

Cabinet Members Report to Council

25th June 2026

Councillor Sandra Squire – Cabinet Member for Environment & Coastal
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Report to Council for the period March to June 2026

1 Progress on Portfolio Matters

Prom briefing:

Thank you to all those councillors who attended the briefing on past and upcoming works on the prom. This is a major project for the council that will take place over several years that will secure our sea defences for the future and also has implications for tourism and the Hunstanton Masterplan.

Multi-agency Action Day:

The waste team organised and attended a multi agency action day at Clenchwarton, working with the EA, VOSA and Norfolk Police stopping vehicles which may be involved in the transport of waste and also check vehicle roadworthiness.

There are active investigations which relate to those who have been involved in the transport of waste to the site in Clenchwarton. We note the recent work in securing convictions by the EA about the illegal deposit of waste and their ongoing efforts and will continue to be of assistance wherever we can.

Further Action Days are now planned at other locations in the Borough.

Fly Tipping:

Fixed penalty notices have recently been issued to residents in Fairstead and South Wooton. I'd like to thank our waste team for their continued dedication to investigating these crimes.

Electrical and Battery Recycling:

You will be aware that the bulky waste collections were temporarily paused along with the collection of small electrical items and batteries, which are also not currently being accepted at recycling centres.

This is due to the impacts of the fire at Wiser in Thetford. As a result, we had to stop collection of small WEEE and batteries and suffered the loss of a facility to

take fridges and freezers as well as many other electrical items such as TV's and microwaves.

Electrical goods and fridges make up a large proportion of our bulky waste service.

The council had to suspend collections of bulky wastes as there were no facilities available to receive from us the electrical goods and fridges which makes up much of our bulky waste service.

Bulky Waste collections have now resumed, working with Norfolk County Council there is now a limited capacity service storing these items in Norwich, with capacity restrictions on WEEE waste.

Household waste recycling centres can now accept Washing Machines, Dishwashers, Cookers and Tumble driers (except at Docking & Heacham), also laptops and televisions (except for Thetford). However all other electrical items are still not currently being accepted.

While I appreciate this is frustrating, the situation is out of our control and we are not the only council affected. Work is underway to sort out alternative facilities but in the mean time, some retailers will arrange electrical collection and recycling and some supermarkets accept batteries. We are advising residents to please keep hold of their electricals for the current time. I also have a small collection gathering in my spare room. Normal service will be resumed as soon as we are able.

WECMS (Wash East Coast Management Strategy) Stakeholder Workshop:

Work on the update of the of the Wash East Coast Management Strategy continued with a workshop held at the Town Hall in Hunstanton. Led by the EA with support from our staff and also Jacobs, the morning included presentations on works undertaken so far, upcoming works and modelling with information on the timeframe for the work.

Several local stakeholders attended and we even had the addition of an interested member of the public.

This is part of the process that will lead to an updated Strategic Plan for flood and coastal risk management between Hunstanton and Wolferton Creek, which is currently due to be published in Spring 2028.

Thank you to those members who attended and took part in the break out session. It was an opportunity to share what matters most to you and your community, what you value about our coast and any aspirations and concerns.

There will be ongoing consultation with stakeholders and the public, I would recommend those in coastal wards in particular do attend in future. A part of this work will include difficult conversations on the future of our coast and influencing what we want prioritised for protection. It is your opportunity to help shape the

project by ensuring your views are heard, please ensure you do not miss that opportunity in future.

2 Forthcoming Activities and Developments

Waste Crime:

We have additional staff starting with the team over the coming months which will boost our resource and capacity to respond to fly tipping and waste crime investigations.

Fines have recently been reviewed and proposals will shortly be coming to Cabinet. The proposal is to increase our fines in line with our neighbouring councils, but also to introduce a scale of fine depending on the severity of the crime and the environmental damage incurred.

We will also be including a hardship proposal where fines can potentially be reduced for cases where the crime is admitted by the resident but the fine would cause genuine financial hardship. As currently those who can't pay the fine early due to lack of available funds, end up paying more. While it is important to ensure fly tipping is investigated and fines are issued, these need to be proportionate and ensure that low income families are not disproportionately affected.

3 Meetings Attended and Meetings Scheduled

Various Portfolio Briefings
LGA Coastal SIG Water Quality Working Group
Norfolk Coast Partnership CMG Meetings
Cabinet briefings
RFCC meeting
James Wild MP briefing re waste crime
Hunstanton site visits
Annual Council
Cabinet sifting
RFCC Coastal Leads meeting
Cabinet
Councillor briefing on the Prom
WECMS Stakeholder Workshop
NWN CaBa (Catchment Partnership) Summer Meeting
LGA Coastal SIG quarterly meeting
Cabinet/ELT away day
Upcoming: Joint Waste Contract Review Board
Upcoming: RFCC meeting
Upcoming: LGA Annual Parliamentary Reception