

County Councillor Report for Blofield PC - October 2026

County Council meeting on Tuesday 22 September 2026

The agenda and papers can be found here: [CMIS > Calendar of Meetings](#)

All public NCC meetings can be viewed on YouTube. This meeting: [Norfolk County Council - Full Council](#)

The “Standing up for Norfolk” report was formally adopted as the new four-year strategy. Covering the period to 2030, the strategy will shape how the council works and what it delivers for Norfolk. It sets out five new priorities for the County Council:

- Putting Norfolk’s residents first
- Growing Norfolk’s economy
- Keeping Norfolk moving
- Running an efficiency and effective council
- Building stronger Norfolk communities and places

Full details and a copy of the strategy are available [here](#).

A detailed delivery plan will be developed for November's cabinet meeting.

Budget proposals for 2027-2028

Norfolk County Council has published initial 2027-28 budget proposals to address a projected £35.9m gap and growing service demand.

The council has identified £32.3m of savings and efficiencies, but further action is needed to close the remaining gap as demand for services continues to grow.

Key proposals include:

- Earlier intervention and neighbourhood support to reduce demand for adult social care
- More support for children to remain within or return to family networks, alongside expanded family help services
- Higher income from infrastructure fees and charges

Cabinet considered the proposals on 5 October and agreed to begin public consultations on relevant elements before final decisions are made.

The plans will be reviewed when government funding is confirmed and the County Council will make final budget and council tax decisions in February 2027.

Full details are available in the Cabinet papers [2027-28 budget proposals](#).

Children's services team selected by the Government to share expertise

Norfolk County Council's Children's Services has been selected by the Government to share its expertise nationally and help improve social care at other councils. Norfolk is one of eight councils and one trust chosen by the Department for Education for the second phase of its Children's Social Care Improvement Team programme. The selection reflects the council's progress over the past decade and follows Norfolk's outstanding Ofsted rating earlier this year.

Helping to improve Norfolk's recycling service

Norfolk County Council's annual Recycling Centre Survey is now open until 18 October 2026. Feedback from the previous survey led to real practical changes. Responses from people who do not currently use a Recycling Centre are particularly valuable, as they can help the council understand barriers, unmet needs and opportunities to make the service more accessible. Survey link: www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/RecyclingCentres2026/

Household Hazardous Waste Days 2026

Free Household Hazardous Waste Days will take place across Norfolk in autumn 2026, allowing residents to safely dispose of materials not accepted through kerbside collections or standard recycling centre services.

Key points:

- Free for Norfolk residents, accepting hazardous household waste including paint, aerosols, antifreeze, fertilisers and drain cleaners.
- Only hazardous household waste will be accepted.
- Booking is required and opens eight days before each event.
- Events run from 8am to 4pm; early booking is advised as they are popular.

Autumn dates and locations

- Norwich South Recycling Centre – Friday 16 and Saturday 17 October
- Caister Recycling Centre – Friday 6 and Saturday 7 November
- Norwich North Recycling Centre – Friday 27 and Saturday 28 November

For further information: www.norfolk.gov.uk/hazardouswaste.

The Big Conversation on Care

The independent Casey Commission launched The Big Conversation on Care, a national public conversation inviting people to share their views and experiences to help shape the future of adult social care. Residents can vote on proposals that have been suggested, helping to identify popular suggestions that receive broad support from the population and workforce. To find out more: [The Big Conversation on Care](https://www.caseycommission.org.uk/the-big-conversation-on-care).

Government announces draft Environment Delivery Plan for Norfolk

The Government has [announced a draft Environmental Delivery Plan](#) (EDP) that could unlock up to 15,780 new homes in Norfolk and fund improvements to rivers, wetlands and wildlife habitats. Natural England drafted the plan under the Nature Restoration Fund. It aims to unlock housing delayed by the need to protect rivers and wetlands from nutrient pollution.

The Plan covers the River Wensum, Bure Broads and Marshes, and Yare Broads and Marshes catchments across much of central and eastern Norfolk.

Developers would pay into a shared fund instead of arranging separate environmental measures for each site. Natural England would use the fund for larger projects to restore rivers, create wetlands and improve water quality.

The EDP is [open for consultation until 27 October 2026](#).

Free winter safety testing events

Residents can have electric blankets, heated pads and throws, and small portable heaters tested free of charge at a series of events in Norfolk libraries this November.

The events are being run by Norfolk County Council Trading Standards and Norfolk Fire & Rescue Service to help residents use these products safely over the winter.

Residents can bring items to any of the sessions for professional testing and advice on home fire and product safety.

Details of the events and safety advice related to electric blankets is available on the county council web pages [here](#).

Helping residents into work and transforming lives

Employment support programmes in Norfolk are helping residents with disabilities, long-term health conditions and other barriers to move into, return to or remain in work.

Residents can find out how to access support via Connect to Work at www.norfolk.gov.uk/workingwell or email connecttowork@norfolk.gov.uk.

East of England Investment Fund launched

A £140m East of England Investment Fund that will provide equity and loan finance to promising businesses was recently unveiled by the British Business Bank at Norwich Research Park. The fund offers two commercial finance options: loans ranging from £25,000 to £2m and equity investments of up to £5m.

Common Ground Award - community grant funding

Community and voluntary organisations can apply for grants to improve local places and help bring people together.

The Common Ground Award 2026 to 2027 will fund buildings, facilities, equipment and other long-term improvements for eligible voluntary, community and social enterprise organisations in England.

Individual organisations can apply for between £20,000 and £50,000. In exceptional cases, applications of up to £100,000 may be considered where there is strong evidence of need and likely benefit. Groups of organisations applying together can seek between £100,000 and £250,000.

Further details and information on how to apply are available in the [Government press release](#).

Grants to support community energy projects

Local authorities and community energy groups across the UK are being given new opportunities to develop their own renewable energy projects, following the [launch of a £30 million funding programme](#) from Great British Energy (GBE).

The investment is the first tranche of a wider commitment of up to £1 billion. The initiative is designed to support more than 1,000 community and locally led clean energy schemes, ranging from solar panels on public buildings to village-owned wind farms and hydroelectric projects.

The funding includes the [GBE Community Fund \(£20 million\)](#), which is now open, and a new [GBE Partnerships Grant \(£5 million\)](#).

Alongside funding specific local power projects, the Government will also set out further details this autumn on plans to offer community energy groups an ownership stake in renewable energy projects.

Cllr Jan Davis
Blofield & Brundall Division
Norfolk County Council
12/10/2026