

Local Government
Boundary Commission
For England
Report No. 595

Review of Electoral Arrangements

BOROUGH OF
LANGBAURGH - ON - TEES

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT
BOUNDARY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND
REPORT NO 595**

LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOUNDARY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND

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SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE HOME DEPARTMENT

**PROPOSALS FOR CHANGES TO THE ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE BOROUGH
OF LANGBAURGH-ON-TEES IN THE COUNTY OF CLEVELAND**

INTRODUCTION

1. The present electoral arrangements for the Borough of Langbaurgh-on-Tees date from May 1976, when the Borough of Langbaurgh (Electoral Arrangements) Order 1975, giving effect to the proposals contained in our Report Number 43, came into force. The Order provided for 26 wards, ten represented by three members, fourteen represented by two members and the remaining two single member wards, giving an overall council size of 60.
2. On the 3 November 1988, the Council brought to our attention a number of serious electoral imbalances between borough wards. Actual and forecast electorates for 1988 and 1993 indicated serious under-representation in three wards, and over-representation in four in 1988 rising to five in 1993.
3. We therefore decided to conduct a further review of the borough's electoral arrangements in accordance with the provisions of Section 50(3) of the Local Government Act 1972.

START OF THE REVIEW

4. We announced the start of the review in a letter dated 31 March 1989 which invited the Borough Council, or any other interested party, having regard to the requirements of Schedule 11 to the Local Government Act 1972 to submit to us a draft scheme for new electoral arrangements for the borough. Copies of the letter were sent to Cleveland County Council, the local Members of Parliament, local newspapers and the local government press; the start of the review was also announced by press and public notice.

THE BOROUGH COUNCIL'S DRAFT SCHEME

5. On 26 October 1989, the Borough Council submitted its suggested scheme, which took account of the 1989 electorate and that forecast for 1994. It recommended a reduction in both wards and councillors from 26 to 22 and from 60 to 59 respectively; it increased the number of three member wards to fifteen, reduced the number of 2 member wards to seven and removed the two single member wards. The scheme provided much improved electoral equality between borough wards, with only two wards - Longbeck and Saltburn - varying by more than 10% from the borough average in the projected 1994 electorate figures.

COMMENTS ON THE BOROUGH COUNCIL'S SCHEME

6. The Borough Council forwarded copies of correspondence it had received in response to the publication of its suggested scheme. Comments were received from the Lockwood Branch of the Labour Party and the parish councils of Lockwood and Loftus, Cleveland Rural Voice and Cleveland County Council. The County Council, Loftus Town Council and Cleveland Rural Voice objected to the Borough Council's scheme on the grounds that it failed to take proper account of community ties, particularly in merging the existing single member ward of Skinningrove with the Lockwood ward, to form a two member ward to be known as "Lockwood". We also received an alternative scheme from the East Cleveland Green Party.

THE GREEN PARTY'S SCHEME

7. This scheme provided for 32 wards made up of one three member ward, fourteen two member wards and seventeen single member wards, resulting in a council size of 48. Although on the figures given the scheme provided for an improved standard of representation over the current arrangements, it still left five wards varying by more than 10% from the borough average in 1994 and split both parishes and parish wards thus failing to take account of the requirements of Schedule 11 to the 1972 Act. However, the Green Party claimed it had placed great importance on community ties.

8. We carefully considered the draft schemes and the comments which had been received. We felt that the Green Party failed in the two respects already mentioned to meet the requirements of Schedule 11 and provided for a poorer standard of representation overall than the scheme provided by the Borough Council. The Borough Council's scheme appeared to meet with general acceptance, with the exception of its proposals for the Skinningrove ward, but the other proposals we had received for this ward failed to provide as good a standard of representation. We therefore decided to adopt the Borough Council's scheme in its entirety as the basis for our draft proposals.

