

Local Government
Boundary Commission
For England
Report No.82

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

BOUNDARY COMMISSION

FOR ENGLAND

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LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOUNDARY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND

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To the Rt Hon Roy Jenkins, MP
Secretary of State for the Home Department

PROPOSALS FOR REVISED ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE RIBBLE VALLEY
BOROUGH IN THE COUNTY OF LANCASHIRE

1. We, the Local Government Boundary Commission for England, having carried out our initial review of the electoral arrangements for the Borough of Ribble Valley in accordance with the requirements of section 63 of, and of Schedule 9 to, the Local Government Act 1972, present our proposals for the future electoral arrangements for that Borough.
2. In accordance with the procedure laid down in section 60(1) and (2) of the 1972 Act, notice was given on 13 May 1974 that we were to undertake this review. This was incorporated in a consultation letter addressed to the Ribble Valley Borough Council, copies of which were circulated to the Lancashire County Council, Parish Councils and Parish Meetings in the district, the Members of Parliament for the constituencies concerned and the headquarters of the main political parties. Copies were also sent to the editors of local newspapers circulating in the area and of the local government press. Notices inserted in the local press announced the start of the review and invited comments from members of the public and from any interested bodies.
3. Ribble Valley Borough Council were invited to prepare a draft scheme of representation for our consideration. In doing so, they were asked to observe the rules laid down in Schedule 11 to the Local Government Act 1972 and the guidelines which we set out in our Report No. 6 about the proposed size of the council and the proposed number of councillors for each ward. They were asked also to take into account any views expressed to them following their

consultation with local interests. We therefore asked that they should publish details of their provisional proposals about a month before they submitted their draft scheme to us, thus allowing an opportunity for local comment.

4. In accordance with section 7(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 the Council had exercised an option for a system of whole council elections.

5. On 30 September 1974 the Ribble Valley Borough Council presented their draft scheme of representation. The Council proposed to divide the area into 23 wards each returning 1, 2 or 3 members to form a council of 38, the same as at present.

6. Following the publication of the Borough Council's draft scheme we received comments from a local political party suggesting that the parish of Clitheroe be divided into 3 wards returning a total of 9 councillors (instead of four wards returning ten councillors as the Borough Council had proposed) and that within Clitheroe a system of retirement of councillors by thirds should operate. The same political party proposed also that the proposed Alston ward should be allocated three councillors, instead of two, and that the proposed 3 member Billington ward, comprising the parishes of Billington and Dimckley, should be divided into three single-member wards based on the three communities in the area.

7. In submitting their draft scheme of representation the Council sent us copies of their correspondence with the County Council, parish councils, political parties and other bodies during the period when the scheme was in preparation. We noted that there were a few instances where the Council had not been able to accept suggestions which had been made and incorporate them in their scheme.

8. We considered the draft scheme and the suggested modifications. We concluded that the proposals submitted by the Borough Council for Clitheroe and Billington were superior to those put forward by the local political party and we resolved that the draft scheme should not be altered. We accepted that the proposed Alston ward should be allocated three members and decided to modify the draft scheme accordingly. We noted, however, that the adjoining Dilworth ward, with three councillors, would be over-represented and that this was likely to continue for some years to come. Accordingly we resolved that it should be represented by two members. We examined a number of other possible modifications with a view to securing a more even standard of representation but concluded that none should be made. We reviewed the suggestions which had been rejected by the Borough Council but concluded in each case that their decision had been appropriate.

9. Subject to the changes referred to in paragraph 8 above we decided that the Borough Council's draft scheme provided a reasonable basis for the future electoral arrangements for the Borough in compliance with the rules in Schedule 11 to the 1972 Act and we formulated our draft proposals accordingly.

10. After we had formulated our draft proposals, but before they could be issued, we received a letter from Ramsgreave Parish Council asking us to consider a proposal, which had been rejected earlier by the Borough Council, that the parish should be established as a district ward returning one councillor. The Parish Council were informed that we had considered their proposals in reviewing the Borough Council's correspondence with parish councils and others during the preparation of the draft scheme but that we had decided not to alter the Borough Council's proposals whereby the parish would be grouped with others in the proposed Mellor ward. The Parish Council were advised that if they wished to pursue their proposals they should do so in response to our draft proposals which were about to be issued.

11. On 31 October 1974 we issued our draft proposals and these were sent to all who had received our consultation letter or who had commented on the Council's draft scheme. The Council were asked to make these draft proposals, and the accompanying map which defined the proposed ward boundaries, available for inspection at their main offices. Representations on our draft proposals were invited from those to whom they were circulated, and, by public notices, from other members of the public and interested bodies. We asked that any comments should reach us by 3 January 1975.

12. Two local political associations informed us that they supported the draft proposals.

13. The Ribble Valley Borough Council informed us that they adhered to their original proposals that the proposed Dilworth ward be assigned three councillors and that Alston be allocated two councillors and not three as we had proposed. The Council also raised the possibility of amending the boundary between these two proposed wards with a view to transferring electors from Alston to Dilworth.

14. Longridge Town Council made two submissions about the proposed Alston and Dilworth wards. Their first letter asked simply for a reversal of our decision as to the number of councillors to represent these proposed wards. The second proposed a modification of the boundary between the two wards in line with that suggested by the Borough Council.

15. The same political party that had commented previously on the draft scheme proposing among other things that Clitheroe be divided into three wards, each returning three councillors, wrote again requesting that these particular proposals be reconsidered.

