

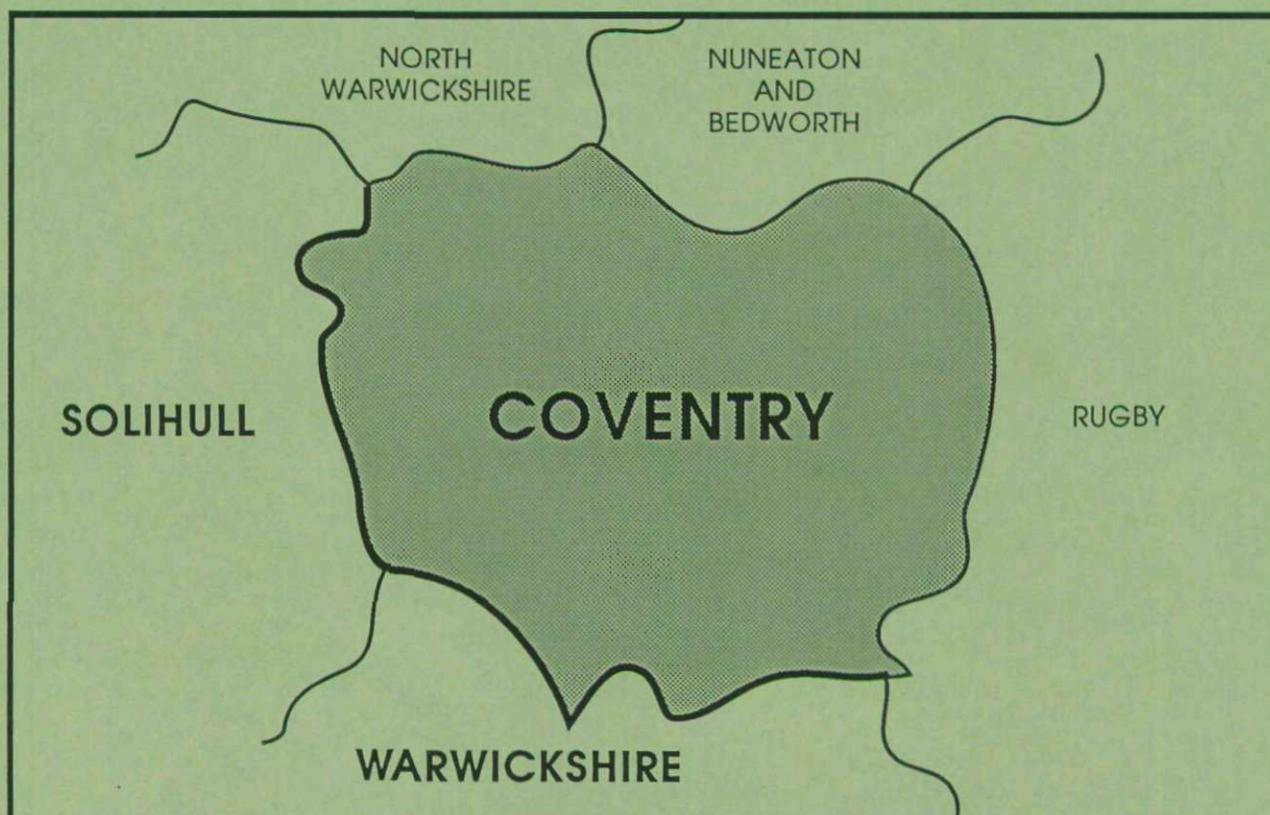
LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOUNDARY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND

REVIEW OF THE WEST MIDLANDS

THE CITY OF COVENTRY

Boundaries with: SOLIHULL (WEST MIDLANDS)
and WARWICKSHIRE

(ELECTORAL CONSEQUENCES)



REPORT NO. 679

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT
BOUNDARY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND
REPORT NO 679**

LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOUNDARY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND

CHAIRMAN

Mr K F J Ennals CB

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THE RT HON MICHAEL HOWARD, QC MP
SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

REVIEW OF THE METROPOLITAN COUNTY OF THE WEST MIDLANDS
CITY OF COVENTRY - FINAL PROPOSALS FOR ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS IN
AREAS AFFECTED BY PROPOSED BOUNDARY CHANGES

INTRODUCTION

1. On 1 March 1992, we submitted to your predecessor our report No 628, which contained our final proposals for changes to the administrative boundaries of the City of Coventry. We stated that we intended to publish draft proposals for consequential changes to electoral arrangements in three areas, where the boundary changes we recommended would:

- a. transfer 172 electors at Burton Green from Solihull to Warwickshire
- b. transfer 106 electors at Roman Way, Baginton from Warwick to Coventry
- c. transfer 325 electors at the Triumph Estate from Coventry to Solihull

2. We subsequently considered the electoral effects of these changes, but concluded that they would be insignificant, except that the present substantial under-representation of Stoneleigh Ward (in the district of Warwick) would become worse following the boundary change at Burton Green. We also noted that the electoral arrangements for the district of Warwick as a whole are unsatisfactory, and concluded that it would be inappropriate to attempt to remedy matters in one or two wards when the position elsewhere is as bad or worse.

3. We therefore decided to issue an interim decision to propose no changes to electoral arrangements further to the boundary changes we had recommended, and wrote accordingly to Coventry City Council on 19 May 1992. A copy of that letter is attached at Annex A to this report. Copies were sent to Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council, Warwickshire County Council, the Borough Councils of North Warwickshire, Nuneaton & Bedworth, and Rugby, and to Warwick District Council; and to all those persons and bodies who had received a copy of our report No 628.

