

CABINET MEMBERS REPORT TO COUNCIL

26 June 2026

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

For the period 19 March 2026 to 19 June 2026

1 Progress on Portfolio Matters.

Garden Wildlife Competition

The 2026 competition is still open to [entries](#). This year's competition has two categories: small gardens up to 500sqm and large gardens over 500sqm. The closing date is 17 July 2026 and I encourage entries from those wishing to showcase their endeavours to create spaces for wildlife to flourish.

Vehicle Fleet Review

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

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

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. In total:

- 362 panels were installed, approximately 0.16mW of renewable energy generating capability.
- 25 batteries were installed, approximately 0.23mWh of renewable energy storage.
- £254,222 was invested in renewable energy infrastructure delivered by a Norfolk company.
- Two EV chargepoints were installed.
- The average overall satisfaction score with the installer was 94%.

Consideration is being given to promoting the scheme for 2026/27

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 officers are finalising the 2024/25 audit. We are working on 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 awaited for the completion of the module's development.

Ferry

The feasibility report, authored by Geyfriars Project Management, has now been completed, with an estimated cost of £1.8 million for the works to replace the West Lynn steps with a piled metal walkway leading to a pontoon located slightly up river from the Rennie Jetty, along with improvements to the King's Lynn steps. An extended design life of between 60 & 120 years, with the appropriate maintenance regime, will spread the investment.

The CIL Spending Panel and Regeneration & Development Committee have both recommended that the requested £800,000 grant towards the project be approved by Cabinet. Officers are in dialogue with Norfolk County Council to determine the remaining funding.

An update meeting with ward members took place on 12 June.

Engineers' reports have highlighted accelerating decay in the supporting structure on the West Lynn side and noted that it is approaching end of life. Further slumping of the Rennie Jetty has also been recorded.

Village Green, South Lynn

The Village Green application for South Lynn is being processed by Norfolk County Council. We await consent from Natural England (previously the Countryside Agency), given that part of the area, namely Harding's Pits, is covered by the Doorstep Green.

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. A review of the future work programme is underway. To this end a meeting took place on 11 June between myself, the Climate Change Manager and representatives of the Tyndall Centre.

Streetlighting Phase II

The contractor (Amey) is making good progress with the LED upgrade work, with the expected conversion of at least 90% of all remaining streetlighting stock by April 2027.

Re:Fit

An independent mechanical and electrical consultant is in the process of being recruited to undertake an independent audit and review of the heat pump

systems to quantify the underperformance issues. This will inform our ongoing dispute with the principal contractor.

The head of Panasonic Heating and Cooling UK is to meet with officers and contractors to review the heat pumps and associated plant at King's Court to resolve ongoing reliability issues.

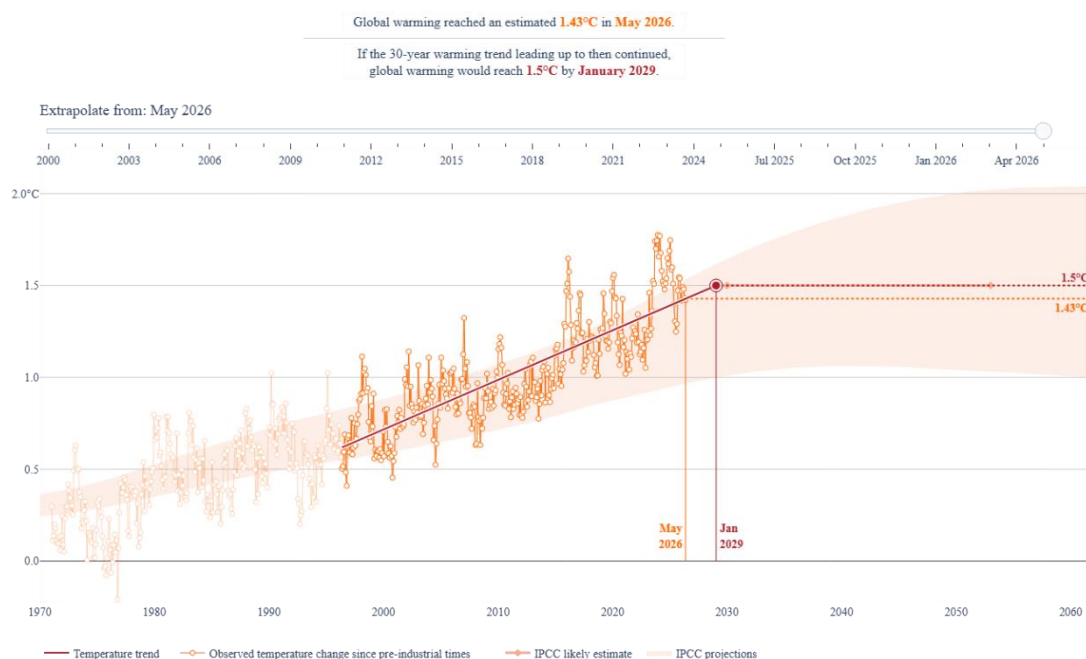
Solar Panels

Photovoltaic installations at KLIC and the Corn Exchange are now in the capital programme. Discussions with the landlord are ongoing for the Downham Market Leisure Centre. 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.

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).

May 2026 was the second-warmest May on record globally, with an average surface air temperature of 15.81°C, 0.10°C cooler than the record set in May 2024. May was about 1.42°C warmer than an estimate of the May average for 1850-1900, the designated pre-industrial reference period.

