

# Council



*St Edmundsbury*  
BOROUGH COUNCIL

<b>Title of Report:</b>	<b>UPDATE: Single Council for West Suffolk: Legislative Process</b>	
<b>Report No:</b>	<b>COU/SE/18/003 (Addendum)</b>	
<b>Report to and dates:</b>	<b>St Edmundsbury Borough Council</b>	20 February 2018
	<b>Forest Heath District Council</b>	21 February 2018
<b>Portfolio holder:</b>	Carol Bull Portfolio Holder for Future Governance <b>Tel:</b> 01953 681513 <b>Email:</b> carol.bull@stedsbc.gov.uk	
<b>Lead officer:</b>	Leah Mickleborough Service Manager, Democratic Services and Monitoring Officer <b>Tel:</b> 01284 757162 <b>Email:</b> leah.mickleborough@westsuffolk.gov.uk	
<b>Purpose of report:</b>	This report seeks to inform Members on the proposed "stop-gap" warding pattern as outlined in Report No: COU/SE/18/003.	
<b>Recommendation:</b>	<b>This report is supplemental to the recommendations contained in Report No: COU/SE/18/003.</b>	
<b>Key Decision:</b>  <i>(Check the appropriate box and delete all those that <b>do not</b> apply.)</i>	<i>Is this a Key Decision and, if so, under which definition?</i> Yes, it is a Key Decision - <input type="checkbox"/> No, it is not a Key Decision - <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Consultation:</b>	None specific to this report	
<b>Alternative option(s):</b>	Officers understand that the proposals within this report will be the sole option put forward by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG).	
<b>Implications:</b>		
Are there any <b>financial</b> implications? If yes, please give details	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> •	
Are there any <b>staffing</b> implications? If yes, please give details	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> •	

COU/SE/18/003  
(Addendum)

Are there any <b>ICT</b> implications? If yes, please give details		Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> •	
Are there any <b>legal and/or policy</b> implications? If yes, please give details		Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> The proposals in this report will inform the legislative process to create the new Council for West Suffolk	
Are there any <b>equality</b> implications? If yes, please give details		Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> •	
<b>Risk/opportunity assessment:</b>		<i>(potential hazards or opportunities affecting corporate, service or project objectives)</i>	
<b>Risk area</b>	<b>Inherent level of risk</b> (before controls)	<b>Controls</b>	<b>Residual risk</b> (after controls)
As per COU/SE/18/003, should a major or unexpected event occur which reduces parliamentary time to undertake legislative processes	Low	Officers continue to work alongside colleagues in MHCLG / LGBCE to ensure progression of the legislation	Low
<b>Ward(s) affected:</b>		All Wards	
<b>Background papers:</b> <i>(all background papers are to be published on the website and a link included)</i>		Council Report No: <a href="#">COU/SE/18/003</a> 20 February 2018	
<b>Documents attached:</b>		<b>Appendix 1:</b> MHCLG note on proposed warding pattern to be included in West Suffolk structural change report	

## **1. Key issues and reasons for recommendation(s)**

1.1 In Report No: COU/SE/18/003, it was highlighted that a further update report would be sent outlining how discussions had progressed with the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) regarding the pattern of warding to be included in the draft order to create the new Council.

1.2 Pending new electoral arrangements from the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE), the warding pattern for the order must be based on an existing, agreed principal council structure. The only existing structures are county divisions or the existing St Edmundsbury and Forest Heath wards. The existing wards cannot be adopted in full for the new Council as they are based on 72 councillors, and not the 64 that we have proposed for the new Council.

1.3 As a result, MHCLG have formed a proposal that is based on the 14 existing county divisions but is broken down, within each division, using the existing St Edmundsbury and Forest Heath wards as building blocks. This provides four West Suffolk councillors for each division in combinations of 1, 2 and 3 member wards. This is the only option put forward by MHCLG and an explanation of their approach is attached as an Appendix to this report.

1.4 As stated in the previous report, this does not represent the Council's view on what the wards should be. Further, this is also simply a stop-gap position for the order until the LGBCE undertakes their review of the ward boundaries, which, barring a significant unexpected event, would be complete in time for the 2019 elections.