

Local Government
Boundary Commission
For England
Report No. 120

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 DISTRICT OF NORTH
SHROPSHIRE 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 district of North Shropshire in accordance with the requirements of section 63 of, and Schedule 1 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 North Shropshire District Council, copies of which were circulated to the Salop County Council, Parish Councils and Parish Meetings 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. North Shropshire District 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. The Council had not exercised an option in accordance with section 7(4) of the Local Government Act 1972. The provisions of section 7(6) of the Act, which provide for a system of whole council elections, will therefore apply.

5. On 6 January 1975 the North Shropshire District Council presented their draft scheme of representation. The Council proposed to divide the area into twenty-four wards each returning one, two or three members to form a council of forty.

6. Following the publication of the District Council's provisional draft scheme, we received one letter, from Wem Town Council, suggesting that the proposed Wem Urban ward should be represented by four councillors instead of three. The Council sent us copies of the correspondence which they had received during the period when the draft scheme was in preparation. We noted that there was one case where the Council had not been able to accept the suggestion made and incorporate it in their scheme; this was a request by Baschurch Parish Council for an additional councillor to represent the proposed Baschurch ward.

7. We considered the draft scheme and the suggested modifications. In the case of both requests we considered that the electorates of the proposed wards did not warrant additional representation, although we noted that, on the forecast 1979 electorate figure provided by the District Council, Wem Urban was a marginal case. Accordingly, we decided to reject both requests. We examined several possibilities for adapting the Council's draft scheme so as to secure a more even standard of representation but we concluded that there were no sensible changes which could be made.

8. We decided therefore that the District Council's draft scheme 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, and we formulated our draft proposals accordingly.

9. On 30 June 1975, we issued our draft proposals and these were sent to all who had received our consultation letter. The 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 5 September 1975.

10. North Shropshire District Council wrote to us making alternative proposals for the parishes of Market Drayton and Whitchurch Urban, which provided for each parish to be divided into three wards each returning two district councillors. They sent us copies of letters from the two parish councils concerned expressing agreement to the suggested changes. In order to comply with the rules in Schedule 11 to the 1972 Act, the District Council had carried out reviews, in accordance with section 50(4) of the Act, of the electoral arrangements for the parishes, and they subsequently made orders dividing Market Drayton and Whitchurch Urban into parish wards which would be coterminous with their proposed district wards.

11. Salop County Council also wrote to us, proposing that the revised wards for Market Drayton and Whitchurch Urban, which the District Council had proposed, should be adopted in order to avoid possible difficulties at a later date in producing reasonably equal county electoral divisions which would also be compatible with the district wards.

12. Wem Town Council wrote again asking that the proposed Wem Urban ward should be represented by four councillors instead of three. They said that the electorate figure which the District Council had forecast for 1979 was too low, and that by that date Wem would have grown considerably.

13. In view of the general agreement that there appeared to be locally to the revised wards in Market Drayton and Whitchurch Urban, we decided to adopt them for our final proposals.

14. As stated in paragraph 7 above, we noted that the proposed Wem Urban ward was a marginal case for having its representation increased to four councillors. Since a challenge had been made to the District Council's predicted electorate figures, we wrote to them to ascertain the basis of their forecasts. In case, after further consideration, we came to the conclusion that we should increase the town's representation to four councillors, we also sought the District Council's initial reaction to the possibility of their carrying out a review of the parish electoral arrangements for Wem, with a view to dividing it into wards, in order that any proposed district wards would comply with our guideline that no ward should return more than three councillors.

15. In due course we received a reply from the District Council. We examined carefully Wem Town Council's representations again and the District Council's letter and concluded that, on the evidence we had before us, there was little likelihood of the predicted figure given to us by the District Council being exceeded within five years. Once again, we noted that, on current electorate figures, the allocation of three councillors to the proposed ward was correct and that only if the electorate increased as forecast was it a marginal case for a fourth councillor. In all the circumstances we decided that we should not alter our earlier decision that the proposed ward should return three members.

16. Subject to the modifications at paragraph 13 above, we resolved to confirm our draft proposals as our final proposals.

17. 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

18. 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 North Shropshire District 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 ALBEMARLE

T C BENFIELD

MICHAEL CHISHOLM

ANDREW WHEATLEY

F B YOUNG

DAVID R SMITH (SECRETARY)

20 November 1975

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DISTRICT OF NORTH SHROPSHIRE: DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED WARD BOUNDARIES

WOORE WARD

The parishes of Woore and Norton in Hales

SHAVINGTON WARD

The parishes of Adderley, Moreton Say and Ightfield

MARKET DRAYTON EAST WARD

The Market Drayton East ward of the parish of Market Drayton

MARKET DRAYTON NORTH WARD

The Market Drayton North ward of the parish of Market Drayton

MARKET DRAYTON SOUTH WARD

The Market Drayton South ward of the parish of Market Drayton

SUTTON WARD

The parish of Sutton upon Tern

HINSTOCK WARD

The parishes of Cheswardine, Hinstock and Child's Ercall

STOKE UPON TERN WARD

The parish of Stoke upon Tern

HODNET WARD

The parish of Hodnet

PREES WARD

The parish of Prees

WHITCHURCH RURAL WARD

The parish of Whitchurch Rural

WHIXALL WARD

The parish of Whixall and the Newtown ward of the parish of Wem Rural.

WEM RURAL WARD

The Wem, the Edstaston South and the Edstaston North wards of the parish of Wem Rural

WEM URBAN WARD

The parish of Wem Urban

SHAWBURY WARD

The parish of Shawbury

STANTON WARD

The parishes of Weston-under-Redcastle, Lee Brockhurst, Stanton upon Hine Heath and Moreton Corbet

CLIVE WARD

The parishes of Broughton, Clive, Grinshill and Hadnall

MYDDLE WARD

The parish of Myddle

COCKSHUTT WARD

The parishes of Cockshutt, Hordley, Loppington and Petton

COLEMERIE WARD

The parish of Welshampton and the Lyneal ward of the parish of Ellesmere Rural

ELLESMERE URBAN WARD

The parish of Ellesmere Urban

ELLESMERE RURAL WEST WARD

The Dudleston, the Dudleston Heath and the Tetchill wards of the parish of
Ellesmere Rural

BASCHURCH WARD

The parish of Baschurch

WHITCHURCH NORTH WARD

The Whitchurch North ward of the parish of Whitchurch Urban

WHITCHURCH SOUTH WARD

The Whitchurch South ward of the parish of Whitchurch Urban

WHITCHURCH WEST WARD

The Whitchurch West ward of the parish of Whitchurch Urban

DISTRICT OF NORTH SHROPSHIRE: NAMES OF PROPOSED WARDS AND NUMBER OF COUNCILLORS

<u>NAME OF WARD</u>	<u>NO. OF COUNCILLORS</u>
BASCHURCH	1
CLIVE	1
COCKSHUTT	1
COLEMERE	1
ELLESMERE RURAL WEST	2
ELLESMERE URBAN	2
HINSTOCK	2
HODNET	1
MARKET DRAYTON EAST	2
MARKET DRAYTON NORTH	2
MARKET DRAYTON SOUTH	2
MYDDLE	1
PREES	2
SHAVINGTON	2
SHAWBURY	2
STANTON	1
STOKE UPON TERN	1
SUTTON	1
WEM RURAL	1
WEM URBAN	3
WHITCHURCH NORTH	2
WHITCHURCH RURAL	1
WHITCHURCH SOUTH	2
WHITCHURCH WEST	2
WHIXALL	1
WOORE	1