

Additional information for Opposition Business:

1. This Administration presents as being predetermined in its approach to assessing LGR options. There should be an open minded, objective investigation and evaluation of 1, 2 or 3 Unitary Council models, albeit with a range of boundary options. However, the Administration openly stated at the March 25th Full Council meeting that they will not countenance a single Unitary.
2. This Administration has not been transparent or inclusive in its processes and preparatory work. It has not developed evidence led models using objective metrics and financial viability data to prove which model would be best for the residents and businesses of Norfolk. There has been no mention of stress, resilience and fairness tests to be applied to favoured models. Nor has there been a cross-party Work Group to direct and review Deep Dive tasks to validate quantitative and qualitative considerations and how that should influence the restructure and meet the Government criteria.
3. Recent briefings show it to be focused on processes relying on consultants to prepare data as directed and which will only be published late in the process. The briefing information to date is woefully short of metrics and qualitative data to evidence the emergence of a preferred model to support an informed decision. Moreover, it infers a 3 unitary model with various boundary options with no supporting evidence base and thus no credibility.
4. The Chief Executive has stated that draft submission documents will be published on 7th September and an Extraordinary Full Council to be convened on 17th September to approve a final version. That is an unacceptably short timeline. It will be a major information assimilation task for Councillors to fully understand the proposed model and how it would work so that they can make a properly informed decision on its suitability.