

# Final recommendations on the new electoral arrangements for South Norfolk Council

Electoral review

March 2017

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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 South Norfolk?

4 We are conducting a review of South Norfolk as the value of each vote in district council elections varies depending on where you live in South Norfolk. 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 South Norfolk

- South Norfolk District Council should be represented by 46 councillors, the same as now.
- South Norfolk District Council should have 26 wards, 10 fewer than now.
- The boundaries of all but one ward should change.

5 **We have now finalised our recommendations for electoral arrangements in South Norfolk.**

# 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.<sup>1</sup>

7 The members of the Commission are:

- Professor Colin Mellors (Chair)
  - Peter Knight CBE, DL
  - Alison Lowton
  - Peter Maddison QPM
  - Sir Tony Redmond
- 
- Chief Executive: Jolyon Jackson CBE

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<sup>1</sup> Under the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009.

# 1 Introduction

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

- The wards in South Norfolk 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](http://www.lgbce.org.uk)

## Consultation

11 We wrote to the Council to ask its views on the appropriate number of councillors for South Norfolk. We then held two periods of consultation on warding patterns for the district. The submissions received during consultation have informed our draft and final recommendations.

12 This review was conducted as follows:

Stage starts	Description
21 June 2016	Number of councillors decided
28 June 2016	Start of consultation seeking views on new wards
5 September 2016	End of consultation; we begin analysing submissions and forming draft recommendations
8 November 2016	Publication of draft recommendations, start of second consultation
9 January 2017	End of consultation; we begin analysing submissions and forming final recommendations
14 March 2017	Publication of final recommendations

## How will the recommendations affect you?

13 The recommendations will determine how many councillors will serve on the Council. They will also decide which ward you vote in and which other communities are in that ward. Your ward name may also change.

## 2 Analysis and final recommendations

14 Legislation<sup>2</sup> states that our recommendations should not be based only on how many electors<sup>3</sup> 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 ward.

15 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.

16 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.

	2015	2022
Electorate of South Norfolk	99,573	117,566
Number of councillors	46	46
Average number of electors per councillor	2,165	2,556

17 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'. Twenty-five of our proposed 26 wards for South Norfolk will have electoral equality by 2022. However, our Diss & Roydon ward will have a variance of 11%. We consider this to be justified by the benefits of keeping these parishes together in one ward.

18 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

19 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](http://www.lgbce.org.uk)

### Electorate figures

20 The Council submitted electorate forecasts for 2022, a period five years on from the scheduled publication of our final recommendations in 2017. These

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<sup>2</sup> Schedule 2 to the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009.

<sup>3</sup> 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 18% by 2022.

21 We considered the information provided by the Council and raised a number of questions about the scale of housing development; however, we are now satisfied that the projected figures are the best available. We used these figures to produce our final recommendations.

22 In response to the draft recommendations we did not receive any significant comments on the electorate figures and have used them as the basis of the final recommendations. It should be noted that as a result of the scale of growth, a number of wards would initially have poor electoral equality. However, this is expected to improve as the growth is completed, as shown in Appendix A, pages 26–6.

## Number of councillors

23 South Norfolk Council currently has 46 councillors. We have looked at evidence provided by the Council and have concluded that keeping this number the same will ensure the Council can carry out its roles and responsibilities effectively. We therefore invited proposals for new patterns of wards that would be represented by 46 councillors.

24 We received no submissions about the number of councillors in response to our consultation on ward patterns and therefore based our draft recommendations on a 46-member council.

25 In response to the draft recommendations, we received no significant comments on the number of councillors and have therefore based the final recommendations on a 46-member council.

## Ward boundaries consultation

26 We received 24 submissions in response to our consultation on ward boundaries. These included a detailed district-wide proposal from South Norfolk Council, which proposed a mixed pattern of 31 wards, represented by 46 elected members. The remaining submissions put forward comments on specific areas, or commented on the proposals put forward by the Council.

27 We carefully considered the proposals received, noting that the Council's proposals secured good levels of electoral equality, with no ward having a variance of over 10% by 2022. We used the Council's proposals as the basis for the draft recommendations, but moved away from them in a number of areas where either we received persuasive evidence for alternative arrangements, or where we did not consider that the Council's proposals provided the best balance between the statutory criteria. As part of the process, we visited the area to look at the various proposals on the ground. This tour of South Norfolk helped us to decide between the different boundaries proposed.

28 Our draft recommendations were for four three-councillor wards, 11 two-councillor wards and 12 one-councillor wards. We considered that our draft recommendations provided for good electoral equality while reflecting community identities and interests where we have received such evidence during consultation.

## Draft recommendations consultation

29 We received 34 submissions during consultation on our draft recommendations. These included comments from South Norfolk Council and South Norfolk Liberal Democrats. A number of respondents expressed concern about the size of the two-councillor Ditchingham & Earsham ward. Several suggested the ward contained too many parishes, and a number of alternative options were put forward. We also received a mixture of support for and opposition to an option we proposed of merging the two-councillor Mulbarton ward with the single-councillor Stoke Holy Cross ward. In addition, we received arguments that Stoke Holy Cross parish should be in a ward with Poringland.

30 We received some support for our Dickleburgh & Scole ward, although respondents argued for a change to the name. A number of other respondents proposed alternatives arrangements that would have a knock-on effect to the ward. There were objections to the transfer of Alington with Yelverton parish being placed in Brooke ward. We also received a mixture of support and objections to the Rockland wards. We received a further number of submissions making comments on our draft recommendations.

31 Our final recommendations are based on the draft recommendations with a modification to the combine the Mulbarton and Stoke Holy Cross wards to create a three-member Mulbarton & Stoke Holy Cross ward. We have also made a number of name changes.

