

Local Government  
Boundary Commission  
For England  
Report No. 299

LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOUNDARY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND

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To the Rt Hon Merlyn Rees, MP  
Secretary of State for the Home Department

PROPOSALS FOR REVISED ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE  
DISTRICT OF EASINGTON IN THE COUNTY OF DURHAM

1. We, the Local Government Boundary Commission for England, having carried out our initial review of the electoral arrangements for the District of Easington in accordance with the requirements of section 63 of, and Schedule 9 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 31 December 1974 that we were to undertake this review. This was incorporated in a consultation letter addressed to the Easington District Council, copies of which were circulated to Durham County Council, the Members of Parliament for the constituencies concerned, parish councils and a parish meeting in the district and the headquarters of the main political parties. Copies were also sent to the editors of local newspapers circulating in the area and of 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 interested bodies.
3. Easington 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. In accordance with section 7(4)(a) of the Local Government Act 1972 the Council have exercised an option for a system of whole council elections.

5. On 2 May 1975 Easington District Council presented their draft scheme of representation. The Council proposed to divide the area into 27 wards each returning 1, 2 or 3 members to form a council of 60.

6. We considered the draft scheme together with the comments which we had received and those which had been sent to us by the District Council.

We noted that, on the basis of the present and projected electorate of the proposed wards, the scheme showed an uneven standard of representation particularly in the parished area. We thought that there was scope for redrawing boundaries to secure a higher standard of representation and we decided to ask the District Council to review their proposals accordingly. In writing to the District Council we drew particular attention to the proposed arrangements for the parishes of Easington, Horden and Peterlee where we thought improvements could be achieved by better parish warding arrangements. We also asked the Council to consider whether, having regard to the size and character of the district, a council of 60 members was too large and suggested that a reduction might be made in revising their draft scheme.

7. On 29 April 1976 the District Council submitted a revised draft scheme. They proposed to divide the area into 26 wards each returning 1, 2 or 3 members to form a council of 51. The Council had published details of their revised proposals and invited comments on them.

8. We studied the revised scheme, which had not attracted any adverse comment locally, and found that it offered an improved standard of representation, but still contained some inequalities. We noted that the Council proposed revised warding arrangements for the parish of Peterlee, but that they did not feel

able to modify the present warding arrangements for the parishes of Horden and Easington. We decided to adopt the Council's revised scheme as a basis for our draft proposals, but in order to secure an improved standard of representation we made the following modifications:

- i. the proposed single-member Haswell and South Hetton wards were combined to form a 2-member ward called Haswell;
- ii. a small area from the north of the proposed Dawdon ward and an area from the west of the proposed High Colliery ward were transferred to the Deneside ward
- iii. some minor boundary realignments suggested by Ordnance Survey were adopted.

9. On 26 November 1976 we issued our draft proposals and these were sent to all who had received our consultation letter or had commented on either of the Council's draft schemes. The Council were asked to make a copy of the draft proposals and the accompanying maps, 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 comments should reach us by 21 January 1977.

10. The District Council and the County Council accepted our draft proposals.

11. Representations against the draft proposals were received from a local political party and a political association, both of which submitted proposals for increasing the representation of the Seaham area of the district. The local political party were also strongly opposed to the modification which we had made to the boundary between the Dawdon and Deneside wards and, in support of their objections, they enclosed a petition signed by local residents. The remainder of the representations we received, raised objections to our proposal to combine the Haswell and South Hetton wards of the parish of Haswell to form one ward.

12. We could not accept the proposals for increasing the number of representatives for the Seaham area, which would have over-represented Seaham in relation to the rest of the district.

13. We were impressed by the arguments put forward against our proposal to transfer part of the Dawdon ward to the Deneside ward. We noted that the houses in this area were isolated from the rest of the Deneside ward and, on reconsideration, we decided to realign the boundary to include them all in the Dawdon ward.

14. We noted that the South Hetton and Haswell wards of the parish of Haswell contained separate communities with different interests, and on reconsideration we decided not to combine them in a 2-member district ward but to create two separate single-member wards as the District Council had proposed in their draft scheme.

15. Subject to the modifications referred to in paragraphs 13 and 14 above, we confirmed our draft proposals as our final proposals.

16. Details of these final proposals are set out in Schedules 1 and 2 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. A detailed description of the boundaries of the proposed wards, as defined on the maps, is set out in Schedule 2.

#### PUBLICATION

17. 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 the Easington

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

L.S.

Signed

EDMUND COMPTON (CHAIRMAN)

JOHN M RANKIN (DEPUTY CHAIRMAN)

PHYLLIS BOWDEN

T BROCKBANK

D P HARRISON

MICHAEL CHISHOLM

R R THORNTON

NEIL DIGNEY  
Secretary

28 September 1978

## DISTRICT OF EASINGTON : NAMES OF WARDS AND NUMBER OF COUNCILLORS

<u>NAME OF WARD</u>	<u>NO. OF COUNCILLORS</u>
ACRE RIGG	2
BLACKHALLS	3
DAWDON	3
DEAF HILL	1
DENE HOUSE	2
DENESIDE	3
EASINGTON COLLIERY	3
EASINGTON VILLAGE	1
EDEN HILL	3
HASWELL	1
HIGH COLLIERY	1
HORDEN NORTH	3
HORDEN SOUTH	2
HOWLETCHE	2
HUTTON HENRY	1
MURTON EAST	3
MURTON WEST	2
PARK	1
PASSFIELD	2
SEAHAM	2
SHOTTON	2
SOUTH	1
SOUTH HEMTON	1
THORNLEY	2
WHEATLEY HILL	2
WINGATE	2

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

## DISTRICT OF EASINGTON

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.

