

Scrutiny Committee

Date: **Wednesday 22 September 2021**

Time: **2 pm (note revised start time)**

Venue: **Council Chamber, County Hall, Martineau Lane,
Norwich NR1 2DH**

Membership:

Cllr Steve Morpew (Chair)	
Cllr Lana Hemsall (V Chair)	
Cllr Carl Annison	Cllr Keith Kiddie
Cllr Lesley Bambridge	Cllr Ed Maxfield
Cllr Graham Carpenter	Cllr Jamie Osborn
Cllr Nick Daubney	Cllr Richard Price
Cllr Barry Duffin	Cllr Brian Watkins
Cllr Mark Kiddle-Morris	

Parent Governor Representatives

Mr Giles Hankinson
Vacancy

Church Representatives

Mrs Julie O'Connor
Mr Paul Dunning

Advice for members of the public:

This meeting will be held in public and in person.

It will be live streamed on YouTube and, in view of Covid-19 guidelines, we would encourage members of the public to watch remotely by clicking on the following link:

<https://youtu.be/ro5-QAewjol>

However, if you wish to attend in person it would be most helpful if, on this occasion, you could indicate in advance that it is your intention to do so. This can be done by emailing committees@norfolk.gov.uk where we will ask you to provide your name, address and

details of how we can contact you (in the event of a Covid-19 outbreak). Please note that public seating will be limited.

Councillors and Officers attending the meeting will be taking a lateral flow test in advance. They will also be required to wear face masks when they are moving around the room but may remove them once seated. We would like to request that anyone attending the meeting does the same to help make the event safe for all those attending. Information about symptom-free testing is available [here](#).

A g e n d a

1 To receive apologies and details of any substitute members attending

2. Minutes

(Page 5)

To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 21 July 2021

3. Members to Declare any Interests

If you have a **Disclosable Pecuniary Interest** in a matter to be considered at the meeting and that interest is on your Register of Interests you must not speak or vote on the matter.

If you have a **Disclosable Pecuniary Interest** in a matter to be considered at the meeting and that interest is not on your Register of Interests you must declare that interest at the meeting and not speak or vote on the matter

In either case you may remain in the room where the meeting is taking place. If you consider that it would be inappropriate in the circumstances to remain in the room, you may leave the room while the matter is dealt with.

If you do not have a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest you may nevertheless have an **Other Interest** in a matter to be discussed if it affects, to a greater extent than others in your division

- Your wellbeing or financial position, or
- that of your family or close friends
- Any body -
 - Exercising functions of a public nature.
 - Directed to charitable purposes; or
 - One of whose principal purposes includes the influence of public opinion or policy (including any political party or trade union);

Of which you are in a position of general control or management.

If that is the case then you must declare such an interest but can speak and vote on the matter.

- 4 To receive any items of business which the Chair decides should be considered as a matter of urgency**

5 Public Question Time

Fifteen minutes for questions from members of the public of which due notice has been given. Please note that all questions must be received by the Committee Team (committees@norfolk.gov.uk) by **5pm on Friday 17 September 2021**. For guidance on submitting a public question, please visit <https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/what-we-do-and-how-we-work/councillors-meetings-decisions-and-elections/committees-agendas-and-recent-decisions/ask-a-question-to-a-committee>

6 Local Member Issues/Questions

Fifteen minutes for local member to raise issues of concern of which due notice has been given. Please note that all questions must be received by the Committee Team (committees@norfolk.gov.uk) by **5pm on Friday 17 September 2021**

- 7 The deadline for calling-in matters for consideration at this meeting of the Scrutiny Committee from the Cabinet meeting held on Monday 6 September 2021 was 4pm on Monday 13 September 2021**

- 8 County Farms Estate - An Update** (Page 11)

Report by the Executive Director of Finance and Commercial Services

- 9 Update from the Chair of the Norfolk Countywide Community Safety Partnership (NCCSP) Scrutiny Sub Panel** (To Follow)

- 10 Support to the local economy following the COVID-19 Pandemic- New Anglia Local Enterprise Partnership** (Page 22)

Report by the Executive Director of Community and Environmental Services

- 11 Scrutiny Committee Forward Work Plan** (Page 43)

Report by the Director of Governance

Martineau Lane
Norwich
NR1 2DH

Date Agenda Published: 14 September 2021



If you need this document in large print, audio, Braille, alternative format or in a different language please contact 0344 800 8020 or (textphone) 18001 0344 800 8020 and we will do our best to help.



Scrutiny Committee

Minutes of the Meeting Held on 21 July 2021
at 10 am at County Hall Norwich

Present:

Cllr Steve Morphew (Chair)

Cllr Carl Annison
Cllr Lesley Bambridge
Cllr Graham Carpenter

Cllr Nick Daubney
Cllr Phillip Duigan (substitute for Cllr
Lana Hemsall)
Cllr Barry Duffin

Cllr Mark Kiddle-Morris

Cllr Keith Kiddie

Cllr Ed Maxfield

Cllr Jamie Osborn

Cllr Richard Price

Cllr Brian Watkins

Mr Giles Hankinson (Parent Governor
representative)

Also present (who took a part in the meeting):

Cllr Andrew Jamieson
Simon George
Kat Hulatt
Karen Haywood
Caroline Clarke
Tim Shaw

Cabinet Member for Finance
Executive Director of Finance and Commercial Services
Head of Legal Services
Democratic Services Manager
Assistant Director of Governance-Democratic and Regulatory
Committee Officer

1. Apologies for Absence

- 1.1 Apologies were received from Mrs Julie O' Connor (Church Representative), Mr Paul Dunning (Church Representative) and Cllr Lana Hemsall (with Cllr Phillip Duigan attending as substitute).

2 Minutes

- 2.1 The minutes of the meetings held on 23 June 2021 were confirmed as an accurate record and signed by the Chair.

3. Declarations of Interest

- 3.1 There were no declarations of interest.

4 Urgent Business

4.1 No urgent business was discussed.

5. Public Question Time

5.1 There were no public questions.

6. Local Member Issues/Questions

6.1 There were no local member issues/questions.

7 Call In

7.1 The Committee noted that there were no call-in items.

8 Strategic and Financial Planning 2022-23 Finance Monitoring Report 2021-02 – Period 2

8.1 The annexed reports (8a and 8b) were received.

8.2 The Committee received the Finance Monitoring 2021-22 (P2) and Strategic and Financial Planning 2022-23 reports that were considered by Cabinet on 5 July 2021, together with a covering report. These reports provided the Committee with a briefing on the Council's current and future financial position and an understanding of the Council's strategic financial planning process for 2022-23.

8.3 During discussion of the reports with the Cabinet Member for Finance and the Executive Director of Finance and Commercial Services the following key points were noted:

- The Cabinet Member said that in recognition of the growing pressures on the care sector, the Council would continue to make investment commitments to alternative models of support accommodation for older people and to the refurbishment of existing residential care schemes.
- The Cabinet would recommend that the County Council add £6.787m to the capital programme to address capital funding requirements of which the largest requirement was for Older People Estate Transformation. This additional capital funding allocation would allow Norse Care to upgrade its facilities.
- Details regarding how Norse Care planned to address energy efficiency measures would be provided to Councillors by the Executive Director of Finance and Commercial Services after the meeting.
- A high-level summary of the cost pressures facing the Council could be found in tables 2 and 5 of the report at item 8b.
- The report at item 8b represented an early milestone in the development of the 2022-23 budget and provided an opportunity for the Scrutiny Committee and the Select Committees to influence the shape of the emerging budget proposals.
- The ongoing Covid-19 pandemic, along with continued unprecedented levels of uncertainty about future year pressures and funding, represented a very significant challenge for Norfolk County Council in developing its budget plans for 2022-23.
- Aside from the implications of COVID-19 there remained other uncertainties

within the budget driven by Central Government decisions, including the level of pay award for 2022-23, which was yet to be confirmed, although the Council's budget was based on a 3% pay inflation for 2022-23 onwards.

- Demand for people services continued to rise each year with an increase in an aging population requiring social care and more children with special needs and disabilities requiring support.
- A one-year roll over of the local government settlement was increasingly likely for 2022-23. Within that context, the Cabinet Member said that the Council's investment in infrastructure would help Norfolk lead the way in economic development and stimulate economic growth which would be key to raising wage levels in Norfolk to those which could be found elsewhere in the Eastern region.
- The Council's priorities would focus on maximising opportunities offered by Government for inward investment, ensuring Norfolk was part of the conversation on "levelling up" the local economy and reducing the wage gap with other areas of the country, so that no one working in any sector of employment in Norfolk was left behind.
- It was suggested that issues concerning the availability of support for children who were not educated within mainstream schooling should be directed to an Education Officer following the meeting. This was an issue that Councillors said that they would wish to return to at future meetings.
- The Government did not expect the High Needs Block deficit for Children's Services to appear on the Council balance sheet. However, at the national level Children's Services and Public Accountancy Bodies continued to press the Government for a decision on how the High Needs Block overspend would be met in the long term.
- The budget heading for fees and charges for services included a sum for where the Council had lost income during the pandemic and sought assistance from Government sources of Covid-19 related funding. Details would be made available in the next finance monitoring report.
- It was pointed out that in recent years the Council had achieved some 80% of its savings targets. The Chair said that the Committee would be able to discuss what happened regarding the outstanding 20% of savings at a future meeting.
- It was suggested that tackling the climate crisis and protecting the natural environment were issues that required significant investment though joint working with interested parties and should be included in the medium-term planning process. The Cabinet Member said that he was working through partner organisations and the Norfolk MPs to meet these challenges.
- It was noted that a Cabinet report on the Council's financial commitment to be carbon neutral by 2030 was being prepared.
- The Chair said that the carbon neutral commitment needed to be included in the narrative of the final budget report when it was presented to Cabinet.
- Steps were being taken to deal with flooding issues discussed at previous meetings and the cost implications were included in the budget.
- There was a strong business case for borrowing from the Public Works Loan Board (currently at 1.7 %) rather than by Community Municipal Bonds which were more costly, restrictive and expensive to administer.
- The budget setting process recognised that certain groups such as younger people, vulnerable people, small and medium size businesses (SMEs), and ethnically diverse communities would be most significantly affected in terms of economic and health impacts and all possible steps were being taken

allow them an opportunity to be consulted as part of the budget planning process.

