



**NORFOLK
& SUFFOLK
DEVOLUTION**

Online Survey: Review & Analysis

September 2016

Online Devolution Consultation

Methodology

Development – The Online Survey was designed using the IPSOS MORI telephone survey template and wherever possible matches the version used for Suffolk and Norfolk with the only changes being those required due to the differing collection mechanism.

Format - The survey asks 14 questions regarding the devolution proposals, in a mixture of closed and free text forms. These were followed by 15 standard Equality & Diversity questions and others questions related to demography. A copy of the online survey is contained in Appendix 1.

The Online survey was made available through the dedicated East Anglian Devolution website: <https://www.eastangliadevo.co.uk/>

A hard copy version of the survey was also provided on request. Responses in this format were then added to the online total.

The survey was available throughout the consultation period of July 8th to August 23rd.

A copy of the survey is contained in Appendix 1.

Promotion – The Consultation and the methods of responding were promoted through a variety of mechanisms to maximise both the overall response rate and demographic range of the two counties.

The promotion channels included:

- County, District and Borough websites.
- Social Media – Twitter, Facebook
- Press Releases to Suffolk and Norfolk Media
- Voluntary Sector Organisations
- Town and Parish Councils
- Staff, Cllrs
- Adverts in Press
- Libraries

Timeframe – The online consultation was available from the launch of the overall consultation on 11th July 2016 and ran until 23rd August 2016.

Interim Results – Throughout the live period interim results were used to review take up and the demography of respondents. Where response rate was low this was highlighted and efforts made to address.

Online Survey Results and Analysis

In total Suffolk and Norfolk received 2,925 online and hardcopy survey responses.

For each question in the survey the number of responses received for each available option and the percentage this represents is provided. For each free text question the responses have been analysed into themes with the total responses for a theme, and the percentage this represents for each question, provided along with sample responses.

Q1 Which district council area do you live in / are you based? Please select one only:

At a county level Suffolk received 1,392 responses and Norfolk 1,528. Five respondents did not select any district council area.

Q2: Before today, how much, if anything, would you say you knew about devolution within England?

Great deal	Fair amount	Just a little	Heard of, but know nothing about it	Never heard of it	Don't know
240 8.3%	1222 42.5%	1118 38.9%	252 8.8%	44 1.5%	2 0.7%

50.8% stated they knew a great deal or fair amount about devolution, whilst 10.3% stated they had heard little or nothing about it.

Q3: To what extent, if at all, do you support or oppose the principle of devolution?

Strongly Support	Tend to support	Neither support nor oppose	Tend to oppose	Strongly oppose	Don't know
555 19.3%	908 31.6%	279 9.7%	395 13.8%	716 24.9%	20 0.7%

50.9% stated that they support the principle of devolution whilst 38.7% expressed that they opposed this.

Q4: For each of the following, do you think decisions are better made nationally by the government in Westminster, or locally by the proposed Mayor and Combined Authority as described above?

	Decisions are better made nationally	Decisions are better made locally	Don't know	Response Total
Working with local councils to develop a new strategy for housing and development in line with existing local plans	24.1% 670	71.8% 1999	4.1% 115	2784
Deciding how £130m of new funding is spent to support the building of new homes, including affordable housing	25.4% 704	69.7% 1934	4.9% 136	2774
Creating a transport plan for Norfolk and Suffolk that helps to better coordinate road, rail and bus services	31.2% 865	65.0% 1805	3.8% 105	2775
Deciding how the budget is spent for maintaining roads in Norfolk and Suffolk	21.8% 604	74.6% 2067	3.5% 98	2769
Deciding on the best way to roll out smart ticketing for bus and rail travel across Norfolk and Suffolk. (Smart ticketing involves paying for travel electronically using microchips, either through contactless payments or schemes like the Oyster Card in London.)	34.5% 955	55.6% 1540	10.0% 276	2771
Reviewing further education in Norfolk and Suffolk to help provide young people aged 16 and over with the skills that local employers need	35.6% 987	58.5% 1622	5.9% 163	2772
Deciding how funding is spent on apprenticeships and training in Norfolk and Suffolk to produce a workforce with the skills that local employers need	28.8% 796	65.6% 1813	5.6% 154	2763
Deciding how funding is spent on adult education and skills training in Norfolk and Suffolk for people aged 19 and over to help produce a workforce with the skills that local employers need	31.5% 868	62.7% 1730	5.8% 161	2759
Deciding how funding is spent on infrastructure projects, such as improving broadband or transport services, to support economic growth and create jobs in Norfolk and Suffolk	37.4% 1032	58.6% 1620	4.0% 111	2763
Joining up health and social care services so that they better support people and reduce the pressure on existing services	44.2% 1217	51.0% 1405	4.8% 131	2753
Designing a new programme to support those with a health condition or disability and the long-term unemployed back into work	51.5% 1415	41.9% 1151	6.7% 183	2749
Reviewing all land and property held by the public sector and creating a list of land and property available for development in Norfolk and Suffolk	32.0% 887	62.2% 1721	5.8% 160	2768
Coordinating the work being done to improve flood defences and protect the coastline	47.2% 1303	49.2% 1358	3.6% 99	2760
			answered	2798
			skipped	127

