

# New electoral arrangements for Blaby District Council Final Recommendations

July 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.

12 We have now finalised our recommendations for electoral arrangements for Blaby.

## 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

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

taxes, house prices, or car and house insurance premiums and we are not able to consider 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 Blaby. 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 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 began analysing submissions and forming final recommendations
5 July 2022	Publication of final recommendations





## Analysis and final recommendations

17 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.

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.

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

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

## Submissions received

21 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

22 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.

23 We considered the information provided by the Council and were satisfied that the projected figures were the best available at the present time and used them to produce the draft recommendations. We have received no significant new evidence

<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.

to persuade us that the forecasts do not remain the best available, so we have used these figures to produce our final recommendations.

## Number of councillors

24 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.

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

26 We received limited support and objections to the number of councillors in response to our consultation on ward patterns. We have therefore based our draft recommendations on a 36-councillor council.

27 We received no significant comments on the number of councillors in response to our consultation on our draft recommendations. We have therefore maintained 36 councillors for our final recommendations.

## Ward boundaries consultation

28 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 noted that more than half the wards had poor electoral equality of well over 10% from the district average. On this basis, we did not consider 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.

29 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%.

30 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 noted 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.

31 A resident argued that councillors should represent communities, not a specific number of people. We noted these comments and concurred that wards should reflect communities, but the legislation also states 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.

32 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.

33 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.

34 Our draft recommendations were for three three-councillor wards, 13 two-councillor wards and one one-councillor ward. 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

35 We received 20 submissions during consultation on our draft recommendations. These included a mixture of general comments and comments on specific areas of the district.

36 A number of respondents proposed changes to the external boundary with neighbouring districts. However, as stated in paragraph 14, we are unable to alter the external boundaries of the district as part of this review.

37 Our final recommendations are based on the draft recommendations with only a name change to the Meridian Thorpe Astley ward proposed and changes to the Braunstone Town Council parish ward names.

## Final recommendations

38 Our final recommendations are for three three-councillor wards, 13 two-councillor wards and one single-councillor ward. 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.

39 The tables and maps on pages 9–17 detail our final recommendations for each area of Blaby. They detail how the proposed warding arrangements reflect the three statutory<sup>5</sup> criteria of:

