

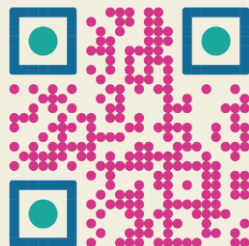


Future³ Norfolk

PEOPLE PLACE PROGRESS



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Local Government Reorganisation in Norfolk

What does it mean for you?

How did we get here?

1. Current structure in place since 1974. Some services run by the County, some by City and District Councils.
2. Govt. announces plans to reorganise local government in English Devolution White Paper. Published Dec 2024.
3. Two strands to coming change. Devolution & Local Govt. Reorganisation (LGR). Town & Parish Councils unchanged.
4. Devolution transfers powers from Govt. to single strategic authority over all Norfolk/Suffolk. Run by elected Mayor.
5. LGR abolishes County, City & District Councils. Replaced by unitary authorities that deliver all non-Mayoral services.



Mayor of Norfolk & Suffolk – powers and services

1. Transport and local infrastructure
 2. Skills and employment support
 3. Housing and strategic planning
 4. Economic development and regeneration
 5. Environment and climate change
 6. Health, wellbeing and public service reform
 7. Public safety
- **Mayoral elections May 2026. It's not far away!**



What do Councils have to do?

1. Plan to move services to Mayor/unitary councils.
2. Norfolk is on the Devolution Priority Programme.
3. Councils submitted interim proposals for new council(s) March 2025
4. NCC proposing one unitary council, South Norfolk two. Us six districts proposed three unitary councils.
5. Govt. reviewed & asked that all proposals be taken to full business case. Submission by 26th Sept 2025.
6. District 6 final proposals will be informed by comprehensive data. Cost of services, income, geography, place, population & criteria set by Govt.

