



# New electoral arrangements for Blaby District Council Draft Recommendations

February 2022

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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 Blaby?

7 We are conducting a review of Blaby District Council ('the Council') as its last review was completed in 2002, and we are required to review the electoral arrangements of every council in England 'from time to time'.<sup>2</sup> Additionally, some councillors currently represent many more or fewer electors than others. We describe this as 'electoral inequality'. Our aim is to create 'electoral equality', where the number of electors per councillor is as even as possible, ideally within 10% of being exactly equal.

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

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

## Our proposals for Blaby

9 Blaby should be represented by 36 councillors, three fewer than there are now.

10 Blaby should have 17 wards, one fewer than there are now.

11 The boundaries of 15 wards should change; three will stay the same.

## How will the recommendations affect you?

12 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.

13 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 consider any representations which are based on these issues.

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<sup>2</sup> Local Democracy, Economic Development & Construction Act 2009 paragraph 56(1).

## Have your say

14 We will consult on the draft recommendations for a 10-week period, from 1 February 2022 to 11 April 2022. We encourage everyone to use this opportunity to comment on these proposed wards as the more public views we hear, the more informed our decisions will be in making our final recommendations.

15 We ask everyone wishing to contribute ideas for the new wards to first read this report and look at the accompanying map before responding to us.

16 You have until 11 April 2022 to have your say on the draft recommendations. See page 27 for how to send us your response.

## Review timetable

17 We wrote to the Council to ask its views on the appropriate number of councillors for Blaby. We then held a period of consultation with the public on warding patterns for the district. The submissions received during consultation have informed our draft recommendations.

18 The review is being conducted as follows:

Stage starts	Description
17 August 2021	Number of councillors decided
24 August 2021	Start of consultation seeking views on new wards
1 November 2021	End of consultation; we began analysing submissions and forming draft recommendations
1 February 2022	Publication of draft recommendations; start of second consultation
11 April 2022	End of consultation; we begin analysing submissions and forming final recommendations
5 July 2022	Publication of final recommendations

## Analysis and draft recommendations

19 Legislation<sup>3</sup> states that our recommendations should not be based only on how many electors<sup>4</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.

20 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.

21 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.

	2020	2027
Electorate of Blaby	77,412	84,375
Number of councillors	36	36
Average number of electors per councillor	2,150	2,344

22 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 of our proposed wards for Blaby will have good electoral equality by 2027.

## Submissions received

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

## Electorate figures

24 The Council submitted electorate forecasts for 2027, a period five years on from the scheduled publication of our final recommendations in 2022. These forecasts were broken down to polling district level and predicted an increase in the electorate of around 9% by 2027.

25 We considered the information provided by the Council and are satisfied that the projected figures are the best available at the present time. We have used these figures to produce our draft recommendations.

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<sup>3</sup> Schedule 2 to the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009.

<sup>4</sup> Electors refers to the number of people registered to vote, not the whole adult population.

## Number of councillors

26 Blaby District Council currently has 39 councillors. We have looked at evidence provided by the Council and have concluded that decreasing by three will ensure the Council can carry out its roles and responsibilities effectively.

27 We therefore invited proposals for new patterns of wards that would be represented by 36 councillors.

28 We received limited support and objections to the number of councillors in response to our consultation on ward patterns. Councillor Breckon expressed general support for the reduction. Braunstone Town Council expressed concern about the reduction in council size given the growing electorate. However, they did not provide any significant new evidence and we have therefore based our draft recommendations on a 36-councillor council.

## Ward boundaries consultation

29 We received 17 submissions in response to our consultation on ward boundaries. These included two district-wide proposals from the Conservative Group on Blaby District Council ('the Conservatives') and Blaby District Council Officers ('the Officers'). The Officers also provided an initial iteration that they said was based strongly on community links. They provided no community evidence to support this iteration and we note that more than half the wards had poor electoral equality of well over 10% from the district average. On this basis, we have not considered their first iteration further. A local resident expressed support for the Conservative proposals. The remainder of the submissions provided localised comments for warding arrangements in particular areas of the district.

30 The two district-wide schemes provided mixed patterns of one-, two- and three-councillor wards for Blaby. Neither district-wide scheme was fully drawn up, so we drew them up ourselves and sought confirmation from their authors that our interpretation was correct. There were a number of areas of agreement between the Conservative and Officer proposals. The Conservatives proposed four wards with variances of over 10% from the district average by 2027, while the Officers scheme proposed five wards over 10%.

31 Councillor Denney argued that where possible wards should have two councillors to provide cover for absence or high workload. He put forward broad proposals for two-councillor wards, but without providing strong evidence to support them. We note the comments about two-member wards, but under the terms of this review can only give consideration to a mixed pattern of wards where this reflects the statutory criteria.

32 A resident argued that councillors should represent communities, not a specific number of people. We note these comments and concur that wards should reflect communities, but the rules also state that we must consider the number of electors and effective and convenient local government. Two residents put forward comments about the external boundaries of the district. However, we are unable to alter the external boundaries of the district as part of this review.

33 Our draft recommendations also take 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.

34 As a result of the unprecedented circumstances related to the outbreak of Covid-19, we were unable to conduct a visit to the area to look at the various different proposals on the ground. However, we were able to conduct a detailed, virtual tour of Blaby. This helped us to decide between the different boundaries proposed.

## Draft recommendations

35 Our draft recommendations are for three three-councillor wards, 13 two-councillor wards and one one-councillor ward. We consider that our draft recommendations will provide for good electoral equality while reflecting community identities and interests where we received such evidence during consultation.

