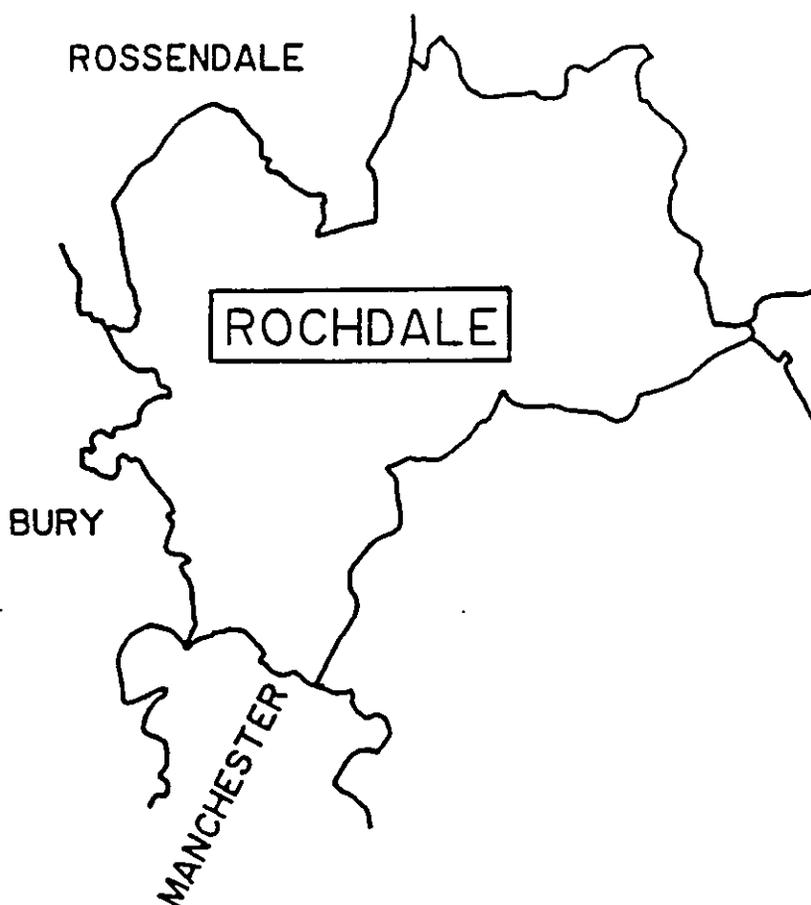


LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOUNDARY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND

Review of GREATER MANCHESTER

ROCHDALE

Boundaries with: BURY, MANCHESTER and
ROSSENDALE (Lancashire)



Report No. 584

LOCAL GOVERNMENT
BOUNDARY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND
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LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOUNDARY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND

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MARY 23

THE RT HON CHRIS PATTEN MP
SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE ENVIRONMENT
REVIEW OF METROPOLITAN COUNTIES AND DISTRICTS
THE METROPOLITAN BOROUGH OF ROCHDALE AND ITS BOUNDARIES WITH
BURY, MANCHESTER AND ROSSENDALE IN LANCASHIRE

COMMISSIONS FINAL REPORT AND PROPOSALS

INTRODUCTION

1. On 1 September 1987 we wrote to Rochdale Metropolitan Borough Council announcing our intention to undertake a review of Rochdale as part of our review of the Metropolitan County of Greater Manchester and its Metropolitan Districts under section 48(1) of the Local Government Act 1972. Copies of the letter were sent to the adjoining Metropolitan District Councils, the County and District Councils bordering the Metropolitan County and parishes in Rochdale and the adjoining districts; to the Local Authority Associations; the Members of Parliament with constituency interests; and the headquarters of the main political parties. In addition, copies were sent to those government departments, regional health authorities, water and port authorities, electricity and gas boards which might have an interest, as well as to British Telecom, the English Tourist Board, the local government press, and the local television and radio stations serving the area.

2. The Metropolitan Borough Councils were requested, in co-operation as necessary with the other principal authorities, to assist us in publishing 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 areas concerned. The Councils were also asked to ensure that the consultation letter was drawn to the attention of those

involved with services such as the Police and administration of justice, in respect of which they have a statutory function.

