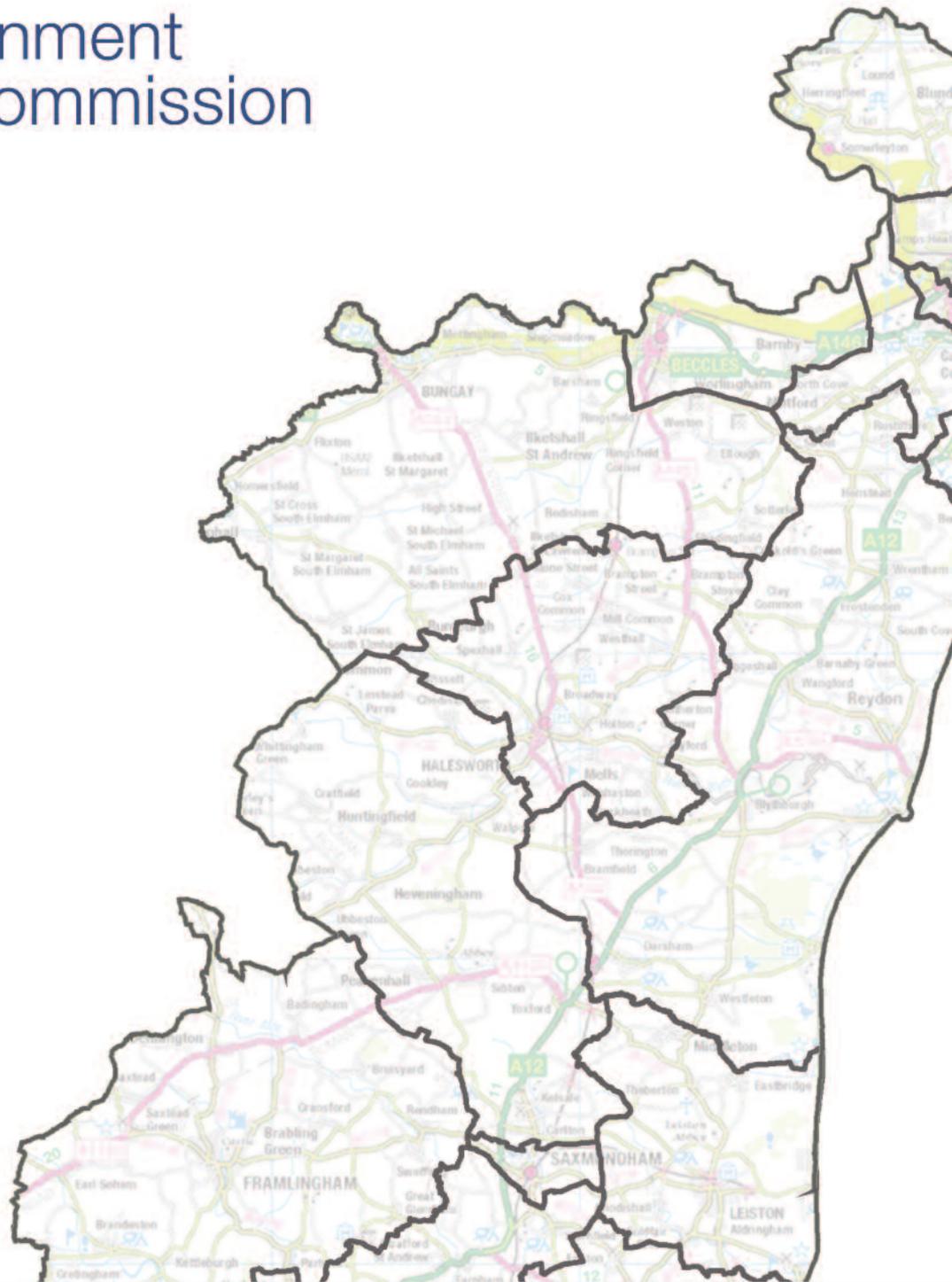


The
Local Government
Boundary Commission



for England



New electoral arrangements for East Suffolk Council

Draft recommendations

July 2018

Translations and other formats

For information on obtaining this publication in another language or in a large-print or Braille version, please contact the Local Government Boundary Commission for England:

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Summary

Who we are and what we do

1 The Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) is an independent body set up by Parliament. We are not part of government or any political party. We are accountable to Parliament through a committee of MPs chaired by the Speaker of the House of Commons.

2 Our main role is to carry out electoral reviews of local authorities throughout England.

Electoral review

3 An electoral review examines and proposes new electoral arrangements for a local authority. A local authority's electoral arrangements decide:

- How many councillors are needed
- How many wards or electoral divisions should there be, where are their boundaries and what should they be called
- How many councillors should represent each ward or division

Why East Suffolk?

4 The Secretary of State has decided to create a new authority of East Suffolk. We are conducting a review of East Suffolk District Council to ensure that the new district council has appropriate electoral arrangements. Our aim is to create 'electoral equality', where votes are as equal as possible, ideally within 10% of being exactly equal. We also seek to ensure that wards reflect local communities and ensure effective and convenient local government.

Our proposals for East Suffolk

- East Suffolk should be represented by 55 councillors.
- East Suffolk should have 28 wards.

Have your say

5 We are consulting on our draft recommendations for an eight-week period, from 3 July 2018 to 27 August 2018. We encourage everyone to use this opportunity to contribute to the design of the new wards – the more public views we hear, the more informed our decisions will be when analysing all the views we received.

6 We ask everyone wishing to contribute ideas for the new wards to first read this report and look at the accompanying map before responding to us.

You have until 27 August 2018 to have your say on the draft recommendations. See page 35 for how to send us your response.

What is the Local Government Boundary Commission for England?

7 The Local Government Boundary Commission for England is an independent body set up by Parliament.¹

8 The members of the Commission are:

- Professor Colin Mellors OBE (Chair)
- Susan Johnson OBE
- Peter Maddison QPM
- Amanda Nobbs OBE
- Steve Robinson
- Andrew Scallan CBE

- Chief Executive: Jolyon Jackson CBE

¹ Under the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009.

1 Introduction

9 In February 2018, the Government approved a bid from Suffolk Coastal District Council and Waveney District Council to merge. A Local Government Changes Order² was subsequently approved by Parliament on 24 May 2018, establishing a new East Suffolk District Council from 1 April 2019. It is the view of the Commission that an electoral review of the area was appropriate at the earliest opportunity. This will ensure the new council has electoral arrangements that reflect its functions in time for its first elections in May 2019.

10 This electoral review is being carried out to ensure that:

- The wards in East Suffolk District Council are in the best possible places to help the Council carry out its responsibilities effectively.
- The number of voters represented by each councillor is approximately the same across the district.

What is an electoral review?

11 Our three main considerations are to:

- Improve electoral equality by equalising the number of electors each councillor represents
- Reflect community identity
- Provide for effective and convenient local government

12 Our task is to strike the best balance between them when making our recommendations. Our powers, as well as the guidance we have provided for electoral reviews and further information on the review process, can be found on our website at www.lgbce.org.uk

13 This review is being conducted as follows:

Stage starts	Description
4 May 2018	Existing local authorities submit proposals for warding arrangements and the number of councillors
19 June 2018	Commission agrees its draft recommendations
3 July 2018	Publication of draft recommendations; start of consultation
27 August 2018	End of consultation; we begin analysing submissions and forming final recommendations
23 October 2018	Publication of final recommendations

² The East Suffolk (Local Government Changes) Order 2018 (S.I 2018/640).

How will the recommendations affect you?

14 The recommendations will determine how many councillors will serve on East Suffolk District Council. They will also decide which ward you vote in, which other communities are in that ward, and, in some cases, which parish council ward you vote in. Your ward name may also change.

2 Analysis and draft recommendations

15 Legislation³ states that our recommendations should not be based only on how many electors⁴ there are now, but also on how many there are likely to be in the five years after the publication of our final recommendations. We must also try to recommend strong, clearly identifiable boundaries for our wards.

16 In reality, we are unlikely to be able to create wards with exactly the same number of electors in each; we have to be flexible. However, we try to keep the number of electors represented by each councillor as close to the average for the council as possible.

17 We work out the average number of electors per councillor for each individual local authority by dividing the electorate by the number of councillors, as shown on the table below.

	2017	2023
Electorate of East Suffolk	190,890	201,837
Number of councillors	55	55
Average number of electors per councillor	3,471	3,670

18 When the number of electors per councillor in a ward is within 10% of the average for the authority, we refer to the ward as having 'good electoral equality'. All but two of our proposed wards for East Suffolk District Council are forecast to have good electoral equality by 2023.

19 Our recommendations cannot affect the external boundaries of the new council – these have been decided by Parliament and we cannot amend them. Our recommendations will not result in changes to postcodes. They do not take into account parliamentary constituency boundaries. The recommendations will not have an effect on local taxes, house prices, or car and house insurance premiums and we are not able to take into account any representations which are based on these issues.

Submissions received

20 See Appendix C for details of the warding submissions received. All submissions may be viewed at our offices by appointment, or on our website at www.lgbce.org.uk

Electorate figures

21 The Councils' submitted electorate forecasts for 2023, a period five years on from the scheduled publication of our final recommendations in 2018. These

³ Schedule 2 to the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009.

⁴ Electors refers to the number of people registered to vote, not the whole adult population.

forecasts were broken down to polling district level and predicted an increase in the electorate of around 6% by 2023.

22 We considered the information provided by the Councils' and are satisfied that the projected figures are the best available at the present time. We have used these figures to produce our draft recommendations.

