

East Suffolk Merger Consultation Responses

Email Responses

Date	Direct Response
Tue 1/11/2016 14:30	Appendix A
Mon 07/11/2016 14:15	I would like to protest ant the merger between Waveney and suffolk coastal
Tue 08/11/2016 12:50	I have lived in Kesgrave for 16 years having moved from Ipswich in 2000 and, having studied the proposals for the merging of Suffolk Coastal & Waveney councils, I would give it my full support
Tue 08/11/2016 19:41	Appendix B
Wed 09/11/2016 12:52	I do not agree with the merger
Wed 09/11/2016 14:00	Appendix C
Wed 09/11/2016 22:00	NO MERGER
Thu 10/11/2016 09:17	A big resounding no. Services would be diluted even more than they are now. Even the shape of the new district does not lend itself to efficient working. I understand that it would be the biggest district in England. With two sets of council offices and to sets of running costs - no.

<p>Thu 10/11/2016 13:21</p>	<p>I have been urged to write to you with any suggestions but, being new to this area, having moved to Oulton Broad in May this year, I really do not have any suggestions as I love the area and am very happy that I am living here. I see that many residents feel that Lowestoft is left out of important decisions, and it is evident that it was once a thriving busy town, so I do hope that the merged Councils will keep this in mind and think of ways to bring business back to this area to create jobs and improve residents' spirits.</p>
<p>Thu 10/11/2016 16:45</p>	<p>I am writing today to oppose the proposed merger between WDC and SCDC, there is no sense in this proposal, other than to hide the fact that Waveney District Council is £92million in debt! The wish would appear to get closer to money coming out of London, and not to bring money to Waveney, a merger will see Waveney as the poor relation! I'm also against the fact that we will lose councillors and therefore the same level of representation. Nothing about this proposal is good, end off! So to reiterate, I AM STRONGLY AGAINST THE PROPOSED MERGER BETWEEN WDC AND SCDC</p>
<p>Sat 12/11/2016 14:25</p>	<p>I fear that this will only result in a more distant bureaucracy and expense for the council tax payer.Waveney will I'm sure ,lose out to its more affluent partner in the distribution of funds.Keep things as they are.</p>
<p>Sat 12/11/2016 17:39</p>	<p>I would like to oppose any merger with Suffolk Coastal or indeed any other council, we need to stay focused in Waveney to fight for what WE want and not have to contend with any other council deciding whether we get funding or not. We have a bad enough time getting funding on our own, it isn't going to get any better having other towns against us. We have fought for years getting a new bridge, it now seems we are getting one, well I hope we are. For these reasons I strongly oppose any proposal to merge.</p>
<p>Sat 12/11/2016 23:23</p>	<p>Local "politicians" were not elected to dismantle the current status quo and impose what will be a completely new and alternative political entity on the public they serve. The proposals are a constitutional change and were not a policy of any particular party at the time of the last elections hence these proposals are beyond the remit of current county/district councilors. As such a referendum is required and necessary to democratically determine whether or not a merger is desirable. In view of the above I am not in favour of a merger.</p>
<p>Sun 13/11/2016 10:45</p>	<p>I wish to record my complete disagreement to the current proposal proceeding without a formal referendum of the voters in both districts. Waveney District Council has no mandate for this change, which will markedly affect the representation of people within the Districts. Additionally, the financial case for merging is weak, as most of the savings through joint operations have already been made. The £400k 'soft' saving is surely just someone's idea of a joke! It will never materialise in better services.</p>

Sun 13/11/2016 14:27	I am a great believer to keep decisions local for the local people . so I am definitely against a super council and the merger.
Sun 13/11/2016 16:21	I am e-mailing to say that I am totally 100% against any such merger taking place. I dk not beilve that any such merger would benefit Lowestoft in any way shape or form! I believe it will just leave the residents here having their town run by yet more faceless councilors that have never set foot in the town, who do not understand just what is best for this town of ours. We wil, be back of the queue yet again for any monies needed for infrastructure, eg road improvements, new social housing, school improvements etc. None of this would be good for this town, and it would most likely lead to the third crossing being drlayed yet again if not cancelled as these people who do not live here have no idea just how bad and time consuming traveling in to/out of town can be. The road system into/out of this area badly needes updating if this area is to survive and attract new businesses here, our presant one badly lets this area down badly. I have sent this email as anyone who is opposed yo ghe merger of the councils into a super council I being told to write and make their feelings known.
Mon 14/11/2016 07:09	Totally against the proposal, end of.

<p>Mon 14/11/2016 17:18</p>	<p>This is probably a good idea and plan, however: The emphasis appears to be on cost savings – little other benefit is demonstrated by the proposals. Staff savings of between 1&2% (£366k pa) are modest – how are cost savings made if staff savings are modest? Where does the additional £900k pa cost saving come from? The joint business plan is incapable of being proved a success or failure – it’s mostly vague and aspirational. Economic growth will be delivered simply by population growth rather than achieving any meaningful economic improvement in people’s lives. The ten critical success factors are all incapable of being measured as no criteria for success are offered – this is meaningless. The planned actions for East Suffolk (and SCDC/Waveney) are all input based rather than output based. It’s all about doing more stuff. Has any thought been given to simply not doing some of these things or just doing less and leaving things to the people to do for themselves? It’s clearly a good thing if essential public services are delivered in an economic and efficient manner. The proposal probably achieves this but would not be worth doing if there is a reduction in local accountable democracy and by a larger council becoming more remote from voters. Fewer councillors and larger wards will be a step in that direction.</p> <p>However, there is little the council can do to improve wealth creation or other economic benefit – it should stop trying to do that.</p>
<p>Tue 15/11/2016 13:35</p>	<p>I have read the supporting documents. Considerable claims are made about the added value of combining the two organisations - and the potential for detrimental effects if the combination does not occur - yet the total savings forecast from the change are only £1.3m per annum of which less than £1m is cash. So it is unclear how what is presented as merely the final step in a process of closer co-operation over a number of years can possibly have the benefits claimed for it. The FAQ document says that savings of £10m are needed over three years, yet this change will contribute less than one-third of that total - from where will the remainder be found? Finally, I note that Waveney has reserves of £160m as at the last balance sheet date but Suffolk Coastal has only £59m, so the merger represents a transfer of value from Waveney residents to those of Suffolk Coastal as there is nothing in the proposal to reflect Waveney's greater accumulated wealth. On this basis, I cannot see why Waveney residents would want to agree to this merger.</p>
<p>Tue 15/11/2016 18:20</p>	<p>Appendix D</p>

<p>Tue 15/11/2016 20:41</p>	<p>I have concerns re the merger since I think the smaller villages will be 'forgotten' and will lose their identity also if as was indicated there will be only one planning and development committee, planning applications for smaller items affecting villages/towns will be passed without the majority of the Councillors on Committee knowing where the proposed development is located and the officers giving the 'Govt /Councils views' but not knowing the location and listening to local objections. The links we have now are sufficient and work well, if passed will we need the new building???</p>
<p>Wed 16/11/2016 15:33</p>	<p>I have read the merger proposals and find them unconvincing. I am therefore against this merger because: A very large district council will result in problems with local decision making over a larger geographic area and this will be weakened resulting in a democratic deficit. Retaining focus of effort and decision making is more difficult in large organisations. Costs of creating these large organisations are usually underestimated and do not yield the benefits stated. The potential savings look meagre compared with the overall budget. The transformation costs look grossly underestimated. The larger organisation will mean one political party will have undemocratic dominance for now and probably evermore. No other party will be able to influence decisions or ever win control of the council. The larger district council will lead to stagnation and will likely see some areas favoured while others will be neglected. e.g. Lowestoft will become even more insignificant in council thinking</p>
<p>Wed 16/11/2016 15:55</p>	<p>I would like to formally reject the merger. It will reduce the amount of councillors Lowestoft has. This also means that the Conservative's majority will increase exponentially, due to the village folk in Suffolk Coastal only caring about their wealth. Further staffing cuts will be made as there cannot be an expectation for hundreds more staff to join from Suffolk Coastal. If you can't keep hold of every single council seat, there's no chance of keeping every council employee. This only ties in with the other not so clever grand scheme of the Conservative government to create one Mayor for the whole of Suffolk. Soon we will do away with Waveney and Suffolk and instead become just England the rate this is going. Merging services isn't going to make things efficient or easier, it's going to make it a living nightmare. Waiting times and accountability goes out the roof while everyone's tripping over each other's feet. All of this for what? A measly £1.3m. This is only a drop in the ocean considering people like Suffolk County Council has over £160m in reserves, doing absolutely nothing. I'm sure the Government can afford £1.3m. Perhaps if the council tax was increased by £10 per person per year, instead of being frozen for years as some sort of publicity stunt, you would be closer to your £1.3m goal.</p>

<p>Thu 17/11/2016 14:25</p>	<p>I wish to register my opposition to the proposed merger of Suffolk Coastal and Waveney Councils for the following reasons: Firstly, with a decision not yet made about whether or not we will have a regional Mayor and what impact the appointment will have on Councils I think it is irresponsible to embark on structural changes until greater clarity emerges. Secondly, with Brexit looming, further uncertainty prevails and again it seems inappropriate to change structures at this time. Thirdly, assuming the above issues are overcome, the claimed benefits from the proposed amalgamation could be even greater if a Unitary Authority was created. We had the opportunity to create a unitary authority(ies) for Suffolk a few years ago but Suffolk Coastal argued against it on locality grounds despite obvious and significant financial benefits. The proposed East Suffolk Authority suggests all the disbenefits and few of the benefits that Unitary Suffolk would have offered. To summarise, I don't doubt that Council services in Suffolk Coastal could be better and cheaper however the timing is not right for structural change and when it is, alternatives to the one on offer should be evaluated and we should not be presented with one convenient option.</p>
<p>Thu 17/11/2016 15:08</p>	<p>I wish to add my disapproval at the proposed merger of WDC and Suffolk Coastal Councils Living in Waveney I believe the North end of any such new authority would be the poor relation resulting in less investment and poorer services than at Present At present the WDC is focused on the betterment of the area. This focus would be lost and all residents in the present WDC authority would suffer. The control of power I believe would be focused at Woodbridge close to Ipswich SCC. The authority would be too large and cumbersome to focus on the needs and services of the whole new proposed authority.. Large is not always a good thing as politicians become divorced from the local needs and reality of Residents. Focus and delivery suffers I am totally against such a merger and request a referendum is held in Waveney and Suffolk Coastal. Two separate Referendums should be held. One in WDC and one in Suffolk Coastal. For any such merger to go ahead it should receive at least a 60% majority in favour, from each present authority . Failure to hold a Referendum will be seen as undemocratic and politicians bulldozing their views upon Residents. Our politicians must engage with the public on this issue or Residents will feel unfairly and undemocratically represented . Any Petition regarding the merger I would be pleased to sign I also offer my services to help oppose such a merger and await any further contact</p>

<p>Thu 17/11/2016 15:29</p>	<p>Very little detailed information is given in the merger publicity. It is said that there is a 9p difference in the Council Tax per year - for Band D. This may be a specially selected fact: what are the differences in other Bands? At present, I feel I get very good service from Suffolk Coastal District, and the adage "If it works, please don't mend it" springs to mind. I once favored mergers and larger organizations, but experience has shown that these become unresponsive, and far too removed from ordinary citizens. I am therefore NOT in favor of the proposed merger.</p>
<p>Thu 17/11/2016 17:49</p>	<p>I am writing to express deep disappointment in the proposals to merge East Suffolk and Waveney district councils. The point of a local council is to reflect the local population, Lowestoft is a town with a large population and will not be represented as well if East Suffolk merges with us in Waveney. I have also seen that the headquarters for this council will be at Melton! Why on earth are we moving jobs out of an already deprived area down to somewhere which already has plentiful work? people who live near Melton can easily commute in to Ipswich and London; people of lowestoft don't have this luxury. I urge you to reconsider these proposals, even though I am sure you have already made up your minds.</p>
<p>17/11/2016 18.22 17/11/2016 18.22 17/11/2016 18.22</p>	<p>I am not sure this will improve the services offered to Council tax payers but rather is another exercise in saving money which will make the new local authority even more remote and removed from the very people it is supposed to serve. It is perhaps time to focus on the 'electorates needs' rather than making us accept what the councils want. After all isn't that what localism is supposed to be about. If there is a concert that the two councils do not have the resources needed to provide what I believe we do pay for then perhaps the time has come for HM Government to be challenged. Perhaps then WDC can serve its residents instead of continuing to reduce services e.g green bins . Suffolk Coastal should do the same. Finally I would suggest that the voting demographic of the two areas is completely different and I would worry that by bringing the two areas together would amount to a form of gerrymandering in order to preserve power in the hands of one political party.</p>

<p>Sun 20/11/2016 08:51</p>	<p>Picking up what was said at the last Parish Council meeting, I would refer to the 4th bullet point on page 4. In Suffolk Coastal District Council there has already been a reduction in the number of Councillors from 55 to 42 in 2015. We believe that it is vital that democracy and representation should not be jeopardised by a further reduction in the number of District Councillors to the point where locally elected Councillors can no longer truly represent their electorate. If this was to be so, then we would oppose any further merger as the quest for financial savings would be at the expense of democracy and local influence on the District Council.</p> <p>There is no reference to any previous adjustment in the number of Councillors in Waveney, and this should be the District where consideration be given to District Councillor numbers, especially if each Councillor represents wards with lower number of residents or smaller geographical areas than in SCDC.</p> <p>As a Parish Council we would also need assurances that locally raised taxes were not being spent elsewhere in the larger District Council say, for example, in deprived areas such as Lowestoft. We should have transparency on expenditure in the wider area so that residents can clearly see the pattern of spending to come to some judgment on whether they are receiving value for money.</p>
<p>Sun 20/11/2016 08:52</p>	<p>The consultation document is VERY one-sided and does not go into any detail. For instance, how many people will each District Councillor have to represent? The rural District Councillors are already stretched, even over-stretched, and any further amalgamation of responsibilities will undoubtedly reduce the quality of their offering to each parish and thus to each parishioner. It is much easier for the Town Councillors, who can share duties and they can find substitutes when they are on holiday etc. We have just had a reorganisation of boundaries; there should be no increase in the size of District Councillor representation, most particularly in the multi-village rural wards.</p>
<p>Sun 20/11/2016 16:53</p>	<p>I strongly object to this merger. It would make a new council too big and in my opinion would not fairly serve all areas equally. How could someone based in the Felixstowe area know of issues affecting Lowestoft and vice versa. There are times when money should not be the determining factor and this is one of them. I object!</p>
<p>Sun 20/11/2016 18:47</p>	<p>I think any merger would be a disaster. I have to say that compared to where I came from 12 years ago, the south east, Waveney council gives far better value for money. When my old local authority, Herne Bay Urban District Council merged with Canterbury, Herne Bay became the poor relations and the town has been on a downward spiral ever since, in fact that was one of the reasons we moved to Lowestoft.</p>
<p>Mon 21/11/2016 17:55</p>	<p>I support the proposed merger</p>

Tue 22/11/2016 10:08	I do not approve this merger for the following reasons: Lowestoft is an urban area with social problems that have come about because of industrial decline. Suffolk Coastal with problems unique to the surrounding villages and largely irrelevant to Urban Lowestoft.
Tue 22/11/2016 10:33	Thanks for the information at www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/new-single-council . I very much appreciate all that you have done to rationalise your activities in the face of the new financial realities. I would have been interested to know why the merger was a better option than the unitary council and other alternatives. However the merger does seem to be a sensible option.
Tue 22/11/2016 12:28	Re your request for comments on the proposed merger. Insofar as my voting commitments, I have no affiliation with any party. However, a telephone sampling of only 1000 residents clearly gives no indication of the views of the majority. I'm amazed that anyone should think otherwise. It is also clear that, given previous voting intentions in East Suffolk, any merger would lead to a 'one party state' and the possibility of any other than the present ruling party being elected would be remote. For this reason alone- since it would harm democracy in the area- I want no truck with the proposals. There are other ways to bring about the improvements that you would like to see.
Tue 22/11/2016 12:31	After 99years experience of Life I am strongly of the belief that "Bigger" is usually worse rather than better. Consequently I am much against the proposal to merger to become a "supercouncil"
Tue 22/11/2016 12:37	Lowestoft lost out when we went from a borough to Waveney district council, merging with another council will be another nail in Lowestoft's coffin!
Tue 22/11/2016 12:53	I do not support the Merger. It would make too large a Council and undemocratic as decisions would be decided by a small Cabinet with their own agendas
Tue 22/11/2016 13:23	To whom it concerns I would like to affirm my complete opposition to the proposed merger as I believe it completely disenfranchises local people.
Tue 22/11/2016 16:06	The major disadvantage I see is that even more local knowledge will be lost. We will see this in the way planning applications are dealt with by officers who are not familiar with the area and history. The same can be said for the housing, building control and environmental services. If we ever return to local authorities with their own direct staff, unlike our current organisations which just commission others, we will not have the staff. Remember how difficult it was to recruit good staff in the 1970's when the District Councils were set up. And, how remote the County Councils were.

<p>Wed 23/11/2016 01:52</p>	<p>I am a Lowestoft resident and an elected representative. I believe that the proposed merger of WDC and SCDC is misguided and a poor choice for the people of our Town and District . It removes democratic choice by slanting political representation into distortion. To have good representation requires reasoned opposition. The costs of administering requiring travel for officers and representatives and the demographic imperatives of the two Councils and of the citizens they serve one of the most deprived areas in GB being served by a majority of representatives who have no concept of the difficulties the people they are supposed to serve makes a mockery of this ill conceived merger. The economies claimed simply do not add up. Sadly political ambition and officer grandstanding have led to a proposal which is a mistake for both Districts, WDC and SCDC have absolutely nothing in common. I am very aware that my comments will be "noted" and statistics produced that some sort of majority is in favour of the proposed merger. The Councils already refer to their provision under the banner of East Suffolk. My comments and hopes ignored and dismissed before being submitted. Cllr Law and his party are betraying their electors shame.</p>
<p>Wed 23/11/2016 07:04</p>	<p>Good idea. Just as Suffolk coastal have built new offices! Never cease to be amazed at the lack of foresight when spending public money.</p>
<p>Wed 23/11/2016 11:35</p>	<p>I wish to register my strong refusal to support the Merger, if this goes ahead it will be an injustice to the Residents in Waveney.</p>
<p>Wed 23/11/2016 12:23</p>	<p>Having now(wed)read the in Touch magazine there is much news about the intended Waveney and Waveney Coastal councils this decision was taken only after 78% of 1,000 residents approve this cost ridden idea that does not compare with the 76% of all Suffolk residents disapproval of proposed fire service cuts? Some probable 80 -90,000 people so how is it that this small number gets listened to not the majority by any means hardly democracy is it? And you claim to be saving money? What about saving lives? Which is what the Suffolk County Council has done without any regard to this figure whereas the time for a fire appliance to attend a domestic incident(or house fire) was 5 minutes for the first appliance and ten minutes for the second which has now been set at 11 minutes for the first appliance and 20 minutes for the second? Yes 11 minutes when Trading standards show that after only two minutes is enough time for a fire to take hold and burn fiercely (s something that was visibly demonstrated by my attending the then fire service college in Morton –in -Marsh and just where d does the cost savings come from I ask when it is obvious to one and all that this will result in a very large rise in travelling costs to meetings from outer areas? No you are not kidding anyone but also you are not demonstrating any democratic policy on this due to the figures of jus 78 residents from the 80 -90, 000 others lives have already been lost and with winter already upon us it will get worse c all for assistance at your peril because the response you will get is:-we will get there when we can!!</p>

Wed 23/11/2016 18:05	I wish to register my opposition to the proposed merger between Waveney and Suffolk District Councils. There is little in common between north and south Suffolk coastal. The poorer areas in the north will be starved of resources as the influence of the cabal currently running Suffolk Coastal takes effect. This merger will be bad for customer service forcing residents into 'at risk' indirect provider hands and into threatened public libraries and onto computers and experiencing unattractive, poorly council managed Council websites. The merger will further widen the gulf with the staff running departments and mean less direct face to face accountability with planning staff and others. Staff will use up any savings in additional travel and other expenses between offices. The communications between north and south are some of the worst in the UK and significant areas have poor broad band and been neglected by BT and the Councils. For these rural areas getting in contact with a 'hidden and protected' new council and its staff will be even more difficult. The new Council area is far too large and will mean larger electoral wards and fewer councillors, less local insight and knowledge making their task bigger and less accountable. The merger will effectively become a one party state run by conservatives with little effective opposition to their narrow political interests serving the wealthy and affluent areas. Altogether a very bad idea just like this token consultation which cannot even ask a few simple multiple choice questions ruling out anyone who finds difficulty providing a response in written form.
Thu 24/11/2016 09:15	I am not in favour of creating a super Council. It will be the largest in England. After making the decision for Oulton Broad Parish and Lowestoft town Council to be responsible for their own communities and enable them in the decision making. We are then handing our democratic voice over to a huge council who will not understand the area that they are making decisions for.

<p>Thu 24/11/2016 11:19</p>	<p>My main consideration is the inevitable reduction in the no of councillors and the loss of representation that this will entail. Before we moved to Halesworth [Waveney] via Yoxford [Suffolk coastal], we lived on the Shotley peninsula and a similar merging of the Babergh and Mid Suffolk Councils was mooted. They had like Waveney and SC also been providing services in a joint way for some time. The arguments then were the same: reduction in running costs but also loss of councillors and too large an area to cover from one HQ, so separate offices for different part of the combined council [thus not saving so much money]. We voted against the merger at that time. You have elected to keep Melton and Lowestoft- anything else would be daft bearing in mind the shape of the new proposed authority. You will still need to keep othe local offices. Not everyone is on the internet or can cope with computers. I have no problem with a proper East Suffolk County Council, but if SCC remains, there will always be too many levels of administration and responsibility. Local authorities are LOCAL and behind the scenes sharing of support services and indeed provision of services to ratepayers is perfectly rational and understandable. But they must be accountable and the possible 30 councillors each present authority will re represented by is not accountability as I recognise it- there are too many competing interests- small villages will lose out to towns and towns will lose out to larger Lowestoft and Felixstowe. A phone poll is not a useful way to gauge real opinion- the documents need to be read and thought about- we are not talking about which brand of tea you like or whether Greater Anglia should provide a half hourly service to Woodbridge.</p> <p>I would encourage the two councils to continue building on their joint strengths and not at this stage merge. But I would suggest that numbers of councillors in the two districts are brought into line and also the council tax bands.</p>
<p>Fri 25/11/2016 11:46</p>	<p>Re merger with waveney, two more say yes to the proposal</p>
<p>Sat 26/11/2016 00:08</p>	<p>To register my object to the proposal. In my estimation it's nothing but 'more efficient' outsourcing that will end up costing the tax payer more for less services while impoverishing the people who do the work and enriching the no doubt senior Tories who own or are patronised by the contracting companies.</p> <p>More direct democracy, not more less of garbage, please.</p>

<p>Mon 28/11/2016 10:41</p>	<p>I have grave concerns here, Lowestoft is in a very poor state these days and business about to be taken away from it will make matters ten times worse. If it is going to be based in Woodbridge what happens to Lowestoft? Woodbridge gets all the jobs and Lowestoft is again left on its own. What will it solve other than two District councils merging? It is best left to the separate Councils each covering their own sections. From Suffolk county Council days before retirement it was separate offices covering their own areas, how can it work joining when it is obvious it will all move to Woodbridge. What was the pricey building built for if you now want to move again. What was SCC/WDC offices at Ringway in Lowestoft for, all that money spent and for what. Each District Council should be seeing to their own areas, certainly not merging and taking jobs from Lowestoft.</p>
<p>Tue 29/11/2016 16:41</p>	<p>I am fundamentally opposed to any merger on the grounds that councillors will become even more remote from the people they represent than they are now. Bigger may be more efficient and save money; indeed the proposals all focus on these benefits. However, the primary concern should be to listen to and represent the views of their constituents. This can best be achieved by strengthening councils at parish level which at present are far too weak. Thus, in my view, we should be devolving decisions downwards rather than increasing the size of remote district level organisations.</p>
<p>Tue 29/11/2016 17:29</p>	<p>I'm in favour of the merge if it saves the tax payer money or maybe not save money but less cuts in services. I am a little concerned though when the 2 councils merge what happens to the upper management staff at each council as both now have chief Exec,s and deputy's on good salaries , chief finance officer x 2 ect. will they get golden hand shakes and because it's a bigger council does the salary go up?. When there are so many cuts in Council services. If East Suffolk does happen as it seems sense to do so it also seems a great time to down size the upper management structure to save even more money. Without golden handshake payouts.</p>
<p>Wed 30/11/2016 08:35</p>	<p>The trick was lost when SCDC and WDC for what appeared to be selfish reasons refused to back proposals for a Unitary Authority for Suffolk. The needs and finances of Suffolk Residents were ignored then and this can only be the best of a very bad job</p>
<p>Thu 1/12/2016 15:01</p>	<p>This seems a reasonable progression on from the co-operation of the two councils at present. As long as council tax doesn't go up, the websites are easy to use and services are kept at least as their present levels I would say "Go Ahead"</p>

<p>Thu 1/12/2016 15:56</p>	<p>I cannot see any advantages to residents of Suffolk Coastal in merging with Waveney. Most of the possible savings have already been made by merging your functions. The only way to save more is reduce the number of councillors and the service to the residents. Suffolk Coastal is a thriving district with no debt, the same cannot be said for Waveney. If you are struggling to provide services now, this can only get worse after a merger. I think it is disgraceful that you are basing your decision on this important matter on just a consultation which most people do not know about or understand. It is a big enough issue to deserve a referendum.</p>
<p>Fri 02/12/2016 22:52</p>	<p>Thank you for the opportunity to discuss the merger. As a resident of Westhall, I say "go for it". We vote in Suffolk Coastal elections, pay Council Tax to Waveney, have Halesworth as our postal town yet have an 01502 phone number. We are at the epicentre of the two councils anyway.</p>
<p>Sat 03/12/2016 16:36</p>	<p>A clear majority are NOT in favour of a new much-enlarged council. The strategic director(?) Arthur Charvonia is to take over as a new chief executive which includes Mid Suffolk and Babergh District councils and have a salary of £110,000 -is to include secretarial services and travel expenses (and with a mayor to waste more taxpayer's money?) I am concerned that the prosed new larger area will stretch public services like Planning who's LG officers are on the road most days - they will still receive a generous travel allowances but if there are fewer of them a reduction in staff levels won't get the job done because they can't work on their smartphones whilst at the wheel. The council move away from Melton Hill to its new location has already caused much controversy traffic wise in Melton (see 'Street Life') Surely a more acceptable downsizing could have been achieved by converting one or two vacant offices into self-contained Flats and taking the rents the purpose built building has always been well maintained. To suggest otherwise is unwarranted condemnation of government services (and counsellors). When I worked in Planning in the early seventies we were called to vote on taking strike action. I told them I would only come out if a 'across the board' pay increases were approved rather than percentage increases. This has not happened yet but the government could step in to help change this very dubious practice by disallowing these increases which have caused the gap to continue growing between rich and poor. The 'powers that be' are telling us don't interfere with our comfort zone but it cannot continue for very much longer - the privileged few will see that house prices are no longer rising due to the fact that more renters cannot afford to pay the higher prices for rent and am finding it difficult to get by without benefits and will stand up to this on unfairness in society whilst the cost of living for them is extortionate.</p>
<p>Sun 04/12/2016 12:02</p>	<p>I am a resident in Waveney District Council's area and I am writing to say that I am in favour of the proposed merger of the 2 district councils.</p>

<p>Sun 04/12/2016 13:44</p>	<p>I am wholly against the proposed merger</p>
<p>Sun 04/12/2016 17:53</p>	<p>Appendix E</p>
<p>Mon 05/12/2016 10:23</p>	<p>I have every reason to think that public consultation will in no way affect the outcome of your proposals and you are only 'ticking boxes' to satisfy your legal requirements. In my dealings with Waveney district council I have found them generally arrogant, supercilious, self-serving, disingenuous and incompetent. and willing to go to great lengths to 'stone wall' or 'deny the oxygen of publicity' to anyone who dares to speak out against their bizarre proclamations. The fact that these proposals have got this far, proves to me that the decision has already been made, as it favours those in positions of responsibility, namely Arthur Charvonja (chief executive and returning officer) and his cohorts who seem to be already doing the job anyway. I would suggest that as Mr Charvonja is also a director at both the council's outside service provider Norse, then there must be a conflict of interest. I look forward to your views on this matter.</p>
<p>Mon 05/12/2016 17:44</p>	<p>I have only recently become aware of the proposal to merge Waveney and East Suffolk Councils into the largest Council in Britain. I can only presume this is a money saving initiative. I certainly need more information about the pros and cons of the merger but at this point I have concerns about a council that would include Woodbridge and Lowestoft and all areas in between. How would councillors from an area like Woodbridge or Saxmundham understand the problems faced by councillors of a very different economic and social area like Lowestoft. I don't know how many councillors have full time jobs, but even for the retired or unemployed, a commute to a meeting could be a prohibitive distance and be expensive. Therefore at this point, and without the knowledge of any excellent reasons for the merger, I am very much against it.</p>

Mon 05/12/2016 21:54	I have seen this in Intouch is there only one party in Waveney??? or is this a communist state with one party or is this the local paper of the Conservative Party. I can't see anything from any other party of which there are at least 5 other parties. Waveney is not just Colin Law or Mark Bee, there are parishes as well as towns, I think there should be a referendm on the subject for all 50K+ who live in Waveney. The facts are where are the meetings being held, where members of the public can go to, also are they going to have transport to the meetings for the ones out of town. I live in the sticks so no buses after 6pm. Expenses for councillors they well be more so will the council tax go up, because of the amount of councillor expenses . Some one mentioned to me that a mini bus will pick up councillors ? If they miss it will they be able to get the expenses? I presume the coastal councillors will also use a mini bus or drive there big cars and claim expenses the same as WDC councillors. Also will they spend another 10Million on a new office building somewhere between the main towns of Lowestoft and Woodbridge.
Tue 06/12/2016 09:45	I am against the proposed
Tue 06/12/2016 10:58	I am emailing to register my objection to merge WDC with Suffolk Coastal District Council. My view is that the public are not sufficiently informed to make a decision about a change that will have significant impact on the way decisions are made about local services. I also do not view the decentralisation of decision making to be in the interest of local residents and that is the entire purpose of a council, to serve the local interests to the best of its ability. I hope you will take my objections forward when considering this change and count my voice of dissent.
Tue 06/12/2016 23:14	I am totally against the merger between Waveney and Suffolk Coastal Councils on the grounds that it is illegal to carry out a process that is a majority Conservative led proposal (in both camps) and can be regarded as 'gerrymandering'.
Wed 07/12/2016 08:44	Local democracy is important, and I can't see how this could be maintained in a "supercouncil". How could we encourage young people, some no doubt with parental responsibility, be able to find the time to become councillors? Have you driven from Lowestoft to Felixstowe regularly? We already have no hospital and no magistrates court in Lowestoft, is the future no representation?
Wed 07/12/2016 16:19	What a total waste of time & money,both had new buildings if reducing staff Why. Necessary,Beccles lost all sports & leisure facilities with WDC,what chance with an even bigger council.Jobs for the boys.This applies to devolution as well

<p>Thu 08/12/2016 15:18</p>	<p>I OBJECT to the merger of SCDC with Waveney DC. REASONS: Whilst I recognise that a merger of the two District Councils would bring the benefits of "economies of scale" and "greater influence" when negotiating with Suffolk County Council and Government bodies, I am concerned that these benefits are outweighed by less accessibility to and responsiveness from SCDC officers. Furthermore, with the proposed reduction in District Councillors I believe there will be less representation of resident's issues by local, knowledgeable Councillors. My concerns are validated by my recent communications with SCDC. I asked Mr Herring, Mr Fryatt, Mr Ridley and the help of Mr Baker in providing me with an explanation as to why SCDC Planning Officers had recommended the plans for 47 dwellings at Black Tiles, Martlesham when the officer agreed that the plans went against SCDC's own Local Plan. Three weeks have past and I still haven't had a response or even an acknowledgement. I can only assume that issues like the Merger of Councils, the move of SCDC buildings, the Adastral Park Development and Sizewell C are absorbing all available Council time. I know and appreciate that the SCDC Planning Department is under pressure of work and that some planning decisions are now devolved to officers rather than Committees but surely the merger with it's resulting reductions in staffing levels and less scrutiny by Councillors will increase the likelihood of "planning contradictions".</p>
<p>Thu 08/12/2016 17:16</p>	<p>As I have lived and worked in our village of Walpole for over 60 years (yes, I can hear you saying "where is Walpole") we have been on the edge of SCDC and our nearest town is Halesworth, which I hope that you know where that is? Is on the edge of WDC. I feel that we are always at the end of the line!! We receive very little support or attention from the District Councils. It always seem to me that SCDC do not realise that their area extends beyond Framlingham. Perhaps, if the merger goes ahead, that we will be more in the middle and we will receive more support and attention. Certainly Felixstowe , Woodbridge and Lowestoft seem to receive plenty of attention with new gardens and car parking.</p>

Lowestoft Coalition against the Cuts opposes the merger of Waveney District Council with Suffolk Coastal District Council.

This is yet another cuts-led proposal which will lead the town and the district further down the route of more cuts and the loss of skilled and professional expertise. It will diminish further an already fading local democracy.

WDC has very little left having hived off, leased out, contracted out, sold off or privatised most of the services that it was responsible for.

WDC now has planning, coastal management, council housing and not much else. District Councils face losing all of their central government funding within a few years. They will raise charges where they can and sell off more assets (the demolition of Battery Green car park and the sale of the site is an obvious example). One would predict that the WDC's Marina Customer Service Centre will be closed and sold. The Councils will try, and probably fail, to raise business rates. As WDC itself admits, there is little scope to raise revenue. More cuts are to be expected.

SCDC has built new offices at Melton a mile or so north of Woodbridge, off the A12, as WDC (along with Suffolk County Council) has conveniently built new offices on the A12 a mile south of Lowestoft.

There is no guarantee that offices for any services will be retained in Lowestoft. The betting would probably be on Melton.

The merging of departments that has already taken place has failed Lowestoft. Philip Ridley, at present employed by Suffolk Coastal, is Head of Planning and Coastal Management for both Councils. He was responsible for pushing through the evacuation of the now abandoned Town Hall. He backed Tesco's failed takeover of the Tramway Hotel. He was involved in the murky and now collapsed agreement for WDC to buy the Sanyo site for housing. He argued vigorously for the granting of planning permission for mass house building and the demolition of existing waterside businesses on the Brooke Peninsula/Jeld Wen site.

The company he backed, Cardy Construction, with an awful known record of failure in Ramsgate has since gone into administration.

Fri
09/12/2016
14:18

Not only the present Waveney District Council but Suffolk County Council is a shadow of what it was. More, for example the remaining schools, is being taken away. Lowestoft Coalition against the Cuts would ask Councillors to reflect on where this merger is leading. What will be left of our local democracy if it is to be dictated solely by central government cuts?

<p>Fri 09/12/2016 14:39</p>	<p>I wish to register my opposition to the merging of Suffolk Coastal and Waveney District Councils (SCDC and WDC). I have heard that WDC is currently in debt and that SCDC is facing a hole in its finances that can only be filled by house-building. As WDC is the more deprived area, money will have to be diverted from SCDC to meet WDC's shortfall. This is all the more significant as developers will not want to build new homes in Waveney because the higher level of deprivation ensures that the whole area, and particularly Lowestoft, will generate lower profits and therefore be much less attractive to developers. Thus, SCDC will be twice affected; first, by the diversion of funds, and second, by increased pressure to build in Suffolk Coastal rather than in Waveney. It is also significant that many in Waveney, again particularly in Lowestoft, identify with Norwich rather than Ipswich in terms of shopping, their local newspaper and so forth. This would mean that a link to Norfolk would be more natural. Finally, the "public" consultation has been insufficiently open and publicised. This discriminates against those who would wish to respond but are insufficiently literate, confident or determined to actually make contact with "our" council.</p>
<p>Fri 09/12/2016 14:42</p>	<p>Please record my objection to the proposed merger of Suffolk Coastal and Waveney District Councils. I understand that the merged Council area will be the largest in the country. This will have negative consequences for all residents of Suffolk Coastal. Currently, services such as public transport, broadband and mobile phone reception are very poor. Creating a larger rural unit will increase the problems of providing such services. Combining services, reducing staffing levels, and redistributing contact points across the new larger council area will make it more difficult for both residents and businesses to access the various Council departments. Also, how much of the assumed cost savings associated with the reorganisation of services is going to be absorbed by the increased costs of travel for Council staff and consultants? This looks like an expensive proposal with no benefit for anyone in the SCDC area.</p>
<p>Fri 09/12/2016 15:31</p>	<p>Please accept this email as formal objection to the proposed merger of SCDC and Waveney. Such a merger can only be detrimental to Suffolk Coastal - our money will simply be used to top up Waveney's low funds with no benefits coming to the SCDC area and residents from Waveney. Waveney areas such as Lowestoft feel more affiliated to Norwich than they do to SCDC territory so would benefit more (not just financially but also socially, in terms of infrastructure, etc.) from a merger to the north rather than with SCDC.</p>
<p>Fri 09/12/2016 18:05</p>	<p>Appendix F</p>

<p>Fri 09/12/2016 23:36</p>	<p>I do feel that there has not been sufficient information available to residents of Waveney to enable an informative decision to be made by residents. I would like to see some more information and I would like to see what changes there would be and what the impact will be, both positive and negative.</p> <p>I feel this merger should not go ahead until accurate information is available about the true cost of holding full council meetings etc. and other associated costs.</p> <p>I have spoken to residents that have had telephone calls who have been 'talked into' a positive reaction to the merger which to me is not a democratic method of proposing this merger. It does seem to make a mockery of the whole process.</p> <p>Just 500 residents from Waveney is not a sufficient and accurate sample to even consider a merger of this magnitude. The demographics of this sampling has not been released and puts the whole process under a cloud of scepticism.</p> <p>I can see a lack of local accountability of local peoples' priorities along with a lack of local councillors in the area who know local peoples' needs. I have concerns over whether the Council will run better and possibly less efficient than it currently performs if this merger goes ahead.</p> <p>I feel that such an important issue as this proposed merger which will affect all residents of Waveney and Suffolk Coastal should at least only be considered by referendum.</p>
<p>Fri 09/12/2016 23:45</p>	<p>I'm a SCDC resident, writing in response to your merger consultation: Having read your briefing material I would like to register the view that I am supportive of the proposals in principle, as I can see that it should save money by increasing efficiency. However, I think the council does need to prove how it will maintain its connectedness to local communities after the merger. Also I think it needs to clearly set out how it will limit increases in council tax, whilst at least maintaining (if not enhancing) services post merger. So it would be good to see something like a 3-5 year plan of how this will be implemented post merger, in order to give certainty to local residents.</p>
<p>Sat 10/12/2016 09:02</p>	<p>Appendix G</p>
<p>Sat 10/12/2016 10:02</p>	<p>This looks like a very unhelpful move. Lowestoft is already isolated by poor transport link and severe economic problems that are not shared with the area to the south. The point of local government is that it is local and addresses the immediate local issues of the area. We have lost our local court and many community health services. We have even lost our visitor centre. This just looks like yet another cost cutting exercise being applied to an area that really can't afford to take further cuts and economies. People who have little money or access to transport are being asked to travel further and further to get the help they need.</p> <p>What we really need is the revival in some form of the Regional development agency for the East. This could then support Waveney in a revival of what has the potential to be a much more successful area than it is at present. You can see from the way the referendum vote went that there is a high level of discontent. This discontent will only worsen if we do not get some real investment and the reinstatement of services. Bundling us up with communities to the south of us, with which we have few connections is only likely to frustrate the delivery of services further. False economy.</p>

<p>Sat 10/12/2016 13:01</p>	<p>I would like to state that myself and my wife would like to object to the merger or the two councils. While financial savings may be made, we believe they will be detrimental to Waveney District Council. The survey of 1000 people selected represents less than half of 1 percent of the populations of the two districts. Waveney 115,254 and Suffolk Coastal 124,298 - 2011 census. We feel the fact is that the two districts are not similar in any way except they both border the North Sea. While Lowestoft alone (without Oulton and Carlton Colville) is half of the total population of Waveney District, Felixstowe is only 1 fifth of the population of Suffolk Coastal - the rest being small towns and villages. Coastal erosion is a big problem for Waveney, whereas Suffolk Coastal has only Felixstowe on the coast. Felixstowe is a very large and important port with modern facilities (the major container port in Britain) with good access to major road networks, Lowestoft is a struggling outdated port on a largely undeveloped route. There is a distance of 50 miles between the two towns, and I doubt that councillors from Felixstowe have any knowledge (or interest) of our village of Corton - as far away in the two areas as it is possible to get. We also believe that people in Suffolk Coastal look to Ipswich as their major shopping area, people in Waveney look to Norwich.</p>
<p>Sat 10/12/2016 13:53</p>	<p>I would like to be one of many to add my voice of opposition to said plans to merge Suffolk Coastal District Council and Waveney District Council. As I am sure many others have already pointed out, this would centralise the decision-making process, destroying all efforts to maintain a 'local' authority. After all, how would people in Felixstowe know what the people in Lowestoft hold dear to their hearts? How would people in Lowestoft know what the town of Woodbridge has as its priorities? These ideas - which are simply a money-saving exercise in which pennies saved would be whittled away on various foolhardy schemes dreamt up by councillors without concern for their constituents - sounds good in theory, but like a lot of ideas, are impractical in reality. Having said all of the above, it is my sincere belief that the decision to merge has already been made, and this 'have your say!' is simply a pandering to keep the public in line. I have not heard from one person myself either in Lowestoft or in the Felixstowe and Woodbridge areas in favour of this plan - not one! - and yet the East Suffolk website is stating a 78% approval. Please prove me wrong - let this email, added to many others, be the voice of reason that is needed in our area.</p>

<p>Sat 10/12/2016 18:18</p>	<p>I oppose the merger of the two councils for the following reasons: 1). They are very different socio economic areas 2). The councillors appointed will have little understanding of the needs and problems that exist in such diverse areas, a councillor elected in the Aldeburgh area will have little concept of or empathy for the local problems of Kirkley area of Lowestoft whereas the locally living councillors actually live with the needs and problems of the local electorate. This argument holds good for the reverse. 3) The locally democracy will be diluted; decisions and directives passed will appear to have been passed by a cabinet more remote and detached from the populous. With the future development of Sizewell C there are huge planning decisions for the Woodbridge to Yoxford to coast area and those who are struggling with life in Lowestoft area will not see that their local councillor's time spent on such issues is in their interest. Equally it is not in the interest of the Leiston resident to have their councillor's time and energy spent on planning of a housing development in north Lowestoft.</p>
<p>Sat 10/12/2016 18:38</p>	<p>I'm writing with my views on the proposed merger between Suffolk Coastal District Council and Waveney District Council, as part of your consultation process. There's clearly been a lot of study & evaluation, with information presented on the East Suffolk website. However, whilst I appreciate the pressure to reduce costs, and the changing nature of central government funding, I don't believe this merger is appropriate. East Suffolk covers a large geographic area, generally rural or sparsely populated, and with road & rail links that do not serve many of the people particularly well. The two areas of Suffolk Coastal & Waveney have different demographics, levels of employment & social needs, and the Statement of Accounts from the two makes an interesting comparison, with Waveney having more social problems and lower employment. It would be unfair for the greater needs of Waveney to be funded from the already tight finances of Suffolk Coastal, and this merger appears to lay the ground for doing just that. Councillors and social services in the two areas already have a high workload, requiring detailed understanding of their 'patch'. It is hard to see how a reduction in people, increased work-related travel and asking staff to handle cases that are physically remote from their area will lead to improved services. These diseconomies of scale will lead to additional costs, & these will I believe offset much of the saving from the merger. So in short, I can't support this merger.</p>
<p>Sun 11/12/2016 10:56</p>	<p>Having read the merger proposals I am convinced that the merger would NOT be in the interests of the people living in Waveney. The proposed new district will be over 37 miles across making it the largest in the country, so people will not feel a local connection with it. I am also concerned that the needs of Lowestoft will be overlooked as the only large conurbation in the district.</p>

<p>Sun 11/12/2016 11:35</p>	<p>Having read the proposals for the merging of Waveney and Suffolk Coastal district councils I think this would a disadvantage to the people of Waveney, especially Lowestoft. Woodbridge is nearly 40 miles away and has little in common with the urban areas of Lowestoft . Lowestoft will be the only large town in the area and will have little influence over the council. The needs and concerns of the people of Lowestoft differ greatly from those of the more affluent and rural areas of south Suffolk.</p> <p>I am concerned that little understanding of and compassion for the needs of the people of Lowestoft , will be shown by the majority of councillors in the new district.</p> <p>I also think that the district council will be too large for anyone to have a sense of belonging to that area.</p> <p>I fear it will be thought of as 'them doing stuff behind our backs down in Woodbridge'.</p> <p>Maybe this is about saving money but surely democracy in local areas is as, if not more, important. This is just another erosion of local democracy and will lead to further disengagement in our democratic society.</p>
<p>Sun 11/12/2016 13:15</p>	<p>Proviso's which need to be met;</p> <p>Continued and improved delivery of local services.</p> <p>Continued and improved local accountability, point of contact and access to ward councillors.</p> <p>There should be no need to reduce the size of the new council. Keep it the same size. That is unless you are looking to change ward boundaries, which may be problematic.</p> <p>There needs to be stronger emphasis on ensuring Suffolk County Council deliver on local services: such as gritting in winter.</p> <p>However as the new council would be a larger and stronger financial and geographic entity perhaps such services should actually be devolved back to local control.</p> <p>Services which cannot be devolved, I.e. Lowestoft's Third Crossing should be monitored and scrutinised effectively to ensure exemplary service delivery for local people and associated stakeholders.</p> <p>If these provisions can successfully and sustainably be met, then the merger to form a new council is a logical progression. And should deliver a Win, Win, Win result.</p> <p>The end result must deliver workable synergies and not just cost savings. Future investment must not be stifled.</p>
<p>Sun 11/12/2016 16:18</p>	<p>I would like to add my name to those who oppose the planned merger. There may be some commercial savings but the democratic deficit will far outweigh any minor savings. The residents of Lowestoft have different needs from those of the more affluent parts of East Suffolk and if the merger were to proceed, are unlikely to be represented by a councillor who actually lives in their ward or the town itself. Recent national polls have shown that many voters believe that politicians are not listening to them. Another layer of bureaucracy at further distance will not encourage voting for councillors who have their best interests at heart.</p>

<p>Sun 11/12/2016 18:53</p>	<p>I oppose the proposed merger for two reasons:- 1) There are too many apparently uncoordinated yet concurrent changes in local government - haphazard devolution; amalgamation of Suffolk Coastal and Waveney into a super-district, which could render Suffolk County Council superfluous; and the establishment of Lowestoft and Oulton Broad Councils. 2) As usual, the emphasis is on saving money, rather than maintaining or improving the quality of services to the rate payers.</p>
<p>Sun 11/12/2016 19:05</p>	<p>Whilst agreeing that the merger should produce some considerable savings, I do not understand why WDC should be considering this with SCDC. I would consider that a merger with great Yarmouth would be more beneficial to both councils. When you consider traveling between Lowestoft and Woodbridge in comparison to Lowestoft and Great Yarmouth. there would be considerable saving in expense and time. Back in 2005 the Lowestoft and Great Yarmouth area was looked at in great depth by the company 1st East, (Two towns, one vision) and much information and consultation took place, at great expense, in promoting these two areas to work together. I note that this was supported by NCC, GYBC, SCC, WDC, EEDA and English Partnerships. I very good case was put forward with a 15 year plan, but then it all seemed to disappear. I also have a document dated April 2008, headed 'Why a Great Yarmouth and Waveney Unitary Authority is the best form of local government for this area.' This gave a clear and short reasoning for this together with the support of GO-East, (the Government Office for the East of England). It also pointed out how the Health sector is covered in both areas by the James Paget University Foundation Trust Hospital and the local CCG. They have a total 225,000 patients in their area, and have to deal with different County and District Councils, Social Services etc and many other business organisations that cover these two areas, and this will remain the same with the proposed merger with SCDC I am therefore strongly opposed to this proposed merger, as I feel that working with Great Yarmouth should be at least considered in depth. Working in partnership with Great Yarmouth instead of SCDC. should have been considered before this current partnership with SCDC.</p>
<p>Sun 11/12/2016 19:19</p>	<p>The one aspect that bothers me is Planning. Unless other unmentioned changes are going to be made, I cannot see how a single council can be expected to improve its service when responsible for an area twice the size.</p>
<p>Sun 11/12/2016 20:11</p>	<p>I wish to object to the proposed merger with Suffolk Coastal District Council, on the grounds that Waveney District Council have attempted to rail road this change through with the absolute minimum of public consultation because they realise that most residents in both areas would object. The first I heard about this proposed change is by a visit i made to your office at the Marina last week. This change will make the local district council less accountable to residents and decisions made about important local issues will be further removed from local control. I hope you will decide to reject this proposal.</p>

<p>Sun 11/12/2016 20:29</p>	<p>Appendix H</p>
<p>Sun 11/12/2016 23:05</p>	<p>I write as a Waveney District Councillor and as a resident of Pakefield, south Lowestoft.</p> <p>Benefits of a merger of SCDC and WDC: Clearly might be more supported by and supportive of a 'Devolution deal for Suffolk' Might allow more joined up thinking in terms of infrastructure planning (transport projects, health and education planning etc.) Might allow 'economies of scale' savings in the provision of local services (bin collections, green spaces management etc.) Might allow the east coast to have more weight in Suffolk specifically and in the region, too in decision-making Might allow for egalitarian services provision if there is a will in the ruling party administration</p> <p>Drawbacks: Might result in redundancies (compulsory and voluntary) of staff due to surplus and contraction Might result in oversupply of buildings and office-space - this would be impossible to justify to the wider population given the public ire (continuing) in response to the building of the Riverside offices (and I understand, the new Woodbridge offices) Might result in reduction of Cllrs and commensurate increase in ward size and consequently workload; this would mean that full-time professionals, employees and tradespeople might find it impossible to commit to the role of District Cllr because of the demands of the role Might result in increased costs in terms of transport; District Cllrs who do not currently claim for travel probably would have to do so if distances increased Might result in decreased local representation and understanding with Cllrs in Felixstowe voting on matters concerning Lowestoft residents without any real understanding of the context, and vice versa of course Might result in pragmatic difficulties in organizing and locating committees and meetings (the coastline is c.70 miles, which would make for an extremely long round-trip)</p> <p>In summary, the gains are more in terms of service delivery; the drawbacks are more in terms of service management and decision-making.</p>
<p>Mon 12/12/2016 00:50</p>	<p>I wish to register the fact that I am opposed to the proposed merger between WDC and SCDC. The area that the new council would cover will be too large. The voices of residents and their local communities will be lost. I believe that the proposed Merger will weaken local democracy. Decisions will be made on local issues by councillors who may never have visited the area concerned.</p>

<p>Mon 12/12/2016 00:51</p>	<p>I wish to register the fact that I am opposed to the merger of WDC and SCDC. If this proposed Merger goes through the newly formed East Suffolk District Council will be the largest in England, and this will be too big. The voices of residents and their local communities will be lost. I believe that the proposed Merger will weaken local democracy. Decisions will be made on local issues by councillors who may never have visited the area concerned, and travelling time and costs for councillors will increase substantially.</p>
<p>Mon 12/12/2016 10:22</p>	<p>He does not object to the merging of staff He does object to merging of councillors as He fears a loss of local input. "Local means local" He also has concerns over towns such as Halesworth suffering as a result of the merger, whilst Lowestoft and Felixstowe do well.</p>
<p>Mon 12/12/2016 11:38</p>	<p>Our Leadership Team (Cabinet and Corporate Management Team) considered your request for a Suffolk County Council response to the East Suffolk Merger proposal at their meeting on 25 October and agreed that they were content that I respond to your e-mail to feedback the discussion. Overall, Suffolk County Council is broadly supportive of the proposal for Waveney District Council and Suffolk Coastal District Council to merge to form East Suffolk Council. The paper provided communicates clearly the rationale and Members were of the view that this is mainly an issue for Waveney and Suffolk Coastal councillors. We noted the proposed public consultation and delivery timelines. In terms of a couple of specific observations, Members wanted to emphasise the need to ensure that the specific needs of Lowestoft, in particularly South Lowestoft and Kirkley in terms of inequalities and deprivation are not lost in any proposes for the merger or the parishing of Lowestoft. There was also a discussion about the successes on page 16 of the report and a desire to build on these successes achieved with partners, and continue to work together acknowledging the contribution of the wider public sector in East Suffolk. Finally, the Leadership Team wishes you, the Leaders, Councillors and Officers at Suffolk Coastal and Waveney good luck in the transition to East Suffolk and we look forward to continuing to build on our positive, productive and valued partnership. Best wishes Deborah Cadman OBE, BSc.,MSc., MA, FRSA Chief Executive Suffolk County Council</p>

<p>Mon 12/12/2016 12:26</p>	<p>This is to confirm that Lowestoft and Waveney, and Suffolk, Chambers of Commerce support the proposed merger of Suffolk Coastal and Waveney District Councils.</p> <p>Our hope is that the merger process will be strongly and widely supported and implemented swiftly.</p> <p>Our expectation is that the merger will with fewer councillors, and opportunities for economies of scale, result in speedy and focused decision-making and a more cost-effective and sustainable service which should then be able to invest more in initiatives that support business and economic growth, not least in the Enterprise Zones and more deprived areas.</p> <p>A merged authority should also work more effectively under any devolution arrangements that may be implemented in future.</p> <p>We have always worked closely and positively with the local authority members and officers (for example regarding the Lake Lothing Crossing lobby and the Local Plan review) and hope that, as part of the streamlining that will inevitably occur, care will be taken not to lose skills and local knowledge that are essential for the area's business and economic development. Similarly we hope that the authorities' commitment to and capacity for partnership working is not in any way weakened going forward.</p> <p>We look forward to continuing our working arrangement with a new, merged authority, and trust that the new authority will continue to value and work closely with Lowestoft and Waveney, and Suffolk, Chambers of Commerce as the principal voice of business in the area.</p>
<p>Mon 12/12/2016 22:23</p>	<p>I support Suffolk Coastal and Waveney District Council working in partnership.</p> <p>I object to the two councils merging and becoming a 'super district'.</p> <p>Merger would mean losing an important vote on any future combined authority.</p> <p>Merger would mean less council employees have local knowledge - a vital component of air quality assessment.</p> <p>I also object to public opinion being sought through a phone poll rather than a referendum and would urge all councillors to analyse the results of the phone poll carefully for themselves.</p>

Mon
12/12/2016
23:09

I am writing to you to express my concerns about the merger.
I am sure that economically there are benefits, yet these need to be quantified and presented clearly to the public. I am also concerned about the process by how the consultation has taken place. Numerous links via the website is not going to encourage much involvement.
I also think that when it comes down to it, people have not been made fully aware of the effects of having such a large council will have, when the merger takes place.
I am concerned that without a HRA the combining with WDC and SCDC will mean that the existing WDC HRA is either diminished or there will be more competition for houses. Also now that potentially Councils will be able to use 100% of business rates, how will business rates be then dispersed? Especially as it is likely that the SCDC area will have higher business rates than Waveney? Does that mean that business rates will go up in Waveney?
Other than political reasons, why would SCDC want to merge with WDC?
What about jobs within the Council, there will be an overlap, which if it is going to save money, staff WILL be made redundant, as there will be duplication.
Culturally, will it be feasible? We are very different. Plus how are many the type of local decisions, which people do really need (as a District Councillor I do experience on a daily basis) are going to be dealt with if, the decisions so much on a wider basis?
If the economics outweigh the deficits, possibly this could be a good thing. But people need to have a local identity, and need a local voice. Also I am concerned that if SCDC lack the more altruistic support frameworks (i.e. charities, etc to support more vulnerable people) who need the Council's support.

