

Communities Scrutiny Panel

DATE	23 rd November 2023
REPORT OF	Helen Isaacs – Assistant Chief Executive
SUBJECT	Parish Council Community Governance Review
STATUS	Open

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 one town council in North East Lincolnshire as set out in the report.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The report advises the Panel of the submissions received during the second period of public consultation (8th September to 3rd November 2023) on the Parish Council Community Governance Review. Each of the submissions received during the second consultation period are set out in full in Appendix 2.

MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION

The Panel is asked to make recommendations to Council on which, if any, of the matters raised in the consultation submissions should be final recommendations for changes to parish council governance and/or electoral arrangements in North East Lincolnshire. Guidance on conducting the review and a brief summary of the evidence received during the second consultation period is contained in Appendix 1.

These final recommendations will be considered at a meeting of Council on 14th December 2023. These final recommendations will be subject of a Reorganisation Order that will take effect from the next parish council elections scheduled for May 2027.

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 proposed timetable.
- 1.2 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.
- 1.3 Members of the Communities Scrutiny Panel considered the feedback received during the first consultation period on 15th August 2023. The Panel made a recommendation to Council to change the Town Council Ward boundaries, in accordance with a north/south split along Pelham Road which had been recommended by Immingham Town Council. The electoral and governance arrangements for the remainder of the parish councils were recommended to

remain unchanged. No new parish councils were proposed for North East Lincolnshire.

- 1.4 These recommendations were agreed by Council on 7th September 2023. For the purpose of the community governance review, these recommendations became draft recommendations which were then subject to a second period of public and stakeholder consultation. This consultation was undertaken between 8th September and 3rd November 2023.
- 1.5 The Communities Scrutiny Panel is asked to consider the feedback from this second period of the public consultation. There is a summary of the evidence received in Appendix 1 and all of the votes cast and feedback received is set out in full in Appendix 2. The Panel will make recommendations for any final changes to parish council governance and/or electoral arrangements to Council on 14th December 2023.
- 1.6 If any further changes are proposed to the parish council boundaries as a result of this second period of consultation, a third and final period of consultation will need to be made on just those parish councils concerned. Each household in the area concerned will be consulted, with a further report providing feedback on this consultation brought back to this Panel and then Council early next year.
- 1.7 The final recommendations will be subject of a Reorganisation Order that will take effect from the next parish council elections scheduled for May 2027.

2. RISKS AND OPPORTUNITIES

- 2.1 There is a risk that someone could challenge the outcome of the community governance review through judicial review. Council 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 for the review were set out the timetable for the review presented to Council on 25th May 2023.

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 received back 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. A second period of public consultation was held between 8th September and 3rd November 2023.

4. FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

- 4.1 There will be some financial costs involved in undertaking this review (e.g. postage). 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 in March 2010.

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 suggested by consultation respondees for other areas of North East Lincolnshire.

11. BACKGROUND PAPERS

Council – 25 May 2023 [Council – Special Meeting | Democracy \(nelincs.gov.uk\)](https://nelincs.gov.uk)
Communities Scrutiny Panel – 15th August 2023 [Special – Communities Scrutiny Panel | Democracy \(nelincs.gov.uk\)](https://nelincs.gov.uk)
Council – 7th September 2023 [Special Meeting of North East Lincolnshire Council | Democracy \(nelincs.gov.uk\)](https://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

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HELEN ISAACS
ASSISTANT CHIEF EXECUTIVE

North East Lincolnshire Council

Parish Council Community Governance Review

Analysis of Stage 2 Consultation Responses

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 or parish boundaries, the proposed changes will come into effect at the next scheduled parish council elections.

2. First Consultation Period

- 2.1 The first consultation period 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 attending a public meeting 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. These were set out in full in Appendices 2 and 3 in the report to the Communities Scrutiny Panel on 15th August 2023 (Link: [Special – Communities Scrutiny Panel | Democracy \(nelincs.gov.uk\)](https://www.nelincs.gov.uk/special-communities-scrutiny-panel-democracy)).

Second Consultation Period

- 2.4 The second consultation period took place between 8th September and 3rd November 2023. The same consultation methods were used as specified in paragraph 2.1 above, noting that the household brochure sent out in June did refer to a second consultation period. In addition, a letter was sent to every household in Immingham about the proposed changes to the Town Wards.
- 2.5 140 completed responses were received, plus five emails. Some of the emails asked queries about the review, rather than gave views. All of the comments received (except the queries) are set out in full in Appendix 2.

3. Feedback from Consultation

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

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

Feedback from Second Stage Consultation: One person voted in favour of the proposal to maintain the size of the parish council and the parish boundary. No written comments were received.

Scrutiny Panel Recommendation to Council:

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

Feedback from First Stage 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 Second Stage Consultation: No votes or comments were received.

Scrutiny Panel Recommendation to Council:

3.3 Bradley Parish Council

Electorate: 195 (1st August 2023 register)
Recommended Number of Parish Councillors: 5 to 7
Number of Parish Councillors: 6

Feedback from First Stage 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 Second Stage Consultation: One person voted in favour of the proposal to maintain the size of the parish council and the parish boundary. Two individuals stated that they do not know or had no opinion. The Parish Council has written in favour of the proposal, but asked for the boundary to be kept under review.

Scrutiny Panel Recommendation to Council:

3.4 Brigsley Parish Council

Electorate: 307 (1st August 2023 register)
Recommended Number of Parish Councillors: 5 to 7
Number of Parish Councillors: 7

Feedback from First Stage 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 Second Stage Consultation: One person voted in favour of the proposal to maintain the size of the parish council and the parish boundary. That

individual confirmed that the parish council was the right size and incorporates all properties.

Scrutiny Panel Recommendation to Council:

3.5 Great Coates Village Council

Electorate: 1,103 (1st August 2023 register)
Recommended Number of Parish Councillors: 8
Number of Parish Councillors: 9

Feedback from First Stage 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 Second Stage Consultation: Six people voted in favour of the proposal to maintain the size of the parish council and the parish boundary. Two felt there should be a change to the number of parish councillors and one felt there should be a change to the parish boundary. Three people stated that they did not know or had no opinion. Six comments were received. One felt there should be a reduction in the number of parish councillors if the roles are paid. Another highlighted the issue of the village hall. Three agreed with the proposal. The final person felt the village council should come under Grimsby as they were only interested in running the village hall and in-bloom.

Scrutiny Panel Recommendation to Council:

3.6 Habrough Parish Council

Electorate: 497 (1st August 2023 register)
Recommended Number of Parish Councillors: 5 to 7
Number of Parish Councillors: 7

Feedback from First Stage 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 Second Stage Consultation: Two people voted in favour of the proposal to maintain the size of the parish council and the parish boundary. One felt there should be a change to the parish boundary and another did not know or had no opinion. No written comments were received.

Scrutiny Panel Recommendation to Council:

3.7 Healing Parish Council

Electorate: 2,515 (1st August 2023 register)
Recommended Number of Parish Councillors: 10
Number of Parish Councillors: 10

Feedback from First Stage 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 Second Stage Consultation: Six people voted in favour of the proposal to maintain the size of the parish council and the parish boundary. One person did not know or had no opinion. Two written comments were received in favour of the proposal, albeit one pointed out a shortage of parish councillors. The other felt the parish council seemed to work and noted the village was expanding.

Scrutiny Panel Recommendation to Council:

3.8 Humberston Village Council

Electorate: 5,444 (1st August 2023 register)
Recommended Number of Parish Councillors: 13
Number of Parish Councillors: 12

Feedback from First Stage 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. With the electorate, the National Association of Local Councils recommends 13 Parish Councillors. With considerable development in the parish, it is recommended that the number of parish councillors remains unchanged, given the current shortage of parish councillors. Whilst several people highlighted the positive work of the parish council, some governance issues were highlighted.

Feedback from Second Stage Consultation: Five people voted in favour of the proposal to maintain the size of the parish council and the parish boundary. Two did not know or had no opinion. Two written comments were received in favour of the proposal. One stated that Humberston was a village and should not expand. The other had attended a few parish council meetings and felt the parish councillors were doing a reasonable job.

Scrutiny Panel Recommendation to Council:

3.9 Immingham Town Council

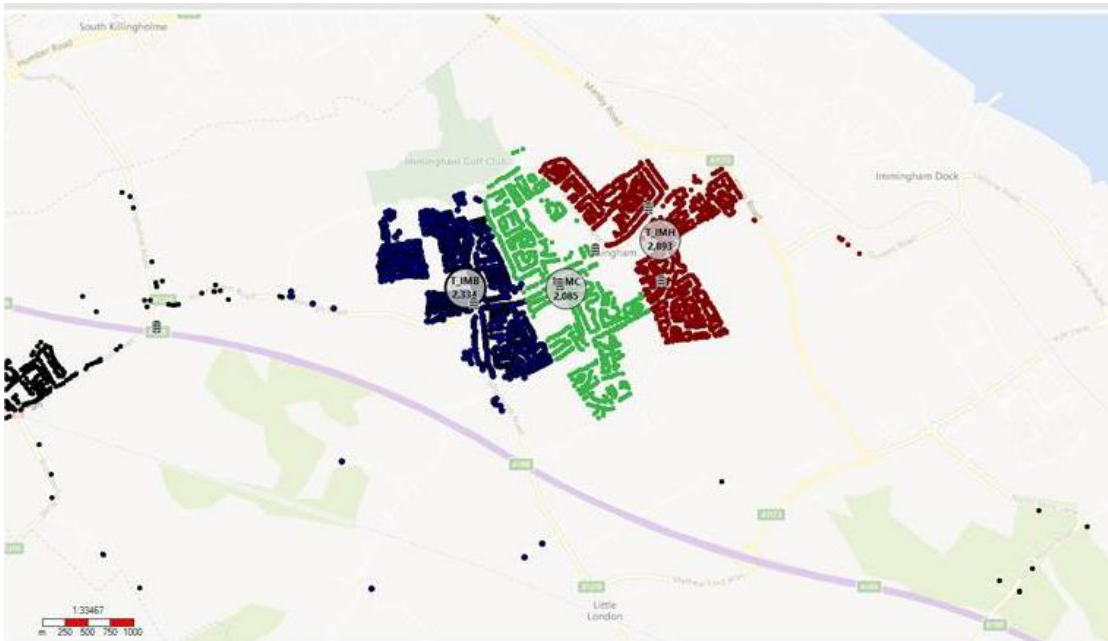
Electorate: 7,321 (1st August 2023 register)
Recommended Number of Town Councillors: 15
Number of Town Councillors: 15 (split into 3 Town Wards: Bluestone Ward – 3 Councillors; Central Ward – 6; and Humber Ward – 6)

Feedback from First Stage 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
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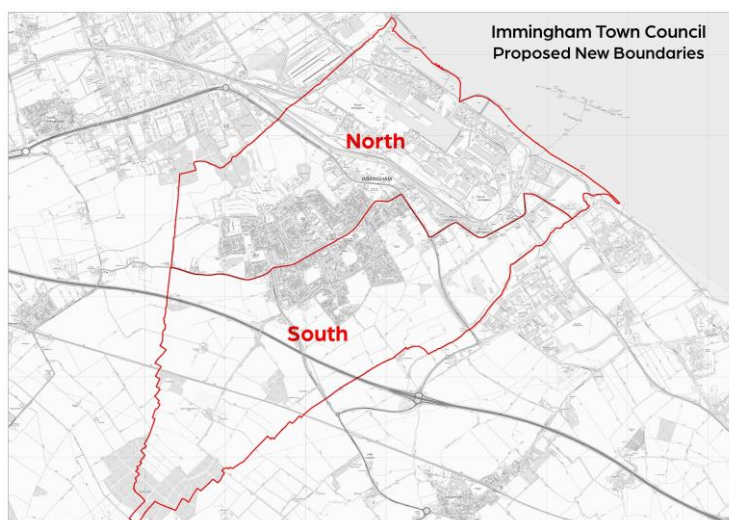
Option 1: Change Number of Town Councillors in Town Wards

	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 2028	3769	4,108
No of Councillors	7	8
Average Number of Electors per Councillor	538	513



Immingham Town Council is supportive of option 2 and would like to attend the Scrutiny Panel meeting to present their case.

The view of the Councillors is that 2 wards, North & 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. With regard 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 Town Councillors in North Ward and 8 in South Ward.

Feedback from Second Stage Consultation: 40 individuals voted in favour of the north/south Town Ward split, with 16 against and 2 having no opinion. 35 individuals voted in favour of the retaining 15 Town Ward Councillors, with 14 against and 7 having no opinion. The numerous written comments received to both questions are set out in full in Appendix 2.

Scrutiny Panel Recommendation to Council:

3.10 Irby Parish Council

Electorate: 102 (1st August 2023 register)
Recommended Number of Parish Councillors: 5 to 7
Number of Parish Councillors: 5

Feedback from First Stage Consultation: None received.

Feedback from Second Stage Consultation: One person voted in favour of the proposal to maintain the size of the parish council and the parish boundary. No written comments were received.

Scrutiny Panel Recommendation to Council:

3.11 Lacey Parish Council

Electorate: 2,687 (1st August 2023 register)
Recommended Number of Parish Councillors: 10
Number of Parish Councillors: 10

Feedback from First Stage 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 Second Stage Consultation: Six people voted in favour of the proposal to maintain the size of the parish council and the parish boundary. One person did not know or had no opinion. One person wrote in favour of the proposal, stating that Laceby was growing rapidly.

Scrutiny Panel Recommendation to Council:

3.12 New Waltham Parish Council

Electorate: 4,542 (1st August 2023 register)
Recommended Number of Parish Councillors: 13
Number of Parish Councillors: 15

Feedback from First Stage 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 Second Stage Consultation: Three people voted in favour of the proposal to maintain the size of the parish council and the parish boundary. One felt that there should be a change to the parish council boundary, and another had no opinion. Two written comments were received. One felt that the parish council should merge with Humberston, Waltham and Cleethorpes to form Cleethorpes Town Council. The second respondee had no problem with either proposal.

Scrutiny Panel Recommendation to Council:

3.13 Stallingborough Parish Council

Electorate: 1,069 (1st August 2023 register)
Recommended Number of Parish Councillors: 8
Number of Parish Councillors: 9

Feedback from First Stage 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 Second Stage Consultation: Five people voted in favour of the proposal to maintain the size of the parish council and the parish boundary. One felt that there should be a change to the parish boundary. Another felt that the number of parish councillors should be reduced, which was confirmed in their written comment. Another individual had no opinion.

Scrutiny Panel Recommendation to Council:

3.14 Waltham Parish Council

Electorate: 5,089 (1st August 2023 register)

Recommended Number of Parish Councillors: 14
Number of Parish Councillors: 15

Feedback from First Stage 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 is such close proximity.

Feedback from Second Stage Consultation: Ten people voted in favour of the proposal to maintain the size of the parish council and the parish boundary. 2 felt that the number of parish councillors should be changed. 3 felt that the boundary should be changed. 2 had no opinion. Seven people gave comments in favour of the proposal, with comments like the parish council works well, reflects the electorate and no reason to change. Three comments were received about the parish council boundary. One felt it should be smaller and two felt that the houses on Bradley Road should be incorporated into Waltham. The person who had no opinion explained that they did not know why we had parish councils.

Scrutiny Panel Recommendation to Council:

3.15 **Requests for New Parish Councils**

Feedback from First Stage Consultation: The requests for new parish councils and why the respondents felt these are needed are set out in Appendix 2 in the report presented to this Panel on 15th August 2023.

Feedback from Second Stage Consultation: Eight people felt that the Council was wrong not to consider requests for new parish councils, with a further one stating that parish council representation could be useful. The views are set out in full in Appendix 2 to this report.

Scrutiny Panel Recommendation to Council:

Appendix 2

North East Lincolnshire Council

Parish Council Community Governance Review

Stage 2 Consultation Responses

Immingham Town Council (Fifty-Eight Responses, plus Three E-Mails)

Q1. Are you happy with the proposal from Immingham Town Council (two new Town Wards, split North and South of Pelham Road with 7 Town Councillors in North Ward and 8 in South Ward)?

Votes:

Answer	Number of Votes
Yes	40
No	16
No opinion	2

Written Comments Received:

Yes
Got to be easier with 2 instead of 3
Makes it simple
The number of people in each area is to be more equal
Seems sense to have proportional representation
Seems to make sense
It means a lot less complications of finding who your councillor is.
Much better to divide the load (residents) more evenly
It seems like a sensible idea and evens the numbers out across the town
The proposal looks simpler and fairer on paper
I agree
It is better balanced
Makes sense and residents will find it easier to contact relevant councillors
It makes more sense to split the town via main road and equal out the potential number of voters
Makes sense, evens up the average number of electors per councillor and Pelham road splits the town in two anyway so it simplifies the boundaries making it easier to work out which ward you're in.
It better reflects the layout of the parish.
Seems a logical change to simplify the system for residents.
Seems fair though 15 councillors seems excessive
This seems a much more proportionate way of working
Seems to make more sense having an even spread of councillors. Maybe we will actually get some services in the town since we do pay the highest council tax in NELC but have the worst facilities like parks etc.
No
Think the photographs of boundaries new and old are very poor quality and if one of the reasons was that people don't know which ward they are in, then these two photographs will not help in any way at all

