

**Norfolk County Council****Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting Held on 8 October 2015****Present:**

Mr A <b>ADAMS</b>	Mr J <b>LAW</b>
Mr S <b>AGNEW</b>	Mrs J <b>LEGGETT</b>
Mr C <b>ALDRED</b>	Mr B <b>LONG</b>
Mr S <b>ASKEW</b>	Mr J <b>MOONEY</b>
Mr R <b>BEARMAN</b>	Ms E <b>MORGAN</b>
Mr R <b>BIRD</b>	Mr S <b>MORPHEW</b>
Mr B <b>BORRETT</b>	Mr G <b>NOBBS</b>
Dr A <b>BOSWELL</b>	Mr R <b>PARKINSON-HARE</b>
Mr M <b>CASTLE</b>	Mr J <b>PERKINS</b>
Mr J <b>CHILDS</b>	Mr G <b>PLANT</b>
Mr S <b>CLANCY</b>	Mr A <b>PROCTOR</b>
Mr T <b>COKE</b>	Mr W <b>RICHMOND</b>
Mr D <b>COLLIS</b>	Mr D <b>ROPER</b>
Mrs H <b>COX</b>	Mr M <b>SANDS</b>
Mr D <b>CRAWFORD</b>	Mr N <b>SHAW</b>
Mr A <b>DEARNLEY</b>	Mr B <b>SPRATT</b>
Mrs M <b>DEWSBURY</b>	Mr B <b>STONE</b>
Mr N <b>DIXON</b>	Mrs M <b>STONE</b>
Mr C <b>FOULGER</b>	Mr M <b>STOREY</b>
Mr T <b>GARROD</b>	Dr M <b>STRONG</b>
Mr P <b>GILMOUR</b>	Mrs A <b>THOMAS</b>
Mrs S <b>GURNEY</b>	Mr J <b>TIMEWELL</b>
Mr D <b>HARRISON</b>	Miss J <b>VIRGO</b>
Mr H <b>HUMPHREY</b>	Mr C <b>WALKER</b>
Mr B <b>ILES</b>	Mr J <b>WARD</b>
Mr T <b>JERMY</b>	Mr B <b>WATKINS</b>
Mr J <b>JORDAN</b>	Mr A <b>WHITE</b>
Mr J <b>JOYCE</b>	Mr M <b>WILBY</b>
Ms A <b>KEMP</b>	Mrs M <b>WILKINSON</b>
Mr M <b>KIDDLE-MORRIS</b>	

## **Apologies for Absence:**

Apologies for absence were received from Mr M Baker, Mr B Bremner, Mrs J Brociek-Coulton, Mr A Byrne, Mr M Carttiss, Mrs J Chamberlin, Ms E Corlett, MrJ Dobson, Mr T East, Mr T Fitzpatrick, Mr A Grey, Mr P Hacon, Mr B Hannah, Mr M Chenery of Horsbrugh, Mr I Mackie, Mr I Monson, Mr W Northam, Mr D Ramsbotham, Ms Rumsby, Mr E Seward, Mr P Smyth and Ms S Whitaker.

## **1 Chairman's Announcements—Mr Barry Stone**

- 1.1 The Chairman welcomed back Mr Barry Stone, following his election as the Member for Loddon, and joined with other Members of the Council in saying that he hoped Barry would enjoy his time at Norfolk County Council.

## **2 Declarations of Interest**

- 2.1 No Declarations of Interest were made.

## **3 Devolution Opportunities**

- 3.1 Council received the report of the Managing Director on devolution opportunities for Norfolk and Suffolk that had previously been considered by the Policy and Resources Committee of 28 September 2015.
- 3.2 The Chairman opened the Council's consideration of this item by calling on the Leader to make some introductory remarks, before calling on the Managing Director to address Council, followed by presentations from the Officer Policy Leads for devolution.
- 3.3 In his introductory remarks, the Leader asked for permission for Mr. Chris Starkie, the Managing Director of the Local Enterprise Partnership, to address the Council after the presentations by the Officer Policy Leads and this was **agreed** by Council.
- 3.4 The Council then heard from the Managing Director about how this was very much the first stage in the process for greater local autonomy over strategic issues such as transport, economic development, housing, flood defence and strategic planning, that would power economic growth and productivity in Norfolk and Suffolk, and create an economic entity on a similar scale to devolution deals elsewhere in the country, such as Greater Manchester and Sheffield. The Managing Director added that it was very important for Norfolk to be amongst the first Councils in the country to secure a deal with the Government because those Councils who were at the table first were likely to get the best deal. This was not something that Norfolk was being forced to do by the Government, it was a competition that Norfolk had to win and the scale of what could be achieved would be based on the ambition that was shown, Norfolk's ability to deliver that ambition and the strength of the collective leadership politically. This was not a county initiative alone, many local councils were involved, and while the possibility for including Cambridgeshire in Norfolk and Suffolk's joint submission was not an option in the short-term this was something that would be explored further in the coming months. Nothing could be ruled in or out at this stage except that it was worth getting to the table to negotiate governance arrangements that would need to be

developed, and be the subject of public consultation. Nothing would be agreed with the Government before the terms of any potential deal, and the acceptability of it, came before this Council for agreement.

