

Local Government
Boundary Commission
For England
Report No. 187

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

BOUNDARY COMMISSION

FOR ENGLAND

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LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOUNDARY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND

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To The Rt Hon Merlyn Rees MP
Secretary of State for the Home Department

PROPOSALS FOR FUTURE ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE
WEST DEVON DISTRICT OF THE COUNTY OF DEVON

1. We, the Local Government Boundary Commission for England, having carried out our initial review of the electoral arrangements for the district of West Devon in accordance with the requirements of section 63 of, and Schedule 9 to, the Local Government Act 1972, present our proposals for the future electoral arrangements of that district.
2. In accordance with the procedure laid down in section 60(1) and (2) of the 1972 Act, notice was given on 23 April 1975 that we were to undertake this review. This was incorporated in a consultation letter addressed to the West Devon District Council, copies of which were circulated to the Parish Councils and Parish Meetings in the district, the Devon County Council, the Member of Parliament for the constituency concerned and the headquarters of the main political parties. Copies were also sent to the editors of the local newspapers circulating in the area and to 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. West Devon District 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 also asked 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)(a) of the Local Government Act 1972, West Devon District Council had opted for a system of whole council elections.

5. On 31 October 1975, West Devon District Council presented their draft scheme of representation. The Council proposed to divide the area of the district into 21 wards each returning 1, 2 or 3 members to form a council of 30. We noted that the proposed arrangements involved the retention of the existing electoral arrangements except in Tavistock where the Council proposed to divide the town into two 3 member wards.

6. We considered the draft scheme together with the comments which we had received and copies of those which had been sent to the District Council during the period leading up to the submission of the scheme.

7. We noted that, in proposing the division of the town of Tavistock into two wards, the District Council had adopted suggestions put to them by the Town Council and by a local political association. They had not, however, adopted a suggestion put to them by four parish councils that the proposed Lifton and Milton wards in the draft scheme should be combined to form a single ward returning two members. We reviewed this proposal but concluded, on the evidence before us, that the District Council's decision to reject it had been appropriate.

8. Much of the remaining correspondence dealt with the names of the proposed wards and we noted that, in a few instances, there were differences of opinion. We considered these but decided not to alter the District Council's proposals except in the case of the proposed Lifton ward where in response to a suggestion submitted by the Councils of the three parishes making up the proposed ward, we decided to adopt the name "Thrushel".

9. Subject to the change referred to in paragraph 8 above, we decided that the District Council's draft scheme provided a reasonable basis for the future

electoral arrangements for the district in compliance with the rules in Schedule 11 to the 1972 Act and our guidelines and we formulated our draft proposals accordingly.

10. On 12 January 1976 we issued our draft proposals and these were sent to all who had received our consultation letter or 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 office. 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 15 March 1976.

11. West Devon District Council informed us that they accepted our draft proposals.

12. Devon County Council told us that there might well be a problem in using the 21 proposed wards to produce the 4 county electoral divisions likely to be allocated to the West Devon district when we come to review the county electoral arrangements. We noted, however, that the 21 proposed wards were not all of the same size in electorate terms and we concluded that it ought to be possible to use them to draw up 4 satisfactory county electoral divisions.

13. Peter Tavy Parish Council advised us that it would not be in the best interests of the parish to be combined or integrated with any other parish in the district. We noted that the parish was much too small to form a district ward on its own and we were informed that the Parish Council accepted this. Their major concern was that the parish should not be grouped for parish electoral purposes. We advised the Parish Council that our review was concerned only with the district electoral arrangements.

14. In the absence of any other comment on our draft proposals we resolved that they should be confirmed and we formulated our final proposals accordingly.

15. Details of these final proposals are set out in Schedules 1 and 2 to this report and on the attached map. Schedule 1 gives the names of the wards, and the number of councillors to be returned by each. The area of each of the proposed wards is defined in Schedule 2. The boundaries of the proposed new wards, as defined in Schedule 2, are illustrated on the map.

PUBLICATION

16. 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 West Devon District Council and will be available for public inspection at the Council's main offices. Copies of this report, without the map, are also being sent to those who received the consultation letter and to those who made comments.

Signed:

L.S.

EDMUND COMPTON (CHAIRMAN)

JOHN M RANKIN (DEPUTY CHAIRMAN)

PHYLLIS BOWDEN

J T BROCKBANK

MICHAEL CHISHOLM

R R THORNTON

ANDREW WHEATLEY

N DIGNEY (Secretary)

20 January 1977

DISTRICT OF WEST DEVON : NAMES OF PROPOSED WARDS AND NUMBERS OF COUNCILLORS

<u>NAME OF WARD</u>	<u>NO. OF COUNCILLORS</u>
BERE FERRERS	2
BRIDESTOWE	1
BUCKLAND MONACHORUM	2
BURRATOR	1
CHAGFORD	1
COURTENAY	1
DREWSTEIGNTON	1
EXBOURNE	1
HATHERLEIGH	1
LEW VALLEY	1
LYDFORD	1
MARY TAVY	1
MILTON FORD	1
NORTH TAWTON	1
OKEHAMPTON	3
SOUTH TAWTON	1
TAMAR SIDE	1
TAVISTOCK NORTH	3
TAVISTOCK SOUTH	3
THRUSHIEL	1
WALKHAM	2

WEST DEVON DISTRICT, DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED WARD BOUNDARIES

HATHERLEIGH WARD

The Parishes of Hatherleigh
Highampton
Meeth

EXBOURNE WARD

The Parishes of Exbourne
Jacobstowe
Broadwoodkelly
Monkokehampton
Iddesleigh

NORTH TAWTON WARD

The Parishes of North Tawton
Bondleigh

SOUTH TAWTON WARD

The Parish of South Tawton

COURTEMAY WARD

The Parishes of Sampford Courtenay
Belstone
Okehampton Hamlets

OKEHAMPTON WARD

The Parish of Okehampton

LEW VALLEY WARD

The Parishes of Northlew
 Beaworthy
 Ashbury
 Inwardleigh

BRIDESTOWE WARD

The Parishes of Germansweek
 Bratton Clovelly
 Bridestowe
 Sourton

and Lands common to the Parishes of Bridestowe and Sourton (Bridestowe and Sourton Common)

DREWSTEIGNTON WARD

The Parishes of Spreyton
 Drewsteignton
 Throwleigh
 Gidleigh

CHAGFORD WARD

The Parish of Chagford

LYDFORD WARD

The Parish of Lydford

THRUSHEL WARD

The Parishes of Lifton
 Stowford
 Thrushelton

MILTON FORD WARD

The Parishes of Lewtrenchard
 Coryton
 Marystow
 Kelly
 Milton Abbot
 Bradstone
 Dunterton

MARY TAVY WARD

The Parishes of Mary Tavy
 Peter Tavy
 Brentor

TAMNARSIDE WARD

The Parishes of Sydenham Damerel
 Lamerton
 Tavistock Hamlets

TAVISTOCK NORTH WARD

The North Ward of the Parish of Tavistock

TAVISTOCK SOUTH WARD

The South Ward of the Parish of Tavistock

WALKHAM WARD

The Parishes of Whitchurch
 Sampford Spiney
 Horrabridge

BURRATOR WARD

The Parishes of Walkhampton
 Sheepstor
 Meavy

BUCKLAND MONACHORUM WARD

The Parish of Buckland Monachorum

BERE FERRERS WARD

The Parish of Bere Ferrers