NORWICH City Council

MINUTES

COUNCIL

7.30pm – 9.50pm **19 July 2016**

Present: Councillor Maxwell (Lord Mayor), Councillors Ackroyd, Bradford, Bremner, Bogelein, Brociek-Coulton, Button, Carlo, Davis, Driver, Fullman, Grahame, Harris, Haynes, Henderson, Herries, Jackson, Jones(B), Kendrick, Lubbock, Manning, Maguire, Malik, Packer, Peek, Price, Raby, Ryan, Sands (M), Sands (S), Schmierer, Stonard, Thomas (VA), Thomas (VI), Waters, Woollard and Wright

Apologies: Councillors Coleshill and Jones (T)

1. LORD MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Lord Mayor said that since the AGM she had undertaken 52 engagements which covered a wide range of activities reaching out across all areas of the community including schools, festivals, theatre, art exhibitions and community groups. This would not have been possible without the hard work of the civic staff and the support of her consorts to whom she was very grateful.

The city was honoured to receive visits from two international dignitaries. The Mayor of Koblenz visited in May and was very impressed with the city, particularly the cultural organisations which gave up their time to explain their activities. There was also a visit from the Romanian ambassador who, despite visiting Norwich for the sad reason that the Romanian shop on Magdalen Street had been attacked, was very grateful and enthusiastic about the response of the City of Norwich to the incident and how the city and its residents had come out in support of the Romanian shop owner.

Finally, to ensure that she 'remained down to earth', whilst she was riding on a horse drawn carriage to the city of ale festival, a gentleman in a car held up by the slow movement of the carriage, shouted that she should 'get a proper job!"

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillors Bremner and Stonard declared an "other" interest in item 10 as board members of Norwich Regeneration Ltd.

3. QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

No questions had been received from the public.

4. PETITIONS

No petitions had been received.

5. LEADER STATEMENT: 'NORWICH AFTER DEVOLUTION AND THE EU REFERENDUM'

Alan Waters, Leader of the Council, thanked the Lord Mayor for allowing him to make a statement to council on the immediate future of the city post "Brexit" and in light of the recent decision of the city council not to continue with the devolution process. The "State of Norwich – People, Place, Economy, Wellbeing" document, which included many up-to –date statistics, had been circulated to set the context for his statement (attached as Appendix A to the minutes).

He said there was uncertainty about future government commitment with a new prime minister and other new faces and new departments in Whitehall. e.g. 'Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy'. There were "shifting sands" including devolution with no elected mayor being imposed for post 2017 devolution deals. He suggested this justified the council's decision not be "shackled" to a rural combined authority.

Instead, the council would focus on delivering the Greater Norwich City Deal and the priorities of the Greater Norwich Growth Partnership. We would direct our energies to working with other cities ('Fast Growth Cities & 'Key Cities') and develop a policy framework for inclusive, place-based growth that integrates social and economic policies. This would combine the social dimensions of economic development – including health and well-being, good quality housing, skills and education. He suggested that if the Government was serious about inclusive growth it would invest (rather than simply accrue cost) in social infrastructure in the same way it currently does in physical infrastructure, assuming the same long term multiplier effects on the nature and size of economic growth.

This approach would provide a framework to shape our political priorities which will be reflected in a refreshed Corporate Plan. This would continue the good work already started on the equalities strategy; the anti-poverty work including the Living Wage campaign; investment in housing and encouraging inward investment and regeneration. However, we needed to win the argument that investment in social infrastructure is as important investment in physical infrastructure

What the city needed from the new government was not a rationing of public services cut in a different way but a reverse of many of the policies of the past 6 years. We need better funding of public services and local government; support for housing; welfare reform and rights at work protected. Our voice needed to be heard at the table for any Brexit negotiations.

The Council can only mitigate some of the deeply engrained problems and challenges facing the city. We face budget reductions between now and 2020 and the delivery of 'inclusive growth' will require active participation of partners and communities across Norwich. Scrutiny could help with this work for example by looking at ways to end food poverty in Norwich and to build sustainable food networks and by Investigating the operation of Academy chains in Norwich. Are they really a good deal for our children?

A continued dialogue is required within the council and the city as a whole to ensure we collectively set about becoming an 'inclusive city' where everyone shares the benefits of being a citizen of Norwich.

6. MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS HELD ON 22 MARCH, 24 MAY AND 28 JUNE 2016

RESOLVED, unanimously, to agree the minutes of the meetings held on 22 March, 24 May and 28 June 2016.

7. QUESTIONS TO CABINET MEMBERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS

The Lord Mayor said that 14 questions had been received from members of the council to cabinet members for which notice had been given in accordance with the provisions of appendix 1 of the council's constitution.

Question 1 Councillor Peek to the cabinet member for fairness and equality on the financial inclusion strategy.

Question 2 Councillor Woollard to the cabinet member for council housing on thermodynamic systems.

Question 3 Councillor Brociek-Coulton to the cabinet member for fairness and equality on tackling domestic abuse.

Question 4 Councillor Button to the cabinet member for council housing on the Britannia Court upgrade.

Question 5 Councillor Fullman to the cabinet member for neighbourhoods and community safety on community cohesion.

Question 6 Councillor Sands(M) to the leader of the council on council support and leadership to the business community whilst developing the economic future of Norwich.

Question 7 Councillors Sands(S) to the cabinet member for resources and business liaison on the development of the Rose Lane car park's contribution to the regeneration of the King Street area.

Question 8 Councillor Davis to the cabinet member for customer care and leisure on Norwich Market.

Question 9 Councillor Malik to the cabinet member for environment and sustainable development on the benefit of the property registration scheme on the city's private housing rented sector.

Question 10 Councillor Maguire to the cabinet member for environment and sustainable development on tackling landlords who operate outside the law.

Question 11 Councillor Raby to the leader of the council on devolution in East Anglia.

Question 12 Councillor Bogelein to the cabinet member for environment and sustainable development on the development of residents car parks.

Question 13 Councillor Carlo to the cabinet member for environment and sustainable development on air pollution.

Question 14 Councillor Jones(T) to the cabinet member for council housing on the use of drones for roof inspections.

(Details of the questions and the responses and any supplementary questions and their responses are attached as appendix B to these minutes.)

8. ANNUAL SCRUTINY REVIEW 2015–16

Councillor Wright moved and Councillor Maguire seconded the recommendation in the annexed report.

RESOLVED, unanimously, to receive the annual review of the scrutiny committee 2015-16 noting that the published version would include the outcome of the scrutiny of the pedalways project.

9. ANNUAL AUDIT COMMITTEE REPORT 2015-16

Councillor Price moved and Councillor Wright seconded the recommendations in the annexed report.

RESOLVED, unanimously, to receive the annual audit committee report 2015-16.

