

NORTH NORFOLK DISTRICT COUNCIL
CORPORATE PLAN 2023 – 2027
ANNUAL ACTION PLAN for APRIL 2026 – MARCH 2027

OUR GREENER FUTURE

We will continue our work to create a cleaner, green and zero-carbon future for North Norfolk.

Actions:-

1. Having adopted our new Local Plan in December 2025, the Planning and Infrastructure Act 2025 requires us to commence a review of the Plan with a clear timetable. We will therefore commence this review giving priority to considering further how economic and housing growth can be achieved in the district alongside the protection and improvement of our local environment and delivering climate resilient sustainable growth. (New action for 2026/27).
2. Continue to monitor and report on the greenhouse gas emissions of the Council's operations and activities and ensure the climate impact of all decisions are fully accounted for. (Carried forward as an amended action from the 2025/26 AAP).
3. Continue to monitor, and look to increase, the percentage of household waste collected which is recycled through programmes of education and public awareness and work with other rural authorities to lobby Government for additional funds to support the introduction of a weekly food waste collection service and collection of plastic film products in future years, recognising that at present the costs of the weekly food waste service is uneconomic. (Carried forward as an amended action from the 2025/26 AAP).
4. Working with DEFRA, the Environment Agency, local partners and communities, continue to progress delivery of the Coastwise and successor programmes in the development and implementation of innovative approaches to coastal adaptation – ongoing until March 2029. (Carried forward as an action from the 2025/26 AAP following announcement of additional funding by Government on 28th Jan 2026).
5. Develop, as part of our preparations for Local Government Reorganisation, a framework for transferring the custodianship of some property assets such as Surveyors Allotments to community organisations with the objective of improved conservation and biodiversity aims. (New action for 2026/27).

DEVELOPING OUR COMMUNITIES

We will develop our work to support confident, engaged, resilient and inclusive communities.

Actions:-

1. Produce a Rural Position Statement which maps the provision of key rural services including village shops, post offices, pubs, community halls, rail, bus and community transport services and mobile / broadband coverage, and proposes future policy responses, so that there is a clear baseline record of such assets to pass to any “new” local authority established through Local Government Reorganisation. (Carried forward as an amended action from the 2025/26 AAP).
2. Continue to promote greater take up of Neighbourhood Plans by local communities with the objective of supporting more communities adopt such Plans – strengthening local community voices and capacity in the context of Local Government Reorganisation. (Retained as an action from the 2025/26 AAP.)
3. In light of changes impacting a number of our partners, we will review the focus of our People Services team to deliver important preventative and early intervention services, and support our communities prioritise the delivery of health, wellbeing and financial inclusivity to our most vulnerable and hard to reach residents. (Carried forward as an amended action from the 2025/26 AAP).
4. With local partners we will continue to lobby for the retention and re-opening of the Benjamin Court NHS asset in Cromer with the objective of seeing the provision of innovative health prevention and support services for older people, reflecting the district’s aged demographic – the oldest average age in the country. (Retained and carried forward as an amended action from the 2025/26 AAP).
5. Continue delivery of the Fakenham Leisure and Sports Hub project through to completion in Qtr 1 2027. (Action carried forward from 2025/26 AAP).
6. Having delivered a new 3G pitch in Cromer during 2025, continue to pursue funding for similar facilities at Fakenham and North Walsham. (Carried forward as an amended action from the 2024/25 AAP).
7. Building upon the successful application for funds from the Hornsea 3 Legacy Fund and other funding sources to deliver an Outdoor Classroom facility and mains electricity supply into Holt Country Park (anticipated for delivery by June 2026), continue exploring sources of external funding opportunities such as the Norfolk GIRAMs scheme and S106 agreements to contribute to towards maintaining Green Flag status at Holt Country Park and our other Countryside sites. – (Action carried forward from 2025/26 AAP).
8. Following recent completion of the “new” playground at The Leas in Sheringham, using the Council’s own funds and seeking to secure sources of matchfunding, continue to invest in play areas owned by the District Council. (New action for 2026/27).

9. Develop a framework to support the allocation of funds through the new Local Members Fund, as agreed by Full Council as part of the Council's 2026/27 budget. (New action for 2026/27).
10. Work alongside local partners in Sheringham who are wishing to explore how a sustainable community sports hub can be developed as part of a mixed housing and employment development opportunity, which includes NNDC assets. (New action for 2026/27).

MEETING OUR HOUSING NEED

We will seek to meet the challenges of local housing need.

