

Issue 2 - Summer 2023

Welcome to the second edition of the Norwich 2040 City Vision newsletter. With the partnership moving from bi-monthly to quarterly meetings, this newsletter is an opportunity for us to keep in touch on the life of the city, whether that be sharing details on upcoming developments, promoting consultations and engagement activities, sharing published research and evidence, or general news items that take account of our rapidly changing landscape. We hope you find this short round up useful.

Cost of Living

More than 90 charities, NGOs and public sector bodies have issued urgent calls for the government to rectify the shortfall between Universal Credit and the rising cost of everyday essentials in a [letter to all UK political party leaders](#).

This letter comes as the Trussell Trust released their [End of Year statistics](#) which showed:

- Close to 3 million emergency food parcels were distributed by Trussell Trust food banks in the last 12 months – the highest level of need ever experienced by the network.
- More than 1 million food parcels were distributed to children.
- Between April 2022 and March 2023, the number of people that used a Trussell Trust food bank for the first time was 760,000.

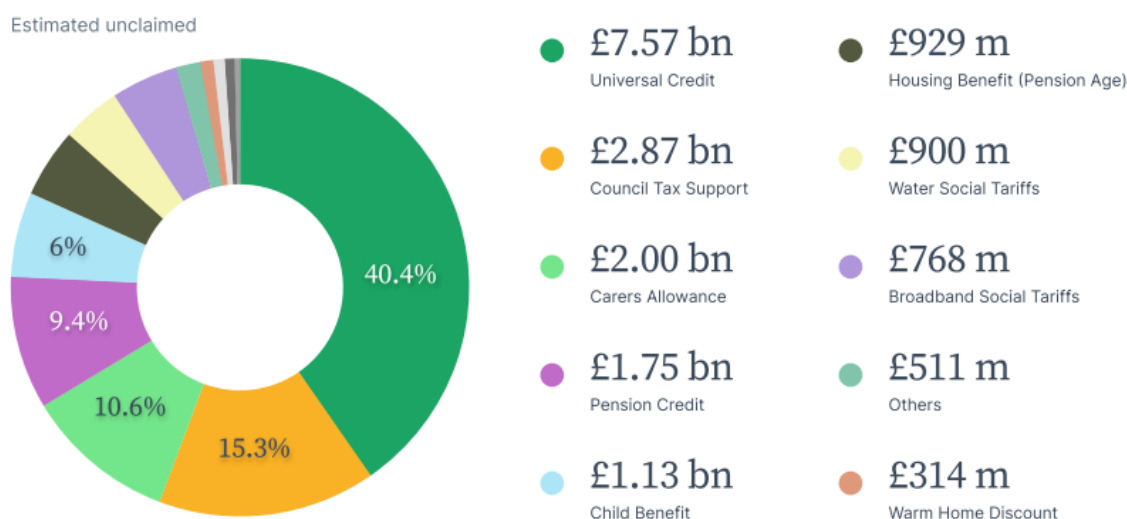
Number of emergency food parcels given by food banks in the Trussell Trust network in the last years.



Commenting on these figures, Chief Executive of the Trussell Trust, Emma Revie, said the increase in food parcel numbers across the previous 5 years demonstrates that “ongoing low levels of income and a social security system that isn’t fit for purpose are forcing more people to access food banks, rather than just the recent cost of living crisis or the COVID-19 pandemic”.

[Policy in Practice](#) estimates that the total amount of unclaimed income-related benefits and social tariffs is now £18.7 billion a year. Other discretionary support schemes and disability benefits are not accounted for within this figure, meaning the total amount of unclaimed support is likely to be considerably higher.

£19bn estimated unclaimed value by benefit, April 2023



The report highlights administrative complexity, a lack of awareness, stigma and shame attached to claiming benefits, and the increasing fragmentation of support as key drivers of low take-up. Drawing on valuable data and insights from frontline advisors in the advice sector and local government, the report sets out a range of actionable recommendations for policy makers and practitioners.

With the ongoing cost of living crisis in mind, this data emphasises the importance of maximising household income through benefits take-up to protect vulnerable households from homelessness, debt, or exposure to other risks.

Read the [full report and recommendations on unclaimed support \(pdf\)](#) that may align to your job role or organisation.

‘County Deal for Norfolk’

On 8 December 2022 Norfolk County Council signed an in-principle devolution deal with the Government, designed to transfer significant funding and powers from Westminster to Norfolk.

The county council’s scrutiny committee will meet on 18 May to consider a detailed report on the public consultation, which received more than 1,200 responses.

Headline consultation results are summarised below, and the [full consultation report and scrutiny committee meeting recording](#) can be accessed online.

