

Local Government
Boundary Commission
For England
Report No. 424

LOCAL GOVERNMENT
BOUNDARY COMMISSION

FOR ENGLAND

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LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOUNDARY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND

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Mr D P Harrison

Professor G E Cherry

To the Rt Hon William Whitelaw C H MC MP
Secretary of State for the Home Department

PROPOSALS FOR THE FUTURE ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE COUNTY OF GLOUCESTERSHIRE

1. The last Order under Section 51 of the Local Government Act 1972 in relation to electoral arrangements for districts in the County of Gloucestershire was made on 29 March 1980. 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 County of Gloucestershire in a consultation letter dated 18 August 1980 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 20 October 1980 the County Council submitted to us a draft scheme in which they suggested 62 electoral divisions for the county, each returning one member in accordance with Section 6(2)(a) of the Act. We noted that the County Council had made their draft scheme assessments on a 1984 forecast electorate, whereas, to accord with statutory requirements forecast figures for 1985 were in our view desirable. Before formulating our draft proposals, we therefore asked the County Council to provide 1985 figures for their draft scheme. A letter was sent to the County Council on 2 February 1981 requesting this information and was copied to each district council within the county. The County Council were likewise asked to copy their reply to all the district councils to afford them the opportunity of commenting upon the revised figures.

4. The County Council supplied the 1985 forecast figures for the electorates of each of the divisions proposed under their scheme on 5 May 1981. They did not suggest any amendments to their original proposals in the light of the new forecasts.

5. We considered the County Council's draft scheme together with the views expressed by local interests. In doing so we also had regard to the request submitted by Gloucester City Council for a review of their boundaries with the district of Stroud and the borough of Tewkesbury, and considered the likely impact of this request on the county electoral review. We concluded, however, that our statutory duty required us to proceed with the county electoral review on the basis of the existing boundaries, irrespective of any decision that might be taken eventually on boundary reviews within the county. Otherwise there was a possibility that no revised electoral arrangements of any kind could be introduced before the 1985 county elections. Any necessary adjustment to take account of boundary changes can be made if and when the latter are implemented.

6. On 18 December 1981 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.

7. Our draft proposals were based essentially on the County Council's draft scheme except in the Stroud district. On the basis of electorate figures provided for 1979 and 1985, we realized that Stroud district would be under-represented in relation to other districts with the County Council's proposed allocation of 12 councillors. We therefore substituted a 13 division arrangement proposed by the District Council. This had the effect of increasing the size of the County Council to 63 members, but it improved the overall standard of representation as between districts. We made modifications to a few individual divisions to improve the balance between them.

8. The modifications we made to the draft scheme were as follows:

(a) Division names

We omitted district prefixes to division names in the Cheltenham and Gloucester districts. In the Cotswold district we renamed the Council's proposed The Cerneys division "South Cotswolds", as suggested by Coates Parish Council; and in the Tewkesbury district we renamed the Council's proposed West Tewkesbury division "Severn Vale", as suggested by Tewkesbury Town Council.

(b) Composition of divisions

(i) In Forest of Dean district we transferred the Newland district ward from the County Council's proposed Coleford division to the proposed West Dean division and the Broadwell district ward from the proposed West Dean division to the proposed Coleford division. In this district we also transferred the Tibberton district ward from the proposed Newent division to the proposed East Dean division.

(ii) We modified the 13 division arrangement suggested by Stroud District Council by transferring the Leonard Stanley district ward from their proposed Stonehouse electoral division to their proposed Severn electoral division in order to secure a more even standard of representation.

9. We received comments in response to our draft proposals from Gloucestershire County Council, 4 district councils, 13 parish councils, 2 political party organisations, 1 other organisation and 18 private individuals. A full list of those who wrote to us is given at Appendix 1 to this report.

