

## COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT TO OVINGTON PARISH COUNCIL 12TH NOVEMBER 2025

**The 'Norfolk Community Fund'** is an initiative from the County Council to support small, local projects that make a positive difference in the community. Each County Councillor has £5000 to award to voluntary community groups in their area and grants of £200 - £2,500 can be applied for to directly help fund a project.

(Grants over £500 will require match funding. To that end the County Council have partnered with a crowdfunding platform to help groups to raise the extra money should they wish)

A wide range of organisations can apply and projects should particularly be those that bring people together to improve life in the local community. For example: a coffee morning for older residents; a youth sports team needing equipment; community garden; a craft group raising funds for charity, or a local history education project. In short, projects that support the local community and recognise the needs, character and culture of the local area.

The above are just a small number of examples.

Local groups are welcome to contact me to request support with their project/idea at [claire.bowes@norfolk.gov.uk](mailto:claire.bowes@norfolk.gov.uk) or call me on 07789796937

### **Norfolk's budget consultation has just launched - have your say**

The county council's annual budget consultation launched on Monday 27 October and people are being urged to take a look at the proposals and have their say. The council is working to set a balanced budget, despite the need to save £41.6m in 2026-27. This year there are 50 budget saving proposals, and proposals to increase council tax, which provides a large part of the funding the county council needs. These proposed savings add up to £35.7m - which would make a big contribution to the overall amount that needs to be saved.

To help deal with cost pressures and invest in vital services, the current budget planning for 2026-27 is based on an assumption to increase council tax. Three options are being considered:

An increase of 3%

An increase of up to 5%

An increase of more than 5%

You can find out more and have your say at [www.norfolk.gov.uk/budget](http://www.norfolk.gov.uk/budget).

The consultation closes on Monday 15 December 2025.

### **Devolution update**

Following a discussion at full council on 16 October, Norfolk County Council's cabinet have voted in favour of proceeding with devolution.

Devolution will bring new powers and funding to boost jobs, transport, housing and growth in Norfolk and Suffolk. Under the Government's devolution priority programme, Norfolk and Suffolk have been offered:

The transfer of powers and funding from Whitehall, to enable decisions on jobs, skills, transport and housing to be taken in Norfolk and Suffolk.

A multi-million pound investment fund for 30 years, to spend on local priorities.

The new devolved powers and funding would be overseen by a mayor of Norfolk and Suffolk who will be elected by voters of both counties in May 2026, to lead a new combined authority.

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County Councillor

Watton Division

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