## Final recommendations

32 Pages 8–20 detail our final recommendations for each area of South Norfolk. They detail how the proposed warding arrangements reflect the three statutory<sup>4</sup> criteria of:

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

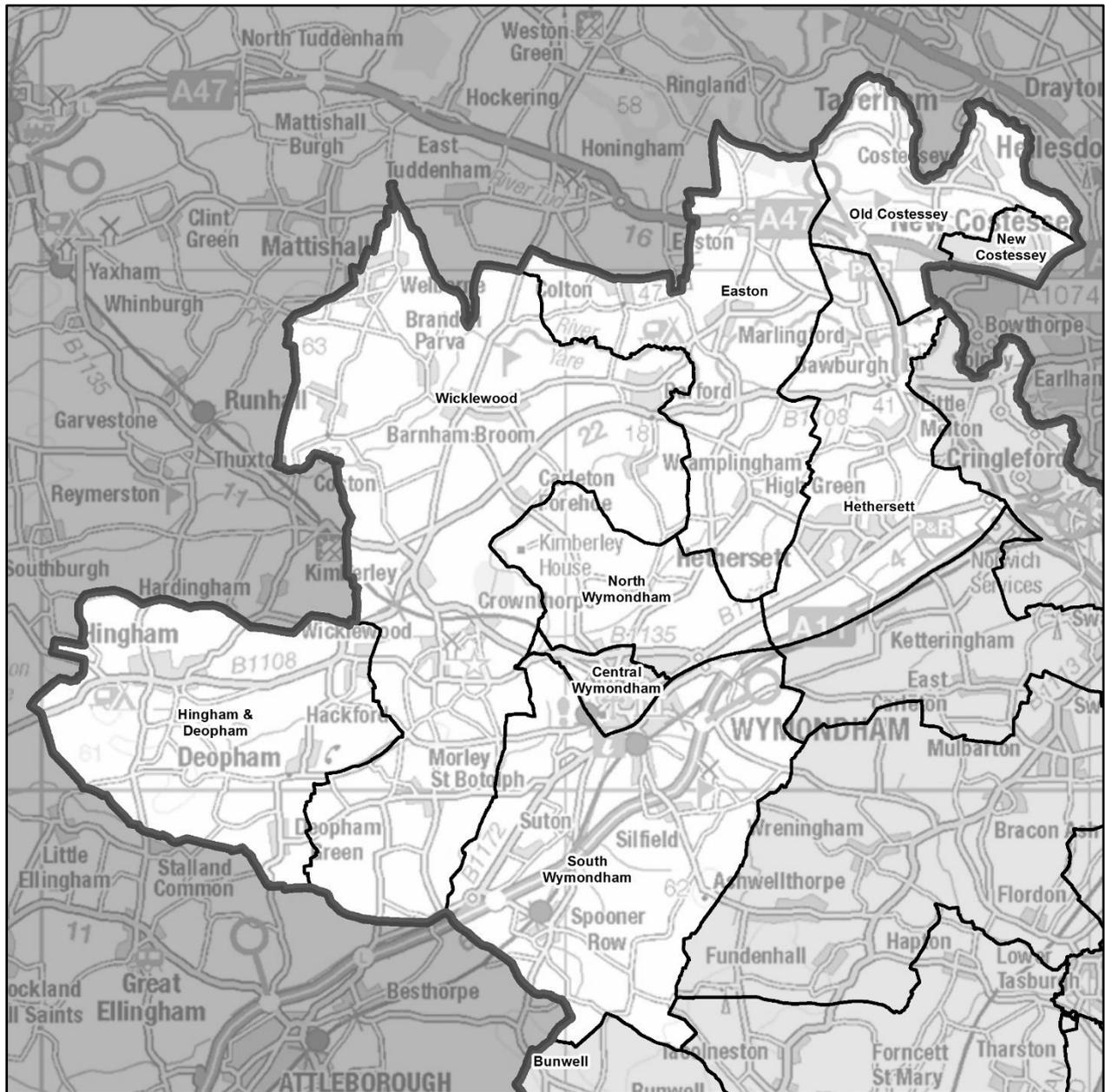
33 Our final recommendations are for five three-councillor wards, 10 two-councillor wards and 11 one-councillor wards. We consider that our final recommendations will provide for good electoral equality while reflecting community identities and interests where we have received such evidence during consultation.

34 A summary of our proposed new wards is set out in the table on pages 24–6 and on the large map accompanying this report.

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<sup>4</sup> Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009.

## North-west South Norfolk



Ward name	Number of Cllrs	Variance 2022
Central Wymondham	2	-6%
Easton	1	-2%
Hethersett	3	-6%
Hingham & Deopham	1	-3%
New Costessey	2	-3%
North Wymondham	2	-3%
Old Costessey	3	-9%
South Wymondham	2	7%
Wiklewood	1	6%

*Hethersett, New Costessey and Old Costessey wards*

35 We received support from Bawburgh Parish Council for the transfer of an area of Bawburgh parish to the Old Costessey ward. The parish councils of Hethersett and Little Melton expressed support for the draft recommendations. We received no other significant comments on these wards in response to our draft recommendations. We are therefore confirming our draft recommendations for these wards as final.

