

**10 July 2015**

Dear Sir/Madam

**ELECTORAL REVIEW OF LEICESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

The Labour Group on Leicestershire County Council welcome the Local Government Boundary Commission for England's (LGBCE) invitation to submit proposals for new electoral divisions, based on a Council size of 55, within Leicestershire.

The Labour Group is supportive of the review and was an active member of a County Council working party to oversee the County Council's formal submission for proposed new electoral divisions across the County.

The County Council's formal submission was considered and agreed by Full Council on 8<sup>th</sup> July with the Labour Group being able to support the proposals for the following districts/boroughs:-

- Blaby
- Charnwood
- Harborough
- Hinckley and Bosworth
- Parts of North West Leicestershire
- Oadby and Wigston

However, the Labour Group was unable to support the County Council's proposal for Melton borough and parts of North West Leicestershire district mainly the proposed electoral divisions around the town of Coalville. The Labour Group therefore wishes to suggest alternative proposals for these areas as set out below.

## **Melton Borough Alternative Proposals**

### **1. Proposals**

- a. Melton Town to have two Divisions:
  - Melton East with 10,510<sup>1</sup> voters (variance +5.33%)
  - Melton West with 10,384 voters (variance +4.65%)
- b. Rural areas to have two divisions:
  - Asfordby with 9,319 voters (variance -6.35%)
  - Belvoir with 9,590 voters (variance -3.63%)

### **2. Urban & Rural Community Interests**

This proposal sets out to address the importance of the diverse interests and community identities of the town and villages across the borough.

Melton does not have a Town Council and depends upon its Borough and County elected representatives to consider its particular interests, opportunities and challenges. Similarly, rural communities value representation from those with a strong commitment and understanding of their interests. We believe to merge the representation of rural and urban communities would compromise the effectiveness of representation of both urban and rural communities.

### **3. How is this achieved? – Melton Town**

- a. Melton Town currently has an unfortunate boundary between the Borough Council Wards of Sysonby and Newport. Addressing this creates a more logical and clear boundary as well as helping to ‘balance’ the numbers of voters.



The removal of the “bulge” within the Division means a shift of 1014 voters of Melton Sysonby Polling Station “I” from the new Melton West to the new Melton East.

The resulting two Melton Town Divisions are almost equal in number of voters.

- b. By creating a west-east axis boundary, based on current Town Ward boundaries, we strengthen the community identification of people living and working in the town. An advantage of mainly keeping the MBC Ward

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<sup>1</sup> Figures relate to 2021 unless otherwise stated

boundaries facilitates good governance through liaison between County and Borough Councillors.

#### **4. How is this achieved? – Rural Areas**

- a. The Labour Group recognise the need to “balance” voter numbers in rural areas. However, the identity of rural areas is precious to rural residents and using a mix of rural / urban voters does not respect that sense of identity. Our proposal seeks to respect that community identification by keeping changes simple and within rural communities.
- b. The Labour Group therefore propose adding 738 voters from the Parishes of Freeby, Wymondham and Edmondthorpe (Polling Stations AP, AS, AT) to a revised Asfordby County Council Division. This reduces the new Belvoir Division so that the two revised Divisions – Asfordby and Belvoir are almost the same size and, at -6.35 and -3.63 are well within the tolerance expected.

Below is detailed information showing how the proposed divisions will be made up.

Polling district	Parish	Parish ward	Existing District/City/borough ward	Existing County division	Electorate 2014	Variance	Electorate 2021	Variance
<b>Asfordby</b>								
L	Asfordby	Asfordby	Asfordby	Asfordby	2282		2284	
M	Asfordby	Asfordby Hill	Asfordby	Asfordby	411		399	
N	Ab Kettleby	Ab Kettleby	Old Dalby	Asfordby	335		335	
O	Ab Kettleby	Holwell	Old Dalby	Asfordby	126		124	
P	Broughton and Dalby	Dalby Ward	Old Dalby	Asfordby	553		553	
Q	Broughton and Dalby	Broughton Ward	Old Dalby	Asfordby	314		309	
R	Broughton and Dalby	Broughton Ward	Old Dalby	Asfordby	291		282	
AU	Knossington and Cold Overton		Somerby	Asfordby	259		262	
AV	Somerby	Burrough on the Hill	Somerby	Asfordby	157		161	
AW	Somerby	Somerby	Somerby	Asfordby	337		340	
AX	Somerby	Leesthorpe and Pickwell	Somerby	Asfordby	158		158	
AY	Twyford and Thorpe	Thorpe	Somerby	Asfordby	196		199	
AZ	Twyford and Thorpe	Twyford	Somerby	Asfordby	310		323	
BA	Burton and Dalby	Burton	Gaddesby	Asfordby	436		442	
BB	Burton and Dalby	Dalby Ward	Gaddesby	Asfordby	350		351	
BC	Gaddesby	Ashby Folville	Gaddesby	Asfordby	257		260	
BD	Gaddesby	Gaddesby	Gaddesby	Asfordby	360		358	