3. A period of seven months from the date of the letter was allowed for all local authorities, including those in the surrounding districts, and any person or body interested in the review, to send us their views on whether changes to the borough boundary were desirable and, if so, what those changes 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 AND OUR DRAFT PROPOSALS/INTERIM DECISIONS

4. In response to our letter we received representations from the Metropolitan Boroughs of Rochdale and Bury, the City of Manchester, Rossendale Borough Council and Lancashire County Council. We also received representations from Whitworth Town Council and from other interested bodies and residents of the districts concerned.

5. The submissions put to us concerned suggestions for relatively minor changes to the borough boundary. We sought further information from the local authorities in respect of two major changes we considered needed examination, one concerning the use of the M66 as a possible boundary between Rochdale and Bury, the other concerning the possible transfer of Whitworth from Rossendale in Lancashire to Rochdale.

6. We also received a submission suggesting changes to Rochdale's boundary with Calderdale in West Yorkshire. This will be considered separately as part of the review of Calderdale.

MAJOR CHANGES ON WHICH THE COMMISSION CONSULTED LOCAL
AUTHORITIES

The boundary between Rochdale and Bury

The M66

7. We noted that the existing Rochdale/Bury boundary was close to the M66 motorway and considered that we should look into the possibility of realigning this boundary to the motorway. We wrote to Rochdale and Bury Borough Councils seeking their views on the possible use of the motorway as a boundary. Both councils replied saying that they had considered its use but had rejected it on the grounds that the areas of Bury to the east of the motorway had no affinity with Rochdale. We accepted this argument and took an interim decision to make no proposals in respect of the M66.

The boundary between Rochdale and Rossendale

Whitworth

8. We noted that the valley running up through Healey to Whitworth seemed closely associated with Rochdale and decided to examine the possibility of transferring Whitworth to Rochdale.

9. We wrote to Rochdale and Rossendale Borough Councils asking if they wished to express any views on the links between Whitworth and Rochdale. Both councils replied saying that all Whitworth's historical and community ties were with Rossendale and that Whitworth should remain within that borough. We also accepted this argument and took an interim decision to make no proposals in respect of the transfer of Whitworth.

DRAFT PROPOSALS FOR MINOR REALIGNMENTS

The boundary between Rochdale and Bury

(a) Heywood Old Road

10. Bury Borough Council had suggested that the properties numbered 105-125 Heywood Old Road be transferred from Rochdale to Bury. The effect being to unite all the property in Heywood Old Road in Bury. Rochdale Borough Council supported the suggestion but thought that the mid-line rather than the side of the Heywood Old Road would be a more appropriate boundary. In addition, Ordnance Survey suggested a realignment of the existing boundary in this area to the side of the Middleton Road to avoid a stretch of defaced boundary.

11. We noted that the proposal had the support of both authorities and would have the effect of uniting all the property in Heywood Old Road in Bury and therefore decided to adopt it using the side of the roads as our draft proposal and to take into account the Ordnance Survey suggestion.

(b) Castle Hill Road

12. Bury Borough Council had proposed that the part of Castle Hill Road, currently in Rochdale should be transferred to Bury. Rochdale Borough Council originally supported the proposal but subsequently withdrew their support after receiving letters of objection from residents of some of the properties concerned.

13. We noted that Bury's proposal would have had the effect of splitting the parish and community of Birtle. We therefore decided to take an interim decision to make no proposal in this area.

The boundary between Rochdale and Manchester

(c) The Proposed M66 Extension

14. Manchester City Council had suggested that the line of the proposed M66 extension should form the boundary between Rochdale and Manchester. Rochdale Borough Council had supported the suggestion but felt that the boundary should be drawn along the centre of the proposed motorway extension rather than the side as suggested by Manchester. The suggestion was also supported by a member of the public. Ordnance Survey had suggested an amendment to remove a section of defaced boundary.

15. We considered that the proposed M66 extension would provide a well-defined boundary between Rochdale and Manchester. However, as the line of the extension has not yet been fixed, we decided to take an interim decision to make no proposal at the present time and to review the situation when the extension had been completed.

The boundary between Rochdale and Rossendale

(d) Healey

16. Rochdale Borough Council had proposed two minor changes in their boundary with Rossendale in the Healey area so as to unite properties, split by the existing boundary, in Rochdale. Rossendale Borough Council had opposed the suggested changes because they did not wish to see any changes to their boundaries. They were supported in this view by the Rossendale and Darwen Conservative Association and the Conservative Group on Rossendale Borough Council. Rochdale Borough Council also forwarded copies of letters from the owners of three of the properties concerned who expressed a wish for the existing boundary to remain.

