

Association of British Counties

“Celebrating Our County Heritage”

<http://www.abcounties.co.uk>

President: Mr Michael Bradford

Patrons: Russell Grant Esq, Peter Luff MP, John Randall MP, Andrew Rosindell MP, John Smart Esq, David Taylor MP, Angela Watkinson MP, David Wilshire MP, Lady Winterton MP

28 Alfreda Road
Whitchurch
Cardiff
Glamorgan
CF14 2EH
peterboyce@ntlworld.com
02920 333728
6th January 2009

Submission to the Boundary Committee for England’s Norfolk and Suffolk Structural Reviews

The Association of British Counties exists to promote the continuing importance of the historic counties of the UK to the culture, geography and history of the nation. We believe that all structural reviews of local government provide an opportunity to establish an identity for local government which is distinct from that of the historic counties. This would be to the huge advantage of both local government and the historic counties.

When modern local government was first created (in 1888) the areas of its ‘*administrative counties*’ were based on the historic counties, though the two were always understood to be distinct entities. Following the major local government reforms of the 1960s, 1974, 1986 and the 1990s, few local authorities now have an area anything like any historic county. The Government has consistently maintained that these local government reforms did not alter the historic counties. Nonetheless, the public is confused and often mistakenly believes that historic counties have been altered or abolished by local government changes. There are 2 main reasons for this confusion:

1. the phrase ‘county council’ is still used to describe top-tier local authorities, although few of these authorities have an area close to that of any historic county;
2. many local government areas still use the (unqualified) name of an historic county, despite having an area much smaller than that of the historic county whose name they borrow.

This ‘county confusion’ has a detrimental effect on both local government and the historic counties: public acceptance of local authorities can be compromised by the perception that they have replaced cherished historic counties; the important role of the historic counties in the national life is undermined.

The solution is to ensure that local government has a set of terminology and local authority names which give it an identity totally distinct from that of the historic counties. This requires an end to the use of the phrase ‘county council’ to describe local authorities and an end to the inappropriate, unqualified use of historic county names by local authorities.

ABC has no views on the structure of local government. Its concern is that the names and terminology of local government do not perpetuate the confusion in the public mind between local government and the historic counties. Hence, we request that, in making recommendations to the Secretary of State on the names of the proposed new local authorities, the Boundary Committee follows the following ethos:

- None of the new unitary authorities should use the style 'County Council'. They should be known simply as 'Council';
- None of the new unitary authorities should make unqualified use of an historic county name.

Specifically with regards to the Norfolk and Suffolk Structural review(s), we suggest that the following names would be appropriate for the proposed new authorities.

Main Proposal

Constituent Area	ABC Preferred name
<i>Norfolk CC and the Lowestoft area from Waveney DC (Suffolk CC)</i>	Norfolk & Lowestoft Council
<i>Ipswich, parts of Babergh and St Edmundsbury DCs</i>	Ipswich & Felixstowe Council
<i>Suffolk CC, apart from parts into Norfolk UA and Ipswich & Felixstowe UA</i>	Rural Suffolk Council

Alternative Proposal

Constituent Area	ABC Preferred name
<i>Norwich BC, Great Yarmouth BC, Lowestoft area of Waveney DC.</i>	Norwich, Great Yarmouth & Lowestoft Council
<i>Norfolk CC, apart from part in Norwich, Great Yarmouth & Lowestoft UA</i>	Rural Norfolk Council
<i>Suffolk CC, apart from parts in Norwich, Great Yarmouth & Lowestoft UA</i>	Rural Suffolk Council

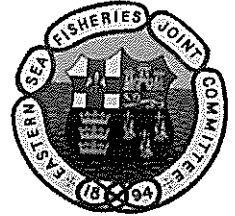
Peter Boyce (Chairman)
On behalf of the Association of British Counties

EASTERN SEA FISHERIES JOINT COMMITTEE

Matthew Mander
Clerk and Chief Fishery Officer

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6 North Lynn Business Village
Bergen Way, King's Lynn
Norfolk, PE30 2JG

TEL: (01553) 775321
FAX: (01553) 772031
E-Mail: mail@esfjc.co.uk
www.esfjc.co.uk

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30 SEP 2000

The Review Officer
Norfolk Review
The Boundary Committee for England
Trevelyan House
Great Peter Street
London
SW1P 2HW

Our Ref JAH/MRM/1/1
26th September 2008

Dear Sir or Madam

Structural Reviews of Norfolk and Suffolk: Draft Proposals

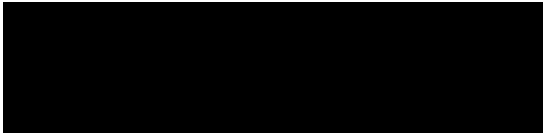
Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the draft proposals to create unitary authorities in both Norfolk and Suffolk. From the draft proposals, it would seem that the proposed changes to the local government structure in these two counties will not affect the Eastern Sea Fisheries Joint Committee (ESFJC). The Joint Committee is aware that other possible options are still being considered alongside the main proposals and these changes have the potential to influence the funding of the Joint Committee.

