

Final recommendations on the new electoral arrangements for King's Lynn & West Norfolk Borough Council

Electoral review

April 2018

Translations and other formats

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Summary

Who we are and what we do

1 The Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) is an independent body set up by Parliament. We are not part of government or any political party. We are accountable to Parliament through a committee of MPs chaired by the Speaker of the House of Commons.

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

Electoral review

3 An electoral review examines and proposes new electoral arrangements for a local authority. A local authority's electoral arrangements decide:

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

Why King's Lynn & West Norfolk?

4 We are conducting a review of King's Lynn & West Norfolk Borough Council ('the Council') as the value of each vote in borough council elections varies depending on where you live in King's Lynn & West Norfolk. 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 King's Lynn & West Norfolk

- King's Lynn & West Norfolk should be represented by 55 councillors, seven fewer than there are now.
- King's Lynn & West Norfolk should have 35 wards, seven fewer than there are now.
- The boundaries of all but four of the existing wards will stay the same.

5 We have now finalised our recommendations for electoral arrangements for King's Lynn & West Norfolk.

What is the Local Government Boundary Commission for England?

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

7 The members of the Commission are:

- Professor Colin Mellors OBE (Chair)
- Susan Johnson OBE
- Alison Lowton
- Peter Maddison QPM
- Steve Robinson
- Andrew Scallan CBE

- Chief Executive: Jolyon Jackson CBE

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

1 Introduction

8 This electoral review was carried out to ensure that:

- The wards in King’s Lynn & West Norfolk 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 borough.

What is an electoral review?

9 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

10 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

11 We wrote to the Council to ask its views on the appropriate number of councillors for King’s Lynn & West Norfolk. We then held two periods of consultation on warding patterns for the borough. The submissions received during consultation have informed our draft and final recommendations.

12 This review was conducted as follows:

Stage starts	Description
20 June 2017	Number of councillors decided
27 June 2017	Start of consultation seeking views on new wards
4 September 2017	End of consultation; we begin analysing submissions and forming draft recommendations
31 October 2017	Publication of draft recommendations, start of second consultation
15 January 2018	End of consultation; we begin analysing submissions and forming final recommendations
3 April 2018	Publication of final recommendations

How will the recommendations affect you?

13 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 final recommendations

14 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.

15 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.

16 We work out the average number of electors per councillor for each individual local authority by dividing the electorate by the number of councillors, as shown on the table below.

	2017	2023
Electorate of King's Lynn & West Norfolk	119,326	128,139
Number of councillors	55	55
Average number of electors per councillor	2,170	2,330

17 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 but two of our proposed wards for King's Lynn & West Norfolk will have good electoral equality by 2023.

18 Our recommendations cannot affect the external boundaries of the borough 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

19 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

20 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 7% by 2023.

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.

21 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 final recommendations.

Number of councillors

22 King's Lynn & West Norfolk Council currently has 62 councillors. We looked at evidence provided by the Council and concluded that decreasing the council size by eight would still enable the Council to carry out its roles and responsibilities effectively.

23 We therefore invited proposals for new patterns of wards that would be represented by 54 councillors.

24 In response, the Council put forward borough-wide proposals based on a council size of 54. In formulating the draft recommendations, we had concerns about the Council's proposals to include part of Wiggshall St Germans parish in a ward with the south area of King's Lynn town. We considered that this area of Wiggshall St Germans parish would be best retained with the remainder of the parish. However, by retaining the whole parish in a single ward we noted that it would be difficult to draw up a coherent warding pattern in the rural area to the south and west of King's Lynn.

25 We concluded that the inclusion of an additional councillor facilitates a stronger warding pattern across this area. We therefore based the draft recommendations on a 55-member council, rather than the 54 members on which the warding pattern consultation was based. This approach is consistent with our council size guidance where we explain that it may be necessary to alter council size by plus or minus one councillor to secure better, more clearly identifiable boundaries.

26 In response to our draft recommendations we received no significant comments on Council size. We have therefore maintained 55 councillors for our final recommendations.

Ward boundaries consultation

27 We received 32 submissions in response to our consultation on ward boundaries. These included a borough-wide scheme from King's Lynn & West Norfolk Borough Council for a pattern of wards to be represented by 54 elected members.

28 The Council's proposals provided for a mixed pattern of one- and two-councillor wards for King's Lynn & West Norfolk. We received significant objections to the Council's proposals for the Burnham and Docking wards, with support instead for a coastal ward, which respondents considered would better reflect community identity and interests. We also received objections to the inclusion of Roydon parish in a ward with South Wootton, which respondents argued would separate Roydon from the neighbouring parishes of Congham and Grimston.

29 We carefully considered the evidence received, noting the opposition to the Council's proposals identified above and the other submissions received.

30 Our draft recommendations were based on a combination of the Council's borough-wide proposals, with modifications in response to other evidence received, and a number of our own concerns about elements of the Council's proposals. We also visited the area in order to look at the various different proposals on the ground. This tour of King's Lynn & West Norfolk helped us to decide between the different boundaries proposed.

31 In the north and south of the borough – the Gayton, Grimston and the Woottons areas – we based our recommendations on the Council's proposal, but subject to a number of significant amendments to reflect the other evidence received and to address poor access within the wards in the Wootton area.

32 In the west of King's Lynn & West Norfolk we based our draft recommendations on the Council's proposals. These proposals were amended so that part of Wiggshall St Germans parish was no longer included in a ward with King's Lynn town.

33 In Downham Market we based our draft recommendations on the Council's scheme but proposed a number of amendments to strengthen boundaries or better reflect communities. Finally, in King's Lynn town we based our draft recommendations on the Council's proposals, but subject to a number of amendments.

34 Our draft recommendations were for two three-councillor wards, 16 two-councillor wards and 17 one-councillor wards. We considered that our draft recommendations provide for good electoral equality while reflecting community identities and interests where we have received such evidence during consultation.

Draft recommendations consultation

35 We received 26 submissions during the consultation on our draft recommendations. The Council expressed concerns that the draft recommendations created a number of three-councillor wards, provided for poorer levels of electoral equality in some wards than they had proposed, and gave greater weight to comments from some individual submissions than its proposals. We received a number of other comments about the creation of multi-member wards and the levels of electoral equality.

36 We received significant objections to our three-councillor The Woottons ward, particularly regarding the inclusion of Sandringham parish in this ward. We also received objections to our two-councillor Gayton & Grimston ward. A number of respondents also requested that the single-councillor Methwold ward be combined with the two-councillor Feltwell ward to create a three-councillor Denton ward, reflecting the existing electoral arrangements in the area.

37 We note the Council's concerns about the creation of three-councillor wards but have only proposed these where we were unable to identify alternative warding patterns that adhered to our statutory criteria. We make no presumption on the creation of single-, two- or three-councillor wards. Indeed, as the evidence arguing for the retention of a three-councillor Denton ward suggests, opinions on the merits or otherwise vary. However, in this instance we do not consider there to be strong evidence to support a three-councillor Denton ward and consider that the smaller single-councillor Methwold and two-councillor Feltwell wards provide the best electoral arrangements.

38 We also note concerns about the creation of wards with poorer levels of electoral equality than the Council's own proposals but have only recommended these in areas where we considered that the strength of the community identity or effective and convenient local government arguments was great enough to accommodate a lower level of electoral equality. As stated above, in response to the draft recommendations we have received strong evidence against the inclusion of Sandringham in a three-councillor The Woottons ward. The evidence pointed to its strong links with Dersingham and also argued that the inclusion of the more rural Sandringham parish with the more urban Wootton North and Wootton South parishes would not provide for effective and convenient local government.

