



New electoral arrangements for West Suffolk Council

Draft recommendations

July 2018

Translations and other formats

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Summary

Who we are and what we do

1 The Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) is an independent body set up by Parliament. 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.

2 Our main role is to carry out electoral reviews of local authorities throughout England.

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

Why West Suffolk?

4 The Secretary of State has decided to create a new authority of West Suffolk. We are conducting a review of West Suffolk to ensure that the new unitary district council has appropriate electoral arrangements. Our aim is to create 'electoral equality', where votes are as equal as possible, ideally within 10% of being exactly equal. We also seek to ensure that wards reflect local communities and ensure effective and convenient local government.

Our proposals for West Suffolk

- West Suffolk should be represented by 64 councillors.
- West Suffolk should have 45 wards.

Have your say

5 We are consulting on our draft recommendations for an eight-week period, from 3 July 2018 to 27 August 2018. We encourage everyone to use this opportunity to contribute to the design of the new wards – the more public views we hear, the more informed our decisions will be when analysing all the views we received.

6 We ask everyone wishing to contribute ideas for the new wards to first read this report and look at the accompanying map before responding to us.

You have until 27 August 2018 to have your say on the draft recommendations. See page 41 for how to send us your response.

What is the Local Government Boundary Commission for England?

7 The Local Government Boundary Commission for England is an independent body set up by Parliament.¹

8 The members of the Commission are:

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

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

1 Introduction

9 In February 2018, the Government approved a bid from Forest Heath District Council and St Edmundsbury Borough Council to merge. A Local Government Changes Order² was subsequently approved by Parliament on 24 May 2018, establishing a new West Suffolk authority from 1 April 2019. It is the view of the Commission that an electoral review of the area was appropriate at the earliest opportunity. This will ensure the new council has electoral arrangements that reflect its functions in time for its first elections in May 2019.

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

- The wards in West Suffolk 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 district.

What is an electoral review?

11 Our three main considerations are to:

- Improve electoral equality by equalising the number of electors each councillor represents
- Reflect community identity
- Provide for effective and convenient local government

12 Our task is to strike the best balance between them when making our recommendations. Our powers, as well as the guidance we have provided for electoral reviews and further information on the review process, can be found on our website at www.lgbce.org.uk

13 This review is being conducted as follows:

Stage starts	Description
4 May 2018	Existing local authorities submit proposals for warding arrangements and the number of councillors
19 June 2018	Commission agrees its draft recommendations
3 July 2018	Publication of draft recommendations, start of consultation
27 August 2018	End of consultation; we begin analysing submissions and forming final recommendations
23 October 2018	Publication of final recommendations

² The West Suffolk (Local Government Changes) Order 2018 (S.I 2018/639).

How will the recommendations affect you?

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

2 Analysis and draft recommendations

15 Legislation³ states that our recommendations should not be based only on how many electors⁴ 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 wards.

16 In reality, we are unlikely to be able to create wards 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.

17 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.

	2017	2023
Electorate of West Suffolk	121,558	131,570
Number of councillors	64	64
Average number of electors per councillor	1,899	2,056

18 When the number of electors per councillor in a ward is within 10% of the average for the authority, we refer to the ward as having 'good electoral equality'. All of our proposed wards for West Suffolk are forecast to have good electoral equality by 2023.

19 Our recommendations cannot affect the external boundaries of the new council – these have been decided by Parliament and we cannot amend them. Our recommendations will not 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 take into account any representations which are based on these issues.

Submissions received

20 See Appendix C for details of the warding submissions received. All submissions may be viewed at our offices by appointment, or on our website at www.lgbce.org.uk

Electorate figures

21 The Council submitted electorate forecasts for 2023, a period five years on from the scheduled publication of our final recommendations in 2018. These forecasts were broken down to polling district level and predicted an increase in the

³ Schedule 2 to the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009.

⁴ Electors refers to the number of people registered to vote, not the whole adult population.

electorate of around 8% by 2023, driven largely by development on the fringes of the towns in the district.

22 We considered the information provided by the Council and are satisfied that the projected figures are the best available at the present time. We have used these figures to produce our draft recommendations.

Number of councillors

23 In January 2018, representatives of the existing councils in the area submitted a proposal to The Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government that the new Council have 64 councillors. In developing its proposal, the new authority was encouraged by the Ministry to follow our Guidance in developing its proposals. The Secretary of State subsequently laid a Local Government Changes Order in Parliament to create the new authority with 64 councillors.

24 As part of its submission on warding arrangements, the Council confirmed its preference for a council size of 64. We note that the proposal for a 64-member council for West Suffolk would constitute a reduction of 11% in terms of the overall number of councillors representing the area to be covered by the new authority. We have looked at evidence provided by the Council and have concluded that the proposed number of councillors will make sure the Council can carry out its new roles and responsibilities effectively.

25 We have therefore formulated these draft recommendations based on a 64-member council.

Ward boundaries consultation

26 We received three submissions on ward boundaries for the new council. These included detailed district-wide proposals from Forest Heath and St Edmundsbury Councils, along with submissions from two borough councillors and from a parish council. All of the submissions were based on a pattern of wards to be represented by 64 elected members.

27 The Councils did not submit a single scheme, choosing to submit instead a number of different options for both the rural area and each of the towns in West Suffolk. The Councils also provided, as part of their submission, the comments that had been received during their internal consultation.

28 One of the councillors' submissions focused on the Moreton Hall and Eastgate areas of Bury St Edmunds and explained the community identities of these two areas. Another councillor made a submission that focused on allocating two-councillor wards to urban areas and single-councillor wards to rural areas and focused mainly on Bury St Edmunds. Both of these submissions have been taken into account in the formulation of the draft recommendations as set out below.

29 Rushbrooke with Rougham Parish Council suggested an alternative ward to the Councils in its area.

30 The district-wide proposals submitted by the Councils provided for a mixed pattern of one-, two- and three-councillor wards for West Suffolk. We carefully considered the proposals received and concluded that the proposed ward boundaries would have good levels of electoral equality. We also considered that they generally used clearly identifiable boundaries.

31 Our draft recommendations are based on a number of the different options provided to us by the Councils as part of the submission. In some areas of West Suffolk, we have also adopted an alternative warding pattern having taken into account local evidence submitted as part of the Councils' submission, which provided evidence of community links and locally recognised boundaries. In some areas we considered that the proposals did not provide for the best balance between our statutory criteria and so we identified alternative boundaries. We also visited the area in order to look at the various different proposals on the ground. This tour of West Suffolk helped us to decide between the different boundaries proposed.

32 Our draft recommendations are for one three-councillor ward, 17 two-councillor wards and 27 one-councillor wards. We consider that our draft recommendations will provide for good electoral equality while reflecting community identities and interests where we have received such evidence during consultation.

33 A summary of our proposed new wards is set out in the table on page 37 and on the large map accompanying this report.

34 We welcome all comments on these draft recommendations, particularly on the location of the ward boundaries, and the names of our proposed wards.

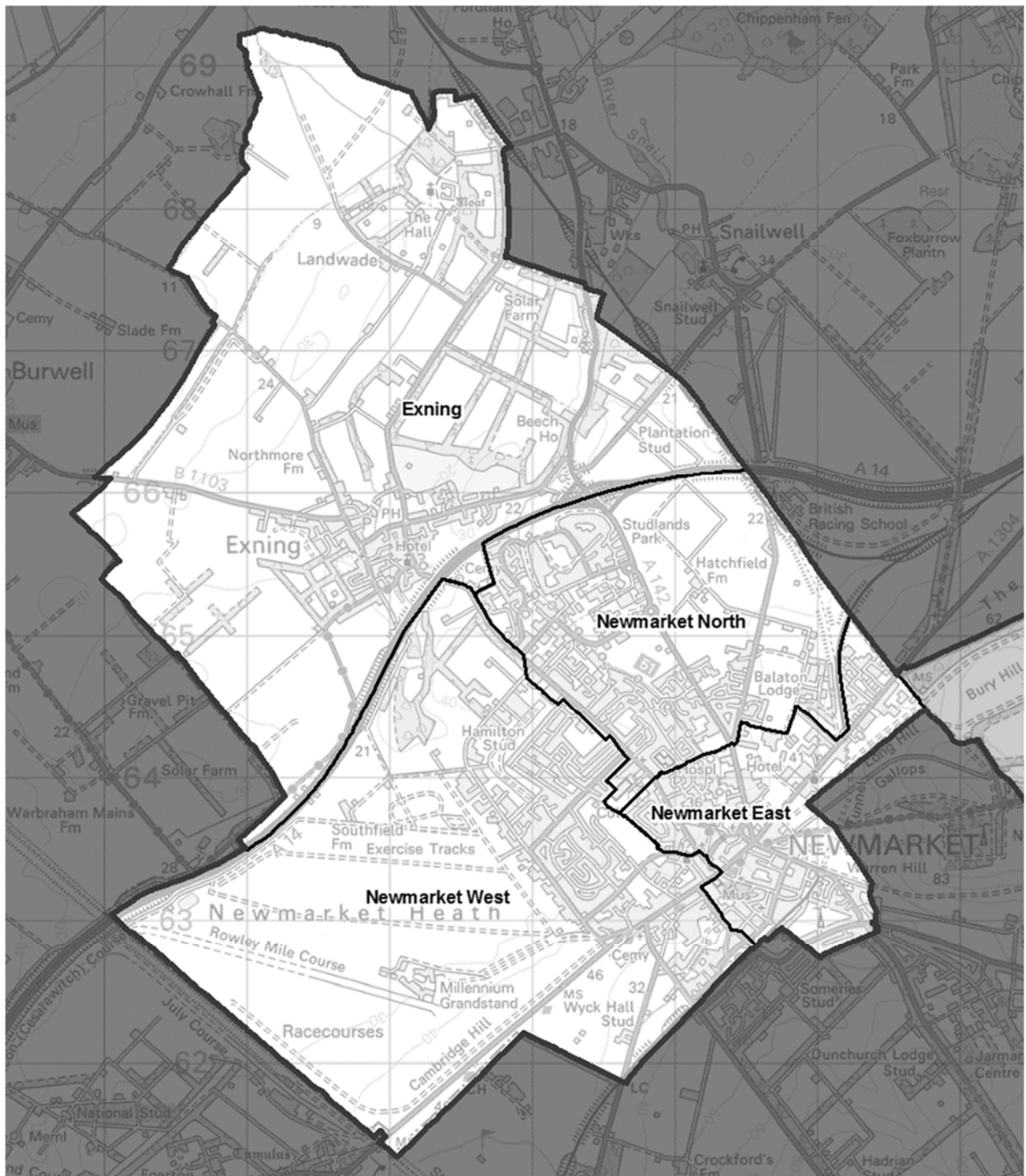
Draft recommendations

35 The tables and maps on pages 8–36 detail our draft recommendations for each area of West Suffolk. They detail how the proposed warding arrangements reflect the three statutory⁵ criteria of:

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

⁵ Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009.

