



## **Changing to Whole Council Elections – Explanatory Document**

**(Published under s.35 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007)**

**Waveney District Council held a special meeting on 25 March 2010 and decided to change to a scheme for whole council elections. This means that, from May 2011, electors in Waveney will vote once every four years to elect all 48 District Councillors simultaneously.**

**Waveney District Council also passed an Order to amend the scheme for Parish and Town Council elections within Waveney. From 2011 all Parish Councillors will be elected simultaneously and every four years thereafter.**

These decisions were made by Waveney District Council, following a vote requiring a two-thirds majority, in accordance with sections 32 to 35 and 53 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007. A copy of the relevant Council report is attached to this Explanatory Document as Appendix A.

The Council conducted consultation in 2006 and 2009 regarding proposed changes to its electoral scheme. At that time Waveney's Councillors were elected 'by thirds', whereby a third of the seats on the Council were up for election each year for three consecutive years, before one year in which no District Council elections were held. Each Councillor would serve a term of four years regardless of the year in which they were elected.

The Council consulted with residents, Parish & Town Councils, through the Council's website, in community meetings, with political parties, the local MPs, the local strategic partners, the local business community, 'harder to hear' groups and Council officers. The consultation asked whether the Council should move to a scheme for whole council elections whereby each Councillor is still elected for four years but they are all elected at the same time at the beginning of the four years.

The level and detail of the response to the consultation in 2006 and 2009 is contained within the report at Appendix A.

The main reasons given in favour of changing were:

- stability and ability for long term vision and planning (budgetary and strategic)
- avoiding election fatigue
- cheaper for Council and political parties
- less confusing with all the people voting at the same time

The main reasons given for keeping elections 'by thirds' were:

- Avoids electing a complete change of Councillors with no experience
- More likely to be influenced by local rather than national politics
- Avoids any Councillor losing their seat having to wait four years before re-standing
- Election of two or three Ward Councillors in any ward at the same time could cause the result to be even more unrepresentative
- Avoids disadvantaging some smaller political groups where contesting all 48 seats at the same time may not be possible.

Overall across the two consultations a majority of support was expressed in favour of changing to a cycle of ordinary elections, of all District Councillors, simultaneously every four years.

In accordance with section 35 this Explanatory Document is available for public inspection at the Council's principal office at all reasonable times. It is also available to the public through the Council's website at [www.waveney.gov.uk](http://www.waveney.gov.uk)

**The Council's principal office address is:**

Waveney District Council  
Town Hall  
High Street  
Lowestoft  
Suffolk  
NR32 1HS

**The hours of opening are:**

Monday to Thursday 9.00am to 4.30pm  
Friday 9.00am to 4.00pm

## LOCAL GOVERNMENT, ENGLAND

### The District of Waveney (Whole Council Elections) Order 2010

*Made and Coming into force 25 March 2010*

By a resolution of 25 March 2010 the Council of the District of Waveney have, under section 32 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 ("the Act"), determined that it will be subject to a scheme of whole council elections under section 34 of the Act.

#### Citation and commencement

1. This Order may be cited as the District of Waveney (Whole Council Elections) Order 2010 and shall come into force on 25 March 2010.

#### Elections of the Council of the District of Waveney

2. (1) Elections of all councillors for all the wards of the District of Waveney ("the District") shall be held simultaneously on the ordinary day of election of councillors in 2011 and every fourth year after 2011.

(2) The councillors holding office for any ward of the District immediately before the fourth day after the ordinary day of election of councillors in 2011 shall retire on that date and the newly elected councillors for those wards shall come into office on that date.

(3) The term of office of all councillors elected in accordance with paragraph (1) shall be four years; and they shall retire on the fourth day after the ordinary day of election of councillors and the newly elected councillors shall come into office on the day on which their predecessors retire.

#### Parish elections

3. (1) Elections of all parish councillors for any parish specified in paragraph (2) shall be held simultaneously on the ordinary day of election of councillors in 2011 and every fourth year after 2011.