39 Although including Sandringham parish in the two-councillor Dersingham ward would worsen electoral equality in this ward with 14% more electors than the borough average by 2023 and 11% fewer in the three-councillor The Woottons ward, we consider that the evidence from Sandringham Parish Council is stronger than the other evidence and considerations. We are therefore modifying our draft recommendations to include Sandringham parish in the Dersingham ward.

40 We give equal weight to all submissions received during consultation, regardless of who they come from. All the Commission's decisions are based on the quality and strength of the evidence put forward.

Final recommendations

41 Pages 10–25 detail our final recommendations for each area of King's Lynn & West Norfolk. They detail how the proposed warding arrangements reflect the three statutory⁴ criteria of:

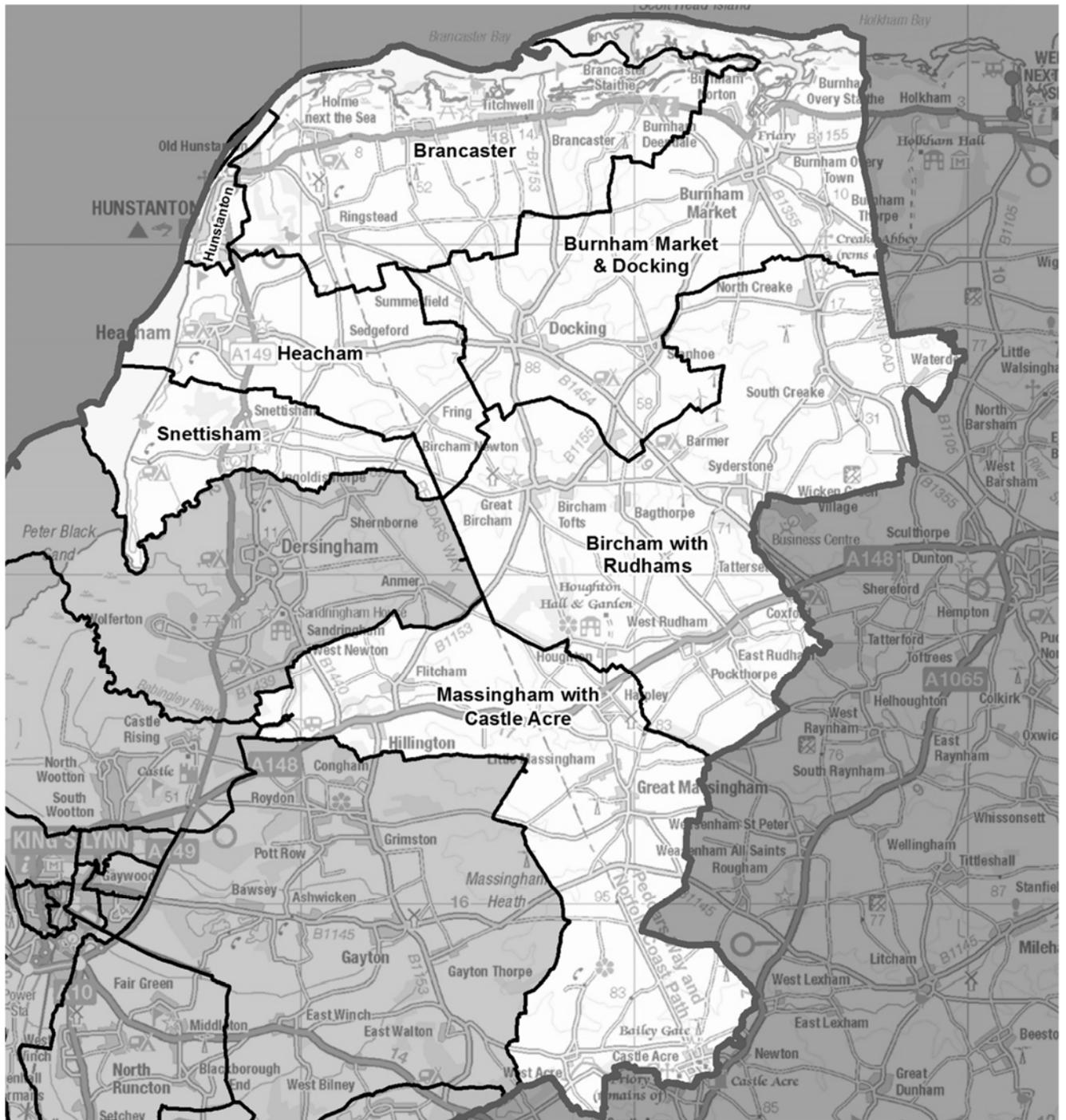
- Equality of representation
- Reflecting community interests and identities
- Providing for effective and convenient local government

42 Our final recommendations are for 17 single-councillor wards, 16 two-councillor wards and two three-councillor wards. We consider that our final recommendations will provide for good electoral equality while reflecting community identities and interests where we have received such evidence during consultation.

⁴ Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009.

43 A summary of our proposed new wards is set out in the table on pages 30–2 and on the large map accompanying this report.

North King's Lynn & West Norfolk



Ward name	Number of Cllrs	Variance 2023
Bircham with Rudhams	1	7%
Brancaster	1	-4%
Burnham Market & Docking	1	7%
Heacham	2	3%
Hunstanton	2	-5%
Massingham with Castle Acre	1	9%
Snettisham	1	2%

Brancaster, Burnham Market & Docking and Hunstanton

44 We received support for the draft recommendations in this area from Councillor Watson, Brancaster Parish Council and Thornham Parish Council. However, both the Council and Councillor Beales expressed concern about the long-term level of electoral equality for the proposed Brancaster ward, arguing that it is likely to worsen as more properties become second homes. South West Norfolk & North West Norfolk Conservative Association proposed that the Brancaster ward be renamed as Saxon Shore ward.

45 The Commission can only have regard for electorate forecast figures five years from the end of the review and cannot consider changes in the electorate beyond this. We consider that the -4% variance for the Brancaster ward is acceptable and should reflect any changes to housing ownership with time. The forecast variance of -4% for 2023 is still well within the range that the Commission considers to represent good electoral equality.

46 We note that the South West Norfolk & North West Norfolk Conservative Association proposed that the ward be renamed Saxon Shore. However, we are not persuaded that area of the Saxon Shore is clearly defined. In addition, we consider that Brancaster is a locally recognised name, reflected in Brancaster Bay and Brancaster Harbour. Brancaster is also the existing ward name for a broadly similar area. We are therefore retaining the name Brancaster ward.

47 We received no other significant comments on the wards in this area and are therefore confirming the Brancaster, Burnham Market & Docking and Hunstanton wards as final.

