

Local Government  
Boundary Commission  
For England  
Report No.15

LOCAL GOVERNMENT  
BOUNDARY COMMISSION  
FOR ENGLAND  
REPORT NO 15

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 FUTURE ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE BOROUGH OF CASTLE MORPETH  
IN THE COUNTY OF NORTHUMBERLAND

1. We, the Local Government Boundary Commission for England, having carried out our initial review of the electoral arrangements for the borough of Castle Morpeth in accordance with the requirements of section 63 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 21 January 1974 that we were to undertake this review. This was incorporated in a consultation letter addressed to the Castle Morpeth Borough Council, copies of which were circulated to the Parish Councils in the district, the Northumberland County Council, the Members of Parliament for the constituencies 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 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. The Castle Morpeth 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 our 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. On 2 August 1974 the Castle Morpeth Borough Council presented their draft scheme of representation. The Council have not passed a resolution under section 7(4)(b) of the Local Government Act 1972. The provisions of section 7(6) will therefore apply and the elections of all district councillors will be held simultaneously. The Council proposed to divide the area of the borough into 21 wards each returning 1 or 2 members to form a council of 34.
5. Comments were received suggesting that the proposed Widdington ward should be re-named "Ulgham" and that the ward should be allocated an additional councillor, and there was a further suggestion for an alternative pattern of wards in the urban area of Morpeth.
6. We considered the draft scheme submitted by the council. We noted that the scheme complied with the rules in Schedule 11 to the Local Government Act 1972 and our own guidelines and we considered that it provided a generally satisfactory basis of representation for the borough. We decided, however, that an improvement in the equality of representation would be achieved by combining the Ellington and Lynemouth wards proposed in the draft scheme. We carefully considered all

the comments on the draft scheme and concluded that the proposed Widdrington ward should be re-named "Ulgham" but that there were no grounds for allocating an additional councillor to the ward. We considered that the alternative pattern of wards for Morpeth offered a less satisfactory standard of representation than the draft scheme and also infringed the rules in Schedule 11 to the 1972 Act.

7. After consulting Ordnance Survey we made some minor adjustments to the alignment of some of the boundaries proposed by the Council in order to secure boundary lines which were readily identifiable on the ground. We then formulated our draft proposals accordingly.

8. On 17 September 1974 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 those 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 any comments should reach us by 12 November.

9. We received comments objecting to our proposal to combine the Ellington and Lynemouth wards to form a 3-member ward and stating that it would be better for the two smaller parishes to have a separate representative. We noted that this would give an uneven standard of representation between the two wards, but we agreed that in this case we should reverse our previous decision.

10. A further request was received for an extra councillor for the Ulgham ward, but we considered that the size of the electorate of that ward did not justify an extra councillor. Other comments suggested alternative names for some of the wards. We considered these but decided to confirm the names given in our draft proposals.

11. Having reconsidered our draft proposals in the light of the comments which we had received, we decided to confirm our draft proposal except that the parish of Lynemouth should form a ward returning 2 members and the parishes of Ellington and Cresswell should together form a ward returning 1 member. We therefore formulated our final proposals accordingly.

12. Details of these final proposals are set out in Schedule 1 to this report and on the attached maps. Schedule 1 gives the names of the wards and the number of councillors to be returned by each ward. The boundaries of the new wards are defined on the maps.

#### PUBLICATION

13. In accordance with Section 60(5)(b) of the Local Government Act 1972 a copy of this report and a copy of the maps are being sent to Castle Morpeth Borough Council and will be made available for public inspection at the Council's

offices at Dacre Street, Morpeth. Copies of this report are also being sent to those who received the consultation letter and to those who made comments. A detailed description of the boundaries of the proposed wards as defined on the maps is set out in Schedule 2 to this report.

