

**Local Government  
Boundary Commission  
For England  
Report No. 433**

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

BOUNDARY COMMISSION

FOR ENGLAND

REPORT NO. 433

LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOUNDARY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND

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SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

1. In a letter dated 5 February 1980 East Hertfordshire District Council requested us to review the boundary between the District of East Hertfordshire and the Borough of Stevenage with a view to transferring part of the village of Aston (approximately 22 properties and some open land) from the borough of Stevenage to the district of East Hertfordshire.
2. The case put forward was that it would overcome the unsatisfactory situation under which the present boundary divided the village between the two districts, and that it would reflect the community of interest in the area.
3. We considered the Council's request as required by section 48(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 having regard to Department of the Environment Circular 33/78 and to our Report No. 287.
4. We noted the lack of support for the proposal from Stevenage Borough Council who had in fact expressed a possible interest in obtaining a wider boundary extension of their own area to include surrounding villages which were within the Stevenage sphere of influence. It was considered that in these circumstances the views of the County Council were essential and they were therefore requested to comment with particular reference to the possible future needs of Stevenage Borough Council for expansion as well as on the narrower issue of Aston. The County Council considered that the boundary should be adjusted to enable the whole of Aston village to be within the district of East Hertfordshire. They also considered that it was likely that there would have to be boundary adjustments between the two districts but not on the scale envisaged by Stevenage Borough Council and that any forthcoming proposals would not directly affect Aston parish.
5. We reconsidered the District Council's request in the light of this further information. We noted that the change was fairly minor and that there was agreement among the local authorities, with the exception of Stevenage Borough. We concluded that the proposals met the criteria set out in paragraph 14 of Department of the Environment Circular 33/78.
6. As a result we decided that we should undertake a review and that as the proposals made appeared to be beneficial and had not attracted any substantial local opposition the circumstances were such as to enable us to shorten the normal procedure by publishing draft proposals, based on East Hertfordshire District Council's submission, at the same time as we formally announced our intention to carry out a review.

7. On 16 September 1981 we issued a consultation letter announcing the start of the review and giving details of our draft proposals. The letter was addressed jointly to East Hertfordshire District Council and Stevenage Borough Council and copies were sent to Hertfordshire County Council, Aston Parish Council, Clerks to other parish councils in East Hertfordshire, residents of the affected properties, MP's of the constituencies concerned, headquarters of the main political parties, editors of the local newspapers and editors of the local government press. The two district councils were asked to put copies of a notice announcing the start of the review and the publication of our draft proposals on display at places where public notices were customarily displayed. The Councils were also asked to put copies of our draft proposals on deposit at their main offices for a period of six weeks. Comments on the review and the draft proposals were invited by 11 November 1981.

8. Aston Village Society, the Village Hall Committee, Aston WI and many of the residents in the affected area and two other residents, one a parish councillor, supported our draft proposals. Stevenage Borough Council objected to that part of the proposals that transferred part of their golf course to the district of East Hertfordshire. They considered it vital for the whole of the golf course complex to be under one authority to ensure effective management and development. They also objected to that part of the proposals that transferred the Long Ridge development to the district of East Hertfordshire. They considered that this area should remain within their Borough because land adjacent to it may be developed and in the future it could form the southern extremity of the developed area of Stevenage and also because it would make it simpler to deal with the questions of nuisance arising from the use of the golf course and affecting the residents of Long Ridge. They also claimed that to transfer the area to East Hertfordshire district would present an awkward boundary and could affect the effective operation of local government services. Hertfordshire County Council supported our draft proposals in so far as Aston village and the Long Ridge development were concerned but suggested that an adjustment should be made so that the golf course would remain within the Borough of Stevenage. East Hertfordshire District Council suggested that the draft proposals would present the best solution to the boundary problem in the area. They also suggested that the second best solution would be a boundary which transferred part of the village of Aston and the Long Ridge development to their district but also kept most of the golf course in the Borough of Stevenage. Aston Parish Council supported the draft proposals and also indicated their support for the alternative boundary suggested by East Hertfordshire District Council if Stevenage Borough Council raised objections.

