

**Local Government
Boundary Commission
For England
Report No. 530**

Review of Electoral Arrangements

Borough of WARRINGTON

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

BOUNDARY COMMISSION

FOR ENGLAND

REPORT NO. 530

LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOUNDARY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND

CHAIRMAN

Mr G J Ellerton CMG MBE

DEPUTY CHAIRMAN

Mr J G Powell FRICS FSVA

MEMBERS

Lady Ackner

Mr G R Prentice

Professor G E Cherry

Mr K J L Newell

Mr B Scholes OBE

TO THE RT. HON. DOUGLAS HURD MP
SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE HOME DEPARTMENT

PROPOSALS FOR THE FUTURE ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE BOROUGH OF WARRINGTON
IN THE COUNTY OF CHESHIRE

BACKGROUND

1. The present electoral arrangements for the Borough of Warrington date from 3 May 1979, when the Borough of Warrington (Electoral Arrangements) Order 1978 giving effect to the proposals contained in our Report No. 153, modified to allow the Bewsey ward three councillors, came into force.

2. In March 1983, the Borough Council wrote to us to give notice of their intention to seek a review of the borough's electoral arrangements in the near future. The Borough Council wrote again in May 1983 formally inviting us to undertake a review and enclosing five alternative new arrangements, one of which was the Council's preferred option.

3. We examined the standard of representation between the wards under the existing arrangements and concluded that there was an imbalance between certain wards which was likely to occur in some other wards in future years. We therefore decided to conduct a further review of the borough electoral arrangements in accordance with the provisions of section 50(3) of the Local Government Act 1972.

4. We formally announced the start of the review on 18 January 1984 by means of a letter to the Borough Council. Copies of the letter were also sent for information to Cheshire County Council, all parish councils in the borough, the Members of Parliament for the constituencies concerned, local newspapers and the local government press. The start of the review was also announced by public notice.

5. The Borough Council had been asked to submit their draft scheme by 23 March 1984 but were unable to do so because they experienced difficulties in producing electorate forecasts. The Council submitted their draft scheme on 4 April 1985. The draft scheme provided for 23 wards - fourteen returning three councillors and nine returning two councillors. Five wards, Grappenhall and Thelwall, Rixton and Woolston, Howley, Hulme and Poplars, were each coterminous with an existing ward.

6. The draft scheme had been advertised locally prior to its submission to us. The Borough Council forwarded 36 comments received in response to their published draft scheme. Nine comments were made direct to us following the submission of the draft scheme.

7. Warrington District Labour Party, Warrington South Constituency Labour Party, Warrington North Constituency Labour Party, Warrington Society Co-operative Party, The Labour Party, Great Sankey Branch, Fairfield Branch, Warrington North Constituency Labour Party, Westy.Ward Labour Party, a Labour Party member Birchwood and Croft Branch, and two private individuals, all supported the Borough Council's draft scheme. Poulton-with-Fearnhead Parish Council also supported the scheme insofar as it affected their parish. Neither Grappenhall and Thelwall Parish Council nor Rixton with Glazebrook Parish Council, had any objections or comments to make.

8. Warrington District Council Conservative Group, Warrington South Conservative Association, Warrington North Conservative Association, Warrington South Conservative Association Stockton Heath Branch, Warrington South Conservative Association Appleton, Stretton and Hatton Conservative Branch, Culcheth and Glazebury Conservative Association, Warrington South Conservative Association Lymm Ward, Rixton and Woolston Branch Conservative Association, Howley Conservative Branch, Poulton with Fearnhead South Conservative Branch, Padgate Conservative Association, all opposed the Borough Council's

draft scheme, and the majority of them supported an alternative scheme originally submitted to us in March 1984 by the Warrington District Council Conservative Group. The Howley Conservative Branch also asked that the existing Howley ward be split into two seats, Old Howley and Orford South.

9. Lymm Parish Council objected to the draft scheme and submitted an alternative scheme for the borough which allowed in particular for increased representation in Lymm. The alternative scheme was supported by two Liberal Alliance members of the Borough Council. Objections were also received from Councillor Mrs S E Woodyatt and Warrington South Conservative Association, Lymm Ward, who were concerned that Lymm should be allocated four members.

