

The  
Local Government  
Boundary Commission  
for England



# New electoral arrangements for North Kesteven District Council Final Recommendations

January 2021



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## A note on our mapping:

The maps shown in this report are for illustrative purposes only. Whilst best efforts have been made by our staff to ensure that the maps included in this report are representative of the boundaries described by the text, there may be slight variations between these maps and the large PDF map that accompanies this report, or the digital mapping supplied on our consultation portal. This is due to the way in which the final mapped products are produced. The reader should therefore refer to either the large PDF supplied with this report or the digital mapping for the true likeness of the boundaries intended. The boundaries as shown on either the large PDF map or the digital mapping should always appear identical.

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# Introduction

## Who we are and what we do

1 The Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) is an independent body set up by Parliament.<sup>1</sup> We are not part of government or any political party. We are accountable to Parliament through a committee of MPs chaired by the Speaker of the House of Commons. Our main role is to carry out electoral reviews of local authorities throughout England.

2 The members of the Commission are:

- Professor Colin Mellors OBE (Chair)
- Andrew Scallan CBE (Deputy Chair)
- Susan Johnson OBE
- Peter Maddison QPM
- Amanda Nobbs OBE
- Steve Robinson
- Jolyon Jackson CBE (Chief Executive)

## What is an electoral review?

3 An electoral review examines and proposes new electoral arrangements for a local authority. A local authority's electoral arrangements decide:

- How many councillors are needed.
- How many wards or electoral divisions there should be, where their boundaries are and what they should be called.
- How many councillors should represent each ward or division.

4 When carrying out an electoral review the Commission has three main considerations:

- Improving electoral equality by equalising the number of electors that each councillor represents.
- Ensuring that the recommendations reflect community identity.
- Providing arrangements that support effective and convenient local government.

5 Our task is to strike the best balance between these three considerations when making our recommendations.

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<sup>1</sup> Under the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009.

6 More detail regarding the powers that we have, as well as the further guidance and information about electoral reviews and review process in general, can be found on our website at [www.lgbce.org.uk](http://www.lgbce.org.uk)

## Why North Kesteven?

7 We are conducting a review of North Kesteven District Council ('the Council') as the value of each vote in district elections varies depending on where you live in North Kesteven. Some councillors currently represent many more or fewer voters than others. This is 'electoral inequality'. Our aim is to create 'electoral equality', where votes are as equal as possible, ideally within 10% of being exactly equal.

8 This electoral review is being carried out to ensure that:

- The wards in North Kesteven are in the best possible places to help the Council carry out its responsibilities effectively.
- The number of voters represented by each councillor is approximately the same across the district.

## Our proposals for North Kesteven

9 North Kesteven should be represented by 43 councillors, the same number as there are now.

10 North Kesteven should have 24 wards, two fewer than there are now.

11 The boundaries of 18 wards should change; six will stay the same.

12 We have now finalised our recommendations for electoral arrangements for North Kesteven.

## How will the recommendations affect you?

13 The recommendations will determine how many councillors will serve on the Council. They will also decide which ward you vote in, which other communities are in that ward, and, in some cases, which parish council ward you vote in. Your ward name may also change.

14 Our recommendations cannot affect the external boundaries of the district or result in changes to postcodes. They do not take into account parliamentary constituency boundaries. The recommendations will not have an effect on local taxes, house prices, or car and house insurance premiums and we are not able to take into account any representations which are based on these issues.

## Review timetable

15 We wrote to the Council to ask its views on the appropriate number of councillors for North Kesteven. We then held two periods of consultation with the public on warding patterns for the district. The submissions received during consultation have informed our final recommendations.

16 The review was conducted as follows:

Stage starts	Description
17 December 2019	Number of councillors decided
7 January 2020	Start of consultation seeking views on new wards
16 March 2020	End of consultation; we began analysing submissions and forming draft recommendations
11 August 2020	Publication of draft recommendations; start of second consultation
19 October 2020	End of consultation; we began analysing submissions and forming final recommendations
11 January 2021	Publication of final recommendations



## Analysis and final recommendations

17 Legislation<sup>2</sup> states that our recommendations should not be based only on how many electors<sup>3</sup> there are now, but also on how many there are likely to be in the five years after the publication of our final recommendations. We must also try to recommend strong, clearly identifiable boundaries for our wards.

18 In reality, we are unlikely to be able to create wards with exactly the same number of electors in each; we have to be flexible. However, we try to keep the number of electors represented by each councillor as close to the average for the council as possible.

19 We work out the average number of electors per councillor for each individual local authority by dividing the electorate by the number of councillors, as shown on the table below.

	2019	2026
Electorate of North Kesteven	89,879	95,784
Number of councillors	43	43
Average number of electors per councillor	2,090	2,228

20 When the number of electors per councillor in a ward is within 10% of the average for the authority, we refer to the ward as having 'good electoral equality'. All but one of our proposed wards for North Kesteven will have good electoral equality by 2026.

## Submissions received

21 See Appendix C for details of the submissions received. All submissions may be viewed at our offices by appointment, or on our website at [www.lgbce.org.uk](http://www.lgbce.org.uk)

## Electorate figures

22 The Council submitted electorate forecasts for 2025, a period five years on from the initial scheduled publication of our final recommendations in 2020. These forecasts were broken down to polling district level and predicted an increase in the electorate of around 6% by 2025.

23 Due to delays caused by Covid-19, the review will now conclude in January 2021. We have agreed with the Council that these figures can be regarded as a realistic forecast of local electors by 2026. We are content that the projected figures

<sup>2</sup> Schedule 2 to the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009.

<sup>3</sup> Electors refers to the number of people registered to vote, not the whole adult population.

are the best available at the present time and have used these figures to produce our final recommendations.

## Number of councillors

24 North Kesteven Council currently has 43 councillors. We have looked at evidence provided by the Council and have concluded that keeping this number the same will ensure the Council can carry out its roles and responsibilities effectively.

25 We therefore invited proposals for new patterns of wards that would be represented by 43 councillors – for example, 43 one-councillor wards, or a mix of one-, two- and three-councillor wards.

26 We received one submission about the number of councillors in response to our consultation on warding arrangements. The submission, one of two proposals from the Lincolnshire Independents, proposed to increase the number of councillors representing the Council by one. This was in order to support their proposed warding pattern, which the Lincolnshire Independents argued was a better reflection of communities. However, we have based our final recommendations on our original decision for a 43-member council. We are confident that our proposed warding pattern provides for good levels of electoral equality, while reflecting evidence of communities in the area.

## Ward boundaries consultation

27 We received 32 submissions in response to our consultation on ward boundaries. These included one district-wide proposal from the Council and two partial schemes for 43 and 44 councillors respectively from the Lincolnshire Independents. The Lincolnshire Independents broadly endorsed the Council's proposed wards in the east of the district and for the towns of North Hykeham and Sleaford. However, they proposed alternative boundaries in the rural west of the district. The remainder of the submissions provided localised comments for warding arrangements in particular areas of the district.

28 Both district-wide schemes provided a mixed pattern of one-, two- and three-councillor wards for North Kesteven. We carefully considered the proposals received and were of the view that the proposed patterns of wards resulted in good levels of electoral equality in most areas of the authority and generally used clearly identifiable boundaries.

29 Our draft recommendations also took into account local evidence that we received, which provided further evidence of community links and locally recognised boundaries. In some areas we considered that the proposals did not provide for the

best balance between our statutory criteria and so we identified alternative boundaries.

30 Given the travel restrictions, and the social distancing, arising from the Covid-19 outbreak, there was a detailed virtual tour of North Kesteven. This helped to clarify issues raised in submissions and assisted in the construction of the proposed draft boundary recommendations.

31 Our draft recommendations were for three three-councillor wards, 12 two-councillor wards and 10 one-councillor wards. We considered that our draft recommendations would provide for good electoral equality while reflecting community identities and interests where we received such evidence during consultation.

## Draft recommendations consultation

32 We received 43 submissions in response to our consultation on ward boundaries. These representations included comments for the entire district from the Council, as well as a partial scheme for 44 councillors from the Lincolnshire Independents. These responses broadly endorsed our draft recommendations, with the exception of alternative boundaries proposed for the rural west of the district and the towns of Sleaford and North Hykeham. The remainder of the submissions provided localised comments for warding arrangements in particular areas of the district.

33 Our final recommendations are based on the draft recommendations with some minor modifications to the boundaries and names of wards in the town of North Hykeham, based on the submissions received. We have also made changes to the names of our proposed Billingham, Heckington, and Metheringham wards.