There is greatest support, 74.6%, for 'Deciding how the budget is spent for maintaining roads in Norfolk and Suffolk' to be a decision made locally rather than nationally. This is followed by 'Working with local councils to develop a new strategy for housing and development in line with existing local plans' (71.8%) and 'Deciding how £130m of new

funding is spent to support the building of new homes, including affordable housing' (69.7%).

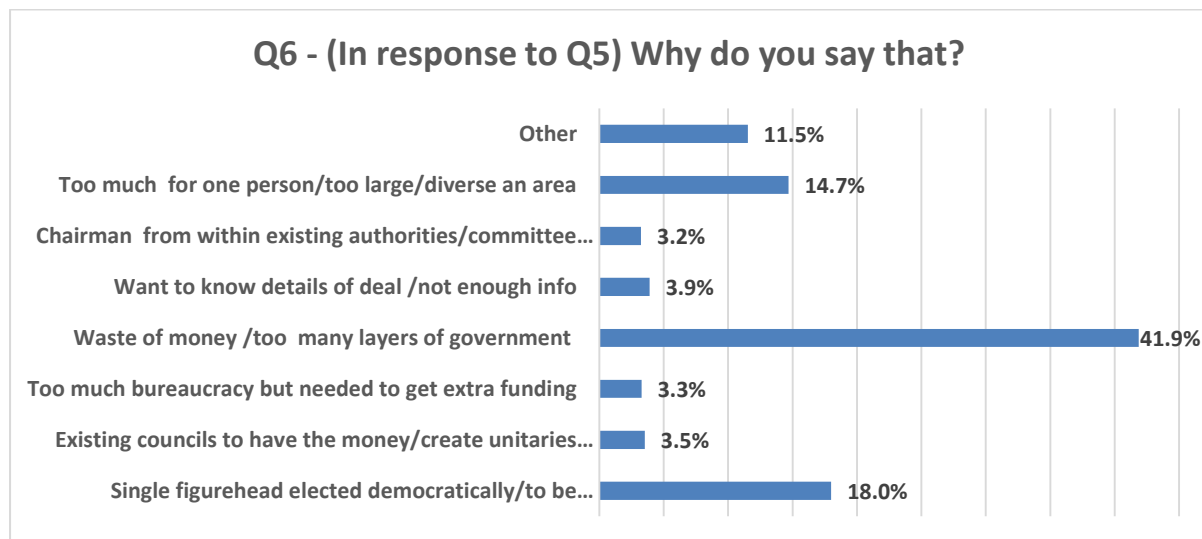
Q5: To what extent, if at all, do you support or oppose the election of a mayor in order to access the decision making powers and funding in the proposed devolution deal?

Strongly Support	Tend to support	Neither support nor oppose	Tend to oppose	Strongly oppose	Don't know
277 9.7%	488 17.0%	299 10.4%	437 15.2%	1344 46.8%	25 0.9%

26.7% of respondents support the election of a mayor whilst 62.0% are opposed.

Q6: (in response to Q5, 'To what extent, if at all, do you support or oppose the election of a mayor in order to access the decision making powers and funding in the proposed devolution deal?') Why do you say that?

