

# **Baby District Council Burial Grounds Questionnaire: Initial Assessment and Analysis Report**

# Contents

Introduction .....	2
Background .....	2
Policy Context .....	2
Local context .....	2
Need for an Assessment .....	6
Questionnaire Responses .....	7
Analysis .....	8
Demographic profile .....	8
Influencing factors .....	11
Leicester's unmet housing need .....	12
Study Considerations.....	16
Composition of Age and Faith groups in Leicester .....	16
Limitations of study.....	16
Conclusions .....	17
Scoping and Policy Options.....	20
Summary of findings.....	23
Appendix 1: Burial Ground Questionnaire. ....	24

# Blaby District Council Burial Grounds Questionnaire: Initial Assessment and Analysis Report

## Introduction

The Burial Grounds Initial Assessment and Analysis Report provides an overview of findings from Blaby District Council's Burial Grounds Capacity Audit 2023. The current statuses of the District's burial grounds are analysed against national and local trends in demographic change, including recent changes to the local planning context, to develop an initial understanding of the District's current and future burial space provision. The emphasis of the report is to explore and determine any further action required by Blaby District Council, over the next plan period, to ensure the District's burial authorities are adequately supported (regarding land use and supply) in meeting their local need for future burial space provision. The report's analysis provides initial findings intended to aid the determination of whether a criteria-based policy—supporting the delivery of additional burial space where a local need is identified—is sufficient to meet demand over the next plan period or if a more detailed analysis of the District's burial capacity is required before any planning policy approach can be established.

## Background

### Policy Context

Central Government responsibility for burial grounds and crematoria is limited to burial and cremation law, matters related to the disturbance of human remains, and land use considerations pertaining to regeneration and environmental protections.

Central government has not taken responsibility for the provision of burial grounds, nor for the planning of burial grounds, or created legislation requiring other tiers of government to do so. There is no statutory duty requiring Local Authorities to provide burial facilities.

The Local Government Act 1972 and the Local Authorities' cemeteries order 1977 sets out the general powers and responsibilities of (self) elected burial authorities. The provision of burials grounds is the sole authority of elected burial authorities, subject to the requirements of planning and environmental law.

Burial authorities are authorised but not required to provide burial grounds. It is acknowledged by Central Government that the creation of new burial grounds (and expansion of existing burial grounds) is an entirely demand responsive process, made in the context of other commercial and local needs. Decisions regarding burial need and provision have always been, and remain to be, made at the local level—burial provision is a decision for local communities.

### Local context

Section 214 of the Local Government Act contains elective powers that enable District Councils to become a Burial Authority. Currently, Blaby District Council has not elected to become a Burial Authority.

Within Blaby District, most parish councils have assumed responsibility for the maintenance and management of burial grounds; parish councils are therefore predominately the relevant burial authorities within the District (at a limited number of sites, authority for individual church grounds remains with the Church of England).

To date, the District includes 40 churchyards, cemeteries and burial grounds. Of these, five are churchyards without burial provision, twelve are parish cemeteries, twenty are considered closed

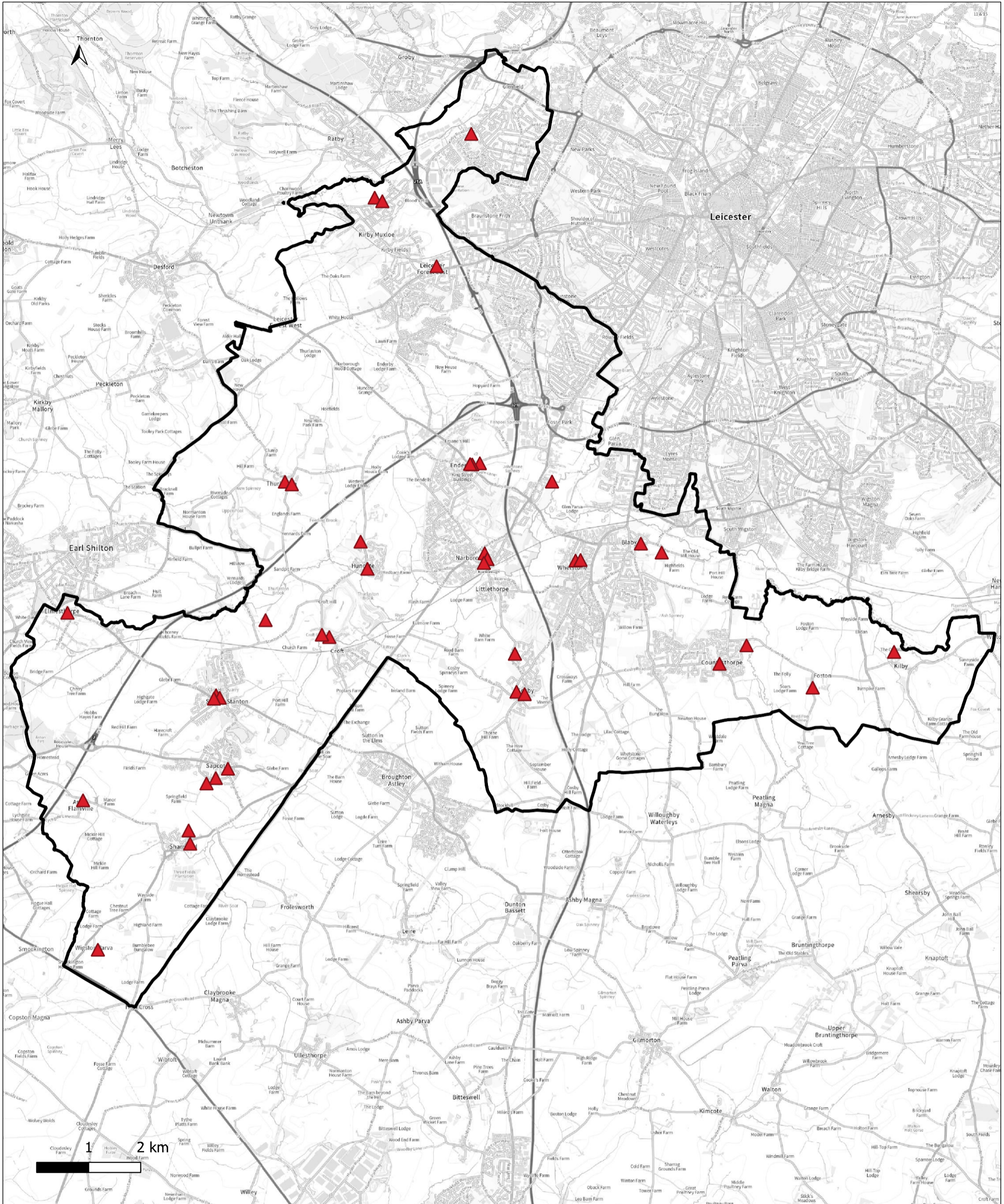
or to provide limited services, and three ecclesiastical sites are known or considered to be open and active. The study holds data on and therefore considers twelve burial grounds. Table 1 and Fig 1 list the district's burial grounds by size and location.

*Table 1: List of Burial Grounds across Blaby District*

<b>Name</b>	<b>Address</b>	<b>Parish</b>
<b>All Saints church</b>	Church Street Blaby LE8 4 FA	Blaby
<b>Blaby Cemetery</b>	Mill Lane, Blaby LE8 4FG	Blaby
<b>Cosby Cemetery</b>	Narborough Road Cosby LE9 1TA	Cosby
<b>Cosby Methodist Church</b>	Park Road Cosby LE9 1RN	Cosby
<b>St Michael and All Angels Church</b>	Main Street Cosby LE9 1UW	Cosby
<b>Countesthorpe Cemetery</b>	Foston Road Countesthorpe LE8 5Qp	Countesthorpe
<b>St Andrews church</b>	Main Street Countesthorpe LE8 5QX	Countesthorpe
<b>St Bartholomew's Church</b>	Barley Lane Foston LE8 5WQ	Countesthorpe
<b>Croft Cemetery</b>	Huncote Road Croft LE9 3GS	Croft
<b>St Michael and All Angels Church</b>	Hill Street, Croft LE9 3GT	Croft
<b>St Marys Church</b>	Elmesthorpe Lane, Elmesthorpe LE9 7PT	Elmesthorpe
<b>Alderby Churchyard</b>	Aldeby Close, Enderby LE19 2BA	Enderby
<b>URC Enderby</b>	Blaby Road Enderby, LE19 4AP	Enderby
<b>Enderby Cemetery</b>	Blaby Road Enderby, LE19 4AP	Enderby
<b>St John the Baptist Enderby</b>	Blaby Road Enderby, LE19 4AP	Enderby
<b>St Peters Church</b>	Church Road, Glenfield LE3 8DP	Glenfield
<b>St James Church</b>	Narborough Rd, Huncote, Leicester LE9 3AW	Huncote
<b>Huncote Cemetery</b>	Forest Road Huncote LE9 3BG	Huncote
<b>St Mary Magdalene Church</b>	Main Street, Kilby LE18 3TD	Kilby
<b>Kirby Muxloe Cemetery</b>	Desford Road, Kirby Muxloe LE9 3BG	Kirby Muxloe
<b>St Bartholomew's Church</b>	Main street, Kirby Muxloe LE9 2AL	Kirby Muxloe
<b>St Andrews church</b>	Hinckley Road Leicester Forest East LE3 3pW	LFE
<b>Narborough Congregational Church</b>	School Ln, Narborough, Leicester LE19 2GS	Narborough
<b>All Saints Church</b>	Church Lane Narborough LE19 2GL	Narborough
<b>Narborough Cemetery</b>	School Lane, Narborough LE19 2FU	Narborough
<b>Sapcote Methodist Church</b>	Leicester Rd, Sapcote, Leicester LE9 4JE	Sapcote
<b>St Marys Church</b>	Pingle Lane, Wigston Parva LE10 3AN	Potters Marston
<b>All Saints church</b>	Church Street Sapcote Le9 4FF	Sapcote
<b>Sapcote Cemetery</b>	Donkey Lane Sapcote LE9 4LD.	Sapcote
<b>St Helens Church</b>	Leicester Road, Sharnford LE10 3PP	Sharnford
<b>St Mary the Virgins Church</b>	Church Lane, Wigston Parva LE10 3AN	Wigston Parva
<b>Sharnford cemetery</b>	Mill Ln, Sharnford, Hinckley LE10	Sharnford
<b>St Peters Church</b>	Sharnford Road, Aston Flamville LE10 3AF	Sharnford
<b>Living Rock Stoney Stanton</b>	Station Road, Leicester LE9 4LU	Stoney Stanton
<b>Stoney Stanton Cemetery</b>	Nock Verges, Stoney Stanton, Leicester LE9	Stoney Stanton
<b>St Michaels Church</b>	Church Street, Stoney Stanton LE9 4LQ	Stoney Stanton
-	-	-

<b>Name</b>	<b>Address</b>	<b>Parish</b>
<b>Thurlaston Evangelical Free Church</b>	Main St, Thurlaston, Leicester LE9 7TP	Thurlaston
<b>All Saints church</b>	Church Street Thurlaston LE9 7TA	Thurlaston
<b>St Peters Church</b>	Church Lane, Whetstone LE8 6BA	Whetstone
<b>Whetstone Cemetery</b>	Cemetery Road, Whetstone LE8 6LL	Whetstone

Fig 1: Locations of Burial Grounds across Blaby District



**Legend**

- ▲ Burial Grounds
- Blaby District Council Boundary

Table 2 details the per capita provision of churchyards and cemeteries by Parish in 2015 (Blaby District Council Open Space Audit 2015).

*Table 2 Churchyards and Cemeteries by Parish (2015 Open Space Audit)*

Parish	Population	Ha	Ha. per 1,000 People
Aston Flamville (PM)			
Blaby	6194	2.77	0.45
Braunstone	16850	0	-
Cosby	3506	0.86	0.25
Countesthorpe	6377	1.97	0.31
Croft	1639	1.00	0.61
Elmesthorpe	509	0.54	1.06
Enderby	6314	2.26	0.36
Glenfield	9643	0.82	0.09
Glen parva	6189	0	-
Huncote	1756	0.43	0.24
Kilby	270	0.43	1.59
Kirby Muxloe	4667	2.02	0.43
Leicester Forest East	6719	0.58	0.09
Leiceste Forest West (PM)			
Lubbesthorpe			
Narborough and Littlethorpe	8448	1.78	0.21
Potters Marston (PM)			
Sapcote	2442	1.07	0.44
Sharnford	985	0.85	0.86
Stoney Stanton	3793	0.66	0.17
Thurlaston	807	0.41	0.51
Whetstone	6566	1.11	0.17
Wigston Parva (PM)			
Blaby District	93674	1960	0.21

(Yellow banding indicates areas without access to burial grounds)

Eight parishes within the District do not have access to burial grounds within their administrative area. In the case of Glenfield, this is a result of burial grounds reaching capacity. Elsewhere, historically these parishes have either never had access to burial grounds (e.g. Braunstone Town) or historic burial grounds have been predominately closed to the public (e.g. Potters Marston).

Five of the Parishes without access to burial grounds within their administrative boundary are located within the Principal Urban Area and encompass a significant proportion of the district's population.

#### Need for an Assessment

Parish councillors raised concerns regarding the potential lack of current and future burial space to Blaby District Council. In June 2023, to assess the concerns that had been raised, the Local Planning Authority requested the relevant Burial Authorities complete a simple questionnaire designed to capture a snapshot of current and future burial space provision within the District. For each burial ground, the questionnaire sought to establish the following information:

- The average annual interment rate based on the last 5 years of interments for each burial ground within the Authority.
- The burial authority's expected years of future operation for each burial ground.

- The potential for expansion of existing burial grounds
- Whether land had be acquired for the creation of new burial grounds or the expansion of existing burial grounds.
- Whether the burial authority had any concerns regarding current or future provision.

The questionnaire did not seek to capture detailed information such as interments per plots, re-openings per years, plot density, or the ratio of sold to vacant grave deeds. Therefore, this report provides only a crude assessment of capacity within the District.

A copy of the questionnaire sent to each burial authority is available at Appendix 1 of this document.

## Questionnaire Responses

The response rate to the questionnaire was 84% (21 out of 25 Parishes/Parish Meetings responded).

Of those Parishes that chose not to respond, two included active burial grounds.

The Parishes have indicated the following capacity:

- Cumulative operational burial capacity of 415 years\*
- Cumulative operational cremated remains capacity of 412 years\*
- Provision of 3,842\* Burial Plots\* and 4,203\* Cremated Remains Plots\*.

Five parishes have indicated access to additional land for the expansion of burial grounds. These are listed in Table 3. Two of twenty-five Parishes have stated they do not have land availability within their Parish to extend current burial grounds.

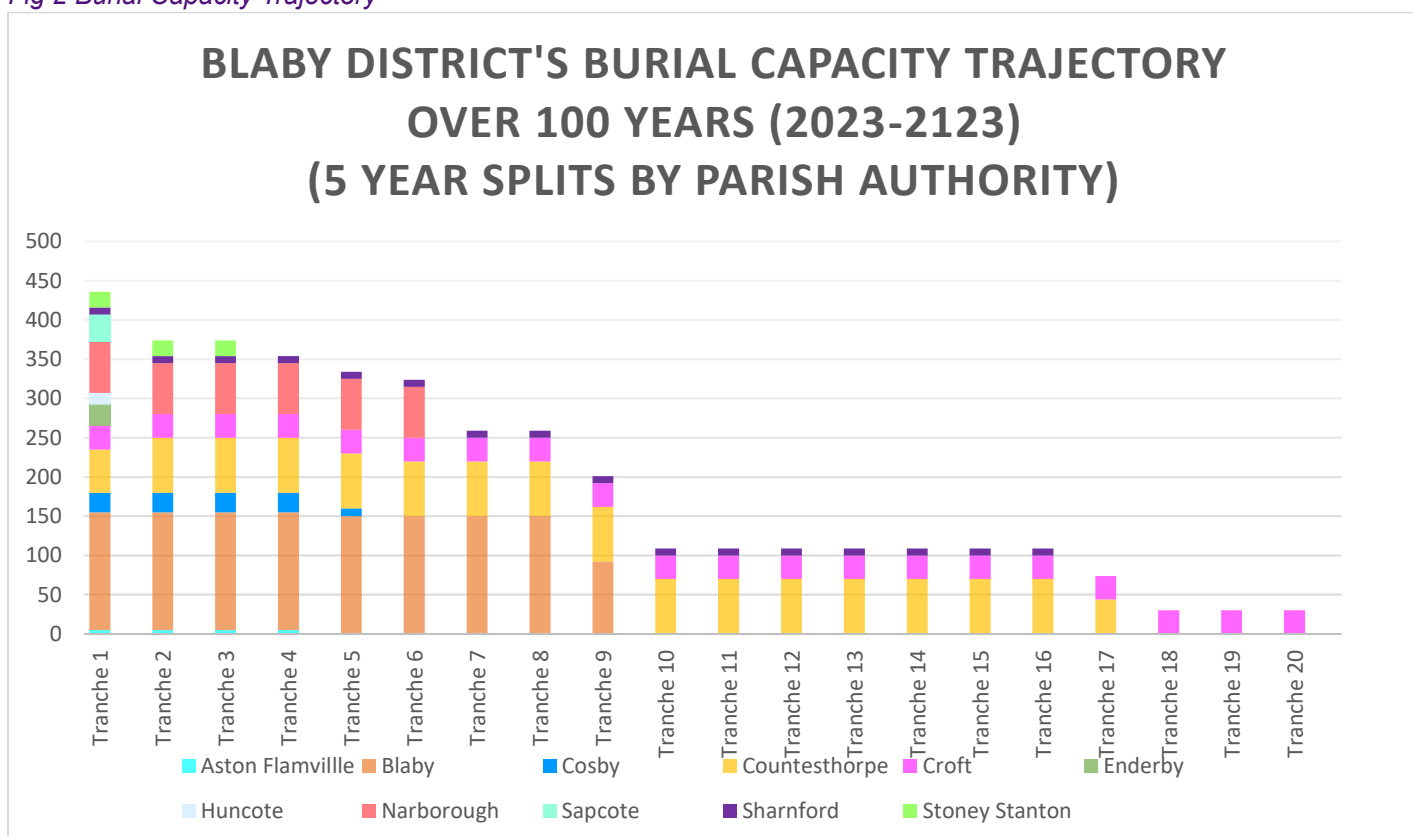
*Table 3 Burial Grounds with additional future capacity*

Parish /authority	Burial Ground	Type	Further Information
Blaby	Blaby Cemetery	Extension	Detailed Capacity information provided. Extension included in supply figures.
Countesthorpe	Countesthorpe Cemetery	Extension	Detailed Capacity information provided. Extension included in supply figures.
Croft	Croft Cemetery	Current Cemetery only partly developed.	Detailed Capacity information provided. Extension included in supply figures.
Enderby	Enderby New Cemetery	Extension	Not included in supply figures
Huncoote	Huncote Cemetery	Extension	Not included in supply figures
Sapcote	Sapcote Cemetery	Extension	Not included in supply figures

Thirteen of twenty-five parishes have indicated they have not considered future burial provision and need.

