

# Unlock Norfolk's Potential

Together we can shape our future.



**A County  
Deal for  
Norfolk**



**Norfolk County Council**

# Introduction

The Government and Norfolk County Council have negotiated a proposed County Deal, which means the Government would give more powers and funding to Norfolk.

This is an opportunity for more decisions that are currently made by central Government to be made locally - by people and organisations who know and understand Norfolk and its communities.

If the Deal is agreed, Norfolk will get new decision-making powers, local control of funding currently held by central Government and additional investment of more than **£600 million** over the next 30 years. This will help us to boost our economy through more jobs, training and development, as well as improve our transport network and support the local environment.

The County Deal is between Government and Norfolk County Council, however the involvement of district, borough and city councils, alongside businesses and other key organisations will be essential to its success.

Norfolk isn't the only place moving forward with a Deal, other councils include North Yorkshire and York, Derby, Derbyshire, Nottingham and Nottinghamshire, Cornwall and Suffolk.



# Key elements of the County Deal for Norfolk

The County Deal for Norfolk would mean many benefits from 2024 including:

**£20 million**

per year investment for 30 years for local priorities

New powers to unlock housing and employment sites to drive regeneration and build affordable homes



**£5.9 million**

already committed for 2023 for housing regeneration and development



**£382,000**

already committed for 2023/24 and 2024/25 to identify and progress housing projects



**£6.9 million**

in 2024/25 to support new home building on brownfield land

**£250,000**

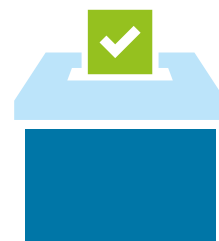
already committed for 2023/24 and 2024/25 to accelerate our transport plans and help reduce carbon



Greater control of transport budgets from 2024/25 to improve Norfolk's transport connections to better meet our needs



**Strengthen the local business voice to inform local decision making**



A council leader elected by the public to shape future policies and funding decisions made nationally

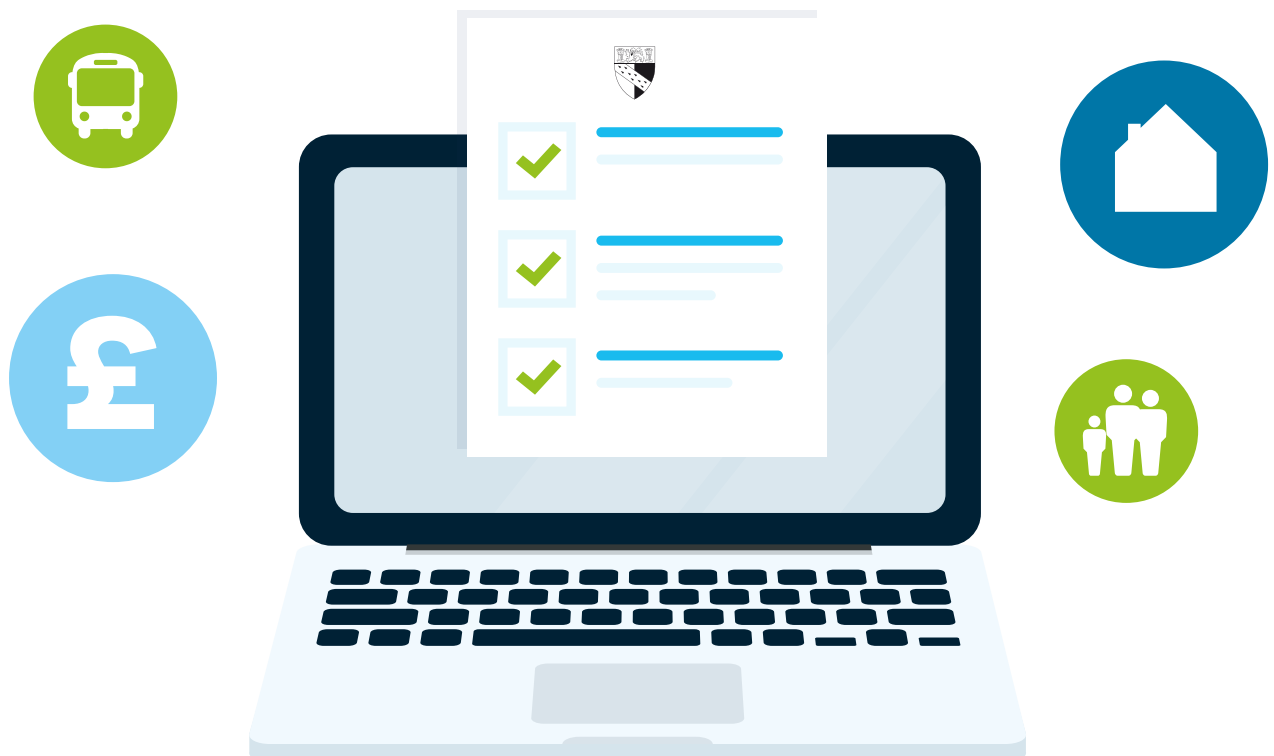
# What is devolution?