10. AWARD OF CONTRACT FOR HOUSING DEVELOPMENT AT GOLDSMITH STREET

(Councillors Bremner and Stonard had earlier declared an "other" interest in this item.)

Councillor Stonard moved and Councillor Button seconded the recommendations in the annexed report.

RESOLVED, unanimously, to –

(1) note the recommendation from cabinet to award the contract for the development of 105 houses at Goldsmith Street to R G Carter;

(2) approve the increase in the non-housing capital budget of £696,700 as outlined in the report and recommended by cabinet on 13 July 2016;

(3) approve the change in the budget resulting from setting rents for passivhaus properties at 5 percent above formula rent to assist with the additional costs of development such properties and reflecting the savings for tenants in energy bills.

11. MOTION – HATE CRIME

Councillor Lubbock moved and Councillor Ackroyd seconded the motion as set out on the agenda.

RESOLVED, unanimously, that –

'Following the EU referendum result, there are members of our community in Norwich who feel fearful about what the future may hold for them in our country.

In some areas of this country, there are people – including children – who find themselves on the receiving end of racist and xenophobic hate mail.

This council can be proud of its engagement with all communities and the multicultural nature of its events and festivals and how equality is embedded in all we do. Council, therefore, **RESOLVES** to –

(1) speak out against division and expressions of hatred and stand together against intolerance and discrimination for the future of the United Kingdom in order to re-build confidence to go forward together with a new vision of what it means to be outward-looking, generous and hospitable;

(2) work with our partner organisations to join with us in reassuring residents from diverse communities that they are safe and welcome in this city'.

12. MOTION – EUROPEAN UNION REFERENDUM

The Lord Mayor said that the following amendment had been received from Councillor Grahame in advance:-

'To amend resolution 2 (by inserting the words '..and environmental protections' after the words '…existing EU employment rights'.

Councillor Waters had indicated that he was willing to accept the amendment and with no other member objecting, it became part of the substantive motion.

Councillor Waters moved and Councillor Harris seconded, the motion as set out on the agenda and amended as above.

RESOLVED –

(1) with 35 members voting in favour, none against and 2 abstentions, to agree with the majority of Norwich people who voted in the EU referendum that Norwich will be stronger – economically, politically and socially – as a partner within the European Union;

(2) unanimously, to request cabinet to write to Norwich members of parliament asking that they support negotiations which include: Full access to the European single market, finance companies to retain their right to trade in Europe, Britain to remain inside the European investment bank, keep all existing EU employment rights and environmental protections, the right of all current EU migrants to stay, with no change to their rights (and vice versa);

(3) unanimously, to reaffirm council's commitment to honouring and strengthening its existing twinning arrangements.

LORD MAYOR

APPENDIX A

APPENDIX C

Question 1

Councillor Peek to ask the cabinet member for fairness and equality:

“I was pleased to see the leader of the council recently give public thanks to Freda Sheehy MBE - a resident of Wensum Ward - for her fantastic work and commitment in developing and sustaining the West Norwich Credit Union and promoting financial inclusion in her community.

Given the ongoing assault by this government upon social security, can the cabinet member for fairness and equality give his opinion on the positive differences our *Financial inclusion strategy* is making within the city?”

Councillor Thomas, cabinet member for fairness and equality’s response:

“The city council instigated its first Financial Inclusion Strategy following an executive priority set for 2008-9. The Strategy highlighted a number of streams and priorities including:

- access to free money advice
- access to affordable credit
- increasing access to financial products and services
- improving the way people manage their money
- working more collaboratively
- income maximisation

It would be true to point out that this built on previous work of the council in its Anti-Poverty Strategy from the early 90s.

In that context it would be fair to point out that the council recognised that it was impossible to try and resolve what was a massive financial crisis, that was hitting the city and its population on its own, and, therefore, I would like to highlight the first of the differences that the Financial Inclusion Strategy made was the closer working relationships that the council fostered with the voluntary sector within the city and the county.

All the work done has focused around closely involving the city’s many voluntary sector organisations who are trusted advocates in their own community.

The work that Freda Sheehy was involved in was a case in point. Through the West Norwich Credit Union there developed an organisation widely admired throughout the city for the help it gives to those in debt – Money Advice and Budgeting Service

(MABS). This innovative service was funded by the Norwich Consolidated Charities and the city council to provide a free debt management service.

Managing people's debts was at that time also seen as a priority and the city council was already providing a Money Advice Service to its own tenants through the work of the council's housing team. The Financial Inclusion Strategy operated to identify agencies and assist where possible their development to give wider advice and expertise to those in need.

Income maximisation was deemed to be a priority for people in order to ensure they have an ability to utilise their money more efficiently. Work was done to identify groups who needed assistance in that area and older people were under-claiming a number of benefits so assistance was put in place.

On a wider scale, recognition was given to the fact that Norwich was a City with a large number of low paid workers and work was undertaken to increase in work benefits take-up including Housing Benefit and Working Tax Credits. This is still carrying on today with take-up work occurring in the Lakenham area of the city.

However, in addition to the above we must also highlight the fact that the city council has led the way in being a Living Wage employer and is now embarking on sharing that vision and message around the city for the benefit of the low paid.

Today the work still carries on. The council has identified the need to address inequality and the work of the Financial Inclusion Strategy is closely allied to that as well as other initiatives that this council promotes such as Fuel Poverty and Anti-Discrimination work. This also still includes on-going financing of initiatives within the voluntary sector."

Question 2

Councillor Woollard to ask the cabinet member for council housing:

"I was pleased to read the recent cabinet report which saw the agreement to award a contract for the installation of thermodynamic hot water systems to 100 council owned homes.

Can the cabinet member for council housing give her opinion on the difference this scheme will make in delivering the administration's aim to provide decent housing for all?"

Councillor Harris, cabinet member for council housing's response:

"The installation of these systems will reduce the energy consumption for the end user, reduce the carbon foot print for the authority and provide low cost hot water to the tenant. As with all improvement projects and new technology there will always be some who benefit from the work before others. As you are aware the NCC housing stock achieved the Decent Homes standard in 2010 and since that time has embarked on an enhanced standard called the "Norwich Standard". Norwich City Council housing scores highly when compared to other housing providers not only

for the quality of our homes but also our tenants' satisfaction. The installation of systems such as the Thermodynamic hot water systems will enhance an already progressive and active improvement programme ensuring decent housing for all."

Question 3

Councillor Brociek-Coulton to ask the cabinet member for fairness and equality:

"The commitment of the council to play an active and ongoing role in tackling domestic abuse is welcome, together with the launch of the recent campaign to raise awareness of domestic abuse and increase reporting and referrals to agencies.

Can the cabinet member for fairness and equality give his comments on both this latest campaign and the way in which the council can continue to make a difference - working with partners - across the city on this important issue?"

Councillor Thomas, cabinet member for fairness and equality's response:

"The council's Early intervention and community safety manager, Jo Sapsford, Chairs the project group that has been developing the recently launched campaign, the council's Communications manager, Richard Balls, has been the media lead on the project and the campaign itself was commissioned from the County community safety partnership, chaired by our chief executive Laura McGillivray. As a council with White Ribbon status, Norwich remains at the forefront of domestic abuse campaigning and support locally and works closely with statutory and voluntary sector partners to raise awareness of domestic abuse issues and reduce risk for those affected. Norwich City Council currently has 22 registered White Ribbon Ambassadors and Advocates raising awareness of domestic abuse issues – despite requiring just four as part of achieving White Ribbon status qualification. For information on how to become a White Ribbon Ambassador or Advocate, contact Jo Sapsford.

The new campaign, using the tag line 'I walked away', promotes positive messages of life after abuse, to help those experiencing abuse see an alternative to their current situation. The campaign reaches out to friends and family members of those being abused to support them to seek help from professional support agencies. This is important, as people in abusive relationships are at increased risk from the abuser at the point where they leave the relationship, or have just left the relationship, as the abuser feels that they have lost the control they have worked hard to develop and feel they have nothing to lose when attempting to regain that control.

The campaign identifies people of different age, gender, heritage and professions – to show that anyone can experience abuse. Posters, flyers and leaflets are available from the communications team. All council members are encouraged to distribute these amongst your communities and local venues and take to meetings and forums with community partners, to circulate and mention as an AOB item.

The council continues to commission Leeway support and refuge services for Norwich residents experiencing domestic abuse and council officers regularly attend multi agency risk assessment conferences to help reduce risk to victims and attend housing information sessions at refuges in Norwich."

Question 4

Councillor Button to ask the cabinet member for council housing:

"Can the cabinet member for council housing give her opinion on the transformation and significant upgrading of the Britannia Court former sheltered housing scheme into new general needs council housing?"

Councillor Harris, cabinet member for council housing's response:

"Britannia Court is an excellent example of Norwich City Council's commitment to use its housing stock to its full potential and flexibility to provide much needed one bedroom homes for single people and couples.

The central zone containing former sheltered communal areas has been demolished to provide an open, welcoming and simple plaza style garden area. The homes have been carefully considered for new tenants, maximising the available space, providing new bath/shower rooms and kitchens. Both homes and communal areas have been designed to provide light and airy accommodation.

Under our local lettings agreement a proportion of new homes have been set aside for local residents (North Earlham, Larkman and Marlpit/Jex Road). We have had an extremely encouraging response to the first adverting round from applicants."

Question 5

Councillor Fullman to ask the cabinet member for neighbourhoods and community safety:

"There has been a national trend of an increase in hate crimes since Britain voted to leave the EU, with the Metropolitan Police reporting a 50pc increase in hate crime since the divisive vote on June 23. All councillors will have been shocked at the attack on the 'The Village Shop' in Magdalen St which was fire bombed earlier in the month.

Can the cabinet member for neighbourhoods and community safety give his comments on the effort and strategy this council has in place - working with partners - to reassure and support community cohesion during this troubling time?"

Councillor Kendrick, cabinet member for neighbourhoods and community safety's response:

"May I firstly express my sympathy with the shop owner and state that can be no excuse for this kind of criminal action and my hope is that those responsible are caught and punished for their crime.

Prior to the EU referendum our partners at Norfolk Constabulary established a Community Impact Assessment which took into consideration the effect of a potential 'Brexit' vote.

Norwich City Council, and in particular the ABATE team who deal with hate incidents for the council, have been sharing information with the police in relation to this assessment since early June.

Incidents reported and shared include derogatory EU graffiti, and a handful of troubling incidents have proved difficult to link to the referendum result. Overall the vote does not appear to have had a significant effect on hate incidents reported to the council in Norwich. The police are of course able to provide a broader view of the impact across Norwich / Norfolk, including hate crimes such as the dreadful attack on 'The Village Shop' on Magdalen Street.

The council remains committed to dealing with hate incidents of any motivation robustly, in conjunction with our police partners. We are clear that such behaviour will not be tolerated, and seek to reassure those reporting that their concerns will be taken seriously, and to encourage others to come forward and report.

That said; the hate crime reporting figures to the council have steadily declined over the last few years. In 2014 140 perceived hate crimes were reported to the council, in 2015 122, and to the end of June the council had received just 27 hate crime reports.

I would encourage all council members to help empower victims of hate crime in Norwich to report to either police or council, to help uphold the council's recently renewed pledge to "… ensure that all members of our city feel nurtured and embraced." (Joint press release from all party leaders, Norwich City Council, 30 June 2016).

In addition, members are also reminded that we have a role to play in being aware of reporting community tensions – such as negative comments made about particular groups of people or incidents of hate graffiti – as these may be the early signs of hate crimes emerging. Early intervention, where there may be issues, is an important part of safeguarding our communities. The council collects information on community tensions in Norwich, which it reviews to inform and develop front line services. Any councillors aware of community tensions arising are asked to complete the simple on line form available on e-councillor – this information has been reposted today (19 July).

In terms of how the council is working to support community cohesion during this troubling time; the council's community enabling team has an ongoing supportive relationship with community groups in the Magdalen Street area, including an officer working specifically with BME groups. The community itself is a supportive one, demonstrated by the outpouring of support for the victims of the fire-bombing from local individuals, community groups and fellow retailers. The now annual Magdalen St festival has recently received a community grant from the council and the community enabling officer is supporting the working group in its development."

Question 6

Councillor Mike Sands to ask the leader of the council:

“Aviva suspended trading its £1.8 billion property fund earlier in the month as investors scrambled to pull their money out of UK commercial property holdings following the Brexit vote.

Given the importance of significant companies such as Aviva to the Norwich economy, can the leader of the council comment on the ongoing efforts by the city council to give support and leadership to the business community while developing the economic future of Norwich?”

Councillor Waters, leader of the council’s response:

“The city council has a well-established business engagement structure in place through our twice yearly leader’s receptions for the business community. The purpose of these receptions is to enable Norwich City Council’s administration to be accountable to the business community and to hear at first hand, issues about Norwich and its economy.

Over the last few years, these events have been a core plank in gathering feedback from the local business community to inform the city’s economic strategy and core activities in support of local businesses. The business community report high levels of satisfaction with the series of business receptions and frequently comment that they feel more engaged in the life of the city since this programme of receptions started.

This year we have also developed a series of business breakfasts with senior representatives of fifty key Norwich businesses – that is key in terms of their size or standing within their specific industrial sector – to discuss the development of the local economy and its challenges and the opportunities. In particular we have been assessing how the sustainable growth of the city can be facilitated by the council working in partnership with the business community to ensure it benefits all Norwich residents.

I do not doubt that the impact of Brexit will be a central topic of our business engagement as we move forward which will then flow through into the economic development work we undertake.”

