

CABINET MEMBERS REPORT TO COUNCIL

29 January 2026

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

For the period 19 November 2025 to 14 January 2026

1 Progress on Portfolio Matters.

Vehicle Fleet Review

Discussions regarding capital programme planning for a project are ongoing. The Council has been successful in its application to the government's Depot Charging Scheme grant to improve charging infrastructure at the Oldmedow Road site. The works will be installed by end of March 2026 and will provide 5 EV charging sockets.

The Caretakers' van reached the end of its life and an electric replacement is due for delivery by the end of January 2026.

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

In December, senior managers received a briefing on climate change mitigation and adaptation by three highly regarded speakers from British Sugar, the Tyndall Centre and Burton Environmental. My thanks go out to the speakers for sharing their time and expertise at no cost.

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

Officers have received an initial draft feasibility study, which is currently under review before being formally issued to the Authority for consideration. The report includes a range of improvement options and identifies the works necessary to support ferry operations. Both the ferry operator and the Harbour Master have been consulted on the technical proposals produced by our appointed engineers, Richard Jackson Engineering, ensuring their operational expertise is reflected in the final study. The report will detail the full scale of

required consents and projected costs; it will be presented to the Cabinet in due course for formal direction based on its findings.

Village Green, South Lynn

The Town and Village application for South Lynn is being processed by Norfolk County Council.

LED Lighting

A project upgrading the remaining Lynnsport sports pitches to LED lighting has been added to the capital programme, with a view to being considered for Community Infrastructure Levy funding. Preliminary designs have been prepared, in consultation with the Pelican's club, to inform the capital programme and predicted payback periods.

Further LED upgrades have also been identified at the BCKLWN Depot.

The lead officer has requested that these projects are added to Tier 2 of the capital programme; if spend is authorised, a tender exercise will be undertaken to procure them.

Streetlighting Phase II

Amey, after being awarded the contract, have surveyed the lamps identified for LED upgrade. Following their survey, Amey have provided some recommendations for additional works, including the replacement of damaged columns and installation of replacement gear trays within 'heritage' fittings.

Some queries have been highlighted where there are anomalies within the streetlighting inventory, particularly in terms of ownership and responsibility; other columns are of uncertain ownership (i.e. installed on private land/buildings).

As these queries are worked through, it may be necessary to remove lanterns from scope. Amey will, in turn, confirm the anticipated uplift from the additional works, to inform decision making.

In the interim, Amey have LED lanterns on order for the straightforward lamp replacements, which are expected to be delivered in early February.

Re:Fit – Heat Pumps

Following recent assessment by Panasonic, we are chasing written confirmation of assurances that the Heat Pump installations are satisfactory from a manufacturer standpoint and warranty agreements can be reinstated.

Finn Geotherm have recently been tasked with upgrading immersion thermostats, as part of ongoing servicing works, with a view to improving the thermal disinfection of our domestic hot water cylinders. At Dutton Pavilion, this has delivered a significant improvement to our stored water temperatures; we hope this improvement will be replicated elsewhere and support operation in accordance with our legionella risk assessments. We are also looking at options for reducing the frequency of thermal disinfection cycles, which has been a

contributing factor in the premature failure of immersion elements. In the interim, whilst the thermostat upgrades are underway, legionella risk is being managed at site level, with most facilities having the benefit of being able to call upon retained boilers to boost stored water temperatures, as required.

Finn Geotherm have been requested to provide a quote for supplying the Oasis' pool heating directly from the heat pumps, which would facilitate year-round operation, even when the heat pumps struggle to satisfy pool hall/building temperatures.

Operationally, it is hoped that these changes will allow us to place more duty on our heat pumps, although there remains a significant shortfall in anticipated savings, as borne out in the three measurement and verification reports post practical completion. To that end, we are preparing an options paper to inform decision making now the three-year measurement and verification period has finished. We are also seeking guidance from Salix, as administrators of the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme, on the missed savings.

Solar Panels

Installation of solar photovoltaic arrays at KLIC, Downham Market Leisure Centre and Corn Exchange have been added to the capital programme. We will now prepare and submit the relevant 'request to proceed form'. If authorised, we will launch a tender exercise to procure these works. Design works completed so far have revealed that the schemes can realise a return on investment, although there are site specific challenges that will need to be overcome for successful delivery, including identification and procurement of a suitable mounting system for the Photo Voltaic array at King's Lynn Corn Exchange.

Energy Company Obligation Scheme

The Energy Company Obligation (ECO) scheme is scheduled to conclude on March 31, 2026, with no further extensions planned beyond this date, as announced in the UK Government's Budget.

