

BRECKLAND DISTRICT COUNCIL

Report of: Cllr Sam Chapman-Allen, Leader of the Council
Maxine O'Mahony, Chief Executive,

To: Council – 5 September 2024

Author: Rory Ringer, Democratic Services Manager

Subject: Local Government Boundary Commission Electoral Review – Council Warding Pattern Submission

Purpose: To agree a proposed warding pattern submission to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE).

Recommendation(s):

- 1) That Council approves the submission on the proposed warding arrangements attached to this report as agreed by the cross-party Steering Group for submission to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England.

1.0 BACKGROUND

- 1.1 Members will be aware that the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) is currently conducting a review of the electoral arrangements for Breckland on the basis that the average ratio of electors to Councillors for Breckland and found there to be an imbalance of more than 10% in 30% of its wards, rising to as much as 30% in one ward, thereby triggering the need for a new Electoral Review.
- 1.2 Following the first stage of the review, the LGBCE decided that the number of Councillors for Breckland should increase to 51, (which was a change to the existing number of 49) and invited all interested parties to propose a new pattern of warding arrangements based on a council size of 51.
- 1.3 The Boundary Review cross-party Steering Group consisting of three executive and three non-executive Members, with the support of a consultant, considered the statutory criteria set by the LGBCE as:
 - Equality of representation
 - Reflecting community identities and interests
 - Providing for convenient and effective local government
- 1.4 The object of the review is to ensure a consistent level of representation across the area of the Local Authority, ensuring as far as possible, each councillor represents the same number of electors.
- 1.5 The deadline for submission of warding patterns to the Commission is 9th September 2024.
- 1.6 A full detailed proposed warding pattern can be found at Appendix A to this report.

2.0 OPTIONS

- 2.1 The Council may choose not to make a submission to the LGBCE, however, the LGBCE would then impose a warding structure without the involvement of the Council.

2.2 Other interested parties, such as the political parties, parish council or local residents may make their own submission to the LGBCE which would also be considered alongside the Council's submission.

3.0 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION(S)

3.1 The LGBCE have invited all key stakeholders to make a submission on suggested warding pattern to consider the proposed Council size of 51 Councillors.

4.0 IMPLICATIONS

In preparing this report, the report author has considered the likely implications of the decision - particularly in terms of Carbon Footprint / Environmental Issues; Constitutional & Legal; Contracts; Corporate Priorities; Crime & Disorder; Data Protection; Equality & Diversity/Human Rights; Financial; Health & Wellbeing; Reputation; Risk Management; Safeguarding; Staffing; Stakeholders/Consultation/Timescales; Other. Where the report author considers that there may be implications under one or more of these headings, these are identified below.

4.1 Constitution & Legal

4.1.1 The duty to comply with the law rests with LGBCE, Section 55 – 59 of the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009 gives the Commission the power to review the electoral arrangements of all, or any, principal councils in England.

4.2 Financial

4.2.1 A change to the number of Councillors will have financial implications, particularly in relation to the Members Allowance payments.

4.3 Timescales

4.3.1 The Review is currently scheduled to be completed by mid-2025 and any changes to the current arrangements will come into force at the next scheduled elections in May 2027.

5.0 WARDS/COMMUNITIES AFFECTED

5.1 All Wards

6.0 ACRONYMS

6.1 LGBCE – Local Government Boundary Commission for England

Background papers:- None

Lead Contact Officer

Name and Post: Rory Ringer, Democratic Services

Key Decision: No

Appendices attached to this report:

Appendix A Breckland Council submission on Warding Pattern

Appendix A - Proposed Pattern of Warding for Breckland Council

Breckland Council Warding proposals

Introduction

The Council was pleased to receive notification from the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) that the Council's submission for a council size of 51 had been adopted.

The Commission has now asked for submissions proposing Warding patterns that reflect this change. Any group or individual is able to put forward suggestions on Warding patterns for the district. The Local Government Boundary Commission for England will consider all submissions and propose a warding pattern for the district.

The Council's proposals follow the process undertaken by the Working Group of six councillors set up for the purpose of in-depth research into the issues relating to council size and Warding. This is a cross - party group with members spread across the district. The group met in July and August 2024 and agreed to recommend to Council the proposed Warding patterns as outlined in this document.

Profile of the District

Breckland Council covers an area of 500 square miles (1,300sq kilometres) and is one of the largest rural districts in England. Covering much of the south, west and central parts of Norfolk, Breckland is centred around the five market towns of Attleborough, Dereham, Swaffham, Thetford and Watton. The largest of these is Thetford and the smallest is Watton. In total Breckland District covers approximately 25% of the total area of Norfolk.

Breckland has 94 Parish Councils, including some joint Parish Councils and more than two-thirds of these have fewer than 500 residents. In total there are 135 Polling Districts (PDs).

The area is one of the most rurally sparse in the country, the current density is approximately 2 ½ people per acre (1 person per hectare), which sets particular challenges in terms of service delivery and demands on resources.

Development of the Council's proposed warding arrangements

In developing our proposal, we have taken account the three statutory criteria that the Commission must consider when devising new warding arrangements. They are: -

- **Delivering electoral equality for local voters** – this means ensuring that each local councillor represents roughly the same number of people so that the value of your vote is the same regardless of where you live in the local authority.
- **Reflecting the interests and identities of local communities** – this means establishing electoral arrangements which, as far as possible, maintain local ties and where boundaries are easily identifiable.
- **Promoting effective and convenient local government** – this means ensuring that the new wards or electoral divisions can be represented effectively by their elected representative(s) and that the new electoral arrangements as a whole allow the local authority to conduct its business effectively. In addition, we must also ensure that the pattern of wards reflects the electoral cycle of the council.

Matters that could not be considered during the electoral review are:

- Changes to boundaries between local authorities
- Changes to parish boundaries
- Creation of new parishes
- Changes to electoral arrangements of parish and town councils unless they are as a direct consequence of proposed changes made to district wards.

Warding proposals

The proposal is for a mixture of one, two and three member wards which equates to 51 Councillors across 38 wards with:

- 26 single member wards
- 11 two member wards
- 1 three member wards

The table below sets out in summary form the Warding Proposals, followed by a brief rationale on each of the proposed Wards.

No.	Name of ward	Number of cllrs per ward	Electorate 2023	Variance 2023	Electorate 2030	Variance 2030
1	Ashill	1	2,273	6%	2,428	5%
2	Attleborough Burgh & Haverscroft	2	4,122	-4%	4,418	-4%
3	Attleborough Queens	2	4,040	-6%	4,257	-8%
4	Banham & Kenninghall	1	1,986	-7%	2,140	-7%
5	Besthorpe	1	2,070	-3%	2,236	-3%

6	Buckenham & Quidenham	1	2,131	0%	2,281	-1%
7	Carbrooke	1	2,297	7%	2,423	5%
8	Dereham & Hoe	1	1,996	-7%	2,157	-6%
9	Dereham Neatherd	2	4,046	-5%	4,416	-4%
10	Dereham Toftwood	2	4,577	7%	4,874	6%
11	Dereham Withburga	2	4,508	5%	4,779	4%
12	East Harling	1	2,044	-4%	2,211	-4%
13	Ellingham & Rocklands	1	2,008	-6%	2,443	6%
14	Elmham & Beetley	1	2,343	10%	2,522	10%
15	Guiltcross	1	1,857	-13%	1,973	-14%
16	Haggard de Toni	2	4,257	0%	4,597	0%
17	Hermitage	1	2,090	-2%	2,258	-2%
18	Launditch	1	2,163	1%	2,320	1%
19	Mattishall	1	2,292	7%	2,435	6%
20	Nar Valley	1	2,016	-6%	2,167	-6%
21	Necton & Fransham	1	2,138	0%	2,297	0%
22	Ringmere & Hockham	1	2,034	-5%	2,285	-1%
23	Scarning	1	2,148	0%	2,338	2%
24	Shipdham	1	1,859	-13%	2,091	-9%
25	Springvale	1	2,284	7%	2,470	7%
26	Swaffham	3	7,184	12%	7,509	9%
27	Thetford Boudica	2	4,614	8%	4,983	8%
28	Thetford Burrell	2	4,269	0%	4,608	0%
29	Thetford Castle	2	4,427	3%	4,772	4%
30	Thetford Priory	2	4,362	2%	4,698	2%
31	Two Rivers	1	2,033	-5%	2,194	-5%
32	Upper Wensum	1	1,882	-12%	2,011	-13%
33	Upper Yare	1	2,246	5%	2,419	5%
34	Watton	2	4,110	-4%	4,294	-7%
35	Wayland	1	2,133	0%	2,279	-1%
36	Weeting & Forest	1	2,051	-4%	2,208	-4%
37	Wensum	1	1,914	-11%	2,102	-9%
38	Wissey & Gadder	1	2,355	10%	2,536	10%
Total		51	109,159		117,429	

1) Ashill

Number of Councillors: -	1		
Number of Electors 2023: -	2,273	Variance: -	+ 6%
Number of Electors 2030: -	2,428	Variance: -	+ 5%
Number of PDs/Parishes: -	3		
Consists of: -	Ashill (AS1), Holme Hale (NE1) and Bradenham (SA1)		
Current Ward (s): -	a) Ashill, b) Necton c) Saham Toney		
County Division (s): -	a) The Brecks b) Yare & All Saints		

This Ward is sandwiched in between the towns of Swaffham and Watton in the west and east and the villages of Necton and Bradenham in the north. Originally the Pickenhams were included but these needed to be moved when it was necessary to add Bradenham so that Saham Toney could be joined to be part of Watton to create a Ward.

2) Attleborough Burgh & Haverscroft

Number of Councillors: - 2
Number of Electors 2023: - 4,122 Variance: - - 4%
Number of Electors 2030: - 4,418 Variance: - - 4%
Number of PDs/Parishes: - 2
Consists of: - Attleborough Burgh & Haverscroft (ATB1) and (ATB2).
County Division (s): - a) Attleborough
Current Ward (s): - a) Attleborough Burgh & Haverscroft

This proposed new Ward mirrors the existing Ward and thus already has complete community cohesion.

3) Attleborough Queens

Number of Councillors: - 2
Number of Electors 2023: - 4,040 Variance: - - 6%
Number of Electors 2030: - 4,257 Variance: - - 8%
Number of PDs/Parishes: - 1
Consists of: - Attleborough Queens (ATQ3).
County Division (s): - a) Attleborough
Current Ward (s): - a) Attleborough Queen's & Besthorpe

There is some debate as to whether Great Ellingham (West) should remain with the main village or be part of Attleborough. Originally it was included with Attleborough Queen's, because it improved electoral variance and there is an argument that electors and their families are more likely to consider Attleborough (Dobbs Road) rather than go to Great Ellingham as their local Post Office. Likewise, the newly created school will act as a focal point. However, after discussion, it was pointed out that electors living in Great Ellingham (West) did not receive same benefits e.g., street lighting, as electors living Attleborough and so there was more community cohesion for them to remain with the rest of the Ellingham group of parishes.

4) Banham & Kenninghall

Number of Councillors: - 1
Number of Electors 2023: - 1,986 Variance: - - 7%
Number of Electors 2030: - 2,140 Variance: - - 7%
Number of PDs/Parishes: - 2
Consists of: - Kenninghall (GU2) and Banham (TB1).
County Division (s): - a) Guiltcross
Current Ward (s): - a) Guiltcross b) The Buckenhams & Banham

Due to the location of the geography and the distribution of electors, Kenninghall could not be added to the proposed Guiltcross Ward or the proposed Harling Ward due to breaching electoral variance guidelines. Also, for the same reason, Banham could not be included in the proposed Buckenham & Quidenham Ward. Combining Banham with Kenninghall provides an adequate variance and joins two more urban villages together compared to the more rural surrounding area.

5) Besthorpe

Number of Councillors: - 1
Number of Electors 2023: - 2,070 Variance: - - 3%
Number of Electors 2030: - 2,236 Variance: - - 3%

Number of PDs/Parishes: - 2
 Consists of: - Besthorpe (ATQ1) and part of Attleborough Queens Ward (ATQ2).
 County Division (s): - a) Attleborough
 Current Ward (s): - a) Attleborough Queen's & Besthorpe

The huge growth in housing to support the Cambridge Norwich Tech Corridor (CNTC) has led to the town of Attleborough being split into smaller Wards. Besthorpe has increasingly become part of the 'greater' Attleborough and the inclusion of the Besthorpe Ward now provides a distinct identity to the village helping to build its own community spirit.

6) Buckenham & Quidenham

Number of Councillors: - 1
 Number of Electors 2023: - 2,131 Variance: - 0%
 Number of Electors 2030: - 2,281 Variance: - - 1%
 Number of PDs/Parishes: - 4
 Consists of: - Quidenham (AL7), Snetterton (AL13), New Buckenham (TB2) and Old Buckenham (TB3).
 County Division (s): - a) Guiltcross
 Current Ward (s): - a) All Saints & Wayland b) The Buckenham & Banham

The pattern of Warding in the lower right quadrant of the district is dominated by the Attleborough urban area in the north and the Harling and Guiltcross Wards in the south. In order to protect community cohesion there is a desire to keep the two Buckenham in the same Ward. It therefore meant that the parishes of Quidenham and Snetterton had to be added to ensure that there is good electoral variance. This has advantages because these two parishes are in the middle of the Cambridge Norwich Tech Corridor (CNTC) and together with the Buckenham where there is significant investment in new industry underway. Thus, these parishes are likely to have common interests in such things as planning.

7) Carbrooke

Number of Councillors: - 1
 Number of Electors 2023: - 2,297 Variance: - + 7%
 Number of Electors 2030: - 2,423 Variance: - + 5%
 Number of PDs/Parishes: - 4
 Consists of: - Carbrooke East and West (SA2) & (SA2/1), Ovington (SA3) and Scoulton (SA5)
 County Division (s): - a) Watton b) Yare & All Saints
 Current Ward (s): - a) Saham Toney

The existing Saham Toney Ward needed to be split due to electoral variance. In the east there is the town of Watton and in the east are the villages of Great and Little Ellingham, which are quite rural. Carbrooke has been the centre for new housing developments as most of the former RAF Watton airbase is converted to residential use. The inclusion of this new Ward provides a distinct identity to Carbrooke giving it a village identity and separates it from the urban area of Watton. After a decision was made to ensure that Watton was just 'urban' Wards, it was necessary to add Ovington to Carbrooke.

8) Dereham & Hoe

Number of Councillors: - 1
 Number of Electors 2023: - 1,996 Variance: - - 7%
 Number of Electors 2030: - 2,157 Variance: - - 6%
 Number of PDs/Parishes: - 2
 Consists of: - Hoe & Worthing (LI3) and part of Dereham Withburga Ward (DEW1).
 County Division (s): - a) Dereham North b) Elmham & Mattishall
 Current Ward (s): - a) Dereham Withburga b) Lincoln

This has been one of the more difficult Wards to design. The urban area of Dereham splits into 7 Councillors, which then breaks down neatly into three Wards each with 2 Councillors. This Ward (DEW1) is more rural than the others and because of this, it was necessary to add Hoe & Worthing in order to achieve elector equality. As it is a new Ward, there is scope to choose a name to reflect the community cohesion. Dereham North is a geographically appropriate name, but 'Airfield' to reflect the old RAF Swanton Morley site which was contained within the Ward might be more suitable. Likewise, 'Mid Norfolk Railway' would reflect that this railway runs through the length of the Ward. After much discussion it was felt that 'Dereham and Hoe,' reflected the nature of both communities.