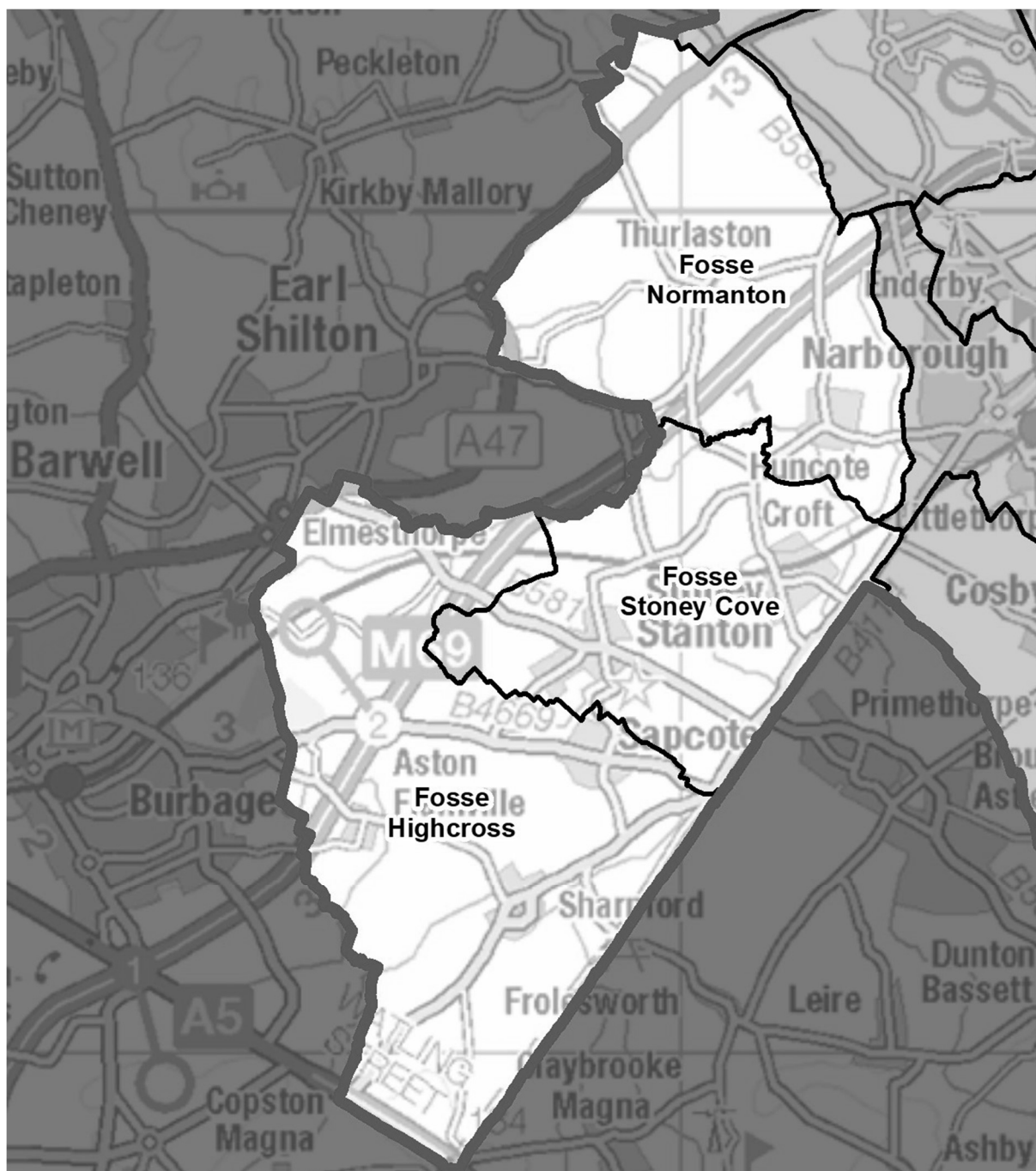
- Equality of representation.
- Reflecting community interests and identities.
- Providing for effective and convenient local government.

40 A summary of our proposed new wards is set out in the table starting on page 27 and on the large map accompanying this report.

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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, Fosse Normanton and Fosse Stoney Cove*

41 We received limited comments on this area in response to the draft recommendations. The Officers restated their earlier argument for including

Elmesthorpe parish in Fosse Stoney Cove ward, citing the lack of internal road links into the proposed Fosse Highcross ward. They acknowledged this would create a Fosse Highcross ward with 17% fewer electors than the average by 2027, but argued that concerns about this this would be 'outweigh[ed]' by reflecting community interests and identities'. Councillor Frost proposed transferring an area of Kirby Muxloe parish to the south of B582 Leicester Lane to Fosse Normanton ward, arguing this creates a stronger boundary and would improve electoral equality in Fosse Normanton.