*Wymondham*

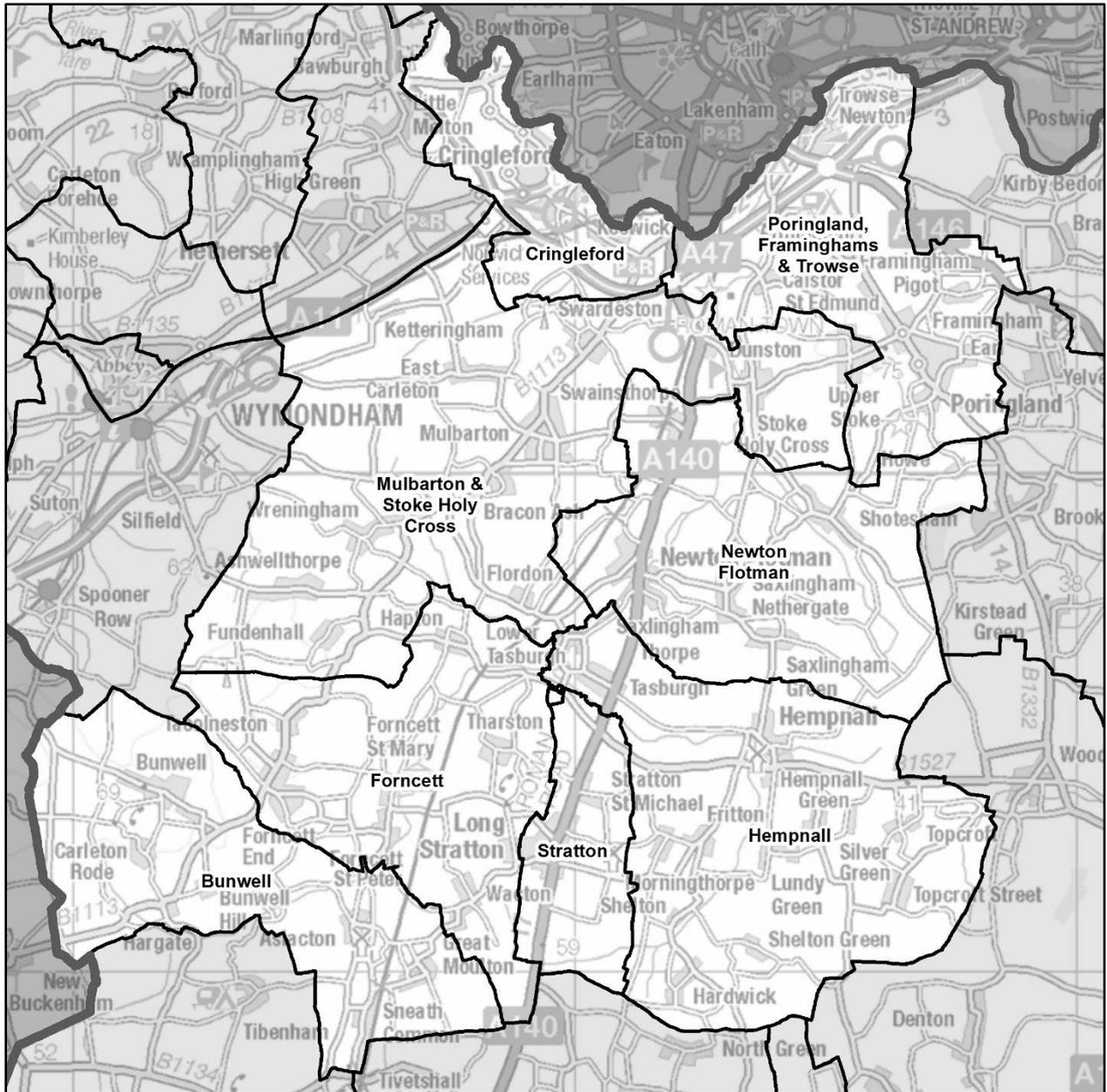
36 Wymondham Town Council put forward comments on the parish warding arrangements which are discussed in the parish section on page 21. We do not propose adopting any amendments that change the warding pattern in Wymondham. A member of the public proposed a number of amendments to the Wymondham ward, but these would have affected the external parish boundary or created unviable parish wards (we consider parish wards with fewer than 100 electors to be unviable) so we have not considered them further.

37 We received no other significant comments on these wards in response to our draft recommendations. We are therefore confirming our draft recommendations for these wards as final.

*Easton, Hingham & Deopham and Wicklewood wards*

38 We received no significant comments on these wards in response to our draft recommendations. We are therefore confirming our draft recommendations for these wards as final.

## Central South Norfolk



Ward name	Number of Cllrs	Variance 2022
Bunwell	1	0%
Cringleford	2	6%
Forncett	1	8%
Hempnall	1	6%
Mulbarton & Stoke Holy Cross	3	-3%
Newton Flotman	1	0%
Poringland, Framinghams & Trowse	3	1%
Stratton	2	-2%

### *Cringleford and Poringland, Framinghams & Trowse*

39 Poringland Parish Council objected to the inclusion of Trowse with Newton parish in the Poringland, Framinghams & Trowse ward. It also objected to three-member wards. The Council objected to the name Poringland, Framinghams & Trowse, arguing that it was too long. Stoke Holy Cross Parish Council put forward evidence for a range of community links to Poringland, the Framinghams, Caistor St Edmund and Bixley parishes, and a lack of links to Mulbarton and the parishes in the proposed Stoke Holy Cross ward. Bixley Parish Council also argued for the inclusion of Stoke Holy Cross parish in a ward with Poringland.

40 We have considered the evidence and noted the objections to the Poringland, Framinghams & Trowse ward. We acknowledge the links between Stoke Holy Cross and Poringland; however, as stated in the draft recommendations, we were unable to identify a warding pattern that would reflect this and secure good electoral equality. Although respondents have provided good evidence for links between parishes, we have not received any alternative proposals that secure good electoral equality. Therefore, we are not proposing any changes to the ward boundaries. Finally, we note the Council's objection to the proposed name of Poringland, Framinghams & Trowse. While we acknowledge some concerns over the length of this, it is consistent with names adopted elsewhere in the district, so we are confirming it as final.

