

CABINET MEMBERS REPORT TO COUNCIL

2 October 2025

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

For the period 23 July 2025 to 23 September 2025

1 Progress on Portfolio Matters.

Vehicle Fleet Review

The project seeks to decarbonise the Council's vehicle fleet. To inform this, Mitie were commissioned to analyse the fleet and recommend a decarbonisation pathway. The final report has been received, considered by Corporate Leadership Team and discussions regarding capital programme planning for a project are ongoing.

EV charging infrastructure is being improved at the depot to support the 4 EV vans in the fleet.

Schools Climate Competition Project

Schools pre-recorded their entries and were judged by a panel on 2 July at an online celebration event.

Judging Panel:

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

Winners were as follows:

1st place – Weather station from Weather Shop – West Winch

2nd place – Books from Bags of Books - Whitefriars

3rd place – Bug hunt kit from Amazon and bug hotel from CJ Wildlife – Ashwicken

The winners have been presented with their prize of a weather station, by the Mayor, at a school assembly.

Solar Together

The group buying scheme is now being promoted for a third year.

Last year's campaign resulted in:

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

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

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

For installations in 2026, householders have registered as follows:

207 Solar PV
20 Battery storage
89 EV chargers
6 Businesses

Registrations for this scheme shut on the 7th November 2025.

Carbon Audit

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

Carbon Literacy Training

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

Village Green, South Lynn

A service level agreement has been signed by Harding's Pits Community Association for the care of the area of South Lynn to be designated as a Village Green, which includes Harding's Pits Doorstep Green, the Community Orchard and the "Beuys' Acorns" site. The Village Green application has been signed-off for submission to Norfolk County Council.

Ferry

Cllr Andy Bullen, Mayor of King's Lynn & West Norfolk, officially reopened the ferry service and was one of its first passengers on its maiden voyage at 7am on Monday 11 August. Also, Revd Canon Adrian Ling, Rector of South and West Lynn, blessed the ferry before its first crossing of the river.

The Borough Council has appointed Greyfriars PM to support a study that will inform future infrastructure improvements to the ferry landings. Greyfriars PM is currently reviewing all existing information and has engaged stakeholders.

Norfolk Climate Change Partnership (NCCP)

The partnership has been approached by Innovate UK regarding a follow up bid to further the work of the Norfolk Net Zero Communities project. An application is being prepared and, if successful, will lead to the development of a one-stop online hub offering energy advice and retrofit guidance tailored to local communities and life stages. Information is likely to cover efficient heating and cooling, energy efficiency, and cost-of-living support and incorporate video content such as:

- Retrofit explainers
- Personal retrofit journeys
- Extended case studies
- Technology demonstrations
- Energy tariff guidance

Norfolk Net Zero Communities

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

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

LED Lighting

Discussions are ongoing with the Pelican's club with regards to upgrading the remaining sports pitches at Lynnsport to LED.

Proposals have also been received for upgrading internal lighting at Oasis, Lynnsport, BCKLWN Depot and Regis Place. These works remain subject to budget allocation (circa £50k).

Streetlighting Phase II

Works to upgrade our remaining streetlighting to LED have been awarded to Amey, a very experienced contractor in this field. Amey has surveyed the lighting columns and is expected to start works shortly following an initial kick-off meeting, expected to take place early October.

Re:Fit

Works are continuing to improve the performance from our heat pumps. On Thursday 18th September, the manufacturer's (Panasonic) engineers attended site to undertake an assessment of the installation at King's Court. This is expected to provide clarity as to whether the installation is consistent with Panasonic's requirements and, if so, confirm whether the issues identified are due to installation, or with the heat pump equipment. The results from this exercise are expected to help resolve issues across a number other sites, where the installation mirrors that at King's Court.

A snagging list (i.e. defects, faults or incomplete tasks) has been prepared and is being worked through with our contractors, Ameresco.

We are looking at ways in which Domestic Hot Water (i.e. drawn from taps, showers etc.) is managed to provide efficiency improvements and deliver operational benefits.