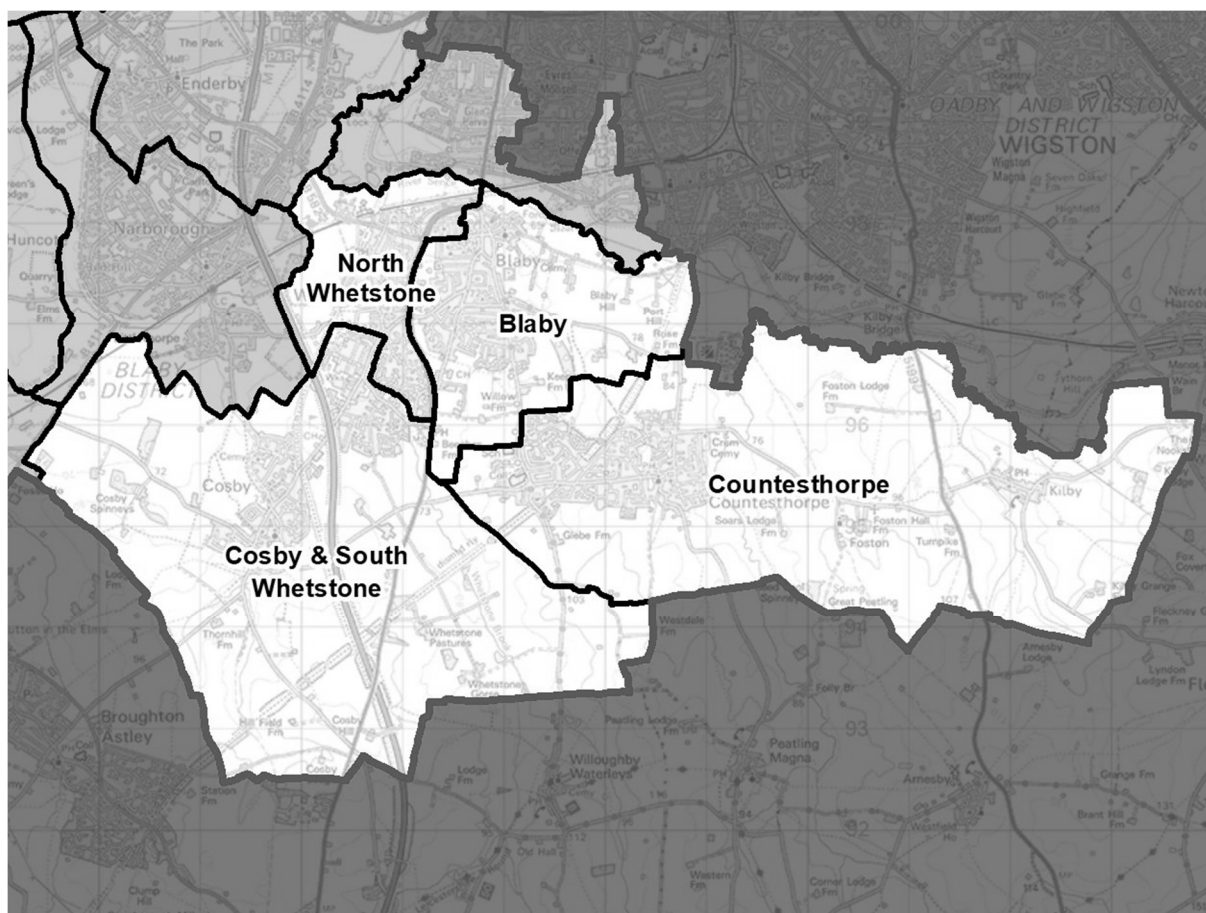
42 We have carefully considered the evidence received. We note the proposal from Councillor Frost, but this would require the creation of a small parish ward in Kirby Muxloe parish of only 28 electors. This would not constitute a viable parish ward. In addition, there was no other evidence to support such a change. We have therefore not adopted this amendment as part of our final recommendations.

43 We also note the proposal from the Officers. While we acknowledge the argument that including Elmesthorpe parish would strengthen community links, we have significant concerns about a ward with 17% fewer electors than the district average. Indeed, we note that transferring Elmesthorpe parish to Fosse Stoney Cove ward would worsen electoral equality there to 17% more electors than the district average by 2027. We do not consider the creation of two wards with such poor levels of electoral equality provides the best reflection of our statutory criteria in this area. We have therefore not adopted this amendment as part of our final recommendations.

44 Given no other significant comments, we are confirming the draft recommendations for these wards as final.



## 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%

45 We received very limited comments in response to the draft recommendations for Blaby, Cosby & South Whetstone, Countesthorpe and North Whetstone. A local resident questioned why Whetstone is ‘being split into two’, but we received no other comments.

46 We note the comment from a resident, but it is necessary to divide Whetstone parish to create viable wards across the wider area. Given no significant objections, we are confirming our draft recommendations for these wards as final.

