Section 3 – External Auditor's Report and Certificate 2025/26

In respect of **Chedgrave Parish Council – NO0098**

1 Respective responsibilities of the auditor and the authority

Our responsibility as auditors to complete a **limited assurance review** is set out by the National Audit Office (NAO). A limited assurance review is **not a full statutory audit**, it does not constitute an audit carried out in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK & Ireland) and hence it **does not** provide the same level of assurance that such an audit would. The UK Government has determined that a lower level of assurance than that provided by a full statutory audit is appropriate for those local public bodies with the lowest levels of spending.

Under a limited assurance review, the auditor is responsible for reviewing Sections 1 and 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return in accordance with NAO Auditor Guidance Note 02 (AGN 02) as issued by the NAO on behalf of the Comptroller and Auditor General. AGN 02 is available from the NAO website – https://www.nao.org.uk/code-audit-practice/guidance-and-information-for-auditors/

This authority is responsible for ensuring that its financial management is adequate and effective and that it has a sound system of internal control. The authority prepares an Annual Governance and Accountability Return in accordance with *Proper Practices* which:

- summarises the accounting records for the year ended 31 March 2026; and
- confirms and provides assurance on those matters that are relevant to our duties and responsibilities as external auditors.

2 External auditor's limited assurance opinion 2025/26

Except for the matters reported below, on the basis of our review of Sections 1 and 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR), in our opinion the information in Sections 1 and 2 of the AGAR is in accordance with Proper Practices and no other matters have come to our attention giving cause for concern that relevant legislation and regulatory requirements have not been met.

Section 1, Assertion 1 has been incorrectly completed, as there was no monitoring of the budget during the year. This is consistent with the Internal Auditor's response to Internal Control Objective D.

The AGAR was not accurately completed before submission for review. Please ensure that amendments are corrected in the prior year comparatives when completing next year's AGAR.:

- Section 2, Box 2, the annual precept, does not agree to the figure published by the precepting authority. Therefore, the figures in Boxes 2 and 3 should read £49,411 and £22,460 respectively.

Other matters not affecting our opinion which we draw to the attention of the authority:

We note that the smaller authority did not comply with Regulation 15 of the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 as it failed to make proper provision during the year 2026/27 for the exercise of public rights, since the approval date was after the start of the period for the exercise of public rights. As a result, the smaller authority must answer 'No' to Assertion 4 of the Annual Governance Statement for 2026/27 and ensure that it makes proper provision for the exercise of public rights during 2027/28.

The AGAR was not accurately completed before submission for review. The AGAR has been amended.

3 External auditor certificate 2025/26

We certify that we have completed our review of Sections 1 and 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return, and discharged our responsibilities under the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014, for the year ended 31 March 2026.

External Auditor Name

PKF LITTLEJOHN LLP

External Auditor Signature PKF Littlejohn LLP SIGNATURE REQUIRED Date 19/09/2026

Chedgrave Parish Council

Finance Working Group – Terms of Reference

1. Purpose

The Finance Working Group is established by Chedgrave Parish Council to support the Council in the effective management, monitoring and planning of its finances.

The Working Group will review financial information in detail and make recommendations to the Parish Council. It is an advisory group and does not have delegated authority to make decisions or incur expenditure on behalf of the Council unless specifically authorised by a resolution of the Council.

2. Membership

The Working Group shall consist of a minimum of three Parish Councillors, appointed annually by the Parish Council.

The Chair of the Working Group shall be appointed by the members of the Working Group.

The Clerk/Responsible Financial Officer (RFO) will normally attend meetings to provide financial information and professional advice but will not be a member of the Working Group.

Other councillors, officers or appropriate advisers may be invited to attend where their knowledge or expertise would assist the Working Group.

3. Responsibilities

The Finance Working Group may:

- Review the Council's income and expenditure against the approved budget.
- Review bank balances, reserves and the Council's overall financial position.
- Assist with preparation and review of the annual budget and precept and make recommendations to the Council.
- Review the appropriate level and use of general and earmarked reserves.
- Consider longer-term financial planning and anticipated future expenditure.
- Review significant areas of expenditure and identify potential savings or efficiencies.
- Review fees, charges, grants and other sources of Council income where appropriate.
- Consider the financial implications of proposed projects, contracts and other significant commitments.
- Review the Council's financial risks and recommend appropriate controls.

- Review the Council's Financial Regulations and other finance-related policies when required and recommend amendments to the Council.
- Consider recommendations or issues arising from internal and external audit.
- Assist the RFO with financial planning where appropriate.
- Make recommendations to the Parish Council on any financial matter referred to it.