Number of councillors

23 In January 2018, representatives of the existing councils in the area submitted a proposal to The Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government that the new Council should have 55 councillors. In developing its proposal, the new authority was encouraged by the Ministry to follow our Guidance in developing its proposals. The Secretary of State subsequently laid a Local Government Changes Order in Parliament to create the new authority with 55 councillors.

24 As part of its submission on warding arrangements, the Councils confirmed their preference for a council size of 55. We note that the proposal for a 55-member council for East Suffolk District Council would constitute a reduction of 39% in terms of the overall number of councillors representing the area to be covered by the new authority. We have looked at evidence provided by the Councils and have concluded that the proposed number of councillors will make sure the Council can carry out its new roles and responsibilities effectively.

25 We have therefore formulated these draft recommendations based on a 55-member council.

Ward boundaries consultation

26 We received two submissions on ward boundaries for the new council. Suffolk Coastal and Waveney district councils (referred to as 'the Councils' in the remainder of this report) provided a detailed district-wide proposal and Councillor Deacon provided a detailed submission for Felixstowe.

27 The Councils' district-wide scheme provided for a mixed pattern of one-, two- and three-councillor wards for East Suffolk. The Councils' scheme was created by a Member Working Group (MWG) which included eight members from each district council. The Councils also developed their scheme after undertaking consultation with the public. In the development of their scheme, the MWG produced six district-wide options which they refined into one district-wide scheme which was eventually submitted to the Commission. This proposal crosses the existing district boundary between Suffolk Coastal and Waveney and provided some evidence of community identity for the proposed wards.

28 The Councils' proposed a mixed-pattern of 29 wards which would be represented by eight one-councillor wards, 16 two-councillor wards and five three-councillor wards. Three of the proposed wards would produce an electoral variance over 10%.

29 Councillor Deacon proposed an alternative warding pattern in Felixstowe using the A154 Garrison Lane/Langer Road as a divider to create a Felixstowe East ward and Felixstowe West ward. He considered these wards better reflect the local communities in the area and are based on historical settlements.

30 Our draft recommendations are largely based on the Councils' district-wide proposal. In some areas, we considered that the scheme did not provide for the best balance between our statutory criteria, so we identified alternative wards. We also toured the area in order to look at the various options on the ground. This was particularly helpful in Oulton, Kirkley, Beccles, Worlingham, Kesgrave, Fynn Valley, Carlford and Woodbridge.

31 Our draft recommendations are for seven three-councillor wards, 13 two-councillor wards and eight one-councillor wards. We consider that our draft recommendations will provide for good electoral equality while reflecting community identities and interests where we have received such evidence during consultation. Our proposed Lothingland ward and Martlesham & Purdis Farm ward are the only wards that will produce electoral variances over 10%.

32 A summary of our proposed new wards is set out in the table on pages 37-39 and on the large map accompanying this report.

33 We welcome all comments on these draft recommendations, particularly on the location of the ward boundaries, and the names of our proposed wards.

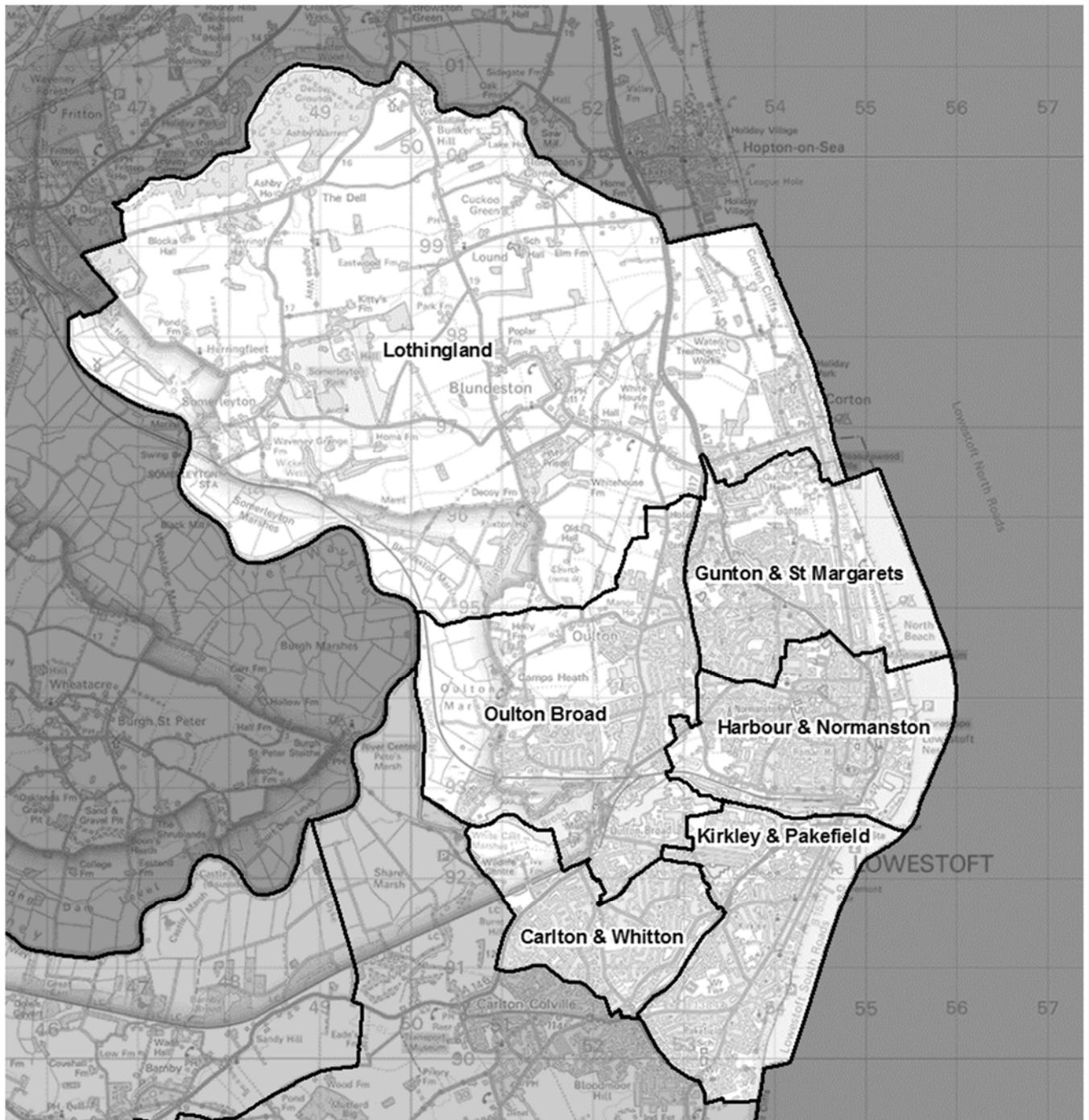
Draft recommendations

34 The tables and maps on pages 8-30 detail our draft recommendations for each area of East Suffolk District Council. They detail how the proposed warding arrangements reflect the three statutory⁵ criteria of:

- Equality of representation
- Reflecting community interests and identities
- Providing for effective and convenient local government

⁵ Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009.

Lowestoft and surrounds



Ward name	Number of Cllrs	Variance 2023
Carlton & Whitton	2	9%
Gunton & St Margarets	2	7%
Harbour & Normanston	3	5%
Kirkley & Pakefield	3	-2%
Lothingland	1	-12%
Oulton Broad	3	4%

Lothingland and Oulton Broad

35 The Councils proposed a two-councillor Oulton Broad ward that would produce a variance of -7% by 2023. They considered that this ward would be a self-contained settlement with its own shops, surgery, local facilities and library services. They also noted that in this area there is a Local Community Life Centre, which operates in the Whitton community areas and acts as a focal point for the community, with projects and various activities for all ages.

36 The Councils proposed a two-member Lothingland ward that would produce a variance of 11% by 2023. This ward would comprise five rural parishes in the north of the ward along with the more urban Oulton parish and part of Lowestoft.

37 We noted that during the Councils' consultation they received two submissions that considered there to be natural links between the parishes of Oulton and Oulton Broad.

38 On our tour of the area, we drove along Sands Lane which acts as the boundary between the Councils' two proposed wards and, although we noted that this is a parish boundary, we do not consider that the road acts as a strong boundary dividing separate communities. We consider that electors living on either side of Sands Lane should be included in the same ward. In order to facilitate this, we are proposing to transfer the whole of Oulton parish (less that area to the east of the A1177 around Bentley Drive) into the Councils' proposed Oulton Broad ward.

39 While it was not as evident that electors to the west of Gorleston Road and around Parkhill and Oulton Road North should be included in an Oulton Broad ward, we are persuaded that overall our warding pattern in this area is more likely to reflect communities if this whole area is transferred. We consider that Oulton is different in character to the rest of the proposed Lothingland ward and is more likely to have a community of interest with Oulton Broad to the south. We are also proposing to include that part of Lowestoft parish to the east of the A1117 that the Councils proposed to include in their Lothingland ward into our Gunton & St Margarets ward.

40 With these transfers the southern boundary of the Lothingland ward will be formed by Flixston East parish. We consider that this smaller Lothingland ward is more likely to reflect communities than a ward that combines very rural parishes with parts of Lowestoft and electors immediately to the north of Sands Lane in Oulton parish. We consider that the A1117 forms a strong boundary to the east and that we should not use the parish boundary in the area.

41 This alternative warding pattern requires the transfer of one councillor from the Lothingland ward to the Oulton Broad ward. We acknowledge that our amendment will create a Lothingland ward that will produce a variance of -12%; however, we considered that this alternative provides wards that use stronger boundaries and a better reflection of community identities. Our draft recommendations are for a one-councillor Lothingland ward and a three-councillor Oulton Broad ward; these wards are forecast to have variances of -12% and 4% respectively by 2023.

