

Local Government
Boundary Commission
For England
Report No.363

LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOUNDARY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND

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Sir Nicholas Morrison KCB

DEPUTY CHAIRMAN

Mr J M Rankin QC

MEMBERS

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Mr D P Harrison

Professor G E Cherry

To the Rt Hon William Whitelaw, CH, MC, MP,
Secretary of State for the Home Department

PROPOSALS FOR REVISED ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE
BOROUGH OF SLOUGH IN THE ROYAL COUNTY OF BERKSHIRE

1. We, the Local Government Boundary Commission for England, having carried out our initial review of the electoral arrangements for the borough of Slough in accordance with the requirements of section 63 of, and Schedule 9 to, the Local Government Act, 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 1 April 1977 that we were to undertake this review. This was incorporated in a consultation letter addressed to the Slough Borough Council, copies of which were circulated to the Berkshire County Council, parish councils in the borough, the Member of Parliament for the constituency concerned, 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. Slough 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 1 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 to take into account 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) of the Local Government Act 1972 the Council have exercised an option for a system of elections by thirds.
5. On 23 August 1977, the Council presented their draft scheme of representation. The Council proposed to divide the area of the borough into 13 wards, each returning 3 members to form a council of 39 members.
6. We considered the draft scheme together with copies of the correspondence received by the Council during the preparation of the scheme, as well as the comments we had received direct. A local political party and a local political association submitted alternative draft schemes for 13 3-member wards and 39 single-member wards respectively. In addition two parish councils and two local residents commented on the draft scheme and suggested alternative arrangements for specific parts of the Borough.
7. We noted that the Council's draft scheme produced a very uneven standard of electoral representation throughout the borough. We therefore considered whether the alternative schemes which had been submitted to us provided information which would enable us to formulate electoral proposals providing better standards of representation. We found that the alternative scheme submitted by the local political party was superior to the Council's scheme in terms of standard of representation, although we considered that it could be improved by the reduction of the number of councillors for the suggested Wexham ward from 3 to 2.
8. We concluded that subject to the amendment referred to in paragraph 7 above and to some minor boundary adjustments suggested by Ordnance Survey, this alternative scheme provided a reasonable basis for the future electoral arrangements for the borough in compliance with the rules in Schedule 11 to the 1972 Act and our guidelines, and we formulated our draft proposals accordingly.
9. On 25 November 1977 we issued our draft proposals and these were sent to

all those who had received our consultation letter or had commented on the Council's draft scheme. The Council were asked to make these draft proposals and the accompanying map, which illustrated 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 notice, from other members of the public and interested bodies. We asked for comments to reach us by 20 January 1978.

10. The Council objected to our draft proposals for a variety of reasons and forwarded an alternative scheme which they had prepared for our consideration.

11. Berkshire County Council expressed regret that our draft proposals were not compatible with potential county electoral arrangements, whereby the borough of Slough would be allocated 11 members. The County Council also suggested alternative ward names for eight of the proposed wards.

12. The local political party supported our draft proposals but suggested amendments to the boundaries of our proposed Chalvey, Farnham North, Farnham South, Langley West and Stoke wards. They too proposed alternative names for three wards.

13. The only other comment we received was from Britwell Parish Council, who put forward an amendment to the boundary of the proposed Britwell ward.

14. In view of these comments we decided that we needed further information to enable us to reach a conclusion. Therefore, in accordance with section 65(2) of the 1972 Act, Mr B Marder QC, was appointed an Assistant Commissioner at our request. He was asked to hold a local meeting and to report to us.

15. The Assistant Commissioner held a meeting at Slough on 21 June 1979. A copy of his report to us of the meeting is attached at Schedule 1 to this report.

16. In the light of discussion at the meeting and his inspection of the areas concerned, the Assistant Commissioner recommended that, rather than our draft proposals, the Council's alternative scheme should be adopted subject to some alterations to the boundaries between Chalvey and Upton wards and between Chalvey and Cippenham wards.

17. We reviewed our draft proposals in the light of the comments we had received and of the report of the Assistant Commissioner. In making his recommendation, the Assistant Commissioner had clearly been influenced by the fact that the pattern of growth in the electorate in some areas of the borough was now expected to be different from that originally forecast when we formulated our draft proposals and that as a result they no longer achieved the standard of representation we had envisaged. We noted that the Council's alternative scheme did not achieve an entirely satisfactory standard of representation either but we agreed with the Assistant Commissioner's view that there were geographical features in Slough which would cause significant difficulties in producing any greater measure of electoral equality. We also noted his conclusion that the Borough Council's alternative scheme was to be preferred to our draft proposals because of its superiority in the use of clear, natural and convenient boundaries, and in respecting the identity of communities; moreover the Council's scheme had not attracted any general local criticism. Although the two boundary adjustments he had proposed did not appear significantly to improve the standard of representation, they seemed to us to be justified in the light of other considerations put forward at the local meeting. We concluded that, in these circumstances, the Assistant Commissioner's recommendations should be accepted and we formulated our final proposals accordingly, subject to minor changes to the ward boundaries suggested by Ordnance Survey.

