

Leaders Report

1. **Parliamentary Boundary Review** – The Boundary Commission for England has now published its final recommendations for parliamentary constituencies. The recommendations now need to be agreed by Parliament. The report recommends that the Central Suffolk and North Ipswich constituency be renamed to Central Suffolk and that the Needham Market and Ringshall wards will move into the Central Suffolk Constituency from the Bury St Edmunds Constituency.
2. **LGA Councillor census** - You may be aware that the LGA has conducted a national census of councillors for some years, most recently in 2013 and they are currently running the census again to update our information. Councillors are being emailed directly.

You can find a pdf version of the questionnaire here <http://e-sd.org/zhq4m/>.

The LGA will be publishing the results of the survey in early 2019. You can find 2013 data here <https://www.local.gov.uk/national-census-local-authority-councillors-2013>

3. **Bosmere by-election** – following the death of County Councillor Anne Whybrow, the by-election for the Bosmere division has been called for the 25th October 2018.
4. **Annual Canvass of Electors** - Beginning in July every year, the Electoral Registration Officer (the Chief Executive) is required by law to send up to three household enquiry forms to every residential property in the district. The purpose of this form is to collect details of residents who need to be included on the register of electors. A revised register is then published annually on 1 December.

The third stage of the canvass is now underway, which involves a personal visit by one of the canvassers to any properties where there has been no response to the first two forms. To date 84.1% of households have responded to the canvass which is an excellent result for this stage in the process. Invitation to register forms are being sent out in weekly batches to new electors who have been identified on the household forms.

5. **Improvements to Freedom of Information response times** – the Information Management Team are taking proactive steps to improve response times to requests for information made under the Freedom of Information (FOI) Act and to ensure that all requests are responded to within the statutory deadline of 20 working days. These steps include implementing an escalation process for outstanding requests and providing weekly metrics on the number of requests received and answered. There will also be a refresh of the FOI training package for officers and Councillors in the coming months.
6. **The Constitution Working Group** - the Group held its first meeting on 3 September. The Working Group agreed principles for the review and identified key areas for revision by the Monitoring Officer. It was also agreed that the review timetable would be amended so that the revised Constitution would be presented to the December Full Council meeting for adoption.
7. **Joint Members Learning and Development Review Group** - the Group met on 19th September and have begun to review the proposed induction programme for the new Council following the elections in May 2019.