

Cllr Clayton Hudson - Annual Parish Report / Parish Council Mtgs May26

South Norfolk Council plan is focused so every Community Group Parish/Town Council has opportunities to invest in infrastructure whilst protecting and enhancing our environment and projects that help everyone enjoy our open spaces, public realms and lead healthy and active lifestyles.

My report below explains how we will be doing that as part of a whole plan to make South Norfolk one of the best places to live, work and enjoy in the country.

Council announces record-breaking £1 million investment in community projects

<https://www.southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk/news/council-announces-record-breaking-1-million-investment-in-community-projects>

Doubling the Community Action Fund (CAF)

Our Community Action Fund has a £500k budget this year and provides one-off capital grants to community groups to build capacity within communities so that groups are enabled to be self-sustaining without ongoing practical and financial support from the Council / stimulate local economic growth and/or facilitate creative partnership approaches to helping people in need at the earliest opportunity.

Funding applications for the Community Action Fund will open on 1st April 2026. The deadline for submission of applications is **16th August 2026**.

There will be many community initiatives which will require larger amounts of funding. The Community Action Fund (CAF) is provided to support and fund these initiatives.

For the 2026/2027 round of CAF, local District Councillors are responsible for considering and proposing applications between £1,000 and £40,000 from the CAF fund.

More details here <https://www.southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk/community-safety/community/funding/community-action-fund> as well as details on how to apply

Community Facilities Grant (CFG)

New for 26/27 is the Community Facilities Grant (CFG), the Community Facilities Grant (CFG) is provided to support and fund capital improvements to a community facility/building. These could be major refurbishments, adding solar panels, moving heat pumps etc.

Funding applications for the Community Facilities Grant will open on 1 April 2026. The deadline for submission of applications is **16 August 2026**.

Local District Councillors are responsible for considering and proposing applications between £1,000 and £40,000 from the CFG fund.

More details here <https://www.southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk/community-safety/community/funding/community-facilities-grant> as well as details on how to apply

Go For It Grants

If you are passionate about an activity, project or interest, then we want to hear from you. There is up to £300 waiting to help you get your idea up and running in your local community.

Applications will be considered for projects that:

- encourage residents to come together in positive and supportive ways
- inspire people to get active, participate and fulfil their potential
- promote and support health and well-being in the community
- provide innovative activities that respond to local needs

What can a Go For It Grant be spent on? Grant money can be spent on anything you need to get your idea off the ground. This could include equipment purchase/hire, venue hire, promotional materials and transport. You will need to research the costs of your project accurately to apply.

More details here <https://www.southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk/community-safety/community/funding/go-grant> as well as details on how to apply

Member grants (doubled to £2k for 26/27)

Our popular scheme of ward member grants provides £92,000 to be spent on micro projects across the district. Each Councillor has £2000 to award to schemes with minimal paperwork and instant payment to support play groups, community cafes and other small scale activities that make a big impact.

More details here <https://www.southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk/community-safety/community/funding/south-norfolk-members-ward-funding> as well as details on how to apply

You can see what projects members have supported here

https://forms.southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk/pub/MembersSpend.ofml?Prepopulate=True&Url_theme=SNC

Council Tax 2026/2027

All South Norfolk members were involved and agreed (unanimously) in setting the budget, that saw Council Tax rise by £5 a year to £180 from 1st April 2026. That is a rise of less than 10pence a week.

More details on the budget

<https://www.southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk/news/south-norfolk-council-has-agreed-a-robust-budget-for-the-coming-year>

<https://www.southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk/council-tax>