18. Details of these final proposals are set out in Schedules 2 and 3 to this report. Schedule 2 gives the names of the wards and the number of councillors to be returned by each. Schedule 3 is a description of the boundaries of the new wards as shown on the attached map.

PUBLICATION

19. 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 Slough Borough Council and will be available for inspection at the Borough 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.

L.S.

Signed:

NICHOLAS MORRISON (CHAIRMAN)

JOHN M RANKIN (DEPUTY CHAIRMAN)

PHYLLIS BOWDEN

TYRRELL BROCKBANK

G E CHERRY

D P HARRISON

R R THORNTON

LESLIE GRIMSHAW (Secretary)

20 September 1979

Grays Inn Chambers,
Grays Inn,
London W.C.1.

3rd August 1979

Sir Nicholas Morrison KCB.,
Chairman,
Local Government Boundary
Commission for England,
20 Albert Embankment,
London SE1 7TJ

Dear Sir Nicholas,

Review of Electoral Arrangements

Borough of Slough

1. I have to report that following my appointment by the Home Secretary as an Assistant Commissioner for the purpose of this review in accordance with section 65(2) of the Local Government Act 1972, I presided at a local meeting called by the Commission for the purpose of hearing representations and local views, which was held at Slough Town Hall on Thursday 21 June 1979.

2. The meeting opened promptly at 10 am. and was concluded at 6 pm. I enclose an attendance list from which it will be noted that the meeting was attended only by Council officers, representatives of the two main parties and the Press.

Immediately after the meeting, I carried out an extensive tour of the Chalvey and Cippenham areas of the Borough, accompanied by officers of the Borough Council and by representatives of the local Conservative and Labour parties. Thereafter, I also visited parts of the Upton and Langley areas on my own.

3. Following the local meeting, I received further representations in writing from Slough Borough Council and from the agent for Eton & Slough Constituency Labour Party (Mr. Lopez). I have taken account of these further expressions of view in preparing this report.

Background to the Review

4. Under a provisional scheme adopted for the 1973 elections, Slough has an existing Council of 40 members, arranged in 13 wards which vary greatly in size and in the number of councillors per ward, ranging from 2 to 9 members. In a number of instances the electorate is now very much under-or over-represented. Examples are to be found in the present Chalvey, Stoke South, and Farnham South wards.

5. The present review commenced in April 1977 with the Commission's invitation to submit draft proposals. A draft scheme was submitted to the Commission by the Corporation in

August 1977, who also forwarded an alternative scheme which had been prepared by the Labour Party in June 1977. Both these schemes provided for a Council of 39 members in 13 x 3 member wards. In 1975 the Eton & Slough Liberal Association had put forward recommendations for a Council of 43 members in single-member wards. In August 1977 the Liberal Association reiterated their case for single-member wards but revised their proposals so as to provide a Council comprising 39 such wards.

6. The Commission's consideration of the matter resulted in publication in November 1977 of the Commission's draft proposals, (hereinafter called "the Commission scheme") which to a considerable extent adopted the arrangements proposed by the Labour Party, but reducing the representation in one ward (Wexham) from 3 to 2 councillors in the interests of parity, thus providing a total council of 38 in 12 x 3 member wards and 1 x 2 member ward. Following further comments and representations received by the Commission including a revised scheme submitted by the Corporation, it was decided to call a local meeting.

Representations at the Meeting

7. I opened the meeting by explaining its purpose and the procedure I proposed to follow, and indicating what the issues were which appeared to arise and on which the Commission would

wish to be informed. I stressed that the keynote of the meeting would be informality, and that nobody should feel constrained or precluded from putting forward their views.

8. The case for the Corporation was put forward by Mr. B.J. Querroll, a solicitor and member of the Corporation's legal staff, assisted by other officers where necessary. The case was attractively presented, thoroughly and skilfully documented and illustrated by maps and tables. The Corporation advocated acceptance of the alternative scheme submitted by them in December 1978, which they claimed had eliminated the admitted shortcomings of their original draft scheme. I shall hereafter refer throughout to the December 1978 scheme supported by the Corporation's maps and tables as "the Council scheme".

9. The Council scheme would provide a Council of 39 members in 13 x 3 member wards, and is based on estimates of electorates for 1978, 1982 and 1984. These estimates were prepared by the Corporation and updated on the basis of recent information supplied by the County Council. The combination of estimated numbers of dwellings (based on clearance, redevelopment, and development proposals) and an expected fall in the occupancy rate per dwelling, are the principal factors in estimating electorate figures as set out in the tables accompanying the Council scheme.