9. We accept Stevenage Borough Council's argument that that part of the golf course included in the draft proposals should remain within their Borough to ensure effective management. However, we consider that their objections with regard to the Long Ridge area were outweighed by the community of interest that had been expressed by the residents in the area and by the support that the arrangement had from the councils and voluntary organisations.

10. We have therefore decided to formulate final proposals which would transfer that part of the golf course included in our draft proposals to the borough of Stevenage and also transfer the Long Ridge area to the district of East Hertfordshire. We are satisfied that this amendment will be in the interests of effective and convenient local government in the area.

11. Details of these final proposals are set out in Schedules 1 and 2 to this report. Schedule 1 specifies the proposed changes in local authority areas; the proposed boundary is illustrated on the attached map. Schedule 2 specifies the consequential adjustments to the existing electoral arrangements.

12. Separate letters are being sent with copies of the report and of the map to East Hertfordshire District Council and Stevenage Borough 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 powers 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 include a sketch plan, are also being sent to those who received the consultation letter and to those who made comments.

LS

Signed: R R THORNTON (Deputy Chairman)

J M ACKNER

TYRRELL BROCKBANK

G E CHERRY

D P HARRISON

LESLIE GRIMSHAW (Secretary)

13 September 1982

LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOUNDARY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND

PRINCIPAL AREA REVIEW

BOROUGH OF STEVENAGE/DISTRICT OF EAST HERTFORDSHIRE

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

Schedule 1

Area A: description of area of land proposed to be transferred from the Borough of Stevenage to Aston CP in East Hertfordshire District.

That area bounded by a line commencing at the point where the existing District boundary meets the northeastern boundary of parcel No 1033 as shown on OS 1:2500 microfilm (A1) TL 2722, date of publication May 1978, thence northwestwards, southwestwards and northwards along said parcel boundary and continuing northwestwards along the northeastern boundary of parcel No 1641 and the northeastern boundary of parcel No 1033 to the existing District boundary, thence northeastwards, northwards, eastwards and generally southwards along said existing district boundary to the point of commencement.

Area B: description of area of land proposed to be transferred from the Borough of Stevenage to Aston CP in East Hertfordshire District.

That area bounded by a line commencing at the point where the existing District boundary meets the northern boundary of Broadwater Lane, thence southwards along said existing District boundary to the northern boundary of Longmeadow Ward as defined in the Borough of Stevenage (Electoral Arrangements) Order 1976, thence southwards, southwestwards and northwestwards along said northern boundary to the southern boundary of Broadwater Lane, thence continuing northwestwards across said lane to the northern boundary of said lane, thence northeastwards along said northern boundary to the point of commencement.

## Schedule 2

Revised District electoral arrangements, consequent upon the proposals described in Schedule 1.

It is proposed that the District Wards, as defined in the Borough of Stevenage (Electoral Arrangements) Order 1976 and the District of East Hertfordshire (Electoral Arrangements) Order 1976 shall be altered as described below.

Area A, as described in Schedule 1, shall be transferred from the Longmeadow Ward of the Borough of Stevenage to the Walkern Ward of East Hertfordshire District.

Area B, as described in Schedule 1, shall be transferred from the Bandley Hill Ward of the Borough of Stevenage to the Walkern Ward of East Hertfordshire District.

## Schedule 3

Revised County electoral arrangements, consequent upon the proposals described in Schedule 1.

It is proposed that the County Electoral Divisions, as defined in the County of Hertfordshire (Electoral Arrangements) Order 1980, shall be altered as described below.

Area A, as described in Schedule 1, shall be transferred from the Broadwater ED to the Hertford Rural ED.

Area B, as described in Schedule 1, shall be transferred from the Shephall ED to the Hertford Rural ED.

# PRINCIPAL AREA REVIEW

LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOUNDARY COMMISSION  
FOR ENGLAND  
FINAL PROPOSAL

--- EXISTING DISTRICT BOUNDARY  
— PROPOSED DISTRICT BOUNDARY

## EAST HERTFORDSHIRE DISTRICT

## STEVENAGE BOROUGH

Extract from  
PLANS TL 2622 & TL 2722

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