

COUNCIL

DATE	7 th September 2023
REPORT OF	Councillor Harness, Portfolio Holder for Finance, Resources and Assets
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER	Helen Isaacs – Assistant Chief Executive
SUBJECT	Parish Council Community Governance Review
STATUS	Open with the exception of Appendix 3 which is exempt under paragraphs 1 and 2 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972
FORWARD PLAN REF NO.	Not Applicable

CONTRIBUTION TO OUR AIMS

The Council has two strategic priorities – Stronger Economy and Stronger Communities. Within that second priority, the parish council community governance review will have potential impacts on local democracy for the thirteen parish councils and town council in North East Lincolnshire as set out in the report.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The first consultation phase of the Parish Council Community Governance Review has now been completed. The findings were considered by the Communities Scrutiny Panel on 15th August 2023. The Panel has subsequently made recommendations to Council on proposed changes to the electoral arrangements and governance of each Parish Council in North East Lincolnshire, as set out in Appendix 1.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That Council:

1. Receives and notes the feedback received during the first consultation phase of the parish council community governance review as set out in Appendices 2 and 3.
2. That, with the exception of Immingham Town Council, the draft recommendation is that the governance and electoral arrangements of all of the current parish councils in North East Lincolnshire remains unchanged.
3. That, for Immingham Town Council, the draft recommendation is that no change be made to the existing governance and electoral arrangements, except that the Town Wards be changed to a North and South split, as per option 2, with 7 Town Councillors representing the North Town Ward and 8 Town Councillors representing the South Town Ward. These changes will be implemented with effect from the next full Town Council elections.
4. That, based on the outcome of the first consultation phase, the draft recommendation is that no new parish or town councils be established in North East Lincolnshire at this time.

5. That the draft recommendations above be published for consultation purposes from 8th September to 3rd November 2023 inclusive.
6. That the results of the second consultation phase be reported back to Communities Scrutiny Panel in November and that the Panel be asked to make a recommendation to Council on 14th December 2023 on the final proposal for Immingham Town Council, based on the feedback from the second consultation phase.
7. That the Monitoring Officer be asked to raise any governance issues highlighted during the first consultation phase with those parish councils affected.
8. That the Assistant Chief Executive be instructed to forward any parish council related issues received during the first consultation phase to the relevant Parish Council for their attention.

REASONS FOR DECISION

Council is responsible for determining the draft recommendations in respect of any electoral or governance changes to the Town and Parish Councils in North East Lincolnshire. It is a legal requirement that the draft recommendations be subject to a further period of public consultation. Officers have been asked to refer any parish council matters raised during the review with the parish councils concerned. Similarly, any governance issues highlighted will be addressed with the appropriate parish council.

1. BACKGROUND AND ISSUES

- 1.1 At Council on 25th May 2023, Members resolved to undertake a Community Governance Review covering all parishes in North East Lincolnshire. The report set out the scope for the review, terms of reference, proposed method of consultation and timetable.
- 1.2 Members are now asked to consider any recommended changes to the name of the parish council, boundaries, council size, groupings and/or electoral/governance arrangements.
- 1.3 Initial submissions on the current parish councils, together with any general comments and/or requests for new parish councils were invited between 2nd June and 28th July 2023. The methods used for the consultation are set out in Appendix 1, together with a summary of the responses for each Parish Council. The Communities Scrutiny Panel considered the findings on each parish council on 15th August 2023, and a copy of their findings and recommendations to Council are contained in Appendix 1. Appendices 2 and 3 set out in full the responses received through the first consultation phase for each parish council.
- 1.4 Any proposed changes agreed by Council on 7th September 2023 will be subject to a second period of public consultation from 8th September to 3rd November. The feedback will be reported back to the Communities Scrutiny Panel at a meeting on 23rd November 2023. The Panel will be asked to consider this feedback and make recommendations to Council on 14th December 2023 on any

final changes to the parish council governance and/or electoral arrangements.

2. RISKS AND OPPORTUNITIES

- 2.1 There is a risk that someone could challenge the outcome of the community governance review through judicial review. Officers will mitigate against this by ensuring that at all times the council follows the requirements laid down in the 2007 Act and guidance.
- 2.2 The main risk is that the council fails to meet the statutory requirement to complete the review within twelve months. The terms of reference set out the timetable for the review – well within twelve months even allowing for a third period of consultation (if required).

3. REPUTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS CONSIDERATIONS

- 3.1 Before any decision is reached on any changes to parish council governance and/or electoral arrangements, the Council is required to consult and should show regard to the responses in coming to any proposed changes in the electoral arrangements and/or governance of parish councils in North East Lincolnshire.
- 3.2 All households and parish councils were asked for their views on the current arrangements, as well as other stakeholders, at the beginning of June 2023, as set out in Appendix 1.

4. FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

- 4.1 There will be some financial costs involved in undertaking the review, which will include postage costs and stationery. These costs will be met from within existing budgets.

5. CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 There are no children and young people implications arising from this report.

6. CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 There are no implications to climate change or the environment arising from the matters contained in this report.

7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 As outlined above, the minimal costs from this exercise will be met from within existing service budgets.

8. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 In carrying out the parish council community governance review, the Council must follow the requirements laid down in the Local Government and Involvement in Public Health Act 2007. It must also pay heed to the joint guidance on community governance reviews published by the Department of Communities and Local Government and Local Government Boundary Commission for England.

8.2 The Council will implement any changes by making a reorganisation of community governance order.

9. HUMAN RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS

9.1 There are no human resource implications arising from the decisions in this report.

10. WARD IMPLICATIONS

10.1 The report impacts on all Wards that contain parish councils. In addition, as part of the consultation, parish councils have been proposed for other areas of North East Lincolnshire.

11. BACKGROUND PAPERS

Council – 25 May 2023 [Council – Special Meeting | Democracy \(nelincs.gov.uk\)](#)

Communities Scrutiny Panel – 15 August 2023 [Special – Communities Scrutiny Panel | Democracy \(nelincs.gov.uk\)](#)

Legislation:

- The Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007
- Guidance published by the Secretary of State and Local Government Boundary Commission for England in March 2010: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/8312/1527635.pdf

12. CONTACT OFFICERS

Helen Isaacs – Assistant Chief Executive – helen.isaacs@nelincs.gov.uk

Stephen McGrath – Strategic Special Projects Lead (Communities) – stephen.mcgrath@nelincs.gov.uk

Councillor Stephen Harness
Portfolio Holder for Finance, Resources and Assets

North East Lincolnshire Council

Parish Council Community Governance Review

Analysis of Stage 1 Consultation Phase

1. Background to the Review

- 1.1 On 25th May 2023, North East Lincolnshire Council resolved to undertake a Community Governance Review (CGR) covering all parish councils in North East Lincolnshire.
- 1.2 A CGR is a legal process whereby Principal Councils can create parish councils; review and change parish boundaries; and, in extreme cases, abolish parish councils. The Council must ensure that community governance in the area under review reflects the identities and interests of the community in that area and is effective and convenient. It is important that recommendations made through a CGR should bring about improved community engagement, more cohesive communities, better local democracy and result in more effective and convenient delivery of local services. This means making sure that electors and other interested groups have a say in how local services are delivered in their area.
- 1.3 The Council is required to ensure that community governance and electoral arrangements within the area under review will:-
- Be reflective of the identities and interests of the community in that area.
 - Consider what community governance arrangements are effective and convenient to the community in that area.
 - Consider what other arrangements there could be for the purpose of community governance or engagement.
 - Consider the size, population and boundaries of the local community or parishes.

Scope of the Review

- 1.4 At Council on 25th May 2023, Members agreed the following scope for the review:
- Creating, merging, altering or abolishing parishes.
 - The naming of parishes and the style (i.e., whether to call it a town council or village council, etc.) of new parishes.
 - The electoral arrangements for parishes – the ordinary year of election, the size of the council, the number of councillors to be elected and parish warding.
 - Grouping parishes under a common parish council, or de-grouping parishes.

Governance of a Community Governance Review

- 1.5 Chapter 3 of Part 4 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 devolves the power to take decisions about matters such as the creation of parishes and their electoral arrangements from the Secretary of State to Principal Authorities in local government, such as North East Lincolnshire Council.
- 1.6 The review will be conducted in accordance with the requirements of the Local Government Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 and have regard to Guidance on Community Governance Reviews issued by the Department of Communities and Local

Government and the Local Government Boundary Commission for England in March 2010. Members are advised to read the guidance in its entirety.

- 1.7 This guidance supports the 2007 Act, requiring that local people are consulted, and that their views are taken into account during the CGR. Decisions made by the Council must be based on evidence submitted through the CGR consultation process. Some key parts of the guidance are set out below (numbers are paragraph number in the guidance):

58. It is clear that how people perceive where they live – their neighbourhoods – is significant in considering the identities and interests of local communities and depends on a range of circumstances, often best described by local residents. Some of the factors which help define neighbourhoods are the geography of an area, the make-up of the local community, sense of identity, and whether people live in a rural, suburban, or urban area.

59. Parishes in many cases may be able to meet the concept of neighbourhoods in an area. Parishes should reflect distinctive and recognisable communities of interest, with their own sense of identity. Like neighbourhoods, the feeling of local community and the wishes of local inhabitants are primary considerations.

- 1.8 It is important to recognise that North East Lincolnshire Council will decide community governance arrangements. Therefore, where difficult decisions must be made, consideration must be given to opposing and differing views in light of legislation, best practice and official guidance. Best practice guidance includes, for example, using identifiable markers for boundaries (e.g., rivers, roads, edge of properties, etc). Essentially, proposals for change should first identify the identities and interests of the communities, and then consider the governance arrangements for that area.
- 1.9 Members are invited to note that the course of appeal is by way of Judicial Review. This mechanism is open to local stakeholders if there is a perceived failure in the decision-making process, for example, a failure to consult properly, or a failure not to take into account relevant consideration, or conversely irrelevant issues are taken into account in reaching a decision. It is important to ensure that community governance decisions can be justified both evidentially and procedurally to avoid potential legal challenge, which would present significant financial and reputational risks.
- 1.10 It is also important to recognise that the number of responses received is not necessarily strong evidence on the strength of feeling either for or against any particular viewpoint. It is true that stakeholders preferring the status quo may not make representations until and unless there is a suggestion of significant change that they would otherwise oppose. Therefore, where little response has been received, it cannot be assumed that local people are in favour of supporting the change proposed by a few submissions; they may well currently be unaware of those suggestions and happy with no change. That is why the second round of formal consultation is important, and why targeted requests for responses are recommended in areas where changes are proposed.

Parish Council Boundaries

- 1.11 The Council will consider any requests to amend current parish council boundaries, including creating/amending/removing parish Wards. Guidance recommends that parish boundaries use recognisable barriers (e.g., rivers, roads, etc) if they are being amended, wherever possible.

- 1.12 In reaching conclusions on boundaries between parishes, the Council will take into account community identity and interests in an area and will consider whether any particular ties or linkages might be broken by the drawing of particular boundaries. Equally, the Council, during its consultations will be mindful that proposals which are intended to reflect community identity, and local linkages should be justified in terms of sound and demonstrable evidence of those identities and linkages.
- 1.13 In any event, the Council will endeavour to select boundaries that are, and are likely to remain, easily identifiable as well as taking into account any local ties which might be broken by the fixing of any particular boundaries.

Parish Council Membership

- 1.14 Legislation sets out the following limits for a parish council:
- Where the number of electors is 1,000 or more – a parish council must be created.
 - Where the number of electors is 151-999, a parish council may be created, with a parish meeting being an alternative form of governance.
 - Where the number of electors is 150 or fewer, a parish council should not generally be created.

What Considerations Cover the Number of Parish Councillors?

- 1.15 Whilst the number of councillors for each parish council must not be less than five, there is no maximum number. By law, the Council must have regard to the following factors when considering the number of Councillors to be elected for each parish:
- The number of local government electors for the parish.
 - Any change in that number which is likely to occur in the period of five years beginning with the day the review starts.
 - The Council will also have regard to the National Association of Local Council recommendations set out in the table below.

Electors	Councillors	Electors	Councillors
Up to 900	5-7	Up to 10,400	17
Up to 1,400	8	Up to 11,900	18
Up to 2,000	9	Up to 13,500	19
Up to 2,700	10	Up to 15,200	20
Up to 3,500	11	Up to 17,000	21
Up to 4,400	12	Up to 18,900	22
Up to 5,400	13	Up to 20,900	23
Up to 6,500	14	Up to 23,000	24
Up to 7,700	15	Up to 45,000	25
Up to 9,000	16		

The Ordinary Year of Election

- 1.16 The Local Government Act 1972 states that the ordinary election of parish councils shall take place in 1975 and every fourth year thereafter (i.e., 2023, 2027, etc.). The Government has indicated that it wants a parish council electoral cycle to coincide with the cycle for the Principal Council so that the costs can be shared.
- 1.17 If the review finds that it is appropriate to change the number of Parish Councillors, the proposed changes will come into effect at the next scheduled parish council elections in May 2027, unless the Council chooses to hold whole council elections. In that

eventuality, the parish council elections would be held on the same day at the North East Lincolnshire Council elections in May 2026 and every four years thereafter.

2. Consultation Process

- 2.1 The initial consultation took place between 2nd June and 28th July 2023. The following methods of consultation were undertaken:
- Open consultation on the Council's website
 - Article about review on the inside page of a NELC brochure sent to every household during early June.
 - Various social media posts
 - E-Mail to NELC Councillors inviting them to respond to the consultation.
 - E-Mail to Parish Clerks inviting a formal response on behalf of the parish council or from individual parish councillors. They were also offered a visit to talk about the review in public.
 - Parish Clerks were also asked to publicise the review on their websites and notice boards.
 - E-Mail to NELC consultation database
 - Published in the Sector Support weekly email newsletters – sent to all voluntary and community sector organisations in North East Lincolnshire.
 - E-Mail to key stakeholders including MPs inviting responses.
 - E-Mail to ERNLLCA asking them to respond.
 - Copy of documentation on deposit for public inspection in Municipal Offices.
- 2.2 Officers attended public meetings at Immingham Town Council and Waltham Parish Council to talk about the review and answer questions from Parish Councillors and members of the public.
- 2.3 100 completed consultation responses were received, and these are set out in full in Appendices 2 and 3. It should be noted that multiple submissions raised issues regarding parish council business and/or other matters, which are outside the remit of this review. Any issues relating to parish council business will be forwarded to the relevant parish council for their attention.

3. Feedback from Consultation and Communities Scrutiny Panel

3.1 Ashby Cum Fenby Parish Council

Electorate: 199 (1st August 2023 register)
Recommended Number of Parish Councillors: 5 to 7
Number of Parish Councillors: 6
Precept 2023/24: £4,062

Feedback from Consultation: Both responders were supportive of the parish council and felt no change was required.

Feedback from Scrutiny Panel: There are no known issues with this parish council and both respondents felt no change was required.

Scrutiny Panel Recommendation to Council: No change to existing governance or electoral arrangements.

3.2 Barnoldby Le Beck Parish Council

Electorate: 321 (1st August 2023 register)
Recommended Number of Parish Councillors: 5 to 7
Number of Parish Councillors: 6
Precept 2023/24: £4,100

Feedback from Consultation: None received. However, there has been a request in feedback regarding Waltham Parish Council to consider the boundary issue between Barnoldby Le Beck and Waltham Parish Councils.

Feedback from Scrutiny Panel: There were no responses received to the consultation regarding this parish council. Furthermore, there are no known issues with the parish council.

Scrutiny Panel Recommendation to Council: No change to existing governance or electoral arrangements

3.3 Bradley Parish Council

Electorate: 195 (1st August 2023 register)
Recommended Number of Parish Councillors: 5 to 7
Number of Parish Councillors: 6
Precept 2023/24: £5,500

Feedback from Consultation: All five responders felt that the parish council was operating very well and most felt the parish council should not be amalgamated with another parish council. Four out of the five responders recommended a change in the parish boundary. In view of extensive development at the Barnoldby end of Bradley Road, they felt it might be better to move the parish boundary to the Grimsby town side of Bradley Woods.

Feedback from Scrutiny Panel: There are no known issues with this parish council. The feedback shows that the parish council is valued. Albeit there were some requests to potentially change the parish boundary, it was felt that this was not necessary at this time. However, the matter will be kept under review.

Scrutiny Panel Recommendation to Council: No change to existing governance or electoral arrangements.

3.4 Brigsley Parish Council

Electorate: 307 (1st August 2023 register)
Recommended Number of Parish Councillors: 5 to 7
Number of Parish Councillors: 7
Precept 2023/24: £3,118

Feedback from Consultation: The only responder felt that the parish council boundary was satisfactory and that residents were updated about village plans through the parish council website. No adverse comments were raised about the performance of the parish council, albeit the responder stated that villagers are not consulted on matters relating to the village.

Feedback from Scrutiny Panel: There are no known issues with this parish council. The only respondent was in favour of the parish council generally, albeit felt consultation on future plans could be improved. This matter will be brought to the attention of the parish council.

Scrutiny Panel Recommendation to Council: No change to existing governance or electoral arrangements.

3.5 Great Coates Village Council

Electorate: 1,103 (1st August 2023 register)
Recommended Number of Parish Councillors: 8
Number of Parish Councillors: 9
Precept 2023/24: £36,750

Feedback from Consultation: All three respondents expressed concern about the operation of the village council, with two suggesting that it should be abolished. A comment was made by one responder which suggested that Aylesby Park should not be included in the Great Coates boundary, just the village itself.

Feedback from Scrutiny Panel: Whilst there are no known issues with the electoral arrangements, there has been a history of resident dissatisfaction with the governance of this Village Council for over a decade since the Great Coates Community Governance Review was undertaken in 2012. Regarding the request to change the parish council boundary, Members considered the request but, as there was only one comment from a resident regarding the boundary and none from the parish council itself, it was minded to leave the boundary unchanged at this time.

Scrutiny Panel Recommendation to Council: No change to existing governance or electoral arrangements.

3.6 Habrough Parish Council

Electorate: 497 (1st August 2023 register)
Recommended Number of Parish Councillors: 5 to 7
Number of Parish Councillors: 7
Precept 2023/24: £4,105

Feedback from Consultation: The major of respondents were happy with the operation of the parish council. Some issues relating to parish council business were raised, and these will be forwarded to the parish council for action. Everyone felt that the parish council boundary was fine.

Feedback from Scrutiny Panel: There are no known issues with this parish council. The feedback shows that the parish council is valued by the respondents and the boundary was considered satisfactory.

Scrutiny Panel Recommendation to Council: No change to existing governance or electoral arrangements

3.7 Healing Parish Council

Electorate: 2,515 (1st August 2023 register)
Recommended Number of Parish Councillors: 10
Number of Parish Councillors: 10
Precept 2023/24: £65,000

Feedback from Consultation: Four respondents felt that the Parish Council was doing a good job, albeit there were some issues regarding footpaths. These issues will be brought to the attention of the parish council. There were no requests to change the parish boundaries. The Parish Council was happy with the current arrangements and was hopeful of recruiting an additional Parish Councillor in September.

Feedback from Scrutiny Panel: There are no known issues with this parish council. The feedback shows that the parish council is valued by the respondents and the boundary was considered satisfactory.

Scrutiny Panel Recommendation to Council: No change to existing governance or electoral arrangements

3.8 **Humberston Village Council**

Electorate: 5,444 (1st August 2023 register)
Recommended Number of Parish Councillors: 13
Number of Parish Councillors: 12
Precept 2023/24: £108,000

Feedback from Consultation: A number of responders highlighted concerns regarding membership of the parish council. It is understood that the parish council currently only has 7 councillors. Whilst several people highlighted the positive work of the parish council, some governance issues were highlighted.

Feedback from Scrutiny Panel: With regard to the number of parish councillors, the National Association of Local Councils recommends 13 Parish Councillors. With considerable development underway in the parish, it is recommended that the number of parish councillors remains unchanged, given the current shortage of parish councillors and not be increased at this time. The governance issues will be addressed by officers speaking to the parish council, with the support of ERNLLCA.

Scrutiny Panel Recommendation to Council: No change to existing governance or electoral arrangements.

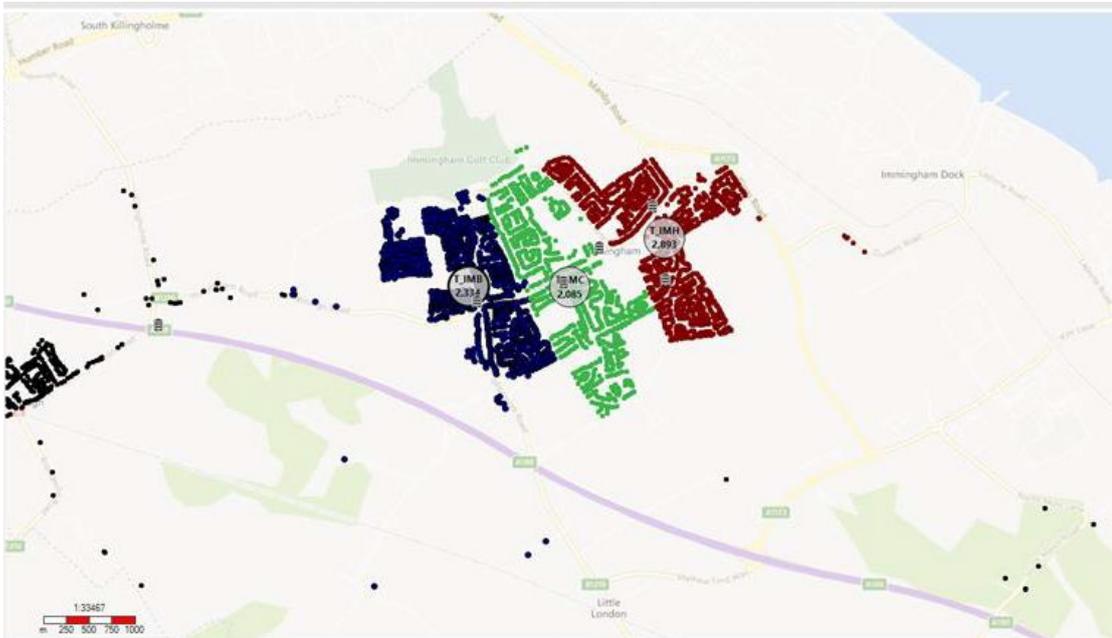
3.9 **Immingham Town Council**

Electorate: 7,321 (1st August 2023 register)
Recommended Number of Town Councillors: 15
Number of Town Councillors: 15 (split into 3 Town Wards: Bluestone Ward – 3 Councillors; Central Ward – 6; and Humber Ward – 6)
Precept 2023/24: £364,106

Feedback from Consultation: There is a mixture of views about the Town Council. Some respondents feel it is doing a good job, especially In Bloom. Others feel that it is not performing well, costing too much and should be abolished. Several respondents reported local matters which will be forwarded to the Town Clerk for attention. All but one respondent felt that the Town Council boundary was correct. The final respondent felt that there could be closer working, or a possible merger, with the two neighbouring parish councils.

Officer Comments: There is an electoral in-balance between the Town Wards:

	Bluestone	Central	Humber
Electorate: 1 st August 2023	2,338	2,088	2,895
No of Councillors	3	6	6
Average Number of Electors per Councillor	779	348	482



Option 1: Change Number of Town Councillors in Town Wards

	Bluestone	Central	Humber
Electorate: 1 st August 2023	2,338	2,088	2,895
No of Councillors	5	5	6
Average Number of Electors per Councillor	467	417	482

Option 2: Change Town Wards

The proposal is to remove the current Town Wards and replace them with two new Town Wards north and south of Pelham/Habrough Road. The figures for electorate below incorporate potential development in the town in the next five years:

	North	South
Electorate: 1 st August 2023	3769	4,108
No of Councillors	7	8
Average Number of Electors per Councillor	538	513



Community Governance Review Atlas (PROPOSED) Immingham Town North and South Boundaries Review at 12:26

The view of Immingham Town Council is that 2 wards, North and South using Pelham Road as the divide, would suit the Town better, evening up the number of voters, and Town Councillors, having more geographical relevance and taking into account the new/proposed developments. With regard to the number of councillors in the Town, the Council decided that the current number of 15 is the right amount and therefore do not suggest any change. This would be 7 Town Councillors in North Ward and 8 in South Ward.

Feedback from Scrutiny Panel: The Panel felt that the proposal from Immingham Town Council to change the Town Wards made sense and was easier for electors to understand which Town Councillors represented them. The Town Clerk for Immingham attended the meeting and stated that the Town Council would consider how to provide more information to residents about the operation of the Town Council in order to address the issues highlighted in the comments.

Scrutiny Panel Recommendation to Council: No change to the existing governance and electoral arrangements, except that the Town Wards be changed to a North and South split, as per option 2, with 7 Town Councillors representing the North Town Ward and 8 Town Councillors representing the South Town Ward. These changes will be implemented with effect from the next full Town Council elections.

3.10 Irby Parish Council

Electorate: 102 (1st August 2023 register)

Recommended Number of Parish Councillors: 5 to 7

Number of Parish Councillors: 5

Precept 2023/24: None (parish not operating). Precept £2,700 in 2022/23

Feedback from Consultation: None received.

Feedback from Scrutiny Panel: The Panel noted that Irby Parish Council had not been administratively operational for a couple of years. Recently, four

individuals had joined the Parish Council and they would be having their first meeting shortly. They would be assisted by ERNLLCA.

Scrutiny Panel Recommendation to Council: No change to existing governance or electoral arrangements.

3.11 **Laceby Parish Council**

Electorate: 2,687 (1st August 2023 register)
Recommended Number of Parish Councillors: 10
Number of Parish Councillors: 10
Precept 2023/24: £41,631

Feedback from Consultation: There are conflicting views with two respondents unhappy with the parish council and two others thinking it is effective. All respondents were happy with the current parish boundaries. A number of ideas and issues were raised through the consultation which should be forwarded on to the parish council for their attention.

Feedback from Scrutiny Panel: The Panel noted the varying views about the parish council but felt that some of the negative comments could be resolved by better communication/engagement with local residents. The Panel asked that the views be shared with the parish council.

Scrutiny Panel Recommendation to Council: No change to existing governance or electoral arrangements.

3.12 **New Waltham Parish Council**

Electorate: 4,542 (1st August 2023 register)
Recommended Number of Parish Councillors: 13
Number of Parish Councillors: 15
Precept 2023/24: £74,425

Feedback from Consultation: The six respondents are split equally regarding their views on the effectiveness of the parish council and also regarding changes to the parish boundaries. The local issues raised during the consultation will need to be sent to the Parish Council for their attention.

Feedback from Scrutiny Panel: The Panel noted the varying views about the parish council but felt that some of the negative comments were concerned with lack of candidates at nominations rather than concerns regarding governance. It was noted that there was considerable development in New Waltham and therefore the Panel decided not to consider reducing the membership of the parish council at present as more people may choose to stand for election as the size of the community develops. Officers will monitor this position.

Scrutiny Panel Recommendation to Council: No change to existing governance or electoral arrangements

3.13 **Stallingborough Parish Council**

Electorate: 1,069 (1st August 2023 register)
Recommended Number of Parish Councillors: 8

Number of Parish Councillors: 9
Precept 2023/24: £45,000

Feedback from Consultation: The two respondents were both very happy with the operation of the Parish Council. They felt that no changes should be made to the parish boundaries.

Feedback from Scrutiny Panel: The Scrutiny Panel noted that both respondents were happy with the operation of this parish council. Some of the Members on the Panel commented that Stallingborough Parish Council was doing an excellent job.

Scrutiny Panel Recommendation to Council: No change to existing governance or electoral arrangements.

3.14 **Waltham Parish Council**

Electorate: 5,089 (1st August 2023 register)
Recommended Number of Parish Councillors: 14
Number of Parish Councillors: 15
Precept 2023/24: £72,500

Feedback from Consultation: There was a slight majority of residents in favour of the parish council than against. Whilst most felt the parish boundaries should remain, there was a respondent who raised the boundary issue on Bradley Road where houses were split between Waltham and Barnoldby Le Beck. Another queried why there needed to be three parish councils in such close proximity.

Feedback from Scrutiny Panel: The Panel noted the responses both for and against the parish council. Overall, a slight majority were in favour of it. With regard to the request to change the boundary, only one household had requested this change. The Panel examined the boundary on a map and agreed that as no other households had requested the change, nor had either Parish Council, then the existing boundary should remain unaltered.

Scrutiny Panel Recommendation to Council: No change to existing governance or electoral arrangements.

3.15 **Requests for New Parish Councils**

Feedback from Consultation: The requests for new parish councils and why the respondents feel these are needed are set out in Appendix 2.

Feedback from Scrutiny Panel: The Panel considered the various requests for new parish councils. Four individuals had requested a parish council for Scartho Ward and three for Cleethorpes. The Panel debated the requests. It was felt that the request for Scartho was perhaps too late, with over 8,000 residents. Scartho was now considered to be a Grimsby suburb now rather than a village. Regarding Cleethorpes, there had only been three individuals requesting a parish out of a population of nearly 30,000.

Scrutiny Panel Recommendation to Council: That, based on the feedback, no new Parish Councils be set up at present.

3.16 **General Feedback**

Feedback from Consultation: The general comments received are set out in Appendix 2.

Feedback from Scrutiny Panel: The Panel discussed the general feedback provided – some positive and some negative. There were no issues raised which had not already been considered above.

Scrutiny Panel Recommendation to Council: None

Appendix 2

North East Lincolnshire Council

Parish Council Community Governance Review

Stage 1 Consultation Responses

Ashby Cum Fenby Parish Council (Two Responses)

Comments on Number of Parish Councillors and Structure	Suggested Changes to Parish Council	Thoughts on Parish Council Boundaries	Other Comments
No changes required.	No.	Content.	No.
The number of councillors appears to be correct and there is plenty of publicity about their meetings, including agendas for forthcoming meetings, minutes of meetings held and any additional events taking place. They act corporately in support of the Parish and clearly have the parish interests at heart.	There should be a better method of publicising Parish Council information on a noticeboard for those who do not use the internet.	The current boundaries are correct in my view.	No.

Barnoldby Le Beck Parish Council (No Responses)

No comments received.

Bradley Parish Council (Five Responses)

Comments on Number of Parish Councillors and Structure	Suggested Changes to Parish Council	Thoughts on Parish Council Boundaries	Other Comments
Bradley Parish Council are an efficient PC, all individuals involved are committed to our duties, we have maximum councillors in attendance, we have good communications with our residents, we have a website, a Facebook page and a quarterly newsletter. Also, we feel we are approachable for our residents, and we have a good percentage of residents actively using our different platforms for communication, i.e., a quarterly Saturday morning clinic. I feel that all this would be lost if we were to be amalgamated with a bigger PC, i.e., Laceby or Waltham. One reservation could be that with the size of the new development at Waltham end of Bradley Road and the possibility of further development nearer to our existing boundary perhaps to bring our boundary to this side of Bradley woods, this would keep our parish as a village parish and not oversized.	Perhaps to bring our boundary to this side of Bradley Woods, this would keep our parish as a village parish and not oversized.	If possible, to bring our boundary to this side of Bradley woods, this would keep our parish as a village parish and not oversized.	None
		The current boundaries are well located to be inclusive to all village residents	The Council represents the views of the residents, disseminates information and gives ample opportunity for feedback
We feel that our Parish Council is running very efficiently we have a maximum number of Councillors in attendance, and along with our current website we have recently started up a Facebook page and a quarterly newsletter all of which are very active with a good input from residents. Confidence between residents and councillors is good all councillors are regularly approached by residents if there are any issues, our councillors	No	In the main I feel our boundary is working well but there is a proviso that perhaps our boundary along Bradley Road could finish on the Grimsby side of Bradley Woods and then the rest of Bradley Road could be included into Waltham's	We feel very strongly that our Parish Council should NOT be amalgamated with a much bigger Parish Council, i.e., Waltham or Laceby, as we

live in various parts of the village which in total keeps a good all-round prospectus on all activities over the whole village. As a councillor I feel very strongly that it is important to keep our boundaries' as they are so that we as a Parish Council can keep a close eye on our own parish over all.		Parish Council. the reason for this idea is because with the new housing development already in existence at the Waltham end of Bradley Road it seems possible that there may be further development along this road nearer to Bradley village and if that happens then that would be a huge increase in numbers for our village Parish Council.	feel it would be difficult for a bigger council to completely understand the village of Bradley's needs and expectations.
I can see no reason to change any boundaries relating to Bradley parish Council as it is operating very efficiently with its 6 councillors attending all meetings. We also have a Facebook page which is very well supported and also produce a quarterly News Letter which is very well received.	Nothing	In view of the extensive building projects at the Barnoldby end of Bradley Road.it may better to move Bradley parish boundary to the town side of Bradley Woods.	We strongly feel that Bradley parish Council should remain independent of being joined with either Waltham or Laceby parish councils.
We have a maximum number of councillors for the size of the parish, and we don't feel any more are required. Our councillors reside in different parts of the village resulting in complete coverage of the parish for any situations that may occur, making all our councillors accessible for all our residents no matter where they reside within the village. We feel that the parish council has a good liaison with the residents, and we are approachable in any situation. Over the recent years we have provided full CCTV coverage for our village, have an active and up to date website, implemented a Facebook page where we have a good percentage of our residents that are members and actively contribute to the page. We have also recently started a quarterly newsletter and bi-monthly surgeries where our residents are encouraged to attend and speak in person to our councillors. In conclusion we feel as a parish council we are approachable which has proved to be the case when many residents have contacted us with specific concerns over the years.	As a parish council we are always open to considering any suggestions, but we feel that we are running effectively for the size of the parish.	We feel that the boundaries for our specific parish are very effective, and it is a good compact area. Although, if Waltham continues to expand along Bradley Road in the way that it has been doing recently maybe it would be better, if the Bradley boundary finished at the Grimsby side of Bradley woods.	No

Brigsley Parish Council (One Response)

Comments on Number of Parish Councillors and Structure	Suggested Changes to Parish Council	Thoughts on Parish Council Boundaries	Other Comments
The villagers are not consulted on matters relating to the village	A website which is regularly updated that gives people the opportunity in having knowledge about village plans/a say	The boundary is correct. I would suggest that no more building takes place within the parish boundary	No

Great Coates Village Council (Three Responses)

Comments on Number of Parish Councillors and Structure	Suggested Changes to Parish Council	Thoughts on Parish Council Boundaries	Other Comments
The only thing Great Coates village council is interested in is the In-Bloom and the village hall	The village council needs to go and new people as they seem to be led by the clerk		I was speaking to a councillor about why the roads and paths are swept when the in bloom is on and not the rest of the year his response was, he will bring it up at the next meeting if I wish to pay myself for a road sweepers. Not really the best reply from a village councillor
	Abolish the self-serving village council		Abolish the village council as they are self-serving and do not have the villagers' best interests in mind
It's been better. The current councillors are quite self-serving and take benefits (such as	I think there should be a limited time people can serve as councillors to ensure a good turnover of people.	Don't think Aylesby Park should be	No except to say they seem to have a history of Clerks that have too much say on what goes on with the council.

priority hall booking) over residents which is wrong. We have a community group, but the village council won't work with them. It's a shame.	NELC should go to meetings more to observe. The standards board should be brought back as at the moment there is no real way to complain about the goings on of a VC. It's very frustrating when you see things going on that shouldn't be allowed.	included in the Great Coates boundary. It should just be the village itself.	Councillors should not have priority over the general public. They should be held accountable more by NELC as they are flying under the radar.
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Habrough Parish Council (Eight Responses)

Comments on Number of Parish Councillors and Structure	Suggested Changes to Parish Council	Thoughts on Parish Council Boundaries	Other Comments
We the village of Habrough now have all the heavy vehicle traffic through our village as Ulceby now has a ban on heavy vehicles, and are told by our councillor there's nothing can be done		No	Powerless
The Parish Council is alright in its present form.	None	The parish boundaries are OK at the moment.	None
I think 7 councillors is sufficient, and we work well as a team for the benefit of the village	Nothing, just it works well for us we are a small compact village	Our boundary is ok all properties are included	No change needed
There is Nothing Wrong with the present set up.	Just leave it as it is.	The Parish boundaries are ok. No need to change them.	No, they do a good job, and look after the residents of Habrough.
The Parish Council is just right for the job required.	The Parish Council is OK. IT needs NELC to listen to those who know better than they do and to think carefully. local people live in the area and know better what will suit the environment and the residents. NOT to increase the NELC coffers.	There is nothing wrong with the existing boundaries. LEAVE THEM ALONE.	No, they do the work that is expected of them.
It works, unfortunately doesn't have the power it should too contest planning applications!! But it does good things	Less formal	They are applicable, thank god we aren't under Immingham "parish" council	
Having spent the last four years trying to get the speed limit reduced to a safe and level where residents can sleep at night without the heavy traffic thundering through at speeds exceeding the 40mph limit. It's now not helped by the next village Ulceby parish now having an 18-month trial banning heavy goods vehicles through their village, now divert through ours. The council's answer is nothing we can do the come under a different council and we are also a diversion route for work on the A180 and motorway. Humber speed awareness told me it's a rural road and should be 30mph. Oh, how I wish council could work together.	Town Councils should be looking a bit further afield and help create safer roads, for parishes, they are the ones who know what's going on, We have four different speeds into our village which they say they are looking into!!!!	I'm afraid moving the boundary won't help, we just need our present council to help.	None, I've tried everything.
Why is it that Ulceby are able to restrict heavy goods vehicles through there Parish and double the amount of heavy vehicles travelling through our village of Habrough which is already a diversion route at speeds exceeding 40mph and because of boundary rules our Councillor can do nothing to help us. With speeds and noise at all times of the day our village properties are no longer sellable, and sleep is just a passing wish. I hate to think just who in their right mind will want to buy the new houses planned for the village soon. As a village council we were powerless in getting a speed reduction, only to be offered speed awareness signs. And only to now have yet more traffic.			

Healing Parish Council (Five Responses)

Comments on Number of Parish Councillors and Structure	Suggested Changes to Parish Council	Thoughts on Parish Council Boundaries	Other Comments
I believe current set up is perfectly fit for purpose and is not in need of change other than possibly holding elections once every 3 or 4 years	No	No need to change	No
Parish council struggles to fill councillor places, so 'power' is in the hands of a few people. There is no sign of this being a problem at the moment, but it must put a strain on the few councillors that are in post. One wonders if the parish council is still a relevant organisation with the village having expanded so much in recent years. The council has tried hard to encourage new entrants though. Parish makes lots of efforts for local people and does provide a focus for the village.	Maybe setting up some single focus groups of non-councillors. Recent attempt at this to form a village green group has helped expand the number of people willing to take on responsibilities and help out with ideas and projects.	I don't know enough to comment on this	
Healing Parish Council are doing a great job in some respects. Bringing the village together. However, the state of the footpaths in the old part of healing is a disgrace. Uneven. Broken. Leaves and detritus never cleaned up. NE Lincs council have no interest and just leave it.	Bring Healing under Immingham. They keep the town very clean and tidy. Or give Healing more control and resources over footpaths and cleaning of same.	As above	Healing is doing a good job but could do more for older people.
Our parish council appears to be very effective in supporting the community and I consider it to be beneficial. The main issue is getting sufficient people to volunteer as parish councillors.	No	I do not have an opinion	No
Healing Parish Council is happy with current membership level of 10 seats. For note, the parish council now has 6 Members and should be coopting another member in September of this year.			

Humberston Village Council (Eight Responses – Two in Appendix 3)

Comments on Number of Parish Councillors and Structure	Suggested Changes to Parish Council	Thoughts on Parish Council Boundaries	Other Comments
It would be nice to see more Councillors, they seem to have been struggling for numbers for a while. Planning meetings are well attended as there are a lot of contentious issues currently in Humberston with over intensification of housing development, the Fitties and Thorpe Park. The Parish Council is an important conduit between residents and NELC.	NELC should take more notice of the issues they raise as they are more in touch with the feelings of residents	No changes should be made to this boundary	It would be nice to see police attend the occasional meeting as crime figures are increasing every month
I believe the Humberston Parish Council, as it stands now, does an excellent job of representing the local residents. I have come into contact with several of the councillors in regard to planning applications and an abandoned site at the corner of Wendover Lane and they have responded excellently to our comments and complaints. They produce a quarterly magazine which informs residents of happenings within the parish which I find most interesting and informative.	I am satisfied with the present council. Why change something which is working well.	This is an area where I think clearer information would help. I am not sure where our exact boundaries are.	
In some areas it is effective but personally I have found it unresponsive to a problem		No problem here on that one	No
Yes...local people. One thing that could be improved is an opportunity for a once-a-year vote on what should be the local's priority for the parish to follow. Far too much politics involved in local issues	Why can't it be nonpolitical, nonpartisan? Take the woke and climate	Fitties side to Tesco side to toll bar roundabout (Humberston Ave	Parish are ok town council riddled with those career council support staff such as transport dept and highways hell bent on getting cars off the road onto a public transport that is useless in every way. Name 1 road scheme be it Scartho road Nunn's corner or even Tollbar that

	change agenda ... forced onto us by political and by partisan groups that are forcing their will on the majority	side) to the old petrol station Tetney road	has brought about quicker cleaner safer transport ...millions spent on farce after farce and now they want taxpayers to pay for a private company's bus station whilst that company gives away millions in dividends to investors whilst all the time cutting and changing its service to see it not the public. The council for all its green credentials is hell bent on not having a park and ride scheme to stop the huge Grimsby to Cleethorpes holiday traffic parking and flow problems despite having huge amounts of land held by ABP on the docks
Currently effectively but struggles to fill all vacant councillor positions		Parish is growing fast due to new property developments	
The Village Council currently has 12 seats and feels that this is the correct number to represent the number of residents in the Parish.		The Village Council also believes that the boundaries to the Parish are currently appropriate and would wish to see them remain as is.	

Immingham Town Council (Nine Responses – One in Appendix 3)

Comments on Number of Parish Councillors and Structure	Suggested Changes to Parish Council	Thoughts on Parish Council Boundaries	Other Comments
Appears to be doing quite well at the moment. Immingham always looks tidy, especially in summer with the flower arrangements. Still do not see police either walking or riding around. Number of motorbikes making lots of noise and going over the grassed areas. I live on Weston Grove & regularly go down the street and over the grass onto Washdyke lane. I am 'told' by my next-door neighbour that they have no Reg plate on them. Sadly, lot of litter around but that is of Immingham peoples making. Apart from patrols, not sure what you can do. I think since the referendum we had; it seems to have bucked the councils' ideas up a lot.		Not sure where each ward starts & ends, you have not given a map before starting this	No - they seem to be doing their best with most things - antisocial behaviour is still a problem but has shown signs of improving.
It seems to wholly concentrate on Immingham in bloom. Which is fabulous but there are more issues that require attention. Green Lane is massively overgrown. Footpaths have deteriorated drastically,	Repair footpaths and roads. Spend time cutting back some of the plants and trees along foot paths along Green Lane.	I have lived in Immingham all my life. I now pay additional council tax for the privilege of the parish council, yet I have no clue when meetings are. I have no clue who the officers are.	I don't necessarily want to get rid of them, but I would like to know exactly what the additional council tax payment is for. As I can't believe it is only flowers and pot up keep.
Was voted to be abolished and it was kept! Parish council makes no difference to this community	Abolish		
I believe it is but has limited power and poor engagement with local residents. More electronic engagement will help more people become involved who may be frail or disabled.		Feels correct to me	
Why do we still pay for a town council when the town had a referendum and voted against a town council. Because we pay extra for this, it means we have higher council tax, yet we see no investment back into the town in the areas that need it. Just flowers along the main road.	Scrap the town council or at least make it a cheaper option		

<p>The Immingham Town Council is a needed parish council for the area. They provide a conduit to ensure that the greater North East Lincolnshire council fulfil their obligations to the town. If we did not have the town council, I believe that NELC would not provide an adequate service to the town. However, the town council does have its flaws (as every council does), which makes them at time very bureaucratic and they do tend to labour decisions. I feel that they could do more, for example, we have a civic centre that is under used, expensive to rent shops for and is privately owned, however they should be able to do more with this issue. Several times I have spoken regarding speeding traffic through the town, again I believe they should be able to push NELC on these issues. This is why they should be kept, as if we did not have this support, then NELC would not give Immingham much support, as NELC seem only interested in Grimsby /Cleethorpes, which receives the huge majority of funding.</p>	<p>I think the Council Tax cost for the council could be reduced to alleviate cost of living costs. I would like Immingham Town council to be more accessible, perhaps having workshops, rather than the monthly meetings, which many residents cannot make. NELC should give more support to this town via the ITC, to bring in new business, support new business or existing small business with funding / financial support due to the very high shop / premise rents in the local area</p>	<p>The boundaries are correct, as if they were to merge with smaller outer towns villages, this would dilute the council itself</p>	<p>Immingham is a large town that has a very great potential in it, to become a successful town. currently it is not, due to lack of interest from NELC, high rentals for shops / premises for businesses and poor support to Immingham (no full time Police / reduced Fire Service / No Ambulance station / speeding traffic / road deterioration etc.</p>
<p>The parish council has about the right number of members, maybe after a period of growth one extra could be included in the Bluestone Ward.</p>	<p>Closer working relationships between Immingham Town Council, Stallingborough and Habrough Parish Councils could be explored. Whether this is a merger into a ward council, or a closer working relationship via a charter.</p>	<p>With regard to my previous comment, maybe the 3 councils should operate for the whole of the NELC electoral ward, I am uncertain whether this would work, but it should at least be explored.</p>	<p>No</p>
<p>Councillors voted Wednesday night on the following:</p> <p>To take this opportunity to change the existing 3 wards of Humber, Central and Bluestone.</p> <p>The view of the Councillors is that 2 wards, North and South using Pelham Road as the divide, would suit the Town better, evening up the number of voters, and Councillors, having more geographical relevance and taking into account the new/proposed developments.</p> <p>With regards to the number of councillors in the Parish, the Council decided that the current number of 15 the right amount and therefore do not suggest any change. This would be 7 North & 8 South.</p>			

Irby Parish Council (No Responses)

No comments received.

Laceby Parish Council (Five Responses)

Comments on Number of Parish Councillors and Structure	Suggested Changes to Parish Council	Thoughts on Parish Council Boundaries	Other Comments
<p>At present I don't feel that parish councils provide a beneficial service for their residents in anyway. They are led by</p>	<p>I feel if the parish councils are to continue to be part of local governance, they require a complete overhaul and restructure. I believe they need strict guidance to prevent bias and opinionated</p>	<p>I have no real view regarding the boundaries, I don't think separating Laceby from Waltham,</p>	<p>I feel I've said everything</p>

individuals who make decisions based on their own view and opinions rather than what is seen to be best for the local communities and residents. Their views are generally very bias and out of touch, I can only speak of Laceby's Parish council which is ran by the chairman rather than a committee. At present there is no point of the parish council, they refuse residents requirements but approve bigger business and developments. With regards to the number of councillors, the importance is not the number but the value they bring, if they bring no substance to the role but are a councillor just to make the numbers up then the structure and guidance needs a massive review.	views that are clearly present at the moment. Parish councils shouldn't be able to hold senior positions within the town council as a conflict of interest is born and visible to see. The parish and town council should also reflect its community, maybe more independent councillors should be appointed, and equal number of each party and independent giving a better representation of the community. With regards to the town council the level of bureaucracy with the middle management and public interaction requires stripping back and simplifying. This can be made better by having trained and qualified staff would make the interaction with public smoother and less frustrating. Its quality over quantity is the key to any restructure, this would allow wage expenditures to be cut due to the number of staff that fill in required positions. Better trained people will improve the entire process and prevent tax payers' money being wasted and minimise community frustration.	with regards to wards would be of any benefit as they are so close and have similarities.	
This parish council has a healthy number of councillors and is effective as to the needs and issues that are raised.	A local newsletter that could be sent via email or paper for those without access to a computer. This would keep residents up to date as to what is happening as well as answering any queries. It also lets people know how much work and time goes into being a councillor. Or a regular email with minutes of meetings. These are displayed in a notice board, but many people are unaware of it.	As Laceby is expanding and has a large number of new homes being built it may be better if the boundary was just of Laceby village.	No
Laceby PC currently has seats but has only managed to fill 8 at last election. We do have another person due to apply for role of Councillor when they turn 18. The council as it stands is both functional, effective and beneficial. However, there is a lot of negativity around the role of parish councils within the community across NEL. Laceby PC does not need to be changed.	No none, my only thought would be that the residents of NEL need to understand the role of the Parish Council in relation to that of the Local Authority, NELC, and what the parish council can and cannot do.	Boundary for Laceby PC is perfect. It does not need extending. Laceby is rapidly growing with unnecessary building on green field sites. Laceby used to be a lovely village, quiet, calm and friendly with little ASB and problems. Since all the new builds and the increase in people living within the village this has all changed to the detriment of the village and its residents. The proposed Freshney Valley development is a step too far and should this be allowed to be built will have a huge impact on the environment, climate change, flora, fauna and wildlife. To extend the boundary would have a negative impact on the village, its residents and the parish council functionality	They do the best they can with the limited resources they have. Precept is calculated based on No Band D properties. As most of the new builds are not Band D this lowers the precept, so the only option is to increase the precept and put additional burden on residents who have lived here for many years or take a reduction in precept and leave as it is.
It should have more powers devolve from N E Linc's council	More devolved decision making would make it more relevant to the local population	Correct as they are	
		They're in the right place and should be made bigger	

New Waltham Parish Council (Six Responses)

Comments on Number of Parish Councillors and Structure	Suggested Changes to Parish Council	Thoughts on Parish Council Boundaries	Other Comments
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<p>Meets the needs of the local people. Parish is clean and tidy; we value the magazine for keeping us informed and events that are organised by the Parish council. If we didn't have the Parish council, I fear we may lose our identity as a village</p>	<p>improved play area and somewhere for the older teenagers to hang out and stop them causing a nuisance because they are bored</p>	<p>They are fine</p>	<p>none</p>
<p>The current parish council is ineffective and not accountable. No elections are contested and there are always a number of vacancies. This puts power in the hands of a few unaccountable individuals. From what I am aware many other Parish Councils have a similar issue. It would be advantageous to have a large Cleethorpes Town Council that encompasses the Cleethorpes Wards together with Humberston, New Waltham and Waltham. This would give a larger talent pool of people, a greater revenue stream via the precept which would allow a larger Town Council to better support the priorities of its residents.</p>	<p>Merge the Parish Councils of Waltham, New Waltham and Humberston together with the Cleethorpes wards to create a new Cleethorpes Town Council that is larger.</p>	<p>They do not work. They are too small and unaccountable. People do not stand for election so there are a number of vacancies and uncontested elections. Town and Parish Councils are a great idea but need to be large enough for economies of scale, able to raise enough money for projects and be accountable.</p>	<p>Create two Town Councils of: 1) Grimsby Town Council which would include the Grimsby Wards plus Immingham and Wolds (Healing) 2) Cleethorpes Town Council including all Cleethorpes Wards and the Villages of Humberston, New Waltham and Waltham. This would have greater economies of scale, attract better calibre of people, be able to support North East Lincolnshire Councils aims and objectives via greater delegation to their lowest level.</p>
<p>I believe New Waltham Parish council has greater respect for the residents than North East Lincolnshire council seems to have. They're more aware of resident's wishes, and the increasing problems facing our village. They hold regular meetings, the itinerary of which are posted on the village notice boards. And anyone can attend, to make their views known, raise objections or make suggestions. I do hope this Parish council restructuring exercise isn't simply a way to make it easier to continue the massive increase in building taking place now. And that the objective is not to turn the whole area of Cleethorpes, Waltham, New Waltham, Humberston and maybe even other areas, into one big conurbation. Though this seems to have started happening already. I would like to keep our identity as a separate village, and preserve what is left of the green belt, already shrinking at an alarming rate. We need our green spaces. For our mental wellbeing, and to try to preserve what's left of our diminishing wildlife, some of which are now at risk of disappearing altogether. When we first moved to New Waltham, we regularly saw bats fly over at twilight, heard cuckoos in spring, and saw many hedgehogs in our garden. But all that has gone. I haven't seen a hedgehog for several years, and they're now considered an endangered species. A recent estimate warned that they are at risk of becoming extinct in the wild before the end of the decade if we continue to destroy natural habitats at the rate we are doing now. I've also noticed a decline both in the number of bird species, and the total number of birds generally. You might not consider that an important enough reason to preserve our status as an individual parish. I don't know, and it certainly seems that some people don't care, especially the building company(ies) who are getting rich, and who would undoubtedly benefit if we were absorbed into one large town. But on a more practical level, New Waltham simply does not have the infrastructure to cope with any more expansion. We are already seeing long traffic tailbacks, meaning residents are being exposed to more pollution. And crossing the road is difficult at best, and dangerous at worst. Many cars speed up on Peaks Lane as they approach the end of the 30mph limit. Some go so fast, that quite frankly I'm surprised nobody has been seriously injured or even killed there. Other people I've spoken to</p>	<p>I wish to retain New Waltham Parish council as a separate organisation. The only suggestion I can think of is for the county council to take the wishes of the people of New Waltham into consideration wherever reasonable.</p>	<p>I strongly disagree with any changes to the existing New Waltham parish boundaries. Leave them as they are.</p>	<p>No</p>

