

ELECTORAL REVIEW OF LEICESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
submission from UKIP Charnwood (David Parsons CBE, Chairman)

This submission argues strongly for single member division representation for Glenfields Division and Kirby Muxloe and Leicester Forest East Division. We are aware that the Leicestershire County Council is proposing a 2 member division to encompass the villages of Glenfield, Kirby Muxloe, Leicester Forest East, Leicester Forest West and Thurlaston. We think this would be disastrous for local representation on the County Council.

Glenfield is a discrete community with a strong community identity. In district terms it is very tightly defined by the City of Leicester and Charnwood and Hinckley and Bosworth Boroughs. Geographically it is a small 'finger' pointing out from the north of the District of Blaby and does not easily relate to its surroundings because of it. In previous boundary reviews this has been recognised and even though its population is 16% below the average size of a County Council Division its special status as a community has outweighed issues of electoral comparability. Considerable development is also taking place in Glenfield resulting in a larger increase in population than is catered for in population growth figures. The Blaby District Plan speaks of preferred development taking place 'west of the M1'. It is understood that new planning applications will be received resulting in even higher growth. We argue very strongly that in terms of community Glenfield should retain a single County Councillor. It is also physically separated from Kirby Muxloe by the M1. In its submission the Leicestershire County Council have used this as a reason to maintain Shepshed as a Division even though it's population is substantially different for a County Council Division. They have inexplicably not used the same argument for Glenfield.

Kirby Muxloe and Leicester Forest East currently return 1 County Councillor together. Both parishes were united until fairly recently and have community identity in common. Because of this we strongly argue that the current Kirby Muxloe and Leicester Forest East Division should be retained. The physical barriers between these communities and Glenfield are considerable (the M1 motorway and Western Leicester by-pass).

Leicestershire County Council proposes to also include polling districts AH1 (Leicester Forest West) and AH2 (Thurlaston) in a 2 member Division with Kirby Muxloe, Leicester Forest East and Glenfield. Perversely they are at the same time proposing abolition of existing 2 member Divisions in other areas of the County (Oadby and Burbage). 2 member Divisions have proved less than satisfactory from a representational point of view and do not easily reflect community identity as their own background papers have said. Thurlaston has no links with the community of Kirby Muxloe or Leicester Forest East and looks towards villages in the District of Blaby like Huncote and Stoney Stanton. Including these communities in the new 2 seat Division is purely an exercise in numerical viability for the proposed 2 member division.

In summary our proposals are:

County Electoral Division	Electorate 2014	Electoral Variance	Electorate 2021	Electoral Variance
Glenfields	7,867	-17%	8,383	-16%
Kirby Muxloe and Leicester Forest East	8,845	-7%	9,514	-5%

In addition we consider polling districts AH1 and AH2 which Leicestershire County Council proposes to add to a 2 member ward including the above existing Divisions.

AH1/AH2	633		648	
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Including these polling districts into Stanton Croft and Normanton would result in:

	9,777	+3%	10,870	+9%
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Including these polling districts in Enderby/Lubbesthorpe would result in:

	8,336	-12%	9,803	-2%
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Bearing in mind that substantial development is underway in Lubbesthorpe including AH1/AH2 in the existing Stanton Croft and Normanton division would seem sensible.