

New electoral arrangements for North West Leicestershire District Council

Final Recommendations

February 2025

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Tel: 0330 500 1525

Email: reviews@lgbce.org.uk

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A note on our mapping:

The maps shown in this report are for illustrative purposes only. Whilst best efforts have been made by our staff to ensure that the maps included in this report are representative of the boundaries described by the text, there may be slight variations between these maps and the large PDF map that accompanies this report, or the digital mapping supplied on our consultation portal. This is due to the way in which the final mapped products are produced. The reader should therefore refer to either the large PDF supplied with this report or the digital mapping for the true likeness of the boundaries intended. The boundaries as shown on either the large PDF map or the digital mapping should always appear identical.

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Introduction

Who we are and what we do

1 The Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) is an independent body set up by Parliament.¹ We are not part of government or any political party. We are accountable to Parliament through a committee of MPs chaired by the Speaker of the House of Commons. Our main role is to carry out electoral reviews of local authorities throughout England.

2 The members of the Commission are:

- Professor Colin Mellors OBE (Chair)
- Andrew Scallan CBE (Deputy Chair)
- Amanda Nobbs OBE
- Steve Robinson
- Wallace Sampson OBE
- Liz Treacy
- Ailsa Irvine (Chief Executive)

What is an electoral review?

3 An electoral review examines and proposes new electoral arrangements for a local authority. A local authority's electoral arrangements decide:

- How many councillors are needed.
- How many wards or electoral divisions there should be, where their boundaries are and what they should be called.
- How many councillors should represent each ward or division.

4 When carrying out an electoral review the Commission has three main considerations:

- Improving electoral equality by equalising the number of electors that each councillor represents.
- Ensuring that the recommendations reflect community identity.
- Providing arrangements that support effective and convenient local government.

5 Our task is to strike the best balance between these three considerations when making our recommendations.

¹ Under the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009.

6 More detail regarding the powers that we have, as well as further guidance and information about electoral reviews and the review process in general, can be found on our website at www.lgbce.org.uk

Why North West Leicestershire?

7 We are conducting a review of North West Leicestershire District Council ('the Council') as some councillors currently represent many more or fewer electors than others. We describe this as 'electoral inequality'. Our aim is to create 'electoral equality', where the number of electors per councillor is as even as possible, ideally within 10% of being exactly equal.

8 This electoral review is being carried out to ensure that:

- The wards in North West Leicestershire are in the best possible places to help the Council carry out its responsibilities effectively.
- The number of electors represented by each councillor is approximately the same across the district.

Our proposals for North West Leicestershire

9 North West Leicestershire should be represented by 39 councillors, one more than there is now.

10 North West Leicestershire should have 39 wards, one more than there is now.

11 The boundaries of most wards should change.

12 We have now finalised our recommendations for electoral arrangements for North West Leicestershire.

How will the recommendations affect you?

13 The recommendations will determine how many councillors will serve on the Council. They will also decide which ward you vote in, which other communities are in that ward, and, in some cases, which parish council ward you vote in. Your ward name may also change.

14 Our recommendations cannot affect the external boundaries of the district or result in changes to postcodes. They do not take into account parliamentary constituency boundaries. The recommendations will not have an effect on local taxes, house prices or car and house insurance premiums, and we are not able to take into account any representations which are based on these issues.

Review timetable

15 We wrote to the Council to ask its views on the appropriate number of councillors for North West Leicestershire. We then held two periods of consultation with the public on warding patterns for the district. The submissions received during consultation have informed our final recommendations.

16 The review was conducted as follows:

Stage starts	Description
12 March 2024	Number of councillors decided
19 March 2024	Start of consultation seeking views on new wards
27 May 2024	End of consultation; we began analysing submissions and forming draft recommendations
3 September 2024	Publication of draft recommendations; start of second consultation
11 November 2024	End of consultation; we began analysing submissions and forming final recommendations
4 February 2025	Publication of final recommendations

Analysis and final recommendations

17 Legislation² states that our recommendations should not be based only on how many electors³ there are now, but also on how many there are likely to be in the five years after the publication of our final recommendations. We must also try to recommend strong, clearly identifiable boundaries for our wards.

18 In reality, we are unlikely to be able to create wards with exactly the same number of electors in each; we have to be flexible. However, we try to keep the number of electors represented by each councillor as close to the average for the council as possible.

19 We work out the average number of electors per councillor for each individual local authority by dividing the electorate by the number of councillors, as shown on the table below.

	2024	2030
Electorate of North West Leicestershire	82,138	91,063
Number of councillors	39	39
Average number of electors per councillor	2,106	2,335

20 When the number of electors per councillor in a ward is within 10% of the average for the authority, we refer to the ward as having 'good electoral equality'. All but one of our proposed wards for North West Leicestershire are forecast to have good electoral equality by 2030.

Submissions received

21 See Appendix C for details of the submissions received. All submissions may be viewed on our website at www.lgbce.org.uk

Electorate figures

22 The Council submitted electorate forecasts for 2030, a period five years on from the scheduled publication of our final recommendations in 2025. These forecasts were broken down to polling district level and predicted an increase in the electorate of around 11%. This is predominantly due to significant residential development in Ashby de la Zouch and Hugglescote.

² Schedule 2 to the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009.

³ Electors refers to the number of people registered to vote, not the whole adult population.

23 We considered the information provided by the Council and are satisfied that the projected figures are the best available at the present time. We have used these figures to produce our final recommendations.

24 Our mapping tool uses geocoded electoral registers supplied by the Council to locate electors, by associating addresses with specific geographic coordinates. It considers each elector's location to produce precise elector counts for each ward. There can be very slight differences between the electorate figures published on our website at the beginning of the review and the electorate figures published in this report. However, these are very minor and do not impact on our recommendations.

Number of councillors

25 North West Leicestershire District Council currently has 38 councillors. We looked at evidence provided by the Council and initially concluded that keeping this number the same would ensure the Council could carry out its roles and responsibilities effectively.

26 We therefore invited proposals for new patterns of wards that would be represented by 38 councillors.

27 At a Full Council meeting on 30 January 2024, the Council resolved to request the Commission carry out the review on the basis of recommending a uniform pattern of single-member wards. There is a presumption in legislation⁴ that the Commission should agree to such requests and seek to provide a uniform pattern of single-member wards across the authority. However, in all cases, this consideration will not take precedence over our other statutory criteria, and we will not recommend a uniform pattern of single-member wards if, in our view, or as is shown in evidence provided to us, it is not compatible with our other statutory criteria.

28 As we developed our draft recommendations for North West Leicestershire, we found that a 39-councillor warding pattern, by allocating an extra councillor to Ashby de la Zouch, would allow us to recommend a uniform pattern of single-councillor wards that would better reflect our statutory criteria than a 38-councillor pattern. Therefore, our draft recommendations were based on a 39-member council. This approach is consistent with our guidance where we explain that it may be necessary to make a small alteration to council size to achieve a better balance of the statutory criteria.

29 We received one submission about the number of councillors in response to our consultation on ward boundaries. A local resident requested that the number of district councillors be reduced but did not specify a number. We were not persuaded

⁴ Section 57 of Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009.

that sufficient evidence had been presented to support a reduction in the number of councillors, so we based our draft recommendations on a 39-member council.

30 We received eight submissions during the consultation on our draft recommendations in relation to the minor increase in councillor numbers. While one was supportive, seven were opposed to such a measure. However, again, we were not persuaded to move away from our decision, as we consider a 39-member council enables us to achieve a better balance between the statutory criteria, when compared to retaining 38 councillors.

Ward boundaries consultation

31 We received 26 submissions in response to our consultation on ward boundaries. These included a district-wide scheme from the Council. Submissions from the North West Leicestershire District Council Labour Group, the North West Leicestershire Constituency Labour Party and Councillor Barker all supported the scheme in parts, but they provided comments for areas of the district where they disagreed with the Council's scheme. The remainder of the submissions provided localised comments for warding arrangements in particular areas of the district.

32 The Council's scheme provided for a largely single-councillor warding pattern for North West Leicestershire. We carefully considered this proposal and were of the view that the proposed patterns of wards resulted in good levels of electoral equality in most areas of the authority and generally used identifiable boundaries. Therefore, our draft recommendations were partially based on the Council's proposals.

33 However, the Council proposed a three-councillor ward in the south-west of the district. Labour subdivided this ward into single- and two-councillor wards. Mindful of the requirement to provide a pattern of single-councillor wards across the district, as indicated in paragraph 27, we increased the number of councillors for the district by one to 39. This allowed us to recommend a uniform pattern of single-councillor wards that, in our view, effectively balanced our statutory criteria and avoided the creation of multi-member wards.

34 Our recommendations also took into account local evidence that we received, which provided further evidence of community links and locally recognised boundaries. In some areas, we considered that the proposals did not provide the best balance between our statutory criteria, so we identified alternative boundaries.

35 We visited North West Leicestershire in order to look at the various different proposals on the ground. This tour of helped us to decide between the different boundaries proposed.

36 Our draft recommendations were for 39 single-councillor wards. We considered that our draft recommendations would provide for good electoral equality while reflecting community identities and interests where we received such evidence during consultation.

Draft recommendations consultation

37 We received 66 submissions during consultation on our draft recommendations. These included a district wide response from the Council. The majority of the other submissions focused on specific areas.

38 We received a handful of submissions that requested parts of the district be transferred to neighbouring local authorities or questioned why their postal addresses referenced other counties despite being located in Leicestershire. However, this review is concerned solely with the internal ward boundaries of North West Leicestershire. A Principal Area Boundary Review is required to make changes to the external boundaries of local authorities. We also have no power to make changes to postal addresses or codes.