Central Government currently has the power to decide where and how certain funding is spent in our county. The County Deal would mean that some of these powers and associated funding are transferred to Norfolk County Council, so that we can make decisions that we know matter to local people. This process is called devolution. The Deal for Norfolk contains new and devolved powers and funding from central Government. It is an opportunity to gain greater local control and influence over a range of issues that directly affect our residents and businesses. We could take local control of decisions that are currently decided nationally.

It would enable us to invest in areas such as transport, skills, job opportunities, housing and regeneration, and tailor the investment to the specific needs of Norfolk. This would make sure that Norfolk doesn't lose out, as other areas in the country get their own deals.

## Read the Deal

You can read the full [County Deal for Norfolk on the Government's website](#).



# The Deal in Numbers

The County Deal would provide more than **£600 million** of new Government investment over a 30-year period, together with a range of devolved powers and funding, to spend on priorities set out by Norfolk County Council in its **Better Together, For Norfolk 2021-2025** plan.

	<b>Total value</b>	<b>Period covered</b>
Norfolk Investment Fund	£600 million	30 years
Brownfield capital funding	£6.98 million	Current Spending Review period
Regeneration capital funding	£5.9 million	Current Spending Review period
<b>Total</b>	<b>£612.9 million</b>	

The Government will also provide Norfolk County Council with an additional £1.632 million to help pay for implementing the Deal.

	<b>Total value</b>	<b>Period covered</b>
County Deal capacity fund	£750,000	23/24 & 24/25 (1.5years)
Brownfield capacity fund	£382,000	23/24 & 24/25
Transport capacity fund	£500,000	23/24 & 24/25
<b>Total</b>	<b>£1.632 million</b>	


## There are other pots of money which Norfolk County Council would get control of:



- ➔ Our share of The UK Shared Prosperity Fund, which has replaced funding previously given by the EU, which is set to rise to £6.63 million in 2024/25
- ➔ Funding to spend on local transport, is worth around approximately £40 million a year
- ➔ The Adult Education Budget which is approximately £10 million per year




# Devolution is a journey, not a one-off event.



Experience from other areas that secured devolution deals show that deals can open the door to receiving even more powers and influence over time, as well as extra funding.

Greater Manchester is currently on its 6th deal and Tees Valley has secured

**£900m**  
over the past 5 years.



Developing this ongoing partnership with the Government will be important to maximising the benefits of Norfolk's deal.



# Working with our partners

To make the most of the new powers and significant funding, and for the County Deal for Norfolk to succeed, it is vital that we continue to work closely with partners such as district councils, businesses and other organisations. The Deal makes it clear that we are committed to working with organisations from a range of sectors to create a Norfolk Leadership Board. Their job will be to contribute and oversee the development and implementation of the County Deal Strategy and any future deals.



## Securing long term funding for local priorities



The County Deal for Norfolk outlines a new **£600 million** Investment Fund over 30 years. This initial investment from the Government would provide much-needed certainty around money coming to Norfolk. This would be used for long-term investments to help meet the council's **Better Together, For Norfolk** goals.

This funding, alongside the UK Shared Prosperity Fund, could support areas such as:

- Creating more higher value jobs for Norfolk's residents
- Improving vital public services in a rural county
- Strengthening key business sectors, making Norfolk a more attractive place for investment
- Protecting Norfolk's economic and cultural assets from climate change

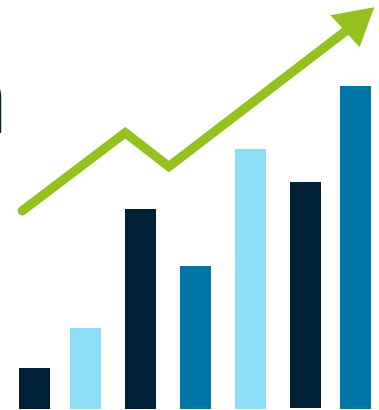
# Investing in the skills we know we need



We want businesses in Norfolk to be able to find the skilled workers they need locally, and we want to help local people develop the skills they need to get good jobs in the county.

The County Deal for Norfolk would mean we could take control of the adult education budget so we can deliver the right training for local people and meet the needs of local businesses. This means that the employment support on offer matches our economic priorities.

