



COUNCIL MEETING

Agenda

Wednesday, 29th July, 2026
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
Telephone: 01553 616200

21 July 2026

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 **Wednesday, 29th July, 2026** 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 5 - 17)

To confirm as a correct record the Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 2nd July 2026.

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (Page 18)

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. 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) Electoral Arrangements Committee - 29th June 2026 (Pages 19 - 21)

King's Lynn Community Governance Review

[Please click here to view a copy of the Electoral Arrangements Committee Report relating to this item.](#)

2) Cabinet - 23rd July 2026: (To Follow)

West Norfolk Racket and Community Sports Hub

Recommendation from Cabinet will follow after the Cabinet Meeting on 23rd July.

[Please click here to view a copy of the Cabinet Report relating to this item.](#)

9. NOTICES OF MOTION

To consider the following Notice of Motion (06/26), submitted by Councillor Bone:

The Council notes equality, diversity, and inclusion as a core value in what it does and the services that it delivers. It respects the struggles and tribulations that has taken place in history to ensure that people from all backgrounds feel equal and included. Our borough is becoming increasingly more diverse and is better for it. In our very own council chamber, we have people of colour, different faiths, and orientations. We all have a mutual respect and admiration for our community spirit and proud to be our community representatives.

To ensure that every member of our community feels valued, included, and equal. This council resolves in its communications to acknowledge the equality Calendar throughout the year by sending out a welcoming message of acknowledgement or support for every significant event in that calendar. How hard is it to say Happy Diwali, Hanukkah, or Ede. To acknowledge international woman or pride day, Armed Forces Day. Events such as disability or mental health week. Not every event may have value to everyone, but it will have value to someone. It costs nothing for a simple act of kindness but could mean so much to individual members of the community some who may or may not feel marginalised at times.

10. CABINET MEMBERS REPORTS (Pages 22 - 55)

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

11. 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, 2nd July, 2026
at 5.00 pm in the Town Hall, Saturday Market Place, King's Lynn**

PRESENT: Councillor S Bearshaw (Chair)

Councillors B Anota, B Ayres, A Beales, P Bland, R Blunt, A Bubb, A Bullen,
R Coates, Mrs J Collingham, S Collop, R Colwell, C J Crofts, M de Whalley,
A Dickinson, S Everett, J Fry, D Heneghan, P Hodson, B Jones, C Joyce,
A Kemp, P Kunes, A Lawrence, B Long, J Lowe, A Moore, C Morley, S Nash,
J Osborne, T Parish, J Ratcliffe, C Rose, J Rust, A Ryves, S Sandell, D Sayers,
Mrs V Spikings, S Squire, M Storey and A Ware

C:13 **PRAYERS**

Prayers were led by Father Adrian Ling.

C:14 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Bhondi,
Humphrey, Kirk, Lintern, Moriarty, Ring, Tyler and de Winton.

C:15 **MINUTES**

RESOLVED: The minutes from the meetings held on 26th March and
14th May 2026 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the
Chair.

C:16 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were none.

C:17 **MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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The Mayor read a letter received from the Mayor of Gallipoli,
congratulating him on his appointment. The letter highlighted the
longstanding relationship between King's Lynn and Gallipoli,
emphasised the importance of maintaining and strengthening these
ties, and extended an invitation for the Mayor to visit Gallipoli.

C:18 **URGENT BUSINESS**

There was no Urgent Business.

C:19

PETITIONS AND PUBLIC QUESTIONS

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The Mayor invited Cliff Goodman to ask a question as follows:

“The current declaration appears to commit to reducing CO2 emissions as well as other initiatives aimed at playing a part in tackling climate and nature emergency issues locally.

A film featuring excerpts from these briefings was recently screened at the Majestic Cinema and the Corn Exchange. and is currently being screened nationwide. The message from the briefings is clear and stark. Science backed evidence overwhelmingly shows that rising temperatures resulting in some of the medical emergencies, deaths, infrastructure damage and travel delays is significantly influenced by human activity. The warning messages state that it's not certain doom, it's still not too late to stop temperature rise spiralling out of control but it's vital this council ensures meaningful actions to feed into combined efforts to tackle climate and nature crisis. It's important that this council's actions take account of fairness and do not put additional financial burden on people, especially those who can least afford extra living costs.

My question is:

How does the current Climate Emergency Declaration and associated strategy take account of reporting measured progress on delivering objectives, including reducing CO2? Do the strategies include aims to get overall medium to long term cost saving or at least not incur heavy extra spending?”

Councillor de Whalley responded by explaining that, in accordance with the Council's Climate Change Policy and Strategy, the target date for eliminating the Council's own carbon emissions was 2035, with a commitment to explore opportunities to bring this date forward if possible.

He advised that the Council produced and published annual reports on its Scope 1, 2 and 3 emissions. In considering decarbonisation measures, the Council sought to implement cost effective carbon reduction initiatives, whilst also prioritising energy conservation measures that provide protection against future energy price increases. Where appropriate, the Council also pursued external grant funding to support the delivery of decarbonisation projects.

Councillor de Whalley noted that the procurement of zero carbon electricity had led to significant reduction of carbon emissions, whilst resulting in only a modest increase in costs. He further explained that the Council had worked in partnership with other organisations on the installation and operation of electric vehicle charging points which had

increased the availability of electric vehicle charging facilities across the Borough and supported the Council's vehicle fleet.

He added that the Council continued to maximise the return on investment from low carbon initiatives including through the Climate Change Levy relief associated with combined heat and power units, and smart export guarantee payments received for surplus energy generation.

Councillor de Whalley referred to section 5 of the Climate Change Strategy and Action plan, which provided further detail on the range of climate related work currently being undertaken by the Council.

By way of a supplementary question, Cliff Goodman asked what plans were in place to increase green spaces to help mitigate the effects of extreme heat. In response, Councillor de Whalley explained that the Local Plan process was ongoing and would include the development of a Green Infrastructure Plan.

C:20 **RECOMMENDATIONS FROM COUNCIL BODIES**

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

The Leader, seconded by Councillor rust proposed the following recommendations:

- CAB150: Audit Committee Annual Report from the Chair.
- CAB11: Health and Safety Policy and Statement of Intent.

RESOLVED: The recommendations from the Cabinet meeting held on 23 April 2026 and 9 June 2026 were approved by Full Council, as set out below.

CAB150: Audit Committee Annual Report from the Chair

1. That the Annual Report from the Chair of the Audit Committee be considered and noted by Full Council

CAB11: Health and Safety Policy and Statement of Intent

1. To approve the adoption of the Health, Safety & Welfare Policy.
2. To delegate responsibility for approving annual administrative reviews to the Chief of Staff.
3. To note that where significant changes to the policy are made that these will be brought back to council for approval.

C:21 **APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE BODIES**

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

Councillor Beales, seconded by Councillor Rust proposed the recommendations as set out within the report and the sheet which had been circulated in advance of the meeting.

Council noted that, where the number of nominations exceeded the number of available positions, a ballot would be conducted. The results of the ballot are attached to these minutes.

RESOLVED:

1. That the Council appoints representatives to serve on the Outside Bodies and partnerships listed in the report.
2. That Council approves the appointment of representatives nominated by the Panels to serve on Outside Bodies and Partnerships which fall within the Scrutiny and Regulatory categories as set out in the report.
3. That Council approve the representatives to serve on the Executive Outside Bodies and partnerships as set out in the report.

A copy of the appointments are attached to these minutes.

C:22

NOTICES OF MOTION

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

Councillor Moore proposed the below Notice of Motion:

Replace the Climate Emergency Declaration with a Practical Environmental and Resilience Strategy.

This Council notes that the Climate Emergency declared in 2021 has not delivered clear or practical outcomes for residents. The UK produces approximately 1% of global CO₂ emissions, and Kings Lynn and West Norfolk contribute a tiny fraction of that total. Reducing our limited share alone will not meaningfully alter global climate trends, but the costs of rapid transition policies are already placing significant strain on local households.

Many of the most vulnerable residents are facing rising energy bills, fuel poverty, and financial hardship linked to policies that increase the cost of heating, transport, and daily living. No local environmental strategy should make life harder for those already struggling or force people into choosing between heating and eating.

This Council believes that practical environmental action should focus on improving local resilience and protecting our area from real risks such as flooding, coastal erosion, drainage pressures, water scarcity, and loss of agricultural land and wildlife habitats. The planning system considers environmental issues on a case by case basis, but there is

no dedicated local process that assesses the wider environmental pressures created by long term population growth, including increased demand for land, housing, energy, water, and infrastructure.

This Council resolves to:

1. End the 2021 Climate Emergency declaration.
2. Replace it with a Practical Environmental and Resilience Strategy focused on flood defence, water management, land protection, and locally beneficial environmental measures.
3. Ensure future policies protect vulnerable residents from increased living costs.
4. Provide annual updates on measurable local resilience improvements rather than symbolic targets.

The Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Hodson, who reserved his right to speak.

The Leader of the Council welcomed debate on the motion but stated that he did not support it and urged Members to reject it. He noted the irony that the meeting had been deferred by one week due to extreme heat. He referred to this year having recorded the hottest June since records began and observed that the ten hottest years on record had all occurred since 1990. Drawing on his experience in farming and harvesting, he outlined the impact that climate change was having on the agricultural sector. He also referred to the heatwave of 1976, commenting that temperatures of that nature were now becoming increasingly commonplace. The Leader further highlighted increases in rainfall, warmer and wetter winters, and changing weather patterns, which he stated were consistent with the predictions made by climate scientists.

The Leader also referred to the action being taken by the Council, including the provision of grants, support for energy-efficient housing and other assistance available to residents. In addition, he highlighted the roles of the Environment Agency and the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) as the lead agencies in relation to flooding matters.

Councillor Beales expressed disappointment with the motion. He suggested that, if Councillor Moore's concern related to Council expenditure, the motion should be withdrawn and the issue of Council spending referred to a scrutiny panel for further consideration.

Councillor de Whalley spoke against the motion, commenting that many households were facing financial pressures and that the Council had delivered clear and measurable benefits for residents through externally funded projects and investment.

He outlined the cost of the Council's climate change mitigation work, stating that it amounted to approximately £3.38 per household per annum. He also referred to the Council Tax Relief Scheme, which provided support to the Borough's most vulnerable residents.

Councillor de Whalley highlighted the work undertaken by the Internal Drainage Boards and referred to the ongoing Local Plan process. He commented that the Notice of Motion would make it more difficult for residents to access assistance and maintained that the cost of addressing climate change did not represent a significant financial burden, particularly when compared with the continuing costs associated with Brexit.

Councillor de Whalley also referred to the record temperatures experienced in June and the impact on elderly and vulnerable residents. He stated that the climate emergency was a genuine issue and that the Council was working towards science-based targets. He urged Members to reject the motion.

Councillor Sayers spoke against the motion and stated that the assertions contained within the Notice of Motion were incorrect. He objected to claims that the Council's response to the Climate Change Emergency had failed to deliver benefits and referred to increases in energy and gas prices and argued that the Council's investment in renewable energy and energy efficiency measures had helped to protect residents from rising costs. He concluded by stating that he did not support the motion.

Councillor Kunes referred to international agreements entered into by a number of countries to address climate change and noted that the United States had subsequently withdrawn from one such agreement. He also made comments regarding the relationship between the President of the United States and Nigel Farage. Councillor Kunes referred to scientific evidence concerning the impact of burning fossil fuels and stated that action was needed to protect the environment for future generations. He described the motion as a political gesture by Reform and urged Members to reject it.

Councillor Kemp spoke against the Notice of Motion, stating that climate change was a global emergency and that everyone had a responsibility to play their part in addressing it. She referred to rising sea levels and increasing temperatures and argued that, while there was still an opportunity to mitigate the effects of climate change, action was required now. Councillor Kemp referred to the 1987 international agreement to address the hole in the ozone layer and noted that the resulting global action had contributed to its recovery.

She emphasised the importance of all countries and regions playing their part in tackling environmental challenges.

Councillor Kemp stated that the Council's declaration of a Climate Change Emergency had delivered benefits for residents through the promotion of energy-efficient housing developments incorporating measures such as solar panels, insulation, and air and ground source heat pumps. She also referred to the growth in the use of electric vehicles and the Council's support for this through the installation of electric vehicle charging points, which had contributed to improved air quality.

