

Cabinet Members Report to Council

29 July 2026

Councillor Sandra Squire – Cabinet Member for Environment & Coastal
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Report to Council for the period June to July 2026
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1 Progress on Portfolio Matters

Prom:

Routine prom repairs were completed ahead of schedule before the start of the summer holidays. Information on further upcoming works after the summer period will be provided in the next couple of weeks.

Electrical and Battery Recycling:

Electrical items and batteries can now once again be accepted at Norfolk Recycling Centres. Centres have been particularly busy in the first few days, your patience has been appreciated throughout the service disruption. Although this is a good opportunity to remind everyone to please not put anything containing batteries into either your black residual waste bin or your recycling bin. Battery fires are becoming all too common, in bin lorries and at waste centres.

It is often not obvious whether an item contains a battery, but generally if it buzzes, moves or makes a noise – there is a battery in it.

Water Safety:

Sadly in warm summers the number of deaths by drowning rises with the temperature. In an area with so many rivers and our wonderful coast, this causes us great concern.

The team have continued to support and promote the water safety messages issued by the RNLI and the Royal Life Saving Society during Drowning Prevention Week and throughout the recent heatwaves.

Key messages have been shared through social media channels and directly with schools to raise awareness of water safety and the dangers of cold water shock.

Please visit the [RNLI](#) and the [Royal Lifesaving Society](#) for more information. Share widely and especially with young people.

Many drownings occur in people who never expected to be in the water, so it is worth making sure everyone knows what they should do.

Private Water Supplies:

Work is continuing on the implementation of reduced parameter sampling under the Private Water Supplies Regulations. This approach allows supply owners to opt for a reduced range of parameters where the previous three years of sampling results, together with other risk factors, demonstrate that certain parameters can be removed from the monitoring programme.

This has the potential to reduce sampling and laboratory costs for supply owners, while also enabling a quicker turnaround of results. Reduced parameter schedules are currently being reviewed and agreed in preparation for the next round of sampling.

Food Safety:

The Environmental Health team is also attending a number of summer events across the borough to undertake food safety spot checks on event traders.

These visits help to ensure food businesses are complying with food hygiene requirements and operating safely, while also providing an opportunity to offer advice and support where needed.

The team produce regular newsletters for food business with helpful advice and information on food safety. The July Newsletter is now available. It is worth having a look as much of the advice is also relevant to households. Warm weather increases the risk of some food poisoning incidents, my son was recently very ill so it can happen to anyone. (Just to be clear – no I didn't poison him!) Newsletters can be found [here](#).

Public Open Space:

I'm sure you will have all seen that we have been awarded 5 Green Flag Awards for our parks and open spaces. Boston Square Sensory Garden and Heritage Gardens in Hunstanton, along with Mintlyn Crematorium, The Walks and Tower Gardens in King's Lynn have all been recognised as being some of the best in the country.

This is a great achievement and reflects the hard work and dedication of the public open space team and the volunteers involved. I was recently asked which was my favourite and really couldn't choose because they're all so different. What's your favourite? Maybe we should have a public poll?

The public open space team also do an incredible job clearing up after our public events. I am in awe both of the mountains of waste left behind and their dedication in clearing it all so everything is clean and tidy again so quickly. While I'm sure you will join me in thanking them, it is also worth reminding everyone who enjoys our free events that they could also take their rubbish away with them

2 Forthcoming Activities and Developments

Further discussions and briefings on the Prom works will be undertaken within the next few weeks.

Once the new waste enforcement officers have settled in, more activity will be undertaken including joint inter-agency operations.

3 Meetings Attended and Meetings Scheduled

Various Portfolio Briefings
LGA Coastal SIG Coastal Connections Meetings
Keep Britain Tidy meeting
Norfolk Waste Partnership meeting
RFCC meeting
Cabinet briefing
Cabinet