

I have chased Andy Wallace ref the 'clearway' or yellows and the monies are reserved but he needs to chase others.

Norfolk County Deal update - thin gruel

Councillors have agreed to progress a £612.9m County Deal that will also transfer more powers and funding from the Government to Norfolk.

Following a debate at full council on 17 January, the council's cabinet agreed to progress the deal at their later meeting on 17 January.

If you should take part in the consultation, if you feel like you are being 'sold' something, as opposed to being consulted – then that is likely to be the case, buyer beware.

I have inserted myself into a Task Group examining how the governance of any deal. An opportunity for mischief.

According to the report to cabinet, the deal would mean that, from 2024 onwards, the County Council could:

- target funding and resources to Norfolk's own priorities, with a new investment fund of £20m per year for 30 years.
- unlock housing and employment sites with an injection of £12.9m capital funding in this Spending Review period and new powers to drive regeneration, housing and development priorities.
- invest in the skills we know we need, with devolution of the adult education budget and input into the new Local Skills Improvement Plans.
- invest in local transport planning and consolidate transport budgets to direct funding to better meet our local needs and priorities.
- strengthen the local business voice to inform local decision making and strategic economic planning through the future integration of New Anglia Local Enterprise Partnership.
- have a council leader who is directly elected by the public, with the first election in May 2024.
- raise our influence regionally and nationally, enabling our voice to be better heard by Government to shape future policies and funding decisions for the benefit of our County.

A six week public consultation on the deal will be launched on 6 February.

The full council will decide whether to support the change to an elected leader, in December. If approved, an election will be held in May 2024.

Further details on the County Deal, including the full text, [here](#).

You can register for updates at countydeal@norfolk.gov.uk

Multiply free maths courses and new Multiply Champions in Norfolk

Multiply is a new government-funded programme to help adults across the UK to improve their numeracy skills.

The Multiply project awarded Norfolk County Council £4.7 million to provide numeracy support, training and qualifications until April 2025 which would be delivered by partners such as Norfolk Adult Learning, City College Norwich, the College of West Anglia, and East Coast College.

The Multiply project enables Norfolk County Council to distribute funding to learning partners to deliver a variety of courses to boost confidence and skill with maths. The range of courses include preparation for maths qualifications, such as Functional Skills, help with managing money, and courses aimed at specific workplaces which will be delivered alongside employers.

Good maths skills can help you find more job opportunities and lead to higher wages. Or they can help you prepare for further study. They also help in everyday life, such as helping children with homework and budgeting money.

You will be able to take part if:

- You are over 19
- You do not have maths GCSE at grade C (or equivalent)
- You live in Norfolk

Norfolk County Council has also hired 7 new Multiply Champions, one for each District, to promote numeracy skills in people over 19 without a GCSE at grade 4/C.

Making maths accessible, approachable, and engaging is one of the key challenges for the new Champions. They will attend events, community hubs, and libraries to help inspire people to take up a variety of courses on offer.

People can view the available Multiply courses in Norfolk on the Norfolk County website [here](#).

Active Travel England funding for Norfolk

Norfolk County Council has been successful in securing £657,388 funding from Active Travel England to support the improvement of active travel options across the County. The money comes from the Active Travel Capability Fund of £32.9 million which expects to see millions shake up the way they travel. The investment is to help local authorities in England design, develop and consult on high-quality active travel schemes.

The funding received is the full amount that the County Council requested in a bid submitted in September. The bid outlined that Norfolk would use the money on active travel projects to enable more people to walk, wheel and cycle.

More information about Active Travel England [here](#)

Norfolk's highway biodiversity and cutting use of weedkillers

The locations of 5 new roadside nature recovery study areas, set to be a blueprint for new reserves and nature and wildlife friendly verge management across the county, have been revealed.

Sites near Taverham, Wells-next-the-Sea, King's Lynn, Heacham and Flitcham will be considered by councillors next week as part of plans to increase the number of roadside nature reserves to 300 (from the current 110) by 2024.

Members of the committee also considered a draft policy set to cut the use of weedkiller on highway areas, schools, care homes and county farms.