- The budget planning process recognised what could be achieved through a strong training and apprentice programme.
- The timescale for assessing performance against how the Council met contract standing orders would be discussed with Cllr Maxfield outside of the meeting.

8.4 **RESOLVED**

That the Committee note the report and the answers given by the Cabinet Member for Finance and the Executive Director of Finance and Commercial Services.

9 **Establishment of Children's and Adult Social Services Performance Review Panels**

- 9.1 The Committee received the attached report (9) that outlined proposals for the establishment of two member-led performance review panels with responsibility for monitoring and providing challenge to Norfolk County Council's Children's Services/Adult Social Services functions, reviewing performance in readiness for independent external inspections.
- 9.2 The Committee considered the draft Terms of Reference for the Performance Review Panels and the suggestions regarding the establishment of the two panels, including operating principles and membership that were set out in the report.
- 9.3 The Chair pointed out that he had expressed some reservations about the Review Panels meeting in private session and being chaired by the Deputy Cabinet Members which might need to be returned to at a later time.
- 9.4 It was noted that the work of the previous Children's Services Sub-Panel would be considered as part of the work programme for the new Children's Services Performance Review Panel.

9.5 **RESOLVED**

That the Committee

- 1. Note the draft Terms of Reference for the Performance Review Panels.**
- 2. Note the establishment of the two panels, including operating principles and membership.**
- 3. Agree to disband the Children's Services Sub-Panel, to be replaced by the Performance Review Panels.**
- 4. Agree that there should be an ongoing reporting schedule between the panels and the Scrutiny Committee, including a six-month review of the panel's progress in the Scrutiny Committee forward work programme.**

10 **Scrutiny Committee Forward Work Programme**

- 10.1 The annexed report (10) that was circulated following the dispatch of the agenda

was received.

10.2 The Committee noted that report took account of the informal meeting that was held to consider the future shape of the forward work programme.

10.3 All topics were subject to change, with the Committee remaining flexible to ensure the ability to adapt to emerging and urgent topics for consideration.

10.4 **RESOLVED**

That the Committee note the forward work programme.

The meeting concluded at 12. 20 pm

Chair

Scrutiny Committee

Item 8

Decision making report title: County Farms Estate – an update

Date of meeting: 22 September 2021

Responsible Cabinet Member: Cllr Greg Peck (Cabinet Member for Commercial Services and Asset Management)

Responsible Director: Simon George (Executive Director of Finance and Commercial Services)

Introduction

The county Farms Estate is a significant part of the Council's property portfolio that is strategically and operationally managed by the Corporate Property Team (CPT). Under previous governance arrangements CPT regularly provided a County Farms Estate update report to the Business and Property Committee. With the introduction of the Cabinet system the reporting has mainly been site specific where land has been declared surplus prior to disposal and one report to renew the Farms Business Tenancy policy.

Strategies relating to the County Farm estates are included in the proposed new Strategic Property Asset Management Framework which will be submitted to full Council this year for adoption.

Executive Summary

Periodic review by Members is good strategic asset management practice and it is therefore appropriate to provide Members with this update on where the Farms Estate is and highlight potential challenges.

Recommendations

- 1. Scrutiny Committee are asked to review this report and comment as appropriate.**

1. Background and Purpose

- 1.1.** The Council has agreed objectives for the County Farms Estate, adopted by Policy and Resources Committee 30 October 2017 ([LINK to Policies and objectives](#)). The objectives include:

- Prioritising the creation of opportunities for new entrants into farming.
- Creating a wide range of farms sizes.
- Encouraging commercial farm enterprises and maintaining farm rental value.
- Developing an ongoing investment programme to improve the infrastructure, buildings and storage capacity for crops

- Enabling older tenants to retire with dignity and for the County Council to meet its obligations to tenants on retirement tenancies.
- Seeking to develop farms to help deliver wider corporate services and objectives, such as Care Farms
- Actively encouraging tenants to undertake good environmental practice

These objectives will be refreshed and replaced when the new 2021/22-2025/26 Strategic Asset Management Plan is adopted by full Council this year.

- 1.2. The County Council attaches significant importance to maintaining a viable County Farms Estate as reflected in the agreed objective (objective S1) and in the constitution whereby a proportion of capital receipts are pledged to acquire additional land to ensure the minimum size of the estate is maintained above 16,000 acres. This is the third largest county farms estate in England and Wales. In terms of net book value, the County Farms Estate amounts to approximately 10% of the property portfolio". In **Appendix A** are maps showing the extent of the County Farms Estate.

The gross rental income in 2020-21 from tenants was £2,308,069.

- 1.3. The key metrics (as noted below) indicate the financial aspect of retaining a County Farms Estate, however there are other significant benefits that include:
 - Equal opportunity for new entrants to enter the farming industry (through a competitive process, that is transparent and based on a robust business case).
 - Access to the countryside for Norfolk's Citizens and visitors to the county through a network of permissive paths.
 - Support for Care Farm operators who apply the therapeutic use of farming practices for people with health, social care, rehabilitation or specialist education needs. Care Farms provide a supervised, structured programme of farm-related activity for people with a defined need. Care is bespoke, person-centred and focused on the individual and the service users make a meaningful contribution to the running of the farm.
 - Support environmental initiatives such as tree planting, laying new hedgerows and pond refurbishment.
 - The County Farms Estate is demonstrably successful as the following examples show:
 - The Dairy Farm Care Farm employ 2 full time and 5 part time staff retain 8 volunteers per week supporting 10 full day care farm attendees plus 6 additional volunteers helping in other ways on the farm. Students from the University of East Anglia, Easton College and City College attend on placement at different times of the year as well as young people on the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme. The farm also supports High School work experience students. They also work with a dementia friendly cafe in Brundall and have visits from Brownie and Cubs groups, local school groups, charity

groups and residential homes for older people. Some local residents in Lingwood get involved with different projects such as tractor restoration, conservation tasks and crafts. Some of this work was understandably affected by the Covid 19 Pandemic but are now resuming.

- Clinks Care Farm over 11 years have supported 383 people through various routes such as Farming on prescription/Farm Therapy, social care and educational referrals. Young people have helped on the farm through the Saturday youth group, and 20 people attended Refugee Days. Clinks Care Farm also have links with local schools and over 250 children have visited the farm.
- Emorsgate Seeds started off as an entry holding with 5 acres and progressed to a larger unit on the Stow & Marshland Estate. They are now one of the biggest suppliers of British wildflower and wild grass seeds in the country. Their success is marked by the award of a Royal Warrant (HRH The Prince of Wales),
- Another success story is Norfolk Essential Oils based at Pates Farm, Welney. The tenant set up a co-operative in the late 1990's to grow crops such as chamomile which they distil and sell the oil from the farm. This enterprise has grown over the years and is now very successful and still based at Pates Farm.

1.4. Summer 2020 saw a significant challenge to the management of the County Farms estate in that the Estate Manager and Land Agent left the Council's employment. Following a restructure of the Corporate Property Team in the spring of 2021 County Farms now reports to NCC's Head of Estates who has recruited two new and highly qualified Rural Estate Surveyors both of whom are now in post.

1.5. The County Farms estate is under constant review and where land and buildings are no longer fit for purpose, in the wrong location or an alternative use has a higher service value to the council it is withdrawn from the estate and either reused or disposed of. This strategic management approach has, over the last 10 years, realised in excess of £11million in capital receipts whilst still maintaining an estate of over 16,000 acres.

1.6. As at 31 March 2021 the key metrics¹ of the County Farms estate are:

- Total area: 6,864.41 hectares (16,962.33 acres)
- Total number of agricultural tenants: 108 (there are another 46 tenancies relating to farms estate land such as to parish councils, licences, and commercial leases.
- Total direct income: £2,308,069.
- Total direct expenditure (repairs, rates, charges etc): £596,633.
- Total indirect expenditure (staff, professional fees etc) £673,915.
- Surplus: £1,037,521.
- Capital receipts: £2,847,514.
- Capital investment in construction and improvements: £1,206,565.
- Asset valuation (net book value): £65,862,947.

¹ Source – Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy questionnaire return 16 June 2021

- 1.7. The County Council has a good track record of attracting new entrants to the County Farms estate with 17 joining since 2016. In more usual times there is a regular “turnover” of tenants as some retire or leave the estate to pursue other opportunities, however, no new tenants are joining the estate this year as the Covid 19 pandemic prevented the recruitment process to commence in 2020.

In October 2021 the council is aiming to advertise 5 properties to let and a lot of interest is expected. Three properties will be starter farms (entry holding) and one possibly for use as a Care farm to add to the three already on the estate. Applications will be assessed in February and the successful applicants will take up their tenancies in October 2022 ([LINK to "Becoming a tenant" web page](#)).

The assessment board will comprise of two Members (Councillor Greg Peck as Cabinet Member for Commercial Services and Asset Management and a Member representing another political group), the Director of Property, the Head of Estates and a representative from the National Farmers Union and County Landowners Association. Prospective tenants will be offered professional support in compiling their business cases before submitting to the assessment board.

- 1.8. There are two main tenancy entry points into the County Farms Estate with tenancies that run for 10 years:

- (i) **Entry holding**, these are smaller holdings. They provide the first opportunity for starting a new farming business, on a full or part time basis.
- (ii) **Progression holding**, these are larger holdings for more experienced farmers.