### *Mulbarton and Stoke Holy Cross*

41 As stated above, Stoke Holy Cross parish put forward good evidence of community links to parishes in the proposed Poringland, Framinghams & Trowse ward and lack of links to the west of the A140 to Mulbarton and the parishes in the proposed Stoke Holy Cross ward. The Council objected to the option suggested in the draft recommendations for a three-member ward combining the Stoke Holy Cross ward with the Mulbarton ward, to reflect the links of Swardeston parish into Mulbarton. It argued that that retaining two wards would ensure better councillor involvement and accountability.

42 Swardeston and East Carleton & Ketteringham parish councils expressed concerns about the inclusion of Stoke Holy Cross parish citing limited links across the A140. They also cited community links into Mulbarton and parishes outside the proposed wards. On balance, they expressed support for the suggestion of combining the Stoke Holy Cross ward with the Mulbarton ward, to create a three-member ward. A local resident also expressed support for this proposal, arguing that while Stoke Holy Cross parish might object, a greater number of parishes in the Stoke Holy Cross ward were in favour.

43 We have considered the evidence received and, as stated above, we acknowledge the issues created by including Stoke Holy Cross parish in a ward with other parishes to the west of the A140. However, as stated, we have been unable to identify a better warding pattern that secures good levels of electoral equality. We also note the mixture of support and objections to our proposal to combine the Stoke Holy Cross and Mulbarton wards into a three-member ward. On balance, we consider the benefit of reflecting the links of Swardeston and East Carleton & Ketteringham parishes to the Mulbarton ward outweighs the objections received, noting that the three-member ward will have good levels of electoral equality. We are

therefore combining these wards to create a three-councillor Mulbarton & Stoke Holy Cross ward as part of our final recommendations.

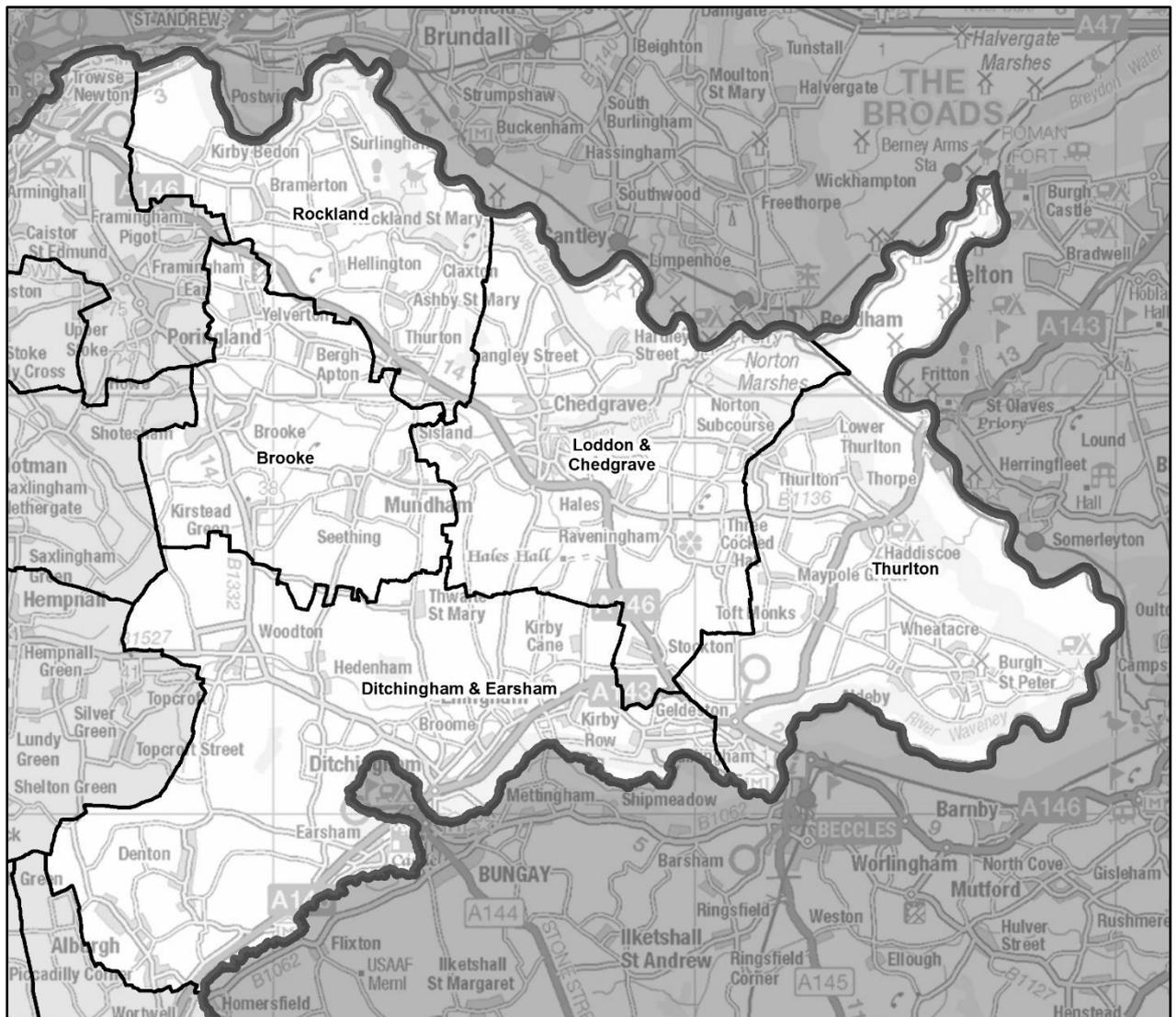
*Bunwell, Forncett, Hempnall, Newton Flotman and Stratton*

44 Newton Flotman Parish Council argued for the transfer of Flordon parish from the Mulbarton ward to Newton Flotman ward, suggesting this could be offset by transferring Howe parish to the Poringland, Framinghams & Trowse ward. It provided no evidence to support this proposal. A local resident restated similar arguments to those put forward during the warding patterns consultation for Tharston & Hapton parish. Hempnall Parish Council put forward comments about planning policy.

