

Councillor Update Sept 27th

Norfolk County Council Updates

Scam alert - letters claiming to be from Norfolk County Council

Norfolk County Council Trading Standards is issuing a scam warning. A letter claiming to be from 'Norfolk County Council' is being circulated which states that it is informing the recipient about 'changes to Council Tax payments'.

The letter is a scam. Norfolk County Council is not responsible for collecting Council Tax payments in Norfolk. The letter also includes a QR code that directs recipients to a fraudulent website

If you, or anyone you know, receives this or a similar letter claiming to be from Norfolk County Council about Council Tax payments, please ignore it and do not scan the QR code. Scam letters can also be reported to Trading Standards through its partner, the Citizens Advice consumer helpline, on freephone 0808 223 1133.

Free weight management support for Adults

Norfolk adults who would like support to lose weight and improve their health are being encouraged to find out if they are eligible for free weight management services funded by Norfolk County Council.

Being overweight or obese can increase the risk of developing several long-term health conditions, including type 2 diabetes, high blood pressure, heart disease and some cancers. In Norfolk, around 65% of adults are classed as overweight or obese.

To help people achieve and maintain a healthier weight, Public Health Norfolk commissions two free programmes: Slimming World and Your Health Norfolk. Eligible residents can access weekly group support sessions that provide practical advice, encouragement and tools to help them make sustainable lifestyle changes. Further details and links are available in the county council news release here [Norfolk adults urged to access free weight management support - Norfolk County Council](#).

For those not meeting the eligibility criteria there are other useful tools, tips and support available through the County Council's Ready to Change web pages - [Ready to Change - Norfolk County Council](#)

National Updates

Students to be offered new vocational GCSE subjects

The Government has announced new vocational GCSEs and expanded work experience for 14 to 16-year-olds to strengthen routes from school into further study and employment.

The qualifications will sit alongside academic GCSEs and eventually replace Technical Awards, with nationally set content and Ofqual-regulated assessment and grading. English, maths and science will remain part of every pupil's education.

Broader technical pathways are planned from September 2028, with the first vocational GCSEs potentially available from September 2029.

Potential subjects include digital technology, creative media production, child development, construction, and business management and finance. The Department for Education says they will support progression to A Levels, T Levels and planned V Levels.

The Government is also launching a National Mission on Work Experience with the Good Growth Business Forum and other businesses. Employers are asked to provide 200,000 additional placements so all young people gain workplace experience between 14 and 16. Employers can pledge placements through their local Careers Hub.

Public panel for independent commission on adult social care

Baroness Louise Casey's independent commission on adult social care is inviting people to join public panels as part of the Big Conversation on Care.

From 21 September 2026, thousands of households across England have begun to receive letters inviting adults to register their interest in joining. Around 125 people will ultimately be selected to take part. The public panels are part of the Big Conversation on Care that is open to all and was highlighted in last week's councillor brief. All residents can vote on their preferred proposals, helping to identify suggestions that receive broad support from the population and workforce.