

Council



Forest Heath
District Council

Title of Report:	UPDATE: Single Council for West Suffolk: Legislative Process	
Report No:	COU/FH/18/005 (Addendum)	
Report to and date:	St Edmundsbury Borough Council	20 February 2018
	Forest Heath District Council	21 February 2018
Portfolio holder:	Councillor Stephen Edwards Portfolio Holder for Resources and Performance Tel: 01799 530325 Email: stephen.edwards@forest-heath.gov.uk	
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Purpose of report:	This report seeks to inform Members on the proposed "stop-gap" warding pattern as outlined in Report No: COU/FH/18/005.	
Recommendation:	This report is supplemental to the recommendations in Report No: COU/FH/18/005.	
Key Decision: <i>(Check the appropriate box and delete all those that do not 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"/>	
Consultation:	None specific to this report	
Alternative option(s):	Officers understand that the proposals within this report will be the sole option put forward by the MHCLG	
Implications:		
Are there any financial implications? <i>If yes, please give details</i>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Are there any staffing implications? <i>If yes, please give details</i>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	

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<i>Are there any ICT implications? If yes, please give details</i>		Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
<i>Are there any legal and/or policy implications? If yes, please give details</i>		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	
<i>Are there any equality implications? If yes, please give details</i>		Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Risk/opportunity assessment:		<i>(potential hazards or opportunities affecting corporate, service or project objectives)</i>	
Risk area	Inherent level of risk (before controls)	Controls	Residual risk (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
Ward(s) affected:		All wards	
Background papers: <i>(all background papers are to be published on the website and a link included)</i>		Council Report: 21 February 2018 Report No: COU/FH/18/005	
Documents attached:		Appendix 1: 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/FH/18/005, 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 Appendix 1 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.