Final recommendations

39 Our final recommendations are for 39 one-councillor wards. They are based on the draft recommendations, with a modification to the boundary between Appleby and Oakthorpe & Donisthorpe wards, in response to submissions received. We also recommend a minor adjustment to the boundary between Bardon and Greenhill wards.

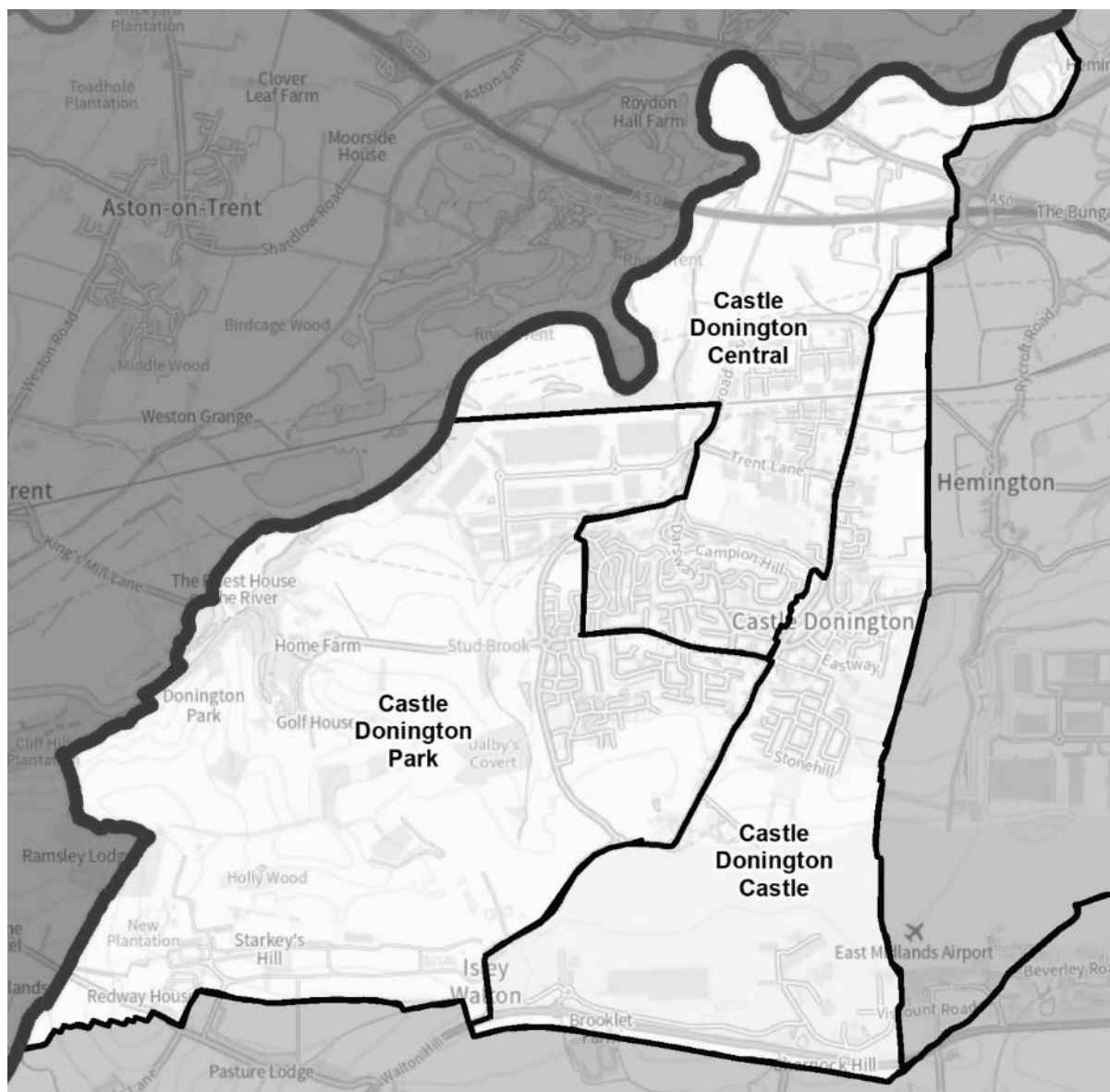
40 The tables and maps on pages 9–28 detail our final recommendations for each area of North West Leicestershire. They detail how the proposed warding arrangements reflect the three statutory⁵ criteria of:

- Equality of representation.
- Reflecting community interests and identities.
- Providing for effective and convenient local government.

41 A summary of our proposed new wards is set out in the table starting on page 37 and on the large map accompanying this report.

⁵ Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009.

Castle Donington

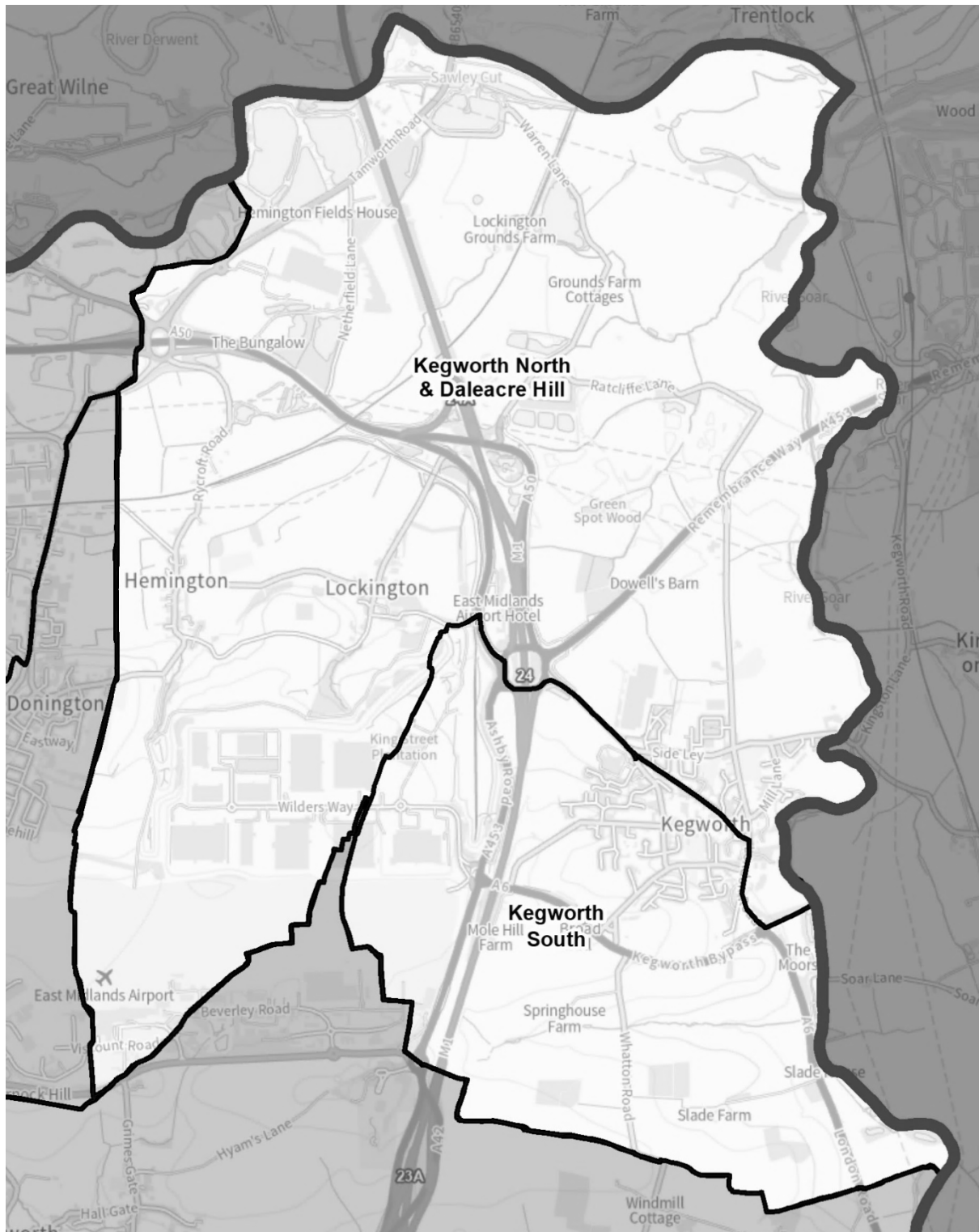


Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2030
Castle Donington Castle	1	-9%
Castle Donington Central	1	2%
Castle Donington Park	1	-8%

Castle Donington Castle, Castle Donington Central and Castle Donington Park

42 The Council supported our draft recommendations for the Castle Donington area, while a local resident supported our proposal to incorporate Spitfire Road and its adjacent streets into Castle Donington Central ward. We therefore confirm our three Castle Donington wards as final.

Kegworth



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2030
Kegworth North & Daleacre Hill	1	-10%
Kegworth South	1	-10%

Kegworth North & Daleacre Hill and Kegworth South

43 The Council and one of the current councillors for the Kegworth area supported our proposals for this part of the district, in particular noting the minimal changes to the current arrangements. They also supported both ward names. A local resident also stated that our Kegworth South ward looked 'logical' and had no objections.

44 A local resident opposed the division of Kegworth into two separate wards. However, as stated in paragraph 27, this review aims to establish a uniform pattern of single-councillor wards in line with the request from the District Council. We consider that insufficient evidence has been received to warrant moving away from this approach in Kegworth.