## Enderby, Glen Parva, Littlethorpe and Narborough



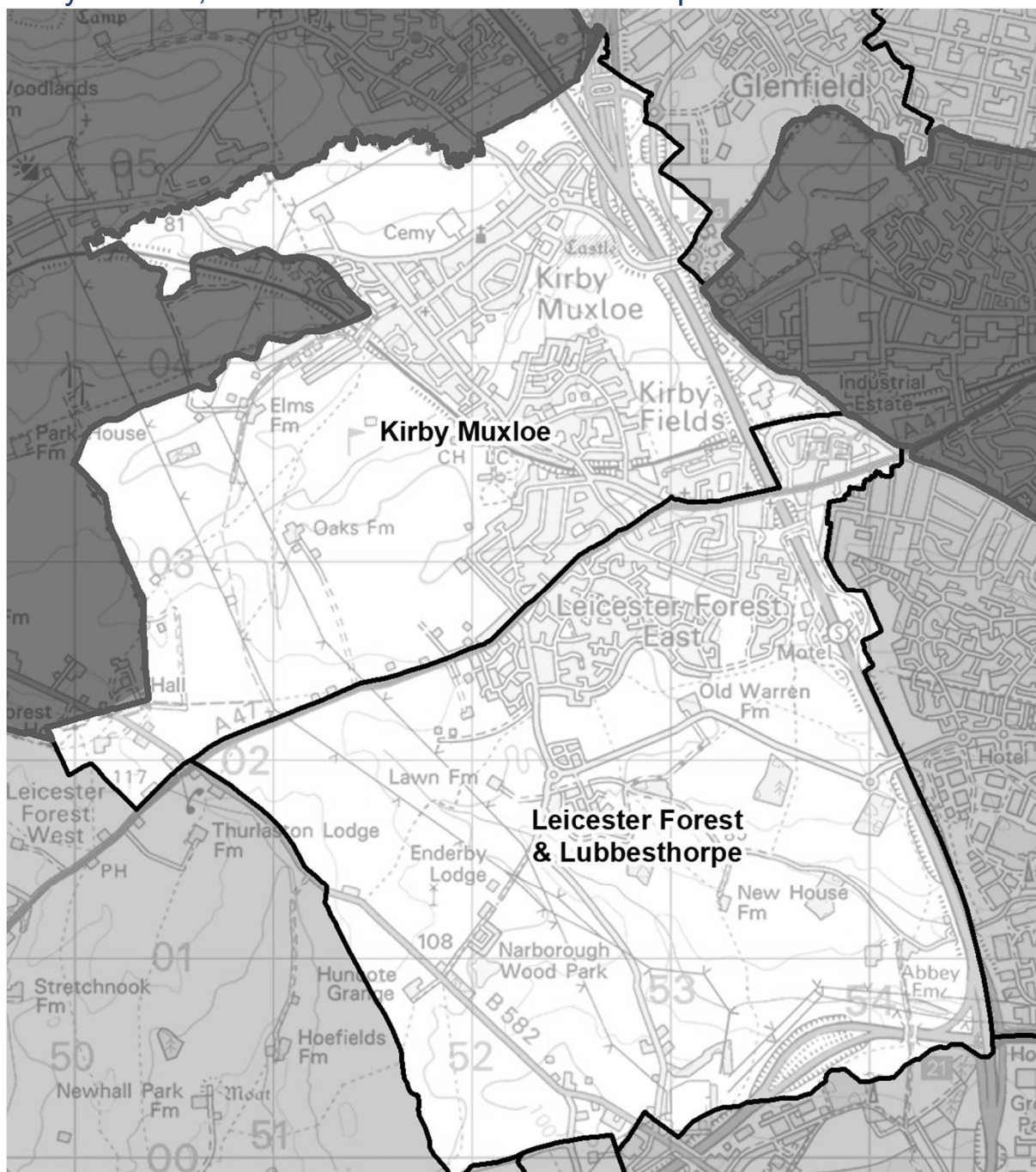
Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2027
Enderby	2	7%
Glen Parva	2	3%
Narborough & Littlethorpe	3	-1%

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

47 We received no significant comments on our draft recommendations for these wards. We are therefore confirming our draft recommendations as final.



