

TROWSE WITH NEWTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting, held on 15th September 2025 in The Manor Rooms, Trowse at 7.15pm.

Present: Cllr Bowers (chair), Cllr Owen, Cllr Haynes, Cllr P Greenizan, Cllr A Greenizan, Cllr Cartner and Cllr Price, Cllr Gorman.

044 (001) APOLOGIES

Cllr King. Apologies received and accepted.

045 (002) DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS

Cllrs on the Manor Rooms Management Committee, those with allotments, Trowse School Governors and Trowse Historical Society.

046 (003) MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on the 5th August were agreed and signed.

047 (004). PUBLIC FORUM

4.1

Written District reports – from Cllr Neal and Cllr Fowler are at end of minutes and website

Written County report – from Cllr Thomson at end of minutes and website

4.2. A resident expressed concerns over the speed and noise of traffic along Whitlingham Lane, especially at night, along with the anti-social behaviour taking place at the camp site at Whitlingham, which involves drivers performing donuts around the carpark both at night and during the day. It was also thought that the anti-social behaviour included drug selling/supplying. The resident stated that he and other homeowners had reported issues to the police on numerous occasions but seemingly nothing is being done.

The Clerk mentioned that she thought a village forum about this, and other topics might be worth considering, if we could get other agencies, such as the police, to attend. She will make investigations into this and report back to council.

Another resident also mentioned about reinstating the SpeedWatch location on the road from Norwich. The clerk will also make investigations about this with the Polica SpeedWatch coordinator.

048 (005) MATTERS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Decisions/Actions	Responsible person
White Horse Lane Flooding	Clerk (ongoing – Cllr Gorman stated that he had reported this via FixMyStreet and that some action was going to be taken)
Tree works	Clerk (actioned)
Neighbourhood Watch	Clerk (actioned)
Legal bill payment	Clerk (actioned)

049 (006) COMMITTEE UPDATES

6.1 Update from Personnel and Communications committee.

Cllr Greenizan gave a brief report about the most recent P&C meeting. Discussions took place about the next edition of the newsletter. It was hoped that a Christmas light event could be agreed with the Manor Rooms. The groundsman has undergone his annual appraisal, the Clerks will be undertaken shortly.

6.2 Update from Finance Committee

Signed:

Date:

Cllr Bowers updated members on the Finance Committee. A new savings account will be opened, which has a better interest rate and online access. The finance committee has viewed the budget versus actual for the year to date.

6.3 Update from Open Spaces Committee

Cllr Owen updated members.

- Allotments are currently at full capacity and there is a waiting list for plots. The committee had undertaken a review of the plot fees for next year and taking into consideration the cost of supplying water etc the fee for the coming year was set at £50 for a full plot, £30 for a half/micro plot.
- Discussions have begun around the replacement of two of the larger pieces of play equipment, and quotes are being sourced.
- Investigations are being made into the succession planning of the two large maple trees that have had to have work done. This is due to them coming to the end of their life. The Council thought that planting more mature trees in the gaps between the existing maples will allow for them to become established before the maples have to be totally removed.
- a) To make recommendation to Full Council regarding the repairs estimate for the play equipment as it's over the committee allowance. Full Council to discuss and agree any actions. **This quote was discussed with condition to the removal of the works to the larger equipment (due to this item being replaced in the future), proposed by Cllr Price, seconded by Cllr Gorman, all in favour. Clerk to action.**

At this point in the meeting, Cllr Vic Thomson arrived and gave his monthly report.

050 (007) MANOR ROOMS

Cllr Greenizan gave a brief run down of activities of the Manor Rooms Management Committee.

- There is an upcoming meeting with Community Action Norfolk
- It is hoped that the bowling green can be used for ad hoc crazy golf sessions
- The MRMC are looking into a new Village Hall sign for the MR.
- Thanks were given to Kathy Self following her resignation from the board.

051 (008) FINANCIAL MATTERS

8.1 - Agreement of payments for July and August 2025 – Approved.