# Making Norfolk an attractive place for business



The New Anglia Local Enterprise Partnership currently works with businesses, education and local authorities to boost our economy by raising public and private investment for infrastructure, skills and business support across Norfolk and Suffolk.

As part of the County Deal, some of the functions of New Anglia Local Enterprise Partnership would be brought into Norfolk County Council to ensure there is local accountability and a strong, independent business voice.

We'd set up a dedicated Business Board for Norfolk, which would replace the current Business Board which serves both Norfolk and Suffolk, meaning we could focus on what matters most to Norfolk.

We would continue to help businesses to develop the skills they need, enabling organisations to help shape training and skills development. The Government has also committed to give us further powers to support Norfolk to grow the private sector, just as has already happened in Greater Manchester and the West Midlands.



# Improving housing and employment zones

Norfolk County Council is committed to increasing the provision of high-quality affordable housing for local people to enable them to continue to live in their communities. The County Deal for Norfolk would help us to do this.

We would get additional funding and powers to help overcome challenges in developing housing and employment sites across the County. To do this, it is vital that Norfolk County Council continues to work in collaboration with district, borough and city councils.



Norfolk would be given nearly **£7 million** in 2024/25 to support the building of new homes on brownfield land. These are sites which have been previously developed or occupied by a permanent structure.



The Government would also provide almost **£6 million** of funding in 2023 for housing, regeneration and development priorities. This means that we could hit the ground running.



Working with district councils and other relevant partners, the county council would be able to build more affordable and rural housing, as well as focusing on regeneration and wider development. We'd be able to work directly with the Government, making it easier to attract funding.

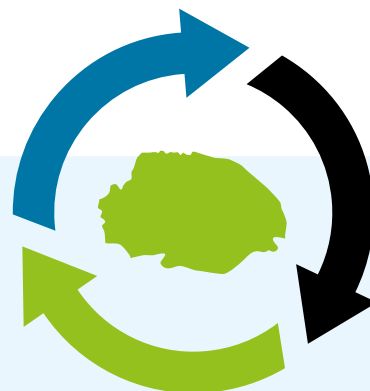


We'd get **£382,000** from the Government to help kickstart projects.



The County Deal for Norfolk would mean that the County Council, working closely with district councils and other relevant partners, would get new powers to buy land to support development, regeneration and infrastructure projects which are in the public interest.

**All of this would bring improvements to the county's social, economic and environmental wellbeing.**



# Tackling net zero and climate change



We are committed to addressing and mitigating the impact of climate change, as well as contributing to the Government's Net Zero targets.

A Norfolk Climate Change Partnership was set up in January 2020 to work across the county on climate change issues, with the specific aim of helping Norfolk become an exemplar in tackling climate change by reducing CO2 emissions from local authority estates and supporting the reduction in carbon emissions by Norfolk businesses. The County Deal signals a commitment by the Government to work with Norfolk on tackling these critical priorities so that we can develop the innovative approaches we need to deliver action on climate change.



# Governance changes



The Government sees high profile, directly elected local leadership as being essential for delivering better local outcomes and more joined up public services. It would also provide a focal point for innovation and collaboration with local accountability.

As a condition of the County Deal, Norfolk County Council would need to change the way it's governed. Under our current system the leader of the political group with the most seats in the council becomes the Council Leader. Under the Deal, we would move to having a leader who is elected directly by the people of Norfolk. The position of directly elected leader would simply replace the current role of the Leader of the Council. By creating a like for like replacement, there will be no additional administration costs as the directly elected leader would

be supported by the current council staff and systems. This is quite different to Mayoral Combined Authorities, which create an additional layer of local government, employing their own, separate team. The Government has made it clear that the County Deal for Norfolk is not about local government reorganisation. Every council would remain a separate organisation and would not lose any powers or responsibilities they have now. The directly elected leader would not be able to change this, nor would they have the power to do so in the future.



## Democracy



If the County Deal for Norfolk is agreed, Norfolk County Council would hold its first directly elected leader election on Thursday 2 May 2024. That election would be combined with the Norfolk Police and Crime Commissioner election to reduce costs. The directly elected leader would be elected under a 'First Past the Post' system, meaning that whoever gets the highest number of votes wins.

**Everyone who is eligible to vote in local government elections in Norfolk would be eligible to vote for the directly elected leader.**

# What happens next?

Following our public consultation, Norfolk County Council will need to decide on whether to approve the Deal and agree to change its governance model to enable the election of a directly elected leader. These decisions are important, as the Government has made it clear that the County Council will not be able to secure the proposed Deal if it doesn't change the way it's governed.

## The timeline for the Deal:

