

16<sup>th</sup> February 2025

Report from Councillor John Ward

Norfolk County Council

Norfolk's Youth Justice Service has received a 'Good' rating after an inspection by HM's Inspectorate of Probation.

A U.K. Pandemic Exercise is planned for this autumn, involving local resilience forums and alerts will be sent to 87 million phones.

The Rough Sleeper Winter Pressure Funding (to provide temporary accommodation, hot meals and medical treatment) has been increased nationally from £10m to £30m. Norwich City Council's share is now £47,657 and B.D.C.'s £11,118.

Deputy Prime Minister Angela Rayner has announced that Norfolk will be one of its priority areas for Devolution and Local Government Reform.

Ministers want to see a devolution deal covering Norfolk & Suffolk with an elected Mayor. They also want Unitary Authorities to replace the County and District Councils.

On 18<sup>th</sup> February Full Council will debate ( and hopefully agree), the Budget proposed by the Conservative controlling group.

The Budget is for £2.2 billion, of which £500m goes on Schools, £700m on Adult Social Care, £367m on Children's Services, £283m on Infrastructure, £44m on Communities & Environment and £46m on the Fire Service,

General Council Tax will rise by 3% plus 1.99% for Adult Social Care, =4.99% which equates to £1755.63 for a Band D property or £34 per week.

The Capital Programme has budget of £1,139,818.