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)

12 December 1974

SCHEDULE 1

BOROUGH OF CASTLE MORPETH: NAMES OF PROPOSED WARDS AND  
NUMBERS OF COUNCILLORS

<u>NAME OF WARD</u>	<u>NO OF COUNCILLORS</u>
CHEVINGTON	2
ELLINGTON	1
HARTBURN	1
HEBRON, HEPSCOTT AND MITFORD	1
HEDON-ON-THE-WALL	1
LONGHORSLEY	1
LYNEMOUTH	2
MORPETH CENTRAL	2
MORPETH KIRKHILL	2
MORPETH NORTH	2
MORPETH SOUTH	2
MORPETH STOBHILL	2
PEGSWOOD	2
PONTELAND EAST	2
PONTELAND NORTH	2
PONTELAND SOUTH	2
PONTELAND WEST	2
STAMFORDHAM	1
STANNINGTON	1
ULGHAM	2
WHALTON	1

## SCHEDULE 2

BOROUGH OF CASTLE MORPETH : VERBAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED WARD BOUNDARIES.

NOTE: 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.

### MORPETH NORTH WARD

Commencing at a point where the eastern boundary of Mitford CP meets the River Wansbeck thence generally northwards, eastwards, and south eastwards, along the said eastern boundary and the southern and south western boundaries of Hebron CP and Pegswood CP to a point where it again meets the River Wansbeck, thence generally south westwards along the said river and continuing along Cotting Burn to Dark Lane, thence southwards along Dark Lane to Stanley Terrace, thence westwards along the said Terrace, Back Riggs and Kings Street to a point where it meets the eastern boundary of the property No 20 Newgate Street thence westwards, northwards, and westwards, along the eastern boundary of the said property, and the eastern and northern boundaries of the property No 22 Newgate Street to Newgate Street, thence north westwards along Newgate Street to a point opposite the northern boundary of the Morpeth Conservative Club, thence generally westwards to and along the said boundary and in prolongation thereof to the River Wansbeck, thence generally north westwards and south westwards along the said river to the point of commencement.

### MORPETH KIRKHILL WARD

Commencing at a point where the eastern boundary of Mitford CP meets the southern boundary of Morpeth North Ward, thence generally north eastwards along the southern boundary of the said ward to a point opposite the eastern boundary of Parcel No 2808, as shown on 1:2500 OS Plan NZ 1886 - 1986 Edition 1968, thence generally south eastwards and southwards to and along the eastern boundaries of Parcel No's 2808, 2800 and the eastern boundaries of Parcel No's 2800, 2794 and 2879 as shown on 1:2500 OS Plan NZ 1885 - 1985 Edition 1971, to a point opposite the northern boundary of the property No 10 Abbots Way thence generally southwards to and

along the northern and eastern boundaries of the properties No's 10 to 2, and No's 17 to 11 Abbots Way, thence in a straight line to the north western corner of the property No 5 Castle Close thence generally south eastwards along the north eastern boundaries of No's 5 to 17, and No's 19 to 85 Castle Close to the eastern boundary of No 85 Castle Close, thence southwards and westwards along the eastern and southern boundaries of the said property, thence due south in a straight line to Postern Burn, thence generally westwards along the said burn and in prolongation thereof to the footpath situated at the rear of the properties No's 1 to 16 Rutherford Close thence south eastwards along the said footpath and in continuation to a point on the northern boundary of the property No 46 Postern Crescent, thence westwards along the northern boundaries of No's 46 to 64 Postern Crescent, and No 26 Church Walk and continuing in a straight line to Castle Meadows, thence westwards along Castle Meadows to West Park thence south eastwards along West Park to the unnamed road that connects West Park to Springhill Walk thence generally south westwards along the said road to Springhill Walk thence south eastwards along Springhill Walk to Spelvit Lane, thence westwards along Spelvit Lane to the western end of Crawhall Crescent, thence southwards along the said crescent to a point opposite the northern boundary of No 67 Crawhall Crescent, thence westwards to and along the said northern boundary, thence southwards along the western boundaries of the properties No's 67 to 41 Crawhall Crescent, thence south eastwards in a straight line to a point where a footpath which crosses Morpeth Common meets the southern boundary of the dismantled Morpeth to Middleton railway line at Grid Reference NZ 19327/84669 thence south westwards along the said footpath to the Morpeth to Whalton Road, thence south westwards along the said road to a point opposite the eastern boundary of Parcel No 8000 as shown on 1:2500 OS Plan NZ 1884 - 1984 Edition 1972 thence south eastwards to a point where it meets the eastern boundary of Mitford CP and thence generally northwards along the said eastern boundary to the point of commencement.