8.2 - Agreement of Bank Reconciliation for July and August 2025 – Approved.

8.3 – Budget V Actuals. Cllr Bowers took members through the B v A for the year to date.

8.4 – Conclusion of Audit. The Clerk informed those present that the report from the external auditors has been received and there were no required actions. Details have been placed on the website.

8.5 – Advice was given to individual committees to start thinking about their budgetary requirements for the coming year.

052 (009) PLANNING

Applications

2025/2506 - 9 Newton Close Trowse Norfolk NR14 8TX - Single-storey rear extension, garage conversion, single-storey porch extension and re-standing shed. **Approved**

2025/2648 - 56 Mustard Way Trowse Newton Norwich NR14 8YG - G1 Group of 2 Hornbeams: crown raise to a height of 3.5-4m over the garden (southern and western aspects of the crown), reduce retained portion of the southern and western aspects by 1-1.5m focusing on reducing over-extended portions of the crown to bring into a uniform shape. Current southern and western radial spread 7m. **No Objections.**

2025/2752 - Tree House Whitlingham Lane Trowse Norfolk NR14 8TN - 2 No. Limes - Crown reduction - height by approx 30% to 11m and width by approx 2m all round to 7m. Remove deadwood. **No objections**

2025/2750 - 58 Mustard Way Trowse Norfolk NR14 8YG - T1 Hornbeam - Crown raise over the garden to around a height of 3.5m from ground level, remove significant deadwood and tidy damaged branches by making pruning cuts back to parent growth points. Tip back the extremities of the upper overhang by 0.5-1m (current radial spread 7m). **No objections.**

The below applications are for information only as comments submission deadline fell outside of meeting dates.

Signed:

Date:

2025/2334 – Whitlingham Hall, Kirby Road - T0323, T0324, T0325, T0327, T0328, T0329 Limes - To re-pollard all the lime trees situated alongside the main drive back into the previous pollard points. Bringing the heights from 7.5-8m to a final height of 4m. And the crown spreads from 6m to 2.5-3m. T0309, T0308, T0307 Limes - To re-pollard all the lime trees situated in the bottom car park back into the previous pollard points. Bringing the heights from 7.5m to a final height of 4m and the crown spreads from 6m to 2.5-3m. **Council supported this application as it was required works and not against any council policy.**

2025/2364 - 25 Devon Way Trowse Norfolk NR14 8GE - T1 Cherry Tree, Lateral reduction of 15%, from 4m to 3.5m. T2 Robinia, 15% reduction to crown, height reduced from 12m to 10m, spread reduced from 4m to 3.5m. T3 Magnolia, 15% crown reduction, height reduced from 5m to 4.25m, spread reduced from 4m to 3.5m. T4 Cherry Tree, remove lower lateral into driveway. T5 Cherry tree, reduce laterals over driveway. T6 Cherry tree, reduce lateral spread by 15%, from 5m to 4.25m T7 Robinia, remove rear lateral branch from neighbour's garage roof. **Council supported this application as it was required works and not against any council policy.**

2025/2459 - 3 Newton Close Trowse Norfolk NR14 8TX - Proposed Front Porch. **Council supported this application as it was in keeping with the surrounding houses and was not intrusive to the plot.**

2025/2489 - 13 Highland Crescent Trowse Norfolk NR14 8GA - T1 Lime - To Pollard T2 Maple - Reduce from 8m to 6m and 5.5m to 4m T3 Maple - Crown lift to 3.5m from 4m over drive area. **Council supported this application as it was required works and not against any council policy.**

053 (010) POLICIES AND OTHER ITEMS

10.1 – Neighbourhood Watch. It was thought that this could become part of any Council forum discussions. Clerk to share information in the next newsletter and ask for volunteer coordinators.

10.2 – Wildfire Emergency Plan. The Clerk gave information on the emerging plan. This has been placed on the Council SharePoint for comments.