9. Our draft proposals were issued on 11 June 1990. Copies were sent to Langbaurch-on-Tees Borough Council, Cleveland County Council and to all those who had received our consultation letter. Notices were also inserted in the local press, announcing that the draft proposals had been published and could be inspected at the Borough Council's Offices. Comments were invited by the 6 August 1990.

RESPONSES TO OUR DRAFT PROPOSALS

10. We received nine representations, from Langbaurch Borough Council, Cleveland County Council, the East Cleveland Green Party, the Lockwood Branch of the Labour Party, Mr Richard Holt, MP, Lockwood Parish Council, former Langbaurch Councillor Mrs E Mann and two letters from Councillor G R Dunning, the second withdrawing the objections made in his first letter. Four letters fully supported our proposals, although the Borough Council requested that the Lockwood ward be renamed "Lockwood and Skinningrove"; two letters reiterated earlier objections regarding the Skinningrove ward; and Mrs Mann raised new objections to the proposed Longbeck ward, on the grounds of community ties.

11. As required by Section 60(2)(d) of the 1972 Act, we have considered the representations made to us and re-assessed our draft proposals. None of the responses provided as good a standard of representation for the wards concerned as that already offered by in our draft proposals. Mrs Mann's suggestion also failed to abide by

the requirements of Schedule 11 to the 1972 Act regarding the retention of whole parish or parish wards. We have therefore decided to confirm our draft proposals as final for the area, but to adopt the Borough Council's suggestion to rename Lockwood "Lockwood and Skinningrove" to accord with local wishes.

12. Details of our final proposals are set out in Schedule 1 to this report. A small-scale map, illustrating the proposed ward boundaries, is also included.

PUBLICATION

13. In accordance with Section 60(5)(B) of the 1972 Act, a copy of this report, together with maps suitable for display, are being sent to Langbaugh-on-Tees Borough Council and will be available for inspection at the Council's main offices. Copies of this report are also being sent to all those persons or bodies who received our consultation letter, or who have expressed an interest in the review at any subsequent stage.

L.S.

Signed: G J ELLERTON (Chairman)

J G POWELL (Deputy Chairman)

