

Local Government
Boundary Commission
For England
Report No. 246

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

BOUNDARY COMMISSION

FOR ENGLAND

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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 FUTURE ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE METROPOLITAN
BOROUGH OF SOLIHULL IN THE METROPOLITAN COUNTY OF WEST MIDLANDS

1. We, the Local Government Boundary Commission for England, having carried out our initial review of the electoral arrangements for the Metropolitan Borough of Solihull 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 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 8 August 1975 that we were to undertake this review. This was incorporated in a consultation letter addressed to Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council, copies of which were circulated to West Midlands County Council, the Members of Parliament for the constituencies concerned, the parish councils in the borough and the headquarters of the main political parties. Copies were also sent to the editors of the 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 any interested bodies.

3. Solihull Metropolitan Borough 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 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. Section 7(3) of the Local Government Act 1972 requires that in metropolitan districts there shall be elections by thirds. Section 6(2)(b) of the Act requires that every metropolitan district shall be divided into wards each returning a number of councillors divisible by three. The Solihull Borough Council's draft scheme was prepared accordingly.

5. The Council presented their draft scheme of representation on 7 May 1976. It allowed for the establishment of 17 wards each returning 3 members to give a total council of 51 members.

6. We also received, from a local political association, an alternative scheme which provided for 18 3-member wards. The same body submitted a variant to the Council's 17-ward scheme, modifying the boundary between the proposed Shirley South and Shirley West wards, intended to bring the whole area of Solihull Lodge into one ward. A local residents association supported the suggestion that Solihull Lodge should be in one ward.

7. The Ordnance Survey recommended a number of minor modifications to ward boundaries to secure better boundary lines which would be more easily identifiable on the ground.

8. We decided that the Council's draft scheme provided a reasonable basis for the future electoral arrangements, in compliance with the rules in Schedule 11 to the 1972 Act and with our guidelines. We accepted the variant for the boundary between the Shirley South and Shirley West wards mentioned in para 6 above, and the modifications recommended by the Ordnance Survey, and formulated our draft proposals accordingly.

9. On 30 September 1976 we issued our draft proposals and these were sent to all who had received our consultation letter or had commented on the Borough Council's draft scheme. The Borough 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 26 November 1976.

10. In response to our draft proposals Solihull Borough Council wrote to say that they had no objections to the proposed ward boundaries, but suggested certain amendments to the textual descriptions of the boundaries of the proposed Elmdon, Olton, Silhill and St Alphege wards.

11. Hampton-in-Arden parish council objected to the proposed Bickenhill ward and repeated the request which they had made to the Borough Council at the consultation stage, ie the retention of the present Ward No. 17 in which they are grouped with the parishes of Barston and Bickenhill only. The proposed Bickenhill ward would add to this group the Hall ward of the parish of Chelmsley Wood and a part of the former Municipal Borough of Solihull.

12. A residents' association supported the draft proposals as giving effect to their desire to have the Solihull Lodge area in one ward.

Another residents' association objected and expressed preference for the boundary proposed by the Council.

13. The Ordnance Survey, at our request, examined the amendments proposed by the Council to the textual descriptions of certain proposed wards. For technical reasons they recommended only the amendment relating to the proposed Olton/St Alphege ward boundary, affecting the textual description of the proposed Olton ward. We decided to accept this amendment.

14. We noted that Hampton-in-Arden parish council and the residents association who objected to our draft proposals both repeated requests which they had made to the Borough Council at an earlier stage of this review. No new evidence had been submitted in support of their cases, and we decided that there were no grounds for altering our draft proposals for these areas, to which the Borough Council had not objected.

15. In the absence of any other comment on our draft proposals, and subject to the modification referred to in paragraph 13, we decided that our draft proposals should be confirmed and that we should formulate our final proposals accordingly.

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

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 map are being sent to the Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council and will be available for inspection at the Council's main offices. Copies of this report without the map 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 map, is set out in Schedule 2 to this report.

L.S.