9) Dereham Neatherd

Number of Councillors: - 2
 Number of Electors 2023: - 4,046 Variance: - - 5%
 Number of Electors 2030: - 4,416 Variance: - - 4%
 Number of PDs/Parishes: - 1
 Consists of: - Dereham Neatherd Ward (DEN1).
 County Division (s): - a) Dereham North
 Current Ward (s): - a) Dereham Neatherd

This new proposed Ward is the same as the existing one and thus protects community cohesion.

10) Dereham Toftwood

Number of Councillors: - 2
 Number of Electors 2023: - 4,577 Variance: - + 7%
 Number of Electors 2030: - 4,874 Variance: - + 6%
 Number of PDs/Parishes: - 2
 Consists of: - Dereham Toftwood Wards (DET1) & (DET2).
 County Division (s): - a) Dereham South
 Current Ward (s): - a) Dereham Toftwood

This new proposed Ward is the same as the existing one and thus protects community cohesion.

11) Dereham Withburga

Number of Councillors: - 2
 Number of Electors 2023: - 4,508 Variance: - + 5%
 Number of Electors 2030: - 4,779 Variance: - + 4%
 Number of PDs/Parishes: - 2
 Consists of: - Dereham Central East (DEN2) and Central West Ward (DEW2).
 County Division (s): - a) Dereham South
 Current Ward (s): - a) Dereham Neatherd b) Dereham Withburga

This consists of the two central parish Wards in the town, which protects community identity and ensures that the new proposed Ward is seen as the 'centre,' of the town.

12) East Harling

Number of Councillors: - 1
 Number of Electors 2023: - 2,044 Variance: - - 5%
 Number of Electors 2030: - 2,211 Variance: - - 4%
 Number of PDs/Parishes: - 1
 Consists of: - Harling (HA2).
 County Division (s): - a) Guiltcross
 Current Ward (s): - a) Harling & Heathlands

The electorate of the village has grown significantly over the years to the point that it becomes a new single parish, Ward. This also ensures that there is excellent community cohesion.

13) Ellingham & Rocklands

Number of Councillors: -	1		
Number of Electors 2023: -	2,008	Variance: -	- 6%
Number of Electors 2030: -	2,443	Variance: -	+ 6%
Number of PDs/Parishes: -	4		
Consists of: -	Great Ellingham East (AL2), Great Ellingham West (AL2/1), Little Ellingham (AL3) and Rocklands (AL8).		
County Division (s): -	a) Yare & All Saints		
Current Ward (s): -	a) All Saints & Wayland		

This proposed new Ward is sandwiched between the urban areas of Watton and Carbrooke in the west, Attleborough in the east. The district boundary lies to the north so it was only possible to add parishes in the south to achieve the necessary electoral variance target. There is also a desire to maintain community cohesion by keeping the two Ellingham's together in the same Ward. The parishes are also all members of the same Church of England benefice.

14) Elmham & Beetley

Number of Councillors: -	1		
Number of Electors 2023: -	2,343	Variance: -	+ 9%
Number of Electors 2030: -	2,522	Variance: -	+ 10%
Number of PDs/Parishes: -	2		
Consists of: -	Beetley (LI1) and North Elmham (UP12)		
County Division (s): -	a) Elmham & Mattishall b) Necton & Launditch		
Current Ward (s): -	a) Lincoln b) Upper Wensum		

The top right quartile of the district presents a number of challenges when trying to produce a pattern of Warding. In the east many of the parishes are small and, in the south, there is the urban conurbation of Dereham and the immediately surrounding villages. The west is dominated with small villages and very sparse areas. At present the two villages belong to different Wards and County Divisions so the first pattern of Warding tried to maintain this existing layout. This proved to be unacceptable and so it was decided to join the two large villages into a new Ward. This makes sense because most of the surrounding parishes are very small and would be inevitably dominated by the large village. In this pattern there are two equally sized villages that are more likely to have similar and shared interests.

15) Guiltcross

Number of Councillors: -	1		
Number of Electors 2023: -	1,857	Variance: -	- 13%
Number of Electors 2030: -	1,973	Variance: -	- 14%
Number of PDs/Parishes: -	5		
Consists of: -	Blo Norton (GU1), Garboldisham (GU3), North Lopham (GU4), South Lopham (GU5) and Riddlesworth (HA3).		
County Division (s): -	a) Guiltcross		
Current Ward (s): -	a) Guiltcross b) Harling & Heathlands		

It has not proved possible to produce a new proposed Ward with an electoral variance of less than 10%. Harling in the west is large enough to be a Ward in its own right and so Riddlesworth has been transferred to Guiltcross. In the north Banham and Kenninghall join together to make a new Ward with an acceptable variance. Due to the excrescences of the location and the district boundary on two sides, it is impossible to add any other parishes in order to reduce the variance. There is currently

quite a strong community cohesion as all the parishes are part of the same Church of England benefice.

16) Haggard de Toni

Number of Councillors: - 2
Number of Electors 2023: - 4,257 Variance: - - 1%
Number of Electors 2030: - 4,597 Variance: - 0%
Number of PDs/Parishes: - 2
Consists of: - Saham Toney (SA4) and Watton (WA1).
County Division (s): - a) Watton b) Yare & All Saints
Current Ward (s): - a) Saham Toney b) Watton

There was much discussion about keeping the community cohesion of Watton. However, because the town is split into two PDs, it is necessary for Watton (WA1) to be added to at least one other PD in order to achieve electoral equality. It was also agreed that as this new proposed Ward was 'urban' rather than 'rural,' it should be assigned two councillors. By adding Saham Toney, which has a blurred geographical boundary with Watton town, it was possible to achieve the electoral equality and create a workable Ward. It is suggested that the historical name of, 'Haggard de Toni,' is used to identify this proposed new Ward.

17) Hermitage

Number of Councillors: - 1
Number of Electors 2023: - 2,090 Variance: - - 2%
Number of Electors 2030: - 2,258 Variance: - - 2%
Number of PDs/Parishes: - 10
Consists of: - Colkirk (HE1), Horningtoft (HE2), Tittleshall (HE4), Weasenham All Saints (HE5), Weasenham St Peter (HE6), Wellingham (HE7), Whissonsett (HE8), Stanfield (HE9), Brisley (UP4) & Gateley (UP8).
County Division (s): - a) Elmham & Mattishall b) Launditch
Current Ward (s): - a) Hermitage b) Upper Wensum

This new proposed Ward consists of a number of small parishes that border the top part of the district boundary. The new proposed Ward of Beetley & North Elmham borders the east so that it has been a case of adding parishes in the south and west to obtain the relevant electoral variance. In this case all the villages are currently situated in the Hermitage Ward with the exception of Brisley and Gately. These two villages are likely to be better served in the new proposed Ward because they are of similar size and are likely to have the same aims and ambitions.

18) Launditch

Number of Councillors: - 1
Number of Electors 2023: - 2,163 Variance: - + 1%
Number of Electors 2030: - 2,320 Variance: - + 1%
Number of PDs/Parishes: - 8
Consists of: - Great Dunham (LA3), Lexham (LA4), Litcham (LA5), Little Dunham (LA6), Kempstone (LA7), Newton by Castle Acre (LA8), Rougham (LA9) & Sporle with Palgrave (NA5).
County Division (s): - a) Necton & Launditch b) Swaffham
Current Ward (s): - a) Launditch b) Nar Valley

It has proved difficult to provide a pattern of Warding in the left top quadrant of the district without creating a high electoral variance. The three new proposed Wards of Hermitage, Launditch and Springvale have the district border on the north and west and the urban towns of Dereham and Swaffham to the east and south. Having completed drawing the proposed Hermitage Ward, the next task was to ensure that there is some community cohesion in the Launditch Ward. This is achieved in

one sense as the main Swaffham to Fakenham road (A1065) runs through the parishes. It also ensures that the community cohesion between the Dunham's is not broken.

The result of the decision to allocate three Councillors to Swaffham and Watton allowed for a redrawing which allowed a better community cohesion in so far that all of the parishes are part of the existing Ward with the exception of Sporle with Palgrave.

19) Mattishall

Number of Councillors: - 1
Number of Electors 2023: - 2,292 Variance: - + 7%
Number of Electors 2030: - 2,435 Variance: - + 6%
Number of PDs/Parishes: - 1
Consists of: - Mattishall (MA4).
County Division (s): - a) Elmham & Mattishall
Current Ward (s): - a) Mattishall

The electorate of the village has grown significantly over the years to the point that it becomes a new single parish, Ward. This also ensures that there is excellent community cohesion.

20) Nar & Wissey Valley

Number of Councillors: - 1
Number of Electors 2023: - 2,016 Variance: - - 6%
Number of Electors 2030: - 2,167 Variance: - - 6%
Number of PDs/Parishes: - 7
Consists of: - North Pickenham (AS5), South Pickenham (AS6), Cockley Cley (BE1), Beachamwell (NA1), Narford (NA2), Narborough (NA3) and South Acre (NA4).
County Division (s): - a) Swaffham b) The Brecks
Current Ward (s): - a) Ashill b) Bedingfeld c) Nar Valley

The original plan was to split Swaffham into two new wards, which would have necessitated the adjacent parishes to be included with part of Swaffham to ensure adequate electoral variance. After the Steering Group suggested that Swaffham and Watton were kept as identifiable Wards, it allowed for this area to be redrawn based on a single Councillor rural ward. With the Sporle and Palgrave parish being transferred to the new proposed Launditch Ward, it was necessary to add several parishes to the south to ensure that electoral equality variance is maintained, which is difficult in a very sparsely populated area.

21) Necton & Fransham

Number of Councillors: - 1
Number of Electors 2023: - 2,138 Variance: - 0%
Number of Electors 2030: - 2,297 Variance: - 0%
Number of PDs/Parishes: - 2
Consists of: - Necton (NE2) and Fransham (LA2).
County Division (s): - a) Necton & Launditch
Current Ward (s): - a) Necton b) Launditch

This new proposed Ward is situated in the centre of the district. As one fixes the layout of Wards on the outer borders of the district, it becomes more difficult to achieve an acceptable electoral variance as one approaches the centre. Originally, Necton was going to be joined with Bradenham, which would have created an electoral variance of + 11% in 2030. However, the opportunity arose to redraw the Ward as a result of the decision to have three Councillor Wards for Swaffham and Watton. Bradenham has historic ties with Saham Toney, whilst at the same time it was possible to redraw the proposed Wards in the north – west quadrant of the district in order to create better equality and community cohesion.

22) Ringmere & Hockham

Number of Councillors: -	1		
Number of Electors 2023: -	2,034	Variance: -	- 5%
Number of Electors 2030: -	2,285	Variance: -	- 1%
Number of PDs/Parishes: -	7		
Consists of: -	Great Hockham (AL5), Wretham (AL12), Brettenham (F01), Croxton (F02), Kilverstone (F03), Bridgham (HA1) and Roudham & Larling (HA4).		
County Division (s): -	a) Guiltcross b) The Brecks		
Current Ward (s): -	a) All Saints & Wayland b) Forest c) Harling & Heathlands		

This proposed Ward is one of the largest geographical Wards due to the very rural nature of the area and is a combination of several existing Wards. Although it is sparse, the parishes have a shared interest as they lie in the CNTC where significant investment and industrialisation is taking place and will continue for the foreseeable future. After further consultation, it was suggested that the Ward name should be called 'Ringmere' after a small pond situated at the centre of six of the parishes within the Ward. Another alternative name is 'Great Hockham & Ringmere' as Great Hockham is the largest village of the seven parishes which make up the proposed Ward. It was considered by the Steering Group to shorten the name to, 'Heathlands', however, after more discussion it was decided that Ringmere & Hockham was a more suitable name.

23) Scarning

Number of Councillors: -	1		
Number of Electors 2023: -	2,148	Variance: -	0%
Number of Electors 2030: -	2,338	Variance: -	+ 2%
Number of PDs/Parishes: -	1		
Consists of: -	Scarning (SH2).		
County Division (s): -	a) Dereham North		
Current Ward (s): -	a) Shipdham with Scarning		

The electorate of the village has grown significantly over the years to the point that it becomes a new single parish, Ward. This also ensures that there is excellent community cohesion.

24) Shipdham

Number of Councillors: -	1		
Number of Electors 2023: -	1,859	Variance: -	- 13%
Number of Electors 2030: -	2,091	Variance: -	- 9%
Number of PDs/Parishes: -	1		
Consists of: -	Shipdham (SH3).		
County Division (s): -	a) Yare & All Saints		
Current Ward (s): -	a) Shipdham with Scarning		

The electorate of the village has grown significantly over the years to the point that it becomes a new single parish, Ward. This also ensures that there is excellent community cohesion.

25) Springvale

Number of Councillors: -	1		
Number of Electors 2023: -	2,284	Variance: -	+ 7%
Number of Electors 2030: -	2,470	Variance: -	+ 7%
Number of PDs/Parishes: -	5		
Consists of: -	Mileham (HE3), Beeston with Bittering (LA1), Gressenhall (LI2), Longham (LI4) and Wendling (LI6).		

County Division (s): - a) Necton & Launditch
Current Ward (s): - a) Hermitage b) Launditch c) Lincoln

This is the third of the three new proposed Wards in the upper left quadrant of the district. Once the new proposed Hermitage Ward was drawn, there was limited opportunity to produce ideal Wards to the south because of the urban boundaries of Dereham to the east and Scarning to the south. The resulting Ward focuses on the road between Litcham and Gressenhall to provide community cohesion.

The Ward was redrawn after the Steering Group's discussions. This allowed for Mileham to be added and Litcham and Kempstone to stay in the existing Launditch Ward as it was likely to have better community cohesion. This new draft produced a smaller more compact Ward, which should make it easier for the Councillor to administer.

26) Swaffham

Number of Councillors: - 3
Number of Electors 2023: - 7,184 Variance: - + 12%
Number of Electors 2030: - 7,509 Variance: - + 9%
Number of PDs/Parishes: - 2
Consists of: - Swaffham Town (SW1) and (SW2).
County Division (s): - a) Swaffham
Current Ward (s): - a) Swaffham

Originally it was planned to split the town into two Wards and add adjacent parishes to ensure that electoral equality was maintained. Following the Steering Group meeting, it was decided to have three Councillors and thus maintain community cohesion. This also has the advantage that there are three Councillors currently representing the town so there would be no changes in the new pattern of Warding.

27) Thetford Boudica

Number of Councillors: - 2
Number of Electors 2023: - 4,614 Variance: - + 8%
Number of Electors 2030: - 4,983 Variance: - + 8%
Number of PDs/Parishes: - 4
Consists of: - Anne Bartholomew Ward (TB01), Boudica Ward (TB02), Iceni Ward (TICE1) and Vicarage Road Ward (TPR4).
County Division (s): - a) Thetford East
Current Ward (s): - a) Thetford Boudica

The existing Boudica Ward is too small and requires additional electors to ensure that it meets the electoral criteria. Vicarage Road Ward (TPR4) was added because the existing Priory Ward is too large and this gave excellent electoral variance (+ 2%). It was then pointed out that to ensure that there is community cohesion Iceni Ward (TICE1) has to be included in this proposed new Ward as it is part of Thetford Town Council.

28) Thetford Burrell

Number of Councillors: - 2
Number of Electors 2023: - 4,269 Variance: - 0%
Number of Electors 2030: - 4,608 Variance: - 0%
Number of PDs/Parishes: - 4
Consists of: - Thetford Burrell Wards (TBU1), (TBU2), (TBU3) and (TBU4).
County Division (s): - a) Thetford West
Current Ward (s): - a) Thetford Burrell

This new proposed Ward is the same as the current Thetford Burrell Ward and thus affords excellent community cohesion.

29) Thetford Castle

Number of Councillors: - 2
Number of Electors 2023: - 4,427 Variance: - + 3%
Number of Electors 2030: - 4,772 Variance: - + 4%
Number of PDs/Parishes: - 2
Consists of: - Thetford Castle Wards (TCA1) and TCA2).
County Division (s): - a) Thetford East
Current Ward (s): - a) Thetford Castle

This new proposed Ward is the same as the current Thetford Castle Ward and thus affords excellent community cohesion.