In addition, she highlighted the importance of protecting green spaces and referred to initiatives including the Million Trees Project and Harding's Pits. Councillor Kemp stated that the Council was improving the lives of residents and that local action was an important contribution to wider global efforts.

Councillor Osborne addressed the Council and stated that the Notice of Motion failed to acknowledge the risks posed by climate change. He stated that the impacts of climate change would continue to worsen unless action was taken to reduce emissions and protect residents. He referred to invest-to-save schemes and other work undertaken by the Council and highlighted the number of excess deaths associated with periods of extreme heat.

Councillor Osborne stated that the area had a responsibility to play its part in addressing climate change, both for local residents and the wider global community. He also referred to comments made by Councillor Beales regarding the impact of climate change on farming and agriculture, noting the significance of the sector to the local economy.

Councillor Osborne further referred to the increasing use of renewable energy and advances in battery technology.

He concluded that withdrawing from the Climate Change Emergency declaration would amount to ignoring an issue that could not be avoided and confirmed that he would vote against the Notice of Motion.

Councillor Rust referred to the support provided to the Borough's most vulnerable residents and the positive impact this assistance had on partner organisations, including the NHS. She referred to the Marmot Principles and the contribution they could make to improving residents' quality of life. Councillor Rust also highlighted a range of support initiatives available within the Borough, including Food for Thought, Five Dinners, the Beat Your Bills Roadshow, Care and Repair, and partnership working with other agencies.

Councillor Long referred to his previous role as Portfolio Holder for Environment and stated that work to support residents had been carried out prior to the declaration of a Climate Change Emergency. He outlined concerns raised by some residents regarding the ECO3 Scheme and sought assurance that public funds were being spent

effectively. He also noted that initiatives relating to solar energy and photovoltaic technology had been pursued prior to the Climate Change Emergency declaration. Councillor Long referred to long-standing efforts to reduce emissions and noted that building regulations already required energy-efficient development. He stated that he would welcome the introduction of further practical measures and strategies.

Councillor Joyce agreed that there should be practical measures in place along with a resilience strategy in place to address climate change. He commented that mixed messages had been received regarding whether the declaration of a Climate Change Emergency had resulted in additional external funding.

Councillor Joyce also referred to reduced returns on some developments as a consequence of net zero requirements, while acknowledging that development also created employment opportunities.

He confirmed that he would vote against the motion.

Councillor Parish commented that climate change had progressed beyond being an emergency and was becoming a disaster. He stated that there was a moral responsibility to reduce environmental harm and welcomed practical measures aimed at improving resilience. However, he noted that the Council was not the lead authority for certain matters, including flooding.

Councillor Ratcliffe referred to the importance of partnership working with lead agencies on issues such as flooding and transport. She stated that the Notice of Motion appeared to oversimplify the range of partnerships, policies and strategies currently in place and commented that it did not provide sufficient detail as to how its objectives would be achieved.

Councillor Squire stated that the reality of climate change was supported by scientific evidence and could not be ignored. She commented that councillors, as community leaders, had a moral responsibility to help ensure a sustainable future for future generations.

Councillor Squire referred to the impact of rising energy costs on residents and the need to reduce reliance on fossil fuels. She highlighted the benefits of cleaner air and lower emissions and expressed concern that the Notice of Motion failed to recognise the work being undertaken by officers and councillors to support residents. She also referred to the Council's work with a range of partner organisations to protect local communities and concluded by stating that, in her view, the Notice of Motion was politically motivated.

Councillor Hodson, as seconder of the motion, addressed the Council and stated that the proposal sought to promote a sensible approach to decision-making and the allocation of resources. He emphasised that

the motion did not propose the removal of all existing policies and measures, but instead called for a more practical approach.

In summing up, Councillor Moore, as proposer of the motion, thanked Members for their contributions. He advised that he had submitted the motion to the Leader of the Council in advance for comment but had not received any feedback. Councillor Moore also referred to the 250-word limit applicable to Notices of Motion, which he stated had limited the amount of detail he was able to include.

Councillor Moore commented that the motion supported the principle of resilience and argued that further work should be undertaken to strengthen this. He stated that it was important to protect the environment and act in the best interests of residents, whilst recognising the need to manage finite resources and budgets. He explained that the purpose of the motion was to ensure that resources were used effectively and delivered the greatest possible benefit for the residents of West Norfolk. He concluded by urging Members to support the motion.

Councillor Colwell proposed a recorded vote on the Motion and this was supported by the requisite amount of Members.

The results of the recorded vote are below.

Councillor	For	Against	Abstain
Anota		✓	
Ayres		✓	
Beales		✓	
Bearshaw		✓	
Bland		✓	
Blunt		✓	
Bubb		✓	
Bullen		✓	
Coates			✓
Collingham		✓	
Collop		✓	
Colwell		✓	
Crofts		✓	
Dickinson		✓	
Everett		✓	
Fry	✓		
Heneghan		✓	
Hodson	✓		
Jones		✓	
Joyce		✓	
Kemp		✓	
Kunes		✓	
Lawrence		✓	
Long			✓

Lowe	✓		
Moore	✓		
Morley		✓	
Nash	✓		
Osborne		✓	
Parish		✓	
Pidcock	✓		
Ratcliffe		✓	
Rose		✓	
Rust		✓	
Ryves	✓		
Sandell		✓	
Sayers		✓	
Spikings		✓	
Squire		✓	
Storey		✓	
Ware		✓	
de Whalley		✓	
TOTAL	7	33	2

RESOLVED: The Motion was lost.

COUNCIL ADJOURNED FOR A COMFORT BREAK FROM 6.22PM TO 6.34PM

C:23

CABINET MEMBERS REPORTS

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

Councillor Beales moved the Cabinet Members Reports.

Councillor Blunt congratulated the Leader on his appointment as Chair of the Norfolk Leaders Group. He also referred to the recent Voluntary Joint Committee meeting and expressed concern that no representatives from Norfolk County Council had been in attendance. Councillor Blunt asked how Members would be kept informed of progress on Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) and the work of the Joint Committee.

In response, Councillor Beales explained that, following the Norfolk County Council elections, he had invited the newly elected County Division Members for King's Lynn and West Norfolk to a meeting at the Town Hall, which he considered to have been constructive and worthwhile. He also referred to County and Borough representation at the Royal Norfolk Show.

Councillor Beales expressed disappointment that the new administration at Norfolk County Council was not actively engaging with the LGR process, emphasising that the matter was not political in

nature but concerned effective risk management. He also provided an update on Norfolk County Council's judicial review challenge relating to the LGR proposals.

Councillor Long raised a point of order, stating that the discussion was moving away from a question and answer format. The Mayor ruled that it was important for Members to be kept informed on matters relating to LGR.

Councillor Beales provided further information on the judicial review and related legal proceedings. He noted that Norfolk County Council officers continued to provide support to the LGR process but reiterated his disappointment at the lack of engagement from the administration. He added that he hoped to arrange further engagement sessions involving Members from King's Lynn and West Norfolk and Breckland in order to keep councillors informed of progress.

Councillor Everett asked Councillor Rust about the delay in the installation of accessible play equipment in The Walks. Councillor Rust shared Councillor Everett's disappointment but explained that there was currently a lack of resources available to progress the project and that this position was unlikely to change in the short term. She also provided information on the Youth Advisory Board's 'Right to Play' campaign.

Councillor Kemp referred to proposals for single member wards within the West Norfolk area under the new unitary authority arrangements and expressed concern that this would reduce representation in the Borough's most deprived communities. Councillor Beales reminded Members that the proposals formed part of the business case previously approved by the Council and advised that Councillor Kemp could make representations to the relevant Minister if she wished.

Councillor Nash referred to the ReFit programme and its reported underperformance. Councillor de Whalley explained that the underperformance related to the scheme not achieving the specifications and outcomes originally promised by the contractor and advised that options for resolution were being explored. He also explained that reliability issues associated with the heat pumps at King's Court had resulted in system overloads. Whilst acknowledging that the project remained a work in progress, he advised that improvements had been made.

Councillor Bubb referred to wheelchair access to the Ferry and asked whether consideration had been given to relocating the landing stages to facilitate improved accessibility. Councillor de Whalley explained that decisions regarding the location of infrastructure would need to be made by the Conservancy Board and Harbour Master. However, he confirmed that work was ongoing to improve the ferry service and make it as accessible as possible.

In response to a question from Councillor Collop, Councillor Squire agreed to investigate reports that some households had not received their annual brown bin invoice but had subsequently received correspondence regarding non-payment.

Councillor Moore referred to the Refit project and underperformance and asked if costs could be recouped. Councillor de Whalley agreed to provide an update on contractor costs.

In response to a question from Councillor Kemp regarding the Ferry, Councillor de Whalley confirmed that an application for Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funding had been submitted and that discussions were ongoing with Norfolk County Council regarding potential financial contributions. He also advised that he intended to invite the relevant Norfolk County Council Portfolio Holder to visit the Ferry.

Councillor Sandell asked Councillor Rust whether an update on the hospital could be provided to Members. Councillor Rust advised that she had recently met with the new Managing Director and would discuss the possibility of arranging a Member briefing session.

Councillor Kemp referred to the recently published Masterplan and its implications for Hardings Way, noting that local residents were planning a protest over the weekend. She invited the relevant Portfolio Holder to attend. Councillor de Whalley advised that the Masterplan did not fall within his portfolio responsibilities but reminded Members of the work undertaken in relation to Hardings Way, including the creation of a community orchard, support provided to the Harding's Pits Association, the installation of a public art project and an application for village green status.

Councillor Long referred to Centre Point in Fairstead and, whilst acknowledging that the site was owned by Freebridge Community Housing, asked whether action could be taken to address overflowing bins. He also requested that post event clean-up operations be extended to include West Lynn. Councillor Squire agreed to raise both matters with the relevant teams.

Councillor Kunes referred to the proposed improvements to the Ferry and asked whether alternative options, including enhanced bus services, had been considered. He expressed concern about the potential costs associated with improving access to the Ferry. Councillor de Whalley explained that the anticipated costs reflected the long-term lifespan of the infrastructure, estimated at between 60 and 120 years.

Councillor Sayers requested that his thanks be conveyed to the Council's Clean-Up Team for its prompt response to recent incidents. He also asked for an update on enforcement and prosecutions. Councillor Squire advised that recruitment of additional enforcement

officers was underway and that penalty levels would be increasing. She added that the Council was promoting a zero-tolerance approach.

Councillor Crofts referred to the refurbishment of the Custom House and advised that he had been informed that the Council did not own the building. He sought assurance that the lease arrangements were secure and suitable for the long term. The Leader assured Councillor Crofts that extensive discussions had taken place with the freehold owner. He added that Councillor Ring would provide updates to Members on progress as required.

Councillor Nash asked Councillor de Whalley whether information could be provided comparing the environmental and financial impacts of the Ferry service with those of introducing additional bus services. Councillor de Whalley commented that the Ferry offered a quicker and cleaner transport option and agreed to provide a response to Councillor Nash.

C:24 **MEMBER'S QUESTION TIME**

In response to questions from Councillor Nash regarding proposed reforms to the Planning Committee process, Councillor Spikings, in her capacity as Chair of the Planning Committee, expressed disappointment with the proposed arrangements.

She advised that, under the new regime, the majority of planning applications would be determined under delegated powers by officers and that Members would no longer have the ability to call applications before the Committee for consideration.

