

## CABINET MEMBERS REPORT TO COUNCIL

18 December 2024

### **COUNCILLOR JOHN TOYE - CABINET MEMBER FOR SUSTAINABLE GROWTH**

For the period November to December 2024

#### **1 Progress on Portfolio Matters.**

##### **Funding and Programmes**

The UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) and Rural England Prosperity Fund (REPF) programmes continue to be delivered in Quarter 3 of their third year. As reported previously, most of our UKSPF schemes have already met or exceeded their output and outcome targets (for the business, community, workforce and skills interventions that the programmes were designed to deliver); however, support to more beneficiaries will continue to be provided through to March 2025.

A programme of additional business engagement activity is being delivered over the remaining few months of the UKSPF programme, and this will include the production of business case studies, including profiles for some of the businesses/organisations that have benefitted from the REPF Rural Business and Community Grant scheme. Case study examples will be produced by all project partners to illustrate the outcomes of the various UKSPF support schemes.

Feedback from REPF grant beneficiaries has been very positive. Several projects have now been completed including: the refurbished café at North Lodge Park (About with Friends) to provide training and employment opportunities for young people with special needs; enhancing the visitor offer of the Pumpkin House (pictured); Colby and Banningham Parish Council's improved play area for children in the village and wider local communities; Stody Estate's empty barn converted into office space and now occupied by a local business; and, Naked Kitchens' investment into advanced automated control (CNC) equipment to increase production/productivity and help the business grow.



A video case study of the Pumpkin House project can be found [here](#)

Another successful UKSPF supported project has been the collaboration with Norfolk Warm

Homes. Complemented by and enhancing other funding, this project has supported over 50 local households with carbon saving advice and information and will deliver retrofitting in over 21 homes, reducing bills, carbon emissions and improving EPC ratings. Below is a recent case study.

## Norfolk Warm Homes Case Study

Gary – North Norfolk

Loft, Cavity, Flat Roof Insulation, Air Source Heat Pump & Solar PV

Gary embarked on an energy efficiency journey through the joint support of the Norfolk Warm Homes Team and North Norfolk District Council's UKSPF programme. Cavity, loft and flat roof insulation has been installed alongside an air source heat pump and solar panels.

The energy efficiency improvements have increased the home's Energy Performance Certificate score by four bands, moving from F (33) to B (89). The improvements have reduced the household CO2 emissions by an estimated 7.5 tonnes per year.

### Gary's Story

'The Norfolk Warm Homes Scheme has been an amazing experience. We were really worried about how we would survive next winter when our old oil central heating system finally broke down. We were informed about the Warm Homes Grants after seeking help from our local District Council. It turned out to be the best call we ever made.

The Warm Homes Team explained everything and led us through the application process. After this, we had a visit from an assessor, and we learned all about the benefits of a whole house upgrade.

All our worries were behind us because the contractors contacted us to introduce themselves and gave us a contact name for any help we needed during the installations.

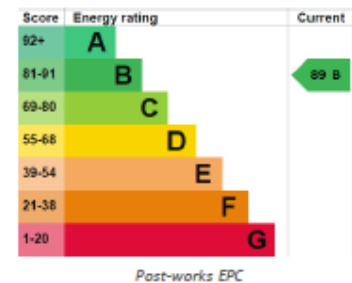
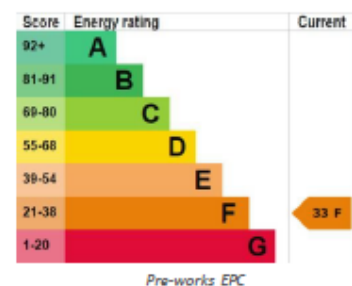
Our improvements were considerable as we had an air source heat pump and solar panels fitted as well as cavity, loft and flat roof insulation.

We can't fault the workmen. They turned up at appointed times. The work was carried out expertly and timely and they cleaned up as they went. As well as courteous and professional they were friendly and cared about our property.

The insulation alone has improved our home comfort and has removed any need for portable heating.

The Air Source Heat Pump and hot water system is less noisy than the old oil boiler and is so much better for my help as I suffer from a lung condition that was aggravated by burning fossil fuels.

We can recommend the Warm Homes Scheme to everyone and encourage you to enquire. Like for us it may be your opportunity to help the planet and be the best call you ever made'.



Air Source Heat Pump

## Business Engagement Activities

The Economic Growth, Communications and Web Development teams are presently working together to develop the Council's approach to business engagement, to improve our understanding of business needs/challenges, find new ways of sharing information and to celebrate business success stories.

This will include reviewing the 'Invest North Norfolk' brand and web pages, e-communications and events (commencing in 2025). Further details will follow as this work develops.

The Council continues to engage with several investors into the District, with recent announcements including Sainsburys' acquisition of the Homebase site and B&M's planned investment into the Co-op store, both on Holt Road, Cromer. Jarrolds has also recently acquired the Back to Garden Farm Shop, Café & Garden near Holt and will seek to invest further in this successful venture.



## **2 Forthcoming Activities and Developments.**

### **Social media for your business workshop**

Thursday 9 January 2025 from 9.15am to 12.45pm

Venue: Committee Room, North Norfolk District Council, Holt Road, Cromer, NR27 9EN

Organised by New Anglia Growth Hub

Find out more [here](#)

### **Business Funding Solutions workshop**

Friday 7<sup>th</sup> February 10:30 – 12:00

Venue: Cromer Library

Organised by Let's do Business

Find out more [here](#)

## **3 Meetings attended**

East Coast College

Jonas Seafoods

Norfolk Business Board