- 1.9. Since starting the new County Farms team members are undertaking several workstreams:

(i) Strategic reviews

The team are undertaking strategic reviews of the whole County Farms Estate to ensure it is viable and provides as many opportunities as possible for entry holdings as well as progression holdings.

Early conclusions have found that over the years a number of the farms have become fragmented, and work is underway with tenants to consolidate holdings (blocking up). This will often involve land swaps, bringing tenancies to an end or tenants relinquishing their holdings through retirement. By consolidating the farms estate tenants can farm their holdings more efficiently and new starter and progression farms can be created thereby increasing the opportunities for new entrants.

(ii) Increasing Engagement

As the County Farms team is mostly new, it has the benefit of generating a fresh start for the management of the County Farms estate. The team are focused on demonstrating to tenants a transparent and consistent approach to estate management, whether this is in how tenancy opportunities are advertised or through the consistent approach to remedying breaches in tenancy clauses. Communications have been refreshed and tenants are invited for their views through meet the team days on matters such as capital investment. In **Appendix B** is a copy of the latest Tenants Newsletter, Tracks.

(iii) Ensuring Statutory Compliance

Statutory compliance is the process for ensuring buildings and assets are safe. The Farms Estate team have been working with the Norse Total Facilitates Management team over the summer to ensure the approach to statutory compliance for the County Farms estate is to the required standard and the Council's liabilities are met as landlord. This has resulted in the production of new policy, commissioning of new services and a more focused management approach.

An NCC audit of health and safety statutory compliance in the autumn will include the County Farm's Estate.

(iv) Capital Investment

The Council has an ongoing programme of capital investment in the County Farms Estate. Over the last five years this has amounted to just over £10million and some examples include:

- New general-purpose building for grain storage.
- Concreting farms yards.
- Land drainage.
- Improving electrical supplies to a buildings, in one case to help set up a butchery.
- Purchasing additional land.

- 1.10. Looking forward there are significant challenges around the changes introduced by the Agriculture Act 2020, the emerging central Government policy on farming retirements, the phasing out of the Basic Payment Scheme (BPS) and the new Environmental Land Management Scheme (ELMS) have together provided an uncertain operating landscape for farmers and landowners.

NCC County Farms Team will work with the County Landowners Association, tenants and their representatives including the Tenant Farmers Association and the National Farmers Union to ensure tenants are supported and the County Farms estate continues to deliver its core aims and remains financially viable.

2. Financial Implications

- 2.1. The County Farms estate provides a significant revenue surplus that is used to support the councils budget. A stream of capital receipts supports the capital programme.

3. Resource Implications

- 3.1. **Staff:** No staff implications arising from this update report.

- 3.2. **Property:** As described in the earlier parts of this report.

- 3.3. **IT:** No IT implications arising from this update report.

4. Other Implications

- 4.1. **Legal Implications:** No legal implications arising from this update report.

- 4.2. **Human Rights implications:** No human rights implications arising from this update report.

- 4.3. **Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA):** No specific EqIA has been undertaken in respect of this update report.

- 4.4. **Data Protection Impact Assessments (DPIA):** No data protection impact implications arising in respect of this update report.

- 4.5. **Health and Safety implications:** As described in the earlier parts of this report in relation to statutory compliance.

- 4.6. **Sustainability implications:** No sustainability implications arising in respect of this update report.

5. Recommendations

- 5.1. Scrutiny Committee are asked to review this report and comment as appropriate.

Officer Contact

If you have any questions about matters contained in this paper, please get in touch with:

Officer name: Simon Hughes, Director of Property **Tel No:** 01603 222043

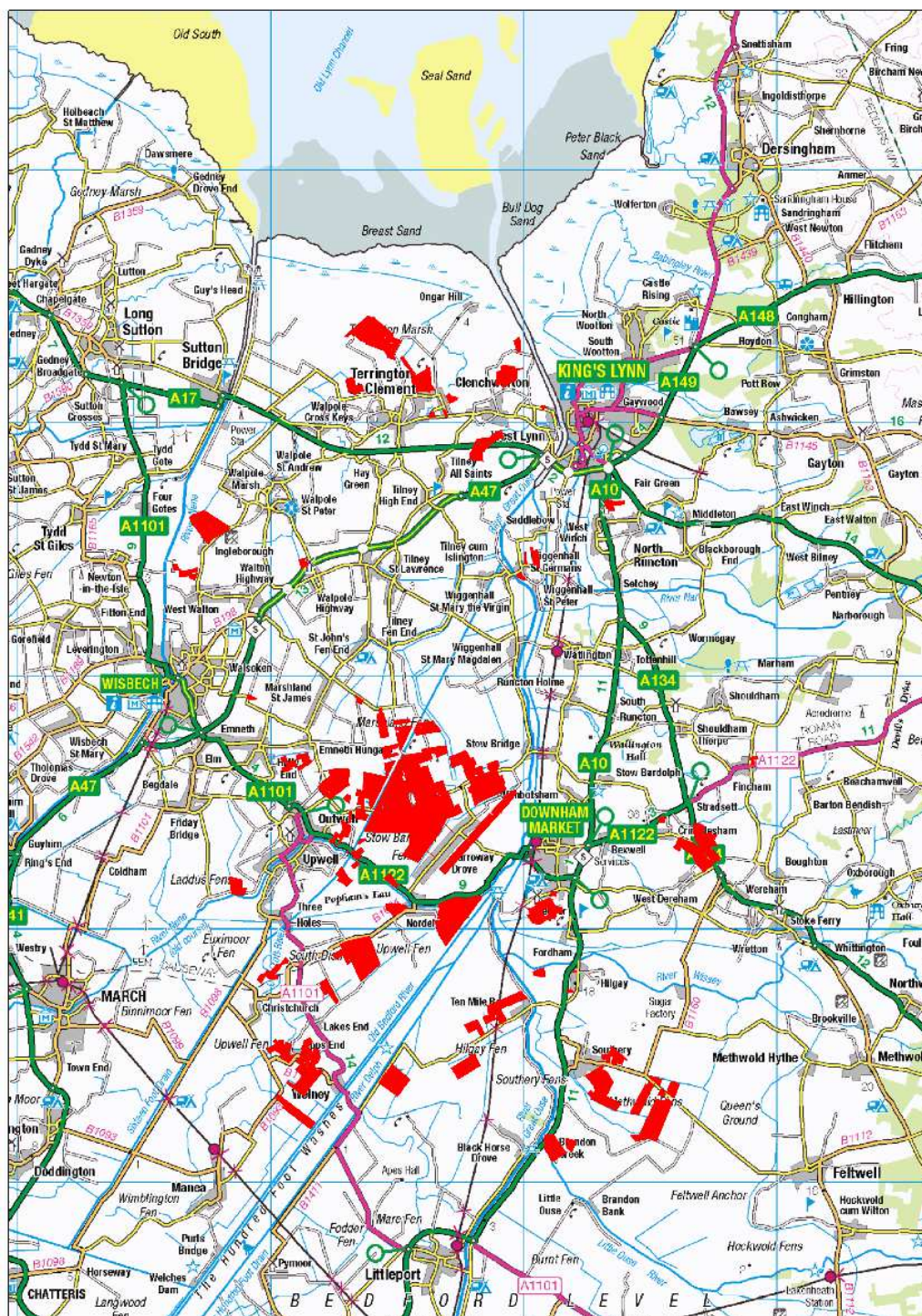
Email address: simon.hughes@norfolk.gov.uk



If you need this report in large print, audio, braille, alternative format or in a different language please contact 0344 800 8020 or 0344 800 8011 (textphone) and we will do our best to help.

Distribution of the County Farms Estate (highlighted in red)