As a result, it is proposed that we revise the vacant energy efficiency officer role to include additional enforcement duties relating to energy efficiency measures.

Air Quality

A report on air quality is being brought to Cabinet in March with a view to the revocation of the remaining AQMA in King's Lynn, as per government guidelines, due to the fact that there have been no exceedances in five years.

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.

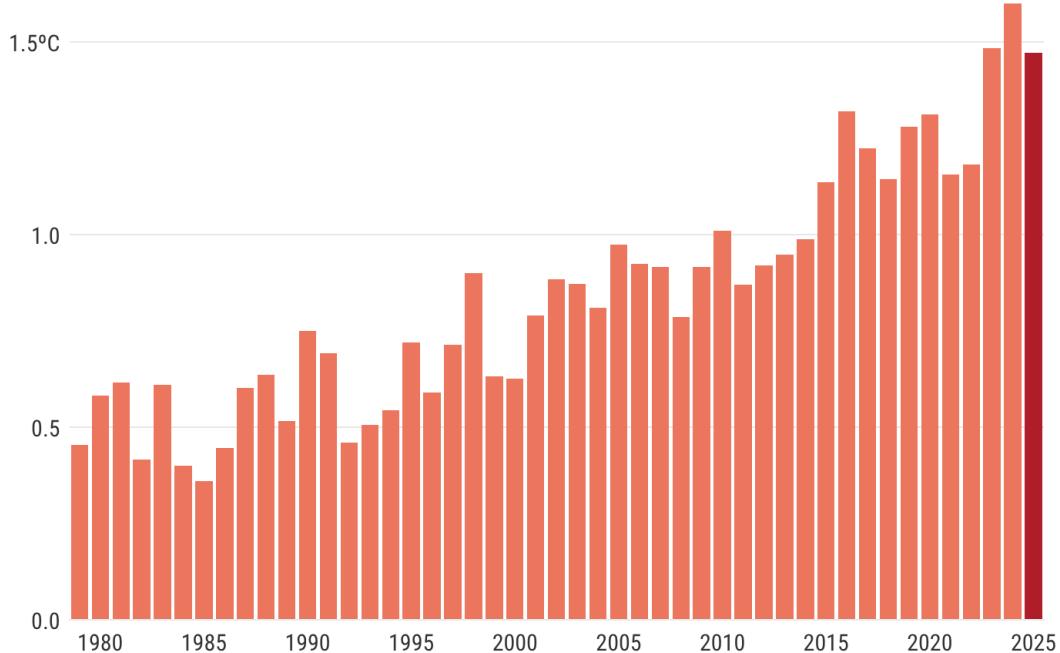
Source: "State of the UK Climate in 2024," Met Office National Climate Information Centre, Exeter, UK.

The global annual mean surface air temperature for 2025 was 1.47°C above the estimated 1850-1900 average used to define the pre-industrial level. 2025 was the third warmest year on record, 0.13°C cooler than 2024 and 0.01°C cooler than 2023. Six months in 2025 had a global temperature estimate above the 1.5°C pre-industrial levels.



Global annual surface air temperature anomalies

Data source: ERA5 • Reference period: pre-industrial (1850–1900) • Credit: C3S/ECMWF