A Deal for Norfolk consultation – headline results



64% agree with the proposal for Norfolk to have control of money devolved from the Government.

65% agree with the proposal to move the Adult Education Budget from Government to Norfolk County Council.



60% agree with the proposed change to create a stronger local business voice for Norfolk.



55% agree with plans to open up housing and employment sites in Norfolk.



66% agree with proposals for an integrated transport settlement.



50% agree with plans for an elected leader and cabinet system of governance. **19%** didn't express a view and **31%** disagree.



57% agree with the principles of devolution and the benefits it brings to Norfolk.

Levelling Up

The Local Government Association released its Levelling Up Locally report in February 2023 following a year-long inquiry, which engaged with 70 organisations across the private sector, local government, academia and VCSE groups.

The inquiry sought to develop a guiding framework for local government and strategic partners to tackle the large social and spatial inequalities that set the United Kingdom apart from most other OECD countries. [Read the paper on UK2070 Commission's website.](#)

The inquiry's detailed findings and recommendations have been set out against three overarching themes, examples of which have been summarised below:

- **Creating the conditions for Levelling Up Locally**
 - Competitive funding systems should be replaced by a single pot of capital funding as a means of reducing inefficiencies.
 - For example, [research commissioned by the Local Government Association](#), found that the average cost for local authorities in applying for competitive bids was £20,000 - £30,000 per bid.
- **Strengthening the role of local government and its partners**
 - Local and national government should leverage existing campaigns to develop a talent pipeline of future leaders that better reflect the diversity of need facing people and place.
- **Bridging the gap between local and national priorities**
 - Improve policy making by giving local and community leaders a formal role in ensuring people's experiences are a key part of policy design.

Read the [Levelling Up Locally report and full recommendations](#).

Health & Wellbeing

The [Institute for Public Policy Research's Health and Prosperity Commission](#) is a landmark initiative exploring the case that a fairer country is a healthier country, and that a healthier country is a more prosperous country. With the global health vulnerabilities that were revealed by Covid-19, whether from emerging infectious disease, climate emergencies, or ageing populations, the commission demonstrates the economic case of prioritising better health.

Following four, definitive interim reports, the Commission will publish its final report in autumn 2023, outlining a comprehensive plan towards better health to revitalise the UK's struggling economy.

Part 1 of the [Commission's first interim report \(pdf\)](#) explores the link between better health and greater prosperity across a number of topics which have clear links to central City Vision agendas:

- Chapter 2 explores the role of good health in supporting individual prosperity – exploring issues such as labour market participation, household income and job progression.
- Chapter 3 examines the potential of better health to support better economic performance, including the relationship between good health and GDP, the labour market, national productivity and the overall fairness of the economy.
- Chapter 4 explores the limits of the ways in which we think about health, including public policy that focuses on sickness, as opposed to using the full range of levers available to maximise population health.

[Public health annual report 2023: Supporting communities in difficult times](#)

The Local Government Association's eleventh annual public health report reflects on the last year and focusses on how councils have responded to the rising cost of living.

Norwich Prospectus

Business in the Community will be developing a Norwich Prospectus to establish a common baseline with all of our stakeholders on where we are now and set out a shared understanding of where we are trying to get to. The key chapters that will feature in the prospectus are:

- The ask of our key stakeholders
- Communities and People
- Employability and Innovation
- Health and Wellbeing
- Infrastructure and Economy

Tracey Drake will be hosting a workshop at the next City Vision meeting to seek input and feedback from partners to ensure the prospectus is co-created and reflective of our shared vision for the city. You can explore the [Blackpool Prospectus \(pdf\)](#) as an example of this work.

Giving young people a voice

At the April partnership meeting we spoke about the ongoing work we are doing to give young people a voice. Please could you have a think about what upcoming projects you, your colleagues or organisation have that would benefit from engaging with young people. This is a commitment outlined in the vision document, and as such we are keen to work with partners to progress this area of work. Please get in touch by emailing norwich2040@norwich.gov.uk

In other news

- [New permanent chief executive for Norwich City Council confirmed](#)
- [New leader of Norwich City Council appointed - Leader and cabinet information](#)
- [Norwich City Council election results - 4 May 2023](#)
- [City council's planning applications committee approves Anglia Square scheme](#)
- [Join this year's city celebration](#)
- [Every social housing resident to be offered place on 'Watchdog style' know-your-rights training scheme](#)

Useful links

- [Resolution Foundation: Hoping and coping' - How families were faring in March 2023](#)
- [Policy training for academics](#)

Delivered over two sessions, the government's Policy Masterclass covers how policy works in theory and practice, and what tips and tactics academics can harness to influence the decision-making process.