17. We considered the present division of properties to be unsatisfactory and therefore decided to adopt Rochdale's proposal as our draft proposal in this area.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF OUR DRAFT PROPOSALS/INTERIM DECISIONS

18. The letter announcing our draft proposals and interim decisions was published on 15 May 1989. Copies were sent to the local authorities concerned and to all those who had made representations to us. The Boroughs of Rochdale and Bury, the City of Manchester, Rossendale Borough Council and Lancashire County Council were asked to publish a notice giving details of our decisions and to post copies of it at places where public notices are customarily displayed. They were also asked to place copies of our letter on deposit for inspection at their main offices for a period of eight weeks. Comments were invited by 10 July 1989.

RESPONSE TO OUR DRAFT PROPOSALS/INTERIM DECISIONS: OUR FINAL PROPOSALS

19. We received representations from 15 sources in the period we allowed for response to our draft proposals letter. They included comments from Rochdale and Bury Borough Councils, Manchester City Council, Rossendale Borough Council and Lancashire County Council. We also received comments from Whitworth Town Council, other interested bodies, Councillor K Ashworth-Lord and six individuals.

20. As required by section 60 (2) of the Local Government Act 1972, we have carefully considered all the representations made to us and set out below our final proposals.

**MAJOR CHANGES ON WHICH THE COMMISSION CONSULTED LOCAL
AUTHORITIES**

The boundary between Rochdale and Bury

The M66

21. Rochdale and Bury Borough Councils both supported our interim decision to make no proposal in respect of the M66. In the absence of any further comments, we have decided to confirm our interim decision as final.

The boundary between Rochdale and Rossendale

Whitworth

22. Rochdale Borough Council, the Lancashire Association of Parish and Town Councils and Darwen Conservative Association supported our interim decision to make no proposals for the transfer of Whitworth to Rochdale. Councillor K Ashworth-Lord requested that we undertake a plebiscite in Whitworth to determine once and for all the town's status.

23. We considered that there was insufficient justification for carrying out a poll in the area as we had not received any representations from residents requesting the transfer of Whitworth. We, therefore, decided to confirm our interim decision as final.

MINOR REALIGNMENTS

The boundary between Rochdale and Bury

(a) Heywood Old Road

24. Rochdale and Bury Borough Councils both supported our draft proposal. In the absence of any opposition we have

decided to confirm our draft proposal as final.

(b) Castle Hill Road

25. Rochdale and Bury Borough Councils both supported our interim decision. In the absence of any opposition we decided to confirm our interim decision as final.

The boundary between Rochdale and Manchester

(c) The Proposed M66 Extension

26. Rochdale Borough Council and Manchester City Council both accepted our interim decision. We have therefore decided to confirm it as final and will review the situation when the extension is completed.

The boundary between Rochdale and Rossendale

(d) Healey

27. Rochdale Borough Council supported our draft proposal. It was opposed by Rossendale Borough Council, Lancashire County Council, Whitworth Town Council and six individuals. All the objectors claimed that the properties concerned had more affinity with Rossendale and should therefore be united within that borough rather than in Rochdale.

28. We still feel that in the interest of effective and convenient local government, the properties should be united and that they can be serviced more satisfactorily from Rochdale. We have therefore decided to confirm our draft proposal as final. We make this proposal to you both as a change between the districts of Rochdale and Rossendale and as a change between the counties of Greater Manchester and Lancashire.

PUBLICATION

29. A separate letter is being sent to the Borough Councils of Rochdale, Bury and Rossendale, Manchester City Council and Lancashire County Council asking them to deposit copies of this report at their main offices for inspection for six months. They are also asked 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 fulfilled its statutory role in this matter, and that it now falls to you to make an order implementing the proposals, if you think fit, though not earlier than six weeks from the date it is submitted to you. Copies of this report, to which are attached maps illustrating the proposed changes, are also being sent to all those who received our draft proposals and interim decisions letter, and to those who made written representations.

