



# LGR Update – Planning Agents Forum

# What is Local Government Reorganisation (LGR)?

- Announced in Dec '24 in Devolution White Paper.
- All two-tier areas, incl. Norfolk, invited to submit plans for reorganisation:
  - Interim plan submitted in March; final submission due 26 Sept.
- Two-tier local government → single tier.
- Introduction of larger councils – large enough to achieve efficiencies, improve capacity and withstand financial shocks.
- 8 councils → Either one, two or three unitary councils for the whole of Norfolk.



**“New unitary structures should enable stronger community engagement and deliver genuine opportunity for neighbourhood empowerment”.**

# Timeline

16 Dec 24: English Devolution White Paper Published

Jan 25: Norfolk and Suffolk request to be part of Devolution Priority Programme  
(triggers LGR)

21 March 25: LGR Interim plans submitted

26 Sept 25: Full Submissions to be submitted to Government

Nov 25 – early 26: Govt statutory consultation on LGR

March 26: Decision on LGR in Norfolk expected

Spring 26: Norfolk & Suffolk Mayoral County Combined Authority goes live

May 26: Mayoral elections

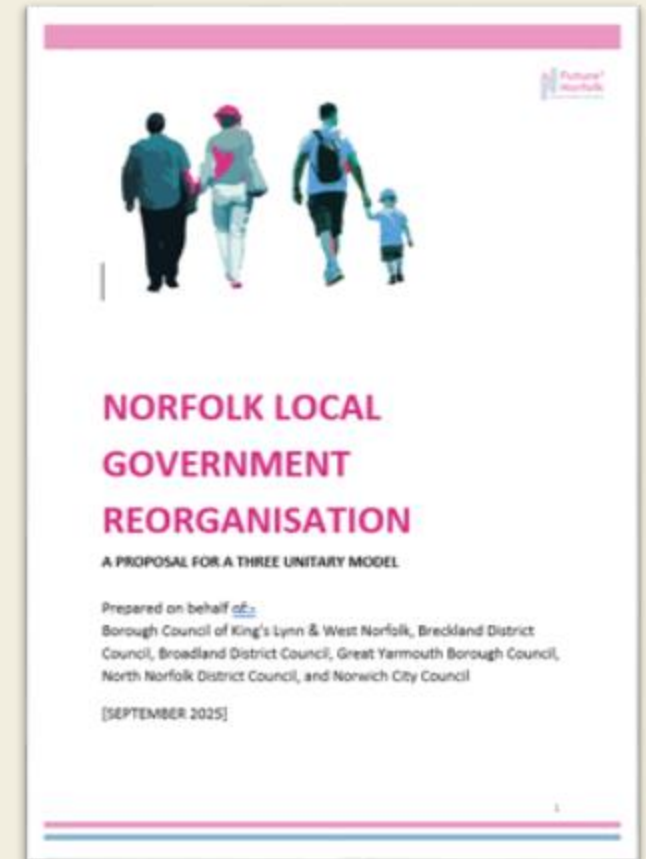
May 27: New Council elections

April 28: Go live for new Councils



# Full Submission

- 6 District Partnership working with partners to produce a case for 3 Unitary councils.
- Worked across the footprint of the new unitaries – East, West and Greater Norwich – to produce proposals for each, as well as a master document.
- Published at [futurenorfolk.com](http://futurenorfolk.com); being debated by Breckland's Full Council on 18 September.
- **The function of this document is to get to a point where three unitaries is the model – it's not to define how they work.**



# Rationale for three unitaries

## People:

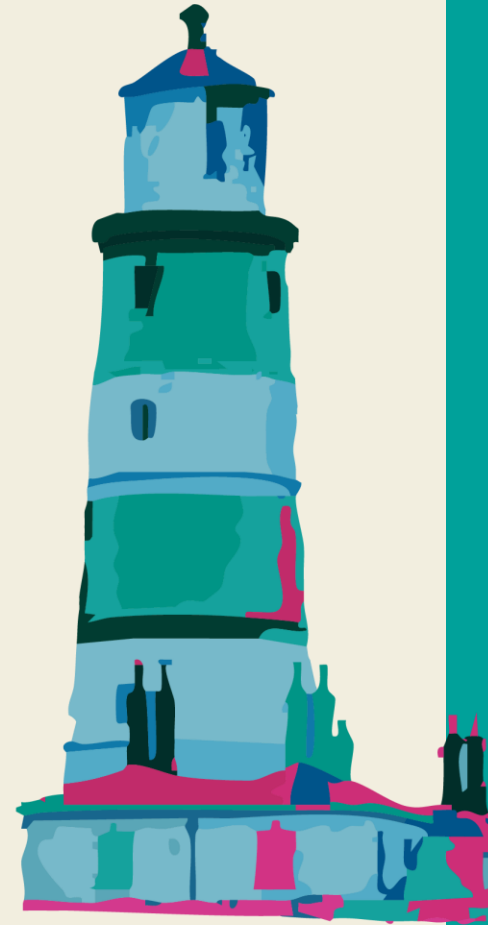
- Keeping decision-making local and an appropriate level of representation
- Delivering what people and sector want.

## Place:

- A council rooted in place, reflecting local identity and strengths.
- Services that are tailored to fit the needs of communities.

## Progress:

- Big enough to drive efficiencies, small enough to evolve and adapt.
- Councils fit for a changing world.



# The (likely) alternatives

## Single Unitary:

- A single authority for the whole of Norfolk, proposed by NCC.
- Locally discounted based on its inappropriately large population and geographic area.
- Limits opportunity for long-term public service reform.

## Two Unitaries:

- East-West split, proposed by SNDC.
- Locally discounted for weakness in economic distinctiveness, particularly Norwich is not recognised.
- Locally discounted for disproportionate tax bases and budgets between East and West.



# THE OPPORTUNITY

Three unitary councils gives us a once-in-a-generation chance to:

- Work across larger geographies – benefits of scale without loss of local knowledge.
- Think differently and innovate.
- Align cultures, policies and ways of working.
- Streamline the system and integrate planning with county services like flooding, highways, education, etc.
- Strengthen our relationship with partners by remaining accessible.



# Next Steps

- All Norfolk councils will take their plans through their committee processes in the next two weeks.
- Submission to Govt on 26 Sept, followed by a consultation on the proposals.
- Expecting a decision in **March '26**.
- Shadow authorities in April '27; new unitaries live in May '28.
- In the interim, we will:
  - ✓ Continue to work with partners to plan for the future
  - ✓ Communicate clearly on what these changes mean
  - ✓ Focus on BAU until vesting day
  - ✓ Work with the other Norfolk councils to ensure a smooth transition

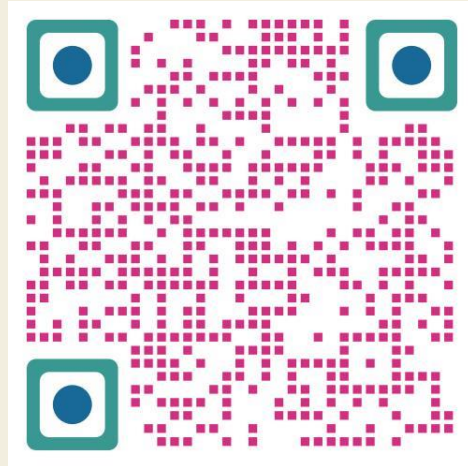






# Future<sup>3</sup> Norfolk

PEOPLE PLACE PROGRESS



[futurenorfolk.com](https://futurenorfolk.com)