10. The County Council accepted our draft proposals for all districts with the exception of the divisions referred to in paragraph 8(b) above. With regard to both the districts concerned they contended that our rearrangement of district wards between divisions failed to observe local ties which were, they claimed, respected by the schemes as originally submitted to the Commission (the County Council's in the case of Forest of Dean district and the District Council's in the case of Stroud district).

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

(a) Cotswold District

Elkstone Parish Council suggested that our proposed South Cotswolds division be renamed "South Cotswold" to conform with the name of the proposed divisions of West Cotswold and North Cotswold and to ensure association with the district as distinct from the geographical area. This suggestion was supported by Cotswold District Council.

(b) Forest of Dean district

The majority of comments on our draft proposals related to this district. In addition to the County Council the District Council, Mitcheldean Parish Council, Newland Parish Council, Taynton Parish Council, Tibberton Parish Council, West Dean Local Council, Coleford Town Council, the Taynton Society, the Newent and District Labour Party and fifteen private individuals all urged us to reconsider our proposals, preferring the existing electoral arrangements to continue as suggested by the County Council in their draft scheme. Tickenham Parish Council had no objections to our draft proposals as they affected their parish. The only letter supporting the modifications which we made to the County Council's scheme came from a private individual.

(c) City of Gloucester

Gloucester City Council supported our draft proposals.

(d) Stroud district

Stroud District Council, like the County Council, asked us to re-consider our decision to transfer the Leonard Stanley district ward from their proposed Stonehouse division to the Severn division.

Arlingham Parish Council, Quedgeley Parish Council and Stinchcombe Parish Council all supported our adoption of the District Council's alternative scheme for the district, without referring to the modification we had made. However, the Dursley Branch Labour Party objected to the inclusion of the parish of Stinchcombe in the proposed Dursley division.

(e) Tewkesbury district

Ashchurch Parish Council urged us to reconsider the alternative scheme for the proposed Ashchurch and Twynning and Tewkesbury divisions which they had submitted to us when we were formulating our draft proposals. Woodmancote Parish Council also repeated the request which they had made at the draft proposal stage which was that their parish should be included in a division with the parish of Bishop's Cleeve rather than the Mid Tewkesbury division on the grounds of community ties.

12. In reassessing our draft proposals we have taken account of all the comments we have received and we have come to the following conclusions:-

(a) Cheltenham Borough

In the absence of any objections to the draft proposals we have decided to confirm them as our final proposals.

(b) Cotswold District

We considered that the omission of the final "s" from our proposed divisional name "South Cotswolds" was logical and appropriate. We have incorporated the change in our final proposals for the district which are otherwise unchanged from our draft proposals.

(c) Forest of Dean District

In the letter announcing our draft proposals we expressed our awareness that there might be other patterns of divisions which would be more appropriate for the district than our draft proposals while still constituting an improvement on the standard of representation achieved by the existing arrangements reproduced in the County Council's scheme. We drew particular attention to the fact that comments on this aspect would be especially welcome. We were therefore disappointed that no alternative, other than the existing arrangements, was suggested by any of those who submitted comments. We considered very carefully the view that local ties ought to take precedence over the need to create divisions with electorates of approximately equal size and that therefore the present arrangements should be allowed to continue. However, having regard to the provisions of paragraph 1 of Schedule 11 to the Local Government Act 1972 we are unable to support the continuation of the existing pattern where one division has, and will continue to have for the foreseeable future, an electorate twice that of an adjacent division. Consequently, in the absence of any acceptable alternative suggestions, we have confirmed our draft proposals as our final proposals for this district.

(d) City of Gloucester

Our draft proposals for this district attracted no criticism and we have decided to confirm them as our final proposals.

(e) Stroud District

The modification to the District Council's suggestion which we incorporated in our draft proposals produced a markedly more even standard of representation in the district. We therefore decided not to revert to the divisions as originally suggested. Moreover we received no representations from the parish councils or the local electors affected by this change that

local ties were being broken. The suggestion by Dursley Branch Labour Group that the parish of Stinchcombe should be transferred from our proposed Dursley division to our proposed Cam division would significantly worsen the standard of equality of electorate of those divisions. We have therefore decided to confirm our draft proposals as our final proposals for this district.