Gunton & St Margarets

42 The Councils proposed a two-member Gunton & St Margarets ward that would produce a variance of 2% by 2023. They considered that this ward would reflect the urban nature of the northern community in Lowestoft. They considered that this ward would have strong internal transport links along the A47.

43 The Councils' proposed ward boundary in the north/west follows the parish boundary between Oulton and Gunton & St Margarets. However, we consider that the A1117 acts as a boundary in the area and that the properties around Bentley Drive should be included within the same ward. Accordingly, we are minded to alter the ward boundary, to run it along the A1117 as we consider this to be a stronger ward boundary in the area and would keep the properties around Bentley Drive within the same ward. We are also proposing to extend the south-west corner to include the caravan park south of The Ravine – as its main access is to the north – into the Gunton & St Margarets ward.

44 Our proposed two-councillor Gunton & St Margarets ward is forecast to have a variance of 7% by 2023.

Harbour & Normanston

45 The Councils proposed a three-councillor Harbour & Normanston ward that would produce a variance of 5% by 2023. They noted that this ward would include the town centre and high street shopping area, which includes the main transport hub for buses and trains. We believe that this ward is likely to reflect community identities in this area and are adopting this ward as part of our draft recommendations.

Carlton & Whitton and Kirkley & Pakefield

46 The Councils proposed a two-member Carlton & Whitton ward, that would produce a variance of 6% by 2023. They considered that this ward would reflect the natural community in the south-west corner of Lowestoft.

47 The Councils proposed a two-member Kirkley & Pakefield ward that would produce a variance of 0% by 2023. They considered that this ward would comprise the main tourist area of Lowestoft as it includes the south beach seafront. They noted that the area is served by two high schools and shares a bus route and coastal path. They also noted that there is a Kirkley & Pakefield joint community football club and that there are other groups that use shared facilities such as Scouts halls.

48 We noted that during the Councils' consultation they received a submission requesting that the area of Kirkley should not be included within the same ward as Carlton Colville. Two submissions considered that the areas of Kirkley and Pakefield had shared links. During their consultation the Councils received submissions which requested that the areas of Kirkley and Pakefield be kept together and that Pakefield should not be included within the proposed Carlton Colville ward. This request was reflected in the Councils' scheme and in our draft recommendations.

49 We are proposing to make two amendments. We propose to use the A12 as the boundary between the Kirkley & Pakefield ward and the Carlton & Whitton ward. We consider that this boundary provides a stronger and more identifiable boundary

than Long Road. This amendment decreases the level of electoral equality in both wards and as a result we are altering the boundary between the two wards in the north to compensate for this: we are proposing that the properties around Dell Road East be transferred from the Councils' proposed Carlton & Whitton ward and included with the Kirkley & Pakefield ward instead. We consider that this boundary is strong and identifiable and keeps all of the properties along Dell Road East within the same ward.

50 Our draft recommendations are for a two-councillor Carlton & Whitton ward and a three-councillor Kirkley & Pakefield ward that are forecast to have variances of 9% and -2% respectively, by 2023.

Beccles, Carlton Colville & Kessingland



Ward name	Number of Cllrs	Variance 2023
Beccles & Worlingham	3	9%
Carlton Colville	2	4%
Kessingland	1	-2%

Beccles & Worlingham

51 The Councils proposed a two-councillor Beccles ward comprising Beccles parish only, that would have a variance of 11% by 2023. They considered that this ward would have a strong community identity as Beccles is a self-contained market town. They noted that Beccles has its own GP surgery, an intermediate care facility, a library, a Citizens Advice office and a train station, all of which serve the town and its surrounding rural area.

52 The Councils proposed a one-councillor Worlingham ward, comprising the parishes of Worlingham, North Cove and Barnby, that would produce a variance of 4% by 2023. They considered that while the residents of Worlingham look towards Beccles for their services, that this ward has its own self-contained community that is separate from Beccles. They noted that there are three primary schools that serve this area. The Councils also noted that the areas of Worlingham and Beccles each have their own Local Area Coordinator who works with vulnerable individuals.

53 We note the view that Beccles and Worlingham are separate communities. However, we do not consider that there is a clearly identifiable boundary between them. The parish boundary in this area does not appear to reflect separate communities; on our tour of the area, we drove along Lowestoft Road, Ellough Road and Coney Hill, in an effort to identify the extent of the two communities, but we were unable to identify any boundaries that showed this.

54 During the Councils' consultation they received limited information about the links between Worlingham and Beccles.

55 Where possible we aim to keep communities whole and, in this area, there is a Beccles community which we understand may have a separate community identity to that shared by the more rural parishes of Worlingham, North Cove and Barnby. However, we were not persuaded by the evidence provided by the Councils that the Beccles parish boundary provides a clear boundary between the two areas. As a result of the tour we are proposing to combine the Councils' proposed Beccles and Worlingham wards.

56 Our draft recommendations are for a three-councillor Beccles & Worlingham ward that is forecast to have a variance of 9% by 2023. However, we do invite comments to support the proposal to have two separate wards in this area.

Carlton Colville and Kessingland

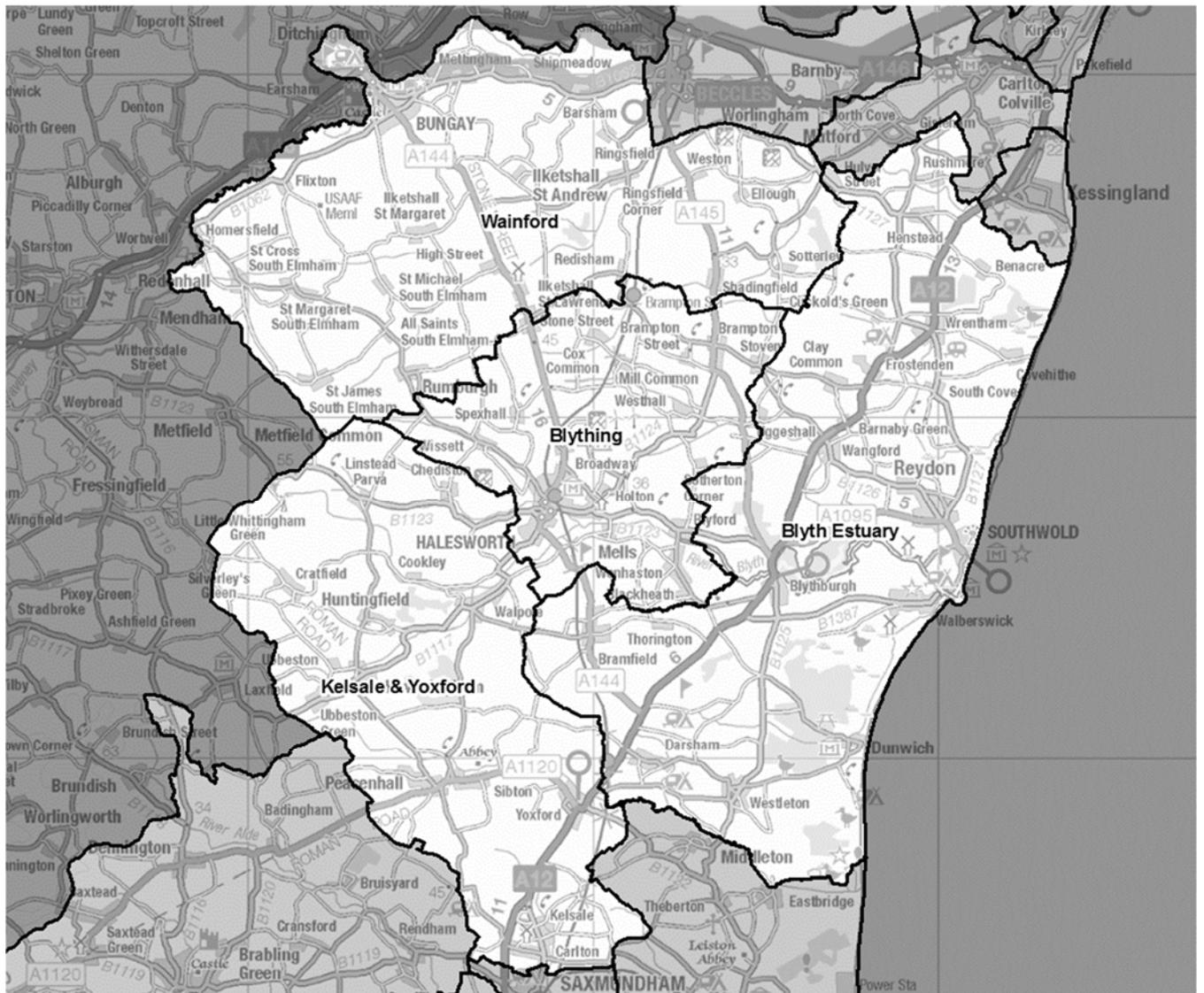
57 The Councils proposed a two-councillor Carlton Colville ward that would produce a variance of 4% by 2023 and would comprise the parishes of Carlton Colville, Mutford and Gisleham. They considered that the area of Carlton Colville is a 'recognised growing community'. During the Councils' consultation, they received submissions which acknowledged links between the neighbouring parishes of Carlton Colville and Gisleham. There was also a request for the whole area known as 'The Dales' to be retained wholly within one ward; however, there was no additional information provided on what area this represents.

58 The Councils proposed a one-councillor Kessingland ward that would produce a variance of 4% by 2023. They considered that this ward comprising Kessingland

parish only is a self-contained community which has a strong focus on the tourist industry in the area.

59 We consider that both of the wards outlined above by the Councils reflect our statutory criteria. Accordingly, we are adopting both of the wards as part of our draft recommendations. We are proposing a two-councillor Carlton Colville ward and a one-councillor Kessingland ward that are forecast to have variances of 4% and -2% respectively, by 2023.

