

Report for Lavenham PC from County Councillor Robert Lindsay 3.7.25

Local Government Reorganization – “Engagement” Meetings

The County cabinet on Tuesday 17th June approved setting aside a £1.9 million fund to allow the County Council’s officers to draw up a business case for having a single Suffolk wide unitary authority. It must submit this before September. This is on top of the salary for their new senior officer in charge of reorganisation. The full cost will be in the tens of millions.

Mayoral elections are due to be held in May 2026, with the mayoral authority set up a few months earlier, in February.

The government has provided £1m towards the costs of the mayoral authority, which Suffolk County Council and Norfolk County Council have agreed to split between them.

The government has also allocated £290k for Suffolk towards Local Government Reorganisation (LGR), which is to be shared with the other councils who are also preparing their proposals for the government to consider in September.

Bus funding

The County has announced it has £8m for bus funding, £5.2m is for bus stop improvements, the remainder £2.8m for bus services.

At the time of writing I have not heard where we are with a draft timetable for the bus between Hadleigh and Stowmarket.

In their press release, cabinet member Chris Chambers talks about funding for a Newmarket bus and one on the Marham Park Estate, Bury St Edmunds, where it is currently a big issue in a County Council by-election.