



Latest Information, Advice, Useful Links and Service Updates

Updated 3 June 2021

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 [here](#) and the Norfolk Insights website [here](#).

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 really 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](#). The council will continue to monitor its services and, if regulations and circumstances change, it will review its current plans.

Latest national announcements

Expansion of tutoring

The Department for Education (DfE) has [announced £1 billion in funding](#) to help children and young people in England to catch up on lost learning during the pandemic.

£1 billion will support tutoring courses for disadvantaged school children, as well as an expansion of the 16-19 tuition fund, targeting key subjects such as maths and English.

A further £153 million will support professional development for early years practitioners, £253 million will expand existing teacher training and development, and schools or colleges will be able to offer students in year 13 the option to repeat the year if they have been badly affected by the pandemic. Schools and colleges will be funded by DfE help accommodate the additional student numbers.

Support for renters

Renters going through the court process for eviction can access the [Rental Mediation Service](#), a new pilot introduced as part of the current court process for housing possession cases. Mediation is free for all landlords and tenants and helps resolve cases without the need for a face-to-face court hearing.

As [announced on 12 May](#), notice periods, previously extended to six months as an emergency measure during the pandemic, are now set at four months. The restrictions on bailiff enforcement have also now lifted, although bailiffs have been asked not to carry out an eviction if anyone living in the property has COVID-19 symptoms or is self-isolating.

MHCLG is encouraging parties to explore mediation wherever possible and have asked that this information be shared with local communities.

Updates for members

LGA new councillors' welcome event

The Local Government Association (LGA), is hosting a series of welcome events for newly elected councillors.

The events are an opportunity for new councillors to explore what their role means, learn about challenges facing councils, and meet colleagues from other councils. The session will cover a range of national and regional issues of interest, along with an opportunity to meet experienced councillors and hear more about the LGA's support.

Confirmed speakers:

- Cllr Sarah Rouse, Leader, Malvern Hills District Council
- Cllr James Jamieson, Chairman, Local Government Association
- Mark Lloyd, Chief Executive, Local Government Association

The events are free and delegates can choose to attend a session to suit their availability. The sessions will complement councils' own induction programmes.

Sign-up:

- [11 June 2:00 – 3:30pm](#)
- [22 June 10:00 – 11:30am](#)
- [28 June 5:30 – 7:00pm](#)

Social care

Carers Week 2021 - Make Caring Visible and Valued

Carers Week is an annual campaign to raise awareness of caring, highlight the challenges unpaid carers face and recognise the contribution they make to families and communities throughout the UK. It also helps people who don't think of themselves as having caring responsibilities to identify as carers and access much-needed support.

This year we are coming together to Make Caring Visible and Valued.

The campaign is brought to life by thousands of individuals and organisations who come together to provide support for carers, run activities, highlight the vital role carers play in our communities and draw attention to just how important caring is.

Keep an eye out for communications coming out from NCC via our social media channels next week.

Vulnerable young people in Norfolk have chance to take New Roads with launch of dedicated support service

A new service to support some of Norfolk's most vulnerable young people to live within families and achieve their full potential launched on June 1.

New Roads has been set up by Norfolk County Council with significant investment to give young people access to a dedicated support team that sticks with them, understands them, and helps them to achieve and succeed.

Based out of two hubs, in Dereham and Norwich, the service provides young people with education, life coaching and speech and language therapy, as well as access to short term residential beds and foster care placements to help meet their needs.

The aim is to give young people stability, reduce risk-taking behaviour and help to avoid the need for long-term residential care, as well as longer term costs to themselves, the wider system and communities.

The service is being joint funded via the Department for Education's Strengthening Families and Protecting Children programme and is based on the successful No Wrong Door model, developed by North Yorkshire County Council.

It follows a successful bid by Norfolk County Council, as part of its transformation programme within Children's Services. That programme focuses on supporting children to live within families and in stable placements that are close to their home and support networks.

Norfolk County Council has received £5m funding from the DfE to implement and embed the New Roads service.

Norfolk is officially the best place in the UK to learn as an adult

Norfolk County Council's Adult Learning service has been named the UK's leading adult education provider at an awards ceremony this weekend.

The service took home the 'Adult and community learning provider of the year' award at the Tes (Times Educational Supplement) Further Education awards, often referred to as the 'Oscars of education'.

The award recognises providers 'whose imagination and passion' have shown 'excellence in providing a high-quality curriculum with excellent student outcomes'.