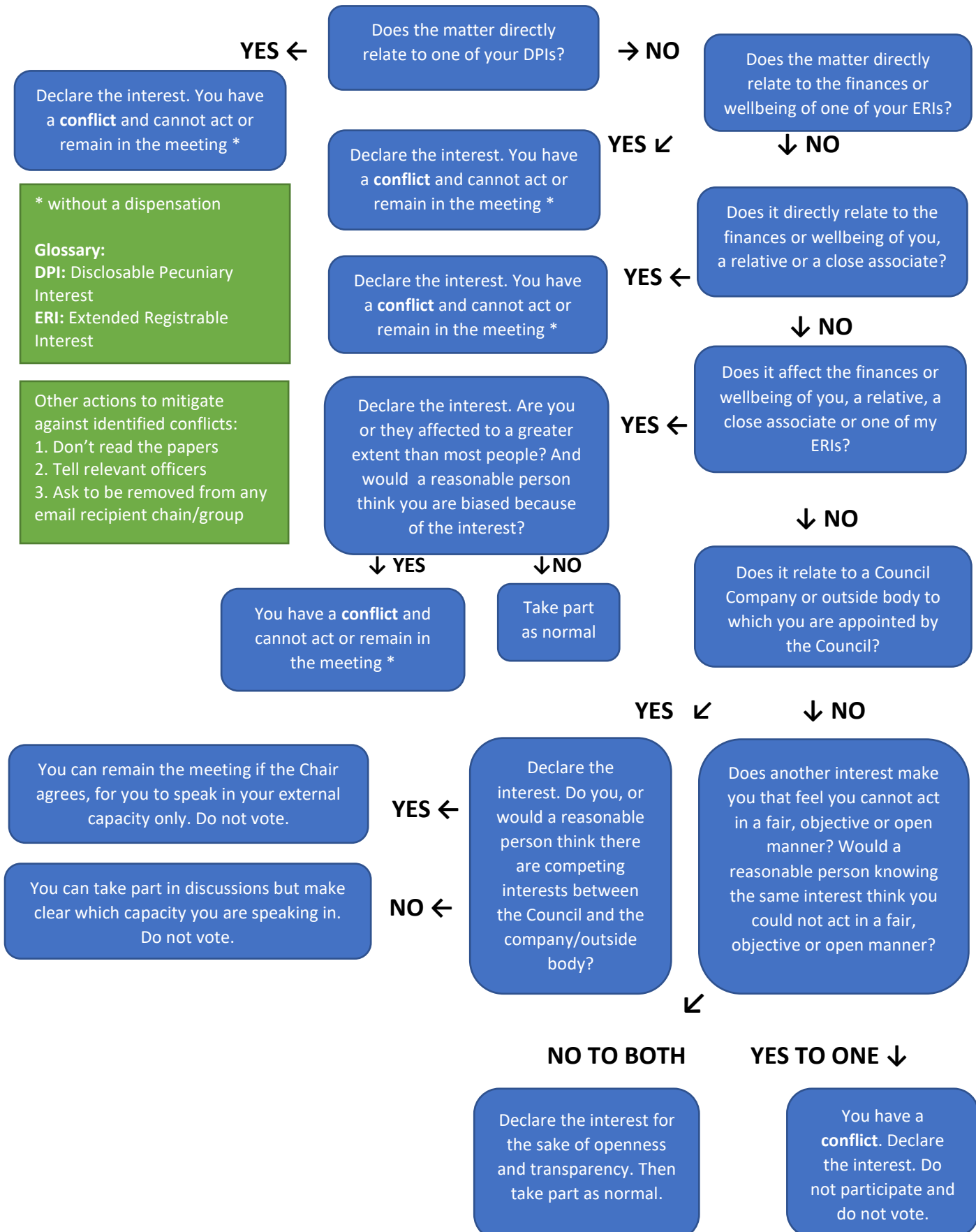
Councillor Spikings assured Members that regular training sessions and updates would be provided to ensure Committee Members remained informed of the changes. She also advised that her intention was to undertake a trial or 'dummy run' of the new process in advance, in order to familiarise Members with the arrangements.

The meeting closed at 7.22 pm

DECLARING AN INTEREST AND MANAGING ANY CONFLICTS FLOWCHART



START



RECOMMENDATIONS TO COUNCIL FROM THE ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS COMMITTEE – 29 JUNE 2026

KING’S LYNN COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW

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

The Interim Corporate Governance Manager and Corporate Governance Graduate gave a presentation on the King’s Lynn Governance review. A copy of the presentation is attached.

The Corporate Governance Graduate explained that the consultation ran from early February to late March, exceeding the standard duration to maximise responses. Residents could participate via online or paper surveys, email, or letter. A total of 906 individual submissions were received, with nine joint responses, resulting in 915 respondents. This exceeded the 1–2% response rate goal, making it one of the largest responses to a council consultation. The majority of responses favouring a Parish Council came from within the unparished area.

The leading reason for supporting a Parish Council was the desire for increased local voice and representation, with residents expressing concerns about being overlooked by larger authorities and wanting decisions made by those familiar with King's Lynn. Historic bias in funding and decision-making was also cited. Of the 97 respondents opposed to a Parish Council, the main concern was the potential increase in council tax and the lack of a cap on the precept. Additional opposition stemmed from worries about increased bureaucracy and doubts about value for money, especially during the cost of living crisis.

Councillor Long questioned the difference in precept compared to the current special expenses. In addition, he commented on the history of both King’s Lynn and Gaywood and question if a Parish Council had been considered for Gaywood and a Town Council for King’s Lynn.

The Corporate Governance Graduate explained the initial consultation included information about the Parish precept, indicating a difference of just under £10 for Band D properties. The interim Corporate Governance Manager provided a further explanation that more detailed financial modelling will be conducted for the second consultation to provide clarity on the precept and its impact.

The Corporate Governance Graduate explained following the consultation, a small number of respondents suggested alternatives such as separate Parish Councils for areas like Gaywood or West Lynn, or the use of ward forums and community associations. However, these alternatives were not widely supported and are unlikely to be pursued further.

In response to Councillor Long, the interim Corporate Governance Manager explained the consultation ran prior to the decision being made on Local Government Reorganisation.

Councillor Kemp, raised questions about the financial implications of a new Parish Council, with the interim Corporate Governance Manager referred Members to page 83 of the agenda and confirmed that detailed financial modelling and precept information would be included in the second consultation and that special expenses and asset transfers will be clarified.

Councillor Kemp questioned whether 25 Councillors for the new Parish Council number was sufficient for effective representation given the population size. The interim Corporate Governance Manager explained the suggestion of 25 Councillor was based on external consultant input and Boundary Commission principles. Ward boundaries and the allocation of councillors per ward are included in the draft recommendations, with some discrepancies noted between wards. Officers clarified that these are initial suggestions and that the new Parish Council can review and adjust boundaries and representation after establishment.

Councillor Kemp queried the planning powers of the proposed Parish Council. Officers explained the proposed Parish Council would have a planning committee acting as a consultee on planning applications, similar to other Parish Councils, but would not have the authority to make binding decisions or call in applications.

In response to questions from Councillor Everett and Long, the Chair, Councillor Beales explained the Structural Changes Order (SCO) could possibly be laid in December so earlier than anticipated and despite the Judicial Review preparations for Local Government Reorganisation was to continue.

Councillor Parish emphasised the need for transparency regarding what residents would pay extra for and how costs would be allocated. Officers committed to making these details clear in the second consultation and to working with finance staff to clarify the handling of special expense. He commented on the importance of having local representation.

Councillor Dickinson raised concerns about the response rate to the first consultation and asked what steps would be taken to improve engagement in the second phase. Officers and consultants considered the response rate to be robust for this type of consultation, noting that every household received a letter and that the response exceeded typical rates for similar exercises. For the second consultation, officers plan to maintain or enhance communication and engagement activities, including hard copy letters and publicity, to encourage higher participation and ensure the process remains defensible.

In response to Councillor Blunt, the Chair, Councillor Beales explained the new Parish Council could develop a neighbourhood plan, which was not currently possible due to the lack of a qualifying body. However, the role and influence of neighbourhood plans are expected to change with upcoming planning reforms.

The Interim Corporate Governance Manager explained the draft recommendations which reflected the priorities identified in the consultation, such as preserving civic identity and ensuring local representation. Officers have developed draft recommendations with the proposal scheduled to go to Full Council at the end of July. If approved, a second consultation was to run in September and October, followed by

the drafting of final recommendations and a reorganisation order in November and December. Charter trustees may be used as an interim measure to preserve civic traditions if necessary. The second consultation will seek resident views on the draft recommendations, including detailed financial modelling, ward boundaries, and the scope of services and assets to be transferred.

The Committee raised concerns on logistical matters such as the use of the Town Hall along with questions concerning assets including play areas, public conveniences and civic elements. The interim Corporate Governance Manager explained allotments were a statutory assets which was to be transferred however other assets were to be discussed due to funding and revenue generated by the assets. Following Members requests, Officer agreed to hold a Member Briefing.

Specific concerns were raised about representation for areas like West Lynn, which is grouped with South Lynn in the draft. The interim Corporate Governance Officer and the Monitoring Officer and Chief of Staff explained that while the current proposal aims for balanced representation, the final arrangements will be determined by the new council.

Officers explained that special expenses currently charged to the unparished area may remain unless services are transferred to the new Parish Council. Only statutory allotments are guaranteed to transfer on day one, with other assets and services subject to negotiation.

The committee reviewed the consultation analysis, agreed the draft recommendations, and determined to recommend proceeding to the next stage, including a second public consultation with explicit reference to potential precept information following Councillor Long proposed amendment to the third recommendation.

RESOLVED: The Committee

1. Reviewed the analysis of consultation responses.
2. Considered and agreed the draft recommendations developed by Officers considering the consultation findings.
3. Determined and recommended to Full Councils that Officers should proceed to the next stage of the Review, including undertaking a second phase of public consultation, including potential precept for 2027/2028.
4. Delegated authority to the Interim Corporate Governance Manager Interim to make the required arrangements for the second consultation phase, including finalising the draft recommendations, communication and engagement activity

CABINET MEMBERS REPORT TO COUNCIL

29 July 2026

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

For the period 20 June 2026 to 21 July 2026

1 Progress on Portfolio Matters.

Garden Wildlife Competition

The 2026 competition closed to entries on 17 July 2026. This year's competition has two categories: small gardens up to 500sqm and large gardens over 500sqm. We have had 21 and 15 entries respectively and shortlisting, visits and judging will take place during the remainder of July. The awards event is planned for 15 September 2026.

Vehicle Fleet Review

Following a successful bid to a national grant scheme, five chargers have been installed at the Oldmedow Road site.

Consideration will be given to a further grant application later in 2026.

Switch Together (previously Solar Together)

Installations for the customers that participated in the 2025 scheme are now complete.

A total of 29 customers installed solar panels via the scheme and preparations are underway for the 2026/27 scheme. A targeted mailshot will commence on 17 August 2026 with registration closing 25 September 2026. Installations will run through to May 2027.

School Climate Champions

Work to develop the 2026/2027 scheme is underway alongside Norfolk Museums Service and its Gressenhall based team. Invitations to schools have been issued.

Carbon Audit

The 2023/24 carbon audit is available on our website and work is underway on the 2024/25 and 2025/26 audits. We are looking at processes to speed up and automate this and any data collection it requires.

Carbon Literacy Training

The council has adopted a new e-learning platform. Cost information is being evaluated on various options for the module's development.

Ferry

Officers are in dialogue with Norfolk County Council to determine the remaining funding, following the £800,000 CIL Spending Panel and Regeneration & Development Committee recommendations. A meeting with Norfolk County Council's Highways and Transport portfolio holder, Cllr Tom Dickerson with this Council's Leader and Chief executive, has been arranged on 29 July 2026 to this end.

Village Green, South Lynn

The Town and Village application for South Lynn is being processed by Norfolk County Council. Given part of the area is covered by the Doorstep Green, Hardings Pits, consent was required from Natural England (previously the Countryside Agency) and this has been received.

Norfolk Climate Change Partnership (NCCP)

Whilst local authorities focus on local government reorganisation, administration of the partnership will be undertaken by the Tyndall Centre, University of East Anglia. The partnership's July meeting focused on the theme of adaptation.

Streetlighting Phase II

As work has progressed some changes in scope have been recommended primarily with our ornate heritage lanterns on Hunstanton Seafront and The Walks amongst other areas.

Re:Fit

Panasonic and Finn Geotherm are working together to resolve issues with heat pump reliability as well as visibility via the Building Management Systems.

