

The
Local Government
Boundary Commission
for England



New electoral arrangements for
Babergh District Council
Final recommendations

August 2018

Translations and other formats

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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 Babergh?

4 We are conducting a review of Babergh District Council as the value of each vote in district council elections varies depending on where you live in Babergh. Some councillors currently represent many more or fewer voters than others. This is 'electoral inequality'. Our aim is to create 'electoral equality', where votes are as equal as possible, ideally within 10% of being exactly equal.

Our proposals for Babergh

- Babergh should be represented by 32 councillors, 11 fewer than there are now.
- Babergh should have 24 wards, three fewer than there are now.
- The boundaries of all wards should change, none will stay the same.

5 **We have now finalised our recommendations for electoral arrangements for Babergh.**

What is the Local Government Boundary Commission for England?

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

7 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

8 This electoral review was carried out to ensure that:

- The wards in Babergh 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?

9 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

10 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

Consultation

11 We wrote to the Council to ask its views on the appropriate number of councillors for Babergh. We then held a period of consultation on the future warding patterns for the district. The submissions received during this consultation informed our initial set of draft recommendations. We then consulted on these draft recommendations. It was during this second round of consultation that a series of anomalies in the baseline electorate figures were identified. At this point, we paused the review and did not publish our final recommendations for Babergh as planned. We worked with the Council to correct these anomalies and published a set of new draft recommendations, and carried out a further round of consultation. We have now concluded this consultation and have developed our final recommendations.

This review was conducted as follows:

Stage starts	Description
18 April 2017	Number of councillors decided
13 June 2017	Start of consultation seeking views on new wards
14 August 2017	End of consultation; we begin analysing submissions and forming draft recommendations
3 October 2017	Publication of draft recommendations, start of second consultation
11 December 2017	End of consultation; we begin analysing submissions and identify anomalies in the data. Formulation of new draft recommendations
6 March 2018	Publication of new draft recommendations, start of third consultation
30 April 2018	End of consultation; we begin analysing submissions and forming final recommendations
7 August 2018	Publication of final recommendations

How will the recommendations affect you?

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

2 Analysis and final recommendations

13 Legislation² states that our recommendations should not be based only on how many electors³ 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.

14 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.

15 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 Babergh	71,686	74,575
Number of councillors	32	32
Average number of electors per councillor	2,240	2,330

16 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'.

17 Our recommendations cannot affect the external boundaries of the district or 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

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

Electorate figures

19 The Council submitted electorate forecasts for 2023, a period five years on from the scheduled publication of our final recommendations in 2018. These forecasts were broken down to polling district level and predicted an increase in the electorate of around 4% by 2023. This is mainly due to moderate growth in the Shotley peninsula area.

20 During our consultations on warding arrangements we received several submissions, from a district councillor and two local residents, that queried the

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

³ Electors refers to the number of people registered to vote, not the whole adult population.

electorate forecast, arguing that there was further development in the south-west of the district that had not been accounted for in the original electorate forecast. In light of the feedback received the Commission contacted Babergh District Council for further clarification. The Council were of the opinion that the figures provided were accurate as they were based on planning permission data and that the Local Plan that was referred to was not at a sufficiently advanced stage to identify any future development above that already accounted for in the Council's electorate figures.

21 During the consultation on our draft recommendations, the Commission identified further anomalies with the electorate figures, following queries from parish councils and a district councillor predominantly regarding the Shotley peninsula area. It was decided that the electoral review should be paused so that we could establish the full extent of the irregularities in the figures. The Commission then issued a new set of draft recommendations.

22 We received a revised set of electorate figures from the Council. We consider that the revised electorate forecasts we received continue to represent the best available data and we have used these figures to produce our final recommendations.

Number of councillors

23 Babergh District Council currently has 43 councillors. We looked at evidence provided by the Council and concluded that reducing the number of councillors by 12 to 31 would ensure the Council can continue to carry out its roles and responsibilities effectively.

24 We therefore invited proposals for new patterns of wards that would be represented by 31 councillors – for example, 31 one-councillor wards, or a mix of one-, two- and three-councillor wards.

25 We received three submissions about the number of councillors in response to our consultation on warding patterns. Two submissions stated that the reduction was too large, and one submission stated that the reduction was not enough.

26 During the formulation of our initial set of draft recommendations, we found that a council size of 32 would allow for a better allocation of councillors across the district and provide for a pattern of wards that would achieve a better balance between the statutory criteria. We were of the view that increasing the council size by one to 32 would not impact adversely on the governance arrangements of the Council.

27 We have received submissions from Great Cornard Parish Council at each phase of consultation expressing their concern at the reduction in councillor numbers for Babergh. However, the Commission remain persuaded by the evidence received that a council size of 32 remains the most appropriate for Babergh.

Ward boundaries consultation

28 We received 48 submissions in response to our consultation on ward boundaries. These included seven detailed district-wide proposals including proposals from the Council and two district councillors. The schemes were based on patterns of wards to be represented by between 30 and 34 elected members.

29 The district-wide schemes each provided for a mixed pattern of one-, two- and three-councillor wards for Babergh, and all expressed the desire for single-councillor wards, wherever possible. We carefully considered the proposals received and noted that, while the proposed warding arrangements used clearly identifiable boundaries, the resultant wards would not have sufficiently good levels of electoral equality. Furthermore, the supporting evidence was, in general, quite limited and not persuasive enough to justify wards with the poor electoral variances proposed.

30 Our initial set of draft recommendations were based on Councillor McCraw's proposals, but also used elements of the other proposals received, particularly in areas where a good degree of consensus had existed between the schemes proposed. We made modifications to the proposed boundaries based on other local evidence received, particularly regarding community links and locally recognised boundaries. Our recommendations were also informed by findings from our tour of the area. In some areas, we considered that none of the proposals provided for the best balance between our statutory criteria and so we identified alternative boundaries based on grouping whole parishes together.

31 Our initial draft recommendations were for 14 one-councillor, six two-councillor and two three-councillor wards. We considered that these recommendations would provide for good electoral equality while reflecting community identities and interests where we received such evidence during consultation.

Draft recommendations consultation

32 We received 52 submissions during the consultation on our initial set of draft recommendations, which included responses from Babergh District Council, several district councillors, parish councils and local residents.