4. Authority

The Working Group has no authority to:

- make decisions on behalf of the Parish Council;
- approve expenditure or enter into contracts;
- instruct contractors or suppliers;
- commit the Council to any financial liability;
- alter the Council's approved budget;
- move money between budgets or reserves; or
- make decisions which are reserved to the Parish Council or delegated to the Clerk/RFO.

All recommendations requiring a Council decision must be referred to a properly convened meeting of Chedgrave Parish Council.

The statutory responsibilities of the Responsible Financial Officer remain with the RFO and are not transferred to the Working Group.

5. Meetings

The Working Group shall meet as required, with additional meetings normally taking place during preparation of the annual budget and precept.

Meetings may be held in person or remotely as appropriate for an informal working group.

The Clerk/RFO will provide relevant financial information to enable the Working Group to carry out its role.

A formal set of minutes is not required, but a brief written record of matters considered and recommendations made should be maintained.

6. Reporting

The Working Group shall report its recommendations to the next appropriate meeting of the Parish Council.

Where appropriate, recommendations should include:

- the financial implications;
- the budget or reserve from which expenditure would be funded;
- any ongoing financial commitment;
- procurement requirements; and
- any significant financial risks.

No recommendation will take effect until approved by the Parish Council where Council approval is required.

7. Confidentiality and Interests

Members must comply with the Council's Code of Conduct and declare any relevant interests.

Members must respect the confidentiality of financial, contractual, staffing or other information which is confidential or commercially sensitive.

8. Financial Regulations and Standing Orders

The Working Group must operate in accordance with Chedgrave Parish Council's Standing Orders, Financial Regulations, adopted policies and relevant legislation.

Nothing within these Terms of Reference overrides the Council's Financial Regulations or the statutory responsibilities of the Council, Clerk or Responsible Financial Officer.

9. Review

These Terms of Reference shall be reviewed annually, normally at the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council, or earlier if required.

Adopted by Chedgrave Parish Council: _____

Minute reference: _____

Review date: _____

Chedgrave Parish Council

Minutes

Finance Working Group Meeting held on Tuesday 16th September 2026 7pm via Teams

1. To consider apologies and reasons for absence. Cllr D Downer and Cllr S Downer.
2. Declarations of interest and requests for dispensations by councillors. None
3. To agree Terms of Reference for the Finance Working Group. Draft ToR had been circulated, and it was agreed these could be approved at the meeting of the Parish Council on 1st October.
4. To discuss the draft budget 2027/28. A draft budget had been circulated. Various amendments were made and agreed. Some queries were raised which the clerk will look into. The budget can be further amended once the Band D figures have been received from South Norfolk District Council and the Precept can then be set.
5. To discuss reserves future planning principles. This will be discussed at a later date, once the new RFO is appointed.
6. To discuss investments. The interest rate for Rugby & Hinckley Building Society has dropped to 1.65%. It was agreed to investigate other options with increased interest rates.
7. To discuss strategic projects. There are several projects which could be looked at in the future: road safety, collaboration with Loddon Town Council for traffic management, replace the Chedgrave Cross. It was agreed to hold a separate meeting to discus future projects.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8pm.

Name of organisation Applying for Grant: The Chet Valley Community Larder & Fridge – Loddon Town Council

Web address: loddontowncouncil.gov.uk

Main Contact of Applicant:

Loddon Town Council

The Old School

Church Plain

Loddon

NR14 6EX

Telephone: 01508 522020

Email: finance@loddontowncouncil.gov.uk

What are the aims of your project/activity:

The Chet Valley Community Larder aims to provide food and drink provision to local people in food poverty. The cost-of-living crisis has greatly impacted the community, resulting in a need for free food supplies. The larder also helps to promote sharing food and reduce food waste.

Summary of project/activity for which funding is sought:

Loddon Town Council took ownership of the Chet Valley Community Larder & Fridge in September 2024, and our RFO/Project Officer Kerry administers the team of volunteers and manages the project on behalf of the Council.

The Community Larder (CL) supports a whole cross-section of residents from the Chet Valley (Loddon, Chedgrave, Hales & Heckingham, Langley & Hardley, Sisland). Our volunteers hold two manned sessions that are held in Loddon Library on a Monday and Saturday and those in need can register for a food bag that contains £5 of ingredients to prepare a wholesome family meal. Although demand varies, on average, it is currently distributing 10 meal bags per week. The registration process ensures that the food bags are being received by those most in need. The shelves remain open to donations / food swops. The manned sessions also give an opportunity for the volunteers to build relationships with the users and signpost support and help available from other organisations.

