

Group News update July/August 2019

1. Leader writes to the new PM

With a new Prime minister in No.10 the Leader took the initiative by writing to Boris Johnson on his first day to outline the position in Norfolk and what we have to offer.

Dear Prime Minister,

Congratulations on your appointment. I look forward to seeing your positive vision for a post-Brexit Britain – and to playing our full part in helping to deliver it.

I know that Brexit is the key item on your agenda but I also note you have attached great importance on the need for positivity and optimism on all fronts. I have the same view about the future of Norfolk and the county council's role in growing the economy and improving people's lives.

Norfolk has much to offer:

- We are a net contributor to UK PLC – a positive player in the national economy
- We are leaders in renewable energy and agri-tech, plus research at the University of East Anglia
- We have room to develop more housing and employment, while protecting our beautiful countryside and coast
- We have improving infrastructure links, with a 90-minute Norwich-London train service and 98 per cent coverage for superfast broadband
- We are innovative and commercially minded, as shown by our contracting company, Norse and our house-building venture, Repton Homes

I'm also positive about the potential future role of councils and their ability to support your objectives. A huge amount of money has been taken out of local government since 2010 but we have done the heavy lifting and delivered high quality services. We are ideally placed to offer leadership and vision and to effectively work with a wide range of partners.

However, positivity can only go so far, if our very real pressures aren't addressed.

I'm not extending a begging bowl. As an experienced businessman who is now a county council leader, I am asking for you to make a shrewd investment in the future of this country, which will give you a real, tangible return. This fits with the Local Government Association's "Councils Can" campaign on how local authorities can deliver for the country.

We would like to see:

- Fairer funding, on a long-term basis, will enable councils to plan effectively and have the headroom to innovate and bring more value to communities
- Sustainable funding for adult social care will benefit our most vulnerable people and reduce demand for more costly care and NHS services. We know from our pioneering reablement service that every £1 invested saves £4 in adult social care costs
- Infrastructure investment will unlock our potential as economic leaders – in Norfolk, dualling the A47 and building the Norwich western link will help us to form an eastern powerhouse
- A new form of localism and devolution for county areas, which can empower councils to deliver for their areas, without the contentious issue of having to have an elected mayor
- Once again, congratulations. I welcome any opportunity to shape your thinking on how local government in general and Norfolk County Council in particular can play a purposeful role in the future of this country. I would be happy to host a visit, so you can see all the good things we are doing and our ideas for the future.

Yours sincerely,
Cllr Andrew Proctor
Leader of the Council

2. Repton Homes to build 137 new homes at Acle

Plans for 137 new homes in Acle have been submitted as the first project proposed by Norfolk County Council's company, Repton, with a view to starting work in spring 2020.

The planning application will have a mix of bungalows and two to four-bedroom houses and includes 45 affordable homes, including shared ownership homes. It will be considered by Broadland District Council in the autumn.

This is the first of our schemes to bring about high-quality housing in Norfolk. We are looking to build much-needed homes, as well as generating income for the County Council.

3. Regional backing secured for Norfolk road projects

Norfolk County Council has won regional support for its projects to build the Norwich Western Link, Long Stratton Bypass, West Winch Housing Access Road and a complete redesign of the Pullover junction

The Norwich Western Link is a new 3.9 mile dual carriageway road connecting the western end of Broadland Northway (formerly the NDR) to the A47 trunk road. Together with the dualling of the A47 between North Tuddenham and Easton, due to get underway in early 2022, it would create a fully dual carriageway orbital route around Norwich.

The new road would reduce traffic and rat-running on minor roads and in communities to the west of the city and improve access to growth and employment sites at Norwich Airport, Norwich Research Park and the Food Enterprise Zone at Easton. It would also reduce emergency response times, including to the nearby Norfolk and Norwich University Hospital.

The total cost of delivering the Norwich Western Link, including inflation, is estimated at £153 million. The County Council is aiming to start construction in late 2022 and open the road to traffic in early 2025.

Long Stratton Bypass is a new 2.5 mile single carriageway route to the east of Long Stratton in south Norfolk and would form part of the A140 that links Norwich and Ipswich. The bypass would relieve traffic congestion in and around Long Stratton and help to create 625 new jobs and 1,800 new homes. The bypass is estimated to cost £29 million, with the majority of this being sought from the Department for Transport and a significant contribution is due to be made by a developer. Construction on the bypass is due to start in the first half of 2022

For more information about Transport East, visit www.transporteast.org.uk.

4. Early Childhood and Family Service

We are on track for the new Early Childhood and Family Service (ECFS) to 'go live' from 1st October 2019

With the contract successfully awarded to Action for Children, the new service will:

- Provide targeted support for families with children aged 0-5
- Offer help so that all families can connect with local support and universal early childhood activities
- Provide information, advice and guidance when families initially ask for help. This might be online, face to face, or through staff attending local community led groups.
- Operate from 15 early childhood and family bases & use a large range of local delivery venues
- Contribute to joint working and maintaining partnerships to secure a district early childhood offer

5. SEND transformation programme

We have produced an ambitious [SEN sufficiency strategy](#) to improve specialist provision for children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND).

To deliver this strategy, we are investing £120 million in a major SEND transformation programme of new schools and Specialist Resource Bases. We will also receive additional SEND funding [announced by the Secretary of State for Education](#) on 17 December 2018. The whole programme will enable us to:

- Build up to four new schools for children with SEND
- Provide an extra 170 places in specialist resource bases (hosted by mainstream schools)
- Support and challenge mainstream schools to improve inclusion opportunities
- Reduce the travel time for children and young people with SEND, who need to travel to their school placement

You can find out more by visiting the following page

<https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/what-we-do-and-how-we-work/policy-performance-and-partnerships/policies-and-strategies/send-policies/send-transformation-programme>

6. Transforming Day Opportunities

In 2018 The Adult Social Care Committee unanimously agreed to implement the co-produced "Learning Disabilities Strategy: My Life, My Ambition, My Future 2018-2022" This strategy is built on the wishes and aspirations of the people who use the services. They told us;

- They want to be supported to be part of their wider community and take part in local leisure activities
- That work is really important, and they want support and training to prepare for work
- They want support to develop and maintain relationships and friendships

We have therefore been working with the people concerned, their families and providers to develop a new model for day opportunities that will support this ambition.