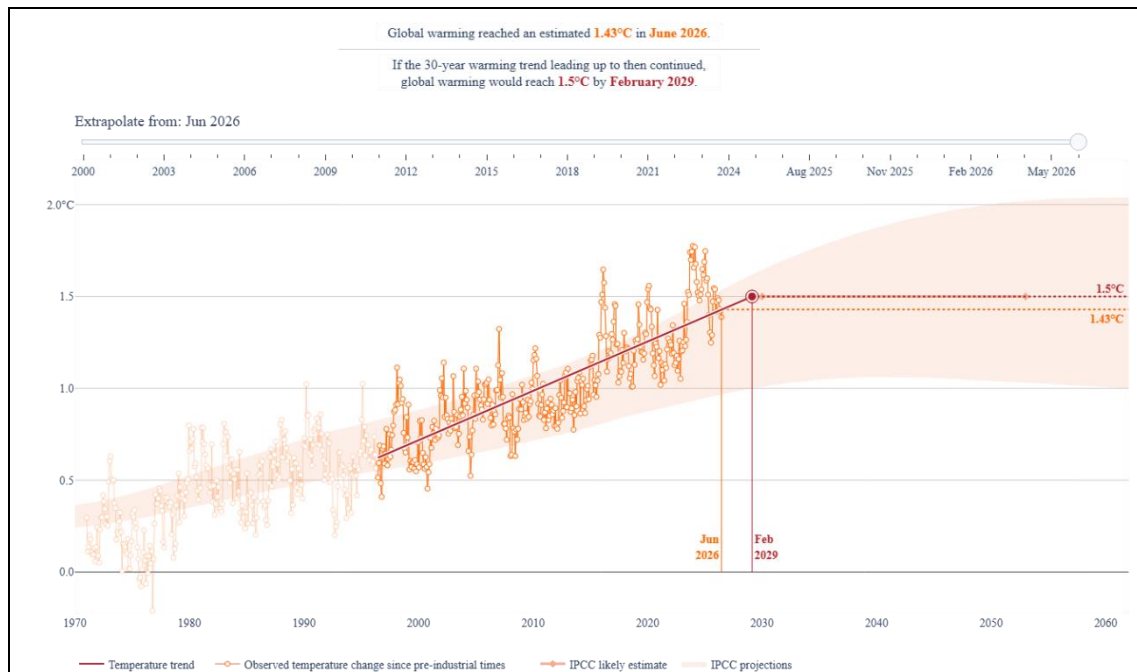
Solar Panels

Officers are awaiting authorisation from finance to proceed with the photovoltaic installations at KLIC and the Corn Exchange.

Climate

Since the 1980s the UK climate has been warming at a rate of approximately 0.25°C per decade. UK sea levels have risen 19.5cm since 1901.

Source: "State of the UK Climate in 2024," Met Office National Climate Information Centre, Exeter, UK.



Source: *European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts (ECMWF), The Copernicus Climate Change Service (C3S).*

June 2026 was the second-warmest June on record globally, with an average surface air temperature of 16.54°C, 0.12°C cooler than the record set in June 2024. June was about 1.39°C warmer than an estimate of the June average for 1850-1900, the designated pre-industrial reference period.

The average global sea surface temperature (SST) for June 2026 over 60°S to 60°N was 20.86°C, the highest for the month in the dataset, 0.01°C above the previous record set in June 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.

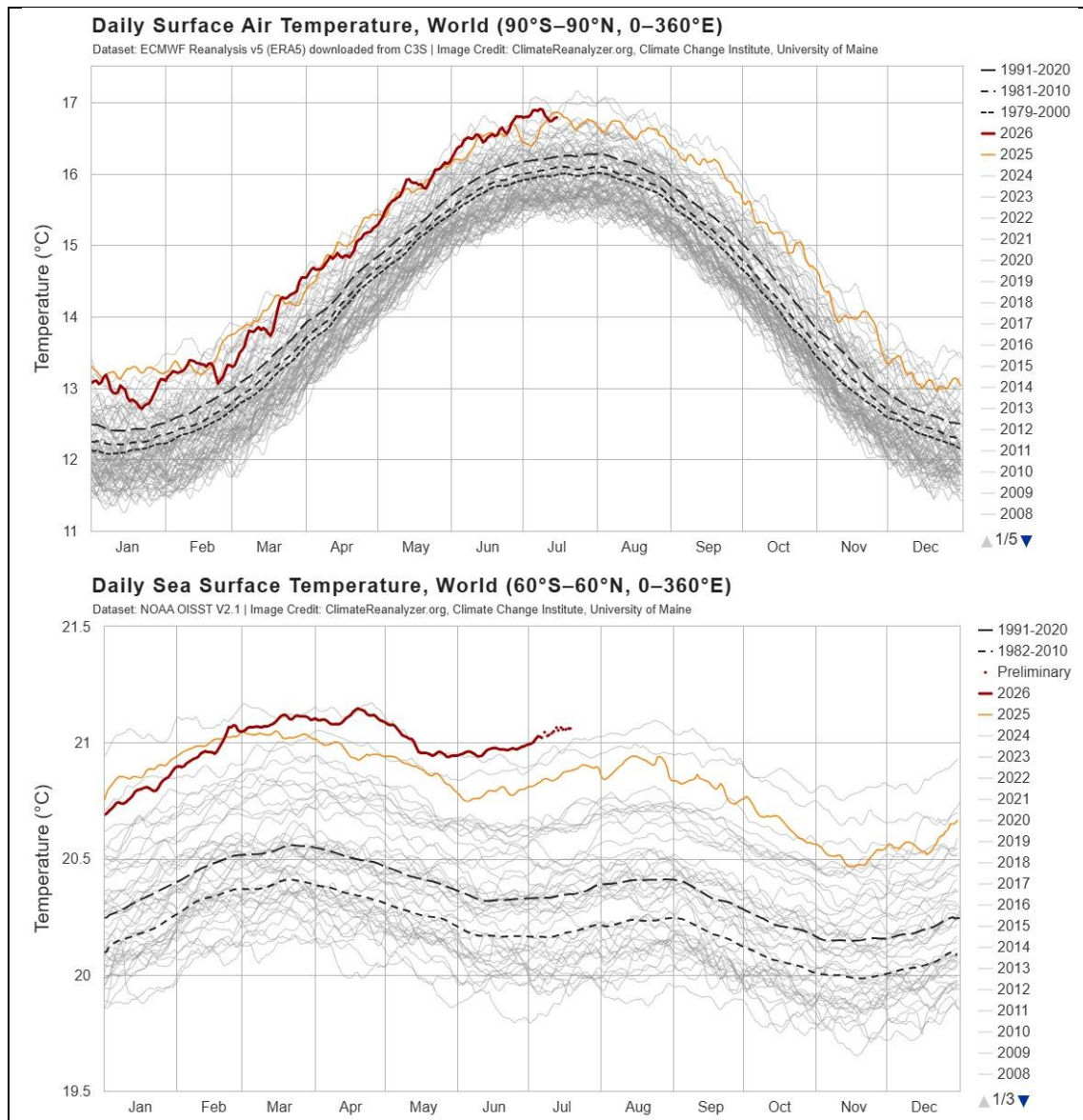
Data source: *European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts - ERA5.*

The high SSTs observed in June 2026 are driven partly by much warmer-than-average conditions across large parts of the tropical Pacific. According to the World Meteorological Organization, the current El Niño event is forecast to strengthen rapidly over the coming months.

Arctic sea ice extent for June 2026 was 10.9 million km², circa 5% (0.6 million km²) below the 1991–2020 average, the sixth-lowest monthly extent for June in the 48-year satellite record.

The average Antarctic sea ice extent for the month was 12.7 million km², about 8% (1.1 million km²) below the 1991–2020 average. This was the sixth-lowest June extent in the satellite record.

Data source: *OSI SAF Sea Ice Index v2.3*



2 **Forthcoming Activities and Developments.**

Beat Your Bills Roadshow

Events are to run from October 2026 to March 2027. Dates are in the process of being arranged.

3 **Meetings Attended and Meetings Scheduled**

Cabinet Briefings
 Cabinet Sifting

CIL Application Funding Review
 Transport East Webinar
 CGR Workshop

Norfolk Climate Change Partnership

Portfolio Holder Briefings and updates:

Climate Change Updates

Biodiversity Update Report

West Lynn Ferry Updates

CABINET MEMBERS REPORT TO COUNCIL

29th July 2026

COUNCILLOR SUE LINTERN - CABINET MEMBER FOR CULTURE AND EVENTS

For the period 13th June to 17th July 2026

King's Lynn Hanse Festival

Following this year's Hanse Festival, we have taken time to review what worked well and identify opportunities for improvement. Planning for next year's festival is already beginning, with the Festival Committee keen to build on this year's success, enhance the programme and further promote King's Lynn's rich Hanseatic heritage.

Norfolk Arts Forum

The Forum received updates from a range of cultural organisations across the region.

Presentations highlighted the work of the Norwich Cultural Compact, an Arts Council England initiative supporting a place-based cultural strategy through community engagement, pilot projects, a Culture Pass, Fair Ticket Bank and a creative freelancers' database.

The Kick the Dust programme, delivered by Norfolk Museums Service, continues to engage young people aged 13–25 with heritage through exhibitions, events, environmental projects and archive placements, helping to develop skills and encourage participation in the cultural sector.

Norwich Theatre outlined its Creative Intent Strategy, focusing on skills development, long-term partnerships, social impact, inclusion and its commitment to achieving carbon neutrality.

The Norfolk & Suffolk Culture Board provided updates on post-16 education reforms, including the introduction of new vocational V Levels from September 2027. The Board also reported progress on the *Survive to Thrive* programme, work around Cultural Environmental Responsibility in partnership with the Nature Recovery Partnership, and welcomed significant Place Partnership funding for Creative Health.

Hanseatic Water Ski Weekend

The annual Hanseatic Water Ski Weekend once again proved to be an outstanding event. Alongside powerboat racing and waterskiing competitions for all ages, this year's event included qualifying rounds for World Championship ranking points, further raising King's Lynn's international profile.

The weekend also featured live music, fireworks and award presentations. It was particularly moving to welcome back the Belgian competitor who suffered a serious accident last year and returned to personally thank the paramedics and everyone involved in his care.

Guildhall Creative Programme

Work continues to progress on the Guildhall redevelopment, alongside an expanding creative outreach programme. Schools and libraries across the borough are

participating in *Play in a Day* workshops and other creative activities, giving children the opportunity to create and perform their own dragon-themed plays through storytelling, games, crafts and drama.

The Guildhall's Creative Director has also been promoting the vision for the project both nationally and internationally, delivering presentations in the UK, USA, Austria and Poland to strengthen its ambition of becoming an internationally recognised centre for culture, arts and heritage.

Over the summer, the Borough Council's Events Team is delivering the *Summer of Dragons* programme as part of the National Year of Reading. Taking place in libraries across West Norfolk and at Stories of Lynn, the programme offers a range of dragon-themed activities designed to inspire young readers and encourage families to engage with books, storytelling and creativity.

Hunstanton Events Programme

Hunstanton's summer events programme is now in full swing. The inaugural Beer & Gin Festival was a great success, and popular favourites including the Open Air Cinema and Family Fun Days have returned.

The programme continues throughout August and September with Peter Piper Picked Some Litter, Swim Safe sessions, the Mad Tea Party celebrating Afternoon Tea Week, Beats by the Beach, Battle of the Bands and the ever-popular Soap Box Derby.

I also attended a recent Hunstanton Town Council meeting and was pleased to see the positive support being provided to local residents and community groups.

Parish Council Engagement

Alongside three fellow Cabinet Members, I attended West Acre Parish Council to help support the community following the resignation of all parish councillors. It is hoped that local residents will recognise the importance of having an active parish council and come forward to serve.

I also observed the recent planning training sessions for parish councils, which covered forthcoming changes to the planning system due to take effect in October, together with updates on the emerging Local Plan. Parish councils were encouraged to engage fully in the consultation process.

Events Team

Our Events Team continues to deliver an extensive programme of free events throughout the summer. Alongside organising Borough Council events, the team provides significant in-kind support to community organisers through event planning, health and safety advice, stewarding, licensing support and post-event clean-up. Following another successful **Festival Too**, attention now turns to the King's Lynn Festival, which will showcase an exciting programme over the coming weeks.

GroundWork Gallery – 10th Anniversary

I was delighted to attend and officially open **GroundWork Gallery's 10th Anniversary Exhibition, *Women Artists and the Land***.

