

# norwich 2040 city vision

## Issue 3 – autumn 2023

Welcome to the third 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.

## Current consultations

### Help to shape Norwich City Council's new corporate plan

Consultation is now well underway to shape Norwich City Council's next five-year corporate plan (2024-29), which will set out the council's vision, priorities and ambitions for the city. This time the council is widening out who it engages with and has conversations with – so it takes a whole-city approach to developing the plan. The council wants to hear from as many people as possible because that's the only way the plan can genuinely reflect what really matters. Please add your views by taking part in the public consultation at [Get Talking Norwich](#), which closes on **Thursday 30 November**.

Further activities include focus group sessions, in depth stakeholder interviews and on-street engagement within communities across the city. To help reach as many people as possible, please share details of the consultation with colleagues. There are also limited slots available for stakeholder interviews, so please email [strategy@norwich.gov.uk](mailto:strategy@norwich.gov.uk) if you are interested in having an in depth one to one conversation with the researchers.

### Your views on arts and culture in Norwich

Norwich Creative City Compact wants to hear residents' views on arts and culture in Norwich. This is the first step to developing a Cultural Needs Assessment for the city. The deadline for taking part in the survey is **Friday 19 January 2024**, and we would encourage you to take part and share with your contacts: [Norwich residents' survey on Get Talking Norwich](#). Views will be used to help identify gaps, improve accessibility and coordination, and draw in additional money. View a [full breakdown of the city's plan for culture](#).

## Talking money

### Living Wage Week 2023

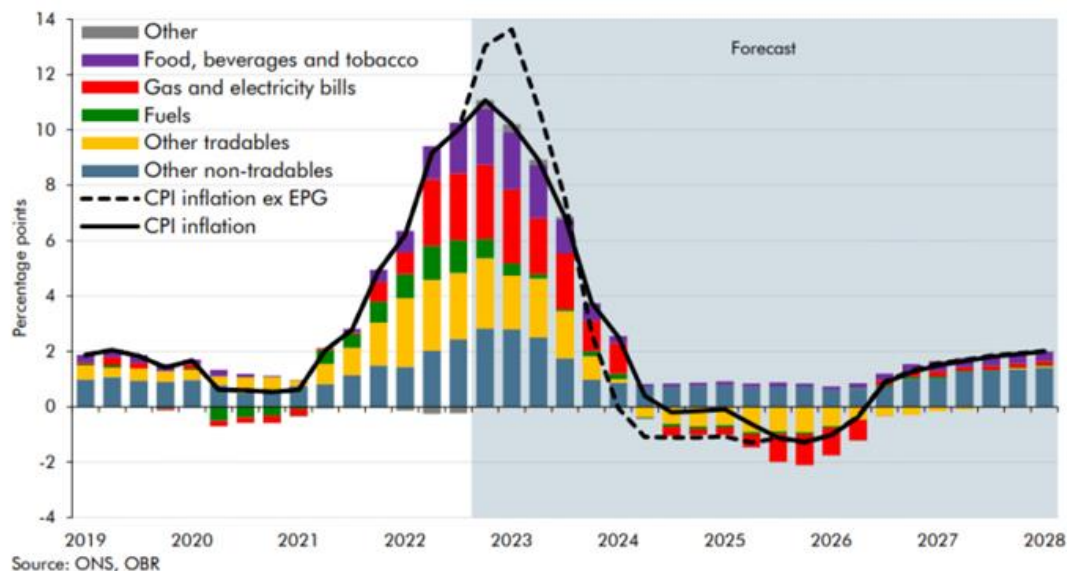
Recently some of our City Vision partners took part in Living Wage Week – a national celebration of employers who pay a real Living Wage and a chance to encourage more to do the same. It also marked just over a year since Norwich was accredited as a Living Wage City, with an ambition to substantially increase the number of jobs in Norwich paying a real Living Wage. The ‘Making Norwich A Living Wage City’ campaign met its target for an additional 10 local employers to accredit, bringing the total locally headquartered accredited organisations to 79, covering more than 6,000 members of staff.