30) Thetford Priory

Number of Councillors: - 2
Number of Electors 2023: - 4,362 Variance: - + 2%
Number of Electors 2030: - 4,698 Variance: - + 2%
Number of PDs/Parishes: - 3
Consists of: - Thetford Priory Wards (TPR1), (TPR2) and (TPR3).
County Division (s): - a) Thetford West
Current Ward (s): - a) Thetford Priory

This new proposed Ward is the same as the current Thetford Priory Ward less Vicarage Road (TPR4) because the electoral variance would be too great, but still affords excellent community cohesion.

31) Two Rivers

Number of Councillors: - 1
Number of Electors 2023: - 2,033 Variance: - - 5%
Number of Electors 2030: - 2,194 Variance: - - 5%
Number of PDs/Parishes: - 4
Consists of: - East Tuddenham (MA1), Hockering (UP10), Lyng (UP11) and North Tuddenham (UP13).
County Division (s): - a) Elmham & Mattishall
Current Ward (s): - a) Mattishall b) Upper Wensum

It has been very difficult to try and achieve a perfect electoral equality because the Ward is geographically on the extreme right-hand side of the district. Also, it is not possible to include Mattishall because of the size of the electorate would create a too large a variance. This proposed new Ward allows and recognises the uniqueness of these small villages when compared against Dereham, Mattishall and Swanton Morley and thus provides good community. The Steering Group decided that the olde name of, 'Two Rivers,' should be reinstated.

32) Upper Wensum

Number of Councillors: - 1
Number of Electors 2023: - 1,882 Variance: - - 12%
Number of Electors 2030: - 2,011 Variance: - - 13%
Number of PDs/Parishes: - 7
Consists of: - Bawdeswell (UP1), Billingford (UP2), Bintree (UP3), Foxley (UP7), Guist (UP9), Sparham (UP14) and Twyford (UP15).
County Division (s): - a) Elmham & Mattishall
Current Ward (s): - a) Upper Wensum

This has proved to be one of the most challenging Wards to draw up because of its location and the distribution of electors in the neighbouring parishes. For this reason, it has not proved possible to produce a Ward that meets the maximum 10% elector variance. However, all of these parishes are currently part of the current Upper Wensum Ward and thus already have strong community cohesion.

33) Upper Yare

Number of Councillors: -	1		
Number of Electors 2023: -	2,246	Variance: -	+ 5%
Number of Electors 2030: -	2,419	Variance: -	+ 5%
Number of PDs/Parishes: -	5		
Consists of: -	Garvestone, Reymerston & Thuxton (MA2), Hardingham (MA3), Whinburgh & Westfield (MA5), Yaxham (MA6) and Cranworth (SH1).		
County Division (s): -	a) Yare & All Saints		
Current Ward (s): -	a) Mattishall b) Shipdham with Scarning		

This proposed new Ward has an urban boundary of Scarning, Dereham and Mattishall to the north. On the east there is the district boundary and the proposed new Wards of Watton provides a boundary in the south. It is impossible to add Shipdham on the west as this would create an unacceptable electoral variance so by default these parishes are linked together. Except for Cranworth, they are all in the same current Ward so community cohesion is fairly good. An alternative name for this Ward could be 'Mitford,' to reflect the old Hundred name. The Steering Group felt that the name 'Upper Yare', better reflected the location.

34) Watton

Number of Councillors: -	2		
Number of Electors 2023: -	4,110	Variance: -	- 4%
Number of Electors 2030: -	4,294	Variance: -	- 7%
Number of PDs/Parishes: -	1		
Consists of: -	Watton Town (WA2).		
County Division (s): -	a) Watton		
Current Ward (s): -	a) Watton		

The eastern part of Watton was originally going to be added to Ovington to ensure that there was electoral equality. However, following the desire of the Steering Group to keep the community cohesion of Swaffham and Watton a new pattern of Warding was drafted based on a three member Ward. This worked well for Swaffham, but it meant that for Watton, it still had to add additional PDs. It was then decided to revert back to a two member Ward. This has the advantage that it conforms to the principle of it being an 'urban' Ward and good community cohesion.

35) Wayland

Number of Councillors: -	1		
Number of Electors 2023: -	2,133	Variance: -	0%
Number of Electors 2030: -	2,279	Variance: -	- 1%
Number of PDs/Parishes: -	6		
Consists of: -	Caston (AL1), Griston (AL4), Merton (AL6), Shropham (AL9) Stow Bedon & Breckles (AL10) and Thompson (AL11).		
County Division (s): -	a) The Brecks b) Watton		
Current Ward (s): -	a) All Saints & Wayland		

This Ward has the large urban areas of Watton and Carbrooke to the north and east. The western boundary forms part of the ancient Peddar's Way track and is also part of the boundary to the MOD STANTA training area, which is off bounds to the public. The new Ward already has excellent community cohesion because it is based on the Church of England Wayland Benefice, less Great Hockham. This parish cannot be included because the resulting variance would be too large.

36) Weeting & Forest

Number of Councillors: -	1		
Number of Electors 2023: -	2,051	Variance: -	- 4%
Number of Electors 2030: -	2,208	Variance: -	- 4%
Number of PDs/Parishes: -	6		
Consists of: -	Great Cressingham (AS2), Little Cressingham (AS3), Hilborough (AS4), Lynford (F04), Stanford (FO5) and Weeting with Broomhill (FO6).		
County Division (s): -	a) The Brecks		
Current Ward (s): -	a) Ashill b) Forest		

This Ward is located in a very sparse part of the district and also contains parts of the MOD STANTA training area. In drawing up the new boundaries, the opportunity has been taken to try as far as possible to reduce the physical area of the existing Ward. The advantages of a smaller area are that communities have a higher regard for community cohesion being more adjacent to each other. It also makes it easier for the Councillor to traverse the Ward and spend less time wasted travelling. The new proposed Forest Ward focuses on the left-hand side of the old Ward. It does however need to include the Cressinghams to ensure that elector equality is maintained.

After further consultation it was suggested that this proposed new Ward should be called 'Weeting and Forest' to reflect that the village of Weeting is the principal village within the Ward. The Steering Group considered that the existing name had more significance for the local population.

37) Wensum

Number of Councillors: -	1		
Number of Electors 2023: -	1,914	Variance: -	- 11%
Number of Electors 2030: -	2,102	Variance: -	- 9%
Number of PDs/Parishes: -	3		
Consists of: -	Swanton Morley (LI5), Bylaugh (UP5) and Elsing (UP6).		
County Division (s): -	a) Elmham & Mattishall		
Current Ward (s): -	a) Lincoln b) Upper Wensum		

It has been difficult to provide a satisfactory pattern of Wards in the upper right quadrant of the district because of the distribution of electors. The boundaries to the south and west are fixed by single parishes and the town of Dereham, which demands two Councillor Wards. In the area from Guist in the north to East Tuddenham in the south, due to the electoral numbers, three Wards have to be created to satisfy electoral equality. Starting in the south, the Two Rivers Ward was drawn followed by the Upper Wensum Ward in the north. This left an area in the middle, which is proposed to become the new Swanton Morley Ward encompassing the main village and the two adjacent hamlets. The proposed closing of the Robertson barracks in the next couple of years infers that it will follow the same route as the former RAF Watton base, where the land has been built on. This suggests that variance will improve over a period of time. After some discussion it was decided to call the proposed new Ward, 'Wensum', to reflect the river which runs through the Ward.

38) Wissey & Gadder

Number of Councillors: -	1		
Number of Electors 2023: -	2,355	Variance: -	10%
Number of Electors 2030: -	2,536	Variance: -	10%
Number of PDs/Parishes: -	7		
Consists of: -	Cranwich (BE2), Didlington (BE3), Foulden (BE4), Gooderstone (BE5), Mundford (BE6), Ickburgh (BE7) & Oxborough (BE8).		
County Division (s): -	a) The Brecks		
Current Ward (s): -	a) Bedingfeld		

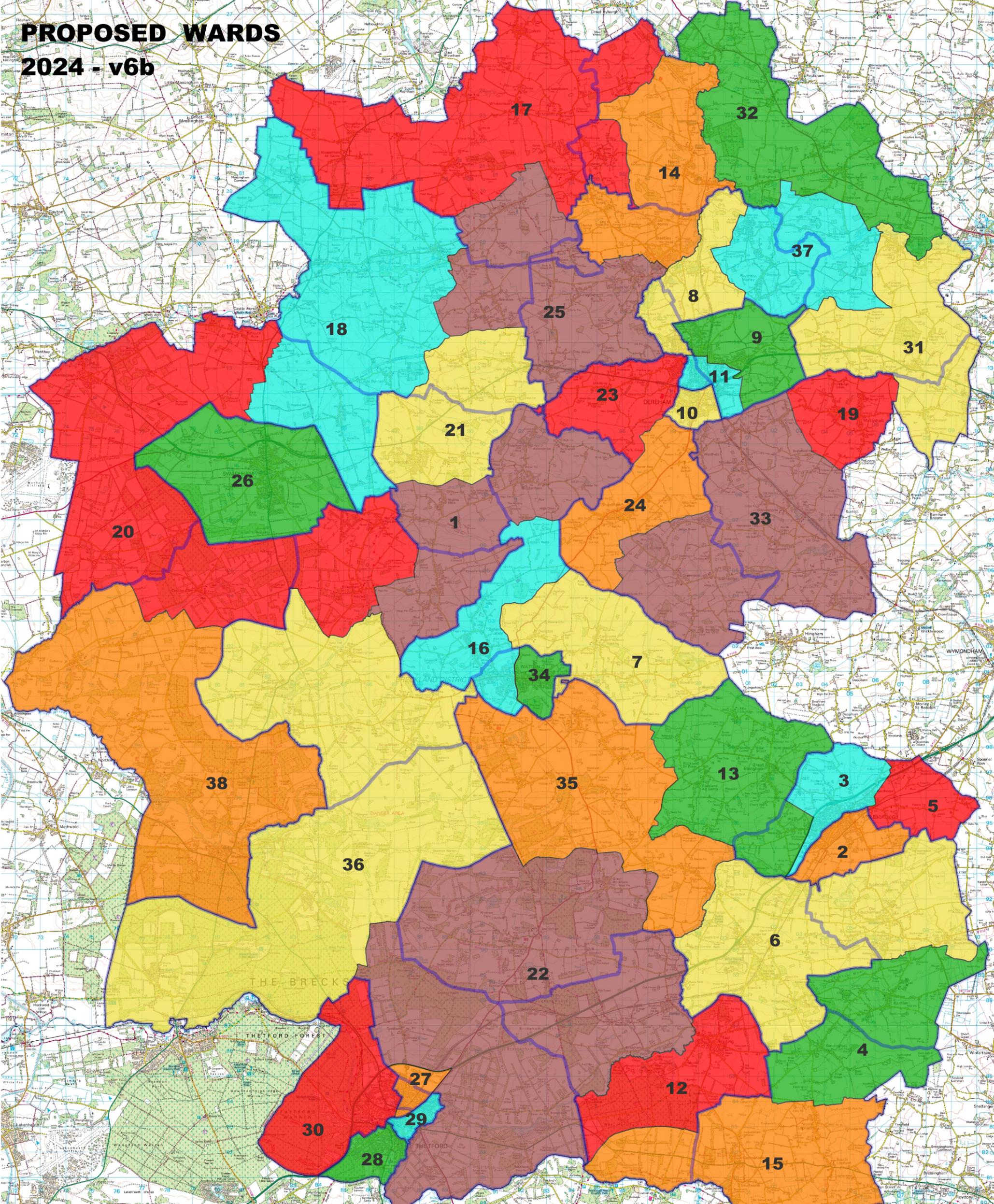
It is not possible to place Mundford and Weeting with Broomhill in the same Ward because the electoral variance would be too great. The rest of the surrounding area is very sparsely populated so it is necessary to add a number of parishes in order to achieve an adequate electoral variance. All of these parishes are already in the same current Ward so there is already a high degree of community cohesion.

Glossary

Abbreviation	Meaning
CNTC	Cambridge, Norwich Tech Corridor.
Electoral Variance	The measure of actual number of electors in a Polling District compared against the ideal number of electors. This is usually expressed as a percentage.
Golden Number Hundred	The ideal number of electors in a Ward. For 2030 this is 2,303 electors.
LGBCE	The name of a piece of land often dating back to the time of the 'Doomsday Book'.
MOD	Local Government Boundary Commission for England. This is the organisation conducting the review.
NCC	Ministry of Defence
Parish	Norfolk County Council
PD	This is a civil administrative area, which is often the same area as a Church of England 'parish,' and especially in rural areas is the same as the Polling District.
RAF	Polling District
STANTA	Royal Air Force
	Stanford Training Area

PROPOSED WARDS

2024 - v6b



1 Ashill	11 Dereham Withburga	21 Necton and Fransham	31 Two Rivers
2 Attleborough Burgh and Haverscroft	12 East Harling	22 Ringmere and Hockham	32 Upper Wensum
3 Attleborough Queens	13 Ellingham and Rocklands	23 Scarning	33 Upper Yare
4 Banham and Kenninghall	14 Elmham and Beetley	24 Shipdham	34 Watton
5 Besthorpe	15 Guiltcross	25 Springvale	35 Wayland
6 Buckenham and Quidenham	16 Haggard de Toni	26 Swaffham	36 Weeting and Forest
7 Carbrooke	17 Hermitage	27 Thetford Boudica	37 Wensum
8 Dereham and Hoe	18 Launditch	28 Thetford Burrell	38 Wissey and Gadder
9 Dereham Neatherd	19 Mattishall	29 Thetford Castle	
10 Dereham Toftwood	20 Nar Valley	30 Thetford Priory	

VERSION 6c

Electoral data

Using this sheet:

Fill in the cells for each polling district. Please make sure that the names of each parish, parish ward and district ward are correct and consistent. Check your data in the cells to the right.

