

Local Government
Boundary Commission
For England
Report No.386

LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOUNDARY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND

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To the Rt. Hon. William Whitelaw CH, MC, MP
Secretary of State for the Home Department

PROPOSALS FOR THE FUTURE ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE COUNTY OF STAFFORDSHIRE

1. The last Order under Section 51 of the Local Government Act 1972 in relation to electoral arrangements for districts in the County of Staffordshire was made on 4 December 1978. As required by Section 63 and Schedule 9 of the Act we have now reviewed the electoral arrangements for that county, using the procedures we had set out in our Report No.6.
2. We informed the Staffordshire County Council in a consultation letter dated 12 March 1979 that we proposed to conduct the review, and sent copies of the letter to the district councils, parish councils and parish meetings in the county, to the Members of Parliament representing the constituencies concerned, to the headquarters of the main political parties and to the editors both of local newspapers circulating in the county and of the local government press. Notices in the local press announced the start of the review and invited comments from members of the public and from interested bodies.
3. On 2 October 1979 the County Council submitted to us a draft scheme in which they suggested 82 electoral divisions for the county, each returning one member in accordance with Section 6(2)(a) of the Act.
4. We considered this scheme together with the views expressed by local interests. On 6 March 1980 we issued draft proposals which we sent to all those who had received our consultation letter, or commented on the county council's draft scheme. Notices were inserted in the local press announcing that the draft proposals had been issued and could be inspected at the county council's offices.
5. We incorporated the county council's draft scheme in our draft proposals subject to a number of modifications derived from comments made about the county scheme.
6. The modifications we made were as follows:-
 - (a) Lichfield District
We adopted Staffordshire County Labour Party's alternative arrangement for the district varied by Burntwood Town Council's arrangement for the two Burntwood divisions to be named Burntwood Chase and Burntwood Saints.
 - (b) Borough of Newcastle-under-Lyme
We adopted Newcastle Borough Council's suggested arrangement for Newcastle South, Newcastle West and Thistleberry and Silverdale divisions.

(c) South Staffordshire District

We adopted a combination of alternatives suggested by Lapley Parish Council and Cheslyn Hay Branch Labour Party for Penkrige, Brewood and Great Wyrley divisions. We accepted Wrottesley Parish Council's suggestion that Wrottesley division be renamed and invited the county council to make suggestions.

(d) Staffordshire Moorlands District

We adopted Leek Town Council's suggestion of renaming Hillswood Rudyard division, adopting the name Leek North and in consequence renaming Birchall division Leek South.

(e) City of Stoke-on-Trent

We noted that on the basis of electorate figures provided for 1979 and 1984, Stoke-on-Trent with 20 divisions would be under-represented in relation to other districts. In the event of latest information on number and distribution of electorate suggesting that the electorate forecasts on which the draft proposals were based would be unlikely to be fulfilled, we indicated that we would be prepared to consider alternative schemes offering 21 divisions for Stoke-on-Trent thereby increasing the overall county council size to 83.

7. We received comments in response to our draft proposals from the County Council, the City and two Borough Councils, twelve Parish Councils, two district councillors, four political organisations and one private individual. A list of those who wrote to us is attached at Appendix 1.

8. The comments we received can be summarised as follows:-

(a) Staffordshire County Council

Staffordshire County Council restricted their comments to the changes made to their draft scheme by our draft proposals. They accepted reluctantly our draft proposals for Lichfield and South Staffordshire Districts and had no objection to the name changes for the two divisions in Staffordshire Moorlands. But they asked us to reconsider our draft proposals for Newcastle-under-Lyme District.

(b) East Staffordshire District

Burton Conservative Association suggested that Uttoxeter Rural, Uttoxeter Urban and Dove divisions be renamed Dove, Uttoxeter and Castle respectively.

(c) Lichfield District

Staffordshire County Council, while noting that the proposals severed some local ties, accepted the draft proposals. Burntwood Town Council and Hammerwich Parish Council informed us that they supported the draft proposals.

(d) Borough of Newcastle-under-Lyme

Staffordshire County Council, Newcastle-under-Lyme Conservative Association and Borough Councillor Mrs E Ashley requested a return to the County Council's draft scheme for Newcastle South, Newcastle West, Thistleberry and Silverdale divisions. Ashley Parish Council advocated a return to the draft scheme for the whole borough. Audley Parish Council objected to the splitting of Audley Rural parish between two divisions and requested that the two district wards within the parish, Audley and Bignall End and Halmcrend, should constitute one division. Newcastle Borough Council and Keele Parish Council informed us of their support for the draft proposals.