Government confirms major shake-up for Norfolk

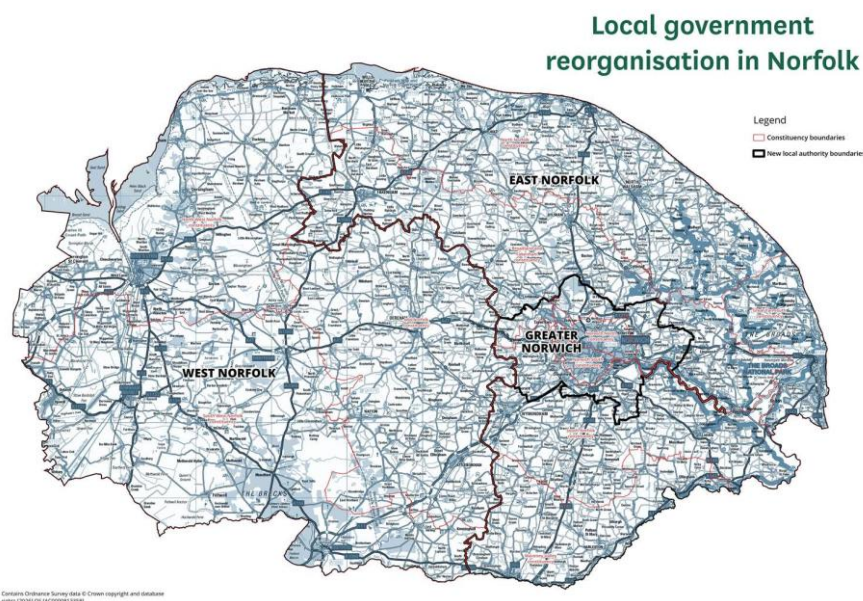
A major shake-up of local government has been confirmed by ministers which will see all Norfolk councils scrapped and replaced by three authorities. The seven district councils and one county council will be abolished under government plans, but what would replace them had been hotly contested.

What will the new council areas be?

East Norfolk Council will consist of the existing Great Yarmouth and North Norfolk councils, along with parts of Broadland and South Norfolk.

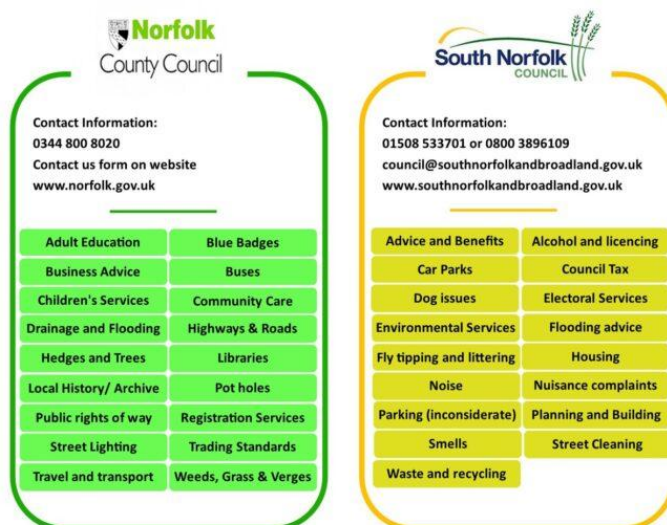
West Norfolk Council will be made up of the current Breckland and King's Lynn and West Norfolk councils, along with parts of South Norfolk.

Greater Norwich Council will expand the existing city authority by adding some sections of Broadland and South Norfolk.



When will things change? Elections for the authorities will take place in May 2027, with the new councils formally taking over responsibilities a year later.

I thought it might be useful to understand what the current authorities do (i.e. services provided) at least for the next 12 months



Talking about the elections (7th May 2026) maybe I should briefly talk about the result, I want to say a big thank you 🙏 to the 925 electors who put a ✘ , ✔ or mark against my name. As an independent I polled strongly campaigning positively on local issues. I warmly congratulated Joe Kerrison on his election to Norfolk County Council last Friday, I look forward to working with him in my existing South Norfolk Council role at my various parish councils over the coming months. I talked with Joe at length at the count, he is young, keen, lives & works in Harleston and I will hope bring fresh and imaginative ideas to how will continue to make East Depwade & the wider Waveney Valley a great place to live, work & enjoy as well as contributing to the wider debate on how local government needs to adapt/change.

Ultimately I wasn't successful on this occasion, however in my world (primarily as an engineer) if you don't experience failure you're not exploring/inventing/evolving enough. Sometimes you need to fail to learn. I am bottling that thought for another day/election!

And finally please feel free to contact me (details below) if you have any questions or queries related to South Norfolk Council and the services it provides the community. Be it missed bin collections, flooding advise, anti-social behaviour, street cleaning or fly tipping! (to name a few)

Best Wishes Clayton

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A caricature of Clayton Hudson, a man with glasses and a blue shirt, standing next to a brown and white dog. In the background, there is a road with a 30 mph speed limit sign and a sign that says 'EAST DEPWADE Please drive carefully'. The scene is set in a green, rural landscape.

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