

## **CABINET MEMBERS REPORT TO COUNCIL**

**18 February 2025**

### **COUNCILLOR HARRY BLATHWAYT - CABINET MEMBER FOR COAST**

For the period December 2025 to February 2026

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

##### **Coastwise**

- Work on the replacement **Happisburgh car park** has commenced. The construction work will include decommissioning the existing car park and entrance, reusing materials where feasible, construction of the new entrance, highway improvements, construction of the car park, installation of necessary signage, and landscaping. A planning application to replace the public toilets and relocate the play area, in due course, is also being prepared as part of the practical 'rolling back' of facilities as erosion affects the locality.
- Work has started on an investigation to better understand the relationship between groundwater & cliff failure at **Overstrand** and the consideration of possible practical mitigation actions.
- Coastwise was well-represented at the national Coastal Futures Conference at the end of January, with presentations and panel discussions dealing with adaptation planning. The team also displayed a poster at the event entitled 'when coastal erosion transcends generations – planning for the future of graveyards at risk'. The minister announced new Coastal Adaptation Pilots at the event (see below).

##### **Overstrand**

- Notices under the Coast Protection Act, have been placed in the EDP and North Norfolk News in, a procedural requirement of the funding for the refurbishment of Overstrand sea wall.
- Consultants have prepared the documentation for the scheme, including environmental assessments, which the team are now reviewing.
- The Consultants have also prepared the draft design for the scheme, which the Coastal team are reviewing, following which a programme for implementing the works will be agreed.

##### **Repairs and Maintenance**

- Furthest extent of Sheringham east promenade is temporarily closed following the discovery of a void underneath the concrete slabs. Investigations of the extent of the failure are underway, following which a remedy will be implemented as soon as possible. The area is cordoned off for public safety reasons and notices have been put up to inform walkers

and beach users. This part of the prom will be reopened once the area has been made safe.

- Happisburgh beach access is closed following erosion to the toe of the ramp. A solution will be implemented once weather conditions improve.
- Repairs have been completed to Cromer groyne two.
- Floodgate inspections have been undertaken at Walcott, Bacton, and Mundesley.
- Handrailing and access repairs have been undertaken along coast.

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

### **Coastwise**

- On the 28th January 2026, a new Coastal Adaptation Pilots initiative was announced by the government Minister for Water and Flooding, Emma Hardy MP. This includes the establishment of Coastal Adaptation Pilots in April this year, with £18 million to be shared between coastal projects across East Riding of Yorkshire, North Norfolk, Great Yarmouth and East Suffolk for implementation over a three-year period. Our intention would be to build upon the Coastal Transition Accelerator Programme (Coastwise) to continue working with communities along the North Norfolk coastline, progressing work that has already started, but in particular, progressing initiatives that will provide options for households in erosion hit areas.  
[Home | North Norfolk District Council receives further time and funding from the Environment Agency for the Coastwise project](#)
- Planned demolition of identified, most at-risk, vacant properties will commence shortly.
- The nascent Coastal Homes Assurance Scheme will be further developed and fed into the emerging adaptation pilots initiatives.
- The Holiday Park Adaptation Assessment will be completed in mid-February.

### **Overstrand**

- The process for procuring sheet piles has commenced, in order to facilitate the scheme's timely implementation.
- Tendering for the construction contract will commence shortly.

### **Repairs and Maintenance**

- The reinstatement of the timber revetment and plant bays on **Mundesley** beach will be undertaken as soon as the weather permits – these removed to facilitate the coast protection scheme, completed last year.
- Investigation into potential options to remedy the void under Sheringham promenade will continue and a solution will be devised.
- Repairs to aids to navigation will be ongoing.

## **3 Meetings attended**

Date	NNDC	Broads Authority	In Person	Virtual	Description
<b>2025</b>					
01/12	X		X		Cabinet
ditto	X		X		Business planning
03/12		X		X	National Parks England Board
ditto		X		X	National Parks UK
05/12		X	X		Planning Committee
17/12	X		X		Business Planning
ditto	X		X		Full Council
18/12		X		X	Pre Full Board
19/12		X	X		Extraordinary Full Board
<b>2026</b>					
05/01	X		X		Special cabinet
ditto	X		X		Business planning
14/01		X		X	Broadland futures Initiative
16/01		X	X		Planning Committee
19/01	X		X		Cabinet
ditto	X		X		Cabinet pre-Agenda
ditto	X		X		Business Planning
21/01	X		X		Norfolk Rivers IDB
27/01	X		X		Coastwise Board
29 & 30/01	X		X		Ocean and Coastal Futures Conference