36 The tables and maps on pages 8–22 detail our draft recommendations for each area of Blaby. They detail how the proposed warding arrangements reflect the three statutory<sup>5</sup> criteria of:

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

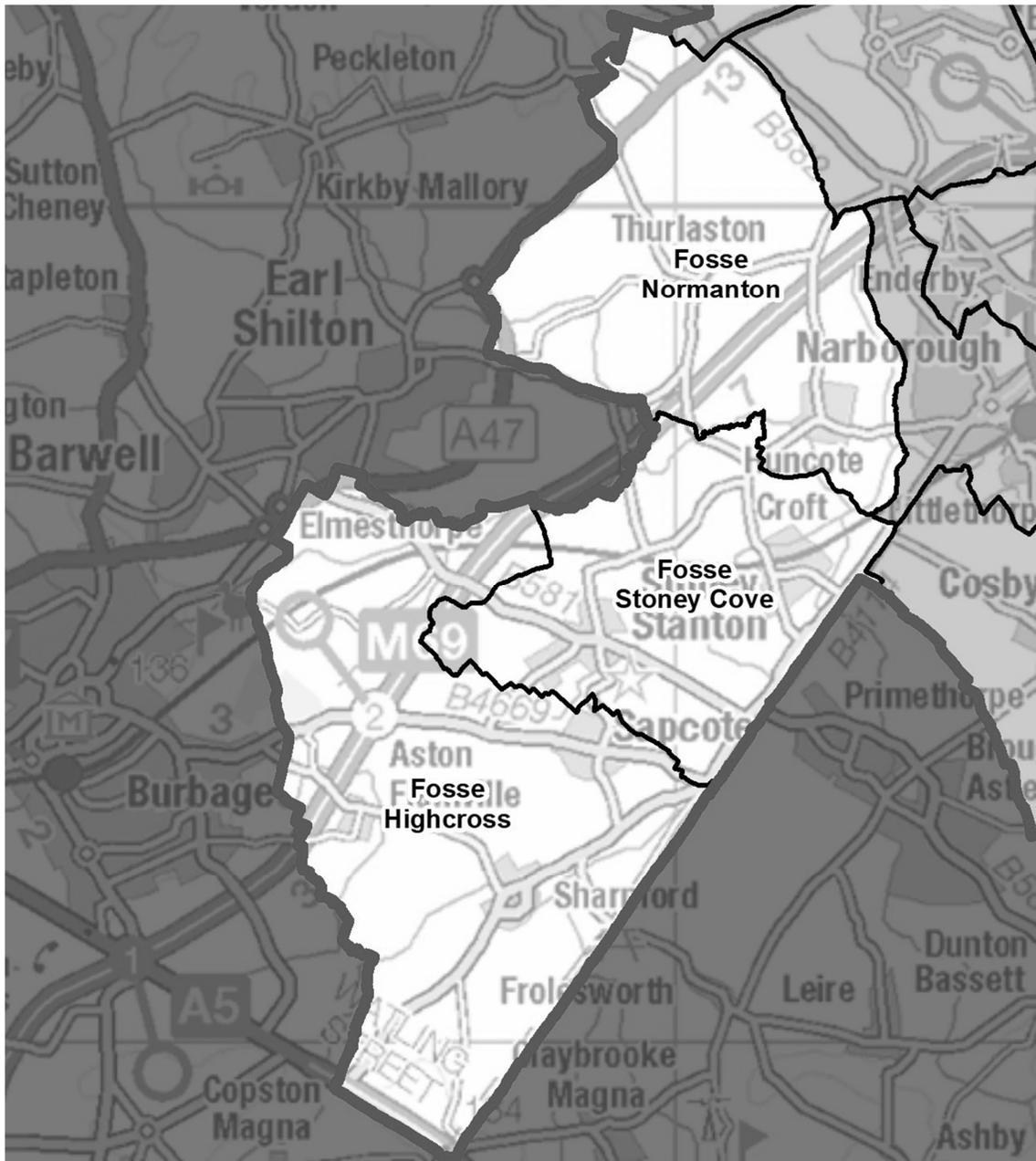
37 A summary of our proposed new wards is set out in the table starting on page 32 and on the large map accompanying this report.

38 We welcome all comments on these draft recommendations, particularly on the location of the ward boundaries, and the names of our proposed wards.

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<sup>5</sup> Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009.

## Fosse Highcross, Fosse Normanton and Fosse Stoney Cove



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2027
Fosse Highcross	2	-4%
Fosse Normanton	1	-1%
Fosse Stoney Cove	2	4%

### *Fosse Highcross and Fosse Stoney Cove*

39 The Conservatives and Officers put forward different proposals for this area. The Conservatives proposed two-councillor Fosse Highcross and Fosse Stoney

Cove wards, which would have 4% fewer and 4% more electors than the district average by 2027, respectively. The Officers proposed Fosse Villages Central and Fosse Villages South wards, which would have 12% fewer and 17% fewer electors than the district average by 2027, respectively. A resident stated that Huncote and Croft parishes should be in the same ward, arguing that the M69 provides a barrier to the north. They also argued that Huncote should be included in the ward name.

40 We have given careful consideration to the evidence. We note that the Officers' proposal would result in a poor level of electoral equality. In addition, we note that their proposal removes Croft parish from this area, linking it instead to Cosby parish and part of Whetstone parish. While there are road links between the areas, the Officers acknowledged there is no link between the residents in these parishes.

41 We note that the Conservative proposals secure good electoral equality, but we have concerns about the proposal to include Elmesthorpe parish in the Group's Fosse Highcross ward, noting that the parish does not have direct road links into the proposed ward. However, we also note that given the number of electors in these parishes in the area as a whole, and their location at the edge of the district, the options for including Elmesthorpe parish in a ward with direct links are limited, as they produce poor electoral equality elsewhere – as reflected in the Officers' proposal. Finally, we considered the comments from a resident about linking Croft and Huncote parishes, but note that this would significantly worsen electoral equality in the Fosse Normanton ward (discussed below).

42 On balance, given the poor levels of electoral equality and the transfer of Croft parish, we are not persuaded to adopt the Officers' proposals in this area. While we have concerns about the Conservatives' proposal in relation to Elmesthorpe parish, we note that the options here are limited. Therefore, given the good electoral equality, we are adopting these wards as part of our draft recommendations.

