



Latest Information, Advice, Useful Links and Service Updates

Updated 12 January 2023

This weekly briefing is intended as a resource to keep you up to date with the latest information and advice.

COVID-19 Trusted sources of information

The most recent **verified data on cases in the UK and Norfolk** is available from [Public Health England](#) and [Norfolk Insights](#).

Everyone has a key role in promoting www.nhs.uk/coronavirus and www.gov.uk/coronavirus as trusted sources of information to the public. It is important to ensure people go to the right sources of information and keep up to date with how to look after themselves.

Keep up to date: We have [a dedicated webpage for coronavirus updates](#) in Norfolk and impact on Norfolk County Council services.

Service updates: The most up to date information on council services can be found at [Norfolk County Council services disruptions](#).

Public Health - Avian flu update

Please share this information with anybody you know that keeps poultry and encourage them to register with the Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) poultry register.

Further cases of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) H5N1 have been confirmed in Norfolk. The latest Norfolk outbreak was confirmed on 10 January 2023. Details [here](#).

Government information regarding the latest situation on Avian Influenza, and the Prevention Zone requirements, can be found [here](#).

Mandatory housing measures for all poultry and captive birds were introduced to all areas of England from 7 November. Further information [here](#).

If you have 50 or more birds, you are legally required to register but you can choose to register voluntarily if you have less than that. By doing so you will be kept informed on the latest bird flu information so you can take action to reduce the risk to your birds, which in turn reduces the risk to all UK poultry. It's quick and easy to register [here](#).

Advice for the public

The public are advised to keep to designated footpaths, not to feed wild birds, and keep dogs on leads. Don't touch sick or dead birds, their feathers, or their droppings. If you see a dead bird, please report it to Defra's helpline on 03459 335577. Sick birds should be reported to the RSPCA (0300 1234 999) who may be able to help.

Government announces new discharge funding and support for NHS

Easing hospital pressures – new health and social care funding

The Government is making available up to £200 million of additional funding to immediately buy short-term care placements to allow people to be discharged safely into the community.

An additional £50 million is also being released to upgrade and expand hospitals, including new ambulance hubs and facilities for patients about to be discharged.

They say that when combined with the ramping up of the £500 million Discharge Funding, which will unblock a further 1,000 to 2,000 delayed discharge cases, capacity on wards will be freed up, which in turn enables those patients admitted by emergency departments to move forwards, which in turn unblocks ambulance delays.

It is not yet clear how much of the additional money will be spent in Norfolk.

Further details about the government announcement and additional information [here](#).

Energy Bill Discount Scheme for businesses, charities and public sector

The government has announced a new “Energy Bills Discount Scheme” for UK businesses, charities, and the public sector from April 2023.

The new scheme will mean all eligible UK businesses and other non-domestic energy users (including local authorities) will receive a discount on high energy bills until 31 March 2024.

From 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024, eligible non-domestic customers who have a contract with a licensed energy supplier will see a unit discount of up to £6.97/MWh automatically applied to their gas bill and a unit discount of up to £19.61/MWh applied to their electricity bill, except for those benefitting from lower energy prices.

Further information and details [here](#).

Norfolk County Deal update

Norfolk’s County Deal, to bring more powers and funding to Norfolk, will be considered by County Councillors next week on 17 January.

Norfolk’s full County Council meets at 10am on 17 January to discuss the in-principle deal that was reached with the Government last month, before the Council’s cabinet decides whether to proceed with the deal, later the same day.

If cabinet decides to proceed, a six week public consultation on the deal will be launched on 6 February and full council will consider the change to an elected council leader, in or around December.

The report to both meetings says:

“Devolution offers a generational opportunity to unlock significant long-term funding and gain greater freedom to decide how best to meet local needs and create new opportunities for the people who live and work in Norfolk. Some decisions and funding previously controlled in Westminster will now be decided by Norfolk, for Norfolk.”

“If the devolution deal is agreed, it will provide Norfolk with new powers, devolved funding and additional investment of £612.9m over the next 30 years to help us to boost our

economy through jobs, training and development, improve our transport network and support our environment."

The report recommends that full council considers the full text of the in-principle deal and note that proceeding with the deal is a decision for cabinet.

Link to full council paper [here](#)

Link to Cabinet paper [here](#)

Further details on the County Deal, including the full text, are available on the County Deal for Norfolk webpages [here](#).

Multiply free maths courses and new Multiply Champions in Norfolk

Multiply is a new government-funded programme to help adults across the UK to improve their numeracy skills.

The Multiply project awarded Norfolk County Council £4.7 million to provide numeracy support, training and qualifications until April 2025 which would be delivered by partners such as Norfolk Adult Learning, City College Norwich, the College of West Anglia, and East Coast College.

The Multiply project enables Norfolk County Council to distribute funding to learning partners to deliver a variety of courses to boost confidence and skill with maths. The range of courses include preparation for maths qualifications, such as Functional Skills, help with managing money, and courses aimed at specific workplaces which will be delivered alongside employers.

Good maths skills can help you find more job opportunities and lead to higher wages. Or they can help you prepare for further study. They also help in everyday life, such as helping children with homework and budgeting money.

You will be able to take part if:

- You are over 19
- You do not have maths GCSE at grade C (or equivalent)
- You live in Norfolk

Norfolk County Council has also hired 7 new Multiply Champions, one for each District, to promote numeracy skills in people over 19 without a GCSE at grade 4/C.

Making maths accessible, approachable, and engaging is one of the key challenges for the new Champions. They will attend events, community hubs, and libraries to help inspire people to take up a variety of courses on offer.

People can view the available Multiply courses in Norfolk on the Norfolk County website [here](#).

Active Travel England funding for Norfolk

Norfolk County Council has been successful in securing £657,388 funding from Active Travel England to support the improvement of active travel options across the County. The money comes from the Active Travel Capability Fund of £32.9 million which expects to see

millions shake up the way they travel. The investment is to help local authorities in England design, develop and consult on high-quality active travel schemes.

The funding received is the full amount that the County Council requested in a bid submitted in September. The bid outlined that Norfolk would use the money on active travel projects to enable more people to walk, wheel and cycle.

More information about Active Travel England [here](#)

Norfolk's highway biodiversity and cutting use of weedkillers

The locations of 5 new roadside nature recovery study areas, set to be a blueprint for new reserves and nature and wildlife friendly verge management across the county, have been revealed.

Sites near Taverham, Wells-next-the-Sea, King's Lynn, Heacham and Flitcham will be considered by councillors next week as part of plans to increase the number of roadside nature reserves to 300 (from the current 110) by 2024.

Members of the committee will also be considering a draft policy set to cut the use of weedkiller on highway areas, schools, care homes and county farms.

The Infrastructure and Development select committee will meet at 10am on 18 January, the papers for the meeting are available [here](#).

Appeal from the Norfolk Coroner's Service for help tracing next-of-kin

The Norfolk Coroner's Service is trying to trace any next-of-kin of Andrew Campbell, aged 52, who resided and died in Norwich on Tuesday 3rd January 2023.

Despite carrying out enquiries, no surviving next-of-kin have been identified by the Police or Coroner's Office.

Anyone with information relating to Mr Campbell should contact the Coroner's Office in Norwich on 01603 774773