## Final recommendations

34 Our final recommendations are for four three-councillor wards, 11 two-councillor ward, and nine one-councillor wards. We consider that our final recommendations will provide for good electoral equality while reflecting community identities and interests where we received such evidence during consultation.

35 The tables and maps on pages 9–26 detail our final recommendations for each area of North Kesteven. They detail how the proposed warding arrangements reflect the three statutory<sup>4</sup> criteria of:

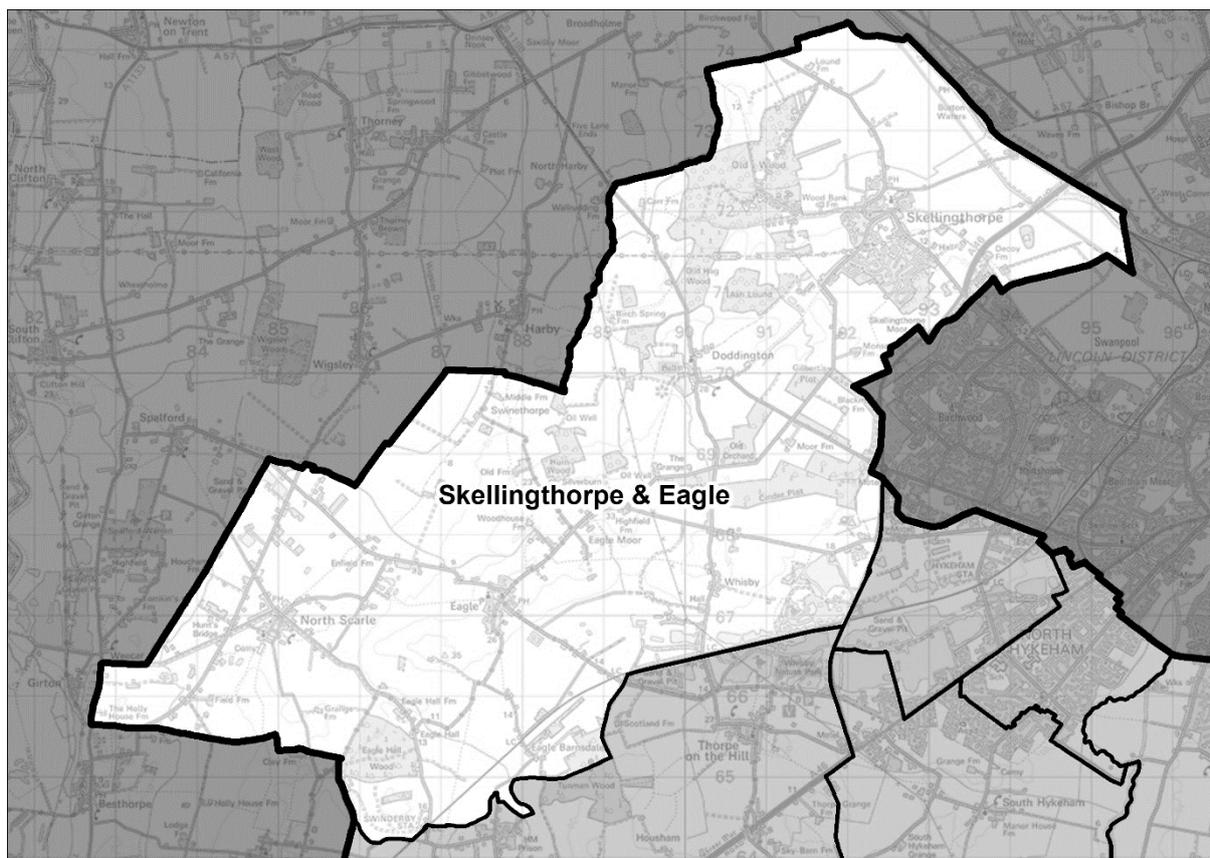
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<sup>4</sup> Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009.

- Equality of representation.
- Reflecting community interests and identities.
- Providing for effective and convenient local government.

36 A summary of our proposed new wards is set out in the table starting on page 33 and on the large map accompanying this report.

## Skellingthorpe & Eagle



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2026
Skellingthorpe & Eagle	2	4%

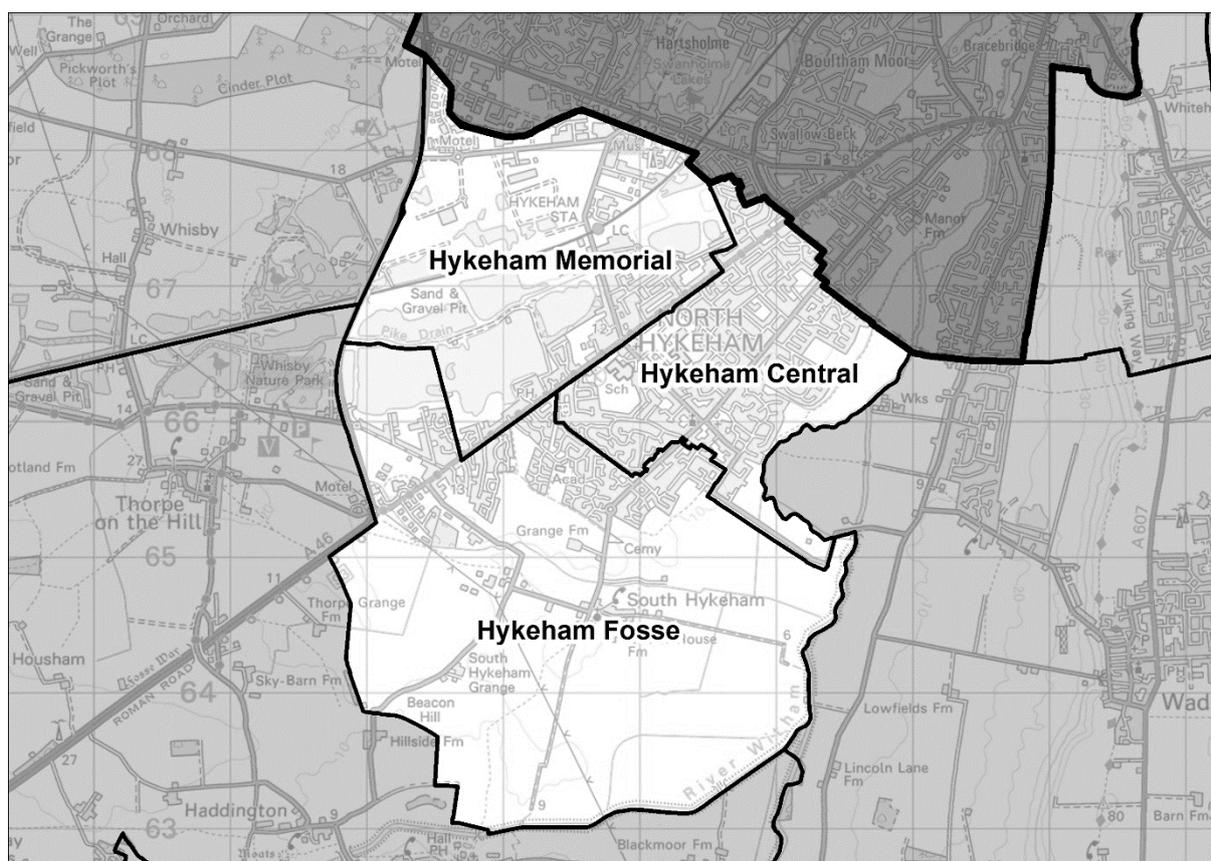
### *Skellingthorpe & Eagle*

37 Our draft recommendations for this area were based on the Council's proposal, including the parishes of Skellingthorpe, Doddington & Whisby, Eagle & Swinethorpe, and North Scarle in a two-councillor ward. In response to our draft recommendations we received two responses to our proposals from local residents.

38 A submission argued that the A46 should form a boundary between this area and Bassingham. However, while we acknowledge that the A46 appears to be a strong and identifiable boundary, its use would extend a Skellingthorpe ward significantly south. Such an arrangement would create a ward with 13% fewer electors than the district average by 2026 with three councillors, or 30% more with two councillors. We are not persuaded that the evidence we have received justifies this level of electoral inequality and we have therefore not adopted this proposal as part of our final recommendations.

39 We therefore confirm our draft recommendations for this area as final. Our final recommendations will provide for good electoral equality, with an electoral variance of 4% more electors than the district average by 2026.

