

NORFOLK

# Compromise deal agreed over homes

By SHAUN LOWTHORPE  
Public affairs correspondent

Policymakers have thrashed out a compromise deal about where to put thousands of homes in the greater Norwich area - by agreeing to a small-scale version of the controversial Mangreen new town proposal.

Talks appeared to have stalled last month as South Norfolk Council and Norwich City Council were at loggerheads. The city council wanted to centre development solely along the A11 corridor while South Norfolk wanted to spread it also along the A140 south of Norwich.

Members of the Greater Norwich Development Partnership (GNDP) policy group, made up of councillors from Broadland, Norwich and South Norfolk district and Norfolk county councils, put forward a new proposal based on two of the previous three plans put forward.

The deal, which will be put forward for a public consultation next year, will see 2,000 homes built at Mangreen between 2018 and 2026 - fewer than the 6,700 developers had originally hinted at.

Councils clashed over the Mangreen plans because of City Hall fears that a new town would gridlock the Ipswich Road into Norwich and at Bracondale.

But officials at South Norfolk are confident that the revised proposals will not only deliver a slimmed down Mangreen but help secure the Long Stratton bypass.

Yesterday's deal would also mean 2,200 extra homes at Wymondham, 1,800 at Long Stratton, 1,000 at Hetherset and 1,200 at Cringleford.

To the north the city, the agreement paves the way for 7,000 homes around Sprowston and Rackheath including the eco-town proposal, while there would be provision for 2,000 homes in smaller sites around Broadland and 3,000 in the city.

Councillors are due to debate the plans beginning today when South Norfolk's cabinet meets. Broadland's executive will consider the proposals on Monday, while in Norwich the plans are likely to be considered in the new year.

A statement issued on behalf of all four councils last night said: "This is a significant step for the GNDP. We can now move forward with a clear idea of the direction we are heading in, getting the public fully involved in decisions which will shape their area for years to come."

NORWICH

## Homeless people take to the pitch

A team of homeless and vulnerable people from Norfolk will perform near Carrow Road before this weekend's Norwich City home match.

Members of the Street Life Soccer project will face a Charlton Athletic Social Inclusion team at the Carrow Park training pitch opposite the Jarrold stand at 1.30pm on Saturday.

After the game the players will attend the Norwich City vs Charlton FC match. The scheme has been running for 15 months.

BRECKLAND

## Doubts over referendum

Spending cash on a referendum to find out what people think about local government reorganisation in Norfolk would be a waste of money if other councils do not do the same, a Labour leader said yesterday.

Councillor Robin Goreham told a meeting of Breckland Council that if other councils in Norfolk did not carry out similar referendums, the one it had proposed at a cost of more than £47,000 would be pointless.

But, the authority's chief executive, Trevor Holden, said the cash had only been set aside "should it be appropriate" to hold a referendum.

The Boundary Committee is considering making changes to government structure in Norfolk, which could see part of Suffolk incorporated into a new one-tier local authority, called a unitary authority, covering all services in the county.

Other options put forward include splitting the county into three or having two councils, one for a greater Norwich and one for the rest of the county.

Mr Goreham said: "The public should be consulted but unless every other council carries out a referendum, it would be farcical."

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