45 We also received a submission from a local resident who opposed the inclusion of Lockington-Hemington parish in Kegworth North & Daleacre Hill ward and expressed a preference for the parish to be linked with Castle Donington. However, the exclusion of the parish from this ward would result in a forecast electoral variance of -37%, which is considerably higher than we would normally accept given the evidence received. We therefore confirm our draft recommendations for Kegworth North & Daleacre Hill and Kegworth South wards as final.

Breedon, Belton, Long Whatton and Worthington



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2030
Breedon & Long Whatton	1	8%
Worthington & Belton	1	7%

Breedon & Long Whatton and Worthington & Belton

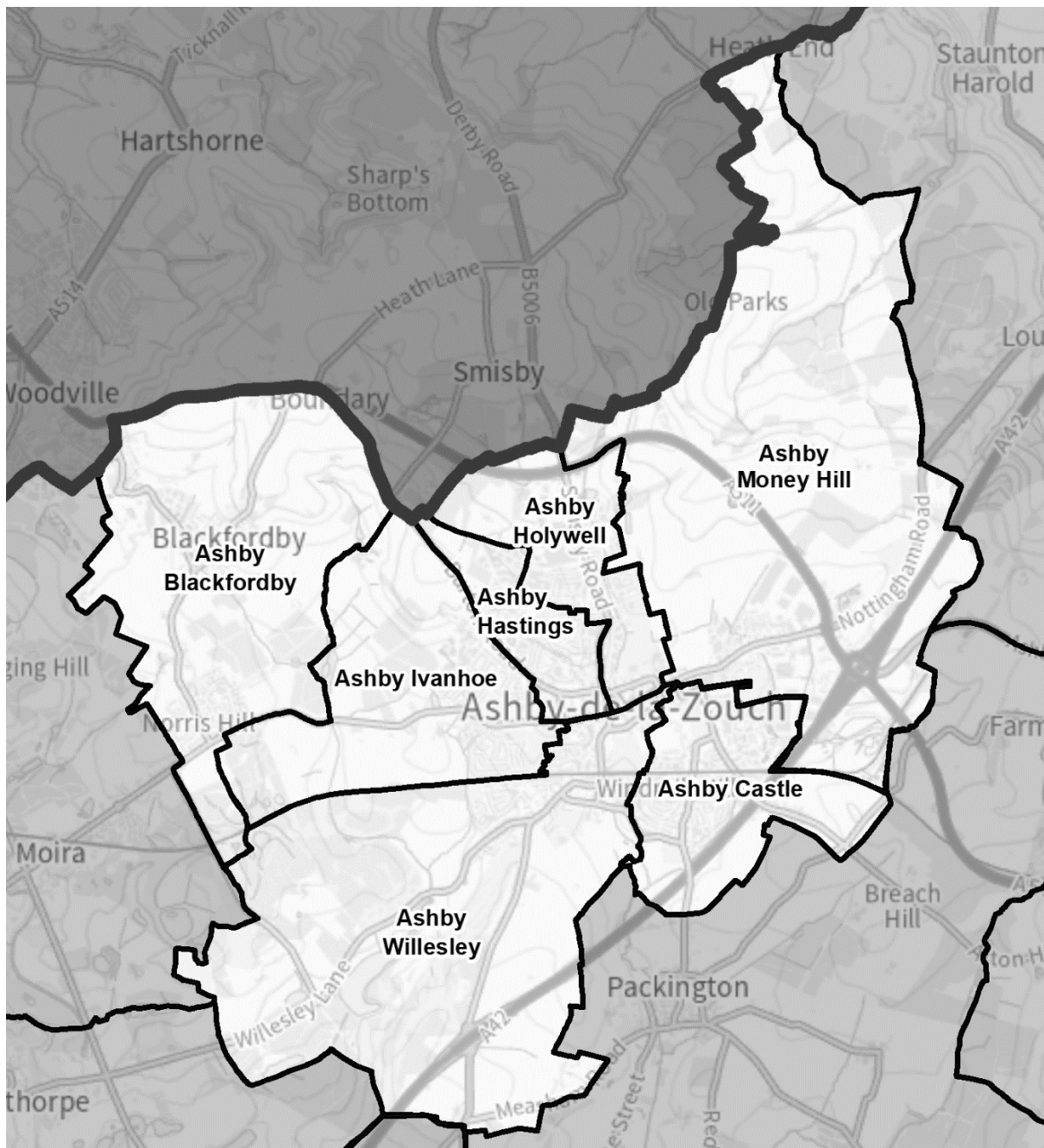
46 The Council supported our Breedon & Long Whatton and Worthington & Belton wards. One of the current councillors for the Kegworth area also supported our Breedon & Long Whatton ward, as it helped ‘focus the representation of the proposed Isley Woodhouse development at the heart of this proposed ward’. A local resident also expressed support for Worthington & Belton ward.

47 However, two local residents raised concerns about these wards. They argued that they lacked geographical coherence, with limited links between the constituent communities. Both expressed a preference for Worthington & Breedon and Belton & Long Whatton wards, citing the geographical proximity and good transport links (such as footpaths and cycle routes) between the constituent parishes.

48 We carefully considered these submissions given the mixture of support and opposition received concerning these two wards. However, we have concluded that our draft recommendations continue to provide the best balance of our statutory criteria based on the evidence received across both rounds of consultation and our

previous visit to the area. We therefore confirm our draft recommendations for these two wards as final.

Ashby de la Zouch



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2030
Ashby Blackfordby	1	-3%
Ashby Castle	1	2%
Ashby Hastings	1	-10%
Ashby Holywell	1	-10%
Ashby Ivanhoe	1	-7%
Ashby Money Hill	1	3%
Ashby Willesley	1	-4%

Ashby Blackfordby

49 We received mixed feedback regarding the proposed name for this ward. The current Blackfordby ward councillor and a local resident expressed a preference for omitting the Ashby prefix, emphasising Blackfordby village's distinct identity from the town of Ashby de la Zouch. Conversely, four other ward councillors and the current Ashby Woulds ward councillor supported retaining the Ashby prefix.

50 After thorough consideration, we have decided to retain the ward name Ashby Blackfordby in line with our draft recommendations. We found the latter submissions to be more persuasive, which argued that the Ashby prefix highlights the strong connections Blackfordby village shares with the nearby communities of Ashby de la Zouch and Ashby Woulds.

51 A local resident suggested Norris Hill be included in Ashby Woulds ward, as it forms part of Ashby Woulds parish. They also argued Norris Hill shares stronger links with Moira village. However, implementing this change would lead to electoral variances of -43% and 47% for our proposed Ashby Blackfordby and Ashby Woulds wards, respectively. We consider these variances too high to accept. In any case, we also maintain the view that, based on our tour of the area, Blackfordby village has strong links with Norris Hill.

52 Two local residents supported our decision to not link Blackfordby village in a ward with the built-up area of Ashby de la Zouch. Having considered all the evidence received, we have decided to confirm our proposed Ashby Blackfordby ward as part of our final recommendations.

Ashby Castle, Ashby Ivanhoe, Ashby Money Hill and Ashby Willesley

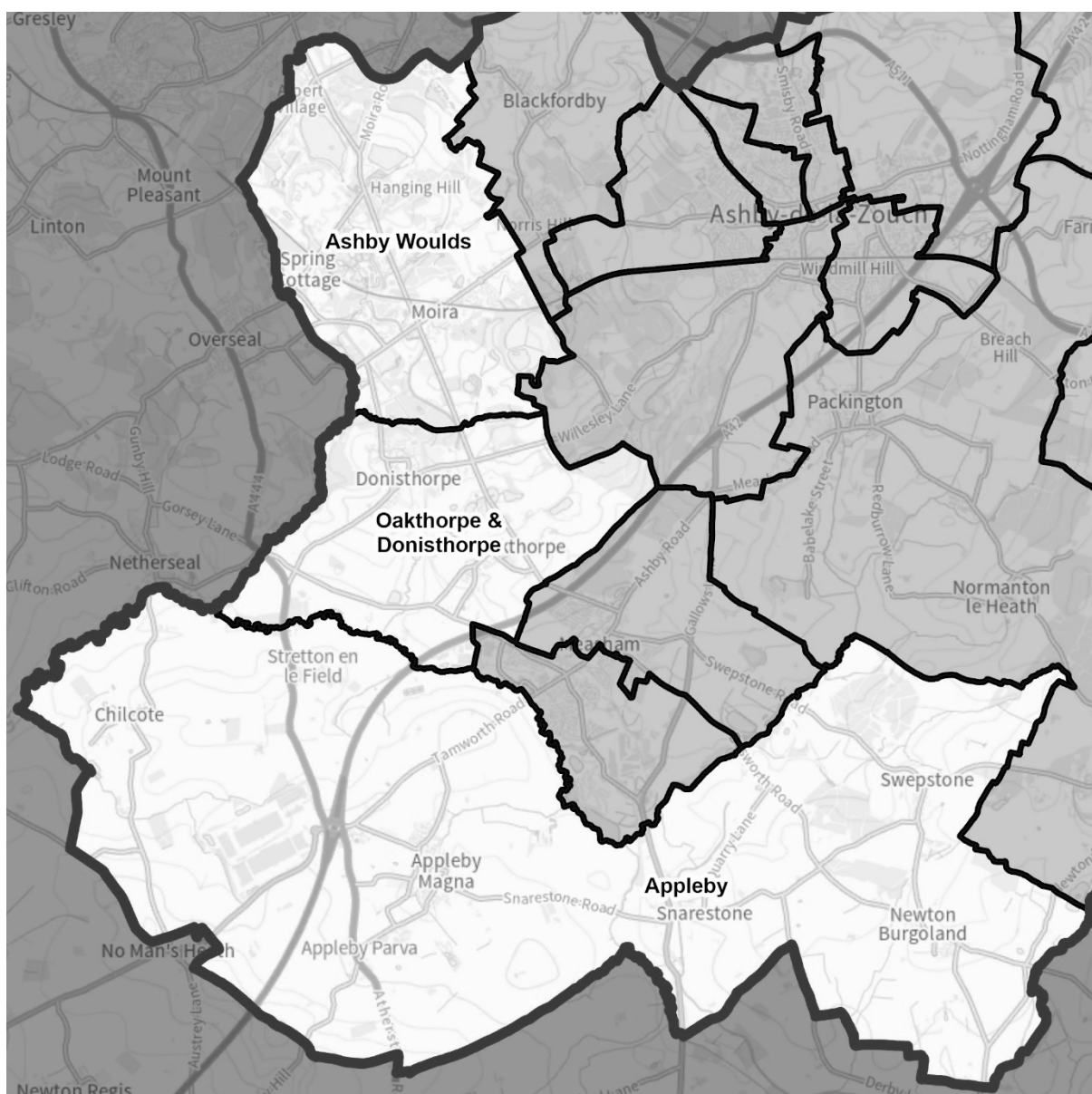
53 The Council and Ashby de la Zouch Town Council supported our proposals for these four wards, and for the town council area as a whole. A local resident also supported the boundary between Ashby Ivanhoe and Ashby Hastings ward which runs along Burton Road, while another local resident stated these two wards were 'very sensible'. With no further submissions received pertaining to these wards, we have decided to confirm them as final.