10. The Corporation placed in the forefront of their case as particular merits of the Council scheme (a) that it complies with the numerical guidelines of the Commission; and (b) that it is readily compatible with the anticipated electoral arrangements for the County; it is likely that Slough will have 11 County divisions, and the Corporation demonstrated by plans how these could be devised by minimal re-arrangement of the proposed wards.

11. Emphasis was also given to a uniform system of 3-member wards and the consequent disadvantage of the Commission scheme in departing from that uniform system. Furthermore the Council scheme was superior in terms of numerical parity to the Commission scheme, would take better account of natural boundaries, and would be less divisive of communities. These points were amplified in detail by Mr. Querroll.

12. I questioned the Council representatives about the extent of public involvement in the process of electoral review. I was assured that full publicity had been given to the proposals made; that the Commission scheme had been advertised and placed on deposit for public inspection; that the Borough's alternative

proposals had been reported in open meetings of the appropriate Committees and the full Council, and that the local Press had made reports of the issue from time to time; but, apart from the political parties, there had been little response or reaction from the general public.

13. I asked for further explanation of the methods adopted by the Corporation for estimating future electorates by wards, and this was explained in detail by Mr. Querroll and Mr. Rawlings, the Chief Planning Officer. It was not possible for them to accept the Commission's estimates of future electorates; the derivation of these figures was not clear, but the differences between the Corporation figures and those of the Commission did not appear to stem from any updating exercise by the Corporation; rather from different assumptions made as to occupancy rates and perhaps birth rates. Mr. Rawlings defended the method adopted by the Corporation, which related known and probable development proposals to anticipated occupancy rates, because occupancy rates in existing dwellings in Slough and the County were shown to be falling. He agreed however to check whether an alternative method, (taking existing electorate figures and then adding or subtracting for development or clearance using an assumed occupancy

rate) would produce materially different results. Mr. Rawlings later reported (after the lunch adjournment) that the effect of this exercise was merely to increase the anticipated electorates by a slight overall figure, but not to disturb the balance between wards. He demonstrated this proposition by a detailed table. Mr. Rawlings also explained in some detail the effects of planning policies for the area, reflected in the Strategic Plan for the South-East, 1978 Review, and in the submitted East Berks. Structure Plan. In brief, Slough is an area for growth restraint, in which housing development is intended for the most part to meet local needs only. Most housing provision will be by the public sector or Housing Associations, with a higher proportion than in the past of 1-2 person dwellings. In substance therefore, there is envisaged for the near future a situation in which the existing local population will be housed in more dwellings; hence the evident effect on occupancy rates.

14. Mr. D.K.H. Over, Assistant County Secretary, explained the position of Berks. County Council. The ~~Corporation~~^{Council} scheme has the support of the County Council, who regard compatibility between electoral arrangements for the Districts and the County as a matter of great importance. He referred to correspondence with the Commission, in which the Commission recognised the desirability

of securing such compatibility, and also indicated the Commission's willingness to accept a County Council of 76 members, within which the allocation for Slough would almost inevitably be 11. He then compared the ~~Corporation~~^{Council} scheme and the Commission scheme from the point of view of comparability with a County Council allocation of 11 members, and demonstrated that whereas the Commission scheme was more readily adaptable to 12 County divisions, only the ~~Corporation~~^{Council} scheme had sufficient flexibility to make it adaptable to 11, 12 or 13 County divisions. The County would have preferred what Mr. Over called "total compatibility", but they realised that could only be achieved by forming 3 and 2 - member wards, which the Corporation do not want and which the County Council do not seek to impose. For those reasons, the County wish to support the ~~Corporation~~^{Council} scheme in preference to the Commission scheme.

15. With regard to the naming of certain proposed wards, Mr. Over did not wish to add to the submissions made by the County in a letter to the Commission in December 1977.

16. Mr. E. Lopez is political organiser for the Eton & Slough Constituency Labour Party, and he presented the Party's views in a clear and closely argued memorandum. Mr. Lopez stressed the serious anomalies which now existed, and hence the Party's welcome

for this present review. The last elections had produced a Council of 21 Conservatives, 14 Labour, and 5 Liberal members, but the percentage of votes received was Labour 47% (19 members) Conservative 43% (17) and Liberal 10% (4). The sooner such undemocratic arrangements were changed, the better, and the Labour Party, after full consideration and discussion in ward meetings, were prepared to accept either the ~~Corporation~~ ^{Council} scheme or the Commission scheme. However, it appeared that the Commission figures were somewhat out-dated and the projections made by the Corporation were in general more reliable. Hence on balance, the Labour Party were ^{now} ~~not~~ advocating adoption of the newly revised ~~Corporation~~ ^{Council} scheme, provided that certain vital amendments were made to it. Mr. Lopez explained these amendments in detail. The first and most important concerns the boundary between Chalvey and Upton wards. Here the ~~Corporation's~~ ^{Council} scheme used the line of the railway, but the natural boundary between two quite different communities is further East, on the line of Windsor Road. He strongly urged the transfer of the area between Windsor Road and the railway to Chalvey ward, and considered that the result would still fall within acceptable numerical tolerances.