Rural East Suffolk



Ward name	Number of Cllrs	Variance 2023
Blyth Estuary	2	-6%
Blything	2	-6%
Kelsale & Yoxford	1	-9%
Wainford	2	0%

Blyth Estuary, Blything, Kelsale & Yoxford and Wainford

60 The Councils proposed a two-councillor Blyth Estuary ward that would produce a variance of -6% by 2023. This proposed ward comprises parishes along the coast and inland broadly along the A12 stretching from Rushmere St Andrew parish in the north down to Westleton parish in the south. They considered that this ward would reflect the shared community interests in the area, which focus on second homes, tourism, rural and coastal issues. They noted that Southwold has a library and shops which service the local area. They also noted that a local group have recently purchased a multi-purpose site to provide housing, employment and community facilities to the local area. During the Councils' consultation they received submissions that requested that the parishes around the Blyth Estuary be kept together in the same ward.

61 The Councils proposed a two-councillor Blything ward that would produce a variance of -6% by 2023. This proposed ward comprises Halesworth town along with the surrounding parishes of Wenhaston with Mells Hamlet, Blyford, Holton, Sotherton, Westhall, Spexhall and Wissett. They considered that Halesworth acts as the service centre for all of the communities in the area as it has a library and a range of shops and services which are used by the surrounding parishes. They noted that this ward would be served by two train stations and four primary schools. The Councils noted that the creation of this ward breaks down the 'artificial' district boundaries between Suffolk Coastal District and Waveney District. The Councils noted that during their consultation they received submissions that acknowledged links between the parishes of Halesworth and Holton and this is reflected in their proposal to us.

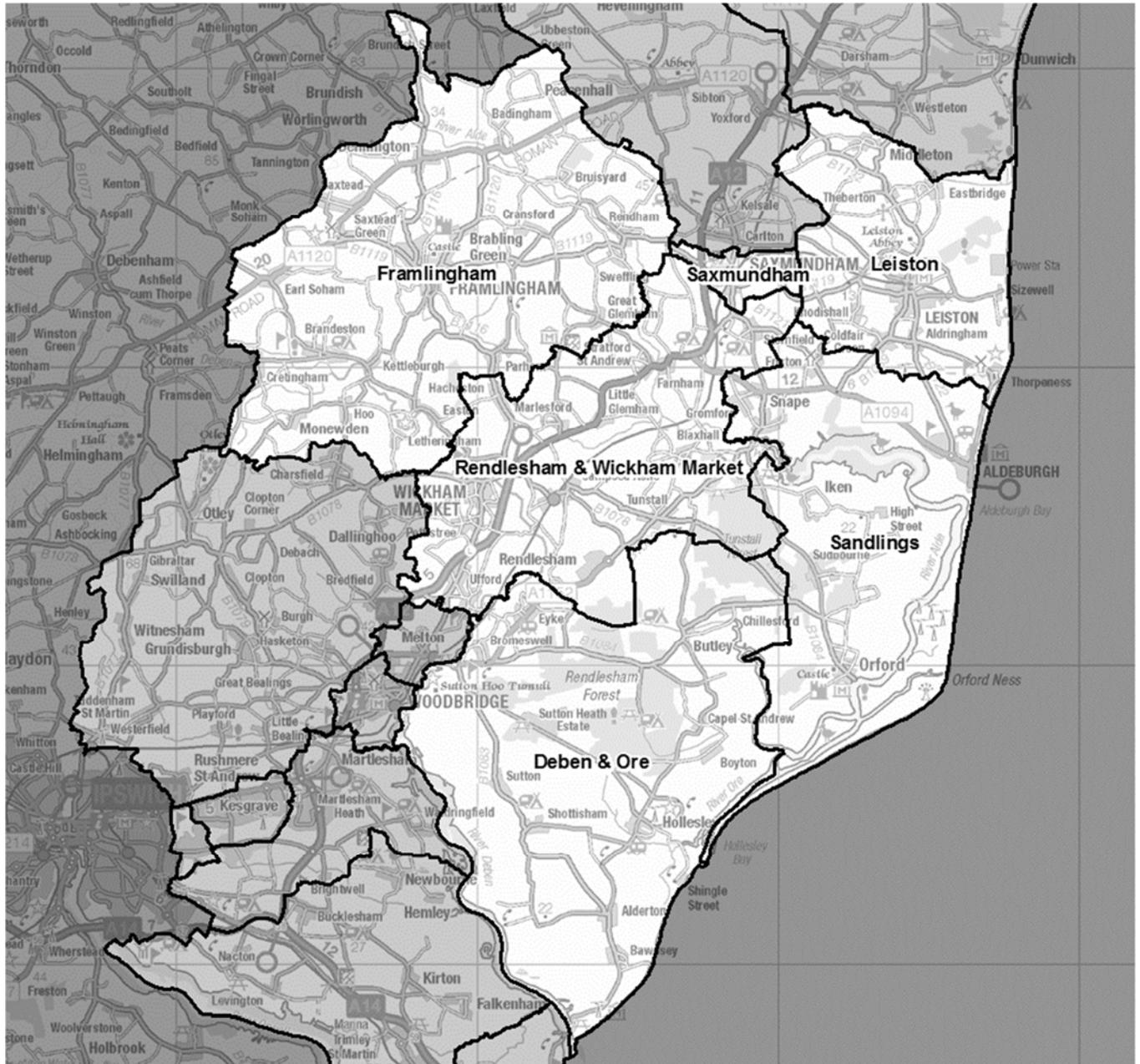
62 The Councils proposed a one-councillor Kelsale & Yoxford ward that would produce a variance of -9% by 2023. This proposed ward comprises 13 parishes that span from Kelsale-cum-Carlton in the south to Chediston and Linstead Parva in the north. They considered that this area reflects the rural community identity shared by the constituent small villages. The Councils received comments during its consultation that demonstrated links between the communities and parishes in this proposed ward. Respondents to the consultation made comments in relation to Ubbeston, Huntingfield, Heveningham, Chediston, Cookley and Cratfield and the views of the respondents are reflected in the Councils' proposal in this area.

63 The Councils proposed a two-councillor Wainford ward that would produce a variance of 0% by 2023. The proposed ward comprises 24 rural parishes that span in an east/west direction, from St James, South Elham parish in the west to Sotterley parish in the east. They noted that this ward comprises a number of grouped parish councils. The Councils received comments during their consultation that suggested links between the parishes of Shipmeadow and Barsham, and between the parishes of Shadingfield, Willingham St Mary's and Sotterley, which they have reflected in this proposed ward. They considered that Bungay would act as the service centre for this ward as it has a library, Citizens Advice office, a medical practice and two schools.

64 We considered that these wards have good internal connectivity, good electoral equality and have not identified any areas where we consider they are not likely to reflect the community identity of the area. Accordingly, we are adopting these wards as part of our draft recommendations without amendment. We are proposing a one-

councillor Kelsale & Yoxford ward that has forecast a variance of -9% by 2023. We are also proposing the three two-councillor wards of Blyth Estuary, Blything and Wainford that will have forecast variances of -6%, -6% and 0% respectively, by 2023.

Deben & Ore, Framlingham, Leiston, Rendlesham & Wickham Market, Sandlings and Saxmundham



Ward name	Number of Cllrs	Variance 2023
Deben & Ore	1	4%
Framlingham	2	-4%
Leiston	2	-7%
Rendlesham & Wickham Market	2	1%
Sandlings	1	2%
Saxmundham	1	-5%

Deben & Ore, Framlingham, Leiston, Rendlesham & Wickham Market, Sandlings and Saxmundham

65 The Councils proposed a one-councillor Deben & Ore ward that would produce a variance of 4% by 2023. They considered that the villages in this area share similar interests, with four of the constituent villages producing a joint 'The Village Voice' magazine. During their consultation, the Councils received a submission that suggested links between Bromeswell and Sutton Heath, which they have reflected in this proposed ward.

66 The Councils proposed a two-councillor Framlingham ward that would produce a variance of -4% by 2023. They considered that Framlingham acts as a natural service centre for the communities in the proposed ward as it has its own GP surgery, high school and library. During their consultation, the Councils received submissions that highlighted links between Letheringham, Monewden, Hoo and Kettleburgh, which they have reflected in their proposal.

67 The Councils proposed a two-councillor Leiston ward that would produce a variance of -7% by 2023. They noted that the area is covered by the Councils' Leiston Together initiative which is a Coastal Communities Project and has an Economic Plan for the area. They also noted that Leiston has its own leisure centre, community-run cinema, schools, GP surgery and a range of shops and facilities. During the Councils' consultation, they received a submission that considered there to be a natural link between the parishes of Leiston and Knodishall, as many children in Knodishall attend schools in Leiston. They also requested that the Leiston ward be represented by two councillors.

68 The Councils proposed a two-councillor Rendlesham & Wickham Market ward that would produce a variance of 1% by 2023. The ward has a GP surgery, a train station, schools and a number of community groups based in Wickham Market that are used by local residents.

69 During the Councils' consultation, they received submissions that considered there are links between the parishes of Rendlesham and Wickham Market with the parishes of Woodbridge, Easton, Pettistree, Tunstall, Bromeswell and Eyke. We note that not all of these submissions have been reflected by the Councils' proposed ward. However, we could not identify an alternative ward that would reflect the proposals received but we welcome further evidence to illustrate the community identity in this area and alternatives to the draft recommendations. During their consultation, the Councils received submissions that suggested strong links between Wickham Market, Ufford, Hacheston, Campsea Ashe, Marlesford, Pettistree and Blaxhall, and we note that this has been reflected in our draft recommendations.