PROGRAMME OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION



Climatic
Change Service

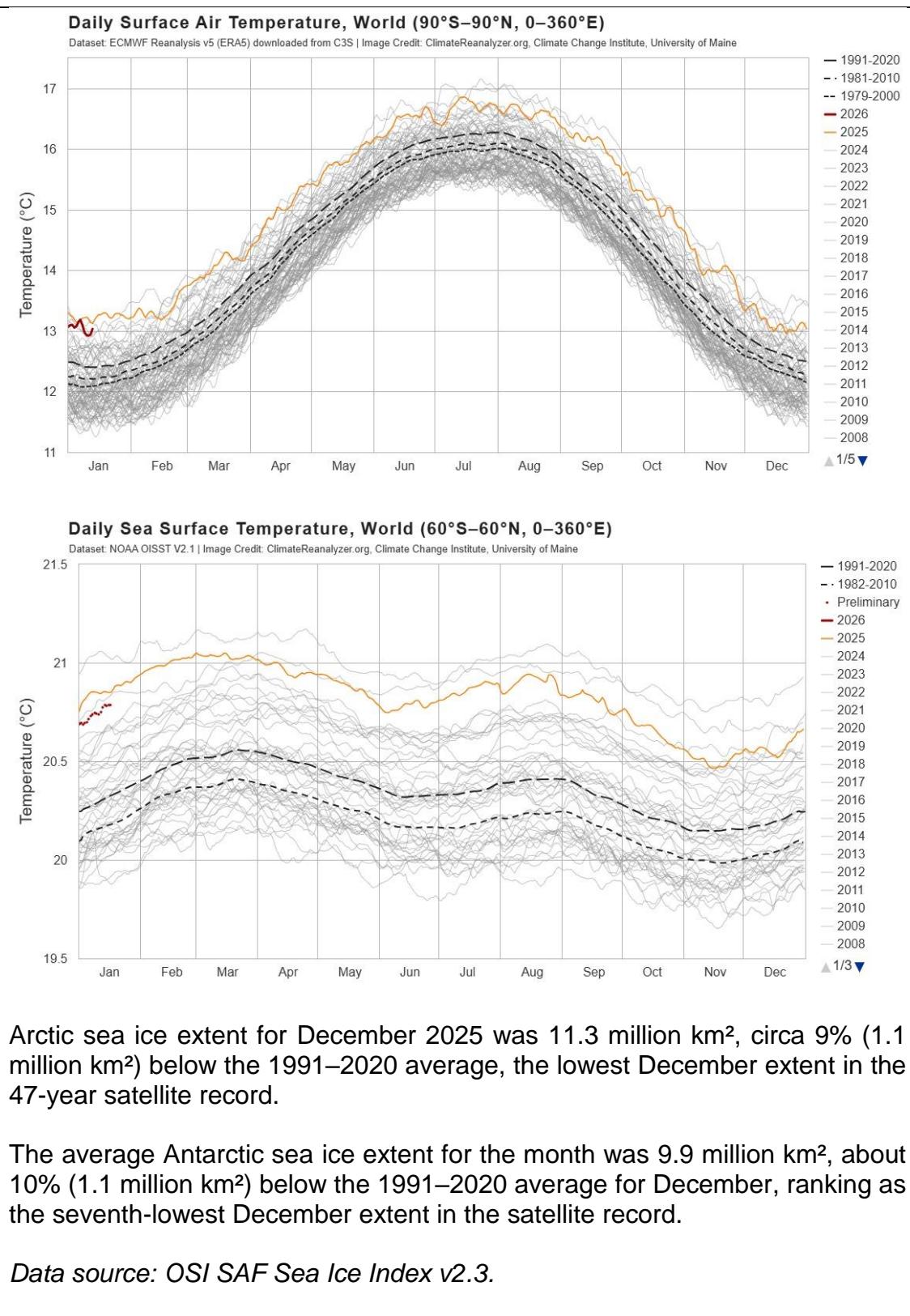
IMPLEMENTED BY



December 2025 was the fifth-warmest December on record globally, with an average surface air temperature of 13.15°C, 0.36°C cooler than the record set in December 2023. December was about 1.42°C warmer than an estimate of the December average for 1850-1900, the designated pre-industrial reference period.

The average global sea surface temperature (SST) for December 2025 over 60°S to 60°N was 20.50°C, the fourth-highest for the month in the dataset, 0.33°C below the record set in December 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.



2 Forthcoming Activities and Developments.

Beat Your Bills Roadshow

Feltwell Church – 11/02/2026 09:30-12:00

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

Mayor's Business Awards – Environmental Champion category

The Mayor's Business Awards publicly acknowledge outstanding business achievement and the contribution that businesses make to the West Norfolk economy.

Two businesses have been shortlisted for the 2026 award; British Sugar, Wissington Factory and Goodwins Hall Care Home. The awards ceremony takes place 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.](https://www.mayorsbusinessawards.co.uk/mayorsbusinessawards2026/en/page/home)

3 Meetings Attended and Meetings Scheduled

Cabinet Briefings

Cabinet Sifting

King's Lynn Conservancy Board

Climate Change Informal Working Group

Housing Delivery Strategy Session

Members Working Group – King's Lynn and Hunstanton Leisure Facilities

Corporate Leadership Team – Climate Change and Adaptation Masterclass

Norfolk Climate Change Partnership – Portfolio Holders

Norfolk Parking Partnership

MAG 001 Norfolk Groundwater Challenges

Environment and Community Panel

King's Lynn and West Norfolk Area Museums Committee

NWN Catchment Partnership Meeting (CaBA)

Portfolio Holder Briefings and updates

Climate Change Weekly Updates

West Lynn Ferry Updates