

Owen, David

From: Fuller, Heather
Sent: 06 January 2016 10:42
To: Owen, David
Subject: FW: Urgent - Electoral Review of Leicestershire - Draft Recommendations
Attachments: Response to LGBCE re Leicestershire County Review.doc

From: LYNN MASON [mailto:]
Sent: 06 January 2016 09:23
To: reviews <reviews@lgbce.org.uk>
Cc:
Subject: Urgent - Electoral Review of Leicestershire - Draft Recommendations

EMAIL SENT ON BEHALF OF CHRISTINE FISHER, CHIEF EXECUTIVE:

Dear Sirs

Further to your letter dated 17 November 2015 regarding the LGBCE draft recommendations on the future electoral arrangements for Leicestershire County Council please find attached a document with comments from North West Leicestershire District Council. These comments are being submitted having considered how the draft proposals will affect the administration of elections and electoral registration in North West Leicestershire from a purely operational perspective.

Kind regards

Christine Fisher, Chief Executive



Lynn Mason

Executive Assistant (Maternity Cover), Corporate Management Support, Chief Executive's Office

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North West Leicestershire District

Division Name	Number of Cllrs	Variance 2020	Description	Detail – LGBCE comments	Comments on operational issues by North West Leicestershire District Council
Ashby de la Zouch	1	3%	This division comprises the parish of Ashby de la Zouch with the exception of the parish ward of Ashby Castle	This division was proposed and supported locally. We recommend it as part of our draft recommendations. The division would give a good level of electoral equality. We received objections to the exclusion of the Ashby Castle parish ward from the division. The consequences of including the Castle parish ward are described in detail below in our comments on the Valley division. We are not persuaded that resulting levels of electoral inequality are justified.	No operational issues
Castle Donington & Kegworth	1	-5%	This division comprises the parishes of Castle Donington, Kegworth and Lockington-Hemington	This division was proposed locally. We received expressions of support for this proposal. The division has clear boundaries and gives a good level of electoral equality.	No operational issues
Coalville North	1	-2%	This division comprises the North West Leicestershire District Council wards of Coalville East, Coalville West, Hugglescote St Mary’s and Snibston South, together with the unparished part of the Snibston North Ward	We received two different proposals for boundaries in the Coalville area. However, when we visited the area, it appeared that neither proposal would maintain local ties in the centre of Coalville. We accept that Snibston North and Snibston South district wards should be combined in a single division. We have, however, modified the locally made proposals by including the whole of the Coalville East and Coalville West wards in the same division. Our recommended division provides a good level of electoral equality.	We suggest moving The Limes ward of Ravenstone with Snibston Parish from the Ibstock and Appleby division to this division in order to prevent the splitting of a new housing development. Whilst this splits a parish this precedent has already been set with the splitting of the Hugglescote & Donington le Heath parish.
Coalville South	1	3%	This division comprises the North West Leicestershire District Council wards of Bardon, Greenhill, Ellistown & Battleflat and Hugglescote St John’s together with the unparished part of the Castle rock ward and the part of the Broom Leys	We received two different proposals for boundaries in the Coalville area. However, when we visited the area, it appeared that neither proposal would maintain local ties in the centre of Coalville. We accept that Bardon and Greenhill district wards be combined in a	We suggest moving the part of the Broom Leys Ward lying to the north of Meadow Lane from the Whitwick electoral division to this division in order to prevent having to create a new polling

			ward lying to the south of Meadow Lane	single division. Having visited the area we recommend boundaries which, we consider will maintain local ties. Our recommended division provides a good level of electoral equality.	district.
Forest & Measham	1	-1%	This division comprises the parishes of Ashby Woulds, Measham and Oakthorpe & Donisthorpe	This division was supported locally. We received expressions of support for this proposal. The division has clear boundaries and gives a good level of electoral equality.	No operational issues
Ibstock & Appleby	1	4%	This division comprises the parishes of Appleby Magna, Chilcote, Heather, Ibstock, Ravenstone with Snibston, Snarestone, Stretton en le Field and Swepstone	This division was proposed and supported locally. The division has clear boundaries and gives a good level of electoral equality. We received an objection to the exclusion of Ellistown & Battleflat from this division. However, including that parish in this division would result in the division having 25% more electors per councillor than the average for the county. We are not persuaded that such a degree of electoral inequality is justified in this case.	We suggest moving The Limes ward of Ravenstone with Snibston Parish from this division to the Coalville North division in order to prevent the splitting of a new housing development. Whilst this splits a parish this precedent has already been set with the splitting of the Hugglescote & Donington le Heath parish.
Valley	1	-6%	This division comprises the parishes of Belton, Breedon on the Hill, Coleorton, Isley cum Langley, Long Whatton & Diseworth, Normanton le Heath, Osgathorpe, Packington, Staunton Harold, Swannington and Worthington, together with the Ashby Castle parish ward	This division was proposed and supported locally. The division has clear boundaries and gives a good level of electoral equality. We received objections to the inclusion of the Ashby Castle parish ward in this division. Excluding that parish ward from the Valley division would mean that there would be 27% fewer electors per councillor than the average for the division, a degree of electoral inequality we are not persuaded to recommend. We received a proposal that the Ashby de la Zouch Blackfordby parish ward be added to the Valley division in order to mitigate electoral inequality. However, in such an approach, Blackfordby would be detached from the remainder of the Valley division and Valley would have 13% fewer electors per councillor than the average for	No operational issues

				the county. We do not recommend detached wards (other than in exceptional circumstances such as islands) and are not persuaded by the evidence we have received that departing from our normal approach is justified in this case.	
Whitwick	1	-6%	This division comprises the parishes of Charley and Whitwick together with the District Council ward of Thringstone and that part of the Broom Leys ward lying to the north of Meadow Lane	We received two different proposals for boundaries of divisions in the Whitwick area. Our draft recommendations for this area reflect our proposals for neighbouring Coalville. Having visited the area we recommend boundaries which, we consider reflect the evidence of community identity which we received and which maintain local ties. Our recommended division provides a good level of electoral equality.	We suggest moving the part of the Broom Leys Ward lying to the north of Meadow Lane from this division to this Coalville South division in order to prevent having to create a new polling district.

Please note:-

Some of the figures used in Appendix A for the Electorate (2021) for North West Leicestershire bear no correlation to those accepted by the LGBCE when undertaking the boundary review for North West Leicestershire