

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

BOUNDARY COMMISSION

FOR ENGLAND

REPORT NO. 96

LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOUNDARY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND

CHAIRMAN

Sir Edmund Compton, GCB, KBE.

DEPUTY CHAIRMAN

Mr J M Rankin, QC.

MEMBERS

The Countess Of Albemarle, DBE.

Mr T C Benfield.

Professor Michael Chisholm.

Sir Andrew Wheatley, CBE.

Mr F B Young, CBE.

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To the Rt Hon Roy Jenkins MP
Secretary of State for the Home Department

PROPOSALS FOR FUTURE ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE BOROUGH
OF GILLINGHAM IN THE COUNTY OF KENT

1. We, the Local Government Boundary Commission for England, having carried out our initial review of the electoral arrangements for the borough of Gillingham 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 borough.
2. In accordance with the procedure laid down in section 60(1) and (2) of the 1972 Act, notice was given on 10 June 1974 that we were to undertake this review. This was incorporated in a consultation letter addressed to the Gillingham Borough Council, copies of which were circulated to the Kent 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 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 any interested bodies.
3. The Gillingham Borough 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 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)(b) of the Local Government Act 1972 they had exercised an option for elections by thirds.

5. On 28 November 1974 Gillingham Borough Council presented their draft scheme of representation. They proposed to divide the area into 14 wards, each returning 3 councillors, to form a council of 42 members.

6. We considered the draft scheme submitted by the Council together with the comments which had been made upon it. We noted that the scheme complied with our own guidelines but contained a wide range of elector/councillor ratios. We also considered an alternative scheme submitted by a political association; we noted that this scheme also complied with our own guidelines and, on the information available, it appeared to provide a better standard of representation than the Council's draft scheme. It also had the advantage that it proposed a council of 36 members returned by 12 wards which would be compatible with the likely allocation of 6 county councillors to represent the borough on Kent County Council. We decided to adopt the alternative scheme as our draft proposals.

7. On 4 March 1975 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 the 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 members of the public and interested bodies. We asked that comments should reach us not later than 29 April.

8. The Commission's draft proposals proved unacceptable to the Council and to many electors in Gillingham both in respect of certain areas, where people felt the scheme broke local ties, and of the scheme as a whole which provided a smaller council than they desired.

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9. During the period when the Commission's draft proposals were on display at the Council's offices, the Borough Council drew up a revised 14 ward scheme returning 42 councillors as they had originally proposed, but with some alteration to the boundaries producing a better standard of representation.

10. In view of the number of comments received in opposition to the Commission's draft proposals and because the Council had produced a revised scheme on which the public had not had an opportunity to comment, it was decided that a local meeting should be held. Therefore, in accordance with section 65(2) of the 1972 Act, and at our request, you appointed Mr W Blum as an Assistant Commissioner to hold a local meeting and to report to us.

11. Notice of the local meeting was sent to all who had received our draft proposals or had commented upon them, and was published locally.

12. The Assistant Commissioner held the meeting at Gillingham Municipal Buildings on 31 July 1975 and visited the whole of the borough. A copy of his report is attached at Schedule 1 to this report.

13. In the light of the discussion that took place at the meeting and his inspection of the borough the Assistant Commissioner recommended that the Council's revised scheme should be accepted with a few minor boundary alterations to achieve a better standard of representation.

14. We considered again our draft proposals in the light of the comments which had been received. We examined the Council's revised scheme and noted the Assistant Commissioner's report. We concluded that the scheme recommended by the Assistant Commissioner was superior to our draft proposals and decided to adopt it as our final proposals.

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14. We considered again our draft proposals in the light of the comments which had been received. We examined the Council's revised scheme and noted the Assistant Commissioner's report. We concluded that the scheme recommended by the Assistant Commissioner was superior to our draft proposals and decided to adopt it as our final proposals.

15. Details of these final proposals are set out in Schedule 2 to this report and on the attached map. 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 defined on the map.

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 Gillingham Borough Council and will be made available for public inspection at the Council's main offices. Copies of this report (without a map) are being sent to those who made comments. A detailed description of the boundaries of the proposed wards as defined on the map, is set out in Schedule 3 to this report.

L.S.