Ashby Hastings and Ashby Holywell

54 Five local residents and the Council supported the creation of our proposed Ashby Hastings ward. It was suggested by one local resident that this ward would provide for better community representation for a relatively new residential development that was previously split between wards.

55 Two submissions opposed the name of Ashby Hastings, with one stating that the ward should be named Ashby Holywell instead, with the latter ward also being renamed. However, we were not persuaded that the evidence received for alternative ward names was sufficient to move away from our proposed names.

Appleby, Ashby Woulds, Oakthorpe and Donisthorpe



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2030
Appleby	1	-14%
Ashby Woulds	1	7%
Oakthorpe & Donisthorpe	1	-2%

Appleby and Oakthorpe & Donisthorpe

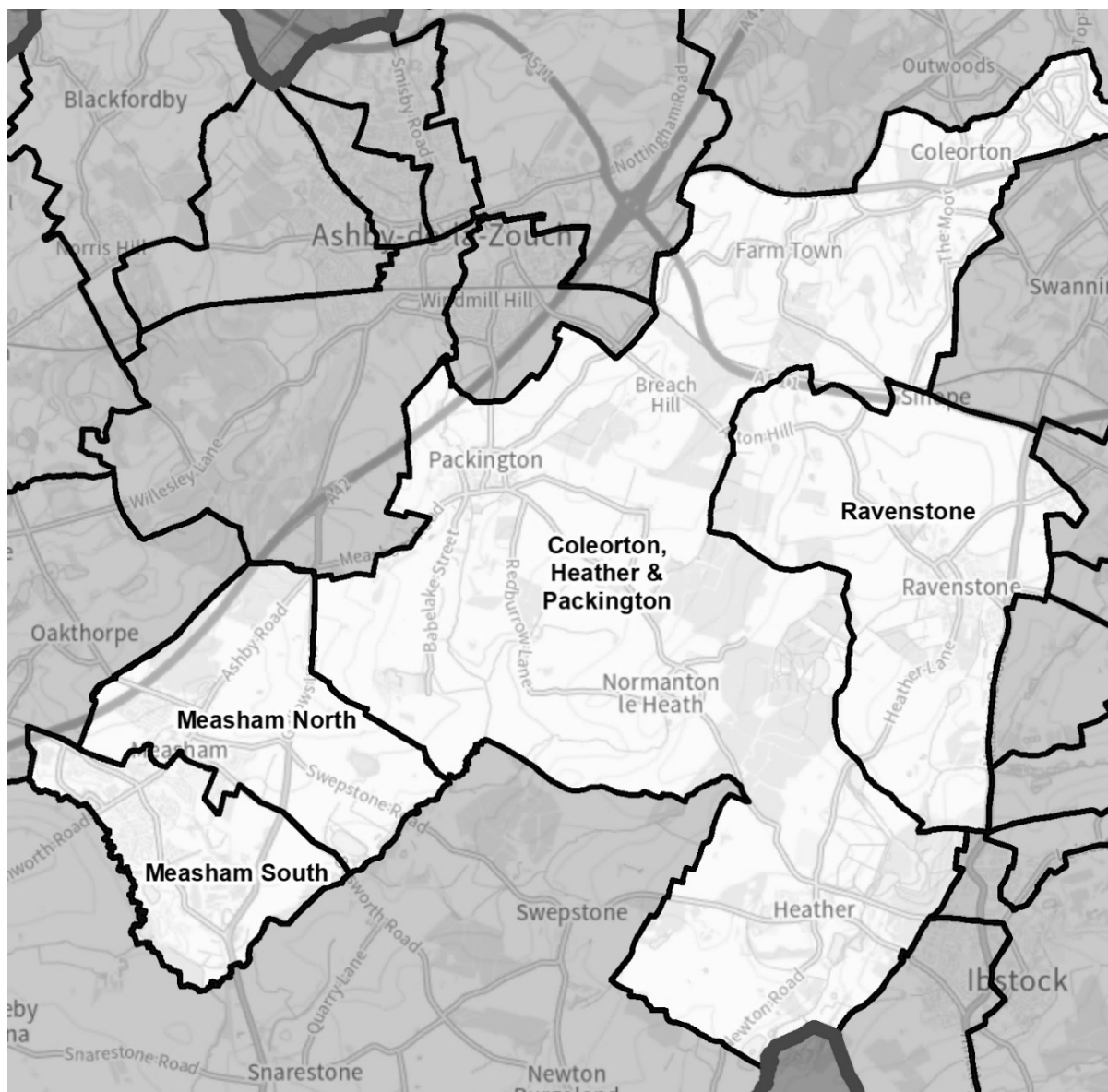
56 During consultation, we received five submissions regarding these two wards. Oakthorpe, Donisthorpe & Acresford Parish Council, Councillor Gelder (of the same parish council), Councillor Ball and two local residents opposed our decision to move the hamlet of Acresford, which is part of the parish council area, into Appleby ward. They argued that this change would harm local community interests and disrupt effective and convenient local governance by dividing the parish between two wards.

57 We have carefully considered this feedback and recognise that placing Acresford in Oakthorpe & Donisthorpe ward would lead to a forecast electoral variance of -14% for Appleby ward by 2030. Despite this relatively high variance, we have decided to adopt this proposal as we agree with the evidence received that our draft recommendations would not provide the best balance of our statutory criteria. We consider that a Oakthorpe & Donisthorpe ward that is fully contiguous with Oakthorpe, Donisthorpe & Acresford Parish Council will better reflect local community identities and promote effective and convenient local government.

Ashby Woulds

58 Councillor Ball and the Council requested that we examine transferring Donisthorpe Lane, Park Road, Poplar Avenue, Shortheath Road, Measham Road and School Street from Ashby Woulds ward into Oakthorpe & Donisthorpe ward. Councillor Ball stated that these roads share more in common with communities in the latter ward, despite being in Ashby Woulds parish and the current Ashby Woulds district ward. However, we had decided not to adopt this proposal, as we prefer to align the ward boundary with the current parish boundaries, where possible. We consider that different boundaries for district and parish elections can be confusing for electors and an impediment to effective and convenient local government.

Coleorton, Heather, Measham, Packington and Ravenstone



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2030
Coleorton, Heather & Packington	1	7%
Measham North	1	4%
Measham South	1	-9%
Ravenstone	1	8%

Coleorton, Heather & Packington

59 The Council supported our proposed Coleorton, Heather & Packington ward. However, Councillor Dillon of Coleorton Parish Council and a local resident opposed this arrangement, arguing that the A511 road acts as a natural boundary and that Coleorton parish lacks strong social or geographical ties to Heather and Packington. Instead, they proposed a ward that linked Coleorton parish with Worthington, Belton,

and surrounding smaller parishes north of the A511, to better reflect shared community connections, such as schools, churches and recreational facilities.

60 While we recognise the community-based evidence provided, moving Coleorton parish from our proposed Coleorton, Heather & Packington ward to Worthington & Belton ward would result in forecast electoral variances of -29% for the former ward and 42% for the latter. These variances are too high if we are to provide an effective balance of our statutory criteria. As a result, we are confirming our draft recommendations for Coleorton, Heather & Packington ward as final.

