

CABINET MEMBERS DELEGATED DECISION

Open		Mandatory/			
Any especially affected Wards	No	Discretionary / Operational			
Lead Member: Cllr Alistair Beales E-mail: cllr.Alistair.Beales@West-Norfolk.gov.uk		Other Cabinet Members consulted:			
		Other Members consulted: Members Briefing held 18 th December			
Lead Officer: Kate Blakemore E-mail: Kate.Blakemore@West-Norfolk.gov.uk		Other Officers consulted: Monitoring Officer			
Financial Implications NO	Policy/Personnel Implications NO	Statutory Implications NO	Equality Impact Assessment NO	Risk Management Implications NO	Environmental Considerations NO
Date of publication of report: 19 th December 2025			Date decision to be taken: 2 nd January 2026		
Deadline for Call-In: 9 th January 2026					

TITLE: SUBMISSION OF CONSULTATION RESPONSE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION TO THE MINISTRY OF HOUSING, COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Summary

The purpose of this report is to present the Councils' response to the consultation on Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) proposals in Norfolk. The consultation seeks to gain a view on the proposal to establish either a single county unitary, two unitary or three unitary model in Norfolk. The council's position on this matter is that three unitary councils in Norfolk would be the best option for Norfolk.

Decision to be taken

To submit the council's response to the consultation on Local Government Reorganisation in Norfolk to the Ministry of Housing, Community and Local Government by its closing date on 11th January 2026.

Reason for Decision

The council unanimously supported a three unitary proposal for Local Government reorganisation in Norfolk on 18th September 2025. It is seeking to submit a consultation to the Ministry of Housing, Community and Local Government that supports this position.

1 Background

- 1.1 On 18th September 2025, Council endorsed the Final Proposal for a three-unitary model for Local Government Reorganisation. This proposal was

endorsed by five other district, city and borough councils in Norfolk, and was submitted to the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government.

- 1.2 A further two proposals were also submitted to the Government regarding LGR in Norfolk, these were, a single unitary council, put forward by Norfolk County Council, and a two unitary council proposal submitted by South Norfolk Council.
- 1.3 Before an LGR outcome can be implemented it is required that consultation with any council affected that has not submitted the proposal, as well as any other persons considered appropriate, takes place.
- 1.4 Government have decided to consult on all three proposals put forward for Norfolk. This statutory consultation was opened on 19th November 2025 and will run for 7 weeks until 11th January 2026.
- 1.5 The council has been invited by Government to submit a response to the consultation outlined and it intends to do so supporting its agreed position around a three unitary council being the best solution for Norfolk. The proposed response is attached as appendix one of this document.
- 1.6 A 'minded to' decision as to which proposal to implement within Norfolk is expected in March of 2026. And it is stated that the responses to this consultation will help to inform the Secretary of State's assessment of whether, and to what extent, the proposals meet the criteria set out in the invitation.

2 Options Considered

- 2.1 Do nothing and do not submit a response to the Ministry of Housing, Community and Local Government.
- 2.2 Submit a response supportive of a three unitary solution for Norfolk in line with the council's agreed position on Local Government Reorganisation (recommended).

3 Policy Implications

- 3.1 There are no policy implications for the council to submit a consultation response to the Ministry of Housing, Community and Local Government. The proposed consultation response is supporting a three unitary council solution for Norfolk. The council unanimously support the submission of a business case proposing this solution for Norfolk on 18th September 2025.

4 Financial Implications

- 4.1 There are no financial implications for the council to submit a consultation response to the Ministry of Housing, Community and Local Government.

5 Personnel Implications

- 5.1 There are no personnel implications for the council to submit a consultation response to the Ministry of Housing, Community and Local Government.

6 Environmental Implications

- 6.1 There are no environmental implications for the council to submit a consultation response to the Ministry of Housing, Community and Local Government.

7 Statutory Considerations

- 7.1 There are no statutory considerations for the council to submit a consultation response to the Ministry of Housing, Community and Local Government. It has been invited to submit a consultation response as a named consultee but there is no statutory requirement for it to submit one.

8 Equality Impact Assessment (EIA)

- 8.1 There are no equalities implications for the council to submit a consultation response to the Ministry of Housing, Community and Local Government. As and when further decisions are taken and impacts of the government's decision in respect of Local Government Reorganisation, and the proposal it wishes to pursue are known, full EIAs will be undertaken.

9 Risk Management Implications

- 9.1 There are no risk management implications for the council to submit a consultation response to the Ministry of Housing, Community and Local Government.

10 Declarations of Interest / Dispensations Granted

- 10.1 None

11 Background Papers

Appendix one – proposed consultation response (attached)

Signed: Councillor Alistair Beales

Leader of the Council

Date: 19th December 2025

Stage 1 - Pre-Screening Equality Impact Assessment

For equalities profile information please visit [Norfolk Insight - Demographics and Statistics - Data Observatory](#)

Name of policy/service/function	CONSULTATION RESPONSE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION TO THE MINISTRY OF HOUSING, COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT				
Is this a new or existing policy/service/function? (<i>tick as appropriate</i>)	New	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Existing	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Brief summary/description of the main aims of the policy/service/function being screened. Please state if this policy/service is rigidly constrained by statutory obligations, and identify relevant legislation.	To submit a consultation response to MHCLG on the council's agree position on local government reorganisation.				
Who has been consulted as part of the development of the policy/service/function? – new only (<i>identify stakeholders consulted with</i>)	We worked collaboratively with Broadland District Council, Breckland District Council, Great Yarmouth Borough Council, North Norfolk District Council and Norwich City Council to develop our response. Leaders and Chief Executives were extensively involved in the development and oversight of the final submission				
Question	Answer				
<p>1. Is there any reason to believe that the policy/service/function could have a specific impact on people from one or more of the following groups, for example, because they have particular needs, experiences, issues or priorities or in terms of ability to access the service?</p> <p>Please tick the relevant box for each group. NB. Equality neutral means no negative impact on any group.</p> <p><i>If potential adverse impacts are identified, then a full Equality Impact Assessment (Stage 2) will be required.</i></p> <p><i>*For more information on health inequalities please visit The King's Fund</i></p>		Positive	Negative	Neutral	Unsure
	Age				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Disability				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Sex				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Gender Re-assignment				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Marriage/civil partnership				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Pregnancy & maternity				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Race				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Religion or belief				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Sexual orientation				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Armed forces community				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Care leavers				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Health inequalities*				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Other (eg low income, caring responsibilities)				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	

Please provide a brief explanation of the answers above:

This decision relates to the submission of a consultation response on LGR in Norfolk to the MHCLG. The Secretary of State will ultimately decide what the future of local government in Norfolk will look like, following receipt of all relevant proposals. This decision is expected in spring 2026. Once this decision has been made and we know which of the proposals has been accepted, we will be more informed on what the potential impacts may be and therefore a full and thorough Equality Impact Assessment will be conducted at this stage.

