

COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT TO CASTON PARISH ANNUAL MEETING 2019

In February the Council agreed a £409 million revenue budget for 2019-20. It is a balanced budget designed to allocate resources across our communities whilst protecting our frontline services

In November Norfolk received an additional £12.7m from Govt to spend on road maintenance. 125,000 m² of worn highway surface has been removed and replaced with 26,600 tonnes of new asphalt.

Norfolk has been ranked fourth out of 28 similar councils in a national survey looking at satisfaction with highways and transport services

The County Council received an extra £11m funding for Broadband which should bring Superfast Broadband coverage to 95% of the county by the end of next March. The programme will continue as the Council presses for full coverage.

200 Council owned sites have been identified in areas of poor mobile reception and are being offered to mobile operators as potential sites for new masts.

The County Council received £8m from the Govts Local Full Fibre Network Fund. This will mean more than 370 of Norfolk's public sector buildings will be upgraded to latest ultrafast connection speeds. Norfolk businesses can apply to a voucher scheme that will provide up to £2,500 per business to fund connection and first year running costs.

The new Early Childhood and Family Service was launched this year. The service will have greater reach to those more isolated children and families in need of help and advice, through increased local support, easier to access information and crucial outreach work.

£120m will be invested in special educational needs and disabilities provision in the county.

The first of 11 homes for Norfolk's care leavers opened this year following £5m investment from the Council.

The Carer's Charter was adopted by the County Council in November and is an innovative and radical move to improve the lives of carers who constitute an enormous and largely hidden resource saving the public purse billions.

Finally the Council have announced £29m capital investment scheme to deliver 3,000 homes for older people over the next ten years. Norfolk requires 2,842 extra care units by 2028.

Locally I am pleased to report that through my Member's budget I have been able to fund and deliver the 20mph flashing signs (Wigwags) outside Caston School, hopefully this will reduce speeding and improve safety in the area.

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