Loddon Town Council has budgeted £1,000 for 2026/27 to help fund the project, but in order to fulfil the current demand for food bags, the total expenditure for the upcoming financial year is expected to be £2,600. Loddon Town Council is also seeking donations from the public, grants and other forms of fundraising to meet the target.

Currently there are 82 households registered, with 19 registered from Chedgrave. ONS statistics show 33.5% of Chedgrave residents are deprived in one dimension with 15% being deprived in two dimensions. Our increased publicity on social media has increased awareness of the CL and we hope that with help from Chedgrave Parish Council we can ensure that Chedgrave parishioners can also be made more aware of the CL initiative.

Costs for the Community Larder & Fridge are ongoing, but the approximate weekly/annual cost of the project have been given above.

We are currently asking for a grant of £200, which would supply food items for 40 bags (4 weeks). We are also seeking volunteers to help man the library sessions on a Monday and Saturday as although we have many volunteers involved with the project, we need more help at the actual manned sessions.

Should Chedgrave Parish Council be able to consider a budget line for the CL in future budgets, we would be incredibly grateful, as it would help to ensure the future viability of this initiative.

I confirm that this information is correct and to the best of my knowledge.

Signed – Kerry Sturman

Responsible Finance Officer – Loddon Town Council

16.09.26

The Horizon Centre
Broadland Business Park
Peachman Way
Norwich
NR7 0WF

Tel
planning@southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk

Kerry Sturman
Chedgrave

Our ref 2026/1886

8 September 2026

Dear Sir/Madam,

Proposal: Construction of 5 x cattery pens for mixed commercial/domestic use. Relocation of existing shed.
Location: 14 Langley Road Chedgrave Norfolk NR14 6HD
Applicant: Mr Douglas Ilott
Application Type: Full Planning Permission

The above proposal has now been amended copies of the amended plan(s)/additional information can be view online at https://info.southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?activeTab=summary&keyVal=THG70HOQFG700
The Council has received the following revised documents: revised Planning Statement, Noise, Odour, Waste and Operational Management Plan, Flood Emergency and Evacuation Plan, Response to Representations and Consultation Comments Schedule, Waste Quote, Eco Lock Bin Spec Sheet, and Waste-Volume Calculation.

If you have any further comments to make please let me know either by writing, emailing your views to planning@southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk or comment online at **www.southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk** before 22 September 2026. It may not be possible to consider any comments received after this date.

If you wish to discuss this matter or request an extension of time to enable your Council to comment on the proposal as amended please contact me.

You should note that any letter will normally become open to public inspection and may be copied by the applicant and members of the public.

Where the application is to be determined by the Committee, a copy of the Agenda will be sent to you before the date of the meeting. A representative of your Council can speak at the meeting to present their views otherwise they will be reported to the Committee before a decision is reached. If the consultation period has not expired when the committee consider the proposal, any decision

will be subject to there being no new comments received in conflict with the planning committee's views.

Yours sincerely

Naomi Chamberlain
Senior Planning Officer

Good morning,

I wanted to bring something to the Council's attention.

When walking through or using the playground I quite often pick up bits of glass from one area of the park, the black ash area near the old slide. These bits of glass , nails, broken pottery are not new, it's working its way up from under the ground or due to erosion possibly?

I visited Saturday with my young grandson and was shocked at the amount of visible glass etc from the area just in the last few weeks. This is not due to vandalism, it may have been part of an old dump, rubbish burning area or something?

Here are pictures of the glass etc I picked up just on one day from this small area, and feel that for the safety of users something needs to be done on the black ash area to make it safe in the future, dug out and removed - there is lots of soil at the side from the new works that could replace it or some sort of permanent covering?

If you could please let me know what action will be taken please, as this is a health and safety risk for children and really needs to be addressed.







As part of the Asset of Community Value process, we have received a nomination from Chedgrave Bowls Club regarding the following property which they wish to nominate.

Chedgrave Bowls Club. The White Horse, 5 Norwich Road, Chedgrave, NR14 6ND

Under the Localism Act 2011, community groups now have the opportunity to nominate land or buildings in their area, which they think are of community value to include on the Assets of Community Value register.

All nominations will be assessed by the council against the requirements set out in the Localism Act 2011, relevant regulations, and its own, determining if the applications are compliant with the requirements.

If the nominations are accepted by the council, the properties will be listed on the council's Assets of Community Value register for a period of five years.

