

County Councillor Report for June 2026

Cllr Kabeer Kher, Yare & Necton

Councillor Training and County Hall Introductions

During the month of May, alongside all of my fellow new councillors, I spent a few weeks getting to grips with my new role as County Councillor for Yare & Necton. We heard presentations from all of the departments in County Hall.



The most impressive presentation was from Adult Social Care which takes up 65% of the Council's budget.

The department has been emulating the model from Essex of more bespoke care in order to offer a more tailored approach as well as reducing cost on parts of the care package that people felt they wouldn't benefit from. These changes should help us meet some of the fiscal challenges we have this year and next, but beyond that is uncertain as there is a limit to how much costs can be reduced, and eventually the lower tax revenues and ageing population pressures will start to bite in a way that cannot be solved by reform of the system.

Children's Services also gave an impressive first presentation as they have just been awarded a grade of "Outstanding" by Ofsted, despite being in special measures 10 years ago. So clearly there is some good work being done in some departments.

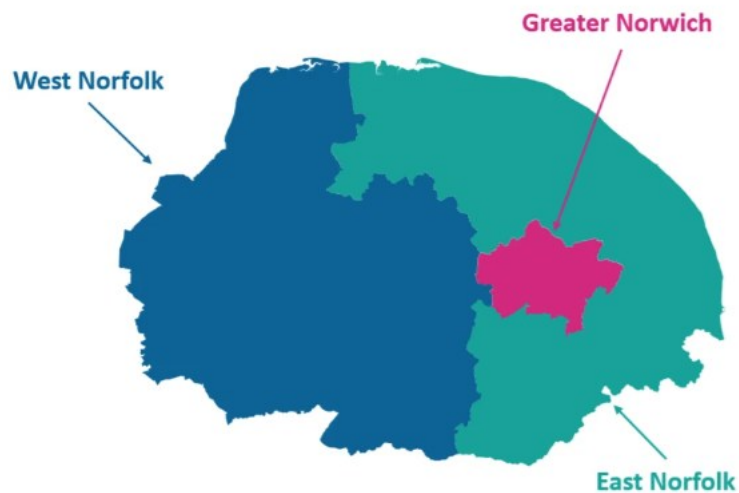


Other departments face some challenges and have room for improvement and that is something we will be getting into the detail of over the coming months. Certain departments are clearly over staffed and under delivering in terms of value for money and we will be looking to make those departments a lot leaner.

Local Government Reorganisation

In terms of Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) our group stands firmly against it and we have already begun investigating how we can delay or stop LGR. It is estimated that the cost would be more than £90 million and that estimate could increase over the next few years. All of that money would have to come from local tax-payers and not central government. We cannot see why LGR should be taking place, but if it does we feel that one council is the only model which might actually save some money. We have to be careful about launching a judicial review as they can be expensive and the legal costs would not be refunded even if the council won. However we are not taking any options off the table for now. A letter has been sent to the Secretary of State and you can see a copy of it on my Facebook page “Kabeer Kher for Mid Norfolk”.

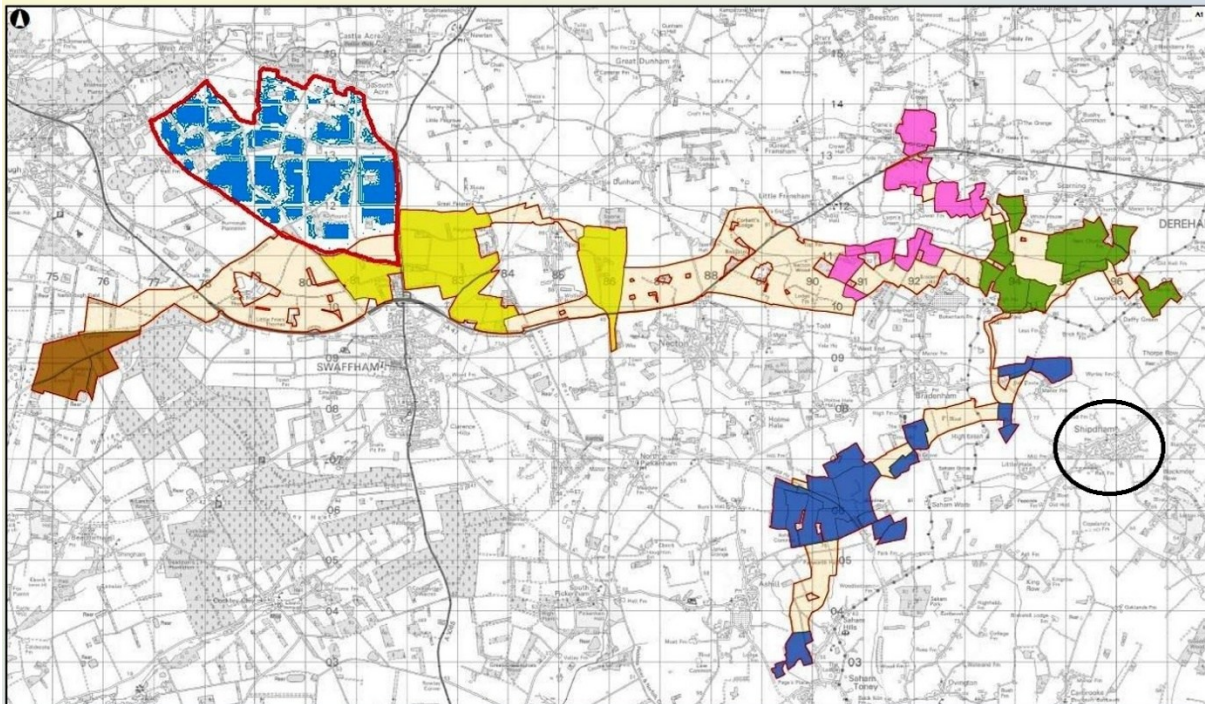
The 3 Council Model



The letter sets out our objections to LGR based around the lack of a mandate for the change, the enormous costs and the unrealistic timetable.

Solar Factory Farms

Regarding nearby Solar Factory Farms I and Reform UK stand firmly against these developments which will increase the cost of our electricity, make our energy supplies less reliable, reduce food security and blight the countryside with eyesores and fire risks. The UK does not have an appropriate climate for solar and the cost of connecting these factories to cities will cost £56 Billion nationally. That money would be far better spent on nuclear power, and domestic oil and gas, which would use far less CO2 than importing from abroad.



Highways

Regarding Highways the priority of this council will be to invest money in tackling road maintenance and pot-holes rather than spending money on changing speed limits or adding new zebra crossings etc. So you may find that your needs for road repairs are satisfied more quickly than any requests for changes in speed limits.