17. Secondly, Mr. Lopez referred to the boundary between Upton and Foxborough wards as artificial and unsatisfactory. He considered a more natural boundary to be the southward projection

of Langley High Street (the proposed Kederminster/Foxborough boundary) to the M4 motorway and the borough boundary. Thirdly, Mr. Lopez proposed in relation to the Baylis/Farnham ward boundary that the area between Bath Road and the main railway lines, and West of Farnham Road ought more logically to be in Farnham Ward. However, when it was confirmed that this area was isolated from the rest of Farnham Ward by the Slough Trading Estate, this last suggestion was withdrawn. Mr. Lopez also indicated complete support for the Commission view as to compatibility with County electoral arrangements, ie. that such compatibility was desirable if it could readily be achieved, but that the needs of adequate fair local representation were not to be sacrificed in the name of compatibility.

18. Finally, Mr. Lopez stressed that the Labour Party would welcome an agreed solution to the review, both to secure more speedy reform, and to avoid future suggestions of gerrymandered boundaries. Hence he offered support for the Corporation's revised scheme and hoped that the Corporation would reciprocate by accepting the amendments proposed.

19. Cllr. Richard Stephenson is Leader of the present Council, and spoke for Eton & Slough Conservative Association. He did not accept Mr. Lopez's views as to the area in the proposed Upton

ward between Windsor Road and the railway. He considered that area to have closer ties with the High Street area than with the area W. of the railway. With development further West in Chalvey, including new shopping facilities, the centre of gravity of that community was in any event shifting westward.

20. Mr. Querroll in a final statement, emphasised that his instructions were from the Council and not from a political party. The ~~Corporation~~ ^{Council} scheme was now seen to represent the wishes of both major parties more adequately than the Commission scheme. He had no instructions to agree to the amendments put forward by Mr. Lopez, but the numerical consequences had been considered. The figures given by Mr. Lopez for the 1982 electorates in Chalvey, Upton and Foxborough wards were accepted as correct, and therefore the amendments would give 1982 electorates which were "not unreasonable" in view of the usual tolerances. However, by 1984 the inequalities between wards would be more marked, principally because of development projected in the Wood Lane area in the S.W. part of Chalvey Ward. The Upton Ward electorate would be largely unchanged by 1984, whereas that of Chalvey would reach 7169, giving an entitlement of 3.82.

21. In the course of discussion at the meeting, I expressed difficulty in reconciling the projected electorates put forward by the Corporation both in respect of their own scheme and the Commission scheme with the projections supplied to me by the Commission. Whilst those represented at the meeting were anxious to avoid a reconvened hearing, I indicated that I would raise the matter with the Commission and, if desired, I would consider further representations as to the methods used and the numerical consequences. As a result, I received after the meeting a further letter from Mr. Lopez, in which he reiterated the substance of the Labour Party case as I have already reported it. He also cast doubt on the validity of the Council's projections, both as to the extent and progress of future development, and as to the weight given by the Council to assumed occupancy rates. Mr. Lopez also made various other suggestions for boundary adjustments, required basically because of the major proposal of the Labour Party as to the Chalvey/Upton/Foxborough wards.

22. I also received a further letter from the Corporation, expanding on the methods used to forecast the 1982 and 1984 electorates, and giving details of the development proposals taken into account. The Council vigorously rejected Mr. Lopez's criticisms of their methods, and offered any further clarification that might be required. However, in the light of the views expressed at the meeting, and having considered this further

correspondence, together with other letters received by the Commission prior to the meeting, I believe that I now have the information necessary for the purpose of reaching conclusions and making firm recommendations to the Commission.

Conclusions

23. There is no evidence of any material difference of views as to the appropriate size of Council, and I conclude that a 38 or 39 member Council would secure effective and convenient local administration. However, I am in no doubt that a system of single-member wards would be cumbersome and cause difficulties in ensuring adequate representation; accordingly I cannot recommend the proposals made by the Liberal Association, which in any event were not supported at the local meeting. Whilst of course an infinite variety of solutions is theoretically possible, in practical terms the choice therefore seems to me to lie between the Commission scheme and the ~~Corporation~~ ^{Council} scheme, in each case considering possible adjustments, or indeed the possible rejection of both.

24. In determining the numerical consequences of the two sets of proposals, it is first necessary to consider the validity of projections of future electorate by wards. It appears to me that the Commission have in this instance unwittingly adopted out-dated

and inaccurate projections in analysing the proposals submitted. I am still not wholly convinced by the method adopted by the Corporation; the application of County-wide trends in occupancy rates may perhaps mislead in relation to such small units as a single ward, especially one where little or no change in housing stock is anticipated in the review period. Nevertheless, I have reached the conclusion that the figures produced by the Corporation represent a reasonable and useful estimate of future electorates by wards for 1982 and 1984. I have used these figures in considering the merits of the proposals and any possible adjustments, and have ignored those provided to me by the Commission. However, I have borne in mind that the ~~projections~~ can only be estimates and are likely to be maxima, having regard to the planning constraints referred to in para. 13 above and recent Government pronouncements on local government expenditure especially in the housing field.

25. In terms of parity of representation between wards, it seems to me that neither the ~~Corporation~~ ^{Council} scheme nor the Commission scheme is wholly satisfactory as it stands, and I can find little to choose between them from this point of view. Taking first the ~~Corporation~~ ^{Council} scheme, there would be 5 wards either too small or too large on the basis of the 1978 electorates and beyond the Commission's normal "tolerances" (Britwell, Haymill, Upton, Langley St. Mary's, and Foxborough); and to 7 wards by 1984 (by the addition of Baylis).

this figure would rise to 6 wards by 1982 (Britwell, Stoke, Wexham Lea, Upton, Langley St. Mary's, and Foxborough);

26. Then taking the Commission scheme, but as indicated applying the Council's figures, in 1978 there would be 3 wards too large or too small (Central S., Upton, and Langley E.); by 1982 there would be 6 wards (Britwell, Stoke, Central N., Central S., Upton, and Langley E.); rising to 7 wards by 1984 (by the addition of Chalvey).

27. I recognise that complete parity is rarely if ever possible, and I do not understand the relevant legislation to require it. In my view there are particular difficulties in Slough, because of the unusual prominence and disposition of certain features such as the A.4, the main East/West railway line, and the huge Trading Estate, and it must be doubted whether a fresh start would achieve a better numerical result. I bear in mind also that the meeting expressed a general desire for acceptance of one or other of the two schemes and for a speedy decision. Hence, although the idea of going right back to the drawing-board is attractive, I do not myself recommend it.

28. Whilst both proposals have numerical defects which are more or less equal, I consider that in general terms the ~~Corporation~~ ^{Council} scheme is much superior to the Commission scheme in the use of clear, natural and convenient boundaries, and in respecting the identity of communities. Detailed criticisms

of the Commission scheme instanced the artificial "salient" formed by Farnham N. Ward and its failure to take account of the design of the Northborough estate; the strange boundary at the N.E. corner of Burnham S. ward, where a bit of Cippenham is isolated from the rest; and the artificial boundary between Chalvey and Upton wards. These and other criticisms are in my view justified. For these reasons I conclude that the Commission scheme is unacceptable in numerical terms and provides in many instances boundaries which are not easily identifiable or which unnecessarily break local ties. *Nor do I find it readily capable of improvement by adjustment.*

29. Furthermore, I consider that the ^{Council}~~Corporation~~ scheme is more readily capable of adjustment so as to reduce (albeit slightly) the numerical defects; and I also give weight to the fact that nobody at the local meeting expressed any opposition to the Corporation scheme at any rate if it were suitably adjusted to meet the points made by Mr. Lopez.

30. The merits of the ^{Council}~~Corporation~~ scheme were spelled out in detail by the Council officers, and for the most part I accept them. The scheme does provide for uniform three-member wards, and does seem readily capable of adapting to the probable County scheme. These merits may not in themselves be conclusive, but they reinforce the advantages of the Corporation scheme in its better use of boundaries and greater respect for existing communities.

31. Turning to the question of improvement by adjustments, the most significant point taken on behalf of the Labour Party concerned the boundary between Upton and Chalvey wards, which in the ~~Corporation~~^{Council} scheme is formed throughout by the Slough-Windsor railway line. This is without doubt a good physical boundary, but I was impressed by the case made that it would divide the existing community of Chalvey which is on both sides of the railway line. The homogeneous character of this community was apparent to me on inspection. Furthermore, the proposed Upton ward is too big; the two areas (Upton and Chalvey) display quite different characteristics; and Windsor Road, with considerable commercial, civic, and other non-residential development for much of its length, is just as clear and logical a boundary as the railway line. For these reasons I conclude that the boundary between Chalvey and Upton wards should be Windsor Road throughout.

32. I agree with the criticism of the E. boundary of Upton ward where it meets Foxborough ward. That area S. of the A.4 London Road, centred on Cedar Way/Mulberry Drive/ Marlborough Road, is awkward and rather isolated from the rest of Foxborough ward. But without that area, Foxborough would be too small, and Upton would again be too big. The boundary is clearly identifiable, and I do not think local ties would be broken in this instance. I therefore conclude that this boundary should remain as proposed by the Corporation.