The responses to this question were analysed and grouped into themes as shown below:



Top response themes:

Waste of money too many layers of government already/money better spent going straight to services 41.9% (1021)

'Jobs for the boys. We don't need another tier of government. We have just got rid of the useless EU rabble, so why do we want another elitist Tory tier running Suffolk and Norfolk. It is not real localism.'

‘The costs and associated allowances, and salaries for staff and office accommodation etc will have to be borne by local tax payers. Plus it is another layer of bureaucracy like the Police and Crime Commissioner which in my view is quite unnecessary.’

‘A locally elected mayor adds another unnecessary layer of local bureaucracy to local government and puts too much control in one person's hands, negating the role of democratically elected local and county councils, which are already perfectly capable of carrying out the duties for which the mayor post is being created. ‘

To be elected by all/single figurehead/must be democratic 18.0% (439)

‘A single accountable person elected across Norfolk and Suffolk by a larger population rather than a local councillor elected by a few hundred people in a small ward would be much better all round’

‘It should be the combined authority with a chair from the combined authority. Perhaps it should be the introduction of one unitary government across Norfolk and Suffolk with a CEO.’

‘Single point of contact for central government rather than 20+ odd other leaders’

Too much power for one person/too large/too diverse an area 14.7% (358)

‘This is too large and diverse an area to be governed by a single person.’

‘The role will have far too much power. Norfolk and Suffolk have differing needs and, with the best will, bias is inevitable more so with the proposed CA veto requirements. ‘

‘I don't believe one person can reflect the views and needs of two such large and different counties as Norfolk and Suffolk. I believe it will end up further weakening the powers of the County and Borough Council. I believe it will cost more money. I believe it will add an additional and much less accountable area of administration.’

All themes with numbers of respondents and percentages of those who completed the question:

Theme	% of respondents	Number of respondents
Single figurehead elected democratically/to be accountable	18.0%	439
Existing councils to have the money/create unitaries instead	3.5%	86
Too much bureaucracy but needed to get extra funding	3.3%	80
Waste of money /too many layers of government	40.9%	1021
Want to know details of deal /not enough info	3.9%	95
Chairman from within existing authorities/committee to lead	3.2%	79

Too much for one person/too large/diverse an area	14.7%	358
Other	11.5%	281

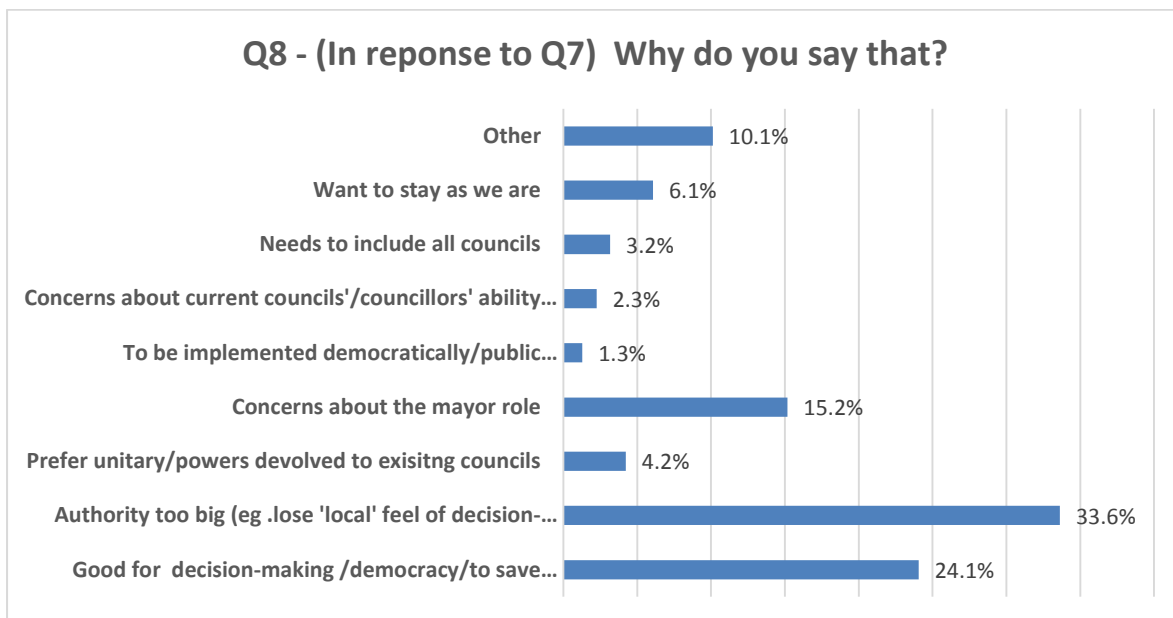
Q7: To what extent, if at all, do you support or oppose participating councils becoming part of a Combined Authority along with other councils in Norfolk and Suffolk, which is chaired by a directly elected mayor?