Fig 2 illustrates Blaby District's current capacity using data provided by each Burial Authority.

Fig 2 Burial Capacity Trajectory



Burial provision within the District will primarily be delivered by 11 burial grounds administered by 11 burial authorities. The years of operation provided by each burial authority (based on the base figure for interments) indicate that predicted supply/capacity within the District will start to drop away after 2053. However, during this period, it is likely additional capacity will be generated through the burial ground extensions listed in Table 3.

## Analysis

### Demographic profile

To understand concerns regarding future provision, it is necessary to understand likely future demand. A comparison of forecasted population growth and deaths to Blaby District's burial authorities' perceived future delivery can demonstrate unmet burial need. Where policy approaches are dependent on long term future demographic change, Local Authorities can use objectively produced, Office for National Statistics', subnational population projections (SNPP) to help support decision making.

Fig 3 and Fig 4 illustrates forecasted population growth for Blaby and Leicester. Subnational population projections for 2018 indicate, between 2019 to 2039, forecasted growth of 8.21% for Leicester and 23% for Blaby. The 2014 subnational population projections indicate, between 2019 to 2039, forecasted growth of 14.23% for Leicester and 11.9% for Blaby.

Fig 3 Population Growth in Blaby and Leicester

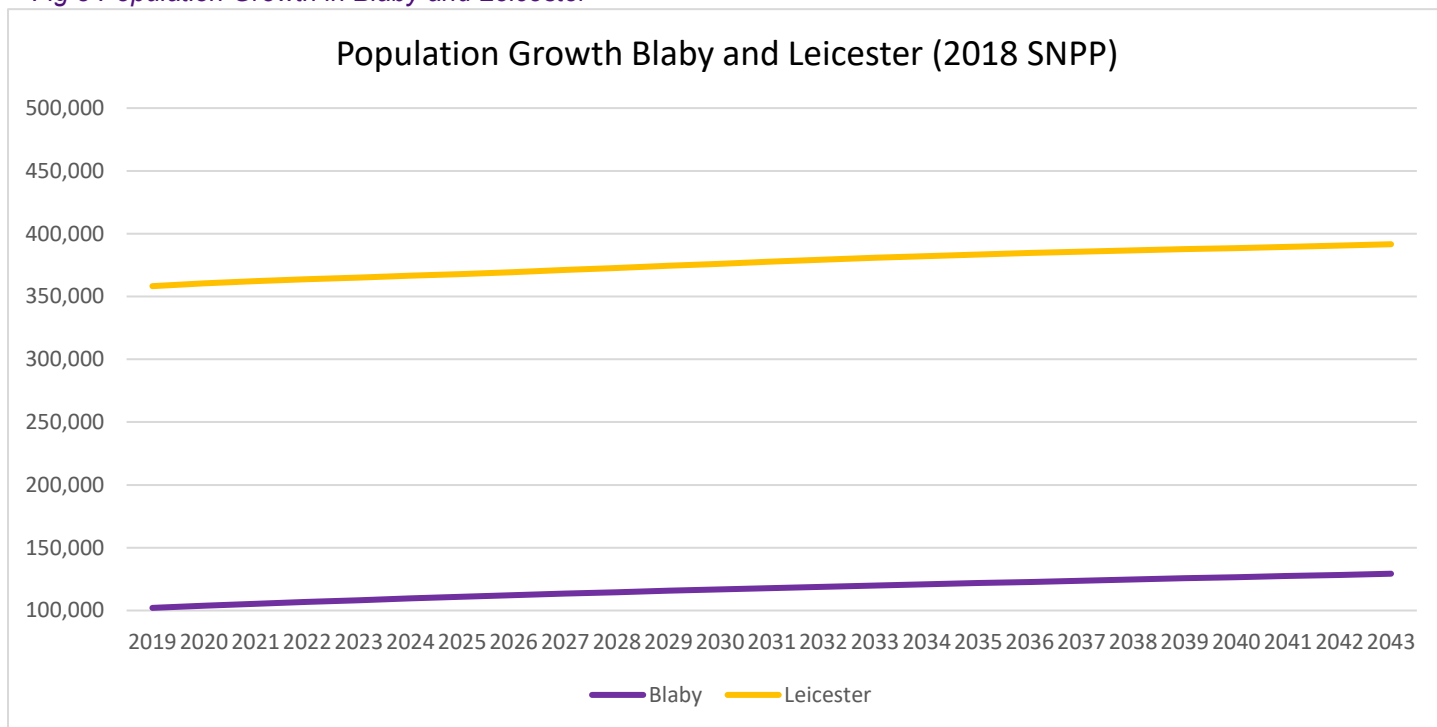
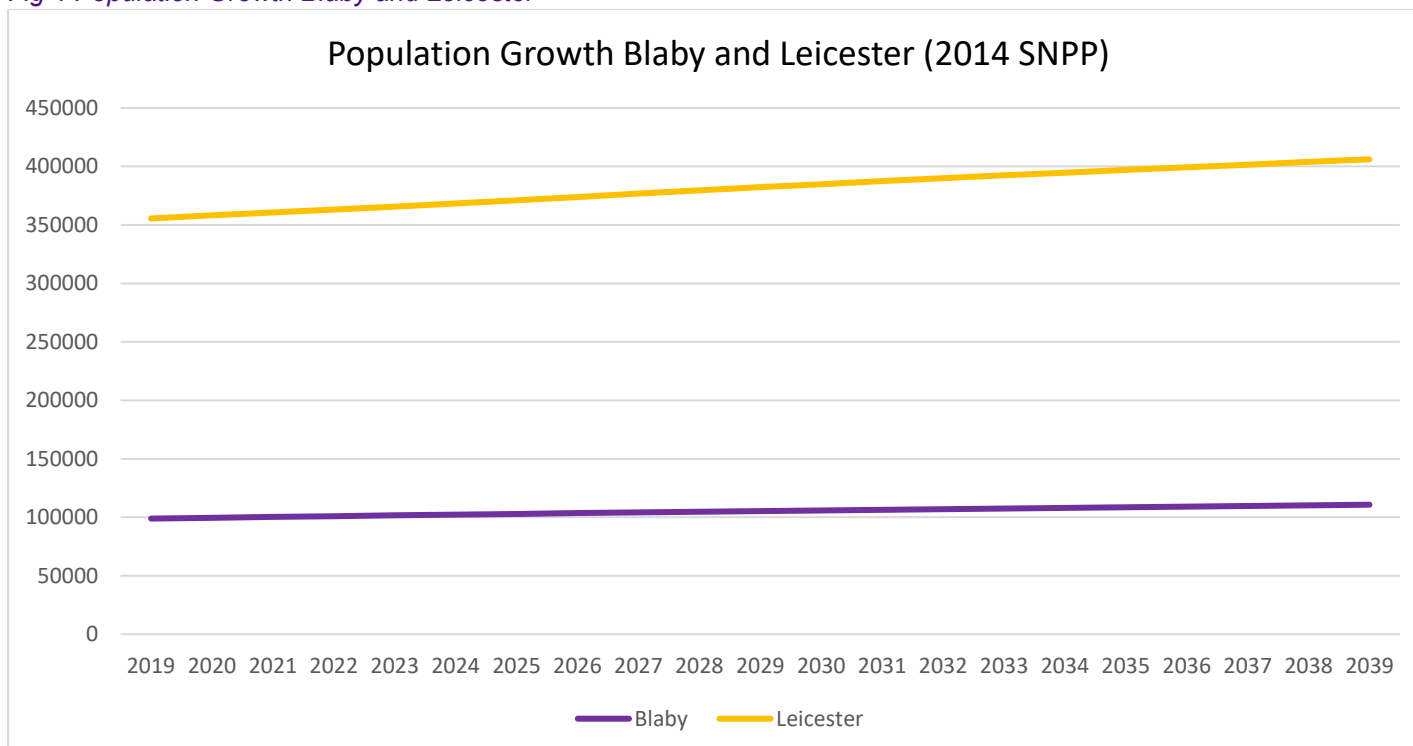


Table 4: Population Change SNPP

ONS Projection	Local Authority	Period of Growth	% change	Population forecasted at 2019	Population forecasted to 2039
SNPP 2018	Leicester	2019 – 2039	8.21%	358240.458	387659.697
SNPP 2018	Blaby	2019 – 2039	23 %	102094.694	125639.427
SNPP 2014	Leicester	2019 – 2039	14.23%	355546.893	406155.587
SNPP 2014	Blaby	2019 – 2039	11.9%	98939.711	110786.659

Fig 4 Population Growth Blaby and Leicester



For context, population growth within the East Midlands is forecast at 13.3%, and population growth within England is forecast at 9.6% by the SNPP 2018 projections.

