



Norfolk County Council

Latest Information, Advice, Useful Links and Service Updates

Updated 29 September 2022

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](#) and [Norfolk Insights](#).

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](#)

Norfolk and Waveney Integrated Care System

COVID 19 Autumn Boosters

NHS chiefs are urging people to get vaccinated without delay ahead of a potential 'twindemic' of Covid-19 and flu this winter.

COVID 19 autumn boosters are via booked appointments only across sites in Norfolk and Waveney.

People aged 65+, carers and pregnant women can book an appointment online to have their autumn booster or call 119 (as long as it's been three months since their last dose).

Around 26 million people across England will be eligible for an autumn booster in line with guidance set out by the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI).

The autumn booster can be booked online for anyone who is:

- aged 65 or over
- pregnant
- aged 5 and over and at high risk due to a health condition
- aged 5 and over and at high risk because of a weakened immune system
- aged 16 and over and lives with someone who has a weakened immune system
- aged 16 and over and is a carer, either paid or unpaid
- a frontline health and social care worker

People aged 50 to 64 years old who are not in any of these groups will be able to get a seasonal booster (autumn booster) later in autumn 2022 through to December 2022.

The appointment dates you'll be offered will start from 3 months (91 days) after your previous dose.

To book your COVID-19 booster visit: [Book or manage a coronavirus \(COVID-19\) vaccination – NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](https://www.nhs.uk/vaccination)

Energy Support Scheme

The Energy Price Guarantee will reduce the unit cost of electricity and gas so that a typical household in Great Britain pays, on average, around £2,500 a year on their energy bill, for the next 2 years, from 1 October 2022.

£150 of this £1,000 a year saving will be delivered by temporarily suspending environmental and social costs (including green levies) from being passed onto consumer bills. These costs will be transferred to the government, while customers still benefit from the low-carbon electricity generation. Payment of the Warm Home Discount will be unaffected.

This is in addition to the £400 Energy Bills Support Scheme, which will be paid in 6 monthly instalments from October.

The most vulnerable UK households will also continue to receive £1,200 of support provided in instalments over the year, through discounts to Council Tax and Cost of Living payments for those in receipt of certain benefits.

You do not need to apply, and there's no need to contact your energy supplier.

The discount is automatic. If you get a message telling you that you need to apply, or asking for your bank or credit card details, this could be a scam.

You can report messages you think are suspicious [here](#)

Government's Growth Plan 2022

Infrastructure projects

The Chancellor presented a Growth Plan 2022 to parliament on 23 September 2022.

This included a list of infrastructure projects which government say will be accelerated as fast as possible, aiming to get the vast majority starting construction by the end of 2023.

In Norfolk, the A140 Long Stratton Bypass and the Norwich Western Link are listed as infrastructure projects that will help to meet the Government's ambitions for unlocking housing and economic growth.

Government says these projects may benefit from acceleration through planning reform, regulatory reform, improved processes or other options to speed up their development and construction, including through development consent processes.

More information [here](#)

Investment Zones

Norfolk, along with neighbouring Suffolk, is among 38 areas across England to have been invited by government to form an Investment Zone.

The government says that Investment Zone areas will accelerate the housing and infrastructure the UK needs to drive economic growth by relaxing planning rules and lowering taxes lowered in a specific geographic area.

Further information about Investment Zones [here](#)

A47 - A11 Thickthorn Junction –extended decision date

Highways England have said that given the National Mourning Period, the original decision date of 20 September 2022, relating to changes to Thickthorn roundabout, has been extended until 14 October 2022.

Cabinet to consider further savings to address budget gap

In July 2022 Norfolk county council announced the first £13 million of savings to meet a £60 million budget gap next year. Further proposals will be considered by cabinet in October.

A report for Cabinet says the council has identified further savings, which take the total to £32.5 million.

The latest proposals, totalling £19.5 million, include:

- £11.7 million from adult social services
- £1.8 million from children's services
- £2.9 million from community and environmental services
- £0.05 million from strategy and transformation
- £0.03 million from governance
- £3.1 million from finance and commercial services

The same meeting will consider an update on a strategic review of the council, to improve the way it operates and save between £15 million and £20 million. Once detailed proposals are developed and checked, they will be added to the budget.

Cabinet will consider the report when it meets at 10am on Monday, October 3rd.

Cabinet report [here](#)

Norfolk Schools - new specialist education places proposed

A total of 86 new specialist education places are being proposed at six mainstream schools in Norfolk thanks to the county council's £120 million SEND transformation programme.

Six consultations have opened for the views of parents, professionals, and residents. If agreed, the proposals would see three brand new Specialist Resource Base (SRB) classrooms built on three school sites and existing SRBs at a further three schools increasing their capacity for more children and young people.

The new places, which will be for primary and secondary age children and young people, are in addition to 30 new places agreed earlier this year – bringing the total number of new SRB places provided by the council's transformation programme to 116 this year.

Further information [here](#)

Adult Social Services

Norfolk adults with learning disabilities or autism are to receive dedicated employment support as part of a new government backed scheme.

Norfolk County Council's successful bid to the Department for Work and Pensions means that it is one of 24 local authorities in England and Wales to take part in the Local Supported Employment (LSE) initiative.

Norfolk will receive £210,000 to implement the scheme, recruiting three job coaches to support those seeking work, with help on and off the job.

The scheme will include employer engagement and vocational profiling and use the internationally recognised Place, Train and Maintain model, supporting the employee at each stage.

The LSE initiative is a 29-month project and will be managed through the council's Adult Social Service's Preparing for Adult Life (PfAL) and Employment Service, working closely with colleagues in Children's Services.

It is aimed at people supported by Adult Social Services, as well as young people who are Not In Employment Education or Training (NEET) and those with Special Education Needs Disabilities (SEND).

Those taking part must be known to the local authority, be 18 or over, have a learning disability, or autism, or both and not be in employment.

The county council has just started recruiting for job coaches. You can find more information [here](#)

Norfolk Fire and Rescue Service (NFRS)

Multi-agency water rescue training exercise proves great success

During the weekend of 3 and 4 September, NFRS crews took part in three water rescue training exercises in west Norfolk.

The exercises were attended by King's Lynn watches, Dereham USAR team, Sandringham Drone team, Hunstanton RNLI, Hunstanton Coastguard team, and Watersafe UK Search and Rescue team from Nottingham, who are a DEFRA standard national water rescue team.

The weekend was successful and provided an insight into the various agencies' procedures and equipment, whilst working together to resolve various rescue scenarios including a large scale water search, rescues from mud and rescue boat operations.

Norfolk's crews performed exceptionally well and the partner agencies left some shining feedback alongside the key learning. NFRS said they always strive to improve as they aim to keep Norfolk safe.

Public information notice

Appeal from the Norfolk Coroner's Service for help tracing next-of-kin

The Norfolk Coroner's Service are appealing for help to trace the next-of-kin of a 95-year-old man who has died in Great Yarmouth.

Donald Green, died at his home address Great Yarmouth, Norfolk.

There were no suspicious circumstances.

Despite carrying out enquiries, officers have been unable to trace any next-of-kin.

Anyone with information relating to Donald should contact the Coroner's Office in Norwich on 01603 774773.