Newmarket



Ward name	Number of Cllrs	Variance 2023
Exning	1	-6%
Newmarket East	2	-2%
Newmarket North	2	-6%
Newmarket West	2	-9%

Exning

36 As part of their submission, the Councils proposed to include the parish of Exning, to the north of Newmarket town, in a single-councillor ward. We consider that the proposed ward uses strong and identifiable boundaries and we are adopting this Exning ward, with a variance of -6%, as part of the draft recommendations.

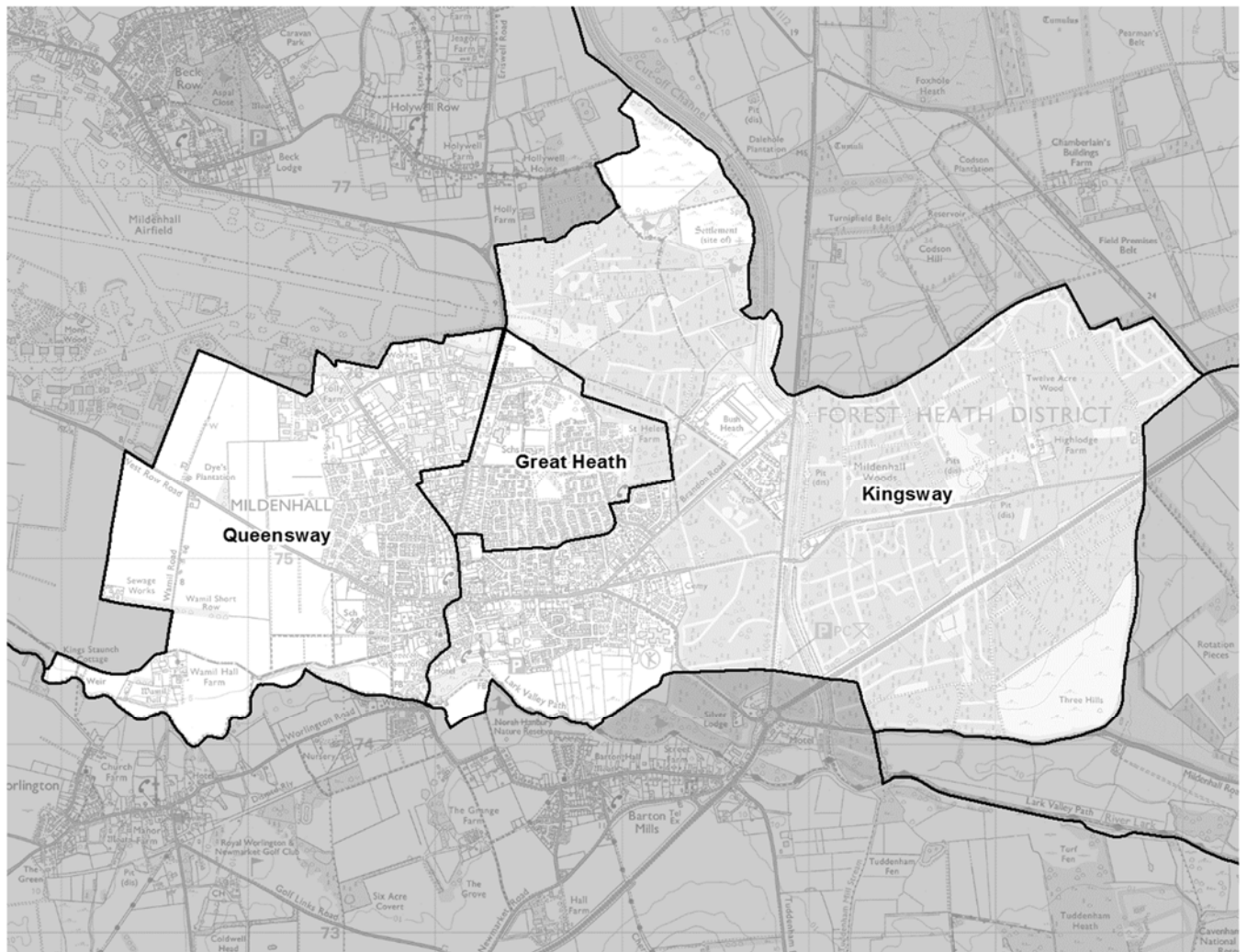
Newmarket East, Newmarket North and Newmarket West

37 As part of their submission, the Councils put forward two options for the town of Newmarket – one proposal for a pattern of six single-councillor wards, and one for a pattern of three two-councillor wards. The submission noted that both schemes encompass distinct housing estates and that the proposed wards all consider the links between neighbouring areas that share community facilities. Support was expressed to the Councils for both options; local councillors argued that both single- and two-councillor wards provide better representation. Newmarket Town Council supported the proposal that created single-councillor wards; however, no evidence was provided to support the proposals, except for support for single-councillor wards. A local resident responded to the Councils' consultation about this area but did not express a view in support of either proposed option.

38 In Newmarket, we are proposing a pattern of three two-councillor wards, based on one of the two proposals submitted by the Councils. We consider that this pattern of wards provides for strong and identifiable boundaries, and keeps the town centre area in one ward. We note that there are a number of different extant communities in Newmarket. However, we consider that it is better to include different communities in the same ward than to split one community into two. We note the Town Council's preference for single-councillor wards in Newmarket; however, we considered that the proposed pattern of two-councillor wards follows stronger and more identifiable boundaries, and provides for better levels of electoral equality. The Commission does not take a preference as to whether single-, two- or three-councillor wards are better, but rather takes decisions on warding patterns based on its three statutory criteria. We are proposing an alteration to the Councils' proposed wards in the east of the town to include the small area of housing south of the railway line in Newmarket East, as we note that these residents would not have access into the rest of a Newmarket North ward.

39 We are proposing to adopt a two-councillor Newmarket East ward with a variance of -2% by 2023, a two-councillor Newmarket North ward with a variance of -6% by 2023, and a two-councillor Newmarket West ward with a variance of -9% by 2023, as part of our draft recommendations, based on an option submitted by the Councils. We note that in their submission to the Councils, Newmarket Town Council suggested a number of different ward names for Newmarket wards. We would therefore particularly welcome submissions regarding the proposed ward names here.

Mildenhall



Ward name	Number of Cllrs	Variance 2023
Great Heath	1	0%
Kingsway	1	2%
Queensway	1	5%

Great Heath, Kingsway and Queensway

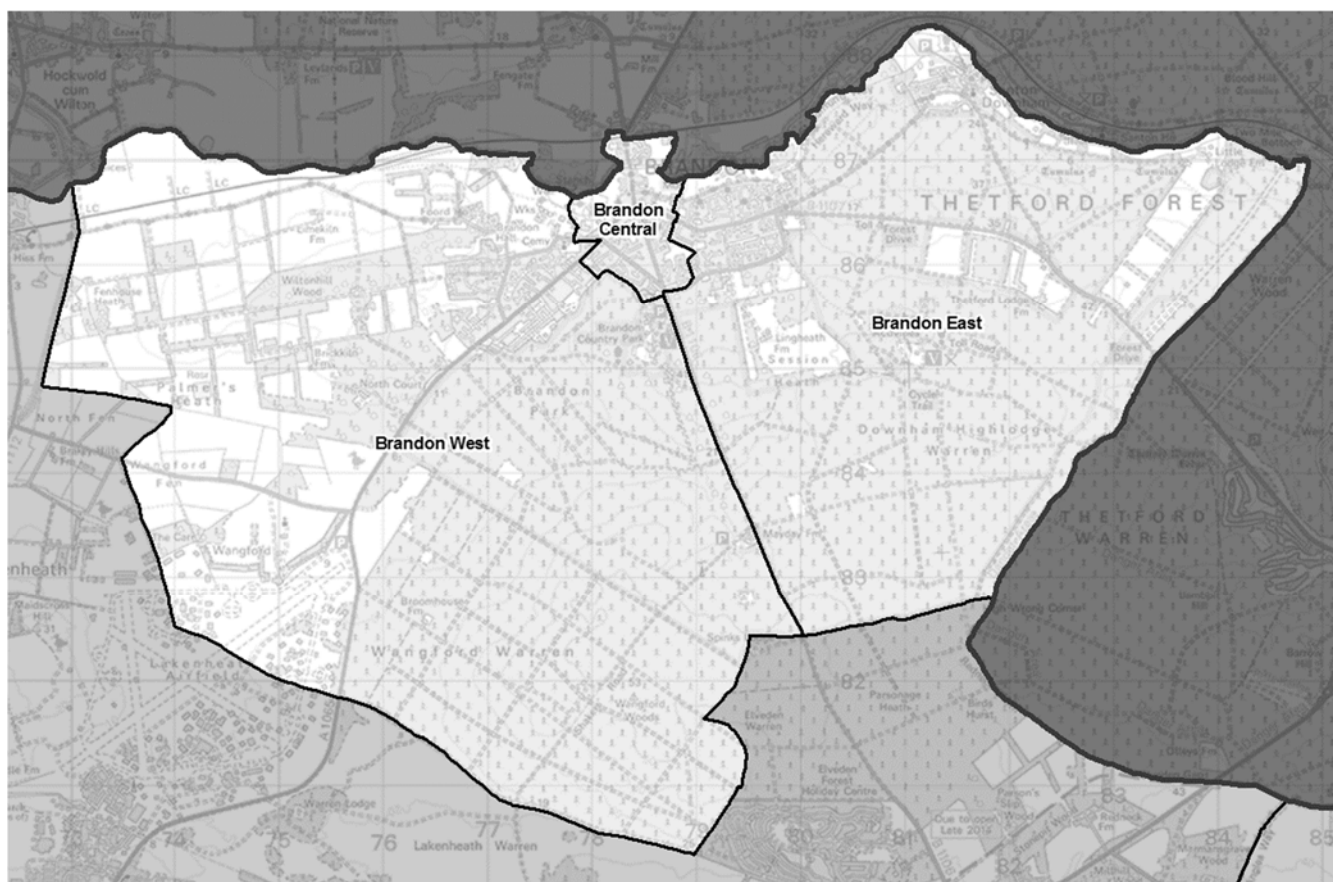
40 As part of their submission, the Councils put forward two warding pattern options for the town of Mildenhall. One of the proposed options used existing polling district boundaries and divided the town into one two-councillor ward and one single-councillor ward. Two local residents responded to the Councils' consultation stating a preference for this option, with one resident stating that potential development in the south of the town would necessitate the allocation of two councillors to that area in future.

41 The second proposed option put forward by the Councils provided for three single-councillor wards in Mildenhall. Mildenhall Parish Council supported this option, stating that the proposed names of Great Heath, Kingsway and Queensway were acceptable, and that this proposal would facilitate acceptable parish warding arrangements.

