

# Suffolk Electoral Review

## COVID-19 update

In the unprecedented situation in which the nation finds itself commissioners have considered carefully how to proceed with electoral reviews which are part way through the process, and those which we have in our future programme.

We are fully equipped for home working and, where reviews are at a stage where we do not require further external information or input, they are progressing as normal.

We have considered carefully how to proceed with electoral reviews that are part way through the process but do require further external information and input, and those which are about to commence. In doing so we have been especially sensitive to two considerations:

- the capacity of individual local authorities to engage with us - particularly while they adapt to new ways of working - in order to avoid distracting them from their critical task of delivering essential public services; and
- confidence that we can consult in ways that enable appropriate input from local resident and organisations in these unprecedented circumstances.

**At their most recent meeting commissioners approved draft recommendations for Suffolk but decided to pause the publication of these recommendations temporarily. The pause will allow us to identify arrangements for proceeding with reviews whilst respecting the two considerations mentioned above.**

**At this point, we cannot say with certainty that we will be able to consult with confidence (point 2, above) before July 2020 and therefore it is our current expectation that the implementation date of new electoral arrangements for Suffolk County Council will be 2025, not 2021.**

We will consider how and when we might carry out an effective consultation in Suffolk in the coming weeks and will keep in contact with you throughout this time.

We are informing all affected local authorities, parishes and stakeholders about the approach we are now taking. We will put information about how we are proceeding on individual reviews on the appropriate pages of our website. We encourage all those we are contacting to also use their own channels to spread awareness.