45 We have considered the evidence received. We note the comments from Newton Flotman Parish Council but consider there to be insufficient evidence to support its amendments. We do not consider any of the other submissions to have put forward any new persuasive evidence, we are therefore confirming our draft recommendations as final.



## East South Norfolk



Ward name	Number of Cllrs	Variance 2022
Brooke	1	6%
Ditchingham & Earsham	2	2%
Loddon & Chedgrave	2	-6%
Rockland	1	9%
Thurlton	1	2%

*Ditchingham & Earsham, Loddon & Chedgrave and Thurlton*

46 The Council argued for the inclusion of Geldeston parish in a ward with Loddon. It also argued that Carleton St Peter parish should be included in the Loddon & Chedgrave ward to improve electoral equality.

47 The South Norfolk Liberal Democrats put forward significant amendments across the south of the district. They objected to the two-councillor Ditchingham & Earsham ward, particularly the number of parishes included in the ward. They proposed a single-councillor Ditchingham and Earsham ward, transferring Geldeston parish to Thurlton ward, while also transferring Toft Monks parish to the Loddon & Chedgrave ward. They would also transfer Wortwell parish from the Harleston ward to its Earsham ward.

48 The South Norfolk Liberal Democrats proposals reflect from comments from Alburgh Parish Council's request for the existing links between Wortwell and Alburgh parish to be retained. Denton Parish Council argued that the two-councillor Ditchingham & Earsham ward is too large. Councillor Gray also expressed concern about the Ditchingham & Earsham ward, expressing a preference for South Norfolk Council's original proposal. However, he stated if this could not be used then Geldeston parish should be removed from the two-councillor Ditchingham & Earsham ward and transferred to Thurlton ward to reduce the number of parishes in the Ditchingham & Earsham ward. To offset the worsening in electoral equality that this would produce he further suggested transferring Toft Monks parish to the Loddon & Chedgrave ward.

49 We have considered the evidence received. Firstly, we note the Council's suggestion that Carleton St Peter parish could be transferred to the Loddon & Chedgrave ward but consider it has good links into the parishes in Rockland ward and this would only achieve a modest improvement in electoral equality. We have also not adopted its proposal to transfer Geldeston parish to the Loddon & Chedgrave ward. We acknowledge this would reduce the number of parishes in the Ditchingham & Earsham ward, while also improving electoral equality in the Loddon & Chedgrave ward. However, we consider that the east–west links identified during our earlier tour of the area provide stronger community links.

50 We have also considered the proposals put forward by South Norfolk Liberal Democrats. We acknowledge their efforts to create a pattern of single-councillor wards for the Ditchingham & Earsham ward. However, while their proposals retain the east–west link of Geldeston parish by transferring this parish to the Thurlton ward, we are not convinced that removing Toft Monks parish to accommodate this reflects communities. Toft Monks has much stronger north–south links via the A143 to Haddiscoe and Gillingham parishes and into the remainder of the Thurlton ward than it does to Loddon & Chedgrave.

51 In addition to this, for the Earsham ward to secure good electoral equality the South Norfolk Liberal Democrats' proposals have a knock-on effect to the Harleston ward, requiring the transfer of either the Starston or Brockdish parishes. As discussed below, and as raised in the draft recommendations, Starston has responded during both periods of consultation to reject any proposal to place it in a ward with Harleston. We are also not persuaded by the alternative proposal to

include Brockdish in a ward with Harleston, noting that this would significantly worsen electoral equality. We are therefore confirming our draft recommendations for these wards as final.