42 Both of the proposed schemes provided for acceptable levels of electoral equality in Mildenhall. However, we consider that the option for three single-councillor wards provided for stronger and more identifiable boundaries. We do not consider that the option based on existing polling districts is likely to reflect community identities, as polling districts are rarely a reflection of communities in an area. We are therefore proposing to adopt three single-councillor wards in Mildenhall as part of the draft recommendations, based on the wards submitted by the Councils with one alteration. On our visit to the area, we noted that access to properties on Folly Road can only be gained from the south; in the Councils' proposed warding pattern, the northern part of Folly Road would have no access. We also noted that the Councils' proposed Queensway and Great Heath wards split the industrial estate in the north of the town between two wards, which did not provide for a strong and identifiable boundary. As part of our draft recommendations, we are therefore proposing to use Field Road, the rear of the properties on Junction Road, and the southern part of Folly Road as the boundary between the proposed Queensway and Great Heath wards. We would particularly welcome submissions regarding this amendment during the consultation on the draft recommendations.

43 We are proposing three single-councillor wards in Mildenhall as part of the draft recommendations: a Great Heath ward with a variance of 0% by 2023, a Kingsway ward with a variance of 2% by 2023, and a Queensway ward with a variance of 5% by 2023.

Brandon



Ward name	Number of Cllrs	Variance 2023
Brandon Central	1	6%
Brandon East	1	8%
Brandon West	1	9%

Brandon Central, Brandon East and Brandon West

44 As part of their submission, the Councils put forward two warding pattern options to cover the parishes of Brandon and Santon Downham. One option was for three single-councillor wards, and one was for one two-councillor ward and one single-councillor ward. Both options would provide for acceptable levels of electoral equality by 2023, and little rationale was provided in support of either option.

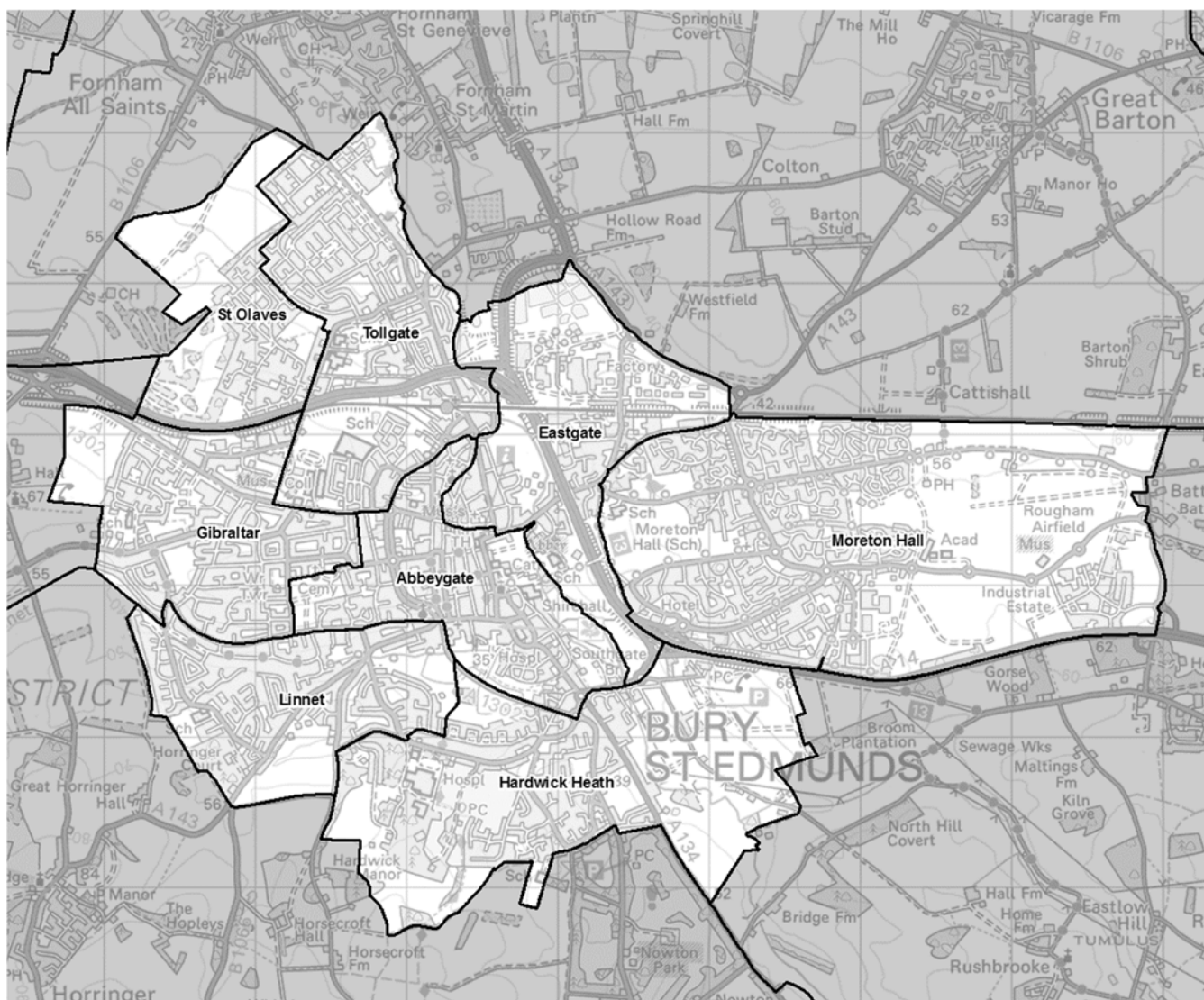
45 Brandon Town Council responded to the Councils' consultation stating that their preference was for the three single-councillor wards put forward by the Councils, named Brandon Central, Brandon East and Brandon West.

46 Santon Downham Parish Council responded to the Councils' community survey, carried out separately to the consultation process, stating that the residents of the parish use local services in Brandon, and we are therefore content to include the parish in the proposed Brandon East ward.

47 We are proposing to adopt the Councils' proposed three single-councillor wards (Brandon Central, Brandon East and Brandon West) as part of our draft recommendations. We consider that these wards have local support from the Parish Council, as well as following strong and identifiable boundaries, and we have therefore adopted this proposal over the option of one two-councillor ward and one single-councillor ward. We are proposing two amendments to the Councils' proposal; on our visit to the area, we noted that Knappers Way, which the Council had included in their proposed Brandon East ward, was significantly more similar in character to the Brandon Central ward, as well as being separated by an area of trees. We are therefore proposing to include Knappers Way in the proposed Brandon Central ward. We are also making a minor amendment to include Coronation Place in the proposed Brandon Central ward.

48 Subject to this alteration, we are proposing to adopt the Council's Brandon Central, Brandon East and Brandon West wards as part of the draft recommendations. Each of these wards will be represented by one councillor and will have variances of 6%, 8% and 9% respectively by 2023.

Bury St Edmunds



Ward name	Number of Cllrs	Variance 2023
Abbeygate	2	-6%
Eastgate	1	-8%
Gibraltar	2	7%
Hardwick Heath	2	-4%
Linnet	2	-5%
Moreton Hall	3	-1%
St Olaves	2	9%
Tollgate	2	1%

Abbeygate, Gibraltar, Hardwick Heath, Linnet, St Olaves and Tollgate

49 Forest Heath and St Edmundsbury Councils submitted four separate proposals for Bury St Edmunds. Two of these proposals excluded the new areas of development in the north of Rushbrooke with Rougham parish; however, we considered that this area should be included in a Bury St Edmunds ward, and as such there are two options put forward by the Councils that can be considered as viable warding patterns for Bury St Edmunds.

50 Having considered the options put forward by the Councils, and having taken into account all of the evidence put to the Councils by residents, members, and local groups, we considered that the Councils' Option F1 was the most suitable warding pattern for Bury St Edmunds, as it provided for strong and identifiable boundaries, as well as providing for good electoral equality. We therefore consider that this warding pattern is better than the alternative put forward by the Councils, which did not follow such strong boundaries, particularly in the west of the town. In putting this warding pattern together, the Councils had taken into account all of the submissions received during their consultation. As a result, a number of the comments received by the Councils had already been addressed in the course of putting together the options submitted. We have made a number of minor alterations to the Councils' proposed wards to follow stronger and more identifiable boundaries, and to ensure better levels of electoral equality.

51 Our proposed Abbeygate ward is based largely on the ward put forward by the Councils as part of Option F1. It covers the majority of the town centre, including the Abbey, and is bounded in the south by the A1302, in the west by West Road, and in the east by No Man's Meadows. In the north, we have amended the Councils' proposed ward to include the Long Brackland area. This both improves electoral equality and allows for the retention of the existing single-councillor Eastgate ward to the east. We have also amended the Councils' proposal to include West Suffolk College and the surrounding area in the proposed Tollgate ward to the north. This amendment allows for access onto Fen Way; under the Councils' proposed boundaries, there was no strong access from the rest of the Tollgate ward into Fen Way. Accordingly, we are proposing a two-councillor Abbeygate ward, with a variance of -6%, as part of the draft recommendations.

52 Our proposed Gibraltar, Hardwick Heath and Linnet wards are based on those put forward in one of the Councils' options – Option F1, as outlined above. We are proposing to include the western part of Winthrop Road in the proposed Gibraltar ward to avoid the creation of an unviable parish ward in this area. We considered that the Councils' proposals for three two-councillor wards here followed clear and identifiable boundaries and that the proposed wards provided for good levels of electoral equality, with variances of 7%, -4% and -5% respectively by 2023. We are therefore proposing to include these wards as part of our draft recommendations.

53 Our proposed St Olaves and Tollgate wards are based largely on the Councils' proposal (Option F1) as outlined above. To provide for improved levels of electoral equality both in Tollgate and in the neighbouring St Olaves ward, we are proposing to include the entirety of Northumberland Avenue in the Tollgate ward. We are also amending the boundary to include the entirety of the industrial estate in the north of the ward; under the Councils' proposal, this was split between St Olaves and

Tollgate. As mentioned in paragraph 51, we are including the area around West Suffolk College in the Tollgate ward to facilitate access to the Fen Way area. During our tour of the area we noted that, while the A14 and the railway line run through the proposed Tollgate ward, they do not form a barrier as they are elevated above the housing. Subject to these amendments, we are proposing a two-councillor Tollgate ward, with a variance of 1%, and a two-councillor St Olaves ward, with a variance of 9%, as part of the draft recommendations.

54 We note that the proposed ward names were debated during the formulation of the Councils' submission, and a wide variety of names were put forward. At this stage we have adopted the names proposed as part of the Councils' scheme here, but we would particularly welcome comments on these during the consultation on the draft recommendations.

Eastgate and Moreton Hall

55 Of the four separate patterns of wards that the Councils submitted as possibilities for Bury St Edmunds, two included Rushbrooke with Rougham parish in a Bury St Edmunds ward. On our visit to the area, we noted that this part of Rushbrooke with Rougham parish which lies north of the A14 is very different in character from the rest of the parish as it is currently undergoing significant development.

56 Rushbrooke with Rougham Parish Council responded to the Councils and to the LGBCE, stating that the entire parish should be included in an entirely rural ward. However, whilst the Rougham ward put forward by the Parish Council would provide for good electoral equality it would have significant knock-on effects on the surrounding rural wards as it would not fit in with any of the district-wide schemes put forward by the Council. We acknowledge the detailed submission provided by the Parish Council and note that the ward would provide good electoral equality for the Parish Council's proposed Rougham ward. We consider that the parish has a distinct community identity, as demonstrated in the Parish Council's submission, but we are persuaded that the new development in the north-west of the parish means that this area should be included in a Bury St Edmunds ward. We do not consider we can justify such significant knock-on effects to the surrounding wards, and we are therefore not adopting the Rougham ward proposed by Rushbrooke with Rougham Parish Council.

