

July 2016

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Parish Council Report -
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County council update

Key Issues

Devolution Update

A final proposal for devolution was agreed initially by the "Leaders" of all 16 Authorities in Norfolk and Suffolk. This replaced the deal which had originally included Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. Norfolk County Council members endorsed this deal on Monday 27th June as did South Norfolk Council at their special meeting on Thursday 30th June. Breckland, North Norfolk and Norwich City Council "Councillors" rejected the deal without agreeing to go to public consultation. As the majority of councils endorsed the offer it was agreed to submit the deal for public consultation. This started on the 4th July.

The main points of the deal are as follows:

MORE MONEY COMING INTO NORFOLK AND SUFFOLK

The Deal – in summary for the Combined Norfolk and Suffolk Authority

- An extra £25m over the next 30 years= (£750m in total) to spend on new roads , transport links and other services that communities need to flourish.**
- An extra £100m over the next 5 years to help us build affordable homes plus an additional £30m over the same period specifically for Norwich and Ipswich**
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More say over the money we already say over the money already spent here.

DECISIONS MADE NATIONALLY AT PRESENT WILL BE MADE HERE IN NORFOLK AND SUFFOLK IF WE HAVE DEVOLUTION

- How to use £20m a year Adult skills funding to give local people the training and skills they need to match what local businesses require
- Helping employers access the £2m a year Apprenticeship Grant to create more apprenticeships
- More control and influence over investment in key roads across Norfolk and Suffolk
- Norfolk and Suffolk wide approach to flood & coastal risk management

- The opportunity to work with Government to design a major new programme to support disabled people and long term unemployed into work
- A direct elected Mayor who will speak up for the people of Norfolk and Suffolk at a national level. The mayor will be our voice Nationally and part of their role will be to attract Business to our area of the country

The Scheme of Governance – in summary

- Combined Authority & Directly Elected Mayor in place by May 2017
- Elected Mayor will act as Combined Authority "Chairman" to be our voice Nationally
- Each authority and LEP(local enterprise partnership) will have one representative on the Combined Authority
- Mayor and Combined Authority role and responsibilities will be developed and agreed by all authorities covered by the Deal. The Mayor will require 2/3rd majority to make any decision but they will mainly be involved in infrastructure, and ensuring we have inward investment encouraging businesses. The day to to day running of our councils will NOT Change
- NO new buildings needed and staff in general will still work within the existing councils

Norfolk County Council will be sending an information leaflet to every household to help residents to have all the facts and then direct them to the online survey. If it would be helpful to call a public meeting to further explain the devolution deal I would be happy to come along and answer any questions that residents may still have.

Boundary Review

The Boundary Commission has agreed to the proposal from South Norfolk to allow the Council to move forward by retaining 46 councillors. This means that each councillor will look after approximately 2500 electors each. The next stage is for the Boundary Commission to evaluate the actual boundaries and numbers for each ward and where necessary re-draw these boundaries. There is a proviso, however, that the new boundaries will not cross Parish boundaries.

Safeguarding adult work

Parish and town councils play a vital role in safeguarding adult work, and are key partners in helping to make Norfolk a safer place. To support ongoing links with parish and town council colleagues, NSAB is hosting two partnerships events, one in September and another in November this year. You are very welcome to attend (please see the attached flyer).

Carer's emergency card

If you are caring for someone, it is important that you get a Carer's Emergency Card to ensure that that person will be safe if you are caught up in an emergency.

How to get a card

Create your Carer's Emergency Plan by phoning the Carers Helpline on 0808 808 9876 or Norfolk County Council on 0344 800 8020 (textphone 0344 800 8011). You will be sent a Carer's

Emergency Card, which you should carry. The card clearly states that you are a carer and that someone is relying on you to keep them safe and well. It also has your Emergency Plan number on it and the emergency helpline number **0344 800 8020**.

What happens in an emergency?

You, or someone on your behalf, should ring the **emergency helpline number 0344 800 8020** and give the number of your Emergency Plan.

Your named emergency contacts will be contacted to help by the emergency helpline service.

The service will help even if the named contacts cannot be reached, or you do not have any people who can help nearby. Care workers will provide an initial response, to allow enough time to plan what will need to happen next.

What is an emergency?

Examples include:

- You (or someone close to you) are taken ill or have had an emergency
- You have had an accident or your car has broken down

The emergency services know what to do if they see your Carer's Emergency Card.

Margaret Stone

County Councillor