



MID SUFFOLK DISTRICT COUNCIL

AGENDA

COUNCIL MEETING

Thursday, 23 November 2017



COUNCIL	
DATE	Thursday, 23 November 2017
PLACE	King Edmund Chamber, Endeavour House, 8 Russell Road, Ipswich
TIME	6.00 p.m.

Please ask for: Committee Services

Direct Line: 01473 296372

Email: Committees@baberghmidsuffolk.gov.uk

The Council, members of the public and the press may record/film/photograph or broadcast this meeting when the public and press are not lawfully excluded. Any member of the public who attends the meeting and wishes to be filmed should advise the Committee Clerk.

A G E N D A

		<u>Page(s)</u>
1	Apologies for absence	
2	To receive any declarations of pecuniary or non-pecuniary interests by Members	
3	MC/17/21 Confirmation of the minutes of the meeting held on 26 October 2017	1 - 8
4	Leader's Announcements	
5	To receive notification of petitions in accordance with the Council's Procedure Rule	

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 10, The Chief Executive will report the receipt of any petitions. There can be no debate or comment upon these matters at the Council meeting.

6 Questions by the Public

The Chairmen of Committees to answer any questions from the public of which notice has been given no later than midday three clear working days before the day of the meeting in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 11.

7 **Questions by Councillors**

The Chairman of the Council, the Chairman of Committees and Sub-Committees and Portfolio Holders to answer any questions on any matters in relation to which the Council has powers or duties or which affect the District of which due notice has been given in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 12.

8 **To receive reports from Cabinet Members**

9 **MC/17/22 Overview and Scrutiny Committee Report**

9 - 10

10 **Recommendation and Report from Joint Audit and Standards Committee**

a JAC/17/10 Mid Year Report on Treasury Management 2017/18 (Pages 11 - 32)

At its meeting on 13 November 2017, the Joint Audit and Standards Committee considered Paper JAC/17/10, the Mid Year Report on Treasury Management for 2017/18.

The deliberations of the Committee will be reported at the Council meeting together with any amendments requested by Members.

Note: It is a requirement of the Code of Practice on Treasury Management that full Council notes the Mid Year position.

RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL

That it be noted that Treasury Management activity for the first six months of 2017/18 was in accordance with the approved Treasury Management Strategy, and that, except for one occasion when Babergh District Council exceeded its daily bank account limit with Lloyds by £120k for one day, as mentioned in Appendix D, paragraph 1.1. of Paper JAC/17/10, both Councils have complied with all Treasury Management Indicators for this period.

11 **MC/17/23 Boundary Review - Response to Stage Two Consultation on Warding Patterns**

33 - 74

Leader of the Council – Nick Gowrley

12 **MC/17/24 Draft Timetable of Meetings 2018/19**

75 - 76

Members are asked to approve the draft Timetable (Paper MC/17/24) attached, prepared by the Corporate Manager - Democratic Services.

Cabinet Member for Organisational Delivery – Glen Horn

13 **Appointments**

14 Resolution to Exclude the Public

Recommended Motion

That under section 100(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 the public be excluded from the meeting for Item 14 on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act in the paragraph registered against the item:

Note: *Information is exempt only if:*

It falls within one of the 7 categories of exempt information in the Act and; In all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information

**15 MC/17/25 Confidential minute of the meeting held on 26 October 2017 77 - 78
(Exempt information by virtue of Paragraph 3 of Part 1)**

Please note that the next meeting is scheduled for Thursday 21 December 2017 commencing at 5.30 p.m.

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Agenda Item 3

MID SUFFOLK DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the **MID SUFFOLK COUNCIL** held in the King Edmund Chamber, Endeavour House, Russell Road, Ipswich on Thursday, 26 October 2017

PRESENT:

Councillor: Derrick Haley – Chairman

Councillors:	Roy Barker	Michael Burke
	David Burn	Rachel Eburne
	John Field	Julie Flatman
	Elizabeth Gibson-Harries	Nick Gowrley
	Gary Green	Glen Horn
	Barry Humphreys MBE	Esther Jewson
	Diana Kearsley	Anne Killett
	John Levantis	Sarah Mansel
	Wendy Marchant	John Matthissen
	Lesley Mayes	Suzie Morley
	Dave Muller	Mike Norris
	Penny Otton	Timothy Passmore
	Jane Storey	Andrew Stringer
	Keith Welham	Kevin Welsby
	John Whitehead	David Whybrow
	Jill Wilshaw	

In attendance:

Chief Executive
Strategic Director (JS)
Assistant Director – Law and Governance and Monitoring Officer
Assistant Director – Corporate Resources
Assistant Director – Investment and Commercial Delivery
Corporate Manager – Democratic Services
Senior Governance Support Officer (LS)

74 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

An apology for absence was received from Councillors James Caston, Paul Ekpenyong, Jessica Fleming, Kathie Guthrie, Lavinia Hadingham, Matthew Hicks and Derek Osborne.

75 **TO RECEIVE ANY DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY OR NON-PECUNIARY INTERESTS BY MEMBERS**

The following Councillors each declared a local non-pecuniary interest in Paper MC/17/20:-

Roy Barker
John Field
Anne Killett

76 **MC/17/15 CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 20 JULY 2017**

RESOLUTION

That the minutes of the meeting held on 20 July 2017 be agreed.

77 **MC/17/16 CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 8 AUGUST 2017**

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting held on 8 August 2017 be agreed.

78 **MC/17/17 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

A revised copy of Paper MC/17/2 was tabled, which included details of the Queen's Award for Enterprise Ceremony to C&K Meats Ltd, which was attended by the Chairman at the invitation of the Lord Lieutenant.

79 **LEADER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The report was tabled.

80 **TO RECEIVE NOTIFICATION OF PETITIONS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE COUNCIL'S PROCEDURE RULE**

None received.

81 **QUESTIONS BY THE PUBLIC**

None received.

82 **QUESTIONS BY COUNCILLORS**

Question from Councillor Eburne to the Cabinet Member for Organisational Delivery

On 22nd September 2016 this council voted by a majority to "share accommodation in Endeavour House with Suffolk County Council and other public sector partners" (report C/70/16). No business plan was provided but an annual cost of £633,000 revenue and an estimated £50,000 capital cost was noted in the report. Separate costs were noted for two satellite offices.

Please can you advise what are the costs to date, both revenue and capital, and what are the expected revenue costs for 2018/19?

Note: This should include all costs incurred since the decision was made on 22nd September including all rent (whether locations are fully occupied or not), utilities, consultant time (both for the move to Endeavour House and the work around future use the Needham Market office), removals from Needham Market to Ipswich, security provision for the Needham Market offices, fit out of Endeavour House and other locations in Mid Suffolk (such as Creeting Road) but excluding the satellite office.

Answer

The following costs are total costs, Mid Suffolk will incur 50% of these costs:

Costs incurred to date

- Revenue £419k
- Capital £40k

Expected Revenue Costs in 2018/19 excluding Stowmarket CAP (satellite office)

- £665k

The costs and options for the future of the Needham Market offices have been separated out and will be included in a separate report coming to Members later in the year.

No security costs for Needham Market have been incurred to date, and the consultant's costs for the future use of Needham Market office's will follow from the Assistant Director - Investment and Commercial Delivery.

Supplementary Question:

As previously requested by Council, will Portfolio Holders be reporting to Council on progress within their areas of responsibility?

Answer (given by Councillor Gowrley, Leader)

Yes – I can confirm that a process is being put in place for Cabinet Members to update Council on a regular basis.

Question from Councillor Matthissen to Member for Planning

How many staff have left the planning department since 1/1/17 and how many vacancies are there currently?

Answer (given by the Chief Executive as Head of Paid Service)

13 staff have left the service since 1st January 2017.

There are currently 6 Vacancies across the service, all of which are in the process of being recruited to.

Background and further detail:

While 13 'have left' as of today, a further 5 members of staff are expected to leave over the next three months.

There are a range of reasons for people leaving. It is important to note that of the 8 Planning Officers who have left since the beginning of the year, only 2 of those have moved to another Local Authority – 6 of them have either moved to private practice, retired or changed career.

Recruitment is underway for the following posts:

Development Management:

2 Grade 6 Principal Planning roles – adverts will go out imminently. These roles have been advertised recently and we were only able to recruit one of the applicants so we will be advertising again, with a revised advert.

2 Grade 5 Senior Planner roles – adverts will go out imminently.

Strategic Planning:

1 Grade 6 Senior Spatial Policy Planner (to provide extra capacity to deal with neighbourhood plans) – this is a new role to build capacity and respond to scrutiny review - advert being written

1 Grade 5 Infrastructure Officer – another new role to build capacity (advert about to go out)

1 Grade 4 Administrative officer (recruited, soon to start)

Bill Newman finishes at the end of this month. His replacement has been recruited and begins on 18th December.

Trevor Saunders has also finished his time with us but is not included in the above as that was wholly in line with the term of his interim appointment.

There are currently 3 consultants working within the DM team. We are trying to recruit a further 4 consultants in the immediate term to manage workload and provide cover during the transition from people leaving to being able to recruit their replacements. It is a challenge to find quality and experience in the marketplace, both for consultants and permanent positions.

Some general statistics about the challenges in recruitment:

As of June 2017 there were 147 vacancies for local authority planning staff across the East of England.

Almost 40% of senior planner vacancies across the East of England are covered by Agency staff.

Supplementary Question

Could we receive a regular update on the position?

Answer – Yes

Question from Councillor Matthissen to Cabinet Member for Finance

Question - What advice and information as to the effects on the council and partners of Universal Credit introduction and fuller roll out has been sought and received from areas piloting the changed benefit system, such as Waveney DC, and what measures are under way as Bury St Edmunds and Sudbury Job Centres implement now, and Stowmarket soon?

Answer

Thank You Chairman. I'd like to thank Cllr Matthissen for his question and for giving me the opportunity to update all Members on the great deal of work that is being undertaken by our staff to ensure that we are as fully-prepared as is practicably possible for the roll out of Universal Credit Full Service at Stowmarket Job Centre from February 2018.

First I'll set out what have we done so far:-

- We are part of the Trusted Partner Pilot Scheme which was a DWP initiative to work closely with a range of different landlords to monitor issues and good practice
- Established a Project Group that is meeting weekly to attempt to mitigate the impact of the UC roll out
- Customer Service staff trained to ensure that they are equipped to deal with any questions at the Customer Access Points and prevent customers being turned away
- Housing staff were given in depth training from the DWP this week
- UC added to the Corporate Risk Log
- Working in conjunction with the Communications Team to develop a Communications plan.
- Officers are attending monthly review meetings with DWP, CAB and other local advice agencies
- Officers have held meetings with Waveney DC who have subsequently shared information documentation, which they are willing for us to adapt for our own customers.
- Sharing of best practice with other local authorities.

The implementation of Universal Credit and what actions Mid Suffolk are taking to ensure they are prepared for the significant changes ahead, is to be placed on the agenda for review at Overview and Scrutiny Committee (date TBC).

Looking forward, what will we continue to do? And, what else will we do?

- Ongoing liaison with the DWP Partnership Manager for Suffolk, who is the lead for delivery of the UC LA Learning & Development Pack to LAs
- Officers will continue to attend monthly review meetings with DWP, CAB and other local advice agencies
- Continue to monitor our progress against the project plan on a weekly basis, including careful risk monitoring and take action to mitigate risks as required
- Hold a briefing for all members on what UC is, what the impact is likely to be for our residents and what the impact is likely to be for us.
- All Mid Suffolk tenants to be sent leaflet highlighting the rollout of UC and sign posting to relevant advice services

Supplementary Question

Would you support the House of Commons Committee in its push for reducing the 6 weeks waiting time for Universal Credit to 4 weeks?

Answer

Yes, as it was originally envisaged that the target time would be 4 weeks.

Question from Councillor Killest to Lead Member for Health and Wellbeing

Thank you for your recent update on Health and Wellbeing projects. As a member of the Sustainability and Transformation Partnership, what action is MSDC taking to contribute to the development in Integrated Out of Hospital Care, put forward in the STP's Five Year Forward View, which aims to help people keep their independence, improve their quality of life and to stay at home for as long as possible?

Answer

This is a complex issue which is still being worked on. The schedule of planning within the guidance being produced for the delivery arrangements, workstreams and plans for the different elements of the STP means that the plans for specific elements are still being developed by the partnership.

As a partner within the STP the council will provide support, where it can, for the successful delivery of the STP but this is not yet reflected in a detailed specific plan.

Supplementary Question

Will we use all means possible to secure the delivery arrangements?

Answer – Yes

MC/17/18 OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE REPORT

Councillor Eburne, Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, presented Paper MC/17/18 summarising the Committee's proceedings since her report to Council in July.

Councillor Eburne queried why Babergh Members had been able to call-in for scrutiny the item on the proposed merger, while the Mid Suffolk Members were under the impression that a call-in was not appropriate as the Cabinet had endorsed the proposed consultation and the formal decision would be made by Council at a later date. The Chief Executive and the Monitoring Officer responded by outlining the position and clarifying the advice given and the Leader also responded. It was confirmed that any decision of Cabinet, whether a key decision or not, could be subject to call-in. The Babergh O&S Committee will meet to decide whether the call-in is valid within the relevant Procedure Rules.

Other matters raised included the following:-

- Request for a Joint O&S Committee to look at Community transport issues including school transport.

In this connection Members were advised that under the current Constitutional arrangements there is no provision for a Joint Committee to meet. However, Councillor Eburne will raise the transport issue at her Forward Planning meeting with the Babergh O&S Chair.

- The work of the Community Safety Partnership – as well as being scrutinised by both Councils' O&S Committees, this is the subject of scrutiny by the Police and Crime Commissioner.

MC/17/19 REVISING AND UPDATING THE COUNCIL TAX REDUCTION (CTR) SCHEME FOR WORKING AGE HOUSEHOLDS

Councillor Whitehead, Cabinet Member for Finance, introduced Paper MC/17/19, seeking Council approval to undertake a public consultation on proposed changes to the Council Tax Reduction Scheme, with a view to adopting a revised Scheme with effect from 1 April 2018.

By a majority vote

RESOLUTION

That public consultation be undertaken on the following proposed changes to the Council Tax Reduction (CTR) Scheme:-

- *Align the MSDC Working Age Council Tax Reduction Scheme with the Housing Benefit Scheme*
- *Introduce a minimum weekly award of £1 per week*
- *Make provision for Universal Credit.*

85 **RESOLUTION TO EXCLUDE THE PUBLIC**

RESOLUTION

That pursuant to Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for the business specified below on the grounds that if the public were present during this item, it is likely that there would be the disclosure to them of exempt information as indicated against the item.

The Council was also satisfied that the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighed the public interest in disclosing the information.

86 **MC/17/20 FUNDING APPROVAL FOR ACQUISITION OF LAND (Exempt information by virtue of Paragraph 3 of Part 1)**

The Minute relating to the above-mentioned item is excluded from the public record.

A summary of the Minute made by the Proper Officer in accordance with sub-section 2 of Section 100(c) of the Local Government Act 1972 is set out below.

