

Holt, Nicole

From: Neil Briggs <Neil.Briggs@blaby.gov.uk>
Sent: 02 November 2021 18:43
To: reviews; Kingsley, Paul
Cc: Otterway, Richard; Alison Moran; Jo Hickling; Thomas McGowan; Sandeep Tiensa; Ross Griffin; Sarah Pennelli; Katie Brooman; Louisa Horton
Subject: Blaby District Electoral Boundary Review Consultation - Officer Submission
Attachments: Appendix A Draft Ward Proposal.pdf; BDC Forecast Warding Data - Officer Submission Nov21.pdf; Iteration 4 Ward Boundaries With Names.pdf; Final BDC Consultation Submission - OfficerDoc Nov21 .pdf

Importance: High

Dear Paul,

Electoral Boundary Review – Blaby District

As discussed, please find attached the Officer submission for the Blaby consultation. Please note that Appendix A refers only to the initial iteration when consideration was focused very much on our communities specific identities and shared interests across the District.

The team have worked hard to put this submission together and we will welcome the next stage of the consultation in February where we hope to have the opportunity to again help shape the future electoral boundaries of the District.

Regards
Neil

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Local Government Boundary Review Consultation: Blaby District

Blaby District Council Officer Submission

1st November 2021

Officer's analysis of the characteristics Blaby District, equality of elector numbers, effective local government and community identities has led to our final submission of suggested warding for Blaby District.

We have concluded that we will not be able to achieve a perfect ratio of electorate / councillors in the wards across the District along with satisfactory community interests and identities and good governance within the boundaries we need to work. Our initial proposal was very much based on the community identity, natural links and road networks within the district. It is felt that creating wards based on common interests and concerns enables communities to work together and promote effective local governance. As an example the parishes within the Fosse Villages to the West and South of the district have a natural connection which has created a strong relationship between them. The initial draft is attached at **Appendix A**, however the variances in electoral equality for local voters exceeds the acceptable limits applied to boundary review criteria and as such we are unable to submit this draft as a viable proposal.

We revisited the warding areas that exceeded the electorate ratios and have made this final submission based on a compromise between all 3 of the criteria, to ensure elector equality but as far as possible retaining strong communities and effective local governance.

The District borders the City of Leicester to the east and the settlements close to the boundary tend to be much more closely clustered and urban in character, in contrast to the villages in the rest of the District which are much more rural and have distinct gaps between each settlement and individual characteristics and communities. Additionally, we have a new settlement currently being built (Lubbesthorpe) which is forming its own distinct community and will increase in size considerably over the 5 years to 2027 and grow further in the following years.

Attached is a map of our suggested warding pattern along with the Electoral Forecasting and Ratio spreadsheet.

Our proposal is to have 18 Wards represented by 36 Councillors. This gives an ideal ratio of 1:2344

Blaby District Boundary Review Proposal by Ward

Ward Code	Proposed Ward Name	Polling Areas	Description	Rationale
A1	Fosse Villages North	Y,AH1,AH2	Huncote, Thurlaston and Leicester Forest West (LFW)	<p>The Fosse Villages Wards (North, Central and South) is the area covered by both the Fosse Villages policing beat. Also it encompasses the Fosse Villages Neighbourhood Plan area which was voluntarily agreed across all the parishes covered as s consensus was reached that they all have common interests and concerns,.</p> <p>The Fosse Villages North Ward comprises of 3 separate communities, however they are linked by road and together form part of a wider community known as the Fosse Villages.</p> <p>The Districts administrative boundary spans the west of the proposed ward, and to the north, east and south the boundary follows the current Parish boundary arrangements</p>
A2	Countesthorpe & Kilby	N,O,P,Z	Countesthorpe and Kilby	<p>Countesthorpe is a large village which contains a range of services and facilities and is relatively self-contained. Therefore it would be difficult to logically divide the village into more than one ward.</p> <p>The Ward includes the Hamlet of Kilby to the east which has a strong functional relationship with Countesthorpe and shares a dedicated policing neighbourhood team.</p> <p>Much of the Ward boundary is dictated by the administrative District boundary and to the west it tracks the parish boundaries.</p>

