

LOCAL GOVERNMENT
BOUNDARY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND
REPORT NO 587

LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOUNDARY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND

CHAIRMAN

Mr G J Ellerton

DEPUTY CHAIRMAN

Mr J G Powell

Members

Mr K F J Ennals

Mr G R Prentice

Mrs H R V Sarkany

THE RT. HON. CHRIS PATTEN MP

SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

REVIEW OF GREATER MANCHESTER

THE CITY OF SALFORD AND ITS BOUNDARIES WITH BOLTON AND WARRINGTON
IN CHESHIRE

COMMISSION'S FINAL REPORT AND PROPOSALS

INTRODUCTION

1. On 1 September 1987 we wrote to Salford City Council announcing our intention to undertake a review of Salford as part of our review of the Metropolitan County of Greater Manchester and its Metropolitan Districts under section 48(1) of the Local Government Act 1972. Copies of the letter were sent to the adjoining Metropolitan District Councils, the County and District Councils bordering the Metropolitan County and to parish councils in the adjoining districts; to the Local Authority Associations; the Members of Parliament with constituency interests; and the headquarters of the main political parties. In addition, copies were sent to those government departments, regional health authorities, port authorities, and statutory undertakers which might have an interest, as well as to the English Tourist Board, the local government press and the local television and radio stations serving the area.

2. The Metropolitan District Councils were requested, in co-operation as necessary with the other principal authorities, to assist us in publishing the start of the review by inserting a notice for two successive weeks in local newspapers so as to give a wide coverage in the areas concerned. The Councils were also asked to ensure that the consultation letter was drawn to the attention of those involved with services such as the police and

administration of justice, in respect of which they have a statutory function.

3. A period of seven months from the date of the letter was allowed for all local authorities, including those in the surrounding districts, and any person or body interested in the review, to send us their views on whether changes to the borough boundary were desirable and, if so, what those changes should be and how they would serve the interests of effective and convenient local government, the criterion laid down in the Act.

THE SUBMISSIONS MADE TO US AND OUR DRAFT PROPOSALS/INTERIM DECISIONS

4. In response to our letter we received representations from Salford City Council, Bolton Borough Council, Warrington Borough Council and Cheshire County Council. We also received representations from the Rixton with Glazebrook Parish Council and other interested bodies and residents of the districts concerned.

5. The submissions put to us concerned suggestions for relatively minor changes to the City boundary.

6. We also received submissions suggesting changes to Salford's boundaries with Bury, Wigan and Manchester. These will be considered separately as part of the reviews of those boroughs.

DRAFT PROPOSALS FOR MINOR REALIGNMENTS

The Boundary between Salford and Bolton

(a) Cutacre Tip

7. Salford City Council had suggested the realignment of their boundary with Bolton so as to unite Cutacre Tip in Salford. Ordnance Survey had suggested a re-adjustment to the west of the

tip and at its southern end to prevent the creation of an undefined boundary.

8. We felt that it would be sensible to unite the tip in Salford and decided to adopt Salford's suggestion as our draft proposal and to take into account the Ordnance Survey's suggestion.

(b) Former Brackley Colliery Site

9. Salford City Council had suggested amending their boundary with Bolton so as to unite the site of the former Brackley Colliery and buildings in Salford. Ordnance Survey had suggested a realignment along a fence line where the boundary bisects ponds south of Bewshill Farm and west of Salford Road. Also in the vicinity of Bewshill Farm, they suggested an alternative alignment along a fence line to prevent property being split between two authorities and along the side of the A6 to prevent the creation of an undefined boundary.

10. We felt that the City Council's suggestion would produce a well-defined boundary which would have the effect of uniting the former colliery site in Salford. We therefore decided to adopt it as our draft proposal and to take into account Ordnance Survey's suggested modifications.

(c) Walkden/Farnworth

11. Salford City Council had suggested the realignment of their boundary with Bolton near Walkden and Farnworth along the M61 to provide a more clearly defined boundary and to rectify a number of minor anomalies.

12. We noted that the existing boundary criss-crosses the M61 in places. We decided therefore to adopt the suggestion with a slight modification as our draft proposal.

(d) Clifton

13. Salford City Council had suggested amending their boundary with Bolton where it divides a housing estate to follow closely the rear of properties in Clifton to unite a small number of properties in Salford.

14. Bolton Borough Council had opposed Salford City Council's suggested amendment and had made an alternative suggestion to unite the entire housing estate in Salford.

15. Ordnance Survey had suggested an amendment to Salford's suggestion to remove an undefined boundary and similar amendments to Bolton's.

16. We noted that Salford City Council's suggestion would still leave the estate divided, whereas Bolton's suggestion would unite the estate in one authority. We decided, therefore, in the interest of effective and convenient local government, to adopt Bolton's suggestion as our draft proposal and to take into account Ordnance Survey's suggestions.

The Boundary Between Salford and Warrington (Cheshire)

(e) Cadishead/Glazebrook

17. Salford City Council had suggested amending their boundary with Warrington at Cadishead and Glazebrook so as to transfer the village of Glazebrook to Salford.

18. Warrington Borough Council had supported the suggestion by Salford but Cheshire County Council disagreed on the grounds that there was no justification to transfer 236 hectares of land and a population estimated at 675 to Salford.