Bircham with Rudhams and Massingham with Castle Acre

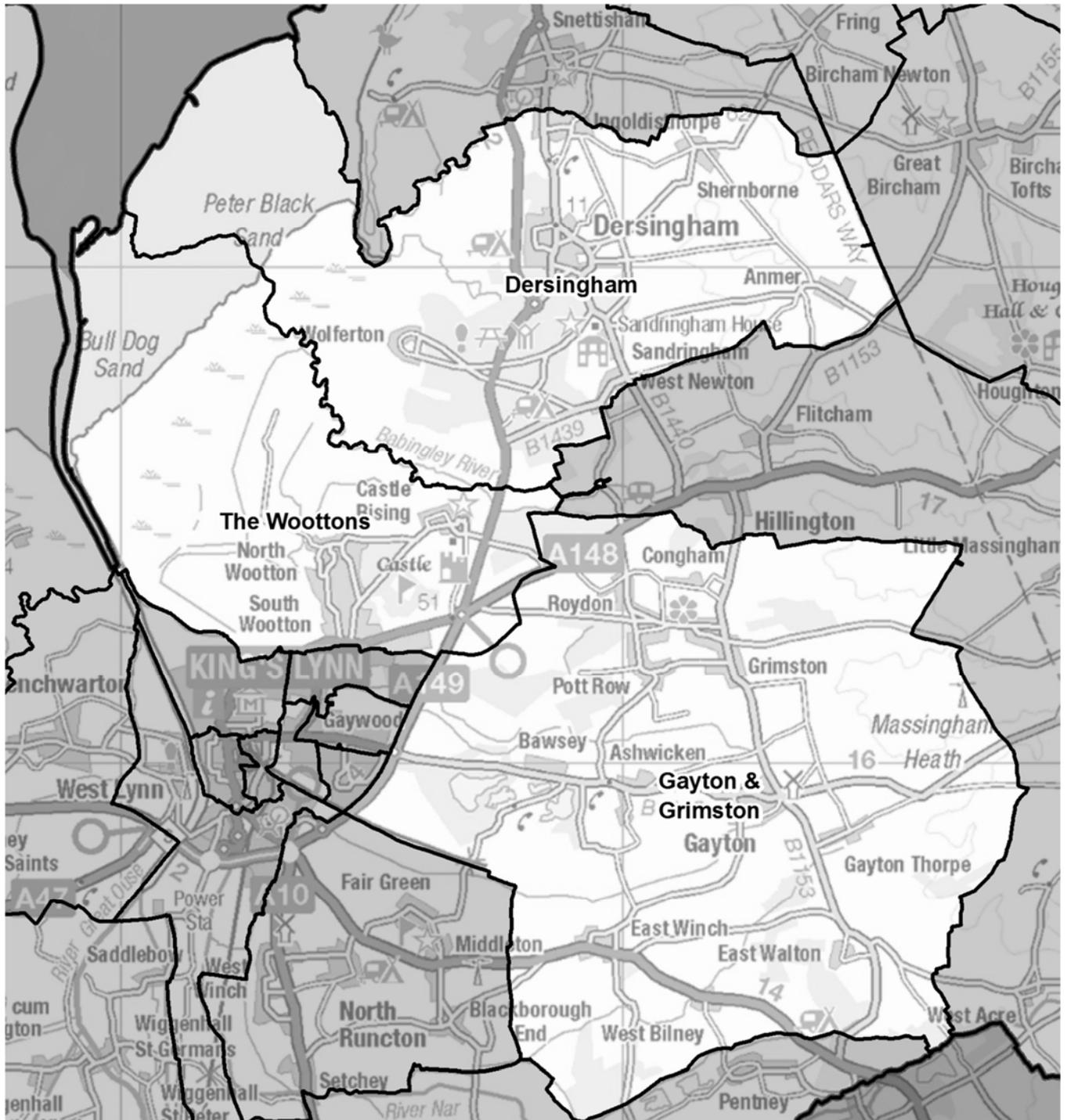
48 A local resident argued that residents in the Birchams look to Docking not Rudhams for their local facilities. However, the Commission were not persuaded that the evidence received was compelling enough to justify significantly worsening the electoral equality in this area. We are therefore confirming the Bircham with Rudhams ward as final.

49 Castle Acre Parish Council and Councillor Moriarty argued that Massingham with Castle Acre ward should include Priory or Priors in the ward name, reflecting the presence of priories in Castle Acre and Great Massingham villages. We note the request for a name change. However, while the Castle Acre Priory is an English Heritage site, desk research suggests that Massingham Priory is largely gone, with limited remnants visible in Abbey Farm House. In addition, although the new ward covers part of the existing Priory ward, it is significantly different in its final extent, and we consider that calling it Priory or Priors may be confusing. We are therefore confirming the Massingham with Castle Acre ward as final.

Heacham and Snettisham

50 We did not receive any comments regarding these wards and are therefore confirming them as final.

The Woottons, Gayton, Grimston and Dersingham



Ward name	Number of Cllrs	Variance 2023
Dersingham	2	14%
Gayton & Grimston	2	10%
The Woottons	3	-11%

Gayton & Grimston

51 Councillor Beales objected to the inclusion of Gayton and Grimston in a two-councillor Gayton & Grimston ward, arguing that they are distinct and vibrant communities, and would be better served by two single-councillor wards. In drawing up our draft recommendations we had explored options for two single-councillor wards but were unable to identify a warding pattern which secured good electoral equality. The 'best' proposal we identified would have resulted in a Gayton ward with 24% more electors than the borough average by 2023 and we did not consider that the evidence received justified a ward with such poor electoral equality. We do not consider there to be any new evidence to persuade us that we can create viable single-councillor wards for this area.

52 Parish Councillor Starling expressed support for the draft recommendations, and particularly the transfer of Roydon parish to a Gayton & Grimston ward from a ward with the Woottons parishes.

53 Congham Parish Council objected to its inclusion in the Gayton & Grimston ward, arguing that it would be subsumed by the larger Gayton village. It stated that it wished to remain in the existing Valley Hill ward; however, the draft recommendations did not retain the existing Valley Hill ward. Transferring Congham parish to the new Massingham with Castle Acre ward would worsen electoral equality for this ward with 17% more electors than the borough average by 2023. We do not consider there to be sufficient evidence to justify this high variance and note that Congham Parish Council also acknowledges that it has links with Grimston as part of the neighbourhood plan.

54 We are therefore confirming the Gayton & Grimston ward as final.

Dersingham and The Woottons

55 We received significant objections to our proposed three-councillor The Woottons ward.

56 Sandringham Parish Council put forward strong objections to its inclusion in a large three-councillor The Woottons ward. They argued that the proposed ward not only mixes the more urban Wootton parishes with the rural Sandringham, but also cuts its community links to Dersingham. They stated that Dersingham is the County's designated Local Service Centre for Sandringham parish and it is here that residents have their nearest doctor's surgery, hostelry, chemist, supermarket, post office, newsagent, solicitor, accountant and butcher. They argued that these links should be balanced against electoral equality, and that that the Commission had made a number of amendments to other areas to better reflect communities. Finally, while suggesting that Sandringham should be in a ward with Dersingham, they also argued that Anmer parish has links to Bircham.

57 Councillor Nockolds also stated that Sandringham has links to Dersingham, including bus and shop links. However, she proposed that if it was not possible to reflect this then Sandringham parish should be in a single-councillor ward with North Wootton parish, with South Wootton parish joining Castle Rising parish in a two-councillor ward.

58 Councillor Tillbrook and the South West Norfolk & North West Norfolk Conservative Association also supported broadly similar proposals to the Council's original scheme, although Councillor Tillbrook argued that if this was not possible to adopt then Sandringham parish should be in a ward with Dersingham parish.

59 We did not receive any significant comments on the Dersingham ward.

60 We note the objections to the draft recommendations for The Woottons ward and that a number of respondents have restated support for wards broadly similar to those originally proposed by the Council. However, these proposals do not address the concerns about the lack of internal road links between North Wootton parish and Sandringham parish. Therefore, we are not minded to reconsider these proposed warding arrangements.