Scroll right to see the second table

Check your data

	2023	2030
Number of councillors:	51	51
Overall electorate:	109,159	117,429
Average electorate per cilr:	2,140	2,303

Scroll left to see the first table

What is the polling district code?	Is there any other description you use for this area?	Is this polling district contained in a parish? If not, leave this cell blank.	Is this polling district contained in a parish ward? If not, leave this cell blank.	Is this polling district contained in a group of parishes with a joint parish council? If not, leave this cell blank.	What ward is this polling district in?	What is the current electorate?	What is the predicted electorate?
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Fill in the name of each ward once	Fill in the number of councillors per ward	These cells will show you the electorate and variance. They change depending what you enter in the table to the left.
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Polling district	Description of area	Parish	Parish ward	Grouped parish council	New Ward	Electorate 2023	Electorate 2030	No.	Name of ward	Number of cilrs per ward	Electorate 2023	Variance 2023	Electorate 2030	Variance 2030
AS1	Ashill				Ashill	1,246	1,332	1	Ashill	1	2,273	6%	2,428	5%
NE1	Holme Hale				Ashill	433	458	2	Attleborough Burgh & Haverscroft	2	4,122	-4%	4,418	-4%
SA1	Bradenham				Ashill	594	638	3	Attleborough Queens	2	4,040	-6%	4,257	-8%
ATB1	Attleborough	Town of Attleborough	Burgh & Haverscroft Ward		Attleborough Burgh & Haverscroft	2,126	2,293	4	Banham & Kenninghall	1	1,986	-7%	2,140	-7%
ATB2	Attleborough	Town of Attleborough	Burgh & Haverscroft Ward		Attleborough Burgh & Haverscroft	1,996	2,125	5	Besthorpe	1	2,070	-3%	2,236	-3%
ATQ3	Attleborough	Town of Attleborough	Queens Ward		Attleborough Queens	4,040	4,257	6	Buckenham & Quidenham	1	2,131	0%	2,281	-1%
GU2	Kenninghall				Banham & Kenninghall	845	912	7	Carbrooke	1	2,297	7%	2,423	5%
TB1	Banham				Banham & Kenninghall	1,141	1,228	8	Dereham & Hoe	1	1,996	-7%	2,157	-6%
ATQ1	Besthorpe				Besthorpe	643	694	9	Dereham Neatherd	2	4,046	-5%	4,416	-4%
ATQ2	Attleborough	Town of Attleborough	Queens Ward		Besthorpe	1,427	1,542	10	Dereham Toftwood	2	4,577	7%	4,874	6%
AL13	Snetterton				Buckenham & Quidenham	176	187	11	Dereham Withburga	2	4,508	5%	4,779	4%
AL7	Quidenham				Buckenham & Quidenham	412	443	12	East Harling	1	2,044	-5%	2,211	-4%
TB2	New Buckenham				Buckenham & Quidenham	419	446	13	Ellingham & Rocklands	1	2,008	-6%	2,443	6%
TB3	Old Buckenham				Buckenham & Quidenham	1,124	1,205	14	Elmham & Beetley	1	2,343	9%	2,522	10%
SA2	Carbrooke (East)	Parish of Carbrooke			Carbrooke	472	503	15	Guiltcross	1	1,857	-13%	1,973	-14%
SA2/1	Carbrooke (West)	Parish Of Carbrooke			Carbrooke	1,421	1,478	16	Haggard de Toni	2	4,257	-1%	4,597	0%
SA3	Ovington				Carbrooke	211	228	17	Hermitage	1	2,090	-2%	2,258	-2%
SA5	Scouton				Carbrooke	193	214	18	Launditch	1	2,163	1%	2,320	1%
DEW1	Dereham	Town of Dereham	Withburga Ward		Dereham & Hoe	1,794	1,938	19	Mattishall	1	2,292	7%	2,435	6%
LI3	Hoe & Worthing				Dereham & Hoe	202	219	20	Nar & Wissey Valley	1	2,016	-6%	2,167	-6%
DEN1	Dereham	Town of Dereham	Neatherd Ward		Dereham Neatherd	4,046	4,416	21	Necton & Fransham	1	2,138	0%	2,297	0%
DET1	Dereham	Town of Dereham	Toftwood Ward		Dereham Toftwood	926	971	22	Ringmere & Hockham	1	2,034	-5%	2,285	-1%
DET2	Dereham	Town of Dereham	Toftwood Ward		Dereham Toftwood	3,651	3,903	23	Scarning	1	2,148	0%	2,338	2%
DEN2	Dereham	Town of Dereham	Central East Ward		Dereham Withburga	1,937	2,034	24	Shipdham	1	1,859	-13%	2,091	-9%
DEW2	Dereham	Town of Dereham	Central West Ward		Dereham Withburga	2,571	2,745	25	Springvale	1	2,284	7%	2,470	7%
HA2	Harling				East Harling	2,044	2,211	26	Swaffham	3	7,184	12%	7,509	9%
AL2	Great Ellingham (East)	Parish of Great Ellingham			Ellingham & Rocklands	1,139	1,504	27	Thetford Boudica	2	4,614	8%	4,983	8%
AL2/1	Great Ellingham (West)	Parish of Great Ellingham	Queens Ward		Ellingham & Rocklands	76	83	28	Thetford Burrell	2	4,269	0%	4,608	0%
AL3	Little Ellingham				Ellingham & Rocklands	187	210	29	Thetford Castle	2	4,427	3%	4,772	4%
AL8	Rocklands				Ellingham & Rocklands	606	646	30	Thetford Priory	2	4,362	2%	4,698	2%
LI1	Beetley				Elmham & Beetley	1,177	1,277	31	Two Rivers	1	2,033	-5%	2,194	-5%
UP12	North Elmham				Elmham & Beetley	1,166	1,245	32	Upper Wensum	1	1,882	-12%	2,011	-13%
GU1	Bio Norton				Guiltcross	223	237	33	Upper Yare	1	2,246	5%	2,419	5%
GU3	Garboldisham				Guiltcross	623	661	34	Watton	2	4,110	-4%	4,294	-7%
GU4	North Lopham				Guiltcross	552	594	35	Wayland	1	2,133	0%	2,279	-1%
GU5	South Lopham				Guiltcross	351	370	36	Weeting & Forest	1	2,051	-4%	2,208	-4%
HA3	Riddlesworth				Guiltcross	108	111	37	Wensum	1	1,914	-11%	2,102	-9%
SA4	Saham Toney				Haggard de Toni	1,333	1,443	38	Wissey & Gadder	1	2,355	10%	2,536	10%
WA1	Watton	Town of Watton			Haggard de Toni	2,924	3,154							
HE1	Colkirk				Hermitage	510	549							
HE2	Horningtoft				Hermitage	122	138							
HE4	Tittleshall				Hermitage	299	319							
HE5	Weasenham All Saints				Hermitage	145	161							
HE6	Weasenham St Peter				Hermitage	140	151							
HE7	Wellingham				Hermitage	30	29							
HE8	Whissonsett				Hermitage	398	430							
HE9	Stanfield				Hermitage	127	137							
UP4	Brisley				Hermitage	254	275							
UP8	Gateley				Hermitage	65	69							
LA3	Great Dunham				Launditch	288	301							
LA4	Lexham				Launditch	109	115							
LA5	Litcham				Launditch	498	533							
LA6	Little Dunham				Launditch	244	263							
LA7	Kempstone				Launditch	12	13							
LA8	Newton By Castle Acre				Launditch	31	34							
LA9	Rougham				Launditch	105	114							
NA5	Sporle With Palgrave				Launditch	876	947							
MA4	Mattishall				Mattishall	2,292	2,435							
AS5	North Pickenham				Nar & Wissey Valley	417	451							
AS6	South Pickenham				Nar & Wissey Valley	72	79							
									Total	51	109,159		117,429	

Proposed Pattern of Warding for Breckland Council

[Index](#)

Document navigation – just click onto the ‘blue,’ heading or Ward name either to take you directly that text or return back to the Index.

Title	Page Number
Highlights	2
Introduction	3
District Profile	3
Methodology	3
Naming	6
Proposed Pattern of Warding	6
1 Ashill	7
2 Attleborough Burgh & Haverscroft	7
3 Attleborough Queens	7
4 Banham & Kenninghall	8
5 Besthorpe	8
6 Buckenham & Quidenham	8
7 Carbrooke	9
8 Dereham & Hoe	9
9 Dereham Neatherd	9
10 Dereham Toftwood	10
11 Dereham Withburga	10
12 East Harling	10
13 Ellingham & Rocklands	10
14 Elmham & Beetley	11
15 Guiltcross	11
16 Haggard de Toni	11
17 Hermitage	12
18 Launditch	12
19 Mattishall	12
20 Nar & Wissey Valley	13
21 Necton & Fransham	13
22 Ringmere & Hockham	13
37 Scarning	14
24 Shipdham	14
25 Springvale	14
26 Swaffham	15
27 Thetford Boudica	15
28 Thetford Burrell	15
29 Thetford Castle	16
30 Thetford Priory	16
31 Two Rivers	16
32 Upper Wensum	16
33 Upper Yare	17
34 Watton	17
35 Wayland	17
36 Weeting & Forest	18
37 Wensum	18
38 Wissey & Gadder	19

Title	Page Number
Summary	19
Appendix 1 Glossary	19
Appendix 2 Spreadsheet Containing Polling Districts and Ward Variance	21
Appendix 3 Map of Proposed New Wards	25
Appendix 4 Alternative Ward Names	26

[Highlights](#)

The aim of this review has been to produce a pattern of Wards that conforms to the rules set out by the LG BCE. The tables below demonstrate that this has been achieved.

2030 Percentage Variance	Number of Wards	Overall Percentage
0%	3	8.0%
+/- 1% To +/- 5%	19	50.0%
+/- 6% To +/- 10%	14	37.0%
Over 10%	2	5.0%
Total	38	100.0%

Change over the Period 'Travel'	Number of Wards	Overall Percentage
Getting better	13	34.0%
Staying the same	16	42.0%
Getting worse	9	24.0%
Total	38	100.0%

Number of Parishes/PDs	Number	Overall Percentage
Single Parish/PD	8	21.0%
2 - 5 Parishes/PDs	22	58.0%
6 - 10 Parishes/PDs	8	21.0%
Total	38	100.0%

Overall, 95% of the proposed new Wards meet the electoral variance criteria and 76% of the Wards are either getting better i.e., lower variance or remaining the same variance over the period to 2030. Of the two Wards that are over 10% electoral variance, (Guilthcross and Upper Wensum) are - 14% and - 13% respectively, these are both due to the layout of the geography and the distribution of electors.

Eight of the proposed new Wards (21%), keep the same boundaries as the existing Wards. Only eight of the new proposed Wards will have 6 or more parishes/PDs and the proposed Hermitage Ward will have the maximum number of 10 parishes/PDs.

Introduction

This document has been produced in response to a review of the current Wards by the Local Government Boundary Committee for England (LGBCE). They have ordered a review to ensure that as far as possible each Ward contains approximately the same number of electors. Rather than relying on the LGBCE to decide what those new Wards will be, the Council has decided to produce their own plans and submit them. The Council feels that it has the depth of local knowledge to ensure that apart from providing a 'fair,' scheme, it best understands local community cohesion.

The review was carried out by Alistair Skipper for two reasons. Firstly, staff who normally would have been involved in the process were otherwise engaged in handling the recent General Election process. Secondly, Alistair has had experience of submitting several similar reviews on behalf of Norfolk County Council (NCC) and brings a fresh pair of eyes to the process.

District Profile

Breckland Council covers an area of 500 square miles (1,300sq kilometres) and is one of the largest rural districts in England. Covering much of the south, west and central parts of Norfolk, Breckland is centred around the five market towns of Attleborough, Dereham, Swaffham, Thetford and Watton. The largest of these is Thetford and the smallest is Watton. In total Breckland District covers approximately 25% of the total area of Norfolk.

Breckland has 94 Parish Councils, including some joint Parish Councils and more than two-thirds of these have fewer than 500 residents. In total there are 135 Polling Districts (PDs).

The area is one of the most rurally sparse in the country, the current density is approximately 2 ½ people per acre (1 person per hectare), which sets particular challenges in terms of service delivery and demands on resources.

Methodology

When considering a pattern of Warding for Breckland District Council, a number of issues and circumstances have to be taken into consideration. First, is compliance with the rules prescribed by the LGBCE. Secondly, one has to be aware of the physical and man-made barriers, thirdly, the historical factors such as what has happened before and fourthly, other less obvious factors such as historic local ties between villages.

These above-mentioned factors do not necessarily all have the same impact and importance and, in some instances, can be conflicting. Often it is necessary to balance some of these factors and put more emphasis on some. It is true to say that in designing a new Warding pattern, one will not please and satisfy everybody.

This review is different in that there is a wish to predominantly have single Councillor Wards, with the urban areas being the exception of having two Councillors. This will inevitably mean that there will be many changes as the current Wards have due to their size, be split into much smaller ones. Growth in the number of electors also means that there will and have to be changes in the Wards. One other major impact on changing the size and shape of Wards is the requirement to add in an additional two Councillors from 49 to 51.

These issues have meant that it has not been possible to make a few minor amendments to existing pattern, but instead a major review starting with a 'blank piece of paper' has been necessary. No assumptions have been made and the current Ward boundaries have been ignored in the first instance. It is worth noting that the number of electors in Breckland as the tables shows below has grown very significantly.

Year	Number of Electors
2002	90,914
2007	95,738
2008	97,072
2013	100,903
2019	104,349
2023	109,159
2025	107,917 Estimate
2030	117,428 Estimate

This demonstrates that in a 'generation,' the electorate has risen by 26,514 which equates to 29%! This growth rate is also increasing. Between 2002 and 2007 it grew by 5%, whereas the estimate for the future seven years is 7.5%. It is an example of how Councillors will have to work harder in the future and a justification for increasing the overall number.

The process of drawing up a pattern commences in one corner of the District then gradually building up the required numbers to be equal as near as possible to the 'golden number.' This number is derived by taking the total number of electors and dividing it by the number of Councillors. For 2030, the estimated number of electors will be 117, 429 divided by 51 Councillors, which gives a figure of 2,303 electors. The aim is to try and make each Ward contain this number of electors.

The practical aim when designing a Ward is to have as few parishes as possible on the basis that the Councillor will have to attend each parish Council meeting. The next practical step is to try and make the area as small as possible so that there is good local community cohesion. Thirdly, the design should allow the Councillor to easily travel via car throughout their Ward. In Norfolk it is acknowledged that public transport is poor and that a car is a virtual necessity especial in the rural Wards.

As one builds a pattern of Warding, the task gets more difficult to a point where there are too few or too many electors to conform to the electoral variances. The process then starts from another corner and so on until a favourable pattern is achieved. During this process, which goes through many iterations, one finds that some Wards 'solidify,' very quickly. This means that there is only one option available to satisfy the rules. An example of this would be where a village is large enough to be a single Ward. Therefore, a pattern has to be worked with these PDs and parishes fixed in stone and the design then has to work round them.

In the process, attention has been paid to the Church of England parochial (religious) parishes within the District because they were established in Anglo Saxon times and in many cases have not changed. Over a period of time, parishes have grouped together to form benefices and deaneries, which help promote community cohesion. For example, in the village that I reside in, people from Caston are likely to go to Stow Bedon village fayre or Thompson village book sale because they are all part of the same benefice and local community. In the latter example, some of the proceeds go to Griston church (also in the same benefice), because they originally set up the book fair.

In the 2021 Census, (<https://www.ons.gov.uk/visualisations/censusareachanges/E07000143/>), 50% said they Christian and other religions accounted for 1.6% of the population so they a marginal impact on community cohesion.

Other factors which were also considered are geographical ones including MOD areas which are out of bounds and ancient trackways such as Pedders Way, which acts as a boundary in the same way that the A47 does today. Another particularly pertinent factor is the impact of the Cambridge Norwich Tech Corridor (CNTC). This is a massive investment plan which will affect much of the south of the District and could lead to new infrastructure projects that may have a huge and significant impact on local communities.

It is also worth pointing out that this review process has a bias because of the impact of urban/rural split Wards. Many of the urban Wards are already two Councillor Wards, have not changed geographically in the review. This means that the Councillors already know their 'patch.' They already know the local geography and have all the local contacts. In contrast many of the Councillors in rural Wards, will have to learn the local geography, which because it is rural, is going to be much bigger than an urban Ward. It is also likely that they will have to build up new relationships with the local population and learn about their local issues. This is especially the case if a proposed new Ward contains parishes from a number of existing Wards. They will also most probably have to spend much more time with Parish Councils than compared to an urban Ward.

The initial draft review was shown to the Steering Group to consider so it could then be presented to Full Council to approve. It became clear that the wish to have two Councillors representing urban Wards and one for rural Wards did not produce an ideal solution in the cases of Swaffham and Watton towns. These towns are currently split into two PDs each and in order to achieve a satisfactory electoral variance, need to include adjacent rural parishes.

The decision was taken to base a pattern of Warding on these two towns having three Councillors ideally on the basis of 2 + 1 Wards. This would thus ensure that the community cohesion of these towns was upheld. It also meant that those adjacent rural parishes were now included in Wards, which were much more likely to have common interests. A redraft of the plan was undertaken, which resulted in approximately a quarter of the proposed new Wards being changed.