16. We considered the letters received from the Borough Council and the Town Council about the proposed Alston and Dilworth wards and decided to inform the Borough Council that we would be prepared to revert to their proposals to allocate 3 councillors to Dilworth and 2 to Alston subject to the alteration of the boundary between the two wards on lines which they and the Town Council had proposed. We advised the Borough Council that in view of paragraph 3(2)(b) of Schedule 11 to the 1972 Act it would be necessary, if the proposed district wards were to be realigned in this way, for the parish wards to be altered also and asked whether they were prepared to take the necessary action. The Borough Council replied that they had commenced a review of the parish electoral arrangements and in due course they sent us a copy of an order made by them under section 50(4) of the 1972 Act to establish the revised boundary for parish electoral purposes. We thereupon resolved to recommend the revised boundary for the district wards and to propose the allocation of 3 councillors to the proposed Dilworth ward and 2 councillors to the proposed Alston ward.

17. We considered again the alternative proposals for Clitheroe involving the division of the town into three district wards each returning three members. We noted that the town was clearly entitled to ten district councillors and resolved ~~more~~ more that we would not be justified in recommending arrangements giving the town less than that number of representatives. The Borough Council had decided to opt for whole council elections and we could not recommend the adoption of a system of elections by thirds in Clitheroe or in any other part of the Borough.

18. The Parish Council which had written to us earlier about the parish of Ramsgreave had not pursued their proposals. We reviewed the matter once more but concluded that no change should be made.

19. Subject, therefore, to the modifications mentioned in paragraph 16 above we decided to confirm our draft proposals as our final proposals.

20. Details of these final proposals are set out in Schedules 1 and 2 to this report. Schedule 1 defines the areas of the new wards and Schedule 2 gives the names of the wards and the number of councillors to be returned by each. The boundaries of the new wards are illustrated on the map.

PUBLICATION

21. In accordance with Section 60(5)(b) of the Local Government Act 1972 a copy of this report and a copy of the map are being sent to Ribble Valley Borough Council and will be available for public inspection at the Council's main offices. Copies of this report are also being sent to those who received the consultation letter and to those who made comments.

L.S.

Signed:

EDMUND COMPTON (CHAIRMAN)

JOHN M RANKIN (DEPUTY CHAIRMAN)

DIANA ALBEMARLE

T C BENFIELD

MICHAEL CHISHOLM

ANDREW WHEATLEY

F B YOUNG

DAVID R SMITH (Secretary)

18 SEPTEMBER 1975

BOROUGH OF RIBBLE VALLEY: DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED WARD BOUNDARIES

EDISFORD, LOW MOOR AND TRINITY

The Edisford, Low Moor and Trinity ward of the town of Clitheroe.

GRAMMAR SCHOOL

The Grammar School ward of the town of Clitheroe.

RIBBLESDALE

The Ribblesdale ward of the town of Clitheroe.

ST JAMES'S

The St James's ward of the town of Clitheroe.

DILWORTH

The Dilworth ward of the town of Longridge.

ALSTON

The Alston ward of the town of Longridge.

MELLOR

The parishes of Balderstone, Mellor, Osbaldeston and Ramsgreave.

BILLINGTON

The parishes of Billington and Dinckley.

CLAYTON-LE-DALE AND SALESBURY

The parishes of Clayton-le-Dale and Salesbury

WILPSHIRE

The parish of Wilpshire.

WADDINGTON

The parishes of Bashall Eaves, Great Mitton and Waddington.

BOLTON-BY-BOWLAND

The parishes of Bolton-by-Bowland, Gisburn Forest and Sawley.

BOWLAND, NEWTON AND SLAIDBURN

The parishes of Bowland Forest High, Bowland Forest Low, Easington, Newton and Slaidburn.

GISBURN, RIMINGTON

The parishes of Gisburn, Horton, Middop, Newsholme, Paythorne and Rimington.

GRINDLETON AND WEST BRADFORD

The parishes of Grindleton and West Bradford.

READ

The parish of Read.

SABDEN

The parish of Sabden.

AIGHTON, BAILEY AND CHAIGLEY

The parish of Aighton, Bailey and Chaigley.

CHIPPING

The parishes of Bowland-with-Leagram, Chipping and Thornley-with-Wheatley.

CHATBURN

The parishes of Chatburn, Downham and Twiston.

WISWELL AND PENDLETON

The parishes of Little Mitton, Mearley, Pendleton, Wiswell and Worston.

WHALLEY

The parish of Whalley.

RIBCHESTER

The parishes of Dutton, Hothersall and Ribchester.

SCHEDULE 2

BOROUGH OF RIBBLE VALLEY: NAMES OF PROPOSED WARDS AND
NUMBERS OF COUNCILLORS

NAME OF WARD	NO OF COUNCILLORS
Aighton, Bailey and Chaigley	1
Alston	2
Billington	3
Bolton-by-Bowland	1
Bowland, Newton and Slaidburn	1
Chatburn	1
Chipping	1
Clayton-le-Dale and Salesbury	1
Dilworth	3
Edisford, Low Moor and Trinity	3
Gisburn, Rimington	1
Grammar School	3
Grindleton and West Bradford	1
Mellor	3
Read	1
Ribblesdale	2
Ribchester	1
Sabden	1
St James's	2
Waddington	1
Whalley	2
Wilpshire	2
Wiswell and Pendleton	1