

## Devo and reorg

Lots of noise around elections without the proper context.

Mayor. The Gov is "minded to delay" the Mayor election to 2028. Delaying an election is entirely the responsibility of The Gov. They must lay the order to Parliament. If agreed, then the order is MADE!

At the moment "Minded to"

RPG. Consultation is closed on 11<sup>th</sup>!

Await their decision: 1, 2 or 3

## Deadline

May 28 is the vesting day when Unitary replaces current 2 tier system.

Elections:

Each election costs well over 1 million pounds!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Time line: 4 elections in 2 years

May 26. County Council. In place for only 2 years!

May 27. County Shadow council. 4 years

May 27. District election. In place for only 1 year

May 26 or May 28. Mayoral election

The Shadow Council is absolutely essential for the Unitary. Setting it up and then running through initial period

## Budget

February is the deadline for the Budgets.

We have received a 3 year settlement which is nice BUT

The amounts give us more decisions before February

Descending amount over 3 years

We change to Unitary in 2 years!

Very clear Rural Counties have done worse than the labour North!

Details at next meeting when I report on final balanced budget

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

The settlement provides limited detail on the treatment of existing special educational needs deficits. The money is part of the first multi-year funding settlement in over a decade, giving councils more financial certainty so that they can plan ahead. The Government's provisional settlement moves funding from rural shire authorities towards metropolitan and urban areas.

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

## Warm in Winter

[Warm Welcome | Find Community Spaces Near You](#)

[Warm and Well - Norfolk & Waveney Integrated Care System \(ICS\)](#)

## Norfolk Trails Public Survey

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

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

## National planning policy framework consultation

The [Government has launched a major consultation](#) on a revamped National Planning Policy Framework. They say that the changes will help optimise land use through well-designed, higher-density development, simplified biodiversity rules for smaller sites - and fast-track good housing projects that meet national standards for energy efficiency.

The proposed measures aim to advance their objectives for economic growth, construction of 1.5 million new homes during this Parliament, and the achievement of clean power by 2030.

They also seek to establish a stable, rules-based system where developments meeting clear standards can move quickly from plans to construction.

A link to the consultation is available [here](#). It closes on 10 March 2026.

## Support for abuse victims

The government has [announced](#) additional funding to bolster protection for domestic abuse victims, including almost £500 million for councils to provide safe accommodation and support services.

This includes an extra £19 million uplift that will help about 4,900 more households access refuge spaces or Sanctuary Scheme measures (which secure victims' own homes), on top of £480 million already in local budgets. Framed as part of the new Violence Against Women and Girls strategy, the funding promises the largest ever crackdown on abusers.

## Young people and work report: Call for Evidence

With almost one million young people not in education, employment, or training (NEET) Alan Milburn is leading an investigation into the causes of soaring unemployment in the young in recent years.

He has launched a [Call for Evidence](#) to help shape the investigation, and is seeking evidence and insight to answer 2 questions:

- What is stopping more young people from participating in employment, education or training?
- What would make the biggest difference to support more young people to participate?

The Call for Evidence is open until 30 January 2026.

## Scams

Scam Alert - Emails claiming to be from NatWest

Scam Alert - Telephone cold calls claiming to be 'bank security'

Scam Alert - Fake Parking Charge Notice text & WhatsApp messages

Rogue Trader Alert - Doorstep Cold Callers claiming issues with properties' roof

Scam Alert - Investment scams