(e) South Staffordshire District

Staffordshire County Council claimed that the draft proposals severed local ties but they acknowledged the difficulties involved in producing an entirely satisfactory scheme and reluctantly accepted the draft proposals. The County Council and Lower Penn Parish Council both requested retention of the division name Wrottesley and the County Council informed us that the original objection to the use of the name had been withdrawn. Great Wyrley Parish Council maintained that all four Great Wyrley district wards should be grouped within one division but they appreciated the constraints that prevented such an arrangement and therefore accepted the draft proposals. Great Wyrley Local Labour Party, Cllr P E Smith and a private individual supported the draft proposals as they related to Great Wyrley. Cheslyn Hay Branch Labour Party objected to the inclusion of Shareshill district ward in Essington division and requested that it be replaced by Featherstone ward.

(f) Stafford Borough

Weston-with-Gayton-with-Fradswell Parish Council supported the draft proposals as they related to its constituent parishes but suggested that Weston division in Stoke City district be renamed Weston Coyney to avoid any confusion with Weston parish in Stafford borough.

(g) Staffordshire Moorlands District

Staffordshire County Council informed us that they had no objections to adoption of the division names Leek South and Leek North. Cheddleton Parish Council objected to the splitting of Cheddleton Parish between two divisions and requested that Cheddleton ward be included in Churnet Valley division. Cheadle Town Council objected to the division of the three Cheadle district wards between two divisions. Horton Parish Council objected to the alteration of existing electoral arrangements in the district. In the event of change however, they requested that Horton ward be included in the Leek Rural division and not Leek North as recommended in the draft proposals. Longsdon Parish Council expressed

their support for the views put forward by Horton Parish Council. Bagnall Parish Council asked for the name of their parish to be included in the description of Biddulph-Endon division.

(h) City of Stoke-on-Trent

In response to our observations in para 6(e) above, the Staffordshire County Council provided a new set of 'corrected' 1984 forecast figures based on trends observed over a two year period from 1978 to 1980. These figures suggested that the 1984 forecast electorate for the whole county would be higher than originally expected, while the 1984 forecast electorate in Stoke district would not reach expected levels thereby evening out relative levels of representation between districts. Stoke-on-Trent City Council informed us that in their view the draft proposals would leave the City under-represented but they stated they did not wish to submit further alternative proposals for consideration, though reserving the right to argue the matter before a local meeting if one were held.

(i) Borough of Tamworth

Tamworth Borough Council informed us that they accepted the draft proposals.

9. We reassessed our draft proposals in the light of the comments which we had received and reached the following conclusions:

(a) East Staffordshire District

We received one objection to the divisional names Uttoxeter Rural, Uttoxeter Urban and Dove but in the absence of any other objections decided not to re-name them.

(b) Borough of Newcastle-under-Lyme

After our previous examination of the draft scheme arrangements for the Borough of Newcastle-under-Lyme we preferred the Borough Council's alternative arrangement for the three divisions of Newcastle South, Newcastle West and Thistleberry and Silverdale, which satisfied a number of local requests made to the Commission. We therefore incorporated them in our draft proposals and, although we have carefully considered the County Council's arguments, we were not convinced that a return to the draft scheme would be desirable. The suggestion for the constitution of a division comprising the Audley and Bignall End and Halmerend district wards did not take account of the necessary consequential adjustment to adjacent divisions.

(c) South Staffordshire District

As the objection to the division name Wrottesley had been withdrawn and support for retention of the name expressed, we decided to retain it in our proposals. We did not accept the suggested replacement of Shareshill ward by Featherstone ward in Essington division because it would have led to an unacceptably low

entitlement in the other division affected.

(d) Staffordshire Moorlands District

The suggested transfer of Cheddleton ward from Leek Rural to Churnet Valley division produced a less even standard of representation than that achieved by our draft proposals. The suggested creation of one division comprising only Cheadle district wards failed to take account of the necessary consequential adjustments to adjacent divisions and we did not see any justification for pursuing it. The suggested retention of existing electoral arrangements in Staffordshire Moorlands district produced a less even standard of representation than that achieved by our draft proposals. The suggested transfer of Horton ward from Leek North to Leek Rural produced an imbalance in relative division sizes. We did not consider any modification of our draft proposals to be justified. Because all electoral divisions are described in terms of City, Borough or District wards we did not deem it appropriate to meet the request of Bagnall Parish Council.

(e) City of Stoke-on-Trent

We noted that Staffordshire County Council and Stoke-on-Trent City Council were prepared to accept the proposed representation for the City of Stoke-on-Trent. We also observed that there were indications that the slight under-representations which we had previously noted might not in fact materialise. We therefore decided to confirm the 20 division arrangement for the district; which as the City Council have pointed out had the advantage of compatibility with District wards. We agreed with the suggested renaming of Weston division as Weston Coyney.

10. In the light of the conclusions indicated in para 9 above we decided to confirm our draft proposals as our final proposals subject to the renaming of the Weston division as Weston Coyney.

11. Details of the 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 electoral divisions. A detailed description of the boundaries of the proposed electoral divisions, as defined on the map, is set out in Schedule 2.

PUBLICATION

12. In accordance with Section 60(5)(b) of the Local Government Act 1972, a copy of the report and a copy of the map are being sent to the Staffordshire County Council and will be available for inspection at the Council's main offices. Copies of this report (without map) are being sent to those who received the consultation letter and to those who made comments.

L.S.

Signed:

NICHOLAS MORRISON (Chairman)

JOHN M RANKIN (Deputy Chairman)

PHYLLIS BOWDEN

TYRRELL BROCKBANK

G E CHERRY

D P HARRISON

R R THORNTON

LESLIE GRIMSHAW (Secretary)

12 June 1980

LIST OF THOSE WHO COMMENTED ON THE DRAFT PROPOSALS

	<u>Division</u>
Staffordshire County Council	Whole County
<u>East Staffordshire District</u>	
Burton Conservative Association	Uttoxeter Urban Uttoxeter Rural Dove
<u>Lichfield District</u>	
Burntwood Town Council	Burntwood Chase Burntwood Saints
Hammerwich Parish Council	Lichfield Rural South
<u>Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough</u>	
Newcastle-under-Lyme Conservative Association	Newcastle South Newcastle West Thistleberry and Silverdale
Cllr. Mrs E Ashley	Newcastle South Newcastle West Thistleberry and Silverdale
Ashley Parish Council	Newcastle South Newcastle West
Audley Rural Parish Council	Audley and Chesterton Newcastle West
Newcastle Borough Council	Whole borough
Keele Parish Council	Whole borough

South Staffordshire District

Lower Penn Parish Council
Great Wyrley Parish Council
Cllr. P E Smith
Great Wyrley Local Labour Party

Division
Wrottesley
Great Wyrley
Great Wyrley
Great Wyrley
Essington

A private individual
Cheslyn Hay Branch Labour Party

Great Wyrley
Essington
Brewood

Stafford Borough

Weston-with-Gayton-with Fradswell Parish Council

Stafford
Trent Valley
Stone Rural

Staffordshire Moorlands District

Cheddleton Parish Council

Leek Rural
Churnet Valley

Cheadle Town Council

Cheadle Checkley
Churnet Valley
Biddulph-Endon
Whole district
Whole district

Bagnall Parish Council

Horton Parish Council

Longsdon Parish Council

Stoke City District

Stoke City Council

Weston-with-Gayton-with Fradswell Parish Council

Whole district
Weston

Tamworth Borough

Tamworth Borough Council

Whole borough

COUNTY OF STAFFORDSHIRE: NAMES OF PROPOSED DIVISIONS

Name of Division

District of Cannock Chase

Cannock
Chadsmoor
Hednesford
Norton Canes
Rugeley North
Rugeley South
The Hayes

District of East Staffordshire

Burton Tower
Burton Town
Burton Trent
Burton West
Dove
Needwood Forest
Uttoxeter Rural
Urroxeter Urban

District of Lichfield

Burntwood Chase
Burntwood Saints
Lichfield District North
Lichfield District South
Lichfield Rural East
Lichfield Rural North
Lichfield Rural South

Borough of Newcastle-under-Lyme

Audley and Chesterton
Bradwell and Porthill
Cross Heath
Kingsgrove
Newcastle South
Newcastle West
Talke
Thistleberry and Silverdale
Westlands
Wolstanton

District of South Staffordshire

Brewood
Codsall
Essington
Great Wyrley
Kinver
Penkridge
Wombourne
Wrottesley

Borough of Stafford

Eccleshall
Gnosall
Stafford East Gate
Stafford North Gate
Stafford South Gate
Stafford Trent Valley
Stafford West Gate
Stone Rural
Stone Urban

District of Staffordshire Moorlands

Biddulph-Endon
Biddulph Town
Caverswall
Cheadle Checkley
Churnet Valley
Leek North
Leek Rural
Leek South

City of Stoke-on-Trent

Abbey
Berryhill
Blurton
Brookhouse
Burslem Central
Burslem Grange
Chell
East Valley
Fenton Green

City of Stoke-on-Trent (contd...)