10. Appleton Parish Council, Croft Parish Council, Culcheth and Glazebury Parish Council, Stockton Heath Parish Council, Walton Parish Council, and Winwick Parish Council, were all opposed to the Borough Council's scheme insofar as it affected their parishes, and wished to retain the existing electoral arrangements.

11. Penketh and Great Sankey Conservative Branch opposed the Borough Council's scheme as it affected the parishes of Penketh and Cuerdley. Padgate Conservative Association objected to the scheme as it affected the parish of Poulton-with-Fearnhead and suggested an alternative arrangement for the parish which was also put forward by four members of the parish council.

DRAFT PROPOSALS

12. We considered the draft scheme, together with the representations received, and concluded that it produced, in part, an inferior standard of representation than already existed and did not significantly improve when using the 1989 forecast electoral figures. We noted that among the representations received were a number of alternative suggestions for individual borough wards, and two complete schemes for the borough as a whole; one submitted by Warrington District Council Conservative Group, and the other by Lymm Parish Council and adopted by the Liberal/SDP Alliance.

We found neither of these schemes a satisfactory solution since they did not significantly improve the standard of representation. The Liberal Alliance had the additional disadvantage of incorporating four or five member wards as well as splitting unwarded parishes. We therefore devised a scheme which combined parts of the Council's scheme with some of the suggestions made in representations to the Council and ourselves, in order to give a better electoral balance.

13. On 7 July 1986 we issued our draft proposals which we sent to all those who had received our consultation letter or commented on the Borough Council's draft scheme. Notices were inserted in the local press announcing that the draft proposals had been issued and could be inspected at the Borough Council's offices.

14. Our draft proposals for the wards of Culcheth, Glazebury and Croft, Fairfield, Grappenhall and Thelwall, Great Sankey North and Great Sankey South, Locking Stumps and Gorse Covert, Lymm, Oakwood, Orford, Poulton North, Poulton South and Rixton and Woolston, were based on the Borough Council's draft scheme, save that the Culcheth and Croft, Padgate North and Padgate South wards, were renamed Culcheth, Glazebury and Croft, Poulton North and Poulton South, respectively.

15. The wards of Appleton, Stretton and Hatton, Stockton Heath and Walton, Latchford and Westy, were based upon a scheme submitted by Warrington District Council Conservative Group. The wards of Burtonwood, Winwick, and Penketh and Cuerdley were based on schemes submitted by both Warrington District Council Conservative Group and the Liberal Alliance members of the Borough Council. The remaining wards in the draft proposals, Hulme, Longford, Howley and Whitecross and Bewsey, were devised by us.

16. We asked the Borough Council to suggest a suitable boundary between the proposed Hulme and Longford wards to produce as near as may be equal electoral representation for each of the wards.

RESPONSE TO DRAFT PROPOSALS

17. We received comments in response to our draft proposals from the Borough Council, Cheshire County Council, six political organisations, one borough councillor and seven parish councils.

18. Warrington Borough Council agreed in general terms with our draft proposals except in respect of six wards. They objected to the amalgamation of the Whitecross and Howley wards and considered they should retain their separate identities and be retained as individual wards each returning two councillors. They recognised that this would mean an increase in Whitecross/Howley of one councillor, and correspondingly in the overall size of the Council, to sixty-one members, unless a corresponding reduction was made elsewhere. They still favoured the arrangement in their draft scheme for Walton to be included with Appleton, Stretton and Hatton, to form one ward returning three Councillors, and for the parish of Stockton Heath to be a ward returning two councillors, thus resulting in a reduction of one councillor in the area. The Council also considered that their draft scheme for the Latchford and Westy wards, returning two and three councillors respectively, should be adopted. They also suggested, as requested by us, a boundary between the proposed Hulme and Longford wards. The Council asked that the Longford ward should be named Poplars because the area known locally as Longford was a considerable distance to the west, and the name had been the cause of some confusion since the wards were formed in 1977. They also asked that Poulton North and Poulton South be re-named Padgate North and Padgate South respectively.