## North Hykeham and South Hykeham



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2026
Hykeham Central	3	6%
Hykeham Fosse	2	11%
Hykeham Memorial	1	6%

### *Hykeham Central, Hykeham Fosse and Hykeham Memorial*

40 Our draft recommendations for this area were based on a combination of the submissions we received, as well as our own proposals. This included dividing the town of North Hykeham into a mixed pattern of four wards covering the entirety of North Hykeham and South Hykeham parishes. In response to our draft recommendations we received seven responses to our proposals, from the Council, North Hykeham Town Council, South Hykeham Town Council, and local residents.

41 The Council proposed some amendments to our draft recommendations. The first of these was to correct a parish ward boundary anomaly around numbers 58–68 Minerva Way, which we included in our draft recommendation Hykeham Central ward. The Council suggested that the boundary of Hykeham Central run around the back of these properties, which more accurately reflects access routes on the ground. They also proposed that electors from Clarke Road, Holt Close, Perney Crescent, and Coult Avenue be included in our proposed South Hykeham ward, with

numbers 56–70 Meadow Lane included in our proposed North Hykeham Witham ward. They argued that this arrangement would provide for more effective and convenient local government, as well as more accurately reflecting the identity of these communities. Finally, the Council offered alternative ward names for the new district wards in the area of North Hykeham: Hykeham Central, Hykeham Memorial, Hykeham Witham, and Hykeham Fosse. They argued that these names are considered to be inclusive of both North Hykeham town and South Hykeham parish, reflecting the makeup of the wards and acknowledging the names of the joint plans and committees held between both parishes.

42 All other representations supported our draft recommendations; however, they also proposed to amend the names of our proposed wards to those suggested by the Council.

43 Having carefully considered the evidence provided, we agree that the Council's proposal better reflects communities whilst also delivering effective and convenient local government. However, adopting their proposals would lead to poor electoral equality in the area by producing a single-councillor Hykeham Fosse ward and a two-councillor Hykeham Central ward with electoral variances of 11% more and 12% more electors than the district average by 2026, respectively. We therefore recommend that our draft recommendation two-councillor North Hykeham Central and single-councillor North Hykeham Witham wards are combined within a three-councillor Hykeham Central ward. This will considerably improve the electoral variance of the ward, which will now have 6% more electors than the district average by 2026. This ward will utilise the Council's proposed boundary to the south-east, moving all electors from Clarke Road, Holt Close, Perney Crescent, and Coult Avenue in a single-councillor 'Hykeham Fosse' ward. We accept that this will lead to Hykeham Fosse ward having 11% more electors than the average for the district by 2026; however, we believe that this proposal better reflects communities in the area and provides for the best balance of our statutory criteria.

44 Our final recommendations are therefore for a three-councillor Hykeham Central ward, a single-councillor Hykeham Memorial ward, and a two-councillor Hykeham Fosse ward. Our final recommendations will provide for reasonable levels of electoral equality, with 6% more, 6% more, and 11% more electors than the district average by 2026, respectively.

## Bassingham Rural and Witham St Hughs & Swinderby



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2026
Bassingham Rural	1	-1%
Witham St Hughs & Swinderby	2	-9%

### *Bassingham Rural and Witham St Hughs & Swinderby*

45 Our draft recommendations for this area were based on a combination of the submissions we received, as well as our own proposals. Due to the strong evidence received regarding other areas in the west of the borough, we proposed including the parishes of Swinderby, Witham St Hughs, and Aubourn & Haddington in a two-councillor ward. We also adopted the Council's proposed single-councillor Bassingham Rural ward, comprising the parishes of Thurlby, Norton Disney, Bassingham, Stapleford, and Carlton-le-Moorland. In response to our draft recommendations we received six responses to our proposals, from the Council, Aubourn & Haddington Parish Council, and local residents.

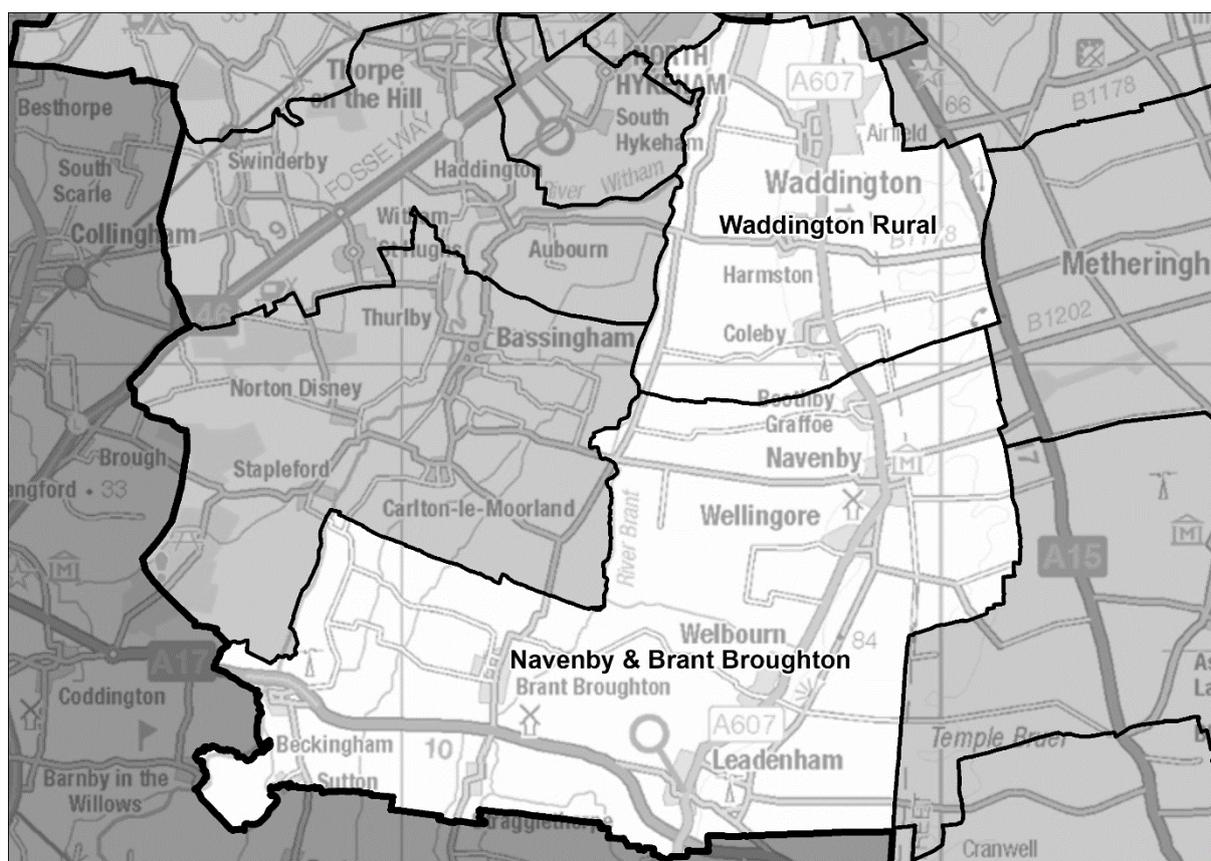
46 The Council proposed that Bassingham be named 'Bassingham Rural', which better reflects the geographical makeup of the ward. We agree with this proposal and therefore have adopted the name as part of our final recommendations.

47 A submission argued that the parish of Thorpe on the Hill should be included in Skellingthorpe & Eagle ward on the basis of community identity. However, this amendment would lead to poor levels of electoral equality in Witham St Hughs & Swinderby, with 20% fewer electors than the district average by 2026. It would also have an adverse effect on levels of electoral equality in Skellingthorpe & Eagle ward, with 15% more electors than the district average by 2026. We have therefore not adopted this proposal as part of our final recommendations.

48 The remaining submissions argued for retaining the existing boundaries in the area, including both Aubourn and Haddington and Brant Broughton & Stragglethorpe parishes in a Bassingham ward. We are not of the view that we have received sufficient evidence to justify this change. Furthermore, doing so would create poor levels of electoral equality across the west of the district, leading to Witham St Hughs & Swinderby and Bassingham Rural wards having 16% fewer and 41% more electors than the district average by 2026. We have therefore not adopted this proposal as part of our final recommendations.