Question 7

Councillor Sue Sands to ask the cabinet member for resources and business liaison:

“The official opening of the new Rose Lane car park by the cabinet member for resources and business liaison was a welcome boost in providing the kick-starting of regeneration in the King Street area, state of the art parking facilities and much needed revenue to the city council.

Can the cabinet member give his comments and opinion on the importance and difference this latest successful development will offer both the city council but also the community affected?"

Councillor Stonard, cabinet member for resources and business liaison's response:

"The South City Centre Vision and Investment Plan identified the redevelopment of the Rose Lane car park as being catalytic to the regeneration of the King Street Area. The council seized this opportunity to use its land asset to kick start the regeneration of the site and the wider area.

The innovative design of the car park has not only significantly improved the streetscape at this important gateway to the city centre but also provides improved infrastructure and facilities (including much needed public toilets) to support local businesses, the evening economy, and the railway station. It increases car parking capacity, provides a safe parking environment and gives better access to the city centre improving its overall offering as a place to visit. The increased capacity that the new car park provides will also provide additional income for the council at a time when resources are under increasing pressure.

The investment in the car park by the council has already provided confidence for other development to take place in adjacent office buildings on Rose Lane, including the conversions of premises and development of land for residential use at St Anne's Wharf. This development will provide increased employment opportunities and much needed additional housing.

The re-location of the car park to the new site frees up the larger former site, which together with adjacent land provides further opportunity for regeneration. The council is currently considering options for the redevelopment of the land in its ownership to be considered by the council's cabinet."

Question 8

Councillor Davis to ask the cabinet member for customer care and leisure:

"I was pleased to see the launch of the two week campaign, *Love Your Local Market* in May to raise the profile of Norwich Market. Given the importance of the market to Norwich, will the cabinet member for customer care and leisure comment on the ongoing work to improve and develop this important Norwich asset?"

Councillor Ryan, cabinet member for customer care and leisure's response:

"We have a hugely exciting and wide-ranging plan for rejuvenating Norwich Market. We've listened to an experienced market manager from elsewhere in the county, we've held a consultation, listened to traders and shoppers, and used all that information to come up with a very comprehensive 10-year plan.

There is a lot to achieve but we've set ourselves realistic and achievable targets for the next year, two years, and so on, and we are focusing on the top priorities of filling the vacant stalls, improving our cleaning of the market and reviewing a whole range of policies and procedures to drive the business forward. Activities include: -

- Creation of a new market team in post five days providing full-time focus on the day to day running of the market and the implementation of the council's 10-year plan for its rejuvenation
- Setting priorities for this year, the next two years, three years and so on.
- Priority given to filling the market in close cooperation with traders. We have a new balance of trade policy out to consultation with traders aiming to fill the market with the right stalls ensuring its diversity and vibrancy.
- Formation of a Norwich Market Traders Association (NMTA) with meetings held every two months with the market team.
- Data gathering to enable us to health check the market,
- Establishment of a comprehensive marketing and communication programme to promote the market.
- Deep cleaning has taken place of the canopy roofs and a deep clean of the toilet floors has also been programmed in.
- Organising the "Love Your Local Market" campaign in conjunction with the NMTA with the traders organising some fun small-scale events over the weekend, publicised by us and attracting some great coverage by local media.
- Becoming a member of the National Association of British Markets Authorities (NABMA) giving access to a network of national expertise and best practice and helping to boost the profile of Norwich Market nationally.
- Development of a professional brand for the market now used on all leaflets, advertising placements and reports.
- Continuing to maintain a web page on the council's new website for the market with detailed information about every single stall. We are looking at how we can improve the online presence.
- Application for membership of the county council's Market Fair scheme confirming our commitment to trading quality goods with no counterfeit items."

The strategy can be viewed online:

https://www.norwich.gov.uk/downloads/20181/norwich_market

Question 9

Councillor Malik to ask the cabinet member for environment and sustainable development:

"The private rented sector remains a critically significant issue in my ward. The launch in April of the new city council property registration scheme (through working closely with local landlords, letting/managing agents and existing accreditation schemes to develop *PRSNorwich*) was a welcome and timely achievement.

Since the launch, can the cabinet member for environment and sustainable development give his opinion on progress with the scheme and the opportunities and outcomes it will hope to achieve in driving up standards and better regulation within the city private rented sector?"

Councillor Bremner, cabinet member for environment and sustainable development's response:

"The PRSNorwich scheme is a light-touch voluntary scheme aimed at working with the majority of landlords and agents who already comply with the law. It is the first part of a two-tier approach to regulating the private rented sector in Norwich which will enable us to target our enforcement at the worst accommodation in the city whilst encouraging an improvement in standards in other privately rented homes.

A review of the scheme will be carried out during the course of this year and the second stage will then be introduced to target properties that are not registered. Options currently include:

(1) Additional HMO licensing (either area-based or city-wide)

(2) Selective licensing of all privately rented accommodation in a particular area (current rules discourage a city-wide approach)

(3) Targeted enforcement using existing Housing Act powers

or, a combination of all three.

We already have a small number of properties registered in the scheme we are currently concentrating on encouraging and processing applications from local managing agents and accreditation bodies who wish to become 'approved organisations' under the scheme. To date we have signed-up Martin & Co., the National Landlords Association, the University of East Anglia Students (Home Run), Arnolds Keys and Mills Knight. We have also had applications from other managing agents who we are working with to ensure that they meet the scheme's standards before we approve them. Between them, these organisations could potentially register more than 2,000 properties.

There is real interest and support for the scheme from the lettings industry and landlord representative bodies as well as individual landlords and the voluntary sector. We believe, therefore, that the scheme will grow organically and gain momentum as more and more reputable agents and landlords sign up.

The next phase of marketing will be aimed at tenants as it is expected that the scheme will be used by them to identify safe and well-managed accommodation in the city."

Question 10

Councillor Maguire to ask the cabinet member for environment and sustainable development:

"I would like to pay special thanks to the officers and the cabinet member for environment and sustainable development for the way in which the city council's housing enforcement team pursued Probuild Solutions Ltd and secured a successful prosecution for dangerously overcrowding a property on Beverley Road in Wensum ward.

Given the success of this work to tackle landlords who operate outside the law, can the cabinet member give his opinion on how this much wider problem can continue to be robustly tackled – including ways in which members of the public can report instances and help officers too?"

Councillor Bremner, cabinet member for environment and sustainable development's response:

"There are many reasons for a property becoming overcrowded and the council's approach needs to be thorough but also needs to recognise the potential vulnerability of the people involved. Joint working with the police, UK Border Agency, our housing options team and children's services is often required to make sure that vulnerable occupiers are not simply moved from one hazardous situation to another. Officers use a full range of powers including prohibition and, in cases where occupants cannot move out immediately, making the house temporarily safe, for example, by installing smoke detectors. The officers also collect evidence during their investigation and consider each case for potential prosecution.

