

Joint letter from Suffolk Wildlife Trust, Norfolk Wildlife Trust, and Council Leaders and Cabinet Members for the Environment, Climate Change, Planning and Infrastructure

Jim McMahon OBE MP
Minister of State for Local Government and English Devolution
The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government
2 Marsham Street London SW1P 4DF

30th June 2025

Dear Minister,

RE: Norfolk and Suffolk devolution and nature recovery

We are writing to you as a group of Council Leaders and Cabinet Members in Suffolk and Norfolk, together with Suffolk Wildlife Trust and Norfolk Wildlife Trust, to call on The Government to put nature recovery and net zero at the heart of the purpose and duties of the proposed Norfolk and Suffolk strategic mayoral authority.

It is our shared view that the establishment of A Mayoral Combined County Authority (MCCA) for Norfolk and Suffolk should maximise the benefits to local people, businesses, the economy, and the environment from nature-positive growth and development that support local and national ambitions and targets for nature recovery and net zero.

We urge The Government to implement the following measures to establish a MCCA for Norfolk and Suffolk that provides effective strategic leadership on nature recovery and climate action:¹

1. Ring-fenced funding for action on climate change and nature recovery, including the implementation of the counties' emerging Local Nature Recovery Strategies.
2. Powers for the MCCA to secure meaningful contributions to nature recovery from major development, including Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects.
3. A duty to publish a coordinated action plan for meeting local targets to contribute to achieving The Government's commitments to nature recovery and net zero.
4. Adherence to the environmental principles enshrined in the Environment Act 2021.
5. Adoption of a 'nature in all policies' approach to improve the natural environment through the MCCA's functions.
6. Ensure nature has a voice in the MCCA through the responsibilities and representation of its members.

We believe these measures are essential to ensure a Norfolk and Suffolk MCCA can deliver meaningful improvements to the natural environment that would significantly enhance the health and economic wellbeing of the people who live and work in our two counties.

Yours sincerely,

¹ These measures were articulated by Norfolk Wildlife Trust and Suffolk Wildlife Trust in their response to the Norfolk and Suffolk devolution consultation.

Christine Luxton, CEO, Suffolk Wildlife Trust

Eliot Lyne, CEO, Norfolk Wildlife Trust

Cllr Tom Daly (Green), East Suffolk Council
Cabinet Member for Energy and Climate Change

Cllr Sally Noble (Green), East Suffolk Council
Cabinet Member for the Environment

Cllr John Ward (Independent), Leader of Babergh District Council
Cabinet Member for Finance

Cllr Sallie Davies (Green), Babergh District Council
Cabinet Member for Heritage, Planning & Infrastructure

Cllr Helen Davies (Liberal Democrats), Babergh District Council
Cabinet Member for Climate Change, Nature Recovery & Biodiversity

Cllr Andy Mellen (Green), Leader of Mid Suffolk District Council

Cllr Tim Weller (Green), Mid Suffolk District Council
Cabinet Member for Environment, Culture & Wellbeing

Cllr Philip Faircloth-Mutton (Conservative), Suffolk County Council
Cabinet Member for Environment, Communities and Equality

Cllr Lucy Trenchard (Labour), Ipswich Borough Council
Portfolio Holder for Parks and Climate Change

Cllr Tim Adams (Liberal Democrats), Leader of North Norfolk District Council

Cllr Adam Varley (Liberal Democrats), North Norfolk District Council
Cabinet Member for Climate Change & Net Zero

Cllr Mike Stonard (Labour), Leader of Norwich City Council

Cllr Emma Hampton (Labour), Deputy Leader of Norwich City Council
Cabinet Member for Climate and Environment

Cllr Carli Harper (Labour), Norwich City Council
Cabinet Member for Finance and Major Projects

Cllr Beth Jones (Labour), Norwich City Council
Cabinet Member for Housing

Cllr Claire Kidman (Labour), Norwich City Council
Cabinet Member for Culture and Wellbeing

Cllr Adam Giles (Labour), Norwich City Council
Cabinet Member for Planning and Regulatory

Cllr Gurpreet Padda (Labour), Norwich City Council
Cabinet Member for Equalities and social justice

Cllr Gerald Kelly (Independent), West Suffolk Council
Portfolio Holder for Environment, and Chair, Suffolk Environment Portfolio Holders Group