Councillors had before them Paper MC/17/20, which was introduced by Councillor Gowrley, Cabinet Member for Assets and Investments. The Assistant Director - Investment and Commercial Delivery responded to Members' questions.

The recommendation in the report was accepted.

Note

Councillor Whybrow left the meeting during the Questions by Councillors (Minute No 82 refers).

The business of the meeting was concluded at 7.10 p.m.

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Chairman

Mid Suffolk Overview and Scrutiny Committee Report for Council – 23 November 2017

Since the last Council report meetings of Mid Suffolk District Council Overview & Scrutiny Committee have been held in October and November.

The October meeting covered:

- An update on recommendations from the Neighbourhood Plan work
- Scoping of a review on supporting business growth for small and micro businesses.

The November meeting (which at the time of writing will be held on 16 November 2017) will cover:

- Implementation of the Homelessness Reduction Act
- Scoping a review of the Legal Services Partnership
- A follow up to supporting business growth

Neighbourhood Plans: The Committee made a series of recommendations in April and the implementation of these was discussed. With 3 plans adopted, 19 plans in hand and 17 expressing an interest (across both districts) members discussed the need for adequate resourcing, clear communication and support. Changes are planned to ensure this happens – including staff changes, using Memorandums of Understanding with groups and signposting information via the Councils' websites.

Supporting business growth: Following a Committee discussion in October on how the Councils can support micro and small businesses, Members will discuss the forthcoming "local" economic strategy and how this can have a positive impact.

Shared Legal Services Partnership: This shared service has been in operation since November 2016 and Members will have scoped a review of this – potentially looking at whether it has achieved its objectives, how it is working and whether any changes should be made.

Homelessness: Following a review of this in July, much work has been undertaken towards preparing for the implementation of the Act in April 2018. Issues to be discussed include the impact of a different approach, partnership working, funding and staff resourcing.

Forward plan: Items include:

- Budget scrutiny
- Pre-scrutiny of the Waste Strategy
- Review of BMBS (Babergh and Mid Suffolk Building Services)
- Review of the impact of the office move

Members also asked about progress on a Leisure Strategy.

Councillor Rachel Eburne

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Agenda Item 10a

BABERGH DISTRICT COUNCIL and MID SUFFOLK DISTRICT COUNCIL

From: Cabinet Members - Finance	Report Number: JAC/17/10
To: Joint Audit and Standards Committee	Date of meeting: 13 November 2017

MID YEAR REPORT ON TREASURY MANAGEMENT 2017/18

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1. The Code of Practice on Treasury Management requires local authorities to present a mid-year report on treasury management activities to those Members charged with scrutinising this area of activity. This report fulfils that requirement and sets out treasury management activities for the first half of 2017/18.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That Mid Suffolk District Council Treasury Management activity for the first six months of 2017/18 was in accordance with the approved Treasury Management Strategy, and that the Council has complied with all the Treasury Management Indicators for this period be recommended to Council for noting.
- 2.2 That Babergh District Council Treasury Management activity for the first six months of 2017/18 was in accordance with the approved Treasury Management Strategy, and that, except for one occasion when the Council exceeded their daily bank account limit with Lloyds by £120k for one day, as mentioned in Appendix D, paragraph 1.1., the Council has complied with all the Treasury Management Indicators for this period be recommended to Council for noting.

3. Financial implications

- 3.1 As outlined in this report.

4. Legal implications

- 4.1 There are no legal implications arising from this report.

5. Risk Management

5.1 This report is most closely linked with the Councils' Significant Business Risks no. 5f. If we do not understand our financial position and respond in a timely and effective way, then we will be unable to deliver the entirety of the Joint Strategic Plan. It should be noted that changes in funding requirements, interest rates and other external factors can impact on the medium term financial strategy and future budgets. Further key risks around treasury management, are set out below:

Risk description	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigation measures
If the Councils lose the investments they hold then the loss of income could impact on their ability to fund and deliver services.	Highly Unlikely (1)	Bad (3)	The Councils have strict lending criteria, investing only in high credit rated institutions.
If the Councils achieve a poor return on their investments, then there will be fewer resources available to deliver services (applicable to Babergh only).	Highly Unlikely (1)	Bad (3)	Focus is on security and liquidity, followed by yield, and careful cash flow management is undertaken throughout the year.
If the Councils have liquidity problems, then they will be unable to meet their short-term liabilities.	Unlikely (2)	Noticeable (2)	As above.
If the Councils incur higher than expected borrowing costs, then there will be fewer resources available to deliver services.	Unlikely (2)	Noticeable (2)	Research is undertaken to borrow at the lowest rates available. The Councils are able to borrow from the Public Works Loan Board (PWLB), whose rates are very low and can be on a fixed or variable basis.

6. Consultations

6.1 Regular meetings have taken place with our Treasury advisors, Arlingclose, who also provide important updates on treasury management issues as they arise.

7. Equality Analysis

7.1 There are no equality and diversity implications, as the contents and recommendations of this report do not impact on those with protected characteristics.

8. Shared Service / Partnership Implications

8.1 This is a joint report on activity. The Joint Treasury Management Strategy and related operations are handled by the integrated in-house Finance Team.

9. Links to Joint Strategic Plan

9.1 Ensuring that the Councils have the resources available is what underpins the ability to achieve the priorities set out in the Joint Strategic Plan.

10. Key Information

10.1 The Joint Treasury Management Strategy for 2017/18 was approved at each Full Council in February 2017.

10.2 Several factors affect the strategy and activities, including the regulatory framework, economic conditions, best practice and interest rate/liquidity risk. The attached appendices summarise the regulatory framework, economic background and information on key activities for the first six months of 2017/18.

10.3 The Joint Treasury Management outturn report for 2016/17 was presented to Members at the Joint Audit and Standards Committee on 17 July 2017.

10.4 The Treasury Management Indicators aim to ensure that the capital investments of local authorities are affordable, prudent and sustainable and that treasury management decisions are taken in accordance with good professional practice.

10.5 Appendix D shows the position on key Treasury Management Indicators for the first six months of 2017/18.

10.6 The following key points relating to activity for the first half of the year are set out below:

- The UK economy has continued to grow but at a much slower pace in the first six months of 2017/18 with output growing by 0.2% in Q1 and 0.3% in Q2. However, the recent headlines for Q3 announced at the end of October indicate that this has increased to 0.4%.
- The result of the EU referendum has resulted in growth forecasts being downgraded as 2017 has progressed.
- Investment of surplus funds - As market conditions and credit ratings have changed during the year, institutions that the Councils invest with and the period of the investments have been reviewed.
- Credit risk scores were within the benchmark A- credit ratings.
- Babergh's debt reduced by £6.2m and Mid Suffolk's by £8.15m due to income exceeding expenditure, which is the normal cash flow profile.
- No new long-term external borrowing.

10.7 In terms of the investment of surplus funds, section 2.3 onwards in Appendix A sets out the issues that are impacting on current and future activity.

10.8 Money market funds, short-term deposits and call accounts are used to make short term investments on a daily basis.

11. Appendices

Title	Location
(a) Background, Economy and Outlook	Attached
(b) Debt Management	Attached
(c) Investment Activity	Attached
(d) Treasury Management indicators	Attached
(e) Glossary	Attached

12. Background Documents

None.

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Background, Economy and Outlook**1. Background**

- 1.1 Both Councils have adopted the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy's *Treasury Management in the Public Services: Code of Practice 2011 Edition* (the CIPFA Code) which requires the Councils to approve treasury management mid-year and annual outturn reports.
- 1.2 The Councils' Joint Treasury Management Strategy for 2017/18 was approved at full Council meetings held by each Council in February 2017.
- 1.3 The Councils define their treasury management activities in line with the CIPFA definition as: "the management of the organisation's investments and cash flows, it's banking, money market and capital market transactions; the effective control of the risks associated with those activities; and the pursuit of optimum performance associated with those risks."
- 1.4 In addition to reporting on risk management related to treasury activities, the Treasury Management Code also requires the Councils to report on any financial instruments entered into to manage treasury risks.
- 1.5 Both Councils have borrowed and invested substantial sums of money and are therefore exposed to financial risks including the loss of invested funds and the revenue effect of changing interest rates. The successful identification, monitoring and control of risk are therefore central to both Councils' treasury management strategy.
- 1.6 The instruments and the limits with individual counterparties approved in the 2017/18 Treasury Management Strategy of each Council are as follows:

Type of Instrument	Babergh Limit	Mid Suffolk Limit
Deposits with banks and building societies	£2m	£1m
AAA rated money market funds	£2m	£2m
Deposits with other local authorities	£1m	£1m
Treasury bills	No limit	No limit
Debt Management Account Deposit Facility	No limit	No limit
Pooled Funds	£5m	£5m
Registered Providers	£5m	£5m
Corporates	£1m	£1m

1.7 The total limits for non-specified investments are shown in the following below:

Non-Specified Investment Limits	Babergh & Mid Suffolk Limit
Total investments without credit ratings	£10m
Total non – specified investments	£10m
Total loans to unrated corporates	£1m

2. **Economic Commentary**

2.1 **Economic Backdrop**

2.1.1 Commodity prices fluctuated over the period with oil falling below \$45 a barrel before inching back up to \$58 a barrel. UK Consumer Price Inflation (CPI) index rose with the data print for August showing CPI at 2.9%, its highest since June 2013 as the fall in the value of sterling following the June 2016 referendum result continued to feed through into higher import prices. The new inflation measure CPIH, which includes owner occupiers' housing costs, was at 2.7%.

2.1.2 The unemployment rate fell to 4.3%, its lowest since May 1975, but the squeeze on consumers intensified as average earnings grew at 2.5%, below the rate of inflation. Economic activity expanded at a much slower pace as evidenced by Q1 and Q2 GDP growth of 0.2% and 0.3% respectively. With the dominant services sector accounting for 79% of GDP, the strength of consumer spending remains vital to growth. With household savings falling and real wage growth negative, there are concerns that these will be a constraint on economic activity in the second half of calendar year 2017.

2.1.3 The Bank of England made no change to monetary policy at its meetings in the first half of the financial year. The vote to keep Bank Rate at 0.25% narrowed to 5-3 in June highlighting that some MPC members were more concerned about rising inflation than the risks to growth. Although at September's meeting the Committee voted 7-2 in favour of keeping Bank Rate unchanged, the MPC changed their rhetoric, implying a rise in Bank Rate in "the coming months". The Council's treasury advisor Arlingclose are not convinced the UK's economic outlook justifies such a move at this stage, but the Bank's interpretation of the data seems to have shifted.

- 2.1.4 In contrast, near-term global growth prospects improved. The US Federal Reserve (Fed) increased its target range of official interest rates in June for the second time in 2017 by 25bps (basis points) to between 1% and 1.25% and, despite US inflation hitting a soft patch with core CPI at 1.7%, a further similar increase is expected in its December 2017 meeting. The Fed also confirmed that it would be starting a reversal of its vast Quantitative Easing programme and reduce the \$4.2 trillion of bonds it acquired by initially cutting the amount it reinvests by \$10bn a month.
- 2.1.5 Geopolitical tensions escalated in August as the US and North Korea exchanged escalating verbal threats over reports about enhancements in North Korea's missile programme. The provocation from both sides helped wipe off nearly \$1 trillion from global equity markets but benefited safe-haven assets such as gold, the US dollar and the Japanese yen. Tensions remained high, with North Korea's threat to fire missiles towards the US naval base in Guam, its recent missile tests over Japan and a further testing of its latent nuclear capabilities.
- 2.1.6 Prime Minister Theresa May called an unscheduled General Election in June, to resolve uncertainty but the surprise result has led to a minority Conservative government in coalition with the Democratic Unionist Party. This clearly results in an enhanced level of political uncertainty. Although the potential for a so-called hard Brexit is diminished, lack of clarity over future trading partnerships, in particular customs agreements with the rest of the EU block, is denting business sentiment and investment. The reaction from the markets on the UK election's outcome was fairly muted, business confidence now hinges on the progress (or not) of Brexit negotiations, the ultimate 'divorce bill' for the exit and whether new trade treaties and customs arrangements are successfully concluded to the UK's benefit.
- 2.1.7 In the face of a struggling economy and Brexit-related uncertainty, Arlingclose expects the Bank of England to take only a very measured approach to any monetary policy tightening, any increase will be gradual and limited as the interest rate backdrop will have to provide substantial support to the UK economy through the Brexit transition.

2.2 **Financial Markets**

- 2.2.1 Gilt yields displayed significant volatility over the six-month period with the appearing change in sentiment in the Bank of England's outlook for interest rates, the push-pull from expectations of tapering of Quantitative Easing (QE) in the US and Europe and from geopolitical tensions, which also had an impact. The yield on the 5-year gilts fell to 0.35% in mid-June, but then rose to 0.80% by the end of September. The 10-year gilts similarly rose from their lows of 0.93% to 1.38% at the end of the quarter, and those on 20-year gilts from 1.62% to 1.94%.

2.2.2 The FTSE 100 nevertheless powered away reaching a record high of 7548 in May but dropped back to 7377 at the end of September. Money market rates have remained low: 1-month, 3-month and 12-month LIBID rates have averaged 0.25%, 0.30% and 0.65% over the period from January to 21 September.

2.3 **Credit Background**

2.3.1 UK bank credit default swaps continued their downward trend, reaching three-year lows by the end of June. Bank share prices have not moved in any particular pattern.

2.3.2 There were a few credit rating changes during the quarter. The significant change was the downgrade by Moody's to the UK sovereign rating in September from Aa1 to Aa2 which resulted in subsequent downgrades to sub-sovereign entities including local authorities. Moody's downgraded Standard Chartered Bank's long-term rating to A1 from Aa3 on the expectation that the bank's profitability will be lower following management's efforts to de-risk their balance sheet. The agency also affirmed Royal Bank of Scotland's and NatWest's long-term ratings at Baa1, placed Lloyds Bank's A1 rating on review for upgrade, revised the outlook of Santander UK plc, and Nationwide and Coventry Building Society from negative to stable but downgraded the long-term rating of Leeds BS from A2 to A3.

2.3.3 Ring-fencing, which requires the larger UK banks to separate their core retail banking activity from the rest of their business, is expected to be implemented within the next year. In May, Arlingclose advised the Councils to reduce the maximum duration of unsecured investments with Bank of Scotland, HSBC Bank and Lloyds Bank from 13 months to 6 months, as until banks' new structures are finally determined and published, the different credit risks of the 'retail' and 'investment' banks cannot be known for certain. Neither council has placed investments with these banks during the first half of the year.

2.3.4 The new EU regulations for Money Market Funds (MMFs) were finally approved and published in July and existing funds will have to be compliant by no later than 21 January 2019. The key features include Low Volatility Net Asset Value (LVNAV) Money Market Funds which will be permitted to maintain a constant dealing NAV, providing they meet strict new criteria and minimum liquidity requirements. MMFs will not be prohibited from having an external fund rating (as had been suggested in draft regulations). Arlingclose expects most of the short-term MMFs it recommends to be converted to the LVNAV structure and awaits confirmation from each fund.

