

**Local Government  
Boundary Commission  
For England  
Report No. 499**

**Principal Area Boundary Review**

**DISTRICT OF CHESTER LE STREET/**

**CITY OF DURHAM**

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

BOUNDARY COMMISSION

FOR ENGLAND

REPORT NO. 499

LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOUNDARY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND

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BACKGROUND

1. In a letter dated 20 March 1981 the Chester-le-Street District Council invited us to make proposals for certain changes to the boundary of their district with the district of the City of Durham. The suggestion for changes had arisen during the course of the review by the District Council of the parish pattern in their area and involved the parishes of Plawsworth and Sacriston. Durham City Council had not at that stage completed their own parish review, but it was clear that the changes concerned were not supported by them or by the councils of the three parishes in their district which would be involved - Framwellgate Moor, Kimblesworth and Witton Gilbert. We decided to defer action on the matter until we had received Durham City Council's parish review report.
2. In submitting their report in August 1982 Durham City Council opposed all the district boundary changes suggested by Chester-le-Street District Council; Kimblesworth Parish Council wrote to us separately to emphasise their opposition to the ones affecting them. The City Council sent us a copy of a letter from the Durham County Council, however, which said, in relation to the possibility of changes in the Kimblesworth Parish boundary, that the Council considered that the villages of Kimblesworth and Nettlesworth (the latter currently in Plawsworth Parish, Chester-le-Street) should be treated as one settlement and that future development should be in relation to a single local plan. In the circumstances the County Council's view was that both villages should be included in one district; but they left the Commission and the respective District Councils to determine in which district they should lie.
3. The opinion of the County Council persuaded us that we should contemplate changes to the district boundary, and we wrote to Chester-le-Street District Council accordingly on 30 June 1983. We invited them to produce a case, supported by detailed arguments, for the changes they would advocate, dealing not only with the

village of Kimblesworth itself, but with all the consequential changes to boundaries and to parish, district, and county electoral arrangements. They were asked to make their submission available to the other local authorities involved, who were invited to send comments on it to us.

#### RESPONSE TO DETAILED CASE

4. We carefully considered the case, which Chester-le-Street District Council subsequently submitted, in the light of the criteria set out in paragraph 1<sup>h</sup> and Annex B of DOE Circular 33/78. We also considered counter-suggestions put forward by Durham City Council, and letters from Durham County Council, and the parish councils of Kimblesworth, Framwellgate Moor and Witton Gilbert.

5. The Chester-le-Street District Council advocated the unification within its area of the villages of Kimblesworth and Nettlesworth, in an enlarged parish of Plawsworth; the transfer of part of Framwellgate Moor Parish (City of Durham) to Plawsworth Parish; and the transfer of small parts of the City of Durham parishes of Kimblesworth and Witton Gilbert to the Chester-le-Street parish of Sacriston. The counter-suggestion from Durham City Council entailed the transfer of part of Plawsworth Parish into Kimblesworth Parish, and the inclusion of the remainder in Sacriston Parish. The Parish Councils of Kimblesworth, Framwellgate Moor, and Witton Gilbert, all supported the counter-suggestion. Durham County Council reiterated their view that the villages of Kimblesworth and Nettlesworth should be included in a single district, but once more declined to express any preference as to which district it should be.

6. We noted what seemed to be general acceptance that the villages of Kimblesworth and Nettlesworth constituted a single community. We were persuaded that the interests of effective and convenient local government would best be served by uniting them within the district of Chester-le-Street, and by adopting the other realignments put forward in the District Council's scheme. We therefore formulated draft proposals on that basis, but including some technical suggestions by Ordnance Survey as to boundaries. One consequential change was that

the part of Kimblesworth Parish remaining in the City of Durham, should become part of Witton Gilbert Parish.

7. Our draft proposals were announced on 23 May 1984, in a letter to the City and District Councils. Copies of the letter were sent to Durham County Council, the Parish Councils concerned, the Members of Parliament for the constituencies concerned, the headquarters of the main political parties, the Durham Association of Local Councils, the Durham District Health Authority, the Northumbrian Water Authority, local newspapers circulating in the area, local radio and television stations serving the area and the local government press. The City and District Councils were asked to publish a notice announcing the draft proposals and to place copies of them on deposit for inspection at their main offices. Comments were invited by 1 August 1984.

#### RESPONSE TO DRAFT PROPOSALS

8. In response to our draft proposals we received replies from eight sources. Chester-le-Street District Council and Plawsworth Parish Council fully supported the draft proposals. Durham County Council and Durham District Health Authority had no comments to make.

9. Durham City Council were opposed to all our draft proposals, contending that major changes in principal area boundaries should not be proposed, following on from a parish review, when there was no agreement between the principal authorities concerned. They asked for a local meeting to be held if, after taking all the comments into account, we were still minded to adhere to our draft proposals. They were supported in this by Dr Mark Hughes MP.

10. Kimblesworth Parish Council in three separate letters to us reiterating their total opposition to our draft proposals, as did Framwellgate Moor Parish Council.

## FINAL PROPOSALS

11. We have reassessed the matter, and have decided to confirm our draft proposals as our final proposals. We believe that the villages of Kimblesworth and Nettlesworth clearly form a distinct and identifiable community and this has not been seriously challenged. The villages are situated some distance from the main built-up area of the City of Durham, and the revised boundary would in our view better reflect the 'no man's land' between communities to which DOE Circular 121/77 refers. We noted that the only expression of the wishes of the inhabitants was made by their Parish Councils; we did not receive any letters from private individuals following publication of our draft proposals. We have also taken note of the fact that although the population of Chester-le-Street is considerably less than that of the City of Durham, Chester-le-Street District Council have never used arguments concerned with increased rateable value as part of their case. The most persuasive arguments have been in terms of community of interest and provision of services, and in those respects no serious challenge has been made to the view that our proposals would be in the best interests of effective and convenient local government.

12. Details of these final proposals are set out in Schedules 1-3 to this report: Schedule 1 specifies the proposed changes in local authority areas and Schedules 2 and 3 the consequential adjustments to the existing district and county electoral arrangements. The proposed boundaries are shown on the large scale map being sent separately to your Department.

## PUBLICATION

13. Separate letters, enclosing copies of this report, are being sent to Durham City Council and Chester-le-Street District Council, asking them to place copies of this report on deposit at their main offices and to put notices to this effect on public notice boards and in the local press. The text of the notices will refer to your power to make an Order implementing the proposals, if you think fit, after the expiry of six weeks from the date they are submitted to you; it will

suggest that any comments on the proposals should therefore be addressed to you, in writing, preferably within six weeks of the date of the letter. Copies of this report, which includes a small scale plan, are also being sent to those who received the consultation letter.

L.S.

Signed: G J ELLERTON (Chairman)

J G POWELL (Deputy Chairman)

JOAN ACKNER

TYRRELL BROCKBANK

G E CHERRY

K J L NEWELL

BRIAN SCHOLES

L B GRIMSHAW

Secretary

18 April 1985

## LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOUNDARY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND

PRINCIPAL AREA BOUNDARY REVIEW - ~~FINAL~~ PROPOSALS

## CHESTER-LE-STREET DISTRICT/CITY OF DURHAM

Note: where a boundary is described as following a road, railway, river, canal or similar feature, it shall be deemed to follow the centre of the feature, unless otherwise stated.

## SCHEDULE 1 - PRINCIPAL AREA BOUNDARY ALTERATIONS

Area A: description of an area of land proposed to be transferred from Witton Gilbert CP in the City of Durham to Sacriston CP in Chester-le-Street District.