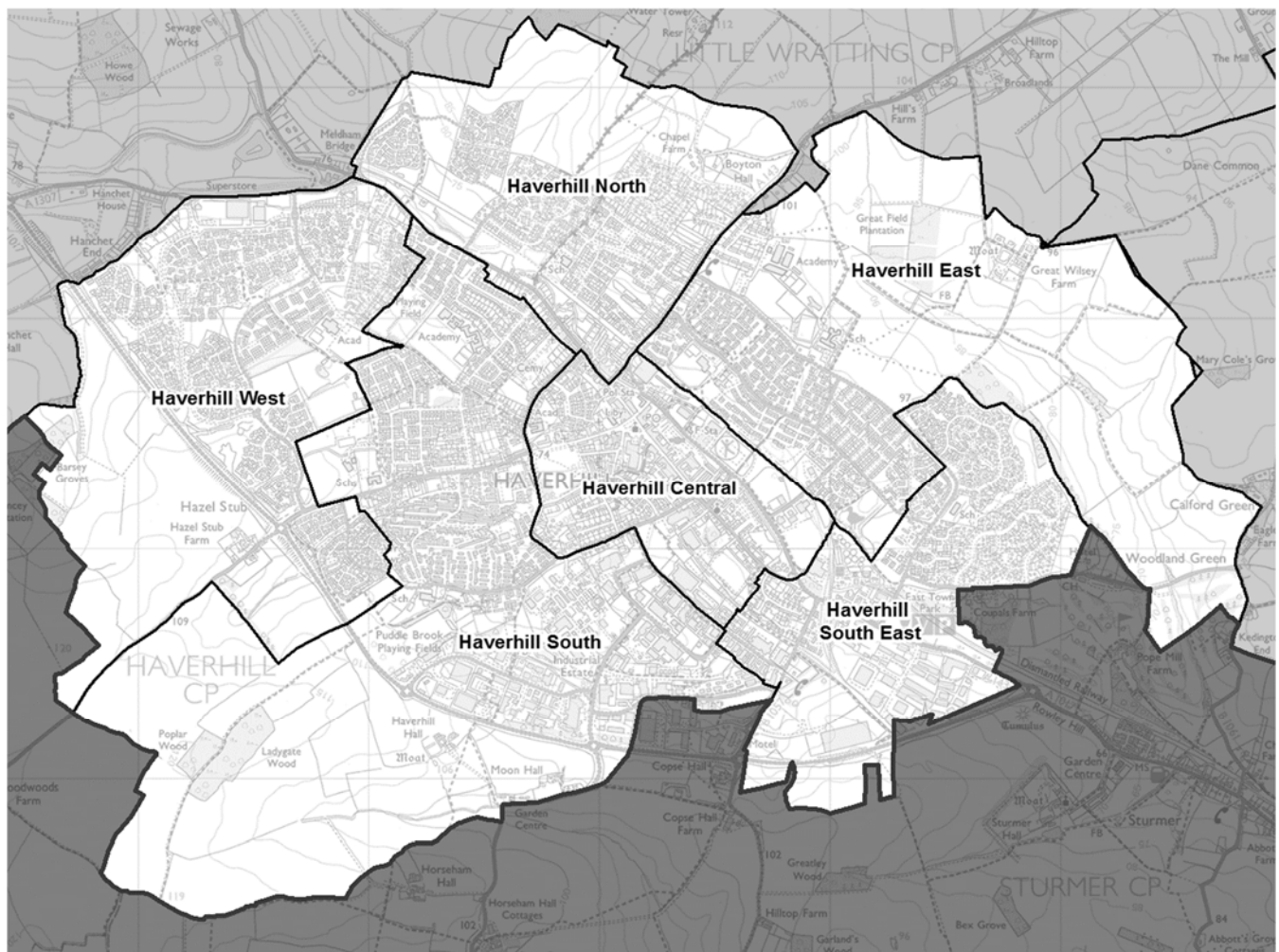
57 A number of the submissions received by the Councils, including two from local residents, supported including the area of Rushbrooke with Rougham parish undergoing development in a Moreton Hall ward; Moreton Hall Residents' Association noted that the new development will look towards Bury St Edmunds for services, and our visit to the area supported this inclusion. We have therefore decided to include the area of Rushbrooke with Rougham parish that lies to the west of Sow Lane and north of the A14 in a proposed Moreton Hall ward.

58 All of the proposals put forward by the Councils for the Eastgate and Moreton Hall areas split the Moreton Hall area between two wards. The Councils received significant opposition to this in response to their consultation from both residents and local groups, and a local councillor also made an independent submission to the LGBCE regarding this area. A number of submissions made to the Council, including

one from Moreton Hall Residents' Association, opposed splitting the existing Moreton Hall ward. The Residents' Association argued that the area has an established community centre and an active residents' association and is affected by unique issues regarding the traffic and planning concerns around the A14.

59 A submission made by a local councillor enumerated the differences between the Moreton Hall and Eastgate areas, describing the local services that are used by Moreton Hall residents. We considered that the evidence received from councillors, local groups, and residents, regarding the unique nature of Moreton Hall was persuasive, and we therefore set out to identify a pattern of wards that would allow for the Moreton Hall area to be included in one ward. We consider that the existing Moreton Hall ward, with the addition of the area of Rushbrooke with Rougham parish west of Sow Lane and north of the A14, would follow strong and identifiable boundaries, and would also provide for good levels of electoral equality. This ward would be represented by three councillors, and would have a projected variance of -1% by 2023. We are proposing, in response to the evidence received in submissions, to retain the existing Eastgate ward, which would be represented by a single councillor and would have a projected variance of -8% by 2023.

Haverhill



Ward name	Number of Cllrs	Variance 2023
Haverhill Central	1	3%
Haverhill East	2	-5%
Haverhill North	2	-4%
Haverhill South	2	6%
Haverhill South East	1	7%
Haverhill West	2	6%

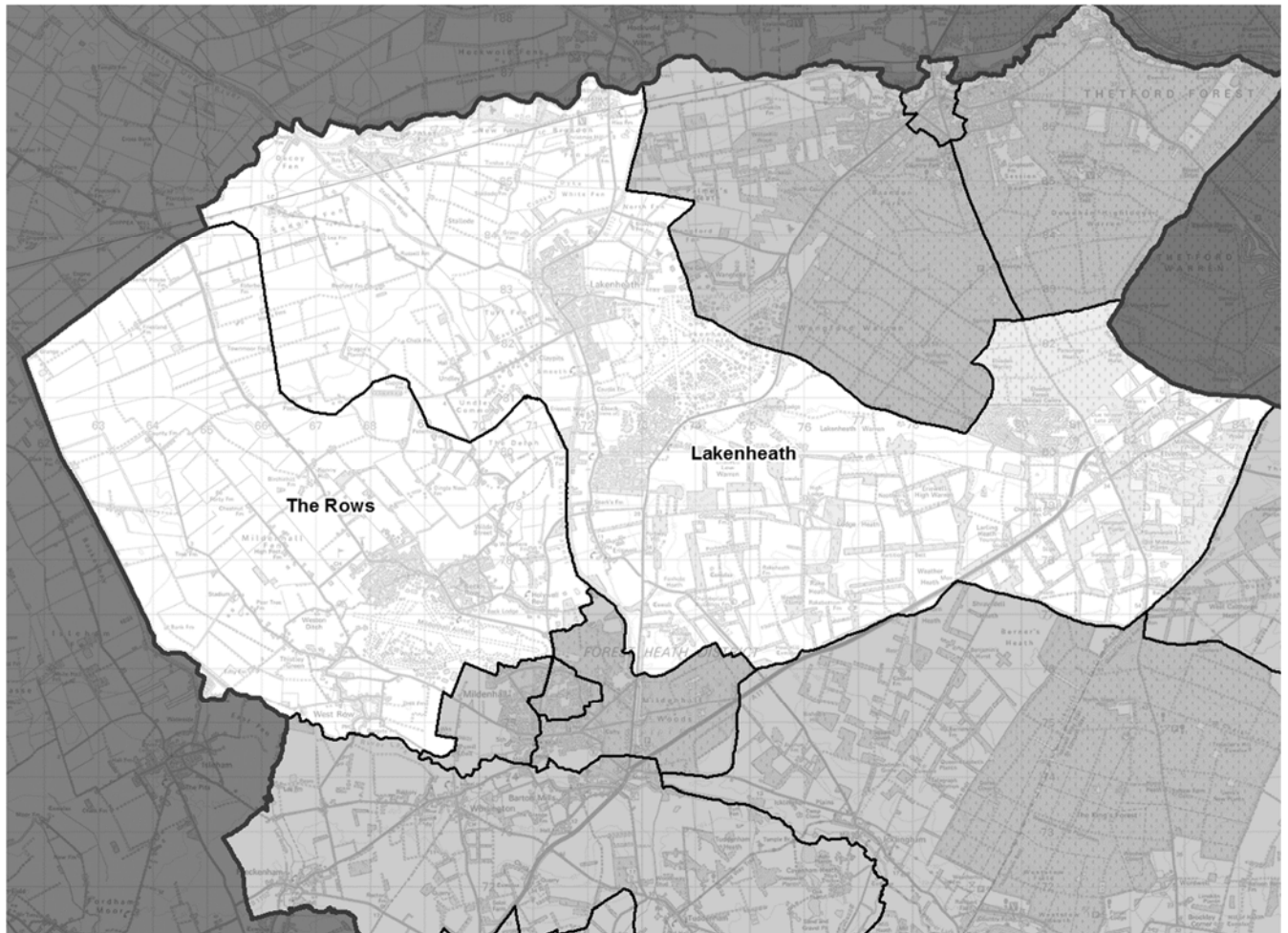
Haverhill Central, Haverhill East, Haverhill North, Haverhill South, Haverhill South East and Haverhill West

60 As part of their submission, the Councils put forward two warding pattern options for the town of Haverhill in the south of West Suffolk. Both options proposed provided for a mixed pattern of six one- and two-councillor wards, and feedback was received by the Councils in support of both proposed options. We carefully considered both options received, and concluded that the Councils' Option H, which provides for two single-councillor wards and four two-councillor wards covering the parish of Haverhill, provides for the best reflection of the statutory criteria. The proposed warding pattern provides for strong and identifiable boundaries, and this proposed pattern allows for good levels of electoral equality. This pattern of wards was also supported by the Councils' Future Governance Steering Group and by two local councillors. Comments received by the Councils supported this proposal because it was considered to reflect extant communities, as well as recognising the existing town centre of Haverhill in its own ward.

