

CABINET MEMBERS REPORT TO COUNCIL

24 September 2026

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

For the period 22 July 2026 to 16 September 2026

1 Progress on Portfolio Matters.

Garden Wildlife Competition

The 2026 competition closed to entries on 17 July 2026. This year's competition had two categories: small gardens up to 500sqm and large gardens over 500sqm. We have had 21 and 15 entries respectively and the awards event, which was well received, was held on the 15 September 2026 with prizes awarded by the Mayor.

Vehicle Fleet Review

Following a successful bid to a national grant scheme, five chargers have been commissioned at the Oldmedow Road site and are being used to charge the council's electric fleet.

Consideration will be given to a further grant application later in 2026/27.

Switch Together (previously Solar Together)

Installations for the customers that participated in the 2025 scheme are complete with a total of 29 customers installing solar panels via the scheme.

The 2026/27 scheme is underway with registration closing on 25 September 2026. Installations will run through to May 2027. To date, 449 households/small businesses have registered with 432 considering solar panels and battery storage and 17 interested in battery storage.

Mayor's Business Awards – Environmental Champion

Preparations for the 2027 business awards are underway with details to be announced in the Lynn News.

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 and 6 schools have committed to the project so far with further interest to be confirmed.

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.

Preparations are also underway to screen the National Emergency Briefing on climate change.

Ferry

Early market engagement is currently underway with specialist companies, focusing particularly on contractors with a proven track record of delivering works on the Borough's existing pontoons. Alongside this engagement, discussions have commenced around the wider procurement strategy to ensure a balanced approach. This strategy carefully accounts for the complex, highly specialist nature of the required marine engineering works while remaining accessible to the strong base of capable local contractors and engineers who are expected to show interest.

To initiate the project's next phases, initial planning meetings have been held with technical consultants to establish clear delivery steps and timelines. Concurrently, ongoing dialogue is being maintained with Norfolk County Council to ensure their specific concerns are fully understood, enabling targeted mitigation measures to be integrated into the project plans from the outset.

Work has also begun on drafting the formal Cabinet report required to secure project funding. In tandem with drafting, a Member consultation pathway is being mapped out to ensure key stakeholders and elected members are fully engaged and briefed in advance of the report's submission to Cabinet.

Village Green, South Lynn

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

Norfolk Climate Change Partnership (NCCP)

The Partnership's next meeting is scheduled for the 14 October 2026. The regional Climate East annual conference is taking place on 15 October 2026.

Streetlighting Phase II

Costs have been confirmed and approved for additional works including modifications to heritage lanterns on Hunstanton Seafront and The Walks, amongst other areas. These upgrades are progressing at pace.

Re:Fit

Panasonic and Finn Geotherm were on site 16 September, as part of a series of visits, to resolve issues with heat pump reliability as well as visibility via the Building Management Systems. An independent mechanical and engineering

specialist has been engaged to investigate and further our understanding on the sub-specification performance of several heat pump systems.

Solar Panels

The request for quotation has been launched to appoint a contractor to deliver the photovoltaic installations at KLIC and the Corn Exchange.