10.3 – Parking scheme. To review/discuss and agree any actions pertaining to the revised parking scheme as suggested by Norfolk Highways and SNDC. It was resolved that:

- Council proposed to object to the proposed changes to Newton Close, as this will reduce available parking for residents.
- Council proposed to object some of the proposed pay and display bays along Whitlingham Lane. It was considered that the objections lie with the first two proposed bays. There were no objections to the two further bays.
- Council proposed to object to the de-restrictions to parking outside the village shop.

054 (011) DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING.

Monday 20th October 2025 @ 7.15pm.

055 (012). To consider a resolution under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 to exclude the press and public for the duration of item 16a in view of the confidential and personal nature of the business to be transacted. If resolved, such items to be dealt after the item that confirms details of the next meeting

12.1 – To discuss and consider actions pertaining to legal advice received. Cllr Greenizan left the room.

Cllr Bowers and the Clerk took members through ongoing legal discussions and actions.

Members were encouraged to think of budgetary considerations regarding outside maintenance and possible business rates. Clerk to make investigations into business rates.

Meeting closed at 10.15.pm

Decisions/Actions	Responsible person
SpeedWatch	Clerk
Play area works	Clerk
Planning comments	Clerk
Parking comments	Clerk
Business rate investigations.	Clerk

Signed:

Date:

District Cllr Report

Nicola Fowler:

Local Government Reform Update

After much consultation with the Council's working committee and a lot of work from the Council administration staff, the report drawn up by the consultants on behalf of South Norfolk District Council will be put to a vote at an all-Members Council meeting on 24th September. An all-Members meeting is also scheduled beforehand on 22nd September to go over the report in detail.

The report, once agreed by the Council Members, will be forwarded to the Government by the deadline of 26th September.

For more information on South Norfolk Council's position, please click on the following link:

[South Norfolk Council: Local Government Reorganisation \(LGR\) in Norfolk | Broadland and South Norfolk](#)

Norfolk Warm Homes

The Norfolk Warm Homes Team has been awarded £3.9m of funding. South Norfolk District Council working in partnership with the Team, will be inviting eligible householders to apply.

Letters will be forwarded to households that are expected to fit the criteria to apply for grants to fund items such as solar panels, clean heating and insulation.

Lisa Neal:

District Councillor Report – September 2025

Renewable Energy:

May have seen in media SNC has drawn up a new guide for developers of mega solar farms, we have a real concern on the number of applications we are receiving for renewable energy. I have listed some below:

We have the National Grids pylons from Norwich to Tilbury

East Pye Solar Farm – 2,700 acres spread across South Norfolk

An unnamed site for over 5,000 acres in Gissing

Another site near Long Stratton for 2,500 acres

A Tasway Scheme for approx. 3,000 acres west of the Town

Battery Storage Plants

Two wind farm projects, turbines in the sea but cables have to get to new electricity station

SNC doesn't make the decision on these large schemes the Secretary of State will.

Therefore we are lobbying the Government stating that we are not against renewable energy schemes but we are being swamped, and we have a concern regarding the amount of agricultural land we are losing.

Busy August:

Park Hotel, Diss:

The Park Hotel in Diss has been used to house asylum-seeking families, who have been living there for two years, these families had integrated well into the Town with the children attending local schools.

SNC suddenly received an email from the Home Office stating that in the next few days they would be moving the families out and replacing them with single males.

Signed:

Date:

We immediately decided this was totally unacceptable and we decided to push for the bid to be withdrawn, and for the families to be allowed to stay, we then started to look at planning enforcement powers to stop this action.

I'm pleased to say after battling for weeks, the Home Office has now announced the hotel will not be used to house asylum seekers at all.

Although we welcome the decision, in reality it does mean that the women and children who we fought so hard to protect will now be moved elsewhere.

- **Lotus:**

Last week we were contacted suddenly by Lotus asking to have a meeting with our Leader, he was told in this meeting that Lotus are set to sack nearly half its UK workforce, up to 550 jobs, it has confirmed.

The manufacturer blamed US President Donald Trump and his tariff hikes for the decision, although their sales fell by 42% in the first quarter in the year.

