

County Councillor Report for July 2026

Norfolk County Council Chief Executive

The NCC Chief Executive, Tom McCabe, stepped down after 7.5 years as the authority's senior officer. The Director of Legal Services and Monitoring Officer, Kat Hulatt, has been appointed interim chief executive. Recruitment to the permanent post is currently taking place.

Norfolk County Council submits judicial review of Local Government Reorganisation proposals

A judicial review has been submitted by Norfolk County Council in response to the proposed Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) programme in Norfolk.

The Government's proposals would replace the current two-tier system of local government in Norfolk, comprising the county council alongside district, city and borough councils, with a new structure of three unitary authorities.

The submission of a judicial review represents an early stage in the legal process. The court will consider whether the case should be granted permission to proceed. If so, the case would move to a substantive hearing where the Government's decision-making process will be examined.

Greater Norwich Local Plan (GNLP) additional Call for Sites

Landowners, developers, and other interested parties were invited to submit further sites that may be suitable for housing, employment or other uses in the period from 15th June – 13th July 2026. The Greater Norwich authorities will now assess the submissions to identify which sites may be suitable to allocate in the new local plan which will form the basis of a future public consultation.

Electrical waste collections resume at Norfolk Recycling Centres from 13 July

Norfolk County Council has confirmed that electrical waste items and batteries will again be accepted at all Norfolk recycling centres from Monday 13 July.

The service was temporarily suspended following a significant fire in April at commercial premises in Thetford used by the council's previous electrical waste contractor. This reduced treatment capacity and meant some electrical items and batteries could not be accepted at recycling centres across the county.

New arrangements are now in place through the Producer Compliance Scheme, Recycling Lives. Shred Station, based in Rackheath, will collect and treat waste electrical and electronic equipment, allowing the service to resume safely.

We thank everyone for their patience while alternative arrangements were put in place.

Residents can book a visit to a Norfolk recycling centre on the county council website: [Norfolk Recycling Centre bookings](#).

Norfolk Fire & Rescue Service – fire safety campaign

Norfolk Fire & Rescue Service, working with the Norfolk Resilience Forum, is running a fire safety campaign in response to the increased risk of outdoor fires during the recent hot, dry weather.

The campaign is being promoted across Norfolk, with parish councils asked to display fire prevention posters in higher-risk coastal and inland areas.

Councillors can support the campaign by sharing the advice locally and displaying posters in appropriate community locations. (Posters should only be displayed with the appropriate permissions and must not be placed on street furniture without consent). Posters can be requested from norfolkresilienceforum@norfolk.gov.uk.

Further fire safety advice, including safety both inside and outside the home, is available on the county council webpages [here](#).

Flood readiness

Residents are being reminded that flooding can happen at any time of year, including during the summer months. The [Norfolk Strategic Flooding Alliance \(NSFA\)](#), which brings together organisations across the county to manage flood risk, is urging people to stay aware and be prepared.

Although flooding is often associated with winter storms, sudden summer downpours can also cause flash flooding, particularly after prolonged hot and dry weather. Last summer, Norfolk County Council's Flood and Water team received 100 reports of flooding, including 54 confirmed cases of internal flooding. More than a third of home insurance flood claims occur between June and August, with almost a quarter occurring in July and August alone.

Flash flooding can happen quickly, affect homes and businesses not previously considered at risk, and may be difficult to predict.

For practical flood preparation advice go to the county council webpages [here](#).

Flooding anywhere in Norfolk can be reported via the Flooding Hotline on 0344 800 8013. In an emergency, or where there is immediate danger to life, residents should dial 999.

Big Norfolk Holiday Fun programme

This summer's Big Norfolk Holiday Fun programme is now live, offering opportunities from kayaking and climbing to cooking and coding!

Between 20 July and 02 September, activities will take place across Norfolk, giving children the chance to stay active, try new things and make new friends during the school holidays. Families can choose from a wide range of activities and there are also SEND-specialist sessions.

Sessions are delivered by organisations across the county, in partnership with Norfolk County Council and Active Norfolk - [click here to browse the full list of what's on offer](#).

