

New electoral arrangements for Norfolk County Council Final Recommendations

May 2021

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

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Introduction

Who we are and what we do

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

2 The members of the Commission are:

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

What is an electoral review?

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

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

4 When carrying out an electoral review the Commission has three main considerations:

- Improving electoral equality by equalising the number of electors that each councillor represents.
- Ensuring that the recommendations reflect community identity.
- Providing arrangements that support effective and convenient local government.

5 Our task is to strike the best balance between these three considerations when making our recommendations.

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

6 More detail regarding the powers that we have, as well as the further guidance and information about electoral reviews and review process in general, can be found on our website at www.lgbce.org.uk

Why Norfolk?

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

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

- The divisions in Norfolk are in the best possible places to help the Council carry out its responsibilities effectively.
- The number of voters represented by each councillor is approximately the same across the county.

Our proposals for Norfolk

9 Norfolk should be represented by 84 councillors, the same number as there are now.

10 Norfolk should have 84 divisions, the same number as there are now.

11 The boundaries of most divisions should change; 11 will stay the same.

How will the recommendations affect you?

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

13 Our recommendations cannot affect the external boundaries of the county or result in changes to postcodes. They do not take into account parliamentary constituency boundaries. The recommendations will not have an effect on local taxes, house prices, or car and house insurance premiums and we are not able to consider any representations which are based on these issues.

Review timetable

14 We wrote to the Council to ask its views on the appropriate number of councillors for Norfolk. We then held a period of consultation with the public on division patterns for the county. The submissions received during consultation have informed our draft recommendations.

15 The review is being conducted as follows:

Stage starts	Description
17 September 2019	Number of councillors decided
24 September 2019	Start of consultation seeking views on new divisions
24 March 2020	End of consultation; we began analysing submissions and forming draft recommendations
15 September 2020	Publication of draft recommendations; start of second consultation
23 November 2020	End of consultation; we began analysing submissions and forming final recommendations
11 May 2021	Publication of final recommendations

Analysis and final recommendations

16 Legislation² states that our recommendations should not be based only on how many electors³ there are now, but also on how many there are likely to be in the five years after the publication of our final recommendations. We must also try to recommend strong, clearly identifiable boundaries for our divisions.

17 Our initial review timetable for the Council scheduled the publication of final recommendations in 2020. The Council therefore provided us with electorate forecasts for 2026. While there has been a delay to the publication of these final recommendations as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic, we remain confident in the accuracy of the 2026 forecasts provided (see paragraphs 22-26 below) and have used them as the basis of our proposed divisions.

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

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

	2020	2026
Electorate of Norfolk	699,604	744,073
Number of councillors	84	84
Average number of electors per councillor	8,329	8,858

20 When the number of electors per councillor in a division is within 10% of the average for the authority, we refer to the division as having 'good electoral equality'. All but two of our proposed divisions for Norfolk will have good electoral equality by 2026.

Submissions received

21 See Appendix C for details of the submissions received or on our website at www.lgbce.org.uk

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

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

Electorate figures

22 The Council submitted electorate forecasts for 2025, a period five years on from the initial scheduled publication of our final recommendations in 2020. These forecasts were broken down to polling district level and predicted an increase in the electorate of around 6.3% by 2025.

23 During the first consultation on the division patterns, we received a representation from South Norfolk District Council which cited concerns about the electorate forecasts used as the basis for the electoral review. The District Council argued that significant developments up to 2025 had been omitted from the forecast electorate figures for South Norfolk.

24 In light of this information, we looked again at the figures provided and identified that the methodology used by the Council incorporated housing developments only up to the year 2023, although they had provided raw data up to 2025. The Council had explained that this was done to control against an optimism bias. However, the evidence from South Norfolk was sufficiently persuasive for us to ask the Council to revisit the methodological constraint and produce new figures that reflected development work beyond 2023.

25 We asked for these figures to be provided to us by early February 2020 and consequently we extended the consultation until 24 March 2020 to ensure interested parties could make submissions based on the updated figures. We are content that the updated forecast provided to us is accurate.

26 As a result of considerable delays caused by the Covid-19 outbreak, the review will now conclude in 2021. We have agreed with the Council that these figures remain an accurate forecast of local electors in 2026 and have therefore used them as the basis of our final recommendations.

Number of councillors

27 Norfolk County Council currently has 84 councillors. The Council proposed retaining a council size of 84. The Liberal Democrat Group on the Council and Councillor Kemp, an independent councillor, also proposed retaining the existing council size. All three submissions strongly suggested that the Commission maintain a pattern of single-member divisions, with the Executive Leader of the Council informing us that the Council passed a resolution to request the Commission conduct a single-councillor review.

28 We looked at all the evidence provided and concluded that a council size of 84 would ensure the Council could carry out its roles and responsibilities effectively, while also ensuring a good allocation of councillors between the constituent districts.

29 We therefore invited proposals for new patterns of divisions that would be represented by 84 councillors representing 84 single-councillor divisions.

Councillor allocation and coterminosity

30 A council size of 84 provides the following allocation between the district councils in the county. We have also listed the percentage of district wards that are wholly contained within our proposed divisions. We refer to this as coterminosity.

Authority	Allocation of councillors	Coterminosity
Breckland ⁴	12	52%
Broadland ⁵	13	74%
Great Yarmouth ⁶	9	47%
King's Lynn & West Norfolk ⁷	14	74%
North Norfolk ⁸	10	81%
Norwich ⁹	13	92%
South Norfolk ¹⁰	13	50%

Division boundaries consultation

31 We received 70 submissions in response to our consultation on division boundaries. These included county-wide proposals from the Norfolk County Council ('the Council'), the Liberal Democrats and the Norfolk County Council Labour Group ('the NCC Labour Group'). For the district of North Norfolk, we also received a proposal from North Norfolk District Council. The remainder of the submissions provided localised comments for division arrangements in particular areas of the county.

32 The Council requested that we draw up a pattern based solely on single-councillor divisions. We sought to reflect this request in the draft recommendations. We will only move away from this pattern of single-councillor divisions should we receive compelling evidence during consultation that an alternative pattern will better reflect our statutory criteria.

⁴ Coterminosity based on the final recommendations for Breckland District Council.

⁵ Coterminosity based on the final recommendations for Broadland District Council.

⁶ Coterminosity based on the final recommendations for Great Yarmouth Borough Council.

⁷ Coterminosity based on the final recommendations for Borough Council of King's Lynn & West Norfolk.

⁸ Coterminosity based on the final recommendations for North Norfolk District Council.

⁹ Coterminosity based on the final recommendations for Norwich City Council.

¹⁰ Coterminosity based on the final recommendations for South Norfolk District Council.

33 Our draft recommendations also took into account local evidence we received during the first consultation period. These submissions provided further evidence of community links and locally recognised boundaries. In some areas, we considered that the proposals for division arrangements did not provide for the best balance between our statutory criteria and so we identified alternative boundaries. We based our draft recommendations on a mixture of the proposals from all the schemes received and a number of other local comments, as well as including some of our own amendments.

34 Given the travel restrictions, and the social distancing, arising from the Covid-19 outbreak, there was a detailed virtual tour of Norfolk. This helped to clarify issues raised in submissions and assisted in the construction of the draft boundary recommendations.

Draft recommendations consultation

35 We received 104 submissions during consultation on our draft recommendations. These included a county-wide response from the Council with comments on all districts plus an alternative proposal for North Norfolk. We also received a county-wide response from Norfolk County Council Labour Group (‘the NCC Labour Group’) with comments on all districts plus an alternative proposal for South Norfolk. In addition, we got responses from the district councils of Breckland and King’s Lynn & West Norfolk, as well as from a number of councillors, parish and town councils and local residents. These submissions provided localised comments for division arrangements in particular areas of the county.

36 Our final recommendations are based on the draft recommendations with a modification to the division boundaries in the Breckland, Broadland, King’s Lynn & West Norfolk and South Norfolk areas based on the submissions received. We have also made a number of division name changes across the county.

Final recommendations

37 Our final recommendations are for 84 single-councillor divisions. We consider that our final recommendations will provide for good electoral equality while reflecting community identities and interests where we received such evidence during consultation.

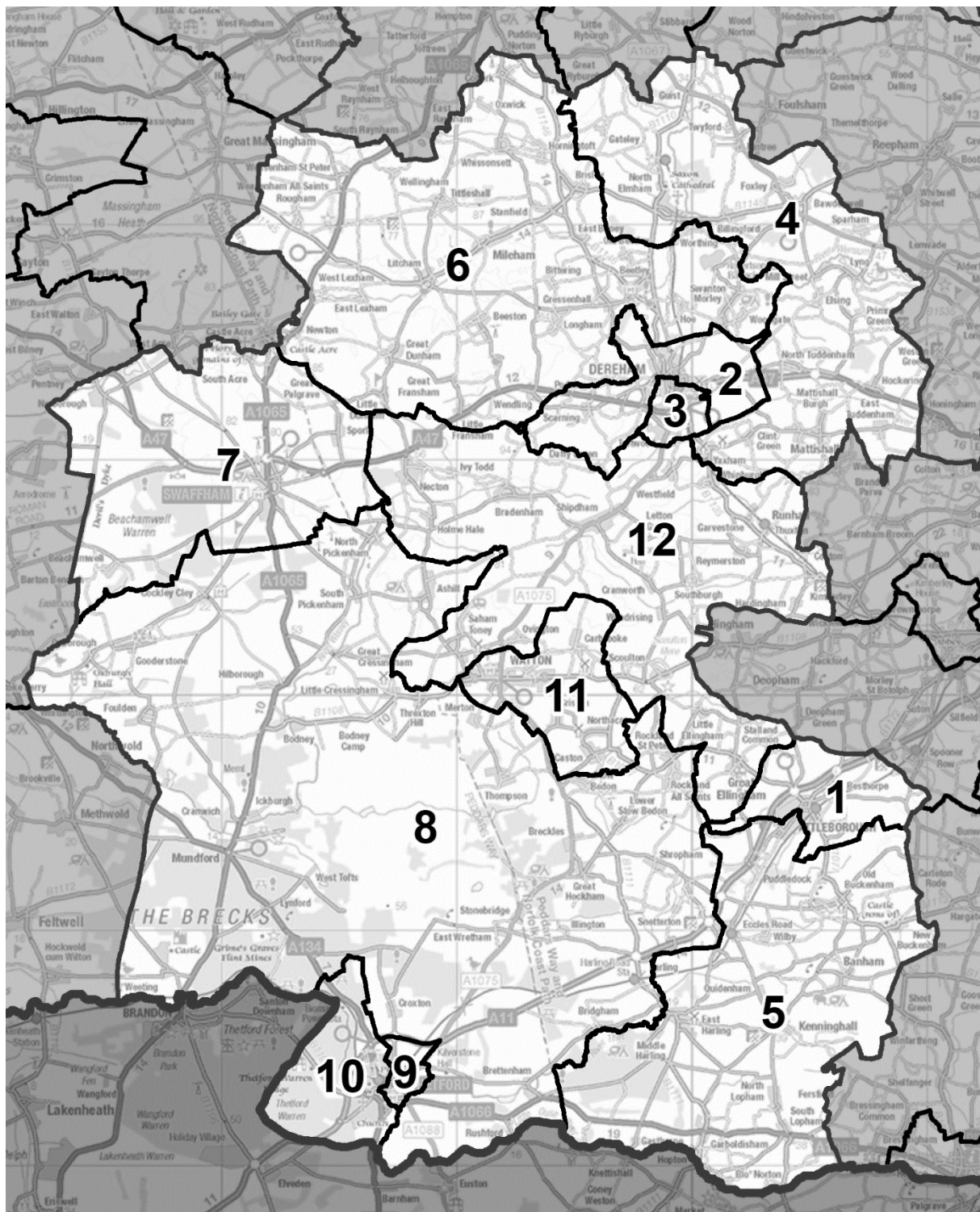
38 The tables and maps on pages 10–33 detail our final recommendations for each area of Norfolk. They detail how the proposed division arrangements reflect the three statutory¹¹ criteria of:

¹¹ Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009.

