

Town and Parish Consultation  
Feedback from Workshops  
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**Norfolk** County Council

# Town and Parish Consultation September 2010

- 2 Workshops Autumn 2010, Working with Norfolk ALC,
- Discuss with Town and Parishes the impact of the spending cuts
- A broad mix of role - Clerks, Chairmen, Councillors, wide range of levels of service - 5 to 40 years
- Broad mix of sizes - smaller Parishes, Larger Towns - 100-10,000
- Look at which services or elements of services Town and Parish Councils could play a role in delivering in the context of the blue print for Norfolk County Council (Norfolk Forward).



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# Summary

- Very consistent with messages we got from residents:
- Prioritising scarce resources is extremely challenging and all services have a value to the local community
- Concern as to the duplication between tiers of local government
- Frustration at lack of connection between County and District
- Parish and Town Councils are Closer to residents, more visible, first stop for residents
- Residents have faith in Towns and Parishes resolving issues

# The Parish Perspective

- Economy of scale - Joining up smaller councils and using local tradesmen is part of the solution
- Training - Need to provide training - very common message - expertise of County recognised - need ongoing support
- Taking on additional services should be voluntary



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# Future Opportunities

- Funding follows function -, “It would have to mean money - we couldn’t do these things without additional resources.”
- Keenness amongst those with assets to take them over and use for the benefit of their parishioners
- Parishes need to be aware of all the implications of taking on a function
- Smaller parishes must join together, but concern some smaller parishes would get swallowed up

# Delivering Services in the Future

- Join up with others and share resources
- Local people doing more for themselves
- Voluntary sector delivering them
- Town and Parish Councils delivering more
- Charging more
- Private sector
- Stop doing it
- Leave things as they are

# Parish/Town Councils do more

- Advice and Information about services and travel and transportation
- Registrars
- Early years and childcare information
- Street Lighting
- Footpaths and Bridleways
- Community Transport Schemes
- Grass verge cutting

# Parish/Town Councils do more

- Local Information provision
- Communications - avoiding overlap tailoring and combining messages
- Bus and train passes
- Clear acceptance of the division between practical functions/infrastructure (verges/potholes etc as opposed to schools/social services)

# Charge More

- Records
- Adult Education
- Arts
- Libraries

# Stop doing

- Nothing specific - Last resort –look at other ways of delivering them

# Private Sector

- Maintaining school buildings
- Park and Ride
- Bus Station
- School travel
- Fire safety advice
- Community transport
- Road and pavement repairs
- Consumer protection



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# Norfolk County Council of the Future

- Slimmed down, more responsive and in touch with tax payers and looking to the essentials, addressing duplication and devolving responsibility for other services to other tiers of government including Town and Parishes and by providing the tools and support to enable effective service delivery at a local level.



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