

South Norfolk Council has been able to continue enhancing the services provided, while maintaining some of the lowest levels of Council tax in Norfolk.

The Council's 2024/25 budget was set in February with a modest annual increase agreed at £5 for a band D property. This helps to cover inflationary pressures like the increase in National Living Wage.

Alongside the £64 million revenue budget for this year we also approved a capital programme totalling £97 million over the next five years. This includes projects such as:

- Wymondham Public Realm, high street regeneration
- Expansion of the waste and recycling depot to accommodate food waste collections
- Regeneration of Diss South Mere area on old John Grose site
- Contribution towards building the Long Stratton Bypass
- Building two new GP Surgeries in Hethersett and Diss
- Purchase of housing for temporary accommodation, supporting people in crisis
- Extra support for the planning enforcement team for two years

A few bits of recent news:

Community awards: deadline for nominations by 22 May - please nominate volunteers and charitable organisations!

On 19 March a new Changing Places Toilet was opened at Whitlingham Country Park. The new facility will allow people with severe disabilities to enjoy the park. South Norfolk Council contributed £40,000 towards the project.

We are now offering more group fitness classes spaces at our leisure centres. We've also launched a new youth membership and an active senior's membership.

Our Help Hub, community connectors, social prescribers and District Direct team continue to help people who need holistic support with a huge range of issues. The Help Hub is handling about 500 queries per week and District Direct has just dealt with the 5,000th referral.

My door is always open so please call or email me if you'd like to chat about anything South Norfolk Council can help with.

Kind regards,  
Kim Carsok