33 These draft recommendations were for two three-, six two- and 14 one-councillor wards.

New draft recommendations

34 We issued a new set of draft recommendations based on the revised electorate figures we established with the Council and discussed further in paragraphs 20–22. These new draft recommendations were based on our initial set of draft recommendations but subject to modifications to take into account the submissions received during consultation and the revised electorate figures.

35 We received 66 submissions during the consultation on our new draft recommendations which included a response from Babergh District Council and

alternative proposals for the Shotley peninsula and Hadleigh from two district councillors.

36 The new draft recommendations were for three three-, five two- and 13 one-councillor wards.

Final recommendations

37 Our final recommendations are based on the new draft recommendations with modifications in the Shotley peninsula area, the boundaries between South East and North West Cosford and in Hadleigh ward.

38 Pages 10–24 detail our final recommendations for each area of Babergh. They detail how the proposed warding arrangements reflect the three statutory⁴ criteria of:

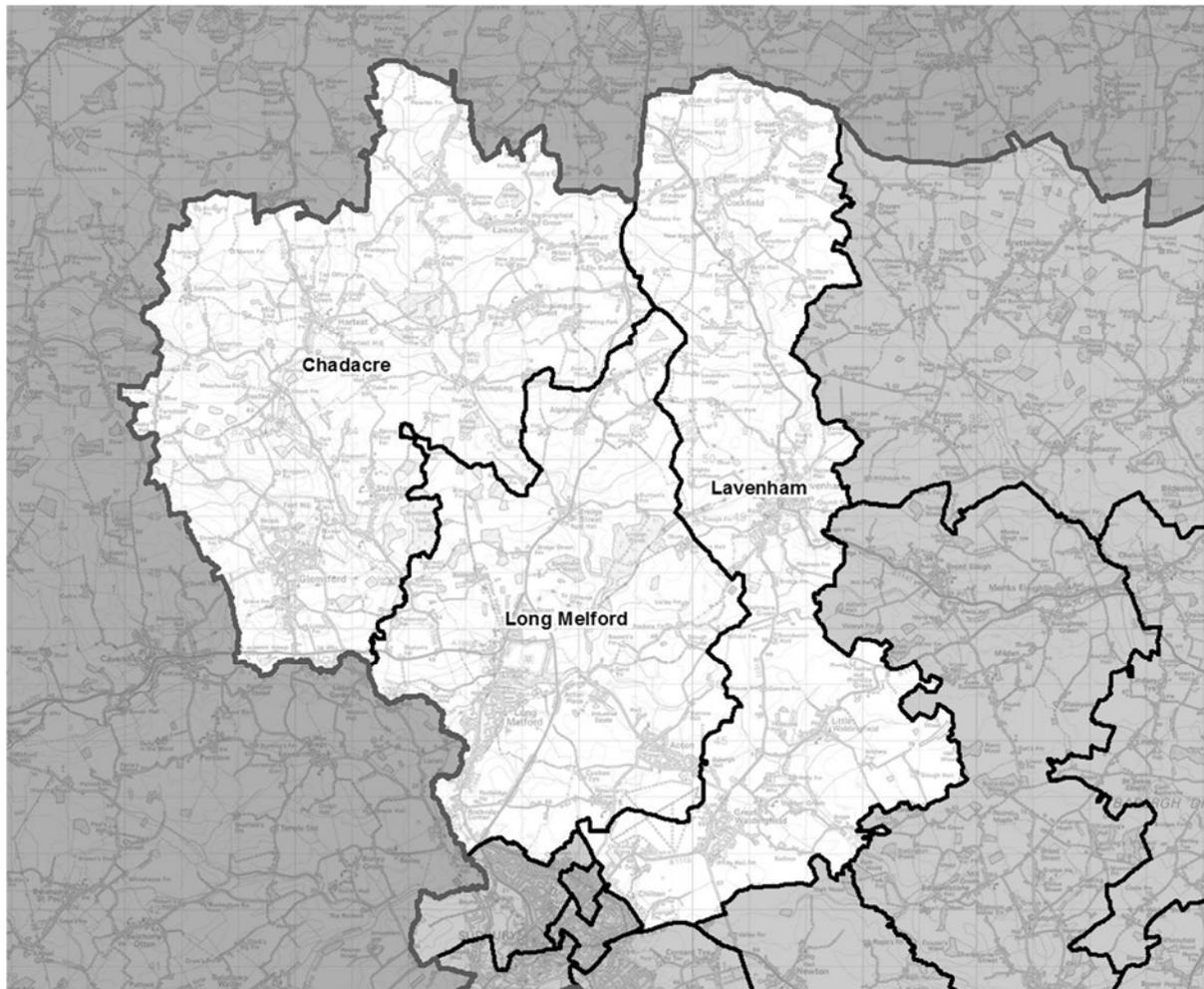
- Equality of representation
- Reflecting community interests and identities
- Providing for effective and convenient local government

39 Our final recommendations are for one three-councillor ward, six two-councillor wards and 17 one-councillor wards. We consider that our final recommendations will provide for good electoral equality while reflecting community identities and interests where we have received such evidence during consultation.

40 A summary of our proposed new wards is set out in the table on pages 28–30 and on the large map accompanying this report.

⁴ Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009.

North-west Babergh



Ward name	Number of Cllrs	Variance 2023
Chadacre	2	5%
Lavenham	2	-9%
Long Melford	2	4%

Chadacre

41 We received four submissions regarding our new draft Chadacre ward, from two local residents, Shimpling Parish Council and a district councillor. One of the local residents and the Parish Council opposed the parish of Glemsford joining Chadacre ward on the basis that it is a discrete community. They argued that by joining Glemsford with the other more rural communities that make up Chadacre ward, the parish might not be represented as effectively as if it were in a ward on its own. However, a one-councillor Glemsford ward would result in very poor electoral equality for both Glemsford and Chadacre at 25% and -15% respectively. The other local resident proposed to retain the existing boundaries of Chadacre, but this would also lead to very poor electoral equality for the ward at 36%.

42 The submission from the district councillor argued that Chadacre should be renamed Glemsford & Chadacre; however, they gave no evidence to support this proposal. As the Commission has not received any other submissions suggesting that the parish of Glemsford should be included in the ward name with Chadacre, we are not minded to adopt this proposal.