LS

Signed

G·J ELLERTON (Chairman)

J G POWELL (Deputy Chairman)

K F J ENNALS

G R PRENTICE

HELEN SARKANY

S T GARRISH

Secretary

11 January 1990

LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOUNDARY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND

METROPOLITAN BOUNDARY REVIEW

ROCHDALE MB

AFFECTING

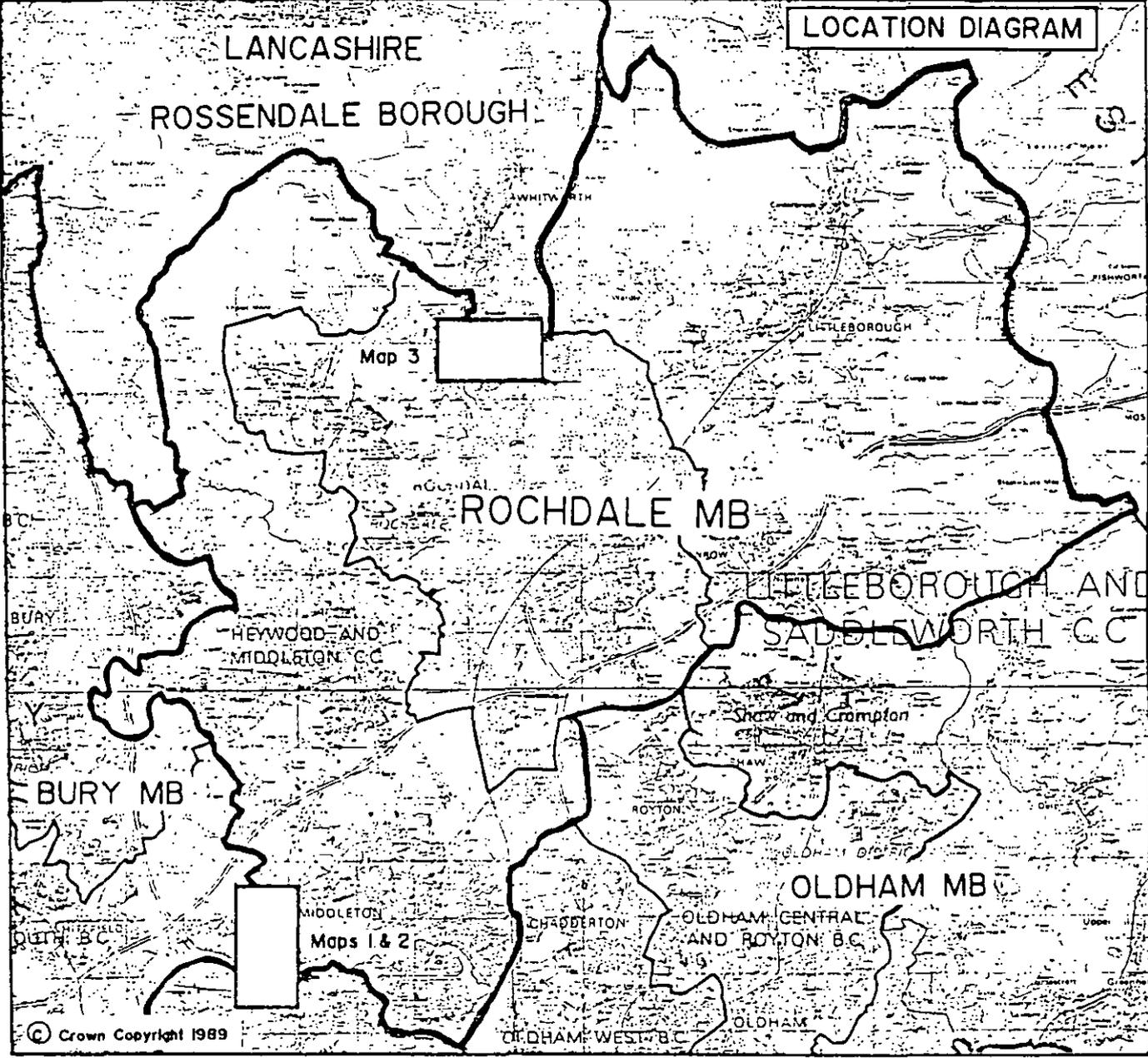
BURY MB IN GREATER MANCHESTER
AND ROSSENDALE BOROUGH IN LANCASHIRE

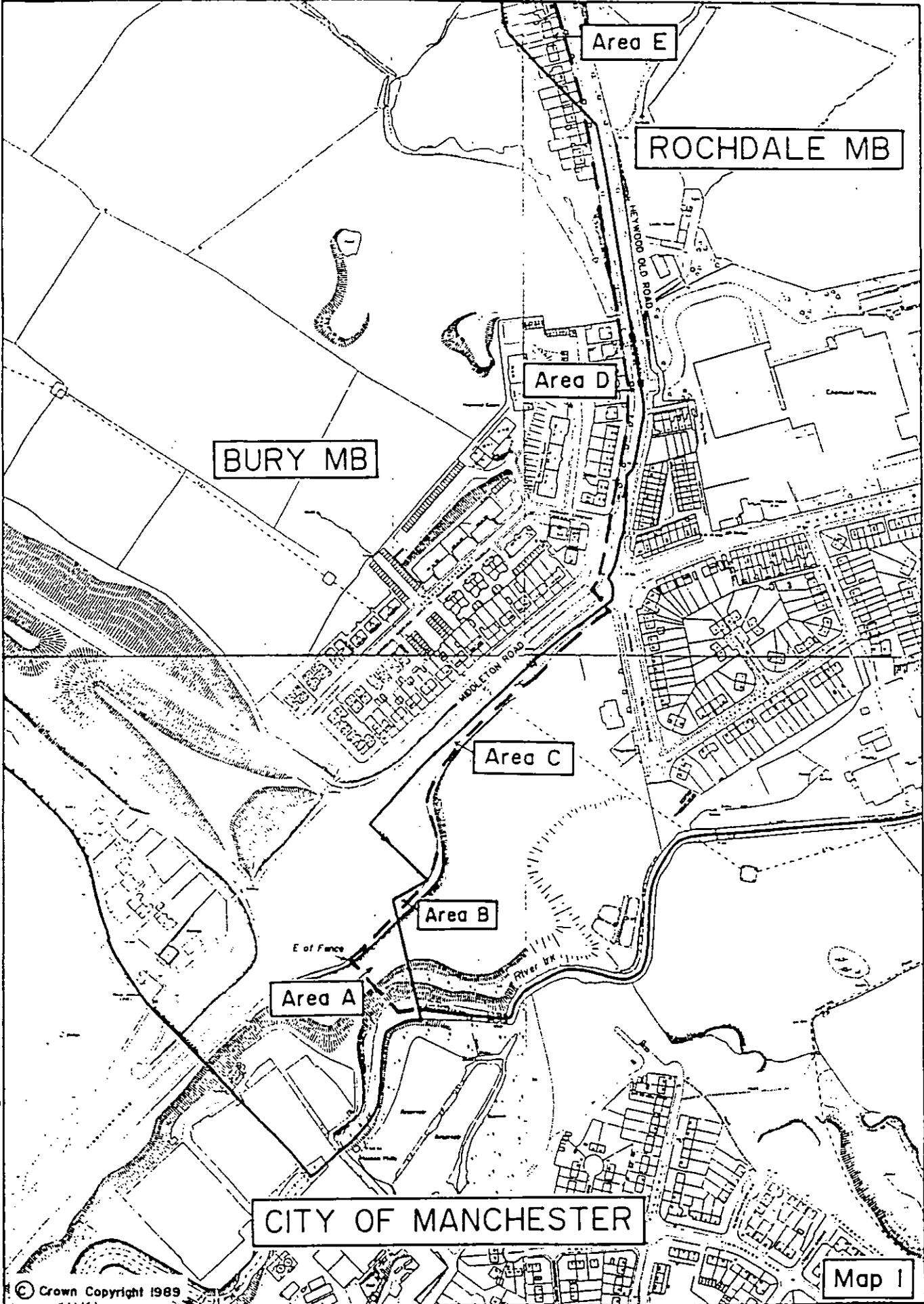
FINAL PROPOSALS

EXISTING BOUNDARY	
PROPOSED BOUNDARY	
EXISTING OTHER BOUNDARY	

Produced by Ordnance Survey for the
Local Government Boundary Commission for England

