

## Open Letter to Norfolk County Councillors

27 November 2023

Dear Norfolk County Councillors,

Norfolk Chambers of Commerce, the Federation of Small Businesses and the Institute of Directors have come together to urge all the Norfolk County Councillors to support a Level Three County Deal for Norfolk, when they vote on 04 December 2023.

As leading business membership organisations in Norfolk, between us representing over 83,000 employees across the county, we are writing to advise that those organisations are supportive of a County Deal. This deal would bring guaranteed funding into the region, greater economic investment and ultimately certainty for the business community to plan growth and investment. We would therefore urge you to vote in favour of a County Deal, as this would give Norfolk much greater control over our own destiny.

The County Deal will:

- provide **local control over how economic policy is implemented** and the flexibility to prioritise what is right for the county and its business community.
- deliver **£600m of funding over 30 years - £20 million** per year, with priorities decided with local businesses.
- facilitate **long term funding** without the need for costly and resource intensive bidding to Government - an area when Norfolk typically does not perform very strongly. In addition, it does not preclude Norfolk's local authorities from accessing other additional funding opportunities
- **open the door to more powers** and funding as Devolution Deals evolve, as Greater Manchester and the West Midlands have proved. This is likely to benefit local businesses further in the future.

The devolution deal provides additional funding and powers which will support local economic growth, and contribute to a healthy economic environment for businesses to operate within:

- Having **control of adult education** enables us to focus on providing the skills we know that Norfolk needs, in order to attract highly skilled, well-paid jobs – such as those arising from the net zero carbon agenda.
- Supporting the consolidation of a **transport budget** and Local Transport Plan to invest in local transport planning to better meet our local needs and priorities.
- Delivering a **Brownfield fund** c.£7m funding to deliver 455-583 new homes.

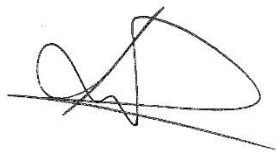
**If the County Deal is not signed, Norfolk risks falling further behind. We can't afford to miss out, when neighbours such as Cambridgeshire and potentially Suffolk are embracing devolution.**

We stand ready to work alongside our local councillors and stakeholders to bring greater investment, growth, jobs and prosperity to Norfolk.

Yours sincerely,



**Nova Fairbank**  
Chief Executive  
Norfolk Chambers



**Saul Humphrey**  
Chair  
Institute of Directors



**Candy Richards**  
Development Manager  
Federation of Small Business