Signed:

EDMUND COMPTON (CHAIRMAN)

JOHN M RANKIN (DEPUTY CHAIRMAN)

DIANA ALBEMARLE

T C BENFIELD

MICHAEL CHISHOLM

ANDREW WHEATLEY

F B YOUNG

DAVID R SMITH (Secretary)

2 October 1975

SCHEDULE 1

TELEPHONES:
01-353 3344-5
0945-6

3. HARE COURT.

TEMPLE, E.C.4.

The Secretary,
Local Government Boundary Commission for England,
20, Albert Embankment,
London, S.E.1.

26th August, 1975.

Sir,

On the 31st July, 1975 I held a meeting at the Municipal Buildings, Gillingham, Kent under the consultative powers contained in section 60 of the Local Government Act, 1972 in order to hear local views on future electoral arrangements for the Borough of Gillingham. The meeting opened at 10.a.m. and continued until shortly before 6 p.m. with a break for lunch during which I toured the entire district by car, accompanied by the Town Clerk and one spokesman for each of the two principal proposals which were for discussion.

The meeting was well attended, a heartening demonstration of the interest taken in the future of local government, and (if I may say so without condescension) I was most impressed by the knowledge and sincerity of all who spoke. It was obvious furthermore that they had put a great deal of preparatory work into the formulation of the views which they put forward.

As I have said there were two principal proposals for discussion namely the Commission's Scheme and the Council's Scheme and the meeting was in effect a debate concerning the relative merits of these proposals. There were virtually no positive suggestions for alterations of either scheme - it was the one scheme or the other. The only exception to this was a plan for 22 wards put forward by Mr. R. Martin. However, this plan was not supported by anyone else and I think that he accepted that it would have to yield to one or other of the main proposals. Although Mr. Martin had obviously given much care and thought to the whole question I think accordingly that I am justified in making no further reference to his contribution except to record that, in default of his plan being accepted, he strongly supported the Council's scheme in preference to the Commission's.

Turning now to these schemes, I will take the Commission's proposals first. They were for 12 wards with 3 councillors from each, giving a Council of 36 members. The details of this scheme are shown on the map which accompanied the Commission's letter of 4th March 1975 to the Council setting out the draft proposals. The Commission have prepared a numerical analysis of their proposals which on 1974 figures of a population of 62,399 produces an average of 1733 electors per councillor, rising to 1936 by 1979 when the electorate is estimated to have risen to 69709. The size of individual wards varies from 3864 to 5841 for 1974 and from 5513 to 6193 for 1979. Thus the very considerable present differences between the number of electors per ward are expected to narrow in the next few years to produce ultimately a very even division of the electorate, no ward exceeding or falling below the average anticipated size of ward by more than 5% or 6%.

The Commission's draft scheme was based on proposals which had been submitted to the Commission in November 1974 by the Gillingham Conservative Association. In these circumstances it was perhaps inevitable that this scheme should at the meeting receive the whole hearted support of those who represented the Conservative interest while being equally whole heartedly opposed by the Labour and Liberal interests. However I am bound to record that, with the notable exception of Councillor Lewis who on behalf of the Conservative interest spoke very ably in support of the Commission's scheme, the case for the scheme has not been put as openly and publicly as perhaps it might have been. This was due to what I feel were two unfortunate errors of judgment. The first was that a copy of the Conservative proposals with its accompanying submissions in support was not supplied to the Council with the result that the arguments in support of what became the Commission's scheme were never publicly canvassed in advance of the meeting. The second error of judgment was the presentation to me at the meeting, in a sealed envelope, of a detailed written submission by County Councillor J.A. Spence who stated that he could not be present at the meeting. It was clear to me that this submission contained a full statement of the Conservative case and thus of the case in favour of the Commission's scheme, yet I did not feel that I would be able to give it its proper weight unless the contents of the statement were made public at the meeting so that they could be commented upon. I am glad to say that when I expressed my misgivings in this regard Mr. Spence was located and was good enough to join and address the meeting towards its close so that we could all hear at least some part of what he wished me to know. The fact remains that, although there may well be almost equal numerical support for the rival schemes, a

casual observer who listened to the meeting and perused the numerous written comments which had been sent to the Commission would conclude that the Commission's scheme found little local favour.