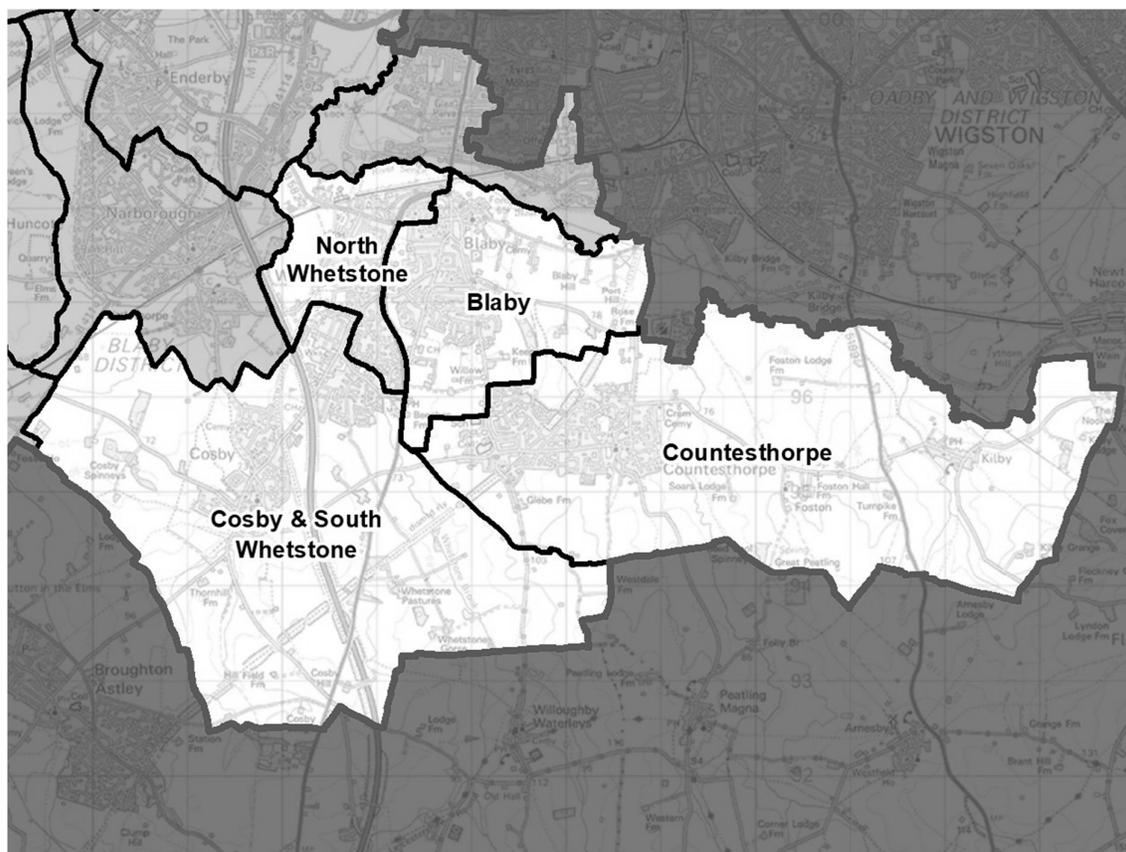
#### *Fosse Normanton*

43 The Conservatives and Officers put forward identical proposals for a single-councillor ward for this area, although the Conservatives named this Fosse Normanton, while the Officers named it Fosse Villages North. This ward would have 1% fewer electors than the district average by 2027. As discussed above, a local resident stated that Huncote and Croft parishes should be in the same ward, arguing that the M69 provides a barrier to the north. They also argued that Huncote should be included in the ward name.

44 We have given careful consideration to the evidence received, noting the agreement between the Conservatives and Officers about a proposed ward for this area. We also note the resident's comments, but removing Huncote from this area would significantly worsen electoral equality. We are therefore adopting the ward put forward by the Conservatives and Officers. We are adopting the name Fosse

Normanton as part of our draft recommendations, but note the resident's comment about including Huncote in the ward name and would therefore welcome local views on the most appropriate name.

## Blaby, Cosby, Countesthorpe and Whetstone



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2027
Blaby	2	8%
Cosby & South Whetstone	2	2%
Countesthorpe	3	-9%
North Whetstone	2	-4%

### *Blaby, Cosby & South Whetstone and North Whetstone*

45 The Conservatives and Officers put forward identical proposals for a two-councillor Blaby ward, comprising the whole of Blaby parish. This ward would have 14% more electors than the district average by 2027. They put forward different proposals for the remainder this area.

46 The Conservatives proposed two-councillor Cosby & South Whetstone and North Whetstone wards. These would have 2% more and 10% fewer electors than the district average by 2027.

47 The Officers proposed two-councillor Cosby, Croft & Whetstone South and North Whetstone wards, which would have 13% more and 8% more electors than the district average by 2027. However, as stated above (paragraphs 39–41), they

expressed their own concerns about putting Croft in a ward with Cosby and parts of Whetstone parish. In addition, we note that their proposed boundary between Cosby, Croft & Whetstone South and North Whetstone leaves a number of roads around Wright Close isolated from their North Whetstone ward. A resident stated that Blaby and Whetstone should be combined in a ward.

48 We have given careful consideration to the evidence received. We note the comments from a resident, but a ward containing Blaby and Whetstone would contain too many electors to secure good electoral equality. We are therefore not adopting this proposal as part of our draft recommendations. We note the proposals from the Officers, but given our concerns over their Cosby, Croft & Whetstone South and North Whetstone wards, and our proposals to retain Croft parish in Fosse Stoney Cove ward, we have not adopted their proposals in this area as part of our draft recommendations.

49 While we consider that the Conservative proposals comprise the whole of Blaby parish and use strong boundaries, we have concerns about the creation of a Blaby ward with 14% more electors than the district average. We have therefore explored ways of improving electoral equality. Although the A426 Blaby Bypass provides a strong boundary to the west, we note that there are a number of crossing points. We have concluded that the area to the north of Enderby Road has reasonable access across the A426. Transferring this area to the North Whetstone ward improves electoral equality there from 10% fewer than the district average in 2027 to 4% fewer, while improving Blaby from 14% more to 8% more.

50 We are therefore basing the draft recommendations on the Conservative proposals, subject to the amendment outlined above. Our two-councillor Blaby, Cosby & South Whetstone and North Whetstone wards would have 8% more, 2% more and 4% fewer electors than the district average by 2027.

### *Countesthorpe*

51 The Conservatives and Officers put forward identical proposals for a three-councillor Countesthorpe ward. This ward would have 9% fewer electors than the district average by 2027. We received no other comments on this area.

52 We note that the proposals are based on whole parishes and secure good electoral equality. We are therefore adopting the proposed Countesthorpe ward without amendment.

