

**Thorndon Parish Council 3.3.2016**  
County Councillor Report

**Devolution**

Cambridgeshire, Norfolk and Suffolk Leaders met with the Secretary of State, the Rt. Hon, Greg Clark, and Lord Heseltine Monday, 15th February. One outcome of the meeting was that Cambridge, Norfolk, Peterborough and Suffolk should develop their collective 'big and ambitious asks' of Government for a devolution deal. Since then officers from the Districts, Boroughs, Counties and LEPs have met to develop a draft paper summarising an initial view of those combined 'big asks'. This has drawn upon the work which has already been undertaken by Cambridgeshire/Peterborough and Norfolk and Suffolk.

How this leaves the various promises of housing number deliveries and business growth options we will be told in due course.

**Broadband**

A resolution has now been reached between DCMS and the EU. This will enable us to spend our full £30m of public funding, as well as the monies clawed back from the first contract a total of £33.9m.

This is subject to SCC running a one month public consultation with the market, to further ascertain and demonstrate that no commercial plans exist to intervene in the additional areas we plan to target with the reinvestment. This consultation will run over Easter, and will conclude on 8th April. After April, we can complete the contracting process with BT and BDUK to embed the fully financed rollout plan into the contract, and commence community briefings in the early Summer. We recognise the frustration in communities regarding the delay and the need for information to be shared as quickly as possible.

One thing that this process does involve is the publication of a map on our website. The map will be intended for providers, however, the public may pick up on the map, hence it is important that you recognise, this is not the Map of the Projected Roll Out.!

Further details Suffolk website at [www.betterbroadbandsuffolk.com](http://www.betterbroadbandsuffolk.com).

**VAS Signs**

I have requested some funds to come to you from my locality budget, these funds will arrive with you by the end of this month.

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