3.5 The Council received presentations from the Officer Policy Leads for devolution as follows:

- Finance – Simon George
- Business and Employment Support - Fiona McDiarmid
- Assets & Infrastructure - Tracy Jessop
- Planning & Housing – Phil Morris
- Health & Social Care - Harold Bodmer
- Governance – Victoria McNeill

These detailed presentations can be found as an appendix to these minutes.

3.6 At the conclusion of the officer presentations, Mr. Chris Starkie, the Managing Director of the Local Enterprise Partnership, explained the role of the LEP in promoting economic growth and involving the private sector. He said that the Government expects that the LEP be at the heart of any devolution deal and that the LEP was already involved in the work streams that were relevant to it.

3.7 There then followed a session where Members were able to ask questions of the Managing Director and the Officer Policy Leads.

3.8 At the conclusion of the questions and answers session, Mr Nobbs, seconded by Mr Jordan, moved that the Council endorse the decisions of Policy and Resources Committee of 28 September 2015.

3.9 Following debate, and upon being put to the vote, Council **RESOLVED** to endorse the decisions of the Policy and Resources Committee of 28 September 2015 (with 3 votes against and 1 abstention) as follows:

1. To note progress to date
2. To agree the principle of a Norfolk and Suffolk Combined Authority
3. To agree that the Leader and Managing Director continue to play a full part in discussions, representing the best interests of Norfolk residents.

**The meeting ended at 4.25 pm**

## Chairman



If you need this document in large print, audio, Braille, alternative format or in a different language please contact Customer Services 0344 800 8020 or 0344 800 8011 (textphone) and we will do our best to help.



**Norfolk** County Council

# Devolution Briefing

**Dr Wendy Thomson, CBE**

Managing Director

Thursday 8 October 2015

# Devolution: Key Messages

- Big city deals: Greater Manchester, Sheffield, West Midlands, West Yorkshire
- A non-Met deal: is possible, Norfolk & Suffolk well-positioned; openness to extend to Cambridgeshire in due course
- Real benefit to being 'first mover'
- This is a competition - success will rest on the scale of our ambition, our ability to deliver, and the strength of collective leadership
- AND Government's willingness to offer a deal that delivers for the people of Norfolk and the country

# Timetable – Key Dates

- **14 October:** Norfolk and Suffolk Leaders' meeting
- **16 October:** Second reading of the Devolution Bill
- **Early November:** Challenge Session with Ministers
- **25 November:** Autumn Statement on Spending Review



# Leaders' Forums

- **Norfolk Leaders –**
  - 7 Districts plus NCC
  - chaired by Cllr Daubney (King's Lynn & West Norfolk – C)
- **Suffolk Leaders –**
  - 7 Districts plus SCC
  - Chaired by Cllr Jenkins (Babergh DC – C)
- **Ad hoc 'Challenge Team'**
  - to meet the Minister
  - LEP, NCC, SCC, Norwich, Ipswich, KL DC, Babergh DC



# Workstreams

- Finance – Simon George
- Economic Growth & Productivity - Fiona McDiarmid
- Employment & Skills - Fiona McDiarmid
- Assets & Infrastructure - Tracy Jessop
- Planning & Housing – Phil Morris
- Health & Social Care - Harold Bodmer
- Governance – Victoria McNeill



# Devolution 2015 Programme Timeline

Devolution 2015 Programme Timeline

October					November				2015/2016		
Week ending – 2 Oct	9 Oct	16 Oct	23 Oct	30 Oct	6 Nov	13 Nov	20 Nov	27 Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb
		<div>14</div> <div>2<sup>nd</sup> reading of Bill</div>	<div>22</div> <div>Challenge session with Ministers</div>					<div>25</div> <div>Autumn Statement</div>			
	<div>8</div> <div>Extra-ordinary Council</div>		<div>19</div> <div>Council</div> <div>21</div> <div>LEP Board</div>	<div>26</div> <div>Policy &amp; Resources Committee</div>			<div>19</div> <div>LEP Board</div>	<div>30</div> <div>Policy &amp; Resources Committee</div> <div>14</div> <div>Council</div>			
	<div>Norfolk System Workshop</div> <div>Gov advisor telekit</div> <div>Team telecon</div> <div>5</div> <div>6</div> <div>13</div> <div>Workshops with Government Advisors</div> <div>Refinement and update of draft paper</div> <div>14</div> <div>Norfolk and Suffolk Leaders Meeting</div>		<div>Prep for Challenge Session</div>	<div>On-going negotiation</div>							