Strongly Support	Tend to support	Neither support nor oppose	Tend to oppose	Strongly oppose	Don't know
382 13.4%	613 21.5%	268 9.4%	401 14.0%	1148 40.2%	43 1.5%

34.9% support the proposal of becoming part of a combined authority with other councils in Norfolk and Suffolk compared with 54.2% who oppose this.

Q8: (In response to Q7, 'To what extent, if at all, do you support or oppose participating councils becoming part of a Combined Authority along with other councils in Norfolk and Suffolk, which is chaired by a directly elected mayor?') Why do you say that?

The responses to this question were analysed and grouped into themes as shown below:



Top response themes:

Concerns with size of authority (eg lose 'local' feel of decision-making/could delay decisions/too

much bureaucracy) 33.6% (731)

'Increase in bureaucracy leading to delayed decisions'

'I don't find Norfolk and Suffolk have enough points of similarity to work as one unit'

'I think it's slightly confusing - several councils doing little bits of the same thing.'

Has to be done for good decision-making democracy/to save money/use local knowledge 24.1% (523)

'Although I generally oppose the formation of devolution, I can see that it's probably the only way to secure additional funding (especially in the wake of the EU referendum).'

'Decisions about this area should generally be made locally rather than centrally by the government'

'Combining resources should lead to cost reduction as duplication should be reduced. - Combined purchasing power of resources should give economies.'

Concerns about the mayor role 15.2% (330)

'I would support a directly elected Mayor if the post was not a political one - i.e. it was not contested on party political lines. - Such an appointment would tend to be influenced by their party's national policies rather than local needs.'

'Good that decisions can be made locally, but why do we need a mayor. CEO's already get paid enough to do this job.'

'Too cumbersome. They could just meet to agree important decisions over devolved funding without electing a mayor. It sounds like the mayor would be a Central Government hit man or woman to pressurise local decision making and the devolved funding is a bribe to put this structure in place. '

All themes with numbers of respondents and percentages of those who completed the question.

Theme	% of respondents	Number of respondents
Good for decision-making /democracy/to save money/use local knowledge	24.1%	523
Authority too big (eg. lose 'local' feel of decision-making/could delay decisions/too much bureaucracy and cost)	33.6%	731
Prefer unitary/powers devolved to existing councils	4.2%	92

Concerns about the mayor role	15.2%	330
To be implemented democratically/public vote/referendum	1.3%	28
Concerns about current councils'/councillors' ability to implement	2.3%	49
Needs to include all councils	3.2%	69
Want to stay as we are	6.1%	132
Other	10.1%	220