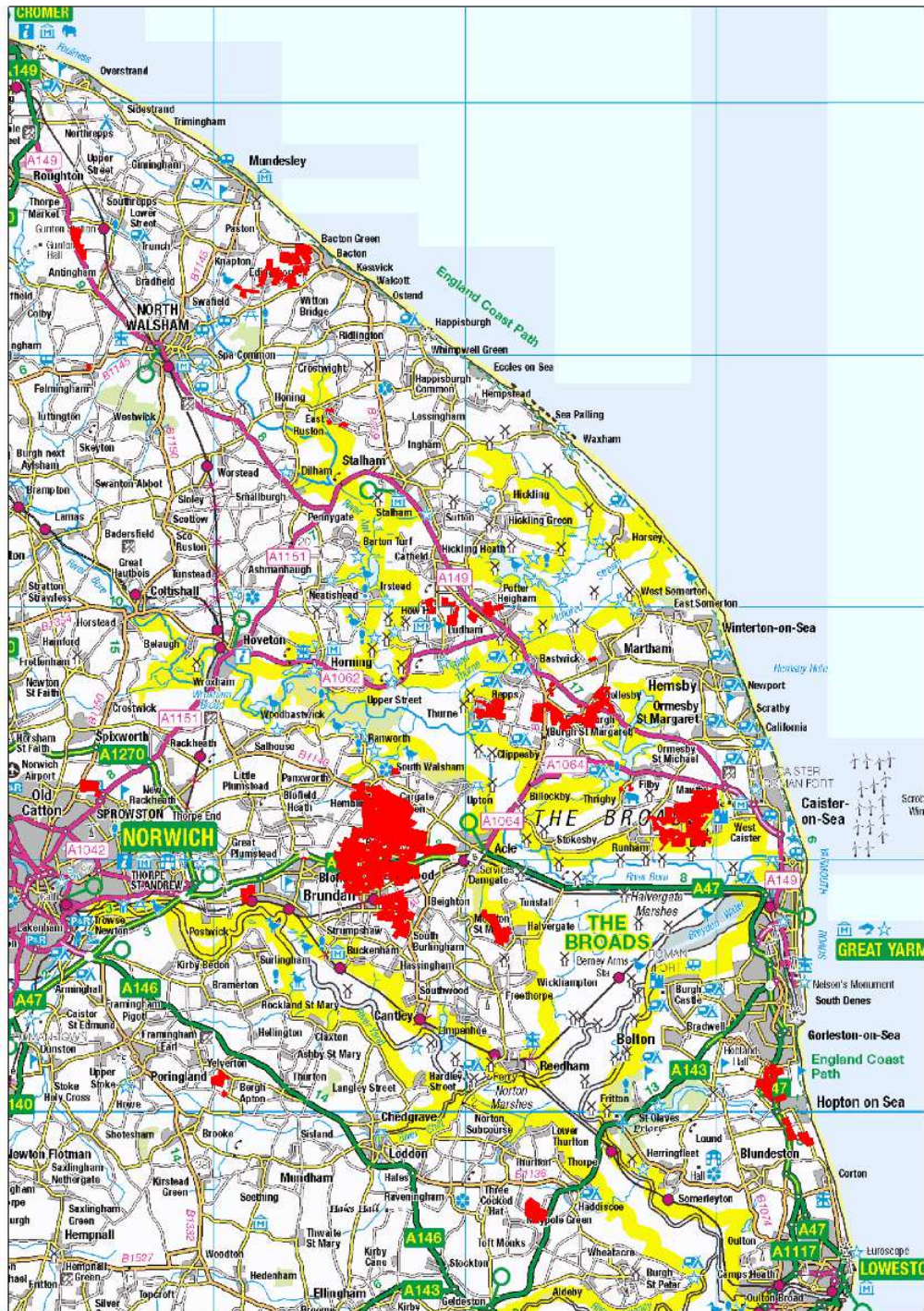
West part of the County



Central part of the County



East part of the County



Tracks Newsletter Summer 2021



Tracks Newsletter Summer 2021

Welcome to our summer edition of 'Tracks'- the quarterly newsletter from the team at Norfolk's County Farm.

Each edition includes the latest news, stories from across the estate and links to information or schemes that could help you and your farm.

New team member - Simone Skinner

It is with great pleasure to introduce Simone who will be joining the County Farm Estate team at the beginning of August as a Rural Estate Surveyor.



Simone graduated from The Royal Agricultural University with a degree in Rural Land Management and is a qualified surveyor having worked for Brown & Co in Suffolk since her graduation. Simone lives with her partner on a mixed arable and dairy farm in South Norfolk.

Find us on Facebook



To keep up to date with the latest news, events and farms to let search 'Norfolk County Council Farms' on Facebook and 'Follow' us.

We want to promote our tenants and the excellent work they are doing on their farms to; enter new markets, diversification projects, wildlife success stories, school projects, on farm training, scientific trials that you might be involved with etc please help us to help you and forward any newsworthy stories, pictures,

projects that you would like us to publish and shout about on your behalf to Jenna on Jenna.Browne@norfolk.gov.uk



Reminder on tenant responsibilities

With a new farm management team in place we will be looking at consistently ensuring the tenancies on holdings across the estate are being adhered to. Particular attention will be given to the following areas

- Occupation of the main farmhouse, personally farming the holding and using it for agricultural purposes
- Contract farming
- Good husbandry and avoidance of pollution
- Entering into agreements that impose restrictions
- Storage of waste materials

Please dig out your tenancy agreements from the depths of your filing systems and ensure

that you are meeting the clauses within them.

If you do want to operate outside of your tenancy, such as increasing the amount of land contracted out for a season, please contact the team in the first instance to seek consent.

As we hope you would expect, we will consistently address any farms found to be breaching these clauses and although most breaches are remediable, they will be taken into account when tenancy renewals are due.

Funding for Farming in Protected Landscapes opens in July

Do you farm in an area of outstanding natural beauty (AONB) or in the Broadland Catchment area? If so there is new funding available to you called Farming in Protected Landscapes.

Although the maximum funding has not yet been decided, it is expected that it could be up to £75,000 per project. It will fund projects that:

- Support nature recovery
- Mitigate the impacts of climate change
- Provide opportunities for people to discover, enjoy and understand the landscape and its

cultural heritage
• Support nature-friendly,
sustainable farm businesses

How to apply

Please email
Andrea.Kelly@Broads-
Authority.gov.uk or call Andrea
on 07711451503 for further
details. If you do decide to apply
please let us know.

You should apply between 1 July
2021 and 31 January 2022 for
funding in the first year of the
programme. Protected
Landscape bodies will award
funding to successful applicants
at any time between July and
January.

Protected Landscape bodies will
also consider applications for
funding in the second year of the
programme, especially if you aim
to begin early in the financial year.

Multi-year awards are possible for
longer projects, but all projects
must end by March 2024.

New Tenancies

Five properties will be available
for let from October 2022, all on
the West of the County Farms
Estate. We look forward to
sharing the details with you in our
next edition. Three tenancies will

be fully equipped starter farms,
there will be one Care Farm and a
block of bare land. The letting
process will begin from this
Autumn as follows:

- October 2021 - Properties
will be advertised
- December 2021 - On farm
viewing days will be carried
out
- January 2022 - Training
days for new entrants'
application.
- February 2022 -
Applications invited
- March 2022 - Interviews for
shortlisted candidates
- April 2022 - Decisions
made, and tenancy
agreements signed
- October 2022 - New
tenancies begin

Meet the tenant sessions

It's important to us that we hear
your views, concerns and ideas
for your farm and the Wider
County Farm Estate. Although
we try to visit tenants on a regular
basis, we are also holding a
number of tenants drop-in
sessions.

Hopefully you will have received
an email advertising these
sessions but as a reminder this is
an informal meeting and an
opportunity for you to discuss
your holdings, any ideas you may
have and would like our input on

or just come along to say 'hi' and
get a FREE cup of tea/coffee and
cake from The Green Family
Farm Bakery one of our tenants
on the Mautby Estate.

We will be holding the tenant
drop-in sessions on the following
dates between 10am-4pm:

West: 6th July at Crown Lodge,
44 Downham Road, Outwell,
Wisbech, PE14 8SE

East: 7th July at Upton Village
Hall, Cargate Lane, NR13 6AU

If you haven't already, please
contact us to book a time slot:
Sophie.bullimore@norfolk.gov.uk
or 01603 223667.

Have your say on training for the sector

Norfolk County Council with
Norwich City College are inviting
tenants to share their views on
training for the sector. Have your
say by filling in this online survey
<https://forms.office.com/r/YD6ukYzGT3> 'Commissioned by Norfolk
County Council (NCC), with City
College Norwich (CCN) as project
consultants, the AgriFood Project
intends to fully understand and
investigate training and
development requirements within
the AgriFood sector, in order to
ensure the continued growth of a
productive and profitable industry.
As part of this, we would like to
grow strong links between

education and industry in order to
expand upon answers received
from this survey and explore
solutions.

*The outcome of the project will be
to map emerging skills
requirements to the FE (Further
Education) and HE (Higher
Education) sector, working to
support ongoing developments in
the AgriFood industry.*

*By participating in this initial
survey, your expertise will help us
to gain a thorough understanding
of training needs in Norfolk and
Suffolk within AgriFood. This
survey should take approximately
15 minutes to complete.*

*If you have any further questions
or would like to discuss the
project, please feel free to get in
touch via
emma.cracknell@ccn.ac.uk.'*

Decision making report title: Support to the local economy following the COVID-19 pandemic

Date of meeting: 22 September 2021

Responsible Cabinet Member: Cllr Graham Plant (Cabinet Member for Growing the Economy)

Responsible Director: Tom McCabe (Executive Director, Community and Environmental Services)

Introduction

Scrutiny Committee has asked to review New Anglia Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) support to the local economy following the COVID-19 pandemic and its impact on:

- a). People
- b). Businesses
- c). Sectors
- d). Transport
- e). Economic opportunities

The report includes a number of appendices, which provide more detail on the Council's joint work with the LEP:

- Appendix A outlines the role of the LEP and how it interacts with Norfolk County Council (NCC), including policy and strategies, separation of activities and some funding awards.
- Appendix B covers some of the latest economy data.
- Appendix C covers some funds awarded and distributed by New Anglia LEP under different funding schemes, by district, as at 31 May 2021.
- Appendix D shows some of the key County Council economic recovery activity for 2021-22, which was outlined in the Economic Recovery and Growth Plans report which went to Cabinet on 2 August 2021.

Executive Summary

The report covers LEP activity which supports people, businesses, sectors, transport and economic opportunities. Some key examples of project activity in the report, are:

- Investment in Norwich City College's new Digitech facility
- Delivery of the New Anglia Apprenticeship Levy Transfer scheme
- Management of the Enterprise Adviser Network
- New Anglia Growth Hub support
- Launching the Business Resilience and Recovery Fund, the Visitor Economy Grant (VEG) and Wider Economy Grant (WEG) schemes

- Supporting its three Industry Councils – All Energy Industry Council, Agritech Industry Council and ICT Digital Industry Council.
- Creating the Clean Growth Taskforce
- Creation of Invest Norfolk and Suffolk
- Enterprise Zone support

The umbrella framework for recovery activity is the [Restart Plan](#) for Norfolk and Suffolk, along with the County Council's [Delivery Plan](#), which outlines our contribution to it.

Sectoral and thematic recovery plans also exist for key sectors such as Tourism and Energy.

The LEP are also working with partners to create a Norfolk and Suffolk Renewal Plan that will help us to recover more quickly from the pandemic and capitalise on shared priorities. Cabinet approved NCC working with the LEP on the Renewal Plan at their meeting on 2 August 2021.

A proposal to develop a Norfolk Investment Framework, which sets out the challenges across Norfolk specifically, in the next 3 to 5 years, and creates an evidence base to draw down future funding, was also approved at that meeting.

