

CABINET MEMBERS REPORT TO COUNCIL

27 November 2025

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

For the period 24 September 2025 to 18 November 2025

1 Progress on Portfolio Matters.

Vehicle Fleet Review

Discussions regarding capital programme planning for a project are ongoing. The Council has been invited to submit a final application to the Government's Depot Charging Scheme grant for improvements to charging infrastructure at the Oldmedow Road site. The bid will be submitted by 28 November 2025 and, if successful, the works will be installed by end of March 2026.

Solar Together

The group buying scheme is underway for a third year.

Last year's campaign resulted in:

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

Household registrations have now closed. For installations in 2026, householders have registered as follows:

- 338 Solar PV
- 30 Battery storage
- 146 EV chargers

Site surveys and detailed quotes are being progressed. All works should be completed by May 2026.

Carbon Audit

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

Carbon Literacy Training

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

Ferry

The existing design, planning, and stakeholder information provided by the council has been reviewed to establish a baseline for further work on the West Lynn Ferry. The latest WSP report is now two years old so a preliminary design process will be commissioned to verify the most suitable design options for both the east and west landing of the ferry for the current day.

Contact has been made with Drake Towage, a local contractor, who have offered advice as to the suitability of previous design options, including ways to maintain the operation of the ferry during construction of any new infrastructure. Early engagement with contractors like this will prove beneficial in the future stages of the project should funding be secured.

Richard Jackson Ltd have been engaged to produce preliminary designs to inform the updated feasibility costings. Richard Jackson Ltd. surveyed the existing infrastructure most recently in 2024, so they have an up-to-date knowledge of the site. These designs are expected in the next few weeks subject to sign-off terms and conditions.

Engagement meetings have been held with the ferry owner, ferry operator, Harbourmaster, and Environment Agency. These have been positive meetings and have confirmed licensing requirements, end user requirements, and design constraints. Further stakeholder engagement will be carried out late-November/early-December to review the preliminary designs and obtain feedback.

A high-level draft delivery programme has been produced to include a funding period of three months completing in March 2026 and the overall scheme completing in March 2027, subject to estimated timescales. This includes time allowance for a public procurement process and planning application.

A draft feasibility report has been produced, ready to receive costed design options and risks, and issue of this document is scheduled by the end of 2025 to inform the funding process in early-2026.

Village Green, South Lynn

The Town/Village Green application for South Lynn is with Norfolk County Council and is currently being processed.

Volunteers from Harding's Pits Association, Nature Volunteer Network along with the Public Open Space team have planted and mulched a new hedgerow at the South Lynn Community Orchard. The Men's Shed have built raised beds for herbs and vegetables to grow, in partnership with the South Lynn community and Purfleet Pantry.

Norfolk Climate Change Partnership (NCCP)

The partnership has again been successful in its bid of approximately £150,000 for Innovate UK funding Work is now underway on 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

The partnership has funded free Energy Advice Tools for Norfolk Residents through the Norfolk Net Zero Communities project identified that they need support in making their homes warmer in winter, cooler in summer, and more energy efficient all year round. In response, the partnership has funded two free digital tools designed to help residents take action.

These tools will:

- Recommend energy efficiency measures tailored to your home
- Show how much you could save on your energy bills
- Estimate your potential carbon savings
- Create a personalised improvement plan

Homewise

Homewise is a digital energy advice tool for Norfolk homeowners. It helps identify which energy efficiency improvements and renewable technologies could boost a home's energy rating and reduce bills.

With three simple steps, Homewise will guide the user to create a bespoke energy plan for their property. <https://norfolk.homewise.energy/App/Welcome>

Fairer Warmth

Fairer Warmth is a dynamic platform that connects households with organisations working to promote energy efficiency, affordability, and a fairer energy future.

A householder can enter their postcode and a few details about the household, and Fairer Warmth will identify affordable energy-saving measures and connect the user with local support services. <https://app.fairerwarmth.com/>

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 has been published on the NCCP website for the project's funders Innovate UK see <https://www.norfolkclimatechange.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/10/nccp-net-zero-communities-report-october-2025.pdf>

LED Lighting

A meeting is due to be held with the Pelican's Club, with a view to securing a contribution to upgrade the Pelican's pitch to LED, alongside the MUGA and

Tennis Courts. All remaining sports pitches at Lynnsport have already been upgraded to LED.

Proposals have also been received for upgrading lighting at the BCKLWN Depot to LED.

A capital bid is expected to be submitted, in due course, to bring these two schemes forward.

Streetlighting Phase II

The Borough Council has met several times with the contractor (Amey) to work through the streetlighting inventory and agree a way forward with the columns in difficult to access locations ahead of works starting.

Re:Fit

Panasonic have recently commissioned an assessment of our heat pumps and officers have been advised, verbally, that no manufacturer warranty faults could be found with the installations. Panasonic are now due to attend on-site to resolve other issues with the heat pump units.

Whilst this is a significant step forward, it is expected that the anticipated gas/carbon savings will not be realised, as per the 'Measurement and Verification' reporting. Discussions are ongoing as to how to progress.