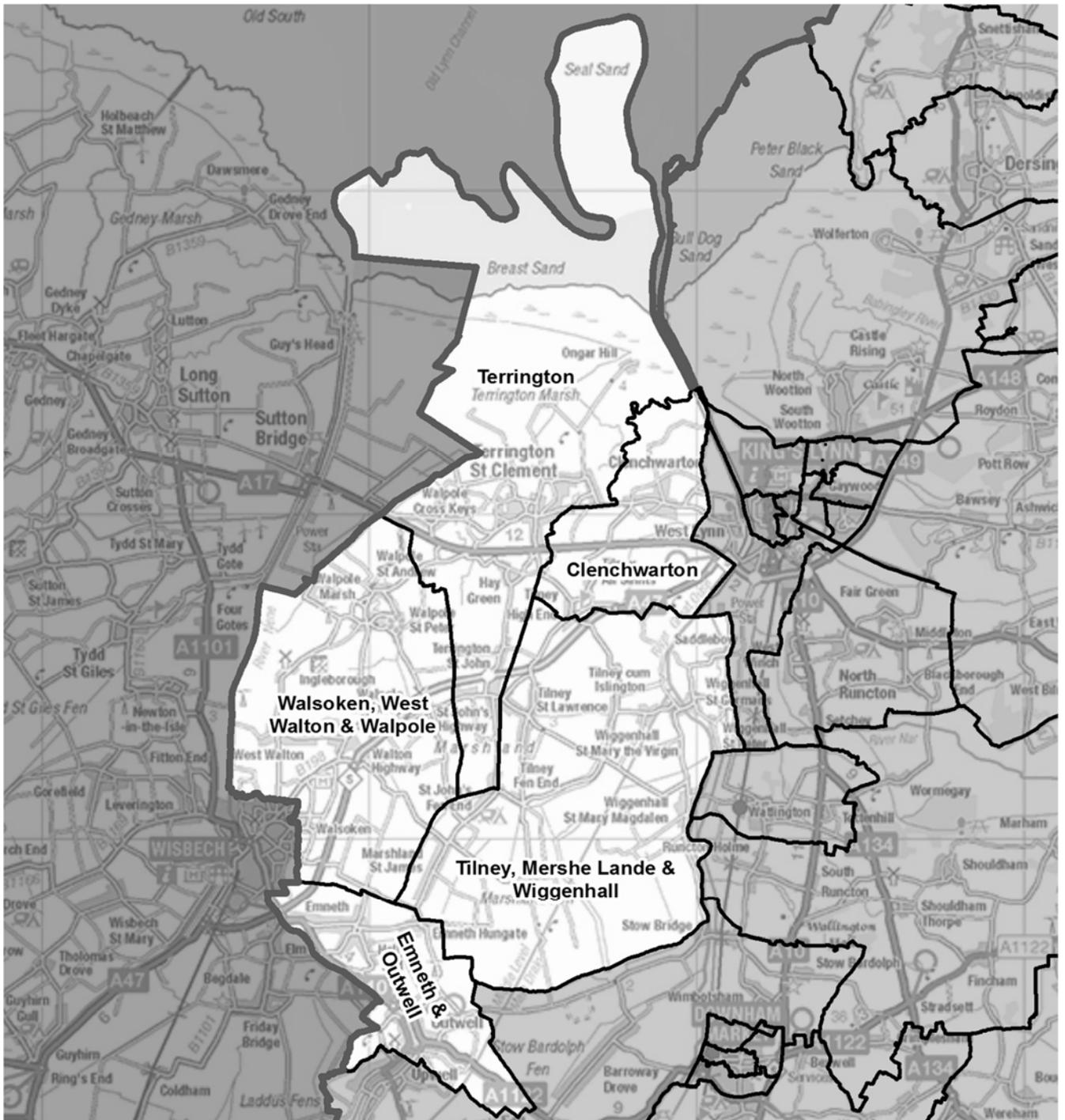
61 We also note Sandringham Parish Council's argument for its inclusion in the Dersingham ward. This proposal was considered as part of our draft recommendations, but rejected on the grounds of the poor level of electoral equality that would result in the Dersingham and The Woottons wards, with 14% more and 11% fewer electors than the borough average by 2023, respectively.

62 However, we acknowledge Sandringham Parish Council's concerns about placing the parish in a ward with a mix of urban and rural areas. In addition, we consider that it has provided strong evidence of its community links with Dersingham. Therefore, although including Sandringham parish in the Dersingham ward will create a ward with relatively poor levels of electoral equality, in this instance we consider that the community argument outweighs the electoral equality argument.

63 As part of its submission, Sandringham Parish Council proposed that Anmer parish be transferring to the Bircham ward. However, we have not received any evidence to suggest that it shares community links with Bircham and therefore we propose retaining it with Sandringham as part of our revised Dersingham ward.

64 Our revised two-councillor Dersingham ward and three-councillor The Woottons ward will have 14% more and 11% fewer electors than the borough average by 2023.

West King's Lynn & West Norfolk



Ward name	Number of Cllrs	Variance 2023
Clenchwarton	1	7%
Emmeth & Outwell	2	-5%
Terrington	2	2%
Tilney, Mershe Lande & Wiggshall	2	-9%
Walsoken, West Walton & Walpole	2	6%

Clenchwarton, Terrington and Tilney Mershe Lande & Wiggenhall

65 We received limited comments in response to our draft recommendations for these wards. A local resident stated that Clenchwarton parish should be in a ward with West Lynn. Marshland St James Parish Council argued for the retention of the 'Mershe Lande' name. A local resident argued that the Tilney & Wiggenhall ward should include 'Marshland' in the ward name.