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

39 A summary of our proposed new divisions is set out in the table starting on page 43 and on the large map accompanying this report.

Breckland



Division number	Division name	Number of councillors	Variance 2026
1	Attleborough	1	6%
2	Dereham North & Scarning	1	-7%
3	Dereham South	1	9%
4	Elmham & Mattishall	1	-6%

5	Guiltcross	1	10%
6	Launditch	1	1%
7	Swaffham	1	2%
8	The Brecks	1	12%
9	Thetford East	1	-9%
10	Thetford West	1	4%
11	Watton	1	9%
12	Yare & Necton	1	9%

Whole District

40 We received 23 submissions relating to Breckland District from Norfolk County Council ('the Council'), Norfolk County Council Labour Group ('the NCC Labour Group'), Breckland District Council ('BDC'), plus local councillors, parish councils and local residents. Almost all the submissions related to the Thetford area.

Thetford East, Thetford West and The Brecks

41 The Council supported these three proposed divisions with the exception of the name of Thetford East which they proposed be named Heathlands & Thetford East.

42 The remaining submissions from Breckland District Council, the NCC Labour Group, Councillors Jermy and Kybird, the parish councils of Brettenham & Kilverstone, Croxton and Roudham & Larling, plus 11 local residents, were all opposed to the proposal to create two Thetford divisions that contained part of Thetford town along with rural parishes.

43 All of the submissions opposing our draft proposals in this area argued that the rural parishes neighbouring Thetford saw their community as lying with other parishes rather than the town, including for schooling. It was argued that children in the rural parishes surrounding Thetford use Old Buckenham for schooling rather than the town itself.

44 All of these submissions also raised the Thetford Sustainable Urban Extension (SUE). This relates to a large housing development known as the Kingsfleet development that covers an area between the current northmost extent of Thetford and the A11 Dual Carriageway.¹²

45 With the development's close proximity and likely community ties to Thetford, the submissions all suggest that this development area should be included in one of two Thetford divisions and that the rural parishes of Brettenham & Kilverstone,

¹² The development area is currently part of Croton parish but has been subject to a Community Governance Review (CGR) by Breckland District Council that proposes to move the area into the parish of Thetford from 2023.

Bridgham and Roudham & Larling be included in a wholly rural division, along with the rural part of Croxton north of the development area.

46 We received an alternative proposal for the two Thetford divisions from the NCC Labour Group and a submission with two proposals from Councillor Jermy, the first of which was identical to the Labour Group submission.

47 Having carefully considered the submissions received, we have been persuaded that the evidence submitted in relation to the community identities in this area justifies a redrawing of the Thetford divisions to exclude the rural parishes.

48 Therefore, we propose a Thetford East division that extends north to include the development area between Thetford and the A11, alongside the existing Breckland District Council wards of Boudica and Castle. We also propose to include the Thetford Town Council ward of Vicarage Road that is currently part of the Breckland District Council ward of Thetford Priory.

49 Our proposed Thetford West division contains the Breckland District Council ward of Thetford Burrell and the remainder of the BDC Thetford Priory ward.

50 A number of the submissions suggested that the rural parishes we had proposed to be included in our Thetford divisions be included in the Guiltcross division. However, this proposal results in very poor electoral equality, creating a Guiltcross division with an electoral variance of 24% by 2026.

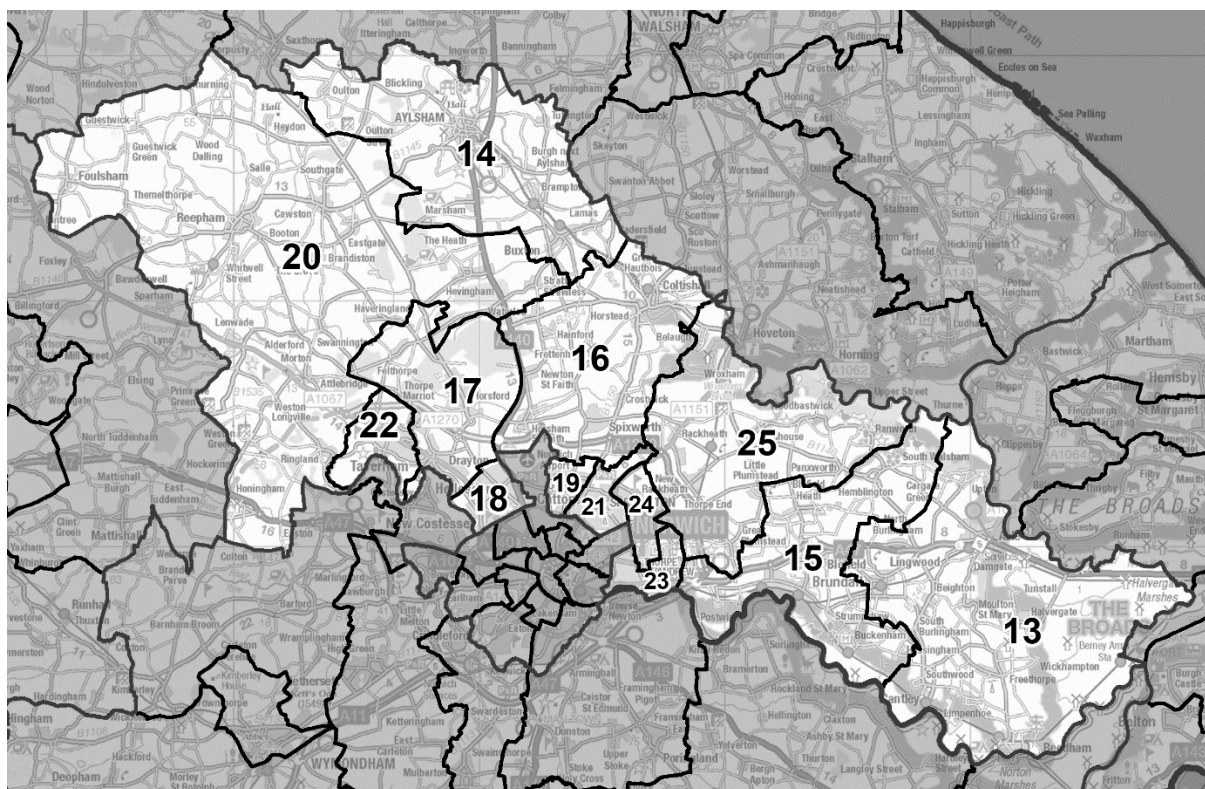
51 We therefore propose instead to include the parishes of Brettenham & Kilverstone, Bridgham and Roudham & Larling as well as the remainder of Croxton parish in The Brecks division. While this means that The Brecks division would have an electoral variance of 12%, we consider that this is justifiable given the strong evidence related to community identity and effective and convenient local government that we received regarding these parishes.

Attleborough, Dereham North & Scarning, Dereham South, Elmham & Mattishall, Guiltcross, Launditch, Swaffham, Watton and Yare & Necton

52 The Council supported the proposals for the remainder of the district. Councillor Borrett wrote in support of the divisions of Elmham & Mattishall and Launditch. We received one submission from a local resident objecting to our proposal to divide the town of Attleborough between divisions. In our view, this submission did not provide an alternative division pattern with acceptable levels of electoral equality given that the town of Attleborough is too large to be covered by a single councillor.

53 We therefore confirm our draft recommendations as final for these divisions. These nine divisions all have good electoral equality for Norfolk by 2026.

Broadland



Division number	Division name	Number of councillors	Variance 2026
13	Acle	1	-6%
14	Aylsham	1	-5%
15	Blofield & Brundall	1	1%
16	Coltishall & Spixworth	1	-6%
17	Drayton & Horsford	1	1%
18	Hellesdon	1	8%
19	Old Catton	1	-4%
20	Reepham	1	-6%
21	Sprowston	1	7%
22	Taverham	1	-12%
23	Thorpe St Andrew	1	0%
24	Woodside	1	-7%
25	Wroxham	1	-5%

Whole District

54 Of the 10 submissions we received for Broadland, Norfolk County Council ('the Council') and Norfolk County Council Labour Group ('the NCC Labour Group') supported the proposed divisions. Four parish councils and one local resident made objections to parts of the draft recommendations. Two parish councils and one local resident supported parts of the proposals.

Aylsham, Drayton & Horsford, Hellesdon, Reepham and Taverham

55 In relation to these five divisions, the Council and the NCC Labour Group gave their full support. Attlebridge Parish Meeting and Weston Longville Parish Council did not support the inclusion of Attlebridge parish in Taverham division. Felthorpe Parish Council objected to their inclusion in Taverham division, stating that all their community ties were with Horsford in the Drayton & Horsford division.

56 This evidence received from these parishes demonstrated that Attlebridge, Morton on the Hill and Weston Longville share many community facilities, including a shared village hall and shared faith facilities. The parishes also demonstrated that they are all part of a large parish grouping and have a shared parish plan which would be assisted by the three parishes sharing the same county councillor. In their submission, Felthorpe Parish Council cited the shared community interests with Horsford, including medical services, schools, shops and a post office as well as a shared community outdoor space around Houghen Plantation.

57 Having considered these submissions, we propose to include Attlebridge parish in Reepham division as suggested by Weston Longville Parish Council and Attlebridge Parish Meeting. We also propose to include Felthorpe parish in Drayton & Horsford division as suggested by Felthorpe Parish Council.

