

Local Government
Boundary Commission
For England
Report No.364

LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOUNDARY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND

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

PROPOSALS FOR FUTURE ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR
THE DISTRICT OF NORTH DEVON

1. We, the Local Government Boundary Commission for England, having carried out our initial review of the electoral arrangements for the District of North Devon 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 23 April 1975 that we were to undertake this review. This was incorporated in a consultation letter addressed to the North Devon District Council, copies of which were circulated to the Devon County Council, town councils, parish councils and parish meetings in the district, the Member of Parliament for the constituency 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 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. North Devon 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 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 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 opportunity for local comment.

4. The District Council have passed a resolution under section 7(4)(a) of the Local Government Act 1972, requesting a system of whole council elections.
5. On 29 September 1975 North Devon District Council presented their draft scheme of representation. The Council proposed to divide the area of the district into 36 wards each returning 1, 2 or 3 members to form a council of 51 members.
6. We considered the draft scheme and noted that although it had produced a fair measure of local agreement it failed in a number of important respects to follow the requirements of Schedule 11 to the Local Government Act 1972 and the guidelines in our Report No 6.
7. We decided to bring this to the notice of the Council, giving the reasons why we found the draft scheme to be unsuitable for adoption as our draft proposals, and inviting them to review their scheme.
8. On 8 November 1976 the District Council submitted a revised draft scheme. They proposed to divide the area into 32 wards each returning 1, 2 or 3 members to form a council of 44. The Council had published details of their revised proposals and invited comments on them.
9. We considered the revised draft scheme together with copies of the correspondence received by the Council, as well as a number of letters we received direct. Lynton and Lynmouth Town Council submitted that the proposed district ward comprising their parish and the parishes of Brendon and Countisbury would be too extensive for representation by one councillor. There were requests for regrouping on grounds of affinity from a Tawstock parish councillor and from the parish councils of Rackenford, Ashford, Marwood and King's Nympton. Seven parish councils accepted the revised draft scheme.
10. We noted that generally the revised draft scheme offered a fairly even pattern of representation but we saw scope for improving the representation in the area of Barnstaple where there was a disparity in the respective electorates

of the proposed Trinity and Yeo wards. We proposed some realignment of the boundaries of the proposed wards of Yeo, Trinity, St Mary's and Pilton in this area that would result in a greater degree of equality between the proposed wards.

11. In the case of the existing 4-member unwarded parish of Braunton we proposed that the area should be divided into two 2-member wards, to be named Braunton East and Braunton West, taking the A361 road as the dividing line.

12. Having considered the comments which suggested alteration of the Council's revised draft scheme, we decided to accept, on the grounds of community interest, a suggestion for grouping the parishes of Ashford and West Pilton with the parish of Heanton Punchardon to form one single-member ward, and for including the parish of Marwood with the parishes of Shirwell, East Down, Kentisbury and Arlington to form another. Otherwise we concluded that the suggested changes offered no advantage over the scheme submitted by the Council.

13. In relation to the names of the wards we noted that the Council had deferred the choice of names until after the scheme was approved. We decided, therefore, that where a proposed ward comprised more than one parish, to suggest that the name of the parish in the proposed ward with the largest electorate should be used.

14. On the recommendation of Ordnance Survey we adopted some minor boundary alterations, in order to secure boundary lines which were more readily identifiable.

15. Subject to the changes referred to in paragraphs 10 to 14 above we decided that the District Council's draft scheme provided a reasonable basis for the future electoral arrangements for the district in compliance with the rules in Schedule 11 to the 1972 Act and our guidelines, and we adopted it as our draft proposals.

16. On 1 September 1977 we issued our draft proposals and these were sent to all who had received our consultation letter or had commented on the District Council's

draft scheme. The District 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 any comments should reach us by 28 October 1977.

17. In response to our draft proposals North Devon District Council, supported by Barnstaple Town Council, suggested modifications to the proposals for Barnstaple using more up to date electorate figures, which they said produced more satisfactory boundaries and resulted in a better distribution of electorate throughout Barnstaple's 6 wards.

18. The District Council also supported the decision to divide the parish of Braunton into two wards but put forward alternative proposals for the area with more up to date figures. They also proposed a modification to the Instow/Fremington ward boundary.

19. The District Council expressed support too for a request from East Worlington Parish Council that their parish should be transferred from the proposed Witheridge ward to the proposed Chulmleigh ward but otherwise had no comment on the draft proposals.

20. Devon County Council advised us that they had no comment to make on the draft proposals.

21. Mortehoe Parish Council requested an additional councillor for their ward to cope with the influx of visitors to the area during the summer months.

22. Atherington Parish Council and Goodleigh Parish Council supported the draft proposals.

23. We reviewed our draft proposals in the light of these comments. We noted that the District Council's latest proposals for Barnstaple and

Braunton provided a reasonable standard of electoral equality, and that the suggested minor modifications to the proposed Instow/Fremington boundary would secure a boundary line more easily identifiable on the ground.

24. We concluded that we should accept the alternative proposals for Barnstaple and the parish of Braunton as well as the proposed modifications to the Instow/Fremington ward boundary and the transfer of the parish of East Worlington from the proposed Witheridge ward to the proposed Chulmleigh ward.

