

KMB/SM

Tel: 01603 223201

17 March 2025

By Email

Dear Colleague,

Thank you for all the dedicated work you do in our towns and villages across Norfolk.

You may well be aware that the Government has called for local government reorganisation, with the county and district councils across England replaced by unitary authorities – running all services in their area.

I believe that this presents an opportunity for a fresh look at how services are provided in neighbourhoods - and of course town and parish councils are crucial to this, being rooted in the community.

I am really interested in your views and ideas, as we start to shape detailed plans over the next few months. For example, there may be some services currently provided by the district and county councils that your council would like to be more involved in, or you may have thoughts about how neighbourhoods can have a greater say about the services in their area.

I think that people in Norfolk deserve to have the most cost effective and efficient form of local government, with strong links to our communities. I believe we can achieve that, by working together.

This is a once in a generation opportunity to redesign local government, to make it effective and efficient, as well as community-focussed.

You may be aware that the County and District councils were asked by Government to submit an interim plan this month. Norfolk County Council's submission, attached to this email, highlights a range of potential benefits from having a unitary council system, including:

- ensuring strong local links, through close working with town and parish councils, or local boards.
- ending confusion – so people know who delivers services in their area and who to contact when they need them;
- delivering value for money – fewer sets of senior officers, councillors and council headquarters would free up money to put back into the services people need;
- joining up existing services, to make them more effective – such as bin collection and waste disposal and enabling housing and social care to work together more closely;

Initial calculations show we can save millions of pounds that can be reinvested in better services, if we do this right.

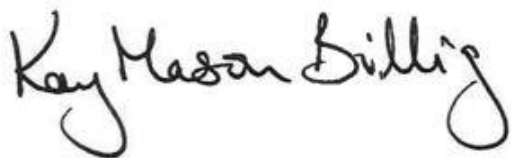
We are determined to be guided by the data to develop the best possible proposal, to submit to Government in September. To make sure we get it right we want to understand what is important to local people in your area, and hear from you about what your council thinks we need to know. That's why I'm keen to engage with you over the coming weeks and you should be hearing from my officers soon.

If you have any initial questions and thoughts, please do feel free to contact the team at lgr@norfolk.gov.uk.

In the meantime, you can find updates on local government reorganisation and devolution on our website at www.norfolk.gov.uk/devolution. You will also find a useful overview of devolution and local government reorganisation attached to this letter, which will be soon be published in our latest edition of Your Norfolk magazine.

I will keep you updated and really look forward to working with you.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kay Mason Billig". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping 'K' and a long, sweeping 'g'.

Cllr Kay Mason Billig
Leader of the Council