BE	Frisby		Frisby on the Wreake	Asfordby	482		490	
BF	Kirby Bellars		Frisby on the Wreake	Asfordby	301		288	
BG	Grimston		Frisby on the Wreake	Asfordby	226		223	
BH	Hoby with Rotherby	Hoby and Ragdale Ward	Frisby on the Wreake	Asfordby	298		294	
BI	Hoby with Rotherby	Rotherby and Brooksby Wards	Frisby on the Wreake	Asfordby	150		148	
AP	Freeby	Freeby and Stapleford Wards	Wymondham	Belvoir	196		191	
AS	Wymondham and Edmondthorpe	Edmondthorpe	Wymondham	Belvoir	85		85	
AT	Wymondham and Edmondthorpe	Wymondham	Wymondham	Belvoir	472		463	
					<b>9342</b>	<b>-1</b>	<b>9319</b>	<b>-7</b>

Polling district	Parish	Parish ward	Existing District/City/borough ward	Existing County division	Electorate 2014	Variance	Electorate 2021	Variance
<b>Belvoir</b>								
S	Clawson Hose and Harby	Clawson	Long Clawson & Stathern	Belvoir	825		838	
T	Clawson Hose and Harby	Harby	Long Clawson & Stathern	Belvoir	753		766	
U	Clawson Hose and Harby	Hose	Long Clawson & Stathern	Belvoir	478		475	
V	Barkestone, Plungar and Redmile	Barkestone	Long Clawson & Stathern	Belvoir	263		252	
W	Barkestone, Plungar and Redmile	Plungar	Long Clawson & Stathern	Belvoir	205		203	
X	Barkestone, Plungar and Redmile	Redmile	Long Clawson & Stathern	Belvoir	240		231	
Y	Stathern		Long Clawson & Stathern	Belvoir	565		558	
Z	Bottesford		Bottesford	Belvoir	2703		2792	
AA	Bottesford		Bottesford	Belvoir	204		208	
AB	Belvoir	Belvoir	Croxton Kerrial	Belvoir	101		107	
AC	Belvoir	Belvoir	Croxton Kerrial	Belvoir	59		62	
AD	Belvoir	Harston	Croxton Kerrial	Belvoir	83		88	
AE	Croxton Kerrial	Branston	Croxton Kerrial	Belvoir	111		111	
AF	Croxton Kerrial	Croxton Kerrial	Croxton Kerrial	Belvoir	321		313	
AG	Eaton	Eastwell	Croxton Kerrial	Belvoir	155		154	
AH	Eaton	Eastwell	Croxton Kerrial	Belvoir	108		106	
AI	Eaton	Eaton	Croxton Kerrial	Belvoir	254		252	