As you may have dealings with this asset within your role, any comments you wish to make on these nominations would be appreciated.

To be listed, an asset must:

- Currently be used for social wellbeing or social interests of the community – for example, it has a cultural, recreational, or sporting use, and it is realistic to think it will continue to be used in that way OR
- It has been used in the recent past for such purposes, and it is realistic to think it will be in the next 5 years.

So that we may proceed with these nominations accordingly, please send your comments by 22nd October 2026 to the Communities Team – communities@southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk

Kind regards

Jamie

Jamie Price
Lead Community Officer
t 01603 369759 e jamie.price@southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk

LODDON
PERFECTLY PLACED

Loddon Town Council

The Old School | Church Plain | Loddon | NR14 6EX

www.loddontowncouncil.gov.uk

Loddon Traffic Review Working Party Meeting

Date and Time: 9 September 2026 at 2.00pm
Location: The Rear Hall, Hollies

Present:
Cllr Terry Simmons (leader)
Cllr Andy Woodman
Cllr Jane Hale
County/District/Town Cllr Kay Mason Billig
Phill Reilly – NCC Highways Programme Engineer
Christopher Thompson – parishioner
Ray Lumley - parishioner

1. Welcome

Cllr Terry Simmons welcomed everyone to the meeting and explained that the purpose was to review the traffic survey data collected in Loddon and discuss the possible scope, process and funding of a feasibility study.

2. Apologies for Absence
None.

3. Traffic Survey Data and Issues Identified
The Working Party reviewed the traffic survey data and discussed the main traffic and parking issues affecting Loddon.

The data showed clear periods of increased traffic associated with commuting and school journeys, particularly between approximately 8.00am–10.00am and 5.00pm–7.00pm.

George Lane was identified as a particularly well-used route, with approximately 2,000 vehicle movements recorded over the two-day survey period. The movement of traffic between Chedgrave, Loddon town centre, George Lane and the A146 was discussed, together with the impact of school traffic.

Parking on the High Street remained a significant concern. During the survey, 56 vehicles were observed mounting or parking on the High Street pavement over two days.

The Working Party also discussed:

- vehicles stopping and parking on the High Street;
- the effect of larger vehicles, particularly buses and HGV's travelling in opposing directions on the narrower sections of the High Street;
- existing and potential parking restrictions;
- loading arrangements, including the loading bay serving Boots;
- school and commuter traffic;
- the Langley School bus and the importance of retaining suitable access for buses; and

- traffic travelling from the Chedgrave direction to access the A146 via Loddon and Loddon services.
-

The existing one-way arrangements around Big Back Lane in Chedgrave were also discussed as part of the wider traffic movements between the two parishes.

Phill Reilly advised that the initial desktop review and traffic data indicated that there was sufficient justification to progress to a feasibility study.

4. Feasibility Study
The Working Party discussed the purpose and potential scope of a feasibility study.

It was noted that the study would consider the traffic issues in more detail, assess possible interventions and ultimately identify a preferred option or package of measures for consideration.

A number of ideas and issues were discussed which could potentially form part of the scope. These included traffic movements through the High Street and Church Plain, parking, loading bay outside Boots, pedestrian safety, school traffic, bus access and the relationship between traffic movements in Loddon and Chedgrave.

The possible relocation of the Fire Station to the George Lane or Beccles Road area was also raised as a longer-term consideration which could affect traffic movements.

Phill advised that including Chedgrave within the study would increase the cost, but there could be benefits in considering traffic movements across both parishes, particularly given the close relationship between the two settlements and the potential for future development in both Loddon and Chedgrave. It was suggested that as part of the Parish Partnership Bid, Loddon Town Council should approach Chedgrave Parish Council to establish whether it wished to participate in a joint feasibility study. The possibility of coordinating and sharing SAM2 traffic data between the two councils was also discussed.

It was agreed that the scope of the feasibility study would need to be carefully considered before commissioning the work.

Phill Reilly agreed to provide indicative costs for both:
- a Loddon-only feasibility study; and
- a joint Loddon and Chedgrave feasibility study.

Cllr Terry Simmons agreed to circulate the traffic survey data to members of the Working Party.

5. Process, Timescales and Costs
Phill outlined the likely process for progressing a traffic scheme. It was noted that, depending upon the eventual proposals and statutory processes required, the overall process could take approximately **18 months to two years**.

The process was expected to include:

- feasibility study;
- further surveys and traffic-volume analysis as required;
- development and appraisal of options;
- identification of a preferred option;
- consideration and agreement by Loddon Town Council;
- public/community consultation on the final scheme
- where required, the NCC Traffic Regulation Order process.