58 This proposal will mean that Taverham division has 12% fewer electors than the average for the county by 2026. However, we considered that the arguments regarding community identity received from Attlebridge, Felthorpe and Weston Longville parishes were sufficiently compelling to justify this electoral variance.

59 The other four divisions in this area have good electoral equality compared with the average for the county by 2026.

Acle, Blofield & Brundall, Coltishall & Spixworth and Wroxham

60 As well as the support for these divisions from the Council and the NCC Labour Group, we also received support for the Acle division from Acle and Upton with Fishley parish councils. We received a submission from Wroxham Parish Council objecting to our draft recommendations that placed Wroxham parish and Coltishall parish in different divisions. We looked at whether we could identify a division pattern that placed the two parishes in the same division, but we could not identify a pattern that provided acceptable levels of electoral equality for the area given the increase in electorate in Broadland.

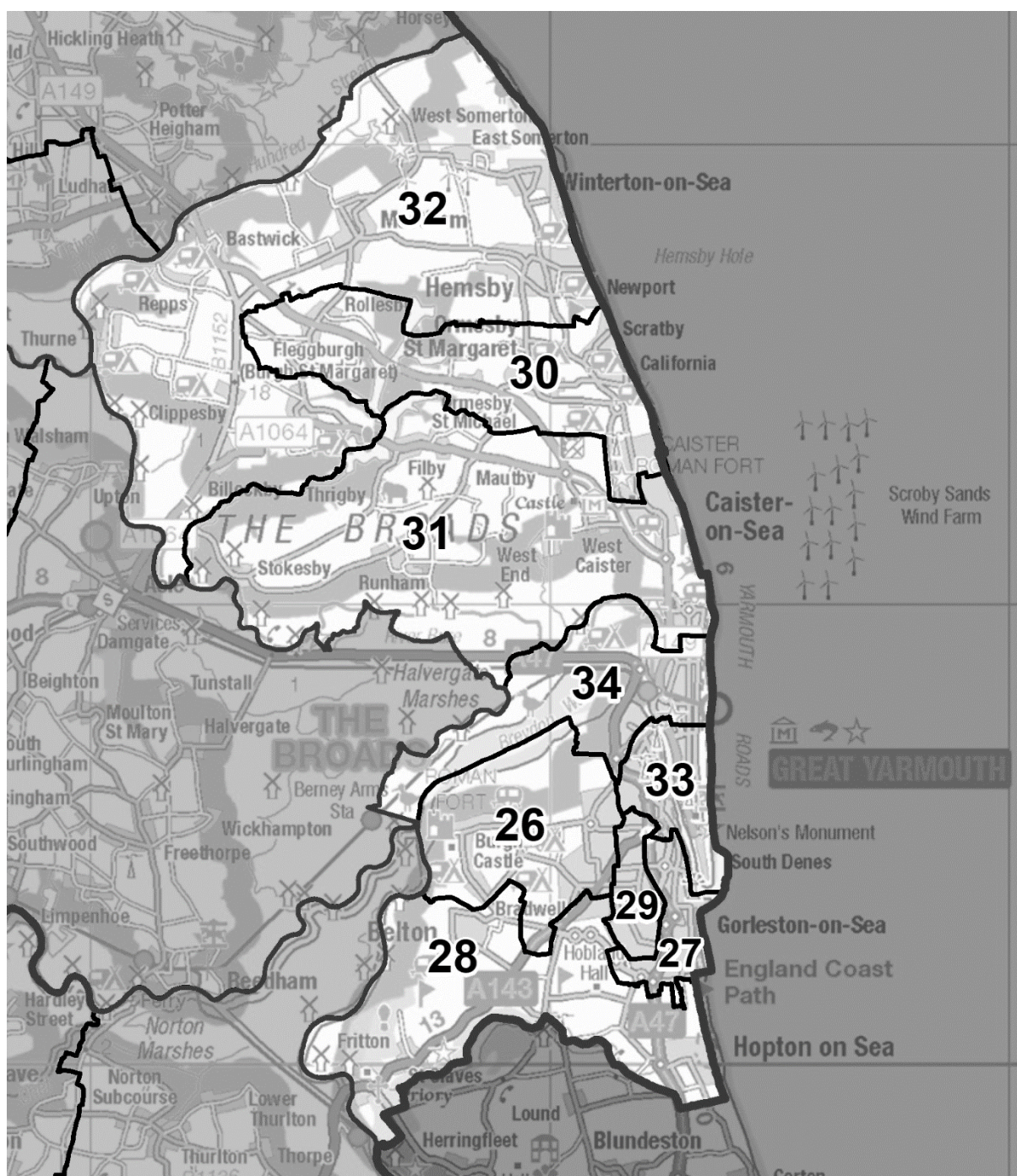
61 Our final recommendations for these divisions are as proposed by our draft recommendations. These four divisions have good electoral equality by 2026.

Old Catton, Sprowston, Thorpe St Andrew and Woodside

62 Alongside the submissions from the Council and the NCC Labour Group supporting the draft recommendations for these divisions, we received one submission from a local resident supporting the proposals in the Old Catton and Sprowston area.

63 We therefore confirm our draft recommendations as final in this area. These four divisions have good electoral equality by 2026.

Great Yarmouth



Division number	Division name	Number of councillors	Variance 2026
26	Breydon	1	-6%
27	Gorleston	1	-8%
28	Lothingland	1	-3%
29	Magdalen	1	-3%
30	North Caister & Ormesby	1	-9%
31	South Caister & Bure	1	-9%

32	The Fleggs	1	-2%
33	Yarmouth Nelson & Southtown	1	-7%
34	Yarmouth North & Central	1	-6%

Whole District

64 We received seven submissions in relation to this district from the Norfolk County Council ('the Council'), Norfolk County Council Labour Group ('the NCC Labour Group'), Councillor Castle, two parish councils and two local residents. The Council and the NCC Labour Group both supported the draft recommendations for Great Yarmouth with the Council suggesting two name changes. Councillor Castle supported the proposals for Great Yarmouth town and suggested a name change. The other submissions made comments specific to smaller areas.

North Caister & Ormesby, South Caister & Bure and The Fleggs

65 The submission from the Council supported the draft recommendations for these three divisions, as did the submission from the NCC Labour Group. The Council suggested that to fully reflect the communities within the divisions, North Flegg be renamed The Fleggs and Bure be renamed South Caister & Bure.

66 Stokesby with Herringby Parish Council stated in their submission that they objected to being included in Bure division and not North Flegg division. However, they did not suggest an alternative that would facilitate this arrangement and provide for reasonable levels of electoral equality for those two divisions. In carefully considering the submission, we were unable to identify an alternative arrangement. A local resident also objected to the division of Caister between divisions and another to the proposals for Hemsby parish. Neither suggested alternative proposals for these areas.

67 Having considered these submissions, we confirm our draft recommendations as final, subject to changing the name of Bure division to South Caister & Bure and North Flegg division to The Fleggs, as suggested by the Council.

68 Our final recommendations provide good electoral equality for these three divisions by 2026.

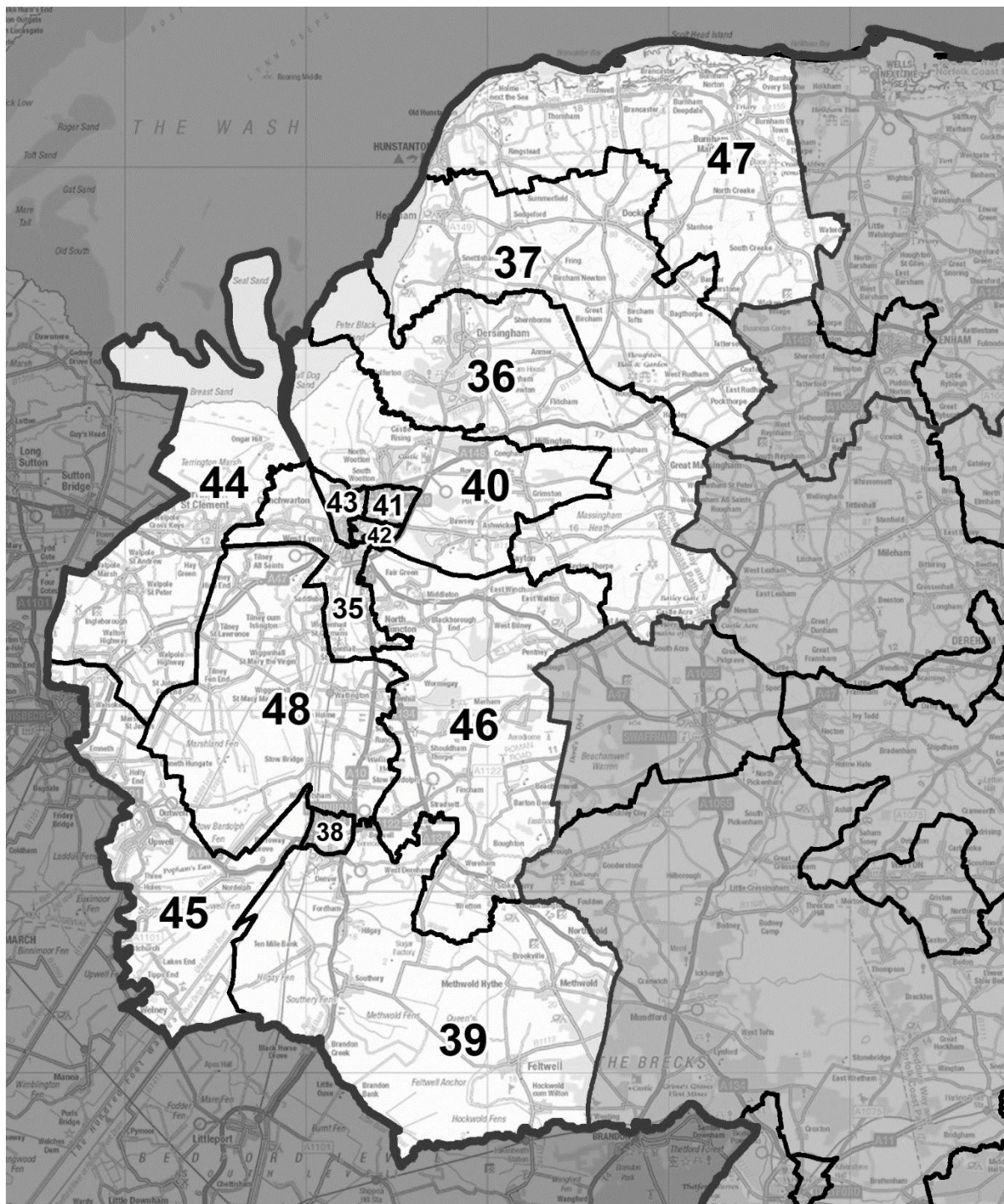
Breydon, Gorleston, Lothingland, Magdalen, Yarmouth Nelson & Southtown and Yarmouth North & Central

69 The Council and the NCC Labour Group both supported the draft recommendations for these six divisions. Councillor Castle supported the proposed divisions but suggested that the name Yarmouth Nelson & Southtown was more appropriate for the division we had named Yare. The councillor stated that Yarmouth currently has two divisions called Yarmouth Nelson & Southtown and Yarmouth North & Central and changing the name of one to Yare could cause confusion with

the similarly named Yare & Necton division elsewhere in the county. The other submission that referred to this area was from Bradwell Parish Council and was supportive of the draft recommendations.