The Chief Executive of the Local Enterprise Partnership will attend the meeting and Members may wish to pose questions to him.

Recommendations

- 1. To consider and comment on the information and update set out in the report.**

1. Background and Purpose

- 1.1. The New Anglia Local Enterprise Partnership was established in 2011 and works with businesses, education and local authority partners to drive growth and enterprise in Norfolk and Suffolk. The LEP secures public and private investment to deliver a range of programmes and initiatives with partners to improve infrastructure, skills and business support.

The LEP's Economic Strategy for Norfolk and Suffolk 2017 set out an ambition to grow the economy, create 88,000 new jobs and 30,000 successful new businesses.

This was supplemented by the Local Industrial Strategy published in 2019, which sets a goal to become the UK's clean growth region, and highlights the potential of energy, agri-food and ICT Digital.

Finally, in July 2020 the LEP published the Norfolk and Suffolk Economic Restart Plan, as an initial response to the pandemic.

The LEP provided considerable support to businesses to mitigate the impact of the pandemic, with advice through its Growth Hub, support for those losing their jobs and finance for businesses.

The LEP is currently consulting with local authority, business, education and voluntary sector partners on the development of the Economic Renewal Plan which is due to be published in January 2022 and will bring together the three existing strategies into a single long-term Post Covid Economic plan for Norfolk and Suffolk.

- 1.2 Scrutiny Committee has requested this report on Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) support to the local economy following the COVID-19 pandemic covering five areas:
- a). People
 - b). Businesses
 - c). Sectors
 - d). Transport
 - e). Economic opportunities

2. Responses to scrutiny topics

- 2.1 **Impact of the pandemic.** In addition to the very significant health impacts, the pandemic had a serious impact on the local economy with businesses in a wide range of sectors unable to trade.

Without intervention from central government and local partners including the LEP, thousands of businesses would have ceased trading and unemployment would have increased significantly.

Measures taken by central government – including the furlough scheme, the wide range of grants and loans for businesses, increase in universal credit have helped to mitigate the impact of the pandemic.

Whilst businesses and the wider economy are recovering, the impact of the pandemic is still being felt and support for businesses and individuals is still required.

In Norfolk universal credit claimants jumped from 14,312 in March 2020 to more than 23,386 in April 2020, peaking at just over 30,126 in May 2020. The numbers have slowly reduced, standing at 24,392 in May 2021.

Numbers on furlough peaked at 113,800 in June 2020, which accounts for 30 per cent of the workforce. This reduced steadily and was down to 25,800 in May 2021 and 18,200 in June 2021 and will have reduced further during July and August. Data for this period is not yet available.

Numbers accessing the self-employed support scheme were 35,000 in June 2020 (70 per cent of those eligible) and this had only reduced to 25,000 in June 2021 (50 per cent of those eligible).

Businesses have also accessed a huge amount of grant support from Government via district councils as well as loans – Bounce back Loans (BBLs) and Coronavirus Business Interruption Loans (CIBLS). BBL and CIBLS loans were accessed via High Street banks and other lenders but are significantly underwritten by the Government through the British Business Bank. In Norfolk 18,203 loans have been taken out with a value of £774m. The vast majority of these are the smaller Bounce Back loans taken out by smaller firms. A total of 16,828 loans to a value of £480m.

Whilst businesses are in most cases trading to pre-pandemic levels, several issues remain include a shortage of available staffing, supply and cost of raw materials, as well as issues with European trade. As can be seen from the loans data, businesses have also taken on an unprecedented level of debt.

Advice and support for businesses, particularly SMEs, therefore, remains critically important.

- 2.2 **People.** People and skills remain a core priority for the LEP, which works with Norfolk County Council and a range of other partners to support the skills agenda. Claire Cullens, chief executive of the Norfolk Community Foundation and LEP private sector board member, is the chair of the LEP's Skills Advisory Panel (SAP). This group, run with the support of Norfolk and Suffolk County Councils, comprises stakeholders from local authorities, businesses and training providers to set the strategic direction for workforce skills.

The SAP published the New Anglia [Local Skills Report](#) and [Annex](#) in spring 2021 which highlights the key challenges and opportunities.

This report, commissioned by DfE, is now helping inform the development of the People section of the Economic Renewal Plan.

The LEP and the SAP have delivered and supported a range of programmes and projects to support the skills agenda through the pandemic.

Some examples of activity include:

- Investment of £6m in Norwich City College's new Digitech facility which is due to open this term and begin to tackle demand for ICT, digital skills.
- Investment of £4.4m in the UEA's Institute of Productivity, the new home for the university's engineering school and also opens this term.
- Delivery of the New Anglia Apprenticeship Levy Transfer scheme. This scheme facilitates the transfer of unspent levy from large employers to smaller businesses in Norfolk and Suffolk. The scheme has enabled more than £1.82m of levy funding to be retained in Norfolk and Suffolk – funding 228 new apprentices.
- Development and management of the LEP vacancies service on the LEP website which is promoting thousands of vacancies in our hard to fill sectors.

- Management of the Enterprise Adviser Network (EAN) which brings a network of business people into secondary schools across Norfolk and Suffolk. During the pandemic the service moved online with the creation of a virtual Work Inspiration “plug and play” suite of lesson plans and resources which can be delivered by local employers and teachers to raise aspirations and inform young people of the pathways and opportunities across New Anglia.

The EAN team also delivered “Careers and Coffee” - twice weekly YouTube broadcasts hosting local employers discussing their sector and fielding questions from young people, teachers and careers leads. To date there have been 70+ episodes covering a wide range of sectors including Agri-Tech, ICT, Clean Energy and Culture.

- The LEP is working with Norfolk’s universities to help connect them with more businesses to improve graduate job opportunities. Information can be found here <https://newanglia.co.uk/how-can-your-business-benefit-from-working-with-university-students-and-graduates/>
- Further social mobility raising through the Norwich Opportunity Area funded by the Department for Education included the development of the [Norwich Careers Facilitator Network](#) a network for secondary schools to share best practice and deliver large-scale events with employers so that young people are prepared for working life.

2.3 Businesses. The LEP supports thousands of businesses in Norfolk each year through the New Anglia Growth Hub and a range of funding and other business support programmes.

The Growth Hub is a team of specialist business support advisers who provide a one to one advice service to any business in Norfolk and Suffolk. The team works closely with local authority colleagues. In response to the pandemic, capacity in the Growth Hub was enhanced and the service completely redesigned so it could respond to the thousands of incoming queries from distressed businesses.

During the pandemic the Growth Hub received 16,000 calls from businesses, helping firms navigate the help on offer from local authorities, Government and others and helped many of these businesses access support and survive the pandemic.

Businesses also contacted local authority colleagues for advice. In order to assist local authority and other colleagues provide the most up to date information on available support, the LEP produced a regularly updated script with the most up to date information on government and local support and funding. This has proven invaluable in ensuring a consistent and clear messaging to businesses and helping them to access the support available.

In spring 2020 the LEP launched the Business Resilience and Recovery Fund which has to date provided grants of £3.3m to 85 firms in Norfolk. These grants attracted match of £5.5m from the businesses giving a total project value of £8.8m. The grants are aimed at helping businesses impacted by the pandemic become more resilient or enabling them to diversify their operations.

The LEP also launched the Visitor Economy Grant (VEG) and Wider Economy Grant (WEG) schemes. VEG has awarded just over £175,000 to 65 schemes in Norfolk and WEG £115,900 to 46 businesses in the county.

The LEP's existing suite of grant schemes has continued to provide financial support to companies.

Growing Business Fund (GBF) and Small Grants Scheme provides grants to enable businesses to grow of between £5,000 and £250,000.

Since they were launched GBF has awarded £20.4m in grants to 180 Norfolk businesses attracting £133m in matched funding, giving total investment of £153.4m. SGS has awarded £2m of grants to 213 Norfolk firms attracting £8.7m in matched funding giving a total value of £10.8m.

As well as helping businesses grow, the LEP supports innovation in businesses through its Growth Through Innovation (GTI) scheme. Since launching the GTI scheme has awarded more than £434,000 to 25 Norfolk businesses attracting £524,000 in matched funding giving a total investment of £959,000.

New Anglia Capital is a £4m equity investment fund which invests alongside business angels. To date £3.1m has been invested in a portfolio of 19 companies across Norfolk and Suffolk.

As well as offering funding for businesses the LEP also runs or funds a number of business support programmes.

These include:

The New Anglia Peer to Peer Network offers businesses the chance to learn from each other in facilitated sessions. The scheme supported 160 businesses last year and will support 200 businesses this year.

Scale up New Anglia. This programme provides practical support to groups of business leaders looking to rapidly grow their businesses.

The Innovation Grant Mentoring Project (IGMP) aims to help businesses in Norfolk and Suffolk tap into the wealth of funds available from Government to innovate and be more productive. Historically, both counties have a poor track record of accessing this funding. As this support is intensive, the target is small: 20 businesses to gain Innovate UK funding by November 2022.

- 2.4 **Sectors.** A critical role of the LEP is to support Norfolk and Suffolk's key sectors by bringing partners together to increase collaboration, share best practice and help individual businesses grow.

The LEP is continuing to support its three Industry Councils – All Energy Industry Council, Agritech Industry Council and ICT Digital Industry Council.

The three industry councils include representatives from business, local authorities, education, central Government and relevant national stakeholders.

Their role is to identify the economic opportunities of their sector as well as the barriers and challenges.

The LEP also supports formal groups in the following sectors: advanced manufacturing, culture, tourism, construction, financial services.

In addition, the LEP has recently created the Clean Growth Taskforce with the aim of ensuring net zero and clean growth are at the heart of LEP policies, priorities and investments.

