

Local Government
Boundary Commission
For England
Report No. 84

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 BOROUGH OF
OSWESTRY IN THE COUNTY OF SALOP

1. We, the Local Government Boundary Commission for England, having carried out our initial review of the electoral arrangements for the borough of Oswestry 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 19 August 1974 that we were to undertake this review. This was incorporated in a consultation letter addressed to the Oswestry Borough Council, copies of which were circulated to the Salop County Council, Parish Councils in the district, the Member of Parliament for the constituency concerned and the headquarters of the main political parties. Copies were also sent to the editors of 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. Oswestry 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 whole council elections.
5. On 9 January 1975 the Oswestry Borough Council presented their draft scheme of representation. The Council proposed to divide the area into fifteen wards each returning one, two or three members to form a council of twenty nine, one more than at present.
6. Following the publication of the draft scheme by the Borough Council we received a letter from a local political party requesting a system of elections by thirds. It was explained to the party that this was not a matter within our jurisdiction. The Borough Council sent us copies of two letters sent to them during the period leading up to the submission of the scheme. These letters too pressed for a system of elections by thirds and accordingly lay outside the scope of our review.
7. We heard also from the County Council who sent us a copy of the outline proposals for the county electoral arrangements which had been prepared by their officers. We noted that if that scheme were to be adopted it would be desirable to modify the proposed electoral arrangements for the district so as to divide the proposed three-member Gobowen and Maserfield wards into smaller units. However, the County Council indicated that they were in no way committed to these outline arrangements and that they were sent to us by way of illustration only of one of many possible ways of dividing the County into electoral divisions. In view of this we did not feel able to seek the modification of the Borough Council's draft scheme in the manner indicated.
8. We studied the Borough Council's draft scheme and decided that it 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. We noted however that by virtue of paragraph 3(2)(b) of Schedule 11 to the 1972 Act, we were precluded from adopting the proposed wards in the parish of Oswestry which differed from the parish wards already in existence there. We

pointed this out to the Borough Council who thereupon conducted a review of the parish electoral arrangements and in due course sent us a copy of orders made by them under section 50(4) of the Act establishing parish wards in the parish which matched the district wards which the Borough Council had proposed.

Upon receipt of this order we decided to adopt the Borough Council's draft scheme, without modification, and to formulate our draft proposals accordingly.

9. On 11 June 1975, we issued our draft proposals and these were sent to all who had received our consultation letter. The Borough 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 22 August 1975.

10. Our draft proposals attracted only one comment, from the Salop County Council, from which we noted their view that if the county electoral arrangements are to be reorganised on the basis they envisage it might not be possible to produce electoral divisions which come very close to the average unless there is further warding in the parishes of Selattyn and Gobowen and Oswestry. We noted that the matter had been discussed with the Borough Council who were of the view that such further warding would be unsatisfactory in view of the need to retain local ties and to obtain boundaries which are and will remain easily identifiable. We decided not to pursue the matter.

11. Accordingly we resolved to confirm our draft proposals as our final proposals without modification.

12. 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

13. 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 Oswestry 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.

L.S.

Signed

EDMUND COMPTON (CHAIRMAN)

JOHN M RANKIN (DEPUTY CHAIRMAN)

DIANA ALBERTARLE

T C BENFIELD

MICHAEL CHISHOLM

ANDREW WHEATLEY

F B YOUNG

DAVID R SMITH (Secretary)

25 September 1975

BOROUGH OF OSWESTRY: DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED WARD BOUNDARIES

ST MARTIN'S WARD

The parish of St Martin's.

WESTON RHYN WARD

The parish of Weston Rhy.

GOBOWEN WARD

The parish of Selattyn and Gobowen.

WHITTINGTON WARD

The parish of Whittington.

TREFONEN WARD

The Trefonen, Llanforda and Sychtyn wards of the parish of Oswestry Rural.

SWEENEY WARD

The Aston and Sweeney wards of the parish of Oswestry Rural.

WEST FELTON WARD

The parishes of Knockin and West Felton.

RUYTON-XI-TOWNS WARD

The parish of Ruyton-XI-Towns.

KINNERLEY WARD

The parishes of Kinnerley and Meverley.

LLANYMYNECH WARD

The parish of Llanymynech and Pant.

LLANYBLODWEL WARD

The parish of Llanyblodwel.

GATACRE WARD

The Gatacre ward of the parish of Oswestry.

VICTORIA WARD

The Victoria ward of the parish of Oswestry.

CAMBRIAN WARD

The Cambrian ward of the parish of Oswestry.

MASERFIELD WARD

The Maserfield ward of the parish of Oswestry.

SCHEDULE 2

BOROUGH OF OSWESTRY : NAMES OF PROPOSED WARDS AND NUMBERS OF COUNCILLORS

<u>NAME OF WARD</u>	<u>NO OF COUNCILLORS</u>
CAMBRIAN	3
GATACHE	3
GOBOWEN	3
KINNERLEY	1
LLANYBLODWEL	1
LLANYMYNECH	1
MASERFIELD	3
RUYTON-XI-TOWNS	1
ST MARTIN'S	2
SWEENEY	2
TREFONEN	1
VICTORIA	3
WEST FELTON	1
WESTON RHYN	2
WHITTINGTON	2