70 Our final recommendations for these divisions are as proposed under our draft recommendations, with the exception of the renaming of Yare division to Yarmouth Nelson & Southtown as proposed by Councillor Castle. These six divisions all have good electoral equality by 2026.

King's Lynn & West Norfolk



Division number	Division name	Number of councillors	Variance 2026
35	Clenchwarton & King's Lynn South	1	-1%
36	Dersingham	1	3%
37	Docking	1	5%
38	Downham Market	1	3%
39	Feltwell	1	-2%

40	Freebridge Lynn	1	5%
41	Gaywood North & Central	1	9%
42	Gaywood South	1	3%
43	King's Lynn North & Central	1	4%
44	Marshland North	1	-2%
45	Marshland South	1	7%
46	Nar & Wissey Valleys	1	6%
47	North Coast	1	2%
48	Watlington & The Fens	1	5%

Whole District

71 We received 20 submissions that related to the King's Lynn and West Norfolk area. The submissions from Norfolk County Council ('the Council'), Norfolk County Council Labour Group ('the NCC Labour Group') and King's Lynn & West Norfolk Borough Council commented on the proposals across the district. The remaining submissions provided localised comments on particular areas.

Dersingham, Docking, Freebridge Lynn and North Coast

72 The Council and the NCC Labour Group supported the draft recommendations for these four divisions, which were based on the submission from the Council. King's Lynn & West Norfolk Borough Council also supported the proposals for these divisions, noting that whilst Dersingham division stretched from one side of the borough to the other, it was the only viable solution identified.

73 Leziate Parish Council objected to being included in a division that did not contain Gayton, East Winch and Middleton parishes, as well as maintaining their connections with Bawsey parish. We carefully considered whether we could include Leziate and Bawsey parishes in Airfield division with East Winch and Middleton. However, this would result in Airfield division having a variance of 14%. Adding Gayton parish would produce a variance of 21%. Equally, including the parishes of East Winch, Gayton and Middleton in Freebridge Lynn would result in a variance of 25% for that division and a variance of -17% for Airfield division. We do not consider that we have received evidence that would justify this level of electoral inequality.

74 The other submissions that referred to these four divisions were from a number of parish councils. Congham Parish Council expressed a preference to be in a Gayton & Nar Valley division along with Gayton, Grimston and Roydon parishes, stating that they had no connections to Dersingham. A submission from Sandringham Parish Council objected to any inclusion in a Wootton division and did not support the inclusion of Snettisham parish in Docking division. Having considered these submissions, we propose that Snettisham parish remains in Docking division, as to remove it would create electoral variances of -21% and 29% in Docking and Dersingham divisions, respectively. However, we do propose to

move Congham parish to the Freebridge Lynn division to restore its ties with Grimston and Roydon parishes. We considered whether we could also include Gayton parish, but we were unable to identify a pattern of divisions that would do this and provide for electoral equality in the area.

75 Our final recommendations for these divisions are identical to our draft recommendations, with the exception of the transfer of Congham parish from Dersingham division to Freebridge Lynn division. All four divisions have good electoral equality by 2026.

Clenchwarton & King's Lynn South, Gaywood North & Central, Gaywood South and King's Lynn North & Central

76 In response to our proposals for these four divisions, we received a number of submissions regarding the West Winch and Setchey area of Clenchwarton & King's Lynn South division. These included a number of responses from local residents, some of whom are also members of West Winch Parish Council, as well as a submission from Councillor Kemp, the county councillor for the division. These submissions primarily objected to a proposal by the Council to continue to support the division of West Winch parish and the exclusion of Setchey from this division. We noted that while this may have been a proposal considered by the Council, their submission to the Commission as part of this consultation in fact supported the maintenance of Setchey in a division with West Winch village.

77 In other submissions relating to these divisions, Councillor Kemp reiterated her support for the Clenchwarton & King's Lynn South division. King's Lynn & West Norfolk Borough Council and NCC Labour Group supported the divisions across the borough including these divisions. Councillor Bambridge, a borough councillor for St Margaret's with St Nicholas ward, did not support the proposal for King's Lynn North & Central division. Our draft recommendations had included one polling district from that ward within Gaywood South division, while another had been placed within Clenchwarton & King's Lynn South division. Councillor Kemp argued that this would mean that the ward councillor for St Margaret's with St Nicholas would have to deal with electors who were part of three different electoral divisions, a situation that would not provide convenient and effective local government for those electors.

78 The Council provided revised division figures that suggested that they agreed with this argument and that this issue should be resolved by including these electors wholly in King's Lynn North & Central division. The text of their submission, however, did not make reference to this. We sought clarification from the Council who confirmed that this was their intention.

79 When consulting on our draft proposals, we acknowledged that our proposals did not provide ideal coterminosity for electors in the south of central King's Lynn town but did reflect the community identity of electors in Setchey. We asked for

specific comments on this division and having considered the evidence received, we propose to make a small amendment to the boundaries of Clenchwarton & King's Lynn South, Gaywood South and King's Lynn North & Central.

80 We propose to include the two polling districts either side of the B1144 Goodwins Road in our King's Lynn North & Central division. This provides coterminosity for those electors and ensures that St Margaret's with St Nicholas ward is wholly contained within a single division. We propose no other changes to the division.

81 Our final recommendations for these four divisions are therefore identical to those proposed under our draft recommendations, with the exception of the small modification detailed in the previous paragraph. These four divisions have good electoral equality by 2026.

Downham Market, Feltwell, Marshland North, Marshland South, Nar & Wissey Valleys and Watlington & The Fens

82 In response to the draft recommendations in this area, we received a slightly revised proposal from the Council. We also received a submission from a local resident objecting to the exclusion of Marshland St James parish from a Marshland division.

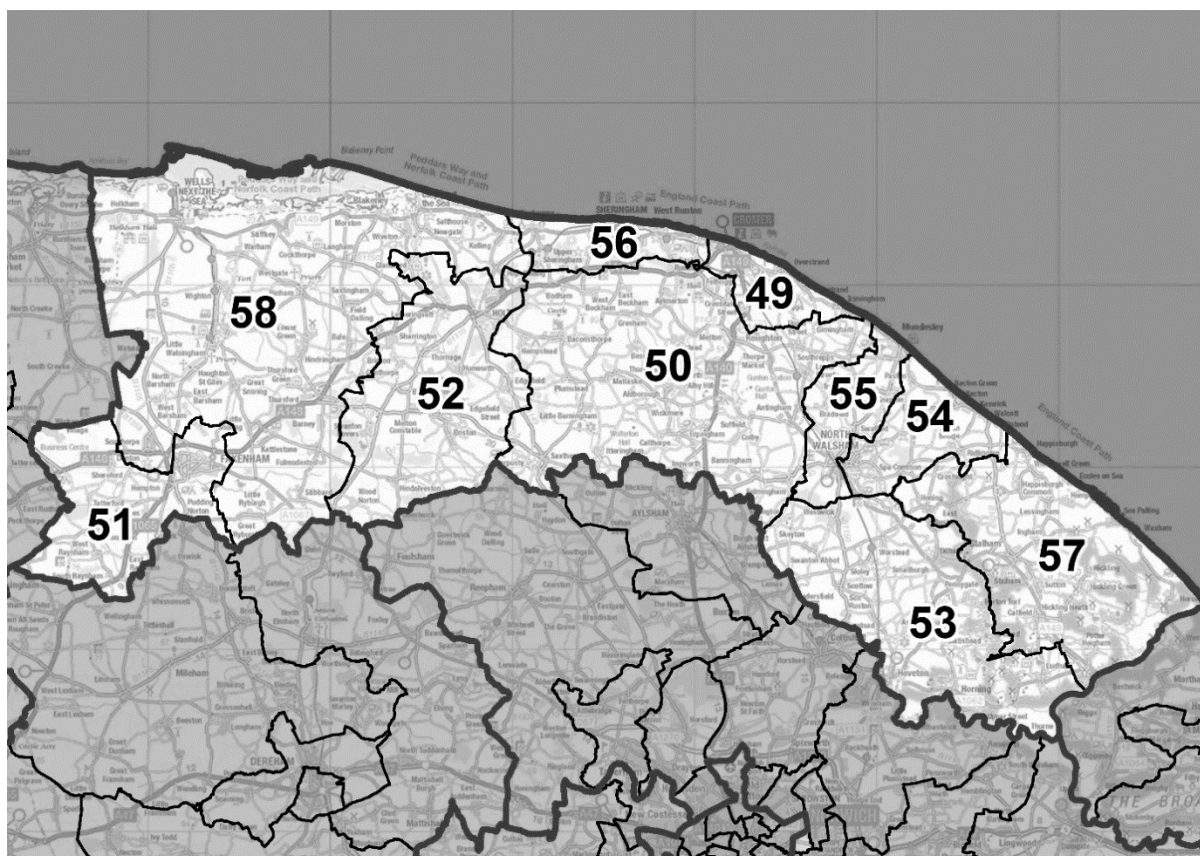
83 The Council proposed to include the parishes of Stoke Ferry and Wretton in a renamed Nar & Wissey Valley division (named Airfield in our draft recommendations) and the parish of West Dereham in Feltwell division. They also proposed to include the parish of Downham West in Marshland South division, divide Walsoken parish between Marshland North and Marshland South, and rename Watlington & Wiggshall to Watlington & The Fens. The Council argued that all of these suggested changes are based on the community identity of the electors affected and provide good electoral equality.

84 Having considered the evidence submitted, we propose to accept all of the Council's suggestions with the exception of the split of Walsoken parish. We received support from King's Lynn & West Norfolk Borough Council for uniting Walsoken parish at the draft recommendations stage. Their submission stated that the parish of Walsoken had enquired whether the current split of the parish between electoral divisions could be removed. Having considered the evidence, we are of the view that the parish of Walsoken is not required to be divided between divisions to provide for good levels of electoral equality and therefore we do not propose to divide it unnecessarily. We agree that the other changes suggested by the Council reflect community identities and interests in this area. We also agree that the suggested name changes made by the borough council better reflect the areas in question. Finally, we considered the resident's objection to the exclusion of

Marshland St James from a Marshland division, but we were unable to identify an alternative division pattern that provided for good levels of electoral equality.

85 Our final recommendations for these six divisions are for unchanged Downham Market and Marshland North divisions. Our final recommendations for Feltwell, Marshland South, Nar & Wissey Valleys and Watlington & The Fens divisions are amended as suggested by the Council, including the name changes, but with the exception of the split of Walsoken parish. All six divisions provide good electoral equality by 2026.

North Norfolk



Division number	Division name	Number of councillors	Variance 2026
49	Cromer	1	0%
50	Erpingham	1	-9%
51	Fakenham & The Raynhams	1	5%
52	Holt	1	-4%
53	Hoveton	1	-3%
54	North Walsham East	1	-9%
55	North Walsham West & Mundesley	1	-7%
56	Sheringham	1	4%
57	Stalham	1	1%
58	Wells	1	2%

Whole District

86 Norfolk County Council ('the Council') did not support the draft recommendations for North Norfolk and submitted a revised proposal, similar but not identical to their submission during the division arrangements consultation. The Norfolk County Council Labour Group ('the NCC Labour Group') supported the proposals for North Norfolk. Councillor Price wrote in support of the revised pattern from the Council. Councillor Heinrich made a submission concerning the North Walsham area and Councillor Strong made a submission about the Wells division.

We also received submissions from four parish councils, all within the proposed Wells division, with concerns about the size of that proposed division.

Fakenham & The Raynhams, Holt and Wells

87 The Council proposed to move the coastal parishes of Cley next the Sea, Kelling, Salthouse and Wiveton from our suggested Wells division to Holt division. Under the Council's proposal, Holt division would also include Weybourne parish from our proposed Sheringham division, as well as Baconsthorpe, Bodham and Hempstead, which we proposed to include in Erpingham division. To allow for electoral equality in their proposed Holt division, the Council proposed to include Briston parish in Eynsford division. The Council also proposed to rename Wells division to Greenhoe and Fakenham division to Fakenham & The Raynhams. The Council's submission acknowledged that their proposed Greenhoe division was an attempt to create a division with the minimum number of electors but still facilitating an electoral variance within 10% variance of the average for the county.

88 The submissions from Holkham, Morston and Warham parish councils were all concerned with the overall increase in the number of parishes in the Wells division and suggested the parishes of Fulmodeston, Kettlestone, Ryburgh and Stibbard should not be included in the division. Wells-next-the-Sea Town Council also made this same suggestion in their submission while supporting our inclusion of the coastal parishes of Cley next the Sea, Kelling, Salthouse and Wiveton in Wells division. Councillor Strong also supported the inclusion of the coastal parishes in Wells division, as well as strongly supporting the name of the division. Councillor Strong did have concerns about the number of parishes within the division, as well as the number of non-electors, such as second homeowners and non-resident business owners.

89 Having considered the submissions received, we are convinced by the arguments regarding the community ties of the coastal parishes made by North Norfolk District Council ('NNDC') in the previous consultation stage and supported by Councillor Strong and Wells-next-the-Sea Town Council. We therefore propose to retain them in Wells division. We have also retained the suggested name of the Wells division given the support we have received for this proposal.

90 While noted that the submission from the Council did make reference to the community identities of these parishes, we considered that the Council had primarily based their submission on an assumption that the primary driver of the review outcome should be electoral equality. Having carefully considered their proposal, we did not take the view that their submission provided for a better balance of our three statutory criteria than the submission from North Norfolk District Council on which we based our draft recommendations. In relation to Councillor Strong's point regarding non-electors, we are only able to take into account electors forecast to register to vote as part of an electoral review.

91 Our final recommendations for these three divisions are therefore as proposed under our draft recommendations, with the exception of renaming Fakenham division to Fakenham & The Raynhams, which we agree better reflects the communities within that division. Our three divisions have good electoral equality by 2026.

Cromer, Erpingham and Sheringham

92 The Council's revised proposals for these divisions included Antingham, Felmingham and Suffield in an Erpingham division along with Briston parish (as discussed in paragraph 87), which they proposed to rename Eynsford. The Council did not provide supporting evidence for the reallocation of Antingham, Felmingham and Suffield parishes, but we noted that this proposed arrangement facilitated the Council's revised division pattern in the North Walsham area (see paragraph 96). As mentioned in paragraph 87, the Council also proposed to move Weybourne parish from our proposed Sheringham division and Baconsthorpe, Bodham and Hempstead from Erpingham division to facilitate their proposed Holt division.

93 Having considered this revised pattern, we have not been persuaded to adopt it as part of our final recommendations. We do not consider the proposal reflects a better balance of our three statutory criteria. We have also not been persuaded that the name Eynsford would better reflect the communities in our proposed Erpingham division. As with the divisions of Cromer, Holt, Sheringham and Wells, Erpingham has been named for the largest settlement within the division.

94 We therefore confirm the draft recommendations for these three divisions as final. They have good electoral equality for the Norfolk average by 2026.

Hoveton, North Walsham East, North Walsham West & Mundesley and Stalham

95 The Council's revised proposal for these four divisions restated their submission from the previous consultation for a Hoveton & Stalham division. This division included Stalham and Sutton parishes, which we had proposed to include in a Stalham division. The Council also suggested including Horning and Ludham parishes in a Happing division with most of the remainder of our proposed Stalham division, and included the parishes of Skeyton, Swanton Abbott, Westwick and Worstead with North Walsham.

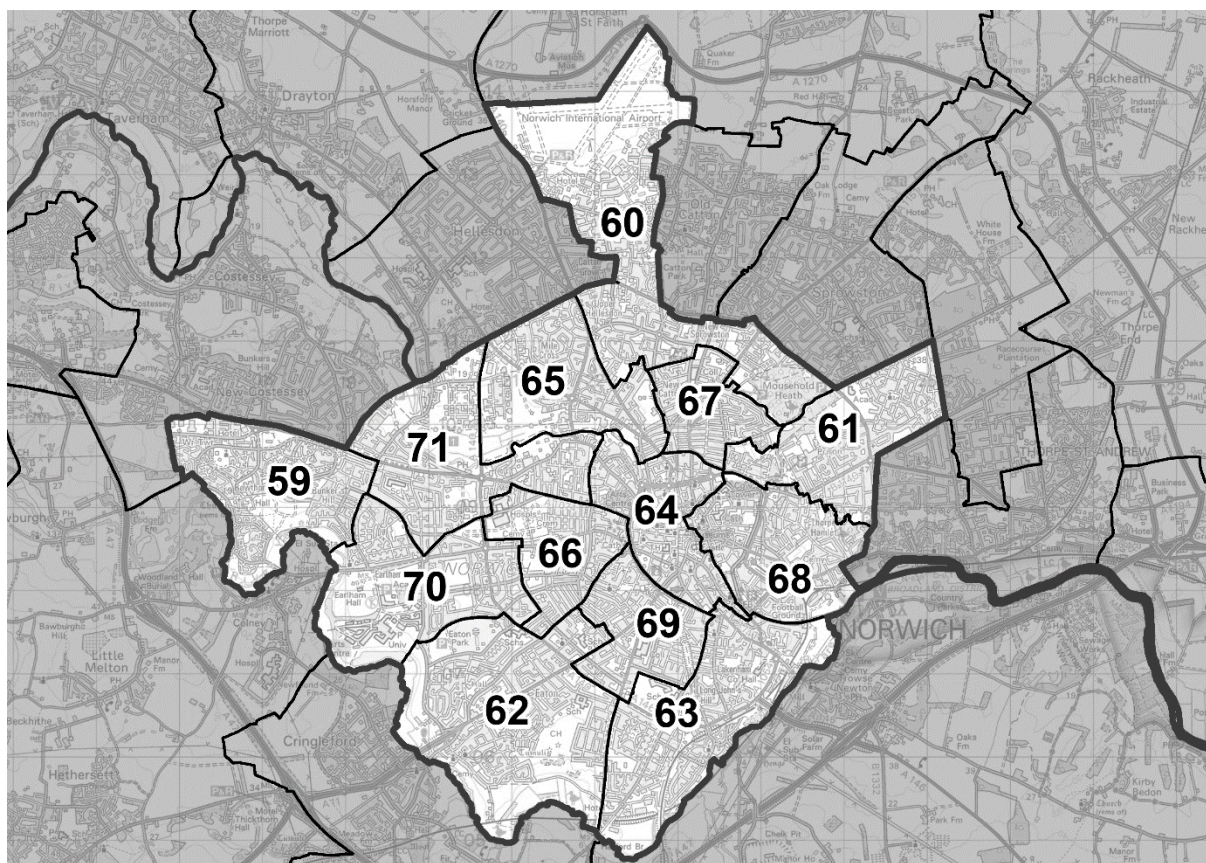
96 The Council's proposals for North Walsham included two divisions. The North Walsham East division included the four parishes mentioned at the end of the paragraph above, along with the areas that make up the NNDC wards of North Walsham East and North Walsham Market Cross, as well as part of the NNDC ward of North Walsham West. The Council's proposed North Walsham West & Mundesley division comprised much of the remainder of the NNDC ward of North Walsham West, plus the wards of Trunch and Mundesley and the parishes of Paston and Bacton, with the parishes of Walcott and Witton included in its proposed Happing

division. Councillor Price, the county councillor, supported a proposal similar to the Council's Happing division.

97 We gave very careful consideration to this alternative division pattern, but on balance we have not been persuaded to adopt it as part of our final recommendations. We are of the view that the draft recommendations provide for a better overall balance in our statutory criteria. The draft recommendations proposed a pattern of divisions that better reflected the NNDC wards in the area, providing for more convenient and effective local government for those electors.

98 Our final recommendations for these four divisions are as proposed under the draft recommendations and provide for good electoral equality in 2026.

Norwich



Division number	Division name	Number of councillors	Variance 2026
59	Bowthorpe	1	4%
60	Catton Grove	1	-4%
61	Crome	1	-4%
62	Eaton	1	-7%
63	Lakenham	1	-9%
64	Mancroft	1	8%
65	Mile Cross	1	-6%
66	Nelson	1	3%
67	Sewell	1	-7%
68	Thorpe Hamlet	1	-1%
69	Town Close	1	-3%
70	University	1	9%
71	Wensum	1	5%

Whole Borough

99 In response to our draft recommendations we received 13 submissions that referred directly to our draft recommendations in Norwich.

