

## **District / County Councillor Report**

Norfolk County Council (NCC) have been allocated funds from Central Government to support families and individuals who are experiencing hardship. Broadland District Council is distributing this through the Household Support Fund. This Fund provides help with essential items such as food, energy and water bills. If you have residents who need help they can contact the Help Hub on 01603 430431 or email [helphub@southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk](mailto:helphub@southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk) .

All this month (February) NCC is running DigiFest at libraries. DigiFest will allow 4-14 year olds to attend free workshops to learn about many digital skills including; computer coding, film making and art work. If you have the next Bill Gates or Steve Jobs get them involved.

NCC has just opened the largest reuse shop in the country at the Norwich North recycling centre. The reuse shop will sell second hand items at car boot prices and prevent tonnes of items ending in landfill.

The Government published the White Paper on the theme of 'Levelling Up' on 2<sup>nd</sup> February. Norfolk is one of 9 areas in the country that have been invited to participate in further negotiations with central government for a 'Deal for Norfolk'. As a result, there is now a potentially significant opportunity to take this forward to benefit the whole of Norfolk. The focus for Norfolk always has been, and will continue to be, on ensuring that we are best positioned as a county to take advantage of these opportunities that allow us to have more local control and power to bring investment into our communities and improve the services our residents use. NCC are committed to working with all our partners across local government, the public, private, voluntary and community sectors in informing the shape and delivery of any potential deal. Further information about the Government Levelling Up White Paper <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/levelling-up-the-united-kingdom> .

District / County Councillor Fran Whymark