



Norfolk County Council

Latest Information, Advice, Useful Links and Service Updates

Updated 3 April 2025

This weekly briefing is intended as a resource to keep you up to date with the latest information and advice.

Service updates: The most up to date information on council services can be found at [Norfolk County Council services disruptions.](#)

Norfolk County Council updates

New Park & Ride services now up and running

Last year Norfolk County Council re-procured the Norwich Park & Ride service in order for it to run without any subsidy from the council. Two operators were chosen.

From 30 March First Bus is operating services for the Airport, Thickthorn and Sprowston sites, and Simonds is providing the service for Harford and Postwick sites.

The new service offers:

- Earlier journeys in the morning.
- Later journeys into the evening.
- Increased frequency at most sites.
- Sunday services at all sites.
- Airport, Thickthorn and Sprowston services will have zero emission buses
- Continued low fares thanks to BSIP funding.

More information, including links to the new timetables, is available [here](#).

Long Stratton bypass update

A major milestone in the construction of Long Stratton's new bypass was reached last week when a new steel footbridge over the route was lifted into position.

The 42-metre-long steel span was delivered to the site in two sections before being welded together in preparation for a precision lift of the 90-tonne structure.

Once complete, the new Church Lane footbridge will provide a key local walking and cycling route linking the existing Public Rights of Way between Fairfield Close and Church Lane.

The footbridge is expected to come into public use later this summer with the new bypass open to traffic by the end of the year.

Further details are available in our news release [here](#).

Trading Standards update and service plan for the year ahead

Norfolk County Council's Trading Standards service have submitted their service plan for 2025-2026 for approval by Norfolk County Council's Cabinet on 7 April.

The plan provides an update on what the service achieved over the last year and sets out key areas for the year ahead.

Achievements over the past year have included:

- Tackling tobacco and alcohol sales to children.
- Removing from sale counterfeit vapes, dangerous electrical items, unroadworthy cars and children's toys which failed consumer safety checks.
- Protecting people from fraud, scams and rogue traders by raising awareness, working with vulnerable people and introducing more [No Cold Calling Zones](#).
- Maintaining the [Trusted Trader Scheme](#) so that Norfolk's residents can find reliable and trustworthy tradespeople.
- Calibrating more than 25,000 pieces of equipment and verified weighing and measuring instruments for local, national and international businesses - generating income which has been invested back into vital consumer safety work.
- Dealing with recent animal disease outbreaks, including the blue tongue virus and avian flu.

Building upon this work, key areas of work in the 2025-2026 plan include:

- Responding to business and consumer vulnerabilities.
- Supporting businesses to comply with new green legislative requirements, and the council's net-zero ambitions.
- Investment in the workforce to develop a resilient service.
- Developing the service in response to the Food Standards Agency's new Food Standards Delivery Model.
- Continued integration with Norfolk Fire and Rescue Service to realise improved services and in-house efficiencies.
- Developing commercial services and chargeable activities to increase income and reduce reliance on grant funding. This will include relocation of the Calibration Centre and the implementation of a web shop.

The full Trading Standards Service Plan 2025/26 is available in the cabinet papers [here](#).

Find out more about Trading Standards services on our webpages [here](#).

Avian Flu – Norfolk update

On 28 March 2025 highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) H5N1 was confirmed in commercial poultry in premises near Wymondham, Norfolk. A 3km protection zone and 10km surveillance zone have been declared surrounding the premises. All poultry on the premises will be humanely culled.

Government guidance about bird flu, how to prevent it and stop it spreading is available [here](#).

[Norfolk County Council Trading Standards webpages](#) also include useful links to the latest situation, further information and guidance related to bird flu.

National updates

Government funding for flood defence schemes

The Government has [announced](#) plans to build or repair over 1,000 flood schemes across the country with a 2 year investment of £2.65bn from April 2024 to March 2026.

The announcement includes links to the [full list of projects](#) that have been or will continue to be supported. The programme includes information about projects that will receive an allocation between 1 April 2025 and 31 March 2026.

The funding is intended to meet a mixture of inland and coastal flooding risks. The schemes include risks of flooding from: rivers, the sea, ground water and surface water.

Norfolk-related funding will be going towards projects including Great Yarmouth flood defence works and the Cromer Coast Protection Scheme, and also several sites for which Norfolk County Council is the lead agency, such as natural flood management in Banham and the surface water flood alleviation scheme in Dereham.

The Environment Agency says it will work with local authorities and Regional Flood and Coastal Committees to deliver these schemes.

Corry Review: An independent review of Defra's regulatory landscape

The independent [Corry Review](#) was set up by Defra Secretary of State Steve Reed in October last year. The purpose of the review was to examine whether the inherited regulatory landscape is fit for purpose and to develop recommendations to ensure that regulation across the Department is driving economic growth while protecting the environment.

On 2 April 2025 [the Corry Review' published its findings](#).

The review finds that the current system of environmental regulation is outdated, inconsistent and highly complex – delivering for neither nature nor growth. It concludes that while the review is not calling for major institutional change or for a bonfire of regulations, it is calling for a radical repositioning and repurposing of environmental regulation.

The review makes 29 recommendations for reforms and improvements to the way regulation is designed and implemented.

In response, Environment Secretary Steve Reed [announced](#) nine fast-tracked measures to reform environmental regulation. He says that the reforms aim to reduce bureaucracy while supporting nature recovery, helping developers meet environmental obligations more efficiently. The measures include establishing a lead regulator for major infrastructure projects, streamlining permits, creating a planning portal, and giving trusted conservation groups more autonomy.

Cyber Security and Resilience Bill update

The Government has published a [policy statement](#) which details confirmed and proposed measures in the forthcoming Cyber Security and Resilience Bill.

The Cyber Security and Resilience Bill was confirmed in last year's King's Speech and will be introduced to Parliament later this year.

The Government says the Bill sets out plans to bolster UK's online defences, protect the public and safeguard growth and that proposed new measures will boost protection of supply chains and critical national services, including IT service providers and suppliers.

The Government says that if the Bill proposals are adopted:

- It will boost cyber security defences for public sector organisations, such as hospitals or energy suppliers.

- More organisations and suppliers will need to meet robust cyber security requirements, including data centres, Managed Service Providers (MSPs) and critical suppliers. for public sector organisations, such as hospitals or energy suppliers.
- Regulators will have more tools to improve cyber security and resilience in the areas they regulate, with companies required to report more incidents to help build a stronger picture of cyber threats and weaknesses in our online defences.
- The government would have greater flexibility to update regulatory frameworks when needed, to respond swiftly to changing threats and technological advancement. This could include extending the framework to new sectors or updating security requirements.