Why change, doesn't work now. You never see or hear from them, even at election time!
I believe the proposed split along Pelham Road is the wrong way. My view is Central Ward should be shared between Bluestone Ward and Humber Ward. This is more in keeping with local descriptions of the town. The areas at each end of Pelham Road are referred to "top end" and "bottom end".
The outline map is so small that it is still not possible to discern the two proposed wards!!!
I don't believe the town council is fit for purpose
Absolute joke. The new proposal means the electorate gets councillor's they didn't vote for. Surely the most logical option is to move one or two from central to bluestone. 15 councillors is far too many. 12 is sufficient. It's bad enough we have a town council at all. And please get rid of Immingham in bloom. The volunteers are arrogant and park in dangerous places to water plants
I think we should do away with Immingham town council completely. They do nothing for us compared to the amount of council tax we pay.
I would like to know how each current ward voted during recent local and National elections. For example, did Bluestone ward have more votes for labour or Conservative etc. Also, the demographic area proposed is much larger in area, will these areas take other smaller villages into their catchment areas
It was voted that Immingham TC be abolished previously. This doesn't give them a mandate to increase wards. I would call for another referendum on whether the TC should be abolished, continue in current form, or be allowed the changes it's proposing.
We will be under represented and are ignored enough already

No Opinion
Town council does not do a great deal for the area, and we pay a precept when only certain areas are well maintained. No police presence - station is often closed, no foot patrols antisocial behaviour around the shops and speeding youths, litter.

E-Mails:

I think 2 wards is definitely better than 3, but since there are 15 councillors, 1 ward would be better than 2.

[A few emails asked queries about the review, the proposal from Immingham Town Council or current/proposed Town Ward boundaries]

Q2. Immingham Town Council would like to maintain current 15 Town Councillors, which is consistent with recommended number suggested by National Association of Local Councils? What is your opinion on maintaining the size of the Town Council?

Votes:

Answer	Number of Votes
I agree with the proposal	35
I disagree with the proposal	14
No opinion	7

Written Comments Received:

Agree with Proposal
I think that should be a minimum, although I have concerns about cost in council tax, as we are already the highest taxed in NE Lincs
A little uncertain only because I cannot work out the mathematics of the ratios and on reading it isn't 100% easily decipherable. I wouldn't like to have more than is standard because they cost and are not always effective.
It would offer better representation across the town
I don't know
Proportional representation
There are already too many.
I would be happy with keeping this structure but also hope that we have an equal number of councillors in each boundary who know their residents' needs, and preferably live in same boundary.
Within the 15 parish councillors some may try to make a difference.
We need as many voices as possible to ensure Immingham is not a poor relation of Cleethorpes, as it has been for as long as I can remember.
Has worked well so far, no need to change
It is a town in its own right not a suburb of Grimsby or a village

Disagree with Proposal
Get rid of them all!
I believe the split along Pelham Road is the wrong way. My view is Central Ward should be shared between Bluestone Ward and Humber Ward. This is more in keeping with local descriptions of the town. The areas at each end of Pelham Road are referred to as "Top End" and "Bottom End"
It needs reducing by at least 3 members, get them off the wage bill
Makes no difference as things will not improve
Seems a lot of counsellors and to do what?
We had a referendum and said we didn't want any town council at all! They achieve nothing!
Too many councillors who do nothing for Immingham

No Opinion
Most if the local area populace actually do not now who the 15 councillors for Immingham are. Is there a current value, whether monetary or politically for 15 councillors
We voted in a referendum to get rid of the council, and yet it is still here

Ashby Cum Fenby Parish Council (One Response)

Votes:

Answer	Number of Votes
I agree with the proposal to maintain the size of the parish council and the parish boundary	1
I disagree with the proposal and think that there should be a change to the number of parish councillors	0
I disagree with the proposal and think that there should be a change to the parish boundary	0
Don't know / No opinion	0

Written Comments Received: None

Barnoldby Le Beck Parish Council (No Responses)

No votes or comments received.

