

Consultation feedback form

1. Awareness of devolution

1. Which district council area do you live in / are you based? Please select one only:

- Suffolk - Babergh District Council
- Suffolk - Forest Heath District Council
- Suffolk - Ipswich Borough Council
- Suffolk - Mid Suffolk District Council
- Suffolk - St Edmundsbury Borough Council
- Suffolk - Suffolk Coastal District Council
- Suffolk - Waveney District Council
- All across Suffolk
- Norfolk - Breckland Council
- Norfolk - Broadland District Council
- Norfolk - Great Yarmouth Borough Council
- Norfolk - Borough Council of King's Lynn and West Norfolk
- Norfolk - North Norfolk District Council
- Norfolk - Norwich City Council
- Norfolk - South Norfolk Council
- All across Norfolk

Firstly, we would like to ask you some questions about devolution, which means transferring powers over budgets and services from central government in Westminster to local councils. This could include the transfer of powers to new groups of councils, called 'combined authorities'.

2. Before today, how much, if anything, would you say you knew about devolution within England? Please select one only:

- A great deal
- A fair amount
- Just a little
- Heard of, but know nothing about
- Never heard of
- Don't know

2. The principle of devolution

3. Devolution is when certain decision-making powers, as well as funding, are transferred down from Central Government to a local area. In this instance the area is Norfolk and Suffolk. It means that decisions are taken close to where they have an effect.

To what extent, if at all, do you support or oppose the principle of devolution? Please select one only:

- Strongly support
- Tend to support
- Neither support nor oppose
- Tend to oppose
- Strongly oppose
- Don't know

3. New powers and responsibilities

In Norfolk and Suffolk the proposed devolution agreement includes the creation of a combined authority.

This would consist of representatives from all of the councils in Suffolk and some of the councils in Norfolk - at this stage, Norfolk County Council, Broadland District Council, South Norfolk District Council, the Borough Council of King's Lynn and West Norfolk and the Local Enterprise Partnership, which represents the views of local businesses.

The Combined Authority Area would cover Suffolk and the Broadland, South Norfolk, and

King's Lynn and West Norfolk council areas.

The new Combined Authority would not replace any councils, including town or parish councils.

The proposed agreement would also create the role of a mayor, who would be directly elected by residents in the Combined Authority Area.

4. For each of the following, do you think decisions are better made nationally by the government in Westminster, or locally by the proposed Mayor and Combined Authority as described above? Please select one answer on each row:

	Decisions are better made nationally	Decisions are better made locally	Don't know
Working with local councils to develop a new strategy for housing and development in line with existing local plans			
Deciding how £130m of new funding is spent to support the building of new homes, including affordable housing			
Creating a transport plan for Norfolk and Suffolk that helps to better coordinate road, rail and bus services			
Deciding how the budget is spent for maintaining roads in Norfolk and Suffolk			
Deciding on the best way to roll out smart ticketing for bus and rail travel across Norfolk and Suffolk. (Smart ticketing involves paying for travel electronically using microchips, either through contactless payments or schemes like the Oyster Card in London.)			
Reviewing further education in Norfolk and Suffolk to help provide young people aged 16 and over with the skills that local employers need			
Deciding how funding is spent on apprenticeships and training in Norfolk and Suffolk to produce a workforce with the skills that local employers need			
Deciding how funding is spent on adult education and skills training in Norfolk and Suffolk for people aged 19 and over to help produce a workforce with the skills that local employers need			
Deciding how funding is spent on infrastructure projects, such as improving broadband or transport services, to support economic growth and create jobs in Norfolk			

	Decisions are better made nationally	Decisions are better made locally	Don't know
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and Suffolk

Joining up health and social care services so that they better support people and reduce the pressure on existing services

Designing a new programme to support those with a health condition or disability and the long-term unemployed back into work

Reviewing all land and property held by the public sector and creating a list of land and property available for development in Norfolk and Suffolk

Coordinating the work being done to improve flood defences and protect the coastline

To summarise, the proposed devolution deal includes £750m from Government to invest in infrastructure, economic growth and jobs (£25m a year for 30 years, reviewed every five years) and a total of £130m to invest in housing. The Combined Authority would also receive a single budget for public transport guaranteed for four years, replacing the numerous annual budgets that Government currently provides.

4. Directly elected Mayor

The Government has said that a mayor for Norfolk and Suffolk would need to be elected for any new local decision-making powers and/or funding as part of this devolution agreement to be transferred from the Government to the Mayor and/or Combined Authority. The Mayor would work with existing elected councillors from each of the participating district, borough and county councils and a business representative appointed by the Local Enterprise Partnership.

5. To what extent, if at all, do you support or oppose the election of a mayor in order to access the decision making powers and funding in the proposed devolution deal? Please select one only:

Strongly support

Tend to support

Neither support nor oppose

Tend to oppose

Strongly oppose

Don't know

6. Why do you say that? Please write in below:

5. A new Combined Authority with an elected Mayor

In Norfolk and Suffolk the Combined Authority would be made up of the directly-elected Mayor, a councillor from each of the participating district, borough and county councils and an appointed business representative.

The new Combined Authority wouldn't just be another layer of local government. It would take on new responsibilities from Whitehall, not duplicate them. Councils would continue as they currently do, to provide services for their own areas.

District/Borough/City councils would still take planning decisions on specific sites and approve Local Development Plans. County councils would still be the highways authorities with responsibility for repairs and maintenance. The Combined Authority would only be involved with strategic transport decisions.

