

Response ID ANON-M3MA-UNZA-C

Submitted to Norfolk and Suffolk Devolution Consultation
Submitted on 2025-04-13 10:37:21

About You

1 What best describes your response?

I am responding on behalf of, or as a representative of, a business or organisation

Business or Organisation Respondees

8 What best describes your organisation?

Other (Please Specify)

If you selected the option 'Other', please use this text box to provide more details:
Sub-national transport body

9 What is the first part of the postcode where your business or organisation is based? (For example if your postcode is AB1 2CD, you would write AB1 - We ask this so that we can identify what Local Authority you live in and understand a bit more about the area where you live. We do not use this information to identify you.)

Please use this text box to provide us with the first three or four characters of your postcode, e.g. AB1 or CD21.:
IP1

Proposed Geography

10 To what extent do you agree or disagree that establishing a Mayoral Combined County Authority over the proposed geography will deliver benefits to the area?

Agree

Please use this text box to explain your answer:

The range of powers and funding available in the new Devolution Framework would support local policy priorities e.g., transport infrastructure, economic development, skills, environment and health improvement. And allow greater integration of policy making to achieve enhanced outcomes. The Mayor and MCCA bring enhanced profile and influence nationally for local benefit and facilitates work with local partners to deliver those benefits. Boundaries make geographic sense with Norfolk and Suffolk having worked together on transport issues through Transport East and historically on economic growth and investment through the LEP. Evidence from established Mayoral devolved areas shows bringing powers closer to communities can increase the impact of both government and private sector investment. This is particularly seen with transport, where greater coordination and oversight can improve integration, better align with land-use and service planning and so increase positive social outcomes.

Proposed Governance

11 To what extent do you agree or disagree with the proposed governance arrangements for the Mayoral Combined County Authority?

Agree

Please use this text box to explain your answer:

Given many of the mayoral transport responsibilities relate to networks that cross-borders with neighbouring MCCAs, to enhance pan-regional collaboration, any future Mayor could choose to appoint the Chair of Transport East as non-constituent or associate member of the authority

Supporting The Economy

12 To what extent do you agree or disagree that working across the proposed geography through the Mayoral Combined County Authority will support the economy of the area?

Agree

Please use this text box to explain your answer:

The evidence-base for the Transport East Regional Transport Strategy and following work on transport connectivity identified strategic movement corridors that underpin the East's economy. Core corridors connect Norfolk and Suffolk economic centres both internally, and with neighbouring centres for example the A12/ Great Eastern Mainline, and A10/ East-West rail connections. There are also particularly strong local connections between Great

Yarmouth and Lowestoft across the current county border.

By being able to set a strategic economic direction, supported by strategic transport and land-use planning new Mayoral authorities will be able to leverage more effective outcomes based on these existing strong cross-authority connections. TE welcomes the opportunity to use its regional evidence, strategies and relationships to maximise the impact of any new Mayoralty.

Improving Social Outcomes

13 To what extent do you agree or disagree that working across the proposed geography through the Mayoral Combined County Authority will improve social outcomes in the area?

Agree

Please use this text box to explain your answer:

Transport connectivity is a key facilitator for improving social outcomes. Transport East has valuable evidence for the region around Transport-Related Social Exclusion – identifying areas of the region where people find it difficult to access jobs, education, training, services and opportunities due to the availability and cost of transport connections. It is clear there are notable disparities across the proposed Mayoral Authority area, which could be more effectively tackled with the powers and funding devolved to a Mayor.

By being able to set a strategic economic direction, supported by strategic transport and land-use planning alongside the other Mayoral powers, new Mayoral authorities will be able to leverage more effective social outcomes. TE welcomes the opportunity to use its regional evidence, strategies and relationships to maximise the social impact of any new Mayoralty.

Local Government Services

14 To what extent do you agree or disagree that working across the proposed geography through a Mayoral Combined County Authority will improve local government services in the area?

Agree

Please use this text box to explain your answer:

More strategic integration of policy & plans, and accessing additional investment more tailored to local needs would improve services.

Transport networks cross authority boundaries. Strategic connections across the East facilitate trade & supply businesses across the UK. There is an opportunity to undertake some strategic transport activity at a regional-level to increase impact:

Rail & Freight pan-regional engagement structures exist and can facilitate Mayoral relationships with other regions to maximise impact

TE could support Mayors on Key Route Networks. TE already has identified core corridors and has strong engagement with National Highways.

TE has tools, analysis & data to inform MCCAs work and monitor against priorities. Existing evidence & procurement frameworks can be adapted to accelerate the work of any new Mayoralities.

The DfT has requested STBs to support strategic transport integration at a regional-level supporting the emerging Integrated National Transport Strategy.

Improving The Local Natural Environment

15 To what extent do you agree or disagree that working across the proposed geography through a Mayoral Combined County Authority will improve the local natural environment and overall national environment?

Agree

Please use this text box to explain your answer:

Transport is the largest source of carbon emissions in the East at 42% and in certain areas is a notable contributor to poor air quality. The powers within the transport framework for the Mayoral Authority provide an opportunity to accelerate Norfolk & Suffolk's path to reducing carbon and air quality emissions from transport alongside local growth ambitions.

Supporting Needs of Local Communities

16 To what extent do you agree or disagree that working across the proposed geography through the Mayoral Combined County Authority will support the interests and needs of local communities and reflect local identities?

Prefer not to say

Please use this text box to explain your answer:

Outside TE scope

Referral source

17 Please tell us how you found out about this consultation?

GOV.UK website

If you selected the option 'Other', please use this text box to provide more details: