



Make Suffolk Three

Why unitary councils for East Suffolk, West Suffolk and Ipswich are best for everyone



The Boundary Committee for England wants to abolish the County Council and all seven district and borough councils and replace them with two unitary councils - one covering Ipswich and the communities to Felixstowe, the other covering the rest of Suffolk, except for Lowestoft which would be moved into Norfolk.

We think that the best solution would be to create three unitary councils and keep Lowestoft in Suffolk - the three councils would offer genuine value for money, be locally based with local priorities, would have shared needs, and be big enough to have a voice nationally and small enough to give you a real say in your council.





Why we believe in the power of three

We think that there are three distinct parts of our county and that if unitary government is introduced there should be three distinct councils to represent those communities properly and provide the services they deserve.

Ipswich is an aspiring city and has its own particular needs and challenges. While it clearly needs to be bigger it would be completely wrong to twin it with Felixstowe which as a coastal resort with Britain's busiest port has far more in common with Lowestoft and the other coastal communities. It would be best for Ipswich and the rest of the county if Ipswich was allowed to focus on its specific needs and challenges.

With Lowestoft and Felixstowe, **East Suffolk** would mean that one council would be responsible for managing the future of the coast and estuaries. But there is much more that unites East Suffolk than just its coastline.

More than any other part of the county, East Suffolk is home to regional centres of excellence, whether it is Felixstowe and Lowestoft ports, BT/Adastral Park, the 'power corridor' of low carbon energy providers, or Snape Maltings and Sutton Hoo. A large part is an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, while we have many market towns and picture-book villages and some of the highest quality of life ratings of anywhere in Britain. It is little wonder that we attract so many tourists.

We also have challenges to face, like providing good services for our high number of elderly residents, of finding more affordable homes for local people while having so many second home owners.

One local unitary council, East Suffolk, can begin to tackle all these issues, providing local solutions to local needs.





The whole economy of **West Suffolk** is distinctly different to East Suffolk. West Suffolk is very Cambridge-focused.

Whether it's housing, tourism, business, technology, environment or growth, the economic drive in this part of the county is from the west, with Stansted to the south also providing strong economic opportunities.

A West Suffolk council could balance the needs of its wide range of different communities, and be big enough to operate at a strategic and financial level, but small enough to be close to its local communities at parish or neighbourhood levels.

One giant Suffolk could be in charge of everything but residents will be further away than ever from the people making the decisions that affect their services and quality of life. Being bigger does not mean better - we think one giant Suffolk council would inevitably end up separated from the people and communities it is meant to serve and listen to, while it strives for cheapness rather than value for money.

The evidence shows that councils can become too big, and inevitably too remote from the people who matter - the residents. It will be **bureaucratic**, with more middle managers and admin staff to cover such a massive area, **difficult** to get a personal answer as all calls will go through one central control room that will try to deal with everything, and **distant** with all the real decisions being made in the corridors of power at Endeavour House. One giant Suffolk bypasses Lowestoft - what other communities will be similarly left to fight for themselves?



Now have your say – and help shape the future



The Boundary Committee for England (BCE) published its draft proposal for local government in Suffolk in July.

It proposed setting up one unitary council covering Ipswich, Felixstowe, Kesgrave and 19 parishes in between, with the rest of Suffolk minus Lowestoft in the other unitary council.

The BCE Director, Archie Gall, said that “the Committee **has not finalised its proposal** for a pattern of unitary local government in Suffolk. **In the light of representations received, the Committee will review its draft proposal and consider whether it should be altered before submitting it.**”

Your voice can count, and it is not too late to tell the Committee why you think it should **review and alter its proposal**.

You have until September 26 to give the BCE your views on what the future shape of Suffolk should be - two councils like the BCE is suggesting, one council like the county council is suggesting, or three councils like Suffolk Coastal, Ipswich, Waveney, Forest Heath, and St Edmundsbury Councils have proposed, or indeed your own proposal.

You can use the online form at **www.electoralcommission.org.uk/boundary-reviews/all-reviews/eastern/suffolk/suffolk-structuralreview** or you can email reviews@boundarycommittee.org.uk or you can write to Review Manager, (Norfolk/Suffolk Review), The Boundary Committee for England, Trevelyan House, Great Peter Street, London SW19 2HW.

All response will appear on BCE's website.

You can also use a special online form on **www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/yourcouncil/future** where you can find out much more about why three councils are best for Suffolk. All forms will be sent on to the BCE.

This special Make Suffolk Three leaflet was produced by Suffolk Coastal District Council and cost two pence per copy to print and deliver.