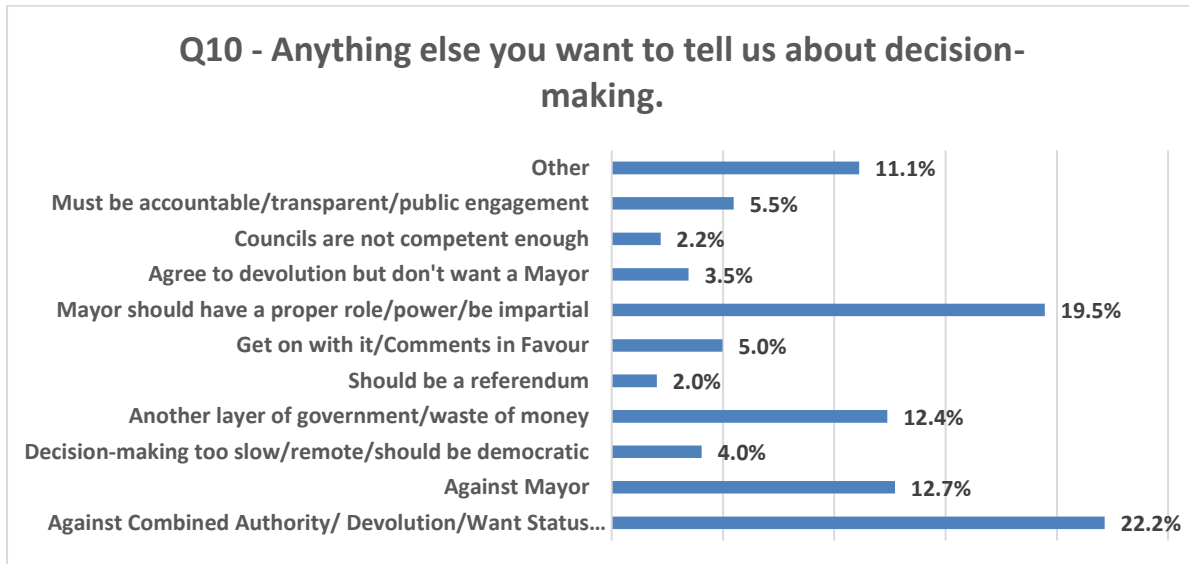
Q9: There are proposals for how the Combined Authority and directly elected Mayor would take decisions. Here are a number of statements outlining how it is proposed this will be done. To what extent, if at all, do you agree or disagree with each aspect of how decisions would be made?

	Strongly agree	Tend to agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Tend to disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know	Response Total
Each member of the Combined Authority, including the Mayor, has a vote.	35.3%	28.7%	9.1%	5.4%	16.7%	4.8%	2750
	971	788	251	148	459	133	
The directly elected Mayor cannot make decisions alone and will require the support of a certain number of members of the Combined Authority to progress their proposals.	54.3%	19.8%	6.8%	2.7%	12.1%	4.3%	2742
	1488	544	187	75	331	117	
Some decisions, such as the Combined Authority asking the Government for new powers and how much the authority would cost to run, would require a majority of members to agree. That majority must include the directly elected Mayor.	32.8%	22.4%	11.8%	8.5%	19.2%	5.3%	2735
	896	613	322	233	526	145	
						answered	2770
						skipped	155

The highest response to these statements was for “The directly elected Mayor cannot make decisions alone and will require the support of a certain number of members of the Combined Authority to progress their proposals”, with 74.1% stating that they strongly agreed or tended to agree with the statement.

Q10: Anything else you want to tell us about decision making

The responses to this question were analysed and grouped into themes as shown below:



Top response themes:

Against Combined Authority/ Want Status Quo 22.2% (263)

‘Decision making should be on all important issues in the hands of the government. This proposal should be consigned to the bin of history.’

‘Suffolk is more than capable of standing on its own and demanding more power from Westminster, we do not need other counties to do this.’

‘I hope that East Anglia rejects the devolution proposals and reminds central government that it should take responsibility for decision-making in the way that government is supposed to.’

Mayor should have a proper role/power/be impartial 19.5% (231)

‘Should be a majority decision of all local authorities and not just those at a meeting. The major should need a majority vote to make decisions not a minimum number.’

‘The mayor’s powers are excessive and he has effectively a veto which is undemocratic. We do not need a mayor at all. There is no justification for a mayoral combined authority or a combined authority and the money on offer is derisory.’

‘Majority voting is fine, but the Mayor should not be able to block votes and should support the

majority. Otherwise the Mayor could become corruptible, or only vote for their pet projects.'

Against mayor 12.7% (151)

'What is wrong with the current democratic option, everyone should have a say not just the one in power.'

'If the mayor can overrule a majority vote that he does not agree with that would be going against democracy.'

'Strongly oppose need for mayor. - Decisions affecting Norfolk should need a majority of Norfolk representatives. - Same for Suffolk decisions.'

All themes with numbers of respondents and percentages of those who completed the question.