The Clean Growth Taskforce is chaired by Peter Joyner, one of the LEP's private sector board members, and includes representatives from academia, business and the Norfolk and Suffolk Climate Change Partnerships.

The taskforce has agreed to focus on three specific areas – skills for decarbonisation, transport in particular alternative fuels, and support for SMEs on the path to net zero.

Under the support for SMEs theme the LEP has launched an initiative under the tagline Clean Growth for Business. This includes a number of events with partners as well as a wide range of resources to support SMEs.

<https://newanglia.co.uk/clean-growth-for-business/>

Some examples of work by the industry councils/sector groups:

The Tourism sector group, led by Visit East of England and the LEP, and supported by all tourism destination management organisations and local authorities in Norfolk, has produced a Tourism Recovery Plan.

The All-Energy Industry Council, led by the LEP and supported by the East of England Energy Group, has also produced an Energy Sector Recovery Plan.

The Agri-tech Industry Council, led by the LEP and supported by Agritech-E, is collaborating with colleagues in Cambridgeshire and Lincolnshire on a piece of work to highlight and showcase the national importance of the sector.

The Culture sector group (New Anglia Culture Board) has launched a campaign to promote Norfolk and Suffolk called Head East, part-funded by the LEP, which aims to boost visitor numbers to cultural and tourism attractions in the off season. <https://www.visiteastofengland.com/head-east>

At the same time the LEP is investing in a number of projects to support these sectors. All the projects have been identified as priorities by the relevant groups.

Some examples:

Agri-tech. Broadland Food Innovation Centre. This is a £11.2m project led by Broadland District Council with £4.1m of funding from the LEP and £5.7m secured from the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF). Construction is underway on the scheme which will create space to grow for more than a dozen food businesses.

All-energy. Great Yarmouth Operations and Maintenance campus. The LEP is supporting a project led by Norfolk County Council to create a facility in Great Yarmouth for companies in the offshore wind sector. The LEP is investing £6m through the Getting Building Fund. The LEP has also supported work with local authority and business colleagues to create a new brand Generate to promote the energy sector.

The LEP is also investing in the advanced manufacturing sector through the UEA's Institute of Productivity and the ICT Digital sector through the City College Norwich Digitech facility referred to earlier in the report.

The LEP has also supported a range of initiatives to strengthen supply chains and enhance innovation across our key sectors. This includes supporting the roll out of the Fit4 Offshore Renewables Supply Chain programme, led by the Offshore Renewable Energy Catapult. Funding from the LEP and the Norfolk Strategic Fund has supported 15 businesses (the majority from Norfolk) and helping them transition into the offshore wind supply chain and win new contracts.

Another important example of innovation and supply chain activity is the new Connected Innovation project which is linking up our key centres for innovation, science and research such as Norwich Research Park, Hethel Engineering Centre, Scottow Enterprise Park, UEA, NUA and the new Broadland Food Innovation Centre. This two-year programme, led by the LEP, is enhancing and promoting cross-sector innovation and strengthening the business networks and is supported by the Norfolk Strategic Fund (and Suffolk Inclusive Growth Investment Fund).

- 2.5 **Transport.** The LEP continues to work with partners particularly Norfolk County Council and Transport East on investing in and securing improvements to the county's transport infrastructure as well as working to decarbonise the sector.

Some examples of LEP activity.

Rail. The LEP plays a key role in bringing together partners to make the case for and secure funding for rail improvements. The LEP provides the secretariat for the Great Eastern Mainline Taskforce, whose work secured the investment

in new rolling stock for the franchise. In May 2021 the taskforce published its case for investment in improved infrastructure to support the new rolling stock.

<https://newanglia.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/New-Anglia-LEP-GEML-Taskforce-Brochure-LR.pdf>

The LEP is a key partner in the Ely Junction taskforce, covering the routes from Norwich to the West and King's Lynn to Cambridge. The LEP funded initial work on the Ely Junction project. Network Rail has now secured £12m from the Department for Transport to continue the development work.

Alternative fuels. Decarbonising transport is a critical area of focus for the LEP and its partners. The LEP has commissioned a study in partnership with the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority to look the potential for both electric and hydrogen powered vehicles and the necessary infrastructure required.

2.6 Economic opportunities

The LEP is supporting several initiatives to promote Norfolk and Suffolk as a place for existing businesses to grow and as a place for high quality companies to locate to.

Invest Norfolk and Suffolk

The LEP together with Norfolk County Council and Suffolk County Council has created a single inward investment team to maximise resources and attract more inward investment into the county.

In the year ended 2020/21 the team handled 100 active enquiries from businesses – a significant increase on the previous year. This is down to building a stronger relationship with the Department for International Trade, close cooperation with district colleagues and improved promotion.

Significant amount of the team's time is spent converting the active enquiries into firm investments.

The team also gained national recognition from the Department for International Trade for the Norwich Research Park (NRP). It is being billed as one of the UK's High Potential Opportunities (HPO) under the theme of nutrition. HPO status means the NRP will be promoted as the UK's number one location under the theme of nutrition.

Enterprise Zones

One of the LEP's flagship programmes is its two Enterprise Zones, which are run in partnership with local authority colleagues in Norfolk and Suffolk.

The EZs – Great Yarmouth and Lowesoft and Space to Innovate cover 16 sites across Norfolk and Suffolk.

Enterprise Zones have established themselves as a driving force of local economies as they unlock key development sites, consolidate infrastructure, attract business and create jobs. In light of recent impacts on Norfolk and Suffolk's economy and key sectors from Covid-19 and EU transition, these sites present an opportunity to support economic recovery in key priority locations.

The sites are now home to 180 businesses supporting 3,800 jobs. They have unlocked 116 hectares of development land and leveraged £160m of private sector funding as well as supported more than 3,500 construction jobs.

Key sectors identified for our Enterprise Zones include: agri-tech, food and health, offshore energy, the green economy, ICT and digital creative sectors, professional services and advanced engineering.

2.7 Review of LEPs

In March's budget the Government announced a review of LEPs.

The budget stated:

"We will also be working with local businesses on the future role of Local Enterprise Partnerships. We want to ensure local businesses have clear representation and support in their area, in order to drive the recovery."

The review now forms part of the Government's Levelling Up White Paper which feeds into next month's Comprehensive Spending Review.

The outcome of the review will provide clarity on the future role and remit of LEPs moving forward.

3. Financial Implications

- 3.1. No financial implications as a direct result of this report.

4. Resource Implications

4.1. Staff:

None as a direct result of this report. As mentioned above, staff from local authorities and the LEP have aligned in regular meetings tackling specific aspects of the recovery, to maximise the impact and pace of interventions.

4.2. Property:

None as a direct result of this report.

4.3. IT:

None as a direct result of this report.

5. Other Implications

5.1. Legal Implications

None as a direct result of this report.

5.2. Human Rights implications

None as a direct result of this report.

5.3. Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA)

None as a direct result of this report. Individual projects and programmes targeting the recovery each consider the needs of groups with protected characteristics when targeting their interventions.

5.4. Data Protection Impact Assessments (DPIA)

None as a direct result of this report.

5.5. Health and Safety implications (where appropriate)

None as a direct result of this report.

5.6. Sustainability implications (where appropriate)

None as a direct result of this report.

5.7. Any other implications

None as a direct result of this report.

6. Risk Implications/Assessment

- 6.1. The risks posed by the pandemic to the Norfolk economy have been considerable. The report covers some of the activity taken to mitigate those risks which began in March 2020.

7. Select Committee comments

- 7.1. None.

8. Recommendations

1. To consider and comment on the information and update set out in the report.

9. Background Papers

- 9.1. The New Anglia Restart Plan and Norfolk County Council COVID-19 Delivery Plan can be found here:
<https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/care-support-and-health/health-and-wellbeing/adults-health/coronavirus/business-support/support-for-businesses/norfolk-delivery-plan>
- 9.2. An **Economic Recovery & Growth Plans** report was taken to the 2 August 2021 Cabinet, and can be found here:
<https://norfolkcc.cmis.uk.com/norfolkcc/CalendarofMeetings/tabid/128/ctl/ViewMeetingPublic/mid/496/Meeting/1793/Committee/169/Default.aspx>

- 9.3 A report covering **Norfolk's Economic Recovery – joint work by the County Council and Local Enterprise Partnership to support businesses** was taken to the 18 November 2020 Scrutiny Committee found here:
<https://norfolkcc.cmis.uk.com/norfolkcc/CalendarofMeetings/tabid/128/ctl/ViewMeetingPublic/mid/496/Meeting/1742/Committee/168/Default.aspx>
- 9.4 Infrastructure and Development Committee considered a detailed update on the **Norfolk economy** at their 11 November 2020 meeting which can be found here:
<https://norfolkcc.cmis.uk.com/norfolkcc/CalendarofMeetings/tabid/128/ctl/ViewMeetingPublic/mid/496/Meeting/1693/Committee/171/Default.aspx>

Officer Contact

If you have any questions about matters contained in this paper, please get in touch with: **Officer name:** Vince Muspratt **Tel no.:** 01603 223450
Email address: vince.muspratt@norfolk.gov.uk



If you need this report in large print, audio, braille, alternative format or in a different language please contact 0344 800 8020 or 0344 800 8011 (textphone) and we will do our best to help.