The evening celebrated not only a decade of GroundWork Gallery, but also its significant contribution to the cultural life of West Norfolk. Over the past ten years, the gallery has established itself as a nationally recognised centre for environmental art, bringing leading artists to King's Lynn while championing our unique local

landscapes, particularly the internationally important Wash Estuary. The anniversary exhibition showcases the work of Julie Brook, Harriet Hellman and Lotte Scott, whose practices explore the relationship between art, landscape and the environment. It also celebrates the important contribution women artists have made to GroundWork's success over the past decade.

GroundWork Gallery continues to demonstrate how culture can inspire conversation around environmental sustainability, support artists, attract visitors and strengthen our borough's cultural offer. I congratulate everyone involved on this remarkable milestone and wish the gallery every success for the future.

Borough History Film Project

Research continues for the Borough History Film Project, and we will shortly begin recording informal interviews to capture the memories and stories of those who have helped shape the Borough Council over the years.

Local Government Association Conference

I attended the Local Government Association Conference, which brought together local government leaders from across the country to discuss the key challenges and opportunities facing the sector. A programme of keynote speakers and workshops highlighted the importance of innovation, collaboration and ambitious leadership as councils continue to adapt to changing demands.

I also attended communications and media training, providing valuable insight into effective public engagement and helping to strengthen my communication skills in support of my portfolio responsibilities.

Summary

The past month has seen continued progress across culture, tourism and heritage, with a strong programme of events, new partnerships and ongoing investment in our cultural assets. It has also been encouraging to see the dedication of the many volunteers, community organisations and partner agencies whose commitment continues to enrich communities across West Norfolk. As we move through the summer season, I look forward to seeing these projects and events continue to strengthen the borough's reputation as a vibrant place to live, work and visit.

2 Forthcoming Activities and Developments.

Norfolk Records committee
Dragon Arts event
Hunstanton Litter Pick and other events
Hansa Committee
King's Lynn events
King's Lynn Festival

3 Meetings Attended and Meetings Scheduled

15/6 – Cabinet away day
15/6 – Mayors charity committee meeting
16/6 - Local Plan task group
16/6 – Projector project update
16/6 – Planning training for PC's
17/6 – Hanse committee

17/6 - Portfolio meeting
17/6 – Norfolk Art Forum
17/6 – Cabinet briefing
17/6 – West Acre PC
18/6 – King’s Lynn Festival meeting
20-21/6 – Hanseatic waterski
22/6 - Planning training for PC’s
23/6 – History project meeting
23/6 – Museum records visit
23/6 – Cabinet sifting
24/6 – Culture catch up
24/6 – Hunstanton Town Council
26/6 – Hunstanton prom briefing
30/6 – Monthly member training
1/7 - History project meeting
1/7 – Guildhall filming
1/7 – Cabinet briefing
1/7 – Planning committee training
3/7 – Groundwork Gallery launch
6-9/7 – LGA conference
11/7 – Festival Too
13/7 – CGR workshop
15/7 – History project meeting
17/7 – LGA training course

CABINET MEMBERS REPORT TO COUNCIL 29 July 2026

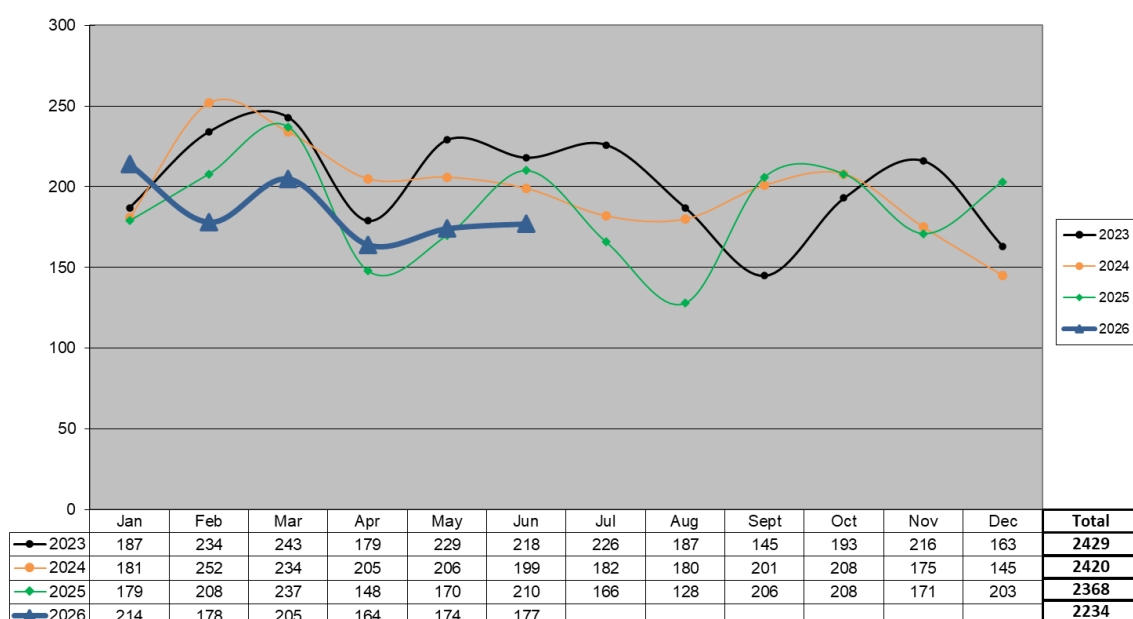
COUNCILLOR JIM MORIARTY - CABINET MEMBER FOR PLANNING & LICENSING

My thanks to officers for their work in helping prepare this report.

Planning and Discharge of Conditions applications received

Application numbers at the end of June are down slightly compared to the same period last year, 1112 applications, 40 fewer.

Planning and discharge of condition applications received



Major and Minor dwelling applications and householder applications received comparison

	1/7/23 – 30/6/24	1/7/24 – 30/6/25	1/7/25 – 30/6/26
No. of Major dwelling applications rec'd	16	27	31
No. of Minor dwelling applications rec'd	209	280	264
No. of Householder applications rec'd	590	597	531
Total	815	904	826

*Minor dwelling applications = up to 10 units

*Major dwelling applications = over 10 units

2025/26 performance for determining planning applications 1/7/25 – 30/6/26

	National target	Performance
Major	60%	94%
Non – Major	70%	93%

Appeal Performance – appeal decisions made by The Planning Inspectorate between 1/7/25 – 30/6/26. This measure is different to the ‘quality of decision’ measure.

	Officer delegated		Committee overturns		Total	
Appeals	Dismissed	Allowed	Dismissed	Allowed	Dismissed	Allowed
Planning	30	5	3	6	33	11
	86%	14%	33%	67%	75%	25%
Enforcement	5	2				
	71%	29%				

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 June 2026 is calculated as follows:

Planning applications determined by the Local Planning Authority between 01/10/2023 to 30/9/2025 (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 = 30/6/2026.

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
114	1	0.88%

NON-MAJOR		
No. of Decisions Issued	No. Allowed on Appeal	% Overturned
2561	19	0.74%

Revenue income for financial year 2026/27 (Planning and Discharge income)

Figures are based on a full year projected income budget of £1,453,750.

Projected	Actual	Variance with projected
April 26 – June 2026	April 26 – June 2026	
£363,438	£485,709	+£122,272

Planning Enforcement Service Performance

KPI - 85% of new enforcement cases actioned within 12 weeks of receipt

2025		2026	
August	91.5%	January	91.2%
September	94.6%	February	87.0%
October	87.5%	March	100%
November	88.2%	April	97.9%
December	94.1%	May	91.8%
June	87.3%		

Set out below is a breakdown in relation to cases received and closed for the period 1/7/25 – 30/6/26 and the current 'live' cases.

- Number of cases received incl. high hedge 563
- Total number of cases closed 580
- Total number of current 'live' cases 322

Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)

FY25/26 CIL Close of accounts

The close of accounts process has been completed and ratified by accountancy. All details relating to CIL income, allocation and spend is available to view using our online Developer Contributions software: [Exacom](#)

CIL Officers are now in the process of producing the Council's Annual Infrastructure Funding Statement (IFS) which will be sent to MHCLG and published on our webpage: [West Norfolk annual Infrastructure Funding Statements \(IFS\) | West Norfolk annual Infrastructure Funding Statements \(IFS\) | Borough Council of King's Lynn & West Norfolk](#)

CIL Income

FY25/26 Total Income received within the FY £4m:

Income received between:	
1 April 2025 - 30 September 2025	£2,133,881.84
1 October 2025 - 31 March 2026	£1,913,457.64
Annual Income Total: FY 25/26	£4,047,339.48

CIL Income is distributed as follows:

1. 5% - CIL Admin - Staff wages & on-costs, Legal & Court Costs, IT licences/upgrades and annual software maintenance
2. 15 or 25% - Neighbourhood CIL - Payments are made automatically to Parishes twice a year where development has commenced and payment has been received.
3. Remaining - Borough CIL - used to fund projects in the Borough

1. CIL Admin

In the financial year £202,784.08, the CIL administration funds, covered all staff costs and also allocated £66,702.77 toward the Local Plan Viability Study.

2. Neighbourhood (Parish) CIL Payments

To date over £2m has been paid directly to Parishes linked to CIL payments in their area, this table shows the payments made in the financial year:

Apr-25	£252,699.71	Total paid to Parishes to date £2,216,850.92
Oct-25	£372,424.42	
Total FY 25/26	£625,124.13	

3. Borough CIL - Used to fund Projects

CIL was adopted in 2017, with the 1st projects funded by CIL being allocated in 2021. The table below shows how the Borough CIL has been allocated and spent to date:

	<u>TOTALS</u>
Borough CIL Infrastructure (Project Funding) Received to date:	£11,211,133.18
Total Funds Allocated	£6,142,352.26
Spent	£4,242,073.21
Allocated - Not Spent	£1,900,279.26

CIL funding has been allocated to 294 Projects within the Borough, of which 257 have been completed. Full details of project funding in this FY will be included in the IFS and available to view using [Exacom](#)

CIL Funding Application Process 20% Community Projects - Completed

The first round of CIL funding has been completed under the revised CIL Spending Strategy relating to funding applications for community projects between £10k and £100k.

On Monday 22 June the CIL Spending Panel allocated a total of **£759,875.26** CIL funding to the following projects:

Ref FY 26_1	Project Title/Name	Name of the Organisation requesting CIL Funding	PARISH	ALLOCATED BY PANEL
1	Brancaster Staithe Hard works: increase access (and accessibility) capacity to the water	Brancaster Parish Council	BRANCASTER	£19,983.73
2	The Burnhams Tennis Club re-surfacing Project, Station Road Burnham Market PE31 8HA	The Burnhams Tennis Club	BURNHAM MARKET	£31,690.40
3	Denver Play Area Redevelopment	Denver Playing Field Association	DENVER	£15,478.30

4	Dersingham Sports Pavilion Refurbishment	Dersingham Parish Council	DERSINGHAM	£99,881.87
5	Tapping House Carpark Resurface	Tapping House	HILLINGTON	£86,000.00
6	142 Norfolk Street Solar	RSPCA Norfolk West Branch CIO	KINGS LYNN	£11,000.00
7	14th Kings Lynn scout hut refurbishment	14th Kings Lynn (Woottons) Scout Group	North Wootton	£74,136.00
8	Marham Bowls Sports & Social Club	Marham Bowls Sports & Social Club	MARHAM	£98,678.00
9	Accessible car park surface upgrade	Marshland St James Parish Council	MARSHLAND ST JAMES	£27,010.00
10	Accessible Disabled Toilet/Wet Room for North Wootton Pre-school	North Wootton Pre-school	NORTH WOOTTON	£22,000.00
11	Stow Bridge Footway Extension	Stow Bardolph Parish Council	STOW BARDOLPH	£17,000.00
12	Renovations to inside and out	Barroway Drove Village Hall	STOW BARDOLPH	£13,625.96
13	Upwell Village Hall refurbishment.	Upwell Parish Council	UPWELL	£32,000.00
14	Upwell Cemetery road repair and new pathway	Upwell Parish Council	UPWELL	£10,000.00
15	THVH&PF New warm flat roof, replacement of substandard flat roof.	Three Holes Village Hall and Playing Field, Regd Charity 304483	UPWELL	£31,904.00
16	West Walton Play Area Redevelopment	West Walton Parish Council	WEST WALTON	£32,973.00
17	West Winch Village Hall - Roof	West Winch Parish Council	WEST WINCH	£36,514.00
18	Enhancing Digital Access and Skills Through Shared ICT Provision	West Winch Primary School	WEST WINCH	£100,000.00
			TOTAL ALLOCATED	£759,875.26

The allocation of CIL has allowed projects with a Net total cost of £1.2M to be taken forward by community groups to support new development and has also levered in £480K match funding.