The shock move is said to be part of a major restructuring of the firm.

The UK headquarters, based in Hethel, has been the home of the sports car's production since 1966 and now owned by the Chinese company Geely.

The Council are now working closely with partners including NCC and the DWP drawing up a package of services we can offer to help individuals who are made redundant.

Town & Parish Council Forum Recordings:

You should have received an email advising you that we are now able to share the recordings of our Forums each month.

We hope this will make it easier for you to access and revisit the discussion at your convenience.

I have attached the last two recordings and these should now be sent to you each month.

June's recording: <https://youtu.be/O6xgtd8OYx8>

July's recording: <https://youtu.be/bQL3891jkow>

Norfolk Warm Homes:

Norfolk Warm Homes is based at Broadland District Council but provides the service for all Norfolk participating authorities to deliver Government funding to improve the energy efficiency of properties for eligible residents. Over £3.9m has been allocated to our Consortium over the next 3 years to support private owner-occupiers and private tenants/landlords.

The team are sending out letters to our target residents. I have attached the template letter to provide some clarity on the content of what we'll be sending out, for your reference. Importantly you will know they are genuine if anyone asks you about them.

https://onegovuk-my.sharepoint.com/personal/lisa_neal_southnorfolkandbroadland_gov_uk/Documents/Backup/New%20folder/Grants/Warm%20Homes%20SNC_Template_Letter_DM1.docx

LGR:

The business case that current Councils are proposing need to be sent into Government by the 26th September.

I have attached a link to the current proposals below:

South Norfolk:

[App C.pdf](#)

Borough Council of King's Lynn & West Norfolk, Breckland District Council, Broadland District Council, Great Yarmouth Borough Council, North Norfolk District Council, and Norwich City Council:

Signed:

Date:

NCC:

[NCC LGR proposal](#)

Parking Scheme:

I believe you have this as an item on your agenda this evening.

NCC have been advised they will need to go out to public consultation again on the new proposed scheme which they plan to do in October/November.

They are currently doing the “pre-consultation” with stakeholders, the Police, Fire, School and this includes yourself, as well as others.

NCC have to do this before the public consultation for all TRO's.

County Cllr

Vic Thomson:

English Devolution and Community Empowerment Bill

Based on the latest guidance and summaries of the English Devolution and Community Empowerment Bill, here is a comprehensive list of powers that Mayors of Strategic Authorities will have under the new legislation.

.Powers devolved to Mayors.

1. Housing and strategic planning

- Strategic Authorities will be required to have a Spatial Development Strategy, SDS, (this power is devolved to the strategic authority and not the mayor). An SDS complements and does not replace local plans.
- The Mayor will have:
 - Similar planning powers to the Mayor of London. This includes the ability to direct refusal of planning applications of potential strategic importance (eg large or prominent schemes), and the ability to call in these applications (for example, unpopular schemes). In practice this power will only cover a handful of schemes, with the vast majority continuing to be managed by the planning authorities. These would be significant housing and commercial developments.
 - Powers for mayors to raise a mayoral community infrastructure levy. This levy:
 - Is intended to support local infrastructure projects that align with the MCCA's local growth plan.
 - Will be governed by specific voting and governance arrangements, likely requiring a majority vote within the combined authority or strategic authority.
 - Builds on the existing Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) framework but gives mayors a strategic funding tool to support regional development.
 - This funding stream could be used to provide local funding for strategic infrastructure projects such as the NWL or other larger infrastructure schemes where it has become increasingly difficult for NCC to provide local match.
 - The Bill extends the powers to create Mayoral Development Corporations to all mayors of Combined Authorities (CAs) and Combined County Authorities (CCAs).

Signed:

Date:

The Bill will require Local Planning Authorities to be consulted and to approve the MDO. Where the LPA(s) do not approve the order, the Mayor can request that the Secretary of State approve the order instead. This request is not automatic and will likely be dealt with through an Inquiry procedure, led by an Independent Planning Inspector.