A3	Enderby	S,T1,U	Enderby	<p>The Ward consists of a mix of residential and commercial properties. To the north of the Ward is the commercial area around Junction 21 of the M1 motorway.</p> <p>To the south there is a residential area called Enderby St Johns which has a strong functional relationship with the historic core of Enderby village located to the west along the B582 Blaby Road.</p> <p>The western part of the Ward is predominantly residential and is focused around the historic core of the village of Enderby with its shops, schools (primary and secondary), a leisure centre, a GP surgery and other services. Forest Road and the disused railway line to the west of Enderby act as a natural western boundary to the Ward.</p> <p>The proposed Ward for Enderby is bound to the east by the natural boundary of the River Soar.</p> <p>Whilst the M1 motorway crosses through the Ward it does not act as a physical barrier as the B582 Blaby Road goes over the M1 and Leicester Lane to the north goes underneath the motorway.</p>
A4	Glen Parva	V,W,X	Glen Parva	<p>Glen Parva is bound by the administrative boundary with Leicester City and Oadby and Wigston Borough to the north and east. To the south and west, the settlement is contained by the natural boundaries of the Rivers Soar and Sence which are proposed to be the boundaries to the Glen Parva ward.</p>

				<p>The proposed Ward boundary reflects that of the parish boundary for Glen Parva and creates a Ward that promotes and encourages community cohesion.</p> <p>There is a current build by the Ministry of Justice of a Category C resettlement prison to the East of the Ward (previous location of HMP Glen Parva).</p>
A5	Lubbesthorpe	T2	Lubbesthorpe New Town	<p>Although there are currently only 770 electors in Lubbesthorpe Ward, it is forecast for 3,020 electors from 2027. There is expected to be further expansion in residents over a relatively short space of time in the following years. As this is a new community that is being developed, the electoral forecast could fluctuate depending on house-building progress.</p> <p>New Lubbesthorpe is a multi award-winning development that has been commended for delivering a new community that benefits the local economy and community through partnership working.</p> <p>Prior to any build, there has been a drive to encourage a strong community bond as more residents settle in the area. Blaby District Council, the developers and partners have created a Community Hub and Community Development Worker role to support new residents and plan for initiatives promoting the creation of this new community.</p> <p>At 1 April 2021, approximately 500 homes had been built and a primary school had opened to serve the new community. By April 2027, 1,650 homes are expected to be built and new facilities such as local shops will be open.</p>

				<p>A Community Governance Review was undertaken by the District Council in 2018 that created a Parish Council for Lubbesthorpe, formed of 7 members, to ensure that there is effective governance for the new community as it establishes and grows. The District Council considers that creating a Ward with one member for Lubbesthorpe best reflects the interests of residents and would create a clear hierarchy of governance to residents of Lubbesthorpe.</p> <p>The proposed boundary of the Ward has been determined by the bounds of the planned development. Whilst the Ward will have a variance of -29%, it is not considered reasonable or practical to arbitrarily divide or join the community with another area to improve the variance ratio. Any attempts to split the community of Lubbesthorpe to improve variance ratios would not reflect community interests and identities that residents at Lubbesthorpe hold.</p>
A6	Narborough & Littlethorpe	AA,AB,AC,AD,	Narborough & Littlethorpe	<p>This proposal allows for the village of Narborough to be contained within one Ward and includes the neighbouring village of Littlethorpe.</p> <p>Narborough and Littlethorpe share many amenities, including a Community Library, Cricket Club and the Parish Council serves both villages. This demonstrates the shared identity and interests of this community and as such it is believed that this local connection should be maintained.</p> <p>The two settlements are separated by a busy railway line, but the crossing at Narborough railway station acts as a link between the two settlements.</p>

				<p>The village of Littlethorpe is mainly residential and will therefore make use of Narborough village amenities (including the GP surgery, Primary School, post office etc) on a regular basis.</p> <p>Forest Road and Stewart Avenue act as a natural boundary to the north-eastern part of the Ward, located around Carlton Park which is accessed via the B4114 to the south. The western boundary to the Ward follows the parish boundary.</p>
A7	Kirby Muxloe	DQ,DP	Kirby Muxloe	<p>This consolidates the village of Kirby Muxloe as one individual Ward.</p> <p>The A47 is a man-made boundary to the south of the village that separates Kirby Muxloe from Leicester Forest East. The District Council administrative boundary forms the north and west boundary to the Ward.</p>
A8	Braunstone East	L,F,H1,I, (J)*	4 Polling areas*	<p>The ward of Braunstone East directly adjoins the City of Leicester and has the characteristics of an urban, densely populated and moderately deprived area.</p> <p>A number of amendments will have to be made to the polling areas in Braunstone to enable equality for the electorate across the whole settlement. It was felt these changes were required to support these communities within the District and enable Members to devote the time to the area that is needed.</p> <p>The City adjoins with the northern boundary of the ward and the A5460 Narborough Road South to the West.</p>