43 The Commission are not persuaded by the evidence received that such high electoral variances can be justified. We are therefore confirming our new draft Chadacre ward as final. Chadacre will have good electoral equality by 2023.

Long Melford and Lavenham

44 We received 11 submissions regarding our new draft Lavenham and Long Melford wards from four local residents, five parish councils and two district councillors. Long Melford Parish Council supported our new draft proposals for this area.

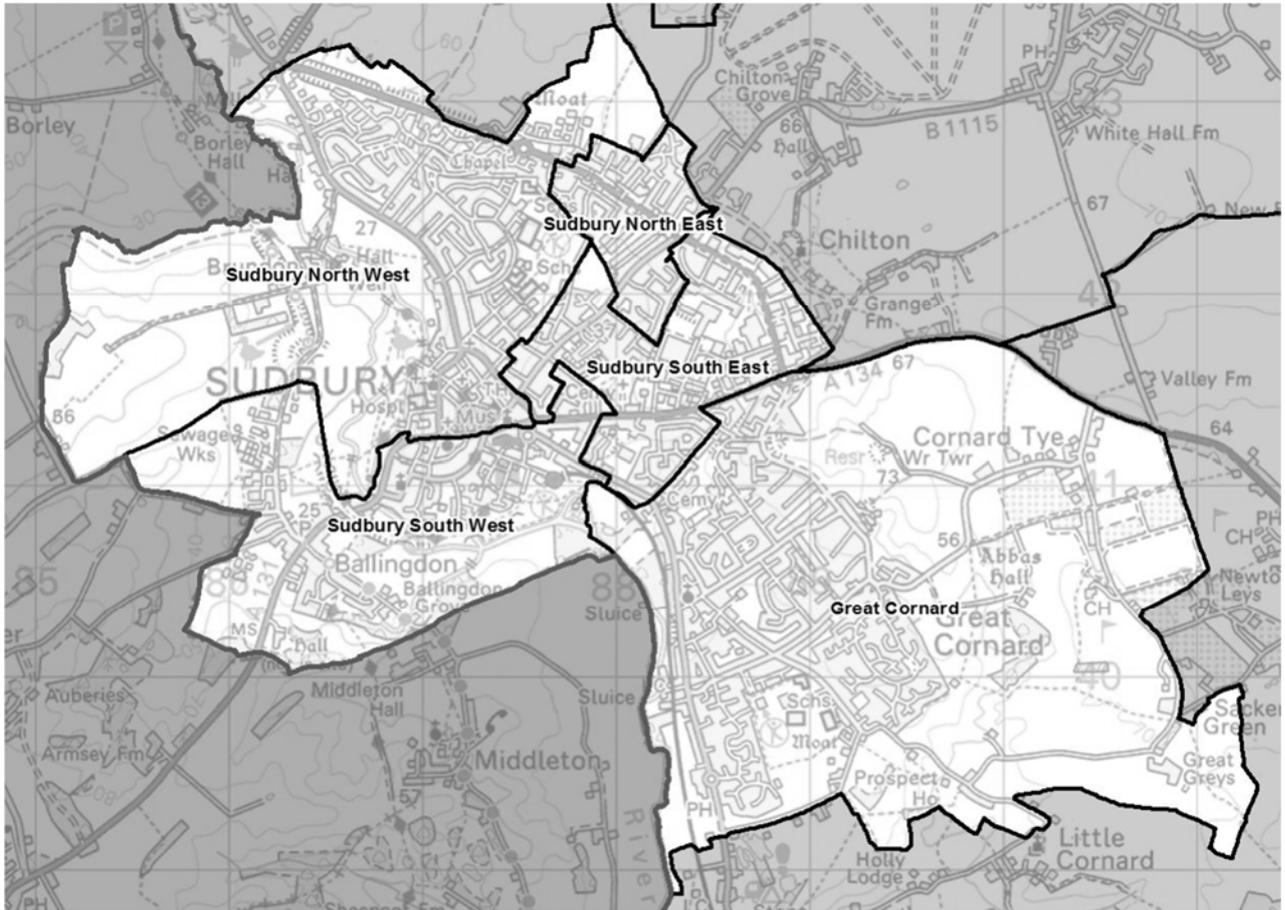
45 The submissions from one of the district councillors, the local residents, Acton Parish Council, Chilton Parish Council, Great Waldingfield Parish Council and Little Waldingfield Parish Council all objected to the inclusion of Acton in Long Melford ward instead of Lavenham. Under our initial draft recommendations, we proposed that Acton should be included in Lavenham. Following the consultation on our new draft recommendations for Babergh, the respondents argued that Acton had more in common with the parishes in Lavenham than Long Melford. They cited road and public transport links, as well as farming and church associations that linked the areas. In addition, the submissions argued that Cockfield parish was geographically separate to the other parishes within our proposed Lavenham ward. They proposed that Acton should be included in Lavenham ward and Cockfield in Long Melford ward.

46 However, following the revision of the electoral figures, this proposal would result in a Long Melford ward with a variance of -12%, which we do not consider to be good electoral equality. We have also received submissions from respondents during the previous rounds of consultation that supported the inclusion of Cockfield in Lavenham. On balance, considering all the evidence received, we are not minded to recommend a Long Melford ward with poor electoral equality. We are therefore not adopting this proposal.

47 We received a submission from another district councillor that suggested splitting Lavenham into two single-councillor wards. These two wards would comprise firstly the parishes of Cockfield and Lavenham and secondly the parishes of Chilton, Great Waldingfield and Little Waldingfield. The latter grouping of parishes would, however, result in a ward with poor electoral equality at -16% by 2023. The evidence received does not persuade us to recommend a ward with such a high electoral variance.

48 We are therefore confirming our new draft Lavenham and Long Melford wards as final. Both wards will have good electoral equality by 2023.

Sudbury and Great Cornard



Ward name	Number of Cllrs	Variance 2023
Great Cornard	3	8%
Sudbury North East	1	-8%
Sudbury North West	2	-9%
Sudbury South East	1	-8%
Sudbury South West	1	-6%

Great Cornard

49 We received one submission regarding this ward from Great Cornard Parish Council. We note the concerns from the Parish Council regarding their parish warding arrangements. The proposed three-member ward for Great Cornard provides for district ward boundaries that are entirely coincident with both the current parish boundary and current division boundary. Consequentially, our final recommendations for this area make no changes to the parish warding arrangements that are already in place. Great Cornard parish will continue to have two parish wards of Great Cornard North and Great Cornard South.