33. I recognise that transfer to Chalvey ward of the area W. of Windsor Road would, without further adjustment, make that ward too big, but I consider that this situation is capable of further adjustment. In my view the W. boundary of Chalvey ward can in general terms best be defined by the limits of existing development. Further development is planned to the West in the Wood Lane area, but there must be doubt as to how much of that development will now be carried out during the present review period, and I consider that such development as is carried out can and should be accommodated within the Cippenham ward.

34. The adjustments I have suggested would bring Upton ward (very much under-represented in the ~~corporation~~^{Council} scheme) to almost ideal size throughout the review period; would render Chalvey somewhat under-represented but in my view within acceptable limits; and would take Cippenham ward beyond the limit of acceptable size only if the 500 or so electors anticipated from the Wood Lane development get on to the electoral roll during the current review period. In sum this represents a minor improvement of the ~~corporation~~^{Council} scheme in terms of parity, but I cannot express satisfaction with the total result. Britwell and Wexham Lea wards will still be too big, whilst Stoke, Baylis, Langley St. Mary's and Foxborough wards will still be too small.

I have pondered further adjustments at length but without reaching satisfactory conclusions, and it must be a matter for the Commission to consider whether in the circumstances the appropriate course is simply to reject both schemes and start afresh, though it is clear that a better arrangement will be difficult to achieve.

35 With regard to the proposed names of wards, I have considered in particular a letter dated 20 December 1977 from Berks. County Council's Chief Executive, but I do not think amendments to the names proposed by the Borough are called for. I appreciate that Farnham, Stoke and Wexham Lea wards each adjoin rural parishes or villages of similar name, but in my view the risk of confusion is insubstantial.

Recommendations

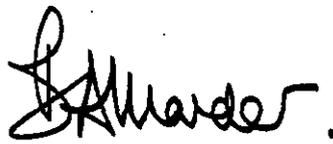
36. For the reasons given above, I recommend that the draft proposals set out in the letter from the Commission dated 25 November 1977 and accompanying documents should not be adopted. I further recommend, with the reluctance I have already indicated, that the proposals submitted by Slough Borough Council on 28 December 1978 and illustrated further by a plan submitted at the local meeting and marked Plan D, should be adopted, subject, however to the following amendments:-

- (a) The boundary between Upton ward and Chalvey ward should be constituted throughout by Windsor Road and not by the Slough/Windsor railway line;

- (b) The boundary between Chalvey ward and Cippenham ward should so far as possible follow the Western limit of existing housing development at Chalvey, and should therefore be moved Eastwards to the W. edge of the Chalvey Grove estate, as indicated by a broken red line on the aforementioned Plan D.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "B. Marder", written in a cursive style. The signature is positioned above a solid horizontal line.

(BERNARD MARDER Q.C.)

Assistant Commissioner

ATTENDANCE

ATTENDANCE LIST

BERNARD MARDER Q.C.
Assistant Commissioner

Slough Borough Council
Local Meeting

<u>NAME</u>		<u>REPRESENTING</u>
B. J. QUOROL	AST. SEC. LEGAL	SBC
R. WARDLE	AST. SEC. ADH.	SBC
R. STEPHENS	CHIEF ENG.	SBC
L. RAWINGS	CHIEF PLANNER	SBC
A. BHATTACHARYA	BOROUGH SECRETARY	SBC
D. K.H. OVER	AST. COUNTY SECRETARY	BERKSHIRE CC
H. J.F. GOULD	SENIOR ADM. OFFICER	BERKSHIRE CC
Robin Mitchell	Chair	Berkshire CC
L. K. RAWINGS	CHIEF PLANNER	SBC
B. Colthorpe	Planning Assistant	SBC
E. Lopez	STONE ISLAND LABOUR PARTY	
Maurice Fowler		
ERIC FRYBERG	Slough Express	
V. HARRIS	ELECTORAL REGISTRATION OFFICER	SBC
N. LANE	SLOUGH EVENING MAIL	
Richard Stephenson	ETS CONSERVATIVE ASSOC.	

SCHEDULE 2

BOROUGH OF SLOUGH : NAMES OF PROPOSED WARDS AND NUMBERS OF COUNCILLORS

<u>NAME OF WARD</u>	<u>NO OF COUNCILLORS</u>
Baylis	3
Britwell	3
Central	3
Chalvey	3
Cippenham	3
Farnham	3
Foxborough	3
Haymill	3
Kedermister	3
Langley St Mary's	3
Stoke	3
Upton	3
Wexham Lea	3

BOROUGH OF SLOUGH - 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.

