



**TO ALL PARISH COUNCILS IN THE ELMHAM & MATTISHALL DIVISION
MONTHLY UPDATE FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR PAUL CARR - JUNE 2026**

Norfolk County Council Updates

New Party in control

Reform UK are now in overall (minority) control of the County Council. The Party has been elected on the promise of providing best value services to residents in Norfolk and is committed to eradicating wasteful expenditure.

New Leader and Cabinet

David Bick has been elected as the new leader of Norfolk County Council and has appointed his Cabinet team.

Councillor David Bick, leader of the Council's 40-member Reform group, was elected at the council's annual general meeting on 28 May 2026.

Further details and a list of the new Cabinet members are available in our news release [here](#).

My involvement

Since being elected to Norfolk County Council in May 2026, I have been busy undergoing various induction training, and other task specific training including mandatory training.

I have been appointed to the following Committees:

- **Strategy and Corporate Select Committee (Including Trading Standards, Norfolk Fire Service and the NCC Constitution)**
- **Adult Social Services and Public Health Select Committee**

Both committees are very influential in key areas of the Council. My first meetings take place in July.

I plan to meet all Parish Councils in due course.

You can contact me on:

Paul.carr.cllr@norfolk.gov.uk

The following is a brief update on some of the key issues and activity from the past month:

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Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) Update

Local Government Reorganisation remains one of the most significant issues facing Norfolk. In March 2026, the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, Steve Reed, announced the Government's decision to replace the existing two-tier system (Norfolk County Council plus seven **district, city, and borough** councils) with three new unitary authorities: Greater Norwich Council, East Norfolk Council, and West Norfolk Council. This is subject to Parliamentary approval via a Structural Changes Order, with implementation targeted for April 2028.

The decision followed a consultation process and proposals from various councils. Norfolk County Council had advocated for a single county-wide unitary authority, while most district councils supported three unitaries. Concerns have been raised about the Minister's decision reportedly going against civil service advice regarding financial resilience, service delivery, and geography.

Judicial Review Developments

On 25 June 2026, Norfolk County Council (under its new Reform UK administration) formally submitted a judicial review application to the High Court challenging the Government's decision-making process. This follows a pre-action protocol letter sent earlier in June. The Council has also instructed officers to pause non-essential work on implementing LGR pending the outcome.

South Norfolk Council has also pursued or signalled legal action, citing concerns over the process and the suitability of the three-unitary model. Similar challenges are being considered or pursued by councils in Suffolk and Essex.

The judicial review is at an early stage. The Court will first decide whether to grant permission for the case to proceed to a full hearing, where the lawfulness of the Government's decision-making (including consultation and criteria application) will be examined. Judicial reviews focus on process and legality rather than the policy merits of the decision itself.

The new Reform UK-led administration at County Hall has made clear its strong opposition to the reorganisation, describing it as unnecessary and costly, and is prioritising efforts to preserve the current two-tier structure where possible.

Next Steps and Implications

- The outcome of the judicial review could impact timelines significantly, potentially delaying or altering the reorganisation.



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- Regardless of the legal process, I will continue to monitor developments closely and represent local residents' views.
- Residents should be aware that any changes would affect local services, planning, highways, and council tax over the coming years.

As more information emerges - particularly regarding the court's decision on permission - I will provide further updates.

Norfolk Crisis and Resilience Grant Programme

Norfolk County Council is receiving £11.25 million per year for two years from the Government through the Crisis and Resilience Fund to support people facing financial hardship and build long-term resilience.

We are using this funding in several ways, including providing direct support to residents through the Crisis and Resilience Service and strengthening support available in local communities.

For more information including how communities can apply, please select the following link for a full briefing

[Grant Programme](#)

Local Issues

I have continued to work on a range of local issues raised by residents, including highways, planning matters, environmental concerns and access to local services. If you have an issue you would like me to look into, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Council Business

Recent council meetings have focused on a range of important topics, including council finances, service delivery and future priorities. I have continued to represent the interests of residents and ensure that local concerns are raised where appropriate.

Community Engagement

It will be a pleasure to attend community events, meet with local organisations and speak with residents about the issues that matter most to them. These conversations are invaluable in helping shape the work I do on your behalf.