The private sector housing team, which is responsible for enforcement, is a well-experienced but small team and targeting is therefore very important. However, the team does not have the resources to pro-actively identify poor conditions or overcrowding so does rely on information from partners, tenants who are experiencing problems or from concerned members of the public.

Neighbours can be important but to help avoid unnecessary investigations it is always helpful if they can check the facts before alerting the team. This could be done by speaking to the occupants of the property that they are concerned or bringing it to the attention of their local councillor. It is also worth saying that the team generally is unable to deal with low-level problems such as untidy gardens since it has to prioritise serious breaches of the law that may be affecting people's health and safety.

Tenants can let us know of poor conditions by contacting the council's customer contact centre or emailing us at privatesectorhousing@norwich.gov.uk

Landlords offering well-managed accommodation can also help by registering their properties with PRSNorwich via the council's website. This accreditation system helps tenants to avoid sub-standard properties and means that any issues that might

arise can be dealt with more quickly, leaving the team free to target its resources more effectively."

Question 11

Councillor Raby to ask the leader of the council:

"At the extraordinary council meeting on 28June, we voted unanimously to reject the proposed devolution deal for Norfolk and Suffolk, and in this we were accompanied by three other district councils. However, there have been hints that the Government may try to press ahead with the deal in any case.

Can the leader of the council clarify what action will be taken to uphold our clearly stated position on this matter?"

Councillor Waters, leader of the council's response:

"Thank you for your question. A good deal has changed since we took that vote – a new Government has been formed under Theresa May whose main preoccupation will be the Brexit negotiations. The champion of mayoral devolution deals, George Osborne, is on the backbenches and Greg Clarke, before he moved from Communities & Local Government suggested that future rounds of Devolution would not necessarily require an elected mayor.

While I can see the city conurbation devolution deals moving ahead I think there may be less certainty over the largely rural two tier devolution deals. In the case of the remaining councils in Norfolk & Suffolk that have decided to push on, the legislation requires devolution deal areas to publish a scheme of governance setting out plans for the scope of the combined authority, the arrangements for local representation, and decision making. The public must be consulted on these arrangements, and the Secretary of State will then take the outcome of consultation into account before further legislation can be taken forward.

Whilst the consultation exercise is currently being carried out across Norfolk and Suffolk, the area for the proposed combined authority will exclude Norwich and the other 3 district councils who decided not to proceed with the devolution plans.

The statutory consultation exercise will run until 23 August. The results of the consultation exercise will be reported back to the participating councils and the Secretary of State. Upon completion of the consultation, there will be a report of the responses submitted to the Secretary of State as a joint submission from all participating councils in Norfolk and Suffolk. The submission of responses to the Secretary of State will be made in early September.

The Secretary of State will then assess the outcome of the consultation exercise against the criteria test and decide whether to move to the next stage of the legislative process to progress the establishment of the combined authority and the election process for the directly elected mayor by
May 2017.

We will continue to monitor east of England devolution developments. Our focus must be to work with other cities – hence our membership of the 'Key Cities' and our collaboration with Cambridge, Oxford, Milton Keynes and Swindon as part of the 'Fast Growth Cities' cluster. As part of that we are delivering jobs, growth and housing through the Norwich City Deal and the Greater Norwich Growth Partnership. Both of these initiatives involve a successful collaboration with Norfolk County Council, Broadland and South Norfolk District Councils.

Norwich is the driver of the regional economy. If devolution is about the rebalancing of the economy away from London the best way to do that is through investment in cities. The Key Cities group has already made representations to the Prime Minister and other senior ministers about the importance of investing in cities and giving them the power to drive sustainable growth."

Councillor Raby asked, as a supplementary question, what the council could do to inform residents of the city council's objections to devolution in light of the Norfolk County Council consultation leaflet which was biased towards supporting devolution. **Councillor Waters** said that the council had agreed unanimously to withdraw from the devolution process. Consideration had been given to publishing our own devolution document but having withdrawn from the process, publishing a document about devolution would contradict the decision to withdraw and it wasn't appropriate for the council to enter into a 'tit for tat' situation. The council had made its position absolutely clear and had received very positive press coverage to that effect. There would be many opportunities for the council to clarify its view and to outline what it intended to do outside of the devolution process.

Question 12

Councillor Bogelein to ask the cabinet member for environment and sustainable development:

"Residents in my ward have recently been consulted about the development of three car parks into flats. Residents are aware of a car parking survey which shows that, in particular, the car parks on Armes Street are well used. The car parking survey shows, for example, 12 parked cars on 69 Armes Street on a Sunday with the comment that all surrounding streets were full of parked vehicles.

Overnight parking, which makes up the biggest use of the car park, is not even included in the survey. Residents have sent in photo evidence that the car parks are almost full overnight. I have written to officers about residents' concerns over parking, but both the residents and I feel we have not received a satisfactory response, so I now ask the cabinet member: where will these cars park when the car parking sites are developed?"

Councillor Bremner, cabinet member for environment and sustainable development's response:

"There is a growing shortage of affordable housing in Norwich and the council is committed to increasing supply. As such the council needs to review all its potential development sites to help address this shortage; especially sites, such as the ones Councillor Bogelein refers to, which are held in the housing revenue account. I appreciate that it may mean that some residents may have less certainty about where they will be able to park in future. However housing is our clear priority.

We would not, however, develop a site if we thought that it would have an unreasonable impact on local residents; but experience of doing this elsewhere in the city shows that it has not led to parking problems.

At the pre-planning public consultation event held in May, a number of local residents suggested late-night/over-night car park survey surveys should be carried out as they felt that the ones carried out at 9 a.m., 3 p.m., 7 p.m. (weekdays) and weekend lunchtimes were not representative. As a result, late-night surveys are currently being carried out which will contribute to our understanding of the concerns that have been raised by local residents.

If the housing association is given planning permission to develop housing on these sites, any motorists currently using them will need to make new arrangements to park elsewhere. It may well be that they choose to park on the road and this is why parking levels in adjacent streets are also considered when carrying out the car park surveys.

We are also taking steps to reduce the pressure on parking spaces through the introduction of car clubs which, experience has shown, remove ten private cars from the street for every club car provided. There is an existing car club in Nelson Street and two other locations in Nelson Street and Armes Street identified for future expansion."

Councillor Bogelein said she appreciated that an additional survey was being undertaken but she did not understand why a new consultation had not been undertaken with residents who were clearly concerned about the loss of car parking. **Councillor Bremner** said he understood members concerns. However, the council's priority was the growing shortage of affordable housing. Previous experience had suggested that there would not be significant parking problems as a result of the proposal and there would be an opportunity for residents to respond to the planning process.

