

CABINET MEMBERS REPORT TO COUNCIL

29 October 2026

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

For the period 17 September 2026 to 21 October 2026

1 Progress on Portfolio Matters.

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.

Registrations for the 2026/27 scheme closed with 505 expressing an interest in the installation of solar PV panels, battery storage and car chargers. Over the next few months householders will receive quotes and place orders. To date 44 have paid deposits and 24 have withdrawn. A level of drop out is expected as householders obtain comparative quotations, review their financing, consider other priorities, etc.

Mayor's Business Awards – Environmental Champion

Preparations for the 2027 business awards are underway with details announced in the Lynn News and the application portal live at Mayor's Business Awards 2027 - Home Page. This is the 38th Mayor's Business Awards and the final will be held at the King's Lynn Corn Exchange on Friday, 5 March 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 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

Work to screen the National Emergency Briefing on climate change is ongoing.

West Lynn Ferry

Norfolk County Council have raised a number of specific points concerning the operation and marketing of the Ferry in response to our request for a £500,000 matched funding contribution towards the renewal work. Borough Council

Officers replied on 9 October 2026 with reassurances that these matters are being taken seriously and that we are committed to work with NCC to secure the long-term future of the ferry service. To this end, the communications department are arranging to meet with the operator and develop a marketing strategy.

Topographical surveys of the landing structures have been commissioned as part of an ongoing programme to ensure operations safety until the replacement and repair works can be effected.

Preparations for a report to Cabinet, expected early 2027, are ongoing.

Village Green, South Lynn

The Town and Village Green application for South Lynn was unanimously approved by Norfolk County Council planning committee on 20 October 2026. The designation has generated significant media interest.



Norfolk Climate Change Partnership (NCCP)

Norfolk Climate Change Partnership (NCCP) The Partnership's next meeting which was scheduled for the 14 October 2026 is being rearranged. The regional Climate East annual conference took place on 15 October 2026.

Streetlighting Phase II

The majority of standard lanterns have now been upgraded with complete new LED heads.

Attention is now turning to the heritage lanterns, located at Hunstanton (Promenade, Esplanade Gardens, The Green, St Edmunds Terrace), the Walks, Tuesday Market Place and in and around the Quay.

99% of all upgrades are expected to be completed by end of November 2026.

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.

We have commissioned an independent Mechanical and Electrical consultant to prepare a report on the heat pump installations. This work has highlighted a lack of commissioning data, which should have been provided alongside the Operation & Maintenance manuals/health and safety file. Ameresco have been asked to provide this data.

We continue to press Ameresco/Finn Geotherm to deliver improvements on heat pump reliability.