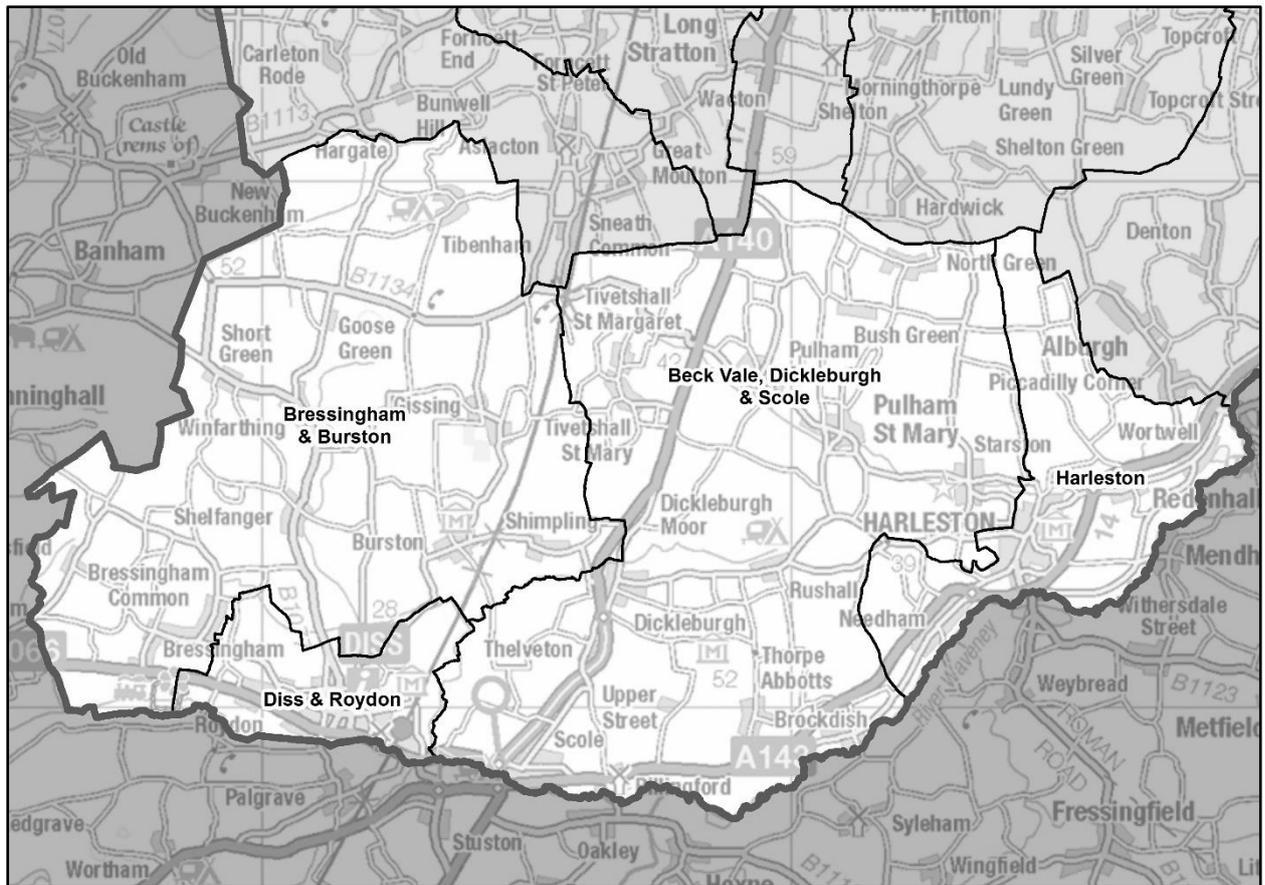
### *Brooke and Rockland*

52 Alington with Yelverton Parish Council, two parish councillors and two local residents objected to the inclusion of the parish in Brooke ward, citing satisfaction with the existing warding arrangements. There was a mixture of support and objections to our draft Rockland ward. Kirby Bedon Parish Council supported its inclusion in the ward, while a local resident also supported the ward. The Council argued for the inclusion of Carleton St Peter parish in the Loddon & Chedgrave ward instead of in Rockland. A local resident argued for the inclusion of Claxton parish in the Rockland ward.

53 We have considered the evidence received. As discussed above, we have not adopted the Council's proposal to transfer Carleton St Peter parish to Loddon & Chedgrave ward since we do not consider it will reflect communities and only secures a modest improvement in electoral equality. We also note the comments about retaining Alington with Yelverton parish in the Rockland ward. However, doing so would create very poor levels of electoral equality, worsening Brooke and Rockland wards to 17% fewer and 31% more electors than the district average by 2022. We therefore are not adopting this warding pattern. We did not receive any other comments that provided compelling arguments and are therefore confirming our draft recommendations for these wards as final.



## South-west South Norfolk



Ward name	Number of Cllrs	Variance 2022
Bressingham & Burston	1	4%
Beck Vale, Dickleburgh & Scole	2	1%
Diss & Roydon	3	11%
Harleston	2	-5%

*Bressingham & Burston, Dickleburgh & Scole, Diss and Harleston*

54 The South Norfolk Liberal Democrats put forward two options for the Harleston and Dickleburgh & Scole wards. As stated above, to facilitate their Earsham ward, they proposed transferring Wortwell parish from the Harleston ward. Under their first option it would transfer Starston parish to Harleston ward. Its second option sought to create two single-councillor wards in place of the draft recommendations for a two-councillor Dickleburgh & Scole ward. This proposal would transfer Brockdish parish to Harleston ward, while creating a single-councillor Dickleburgh & Scole ward comprising Dickleburgh & Rushall and Scole parishes and a single-councillor Pulham ward comprising Pulham Market, Pulham St Mary, Starston, Tivetshall St Margaret and Tivetshall St Mary parishes.

55 Pulham Market Parish Council and Pulham St Mary Parish Council expressed support for the Dickleburgh & Scole ward, but requested that it is renamed Beckvale, Dickleburgh & Scole. Councillor Hudson also expressed support for the Dickleburgh & Scole ward and requested that it is renamed either Beck Vale with Dickleburgh & Scole or Beck Vale, Dickleburgh & Scole. Starston Parish Council expressed support for being in a ward with Pulham Market and Pulham St Mary parishes, rather than Harleston parish. Needham Parish Council objected to being in a ward with Harleston arguing that it is cut off by the A143. It also cited links and shared concerns with Brockdish parish.

56 We have considered the evidence received. We note the two options put forward by the South Norfolk Liberal Democrats. The first option, transferring Starston parish to the Harleston ward, goes against the evidence received during both public consultations for placing Starston in a ward with Pulham Market and Pulham St Mary parishes. Therefore, we have not considered this proposal further.

57 The second option would create two single-councillor wards, and while retaining Starston parish in a ward with Pulham Market and Pulham St Mary parishes, the two single-member wards would have significantly worse electoral equality than the draft recommendations. In addition, we do not consider there to be compelling evidence to transfer Brockdish parish to the Harleston ward and note that there was support for our two-councillor Dickleburgh & Scole ward. Therefore, we do not propose adopting this option.

