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9 am to 4 pm Mondays to Fridays



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The Review Officer (Suffolk)  
Local Government Boundary Commission for England  
c/o Cleardata  
Innovation House  
Coniston Court  
Riverside Business Park  
Blyth  
NE24 4RP

Xx November 2020

### **Draft Recommendations on the new electoral arrangements for Suffolk County Council**

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the consultation on the electoral review of Suffolk County Council.

The Town Council is pleased to note the Draft Proposals for both the Suffolk County Council Divisions and the consequential revised Town Council Parish Ward boundaries in Felixstowe. We thank the Commission for the proposals themselves and the supporting remarks regarding the Town Council's response.

We therefore would like to express our strong support for the Draft Proposal and trust that it will be implemented accordingly in the Final Proposal. We believe that it represents a major improvement in the pattern of electoral arrangements across all three tiers of local government in Felixstowe.

We note in the Summary document that the final proposals are due to be published in May 2021. However, we also note that the Summary proposes that the new division arrangements will not be implemented until May 2025, when the next County Council elections (after those in May 2021) are scheduled to take place. It is not clear whether the same implementation date is also proposed for the revised Parish Ward boundaries.

We would like to draw attention to the following 'FAQ' on page 36 of the Commission's Electoral Reviews Technical Guidance April 2014 document:

#### **When will the changes to parish electoral arrangements, i.e. parish wards and numbers of parish councillors, come into force?**

*At the next scheduled whole-council elections in the relevant parishes, unless we decide that there can be whole-council elections in those parishes before those scheduled elections. Parish electoral arrangements come into force at the same time*

*as county or district electoral arrangements only if the parish elections take place at the same time as the county or district elections.*<sup>1</sup>

The next scheduled whole-council elections for Felixstowe Town Council is May 2023, the same day as the next elections for East Suffolk Council. We strongly request that the proposed significantly improved arrangements for the Town Council Parish Ward boundaries, which are essentially based on the East Suffolk Council Wards as well as the Suffolk County Council Divisions, are implemented by that time. We accordingly request that this be made clear on publication of the Final Report and the consequent Order in Parliament.

We believe that this would be wholly consistent with the Technical Guidance in respect of town and parish council's involvement in Electoral reviews.

Paragraph 7.11 of which states:

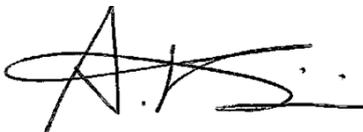
*“Dealing with [parish ward arrangements] as part of the electoral review may help save the expense of a community governance review of the parish”.*

Implementing the proposed improved arrangements for the Town Council Parish Ward boundaries prior to the next election in 2023 will therefore avoid the unnecessary expense of a community governance review to address the current unsatisfactory Felixstowe Town Council Parish Ward boundaries which resulted from the East Suffolk boundary review of 2018/19.

We also believe that implementation in time for the 2023 Town Council elections is the most effective way to support the Commission's core objective of “Effective and convenient local government” in the context of the Parish Wards and their relationship to the East Suffolk Council Wards, as per the reasons covered in detail in our original submission.

We would be pleased to provide any further information and look forward to hearing from you.

Yours faithfully,



Ash Tadjrishi  
Town Clerk

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<sup>1</sup> Source: LGBCE Electoral Reviews Technical Guidance April 2014 [http://s3-eu-west-2.amazonaws.com/lgbce/Corporate%20Documents/technical-guidance-2014%20\(reduced\).pdf](http://s3-eu-west-2.amazonaws.com/lgbce/Corporate%20Documents/technical-guidance-2014%20(reduced).pdf)