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Keeping in Touch

If you have any questions, concerns or suggestions, please feel free to contact me. Your feedback is always welcome, and I remain committed to representing the interests of everyone in our community.

Trading Standards update

Following inspections carried out as a result of intelligence received by Norfolk Trading Standards, over 5,700 illicit cigarettes, 24 illegal vapes and hand-rolling tobacco has been seized from businesses in Great Yarmouth.

The inspections were carried out with Norfolk Constabulary on 28 May as part of Norfolk Trading Standards ongoing work to tackle the sale of illegal tobacco products and protect the public.

This is a useful reminder of the role of Trading Standards, which helps ensure businesses trade fairly and legally, investigates scams and rogue traders, and works to keep consumers safe.

Further information about Trading Standards, including advice and support for businesses and consumers, is available on the county council webpages [here](#).

Residents are urged to report concerns about the illegal sale of vapes, cigarettes or tobacco to Citizens Advice on 0808 223 1133.

Anyone being coerced into preparing, distributing or selling illegal tobacco, can report it to HMRC online by searching 'report fraud HMRC' on GOV.UK or by contacting the HMRC Fraud hotline on 0800 788 887.

Norfolk Fire and Rescue Service – staying safe with lithium batteries

Recent incidents in Norfolk have highlighted the risks associated with lithium batteries.

This reflects a wider national increase in lithium battery fires, linked to the growing use of items such as e-bikes and e-scooters.

Norfolk Fire and Rescue Service is working with Norfolk Trading Standards to help prevent these incidents by promoting safety advice on buying batteries and devices safely, charging them correctly, using e-bikes and e-scooters safely, and disposing of lithium-ion batteries appropriately.

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[NCC Childrens Services judged to be Outstanding](#)

Children's Services in Norfolk has been rated outstanding in all areas in its latest Ofsted inspection.

Inspectors praised the council's "child-centred" approach, the relationships between social workers and children and young people and the "inspirational strategic and operational leadership."

The inspection, which took place in February, looked at five areas: the impact of leaders on social work practice with children and families; the experiences and progress of children who need help and protection; the experiences and progress of children in care; the experiences and progress of care leavers, and our overall effectiveness. The judgement in each area was outstanding.

Norfolk is now one of the top performing Children's Services departments in the country.

[FREE COMPOSTING WORKSHOPS ACROSS NORFOLK](#)



There's still time to book onto one of our free composting workshops taking place across Norfolk this summer.

Norfolk County Council and Garden Organic are offering free composting workshops across Norfolk until September 2026, showing just how easy it is to get started at home. These two-hour sessions, delivered by our Master Composters, cover the basics of home composting, how to get the best results, and what to do if things don't go to plan. There will also be plenty of time for questions and answers.



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National Updates

Community Pharmacy services – expansion of services

The Government has [announced a new £340 million deal](#) for community pharmacy in England to help people get quicker care closer to home, reduce pressure on other NHS services, improve efficiency and deliver better outcomes.

Pharmacy First already enables pharmacists to provide NHS treatment for seven common conditions: sore throat, earache, sinusitis, shingles, impetigo, infected insect bites and uncomplicated urinary tract infections in women.

Under the new agreement, pharmacists with an independent prescribing qualification will be able to assess patients and prescribe medicines directly through a nationally commissioned NHS service. The changes are due from autumn 2026.

Community pharmacies are central to the Government's 10 Year Health Plan, supporting a shift from hospital-based care to neighbourhood health services.

OUR SAVINGS THIS MONTH

- 1. Cancellation of 3 Political Assistants, no longer deemed necessary or beneficial to Norfolk residents - £166,000.**
- 2. Work on LGR preparation stopped, saving many thousands of pounds, especially as the previous administration had chosen to employ expensive external consultants.**
- 3. Many more savings are anticipated.**

Best wishes

Paul W Carr FCA.



Parish or Urban areas within the Division:

Bawdeswell, Billingford, Bintree, Bylaugh, East Tuddenham, Elsing, Foxley, Gateley, Guist, Hockering, Lyng, Mattishall, North Elmham, North Tuddenham, Sparham, Twyford, Yaxham