

London Landmark Half Marathan

On April 6th, I'll be lacing up my running shoes to make a difference. This cause is close to my heart, and your support means the world to me. Together, we can create change – every donation brings us one step closer to our goal. Please consider contributing and joining me on this meaningful journey.

https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/michaeldalby2024?utm_medium=FR&utm_source=CL

Thank you for all your continues support!

Norfolk County Council delivers a balanced budget

Norfolk County Council has agreed a balanced budget for the fiscal year 2025/2026, despite facing significant financial pressures, due to inflations, increased demand on Adult and Children services.

Key facts and figures from NCC Budget:

- Gross budget: Norfolk County Council has a gross expenditure budget of £2.2 billion (£1.7 billion excluding schools)
 - We spend over £700 million in Adult Social Care, £367m in Children's Services (non-schools), £283m in Infrastructure, £44m in Communities and Environment and £46m in Fire.
- Net Budget: The Council has a net budget for 2025-26 of £572m. This is the amount we raise in Council Tax to fund the services we provide.
 - Budget growth: The 2025-26 budget provides growth of £121m, including
- £31m of inflationary pressures
 - £35m Legislative pressures (including increase in National Living Wage) and the cost of increased Employers National Insurance
- £15m demand and demographic pressures
 - Budget growth of over £25m to fund recurrent 2024-25 overspends in Adult and Children's Services.
- Funding and savings: At the same time as £121m cost pressures, funding has only increased by £32m. Government has abolished Rural Services Delivery Grant and diverted funding from rural areas to metropolitan areas. To balance the position, the 2025-26 budget includes savings of £45m.
 - Council tax: For 2025-26, an increase of 4.99%, including an increase of 3% for general council tax, and 2% for the Adult Social Care precept.
 - A Band D household will pay £1,755.63 per year, or approximately £34 a week, for County Council services in 2025-26.

Norfolk County Council 2025-26 council tax bands:

- A - £1,170.42
- B - £1,365.49

- C - £1,560.56
- D - £1,755.63
- E - £2,145.77
- F - £2,535.91
- G - £2,926.05
- H - £3,511.26

Household hazardous waste days

Following the NCC setting the budget for the year ahead which includes money to hold an extra series of household hazardous waste events this year.

The event will take place at seven recycling centres this spring and are in addition to the usual events which take place in the autumn.

Customers must use the recycling centre booking system to attend the free of charge events which will be held throughout April and May 2025. Booking are expected open a week before each event.

The spring hazardous waste events will be held on:

- 4 and 5 April at King's Lynn
- 11 and 12 April at Dereham
- 25 and 26 April at Thetford
- 2 and 3 May at Norwich North
- 9 and 10 May at Hempton
- 16 and 17 May at Caister
- 23 and 24 May at Norwich South

What is hazardous waste?

Waste is hazardous if it can cause harm to humans or the environment and includes any waste that needs specialist disposal.

We don't normally take these items at our recycling centres.

A list of what can be disposed of at the hazardous waste days can be found here: www.norfolk.gov.uk/hazardouswaste

Norfolk Highway set for major investment in the year ahead

A series of investments and improvements to Norfolk's highways infrastructure will be reviewed by the Norfolk County Council's Cabinet next month.

Papers released today outline how 97 parishes, from Antingham, to Worstead, will benefit from schemes which will be delivered thanks to the councils Parish Partnership scheme.

The 2025/26 programme will deliver what communities have told us they need, this includes trods, village gateways, bus shelters and vehicle activated signs.

The programme is funded by Norfolk County Council matching contributions made by Town and Parish Councils. This year Norfolk County Council plans to contribute £425,476 which means a programme of local works totalling £848,702 will be delivered.

Cabinet will also review the highways capital programme which highlights some of the successes from the last year and outlines how and where highways maintenance funding is going to be spent over the next 12 months. This includes an extra £15 million this year received from DfT.

This additional money will see an extra 100 miles of roads in Norfolk getting a new surface this year, and benefitting from our proactive highway maintenance approach which is proven to help prevent potholes forming. There will also be extra resources for local repairs and patching works across the county.

New apprenticeship starts in Norfolk increase by a staggering 11%

New apprenticeship starts with Norfolk businesses and organisations soared by 11% in the first three months of the academic year 2024/25 - against a national increase of less than 1.5%.

The growth between 1 August to 31 October 2024 compared with the same period in 2023/24 equates to 2,025 new starts in the county. That is 199 more than the previous year and the highest volume in the same period for more than five years.

Apprenticeships Norfolk says starts have grown across the 16-18, 19-24 and 25+ age groups - by 7.4%, 9.6% and 14.6% respectively. These are fantastic results for younger apprentices because it's also the strongest set of Q1 starts for those aged 16-18 for over five years.

Department for Education (DfE) stats also show local businesses have been recruiting, with the number of 'newly recruited' apprentices (up to 3 months in employment at the start of their apprenticeship) rising by 10.4% compared to the previous year, and in real numbers this accounts for 94 more starts.

Analysis of the size of employers shows non-levy funded apprenticeships (i.e. those started by small to medium sized businesses) grew by 10.3% (69 more apprentice starts) compared with the same period in 2023/24. Larger businesses have also been starting more apprenticeships, with 11.2% growth or 130 more apprentices.

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