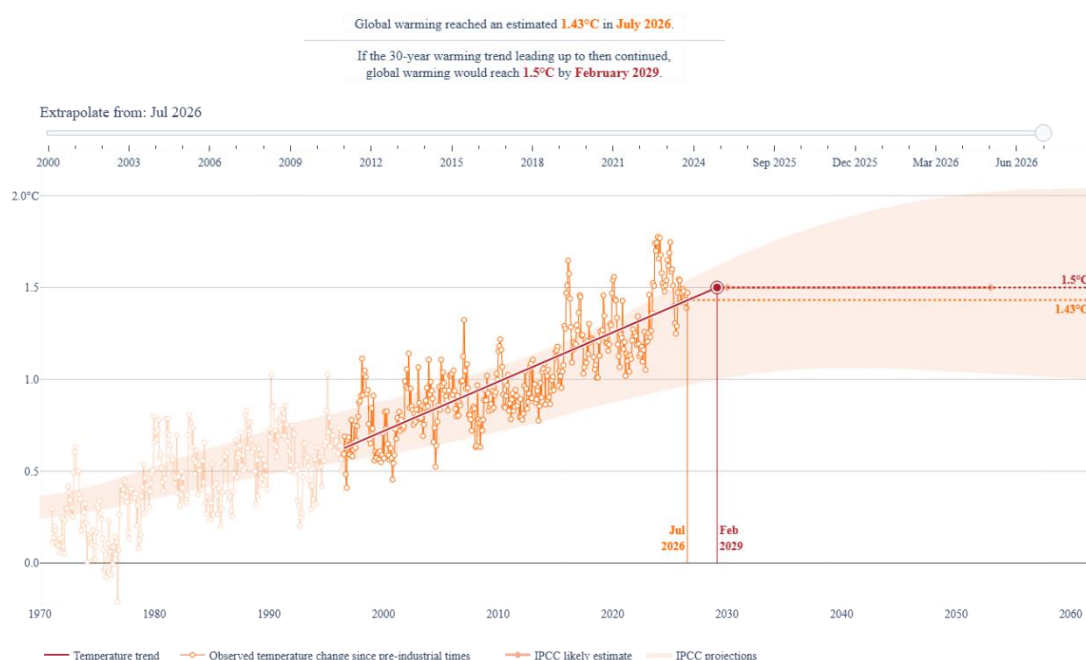
LED Lighting Upgrades

Officers are obtaining quotations for upgrading the multi-use games area at Lynnsport and the Depot to LED.

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).

August 2026 was the warmest August on record globally, with an average surface air temperature of 16.96°C, 0.14°C warmer than the previous joint records set in August 2023 and August 2024. **August was also the joint-warmest month across all calendar months**, on par with July 2023. August was about 1.65°C warmer than an estimate of the August average for 1850-1900, the designated pre-industrial reference period.

The average global temperature for the last 12 months (September 2025 to August 2026) was 1.48°C above the 1850-1900 pre-industrial average.

The average global sea surface temperature (SST) for August 2026 over 60°S to 60°N was 21.07°C, the highest for the month in the dataset, 0.09°C above the previous record set in August 2023. **The average extra-polar SST for August 2026 was also the joint highest on record across all calendar months**, matching the record set in March 2024. This is notable as the highest monthly SST typically occurs in March, while August usually marks a lower, secondary maximum. Since 19 June 2026, the daily extra-polar SST has been the highest recorded for each calendar day. 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.

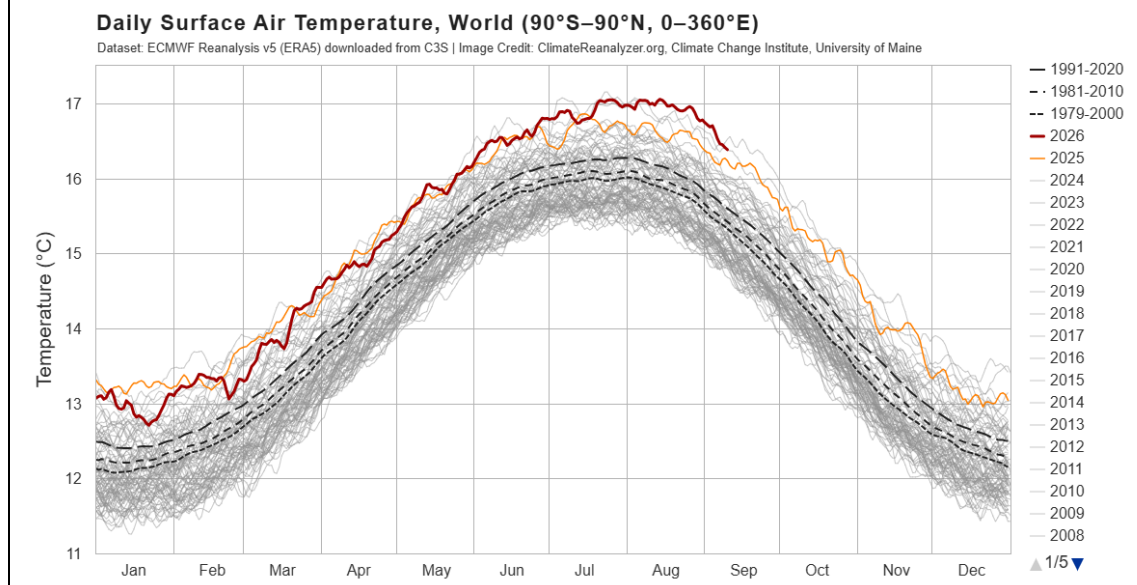
Data source: European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts - ERA5.

