

LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOUNDARY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND



LOCAL GOVERNMENT
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FOR ENGLAND
REPORT No. 9
(Aycliffe New Town)

LONDON

HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE 1974

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LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOUNDARY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND

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To: The RT. HON. ANTHONY CROSLAND, MP
Secretary of State for the Environment

The RT. HON. ROY JENKINS, MP
Secretary of State for the Home Department

**PROPOSALS FOR REVISED ADMINISTRATIVE AREAS
IN THE VICINITY OF AYCLIFFE NEW TOWN AND FOR
CONSEQUENTIAL REVISIONS OF ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS**

1. We, the Local Government Boundary Commission for England, present our proposals for a realignment of the boundary between the borough of Darlington and the district of Sedgfield, and for consequential boundary changes at parish level and for consequential revisions of the electoral arrangements of the local authorities concerned.

2. The Department of the Environment wrote to the Commission's Secretary on 21 February 1974, as required by section 48(6) of the Local Government Act 1972, to notify us that the then Secretary of State for the Environment had made an order under section 1 of the New Towns Act 1965 extending the area of Aycliffe New Town by the addition of land adjacent to the southern boundary of the designated area and that the New Town as so extended was not wholly comprised within one district. On receipt of such a notification it is the Commission's duty under the provisions of the 1972 Act to review the areas of the districts concerned for the purpose of considering whether or not to make such proposals in relation to them as are authorised by section 47 of the Act.

3. The Aycliffe New Town, as extended by the Aycliffe New Town (Designation) Amendment Order 1974, lies mainly in the district of Sedgfield but includes a small part of the parish of Heighington in the borough of Darlington. The Department asked us, in reviewing the districts concerned, to bear in mind the desirability of the whole of the designated area of the new town being within the area of one local authority.

PART I

REVIEW OF DISTRICT AND PARISH BOUNDARIES

4. In accordance with the procedure laid down in section 60(1) and (2) of the 1972 Act, we announced, on 7 March 1974, our intention to review the areas of the borough of Darlington and the district of Sedgfield to consider whether, in the interests of effective and convenient local government, the boundary between these two districts in the vicinity of the New Town should be realigned, with consequential alterations to the areas of the parishes affected by any realignment.

5. Our consultation letter inviting representations about this boundary was addressed to the councils of the county of Durham, the borough of Darlington, the district of Sedgfield, and to all parish councils and parish meetings in the

borough of Darlington and the district of Sedgefield. Notices in the local press invited representations from members of the public and from any interested bodies.

6. We received representations from the Sedgefield District Council that that part of the parish of Heighington included in the Aycliffe New Town designated area should be transferred to the Sedgefield district and become part of the parish of Great Aycliffe. We also received representations from the Darlington Borough Council concurring with these proposals and further support came from Durham County Council, Aycliffe Development Corporation and several parish councils. Heighington Parish Council, while supporting these proposals, made an additional proposal that a small part of the parish of Great Aycliffe in the district of Sedgefield should be transferred to the parish of Heighington and the borough of Darlington. This proposal was not supported by either of the District Councils concerned.

7. We considered the representations made to us and formulated our draft proposals for the realignment of the Darlington/Sedgefield boundary so as to include the whole of the designated area of the New Town within the district of Sedgefield. Our draft proposals also provided for consequential changes at parish level. These were circulated to those who received our consultation letter and to those who had made representations. These draft proposals were illustrated on a map, copies of which were made available for inspection at the main offices of the Darlington Borough Council and the Sedgefield District Council.

8. Representations on our draft proposals were invited from those to whom they were circulated and, by public notices, from members of the public and interested bodies.

9. Our draft proposals received the support of the Darlington Borough Council, the Sedgefield District Council and the Aycliffe Development Corporation. There were no representations against these proposals.

10. We have reconsidered our draft proposals in the light of the representations received upon them and are satisfied that in the interests of effective and convenient local government the boundary between the borough of Darlington and the district of Sedgefield should be realigned as indicated in our draft proposals and we therefore confirm these as our final proposals.

11. A memorandum defining these proposals and the consequential parish changes which would be required is at Annex 1.

PART II

CONSEQUENTIAL REVISION OF ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS

12. It is the Commission's duty under section 47(1)(i) of the Local Government Act 1972 to make proposals to the Secretary of State for changes in electoral arrangements consequent upon a change in local government areas. If the Secretary of State for the Environment decides to give effect to our proposals in Part I of this Report, the Secretary of State for the Home Department will need to authorise consequential adjustments to the electoral arrangements of the local authorities affected by the change at county, district and parish level.