The study uses both 2018 and 2014 SNPP forecasts as the underlying methodologies differ in their approach to internal migration flows. Whilst the 2018 data is considered to have improved data, it relies on a shorter calibration period making it more sensitive to recent short-term trends.

2018 subnational populations projections forecast approximately 23,171 residents will pass away between 2019 and 2040. On average, over both data projection periods, 0.9% of the district's total population is expected to pass away annually (average death rate of 9 persons per every 1000 of Population). In Leicester, 2018 Subnational populations projections forecast approximately 60,240 residents will pass away within the same period. On average, over both data projection periods, 0.7% of the Leicester's total population is expected to pass away annually (average death rate of 7 persons per every 1000 of Population).

Fig 5 and Fig 6 illustrate the forecasted annual and accumulative deaths for Blaby over and up to the expected end of the plan period.

Figure 5 Cumulative Deaths in Blaby

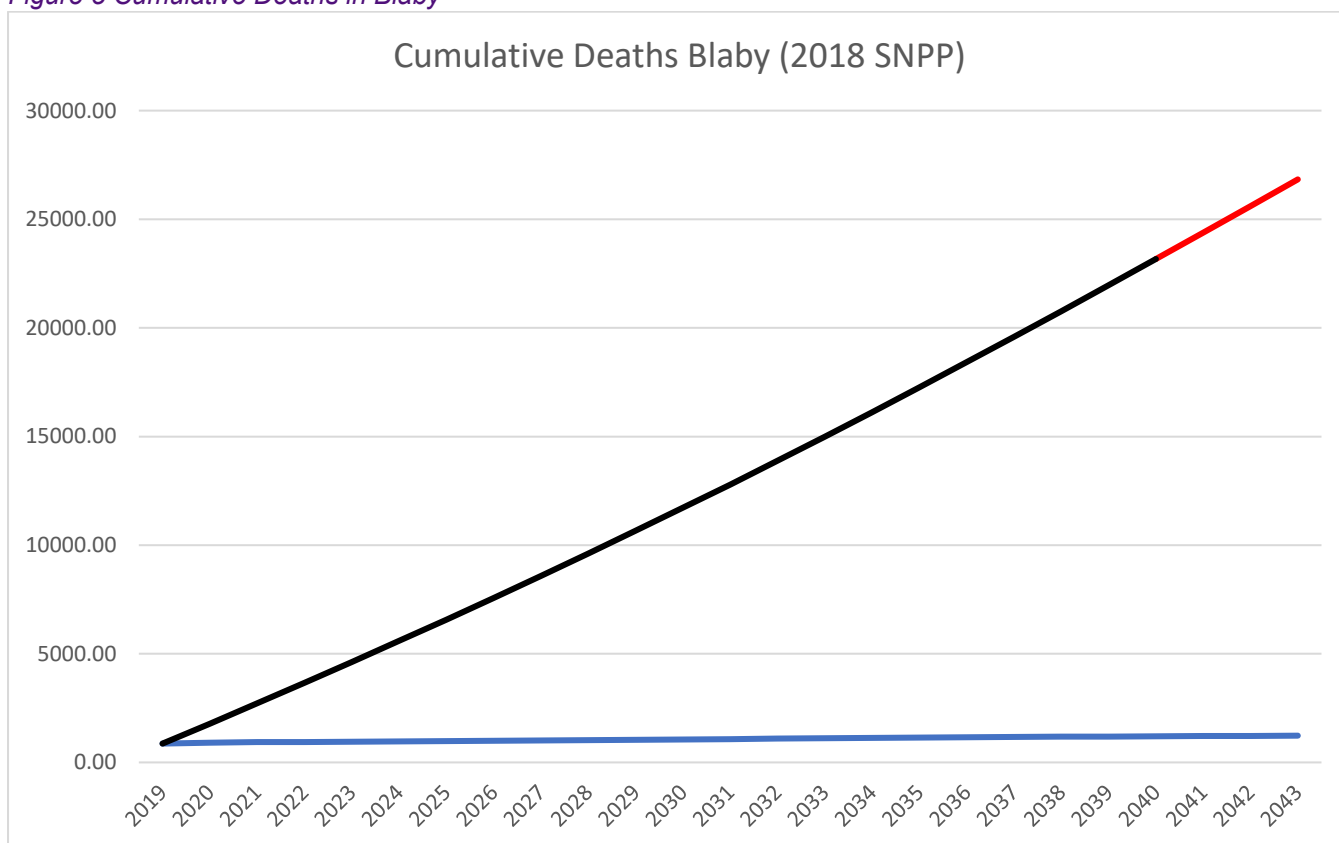


Table 5 Forecast Deaths

Year	Deaths	Year	Deaths	Year	Deaths
2019	866.53	2029	1044.48	2039	1193.08
2020	913.59	2030	1059.31	2040	1203.86
2021	933.56	2031	1074.77	2041	1211.98
2022	942.84	2032	1091.88	2042	1219.60
2023	957.08	2033	1109.99	2043	1231.44
2024	972.42	2034	1128.25		
2025	985.63	2035	1145.50		
2026	999.93	2036	1156.24		
2027	1011.79	2037	1170.55		
2028	1028.04	2038	1181.56		

Fig 6 Cumulative Deaths Blaby

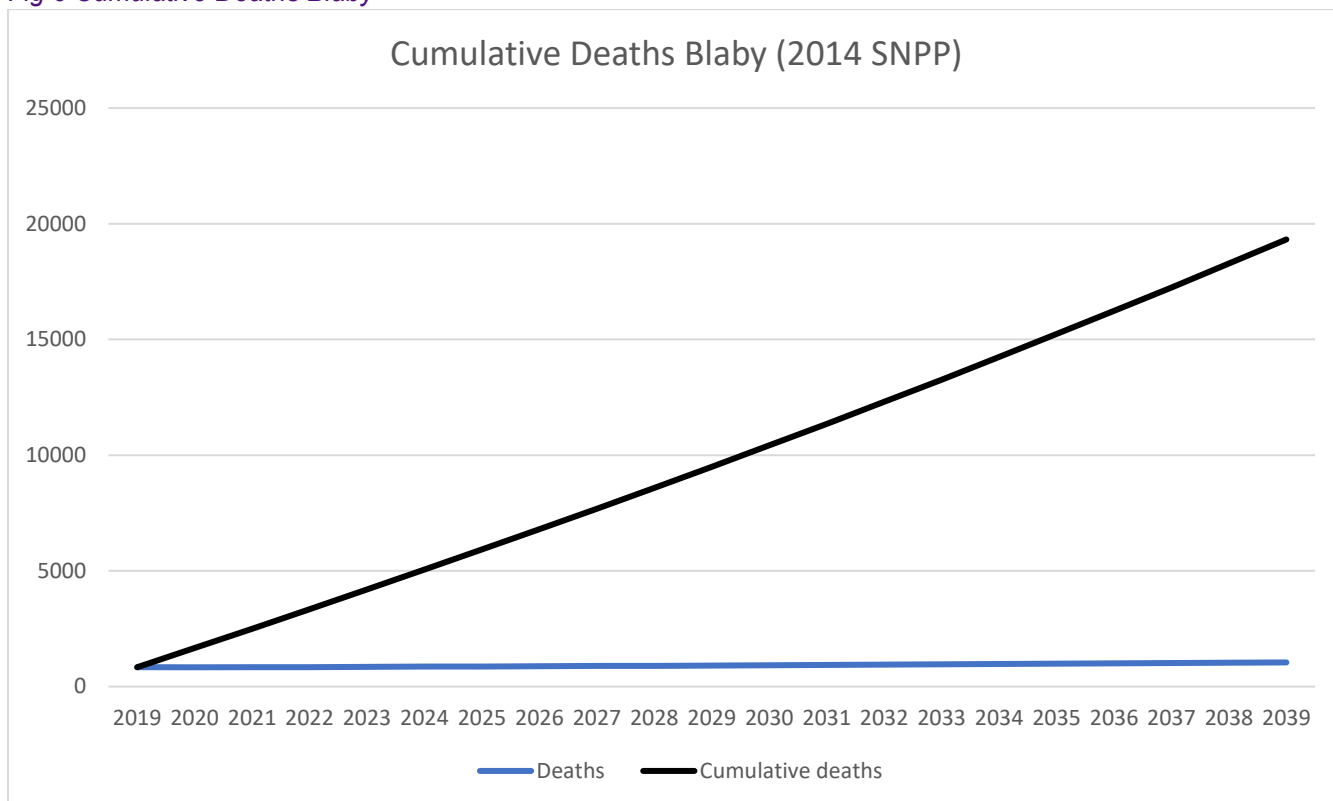


Table 6 Forecast Deaths

Year	Deaths	Year	Deaths	Year	Deaths
2019	834	2029	911	2039	1042
2020	832	2030	922		
2021	838	2031	935		
2022	843	2032	948		
2023	852	2033	962		
2024	860	2034	976		
2025	867	2035	991		
2026	876	2036	1002		
2027	886	2037	1016		
2028	898	2038	1029		

**Influencing factors**

Interment preferences within local populations will strongly influence interment provision. Nationally, the most recent data suggests that approximately 78% of people choose cremation over burial at the end of life (Burial Council of Britain). The most significant factor determining interment preference is cultural religious practices.