Question 13

Councillor Carlo to ask the cabinet member for environment and sustainable development:

In May, the World Health Organisation (WHO) named Norwich as one of several UK cities in breach of the safe average limit set by the WHO for fine particulate matter

(PM2.5). The health effects of PM2.5 are considered to be more significant than those of other air pollutants, with particles penetrating deep into lungs. Current evidence suggests that there is no safe limit for exposure to fine particulate matter which can carry long distances.

Road transport is a major source of such pollution. Although we are seeing delivery of a programme of sustainable transport measures for reducing traffic in the city centre, we have seen - and continue to see - significant road building and traffic growth on the edge of Norwich, which will further increase air pollution including PM2.5s.

Will the cabinet member state his opposition to proposals for a Western Link across the Wensum Valley and an A11 Thickthorn bypass on air pollution grounds – amongst other reasons – and will he support amending the *Corporate plan* to include tackling air pollution in its list of key actions?

Councillor Bremner, cabinet member for environment and sustainable development's response:

"I share Councillor Carlo's concerns about air quality in Norwich. We have a particular problem in the city centre with hotspots where nitrogen dioxide limit values are excluded but with measures in place, working with the county council, to address this such as the retro-fit of clean up technology to buses.

High levels of very fine particulate pollution ($PM_{2.5}$) are a relatively recent but important area of concern. Chronic exposure to particulate matter leads to increased risks of pre-mature mortality from heart attack, stroke, respiratory infections, and lung cancer. However, focus has to-date been on fine particular pollution (PM_{10}) where EU limit values are in place and, I am pleased to say, there are no exceedances in Norwich.

Whether or not these issues are of sufficient significance, for air quality to be part of the corporate plan, remains to be seen. The council will be preparing a new corporate plan shortly and Councillor Carlo's suggestion can be considered as part of this process.

To determine what should be done to remedy high levels of $PM_{2.5}$, requires further understanding of the sources of such pollution. Whilst Councillor Carlo is correct to link $PM_{2.5}$ with traffic, dust and industry are other important sources. Unfortunately WHO data does not provide source information for Norwich and whereas there is source data for some UK locations it would be unsafe to draw any conclusions about the sources of Norwich PM2.5 pollution from this.

What the WHO source data does show, however, is that the proportionate contribution from different sources is quite variable. For example in some locations traffic sources vary between 5 and 57%.

The Norwich Western link project was considered by the Environment, Development and Transport committee of Norfolk county council on 8th July 2016. The committee agreed to support a staged approach to deliver the project. The first stage will

involve a study to fully understand the extent of the traffic problems in the Norwich western quadrant. The study work to evaluate the proposal is expected to take 18 months and will include consulting with Natural England and the Environment Agency.

I therefore believe that it would be premature for the council to oppose proposals for a Western Link or works at the A11 Thickthorn junction on air pollution grounds. Whilst I share Councillor Carlo's health concerns it does not necessarily follow that construction of these schemes would have a significant material effect on $PM_{2.5}$ pollution; given also that Defra predicts a significant decline in $PM_{2.5}$ pollution from transport."

In reply to a supplementary question from **Councillor Carlo**, **Councillor Bremner** said that Councillor Carlo should be more positive in highlighting the very good changes that had led to significant improvements and not concentrate on looking for negatives. He reminded Councillor Carlo that the city council was a district council with limited resources and needed to work with Norfolk County Council which was the transport authority. He appreciated some of her concerns but, for example, it could be dust contributing to health issues not just diesel fumes. He would welcome more research on this.

Question 14

Councillor Tim Jones to ask the cabinet member for council housing:

"The city council has confirmed that there are no regular inspections of the flat roofs on council flats in Heigham Grove. This is because expensive scaffolding is required in order to send up contractors to inspect the roofs. Instead, the council undertakes remedial work to the roofs when problems become apparent.

There has been a previous serious incident when rainwater and vegetation collected on one of the flat roofs, which gave way and inundated a flat below, causing a great deal of damage as well as distress to the occupant.

To help ensure that any problems are picked up at an early stage and the roofs are kept in good repair, can the cabinet member give her opinion on the possibility of hiring drones as an alternative way of inspecting the flat roofs on all council flats?"

Councillor Harris, cabinet member for council housing response:

"I'm sorry to hear about the problems that have occurred in the past but rest assured we are as proactive as we can be in assessing risk of damage to flat roofs and have a programme of works designed to assess the condition of flat roofs as well as ensuring assessments are carried out incidental to other reactive and programmed work.

I am always alive to better ways of doing things and providing value for money so we have already investigated the use of a drone with the sole intention of inspecting

communal and multi storey roofs. However, because of civil aviation legislation and privacy laws in populated areas, it is not possible to use a drone for this purpose.

We are however looking into an alternative method whereby a camera is attached to telescopic pole attached to a vehicle and recording images only when above occupied dwellings.”

