

Appendix D

Updates on issues which were determined at the Council meeting in December 2015

Issue No	Area or Properties Under Review	Parishes Directly Affected
15	County boundary between Suffolk and Essex adjacent to Haverhill	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•Haverhill•Withersfield•Kedington•Parishes in Essex
23	Dunstall Green	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•Dalham (Forest Heath District)•Ousden
26	The whole Borough (consequential impact of CGR)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•All

No	Area or Properties Under Review	Parishes Directly Affected	Matter covered
15	County boundary between Suffolk and Essex adjacent to Haverhill	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Haverhill •Withersfield •Kedington •Parishes in Essex 	The boundary between Essex and Suffolk around Haverhill. <i>The Borough Council does not have the ability to make changes to county boundaries as part of this CGR but can consult on this issue and raise these concerns with the Local Government Boundary Commission and ask them to carry out a Principal Area Boundary Review.</i>

Outcome for this Issue (for information only)

Stage 1

Although it was raised by Haverhill Town Council during consultation on the terms of reference, the Borough Council cannot make changes in respect of this issue through the CGR. However, after phase 1 of the review, the Council considered there was sufficient evidence to suggest that the current boundary was now anomalous in relation to current ground features, recent and future development and patterns of everyday life. A review by the Local Government Boundary Commission for England could therefore provide more appropriate parish, district and county boundaries to reflect the interests and identity of local electors and businesses and offer them more effective and convenient local government.

As consultation map I overleaf shows, there is a particular anomaly along the eastern stretch of the A1017 where properties within the relief road are in Braintree District but clearly now within the town of Haverhill. Submissions were also received during phase 1 of the CGR to suggest the small area to the north of Coupals Road might more logically form part of Suffolk.

However, the Council has also noted that, during its stage 1 consultation, changes were strongly objected to by Sturmer Parish Council and that Braintree District Council did not see any compelling reason to change the historical boundaries at the current time. Nonetheless, Haverhill Town Council still felt strongly that the boundary should be amended and made a detailed submission to this effect during stage 1.

At its meeting in December 2016, the Borough Council expressed its formal support for the Town Council's position. The Borough Council is entitled to make representations about its external boundary to the LGBCE under Section 8 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007, as is any other council. Therefore, in January 2016, the Council drew the issue to the attention of the LGBCE. In the interests of fairness and transparency, the Council also advised the LGBCE that there was not, from its CGR consultation in 2015, support within Essex for any changes to be made at the current time. It would then be for the LGBCE to decide if and when this issue should be examined, and how.

Stage 2 update

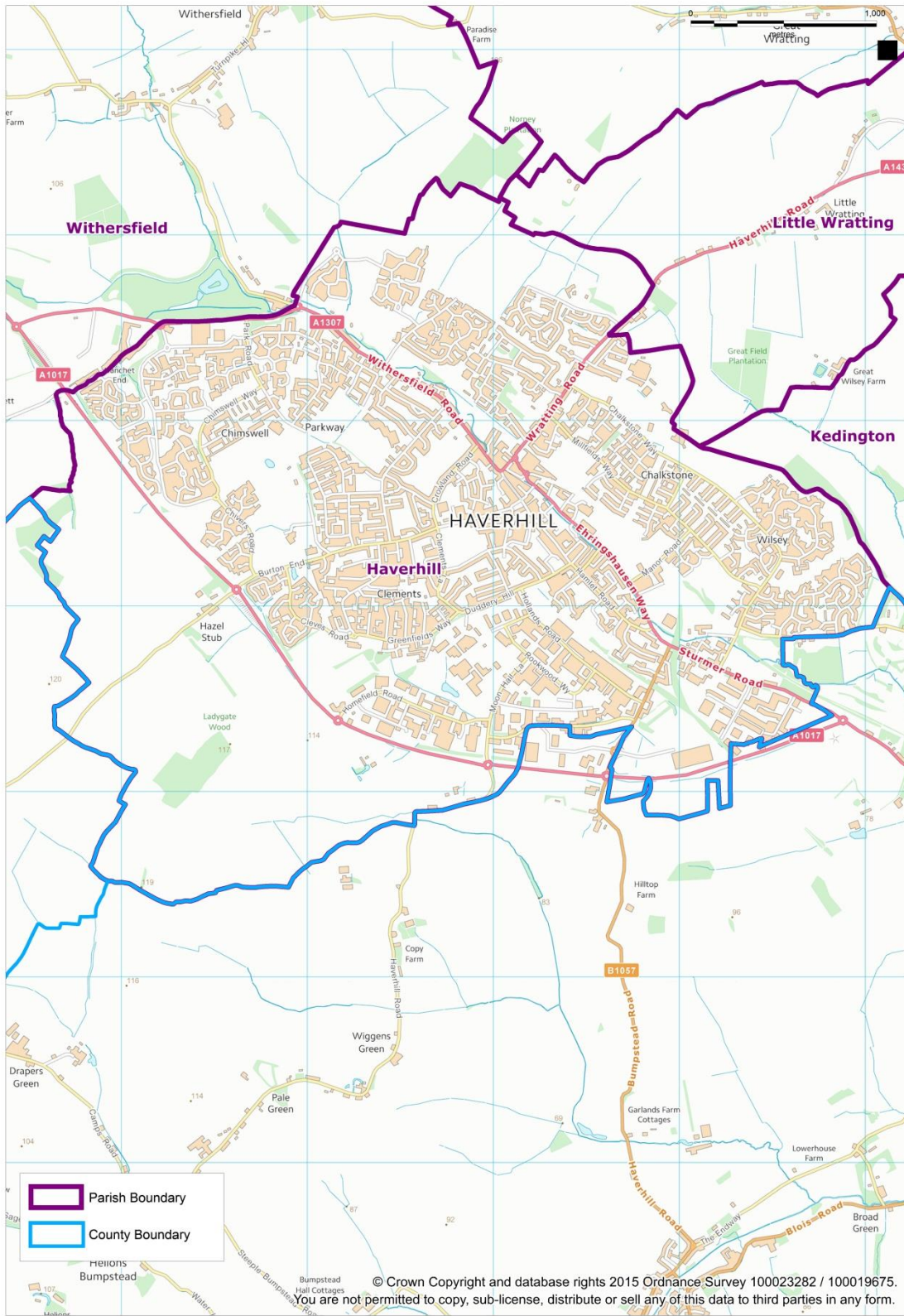
Essex authorities were updated during stage 2 of the CGR as to the outcome of stage 1. Essex County Council and Braintree District Council have both written to advise that they strongly object to the carrying out of a review at the current time.

Haverhill Town Council has confirmed its support for the need for a review, and one of its councillors has written in an individual capacity to advise that *"because the Phoenix Road Days Inn area is in Essex there has been a lot of confusion on planning issues in the past. This area should be brought into the Haverhill boundary."*

The Borough Council has been in recent discussion with the LGBCE regarding issue 26 and, at the same time, the Commission has indicated that it would not be likely to pursue a Principal Area Boundary Review (PABR) of the Suffolk/Essex boundary at present, given the lack of consensus the Borough Council had reported to them. Their guidance indicates that they will not normally carry out PABRs unless there is agreement between the various parties.

Going forward, as the Council has taken all of the steps it considers necessary (and/or could take at present), the matter must be regarded as closed at the current time, and there is no basis for recommendations on this issue to feature in the final report for the CGR. The Working Party is therefore simply asked to note this report.