Theme	% of respondents	Number of respondents
Against Combined Authority/ Devolution/Want Status Quo	22.2%	263
Against Mayor	12.7%	151
Slow/Too remote decision-making	4.0%	48
Another layer of government/waste of money	12.4%	147
Need a referendum	2.0%	24
Get on with it/Comments in Favour	5.0%	59
Mayor should have a proper role/power/be impartial	19.5%	231
Agree to devolution but don't want a Mayor	3.5%	41
Councils are not competent enough	2.2%	26
Must be accountable	5.5%	65
Other	11.1%	132

Q11: Plans will be put in place for how the new Combined Authority will be held to account. Here are a number of statements outlining how it is proposed this will be done. How important, if at all, is each of these in holding the Combined Authority to account?

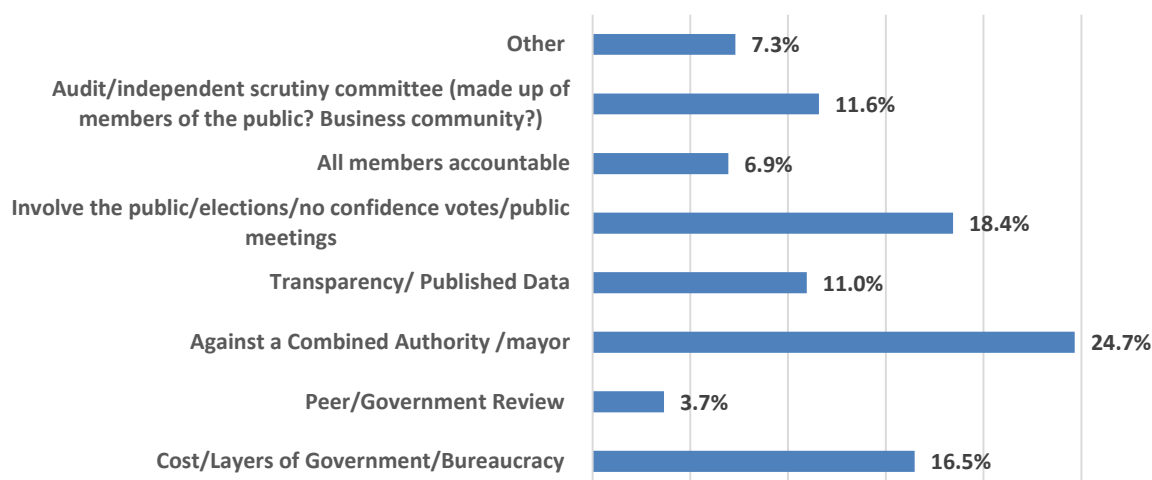
	Essential	Very important	Fairly important	Not very important	Not at all important	Don't know	Response Total
An independent scrutiny committee that has the power to ask the Mayor and other members of the Combined Authority to attend a meeting to answer questions. This would be made up of councillors from participating councils who are not members of the Combined Authority itself.	53.2%	22.2%	9.2%	2.7%	5.9%	6.8%	2677
	1425	593	246	71	159	183	
This scrutiny committee having the power to review any of the decisions made by the Combined Authority.	49.9%	23.6%	10.0%	3.6%	6.2%	6.8%	2671
	1333	630	267	95	165	181	
An audit committee which would monitor the Combined Authority's finances.	64.7%	19.7%	4.7%	1.0%	4.1%	5.8%	2672
	1729	527	126	26	109	155	
Residents living in the Combined Authority Area being able to directly elect the Mayor.	53.7%	14.3%	7.1%	4.1%	12.3%	8.5%	2652
	1425	378	187	110	326	226	
A Government assessment every five years.	41.2%	20.7%	15.5%	6.3%	8.1%	8.2%	2671
	1101	552	413	168	217	220	
						answered	2693
						skipped	232

The highest response here was 84.4% stating that “An audit committee which would monitor the Combined Authority’s finances” was either essential or very important.

Q12: Are there any other ways in which you think the Combined Authority should be held to account?

The responses to this question were analysed and grouped into themes as shown below:

Q12 - Any other ways the Combined Authority should be held to account



Top response themes:

Against a Combined Authority/mayor 24.7% (277)

'A combined authority would be a barrier to local democratic accountability.'

'You should not even be thinking of going down this road. There is a well-functioning system of local government in place, which is local, accountable and democratic even now, despite the brutal cuts of funding from central government. - These proposals make the process more remote and less accountable, so are unacceptable, whichever way they are dressed up.'

