|  |
| --- |
| **County Councillor Eric Vardy Report to Gresham Parish Council - September 2023****New fares make it even cheaper to park & ride** |
| Fares on all Norwich park & ride services will be even cheaper from this September, making it easier and more affordable to travel car-free into the city centre by bus.The new fares will be introduced, thanks to money that Norfolk County Council has secured from the Department for Transport (DfT) to help improve bus services across the county.From Monday 4 September, passengers will be able to travel for one price at any time of day. The new fares have been designed to provide more flexible fare options for those choosing to travel independently, as a couple, as a family or with friends.* Adults - £3
* Concessions £2
* 17-19 year olds - £2
* Child (5-16) - £1.50
* Extra passengers will cost just £1 when travelling with a full paying passenger.
* Under 5s still travel for free

The new fares coincide with the re-opening of Postwick park & ride, which further enhances the service, providing five out of town sites for those wishing to visit Norwich, from all major routes into the city The park & ride is a vital service for Norwich and with the re-opening of Postwick it’s important that we get passenger numbers back up across all our sites. These new prices make the park & ride a really affordable option for a trip into the city and is great for people wanting to avoid parking in the city centre. With buses running every 20 minutes throughout the day it’s also a great flexible option for those wanting to get to work in a cheaper and greener way.” This is the first fares promotion to be announced as part of the County Council’s Bus Service improvement Plan (BSIP). Approximately £5.3 million of the BSIP funding has been allocated to fares promotions to make bus travel more affordable in Norfolk over the next three years. |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|

|  |
| --- |
|  |
|  |
|  |

Bid to boost Norfolks 3bn tourism economy**24 August 2023**A new drive to boost Norfolk’s £3 billion per year tourism economy will be considered by cabinet.Norfolk County Council is considering increasing its investment in Visit East England’s tourism work from £10,000 to £110,000 per year, under proposed changes to how tourism is supported nationally.“Tourism is one of Norfolk’s largest economic sectors and makes up close to 20 per cent of all jobs in the county – many of them in the most deprived coastal areas.We have a wealth of tourist attractions – from Norwich to our market towns, from our coastline to our country houses and museums and from our wildlife reserves to our farm parks.We want to boost this further and make Norfolk an all-year, sustainable holiday destination. By investing this money, we will support and influence a powerful partnership, concentrating our collective efforts and making more impact.The council’s proposed £110,000 investment would support Visit East England’s move to become a local visitor economy partnership (LVEP) for Norfolk and Suffolk, able to access Government funding that Norfolk cannot currently apply for.Norfolk is one of the few remaining areas in England without an LVEP, while Cornwall, Yorkshire, London and the Peak District have obtained this status.Supporting the LVEP would also give the county council an opportunity to link tourism work to its key agendas such as creating jobs, expanding skills and supporting sustainable tourism, as part of its climate strategy.

|  |
| --- |
| **Norfolk street lighting going green as final round of LEDs are installed** |
|  **The final round of  LED upgrades to Norfolk County Council’s Street Lighting is underway, cutting CO2 emissions by over 200 tonnes a year.**The work, which will replace traditional High Intensity Discharge (HID) lighting with the latest generation of LED lanterns, will take place over the next 24 months, and involve replacing 16,800 HID lights with LEDs. When complete, 100% of Norfolk County Council’s streetlighting will use low energy LEDs.The move to LED lighting shows how technology can help us reduce our carbon emissions while maintaining services and public amenities: with the entirety of our streetlighting soon to be using LED lanterns, we’re keeping Norfolk’s streets lit while avoiding hundreds of tonnes of carbon dioxide being pumped into the atmosphere each year.And the benefits don’t stop there: the new lanterns can be controlled centrally by a Central Management System that will allow us to adapt streetlighting to changing traffic patterns without needing to send crews out to replace lanterns again, saving us time, money and – yes – the carbon emissions of those teams travelling across the county.The work, which is funded by a capital commitment of £7.5m agreed by the Council’s Cabinet meeting in November 2022, is being carried out by Amey Ltd on behalf of Norfolk County Council.This final phase of the move to low energy LEDs will save an estimated 1,099,032 kWh of energy per year, equating to approximately **£380,000** p.a. at the current electricity prices. This represents an estimated carbon saving of 227 tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions each year as a result of the  final stage of switching from HID to LED streetlighting.Since the first LED streetlights were installed in 2008, an estimate 71 million kWh have been saved, representing a reduction of over 22,200 tonnes in carbon dioxide emissions – equivalent to 6.7 million litres of diesel use.LED Lantern Group shot |

 |