

Norfolk Local Transport Plan

Consultation opens on plan set to shape transport in Norfolk over the next 14 years.

People will get their chance over the coming weeks to take a look at, and have their say on a set of proposed actions that are designed to address key transport challenges over the next 14 years.

The Norfolk Local Transport Plan 4 (LTP4) is set to drive the county's transport strategy until 2036 and key challenges that the plan seeks to address include carbon reduction and air quality.

Since the overall LTP4 strategy was adopted last year officers have been working to develop this implementation plan to achieve a number of goals, including net zero carbon.

The comprehensive plan also pulls together a wide range of forward-looking schemes that can be delivered by the county council, including some already underway – such as the electric vehicle strategy which is set to boost the number of charging points across the county, and the popular Beryl Bikes and e-scooter trial in Norwich which already has 43,500 registered users.

Norfolk's ambitious Bus Service Improvement Plan is also part of the LTP4 and aims to simplify ticketing and journey information, cut fares for under 25s, bring in cleaner and greener buses, improve accessibility and bus stops, and make better and more frequent links between the places people live, work and shop.

Key to achieving a number of the aims in the plan will be working in partnership with local and national bodies to achieve much needed rail improvements and better local and regional connections.

The consultation runs from 21 March to 2022 to the 2nd May explore this plan via www.Norfolk.gov.uk

Review of council could save up to £20m per year

25 March 2022

A major review to make Norfolk County Council "match fit" for the future and save up to £20 million will be considered by the cabinet. Removing duplication, improving performance and being more cost effective are the aims of a proposed organisational review – the council's first for 10 years. Initial work carried out last year suggests that there is scope to make recurrent annual savings of £15 million - £20 million, by the end of the 2022-23 financial year, by improving the way the council operates. The council faces a £60 million budget gap in 2023-24 and we've started planning how to bridge that. This review will play a key part in that work. The report says the review provides an opportunity to:

- Remove all areas of duplication, including in support services that exist in the council's centre and in departments
- Give greater clarity of accountability
- Adjust the number of management layers and improve spans of control, to support "robust and agile decision making"
- Make management and supervisory savings, creating a more effective structure "that enables performance to be maximised"

It says the review will also support empowerment and upskilling of leaders and managers and attracting, retaining and developing the best people. The report says: "The County

Council will continue to be a large organisation that delivers a diverse range of services. But changes to the public sector landscape and funding regimes necessitate a new approach as we evolve over the next few years."If cabinet supports the review, specialist advisers will be commissioned to assist the Council. The cost is not known at this stage but it will be fraction of the project £15 million - £20 million saving.

Norfolk County Council recognised for making Norfolk and Suffolk a better place to live

Norfolk County Council has won a Bronze Award. Hosted by the iESE, the winning project, the Norfolk and Suffolk Innovation Network was recognised in the Asset Management and Regeneration Award category to deliver proven benefits to local public services and their communities.

Norfolk County Council was nominated for its work in developing its Internet of Things Innovation Network using its Long-Range Wide Area Network (LoRaWAN) for sending and receiving low power signals from digital devices and objects.

Objects and devices in the LoRaWAN each have built-in sensors that capture small packets of data about their status or information from their surroundings and report the information via the network.

This technology allows roads to flag up when they need gritting, rubbish bins to say when they need to be emptied, rivers to say when the water level is getting close to flooding, and parking spaces to say whether they are empty or occupied.

It also benefits domestic settings, with sensors which can help people to keep living independently in their own homes for longer.

All this extra information can allow cities, towns and rural communities to run smoothly, making them better places to live and work and, crucially, to help the more remote areas of Norfolk and Suffolk become better connected. It also creates an opportunity for businesses in Norfolk to innovate and evolve.

This Innovation Network marks yet a further step in achieving our ambition of making Norfolk one of the best digitally connected rural counties in the country.

CLLR Michael Dalby

Michael.Dalby.CLLR@Norfolk.gov.uk

07504545077