Signed:

EDMUND COMPTON (Chairman)

JOHN M RANKIN (Deputy Chairman)

PHYLLIS BOWDEN

J T BROCKBANK

MICHAEL CHISHOLM

R R THORNTON

ANDREW WHEATLEY

N DIGNEY (Secretary)

28 July 1977

METROPOLITAN BOROUGH OF SOLIHULL : NAMES OF PROPOSED
WARDS AND NUMBERS OF COUNCILLORS

<u>NAME OF WARD</u>	<u>NO. OF COUNCILLORS</u>
BICKENHILL	3
CASTLE BROMWICH	3
CHELMSLEY WOOD	3
ELMDON	3
FORDBRIDGE	3
KINGSHURST	3
KNOWLE	3
LYNDON	3
MERIDEN	3
OLTON	3
PACKWOOD	3
ST ALPHEGE	3
SHIRLEY EAST	3
SHIRLEY SOUTH	3
SHIRLEY WEST	3
SILHILL	3
SMITH'S WOOD	3

METROPOLITAN BOROUGH OF SOLIHULL 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.

BICKENHILL WARD

The parishes of Barston, Bickenhill, and Hampton in Arden, and the Hall Ward of the parish of Chelmsley Wood, and that area bounded by a line commencing at a point where the towing path of the Grand Union canal meets Lamson Lane, thence northeastwards along said lane to the western boundary of Bickenhill CP, thence southeastwards and southwards along said western boundary to the western boundary of Hampton in Arden CP, thence southwestwards along said western boundary and in prolongation thereof to the towing path of the Grand Union Canal, thence westwards along said path to the point of commencement.

ELMDON WARD

Commencing at a point where the northwestern boundary of the Borough meets the western boundary of Bickenhill CP, thence generally southeastwards along said parish boundary to the western boundary of Bickenhill ward, thence southwestwards along said ward boundary to the entrance and unnamed road to the Rover motor works, at NG ref SP 1653982107, thence northwestwards and southwestwards along said road to the unnamed road west of the rest track, thence northwestwards along said road to the unnamed road south of the sediment tanks, at NG ref SP 1583982136, thence southwestwards along said road to the unnamed road situated northeast of the main buildings of the motor works, at NG ref SP 1556682025, thence northwestwards along said road to the unnamed road that leads to Lode Lane, thence southwestwards along said road to Lode Lane, thence southwards along said lane to the Grand Union Canal, thence northwestwards along said canal to Castle Lane, thence northeastwards and eastwards along said lane to Jobs Moat Road, thence northwards along said road to the northwestern boundary of the Borough, thence eastwards along said boundary to the point of commencement.

LYNDON WARD

Commencing at a point where the northwestern boundary of the Borough meets the western boundary of Elmdon ward, thence southwards, westwards, and southwards along said ward boundary to the Grand Union Canal, thence northwestwards along

said canal to Richmond Road, thence northeastwards along said road to Pierce Avenue, thence northwestwards along said avenue to the northwestern boundary of the Borough, thence northeastwards and southeastwards along said borough boundary to the point of commencement.

OLTON WARD

Commencing at the point where the northwestern boundary of the Borough meets the southwestern boundary of Lyndon Ward, thence southeastwards, southwestwards and southeastwards along said ward boundary and continuing southeastwards along the southwestern boundary of Elmdon Ward to Dove House Lane, thence southwestwards along said lane to Warwick Road, thence generally southwards along said road to Wadleys Road, thence southwestwards along said road to the road that crosses the railway, thence northwestwards along said road to Bryanston Road, thence southwards along said road to Cheltondale Road, thence southwestwards along said road to Beechwood Park Road, thence southwestwards along said road to Miall Park Road, thence southwards along said road to Streetsbrook Road, thence westwards along said road to the northwestern boundary of the Borough, thence northeastwards along said borough boundary to the point of commencement.

SILHILL WARD

Commencing at the point where the eastern boundary of Olton Ward meets the southern boundary of Elmdon Ward, thence southeastwards, northwards, northeastwards and generally southeastwards along said southern boundary to the western boundary of Bickenhill Ward, thence southwards, eastwards and generally southwards along said ward boundary to the River Blythe, thence generally southwestwards along said river to Warwick Road, thence generally northwestwards along said road to the eastern boundary of Olton Ward, thence northwestwards and northeastwards along said eastern boundary to the point of commencement.