That area bounded by a line commencing at the point where the existing boundary between the City of Durham and Chester-le-Street District meets the eastern boundary of parcel No 0046, as shown on OS 1:2500 Microfilm (B) NZ 2446, date of publication 1979, thence southeastwards along said parcel boundary to the southwestern boundary of said parcel, thence westwards and northwestwards along said southwestern boundary, continuing on 1:2500 Microfilm (B) NZ 2346, date of publication 1977, and continuing northwestwards along the southwestern boundaries of Parcels No's 8255 and 7462 to the existing boundary between the City of Durham and Chester-le-Street District, thence northwards and generally southeastwards along said existing boundary to the point of commencement.

Area B: description of an area of land proposed to be transferred from Sacriston CP in Chester-le-Street District to Witton Gilbert CP in the City of Durham.

That area bounded by a line commencing at the point where the existing boundary between the City of Durham and Chester-le-Street District meets the southwestern boundary of Parcel No 3449, as shown on OS 1:2500 Microfilm (B) NZ 2446, date of publication 1979, thence northwestwards along said parcel boundary, and northeastwards and southeastwards along the northwestern and eastern boundaries of said parcel to the existing boundary between the City of Durham and Chester-le-Street District, thence southwestwards along said existing boundary to the point of commencement.

Area C: description of an area of land proposed to be transferred from Kimblesworth CP in the City of Durham to Sacriston CP in Chester-le-Street District.

That area bounded by a line commencing at the point where the existing boundary between the City of Durham and Chester-le-Street District meets the western boundary of Parcel No 2342, as shown on OS 1:2500 Microfilm (B) NZ 2547, date of publication 1972, thence southwards along said parcel boundary and the eastern boundary of Parcel No 0006 to the southern boundary of the last-mentioned parcel, thence southwestwards along said southern boundary, continuing on OS 1:2500 Microfilm (B) NZ 2546, date of publication 1979 and OS 1:2500 Microfilm (B) NZ 2446 date of publication 1979 and continuing southwestwards along the southern boundary of Parcel No 8000 to the existing boundary between the City of Durham and Chester-le-Street District, thence generally northwards and generally southeastwards along said existing boundary to the point of commencement.

Area D: description of an area of land proposed to be transferred from Kimblesworth CP in the City of Durham to Plawsworth CP in the Chester-le-Street District.

That area bounded by a line commencing at the point where the existing boundary between the City of Durham and Chester-le-Street District meets the northwestern boundary of Parcel No 2300 as shown on OS 1:2500 Microfilm (B) NZ 2647, date of publication 1971, thence southwestwards along said parcel boundary and continuing southwestwards and westwards along the northern boundary of Parcel No 0087 as shown on OS 1:2500 Microfilm (B) NZ 2646, date of publication 1979, to the western corner of Parcel No 0400, thence due westwards from said corner to the western boundary of Parcel No 0087, as shown on OS 1:2500 Microfilm (B) NZ 2546, date of publication 1979, thence southwards along said parcel boundary to a point due east of the southern corner of Parcel No 8800, thence due west to said southern corner, northwards along the southern boundary of the last-mentioned parcel and northwards along the western boundary of said parcel to the southern boundary of Parcel No 7200, thence westwards along said parcel boundary, continuing on OS 1:2500 Microfilm (B) NZ 2547, date of publication 1972, and continuing westwards along the southern boundary of Parcel No 3612 to the eastern boundary of Area C, as described above, thence northwards along said eastern boundary to the existing boundary between the City of Durham and Chester-le-Street District thence generally eastwards and

generally southwards along said existing boundary to the point of commencement.

Area E: description of an area of land proposed to be transferred from Framwellgate Moor CP in the City of Durham to Plawsworth CP in Chester-le-Street District.