Solar Panels

Detailed designs have been received for Photovoltaic installations at KLIC and Downham Market Leisure Centre, as well as a high-level study for the Corn Exchange. These will form the basis of a capital bid. It is anticipated that these schemes can deliver annual savings of £39,000, carbon savings of 30 tonnes of CO₂e (at grid average emission factors), and a return on investment in around ten years.

Energy Company Obligation Scheme

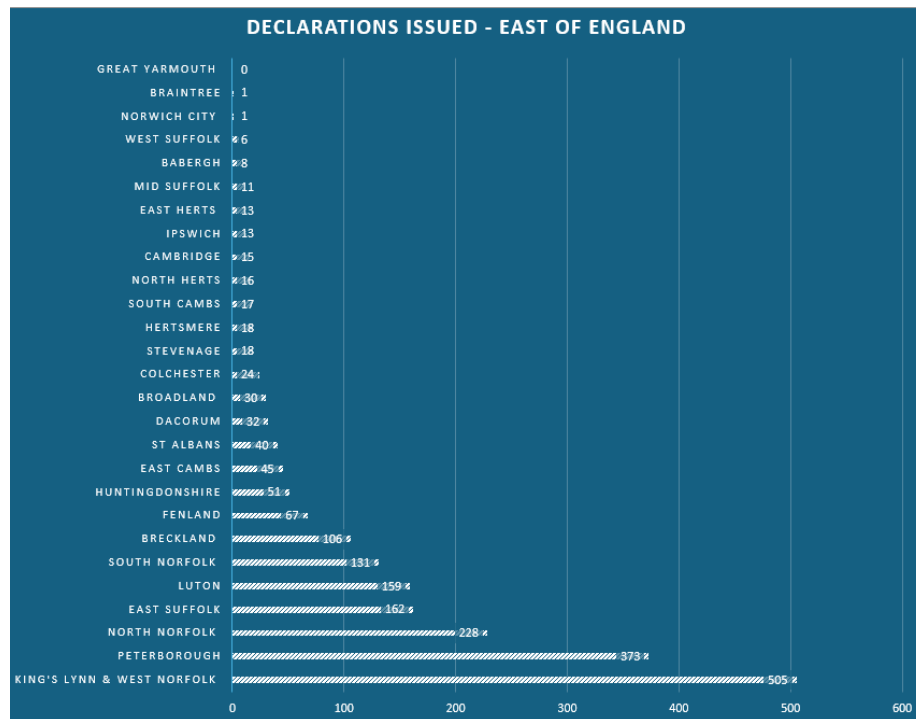
The Energy Company Obligation (ECO) is an energy efficiency scheme designed to tackle fuel poverty and help reduce carbon emissions. ECO is an obligation placed on energy companies to deliver energy efficiency measures to domestic premises across the United Kingdom. The fourth iteration of this scheme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

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

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

To date, 576 declarations of eligibility have been issued to households with either a collective household income below £31,000 per annum or with an occupant suffering from a long-term health condition.

West Norfolk has been committed to delivering ECO Flex and in accordance to statistics published at the end of August, we are the leading authority in the East of England:



272 properties have an energy performance rating of 'C' or above following the completion of full house retrofits (additional certificates are awaited from installers that could bring the tally to 300+).

1,127 tonnes of domestic CO2 per annum have been saved in accordance with calculations made by Housing Standards using the Reduced Standard Assessment Procedure (RdSAP) which is used to formulate Energy Performance Certificates (EPC's).

£12,976,685 has been obtained from energy suppliers in accordance with the ECO scheme and spent on improving dwellings across the borough.

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.

October 2025 was the third-warmest October on record globally, with an average surface air temperature of 15.14°C, 0.16°C cooler than the record set in October 2023. October was about 1.55°C warmer than an estimate of the

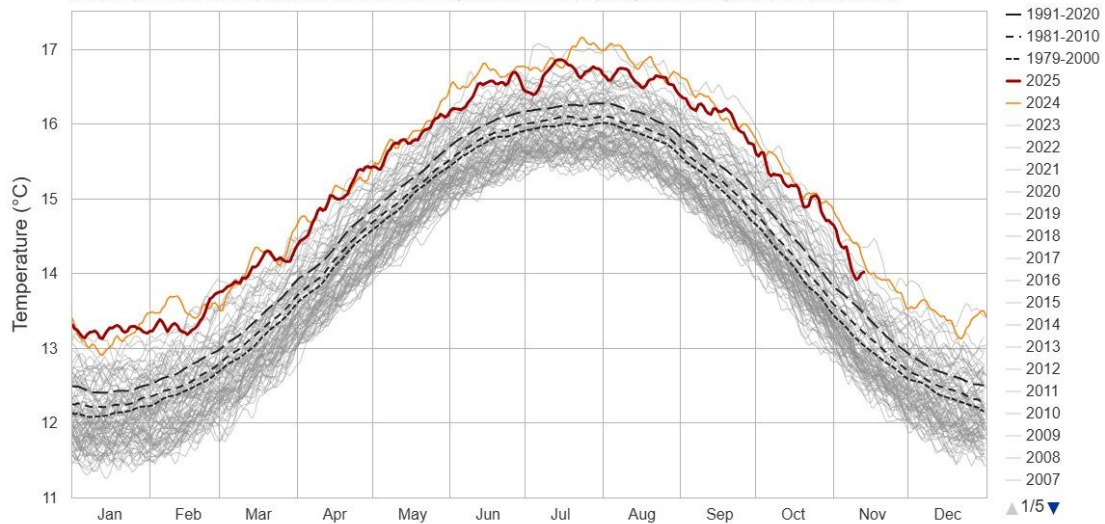
October average for 1850-1900, the designated pre-industrial reference period. It is the 27th month in the data record 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels and ends a short period of five consecutive months that were below.