APPENDIX A

NORWICH
City Council

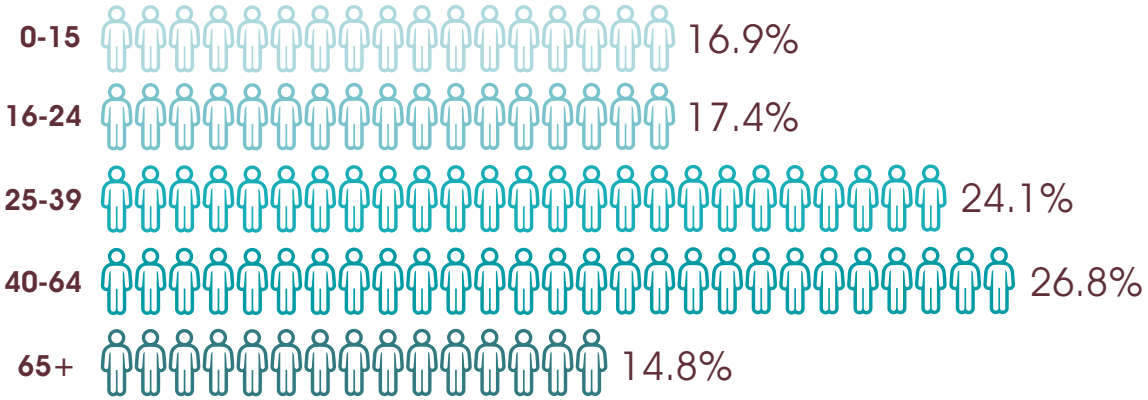
THE STATE OF NORWICH

People, Place, Economy, Wellbeing

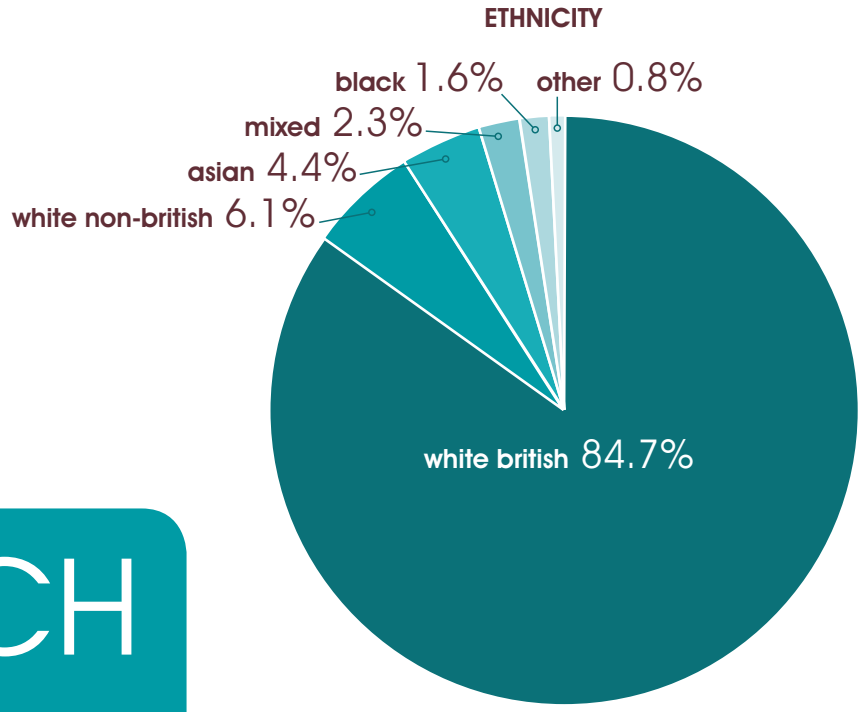
June 2016

NORWICH people

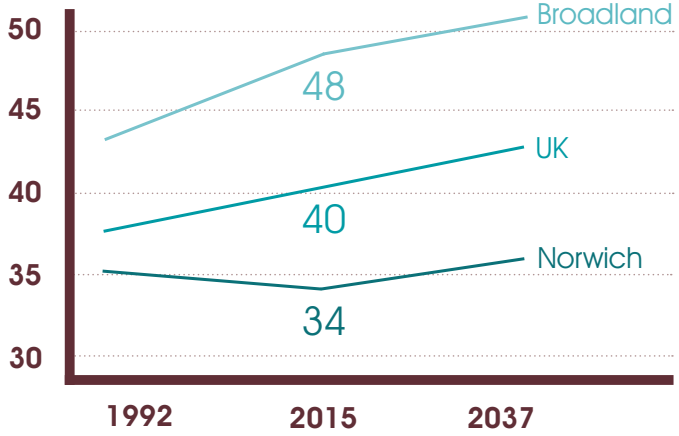
AGE



ETHNICITY



MEDIAN AGE



137,500 RESIDENTS
63,690 HOUSEHOLDS

CHILD POVERTY

PENSIONER POVERTY

NORWICH place

CO_2 EMISSIONS tonnes per capita

Norwich	Norfolk	England
5.2	7.1	5.7

NO_2 EMISSIONS micrograms/cubic m

Lakenham	Castle Meadow	EU target
12	55	40

FUEL-POOR HOUSEHOLDS

7,124

CARS PER HOUSEHOLD

33% No car households

48% One car households

16% Two car households

3% Two car households

PEOPLE KILLED OR SERIOUSLY INJURED ON ROADS

50

50 serious injuries

0 deaths

AVERAGE MONTHLY RENT (2beds)

Norwich £792

Norfolk £674

NEW HOMES COMPLETED 2013/14

170

RATIO OF LOWER QUARTILE HOUSE PRICES TO LOWER QUARTILE INCOME

Norwich	Norfolk	England
6.34	6.96	6.45

AVERAGE HOUSE PRICES

	Norwich	Norfolk	England
2013	£168,847	£184,481	£246,764
2012	£162,658	£181,052	£242,299

HOUSING BY TENURE (%)

	Owner-occupied	Council rented	Social rented	Private rented
Norwich	44.5	25.2	7.4	22.8
Norfolk	68.6	5.8	8.7	16.9
East Anglia	68.3	7.8	7.9	16.0
England & Wales	64.3	9.4	8.2	18.0

NORWICH economy

JSA CLAIMANT COUNT

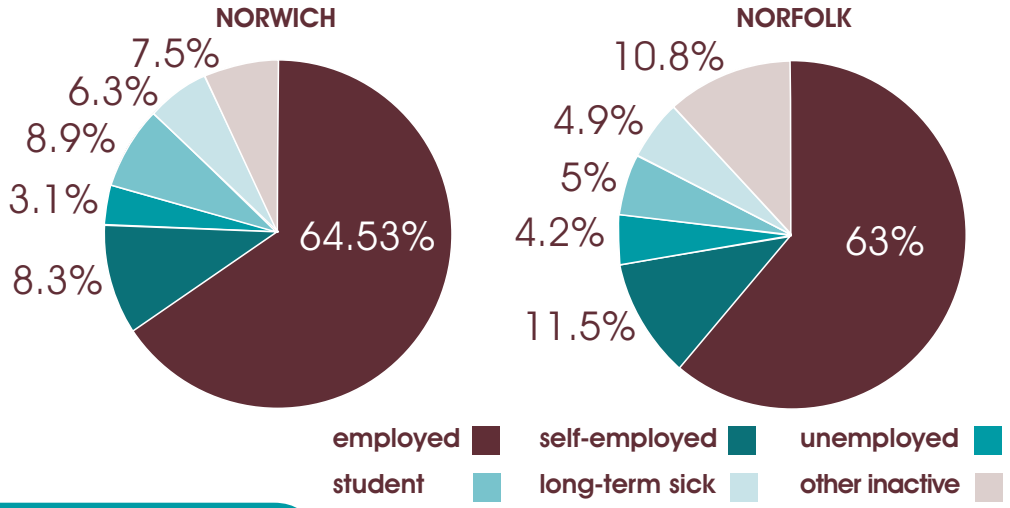
February 2016 1.6%

February 2015 2.4%

HOUSEHOLDS EARNING BELOW £15,000/YEAR

20,033

ECONOMIC ACTIVITY (AGES 16-64)