61 We are proposing an amendment to the Councils' proposed Haverhill South ward to include the Cambridge Way area and Castle Manor Academy; under the Councils' proposal, there was no way to access the Academy without entering a different ward. This alteration provides for a stronger and more identifiable boundary, running along the A1307. We are also making a minor amendment to include Hazel Stub Farm in the proposed Haverhill West ward, rather than in Haverhill South as proposed by the Councils; this keeps all of Hazel Stub together in one ward. We considered including the Cleves Road area in the proposed Haverhill South ward to provide for a stronger and more identifiable boundary; however, this would result in a variance of 20% by 2023, and as no supporting evidence was received for this alteration, we are not proposing to make this change as part of the draft recommendations.

62 We note that the Councils' proposed Haverhill Central ward covers the area of the town centre, and that this warding pattern also facilitates the inclusion of the development in the east of the town in the proposed Haverhill East ward. Subject to the amendments outlined above, we are proposing to adopt the Councils' Haverhill wards as part of our draft recommendations. This would result in a single-councillor Haverhill Central ward with a variance of 3%, a two-councillor Haverhill East ward with a variance of -5%, a two-councillor Haverhill North ward with a variance of -4%, a two-councillor Haverhill South ward with a variance of 6%, a one-councillor Haverhill South East ward with a variance of 7%, and a two-councillor Haverhill West ward with a variance of 6%.

Rural north-west



Ward name	Number of Cllrs	Variance 2023
Lakenheath	2	7%
The Rows	2	-10%

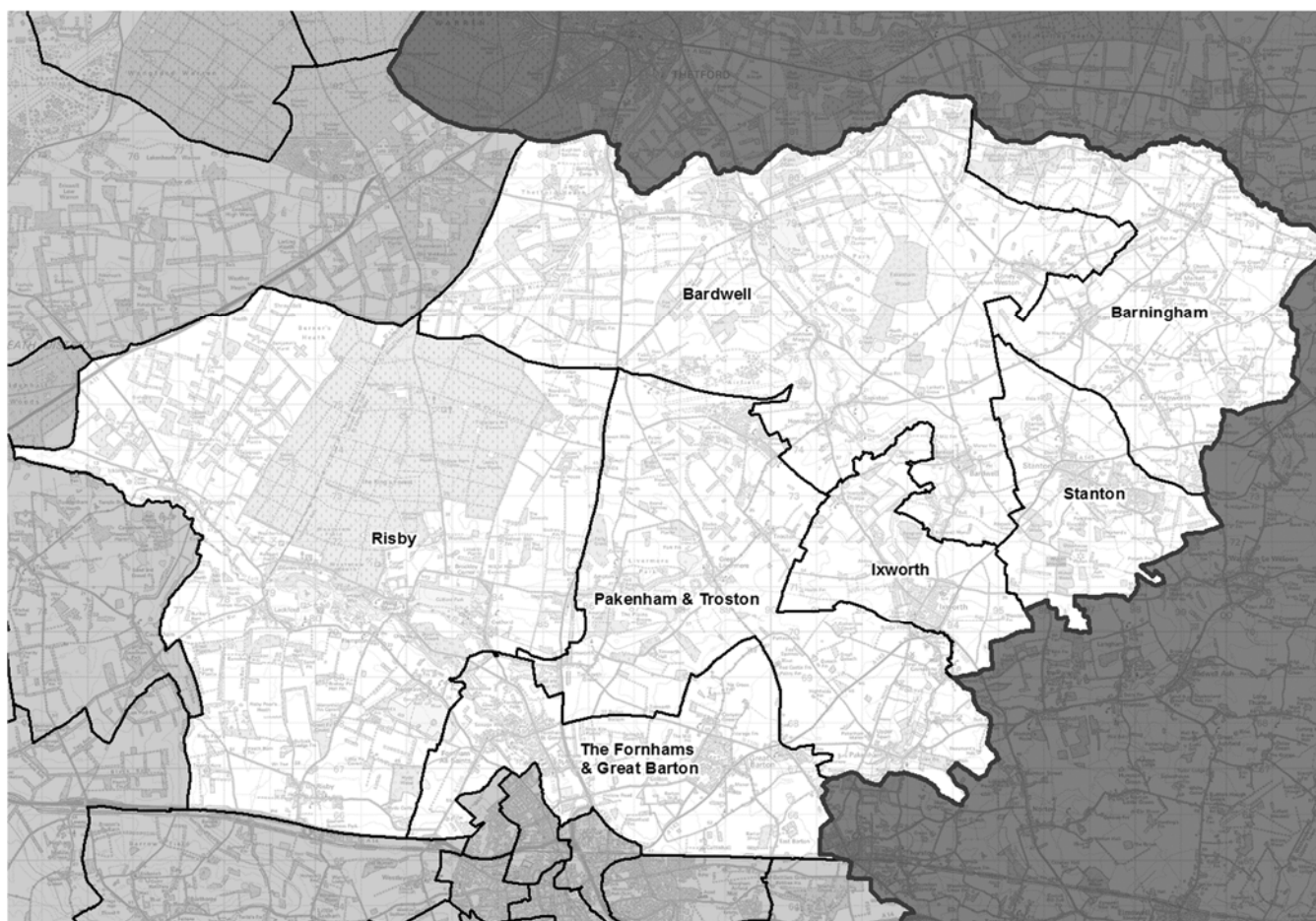
Lakenheath and The Rows

63 The Councils' proposed Lakenheath ward comprises the parishes of Lakenheath, Eriswell and Elveden, and the Councils' proposed The Rows ward comprises the grouped parish of Beck Row, Holywell Row & Kenny Hill and the West Row area of Mildenhall parish. The Councils did not submit any alternative warding patterns here.

64 The proposed Lakenheath ward comprises parishes that, as we noted on our visit to the area, are similar in character, and the Councils did not receive comments on this proposed ward during their consultation. We are therefore proposing the Councils' two-councillor Lakenheath ward, with a variance of 7% by 2023, as part of the draft recommendations.

65 The proposed The Rows ward was supported by Mildenhall Parish Council and follows strong and identifiable boundaries. We note that the ward has a projected variance of -10%; however, the ward keeps existing communities together and, given the geography of the area and the distribution of electors within the ward, we consider that the proposed ward reflects our statutory criteria. We are therefore proposing to adopt the Councils' proposed two-councillor The Rows ward, with a variance of -10% by 2023, as part of the draft recommendations.

Rural north



Ward name	Number of Cllrs	Variance 2023
Bardwell	1	-1%
Barningham	1	8%
Ixworth	1	-7%
Pakenham & Troston	1	-3%
Risby	1	9%
Stanton	1	9%
The Fornhams & Great Barton	2	3%

Bardwell, Pakenham & Troston and Risby

66 The Councils proposed three single-councillor wards in this area. The proposed Bardwell ward comprises the parishes of Bardwell, Barnham, Coney Weston, Euston, Fakenham Magna and Sapiston, and the village of Honington. The proposed Pakenham & Troston ward comprises the parishes of Ampton, Great Livermere, Little Livermere, Pakenham, Timworth and Troston, and part of the Honington parish. The proposed Risby ward comprises the parishes of Culford, Flempton, Hengrave, Icklingham, Ingham, Risby, West Stow and Wordwell.

67 The Councils amended their original proposals in this area after their initial consultation, as significant feedback was received with regard to the original plan to split RAF Honington between two wards. Respondents noted that the RAF Station is one community and that the original proposals would have caused this community to be split between two wards. As a result of the feedback received, the Councils adopted a pattern of wards, put forward by numerous respondents, that retains the RAF Station in the Pakenham & Troston ward. We consider that this reflects the community identity in the area. Respondents also stated that there are links between Barnham and Euston parishes, with part of the Euston estate lying within Barnham parish, and both of these parishes have been included in the same Bardwell ward in our draft recommendations.

68 A number of respondents also commented on the parish of Lackford and opposed any proposal to include the parish in the Manor ward, instead stating that its community links lie with the parishes included in the Risby ward. Respondents also stated that, as it is not possible to pass from Icklingham parish to the rest of the Risby ward without passing through Lackford, both Lackford and Icklingham should be included in the Risby ward. The proposal that we are adopting as part of the draft recommendations includes both of these parishes in the proposed Risby ward.

69 We are therefore including the Councils' proposed wards in this area as part of our draft recommendations, as we consider that they take into account community evidence as received during their consultation as well as reflecting the Commission's statutory criteria. The proposed single-councillor Bardwell ward is forecast to have a variance of -1% by 2023, the proposed single-councillor Pakenham & Troston ward is forecast to have a variance of -3% by 2023, and the proposed Risby ward is forecast to have a variance of 9% by 2023.

Barningham, Ixworth and Stanton

70 The Councils proposed three single-councillor wards are identical to the existing warding patterns in this area. We consider that the proposed wards provide for acceptable levels of electoral equality, and we are proposing to include the three wards as part of our draft recommendations. The proposed single-councillor Barningham ward is forecast to have a variance of 8% by 2023. The proposed single-councillor Ixworth ward is forecast to have a variance of -7% by 2023. The proposed single-councillor Stanton ward is forecast to have a variance of 9% by 2023.

The Fornhams & Great Barton

71 In response to their consultation on the proposals for this area, the Councils received a number of comments on the original proposed ward name, requesting

that The Fornhams be recognised in the naming of the ward. There were also concerns raised about the fact that the ward will be represented by two councillors, but no viable alternative warding patterns were put forward. We consider that the Councils' proposed The Fornhams & Great Barton ward provides for good electoral equality. We do note that the ward combines two separate communities, but Great Barton parish is too large on its own to form a single-councillor ward – it would have a variance of 27% – and it has therefore been necessary to provide for a two-councillor ward which combines communities rather than proposing an arrangement that splits one community between wards in order to achieve better levels of electoral equality. We are therefore proposing to adopt the Councils' proposed The Fornhams & Great Barton ward, which would be represented by two councillors and would have a variance of 3% by 2023.

Rural west



Ward name	Number of Cllrs	Variance 2023
Barrow	1	10%
Icen	2	-9%
Kentford & Moulton	1	9%
Manor	1	-4%

Barrow

72 The Councils proposed a single-councillor Barrow ward comprising the parishes of Barrow, Denham, The Saxhams and Westley. No submissions were received by the Councils during their consultation regarding this proposed ward. We consider that whilst the ward has a projected variance of 10%, no alternative warding pattern options were put forward here and the proposed Barrow ward keeps whole parishes together and follows strong and identifiable boundaries. We are therefore proposing to include it as part of the draft recommendations for West Suffolk.

Iceni and Manor

73 The Councils' proposed Iceni ward comprises the parishes of Red Lodge and Herringswell, with a variance of -9% by 2023. The neighbouring proposed Manor ward comprises the parishes of Barton Mills, Cavenham, Freckenham, Tuddenham and Worlington, with a variance of -4% by 2023. The Councils received a number of comments on these wards during their consultation on possible warding patterns. Worlington, Tuddenham and Freckenham Parish Councils supported the proposed Manor ward, stating that it will strengthen the relationship between the villages.

