

Local Government
Boundary Commission
For England
Report No.283

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 THE FUTURE ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE DISTRICT
OF BRECKLAND IN THE COUNTY OF NORFOLK

1. We, the Local Government Boundary Commission for England, having carried out our initial review of the electoral arrangements for the District of Breckland, 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 for that district.
2. In accordance with the procedure laid down in section 60(1) and (2) of the 1972 Act, notice was given on 30 April 1975 that we were to undertake this review. This was incorporated in a consultation letter addressed to the Breckland District Council, copies of which were circulated to the Norfolk County Council, parish councils 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 interested bodies.
3. The Breckland District Council were invited to prepare a draft scheme of representation for our consideration. When 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 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. The District Council have not passed a resolution under Section 7(4) of the Local Government Act 1972. A system of whole council elections will therefore apply.
5. On 2 February 1976, Breckland District Council presented their draft scheme of representation. They proposed to divide the area of the district into 39 wards, each returning 1, 2 or 3 councillors to form a council of 51 members.
6. We considered the draft scheme submitted by the District Council together with the comments which had been made on it, some of which proposed alternative arrangements for parts of the district. We considered that the standard of representation could be improved. We allocated an additional councillor each to the Thetford-Guildhall and Watton wards thereby increasing the size of the council to 53 members and, following a suggestion in one of the comments, we regrouped the parishes in the single-member Conifer and Mid-Forest wards to make a slightly more even distribution of electors. Subject to these modifications, we adopted the District Council's draft scheme and formulated our draft proposals accordingly.
7. On 18 June 1976, we issued our draft proposals and these were sent to all who had received our consultation letter or had commented on the draft scheme. The District Council were asked to make the draft proposals, and the accompanying map which illustrated the proposed ward boundaries, available for public inspection at their main offices. 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. We asked for comments to reach us by 13 August 1976.
8. Representations against the draft proposals were received from the District Council, the County Council, two parish councils and one individual. Two other parish councils supported the draft proposals in so far as the arrangements for

their areas were concerned. The District Council, the County Council and a parish council objected to the regrouping of the parishes in the proposed Conifer and Mid-Forest wards and asked for the reinstatement of the arrangements set out in the District Council's draft scheme. Another parish council supported the Commission's draft proposals for these wards. The District Council, after consulting the parish councils concerned, suggested that the three-member Attleborough ward, which comprises the parishes of Attleborough and Besthorpe, should be replaced by three single-member wards. Thetford Town Council asked for an additional councillor to be allocated to the proposed Thetford-Abbey ward, and the individual objector asked that we should reconsider our draft proposals for the Heathlands ward.

9. We reviewed our draft proposals in the light of the comments we had received. We considered the suggestion that the proposed Thetford-Abbey ward should have an additional councillor. We decided that the number of electors did not justify an increase in representation. We looked again at our proposals for the Heathlands ward. We noted that none of the parishes concerned had commented on the proposed ward. We decided to confirm our draft proposals for the Thetford-Abbey and Heathlands wards.

10. We reconsidered our draft proposals for the Conifer and Mid-Forest wards. We noted that the weight of opinion favoured a return to the arrangements proposed by the District Council. We concluded that, in the interests of preserving local ties, we should replace our proposed Conifer and Mid-Forest wards by those originally put forward by the District Council in their draft scheme.

11. We considered the District Council's submission that the proposed Attleborough ward should be divided into three single-member wards. We noted that the parishes concerned did not object to the proposal and that equality of representation would not be affected adversely. We decided that this proposal should be accepted and that our proposed 3-member Attleborough ward should be replaced by three new wards known as Queen's, Haverscroft and Besthorpe respectively; the Queen's and

Haverscroft wards to be coterminous with the new parish wards of the same name and the Besthorpe ward to include the parish of Besthorpe and the new Burgh ward of the parish of Attleborough.

12. Subject to the modifications mentioned in paras 10 and 11 above, we confirmed our draft proposals as our final proposals.

13. Details of these 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. Schedule 2 is a description of the areas of the new wards. The boundaries of the new wards are shown on the attached map.

PUBLICATION

14. 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 Breckland District Council and will be available for public inspection at the Council's main offices. Copies of this report (without map) 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)

PHYLLIS BOWDEN

J T BROCKBANK

MICHAEL CHISHOLM

D P HARRISON

R R THORNTON

N DIGNEY (Secretary)

