

COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT APRIL 2025

Local Government Reorganisation - shaping the future of Norfolk's council services

People and organisations in Norfolk are being invited to give their views to help shape the future of local government in the county.

Norfolk County Council is posing a series of questions and will use the replies to help it draw up plans for a future council structure.

The county council wants to hear from organisations and individuals about what's working well, what could be improved and what they'd like to see for their local area.

This is an opportunity to rethink how local public services in Norfolk can best meet future needs and aspirations.

[The feedback form](#) is available from 23 April to 20 May. People can answer as many or as few questions as they wish to. Views expressed will help shape the county council's proposals, with further engagement planned when a preferred option is identified.

There is more about local government reorganisation in Norfolk County Council's webpages at www.norfolk.gov.uk/LGR

Improvements to prevent potholes

Norfolk County Council's annual spring and summer road surface dressing programme started on 7 April and will see Norfolk's roads get a new seal to help prevent potholes forming and extending the life of roads with a new skid-resistant surface to reduce the risk of accidents.

The work continues through until September, to take advantage of the warmer weather.

This year 320 miles of Norfolk roads will be dressed - up from 280 miles last year, due to extra funding from the Department for Transport for highways maintenance.

The programme will target high tourism areas and main roads first, so that they are complete before the start of the busy summer season. The total programme will cost around £12 million and is a proven pro-active approach to highways maintenance.

Last year, Norfolk was the top performing county council in the country when it came to road repairs. According to Department of Transport statistics, Norfolk County Council fixed 92 percent of repairs reported during 2023/24, and in the same year Norfolk County Council achieved first place overall in the National Highways and Transportation customer satisfaction survey.

Avian Flu – Norfolk update

On 28 March 2025 highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) H5N1 was confirmed in commercial poultry in premises near Wymondham, Norfolk. A 3km protection zone and 10km surveillance zone were declared surrounding the premises. All poultry on the premises will be humanely culled.

Government guidance about bird flu, how to prevent it and stop it spreading is available [here](#).

[Norfolk County Council Trading Standards webpages](#) also include useful links to the latest situation, further information and guidance related to bird flu.

Fortunately there have been no new outbreaks since then.

Norfolk County Council waived fees for street parties to celebrate VE and VJ Day

This year marks the 80th anniversaries of VE and VJ Day on 8 May and 15 August respectively and Norfolk County Council has offered communities the chance to close their road free of charge for celebrations.

The anniversaries will be a time for reflection and celebration, and an opportunity for the nation to come together to honour and pay tribute to those that lived through and served during Second World War. The days mark the end of World War II in Europe (VE Day) and Japan surrendering in the Far East, officially marking the end of the Second World War (VJ Day).

Communities across Norfolk can join the national celebrations by hosting their own street party between Saturday 3 and Monday 5 May 2025 (VE80) or between Friday 15 and Sunday 17 August 2025 (VJ80).

Norfolk Fire and Rescue Service shortlisted for an award

A collaboration between Norfolk's fire and ambulance services has been shortlisted for an industry award.

Norfolk Fire and Rescue Service (NFRS) has been shortlisted for Project of the Year at the Global Search and Rescue Excellence Awards 2025, for its work with the East of England Ambulance Service NHS Trust (EEAST) which sees trained firefighters respond to the most serious medical emergencies in their area.

There are ten fire stations in Norfolk where firefighters have been trained by EEAST paramedics to co-respond to Category 1 calls in the area, such as cardiac arrests. The aim of the partnership is to get help to patients as quickly as possible, in situations where every second counts.

The Global Search and Rescue Excellence Awards 2025 take place on 16 May 2025.

Nature recovery strategy for Norfolk

Norfolk County Council is inviting residents, landowners, conservation experts, and local communities to take part in the public consultation on Norfolk's draft Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS).

Running from 16 April to 11 June, this consultation aims to gather feedback on priorities and actions for restoring and enhancing nature across Norfolk.

The LNRS seeks to reverse biodiversity loss, support climate adaptation, and promote sustainable land use to benefit both people and wildlife. It is one of 48 across the country, aimed at addressing the decline in nature and identifying a network of areas to help it recover.

The draft strategy has been created with input from other local authorities alongside nature experts, farmers, land managers and Norfolk residents.

People are encouraged to review the [Local Habitat Map](#), draft LNRS, and FAQs and take part in the consultation [here](#).

Norfolk and Suffolk County Councils are working together via the Norfolk & Suffolk Nature Recovery Partnership, in recognition that some of our most important wildlife-rich spaces are shared by both counties. Further information is available on the Norfolk and Suffolk Nature Recovery Partnership website [here](#).