## Enderby, Glen Parva, Littlethorpe and Narborough



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2027
Enderby	2	7%
Glen Parva	2	3%
Narborough & Littlethorpe	3	-1%

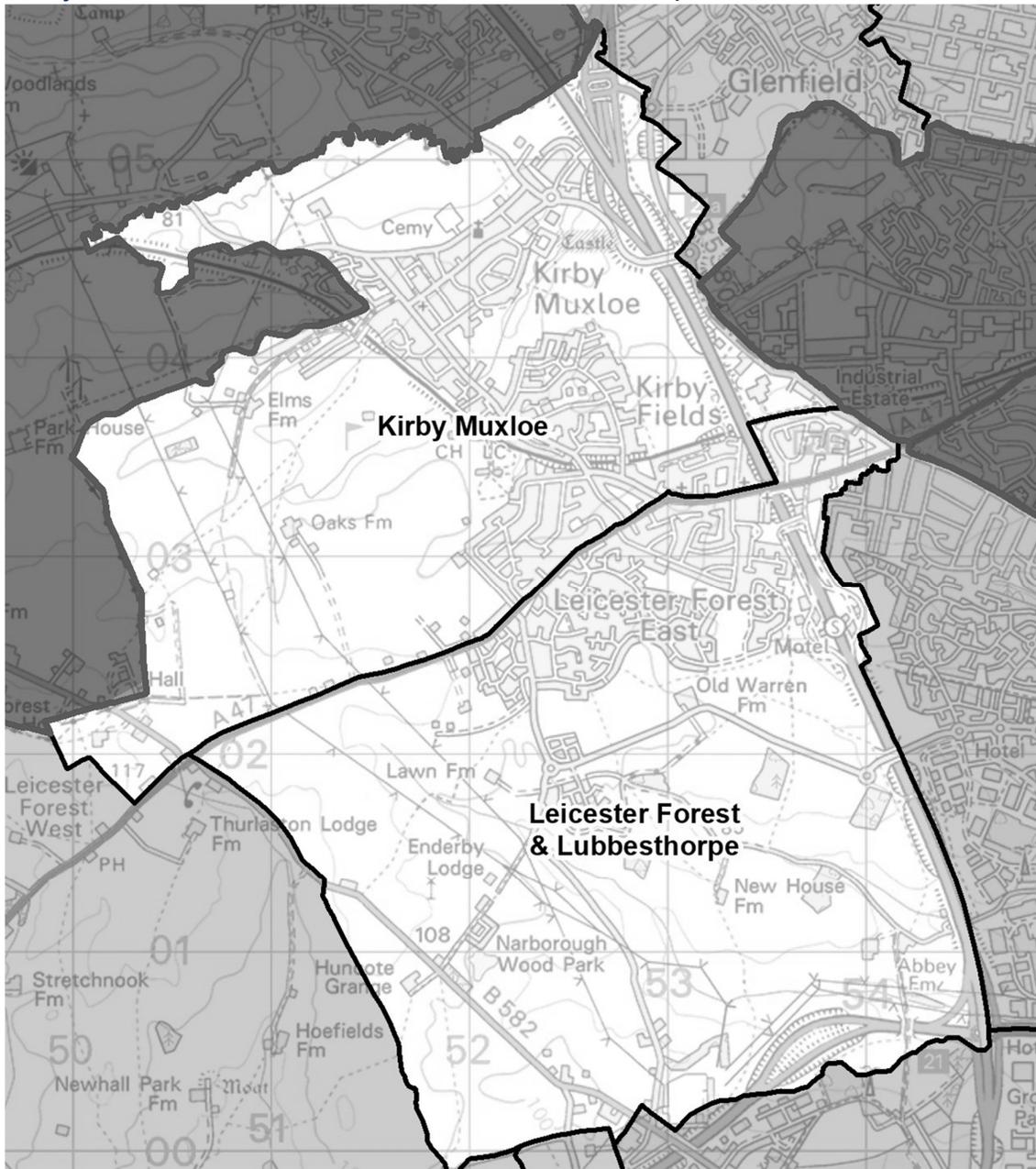
### *Enderby, Glen Parva and Narborough & Littlethorpe*

53 The Conservatives and Officers put forward identical proposals for two-councillor Enderby and Glen Parva wards and a three-councillor Narborough & Littlethorpe ward. Each ward comprises a whole parish. These wards would have 8% more, 2% more and 9% fewer electors than the district average by 2027, respectively. A number of residents argued that Narborough and Littlethorpe should be in a single ward.

54 We have given careful consideration to the evidence received, noting the agreement between the Conservatives and Officers. We also note that their proposals secure good electoral equality and are based on whole parishes, which

avoids dividing communities. Finally, we note that the proposed Narborough & Littlethorpe ward reflects comments from local residents about not dividing these areas. We are therefore adopting the Conservative and Officer proposals without amendment as part of our draft recommendations.

## Kirby Muxlow, Leicester Forest and Lubbesthorpe



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2027
Kirby Muxloe	2	6%
Leicester Forest & Lubbesthorpe	3	10%

### *Kirby Muxloe*

55 The Conservatives and Officers put forward slightly different proposals for this ward. The Officers based their two-councillor Kirby Muxloe ward entirely on Kirby Muxloe parish, which leaves the ward with 5% fewer electors than the district average by 2027. The Conservatives' two-councillor Kirby Muxlow ward comprised

Kirby Muxloe parish and a small area of Leicester Forest East parish to the north of the A47 and west of the M1. They argued that using the A47 provides a clear boundary. The Conservatives' proposed Kirby Muxloe ward would have 6% more electors than the district average by 2027.

56 We have given careful consideration to the evidence received, noting the minor difference between the Conservative and Officer proposals. While the Conservative proposals requires the creation of a parish ward within Leicester Forest East parish to transfer the area to north of the A47 and west of the M1 to their ward, we note this provides a clear boundary, using the A47 for its length until it meets the M1. In addition, transferring this area enables us to secure better electoral equality in our proposed Leicester Forest & Lubbesthorpe ward (discussed below). We are therefore adopting the Conservatives' Kirby Muxloe ward without amendment as part of our draft recommendations.

#### *Leicester Forest & Lubbesthorpe*

57 The Conservatives and Officers put forward identical proposals for a single-councillor Lubbesthorpe ward comprising the whole of Lubbesthorpe parish. This ward would have 29% more electors than the district average by 2027.

58 The Officers proposed a Leicester Forest East ward comprising the whole of Leicester Forest East parish. This two-councillor ward would have 23% more electors than the district average by 2027. The Conservatives proposed a two-councillor Leicester Forest ward that would comprise the whole parish less the area to the north of the A47 and west of the M1, which they transferred to their Kirby Muxloe ward (outlined above). Their proposed Leicester Forest ward would have 12% more electors than the district average by 2027.