19. Cheshire County Council had no representations to make on the draft proposals.

20. Warrington South Constituency Labour Party supported the draft proposals in principle but considered those for Howley and Whitecross to be anomalous. They supported the Borough Council's arrangement for the Appleton, Stretton, Hatton and Walton ward returning three councillors and the Stockton Heath ward returning two councillors, which would enable an extra member to be allocated to Howley. In all other respects

they supported the Borough Council's comments on our draft proposals, other than that relating to the Latchford and Westy wards in which they supported our proposals.

21. Warrington District Council Conservative Group supported our draft proposals for the Appleton, Stretton and Hatton ward and the Stockton Heath and Walton ward.

22. Padgate Conservative Association objected to our draft proposals for the Poulton North and Poulton South wards, and forwarded the alternative scheme for three wards which they had earlier submitted in response to the Borough Council's draft scheme.

23. Warrington District Council Conservative Group supported the proposals submitted by the Padgate Conservative Association.

24. Warrington South Conservative Association, Heatley Branch, Warrington District Council Conservative Group, Lymm Parish Council and Cllr. Mrs S E Woodyatt; all objected to our draft proposals for the Lymm ward returning three councillors. They considered that in view of the rate of development there Lymm should be allocated four councillors..

25. Glazebury and Culcheth Conservative Association saw no benefit in the inclusion of Croft with Culcheth and Glazebury.

26. The Borough Council forwarded a letter from Birchwood and Croft Parish Council requesting that the name of Risley be included in the title of the Locking Stumps and Gorse Govert ward.

27. Warrington Society Co-operative Party made the same suggestions as the Borough Council about the Howley and Whitecross ward and the Latchford and Westy wards. They asked that the name of the Longford ward be changed to Poplars and supported the Borough Council's request to change the names of the Poulton-with-Fearnhead North and South wards to Padgate North and South... They also supported the suggestion that the Locking Stumps and Gorse Covert ward be renamed Locking Stumps, Gorse Covert and Risley.

28. Expressions of support for the draft proposals came from Appleton Parish Council, Burtonwood Parish Council, Poulton-with-Fearnhead Parish Council, Walton Parish Council and Winwick Parish Council. Poulton-with-Fearnhead Parish Council objected to the Borough Council's suggestion that the Poulton North and Poulton South wards be renamed.

FINAL PROPOSALS

29. As required by section 60(2)(d) of the 1972 Act we have considered the representations made to us. We noted that the re-arrangement for Whitecross and Howley suggested by the Borough Council, which also involved the Appleton, Stretton and Hatton ward, and the Stockton Heath and Walton ward, produced overall an inferior standard of representation and therefore we could not adopt it. Similarly we could not accept the Borough Council's suggestions to adopt the arrangement in their draft scheme for the Latchford and Westy wards, because our draft proposals give a better electoral balance. Several suggestions were put to us that Lymm fell into four natural parts and warranted four members in total. While we had some sympathy with this point of view it could only be achieved at the expense of reducing representation in another ward or by exceeding the maximum of the recommended range for the size of non-metropolitan district councils for which we could see no justification in this case. Moreover on the basis of the present forecast put to us by the District Council we still considered that three members was the right number. We consider that in the absence of any new arguments there is no reason to change our draft proposals in relation to Poulton North and Poulton South wards or to change the names as suggested by the Borough Council. With regard to the Culcheth, Glazebury and Croft ward we noted the objection put forward by the local Conservative

Association but that they had not suggested any alternative grouping of wards and nor could we ourselves see any alternative grouping which could secure comparable equality of representation. We did not consider that there was any sufficient reason to alter our draft proposals. We are satisfied that the Borough Council's suggested boundary between the Hulme and Longford wards is suitable and should be adopted for our final proposals. We also consider that the Longford ward should be renamed Poplars as requested by the Borough Council. We agree that the name of Risley should be included in the description of the Locking Stumps and Gorse Covert ward following a suggestion by Birchwood and Croft Parish Council.

