

DEVOLUTION – What will it mean for Democratic Services?

With an introductory tale of two journeys by
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and
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Devolution – in a nutshell

Devolution is the redistribution of power and funding from central to local government.

Devolution in 60 seconds

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xYJuYyVkJfk>
- Aims : If approved, the deals would see more decisions on areas like infrastructure, growth, employment and skills being made locally, rather than by Central Government - signalling the start of a fundamentally different relationship between government and local public services
- Implications powers (and resources) devolved to a Combined Authority chaired by a directly elected Mayor.

Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Devolution

Michelle Rowe

Democratic Services Manager
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Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Devolution

- A new £20 million annual fund for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough for the next 30 years (£600 million), to support economic growth, development of local infrastructure and jobs.
- £100 million for non-Housing Revenue Account affordable, rent and shared ownership across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough including Community Land Trusts.
- An additional £70 million fund specifically for affordable housing in Cambridge which will be used in its entirety to build new council homes.
- Government support for developing a Peterborough University with degree-awarding powers

Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Devolution

- Directly elected Mayor
- The Mayor, the Leaders and Chair of Greater Cambridge and Greater Peterborough Local Enterprise Partnership will form the Combined Authority
- Officers – Head of Paid Service, Chief Finance Officer, Monitoring Officer and Scrutiny Officer

Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Devolution

Consultation commenced on 8 July and concluded on 23 August 2016.

- From the online poll 55% of the 1,500 respondents from across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough supported the general principle of devolving powers down from central government to the local area. In every authority area for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough more people supported the principle of devolution than opposed it.
- Online, just under a third of 1,500 respondents from across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough (31%) supported having an elected Mayor for the local area with 59% opposed.

Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Devolution

Combined Authority Order

The Order will require the appointment of one representative from each Council and one substitute

Formation of a Shadow Combined Authority

Order for the Overview & Scrutiny & Audit Committees

There should be an Overview and Scrutiny Committee of the Combined Authority pursuant to Schedule 5A of the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act (2009) Requirements for the Chair of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee, including that they are of a different political party to the Mayor

Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Devolution

The cost of the interim arrangements leading up to the election of the Mayor in May 2017 have now been finalised at £146,036 covering the employment of statutory officers and external consultancy support. These costs will be funded from the first year of the gain share grant provided by Government (the revenue element of the £20m per year fund).

Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Devolution

Expected costs for the next two years for Scrutiny & Democratic Services

	17/18	18/19
• Scrutiny Officer	35	38
• Senior Dem Services	29	32
• Dem Services	25	27

Suffolk and Norfolk Devolution

Sue Morgan, Head of Democratic Services, Suffolk County Council

Norfolk and Suffolk Devolution - Context

- Suffolk includes 5 district and 2 borough councils. Two councils formally working together (and two others share back office functions).
- Good track record of Suffolk public sector leaders working together
- Developed initial bid for all of Suffolk and the Norfolk and Suffolk Local Enterprise Partnership.
- End of 2015, Suffolk bid for Devolution rejected as being too small

June 2016 - Decision to endorse agreement to support a draft scheme to create a Norfolk and Suffolk Combined Mayoral Authority for consultation (17 local authorities of which 12 agreed)

Norfolk and Suffolk Devolution - The incentive

- £25m new money each year for the next 30 years (£750m) to support economic growth, development of local infrastructure and jobs (this would increase the local economy to £43bn and create 95,000 jobs by 2026)
- £130m investment over five years to support the building of new homes across Norfolk and Suffolk (could be around 200,000 homes over the thirty years)
- Control of
 - a £225m transport budget for the next four years
 - an existing c£20m annual adult skills fund to ensure the training offer matches the needs of local businesses and the local labour market
 - an existing c£2m annual Apprenticeship Grant for employers
- Opens a dialogue with Central Government about future deals

Norfolk and Suffolk Devolution - Governance

- Norfolk and Suffolk Combined Authority will agree its own Constitution
- March 2017 – first meeting of in shadow form
- 4 May 2017 – election of Mayor of the Combined Authority
- Rules around decisions and voting, no casting vote for the Chair
- The Combined Authority can confer voting rights to the LEP member, quorum is 7 and must include a district member and a county member from each of Suffolk and Norfolk.

Norfolk and Suffolk Devolution - Governance

- A Norfolk and Suffolk Combined Authority (NSCA) which would comprise the Mayor as Chairman plus one member from each of the 12 authorities, plus one 'non-constituent' from the Directors of the Local Enterprise Partnership. Nominated substitutes allowed. No casting vote for Chairman
- Committees based on Thematic or geographical clusters
- Overview and Scrutiny – Same political party as Mayor cannot chair
- Audit Committee
- Statutory Officers – Head of Paid Service, Chief Finance Officer, Monitoring Officer

Norfolk and Suffolk Devolution - Consultation

- 6080 responses from a telephone survey carried out by Ipsos-Mori. Highlighted strong support for more decisions to be taken locally across a range of issues. There was also majority support (52%) for setting up a Mayoral Combined Authority (MCA).
- 2925 people responding to the same survey through the Devolution and council websites. Less support for a MCA (27%) via this channel but there was majority support for more decisions to be taken locally. 62% opposed election of a mayor.
- 250 businesses of various sizes across the two counties were also surveyed by Mori and also showed clear support for more decisions to be taken locally by a MCA (47%).
- Engagement with key stakeholders (town and parish councils, voluntary and community sector, further and higher education institutions and health)
- Leaflet to all Norfolk Residents (406,345 households – 1678 returned (80% opposed 21% supported devolution)

Suffolk and Norfolk Devolution - Resource implications

- Costs kept to minimum – use existing premises, back office systems and minimise duplication across the authorities
- Costs of Mayor met by the constituent authorities (initially a loan from authorities for the first three years repayable in 2020).
- Existing staff could take on the statutory posts required for a Combined Authority (Head of Paid Service, Monitoring Officer, Chief Finance Officer)
- Staffing could be secured through recruitment, transfer of posts from constituent authorities, secondment, job share, service level agreement, commissioning support from member authorities.