Actions:-

1. Continue to gather and share data about the number of permanent, affordable, second and holiday homes, empty homes and numbers of local people on the housing register at a parish level on an annual basis so that there is a very clear understanding of the context of local housing issues at a local community level to inform future development of rural exceptions and other affordable housing schemes. (Retained as an action from the 2025/26 AAP)
2. Continue to monitor the impact and expenditure of the returned Second Homes Council Tax Premium income negotiated with Norfolk County Council to finance the delivery of a more ambitious programme of affordable homes developments in the district from April 2025. (Carry forward as an action from 2025/26 AAP).
3. Take forward with partners a programme of new affordable homes development in the district, with a target number of 307 new affordable homes completed over the period March 2025 to March 2027 (76 in 2025/26 and 231 in 2026/27) with schemes at Bacton (47 units on site), Westwood, Sheringham (24 units complete), Stalham (61 units – on site), Walcott (23 units on site), and Wells (16 units complete) being taken forward during 2025. Schemes being developed for a 2026/27 start include projects at Corpusty, Fakenham, Holt, Ludham, North Walsham and Stalham. (Retained and carried forward as an amended action from the 2025/26 AAP).
4. Develop and implement systems aimed at improving housing standards across the district in response to the introduction of the new Renters Rights Act, including undertaking at least 50 inspections per year under the Housing Health and Safety Rating System of privately rented accommodation in response to complaints received. Inspect all new Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMOs) applications received by the Council and using a risk-based approach inspect on a rolling basis all HMOs in the District. In all cases take appropriate action in accordance with the Council's enforcement policy. (Retained and amended as an action from the 2025/26 AAP).
5. Continue to monitor and take action to reduce the number of Long-Term Empty properties in the district through investigation and enforcement action – pursuing at least 50 cases a year. (Retained action from 2025/26 AAP).

INVESTING IN OUR LOCAL ECONOMY & INFRASTRUCTURE

We will create an environment where businesses thrive and prosper, supporting jobs and economic opportunity for all.

Actions:-

1. Develop and maintain engagement and dialogue with and between the district's business community, with a series of regular business briefing events to be staged throughout the year under the Inspiring North Norfolk branding. (Retained as an action from the 2025/26 AAP)
2. Take forward co-ordinated actions on behalf of key partners and stakeholders to raise the profile of the Bacton Energy Hub site as one of the UK's principal locations for carbon capture and storage and hydrogen production in support of the UK's energy transition to Net Zero realising the employment, supply chain and wider economic benefits for North Norfolk, Norfolk and the wider East of England region. Ongoing from now throughout the period of the Corporate Plan. (Retained and carried forward as an amended action from the 2025/26 AAP).
3. Continue to engage and work with partners to develop and support initiatives which strengthen the vitality and viability of the district's market and coastal towns through the Norfolk Market Town Ambition programme. (Retained and carried forward as an amended action from the 2025/26 AAP).
4. Work with LINK, Cash Access UK and local partners in the district's market and coastal towns to retain banking and post office services in locations across the district. Banking Hubs were opened in Holt and Cromer during 2025 and a similar facility is currently under development in North Walsham; with ongoing conversations with key partners about providing such facilities in other locations across the district. (Retained and carried forward as an amended action from the 2025/26 AAP.)
5. Continue to support and work with Visit North Norfolk to promote North Norfolk as a key visitor destination with a diverse visitor offer. (Retained and carried forward as an amended action from the 2025/26 AAP).

A STRONG, RESPONSIBLE & ACCOUNTABLE COUNCIL

We will ensure the Council maintains a financially sound position, seeking to make best use of its assets and staff resources, effective partnership working and maximising the opportunities of external funding and income.

Actions:-

1. Work with local government partners (County and District Councils in Norfolk) to successfully deliver Local Government Reorganisation following Government's Mindful To decision expected in spring 2026. (New action for 2026/27).
2. With partners continue to seek and secure new powers, functions and budgets for Norfolk as part of the Government's English Devolution White Paper through the establishment of a Foundation Strategic Authority for Norfolk and Suffolk in the short term and as a Mayoral Combined Authority from May 2028. (Retained and carried forward as an amended action from the 2025/26 AAP).
3. Continue the Council's improvement journey through taking forward the recommendations made by the LGA Corporate Peer Challenge and as necessary amending agreed actions (such as the People Strategy) to reflect LGR so that our staff continue to provide good quality services to our residents, businesses and communities and are well-equipped to realise new opportunities presented by local government reorganisation. (Retained and carried forward as an amended action from the 2025/26 AAP).
4. Continue to monitor progress towards the objectives detailed in the Medium-Term Financial Strategy through continuously reviewing service delivery arrangements so as to realise efficiencies and ensure value for money service provision in meeting the needs of our residents, businesses and visitors. (Retained and carried forward as an amended action from the 2025/26 AAP).
5. Continue to seek external funding to support the refurbishment of the auditorium of the Cromer Pier Pavilion Theatre so as to place the theatre in the best possible position in the context of local government reorganisation, recognising the Pier and theatre's key role in the cultural and tourism appeal of North Norfolk and marking its 125th anniversary in 2026. (Retained and carried forward as an amended action from the 2025/26 AAP).
6. Consider the implications of LGR on the future management and maintenance of tourism infrastructure assets and explore how these might be best safeguarded in the longer term, recognising their importance in the context of the tourism appeal of the district and continued pressure on discretionary services in any new unitary councils. (Retained and carried forward as an amended action from the 2025/26 AAP).
7. Continue to review and maximise the Council's approach to Asset Commercialisation to realise new and emerging opportunities around the use of the Council's land and property assets (Retained and carried forward as an amended action from the 2025/26 AAP).