It was noted that the feasibility study itself would help establish which measures were practical and appropriate before any decision was made on a final scheme.

6. Funding Options

Potential funding options were discussed, including the **Norfolk County Council Parish Partnership Scheme**.

It was noted that the Parish Partnership Scheme could potentially provide 50% funding towards the feasibility study, subject to a successful application, with the remaining cost being met locally. The deadline for the Parish Partnership application was noted as **1 December 2026**.

A joint application involving Loddon Town Council and Chedgrave Parish Council was discussed. The potential use of Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funding and provision within the Councils' 2027/28 budgets were also noted.

Possible future funding through South Norfolk Council, Norfolk County Council and Department for Transport capital programmes was discussed, depending upon the recommendations arising from the feasibility study and the availability of relevant funding.

7. Agreed Actions

- **Loddon Town Council** to contact Chedgrave Parish Council to establish whether it wishes to participate in a joint feasibility study and Parish Partnership Bid.
- **Phill Reilly** to provide indicative costs for a Loddon-only feasibility study and a joint Loddon and Chedgrave feasibility study.
- **Loddon Town Council/Chedgrave Parish Council** to consider coordinating SAM2 locations and sharing relevant traffic data.
- **Cllr Terry Simmons** to circulate the traffic survey data to members of the Working Party.
- **Loddon Town Council** to develop the proposed scope of the feasibility study following discussions with Chedgrave Parish Council and receipt of indicative costs.
- **Loddon Town Council** to consider submission of a Parish Partnership Bid before the 1 December 2026 deadline.

8. Meeting Close

There being no further business, the meeting ended.

Good morning Sarah

I hope you're well.

The Traffic Review Working Party is now looking at the next stage of the Loddon Traffic Review and hopes to commission a feasibility study to explore whether there are any practical options for reducing congestion on Loddon High Street.

A significant amount of data has already been collected, with funding of £1,940 from Loddon Town Council and £2,000 from County Cllr Kay Mason Billig. The data is indicating that a significant proportion of vehicle movements into Loddon come from neighbouring parishes, with people travelling in to access schools, shops, healthcare and other local services. School-related journeys are also an important consideration at peak times (8 – 10am, 3-5pm). Norfolk County Council provides home-to-school transport for eligible pupils (2 miles for children under 8 and more than 3 miles for children aged 8 and over), therefore there will be a large number of pupils travelling into Loddon from surrounding villages in private vehicles.

The next step is to establish the scope and cost of the feasibility study. NCC is unable to provide a quotation until we can confirm whether the study would cover Loddon alone or Loddon and Chedgrave together.
Loddon and Chedgrave are so closely connected that it is difficult to look at traffic in one parish without considering the other. Any options or changes considered for Loddon could have an impact on traffic movements in Chedgrave, and equally changes in Chedgrave could affect Loddon. This is also particularly relevant when looking to the future, as both Loddon and Chedgrave could see a significant number of new homes built over the next ten years. It seems sensible, if we have the opportunity, to look at the longer-term traffic implications for both communities rather than considering Loddon High Street in isolation.

Would Chedgrave Parish Council be able to formally consider at its October meeting whether it would like to join us in commissioning the feasibility study and let us know the outcome as soon as possible afterwards?

Once we know, we can ask NCC to provide the appropriate quotation and hopefully seek 50% Parish Partnership funding and Council approval at our November meeting, ahead of the 1 December 2026 deadline.

Best wishes
Emily

Emily Curtis
Town Clerk

Good morning Hayley, although i appreciate that moving road signs is difficult, we are increasingly worried of the Danger to the growing numbers of joggers dog walkers & vehicles using Hardley Road now that Sundowns are blindingly bright.
A pavement to the popular Dog field would be great, & in the meantime reducing the speed Limit to 30mph asap could well save a tragic accident.

Hi Sarah,

These footpaths have since been raked off and leaf-blown. While I cannot vouch for every remaining piece of burr, the paths should now be considerably clearer.

In light of this instance, the Parish may wish to reconsider requesting such a late cut in future, as this situation demonstrates some of the difficulties that can arise from doing so.

I would also like to add that we are a small team responsible for maintaining many hundreds of miles across the Trails network. To help us respond to issues as efficiently as possible, could I please ask that any future issues be reported via the following link:

Report a highways problem - Norfolk County Council

I hope you have a good weekend.