<p>Tue 13/12/2016 09:19</p>	<p>Just in case no-one took down our comments at the Waveney SALC meeting, I set them out below re the proposed merger of SACD and WDC:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Our concern is that the reduction in the number of elected Councillors to represent the East Suffolk area and the re-defining of ward boundaries to accommodate the new elections taking place in 2019 could effect Kessingland as it could mean a larger ward taking in more of the surrounding area and this could have an effect on the services provided. 2. The Referendum for adopting the Kessingland Neighbourhood Plan has now taken place. We sought and were given an assurance that whilst the District Council boundaries may change, the Kessingland Parish boundaries will stay the same. This is important as any change to Parish boundaries could affect the legitimacy of the newly adopted Neighbourhood Plan for planning purposes. 3. There needs to be a local Planning Committee in Lowestoft so that local people can exercise their democratic right to speak and be represented at planning meetings. This is important not only because of the time factor and distance that would need to be travelled to Woodbridge for meetings but also because not everyone has a car, public transport is unreliable and people have caring responsibilities that limit the time available for attending meetings. We should be encouraging, not discouraging people to engage in democracy. 4. An assurance was given that consultation / liaison would continue with parish councils. <p>Aside from addressing the above issues, Kessingland Parish Council cannot see any reason why the two councils should not merge as they have been working together for the past 8 years.</p>
<p>Wed 21/12/2016 16:49</p>	<p>Proposed Merger of Suffolk Coastal and Waveney District Councils</p> <p>On behalf of Felixstowe Town Council, thank you for inviting feedback on your proposal to merge Suffolk Coastal and Waveney District Councils. Members of Felixstowe Town Council considered the summary of these proposals and wish to make the following comment:</p> <p>Felixstowe Town Council is interested in the proposals for merging your two district councils and is clear about the financial benefits. However, the Town Council does have concerns about potential electoral changes and requests that the detail of this should take account of how this would affect warding arrangements in Felixstowe. Any decrease in the number of district councillors would commensurately increase the workload for returning members in representing a wider electorate.</p> <p>We hope these comments are helpful and would welcome further updates as your proposals take shape.</p>

Appendix A

Re: New single Council for East Suffolk

- I am writing to you as leaders of the key districts and borough directly affected by the proposed new single council for east Suffolk.
- I am a SCDC taxpayer, a veteran of container shipping and logistics, and I can trace my family roots across Waveney, East Suffolk and Ipswich for over 400 years.
- I seek to highlight the interdependence and economic importance of the Greater Ipswich area and the risk that a single council for East Suffolk risks represents to its long term prosperity. Greater Ipswich is the largest and most important economic area in Suffolk and Norfolk, creating £8bn GVA per annum. It provides employment for 260,000, supporting 20,000 businesses, and it is home to a third of a million people, producing nearly two thirds of Suffolk's output.
- An area of such importance deserves to be permanently backed with proportionate political and economic representation; to have influence and direction, a single voice and focus, plus a clear list of infrastructure and growth objectives with the means to achieve them.
- There is extreme risk that a merger of SCDC & Waveney will permanently divide and marginalise Greater Ipswich. This is no better exemplified by the objectives and scope of the "East Suffolk Partnership". A top level conference to discuss the "partnership" which will be brought to the edge of Ipswich, yet deliberately side lines the biggest town in east Suffolk! The "partnership" ignores the town which has contributed most to east Suffolk's growth, an historic stakeholder and direct county town of East Suffolk since 1888 (84 years before anyone had heard of SCDC or Waveney). The "partnership" draws its economic strength from the Orwell peninsula but omits the town with right of jurisdiction over the Orwell and its shores since 1518. The "partnership" promotes competing retail and business parks on the edge of Ipswich, but contributes and shares nothing with the centre sustaining it. The "partnership" will dump half of its housing stock south of the Deben and directly on to Ipswich's infrastructure, but has no interest or accountability for it. The "partnership" will deliberately exclude equal representation for the people of Ipswich or its ancient Borough.
- Greater Ipswich and the Orwell corridor IS Suffolk's powerhouse and must receive fair, proportionate and accountable representation at all levels of local & regional government; and have permanent, proportionate and high quality representation on the New Anglia LEP board and its eventual successor following devolution.

A fair deal for Greater Ipswich and for Suffolk:

1. After my lobbying, our economic area now has 4 LEP New Anglia Board members. I believe that that our **LEP Board representation** should never again fall below 30%, or below our zone's percentage of GVA for Norfolk & Suffolk. I was the first to identify and highlight that Greater Ipswich had just 1 board member (from 15) located in our economic zone. There were 7 board members located around, or associated to Norwich. At the last election, Greater Norwich secured a £400m investment with a Northern bypass, A11 and A47 upgrades. Ipswich and Felixstowe (with the UK's premier container port) received £0 for the A14 & A12 in South East Suffolk, and there was not even a feasibility study for a desperately needed Ipswich Orbital (a full Northern Bypass). There should be a **permanent New Anglia LEP board position for the Felixstowe Port Users Association or the Port of Felixstowe**. It is essential that the Felixstowe Port community is always represented when infrastructure is at stake.
2. I have consistently called for a **business and academic led member group dedicated to the successful growth of Greater Ipswich & Orwell**. Chris Starkie of "Shaping Norfolk's Future" was able to brilliantly deliver a clear list of objectives upon becoming New Anglia LEP's Managing Director. Jeremy Newsum and Jane Paterson-Todd have galvanised Cambridge Ahead, providing direction and a single powerful voice for Greater Cambridge. Why should Greater Ipswich have anything less? This should be an absolute priority for the New Anglia LEP, SCC, IBC and SCDC.
3. I seek a full and fair feasibility study and New Anglia LEP support for the **Greater Ipswich Orbital (Northern Bypass)**.

4. **Ipswich must have permanent and proportionate representation at SCC cabinet (or Committee) level.** This should never fall below 33% for Greater Ipswich, recognising Ipswich's unique county-borough contribution to SCC and the population scope dependent upon Suffolk's regional centre.
5. Ipswich also needs a fairer deal at District level. If SCDC and Waveney are to merge to form a super-district then any arrangement must include a full review of district boundaries and a fair settlement with Ipswich Borough. Ipswich's 1835 borough boundary mean that Suffolk's regional centre is populated with a high proportion of older and lower yielding A&B community charge properties. The town's success and growth has produced lucrative suburbs, retail and business zones BUT across its outdated boundaries. It is grossly unfair that SCDC & Waveney will simply walk off with the fruits and benefits of Ipswich growth. Adastral Park and the Port of Felixstowe are dependent on Greater Ipswich's labour force and infrastructure, so they must remain with Ipswich to ensure joined ambition, direction and focus. The three interdependent economic hubs must have joined up thinking and be able to use their joint leverage. This will simply not happen if governance is 40 miles away in Lowestoft.
6. Ipswich Borough Council is already failing to meet its housing targets, compounded by the limitations of its 1835 settlement boundary. Between the years of 2011-2021, the Borough's 'Housing Supply Position Statement', submitted as evidence for its local plan, estimates this shortfall will reach over 3,000 new homes. The Borough has made and continues to make the best use of its limited land, achieving a significant number of homes on brownfield sites. However, it is in desperate need of further strategic sites. This can only be achieved by a radical re-think of district boundaries. Meanwhile, Suffolk Coastal District Council is proposing to put 51% of its housing numbers required in its Local Plan within their 'Eastern Ipswich Plan Area', Felixstowe, Walton and the Trimley Villages. This is an area which directly, and heavily, impacts on the Greater Ipswich and Orwell district without contributing properly towards the services and infrastructure it needs. Indeed, this housing will serve the interdependent economic area from Felixstowe through to Ipswich and it is right that should be managed under a single district. If we are to be pro-growth then there must be a radical re-think of district boundaries, this area could deliver ambitious economic growth along with a significant increase in housing numbers, but with the ability to do this in a truly sustainable and comprehensive way, able to plan and deliver the infrastructure improvements that are required to facilitate this growth. The House Builders Federation is the well-respected and leading voice of residential development in the UK, and recently commented on the relationship between IBC, SCDC, Babergh and MSDC, '...are not convinced that relying on future cooperation...will prove effective' and 'no convincing evidence...that the duty to cooperate has been effective'. Suffolk and the Orwell District need the **district boundaries reviewing** immediately in order to be able to deliver an ambitious house building programme.
7. Regardless of Anglian Devolution, **Ipswich** must have **political and decision making parity with Norwich**. You simply cannot have a strong Suffolk without a strong Ipswich.
8. Finally, I call for a full **reform of local government**. Devolution Anglia will mean a convergence of 3 County Councils and 21 District/City/Borough Leaders; 2 LEP boards, 3 Police Crime Commissioners; 12 CCG Health Areas; and around 240 County and 1100 district councillors. With or without an elected Mayor it is simply unworkable, and will only serve to magnify the democratic deficit. I strongly suggest to do it efficiently, fairly and proportionately and promoting democracy for all within East Anglia, as **ten equally balanced and represented unitary councils (vis-à-vis Greater Ipswich, Norwich, Cambridge & Peterborough)**, plus Suffolk East & West, Cambridge North & South, and Norfolk North & South. This would ensure greater accountability, focus and direction for our areas. We also believe that a proposal for East Suffolk (with Lowestoft as administrative HQ), West Suffolk (with Bury St Edmunds as administrative HQ) and Greater Ipswich (with Ipswich as administrative HQ) would spread both political control and accountability more fairly for all in Suffolk, Norfolk & Cambs.

I hope that you will receive this letter in the spirit in which it is sent, and clear desire to ensure that Greater Ipswich receives a fair deal at all levels of local and regional government, and from the New Anglia LEP. My aims are not radical or revolutionary, but common sense and in the best interest of our area and county.

Appendix B

As you have invited me to have my say regarding the above proposal here it is

In my experience big is not at all beautiful and to promote a super Council is not in the interests of voting citizens who reside in Suffolk,

The council will be in danger of becoming to remote and people living in rural areas small villages and towns will no longer have a local voice in the affairs that affect them

The challenges ahead that you mention, well where I live in Southwold means getting along without the local Police Station, Hospital, Fire Station, Tourist Information, Surgery, and maybe some public toilets and no doubt soon as it cannot be cost

justified perhaps the Local School

So these are our challenges cut backs and yet more cut backs

I simply do not see how by creating a Super Council which as you claim will save a further million pounds will help

Why don't you tell us how many jobs you will have to shed from both councils and how you are going to reduce the CEO outrageous salaries to save even more money ??

Incidentally quite a sum of money raised in Southwold goes into the pockets of WDC we see very little of it being spend on general upkeep of Southwold so even our own council which is on the doorstep ignore the wished of the residents so how

can an even more remote Super council benefit us or anyone for that matter

Where will you all work? Lowestoft ? do not want to waste the millions spent on new council offices when in these times of austerity that money could and should have been put to better use,

I could go on but what is the point even you having a consultation is just window dressing to appease some internal due diligence that you have to say you have done by consulting and then ignoring the wishes of the electorate

Can you advise where the new Super Council will be based when it comes into being?

As you may have gathered I am totally against the idea

Appendix C

For:

Avoiding expensive duplication of services within the two councils.

Highly paid professionals using their skills over a wider area, possibly attracting better qualified people to replace existing officers, when vacancies occur.

The combined council would need fewer members than the existing set up. Saving members expenses.

The combined council would need fewer meetings than the existing set up, saving officer's time and also expense.

One council HQ instead of two and potentially saving money.

Against:

Policy makers will be more remote from their electorate; making it harder to represent their electorates views.

Local issues may be in conflict with other areas. eg. Lowestoft needs to be supported to restore fishing activity and industry, whilst Saxmundham's needs are contrary to these needs. Saxmundham could become overlooked. The port of Felixstowe's needs are completely different from Lowestoft. It would be easier to make one area the "dumping" ground for unpopular needs. eg. Traveller sites, nothing in the south all in the Lowestoft area.

Lowestoft is a run down impoverished area, whilst the southern area is far more affluent.

The new combined HQ needs to be centrally located, meaning that the vast sums of taxpayers investment in their new Waveney offices will have been wasted.

I have seen similar mergers elsewhere in Chiltern District where working class Chesham, the larger settlement, was merged with prosperous professional Amersham Rural since when every development of an adverse nature has been directed to Chesham. ("*Not in my area*" is often heard from the Chalfont and Amersham councillors.)

To counter this conflict more powers need to be devolved to the Town and Parish Councils. The District Council will need to actively consult the town/parish councils on many issues and to devolve powers to them, like setting parking control, recreation facilities, cemeteries etc.

The public will need to be able to identify themselves with the newly named district. (After more than thirty years I have yet to hear of anyone claiming to come from Chiltern District. (Chesham Yes, Amersham yes, Chalfont St Giles Yes, Chiltern never.) Civic pride of location is important, and needs strong encouragement.

Only if powers are devolved to Town and Parish Councils could I support the idea of a merged council, otherwise it will be too remote from the people.