50 The Parish Council's submission also supported our decision to move Cats Lane back into Great Cornard ward. We are therefore confirming our new draft Great Cornard ward as final.

Sudbury

51 We received four submissions in relation to our draft recommendations for Sudbury, from the District Council, Great Cornard Parish Council, Sudbury Town Council and a local resident. The responses from both parish councils underlined their submissions from previous stages of the review, reiterating their dissatisfaction with the new parish warding arrangements for Sudbury.

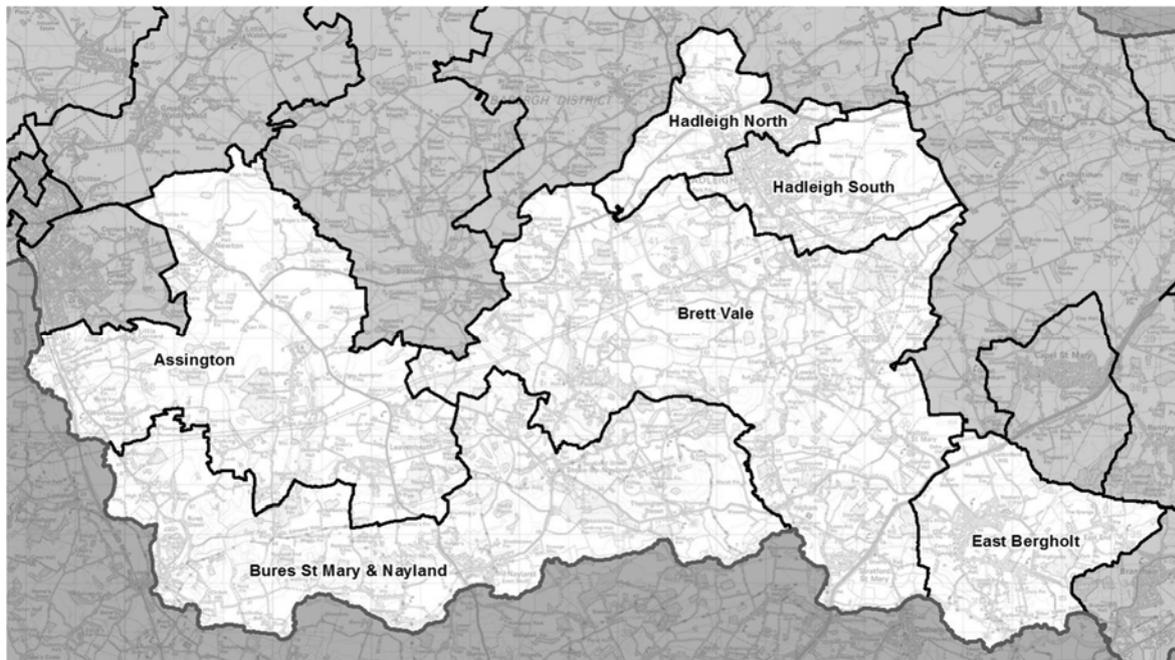
52 Whilst we appreciate that Sudbury Town Council has expressed a preference for a smaller number of parish wards than would be created by our new draft recommendations, we must have regard to the statutory criteria set out in Schedule 2 to the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009 (the 2009 Act). This Schedule provides that if a parish is to be divided by either ward or division boundaries then parish wards must be created. We have not been able to identify boundaries that are both coterminous with the parish and county division boundaries and have good electoral equality.

53 The submission from the local resident suggested renaming the wards Sudbury North West, Sudbury North East, Sudbury South West and Sudbury South East to be more geographically representative. We have adopted this proposal.

54 We are therefore confirming our new draft recommendations for Sudbury as final, subject to a minor amendment regarding the allocation of parish councillors. In drawing up our final recommendations, we reviewed the parish warding arrangements for Sudbury and moved one councillor from Sudbury East parish ward to Sudbury South parish ward, to better reflect the location of the electorate within the parish.

55 Sudbury will have good electoral equality by 2023.

Central and South Babergh



Ward name	Number of Cllrs	Variance 2023
Assington	1	-6%
Brett Vale	1	10%
Bures St Mary & Nayland	1	1%
East Bergholt	1	5%
Hadleigh North	1	-10%
Hadleigh South	2	1%

Assington and Bures St Mary & Nayland

57 We received two submissions regarding our new draft wards in these areas, from Little Cornard Parish Council and Nayland with Wissington Parish Council. The submission from Little Cornard Parish Council supported our draft Assington ward.

58 The submission from Nayland with Wissington Parish Council objected to their inclusion in a ward with Bures St Mary, citing a lack of connection and common identity and history between the two parishes. The submission proposed that if the ward needed to be expanded, then it would be more appropriate for Nayland with Wissington parish to be in a ward with Leavenheath, and for Bures St Mary to move into Assington. However, this would lead, to poor electoral equality in Assington at -20%.

59 While the Commission will always endeavour to place communities that have shared links together wherever possible, we will, on occasion, place seemingly disparate communities within the same ward if we feel it offers the best reflection of our statutory criteria. On balance we do not feel that the evidence provided supports recommending a ward with very poor electoral equality. We are therefore not recommending that any modifications are made to the parish groupings as proposed in our new draft recommendations. The wards of Bures St Mary & Nayland and Assington will have good electoral equality by 2023.

East Bergholt

60 We received a submission from a district councillor expressing general support for our East Bergholt ward. We therefore confirm our new draft recommendations here as final. East Bergholt will have good electoral equality by 2023 at 5%.

Brett Vale

61 We received three submissions regarding our new draft Brett Vale ward from Polstead Parish Council, Raydon Parish Council and Holton St Mary Parish Council. Polstead Parish Council stated they would support our draft Brett Vale ward in the instance that their previous proposal was not adopted. Their proposal was to be included in a ward with Bures St Mary & Nayland; however, this led to poor electoral equality for both wards, with a variance of 32% in Bures St Mary & Nayland and -20% in Brett Vale. We did not therefore not adopt this proposal, and accept the arrangement as proposed in our new draft recommendations reflects a workable alternative.

62 Raydon Parish Council also reiterated its submissions from previous rounds of consultation, stating that they do not have a strong connection with Polstead parish and suggesting that Polstead should be included in a ward with Boxford. This, however, would lead to poor electoral equality for both wards with Box Vale at 31% and Brett Vale at -20%.