<p>have noticed it too. Another point is drainage. Can our drainage system, designed many years ago, cope with the extra load being put upon it? Can Buck Beck, known to have overflowed onto Weelsby View after heavy rain, even before building at the end of Peaks Lane began, cope with the extra surface run off from further development, with its associated roads and other hard landscaping? Grass and farmland are sinks, not only for CO2, but also for rainwater. Replacing them with hard landscaping will put extra pressure on wherever the surface water run-off is directed, thereby increasing the risk of flooding Crime, or simply suspicious behaviour that suggests crime is the objective, has also increased markedly since the expansion of New Waltham. I receive warnings nearly every day from people on our local 'Next Door' web site, who've witnessed strangers trying house and car doors to see if they're open. Or they hang around observing people's homes. I don't know if these things are reported, so they probably won't all be on record. I'm sorry if this message diverged from the answer you required, or contained information you might consider irrelevant. But I have concerns (rightly or wrongly) as what this could lead to. In which case it does become relevant. I care very much about what is happening to our environment. But to answer your question in a nutshell, I think New Waltham Parish council is important for our community and wish to preserve it as it is now. I feel they respect the interests of the residents and want to maintain New Waltham as a community in its own right. I think any merger, or worse still abolishment, of our Parish council, could only be detrimental to our local community, and I will do anything in my power to protest against any threat to the existing status quo, or anything that changing it might lead to. Thank you.</p>			
<p>Yes of course the Parish council is relevant, it is the representative to local council on the views, needs and local concerns of the parish and its people. otherwise missed by Local Government.</p>	No	Seem OK but open to sensible suggestions.	NO
<p>This parish council is ineffective and undemocratic. It has a number of vacancies, and its Councillors are often elected unchallenged. This puts power in the hands of individuals without any real accountability or rigger. It would be advantageous to have a Cleethorpes and Villages Town Council that covers the area of Cleethorpes, Humberstone, New Waltham and Waltham. This would give the council greater economies of scale but also greater public profile to generate interest.</p>	[First Comment Repeated]	The boundaries are fine.	[First Comment Repeated]
<p>Our Parish Council should be abolished, it hasn't had a full complement off Parish Councillors for many years. As the first tier of local government, it is wholly ineffective, it has failed to embrace taking over local services from NELC other than employing a part time litter picker. The residents within our community are saddled with a precept from which the majority see little benefit.</p>	My first choice would be abolition, if this wasn't achievable, I would like to see either one Parish Council aligned to the ward boundaries or a southern council made up of Humberston, New Waltham, Waltham, Brinsley and Barnoldby le Beck with properly elected (not co-opted) councillors.	Please see previous answer	None other than the fact our Parish Council lacks the drive and passion needed in a dynamic growing area (it is too large to refer to it as a village)

Stallingborough Parish Council (Two Responses)

Comments on Number of Parish Councillors and Structure	Suggested Changes to Parish Council	Thoughts on Parish Council Boundaries	Other Comments
Good village councillors do good things for our village		No change	No
Stallingborough PC has had new life breathed into it in recent years and has a number of extremely proactive councillors. They have been attracting funding and pushing forward a significant number of	Just carry on with the direction they	It is my considered opinion the villages of Stallingborough, Little London and Habrough are not best served being part of the Immingham ward. Two Ward Councillors are also Town Councillors which some in the villages see as a conflict of interests. Previous	Keep up the good work.

<p>projects, including a well overdue investment in the park. They have worked to help volunteers form Shaping Up Stallingborough who, in conjunction with the PC, have been responsible for many community initiatives, including litter picks, wild flowering, clearing overgrown verges and wasteland and the development of a community orchard on a piece of previously overgrown land. The PC organise various events throughout the year and manage the village hall extremely effectively. The hall is in regular use by various groups, including AA, Slimming World, WI, air rifle club and youth club. All in all, Stallingborough PC represents excellent value for money.</p>	<p>are taking. It's evident there is a definite plan going forward and they have shown they can work in partnership and deliver results.</p>	<p>ward Councillors have shown outright contempt for the villages. Having sat in on One Voice meetings, which included Town Councillors, it was obscene how they talked about the villages and were committed to hoarding everything for Immingham. As villages, we would be better served and have fairer opportunities if we were divorced from the Immingham ward and possibly become a ward of small, medium villages.</p>	
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Waltham Parish Council Twelve Responses)

Comments on Number of Parish Councillors and Structure	Suggested Changes to Parish Council	Thoughts on Parish Council Boundaries	Other Comments
I think Waltham Parish Council is doing alright at present.	None	N/A	I think the council has to be more forward-looking with regard to roads and street cleaning.
Pointless - Just an additional tax on the village residents, having zero powers to fix or influence anything.	Abolish it!	If we keep the Parish Council, then the existing boundaries need to be maintained.	Had the potential to be something. :(
I'm not sure what it actually does or what I pay for so...	Do we need it?	Why does Ashby Cum Fenby and Waltham and Barnoldby le Beck need their own parish councils. Seems a waste of money	
<p>Firstly, I am suspicious that this boundary review is politically motivated. Further at a time when the government are in financial trouble why are they even considering spending money on a project that has been in place for years. I for one would strongly object to find I was no long living in Waltham, but some dreamt up name by a committee. When there much important issues that required attention. The village is now a rat run for cars wanting to avoid Scartho Road at peak times and it's only going to get worse with the extension to Scartho Top housing project. Not to mention the two housing projects at Tollbar and Bradley Road. Instead of wasting money on the preposterous idea of changing a system that's not broken the money should spent on improving the facilities for the Waltham residents. This strikes me of boundary commission that is looking for work to justify their own existence. Personally, I would re-employ them to do some meaningful work that would actually benefit the residents of NEL. This proposal is of no benefit what's so ever in the day-to-day life of this parish. The population are more concerned about being able to pay their mortgage, fuel bills and put food on the table. [Name and Address Removed]</p>	<p>Leave the boundary it as it is, see my previous comments. Improve leisure facilities for the growing number of children with after school hours activities to improve their health, wellbeing and sense of community</p>	<p>Don't move them at any cost to the public coffers. Use the money elsewhere</p>	<p>Meantime the current conservative orders in place and enforcement them were required. They have been eroded in the 38 years I have lived in the parish. Some of the duties that were the responsibility of the council like maintaining grass boarders which were their responsibility when the housing estate was constructed have never been carried out and no change of condition was ever publicly notified</p>
Our Parish Council represents the people of Waltham. They listen to the voices of the community and try to respond as best can.	They are doing OK.	Waltham PC is in the right place.	
Lovely little parish. Local people are happy with things as they are. We are well provided for with amenities in the village. The money we pay in council tax for the upkeep of the parish council is well worth the money	<p>Leave it as it is. If something isn't broken, you don't need to fix it. Safe conservative area anyway so if they were</p>	<p>Quite happy for the boundaries to stay where they are. It's one of the things I like best about Waltham. It isn't Grimsby. One of the things I'm concerned about is the village being swallowed up by new developments and everything merging like it has in</p>	<p>None. Except for the fact that I love it here. We're all happy residents who look after one another and it's a proper little community. There's a low crime rate, we are well looked after</p>

	thinking of changing boundaries for electoral benefit there's very little point	Scartho, which used to be a village in its own right but is now part of the wider town due to being connected to Nunsthorpe via the Scartho top development. Leave the boundaries as they are!	with amenities and council services and nothing at all needs to change.
I think there are too many parish councillors as 7 would be an adequate number, chair plus 6 others. After 2 terms I think councillors should stand down if more than 7 are nominated for the council, which would bring a fresh input of ideas to meetings.	[First comment repeated]	The boundaries are in the right places, but on issues like through roads/routes, planning like the new Toll Bar adjacent parish councils should all have a vote	Should Waltham be made a Town council due to the influx of new residents and future residents with all the new homes being built.
I believe our Parish council works very well for the community, however, with the ever-increasing new developments and therefore rise in the population, perhaps an increase in the number of councillors would be beneficial if it is to remain effective.	Other than an increase in the number of councillors, I think the parish council works very well.	No change	None
No issues at all. WPC do a brilliant job	Everything they do is fine	Do not change the boundary.no reason to so why waste time and money	No
I feel that the concept of the 'parish council' is outdated and no longer particularly useful to either local residents or to the effective administration of N E Lincolnshire council	Wind it up		
Parish Councils should have roughly the same number of residents as each other, as best can be achieved, to share out the work load for the Parish Councillors.	It is working very well thank you	See above	No more, see above
As a resident of Waltham, I think a review of the Waltham Boundary should be considered. There is a building development currently underway fronting onto Bradley Road Waltham. This development currently is classified as being part of Barnoldby le Beck despite most of the residents who have taken residency already consider they live in Waltham.			