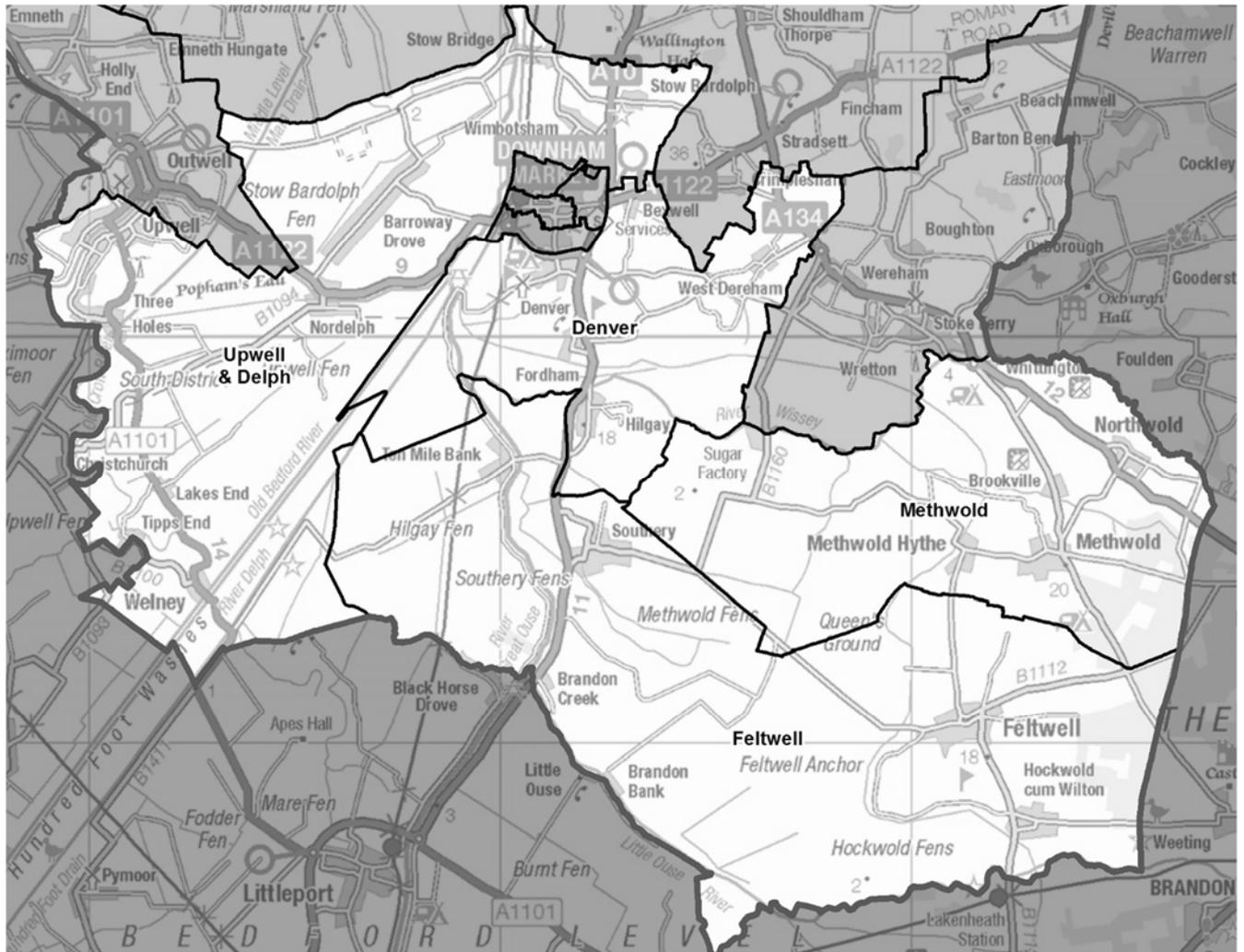
66 We do not consider there to be any strong evidence for including Clenchwarton parish in a ward with West Lynn. We are therefore confirming the Clenchwarton ward as final.

67 We note the concerns about the Tilney & Wiggenhall ward name. Our proposed Tilney & Wiggenhall ward takes in the majority of the existing Mershe Lande ward, therefore we are content that the historically significant 'Mershe Lande' name should be reflected. We are therefore renaming Tilney & Wiggenhall ward as Tilney, Mershe Lande & Wiggenhall ward.

Emneth & Outwell and Walsoken, West Walton & Walpole

68 We received limited comments in response to our draft recommendations for these wards. Councillor Crofts argued that Emneth with Outwell ward should be called Emneth & Outwell to reflect the fact that the Emneth and Outwell parishes contain similar numbers of electors. On balance, we are persuaded by Councillor Crofts' argument. Subject to renaming Emneth with Outwell ward as Emneth & Outwell ward, we are confirming the draft recommendations for these wards as final.

South King's Lynn & West Norfolk



Ward name	Number of Cllrs	Variance 2023
Denver	1	-9%
Feltwell	2	-6%
Methwold	1	-4%
Upwell & Delph	2	10%

Upwell & Delph

69 We did not receive any significant comments regarding this ward and are therefore confirming it as final.

Denver

70 We did not receive any comments regarding this ward and are therefore confirming it as final.

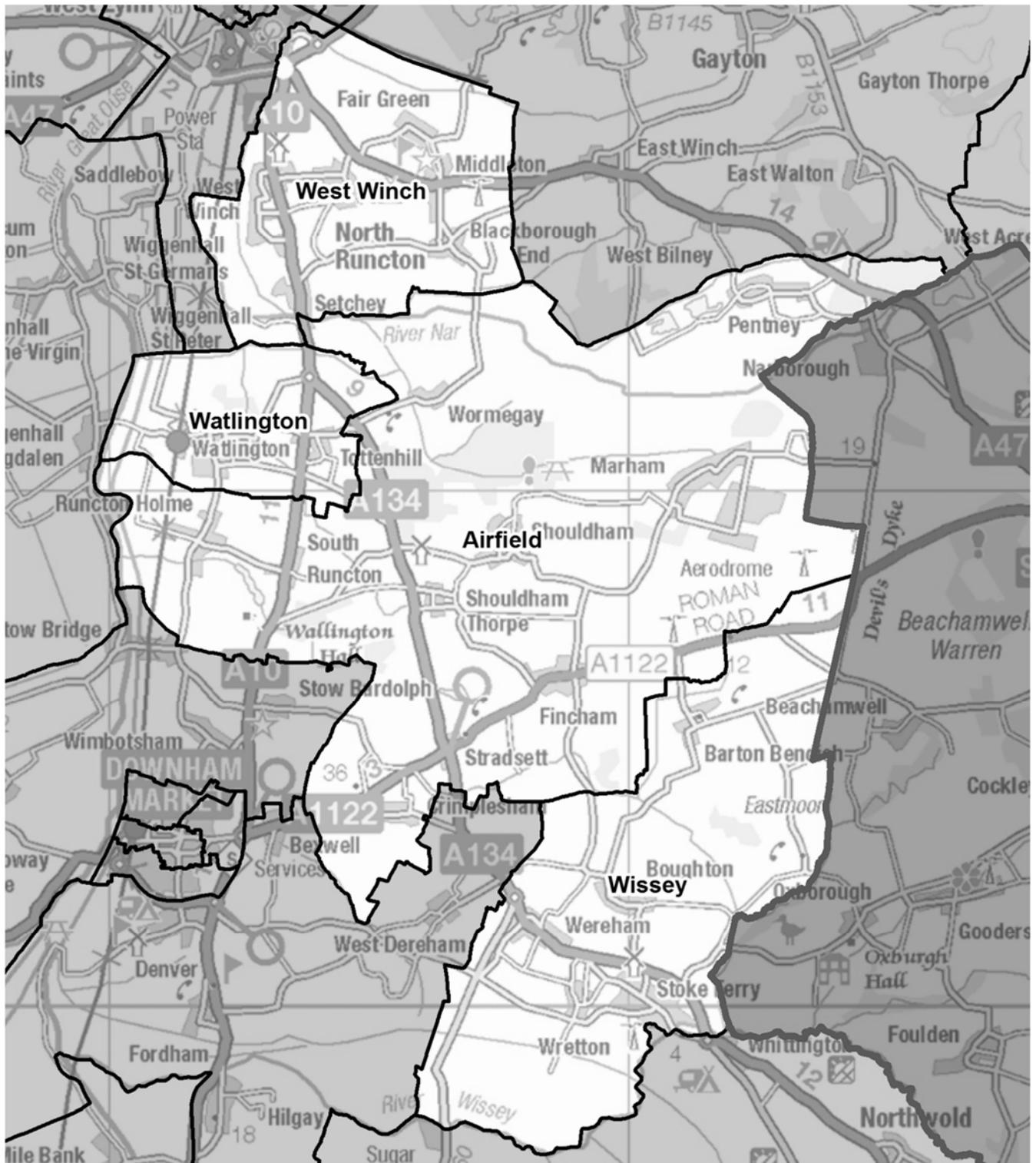
Feltwell and Methwold

71 Northwold & Whittington, South West Norfolk & North West Norfolk Conservative Association and a local resident argued for the retention of a three-councillor Denton ward, covering the area of Feltwell and Methwold stating that multiple-councillor wards are easier to manage as there are more councillors.