'As I have said I hope the Combined Authority never gets off the ground but without the above checks it would be seen as just another 'gravey train' for a few councillors. - - It can't be held to account by local people who have no say on which councillors/business leaders get a seat on the authority. '

Involve the public/elections/no confidence votes/public meetings 18.4% (207)

'Meetings should be open to the public. Like council meetings.'

'Hold forums for residents to attend. Will there be equal votes for Norfolk and Suffolk, who has a casting vote. Could there be an issue, Norfolk v Suffolk.'

'The general public should be allowed to voice opinions possibly by an open forum or website where comments can be made and answers left with full explanations of decisions being made.'

Cost/Layers of Government/bureaucracy 16.5% (185)

'All of the proposals are essential requiring yet more administration when the idea was surely to cut down on the red tape and paper shuffling?'

'This suggests yet more public bodies to oversee the additional unwanted public bodies.'

'Still don't want another level of red tape or any additional monitoring that will be required to ensure compliance, we need LESS government not more. Supposed to be saving money not spending more.'

All themes with numbers of respondents and percentages of those who completed the question.

Theme	% of respondents	Number of respondents
Cost/Layers of Government/Bureaucracy	16.5%	184
Peer/Government Review	3.7%	41
Against a Combined Authority	24.7%	277
Transparency/ Published Data	11.0%	123
Involve the public/elections/no confidence votes/public meetings	18.4%	207
All members accountable	6.9%	78
Audit/independent scrutiny committee	11.6%	130
Other	7.3%	82

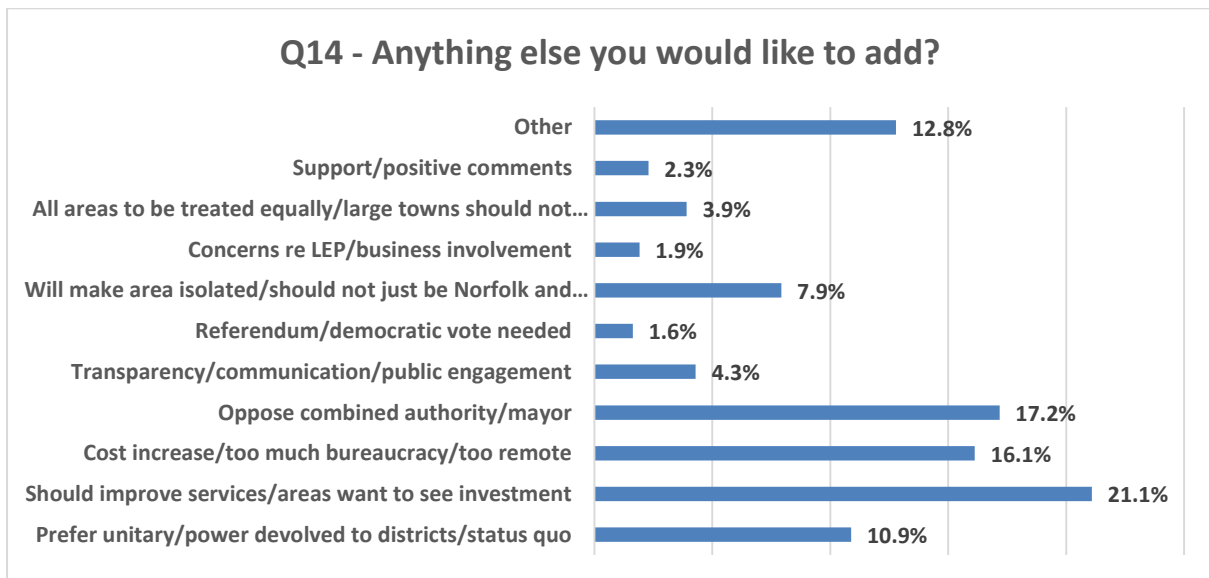
Q13: How Important are each of the following priorities