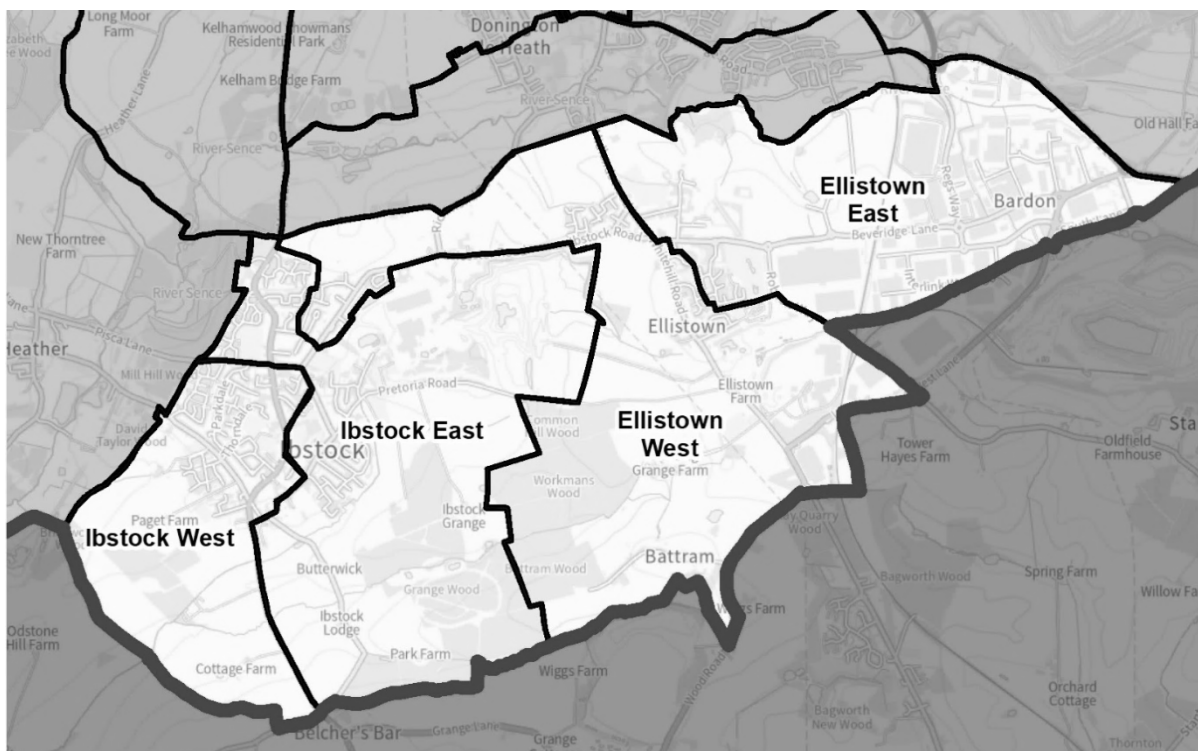
Measham North and Measham South

61 The Council supported our wards for Measham. A local resident questioned why Measham is divided into two wards and suggested that 'Measham East' and 'Measham West' would be more appropriate names. However, as noted in paragraph 27, this review aims to establish a uniform pattern of single-councillor wards. We consider there is insufficient evidence to deviate from this approach in the Measham area. Furthermore, we propose that 'Measham North' and 'Measham South' remain appropriate ward names, as we consider that the proposed boundary through Measham parish splits the town on a north/south basis.

Ravenstone

62 The Council supported our proposed Ravenstone ward, and a local resident also endorsed our decision to split the existing Ravenstone & Packington ward by placing Packington parish in a separate ward with similar rural communities. As no further submissions were received, we are confirming our draft recommendations for Ravenstone ward as final.

Ibstock and Ellistown



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2030
Ellistown East	1	-1%
Ellistown West	1	0%
Ibstock East	1	10%
Ibstock West	1	2%

Ellistown East, Ellistown West, Ibstock East and Ibstock West

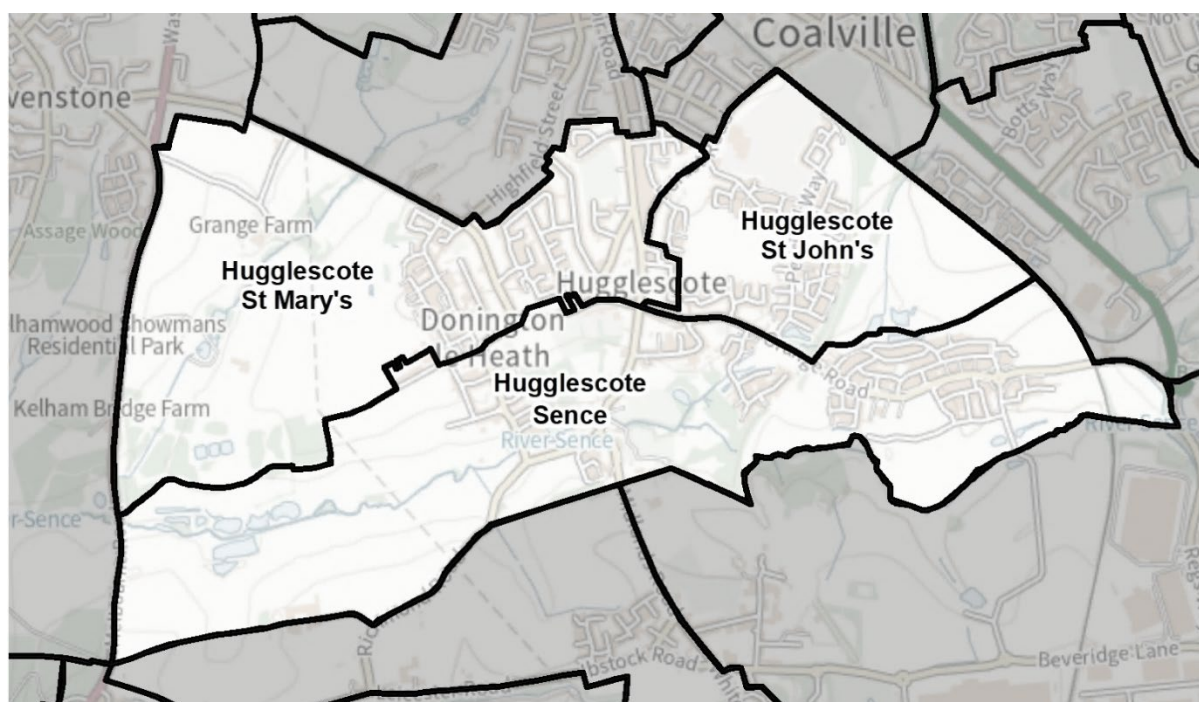
63 The Council fully supported our recommendations for these four wards, which were based upon the Council’s initial proposals. However, while one local resident expressed approval for our proposed Ibstock East and Ibstock West wards, we received submissions from two local residents who were opposed to our decision to include part of Ibstock in Ellistown West ward.

64 However, as outlined in our draft recommendations, electoral equality in this part of the district cannot be achieved without subdividing Ibstock parish into three separate wards, as it is too large to accommodate two district councillors. It also remains the case that Ellistown & Battleflat parish will not contain enough electors by 2030 to form two single-councillor wards with good electoral equality. We therefore concluded that our draft recommendations to incorporate part of Ibstock parish in an Ellistown West ward to be the best solution to minimise electoral variances in the Ellistown and Ibstock areas.

65 Neither of these two submissions were able to provide us with an alternative proposal that would allow for reasonable levels of forecast electoral equality. We have therefore decided to confirm our draft recommendations for Ellistown East, Ellistown West, Ibstock East and Ibstock West wards as final.

66 A local resident also opposed the division of Ibstock between wards. However, as stated in paragraph 27, this review aims to establish a uniform pattern of single-councillor wards. We consider that insufficient evidence has been received to justify moving away from this approach in the Ibstock area.

Hugglescote & Donington-le-Heath



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2030
Hugglescote Sence	1	10%
Hugglescote St John's	1	3%
Hugglescote St Mary's	1	9%

Hugglescote Sence, Hugglescote St John's and Hugglescote St Mary's

67 The Council recognised that we had largely adopted its proposals here and expressed support for our draft recommendations for the Hugglescote & Donington-le-Heath area. Additionally, two local residents supported the creation of an additional ward in the area to address electoral equality concerns resulting from significant residential development.

68 Councillor Johnson requested that Dennis Street, St John's Close, Old Church Close, 2-24 Grange Road, 1-82 Ashburton Road, 2-68 Central Road, Holly Bank and Peggs Grange be transferred to Hugglescote St John's ward. They argued that excluding these roads and St John's Church from Hugglescote St John's resulted in a ward that did not contain the church from which it derives its name. A similar point was raised by a local resident, who also stated that our proposals appeared to divide the village. They suggested that the boundary of Hugglescote Sence ward instead follow the old railway line and that the Ellistown East ward be consequently adjusted.