# Finance

We want to establish a different relationship with Government, where greater local autonomy creates a system that is more locally self-sufficient than reliant on central grants. This should be enabled by:

- More flexibility to deliver our ambitions and manage the risks we are taking on.
- Business Rate Retention options have been superseded by Chancellor's announcement this week at Conference.
- First rights on central government estates and local autonomy over public sector estates (including NHS) to unlock sites for employment and housing as well as smarter use of public assets



# Economic Growth & Productivity

For example, building on the existing architecture to:

- Develop a network of rural Enterprise Zones focussed on: agri-tech, food and health and digital economy that link our beacons of innovation Norwich Research Park and Adastral Park in Ipswich;
- Better connecting our universities with our businesses to drive innovation and productivity
- Enhance the New Anglia Growth Hub;
- Create a joined up approach to attract inward investment;
- Create a Productivity Commission to help tackle root causes of our productivity gap
- Devolve decision making over EU funding programmes

# Employment & Skills

Ensuring that our residents are able to use the full potential of their skills in driving productivity and growth. For example by:

- Designing a new local employment service that helps people to progress into work and reduces dependency on benefits and can deliver Universal Credit
- Devolved responsibility for the Apprenticeship Grant and successor schemes
- Co-commissioning with Government all post 16 education and skills provision and the next round of the Work Programme
- As part of the New Anglia Youth Pledge deliver the Youth obligation building on the MyGo service (first established in Ipswich as part of its City Deal) financed through a shared investment model with government
- Extend the adult loan system to include 19-23 year olds within the existing funding envelope so that adults skills training is open to all who can benefit



# Physical Assets & Infrastructure

- Devolution of funding and decision making for investment in a modern transport system with a secure future, based on local economic priorities that will develop employment and housing sites across the two counties
- Offering a single integrated transport strategy for Norfolk and Suffolk, in return, for greater certainty and influence over transport funding (with a 5-10 year settlement for local transport schemes).
- Greater influence over the rail franchise and capital programme
- Shaping and influencing the priorities for electricity and water supply investment, to support key locations in anticipation of planned growth
- Achieving broadband connectivity to our rural areas
- Working with Government to tackle the challenge of poor mobile network coverage in both counties



# Coherent Planning & Housing

Developing a housing offer that maximises growth and better supports people's health and wellbeing by:

- Creating a joined up Strategic Plan which aligns and integrates all the different strategies, supported by local delivery plans so that decision making on developments can be made closer to the communities they are part of
- Establishing an Investment Fund for Growth, to drive infrastructure to support growth and move money quickly to where it's needed.
- Working with Government to identify new settlements/garden cities in conjunction with the Homes and Community Agency, using its powers and resources to plan and deliver
- Certainty over New Homes Bonus allocations to allow increased borrowing and infrastructure investment
- Influence over the investment plans of significant utilities – currently investment in utilities is often out of step with and holding back both local employment and housing developments with no mechanism for local engagement or influence
- Greater CPO powers to overcome barriers to land assembly, tackling stalled sites and challenging land banking
- Becoming a “Planning Reform Pathfinder” to work government and the sector to radically re-think the local plan process to maintain an up to date land supply, provide certainty for developers and reduce the necessity for systematic local plan reviews.

# Health, Care and Safety

We want people to be able to live as healthily, safely and independently as possible for as long as possible and if needed, that they receive early and joined up public sector support. To do this, we need the following to be different:

- Devolved multi-year settlements for health, care and safety
- Freedom from centrally prescribed performance reporting and freedom to set unified, locally appropriate, outcomes based measures across the system and negotiate with national inspectorates and regulators.
- First call on local public service estates and capital assets, incl NHS and police to unlock assets across Suffolk's public services.
- Explicit and specific support from Government departments that provides mandated authority from Whitehall to the local public sector.
- More local control over skills funding to enable better, joined up workforce development and attract the best health, care and teaching professionals also boosting our economy
- Flexibilities to support better integrated IT across public sector organisations



**Norfolk** County Council

# Governance

- Secretary of State given power to create Combined Authorities - Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009.
- Combined Authorities are separate legal entities that take on powers devolved from central government across a functional economic area.
- Since 2009 broadening of powers that can be devolved – Localism Act 2011 and Cities and Local Government Bill 2015.
- Key governance issues – (1) Membership of Combined Authority; (2) Voting rights; (3) How functions are devolved; (4) Role of LEP and others.
- Process – (1) Initial request to Government; (2) Inclusion in list of proposals for consideration; (3) Governance review; (4) Public consultation; (5) Scheme to Secretary of State for approval; (6) Parliamentary Order.
- County Council decision-making – (1) Initial debate and endorsement of approach; (2) Outcome of governance review; (3) Submitting Scheme to Secretary of State; (4) Any changes to Scheme.
- Timetable: Royal Assent by end 2015 and thereafter probably a minimum of 12 months to review, consult, obtain Order.