The principal points made in support of the Commission's scheme were the following:-

- (1) In the interests of economy and efficiency it was desirable to limit the Borough to 12 Wards and the Council to 36 Councillors.
- (2) The division into 12 Wards was preferred by the County Council and would more easily fit into the likely future County Council electoral arrangements of 6 County members for Gillingham.
- (3) The 12 proposed Wards achieve maximum electoral equality while yet taking account of geographical divisions.
- (4) The Borough Council's scheme is unsuitable being mainly motivated by the desire for a larger Council and producing too much numerical inequality.

The principal points made against the Commission's scheme were the following:-

- (1) The Ward boundaries as drawn confer an overwhelming political advantage on the Conservative party.
- (2) The proposed boundaries break too many local ties and - in some cases - produce wards of little geographical identity.

- (3) Gillingham, by reason of its present size and probable future growth, needs more than 36 councillors if the electorate is to be properly and adequately represented.
- (4) Too much regard has been paid to the views and wishes of the County Council.

I now turn to the Borough Council's proposals as submitted to the Commission by their letter of 8th May 1975. These proposals were for 14 wards with 3 Councillors from each, giving a Council of 42 members. The details of this scheme are contained in the enclosures to that letter and were fully and admirably explained by the Town Clerk at the meeting. The Commission's numerical analysis of these proposals gives an average of 1485 electors per councillor for 1974 rising to 1615 by 1979 when the electorate is estimated to have risen to 67,846. The size of individual wards varies from 3679 to 4950 for 1974 and from 4358 to 5412 for 1979. Thus the present differences between the number of electors per ward are substantially less than under the Commission's scheme but they are not expected to narrow to anything like the same extent in the next few years, the range from the anticipated average in 1979 varying from 10% below to 12% above.

The Council's proposals are a revised scheme, the Council's original scheme having been submitted last November. I do not propose to say anything about the original scheme except that it produced much greater inequalities of electorate than the present scheme and was probably for that reason, above all others, not acceptable to the Commission. Nor do I propose to speculate as to whether the Commission would have adopted, as it did, the Conservative proposals if the Council had originally put forward its scheme as it now stands revised. I must now record that the Gillingham Council, unlike the Kent County Council, does not have a

Conservative majority; indeed on the Borough Council Labour is, narrowly, in the lead. I further understand that the Conservative members of the Borough Council took no part in the formulation of the Council's schemes and instead prepared their own proposals. In these circumstances it was to be expected that the Council's scheme as presented to the meeting should receive the support of those speaking in the Labour and Liberal interests. Indeed Mr. Clark on behalf of the local Labour Party expressly withdrew his own party's scheme in order to support the Council's scheme.

Having regard to all the foregoing it would be idle not to recognise that political considerations must have been in the minds of many of those who spoke at the meeting or who had earlier made written representations to the Commission, though they may not have said so. It also follows that the arguments advanced in support of and against the Council's scheme were much the same as those which were put forward against and in support of the Commission's scheme, and I therefore do not again tabulate them. But it is right to add that neither at the meeting nor in the written representations was there any real criticism of the Council's proposed ward boundaries as such. In other words, if there was to be a 14 ward scheme, then the Council's scheme appeared to find general acceptance.

Before setting out my recommendations I must attempt an assessment of the weight of the arguments advanced at the meeting. First, I was impressed by the contention that the Commission's scheme unduly favoured the Conservative interest, not so much because I was able to test this on the ground but because nobody convincingly refuted this argument or, possibly more important, suggested that the

Council's scheme equally unfairly favoured the Labour interest; and the Commission's scheme was, after all, based on proposals drawn up by the Conservative Association. Secondly, I thought there was some force in the criticism that the Commission's scheme broke too many local ties. Here again it is very difficult for a stranger to test this on the ground during an inevitably short and cursory inspection, but I felt that the criticisms I heard were totally sincere and they were not really answered. Thirdly, I was not impressed by the argument that a 14 Ward scheme was too expensive and unwieldy or the corresponding counter argument that a 12 Ward scheme would not allow the electorate to be adequately represented. Fourthly, I was not greatly impressed by the argument that economy and efficiency were significant factors pointing to a 12 rather than a 14 ward borough. Nor was I wholly convinced by the argument that a 14 ward scheme could not readily fit into the pattern for the County Council elections, though there is obviously some advantage in this respect in a 12 ward scheme.

