

Norfolk County Council
Member for Necton and Launditch
Report: December 2022

Devolution – A “County Deal”:

Norfolk County Council is one of 9 local authorities in England that have been invited to negotiate an agreement with government on establishing a devolution deal. There are 3 levels of “entry” into a deal the most attractive in terms of direct funding from government is level 3. Level 3 would see an annual cash input from government (rumoured to be £20-£30m) for 30 years, the money being split between capital and revenue. Level 3 would also require the election of a directly elected leader of the council, a post which will be in addition to the 84 existing divisional elected members. The directly elected leader will be the single point of contact with government and have direct powers over spending on infrastructure, skills and economic development and will appoint a cabinet from elected members to assist him.

It is emphasised that this is not a reorganisation of local government. Existing city, borough and district councils will retain their autonomy and their responsibilities as at present.

Suffolk County Council have already signed an agreement to proceed with a level 3 deal.

Any intention to proceed with the deal, if approved by Council, will be subject to a public consultation.

Council Tax:

The proposals for council tax and spending for financial year 23/24 are still open for comment until 16th December. Submissions can be made at norfolk.gov.uk/budget .

Norfolk Minerals and Waste Local Plan:

A reminder that submission of comments on the proposed plan must be made by 5pm on 19th December, 2022.

The publication document, background documents and a downloadable and printable representation form are available on Norfolk County Council's website at: www.norfolk.gov.uk/nmwdf on the "Norfolk Minerals and Waste Local Plan Review" page.

Avian Flu:

The flu outbreak continues to cause havoc with commercial poultry operations locally as well as domestic flocks and wild birds. There are currently 4 confirmed outbreaks within my division. "control zone" notices have been placed on all roads within 2km of an outbreak where strict precautions should be taken.

Parish Partnership:

A reminder, applications to the Parish Partnership Scheme will be accepted until 9th December. There is over £600k of money set aside to fund 50% of small highway improvements requested by parishes plus over £62k from the Safety Cameras Team to support successful bids for SAM2 and flashing wig wag signs. Please let me know if you want to make a last-minute bid!!

General:

As more information of interest becomes available during the month, I will pass this on either for inclusion in your net meeting or for immediate transmission to councillors as required.

Finally may I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy new Year.

Mark Kiddle-Morris.

5th December, 2022.