

## REPORT TO CABINET

<b>Open</b>		Would any decisions proposed :			
<b>Any especially affected Wards</b>	<del>Mandatory/</del>	Be entirely within Cabinet's powers to decide		<del>YES</del> /NO	
	<del>Discretionary/</del>	Need to be recommendations to Council		YES/ <del>NO</del>	
	Operational	Is it a Key Decision		YES/ <del>NO</del>	
Lead Member: Cllr Terry Parish E-mail: Cllr.Terry.Parish@West-Norfolk.gov.uk			Other Cabinet Members consulted: Cabinet		
			Other Members consulted:		
Lead Officer: Lorraine Gore E-mail: Lorraine.Gore@West-Norfolk.gov.uk Direct Dial:			Other Officers consulted:		
Financial Implications YES	Policy/ Personnel Implications NO	Statutory Implications NO	Equal Impact Assessment YES If YES: Pre- screening	Risk Management Implications NO	Environmental Considerations NO
If not for publication, the paragraph(s) of Schedule 12A of the 1972 Local Government Act considered to justify that is (are) paragraph(s)					

Date of meeting: 31 October 2023

### COUNTY DEAL FOR NORFOLK

#### Summary

The Borough Council of King's Lynn and West Norfolk (BCKLWN) agreed at the Council meeting on 30 March 2023 to make a clear public position on the County Deal for Norfolk before Norfolk County Council (NCC) make a final decision at the NCC Council meeting on 12 December 2023.

#### Recommendation

It is recommended to Council that:

- The Leader and Chief Executive continue to engage in the County Deal discussions with NCC on behalf of BCKLWN with a focus on
  - this council's powers and sovereignty remain undiminished;
  - West-Norfolk will have a fair say in the priorities being set for any new funding under the 'deal'
  - West-Norfolk will have a fair opportunity to access such funding to secure the best deal for Norfolk
- That BCKLWN gives it's support to NCC to negotiate with Government to secure the best deal for Norfolk subject to 1. above

#### Reason for Decision

To respond to the Motion agreed at the Council meeting on 30 March 2023 (Minute 6/23).

# 1 Background

## 1.1 The following Motion was agreed at Council on 30 March 2023:

This Council has received briefings on the County 'devolution' Deal currently being considered by Norfolk County Council.

In light of these we note that there is nothing in the 'deal' currently that impacts on the powers and sovereignty of this council and more money could be coming to Norfolk as a consequence of it.

However, the 'deal' text is currently out to public consultation and going through Parliament before a final debate and decision at Norfolk County Council at around December 2023, so alterations in the coming months are a real possibility.

Consequently, this council believes it is prudent to reserve its final position on the ultimate 'deal' at this time and instructs officers to continue engaging on behalf of West-Norfolk, focussed on 3 areas; this council's powers and sovereignty remain undiminished; West-Norfolk will have a fair say in the priorities being set for any new funding under the 'deal' and West-Norfolk will have a fair opportunity to access such funding with a report being brought before council promptly if anything material to the above changes or in sufficient time for consideration and debate to occur and a clear public position to be taken before the County Council decision in December 2023.

## 1.2 NCC Cabinet and Council has considered reports on the proposed County Deal at their meetings in January and June 2023 and these reports can be accessed via the NCC website. A final decision on a County Deal for Norfolk will be made by NCC at the NCC Council meeting on 12 December 2023.

## 1.3 NCC have not asked for this public position from BCKLWN for their December meeting. The decision taken by BCKLWN will not have a direct impact on the decision making by NCC in December nor will it impact on BCKLWN projects being considered for funding from the County Deal.

## 1.4 The governance arrangements for the County Deal funding are still being developed in discussion with Norfolk Leaders. These arrangements will be based on joint working principles:

- We work together for what's in the best interest of Norfolk
- We are ambitious for Norfolk
- We focus on improving outcomes for our residents and on reducing inequalities
- We build on our strong track record of respect, collaboration and delivery
- We work on the basis of consensus, wherever possible

- We are evidence-based, intelligence-led, and build on good practice
- We commit to mutual oversight to ensure the best outcomes are delivered

1.5 It is planned that these arrangements will include a Norfolk Leadership Board (NLB) (building on the existing Norfolk Public Sector Leaders Board), all district leaders are included on this Board. The role of the NLB will include:

- Consider issues of strategic importance to Norfolk where collective action/coordination has the greatest impact (eg cost of living, strong communities & climate change)
- Develop a shared understanding and analysis of strategic need in Norfolk
- Empower partners to take action together, and within their own organisations
- Advocate for Norfolk by amplifying our voice to Government & other bodies
- Promote ongoing benefit to Norfolk from devolution - make recommendations on the development of future County Deal strategies and receiving an annual report on the Deal

1.5 The proposed governance arrangements will include a Business Board, Employment and Skills Board and Investment Board which will consider bids/proposals and make final recommendations into the NCC Directly Elected Leader and Cabinet for decision making. Each of the Boards will include district representation. The final criteria for consideration of bids/proposals has not yet been finalised. The Norfolk Devolution Deal document does include the following at paragraph 25:

*Norfolk County Council considers the Norfolk Public Sector Leader's Board an important vehicle through which city, district and borough councils together with other public, private and voluntary sector leaders can join in creating a renewed vision for Norfolk in the context of successful delivery of the devolution deal. Norfolk wishes to work across all sectors with a view to creating a non-statutory Norfolk Leadership Board, building on the Public Sector Leaders' Board, to contribute to the development of the County Deal strategy, and any subsequent deals, and oversee its implementation and delivery. Norfolk County Council also recognises the importance of a strong business voice in driving economic growth, and will continue to ensure they are fully represented through Business Boards, and reflected in the deal's implementation and oversight.*

1.6 It should be noted that NCC will continue to develop the County Deal for Norfolk up until their report to NCC Council on 12 December 2023. If any material changes occur which impact on the recommendations in this report these can be updated verbally to Corporate Performance Panel/Cabinet/Council when this report is considered.