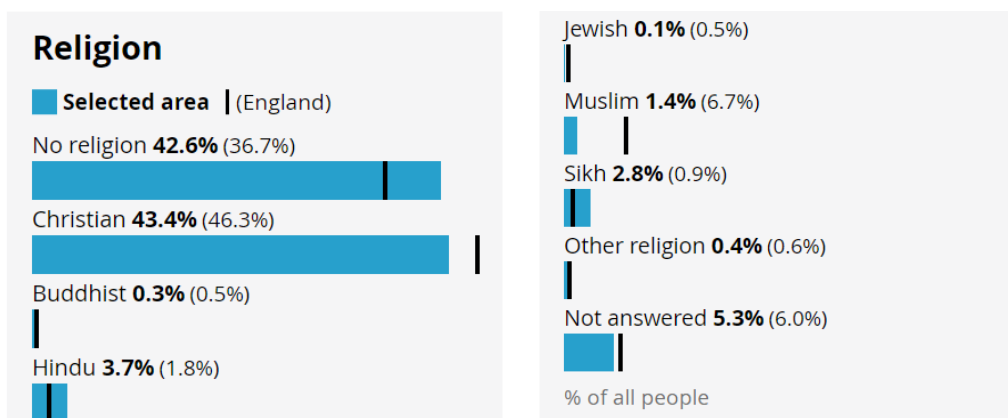
Faith Groups have different burial practices that may need to be adjusted for depending on local demographics.

Table 7 Burial Practices by Faith Group

Faith Group	Burial Requirements
Hindu Faith and Culture	Cremation (water Scattering)
Sikh Faith and Culture	Cremation (Water Scattering)
Buddhist Faith and Culture	Cremation or Burial
Jewish Faith and Culture	Burial
Muslim Faith and Culture	Burial
Christian Faith and Culture	Burial or Cremation

Blaby District has a below average number of Jewish, Muslim, and Christian residents and an above average number of Sikh and Hindu residents when compared to England as a whole (2021 Census).

Fig 2021 Census for Blaby District



Given the burial practices and requirements of residents identifying with these faith groups, it is felt appropriate to assume the current national ratio of cremations to burials can be applied when considering future burial capacity within the District. The burial and interment practices of both Hinduism and Sikhism involve the scattering of ashes in moving bodies of water. Therefore, the burial practices of these faith groups are not considered to impact the interment rates within the District’s burial grounds; however, it may be appropriate, by another department and within a further study, to assess the provision of appropriate water bodies and facilities within the District to ensure the specific needs of these faith groups can be accommodated in a way concurrent with guidance provided by the Environment Agency.

2014 and 2018 subnational population projections for forecasted population growth and population deaths indicate approximately 4000—4620 burial plots would be required over the plan period to accommodate the entirety of the district’s burial needs within the District. This figure is based on a conservative cremation ratio of 3:4 and a burial ratio of 1:4.

#### Leicester’s unmet housing need

Subnational population projections cannot account for Blaby District Council’s agreed apportionment of Leicester City Council’s unmet housing need and the resulting additional growth in population and deaths from this apportionment. Therefore, additional forecasted deaths have been proportionally—in line with Leicester City’s projected annual deaths—added to Blaby District’s projections.

For the purpose of this study, it has been assumed 346 additional dwellings per year, with an average household unit encompassing between 2 to 3 people, over 16 years will need to be additionally accommodated.

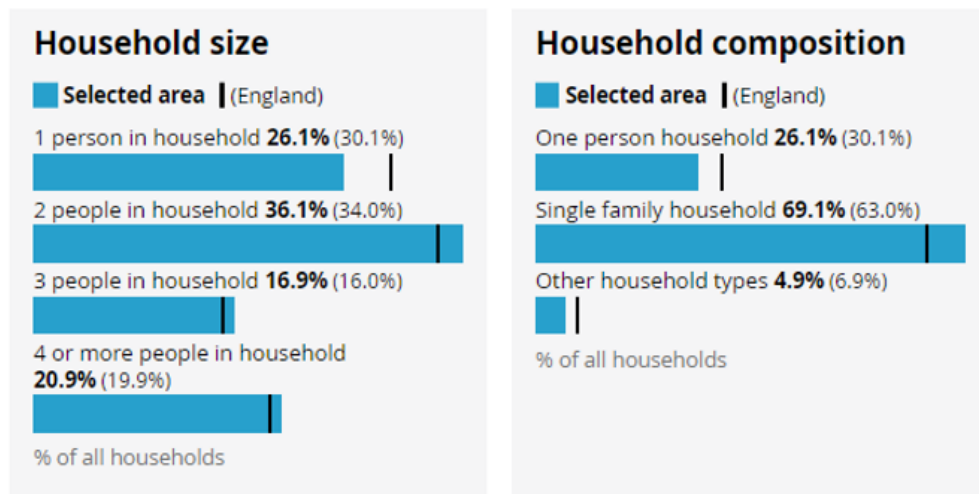
Table 8 Blaby District’s proposed Housing Requirement

Explanation and Method	Housing Numbers (annual)
Standard method	341
Revised Standard Method + Accommodation of unmet need.	687
Additional units to accommodate	346

Currently, the housing typologies and tenures to be additionally accommodated from Leicester City's unmet housing need are unconfirmed. This report assumes that Blaby District's housing stock profile will strongly influence the household composition of the populations accommodated from Leicester's unmet need.

Therefore, based on Blaby's current housing stock and household composition profile, this report reasonably assumes that current building trends and market preferences are likely to continue within the District of Blaby over the next plan period. If the housing stock profile of Blaby District remains proportionally similar, households being accommodated by the apportionment of Leicester's unmet need will on average be likely comprised of 2 to 3 persons (either as a single-family household or as a house in multiple occupation).

Fig 8 Census 2021 Household Size and Composition in Blaby District



This assumption is supported by the 2014 Subnational Household Projections (SHP). The 2014 subnational household projections and subnational population projections directly input into the Standard Method's assessment of housing need, and the Housing and Economic Needs Assessment 2022 states the "2014 subnational household projections are based on longer-term trends and 'look' [sic] more realistic".

SHPs indicate a declining household size for Leicester City and gently declining household size for Blaby. At the end of the plan period, average household size is estimated to be 2.43 persons per household for Leicester and 2.37 persons per household for Blaby District.

Fig 9 Household Size Projections 2014-2039

**Table 427: Change in average household size, local authority districts and England, 2014- 2039**

Area code \ Area name		Average Household Size_2014			Average Household Size_2019			Average Household Size_2024			Average Household Size_2029			Average Household Size_2034			Average Household Size_2039		
Area code	Area name	HH_2014 (000s)	Pop_2014 (000s)	Size_2014	HH_2019 (000s)	Pop_2019 (000s)	Size_2019	HH_2024 (000s)	Pop_2024 (000s)	Size_2024	HH_2029 (000s)	Pop_2029 (000s)	Size_2029	HH_2034 (000s)	Pop_2034 (000s)	Size_2034	HH_2039 (000s)	Pop_2039 (000s)	Size_2039
E06000016	Leicester UA	126	329	2.61	135	347	2.58	142	360	2.54	150	373	2.50	157	386	2.46	163	397	2.43
E10000018	Leicestershire	276	653	2.37	289	678	2.35	301	703	2.33	314	728	2.32	326	748	2.30	336	766	2.28
E07000129	Blaby	40	95	2.40	41	98	2.39	42	101	2.38	44	104	2.38	45	107	2.37	46	109	2.37

Using ONS subnational population projections alongside subnational household projections, it is possible to approximately forecast the number of total deaths in Blaby including additional deaths attributed to the accommodation of Leicester's unmet need. Applying local preferences in burial practices enables an estimation of the future burial demand Blaby is likely to experience.

Four scenarios have been generated from the 2014 (greater and lesser) and 2018 (greater and lesser) subnational population projections. To account for the variability of population size that could be produced by the additional housing need accommodated from Leicester City, both sets of data have applied a greater and lesser forecast to overall deaths (x2 or x3 persons per household).