Appendix D

Thank you for your mail appreciate you taking the time to reply

I have read the link you mailed to me thanks

Afraid I remain unconvinced that in the long term it is the right way forward, I base my opinion on what we have experienced here in Southwold and the surrounding areas over the last few years

We are witness to so many public facilities being removed as I mentioned previously to name but a few the local hospital, fire station police station (up for sale) tourist information centre, recycling centre, surgery the list is not exhaustive and no doubt

there will be more local facilities dismembered in the near future. I'm convinced that this is not in the best interests of residents or local business once a facility closes, the staff go and no longer support the local shops or businesses

These facilities are important for the residents and it is happening all over Suffolk the plans for more closures seem to be well advanced I believe these are the issues that should be addressed and are far more important than 2 councils merging

Let us examine some of the points in your pre-amble report, I cannot understand the merged council idea on savings when you will still be operating from two separate sites, surely you are just duplicating unnecessary costly overheads by having two

buildings to finance? Would it be better to operate from one site and sell the other just think of the revenue that would generate and the long term overhead savings that would result

If as you state both sites will remain, where will the CEO be situated ? say for example Lowestoft that will become head office and the other will just become a subsidiary office (I see contention in that formula resulting in poor motivation and job

satisfaction if you do not work at the head office)

A question for you what do you mean by "becoming financially self sufficient" does that mean no government money at all in other words find it from savings or the local resident population? if the later, that will go down a storm i.e. pay more for less

local services do you think the residents will commend that?

On your points re economic challenges with the scale required to borrow and invest in solutions ourselves, who will invest ? given that the reference for Suffolk as you state under-achievement educationally a skill and wages gap impact on welfare

reform ,poor transport and communications infrastructure, lack of commercial land supply and finally if that is not enough we are slowly sinking into the North sea! I ask you who will invest after you giving such a sparking reference ?

Currently the two councils have different modes of social / affordable housing models as a result of their individual circumstances, my question, is that such a terrible thing? no doubt they have evolved their models to fit best practice for the area in

which they represent? I take it that you will tear up both models and impose a less than satisfactory model for the whole of Suffolk that will be a compromise and will not suit most local residents.

To be honest I could go on so I will just sum up.

There is a great danger in stripping away public services (even making a stupid charge for green bin removal) you have seen with the Brexit and Trump victories just how fed up people are becoming

towards insincere politicians and sweeping cuts, why else would both these results come as both a surprise and shock it is because we all feel that we are becoming disenfranchised maybe the question to address to central government is where has

all the money gone!!! and why does everything need to be financially slashed to the bone.

Sorry one final point re "What are the risks if the councils do not merge" most of the points you cite, we have already experienced so its hard to imagine that it could get worse, but we all expect that it will.

Appendix E

Dear Sir or Madam,

Below are my comments and feedback on the proposals for a single council for East Suffolk.

Overall I am against the proposals, albeit I do recognise the likely efficiency savings that would result.

My main concern is that the larger geographical area would lead to the needs of people in Waveney being neglected - the demographics and service needs in the urban areas of Waveney are quite different from the demographics and needs for Suffolk Coastal, and this represents a weakening of local democracy in my view.

With (fewer) councillors making decisions for the bigger region I feel this increases the risk that the particular needs of my local community are not properly taken account, as those decisions will be made by a group of elected members (many based in Suffolk Coastal) with no understanding of the particular needs in Waveney and the heavily deprived wards in Lowestoft such as Kirkley where I live. I note that this concern was also raised by a significant number responding to the telephone survey. Whilst there are clearly savings to be made from having less councillors under a new joined-up council, those members will now be representing people across a wider geographical area and won't be local enough to understand the particular needs and service demands of those they are supposed to be representing, which will lead to a dilution of local inclusion a time of a national focus for localism, as set out within the Localism Act.

In terms of inclusion, the plans for having council meetings of the new authority alternating between Lowestoft and Melton will also make them inaccessible for the public to attend, especially as many of the electorate in this area rely on public transport and will not be able to attend the (mainly evening) meetings. Waveney residents would struggle to attend public meetings in Melton and vice versa. The geographical area of the new joined-up council would be far too big (it takes over an hour by train to travel between the two head offices) to be truly representative and

inclusive for taxpayers and service users to have their say.

For people of Waveney the addition of Suffolk Coastal to their council tax base will also increase the risks in relation to the proposed 100% retention of business rates. The Suffolk Coastal area includes two huge businesses (Port of Felixstowe and Sizewell Nuclear Power Station) and the risks of changes or appeals in their rates demand may threaten the future financial stability of services for Waveney residents when business rates become the sole funding route for the vast majority of local services.

On the subject of the consultation itself, I disagree with the decision NOT to go out to a full referendum. I am concerned that handling such a major consultation via this 'soft' route (an open consultation with response via email plus a limited telephone survey) will lead to a low response rate from the public to what is a very important decision for future local democracy. It needs a proper vote by the people, not just by members. Equally, I don't feel a telephone survey of just 500 people in Waveney provides sufficient evidence to inform such a key decision and ensure the needs of the wider electorate of the district are met – this landmark decision demands a proper opportunity for ALL voters and service users to have their say, and leaving it up to individuals to respond privately via email is not enough to cover Waveney's democratic and public accountability duties.

On that subject, you may be aware of the issues raised in a similar situation in Somerset, where members there have lodged an appeal to the High Court over the planned merger of Taunton Deane and West Somerset councils due to the considered lack of proper public consultation http://www.somersetcountygazette.co.uk/news/14821944.Councillors_threaten_High_Court_action_against_their_own_council_over_merger_plans/ and Waveney and Suffolk Coastal need to take heed of this to avoid a repeat of this debate locally.

Similar concerns have also been raised in Dorset, with calls for an referendum being raised publicly by the Police and Crime Commissioner <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-dorset-37220330> and a petition has been raised on that one <https://you.38degrees.org.uk/petitions/keep-our-council-in-poole-1> so it's a serious point that needs proper consideration.

Appendix F

I strongly object to the proposed merger, as I can see only detrimental effects for Suffolk Coastal.

It is ironic that in strengthening localism in Waveney through the current "towning" exercise, you are proposing to weaken it in Suffolk Coastal. Under your proposal, individual councillors will have wider geographic areas in their remit, watering down the councillors' ability to address local issues, and requiring in-depth knowledge of a far wider area than is now the case. I understand that district councillors are already finding it challenging to address the needs of the often-widespread communities in this largely rural region — how can they be expected to cope adequately with constituencies that are twice the size? This is especially problematic since the transport and communications links in both districts are extremely poor, by any standards. Decision-making will lose the benefit of detailed local knowledge, for which no amount of bookwork and research can compensate. And how accountable can the merged council be to the public, with reduced face-to-face contact because of council functions being based at a distant location?

This proposed merger erodes localism for Suffolk Coastal. If truly local government is so unimportant that district councils can be combined in this way with no ill effect, then why not go the whole hog and get rid of district councils altogether, in favour of a unitary authority? Not a desirable solution, in my view, but no less ill-conceived than a "super district" council.

There are financial concerns with such a merger that cannot be alleviated by promises of cost savings, even if those savings were to be realised (which is doubtful with the increased travel costs to be incurred by the councils). Waveney has higher unemployment, lower average income, a higher level of deprivation, and (we are told) a council that currently has debt. In a combined council, would Suffolk Coastal resources be diverted to fill the gaps in Waveney? The only logical conclusion is that the relatively wealthier south of the "super district" would end up funding the more cash-strapped north, whether through reallocation of council tax income or through decisions on where CIL money is to be spent. This outward flow of money would worsen conditions and services in Suffolk Coastal.

A telephone survey of a small number of people is insufficient evidence of public support for a proposal of this sort. Furthermore, an acquaintance who took part in that survey says that the questions were phrased in such a way that it was hard not to agree with the goals of the project, but that there was insufficient opportunity to consider whether the project could actually deliver them, thereby giving a falsely positive impression. The "public engagement" to which I am now responding is so low-key and under-publicised that I have yet to meet someone outside council circles who is aware of it. Why is there not a full consultation with the public, including those members of the public who have no interest in local government, but who are, nonetheless, its customers?

The merger proposal, and the process by which it is presented, are undemocratic. Residents of Suffolk Coastal deserve the opportunity to vote on whether their local government should be watered down and their council tax payments disbursed elsewhere.

Appendix G

Councillors at the Oulton Parish Council meeting on December 6th 2016 considered the proposal to create a new 'super district' council for east Suffolk. It was unanimously agreed that this proposal would remove and take away the widely respected term Local out of Local Government.

To propose that a larger council covering east Suffolk would be more representative is an admission that the already established Suffolk County Council is not doing its job. At very best if proceeded with the proposal would compete in trying to duplicate services already provided by the County Council on a county wide basis and confuse the public living in district areas as to who locally they could turn to solve the many problems that arise in their own communities. A local resident with a local problem needs it to be sorted out and attended to by someone who knows the locality where the problem is and able to using that knowledge to respond with solutions which will be accepted by that area or locality.

Bigger and larger is not better, the proposal will only lead to Parish Councils being expected to address more representations and issues with little hope and resources to solve them. The position is bad enough now, responses taking many weeks to address the requests and communications made to both Waveney District and Suffolk County Councils. Liaison with developers via planning departments to reply to complaints has left residents and Parish Councils trying to assist in frustrating positions. Making a new council larger with "a shared outlook" would only make these situations worse.

The proposal document talks about 'public engagement'. Local communities need to have a sense of ownership which reflects their own area and the ability to be able to contact with someone (a body or organisation) which understands not only where the area is but able to give advice reflecting that particular locality. We have seen already the example set by Suffolk Constabulary where before,

residents knew their local police officer, could obtain advice via their local police station, and feel protected by an organisation which was respected and was part of a community, disappear, to become one large police force based at Martlesham taking away community values and a pride of living and being part of a supporting neighbourhood.

The proposals say a shared outlook will have a vision for the future, quite often sharing means giving up something to support a different view, or accepting a compromise. Oulton Parish Council have a great concern that having a bigger shared council will only lead to even less success making endeavours to represent Oulton to the new council. We remain unconvinced that the proposals will be for the better and strongly believe that it will remove the local ability from Local Government.

Appendix H

I am writing to you, in relation, to my skepticism over the planned merger between Waveney District Council and Suffolk Coastal District Council.

I am going to start off my concerns by using the Local Government Boundary Commission for England's criteria, on how a Merger should be based on:

The need to ensure effective convenient and effective local government

I don't believe that Waveney District Council or Suffolk Coastal District Council, have demonstrated how more effective, the merger, will be then the current system. I accept that the merger proposals say we are going to save £1.3 million per year, but yet in a briefing to the Suffolk Coastal District Council Conservative Group, it says £800,000 per year . I believe that the financial figures, do not stack up convincingly enough for me to support the merger.

In relation to the new ward boundaries for the 'planned super-council', there have been no plans for the residents to see. I believe this to be abhorrent from both councils, for residents, not being able to see the new planned ward boundaries. We know that the number of councillors are going to be cut from 90, to 65. There is even talk of councillors, being cut to even 50. How is this going to be effective for the populations of Lowestoft, Felixstowe and Woodbridge, who will be adversely affected by this?

We have no draft electoral arrangements for this to be based on:-

For example, the number and boundaries of electoral wards (wards or divisions) for the purposes of electing councillors? Will Kirkley or Carlton Colville, still have 3 Councillors? We have been left to surmise, that this won't be the case, but we are getting no clarity from both councils, on this.

Community Identities and Interests

In relation to the second criteria, of communities identities and interests. I recognize that, Waveney District Council, has created a Lowestoft Town Council, to ensure that Lowestoft's identity is preserved.

However, this does not go far enough. This is because parts of Lowestoft, are part of the Area Assisted Status (AAS), although this will end, when Britain leaves the European Union (EU). But the point of poor deprivation applies, because I believe it will not be in Lowestoft's interest, to be part of the new proposed council, as I believe the interests of Lowestoft, will be forgotten.

Democratic Involvement in the Process

I also believe that there is no explicit consent from the electorate, for a merger between Waveney District Council and Suffolk Coastal District Council. This consent should be achieved through direct consent - a referendum, or representative consent - through a manifesto, to be shown at the local elections. The proposal does not meet any of these tests.

In the 2015 Local Elections, the Conservative Administration at Waveney District Council, did not disclose that they wanted a merger with Suffolk Coastal District Council, in their manifesto.

Also I believe that both councils, by refusing to have a Local Advisory Referendum, may be in breach of the LGBCCE guidelines. They recommended having a Local Advisory Referendum, in relation, to this type of council review. Why are both councils ignoring this?

Streetlife Responses

Date	Response
Mon 07/11/2016	If it means we are GUARANTEED to get the 3rd bridge we deserve and the revamp of the town to entice people into it, then I think i will be in favour of it. However, if it means more of the same or worse, ie fighting against other towns in the so called 'super district' to get things, then no thank you very much.
Tue 08/11/2016	I am of the opinion that a new 'super district' will have more of a rural balance to it which will mean a greater Conservative influence to the detriment of Lowestoft.
Tue 08/11/2016	another level of 'management' to be paid for. and if this hasnt already gone ahead then why was i directed from WDC environment office to Suffolk Coastal when i had a problem with a local garage burning off waste.
Tue 08/11/2016	More bureaucracy and therefore waste of more money. More money for the expenses of local government politicians who forget those who voted for them until they need the votes again. More bureaucracy and therefore waste of more money. More money for the expenses of local government politicians who forget those who voted for them until they need the votes again. a big NO from me.
Tue 08/11/2016	I think we will loose local representation and it will be another Ipswich problem like Suffolk county council meaning you will have someone in Felixstowe who has never been to Lowestoft making decision for the town of lowestoft. I agree it will be a lot more rural than town orientated and them down south are a lot richer than Waveney will they be sharing the pot on things like green bin charge as they don't pay for their green bin in Suffolk Coastal will they start or do we stop. Where will the council meetings be held as Waveney has just had a new building build at millions exspence was that wasted and will it now need another new building somewhere to accommodate this super district and if not and they are still operating from the same buildings in the same locations what the point of joining up. Is there any paperwork being issued to the public explaining this and is there a web page or something where we can ask questions, many questions. I hope this is not just another quick rich and save a buck scheme to the detriment of the tax payers.
Tue 08/11/2016	My worry, apart from having to pay for yet another level of chiefs, is that Lowestoft would be overlooked and pushed to the back of the queue and that Felixstowe, Ipswich etc would get the lions share of funding/projects.
Tue 08/11/2016	Personally I believe, although I would imagine quite contentious to some, that a better way forward would be a working relationship with Great Yarmouth District Council. The two areas have very similar demographics, very similar challenges and very similar strengths and opportunities.
Thu 10/11/2016	How come with such a big change as a resident of Waverly this is the first I have heard of the merger? No No No keep Waveney as it is apart from Suffolk coastal, to be honest would rather have been Yartoft!