72 We note the argument for retaining a three-councillor ward. However, we have only heard from one of the parishes in the proposed ward, and as stated in the draft recommendations consultation section (paragraph 35), we also received several more general objections to the creation of multi-councillor wards in the borough. Therefore, on balance we are not persuaded to adopt a three-councillor Denton ward.

73 We are confirming our draft recommendations for these wards as final.

East King's Lynn & West Norfolk



Ward name	Number of Cllrs	Variance 2023
Airfield	2	2%
Watlington	1	-4%
West Winch	2	-1%
Wissey	1	4%

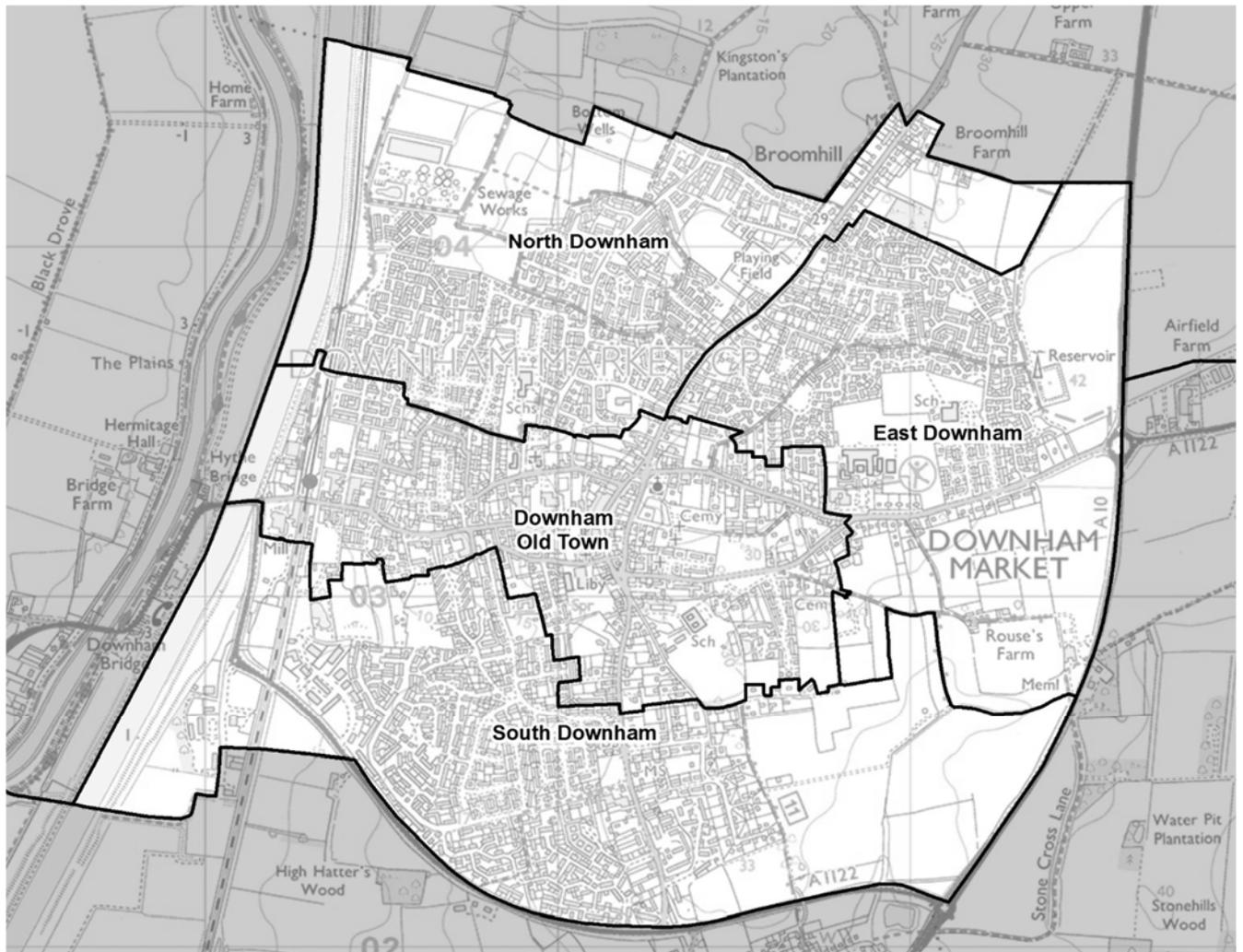
Airfield and Wissey

15 We did not receive any comments on our draft recommendations for these wards, so we are confirming them as final.

Watlington and West Winch

16 We did not receive any comments on our draft recommendations for these wards, so we are confirming them as final.

Downham Market



Ward name	Number of Cllrs	Variance 2023
Downham Old Town	1	1%
East Downham	1	0%
North Downham	1	-5%
South Downham	1	3%