## Kirby Muxlow, Leicester Forest and Lubbesthorpe



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

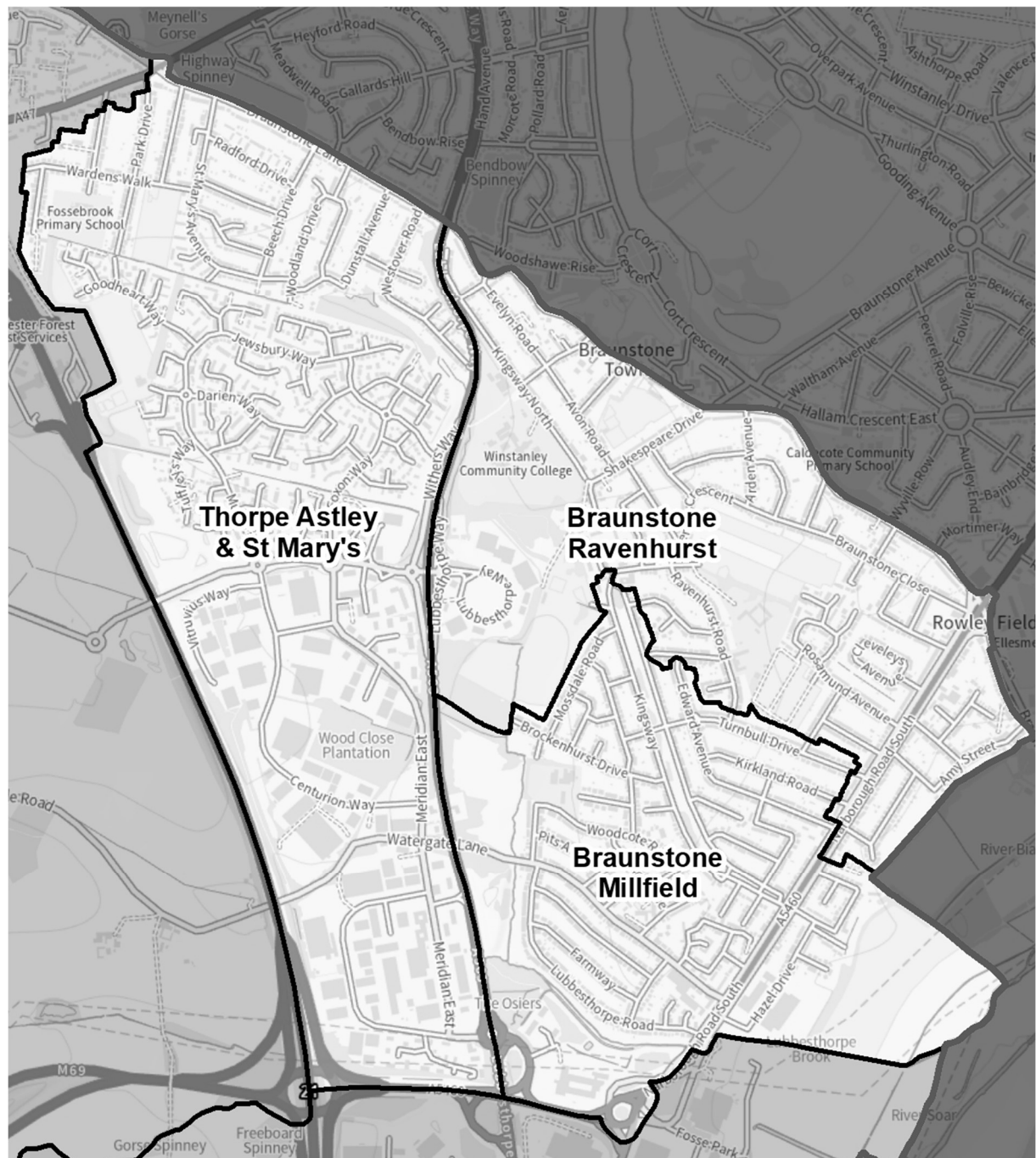
### *Kirby Muxloe and Leicester Forest & Lubbesthorpe*

48 We received a number of objections to the draft recommendations for these wards, although one resident expressed general support for a ward comprising Leicester Forest East and Lubbesthorpe.