Kind regards,

Daniel Doughty
Norfolk Trails
Email: norfolktrails@norfolk.gov.uk

POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONER
FOR JUSTICE, FOR SAFETY, FOR NORFOLK

Consultation:
Police and Crime Plan 2026/28
Police Budget 2027/28

A message from your Police and Crime Commissioner Colin Sutton

I am truly honoured to have been elected by the residents of Norfolk to be your Police and Crime Commissioner. With only 18 months left in office, I have a short time to make a real difference to people's lives, ensuring that people feel safe in our county and receive the right support should they become a victim of crime.

The conventional approach would be to undertake a formal consultation, over a period of several months, engaging with stakeholders, residents from neighbourhoods and partners before determining priorities for the future.



However, the priorities set out in this draft have not been developed in isolation. They are informed by extensive engagement undertaken over recent months, together with the ongoing consultation, surveys and community feedback regularly gathered by Norfolk Constabulary, my office and our partners. Collectively this evidence provides a clear picture of the issues that matter most to the people of Norfolk and the challenges they expect us to address.

Having carefully considered this feedback, I have identified a proposed set of priorities and an approach for the next 18 months. I am now seeking your views on whether these priorities reflect the needs and expectations of the people of Norfolk and whether there are any significant omissions that should be addressed.

While the overall direction is clear, this consultation remains an important part of the process. I welcome your views and will consider them carefully before publishing the final Plan.

Also, this will not be the last time that you get your chance to raise your issues and concerns. The Plan makes a strong commitment and sets out how I will continue to listen and respond throughout my time in office, which is critical. New issues and concerns are also bound to emerge.

Joint Police and Crime Plan and Police Budget Consultation

As I have to consult on my Police and Crime Plan and next year's council tax precept at the same time, I have decided to undertake a joint consultation. This will mean that the consultation can reach further and achieve maximum participation by avoiding repetitive and confusing requests for information or for stakeholders to attend more meetings than are necessary. Importantly, this approach also reduces the cost of the consultation and allows participants to consider the information in my Police and Crime Plan, the issues facing policing and the resource requirements at the same time.

Police and Crime Plan 2026/28

One of the first things I must do as a Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) is to publish a Police and Crime Plan. This Plan sets out the police and crime priorities that Norfolk Constabulary must consider to keep Norfolk safe.

When I was elected as your PCC, I made a commitment to listen, to act, and to focus on the issues that matter most to the people I serve. I want to be ambitious, but I have only 18 months left in office, so I am going to be focused and determined in my approach, concentrating on getting things done and achieving real outcomes for people across Norfolk.

Let's be clear from the start: preventing all types of crime, bringing offenders to justice and supporting victims is, of course, of paramount importance to me. It is in my DNA, and why I spent over 30 years in policing. But, fortunately, Norfolk is a very safe place to live, with an excellent police force, and partners working together both nationally and locally to keep it this way and to protect the most vulnerable in our neighbourhoods. I don't intend simply to replicate what they are doing and to dilute my efforts, when there is already successful work going on to tackle a range of issues from serious and organised crime to road safety and child abuse. Instead, I will challenge them to achieve the strongest outcomes and provide support through my office.

I will be concentrating my time, energy and resources on the biggest and most harmful issues. I have reviewed the data and the wider strategic landscape and listened extensively to residents, victims of crime, businesses, community groups, partner organisations and Norfolk Constabulary, and identified the issues and areas that matter most and where I believe I can make the greatest difference through my Plan.



I therefore propose to prioritise the following three areas in my Police and Crime Plan:

1. Re-engaging with neighbourhoods to rebuild trust in policing



Trust and confidence are fundamental to effective policing. People are more likely to report crime, to cooperate with investigations and to seek help when they have confidence in the police and wider criminal justice system. This is particularly important for victims, many of whom are making difficult and courageous decisions when they come forward. I want people to feel connected to policing within their neighbourhoods and to have confidence that concerns will be listened to and acted upon, and that communication from the Constabulary will be timely and transparent.

2. Preventing violence, abuse and exploitation



Domestic abuse has devastating and long-lasting consequences for victims, families and communities. Responding to domestic abuse, keeping victims safe and prosecuting perpetrators is the biggest area of demand for Norfolk Constabulary. So, reducing incidents of abuse will not only change the lives of victims, but also give our police more resources to tackle other priorities for our neighbourhoods.

I want victims to have confidence that they will be believed, protected and supported at every stage of their journeys. Working alongside safeguarding partners, health services, local authorities and specialist support organisations, we will focus not only on responding to abuse but on preventing it, supporting recovery and holding perpetrators to account.