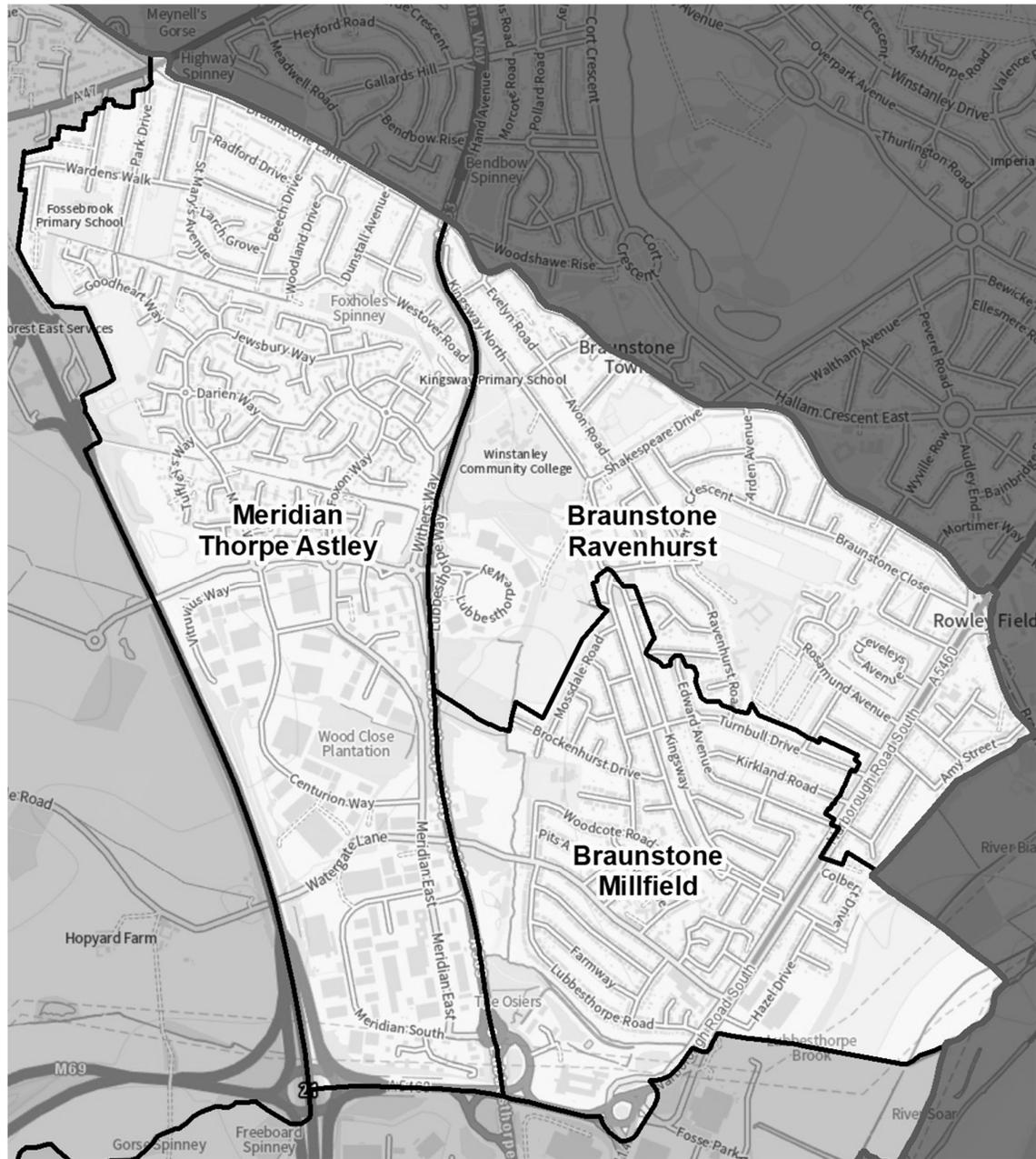
59 A local resident rejected links between Leicester Forest East and Kirby Muxlow parishes, arguing that Leicester Forest East should be in a ward with Lubbesthorpe. They argued that development in Lubbesthorpe would enhance future links between these areas, rather than the current ward that places Lubbesthorpe with Enderby.

60 We have given careful consideration to the evidence received. As discussed in the Kirby Muxloe section (above), our draft recommendations have adopted the Conservative proposal to transfer part of Leicester Forest East parish to the north of the A47 and east of M1 to Kirby Muxloe ward. This means we cannot fully consider the Officers' proposed Leicester Forest East ward, but rather only the Conservatives' proposed Leicester Forest ward. We note that the Conservatives and Officers proposed a Lubbesthorpe ward with a very poor level of electoral equality. We acknowledge that this was done to reflect the large amount of growth that will occur in the parish. However, in our view this level of electoral inequality has not been supported by the evidence and we have therefore investigated alternative warding arrangements for this area.

61 We considered combining the proposed Lubbethorpe ward with the Conservatives' proposed Leicester Forest ward, to create a three-councillor Leicester Forest & Lubbethorpe ward. However, this ward would have 18% more electors than the district average by 2027. While this improves on the variance of 29%, this is still a poor level of electoral equality and we have consequently modified this three-councillor Leicester Forest & Lubbethorpe ward by transferring an area to the south of the A47 and east of the M1 into our proposed Meridian Thorpe Astley ward (discussed in more detail below). This would improve electoral equality in Leicester Forest & Lubbethorpe ward to 10%, while slightly worsening it in Meridian Thorpe Astley to 9%. We acknowledge that this proposal would require the creation of a further parish ward in Leicester Forest East parish, but note that the area in question has good links into Meridian Thorpe Astley via Wardens Walk and Braunstone Lane.

62 On balance, we consider that this proposal provides the best balance of our statutory criteria for this area, although we welcome further comments on these proposed arrangements from local residents.

## Braunstone



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2027
Braunstone Millfield	2	-9%
Braunstone Ravenhurst	2	-8%
Meridian Thorpe Astley	2	9%

### *Braunstone Millfield and Braunstone Ravenhurst*

63 The Conservatives and Officers both put forward proposals for two two-councillor wards for this area, but divided it in a slightly different way. They both used

the A563 Lubbethorpe Way as a boundary to the west, although we noted a discrepancy in the Officer proposal where their map shows the A563 breached for a short section in the north, while the text does not. The Conservatives proposed two-councillor Braunstone Millfield and Braunstone Ravenhurst wards. These would have 24% fewer and 8% more electors than the district average by 2027, respectively. The Officers proposed two-councillor Braunstone East and Braunstone South wards, which would 22% fewer and 16% more electors than the district average by 2027.