49 The Officers objected to the Leicester Forest & Lubbesthorpe ward, arguing that Leicester Forest East and Lubbesthorpe parishes should not be combined in a ward. They argued that the developing community and growth in Lubbesthorpe has its own focus, and that residents in Leicester Forest East are 'aligned' to their own community with its own facilities. They added that it would be difficult for councillors to represent a ward containing two independent communities. The Officers also stated that the A47 forms a 'man-made boundary' between Kirby Muxloe and Leicester Forest East parishes, and that along with Lubbesthorpe, these parishes should be retained as separate wards. Leicester Forest East Parish Council stated that it has 'more in common' with Kirby Muxloe than Lubbesthorpe. A resident questioned the inclusion of Park Drive in Meridian Thorpe Astley ward, stating this is part of Leicester Forest East.

50 We have carefully considered the evidence received. We considered the Officers' proposal for wards based on parish boundaries as part of the previous stage of the review. We rejected these proposals on the basis of the poor levels of electoral equality for their Leicester Forest East and Lubbesthorpe wards, which would both have over 20% more electors than the district average by 2027. While the Officers provided good community evidence, we have not been persuaded that this evidence justifies wards with such poor levels of electoral equality. We have therefore not adopted these proposals as part of our final recommendations. We also note the comment from Leicester Forest East Parish Council and a local resident, but changes were required to secure wards with good electoral equality across the area. Therefore, we are not retaining the existing ward. Having considered the evidence received, we are confirming our draft recommendations for these wards as final.

## Braunstone



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2027
Braunstone Millfield	2	-9%
Braunstone Ravenhurst	2	-8%
Thorpe Astley & St Mary's	2	9%

### *Braunstone Millfield, Braunstone Ravenhurst and Thorpe Astley & St Mary's*

51 We received some general support for these wards from Braunstone Town Council and Councillor Brown. As stated above, a resident objected to the inclusion

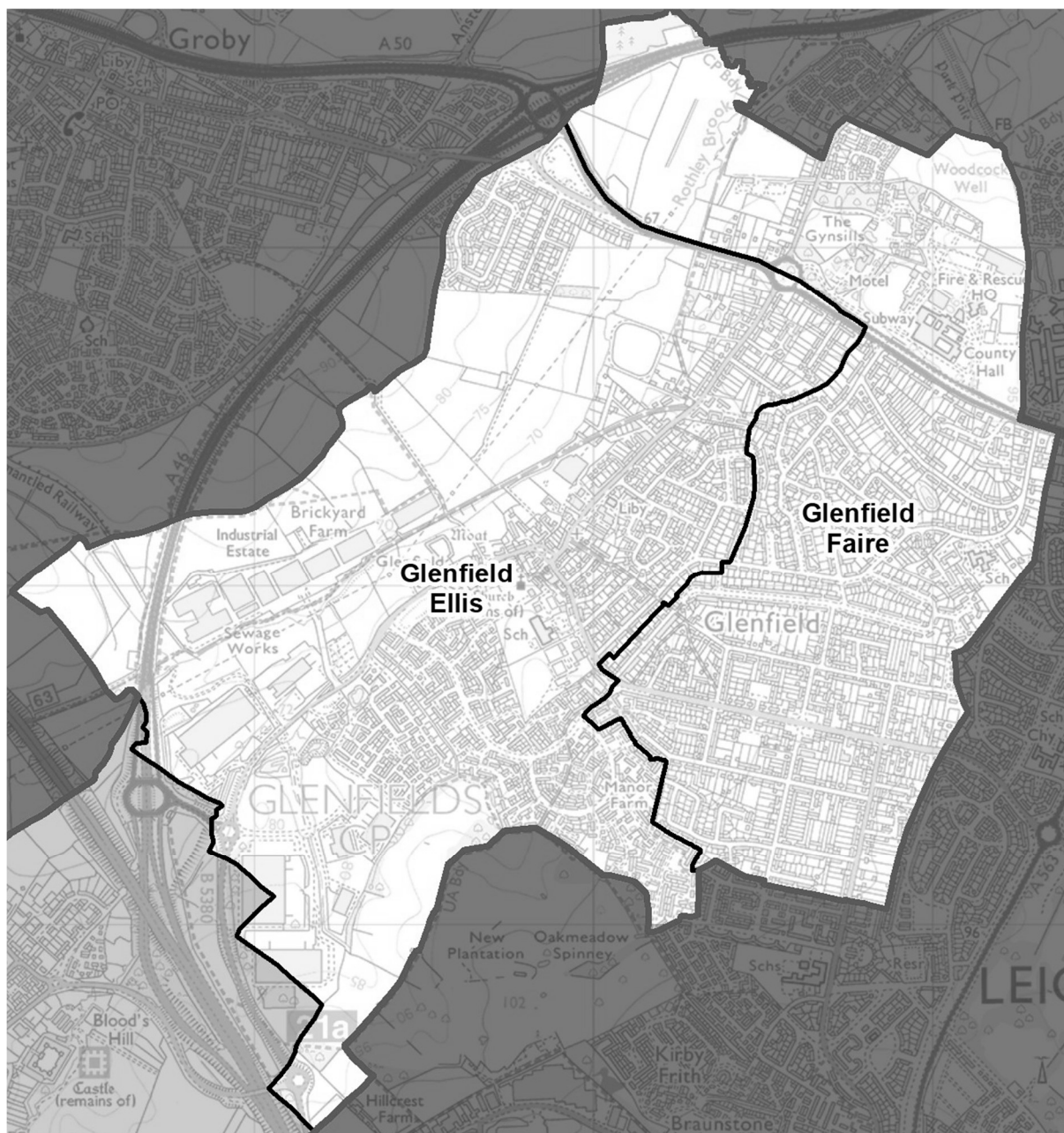
of the Park Drive area in Meridian Thorpe Astley ward, citing links to Leicester Forest East. Another resident put forward a general objection to the division of Braunstone parish, appearing to request no change to the existing wards.

