

Local Government
Boundary Commission
For England
Report No. 579

Review of Non-Metropolitan Counties.

COUNTY OF
WARWICKSHIRE and its
boundary with
OXFORDSHIRE

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

BOUNDARY COMMISSION

FOR ENGLAND

REPORT NO. 579

LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOUNDARY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND

CHAIRMAN Mr G J Ellerton

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THE RT. HON. CHRISTOPHER PATTEN MP
SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE ENVIRONMENT
REVIEW OF NON-METROPOLITAN COUNTIES
THE COUNTY OF WARWICKSHIRE AND ITS BOUNDARY WITH OXFORDSHIRE
COMMISSION'S FINAL REPORT

INTRODUCTION

1. On 2 September 1986 we wrote to Warwickshire County Council announcing our intention to undertake a review under Section 48(1) of the Local Government Act 1972. Copies of our letter were sent to all the principal local authorities and parishes in Warwickshire and in the adjoining Counties of Gloucestershire, Hereford and Worcester, Leicestershire, Northamptonshire, Oxfordshire and Staffordshire; to the National and County Associations of Local Councils; to Members of Parliament with constituency interests and to the headquarters of the main political parties. In addition, copies were sent to those government departments with an interest; the regional health authorities; the public utilities; the English Tourist Board; the editors of the Municipal Journal and Local Government Chronicle, and local television and radio stations serving the area.

2. The County Councils were requested to co-operate as necessary, with each other and with the District Councils concerned, to assist us in publicising the start of the review by inserting a notice for two successive weeks in local newspapers so as to give a wide coverage in the area concerned. The County Councils were also asked to ensure that the issue of the consultation letter was drawn to the attention of the police and to services in respect of which they have a statutory function, such as the administration of justice.

3. A period of six months from the date of the letter was allowed for all local authorities, including those in the adjoining counties, and any other body or person interested in the review, to send to us their views in detail on whether changes to the county boundary were desirable and, if so, what they should be and how they would serve the interests of effective and convenient local government, the criterion laid down in the Act.

THE SUBMISSIONS MADE TO US

4. The submissions we received included various recommendations for changes to Warwickshire's boundaries with adjoining counties. Our reviews of Warwickshire's boundaries with (a) Gloucestershire, (b) Northamptonshire and (c) Leicestershire have been completed and dealt with in our Reports 574, 539 and 577 sent to you on 8 May, 24 August and 9 October 1989 respectively. The boundaries between Warwickshire and (d) Hereford and Worcester, (e) Staffordshire, and (f) the West Midlands are being dealt with separately as part of our reviews of those counties, which are still in progress. In this review, therefore, we have dealt only with the boundary between Warwickshire and Oxfordshire.

5. We received four responses on the Warwickshire/Oxfordshire boundary from the County Councils of Warwickshire and Oxfordshire, Stratford-on-Avon District Council, and the West Midlands Regional Health Authority. No proposals for change were put forward and we received no evidence to suggest that change to this boundary would be desirable.

OUR INTERIM DECISION TO MAKE NO PROPOSALS

6. In accordance with Section 48(1) of the Local Government Act 1972 and in the light of the guidelines in DOE Circular 12/84, we considered whether or not to propose any changes to the boundary between Warwickshire and Oxfordshire. We concluded that no changes desirable in the interests of effective and convenient

local government had been identified or proposed and we therefore reached an interim decision to make no proposals in respect of this boundary.

7. Our decision was published on 30 June 1989. Having advertised the start of the review extensively throughout Warwickshire and its adjoining counties, we decided that, in view of the limited nature of the review, we need advertise our decision only in the area concerned. Copies of our letter were, therefore, sent to the principal authorities directly involved, and to those persons and bodies who appeared to us to have an interest in the review of this boundary.

8. The County Councils of Warwickshire and Oxfordshire were asked to arrange publication of a notice announcing our decision and to place copies of it on display at places where public notices are customarily displayed. They were also asked to place copies of our decision letter on deposit for inspection at their main offices for a period of eight weeks. Comments on our decision were invited by 28 August 1989.

RESPONSE TO OUR INTERIM DECISION TO MAKE NO PROPOSALS

9. We received five comments in response to our interim decision letter; from Warwickshire County Council, Oxfordshire County Council, Stratford-on-Avon District Council, Thames Valley Police and the Police Federation of England and Wales - all of which accepted our interim decision. We have concluded therefore that, in the interests of effective and convenient local government, we should confirm our interim decision to make no proposals for change to the Warwickshire/Oxfordshire boundary as final.

PUBLICATION

10. A separate letter enclosing copies of this report is being sent to the County Councils of Warwickshire and Oxfordshire, asking them to deposit copies of the report at their main offices for inspection for six months and to put notices to this effect on

public notice-boards and in the local press. The text of the notice will explain that the Commission has now fulfilled its statutory role in the matter. Copies of this report are also being sent to those who received our interim decision letter and to those who responded in writing.

LS

Signed: G J ELLERTON (Chairman)

J G POWELL (Deputy Chairman)

G E CHERRY

K F J ENNALS

G R PRENTICE

HELEN SARKANY

BRIAN SCHOLES

S T GARRISH
Secretary

9 November 1989