74 Two local residents, along with Herringswell Parish Council, requested that the parish of Herringswell be included in the Manor ward, instead of in the proposed Iceni ward; however, this would result in a projected electoral variance of -20% for Iceni by 2023, and we do not consider that any compelling evidence was received to justify such a high level of electoral inequality. Whilst we recognise that Herringswell and Red Lodge are different communities, we must seek to balance our statutory criteria and we consider that it is better to include different communities in the same ward, rather than having to divide a community elsewhere to provide for improved electoral equality.

75 A number of submissions referred to the parish of Lackford and expressed concern over any plan to include Lackford in the proposed Manor ward. Respondents stated that the parish had significantly stronger links to the proposed Risby ward than to the Manor ward, sharing community events and facilities with those parishes in Risby ward. We are therefore proposing to include Lackford in the Risby ward rather than in Manor at this stage.

76 We considered including the parish of Icklingham in the proposed Manor ward, instead of in the proposed Risby ward. Whilst this would have little impact overall on electoral equality, we considered that evidence in the submissions provided by the Council showed that Icklingham had stronger links to Lackford. As we have proposed to include Lackford in the proposed Risby ward, due to the community links that were demonstrated in the submissions to the Councils' consultation, we are therefore not including Icklingham in the Manor ward at this stage.

77 An alternative warding pattern here would be to combine the proposed Iceni and Manor wards into a three-councillor ward with a variance of -2%; however, we do not consider that sufficient evidence has been received at this stage to recommend this. We are therefore adopting the Councils' proposed Iceni and Manor wards, with variances of -9% and -4% respectively, as part of the draft recommendations. We would be particularly interested to receive submissions regarding this area during the consultation on the draft recommendations.

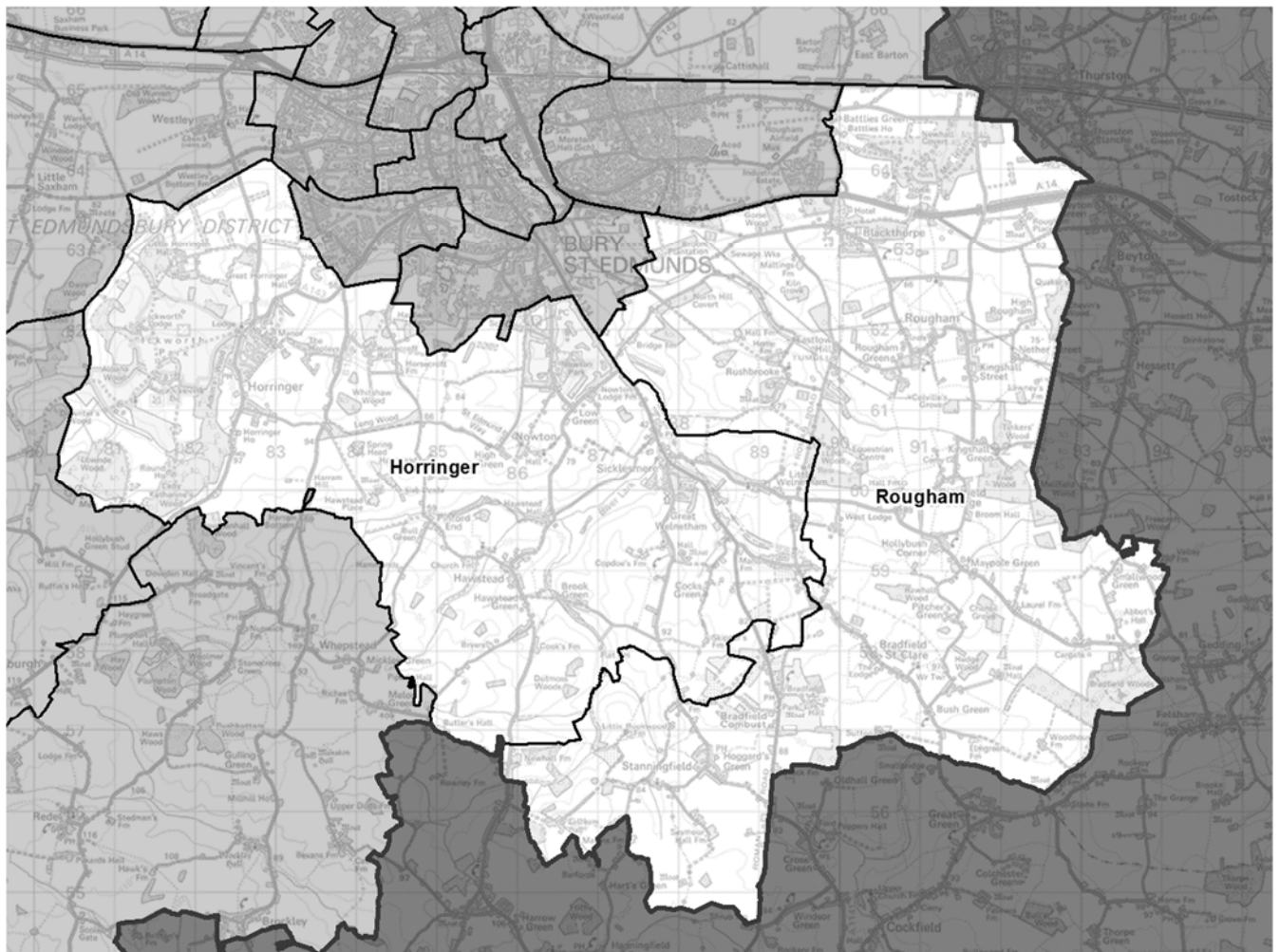
Kentford & Moulton

78 The Councils' proposed Kentford & Moulton ward comprises the parishes of Gazeley, Higham, Moulton and Kentford. Two parish councils supported the proposed ward, stating that the parishes within the ward have similar issues.

79 In response to the Councils' consultation, Higham Parish Council requested that the existing ward in this area be retained; however, due to the reduction in the number of councillors, the existing ward containing the parish of Higham would have a variance of -33% and we do not consider a ward with such high levels of electoral inequality is justified.

80 We consider that the Councils' proposed single-councillor Kentford & Moulton ward, with a variance of 9% by 2023, provides for a good reflection of our statutory criteria and we are therefore proposing to include it as part of the draft recommendations.

Rural east



Ward name	Number of Cllrs	Variance 2023
Horringer	1	1%
Rougham	1	-10%

Horringer and Rougham

81 The Councils proposed two options in this area. The option we are adopting is for two single-councillor wards: a single-councillor Horringer ward comprising the parishes of Great Whelnetham, Little Whelnetham, Hawstead, Horringer, Ickworth and Nowton, and a single-councillor Rougham ward comprising the parishes of Bradfield Combust with Stanningfield, Bradfield St Clare and Bradfield St George, and the area of Rushbrooke with Rougham parish that lies to the south of the A14. The Councils proposed including the area to the north of the parish in a Bury St Edmunds ward in this option, and as outlined above, we consider that this warding pattern would provide for the best adherence to the Commission's statutory criteria. The Councils' second option here combined a number of different parishes into a two-councillor ward, but we did not consider that this ward used strong boundaries, and it would have significant knock-on effects elsewhere, and as such we are not proposing to adopt it.

82 Rushbrooke with Rougham Parish Council made a submission both to the Council and to the LG BCE outlining an alternative proposal for their parish, as the Parish Council stated that the entire parish should be included in one ward. The Parish Council's proposal stated that their preferred pattern of wards would have all of Rushbrooke with Rougham included with Bradfield St George and Bradfield St Clare parishes. Whilst this arrangement would provide for acceptable levels of electoral equality in the proposed Rougham ward (3%), the parish of Bradfield Combust with Stanningfield would need to be placed in the proposed Horringer ward, which would then have a variance of 24%. To retain Bradfield Combust with Stanningfield in the Parish Council's proposed Rougham ward would result in that ward having a variance of 19%. We acknowledge the strength of feeling in the area regarding the parish of Rushbrooke with Rougham, and that the Parish Council's proposed ward reflects the community identity of the area, but the proposal would have significant knock-on effects to the surrounding areas; we would have to make significant changes across the district to accommodate the alterations in order to achieve a reasonable level of electoral equality.

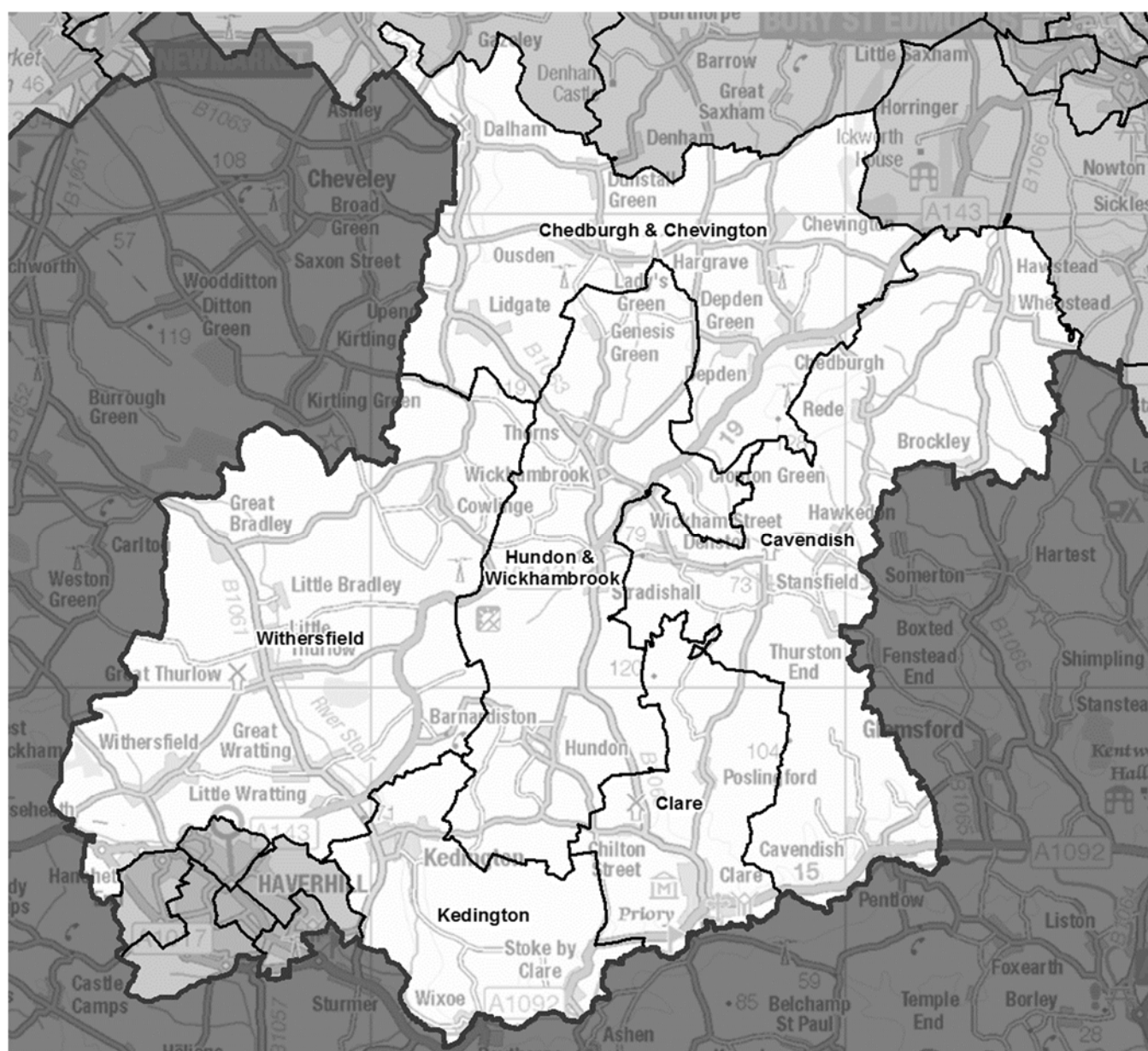
83 We are proposing to make an alteration to the Councils' proposed Rougham ward, partly in response to Rushbrooke with Rougham Parish Council's submission. The Councils' proposals included the entirety of the parish to the north of the A14 in a ward with areas of Bury St Edmunds. However, on our visit to the area, we noted that the area of Rushbrooke with Rougham parish to the east of Sow Lane was significantly more rural in character than the area undergoing development in the north-west of the parish. We are therefore proposing to include the area of the parish to the east of Sow Lane in the proposed Rougham ward.

