

Extraordinary Cabinet



Forest Heath
District Council

Title of Report:	Findings of the Extraordinary Informal Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee: 4 October 2016 – What Will Devolution Mean for West Suffolk?	
Report No:	CAB/FH/16/050	
Report to and date:	Extraordinary Cabinet	22 November 2016
Portfolio Holder:	James Waters Leader of the Council Tel: 07771 621038 Email: james.waters@forest-heath.gov.uk	
Chairman of the Committee:	Simon Cole Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee Tel: 07974 443762 Email: simon.cole@forest-heath.gov.uk	
Lead Officer:	Ian Gallin Chief Executive Tel: 01284 757001 Email: ian.gallin@westsuffolk.gov.uk	
Purpose of report:	<p>On 4 October 2016, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee held an Extraordinary Informal Joint meeting with members of St Edmundsbury's Overview and Scrutiny Committee, and considered the following item jointly:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">What Will Devolution Mean for West Suffolk?</p> <p>The report provided the Committee with further information to enable it to come to a view on five areas identified during a workshop session held on 8 September 2016.</p>	
Recommendation:	It is <u>RECOMMENDED</u> to Cabinet that it <u>NOTES</u> that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee wishes to express its concern regarding the veto vote of the directly elected Mayor, as outlined in paragraph 1.2 of Report No CAB/FH/16/050.	

Key Decision: <i>(Check the appropriate box and delete all those that do not apply.)</i>		<i>Is this a Key Decision and, if so, under which definition?</i> Yes, it is a Key Decision - <input type="checkbox"/> No, it is not a Key Decision - <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Consultation:		• See Report No: OAS/FH/16/027	
Alternative option(s):		• See Report No: OAS/FH/16/027	
Implications:			
<i>Are there any financial implications? If yes, please give details</i>		Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> • See Report No: OAS/FH/16/027	
<i>Are there any staffing implications? If yes, please give details</i>		Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> • See Report No: OAS/FH/16/027	
<i>Are there any ICT implications? If yes, please give details</i>		Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> • See Report No: OAS/FH/16/027	
<i>Are there any legal and/or policy implications? If yes, please give details</i>		Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> • See Report No: OAS/FH/16/027	
<i>Are there any equality implications? If yes, please give details</i>		Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> • See Report No: OAS/FH/16/027	
Risk/opportunity assessment: <i>(potential hazards or opportunities affecting corporate, service or project objectives)</i>			
Risk area	Inherent level of risk (before controls)	Controls	Residual risk (after controls)
	Low/Medium/ High*		Low/Medium/ High*
See Report No: OAS/FH/16/027			
Wards affected:		All Wards	
Background papers: <i>(all background papers are to be published on the website and a link included)</i>		East Anglia Devolution Website at www.eastangliadevo.co.uk Extraordinary (Informal Joint) Overview and Scrutiny Committee (FHDC): 4 October 2016 (Report No: OAS/FH/16/027 and Appendix A)	
Documents attached:		None	

1. Key issues and reasons for recommendation

1.1 In examining the issue of Devolution, and how Overview and Scrutiny can influence or have an input, a workshop was initiated by Councillor Diane Hind, Chairman of St Edmundsbury's Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Councillor Simon Cole, Chairman of Forest Heath's Overview and Scrutiny Committee, to help inform, focus and drive the agenda for the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 4 October 2016.

1.1.2 The Committee received Report No: OAS/FH/16/027, which provided further information on five key areas identified during the workshop session held on 8 September 2016, which scrutiny felt it would benefit from. These were:

- Running costs of the Combined Authority;
- Statutory bodies and their duties/powers in relation to the role of the Combined Authority and the arrangements proposed for voting;
- The Combined Authority Board and Co-opted persons;
- Governance and Exit Arrangements; and
- Double Devolution and Subsidiarity.

1.1.3 The Committee was asked to discuss the five key issues as set in Section 3 of Report No: OAS/FH/16/027 and to formulate findings, as appropriate.

1.2 Overview and Scrutiny Committee

1.2.1 The Overview and Scrutiny Committee scrutinised the report in detail and asked a number of questions to which comprehensive responses were provided by the Leader's and the Chief Executive.

1.2.2 In particular discussions were held on the role of the Mayor on the Combined Authority Board. Members expressed concern regarding the Mayor and their ability to vote against a majority decision or proposal by right of veto.

1.2.3 Discussions were also held on the "gateway reviews" proposed by Government, which would be carried out every five years between the Combined Authority and the Government in relation to the £25 million funding per year; the voting rights of constituent councils within a Combined Authority; staffing of a Shadow Combined Authority; and potential future options if any of the constituent councils voted against a Norfolk and Suffolk Combined Authority.

1.2.4 The Overview and Audit Scrutiny Committee has put forward a recommendation as set out on page one of this report.