K F J ENNALS

G R PRENTICE

HELEN SARKANY

C W SMITH

PROFESSOR K YOUNG

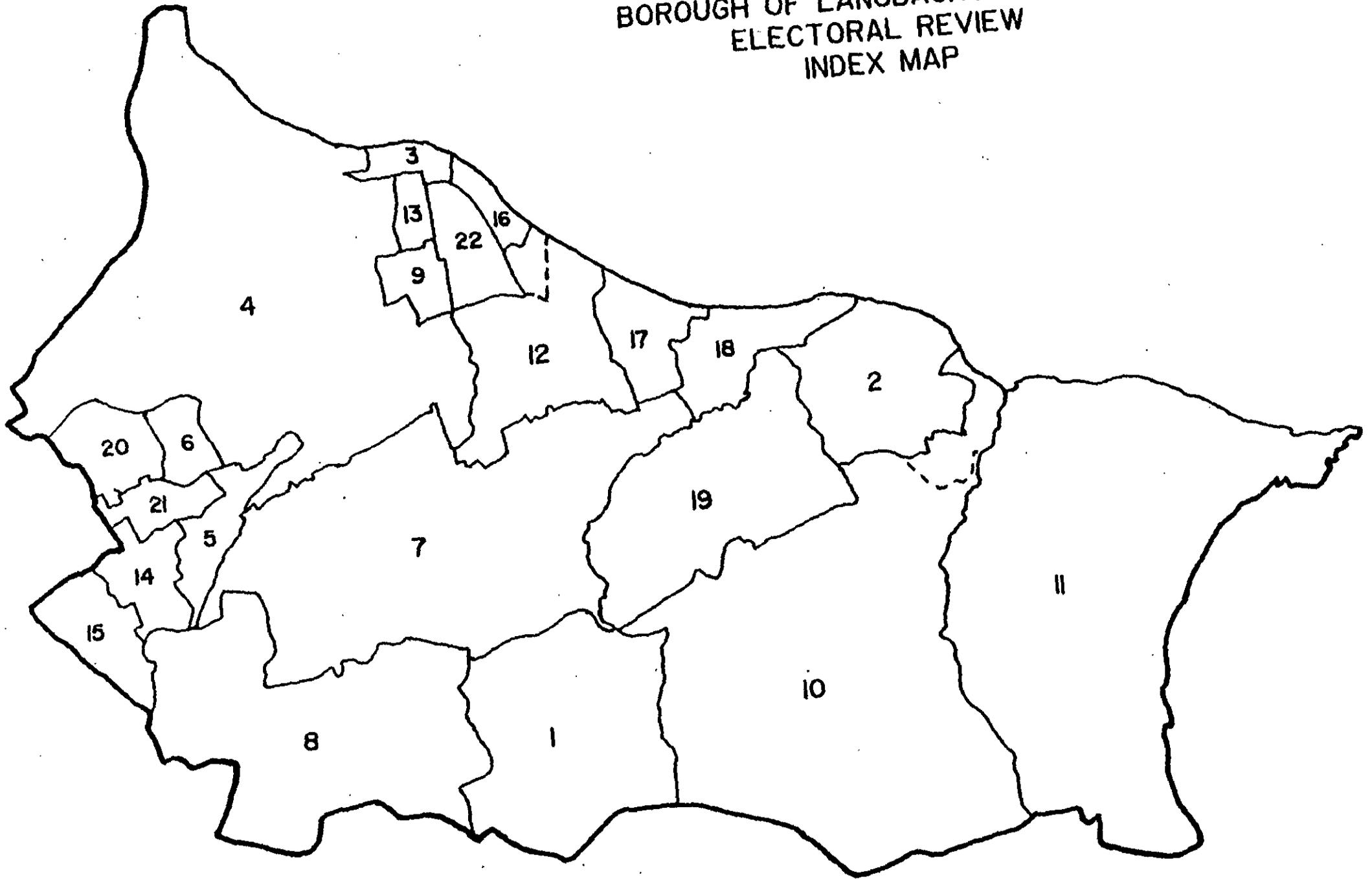
S T GARRISH
Secretary

8 November 1990

SCHEDULE 1**BOROUGH OF LANGBAURGH-ON-TEES
COMMISSION'S PROPOSED ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS**

<u>NAME OF BOROUGH WARD</u>	<u>NUMBER OF COUNCILLORS</u>
1. Belmont	3
2. Brotton	2
3. Coatham	2
4. Dormanstown	3
5. Eston	3
6. Grangetown	3
7. Guisborough	3
8. Hutton	2
9. Kirkleatham	3
10. Lockwood and Skinningrove	2
11. Loftus	3
12. Longbeck	3
13. Newcomen	2
14. Normanby	3
15. Ormesby	3
16. Redcar	2
17. St Germain's	2
18. Saltburn	3
19. Skelton	3
20. South Bank	3
21. Teesville	3
22. West Dyke	3
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TOTAL	59

BOROUGH OF LANGBAURGH-ON-TEES
ELECTORAL REVIEW
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BOROUGH OF LANGBAURGH-ON-TEES

ELECTORAL REVIEW

PROPOSED BOROUGH WARDS

FINAL PROPOSALS:

- 1 BELMONT
- 2 BROTTON
- 3 COATHAM
- 4 DORMANSTOWN
- 5 ESTON
- 6 GRANGETOWN
- 7 GUISBOROUGH
- 8 HUTTON
- 9 KIRKLEATHAM
- 10 LOCKWOOD AND SKINNINGROVE
- 11 LOFTUS
- 12 LONGBECK
- 13 NEWCOMEN
- 14 NORMANBY
- 15 ORMESBY
- 16 REDCAR
- 17 ST GERMAIN'S
- 18 SALTBURN
- 19 SKELTON
- 20 SOUTH BANK
- 21 TEESVILLE
- 22 WEST DYKE