I have left to the last the most important argument of all, namely equality of electors to the number of councillors. As is shown by the analysis made by the Commission to which I have already referred, at present the Commission's scheme produces greater inequality than the Council's revised scheme but it is anticipated that by 1979 the position will be reversed, the Commission's scheme then producing very little inequality indeed. At the meeting the Town Clerk submitted electoral projections for 1980 which appeared to show a range from 4868 electors for the smallest ward to 6975 for the largest

x amended limits

under the 12 ward scheme and from 4355 to 6428 under the 14 ward scheme i.e. a high degree of inequality under either scheme. At the same time he produced electoral figures for 1975 which while very close to the figures for 1974 under the 14 ward scheme showed two startling variations under the 12 ward scheme, namely an apparent increase of the electorate of St. Matthew's Ward from 4144 in 1974 to 6,141 in 1975 and an apparent decrease of the electorate of Park-Ward from 4245 in 1974 to 3162 in 1975. This caused me to question the accuracy of the figures on which we had been working and I therefore made further investigations after the meeting. It turns out that the map submitted with the Conservative proposals of last November was wrong and did not represent the written description of the wards contained in these proposals. This unfortunate error has been repeated in the Commission's draft proposals which evidently followed the map rather than the written description with the result that the boundaries of Parkwood and St. Matthews as described in these proposals and as shown on the Commission's map produce wards the electorates of which bear no relation to the figures contained in the analysis to which I have referred earlier. These figures which were taken from the Conservative figures of last November are only correct if the ward boundaries are re-drawn so as to take away the North West corner of St. Matthews and include this in Parkwood - see the map marked "A" annexed hereto.

It is clear therefore that there has been much confusion - to some extent caused, I feel, by the Conservative proposals not having been seen by the Council when they were submitted to the Commission; if they had been, the error might have come to light earlier. It is also clear

that in this particular case it would be unsafe to attach too much weight to the many figures which have been bandied about - I certainly do not feel that I can unreservedly accept the figures contained in the Commission's numerical analysis of the 12 Ward scheme, though I recognise that the particular error which has now come to light may not affect the calculation of averages. Lastly, it is clear that the Commission's draft proposals would in any event require to be amended.

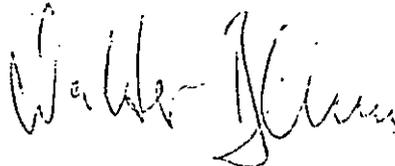
Having reviewed and considered all the principal arguments I have come to the conclusion that I ought to recommend the adoption of the Council's revised 14 Ward scheme, and I do so recommend. In arriving at my conclusion I have had regard not only to what was said at the meeting and in the written representations submitted prior to the meeting but also to further submissions sent to me, at my invitation, subsequent to the meeting. So far as I can judge, the revised 14 Ward scheme produces no more electoral inequalities, at least in the near term, than the 12 Ward scheme and it has the advantage of greater political fairness; moreover it has unquestionably received much more expressed support than the rival scheme, which in any event presently suffers from a serious error. I have also attached some importance to the fact that the scheme I recommend is the scheme proposed by the Borough Council. It is surely right that in matters of local government the voice of the local council should command attention unless there are compelling reasons to the contrary.

At my suggestion the Council have given some further consideration to the boundaries of their proposed St.

Margaret's and Park Wood Wards so as to achieve greater electoral equality, and I have now been informed that they would be willing to have these boundaries adjusted (together with a such consequential adjustment of Rainham Mark Ward) as shown on the map marked "B" annexed hereto. Copies of this plan have, I understand, been sent to the principal political parties, and I would recommend acceptance of the proposed adjustment unless soundly based objections are hereafter made to the Commission.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Walter Blum', written in dark ink.

WALTER BLUM.

GILLINGHAM BOROUGH: NAMES OF PROPOSED WARDS AND NUMBER OF COUNCILLORS

<u>NAME OF WARD</u>	<u>NO. OF COUNCILLORS</u>
BEECHINGS	3
BROMPTON	3
HEMPSTEAD AND WIGMORE	3
MEDWAY	3
NORTH	3
PARK WOOD	3
PRIESTFIELD	3
RAINHAM	3
RAINHAM MARK	3
RIVERSIDE	3
SAINT MARGARET'S	3
SOUTH	3
TWYDALL	3
WATLING STREET	3

BOROUGH OF GILLINGHAM

GILLINGHAM DISTRICT.