30. We accordingly confirm our draft proposals as our final proposals subject to the adoption of the boundary between the Hulme and Longford wards suggested by the Borough Council; the renaming of the Longford ward, Poplars, as requested by the Borough Council; and the addition of the name Risley to the description of the Locking Stumps and Gorse Covert ward requested by Birchwood and Croft Parish Council.

31. Details of our final proposals are set out in Schedule 1 to this report. A map illustrating the proposed ward boundaries will be submitted with this report. A detailed description of these boundaries is attached as Schedule 2.

PUBLICATION

32. In accordance with section 60(5)(b) of the 1972 Act, a copy of this report, together with a copy of the map, is being sent to Warrington Borough Council and will be available for inspection at the Council's main offices. Copies

of this report are also being sent to everyone else who received the consultation letter and to those who made comments.

LS

Signed: G J ELLERTON (Chairman)

J G POWELL (Deputy Chairman)

JOAN ACKNER

G R PRENTICE

PROFESSOR G E CHERRY

K J L NEWELL

BRIAN SCHOLES

S T GARRISH

Secretary

20 November 1986

SCHEDULE 1

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

<u>Name of Ward</u>	<u>No. of Cllrs</u>
Appleton, Stretton and Hatton	3
Bewsey	2
Burtonwood	3
Culcheth, Glazebury and Croft	3
Fairfield	2
Grappenhall and Thelwall	3
Gt. Sankey North	3
Gt. Sankey South	3
Howley and Whitecross	3
Hulme	2
Latchford	3
Locking Stumps, Gorse Covert and Risley	2
Lymm	3
Oakwood	2
Orford	3
Penketh and Cuerdley	3
Poplars	2
Poulton North	3
Poulton South	3
Rixton and Woolston	3
Stockton Heath and Walton	3
Westy	2
Winwick	1
	<u>60</u>

LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOUNDARY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND**WARRINGTON BOROUGH - FURTHER REVIEW OF ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS****FINAL PROPOSALS**

Note: Where a boundary is described as following a road, railway, river, canal or similar feature, it shall be understood to follow the centreline of that feature unless otherwise stated.

LATCHFORD WARD

Commencing at a point where the eastern boundary of the parish of Penketh meets the northern boundary of the parish of Walton; then generally northwards, southwestwards, northwestwards and northwards along that eastern boundary to the River Mersey; then generally northeastwards along that river to the footbridge across that river at Bank Quay; then northeastwards along that footbridge and its continuation to the Widnes to Stockport freightline railway at Crossfield Crossing; then generally eastwards along that railway to where it crosses the River Mersey at Arpley Junction; then generally eastwards, northwards and eastwards along that river to and southwards along Kingsway Bridge to the point where it passes over an unnamed path leading westwards and southwards to Stringer Crescent; then westwards and southwards along that path to the path leading from Stringer Crescent to Knutsford Road; then generally westwards and southwestwards along that path to and eastwards along the northern section of Knutsford Road to a point opposite the eastern curtilage of 584 Knutsford Road; then southwards along that eastern curtilage to and westwards along the southern section of Knutsford Road to Wash Lane; then southwards and generally southwestwards along that Lane to a point opposite the northern curtilage of Christ Church; then eastwards and southwards along the northern and eastern curtilages of that church to the eastern perimeter of the unnamed road north of 32 Wash Lane; then southeastwards and westwards along the eastern and southern perimeter of that road to and generally southwards along the rear curtilages of 32-48 Wash Lane to the rear of the garages situated to the south of 48 Wash Lane; then eastwards, southwards and eastwards to and southwards

along the rear curtilage of the property known as Featherfield to the northern perimeter of the Widnes to Stockport freightliner railway; then westwards along that northern perimeter to and southwards along Wash Lane to its end; then southwards along the track, which extends from the southern end of Wash Lane, to and eastwards along the track leading to the northern bank of the Manchester Ship Canal; then southwestwards along that canal to the point of commencement.

