

**Local Government
Boundary Commission
For England
Report No. 532**

Principal Area Boundary Review

DISTRICT OF BLABY/
CITY OF LEICESTER/
BOROUGH OF OADBY and
WIGSTON

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

BOUNDARY COMMISSION

FOR ENGLAND

REPORT NO. 532

LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOUNDARY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND

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PRINCIPAL AREA BOUNDARY REVIEW: DISTRICT OF BLABY, BOROUGH OF OADBY AND WIGSTON,
CITY OF LEICESTER

BACKGROUND

1. The Parish review report submitted to us on 5 March 1982 by Blaby District Council contained recommendations for changes to the district's boundary with the adjoining Borough of Oadby and Wigston and with the City of Leicester. The recommendation concerning the boundary between Blaby District and the Borough of Oadby and Wigston was for the transfer from Oadby and Wigston to Blaby of an area of uninhabited land bounded in the east by Countesthorpe Road, in the north by the River Sence, and in the west and south by the existing principal area boundary - the stretch of boundary in question would thus be tied to an established highway rather than to a disused railway as at present. The recommendation involving the Blaby District and City of Leicester boundary related to changes at three places where development straddled the boundary, namely at Red House Road and Hebden Close (where properties were to be transferred to the City of Leicester) and at Bradshaw Avenue (where properties were to be transferred to Blaby District).

2. As paragraph 29 of DOE Circular 121/77 explains, recommendations for changes which affect a district or county boundary have no place in a parish review report. However, we decided to treat these recommendations as requests, under section 48(5) of the Local Government Act 1972, for us to consider making proposals for the changes in question.

DRAFT PROPOSALS

3. We considered these requests, as required by that section of the Act, together with the letters we have received. We noted that Oadby and Wigston Borough Council were opposed to any alteration to their boundary with the District of Blaby, but

that Leicester City Council supported all the recommended changes which had been put forward as regards their boundary with Blaby. We accepted that the changes sought by Blaby District Council would remove unsatisfactory stretches of boundary and decided to publish draft proposals based on their recommendations.

4. Leicester City Council had also suggested the transfer from Blaby to the City of privately owned properties in Sonning Way, which stood on the edge of the City Council's Eyres Monsell housing estate. We noted that the only vehicular access to the Sonning Way area was from the City of Leicester, but we decided that, in the absence of a reasoned case for the suggested change, and in particular of any evidence that it would result in a significant improvement in provision of local government services, we would not publish draft proposals for change in that particular locality.

5. Our draft proposals were announced on 28 June 1985, in a letter to the three principal councils concerned. Copies of the letter were sent to Leicestershire County Council, to the parish council concerned, to the Members of Parliament for the constituencies concerned, to the headquarters of the main political parties, to Leicestershire Police Authority, the Severn-Trent Water Authority, the Eastern Regional Office, Department of the Environment, local newspapers circulating in the area, to local radio and television stations serving the area and to the local government press. Copies of the draft proposals letter were deposited for inspection at the main offices of the addresses of our letter. Comments were invited by 23 August 1985.

RESPONSE TO DRAFT PROPOSALS

6. In response to our draft proposals we received letters from six sources. Blaby District Council and Blaby Parish Council expressed support for the draft proposal involving the Oadby and Wigston/Blaby boundary change, whilst Oadby and

Wigston Borough Council reaffirmed their opposition to any change in this area. Blaby District Council, Leicester City Council and Glen Parva Parish Council supported the draft proposals involving the Leicester/Blaby boundary changes. Leicester City Council requested us to reconsider our decision regarding Sonning Way and in addition, suggested that two areas of public open space owned and maintained by the City and adjoining Sonning Way, which are currently within Blaby District, should be transferred to the City. They also proposed that a site to the north of Bradshaw Avenue, containing the property known as Michael Ramsey Court, should be transferred to Blaby on the grounds that vehicular access to the site was from Bradshaw Avenue. Both Blaby District Council and Glen Parva Parish Council lodged objections to these suggestions.