63 Holton St Mary Parish Council supported our new draft Brett Vale ward.

64 We are therefore confirming our new draft Brett Vale ward as final. Brett Vale will have good electoral equality by 2023.

Hadleigh North and South

65 We received three submissions regarding our new draft three-councillor Hadleigh ward, from a district councillor, the Town Council and South Suffolk Conservative Association.

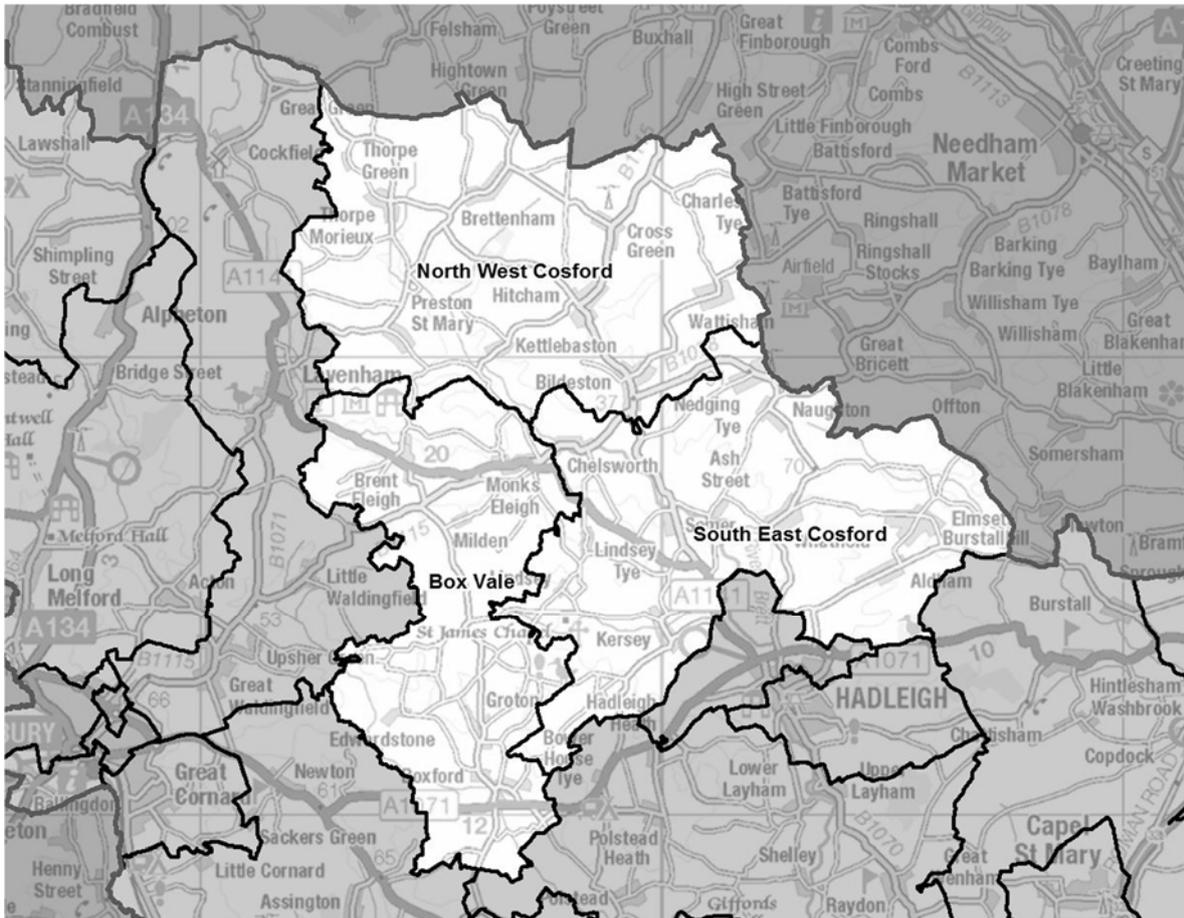
66 We had proposed a three-councillor Hadleigh ward that was coincident with the parish boundary and was based on the submission received from the Council during our warding patterns consultation. We have received several submissions stating a preference for smaller wards in Hadleigh, on the basis that a three-councillor ward would hinder effective and convenient local government in the area. The consultation on our new draft recommendations report invited evidence indicating how best to achieve a smaller pattern of wards that reflects communities and offers good electoral equality, as we had not been able to do so based on the evidence received up to that point.

67 The submission from Hadleigh Town Council referenced a submission made at an earlier stage of consultation proposing three single-councillor wards. However, this proposal resulted in very poor electoral equality, with Hadleigh South at 13%, Hadleigh North West at 22% and Hadleigh North East at -67%. We are not persuaded by the evidence received to accept wards with such high variances and therefore are not minded to adopt this proposal.

68 We also received a proposal from a district councillor for a single-councillor Hadleigh North ward and a two-councillor Hadleigh South ward. The submission argued that Hadleigh North is more rural in nature and contains more tightly knit, newer communities constructed in the north of the town. It also argued that Hadleigh South is more commercial in nature and contains the town's more established residential areas. The proposal offers good electoral equality with Hadleigh North at -10% and Hadleigh South at 1%. It was also supported by the South Suffolk Conservative Association. On balance we feel that this proposal offers a better reflection of our statutory criteria. We proposed therefore to split our three-councillor Hadleigh ward into two, creating two new wards: a single-councillor Hadleigh North ward and a two-councillor Hadleigh South ward.

69 Hadleigh North and Hadleigh South will have good electoral equality by 2023.

North-east Babergh



Ward name	Number of Cllrs	Variance 2023
Box Vale	1	0%
North West Cosford	1	-2%
South East Cosford	1	-8%

North West Cosford and South East Cosford

70 We received eight submissions regarding our new draft wards in Cosford, from a district councillor, three parish councils and four local residents. The submission from the district councillor broadly supported our draft South East Cosford ward.

71 Our new draft North West and South East Cosford wards were forecast to have electoral variances of -6% and -4% respectively. Seven of the submissions received objected to our inclusion of the parish of Wattisham in South East Cosford rather than North West Cosford. This was on the basis that Wattisham shares more in common with North West Cosford, including a primary school, a school bus service, GP surgery, local shops and linked transport services.

