

Report to Wells Town Council 2nd March 2026 **from Peter, Your North Norfolk District Councillor**

Business Rates Consultation 2026/27

Most elements of the business rates system are set by central government and are not within the Council's control. This includes the national non-domestic rating multipliers, rateable values and revaluations, statutory reliefs and exemptions, and transitional arrangements. These matters are not the subject of this consultation.

Each year, the Council is required to set a balanced budget. As part of this process, and in line with section 65 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, the Council must consult representatives of local business ratepayers on its proposals for expenditure, including both day-to-day service costs and planned capital investment.

This consultation seeks views on whether the Council's proposed spending levels and priorities for 2026/27 are appropriate. Responses will be considered by elected Members alongside other consultation feedback and financial information as part of the Council's budget-setting process.

Date published: 9th February 2026

County Council elections set for May

Last week, the Government announced that is reversing its decision to suspend elections for the County Council in Norfolk, now scheduled for Thursday 7 May.

Voters in North Norfolk will elect candidates across the 10 divisions to represent them at County level – these boundaries are geographically different to when electors vote in District elections.

There are new Norfolk County Council division boundaries since the last County Council election, following a review conducted by the Local Government Boundary Commission for England. The new county divisions are laid out below and can be seen in the map:

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The new divisions are:

- *Cromer*
- *Erpingham*
- *Fakenham & The Raynhams*
- *Holt • Hoveton*
- *North Walsham East*
- *North Walsham West & Mundesley*
- *Sheringham*
- *Stalham*
- *Wells*

The boundary review was not related to Local Government Reorganisation and was a periodical review undertaken to ensure electoral equality in each division.

You can vote three ways in the upcoming election – by postal vote, by proxy vote and in-person; voters will need valid Voter ID to vote at the polling station. Visit: www.northnorfolk.gov.uk/elections

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As an electoral authority, North Norfolk District Council delivers elections in the district for District Councillors, County Councillors, The Police & Crime Commissioner, Members of Parliament and Referenda.

North Norfolk District Councillors continue to serve their four-year term until May 2027, having been elected in 2023. It is expected that by 2027, there will be elections for the new shadow unitary authorities as part of Local Government Reorganisation.

North Norfolk District Council approves balanced budget and £10.6m Investment Programme for 2026/27



NNDC Councillors have tonight (Wednesday, February 18) voted to approve the proposed 2026/27 budget, protecting key services while committing over £10.6m in capital investment across the district.

The Council has once again succeeded in delivering a balanced budget for the forthcoming financial year, due to decisions on spending and investment which have safeguarded services which residents and council taxpayers value.

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This year's Local Government Financial Settlement has seen central government funding for Shire Districts under renewed pressure, with North Norfolk residents seeing a projected decrease of 23% in government funding by 2028/29.

A Council Tax increase of £5.13 per year for a Band D Property - less than 10p per week - has been agreed by Full Council. Whilst the District Council is responsible for collecting council tax, it retains only 7.3% of the revenue, with Town and Parish Councils receiving 3.8%, the Police and Crime Commissioner 14% and Norfolk County Council 74.9%.

The Council has committed to funding a series of important investments in NNDC assets and infrastructure, including temporary accommodation for North Norfolk residents facing homelessness; Newgate Lane public conveniences in Wells; Cornish Way Industrial Units in North Walsham and Cromer Pier in its 125th anniversary year.

Cllr Lucy Shires, Portfolio holder for Finance, Estates and Property Services, said:

"I'd like to thank all NNDC Officers for their hard work in ensuring we can once again deliver a balanced budget, in the face of intense pressure on Local Authority finances. This Council's priority is financial stability, protecting essential services and ensuring North Norfolk remains resilient in the face of national funding pressures.

"In this forthcoming financial year, we will be able to continue funding statutory services as well as discretionary ones because of the tough decisions taken by this Council.

"Every decision in this budget has been guided by simple principles – put residents first, protect what matters, and plan responsibly for the future. Good services and reliable investment are what the people of North Norfolk expect and deserve from us."

Last updated: 18th February 2026