Strategic CIL Funding 80% Council Projects- In progress

There is £4.25M CIL Funding available to be allocated to Corporate Strategic Projects.

Infrastructure projects were selected based on the revised spending strategy, with input from members, finance and lead project officers. Projects were reviewed by the CIL Spending Panel on 18 May and funding recommendations were made. The proposed projects have been reviewed by R&D with further recommendations for Cabinet. Based on the outcome from CIL Panel and R&D these are the projects that will be considered by Cabinet on the 23 July:

- Hunstanton Coastal Defences Capital Works Project
- West Lynn Ferry - Infrastructure Improvements
- Redesign and refurbishment of Cliff Top public convenience facilities in Hunstanton.
- Technical Training Infrastructure – King's Lynn South Fire Station

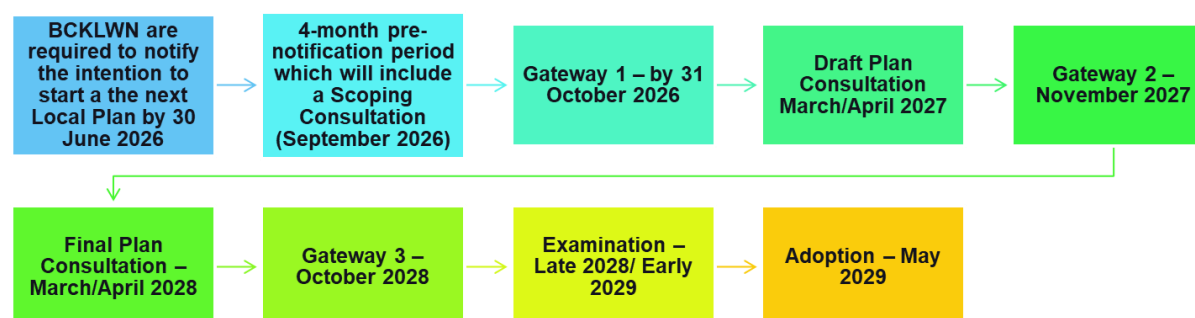
As this process involves allocating CIL to Corporate Strategic Projects, there has been greater scrutiny both by officers and members with some of the operational aspects being amended throughout the process. After funding has been formally allocated, following due process, officers will produce a 'mop up' with lessons learnt in liaison with the CIL Spending Panel, Officers and members. The calendar for the next round of funding will be set, after the process has been reviewed.

Local Plan and Planning Policy

Next Local Plan

The Borough Council has published its formal Notice of Intention (NoI) to commence the next Local Plan. Alongside this the initial Local Plan Timetable and some further supporting information has also been published. These can be viewed via the following link: [Next Local Plan 2026-2044 | Borough Council of King's Lynn & West Norfolk](#)

The new local plan system requires the Borough Council to complete the process within 34 months. A summary timetable for stages of the next Local Plan is provided below:



Work continues at pace to meet the new statutory timescales. This includes on the evidence base utilising external expert consultants and in-house expertise. We will shortly be analysing the 750+ sites received through the Call for Sites through the Housing & Economic Land Availability Assessment (HELAA) and then the SEA (Strategic Environmental Assessment) combined with Site Assessment (SA). To inform this will be comments from statutory consultees, officer site visits to each, and the use of emerging AI technology. To assist with Local Plan preparation the Borough Council is shortly to appoint a dedicated Local Plan Support Officer to compliment the Planning Policy Team.

The Governance Arrangements for ensuring the Borough Council meets the deadlines has been agreed. In addition, the Terms of Reference for the Local Plan Task Group have been updated.

Scoping Consultation

The next formal stage for the Borough Council to carry out, as part of our next Local Plan, is the Scoping Consultation (for a minimum of 21 days). This is proposed to take place in September. It is a new stage in the process, and it is designed to be relatively high-level and light touch. This is not asking for views on draft proposals, like most consultation exercises, but is an early-stage consultation aimed at asking those with an interest in the next Local Plan what they consider should be included within it, and how they would like to be engaged/kept up to date as preparation progresses.

Whilst it is of course not a blank sheet, as there are certain things we can do and cannot legally and policy wise do, comments will be considered and inform the content of and the engagement strategy going forward. Alongside this we will also publish an interactive map of the sites received through the Call for Sites process and allow people/bodies to comment on them. The Call for Sites will also be re-opened to provide another opportunity for sites to be submitted.

Consultation will also take place with the three main environmental statutory consultation bodies (Natural England, Historic England, Environment Agency) on our Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Scoping Report.

The details of the Scoping Consultation will go before Cabinet on 23/07/2026 for agreement.

Neighbourhood Planning Update

As of July 2026, there are 25 “made” (adopted) Neighbourhood Plans in place, covering 28 parishes. This includes three Neighbourhood Plans (Marshland St James, Syderstone and The Walpoles) adopted during the 2025-26 financial year.

Two further Neighbourhood Plans are expected to come forward to referendum during autumn 2026. Changes to the “basic conditions”, the legal tests that Neighbourhood Plans are required to meet, have entailed the preparation of revised basic conditions statements for the two plans which (in turn) has required the examinations of each to be extended. The Walpole Cross Keys Neighbourhood Plan Review 2022-2038 examination concluded in June 2026; the Decision Statement was issued on 6 July 2026, allowing that Plan to proceed to referendum. Further details are set out below:

Neighbourhood plans that have reached submission stage (Regulation 15) and are expected to proceed to referendum during 2026-2027 financial year

	Current position
Docking Neighbourhood Plan 2023-2039	Submitted by Docking Parish Council for independent examination, 14 August 2025 . “Regulation 16” consultation, 29 September – 10 November 2025; examination autumn 2025 – summer 2026; referendum/ adoption, autumn 2026
Walpole Cross Keys Neighbourhood Plan Review 2022-2038	Re-submitted by Walpole Cross Keys Parish Council for independent examination, 26 August 2025 .

	“Regulation 16” consultation, 29 September – 10 November 2025; examination November 2025 – June 2026; Examiner’s Report published 9 June 2026; Decision Statement issued 6 July 2026; referendum anticipated September 2026
Other Emerging Neighbourhood Plans	
	Current position
Dersingham	Neighbourhood Area first designated October 2017. During 2025-2026 moves to prepare a Neighbourhood Plan have been revived (since autumn 2025). Possible Regulation 14 consultation by spring 2027.
Great Massingham	Neighbourhood Area first designated June 2021. During 2025-2026 moves to prepare a Neighbourhood Plan have been revived (since summer 2025). Possible Regulation 14 consultation by spring 2027.
Ingoldisthorpe	Various draft evidence documents under preparation (e.g. Design Codes, Housing Needs Assessment) prepared, 2024-2025; possible Regulation 14 consultation by spring 2027
Pentney	1st draft Plan (Regulation 14) consultation March-May 2023, following which Plan has been significantly amended (e.g. due to adoption of Local Plan 2021-2040). Preliminary 1st draft Plan and draft Strategic Environmental Assessment/ Habitat Regulations Assessment Screening Report signed off February 2026, allowing plan to proceed to Regulation 14. New Regulation 14 consultation anticipated summer/ autumn 2026; submission late-2026/ early-2027.
Shouldham	Preliminary 1st draft Plan and draft Strategic Environmental Assessment/ Habitat Regulations Assessment Screening Report signed off October 2025, allowing plan to proceed to Regulation 14. Regulation 14 consultation, 20 April – 1 June 2026; submission late summer/ early autumn 2026.
In addition, several other Parishes are designated Neighbourhood Areas, but progress with plan-making is unknown, or at an early stage	New Neighbourhood Plans: Burnham Overy; Outwell; Tilney St Lawrence; West Dereham Neighbourhood Plan reviews: Hunstanton; North Rington & West Winch
Overall, it is expected that the Docking Neighbourhood Plan and Walpole Cross Keys Neighbourhood Plan review will come forward to referendum during the 2026-2027 financial year. Other active emerging Neighbourhood Plans (Dersingham; Great Massingham;	

Ingoldisthorpe; Pentney; Shouldham) may come forward to referendum during the 2027-2028 financial year.

Despite financial support for developing Neighbourhood Plans, previously provided by Locality, having been withdrawn (reported to the Council on 31 July 2025), Neighbourhood Plans continue to come forward. Withdrawal of Locality funding may impact the ability of some communities to progress their planning work, and alternative support mechanisms may need to be considered going forward. However, in the short-term Neighbourhood Planning remains popular, but the impact of withdrawal of Locality funding and / or changes to legislation and / or the National Planning Policy Framework (expected to come into place later during 2026) upon future Neighbourhood Plan preparation and / or reviews in the medium / longer term, remains to be seen.

LICENSING

The Tobacco and Vapes Bill received Royal Assent on 29 April 2026 and is now the Tobacco and Vapes Act 2026. This will introduce a “smoke-free generation” by banning tobacco sales to anyone born on or after 1 January 2009. It strengthens rules on vapes and nicotine products (including under 18 sales bans, proxy purchasing offences, and vending machine restrictions), introduces a comprehensive ban on advertising and sponsorship, and allows tighter controls on packaging, flavours and displays. It also creates a retail licensing scheme, and enables the expansion of smoke-free and vape-free public areas. Implementation is expected to begin in late 2026, with the main age of sale change expected to take effect from 1 January 2027.

- We have completed all inspections at all Gambling premises licensed within the borough. Premises includes - Adult Gaming Centres, Betting shops, Family Entertainment Centres & Bingo Premises. We are continuing to carry out a review of gaming machines within licensed Club premises.
- Government’s consultation on the proposal to move the taxi licensing regime from Local Authorities to Local Transport Authorities ran from 8 January to 1 April 2026. No update from Government at this time.
- Members of the Licensing Committee considered the variation of a premises licence application with objections from 2 BC Members. The premises licence was granted as applied for.
- The Government has announced a draft Taxi and Private Hire Vehicle (PHV) Bill in the King’s Speech, setting out the most significant overhaul of taxi and PHV legislation in more than a century. Ministers say the reforms will modernise an outdated and fragmented system, strengthen public safety, and ensure passengers receive consistent, reliable services wherever they travel in England.

Cabinet Members Report to Council

29th July 2026

Councillor Chris Morley - Cabinet Member for Finance

Report to Council for the period 26th June to 29 th July 2026
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1 Progress on Portfolio Matters

REVENUE – OUTTURN 2025/26

Borough spend was a little higher than I forecast previously but only by £34k above budget. However, our revenue was higher than forecast by £512k, thus providing a further increase in our General Fund balance at year end; now totalling £10.4m.

Spend was higher than previously forecast due to late and adverse service variances and higher Treasury expenditure to cover delayed capital receipts. To give improved warning over service variants to budget, Finance people will work even closer with Service teams to improve further budget setting and expenditure profiling.

There has been and is much ongoing work, led by the Leader, on improving our visibility of capital receipts for our housing programme. Nevertheless, cleaning the windscreen for improved visibility is only one aspect, we are having to cope with the vagaries of the housing market, just as we are with the cost of goods and materials for all of our in-bound work and services.

Notwithstanding our forecast at Q3 being slightly more optimistic, it has been another exceptional year.

GENERAL FUND RESERVE

Now standing at £10.4m at the time of writing, we are giving favourable consideration to moving £0.5m in this year's accounts to supplement the reserve that we hold for transformation (originally earmarked for capital projects which could make a quick return but such schemes were never identified). This extra sum will help to meet costs that arise from emerging requirements, in particular, statutory restructuring and its associated commitments.

VALUE FOR MONEY

There are many contributors and contributions from across the Borough's activities which generate demonstrable value for our residents and communities. I just wish to highlight here that we delivered a betterment of £4.2m, against a target of £3.5m for our "savings and efficiencies" programme. This benefit came from work efficiency, business rate growth, increased income through tax, grant funding and the capitalisation of project related staff costs.

