



**Date: 1<sup>st</sup> April 2016**

Email: [LowestoftCGR@eastsoffolk.gov.uk](mailto:LowestoftCGR@eastsoffolk.gov.uk)

Website: [www.waveney.gov.uk](http://www.waveney.gov.uk)

Dear resident,

We are writing to tell you about a review which will consider whether one or more new Town/Parish Councils should be created to represent the people of Lowestoft and the surrounding area. The area that this review will cover is shown on the enclosed map and, unlike the rest of the Waveney district, is NOT currently represented by a town or parish council. This process is called a **Community Governance Review** and we are asking for YOUR opinion.

### **What is a Town/Parish Council?**

Parish Councils (or Town Councils in more urban areas) are the most local level of elected government. They represent the interests of their community and provide some services and facilities for the local area. The running of these services is partially funded from an additional part of the annual council tax bill called a 'precept' which is raised by the Town/Parish Council.

Waveney District Council believes that the residents of Lowestoft and the immediate surrounding areas that do not currently have a Town or Parish Council representing them should be offered this opportunity.

We want YOUR opinion. Do you want one or more town/parish councils? How big should it/they be? Where should they be? When thinking about the possible areas for new councils, residents should consider the following factors:

- Town/Parish councils should cover an area that reflects a sense of community identity and where residents are affected by similar issues.
- It is possible to create a Town/Parish council that is then subdivided by 'wards'. This is already the case for Beccles Town Council. These wards enable a larger single council area to be divided into geographical areas of different identity. This may be suitable for somewhere such as Lowestoft where the Town as a whole shares one set of local issues but has within it smaller areas, each with their own identity.

### **How to get involved**

You can have your say by completing the short online survey at [www.waveney.gov.uk](http://www.waveney.gov.uk) by 13<sup>th</sup> May. If you are unable to access the survey online you can collect a printed copy from the Marina Customer Services Centre in the town centre or from our Riverside offices at 4 Canning Road, Lowestoft. Alternatively a copy can be sent to you by post if required. Please contact us on 01502 562111 to arrange this.

Before submitting your response you may wish to read the additional information and Frequently Asked Questions that are available online at the above address. This will be the home of all documents relating to the review.

Please be aware that the content of all submissions received as part of the Review will be published online and in the draft proposal, but the identity of the contributor will be anonymised.

A second phase of consultation will then take place in July and August, with a final phase scheduled for October.

The views and ideas of residents are particularly important for this review to ensure that the shape of any new Town/Parish Council(s) reflects the identities of local communities. We would encourage all residents to respond to the consultation, to make their views known and to have a real input into the process. This is YOUR chance to have your say.

Yours sincerely,



Stephen Baker  
Chief Executive