4. The councils were asked to place copies of the letter and of the accompanying maps on deposit for inspection at their main offices for a period of six weeks. Arrangements were made for notices to be placed for two successive weeks in the local press, and the councils were asked to assist in giving wider publicity to our interim decisions by placing copies of the notice, suitably displayed, at places where public notices are customarily displayed. Comments on our interim decisions were invited by 30 June 1992.

THE RESPONSE TO OUR INTERIM DECISION, AND OUR FINAL PROPOSAL

5. We received four responses to our letter. Both Coventry City Council and Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council supported our interim decisions, while the Warwickshire Family Health Services Authority considered that the recommended boundary changes had no implications for its services and indicated that it had no comments. Kenilworth Town Council stated that it had already commented on our recommendations for changes to administrative boundaries, and reserved its position.

6. In view of the absence of opposition to our interim decisions, we have decided to confirm them as final.

7. We wish to draw attention to the present unsatisfactory standard of electoral representation in the non-metropolitan district of Warwick and the metropolitan borough of Solihull.

Of the 20 wards in Warwick, five vary from the district average by between 20% and 28%, and two more vary by 14% and 18% respectively. Of the 17 wards in Solihull, three vary from the borough average by 24%, 31% and 43% respectively, and three more vary by between 10% and 11%. We take the view that such imbalances can only be addressed by reviewing the electoral arrangements for the district or borough concerned as a whole, in due course.

PUBLICATION

8. Separate letters are being sent, with copies of this report, to Coventry City Council, Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council; Warwickshire County Council; the Borough Councils of North Warwickshire, Nuneaton & Bedworth, and Rugby; and Warwick District Council, who are being asked to place copies of the report on deposit for inspection at their main offices for a period of six months. They are also being asked to place notices to that effect on public notice boards. Arrangements have been made for a similar notice to be inserted in the local press. The notice will explain that the Commission has fulfilled its statutory role in this matter, and that it now falls to you to decide whether to accept its recommendations or, if you think fit, to direct that further consideration should be given to the matter.

9. Copies of this report are also being sent to all those who received copies of our report on the administrative boundaries, and to those who made written representations to us.

signed: K F J ENNALS (Chairman)

G R PRENTICE

HELEN SARKANY

C W SMITH

K YOUNG

R D COMPTON
Commission Secretary
30 July 1992



Local Government Boundary Commission
for England

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The Chief Executive
Coventry Metropolitan City Council
Council House and New Council Offices
COVENTRY
CV1 5RR

19th May 1992

Dear Sir

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972
REVIEW OF THE METROPOLITAN COUNTY OF THE WEST MIDLANDS
CITY OF COVENTRY BOUNDARIES WITH SOLIHULL AND WARWICKSHIRE:
ELECTORAL CONSEQUENTIALS: COMMISSION'S INTERIM DECISIONS

INTRODUCTION

1. On 28 February 1992, the Commission published its final report (No. 628) on its review of Coventry's boundaries with Solihull and with Warwickshire. Paragraph 74 of that report indicated that the Commission intended to publish draft proposals for consequential changes to electoral arrangements in three areas, where the boundary changes it recommends would:

- a. transfer 172 electors at Burton Green from Solihull to Warwick;
- b. transfer 106 electors at Roman Way, Baginton from Warwick to Coventry;
- c. transfer 325 electors at the Triumph Estate from Coventry to Solihull.

THE COMMISSION'S CONCLUSIONS

2. The Commission has now considered the electoral effects of the three boundary changes. It takes the view that these would be insignificant, except that the present under-representation of Stoneleigh ward (Warwick) would become noticeably worse following the boundary change at Burton Green. However, the current electoral arrangements for the district of Warwick are unsatisfactory (the elector : councillor ratio in five of the 20 wards varies from the district average by 20% or more, and in three more wards by between 10% and 19%), and the Commission has concluded that it would not be worthwhile to seek to remedy matters in a single ward when the position in other wards is as bad or worse.

3. The Commission has therefore decided to issue an interim decision to propose no changes to electoral arrangements further to its recommended boundary change in respect of Burton Green. It has also decided not to propose any changes to electoral arrangements further to the boundary changes it recommends at Roman Way, Baginton and at the Triumph Estate.

4. However, The Commission intends to draw the attention of the Secretary of State to the unsatisfactory situation in Warwick (paragraph 2 above) and in Solihull (where three wards vary from the district average by 11% while three others vary by 24%, 31% and 43% respectively). The Commission takes the view that such imbalances can only be addressed by means of further electoral reviews of the districts concerned, in due course.

CONSULTATION AND PUBLICITY

5. Copies of this letter are also being sent to Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council; Warwickshire County Council; the Borough Councils of North Warwickshire, Nuneaton & Bedworth, and Rugby; and Warwick District Council. The assistance of the Councils is sought in giving publicity to the Commission's interim decisions. Annex A below sets out the requirements placed on the Commission by Section 60 of the Local Government Act 1972, and the steps the Councils are asked to take.

6. Comments on these interim decisions are invited from any persons or bodies interested. Annex B gives further information about the form and timing of comments and about the Commission's subsequent procedures.

7. Annex C lists the organisations and individuals to whom copies of these letter are also being sent because they may be interested in these issues, or have expressed an interest. Copies are also being sent to those who made representations to the Commission. Should any other person or body require a copy, it may be obtained from the address at the head of this letter.

ENQUIRIES

8. Any enquiries about this letter should be addressed to Mrs Gillian Shortt, telephone number 071-238 5010.

Yours faithfully



R D COMPTON
Commission Secretary

Enclosures: Annex A Consultation and publicity arrangements
 Annex B Further procedures
 Annex C Distribution lists
 Annex D Text of public notices