CIPPENHAM WARD

Commencing on the southern boundary of the Borough at Roundmoor Ditch, thence westwards and generally northwards along said Borough boundary and the western boundary of the Borough to Bath Road, thence eastwards along said road to a point opposite the western boundary of the Clothing Factory (No 221 Bath Road), thence southwestwards to and along said western boundary to the northeastern boundary of Westgate County Secondary School, thence northwestwards along said northeastern boundary and southwestwards along the northwestern boundary of said school, and in prolongation thereof to Cippenham Lane, thence southeastwards along said lane to Wood Lane, thence southwestwards along said lane to the unnamed stream flowing southeastwards to Chalvey Ditch, thence southeastwards along said stream and eastwards along the unnamed stream flowing westwards along the northern boundary of Montem County Middle School to the western boundary of said school, thence southwards along said western boundary and eastwards along the southern boundary of said school to the western boundary of No 166 Chalvey Grove, thence southwards along said western boundary and the western boundaries of No's 168 and 174 Chalvey Grove, and all the properties to the west of Burgett Road and Stour Close, and continuing southwards along the field boundary leading to the M4 motorway to its southernmost point, thence due southwards from said point, crossing said Motorway, to the southern boundary of the Borough, thence generally northwards, southwestwards, westwards and northwards along said Borough boundary to the point of commencement.

HAYMILL WARD

Commencing at the point where the northern boundary of Cippenham Ward meets the western boundary of the Borough, thence northwards and northeastwards along said Borough boundary to Hogfair Lane, thence southwards along said lane to Lower Britwell Road, thence northeastwards along said road to a point opposite the southwestern boundary of the garages to the southwest of No 1 Lower Britwell Road, thence southeastwards along said southwestern boundary to and eastwards along the southern boundaries of No's 1 to 8 Lower Britwell Road, Catholic Church, Our Lady of Peace (RC) and No 71 Haymill Road, thence southwards along said road to Whittaker Road, thence eastwards along said road and the proposed road between Whittaker Road and Northborough Road to a point opposite the western boundary of No 55 Northborough Road, thence southwards to and along said western boundary and southwards along the western boundaries of No's 2 to 38 Chatfield, thence eastwards along the southern boundary of the last mentioned property to Fairlie Road, thence southwestwards along said road and Falmouth Road to Bedford Avenue, thence northwestwards along said avenue to Dover Road, thence southwards along said road to the northern boundary of Cippenham Ward, thence westwards along said ward boundary to the point of commencement.

FARNHAM WARD

Commencing at the point where the northern boundary of Cippenham Ward meets the eastern boundary of Haymill Ward, thence generally northwards along said eastern boundary to the northern boundary of said ward and Northborough Road, thence eastwards along said road to a point opposite the western boundary of No's 106, 108 and 110 Northborough Road, thence northwards to and along said western boundary, the western boundary of No 51 Cowper Road, and the path leading northwestwards to the western end of Cowper Road, to Cowper Road, thence eastwards along said road to Long Readings Lane, thence northwards along said lane to a point opposite the

path leading northeastwards to Crofthill Road, thence eastwards to and northeastwards along said path and said road to Farnham Road, thence northwards along said road to the northern boundary of the Borough, thence generally southeastwards along said Borough boundary to the Path to the east of No's 126 to 158 Canterbury Avenue, thence southwards along said path, crossing Cumberland Avenue, to and southwards along the footpath to the west of No's 107 to 1 Hatton Avenue, No 1 Granville Avenue, Baylis Court County Secondary School (Girls), Baylis Court County Secondary School and No 150 Oatlands Drive to Sheffield Road, thence westwards along said road to Farnham Road, thence southwards and southeastwards along said road to the path leading westwards to Ajax Avenue, thence westwards along said path to a point due northeast of the northwestern corner of Carter's Place (Council Depot), thence due southwestwards to and southwards along the western boundary of said council depot to the northern boundary of No 21 Hadlow Court, thence eastwards along said northern boundary to and southwards along the western boundary of the garages and Gospel Tabernacle to the northern boundary of the garages to the east of No's 19 to 24 Thirkleby Close, thence westwards along said northern boundary, the northern boundary of No's 19 to 24, 25 to 30 and 31 to 36 Thirkleby Close and the garages to the west of No's 31 to 36 Thirkleby Close, to the western boundary of said garages, thence southwards along said western boundary and the western boundary of No 184 Bath Road to Bath Road, thence northwestwards along said road and the northern boundary of Cippenham Ward to the point of commencement.

STOKE WARD

Commencing at the point where Oatlands Drive meets the eastern boundary of Farnham Ward, thence northwards along said ward boundary to the northern boundary of the Borough, thence generally southeastwards along said Borough boundary to Stoke Road, thence southwards along said road to Elliman Avenue, thence northwestwards along said Avenue and Oatlands Drive to the point of commencement.

BAYLIS WARD

Commencing at the point where Bath Road meets the eastern boundary of Farnham Ward, thence generally northeastwards, northwards and eastwards along said ward boundary and southeastwards along the southern boundary of Stoke Ward to Stoke Road, thence southwestwards along said road and William Street to the centre of the roundabout junction with Bath Road, thence westwards in a straight line to and westwards along said road to the point of commencement.