Swaffham which is split into two PDs has an estimated electorate of 7,509 in 2030 which entitles it to 3.26 Councillors. Likewise, Watton is split into two PDs and has an estimated electorate of 7,448 in 2030, which entitles it 3.23 Councillors. Unfortunately, it is not possible to have 2 + 1 urban Wards without redrawing the existing PDs because of the distribution of the electorate. Any review would need to involve liaison with the Electoral Commission and would take over year to complete. It is very unlikely that the LGBCE would give permission for PDs to be changed at this time and the review has been based on using just the existing PDs.

After a further meeting of the Steering Group, it was decided to keep Swaffham as a three member Ward because the town has a very distinctive identity with strong community cohesion. It also maintains the current number of Councillors. In the case of Watton, Councillors deemed that it should be treated as an, 'urban,' i.e., two member Ward. The eastern PD contained sufficient electors to meet the electoral variance criteria. The western part of the town had to be included with at least one other PD in order to achieve an adequate electoral variance. It was felt that combining it with Saham Toney was the best option.

During the process, the aim has been to be as transparent as possible so that the, 'thinking process,' is shown and explains why decisions have been made. Due to the number of iterations of the plans, it has meant that a number of parishes/PDs have moved around into different Wards.

Naming

The naming of Wards is always fraught with problems especially when it is a genuinely new Ward. Names need to be objective and reflect the geographical area and at the same time mean something to the local population. Some names can trace their history back over a thousand years, whilst others have been invented recently. The name must not be confused with other local names and should be 'short,' as it will be used for elections and other cases of identity. A Ward including the names of all ten villages in the Ward name would be impractical.

Names often reflect a geographical feature in the landscape to provide easy identification of that area. Norfolk has few hills and mountains and Breckland has none, so that the only feasible and identifiable feature are rivers. These have often been used to mark parish boundaries and in Breckland's case rivers mark part of the District boundary. Rivers tend to run through Wards and so several Wards can lay claim to a river name. In this case the Ward that has more of the river running through it has the greatest claim.

The approach has been where a village is large enough to be a single Ward in its own right, to name the Ward after the village name. Where a Ward consists of many small villages there are a number of options. First, it could be named after an existing Ward name e.g. Launditch, which in turn is one of the names of the Hundreds. Secondly it could be named after several villages. One has to be careful in using this option because other smaller villages may feel put out and not part of the community because their village name is not included. It is therefore often better in these cases to adopt a more 'neutral,' name that can be tied to the area but not one specific village.

In the cases where large current Wards have been split into several smaller Wards, where possible, the existing name has been given to the proposed new Ward that contains the biggest number of parishes in the current Wards. In the case of urban areas there has been little change to the boundaries so there has been no reason to change the name of the new proposed Ward. In some instances where towns, which are currently single Wards and have had to be split due electoral variance, it has been necessary to be creative as two Wards cannot lay claim to the same town name.

Where appropriate, a selection of potential names have been included, some of which reflect the names previously used for Wards emulating from the 2014, 2003 and to a lesser extent 1991 Ward boundary reviews and reorganisations. In the case of the 1991 review, only the Ward names now survive. It does however demonstrate that some names such as Hermitage and Launditch, have been in existence since the 1991 review and thus have a very strong resonance with local community cohesion

Note – The names of the proposed new Wards are 'working titles.' It is for Councillors to decide which name is most appropriate and has the most meaning and worth, that will allow it to be clearly identifiable to a specific geographical area. See [Appendix 4](#) for an alternative list of names.

Proposed New Pattern of Warding for Breckland Council

Below is a detailed list of the new proposed Wards for Breckland, showing which current County Divisions and current Wards they lie within. The, 'Travel,' demonstrates whether over the period 2023 – 2030, the electoral variance is likely to improve i.e. get smaller or not.

The number of Polling Districts (PDs) is usually the same as the number of parishes, particularly in rural areas and gives an indication of the number of individual parish councils there may be within

the proposed Ward. It should be noted that some parishes may not have a parish council or combine with other parishes. It does however provide one measure of how busy a Councillor is likely to be in having to attend meetings.

Details are also provided about specific issues that surround the proposed new Ward. These include possible names, whether there is any flexibility in constructing the Ward and factors affecting community cohesion.

Ward No: - 1
Proposed Name: - [Ashill](#)
Number of Councillors: - 1 Travel: - Getting better
Number of Electors 2023: - 2,273 Variance: - + 6%
Number of Electors 2030: - 2,428 Variance: - + 5%
Number of PDs/Parishes: - 3
Consists of: - Ashill (AS1), Holme Hale (NE1) & Bradenham (SA1)
County Division (s): - a) The Brecks b) Yare & All Saints
Current Ward (s): - a) Ashill b) Necton

This Ward is sandwiched in between the towns of Swaffham and Watton in the west and east and the villages of Necton and Bradenham in the north. Originally the Pickenhams were included but these needed to be moved when it was necessary to add Bradenham so that Saham Toney could be joined to be part of Watton to create a Ward.

Ward No: - 2
Proposed Name: - [Attleborough Burgh & Haverscroft](#)
Number of Councillors: - 2 Travel: - Staying the same
Number of Electors 2023: - 4,122 Variance: - - 4%
Number of Electors 2030: - 4,418 Variance: - - 4%
Number of PDs/Parishes: - 2
Consists of: - Attleborough Town (ATB1) and (ATB2).
County Division (s): - a) Attleborough
Current Ward (s): - a) Attleborough Burgh & Haverscroft

This proposed new Ward mirrors the existing Ward and thus already has complete community cohesion.

Ward No: - 3
Proposed Name: - [Attleborough Queen's](#)
Number of Councillors: - 2 Travel: - Getting worse
Number of Electors 2023: - 4,040 Variance: - - 6%
Number of Electors 2030: - 4,257 Variance: - - 8%
Number of PDs/Parishes: - 1
Consists of: - Attleborough Queens (ATQ3).
County Division (s): - a) Attleborough
Current Ward (s): - a) Attleborough Queen's & Besthorpe

There is some debate as to whether Great Ellingham (West) should remain with the main village or be part of Attleborough. Originally it was included with Attleborough Queen's, because it improved electoral variance and there is an argument that electors and their families are more likely to consider Attleborough (Dobbs Road) rather than go to Great Ellingham as their local Post Office. Likewise, the newly built school will act as a focal point. However, after discussion, it was pointed out that electors living in Great Ellingham (West) did not receive same benefits e.g., street lighting, as electors living Attleborough and so there was more community cohesion for them to remain with the rest of the Ellingham group of parishes.

It has been suggested as part of a separate exercise to rename Great Ellingham PDs to reflect more accurately the geographical disposition of the area. Hence, Great Ellingham East (AL2) becomes Great Ellingham North and Great Ellingham West (AL2/1) becomes Great Ellingham South.

Ward No: - 4
 Proposed Name: - [Banham & Kenninghall](#)
 Number of Councillors: - 1 Travel: - Staying the same
 Number of Electors 2023: - 1,986 Variance: - - 7%
 Number of Electors 2030: - 2,140 Variance: - - 7%
 Number of PDs/Parishes: - 2
 Consists of: - Kenninghall (GU2) and Banham (TB1).
 County Division (s): - a) Guiltcross
 Current Ward (s): - a) Guiltcross b) The Buckenhams & Banham

Due to the location of the geography and the distribution of electors, Kenninghall could not be added to the proposed Guiltcross Ward or the proposed Harling Ward because it would breach the electoral variance guidelines. Also, for the same reason, Banham could not be included in the proposed Buckenham & Quidenham Ward. Combining Banham with Kenninghall provides an adequate variance and joins two more urban villages together compared to the more rural surrounding area.

Ward No: - 5
 Proposed Name: - [Besthorpe](#)
 Number of Councillors: - 1 Travel: - Staying the same
 Number of Electors 2023: - 2,070 Variance: - - 3%
 Number of Electors 2030: - 2,236 Variance: - - 3%
 Number of PDs/Parishes: - 2
 Consists of: - Besthorpe (ATQ1) and part of Attleborough Queens Ward (ATQ2).
 County Division (s): - a) Attleborough
 Current Ward (s): - a) Attleborough Queen's & Besthorpe

The huge growth in housing to support the Cambridge Norwich Tech Corridor (CNTC) has led to the town of Attleborough being split into smaller Wards. Besthorpe has increasingly become part of the 'greater' Attleborough and the inclusion of the Besthorpe Ward now provides a distinct identity to the village helping to build and promote its own community spirit.

Ward No: - 6
 Proposed Name: - [Buckenham & Quidenham](#)
 Number of Councillors: - 1 Travel: - Getting slightly worse
 Number of Electors 2023: - 2,131 Variance: - 0%
 Number of Electors 2030: - 2,281 Variance: - - 1%
 Number of PDs/Parishes: - 4
 Consists of: - Quidenham (AL7), Snetterton AL13), New Buckenham (TB2) and Old Buckenham (TB3).
 County Division (s): - a) Guiltcross
 Current Ward (s): - a) All Saints & Wayland b) The Buckenhams & Banham

The pattern of Warding in the lower right quadrant of the District is dominated by the Attleborough urban area in the north and the Harling and Guiltcross Wards in the south. In order to protect community cohesion there is a desire to keep the two Buckenhams in the same Ward. It therefore meant that the parishes of Quidenham and Snetterton had to be added to ensure that there is good electoral variance. This has advantages because these two parishes are in the middle of the Cambridge Norwich Tech Corridor (CNTC) and together with the Buckenhams where

there is significant investment in new industry underway. Thus, these parishes are likely to have common interests in such things as planning.

Ward No: - 7
Proposed Name: - [Carbrooke](#)
Number of Councillors: - 1 Travel: - Getting better
Number of Electors 2023: - 2,297 Variance: - + 7%
Number of Electors 2030: - 2,423 Variance: - + 5%
Number of PDs/Parishes: - 4
Consists of: - Carbrooke East and West (SA2) 7 (SA2/1), Ovington (SA3) and Scoulton SA5.
County Division (s): - a) Watton b) Yare & All Saints
Current Ward (s): - a) Saham Toney

The existing Saham Toney Ward needed to be split due to electoral variance. In the east there is the town of Watton and in the east are the villages of Great and Little Ellingham, which are quite rural. Carbrooke has been centre for new housing developments as most of the former RAF Watton airbase is converted to a residential use. The inclusion of this new Ward provides a distinct identity to Carbrooke giving it a separate village identity and distinguishes it from the urban area of Watton. After a decision was taken to ensure that Watton was just 'urban,' Wards, it was necessary to add Ovington to Carbrooke.

Ward No: - 8
Proposed Name: - [Dereham & Hoe](#)
Number of Councillors: - 1 Travel: - Getting slightly better
Number of Electors 2023: - 1,996 Variance: - - 7%
Number of Electors 2030: - 2,157 Variance: - - 6%
Number of PDs/Parishes: - 1
Consists of: - Hoe & Worthing (LI3) and part of Dereham Withburga Ward (DEW1).
County Division (s): - a) Dereham North & Scarning b) Dereham South
Current Ward (s): - a) Dereham Withburga b) Lincoln

This has been one of the more difficult Wards to design. The urban area of Dereham splits into 7 Councillors, which then breaks down neatly into three Wards each with 2 Councillors. This Ward (DEW1) is more rural than the others and because of this, it was necessary to add Hoe & Worthing in order to achieve elector equality. As it is a new Ward, there is scope to choose a name to reflect the community cohesion. Dereham North is a geographically appropriate name, but 'Airfield' to reflect the old RAF Swanton Morley site which was contained within the Ward might be more suitable. Likewise, 'Mid Norfolk Railway' would reflect that this railway runs through the length of the Ward. The Steering Group suggested to use a similar form of naming for this Ward as the town and resurrect the old 'Humblecroft' Ward name.

Ward No: - 9
Proposed Name: - [Dereham Neatherd](#)
Number of Councillors: - 2 Travel: - Getting slightly better
Number of Electors 2023: - 4,046 Variance: - - 5%
Number of Electors 2030: - 4,416 Variance: - - 4%
Number of PDs/Parishes: - 1
Consists of: - Dereham Neatherd Ward (DEN1).
County Division (s): - a) Dereham North
Current Ward (s): - a) Dereham Neatherd

This new proposed Ward is the same as the existing one and thus protects community cohesion.

Ward No: - 10
 Proposed Name: - [Dereham Toftwood](#)
 Number of Councillors: - 2 Travel: - Getting slightly better
 Number of Electors 2023: - 4,577 Variance: - + 7%
 Number of Electors 2030: - 4,874 Variance: - + 6%
 Number of PDs/Parishes: - 2
 Consists of: - Dereham Toftwood Wards (DET1) & (DET2).
 County Division (s): - a) Dereham South
 Current Ward (s): - a) Dereham Toftwood

This new proposed Ward is the same as the existing one and thus protects community cohesion.

Ward No: - 11
 Proposed Name: - [Dereham Withburga](#)
 Number of Councillors: - 2 Travel: - Getting slightly better
 Number of Electors 2023: - 4,508 Variance: - + 5%
 Number of Electors 2030: - 4,779 Variance: - + 4%
 Number of PDs/Parishes: - 2
 Consists of: - Dereham Central East (DEN2) and Central West Wards (DEW2).
 County Division (s): - a) Dereham South
 Current Ward (s): - a) Dereham Neatherd b) Dereham Withburga

This consists of the two central parish Wards in the town, which protects community identity and ensures that the new proposed Ward is seen as the 'centre,' of the town.

Ward No: - 12
 Proposed Name: - [East Harling](#)
 Number of Councillors: - 1 Travel: - Getting slightly better
 Number of Electors 2023: - 2,044 Variance: - - 5%
 Number of Electors 2030: - 2,211 Variance: - - 4%
 Number of PDs/Parishes: - 1
 Consists of: - Harling (HA2).
 County Division (s): - a) Guiltcross
 Current Ward (s): - a) Harling & The Heathlands

The electorate of the village has grown significantly over the years to the point that it becomes a new single parish, Ward. This also ensures that there is excellent community cohesion. Councillors decided to name the Ward, 'East Harling,' after the principal village, noting that the PD also consists of East, Middle and West Harling.

Ward No: - 13
 Proposed Name: - [Ellingham & Rocklands](#)
 Number of Councillors: - 1 Travel: - Staying the same
 Number of Electors 2023: - 2,008 Variance: - - 6%
 Number of Electors 2030: - 2,443 Variance: - + 6%
 Number of PDs/Parishes: - 4
 Consists of: - Great Ellingham East (AL2), Great Ellingham West (AL2/1), Little Ellingham (AL3) and Rocklands (AL8).
 County Division (s): - a) Yare & All Saints
 Current Ward (s): - a) All Saints & Wayland

This proposed new Ward is sandwiched between the urban areas of Watton and Carbrooke in the west Attleborough in the east. The District boundary lies to the north so it was only possible to add parishes in the south to achieve the necessary electoral variance target. There is also a

desire to maintain community cohesion by keeping the two Ellinghams together in the same Ward. The parishes are also all members of the same Church of England benefice.

Ward No: - 14
Proposed Name: - [Elmham & Beetley](#)
Number of Councillors: - 1 Travel: - Getting slightly worse
Number of Electors 2023: - 2,343 Variance: - + 9%
Number of Electors 2030: - 2,522 Variance: - + 10%
Number of PDs/Parishes: - 2
Consists of: - Beetley (LI1) and North Elmham (UP12).
County Division (s): - a) Elmham & Mattishall b) Necton & Launditch
Current Ward (s): - a) Lincoln b) Upper Wensum

The top right quartile of the District presents a number of challenges when trying to produce a pattern of Warding. In the east many of the parishes are small and, in the south, there is the urban conurbation of Dereham and the immediately surrounding villages. The west is dominated with small villages and very sparse areas. At present the two villages belong to different Wards and County Divisions so the first pattern of Warding tried to maintain this existing layout. This proved to be unacceptable and so it was decided to join the two large villages into a new Ward. This makes sense because most of the surrounding parishes are very small and would be inevitably dominated by the large village. In this pattern there are two equally sized villages that are more likely to have similar and shared interests. It was finally decided that Elmham should have precedence in the name because it is a much larger village.