## **2 Options Considered**

- 2.1 BCKLWN do not take a position on a County Deal for Norfolk. The decision to progress a County Deal for Norfolk is between the Government and NCC. As set out in paragraph 1.3 NCC have not asked for a public position from BCKLWN for their December meeting. This option would also be recommended if the option to support was not agreed.
- 2.2 BCKLWN do not support a County Deal for Norfolk. As set out in paragraph 1.3 NCC have not asked for a public position from BCKLWN for their December meeting. This option would not be recommended if the option to support was not agreed. The Norfolk Devolution Deal document sets out that the involvement of city, district and borough councils will be pivotal to the success of the devolution deal. This will require an effective and inclusive governance arrangement for the County Deal which gives fair access to the funding as included in the recommendations.

## **3 Policy Implications**

- 3.1 None at this time. Policy implications will need to be considered for any projects which come forward for consideration for funding under the governance arrangements for the County Deal for Norfolk.

## **4 Financial Implications**

- 4.1 There are no financial implications for the borough's current medium term financial plan. The County Deal will secure £20m for 30 years for investment in Norfolk. There is potential that future funding opportunities may come forward to those areas which are part of a County Deal arrangement.
- 4.2 BCKLWN will have the opportunity to put forward projects for consideration for funding under the governance arrangements for the County Deal for Norfolk.

## **5 Personnel Implications**

- 5.1 None at this time. Personnel implications will need to be considered for any projects which come forward for consideration for funding under the governance arrangements for the County Deal for Norfolk.

## **6 Environmental Considerations**

- 6.1 None at this time. Environmental considerations will need to be considered for any projects which come forward for consideration for funding under the governance arrangements for the County Deal for Norfolk.

## **7 Statutory Considerations**

- 7.1 None at this time. Statutory considerations will need to be considered for any projects which come forward for consideration for funding under the governance arrangements for the County Deal for Norfolk.

## **8 Equality Impact Assessment (EIA)**

- 8.1 Pre screening report attached.

## **9 Risk Management Implications**

- 9.1 None at this time. Risk management considerations will need to be considered for any projects which come forward for consideration for funding under the governance arrangements for the County Deal for Norfolk.

## **10 Background Papers**

- 10.1 None

**Pre-Screening Equality Impact Assessment**

Borough Council of  
**King's Lynn & West Norfolk**



Name of policy/service/function	County Deal for Norfolk				
Is this a new or existing policy/service/function?	New				
<p>Brief summary/description of the main aims of the policy/service/function being screened.</p> <p>Please state if this policy/service is rigidly constrained by statutory obligations</p>	<p>The County Deal for Norfolk proposal will bring additional funding to Norfolk for investment in projects and programmes yet to be determined.</p>				
<b>Question</b>	<b>Answer</b>				
<p><b>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 <b>according to their different protected characteristic</b>, for example, because they have particular needs, experiences, issues or priorities or in terms of ability to access the service?</b></p> <p>Please tick the relevant box for each group.</p> <p>NB. Equality neutral means no negative impact on any group.</p>		Positive	Negative	Neutral	Unsure
	Age			/	
	Disability			/	
	Gender			/	
	Gender Re-assignment			/	
	Marriage/civil partnership			/	
	Pregnancy & maternity			/	
	Race			/	
	Religion or belief			/	
	Sexual orientation			/	
	Other (eg low income)				

<b>Question</b>	<b>Answer</b>	<b>Comments</b>
<b>2.</b> Is the proposed policy/service likely to affect relations between certain equality communities or to damage relations between the equality communities and the Council, for example because it is seen as favouring a particular community or denying opportunities to another?	No	
<b>3.</b> Could this policy/service be perceived as impacting on communities differently?	No	
<b>4.</b> Is the policy/service specifically designed to tackle evidence of disadvantage or potential discrimination?	No	
<b>5.</b> Are any impacts identified above minor and if so, can these be eliminated or reduced by minor actions?  If yes, please agree actions with a member of the Corporate Equalities Working Group and list agreed actions in the comments section	Yes / No	<b>Actions:</b>
		<b>Actions agreed by EWG member:</b> .....
<b>If 'yes' to questions 2 - 4 a full impact assessment will be required unless comments are provided to explain why this is not felt necessary:</b>                <b>Decision agreed by EWG member: .....</b>		
<b>Assessment completed by:</b>		
<b>Name</b>	Lorraine Gore	
<b>Job title</b>	Chief Executive	
<b>Date</b>	2 October 2023	