

CABINET MEMBERS REPORT TO COUNCIL

29 July 2026

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

For the period 20 June 2026 to 21 July 2026

1 Progress on Portfolio Matters.

Garden Wildlife Competition

The 2026 competition closed to entries on 17 July 2026. This year's competition has two categories: small gardens up to 500sqm and large gardens over 500sqm. We have had 21 and 15 entries respectively and shortlisting, visits and judging will take place during the remainder of July. The awards event is planned for 15 September 2026.

Vehicle Fleet Review

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

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

Switch Together (previously 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 and preparations are underway for the 2026/27 scheme. A targeted mailshot will commence on 17 August 2026 with registration closing 25 September 2026. Installations will run through to May 2027.

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 work is underway on the 2024/25 and 2025/26 audits. We are looking at 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 being evaluated on various options for the module's development.

Ferry

Officers are in dialogue with Norfolk County Council to determine the remaining funding, following the £800,000 CIL Spending Panel and Regeneration & Development Committee recommendations. A meeting with Norfolk County Council's Highways and Transport portfolio holder, Cllr Tom Dickerson with this Council's Leader and Chief executive, has been arranged on 29 July 2026 to this end.

Village Green, South Lynn

The Town and Village application for South Lynn is being processed by Norfolk County Council. Given part of the area is covered by the Doorstep Green, Hardings Pits, consent was required from Natural England (previously the Countryside Agency) and this has been received.

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. The partnership's July meeting focused on the theme of adaptation.

Streetlighting Phase II

As work has progressed some changes in scope have been recommended primarily with our ornate heritage lanterns on Hunstanton Seafront and The Walks amongst other areas.

Re:Fit

Panasonic and Finn Geotherm are working together to resolve issues with heat pump reliability as well as visibility via the Building Management Systems.

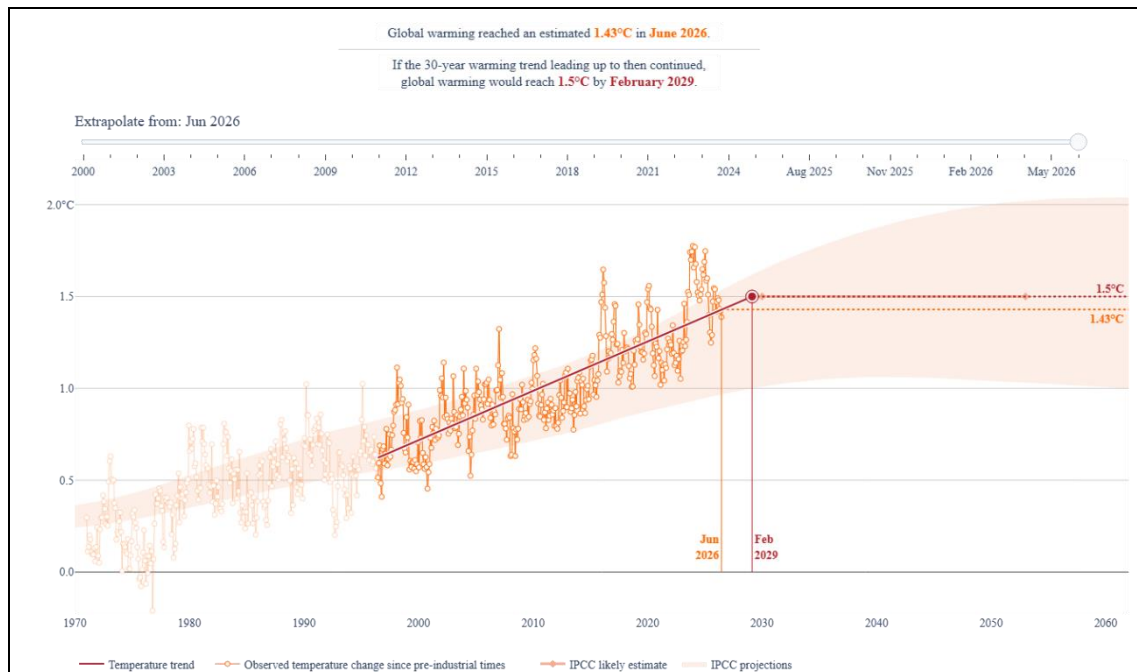
Solar Panels

Officers are awaiting authorisation from finance to proceed with the photovoltaic installations at KLIC and the Corn Exchange.

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).*

June 2026 was the second-warmest June on record globally, with an average surface air temperature of 16.54°C, 0.12°C cooler than the record set in June 2024. June was about 1.39°C warmer than an estimate of the June average for 1850-1900, the designated pre-industrial reference period.

The average global sea surface temperature (SST) for June 2026 over 60°S to 60°N was 20.86°C, the highest for the month in the dataset, 0.01°C above the previous record set in June 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.