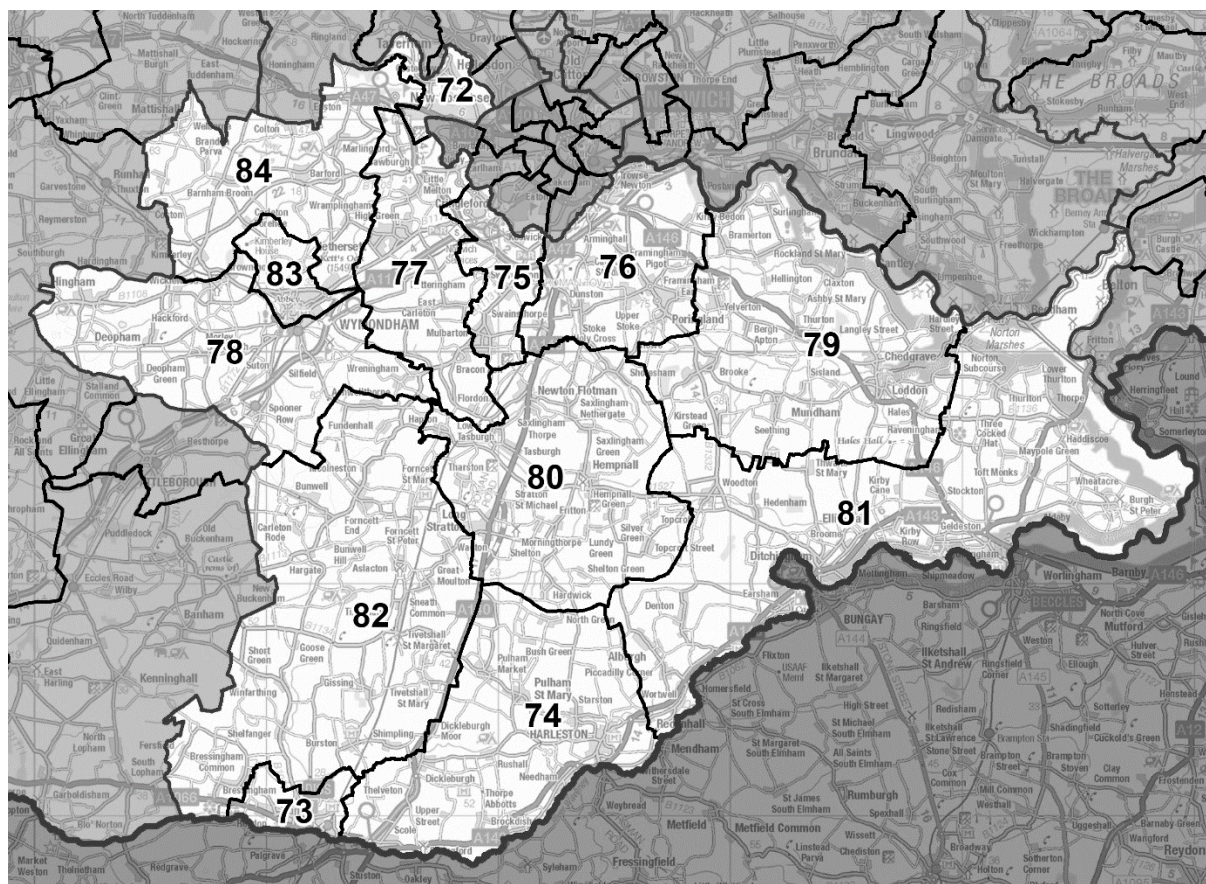
100 The submission from Norfolk County Council ('the Council') resubmitted the proposals that the Council had made during the first consultation stage. These proposed divisions were similar to our draft recommendations but with some minor differences to Lakenham, Mancroft, Nelson, Town Close, University and Wensum divisions. The submission from the Council acknowledged the coterminosity achieved by the draft recommendation, but that there were a number of concerns about the electoral variances within our proposed divisions.

101 In the other submissions received, support was expressed for the proposed divisions in Norwich from Norwich City Council Labour Group, Norwich County Council Labour Group, Norwich Green Party and four local residents. There was also support for the Mancroft division from Mancroft Labour Party and for the Town Close division from County Councillor Corlett and city councillors Davis, Oliver and Stutely. These submissions all mentioned the desirability of having city council wards and county council divisions using the same boundaries.

102 Having considered all the evidence submitted, we have confirmed the draft proposals for Norwich as final. When considering the submission from the Council, we noted that while the Council's proposal does improve electoral equality in some divisions, we are required to balance electoral equality with the other statutory criteria of community identity and interests and effective and convenient local government. When conducting reviews of county councils, we also attempt wherever possible to propose divisions that reflect the boundaries of the district and borough council wards.

103 In our view, the draft recommendations for Norwich provide for a good balance in the statutory criteria, as well as facilitating close coterminosity with the Norwich City Council. We note the support from other political groups, local councillors and local residents for these divisions.

South Norfolk



Division number	Division name	Number of councillors	Variance 2026
72	Costessey	1	8%
73	Diss & Roydon	1	-2%
74	East Depwade	1	5%
75	Forehoe	1	8%
76	Henstead	1	-3%
77	Hethersett	1	1%
78	Hingham	1	0%
79	Loddon	1	9%
80	Long Stratton	1	9%
81	Waveney Valley	1	0%
82	West Depwade	1	-6%
83	Wymondham	1	-2%
84	Yare Valley	1	5%

Whole District

104 We received 18 submissions that referred directly to South Norfolk. Norfolk County Council ('the Council') supported our draft recommendations. The Norfolk County Council Labour Group ('the NCC Labour Group') did not support the draft

recommendations and submitted a revised division pattern for the entire district. We also received a submission from the Queen's Hills Independent councillors with comments on the proposals for Costessey and Yare Valley divisions. The remaining submissions were from parish councils and local residents with comments on specific divisions and areas.

Costessey, Forehoe, Hethersett and Yare Valley

105 The Council supported the draft proposals for this area. The submissions we received from the Queen's Hills Independent councillors and from the owner of Costessey Park golf course both supported the proposed arrangements for Costessey and Yare Valley, subject to a small amendment to wholly include the golf course in Yare Valley division. We also received a submission from Little Melton Parish Council supporting their inclusion in Hethersett division, and from Cringleford Parish Council in support of Forehoe division.

106 As mentioned above, the NCC Labour Group submitted a revised proposal for South Norfolk which they considered to better reflect the communities in the area. The Group proposed a Cringleford division that included Colney, Cringleford and Little Melton parishes, as well as parts of Bawburgh and Costessey parishes. The Group's proposed Hethersett division contained Hethersett parish as well as the parishes of Keswick & Intwood, Ketteringham and Swardeston, and part of Wymondham parish. The remaining parts of Bawburgh and Costessey parishes were included in a large Yare Valley division which included a number of parishes to the south of Wymondham, including Spooner Row.

107 We carefully considered the submissions made in this area, including the alternative division pattern proposed by the NCC Labour Group. We agree that convenient and effective local government would be better facilitated by the small amendment to the boundary between the Costessey and Yare Valley divisions, as proposed by the Queen's Hills Independent councillors and Costessey Park golf course. This amendment will ensure that the local amenity is wholly contained in a single division.

108 We have not been persuaded to adopt any of the revised divisions proposed by the NCC Labour Group. In our view, their proposal to divide the parishes of Bawburgh and Costessey and include parts of them in a Cringleford division does not reflect the community identity of electors in the area. The proposal would also require the creation of unviable parish wards in both parishes.¹³

¹³ We will not normally recommend the creation of parish wards that contain no or very few electors (fewer than a hundred) unless it can be demonstrated to us that, within a short period of time, there will be sufficient electors as to warrant the election of at least one parish councillor. This is because each parish ward must by statute return at least one parish councillor. To do so, there must be a reasonable number of local government electors in the parish ward to make the election of a councillor viable.

109 We are also of the view that the NCC Labour Group's proposed Yare Valley division that includes parishes to the north and south of Wymondham does not reflect the community ties of the parishes included, nor provides for effective and convenient local government as a result of the geography of the proposed division. Finally, the Costessey division proposed by the Group would have an electoral variance of 15% more than the average for Norfolk by 2026. In our view, the evidence provided does not justify this level of electoral inequality.

110 Our final recommendations for these four divisions are therefore identical to our draft recommendations, subject to the minor amendment to the Costessey and Yare Valley divisions as discussed above. All four divisions have good electoral equality by 2026.

Henstead, Loddon, Long Stratton and Waveney Valley

111 In this part of the district, the Council supported the draft recommendations. The NCC Labour Group suggested a number of changes, particularly to Henstead division. We also received submissions from Caistor St Edmund & Bixley and Topcroft parish councils in support of the draft recommendations. A submission from Woodton Parish Council stated their desire to remain in a division with Bedingham parish, as well as a preference that both parishes be included in Long Stratton division. Bramerton Parish Council objected to their inclusion in Henstead division, arguing that this arrangement would break their community ties with Surlingham parish.

112 The NCC Labour Group proposed to include Heckingham and Topcroft parishes in Waveney Valley division, as well as Flordon parish in Long Stratton division. The Group also proposed to include Howe and Shotesham parishes and not include Swainsthorpe parish in Henstead division.

113 Having considered all the submissions received, we propose to make one small change to our draft recommendations in this area. We propose to revise the boundary between Henstead and Loddon divisions to include Bramerton parish in Loddon division. In our view, this will reflect the parish's community ties to Surlingham. Our recommendations also include Woodton and Bedingham parishes in the same division. However, this division is Waveney Valley rather than Long Stratton. Including both parishes in Long Stratton division would create an electoral variance of 16% by 2026.

114 We have not been persuaded that the other amendments suggested by the NCC Labour Group would provide for a better balance in our statutory criteria.

115 Our final recommendations for this area are therefore identical to our draft recommendations, with the exception of the inclusion of Bramerton parish in Loddon

division as discussed above. These four divisions have good electoral equality for Norfolk by 2026.

Hingham and Wymondham

116 The Council supported our proposed divisions for Hingham and Wymondham. We also received five submissions that objected to the way the proposals had split Wymondham, including one that objected to the exclusion of Spooner Row parish from a Wymondham division. The NCC Labour Group proposed a revised division pattern for Wymondham with a different division of the town than we proposed in our draft recommendations.

117 None of the submissions we received from local residents proposed alternative boundaries for the divisions in the area. As we noted when proposing our draft recommendations, Wymondham parish is too large to be represented by a single-councillor division, and therefore this means that the town must be split between divisions. The draft recommendations recommended that the town be divided between Hethersett, Hingham and Wymondham divisions, a recommendation supported by the Council. We considered the alternative pattern proposed by the NCC Labour Group, which also divides the town between three divisions. However, we are of the view that that this proposal would not provide for a better balance in our statutory criteria than that achieved by the draft recommendations. In particular, we consider, based on the evidence received in the earlier consultation, that Spooner Row and Wymondham have strong community ties. We also note that the Wymondham division proposed by the Group would have an electoral variance of 11% greater than the average for Norfolk by 2026. On the balance of the evidence as it relates to the statutory criteria, we therefore confirm our draft recommendations for this area as final. Both divisions would have good electoral equality by 2026.