52 Braunstone Town Council and Councillor Brown also proposed renaming Meridian Thorpe Astley ward as Thorpe Astley & St Mary's ward, arguing that 'Meridian is a marketing name for [a] business park [...] and has no historical connection to the area'. They argued that including St Mary's in the name better reflects the area within the ward as many of the amenities are on St Mary's Road. They also requested name changes to Ravenhurst & Fosse and Winstanley parish wards, proposing they are renamed Ravenhurst and St Mary's, respectively.

53 We have given careful consideration to the evidence received, noting the general support for the draft proposals. We note the concerns of the local resident about Park Drive. However, as stated above, these changes were required to secure wards with good electoral equality across the area. We also note the proposed name changes and that evidence of local community links was provided. We are therefore confirming the draft recommendations as final, subject to renaming Meridian Thorpe Astley ward as Thorpe Astley & St Mary's.



## Glenfield



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

### *Glenfield Ellis and Glenfield Faire*

54 We received no significant comments on our draft recommendations for these wards. We are therefore confirming our draft recommendations as final.



## Conclusions

55 The table below provides a summary as to the impact of our final 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

	Final 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

#### Final 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 final recommendations for Blaby District Council on our interactive maps at [www.consultation.lgbce.org.uk](http://www.consultation.lgbce.org.uk)

### Parish electoral arrangements

56 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.

57 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.

58 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.

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

#### Final 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

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

#### Final recommendations

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

Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
Millfield	6
Ravenhurst	7
St Mary's	3
Thorpe Astley	5

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

#### Final recommendations

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

Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
Ellis	8
Fairestone	8

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



## Final 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
Fossebrook	1



## What happens next?

63 We have now completed our review of Blaby District Council. 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

64 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 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	2,185	-7%
12	Glenfield Faire	2	4,102	2,051	-5%	4,289	2,145	-8%