84 Subject to this amendment, we are proposing to adopt the Councils' Rougham ward, which would be represented by one councillor and would have a variance of -10% by 2023, as part of the draft recommendations.

85 A number of responses were received by the Councils regarding the proposed Horringer ward, which were supportive of the single-councillor ward proposed here. The Councils had also proposed another option here which involved combining Rougham and Horringer wards together, but submissions received did not support this option and we are not proposing to adopt it. We consider that the single-

councillor Horringer ward follows strong boundaries and the submissions suggest that it reflects the communities in the area. We are therefore proposing to include the Councils' proposed Horringer ward, which would be represented by one councillor and have a variance of 1% by 2023, as part of our draft recommendations.

Rural south



Ward name	Number of Cllrs	Variance 2023
Cavendish	1	-3%
Chedburgh & Chevington	1	-3%
Clare	1	-3%
Hundon & Wickhambrook	1	9%
Kedington	1	3%
Withersfield	1	-5%

Cavendish, Clare, Hundon & Wickhambrook and Kedington

86 The Councils' proposed Cavendish ward comprises the parishes of Cavendish, Brockley, Denston, Hawkedon, Rede, Stansfield and Wkepstead. This warding pattern was supported by a parish councillor during the Councils' consultation, as well as by a district councillor who considered that it represented a 'natural spread of villages' that look north towards Bury St Edmunds. We are proposing to adopt the Councils' proposed Cavendish ward, which would be represented by one councillor and would have a variance of -3% by 2023. The Councils did include, as part of their submission, an alternative Cavendish ward, but this ward included the parish of Hawstead, that is included in the Horringer ward being adopted above. As we are adopting the Council's proposed single-councillor Horringer ward, we are not adopting this alternative warding pattern here.

87 The Councils' proposed Clare ward comprises the parishes of Clare and Poslingford, and would be represented by one councillor. The proposed Kedington ward would also be represented by one councillor and would comprise the parishes of Kedington, Stoke by Clare and Wixoe. There were a number of submissions received by the Councils regarding these wards. Poslingford Parish Council expressed concern over the proposal to include the parish in a ward with Clare parish, and requested that the existing warding arrangement here be retained. However, the existing ward would have a variance of -19% and as such we are unable to retain the existing arrangements here. We acknowledge that Clare and Poslingford are distinct communities but we consider that it is better to retain both communities within one ward rather than having to split a community elsewhere to provide for a good level of electoral equality. We are therefore proposing to adopt the Councils' single-councillor Clare ward, with a variance of -3% by 2023, as part of the draft recommendations.

88 A number of submissions regarding the proposed Kedington ward focused on the parishes of Stoke by Clare and Wixoe, and many requested that the parish of Stoke by Clare be moved into the neighbouring Clare ward. However, this would result in a Clare ward with a variance of 17% and a Kedington ward with a variance of -17%, which would not provide for a good level of electoral equality. We considered combining the proposed Kedington and Clare wards into one two-councillor ward with a variance of 0%. However, we do not consider that evidence has been received at this stage to support this option. Stoke by Clare Parish Council requested that the existing Hundon ward in this area be retained; however, this would have a variance of -15% by 2023 and we are therefore not recommending a ward with such a high level of electoral inequality here. We are therefore confirming the Councils' proposed single-councillor Kedington ward, with a variance of 3%, as part of the draft recommendations.

89 The Council's proposed Hundon & Wickhambrook ward comprises the parishes of Hundon, Stradishall and Wickhambrook. A local councillor proposed a completely different pattern of wards in this area in response to the Councils' consultation period; however, no supporting information was provided for these wards and it would have a knock-on impact on the Chedburgh & Chevington ward to the north, resulting in a ward with a variance of 21%. We are not adopting this proposal here. We consider that the Councils' proposed Hundon & Wickhambrook ward follows strong and identifiable boundaries and we are proposing to include the single-

councillor ward, which is forecast to have a variance of 9% by 2023, as part of the draft recommendations in West Suffolk.

Chedburgh & Chevington

90 The Councils' proposed Chedburgh & Chevington ward comprises the parishes of Chedburgh, Chevington, Dalham, Depden, Hargrave, Lidgate and Ousden. Depden Parish Council responded to the Councils' consultation and stated that the parish had closer community links with Wickhambrook and should be in a ward with that parish; however, to include Wickhambrook in this ward would result in a variance of 47%, and to move Depden parish into the neighbouring Hundon & Wickhambrook ward would result in a variance of 18% in that ward. We do not consider that sufficient evidence has been received to justify such high variances, or the knock-on effects of attempting to mitigate these variances.

91 We are therefore proposing to adopt the Councils' proposed single-councillor Chedburgh & Chevington ward, which is forecast to have a variance of -3% by 2023, as part of the draft recommendations.

Withersfield

92 The Councils' proposed Withersfield ward comprises the parishes of Barnardiston, Cowlinge, Great Bradley, Little Bradley, Great Thurlow, Little Thurlow, Great Wratting, Little Wratting and Withersfield. A local councillor requested that the existing ward in this area be retained; however, due to the change in council size, it is necessary to reconsider the ward boundaries here to provide for good levels of electoral equality. Retaining the Withersfield ward would have a variance of 40% by 2023. A councillor also commented to the Councils that the parishes of Great Wratting and Little Wratting have stronger links to Kedington than to the proposed Withersfield ward. To include these parishes in the neighbouring Kedington ward would, however, result in a Kedington ward with a variance of 16% and a Withersfield ward with a variance of -18%, which we do not consider is justified in light of an alternative with better electoral equality. The same councillor also commented that Hundon and Barnardiston should be included in the same ward; however, to include Hundon in the proposed Withersfield ward would result in a Withersfield ward with a variance of 37%, and no evidence was provided to support such a high level of electoral inequality.

93 We are proposing to adopt the Councils' proposed single-councillor Withersfield ward, which is forecast to have a variance of -5%, as part of the draft recommendations.

Conclusions

94 The table below shows the impact of our draft recommendations on electoral equality, based on 2017 and 2023 electorate figures.

Summary of electoral arrangements

	Draft recommendations	
	2017	2023
Number of councillors	64	64
Number of electoral wards	45	45
Average number of electors per councillor	1,899	2,056
Number of wards with a variance more than 10% from the average	18	0
Number of wards with a variance more than 20% from the average	1	0

Draft recommendation

West Suffolk Council should be made up of 64 councillors serving 45 wards representing 27 single-councillor wards, 17 two-councillor wards and one three-councillor ward. 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 wards for West Suffolk.

You can also view our draft recommendations for West Suffolk on our interactive maps at <http://consultation.lgbce.org.uk>

Parish electoral arrangements

95 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 wards it must also be divided into parish wards, so that each parish ward lies wholly within a single ward. We cannot recommend changes to the external boundaries of parishes as part of an electoral review.

96 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, district councils have powers under the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 to conduct community governance reviews to effect changes to parish electoral arrangements.

97 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 Brandon Town Council, Bury St Edmunds Town Council, Haverhill Town Council, Mildenhall Parish Council, Newmarket Town Council and Rushbrooke with Rougham Parish Council.

98 As 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 Brandon parish.

Draft recommendation Brandon Town Council should comprise 14 councillors, as at present, representing three wards:	
Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
Central	5
East	4
West	5

99 As 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 Bury St Edmunds parish.

Draft recommendation Bury St Edmunds Town Council should comprise 17 councillors, as at present, representing nine wards:	
Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
Abbeygate	1
Eastgate	1
Gibraltar	2
Hardwick Heath	2
Linnet	2
Moreton Hall	3
St Olaves	3
Tollgate	2
Westgate	1

100 As 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 Haverhill parish.

Draft recommendation

Haverhill Town Council should comprise 16 councillors, as at present, representing eight wards:

Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
Beaumont	1
Central	1
East	3
Mount Road	1
North	3
South	3
South East	1
West	3

101 As 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 Mildenhall parish.

Draft recommendation

Mildenhall Parish Council should comprise 15 councillors, as at present, representing four wards:

Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
Great Heath	4
Kingsway	4
Queensway	4
West Row	3

102 As 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 Newmarket parish.

Draft recommendation

Newmarket Town Council should comprise 18 councillors, as at present, representing six wards:

Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
All Saints	3
Exning Road	1
Freshfields	1
Scaltback	6
Severals	2
Studlands	5

103 As 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 Rushbrooke with Rougham parish.

Draft recommendation

Rushbrooke with Rougham Parish Council should comprise 11 councillors, as at present, representing two wards:

Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
North	4
South	7

3 Have your say

104 The Commission has an open mind about its draft recommendations. Every representation we receive will be considered, regardless of who it is from or whether it relates to the whole district/borough/county or just a part of it.

105 If you agree with our recommendations, please let us know. If you don't think our recommendations are right for West Suffolk, we want to hear alternative proposals for a different pattern of wards.

106 Our website has a special consultation area where you can explore the maps and draw your own proposed boundaries. You can find it at consultation.lgbce.org.uk

107 Submissions can also be made by emailing reviews@lgbce.org.uk or by writing to:

Review Officer (West Suffolk)
The Local Government Boundary Commission for England
1st Floor, Windsor House
50 Victoria Street
London SW1H 0TL

108 The Commission aims to propose a pattern of wards for West Suffolk which delivers:

- Electoral equality: each local councillor represents a similar number of voters
- Community identity: reflects the identity and interests of local communities
- Effective and convenient local government: helping your council discharge its responsibilities effectively

109 A good pattern of wards should:

- Provide good electoral equality, with each councillor representing, as closely as possible, the same number of voters
- Reflect community interests and identities and include evidence of community links
- Be based on strong, easily identifiable boundaries
- Help the council deliver effective and convenient local government

110 Electoral equality:

- Does your proposal mean that councillors would represent roughly the same number of voters as elsewhere in the council area?

111 Community identity:

- Community groups: is there a parish council, residents' association or other group that represents the area?

