

Norfolk County Council Updates

Recycling rates up

There was an article in the EDP that mentioned that recycling rates were down and linked to the booking system. This was an incorrect link to make as the recycling rates referenced were county wide and largely related to kerbside collections and more specifically the lack of green garden waste collected last year, due to dry conditions.

Please see a link to the published report on p54 of the Agenda for Infrastructure and Development Committee 9 July 2026 [290709 Infrastructure and Development Select Committee Agenda](#) The recycling rates at recycling centres were up 2% on the previous year.

Love Your Market Town Grant scheme reopened

Grants of between £1,000 and £5,000 are available for projects such as events, town trails, themed festivals and other activities that support local pride of place, bring people into town centres and encourage residents and visitors to shop locally.

The scheme is supported by Norfolk County Council and district councils. Further details, examples of successful projects and information about how to apply are available [here](#).

Initial ideas must be submitted by 31 August 2026.

Redundancy support for job losses at British Sugar

The council's Redundancy Support Service is helping employees affected by British Sugar's proposal to stop beet processing at Cantley from the end of February 2027. The proposal, subject to consultation, puts around 104 jobs at risk at a site important to the local economy and farming supply chain.

The Cantley site has operated for more than a century and is an important part of the local economy and farming supply chain. British Sugar has said it intends to concentrate beet processing at Wisington, Bury St Edmunds and Newark.

The council's support offer can help affected workers find new employment or self-employment opportunities, access benefits and wellbeing advice, develop skills, and get practical help with CVs, applications, interviews and mentoring.

More information is available at [Redundancy Support Service](#).

Norfolk Trading Standards - further action on illicit cigarettes and tobacco

Norfolk County Council's Trading Standards team, working with Norfolk Police, HMRC and district councils, has continued enforcement against illicit tobacco and vapes, with more than 123,000 illicit cigarettes seized across Norfolk since May 2026.

Recent inspections in Great Yarmouth seized 10,820 illicit cigarettes and 4kg of rolling tobacco. The work protects residents, and supports legitimate businesses. Anyone with information about illegal tobacco sales can help by reporting it through the following channels:

Members of the public wishing to report illegal sales of vapes, cigarettes or tobacco can contact Citizens Advice by calling 0808 223 1133.

NHS Norfolk and Suffolk Mental Health Plan

NHS Norfolk and Suffolk Integrated Care Board has [unveiled its Mental Health Strategic Plan 2026-2031](#), including a planned £20 million expansion of Mental Health Support Teams to every school and college in Norfolk and Suffolk by 2030.

The plan draws on Joint Strategic Needs Assessments developed with Norfolk and Suffolk County councils and highlights links between poor mental health, deprivation and wider health inequalities, including diagnosed depression among around 15% of adults locally.

This is relevant to Norfolk County Council because mental health affects demand across children's services, adult social care, education, community safety and prevention. The plan aligns with the council's focus on early help, reducing inequalities and managing demand on acute services.

National Updates

Commitment to end rough sleeping

The new Prime Minister has [committed to ending rough sleeping](#), backed by an initial £340 million to provide 1,200 homes and intensive support for at least 3,000 people. The announcement emphasises prevention and joined up working between national and local government, health, housing providers and the voluntary sector. It cites annual rough sleeping costs of £20,128 per person, compared with £1,426 for a successful prevention intervention.

Further details of a five-year programme are due before the autumn.

The [Local Government Association response](#) welcomed the ambition but stressed the need for sufficient long-term funding and councils being empowered to lead locally.

£2 bus fare cap from January 2027

Single bus fares in England will be capped at £2 for 2027, replacing the existing £3 cap and backed by £400 million of extra government funding. The cap will benefit longer-distance passengers, including rural and coastal communities where fares can be higher, and it supports access to work, education, services and appointments.