Consultation map I – Issue 15



No	Area or Properties Under Review	Parishes Directly Affected	Matter covered
23	Properties on Dunstall Green Road between Ousden and Dalham	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Dalham (Forest Heath District) •Ousden 	The boundary between St Edmundsbury and Forest Heath Districts in the vicinity of Dalham and Ousden. <i>The Borough Council does not have the ability to make changes to district boundaries as part of this CGR but can consult on this issue and raise these concerns with the Local Government Boundary Commission and ask them to carry out a Principal Area Boundary Review.</i>

Outcome for this Issue (for information only)

The area in question, at Dunstall Green Road between Ousden and Dalham, is shown on consultation map Q overleaf

Stage 1

Although it was raised by Ousden Parish Council during consultation on the terms of reference, the Borough Council cannot make changes in respect of this issue through the CGR. However, after phase 1 of the review, the Council considered there was sufficient evidence to suggest that the current boundary might benefit from examination by the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) when it next carries out a principal area boundary review.

The Council had noted the preference of some affected local electors, Ousden and Hargrave Parish Councils and the County Councillor for Clare Division for a transfer of properties from Dalham to Ousden. However, the views of Dalham Parish Council were not known.

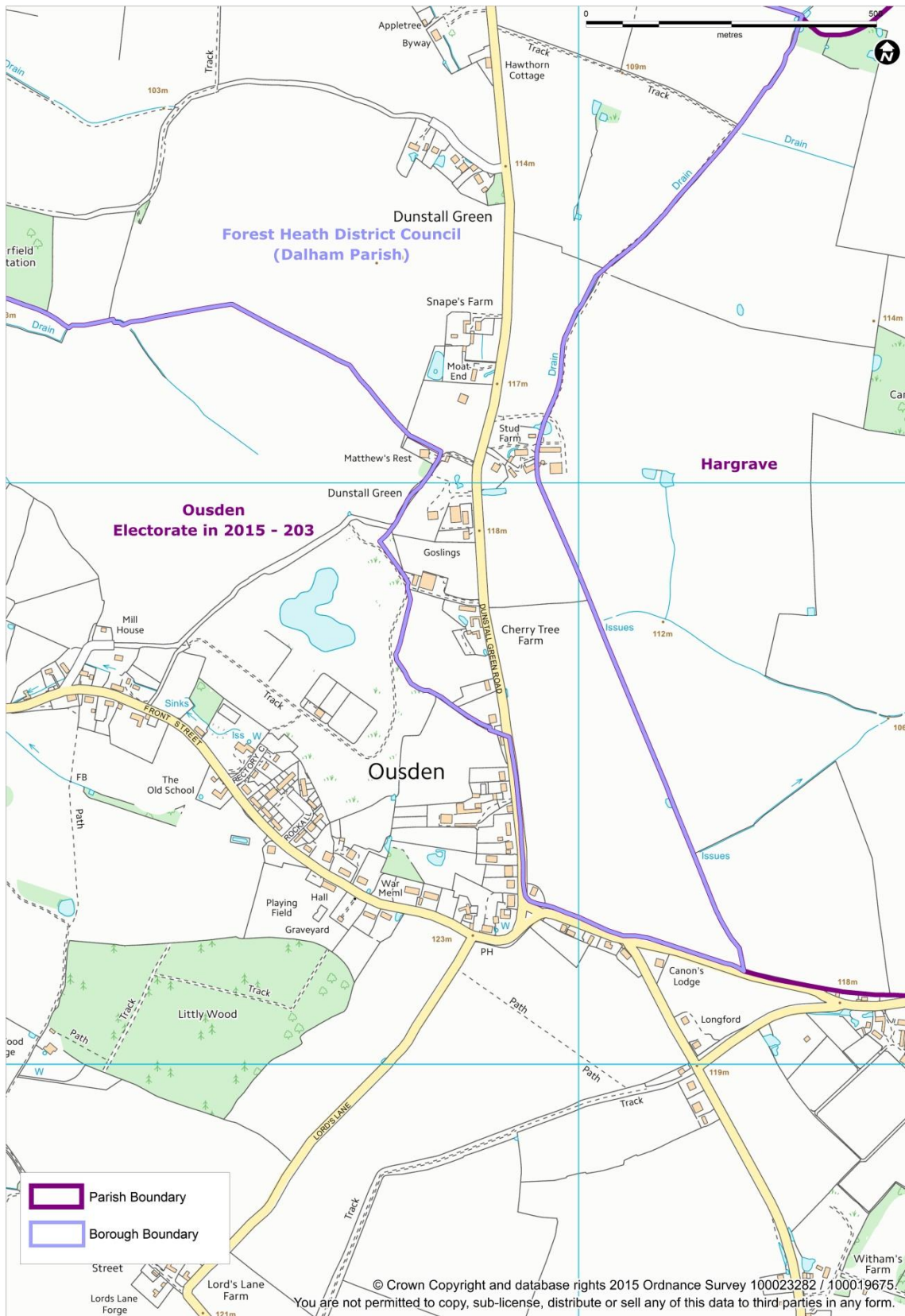
At its meeting in December 2016, the Borough Council agreed to draw the issue to the attention of the LGBCE. It would then be for the LGBCE to decide if and when this issue should be examined, and how.