72 The Commission have considered whether it was possible to include Wattisham parish in North West Cosford. We found that doing so would result in an electoral variance of -2% for North West Cosford and -8% for South East Cosford. On balance we consider that the evidence provided is sufficient to support including Wattisham into North West Cosford and are minded to adopt this proposal.

73 North West Cosford and South East Cosford wards will have good electoral equality by 2023.

Box Vale

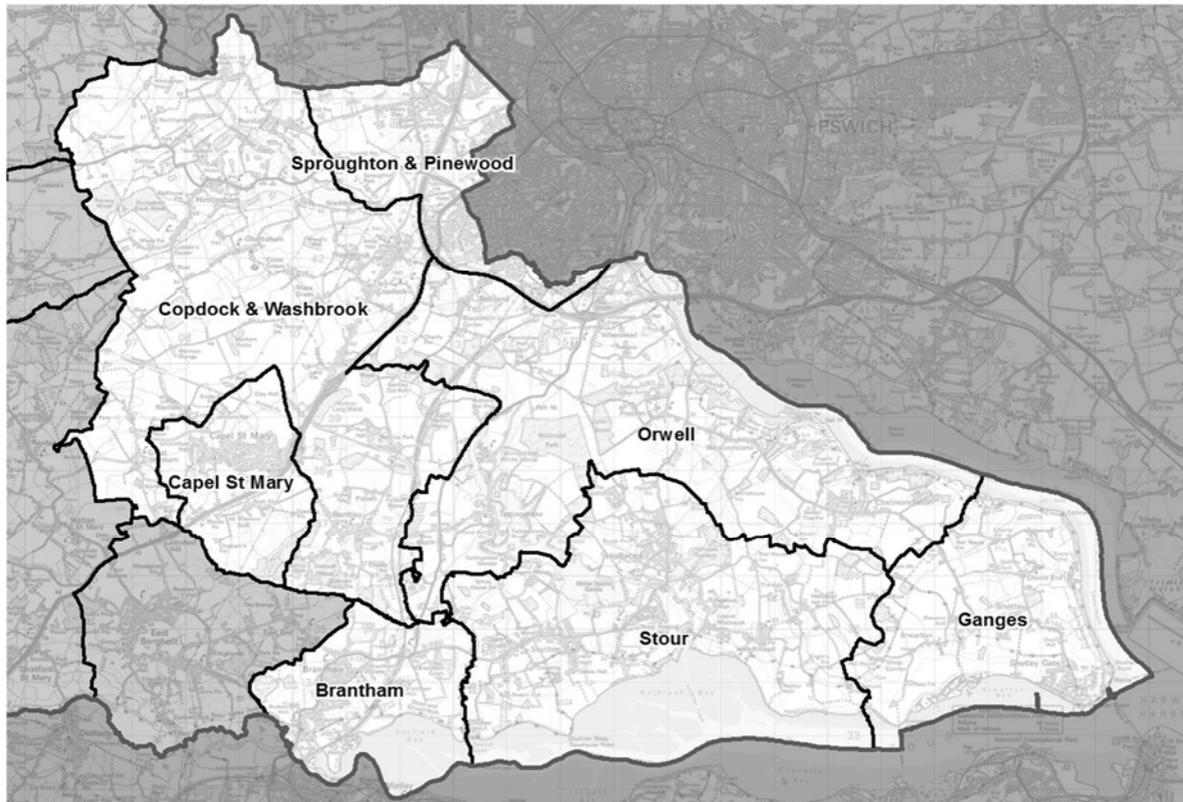
74 We received two submissions regarding our Box Vale ward, from Lindsey Parish Council and Brent Eleigh Parish Council.

75 Both submissions disagreed with the proposed parish grouping of our new draft Box Vale ward. The submission from Lindsey Parish Council argued that they should be in a Box Vale ward so that the district ward and county division boundaries would be aligned, or coterminous. While the Commission will aim to recommend boundaries that are coterminous wherever possible, moving Lindsey from South East Cosford into Box Vale would lead to poor electoral equality in South East Cosford at -14%.

76 The submission from Brent Eleigh Parish Council argued that placing Brent Eleigh in Box Vale does not reflect the topography of the area. They proposed moving Brent Eleigh and Monks Eleigh into South East Cosford; however, this leads to poor electoral equality in Box Vale at -24%.

77 On balance we do not feel that sufficient evidence has been provided to support recommending two wards, Box Vale and South East Cosford, with poor electoral equality. We are therefore confirming our new draft Box Vale ward as final. Box Vale will have good electoral equality by 2023.

South-east Babergh



Ward name	Number of Cllrs	Variance 2023
Brantham	1	-2%
Capel St Mary	1	5%
Copdock & Washbrook	1	11%
Ganges	1	4%
Orwell	1	-9%
Sproughton & Pinewood	2	3%
Stour	1	5%

Brantham and Capel St Mary

78 We received a submission from a district councillor expressing general support for our Brantham and Capel St Mary wards. We therefore confirm our new draft recommendations here as final. Brantham and Capel St Mary will have good electoral equality by 2023.

Sproughton & Pinewood and Copdock & Washbrook

79 We received 10 submissions regarding our new draft Sproughton & Pinewood ward from two district councillors, Sproughton Parish Council and seven local residents. All of the respondents objected to Sproughton parish being included in a ward with Pinewood parish. The respondents argued that Pinewood is more urban in character and has close links with Ipswich, whereas Sproughton is much more rural in its identity, and would more appropriately identify with Copdock & Washbrook. However, including Sproughton in Copdock & Washbrook would lead to poor electoral equality. The resultant two-councillor Pinewood ward would have a variance of -29% and a one-councillor Copdock & Washbrook ward would have a variance of 76%.

80 Two of the submissions also suggested that Sproughton and Pinewood should be two separate single-councillor wards. This proposal would also lead to poor electoral equality, with Sproughton at -36% and Pinewood at 42%.

81 The proposed new draft wards of Sproughton & Pinewood and Copdock & Washbrook were based on evidence received in submissions regarding the natural grouping of parishes in this area made at previous rounds of consultation.

82 On balance we are not persuaded to recommend any changes to our new draft Sproughton & Pinewood and Copdock & Washbrook wards as proposed in both our draft and new draft recommendations.