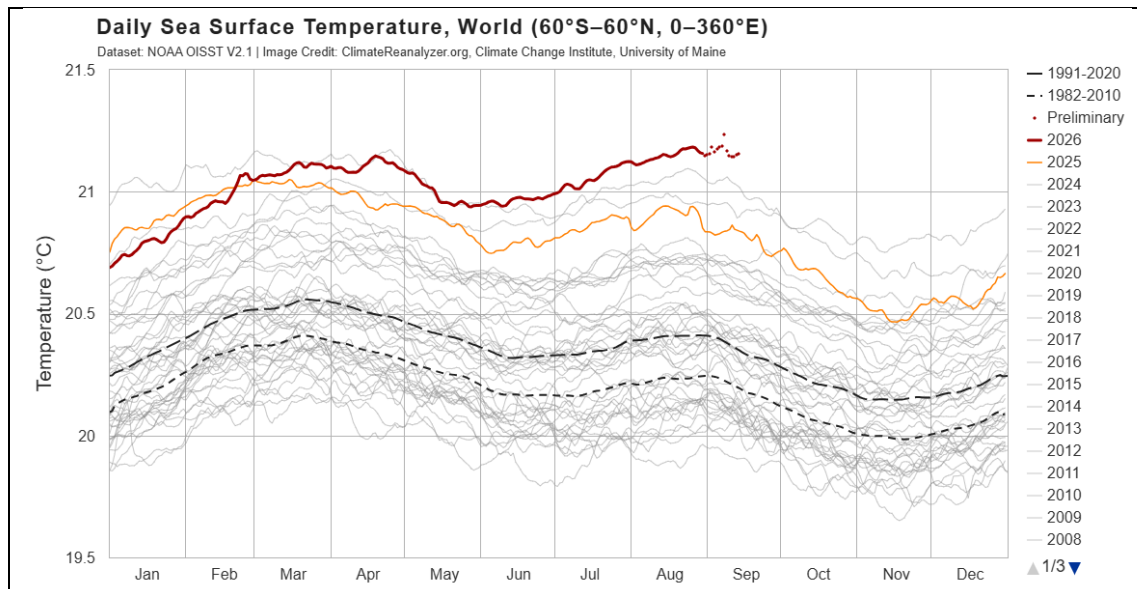
The high SSTs in August 2026 reflected record temperatures for the time of year across many ocean regions, not least the rapidly developing El Niño conditions in the equatorial Pacific, which are expected to intensify into a very strong El Niño event over the coming months and into 2027, according to the World Meteorological Organization.

Arctic sea ice extent for August 2026 was 6.1 million km², circa 9.2% (0.6 million km²) below the 1991–2020 average, the twelfth-lowest monthly extent for August in the 48-year satellite record.

The average Antarctic sea ice extent for the month was 17.0 million km², about 6.5% (1.2 million km²) below the 1991–2020 average. This was the fourth-lowest August extent in the satellite record.

Data source: OSI SAF Sea Ice Index v2.3





2 Forthcoming Activities and Developments.

Beat Your Bills Roadshow

The Borough Council's Ask Lily Team are working with the Norfolk Warm Homes Partnership on a series of events to run over Autumn/Winter 2026/27.

3 Meetings Attended and Meetings Scheduled

Cabinet

Cabinet Briefings

Cabinet Sifting

ICT Development Group

ICT Server Room Tour

NNCP & NWNCP RBMP Workshop

CIL Spending Panel feedback session

Guildhall Member Update

Chairing Skills Training

Lynn Museum – Special Event: Display Case Unveiling

Lynn Museum – Secrets from the Store

King's Lynn and West Norfolk Area Museums Committee

Garden Wildlife Competition Awards

Portfolio Holder Briefings and updates:

CEO Portfolio Update

Climate Change Updates

West Lynn Ferry Updates