ESFJC formed in 1894, is currently one of 12 Sea Fisheries Committees with a remit to protect the marine inshore environment around the coast of England and Wales and to manage and develop its fisheries. The ESFJC district stretches from Donna Nook in Lincolnshire to Dovercourt in Essex and extends out to six nautical miles covering approximately 1,000sq. miles. The district includes the important estuaries of the Wash, Stour and Orwell.

The Joint Committee is an autonomous Local Authority in its own right but does not receive any funding from central government. Importantly funding of the Joint Committee is provided by a direct levy upon its three constituent County Councils, Lincolnshire, Norfolk and Suffolk.

If through the proposed changes, unitary authorities were created that had no coastal areas there is a potential danger that funding for organisations with a responsibility for the management of marine fisheries and conservation will be overlooked. Each unitary authority will have finite resources and funding will be directed to meeting priority matters and statutory obligations. The Government's draft Marine Bill demonstrates its recognition of the importance of marine fisheries and conservation management. In order that the Joint Committee continues to undertake its full range of work it is essential that the local funding is not reduced.

Yours faithfully


Matthew Mander
Clerk & Chief Fishery Officer

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Roomfoss Control Systems Ltd
Larch Road · Saddlebow Estate
King's Lynn · Norfolk · PE34 3HP
United Kingdom

Tel: +44(0) 1553 771 413
Fax: +44(0) 1553 691 184
E-mail: sales@roomfoss.co.uk
Website: www.roomfoss.co.uk

Your Ref:
Our Ref: RCL/CLS

The Boundary Committee for England
Trevelyn House
Great Peter Street
LONDON
SW19 2HW

For the Attention of The Review Manager (Norfolk/Suffolk Review)

2nd October 2008

Dear Sirs

Re: Local Government Reorganisation

Further to my letter of the 17th September regarding the proposed changes within the Norfolk boundary, I was able to attend the meeting held at Knights Hill on the 18th September and found it very informative. However, it was apparent from the meeting that the impression is that there will be a change, with 3 proposals being considered.

The first option is referred to as a 'donut' and shows Norwich as a stand-alone area, with the second option, known as the 'trouser leg', incorporates both Yarmouth and Lowestoft reporting back to Norwich. I believe both these schemes are totally unacceptable, mainly due to the physical size of the county. This would put immense pressure on West Norfolk for services, including household rubbish collections, which we currently enjoy weekly. In addition the intention of Norwich is to upgrade the A11 as a direct link to London. This would totally isolate King's Lynn and the surrounding areas and this investment, in effect, would be for the benefit on Norwich only.

The third option is to split the county from Cromer in the north to Thetford in the south, with East Dereham forming part of West Norfolk, which would be run from King's Lynn.



King's Lynn has close ties with Peterborough, Cambridge, and Lincoln and in fact each of these are probably a similar distance as that from King's Lynn to Norwich. This option I believe would be a far better and manageable solution and would prevent King's Lynn from becoming a ghost town. It would also ensure that leisure and tourism continues to be supported along the whole of the North West Norfolk coastline – an area that is greatly appreciated by many in the UK. Without this I believe all the funding would transfer to Yarmouth, Lowestoft, and the Broads.

During the meeting on the 18th I sat next to the Managing Director of Palm Paper whose factory happens to be adjacent to ours. He has received considerable support from our Council, and you may be interested to know that when the site first gained planning permission it was the third largest project in the UK. However no mention of this was made in the Norwich newspaper, the Eastern Daily Press which I find very strange and worrying if we are to become one common council run from Norwich. Another concern would be that the high-level council members from here in King's Lynn would no doubt have to transfer to Norwich and once there King's Lynn would be more isolated.

Please consider these concerns very seriously. I am proud to be part of the West Norfolk community and have enjoyed the progress that the King's Lynn council has made over recent year and sincerely hope that it will be allowed to continue.

Yours faithfully
ROOMFOSS LTD



R C LEADLEY
Managing Director /
Festival Too Chairman

Amy Robsart (Syderstone) Village Hall Committee

Chairman:- Norman Riches, "Birches" Mill Lane Syderstone King's Lynn PE31 8RX

The Review Manager
(Norfolk/Suffolk Review)
The Boundary Committee for England
Trevelyn House
Great Peter Street
London
SW19 2HW

**Breckles
4 Manor Grange
The Street
Syderstone
King's Lynn
PE31 8SD**

26.09.08

Dear Sir

It is with some concern that The Amy Robsart Village Hall Committee learnt of the proposed Local Government Review which would appear to favour a single unitary authority covering the whole of Norfolk and including Lowestoft in Suffolk.

We are concerned that a large body, based some 50 to 60 miles away from our communities, would not be able to best serve the needs of this and other rural villages in the north and west of the county.

In 2006, our local King's Lynn and West Norfolk Borough Council helped, by grant funding, to ensure that this Hall (built in the 1840s) could carry out a total replacement of its slate roof. Without this repair we would have had to close the Hall. We have just received a further grant from them for the purchase of a projector to show current box office films to this rural community. We are also about to benefit from another grant to purchase a bowls mat and trolley for our elderly bowls team.

We are concerned that this focus on the local, often isolated, villages and their needs would not be best served by a large and remote unitary authority and would urge the Boundary Committee to reconsider this proposal.

Yours sincerely,

Avril MacArthur
Secretary to the Trustees Amy Robsart (Syderstone) Village Hall