

**Leicestershire County Council Conservative Group
Comments on Boundary Review Proposals 14th July 2015**

1. The Conservative Group of Leicestershire County Council (LCC) strongly supports the proposed Leicestershire County Council Boundary Review submission agreed by the full council on 8th July 2015.
2. The Conservative Group understands the statutory criteria to which the LGBCE are required to adhere:
 - (i) the need to secure equality of representation;
 - (ii) the need to reflect the identities and interests of local communities; and
 - (iii) the need to secure effective and convenient local government.
3. Below is a summary of the Conservative Group's comments, split by District/Borough Council areas.
4. Blaby District Divisions: The Conservative Group strongly supports the LCC submission. The main discussion within the Group was regarding the proposed two member Glenfields, Kirby Muxloe and Leicester Forests Division. The reasons for making this the only exception to the single member divisions across the county are detailed in the LCC submission, and are why the Group supports creating a two member division. It was agreed that members may make their own submissions to the LGBCE if they wished to put forward any alternative proposals.
5. Charnwood Borough Divisions: The Conservative Group strongly supports the LCC submission for the Charnwood Borough including the division names. Some concerns were expressed about the makeup of the new Thurmaston Ridgemere Division and it was agreed members with alternative proposals should make their individual submissions to the LGBCE.
6. Harborough District Divisions: The Conservative Group strongly supports the LCC submission for the Harborough District. No alternative proposals have been received from local members or the public, but members may make their own submissions to the LGBCE.
7. Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Divisions: The Conservative Group strongly supports the LCC submission to have single member divisions in both Hinckley and Burbage as well as the rural divisions, and supports the proposed division names. This proposal to secure equality of representation by providing single member divisions is supported by all three political groups. There have been discussions about specific divisions, but the Group decided that members may make their own individual submissions to the LGBCE.
8. Melton Borough Divisions: The Conservative Group strongly supports the LCC proposals for the four divisions in the Melton Borough and continuation of the existing division

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names. We wish to see the current electoral arrangements continued as far as possible as we recognise Melton residents observe the Melton Town and rural split as distinct community identities. We also note the LGBCE guidelines that indicate against rural/urban “doughnuts” but we believe Melton Borough to be an exceptional case with powerful arguments for retaining the status quo as closely as possible. The rural divisions of Asfordby and Belvoir are parished with strong village communities which look to themselves. There is a successful Community Hub organisation across Asfordby Division which the LCC proposals would continue to support; any other arrangements, such as those put forward by the LCC Labour Group, put this at risk.

9. The LCC proposal to simply move a single polling district (E1) into the Asfordby Division is strongly supported by the Conservative Group. This retains the current division boundaries as closely as possible but still ensures equality of representation, and reflects the identities and interests of local communities. There are good community cohesion reasons for moving polling district E1 into the Asfordby Division: (a) Polling District E1 lies close to Asfordby Village, with which it has strong community ties; (b) over 50% of Asfordby Hill school pupils comes from E1 polling district; (c) there are excellent public transport links across the Asfordby Division which link into Egerton E1; and (d) Neighbourhood Policing arrangements and beats fit well with this proposal. The Group strongly supports the proposed new division names of Melton Ferneley and Melton Sargent.
10. Northwest Leicestershire District Divisions: The Conservative Group strongly supports the proposed LCC submission. After looking at alternatives, the Conservative Group agreed to go with the LCC submission that Ashby Money Hill should lie within the Ashby Division- it is part of the main shopping centre of Ashby de la Zouch, and Ashby Castle in the Valley Division. The Conservative Group do not agree with the Labour party proposal for a Whitwick Division and Coalville North and Coalville South Divisions. However, the Group understands that individual members may make their own submissions.
11. Oadby and Wigston Borough Divisions: The Conservative Group strongly supports retaining single member divisions, and supports the creation of two single member divisions for Oadby instead of the current two member Oadby Division. The Group strongly supports the two new Division names: Oadby Uplands Grange and Oadby Washbrook. The Group notes that the single member division proposals for the Hinckley & Bosworth Borough were supported by the three main political groups, but only the Liberal Democrat Group has argued to retain a two member division for Oadby.

Submitted by David Briscombe, LCC Conservative Group Secretary, on behalf of LCC Conservative Group, 14th July 2015.



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