3. Outlook for the remainder of 2017/18

- 3.1 The UK economy faces a challenging outlook as the minority government continues to negotiate the country's exit from the European Union. Both consumer and business confidence remain subdued. Household consumption growth, the driver of UK GDP growth, has softened following a contraction in real wages. Savings rates are at an all-time low and real earnings growth (i.e. after inflation) struggles in the face of higher inflation.
- 3.2 This decision is still very data dependant and Arlingclose are, for now, maintaining its central case for Bank Rate at 0.25% whilst introducing near-term upside risks to the forecast as shown below. Arlingclose's central case is for gilt yields to remain broadly stable across the medium term, but there may be near term volatility due to shifts in interest rate expectations.

	Dec-17	Mar-18	Jun-18	Sep-18	Dec-18	Mar-19	Jun-19	Sep-19	Dec-19	Mar-20	Jun-20	Sep-20	Dec-20
Official Bank Rate													
Upside risk	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50
Arlingclose Central Case	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25
Downside risk	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25

4. Regulatory Updates

4.1 MiFID II

- 4.1.1 Local authorities are currently treated by regulated financial services firms (the firm) as professional clients who can “opt down” to be treated as retail clients instead. However, from 3 January 2018, as a result of the second Markets in Financial Instruments Directive (MiFID II), local authorities will be treated as retail clients who can “opt up” to be professional clients, providing that they meet certain criteria. Regulated financial services firms include banks, brokers, advisers, fund managers and custodians, but only where they are selling, arranging, advising or managing designated investments. In order to opt up to professional, the Councils must have an investment balance of at least £10 million each and the person authorised to make investment decisions on behalf of the Councils must have at least one year's relevant professional experience. In addition, the firm must assess that that person has the expertise, experience and knowledge to make investment decisions and understand the risks involved.
- 4.1.2 The main additional protection for retail clients is a duty on the firm to ensure that the investment is “suitable” for the client. However, local authorities are not protected by the Financial Services Compensation Scheme nor are they eligible to complain to the Financial Ombudsman Service whether they are retail or professional clients.

- 4.1.3 It is also likely that retail clients will face increased costs and potentially restricted access to certain products including money market funds, pooled funds, treasury bills, bonds, shares and to financial advice. The Councils have declined to opt down to retail client status in the past as the costs were thought to outweigh the benefits.
- 4.1.4 Both councils meet the conditions to opt up to professional status and intend to do so to maintain their current MiFID status.

4.2 CIPFA Consultation on Prudential and Treasury Management Codes

- 4.2.1 In February 2017 CIPFA canvassed views on the relevance, adoption and practical application of the Treasury Management and Prudential Codes and after reviewing responses they launched a further consultation on changes to the codes in August with a deadline for responses of 30 September 2017. Both Councils submitted a response to the consultation, which can be found on our website.
- 4.2.2 The proposed changes to the Prudential Code include the production of a new high-level Capital Strategy report to Full Council which will cover the basics of the capital programme and treasury management. The prudential indicators for capital expenditure and the authorised borrowing limit would be included in this report but other indicators may be delegated to another committee. There are plans to drop certain prudential indicators, however local indicators are recommended for ring fenced funds (including the HRA) and for group accounts. Other proposed changes include applying the principles of the Code to subsidiaries.
- 4.2.3 Proposed changes to the Treasury Management Code include the potential for non-treasury investments such as commercial investments in properties in the definition of “investments” as well as loans made or shares bought for service purposes. Another proposed change is the inclusion of financial guarantees as instruments requiring risk management and addressed within the Joint Treasury Management Strategy. Approval of the technical detail of the Joint Treasury Management Strategy may be delegated to a committee rather than needing approval of Full Council. There are also plans to drop or alter some of the current treasury management indicators.
- 4.2.4 CIPFA intends to publish the two revised Codes towards the end of 2017 for implementation in 2018/19, although CIPFA plans to put transitional arrangements in place for reports that are required to be approved before the start of the 2018/19 financial year. The Department of Communities and Local Government (DCLG) and CIPFA wish to have a more rigorous framework in place for the treatment of commercial investments as soon as is practical. It is understood that DCLG will be revising its Investment Guidance (and its MRP guidance) for local authorities in England.

5. Local Context

- 5.1 On 31 March 2017 Babergh had net borrowing of £76.739m and Mid Suffolk £96.235m, arising from their revenue and capital income and expenditure. The underlying need to borrow for capital purposes is measured by the Capital Financing Requirement (CFR), while usable reserves and working capital are the underlying resources available for investment. These factors are summarised in Table 1 below.

Table 1: Underlying need to borrow

Balance Sheet Summary	31.3.17 Babergh £m	31.3.17 Mid Suffolk £m
General Fund CFR	18.609	22.241
HRA CFR	86.253	86.759
Total CFR	104.862	109.000
(Less): Usable reserves	(22.254)	(22.723)
(Less) / Add: Working capital	(5.869)	9.958
Net borrowing	76.739	96.235

- 5.2 The Councils strategy is to maintain borrowing and investments below their underlying levels (as shown in Appendix D), sometimes known as internal borrowing, to reduce risk and keep interest costs low. The treasury management position at 30 September 2017 and the change over the first half of the year is shown in Table 2 below.

Table 2: Treasury Management Summary

Babergh	31.3.17 Balance £m	Movement £m	30.9.17 Balance £m	30.9.17 Rate %
Long-term borrowing	86.797	(0.250)	86.547	3.21%
Short-term borrowing	6.000	(6.000)	0.000	0.43%
Total borrowing	92.797	(6.250)	86.547	
Long-term investments	9.638	0.000	9.638	5.80%
Short-term investments	2.700	2.100	4.800	0.18%
Cash and Cash equivalents	3.389	(2.515)	0.874	0.14%
Total Investments	15.727	(0.415)	15.312	
Net borrowing	77.070		71.235	

Appendix A

Mid Suffolk	31.3.17 Balance £m	Movement £m	30.9.17 Balance £m	30.9.17 Rate %
Long-term borrowing	74.887	(0.650)	74.237	3.55%
Short-term borrowing	22.500	(7.500)	15.000	0.34%
Total borrowing	97.387	(8.150)	89.237	
Long-term investments	9.642	0.000	9.642	5.79%
Short-term investments	3.300	(0.300)	3.000	0.22%
Cash and Cash equivalents	2.586	0.019	2.605	0.14%
Total Investments	15.528	(0.281)	15.247	
Net borrowing	81.859		73.990	

1. Debt Management

- 1.1 At 30 September 2017 Babergh held £86.547m of loans, a decrease of £6.25m on 31 March 2017. Mid Suffolk held £89.237m of loans, a decrease of £8.15m, due to income exceeding expenditure, which is the normal cash flow profile. These decreases reflect the changes for funding of the previous years' capital programmes. The borrowing position at 30 September 2017 is show in Table 3 below.

Table 3: Borrowing Position at 30th September 2017

Babergh	31.3.17 Balance	Movement	30.9.17 Balance	30.9.17 Weighted Average Rate	30.9.17 Weighted Average Maturity years
	£m	£m	£m	%	
Public Works Loan Board	86.797	(0.250)	86.547	3.21%	15.54
Local authorities (short term)	6.000	(6.000)	0.000	0.43%	0
Total borrowing	92.797	(6.250)	86.547		

Mid Suffolk	31.3.17 Balance	Movement	30.9.17 Balance	30.9.17 Weighted Average Rate	30.9.17 Weighted Average Maturity years
	£m	£m	£m	%	
Public Works Loan Board	70.887	(0.650)	70.237	3.52%	19.30
Banks (LOBO)	4.000	0.000	4.000	4.21%	60.92
Local authorities (short term)	22.500	(7.500)	15.000	0.34%	0.06
Total borrowing	97.387	(8.150)	89.237		

- 1.2 The Councils objective when borrowing has been to strike an appropriately low risk balance between securing low interest costs and achieving cost certainty over the period for which funds are required, with flexibility to renegotiate loans being a secondary objective.
- 1.3 All new loans for Babergh and Mid Suffolk were taken as short term local authority borrowing to take advantage of low interest rates during the first half of 2017/18. This strategy enabled the Councils to reduce net borrowing costs (despite foregone investment income) and reduce overall treasury risk. The "cost of carry" analysis performed by the Councils treasury management advisor Arlingclose did not indicate any value in borrowing in advance for future years' planned expenditure and therefore none was taken.
- 1.4 Mid Suffolk continues to hold £4million of LOBO loans (Lender's Option Borrower's Option) where the lender has the option to propose an increase in the interest rate at set dates, following which the Council has the option to either accept the new rate or to repay the loan at no additional cost. The bank did not exercise their option in the first half of 2017/18.

1. Investment Activity

- 1.1 At 30 September, the Councils held £15.312m and £15.247m invested funds respectively, representing income received in advance of expenditure plus balances and reserves held.
- 1.2 During the first half of 2017/18 the Councils investment balances ranged between £12.457m and £21.156m for Babergh, and between £12.068m and £22.556m for Mid Suffolk, due to timing differences between income and expenditure.

The investment position during the half year is shown in Table 4 below.

Table 4: Investment Position

Babergh	31.3.17 Balance	Movement	30.9.17 Balance	30.9.17 Weighted Average Rate
	£m	£m	£m	%
Banks and Building Societies	1.389	(0.515)	0.874	0.15%
Government	2.000	(2.000)	0.000	0.10%
Money Market Funds	2.700	2.100	4.800	0.18%
Other Pooled Funds	9.638	0.000	9.638	5.80%
Total Investments	15.727	(0.415)	15.312	

Mid Suffolk	31.3.17 Balance	Movement	30.9.17 Balance	30.9.17 Weighted Average Rate
	£m	£m	£m	%
Banks and Building Societies	0.586	2.019	2.605	0.15%
Government	2.000	(2.000)	0.000	0.10%
Money Market Funds	3.300	(0.300)	3.000	0.22%
Other Pooled Funds	9.642	0.000	9.642	5.79%
Total Investments	15.528	(0.281)	15.247	

- 1.3 Both the CIPFA Code and government guidance require the Councils to invest their funds prudently, and to have regard to the security and liquidity of their investments before seeking the highest rate of return, or yield. The Councils objectives when investing money is to strike an appropriate balance between risk and return, minimising the risk of incurring losses from defaults and the risk of receiving unsuitably low investment income.

Appendix C

- 1.4 Babergh and Mid Suffolk have both followed the approved treasury strategy and maintained investment in long term pooled funds. These funds have generated higher returns for the Councils in a period when interest rates are falling. The remaining investments are short term and highly liquid to ensure both Councils can meet their liabilities.
- 1.5 As a result, investment risk was diversified while the average rate of return has increased from 3.69% to 4.69% for Babergh and from 3.50% to 4.93% for Mid Suffolk over the 6-month period to 30th September 2017. The progression of risk and return metrics are shown in the extracts from Arlingclose's quarterly investment benchmarking in Table 5 below.

Table 5: Investment Benchmarking

Babergh	Credit Score	Credit Rating	Bail-in Exposure	Weighted Average Maturity (days)	Rate of Return
31.03.2017	4.81	A+	61%	71	3.69%
30.06.2017	5.53	A	88%	61	4.78%
30.09.2017	5.29	A+	90%	61	4.69%
Similar LAs	4.39	AA-	65%	108	1.43%
All LAs	4.44	AA-	64%	40	1.12%

Mid Suffolk	Credit Score	Credit Rating	Bail-in Exposure	Weighted Average Maturity (days)	Rate of Return
31.03.2017	4.63	A+	59%	66	3.50%
30.06.2017	5.29	A+	88%	63	4.87%
30.09.2017	5.25	A+	90%	62	4.93%
Similar LAs	4.39	AA-	65%	108	1.43%
All LAs	4.44	AA-	64%	40	1.12%

- 1.6 Babergh has £9.638m of externally managed pooled equity, property and multi asset funds which generated an average total income return of £722k (5.8%) which is used to support service provision.
- 1.7 Mid Suffolk has £9.642m of externally managed pooled equity, property and multi asset funds which generated an average total income return of £576k (5.79%), which is used to support service provision.
- 1.8 These funds have no defined maturity date, but are available for withdrawal after a notice period, their performance and continued suitability in meeting the Councils' investment objectives are regularly reviewed.

2. Long Term Investments - Pooled Fund Performance

- 2.1 Babergh and Mid Suffolk both have investments in pooled funds to generate an income return. Table 6 below is a summary of performance by fund from initial investment date until the most recent valuation available and details of interest received.

Table 6: Pooled Funds

Fund	Babergh	Mid Suffolk
	£	£
CCLA		
Amount invested	5,000,000	5,000,000
Value at 30.6.2017	4,815,884	4,741,395
Movement	(184,116)	(258,605)
Interest earned to 30.6.2017	464,347	411,187
Average return	5.07%	4.93%
UBS		
Amount invested	2,000,000	2,000,000
Value at 30.6.2017 BDC; 25.8.2017 MSDC	2,015,736	2,012,566
Movement	15,736	12,566
Interest earned to 30.6.2017	136,507	40,448
Average return	3.90%	4.04%
Schroders		
Amount invested	2,000,000	2,000,000
Value at 5.4.2017	1,975,408	1,975,408
Movement	(24,592)	(24,592)
Interest earned to 30.5.2017	82,610	82,610
Average return	8.26%	8.26%
Funding Circle		
Amount invested	638,000	642,000
Value at 4.10.2017	627,615	632,572
Movement	(10,385)	(9,428)
Interest earned to 30.6.2017	38,220	41,807
Average return	3.59%	3.90%
Total Pooled Funds		
Amount invested	9,638,000	9,642,000
Values	9,434,644	9,361,942
Movement	(203,357)	(280,058)
Interest earned	721,683	576,051
Average return	5.39%	5.37%

Appendix C

- 2.2 The two councils invested in CCLA on different dates (Babergh on 31 August 2015 and Mid Suffolk on 31 October 2015), so each purchased a different number of units. This is reflected in the latest values of the investments.
- 2.3 Both councils invested in Schrodgers Income Maximiser Fund on 6 February 2017 and the first returns, in April 2017, included a valuation (equalisation) adjustment.
- 2.4 The performance of the Funding Circle has not met initial expectations either financially or in the support of local businesses.
- 2.5 Average returns have fallen from 8.92% to 3.59% for Babergh and from 8.86% to 3.90% for Mid Suffolk since December 2015, mainly due to bad debts not recovered.
- 2.6 The initial investment was intended to go to support local businesses, but take up has been much lower than anticipated and most loans have been allocated to the National, rather than the Local account.
- 2.7 Since the initial investment into Funding Circle, the system for bidding for allocations has changed. The original method was a manual allocation of funds based on areas of business and credit ratings of the Councils choosing.
- 2.8 Two new options for automatic bidding have been introduced. One retains the same level of risk as present (A to A+) but with lower returns, expected to be in the range of only 3-4%. The other is investing in potentially lower credit rated, higher risk businesses (A to E) with higher returns (estimated at 7%). In both options, the Councils would not be able to choose where funds are allocated.
- 2.9 Both options expose the Councils to loss of control, higher risk to retain the same level of returns or the same risk level for reduced returns. None of these fit the Councils' investment strategy.
- 2.10 Continued membership of the Funding Circle is now under review. It is anticipated that as the current outstanding loans are paid off there will be no further reinvestment into the funds. Alternative solutions will be investigated.