Norfolk's Adult learning fought off competition from hundreds of other providers to make the final 7, before taking home the most prestigious award in adult education.

Norfolk's adult learners bucked the national trend throughout the pandemic with improvements in test scores and participation in qualification courses, which fell across the rest of the country.

Norfolk was also one of the first counties to move their adult learning completely online and saw over 3000 people learn virtually last year.

Anyone seeking to refocus, retrain and Reskill can find a course for them on our [Adult Learning pages](#).

The live stream of the event can be found on the [Tes YouTube channel](#). The Adult and community learning provider of the year Award is announced 32 minutes into the stream.

Love Norfolk, Hate Litter – boost for pickers as litter can now be accepted at recycling centres

As the national Great British Spring Clean launches there's good news for litter pickers as the county council announces that it is now able to accept litter at any of Norfolk's recycling centres.

From today anyone who has picked a small amount of litter in the county can bring up to three bags of the waste to a recycling centre for disposal. People looking to organise a group litter pick are still urged to contact their district council who can help provide bags, grabbers and arrange for collection of the waste collected.

To ensure as much litter as possible can be recycled people are asked to fill in a short online form before they take any litter along to a recycling centre for disposal. This will help give prospective pickers useful information, including on separating cans and glass for recycling, and on hazardous items that cannot be accepted at recycling centres such as gas canisters, liquid waste and dog and other animal waste.

As with all household waste it will be free to leave picked litter at the recycling centre. The litter will need to be bagged, with cans and glass separated for recycling, and come from public land such as roadsides and pavements.

If people find large items that have been fly-tipped they are asked to leave it in situ and report it to their local district, borough or city council.

Mulch ado about nothing: Norfolk's composting special offer set to cut 225 tonnes of waste

Popular Bokashi compost bins are again joining a range of cut-price compost bins to suit gardens large and small as Norfolk is urged to Root for Nature. In the second year of a successful campaign the county's waste and recycling team are calling for even more people to switch to composting at home to help reduce and recycle more of their waste.

With more than a third of the contents of people's bins at home made up of waste that could simply be composted the aim is to make it easier for people to join the thousands of others who have already discovered the benefits of composting.

The campaign aims to sell 1,500 cut price home compost bins online and through recycling centres, meaning that an additional 225 tonnes of waste will be composted at home each year.

[Find out more about composting and buy a cut price compost bin at Norfolk Recycles.](#)

Transport

Norwich Western Link

A £168 million Government investment in Norwich's Western Link would boost Norfolk's economy, reduce accidents and journey times and cut carbon emissions, a report reveals.

Norfolk County Council's cabinet is set to consider the appointment of a main contractor for the project and submission of a business case to the Department for Transport (DfT).

The Government is being asked to cover 85 per cent of the project's £198 million cost, leveraging vital national investment into the county. Under DfT criteria, the project represents "high value for money".

The proposed 3.8-mile road would link the Broadland Northway with the A47 and carry 30,000 vehicles per day. A report to cabinet says that the benefits include:

- Significant reductions in north-south and south-north journey times, west of Norwich – boosting the economy
- Improved access to employment sites and housing developments
- Reduced accidents
- Reduced rat-running through villages
- Reductions in carbon emissions from vehicles
- Investment in sustainable transport measures to support walking, cycling and public transport use.

An additional £22 million would be spent on environmental measures, including green bridges and wildlife underpasses, following extensive survey work.

Once cabinet has made its decision on Monday, 7 June, the full council will meet later that day and be asked to endorse their decision.

If the recommendations are approved, a pre-planning public consultation will start in the autumn. A planning application would follow in early 2022. If planning permission is granted, work would start in late 2023, with the road due to open in late 2025.

Cabinet will consider the report when it meets at 10am on Monday, 7 June. [You can read the report and view the meeting live, or a recording afterwards.](#)

Business and economy

Webinars and videos for organisations that trade with the EU

HMRC webinars and videos about trading with the EU are available to share with local stakeholders and businesses.

Topics covered in the webinars include importing and exporting goods, moving goods between Great Britain and Northern Ireland and details of the government's cross-border trade forum, designed to help businesses and traders find answers to questions on the new rules on trading with the EU.

Businesses can now access a [calendar of upcoming webinars and sign up.](#)

The following live webinars are taking place in early June:

- [Customs Import Declarations: an overview](#) (8 June – 11:45am-12:45pm)