That area bounded by a line commencing on the existing boundary between the City of Durham and Chester-le-Street District in the River Wear, at a point due east of the southern corner of Parcel No 4300 as shown on OS 1:2500 Microfilm (A) NZ 2847 date of publication 1960, thence due west to said corner and northwestwards along the northern boundary of Parcel No 2700, continuing on OS 1:2500 Microfilm (B) NZ 2848, date of publication 1977, to the western boundary of said parcel, thence southwards along said parcel boundary continuing on NZ 2847 to the southern boundary of Parcel No 1195, thence westwards along said southern boundary and southwestwards along the southern boundary of Parcel No 8590, as shown on OS 1:2500 Microfilm (B) NZ 2747, date of publication 1971 to the eastern boundary of Parcel No 5850, thence southwards along said parcel boundary to a point opposite the southern corner of Parcel No 2063, thence northwestwards to said corner and northwestwards and westwards along the southern boundary of said parcel, continuing on OS 1:2500 Microfilm (B) NZ 2647, date of publication 1971, to the existing boundary between the City of Durham and Chester-le-Street District, thence eastwards along said existing boundary to the point of commencement.

#### SCHEDULE 2 - CIVIL PARISH ALTERATIONS

1. Proposal 1: that the existing Plawsworth CP, as altered by the transfers of Areas D and E described in Schedule 1, shall be renamed Kimblesworth and Plawsworth CP.

Proposal 2: that Area D, as described in Schedule 1 shall form a Ward of the proposed Kimblesworth and Plawsworth CP, as described in Proposal 1 above, and shall return an additional two councillors to the Parish Council to give a total of 11 members.

Proposal 3: Area F as described below, shall be transferred from Kimblesworth CP to Witton Gilbert CP. Kimblesworth CP shall be abolished.

That part of Kimblesworth CP not included in Areas C and D as described in Schedule 1.

SCHEDULE 3 - Revised District electoral arrangements, consequent upon the proposals described in Schedules 1 and 2.

It is proposed that the District Wards as defined in the City of Durham (Electoral Arrangements) Order 1978 and the District of Chester-le-Street (Electoral Arrangements) Order 1976 shall be altered as described below:-

Area A: as described in Schedule 1 shall be transferred from the Witton Gilbert Ward of the City of Durham to the Sacriston Ward of Chester-le-Street District.

Area B: as described in Schedule 1 shall be transferred from the Sacriston Ward of Chester-le-Street District to the Witton Gilbert Ward of the City of Durham.

Area C: as described in Schedule 1 shall be transferred from the Framwellgate Moor Ward of the City of Durham to the Sacriston Ward of Chester-le-Street District.

Areas D and E: as described in Schedule 1 shall be transferred from the Framwellgate Moor Ward of the City of Durham to the Plawsworth Ward of Chester-le-Street District.

Area F: as described in Schedule 2 shall be transferred from the Framwellgate Moor Ward of the City of Durham to the Witton Gilbert Ward of ~~the City of Durham~~

SCHEDULE 4 - Revised County electoral arrangements consequent upon the proposals described in Schedules 1 and 2.

