

Devolution Deal FAQs

Q. What is the benefit of Devolution?

A. Devolution moves decisions currently made by central government in Westminster to a local level, offering greater local control over the decisions that impact on our lives. It gives us the chance to prioritise and accelerate improvement of our roads, railways and digital connectivity, as well as creating jobs and building homes where they are needed.

Q. What are the costs associated with a Combined Authority and a Mayor?

A. There will be costs but we will be looking to reallocate resources and expertise from within member authorities to deliver the work of the Combined Authority

Q. Isn't this just an additional tier of Government?

A. These are decisions that are currently being made by central government. Devolution is about taking powers from central government and making decisions locally on local issues.

Q. Won't it be impossible to get anything done as all leaders will only be after what benefits their area?

A. Not at all, the Governance Scheme requires the members of the Combined Authority to act in the best interests of the area as a whole and proposes the way in which decisions will be taken to ensure that devolution delivers for Norfolk and Suffolk

Q. What proposals are in future deals?

A. Whilst these are being developed our main focus is the proposed deal in front of us right now. However, if the Combined Authority goes ahead we are looking to negotiate our second deal this autumn.

Q. How do you know government will sign off on the proposed deal?

A. The proposed deal is based on the devolution deal for East Anglia announced by the Chancellor in the March Budget. Since then, we've been working closely with Government to develop the two sister deals now proposed for Norfolk and Suffolk and Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. Government has indicated its

Q. What if Government changes your proposed deal?

A. As we've been working closely with Government over a number of months on developing the proposed we think this is unlikely. However, in the event of significant changes being made, councils would have to consider the deal again.

Q. Where would the Combined Authority and Mayor be based?

A. This is still to be decided but in the spirit of efficiency, we would expect to use our existing buildings

Q. Who can be Mayor?

A. Anyone. Elections are due to take place in May 2017

Finance & General Purposes 27 July 2016 Appendix C

Q. When would the Combined Authority and Mayor come into being?

A. Mayoral elections are due to take place in May 2017. The creation of a Combined Authority requires parliamentary debate and approval. If the participating councils agree to the draft Order to create the Combined Authority in October it would probably be created by the end of the calendar year. In any event it would need to be created before the Mayoral elections in May 2017

Q. Would the Combined Authority take powers away from local areas?

A. No, devolution is about getting new powers and funding from central government. How these powers are delivered will be decided locally and could involve existing authorities taking on responsibilities for local delivery.

Q. Can any Government really give a commitment for 30 years?

A. If Government enters into an agreement with us on those terms we expect them to be honoured. However, we don't have the power to bind future administrations.

Q. How will the money be shared out across the areas?

A. The proposed deal document set out how much funding Norfolk and Suffolk would receive. It will be for the Combined Authority and Mayor to decide on spending priorities.

Q. My council didn't endorse the proposed devolution deal. What does that mean for me?

A. As a resident of the county you can still provide your views in the consultation. Your Council could join the Combined Authority, if created, at a later date.

Finance & General Purposes 27 July 2016 Appendix C

Finance & General Purposes 27 July 2016 Appendix C

Devolution Deal consultation questions

{Section 1 asks for demographic data which is not applicable to the Town Council and is therefore removed}

Awareness of devolution

Firstly, I would like to ask 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'.

1. 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

The principle of devolution

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.

The proposed devolution deal includes £750m from Government to invest in infrastructure, economic growth and jobs (£25m a year for 30 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.

2. 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

Finance & General Purposes 27 July 2016 Appendix C

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 and 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 of these existing Councils, or any of the existing 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.

3. 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 I have just described?

	Decisions are better made nationally	Decisions are better made locally	Don't know (DO NOT READ OUT)
Working with local councils to develop a new strategy for housing and development in line with existing local plans	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Deciding how £130m of new funding is spent to support the building of new homes, including affordable housing	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Creating a transport plan for Norfolk and Suffolk that helps to better coordinate road, rail and bus services	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Deciding how the budget is spent for maintaining roads in Norfolk and Suffolk	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Finance & General Purposes 27 July 2016 Appendix C

	Decisions are better made nationally	Decisions are better made locally	Don't know (DO NOT READ OUT)
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.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Reviewing further education in Norfolk and Suffolk to help provide young people aged 16 and over with the skills that local employers need	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Deciding how funding is spent on apprenticeships and training in Norfolk and Suffolk to produce a workforce with the skills that local employers need	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Deciding how funding is spent on infrastructure projects, such as improving broadband or transport services, to support economic growth and create jobs in Norfolk and Suffolk	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Joining up health and social care services so that they better support people and reduce the pressure on existing services	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Designing a new programme to support those with a health	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Finance & General Purposes 27 July 2016 Appendix C

	Decisions are better made nationally	Decisions are better made locally	Don't know (DO NOT READ OUT)
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	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Coordinating the work being done to improve flood defences and protect the coastline	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

A new Combined Authority with an elected mayor

In Norfolk and Suffolk the Combined Authority would be made up of the directly-elected Mayor, an elected Councillor from each of the participating District, Borough and County Councils and an appointed business representative.

4. 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?

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

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 members from each of the participating District, Borough and County Councils and a business representative appointed by the Local Enterprise Partnership.

Finance & General Purposes 27 July 2016 Appendix C

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?

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

6. Why do you say that?

Decision making

There are proposals for how the Combined Authority and directly elected mayor would take decisions. I am going to read out a number of statements outlining how it is proposed that this will be done

7. To what extent, if at all, do you agree or disagree with each aspect of how decisions would be made?

1. Each member of the Combined Authority, including the Mayor, has a vote.
2. 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.
3. 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.

- Strongly agree
- Tend to agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Tend to disagree
- Strongly disagree
- Don't know

Finance & General Purposes 27 July 2016 Appendix C

Accountability

Plans will be put in place for how the new Combined Authority will be held to account. I am going to read out a number of statements outlining how it is proposed this will be done.

8. How important, if at all, is each of these in holding the Combined Authority to account?

1. 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.
2. This scrutiny committee having the power to review any of the decisions made by the Combined Authority.
3. An audit committee which would monitor the Combined Authority's finances.
4. Residents living in the Combined Authority area being able to directly elect the Mayor.
5. A Government assessment every five years

1. Essential
2. Very important
3. Fairly important
4. Not very important
5. Not at all important
6. Don't know

9. 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?

Priorities for the proposed Combined Authority

10. The Combined Authority would manage a single pot of money to spend in Norfolk and Suffolk. I am going to read out the some of the different areas in which this money could be spent.

Given there will be a limit to the amount of money available, please could you tell me how important each of these are on scale of 0 to 10, where 0 is not important at all, and 10 is very important.

Finance & General Purposes 27 July 2016 Appendix C

- 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

Other comments

11. 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?

{Section 12 asks for demographic data which is not applicable to the Town Council and is therefore removed}