A9	Braunstone West	J*, K1, K2	3 Polling Areas*	<p>The ward of Braunstone West includes the residential area of Thorpe Astley has the characteristics of an urban, densely populated and moderately deprived area alongside a large commercial district to the south.</p> <p>A number of amendments will have to be made to the polling areas in Braunstone to enable equality for the electorate across the whole settlement. It was felt these changes were required to support these communities within the District and enable Members to devote the time to the area that is needed .</p> <p>The Ward is bounded by the A4563 Lubbethorpe Way to the east which is a dual-carriageway that acts as a ring road around the city of Leicester. It is a robust boundary which features few pedestrian crossing points. The Ward is bounded by the M1 motorway to the west (and Lubbethorpe Ward beyond) and the A5460 to the south which is the access road to the M1 and M69 motorways. The northern boundaries of the Ward are constrained by the District administrative boundary along Braunstone Lane.</p>
A10	Braunstone South	G, H2, E*	3 polling area including 1 new H2*	<p>Braunstone South has the characteristics of an urban, densely populated and moderately deprived area.</p> <p>A number of amendments will have to be made to the polling areas in Braunstone to enable equality for the electorate across the whole settlement. It was felt these changes were required to support these communities within the District and enable Members to devote the time to the area that is needed .</p>

				<p>The Ward is bounded by the A4563 Lubbethorpe Way to the west which is a dual-carriageway that acts as a ring road around the city of Leicester with very few pedestrian crossing points. The A5460 Narborough Road South dissects the Ward boundary but contains three pedestrian underpasses that link residents to facilities and services on either side of the A5460. The Kingsway road runs diagonally through the Ward and is a focal point for the community being anchored by a GP surgery to the south and the Braunstone Civic Centre to the north. The District administrative boundary acts as a Ward boundary to the east. There is a distinct change in the nature of the area to the south of the proposed Ward boundary as it becomes more commercial in nature, including Fosse Park shopping area.</p>
A11	Cosby, Croft and Whetstone South	M,AK,Q1*	Cosby, Croft and part of South Whetstone*	<p>The warding process has been challenging for this Ward, but to support the elector equality criteria we have had to make some compromises.</p> <p>Croft sits within Fosse Villages but we have been unable to propose a suitable arrangement that would see it remain within 1 of the 3 wards covering the rest of the Fosse Villages area. Cosby is linked to Croft by a road network, however there is no evidence to show that residents have a direct relationship between the 2 villages.</p> <p>In addition, we have had to link some residential areas of South Whetstone with this ward to comply with the electorate equality criteria. A wider area of South Whetstone has for some time being part of a Ward with Cosby but this proposal would see a smaller proportion of South Whetstone sitting within this proposed ward.</p>

				<p>It is acknowledged however that these villages share commonality in their semi-rural natures.</p> <p>The Ward is bounded to the south by the district administrative border, the north and west mainly follow the parish boundaries, and the east is proposed to be across part of the Whetstone parish to include some additional residential areas as referred to above.</p>
A12	Whetstone North	AI,AJ*	Whetstone North*	<p>The proposed Ward of Whetstone North would cover the majority of the Whetstone village. This would consolidate this community and support cohesion.</p> <p>To comply with the elector equality criteria a small number of residents to the South of Whetstone village would be represented within the Cosby, Croft and Whetstone South ward.</p> <p>The boundary to the West follows the A426/Blaby by-pass and M1 to the South West. To the north the boundary follows the River Sence.</p>
A13	Blaby	C,D,A,B	Blaby	<p>The proposed ward consolidates the town of Blaby which is the natural centre for the District. It is acknowledged that the variance of -14% on electorate equality is out of normal tolerance levels, however it is felt strongly that the community cohesion and interests outweigh any negative affect.</p> <p>Blaby is bounded by the A426 Blaby Bypass to the west of the village which separates Blaby from Whetstone; the River Sence (and Glen Parva Ward beyond) is a natural boundary to the northern extent of the Ward. The proposed Ward boundary matches that of the Parish.</p>

