

## **Electoral Review of North West Leicestershire District Council: Draft Recommendations**

**The Local Government Boundary Commission for England has published proposals for new electoral arrangements for North West Leicestershire.**

**The electoral arrangements for Oakthorpe, Donisthorpe and Acresford Parish Council may change because of our proposals. Please find attached a map outlining the proposed electoral arrangements for your council.**

**We propose that 39 councillors should be elected to North West Leicestershire in future. We also propose new ward boundaries across the authority.**

**A public consultation on the proposals will run from 3 September to 11 November 2024.**

**Once we have considered all responses to the consultation, we aim to publish final recommendations in February 2025. We will then lay a draft order in both houses of Parliament. Subject to parliamentary scrutiny, the new electoral arrangements are scheduled to come into effect at the authority's elections in 2027.**

**We considered all representations received from local people and organisations during our initial consultation when drawing up our proposals. We have sought to balance statutory criteria we must follow when drawing up these proposals, and we seek to:**

- Make sure that, within an authority, each councillor represents a similar number of electors**
- Create boundaries that are appropriate, and reflect community ties and identities**
- Deliver reviews informed by local needs, views and circumstances**
- Reflect the request for single-member wards**

**We are now inviting comments on the proposals before we finalise the new electoral arrangements in your area. We will consider every response we receive during the consultation period and will weigh each response against the criteria above.**

If you would like to explore the draft recommendations, you can do so by visiting our website at <https://www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/north-west-leicestershire>.

Interactive pages give access to the full recommendations They allow people to explore maps of the proposals in greater detail and make comments. We also accept comments:

by email      [reviews@lgbce.org.uk](mailto:reviews@lgbce.org.uk)

by post      The Review Officer (North West Leicestershire)

LGBCE

7th Floor

3 Bunhill Row

London

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The Commission's main website contains further information about the electoral review and our work: <http://www.lgbce.org.uk>

We will write to you again when we publish our final recommendations.

Yours sincerely

Jonathan Ashby

Review Officer

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Although removing a small hamlet of approx. 45 houses/farms from our parish for electoral reasons is preferable to the original suggested split of Donisthorpe – it is still not appropriate,

As said previously we have worked hard as a parish to get the three villages working as a community, and just because Acresford is on the edge of this it does not seem appropriate to tack them on to another area in this case Appleby. Surely 45 houses can remain the same .

**Commissions comments about reviews with council comments added:-**

***Make sure that, within an authority, each councillor represents a similar number of electors*** – Ok -but under the suggestion ODAPC end up with two District Councillors who would need to attend two parish meetings.

***Create boundaries that are appropriate, and reflect community ties and identities*** - How is this considered? Removing one village off one parish & its connections locally to another that is further away in distance. You would be better to remove Moira Ward off Ashby Woulds or move the whole Parish of Oakthorpe, Donisthorpe & Acresford to join Appleby.

***Deliver reviews informed by local needs, views, and circumstances*** – again not considered

***Reflect the request for single-member wards – keep the member wards within parishes.*** The proposal does not reflect community ties – in fact exact opposite, removes a key part of our parish ‘ The Gateway’ to another area.

Acresford get a rough deal being small and on the border with Derbyshire – they have a slot of speed/traffic accidents here where the data is shared across two counties not amalgamated into one. There is mining heritage here, key ongoing projects as part of the parish it is in the Heart of the National Forest.

To repeat Oakthorpe. Donisthorpe & Acresford Parish Council feel it is very wrong to cream off Acresford from the parish ‘just for numbers.’ These resident are part of a community. The community/ parish should be together with one representative for the whole parish. That a representative could have other parishes, but no village should be carved off one parish and added to another for whatever reason– **community cohesion** is at the heart of these comments.