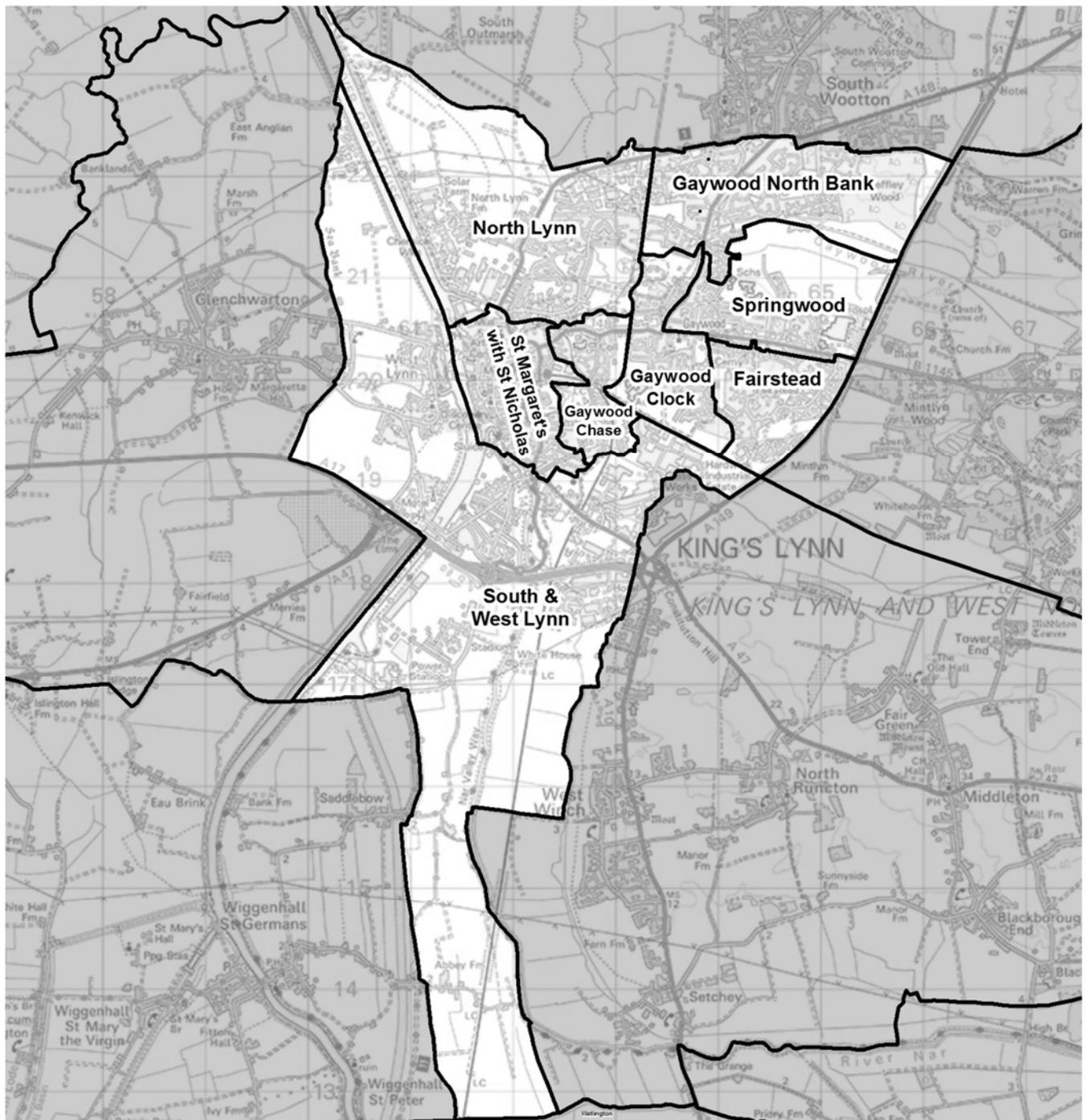
Downham Old Town and East Downham

17 We did not receive any comments on our draft recommendations for these wards, so we are confirming them as final.

North Downham and South Downham

18 We did not receive any comments on our draft recommendations for these wards, so we are confirming them as final.

King's Lynn



Ward name	Number of Cllrs	Variance 2023
Fairstead	2	-2%
Gaywood Chase	1	-7%
Gaywood Clock	1	3%
Gaywood North Bank	3	1%
North Lynn	2	6%
South & West Lynn	2	-3%
Springwood	1	-7%
St Margaret's with St Nicholas	2	-6%

Gaywood Clock and Gaywood North Bank

19 The Council expressed concern about the draft recommendations for a three-councillor Gaywood North Bank ward, arguing that although its original proposals for three single-councillor wards were not based on community groups, it did not consider this an issue for an urban area.

20 We have given consideration to the evidence received. However, we are not persuaded by the Council's argument that the boundaries in an urban area are less important than in other areas. Therefore, we do not propose to adopt its proposal for single-councillor wards and are confirming the three-councillor Gaywood North Bank as final.

21 A local resident argued that the Gaywood Clock ward should be called The Chase ward, to reflect the area. However, the proposed ward contains the Gaywood clock tower and the suggested name of The Chase would potentially cause confusion with the neighbouring Gaywood Chase ward. We are therefore confirming Gaywood Clock as final.

Fairstead and Springwood

22 We received no comments regarding the Fairstead and Springwood wards and are therefore confirming our draft recommendations as final.

St Margaret's with St Nicholas and South & West Lynn

23 Councillor Kemp expressed support for the concept of a South & West Lynn ward, but argued that the area to the south of Vancouver Avenue in the proposed St Margaret's with St Nicholas ward should be included in the South & West Lynn ward. Councillor Kemp stated that residents in this area identify with South Lynn.

24 We note Councillor Kemp's argument but removing this would significantly worsen the electoral equality in the St Margaret's with St Nicholas ward. In addition, we do not consider there to be persuasive evidence about links explicitly to the south. We are not therefore adopting this proposal and confirm both the South & West Lynn ward and St Margaret's with St Nicholas ward as proposed at draft recommendations as final.

Gaywood Chase and North Lynn

25 We received no comments regarding the Gaywood Chase and North Lynn wards and are therefore confirming our draft recommendations as final.

Conclusions

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

Summary of electoral arrangements

	Final recommendations	
	2017	2023
Number of councillors	55	55
Number of electoral wards	35	35
Average number of electors per councillor	2,170	2,330
Number of wards with a variance more than 10% from the average	7	2
Number of wards with a variance more than 20% from the average	0	0

Final recommendation

The Borough of King's Lynn & West Norfolk should be made up of 55 councillors serving 35 wards representing 17 single-councillor wards, 16 two-councillor wards and two three-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 King's Lynn & West Norfolk. You can also view our final recommendations for King's Lynn & West Norfolk Borough Council on our interactive maps at <http://consultation.lgbce.org.uk>

Parish electoral arrangements

26 As part of an electoral review, we are required to have regard to the statutory criteria set out in Schedule 2 to the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009 (the 2009 Act). The Schedule provides that if a parish is to be divided between different wards it must also be divided into parish wards, so that each parish ward lies wholly within a single ward. We cannot recommend changes to the external boundaries of parishes as part of an electoral review.

27 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, King's Lynn & West Norfolk Borough 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.

28 As a result of our proposed ward boundaries and having regard to the statutory criteria set out in schedule 2 to the 2009 Act, we are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Downham Market and Hilgay.

29 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 Downham Market parish.

Final recommendation	
Downham Market Town Council should comprise 20 councillors, as at present, representing four wards:	
Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
East	5
North	5
Old Town	5
South	5

30 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 Hilgay parish.

Final recommendation	
Hilgay Parish Council should comprise 13 councillors, as at present, representing two wards:	
Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
Hilgay	9
Ten Mile Bank	4

3 What happens next?

75 We have now completed our review of King's Lynn & West Norfolk Borough Council. The recommendations must now be approved by Parliament. A draft Order – the legal document which brings into force our recommendations – will be laid in Parliament. Subject to parliamentary scrutiny, the new electoral arrangements will come into force at the local elections in 2019.

Equalities

76 The Commission has looked at how it carries out reviews under the guidelines set out in Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010. It has made best endeavours to ensure that people with protected characteristics can participate in the review process and is sufficiently satisfied that no adverse equality impacts will arise as a result of the outcome of the review.

Appendix A

Final recommendations for King's Lynn & West Norfolk Borough Council

	Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2017)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2023)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
1	Airfield	2	4,593	2,297	6%	4,744	2,372	2%
2	Bircham with Rudhams	1	2,354	2,354	9%	2,499	2,499	7%
3	Brancaster	1	2,134	2,134	-2%	2,228	2,228	-4%
4	Burnham Market & Docking	1	2,260	2,260	4%	2,484	2,484	7%
5	Clenchwarton	1	2,312	2,312	7%	2,495	2,495	7%
6	Denver	1	2,023	2,023	-7%	2,117	2,117	-9%
7	Dersingham	2	5,219	2,610	20%	5,305	2,653	14%
8	Downham Old Town	1	2,289	2,289	6%	2,347	2,347	1%
9	East Downham	1	2,160	2,160	0%	2,327	2,327	0%
10	Emneth & Outwell	2	3,990	1,995	-8%	4,418	2,209	-5%
11	Fairstead	2	4,589	2,295	6%	4,589	2,295	-2%
12	Feltwell	2	4,102	2,051	-5%	4,364	2,182	-6%

	Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2017)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2023)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
12	Gayton & Grimston	2	4,863	2,432	12%	5,134	2,567	10%
14	Gaywood Chase	1	2,156	2,156	-1%	2,156	2,156	-7%
15	Gaywood Clock	1	2,229	2,229	3%	2,399	2,399	3%
16	Gaywood North Bank	3	6,522	2,174	0%	7,063	2,354	1%
17	Heacham	2	4,578	2,289	6%	4,803	2,402	3%
18	Hunstanton	2	3,709	1,855	-15%	4,406	2,203	-5%
19	Massingham with Castle Acre	1	2,457	2,457	13%	2,530	2,530	9%
20	Methwold	1	2,013	2,013	-7%	2,235	2,235	-4%
21	North Downham	1	2,141	2,141	-1%	2,207	2,207	-5%
22	North Lynn	2	4,315	2,158	-1%	4,929	2,465	6%
23	Snettisham	1	2,265	2,265	4%	2,370	2,370	2%
24	South & West Lynn	2	3,496	1,748	-19%	4,538	2,269	-3%
25	South Downham	1	2,056	2,056	-5%	2,396	2,396	3%
26	Springwood	1	2,155	2,155	-1%	2,165	2,165	-7%
27	St Margaret's with St Nicholas	2	4,006	2,003	-8%	4,375	2,188	-6%