Bradley Parish Council (Three Responses Plus One E-Mail)

Votes:

Answer	Number of Votes
I agree with the proposal to maintain the size of the parish council and the parish boundary	1
I disagree with the proposal and think that there should be a change to the number of parish councillors	0
I disagree with the proposal and think that there should be a change to the parish boundary	0
Don't know / No opinion	2

Written Comments Received: None

E-Mail: Bradley Parish Council at this point, are in agreement with the drafted recommendations that have been listed. We also feel that six councillors for a parish with a population of 195 residents is adequate for its size and as a council we are happy to the boundary suggestion to be kept under review.

Brigsley Parish Council (One Response)

Votes:

Answer	Number of Votes
I agree with the proposal to maintain the size of the parish council and the parish boundary	1
I disagree with the proposal and think that there should be a change to the number of parish councillors	0
I disagree with the proposal and think that there should be a change to the parish boundary	0
Don't know / No opinion	0

Written Comments Received:

It's just the right size and incorporates all properties (option - agree with proposal)

Great Coates Village Council (Twelve Responses)

Votes:

Answer	Number of Votes
I agree with the proposal to maintain the size of the parish council and the parish boundary	6
I disagree with the proposal and think that there should be a change to the number of parish councillors	2
I disagree with the proposal and think that there should be a change to the parish boundary	1
Don't know / No opinion	3

Written Comments Received:

- If the roles are paid, then reducing the numbers is a logical cost saving step (option – wants change to number of Parish Councillors)
- The village council a few years ago as you may know ignored the wishes of around 80% of the residents in a Referendum organised by NELC. Over a Village Hall the village not only lost its unique Reading Rooms it shamefully lost its War Memorial for about 3 years. The Clerk at the time then left the village and became Clerk at Humberstone who also got a new village hall, I understand she then went back to Healing and they got a village hall. In the meantime, the village hall in Great Coates is starting to leak as it is made of Plywood, the present council went to the builder, but it seems it was only given a 1-year guarantee! Excuse me it cost over £300,000, it's made of plywood, and it has a 1-year guarantee. I was under the impression councillors and Clerks were on the council for the community (option – don't know / no opinion)
- Why chance (option – agree with proposal)
- Because most parish boundaries are historic and long defined. (option – agree with proposal)
- I think the parish council should go and come under Grimsby as all they are interested in is the running of the village hall and the in-bloom group (option – wants change to parish boundary)
- We as a village are quite capable of maintaining ourselves without Bureaucratic meddling from people who don't live here (option – agree with proposal).

Habrough Parish Council (Four Responses)

Votes:

Answer	Number of Votes
I agree with the proposal to maintain the size of the parish council and the parish boundary	2
I disagree with the proposal and think that there should be a change to the number of parish councillors	0
I disagree with the proposal and think that there should be a change to the parish boundary	1
Don't know / No opinion	1

Written Comments Received: None

Healing Parish Council (Seven Responses)

Votes:

Answer	Number of Votes
I agree with the proposal to maintain the size of the parish council and the parish boundary	6
I disagree with the proposal and think that there should be a change to the number of parish councillors	0
I disagree with the proposal and think that there should be a change to the parish boundary	0
Don't know / No opinion	1

Written Comments Received:

- Whilst the village of Healing is expanding the current system seems to work. The residents are informed of PC activities and are encouraged to attend meetings. (option - support proposal)
- We don't have many parish councillors nobody seems to want to do it. (option – support proposal)

Humberston Village Council (Seven Responses)

Votes:

Answer	Number of Votes
I agree with the proposal to maintain the size of the parish council and the parish boundary	5
I disagree with the proposal and think that there should be a change to the number of parish councillors	0
I disagree with the proposal and think that there should be a change to the parish boundary	0
Don't know / No opinion	2

Written Comments Received:

- It's a village and the boundary should not expand. (option – support proposal)
- I have attended a few meetings and think the councillors do a reasonable job. (option – support proposal)

Irby Parish Council (One Response)

Votes:

Answer	Number of Votes
I agree with the proposal to maintain the size of the parish council and the parish boundary	1
I disagree with the proposal and think that there should be a change to the number of parish councillors	0
I disagree with the proposal and think that there should be a change to the parish boundary	0
Don't know / No opinion	0

Written Comments Received: None

Laceby Parish Council (Seven Responses)

Votes:

Answer	Number of Votes
I agree with the proposal to maintain the size of the parish council and the parish boundary	6
I disagree with the proposal and think that there should be a change to the number of parish councillors	0
I disagree with the proposal and think that there should be a change to the parish boundary	0
Don't know / No opinion	1

Written Comments Received:

- Laceby is growing at a rapid rate due to ongoing and excessive houses being built on its green belt (option – agree with proposal).

