

## **Report for Lavenham PC by County Councillor Robert Lindsay 6.1.25**

### **Conservative/Labour plan to centralise local government – decision this Thursday.**

I'm unable to attend your meeting today (Thursday) because the County Council is holding an extraordinary general meeting on this day at which Councillors will be asked to back a plan to fast track a massive reorganisation of local government.

This involves the scrapping of district councils and the imposition of a single, elected Norfolk/Suffolk mayor with wide ranging planning powers. If agreed, which seems likely, the County is also likely to ask the Labour government to scrap the scheduled May 2025 County Council election with County Councillors serving an extra two to three years before having to seek re-election.

Although this has been tagged "devolution" I see this as centralisation of powers away from local councils into the hands of a single Mayor and much larger local authorities under the Mayor of around between 300k to 500k people. The Mayor will be easily controlled by Central Government using giving and withholding funds as a bribe. At the time of writing, I am minded to vote against the proposal, but the Conservatives have a majority on the County Council.

### **20mph limit Lavenham – we know the costs**

I see we now have the total costs for constructing the scheme. The design costs are already paid for.

In May 2022 the PC and I split equally the quoted design costs - providing £4,198 each.

Just before last Christmas (Dec 2024) Highways informed me that the design costs had over run the original quote because of inflation and I agreed to contribute another £1.1k to cover the entirety of the inflationary increase.

Any other extra costs outside the quote we have will be very minor (covering the work of one officer for two to three hours tops to do the ordering).

The cost is about in line with similar speed limit schemes that I have helped fund. The Parish Council proposed and sponsored this scheme and I have supported them in this. Whichever way the Parish Council decides, it is important it decides as soon as possible and I don't see any reason for delay.