#### MORPETH CENTRAL WARD

Commencing at a point where the eastern boundary of Morpeth Kirkhill Ward meets the southern boundary of Morpeth North Ward thence generally north eastwards along the said southern boundary to a point where it meets the western boundary of Pegswood CP thence generally southwards along the said western boundary to a point where it meets the Blyth and Tyne mineral railway line thence north westwards along the said railway to the Edinburgh to Kings Cross main railway line thence south westwards along the said line, and continuing along the course of the dismantled Morpeth to Middleton railway to the Morpeth to Newcastle Road (A197) thence northwards and north eastwards along the said road to a point opposite the eastern boundary of Queen's Garth, thence northwards to and along the said boundary to Castle Walk thence south westwards along Castle Walk to the drive of Morpeth Castle thence, generally westwards along the said drive, along the northern perimeter of the castle grounds to its north western extremity thence due north westwards in a straight line to Postern Burn thence westwards along the said burn to a point where it meets the eastern boundary of Morpeth Kirkhill Ward, thence generally north westwards along the said eastern boundary to the point of commencement.

#### MORPETH SOUTH WARD

Commencing at a point where the eastern boundary of Milford CP meets the southern boundary of Morpeth Kirkhill Ward thence generally north eastwards along the southern and eastern boundaries of the said ward and continuing generally eastwards, southwards, and north eastwards along the southern boundary of Morpeth Central Ward to a point where it meets the Edinburgh to Kings Cross railway, thence south eastwards along the said railway to the north western boundary of Hepscoth CP, thence generally westwards along the said boundary and continuing along the eastern boundary of Milford CP to the point of commencement.

MORPETH STOBHILL WARD

Commencing at a point where the north western boundary of Hepscoth CP meets the eastern boundary of Morpeth South Ward thence generally north westwards, north eastwards, and south eastwards, along the eastern boundary of Morpeth South Ward and the southern boundary of Morpeth Central Ward to the north western boundary of Hepscoth CP thence generally south westwards along the said boundary to the point of commencement.

PONTELAND NORTH WARD

The North Ward of the Parish of Ponteland.

PONTELAND WEST WARD

The West Ward of the Parish of Ponteland.

PONTELAND SOUTH WARD

The South Ward of the Parish of Ponteland.

PONTELAND EAST WARD

The East Ward of the Parish of Ponteland.

LONGHORSLEY WARD

The Parishes of:

Longhorsley

Thirston

Tritlington

CHEVINGTON WARD

The Parishes of:

East Chevington

West Chevington

ULGHAM WARD

The Parishes of:

Widdrington

Ulgham

HARTBURN WARD

The Parishes of:

Hartburn

Meldon

Netherwitton

Wallington Demesne

HEBRON, HEPSCOTT and

MITFORD WARD

The Parishes of:

Hebron

Hepscott

Mitford

PEGSWOOD WARD

The Parishes of:

Pegswood

Longhirst

LYNEMOUTH WARD

The Parish of Lynemouth

ELLINGTON WARD

The Parishes of:

Ellington

Cresswell

WHALTON WARD

The Parishes of:

Whalton

Capheaton

Belsay

STANNINGTON WARD

The Parish of Stannington

STAMFORDHAM WARD

The Parishes of:

Stamfordham

Matfen

HEDDON-ON-THE-WALL WARD

The Parish of Heddon-on-the-Wall