64 Braunstone Town Council objected to the loss of councillors for the area, arguing that the most the area should lose is one councillor. They also argued that existing ward names are well recognised and should be retained.

65 We have given careful consideration to the evidence received. We note the comments from Braunstone Town Council about the loss of councillors. Under our proposals, the area will lose one councillor under a council size of 36.

66 We note that the Conservatives and Officers have primarily used the A563 Lubbethorpe Way as the western boundary for this area. We concur that this dual carriageway provides a clear boundary between the area and we do not believe it should be crossed. We note that the Conservative proposals use this boundary in its entirety, secure marginally better electoral equality and also use the ward names that reflect the views of Braunstone Town Council. We have therefore based our draft recommendations on the Conservatives' proposals. However, we propose an amendment to improve the electoral equality of their Braunstone Millfield ward, transferring an area to the south of Turnbull Drive to Braunstone Millfield. As a result, our two-councillor Braunstone Millfield and Braunstone Ravenhurst wards would have 9% fewer and 8% fewer electors than the district average by 2027.

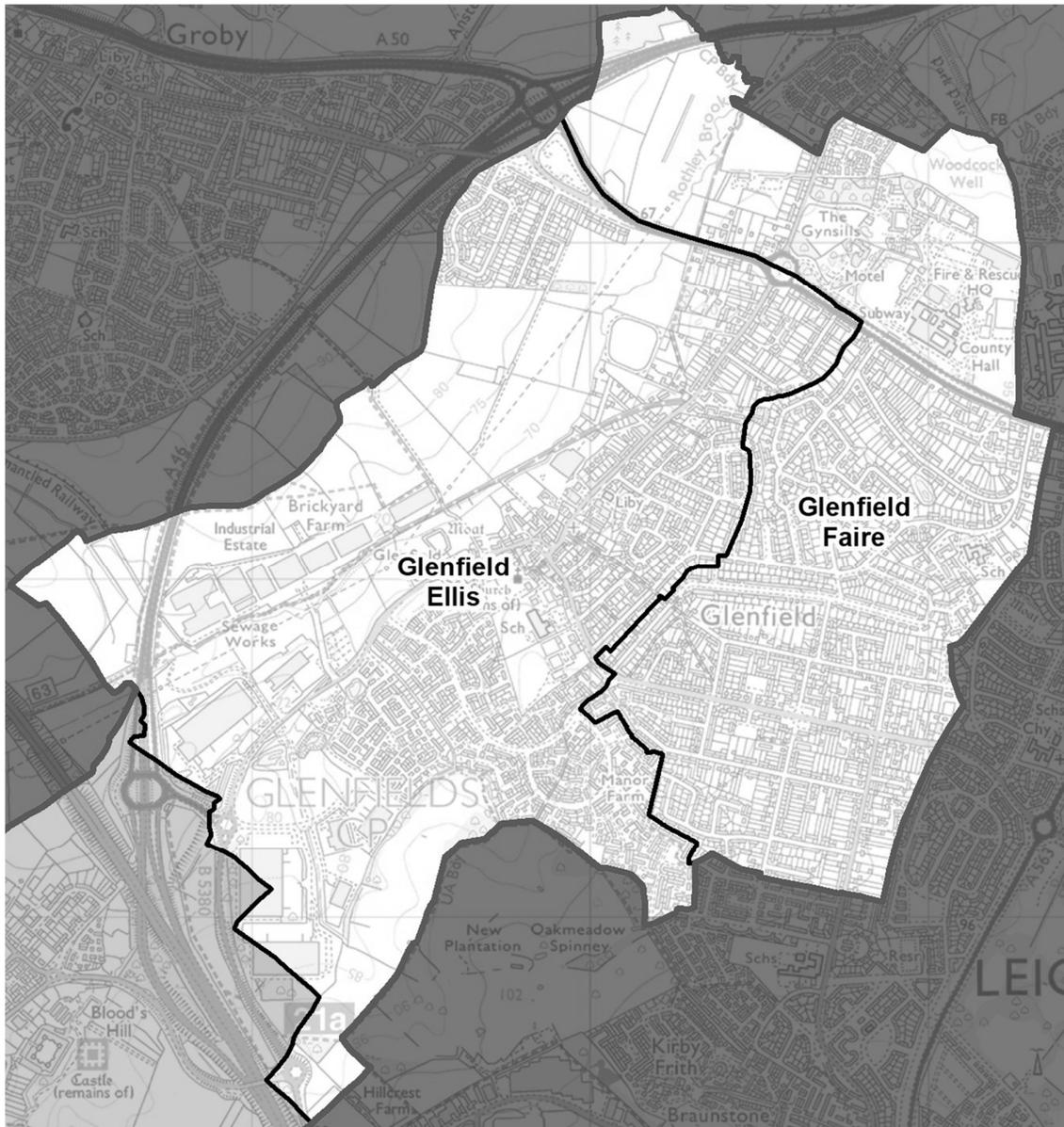
#### *Meridian Thorpe Astley*

67 The Conservatives and Officers both put forward similar proposals for a two-councillor ward for this area. To the west they were bounded by the M1 and Leicester Forest East parish boundary. To the east both proposals used the A563 Lubbethorpe Way, although as discussed above, the Officer proposal's map shows the A563 breached for a short section in the north, while the text does not. The Conservatives proposed calling this ward Meridian Thorpe Astley, while the Officers called it Braunstone West.

68 We have given careful consideration to the evidence received. As stated above, we concur that the A563 Lubbethorpe Way should be used as the eastern boundary and so we are basing our draft recommendations in this area on the Meridian Thorpe Astley ward proposed by the Conservatives. However, as discussed in the Leicester Forest & Lubbethorpe section, we have concluded that to improve electoral equality in our Leicester Forest & Lubbethorpe ward, it is necessary to transfer part of that

area to here. As a result, we are proposing a two-councillor Meridian Thorpe Astley ward with 9% more electors than the district average by 2027.

## Glenfield



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2027
Glenfield Ellis	2	-7%
Glenfield Faire	2	-8%

### *Glenfield Ellis and Glenfield Faire*

69 The Conservatives and Officers both put forward slightly different proposals for two two-councillor ward for this area, The Conservatives proposed two councillor Glenfield Ellis and Glenfield Faire wards which would have 7% fewer and 8% fewer electors than the district average by 2027. The Officers proposed two councillor Glenfield East and Glenfield West wards which would have 23% fewer and 8% more

electors than the district average by 2027. A local resident put forward detailed proposals for two two-councillor wards that were broadly similar to the Conservative proposals. Their proposed Ellis and Glenfrith wards would have 5% fewer and 11% fewer electors than the district average, respectively.

