Help shape the future of Norfolk's council services

People invited to give their views to help shape the future of local government.

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 your replies to help it draw up plans for a future council structure. The feedback form is available at **www.norfolk.gov.uk/LGRfeedback** and people can answer as many or as few questions as they wish to.

You can find out more about local government reorganisation at **www.norfolk.gov.uk/LGR** and by subscribing to the county council's email bulletin, **Your Norfolk Extra**.

Norfolk's roads to get miles of improvements to prevent potholes

Norfolk County Council has once again demonstrated its commitment to road safety and maintenance, leading the country in road repairs last year. According to Department of Transport statistics, Norfolk fixed an impressive 92% of reported road repairs during 2023/24, and topped the National Highways and Transportation customer satisfaction survey.

Building on this success, Norfolk's annual spring and summer road surface dressing programme began on April 7, aiming to enhance the durability and safety of the county's roads. This proactive programme will treat 320 miles of road this year, up from 280 miles last year, thanks to additional funding from the Department for Transport. The treatment helps prevent potholes, extends road life, and provides a skid-resistant surface that reduces the risk of accidents.

Focusing initially on high tourism areas and main roads, the programme aims to complete these key routes before the summer season begins. With a total investment of around £12 million, this initiative represents a forward-thinking approach to road maintenance that will benefit Norfolk's roads and residents for years to come.

Norfolk County Council waives fees for street parties to celebrate VJ Day anniversaries

This year marks the 80th anniversaries of VE Day on 8th May and VJ Day on 15th August and Norfolk County Council is excited to offer communities the opportunity to host road closures for celebrations, completely free of charge.

These anniversaries provide a special moment for reflection, celebration, and a chance for the nation to unite in honouring and paying tribute to those who lived through and served during the Second World War. VE Day marks the end of WWII in Europe, while VJ Day signifies Japan's surrender, officially ending the war.

Norfolk communities can join in the national celebrations by hosting their own street parties on the following dates: VE80 from Saturday 3rd May to Monday 5th May 2025 and VJ80 from Friday 15th August to Sunday 17th August 2025. Street parties are a wonderful way for neighbours to come together and mark these significant occasions.

To support these celebrations, Norfolk County Council is offering a fee waiver for road closures intended solely for street parties in residential areas. It's a fantastic opportunity for local communities to come together and celebrate these important milestones without the worry of extra costs.

The deadline for applications is as follows:

- VJ80 - Friday 18th July 2025

Find out more about Street Parties for the 80th Anniversaries of Victory in Europe (VE80) and Victory over Japan (VJ80).

Removing illegal and dangerous goods from sale among successes of Trading Standards team in Norfolk

Norfolk's Trading Standards team has made significant strides in consumer safety over the past year, achieving notable successes such as:

- Leading a regional project that removed 1,813 unsafe lithium-ion batteries and chargers from an online marketplace.
- Conducting eight investigations, resulting in five prosecutions for illegal sales of vapes to minors, illegal tobacco, and rogue tradespeople.
- Working with partners to tackle illegal vapes, obtaining court orders to close down persistent traders.
- Calibrating over 25,000 pieces of equipment, generating income reinvested into consumer safety work.
- Raising awareness and implementing No Cold Calling Zones to protect against fraud and scams.
- Supporting the Trusted Trader Scheme, generating £555k in local business revenue.

- Ensuring restaurants follow allergen safety procedures and removing unsafe products from sale, including unroadworthy cars and hazardous toys.
- Addressing animal disease outbreaks like blue tongue virus and avian flu.

Looking ahead, the 2025-2026 service plan focuses on:

- Supporting business and consumer vulnerabilities.
- Promoting environmental protection and compliance with green regulations.
- Investing in workforce development to respond to evolving legal needs.
- Aligning with the Food Standards Agency's new delivery model.
- Enhancing integration with Norfolk Fire and Rescue Service for greater efficiency.
- Expanding commercial services to reduce reliance on grant funding, including a new webshop for calibration services.

Norfolk firefighters to join convoy across Europe to deliver life-saving fire equipment to Ukraine

Earlier this month, Norfolk Fire & Rescue Service (NFRS) will play its part in supporting Ukraine by sending a convoy of volunteer firefighters to deliver essential fire equipment to the war-torn region.

A group of 15 NFRS firefighters will drive five retired fire vehicles across Europe to Ukraine, bringing vital equipment such as ladders, generators, hydraulic rescue tools, light portable pumps, and positive pressure ventilation fans. These vehicles and equipment are part of a larger humanitarian initiative coordinated by FIRE AID and the National Fire Chiefs Council (NFCC).

The five vehicles from Norfolk will be included in a UK convoy of 30 fire appliances, carrying over 15,000 items of essential firefighting equipment to help replace resources lost in the ongoing conflict.

Norfolk fire and ambulance services' joint working shortlisted for award

A partnership between Norfolk's fire and ambulance services has been shortlisted for a prestigious industry award.

Norfolk Fire and Rescue Service (NFRS) is a finalist for Project of the Year at the Global Search and Rescue Excellence Awards 2025, recognizing its collaboration with the East of England Ambulance Service NHS Trust (EEAST). This innovative partnership sees

specially trained firefighters respond to the most critical medical emergencies in their local areas.

In Norfolk, ten fire stations have trained firefighters, alongside EEAST paramedics, to co-respond to Category 1 calls, including life-threatening emergencies like cardiac arrests. The goal of this partnership is to deliver rapid assistance to patients when every second counts.

In the past 12 months, Norfolk firefighters have responded to 60 Category 1 calls, arriving first at the scene in 40% of those incidents. Trained in basic life support, these firefighters can be dispatched by ambulance control when not engaged in their regular duties, helping to ensure timely intervention during critical moments.

Consultation launches on plan to boost Norfolk's Nature Recovery

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

Running from 16th April to 11th June, this consultation offers an opportunity to provide feedback on the priorities and actions for restoring and enhancing nature across the county.

While Norfolk is home to a rich variety of species and natural spaces, many of these are isolated and fragmented. The LNRS aims to reverse biodiversity loss, support climate adaptation, and encourage sustainable land use to benefit both people and wildlife.

As one of 48 Local Nature Recovery Strategies across the country, Norfolk's strategy focuses on addressing nature's decline and identifying key areas for recovery. The draft has been developed with input from local authorities, nature experts, farmers, land managers, and Norfolk residents.

People are encouraged to review the **Local Habitat Map**, draft LNRS, and FAQs available at **www.norfolk.gov.uk/naturerecovery** and submit their input. For additional information, visit the Norfolk and Suffolk Nature Recovery Partnership website or reach out via **naturalnorfolk@norfolk.gov.uk**. Emails monitored Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm. Read our **privacy notice** to find out how we use your personal information.

Public encouraged to learn life-saving water safety skills ahead of this summer

Norfolk Fire and Rescue Service is urging people to learn life-saving water safety skills this spring and summer, following 16 tragic incidents last year where lives were lost in the water.

The National Fire Chiefs Council's Be Water Aware Week, which started on 28th April, raised awareness of accidental drowning risks and provides essential water safety advice ahead of the warmer months.

Key water safety tips include:

- Call 999 for help, not attempting to rescue someone yourself. Use the Coastguard at the coast or Norfolk Fire and Rescue Service inland.
- Stay safe near open water – many drownings occur unexpectedly, such as from slips or falls.
- Respect the water – even calm waters can have hidden dangers.
- Avoid cold water shock – enter water slowly to acclimatise.
- If in difficulty, float on your back to regain control of your breathing.
- Never enter water under the influence of alcohol or drugs.
- Wear a lifejacket, no matter your swimming ability.