

## **East Midlands Region Liberal Democrats – Notes for Lead Hearing, 27<sup>th</sup> October 2011**

1. We have been guided by five principles laid down the Boundary Commission for England. We have sought to:
  - a. Preserve existing constituencies as far as possible
  - b. Retain and enhance community coherence wherever possible
  - c. Respect local authority boundaries as far as is practical
  - d. Respect the historical, geographical, socio-economic and transport links that make sense of a place
  - e. Retain existing ward boundaries
2. It should be noted that our submission contains no split wards
3. In terms of sub regions, we agree with the Boundary Commission's decision to create sub regions of Lincolnshire and of Derbyshire. We disagree with the proposal for a sub-region consisting of Northamptonshire, Leicestershire and Rutland; and a second sub-region of Nottinghamshire. Instead we propose a sub region of Leicestershire and Nottinghamshire; and a second sub region of Northampton and Rutland

### **LINCOLNSHIRE**

4. We agree with the Boundary Commission's proposals in their entirety for this sub region

### **DERBYSHIRE**

5. The Boundary Commission propose the elimination of Amber Valley – a community of mining towns in the east of the county where there has been considerable regeneration. In contrast our proposal for Derbyshire involves the elimination of North East Derbyshire a totally artificial grouping including:
  - Mining towns between Sheffield and Chesterfield and adjacent to Bolsover
  - Residential areas south of Sheffield and north of Chesterfield
  - Rural villages adjacent and similar to Derbyshire Dales
6. If our proposal to eliminate North East Derbyshire is accepted this has the following knock on benefits:
  - A more cohesive Bolsover consisting of ex mining towns and villages
  - A shift of the Amber Valley constituency to the north to include similar communities
  - An expansion of Derbyshire Dales eastwards to include the rural wards of North East
  - Derbyshire and Amber Valley
  - A transfer of the southern wards of Derbyshire Dales (west of Derby on the A52 and A50) to South Derbyshire. This is a major improvement in cross constituency communications

### **NORTHAMPTONSHIRE AND RUTLAND**

7. The addition of Rutland Unitary County (28,437) to Northamptonshire (506,628) provides a sub-region of 535,065 which is equivalent to seven constituencies of

76,438. In contrast to the Boundary Commission approach, our solution incorporates Rutland with the Northamptonshire constituency of Corby. We suggest this is a better solution than the Boundary Commission's modified Daventry which crosses the Leicestershire – Northamptonshire border

8. Other than our preference for a joint Corby and Rutland constituency we have no major disagreement with Boundary Commission

## **LEICESTERSHIRE & NOTTINGHAMSHIRE**

9. We believe that, because the Commission has proposed that the cross-county seats should be on the western side of the sub-region, there is considerable awkwardness in the Commission's proposals throughout much of Nottinghamshire, the western half of Leicestershire, and into Northamptonshire. There is a greater distance between the cross-county seats if they are to the west than if they are to the east.
10. The Boundary Commission proposal of a cross county constituency of Coalville (Leicestershire) and Keyworth (Nottinghamshire) with consequent elimination of North West Leicestershire leads to the following disruptive knock on effects in the western side of Leicestershire:
  - The incorporation of the remainder of North West Leicester in Bosworth leads to the division of Hinckley down the main street
  - This leads to the elimination of Charnwood which in our solution was unchanged
  - A completely new rural constituency of Mid Leicester north and west of Leicester with no local authority base
  - A second completely new constituency of Blaby largely based on the local authority of the same name
  - The elimination of South Leicestershire
11. Instead we propose a cross county constituency of Melton (Leicestershire) and Rushcliffe (Nottinghamshire)
12. In determining the most suitable cross county configuration we had to take in to account the effect of the Trent on community cohesion. After considerable consultation we have developed a constituency incorporating the Melton (Leicestershire) portion of the previous Rutland and Melton and the rural eastern part of Rushcliffe borough (Nottinghamshire) south of the Trent. We believe this rural constituency famous for Stilton cheese and Melton Mowbray pork pies provides a more recognisable community than the Boundary Commission's proposal of Coalville and Keyworth
13. We also disagree with the Commission's decision to award Nottingham four seats when it only qualifies for 2.53 – taking in not just the suburbs but also the market towns and even rural villages. Our proposal returns those villages and market towns to county rather than borough constituencies
14. The Broxtowe seat the Commission has created has the ward of Gotham on the other side of the River Trent with no road bridge linking it to the rest of the constituency. We return it to a seat on the right side of the river