Appendix A: New Anglia Local Enterprise Partnership and Norfolk County Council partnership working

New Anglia Local Enterprise Partnership and Norfolk County Council partnership working

Scrutiny Committee
Wednesday 22 September



Contents

- Policy and strategy
- Separation of activities
- Funding



Policy and Strategy

- National
- Regional
- County
- Local and thematic



Separation of activities

Norfolk County Council:

- Business development
- Support for bid writing
- Apprenticeship's support
- Job and skills support
- Strategic transport and planning
- Greater Norwich partnership working
- Funding



New Anglia LEP:

- Growth Hub
- Business growth programmes
- Enterprise Zone development
- Inward investment- Norfolk and Suffolk Unlimited
- Funding
- Regional strategy and policy
- Sub Boards: Innovation Board
 - NA Skills Advisory Panel
 - Transport Board
 - Clean Growth Taskforce
- Industry Councils: All Energy, Agri-Food and Digital Tech
- Sector groups: including Tourism, creative culture, advanced manufacturing

Funding

Successful funding contributions include:

- **Great Yarmouth Operations and Maintenance Campus-** £6m Getting Building Fund
- **Food Innovation Centre-** £2.7m Getting Building Fund
- **International Aviation Academy Norwich-** £3.3m Growth Deal
- **Great Yarmouth Third River Crossing-** £98m national funds, £2m Growth Deal
- **Long Stratton Bypass-** £26.2m Major Road Network
- **Norfolk Tourism Sector Support Package-** £2.225m Norfolk Strategic Fund
- **EXPERIENCE Project-** €16m European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) through the France (Channel) England Programme



Appendix B: Economy

UK economy

The latest UK economy figures according to the Office for National Statistics (ONS) state:

- UK average house prices increased by 13.2% over the year to June 2021
- Inflation rate falls to 2.1% in year to July 2021
- The number of payrolled employees in the UK increased by 182,000 in July 2021 to 28.9 million. However, it remains 201,000 below pre-coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic levels (February 2020).
- Following the easing of coronavirus (COVID-19) restrictions in Quarter 2 (Apr to June) 2021, UK gross domestic product (GDP) is estimated to have increased by 4.8%. The level of GDP in the UK is now 4.4% below the pre-pandemic level at the end of 2019.

Norfolk furloughing

The latest furlough figures for Norfolk are

Norfolk County	144,400
Breckland	21,500
Broadland	21,800
Great Yarmouth	16,600
King's Lynn and West Norfolk	22,900
North Norfolk	15,900
Norwich	24,500
South Norfolk	21,100

Appendix C: Funds awarded and distributed by New Anglia LEP under different funding schemes by district at 31 May 2021.

Growing Business Fund	Total Grant Awarded	Total Private Match	Total Project Cost	Number of Approved Projects
Breckland	£3,297,843	£23,473,566	£26,771,409	35
Broadland	£3,642,675	£18,298,753	£21,941,428	27
Great Yarmouth	£2,300,440	£16,922,020	£19,222,460	25
King's Lynn & West Norfolk	£2,997,302	£14,574,471	£17,571,773	27
North Norfolk	£1,509,643	£11,178,562	£12,688,205	14
Norwich	£2,348,480	£16,226,773	£18,575,253	17
South Norfolk	£4,305,598	£32,334,168	£36,639,766	35
Norfolk Total	£20,401,981	£133,008,313	£153,410,294	180

Business Resilience & Recovery Fund	Total Grant Awarded	Total Private Match	Total Project Cost	Number of Approved Projects
Breckland	£555,785	£950,428	£1,506,213	14
Broadland	£490,446	£778,680	£1,269,126	12
Great Yarmouth	£177,210	£308,549	£485,759	4
Kings Lynn & West Norfolk	£858,596	£1,245,067	£2,103,663	22
North Norfolk	£345,539	£403,143	£748,682	9
Norwich	£408,492	£575,587	£984,079	11
South Norfolk	£295,608	£620,599	£916,207	9
Norfolk Total	£3,131,676	£4,882,053	£8,013,729	81

Small Grants Scheme	Total Grant Awarded	Total Private Match	Total Project Cost	Number of Approved Projects
Breckland	£384,004	£1,794,840	£2,178,844	39
Broadland	£287,276	£1,177,352	£1,464,628	33
Great Yarmouth	£296,534	£788,778	£1,085,312	23
King's Lynn & West Norfolk	£379,132	£1,882,429	£2,261,561	35
North Norfolk	£147,439	£656,142	£803,581	17
Norwich	£392,864	£1,604,598	£1,997,462	40
South Norfolk	£210,295	£881,123	£1,091,418	26
Norfolk Total	£2,097,544	£8,785,261	£10,882,805	213

Growth Through Innovation	Total Grant Awarded	Total Private Match	Total Project Cost	Number of Approved Projects
Breckland	£46,992	£56,750	£103,742	5
Broadland	£23,916	£29,232	£53,148	1
King's Lynn & West Norfolk	£50,940	£59,940	£110,880	3
North Norfolk	£100,452	£128,935	£229,387	5
Norwich	£147,567	£161,853	£309,420	8
South Norfolk	£64,996	£87,499	£152,495	3
Norfolk Total	£434,863	£524,209	£959,072	25

Visitor Economy Grants Awarded	Total Grant Awarded	Number of Approved Projects
Breckland	£19,423	8
Broadland	£21,401	8
Great Yarmouth	£14,579	5
Kings Lynn and West Norfolk	£36,778	14
North Norfolk	£42,183	16
Norwich	£20,814	7
South Norfolk	£20,459	7
Norfolk Total	£175,637	65

Wider Visitor Economy Grants Awarded	Total Grant Awarded	Number of Approved Projects
Breckland	£8,442	3
Broadland	£24,672	10
Great Yarmouth	£5,565	2
Kings Lynn and West Norfolk	£7,992	4
North Norfolk	£19,461	7
Norwich	£30,005	12
South Norfolk	£19,790	8
Norfolk Total	£115,927	46

Appendix D: Key County Council economic recovery activity for 2021- 2022 (2 August 2021 Cabinet report extracts)

People

Our **Employer Training Incentive Programme** (ETIP) supports independent retailers, proving a delegated training grant scheme to assist Norfolk SMEs in sectors that have been most affected by Covid-19, supporting businesses to diversify or grow, adopt digital technology and upskill employees who might otherwise face redundancy.

ETIP is part of our Bringing Employment & Skills Together project, whose targets are:

- 658 Norfolk SMEs engaged in skills development activity
- 437 businesses recruiting a new apprentice or employing an apprentice made redundant as a result of Covid-19
- At least 221 businesses engaged and supported with their upskilling & training needs

Looking at sector-specific skills, NCC's Adult Learning team have put together, a CRF bid for a Construction and Environment Skills Hub, which will deliver the lower level skills to prepare individuals to move onto level 2 and 3 courses.

The **Building Growth Skills Group** has set up working groups to provide a greater focus on specific areas of need in construction skills, including looking at the main challenges around construction apprenticeship delivery.

The Group's first area of work is to explore the theme of flexible delivery models and how these could be applied to construction, with the aim of influencing a change in some provision for 2021/22. We will also be identifying where there could be bottlenecks for provision amongst our FE colleges

Business support

Go Digital, our digital transformation programme, funded by Norfolk County Council and district council partners that seeks to help companies do more business online, with specialist advice from a business mentor and vouchers to support digital action plans. We currently have **160 businesses** on the programme receiving advice (with a further 80 on the waiting list) and have scaled up the programme via the **C-CARE** (Covid Channel Area Response Exchange) initiative. This is ambitious project that aims to reflect on local Covid 19 responses and offer targeted packages of support for struggling communities – typically in coastal and rural areas.

C-Care has a budget of **€2.2m** and will support over around **800 businesses** to reset their business models in response to the pandemic, as well as support **600 people** into employment or self-employment, through skills training.

Our **Innovation Grant Mentoring Project** (IGMP) aims to help businesses in Norfolk and Suffolk tap into the wealth of funds available from Government to innovate and be more productive. Historically, both counties have a poor track record of accessing this funding. As this support is intensive, the target is small: 20 businesses to gain

Innovate UK funding by November 2022. To date, we have processed over **100** applications, and 10 businesses have bid for funding (outcome awaited shortly). The steering group includes a range of partners such as UEA, the University of Suffolk and the Knowledge Transfer Network, and the programme is aligned to the latest innovation strands (eg Connected Innovation Hubs, Offshore Renewable Energy Catapults).

The steering group also helps businesses who are not suitable for IGMP – such as referral to the New Anglia Growth Hub for alternative funding and support. A webinar was hosted in July on innovation funding.

Supporting our key sectors

Offshore Wind

Operations and Maintenance Campus. The project aims to create 650 jobs in the offshore wind sector by 2027/8 and secured £6m from the Government's Getting Building Fund last summer. Ground-breaking took place at the end of June, and delivery is currently on schedule.

The **Great Yarmouth Business Incubator** is a key project in the borough council's successful £20m Town Deal funding bid. Feasibility work for the submission was commissioned and overseen by the County Council, on behalf of Great Yarmouth Borough Council, the County Council and NALEP. We are supporting GYBC as this project moves to the next stages of construction.

The £2.24m **DRIVE** programme (Delivering Rural Investment in Vital Employment) offers rural businesses 12 hours of business mentoring to create project and business plans, after which they can apply for a capital grant of between £5,000 and £30,000. It aims to:

- Provide 125 x 12 hr mentoring sessions to businesses, as well as 252 x 3-hour mentored diagnostic and brokerage sessions by the end of July 2022
- Award 112 grants by the end of August 2022
- Create 90 jobs by the end of June 2023

We are working with partners on the delivery of the Food Innovation Hub on the Food Enterprise Park at Honingham Thorpe, and are working with the local food cluster, the Department for International Trade and Food Valley NL to explore opportunities, building on our previous attendance at Horecava, the leading European food expo in the Netherlands.

We are also rolling out a project that responds to the skills needs of the Agri-Food/Tech Sector in Norfolk. It is a programme of intensive engagement with employers and providers across the sector, designed to address workforce development needs and better equip the sector with the skills needed for growth. A total of 300 businesses will be engaged, with 50 businesses supported to participate in one-to-one sessions to identify their skills gaps.