83 In our draft recommendations report we asked for views on the proposed ward names for this area. Three of the submissions confirmed that the ward should be named Sproughton & Pinewood, therefore we propose to keep it the same.

84 We also received one submission relating directly to our Copdock & Washbrook ward suggesting a name change to North Samford, but with no evidence to support the proposed name change. Given that we have received no other submissions supporting a name change we are not minded to adopt this proposal.

85 Sproughton & Pinewood will have good electoral equality by 2023. Copdock & Washbrook will have an electoral variance of 11%; however, we believe that this is the best balance of our statutory criteria based on the evidence received.

Ganges, Orwell and Stour

86 We received eight submissions regarding our new draft three-councillor Berners ward. We had proposed, following objections made to our draft recommendations warding arrangement for the area, to create a ward comprising the parishes of Arwarton, Belstead, Chelmondiston, Freston, Harkstead, Holbrook, Shotley, Stutton, Tattingstone, Wherstead and Woolverstone.

87 However, the respondents all objected to a three-councillor ward covering this area, stating that our proposed ward was too large and would not promote effective and convenient local government, particularly considering the number of parishes to be represented. In our new draft recommendations report, we requested submissions describing how we could create smaller wards using the parishes listed above but in different combinations. We wanted evidence of a warding arrangement for the area that might better reflect our statutory criteria, in particular regarding the community identity and effective and convenient local government.

88 In response to this request we received an alternative scheme from a district councillor proposing three single-councillor wards. This proposal was based on the following parish groupings: Harkstead, Holbrook and Stutton to form a Peninsula Stour ward; Arwarton and Shotley to form a Peninsula Ganges ward; and Belstead, Chelmondiston, Freston, Tattingstone, Wherstead and Woolverstone to form a Peninsula Orwell ward. This was supported by four other respondents who proposed the same parish groupings.

89 On balance we feel this a better reflection of our statutory criteria, in that it provides for more effective and convenient local government and has good electoral equality. We are therefore adopting this proposal. We have, however, simplified the ward names to Ganges, Orwell and Stour.

90 We received a submission from a local resident that objected to Belstead parish being grouped with parishes on the Shotley peninsula, arguing they had little in common. However, due to its location, the only ward that Belstead could move into is Copdock & Washbrook. This would result in a Copdock & Washbrook ward with very poor electoral equality at 19%. We were not persuaded by the evidence received that such a high variance is justifiable, therefore propose that Belstead parish is located in our new Orwell ward.

91 Ganges, Orwell and Stour wards will all have good electoral equality by 2023.

Conclusions

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

Summary of electoral arrangements

	Final recommendations	
	2017	2023
Number of councillors	32	32
Number of electoral wards	24	24
Average number of electors per councillor	2,240	2,330
Number of wards with a variance more than 10% from the average	4	1
Number of wards with a variance more than 20% from the average	0	0

Final recommendation

Babergh District Council should be made up of 32 councillors serving 24 wards representing 17 single-councillor wards, six two-councillor wards and one three-councillor ward. The details and names are shown in Appendix A and illustrated on the large map accompanying this report.

Mapping

Sheet 1, Map 1 shows the proposed wards for Babergh.

You can also view our final recommendations for Babergh District Council on our interactive maps at <http://consultation.lgbce.org.uk>

Parish electoral arrangements

93 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.

94 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, Babergh 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.

95 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 Hadleigh.

Final recommendation	
Hadleigh Town Council should comprise 15 councillors, as at present, representing two wards:	
Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
Hadleigh North	5
Hadleigh South	10

96 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 Sudbury.

Final recommendation	
Sudbury Town Council should comprise 16 councillors, as at present, representing seven wards:	
Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
Elm & Hillside	1
Hawkins Road	1
St Leonards	1
Sudbury East	2
Sudbury North	6
Sudbury South	3
Sudbury South West	2

3 What happens next?

97 We have now completed our review of Babergh District Council. The recommendations must now be approved by Parliament. A draft Order – the legal document which brings into force our recommendations – will be laid in Parliament. Subject to parliamentary scrutiny, the new electoral arrangements will come into force at the local elections in 2019.

Equalities

98 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

Final recommendations for Babergh 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 Assington	1	2,183	2,183	-3 %	2,183	2,183	-6%
2 Box Vale	1	2,252	2,252	1%	2,336	2,336	0%
3 Brantham	1	2,110	2,110	-6%	2,283	2,283	-2%
4 Brett Vale	1	2,570	2,570	15%	2,570	2,570	10%
5 Bures St Mary & Nayland	1	2,352	2,352	5%	2,352	2,352	1%
6 Capel St Mary	1	2,399	2,399	7%	2,445	2,445	5%
7 Chadacre	2	4,828	2,414	8%	4,891	2,446	5%
8 Copdock & Washbrook	1	2,591	2,591	16%	2,591	2,591	11%
9 East Bergholt	1	2,284	2,284	2%	2,454	2,454	5%
10 Ganges	1	1,950	1,950	-13%	2,414	2,414	4%
11 Great Cornard	3	7,066	2,355	5%	7,566	2,522	8%
12 Hadleigh North	1	2,098	2,098	-6%	2,098	2,098	-10%