A14	Leicester Forest East (LFE)	DR,DS,DT	Leicester Forest East (LFE)	<p>We propose this ward for Leicester Forest East due to the geographical and residential areas which justify the desire to contain the community within one ward. The electoral variance of -23% reflects the high population density of the area but to split the ward would directly contradict the strong local connections and community identity.</p> <p>The ward has strong transport links, community facilities (schools, GP surgery, local shops) and local governance arrangements, with the proposal following the current Parish boundary.</p> <p>The northern extent of the proposed Ward boundary is bounded by the A47 and the Ivanhoe railway line. The southern extent of the proposed Ward boundary is defined by the parish boundary and reflects the outer reaches of the built-up area of the parish to the south-east and the parish boundary to the south-west, which is open countryside.</p>
A15	Glenfield West	DJ,DK,DL*	Glenfield West*	<p>The proposed ward for Glenfield West forms the historic core of the village and includes a more recently built housing and employment development to the west of the proposed Ward. Station Road that runs from east to west through the Ward acts as a focal point through the Ward.</p> <p>The proposal provides for all electors in and around Gynsills Hall to be within this ward so as to support the community cohesion and local connection criteria. At present these electors sit within a separate ward away from the rest of the electors who live on Gynsills Lane.</p> <p>Glenfield is the northern-most village within the District. It is bounded by the District administrative boundary on its</p>

				northern, eastern and southern sides. Glenfield is separated from neighbouring villages within the District by the M1 motorway that is on elevated ground and runs north to south along its western-most boundary.
A16	Glenfield East	DM,DN,DO*	Glenfield East*	<p>The proposed ward for Glenfield East contains the highly populated residential area to the east of the historical core of the village, alongside the area to the north containing County Hall and adjoining the boundary with Leicester City towards the West and South.</p> <p>The proposal provides for all electors in and around Gynsills Hall to be within Glenfield West ward.</p> <p>Glenfield is the northern-most village within the District. It is bounded by the District administrative boundary on its northern, eastern and southern sides. Glenfield is separated from neighbouring villages within the District by the M1 motorway that is on elevated ground and runs north to south along its western-most boundary.</p>
A17	Fosse Villages South	AF2,AE,AF3,AF1	Sapcote, Sharnford, Aston Flamville and Wigston Parva	<p>The Fosse Villages Wards (North, Central and South) is the area covered by both the Fosse Villages policing beat. Also it encompasses the Fosse Villages Neighbourhood Plan area which was voluntarily agreed across all the parishes covered as a consensus was reached that they all have common interests and concerns.</p> <p>As the most southerly region of the District, the proposed ward of Fosse Villages South incorporates a number of villages and hamlets that are linked by a road network which allows for good links to be maintained in this rural area. Geographically the area is large and spread out, however it should be noted that the variance of 17% for elector equality</p>

				<p>is evidence of its low density of residential neighbourhoods in general.</p> <p>The Districts administrative boundary spans the west, south and east of the proposed ward and to the north the boundary follows the current Parish boundary arrangements.</p>
A18	Fosse Villages Central	R,AG,Q2	Stoney Stanton, Elmesthorpe and Potters Marston	<p>The Fosse Villages Wards (North, Central and South) is the area covered by both the Fosse Villages policing beat. Also it encompasses the Fosse Villages Neighbourhood Plan area which was voluntarily agreed across all the parishes covered as a consensus was reached that they all have common interests and concerns,.</p> <p>Fosse Villages Central comprises of the villages of Stoney Stanton and Elmesthorpe that have a direct road link (the B581) and Potters Marston has a road link which makes Stoney Stanton the most accessible village with amenities in the locality.</p> <p>The villages and hamlets away from Stoney Stanton have low density residential areas which are spread over a wide geographical area and as such the variance of 12% reflects the rural nature of the ward in general.</p> <p>To the North, West and South East of the ward is the Districts administrative boundary with the other areas following the current parish boundary lines.</p>

*Note that these polling districts have been amended in this proposal to allow for elector equality across some wards.