Ward No: - 15
Proposed Name: - [Guiltcross](#)
Number of Councillors: - 1 Travel: - Getting slightly worse
Number of Electors 2023: - 1,857 Variance: - - 13%
Number of Electors 2030: - 1,973 Variance: - - 14%
Number of PDs/Parishes: - 5
Consists of: - Blo Norton (GU1), Garboldisham (GU3), North Lopham (GU4), South Lopham (GU5) and Riddlesworth (HA3).
County Division (s): - a) Guiltcross
Current Ward (s): - a) Guiltcross b) Harling & Heathlands

It has not proved possible to produce a new proposed Ward with an electoral variance of less than 10%. Harling in the west is large enough to be a Ward in its own right and so Riddlesworth has been transferred to Guiltcross. In the north Banham and Kenninghall join together to make a new Ward with an acceptable variance. Due to the excrescences of the location and the District boundary on two sides, it is impossible to add any other parishes in order to reduce the variance. There is currently quite a strong community cohesion as all the parishes are part of the same Church of England benefice.

Ward No: - 16
Proposed Name: - [Haggard de Toni](#)
Number of Councillors: - 2 Travel: - Getting slightly better
Number of Electors 2023: - 4,257 Variance: - - 1%
Number of Electors 2030: - 4,597 Variance: - 0%
Number of PDs/Parishes: - 2
Consists of: - Saham Toney (SA4) and Watton (WA1).
County Division (s): - a) Watton b) Yare & All Saints
Current Ward (s): - a) Saham Toney b) Watton

There was much discussion about keeping the community cohesion of Watton. However, because the town is split into two PDs, it is necessary for Watton (WA1) to be added to at least

one other PD in order to achieve electoral equality. It was also agreed that as this new proposed Ward was 'urban' rather than 'rural,' it should be assigned two councillors. By adding Saham Toney, which has a blurred geographical boundary with Watton town, it was possible to achieve the electoral equality and create a workable Ward. It is suggested that the historical name of, 'Haggard de Toni,' is used to identify this proposed new Ward.

Ward No: - 17
 Proposed Name: - [Hermitage](#)
 Number of Councillors: - 1 Travel: - Staying the same
 Number of Electors 2023: - 2,090 Variance: - - 2%
 Number of Electors 2030: - 2,258 Variance: - - 2%
 Number of PDs/Parishes: - 10
 Consists of: - Colkirk (HE1), Horningtoft (HE2), Tittleshall (HE4), Weasenham All Saints (HE5), Weasenham St Peter (HE6), Wellingham (HE7), Whissonsett (HE8), Stanfield (HE9), Brisley (UP4) & Gateley (UP8).
 County Division (s): - a) Elmham & Mattishall b) Launditch
 Current Ward (s): - a) Hermitage b) Upper Wensum

This new proposed Ward consists of a number of small parishes that border the top part of the District boundary. The new proposed Ward of Beetley & North Elmham borders the east so that it has been a case of adding parishes in the south and west to obtain the relevant electoral variance. In this case all the villages are currently situated in the Hermitage Ward with the exception of Brisley and Gately. These two villages are likely to be better served in the new proposed Ward because they are of similar size and are likely to have the same aims and ambitions.

Ward No: - 18
 Proposed Name: - [Launditch](#)
 Number of Councillors: - 1 Travel: - Staying the same
 Number of Electors 2023: - 2,163 Variance: - + 1%
 Number of Electors 2030: - 2,320 Variance: - + 1%
 Number of PDs/Parishes: - 8
 Consists of: - Great Dunham (LA3), Lexham (LA4), Litcham (LA5), Little Dunham (LA6), Kempstone (LA7), Newton by Castle Acre (LA8), Rougham (LA9) and Sporle with Palgrave (NA5).
 County Division (s): - a) Necton & Launditch b) Swaffham
 Current Ward (s): - a) Launditch b) Nar Valley

It has proved difficult to provide a pattern of Warding in the left top quadrant of the District without creating a high electoral variance. The three new proposed Wards of Hermitage, Launditch and Springvale have the District border on the north and west and the urban towns of Dereham and Swaffham to the east and south. Having completed drawing the proposed Hermitage Ward, the next task was to ensure that there is some community cohesion in the Launditch Ward, This is achieved in one sense as the main Swaffham to Fakenham road (A1065) runs through the parishes. It also ensures that the community cohesion between the Dunhams is not broken.

The result of the decision to allocate three Councillors to Swaffham and Watton allowed for a redrawing which allowed a better community cohesion in so far that all of the parishes are part of the existing Ward with the exception of Sporle with Palgrave.

Ward No: - 19
 Proposed Name: - [Mattishall](#)
 Number of Councillors: - 1 Travel: - Getting slightly better
 Number of Electors 2023: - 2,292 Variance: - + 7%
 Number of Electors 2030: - 2,435 Variance: - + 6%

Number of PDs/Parishes: - 1
 Consists of: - Mattishall (MA4).
 County Division (s): - a) Elmham & Mattishall
 Current Ward (s): - a) Mattishall

The electorate of the village has grown significantly over the years to the point that it becomes a new single parish, Ward. This also ensures that there is excellent community cohesion.

Ward No: - 20
 Proposed Name: - [Nar & Wissey Valley](#)
 Number of Councillors: - 1 Travel: - Staying the same
 Number of Electors 2023: - 2,016 Variance: - - 6%
 Number of Electors 2030: - 2,167 Variance: - - 6%
 Number of PDs/Parishes: - 7
 Consists of: - North Pickenham (AS5), South Pickenham (AS6), Cockley Cley (BE1), Beachamwell (NA1), Narford (NA2), Narborough (NA3) & South Acre (NA4).
 County Division (s): - a) Swaffham b) The Brecks
 Current Ward (s): - a) Ashill b) Bedingfeld c) Nar Valley

The original plan was to spilt Swaffham into two new wards, which would have necessitated the adjacent parishes to be included with part of Swaffham to ensure adequate electoral variance. After the Steering Group suggested that Swaffham and Watton were kept as identifiable Wards, it allowed for this area to be redrawn based on a single Councillor rural ward. With the Sporle and Palgrave parish being transferred to the new proposed Launditch Ward, it was necessary to add several parishes to the south to ensure that electoral equality variance is maintained, which is difficult in a very sparsely populated area.

Ward No: - 21
 Proposed Name: - [Necton & Fransham](#)
 Number of Councillors: - 1 Travel: - Staying the same
 Number of Electors 2023: - 2,138 Variance: - 0%
 Number of Electors 2030: - 2,297 Variance: - 0%
 Number of PDs/Parishes: - 2
 Consists of: - Necton (NE2) and Fransham (LA2).
 County Division (s): - a) Necton & Launditch
 Current Ward (s): - a) Necton b) Launditch

This new proposed Ward is situated in the centre of the District. As one fixes the layout of Wards on the outer borders of the District, it becomes more difficult to achieve an acceptable electoral variance as one approaches the centre. Originally, Necton was going to be joined with Bradenham, which would have created an electoral variance of + 11% in 2030. However, the opportunity arose to redraw the Ward as a result of the decision to have three Councillor Wards for Swaffham and Watton. Bradenham has historic ties with Saham Toney, whilst at the same time it was possible to redraw the proposed Wards in the north – west quadrant of the District in order to create better equality and community cohesion.

Ward No: - 22
 Proposed Name: - [Ringmere & Hockham](#)
 Number of Councillors: - 1 Travel: - Getting better
 Number of Electors 2023: - 2,034 Variance: - - 5%
 Number of Electors 2030: - 2,285 Variance: - - 1%
 Number of PDs/Parishes: - 7
 Consists of: - Great Hockham (AL5), Wrettham (AL12), Brettenham (FO1), Croxton (FO2), Kilverstone (FO3), Bridgham (HA1) and Roundham & Larling

(HA4).

County Division (s): - a) Guiltcross b) The Brecks
Current Ward (s): - a) All Saints & Wayland b) Forest c) Harling & Heathlands

This proposed Ward is one of the largest geographical Wards due to the very rural nature of the area and is a combination of several existing Wards. Although it is sparse, the parishes have a shared interest as they lie in the CNTC where significant investment and industrialisation is taking place and will continue for the foreseeable future. After further consultation, it was suggested that the Ward name should be called 'Ringmere' after a small pond situated at the centre of six of the parishes within the Ward. Another alternative name is 'Great Hockham & Ringmere' as Great Hockham is the largest village of the seven parishes which make up the proposed Ward. It was decided by the Steering Group to shorten the name to, 'Heathlands.' After more discussion it was decided that 'Ringmere & Hockham,' was a more suitable name.

Ward No: - 23
Proposed Name: - [Scarning](#)
Number of Councillors: - 1 Travel: - Getting slightly worse
Number of Electors 2023: - 2,148 Variance: - 0%
Number of Electors 2030: - 2,338 Variance: - + 2%
Number of PDs/Parishes: - 1
Consists of: - Scarning (SH2).
County Division (s): - a) Dereham North
Current Ward (s): - a) Shipdham with Scarning

The electorate of the village has grown significantly over the years to the point that it becomes a new single parish, Ward. This also ensures that there is excellent community cohesion.

Ward No: - 24
Proposed Name: - [Shipdham](#)
Number of Councillors: - 1 Travel: - Getting better
Number of Electors 2023: - 1,859 Variance: - - 13%
Number of Electors 2030: - 2,091 Variance: - - 9%
Number of PDs/Parishes: - 1
Consists of: - Shipdham (SH3).
County Division (s): - a) Yare & All Saints
Current Ward (s): - a) Shipdham with Scarning

The electorate of the village has grown significantly over the years to the point that it becomes a new single parish, Ward. This also ensures that there is excellent community cohesion.

Ward No: - 25
Proposed Name: - [Springvale](#)
Number of Councillors: - 1 Travel: - Staying the same
Number of Electors 2023: - 2,284 Variance: - + 7%
Number of Electors 2030: - 2,470 Variance: - + 7%
Number of PDs/Parishes: - 5
Consists of: - Mileham (HE3), Beeston with Bittering (LA1), Gressenhall (LI2), Longham (LI4) and Wendling (LI6).
County Division (s): - a) Necton & Launditch
Current Ward (s): - a) Hermitage b) Launditch c) Lincoln

This is the third of the three new proposed Wards in the upper left quadrant of the District. Once the New proposed Hermitage Ward was drawn, there was limited opportunity to produce ideal Wards to the south because of the urban boundaries of Dereham to the east and Scarning to

the south. The resulting Ward focuses on the road between Litcham and Gressinghall to provide community cohesion.

The Ward was redrawn after the Steering Group's discussions. This allowed for Mileham to be added and Litcham and Kempstone to stay in the existing Launditch Ward as it was likely to have better community cohesion. This new draft produced a smaller more compact Ward, which should make it easier for the Councillor to administer.

Ward No: - 26
Proposed Name: - [Swaffham](#)
Number of Councillors: - 3 Travel: - Getting better
Number of Electors 2023: - 7,184 Variance: - + 12%
Number of Electors 2030: - 7,509 Variance: - + 9%
Number of PDs/Parishes: - 2
Consists of: - Swaffham Town (SW1) and (SW2).
County Division (s): - a) Swaffham
Current Ward (s): - a) Swaffham

Originally it was planned to split the town into two Wards and add adjacent parishes to ensure that electoral equality was maintained. Following the Steering Group meeting, it was decided to have three Councillors and thus maintain community cohesion. This also has the advantage that there are three Councillors currently representing the town so there would be no changes in the new pattern of Warding.

Ward No: - 27
Proposed Name: - [Thetford Boudica](#)
Number of Councillors: - 2 Travel: - Staying the same
Number of Electors 2023: - 4,614 Variance: - + 8%
Number of Electors 2030: - 4,983 Variance: - + 8%
Number of PDs/Parishes: - 4
Consists of: - Anne Bartholomew Ward (TB01), Boudica Ward (TB02), Icen Ward (TICE1) and Vicarage Road Ward (TPR4).
County Division (s): - a) Thetford East
Current Ward (s): - a) Thetford Boudica

The existing Boudica Ward is too small and requires additional electors to ensure that it meets the electoral criteria. Vicarage Road Ward (TPR4) was added because the existing Priory Ward is too large and this gave excellent electoral variance (+ 2%). It was then pointed out that to ensure that there is community cohesion Icen Ward (TICE1) has to be included in this proposed new Ward as it is part of Thetford Town Council. Unfortunately, this does have a negative impact on the electoral variance.

Ward No: - 28
Proposed Name: - [Thetford Burrell](#)
Number of Councillors: - 2 Travel: - Staying the same
Number of Electors 2023: - 4,269 Variance: - 0%
Number of Electors 2030: - 4,608 Variance: - 0%
Number of PDs/Parishes: - 4
Consists of: - Thetford Burrell Wards (TBU1), (TBU2), (TBU3) and (TBU4).
County Division (s): - a) Thetford West
Current Ward (s): - a) Thetford Burrell

This new proposed Ward is the same as the current Thetford Burrell Ward and thus affords excellent community cohesion.

Ward No: - 29
 Proposed Name: - [Thetford Castle](#)
 Number of Councillors: - 2 Travel: - Getting slightly worse
 Number of Electors 2023: - 4,427 Variance: - + 3%
 Number of Electors 2030: - 4,772 Variance: - + 4%
 Number of PDs/Parishes: - 2
 Consists of: - Thetford Castle Wards (TCA1) and TCA2).
 County Division (s): - a) Thetford East
 Current Ward (s): - a) Thetford Castle

This new proposed Ward is the same as the current Thetford Castle Ward and thus affords excellent community cohesion.

Ward No: - 30
 Proposed Name: - [Thetford Priory](#)
 Number of Councillors: - 2 Travel: - Staying the same
 Number of Electors 2023: - 4,362 Variance: - + 2%
 Number of Electors 2030: - 4,698 Variance: - + 2%
 Number of PDs/Parishes: - 3
 Consists of: - Thetford Priory Wards (TPR1), (TPR2) and (TPR3).
 County Division (s): - a) Thetford West
 Current Ward (s): - a) Thetford Priory

This new proposed Ward is the same as the current Thetford Priory Ward less Vicarage Road (TPR4) because the electoral variance would be too great, but still affords excellent community cohesion.

Ward No: - 31
 Proposed Name: - [Two Rivers](#)
 Number of Councillors: - 1 Travel: - Staying the same
 Number of Electors 2023: - 2,033 Variance: - - 5%
 Number of Electors 2030: - 2,194 Variance: - - 5%
 Number of PDs/Parishes: - 4
 Consists of: - East Tuddenham (MA1), Hockering (UP10), Lyng (UP11) and North Tuddenham (UP13).
 County Division (s): - a) Elmhall & Mattishall
 Current Ward (s): - a) Mattishall b) Upper Wensum

It has been very difficult to try and achieve a perfect electoral equality because the Ward is geographically on the extreme right - hand side of the District. Also, it is not possible to include Mattishall because of the size of the electorate would create a too large a variance. This proposed new Ward allows and recognises the uniqueness of these small villages when compared against Dereham, Mattishall and Swanton Morley and thus provides good community. The Steering Group decided that the olde name of, 'Two Rivers,' should be reinstated.