Requests for New Parish Councils (Eleven Responses)

Location and Geographical Area	Why is it Needed?	Other Comments
Scartho	I feel that the current council concentrate too much on the areas of the town that don't appreciate the work they do, so within a matter of days the area is just as bad again. Whereas if we had a parish council it would encourage those that don't respect the area to do their bit	It wouldn't have to be a large team, just a committed small group
I would like to see a separation between part of Cleethorpes or an expansion to Humberston. Cleethorpes covers a large area of land and many different property types. I live on the opposite side of North Sea Lane to Humberston catchment and though I love it here I don't feel I am represented by a town council or a parish council. I think it would be nice to create a new one or extend a Humberston. Thank you	One side of the road is represented by a parish, the other isn't. Humberston Fitties and Thorpe park includes many holiday makers, and they have representation which is great, I am pleased for them, but I am classed as Grimsby Road, St Peter's avenue, Chichester road areas as being in Cleethorpes, and I think we need separate representation especially when things go to planning that affect this area where I live, and we have no one to discuss things with.	No. I am happy for an extension to Humberston or a new parish.
Scartho from Cragston Avenue to Boundary Road	Scartho is distinct from the rest of Grimsby and has a good community spirit with local resources and business which would benefit from more local decision making at parish level	

East Marsh area	We don't currently have one although we do have out councillors	
Scartha from Cragston Ave to the boundary with Waltham. New Waltham as the area is distinct from 'Park ward' and Grimsby and it should never have been put into park.	Better allocation of local resources and community events to the whole area of Scartha in order to give community cohesion	
Scartha, Village and surrounding growing	Its Scartha, its growing with more houses popping up so it would useful if you could ask questions	More seats around the village.
Combine Immingham, Habrough and Stallingborough (the Parishes that make up NELC Immingham Ward) into an Immingham Community Council	Possible cost savings from existing budgets, employ one Clerk etc, and matches NELC Ward boundary	
The town and resort of Cleethorpes on its pre-1974 boundaries together with the present parish of Humberston as the Cleethorpes and Humberston Town Council.	Cleethorpes does not have a voice to articulate its particular concerns as a seaside economy and tourist destination - an economy that differs from the rest of NELC. Its merger with Humberston would bring together this tourist economy with a single voice to better serve policy in this area and to constructively engage its further development.	Since the last review of local government in the early 1990s the emparishment of local communities affected by the changes has left few unparished areas in England. Weston-Super-Mare has a population the size of Grimsby yet accepts parish status and pursues interests vital to its community needs. Cleethorpes has similar needs and also requires its emparishment. Please act - the legislation permits you to do so unilaterally.
The town and resort of Cleethorpes on the boundaries of the former Cleethorpes Borough (pre-1974) merged with the contiguous parish of Humberston as Cleethorpes and Humberston Town Council.	The town of Cleethorpes presently has no voice as a distinct community to articulate the particular concerns of its seaside economy and tourist destination status. Its merger with Humberston brings together one voice for local tourism to pursue its further development to the benefit and advantage of the whole of the district.	Communities the size of Cleethorpes have been emparished during and since the last review of local government in the early 1990s. Weston-Super-Mare has a population the size of Grimsby and yet accepts parish status and is accorded such. Cleethorpes needs to be represented with a voice dedicated to its own concerns and needs. Please act - the legislation permits you to do so unilaterally.
<p>I support the emparishment of the town and resort of Cleethorpes.</p> <p>I submit that the town and resort of Cleethorpes (on its pre-1974 boundaries) together with the present parish of Humberston (on its existing boundaries) be merged to create a new parish as the Cleethorpes and Humberston Town Council. This would dissolve the present Charter Trustees for the town of Cleethorpes (exercised as the only unparished area in the former Cleethorpes Borough).</p> <p>The new parish would have precepting powers and these would replace the present Charter Trustees precept and the present Humberston parish precept. This new parish would enlarge the tax base of the present Cleethorpes area and</p>	<p>Cleethorpes does not have a voice to articulate its particular concerns as a seaside economy and tourist destination - an economy that differs from the rest of NELC.</p> <p>Its merger with Humberston would bring together this tourist economy with a single voice to better serve policy in this important area and to constructively engage in its further development.</p> <p>Since the last review of local government in the early 1990s the emparishment of local communities affected by the changes has left few unparished areas in England.</p> <p>Weston-Super-Mare has a population the size of Grimsby yet now has parish status in order to pursue interests vital to its community needs.</p> <p>Cleethorpes has similar needs and also requires its emparishment for its future development and its continuing contribution to the economy of the whole of the district.</p>	<p>The management and administration of cemeteries and allotments would require transfer from the district to the new parish.</p> <p>The district might consider the delegation of the tourism portfolio to the new parish in areas such as the tourist information office.</p> <p>The new parish might conveniently operate from Cleethorpes Town Hall or the facilities at Cleethorpes Library.</p>

<p>replace the present Humberston parish precept at a much lower rate due to this enlargement.</p> <p>The new parish precept would also replace the current Special Expenses paid by the Cleethorpes area alone for its cemeteries and allotments.</p>		
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* A request to have a parish council covering Tetney and Holten-Le-Clay was made, albeit this is out of our area and therefore cannot be considered as part of this review.

General Comments (Twenty-Three Responses)

General Feedback
Why do we have to be double taxed and assume ward standing
too much bureaucracy which leads to a waste of resources
As a former officer of NELC (retired October 2022), having served there since 1996 and previously in Great Grimsby Borough Council from 1983, I believe that the current arrangements for Town and Parish Councils have served the borough very well since 1996.
Consideration should be given to grouping of parishes, particularly those who regularly carry unfilled vacancies.
I believe that the parish and town councils provide an incredibly important part of the governance processes for the whole of North East Lincolnshire, enabling the views of individual communities to be represented and preserving and promoting the facilities and heritage of specific areas of our borough. I would not want to see any parish councils either being merged or dissolved.
Scrap them and just have the main council
Live in an area not represented by a parish council.
As mistakes have been made over the past 4 years, I would propose 2 years would be a more pleasing time for an election.
I think they should remain as they are.
Regrettably, I feel that NELC do not value the work of Parish Councils and often omit consultation with them, or if going through the motions of consultation, treat any views made by a Parish Council on the subject as an irrelevance. I certainly believe that the views and requirements of small Parishes are 'lost' amidst the interests of the larger Town and Parish Councils, making residents of the smaller villages feel that their views are not taken into account during decision making processes of NELC and thus rendering their Parish Council a 'pointless layer of bureaucracy'
throughout local government I feel there is too much bureaucracy and members of different parties allow their differences to affect the smooth running of the Town Council when they should focus on the best interests of the residents
I think traditional parish boundaries should have protected status from wilful change. It's our heritage.
Does the benefit outweigh the cost of administering these town and so referred to as parish, village councils / parishes and reporting on what these councils do should it not be informed to all of N E Lincolnshire residents rather than secret little sub sections of societies existing in isolation if that actually is what pertains to be the case. Thank you.
Currently satisfactory
I can't see the need to do anything with the parish councils, they seem to operate ok as they are, why mess with something that works, and it will cost money that could be used for other things that are needed.
The boundary locations do not work- I love on boundary farm court- I vote for Waltham MPs however do not travel into Waltham very often and I pay council tax to Scartho.
What is the purpose of Parish Councils? I think it is unfair that people in areas with Parish Councils have to pay more council tax to support another layer of local government
There are a number of new housing estates being created in NEL and I think that this may require arrangements in those areas to be reviewed.
Why are we once again wasting time and money when it could be better spent in the community.
CCGT
They seem to spend a lot of time-wasting energy on very trivial matters than dealing with serious ones. Also, some do not seem to know the code they should follow and make blunders.
They are a waste of time and administrative burden. They may provide minimal services, but they don't take advantage of the precepts they could raise to improve facilities. NELC have used them to pick up the jobs they should be providing from the centre to ensure equity for all areas of living across the borough. If you have a proactive parish / town council great; if not you're left to live in a dump
With regards to possible Parish changes highlighted by your four bullet points in the column. I think that where there are increased populations in wards the number of parish councillors should be increased, and conversely where there are decreased populations in wards the number of parish councillors should be decreased. I also think where there are places that don't support their parish council, then they should be merged with a neighbouring parish.