILLOR SIMON RING – TOURISM, BUSINESS, LEISURE, PROPERTY AND HERITAGE

For the period 1ST April to 15th June 2025

1. Overview

This report outlines key activities, developments and outcomes across the portfolio areas since the close of the last civic year to present. Particular highlights include the progress on the Guildhall and Custom House projects, the successful delivery of the Hanse Business Conference and Festival, and ongoing business engagement initiatives.

2. Tourism Department Update

2.1 Hanse League and HANSA20 Programme

- Hanse Business Conference (13 June 2025): Successfully hosted at Hanse House in partnership with Norfolk Chambers of Commerce. High-profile speakers included Alan Pain (Department for Business and Trade) and Claudia West (Arts Council England).
- King's Lynn Hanse Festival (14–15 June 2025): Delivered with strong public engagement. Highlights included the Hanseatic Flag Parade with local youth involvement.
- HANSA Projection Project: Artist collective selected to deliver an international digital projection in late autumn 2025.
- Public Engagement Activities: Lectures, trails and community events highlighting King's Lynn's maritime heritage.

2.2 Hanse Network Representation

- Tourism Department Manager elected as Hanse Commissioner for England (3-year term).
- Representation at the International Hanse Festival in Visby, Sweden, with participation in parades, presentations, and peer-group sessions.

3. Business Development

3.1 Rural Business Support

- West Norfolk Rural Business Grant Scheme launched; supported by New Anglia Growth Hub.
- Events held in Downham Market and Hunstanton with wide organisational support.

3.2 Officer Appointment

- Anne Marie Ketteringham appointed as Business Development Officer. Active in business outreach and promoting council-led initiatives.

3.3 Strategic Initiatives

- SLA agreed with New Anglia Growth Hub for ongoing support and event delivery (funded by UKSPF).
- Expansion of Business Newsletter in progress.
- Exploring formation of a Manufacturing Networking Group to support sector collaboration.
- Positive enquiries generated through new branding of King's Lynn Enterprise Park.

4. Leisure Services

4.1 Attendance & Membership

- Overall attendances down 7% year-on-year; real terms drop approx. 4%.
- Shortfalls noted in swimming lessons, casual swimming, group fitness, and sports courses.
- Memberships down 2% with increased attrition; new local competition noted as a factor.
- Despite lower numbers, membership income is 5% higher than last year due to a stronger starting base and fee increases.

4.2 Sports Courses (May 2024 vs May 2025)

On Tue, 17 Jun 2025 at 6:57 pm, Simon Ring <sjr1965@googlemail.com> wrote:

4.3 Holiday Programmes and Events

- Big Norfolk Holiday Fun Programme supported over 5,000 children, up 15% on last year.
- GEAR Race: Over 2,600 main race runners and 1,000 children in Mini-GEAR — first return to pre-COVID numbers.

4.4 Financial Position

- Currently on track with controlled spending. £80k ahead on costs; £78k behind on income = balanced.
- Summer initiatives expected to improve income trajectory.

4.5 Capital Projects

- Leisure working group progressing designs for:
 - St James Pool relocation to Lynnsport
 - Oasis redevelopment
-

5. Property Portfolio

5.1 Strategic Review

- Interim AD Jason Birch conducting full review of property holdings.
- Identified £16m in potential asset sales with neutral revenue effect.

5.2 Current Activities

- Annual portfolio valuation completed.
 - Compliance audit and asset challenge underway.
 - Active procurement for rent reviews and letting agents.
 - Rollesby Road industrial site sale in progress.
 - Recruitment of permanent estates surveyors ongoing.
 - Engagement with Norfolk LGR property leads and sport operators continues.
-

6. Strategic Planning – King's Lynn Masterplan

- Masterplanning underway to prepare development sites for the 2026 devolved mayoral framework.
 - Pre-consultation meetings held with stakeholders and landowners.
 - Focus on readiness to meet anticipated capital funding constraints and deliverability expectations.
-

7. Heritage Projects

7.1 St George's Guildhall

- Final tender evaluations underway; two shortlisted bidders.
- Standstill period ongoing; special R&D meeting on 1 July.
- Cabinet report scheduled for 7 July; Council decision expected 17 July.
- Renovation to commence immediately post-approval.