CHALVEY WARD

Commencing at the point where the southern boundary of the Borough meets the eastern boundary of Cippenham Ward, thence northwards, generally northwestwards and generally northwards along said ward boundary to the southern boundary of Farnham Ward, thence southeastwards along said southern boundary and the southern boundary of Baylis Ward to the centre of the roundabout junction with William Street, thence southwards in a straight line to and southwestwards along said street and Windsor Road to the southern boundary of the Borough, thence southwestwards and generally northwestwards along said Borough boundary to the point of commencement.

CENTRAL WARD

Commencing at the point where the northern boundary of Baylis Ward meets the eastern boundary of Stoke Ward, thence northwards along said eastern boundary to the northern boundary of the Borough, thence eastwards along said Borough boundary to the southwestern boundary of Wexham Court CP, thence southeastwards along said CP boundary and continuing southwards and southwestwards along Wexham Road to the Grand Union Canal, Slough Arm, thence southeastwards along said canal to the northeastern boundary of the Borough, thence eastwards along said Borough boundary to Middlegreen Road, thence southwards along said road to Langley Road, thence northeastwards along said road to Blandford Road North, thence southwards

LANGLEY ST MARY'S WARD

Commencing at the point where the northern boundary of Kedermister Ward meets the eastern boundary of Central Ward, thence northwards along said eastern boundary to the northern boundary of the Borough, thence eastwards along said Borough boundary and southwards along the eastern boundary of the Borough to Parlaunt Road, thence southwestwards and westwards along said road to the eastern boundary of Kedermister Ward, thence northwards along said eastern boundary and westwards along the northern boundary of said ward to the point of commencement.

FOXBOROUGH WARD

Commencing at the point where the southern boundary of the Borough meets the eastern boundary of Upton Ward, thence westwards and generally north-eastwards along said ward boundary to the southern boundary of Kedermister Ward, thence southeastwards along said southern boundary to and northeastwards along the eastern boundary of said ward to the southern boundary of Langley St Mary's Ward, thence eastwards along said southern boundary to the eastern boundary of the Borough, thence generally southwards along said Borough boundary to and generally northwestwards along the southern boundary of the Borough to the point of commencement.

WEXHAM LEA WARD

The parish of Wexham Court

and that area bounded by a line commencing at the point where the north-eastern boundary of Central Ward meets the southern boundary of Wexham Court CP, thence generally eastwards along said CP boundary to the north-eastern boundary of the Borough, thence southeastwards and southwestwards along said Borough boundary to the northeastern boundary of Central Ward, thence northwestwards and generally northwards along said ward boundary to the point of commencement.

along said road and its continuation as a path to and continuing southeastwards and southwestwards along Blandford Road South to London Road, thence northwestwards along said road, Sussex Place and Wellington Street, crossing the roundabout junction with Uxbridge Road in a straight line, to the eastern boundary of Baylis Ward, thence northeastwards along said ward boundary to the point of commencement.

UPTON WARD

Commencing at the point where the southern boundary of the Borough meets the eastern boundary of Chalvey Ward, thence northeastwards along said ward boundary to the southern boundary of Central Ward, thence southeastwards along said southern boundary and continuing southeastwards along London Road to a point opposite Drake Avenue, thence southwestwards to and along said avenue to Marlborough Road, thence northwestwards along said road to a point opposite the western boundary of No 66 Marlborough Road, thence southwestwards to and along said western boundary and continuing southwestwards along the rear boundaries of No's 6 to 46 Parkland Avenue to the southern boundary of the last mentioned property, thence eastwards along said southern boundary, the southern end of Parkland Avenue, and the southern boundaries of No 33 Parkland Avenue and No's 47 to 31 Courtlands Avenue to the southern boundary of the Borough, thence southwestwards and generally northwestwards along said Borough boundary to the point of commencement.

KEDERMILSTER WARD

Commencing at the point where the northern boundary of Upton Ward meets the eastern boundary of Central Ward, thence northwards along said eastern boundary to Langley Road, thence northeastwards and eastwards along said road to the junction with Station Road and High Street, thence southeastwards and southwestwards along High Street to London Road, thence northwestwards along said road and the northern boundary of Upton Ward to the point of commencement.

BRITWELL WARD

The parish of Britwell

and that area bounded by a line commencing at a point where the northern boundary of Haymill Ward meets the western boundary of the Borough at Hogfair Lane, thence northeastwards along said Borough boundary to the southern boundary of Britwell CP, thence eastwards along said CP boundary and northwards along the eastern boundary of said CP to the northern boundary of the Borough, thence generally southeastwards along said Borough boundary to the northwestern boundary of Farnham Ward, thence southwards and southwestwards along said ward boundary, and westwards along the northern boundary of Haymill Ward to the point of commencement.