LOCATION DIAGRAM





Area E

ROCHDALE MB

BURY MB

Area D

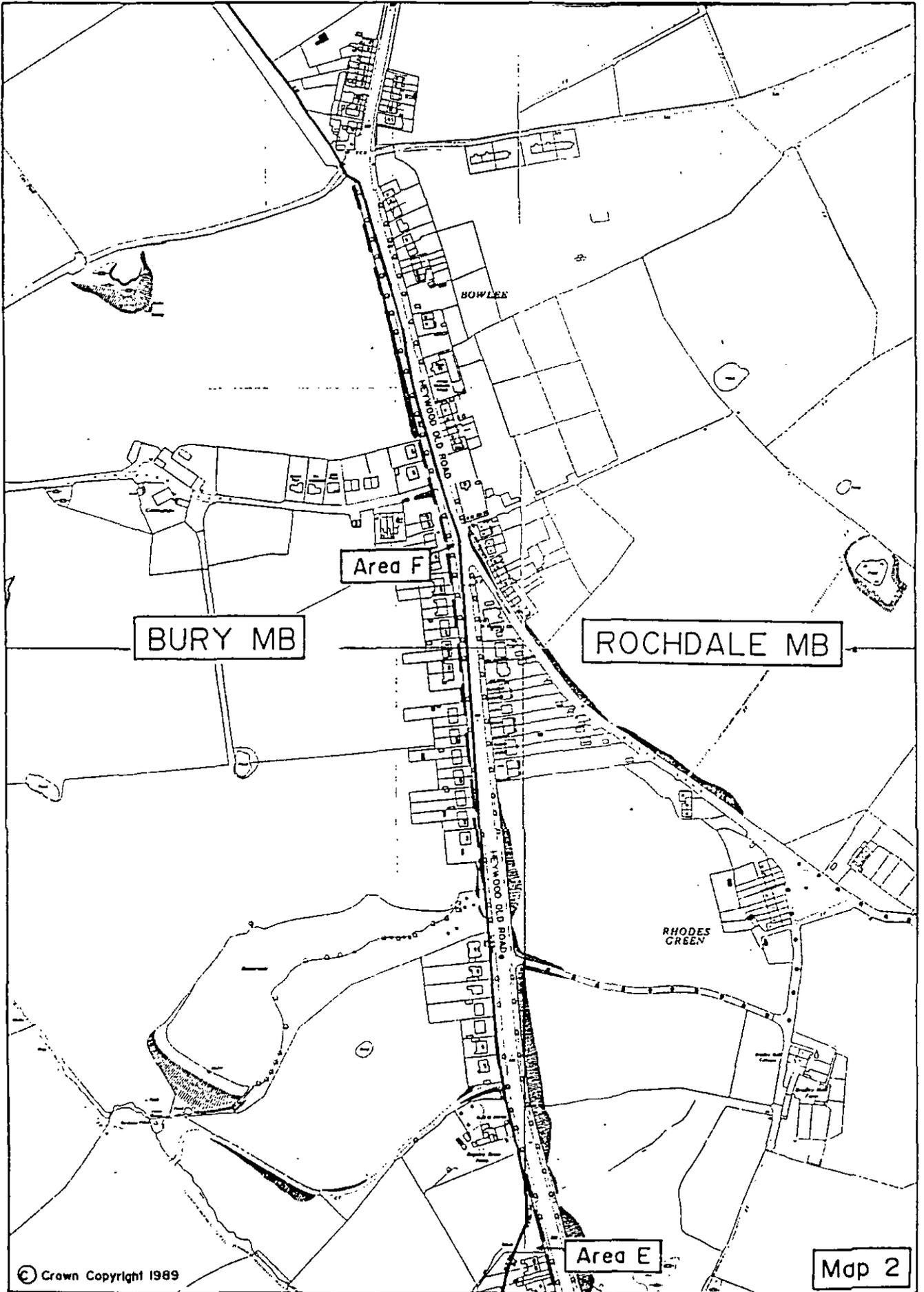
Area C

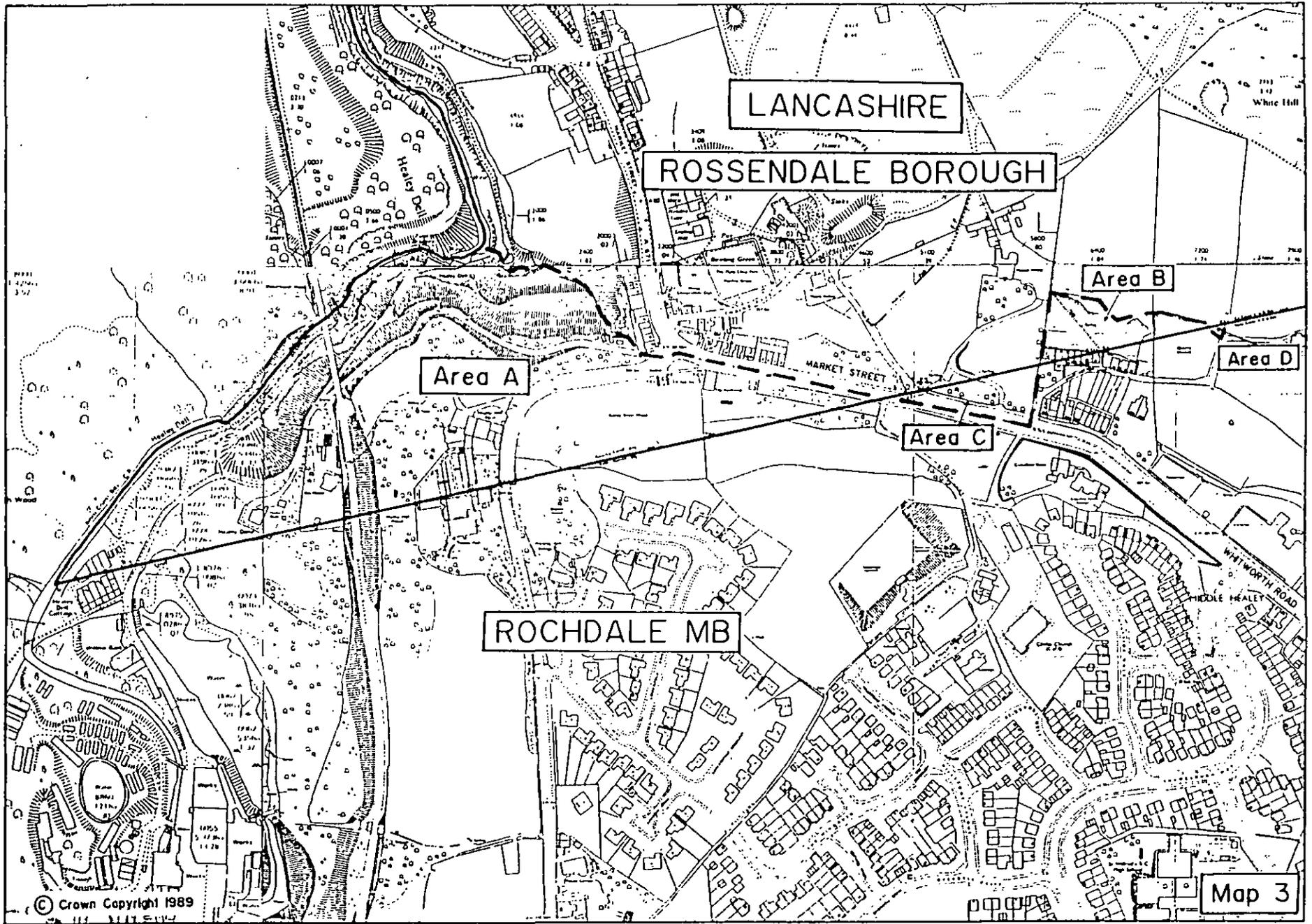
Area B

Area A

CITY OF MANCHESTER

Map 1





LANCASHIRE

ROSSENDALE BOROUGH

Area A

Area B

Area D

Area C

ROCHDALE MB

Map 3

CONSEQUENTIAL CHANGES

Map No.	Area Ref.	From	To
1	A D	Bury MB Holyrood Ward	Rochdale MB Middleton South Ward
	B,C &E	Rochdale MB Middleton South Ward	Bury MB Holyrood Ward
2	E	Rochdale MB Middleton South Ward	Bury MB Holyrood Ward
	F	Bury MB Holyrood Ward	Rochdale MB Middleton West Ward
3	A	Lancashire Rossendale Borough Whitworth CP	Greater Manchester Rochdale MB
	B	Healey and Whitworth Ward Whitworth ED	Healey Ward
	C D	Greater Manchester Rochdale MB Healey Ward	Lancashire Rossendale Borough Whitworth CP Healey and Whitworth Ward Whitworth ED