

EAST SUFFOLK BUSINESS PLAN 2015 - 2023



CASE STUDY

ENABLING COMMUNITIES

COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW FOR LOWESTOFT

One of the specific actions within our East Suffolk Business Plan is to conduct a Community Governance Review in relation to the unparished areas of Lowestoft.

eastsuffolk.gov.uk/east-suffolk-business-plan



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Beccles Library, Blyburgate, Beccles
Felixstowe Library, Crescent Road, Felixstowe
Marina Centre, Marina, Lowestoft
Woodbridge Library, New Street, Woodbridge

CONDUCT A COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW FOR LOWESTOFT



WHAT WE DID?

Despite being the second largest town in Suffolk, residents of Lowestoft had not had local representation since the reorganisation of local government took place in 1974. In order to explore local interest in the possible creation of new parish councils for Lowestoft and Oulton Broad (the unparished areas of the town), a community governance review was carried out and completed in November 2016.

The process comprised three stages of public consultation (between April and October 2016) where residents and key stakeholders were invited to give their views on whether they would like to see a new council(s), what any new council should look like, and finally their thoughts on the proposal to create a new town council for Lowestoft and a new parish council for Oulton Broad. Almost 400 responses were received as part of the consultation process.

Following the final stage of consultation, Full Council reviewed the submissions from the whole review process before agreeing to the creation of these two new councils. The new councils, which represent approximately 44,000 electors, came into effect on 1 April 2017 with elections held on 4 May 2017.



WHY WE DID IT?

Outside of Lowestoft and Oulton Broad, all of the other towns and villages in the Waveney district had their own town or parish councils. For over 40 years, residents in Lowestoft and Oulton Broad had missed out on having the additional resources and level of representation that a town or parish council brings to an area. The creation of the new councils for Lowestoft and Oulton Broad give local residents representation and control over the things that directly matter to them in their area.



44,000
ELECTORS
REPRESENTED
BY THE NEW
COUNCILS



THE DIFFERENCE THIS MADE?

Parish councils play a vital role in supporting and enhancing a community's identity, services and quality of life. The new town council for Lowestoft, and parish council for Oulton Broad, is best placed to understand the issues in the local areas and provide a voice for residents, delivering things the residents want to see. This directly benefits the local area and gives residents greater control over the level of service they receive. Both councils are working closely with Waveney District Council to develop their assets and service portfolios.

"It is right that local people will now be able to take full control of important local assets and services.."

- CLLR FALAT
OULTON BROAD PARISH COUNCIL