Diss & Roydon, East Depwade and West Depwade

118 The Council supported the draft recommendations for these divisions. The NCC Labour Group proposed to include Wortwell parish in East Depwade and Scole parish in West Depwade. The Group also proposed to rename East Depwade division to Harleston.

119 We noted that the NCC Labour Group did not offer any evidence to support their proposed changes to these divisions and given the support received from the Council we are not proposing to make any changes to these divisions.

120 Our final recommendations for these three divisions are as proposed in our draft recommendations and provide good electoral equality by 2026.

Conclusions

121 The table below provides a summary as to the impact of our draft recommendations on electoral equality in Norfolk, referencing the 2019 and 2026 electorate figures. A full list of divisions, names and their corresponding electoral variances can be found at Appendix A to the back of this report. An outline map of the wards is provided at Appendix B.

Summary of electoral arrangements

	Final recommendations	
	2019	2026
Number of councillors	84	84
Number of electoral divisions	84	8424
Average number of electors per councillor	8,329	8,858
Number of divisions with a variance more than 10% from the average	15	2
Number of divisions with a variance more than 20% from the average	1	0

Final recommendations

Norfolk County Council should be made up of 84 councillors serving 84 divisions. The details and names are shown in Appendix A and illustrated on the large maps accompanying this report.

Mapping

Sheet 1, Map 1 shows the proposed divisions for Norfolk.

You can also view our draft recommendations for Norfolk on our interactive maps at www.consultation.lgbce.org.uk

Parish electoral arrangements

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

123 Under the 2009 Act we only have the power to make changes to parish electoral arrangements where these are as a direct consequence of our

recommendations for principal authority warding arrangements. However, Norfolk County Council has powers under the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 to conduct community governance reviews to effect changes to parish electoral arrangements.

124 As a result of our proposed ward boundaries and having regard to the statutory criteria set out in schedule 2 to the 2009 Act, we are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Attleborough Town Council, Bradwell Parish Council, Costessey Town Council, Thorpe St Andrew Parish Council and Wymondham Town Council.

125 We are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Attleborough Town Council.

Final recommendations

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

Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
Burgh North	6
Burgh South	2
Queens North	6
Queens South	1

126 We are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Bradwell Parish Council.

Final recommendations

Bradwell Parish Council should comprise 15 councillors, as at present, representing three wards:

Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
Bradwell Central	3
Bradwell North	8
Bradwell South	4

127 We are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Costessey Town Council.

Final recommendations

Costessey Town Council should comprise 19 councillors, as at present, representing three wards:

Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
New Costessey	8
Old Costessey	6
Queen's Hills	5

128 We are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Thorpe St Andrew Parish Council.

Final recommendations

Thorpe St Andrew Parish Council should comprise 16 councillors, as at present, representing three wards:

Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
Thorpe St Andrew North East	4
Thorpe St Andrew North West	4
Thorpe St Andrew South East	8

129 We are providing revised parish electoral arrangements Wymondham Town Council.

Final recommendations

Wymondham Town Council should comprise 14 councillors, as at present, representing five wards:

Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
Central Wymondham	4
East Wymondham	2
North East Wymondham	2
North Wymondham	2
South Wymondham	4

What happens next?

130 We have now completed our review of Norfolk. The recommendations must now be approved by Parliament. A draft Order – the legal document which brings into force our recommendations – will be laid in Parliament. Subject to parliamentary scrutiny, the new electoral arrangements will come into force at the local elections in 2025.

Equalities

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

Appendices

Appendix A

Final recommendations for Norfolk County Council

Division name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2020)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2026)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	
Breckland								
1	Attleborough	1	7,359	7,359	-12%	9,375	9,375	6%
2	Dereham North & Scarning	1	7,992	7,992	-4%	8,274	8,274	-7%
3	Dereham South	1	8,636	8,636	4%	9,625	9,625	9%
4	Elmham & Mattishall	1	7,961	7,961	-4%	8,349	8,349	-6%
5	Guiltcross	1	9,496	9,496	14%	9,783	9,783	10%
6	Launditch	1	8,765	8,765	5%	8,910	8,910	1%
7	Swaffham	1	8,565	8,565	3%	9,033	9,033	2%
8	The Brecks	1	9,870	9,870	19%	9,953	9,953	12%
9	Thetford East	1	7,578	7,578	-9%	8,102	8,102	-9%

Division name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2020)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2026)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
10 Thetford West	1	9,223	9,223	11%	9,223	9,223	4%
11 Watton	1	8,740	8,740	5%	9,668	9,668	9%
12 Yare & Necton	1	8,844	8,844	6%	9,667	9,667	9%
Broadland							
13 Acle	1	8,042	8,042	-3%	8,355	8,355	-6%
14 Aylsham	1	8,331	8,331	0%	8,394	8,394	-5%
15 Blofield & Brundall	1	8,267	8,267	-1%	8,971	8,971	1%
16 Coltishall & Spixworth	1	7,996	7,996	-4%	8,365	8,365	-6%
17 Drayton & Horsford	1	8,187	8,187	-2%	8,944	8,944	1%
18 Hellesdon	1	8,779	8,779	5%	9,588	9,588	8%
19 Old Catton	1	6,636	6,636	-20%	8,499	8,499	-4%
20 Reepham	1	8,223	8,223	-1%	8,369	8,369	-6%
21 Sprowston	1	9,222	9,222	11%	9,497	9,497	7%
22 Taverham	1	7,615	7,615	-9%	7,773	7,773	-12%
23 Thorpe St Andrew	1	8,634	8,634	4%	8,833	8,833	0%

Division name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2020)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2026)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
24 Woodside	1	4,588	4,588	-45%	8,206	8,206	-7%
25 Wroxham	1	7,170	7,170	-14%	8,459	8,459	-5%
Great Yarmouth							
26 Breydon	1	8,329	8,329	0%	8,329	8,329	-6%
27 Gorleston	1	8,101	8,101	-3%	8,149	8,149	-8%
28 Lothingland	1	7,038	7,038	-15%	8,550	8,550	-3%
29 Magdalen	1	8,458	8,458	2%	8,614	8,614	-3%
30 North Caister & Ormesby	1	8,040	8,040	-3%	8,094	8,094	-9%
31 South Caister & Bure	1	8,055	8,055	-3%	8,055	8,055	-9%
32 The Fleggs	1	8,153	8,153	-2%	8,695	8,695	-2%
33 Yarmouth Nelson & Southtown	1	8,027	8,027	-4%	8,237	8,237	-7%
34 Yarmouth North & Central	1	8,144	8,144	-2%	8,299	8,299	-6%
King's Lynn & West Norfolk							
35 Clenchwarton & King's Lynn South	1	7,687	7,687	-8%	8,769	8,769	-1%

Division name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2020)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2026)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
36 Dersingham	1	8,887	8,887	7%	9,159	9,159	3%
37 Docking	1	8,840	8,840	6%	9,307	9,307	5%
38 Downham Market	1	8,813	8,813	6%	9,083	9,083	3%
39 Feltwell	1	8,322	8,322	0%	8,639	8,639	-2%
40 Freebridge Lynn	1	8,569	8,569	3%	9,271	9,271	5%
41 Gaywood North & Central	1	9,341	9,341	12%	9,627	9,627	9%
42 Gaywood South	1	8,455	8,455	2%	9,116	9,116	3%
43 King's Lynn North & Central	1	8,280	8,280	-1%	9,179	9,179	4%
44 Marshland North	1	8,375	8,375	1%	8,695	8,695	-2%
45 Marshland South	1	8,872	8,872	7%	9,474	9,474	7%
46 Nar & Wissey Valleys	1	8,378	8,378	1%	9,362	9,362	6%
47 North Coast	1	8,436	8,436	1%	8,998	8,998	2%
48 Watlington & The Fens	1	9,050	9,050	9%	9,260	9,260	5%

Division name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2020)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2026)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
North Norfolk							
49 Cromer	1	8,525	8,525	2%	8,820	8,820	0%
50 Erpingham	1	7,986	7,986	-4%	8,074	8,074	-9%
51 Fakenham & The Raynams	1	8,469	8,469	2%	9,306	9,306	5%
52 Holt	1	7,941	7,941	-5%	8,511	8,511	-4%
53 Hoveton	1	8,576	8,576	3%	8,633	8,633	-3%
54 North Walsham East	1	8,019	8,019	-4%	8,033	8,033	-9%
55 North Walsham West & Mundesley	1	7,979	7,979	-4%	8,227	8,227	-7%
56 Sheringham	1	8,930	8,930	7%	9,175	9,175	4%
57 Stalham	1	8,868	8,868	6%	8,965	8,965	1%
58 Wells	1	9,007	9,007	8%	9,062	9,062	2%
Norwich							
59 Bowthorpe	1	8,467	8,467	2%	9,229	9,229	4%
60 Catton Grove	1	8,274	8,274	-1%	8,507	8,507	-4%

Division name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2020)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2026)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
61 Crome	1	8,515	8,515	2%	8,515	8,515	-4%
62 Eaton	1	8,110	8,110	-3%	8,224	8,224	-7%
63 Lakenham	1	8,045	8,045	-3%	8,045	8,045	-9%
64 Mancroft	1	7,977	7,977	-4%	9,555	9,555	8%
65 Mile Cross	1	8,072	8,072	-3%	8,297	8,297	-6%
66 Nelson	1	9,079	9,079	9%	9,109	9,109	3%
67 Sewell	1	8,059	8,059	-3%	8,239	8,239	-7%
68 Thorpe Hamlet	1	7,669	7,669	-8%	8,746	8,746	-1%
69 Town Close	1	8,597	8,597	3%	8,597	8,597	-3%
70 University	1	9,431	9,431	13%	9,671	9,671	9%
71 Wensum	1	9,276	9,276	11%	9,330	9,330	5%
South Norfolk							
72 Costessey	1	9,146	9,146	10%	9,560	9,560	8%
73 Diss & Roydon	1	8,424	8,424	1%	8,665	8,665	-2%
74 East Depwade	1	9,025	9,025	8%	9,286	9,286	5%