Ward No: - 32
 Proposed Name: - [Upper Wensum](#)
 Number of Councillors: - 1 Travel: - Getting slightly worse
 Number of Electors 2023: - 1,882 Variance: - - 12%
 Number of Electors 2030: - 2,011 Variance: - - 13%
 Number of PDs/Parishes: - 7
 Consists of: - Bawdeswell (UP1), Billingford (UP2), Bintree (UP3), Foxley (UP7), Guist (UP9), Sparham (UP14) and Twyford (UP15).
 County Division (s): - a) Elmhall & Mattishall
 Current Ward (s): - a) Upper Wensum

This has proved to be one of the most challenging Wards to draw up because of its location and the distribution of electors in the neighbouring parishes. For this reason, it has not proved possible to produce a Ward that meets to maximum 10% elector variance. However, all of these parishes are currently part of the current Upper Wensum Ward and thus already have strong community cohesion. It was decided by the Steering Group that 'Eynsford', had a stronger resonance with the local community. After further discussion, it was considered that, 'Upper Wensum,' would be more suitable as the name reflected the patten of usage of river names in other Wards throughout the District.

Ward No: - 33
 Proposed Name: - [Upper Yare](#)
 Number of Councillors: - 1 Travel: - Staying the same
 Number of Electors 2023: - 2,246 Variance: - + 5%
 Number of Electors 2030: - 2,419 Variance: - + 5%
 Number of PDs/Parishes: - 5
 Consists of: - Garvestone, Reymerstone & Thuxton (MA2), Hardingham (MA3),
 Whinburgh & Westfield (MA5), Yaxham (MA6) and Cranworth (SH1).
 County Division (s): - a) Yare & All Saints
 Current Ward (s): - a) Mattishall b) Shipdham with Scarning

This proposed new Ward has an urban boundary of Scarning, Dereham and Mattishall to the north. On the east there is the District boundary and the proposed new Wards of Watton provides a boundary in the south. It is impossible to add Shipdham on the west as this would create an unacceptable electoral variance so by default these parishes are linked together. Except for Cranworth, they are all in the same current Ward so community cohesion is fairly good. An alternative name for this Ward could be 'Mitford,' to reflect the old Hundred name. The Steering Group felt that the name 'Upper Yare', better reflected the location.

Ward No: - 34
 Proposed Name: - [Watton](#)
 Number of Councillors: - 2 Travel: - Getting worse
 Number of Electors 2023: - 4,110 Variance: - - 4%
 Number of Electors 2030: - 4,294 Variance: - - 7%
 Number of PDs/Parishes: - 1
 Consists of: - Watton Town (WA2).
 County Division (s): - a) Watton
 Current Ward (s): - a) Watton

The eastern part of Watton was originally going to be added to Ovington to ensure that there was electoral equality. However, following the desire of the Steering Group to keep the community cohesion of Swaffham and Watton a new pattern of Warding was drafted based on a three member Ward. This worked well for Swaffham, but it meant that for Watton, it still had to add additional PDs. It was then decided to revert back to a two member Ward. This has the advantage that it conforms to the principle of it being an 'urban' Ward and good community cohesion.

Ward No: - 35
 Proposed Name: - [Wayland](#)
 Number of Councillors: - 1 Travel: - Getting slightly worse
 Number of Electors 2023: - 2,133 Variance: - 0%
 Number of Electors 2030: - 2,279 Variance: - - 1%
 Number of PDs/Parishes: - 6
 Consists of: - Caston (AL1), Griston (AL4), Merton (AL6), Shropham (AL9) Stow
 Bedon & Breckles (AL10) and Thompson (AL11).

County Division (s): - a) The Brecks b) Watton
Current Ward (s): - a) All Saints & Wayland

This Ward has the large urban areas of Watton and Carbrooke to the north and east. The western boundary forms part of the ancient Pedders Ways track and is also part of the boundary to the MOD STATA training area, which is off bounds to the public. The new Ward already has excellent community cohesion because it is based on the Church of England Wayland Benefice, less Great Hockham. This parish cannot be included because the resulting variance would be too large. An alternative name for this Ward could be Wayland, which has a long history associated with this specific area.

Ward No: - 36
Proposed Name: - [Weeting & Forest](#)
Number of Councillors: - 1 Travel: - Staying the same
Number of Electors 2023: - 2,051 Variance: - - 4%
Number of Electors 2030: - 2,208 Variance: - - 4%
Number of PDs/Parishes: - 6
Consists of: - Great Cressingham (AS2), Little Cressingham (AS3), Hilborough (AS4), Lynford (FO4), Stanford (FO5) and Weeting with Broomhill (FO6).
County Division (s): - a) the Brecks
Current Ward (s): - a) Ashill b) Forest

This Ward is located in a very sparse part of the District and also contains parts of the MOD STANTA training area. In drawing up the new boundaries, the opportunity has been taken to try as far as possible to reduce the physical area of the existing Ward. The advantages of a smaller area are that communities have a higher regard for community cohesion being more adjacent to each other. It also makes it easier for the Councillor to traverse the Ward and spend less time wasted travelling. The new proposed Forest Ward focuses on the left - hand side of the old Ward. It does however need to include the Cressinghams to ensure that elector equality is maintained.

After further consultation it was suggested that this proposed new Ward should be called 'Weeting and Forest' to reflect that the village of Weeting is the principal village within the Ward. The Steering Group considered that the existing name had more significance for the local population.

Ward No: - 37
Proposed Name: - [Wensum](#)
Number of Councillors: - 1 Travel: - Getting better
Number of Electors 2023: - 1,914 Variance: - - 11%
Number of Electors 2030: - 2,102 Variance: - - 9%
Number of PDs/Parishes: - 3
Consists of: - Swanton Morley (LI5), Bylaugh (UP5) and Elsing (UP6).
County Division (s): - a) Elmham & Mattishall
Current Ward (s): - a) Lincoln b) Upper Wensum

It has been difficult to provide a satisfactory pattern of Wards in the upper right quadrant of the District because of the distribution of electors. The boundaries to the south and west are fixed by single parishes and the town of Dereham, which demands two Councillor Wards. In the area from Guist in the north to East Tuddenham in the south, due to the electoral numbers, three Wards have to be created to satisfy electoral equality. Starting in the south, the Two Rivers Ward was drawn followed by the Eynsford Ward in the north. This left an area in the middle, which is proposed to become the new Swanton Morley Ward encompassing the main village and the two adjacent hamlets. The proposed closing of the Robertson barracks in the next couple of years infers that it will follow the same route as the former RAF Watton base, where the land has been built on. This

suggests that variance will improve over a period of time. After some discussion it was decided to call the proposed new Ward, 'Wensum', to reflect the river which runs through the Ward.

Ward No: -	38		
Proposed Name: -	Wissey & Gadder		
Number of Councillors: -	1	Travel: -	Staying the same
Number of Electors 2023: -	2,355	Variance: -	+ 10%
Number of Electors 2030: -	2,536	Variance: -	+ 10%
Number of PDs/Parishes: -	7		
Consists of: -	Cranwich (BE2), Didlington (BE3), Foulden (BE4), Gooderstone (BE5), Mundford (BE6), Ickburgh (BE7) & Oxborough (BE8).		
County Division (s): -	a) The Brecks		
Current Ward (s): -	a) Bedingfeld		

It is not possible to place Mundford and Weeting with Broomhill in the same Ward because the electoral variance would be too great. The rest of the surrounding area is very sparsely populated so it is necessary to add a number of parishes in order to achieve an adequate electoral variance. All of these parishes are already in the same current Ward so there is already a high degree of community cohesion.

[Summary](#)

The decision to have single Councillor Wards in rural areas combined with the resolution to have two extra Councillors has meant that there has had to be a fundamental redrawing of the Wards to accommodate the electoral equality variance criteria. The process was further complicated when a decision was taken to have three Councillor Wards for Swaffham and Watton.

The aim of the process has been first, to try and achieve the best possible electoral variance and second to make the Wards as compact as possible with the least number of parishes. This is to ensure that Councillors have manageable Wards and the workload as far as possible is equal in terms of travelling and managing Parish Councils.

The next aim has been to try and fit the proposed new Wards as far as possible, into the existing Wards and County Divisions boundaries so that Members do not have extra work. This draft is designed to achieve equality and provide a practical solution.

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[Appendix 1 - Glossary](#)

Abbreviation	Meaning
CNTC	Cambridge, Norwich Tech Corridor.
Electoral Variance	The measure of actual number of electors in a Ward compared against the ideal (Golden) number. This is usually expressed as a percentage.
Golden Number	The ideal number of electors in a Ward. For 2030 this is 2,303 electors.
Hundred	The name associated with a piece of land often dating back to the time of the 'Doomsday Book'.

LGBCE	Local Government Boundary Commission for England. This is the organisation responsible for ordering the review.
MOD	Ministry of Defence
NCC	Norfolk County Council
Parish	This is a civil administrative area, which is usually the same area as a Church of England parochial 'parish,' and especially in rural areas is the same as the Polling District.
PD	Polling District
RAF	Royal Air Force
STANTA	Stanford Training Area. MOD land used for training soldiers.
Steering Group	A committee made up of members of all of the political groups to oversee the submission by the Council of a new pattern of Warding.

Appendix 2 - Spreadsheet Containing Polling Districts and Ward Variances

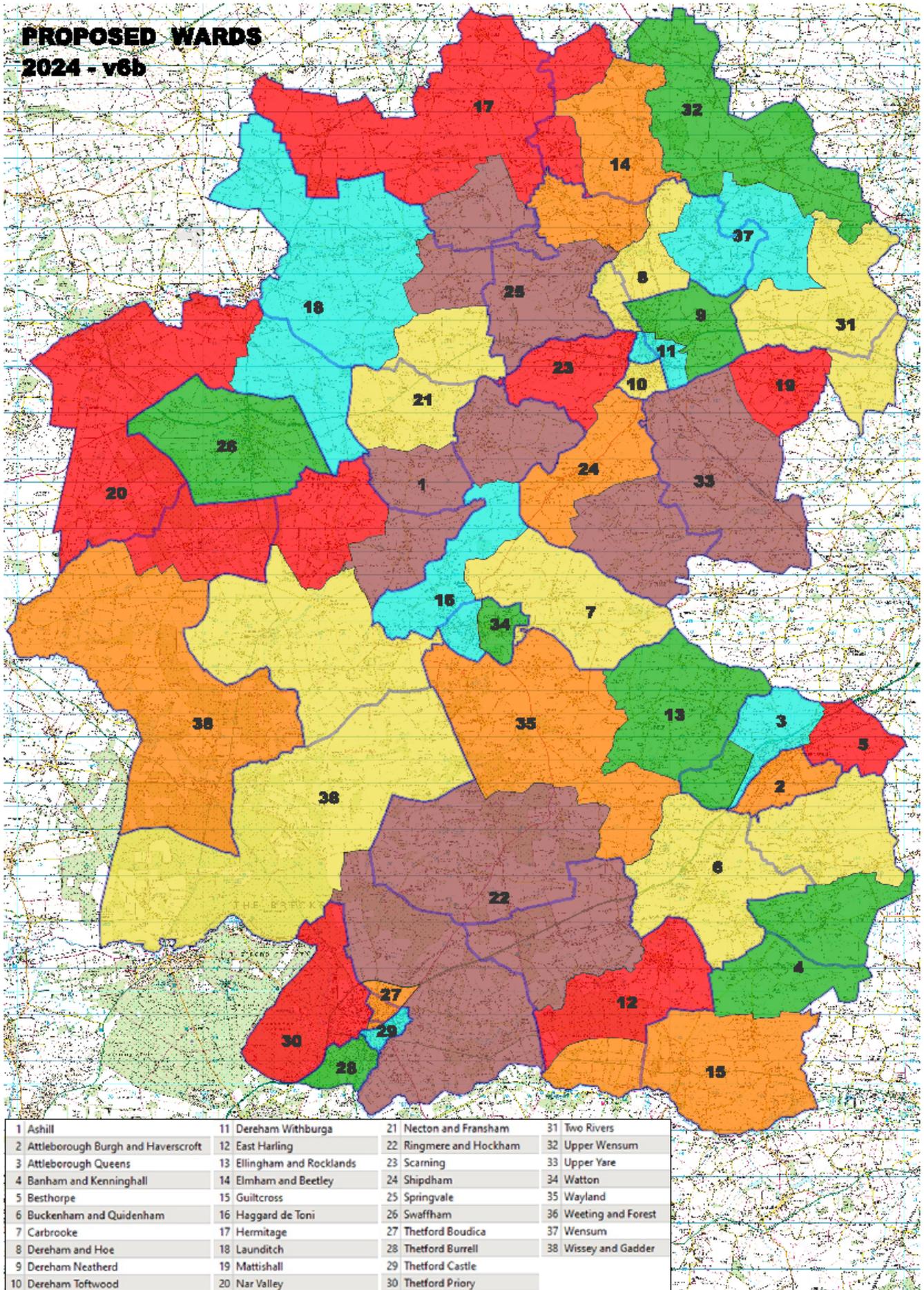
No.	Name of ward	Number of Cllrs per ward	Electorate 2023	Variance 2023	Electorate 2030	Variance 2030
1	Ashill	1	2,273	6%	2,428	5%
2	Attleborough Burgh & Haverscroft	2	4,122	-4%	4,418	-4%
3	Attleborough Queens	2	4,040	-6%	4,257	-8%
4	Banham & Kenninghall	1	1,986	-7%	2,140	-7%
5	Besthorpe	1	2,070	-3%	2,236	-3%
6	Buckenham & Quidenham	1	2,131	0%	2,281	-1%
7	Carbrooke	1	2,297	7%	2,423	5%
8	Dereham & Hoe	1	1,996	-7%	2,157	-6%
9	Dereham Neatherd	2	4,046	-5%	4,416	-4%
10	Dereham Toftwood	2	4,577	7%	4,874	6%
11	Dereham Withburga	2	4,508	5%	4,779	4%
12	East Harling	1	2,044	-5%	2,211	-4%
13	Ellingham & Rocklands	1	2,008	-6%	2,443	6%
14	Elmham & Beetley	1	2,343	9%	2,522	10%
15	Guiltcross	1	1,857	-13%	1,973	-14%
16	Haggard de Toni	2	4,257	-1%	4,597	0%
17	Hermitage	1	2,090	-2%	2,258	-2%
18	Launditch	1	2,163	1%	2,320	1%
19	Mattishall	1	2,292	7%	2,435	6%
20	Nar Valley	1	2,016	-6%	2,167	-6%
21	Necton & Fransham	1	2,138	0%	2,297	0%
22	Ringmere & Hockham	1	2,034	-5%	2,285	-1%
23	Scarning	1	2,148	0%	2,338	2%
24	Shipdham	1	1,859	-13%	2,091	-9%
25	Springvale	1	2,284	7%	2,470	7%
26	Swaffham	3	7,184	12%	7,509	9%
27	Thetford Boudica	2	4,614	8%	4,983	8%
28	Thetford Burrell	2	4,269	0%	4,608	0%
29	Thetford Castle	2	4,427	3%	4,772	4%
30	Thetford Priors	2	4,362	2%	4,698	2%
31	Two Rivers	1	2,033	-5%	2,194	-5%
32	Upper Wensum	1	1,882	-12%	2,011	-13%
33	Upper Yare	1	2,246	5%	2,419	5%
34	Watton	2	4,110	-4%	4,294	-7%
35	Wayland	1	2,133	0%	2,279	-1%
36	Weeting & Forest	1	2,051	-4%	2,208	-4%
37	Wensum	1	1,914	-11%	2,102	-9%
38	Wissey & Gadder	1	2,355	10%	2,536	10%
Total		51	109,159		117,429	