Our officers should be commended for another year's work and attention to detail to deliver this outcome, delivering value, reducing costs and sustainability.

CAPITAL PROGRAMME

The Council delivered a programme outturn of £39.56m against a revised budget of £42.28m. The difference has been rephased into future years and reflects project delays and revised supplier deliveries.

Delivery of Major Projects remains strong, with significant investment continuing in housing projects, regeneration schemes and the Towns Fund programme. Key reasons for expenditure slippage were: delays to the housing developments at Florence Fields and Lynnsport, rephasing of coastal defence works, ICT infrastructure projects due to late supply and extensive situation assessment audit by consultants taking longer, fleet replacement and a number of smaller operational schemes.

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 2025/26

Following completion of the final ¼ of 25/26 we expect to publish this Statement before the end of July, in short order after the 2024/5 audited figures. We have taken due notice of the last external audit comments in the timely production of a) effective working papers, (b) independent valuation of property assets and c) pension funds. This ensures we comply with the Government timetable to clear the backlog of certified accounts in Local Government by January 2027.

The draft Statement of Accounts will be available for public inspection 30 working days from publication.

MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY 2026 – 2031

Having virtually completed our 25/26 financials we start to update and revise this Council's final budget before creation of the new West Norfolk Unitary. This work culminates in the presentation to and agreement by Council, set for 25th February 2027. The budget setting timetable is being prepared and will include a period of engagement with Group Councillors who will have the opportunity to propose their own amendments or supplements to this "final" Borough's balanced budget.

GRANTS

Our small grants application process is underway and sums covering both 26/27 and 27/28 are being assessed for those needy community causes that have signed Service Level Agreements for usage and reporting of outcomes.

Our new Community Projects Fund of £0.5m, agreed by Council in February 2026 will be available for bids shortly and with full application and evaluation details. These have to be submitted and signed off by the relative Borough Member.

PROCUREMENT AND CONTRACT MANAGEMENT

This month we have submitted our Contracts Register to the Norfolk LGR Procurement workstream. This group is compiling a Norfolk Government wide combined register which is now almost complete but the data still needs validating and analysis with the objective of assessing risks and opportunities post reorganisation.

Purchasing cases still in the pipeline prior to commitment are also being collated across Norfolk and aims are to complete the submission by the end of this month. Our consultant from the Local Government East, Talent Bank, has submitted his report on the Borough's purchases which were not compliant with Standing Orders. This Report will be used to improve practices across the Council and feed into our KPI on spend (non) compliance for upward reporting.

Current major projects, showing our range of activities, include:
Customs House – contract documents ready for signing.
Hunstanton Coastal Defence – working with the Environmental Health Team to assess the optimum procurement process when green light is given.
Security for Corn Exchange events – early stages of tender exercise.
Fire Risk Surveys and Remedial Works- Contractor selected and work plan being agreed.

Internal Audit completed their assessment this month on contract management, awarding an overall assurance of "Reasonable".

The auditors recognised that the Council is engaged in improving contract management throughout the organisation but with more work still to do. However, examples of this Council employing controls which are recognised as being best practice were identified.

NB Social value within Procurement and elsewhere – see Forthcoming Activities.

ICT

You won't find our activity plan and measures contained within the Borough's 26-28 Action Plan but those actions couldn't be delivered effectively without being underpinned by our ICT activities. Our action plan was revitalised for both this supporting role and to meet our obligations under the Civil Emergencies Act.

Our plans are not just for business continuity but for transformation to be a more efficient organisation and to accommodate Local Government Reorganisation. Our top priority however is to avoid a data breach or loss of data by protecting against cyber attacks. This past year we have invested in new protective systems, which came into its own on Friday 17th July when we received a more concentrated attack. Successfully countered by our system and the investigative and restoration work of our IT team. The incident was sufficiently severe to warrant reporting to the National Cyber Security Centre.

We have included a significant sum in our capital programme to continue in particular with:

1. The revitalisation of our back up and disaster recovery platforms and
2. Installing new storage and server infrastructure

This virtual total refreshment of our systems and cloud based infrastructure will reduce operational risk, improve our long term sustainability, reliability and resilience.

For individual officers and their units we continue the roll-out of Windows 11 ensuring opportunities for further efficiencies when working in office or at home.

This programme ensures compatibility with the latest Microsoft services, security standards and facilitates migration onto a cloud based infrastructure.

The ICT team are also supporting individual projects, ranging from changes to the South Lynn Community Centre to the significant technical considerations needed to be incorporated into the planning of the Guildhall Complex.

2 Forthcoming Activities and Developments

The Council continues to develop its approach to social value, recognising the wider economic, social and environmental benefits generated through the delivery of services, investment in communities and procurement activity. Social value can include outcomes such as improved health and wellbeing, skills development, employment opportunities, community cohesion, environmental improvements and support for local businesses.

The Council adopted its Social Value Policy in January 2025 but recognised the need for a matrix for embedding social value considerations across Council activities and decision-making. We are currently developing a consistent methodology for capturing, measuring and reporting social value outcomes. There are differing systems in use and we are assessing the most appropriate method for us.

When constructed the measurement framework, baseline information and the social value being generated across the relevant Council activities will support our investment decisions and interlink with measured outcomes of and for other projects such as our leisure, cultural and Marmot programmes.

This will be another demonstrable measurement in the value for money we bring to our residents.

3 Meetings Attended and Meetings Scheduled

Drainage and Flood Resilience meeting
Portfolio meetings
Cabinet briefing
CPP
Shareholder Committee
Cabinet

ICT Development Group Ad hoc meetings with Officers Reading and analysis not just meetings Reports for Parish Councils Parish Council Meetings
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Cabinet Members Report to Council

29 July 2026

Councillor Jo Rust Cabinet Member for – People and Communities

For the period - 15th June 2026 – 20th July

Progress on Portfolio Matters. – Creating Communities

I was proud to be in attendance at the Armed Forces flag raising day. We have a voluntary armed forces covenant which we follow. The armed forces covenant is moving to become statutory and will place more responsibility on our council and could possibly come at a financial cost. This is currently being worked through as some councils will be starting from a zero base, and others, such as ours, already have. So, this is an extension of duties of the Covenant which are being proposed in the Armed Forces Bill and will change how the covenant works in currently. The Armed Forces Covenant currently establishes that members of the Armed Forces community should face no disadvantage in accessing public services in relation to housing, health and education. The Government has committed to strengthening the Covenant in law through extension of the legal duty. The Covenant applies to local authorities, governing bodies of state-funded schools, and various NHS bodies within housing, education, and healthcare. The duty requires public bodies to give due regard to the needs of the Armed Forces community in relevant decision-making. The Covenant duties are to be extended by Spring/Summer 2027 through the Armed Forces Bill. The Bill is currently going through Parliament and not likely to receive Royal Assent until the end of the year. So this is advance warning on how our council might be impacted on when providing our support. The extension of the Legal Duty will encompass all UK Government Departments, Devolved Governments, and the following policy areas: • Social care • Childcare • Employment and service in the armed forces • Personal taxation • Welfare benefits • Criminal justice • Immigration • Citizenship • Pensions • Service-related compensation. The LGA has been lobbying for full new burdens assessment and appropriate funding to support the extension of the Covenant duty. We've received great news regarding the work our council has already done on the current voluntary covenant - being awarded Gold Armed Forces Covenant "STATUS" Huge congratulations to all those involved.

Partnerships with Health

I attended a briefing on Neighbourhood Mental Health Centres. This intends to shift care from hospitals to community-based prevention and early intervention. I have expressed concern about this as the funding is for capital only and will see a "new" mental health hub be situated on the site of

Chatterton House. And it will have beds. So central government is investing on buildings and not on the staff to staff it. There is no revenue for staff or resources and it'll have to come out of the current budget. While there was talk again of parity of esteem between mental health and physical health, without proper resources, these remain words and not deeds. I will be meeting with the Ops Director of NSFT to discuss the hub on the 15th July.

I attended a Health and Wellbeing expo in Newmarket and learned of many innovative programmes being run in our neighbouring authorities. Our own Careline and Lily team were there promoting the services that they offer. But I couldn't take any notes so I'm unable to report back more deeply!

Skills

On course to deliver an etch skills project called hackathon which will culminate in November with an event to allow the young participants to showcase their learning.

Housing and Homelessness

We continue to make good progress in this area with lower than average rough sleepers at any one time and decreasing numbers in temporary accommodation.

Housing Standards

Nothing to report

Beat Your Bills

None attended

Community Transport

I attended a Transport East (TE) online briefing which set out the role of transport east and where they sit between the DfT and National Transport Strategy and Local Authorities who deliver against the national targets. TE focus on 4 core domains – rail, strategic roads, pan regional projects and rural mobility. The capital budget for national projects is £22,317 million, of which the biggest chunk is allocated to HS2. So TE lobby heavily to make sure we get our share. In the east we have projects such as the Ely area enhancement and Haughley junction, widening the A12 between J19 to J25, A47 Thickthorn junction and the A10 West Winch housing access road. It was interesting to hear about the impact of rural mobility as it's something we see a significant lack of. 1 in 3 people live in rural communities in the east, facing challenges in accessing education, skills, jobs and services. While we have West Norfolk Community Transport who deliver vital services for us, we definitely need better rural transport links.

Assets of Community Value and Bus Shelters

Bus shelters are expected to be replaced in the following month.

Healthier Lives strategy

I spent a morning with colleagues from Active Norfolk and Sports England at Lynnsport and then Purfleet Trust. It was good to talk about what is on offer locally and the difference it makes to the lives of our residents. Both Cllr Ring and I made a case for support for funding for our proposed new swimming pool. We helped them understand why we had to move from a planned integrated pool with Lynnsport to a standalone. The visit to the Purfleet trust was really inspiring as the work they do to support service users to live healthier lives, some of which is funded by Sport England and we also contribute to the services, was amazing. For people moving through a life of addiction, to living a healthy and independent life, Purfleet make a significant contribution.

Youth

I attended a meeting to discuss this year's apprenticeship event hosted by the DWP and JCP and supported by us. In previous years this event has been enormously well received and I have no doubt that the same will be for this year.

The Youth Advisory Board have recommissioned two services to be delivered to their young people – an exam stress project and an activities and club project. These projects have been chosen by the young people themselves as ones they feel that they'd benefit from.

Safeguarding

No change

Customer relations and CIC

I met with the CIC team at their weekly huddle. The team have continued to go through changes but continues to provide a first class frontline service for our residents.

Forthcoming Activities and Developments.

Love West Norfolk Jobs event

Cabinet

Group Meeting

WNCT

Reception for Father Adrian

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
 Alive, Active Norfolk and KLWNBC catch up
 Freebridge briefing
 Housing Developments steering group
 Joint Group Meetings
 Cabinet/special cabinet/cabinet sifting/Cabinet Briefings
 Food for Thought at the new library
 Homelessness and housing delivery briefing
 LGA Independent AGM
 KLAC
 West Norfolk Community Transport meeting
 Leisure facilities meeting
 LGA briefing Neighbourhood and Mental Health - various
 Planning Training
 West Norfolk Community Transport
 CIL Briefing
 Values and Behaviours briefing
 Active Norfolk
 PMO briefing.
 Homes and Health Briefing
 Budget Scrutiny Training
 Scrutiny Training
 LGR briefing
 Housing delivery strategy meeting
 Licensing
 Behaviour Change Training
 Divestment briefing
 Armed forces Flag raising
 KLCF AGM
 Sports England meeting
 Festivals service
 Pride in Place Briefing
 Community Governance Review
 Apprenticeship meeting
 Lynnsport briefing
 Local Government Ombudsman

CABINET MEMBERS REPORT TO COUNCIL

29th July 2026

COUNCILLOR SIMON RING - CABINET MEMBER FOR BUSINESS, PROPERTY AND LEISURE
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For the period 16 th June-20 th July
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There has been a considerable amount of activity across this portfolio since my previous report. The following is therefore a selection of the most significant developments and achievements, rather than an exhaustive account of every item of work undertaken by officers and partners.