70 The Councils proposed a one-councillor Saxmundham ward comprising Saxmundham parish only that would produce a variance of -5% by 2023. They considered Saxmundham is a self-contained market town that has a strong community identity which should be retained wholly within one ward. They noted that Saxmundham has its own health centre, library, train station and primary school, which serves both the town and the surrounding communities.

71 The Councils proposed a one-councillor Sandlings ward that would produce a variance of 2% by 2023. They considered that the parishes in this area share similar issues such as coastal protection, flooding, second homes and tourism and they considered this to bring communities together. They also noted that Aldeburgh has a library, community-run cinema and a range of shops and facilities which serve the surrounding villages.

72 We did not find any information from the Councils' consultation to help form the warding arrangements in this area.

73 We have considered the evidence provided by the Councils and we are largely in support of the six wards outlined above. However, where possible, we aim to create wards that have good internal connectivity and we note in the case of the Sandlings ward there is no direct access from the north to the south of the ward: the River Alde separates the parishes of Aldeburgh, Friston and Snape in the north, from the parishes of Iken, Sudbourne, Orford and Gedgrave in the south.

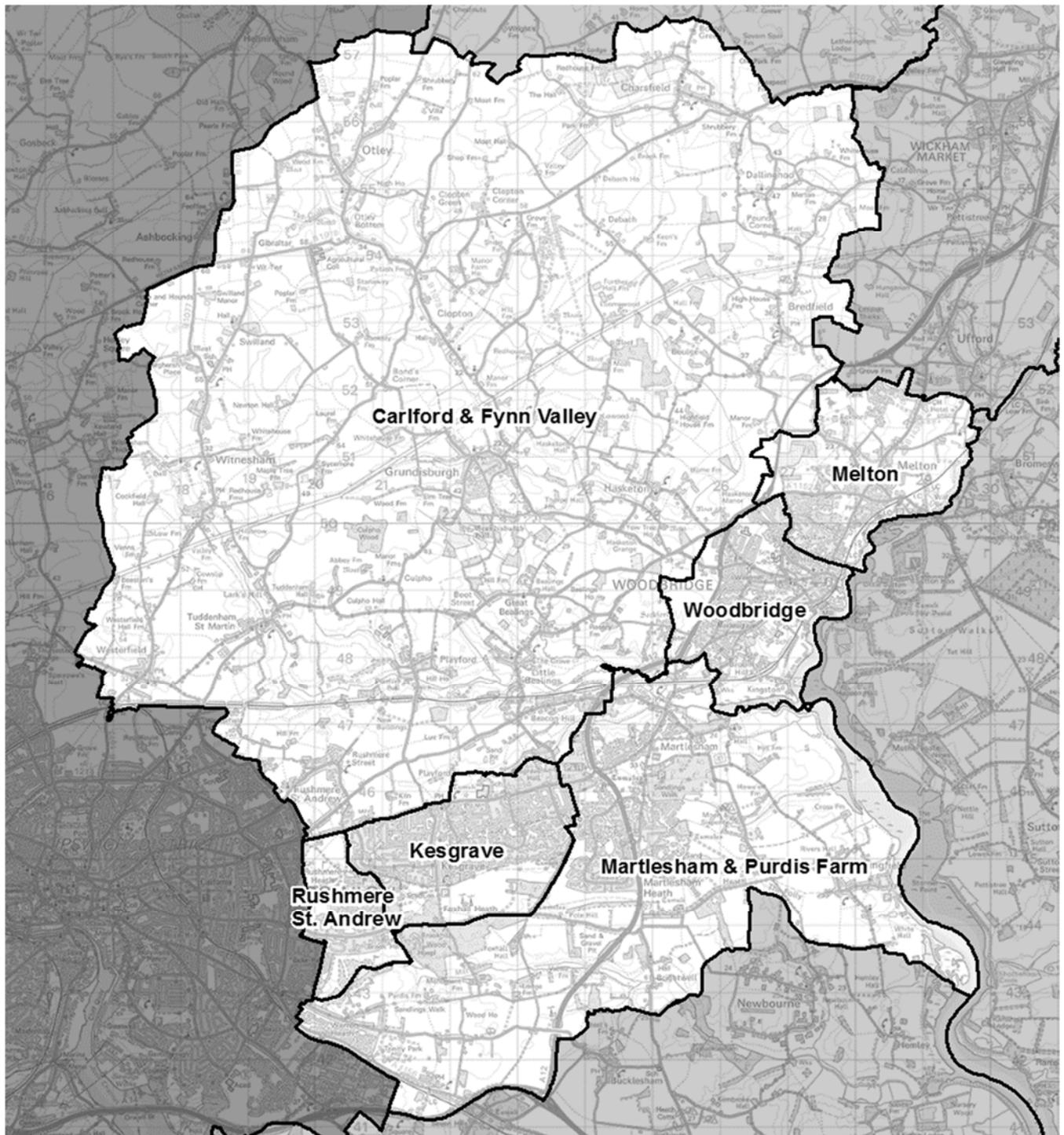
74 On our tour of the area we noted that the only option for traveling from the north of the ward to the south is to go inland and cross through Tunstall parish. The team explored alternative warding patterns that instead used the River Alde as a boundary between wards.

75 However, the alternative wards we identified would have a significant impact on the neighbouring wards in the area. Including those parishes north of the River Alde (Aldeburgh, Friston and Snape) with the Councils' proposed Leiston ward would create a three-councillor ward with a variance of -12% by 2023. The parishes to the south of the River Alde could then be combined with the Councils' proposed Deben & Ore ward and the Rendlesham & Wickham Market ward to create a three-councillor ward that would have a variance of 10% by 2023. Alternatively, retaining the proposed Sandlings ward and combining it with the Councils' proposed Rendlesham & Wickham Market ward would create a three-councillor ward that would have a variance of 2%. However, we have not received any evidence to suggest that these wards will better reflect community identities and outweigh the fact that the proposed Sandlings ward does not have a direct road link throughout it.

76 We consider that the Councils' proposed Sandlings ward combines communities that have a shared community of interest due to their shared coastal focus. We consider that the River Alde dividing this ward is not ideal but note that it facilitates a warding pattern that has been locally generated in the remainder of the district. We welcome further views during the consultation on the Sandlings ward that take into account the knock-on effect of any changes.

77 We are adopting the warding pattern proposed by the Council in this area without amendment. Our draft recommendations are for the three one-councillor wards of Deben & Ore, Sandlings and Saxmundham that are forecast to have variances of 4%, 2% and -5% respectively, by 2023. We are also proposing the three two-councillor wards of Framlingham, Leiston and Rendlesham & Wickham Market that have forecast variances of -4%, -7% and 1% respectively, by 2023.

Kesgrave, Martlesham & Woodbridge



Ward name	Number of Cllrs	Variance 2023
Carlford & Fynn Valley	2	-5%
Kesgrave	3	2%
Martlesham & Purdis Farm	2	11%
Melton	1	-1%
Rushmere St Andrew	1	-1%
Woodbridge	2	-8%

Carlford & Fynn Valley, Kesgrave, Rushmere St Andrew and Woodbridge

78 The Councils proposed a one-councillor Carlford ward that comprised the parishes of Otley, Clopton, Charsfield, Dallinghoo, Debach, Burgh, Grundisburgh, Culpho, Swilland and Witnesham that would produce a variance of 2% by 2023. They noted that this area has two grouped parish councils: Grundisburgh and Culpho, and Witnesham and Swilland. They considered that this ward would keep areas together that share a strong rural identity. They also considered that the parishes of Witnesham and Grundisburgh have strong links through their joint choir and newsletter.

79 The Councils proposed a two-councillor Fynn Valley ward that would produce a variance of -7% by 2023. The Council noted that this area is identified as the Ipswich fringe area within the Ipswich Policy area of the Local Plan and that most of the parishes look towards Ipswich for their services.

80 The Councils proposed a three-councillor Kesgrave ward that would produce a variance of -4% by 2023. They considered Kesgrave to be a self-contained area along with part of Martlesham parish, which they considered closely identified with Kesgrave. They noted that the ward falls within the Ipswich Policy area of the Local Plan and looks towards Ipswich for its resources. They also noted that this ward has a GP surgery, schools, a library, shops, Scout groups and other community services.

81 During the Councils' consultation they received submissions that considered there are natural links between the parish of Kesgrave with Martlesham, Playford, Tuddenham and Westerfield. The respondents acknowledged that those in Kesgrave might use Martlesham surgeries, schools and shops. One of the submissions considered the A1214 to act as a boundary between parts of Rushmere St Andrew parish and the areas of Kesgrave and Martlesham; they considered that the road acted as a boundary between the north of Rushmere St Andrew separating the communities of Kesgrave, Martlesham and the southern part of Rushmere St Andrew.

82 The Councils proposed a two-councillor Woodbridge ward comprising Woodbridge, Bredfield, Boulge and Hasketon parishes and part of Martlesham parish that would produce a variance of 1% by 2023. They noted that evidence from a consultation on the Neighbourhood Plan in this area highlighted that part of Martlesham parish known as 'Martlesham North' identified as being part of Woodbridge Town rather than Martlesham. They considered that the rural parishes of Bredfield, Boulge and Hasketon identity strongly with Woodbridge and help make up the 'rural urban spread' in the ward. They also noted that this ward is serviced predominantly by Woodbridge which has GP surgeries, a train station, a cinema and other community facilities.

83 The Fynn Valley ward proposed by the Councils comprises the parishes of Rushmere St Andrew, Westerfield, Tuddenham St Martin, Great Bealings, Little Bealings and Playford. We noted the majority of the parishes in the ward are rural in nature, with the exception of the southern part of the parish of Rushmere St Andrew. This parish is rural in the north and more urban in the south and includes an area around Foxhall Road which appears to be overspill from Ipswich town.