In terms of wider regional working, we are exploring links between Norfolk and Suffolk and Lincolnshire. The latter have invested heavily in supporting this sector,

and we are meeting with them to explore learning on sector development, site development and innovation. Also, in the King's Lynn we are exploring the potential to collaborate on support for young people, via the King's Lynn Town Deal.

Looking more widely at the rural economy, we will be launching the refreshed Norfolk Rural Strategy (2021-24) in the autumn (scheduled for September Infrastructure and Development Committee and October Cabinet). It includes priorities such as supporting the farming sector to transition from the basic farm payment to the Environmental Land Management Scheme, using the 25 year environmental evidence compendium that was produced as part of the current strategy.

Tourism and retail

Last year, in response to the pandemic, we launched our **£2.225m tourism support package**, funded from the Norfolk Strategic Fund, which was established to help businesses respond to the pandemic and re-open safely. Grants are administered by district councils and destination management organisations, who are most familiar with the needs of local businesses. The programme continues to summer 2021.

The Visit Norfolk tourism partnership (of which the Council is a member) also produced an ambitious 'Transforming Norfolk Tourism' CRF bid, which seeks to:

- Create a private-public sector Sustainable Tourism Group that will develop a Road Map to Net Zero 2030.
- Change perceptions of the visitor economy as 'low skilled, low paid and seasonal' to a 'career of choice' by developing in-school and out-of-school opportunities for young people.
- Create 10 six-month paid-for work placements for young people and older people who wish to reskill.
- Create unique year-round Covid safe bookable itineraries on Visit Norfolk to convert day trippers to stay visitors.
- Develop East Academy for Skills in Tourism (EAST), an online resource on the Visit East of England website that will provide bespoke training modules.
- Develop bespoke online tourism toolkits for businesses that will include guidance on Responsible Tourism and Inclusive and Accessible Tourism.
- Develop an online Ambassador/Customer Service scheme for our sector workforce to gain a better understanding of delivering year-round tourism.

Scrutiny Committee

Item No: 11

Report Title: Scrutiny Committee Forward Work Programme

Date of Meeting: 22 September 2021

Responsible Cabinet Member: None

Responsible Director: Director of Governance

Executive Summary

This paper sets out the current forward work programme for the Scrutiny Committee, outlining committee dates and items for consideration through to March 2022.

Recommendations

Members of the committee are asked to:

1. Note the current Scrutiny Committee forward work programme and discuss potential future items for consideration.
2. Note the change of date for the December meeting of the Scrutiny Committee.

1. Background and Purpose

- 1.1 Members agreed a forward programme of work at the meeting of the Scrutiny Committee on the 21 July 2021.
- 1.2 The work programme attached has been amended to better reflect officer pressures and changes to the Cabinet forward plan of decisions.
- 1.3 All topics are subject to change, with the committee remaining flexible to ensure the ability to adapt to emerging and urgent topics for consideration.
- 1.4 In addition, members are asked to note that the December meeting of the committee has been moved at the request of the Chair/Vice-Chair to account for pressures associated with the Christmas period.

2. Proposal

- 2.1 Members are asked to note the attached forward programme of work (**Appendix A**) and discuss potential further items for consideration.

- 2.2 Members are further asked to note the change of date for the December meeting of the committee. This will now take place on the 15th December.

3. Impact of the Proposal

- 3.1 Maintaining the proposed work programme will ensure that the Scrutiny Committee has a full schedule of work, and officers are well prepared to present to the committee.

4. Financial Implications

- 4.1 None

5. Resource Implications

5.1 Staff:

The County Council is still dealing with the COVID crisis and the focus for Officers will be in supporting this work. Some Officers may be redeployed from their current roles elsewhere to support ongoing work during the pandemic and the Committee may need to be mindful of focusing requests on essential information at this time.

5.2 Property:

None

5.3 IT:

None

6. Other Implications

6.1 Legal Implications:

None

6.2 Human Rights Implications:

None

6.3 Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) (this must be included):

None

6.4 Data Protection Impact Assessments (DPIA):

None

6.5 Health and Safety implications (where appropriate):

None

6.6 Sustainability implications (where appropriate):

None

6.7 Any Other Implications:

None

7. Risk Implications / Assessment

7.1 None

8. Select Committee Comments

8.1 None

9. Recommendations

Members of the Scrutiny Committee are asked to:

1. Note the current Scrutiny Committee forward work programme and discuss potential future items for consideration.
2. Note the change of date for the December meeting of the Scrutiny Committee.

10. Background Papers

10.1 **Appendix A – Scrutiny Committee Forward Programme of Work**

Officer Contact

If you have any questions about matters contained within this paper, please get in touch with:

Officer name: Peter Randall

Telephone no.: 01603 307570

Email: peter.randall@norfolk.gov.uk



If you need this report in large print, audio, braille, alternative format or in a different language please contact 0344 800 8020 or 0344 800 8011 (textphone) and we will do our best to help.

Scrutiny Committee Forward Work Programme

Date	Report	Further notes/Comments	Cabinet Member	Exec Director
22 September 21	County Farms	Update to committee	Cllr Greg Peck, Cabinet Member for Commercial Services and Asset Management	Simon George, Executive Director for Finance and Commercial Services.
	Update from the Chair of the Norfolk Countywide Community Safety Partnership	Scheduled regular update	None	None
	New Anglia Local Enterprise Partnership	To include a conversation around support to the local economy following the Covid-19 pandemic.	Cllr Graham Plant, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Growing the Economy	Tom McCabe, Executive Director for Community and Environmental Services
20 October 21	Quarterly Update on Children's & Adult Social Care Performance Review Panels	Scheduled regular update	Cllr Bill Borrett, Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care, Public Health and Prevention &	James Bullion, Executive Director for Adult Social Care &

			Cllr John Fisher, Cabinet Member for Children's Services	Sarah Tough, Executive Director for Children's Services
	Update on Norwich Western Link Road	Update to committee	Cllr Martin Wilby, Cabinet Member for Highways and Infrastructure	Tom McCabe, Executive Director for Community and Environmental Services
	Electric Vehicle Strategy	To be adopted at Cabinet on 4 October 2021	Cllr Martin Wilby, Cabinet Member for Highways and Infrastructure	Tom McCabe, Executive Director for Community and Environmental Services
24 November 21	Update on Flood Prevention Activity	To include an update on comments from Scrutiny at the 27 January 2021 meeting	Cllr Martin Wilby, Cabinet Member for Highways and Infrastructure	Tom McCabe, Executive Director for Community and Environmental Services
	Apprenticeship Strategy & Action Plan	To be adopted by Cabinet on 6 September 2021	Cllr Graham Plant, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Growing the Economy	Tom McCabe, Executive Director for Community and Environmental Services.
	Review of Environmental Policy for Norfolk County Council	Adopted by Full Council on 25 November 2019	Cllr Andy Grant, Cabinet Member for	Tom McCabe, Executive Director for Community and

			Environment and Waste	Environmental Services.
22 December 21	Implementation of Local Transport Plan	To be adopted by Cabinet on 2 August 2021	Cllr Martin Wilby, Cabinet Member for Highways and Infrastructure	Tom McCabe, Executive Director for Community and Environmental Services
	People with Disabilities – Engagement and Charging Policy	Update to committee	Cllr Bill Borrett, Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care, Public Health and Prevention	James Bullion, Executive Director for Adult Social Care
	Adult Learning	Update to committee	Cllr Margaret Dewsbury, Cabinet Member for Communities and Partnerships	Tom McCabe, Executive Director for Community and Environmental Services
27 January 22	Quarterly Update on Children's & Adult Social Care Performance Review Panels	Scheduled regular update	Cllr Bill Borrett, Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care, Public Health and Prevention & Cllr John Fisher, Cabinet Member for Children's Services	James Bullion, Executive Director for Adult Social Care & Sarah Tough, Executive Director for Children's Services

	Update from the Chair of the Norfolk Countywide Community Safety Partnership	Scheduled regular update	None	None
	Update on Provisional Local Government Finance Settlement 2022-23	Update to committee	Andrew Jamieson, Cabinet Member for Finance	Simon George, Executive Director for Finance and Commercial Services.
	County Estate Refurbishment	Update to committee	Cllr Greg Peck, Cabinet Member for Commercial Services and Asset Management	Simon George, Executive Director for Finance and Commercial Services.
16 February 22	Norfolk County Council Budget 2022-23	Standard items as part of annual budget setting process	Andrew Jamieson, Cabinet Member for Finance	Simon George, Executive Director for Finance and Commercial Services.
	Norfolk County Council Revenue Budget 2022-23		Andrew Jamieson, Cabinet Member for Finance	Simon George, Executive Director for Finance and Commercial Services.
	Capital Strategy and Programme 2022-23		Andrew Jamieson, Cabinet Member for Finance	Simon George, Executive Director for Finance and

				Commercial Services.
	Annual Investment and Treasury Strategy 2022-23		Andrew Jamieson, Cabinet Member for Finance	Simon George, Executive Director for Finance and Commercial Services.
23 March 22	Six Month Review of Performance Review Panels	Agreed by the Scrutiny Committee at the meeting held on 21 July 2021	Cllr Bill Borrett, Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care, Public Health and Prevention & Cllr John Fisher, Cabinet Member for Children's Services	James Bullion, Executive Director for Adult Social Care & Sarah Tough, Executive Director for Children's Services
	Children's Mental Health Services	Update to committee	Cllr John Fisher, Cabinet Member for Children's Services	Sara Tough, Executive Director for Children's Services

Issues to be considered for addition to work programme:

- Together for Norfolk – Corporate Strategy
- Social Value in Procurement
- Implementation of New Technology in Adult Social Care

- Onshore Renewable Energy
- Waste Disposal
- Quality of Care & Care Market in Norfolk
- Norfolk Rural Strategy 2021-24