Great Fenton

Hanley Green

Hartshill

Longton

Meir Park

Norton and Bradeley

Shelton

Stoke West

Trentham Park

Tunstall North

Weston Coyney

Borough of Tamworth

Bolebridge

Castle Liberty

Perrycrofts

The Heaths

Watling

THE HAYES ED

Cannock Chase District wards of Heath Hayes

Rawnsley

EAST STAFFORDSHIRE DISTRICT

BURTON TOWER ED

East Staffordshire District wards of Stapenhill

Winshill

BURTON TOWN ED

East Staffordshire District wards of Burton

Shobnall

Uxbridge

Victoria

BURTON TRENT ED

East Staffordshire District wards of Broadway

Edgehill

Waterside

BURTON WEST ED

East Staffordshire District wards of Eton

Horninglow

Outwoods

DOVE ED

East Staffordshire District wards of Rolleston

Stretton

Tutbury and Hanbury

NEEDWOOD FOREST ED

East Staffordshire District wards of Branston

Needwood

Yoxall

UTTOXETER RURAL ED

East Staffordshire District wards of Abbey

Bagots

Churnet

Crown

Weaver

UTTOXETER URBAN ED

East Staffordshire District wards of Heath

Town

LICHFIELD DISTRICT

BURNTWOOD CHASE ED

Lichfield District wards of Boney Hay

Chase Terrace

Chasetown

BURNTWOOD SAINTS ED

Lichfield District wards of All Saints

Highfield

Redslade

Summerfield

LICHFIELD DISTRICT NORTH ED

Lichfield District wards of Chadsmead

Curborough

Stowe

LICHFIELD DISTRICT SOUTH ED

Lichfield District wards of Central

Leomansley

St John's

LICHFIELD RURAL EAST ED

Lichfield District wards of Bourne Vale

Fazeley

Mease Valley

Tame

Whittington

LICHFIELD RURAL NORTH ED

Lichfield District wards of Alrewas

Armitage with Handsacre

Colton and Ridwares

King's Bromley

Longdon

LICHFIELD RURAL SOUTH ED

Lichfield District wards of Hammerwich

Little Aston

Shenstone

Stonnall

NEWCASTLE-UNDER-LYME BOROUGH

AUDLEY AND CHESTERTON ED

Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough wards of Audley and Bignall End