3. Other Investment Activity

- 3.1 On 5 August 2016 Babergh purchased Borehamgate Shopping centre in Sudbury for £3.56million. This has been classified as an investment property and on 31 March 2017, the District Valuer assessed its Fair Value at £4million.
- 3.2 Net Income, after deducting direct costs, was £143k in 2016/17 and for the first half year of 2017/18 is £134k.
- 3.3 If CIPFA's proposed amendments to the Treasury Management Code are adopted in the revised Code from 2018/19, investment properties will henceforth be included in the expanded definition of "investments".

1. Treasury Management Indicators

- 1.1 The Section 151 Officer is pleased to report that, except for one occasion for Babergh, all treasury management activities undertaken during the first half of 2017/18 complied fully with the CIPFA Code of Practice and the Councils approved Treasury Management Strategy. Babergh exceeded their daily bank account limit with Lloyds by £120k for one day. Compliance with specific investment limits is demonstrated in Table 7 below.

Table 7: Investment Limits

Babergh	Actual Maximum	30.9.17 Actual	2017/18 Limit	Complied
Lloyds Bank	£2.12m	£874k	£2m	x
Money market funds	45%	31%	50%	✓
DMADF	£2m	Nil	No limit	✓
CCLA	£5m	£5m	£5m	✓
UBS	£2m	£2m	£5m	✓
Schroder	£2m	£2m	£5m	✓
Funding Circle	£638k	£638k	£1m	✓

Mid Suffolk	Actual Maximum	30.9.17 Actual	2017/18 Limit	Complied
Lloyds Bank	£899k	£855k	£1m	✓
Barclays Bank	£1m	£1m	£1m	✓
Svenska Handelsbanken	£750k	£750k	£1m	✓
Money market funds	36%	19.68%	50%	✓
DMADF	£6.5m	Nil	No limit	✓
CCLA	£5m	£5m	£5m	✓
UBS	£2m	£2m	£5m	✓
Schroder	£2m	£2m	£5m	✓
Funding Circle	£642k	£642k	£1m	✓

- 1.2 Compliance with the authorised limit and operational boundary for external debt is demonstrated in Table 8 below.

Table 8: Debt Limits

Borrowing	Actual Maximum	30.9.17 Actual	2017/18 Operational Boundary	2017/18 Authorised Limit	Complied
Babergh	£92.797m	£86.547m	£123m	£126m	✓
Mid Suffolk	£100.387m	£89.237m	£127m	£130m	✓

Appendix D

- 1.3 Since the operational boundary is a management tool for in-year monitoring it is not significant if the operational boundary is breached on occasions due to variations in cash flow, and this is not counted as a compliance failure.

2. Exposure to Treasury Management Risk

- 2.1 The Councils measure and manage their exposure to treasury management risks using the following indicators.

- 2.2 **Security:** The Councils have adopted a voluntary measure of their exposure to credit risk by monitoring the value-weighted average credit score of their investment portfolio. This is calculated by applying a score to each investment (AAA=1, AA+=2, etc.) and taking the arithmetic average, weighted by the size of each investment. Unrated investments are assigned a score based on their perceived risk.

Portfolio Average Credit Score	30.9.17 Actual	2017/18 Target	Complied
Babergh	5.29	7.0	✓
Mid Suffolk	5.25	7.0	✓

- 2.3 **Interest Rate Exposures:** This indicator is set to control the Councils exposure to interest rate risk. The upper limits on fixed and variable rate interest rate exposures, expressed as the amount of net principal borrowed was:

Babergh	30.9.17 Actual	2017/18 Target	Complied
Upper limit on fixed interest rate exposure	£86.547m	£123m	✓
Upper limit on Variable interest rate exposure	(£15.312m)	£35m	✓

Mid Suffolk	30.9.17 Actual	2017/18 Target	Complied
Upper limit on fixed interest rate exposure	£74.237m	£127m	✓
Upper limit on Variable interest rate exposure	(£247k)	£40m	✓

- 2.4 Fixed rate investments and borrowings are those where the rate of interest is fixed for at least 12 months, measured from the start of the financial year or the transaction date if later. All other instruments are classed as variable rate.

Appendix D

- 2.5 **Maturity Structure of Borrowing:** This indicator is set to control the Councils exposure to refinancing risk. The upper and lower limits on the maturity structure of fixed rate borrowing were:

Babergh	30.9.17 Actual	Lower Limit	Upper Limit	Complied
Under 12 months	0.00%	0	50%	✓
12 months and within 24 months	0.00%	0	50%	✓
24 months and within 5 years	2.08%	0	50%	✓
5 years and within 10 years	13.87%	0	100%	✓
10 years and within 20 years	82.78%	0	100%	✓
20 years and within 30 years	0.00%	0	100%	✓
30 years and above	1.27%	0	100%	✓

Mid Suffolk	30.9.17 Actual	Lower Limit	Upper Limit	Complied
Under 12 months	0.00%	0	50%	✓
12 months and within 24 months	0.00%	0	50%	✓
24 months and within 5 years	1.62%	0	50%	✓
5 years and within 10 years	20.21%	0	100%	✓
10 years and within 20 years	40.41%	0	100%	✓
20 years and within 30 years	21.16%	0	100%	✓
30 years and above	16.61%	0	100%	✓

- 2.6 Time periods start on the first day of each financial year. The maturity date of borrowing is the earliest date on which the lender can demand repayment.

- 2.7 **Principal Sums Invested for Periods Longer than 364 days:** The purpose of this indicator is to control the Councils exposure to the risk of incurring losses by seeking early repayment of their investments. The limits on the long-term principal sum invested to final maturities beyond the period end were:

Actual Principal invested beyond year end	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20
Babergh Actual	Nil	Nil	Nil
Mid Suffolk Actual	Nil	Nil	Nil
Limit on principal invested beyond year end	£2m	£2m	£2m
Babergh Complied	✓	✓	✓
Mid Suffolk Complied	✓	✓	✓

Glossary of Terms

CFR	Capital Financing Requirement. The underlying need to borrow to finance capital expenditure.
CIPFA	The Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy. This is the leading professional accountancy body for public services.
CLG	Department for Communities and Local Government. This is a ministerial department.
CPI	Consumer Price Index. This measures changes in the price level of consumer goods and services purchased by households.
CPIH	Consumer Price Index Housing. A measure of consumer price inflation including a measure of owner occupiers' housing costs (OOH).
CCLA	Churches, Charities and Local Authority Property Fund
DMADF	Debt Management Account Deposit Facility.
GDP	Gross Domestic Product. This is the market value of all officially recognised goods and services produced within a country in a given period of time.
HRA	Housing Revenue Account. The statutory account to which revenue costs are charged for providing, maintaining and managing Council dwellings. These costs are financed by tenants' rents.
LIBID	London Interbank Bid Rate. The interest rate at which banks bid to take short-term deposits from other banks in the London interbank market.
LOBO	Lender's Option Borrower's Option. This is a loan where the lender has certain dates when they can increase the interest rate payable and, if they do, the Council has the option of accepting the new rate or repaying the loan.
LVNAV	Low Volatility Net Asset Value. A new type of Low Volatility Net Asset Value Money Market Fund - a new fund category introduced as part of a new regulatory reform of the sector in Europe.
MiFiD	The Markets in Financial Instruments Directive (2014/65/EU) (MiFID II). The EU legislation that regulates firms who provide services to clients linked to 'financial instruments' (shares, bonds, units in collective investment schemes and derivatives), and the venues where those instruments are traded.
MPC	Monetary Policy Committee. A committee of the Bank of England which decides the Bank of England's Base Rate and other aspects of the Government's Monetary Policy.

Appendix E

MRP	Minimum Revenue Provision. Local authorities are required to make a prudent provision for debt redemption on General Fund borrowing
NAV	Net Asset Value. The NAV is the value of a fund's assets less the value of its liabilities on a per unit basis.
PWLB	Public Works Loan Board - offers loans to local authorities below market rates.
QE	Quantitative Easing. The purchase of Government bonds by the Bank of England to boost the money supply.
T Bills	Treasury Bill. A short-term Government Bond.
UBS	UBS Multi Asset Income Fund (UK) – a pooled fund.

Agenda Item 11

MID SUFFOLK DISTRICT COUNCIL

From: Leader of the Council	Report Number: MC/17/23
To: Mid Suffolk Council	Date of meeting: 23 November 2017

BOUNDARY REVIEW – RESPONSE TO STAGE TWO CONSULTATION ON WARDING PATTERNS

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to agree the Council's response to the stage two consultation on warding patterns, which is part of the further electoral review of the Mid Suffolk district being conducted by the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE).

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That the Chief Executive be authorised to submit the Council's formal response to the stage two consultation, including the comments appended to this report at appendix 1 and any further comments arising from the Council's debate.

3. Financial Implications

- 3.1 There are no direct financial implications associated with this report.

4. Legal Implications

- 4.1 The LGBCE are responsible for conducting the review and for ensuring compliance with all relevant legal provisions.

5. Risk Management

- 5.1 This report is most closely linked with the Council's Corporate / Significant Business Risk No. 5c. Key risks are set out below:

Risk Description	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigation Measures
That the LGBCE determine a warding pattern for Mid Suffolk that does not provide equal democratic representation and fails to take into account community identity.	2 - Unlikely	3 – Bad	The Council is responding to the consultation and all councillors have had the opportunity to contribute to the consultation response.

6. Consultations

6.1 For the purposes of this stage of the further electoral review the Council is a consultee and is not responsible for conducting the consultation. The Council is supporting the LGBCE with its consultation activities through our communications channels and disseminating the information to Town and Parish Councils.

7. Equality Analysis

7.1 There are no equality and diversity implications.

8. Shared Service / Partnership Implications

8.1 This report supports the ongoing joint working arrangements of the two Councils.

9. Links to Joint Strategic Plan

9.1 This report supports the Enabled and Efficient Organisation programme.

10. Key Information

10.1 Following the stage one consultation process which concluded on 14 August 2017, the LGBCE has published its first draft of the warding patterns for Mid Suffolk District Council. These recommendations are included as appendix 1 to this report. The LGBCE is currently consulting on these proposals until 11 December 2017.

10.2 The LGBCE's draft recommendations propose a scheme of 34 councillors, six fewer than there are now, in 26 wards, four fewer than currently. The proposals include eight two-member wards and 18 single member wards. Only one of the existing boundaries will stay the same.

10.3 The Council, and other consultees, are asked to comment in particular on the following aspects:

- Electoral equality;
- Community identity; and
- Effective local government.

Comments are also invited on the suitability of the proposed ward names.

10.4 All councillors were asked to submit comments to the Assistant Director – Law and Governance by 20 October 2017. The responses have been included at appendix two.

10.5 The LGBCE has also recommended that a related alteration is undertaken alongside this review to amend the boundaries of the County Divisions in Stowmarket. This will achieve coterminosity of the electoral Divisions, District Wards and Town Wards. The Chief Executive has written to the LGBCE requesting that this related alteration be undertaken.

10.6 The LGBCE will publish its final recommendations on 6 February 2018 and the order bringing these recommendations into force will be made in time for the new electoral arrangements to be implemented at the scheduled District Council elections in 2019.

11. Appendices

Title	Location
1) LGBCE Draft Recommendations	Attached
2) Consultation response	Attached

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Draft recommendations on the new electoral arrangements for Mid Suffolk District Council

Electoral review

October 2017

Translations and other formats

To get this report in another language or in a large-print or Braille version contact the Local Government Boundary Commission for England:

Tel: 0330 500 1525

Email: reviews@lgbce.org.uk

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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 Mid Suffolk?

4 We are conducting a review of Mid Suffolk District Council as the value of each vote in district elections varies depending on where you live in Mid Suffolk. 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.

Our proposals for Mid Suffolk

- Mid Suffolk should be represented by 34 councillors, six fewer than there are now.
- Mid Suffolk should have 26 wards, four fewer than there are now.
- The boundaries of almost all wards should change, one will stay the same.

Have your say

5 We are consulting on our draft recommendations for a 10-week period, from 3 October 2017 to 11 December 2017. 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 11 December 2017 to have your say on the draft recommendations. See page 23 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)
- Dr Peter Knight CBE, DL
- Alison Lowton
- Peter Maddison QPM
- Sir Tony Redmond

- Chief Executive: Jolyon Jackson CBE

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

1 Introduction

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

- The wards in Mid 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?

10 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

11 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

Consultation

12 We wrote to the Council to ask its views on the appropriate number of councillors for Mid Suffolk. We then held a period of consultation on warding patterns for the district. The submissions received during consultation have informed our draft recommendations.

13 This review is being conducted as follows:

Stage starts	Description
18 April 2017	Number of councillors decided
13 June 2017	Start of consultation seeking views on new wards
14 August 2017	End of consultation; we begin analysing submissions and forming draft recommendations
3 October 2017	Publication of draft recommendations, start of second consultation
11 December 2017	End of consultation; we begin analysing submissions and forming final recommendations
6 February 2018	Publication of final recommendations

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 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 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.

	2016	2023
Electorate of Mid Suffolk	79,119	82,781
Number of councillors	34	34
Average number of electors per councillor	2,327	2,435

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 Mid Suffolk will have good electoral equality by 2023.

19 Our recommendations cannot affect the external boundaries of the district 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 take into account any representations which are based on these issues.

Submissions received

20 See Appendix C for details of the 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 electorate of around 5% by 2023. This is mainly due to moderate growth in Eye, Needham Market and Stowmarket.

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.

22 During our consultation on warding arrangements we received a number of submissions from parish councils that queried the electorate forecasts for their parish. We contacted Mid Suffolk District Council, who stated that they considered that the figures provided were accurate as they were based on planning permission data and that the Local Plan referred to was not at a sufficiently advanced stage to identify any future development above that already accounted for in the Council's electorate figures.

23 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

24 Mid Suffolk District Council currently has 40 councillors. We have looked at evidence provided by the Council and have concluded that decreasing the number of members by six will make sure the Council can carry out its roles and responsibilities effectively. We also received a submission from Suffolk Green Party that suggested a council size of between 38 and 42 but did not provide compelling evidence to support this assertion.

25 We therefore invited proposals for new patterns of wards that would be represented by 34 councillors – for example, 34 one-councillor wards, or a mix of one-, two- and three-councillor wards.

26 We received no submissions about the number of councillors in response to our consultation on ward patterns. Our draft recommendations are therefore based on a 34-member council.

Ward boundaries consultation

27 We received 26 submissions in response to our consultation on ward boundaries. These included four detailed district-wide proposals from Mid Suffolk District Council, the Liberal Democrat Group on Mid Suffolk District Council and Suffolk Green Party, who submitted two potential options. The schemes from the Liberal Democrat Group on Mid Suffolk District Council and Suffolk Green Party were based on 34 elected members and the scheme from Mid Suffolk District Council was based on a pattern of wards to be represented by 35 elected members. The evidence received in two of these schemes – those from the Council and the Liberal Democrat Group on the Council – was very limited.