1. Leisure, Sport and Healthy Communities

Our leisure facilities and Active Communities service continue to make an important contribution to prevention, health and wellbeing. During the period, activity has focused on widening participation, supporting schools and community groups, strengthening partnerships and attracting high-profile sporting events to West Norfolk.

- Hosted 750 children and 120 staff from the Ad Meliora Trust at Lynnsport to celebrate the Trust's tenth anniversary in the borough, with a programme delivered by the Active Communities Team.
- Progressed the West Norfolk Rackets and Community Sports Hub through Cabinet, supporting future participation growth and improved access to community sport.
- Granted a council lease to the Adapted Sports Hub and supported its formal launch at St Nicholas' Chapel, enabling the next phase of fundraising and delivery.
- Delivered Drowning Prevention Week activity across council pools with Norfolk Fire and Rescue Service and the RNLI, promoting water safety among children and families.
- Supported Wave 17 of Swim England's national campaign and hosted the Open Swimming Championships at St James Pool.
- Launched the Jog On campaign in support of the White Ribbon initiative, using physical activity to raise awareness of violence against women and girls and to promote safer communities.
- Hosted school sports days at Lynnsport and supported the Sunny Hunny Triathlon at Oasis, bringing participants and visitors into the borough.

Capital projects and infrastructure

Significant progress is being made across the sports infrastructure programme. The emphasis remains on creating facilities that are financially sustainable, capable of increasing participation and able to deliver wider health and social value.

- Representatives from the LTA, England Netball, Norfolk Cricket and the Football Foundation visited the proposed KLA 3G site, demonstrating the project's

multi-sport potential and the opportunity to return school sports facilities to wider community use.

- Work continued on the West Norfolk Rackets and Community Sports Hub as a major investment in local sporting infrastructure.
- Sport England's Place Expansion Team visited the borough to review partnership working and discuss opportunities to maximise future investment and participation.

Culture, place and partnerships

- Supported the launch of Create King's Lynn at The Workshop, bringing cultural partners together to increase awareness of and access to cultural activity over the next two and a half years.
- Strengthened links with Creative Arts East and local cultural organisations to broaden participation and community engagement.
- Provided technical and operational support to Festival Too, drawing on the wider expertise now available following the insourcing of Alive West Norfolk services.

Taken together, this work shows the value of our leisure venues as community assets. They support physical activity, education, culture, community resilience and place-making, while also helping to raise the profile of West Norfolk as a trusted partner for regional and national organisations.

2. Business and Economic Development

The Economic Development Team continues to connect local businesses with investment, skills and supply-chain opportunities, while supporting the delivery of our wider economic strategy.

- The Meet the Buyer event at King's Lynn Town Hall attracted more than 70 local businesses and connected them with major regional projects including the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Sizewell C, the West Winch Access Road and St George's Guildhall. With tier one contractors including Skanska and Costain now appointed, there is a significant opportunity to secure local supply-chain benefits and social value.
- National Manufacturing Day activity brought students into Palm Paper, SKF Cooper, Fosters Refrigeration and Mars. The 2026 programme, planned for 24 September, has already expanded to seven employers and more than 140 students from schools, colleges and other education providers.
- Through the Rural England Prosperity Fund, nine rural businesses have been supported since April 2025 to develop products, improve premises and invest in equipment. A final application is being assessed before the fund closes on 30 September 2026.
- One business has secured support from the Norfolk County Council Business Growth Fund, with a further five applications under consideration following facilitation by the council's Economic Development Team.
- Only one industrial unit remains available at King's Lynn Enterprise Park following refreshed branding and the appointment of Brown & Co as agent. Serviced development plots are also generating strong interest.

The benefits of the Towns Fund programme are now becoming increasingly visible. The new King's Lynn library has been completed, work is under way at St George's

Guildhall and will shortly commence at the Custom House, while the dry-side facilities on South Quay are due for completion in August. These improvements will strengthen the offer for leisure craft visitors and support the Sail the Wash campaign.

The King's Lynn and Hunstanton masterplans are also approaching their final stages following extensive public and stakeholder engagement. They will provide a long-term framework for investment and should help create greater confidence for private-sector partners.

3. Property Services

Property Services is strengthening its capacity at an important time for the authority. The immediate priorities are implementation of the Corporate Landlord Model, preparation of a Strategic Asset Management Plan and ensuring that systems, compliance and data are in a strong position ahead of Local Government Reorganisation.

- Approval has been given for four additional posts. Two are expected to convert existing interim arrangements into permanent roles, with the remaining posts due to be advertised and filled by September.
- A Computer Aided Facilities Management system has been procured and is undergoing IT security checks. This is the first major step towards the Corporate Landlord Model and will improve the recording, monitoring and maintenance of compliance across the council's property portfolio.
- The next stage will be procurement of a principal contractor, with the new Corporate Landlord Model expected to be fully implemented in early 2027.
- A data audit is under way in preparation for the Strategic Asset Management Plan. Recruitment of an Estates Strategic Asset Surveyor and procurement of a fit-for-purpose property database will support delivery of the plan, which is expected in late 2026.
- The team is undertaking extensive preparatory work for Local Government Reorganisation, particularly in relation to systems, compliance and asset information.

Disposals and regeneration

- The disposal of the two caravan sites, the first major transaction under the new Disposal Strategy, is progressing towards completion.
- The sale of residential development land at Sedgeford is under way and is benefiting from the streamlined approach introduced by the strategy.
- The conditional sale of the Southend Road site to Whitbread for a Premier Inn remains in place, subject to planning.
- Property Services continues to support the King's Lynn Masterplan, represents the council as landowner in the West Winch collaboration agreement and is progressing a number of transactions at King's Lynn Enterprise Park.

4. Car Parking

The 2025/26 figures demonstrate that demand for council car parks has remained remarkably resilient following the increase in charges.

Measure	2024/25	2025/26	Change
Total recorded stays	1,729,754	1,724,388	-5,366 (-0.3%)
Machine / cash stays	905,436	1,058,084	+152,648
Cashless stays	824,318	666,304	-158,014
Total income	£5,856,577.95	£6,531,703.40	+£675,125.45 (+11.5%)

Total stays fell by only 0.3 per cent, and this small reduction was entirely attributable to fewer free parking sessions. The number of paid stays was effectively unchanged. At the same time, income rose by approximately £675,000, or 11.5 per cent, from £5.86 million to £6.53 million. This shows that the revised tariffs have delivered additional income without causing a meaningful reduction in paying customers.

- Tuesday Market Place remained the largest income generator, producing more than £1 million.
- Albert Street, Baker Lane, Boal Quay, Chapel Street, Saturday Market Place and St James Court all recorded increases in both paid stays and income.
- Demand in Hunstanton remained stable, with the increase in income broadly reflecting the revised tariffs and providing further evidence that the resort continues to attract strong visitor numbers.
- The reduction in multi-storey use requires further analysis, particularly as nearby surface car parks experienced increased demand.
- The marked movement from cashless payments to the machine category will also be examined to establish whether it reflects a genuine change in behaviour, greater use of card payments at machines or a reporting-classification issue.

Overall, the parking figures are encouraging. They demonstrate continuing demand in both King's Lynn and Hunstanton, while the additional income will help support the provision and improvement of council services.

5. Crematorium and Cemeteries

A substantial programme of essential maintenance and improvement is being delivered at Mintlyn Crematorium, with careful planning to protect service continuity and maintain a dignified experience for bereaved families.

- The customer toilet refurbishment began on 13 July and is expected to take seven weeks. The chapel is operating at reduced capacity during noisy works, but approximately 30 service slots per week are being retained, supported by additional 5.30pm services and continued morning provision for unattended direct cremations.
- The Memorial Gardens drainage project was completed during June and early July and should ensure that areas previously affected by flooding remain accessible.
- The existing 1980s sewage treatment plant has reached the end of its serviceable life. Replacement works are planned for the week commencing 10 August and will require the chapel to close for seven working days, although unattended direct cremations will continue.
- Funeral directors, ministers and celebrants attended a briefing on 22 June covering the construction programme, the move to hourly service slots from 1 September and fire-safety and evacuation procedures. The meeting was positive and reinforced the importance of open communication throughout the works.
- The Crematorium Open Day will take place on 12 September from 9.30am to 1pm, with external partners joining the team to demonstrate the collaborative work involved in providing a dignified service to West Norfolk residents.
- The former nursery site at Gayton Road Cemetery has been assessed for ground conditions, with the contractor's full report expected in August.

I would like to record my thanks to staff at Mintlyn for their flexibility and professionalism. Their careful rostering and commitment are enabling essential capital works to proceed while preserving as much service capacity as possible.

6. Conclusion

This portfolio brings together services that affect residents, businesses and visitors at every stage of life. The period has seen strong progress in leisure investment, business support, strategic property management, parking performance and essential crematorium and cemetery infrastructure. It also reflects the exceptional breadth of work being undertaken by officers and partners as the council delivers current priorities while preparing responsibly for Local Government Reorganisation.

I would like to thank all officers, contractors, volunteers and partner organisations whose work is reflected in this report.

I have met with the following officers, most of which are scheduled for further meetings in the coming months.

Duncan Hall
Kate Blakemore
Michelle Drewery
Emma Hodds
Stuart Ashworth
David Morton
Chris Black
David Gent
Anne-Marie Ketteringham
Jemma Curtis
Connor Smalls
Robin Lewis
Tim Fitzhigham
James Grant
Tim Baldwin
Phillipa Sillis
David Wiles
Hannah Wood-Handy
Nicola Cooper
Jo Stanton
Liz MacDonald
Emma Kavanagh

Apologies if I've missed some which I'm sure I have!

Cabinet Members Report to Council

29th July Council Meeting

Councillor Alistair Beales – Leader of the Council

Report to Council for the period to 21 st July 2026
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1 Progress on Portfolio Matters
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I am a little saddened to have to report a poor working relationship with the new minority administration at Norfolk County Council. I hasten to clarify that my disappointment is focussed upon the behaviour of a handful of mostly senior members. Nor is it party political, as a proud Independent, I judge on merit not on stripe. And our own Reform grouping here at the Borough continue to grow their knowledge and represent their community with vigour and growing aplomb and some NCC members should perhaps take heed of their way of doing things.

First a little context. I have been a Borough Councillor with one four year gap, since 2007. A parish councillor for many years before that. At this council, I was Deputy Leader to two different Borough leaders. I have personally brought forward and gained support for proposals that have delivered hundreds of high quality new homes on brownfield sites, new sports facilities (2 new hockey pitches and 4 new tennis courts), new roads, new cycle paths, refurbished derelict properties under the Townscape Heritage Initiative, refurbished the bus station, resurfaced the Tuesday and Saturday Market Place car parks and installed new street furniture etc, brought forward the building of new commercial and industrial units. And played a significant role in rebuilding the Borough finances with the help of all elected colleagues over the last few years. The list goes on. I rarely list these things, never brag about it and just see it as my duty as an elected representative.

As Leader I have pursued a pragmatic and consensual approach and have often been able to overcome division and bring resolution in sometime difficult circumstance both at this council and more widely with colleagues at partner councils in Norfolk, particularly with regard to Local Government Reorganisation. Over those years, both as Leader and prior to that, I have seen many councillors and many administrations at work, so when I say I am very disappointed and angry with the way some in the minority Reform administration behave, I undoubtedly have a point.

As I said in answer to a question at our last Council, LGR is the biggest point of difference with the new minority administration at County Hall. I have not seen policy conducted in this way and hope to never see it again. What we have is an application for Judicial Review from NCC that was agreed behind closed doors, with no idea which councillor agreed it, where the money will come from and no idea how much. No debate, no meeting in public, no accountability, no transparency. Technically correct. Morally bankrupt.

2 Forthcoming Activities and Developments

Despite the difficulties I continue to try and engage with the minority administration at County Hall.

I am keen to progress the work of the Community Project Fund and Budget Setting Task Group and look forward to the first meeting scheduled for 3rd September 2026.

I am keen to hear members views on these reports to Council. Both members and officers have raised doubts about their effectiveness in our modern world and there is perhaps a better way. All views welcome. Please.

3 Meetings Attended and Meetings Scheduled

Compiling a list is onerous and of doubtful value so my past meeting diary is available upon request.