3. Safer rural communities



In rural areas, victims can often experience a disproportionate impact from crime, whether that's through the theft of machinery, livestock, fuel or equipment, or through offences that affect their livelihoods, wellbeing or sense of security. They can also have less access to key public services and specialist victims' services, which help them cope and recover. Too often, people living in rural areas feel that their concerns are overlooked. Through closer partnership working with farmers, rural businesses, local authorities and community organisations, I want to ensure that victims of rural crime receive the support, attention and response they deserve.

What am I asking?

The key question now is whether there is anything that I have missed, or should be included that isn't being addressed. At the back of this document, there is a space for you to share your views.

Police Budget Consultation 2027/28

As your PCC, I am also responsible for the policing budget. As a steward of public funds, I need to ensure that investment is directed towards activity that delivers measurable improvements in public safety, victim support and local wellbeing.

Norfolk also needs to be prepared to respond to local and national threats, maintaining the capacity and capability required to meet strategic policing responsibilities while continuing to deliver high-quality local services.

Investment in new technology to allow the police to spend more time doing their jobs is also an essential part of my budgeting plans.

The financial environment facing policing and public services continues to present significant challenges, with increasing demand, evolving threats and ongoing pressure on public sector resources. In this context, delivering the ambitions of my new Police and Crime Plan will require careful financial management, strong collaboration with partners and a willingness to identify innovative approaches to service delivery. Through prudent stewardship of policing budgets, effective commissioning, external funding opportunities and collaborative investment with local, regional and national partners, I will seek to maximise the impact of every pound spent.

Any decision to raise the policing element of council tax is not straightforward and involves balancing many complex factors, including your views.

Before completing the survey question, please take the time to read the information provided by Norfolk's Chief Constable Paul Sanford. This explains the Constabulary's reasoning in calling for a change.

I am responsible for Norfolk Constabulary's budget, to ensure they have the necessary resources to investigate. Each year, the PCC has to consider the requirements and demands on the police's spending plans, and how much they ask you, the residents of Norfolk, to contribute through the policing element of your council tax.

The total policing budget for the current financial year (2026/27) is £238.4 million, of which over half (55%) is provided by the Government and the remainder (45%) is raised through council tax.

The budget is divided into two parts: revenue and capital. The revenue part is used for day-to-day running costs, such as police officer salaries and maintaining vehicles; and the capital part is spent on key assets such as police buildings and information technology.

This financial year 90% is being spent on people - £144.7m of which is spent on officers and £67.9m m on staff. The remaining £23.8m (10%) is spent on everything else, including police buildings, vehicles, fuel costs, equipment and training.

Looking forward to the next financial year (2027/28), the forecast budget is expected to increase by £5.4 million for several reasons, these include:

- **Police pay** – It is assumed to rise by 2.5% per annum over the next 3 years (27/28 – 29/30)
- **Inflation** – Non-pay inflation is assumed to rise by 4% per annum over the next 3 years (27/28 – 29/30)



Colin Sutton
Police and Crime Commissioner for Norfolk

A message from Norfolk's Chief Constable Paul Sanford

Policing continues to face significant and growing challenges. The complexity of crime is evolving, vulnerability is rising and demand is increasing, with record numbers of calls to our control room this summer. We are also preparing for significant national police reform, local government reorganisation and devolution.

While the future is evolving, one thing remains unchanged: the communities of Norfolk need an effective, efficient and trusted police service today. We must continue to deliver the services that matter most to our communities, responding quickly when people need us, protecting vulnerable people, investigating crime and bringing offenders to justice. We continuously seek opportunities to improve our service, modernise the approach and better manage resources. This work includes opening a new response base at Loddon after recognising response times in the south of the county were not where they needed to be.

Through our Norfolk Policing Plan, we have set out a clear commitment to focus on what matters most to the public: preventing and reducing crime and harm, investigating crime effectively, supporting victims, safeguarding vulnerable people and maintaining trust and confidence in policing.

Norfolk remains one of the safest counties in the country and I am incredibly proud of the dedication shown every day by our officers, staff and volunteers as they support victims, protect vulnerable people and keep communities safe. We also have one of the highest detection rates in the country.

In recent years, we have repeatedly deployed significant resources to manage large-scale protests and public order incidents. This summer, officers and specialist resources responded to disorder in Thetford. It was the third consecutive summer in which Norfolk officers have dealt with significant protest activity locally or supported colleagues elsewhere in the country. These incidents require specialist skills and substantial resources while maintaining day-to-day policing services.