84 We have considered the Councils' proposals in this area and are proposing to make a number of amendments which we consider will provide for a better reflection of the statutory criteria that we must consider. We consider that the Councils' proposed Fynn Valley ward is not likely to effectively reflect community identities and note in particular that the very southern part of Rushmere St Andrew has no direct road link to the north of Rushmere St Andrew and consequently no access to those rural parishes to the north. Accordingly, we have sought to improve the community identity of the ward and to separate the rural parishes from the built-up part of Rushmere St Andrew.

85 The Commission is proposing that the parish of Rushmere St Andrew is split across three wards, as we consider this will reflect the close linkages with the northern urban part of the parish and Kesgrave; allow the rural area of the parish to be included in a rural ward; and will also establish a ward based on the built-up area of the parish to the south.

86 We consider that the properties around Beech Road and Mendip Drive naturally look towards Kesgrave and that the parish boundary in this area does not reflect the communities in the area. We are therefore proposing to extend the western boundary of the Councils' proposed Kesgrave ward to include all of the properties along Beech Road/Mendip Drive. Our draft recommendations are for a three-councillor Kesgrave ward that is forecast to have a variance of 2% by 2023.

87 We are proposing a one-councillor Rushmere St Andrew ward for the south of the parish. We note that this ward will not have vehicular access from north to south. However, we visited the area around St Andrew Walk and noted that it has a parade of shops, a children's nursery and Rushmere Tower Hall Community Centre, which we believe in this area may act as a focus point for the northern part of this ward. While we note that there is no direct road access between Broadland Way and those roads to the north, we consider a smaller ward that is primarily urban would better reflect the communities in the area and more effectively provide for effective and convenient local government than the two-member Fynn Valley ward that the Councils proposed. Accordingly, the team is proposing a one-councillor Rushmere St Andrew ward that comprises the southernmost part of Rushmere St Andrew parish. This ward is forecast to have a variance of -1% by 2023.

88 We note that during the Councils' consultation they received a submission that considered the parish of Rushmere St Andrew is naturally linked with the parishes of Tuddenham, Playford and Westerfield. We consider that by including the more rural northern part of Rushmere St Andrew with these parishes we are reflecting this request.

89 Our decision to remove a large part of Rushmere St Andrew parish from the Councils' proposed Fynn Valley ward means that the remaining area would form a one-councillor ward that would produce a variance of -31% by 2023. We do not consider this level of electoral equality is acceptable and we have therefore made a number of amendments to improve this variance. We are proposing to combine the remaining northern part of the Fynn Valley ward with the Councils' proposed Carlford ward as well as the three rural parishes included within the Councils' proposed Woodbridge ward. We recognise that this ward was not locally proposed. However,

we noted that during the Councils' consultation they received a number of submissions which considered Playford parish shares natural links with the parishes of Great Bealings, Little Bealings, Grundisburgh and Culpho. Under the Councils' proposed Fynn Valley only the parish of Playford, Great Bealings and Little Bealings are retained together, whereas we are proposing to combine all of the rural parishes identified, together, within the same Carlford & Fynn Valley ward. Additionally, a few of the submissions in this area also requested that Playford parish be retained within a ward that reflected its rural nature, rather than being included in wards with the urban areas of Kesgrave and Rushmere St Andrew and we consider our draft recommendations reflect this too. Our proposal in this area is for a two-member Carlford & Fynn Valley ward which is forecast to have a variance of -5% by 2023.

90 We note that the Council considered that the parishes of Hasketon, Boulge and Bredfield have a strong community identity with Woodbridge Town. However, we consider that a ward based solely on the town of Woodbridge (and a small area of Martlesham) will provide for a better reflection of community identity in the area as well as facilitating a Carlford & Fynn Valley ward that has a good level of electoral equality. Our draft recommendation is for a two-councillor Woodbridge ward which is forecast to have a variance of -8%, by 2023.

Melton and Martlesham & Purdis Farm

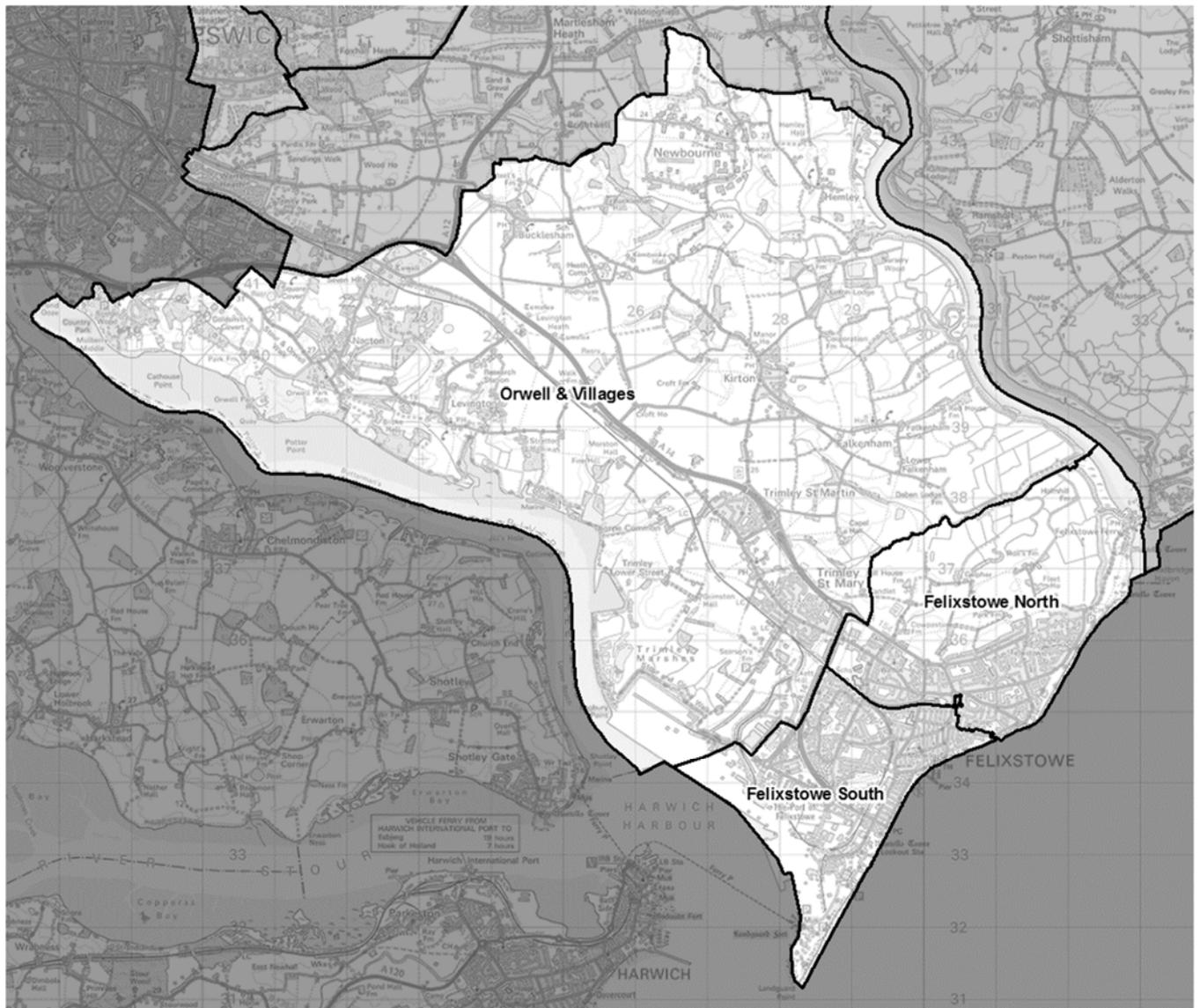
91 The Councils proposed a one-councillor Melton ward comprising just the parish of Melton that would produce a variance of -1% by 2023. They noted that Melton is a large village settlement with its own local amenities: a train station, church, shops, primary school and a community magazine, the 'Melton Messenger'. During the Councils' consultation they received submissions which considered that the residents of Melton are dependent on Woodbridge for their GP surgeries, community facilities, shops and schools.

92 We note that the Councils' proposed Melton ward is a self-contained ward that is coterminous with the parish boundaries. We note that residents responding to the consultation considered there were strong links with Woodbridge and we welcome further evidence about this during our consultation. We are proposing to adopt the one-councillor Melton ward that the Councils proposed that has a forecast variance of -1% by 2023.

93 The Councils proposed a two-councillor Martlesham & Purdis Farm ward that would produce a variance of 11% by 2023. They noted that the majority of the parishes in this area are included within the Ipswich Policy area for the Local Plan and that they look to Ipswich for their services.

94 We explored alternative warding patterns to improve the 11% electoral variance that the Councils' proposed Martlesham & Purdis Farm ward would create. However, any improvement to the variance would result in a significant knock-on effect to the warding pattern in the area which we do not consider is justified. We also note that Purdis Farm, Foxhall and Brightwell are in a grouped parish council and we do not consider that it would be in the interests of effective and convenient local government to divide these parishes between wards. Our draft recommendations are for a two-councillor Martlesham & Purdis Farm ward that has a forecast variance of 11% by 2023.

Felixstowe and surrounds



Ward name	Number of Cllrs	Variance 2023
Felixstowe North	3	-4%
Felixstowe South	3	-6%
Orwell & Villages	2	6%

Orwell & Villages

95 The Councils proposed a two-councillor Orwell & Villages ward that would produce a variance of 6% by 2023. During their consultation, the Councils received submissions that requested the communities of Kirton, Levington, Bucklesham, Falkenham, Stratton Hall, Hemley and Nacton be kept together, which the Councils have reflected in this proposed ward.