7. We reassessed our draft proposals in the light of the representations received. Oadby and Wigston Borough Council had advanced no fresh arguments to support their objections to the change which would affect their area; we therefore decided to confirm as final our draft proposal relating to the realignment of the Blaby/Oadby and Wigston boundary. Blaby District Council, Leicester City Council and Glen Parva Parish Council all supported the draft proposals involving the Leicester/Blaby boundary changes; we therefore decided to confirm those draft proposals as final relating to the realignment of the Blaby/City of Leicester boundary in the vicinity of Red House Road, Hebden Close and Bradshaw Avenue.

FURTHER DRAFT PROPOSALS

8. We considered the response to our interim decision to make no proposals in respect of the possible transfer of privately owned properties in Sonning Way from Blaby to Leicester. Leicester City Council had pointed out that vehicular access to Sonning Way was from the City only and that the residents already enjoyed a number of the services provided by the City, including use of the adjoining open space which was owned and maintained by the City Council. Residents

of Sonning Way had to travel a considerable way through the City before they re-entered Blaby. Blaby District Council and Glen Parva Council were still opposed to the transfer of any part of the Sonning Way area to the City, but on balance we considered that Leicester City Council had now made a case for the transfer. We therefore decided to issue further draft proposals so as to place the whole of Sonning Way, and the adjoining areas of open space, within Leicester City.

9. We also considered Leicester City Council's suggestion that the residential development known as Michael Ramsey Court, immediately adjacent to the area already proposed for transfer at Bradshaw Avenue, should be transferred from the City to Blaby. The principal access to the development was through Blaby along Bradshaw Avenue. Blaby District Council had objected to this suggestion but we concluded that it would be logical for the residential development adjacent to Bradshaw Avenue to be transferred to Blaby and decided to issue a further draft proposal accordingly.

10. The further draft proposals were announced on 10 March 1986, in a letter to the councils concerned. Copies of the letter were sent to all those who had previously received our draft proposals letter or who had made representations to us in response to the draft proposals. Copies of the further draft proposals letter were deposited for inspection at the main offices of the addressees of our letter. Comments were invited by 5 May 1986.

RESPONSE TO FURTHER DRAFT PROPOSALS

11. We received 70 letters in response to our further draft proposals. Blaby District Council, Glen Parva Parish Council, the Rt Hon Nigel Lawson MP, Blaby Conservative Association and residents of 53 properties in Sonning Way objected to the transfer of Sonning Way to the City of Leicester. The objections referred,

inter alia, to the loss of representation which the proposed change would cause at parish level, to an expected increase in rates that would result for what many thought would be no corresponding improvement in services; to an expected fall in the market value of the properties in Sonning Way if transferred to the City; and a strong sense of community with Blaby District and the parish of Glen Parva. It was also pointed out that although vehicular access to Sonning Way could only be obtained through the City, there was direct pedestrian access, via a footpath, which connected Sonning Way with the rest of Glen Parva Parish. Leicester City Council and Blaby Constituency Labour Party supported our further draft proposals. Nine residents of Hebden Close wrote to us objecting to our original draft proposal to transfer them from Blaby District to the City of Leicester; they were supported by Glen Parva Parish Council and the Rt Hon Nigel Lawson MP. These objections contained many of the same arguments advanced in respect of Sonning Way.

FINAL PROPOSALS

12. We have reassessed our further draft proposals in the light of the representations received. We note that the proposal to transfer Sonning Way from Blaby District into the City of Leicester has evoked almost total opposition locally. It is evident from the objections that Sonning Way's inhabitants do not rely as much on Leicester to provide their services as the City Council had contended. Furthermore, the point which has been made concerning vehicular access to the area appears to weigh less heavily in favour of the City Council's case in view of the proximity of the footpath which provides an immediate link with the rest of Glen Parva Parish and Blaby District. We are now of the view that to alter the existing boundary would not create an improvement in effective and convenient local government and have decided to withdraw our further draft proposal. Concerning the areas of public open space adjoining Sonning Way, we feel that as these are already owned and maintained by Leicester City Council it would be appropriate to incorporate them within the City. We also concluded that as no further objections had been made to the transfer of Michael Ramsey Court from the City of Leicester to Blaby District, we should confirm

both of these further draft proposals as our final proposals. We have taken account of the arguments put forward in opposition to the proposed transfer of Hebden Close into the City of Leicester but are of the opinion that the residents' case is considerably weaker than that put forward in respect of Sonning Way. The existing district boundary is unsatisfactory in that it divides Hebden Close and also splits a number of properties; we also note that of those properties which lie within Blaby District, the majority are City Council dwellings. We have therefore decided to adhere to our original decision.