We are also preparing for changes across the criminal justice system. Reforms through the Sentencing Act will result in more offenders being managed within the community and fewer shorter custodial sentences. As the public-facing part of the criminal justice system, policing will play a central role in managing the impact of these changes, creating additional demand and requiring even closer partnership working.

We have a strong track record of using public money responsibly and efficiently. We continually seek opportunities to modernise, embrace technology and improve the way we work while ensuring every pound delivers value for the people of Norfolk. However, for several years, the funding we receive directly from the Government has been insufficient to cover inflationary pressures or keep up with the rate of population growth in the county.
Efficiency savings alone cannot meet the scale of the challenges we face. Most policing expenditure is spent on people, providing the officers, staff and specialist capabilities needed to keep Norfolk safe. Continued investment is essential if we are to maintain frontline services, respond to rising demand and continue delivering exceptional policing for Norfolk.

Your views are important and will help shape the future of policing in our county. I encourage you to take part in this consultation and help inform decisions about the resources needed to keep Norfolk safe in the years ahead.



Paul Sanford
Chief Constable for Norfolk

Having considered this information from Norfolk's Chief Constable, Paul Sanford, please spare a few minutes to complete PCC Colin Sutton's survey.

If you need the information in this document in an alternative format, please contact the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Norfolk (OPCCN) by telephone on 01953 424455 or by email: opccn@norfolk.police.uk.



You can have your say by completing and returning this form to Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Norfolk, Jubilee House, Falconers Chase, Wymondham, Norfolk, NR18 0WW. Alternatively, you can take part in the consultation online at: www.norfolk-pcc.gov.uk.

The consultation will close at 5pm on Friday 9 October 2026.

This consultation does not ask for identifiable information. If any identifiable information is provided, the OPCCN will ensure that any published information relating to the consultation remains anonymous. The OPCCN complies with data protection legislation, including GDPR, by applying its Data Protection Policy - which can be found at www.norfolk-pcc.gov.uk.

PCC image page 1 - by Jason Bye

Have your say

Would you be prepared to pay more to ensure your police force continues to tackle these priorities in the future?

☐ Yes ☐ No

If you wish to add any comments, please use the space below or email: opccn@norfolk.police.uk.

Consultation: Police and Crime Plan 2026/28 & Police Budget 2027/28

Please tell us about the person who has answered the consultation questions. This is an important part of our equalities monitoring and helps us to understand if we are reaching all communities in Norfolk.

Which area of Norfolk do you live in?

- ☐ Breckland
- ☐ Broadland
- ☐ Great Yarmouth
- ☐ King's Lynn & West Norfolk
- ☐ North Norfolk
- ☐ Norwich
- ☐ South Norfolk
- ☐ Prefer not to say

What is your gender?

- ☐ Female
- ☐ Male
- ☐ Prefer not to say
- ☐ Other (please specify): _____

What age group are you?

- ☐ Under 16
- ☐ 16-24
- ☐ 25-34
- ☐ 35-44
- ☐ 45-54
- ☐ 55-64
- ☐ 65-74
- ☐ 75-84
- ☐ 85 or older
- ☐ Prefer not to say

What is your ethnic group?

Asian or Asian British

- ☐ Indian
- ☐ Pakistani
- ☐ Bangladeshi
- ☐ Chinese
- ☐ Any other Asian background

Black or Black British

- ☐ African
- ☐ Caribbean
- ☐ Any other Black background

Mixed / Multiple Ethnic Groups

- ☐ White & Black Caribbean
- ☐ White & Black African
- ☐ White & Asian
- ☐ Any other mixed background: _____

White

- ☐ English/Welsh/ Scottish/British/ Northern Irish
- ☐ White Irish
- ☐ White/Gypsy/ Irish Traveller
- ☐ White other

Other Ethnic Group

- ☐ Arab
- ☐ Prefer not to say
- ☐ Any other ethnic group: _____

Do you consider yourself to have a disability? If you are willing, please describe in the space below:

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Prefer not to say

_____

Which of the following best describes your sexuality?

- ☐ Bisexual
- ☐ Gay/Lesbian
- ☐ Heterosexual/ Straight
- ☐ Prefer not to say
- ☐ Other (please specify) _____

What is your religion?

- ☐ No religion
- ☐ Buddhist
- ☐ Christian
- ☐ Hindu
- ☐ Jewish
- ☐ Muslim
- ☐ Sikh
- ☐ Prefer not to say
- ☐ Any other religion: _____

I live at 10 Langley Rd which is the Langley Rd junction opposite the White Horse pub.
I would like to put a skip on the parking area opposite my house.
Is this possible?
Thank you for your help