

## **Freedom of Information – Response – 26514**

*Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, I would like to request the following information regarding the ongoing local government reorganisation in Norfolk and Suffolk.*

*1. The total actual expenditure incurred by Suffolk County Council to date on the local government reorganisation/unitary authority transition, including but not limited to:*

- o Consultancy, legal, and planning costs*
- o IT or systems changes*
- o Communication and public consultation*

As outlined in the 17 June County Council Cabinet paper, £1.9million was agreed to be transferred from the Council's risk reserve into the corporate priorities reserve, with delegated authority to the Chief Executive (in consultation with the Leader and relevant Cabinet Members and the Chief Finance Officer (section 151 officer)) for allocating spend against that funding pot. This was supplemented in June 2025 by MHCLG capacity funding of £145,000 (the County Council's share of the £290,288 allocated to Suffolk).

As explained in the report, (available on the County Council's website:

[https://committeeminutes.suffolk.gov.uk/DocSetPage.aspx?MeetingTitle=\(17-06-2025\),%20The%20Cabinet](https://committeeminutes.suffolk.gov.uk/DocSetPage.aspx?MeetingTitle=(17-06-2025),%20The%20Cabinet)) in its trailblazing status as a member of the Devolution Priority Programme (DPP), Suffolk County Council needs to have the capacity, expertise and resources to best deliver devolution and LGR in parallel and to an accelerated timetable, working effectively with Government and partners. This funding pot is reported through the County Council's quarterly financial report to Cabinet.

As outlined in the ministerial invitation letter: [Letter: Suffolk - GOV.UK](#) the government timetable set for DPP areas was to complete a full business case proposal and submit to government by 26 September 2025. This has been the main focus of work so far. Therefore, legal, planning and IT support for the local government reorganisation (LGR) process has been provided through existing resource.

As reported in Quarter 1 and Quarter 2 of the County Council's quarterly financial report to Cabinet, £1.9 million has been allocated to assist with the funding of additional costs associated with Local Government Reorganisation and Devolution. At Quarter 2, £0.341m had been committed to be spent on Consultancy Support and £0.192m had been committed to be spent on Communication and Public Consultation.

Local Government Reorganisation will be the biggest change to the way council services are delivered in 50 years and presents a once-in-a-generation opportunity to reshape local government in Suffolk for the better. It is right, therefore, that Suffolk County Council carried out a thorough and all-encompassing engagement campaign to ensure that all residents were fully informed and, where necessary, consulted on the reorganisation.

The impact of the One Suffolk campaign and the views collected from residents was used as evidence in the business case that was submitted to Government in September.

*2. The total budgeted or committed future costs related to the remainder of the reorganisation and transition to the new governance arrangements.*

The One Suffolk business case: [View our Consultation Resources - One Suffolk Council](#) includes transition planning analysis. Section five (options and financial analysis), along with appendix four (disaggregating social care immediate costs and escalating risks), appendix five (detailed social care risk register), appendix seven (financial analysis), appendix eight (financial sustainability considerations) and appendix nine (summary of assumptions used in the financial analysis).

This will need to be refined as the LGR process moves to implementation following the Ministerial decision on which LGR model to implement in Suffolk.

*3. Any internal business cases, forecasts, or reports outlining one-off transitional costs and how they are to be funded.*

The One Suffolk business case includes transition planning analysis. Section five (options and financial analysis), along with appendix four (disaggregating social care immediate costs and escalating risks), appendix five (detailed social care risk register), appendix seven (financial analysis), appendix eight (financial sustainability considerations) and appendix nine (summary of assumptions used in the financial analysis).

This will need to be refined as the LGR process moves to implementation following the Ministerial minded to decision on which LGR model to implement in Suffolk.

*4. If possible, a breakdown of costs by category as outlined in point 1.*

This is included in the One Suffolk business case transition planning analysis referenced in the answers to questions two and three. This will need to be refined as the LGR process moves to implementation following the Ministerial minded to decision on which LGR model to implement in Suffolk.