13. Details of all our proposals are set out in Schedules 1-3 of this report: Schedule 1 specifies the proposed changes in local authority areas and Schedules 2 and 3 the consequential adjustments to the existing district and county electoral arrangements. The proposed boundaries are shown on the large scale map being sent separately to your Department.

PUBLICATION

14. Separate letters, enclosing copies of this report and of the large scale map are being sent to Blaby District Council, Leicester City Council and Oadby and Wigston Borough Council asking them to place copies of this report on deposit at their main offices and to put notices to this effect on public notice boards and in the local press. The text of the notices will explain that the Commission

have fulfilled their statutory role in the matter and that it now falls to you to make an Order implementing the proposals, if you think fit, after the expiry of six week from the date they are submitted to you. Copies of this report, which includes a small scale sketch map, are also being sent to those who received the consultation letter.

LS

Signed: G J ELLERTON (Chairman)

J G POWELL (Deputy Chairman)

JOAN ACKNER

G E CHERRY

K J L NEWELL

G R PRENTICE

BRIAN SCHOLLES

S T GARRISH
Secretary

LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOUNDARY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND

PRINCIPAL AREA REVIEW - FINAL PROPOSALS

DISTRICT OF BLABY - CITY OF LEICESTER - BOROUGH OF OADBY AND WIGSTON

Note: Where a boundary is described as following a road, river, canal or similar feature, it shall be understood to follow the centre line of that feature, unless otherwise stated.

SCHEDULE 1.

1. Proposed area transfers between the District of Blaby and the City of Leicester.

Areas 1A and 1B : Description of areas proposed to be transferred from Glen Parva CP in the District of Blaby to the City of Leicester.

Area 1A : that area bounded by a line commencing at the point where the existing southern boundary of the City of Leicester meets the northern curtilage of 167 Leicester Road, then westwards along that northern curtilage to and northwards along the eastern curtilage of 169 to 171 Leicester Road to the existing southern boundary of the City of Leicester; then eastwards and southwards along that city boundary to the point of commencement.

Area 1B : that area bounded by a line commencing at the south east corner of 18 Woodbank, then northeastwards along the rear curtilages of 18-14 Woodbank; then northwestwards along the northern curtilage of 14 Woodbank to its junction with the eastern perimeter of the wooded area between the southern curtilage of 45 Leicester Road and the northern curtilages of the properties 2-4 and 10-14 Woodbank; then northwards along that eastern perimeter to and northeastwards along the eastern curtilages of 45-49 and 55a Leicester Road to and eastwards along the southern curtilage of 55b Leicester Road and the southern curtilages of 13, 15, 20 and 18 Hillsborough Crescent

to and eastwards along the northern curtilage of "The Bungalow" to the point where it meets the existing southern boundary of the City of Leicester; then eastwards and generally southwestwards along that District boundary to the path, immediately to the north of 18 Sonning Way, that runs southeastwards from that road; then northwestwards along that path and straight across that road to the path running northwestwards from that road, between 17 Sonning Way and 52 Hebden Close; then northwestwards along that path to a point in line with the rear curtilage of 17 Sonning Way; then southwestwards in a straight line to that rear curtilage and along the rear curtilages of 17-39 Sonning Way; then northwestwards along the fence running from the westernmost point of 39 Sonning Way to the northwesternmost point of the rear curtilage of 55 Sonning Way and continuing that same alignment to the point of commencement.

Areas 1C and 1D : Description of areas proposed to be transferred from the City of Leicester to Glen Parva CP in the District of Blaby.