## PARK WARD

Commencing at a point where the northern boundary of the District meets the Sunderland to Hartlepool railway, thence generally southwards along said railway to Seaton Burn, thence southwestwards along said burn, crossing Station Road, to the unnamed road (B1285), thence southwards along said road to Melrose Crescent, thence generally northwestwards along said crescent to a point opposite the northeastern boundary of Seaham Westlea County Junior School, thence northwestwards to and along said boundary and in prolongation thereof to the eastern boundary of Seaton with Slingley CP, thence generally northwards along said boundary to the northern boundary of the District, thence northeastwards along said boundary to the point of commencement.

## SEAHAM WARD

Commencing at a point where the eastern boundary of Park Ward meets the northern boundary of the District, thence eastwards along said district boundary to the eastern boundary of the District, being Low Water, thence southeastwards along said boundary to a point being the prolongation north-eastwards of the southeastern boundary of Terrace Green, thence southwestwards along said prolongation, and said boundary to the road known as North Terrace, thence southeastwards along said road and continuing southeastwards along the unnamed road to the Seaham Colliery mineral railway, thence westwards along said railway to National Grid reference NZ 4106049494, thence due south in a straight line to the unnamed road leading to Enfield Road, thence westwards along said road, and Enfield Road, and in prolongation thereof to the unnamed road (B1285), thence northwards along said road to the eastern boundary of Park Ward, thence generally northeastwards along said boundary to the point of commencement.

## SOUTH WARD

Commencing at a point where the northern boundary of Cold Hesledon CP meets the Hartlepool to Sunderland railway, thence northwestwards along said railway to the southern boundary of Seaham Ward, thence eastwards along said boundary to the eastern boundary of the District, being Low Water, thence generally southeastwards along said boundary to the northern boundary of Cold Hesledon CP, thence southwestwards along said boundary to the point of commencement.

## DAWDON WARD

Commencing at a point where the eastern boundary of Dalton-le-Dale CP meets the Dalton-le-Dale Road, thence northeastwards along said road to a point opposite the western boundary of the Vicarage, thence northwestwards to and northeastwards along said western boundary and in prolongation thereof to the roundabout at the junction of New Strangford Road and Tempest Road, thence northeastwards from said roundabout to and along Tempest Road to the western boundary of South Ward, thence southeastwards along said boundary to the northern boundary of Cold Hesledon CP, thence generally westwards along said boundary to the eastern boundary of Dalton-le-Dale CP, thence northwards, westwards and northwards along said boundary to the point of commencement.

## DENESIDE WARD

Commencing at a point where the northern boundary of Dalton-le-Dale CP meets the unnamed road (B1285), thence northwards along said road to its junction with the southern end of Wells Crescent, thence westwards, northwestwards and northeastwards along said crescent back to the unnamed road (B1285), thence northwards along said road to the southern boundary of Seaham Ward, thence eastwards along said boundary to the western boundary of South Ward, thence southeastwards along said boundary to the northwestern boundary of Dawdon Ward, thence southwestwards along said boundary to the eastern boundary of Dalton-le-Dale CP, thence northwards along said boundary and westwards along the northern boundary of said parish to the point of commencement.

## HIGH COLLIERY WARD

Commencing at a point where the western boundary of Deneside Ward meets the northern boundary of Dalton-le-Dale CP, thence westwards along said parish boundary and generally northeastwards along the eastern boundary of Seaton with Slingley CP to the southern boundary of Park Ward, thence southeastwards along said boundary to the western boundary of Seaham Ward, thence generally southwards along said boundary and the western boundary of Deneside Ward to the point of commencement.

## ACRE RIGG WARD

The Acre Rigg Ward of the parish of Peterlee.

## BLACKHALLS WARD

The parish of Monk Hesleden.

## DEAF HILL WARD

The Trimdon Grange Foundry Ward of the parish of Wingate.

## DENE HOUSE WARD

The Dene House Ward of the parish of Peterlee.

## EASINGTON COLLIERY WARD

The Easington Colliery Ward of the parish of Easington.

## EASINGTON VILLAGE WARD

The parish of Hawthorn  
and the Easington Village Ward of the parish of Easington.

## EDEN HILL WARD

The Eden Hill Ward of the parish of Peterlee,

**HASWELL WARD**

The Haswell Ward of the parish of Haswell.

**HORDEN NORTH WARD**

The North Ward of the parish of Horden.

**HORDEN SOUTH WARD**

The South Ward of the parish of Horden.

**HOWLETCHE WARD**

The Howletch Ward of the parish of Peterlee.

**HUTTON HENRY WARD**

The parishes of: Hutton Henry

Nesbitt

Sheraton with Hulam

**MURTON EAST WARD**

The parishes of: Cold Hesledon

Dalton-le-Dale

Seaton with Slingley

and the East Ward of the parish of East Murton.

**MURTON WEST WARD**

The West Ward of the parish of East Murton.

**PASSFIELD WARD**

The Passfield Ward of the parish of Peterlee.

## SHOTTON WARD

The parish of Shotton.

## SOUTH HETTON WARD

The South Hetton Ward of the parish of Haswell.

## THORNLEY WARD

The parish of Thornley.

## WHEATLEY HILL WARD

The Wheatley Hill Ward of the parish of Wingate.

## WINGATE WARD

The parish of Castle Eden.

and the Wingate Ward of the parish of Wingate.