Only a small number of MDCs have been established so far, and are usually used to bring forward regeneration of complex urban sites. The

mayor would need the MCCA to approve a budget to establish and run an MDC.

2. Transport and Infrastructure

- As anticipated in some transport powers will transfer from NCC and SCC to the MCCA – day to day management of local roads and budgets for road maintenance etc will still come to the county council.
- The Bill allows Strategic Authorities to charge a transport levy to their constituent councils to fund their activities. This funding would be expected to come from funding provided to the authorities from the DfT. The Strategic Authority will also be able to pay grants to constituent councils to support the delivery of transport activities.
- The Mayor will have:
 - Oversight of local transport networks, including bus franchising or enhanced partnerships and integrated ticketing.
 - Power to designate a key route network that are considered some of the “most important local roads in an area”, they can then “direct constituent highways authorities” in the use of their powers.
 - Influence over major infrastructure projects and investment priorities.

3. Economic Growth and regeneration

- The Bill introduces a statutory duty to produce a Local Growth Plan (LGP) to include shared priorities with government and an investment pipeline.
- The Bill requires certain public organisations to “have regard” to the shared priorities in the LGP. This is helpful as government and other bodies will be required to cooperate with and have regard to the plan. Organisations can be named and will be required to consider the shared priorities when bidding for government funding.
- Strategic Authorities will be required to work with LGPs on local projects that deliver social or economic benefits for local communities.
- The Mayor will have:
 - Power to lead local economic strategies.
 - Authority to attract investment and support business growth.

4. Skills and employment support

- Authority over adult education budgets and skills provision, together with the budget.
- Power to shape local training and employment initiatives.

5. Health and well being

- A new legal requirement for MCCAs to ‘have regard’ to the need to improve the health of people in their areas and reduce health inequalities.
- No powers around health are being taken from the county council.

Signed:

Date:

- The Mayor will have:

o Influence over local NHS and public health priorities.

6. Police and fire

- The Bill will allow a mayor to take over the functions of more than one PCC and more than one Fire and Rescue service (Mayors can only take on one of each at the moment)
- PCCs are not expected to merge – but FRAs could. FRA mergers are possible under existing legislation; however mergers would be determined locally.
- Oversight of community safety initiatives.

7. Climate and Environment

- No new powers. Government is committed to exploring future opportunities in this area.

Flexibility Mechanisms • Right to Request Further Powers

- Mayors can formally request additional powers, funding, or partnerships from central government.
- This will be helpful as it would enable the Norfolk and Suffolk MCCA to secure additional funding and powers which have been given to other MCCAs.
- It also provides an opportunity to negotiate powers over areas such as flooding and energy.

Powers of Competence

The Bill gives Mayors of Strategic Authorities new powers, to give them the means to drive growth, collaboration and improvements within their areas. These are:

1. **General Power of Competence** - allows mayors and their authorities to do anything an individual can do, unless explicitly prohibited by law.
2. **Power to Convene** - enables mayors to convene local partners (e.g. public services, businesses, voluntary sector) to address strategic challenges.
3. **Duty for Partners to Respond** - when a mayor uses the power to convene, local partners are legally required to respond.
4. **Duty to Collaborate** - requires mayors of neighboring Strategic Authorities to formally collaborate where appropriate.

RPG

Deadline fast approaching

Deal received but Minister who sent deal has gone

Waiting to see if deal still valid?

NCC have backed a report which says replacing Norfolk's eight councils with one would save £36.2m per year and deliver the biggest benefits to residents.

Norfolk County Council's cabinet today selected a single unitary council as its preferred option, which will be developed into a detailed proposal and submitted to the Government in September.

County council leader, Kay Mason Billig, said the council had gathered and considered evidence and listened to the public's priorities - value for money, no fragmentation of services and keeping services as local as possible.

Signed:

Date:

She said: "That all adds up to one Norfolk and one council."

Norfolk County Council has studied data and evidence on the pros and cons of one, two or three unitary councils and asked the public what mattered to them about local councils and services. It is proposing that its preferred option is one unitary council, covering the whole area.