Thu 10/11/2016	Democracy is being killed off with this proposed merger, contact WDC merger@eastsoffolk.gov.uk register your opposition to this merger and prevent loss of representation, loss of councillors, and our council being run from Melton, Woodbridge. Don't let the Tory councillors abdicate their responsibilities while they have Waveney District Council £92million IN DEBT, they want to get closer to the money coming up from London, rather than bringing money into Waveney District. NO WINNERS IN WAVENEY - STOP THE MERGER!
Thu 10/11/2016	I suspect the idea of a merger is a "money saving experiment". Budgets will be cut even further as central government will decide that we no longer need extra funding due to the efficiency of a combined merger . No doubt if this goes ahead there will be no more 3rd crossing ,or any other projects.as priorities would be shared with Suffolk Coastal.
Fri 11/11/2016	My reaction to the increased bureaucracy that will no doubt proliferate is a very big NO. Waveney is not Suffolk Coastal and each area should make their own decisions for the benefit of their own citizens. It is bad enough that the current crowd swan around in their little kingdom without any regard for those that pay their wages and eventual gold plated pensions and golden goodbyes. What would be a much better idea would be to take all the political party tickets away from councillors so that they are voted in as independents on the strength of their commitment to the citizens whom they serve. If they don't do then they are out and not protected by the party political machinery. How long would Colin Law last if he had to be an independent? At least if he was he might be able to tell us why his lot spend zillions on a new "Town Hall" when there was nothing wrong with it. It must be PL because he never told the public what was wrong with it. Stop the empire building and do some real work and actually earn what we pay you all. Making a bigger council is just an excuse to get further away and more remote for those horrible people called citizens. No, no and still no.
Sat 12/11/2016	Have a county wide referendum and put the proposals to people.
Sat 12/11/2016	I agree it should go to referendum. The people should decide and not just the politicians
Mon 14/11/2016	Appendix I

Thu 17/11/2016	<p>There is indeed an issue of fair representation. A referendum would only be of value if a significant number of electors took part. We only have to look at the EU Referendum to show how shambolic this could become, with an almost 50/50 split amongst the 33.5 million who voted, which is about 72% of the electorate of 46.5 million. From these official figures we have a three-way split... near enough one third for Leave, one third to Remain and about 12 million who didn't bother to vote for one reason or another. The democratic process requires that the majority win, but we are all aware of the chaos currently caused by such a close split. If the same happened here there would be a lot of disenfranchised residents. We are already in the process of breaking up the existing WDC as the vote was taken last night to introduce separate Councils for Lowestoft and Oulton Broad. It is my humble opinion that the merger, or whatever it is called, will go ahead as the ruling group on WDC want this, and they have the majority of seats. It will only fail if for some reason Suffolk Coastal District Council decide they don't want to go ahead. The indicative ComRes survey was very limited in its scope. Also there is an assumption that the public are aware that they can feed back on issues, that people have the time or inclination to become involved, and that there is an air of "it's going to happen anyway" with such matters. If the new "Super Council" is to be truly democratic, it needs to be elected by proportional representation. This would hopefully ensure a fair political balanceprovided that voters actually turn out!</p>
Fri 18/11/2016	<p>Obviously a good idea if it saves money - lower council tax etc. I don't know why some people moan about "another level of bureaucracy"; they haven't read the proposals - this is a merger of two council areas to make one bigger one and Lowestoft (despite some people's beliefs) isn't the centre of the universe.</p>
Fri 18/11/2016	<p>This is another undemocratic process which WDC in the form of the leader has indicated may or may not affect the result. In other words the merger will go ahead in spite of any number of opinions to the contrary.</p>
Sun 20/11/2016	<p>Combining the two Councils will make them too big. How can you have a council which covers as far north as Lowestoft and as far south as Felixstowe. It's too much and we will lose our identity. And also, where would we come in the pecking order. I can see more affluent areas getting a bigger bite of the cake. I am totally against it.</p>
Tue 22/11/2016	<p>I sent no merger email through all 5 of my email addresses.</p>

Appendix I

I agree that there should be a referendum on the issue. I feel that this should be the right way to decide, whether there should be a merger between Waveney District Council and Suffolk Coastal District Council. The rationale for a referendum, can be argued for, is because it was not in the Conservative's local Manifesto for the 2015 local elections.

I think this has been denigrated into a party political spat, which helps no one and if it was to help any party, it would be the Conservatives. This is because the majority of the electorate, gets turned off by petty personal arguments, on who's right or wrong on the issue. Apathy is a good thing for the ruling party.

However, I think there is an effective argument for the 'NO' side to use. I would question the credibility of the 1,000 respondents, which ComRes surveyed for Suffolk Coastal and Waveney District Councils.

Key questions, I would ask:

1) What was the split in terms of people asked in Suffolk Coastal and Waveney? In theory, it should be 50/50 from both authorities, i.e. 500 people.

2) What was the sampling method used? Was it random sampling, or sampling a particular socio-economic class of people. Basically was the sampling set to be unbiased or biased, in relation, to the questions what both Councils wanted.

3) What was the breakdown in gender, age, class and ethnicity demographic. We have no information from this ComRes survey, on the percentage of each gender etc.

4) Where the questions impartial or leading questions, insinuation what kind of answers, what both Councils are looking for.

Apart from the several flaws in the surveys, I can see from my perspective, I would also argue that the number of electorate in each ward, needs to be seriously looked at. Graham Elliott, the Green Councillor, has raised this concern rightly in my view.

Another question, which should be asked, is how will Councillors be able to afford, to go to Woodbridge for meetings, especially if they are a working family. Some Councillors are not well off, meaning that this will deter some people from standing.

However, the problem the 'NO' side has at the moment, it isn't effectively challenging the Conservative Administration on this. Saying it is bad for local democracy, is a good starting point, but it's just a slogan. If the substance is put there, I think it can be overturned.

The problem is that the Labour Group are opposing it, but it needs to be more than the Labour Group. At the moment, I am hearing, we should vote against it because it is bad for the Labour Party. We should be voting against it, because of the wider implications, on how local democracy functions. I fear that this argument is getting lost in the political quagmire.

In relation to the 'YES' side for the Merger, I respect their views. I also acknowledge that the spillover effect of continuous merging of the back office functions, such as sharing a Chief Executive, does lead to a point where considering a merger is the only viable option.

The financial efficiencies, which the YES side argues, doesn't convince me. Although, if it could be proofed without jeopardising the current services in place, then I would consider it.

What we are now seeing is two sides become entrenched, without offering effective arguments to their case. I also think using pseudonyms, does not help your argument and actually, undermines your own credibility at the same time.

The question, which could be asked: If both sides believe in local democracy, why not have a

Facebook Responses

Date	Response
Wed 16/11/2016	Hold a Suffolk wide referendum and let the people decide. It's called #democracy
Wed 16/11/2016	The local council cant really get things right so how r they gunna cope if they make it bigger.
Wed 16/11/2016	District councils should be about localism. We have County Councils already to serve the greater area.
Thu 17/11/2016	Terrible idea - the key is in the title 'local' council
Thu 17/11/2016	Not a good idea. Decisions about waveney should be made by people who live and serve in the district not by councillors and staff who live nearly 40 miles away and certainly not by a council who has nothing in common with wdc in terms of geography and demographics. The list goes on including the massive difference in the political make up of each council. It is not right for the residents of waveney
Thu 17/11/2016	Just like the EU, bound to be disastrous, while we're at it, disband Waveney too, lets have our Beccles Borough Council back. As said above put it to a vote, know what result will be. Time to 'listen' to the peasants.
Thu 17/11/2016	If you could cope with the existing boundaries, fair enough, but I do not believe you do, so why on earth would I want my services diluted more? so its a no!
Thu 17/11/2016	They will do what they want democracy yeah right its called lip service let the minions think they have a say and then ignore it !
Thu 17/11/2016	Crap idea. This is just another excuse to move more jobs out of Waveney. I'd have my money on the new council being based near Ipswich. Nobody cares about us up here.
	Waveney District Council: If the councils merge, the new council would not create a single 'headquarters' but would still operate out of offices in both Lowestoft and Melton. Residents would still have local offices to visit for any enquiries that could not be serviced by the customer call centre or using the council's online facilities at www.eaststuffolk.gov.uk .
	So long as there are no job losses then at least that is something. Thank you for the reply.
Fri 18/11/2016	Why have our say. It's already done. Be interesting to see how it works with bins etc as Suffolk coastal have brown bins etc.
Fri 18/11/2016	This has already been done, and has been merged for a long time..... Why waste tax payers money discussing the future of something that had been decided and implemented a while ago?

Fri 18/11/2016	Well, WDC are screwed either way.... doesn't stand for Waveney District Council.... more: We Don't Care.... So yeah, whatever... you'll do as you like as you always do... usually for the worse.
Fri 18/11/2016	Brilliant idea! Anything that helps save money on back office functions to try and maintain frontline services sounds good to me - and in these times if austerity, it's really tough!
Fri 18/11/2016	Not at the expense of Democratic Representation and/or services!
Fri 18/11/2016	What happens when it fails ??
Fri 18/11/2016	If it saves money and still produces or increases the output/performance then it's a yes from me..
Fri 18/11/2016	Will this just mean it becomes too big and clunky to offer any help? With help too far removed with little local knowledge? Will they not lose touch with what locals want? And is this just a cost cutting exercise by stealth?
Fri 18/11/2016	Let the people decide,, and i for one say NO, it will only be something else to pay for,
Fri 18/11/2016	Stupid idea the council can't function as it is never mind making it bigger. Where do all of these stupid ideas come from anyway?? Oh yeah I remember now, the pillocks in the Conservative Party.
Fri 18/11/2016	How much is all the change going to cost? More meetings about the meetings I expect & nothing ever gets done. Less meetings and more action I say. One question, what's going to happen about the beach huts under Kensington gardens, what an eyesore, when are they going to be refurbished or are they going to be left to go to rack & ruin?
Fri 18/11/2016	Birth of the East Suffolk Conservative Council
Sun 20/11/2016	This is a move to stop Waveney being merged with Great Yarmouth as it would take a large amount of money away from being spent further up the coast. It is a bad idea Waveney merged with Yarmouth was a better idea and was turned down.
Sun 20/11/2016	A big NO!!!!
Sun 20/11/2016	Ridiculous. Haven't you got actual work to be getting on with?
Sun 20/11/2016	Can't even do a good job in waveney let alone suffolk
Sun 20/11/2016	Bad idea!

Sun 20/11/2016	I think it be bad idea they are so shit don't help don't do no work sit in there 2.5 million office and tell us to pay council tax they have no consideration for people out there do nothing so no thanks
Sun 20/11/2016	Oh god ... No.. More jobs for the old boy network.. They would be even more out of touch..
Mon 21/11/2016	Saving money yet again!
Mon 21/11/2016	What ever happens no body listens to people in Lowestoft, look at the issue of the third crossing and the road system which seems worse each year.
Mon 21/11/2016	Bad Idea
Mon 21/11/2016	No No No
Mon 21/11/2016	You want to merge to save money but you can't even look after yourselves it's sad, the big problem with WDC is that it takes money from every town in its area then has to decide which part is most run down and all the money goes to fix small villages and nothing is done to the town due to that, so now with even more smaller run down places Lowestoft and the other bigger towns they can get money from will be a lot thinner.
Mon 21/11/2016	No no no
Tue 22/11/2016	Well looking at these comments it's a definite no go. But it will go ahead anyway as WDC do the opposite of what the local people want anyway.
Tue 22/11/2016	No not a good idea

Tue 22/11/2016	SCDC Leader Ray Herring pops up on BBC Look East as a champion for "Devolution Dogs Breakfast" - Suffolk + Breckland and Broadland, citing "economic geography" as his guiding light. Is this the same proponent of "economic geography" pressing for an East Suffolk district merger with Waveney that completely ignores 775 years of history and the "economic geography" which the Orwell peninsula has with Ipswich? A leader convening a top level conference on the edge of Ipswich, but excluding Ipswich, to discuss a proposed new single district council for east Suffolk. A leader planning to dump half of his council's housing stock directly north and east of Ipswich, but with no consideration for its centre, and with no accountability for it, no local plan, and no cooperation with IBC. A leader that ignores "economic geography" of the town which contributed most to east Suffolk's growth, an historic stakeholder and direct county town of East Suffolk since 1888, 84 years before anyone had heard of SCDC or Waveney! A leader who ignores the "economic geography" and Ipswich's right of jurisdiction over the Orwell and its shores since 1518. A leader who promotes competing retail and business parks on the edge of Ipswich, but contributes and shares nothing with the centre sustaining it. A leader who recognises "economic geography" only when it suits?
Tue 22/11/2016	Seem to be quite a lot of opposition to this so please sign the petition, all our voices must be heard https://www.change.org/.../waveney-district-council-stop-the-wdc-scdc-merger
Tue 22/11/2016	No it's a stupid idea
Tue 22/11/2016	Hell, they can't get things right as small areas so God help us with a conglomerate.
Tue 22/11/2016	Really what is the point of asking us to have our say, the Tories will over rule any missgivings that we have and rollercoaster it through, so no matter what our feelings are you will still go ahead with this Most idiotic of TORY Ideas and we will be left to clean up the mess when it iis a massive failure.
Tue 22/11/2016	No go,,it's all part of the destroying of counties in England by the euro
Tue 22/11/2016	Already are merging. Rubbish is waveney and Suffolk coastal in one already!
Tue 22/11/2016	A super district?? Does that mean the only super thing will be the wages of the big wigs?? This area is a joke!! We have to pay for our green waste to be taken away but they still only pick it up every other week!! Roads are crap what do you really do for the hard working taxpayers, oh yeah take more money from us!!! Pointless asking for our comments as you'll do what ever you want anyway!!!!
Tue 22/11/2016	I thought they already were! Speaking from experience, they have already made their decision but like people to think they have an input!!!