*Table 9 2014 SNPP Projection*

Year	All Deaths Blaby 2014	Leicester Deaths Lesser	All Deaths Forecast	Cumulative
2020	831.558	4.503262428	836.0612624	836.0612624
2021	837.802	4.466476923	842.2684769	1678.329739
2022	843.208	4.43947726	847.6474773	2525.977217
2023	852.386	4.423161565	856.8091616	3382.786378
2024	860.287	4.402973944	864.6899739	4247.476352
2025	866.928	4.386978189	871.3149782	5118.79133
2026	875.85	4.379874931	880.2298749	5999.021205
2027	886.392	4.385182684	890.7771827	6889.798388
2028	898.345	4.390608544	902.7356085	7792.533996
2029	911.179	4.401497377	915.5804974	8708.114494
2030	921.52	4.417298994	925.937299	9634.051793
2031	935.186	4.438593725	939.6245937	10573.67639
2032	948.438	4.458571207	952.8965712	11526.57296
2033	962.006	4.4932907	966.4992907	12493.07225
2034	976.423	4.532240589	980.9552406	13474.02749
2035	991.418	4.56942016	995.9874202	14470.01491
2036	1002.176	4.610661366	1006.786661	15476.80157
2037	1015.882	4.649069742	1020.53107	16497.33264
2038	1029.028	4.701651258	1033.729651	17531.06229
2039	1041.526	4.751879806	1046.27788	18577.34017

*Table 10 2014 SNPP Projection*

Year	All Deaths Blaby 2014	Leicester Deaths Greater	All Deaths Forecast	Cumulative
2020	831.558	6.754893643	838.3128936	838.3128936
2021	837.802	6.699715385	844.5017154	1682.814609
2022	843.208	6.659215889	849.8672159	2532.681825
2023	852.386	6.634742348	859.0207423	3391.702567
2024	860.287	6.604460916	866.8914609	4258.594028
2025	866.928	6.580467283	873.5084673	5132.102495
2026	875.85	6.569812397	882.4198124	6014.522308
2027	886.392	6.577774026	892.969774	6907.492082
2028	898.345	6.585912817	904.9309128	7812.422995
2029	911.179	6.602246065	917.7812461	8730.204241
2030	921.52	6.62594849	928.1459485	9658.350189
2031	935.186	6.657890587	941.8438906	10600.19408
2032	948.438	6.68785681	955.1258568	11555.31994
2033	962.006	6.739936049	968.745936	12524.06587
2034	976.423	6.798360884	983.2213609	13507.28723
2035	991.418	6.85413024	998.2721302	14505.55936
2036	1002.176	6.915992049	1009.091992	15514.65136
2037	1015.882	6.973604613	1022.855605	16537.50696
2038	1029.028	7.052476887	1036.080477	17573.58744
2039	1041.526	7.127819709	1048.65382	18622.24126

Applying a burial ratio of 1:4, the District would be estimated to receive 4013 – 4022 burials over the plan period using the 2014 projections.

*Table 11 2018 SNPP Projection*

Year	Blaby All Deaths 2018	Leicester Deaths Lesser	All Deaths Forecast	Cumulative Deaths
2020	913.59	4.92	918.51	918.51
2021	933.56	4.93	938.48	1856.99
2022	942.84	4.90	947.73	2804.72
2023	957.08	4.87	961.96	3766.68
2024	972.42	4.92	977.34	4744.02
2025	985.63	4.93	990.55	5734.57
2026	999.93	4.94	1004.87	6739.44
2027	1011.79	4.95	1016.74	7756.17
2028	1028.04	4.97	1033.01	8789.18
2029	1044.48	4.99	1049.46	9838.64
2030	1059.31	5.02	1064.33	10902.97
2031	1074.77	5.04	1079.82	11982.79
2032	1091.88	5.07	1096.95	13079.74
2033	1109.99	5.10	1115.09	14194.83
2034	1128.25	5.14	1133.39	15328.22
2035	1145.50	5.18	1150.68	16478.90
2036	1156.24	5.22	1161.45	17640.35
2037	1170.55	5.25	1175.80	18816.16
2038	1181.56	5.30	1186.86	20003.02
2039	1193.08	5.35	1198.44	21201.46
2040	1203.86	5.40	1209.26	22410.71
2041	1211.98	5.44	1217.41	23628.13

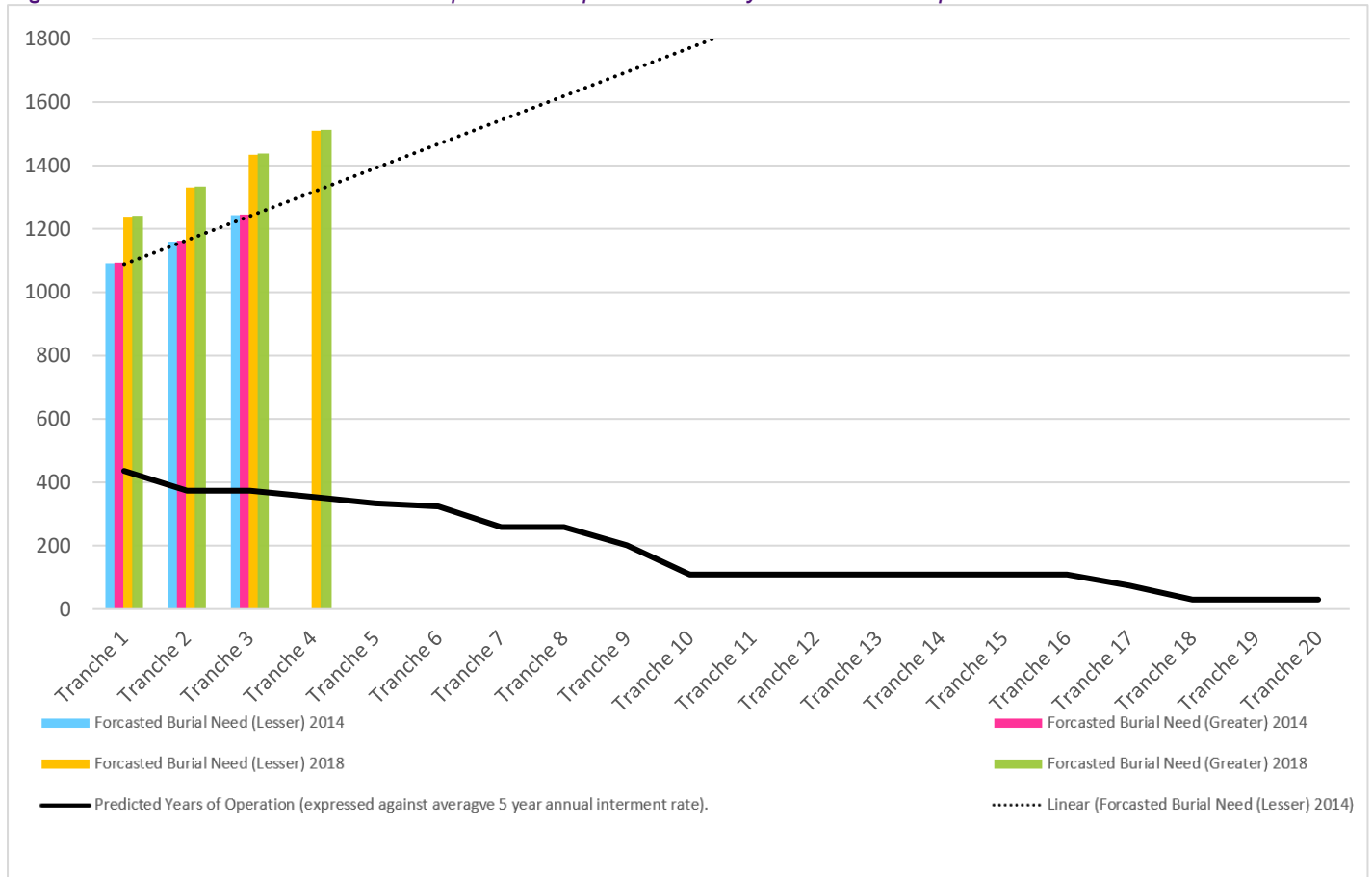
*Table 12 2018 SNPP Projection*

Year	Blaby All Deaths 2018	Leicester Deaths Greater	All Deaths Forecast	Cumulative Deaths
2020	913.59	7.43	921.02	921.02
2021	933.56	7.42	940.98	1862.00
2022	942.84	7.37	950.21	2812.21
2023	957.08	7.34	964.42	3776.63
2024	972.42	7.41	979.83	4756.46
2025	985.63	7.42	993.04	5749.50
2026	999.93	7.43	1007.37	6756.87
2027	1011.79	7.46	1019.24	7776.11
2028	1028.04	7.48	1035.52	8811.63
2029	1044.48	7.52	1051.99	9863.62
2030	1059.31	7.56	1066.87	10930.49
2031	1074.77	7.60	1082.37	12012.87
2032	1091.88	7.63	1099.51	13112.38
2033	1109.99	7.68	1117.67	14230.05
2034	1128.25	7.74	1135.99	15366.04
2035	1145.50	7.79	1153.30	16519.33
2036	1156.24	7.85	1164.09	17683.42
2037	1170.55	7.90	1178.45	18861.87
2038	1181.56	7.98	1189.53	20051.41
2039	1193.08	8.05	1201.13	21252.54
2040	1203.86	8.12	1211.98	22464.52
2041	1211.98	8.17	1220.15	23684.67

Applying a burial ratio of 1:4, the District would be estimated to receive 4599 – 4610 burials over the plan period using the 2018 projections.