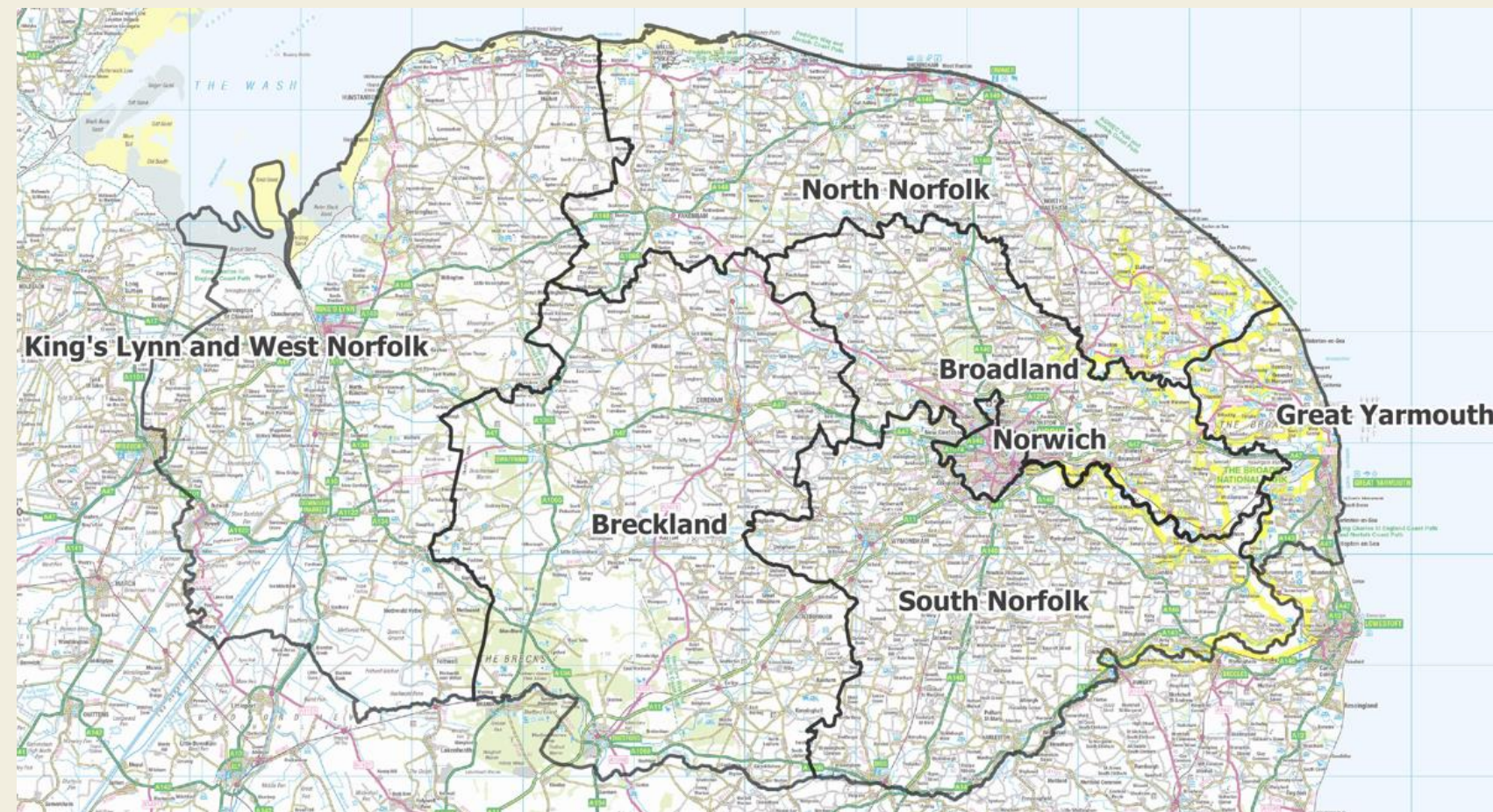


Government criteria for LGR

1. Proposals should cover all of Norfolk
2. Big enough to improve efficiency, capacity & resist financial shocks
3. Prioritise the delivery of high quality and sustainable public services
4. Councils should attempt to work together to meet local needs, informed by local views
5. New unitary structures must support devolution
6. New councils should strengthen community engagement & neighbourhood empowerment



Local government in Norfolk now



Council	People	Councillors
Breckland	141,500	49
Broadland	131,700	47
Great Yarmouth	99,800	39
Kings Lynn & W Norfolk	154,300	55
North Norfolk	103,000	40
Norwich	144,000	39
South Norfolk	141,900	46
Norfolk County Council		84
Norfolk (total)	916,200	399

(Source - ONS 2021 census data)

The Power of Three - West, East & Greater Norwich

- Geography – at about 2,000 square miles, Norfolk is just too big for only one Council to run everything.
- Population – with 916,200 people In Norfolk at 2021 census, a single unitary council would be the largest of its type in England.
- Fewer councils means fewer councillors, poorer representation and decisions made a long way from where people live. One council could mean nearly five times as many electors per councillor. Three councils is the best solution.

The Power of Three - West, East & Greater Norwich

- Norwich – free up the economic powerhouse of Norfolk to the benefit of all; more employment, business and housing.
- G Yarmouth/King's Lynn – build on the history, civic pride & economic power of these historic port towns as part of new unitaries.
- Market towns & villages - will play a full part in local democracy and the new unitary councils.
- Historic Mayors & civic arrangements – hugely important and will be protected and will continue under a three council system.

The Power of Three – West, East & Greater Norwich

- PC's – three would mean support from local Cllrs. who know their area. One council means greater demands on already stretched PC's
- Sharing – three doesn't mean fragmented services. Waste, CCTV, Parking & Building Control, already shared by councils across Norfolk. Lower cost, good value.
- Scale & savings – a big council = big savings say proponents of a single council. Not at the biggest council in England, Birmingham, which went bust last year. Or **Somerset** Council, a large unitary (572,000 people) which promised big savings from the move to one council. Some savings BUT £66 million annual deficit.

The Power of Three – West, East & Greater Norwich

- Representation – people like to live near & know their councillors. They want knowledgeable, local representation that allows them to hold councillors & councils to account. Three is the answer.
- Services – three council structure would see better allocation of services & resource informed by local expertise & knowledge. Lower cost & better outcomes. Three councils would offer cost and value.
- 3 Highways areas to deal with roads makes sense, 3 policing areas would make sense & already 3 acute hospitals, QE, N&N , J Paget
- Three really is the magic number.

East, West, Greater Norwich - 3 councils 3 clear messages

People – strengthen local democracy, increase transparency, keep decision making closer to home.

Place – celebrate the unique identity, strengths, challenges and heritage of different areas.

Progress – build a resilient, sustainable future for Norfolk that can adapt to changing needs.

And finally - our proposal is financially sound, will put Norfolk people and places at the heart of local services and will keep Local Government local. 3 is the answer

Timeline to new councils

26th September 2025 – Business case submitted

November 2025 – Government Consultation with statutory consultees

March 2026 – Government decision on which model

May 2026 – Mayoral and County Council elections

July 2026 – Structural Change Order laid before parliament

Autumn 2026 - Structural Change Order passed

6th May 2027 – New Shadow Unitary Council elections

1st April 2028 – Vesting Day/New Councils live



Any Questions?



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