Blaby District Council Forecast Warding										Nov-21
	Check your data	2020 Revised	2027 Revised							
	Number of councillors:	36	36							
	Overall electorate:	77412	84375							
	Average electorate per cllr:	2,150	2,344							
Ward Code	Name of ward	polling districts	New Wards 2021 Electorate	Proposed Members	Electorate/cllr (36 Members) 2021	variance	Electorate 2027 (36 Members)	Proposed Members	Proposed Electorate/ cllr 2027	variance
A1	Fosse Villages North	Y, AH2, AH1	2,209	1	2209	-3%	2312	1	2312	1%
A2	Countesthorpe & Kilby	N,O,P,Z	6,115	3	2038	5%	6397	3	2132	9%
A3	Enderby	S,T1,U	4,816	2	2408	-12%	5037	2	2519	-7%
A4	Glen Parva	V,W,X	4,396	2	2198	-2%	4809	2	2405	-3%
A5	Lubbesthorpe	T2	770	1	770	64%	3020	1	3020	-29%
A6	Narborough & Littlethorpe	AA,AB,AC,AD,	6,626	3	2209	-3%	6962	3	2321	1%
A7	Kirby Muxloe	DQ,DP	3,750	2	1875	13%	4468	2	2234	5%
A8	Braunstone East	L,F,H1,I	4,280	2	2140	0%	4477	2	2239	4%
A9	Braunstone West	J, K1,K2	4,048	2	2024	6%	4233	2	2117	10%
A10	Braunstone South	G,H2,E	4,313	2	2157	0%	4512	2	2256	4%
A11	Cosby, Croft and Whetstone So	M,AK,Q1	4,679	2	2340	-9%	5166	2	2583	-10%
A12	Whetstone North	AI,AJ	4,836	2	2418	-12%	5165	2	2582	-10%
A13	Blaby	C,D,A,B	5,201	2	2601	-21%	5360	2	2680	-14%
A14	Leicester Forest East	DR,DS,DT	5,544	2	2772	-29%	5765	2	2882	-23%
A15	Glenfield West	DJ,DK,DL	4,199	2	2100	2%	4403	2	2201	6%
A16	Glenfield East	DM,DN,DO	4,079	2	2040	5%	4290	2	2145	8%
A17	Fosse Villages South	AF2,AE,AF3,AF1	3,605	2	1803	16%	3874	2	1937	17%
A18	Fosse Villages Central	R,AG,Q2	3,946	2	1973	8%	4127	2	2064	12%
	Totals		77412	36			84375	36		

Blaby District Council Forecast Iteration 1								Appendix A	Nov-21
	Check your data	2027 Revised							
	Number of councillors:	37							
	Overall electorate:	84375							
	Average electorate per cllr:	2,280							
	Fill in the name of each ward once								
Ward Code	Name of ward	New Wards 2021 Electorate	Proposed Members	Electorate/cllr (37 Members)	variance	Electorate 2027 (37 Members)	Proposed Members	Proposed Electorate/ cllr 2027	variance
BLA	Blaby	5,201	2	2601	-11%	5360	2	2680	-18%
COS	Cosby	2,741	2	1371	42%	3065	2	1533	33%
COU&KIL	Countesthorpe and Kilby	6,115	3	2038	13%	6397	3	2132	6%
FVC	Fosse Villages Central (Stoney Stanton, Potters Marston, Elmsthorpe)	3,946	2	1973	16%	4127	2	2064	10%
GLEN_W	Glenfield West	4,499	2	2250	4%	4706	2	2353	-3%
END	Enderby	4,816	2	2408	-3%	5037	2	2519	-10%
GLEN_E	Glenfield East	3,779	2	1890	19%	3952	2	1976	13%
LFE	Leicester Forest East	5,544	2	2772	-18%	5763	2	2881	-26%
BRA_C	Braunstone Central	2,052	1	2052	12%	2146	1	2146	6%
KIR	Kirby Muxloe	3,750	2	1875	20%	4468	2	2234	2%
NAR_S	Narborough South	4,089	2	2045	13%	4303	2	2151	6%
FVN	Fosse Villages North (Huncote, Thurlaston, Croft)	3,523	2	1762	25%	3685	2	1843	19%
WHET	Whetstone	5,460	2	2730	-16%	5938	2	2969	-30%
NAR_N	Narborough North	2,537	1	2537	-8%	2654	1	2654	-16%
BRA_E	Braunstone East	5,330	2	2665	-14%	5575	2	2788	-22%
GLENP	Glen Parva	4,396	2	2198	6%	4806	2	2403	-5%
FVS	Fosse Villages South (Sapcote, Sharnford, Aston Flamville, Wigston Parva)	3,605	2	1803	23%	3873	2	1936	15%
BRA_W	Braunstone West	5,259	2	2630	-12%	5500	2	2750	-21%
LUBB	Lubbesthorpe	770	2	385	84%	3020	2	1510	34%
	Totals	77412	37			84375	37		