Having one council would cut costs, join up services for residents and ensure strong financial foundations, according to the draft options appraisal report considered by the cabinet.

The county council's report says that the key benefits of one council for Norfolk are:

- A single council would mean consistent services, delivered across the whole of Norfolk, with equal levels of Council Tax, service quality and services available, wherever you live
- It would save £36.2m per year, by cutting duplication, reducing the number of chief officers and councilors and having economies of scale when purchasing services. Start-up costs would be repaid in a year
- It avoids the risks and costs of splitting up complex, county-wide services like adult social services, children's services and highways - which would incur extra costs of between £20.4m and £33.6m per year, if there were two or three unitary councils
- It recognizes the role of greater Norwich as an economic center of activity for the whole county and highlights the importance of not creating an artificial boundary around it, which would stifle growth

The report's conclusion says: "We have an opportunity to create a new council for Norfolk which can:

- Be a powerful advocate for Norfolk - speaking up and influencing as one voice for local communities, creating more impact, both with any Norfolk/Suffolk mayor and with the Government, businesses and investors
- Be accountable - our residents would know that one council was responsible for all of the services, removing confusion. There would be one set of locally elected councillors, with one set of elections
- Be efficient - removing duplication and bureaucracy and joining up services to deliver better value for money
- Enable devolution - through a single, clear and concise set of strategic priorities for Norfolk and simplifying decision-making
- Avoid the use of untested models for delivering critical services to children, families, older people and some of the most vulnerable of our residents"

Now that a preferred option has been selected, there will be further engagement. The preferred option will be developed into a detailed proposal, to be submitted to the Government by 26 September. Ministers will take the final decision on what council structure to adopt.

The draft interim submission report highlights a range of potential benefits from having a single unitary council system, including:

- ending confusion - people would know that one council would deliver all services in their area.
- delivering value for money - with fewer sets of senior officers, councillors and council headquarters, freeing up money to invest in services.
- joining up services, to make them more effective - such as bin collection and waste disposal and enabling housing and social care to work more closely together;
- ensuring strong local links, through close working with town and parish councils, or local boards.
- **Strong where it counts, local where it matters - one council means better services for Norfolk**
- People in Norfolk will benefit from better services, local decision making and bigger savings, if the county's council is a single unitary council.
- That's the message from a new county council report (12 September), which details how a single council for Norfolk will bring the biggest benefits.

Signed:

Date:

- The Government wants to have fewer councils, known as unitary authorities, which run all services in their area by 26 September.
- County council leader, Councillor Kay Mason Billig, thanked residents for their comments earlier this year, who were concerned about the impact of cuts to services and avoiding the need to split services up.
- She said this would be best delivered by having a single council, as thorough analysis had shown Norfolk would benefit.
- She said: "Our vision is a new unitary council that is 'Strong where it counts, local where it matters'.
- "It gives us the greatest opportunity to improve services, give local people more say on decisions that affect them and to use up the maximum amount to be reinvested to deliver for Norfolk.
- "A single unitary fully meets the Government's criteria and sets the foundation for a stronger, simpler, and more efficient system.
- Norfolk currently has a county council and seven district councils. This means that, wherever you live, you will receive some services (such as social care and highways) and some by a district council (such as waste collection and planning).
- Norfolk County Council has proposed one new council, South Norfolk District Council proposed two and the remaining six district councils proposed three.
- The county council's draft business case highlights a range of key benefits of having one council, including:
 - Saving £39.8 million per year, compared to the current eight councils – money that can be invested in improving services
 - Removing duplication and joining up services that are currently divided between councils, such as adult social care and highways
 - A focus on meeting local needs, by setting priorities at neighbourhood area committees, closer working with residents and delivering services through integrated neighbourhood teams
 - Avoiding the risk of splitting up crucial, county-wide services such as adult social care, children's services and highways
 - Being in a strong position to boost Norfolk's economy, by having a plan for the whole county
- The report says: "The outcome of our comprehensive options appraisal is clear that the best option for Norfolk, for the whole of Norfolk is the only option that fully meets the Government's criteria, ensures a robust, forward-looking system with the lowest transition costs and will deliver better outcomes for communities."
- The draft business case report will be considered by the council's strategic and corporate select committee at <https://norfolkcc.cmis.uk.com/norfolkcc/CalendarofMeetings/tabid/128/ctl/ViewMeetingPublic/mid/496/MeetingID/128/Default.aspx>
- The full council will discuss the report at 10am on 25 September, before the cabinet takes a final decision on whether to proceed.
- **Background:**
- **Why are councils facing changes?**
 - The Government has called for local government reorganisation, to make the current system simpler and more efficient.
 - Since 1974, Norfolk has had a county council and seven district councils. This means that, wherever you live, you will receive some services (such as social care and highways) and some by a district council (such as waste collection and planning).
 - The Government now wants to replace county and district councils with new unitary authorities, which run all services in their area.
 - Ministers have invited detailed submissions from Norfolk's eight councils, by 26 September. Norfolk County Council has proposed two and the remaining six district councils have proposed three.
- **Why isn't there one proposal for Norfolk?**
 - Like in other areas across England which are undergoing local government reorganisation, Norfolk's council has received several different proposals are being submitted – for one, two and three new councils
- **Why does the business case support one council?**
 - The council's business case report says: "The outcome of our comprehensive Options Appraisal is clear that the best option for Norfolk, for the whole of Norfolk is the only option that fully meets the Government's criteria, ensures the most savings, has the lowest transition costs and will deliver better outcomes for communities."