Wed 23/11/2016	Having lived in West Berkshire, a unitary authority, for 12 years before moving back to Suffolk, I can definitely see the benefit of governance under a single roof. No duplication of admin jobs means less money is wasted on back office functions. It would be better if we scrapped Suffolk County Council and let a larger East Suffolk unitary authority manage the lot rather than this odd mix we have now.
Wed 23/11/2016	A load of rubbish
Thu 24/11/2016	I don't think it is a good idea so no from me
Thu 24/11/2016	No thank you!!
Thu 24/11/2016	No no no!!!!!!!!!!
Thu 24/11/2016	Definitely not !!!!!
Thu 24/11/2016	It might save the expenses of a whole tier of officers, but individuals need to feel they 'Belong' to where they live, a 'Place' with which to identify and to which they can feel an allegiance. By merging these 2 Councils it possibly becomes too big, and therefore impersonal; a sense of distancing individuals from what matters to them, and therefore they no longer 'care' what is happening - you will lose their allegiance!!
Thu 24/11/2016	How can you take into account a telephone poll where the respondents had no detailed knowledge or information to consider beforehand? Publish the questions and the script of a phone conversation please so we can see how 'independent' this poll was.
Fri 25/11/2016	Get on with it the quicker the better..make sure where people do the same jobs you sack the dead weight that's costing everyone an absolute fortune and be strong enough to make the difficult decisions.....sorry if you work for any of the council's and your jobs in limbo.....while there's still time to be noticed go out and make a difference to hardworking people and if you're any good at it you may keep a grasp of your income.....this karma has been years coming
Fri 25/11/2016	No thanks
Fri 25/11/2016	More people who don't have to live in the town having a say in how the town runs, no thanks. We need to get our road infrastructure out of the control of 'the other big town in the county' as well
Fri 25/11/2016	More administration, more expenses into the politicians pockets. Less local democracy. Gross duplication. A total waste of OUR taxpayers money. Mr and Mrs 'Freelunch' live on !!!

Fri 25/11/2016	As long as they(the new council) uses its resources correctly and the joint services we both enjoy right now don't go down the toilet and costs spiral out of control, then maybe ok.
Fri 25/11/2016	will that mean lowestoft will get its bridge sooner rather than later or will it be put back into hibernation like every thing else
Sat 26/11/2016	The two councils are now so intertwined that most folks out there are not really aware of. Several departments have already been joined that we have one council in all but name, and have had now for a few years. One set of councillors expenses will be good, the Chief Executive and most senior managers are already in charge of both areas. Changing the name is just the last step.
Sat 26/11/2016	No. Keep the counties as they are!
Sat 26/11/2016	Waveney District Council have been worse than useless since the early 1990s when the first of a succession of "modernising" CEOs was appointed. Since then it's been feasibility studies for this, money wasted on that, most notably on feasibility studies into a £55m campus, and finally the closure of our historic Lowestoft Town Hall, finally killing off trade in that part of the town in favour of an architectural crap house in South Lowestoft. To make matters worse, on part of the old Town Hall campus site their idea of regeneration is a drive through Burger King? You couldn't make it up!!! Oh I forgot the new build will retain a "historic wall"... That's alright then, pity that the remainder of this undoubtedly historic building had to be pulled down. The only thing that never comes down are the number of highly paid executives and their salaries... If a new "super council" is envisaged it will merely be more jobs for the boys, and a huge hike in the executive salaries. Maybe we should just go back to the old pre 1974 system of Borough Councils, which at the very least had their Base in the community and were much more answerable to their communities. If we get a new super council will they be based in Woodbridge for example? It would solve one problem, Suffolk County Council could take over the Riverside Road white elephant which will solve the problem of severe overcrowding they have there. It's all. Bollocks. The decision is made. Whatever we say, this will go through and lots of executive officers will get big pay rises....and lots of front line staff will lose their jobs.... I would be happy to see a Lowestoft, Beccles, Halesworth etc Town Council instead of, but not as well as any "super district council". As it is, to quote my late mother, we have "too many chiefs and not enough Indians".
Sat 26/11/2016	Bigger is not better. Lets abolish both Suffolk Coastal and Waveney Councils and revert to truly local Councils.
Sat 26/11/2016	We do not need a bigger area council Waveney District Council is big enough, I would like to see a Lowestoft Borough Council again and let the Town sort itself out again. Still I suspect that the bigger council is already sorted so no matter what we say we get it.

Sun 27/11/2016	A lot of negative comments none of which appear to be constructive. If WDC and SCDC merge, would like to see better recycling of waste which, Waveney is becoming somewhat disjointed. Would also like to see wider access to social housing across the new merged councils if this is to proceed. Perhaps Waveney may also consider increasing the incredibly low Local Housing Allowance for private tenants, of all ages, on a par with SCDC; we are currently lumped in with Gt Yarmouth, a different county. Change is not always bad and I remain open minded, however wondering why there has been no mailshots. A phone poll is less likely to reach the wider demographic.
Mon 28/11/2016	don't matter what we think they'll do what they think is best which usually isn't
Mon 28/11/2016	No doubt the decision was made long ago, so it does not matter what we think. Will be interesting how at some point, whatever council represents us, gets a way round somehow of knocking down a listed building as in the old town hall, to prop up something else. Might be a better idea for WDC, to discuss how they are going to pay for their new town hall!
Tue 29/11/2016	As there is just a fraction of the number of employees in SCDC in Melton now, with no public access to the new building I feel all local knowledge will be lost as WDC employees do not know the SCDC area, particularly when it comes to Housing (which is now wholly operated by WDC staff in the WDC offices for the SCDC area). What about the Planning Dept? How will SCDC residents view Plans if there is no public access to the new Melton building? Is the Planning Dept for SCDC to be run from the WDC offices too?
Tue 29/11/2016	Is there any way that the merged council could still have two votes in any future combined authority? I'm concerned because combined authorities only have one councillor representing each district council. As it stands we would have 2 votes as both councils would elect their own representative . If you merge then we've reduced local representation on any future combined authority by half.
Tue 29/11/2016	I can understand how the accountants see that on paper the figures look right when it comes merging WDC and SCDC. However, what looks good on paper and what works well in practise aren't necessarily the same thing. Customer service is usually the first thing to suffer. Amongst the people commenting here on FB and talking generally amongst people I have heard barely anyone who thinks it's a good idea. But I'm sure it will go ahead anyway despite public consultation, which unfortunately often seems like a PR exercise. Just call me cynical
Tue 29/11/2016	If this go ahead band A will have to pay £127 a year abd band B will pay £97 a year and it will go up each year.this is on top of paying council tax
Wed 30/11/2016	every time something merges to become ome the prices go up but services go down the pan so if goes ahead how will you be able to keep up and maintain and even enhance to services provided at the moment without cut backs,
Wed 30/11/2016	Councils should be getting smaller not larger, we cannot sustain the cost of running them now, and councils have far too much say in peoples everyday life,

Thu 01/12/2016	Is this democracy? The decision has probably already been made. How about a referendum!!!!
Thu 01/12/2016	Terrible idea! SCDC is too big as it is!
Fri 02/12/2016	The two councils already run as one apart from two sets of councillors, so having only one set should reduce costs considerably. With a town council in place local interests should be cared for, if you feel strongly about your town then stand for election.
Fri 02/12/2016	Ask us then do what was already planned
Fri 02/12/2016	Definitely not
Fri 02/12/2016	Been there,done that more than once,same result no interest shown in anything the public have to say so what`s the point.Bit like Brexit really there was no point in the voting now it seems.
Fri 02/12/2016	stop wasting money less government not more
Fri 02/12/2016	More jobs, more ideas. Good
Sat 03/12/2016	Local councils should be local so that they can be aware of and care about local issues. The votirs are less and less able to have an effect on council views. If the local council isnt local then it has no function.
Sat 03/12/2016	Beccles had all its sports & leisure facilities run down and shut,to spend millions I Lowestoft to build their sports centre,theatre, and flood lit all weather pitchers, when the boroughs merged with Lowestoft, what chance would we have in an even bigger council .None
Sat 03/12/2016	I doesn't matter what the general public think about how the governance of the area is organised as this issue seems cut and dried already. However big the council is it will still know the cost of everything and the value of nothing.
Sat 03/12/2016	We need a good local council not a super district. We've a county council already. We've now got a town council where I live. It's becoming too bureaucratic all this in attempt to save money which will leave residents with poor services.
Sun 04/12/2016	Ridiculous
Sun 04/12/2016	Waste of money and resources, and it will happen anyway regardless of peoples views, they've already merged their websites!?
Sun 04/12/2016	It's already happened, Woodbridge shut, and Felixtowe drop in at the library answering the phones as 'Waveney'. I wonder how much cash they've got for the huge site in Woodbridge?

Mon 05/12/2016	What for?????? More money to waste? More overpaid, power crazed people getting paid to waste our money. NO THANKS
Mon 05/12/2016	An entire entirely without merit
Mon 05/12/2016	https://www.change.org/.../waveney-district-council-stop... Seems like a majority is against. Please sign this petition to express this view. Only 38 signatures so far
Mon 05/12/2016	Not feelin it
Tue 06/12/2016	If the majority of electorate are against it, what is the justification for proceeding? Moreover can we get rid of any councillors prior to 2020?
Tue 06/12/2016	If it means getting rid of some of the top COUNCERLS STARTING WITH THE LEADER I WOULD BE IN FAVOUR. THIS used to be a clean and tidy town now it's overgrown verges, roundabouts used to be laid out with flowers, trees over hanging, light's turned off , to save money. Where is all the money being spent that is saved? Perhaps another JOLLY THAT COST THOUSANDS OF POUNDS LIKE IT DID LAST TIME THE COUNCERLS WENT AWAY ON A EDUCATION LEARNING COURSE THAT COULD HAVE BEEN DONE HERE! SORT OUT THE COUNCERLS OR GET RID
Tue 06/12/2016	Geographical changes and mergers are political moves to strengthen weak government positions. This merger will produce a Tory MP for a long time.
Tue 06/12/2016	I thought GERRYMANDERING was illegal!
Tue 06/12/2016	if it mean we can get our green bins back emptied for free again i`d say yes
Fri 09/12/2016	lucky us having a say! you won't listen so whats the point in asking us? its just a thing you have to do is ask all protacol? you will do what you want anyway? Larger District? No thanks sort out what you have now! not a larger one?
Fri 09/12/2016	They will fix it to there favour anyway as we won't know how many oppose. It takes them over 30 minutes to answer a bloody phone and there always on holiday so no jobs are getting done to my home
Fri 09/12/2016	It'll be run by Common Purpose regardless
Fri 09/12/2016	Small is better. But who listens to us.
Sat 10/12/2016	If it half's the number of pointless pen pushers I'm in. WDCs best asset are their front line staff give them more responsibility for their own area of work the rest of industry has been doing this for years and loose more managers

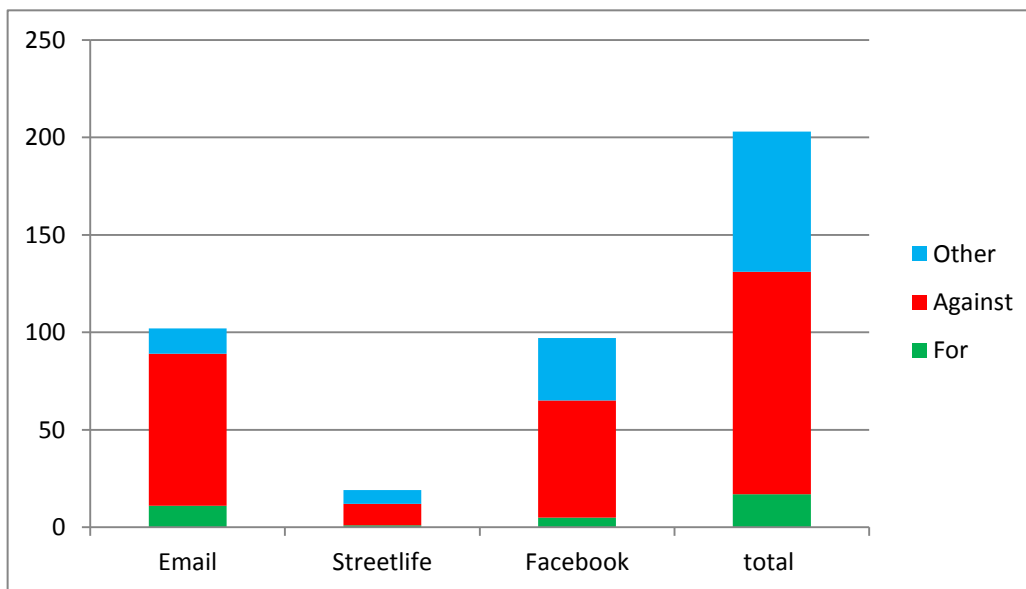
Sun
11/12/2016

I like the current set up it works!

Summary

	Number of respondents		
	For	Against	Other
Email	11	78	13
Streetlife	1	11	7
Facebook	5	60	32
total	17	114	72

*Total doesn't add up due to the same people responding on multiple platforms.
5 email responses are from the same person through various anonymous email addresses,
but are included in the totals above*



The Facebook ad was placed on the 16th of November and got 41 likes, 15 angry emojis, 6 sad emojis, 2 hearts, 2 shocked emojis, 2 laughing emojis and 43 shares

There was also an online petition started on the 13th november 2016 to stop the merger that currently has 42 signatures.

email: merger@eastsuffolk.gov.uk

streetlife: <https://www.streetlife.com/conversation/25g3gb5ha9gj/>

facebook: [https://www.facebook.com/waveneydc/photos/a.900840443305414.](https://www.facebook.com/waveneydc/photos/a.900840443305414.1073741825.148550155201117/1247798121942976)

1073741825.148550155201117/1247798121942976

petition: <https://www.change.org/p/waveney-district-council-stop-the-wdc-scdc-merger>