28 The four district-wide schemes each provided for a mixed pattern of one-, two- and three-councillor wards for Mid Suffolk. We carefully considered the proposals received and noted that whilst most of the proposed ward boundaries would have acceptable levels of electoral equality, all the schemes varied significantly from one another. This made it very difficult to put together a coherent warding pattern across the district using parts of each proposal. In addition, none of the four district-wide schemes provided a warding pattern for Stowmarket parish. We did, however,

receive a warding pattern submission for Stowmarket from Stowmarket Town Council.

29 The scheme from Mid Suffolk District Council was based on a 35-member council, an increase of one from the figure that we consulted on. Whilst we reserve the right to increase or decrease the number of councillors during the course of the review, we could not identify any reason that justified the increase in the number of councillors and the associated poor variances. The two options we received from Mid Suffolk Green Party also provided for poor electoral equality in a number of areas. The scheme from the Liberal Democrat Group on Mid Suffolk District Council provided acceptable electoral equality across the district.

30 Our draft recommendations use elements of all the district-wide proposals that we received particularly in areas where a good degree of consensus existed. We have made modifications based on other local evidence that we received, which provided evidence of community links and locally recognised boundaries, and on our tour of the area. In some areas, we considered that none of the proposals provided for the best balance between our statutory criteria and so we identified alternative boundaries.

31 Our draft recommendations are for eight two-councillor wards and 18 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.

32 A summary of our proposed new wards is set out in the table on page 20 and on the large map accompanying this report.

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

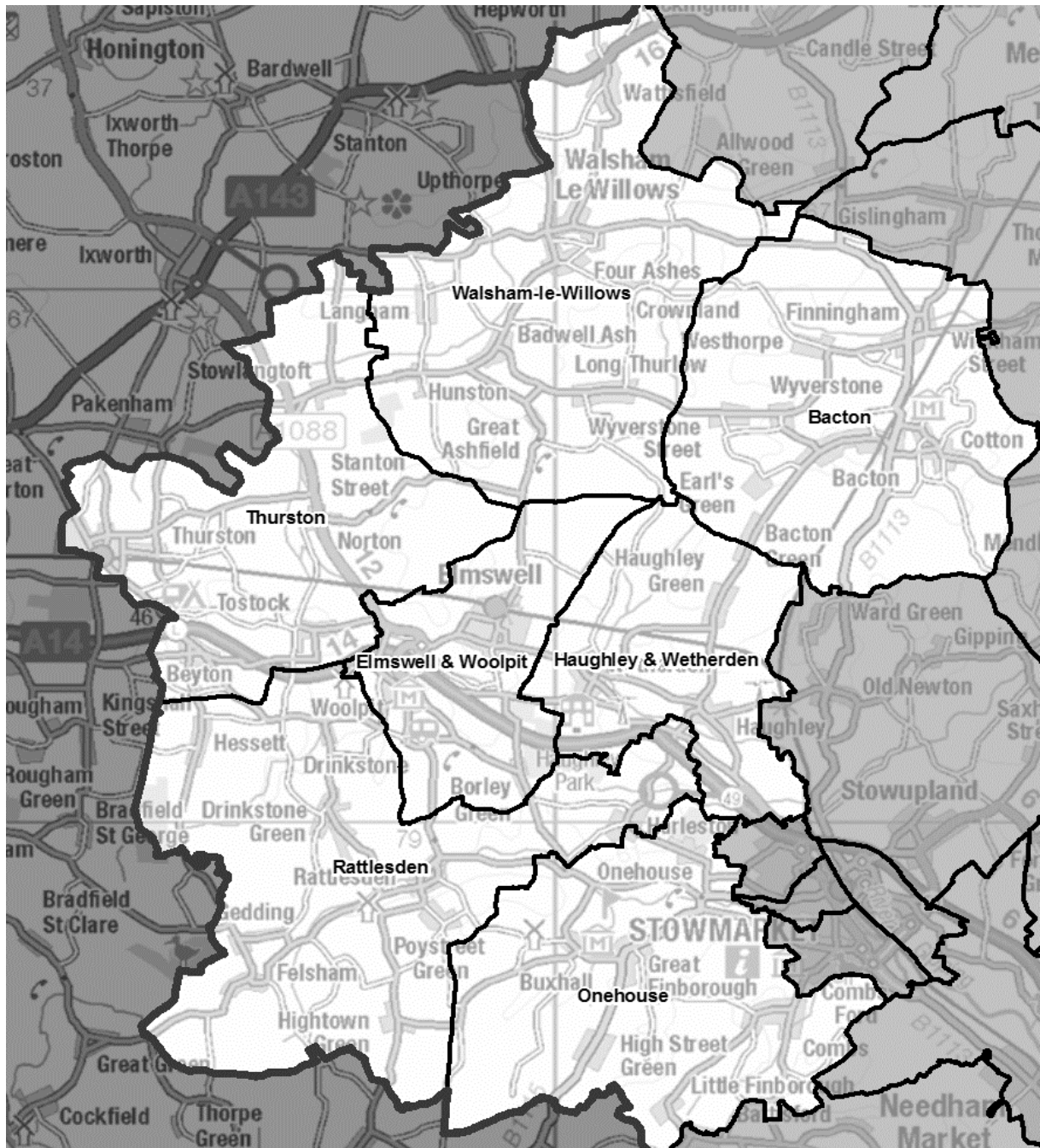
Draft recommendations

34 The tables and maps on pages 8–19 detail our draft recommendations for each area of Mid Suffolk District Council. They detail how the proposed warding arrangements reflect the three statutory⁴ criteria of:

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

⁴ Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009.

Eastern parishes



Ward name	Number of Cllrs	Variance 2023
Bacton	1	0%
Elmswell & Woolpit	2	0%
Haughley & Wetherden	1	-7%
Onehouse	1	6%
Rattlesden	1	-3%
Thurston	2	-1%
Walsham-le-Willows	1	8%

Elmswell & Woolpit, Haughley & Wetherden, Onehouse and Rattlesden

35 The four district-wide submissions we received in this area proposed significantly different boundaries. Three schemes provided a pattern of wards with poor electoral equality. On visiting the area, we decided that the scheme submitted by the Liberal Democrat Group best reflected the communities in this area and reflected our statutory criteria and we have based our scheme for this area on their proposals.

36 We propose a two-member ward of Elmswell & Woolpit made up of the two parishes on either side of the A14. We are happy that these parishes share a degree of commonality from their position on the A14 and that this ward has good access between the two villages across the A14. We did consider whether we could create two single-member wards of Elmswell and Woolpit but we noted that both wards would have extremely poor electoral equality. The submission from Woolpit Parish Council asked that we include Drinkstone parish in a ward with Woolpit. None of the proposed district-wide schemes proposed this and we were unable to identify a warding pattern in the area that allowed this whilst also providing acceptable electoral equality.

37 Instead, we propose that Drinkstone parish be included in our Rattlesden ward along with the parishes of Felsham, Gedding, Harleston, Hessett, Rattlesden and Shelland. We consider this ward is reflective of the community identity of these parishes in the south-eastern part of the district. The inclusion of the parish of Hessett in this ward is supported in the submission from Felsham Parish Council.

38 Haughley Parish Council proposed that no changes be made to the current Haughley & Wetherden ward. We looked at including Harleston parish in a proposed Haughley & Wetherden ward but have decided to include it in our proposed Rattlesden ward with which, on balance, we consider it has stronger ties. We are, however, particularly interested in local views on this proposal.

39 Great Finborough Parish Council suggested that their existing ward of Onehouse be retained but this would result in poor electoral equality which we do not consider is justified. Great Finborough Parish Council also stated that if the ward needed to be increased in size that Little Finborough and Combs parishes be added. We propose to do this and we propose to retain the name Onehouse instead of Great Finborough as suggested by the Liberal Democrats given that Onehouse is the larger settlement and an existing ward name. Buxhall Parish Council suggested the most appropriate solution would be to add Combs and Great Finborough parishes to the existing ward which included Harleston and Shelland. We are unable to include Harleston and Shelland in our proposed Onehouse ward and still provide good electoral equality for the area. We therefore propose that Harleston and Shelland parishes be included in our proposed Rattlesden ward.

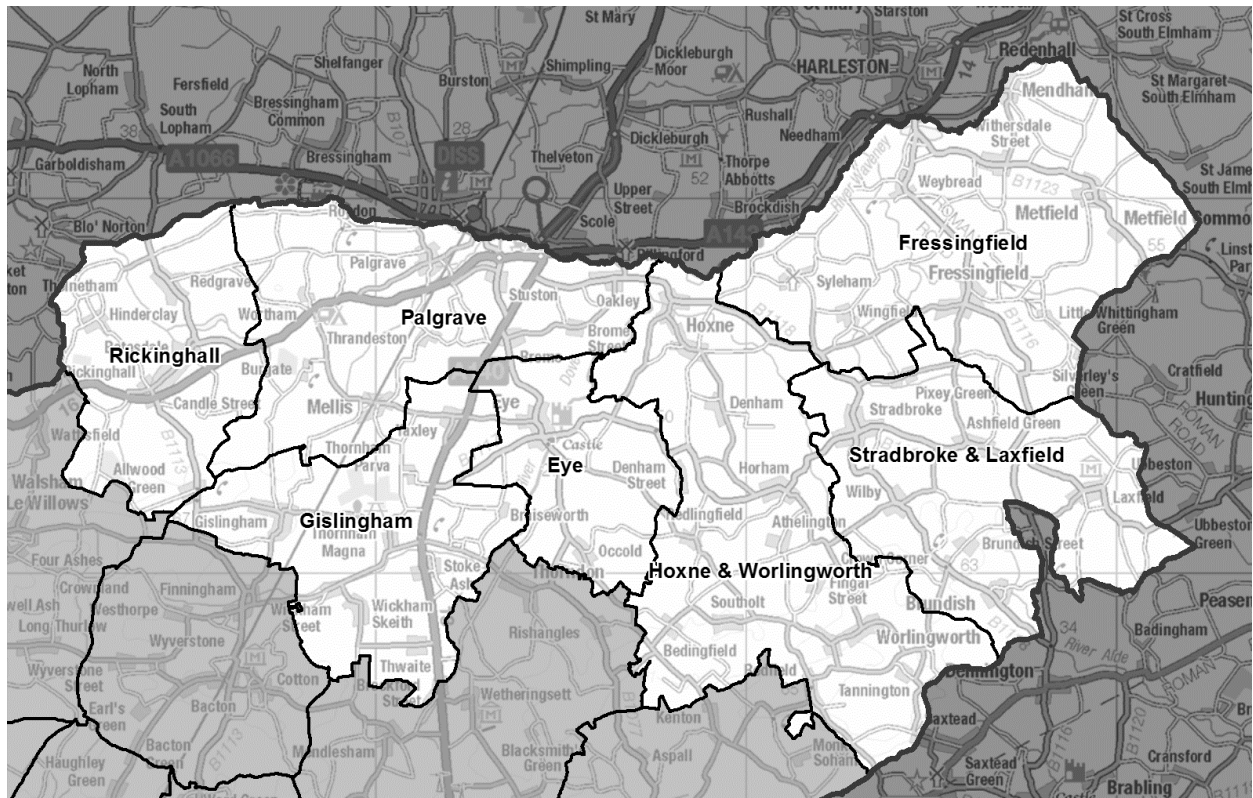
Bacton, Thurston and Walsham-le-Willows

40 Our proposed two-member Thurston ward and single-member Bacton and Walsham-le-Willows wards are the same as the district-wide scheme we received from the Liberal Democrats.

41 We received a submission in this area from Beyton Parish Council who suggested that the current Thurston & Hessett ward be retained. As mentioned above, the reduction in the number of councillors means retaining the existing ward provides for unacceptably poor levels of electoral equality and we have already proposed to include the parish of Hessett in Rattlesden ward to provide for acceptable electoral equality in both wards.

42 Thurston Parish Council stated that they were in broad agreement with a ward that includes Beyton, Norton, Thurston and Tostock parishes, as our proposed ward does. Cotton Parish Council, which is part of our proposed Bacton ward, added that they felt they should remain in a ward with neighbouring rural parishes rather than be included with any part of the town of Stowmarket. In their submission, Wyverstone Parish Council emphasised their links to Bacton rather than Badwell Ash. Having considered all these submissions we consider that our proposed wards are the best reflection of the community ties for this area.

Northern parishes



Ward name	Number of Cllrs	Variance 2023
Eye	1	-1%
Fressingfield	1	1%
Gisingham	1	-10%
Hoxne & Worlingworth	1	5%
Palgrave	1	6%
Rickinghall	1	-1%
Stradbroke & Laxfield	1	2%

Gislingham, Palgrave and Rickinghall

43 Our proposed Rickinghall ward is as suggested by the Council, Liberal Democrats and Green Party in their district-wide schemes. We received no other submissions relating to this ward and we propose this ward as part of our draft recommendations.

44 The proposals we received for Gislingham and Palgrave outlined a number of different suggestions. The Council's and Green Party's schemes paired the two parishes together in one ward and suggested another ward comprising the parishes of Mellis, Thorndon and Yaxley. The scheme from the Liberal Democrats proposed a Palgrave ward made up of the parishes of Brome & Oakley, Palgrave, Stuston, Thrandeston, Wortham and Yaxley and a Gislingham ward of Braiseworth, Burgate, Gislingham, Mellis, Stoke Ash, Thornham Magna, Thornham Parva, Thwaite and Wickham Skeith.

45 We have based our proposed ward on this latter proposal but we propose to include Burgate and Mellis in a Palgrave ward and Yaxley in a Gislingham ward. The Commission endeavours where possible not to divide grouped parishes between wards. In this instance Wortham and Burgate are part of the same grouped parish council and our proposed ward ensures they are in the same proposed ward of Palgrave.

Eye

46 Our proposed ward includes the parish of Occold in an enlarged Eye ward. The proposal to include Occold in this ward was made by the Council in its district-wide submissions. This proposal was supported by the submission of Eye Town Council who submitted evidence of the strong community ties that exist between the parishes. We also considered whether to include the parish of Brome & Oakley in this ward. However, having visited the area, we concluded that Brome & Oakley should be included in our Palgrave ward.