Currently Norfolk County Council supports approximately 1400 people with learning disabilities and / or autism who attend approximately 60 different day opportunities. This represents an investment of £14m in these services each year. Services have developed in a variety of different ways and we know that providers have varying prices for comparable services.

This transformation programme is based on the premise that it is cost neutral.

The new model will be delivered through 3 pathways, which cater for different levels of need. The three pathways are:

- Employment: preparing people for work and finding real employment
- Independence: support to develop relationships, participate in social activities and develop new skills
- Wellbeing: meeting the needs of those people with the most complex needs

The focus of all three pathways is to deliver outcomes, promote independence and make a real difference to peoples' lives. People can move between the pathways as their level of need changes. The right pathway for each individual will be agreed as part of their social care review or assessment.

As part of the change NCC will set an hourly rate for each pathway. This will mean that in the future NCC pays consistent rates for comparable services. This rate will be based on the analysis of current costs submitted by a wide range of existing providers.

7. Highlights from the Residents Survey

In June and July 2019, the council undertook a Face-to-face residents survey of a representative sample of 1,148 residents for the first time in many years. The survey covered 4 main themes;

- **Norfolk as a place to live**
- **Perceptions of Norfolk County Council**
- **Budget and service priorities**
- **Communications**

Some key highlights were;

- Almost **nine in ten** residents (88%) are satisfied with their local area as a place to live, compared with the national score (81%).
- Residents believe that access to green spaces and nature (58%), a safe community (52%) and culture and heritage (33%) are what's good about living in Norfolk
- Residents believe that road infrastructure (37%), activities for teenagers (30%) and affordable housing and renting (33%) most **need improving**.
- **Satisfaction** with the way the Council runs things now stands at 75%. This is significantly higher than the national score (61%) and our 2014 score (42%).
- Levels of **trust** in the Council are higher (68%) compared to national (58%) and previous (59%) scores.
- The top five **most important services** for residents are: Adult social services (79%), Roads and transport services (75%) Public health (73%), Environmental services (70%) and Children's services including schools (70%)
- Leaflet or newsletter is people's **preferred method of communication** (51%) followed by council publications like Your Norfolk (36%) and letters (32%).

The full report will be available later in the year

8. Minimum Income Guarantee (MIG) update

Please find attached briefing note

Cabinet 5th August

Transformation of Mental Health Services for Children and Young People

In early 2019, the Norfolk & Waveney system agreed to develop a second phase of the programme to transform mental health services for children and young people (CYP), focused on mobilising a series of workstreams to address the shortcomings identified during the initial phase.

Cabinet agreed

- The development of an Alliance approach to commissioning and provision;
- The establishment of revised system governance arrangements.
- Delegate to the Executive Director of Children's Services authority to enter into a revised Section 75 agreement with the Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) that will enable and support the Alliance model, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Children's Services and the Executive Director of Finance and Commercial Services.

Autism Strategy

This report provides an update on the All-Age Autism Partnership Board (NAPB) and the workstreams in place to support the implementation of a coproduced local All-Age Autism Strategy 'My Autism, Our Lives, Our Norfolk'. The work of the NAPB supports the implementation of the Autism Act (2009) National Autism Statutory Guidance (2016) and Strategy 'Think Autism'. It provides information on the activity underway to support the statutory bodies' responsibilities in undertaking their duties under the Autism Act 2009, Statutory Guidance 'Think Autism' 2014, Care Act 2014 and the Equality Act 2010.

Cabinet Agreed

- Promote and champion the strategy within the County Council.
- That Cabinet Members complete the Autism e-learning training to lead by example.

Adult Social Care Annual Quality Report 2018-19.

Ensuring that the social care and support services required by adults in Norfolk to meet their needs and to help them to live as independent a life as possible is a key priority for Norfolk County Council. The Care Act placed this priority on a statutory footing in 2014 through new duties requiring councils to seek continuous improvements in quality and choice of services in its promotion of a sustainable care market. Broadly speaking year on year improvements in care quality achieved since 2016 have been maintained in the last financial year

Cabinet Agreed

- Approve the proposals for improving quality in 2019-20

Norfolk Minerals and Waste Local Plan Review – Preferred Options Consultation.

A review of the current Norfolk Minerals and Waste Plan is being carried out to ensure that the policies within them remain up to date, to extend the Plan period from 2026 to 2036 and to consolidate them into one Norfolk Minerals and Waste Local Plan (M&WLP). This process is the Minerals and Waste Local Plan Review which will include two public consultation stages and a formal representations period prior to the submission of the M&WLP to the Secretary of State for examination.

The first public consultation stage, called the 'Initial Consultation' took place in summer 2018.

Cabinet Agreed

- The revised Minerals and Waste Development Scheme shall have effect from 1 September 2019;
- To the publication of the Preferred Options Consultation Document (and associated background documents).
- To carry out the Preferred Options consultation using the methods detailed in the report (ie for a six-week formal consultation period).

The full agenda, reports and minutes can be found here

<https://norfolkcc.cmis.uk.com/norfolkcc/Meetings/tabid/128/ctl/ViewMeetingPublic/mid/496/Meeting/1585/Committee/169/Default.aspx>