19. Ordnance Survey had suggested the inclusion of the M62 carriageway wholly in one authority.

20. We considered Salford City Council's suggestion for the area and took into account all the representations made to us. We concluded that although Glazebrook was separated from Warrington by a stretch of Green Belt, it was equally separated from Salford. We decided therefore to take an interim decision to make no proposal.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF OUR DRAFT PROPOSALS/INTERIM DECISION

21. The letter announcing our draft proposals and interim decision was published on 22 September 1989. Copies were sent to the local authorities concerned and to all those who had made representations to us. The City of Salford, the Boroughs of Bolton and Warrington and Cheshire County Council were asked to publish a notice giving details of our decisions and to post copies of it at places where public notices are customarily displayed. They were also asked to place copies of our letter on deposit for inspection at their main offices for a period of eight weeks. Comments were invited by 17 November 1989.

RESPONSE TO OUR DRAFT PROPOSALS/INTERIM DECISION OUR FINAL PROPOSALS

22. We received representations from 176 sources in response to our draft proposals. These included comments from Salford City Council, Bolton and Warrington Borough Councils and Cheshire County Council. We also received comments from Bolton West Conservative Association, the Liberal Democrat Group on Bolton Borough Council, Mr David Young MP, Mr Terry Lewis MP, Bolton Social and Liberal Democrats, Glazebrook Residents Action Group, the Chief Constable of Greater Manchester and one hundred and sixty five individuals.

23. As required by section 60(2) of the Local Government Act 1972, we have carefully considered all the representations made to us and set out below our final proposals.

The Boundary between Salford and Bolton

(a) Cutacre Tip

24. Bolton Borough Council and the Liberal Democrat Group on Bolton Council opposed our draft proposal on the grounds that the whole area of the tip was subject to imminent redevelopment which would have a significant impact on the present isolation of the tip and its immediate surroundings. The Bolton West Conservative Association and the Chief Constable of Greater Manchester supported our draft proposal.

25. We noted the significant new information provided by Bolton Borough Council about the likely future of Cutacre Tip. We felt that as the possible redevelopment of the tip would be focused on Bolton it would seem sensible for it to remain within that borough. We decided therefore to withdraw our draft proposal in favour of retention of the current boundary in this area.

(b) Former Brackley Colliery Site

26. Bolton Borough Council together with the Liberal Democrat Group on Bolton Council had opposed our draft proposal on the grounds that the site of Brackley Colliery had been restored for agricultural use and was now a picturesque area of Green Belt. The Bolton West Conservative Association supported our draft proposal.

27. In view of the new information supplied by Bolton Borough Council in respect of the restoration of the site and its green belt status we felt that our draft proposal would produce no obvious improvement in terms of effective and convenient local government and decided therefore to withdraw it and retain the current boundary in this area.

(c) Walkden/Farnworth

28. Although Salford Borough Council supported our draft proposal, they had suggested that the M61 should be adopted throughout its length in the area south and to the west of Cleggs Lane so as to avoid leaving a triangular shape of land which is not operational motorway land and which should be united in Salford. Bolton Borough Council, Bolton West Conservative Association and the Liberal Democrat Group on Bolton Council supported our draft proposal.

29. We noted that Salford's suggested amendment would improve our draft proposal and decided to take it into account in confirming our draft proposal as final.

(d) Clifton

30. Bolton Borough Council opposed our draft proposal, which had followed their earlier suggestion because of the weight of residents' opposition and submitted an alternative suggestion which would still leave the estate divided. They were supported in their opposition by Mr David Young MP and one hundred and sixty one residents. The Bolton West Conservative Association, the Social and Liberal Democrats and the Liberal Democrat Group on Bolton Council had proposed the use of the M62 instead, which would involve the transfer of over 600 houses to Bolton. Salford City Council supported our draft proposal.

31. We remained of the opinion that the unification of the housing estate was in the interests of effective and convenient local government in this area. We still considered, in the light of a visit to the area, that the estate seemed to be more closely linked with Clifton in Salford than with Bolton. In view of this, we decided to confirm our draft proposal as final.

The Boundary Between Salford and Warrington (Cheshire)

32. Our interim decision to make no proposals was opposed by Salford City Council who suggested that their previous submission be re-instated on the grounds that the village of Glazebrook is remote from Warrington and that local authority services could be provided more efficiently from Salford through its service infrastructure in the adjacent areas. Warrington Borough Council expressed no opinion in the matter but Cheshire County Council indicated support for our interim decision. The interim decision also received support from Mr Terry Lewis MP, the Glazebrook Residents Action Group and four residents.

33. We did not feel that Salford had provided any new evidence to show that services could be provided more effectively from Salford than Warrington. We remained of the view that as Glazebrook is separated by green belt from the urban centre of both authorities, there is no reason for change. We decided therefore to confirm our interim decision as final.

PUBLICATION

34. A separate letter is being sent to the City of Salford, the Boroughs of Bolton and Warrington and Cheshire County Council asking them to deposit copies of this report at their main offices for inspection for six months. They are also asked to put notices to this effect on public notice boards and in the local press. The text of the notice will explain that the Commission has fulfilled its statutory role in this matter, and that it now falls to you to make an order implementing the proposals, if you think fit, though not earlier than six weeks from the date it is submitted to you. Copies of this report, to which are attached maps illustrating the proposed changes, are also being sent to all those who received our draft proposals and interim decision letter, and to those who made written representations.

LS

Signed

G J ELLERTON (Chairman)

J G POWELL (Deputy Chairman)

K F J ENNALS

G R PRENTICE

HELEN SARKANY

S T GARRISH
Secretary

10 May 1990