69 We have carefully considered these two submissions, noting the community evidence supplied to support these suggestions. However, both proposals would result in an electoral variance of over 20% for Hugglescote St John's ward. We

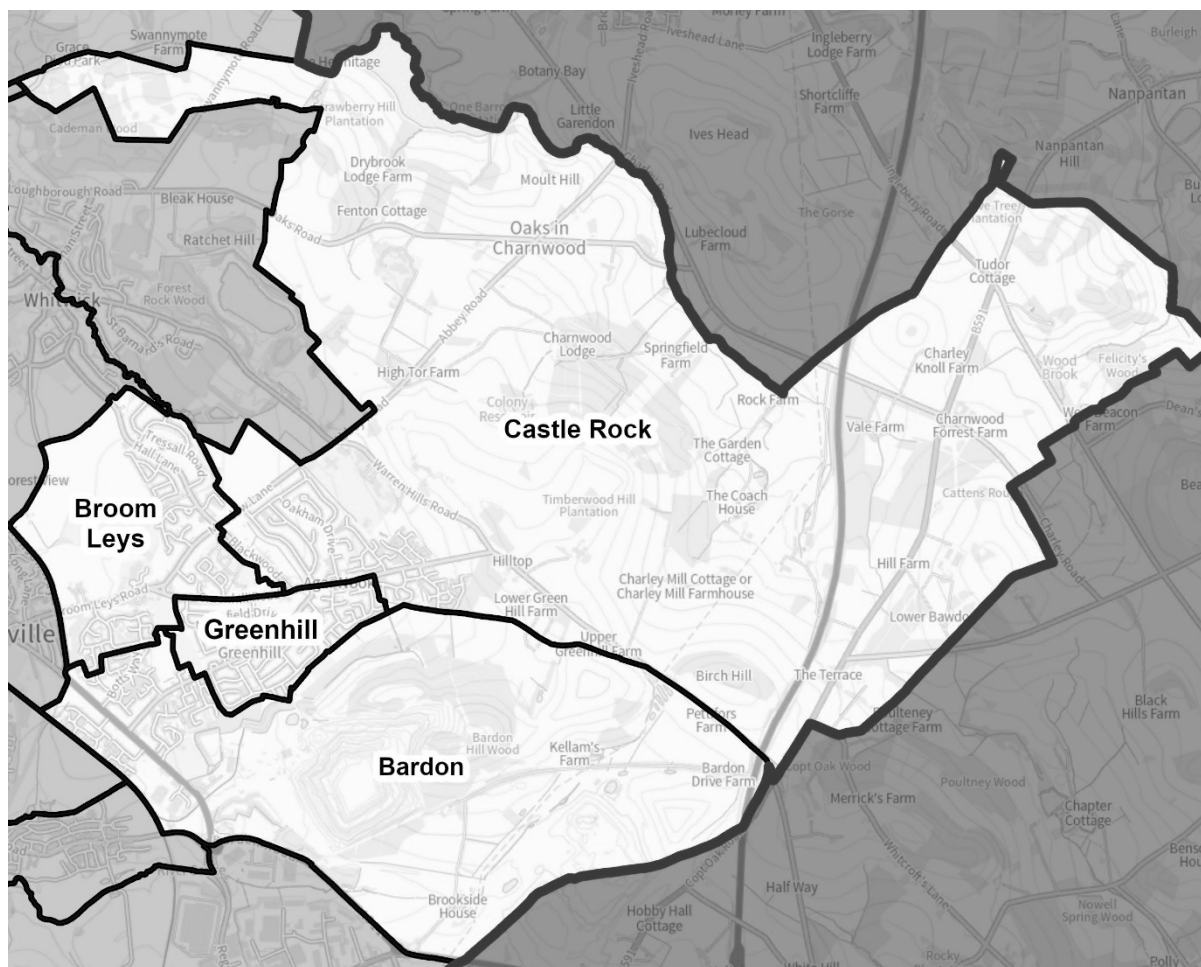
consider such a variance from the average too high to accept and we therefore have not incorporated either proposal into our final recommendations. We also propose no name change to Hugglescote St John's ward, in the absence of a well-evidenced alternative name.

70 A local resident suggested including the northern part of Manor Road in Hugglescote Sence ward to unify the entire road and the Donington-le-Heath area in a single ward. However, we have not adopted this proposal, as it would create a parish ward with very few electors, which would not support effective and convenient local governance. This is due to the county division boundary, which follows the existing district ward boundary. If a parish is divided between district wards, we are legally required to create parish wards that lie wholly within a single district ward. Additionally, we must reflect existing county division boundaries to ensure each parish ward lies within a single district ward and county division.

71 One local resident opposed the name 'Hugglescote Sence', suggesting 'Sence Valley' as an alternative. However, we have decided not to adopt this suggestion, as Sence Valley Forest Park is not located within the ward, and we consider that using this name could cause confusion locally.

72 We are therefore confirming our draft recommendations for Hugglescote Sence, Hugglescote St John's and Hugglescote St Mary's wards as final.

East of Coalville



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2030
Bardon	1	4%
Broom Leys	1	7%
Castle Rock	1	1%
Greenhill	1	-4%

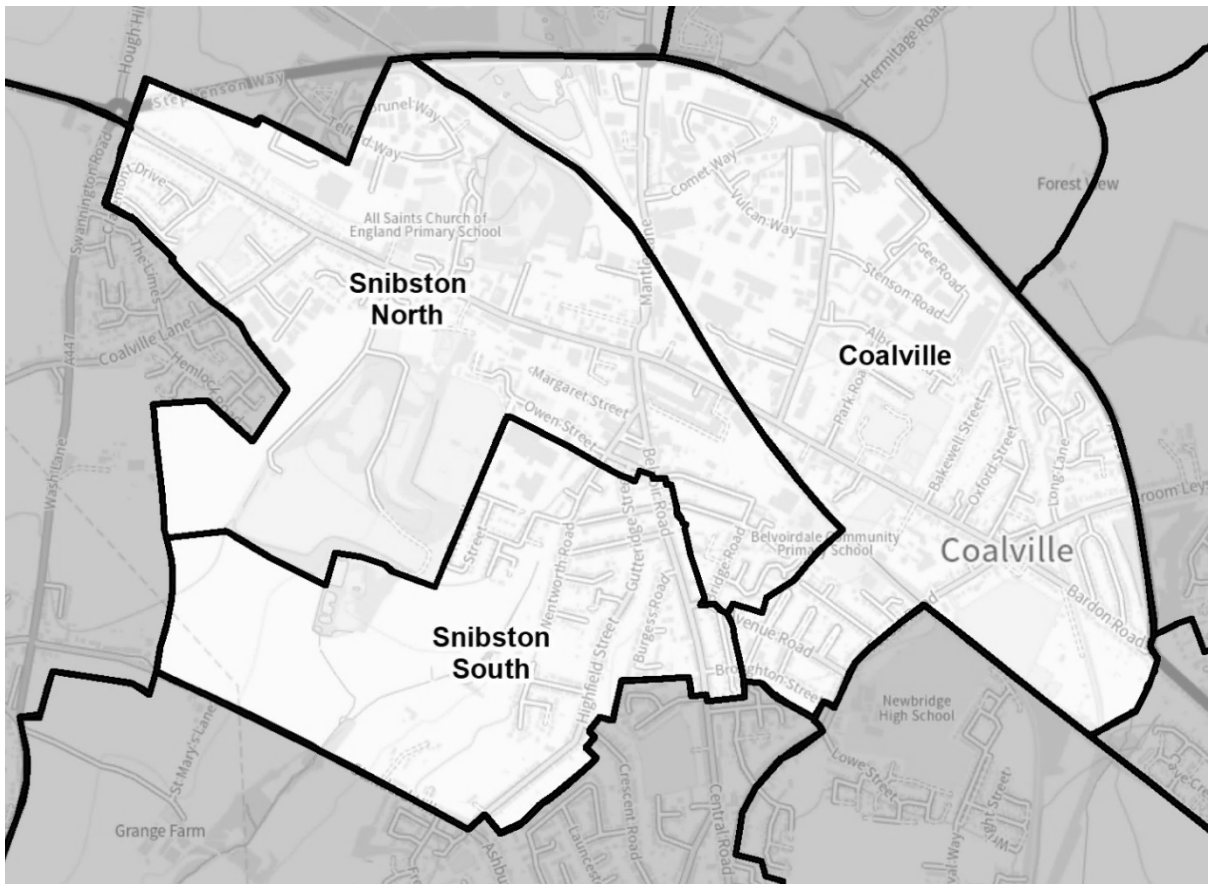
Bardon and Greenhill

73 The Council supported our decision to largely adopt its proposals for these two wards in our draft recommendations. However, it requested that Greenhill Playing Fields be moved from Bardon ward to Greenhill ward arguing that the playing fields are considered part of the Greenhill estate and that this transfer would better reflect local community identities. As this change does not affect any electors, we are content to adopt this modification as part of our final recommendations, as it will better reflect local community interests.

Broom Leys and Castle Rock

74 The Council also supported our decision to largely adopt its proposals for these two wards. As no further submissions were received during consultation, we have decided to confirm our draft recommendations for these wards as final.