A comparison of expected provision from 2023 onwards (detailed via the burial questionnaire) to forecasted demographic change within the District.

Fig 10 Forecast Demand for Plots Compared to Expected Delivery and Years of Operation



## Study Considerations

### Composition of Age and Faith groups in Leicester

As established, each location's demographic profile will influence the timing and proportion of burials. However, as indicated in Table 12 (2018 greater forecast), the total number of deaths accommodated through the apportionment of Leicester's unmet housing need is forecasted to be approximately no more than 170 deaths over the plan period; therefore—even if 100% of these deaths required burial—in the wider context, deaths coming from the apportionment of Leicester's unmet housing need (as currently determined and apportioned) is predicted to be less than 1% of all deaths within the District during the plan period.

Beyond the plan period, if further housing need from Leicester City is to be met within Blaby District, it will be important to acknowledge both the age and faith profile of Leicester's current demographic and likely future demographic.

### Limitations of study

The study has a number of limiting factors and therefore its findings, rather than define any policy approach, are to only inform and guide approaches towards planning policy which could affect future burial capacity within the District.

The study uses the most recent and relevant ONS subnational population and household projections available; however, at the time of writing, this data will be 5 years old. The ONS are

due to release 2021 based projections for SNPPS and HPS sometime in 2023; unfortunately, these projections are not currently available at the time of issuing.

The study operates on idealised and hypothetical scenarios. Therefore, the study does not reflect the complexities surrounding movement of people. Firstly, the study presumes that the population of the District requiring burial wishes to be buried within the District; however, this does not reflect the reality of burial practices and preferences—people are not necessarily interred within the locality in which they live. Secondly, the study works within the conceptual framework agreed for accommodating Leicester’s unmet housing need. Whilst increased provision by Leicestershire’s Local Authorities technically fulfils government targets regarding house building, it does not necessarily mean that target populations—in this case the people of Leicester—will actually be accommodated within Blaby District. Therefore, assumptions regarding who will comprise the Authority’s future population and how this will affect burial provision will not necessarily be reflective of reality—apportionment of unmet housing need from Leicester City does not guarantee migration from within Leicester’s population.

This study did not request information detailing interments per plots, re-openings per years, plot density, or the ratio of sold to vacant grave deeds. Therefore, this report relies on the accuracy of the data provided by each burial authority and can only provide a top-level overview of capacity within the District.

The study applies the current national ratio of cremations to burials to the forecasted ONS figures detailing the district’s expected deaths over the plan period; however, this ratio is not static. Whilst there has been a consistent trend towards greater preferences for cremations over burials, the changing nature of the demographic means that the current ratio may not apply to future generations. As observed, growth in religious groups who prefer burial over cremation will change the ratio to be applied to future deaths.

## Conclusions

Using the 2014 and 2018 subnational population projections, this study produced four potential outcomes for burial need over the new plan period. An average of these scenarios estimates that approximately 4,311 burials will need to be accommodated over the plan period from 2023—2039.

Currently, from the data supplied by each burial authority within the District (that responded to the questionnaire), it is estimated that burial grounds within the District have capacity to provide approximately 3,842 burials (includes permission at Blaby and Countesthorpe Cemetery). This leaves an immediate shortfall of 469 burials to be accommodated over the plan period.

Of those burial grounds that indicated further land for the purpose of burial extension, two burial grounds with detailed plot delivery figures were included within the approximated supply; three burials grounds indicated future land for supply but were unable to provide expected delivery figures due to uncertainties regarding site details. It is predicted that, under an ideal scenario where land capture is not constrained by environmental or highways limitations, these sites could yield approximately 5,214 burials to 7725 burials depending on the chosen plot density, grave type, and interment number per plot. Therefore, in principle, there is not considered to be a supply issue within the District during the plan period as these extensions are expected to come forward and start delivering during the plan the period.

However, as Fig 10 indicates, there is clearly a discrepancy in the timing of delivery to meet forecasted burial need (between the expected delivery of plots by each burial authority and the forecasted burial estimates). An approach that accepts the ability of the District to meet forecasted need within the plan period either utilizes all of the district’s indicated expected capacity or is

heavily dependent on the delivery of the extension land available at Enderby and to a much lesser extent Sappcote and Huncote. In this scenario, moving beyond the plan period it is likely there will be a significant tightening or deficit of capacity within the District unless the extension sites start to deliver significantly before the end of the plan period (offsetting demand at existing burial grounds within the near term).

Differences in expected delivery and need could be the result of the following factors:

- The Burial Grounds Survey and its analysis uses the average interment rate of the last 5 years as base figure by which to compare and understand likely future periods of operation for each burial ground. These periods of operation are then compared against forecasted burials requirements for the District over 5-year periods. Using a fixed average, this comparison of expected delivery does not account for the increased death rate over time. Forecasted deaths are calculated at the District level. Whilst proportional growth in the death rate at a District level could be applied to the established interment base figure for each burial ground, the different composition of each local demographic means that this would not necessarily produce a representative understanding of burial ground operating periods and expected delivery of plots over time. This study expects that the predicted years of operation will truncate as the average 5 yearly interment rate iteratively increases in line with the death rate. Importantly, this fact does not change the total forecasted deaths within the plan period or the total approximate delivery of plots for the District—simply, it changes the distribution of delivery over time.
- As the death rate gently increase over time, it is expected that there will be a growing disparity between the average base interment figure and the forecasted deaths across the District resulting in burial need; however, the significance of difference between these figures starting at tranche 1, could be indicative of a sustained pattern of out migration of burials from the District.
- Equally, the study took a conservative approach to national trends in preferences for cremation over burial. A ratio of 1 burial to 4 cremations was selected; however, the national trend indicates a ratio nearer to 1:5. Clearly, applying a ratio of 1:5 would reduce the disparity present between estimated supply and forecasted need. Equally, it is possible there could be a significant local preference within the District for cremation over burial.
- Alternatively, it could also be that the estimated expected years of operation has been optimistically calculated by some burial authorities.

Whilst in total it appears there is adequate provision of burial plots to meet the needs of the District within the District over the plan period, the distribution of this provision means that some burial authorities will require new land in order to continue to accommodate future need within their authority and immediate surroundings. Alternatively, local provision in parishes without further burial capacity will need to be accommodated elsewhere. It should be noted that the notion of intra district movement (acceptance of non-parishioners) to burial grounds with capacity will be heavily influenced by and is at the discretion of each burial authority. The geography of the District means that for parishes with no supply or limited future supply, travel times to alternative cemeteries within the District may only be considered easily accessible via personal motor vehicle. Table 14 sets out the approximate travel times from parish locations lacking access to burial provision to the nearest active burial ground. Table 14 clearly shows a lack of capacity within the principal urban area/north of the District. Within the north of the District, active burial grounds at Kirby Muxloe and Enderby are currently constrained.

Table 14 Travel times for parishes without current provision

Parish	Active Burial Grounds	Status	Nearest Burial Active Burial Ground within District	Journey Time
Aston Flamville	Yes	Intake Conditions (Burbage Diocese).	Sharnford/Sapcote	3 minutes Car 7 minutes Cycle 34 Minutes Walk
Blaby	Yes	Active	N/A	
Braunstone Town	No	N/A	Enderby	11 minutes car 19 minutes cycle 33 minutes bus
Cosby	Yes	Active	N/A	
Countesthorpe	Yes	Active	N/A	
Croft	Yes	Active	N/A	
Elmesthorpe	Yes (st Mary's)	Intake Conditions (Parish Church only)	Stoney Stanton	4 minutes car 10 minutes cycle 47 minutes walk
Enderby	Active	Active (parishioner only)	N/A	
Glen Parva	No	N/A	Blaby	8 minutes car 6 minutes cycle 17 minutes public transport 27 minutes walk
Glenfield	No	Closed	KMU/ Enderby	KMU: 8 minutes car 13 minutes cycle 33 minutes bus 53 minute walk  Enderby: 15minute car 30 min cycle 43 minute bus 2 hour Walk
Huncote	Yes	Active	N/A	
Kilby	No (two churches check)	N/A	Countesthorpe	5 minute Car 12 minute cycle 50 minute walk
Kirby Muxloe	Yes (no response)	Active (no response?)	Enderby	
LFE	No	N/A	Enderby	Car 10 minutes Cycle 18 minutes Public Transport 40 minutes Walk 1 hr 20 minutes
LFW	No	N/A	Enderby/Thurlaston	Car 5 minutes Cycle 13 minutes Public Transport 1hr 5 minutes Walk 55 minutes
Littlethorpe	No	Narborough	Narborough	Car 4 minutes Cycle 4 minutes