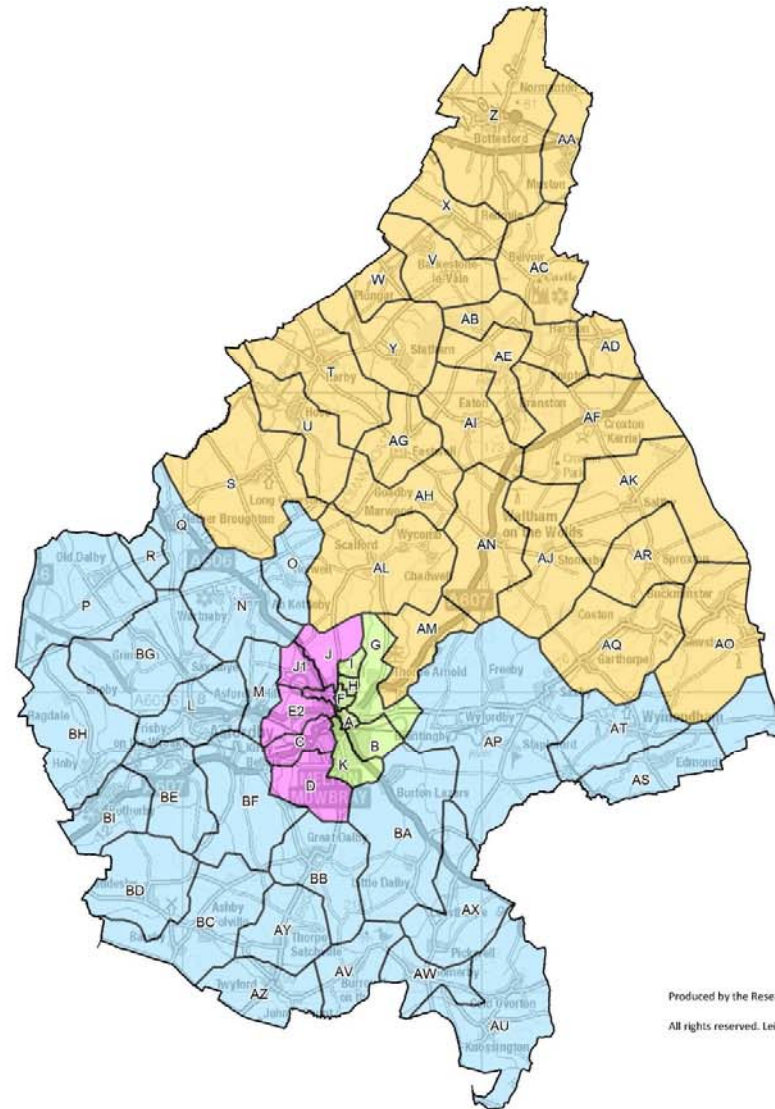
AJ	Sproxton	Stonesby	Croxton Kerrial	Belvoir	145		142	
AK	Sproxton	Salby	Croxton Kerrial	Belvoir	147		144	
AL	Scalford		Waltham	Belvoir	520		525	
AM	Waltham on the Wolds and Thorpe Arnold		Waltham	Belvoir	94		93	
AN	Waltham on the Wolds and Thorpe Arnold		Waltham	Belvoir	697		693	
AO	Buckminster	Buckminster and Sewstern	Wymondham	Belvoir	276		275	
AQ	Garthorpe		Wymondham	Belvoir	54		52	
AR	Sproxton	Sproxton	Wymondham	Belvoir	152		147	
					<b>9513</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>9590</b>	<b>-4</b>

<b>Polling district</b>	<b>Parish</b>	<b>Parish ward</b>	<b>Existing District/City/borough ward</b>	<b>Existing County division</b>	<b>Electorate 2014</b>	<b>Variance</b>	<b>Electorate 2021</b>	<b>Variance</b>
<b>Melton East</b>								
A			Melton Craven	Melton Mowbray South	740		735	
B			Melton Craven	Melton Mowbray South	2061		2016	
F			Melton Newport	Melton Mowbray North	865		905	
G			Melton Newport	Melton Mowbray North	1981		2040	
H			Melton Newport	Melton Mowbray North	1065		1089	
K			Melton Warwick	Melton Mowbray South	2640		2711	
I			Melton Sysonby	Melton Mowbray North	1001		1014	
					<b>10353</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10510</b>	<b>5</b>



Polling district	Parish	Parish ward	Existing District/City/borough ward	Existing County division	Electorate 2014	Variance	Electorate 2021	Variance
<b>Melton West</b>								
C			Melton Dorian	Melton Mowbray South	2730		2741	
D			Melton Dorian	Melton Mowbray South	1472		1488	
E1			Melton Egerton	Melton Mowbray North	1610		1653	
E2			Melton Egerton	Melton Mowbray North	1203		1232	
J			Melton Sysonby	Melton Mowbray North	1608		1711	
J1			Melton Sysonby	Melton Mowbray North	1508		1559	
					<b>10131</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>10384</b>	<b>4</b>
				<b>Total</b>	<b>39339</b>		<b>39803</b>	

## Melton Division



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## **North West Leicestershire Alternative Proposal (Coalville Town)**

The proposal creates new divisions that includes Whitwick and parts of Coalville, encompassing an area known as the 'Green Wedge'. The Green Wedge is an area of separation between Whitwick and Coalville and there has been considerable local protest about retaining the area of separation between the two communities. We don't believe that a division that crosses the Green Wedge would be acceptable to local communities and would raise suspicions amongst residents that there was a hidden agenda to merge Whitwick and Coalville. Many of the issues of concern are different in the two communities.

The Labour Group therefore propose a **Whitwick** division which includes the existing Whitwick division and the Castle Rock district ward. The Castle Rock ward is already closely connected to the Whitwick division and shares a common transport route – Leicester Road/Warren Hills Road.

The remaining areas of Coalville naturally fall into a **Coalville North** division and **Coalville South** division. Coalville North would run from Bardon ward to Snibston North ward (SNA polling district only) and include Greenhill ward, BRB polling district, Coalville East ward and CWB polling district. These are highly integrated communities which run along the main East-West route through the town.

Coalville South would include the wards of Hugglescote St John's, Hugglescote St Mary's, Snibston South, Ellistown and Battleflat and the polling district CWA. Again, these are highly integrated communities, largely bounded to the north by the main East-West route through the town.

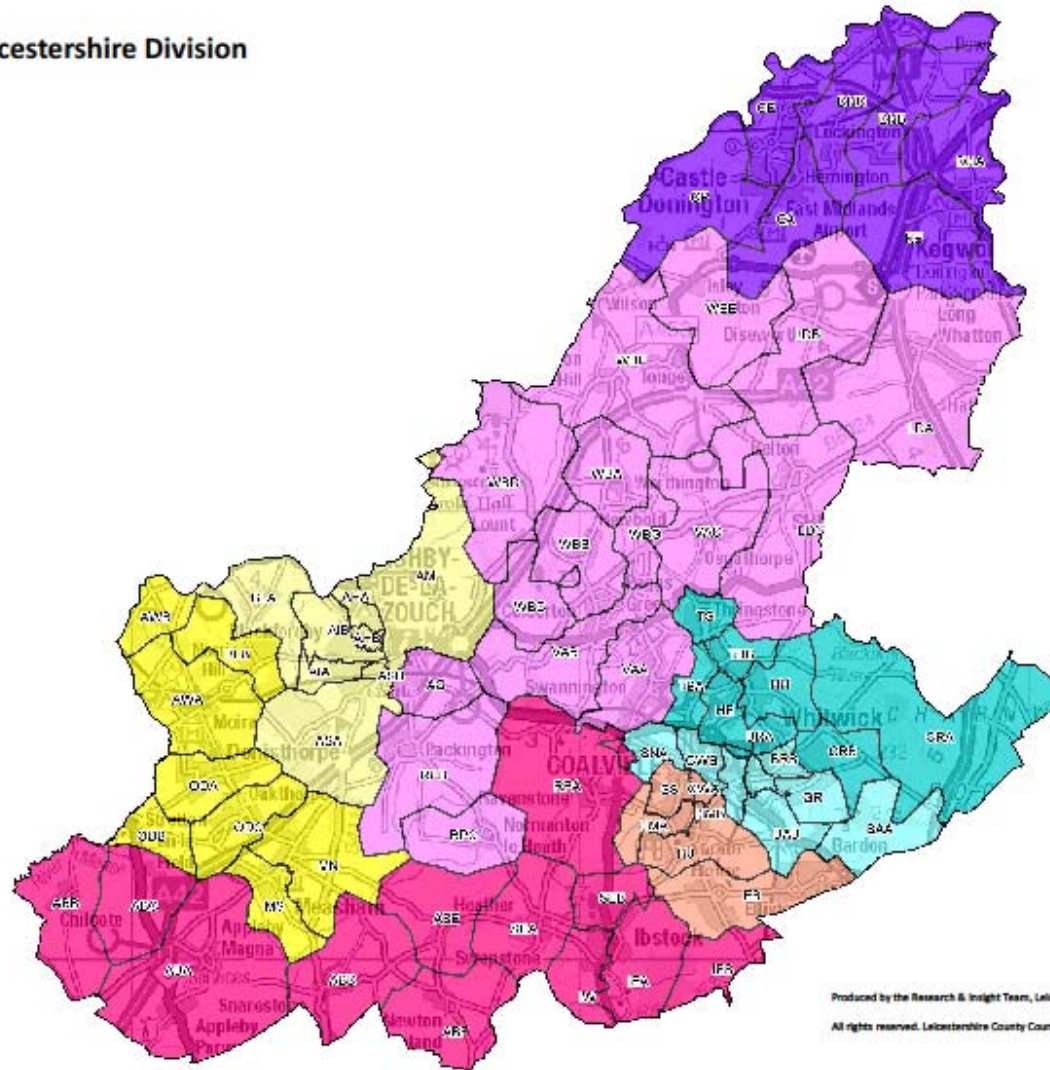
Below is detailed information showing how the proposed divisions will be made up.

Polling district	Parish	Parish ward	Existing District/City/borough ward	Existing County division	Electorate 2014	Variance	Electorate 2021	Variance
<b>Proposed Coalville North Division</b>								
BAA - Bardon	<None>	<None>	Bardon	Warren Hills	20		24	
BAB - Coalville	<None>	<None>	Bardon	Warren Hills	1743		2081	
GR - Greenhill	<None>	<None>	Greenhill	Warren Hills	2074		2078	
SNA - Coalville	<None>	<None>	Snibston North	Coalville	1225		1424	
BRB - Broom Leys	<None>	<None>	Broom Leys	Warren Hills	1077		1105	
CWB - Coalville West	<None>	<None>	Coalville West	Coalville	726		732	
CTB - Coalville East	<None>	<None>	Coalville East	Coalville	1357		1388	
CTA - Coalville East	<None>	<None>	Coalville East	Warren Hills	676		813	
					<b>8898</b>	<b>-6</b>	<b>9646</b>	<b>-3</b>

Polling district	Parish	Parish ward	Existing District/City/borough ward	Existing County division	Electorate 2014	Variance	Electorate 2021	Variance
<b>Proposed Coalville South Division</b>								
HJ - Hugglescote St John`s	Hugglescote & Donington Le Heath	Hugglescote & Donington le Heath - St John`s Ward	Hugglescote St John`s	Coalville	1388		1595	
HMA - Hugglescote St Mary`s	Hugglescote & Donington Le Heath	Hugglescote & Donington le Heath - St Mary`s Ward	Hugglescote St Mary`s	Coalville	1575		1904	
HMB - Hugglescote St Mary`s	Hugglescote & Donington Le Heath	Hugglescote & Donington le Heath - St Mary`s Ward	Hugglescote St Mary`s	Coalville	350		353	
SS - Snibston South	<None>	<None>	Snibston South	Coalville	1747		2054	
EB - Ellistown	Ellistown and Battleflat	<None>	Ellistown & Battleflat	Ibstock & Appleby	1886		2157	
CWA - Coalville West	<None>	<None>	Coalville West	Coalville	1085		1085	
					<b>8031</b>	<b>-15</b>	<b>9149</b>	<b>-8</b>

Polling district	Parish	Parish ward	Existing District/City/borough ward	Existing County division	Electorate 2014	Variance	Electorate 2021	Variance
<b>Proposed Whitwick Division</b>								
BRA - Broom Leys	Whitwick	Whitwick - Broom Leys Ward	Broom Leys	Whitwick	985		1010	
HE - Whitwick	Whitwick	Whitwick - Hermitage Ward	Hermitage	Whitwick	1790		1746	
HH - Holly Hayes	Whitwick	Whitwick - Holly Hayes Ward	Holly Hayes	Whitwick	1996		1938	
TBB - Thornborough	Whitwick	Whitwick - Thornborough Ward	Thornborough	Whitwick	1191		1192	
TBA - Thornborough	Whitwick	Whitwick - Thornborough Ward	Thornborough	Whitwick	848		853	
TS - Thringstone	<None>	<None>	Thringstone	Whitwick	1946		1959	
CRB - Castle Rock	<None>	<None>	Castle Rock	Warren Hills	1664		1701	
CRA - Charley	Charley	<None>	Castle Rock	Warren Hills	176		184	
					<b>10596</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>10582</b>	<b>6</b>

## North West Leicestershire Division



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I do hope the LGBCE can take into account the Labour Group's support for the majority of the proposals submitted by the County Council as well as considering our alternative proposals for Melton borough and North West Leicestershire district which we believe significantly improve the proposal by helping to retain established community identities.

We look forward to seeing what you propose when you publish your draft recommendations in October.

Yours sincerely

Robert Sharp  
Leader of the Labour Group.