49 We therefore confirm our draft recommendations for Witham St Hughs & Swinderby and Bassingham Rural as final (with the exception of the name change described above). Our final recommendations will provide for reasonable levels of electoral equality, with 9% fewer and 1% fewer electors than the district average by 2026, respectively.

## Navenby & Brant Broughton and Waddington Rural



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2026
Navenby & Brant Broughton	2	6%
Waddington Rural	3	-6%

### *Navenby & Brant Broughton and Waddington Rural*

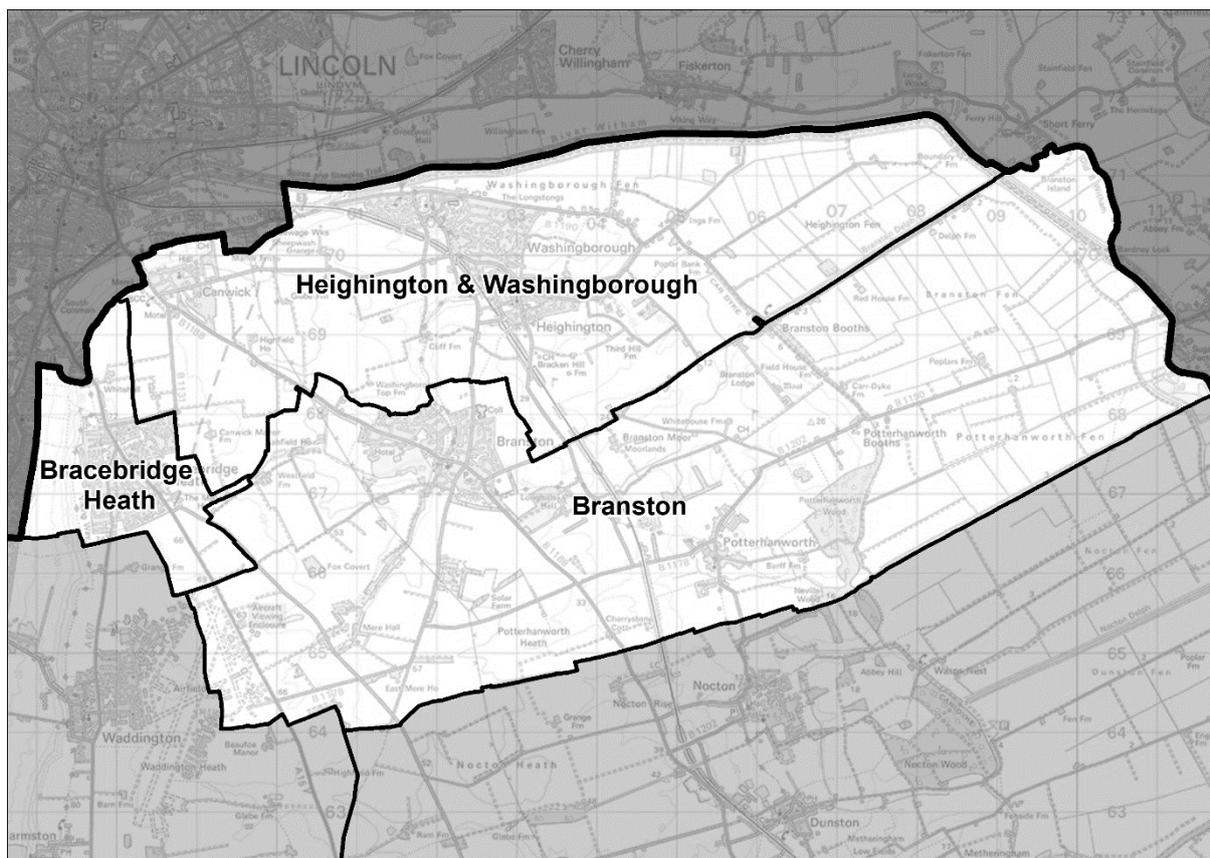
50 Our draft recommendations for this area were based on a combination of the submissions we received, as well as our own proposals. As a consequence of the significant changes to the current warding pattern in the west of the district, we proposed a three-councillor Waddington Rural ward comprising Waddington, Harmston, and Coleby parishes. We also recommended a two-councillor Navenby & Brant Broughton ward including the parishes of Beckingham, Brant Broughton & Stragglethorpe, Leadenham, Welbourn, Wellingore, Navenby, and Boothby Graffoe. In response to our draft recommendations we received 15 responses to our proposals, from the Council, Lincolnshire Independents, Coleby Parish Council, Harmston Parish Council, Navenby with Skinnand Parish Council, Waddington Parish Council, a district councillor, and local residents.

51 We received positive responses to our proposal to unite Waddington parish in a single ward. However, most of the submissions we received opposed our proposals for the Cliff Villages area. Respondents argued that the existing warding

arrangement should be retained, citing the geographical differences between Waddington and the villages to its south as well as the community links that exist there. While we accept that the Cliff Villages do have a strong community identity, we are unable to retain the existing arrangements in this area due to the poor levels of electoral equality that would result. While a two-councillor Cliff Villages ward would have good electoral equality of 5% more electors than the district average by 2026, our proposed single-councillor Bassingham Rural ward would have an electoral variance of 43%. If we were to include the parishes of Coleby and Harmston in our proposed two-councillor Navenby & Brant Broughton ward, this would result in an electoral variance of 27% for this ward and an electoral variance of -20% for Waddington Rural ward. We were therefore unable to adopt these proposals as part of our final recommendations.

52 We therefore confirm our draft recommendations for Navenby & Brant Broughton and Waddington Rural as final. Our final recommendations will provide for good levels of electoral equality, with 6% more and 6% fewer electors than the district average by 2026, respectively.

## Bracebridge Heath, Branston, and Heighington & Washingborough



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2026
Bracebridge Heath	2	10%
Branston	2	-1%
Heighington & Washingborough	3	-9%

### *Bracebridge Heath*

53 Our draft recommendations for this area were based on the Council's proposal for a two-councillor Bracebridge Heath ward, coterminous with the existing parish boundaries here. In response to our draft recommendations we received three responses to our proposals from local residents.

54 A submission from a resident argued that the boundaries of Bracebridge Heath ward be extended east along the B1331 in order to include new developments taking place in Canwick parish. This proposal would lead to a worsening of electoral equality for the ward, with 12% more electors than the average for the district by 2026. This arrangement would also create an unviable parish ward, as the area currently contains no electors and will be populated by fewer than 100 electors by 2026. We have therefore not adopted this proposal as part of our final recommendations.

55 A local resident also proposed that Bracebridge Heath be paired with Waddington in an urban ward. However, a three-councillor ward including both parishes would have 53% more electors than the district average by 2026. We have therefore not adopted this proposal as part of our final recommendations.

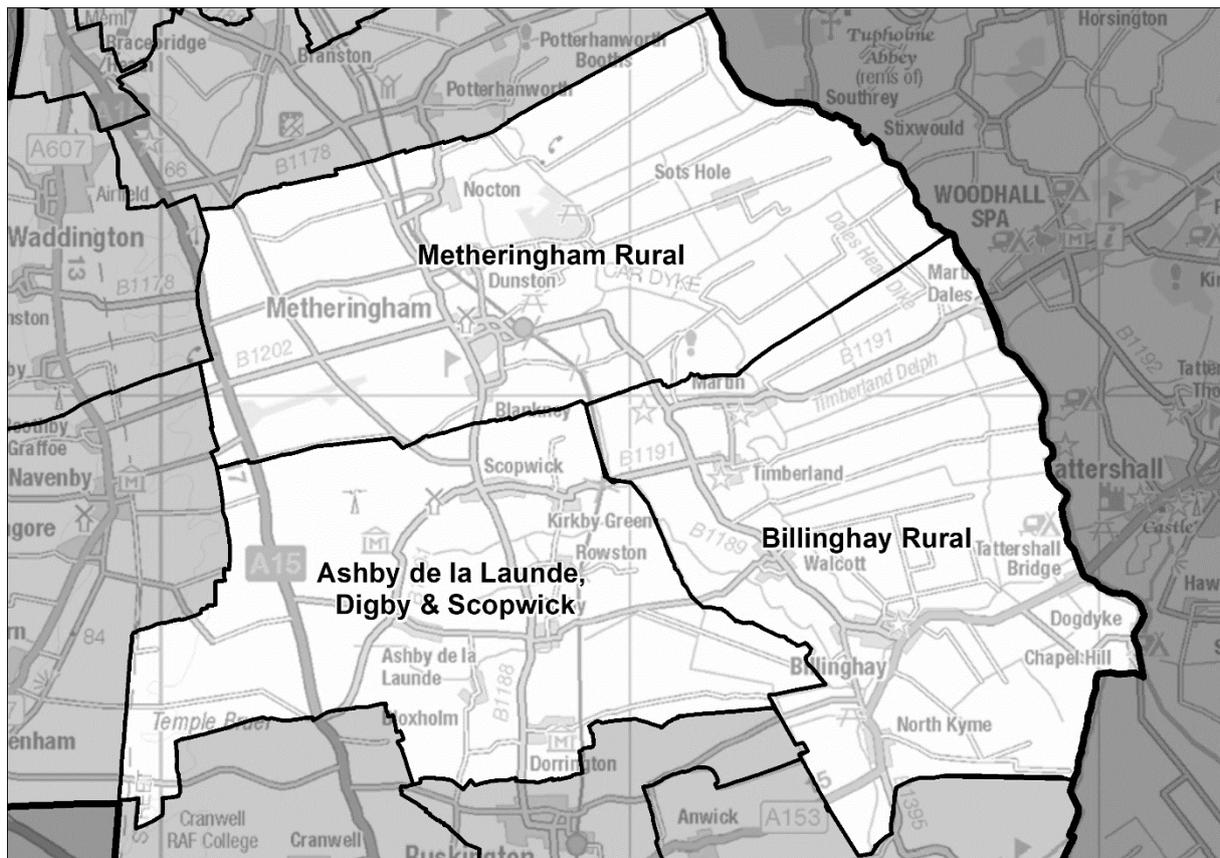
56 We therefore confirm our draft recommendations for Bracebridge Heath as final. Our final recommendations will provide for reasonable levels of electoral equality, with 10% more electors than the district average by 2026.