Norfolk Libraries - Summer Reading Challenge

Norfolk Libraries are supporting this year's Summer Reading Challenge, *Read to the Beat*, which uses children's interest in music to encourage reading and help address declining literacy levels. The challenge is important because, nationally, one in four children cannot read well by age 11, and 8.7 million adults lack basic reading skills.

The challenge runs from Saturday 4 July to Saturday 12 September, with free children's activities in Norfolk libraries, including sessions with professional music and dance artists. A full list of events can be found [here](#).

There is a mini challenge for under-fives, while children aged 4 to 11 can set their own reading goals and explore music-themed reading lists.

Children who complete the challenge will receive a medal and certificate.

Norfolk and Norwich Millennium Library to reopen

The Norfolk and Norwich Millennium Library will reopen at 10am on Wednesday 29 July after a £1.3 million refurbishment. The library welcomes around one million visitors a year and is one of the country's busiest public buildings.

Improvements include a new entrance, more study space, refreshed children and teenage areas, better accessibility, charging points and a new events space. The temporary Forum pop-up closes on Friday 24 July.

Norfolk Museums - summer holiday activities

Norfolk museums are hosting a range of summer holiday programs from mid-July to early September. Highlights include medieval activities at Norwich Castle, celebrating the 100th birthday at the Museum of Norwich at the Bridewell, nature and historical trails at Gressenhall Farm, pirate-themed fun at Time & Tide, and audio-visual trails at Strangers' Hall.

Further details of what's on at Norfolk Museums are available [here](#).

Healthy Ageing: feel connected campaign

Public Health Norfolk's *Feel Connected* campaign is encouraging older residents to stay socially active as part of a wider two-year healthy ageing initiative. The current phase runs from 6 July to 20 August 2026 and focuses on reducing loneliness and isolation by helping people aged 55 and over, particularly those approaching retirement, living alone or at risk of isolation, to find local opportunities to connect with others.

Norfolk has one of the highest ageing populations in the UK and around 125,500 people living alone. Social isolation and loneliness are linked to poorer physical and mental health, higher mortality and increased reliance on health and social care services. The campaign highlights the benefits of spending time with others, sharing experiences and feeling part of a community.

Local activities and support can be found at www.norfolk.gov.uk/feelconnected.

Subscribe to the Healthy Ageing newsletter at www.norfolk.gov.uk/healthyageing

Norfolk Trading Standards - further action on illicit cigarettes and tobacco

Norfolk County Council's Trading Standards team, working with Norfolk Police, HMRC and district councils, has continued enforcement against illicit tobacco and vapes, with more than 123,000 illicit cigarettes seized across Norfolk since May 2026.

Police & Crime Commissioner Norfolk

On 16 July 2026, Reform candidate Colin Sutton was elected Norfolk's Police and Crime Commissioner. One of his first tasks will be to consult the public, partners and Norfolk Constabulary on a new Police and Crime Plan.

More information about the PCC is available [here](#). The PCC is scrutinised by Norfolk's Police and Crime Panel, with more information on the county council webpages [here](#).

NHS Norfolk and Suffolk Mental Health Plan

NHS Norfolk and Suffolk Integrated Care Board has [unveiled its Mental Health Strategic Plan 2026-2031](#), including a planned £20 million expansion of Mental Health Support Teams to every school and college in Norfolk and Suffolk by 2030.

The plan draws on Joint Strategic Needs Assessments developed with Norfolk and Suffolk County councils and highlights links between poor mental health, deprivation and wider health inequalities, including diagnosed depression among around 15% of adults locally.

This is relevant to Norfolk County Council because mental health affects demand across children's services, adult social care, education, community safety and prevention. The plan aligns with the council's focus on early help, reducing inequalities and managing demand on acute services.

Redundancy support for job losses at British Sugar, Cantley

The council's Redundancy Support Service is helping employees affected by British Sugar's proposal to stop beet processing at Cantley from the end of February 2027. The proposal, subject to consultation, puts around 104 jobs at risk at a site important to the local economy and farming supply chain. British Sugar has said it intends to concentrate beet processing at Wissington, Bury St Edmunds and Newark.

The council's support offer can help affected workers find new employment or self-employment opportunities, access benefits and wellbeing advice, develop skills, and get practical help with CVs, applications, interviews and mentoring.

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Norfolk County Council
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