Solar Panels

Proposals have been received for the installation of solar photovoltaics at KLIC and Downham Market Leisure Centre. A review of the Corn Exchanges'

electricity consumption patterns reveals that a solar installation could be viable, subject to an appropriate mounting system being found.

Again, these projects can be brought forward, subject to approval and budget.

Biodiversity Competition

The competition to celebrate wildlife in West Norfolk gardens concluded with a well-attended ceremony held at King's Lynn Town Hall on 19 September.

Awards were presented by Cllr Andy Bullen, Mayor of King's Lynn & West Norfolk.

King's Lynn Climate Change Business Expo

Took place on Tuesday, 23 September 2025 at The Corn Exchange, King's Lynn. Building on the success of the inaugural expo in June 2022, twenty-seven businesses showcased their work to reduce carbon emissions.

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.

August 2025 was the third-warmest August on record globally, with an average surface air temperature of 16.60°C, 0.22°C cooler than the joint record set in August 2023 and 2024. August was about 1.29°C warmer than an estimate of the August average for 1850-1900, the designated pre-industrial reference period. It was the fifth month in the last 26 months with a global temperature less than 1.5°C above the pre-industrial level.

The average global sea surface temperature (SST) for August 2025 over 60°S to 60°N was 20.82°C, the third-highest for the month in the dataset, 0.16°C below the record set in August 2023. 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.

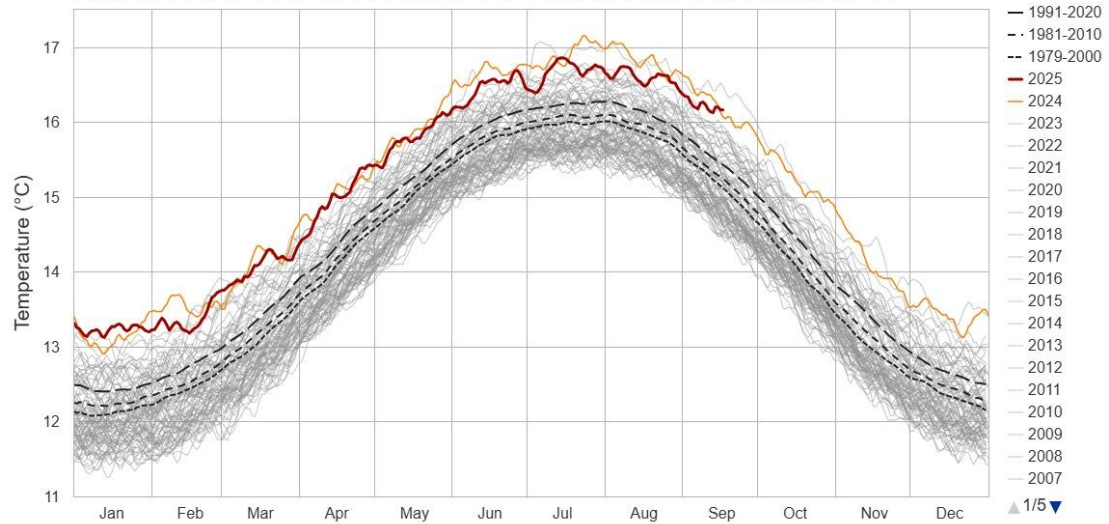
Arctic sea ice extent for August 2025 was 5.9 million km², circa 12% (0.8 million km²) below the 1991–2020 average, the 8th-lowest monthly extent for August in the 47-year satellite record.

The average Antarctic sea ice extent for the month was 16.9 million km², about 7% (1.3 million km²) below the 1991–2020 average, ranking as the third-lowest August extent in the satellite record.