#### *Branston and Heighington & Washingborough*

57 Our draft recommendations in this area adopted the Council's proposal, which argued for wards coterminous with the existing arrangement. In response to our draft recommendations we received two responses, from Heighington Parish Council and Canwick Parish Council. Both were supportive of our recommendations.

58 We therefore confirm our draft recommendations as final. Our final recommendation is for a two-councillor Branston ward and a three-councillor Heighington & Washingborough ward, with electoral variances of 1% fewer and 9% fewer electors than the district average by 2026, respectively.

## Ashby de la Launde, Billingham Rural, and Metheringham Rural



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2026
Ashby de la Launde, Digby & Scopwick	1	-3%
Billingham Rural	2	0%
Metheringham Rural	2	3%

### *Billingham Rural and Metheringham Rural*

59 Our draft recommendations for this area adopted the Council’s proposal, which argued for wards coterminous with the existing arrangement. In response to our draft recommendations we received two responses to our proposals, from the Council and a local resident. They were supportive of our recommendations.

60 The Council proposed that the wards be named ‘Billingham Rural’ and ‘Metheringham Rural’, in order to better reflect the geographical makeup of the wards. We agree with this proposal and therefore have adopted these names as part of our final recommendations.

61 We therefore confirm our draft recommendations for Billingham Rural and Metheringham Rural as final (with the exception of the name changes described above). Our final recommendations will provide for good electoral equality, with

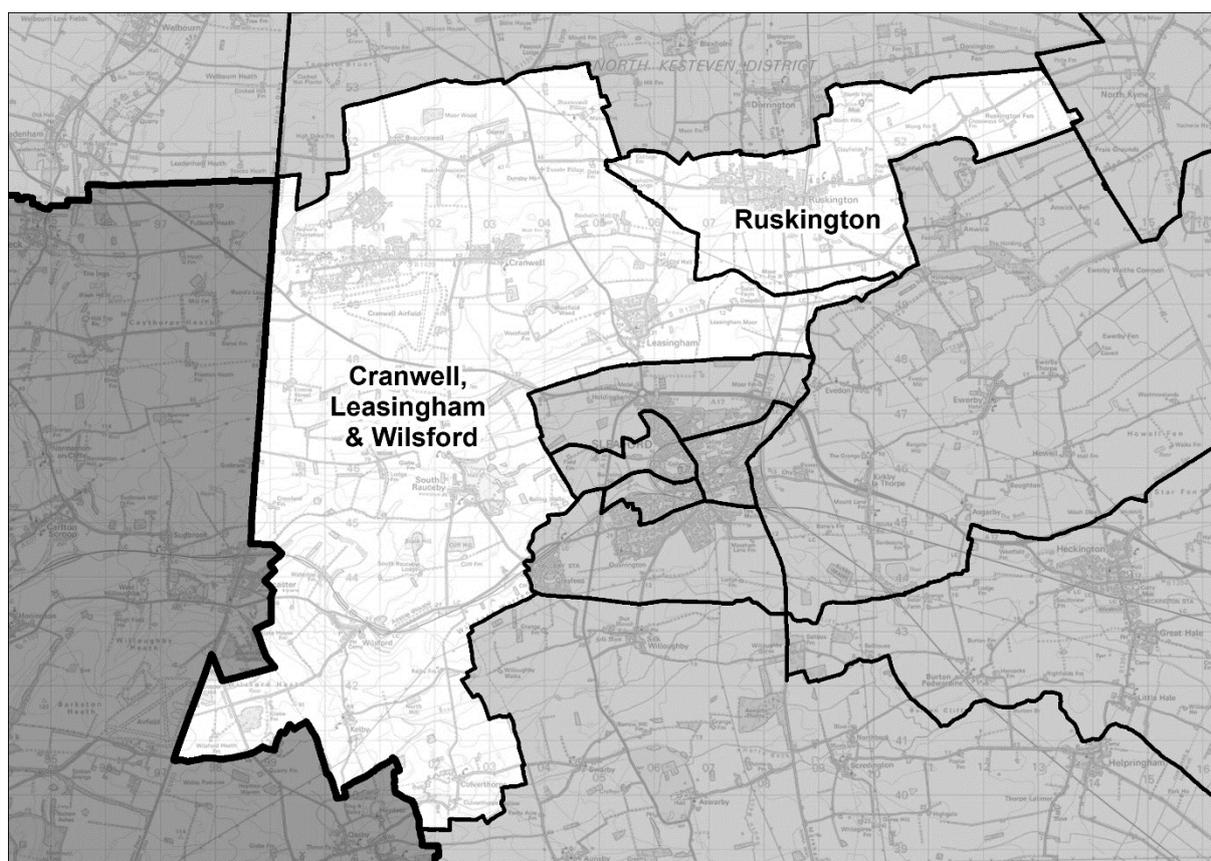
electoral variances of 0% and 3% more electors than the district average by 2026.

*Ashby de la Launde, Digby & Scopwick*

62 In our draft recommendations for this area, we adopted the Council's proposals for a single-councillor Ashby de la Launde, Digby & Scopwick ward. We proposed that the boundaries of the ward remain mostly the same as the existing arrangements, with the exception of its southern boundary. This excluded Cranwell, Brauncewell & Byard's Leap parish in favour of including it in a new Cranwell ward, as described in paragraph 64. We did not receive any responses to our draft proposals for this area during consultation.

63 We therefore confirm our draft recommendations for Ashby de la Launde, Digby & Scopwick as final. Our final recommendations will provide for good electoral equality, with an electoral variance of 3% fewer electors than the district average by 2026.

## Cranwell, Leasingham, and Ruskington



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2026
Cranwell, Leasingham & Wilsford	2	-2%
Ruskington	2	8%

### *Cranwell, Leasingham & Wilsford*

64 Our draft recommendations for this area were based on a combination of the submissions we received, as well as our own proposals. This included adopting the Council’s suggestion to include the parishes of Culverthorpe & Kelby and Wilsford with those parishes within the existing Leasingham & Rauceby ward, and our own proposal to extend the ward to also include the parishes of Cranwell, Brauncewell & Byard’s Leap and Roxholm. In response to our draft recommendations we received five responses to our proposals, from the Council, Leasingham & Roxholm Parish Council, Rauceby Parish Council, and local residents.

65 Of the submissions received, three objected to our proposals for the area. Leasingham & Roxholm Parish Council and Rauceby Parish Council both argued that their parishes should be represented in a single-councillor ward in order to give better electoral representation to the villages. However, the current arrangement of a single-councillor Leasingham & Rauceby ward would have an electoral variance of 16% fewer electors than the district average by 2026, which in our view would be

unacceptably high. We have therefore not adopted this proposal as part of our final recommendations.