				Public Transport 14 minutes Walk 14 minutes
Lubbesthorpe	No	N/A	Enderby/Kirby Muxloe	Car: 7 minutes Cycle: 11 minutes Public Transport: 41 minutes Walk: 44 minutes
Narborough	Yes	Active	N/A	
Potter Marston	No	Closed	Croft	Car: 4 minutes Cycle: 9 minutes Public Transport: 39 minutes Walk: 39 minutes
Sapcote	Yes	Active	N/A	
Sharnford	Yes	Active	N/A	
Stoney Stanton	Yes	Active	N/A	
Thurlaston	No (Leicester Diocese)	Unknown?	Huncote	Car: 4 minutes Cycle: 10 minutes Public Transport: Fox connect Walk: 42 minutes
Whetstone	Yes (No response)	Unknown?	Blaby/Cosby	Cosby Car: 5 minutes Cycle 11 minutes Public Transport: 20mins Walk: 47 mins  Blaby Car: 6 minutes Cycle 9 minutes Public Transport: Walk: 35 minutes

### Scoping and Policy Options

Further consideration at a Policy and Member level is required to identify whether it is advantageous and desirable for the cohesiveness and integrity of existing burial grounds to be maintained or whether it is appropriate for separate burial ground locations to be established where a further need is identified.

Currently, there are opportunities for the expansion of existing burial grounds that could be facilitated through strategic planning policy.

Table 15 indicates the cogent/ strong geographic relationships between land submitted through the District's Strategic Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment's Call for Sites and some of the Districts Burial Grounds.

*Table 15 Submitted Sites and Existing Burial Grounds*

Burial Ground	SHLAA Site	Proximity	Identified Constraints
Sharnford Cemetery	SHA010	Adjoining	

Stoney Stanton Cemetery	ST026	450m	
Sapcote Cemetery	SAP019	115m	Site Size
Croft Cemetery	CRO003	Adjoining (Adjoining Separated by Road)	SSSI, Site Size
Blaby Cemetery	BLA031	Adjoining	
Cosby Cemetery	COS016	Adjoining (separated by Road)	Flood Risk; Sensitivity to Contamination
Whetstone Cemetery	WHE004	360 m	Site Size
Huncote Cemetery	HUN017, HUN019	Adjoining (separated by Road)	
Kirby Muxloe Cemetery	KMU009	Adjoining	
Glenfield Cemetery	GLE032	350m	

Whilst there is no current certainty regarding the allocation of these sites within the Local Plan, each site’s submission to the Call for Sites does indicate an intention and desire to seek development. Given the strong geographic relationship at many of these sites to existing burial grounds, it is reasonable to assume that existing sites have the opportunity to expand within the coming or next plan period. It is therefore conceivable that a criteria-based policy attached to residential development in the District could be effective at delivering future capacity.

Where capacity and land is most heavily constrained (within the principal urban area to the north of the District) there appears to be alternative opportunities for expansion of existing burial grounds through an exchange or substitution of open space typologies, as well as the possibility of creating new burial grounds through a criteria based policy.

If a criteria-based policy were to require contributions in the form of land provision, it may be useful to consider, where advantageous, an exchange of open space provision. For example, as shown by fig 13, Kirby Muxloe Cemetery, Glenfield Cemetery, and Sapcote Cemetery adjoin allotment space which could enable expansion of the existing burial grounds. Taking a flexible approach to the exchange of open space provision when considering future burial ground capacity may retain the cohesiveness of each settlement’s burial ground as well as provide flexibility to developers.

Fig 13 Examples where an exchange of open space provision could provide developer flexibility and ensure burial ground cohesiveness.



## Summary of findings

The study suggests that there is enough total burial capacity within the District to meet the forecasted expected burial rate for the district over the plan period; however, the district's burial capacity is not evenly distributed. Particularly, the parishes within the principal urban area have limited or no capacity.

Further analysis utilising more detailed information from each burial authority would better define the District's capacity and its distribution and therefore result in more accurate forecasting. As immediate capacity within the District is not considered problematic at a district level, review periods within the local plan process will allow for further analysis to take place during the new local plan's timeframe.

There are opportunities for burial ground expansion throughout the District which could be delivered through a criteria-based policy tied to residential development coming forward in either this or the next local plan. In order for any criteria-based policy to meet local aspirations, the importance of retaining the integrity and cohesiveness of current cemeteries should be established.

This study's findings suggest a criteria-based policy would be sufficient to meet capacity within the District within the immediate to mid-term.

The results of the Burial Ground Questionnaire present a strong case for the requirement of Enderby Cemetery's extension to ensure future need can be accommodated within the District, particularly need from the constrained principal urban area.

Any planning for future provision that looks beyond the immediate local plan horizon should consider the potential impact of any further accommodation of unmet housing need from Leicester City and the way the city's faith and age profile will influence not only burial ratios but also requirements around burial practices.

Appendix 1: Burial Ground Questionnaire.

**Questionnaire** Please Return By 4<sup>th</sup> August 2023

a) Does your Parish contain burial grounds?	Yes/No
b) Does your Parish have access to land for future expansion or creation of new burial grounds?	Yes/No
c) If you have a made or emerging Neighbourhood Plan, does it make any reference to current and/or future burial ground needs?	Yes/No
d) Has the Parish recently considered future burial provision and need?	Yes/No More Details:
If you answered <b>NO</b> to question a), please disregard all subsequent questions and return your survey.	
If you answered <b>YES</b> to question a), please complete the following questionnaire for each burial site within your parish for which you hold information. N.B. Each burial ground requires its own questionnaire; questionnaires for up to <b>4</b> sites have been provided within this document.	

## Site 1

e) Please provide burial ground name, address, and postcode.	
f) i) Ownership of land ii) Responsibility for maintenance and running of site	i) ii)
g) 5 year average annual interment numbers for i) Burial Plots ii) Cremated Remains Plots iii) Ashes	i) ii) iii)
h) Based on your average interment numbers, what are your predicted future periods of operation (in years) before you require more land for i) Burial Plots ii) Cremated Remains Plots iii) Ashes	i) ii) iii)
i) If necessary, could the site be extended? i) Has future land for expansion been identified? ii) whose ownership is the land identified for expansion under? iii) if under third party ownership, has a desire to sell the identified land for expansion been indicated?	<p><b>Yes/No</b></p> <p><b>More Details (i)ii)iii):</b></p>

## Site 2

e) Please provide burial ground name, address, and postcode.	
f) i) Ownership of land ii) Responsibility for maintenance and running of site	i) ii)
g) 5 year average annual interment numbers for i) Burial Plots ii) Cremated Remains Plots iii) Ashes	i) ii) iii)
h) Based on your average interment numbers, what are your predicted future periods of operation (in years) before you require more land for i) Burial Plots ii) Cremated Remains Plots iii) Ashes	i) ii) iii)
i) If necessary, could the site be extended? i) Has future land for expansion been identified? ii) whose ownership is the land identified for expansion under? iii) if under third party ownership, has a desire to sell the identified land for expansion been indicated?	<p><b>Yes/No</b></p> <p><b>More Details(i)ii)iii):</b></p>

### Site 3

e) Please provide burial ground name, address, and postcode.	
f) i) Ownership of land ii) Responsibility for maintenance and running of site	i) ii)
g) 5 year average annual interment numbers for i) Burial Plots ii) Cremated Remains Plots iii) Ashes	i) ii) iii)
h) Based on your average interment numbers, what are your predicted future periods of operation (in years) before you require more land for i) Burial Plots ii) Cremated Remains Plots iii) Ashes	i) ii) iii)
i) if necessary, could the site be extended? i) Has future land for expansion been identified? ii) whose ownership is the land identified for expansion under? iii) if under third party ownership, has a desire to sell the identified land for expansion been indicated?	<p><b>Yes/No</b></p> <p><b>More Details(i)ii)iii):</b></p>

<b>Site 4</b>	
e) Please provide burial ground name, address, and postcode.	
f) i) Ownership of land ii) Responsibility for maintenance and running of site	i) ii)
g) 5 year average annual interment numbers for i) Burial Plots ii) Cremated Remains Plots iii) Ashes	i) ii) iii)
h) Based on your average interment numbers, what are your predicted future periods of operation (in years) before you require more land for i) Burial Plots ii) Cremated Remains Plots iii) Ashes	i) ii) iii)
i) If necessary, could the site be extended? i) Has future land for expansion been identified? ii) whose ownership is the land identified for expansion under? iii) if under third party ownership, has a desire to sell the identified land for expansion been indicated?	Yes/No More Details(i)ii)iii):

**Questionnaire Comments:** If you wish to further expand upon any answer within the Questionnaire then please do so by referencing the appropriate question, or part, within this section.

**Survey Comments:** If you wish to comment upon the survey, then please do so within this section.

**End of Questionnaire. Thank you for your participation.**

End of Document