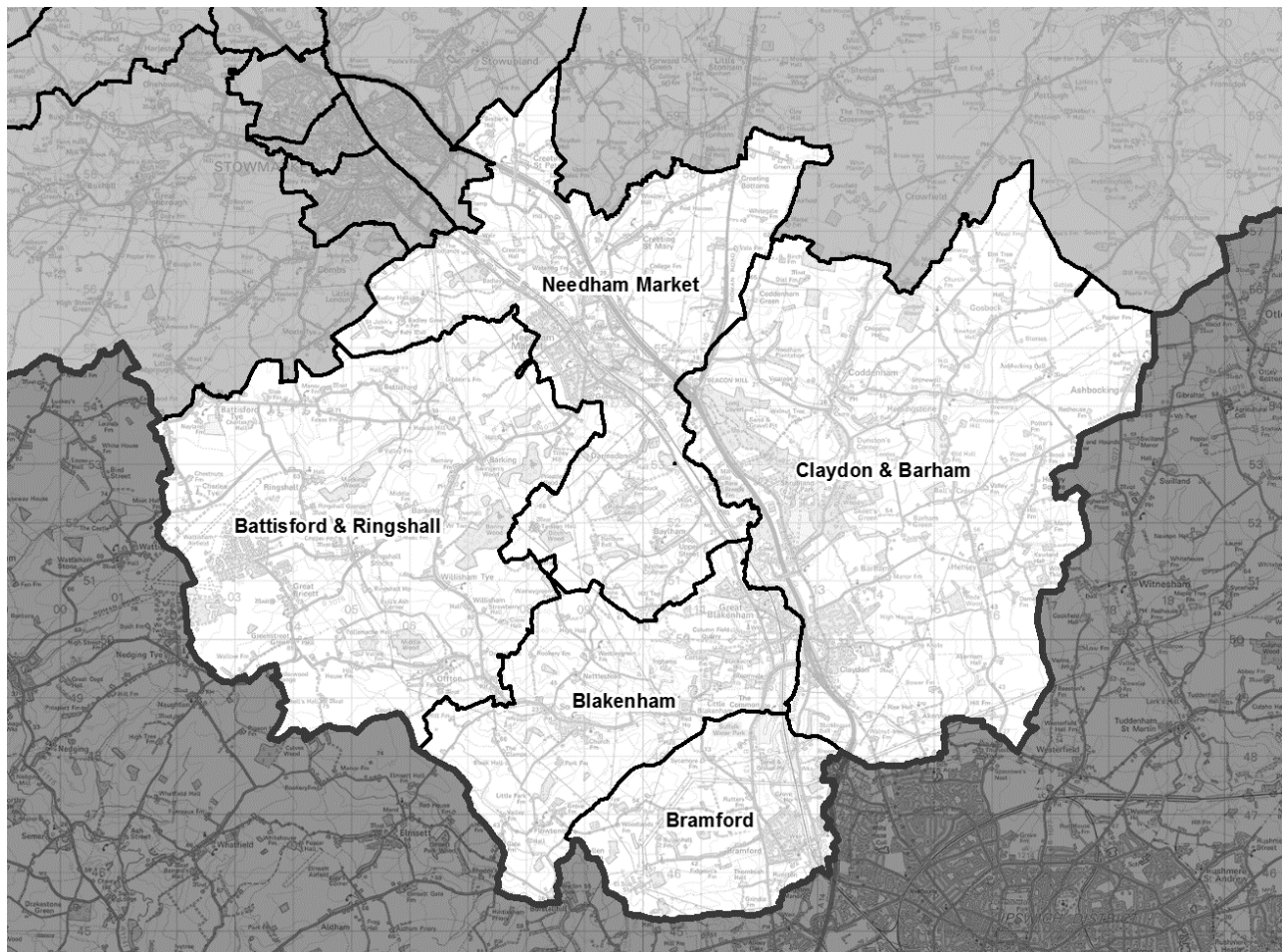
Fressingfield, Hoxne & Worlingworth and Stradbroke & Laxfield

47 The four district-wide submissions all suggested that the parish of Wingfield be added to the current ward of Fressingfield and three of the four submissions also added the parish of Syleham. We propose that both parishes are added to the ward to make a single-member Fressingfield ward. Weybread Parish Council suggested we retain the current warding arrangement but, as mentioned before, this would provide for an unacceptable level of electoral equality under a 34-member council.

48 Our proposed Stradbroke & Laxfield ward is as proposed in three of the four district-wide warding patterns. We received no other submissions in relation to this area and we proposed a single-member Stradbroke & Laxfield ward made up of Brundish, Laxfield, Stradbroke and Wilby.

49 We received no submissions regarding the parishes contained in our proposed Hoxne & Worlingworth ward. We are aware that this ward is geographically large for a single-member ward; however, this is due to the sparseness of the population in this part of the district. We are particularly interested in views on our proposed Hoxne & Worlingworth ward.

Southern parishes



Ward name	Number of Cllrs	Variance 2023
Battisford & Ringshall	1	0%
Blakenham	1	6%
Bramford	1	-5%
Claydon & Barham	2	0%
Needham Market	2	3%

Blakenham, Bramford and Claydon & Barham

50 Our proposals for this area are based on the submission from Mid Suffolk District Council. The Council proposed a two-member Claydon & Barham ward. We propose to add to this ward the parishes of Ashbocking and Gosbeck. We note that these parishes have links to the parishes of Coddenham and Hemingstone. We looked to see if this ward could be divided into two single-member wards but we are unable to identify a warding pattern that allow us to do this which would provide acceptable electoral equality. We are particularly eager to hear the views of interested parties in this area.

51 Our proposed Bramford ward is identical to that proposed by Mid Suffolk District Council and is coterminous with the parish of Bramford. We considered whether to include the parish of Flowton in this ward but concluded it was more appropriate to include this in our proposed Blakenham ward.

52 We propose a Blakenham ward made up of the parishes of Flowton, Great Blakenham, Little Blakenham, Nettlestead and Somersham. We proposed to add Nettlestead to this ward due to its strong links to Somersham and to allow us to provide for better electoral equality in neighbouring wards.

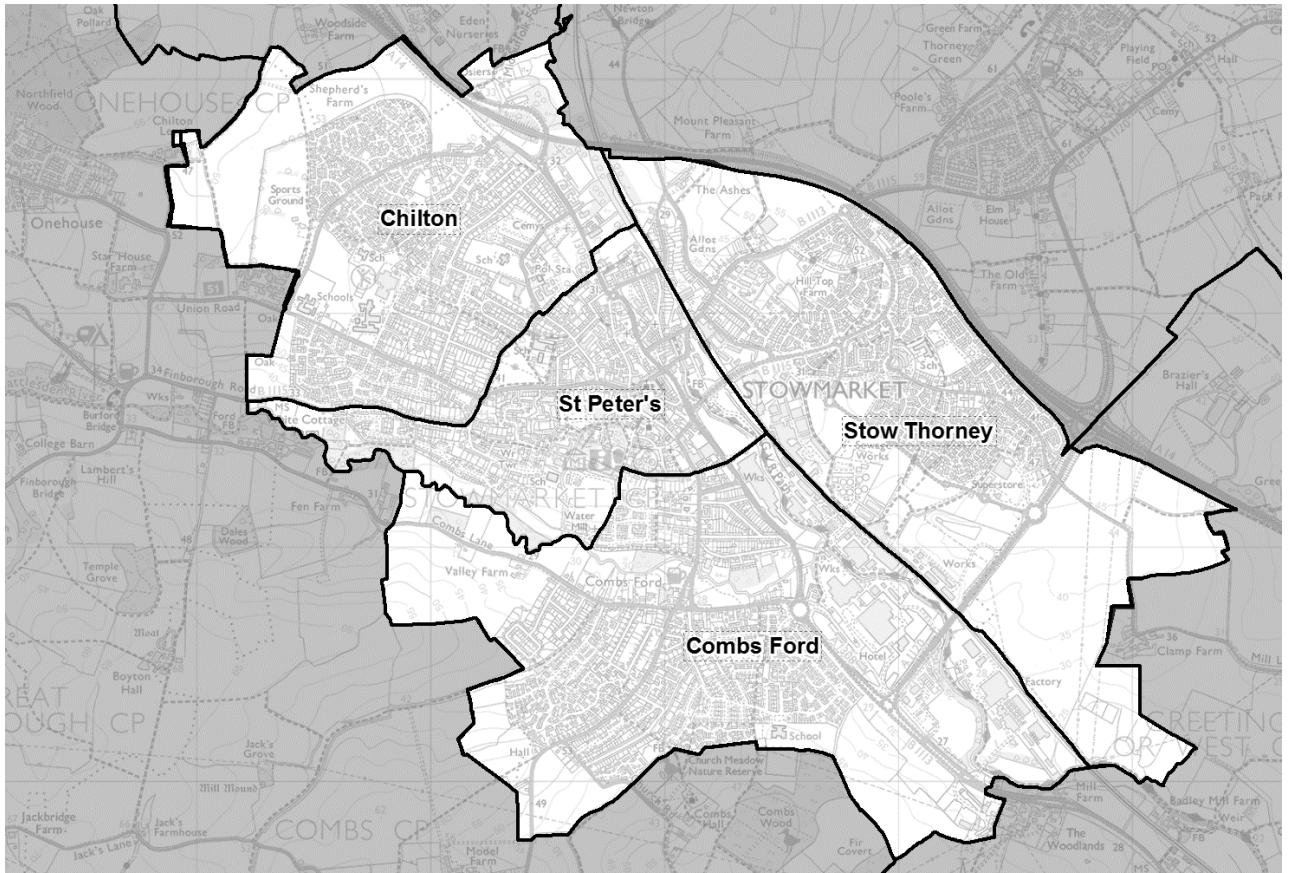
Battisford & Ringshall and Needham Market

53 Our proposed Needham Market ward is for a two-member ward made up of the parishes of Badley, Baylham, Creting St Mary, Creting St Peter, Darmsden and Needham Market. In developing this proposal, we noted that Needham Market parish is too large to be contained within a single-member ward and too small to make up a two-member ward. To avoid dividing the parish between wards we must include some neighbouring parishes. We propose to include Creting St Mary due to its close links to Needham Market and Creting St Peter for its links to both. We include the parishes along the B1113 road through Needham Market in the ward: they are Badley, Baylham and Darmsden. We do not propose to include Barking in this ward as Barking Parish Council have stated that the parish has closer links to the neighbouring parishes of Battisford and Ringshall.

54 Our proposed Battisford & Ringshall ward is made up of the remaining parishes to the west of Needham Market. A ward made up of rural parishes in this area was supported by a local resident.

55 We are aware that wards that contain both rural and more urban parishes can generate opposition so we are interested to hear local views on these proposed wards, ideally accompanied by alternative proposals.

Stowmarket



Ward name	Number of Cllrs	Variance 2023
Chilton	2	-4%
Combs Ford	2	5%
St Peter's	1	-3%
Stow Thorney	2	-8%

Chilton, Combs Ford, St Peter's and Stow Thorney

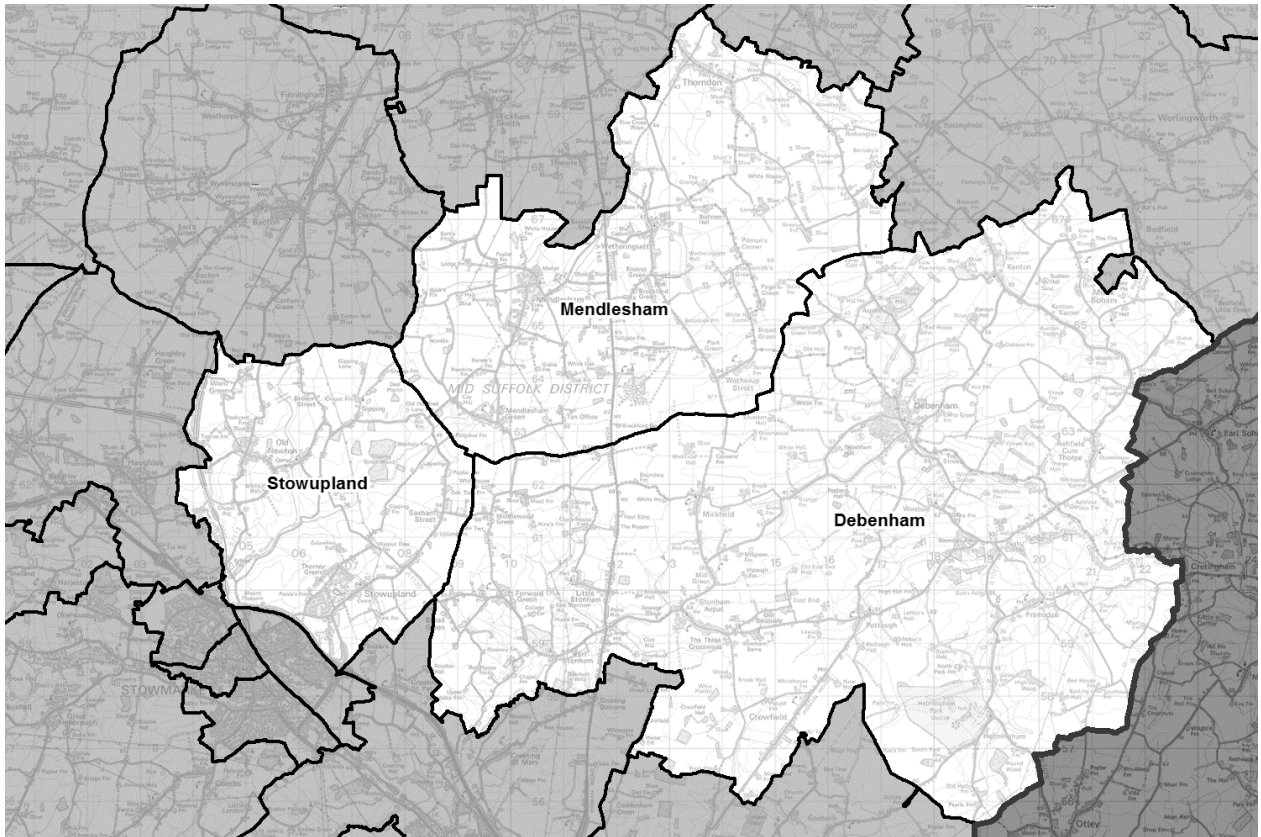
56 None of the four district-wide submissions we received provided any warding arrangements for Stowmarket other than suggesting it be covered by seven councillors. Stowmarket Town Council proposed that the town be covered by four wards that are coterminous with the existing Town Council wards and that each ward should have two councillors.

57 A warding pattern for Stowmarket town would have the best level of electoral equality if it had seven councillors. We are therefore not able to propose four wards of two councillors as this would provide very poor electoral equality. Our proposed wards are still, however, based on the proposal by Stowmarket Town Council but with two amendments to provide for better electoral equality.

58 We propose to include the area to the south of Onehouse Road in Chilton ward, noting that all the properties on Thirlmere Drive and the roads off it all access to the north and have no access onto Finborough Road. We also proposed to include the properties between Temple Road and The Old Maltings to the north and the Rattlesden River to the south in our proposed Combs Ford ward.

59 These two changes allow us to provide three two-member wards and one single-member ward for the town of Stowmarket. We are very keen to hear local views on these proposals as we note the limited evidence so far received.

Western parishes



Ward name	Number of Cllrs	Variance 2023
Debenham	2	-2%
Mendlesham	1	-3%
Stowupland	1	9%

Mendlesham

60 Our proposed Mendlesham ward is based on a proposal in one of the district-wide schemes although we propose including the parish of Gipping in Stowupland to avoid splitting it from Old Newton with Dagworth with whom it is included in a grouped parish. Mendlesham Parish Council, in their submission, supported the inclusion of Wetheringsett-cum-Brockford in the same ward as Mendlesham.

Debenham and Stowupland

61 In this area, we again received a number of submissions with a number of different suggestions. The submission from the District Council suggested that Stowupland be paired in a ward with some of Stowmarket town. The proposal from the local councillor and Stowupland Parish Council suggested Stowupland be paired with Creting St Peter and Stonham Earl. To provide for good electoral equality in this area and surrounding wards we cannot propose that Creting St Peter and Stonham Earl be included in a Stowupland ward without proposing a three-member ward of Stowupland and Debenham. We do not consider that a three-member ward in a rural area like this would be appropriate.