Where the boundary is described as following a road, railway, river, canal or similar feature, it should be deemed to follow the centre line of the feature unless otherwise stated.

BROMPTON WARD

Commencing at a point in Chatham Hill on the western boundary of the District, thence northwestwards and following said district boundary to the point being in prolongation northeastwards of the eastern boundary of the Dockyard, thence southwestwards along said prolongation to and along the eastern boundary of the dockyard, and continuing southwestwards and westwards along the eastern and southern boundary of the sewage Pumping Station and the Engineering Works, to the Dockyard Railway, thence northwestwards and following said dockyard railway to the unnamed road that leads to Gillingham Gate and Bridge Road, thence southwestwards along said unnamed road and Bridge Road to a point opposite the southern boundary of the Dockyard, thence northwestwards along said southern boundary to a point opposite Laurel Road thence southwestwards along said road to the access road leading from Laurel Road to Medway Road thence southeastwards, southwestwards and southeastwards along said access road to Medway Road, thence southwestwards along said road to Mill Road, thence southward along said road to High Street, thence generally southeastwards along said street to Victoria Bridge, thence continuing southeastwards along said bridge to Balmoral Road, thence northeastwards and following said road to Duncan Road, thence southwestwards along said road to Gillingham Road, thence southwestwards along said road and continuing along Windmill Road and Chatham Hill to the point of commencement.

SOUTH WARD

Commencing at the point where the western boundary of the District meets the southeastern boundary of Brompton Ward, thence northeastwards along said southeastern boundary and continuing along Gillingham Road to Beresford Road, thence southwestwards along said road to a point opposite the northern boundary of No 1A Beresford Road, thence northwestwards to and along said northern boundary to the rear boundaries of the properties No 1A to 19 on the western side of Beresford Road, thence southwestwards along said rear boundaries to the eastern boundary of the Bus Depot, thence generally southwestwards along said boundary to the eastern boundary of No 48 Nelson Road, thence continuing southwestwards along said eastern boundary to the footpath between Nelson Road and Beresford Road, thence northwestwards along said footpath to a point opposite the rear boundaries of the properties Nos 54-128 on the eastern side of Nelson Road, thence southeastwards to and along said rear boundaries to the eastern boundary of No 11 Borough Road, thence southeastwards and southwestwards along said eastern boundary to a point opposite the northwestern corner of the garage, thence southeastwards to and along the northern boundary of said garage to and northwards, eastwards and southwards along the western, northern and eastern boundaries of No 17 Borough Road to Borough Road, thence southeastwards along said road to Napier Road, thence southwestwards along said road to Nelson Road, thence southeastwards along said road and continuing along Canterbury Street to the western boundary of the District, thence northwestwards along said district boundary to the point of commencement.

PRIESTFIELD WARD

Commencing at the point where the northwestern boundary of South Ward meets the eastern boundary of Brompton Ward, thence northeastwards, southwestwards and northwestwards along said eastern boundary to the Chatham-

Gillingham railway, thence northeastwards and following said railway to Woodlands Road, thence generally southwards along said Road to Sturdee Avenue, thence northwestwards along said avenue to a point opposite the rear boundaries of the properties Nos 95 to 67 Carlton Avenue, thence to and along said rear boundaries and crossing Toronto Road and continuing along the rear boundaries of Nos 65 to 1 Carlton Avenue, to the western boundary of No 1 Carlton Avenue, thence southeastwards along said boundary to Carlton Avenue, thence generally westwards along said avenue to Barnsole Road, thence southeastwards along said road to, a point opposite the southern boundary of No 137 Barnsole Road, thence southwestwards to and along said southern boundary to the northern boundary of the Allotment Gardens, thence southwestwards along said northern boundary to the rear boundary of No 169 Napier Road, thence northwards along said rear boundary and continuing northwestwards along the northern boundary of said property to and crossing Napier Road to the eastern boundary of South Ward, thence northwestwards along said eastern boundary and southwestwards along the northwestern boundary of said ward to the point of commencement.

NORTH WARD

Commencing at the point where the Chatham Dockyard Railway meets the northern boundary of Priestfield Ward, thence southwestwards along said northern boundary to the eastern boundary of Brompton Ward, thence northwestwards, northeastwards and southeastwards following said eastern boundary and continuing southeastwards along the Chatham Dockyard Railway to the point of commencement.