HOWLEY AND WHITECROSS WARD

Commencing at a point where the eastern boundary of the parish of Penketh meets the southern boundary of the parish of Great Sankey South; then generally northeastwards and northwards along the southern and eastern boundary of that parish to the Liverpool to Manchester railway; then eastwards, southeastwards and eastwards along that railway to and northwards along Winwick Road to Longford Street; then southeastwards along that street and Orford Lane to Battersby Lane; then southwards along that Lane to the unnamed road leading northeastwards into the works situated to the southeast of the Liverpool to Manchester railway; then northeastwards along that road to and eastwards along the path known as Sixpenny Walk to the road known as School Brow; then northeastwards and southeastwards along that road to its junction with Church Street and Manchester Road; then northeastwards along Manchester Road to and southeastwards along Salisbury Street to its end; then in a straight line across St Elphin's Park Recreation Ground to and southeastwards along the unnamed road leading to Farrel Street; then eastwards and southeastwards along that street to the road known as Kingsway North; then southwards along that road to the northern boundary of the Latchford Ward as described above; then generally westwards, southwards, westwards and southwestwards along that northern boundary to and northwestwards along the eastern boundary of the parish of Penketh to the point of commencement.

BEWSEY WARD

Commencing at a point where the northern boundary of the parish of Great Sankey meets the eastern boundary of the parish of Burtonwood; then generally northwards

along that eastern boundary to and generally eastwards along the southern boundary of the parish of Winwick to Winwick Road; then southwards along that road to the northern boundary of the Howley and Whitecross Ward as described above; then southwards, westwards, northwestwards and westwards along that northern boundary to and generally northeastwards along the eastern boundary of the parish of Great Sankey to the point of commencement.

ORFORD WARD

Commencing at a point where the northern boundary of the Howley and Whitecross Ward meets the eastern boundary of the Bewsey Ward, as described above; then generally northwards along that eastern boundary to and northeastwards along Sandy Lane West to Sandy Lane; then southeastwards, eastwards, southeastwards, southwards and eastwards along that lane and School Road to the road known as Orford Green; then generally eastwards and southwards along that road to and southwards along the western boundary of the parish of Poulton-With-Fearnhead to the road known as Birchwood Way; then southwestwards in a straight line to and southwestwards along the dismantled railway, to the south of the properties in Withers Avenue, to Hallfields Road; then southwards along that road to and southwestwards along O'Leary Street to Marsh House Lane; then westwards along that lane to and westwards along Longford Street to the point of commencement.

FAIRFIELD WARD

Commencing at a point where the southern boundary of the Orford Ward, as described above, meets the western boundary of the parish of Poulton-with-Fearnhead; then generally southeastwards along that western boundary to and generally southwards along the River Mersey to the eastern boundary of the Howley and Whitecross Ward as described above; then northwards, northwestwards, southwestwards, northwestwards and northwards along that eastern boundary to the southern boundary of the Orford Ward as described above; then eastwards, northeastwards and eastwards along that southern boundary to the point of commencement.

WESTY WARD

Commencing at a point where the northern boundary of the parish of Stockton Heath meets the eastern boundary of the Latchford Ward as described above; then generally northwards along that eastern boundary to and northwards along the River Mersey to the western boundary of the parish of Poulton-with-Fearnhead; then southwards and westwards along the western and southern boundary of that parish to the western boundary of the parish of Woolston; then southwards, westwards and southwards along that western boundary to and southwestwards along the northern boundary of the parish of Grappenhall and Thelwall to the northern boundary of the parish of Stockton; then southwestwards along that northern boundary to the point of commencement.

WINWICK WARD

Commencing at a point where the western boundary of the parish of Winwick meets the northern boundary of the Borough of Warrington; then generally eastwards along that northern boundary to and generally southeastwards along the eastern boundary of the parish of Winwick to the northern boundary of the parish of Poulton-with-Fearnhead; then generally southwestwards along the northeastern boundary of that parish to and northwestwards along Cinnamon Lane North to Mill Close; then westwards along that close to its end; then southwestwards to and northwestwards along the path leading from Mill Close to the southern perimeter of Enfield Park Road; then northwestwards across that road to the southern end of the unnamed road running northwestwards from the northern perimeter of Enfield Park Road; then northwestwards along that road to and westwards along the unnamed path leading to Mill Lane to the eastern perimeter of that lane; then in a straight line across that lane to the path running westwards from the western perimeter of that lane; then westwards, southwards, southwestwards, southwards and southwestwards along that path to the southern boundary of the parish of Winwick; then generally westwards and northwards along the southern and western boundary of that parish to the point of commencement.