(f) Tewkesbury District

We gave careful consideration to the representations we received from Ashchurch and Woodmancote Parish Councils. However, these contained no additional arguments to those made when we considered our draft proposals. We therefore see no reason to depart from those proposals which we confirm as our final proposals for the district.

13. Details of the final proposals are set out in Schedule 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

14. 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 Gloucestershire County Council and will be available for inspection at the Council's main offices. Copies of this report (without the map) are being sent to those who received the consultation letter and to those who made comments.

L.S.

Signed:

R R THORNTON (DEPUTY CHAIRMAN)

J M ACKNER

TYRRELL BROCKBANK

G E CHERRY

D P HARRISON

LESLIE GRIMSHAW (SECRETARY)

1 April 1982

LIST OF THOSE WHO COMMENTED ON THE DRAFT PROPOSALS

	<u>Area Concerned</u>
Gloucestershire County Council	Whole County (Forest of Dean and Stroud districts)
 <u>Cheltenham Borough</u>	
<u>Cotswold District</u>	
Cotswold District Council	South Cotswolds division
Elkstone Parish Council	" " " "
 <u>Forest of Dean District</u>	
Forest of Dean District Council	Whole district
Mitcheldean Parish Council	East Dean division
Taynton Parish Council	East Dean and Newent divisions
Tibberton Parish Council	" " " "
Newent and District Labour Party	" " " "
Taynton Society	" " " "
17 private individuals	" " " "
Newland Parish Council	Coleford and West Dean divisions
West Dean Local Council	" " " "
1 private individual	" " " "
Tidenham Parish Council	Tidenham division
 <u>City of Gloucester</u>	
Gloucester City Council	Whole district
 <u>Stroud District</u>	
Stroud District Council	Whole district
Arlingham Parish Council	" "
Stinchcombe Parish Council	" "
Quedgeley Parish Council	Quedgeley division
Dursley Branch Labour Party	Dursley division
 <u>Tewkesbury Borough</u>	
Ashchurch Parish Council	Ashchurch and Twynning and Tewkesbury divisions
Woodmancote Parish Council	Mid Tewkesbury division

COUNTY OF GLOUCESTERSHIRE

NAMES OF PROPOSED ELECTORAL DIVISIONS
(EACH RETURNING ONE COUNTY COUNCILLOR)

PROPOSED COUNTY ELECTORAL DIVISIONS WITHIN DISTRICTS

CHELTENHAM

All Saints'
Charlton Kings
College
Hatherley
Hesters Way
Lansdown
Park
Pittville
St Mark's
St Paul's
St. Peter's

COTSWOLD

Bourton-Stow
Cirencester North
Cirencester South
East Cotswold
Moreton in Marsh
North Cotswold
Northleach
South Cotswold
Tetbury

FOREST OF DEAN

Brooksdean
Cinderford
Coleford
East Dean
Lydney
Newent
Severn Dean
Tidenham
West Dean

GLOUCESTER

Barnwood
Barton
Eastgate
Hucclecote
Kingsholm
Linden
Longlevens
Matson
Podsmead
Tuffley
Westgate

STROUD

Berkeley Vale
Bisley
Cam
Dursley
Minchinhampton
Nailsworth
Painswick
Quedgeley
Severn
Stonehouse
Stroud East
Stroud West
Wotton under Edge

TEWKESBURY

Ashchurch and Twynning
Bishops Cleeve and Swindon
Brockworth and Hucclecote
Churchdown
Cotswold Edge
Mid Tewkesbury
Prestbury
Severn Vale
Tewkesbury
Winchcombe

The proposed electoral divisions are shown on a map which can be inspected at the Council's offices. A description of the boundaries of the proposed electoral divisions shown on the map is attached at Schedule 2.