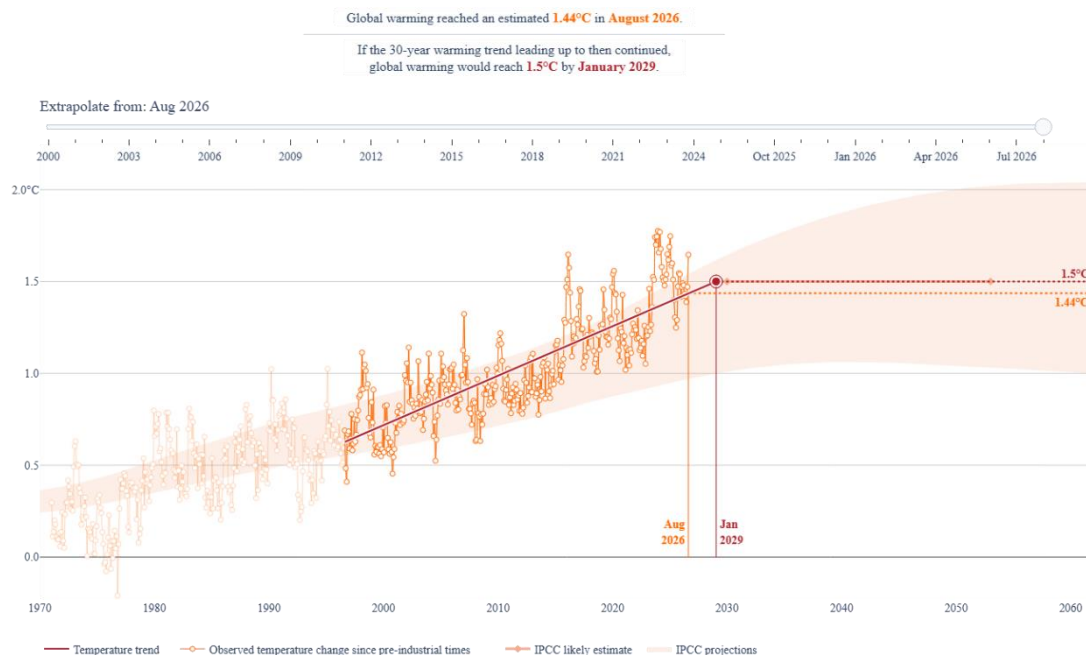
Solar Panels

Officers have authorisation from finance to proceed with the photovoltaic installations at KLIC and the Corn Exchange and a request for quotation is underway.

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).

September 2026 was the second-warmest September on record globally, with an average surface air temperature of 16.27°C, 0.11°C cooler than the record set in September 2023. September was about 1.63°C warmer than an estimate

of the September average for 1850-1900, the designated pre-industrial reference period. The average global temperature for the last 12 months (October 2025 to September 2026) was 1.50°C above the 1850-1900 pre-industrial average.

The average global sea surface temperature (SST) for September 2026 over 60°S to 60°N was 21.05°C, the highest for the month in the dataset, 0.13°C above the previous record set in September 2023 and **was only 0.02°C below the all-time record set in August 2026**. Since 19 June, 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.

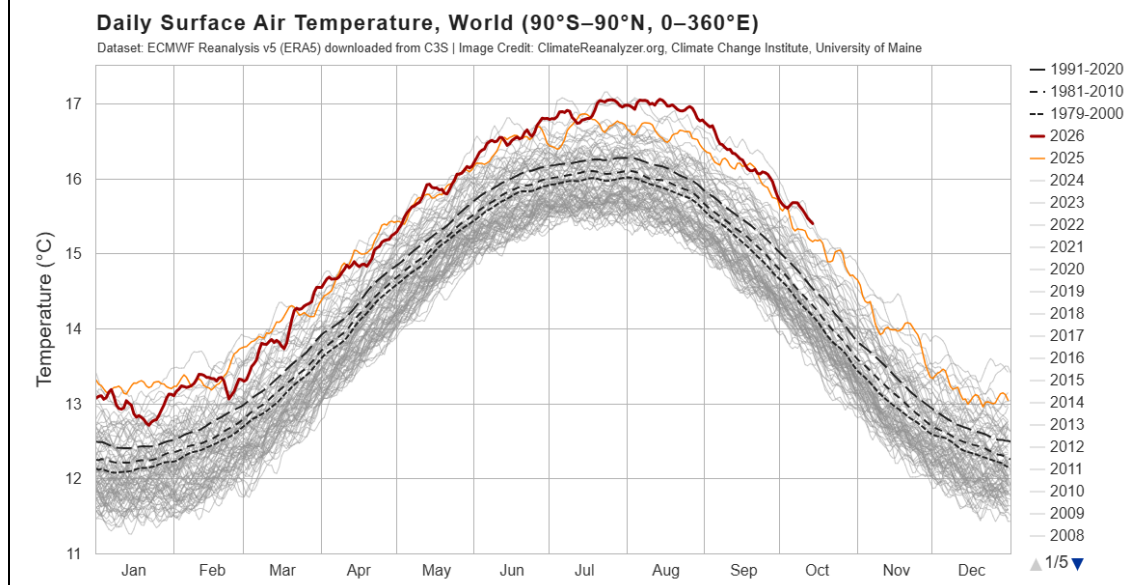
Data source: European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts - ERA5.