Stage 2 update

Stakeholders in St Edmundsbury and Forest Heath were updated during stage 2 of the CGR as to the outcome of stage 1. Ousden Parish Council and two local electors from a property in Dunstall Green Road have confirmed their support for a review by the LGBCE.

The Borough Council has been in recent discussion with the LGBCE regarding issue 26 and, at the same time, the Commission has indicated that it would not be likely to pursue a Principal Area Boundary Review (PABR) in this instance unless there is agreement between the various parties that one is needed. As the Council has taken all of the steps it considers necessary (and/or could take at present), the matter must be regarded as closed at the current time, but will be kept under review. As such there is no basis for recommendations on this issue to feature in the final report for the CGR and the Working Party is simply asked to note this report.

Consultation map Q – Issue 23



No	Area or Properties Under Review	Parishes Directly Affected	Matter covered
26	The whole Borough (consequential impact of CGR)	•All	Consequential impacts and changes to Parish and Borough Council wards and County Council divisions representing the Borough associated with any proposed changes to parish boundaries or wards arising from the CGR. Changes may be in the form of ward/division boundaries and numbers of councillors.
Outcome for this Issue (for information only)			
<p>More information is provided on these recommendations in the report considered by the Borough Council on 15 December 2015 (https://democracy.westsuffolk.gov.uk/documents/s10829/COU.SE.15.036%20Appendix%20C%20Referral%20from%20DRWP%20-%20consequential%20changes.pdf)</p> <p>It was recommended and agreed by Council in December 2015 that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) the Council requests a full electoral review of the electoral arrangements for St Edmundsbury Borough Council by the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (<i>request submitted January 2016</i>). (b) subject to the outcome of issue 7, the ward boundaries (and number of councillors) of Bury St Edmunds and Haverhill Town Councils be left unchanged within their current boundaries as part of this CGR, pending any electoral review of the Borough Council; (c) if the CGR results in the extension of either of the towns' boundaries then the new area(s) be added, on an interim basis, to an existing adjacent town council ward, with no increase in the number of town councillors. This will result in a temporary electoral imbalance, but this imbalance can also be corrected by the subsequent electoral review before any scheduled elections; (d) changes to ward boundaries and other electoral arrangements for any other parishes (existing or new) arising from this CGR may be subject to later change by the LGBCE if they need to ensure electoral equality for, and coterminosity with, their own scheme for borough wards or county divisions. <p>Important note: the Borough Council would, as a fall-back, seek the appropriate consequential changes to existing borough wards and county divisions if, for any reason, the LGBCE could not carry out full electoral reviews before 2019 or 2021 respectively. This would keep electoral arrangements across all three tiers in step.</p>			
Update			
The Council has been advised by the LGBCE that it would be able to carry out an electoral review in 2017/18 (precise timetable to be agreed). This means that there is no need to review the previous decisions taken in December 2015.			