GLOUCESTERSHIRE COUNTY - DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ELECTORAL DIVISION
BOUNDARIES

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.

CHELTENHAM BOROUGH

The Cheltenham Borough Wards used in this description are those listed in SI (1979) No 1525 : the Borough of Cheltenham (Electoral Arrangements) Order 1979 (which will come into operation for Borough election purposes on 5-5-83).

ALL SAINTS' ED

The Cheltenham Borough Ward of All Saints'.

CHARLTON KINGS ED

The Cheltenham Borough Ward of Charlton Kings.

COLLEGE ED

The Cheltenham Borough Ward of College.

HATHERLEY ED

The Cheltenham Borough Ward of Hatherley.

HESTERS WAY ED

The Cheltenham Borough Ward of Hesters Way.

LANSDOWN ED

The Cheltenham Borough Ward of Lansdown.

PARK ED

The Cheltenham Borough Ward of Park.

PITTVILLE ED

The Cheltenham Borough Ward of Pittville.

ST MARK'S ED

The Cheltenham Borough Ward of St Mark's.

ST PAUL'S ED

The Cheltenham Borough Ward of St Paul's.

ST PETER'S ED

The Cheltenham Borough Ward of St Peter's.

CITY OF GLOUCESTER

BARNWOOD ED

The City of Gloucester Ward of Barnwood.

BARTON ED

The City of Gloucester Ward of Barton.

EASTGATE ED

The City of Gloucester Ward of Eastgate.

HUCCLECOTE ED

The City of Gloucester Ward of Hucclecote.

KINGSHOLM ED

The City of Gloucester Ward of Kingsholm.

LINDEN ED

The City of Gloucester Ward of Linden.

LONGLEVENS ED

The City of Gloucester Ward of Longlevens.

MATSON ED

The City of Gloucester Ward of Matson.

PODSMEAD ED

The City of Gloucester Ward of Podsmead.

TUFFLEY ED

The City of Gloucester Ward of Tuffley.

WESTGATE ED

The City of Gloucester Ward of Westgate.

COTSWOLD DISTRICT

BOURTON-STOW ED

The Cotswold District Wards of Beacon

Bourton-on-the-Water

Stow-on-the-Wold

Three Rivers

CIRENCESTER NORTH ED

The Cotswold District Wards of Cirencester Abbey

Cirencester Beeches

Cirencester Stratton

CIRENCESTER SOUTH ED

The Cotswold District Wards of Cirencester Chesterton

Cirencester Watermoor

EAST COTSWOLD ED

The Cotswold District Wards of Ampneys

Fairford

Hampton

Kempsford

Lechlade

MORETON-IN-MARSH ED

The Cotswold District Wards of Blockley

Evenlode Vale

Fosseridge

Moreton-in-Marsh

NORTH COTSWOLD ED

The Cotswold District Wards of Campden

Mickleton

Vale

NORTHLEACH ED

The Cotswold District Wards of Coln

Fossehill

Northleach

Sandywell

Sherborne Brook

SOUTH COTSWOLD ED

The Cotswold District Wards of Churn Valley

Ermin

Thames Head

Water Park

TETBURY ED

The Cotswold District Wards of Avening

Grumbold's Ash

Tetbury

FOREST OF DEAN DISTRICT

The Forest of Dean District Wards used in this description are those listed in SI (1980) No 43 : the District of Forest of Dean (Electoral Arrangements) Order 1980 (which will come into operation for District election purposes on 5-5-83).