- Interests: what issues bind the community together or separate it from other parts of your area?
- Identifiable boundaries: are there natural or constructed features which make strong boundaries for your proposals?

112 Effective local government:

- Are any of the proposed wards too large or small to be represented effectively?
- Are the proposed names of the wards appropriate?
- Are there good links across your proposed wards? Is there any form of public transport?

113 Please note that the consultation stage of an electoral review is a public consultation. In the interests of openness and transparency, we make available for public inspection full copies of all representations the Commission takes into account as part of a review. Accordingly, copies of all representations will be placed on deposit at our offices in Windsor House (London) and on our website at www.lgbce.org.uk A list of respondents will be available from us on request after the end of the consultation period.

114 If you are a member of the public and not writing on behalf of a council or organisation we will remove any personal identifiers, such as postal or email addresses, signatures or phone numbers from your submission before it is made public. We will remove signatures from all letters, no matter who they are from.

115 In the light of representations received, we will review our draft recommendations and consider whether they should be altered. As indicated earlier, it is therefore important that all interested parties let us have their views and evidence, **whether or not** they agree with the draft recommendations. We will then publish our final recommendations.

116 After the publication of our final recommendations, the changes we have proposed must be approved by Parliament. An Electoral Changes Order – the legal document which brings into force our recommendations – will be laid in draft in Parliament. The draft Order will provide for new electoral arrangements to be implemented at the all-out elections for West Suffolk in 2019.

Equalities

117 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.

Appendix A

Draft recommendations for West Suffolk

	Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2017)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2023)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
1	Abbeygate	2	3,783	1,891	0%	3,875	1,937	-6%
2	Bardwell	1	2,035	2,035	7%	2,035	2,035	-1%
3	Barningham	1	2,180	2,180	15%	2,211	2,211	8%
4	Barrow	1	2,013	2,013	6%	2,261	2,261	10%
5	Brandon Central	1	2,158	2,158	14%	2,182	2,182	6%
6	Brandon East	1	2,199	2,199	16%	2,211	2,211	8%
7	Brandon West	1	2,247	2,247	18%	2,247	2,247	9%
8	Cavendish	1	1,978	1,978	4%	1,990	1,990	-3%
9	Chedburgh & Chevington	1	1,986	1,986	5%	1,994	1,994	-3%
10	Clare	1	1,918	1,918	1%	1,991	1,991	-3%
11	Eastgate	1	1,822	1,822	-4%	1,894	1,894	-8%
12	Exning	1	1,590	1,590	-16%	1,924	1,924	-6%

	Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2017)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2023)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
13	Gibraltar	2	4,307	2,153	13%	4,420	2,210	7%
14	Great Heath	1	2,062	2,062	9%	2,062	2,062	0%
15	Hardwick Heath	2	3,291	1,645	-13%	3,928	1,964	-4%
16	Haverhill Central	1	2,035	2,035	7%	2,116	2,116	3%
17	Haverhill East	2	2,794	1,397	-26%	3,898	1,949	-5%
18	Haverhill North	2	3,142	1,571	-17%	3,954	1,977	-4%
19	Haverhill South	2	4,185	2,092	10%	4,355	2,177	6%
20	Haverhill South East	1	2,196	2,196	16%	2,196	2,196	7%
21	Haverhill West	2	4,302	2,151	13%	4,374	2,187	6%
22	Horringer	1	1,993	1,993	5%	2,080	2,080	1%
23	Hundon & Wickhambrook	1	2,218	2,218	17%	2,247	2,247	9%
24	Iceni	2	3,131	1,566	-18%	3,753	1,876	-9%
25	Ixworth	1	1,744	1,744	-8%	1,902	1,902	-7%
26	Kedington	1	2,065	2,065	9%	2,116	2,116	3%
27	Kentford & Moulton	1	2,047	2,047	8%	2,243	2,243	9%

	Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2017)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2023)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
28	Kingsway	1	2,006	2,006	6%	2,105	2,105	2%
29	Lakenheath	2	3,835	1,918	1%	4,409	2,205	7%
30	Linnet	2	3,926	1,963	3%	3,926	1,963	-5%
31	Manor	1	1,733	1,733	-9%	1,968	1,968	-4%
32	Moreton Hall	3	5,517	1,839	-3%	6,093	2,031	-1%
33	Newmarket East	2	4,033	2,017	6%	4,040	2,020	-2%
34	Newmarket North	2	3,827	1,914	1%	3,871	1,935	-6%
35	Newmarket West	2	3,536	1,768	-7%	3,730	1,865	-9%
36	Pakenham & Troston	1	1,994	1,994	5%	1,994	1,994	-3%
37	Queensway	1	1,708	1,708	-10%	2,156	2,156	5%
38	Risby	1	2,222	2,222	17%	2,237	2,237	9%
39	Rougham	1	1,844	1,844	-3%	1,844	1,844	-10%
40	St Olaves	2	3,348	1,674	-12%	4,474	2,237	9%
41	Stanton	1	2,227	2,227	17%	2,234	2,234	9%
42	The Fornhams & Great Barton	2	3,376	1,688	-11%	4,224	2,112	3%

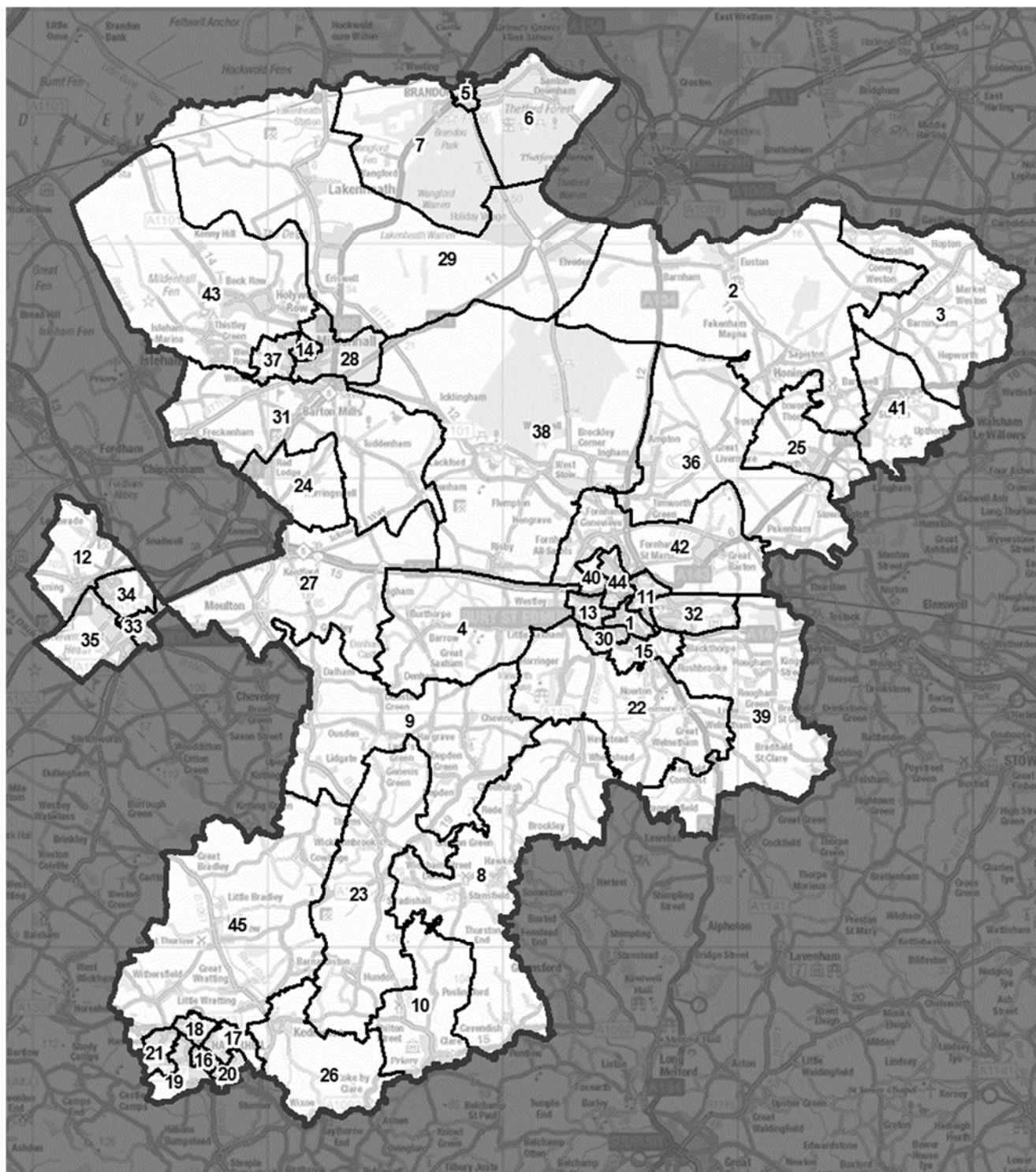
Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2017)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2023)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
43 The Rows	2	3,213	1,606	-15%	3,714	1,857	-10%
44 Tollgate	2	3,849	1,925	1%	4,139	2,070	1%
45 Withersfield	1	1,945	1,945	2%	1,953	1,953	-5%
Totals	64	121,558	–	–	131,570	–	–
Averages	–	–	1,899	–	–	2,056	–

Source: Electorate figures are based on information provided by Forest Heath and St Edmundsbury Councils.

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

Appendix B

Outline map



Key

1. Abbeygate
2. Bardwell
3. Barningham
4. Barrow
5. Brandon Central
6. Brandon East
7. Brandon West
8. Cavendish
9. Chedburgh & Chevington
10. Clare
11. Eastgate
12. Exning
13. Gibraltar
14. Great Heath
15. Hardwick Heath
16. Haverhill Central
17. Haverhill East
18. Haverhill North
19. Haverhill South
20. Haverhill South East
21. Haverhill West
22. Horringer
23. Hundon & Wickhambrook
24. Icen
25. Ixworth
26. Kedington
27. Kentford & Moulton
28. Kingsway
29. Lakenheath
30. Linnet
31. Manor
32. Moreton Hall
33. Newmarket East
34. Newmarket North
35. Newmarket West
36. Pakenham & Troston
37. Queensway
38. Risby
39. Rougham
40. St Olaves
41. Stanton
42. The Fornhams & Great Barton
43. The Rows
44. Tollgate
45. Withersfield

A more detailed version of this map can be seen on the large map accompanying this report, or on our website: <http://www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/eastern/suffolk/west-suffolk>

Appendix C

Submissions received

All submissions received can also be viewed on our website at <http://www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/eastern/suffolk/west-suffolk>

Local Authority

- Forest Heath and St Edmundsbury Councils

Councillors

- Councillor T. Beckwith
- Councillor D. Nettleton

Parish and Town Council

- Rushbrooke with Rougham Parish Council

Appendix D

Glossary and abbreviations

Council size	The number of councillors elected to serve on a council
Electoral Change Order	A legal document which implements changes to the electoral arrangements of a local authority
Local Government Changes Order	A legal document which implements a merger of two local authority areas.
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
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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 areas.

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