62 Therefore, we propose a single-member Stowupland ward consisting of the parishes of Gipping, Old Newton with Dagworth and Stowupland and a two-member Debenham ward made up of Debenham and the surrounding parishes of Ashfield cum Thorpe, Aspall, Crowfield, Framsdon, Helmingham, Kenton, Mickfield, Monk Soham, Pettaugh and Winston together with The Stonhams (Stonham Aspal, Stonham Earl and Stonham Parva). We considered whether we could create two single-member wards but we concluded that it was better to have a larger two-member ward containing parishes that do not necessarily share a strong community of interest than two single-member wards which would require dividing one or more parishes between the wards.

Conclusions

63 The table below shows the impact of our draft recommendations on electoral equality, based on 2016 and 2023 electorate figures.

Summary of electoral arrangements

	Draft recommendations	
	2016	2023
Number of councillors	34	34
Number of electoral wards	26	26
Average number of electors per councillor	2,327	2,435
Number of wards with a variance more than 10% from the average	5	0
Number of wards with a variance more than 20% from the average	1	0

Draft recommendation

Mid Suffolk District Council should be made up of 34 councillors serving 26 wards representing 18 single-councillor wards and eight two-councillor wards. 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 the Mid Suffolk District Council. **You can also view our draft recommendations for Mid Suffolk District Council on our interactive maps at <http://consultation.lgbce.org.uk>**

Parish electoral arrangements

64 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 ward 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.

65 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, Mid Suffolk District 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.

66 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 Stowmarket parish.

Draft recommendation	
Stowmarket Town Council should comprise 16 councillors, as at present, representing six wards:	
Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
Chilton North	3
Chilton South	2
Combs Ford	5
St Peter's North	1
St Peter's South	1
Stow Thorney	4

3 Have your say

67 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 or just a part of it.

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

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

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

**Review Officer (Mid Suffolk)
The Local Government Boundary Commission for England
14th Floor, Millbank Tower
Millbank
London SW1P 4QP**

71 The Commission aims to propose a pattern of wards for the Mid Suffolk District Council 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

72 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

73 Electoral equality:

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

74 Community identity:

- Community groups: is there a parish council, residents' association or other group that represents the Mid Suffolk?
- Interests: what issues bind the community together or separate it from other parts of your Mid Suffolk?
- Identifiable boundaries: are there natural or constructed features which make strong boundaries for your proposals?

75 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?

76 Please note that the consultation stages of an electoral review are public consultations. 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 Millbank (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.

77 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.

78 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.

79 After the publication of our final recommendations, the changes we have proposed must be approved by Parliament. An 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 the Mid Suffolk District Council in 2019.

Equalities

80 This report has been screened for impact on equalities, with due regard being given to the general equalities duties as set out in section 149 of the Equality Act 2010. As no potential negative impacts were identified, a full equality impact analysis is not required.

Appendix A

Draft recommendations for Mid Suffolk District Council

Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2016)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2023)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
1 Bacton	1	2,368	2,368	2%	2,428	2,428	0%
2 Battisford & Ringshall	1	2,419	2,419	4%	2,435	2,435	0%
3 Blakenham	1	2,290	2,290	-2%	2,571	2,571	6%
4 Bramford	1	1,952	1,952	-16%	2,309	2,309	-5%
5 Chilton	2	4,410	2,205	-5%	4,698	2,349	-4%
6 Claydon & Barham	2	4,776	2,388	3%	4,878	2,439	0%
7 Combs Ford	2	4,798	2,399	3%	5,135	2,568	5%
8 Debenham	2	4,740	2,370	2%	4,789	2,395	-2%
9 Elmswell & Woolpit	2	4,817	2,409	4%	4,883	2,442	0%
10 Eye	1	2,210	2,210	-5%	2,404	2,404	-1%
11 Fressingfield	1	2,451	2,451	5%	2,466	2,466	1%
12 Gislingham	1	2,150	2,150	-8%	2,181	2,181	-10%
13 Haughley & Wetherden	1	1,803	1,803	-23%	2,273	2,273	-7%

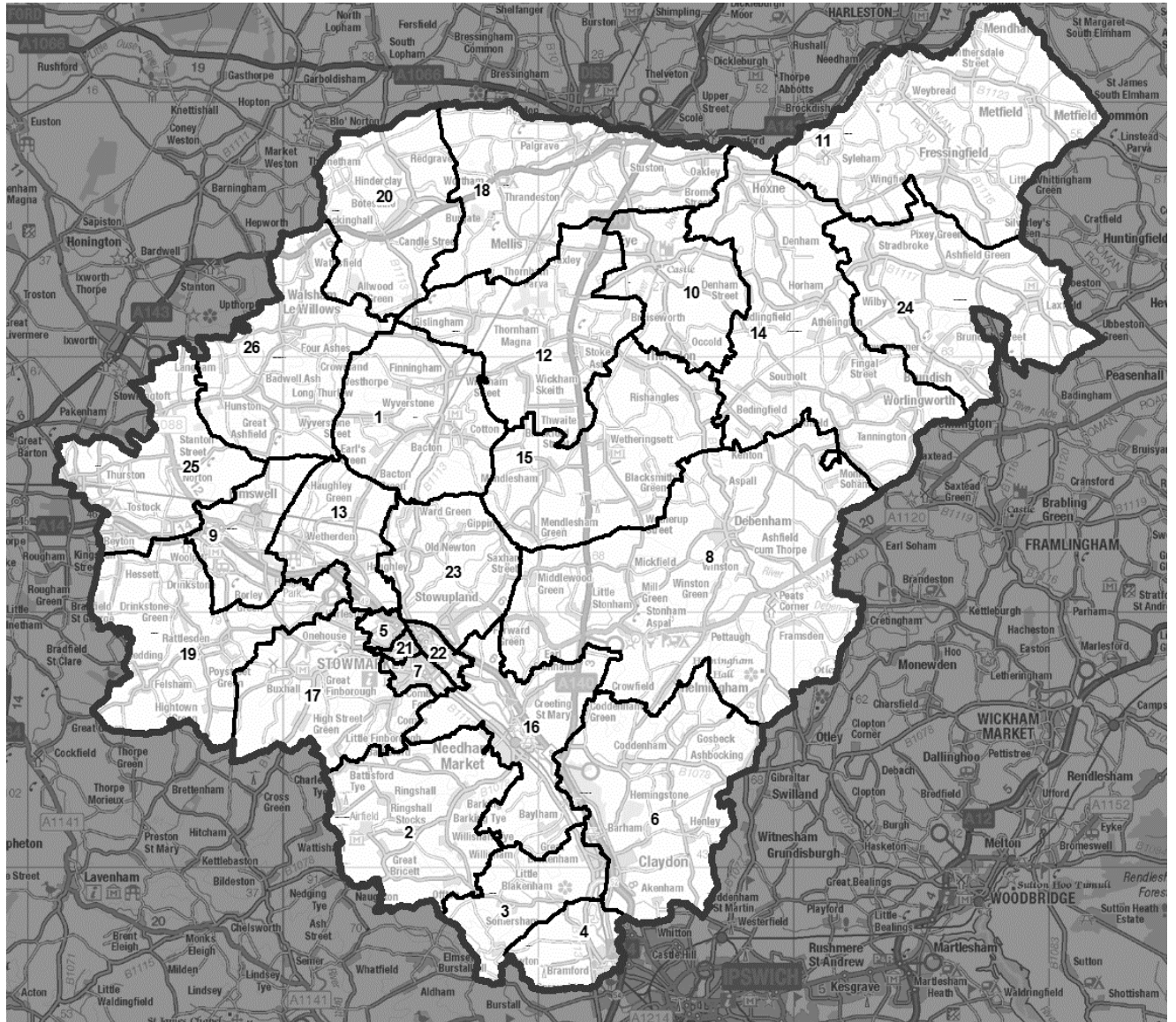
	Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2016)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2023)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
14	Hoxne & Worlingworth	1	2,550	2,550	10%	2,565	2,565	5%
15	Mendlesham	1	2,324	2,324	0%	2,367	2,367	-3%
16	Needham Market	2	4,861	2,431	4%	5,035	2,518	3%
17	Onehouse	1	2,381	2,381	2%	2,575	2,575	6%
18	Palgrave	1	2,570	2,570	10%	2,586	2,586	6%
19	Rattlesden	1	2,305	2,305	-1%	2,369	2,369	-3%
20	Rickinghall	1	2,390	2,390	3%	2,408	2,408	-1%
21	St Peter's	1	2,295	2,295	-1%	2,365	2,365	-3%
22	Stow Thorney	2	4,118	2,059	-12%	4,490	2,245	-8%
23	Stowupland	1	2,611	2,611	12%	2,652	2,652	9%
24	Stradbroke & Laxfield	1	2,349	2,349	1%	2,474	2,474	2%
25	Thurston	2	4,584	2,292	-2%	4,814	2,407	-1%
26	Walsham-le-Willows	1	2,597	2,597	12%	2,631	2,631	8%
Totals		34	79,119	-	-	82,781	-	-
Averages		-	-	2,327	-	-	2,435	-

Source: Electorate figures are based on information provided by Mid Suffolk District Council.

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. Bacton
2. Battisford & Ringshall
3. Blakenham
4. Bramford
5. Chilton
6. Claydon & Barham
7. Combs Ford
8. Debenham
9. Elmswell & Woolpit
10. Eye
11. Fressingfield
12. Gislegham
13. Haughley & Wetherden
14. Hoxne & Worlingworth
15. Mendlesham
16. Needham Market
17. Onehouse
18. Palgrave
19. Rattlesden
20. Rickingham
21. St Peter's
22. Stow Thorney
23. Stowupland
24. Stradbroke & Laxfield
25. Thurston
26. Walsham-le-Willows

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/current-reviews/eastern/suffolk/mid-suffolk>

Appendix C

Submissions received

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

Local Authority

- Mid Suffolk District Council

Political Group

- Mid Suffolk District Council Liberal Democrat Group
- Suffolk Green Party

Councillors

- Councillor K. Welham, Mid Suffolk District Council

Parish and Town Council

- Barking Parish Council
- Beyton Parish Council
- Buxhall Parish Council
- Cotton Parish Council
- Eye Town Council
- Felsham Parish Council
- Gislingham Parish Council
- Great Finborough Parish Council
- Haughley Parish Council
- Mendlesham Parish Council
- Palgrave Parish Council
- Ringshall Parish Council
- Stowmarket Town Council
- Stowupland Parish Council
- Thurston Parish Council
- Wetherden Parish Council
- Weybread Parish Council
- Woolpit Parish Council
- Wyverstone Parish Council

Local Residents

- 3 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
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MID SUFFOLK WARDING 2019 : ADMINISTRATION COUNTER PROPOSALS TO DRAFT LGBCE PROPOSALS

COLUMN NO CHANGES

Great Blakenham	1,500	
Little Blakenham	271	
Somersham	605	
Flowton	113	
Nettlestead	82	
	<u>2,571</u>	1
Bramford	<u>2,309</u>	1
Fressingfield	911	
Metfield	343	
Weybread	366	
Wingfield	301	
Mendham	371	
Syleham	174	
	<u>2,466</u>	1
Eye	1,984	
Occold	420	
	<u>2,404</u>	1
Stowmarket split into:		
Chilton	4,698	2
Combs Ford	5,135	2
St Peter's	2,365	1
Stow Thorney	4,490	2
	<u>16,688</u>	
Haughley	1,669	
Wetherden	604	
	<u>2,273</u>	1
Bacton	1,049	
Cotton	479	
Wyverstone	309	
Westhorpe	181	
Finningham	410	
	<u>2,428</u>	1
Battisford	504	
Ringshall	563	
Willisham	229	
Offton	332	
Great Bricett	485	
Barking	322	
	<u>2,435</u>	1
Thurston	2,785	
Beyton	591	
Tostock	390	
Norton	852	
Stowlangtoft	196	
	<u>4,814</u>	2

COLUMN NO CHANGES

Needham Market	3,903	
Creeting St Peter	217	
Creeting St Mary	584	
Badley	66	
Baylham	230	
Darmsden	35	
	<u>5,035</u>	2
Onehouse	808	
Combs	603	
Great Finborough	751	
Little Finborough	49	
Buxhall	364	
	<u>2,575</u>	1
Rattlesden	765	
Shelland	48	
Harleston	153	
Hessett	420	
Felsham	395	
Gedding	101	
Drinkstone	487	
	<u>2,369</u>	1
Mendlesham	1,121	
Wetheringsett	595	
Thorndon	572	
Rishangles	79	
	<u>2,367</u>	1
Stowupland	1,649	
Old Newton/Dagwort	944	
Gipping	59	
	<u>2,652</u>	1
Rickinghall	1,642	
Hinderclay	270	
Redgrave	496	
	<u>2,408</u>	1
Walsham-Le-Willows	1,005	
Badwell Ash	686	
Wattisfield	428	
Great Ashfield	330	
Langham	74	
Hunston	108	
	<u>2,631</u>	1
Elmswell	3,143	
Woolpit	1,740	
	<u>4,883</u>	2

COLUMN WITH CHANGES

Debenham	1,755	(Reverts to being
Winston	127	a single ward and
Aspall	44	gets Bedingfield)
Kenton	174	
Ashfield-Cum-Thorpe	165	
Bedingfield	198	
	<u>2,463</u>	1
Earl Stonham	505	(Splits from
Stonham Parva	289	Debenham)
Stonham Aspal	480	
Pettaugh	183	
Mickfield	183	
Crowfield	322	
Helmingham	141	
Framsden	267	
	<u>2,370</u>	1
Hoxne	711	(Gains Monk Soham
Worlingworth	666	and loses Tannington
Horham	267	and Bedingfield)
Denham	157	
Redlingfield	100	
Athelington	30	
Southolt	53	
Bedfield	297	
Monk-Soham	154	
	<u>2,435</u>	1
Stradbroke	1,281	(Gains Tannington)
Laxfield	812	
Wilby	236	
Brundish	145	
Tannington	86	
	<u>2,560</u>	1
NO CHANGES		
Claydon	1,782	
Barham	1,280	
Akenham	48	
Whitton	97	
Coddenham	514	
Hemingstone	184	
Henley	482	
Gosbeck	191	
Ashbocking	300	
	<u>4,878</u>	2

COLUMN WITH CHANGES

Gislingham	911	(significant adjustments
Mellis	417	along with Palgrave ward)
Thornham Magna	154	
Thornham Parva	47	
Wortham	608	
Burgate	147	
Wickham Sketh	260	
	<u>2,544</u>	1
Palgrave	733	(significant adjustments
Thrandeston	130	along with Gislingham ward)
Stuston	163	
Brome & Oakley	388	
Yaxley	443	
Stoke Ash	184	
Braiseworth	60	
Thwaite	122	
	<u>2,223</u>	1