BROOKSDEAN ED

The Forest of Dean District Wards of Drybrook

Lydbrook

Ruardean

CINDERFORD ED

The Forest of Dean District Ward of Cinderford

COLEFORD ED

The Forest of Dean District Wards of Broadwell

Coleford

EAST DEAN ED

The Forest of Dean District Wards of Blaisdon and Longhope

Churcham and Huntley

Littledean

Mitcheldean

Tibberton

LYDNEY ED

The Forest of Dean District Wards of Alvington and Aylburton

Lydney

NEWENT ED

The Forest of Dean District Wards of Dymock and Kempley

Hartpury

Newent and Oxenhall

Newent Central

Redmarley

SEVERN DEAN ED

The Forest of Dean District Wards of Awre

Newnham

Ruspidge

Westbury-on-Severn

TIDENHAM ED

The Forest of Dean District Wards of Hewelsfield and St Briavels

Tidenham

Woolaston

WEST DEAN ED

The Forest of Dean District Wards of Bream

Newland

Pillowell

STROUD DISTRICT

The Stroud District Wards used in this description are those listed in SI (1979) No 1495 : the District of Stroud (Electoral Arrangements) Order 1979 (which will come into operation for District election purposes on 5-5-83).

BERKELEY VALE ED

The Stroud District Wards of Berkeley

Hinton

Vale

and the parish of Slimbridge

BISLEY ED

The Stroud District Wards of Bisley

Chalford

Thrupp

and the parish of Miserden

CAM ED

The Stroud District Wards of Cam

Woodfield

and the parish of Coaley

DURSLEY ED

The Stroud District Wards of Dursley

Uley

and the parish of Stinchcombe

MINCHINHAMPTON ED

The Stroud District Wards of Minchinhampton
 Rodborough

NAILSWORTH ED

The Stroud District Ward of Nailsworth
 and the parish of Woodchester

PAINSWICK ED

The Stroud District Wards of Randwick
 Upton St Leonards
 Whiteshill
 and the parishes of Cranham
 Painswick
 Pitchcombe

QUEDGELEY ED

The Stroud District Ward of Quedgeley and Hardwicke

SEVERN ED

The Stroud District Wards of Eastington
 Leonard Stanley
 Parklands
 Severn

STONEHOUSE ED

The Stroud District Ward of Stonehouse
 and the parish of King's Stanley

STROUD EAST ED

The Stroud District Wards of Trinity

Uplands

STROUD WEST ED

The Stroud District Wards of Cainscross

Central

WOTTON-UNDER-EDGE ED

The Stroud District Ward of Wotton and Kingswood

and the parish of North Nibley

TEWKESBURY BOROUGH

The Tewkesbury Borough Wards used in this description are those listed in SI (1980) No 516 : the Borough of Tewkesbury (Electoral Arrangements) Order 1980 (which will come into operation for Borough election purposes on 5-5-83).

ASHCHURCH AND TWYNING ED

The Tewkesbury Borough Wards of Ashchurch

Twynning

BISHOP'S CLEEVE AND SWINDON ED

The Tewkesbury Borough Wards of Bishop's Cleeve East

Bishop's Cleeve North

Bishop's Cleeve South

Swindon

BROCKWORTH AND HUCCLECOTE ED

The Tewkesbury Borough Wards of Brockworth Glebe

Brockworth Moorfield

Brockworth Westfield

Horsbere

CHURCHDOWN ED

The Tewkesbury Borough Wards of Churchdown Brookfield

Churchdown Parton

Churchdown Pirton

COTSWOLD EDGE ED

The Tewkesbury Borough Wards of Crickley

Leckhampton with Up Hatherley

Shurdington

MID-TEWKESBURY ED

The Tewkesbury Borough Wards of Coombe Hill

Gotherington

and the parish of

Woodmancote

PRESTBURY ED

The Tewkesbury Borough Wards of Prestbury St Mary's

Prestbury St Nicholas

SEVERN VALE ED

The Tewkesbury Borough Wards of De Winton

Haw Bridge

Highnam

Innsworth

TEWKESBURY ED

The Tewkesbury Borough Wards of Tewkesbury Mitton

Tewkesbury Newton

Tewkesbury Prior's Park

Tewkesbury Town

WINCHCOMBE ED

The Tewkesbury Borough Wards of Dumbleton

Winchcombe

and the parish of

Southam