The average global sea surface temperature (SST) for May 2026 over 60°S to 60°N was 20.90°C, the second-highest for the month in the dataset, 0.03°C below the record set in May 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.

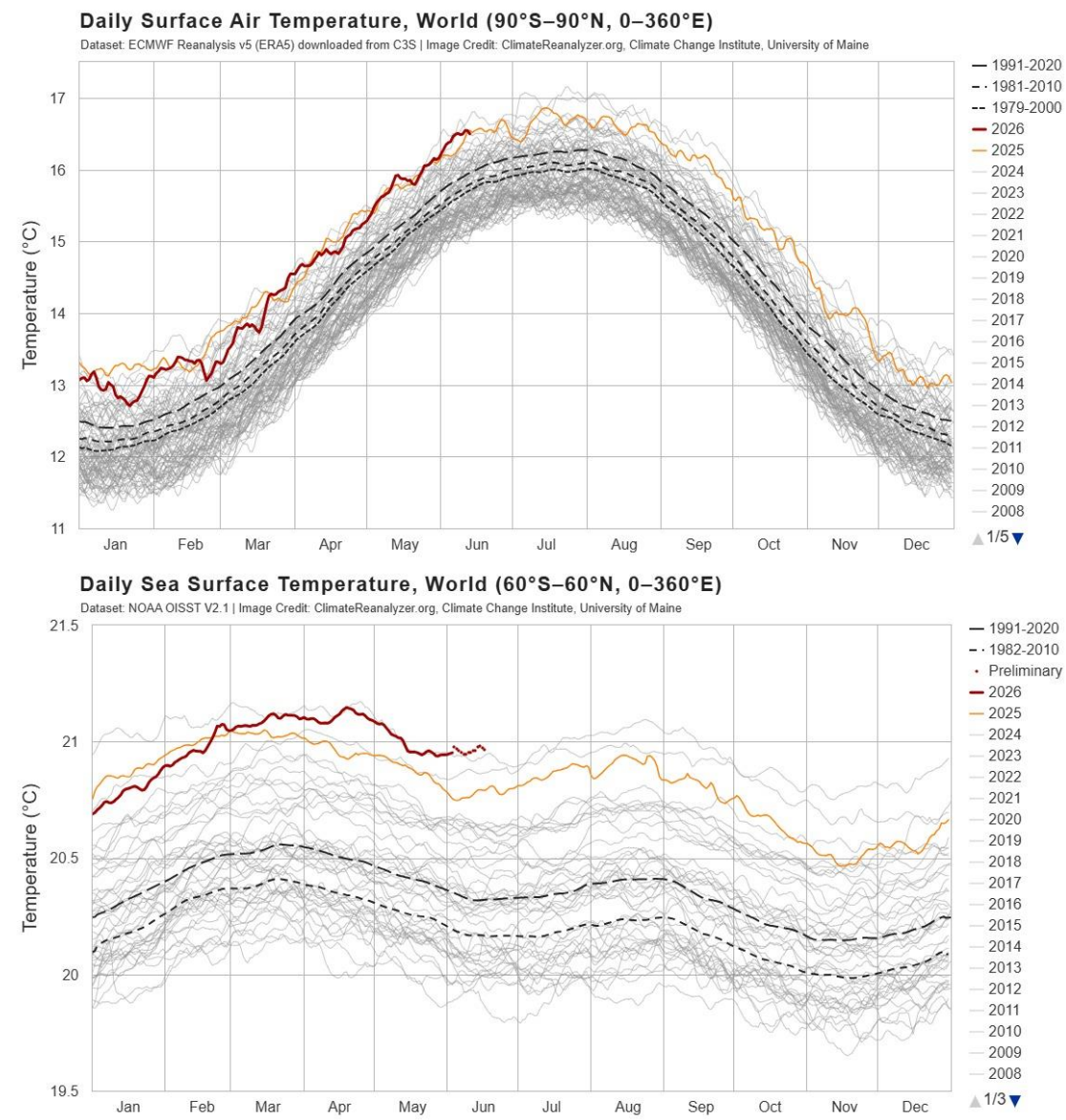
Data source: European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts - ERA5.

According to the World Meteorological Organization, a transition to El Niño conditions is now virtually certain to develop over the coming months.

Arctic sea ice extent for May 2026 was 12.4 million km², circa 4.4% (0.6 million km²) below the 1991–2020 average, the fourth-lowest monthly extent for May in the 48-year satellite record.

The average Antarctic sea ice extent for the month was 9.7 million km², about 8.7% (0.9 million km²) below the 1991–2020 average. This was the seventh-lowest May 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

Cabinet

Cabinet/ELT Away Day

LGR Pre-Council Briefing

ICT Development Group Meeting

Regeneration and Development Panel

Scrutiny Training Workshop 2

Monthly Member Training – Active Travel

Schools Climate Champions Competition Meeting

Active and Clean Connectivity Project Board Meeting

Environment & Community Panel

King's Lynn Conservancy Board

Local Plan Task Group

Climate Change Informal Working Group

Norfolk Climate Change Partnership

Members Briefing – Warding Arrangements

All Member Briefing – King's Lynn Masterplan

GIRAMS Board

CIL Strategic Project Funding Review

King's Lynn IDB Meeting

Members Training – Preventing Sexual Harassment

Norfolk Climate Change Partnership – Work Programme Review

King's Lynn Museum – Secrets From The Store Opening

Gaywood River Valley BNG Briefing

Portfolio Holder Briefings and updates:

Climate Change Updates

West Lynn Ferry Updates