Area 1C : that area bounded by a line commencing at the point where the existing southern boundary of the City of Leicester meets the western boundary of Grange Spinney; then generally northwestwards along that City boundary to the southern boundary of the playground situated to the west of Calder House and southwest of Ambleside Drive; then generally southeastwards along the southern boundary of that playground to the western perimeter of Grange Spinney; then southeastwards along that western perimeter to the point of commencement.

Area 1D : that area bounded by a line commencing at the point, on the existing southern boundary of the City of Leicester, forming the southeast corner of Area 1B, as described above; then southeastwards along the path running southeastwards from that point to a point in line with the rear curtilages of 18-24 and 34 Sonning Way; then southwestwards in a straight line to and continuing along those rear curtilages and continuing southwestwards and

southeastwards along the continuation of that fence line to the point where it meets the existing boundary of the City of Leicester; then westwards and northeastwards along that city boundary to the point of commencement.

2. Proposed area transfer between the Borough of Oadby and Wigston and the District of Blaby.

Area 2A: Description of an area proposed to be transferred from the Borough of Oadby and Wigston to Blaby CP in the District of Blaby.

That area bounded by a line commencing at the point where the eastern boundary of Countesthorpe Road meets the southern boundary of the Borough of Oadby and Wigston, then generally westwards and generally northwards along that Borough boundary to and generally eastwards, southwards and eastwards along the River Sence to the eastern boundary of Countesthorpe Road at Crow Mill Bridge; then southwards, eastwards and southwards along that road boundary to a point opposite the drain situated to the east of Countesthorpe Road; then southwards in a straight line to and southwards along that drain to the eastern boundary of Countesthorpe Road at NG Ref SP 5886697073, as shown on 1955 (A*) Microfilm SP 5897 SE; then southwestwards along the eastern boundary of Countesthorpe Road to the point of commencement.

SCHEDULE 2

Revised District electoral arrangements, consequent upon the proposals described in Schedule 1.

1. It is proposed that the District Wards, as defined in the District of Blaby (Electoral Arrangements) Order 1980 and the City of Leicester (Electoral Arrangements) Order 1979, shall be altered as described below.

Area 1A and 1B : as described in Schedule 1, shall be transferred from the Glen Parva Ward of the District of Blaby to the Eyres Monsell Ward of the City of Leicester.

Area 1C and 1D : as described in Schedule 1, shall be transferred from the Eyres Monsell Ward of the City of Leicester to the Glen Parva Ward of the District of Blaby.

2. It is proposed that the District Wards, as defined in the Borough of Oadby and Wigston (Electoral Arrangements) Order 1979 and the District of Blaby (Electoral Arrangements) Order 1980, shall be altered as described below.

Area 2A : as described in Schedule 1, shall be transferred from the Bassett Ward of the Borough of Oadby and Wigston to the Northfield Ward of the District of Blaby.

SCHEDULE 3

Revised County electoral arrangements, consequent upon the proposal described in Schedule 1.

It is proposed that the County Electoral Divisions, as defined in the County of Leicester (Electoral Arrangements) Order 1984, shall be altered as described below.

Areas 1A and 1B : as described in Schedule 1, shall be transferred from the Blaby ED to the Eyres Monsell ED.

Area 1C and 1D : described in Schedule 1, shall be transferred from the Eyres Monsell ED to the Blaby ED.

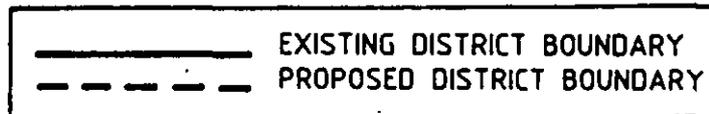
Area 2A : as described in Schedule 1, shall be transferred from the South Wigston ED to the Blaby ED.

