

Borough Council of  
**King's Lynn &  
West Norfolk**



# **Electoral Review of the Borough Council of King's Lynn and West Norfolk**

August 2017

# Submission to the Local Government Boundary Commission for the Electoral Review

## Introduction

This submission represents the Borough Council's preferred pattern of wards and electoral arrangements for approval from May 2018 and implementation May 2019. The Borough Council set up a cross party Boundary Review Task Group which considered the number of Councillors it wished to recommend to the Council and the Boundary Commission. The submission is based on a Council of 54 Members (a reduction from 62), with all in one elections.

## Background

In June 2017, the Boundary Commission approved a figure of 54 Councillors for the Borough, which gave a working figure of 2,373 (128139/54) electors per councillor, and wherever possible the variance of +/- 10% of the figure was adhered to. The figure was agreed following discussion with the Boundary Commission on the levels of growth expected in the Borough over the next 5 years.

The Council had expressed a preference that wherever possible single member wards be created, with two member wards for the larger areas, and that three member wards only be created exceptionally.

## Creating a pattern of wards

In drawing up a pattern of electoral wards the Borough Council has been mindful that the Commission must balance its three statutory criteria and tried to create wards accordingly.:-

- To deliver electoral equality where each Borough Councillor represents approximately the same number of electors as all other Councillors in the Borough
- That the pattern of wards should as far as possible reflect the interests and identities of local communities
- That the electoral arrangements should provide for effective and convenient local government

## Proposals

Because of the reduction by 8 Councillors, this has had a knock on effect on each ward. Thus few wards have been left unaltered (North Lynn & Emneth & Outwell are unchanged). Following deliberation at the Task Group and Cabinet, the ward member figures have gone from 25no 1 member wards, 14no 2 member wards and 3no 3 member wards to 30no 1 member wards, 12no 2 member wards and 0no 3 member wards.

The names of the wards are for drafting purposes at this stage and have not received formal Council approval.

The work commenced at the top coastal side of the Borough abutting the Wash, working downwards, the communities have been contained within single or two member wards as follows:

- 1) **Hunstanton** – The inclusion of the town of Hunstanton and adjoining small parish of Old Hunstanton are an existing community which with 2 Members gives a 1.35% variance.
- 2) **Heacham** – Parishes of Heacham, Sedgeford and Fring form a 2 Member ward of adjacent parishes and give a 1.3% variance.
- 3) **Snettisham** – A large parish in its own right has no variance with a single member ward.
- 4) **Dersingham** – The Parishes of Dersingham, Ingoldisthorpe and Shernborne are adjacent communities which with 2 Members gives a 3% variance.
- 5) **Docking** – Is a large sparsely populated area with minimal proposals for growth over the coming years. The proposal includes the following parishes Holme, Ringstead, Thornham, Titchwell, Choseley, Docking, Docking (Bircham Newton), Stanhoe and Barwick which when brought together give a -5% variance with a single member ward.
- 6) **Burnham** – The proposed single member ward takes in a number of the coastal parishes adjacent to the Borough's border with North Norfolk District Council and includes the parishes of Brancaster, Brancaster Staithe, Burnham Market, Burnham Norton, Burnham Overy Staithe, Burnham Thorpe and North Creake. This has a 0% variance.
- 7) **Bircham with Rudhams** - takes in the parishes along the inland boundary with North Norfolk District Council. A number of the parishes are small communities. Those included in the single member ward are Bircham, Bagthorpe with Barmer, Houghton, Harpley, East Rudham, West Rudham, Syderstone and South Creake. This gives a variance of 4%.
- 8) **North Wootton** – The proposed single member ward takes in North Wootton the largest parish in the ward, and Anmer, Sandringham and Wolferton. This combination of adjacent parishes gives a 0% variance.
- 9) **South Wootton** – is proposed to be a 2 member ward as the main parish of South Wootton is too large for a single ward and too small for a 2 member ward. The adjoining parishes of Castle Rising and Roydon have therefore been included within the ward, giving a -4% variance.
- 10) **Massingham with Castle Acre** – The proposed boundaries for this single member ward run adjacent to the North Norfolk Boundary and comprise Great Massingham, Little Massingham, Flitcham cum Appleton, Hillington Castle Acre and West Acre. This gives a variance of -5%.