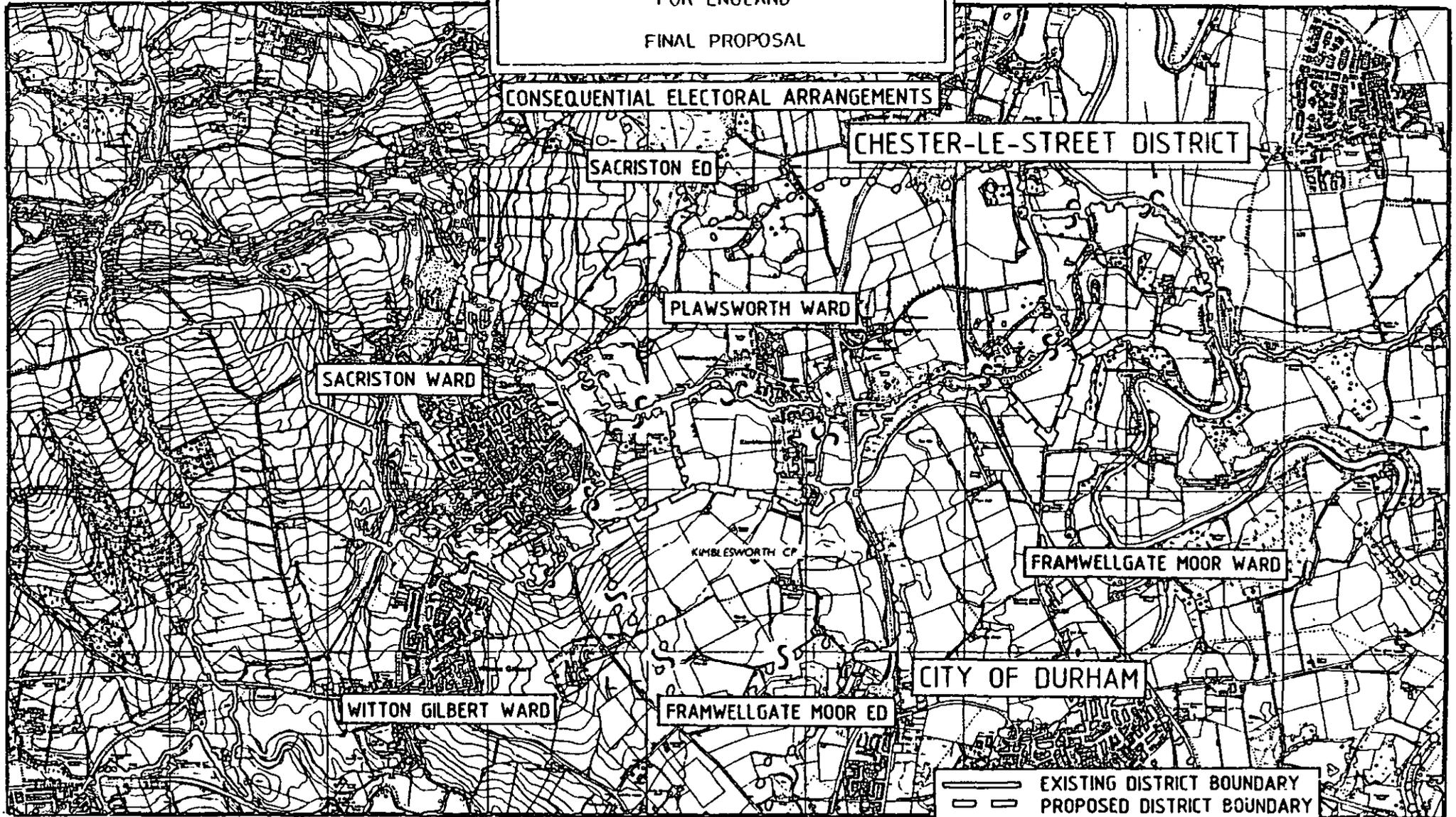
It is proposed that the County Electoral Divisions as defined in the County of Durham (Electoral Arrangements) Order 1981, shall be altered as described below.

Areas A, C, D and E as described in Schedule 1 shall be transferred from the Framwellgate Moor ED to the Sacriston ED.

Area B, as described in Schedule 1, shall be transferred from the Sacriston ED to the Framwellgate Moor ED.