66 A local resident also proposed that the external district boundary be amended to join Cranwell with the village of Ancaster. We are unable to have regard to this issue in our final recommendations as amendments to authority boundaries are not considered as part of an electoral review.

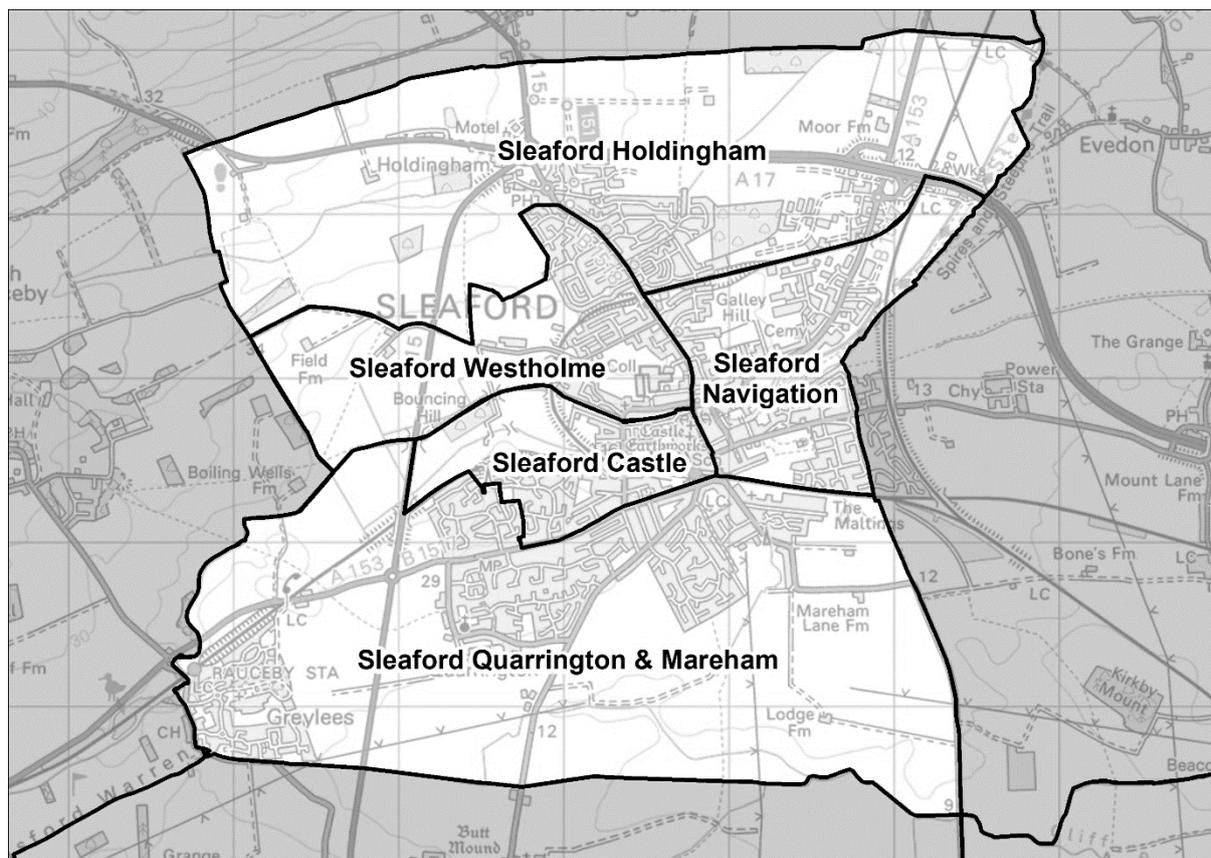
67 We therefore confirm our draft recommendations for Cranwell, Leasingham & Wilsford as final. Our final recommendation for a two-councillor ward will provide for good electoral equality, with an electoral variance of 2% fewer electors than the district average by 2026.

### *Ruskington*

68 Our draft recommendations for this area adopted the Council's proposal, which argued for a ward coterminous with the existing arrangement. In response to our draft recommendations we did not receive any responses to our proposals.

69 We therefore confirm our draft recommendations as final. Our final recommendations will provide for good electoral equality, with an electoral variance of 8% more electors than the district average by 2026.

## Sleaford Town



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2026
Sleaford Castle	1	0%
Sleaford Holdingham	1	-7%
Sleaford Navigation	1	8%
Sleaford Quarrington & Mareham	3	-4%
Sleaford Westholme	1	-3%

### *Sleaford Castle, Sleaford Holdingham, Sleaford Navigation, Sleaford Quarrington & Mareham, and Sleaford Westholme*

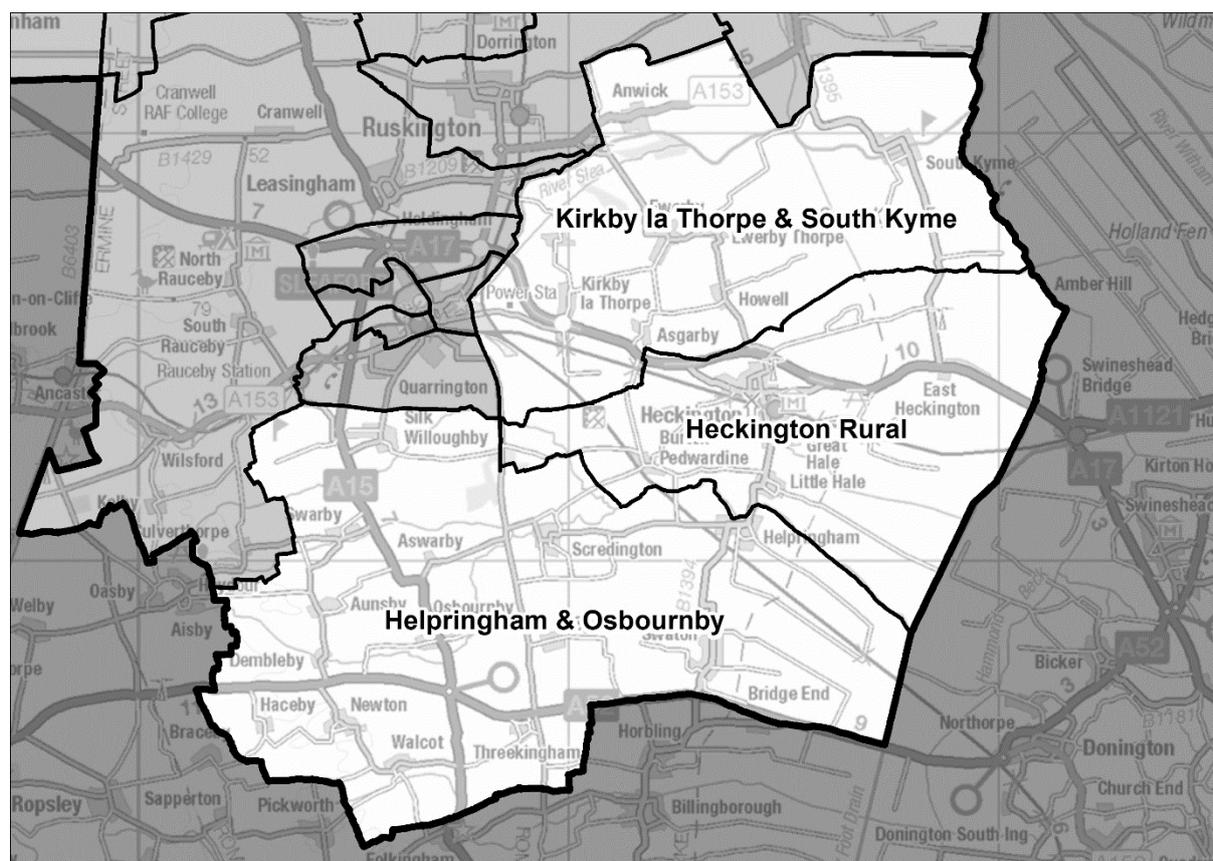
70 Our draft recommendations for Sleaford town were based on the Council's proposals, which argued that the B1518 acts as a strong boundary and that electors from Mill Field Terrace, Tennyson Avenue, and adjoining roads should be included in Sleaford Navigation ward. They also suggested that electors to the west of Lincoln Road, from St Denys Avenue to Stokes Drive, should be included in a Sleaford Westholme ward in order to improve electoral equality. Our draft recommendations retained the existing boundaries in the remainder of the town. In response to our draft recommendations we received two responses to our proposals, from the Lincolnshire Independents and a local resident.

