

Partnership working

Norse employs over 6000 people. In 2009/10 Norse Commercial Services turnover was £97m

“ I'd always worked for district councils and when I heard we were being transferred into this new company I was a bit apprehensive. It all worked out ok though, we got paid on time and all the IT systems were up and running. Now, I can honestly say this is the part of my career I've enjoyed the most. I'm empowered in a way I never was before and feel I can really make a positive difference to the delivery of public services. ”

(a comment from a member of staff who transferred to Suffolk Coastal Services in 2004, under a TUPE arrangement)

Norse Commercial Services operates two other successful local authority partnerships, at Great Yarmouth Borough Services and Enfield Norse

waveney
norse

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Suffolk Coastal Services
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Unlike traditional contractor service provision, Suffolk Coastal Services and Waveney Norse are joint venture companies set up between their respective District Council's and Norse. The companies are responsible for strategic policy formation and quality service delivery in conjunction with their partners. The jointly owned companies ensure continuous improvement and sustainability of services and also make best use of public money.

Financial savings are achieved through lower central support costs, procurement and vehicle operation and insurance costs. The formation of separate limited companies also increases the freedom to trade more openly.

In 2009/10 the two companies earned over £5m between them from their private sector contracts. This external business has allowed the companies to deliver Suffolk Coastal and Waveney District Councils an annual profit percentage return each year.

The legal aspects

Suffolk Coastal Services and Waveney Norse were set up as three way partnerships between their respective District Councils, Norfolk County Council and the Norfolk County Council owned company, Norse Commercial Services (NCS).

Both companies operate as subsidiaries of NCS, Suffolk Coastal Services began trading in August 2004 and Waveney Norse followed in 2008.

The staff employed by the District Councils to deliver their Operational Services transferred to the new companies under a TUPE arrangement. Suffolk Coastal Services and Waveney Norse now operate as joint venture companies, and between them are driving forward the 'joined up service approach'