# PRINCIPAL AREA REVIEW

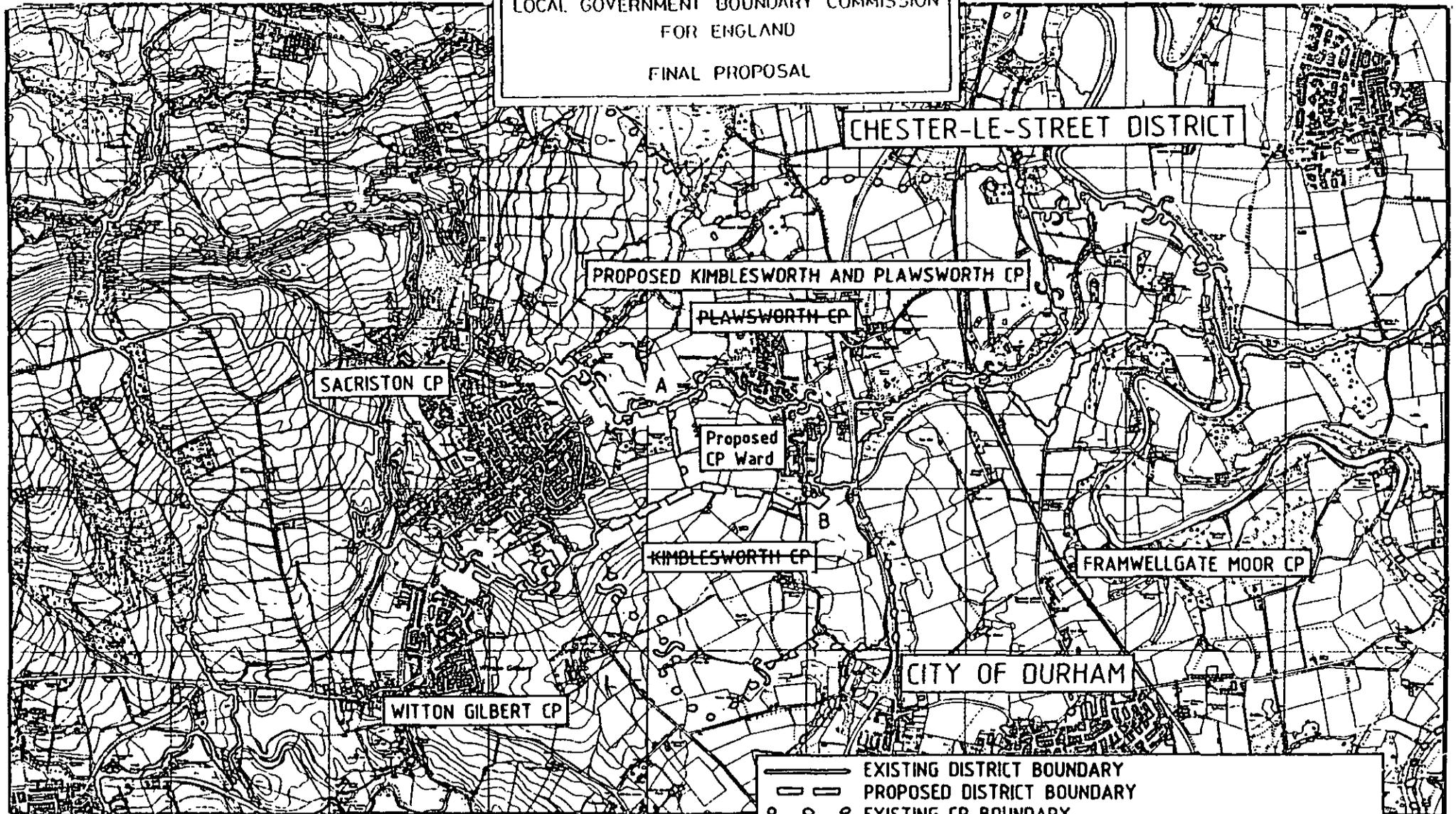
LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOUNDARY COMMISSION  
FOR ENGLAND  
FINAL PROPOSAL



- EXISTING DISTRICT BOUNDARY
- - - PROPOSED DISTRICT BOUNDARY
- o o o EXISTING WARD BOUNDARY
- o o o o PROPOSED WARD BOUNDARY

# PRINCIPAL AREA REVIEW

LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOUNDARY COMMISSION  
FOR ENGLAND  
FINAL PROPOSAL



- EXISTING DISTRICT BOUNDARY
- - - PROPOSED DISTRICT BOUNDARY
- ○ ○ EXISTING CP BOUNDARY
- ○ - ○ - PROPOSED CP BOUNDARY
- A-B existing District boundary becomes CP Ward boundary