HULME WARD

Commencing at a point where the northern boundary of the Orford Ward meets the eastern boundary of the Bewsey Ward, as described above; then northwards along that eastern boundary to the southern boundary of the Winwick Ward, as described above; then generally northwards along that southern boundary to the point where it meets the road known as Poplars Avenue; then generally southeastwards and southwards along that road to the point where it meets the northern boundary of the Orford Ward; then generally westwards, northwards, westwards, northwestwards and southwestwards along that northern boundary to the point of commencement.

POPLARS WARD

Commencing at a point where the northern boundary of the Hulme Ward meets the southern boundary of the Winwick Ward, as described above; then generally eastwards, along that southern boundary to the western boundary of the parish of Poulton-with-Fearnhead; then generally southwestwards along that western boundary to the northeastern boundary of the Orford Ward; then northwestwards along that northeastern boundary to the southeasternmost point of the Hulme Ward; then northwards and northwestwards along the northeastern boundary of that ward to the point of commencement.

POULTON NORTH WARD

That part of the parish of Poulton-with-Fearnhead commencing at a point where the northern boundary of that parish meets the road known as Birchwood Way; then southwestwards along that road to the western boundary of the parish of Poulton-with-Fearnhead; then northeastwards and southwestwards along the eastern and northern boundary of that parish to the point of commencement.

POULTON SOUTH WARD

That part of the parish of Poulton-with-Fearnhead not included in the Poulton North Ward as described above.

CULCHETH, GLAZEBURY AND CROFT WARD

The parish of Culcheth and Glazebury,

and that part of the parish of Croft commencing at a point where the M62 motorway meets the eastern boundary of the parish of Winwick; then generally northwestwards along that eastern boundary to and generally northeastwards along the northern boundary of the Borough of Warrington to the southwestern boundary of the parish of Culcheth and Glazebury; then generally southeastwards along that southwestern boundary to and generally southwestwards along the M62 motorway to the point of commencement.

LOCKING STUMPS , GORSE COVERT AND RISLEY WARD

That part of the parish of Croft commencing at a point where the northeastern boundary of that parish crosses the M62 motorway; then southeastwards along that northeastern boundary to where it meets the northwestern boundary of the parish of Rixton-with-Glazebrook; then generally southwestwards along that northwestern boundary to where it meets the northern boundary of Risley Moss Country Park; then generally westwards along that northern boundary to where it meets the southern end of the road known as Moss Gate; then northwards along that road to its junction with Killingworth Lane and Ordnance Avenue; then generally southwestwards along Ordnance Avenue to and northwards along the road known as Oakwood Gate to its junction with Birchwood Way and Oakwood Park Avenue; then generally southwestwards along the northwestern carriageway of Birchwood Way to where that carriageway merges with the southeastern carriageway of that road; then southwestwards along that road to the western boundary of the parish of Croft; then generally northwestwards along that western boundary to and generally northeastwards along the M62 motorway to the point of commencement.

OAKWOOD WARD

That part of the parish of Croft not included in the Culcheth, Glazebury and Croft Ward and the Locking Stumps, Gorse Covert and Rislely Ward as described above.

PENKETH AND CUERDLEY WARD

The parish of Penketh and the parish of Cuerdley.

GREAT SANKEY NORTH WARD

The North Ward of the parish of Great Sankey.

GREAT SANKEY SOUTH WARD

The South Ward of the parish of Great Sankey.

BURTONWOOD WARD

The parish of Burtonwood.

RIXTON AND WOOLSTON WARD

The parish of Woolston and the parish of Rixton-with-Glazebrook.

LYMM WARD

The parish of Lymm.

GRAPPENHALL AND THELWALL WARD

The parish of Grappenhall and Thelwall.

APPLETON, STRETTON AND HATTON WARD

The parish of Appleton, the parish of Stretton and the parish of Hatton.

STOCKTON HEATH AND WALTON WARD

The parish of Stockton Heath and the parish of Walton.