71 The Lincolnshire Independents suggested that the existing Sleaford Quarrington & Mareham ward should be split into a single-councillor Sleaford Mareham ward and a two-councillor Sleaford Quarrington & Greylees ward. They argued that this arrangement would retain the separate identities of the rural and urban areas of the existing ward. We do not feel that sufficient evidence has been provided to recommend this warding pattern. After requesting further information from electors in the area at the previous stage, we have not received evidence about whether the areas share defining characteristics or would benefit from being represented in single- or two-councillor wards. We have therefore not adopted this proposal as part of our final recommendations.

72 We also received a comment from a resident who suggested that the eastern boundary of Sleaford Navigation should be extended to the railway line in order to include electors from Milton Way, The Hoplands, and adjoining roads in a Sleaford ward. This is discussed further in paragraph 78.

73 We therefore confirm our draft recommendations for Sleaford Castle, Sleaford Holdingham, Sleaford Navigation, Sleaford Quarrington & Mareham, and Sleaford Westholme as final. Our final recommendations will provide for good electoral equality, with electoral variances of 0% more, 7% fewer, 8% more, 4% fewer, and 3% fewer electors than the district average by 2026, respectively.

## Heckington, Helpringham, and Kirkby la Thorpe



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2026
Heckington Rural	2	-10%
Helpringham & Osbournby	1	7%
Kirkby la Thorpe & South Kyme	1	-8%

### *Heckington Rural and Helpringham & Osbournby*

74 Our draft recommendations for this area adopted the Council’s proposal, which included Helpringham parish with those parishes currently in the existing Osbournby ward. We also proposed that Culverthorpe & Kelby and Wilsford parishes should be included in the neighbouring Cranwell, Leasingham & Wilsford ward in order to improve electoral equality. In response to our draft recommendations, we received one submission in relation to our proposals, from the Council.

75 The Council proposed that Heckington ward be named ‘Heckington Rural’, which better reflects the geographical makeup of the ward. We agree with this proposal and therefore have adopted this name as part of our final recommendations.

76 We therefore confirm our draft recommendations as final (with the exception of the name change described above). Our final recommendations for Heckington

Rural and Helpringham & Osbournby will provide for good electoral equality, with electoral variances of 10% fewer and 7% more electors than the district average by 2026, respectively.

*Kirkby la Thorpe & South Kyme*

77 Our draft recommendations for this area adopted the Council's proposal, which argued for a ward coterminous with the existing arrangement. In response to our draft recommendations we received one response regarding our proposals, from a local resident.

78 The submission suggested that the settlements in the very west of the ward, on the outskirts of Sleaford, should be placed in a Sleaford ward. However, this arrangement would produce a single-councillor ward with a variance of 38% fewer electors than the district average by 2026. In our view, this level of electoral inequality is unacceptably high. We have therefore been unable to adopt this proposal as part of our final recommendations.

79 We therefore confirm our draft recommendations as final. Our final recommendations will provide for good electoral equality, with an electoral variance of 8% fewer electors than the district average by 2026.

## Conclusions

80 The table below provides a summary as to the impact of our final recommendations on electoral equality in North Kesteven, referencing the 2019 and 2026 electorate figures. A full list of wards, names and their corresponding electoral variances can be found at Appendix A to the back of this report. An outline map of the wards is provided at Appendix B.

### Summary of electoral arrangements

	Final recommendations	
	2019	2026
Number of councillors	43	43
Number of electoral wards	26	24
Average number of electors per councillor	2,090	2,228
Number of wards with a variance more than 10% from the average	3	1
Number of wards with a variance more than 20% from the average	0	0

#### Final recommendations

North Kesteven Council should be made up of 43 councillors serving 24 wards representing nine single-councillor wards, 11 two-councillor wards and four three-councillor wards. The details and names are shown in Appendix A and illustrated on the large maps accompanying this report.

#### Mapping

Sheet 1, Map 1 shows the proposed wards for North Kesteven District Council. You can also view our draft recommendations for North Kesteven on our interactive maps at [www.consultation.lgbce.org.uk](http://www.consultation.lgbce.org.uk)

## Parish electoral arrangements

81 As part of an electoral review, we are required to have regard to the statutory criteria set out in Schedule 2 to the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009 (the 2009 Act). The Schedule provides that if a parish is to be divided between different wards it must also be divided into parish wards, so that each parish ward lies wholly within a single ward. We cannot recommend changes to the external boundaries of parishes as part of an electoral review.

82 Under the 2009 Act we only have the power to make changes to parish electoral arrangements where these are as a direct consequence of our recommendations for principal authority warding arrangements. However, North Kesteven has powers under the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 to conduct community governance reviews to effect changes to parish electoral arrangements.

83 As a result of our proposed ward boundaries and having regard to the statutory criteria set out in schedule 2 to the 2009 Act, we are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for North Hykeham Town Council and Sleaford Town Council.

84 We are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for North Hykeham Town Council.

#### Final recommendations

North Hykeham Town Council should comprise 18 councillors, as at present, representing six wards:

Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
North Hykeham Forum	2
North Hykeham Grange	2
North Hykeham Meadow	2
North Hykeham Memorial	3
North Hykeham Moor	6
North Hykeham Witham	3

85 We are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Sleaford Town Council.

#### Final recommendations

Sleaford Town Council should comprise 18 councillors, as at present, representing five wards:

Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
Sleaford Castle	3
Sleaford Holdingham	2
Sleaford Navigation	3
Sleaford Quarrington	7
Sleaford Westholme	3

## What happens next?

86 We have now completed our review of North Kesteven. The recommendations must now be approved by Parliament. A draft Order – the legal document which brings into force our recommendations – will be laid in Parliament. Subject to parliamentary scrutiny, the new electoral arrangements will come into force at the local elections in 2023.



## Equalities

87 The Commission has looked at how it carries out reviews under the guidelines set out in Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010. It has made best endeavours to ensure that people with protected characteristics can participate in the review process and is sufficiently satisfied that no adverse equality impacts will arise as a result of the outcome of the review.



# Appendices

## Appendix A

### Final recommendations for North Kesteven District Council

	Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2019)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2026)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
1	Ashby de la Launde, Digby & Scopwick	1	2,032	2,032	-3%	2,169	2,169	-3%
2	Bassingham Rural	1	2,082	2,082	0%	2,194	2,194	-1%
3	Billinghay Rural	2	4,185	2,093	0%	4,467	2,233	0%
4	Bracebridge Heath	2	4,573	2,287	9%	4,902	2,451	10%
5	Branston	2	4,066	2,033	-3%	4,414	2,207	-1%
6	Cranwell, Leasingham & Wilsford	2	4,065	2,033	-3%	4,362	2,181	-2%
7	Heckington Rural	2	3,844	1,922	-8%	4,026	2,013	-10%
8	Heighington & Washingborough	3	5,714	1,905	-9%	6,091	2,030	-9%
9	Helpringham & Osbournby	1	2,285	2,285	9%	2,379	2,379	7%
10	Hykeham Central	3	6,674	2,225	6%	7,071	2,357	6%

Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2019)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2026)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
11 Hykeham Fosse	2	4,721	2,361	13%	4,935	2,467	11%
12 Hykeham Memorial	1	2,345	2,345	12%	2,371	2,371	6%
13 Kirkby la Thorpe & South Kyme	1	2,004	2,004	-4%	2,053	2,053	-8%
14 Metheringham Rural	2	4,315	2,158	3%	4,576	2,288	3%
15 Navenby & Brant Broughton	2	4,444	2,222	6%	4,730	2,365	6%
16 Ruskington	2	4,509	2,255	8%	4,801	2,400	8%
17 Skellingthorpe & Eagle	2	4,304	2,152	3%	4,648	2,324	4%
18 Sleaford Castle	1	2,172	2,172	4%	2,226	2,226	0%
19 Sleaford Holdingham	1	1,961	1,961	-6%	2,075	2,075	-7%
20 Sleaford Navigation	1	2,305	2,305	10%	2,397	2,397	8%
21 Sleaford Quarrington & Mareham	3	5,869	1,956	-6%	6,428	2,143	-4%
22 Sleaford Westholme	1	2,074	2,074	-1%	2,160	2,160	-3%
23 Waddington Rural	3	5,662	1,887	-10%	6,271	2,090	-6%

