

Local Government Reorganisation & Devolution

No New update.

NCC Updates

First place in Eastern region in Highways and Transport Satisfaction Survey

Norfolk County Council has again demonstrated strong performance in the National Highways and Transport (NHT) Public Satisfaction Survey, taking the top spot in the Eastern region for overall satisfaction and second out of 29 county councils across England. This marks the 15th consecutive year Norfolk has participated in the survey, and the 7th year in a row that we have come either first or second overall.

Highlights from this year's results include:

- Top Regional Performer: Norfolk ranked 1st in the Eastern Region for overall satisfaction.
- Some of the best above average score were in our bus services thanks to improvements that have been made as part of our Bus Service Improvement Plan. The 'local bus services' overall category we were 10% above the group average with sub indicators as follows:
 - Public Transport Information (11% above group average)
 - Frequency of bus services (9% above group average)
 - Ease of access to school / work (6% above group average)
 - Condition of highways (8% above group average)

Norfolk Fire and Rescue Service – new vehicles

Two new state-of-the-art specialist vehicles are being delivered into Norfolk later this month, leading the way in technology and ability across the fire and rescue sector in the UK.

The water and foam carriers can hold and pump 13,500L of water, 1,500L of foam concentrate, making them among the largest and most capable vehicles with specialist equipment to enhance firefighting operations.

Built by Emergency One in Scotland, the cost of the two water carriers is £850,000 and replace two ageing and smaller carriers which are 23 and 24 years old.

With testing now complete, the new water carriers are due to roll into Norfolk by Christmas. Crews from Fakenham and Hethersett will then be trained on how to use the specialist equipment and also complete additional driver training to familiarise themselves with the vehicles.

National Updates

Local Government provisional finance settlement

The [Government has announced](#) a new three-year local government funding settlement to reallocate resources towards councils with higher assessed levels of need.

The settlement includes changes to council tax flexibility for a small number of authorities (these do not include Norfolk) and provides limited detail on the treatment of existing special educational needs deficits. The money is part of the first multi-year funding settlement in over a decade, giving councils more financial certainty so that they can plan ahead. The Government's

provisional settlement moves funding from rural shire authorities towards metropolitan and urban areas.

The implications for Norfolk are currently being analysed and will be incorporated into 2026-27 budget planning, and the county council's response to the [Government's consultation on the settlement](#) that closes on 14 January 2026.

Government Homelessness Strategy launched

The Government has announced its new [Homelessness Strategy](#), with a £3.5 Billion investment aimed at preventing homelessness before it occurs, and setting out plans to improve temporary accommodation and increase social housing. There has been a reported 8 per cent increase in homelessness since summer 2024, with over 380,000 people currently homeless in England.

The strategy pledges to halve the number of long-term rough sleepers, end the unlawful use of B&Bs for families, and prevent more households from becoming homeless in the first place – by the end of this Parliament in 2029/30.

Norfolk Trails Public Survey

The council is seeking feedback to ensure that the future of [Norfolk's Trails](#) aligns with the values and preferences of residents. A public survey is being conducted to gather community input, which will inform the long-term planning and improvement of the trails, with the aim of enhancing accessibility for all.

We welcome the views of our local councillors and are keen to hear from your residents – so please share the link to the public survey. The link to the survey is available [here](#).

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