New Waltham Parish Council (Five Responses)

Votes:

Answer	Number of Votes
I agree with the proposal to maintain the size of the parish council and the parish boundary	3
I disagree with the proposal and think that there should be a change to the number of parish councillors	0
I disagree with the proposal and think that there should be a change to the parish boundary	1
Don't know / No opinion	1

Written Comments Received:

- New Waltham, Humberston and Waltham should merge with Cleethorpes to form a Cleethorpes Town Council. Greater number of residents means greater representation and more democracy. (option – disagree with proposal and should be a change to parish boundary)
- I have no problems with either of these points. (option – agree with proposal)

Stallingborough Parish Council (Eight Responses)

Votes:

Answer	Number of Votes
I agree with the proposal to maintain the size of the parish council and the parish boundary	5
I disagree with the proposal and think that there should be a change to the number of parish councillors	1
I disagree with the proposal and think that there should be a change to the parish boundary	1
Don't know / No opinion	1

Written Comments Received:

- Can manage with fewer (option – disagree with proposal and should be a change to number of parish councillors)

Waltham Parish Council (Seventeen Responses)

Votes:

Answer	Number of Votes
I agree with the proposal to maintain the size of the parish council and the parish boundary	10
I disagree with the proposal and think that there should be a change to the number of parish councillors	2
I disagree with the proposal and think that there should be a change to the parish boundary	3
Don't know / No opinion	2

Written Comments Received:

Agree with Proposal

- It reflects the electorate of Waltham
- I work closely with Waltham Parish councillors as part of the Waltham Windmill group and appreciate their hard work and support for the Windmill. I also believe that local parish council are valuable as they are close to the people and understand local issues

- The parish is large enough
- Seems to work
- Its fine as it is.
- No adequate reason to change and change costs money short term and long term
- Waltham is not yet attached to Grimsby only by road; therefore it remains autonomous although growing rapidly. I believe its size remains governable.

Disagree with Proposal and Should be Change to Parish Boundary

- Should be smaller
- The boundary should now include Barnoldby le Beck. The new development across Bradley Road is in Barnoldby le Beck and the total houses built there will exceed the number in the old PC. These residents will use all the facilities in Waltham and little if any in Barnoldby le Beck. They should be included in Waltham PC
- The boundary discrepancy with Barnoldby le Beck should be addressed. Now is the time to finally get the houses on station road into Waltham parish and have clear boundaries in place

Don't Know/No Opinion

- Not got much idea of why we have parish councils

Requests for New Parish Councils (Nine Responses)

Votes:

Answer	Number of Votes
Yes	0
No	8
Unsure	1

Written Comments Received:

No

- No one in Cleethorpes was aware of this issue been debated. Was a survey issued to every house in Cleethorpes, we never reached anything as we would have supported our town having its own Parish Council which it deserves
- Another of people in Cleethorpes were unaware of this a survey should have been posted to all residents in Cleethorpes which would have made a significant difference to the request
- The legal framework does not require any minimum number to request a new parish. It is within the powers of the district authority to create a new parish whenever they chose. So why hasn't North East Lincolnshire done so?
- We wasn't aware of this debate and none of my neighbours were aware of it. We didn't receive any info on it so was this a valid debate ?
- Scartho is big enough to be independent of Grimsby and is different in demographics such a ward should also include the old boundary which includes parts of park ward.
- Other communities the size of Cleethorpes have a town council. It is required to provide Cleethorpes input to the decision process. NELC are refusing to instigate a Town Council as they clearly intend to absorb and integrate Cleethorpes into Grimsby and do not see the town as a separate community. Cleethorpes residents disagree.

Unsure

- When your councillors are, on the whole, invisible it would be good to have easy access to representation.