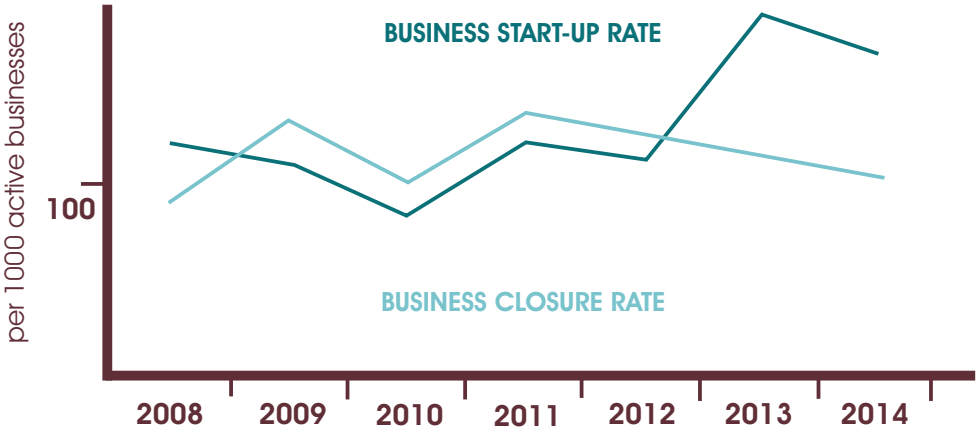
MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME

£22,825

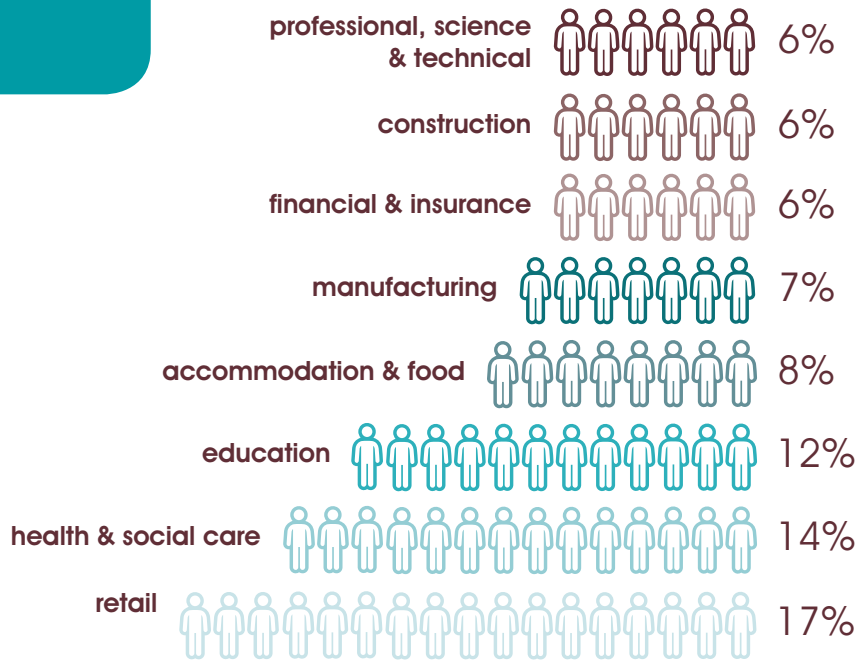
highest ward £36,145

lowest ward £18,406

BUSINESS START-UP RATE



75% OF RESIDENTS EMPLOYED IN...



NORWICH wellbeing

AVERAGE LIFE EXPECTANCY

female 83.7

male 79.5

gap between most deprived and least deprived wards are:

female 3.1 years

male 10.9 years

EXCESS WINTER DEATHS

Norfolk 19.8%

23.3% Norwich

17.4% England

HOSPITAL STAYS/per 100,000 population

self harm 430

alcohol related harm 960

WEIGHT

	Norwich	Norfolk	England
low birth weight –	7%	7%	7%
overweight (R) –	16%	14%	13%
obese (R) –	9%	9%	10%
overweight (Yr6) –	15%	14%	14%
obese (Yr6) –	16%	18%	19%
obese adults –	19%	25%	24%

CRIME AND ANTI SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

ASB incidents 6,043

all crimes 13,350

97.94/per 1000 population (Norfolk 53.9)

hate crimes 262

hate incidents 261

GOOD LEVEL OF DEVELOPMENT - AGE 5

NORWICH

51.4%

Nelson 70.3% Crome 29.7%

ENGLAND

60%

EDUCATION LEVELS

	Norwich	Norfolk	England
KS2 level 4+ reading –	85%	86%	89%
KS2 level 4+ writing –	81%	83%	85%
KS2 level 4+ maths –	84%	83%	86%
5+ GCSEs A+-C incl english and maths –	44%	52%	57%

LIFE SATISFACTION (out of 10)

England 7.6

Norwich 7.71

Norfolk 7.75

HAPPINESS (out of 10)

England 7.45

Norwich 7.49

Norfolk 7.55

Sources

	Measure	Source	Date range
PEOPLE	Total Population	ONS - Mid Year Estimates	2014
	Age Profile	ONS - Mid Year Estimates	2014
	Ethnicity	Census 2011 Table KS201EW	2011
	Median Age	ONS - Population Projections	2012
	Child poverty	Indices of Multiple Deprivation	2015
	Pensioner poverty	Indices of Multiple Deprivation	2015
	Residents/Households	ACORN CACI Paycheck	2016
PLACE	Tenure	Census 2011	2011
	PS Rents	Home.co.uk	2016 (Live Data)
	House Sales/Prices	Department of Communities and Local gov.	2012-2013
	New homes	Department of Communities and Local gov.	2014-2015
	Fuel poverty	Norfolk Insight	2013
	Transport	Census 2011	2011
	KSI (Road Traffic Casualties)	Norfolk Insight	2014
	CO2 Emissions	DECC	2013
	N02 Emmisions	DEFRA	2015
ECONOMY	Unemployment rates	NOMIS	2016
	Business Births/Deaths	ONS - Business Demography	2014
	Economic Activity	NOMIS	2015
	Industry of Employment	NOMIS	2015
	Average income	ACORN CACI Paycheck	2016
	Households below average income	ACORN CACI Paycheck	2016
WELLBEING	Healthy Life Expectancy at Birth - Male (Years)	ONS	2009-2014 (Average)
	Healthy Life Expectancy at Birth - Female (Years)	ONS	2009-2014 (A)
	Life Expectancy at Birth - Male (Years)	ONS	2009-2014 (A)
	Life Expectancy at Birth - Female (Years)	ONS	2009-2014 (A)
	Inequality in Life Expectancy at Birth - Male (Years)	ONS	2009-2014 (A)
	Inequality in Life Expectancy at Birth - Female (Years)	ONS	2009-2014 (A)
	Mental health	Public Health Profiles	2013-2014 (A)
	Alcohol Related Admissions	Public Health profiles	2013-2014 (A)
	Excess Winter Deaths	Health profiles	2010-2013 (A)
	Obesity	Health profiles	2013-2014 (A)
	Life Satisfaction	ONS	2012-2015 (A)
	Happiness	ONS	2012-2015 (A)
	All Crime	Norfolk Insight	Oct 14 - Sept 15
	Hate crime	NCC Equalities Information Report	July 14 - June 15
	GCSE Attainment	Norfolk Insight	2015
	Literacy	Norfolk Insight	2014
	Low Birthweight	Public Health Profiles	2014
	Development at 5	Norfolk Insight	2014