As well as giving people financial security, a real Living Wage can also open new career and education opportunities. Francesca, tells us how being an apprentice being paid the real Living Wage by Norwich City Council has made a difference for her:

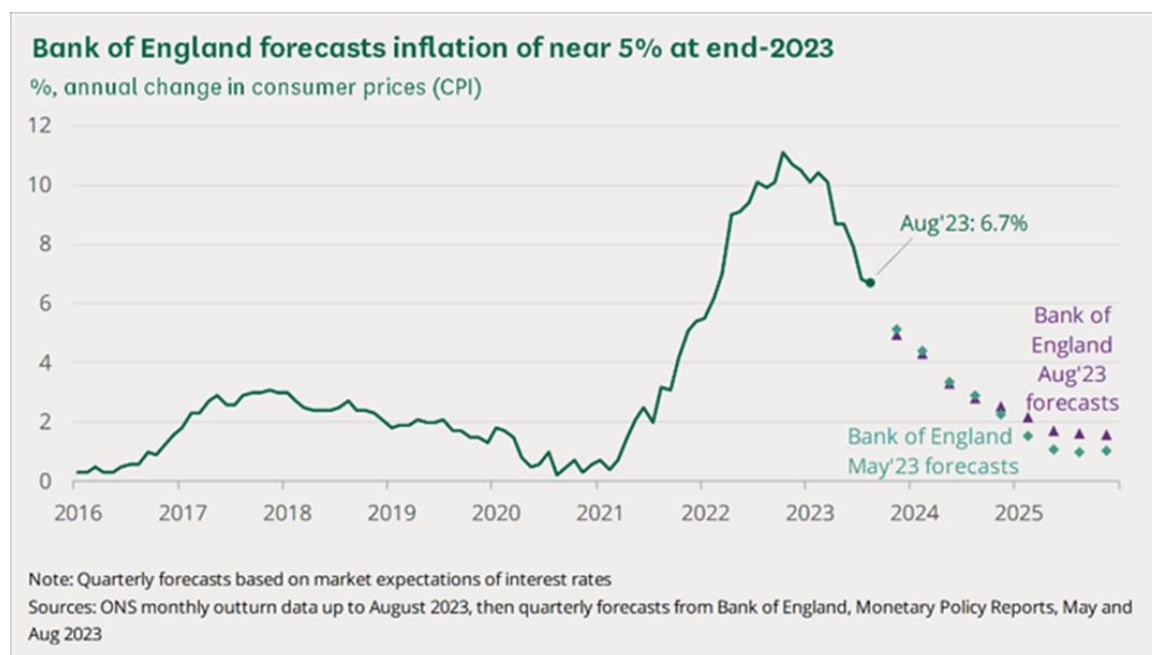
“After working in retail for over fifteen years I was looking for a change – but starting over in a new career has always been something that I thought would be difficult financially. With a mortgage to pay and a family to support, going back into education was never an option, and whenever I’d looked into apprenticeships, they always seemed to offer low wages. I’ve really appreciated the security of being paid a real Living Wage while I do my apprenticeship, and I think it would make such a big difference if more opportunities like this were available to people in Norwich.”

### Cost of Living

The cost-of-living crisis continues to be a pressing national issue, with inflation rates still high, 4.6% nationally as of October 2023, and the number of households relying on food banks still increasing, as reported in the [last newsletter](#). [The Centre for Cities’ cost of living tracker](#) shows that in March 2023 the inflation rate in Norwich was 10.3%, outstripping the rate of wage growth, 5.2%, with workers in Norwich on average £101 per month worse off between January 2022 and 23. The Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR) released a [detailed breakdown of the Consumer Price Index \(CPI\), pdf](#) this past December (2022), with it clear that inflation in Food and Gas/Electricity being key drivers for the increase in CPI.



Promisingly, most forecasts indicate that inflation is halting, with the [Bank of England](#) predicting inflation to be approximately 5% by late 2023 falling to the government target of 2% by 2025 (as of August 2023). Despite this, [research by the Resolution Foundation](#) predict that real wages are not expected to return to pre-pandemic levels until 2027/28.



## Health and wellbeing

### Future funding secured for INTERACT Partnership

The INTERACT team offers a coordinated approach of practical support, focussed on improving the living situation of vulnerable residents across the city and reducing the strain on key service sectors such as the NHS, adult social care and housing providers. The effectiveness of this partnership has been evidenced across a range of communities, who have reported a host of benefits including:

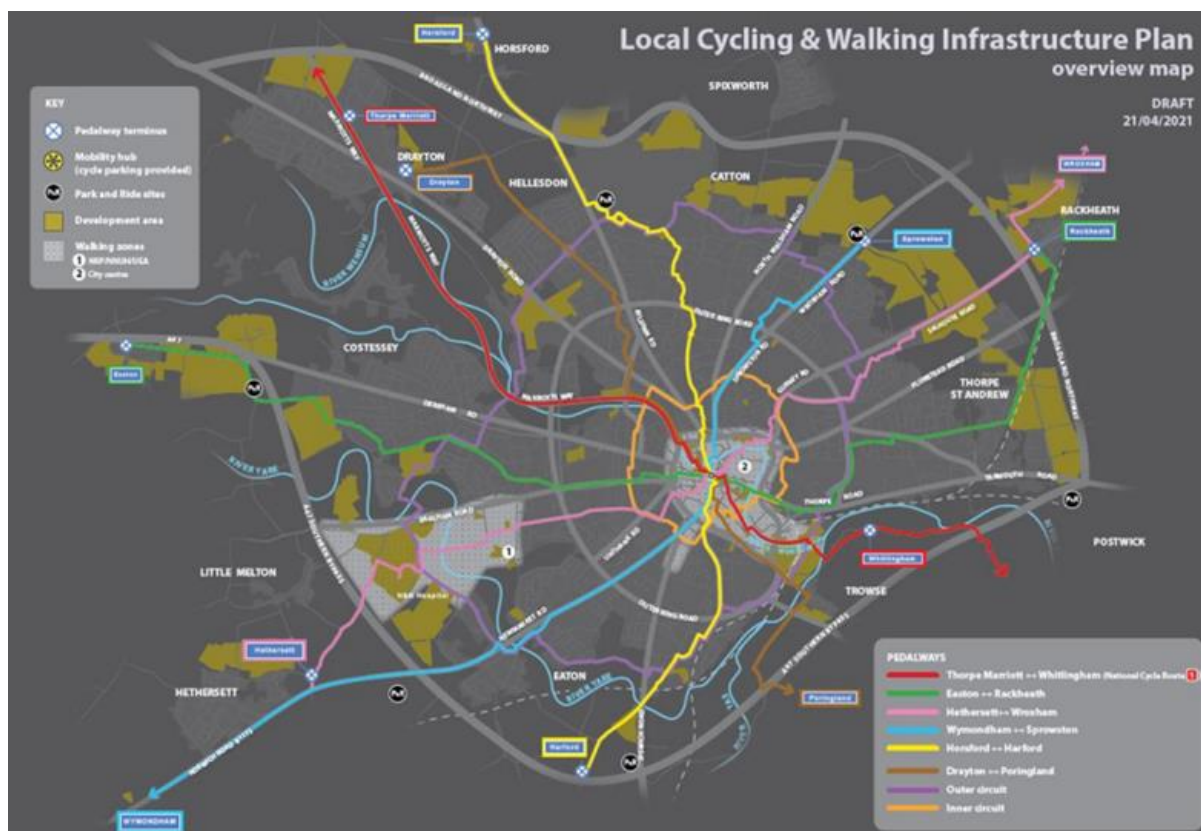
- Reduced loneliness and isolation
- Improved use of local housing stock
- Reduction in overcrowding of homes
- Strengthened relations between districts, health, social care and other organisations.

The partnership was initially given funding until April 2024, but has recently successfully [secured funding](#) for a further two years until April 2026, news that has been warmly welcomed by communities in Norwich and across Norfolk.

### Plans for a walking zone and more cycle routes

One of the goals of the City Vision is to improve sustainable transport networks within the city, physical connectivity and air quality. Recently, the local cycling and walking infrastructure plan (LCWIP) has been released, which outlines plans for a walking zone within the centre of Norwich as well as several cycle routes bisecting the city and reaching out into the local area.

A period of public engagement for the Countywide Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan ended on the 13 July 2023 and the plan is expected to be completed in early 2024. Further details evaluating specific routes can be found in the [detailed plan published by Norfolk County Council](#).



## In other news

- Tim Bishop will be stepping down as Chair of the Creative City Compact once a new chair has been appointed following an open recruitment process. For further details about the role please contact [clarehubery@norwich.gov.uk](mailto:clarehubery@norwich.gov.uk).
- [Making Kett's Heights more accessible for all to enjoy](#)
- [Norwich's Festive Lights Switch-On set to sparkle - November 16](#)
- [Future of Riverside Leisure Centre secured](#)

## Useful links

- [Cost of living support: Overview - GOV.UK](#)
- [Get help with the cost of living - Citizens Advice](#)
- [Equalities, diversity, and inclusion in the workforce - Local Government Association](#)
- [Guidance and tools for digital accessibility - GOV.UK](#)