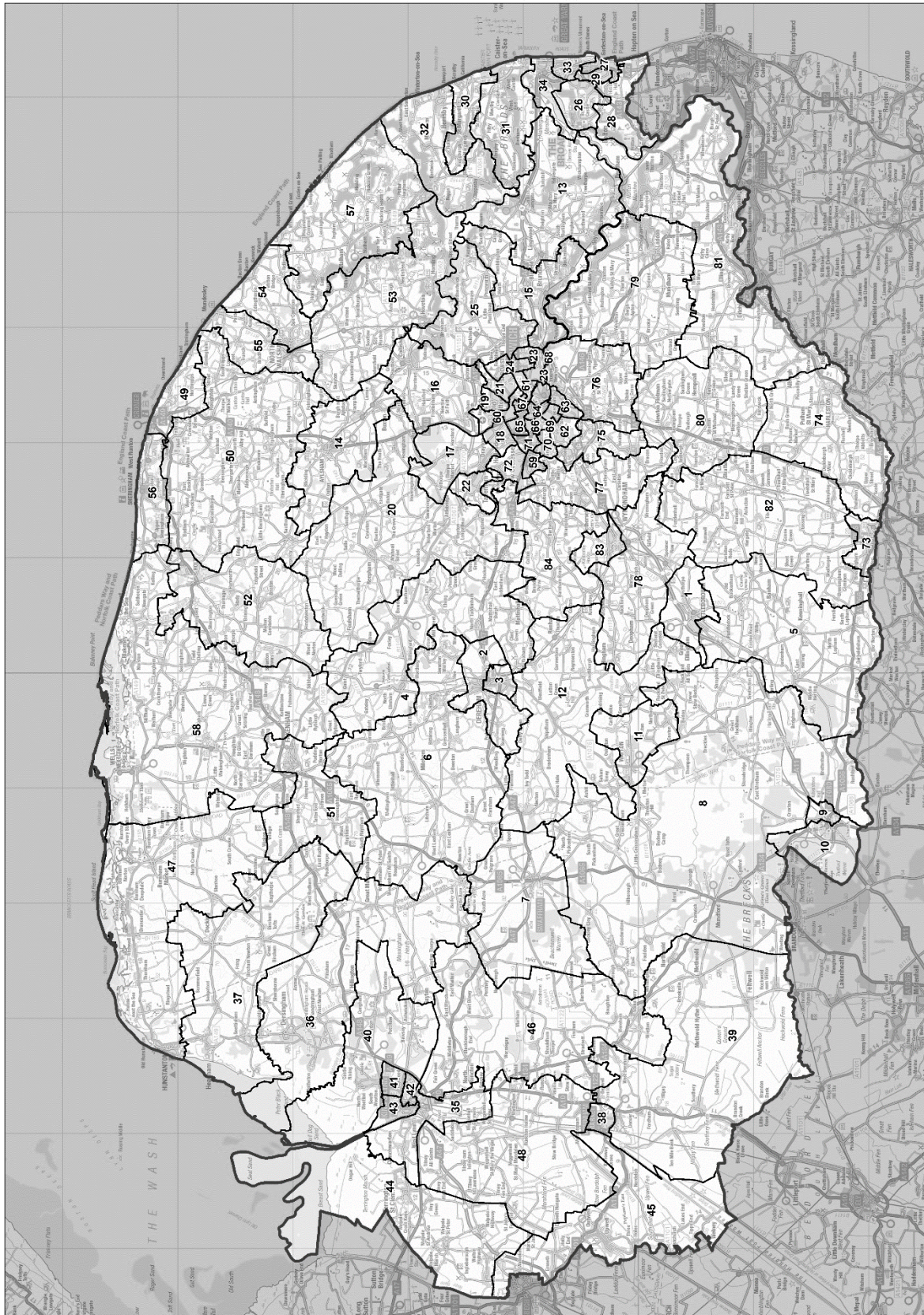
Division name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2020)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2026)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
75 Forehoe	1	7,231	7,231	-13%	9,605	9,605	8%
76 Henstead	1	7,939	7,939	-5%	8,587	8,587	-3%
77 Hethersett	1	7,481	7,481	-10%	8,943	8,943	1%
78 Hingham	1	6,879	6,879	-17%	8,873	8,873	0%
79 Loddon	1	9,520	9,520	14%	9,635	9,635	9%
80 Long Stratton	1	9,081	9,081	9%	9,680	9,680	9%
81 Waveney Valley	1	8,692	8,692	4%	8,820	8,820	0%
82 West Depwade	1	8,222	8,222	-1%	8,325	8,325	-6%
83 Wymondham	1	8,684	8,684	4%	8,709	8,709	-2%
84 Yare Valley	1	8,040	8,040	-3%	9,339	9,339	5%
Totals	84	8,329	–	–	744,073	–	–
Averages	–	–	699,604	–	–	8,858	–

Source: Electorate figures are based on information provided by Norfolk County Council.

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

Appendix B

Outline map



Number	Division name	Number	Division name
1	Attleborough	43	King's Lynn North & Central
2	Dereham North & Scarning	44	Marshland North
3	Dereham South	45	Marshland South
4	Elmham & Mattishall	46	Nar & Wissey Valleys
5	Guiltcross	47	North Coast
6	Launditch	48	Watlington & The Fens
7	Swaffham	49	Cromer
8	The Brecks	50	Erpingham
9	Thetford East	51	Fakenham & The Raynhams
10	Thetford West	52	Holt
11	Watton	53	Hoveton
12	Yare & Necton	54	North Walsham East
13	Acle	55	North Walsham West & Mundesley
14	Aylsham	56	Sheringham
15	Blofield & Brundall	57	Stalham
16	Coltishall & Spixworth	58	Wells
17	Drayton & Horsford	59	Bowthorpe
18	Hellesdon	60	Catton Grove
19	Old Catton	61	Crome
20	Reepham	62	Eaton
21	Sprowston	63	Lakenham
22	Taverham	64	Mancroft
23	Thorpe St Andrew	65	Mile Cross
24	Woodside	66	Nelson
25	Wroxham	67	Sewell
26	Breydon	68	Thorpe Hamlet
27	Gorleston	69	Town Close
28	Lothingland	70	University
29	Magdalen	71	Wensum
30	North Caister & Ormesby	72	Costessey
31	South Caister & Bure	73	Diss & Roydon
32	The Fleggs	74	East Depwade
33	Yarmouth Nelson & Southtown	75	Forehoe
34	Yarmouth North & Central	76	Henstead
35	Clenchwarton & King's Lynn South	77	Hethersett
36	Dersingham	78	Hingham
37	Docking	79	Loddon
38	Downham Market	80	Long Stratton
39	Feltwell	81	Waveney Valley
40	Freebridge Lynn	82	West Depwade
41	Gaywood North & Central	83	Wymondham
42	Gaywood South	84	Yare Valley

A more detailed version of this map can be seen on the large map accompanying this report, or on our website: www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/eastern/norfolk/norfolk-county-council

Appendix C

Submissions received

All submissions received can also be viewed on our website at:

www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/eastern/norfolk/norfolk-county-council

Local Authority

- Norfolk County Council
- Breckland District Council
- King's Lynn & West Norfolk Borough Council

Political Groups

- Norfolk County Council Labour Group
- Norwich City Council Labour Group
- Norwich Green Party
- Norwich Labour Party – Mancroft Branch
- Queen's Hills Independent Town Councillors

Councillors

- Councillor L. Bambridge (King's Lynn & West Norfolk Borough Council)
- Councillor B. Borrett (Breckland District Council)
- Councillor M. Castle (Norfolk County Council)
- Councillor E. Corlett (Norfolk County Council)
- Councillor K. Davis (Norwich City Council)
- Councillor P. Heinrich (North Norfolk District Council)
- Councillor T. Jermy (Norfolk County Council & Breckland District Council)
- Councillor R. Kybird (Breckland District Council)
- Councillor A. Kemp (Norfolk County Council)
- Councillor C. Oliver (Norwich City Council)
- Councillor R. Price (Norfolk County Council)
- Councillor M. Strong (Norfolk County Council)
- Councillor I. Stutely (Norwich City Council)
- Councillor T. Wright (Great Yarmouth Borough Council)

Local Organisations

- Costessey Park Golf Course

Parish and Town Councils

- Acle Parish Council
- Attlebridge Parish Meeting
- Bramerton Parish Council
- Bradwell Parish Council
- Brettenham & Kilverstone Parish Council
- Caistor St Edmund & Bixley Parish Council
- Cringleford Parish Council
- Congham Parish Council
- Croxton Parish Council
- Felthorpe Parish Council
- Hanworth Parish Council
- Holkham Parish Council
- Leziate Parish Council
- Little Melton Parish Council
- Morston Parish Council
- Roudham & Larling Parish Council
- Sandringham Parish Council
- Stokesby with Herringby Parish Council
- Topcroft Parish Council
- Upton with Fishley Parish Council
- Warham Parish Council
- Wells-next-the-Sea Town Council
- Weston Longville Parish Council
- Woodton Parish Council
- Wroxham Parish Council

Local Residents

- 56 Local Residents

Appendix D

Glossary and abbreviations

Council size	The number of councillors elected to serve on a council
Electoral Change Order (or Order)	A legal document which implements changes to the electoral arrangements of a local authority
Division	A specific area of a county, defined for electoral, administrative and representational purposes. Eligible electors can vote in whichever division they are registered for the candidate or candidates they wish to represent them on the county council
Electoral fairness	When one elector's vote is worth the same as another's
Electoral inequality	Where there is a difference between the number of electors represented by a councillor and the average for the local authority
Electorate	People in the authority who are registered to vote in elections. For the purposes of this report, we refer specifically to the electorate for local government elections
Number of electors per councillor	The total number of electors in a local authority divided by the number of councillors
Over-represented	Where there are fewer electors per councillor in a ward or division than the average
Parish	A specific and defined area of land within a single local authority enclosed within a parish boundary. There are over 10,000 parishes in England, which provide the first tier of representation to their local residents

Parish council	A body elected by electors in the parish which serves and represents the area defined by the parish boundaries. See also 'Town council'
Parish (or town) council electoral arrangements	The total number of councillors on any one parish or town council; the number, names and boundaries of parish wards; and the number of councillors for each ward
Parish ward	A particular area of a parish, defined for electoral, administrative and representational purposes. Eligible electors vote in whichever parish ward they live for candidate or candidates they wish to represent them on the parish council
Town council	A parish council which has been given ceremonial 'town' status. More information on achieving such status can be found at www.nalc.gov.uk
Under-represented	Where there are more electors per councillor in a ward or division than the average
Variance (or electoral variance)	How far the number of electors per councillor in a ward or division varies in percentage terms from the average
Ward	A specific area of a district or borough, defined for electoral, administrative and representational purposes. Eligible electors can vote in whichever ward they are registered for the candidate or candidates they wish to represent them on the district or borough council

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

Local Government Boundary Commission for
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www.consultation.lgbce.org.uk

Twitter: @LGBCE