Ward Name	Electors	Members	Variance
Bacton	2,428	1	0%
Battisford & Ringshall	2,435	1	0%
Blakenham	2,571	1	6%
Bramford	2,309	1	-5%
Claydon & Barham	4,878	2	0%
Debenham	2,463	1	1%
Elmswell & Woolpit	4,883	2	0%
Eye	2,404	1	-1%
Fressingfield	2,466	1	1%
Gislingham	2,544	1	4%
Haughley	2,273	1	-7%
Hoxne & Worlingworth	2,435	1	0%
Mendlesham	2,367	1	-3%
Needham Market	5,035	2	3%
Onehouse	2,575	1	6%
Palgrave	2,223	1	-9%
Rattlesden	2,369	1	-3%
Rickinghall	2,408	1	-1%
Stonhams	2,370	1	-3%
Stowupland	2,652	1	9%
Stradbroke & Laxfield	2,560	1	5%
Thurston	4,814	2	-1%
Walsham-Le-Willows	2,631	1	8%
Chilton	4,698	2	-4%
Combs Ford	5,135	2	5%
St Peter's	2,365	1	-3%
Stow Thorney	4,490	2	-8%
	<u>82,781</u>	<u>34</u>	

average single member ward size 2,435

MID SUFFOLK WARDING 2019

Bacton	1,049		Elmswell	3,143	
Cotton	479		Woolpit	<u>1,740</u>	
Wyverstone	309			<u>4,883</u>	2
Westhorpe	181		Eye	1,984	
Finningham	<u>410</u>		Occold	<u>420</u>	
	<u>2,428</u>	1		<u>2,404</u>	1
Battisford	504		Fressingfield	911	
Ringshall	563		Metfield	343	
Willisham	229		Weybread	366	
Offton	332		Wingfield	301	
Great Bricett	485		Mendham	371	
Barking	<u>322</u>		Syleham	<u>174</u>	
	<u>2,435</u>	1		<u>2,466</u>	1
Great Blakenham	1,500		Gislingham	911	
Little Blakenham	271		Yaxley	443	
Somersham	605		Thornham Magna	154	
Flowton	113		Thornham Parva	47	
Nettlestead	<u>82</u>		Stoke Ash	184	
	<u>2,571</u>	1	Braiseworth	60	
Bramford	<u>2,309</u>	1	Thwaite	122	
			Wickham Sketh	<u>260</u>	
Claydon	1,782			<u>2,181</u>	1
Barham	1,280		Haughley	1,669	
Akenham	48		Wetherden	<u>604</u>	
Whitton	97			<u>2,273</u>	1
Coddenham	514		Hoxne	711	
Hemingstone	184		Worlingworth	666	
Henley	482		Horham	267	
Gosbeck	191		Denham	157	
Ashbocking	<u>300</u>		Redlingfield	100	
	<u>4,878</u>	2	Athelington	30	
Debenham	1,755		Bedingfield	198	
Winston	127		Tannington	86	
Aspall	44		Southolt	53	
Pettaugh	183		Bedfield	<u>297</u>	
Crowfield	322			<u>2,565</u>	1
Helmingham	141		Mendlesham	1,121	
Framsden	267		Wetheringsett	595	
Kenton	174		Thorndon	572	
Monk-Soham	154		Rishangles	<u>79</u>	
Ashfield-Cum-Thorpe	165			<u>2,367</u>	1
Earl Stonham	505		Mendlesham	1,121	
Stonham Parva	289		Wetheringsett	595	
Stonham Aspal	480		Thorndon	572	
Mickfield	<u>183</u>		Rishangles	<u>79</u>	
	<u>4,789</u>	2		<u>2,367</u>	1

LGBCE DRAFT PROPOSALS

Needham Market	3,903		Thurston	2,785	
Creeting St Peter	217		Beyton	591	
Creeting St Mary	584		Tostock	390	
Badley	66		Norton	852	
Baylham	230		Stowlangtoft	<u>196</u>	
Darmsden	<u>35</u>			<u>4,814</u>	2
	<u>5,035</u>	2	Walsham-Le-Willows	1,005	
Onehouse	808		Badwell Ash	686	
Combs	603		Wattisfield	428	
Great Finborough	751		Great Ashfield	330	
Little Finborough	49		Langham	74	
Buxhall	<u>364</u>		Hunston	<u>108</u>	
	<u>2,575</u>	1		<u>2,631</u>	1
Palgrave	733		Stowmarket split into:		
Brome & Oakley	388		Chilton	4,698	2
Stuston	163		Combs Ford	5,135	2
Thrandeston	130		St Peter's	2,365	1
Mellis	417		Stow Thorney	<u>4,490</u>	2
Wortham	608			<u>16,688</u>	
Burgate	<u>147</u>				
	<u>2,586</u>	1			
Rattlesden	765				
Shelland	48				
Harleston	153				
Hessett	420				
Felsham	395				
Gedding	101				
Drinkstone	<u>487</u>				
	<u>2,369</u>	1			
Rickinghall	1,642				
Hinderclay	270				
Redgrave	<u>496</u>				
	<u>2,408</u>	1			
Stowupland	1,649				
Old Newton/Dagworth	944				
Gipping	<u>59</u>				
	<u>2,652</u>	1			
Stradbroke	1,281				
Laxfield	812				
Wilby	236				
Brundish	<u>145</u>				
	<u>2,474</u>	1			

Ward Name	Electors	Members	Variance
Bacton	2,428	1	0%
Battisford & Ringshall	2,435	1	0%
Blakenham	2,571	1	6%
Bramford	2,309	1	-5%
Claydon & Barham	4,878	2	0%
Debenham	4,789	2	-2%
Elmswell & Woolpit	4,883	2	0%
Eye	2,404	1	-1%
Fressingfield	2,466	1	1%
Gislingham	2,181	1	-10%
Haughley	2,273	1	-7%
Hoxne & Worlingworth	2,565	1	5%
Mendlesham	2,367	1	-3%
Needham Market	5,035	2	3%
Onehouse	2,575	1	6%
Palgrave	2,586	1	6%
Rattlesden	2,369	1	-3%
Rickinghall	2,408	1	-1%
Stowupland	2,652	1	9%
Stradbroke & Laxfield	2,474	1	2%
Thurston	4,814	2	-1%
Walsham-Le-Willows	2,631	1	8%
Chilton	4,698	2	-4%
Combs Ford	5,135	2	5%
St Peter's	2,365	1	-3%
Stow Thorney	4,490	2	-8%
	<u>82,781</u>	<u>34</u>	

average single member ward size 2,435

DRAFT TIMETABLE OF MEETINGS 2018-19

Updated 3 November 2017

May-18										
M			7	BANK HOLIDAY	14	JOINT AUDIT (10am) JHB (2.15)	21	BDC OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY (2pm) MSDC ANNUAL COUNCIL (5.30)	28	BANK HOLIDAY
T	1		8	MSDC CABINET (2.30)	15		22	BDC ANNUAL COUNCIL (9.30)	29	
W	2	PLANNING (9.30)	9	DEVELOPMENT CONTROL A (9.30) SI Planning Referrals (pm)	16	PLANNING (9.30)	23	DEVELOPMENT CONTROL B (9.30) SI	30	PLANNING (9.30) (Suffolk Show)
T	3		10	BDC CABINET (9.30)	17	MSDC OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY (9.30)	24	SCC Annual Council	31	(Suffolk Show)
F	4		11		18		25			
Jun-18										
M			4	MSDC CABINET (2.30)	11		18	BDC OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY (2pm)	25	
T			5		12		19		26	
W			6	DEVELOPMENT CONTROL A (9.30) SI	13	PLANNING (9.30)	20	DEVELOPMENT CONTROL B (9.30) SI Planning Referrals (pm)	27	PLANNING (9.30)
T			7	BDC CABINET (5.30)	14	MSDC OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY (9.30)	21	MSDC COUNCIL (5.30)	28	
F	1	MSDC LICENSING & REG (10am)	8	BDC LICENSING & REG (9.30)	15		22		29	
Jul-18										
M	2		9	MSDC CABINET (2.30)	16	JOINT AUDIT (10am)	23	BDC OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY (2pm)	30	
T	3	(LGA Conference)	10		17		24	BDC COUNCIL (5.30)	31	
W	4	DEVELOPMENT CONTROL A (9.30) SI (LGA Conference)	11	PLANNING (9.30)	18	DEVELOPMENT CONTROL B (9.30) SI	25	PLANNING (9.30)		
T	5	(LGA Conference)	12	BDC CABINET (9.30)	19	MSDC OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY (9.30)	26	MSDC COUNCIL (5.30)		
F	6		13		20		27			
Aug-18										
M			6	MSDC CABINET (2.30)	13		20	BDC OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY (2pm)	27	BANK HOLIDAY
T			7		14		21		28	
W	1	DEVELOPMENT CONTROL A (9.30) SI Planning Referrals (pm)	8	PLANNING (9.30)	15	DEVELOPMENT CONTROL B (9.30) SI	22	PLANNING (9.30)	29	DEVELOPMENT CONTROL A (9.30) SI
T	2		9	BDC CABINET (5.30)	16	MSDC OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY (9.30)	23	MSDC COUNCIL (5.30)	30	
F	3	MSDC LICENSING & REG (10am)	10	BDC LICENSING & REG (9.30)	17		24		31	
Sep-18										
M	3		10	MSDC CABINET (2.30)	17	BDC OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY (2pm)	24	JOINT AUDIT (10am)		
T	4		11		18		25	BDC COUNCIL (5.30)		
W	5	PLANNING (9.30)	12	DEVELOPMENT CONTROL B (9.30) SI Planning Referrals (pm)	19	PLANNING (9.30)	26	DEVELOPMENT CONTROL A (9.30) SI		
T	6		13	BDC CABINET (9.30)	20	MSDC OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY (9.30)	27	MSDC COUNCIL (5.30)		
F	7		14		21		28			
Oct-18										
M	1		8	MSDC CABINET (2.30)	15		22	BDC OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY (2pm)	29	
T	2		9		16		23	BDC COUNCIL (5.30)	30	
W	3	PLANNING (9.30)	10	DEVELOPMENT CONTROL B (9.30) SI	17	PLANNING (9.30)	24	DEVELOPMENT CONTROL A (9.30) SI Planning Referrals (pm)	31	PLANNING (9.30)
T	4		11	BDC CABINET (5.30)	18	MSDC OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY (9.30)	25	MSDC COUNCIL (5.30)		
F	5	MSDC LICENSING & REG (10am)	12	BDC LICENSING & REG (9.30)	19		26			
Nov-18										
M			5	MSDC CABINET (2.30)	12	JOINT AUDIT (10am)	19	BDC OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY (2pm)	26	
T			6		13		20		27	
W			7	DEVELOPMENT CONTROL B (9.30) SI	14	PLANNING (9.30)	21	DEVELOPMENT CONTROL A (9.30) SI	28	PLANNING (9.30)
T	1		8	BDC CABINET (9.30)	15	MSDC OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY (9.30)	22	MSDC COUNCIL (5.30)	29	
F	2		9		16		23		30	

Dec-18										
M	3		10	MSDC CABINET (2.30)	17		24	BDC OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY (2pm)	31	
T	4		11		18	BDC COUNCIL (5.30)	25	BANK HOLIDAY		
W	5	DEVELOPMENT CONTROL B (9.30) SI Planning Referrals (pm)	12	PLANNING (9.30)	19	DEVELOPMENT CONTROL A (9.30) SI	26	BANK HOLIDAY		
T	6		13	BDC CABINET (5.30)	20	MSDC OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY (9.30) MSDC COUNCIL (5.30)	27			
F	7	MSDC LICENSING & REG (10am)	14	BDC LICENSING & REG (9.30)	21		28			
Jan-19										
M			7	MSDC CABINET (2.30)	14	JOINT AUDIT (10am)	21	BDC OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY (2pm)	28	
T	1	BANK HOLIDAY	8		15		22		29	
W	2	DEVELOPMENT CONTROL B (9.30) SI	9	PLANNING (9.30)	16	DEVELOPMENT CONTROL A (9.30) SI	23	PLANNING (9.30)	30	DEVELOPMENT CONTROL B (9.30) SI
T	3		10	BDC CABINET (9.30)	17	MSDC OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY (9.30)	24	MSDC COUNCIL (5.30)	31	
F	4		11		18		25			
Feb-19										
M			4	MSDC CABINET (2.30)	11		18	BDC OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY (2pm)	25	
T			5		12		19	BDC COUNCIL (5.30)	26	
W			6	PLANNING (9.30)	13	DEVELOPMENT CONTROL A (9.30) SI	20	PLANNING (9.30)	27	DEVELOPMENT CONTROL B (9.30) SI
T			7	BDC CABINET (5.30)	14	MSDC OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY (9.30)	21	MSDC COUNCIL (5.30)	28	
F	1	MSDC LICENSING & REG (10am)	8	BDC LICENSING & REG (9.30)	15		22			
Mar-19										
M			4	MSDC CABINET (2.30)	11	JOINT AUDIT (10am)	18	BDC OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY (2pm)	25	
T			5		12		19		26	
W			6	PLANNING (9.30)	13	DEVELOPMENT CONTROL A (9.30) SI	20	PLANNING (9.30)	27	DEVELOPMENT CONTROL B (9.30) SI
T			7	BDC CABINET (9.30)	14	MSDC OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY (9.30)	21	MSDC COUNCIL (5.30)	28	
F	1		8		15		22		29	
Apr-19										
M	1		8	MSDC CABINET (2.30)	15	BDC OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY (2pm)	22	BANK HOLIDAY	29	
T	2		9		16		23	BDC COUNCIL (5.30)	30	
W	3	PLANNING (9.30)	10	DEVELOPMENT CONTROL A (9.30) SI	17	PLANNING (9.30)	24	DEVELOPMENT CONTROL B (9.30) SI		
T	4		11	BDC CABINET (5.30)	18	MSDC OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY (9.30)	25	MSDC COUNCIL (5.30)		
F	5	MSDC LICENSING & REG (10am)	12	BDC LICENSING & REG (9.30)	19	BANK HOLIDAY	26			
May-19										
M			6	BANK HOLIDAY	13	JOINT AUDIT (10am)	20	BDC OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY (2pm) MSDC ANNUAL COUNCIL (5.30)	27	BANK HOLIDAY
T			7	MSDC CABINET (2.30)	14		21	BDC ANNUAL COUNCIL (9.30)	28	
W	1	PLANNING (9.30)	8	DEVELOPMENT CONTROL A (9.30) SI	15	PLANNING (9.30)	22	DEVELOPMENT CONTROL B (9.30) SI	29	PLANNING (9.30)
T	2	District and Parish Council Elections	9	BDC CABINET (9.30)	16	MSDC OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY (9.30)	23	SCC Annual Council	30	
F	3		10		17		24		31	

When Licensing Act 2003, Licensing Sub and Regulatory Sub Committees are required these will, wherever possible be held on a scheduled Licensing & Regulatory Committee day
SI - BDC Planning Committee site inspections

Rooms:
King Edmund Chamber - 100
Elisabeth - 80
Rose - 50
Britten - 30
Giles - 10/12
Millicent - 10/12
Garrick - 10/12
Dorothy - 10/12
Wolsey - 10/12

Agenda Item 15

By virtue of paragraph(s) 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A
of the Local Government Act 1972.

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