**SUMMARY OF OUR PROPOSALS**

|     | <b>Proposed constituency</b>  | <b>Electorate</b> |
|-----|---|-------------------|
| 1.  | Amber Valley<br>Adds wards from Bolsover, loses to Derbyshire Dales and Mid Derbyshire                                    | 78,340            |
| 2.  | Ashfield<br>UNCHANGED / BCE proposal  | 77,049            |
| 3.  | Bassetlaw<br>UNCHANGED  | 78,306            |
| 4.  | Bolsover<br>Adds wards from North East Derbyshire and Chesterfield, loses to Amber Valley                                 | 79,164            |
| 5.  | Boston and Skegness<br>BCE proposal   | 72,958            |
| 6.  | Charnwood<br>UNCHANGED  | 75,454            |
| 7.  | Chesterfield<br>Adds wards from North East Derbyshire, loses wards to Bolsover  | 80,237            |
| 8.  | Daventry<br>Loses some Daventry wards, gains some Kettering wards   | 78,381            |
| 9.  | Derby North<br>Adds one ward from each of Mid Derbyshire and Derby South, loses two to Mid Derbyshire                     | 80,417            |
| 10. | Derby South<br>Adds one ward from each of Mid Derbyshire and South Derbyshire   | 77,324            |
| 11. | Derbyshire Dales<br>Adds wards from North East Derbyshire and Amber Valley, loses wards to High Peak and South Derbyshire | 75,892            |
| 12. | Erewash<br>BCE proposal   | 79,716            |
| 13. | Gainsborough<br>UNCHANGED / BCE proposal  | 73,795            |
| 14. | Gedling<br>Adds two Gedling wards   | 74,203            |
| 15. | Grantham and Stamford<br>UNCHANGED / BCE proposal   | 79,118            |
| 16. | Harborough<br>Existing South Leicestershire constituency with fewer Blaby wards and more Harborough wards                 | 74,951            |
| 17. | High Peak<br>Adds two wards from Derbyshire Dales   | 76,620            |
| 18. | Hinckley and Bosworth<br>Existing Bosworth minus one Hinckley and Bosworth ward   | 73,119            |
| 19. | Hucknall<br>Existing Sherwood with fewer Gedling and Newark & Sherwood wards and more Broxtowe wards                      | 74,314            |
| 20. | Kettering<br>Existing Kettering with fewer Kettering wards and more wards from East Northamptonshire                      | 79,414            |
| 21. | Leicester East<br>UNCHANGED / BCE proposal  | 74,377            |
| 22. | Leicester South<br>UNCHANGED / BCE proposal   | 78,433            |
| 23. | Leicester West<br>BCE proposal  | 78,088            |
| 24. | Lincoln<br>BCE proposal   | 78,664            |

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| 25. | Loughborough<br>UNCHANGED / BCE proposal  | 77,884 |
| 26. | Louth and Horncastle<br>BCE proposal  | 73,895 |
| 27. | Mansfield<br>UNCHANGED  | 79,849 |
| 28. | Mid Derbyshire<br>Adds wards from Derbyshire Dales, Derby North and Amber Valley, loses to Derby North, Derby South and Erewash | 76,026 |
| 29. | Mid Leicestershire<br>Existing Harborough less Harborough wards and added Blaby wards   | 74,211 |
| 30. | Newark<br>Existing Newark less Rushcliffe wards and added Newark and Sherwood wards   | 76,797 |
| 32. | North West Leicestershire<br>Existing North West Leicestershire with one Hinckley and Bosworth ward                             | 76,690 |
| 33. | Northampton North<br>BCE proposal   | 73,430 |
| 34. | Northampton South<br>BCE proposal   | 75,634 |
| 35. | Nottingham Central<br>Existing Nottingham East with some different City of Nottingham wards                                     | 74,165 |
| 36. | Nottingham North<br>Existing Nottingham North with some different City of Nottingham wards                                      | 75,360 |
| 37. | Nottingham West and Beeston<br>Existing Broxtowe with some Broxtowe wards replaced with City of Nottingham wards                | 73,584 |
| 28. | Rushcliffe<br>Existing Rutland and Melton less Rutland Unitary Authority and one Harborough ward. Added Rushcliffe wards        | 74,047 |
| 38. | Rutland and Corby<br>Existing Corby with less East Northamptonshire wards but with all Rutland Unitary Authority added in       | 77,383 |
| 39. | Sleaford<br>BCE proposal  | 79,559 |
| 40. | South Derbyshire<br>Adds wards from Derbyshire Dales, loses one ward to Derby South   | 78,405 |
| 41. | South Holland and the Deepings<br>UNCHANGED / BCE proposal  | 76,939 |
| 42. | South Northamptonshire<br>BCE proposal  | 73,975 |
| 43. | Vale of Belvoir<br>Existing Rushcliffe less Rushcliffe wards but added City of Nottingham wards                                 | 74,780 |
| 44. | Wellingborough<br>UNCHANGED   | 76,848 |

EAST MIDLANDS - Lib Dem Proposals

- 1 Amber Valley
- 2 Ashfield
- 3 Bassetlaw
- 4 Bolsover
- 5 Boston and Skegness
- 6 Charnwood
- 7 Chesterfield
- 8 Daventry
- 9 Derby North
- 10 Derby South
- 11 Derbyshire Dales
- 12 Erewash
- 13 Gainsborough
- 14 Gedling
- 15 Grantham and Stamford
- 16 Harborough
- 17 High Peak
- 18 Hinckley and Bosworth
- 19 Hucknall
- 20 Kettering
- 21 Leicester East
- 22 Leicester South
- 23 Leicester West
- 24 Lincoln
- 25 Loughborough
- 26 Louth and Horncastle
- 27 Mansfield
- 28 Mid Leicestershire
- 29 Newark
- 30 North East Derbyshire
- 31 North West Leicestershire
- 32 Northampton North
- 33 Northampton South
- 34 Nottingham Central
- 35 Nottingham North
- 36 Nottingham West and Beeston
- 37 Rushcliffe
- 38 Rutland and Corby
- 39 Sleaford
- 40 South Derbyshire
- 41 South Holland and the Deepings
- 42 South Northamptonshire
- 43 Vale of Belvoir
- 44 Wellingborough