Polling district	Description of area	Parish ward	New Ward	Electorate 2023	Electorate 2030
AS1	Ashill		Ashill	1,246	1,332
NE1	Holme Hale		Ashill	433	458
SA1	Bradenham		Ashill	594	638
ATB1	Attleborough	Burgh & Haverscroft Ward	Attleborough Burgh & Haverscroft	2,126	2,293
ATB2	Attleborough	Burgh & Haverscroft Ward	Attleborough Burgh & Haverscroft	1,996	2,125
ATQ3	Attleborough	Queens Ward	Attleborough Queens	4,040	4,257
GU2	Kenninghall		Banham & Kenninghall	845	912
TB1	Banham		Banham & Kenninghall	1,141	1,228
ATQ1	Besthorpe		Besthorpe	643	694
ATQ2	Attleborough	Queens Ward	Besthorpe	1,427	1,542
AL13	Snetterton		Buckenham & Quidenham	176	187
AL7	Quidenham		Buckenham & Quidenham	412	443
TB2	New Buckenham		Buckenham & Quidenham	419	446
TB3	Old Buckenham		Buckenham & Quidenham	1,124	1,205
SA2	Carbrooke (East)		Carbrooke	472	503
SA2/1	Carbrooke (West)		Carbrooke	1,421	,478
SA3	Ovington		Carbrooke	211	228
SA5	Scoulton		Carbrooke	193	214
DEW1	Dereham	Withburga Ward	Dereham & Hoe	1,794	1,938
LI3	Hoe & Worthing		Dereham & Hoe	202	219
DEN1	Dereham	Neatherd Ward	Dereham Neatherd	4,046	4,416
DET1	Dereham	Toftwood Ward	Dereham Toftwood	926	971
DET2	Dereham	Toftwood Ward	Dereham Toftwood	3,651	3,903
DEN2	Dereham	Central East Ward	Dereham Withburga	1,937	2,034
DEW2	Dereham	Central West Ward	Dereham Withburga	2,571	2,745
HA2	Harling		East Harling	2,044	2,211
AL2	Great Ellingham (East)		Ellingham & Rocklands	1,139	1,504
AL2/1	Great Ellingham (West)	Queens Ward	Ellingham & Rocklands	76	83
AL3	Little Ellingham		Ellingham & Rocklands	187	210
AL8	Rocklands		Ellingham & Rocklands	606	646
LI1	Beetley		Elmham & Beetley	1,177	1,277
UP12	North Elmham		Elmham & Beetley	1,166	1,245
GU1	Blo Norton		Guiltcross	223	237
GU3	Garboldisham		Guiltcross	623	661
GU4	North Lopham		Guiltcross	552	594
GU5	South Lopham		Guiltcross	351	370
HA3	Riddlesworth		Guiltcross	108	111
SA4	Saham Toney		Haggard de Toni	1,333	1,443
WA1	Watton		Haggard de Toni	2,924	3,154
HE1	Colkirk		Hermitage	510	549
HE2	Horningtoft		Hermitage	122	138
HE4	Tittleshall		Hermitage	299	319
HE5	Weasenham All Saints		Hermitage	145	161
HE6	Weasenham St Peter		Hermitage	140	151
HE7	Wellingham		Hermitage	30	29
HE8	Whissonsett		Hermitage	398	430
HE9	Stanfield		Hermitage	127	137
UP4	Brisley		Hermitage	254	275
UP8	Gateley		Hermitage	65	69
LA3	Great Dunham		Launditch	288	301

LA4	Lexham		Launditch	109	115
LA5	Litcham		Launditch	498	533
LA6	Little Dunham		Launditch	244	263
LA7	Kempstone		Launditch	12	13
LA8	Newton By Castle Acre		Launditch	31	34
LA9	Rougham		Launditch	105	114
NA5	Sporle With Palgrave		Launditch	876	947
MA4	Mattishall		Mattishall	2,292	2,435
AS5	North Pickenham		Nar Valley	417	451
AS6	South Pickenham		Nar Valley	72	79
BE1	Cockley Cley		Nar Valley	112	123
NA1	Beachamwell		Nar Valley	298	318
NA2	Narford		Nar Valley	32	33
NA3	Narborough		Nar Valley	1,057	1,132
NA4	South Acre		Nar Valley	28	31
LA2	Fransham		Necton & Fransham	348	381
NE2	Necton		Necton & Fransham	1,790	1,916
AL12	Wretham		Ringmere & Hockham	337	360
AL5	Hockham		Ringmere & Hockham	554	712
FO1	Brettenham		Ringmere & Hockham	300	330
FO2	Croxton		Ringmere & Hockham	255	256
FO3	Kilverstone		Ringmere & Hockham	52	55
HA1	Bridgham		Ringmere & Hockham	289	308
HA4	Roudham & Larling		Ringmere & Hockham	247	264
SH2	Scarning		Scarning	2,148	2,338
SH3	Shipdham		Shipdham	1,859	2,091
HE3	Mileham		Springvale	521	556
LA1	Beeston with Bittering		Springvale	481	521
LI2	Gressenhall		Springvale	842	911
LI4	Longham		Springvale	201	218
LI6	Wendling		Springvale	239	264
SW1	Swaffham		Swaffham	3,458	3,555
SW2	Swaffham		Swaffham	3,726	3,954
TBO1	Thetford	Anne Bartholomew Ward	Thetford Boudica	963	1,031
TBO2	Thetford	Boudica Ward	Thetford Boudica	2,605	2,834
TICE1	Thetford	Iceni Ward	Thetford Boudica	362	380
TPR4	Thetford	Vicarage Road Ward	Thetford Boudica	684	738
TBU1	Thetford	Burrell Ward	Thetford Burrell	906	979
TBU2	Thetford	Burrell Ward	Thetford Burrell	2,064	2,219
TBU3	Thetford	Burrell Ward	Thetford Burrell	454	511
TBU4	Thetford	Burrell Ward	Thetford Burrell	845	899
TCA1	Thetford	Castle Ward	Thetford Castle	2,628	2,828
TCA2	Thetford	Castle Ward	Thetford Castle	1,799	1,944
TPR1	Thetford	Priory Ward	Thetford Priory	904	973
TPR2	Thetford	Priory Ward	Thetford Priory	2,043	2,198
TPR3	Thetford	Priory Ward	Thetford Priory	1,415	1,527
MA1	Tuddenham East		Two Rivers	413	449
UP10	Hockering		Two Rivers	656	707
UP11	Lyng		Two Rivers	678	721
UP13	Tuddenham North		Two Rivers	286	317
UP1	Bawdeswell		Upper Wensum	698	739
UP14	Sparham		Upper Wensum	237	264
UP15	Twyford		Upper Wensum	22	25
UP2	Billingford		Upper Wensum	194	203

UP3	Bintree	Upper Wensum	242	270
UP7	Foxley	Upper Wensum	287	302
UP9	Guist	Upper Wensum	202	208
MA2	Garvestone, Reymerstone & Thuxton	Upper Yare	604	637
MA3	Hardingham	Upper Yare	257	280
MA5	Whinburgh & Westfield	Upper Yare	317	350
MA6	Yaxham	Upper Yare	695	744
SH1	Cranworth	Upper Yare	373	408
WA2	Watton	Watton	4,110	4,294
AL1	Caston	Wayland	396	429
AL10	Stow Bedon & Breckles	Wayland	252	279
AL11	Thompson	Wayland	309	334
AL4	Griston	Wayland	709	740
AL6	Merton	Wayland	97	103
AL9	Shropham	Wayland	370	394
AS2	Great Cressingham	Weeting & Forest	221	240
AS3	Little Cressingham	Weeting & Forest	126	149
AS4	Hilborough	Weeting & Forest	160	161
FO4	Lynford	Weeting & Forest	96	107
FO5	Stanford	Weeting & Forest	9	9
FO6	Weeting with Broomhill	Weeting & Forest	1,439	1,542
LI5	Swanton Morley	Wensum	1,649	1,815
UP5	Bylaugh	Wensum	60	66
UP6	Elsing	Wensum	205	221
BE2	Cranwich	Wissey & Gadder	36	38
BE3	Didlington	Wissey & Gadder	30	30
BE4	Foulden	Wissey & Gadder	349	377
BE5	Gooderstone	Wissey & Gadder	313	345
BE6	Mundford	Wissey & Gadder	1,202	1,302
BE7	Ickburgh	Wissey & Gadder	222	230
BE8	Oxborough	Wissey & Gadder	203	214
		Total	109,159	117,429

Appendix 3 – Map of Proposed New Wards

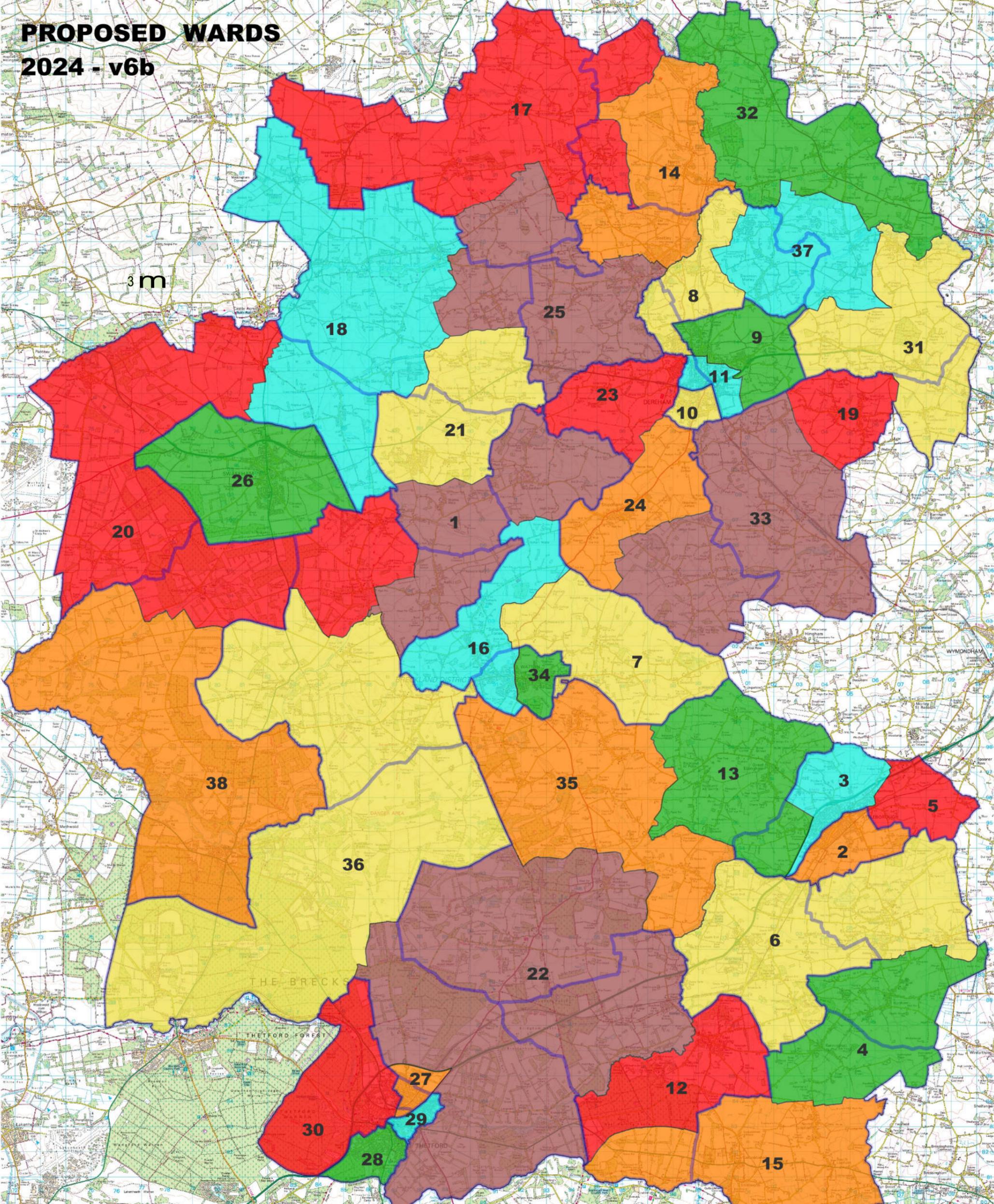


Appendix 4 – Alternative Ward Names

Ward Number	Working Name	Alternative Names
1	All Saints & Wayland	Templar, Wayland
2	Ashill	Ashill & The Pickenhams, Wissey
3	Attleborough Burgh & Haverscroft	Keep as is because the boundary has not significantly changed
4	Attleborough Queens	Keep as is because the boundary has not significantly changed
5	Banham & Kenninghall	Just two villages, East Guiltcross
6	Bedingfeld	Little change to the existing Ward, Conifer
7	Beetley & North Elmham	Just two villages, Taverner
8	Besthorpe	Single village
9	Buckenham & Quidenham	Little change to the existing Ward
10	Carbrooke	Single village, Templar
11	Dereham Humbletoft	Airfield, Dereham Humbletoft, Mid Norfolk Railway
12	Dereham Neatherd	Keep as is because the boundary has not significantly changed
13	Dereham Toftwood	Keep as is because the boundary has not significantly changed
14	Dereham Withburga	Keep as is because the boundary has not significantly changed
15	East Harling	Single village
16	Ellingham & Rocklands	All Saints, The Ellinghams, Upper Thet
17	Eynsford	Upper Wensum
18	Forest	Weeting & The Brecks, Weeting & Forest
19	Guiltcross	Little change to the existing Ward, West Guiltcross
20	Haggard de Toni	Haggard de Toni, Saham Mere, Watton West
21	Heathlands	Great Hockham & Ringmere, Heathland, Ringmere, The Heath, Upper Thet
22	Hermitage	Little change to the existing Ward
23	Launditch	Little change to the existing Ward
24	Mattishall	Single village
25	Nar Valley	Nar Valley
26	Necton & Fransham	Just two villages
27	Scarning	Single village
28	Shipdham	Single village
29	Springvale	Gressinghall & Litcham, Springvale, Lincoln
30	Swaffham	Clackclose, Mid Forest, South Greenhoe
31	Thetford Boudica	Keep as is because the boundary has not significantly changed
32	Thetford Burrell	Keep as is because the boundary has not significantly changed
33	Thetford Castle	Keep as is because the boundary has not significantly changed
34	Thetford Priory	Keep as is because the boundary has not significantly changed
35	Two Rivers	Two Rivers, Tudd Valley
36	Upper Yare	Blackwater, Mitford, Upper Yare, Yaxham
37	Watton	Airfield, Neaton, Watton, Watton East, Watton Green
38	Wensum	Wensum, Swanton Morley

PROPOSED WARDS

2024 - v6b



1 Ashill	11 Dereham Withburga	21 Necton and Fransham	31 Two Rivers
2 Attleborough Burgh and Haverscroft	12 East Hading	22 Ringmere and Hockham	32 Upper Wensum
3 Attleborough Queens	13 Ellingham and Rocklands	23 Seaming	33 Upper Yare
4 Banham and Kenninghall	14 Elmham and Beetley	24 Shipdham	34 Watton
5 Besthorpe	15 Guiltcross	25 Springvale	35 Wayland
6 Buckenham and Quidenham	16 Haggard de Toni	26 Swaffham	36 Weeting and Forest
7 Carbrooke	17 Hermitage	27 Thetford Boudica	37 Wensum
8 Dereham and Hoe	18 Launditch	28 Thetford Burrell	38 Wissey and Gadder
9 Dereham Neatherd	19 Mattishall	29 Thetford Castle	
10 Dereham Toftwood	20 Nar & Wissey Valley	30 Thetford Priory	

Breckland

Personal Details:

Name: Rory Ringer

Email: [REDACTED]

Postcode: [REDACTED]

Organisation Name: Democratic Services Manager (District or county officer)

Comment text:

Please see attached submission from Breckland District Council.

Attached Documents:

- brecklanddcsubmission.pdf