7.2 Custom House

- Project scope revised in line with heritage advice.
- Architects instructed to redesign with reduced impact and greater access.
- Lift changes enable increased building capacity and new usage options.
- Subject to planning, works may begin by early 2026.

8. Conclusion

This reporting period has been marked by major milestones across heritage, tourism, business development, and leisure services. Several strategic projects are nearing critical decision points, and preparatory work for long-term growth and devolution continues in earnest.

Meetings Attended and Meetings Scheduled

I have had numerous meetings with officers and outside bodies

Officers

Kate Blakemore
Michelle Drewery
Duncan Hall
Martin Chisholm
Jemma Curtis
Tim Fitzhigham
Honor Howell
James Grant
James Arandale
Alexa Baker
Tommy Goode
Lynne Fawkes
Siobahn Cleeve
Richard Allen

Outside bodies

Civic Society
Hunstanton Action Group
Town Deal Board
BID
The Garage
Museum Services

I have regular scheduled meetings with most of the above officers and will continue to meet and fact find with outside bodies including those already met with.

CABINET MEMBERS REPORT TO COUNCIL

26th June 2025

COUNCILLOR ALISTAIR BEALES – LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

For the period 16-05-25 to 26-06-25

1 Progress on Portfolio Matters.

Devolution and Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) continue to dominate my time, and this report will attempt to update elected members on those matters. However it is important to recognise that the day-to-day workings of the Borough Council and services to our residents are as important as ever and equally deserving of time, thought and input. Whilst it is not a matter for full Council, like most councillors, ward work also continues and often involves matters of huge importance to individual members of our community. As does engagement with the parish councils in my own ward and others. A busy time!

Turning to LGR, many of you will have seen that Norfolk County Council (NCC) has supported a single county unitary. The presentation of that is interesting, as NCC has sought to portray that the districts rushed to judgement with a three unitary model, and that they, NCC, have taken their time to consider the matter. The reality, as is often the case, is very different. The six district councils of Norwich City Council, Broadland District Council, Breckland District Council, Great Yarmouth Borough Council, North Norfolk District Council and this Council, put forward an interim business case advancing the idea of a three unitary model for Norfolk. The Government instructed us to develop a full business case and show how a three unit remodel could work and bring benefit to residents. That work is ongoing and the outcome will be data based.

NCC having not expressed a preference in their interim business case, issued a press release on 9th June, quoting the NCC leader saying that “one council for Norfolk is the only sensible option”. A letter of the very same date from the leader of the County Council to district leaders says that “our (NCC) focus will then be on developing a detailed proposal to be submitted to the government by 26th September”. So, having failed to work up the detail, an unequivocal and dogmatic expression of support has nevertheless been made. The gaping hole in that “logic” is there for all to see.



One council for whole of Norfolk is 'only sensible option', leader claims

Lynn News Since 1841

Meanwhile the districts, without the NCC luxury of a team of 25 or so officers, working on a single county unitary as the love child of the previous and now defunct, county deal, have engaged consultants and we are now busy looking at the detail to present a cogent and logical case in due course. In the meantime, all six districts are confident that a three unit remodel will deliver benefit that is denied to a single county unitary option that looks like the bean counters choice of just doing exactly the same thing, but on a bigger scale and hoping for a different outcome. Let's not forget that the current outcome is a County Council mired in debt with failing care homes and primary school education described as a "zombie zone" in a recent House of Lords debate. No thank you.

Before turning to specific detail of what the districts are doing and working up their solution, I must just refer to the social media input of the NCC leader. Firstly I'm astonished that the leader of a County Council has the time to spend all day on Facebook, or so it appears, and some of the comment can politely be described as inappropriate. A more accurate description is not for this report. But in the near 20 years since I first became a district councillor in 2007, I certainly haven't seen anything like it.

Turning to the progress of the District 6 (as I call them), a regular Teams meeting is held every week so that leaders and chief executive officers can share information, measure progress and ensure that everyone is up to speed. An in person meeting was held with the Local Government Information Unit at Breckland Council on 2nd June. The intention was to look at the broad geography and population numbers of a potential three unitary solution, and it was agreed that unitary boundaries can only be proposed when in full possession of the data that allows proper understanding of financial sustainability.