The average global sea surface temperature (SST) for October 2025 over 60°S to 60°N was 20.54°C, the third-highest for the month in the dataset, 0.24°C below the record set in October 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.

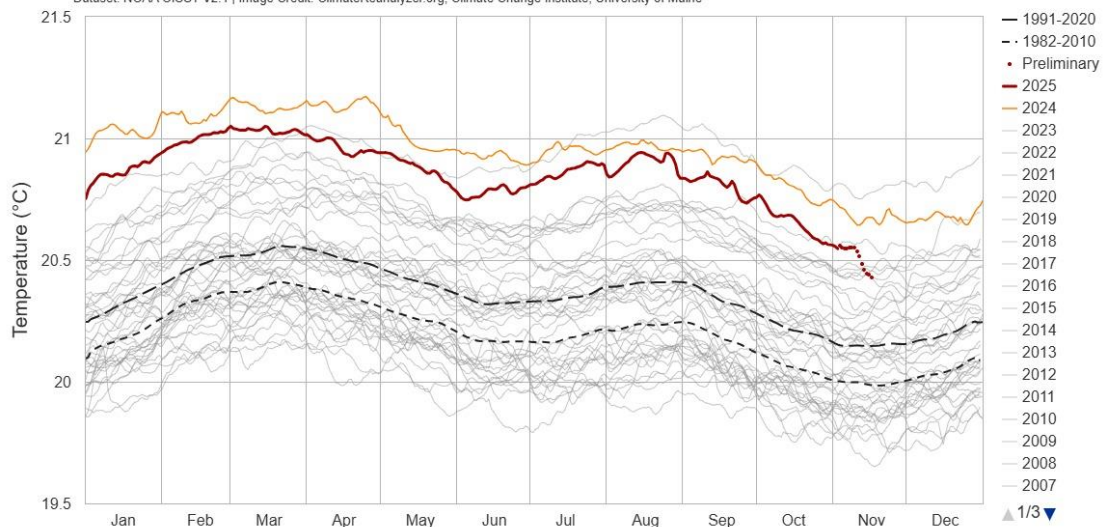
Daily Surface Air Temperature, World (90°S–90°N, 0–360°E)

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



Arctic sea ice extent for October 2025 was 6.8 million km², circa 12% (1.0 million km²) below the 1991–2020 average, the eighth-lowest monthly extent for October in the 47-year satellite record.

The average Antarctic sea ice extent for the month was 17.5 million km², about 6% (1.1 million km²) below the 1991–2020 average, ranking as the third-lowest October extent in the satellite record.

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

2 Forthcoming Activities and Developments.

Beat Your Bills Roadshow

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

West Walton (Primary School) – 22/01/2026 08:00-12:00

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

Mayor's Business Awards

The Mayor's Business Awards publicly acknowledge outstanding business achievement and the contribution that businesses make to the West Norfolk economy. To highlight exemplar local businesses, the Council once again is sponsoring the Environmental Champion category.

Entries will close at 5pm, Friday 28th November 2025. Finalists will be announced in the Lynn News on Friday, December 19th, and Your Local Paper on Wednesday, December 24th, ahead of the awards ceremony at the King's Lynn Corn Exchange in March 2026.

For further information about the awards, visit:

<https://www.mayorsbusinessawards.co.uk/mayorsbusinessawards2026/en/page/home>.

3 Meetings Attended and Meetings Scheduled

Cabinet Briefings
Cabinet Sifting
Cabinet

Active Travel Hubs Briefing
King's Lynn Transport Strategy Stakeholder Event
Climate Change Informal Working Group
Planning Committee Training
Members Working Group – King's Lynn and Hunstanton Leisure Facilities
Pre-Council Briefing – Careline Community Services
ICT Development Group Meeting
Town Deal Board – Active & Clean Connectivity Project Board meeting
Knights Hill Development Meeting
Depot visit
King's Lynn IDB Meeting
Environment & Community Panel
Corporate Performance Panel
Joint Panel Meeting – Scrutiny Governance Review
West Norfolk Transport & Infrastructure Steering Group
Regeneration and Development Panel
Hunstanton Masterplan Workshop
Member Briefing – Safety and Security
MAG 001 Norfolk Groundwater Challenges
Transport East's Quarterly Webinar
NWN Catchment Partnership Meeting (CaBA)
Hunstanton Masterplan Update
Rural Transport Pilot Project Showcase Webinars
Audit Committee

Portfolio Holder Briefings and updates:

Climate Change Weekly Updates