(2) The parishes are—

(a)	All Saints and St Nicholas South Elmham
(b)	Barnby
(c)	Barsham
(d)	Beccles Centre
(e)	Beccles Common
(f)	Beccles Darby
(g)	Beccles Rigbourne
(h)	Blundeston
(i)	Blyford
(j)	Brampton with Stoven
(k)	Bungay
(l)	Carlton Colville
(m)	Corton
(n)	Ellough
(o)	Flixton (East)

(p)	Flixton (West)
(q)	Frostenden
(r)	Gisleham
(s)	Halesworth
(t)	Henstead with Hulver Street
(u)	Holton
(v)	Homersfield
(w)	Ilketshall St Andrew
(x)	Ilketshall St Lawrence
(y)	Kessingland
(z)	Lound
(aa)	Mettingham
(bb)	Mutford
(cc)	North Cove
(dd)	Oulton
(ee)	Oulton Camps Heath
(ff)	Oulton Parkhill
(gg)	Reydon
(hh)	Ringsfield
(ii)	Rumburgh
(jj)	Shadingfield
(kk)	Shipmeadow
(ll)	Somerleyton, Ashby and Herringfleet
(mm)	Sotherton
(nn)	Sotterley
(oo)	South Cove
(pp)	Southwold
(qq)	Spexhall
(rr)	St Cross South Elmham
(ss)	St Margaret South Elmham
(tt)	St Michael South Elmham
(uu)	St Peter South Elmham
(vv)	Uggeshall
(ww)	Wangford with Henham
(xx)	Westhall
(yy)	Weston
(zz)	Willingham St Mary
(aaa)	Wissett
(bbb)	Worlingham
(ccc)	Wrentham

(3) The parish councillors for those parishes holding office immediately before the fourth day after the ordinary day of election of councillors in 2011 shall retire on that date and the newly elected councillors for those parishes shall come into office on that date.

(4) The term of office of all parish councillors elected in accordance with paragraph (1) shall be four years; and they shall retire on the fourth day after the ordinary day of election of councillors and the newly elected parish councillors shall come into office on the day on which their predecessors retire.

(5) The ordinary election of parish councillors in 2010 for the parishes specified in paragraph (2)(a), (c), (h), (m), (n), (o), (p), (r), (v), (w), (x), (y), (z), (aa), (bb), (dd), (ee), (ff), (gg), (hh), (ii), (jj), (kk), (ll), (nn), (pp), (rr), (ss), (tt), (uu), (yy), (zz), and (aaa) shall not take place; and any councillor for such a parish holding office immediately before the fourth day after the ordinary day of such election who would, but for this paragraph, have retired on that

date shall, unless he resigns his office or it otherwise becomes vacant, continue to hold office until the fourth day after the ordinary day of elections in 2011.

(6) Rule 5 of the Local Elections (Parishes and Communities) (England and Wales) Rules 2006 (filling of casual vacancies) shall have effect in the case of a casual vacancy occurring before the ordinary day of election of councillors in 2011 in the parishes specified in paragraph (2) , as if the references in paragraphs (1) and (4) of that rule to the day on which that councillor would regularly have retired, were a reference to the fourth day after the ordinary day of election of councillors in 2011.

Signed by authority of the Chairman and Leader of the Waveney District Council  
25 March 2010

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## EXPLANATORY NOTE

*(This note is not part of the Order)*

This Order gives effect to a resolution by Waveney District Council for a scheme of whole council elections under the provisions of sections 32 to 35 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007. This system provides for the holding of the ordinary elections of all the councillors of the district simultaneously. The previous system of elections by thirds is therefore replaced.

**Article 2** provides that elections of all councillors for every ward in the District are to be held in 2011 and subsequently every four years, with their term of office being for four years.

**Article 3** provides that elections of all parish councillors of the parishes specified in this article are to be held in 2011 and subsequently every four years, with their term of office being for four years.

The ordinary elections of parish councillors of those parishes listed in paragraph (2) that would ordinarily have taken place in 2010 and 2012, will take place in 2011 instead. Paragraph (6) makes provision for the filling of casual vacancies in the case of those parishes specified in paragraph (2) whose parish councillors have had their term of office extended from four to five years as a consequence of elections taking place in 2011 instead of 2010.