58 We also note that Needham parish has concerns about being placed in Harleston ward, citing links instead to Brockdish. However, removing Needham parish from Harleston ward would worsen electoral equality in Harleston to 10%. We do not consider there to be sufficient evidence to justify this.

59 We also considered the suggestions for a proposed name change to the Dickleburgh & Scole ward to include Beck Vale, although we note that there are differences in the proposed spellings of Beck Vale. We support the request to use a locally generated name, but sought clarification from the Council over the correct spelling. It confirmed that the existing ward is 'Beck Vale'. We are therefore renaming the Dickleburgh & Scole ward as Beck Vale, Dickleburgh & Scole.

60 Finally, we note Diss Town Council's support for the draft Diss ward with a request that the ward includes Roydon in the name to reflect the inclusion of Roydon

parish. We are therefore confirming the ward as final, subject to renaming it Diss & Roydon.

## Conclusions

61 The table below shows the impact of our final recommendations on electoral equality, based on 2015 and 2022 electorate figures.

### Summary of electoral arrangements

	Final recommendations	
	2015	2022
Number of councillors	46	46
Number of electoral wards	26	26
Average number of electors per councillor	2,165	2,556
Number of wards with a variance more than 10% from the average	21	1
Number of wards with a variance more than 20% from the average	7	0

#### Final recommendation

The South Norfolk Council should be made up of 46 councillors serving 26 wards representing 11 single-councillor wards, 10 two-councillor wards and five three-councillor wards. 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 the South Norfolk Council. You can also view our draft recommendations for South Norfolk Council on our interactive maps at <http://consultation.lgbce.org.uk>

## Parish electoral arrangements

62 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.

63 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, South Norfolk 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.

64 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 Bawburgh, Costessey and Wymondham.

65 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 Bawburgh parish.

<b>Final recommendation</b> Bawburgh Parish Council should comprise seven councillors, as at present, representing two wards:	
<b>Parish ward</b>	<b>Number of parish councillors</b>
Bawburgh	5
Lodge Farm	2

66 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 Costessey parish.

67 In response to the draft recommendations the Council requested that Queen's Hill ward should in fact be named Queen's Hills. We are therefore adopting this amendment as part of our draft recommendations.

<b>Final recommendation</b> Costessey Town Council should comprise 19 councillors, as at present, representing three wards:	
<b>Parish ward</b>	<b>Number of parish councillors</b>
New Costessey	8
Old Costessey	6
Queen's Hills	5

68 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 Wymondham parish.

69 In response to the draft recommendations the Council and Wymondham Town Council objected to the five parish wards retained as part of the draft recommendations, expressing a preference for three wards that are coterminous with the ward boundaries. It also requested that they are renamed to reflect the district wards.

70 We note the request for parish wards coterminous with the ward boundaries and while it is possible to merge the Abbey and Town parish wards, it is not possible to remove the Ketts Park parish ward as this reflects the division boundaries in the town. We also propose renaming the parish wards to reflect the district ward names.

**Final recommendation**

Wymondham Town Council should comprise 15 councillors, as at present, representing four wards:

<b>Parish ward</b>	<b>Number of parish councillors</b>
Central Wymondham	5
South Wymondham	4
East Wymondham	1
North Wymondham	5

### 3 What happens next?

71 We have now completed our review of South Norfolk. 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

72 This report has been screened for impact on equalities, with due regard being given to the general equalities duties as set out in section 149 of the Equality Act 2010. As no potential negative impacts were identified, a full equality impact analysis is not required.

## Appendix A

### Final recommendations for South Norfolk Council

Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2015)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2022)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
1 Beck Vale, Dickleburgh & Scole	2	5,021	2,511	16%	5,186	2,593	1%
2 Bressingham & Burston	1	2,620	2,620	21%	2,666	2,666	4%
3 Brooke	1	2,587	2,587	20%	2,707	2,707	6%
4 Bunwell	1	2,404	2,404	11%	2,546	2,546	0%
5 Central Wymondham	2	4,712	2,356	9%	4,802	2,401	-6%
6 Cringleford	2	3,260	1,630	-25%	5,414	2,707	6%
7 Diss & Roydon	3	7,815	2,605	20%	8,481	2,827	11%
8 Ditchingham & Earsham	2	4,957	2,479	14%	5,228	2,614	2%
9 Easton	1	1,533	1,533	-29%	2,505	2,505	-2%
10 Forncett	1	2,451	2,451	13%	2,754	2,754	8%
11 Harleston	2	4,440	2,220	3%	4,864	2,432	-5%

Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2015)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2022)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
12 Hempnall	1	2,608	2,608	20%	2,699	2,699	6%
13 Hethersett	3	5,612	1,871	-14%	7,203	2,401	-6%
14 Hingham & Deopham	1	2,316	2,316	7%	2,491	2,491	-3%
15 Loddon & Chedgrave	2	4,280	2,140	-1%	4,801	2,401	-6%
16 Mulbarton & Stoke Holy Cross	3	6,704	2,235	3%	7,470	2,490	-3%
17 New Costessey	2	4,930	2,465	14%	4,962	2,481	-3%
18 Newton Flotman	1	2,463	2,463	14%	2,545	2,545	0%
19 North Wymondham	2	3,554	1,777	-18%	4,957	2,479	-3%
20 Old Costessey	3	5,700	1,900	-12%	6,946	2,315	-9%
21 Poringland, Framinghams & Trowse	3	5,037	1,679	-22%	7,768	2,589	1%
22 Rockland	1	2,692	2,692	24%	2,779	2,779	9%
23 South Wymondham	2	3,403	1,702	-21%	5,475	2,738	7%
24 Stratton	2	3,361	1,681	-22%	5,001	2,501	-2%

