

CABINET MEMBERS REPORT TO COUNCIL

17 December 2025

COUNCILLOR WITHINGTON - CABINET MEMBER FOR COMMUNITY, OUTREACH AND LEISURE.

For the period November to December 2025

1 Progress on Portfolio Matters.

Leisure Contract

Participation for October was slightly down on the same time last year which can mainly be attributed to the works beginning at Fakenham on the new swimming pool. This works has reduced the facilities available to members and therefore visits have been reduced by around half. The reduction is mostly due to the sports hall being used for the temporary gym which has meant that most users of this facility are unable to carry on for the duration of the works. Gym memberships have not reduced substantially and across the contract remain at 3654, with total visits across the facilities at 39599.

The FLASH works are progressing well and on schedule with all of the internal spaces now stripped out and the nursery building outside having been demolished.



Countryside

A large proportion of the Rangers work at present is the required tree works across all sites. As always this work is carried out either for safety reasons or as part of agreed management through our felling licences. The Muddy Boots volunteer groups continue to be very popular with around 20 volunteers regularly attending the weekly sessions at Holt Country Park and Pretty Corner Woods.

Works have now commenced at Holt Country Park on the new community eco learning space. This will provide a classroom for use by the Rangers when delivering their schools programme and family events, a base for our muddy boots volunteers to meet each week, and a hireable facility for community groups and individuals to run classes, workshops and alike. There will also be an outdoor space providing all visitors with information about climate change and other important environmental matters, as well as outdoor gym equipment which can charge a users mobile phone. Work is due to be complete by Easter 26.



Blue Flag Beaches & RNLI

The 2025 bathing water classifications were released at the end of November and we are delighted to see that seven beaches in the district have received Excellent water classifications. This includes an improvement

in Wells. The Leisure Team will now be working on Blue Flag Applications for our 6 beaches which are due to be submitted by mid-January. These applications will need to demonstrate how we meet a number of additional criteria such as access, safety, provision of amenities and educational programmes.

Pier Pavilion Theatre

This year's Christmas Show launched on November 15th and is well on track to exceed the annual target of 17500 visits, with 14773 tickets sold before the end of November.

Markets

An additional themed Christmas Market took place on Saturday 6th December, attracting another 12 traders to support the existing market. Trader numbers at Sheringham remain good despite the time of year.

Physical Activity Development

Officers are working with Norfolk FA and The Football Foundation to submit an application for grant funding to provide a new 3G on the Fakenham Sports Centre site. There are some difficulties around the technical side of the project but it is hoped these can be overcome.

2 Forthcoming Activities and Developments.

Locality Officer Updates

The Locality Officer will be working with an Active Norfolk colleague in the New Year to deliver a new project in the district. Get Out Get Active offers inclusive sessions designed by the participants themselves and a kick-off meeting has been arranged with About with Friends.

A number of other projects are still being progressed, including Big Norfolk Holiday Fun, Junior Park Run in Fakenham, Green Futures and Hire Hubs amongst others.

3 Meetings attended

Cromer Pier Christmas show Opening
Cromer Pier Bi-annual Report meeting