96 We are minded to adopt the Councils' proposal as it combines parishes with similar rural characteristics, uses clear boundaries and is forecast to have a good variance by 2023. Our draft recommendations are for a two-councillor Orwell & Villages ward that has a forecast variance of 6% by 2023.

Felixstowe North and Felixstowe South

97 We received two different proposals for warding patterns for Felixstowe. The Councils proposed wards based on the existing wards and Councillor Deacon proposed wards based on historical settlements.

98 The Councils proposed two three-councillor wards for Felixstowe: Felixstowe North would produce a variance of -4% by 2023 and Felixstowe South would produce a variance of -6% by 2023. These wards were created by combining existing wards. They proposed to combine the existing Felixstowe South and Felixstowe West wards to create a Felixstowe South ward that would comprise the town centre, resort and port areas. They proposed to combine the existing Felixstowe East and Felixstowe North wards to create a Felixstowe North ward that would use the High Road/High Street as the main connectivity route for the area and would retain the majority of the residential area of north Felixstowe together. The Councils considered that these wards would reflect the local communities, demographic and commercial makeup of Felixstowe.

99 Councillor Deacon proposed two three-councillor wards which he considered reflected the area's historical settlements and social cohesion within the communities. His proposed Felixstowe West ward is based on the original settlement of Walton and comprises the existing Felixstowe West ward with a large part of the Felixstowe North ward and a small section of the Felixstowe South ward. He considered that the A154 Garrison Lane/Langer Road to be a historical dividing line that is recognised within the town. He proposed that everything to the north/east of this road should form a Felixstowe East ward. Councillor Deacon considered that there is a Felixstowe West community formed by the current Walton area and the Cavendish Park community. He also considered that the 'community ethos' is provided by the Church of St Philip's and Christ Church. He noted the ward has its own shopping area, post office, community hall, play areas, GP surgery and a number of churches and schools. He considers that as the Felixstowe East ward will include the whole of Felixstowe seafront from Felixstowe Ferry to Landguard, along with all of the resort elements in Felixstowe, that this will create a ward that shares common community interests. He noted that this area will have its own schools, sailing community, sports facilities, community centre, churches and GP surgeries.

100 On our tour of the area we considered both of the warding patterns proposed for Felixstowe. We considered that the A154 provided a good internal connectivity

throughout Felixstowe and did not act as a boundary, with those along Carr Road, using it as a connector to the remainder of Felixstowe.

101 We were not persuaded by the evidence provided by Councillor Deacon that his warding pattern used stronger boundaries than those proposed by the Council. We consider the Councils' north/south divide of Felixstowe to be more logical and provide better internal access for each of the wards. Our draft recommendations are for a three-councillor Felixstowe North ward and a three-councillor Felixstowe South ward that will produce variances of -4% and -6% respectively, by 2023.

Conclusions

102 The table below shows the impact of our draft recommendations on electoral equality, based on 2017 and 2023 electorate figures.

Summary of electoral arrangements

	Draft recommendations	
	2017	2023
Number of councillors	55	55
Number of electoral wards	28	28
Average number of electors per councillor	3,471	3,670
Number of wards with a variance more than 10% from the average	6	2
Number of wards with a variance more than 20% from the average	0	0

Draft recommendation

East Suffolk District Council should be made up of 55 councillors serving 28 wards representing eight single-councillor wards, 13 two-councillor wards and seven three-councillor wards. The details and names are shown in Appendix A and illustrated on the large maps accompanying this report.

Mapping

Sheet 1, Map 1 shows the proposed ward for East Suffolk District Council. You can also view our draft recommendations for East Suffolk District Council on our interactive maps at <http://consultation.lgbce.org.uk>

Parish electoral arrangements

103 As part of an electoral review, we are required to have regard to the statutory criteria set out in Schedule 2 to the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009 (the 2009 Act). The Schedule provides that if a parish is to be divided between different wards it must also be divided into parish wards, so that each parish ward lies wholly within a single ward. We cannot recommend changes to the external boundaries of parishes as part of an electoral review.

104 Under the 2009 Act we only have the power to make changes to parish electoral arrangements where these are as a direct consequence of our recommendations for principal authority warding arrangements. However, East Suffolk District Council has powers under the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 to conduct community governance reviews to effect changes to parish electoral arrangements.

105 As a result of our proposed ward boundaries and having regard to the statutory criteria set out in schedule 2 to the 2009 Act, we are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Rushmere St Andrew Parish Council, Oulton Parish Council, Oulton Broad Parish Council and Lowestoft Town Council.

106 As result of our proposed ward boundaries and having regard to the statutory criteria set out in schedule 2 to the 2009 Act, we are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Rushmere St Andrew Parish Council.

Draft recommendation	
Rushmere St Andrew Parish Council should comprise 15 councillors, as at present, representing three wards:	
Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
Rushmere St Andrew Beech	2
Rushmere St Andrew Tower	10
Rushmere St Andrew Village	3

107 As result of our proposed ward boundaries and having regard to the statutory criteria set out in schedule 2 to the 2009 Act, we are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Oulton Parish Council.

Draft recommendation	
Oulton Parish Council should comprise 10 councillors, as at present, representing two wards:	
Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
Oulton East	1
Oulton West	9

108 As result of our proposed ward boundaries and having regard to the statutory criteria set out in schedule 2 to the 2009 Act, we are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Oulton Broad Parish Council.

Draft recommendation	
Oulton Broad Parish Council should comprise 12 councillors, as at present, representing three wards:	
Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
Oulton Broad North	7
Oulton Broad South East	3
Oulton Broad South West	2

109 As result of our proposed ward boundaries and having regard to the statutory criteria set out in schedule 2 to the 2009 Act, we are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Lowestoft Town Council.

Draft recommendation	
Lowestoft Town Council should comprise 20 councillors, as at present, representing eight wards:	
Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
Elmtree	3
Gunton	1
Harbour & Normanston	6
Kirkley	3
Pakefield	3
St Margarets East	2
St Margarets West	1
Tom Crisp	1

3 Have your say

110 The Commission has an open mind about its draft recommendations. Every representation we receive will be considered, regardless of who it is from or whether it relates to the whole district or just a part of it.

111 If you agree with our recommendations, please let us know. If you don't think our recommendations are right for East Suffolk District Council, we want to hear alternative proposals for a different pattern of wards.

112 Our website has a special consultation area where you can explore the maps and draw your own proposed boundaries. You can find it at consultation.lgbce.org.uk

113 Submissions can also be made by emailing reviews@lgbce.org.uk or by writing to:

Review Officer (East Suffolk)
1st Floor, Windsor House
50 Victoria Street
London
SW1H 0TL

114 The Commission aims to propose a pattern of wards for the East Suffolk District Council which delivers:

- Electoral equality: each local councillor represents a similar number of voters
- Community identity: reflects the identity and interests of local communities
- Effective and convenient local government: helping your council discharge its responsibilities effectively

115 A good pattern of wards should:

- Provide good electoral equality, with each councillor representing, as closely as possible, the same number of voters
- Reflect community interests and identities and include evidence of community links
- Be based on strong, easily identifiable boundaries
- Help the council deliver effective and convenient local government

116 Electoral equality:

- Does your proposal mean that councillors would represent roughly the same number of voters as elsewhere in the council area?

117 Community identity:

- Community groups: is there a parish council, residents' association or other group that represents the area?

- Interests: what issues bind the community together or separate it from other parts of your area?
- Identifiable boundaries: are there natural or constructed features which make strong boundaries for your proposals?

118 Effective local government:

- Are any of the proposed wards too large or small to be represented effectively?
- Are the proposed names of the wards appropriate?
- Are there good links across your proposed wards? Is there any form of public transport?

119 Please note that the consultation stage of an electoral review is a public consultation. In the interests of openness and transparency, we make available for public inspection full copies of all representations the Commission takes into account as part of a review. Accordingly, copies of all representations will be placed on deposit at our offices in Windsor House (London) and on our website at www.lgbce.org.uk A list of respondents will be available from us on request after the end of the consultation period.

120 If you are a member of the public and not writing on behalf of a council or organisation we will remove any personal identifiers, such as your name, postal or email addresses, signatures or phone numbers from your submission before it is made public. We will remove signatures from all letters, no matter who they are from.

121 In the light of representations received, we will review our draft recommendations and consider whether they should be altered. As indicated earlier, it is therefore important that all interested parties let us have their views and evidence, **whether or not** they agree with the draft recommendations. We will then publish our final recommendations.

122 After the publication of our final recommendations, the changes we have proposed must be approved by Parliament. An Electoral Changes Order – the legal document which brings into force our recommendations – will be laid in draft in Parliament. The draft Order will provide for new electoral arrangements to be implemented at the all-out elections for East Suffolk District Council in 2019.

Equalities

123 The Commission has looked at how it carries out reviews under the guidelines set out in Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010. It has made best endeavours to ensure that people with protected characteristics can participate in the review process and is sufficiently satisfied that no adverse equality impacts will arise as a result of the outcome of the review.