13. Our statutory initial review of the electoral arrangements of the districts concerned is not due to start until 1975 and will not be completed until 1976 and, by the provisions of the Act, the review of the county arrangements cannot start until after the district reviews are completed. On the assumption that any administrative area change would be brought into effect before these reviews could be completed, we have carried out, concurrently with the boundary review, a review of the existing electoral arrangements of these authorities and also of the parishes concerned, with a view to proposing consequential adjustments which could come into force with any administrative area changes.

14. Draft proposals for alterations to the Darlington Rural No. 1 and Darlington Rural No. 3 county electoral divisions, to ward No. 9 of the district of Sedgfield, ward No. 14 of the borough of Darlington, the Aycliffe Village ward of the parish of Great Aycliffe and to the parish of Heighington were published together with the draft proposals for the administrative areas and comments were invited.

15. No comments were received and we have therefore concluded that our draft proposals should be confirmed.

16. We understand that there are no electors resident in the part of the borough of Darlington which would be transferred to the district of Sedgfield and the electoral changes consequent upon the realignment of the district boundary would be confined to changes in the areas of those electoral divisions and wards which are co-terminous with the section of the boundary which, it is proposed, should be realigned.

17. The boundaries of the altered electoral areas will follow the new boundary between the borough of Darlington and the district of Sedgfield. A memorandum describing our proposals for these revised electoral arrangements is at Annex 2.

PUBLICATION

18. In accordance with Section 60(5)(b) of the Local Government Act 1972 a copy of this report is being sent to Darlington Borough Council and Sedgfield District Council. This will be made available for public inspection at the Councils' main offices. Copies of this report are also being sent to those who received the consultation letter and to those who made comments.

Signed

LS

JOHN M RANKIN (Acting Chairman)

DIANA ALBEMARLE

T C BENFIELD

MICHAEL CHISHOLM

ANDREW WHEATLEY

F B YOUNG

DAVID R SMITH (Secretary)

26 September 1974

LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOUNDARY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND
REVIEW OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE AREAS OF THE BOROUGH OF
DARLINGTON AND THE DISTRICT OF SEDGEFIELD

MEMORANDUM ON THE FINAL PROPOSALS

1. It is proposed that the boundary between the two principal local authorities should be realigned so that that part of the parish of Heighington in the borough of Darlington which is comprised in the designated area of Aycliffe New Town, as extended by the Aycliffe New Town (Designation) Order 1974, should lie within the Sedgefield district;
2. that the transferred part of the parish of Heighington should form part of the parish of Great Aycliffe; and
3. that the part of the parish of Heighington remaining in the borough of Darlington, should be a parish known as the parish of Heighington.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOUNDARY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND

**REVIEW OF ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS CONSEQUENT UPON
THE PROPOSED REALIGNMENT OF THE BOUNDARY BETWEEN
THE BOROUGH OF DARLINGTON AND THE DISTRICT OF
SEDFIELD**

MEMORANDUM ON THE FINAL PROPOSALS

1. It is proposed that the Darlington Rural No. 3 electoral division, as defined in the County of Durham (Electoral Divisions) Order 1973, and Ward No. 9 of the district of Sedgfield, as defined in the County of Durham (District Wards) Order 1973, shall each be altered by the addition of that part of the parish of Heighington within the designated area of Aycliffe New Town, as extended by the Aycliffe New Town (Designation) Amendment Order 1974, and that the number of councillors for the said electoral division and the said ward shall be unchanged;

2. that the Darlington Rural No. 1 electoral division, as defined in the County of Durham (Electoral Divisions) Order 1973, and Ward No. 14 of the borough of Darlington, as defined in the County of Durham (District Wards) Order 1973, shall each be altered by the separation of that part of the parish of Heighington in the designated area of Aycliffe New Town, as extended by the Aycliffe New Town (Designation) Amendment Order 1974, and that the number of councillors representing the said electoral division and the said ward shall be unchanged;

3. that the Aycliffe Village ward of the parish of Great Aycliffe shall be altered by the addition of that part of the parish of Heighington in the designated area of Aycliffe New Town as extended by the Aycliffe New Town (Designation) Amendment Order 1974 and that the number of councillors representing the said parish ward shall be unchanged; and

4. that the number of councillors representing the parish of Heighington as altered shall be unchanged.