Chesterton

BRADWELL AND PORTHILL ED

Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough wards of Bradwell

Porthill

CROSS HEATH ED

Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough wards of Cross Heath

Holditch

KIDSGROVE ED

Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough wards of Kidsgrove

Newchapel

NEWCASTLE SOUTH ED

Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough wards of Loggerheads

Seabridge

Whitmore

NEWCASTLE WEST ED

Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough wards of Halmerend

Keele

Madeley

TALKE ED

Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough wards of Butt Lane

Talke

THISTLEBERRY AND SILVERDALE ED

Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough wards of Silverdale

Thistleberry

WESTLANDS ED

Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough wards of Clayton

Town

Westlands

WOLSTANTON

Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough wards of May Bank

Wolstanton

SOUTH STAFFORDSHIRE DISTRICT

BREWOD ED

South Staffordshire District wards of Bishopwood

Brewood

Coven

Featherstone

CODSALL ED

South Staffordshire District wards of Bilbrook

Codsall North

Codsall South

ESSINGTON ED

South Staffordshire District wards of Cheslyn Hay

Essington

Great Wyrley West

Shareshill

GREAT WYRLEY ED

South Staffordshire District wards of Great Wyrley Landywood

Great Wyrley North

Great Wyrley Town

KINVER ED

South Staffordshire District wards of Kinver

Stourton

Swindon

Trysull and Seisdon

PENKRIDGE ED

South Staffordshire District wards of Acton Trussell

Huntington

Lapley

Penkridge North East

Penkridge South East

Penkridge West

WOMBOURNE ED

South Staffordshire District wards of Wombourne North

Wombourne South East

Wombourne South West

WROTTESELEY ED

South Staffordshire District wards of Lower Penn

Pattingham

Perton

BOROUGH OF STAFFORD

ECCLESHALL ED

Stafford Borough wards of Eccleshall

Seighford

Swynnerton

GNOSALL ED

Stafford Borough wards of Castle

Church Eaton

Gnosall

Woodseaves

STAFFORD EAST GATE ED

Stafford Borough wards of Coton

Forebridge

Littleworth

STAFFORD NORTH GATE ED

Stafford Borough wards of Common

Holmcroft

Tillington

STAFFORD SOUTH GATE ED

Stafford Borough wards of Baswich

Penkside

Weeping Cross

STAFFORD TRENT VALLEY ED

Stafford Borough wards of Beaconside

Chartley

Haywood

Milford

STAFFORD WEST GATE ED

Stafford Borough wards of Highfields

Manor

Rowley

STONE RURAL ED

Stafford Borough wards of Barlaston

Fulford

Milwich

Oulton

STONE URBAN ED

Stafford Borough wards of St Michael's

Stonefield and Christchurch

Walton

STAFFORDSHIRE MOORLANDS DISTRICT

BIDDULPH-ENDON ED

Staffordshire Moorlands District wards of Biddulph Moor

Biddulph South

Brown Edge

Endon and Stanley

BIDDULPH TOWN ED

Staffordshire Moorlands District Wards of Biddulph East

Biddulph North

Biddulph West

CAVERSWALL ED

Staffordshire Moorlands District wards of Caverswall

Forsbrook

Werrington

CHEADLE CHECKLEY ED

Staffordshire Moorlands District Wards of Cheadle South East

Cheadle West

Checkley

CHURNET VALLEY ED

Staffordshire Moorlands District wards of Alton

Cheadle North East

Kingsley

Wetley Rocks

LEEK NORTH ED

Staffordshire Moorlands District wards of Horton

Leek North East

Leek North West

LEEK RURAL ED

Staffordshire Moorlands District wards of Cheddleton

Ipstones

Leekfrith

Longnor

Warslow

Waterhouses

LEEK SOUTH ED

Staffordshire Moorlands District wards of Leek South East

Leek South West

CITY OF STOKE-ON-TRENT

ABBAY ED

Stoke-on-Trent City ward of Abbey

BERRYHILL ED

Stoke-on-Trent City ward of Berryhill

BLURTON ED

Stoke-on-Trent City ward of Blurton

BROOKHOUSE ED

Stoke-on-Trent City ward of Brookhouse

BURSLEM CENTRAL ED

Stoke-on-Trent City ward of Burslem Central

BURSLEM GRANGE ED

Stoke-on-Trent City ward of Burslem Grange

CHELL ED

Stoke-on-Trent City ward of Chell

EAST VALLEY ED

Stoke-on-Trent City ward of East Valley

FENTON GREEN ED

Stoke-on-Trent City ward of Fenton Green

GREAT FENTON ED

Stoke-on-Trent City ward of Great Fenton

HANLEY GREEN ED

Stoke-on-Trent City ward of Hanley Green

HARTSHILL ED

Stoke-on-Trent City ward of Hartshill

LONGTON SOUTH ED

Stoke-on-Trent City ward of Longton South

MEIR PARK ED

Stoke-on-Trent City ward of Meir Park

NORTON AND BRADELEY ED

Stoke-on-Trent City ward of Norton and Bradeley

SHELTON ED

Stoke-on-Trent City ward of Shelton

STOKE WEST ED

Stoke-on-Trent City ward of Stoke West

TRENTHAM PARK ED

Stoke-on-Trent City ward of Trentham Park

TUNSTALL NORTH ED

Stoke-on-Trent City ward of Tunstall North

WESTON GOYNEY ED

Stoke-on-Trent City ward of Weston

BOROUGH OF TAMWORTH

BOLEBRIDGE ED

Tamworth Borough ward of Castle

and those parts of the Bolehall Ward and Amington Ward commencing at a

point where the eastern boundary of Castle Ward meets the northern boundary of Bolehall Ward, thence eastwards and generally southwestwards along the said northern and eastern boundaries of Bolehall Ward to Amington Road, thence northeastwards along said road and its continuation as Tamworth Road (Amington) to Argyle Street, thence southwards along said street to and northeastwards and southeastwards along Wesley Way to Sheepcote Lane, thence generally southwestwards along said lane to the centre of the roundabout junction with Main Road, being the southwestern boundary of Amington Ward, thence northwestwards along said southwestern boundary to the eastern boundary of Bolehall Ward, thence southwestwards along said eastern boundary and continuing generally southwestward along the Coventry Canal to the southern boundary of Bolehall Ward, thence southwestwards along said southern boundary and generally northwestwards and northeastwards along the western boundary of Bolehall Ward to the point of commencement.

CASTLE LIBERTY ED

Tamworth Borough ward of Wilnecote

PERRYCROFTS ED

Tamworth Borough wards of Mercian

Spital

THE HEATHS ED

Tamworth Borough ward of Glascote

and that part of Amington Ward not included in the Bolebridge Electoral Division.

WATLING ED

Tamworth Borough wards of Belgrave

Trinity

and that part of Bolehall Ward not included in the Bolebridge Electoral
Division.