Data source: OSI SAF Sea Ice Index v2.3

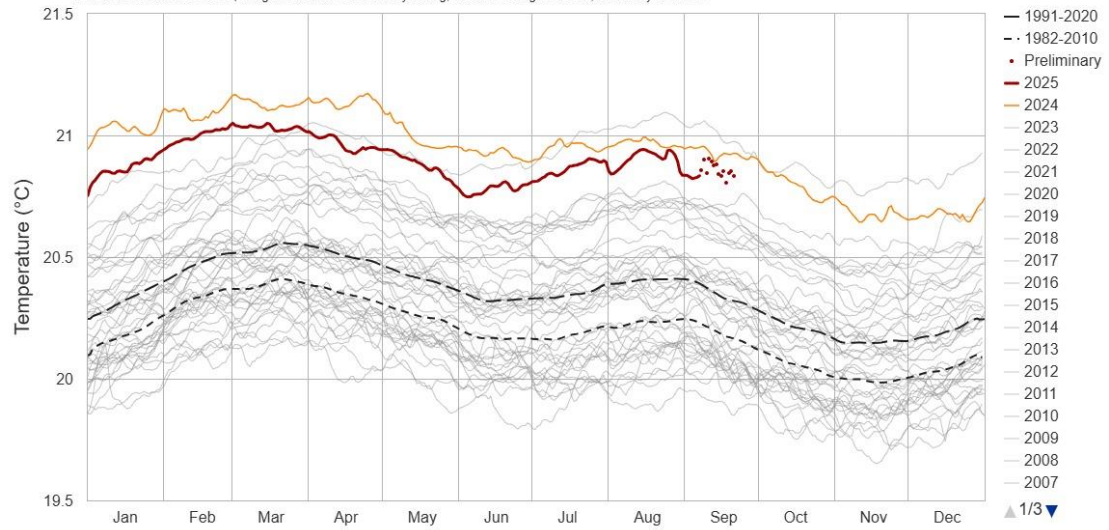
Daily Surface Air Temperature, World (90°S–90°N, 0–360°E)

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



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

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



2 Forthcoming Activities and Developments.

Beat Your Bills Roadshow

Docking (Indoor Market) – 15/10/2025 09:00-13:00

Hunstanton (Helping Hands Café) – 27/10/2025 10:00-12:00

King's Lynn Discovery Centre (Spooky Fun Day) – 30/10/2025 12:00-15:00

Downham Market (Downham Market) – 31/10/2025 09:00-14:00

Runcton Holme (Coffee Morning) – 05/11/2025 10:00-12:00

Marshland St James (Farmers Market) – 30/11/2025 10:00-14:00

Wimbotsham (Café Connect) – 06/12/2025 10:00-12:00

Hilgay (Christmas Coffee Morning) – 11/12/2025 10:00-12:00

Feltwell (Coffee Morning) – 07/01/2026 09:00-12:00

Hunstanton (Friday Group) – 09/01/2026 10:00-12:00

Dersingham (Coffee Morning) – 15/01/2026 10:00-12:30

Heacham (Chit, Chat & Coffee) – 17/02/2026 10:00-11:30

3 Meetings Attended and Meetings Scheduled

Cabinet Briefings

Cabinet Sifting

Cabinet

Norfolk Records Committee

Norfolk Joint Museums Committee

CIL Spending Panel

Pre-Council Briefing

Climate Change Informal Working Group

Ferry Re-opening

Norfolk Museums – Norwich Castle

VJ Day Memorial

LGR Roundtable Session

Leisure Facilities Members Working Group

Tapping House Visit

Tour of Major Housing Sites

NWN CaBA meeting

KGR Business Case with Inner Circle

Garden Competition Judging

Environment and Community Panel

Multi Agency Group – Groundwater Challenges

Schools Competition – West Winch Award

UEA Climate Conference – Tyndall Centre

LGR Submission Briefing (Lynnsport)

King's Lynn and West Norfolk Area Museums Committee

Joint Panel Meeting – LGR Business Case

Spatial Development Strategy Briefing

Mayor's Design Awards

King's Lynn Conservancy Board

Garden Wildlife Competition Awards Ceremony
King's Lynn Climate Change Business Expo

Portfolio Holder Briefings and updates:

Climate Change Weekly Updates

Garden Wildlife Competition

Air Quality Briefing

Ferry Updates