

Blitz on Norfolk's potholes planned

A budget boost of £6.4m has been made available to spend on fixing and maintaining Norfolk's roads - after councils made a plea for more cash to sort out potholes.

Leaders at Norfolk County Council say they will decide how to use the extra cash announced in chancellor Jeremy Hunt's budget in the coming weeks.

Graham Plant, cabinet member for highways, transport and infrastructure at the Conservative-controlled council, said: "More than £6m of additional funding to invest in our county's road network is very welcome and we'll consider over the coming weeks how we can put this to best use."

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The chancellor had been urged to provide authorities like Norfolk County Council with extra funding to help tackle maintenance backlogs on roads.

County Hall bosses have previously raised concerns that it would cost £57.4m to tackle the backlog of repairs and maintenance needed on Norfolk's roads.

That figure is how much it would cost the council to get roads and bridges up to the standards they should be in.

The council's budget for patching and potholes increased from £7.5m in 2022/23 to £8.2m in 2023/24.

But Steve Morpew,

leader of the Labour group at County Hall, said: "The money for potholes looks like another round of filling in when our roads are already turning into a jigsaw puzzle of patched-up holes rather than having proper repairs."

And Green county councillor Jamie Osborn said: "There's money for potholes, which is needed, but the county council cannot sit waiting for the government to pass down the money for the Western Link, they need to reprioritise and focus on investment that will bring benefits now."

The council is waiting to learn if the government will approve the business case for the Norwich Western Link and bankroll 85pc of its £251m cost.

» GP surgery launches 'self-check zone'



Practice manager Tracey Bullard with MP Chloe Smith. Image: MMP

A city GP practice has launched a new service which allows patients to check on their own health on a walk-in basis.

Magdalen Medical Practice, Norwich, has added a 'self-check zone' to its surgery in Lawson Road.

Located in its waiting area, the facility allows patients to drop in and take their own blood pressure, check their weight and height, and provide other information for their GP.

People are also able to collect chlamydia tests and contraceptives from the station - while the information will also be fed into their medical records.

Clinicians will then contact the patient proactively if the checks pick up on anything that is concerning.

Tracey Bullard, practice manager at MMP, said: "Patients do not always attend for these important health checks due to having to make an appointment or appointment times not always being suitable.

"This way, anybody can just drop into the self-check zone between 7.30am and 6pm, Monday to Friday.

"We anticipate this will also allow for a proactive approach and capture opportunistic patients and treat them accordingly."

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