

The 2 biggest items at County are The Budget, going through Council now and The New County Deal going through this year.

The Budget

Council will debate the 23-24 budget on 21st February

We as a Local Authority we must have a "Balanced Budget".

Our balanced figure for last year (22-23) was £1.637 billion

We have a revenue budget which includes spending on the day-to-day running of services, for example salaries, contracts for services and running expenses of buildings

A capital programme which includes expenditure on items that will be used by Norfolk County Council for more than one year: for example, land, buildings, vehicles and computers.

But it is the spending that creates the most discussion and amendments.

You can watch on the County's You Tube.

A County Deal for Norfolk

There is a drop in at Forum on 21st February. 10 to noon and 4-6pm

"The aim is for decisions and funding previously controlled in Westminster to be agreed in Norfolk, for Norfolk. Devolution.

"Striking a deal will help us to boost our economy through jobs, training, housing and development, to improve our transport network and to support our environment.

"I'm delighted that Norfolk is well positioned to gain additional powers and money to improve people's lives, thanks to the County Deal we have agreed in principle with the Government.

"Getting to this point shows that the Government sees Norfolk as a can-do county. I'm confident that we can make a success of this and that more powers and funding would follow."

Have your say

Give us your views on A County Deal for Norfolk by [taking part in our consultation](#).

We're holding a series of Community Drop-in events around Norfolk for you to find out more about the County Deal. [See the list of dates and venues](#).

Norfolk County Council and the Government have agreed, in principle, a new County Deal for Norfolk, to transfer funding and powers to this area - a process known as devolution.

Subject to reaching final agreement, it will enable us to invest in areas such as better transport, skills, job opportunities, housing and regeneration, tailored to the specific needs of local people.

Agreeing a County Deal for Norfolk would mean that, from 2024 onwards, we can:

- Have a Council Leader who is directly elected by the public, with the first election in May 2024
- Target funding and resources to Norfolk's own priorities
- Attract and retain new and key businesses and sectors
- Invest in the skills we know we need
- Unlock housing and employment sites

- Raise our profile nationally, enabling our voice to be heard by Government and help shape future policies

The Deal makes it clear that the County Council and Government are "minded" to agree a deal and that further steps will be taken before a final decision.

More money for Norfolk

Under a Deal, Norfolk would receive a £20 million investment fund, every year for 30 years. There would also be specific funding for integrated transport, brownfield development (£7 million), adult education, and infrastructure (£5.9 million for housing, regeneration and development, during this Spending Review period).

Experience from other areas such as Greater Manchester, that secured devolution deals a few years ago, show that initial deals can open the door to receiving further powers and money and influence.

No extra costs

An elected County Council Leader would be supported by the County Council's existing departments and officers. This contrasts with mayoral combined authorities in cities, which have their own staff and running costs, separate from the local council and creating another layer of local government.

No changes to Norfolk's councils

The Government is clear that County Deals are not about local government reorganisation and so the County Council will continue to work closely with Norfolk's district, town and parish councils.

Working with our partners

The County Council is committed to working closely with key partners such as district councils, businesses and other bodies, to make the most of any new powers and funding that come into Norfolk as a result of a deal.

Norfolk County Council has made continued progress in improving SEND services after feedback by OFSTED

Norfolk to benefit from new Family Hubs and Start for Life funding

The government has announced that Norfolk County Council will be one of 75 local authorities receiving some of their new Family Hubs and Start for Life funding.

Norfolk will receive approximately £6m to further develop prevention and early help services for families with children and young people up to the age of 19 (25 if they have special educational needs and disabilities).

This is not about introducing a new service or opening new buildings but to allow the county to further develop support for families. Using a whole family approach, the Family Hubs network will give families a single access point to support services that are integrated across health (physical and mental health) and social care as well as voluntary and community organisations and education.

Whilst there will be at least seven physical Family Hub sites in existing community buildings, which families will be able to walk into, services will be delivered largely on an outreach basis. The Family Hub approach will bring together a wide range of services so that families can access support in the spaces and places that they live and visit, such as libraries and community buildings.

The Family Hubs network will provide simple access to 'Start for Life' services, providing the best support for babies in the first 1,001 critical days from conception to the age of two, setting them up to maximise their potential for lifelong emotional and physical wellbeing.