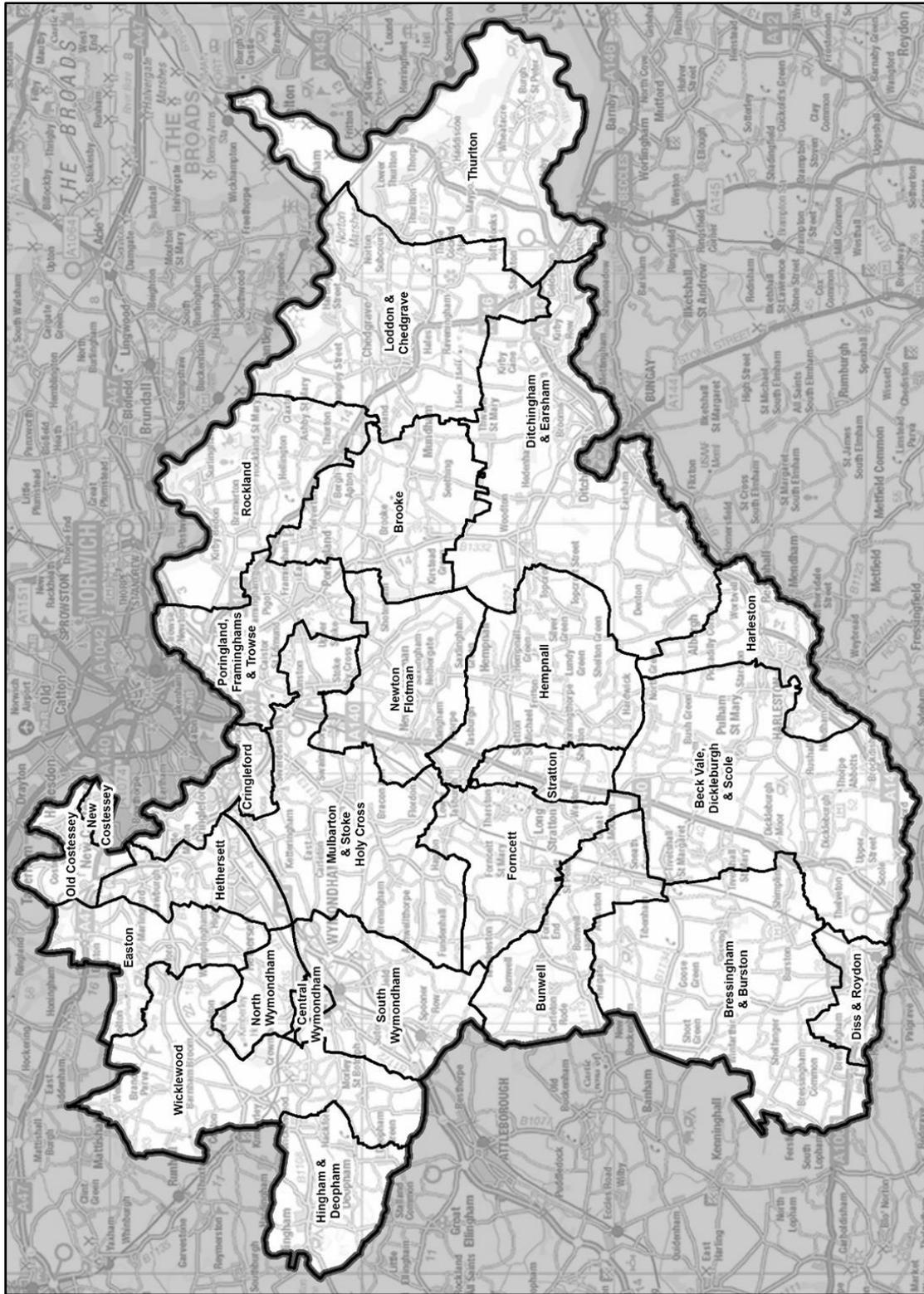
Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2015)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2022)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
25 Thurlton	1	2,521	2,521	16%	2,606	2,606	2%
26 Wicklewood	1	2,592	2,592	20%	2,710	2,710	6%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>99,573</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>117,566</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Averages</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2,165</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2,556</b>	<b>-</b>

Source: Electorate figures are based on information provided by the South Norfolk 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



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/current-reviews/eastern/norfolk/south-norfolk>

# Appendix C

## Submissions received

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

### Local Authority

- South Norfolk Council

### Political Group

- South Norfolk Liberal Democrats

### Councillors

- Councillor J.M. Gray (Earsham)
- Councillor C. Hudson (Beck Vale)

### Parish and Town Councils

- Alburgh Parish Council
- Alpington with Yelverton Parish Council
- Bawburgh Parish Council
- Bixley Parish Council
- Denton Parish Council
- Diss Town Council
- East Carleton & Ketteringham Parish Council
- Hempnall Parish Council
- Hethersett Parish Council
- Kirby Bedon Parish Council
- Little Melton Parish Council
- Needham Parish Council
- Newton Flotman Parish Council
- Poringland Parish Council
- Pulham Market Parish Council
- Pulham St Mary Parish Council
- Starston Parish Council
- Stoke Holy Cross Parish Council
- Swardeston Parish Council
- Wymondham Town Council

### Parish and Town Councillors

- Parish Councillor I. Green (Alpington with Yelverton)
- Parish Councillor J. Taylor (Alpington with Yelverton)

### Local Residents

- Eight 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 <a href="http://www.nalc.gov.uk">www.nalc.gov.uk</a>
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