Signed:

Date:

- The report says that one council would deliver the biggest savings of £39.8 million per year and repay start up costs. Two councils would reduce savings to £1.5 million per year, with set up costs of £63.3 million. Having three councils would cost £1.5 million per year with set up costs of £81.8 million.
- The report stresses that: “The single unitary council will be a new organisation built from the best of all our councils and create something even greater.”
- **How will savings be made?**
- The £39.8 million annual savings, compared to the current cost of running eight councils, includes savings from reduced running costs. This will help the new council to be viable, in the face of continuing budget pressures across the country. It gives strongest opportunity for robust and financially sustainable local government in Norfolk, without incurring the costs of parts of the area.”
- **When will a decision be taken?**
- Norfolk’s councils will submit their business cases by 26 September. The Government will then stage a public consultation before making a decision. This is expected early next year. We will publicise the Government’s consultation, and the decision, on the website.
- **When will changes take place?**
- Once the Government’s decision is announced, Norfolk’s councils will work together on detailed plans for the new council to take place in 2027, when the new council or councils will be set up in “shadow” form, before they formally replace the current councils.

Emergency alert reminder

- The UK government carried out a national test of the Emergency Alerts system on Sunday 7 September at 3pm. Compatible mobile phones and tablets received an alert, make a loud siren-like sound and vibrate.
- Did you get it?
- More information about emergency alerts is available on the government website [here](#).

Flu medication and vaccines

- The Government is removing restrictions on prescribing flu medications outside the usual season to reduce winter pressures and allow year-round treatment. This will allow patients to receive treatment sooner and ease winter pressures by allowing outbreaks to be contained
- The government’s announcement coincides with the NHS launching this year’s improved flu vaccine programme on 1 September 2025. The autumn rollout kicks off with flu vaccines for millions of children and pregnant women. The [NHS national booking system](#) has also opened for all eligible individuals to book their winter flu and COVID-19 vaccinations, with appointments starting from 1 October 2025.

Booster vaccines for children

- The latest annual uptake data on childhood vaccines published by the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) shows that 18.6% of children, almost 1 in 5, have not received their pre-school booster jab. [UKHSA and NHS England are calling for](#) parents and healthcare workers to catch up on missed vaccinations as schools start the autumn term.
- The 4-in-1 pre-school booster helps protect children against 4 serious illnesses - polio, whooping cough, tetanus and diphtheria. Given from 3 years 4 months of age, the vaccine boosts the protection provided by previous vaccines given to babies. It ensures children have the essential protection they need when starting primary school. Without this booster, children are not fully protected.

