

CABINET MEMBERS REPORT TO COUNCIL

17 June 2026

COUNCILLOR HARRY BLATHWAYT - CABINET MEMBER FOR COAST

For the period April – May 2026

1 Progress on Portfolio Matters.

Coastwise

- Construction continues on the replacement the car park in Happisburgh; completion of this has been deliberately delayed, due to the desire to slightly remodel the scheme in response to local concerns that were highlighted, however the existing car park will remain available for use until the new one is complete.
- Three properties and a redundant office building, imminently at risk of erosion, have been demolished in Happisburgh. Coastwise has worked with these property owners for several years and has helped them through the process. The project was sensitively managed, and the external media interest was responsible and respectful of the interests of the individuals involved.
- Happisburgh Church Digital Heritage project is nearing completion, which involved multiple well attended public events to create a 3D model of the church and its surroundings, including its internal features, and then layering on top community stories and memories, with a focus on creating a virtual living church.
- Community Transition Plans have been shared with some community groups for further public prioritisation of key actions.
- In light of the impending Coastal Adaptation Pilot, which will see the extension of key elements of the Coastwise programme (under the same branding) up until 2026, and recognising resource changes within the Coastal team, two post are currently out for recruitment: Coastal Adaptation Team Leader and Coastal Project Enabler.

Overstrand

- Tenders are being appraised for the refurbishment works to the sea wall.
- Steel sheet piles to be used for the scheme have been procured and ordered.
- The walkway on the sea wall was cleared of debris and reopened in advance of half-term. The slip will continue to be monitored.
- The areas of knotweed that are accessible (top and bottom) have been sprayed by the contractor and ways of treating the middle section are still being investigated.

Repairs and Maintenance

- Significant repairs to groyne two (Doctor's Steps groyne) in Cromer, including large number of new timbers installed to replace missing and damaged planks.
- All works required following pre-season inspections of accesses completed.
- Happisburgh ramp has been reshaped, to continue to provide pedestrian access from the car park.
- Repairs to severely corroded sheet piles below Cromer eastern beach huts.
- Sheringham fisherman's ramp repaired.
- Debris removed from beach at Mundesley, as follow up to coast protection scheme.

Other

- Rock Stockpile Monitoring Report for the Mundesley Coastal Management Scheme submitted to Natural England, Marine Management Organisation, NNDC Planning. Very positive comments received from Natural England; asked whether the drone photographs included in the report could be used to help with geomorphology training.
- Coastal team fed into LGA Coastal SIG response to proposed National Planning Policy Framework changes.
- EFRA Select Committee evidence review regarding the impact of coastal erosion on communities published 20th March. This included substantial evidence provided by NNDC and our coastal communities and clearly sets out recommendations to government: <https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm5901/cmselect/cmenvfru/1317/report.html>.

2 Forthcoming Activities and Developments.

Coastwise

- Further Coastal Erosion Transition Plans are to be shared with other communities.
- Development of programme (and input into the national business case) for Coastwise via the new Coastal Adaptation Pilot (CAP) funding.

Overstrand

- Construction contract will be awarded, scheme to be delivered summer to early autumn.
- Delivery of steel sheet piles to be used during construction.

Repairs and Maintenance

- Significant work to be undertaken repairing groyne 1 in Cromer ('Banksy' groyne).

- Repairs to (and reinstatement of) Mundesley western revetment and plant bays.
- Continued repairs and installation of sheet piles below beach huts to east of Cromer.

3 Meetings attended

Date	NNDC	BA	In Person	Virtual	Description
March					
3rd	X			X	Norfolk Coastal Forum
5th	X		X		Norfolk Coast Protected Landscape
12th	X		X		Norfolk Futures Initiative
17th	X			X	LGA Coastal SIG
19th	X		X		Full Council
30th	X		X		Cabinet Pre-agenda
31st	X			X	Norfolk Coastal Partnership
April					
10th		X	X		BA planning
14 th	X		X		Cabinet
15th	X		X		BFI Workshop
16th		X	X		Navigation Committee
17th	X		X		Coastwise grant meeting
23rd		X	X		CEO handover meeting
24th		X		X	National Parks England
28th	X	X		X	All party meeting, re land for development
May					
5th		X	X		Upper Thurne Working Group
7th		X	X		CEO Induction meeting
8th		X	X		BA planning committee
14th		X	X		Whitlingham Country Park Trustees
14th	X		X		UEA Court
15th	X		X		Cabinet Agenda
20th		X		X	Broads LAF
20th	X		X		AGM Full Council
28th	X			X	NCP Catch-up