25. We then asked the District Council to finalise their orders under Section 50(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 to establish parish wards in Barnstaple, Braunton, Fremington and Ilfracombe which would be compatible with the district wards we intended to recommend.

26. We meantime received a request from Twitchen Parish Meeting that the parish be transferred from our proposed North Molton ward to our proposed Bishop's Nympton ward. We concluded that on the ground of community interest it would be right to reverse our earlier decision and to recommend that it should be included in the proposed Bishop's Nympton ward.

27. The warding orders have now been made and therefore we confirm our draft proposals, subject to the changes mentioned in paragraph 24 and 26 above, as our final proposals.

28. Details of these final proposals are set out in Schedules 1 and 2 to this report and on the attached map. Schedule 1 gives the names of the wards and the numbers of councillors to be returned by each. A detailed description of the boundaries of the proposed wards, as defined on the map, is set out in Schedule 2.

PUBLICATION

29. 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 North Devon District 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.

L.S.

Signed:

NICHOLAS MORRISON (CHAIRMAN)

JOHN M HANKIN (DEPUTY CHAIRMAN)

PHYLLIS BOWDEN

TYRRELL BROCKBANK

G. E. CHERRY

D P HARRISON

R B THORNTON

LESLIE GRIMSHAW (Secretary)

8 November 1979

SCHEDULE 1

DISTRICT OF NORTH DEVON : NAMES OF PROPOSED WARDS
AND NUMBERS OF COUNCILLORS

<u>NAME OF WARD</u>	<u>NO OF COUNCILLORS</u>
Bishop's Nympton	1
Bishop's Tawton	1
Bratton Fleming	1
Braunton East	2
Braunton West	2
Chulmleigh	1
Chittlehampton	1
Combe Martin	2
Fremington	3
Georgeham	1
Heanton Punchardon	1
Ilfracombe Central	2
Ilfracombe East	2
Ilfracombe West	2
Instow	1
Landkey	1
Longbridge	1
Lynnton and Lynmouth	1
Marwood	1
Mortehoe	1
Newport	2
North Molton	1
Pilton	2
St Mary's	2
South Molton	2
Swimbridge	1
Tawstock	1
Trinity	2
Witheridge	1
Yeo	2

DISTRICT OF NORTH DEVON
DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED WARD BOUNDARIES

BISHOP'S NYMPTON WARD

The parishes of Bishop's Nympton
East Anstey
Knowstone
Molland
Twitchen
West Anstey

BISHOP'S TAWTON WARD

The parishes of Atherington
Bishop's Tawton

BRATTON FLEMING WARD

The parishes of Bratton Fleming
Challacombe
Loxhore
Martinhoe
Parracombe
Stoke Rivers
Trentishoe

BRAUNTON EAST WARD

The Braunton East Ward of the parish of Braunton

BRAUNTON WEST WARD

The Braunton West Ward of the parish of Braunton

CHULMLEIGH WARD

The parishes of Burrington
Cheldon
Chumleigh
East Worlington

CHITTLEHAMPTON WARD

The parishes of Chittlehamholt
Chittlehampton
King's Nympton
Mariansleigh
Romansleigh
Satterleigh and Warkleigh

COMBE MARTIN WARD

The parishes of Berrynarbor
Combe Martin

FREMINGTON WARD

The North Ward of the parish of Fremington

GEORGEHAM WARD

The parish of Georgeham

HEANTON PUNCHARDON WARD

The parishes of Ashford
Heanton Punchardon
West Pilton

ILFRACOMBE CENTRAL WARD

The Ilfracombe Central Ward of the parish of Ilfracombe

ILFRACOMBE EAST WARD

The Ilfracombe East Ward of the parish of Ilfracombe

ILFRACOMBE WEST WARD

The Ilfracombe West Ward of the parish of Ilfracombe

INSTOW WARD

The parishes of Horwood
Instow
Newton Tracey
Westleigh
and the Lovacott Ward of the parish of Fremington

LANDKEY WARD

The parishes of Goodleigh
Landkey

LONGBRIDGE WARD

The Longbridge Ward of the parish of Barnstaple

LYNTON AND LYNMOUTH

The parishes of Brendon
Countisbury
Lynton and Lynmouth

MARWOOD WARD

The parishes of Arlington
East Down
Kentisbury
Marwood
Shirwell

MORTEHOE WARD

The parishes of Bittadon
Mortehoe
West Down

NEWPORT WARD

The Newport Ward of the parish of Barnstaple

NORTH MOLTON WARD

The parishes of Charles
High Bray
North Molton

PILTON WARD

The Pilton Ward of the parish of Barnstaple

ST. MARY'S WARD

The St. Mary's Ward of the parish of Barnstaple

SOUTH MOLTON WARD

The parishes of George Nympton
Queen's Nympton
South Molton

SWIMBRIDGE WARD

The parishes of East Buckland
Filleigh
Swimbridge
West Buckland

TAWSTOCK WARD

The parish of Tawstock

TRINITY WARD

The Trinity Ward of the parish of Barnstaple

WITHERIDGE WARD

The parishes of Creacombe
Meshaw
Rackenford
Rose Ash
Witheridge

YEO WARD

The Yeo Ward of the parish of Barnstaple