1 December 1977

BRECKLAND DISTRICT: NAMES OF PROPOSED WARDS AND NUMBERS OF COUNCILLORS

<u>NAME OF WARD</u>	<u>NO. OF COUNCILLORS</u>
ALL SAINTS	1
BETLEY AND GRESSENHALL	1
BESTHORPE	1
BUCKENHAM	1
CONIFER	1
EAST DEREHAM NEATHERD	2
EAST DEREHAM ST WITHBURGA	1
EAST DEREHAM TOFTWOOD	2
EAST DEREHAM TOWN	2
EAST GUILTCROSS	1
EYNSFORD	1
HAGGARD DE TONI	1
HARLING	1
HAVERSCROFT	1
HEATHLANDS	1
HERMITAGE	1
LAUNDITCH	1
MATTISHALL	1
MID-FOREST	1
NAR VALLEY	1
NEXTON	1
PEDDARS WAY	1
QUEENS	1
SHIPWORTH	1
SPRINGVALE	1
SWAFFHAM	3
SWANTON MORLEY	1
TAVERNER	1
TEMPLAR	1
TILTFORD ABBEY	2
TILTFORD BARNHAM CROSS	2
TILTFORD GUILDHALL	3
TILTFORD SAXON	2
TWO RIVERS	1
UPPER WENSUM	1
UPPER YARE	1
WATTON	3
WAYLAND	1
WEETING	1
WEST GUILTCROSS	1
WISSEY	1

The proposed ward boundaries are shown on a map which can be inspected at the Council offices. A description of the proposed wards as defined on the map is attached at Schedule 2.

DISTRICT OF BRECKLAND - DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED WARD BOUNDARIES

ALL SAINTS WARD

The parishes of Great Ellingham
Little Ellingham
Rocklands

BEETLEY AND GRESSENHALL WARD

The parishes of Beetley
Gressenhall

BESTHORPE WARD

The parish of Besthorpe and the Burgh Ward of the parish of Attleborough.

BUCKENHAM WARD

The parishes of New Buckenham
Old Buckenham

CONIFER WARD

The parishes of Cranwich
Didlington
Fowlden
Gooderstone
Ickburgh
Mundford

EAST GUILTCROSS WARD

The parishes of Banham
Quidenham

EYNSFORD WARD

The parishes of Bawdeswell

Billington

Bylaugh

Elsing

Foxley

Sparham

HAGGARD DE TONI WARD

The parishes of Bradenham

Saham Toney

HARLING WARD

The parish of Harling

HAVERSCROFT WARD

The Haverscroft Ward of the parish of Attleborough.

HEATHLANDS WARD

The parishes of Blo' Norton

Brettenham

Croxton

Garboldisham

Kilverstone

Riddlesworth

HERMITAGE WARD

The parishes of Great Dunham

Kempstone

Lexham

Litcham

Rougham

Weasenham All Saints

Weasenham St Peter

Wellingham

LAUNDITCH WARD

The parishes of Beeston with Bittering

Longham

Mileham

Stanfield

Tittleshall

MATTISHALL WARD

The parish of Mattishall

MID-FOREST WARD

The parishes of Beachamwell

Cockley Cley

Great Cressingham

Hilborough

Little Cressingham

Oxborough

NAR VALLEY WARD

The parishes of Narborough

Narford

Newton by Castle Acre

South Acre

Sporle with Palgrave

NECTON WARD

The parish of Necton

PEDDARS WAY WARD

The parishes of Bridgham

Hockham

Roudham

Shropham

Snetterton

Wretham

QUEEN'S WARD

The Queen's Ward of the parish of Attleborough

SHIPWORTH WARD

The parishes of Cranworth

Shipdham

SPRINGVALE WARD

The parishes of Fransham

Little Dunham

Scarning

Wendling

SWAFFHAM WARD

The parish of Swaffham

SWANTON MORLEY WARD

The parishes of Hoe

Swanton Morley

TAVERNER WARD

The parishes of Brisley

Colkirk

Horningtoft

Whissonsett

TEMPLAR WARD

The parishes of Carbrooke

Ovington

Scoulton

TWO RIVERS WARD

The parishes of East Tuddenham

Hockering

Lyng

North Tuddenham

UPPER WENSUM WARD

The parishes of Bintree

Gateley

Guist

North Elmham

Twynford

UPPER YARE WARD

The parishes of Garvestone

Hardingham

Whinburgh

Yaxham

WATTON WARD

The parish of Watton

WAYLAND WARD

The parishes of Caston

Griston

Merton

Stow Bedon

Thompson

Tottington

WEETING WARD

The parishes of Lynford

Stanford

Sturston

Weeting-with-Broomhill

WEST GUILTCROSS WARD

The parishes of Kenninghall

North Lopham

South Lopham

WISSEY WARD

The parishes of Ashill

Holme Hale

North Pickenham

South Pickenham

EAST DEREHAM-NEATHERD WARD

The Neatherd Ward of the parish of East Dereham

EAST DEREHAM-ST WITHBURGA WARD

The St Withburga Ward of the parish of East Dereham

EAST DEREHAM-TOFTWOOD WARD

The Toftwood Ward of the parish of East Dereham

EAST DEREHAM-TOWN WARD

The Town Ward of the parish of East Dereham

THETFORD-ABBEY WARD

The Abbey Ward of the parish of Thetford

THETFORD-BARNHAM CROSS WARD

The Barnham Cross Ward of the parish of Thetford

THETFORD-GUILDHALL WARD

The Guildhall Ward of the parish of Thetford

THETFORD-SAXON WARD

The Saxon Ward of the parish of Thetford