West of Coalville

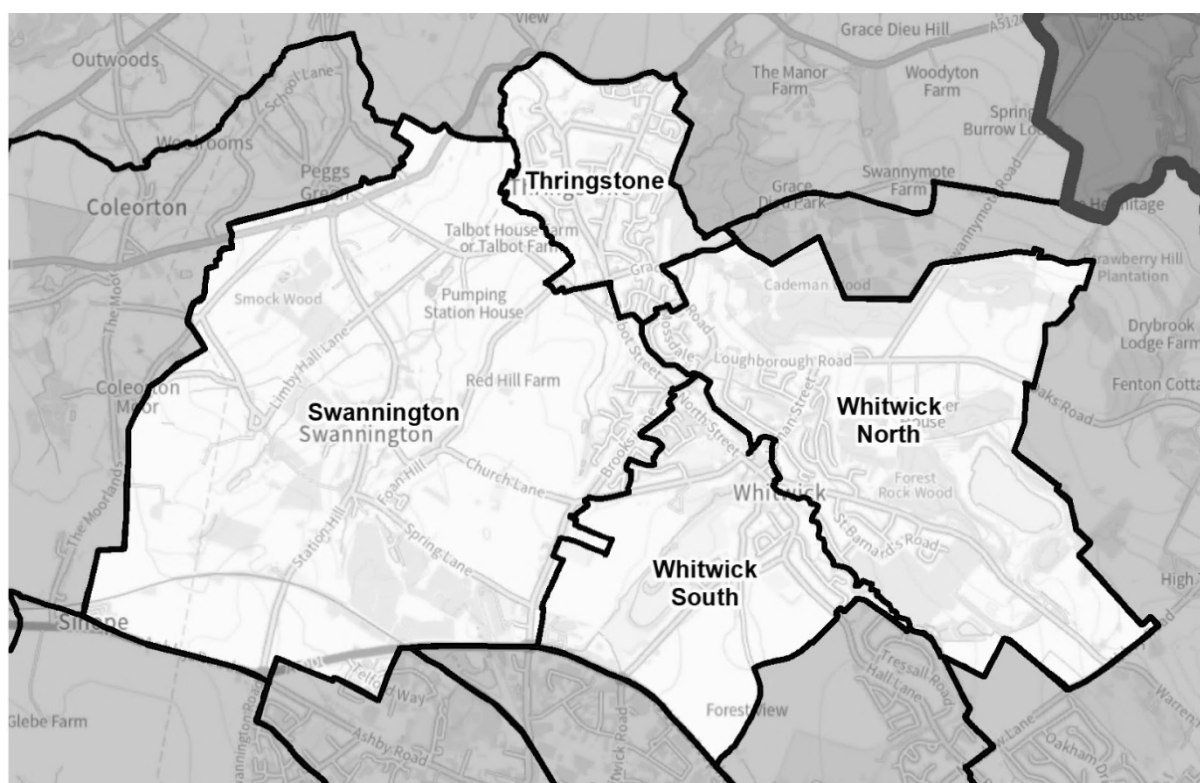


Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2030
Coalville	1	7%
Snibston North	1	10%
Snibston South	1	7%

Coalville, Snibston North and Snibston South

75 The Council supported our decision to broadly base our draft recommendations for these three wards on its proposals. Having received no further submissions concerning these wards, we are confirming them as part of our final recommendations.

Swannington, Thringstone and Whitwick



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2030
Swannington	1	-7%
Thringstone	1	0%
Whitwick North	1	-10%
Whitwick South	1	-1%

Swannington and Whitwick South

76 Councillor Barker and two local residents opposed the boundary between these wards. The Council also requested that we consider looking at this boundary. To achieve electoral equality in our draft recommendations, we made slight adjustments to the existing boundary, following parts of Thomas Road. The Council instead suggested that the boundary follow Thornborough Road, a small section of Church Lane, and then Brooks Lane up to the junction with North Street/Talbot Lane, stating that would provide a clearer and more identifiable ward boundary.

77 We have carefully considered the evidence received and have decided not to adopt this proposal in our final recommendations. This is because it would result in a Swannington ward with a forecast electoral variance of -20%, and a Whitwick South ward with an anticipated electoral variance of 16%. We are not persuaded that sufficient evidence has been received to justify these high electoral variances. We are therefore confirming our draft recommendations for Swannington and Whitwick South wards as final.

Thringstone and Whitwick North

78 The Council supported our proposals for these two wards and we received no further submissions pertaining to these wards. We have therefore decided to confirm both of these wards as final.

Conclusions

79 The table below provides a summary as to the impact of our final recommendations on electoral equality in North West Leicestershire, referencing the 2024 and 2030 electorate figures against the proposed number of councillors and wards. A full list of wards, names and their corresponding electoral variances can be found in Appendix A to the back of this report. An outline map of the wards is provided in Appendix B.

Summary of electoral arrangements

	Final recommendations	
	2024	2030
Number of councillors	39	39
Number of electoral wards	39	39
Average number of electors per councillor	2,106	2,335
Number of wards with a variance more than 10% from the average	19	1
Number of wards with a variance more than 20% from the average	7	0

Final recommendations

North West Leicestershire District Council should be made up of 39 single-councillor wards. The details and names are shown in Appendix A and illustrated on the large maps accompanying this report.

Mapping

Sheet 1, Map 1 shows the proposed wards for North West Leicestershire. You can also view our final recommendations for North West Leicestershire on our interactive maps at www.lgbce.org.uk

Parish electoral arrangements

80 As part of an electoral review, we are required to have regard to the statutory criteria set out in Schedule 2 to the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009 (the 2009 Act). The Schedule provides that if a parish is to be divided between different wards it must also be divided into parish wards, so that each parish ward lies wholly within a single ward. We cannot recommend changes to the external boundaries of parishes as part of an electoral review.

81 Under the 2009 Act we only have the power to make changes to parish electoral arrangements where these are as a direct consequence of our recommendations for principal authority warding arrangements. However, North West Leicestershire District Council has powers under the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 to conduct community governance reviews to effect changes to parish electoral arrangements.

82 As a result of our proposed ward boundaries and having regard to the statutory criteria set out in Schedule 2 to the 2009 Act, we are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Ashby de la Zouch, Ashby Woulds, Castle Donington, Ellistown & Battleflat, Hugglescote & Donington-le-Heath, Ibstock, Kegworth, Measham and Whitwick.

83 We are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Ashby de la Zouch parish.

Final recommendations

Ashby de la Zouch Town Council should comprise 17 councillors, as at present, representing seven wards:

Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
Blackfordby	2
Castle	3
Hastings	2
Holywell	2
Ivanhoe	2
Money Hill	3
Willesley	3

84 We are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Ashby Woulds parish.

Final recommendations

Ashby Woulds Town Council should comprise nine councillors, as at present, representing three wards:

Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
Albert Village	2
Moir	4
Norris Hill	3

85 We are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Castle Donington parish.

Final recommendations

Castle Donington Parish Council should comprise 14 councillors, as at present, representing three wards:

Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
Castle	4
Central	5
Park	5

86 We are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Ellistown & Battleflat parish.

Final recommendations

Ellistown & Battleflat Parish Council should comprise seven councillors, as at present, representing two wards:

Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
East	4
West	3

87 We are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Hugglescote & Donington-le-Heath parish.

Final recommendations

Hugglescote & Donington-le-Heath Parish Council should comprise nine councillors, as at present, representing four wards:

Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
Central	1
St John's	3
St Mary's	2
Sence	3

88 We are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Ibstock parish.

Final recommendations

Ibstock Parish Council should comprise 13 councillors, as at present, representing four wards:

Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
East	6
Ellistown & Battram	1
North	1
West	5

89 We are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Kegworth parish.

Final recommendations

Kegworth Parish Council should comprise 10 councillors, as at present, representing two wards:

Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
North	4
South	6

90 We are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Measham parish.

Final recommendations

Measham Parish Council should comprise 11 councillors, as at present, representing two wards:

Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
North	6
South	5

91 We are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Whitwick parish.

Final recommendations

Whitwick Parish Council should comprise 11 councillors, as at present, representing five wards:

Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
Brooks	2
Broom Leys	1
Carter Dale	1
North	3
South	4

What happens next?

92 We have now completed our review of North West Leicestershire. The recommendations must now be approved by Parliament. A draft Order – the legal document which brings into force our recommendations – is scheduled to be laid in Parliament. Subject to parliamentary scrutiny, the new electoral arrangements will come into force at the local elections in 2027.

Equalities

93 The Commission is satisfied that it complies with its legal obligations under the Equality Act and that no adverse equality impacts will arise as a result of the outcome of the review.

Appendices

Appendix A

Final recommendations for North West Leicestershire District Council

	Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2024)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2030)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
1	Appleby	1	2,008	2,008	-5%	2,008	2,008	-14%
2	Ashby Blackfordby	1	2,116	2,116	0%	2,260	2,260	-3%
3	Ashby Castle	1	2,391	2,391	13%	2,391	2,391	2%
4	Ashby Hastings	1	2,092	2,092	-1%	2,093	2,093	-10%
5	Ashby Holywell	1	2,071	2,071	-2%	2,103	2,103	-10%
6	Ashby Ivanhoe	1	2,174	2,174	3%	2,174	2,174	-7%
7	Ashby Money Hill	1	916	916	-57%	2,413	2,413	3%
8	Ashby Willesley	1	2,244	2,244	7%	2,248	2,248	-4%
9	Ashby Woulds	1	2,495	2,495	18%	2,495	2,495	7%
10	Bardon	1	2,234	2,234	6%	2,438	2,438	4%
11	Breedon & Long Whatton	1	2,487	2,487	18%	2,522	2,522	8%
12	Broom Leys	1	2,494	2,494	18%	2,494	2,494	7%
13	Castle Donington Castle	1	2,117	2,117	0%	2,118	2,118	-9%

	Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2024)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2030)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
14	Castle Donington Central	1	2,369	2,369	12%	2,389	2,389	2%
15	Castle Donington Park	1	1,577	1,577	-25%	2,154	2,154	-8%
16	Castle Rock	1	2,313	2,313	10%	2,354	2,354	1%
17	Coalville	1	2,509	2,509	19%	2,509	2,509	7%
18	Coleorton, Heather & Packington	1	2,489	2,489	18%	2,489	2,489	7%
19	Ellistown East	1	562	562	-73%	2,320	2,320	-1%
20	Ellistown West	1	2,281	2,281	8%	2,345	2,345	0%
21	Greenhill	1	2,243	2,243	6%	2,243	2,243	-4%
22	Hugglescote Sence	1	1,619	1,619	-23%	2,570	2,570	10%
23	Hugglescote St John's	1	1,039	1,039	-51%	2,414	2,414	3%
24	Hugglescote St Mary's	1	2,539	2,539	21%	2,548	2,548	9%
25	Ibstock East	1	2,579	2,579	22%	2,579	2,579	10%
26	Ibstock West	1	2,376	2,376	13%	2,376	2,376	2%
27	Kegworth North & Daleacre Hill	1	1,939	1,939	-8%	2,100	2,100	-10%
28	Kegworth South	1	1,755	1,755	-17%	2,097	2,097	-10%