PRINCIPAL AREA REVIEW

LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOUNDARY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND
FINAL PROPOSAL

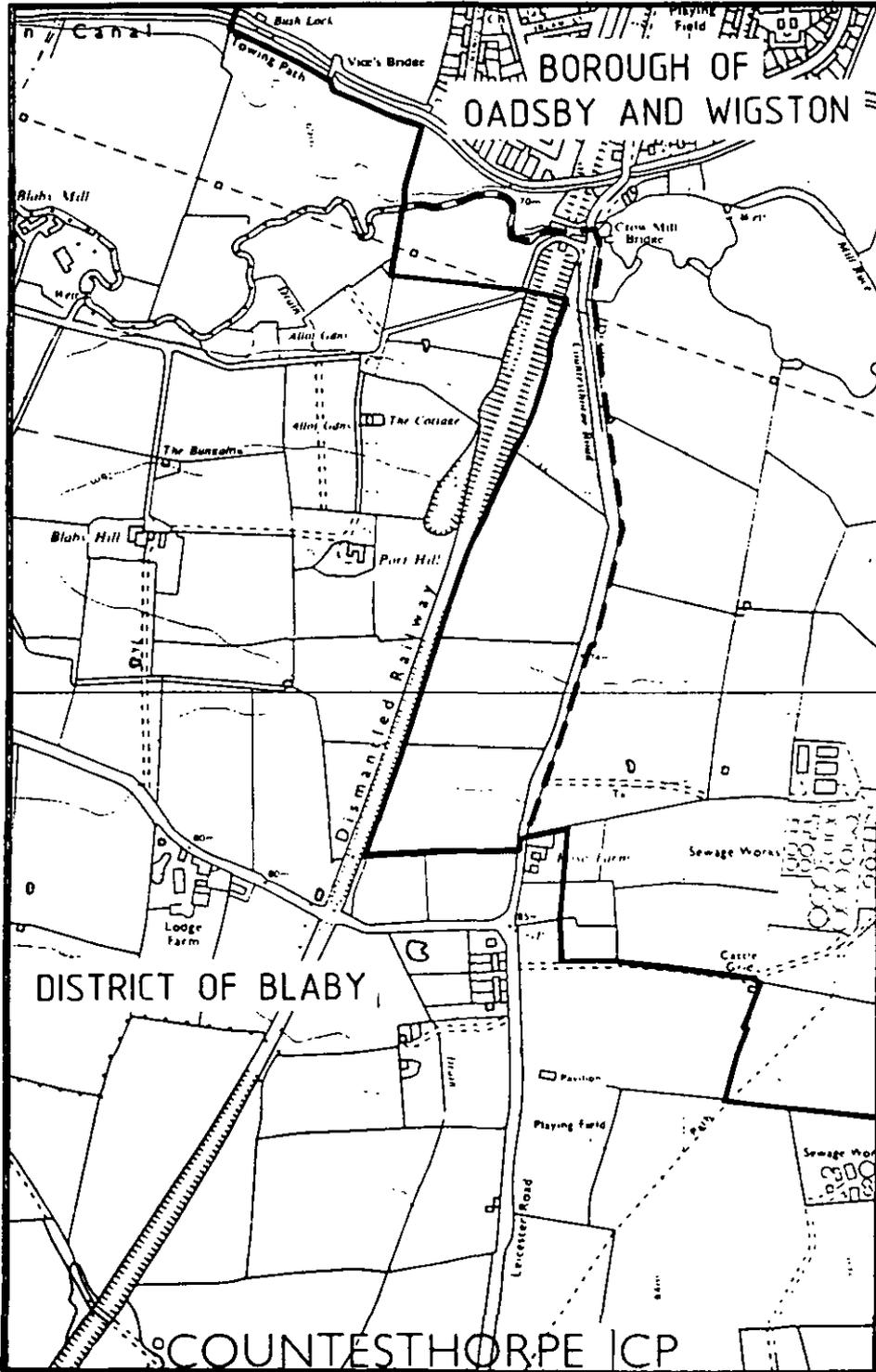


Map No 1



PRINCIPAL AREA REVIEW

LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOUNDARY COMMISSION
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————— EXISTING DISTRICT BOUNDARY
- - - - - PROPOSED DISTRICT BOUNDARY

Map No 2