MEDWAY WARD

Commencing at the point where the northern boundary of Priestfield Ward meets the eastern boundary of North Ward, thence northwestwards along said ^{eastern} boundary and northeastwards along the eastern boundary of Brompton

Ward to the northern boundary of the District, thence southeastwards and eastwards along said district boundary to a point due north of the unnamed road adjacent to the western boundary of Parcel No 8076 as shown on 1:2500 Ordnance Survey Plan TQ 7968 Edition 1956, that leads from the foreshore to Lower Rainham Road, thence due south to and southwestwards along said unnamed road to a point opposite the northern boundary of Mulberry Tree Villas, thence southeastwards to and along said northern boundary and continuing along the northern boundary of the property known as the Gables and southwestwards along the eastern boundary of said property to Lower Rainham Road, thence southeastwards along said road to Featherby Road, thence southwestwards along said road to Grange Road, thence northwestwards and following said road to Woodlands Road, thence southwestwards along said road to the northern boundary of Priestfield Ward, thence northwestwards along said northern boundary to the point of commencement.

BEECHINGS WARD

Commencing at a point where the eastern boundary of Priestfield Ward meets the southern boundary of Medway Ward, thence northeastwards and south-
castwards along said southern boundary to Featherby Road, thence southwest-
wards along said road to the Gillingham - Sittingbourne railway, thence
southeastwards along said railway to Lower Twydall Lane, thence southwest-
wards along said lane to Beechings Way, thence southeastwards along said
way to Goudhurst Road, thence southwestwards and northwestwards along said
road to Twydall Green, thence southwestwards along said Green to Waltham
Road, thence northwestwards along said road to Twydall Lane, thence south-
westwards along said lane to Brenchley Road, thence westwards along said
road to Eastcourt Lane, thence southwards along said Lane to the road known
as Broadway, thence northwestwards along said road to the access road
west of No 55 Broadway, thence southwestwards along said access road to
the eastern boundary of the Golf Course, thence southeastwards and south-
westwards along said eastern boundary to the footpath leading from Priory

Road to Woodlands Road, thence northwestwards along said footpath to Woodlands Road, thence northeastwards along said road and along the eastern boundary of Priestfield Ward to the point of commencement.

RIVERSIDE WARD

Commencing at the point where the eastern boundary of the district meets the Gillingham - Sittingbourne railway, thence northwestwards along said railway, to and along the northern boundary of Beeching's Ward and northeastwards and northwards along the eastern boundary of Medway Ward to the northern boundary of the district, thence northeastwards along said district boundary and southwestwards and following the eastern boundary of said district to the point of commencement.

TWYDALL WARD

Commencing at the point where the eastern boundary of Beeching's Ward meets the southern boundary of Riverside Ward, thence southeastwards along said southern boundary to Pump Lane, thence southwestwards along said lane to Beechings Way, thence northwestwards along said Way to Doddington Road, thence southwestwards along said road to Hawthorne Avenue, thence southeastwards and southwestwards along said Avenue and in prolongation thereof to London Road thence northwestwards along said road to and continuing northwestwards along Watling Street to the point opposite the eastern boundary of Langton Playing Fields, thence northeastwards to and along said eastern boundary to the southern boundary of Beeching's Ward, thence generally northeastwards and following said southern boundary and the eastern boundary of said ward to the point commencement.

RAINHAM WARD

Commencing at a point where the eastern boundary of Twydall Ward meets the southern boundary of Riverside Ward, thence southeastwards along said southern boundary to the eastern boundary of the District, thence southwestwards along said district boundary to Moor Street, thence northwestwards along said street, High Street and London Road to the eastern boundary of Twydall Ward, thence northeastwards along said ward boundary to the point of commencement.