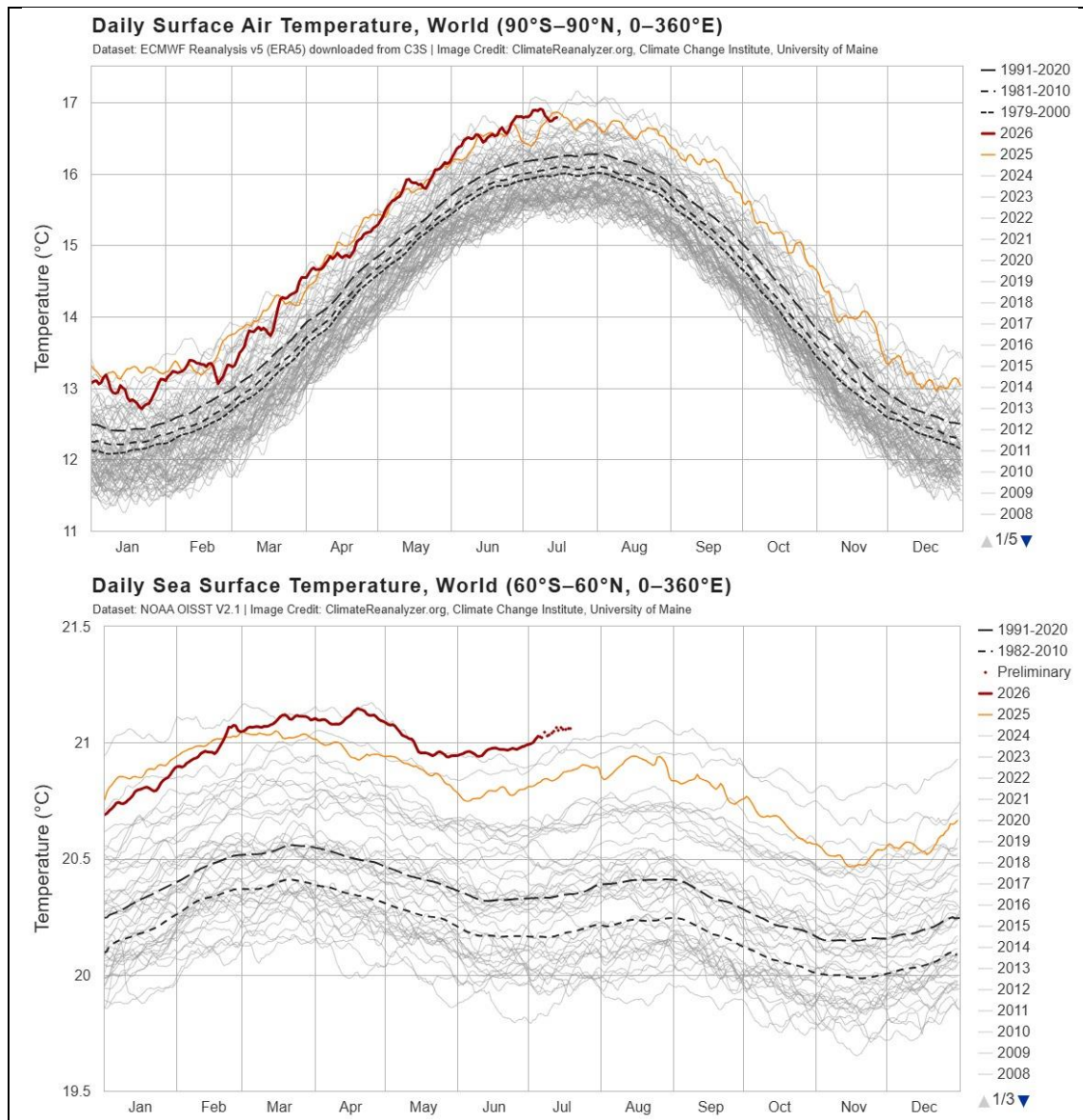
Data source: *European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts - ERA5.*

The high SSTs observed in June 2026 are driven partly by much warmer-than-average conditions across large parts of the tropical Pacific. According to the World Meteorological Organization, the current El Niño event is forecast to strengthen rapidly over the coming months.

Arctic sea ice extent for June 2026 was 10.9 million km², circa 5% (0.6 million km²) below the 1991–2020 average, the sixth-lowest monthly extent for June in the 48-year satellite record.

The average Antarctic sea ice extent for the month was 12.7 million km², about 8% (1.1 million km²) below the 1991–2020 average. This was the sixth-lowest June 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

CIL Application Funding Review
 Transport East Webinar
 CGR Workshop

Norfolk Climate Change Partnership

Portfolio Holder Briefings and updates:

Climate Change Updates

Biodiversity Update Report

West Lynn Ferry Updates