7. To what extent, if at all, do you support or oppose participating councils becoming part of a Combined Authority along with other councils in Norfolk and Suffolk, which is chaired by a directly elected mayor? Please select one only:

Strongly support

Tend to support

Neither support nor oppose

Tend to oppose

Strongly oppose

Don't know

8. Why do you say that? Please write in below:

6. Decision making

9. There are proposals for how the Combined Authority and directly elected Mayor would take decisions. Here are a number of statements outlining how it is proposed this will be done. To what extent, if at all, do you agree or disagree with each aspect of how decisions would be made? Please select one answer on each row:

Strongly agree	Tend to agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Tend to disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know
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Each member of the Combined Authority, including the Mayor, has a vote.

The directly elected Mayor cannot make decisions alone and will require the support of a certain number of members of the Combined Authority to progress their proposals.

Some decisions, such as the Combined Authority asking the Government for new powers and how much the authority would cost to run, would require a majority of members to agree. That majority must include the directly elected Mayor.

10. If there is anything else you want to tell us about decision making, please write in below:

7. Accountability

11. Plans will be put in place for how the new Combined Authority will be held to account.

Here are a number of statements outlining how it is proposed this will be done. How important, if at all, is each of these in holding the Combined Authority to account? Please select one answer on each row:

Essential	Very important	Fairly important	Not very important	Not at all important	Don't know
I	t	t	t	t	

An independent scrutiny committee that has the power to ask the Mayor and other members of the Combined Authority to attend a meeting to answer questions. This would be made up of councillors from participating councils who are not members of the Combined Authority itself.

This scrutiny committee having the power to review any of the decisions made by the Combined Authority.

An audit committee which would monitor the Combined Authority's finances.

Residents living in the Combined Authority Area being able to directly elect the Mayor.

A Government assessment every five years.

12. Other than the ways we have just outlined that are already included in the proposed devolution agreement, are there any other ways in which you think the Combined Authority should be held to account? Please write in below:

8. Priorities for the proposed Combined Authority

13. The Combined Authority would manage a single pot of money to spend in Norfolk and Suffolk. Here is a list of some of the different areas in which this money could be spent.

Given there would be a limit to the amount of money available, please tell us how important each of these are on scale of 0 to 10, where 0 is not important at all, and 10 is very important. Please select one answer in each row:

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Investment in physical infrastructure, such as transport or broadband

Investment in job creation for local people

Investment in housing and affordable homes in particular

Investment in public transport to run services which better meet the needs of local people

Investment in supporting local businesses

Improving employment opportunities for those with a health condition or disability and the long-term unemployed.

Investment in flood defences and coastal protection

Ensuring young people are either earning or learning

9. Other comments about devolution

14. The proposals included in the devolution agreement are intended to improve local services in Norfolk and Suffolk. Is there anything else you would like to add to what we have discussed? Please write in below:

10. About you

Personal information, confidentiality and data protection

We will process any personal information we receive from you in line with the Data Protection Act 1998. This means that Norfolk and Suffolk County Councils will hold your personal data and only use it for the purpose for which it was collected, being this consultation. We use this information to see how representative the feedback is of Norfolk and Suffolk's population. We also use it to see if any particular groups of people are especially affected by devolution.

Under our record management policy we will keep this information for five years. We will also, under normal circumstances, not pass your personal data on to anyone else. However, we may be asked under access to information laws to publish or disclose some, or all, of the information you provide in response to this consultation, including any personal information. We will only do this where such disclosure will comply with such relevant information laws which include the Freedom of Information Act 2000, the Data Protection Act 1998 and the Environmental Information Regulations 2004.

15. Are you responding to this consultation as ...? Please select one only:

- An individual
- A couple / family
- A business, organisation or group

16. If a business, organisation or group, please write in which one below:

17. How many members / employees does your business / organisation / group represent? Please write in below:

18. Are you male or female? Please select one only:

- Male
- Female
- Transgender
- Prefer not to say

19. What is your age? Please select one only:

Under
18

18-24

25-34

35-44

45-54

55-64

65-74

75-84

85+

Prefer not to
say

20. Do you consider yourself to be disabled? Please select one only:

Yes, limited a lot

Yes, limited a
little

No

Prefer not to say

21. What is your ethnic group? Please select one only:

White

English / Welsh / Scottish / Northern Irish /
British

Irish

Gypsy or Irish traveller

Eastern European

Any other White background

Mixed / multiple ethnic groups

White and Black Caribbean

White and Black African

White and Asian

Any other Mixed / multiple ethnic background

Asian/Asian British

Indian

Pakistani

Bangladeshi

Chinese

Kashmiri

Any other Asian background

Black/African/Caribbean/Black British

African

Caribbean

Any other Black/African/Caribbean background

Other ethnic group

Arab

Other ethnic group

Prefer not to say

22. Which of these activities best describes what you are doing at present? Please select one only:

Employee in full-time job (30 hours plus per week)

Employee in part-time job (under 30 hours per week)

Self-employed full or part-time

On a government supported training programme (e.g. Modern Apprenticeship/Training for Work)

Full-time education at school, college or university

Unemployed and available for work

Permanently sick/disabled

Wholly retired from work

Looking after the home

Doing something else (please specify)

23. In which of these ways does your household occupy your current accommodation?
Please select one only:

Owned outright

Buying on mortgage

Rent from council

Rent from Housing
Association/Trust

Rent from private landlord

Other

24. What is your postcode? Please write in below:

Please send your completed consultation form to:

Freepost Plus RTCL-XSTT-JZSK, Norfolk County Council, Ground floor - South Wing, County Hall, Martineau Lane, Norwich NR1 2DH. **You do not need to use a stamp.**

However, if you want to help the council save money please use a stamp and send to this address: East Anglia Devolution, Norfolk County Council, Ground floor - South Wing, County Hall, Martineau Lane, NR1 2DH

Please note: in order to keep costs down, Norfolk and Suffolk County Council are working together to coordinate this consultation and are using our existing contact addresses and telephone numbers.