ST MARGARET'S WARD

Commencing at a point where Maidstone Road meets the southern boundary of Rainham Ward, thence southeastwards along said ward boundary to the eastern boundary of the District, thence southwestwards along said district boundary and southwestwards and westwards to and along the southern boundary of the District to grid reference TQ 8014362686, thence due north from said point to the M2 motorway, thence northeastwards along said motorway to a point due south of the western-most point of No 126 Burnham Walk, thence due north to said point being on the southeastern boundary of Lower Brooms Wood, thence northeastwards along said boundary and in prolongation thereof to Miers Court Road, thence northeastwards and following said road to the footpath leading from Miers Court Road to Chesham Drive, thence Southwestwards, northwestwards and following said footpath to and northeastwards along said drive to a point opposite the rear boundary of No 6 Sutherland Gardens thence northwestwards to and along the rear boundaries of Nos 6 to 1 said gardens to and northeastwards along the rear boundaries of Nos 8 to 26 Barleycorn Drive and in prolongation of last mentioned boundaries to NG reference TQ 8120264877 thence northwestward in a straight line to and along the northeastern boundary of No 269 Lonsdale Drive, to Lonsdale Drive, thence northeastwards along said drive to and northwestwards along Kenilworth Drive to a point opposite the

eastern boundary of No 113 said drive thence northeastwards to and along said boundary to and northwestwards along the rear boundaries of No 113 to 103 Kenilworth Drive, the northern boundaries of Nos 7 and 8 Wentworth Drive and continuing along the properties No 92 to 18 Elmstone Road to and along the northeastern boundary of No 253 Maidstone Road to Maidstone Road, thence northeastwards along said road to the point of commencement.

RAINHAM MARK WARD

Commencing at the point where the southern boundary of Twydall Ward meets the southern boundary of Rainham Ward, thence southeastwards along said southern boundary of Rainham Ward to the western boundary of St Margaret's Ward, thence southwestwards, southeastwards and southwestwards along said western boundary to the northwestern boundary of Fox Burrow Wood, being opposite the southernmost point of Chesham Drive, thence southwestwards, southeastwards and southwestwards along said northwestern boundary to Deanwood Drive, thence northwestwards and continuing along said Drive to Maidstone Road, thence southwestwards along said Road to the road known as Woodside, thence westwards along said road to Hoath Lane thence northwestwards along said lane to a point opposite the southeastern boundary of the property known as Thorny Lodge, thence to and along said southeastern boundary and in prolongation thereof to Hoath Way, (A278), thence generally northwards along said Way crossing the roundabout and continuing along Hoath Way to the southern boundary of Twydall Ward, thence southeastwards along said boundary to the point of commencement.

PARK WOOD WARD

Commencing at the point where Maidstone Road meets the southern boundary of Rainham Mark Ward thence northeastwards, southeastwards and northeastwards along said southern boundary to the western boundary of St Margaret's Ward, thence southeastwards, southwestwards and following

said western boundary to Hoath Way, thence northwestwards along said way to Maidstone Road, thence northeastwards along said road to the point of commencement.

HEMPSTEAD AND WIGMORE WARD

Commencing at the point where the western boundary of St Margaret's Ward meets the southern boundary of the District, thence northwestwards and following said district boundary to the road known as Kingsway, thence southeastwards along said road to Darland Avenue, thence southeastwards along said avenue to a point opposite the southwestern boundary of Parcel No 7600 as shown on 1:2500 Ordnance Survey Plan TQ 78-7965 Rev 1968, thence southeastwards to and along said boundary, the northwestern boundary of the property known as Star Lodge, and continuing along the detail to and along the rear boundary of No 25 Hamelin Road, thence continuing southeastwards along the southern boundary of Parcel No 3270 on Ordnance Survey 1:2500 Plan TQ 78-7965 Edition 1969, to Hoath Close thence south-eastwards in a straight line to centre of the roundabout in Hoath Way being the western boundary of Rainham Mark Ward, thence generally southwards along said western boundary and eastwards along the southern boundary of said ward, to the western boundary of Park Wood Ward, thence generally southwestwards along said western boundary and along the western boundary of St Margaret's Ward to the point of commencement.

WATLING STREET WARD

Commencing at the point where the northeastern boundary of Hempstead and Wigmore Ward meets the western boundary of the District, thence north-eastwards and northwestwards along said district boundary to the eastern boundary of South Ward, thence northwestwards and north-eastwards along said eastern boundary to the southern boundary of Priestfield Ward, thence

generally eastwards, northwestwards, southeastwards and following said southern boundary and continuing along the western and southern boundary of Beeching's Ward to the western boundary of Twydall Ward, thence generally southwards along said western boundary and southeastwards along the southern boundary of said ward to the western boundary of Rainham Mark Ward, thence southwards along said western boundary to the northeastern boundary of Hempstead and Wigmore Ward, thence northwestwards along said northeastern boundary to the point of commencement.