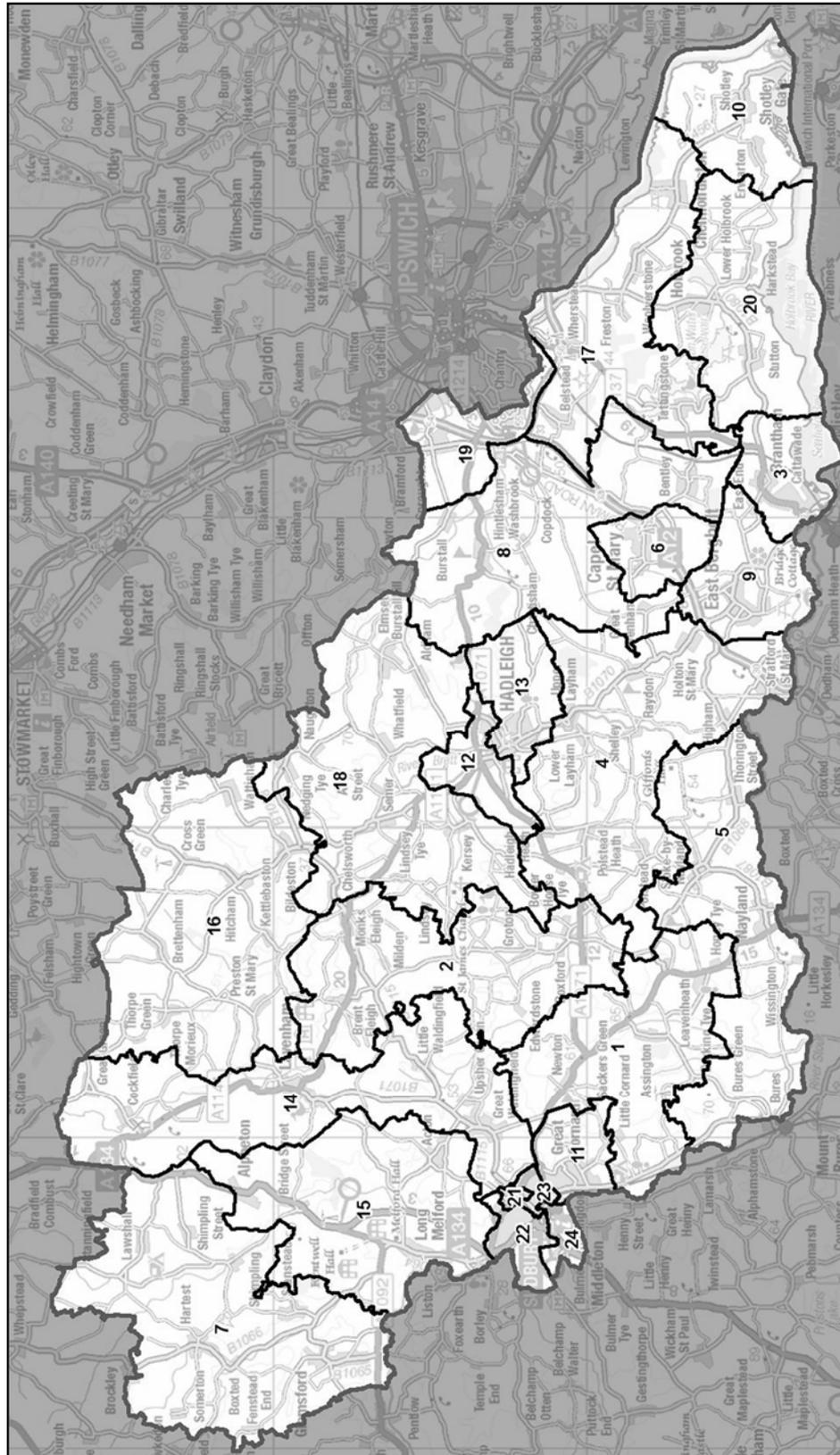
Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2017)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2023)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
13 Hadleigh South	2	4,520	2,260	1%	4,677	2,339	1%
14 Lavenham	2	4,223	2,112	-6%	4,263	2,132	-9%
15 Long Melford	2	4,662	2,331	4%	4,863	2,432	4%
16 North West Cosford	1	2,192	2,192	-2%	2,279	2,279	-2%
17 Orwell	1	2,110	2,110	-6%	2,110	2,110	-9%
18 South East Cosford	1	2,110	2,110	-6%	2,139	2,139	-8%
19 Sproughton & Pinewood	2	4,424	2,212	-1%	4,816	2,408	3%
20 Stour	1	2,304	2,304	3%	2,451	2,451	5%
21 Sudbury North East	1	2,148	2,148	-4%	2,151	2,151	-8%
22 Sudbury North West	2	4,169	2,085	-7%	4,261	2,131	-9%
23 Sudbury South East	1	1,898	1,898	-15%	2,166	2,166	-8%
24 Sudbury South West	1	2,190	2,190	-2%	2,190	2,190	-6%
Totals	32	71,686	-	-	74,575	-	-
Averages	-	-	2,240	-	-	2,330	-

Source: Electorate figures are based on information provided by Babergh 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. Assington
2. Box Vale
3. Brantham
4. Brett Vale
5. Bures St Mary & Nayland
6. Capel St Mary
7. Chadacre
8. Copdock & Washbrook
9. East Bergholt
10. Ganges
11. Great Cornard
12. Hadleigh North
13. Hadleigh South
14. Lavenham
15. Long Melford
16. North West Cosford
17. Orwell
18. South East Cosford
19. Sproughton & Pinewood
20. Stour
21. Sudbury North East
22. Sudbury North West
23. Sudbury South East
24. Sudbury South West

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/babergh>

Appendix C

Submissions received

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

Local Authority

- Babergh District Council

Political Group

- South Suffolk Conservative Association

Councillors

- Councillor A. Beckham (Chilton Parish Council)
- Councillor D. Busby (Babergh District Council)
- Councillor D. Davis (Babergh District Council)
- Councillor S. Dawson (Babergh District Council)
- Councillor A. Ferguson (Babergh District Council)
- Councillor S. Hall (Sudbury Town Council)
- Councillor F. Lawrenson (Babergh District Council)
- Councillor A. McCraw (Babergh District Council)
- Councillor S. Plumb (Babergh District Council)
- Councillor D. Rose (Babergh District Council)
- Councillor W. Shropshire (Babergh District Council)
- Councillor L. Wheatley (Babergh District Council)

Parish and Town Councils

- Acton Parish Council
- Brent Eleigh Parish Council
- Chilton Parish Council
- East Bergholt Parish Council
- Freston Parish Council
- Great Cornard Parish Council
- Great Waldingfield Parish Council
- Hadleigh Town Council
- Holbrook Parish Council
- Holton St Mary Parish Council
- Kersey Parish Council
- Lindsey Parish Council
- Little Cornard Parish Council
- Little Waldingfield Parish Council
- Long Melford Parish Council

- Nayland with Wissington Parish Council
- Nedging with Naughton Parish Council
- Raydon Parish Council
- Shimpling Parish Council
- Sproughton Parish Council
- Sudbury Town Council
- Wattisham Parish Council
- Woolverstone Parish Council

Local Residents

- 29 local residents

Appendix D

Glossary and abbreviations

Council size	The number of councillors elected to serve on a council
Electoral Change Order (or Order)	A legal document which implements changes to the electoral arrangements of a local authority
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.

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www.consultation.lgbce.org.uk
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