- 11) **Grimston** – The parishes of Grimston, Congham, the community of Pott Row, Leziate and Bawsey are all adjacent and offer a variance of 12% for a single member ward. Despite creating a variance in excess of 10%, Congham has been included as it has a very close relationship with Grimston. Indeed the two parishes even share Low Road with the parish boundary running down the centre.
- 12) **Gayton with East Winch** – Comprises the largest parish of Gayton, including Gayton Thorpe ward, East Walton, East Winch and its ward of West Bilney. The parishes are all adjacent to each other and would be a single member ward with a variance of -8%.
- 13) **West Winch** – This area comprises West Winch parish which is too large for a single member ward. It is therefore proposed to include the adjacent and closely linked smaller parishes of Middleton and North Runcton and the community of Setchey to give a two member ward with a 2.5% variance.
- 14) **Watlington** – The large parish of Watlington, and its smaller closely linked neighbour of Tottenhill give a single member ward with a -5% variance.
- 15) **Terringtons** – The largest Parish of this ward, Terrington St Clement is too large for a single member ward, and too small for a 2 member ward. It is therefore proposed to include its neighbouring parishes of Terrington St John and Walpole Cross Keys to produce a 2 member ward with no variance.
- 16) **Clenchwarton** – The parishes of Clenchwarton and adjacent Tilney All Saints for a single member ward give a 5% variance.
- 17) **Walsoken, The Walpoles and West Walton** – The adjacent parishes of Walsoken, West Walton, Walpole Highway, Walpole (including St Andrew and St Peter) make up a 2 member ward with a 4.5% variance.
- 18) **St Lawrence with St Mary** – Is a single member ward comprising the largest parish Tilney St Lawrence, along with Islington ward, Wiggenhall St Mary the Virgin and Wiggenhall St Mary Magdalen which has an 8.6% variance
- 19) **St Germans and New South Lynn** – The proposed boundaries for the St Germans ward take in the village of Wiggenhall St Germans and adjacent Saddlebow which together are not large enough for one ward. The bottom part of South Lynn and new developments on the NORA site which abuts Saddlebow boundary have therefore been included with the proposals giving a 9.6% variance. Whilst this proposal may not be the ideal solution, without this structure the adjoining wards would not be of a reasonable variance.
- 20) **Airfield** – The 2 member ward comprises the following parishes: Marham (including Upper Marham), Pentney, Fincham, Stradsett, Crimplasham, Wormegay, Runcton Holme, Shouldham and Shouldham Thorpe. There is no variance.
- 21) **Marshland and Delph** – The proposal for the ward includes the largest parish of Marshland St James which is not large enough for a ward in its own right, so the adjoining parishes of Nordelph, Welney and Stow Bardolph (Barroway Drove) Ward have been included for the single member ward which has no variance. This is quite an elongated ward with limited community identity

between the northern and southernmost parishes but has been created in order that Upwell can stand alone as a single member ward.

- 22) **Emneth with Outwell** – the two adjacent parishes of Emneth and Outwell give a variance of -7% for a 2 member ward.
- 23) **Wimbotsham with Stow and Denver** – The Parishes encircling and to the south of Downham Market - Denver, Wimbotsham, Stow Bardolph (E & W), Hilgay (Ten Mile Bank) Ward, Ryston, Fordham give a single member ward with no variance.
- 24) **Wissey** – The single member ward is made up of the largest parish Stoke Ferry and its adjoining smaller parishes of Wretton, Wereham, Boughton and Barton Bendish. It has a 2% variance.
- 25) **Methwold with Northwold** – The largest parish of Methwold is too small for a ward in its own right. Therefore it includes the adjacent smaller parishes of West Dereham, Northwold and its ward of Whittington. The large area, like much of the Borough is sparsely populated This is a single member ward with a 10% variance.
- 26) **Southery with Feltwell** – This ward contains the parishes of Feltwell, Southery, Hilgay, and Hockwold, None of the parishes is large enough in its own right. Placing these together in a 2 member ward gives a variance of 2%.
- 27) **Upwell** - The ward consisting of the parish of Upwell and smaller areas within that parish of Three Holes and Lakes End give a single member ward with a variance of 5%.

#### **Downham Market Town has been split into 4 areas each with single member wards**

- 28) **South Downham** - 1% variance
- 29) **Downham Old Town** – (including Downham West) – 8.3% variance
- 30) **North Downham** - -6.7% variance
- 31) **East Downham** - -2% variance

Some, generally fairly minor changes, are proposed, including the addressing of anomalies caused by development since the last review.

#### **King's Lynn Town has been split into 11 Wards which are based around existing communities and taking into account projected growth for the area.**

- 32) **West and Old South Lynn** – The unparished West Lynn area of King's Lynn has traditionally been linked with the old part of South Lynn. This gives a single member ward with a 2% variance.
- 33) **All Saints** – is an old area of the town which encompasses part of South Lynn and towards the town centre. It includes projected growth for the area, giving a single member ward with a -6% variance.

- 34) **Lynn Central** – This ward encompasses the historic part of the town area including the waterfront. With a single member, this gives a variance of 3.7%.
- 35) **North Lynn** – North Lynn is a distinct community in its own right – As a 2 member ward it has a variance of 3.8%.
- 36) **Fairstead** – The Fairstead area is a distinct community in its own right. A 2 member ward gives a variance of -3%.
- 37) **Springwood** – The ward is made up of areas to the north and south of the High School, including part of the former Old Gaywood ward. As a single member ward it has a variance of – 8.7%.
- 38) **Gaywood Chase** – The Chase is a specific acknowledged area of King’s Lynn. This is a single member ward with a variance of 7.7%.
- 39) **Gaywood Clock** – The clock is a well known landmark in Gaywood and is broadly the centre of the proposed ward. Much of the ward was formerly part of Gaywood Chase but the scale of proposed development adjacent to King’s Lynn Academy has made change necessary. The single member ward has a variance of only 1%.
- 40) **Gaywood North Bank (3 Wards)** – This area of a high density housing estate which previously has been a 3 member ward has been split into 3 single member wards (yet to be named) at members’ specific request. The numbers are in line with the Boundary Commission’s recommendations on numbers.