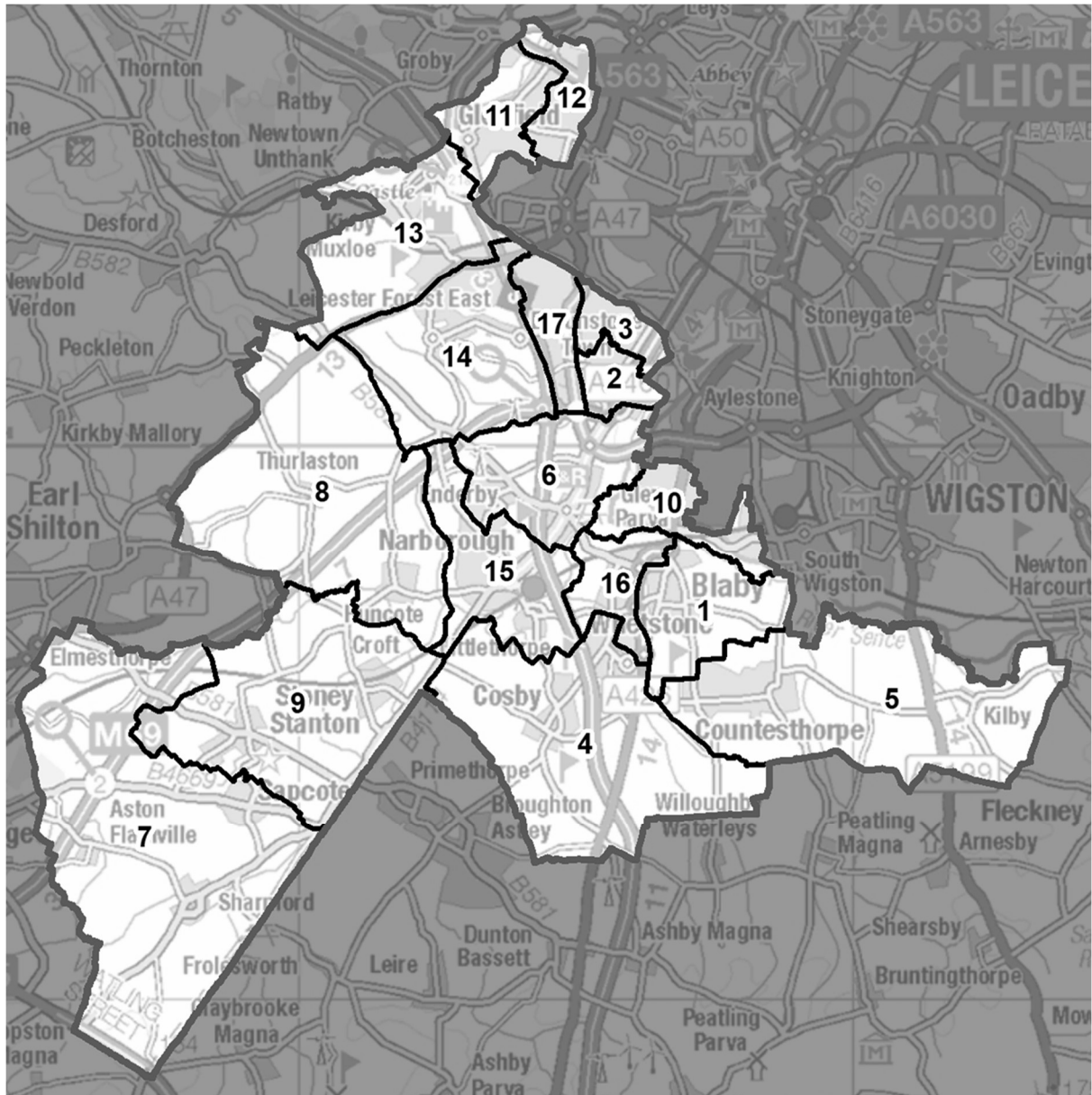
Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2020)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2027)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
13 Kirby Muxloe	2	4,217	2,109	-2%	4,976	2,488	6%
14 Leicester Forest & Lubbesthorpe	3	5,354	1,785	-17%	7,758	2,586	10%
15 Narborough & Littlethorpe	3	6,626	2,209	3%	6,957	2,319	-1%
16 North Whetstone	2	4,318	2,159	0%	4,516	2,258	-4%
17 Thorpe Astley & St Mary's	2	4,906	2,453	14%	5,131	2,565	9%
<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 & Lubbethorpe
15	Narborough & Littlethorpe
16	North Whetstone
17	Thorpe Astley & St Mary's

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

#### *Councillors*

- Councillor N. Brown (Blaby District Council)
- Councillor C. Frost (Blaby District Council)

#### *Parish and Town Councils*

- Braunstone Town Council
- Leicester Forest East Parish Council

#### *Local Residents*

- 15 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 (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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