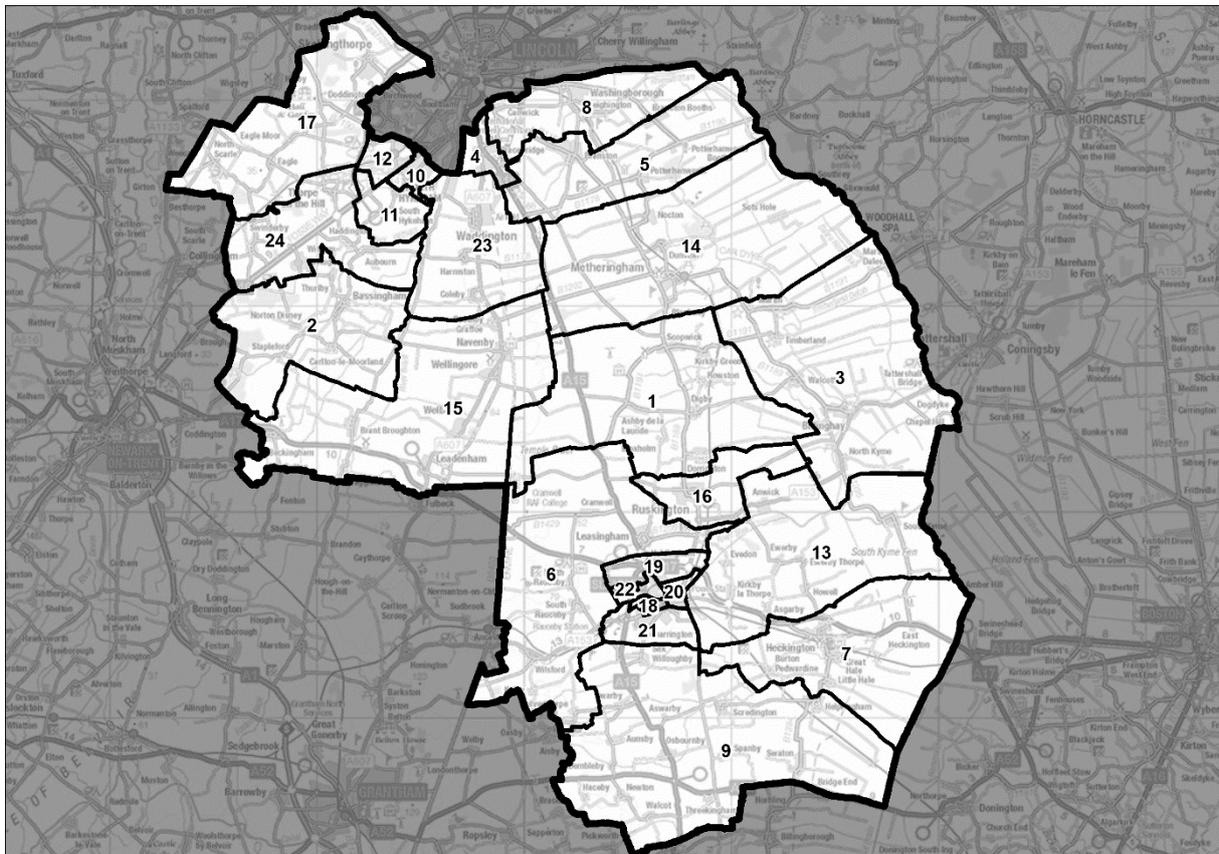
	Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2019)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2026)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
24	Witham St Hughs & Swinderby	2	3,669	1,835	-12%	4,032	2,016	-9%
	<b>Totals</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>89,879</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>95,784</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>–</b>
	<b>Averages</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>2,090</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>2,228</b>	<b>–</b>

Source: Electorate figures are based on information provided by North Kesteven District Council.

Note: The 'variance from average' column shows by how far, in percentage terms, the number of electors per councillor in each electoral ward varies from the average for the district. The minus symbol (-) denotes a lower than average number of electors. Figures have been rounded to the nearest whole number.

## Appendix B

### Outline map



Number	Ward name
1	Ashby de la Launde, Digby & Scopwick
2	Bassingham Rural
3	Billingham Rural
4	Bracebridge Heath
5	Branston
6	Cranwell, Leasingham & Wilsford
7	Heckington Rural
8	Heighington & Washingborough
9	Helpringham & Osbournby
10	Hykeham Central
11	Hykeham Fosse
12	Hykeham Memorial
13	Kirkby la Thorpe & South Kyme
14	Metheringham Rural
15	Navenby & Brant Broughton
16	Ruskington
17	Skellingthorpe & Eagle
18	Sleaford Castle

19	Sleaford Holdingham
20	Sleaford Navigation
21	Sleaford Quarrington & Mareham
22	Sleaford Westholme
23	Waddington Rural
24	Witham St Hughs & Swinderby

A more detailed version of this map can be seen on the large map accompanying this report, or on our website: [www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/east-midlands/lincolnshire/north-kesteven](http://www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/east-midlands/lincolnshire/north-kesteven)

## Appendix C

### Submissions received

All submissions received can also be viewed on our website at:

[www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/east-midlands/lincolnshire/north-kesteven](http://www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/east-midlands/lincolnshire/north-kesteven)

#### *Local Authority*

- North Kesteven District Council

#### *Political Groups*

- Lincolnshire Independents

#### *Councillors*

- Councillor R. Little (North Kesteven District Council)
- Councillor L. Pennell (North Kesteven District Council)

#### *Parish and Town Councils*

- Aurbourn & Haddington Parish Council
- Canwick Parish Council
- Coleby Parish Council
- Harmston Parish Council
- Heighington Parish Council
- Leasingham & Roxholm Parish Council
- Navenby with Skinnand Parish Council
- North Hykeham Town Council
- Rauceby Parish Council
- South Hykeham Parish Council
- Waddington Parish Council
- Washingborough Parish Council

#### *Local Residents*

- 27 local residents

## Appendix D

### Glossary and abbreviations

Council size	The number of councillors elected to serve on a council
Electoral Change Order (or Order)	A legal document which implements changes to the electoral arrangements of a local authority
Division	A specific area of a county, defined for electoral, administrative and representational purposes. Eligible electors can vote in whichever division they are registered for the candidate or candidates they wish to represent them on the county council
Electoral fairness	When one elector's vote is worth the same as another's
Electoral inequality	Where there is a difference between the number of electors represented by a councillor and the average for the local authority
Electorate	People in the authority who are registered to vote in elections. For the purposes of this report, we refer specifically to the electorate for local government elections
Number of electors per councillor	The total number of electors in a local authority divided by the number of councillors
Over-represented	Where there are fewer electors per councillor in a ward or division than the average
Parish	A specific and defined area of land within a single local authority enclosed within a parish boundary. There are over 10,000 parishes in England, which provide the first tier of representation to their local residents

Parish council	A body elected by electors in the parish which serves and represents the area defined by the parish boundaries. See also 'Town council'
Parish (or town) council electoral arrangements	The total number of councillors on any one parish or town council; the number, names and boundaries of parish wards; and the number of councillors for each ward
Parish ward	A particular area of a parish, defined for electoral, administrative and representational purposes. Eligible electors vote in whichever parish ward they live for candidate or candidates they wish to represent them on the parish council
Town council	A parish council which has been given ceremonial 'town' status. More information on achieving such status can be found at <a href="http://www.nalc.gov.uk">www.nalc.gov.uk</a>
Under-represented	Where there are more electors per councillor in a ward or division than the average
Variance (or electoral variance)	How far the number of electors per councillor in a ward or division varies in percentage terms from the average
Ward	A specific area of a district or borough, defined for electoral, administrative and representational purposes. Eligible electors can vote in whichever ward they are registered for the candidate or candidates they wish to represent them on the district or borough council

### **Translations and other formats:**

To get this report in another language or in a large-print or Braille version, please contact the Local Government Boundary Commission for England at:

Tel: 0330 500 1525

Email: [reviews@lgbce.org.uk](mailto:reviews@lgbce.org.uk)

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### **A note on our mapping:**

The maps shown in this report are for illustrative purposes only. Whilst best efforts have been made by our staff to ensure that the maps included in this report are representative of the boundaries described by the text, there may be slight variations between these maps and the large PDF map that accompanies this report, or the digital mapping supplied on our consultation portal. This is due to the way in which the final mapped products are produced. The reader should therefore refer to either the large PDF supplied with this report or the digital mapping for the true likeness of the boundaries intended. The boundaries as shown on either the large PDF map or the digital mapping should always appear identical.

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