Appendix A

Draft recommendations for East Suffolk District Council

	Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2017)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2023)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
1	Beccles & Worlingham	3	11,843	3,948	14%	11,981	3,994	9%
2	Blyth Estuary	2	6,581	3,291	-5%	6,934	3,467	-6%
3	Blything	2	6,525	3,263	-6%	6,928	3,464	-6%
4	Carlford & Fynn Valley	2	6,637	3,319	-4%	6,938	3,469	-5%
5	Carlton & Whitton	2	7,934	3,967	14%	7,985	3,993	9%
6	Carlton Colville	2	7,564	3,782	9%	7,641	3,820	4%
7	Deben & Ore	1	3,678	3,678	6%	3,829	3,829	4%
8	Felixstowe North	3	8,888	2,963	-15%	10,561	3,520	-4%
9	Felixstowe South	3	9,982	3,327	-4%	10,299	3,433	-6%
10	Framlingham	2	6,293	3,147	-9%	7,052	3,526	-4%
11	Gunton & St Margarets	2	7,773	3,887	12%	7,828	3,914	7%
12	Harbour & Normanston	3	11,259	3,753	8%	11,522	3,841	5%

Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2017)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2023)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
13 Kelsale & Yoxford	1	3,245	3,245	-7%	3,322	3,322	-9%
14 Kesgrave	3	11,144	3,715	7%	11,196	3,732	2%
15 Kessingland	1	3,481	3,481	0%	3,607	3,607	-2%
16 Kirkley & Pakefield	3	10,683	3,561	3%	10,819	3,606	-2%
17 Leiston	2	6,121	3,061	-12%	6,798	3,399	-7%
18 Lothingland	1	2,928	2,928	-16%	3,217	3,217	-12%
19 Martlesham & Purdis Farm	2	6,610	3,305	-5%	8,139	4,070	11%
20 Melton	1	3,264	3,264	-6%	3,636	3,636	-1%
21 Orwell & Villages	2	7,150	3,575	3%	7,786	3,893	6%
22 Oulton Broad	3	10,307	3,436	-1%	11,395	3,798	4%
23 Rendlesham & Wickham Market	2	7,175	3,588	3%	7,418	3,709	1%
24 Rushmere St Andrew	1	3,513	3,513	1%	3,638	3,638	-1%
25 Sandlings	1	3,685	3,685	6%	3,760	3,760	2%
26 Saxmundham	1	3,212	3,212	-7%	3,504	3,504	-5%
27 Wainford	2	7,014	3,507	1%	7,363	3,682	0%

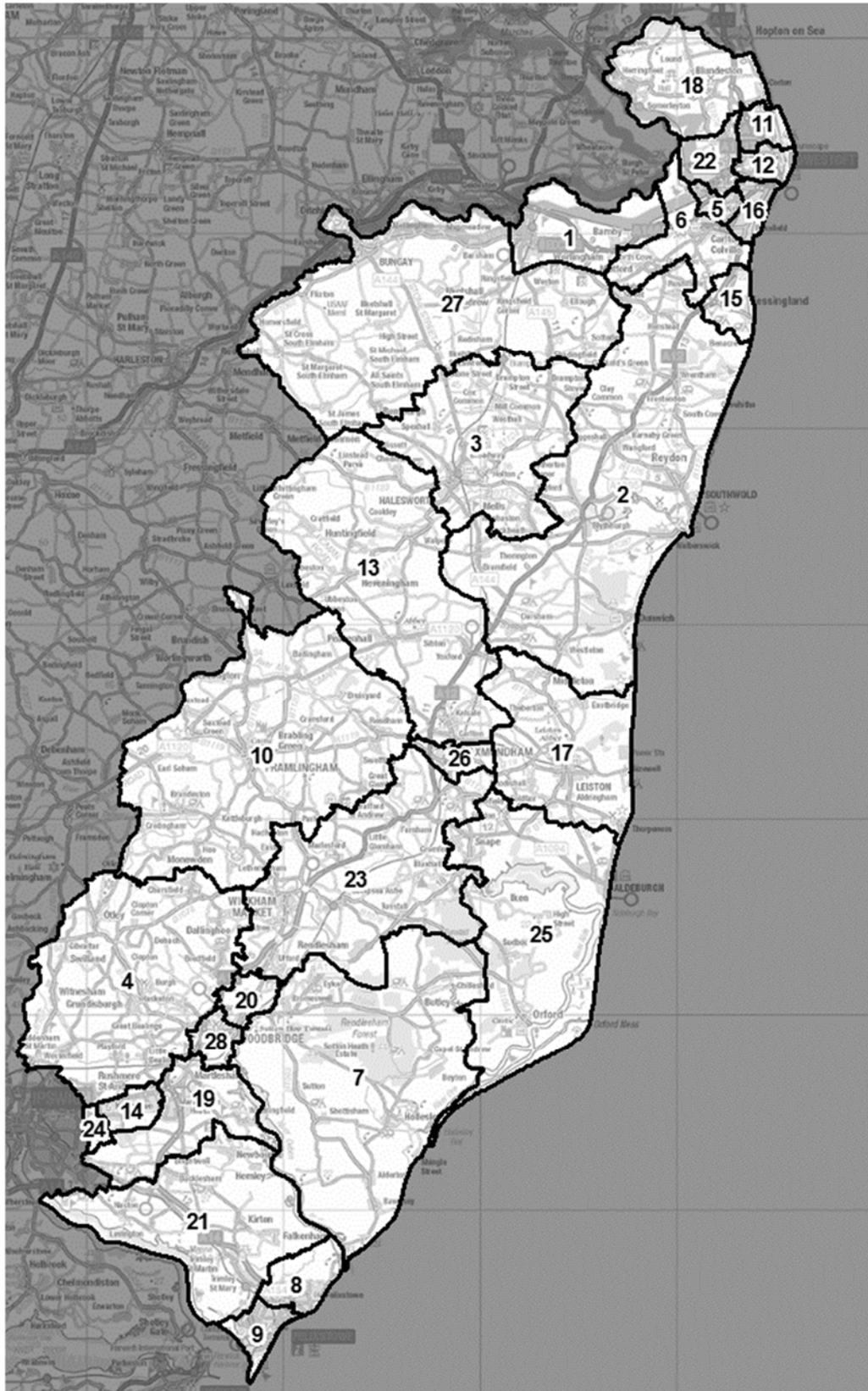
Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2017)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2023)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
28 Woodbridge	2	6,401	3,201	-8%	6,740	3,370	-8%
Totals	55	190,890	-	-	201,837	-	-
Averages	-	-	3,471	-	-	3,670	-

Source: Electorate figures are based on information provided by Suffolk Coastal District Council and Waveney District Council.

Note: The 'variance from average' column shows by how far, in percentage terms, the number of electors per councillor in each electoral ward varies from the average for the district. The minus symbol (-) denotes a lower than average number of electors. Figures have been rounded to the nearest whole number.

Appendix B

Outline map



Key

1. Beccles & Worlingham
2. Blyth Estuary
3. Blything
4. Carlford & Fynn Valley
5. Carlton & Whitton
6. Carlton Colville
7. Deben & Ore
8. Felixstowe North
9. Felixstowe South
10. Framlingham
11. Gunton & St Margarets
12. Harbour & Normanston
13. Kelsale & Yoxford
14. Kesgrave
15. Kessingland
16. Kirkley & Pakefield
17. Leiston
18. Lothingland
19. Martlesham & Purdis Farm
20. Melton
21. Orwell & Villages
22. Oulton Broad
23. Rendlesham & Wickham Market
24. Rushmere St Andrew
25. Sandlings
26. Saxmundham
27. Wainford
28. Woodbridge

A more detailed version of this map can be seen on the large map accompanying this report, or on our website: <http://www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/eastern/suffolk/east-suffolk>

Appendix C

Submissions received

All submissions received can also be viewed on our website at <http://www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/eastern/suffolk/east-suffolk>

Local Authority

- East Suffolk District Council

Councillors

- Councillor M. Deacon

Appendix D

Glossary and abbreviations

Council size	The number of councillors elected to serve on a council
Electoral Change Order	A legal document which implements changes to the electoral arrangements of a local authority
Local Government Changes Order	A legal document which implements a merger of two local authority areas.
Division	A specific area of a county, defined for electoral, administrative and representational purposes. Eligible electors can vote in whichever division they are registered for the candidate or candidates they wish to represent them on the county council
Electoral fairness	When one elector's vote is worth the same as another's
Electoral inequality	Where there is a difference between the number of electors represented by a councillor and the average for the local authority
Electorate	People in the authority who are registered to vote in elections. For the purposes of this report, we refer specifically to the electorate for local government elections
Number of electors per councillor	The total number of electors in a local authority divided by the number of councillors

Over-represented	Where there are fewer electors per councillor in a ward or division than the average
Parish	A specific and defined area of land within a single local authority enclosed within a parish boundary. There are over 10,000 parishes in England, which provide the first tier of representation to their local residents
Parish council	A body elected by electors in the parish which serves and represents the area defined by the parish boundaries. See also 'Town council'
Parish (or Town) council electoral arrangements	The total number of councillors on any one parish or town council; the number, names and boundaries of parish wards; and the number of councillors for each ward
Parish ward	A particular area of a parish, defined for electoral, administrative and representational purposes. Eligible electors vote in whichever parish ward they live for candidate or candidates they wish to represent them on the parish council
Town council	A parish council which has been given ceremonial 'town' status. More information on achieving such status can be found at www.nalc.gov.uk
Under-represented	Where there are more electors per councillor in a ward or division than the average
Variance (or electoral variance)	How far the number of electors per councillor in a ward or division varies in percentage terms from the average

Ward

A specific area of a district or borough, defined for electoral, administrative and representational purposes. Eligible electors can vote in whichever ward they are registered for the candidate or candidates they wish to represent them on the district or borough council

The
Local Government
Boundary Commission
for England

The Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) was set up by Parliament, independent of Government and political parties. It is directly accountable to Parliament through a committee chaired by the Speaker of the House of Commons. It is responsible for conducting boundary, electoral and structural reviews of local government areas.

Local Government Boundary Commission for
England
1st Floor, Windsor House
50 Victoria Street, London
SW1H 0TL

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www.consultation.lgbce.org.uk
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