Leaders also regularly attend District Council network seminars mostly online and I would recommend to all members but you watch the recordings or try and attend. They are most useful.

The procurement process for consultants was recently completed and Inner Circle Consulting were engaged and met with leaders in person on Monday the 9th of June. This was an initial meeting to put names to faces and to kick off the preparation of our business case.

Further meetings have taken place since, including dedicated meetings for the western area which involved us, Breckland Council and North Norfolk District Council and the consultants.

2 Forthcoming Activities and Developments.

Our unitary brand has been agreed as Future Norfolk and a dedicated website will be launched very soon detailing devo/LGR to public and elected members alike.

A launch event will be held at the Royal Norfolk Show when I am doing the presentation of behalf of the six district councils.

As per MHCLG guidance, NCC have agreed to appoint district representatives to a devolution steering group (tasked with setting up the new Mayoral authority). The leader representative is the Leader of Breckland, Cllr. Sam Chapman Allan and the CEO representative is our own Kate Blakemore. Those meetings are ongoing.

3 Meetings Attended and Meetings Scheduled

Date	Meeting	Travel time required
15 May	Annual Council	
16 May	DCN: LGR Support webinar	
	Leaders/Chief Execs/ North Norfolk/Breckland	Y
	Lovell Charity Ball	
16 May	District Leaders – Devo	
19 May	LGIU meeting ahead of boundary workshop	
	Norfolk District Leaders – Devo	
	Devo - Norfolk District Leaders and Chief Execs	
	Leaders/Chief Executive catch up	
20 May	Breckland Leader	
	DCN Webinar – LGR	
21 May	Norfolk food hall, reception and opening	Y
	CPP	
23 May	All Group Leaders	
	IT issues	
	KLNB – Gyrotray on-site briefing	Y
	KL Neighbourhood Board	Y
27 May	AI with IT	

	Norfolk District Leaders – Devo	
	Devo - Norfolk District Leaders and Chief Execs	
28 May	Florence Fields – air quality	
	Property officer re Norfolk Museum Survive	
	Member Briefing – National Grid	
29 May	Capital Plan	
	David Goddard	
	Festival Too – sponsors evening	
2 June	Planning committee	
	LG Boundary workshop	Y
	Brandland Launch event – emerging branding cluster	Y
3 June	Labour Leaders briefing	
	QEH onsite issues	
	Thank you reception (coastal pollution)	
	Leader/Chief Executive briefing	
	Devo – Norfolk Leaders	
4 June	Audit and Risk	
	BSG – Ecolit catch up	
	Transformation Programme	
	Cabinet Briefing	
	R &D	
9 June	Monitoring Officer catch up	
	Kick off meeting with consultants 3 unitary Norfolk	Y
	IP group meeting	
10 June	Cabinet	
11 June	Present raffle for Tapping House	
	Fire Service Champion for West Norfolk	Y
	Tour and Talk – Aickman's Yard	
	Reform Leaders meeting	
	Personnel re Norfolk Show	
	Consultation information working group	
12 June	Members Champion for Culture	
	Member working group	
	Member Briefing	
	Informal Member focus	
13 June	Hanse Festival Business Breakfast	
	Hanse Festival Business Networking event	
	Area group LGR meeting	
16 June	Norfolk District Leaders – Devo	
	Devo – Leaders and Chief Executives	
17 June	Paul Bland and Leaders	
	Conservative Group Leaders	
	R&D catch up	
	PRP for Chief Executive	
	C & P	
18 June	Springwood – car parking	
	Outside bodies review	
	Progressive Group Leaders briefing	
	Cabinet Briefing	

	Member briefing – St George's Guildhall	
19 June	KLTB chairs update	
	Stakeholder interviews re team coaching	
	Transport East Webinar	
	Terry Jermy MP	
20 June	High Sheriff garden party	
23 June	Monitoring Officer	
	Focus on local Government Reorganisation	
	Devo – Norfolk District Leaders	
24 June	LGE Round table discussion, navigating the LGR journey in the East	
	Leader/Chief Executive briefing	
	Pre – Council briefing with Mayor	
	Meeting with Cllr J Lowe	
25 June	Shareholder Committee	
26 June	Royal Norfolk Show	
	Annual Council	