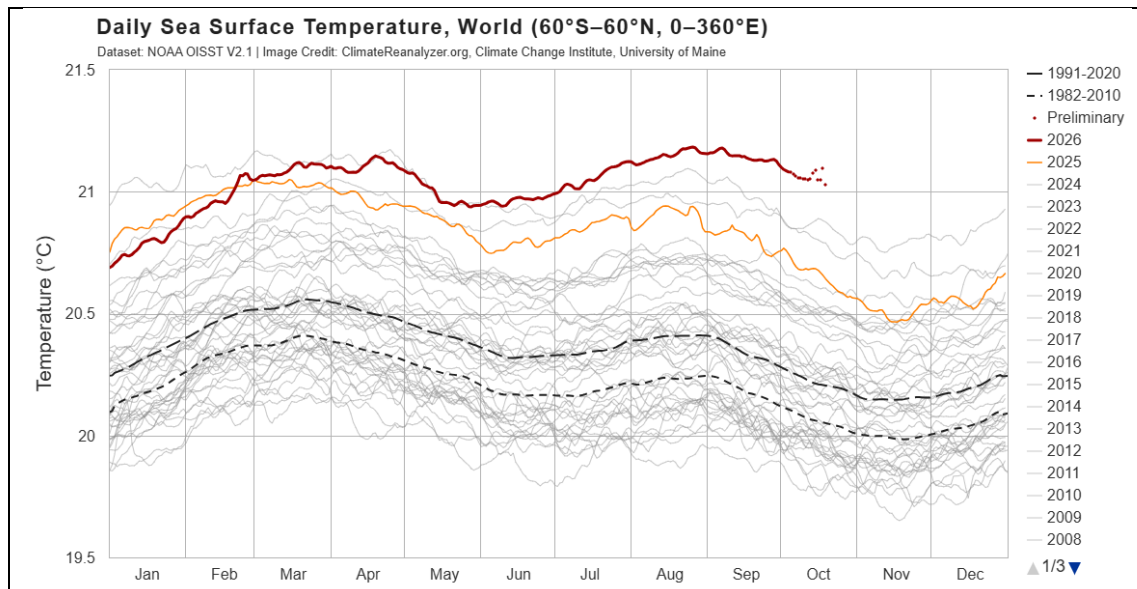
Intensification of El Niño. The monthly SST for the Niño 3.4 region reached an all-time high of 29.70°C in September, exceeding the previous record of 28.81°C set in December 1997. According to the World Meteorological Organization, El Niño is expected to intensify over the coming months, peaking towards the end of 2026 and continuing until at least February 2027.

Arctic sea ice extent for September 2026 was 5.3 million km², circa 9.7% (0.6 million km²) below the 1991–2020 average, the sixteenth-lowest monthly extent for August in the 48-year satellite record.

The average Antarctic sea ice extent for the month was 17.8 million km², about 6.3% (1.2 million km²) below the 1991–2020 average. This was the third-lowest September extent in the satellite record.

Data source: OSI SAF Sea Ice Index v2.3





2 **Forthcoming Activities and Developments.**

Beat Your Bills Roadshow
Fairstead Community Centre - 1.30pm - 5.30pm, Thursday 29 October

3 **Meetings Attended and Meetings Scheduled**

Cabinet
 Cabinet Briefings
 Cabinet Sifting

Local Plan Task Group
 QEH – All Member Briefing
 Annual Climate East Conference
 King's Lynn IDB meeting
 Norfolk Parking Partnership Joint Committee (Substitute)
 Fairstead Recreation Ground – Wildflower Planting
 Joint Panel - QEH

Portfolio Holder Briefings and updates:

CEO Portfolio Update
 Climate Change Updates
 West Lynn Ferry Updates