



Norfolk County Council

Latest Information, Advice, Useful Links and Service Updates

Updated 29 July 2021

This weekly briefing is intended as a resource to keep you up to date with the latest information and advice.

Covid-19 Trusted sources of information

The most recent **verified data on cases in the UK and Norfolk** is available from Public Health England [here](#) and the Norfolk Insights website [here](#).

Everyone has a key role in promoting www.nhs.uk/coronavirus and www.gov.uk/coronavirus as trusted sources of information to the public. It is important to ensure people go to the right sources of information and keep up to date with how to look after themselves.

Keep up to date: We have [a dedicated webpage for coronavirus updates](#) in Norfolk and impact on Norfolk County Council services. This is updated regularly so please do re-visit this page.

Service updates: The most up to date information on council services can be found at [Norfolk County Council services disruptions](#). The council will continue to monitor its services and, if regulations and circumstances change, it will review its current plans.

Latest national announcements

Disability Strategy:

The Government [has launched a new disability strategy](#) aimed at delivering accessible housing, easier commuting and better job prospects for people living with disabilities. The National Disability Strategy sets out a number of commitments supported by £1.6bn of funding.

These commitments include consulting on introducing workforce reporting for businesses with more than 250 staff on the number of disabled people, and a new online advice hub available to provide information discrimination in the workplace.

These initiatives, as well as piloting an Access to Work Adjustments Passport to help smooth the transition into employment and support people changing jobs, are designed to tackle the disability employment gap, which is currently at 28.6%. The strategy will also see £300m invested in creating places, improving existing provision in schools and making accessibility adaptations for children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities.

Flood Schemes Investment:

Thousands more homes and businesses are to be better protected from flooding and coastal erosion, as part of plans published today by the Government outlining a record £5.2 billion of investment over the next six years. More than £860 million will be spent in 2021-22 boosting design and construction [of more than 1,000 schemes across England](#) as part of the Environment Agency's annual capital programme.

It is all part of the Flood and Coastal Erosion Investment Plan, published today (Thursday, 29 July), which sets out how new flood and coastal schemes will better protect 336,000 properties by 2027, helping to avoid £32 billion in wider economic damages and reducing the national flood risk by up to 11 per cent. This follows the Environment Agency's successful delivery of the government's previous £2.6 billion investment between 2015 and 2021, better protecting more than 314,000 homes.

The funding will be accompanied by a consultation in the autumn, where the Government will look at how to better protect frequently flooded communities, following a call for evidence earlier this year. It will consider how to strengthen the assessment of local circumstances, such as where areas have flooded on multiple occasions, when allocating funding during the six-year plan.

Covid-19

Vaccine Donation:

The Foreign Secretary has announced that the UK will begin to [deliver 9 million COVID-19 vaccines](#) around the world to help tackle the pandemic.

The UK will this week begin delivering 9 million COVID-19 vaccines around the world, including to Indonesia, Jamaica and Kenya, to help tackle the pandemic, Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab announced today (Wednesday 28 July).

Five million doses are being offered to COVAX, the scheme to ensure equitable, global access to COVID-19 vaccines. COVAX will urgently distribute them to lower-income countries via an equitable allocation system which prioritises delivering vaccines to people who most need them. Another 4 million doses will be shared directly with countries in need.

Indonesia will receive 600,000 doses, 300,000 will be sent to Jamaica and 817,000 are to be transported to Kenya, among other countries.

Business and Economy

Business School for 16-25s:

Starting next week, the Business & IP Centre (BIPC) Norfolk, managed by Norfolk County Council's Library and Information Service, is running a free online Summer School for 16-25-year-olds to help them decide whether starting their own business might be right for them.

Participants are encouraged to attend all the Summer School workshops but, if this isn't possible, once registered they can confirm which workshops they are able to attend. If they

don't have a business idea they would like to pitch, they are still welcome to attend the final session and watch the pitches.

For more details and to register, see the BIPC Norfolk [Eventbrite page](http://www.bipcnorfolk.eventbrite.com) (www.bipcnorfolk.eventbrite.com)

Businesses set to benefit from new funding initiative:

Businesses in Norfolk and Suffolk are being encouraged to take advantage of a new capital grant opportunity of up to £30,000. DRIVE, the Delivering Rural Investment for Vital Employment Programme, wants to hear from small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) to grow the region's rural economy.

Launched in February 2021, the new £3m scheme is funded by The European Regional Development Fund. The programme supports local businesses to invest in new projects that benefit their growth and create new employment.

Applications can be made for up to 40% of total project costs, with a minimum grant of £5,000 and a maximum of £30,000.

Transport and Environment

Long Stratton Bypass:

Norfolk County Council's proposal for the Long Stratton Bypass has moved a significant step closer today after the Government has confirmed vital funding for the project.

Approval of the council's Outline Business Case, submitted in January, has now been received from The Department for Transport along with a funding commitment of £26.2 million towards the cost of the building the new road, which will cut congestion and support the local economy for years to come.

The proposed new A140 bypass will be a single carriageway road that will provide a new junction at Church Lane to the north, extending from this junction on the east side of Long Stratton in a southerly direction for approximately 3.9km, where it will re-join the existing A140 just south of Oakside farm.

The estimated overall cost of the bypass is £37.44m with the remaining funding primarily sourced from local developer contributions and Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL).

Subject to receiving all of the necessary statutory approvals, including planning permission, the target date for work to start on construction is mid-2023, with the road open to traffic before the end of 2024.

Car-Free Day:

Norfolk County Council is encouraging residents to give up their cars on Sunday 19 September in support of car-free day, a global initiative to reduce carbon emissions.

The council will be waiving fees for residents who wish to apply for a temporary street closure in their local community. Communities will be able to use the time for '[Street Play](#)', a project started in Bristol which is designed to give children the freedom to play directly outside their own front door.

Further guidance on conditions and how to apply for a temporary street closure for Norfolk Car-Free Day can be found at www.norfolk.gov.uk/carfreenorfolk

The deadline for applications is Friday 20 August.

Waste Challenge:

Residents of a street in Thetford will be going head to head with High Street in Lowestoft in the Street That Saved Challenge this summer.

During the 1 month Street that Saved challenge, participating households on Staniforth Road in Thetford will be given bespoke advice and a free food saving kit to help cut waste. Along the way there will be prizes and different challenges to keep things lively - not to mention a little healthy competition with their rivals over the border.

On average Norfolk households waste £730 of edible food every year. The new challenge is part of the work Norfolk County Council's waste and recycling team does with Food Savvy ([FOOD SAVVY](#)) - a collaborative food waste reduction campaign led by Norfolk County Council, Suffolk Waste Partnership (www.suffolkrecycling.org.uk/suffolk-waste-partnership) and environmental charity, Hubbub (www.hubbub.org.uk)

General Updates

Norfolk Fire and Rescue Service:

Water Safety:

It has already been a busy season for water rescues this year. With visitors and residents hitting the waterways this summer instead of going abroad, the service will be conducting public safety awareness sessions.

The first is on Friday (30) at Bawsey Country Park, where sadly there have been four water deaths in the last decade.

NFRS will be educating the public in how to use throwlines, what to do if they find themselves in trouble, including the 'Float to Live' advice and will also be continuing sessions to train waterside business staff across Norfolk in lifesaving techniques.

They are joined by various partners from the Drowning Prevention Forum at the events, including the police's Broads Beat and RNLI.

Last year our service attended 58 water rescues (not including flooding) and there were 9 water fatalities in Norfolk.

You can read more about their summer safety work here: [Fire service hosts water safety events - Norfolk County Council](#)