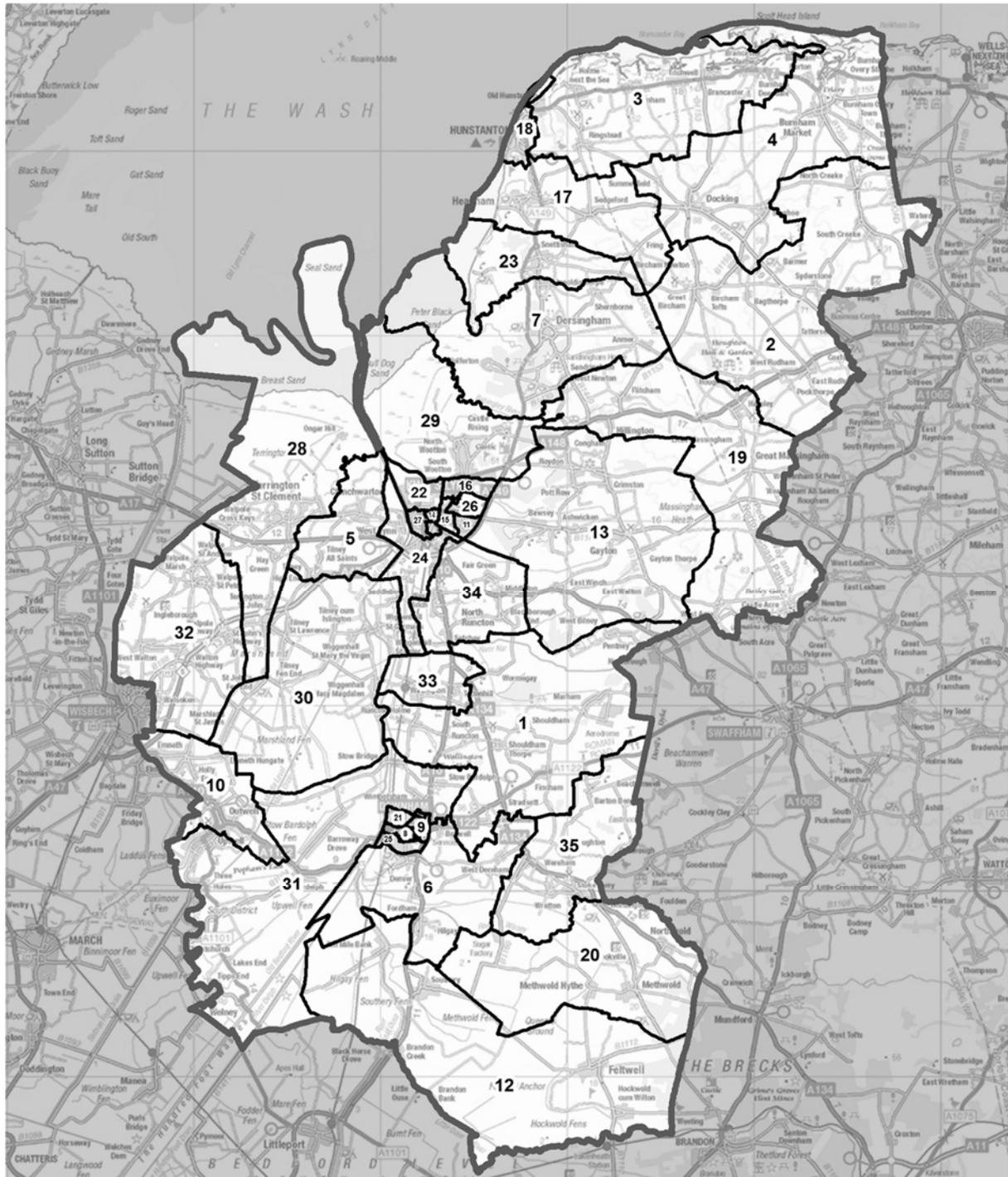
Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2017)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2023)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
28 Terrington	2	4,496	2,248	4%	4,740	2,370	2%
29 The Woottons	3	5,680	1,893	-13%	6,195	2,065	-11%
30 Tilney, Mershe Lande & Wiggshall	2	4,046	2,023	-7%	4,231	2,116	-9%
31 Upwell & Delph	2	4,958	2,479	14%	5,107	2,554	10%
32 Walsoken, West Walton & Walpole	2	4,755	2,378	10%	4,961	2,481	6%
33 Watlington	1	2,207	2,207	2%	2,241	2,241	-4%
34 West Winch	2	3,995	1,998	-8%	4,627	2,314	-1%
35 Wissey	1	2,203	2,203	2%	2,414	2,414	4%
Totals	55	119,326	-	-	128,139	-	-
Averages	-	-	2,170	-	-	2,330	-

Source: Electorate figures are based on information provided by King's Lynn & West Norfolk Borough 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 borough. The minus symbol (-) denotes a lower than average number of electors. Figures have been rounded to the nearest whole number.

Appendix B

Outline map



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/norfolk/kings-lynn-and-west-norfolk>

Key

1. Airfield
2. Bircham with Rudhams
3. Brancaster
4. Burnham Market & Docking
5. Clenchwarton
6. Denver
7. Dersingham
8. Downham Old Town
9. East Downham
10. Emneth & Outwell
11. Fairstead
12. Feltwell
13. Gayton & Grimston
14. Gaywood Chase
15. Gaywood Clock
16. Gaywood North Bank
17. Heacham
18. Hunstanton
19. Massingham with Castle Acre
20. Methwold
21. North Downham
22. North Lynn
23. Snettisham
24. South & West Lynn
25. South Downham
26. Springwood
27. St Margaret's with St Nicholas
28. Terrington
29. The Woottons
30. Tilney, Mershe Lande & Wiggshall
31. Upwell & Delph
32. Walsoken, West Walton & Walpole
33. Watlington
34. West Winch
35. Wissey

Appendix C

Submissions received

All submissions received can also be viewed on our website at

<http://www.lgbce.org.uk/current-reviews/eastern/norfolk/kings-lynn-and-west-norfolk>

Local Authority

- King's Lynn & West Norfolk Borough Council

Political Group

- South West Norfolk & North West Norfolk Conservative Association

Councillors

- Councillor Kemp (Norfolk County Council)
- Councillor Beales (King's Lynn & West Norfolk Borough Council)
- Councillor Crofts (King's Lynn & West Norfolk Borough Council)
- Councillor Moriarty (King's Lynn & West Norfolk Borough Council)
- Councillor Nockolds (King's Lynn & West Norfolk Borough Council)
- Councillor Tillbrook (King's Lynn & West Norfolk Borough Council)
- Councillor Watson (King's Lynn & West Norfolk Borough Council)
- Councillor Starling (Roydon Parish Council)

Parish and Town Council

- Brancaster Parish Council
- Castle Acre Parish Council
- Congham Parish Council
- Marshland St James Parish Council
- Northwold & Whittington Parish Council
- Sandringham Parish Council
- Thornham Parish Council

Local Residents

- Nine 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