	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Response Total	mean average score	
Investment in physical infrastructure, such as transport or broadband	4.8%	0.5%	1.2%	1.6%	1.9%	6.4%	5.6%	9.4%	18.4%	11.0%	39.0%	2643	7.8	
Investment in job creation for local people	5.2%	0.5%	1.7%	1.4%	2.2%	9.2%	6.5%	12.1%	18.2%	11.9%	31.1%	2642	7.5	
Investment in housing and affordable homes in particular	6.5%	1.2%	1.9%	2.6%	2.4%	9.4%	7.2%	10.7%	16.2%	10.6%	31.2%	2643	7.2	
Investment in public transport to run services which better meet the needs of local people	4.7%	0.8%	1.2%	2.5%	3.3%	9.0%	8.0%	13.6%	16.0%	11.4%	29.5%	2648	7.4	
Investment in supporting local businesses	6.8%	1.6%	3.4%	4.1%	5.5%	13.6%	10.0%	15.2%	13.9%	8.1%	17.8%	2632	6.4	
Improving employment opportunities for those with a health condition or disability and the long-term unemployed.	5.4%	1.4%	3.1%	3.8%	4.7%	14.7%	11.1%	13.3%	14.7%	7.8%	20.0%	2631	6.6	
Investment in flood defences and coastal protection	6.1%	1.8%	2.4%	3.6%	4.7%	10.9%	9.3%	12.5%	15.4%	9.4%	23.9%	2626	6.8	
Ensuring young people are either earning or learning	5.9%	0.8%	1.7%	2.6%	3.4%	8.9%	7.2%	11.5%	14.6%	12.7%	30.7%	2638	7.3	
												answered	2663	
												skipped	262	

The highest mean average score here was 7.8 for ‘Investment in physical infrastructure, such as transport or broadband’, followed by 7.5 for ‘Investment in job creation for local people’ and 7.4 for ‘Investment in public transport to run services which better meet the needs of local people.’

Q14: Is there anything else you would like to add?

The responses to this question were analysed and grouped into themes as shown below:



Top response themes:

Should improve services/areas want to see investment/included 21.1% (221)

‘The devolution should improve sport, dance and arts in the area’

‘Investment in renewable energy and recycling’

‘I think it should include some elements of health & social care’

Oppose combined authority/mayor 17.2% (180)

‘Abandon it now. It will do nothing other than take employees and money away from existing councils and set up a monolith providing ego trips for its members. The money "promised" is ours in the first place. Central government have no right to it. The "new" money promised is pathetic as well and will be grabbed for grandiose schemes in certain parts of the area by those who shout loudest. The areas ignored by SCC and NCC now will continue to be ignored. So give it back to the councils that exist now and walk away from this stupid scheme.’

‘The Mayoral structure means that the extra money will not improve local services - it will just be swallowed up by contractors, consultants, public officers, and white elephant schemes that benefit only specific businesses. As per the Mayor's own agenda’

‘Devolution sounds wonderful, like local people will be empowered to make local decisions, but in actuality, it will be a way for central government to blame councils for making cuts that government's austerity programmes force them to make. As soon as the economy recovers, government will take back all the devolved power and we will hear no more of it’

Cost increase/too much bureaucracy/too remote 16.1% (169)

'Not needed - can be achieved more efficiently in other ways. Another layer of government is not required to achieve the same ends. Make better use of existing Council's and encourage more effective partnership working.'

'If devolution proceeds there should not be more than 3 tiers of authority (including central government) in any area.'

'I cannot see how devolution will improve local services, it will be yet another level of government the cost rate payers money of which would be better put into the current local services and needs of communities. We have Parish, District, Borough, City and County services why why why do we need another level of bureaucracy?'

All themes with numbers of respondents and percentages of those who completed the question.

Theme	% of respondents	Number of respondents
Prefer unitary/power devolved to districts/status quo	10.9%	114
Should improve services/areas want to see investment	21.1%	221
Cost increase/too much bureaucracy/too remote	16.1%	169
Oppose combined authority/mayor	17.2%	180
Transparency/communication/public engagement	4.3%	45
Referendum/democratic vote needed	1.6%	17
Will make area isolated/should not just be Norfolk and Suffolk/include all areas in Norfolk	7.9%	83
Concerns re LEP/business involvement	1.9%	20
All areas to be treated equally/large towns should not get most of money	3.9%	41
Support/positive comments	2.3%	24
Other	12.8%	134