

Covid-19

With the current Covid-19 situation now improving nationally and within North Norfolk, the Government has announced that Plan B Covid-19 response during the Winter season has now ended as of 26th January 2022 and will return to plan A.

This means that face coverings are no longer required in shops and public transport, Covid passes for large events no longer mandatory and Work from Home order scrapped.

From 24th March 2022 compulsory self-isolation for people that have covid won't have to stay at home. However, with the Covid-19 situation is changing at all time, I would say that these plans could be scrapped at a later date.

For up to date and trusted sources regarding Covid-19 visit Public Health England and Norfolk Insight.

Norfolk County Council Budget proposals

Plans for a balanced budget and a 2.99 per cent Council Tax rise will be considered by Norfolk County Council's cabinet on 31 January

The report to cabinet also proposes a review of how the council operates, to tackle a predicted £60 million gap the following year.

Two possible Council Tax rises have been tabled, 2.99 per cent or the maximum permissible 3.99 per cent. Councillors have already said they favour 2.99 per cent, in the light of feedback from the recent public consultation.

The 2022-23 budget proposes significant investment, while addressing continuing severe pressure on services, including:

- Adult social services: £35.478 million of growth pressure (including for the National Living Wage), against planned savings of £10.465 million.
- Children's services: £23.244 million of growth pressure, against planned savings of £12.088 million.
- Community and environmental services: £10.053 million of growth pressure, against planned savings of £3.496 million.

The council will continue to lobby the Government for a fair share of funding for Norfolk.

The papers for the Norfolk County Council Cabinet meeting on 31 January, including the report on the budget are available on [here](#). The final decision on the budget will be taken by the full county council meeting on 21 February.

Norfolk Library and Information Service

Free Grab and Go bags containing helpful items to help people over the Winter.

Funding from the Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) household support fund has enabled Norfolk Library and Information Service to provide free Grab and Go bags containing helpful items to help people over the Winter.

Keep Warm and Go, Toiletries to Go, and Cleaning to Go bags will be available until the end of March 2022 (while stocks last). Tricky Period to Go will continue beyond March 2022.

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