KNOWLE WARD

Commencing at the point where the southern boundary of Silhill Ward meets the western boundary of Bickenhill Ward, thence generally southeastwards along said western boundary and continuing southwards along the western boundary of Balsall CP to the southern boundary of the Borough, thence generally eastwards and southwestwards along said borough boundary to Bakers Lane, thence northwestwards along said lane to Darley Green Road, thence northeastwards along said road to Blue Lake Road, thence northwestwards along said road to Knowle Wood Road, thence northwards along said road to Grove Road, thence northwestwards along said road, Widney Road and Widney Manor Road to the River Blythe, thence generally northeastwards along said river to the southern boundary of Silhill Ward, thence generally northeastwards along said ward boundary to the point of commencement.

ST ALPHEGE WARD

Commencing at the point where the southern boundary of Olton Ward meets the southwestern boundary of Silhill Ward, thence generally southeastwards along said southwestern boundary to the northwestern boundary of Knowle Ward, thence generally southwestwards along said northwestern boundary to the M42 Motorway, thence southwestwards along said motorway to the Lapworth to Solihull railway, thence northwestwards along said railway to Widney Lane, thence westwards and generally northwestwards along said lane to Blossomfield Road, thence northeastwards along said road to Danford Lane, thence northwestwards along said lane, crossing Solihull Road and continuing northwestwards along Prospect Lane to the southern boundary of Olton Ward, thence generally northeastwards along said ward boundary to the point of commencement.

SHIRLEY EAST WARD

Commencing at the point where the western boundary of the Borough meets the southern boundary of Olton Ward, thence generally southeastwards along said

ward boundary to the western boundary of St Alpheze Ward, thence generally southwards, southeastwards and southwestwards along said western boundary to Marshall Lake Road, thence southwestwards along said road to Stratford Road, thence northwestwards along said road to the western boundary of the Borough thence northeastwards along said borough boundary to the point of commencement.

SHIRLEY WEST WARD

Commencing at the point where the western boundary of the Borough meets the southwestern boundary of Shirley East Ward, thence southeastwards along said ward boundary to School Road, thence eastwards along said road to Bills Lane, thence southwestwards along said lane to Burman Road, thence northwestwards along said road to Hasluck's Green Road, thence southwestwards along said road to the North Warwickshire railway line, thence southwards along said railway to the western boundary of the Borough, thence generally northwestwards and northeastwards along said boundary to the point of commencement.

SHIRLEY SOUTH WARD

Commencing at the point where the western boundary of the Borough meets the southern boundary of Shirley West Ward, thence generally northeastwards along said ward boundary to the western boundary of Shirley East Ward, thence southeastwards and northeastwards along the western and southeastern boundary of Shirley East Ward to the southern boundary of St Alphege Ward, thence generally southeastwards along said southern boundary to the M42 Motorway, thence southwestwards along said motorway to Stratford Road, thence northwestwards along said road to Dog Kennel Lane, thence westwards and northwestwards along said lane to Blackford Road, thence southwestwards along said road to Tanworth Lane, thence southwards along said lane to the northern

boundary of Hockley Heath CP, thence generally northwestwards along said CP boundary to the western boundary of the Borough, thence generally northwestwards along said borough boundary to the point of commencement.

PACKWOOD WARD

Commencing at the point where the western boundary of the Borough meets the southern boundary of Shirley South Ward, thence generally southeastwards and northeastwards along said southern boundary to the southwestern boundary of Knowle Ward, thence southeastwards along said ward boundary to the southern boundary of the Borough, thence generally southwards, westwards and northeastwards along the southern and western boundary of the borough to the point of commencement.

CASTLE BROMWICH WARD

The Bradford, Park Hall, Timberley and Whateley wards of the parish of Castle Bromwich.

CHELMSLEY WOOD WARD

The Alcott Wood, Arbor, Chelmsley and Heath wards of the parish of Chelmsley Wood.

FORDBRIDGE WARD

The parish of Fordbridge.

KINGSHURST WARD

The Bacon's End, Cooks Lane, Woodlands and Yorkswood wards of the parish of Kingshurst.

MERIDEN WARD

The parishes of Balsall, Berkswell and Meriden.

SMITH'S WOOD WARD

The Bosworth and Burton wards of the parish of Castle Bromwich, and the Smith's Wood and Chester wards of the parish of Kingshurst.