CABINET

Minutes of a special meeting of the Cabinet of South Norfolk District Council held at South Norfolk House, Long Stratton on Monday 30 June 2016 at 7.50 p.m.

Members Present:

Cabinet: Councillors J Fuller (Chairman) M Edney, Y Bendle, L Hornby, C Hudson, K Mason Billig


Officers in Attendance: The Director of Business Development (D Lorimer), the Director of Community Services (P Boyce), the Director of Growth and Localism (T Horspole) and the Governance and Business Manager (L Mickleborough)

2472 NORFOLK AND SUFFOLK DEVOLUTION AGREEMENT

Cabinet considered the recommendations received from the full Council meeting (held earlier that evening), and the Scrutiny Committee (held 28 June), with regard to the report of the Chief Executive, which set out the Norfolk and Suffolk Devolution Agreement.

Cllr L Neal, the Chairman of the Scrutiny Committee confirmed that the Devolution Deal had been debated in detail at the Scrutiny Committee meeting, and that members had been satisfied that most of the concerns raised previously had been addressed. The Governance arrangements however, remained a concern, and the Cabinet agreed that the Chairman should raise these issues with the governance team working on the Deal.
Members agreed with Scrutiny’s recommendations that consultation literature should be uniform across Norfolk and Suffolk and present a consistent message, focussing on no more than five key benefits for residents. Cllr B Stone confirmed that the County Council would be appointing Ipsos MORI to administer the process. The majority of the consultation would take place on-line and a telephone survey would also be conducted. Cabinet were satisfied that this would allow for a consistent and meaningful approach across all authorities in Norfolk and Suffolk. The Chairman confirmed that the consultation would also include those areas in the county where councils had voted against the devolution proposals.

Turning to the recommendations from the Council, Cabinet agreed unanimously to accept the proposals.

The Decision

RESOLVED: 1. To agree

a) To endorse the signing of the Norfolk and Suffolk Devolution Agreement by the Leader.

b) That, on the basis of the Governance Review, and having regard to any impact on equalities explored in the Equalities Impact Assessment (EqIA) attached, the establishment of a Mayoral Combined Authority for Norfolk and Suffolk is the option which most fully permits the effective discharge of the functions that Government is prepared to devolve to this area.

c) To support the publication of the draft Scheme for a Norfolk and Suffolk Mayoral Combined Authority as attached to this report for consultation purposes, subject to such final revisions as may be approved by the Chief Executive in consultation with the Leader, and prior to the commencement of the formal consultation exercise. Such formal consultation, on the Scheme, to commence once all Norfolk and Suffolk Councils have considered the matters in this report and, in any event, no later than the 4 July 2016. In the event that a Constituent Authority named in the attached Scheme does not agree to endorse the Deal Agreement and/or the Scheme, Cabinet authorises the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader, to agree the relevant changes to be made to the Deal Agreement, the Scheme and the Governance Review to reflect that Authority’s non-participation.

d) That the outcome of the consultation exercise is submitted to the Secretary of the State by the Chief Executive in consultation with the Leader, by 9 September.
e) That Council meets by 28 October 2016 to consider giving consent (or endorsing Cabinet to give consent) to an Order establishing a Mayoral Combined Authority for Norfolk and Suffolk.

f) Insofar as any of the matters referred to in this report concern the discharge of functions ancillary to the endorsing and signing of the Norfolk and Suffolk Devolution Agreement and the publication of the Scheme, authority is delegated to the Chief Executive in consultation with the Leader, to take all necessary steps and actions to progress the recommendations detailed in this report.

g) In the event that any technical changes are required to reflect legislative requirements and the contents of the Deal Agreement, authority is delegated to the Chief Executive in agreement with the other Chief Executives across Norfolk and Suffolk to make the necessary changes to the Scheme.

h) That further reports are presented to the Council as appropriate as the Devolution process develops.

2. To note the recommendations of the Scrutiny Committee with regard to its concerns in relation to governance arrangements, and to agree to communicate these to the governance team working on the Deal.

**The Reasons for the Decision**
To ensure additional funding for the area, to stimulate economic growth and provide an integrated approach to services and infrastructure.

**Other Options Considered**
To withdraw from the devolution process.

(The meeting concluded at 8.02 p.m.)

Chairman

Cab Min 30/06/16CLW