Signed:

Date:

Norfolk celebrates 2 million journeys on Beryl bikes, e-bikes and e-scooters

- Norfolk County Council, in partnership with Beryl and National Grid, is celebrating a major milestone for the county's innovative shared transport scheme, which has now recorded more than **two million journeys** since its launch in March 2020.
- The total of 2,057,859 trips covers an impressive 5.79 million kilometres, the equivalent of riding around the world 144 times. By swapping car journeys for two wheels, riders have helped save around 990 tonnes of CO₂, keeping Norwich's air cleaner, streets less congested, and communities healthier.
- Over 100,000 people have used the scheme, with the average active rider taking 20.8 trips.
- Journeys are made up of:
 - 424,186 pedal bike rides
 - 407,292 e-bike rides
 - 1,226,350 e-scooter rides
- Feedback from users shows that 41% of these journeys would otherwise have been made by driving or being a passenger in a private car, and a further 24% would have taken a taxi or ride-hailing service, while 5% would have used a motorbike or moped instead.
- With now over 190 bays across Norfolk paired with improved infrastructure* for people on bikes more residents than ever can access convenient and sustainable transport."
- This success plays a vital role in helping us meet our net-zero ambitions and improve air quality across the county."
- The latest Beryl Annual Rider Report, based on feedback from Norwich riders in 2024, also showed that the top three reasons for signing up were convenience (60%), speed (39%), and cost-effectiveness (30%), while the primary purpose for most users was commuting to work (35%).
- Launched in March 2020 as a bike share scheme, e-bikes were added in July 2020, followed by e-scooters in January 2021.
- Beryl vehicles can be hired via the free Beryl app, available on the App Store and Google Play. E-scooter riders must hold a valid UK driving license and are encouraged to provide feedback to support ongoing service improvements.
- * Infrastructure improvements have helped to increase the number of people using beryl.
- Since the completion of the Heartsease Roundabout in Norwich statistics show an increase of 60% in beryl use across that junction.
- The cycle lane we added to Ipswich Road in Norwich has seen a 165% increase in the amount of beryl journeys along the road compared to before.
- The recently opened Travel Hub on Dereham Road has boosted Beryl usage on that route by an impressive 190%

Street works

- Norfolk County Council is welcoming a set of national recommendations that could make roadworks quicker, better planned, and less disruptive for residents. These suggestions come from a recent Parliamentary review into how street works are managed across the UK.
- Here's what's been recommended:
 - ☐ Repairs should last at least 5 years
 - ☐ Fines for poor planning or delays
 - ☐ More control for councils over roadwork approvals

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- ☐ Developers must share work plans and timelines
- ☐ Advance planning info to be mandatory
- In 2024/25, Norfolk County Council issued 44,000+ streetworks permits and we issued £685,000 in fines for overruns and non-compliance.
- We know how disruptive roadworks can be for residents and road users across Norfolk. These recommendations are a positive step forward in making streetworks more efficient and accountable. The Department for Transport is due to respond back to the Transport Select Committee in September 2025 and we look forward to working with national and local partners to implement any changes they may make to maximise the benefit for our communities.

Norwich Castle

The refurbished Castle Keep is now open. Spectacular

Scams

Scam Alert - Fake 'Parking Charge Notice' text messages

Scam Alert - Fake FCA messages

Rogue Trader Alert - Doorstep cold callers offering roofing work

Scam Alert - Task based job scams

Rogue Trader Alert - Doorstep cold callers offering driveway cleaning

Safety Alert - Updated urgent 'stop drive' recall for some Citroen C3, C4, DS3, DS4 & DS5 models

Scam Alert - Emails claiming to be from 'BT'

Scam Alert - Emails claiming to be from 'British Gas'

Scam Alert - Emails regarding 'Council tax payments'

Scam Alert - Online surveys to receive high value items

Cold Calling Alert - Telephone cold callers regarding solar panels

Signed:

Date: