

Devolution and Reorganisation

2 different issues:

Devolution: Devolution Proposals – government consultations

[Consultations](#) have been launched in six areas, including Norfolk and Suffolk, on government proposals to establish mayoral combined authorities. These form part of the government's Devolution Priority Programme, which was launched earlier this month.

Norfolk was recently accepted onto the Devolution Priority Program which would see additional money and powers coming to the region.

The Government is seeking views from interested parties such as residents and businesses, as well as public sector organisations, on questions such as the proposed geographies and how the mayoral combined authorities will operate.

The consultation on a proposal to form a Mayoral Combined County Authority for the local government areas of Norfolk County Council and Suffolk County Council can be accessed [here](#).

The consultation closes on 13 April 2025.

There will be more consultations. You need to be involved so watch this space!

Devolution: giving local government more powers and hopefully money

Mayoral election May 2026

Mayor will assume strategic powers

Devolution gives us the key to grow the economy, provide high wage jobs and greater aspiration for future Norfolk generations.

Change to Local Authorities

At the moment we have a 2-tier system, 3 if you add PCs

This will be changed to unitary authorities. Nothing on changing PCs.

The May 2025 County Elections have been postponed for a year.

The May 2027 District elections are unlikely to go ahead.

SNDC Paris Summit on 2nd April between 9-12

A Unitary should be a minimum of 500,000, no numbers for Councillors

All of the 2 tier authorities, in Norfolk, were written to by the Minister asking them to cooperate in producing the Unitary electoral areas.

There will be lots of different view put forward. See Norwich map hoovering up PCs including Poringland and Wymondham

If done right, a new unitary system supporting a new strategic authority will deliver tens of millions of additional investments and save tens of millions in the delivery of services."

Those areas currently at two tier level are also being asked by Government to submit initial proposals by 21st March for how they would propose local government boundaries to operate under these new and larger, mandated Unitary Councils. September for more detailed plans. Have your say

[Norfolk devolution and local government reform updates - Norfolk County Council](#)

- Unitary 1: Greater Norwich on Urban Boundaries
- Unitary 2: Breckland, Kings Lynn and West Norfolk, and the North Norfolk County divisions of Fakenham & The Raynhams, Holt and Wells
- Unitary 3: Great Yarmouth, the remainder of Broadland and South Norfolk, and the remainder of North Norfolk



There will be more!

The Govt and Mayor will CHOOSE

People in Norfolk are being invited to a series of FREE electric blanket testing events taking place across the county next week.

From Monday 10th to Thursday 13th March, Norfolk County Council Trading Standards and Norfolk Fire and Rescue Service will be holding these drop-in sessions at libraries across the county, so people can have their electric blankets tested by an expert free of charge and stay safe and warm.

They can also speak to friendly staff from both services to find out more about product safety, fire safety in the home and how to best protect themselves and their loved ones from scams.

Councillor Margaret Dewsbury, Cabinet Member for Communities at Norfolk County Council, said: "We would like to invite everyone to bring their electric blankets, or those of their family member, friend or neighbour along to one of these events to get them safety tested free of charge.

"Electric blankets cause hundreds of fires nationally each year, so we really want to show people what to look out for when buying and using one at home to help them stay safe."

Some key safety advice is to check your blanket for wear or damage including:

If the fabric is worn or frayed

- If scorch marks are visible on the fabric

- If wires are poking through the fabric
- If there is damage to any part of the electrical cord
- If the control buttons are making a buzzing sound when switched on and/or is giving off a smell
- If the connector fitted to the blanket is damaged or over-heating

The FREE electric blanket testing events will be held at the following locations. For more information about electric blanket safety, visit www.norfolk.gov.uk/electricblankets

Monday 10th March

10.30-12.30 Cromer Library

2.30-4.30 Gorleston Library

Tuesday 11th March

10am-noon Thetford Library

2-4pm Wymondham Library

Wednesday 12th March

10am-noon Hunstanton Library

2-4pm Dereham Library

Thursday 13th March

10am-noon Norfolk and Norwich Millennium Library (The Forum)

2-4pm Diss Library

Household hazardous waste days to be held at Norfolk's recycling centres

Norfolk County Council has today set the budget for the year ahead which includes money to hold an extra series of household hazardous waste events this year.

The events will take place at seven recycling centres this spring and are in addition to the usual events which take place in the autumn.

Customers must use the recycling centre booking system to attend the free of charge events, which will be held throughout April and May. Bookings are expected open a week before each event.

These events are for residents disposing of hazardous household waste only and are not for any business, group or other organisation. Residents will be asked to visit an alternative site if they do not have hazardous waste to dispose of as the events are expected to be in high demand.

The spring hazardous waste events will be held on:

4 & 5 April: King's Lynn

11 & 12 April: Dereham

25 & 26 April: Thetford

2 & 3 May: Norwich North

9 & 10 May: Hempton

16 & 17 May: Caister

23 & 24 May: Norwich South

There will be no hazardous waste events running over the Easter weekend.

"We know how popular these events always are and wanted to give residents another opportunity, earlier in the year, to dispose of their hazardous waste. Thanks to our new booking system we can manage the number of people coming to site and avoid the queues of traffic and waiting times that residents have seen in previous years.

What is hazardous waste?

Waste is hazardous if it can cause harm to humans or the environment and includes any waste that needs specialist disposal.

We don't normally take these items at our recycling centres.

A list of what can be disposed of at the hazardous waste days can be found here: www.norfolk.gov.uk/hazardouswaste

Budget

Norfolk County Council has agreed a balanced budget for the fiscal year 2025/26, despite facing significant financial pressures.

The budget, which was agreed at the full council meeting to help maintaining stable and sustainable finances while delivering essential public services.

Had to make difficult decisions to ensure a robust and balanced budget, particularly in light of increased demand for our services."

We continue to see significant growth in demand for our services, particularly in adult social care and SEND, where there are systemic issues at a national level that haven't been addressed

Underscores the need for an effective and efficient structure under local government reform. Any proposal for the future of local government in Norfolk will need a credible plan to save taxpayers money - without fragmenting essential services.

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Key facts and figures from Norfolk County Council Budget

Gross budget: Norfolk County Council has a gross expenditure budget of £2.2 billion (£1.7 billion excluding schools).

We spend over £700 million in Adult Social Care, £367m in Children's Services (non-schools), £283m in Infrastructure, £44m in Communities and Environment and £46m in Fire.

Net Budget: The council has a net budget for 2025-26 of £572m. This is the amount we raise in council tax to fund the services we provide.

Budget growth: The 2025-26 budget provides growth of £121m, including

£31m of inflationary pressures

£35m Legislative pressures (including increase in National Living Wage) and the cost of increased Employers National Insurance

£15m demand and demographic pressures

Budget growth of over £25m to fund recurrent 2024-25 overspends in Adult and Children's Services.

Funding and savings: At the same time as £121m cost pressures, funding has only increased by £32m. Government has abolished Rural Services Delivery Grant and diverted funding from rural areas to metropolitan areas. To balance the position, the 2025-26 budget includes savings of £45m.

Council tax: For 2025-26, an increase of 4.99%, including an increase of 3% for general council tax, and 2% for the Adult Social Care precept.

A Band D household will pay £1,755.63 per year, or approximately £34 a week, for county council services in 2025-26.

Norfolk County Council 2025-26 council tax bands:

A - £1,170.42 B - £1,365.49 C - £1,560.56 D - £1,755.63 E - £2,145.77 F - £2,535.91 G - £2,926.05

H - £3,511.26



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Scams

Cold Calling Alert - Telephone cold calls regarding 'loft insulation'

News Alert - Safer Internet Day 2025

News Alert - Free electric blanket safety testing events being held in Norfolk'

News Alert - Gatherings of Poultry banned in England

Cold Calling Alert - Flyers offering 'Tree Care' work

Scam Alert - Emails claiming to offer 'winter fuel payments' and other 'winter support' schemes