70 We have given careful consideration to the evidence received, noting that the proposals from the Conservatives and resident secure significantly better electoral equality than those from the Officers. We are therefore using these as the basis of the draft recommendations. On balance, given the slightly better electoral equality under the Conservative proposals we are basing the draft recommendations on their specific proposals. We note that the respondents put forward a range of different ward names and would welcome further local comments on the most suitable names.

71 Our Glenfield Ellis and Glenfield Faire wards would have 7% fewer and 8% fewer electors than the average by 2027.

## Conclusions

72 The table below provides a summary as to the impact of our draft recommendations on electoral equality in Blaby, referencing the 2020 and 2027 electorate figures against the proposed number of councillors and wards. 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

	Draft recommendations	
	2020	2027
Number of councillors	36	36
Number of electoral wards	17	17
Average number of electors per councillor	2,150	2,344
Number of wards with a variance more than 10% from the average	4	0
Number of wards with a variance more than 20% from the average	0	0

#### Draft recommendations

Blaby District Council should be made up of 36 councillors serving 17 wards representing one single-councillor ward, 13 two-councillor wards and three 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 the Blaby District Council. You can also view our draft recommendations for Blaby District Council on our interactive maps at [www.consultation.lgbce.org.uk](http://www.consultation.lgbce.org.uk)

### Parish electoral arrangements

73 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.

74 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, Blaby District Council 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.

75 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 Blaby, Braunstone, Glenfield and Leicester Forest East.

76 We are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Blaby parish.

**Draft recommendations**

Blaby Parish Council should comprise 16 councillors, as at present, representing three wards:

Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
Blaby North	3
Blaby West	1
Blaby South	12

77 We are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Braunstone parish .

**Draft recommendations**

Braunstone Town Council should comprise 21 councillors, as at present, representing four wards:

Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
Millfield	6
Ravenhurst & Fosse	7
Thorpe Astley	5
Winstanley	3

78 We are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Glenfield parish.

**Draft recommendations**

Glenfield Parish Council should comprise 16 councillors, as at present, representing two wards:

Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
Ellis	8
Fairestone	8

79 We are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Leicester Forest East parish.

### Draft recommendations

Leicester Forest East Parish Council should comprise 10 councillors, as at present, representing three wards:

Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
St Andrew's	1
Leicester Forest	8
Fossebrooke	1

## Have your say

80 The Commission has an open mind about its draft recommendations. Every representation we receive will be considered, regardless of who it is from or whether it relates to the whole district or just a part of it.

81 If you agree with our recommendations, please let us know. If you don't think our recommendations are right for Blaby, we want to hear alternative proposals for a different pattern of wards.

82 Our website has a special consultation area where you can explore the maps. You can find it at [www.consultation.lgbce.org.uk](http://www.consultation.lgbce.org.uk)

83 Submissions can also be made by emailing [reviews@lgbce.org.uk](mailto:reviews@lgbce.org.uk) or by writing to:

**Review Officer (Blaby)**  
**LGBCE**  
**PO Box 133**  
**Blyth**  
**NE24 9FE**

84 The Commission aims to propose a pattern of wards for Blaby District Council which delivers:

- Electoral equality: each local councillor represents a similar number of electors.
- Community identity: reflects the identity and interests of local communities.
- Effective and convenient local government: helping your council discharge its responsibilities effectively.

85 A good pattern of wards should:

- Provide good electoral equality, with each councillor representing, as closely as possible, the same number of electors.
- Reflect community interests and identities and include evidence of community links.
- Be based on strong, easily identifiable boundaries.
- Help the council deliver effective and convenient local government.

86 Electoral equality:

- Does your proposal mean that councillors would represent roughly the same number of electors as elsewhere in Blaby?

87 Community identity:

- Community groups: is there a parish council, residents' association or other group that represents the area?
- Interests: what issues bind the community together or separate it from other parts of your area?
- Identifiable boundaries: are there natural or constructed features which make strong boundaries for your proposals?

88 Effective local government:

- Are any of the proposed wards too large or small to be represented effectively?
- Are the proposed names of the wards appropriate?
- Are there good links across your proposed wards? Is there any form of public transport?

89 Please note that the consultation stages of an electoral review are public consultations. In the interests of openness and transparency, we make available for public inspection full copies of all representations the Commission takes into account as part of a review. Accordingly, copies of all representations will be placed on deposit at our offices and on our website at [www.lgbce.org.uk](http://www.lgbce.org.uk). A list of respondents will be available from us on request after the end of the consultation period.

90 If you are a member of the public and not writing on behalf of a council or organisation we will remove any personal identifiers. This includes your name, postal or email addresses, signatures or phone numbers from your submission before it is made public. We will remove signatures from all letters, no matter who they are from.

91 In the light of representations received, we will review our draft recommendations and consider whether they should be altered. As indicated earlier, it is therefore important that all interested parties let us have their views and evidence, **whether or not** they agree with the draft recommendations. We will then publish our final recommendations.

92 After the publication of our final recommendations, the changes we have proposed must be approved by Parliament. An Order – the legal document which brings into force our recommendations – will be laid in draft in Parliament. The draft

Order will provide for new electoral arrangements to be implemented at the all-out elections for Blaby District Council in 2023.

## Equalities

93 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

### Draft recommendations for Blaby District Council

	Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2020)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2027)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
1	Blaby	2	4,919	2,460	14%	5,065	2,533	8%
2	Braunstone Millfield	2	4,084	2,042	-5%	4,272	2,136	-9%
3	Braunstone Ravenhurst	2	4,144	2,072	-4%	4,334	2,167	-8%
4	Cosby & South Whetstone	2	4,165	2,083	-3%	4,782	2,391	2%
5	Countesthorpe	3	6,115	2,038	-5%	6,397	2,132	-9%
6	Enderby	2	4,816	2,408	12%	5,037	2,519	7%
7	Fosse Highcross	2	4,195	2,098	-2%	4,490	2,245	-4%
8	Fosse Normanton	1	2,209	2,209	3%	2,311	2,311	-1%
9	Fosse Stoney Cove	2	4,670	2,335	9%	4,884	2,442	4%
10	Glen Parva	2	4,396	2,198	2%	4,806	2,403	3%
11	Glenfield Ellis	2	4,176	2,088	-3%	4,369	2,184	-7%

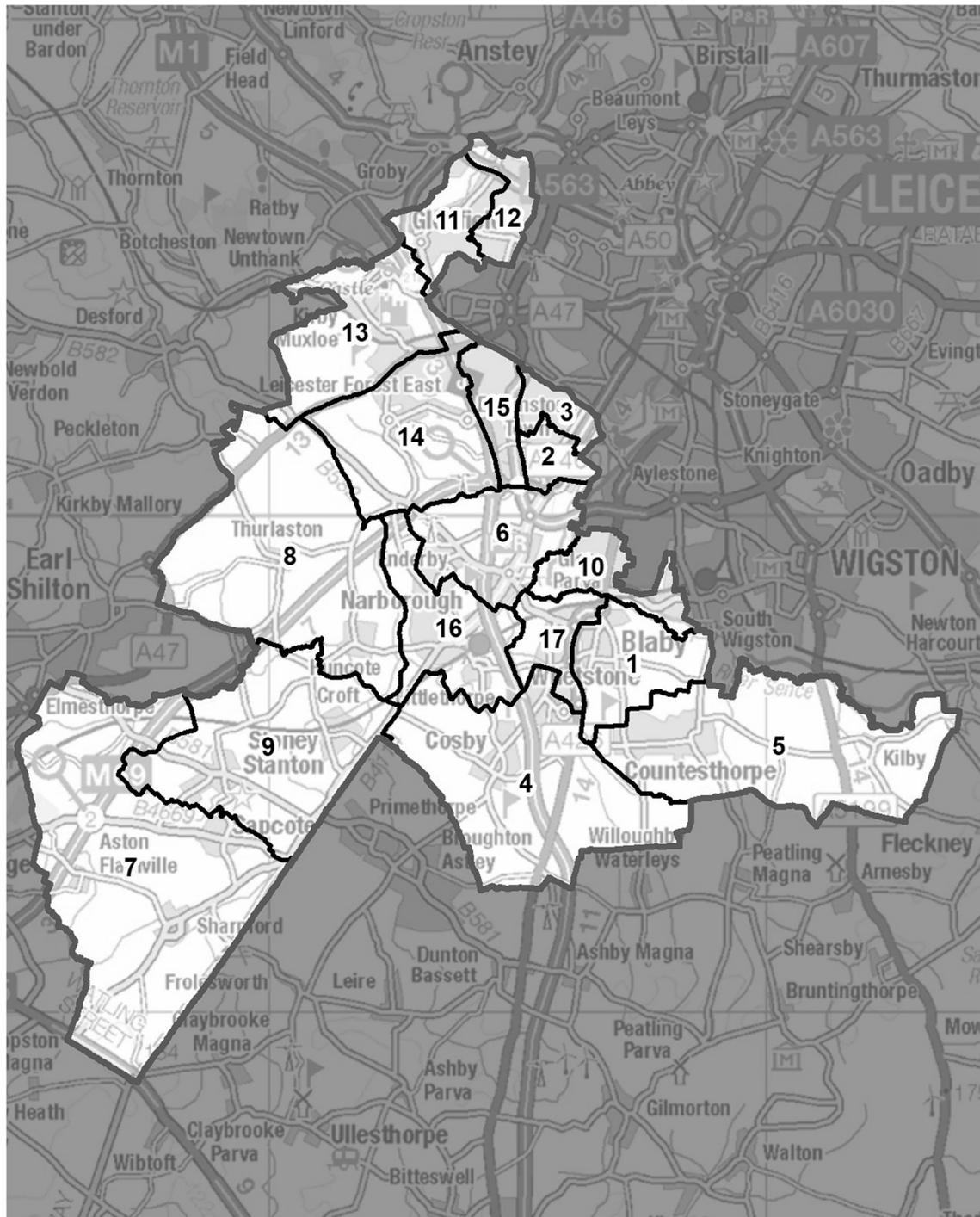
Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2020)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2027)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
12 Glenfield Faire	2	4,102	2,051	-5%	4,289	2,145	-8%
13 Kirby Muxloe	2	4,217	2,109	-2%	4,976	2,488	6%
14 Leicester Forest & Lubbethorpe	3	5,354	1,785	-17%	7,758	2,586	10%
15 Meridian Thorpe Astley	2	4,906	2,453	14%	5,131	2,565	9%
16 Narborough & Littlethorpe	3	6,626	2,209	3%	6,957	2,319	-1%
17 North Whetstone	2	4,318	2,159	0%	4,516	2,258	-4%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>77,412</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>84,375</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>–</b>
<b>Averages</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>2,150</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>2,344</b>	<b>–</b>

Source: Electorate figures are based on information provided by Blaby 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	Blaby
2	Braunstone Millfield
3	Braunstone Ravenhurst
4	Cosby & South Whetstone
5	Countesthorpe
6	Enderby
7	Fosse Highcross
8	Fosse Normanton
9	Fosse Stoney Cove
10	Glen Parva
11	Glenfield Ellis
12	Glenfield Faire
13	Kirby Muxloe
14	Leicester Forest & Lubbesthorpe
15	Meridian Thorpe Astley
16	Narborough & Littlethorpe
17	North Whetstone

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/leicestershire/blaby](http://www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/east-midlands/leicestershire/blaby)

## Appendix C

### Submissions received

All submissions received can also be viewed on our website at:  
[www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/east-midlands/leicestershire/blaby](http://www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/east-midlands/leicestershire/blaby)

#### *Local Authority*

- Blaby District Council Officers

#### *Political Groups*

- Blaby Council Conservative Group

#### *Councillors*

- Councillor R. Denney (Blaby District Council)
- Councillor L. Breckon (Blaby District Council)

#### *Parish and Town Councils*

- Braunstone Town Council

#### *Local Residents*

- 12 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 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. We only take account of electors registered specifically for local elections during our reviews.
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 can 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

The  
Local Government  
Boundary Commission  
for England

The Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) was set up by Parliament, independent of Government and political parties. It is directly accountable to Parliament through a committee chaired by the Speaker of the House of Commons. It is responsible for conducting boundary, electoral and structural reviews of local government.

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[www.consultation.lgbce.org.uk](http://www.consultation.lgbce.org.uk)

**Twitter:** @LGBCE