

Local Government
Boundary Commission
For England
Report No.379

LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOUNDARY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND

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The Rt Hon Michael R D Heseltine MP.
Secretary of State for the Environment

1. In a letter dated 1 November 1978, Tamworth Borough Council requested us to review the boundary between the borough of Tamworth and the district of Lichfield with a view to transferring to the borough of Tamworth, three parishes from the district of Lichfield, namely Fazeley, Wigginton and Drayton Bassett.
2. We considered the Borough Council's request in the light of the guidelines contained in Department of the Environment Circular 33/78 and to our Report No. 287.
3. We decided, on the evidence before us, that there was a prima facie case for a review on the grounds that the present boundary might be defective; there was clearly opposition to the changes Tamworth Borough Council had in mind, but we concluded that in the particular circumstances only by our conducting a review and inviting the Tamworth Borough Council to publish a detailed scheme for comment could the merits of the matter be properly examined.
4. On 19 March 1979 we issued a consultation letter announcing the start of the review. The letter was addressed to Tamworth Borough Council and copies were sent to Staffordshire County Council, Lichfield District Council, Fazeley Town Council, Wigginton Parish Council, Drayton Bassett Parish Council, all other parish councils and parish meetings in the district of Lichfield, Deer Park Residents Association, the Member of Parliament for the constituency concerned, the headquarters of the main political parties, the Regional Health and Water Authorities, the Regional Office of the Department of the Environment, and to the editors both of local newspapers circulating in the area and of the local government press. A notice announcing the start of the review was inserted for two successive weeks in appropriate local newspapers. The Borough Council were asked to put copies of it on display at places where public notices were customarily displayed.
5. Tamworth Borough Council were invited at the same time to prepare a detailed scheme for the boundary changes which they advocated, illustrated by maps. They were asked to submit the scheme to us and at the same time to place a copy on deposit at their main offices for public inspection.
6. The Borough Council submitted and published their detailed scheme on 10 August 1979. Comments were invited by 5 October 1979.

7. Before its publication Staffordshire County Council had asked for a postponement of the review on the grounds that it would conflict with, and inhibit their work on, the county electoral review. The situation had been further complicated by the timing of publication which coincided with the holiday period. This had prompted a separate request from the County Council for an extension of the time limit available for comment.
8. We decided that the boundary review should continue but that in the event of any conflict between the two the county electoral review would have priority. Staffordshire County Council were informed of our decision and allowed an additional period, until the end of November 1979, in which to make their comments.
9. In December 1979 we considered the Borough Council's detailed scheme and the comments that had been made upon it. We concluded that the case advanced for a boundary change, on the grounds that it would be conducive to effective and convenient local government, was not strong enough to outweigh the arguments against it expressed by the County Council, Lichfield District Council, the three local councils and residents of the affected area and that a change in the boundary would not be conducive to effective and convenient local government. Accordingly we reached an interim decision to make no proposals for boundary changes in the area.
10. On 11 January 1980 we announced this decision in a letter sent to all those who had received our consultation letter of 19 March 1979 and to groups or organisations who had made representations to us. Tamworth Borough and Lichfield District Councils were asked to make the letter available for inspection at their main offices for six weeks. Representations on our interim decision were invited from those to whom the letter had been sent and, by public notices, from the public and interested bodies. We asked for comments to reach us by 7 March 1980. Staffordshire County Council, Lichfield District Council, two parish councils, four local associations and four private persons wrote expressing support for our interim decision; no objection was received.
11. We have decided to confirm our interim decision and to notify you that we have no proposals to put forward as a result of this review.

PUBLICATION

12. Copies of this report are being sent to the Tamworth Borough and Lichfield District Councils and will be made available for public inspection at the Council's main

offices. Copies of the report are being sent to all those who were notified of our interim decision or made comments on it.

L.S.

SIGNED: NICHOLAS MORRISON (Chairman)

 JOHN M RANKIN (Deputy Chairman)

 PHYLLIS BOWDEN

 TYRELL BROCKBANK

 G E CHERRY

 D P HARRISON

 R R THORNTON

LESLIE GRIMSHAW (Secretary)

20 March 1980