

## Report 16

On 18<sup>th</sup> September a special meeting was held to discuss Breckland's proposal for devolution.

Breckland favour a 3 unitary authority model which the drafted in conjunction with 5 other district councils. The proposal had to be completed by the 26<sup>th</sup> September, so that a decision can be made in the first quarter of 2026 and the new councils established in 2027.

The advantages of this proposal are councillors know their communities better and communities know their councillors. Services will be more localised, 50 million pounds worth of savings by the 4<sup>th</sup> year and a lower council tax rise, (there will be a rise though).

Questions were asked about the payment of the 900 million pounds worth of debt that would need to be divided amongst the new councils. The feeling was that this would be divided per capita as has happened in similar situations.

NCC favour a single unitary model. This is the cheapest option, but councillors would be remote from the people, and it would be very Norwich centric.

All the Breckland councillors voted for the 3 unitary model except for just one vote. Personally, I think this is the one that is most likely to be adopted.