

500 Norfolk locations join the Refill Revolution and offer free water refills

Norfolk residents and visitors can now top up their reusable water bottles for free at more than 500 locations across the county. Many locations also refill reusable coffee cups, lunch containers and groceries too.

Norfolk County Council has joined the award-winning Refill campaign which connects people to places they can eat, drink and shop without the pointless packaging. By downloading the free Refill app it's possible to discover the hundreds of locations across Norfolk where they can reuse and refill in their local area.

Water Rescue Equipment for Ukraine secured through the National Fire Chiefs Council

More than 2,000 items of water rescue equipment has been sent to Ukraine. Secured through the National Fire Chiefs Council (NFCC) and the Maritime and Coastguard Agency, this vital lifesaving equipment will assist ongoing rescue efforts. The fire and rescue service donations followed an urgent request from the Home Office to NFCC's National Resilience function. The equipment will be used by the State Emergency Services in Ukraine to assist in the ongoing rescue and aid efforts as they deal with the aftermath of flooding caused by the destruction of the Nova Kakhovka dam and hydroelectric power station on 6 June. Fire and rescue services responded by identifying available kit within 48 hours of the Home Office request. National Resilience coordinated the movement of goods to a central location. It was prepared for transport to Ukraine by UK International Search and Rescue (UKISAR) with support from FireAID and the Fire Industry Association and dispatched on Tuesday 13 June.

The deployment consists of more than 2,300 items from 28 fire services, including type B and type C rescue boats, water rescue sleds, water pumps and water rescue personal protective equipment.

Scrutiny looks at the council's budget planning

Work to bridge a predicted £46.2 million county council budget gap next year will be considered by councillors.

Norfolk County Council's scrutiny committee will consider a report from finance officers, which says savings proposals will be developed over the next few months, ahead of a budget being set in February next year (2024).

The report says:

- The council faces a range of pressures, including inflation, totalling £81.9 million
- The overall net budget requirement is £567.3 million, against a Council Tax income of £521 million – leaving a gap of £46.2 million to find

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