

As November approaches and colder days arrive, Norfolk County Council's highways maintenance teams are preparing for winter with our annual #NorfolkWinter campaign.

This year, we're introducing the most advanced gritting operation in Norfolk's history. Over the past two years, we've added 45 new gritting vehicles to our fleet, bringing all 58 vehicles up to top specifications.

Each vehicle will feature new auto-salting technology supported by satellite navigation. This system allows for more accurate salting with less manual work, saving time and reducing waste. On average, it cuts salt usage by 10-15% and prevents salt from being wasted on grass verges.

With mapping data and input from skilled drivers, our vehicles can follow pre-programmed routes, making it easier to treat Norfolk's roads accurately. Drivers can select routes, set salt spread rates, and operate efficiently, ensuring our network is treated consistently this winter and keeping Norfolk's roads safe.

Norfolk County Council Invests £1M to Keep Residents Warm This Winter

Proposals to support some of Norfolk's most vulnerable people this winter have been set out today.

Norfolk County Council is looking to use £1.15m of the £6.7m allocated to the county through the Household Support Fund to keep people warm and help them make ends meet.

This follows the government's decision to make the winter fuel payment means tested from this winter.

The county council will allocate £750,000 to partner with local organizations like Age UK and Citizens Advice Bureau to support those impacted by the changes to Winter Fuel Payments. They will also invest £400,000 in the "warm spaces" scheme, providing essential respite in community areas.

Additionally, the proposals include £3.6 million for cost-of-living vouchers for families eligible for means-tested free school meals. This is in addition to:

- **£1 million** for the Norfolk Assistance Scheme, which offers direct support, household items, and emergency help.
- **£700,000** for local councils to provide proactive and crisis support.
- **£250,000** for Adult Learning to continue offering free courses on cooking, budgeting, and digital skills.

New strategy for Norfolk economy

Ambitious plans for Norfolk's economy are set to be revealed in a new strategy that will be presented to the county council's cabinet in November. The strategy aims to enhance Norfolk's impact in key sectors like clean energy, agri-tech, and advanced research.

Norfolk's Economic Strategy, also known as a Local Growth Plan, sets out an overview of the local economy and key priority areas for economic growth.

Norfolk is already at the forefront of some of the UK's most strategically important sectors.

Norfolk is a global leader for offshore wind with £39bn of clean energy investment forecasted over the next 20 years. In Great Yarmouth, the new Operations and Maintenance Campus is expected to create 650 new jobs and new commercial space for the offshore renewable energy sector. This £24.8m partnership project is a collaboration with Great Yarmouth Borough Council, with enabling works well underway.

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