

COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT SEPTEMBER 2024

Norfolk residents encouraged to take up free NHS Health Checks

Norfolk County Council has launched a campaign highlighting to residents that the NHS Health Check is a great opportunity to get their blood pressure checked and receive advice on how to lower their risk of cardiovascular disease and other long-term conditions. The campaign coincides with the national Know Your Numbers blood pressure testing and awareness campaign. It is targeting specific households in the Gt Yarmouth, Norwich, Thetford and Kings Lynn areas where there is a lower take up rate of the NHS Health Check.

Anyone aged 40-74 without a long-term health condition is eligible for an NHS Health Check every 5 years. NHS Health Checks assess your risk of serious illness such as heart disease, type 2 diabetes, stroke, kidney disease and dementia.

Norfolk residents will now be able to carry out an NHS Health Check primarily via their mobile phone, tablet or computer, as part of a pilot scheme by the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) that will operate alongside the in-person service. Norfolk, alongside two other local authorities, was selected to test the digital NHS Health Check as part of a national pilot following a competitive expression of interest process.

People who complete the digital NHS Health Check will receive their results and personalised advice on ways to reduce their cardiovascular risk depending on these results. Those with results that fall outside of the normal range will be advised to follow up with their GP.

Work to begin on new Norfolk & Norwich University Hospital roundabout

Improvements are due to be made on the main Norfolk & Norwich University Hospital roundabout through an upcoming developer-led scheme.

Work on the £1 million-plus scheme is scheduled to start on Monday 9 September and will last for around six months. The work will see improved pedestrian and cycle access to the hospital and nearby research park, alongside the installation of a new Toucan crossing.

The developer is leading the project, with certain elements delivered in partnership with Norfolk County Council and South Norfolk Council. This partnership approach has enabled the improvements to be delivered as a single scheme, reducing disruption to road users during the work.

The roundabout will remain open during the majority of the scheme. Colney Lane East - which leads to the hospital from Round House Way - will be closed to traffic for four weeks in early 2025. During this closure, alternative access to the hospital will be via Hethersett Lane and Rosalind Franklin Road, which provides a direct route to the multi-storey car park and the hospital access road.

Delivery of Long Stratton Bypass is on track

Preliminary works have been underway since the start of this year, with the main construction commencing in late May, following the final approval of the council's full business case from government.

The current estimated overall cost of the bypass is approx. £46.9m with funding primarily sourced from The Department for Transport, a £14.5m commitment from the Greater Norwich Growth Board, plus local developer contributions.

The project is expected to be complete by late 2025.

Household support fund extended by 6 months

The Household Support Fund has again been extended for another 6 months, the Government's work and pensions Secretary [has confirmed](#).

The extension will cost the Government £421 million and will go to councils to help them support the most vulnerable who are struggling with household bill costs, such as food and energy.

With over 60% of local authorities considering ending the support they provide to vulnerable households, the funding has allowed for an extra six months of support.