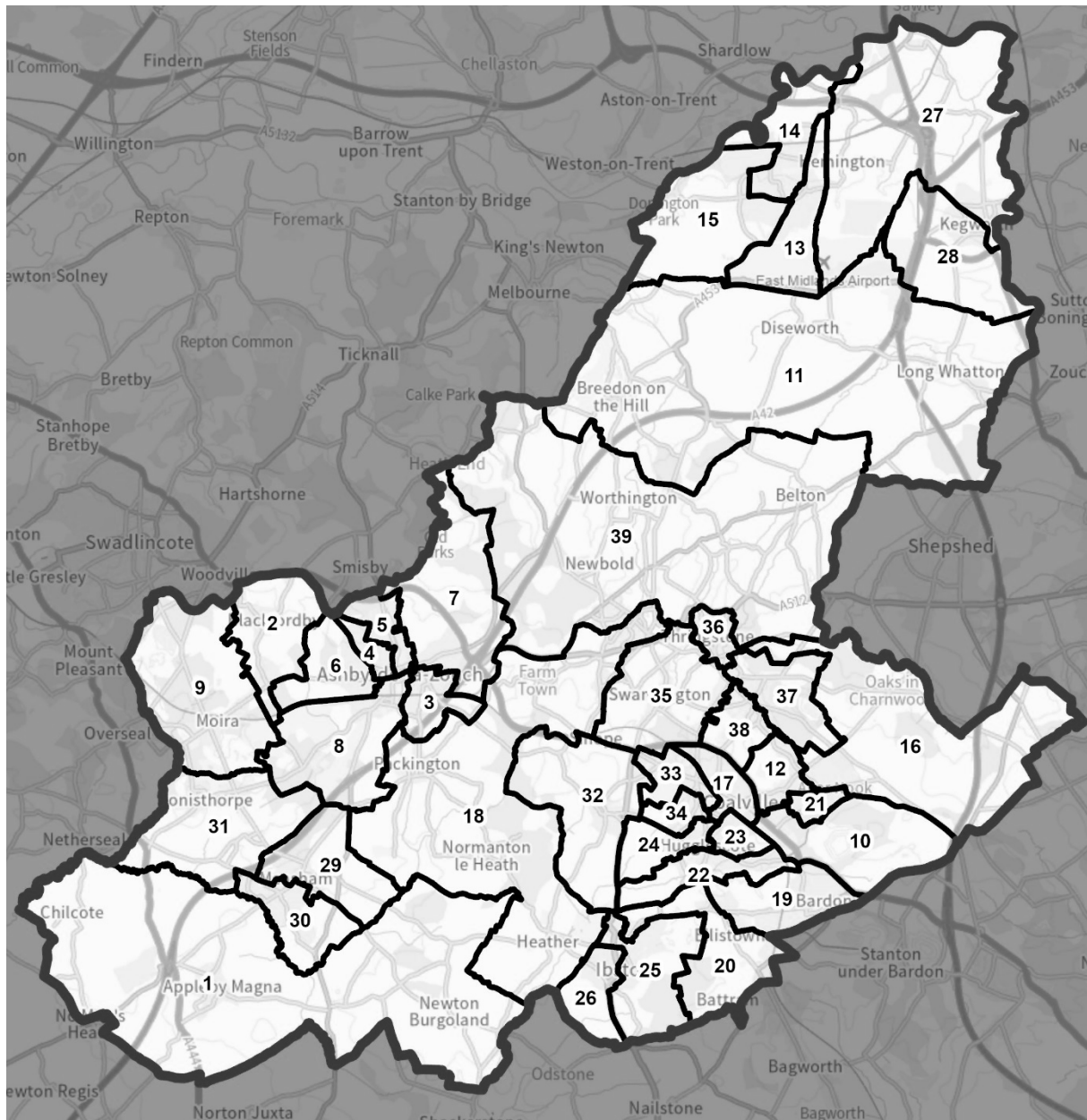
Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2024)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2030)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
29 Measham North	1	1,974	1,974	-6%	2,439	2,439	4%
30 Measham South	1	2,124	2,124	1%	2,125	2,125	-9%
31 Oakthorpe & Donisthorpe	1	2,249	2,249	7%	2,283	2,283	-2%
32 Ravenstone	1	2,477	2,477	18%	2,521	2,521	8%
33 Snibston North	1	2,122	2,122	1%	2,559	2,559	10%
34 Snibston South	1	1,787	1,787	-15%	2,493	2,493	7%
35 Swannington	1	2,147	2,147	2%	2,168	2,168	-7%
36 Thringstone	1	2,327	2,327	10%	2,327	2,327	0%
37 Whitwick North	1	2,091	2,091	-1%	2,091	2,091	-10%
38 Whitwick South	1	2,310	2,310	10%	2,310	2,310	-1%
39 Worthington & Belton	1	2,495	2,495	18%	2,495	2,495	7%
Totals	39	82,138	-	-	91,063	-	-
Averages	-	-	2,106	-	-	2,335	-

Source: Electorate figures are based on information provided by North West Leicestershire District Council.

Note: The 'variance from average' column shows by how far, in percentage terms, the number of electors per councillor in each electoral ward varies from the average for the district. The minus symbol (-) denotes a lower than average number of electors. Figures have been rounded to the nearest whole number.

Appendix B

Outline map



Number	Ward name
1	Appleby
2	Ashby Blackfordby
3	Ashby Castle
4	Ashby Hastings
5	Ashby Holywell
6	Ashby Ivanhoe
7	Ashby Money Hill
8	Ashby Willesley
9	Ashby Woulds

10	Bardon
11	Breedon & Long Whatton
12	Broom Leys
13	Castle Donington Castle
14	Castle Donington Central
15	Castle Donington Park
16	Castle Rock
17	Coalville
18	Coleorton, Heather & Packington
19	Ellistown East
20	Ellistown West
21	Greenhill
22	Hugglescote Sence
23	Hugglescote St John's
24	Hugglescote St Mary's
25	Ibstock East
26	Ibstock West
27	Kegworth North & Daleacre Hill
28	Kegworth South
29	Measham North
30	Measham South
31	Oakthorpe & Donisthorpe
32	Ravenstone
33	Snibston North
34	Snibston South
35	Swannington
36	Thringstone
37	Whitwick North
38	Whitwick South
39	Worthington & Belton

A more detailed version of this map can be seen on the large map accompanying this report, or on our website: www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/north-west-leicestershire

Appendix C

Submissions received

All submissions received can also be viewed on our website at:

www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/north-west-leicestershire

Local Authority

- North West Leicestershire District Council

Councillors

- Councillor A. Barker (North West Leicestershire District Council)
- Councillor M. Ball (North West Leicestershire District Council)
- Councillor S. Dillon (Coleorton District Council)
- Councillor D. Gelder (Oakthorpe, Donisthorpe & Acresford Parish Council)
- Councillor R. Johnson (North West Leicestershire District Council)

Parish and Town Councils

- Ashby de la Zouch Town Council
- Oakthorpe, Donisthorpe & Acresford Parish Council

Local residents

- 58 local residents

Appendix D

Glossary and abbreviations

Council size	The number of councillors elected to serve on a council
Electoral Changes Order (or Order)	A legal document which implements changes to the electoral arrangements of a local authority
Division	A specific area of a county, defined for electoral, administrative and representational purposes. Eligible electors can vote in whichever division they are registered for the candidate or candidates they wish to represent them on the county council
Electoral inequality	Where there is a difference between the number of electors represented by a councillor and the average for the local authority.
Electorate	People in the authority who are registered to vote in elections. We only take account of electors registered specifically for local elections during our reviews.
Number of electors per councillor	The total number of electors in a local authority divided by the number of councillors
Over-represented	Where there are fewer electors per councillor in a ward or division than the average
Parish	A specific and defined area of land within a single local authority enclosed within a parish boundary. There are over 10,000 parishes in England, which provide the first tier of representation to their local residents

Parish council	A body elected by electors in the parish which serves and represents the area defined by the parish boundaries. See also 'Town council'
Parish (or town) council electoral arrangements	The total number of councillors on any one parish or town council; the number, names and boundaries of parish wards; and the number of councillors for each ward
Parish ward	A particular area of a parish, defined for electoral, administrative and representational purposes. Eligible electors can vote in whichever parish ward they live for candidate or candidates they wish to represent them on the parish council
Town council	A parish council which has been given ceremonial 'town' status. More information on achieving such status can be found at www.nalc.gov.uk
Under-represented	Where there are more electors per councillor in a ward or division than the average
Variance (or electoral variance)	How far the number of electors per councillor in a ward or division varies in percentage terms from the average
Ward	A specific area of a district or borough, defined for electoral, administrative and representational purposes. Eligible electors can vote in whichever ward they are registered for the candidate or candidates they wish to represent them on the district or borough council

The Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) was set up by Parliament, independent of Government and political parties. It is directly accountable to Parliament through a committee chaired by the Speaker of the House of Commons. It is responsible for conducting boundary, electoral and structural reviews of local government.

Local Government Boundary Commission for
England
7th Floor, 3 Bunhill Row,
London,
EC1Y 8YZ

Telephone: 0330 500 1525
Email: reviews@lgbce.org.uk
Online: www.lgbce.org.uk
X: @LGBCE