

**Local Government
Boundary Commission
For England
Report No. 436**

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

BOUNDARY COMMISSION

FOR ENGLAND

REPORT NO. 436

LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOUNDARY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND

DEPUTY CHAIRMAN

Mr R R Thornton CBE DL

MEMBERS

Lady Ackner

Mr T Brockbank DL

Mr D P Harrison

Professor G E Cherry

Sir Wilfred Burns

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The Rt. Hon. Michael Heseltine MP
Secretary of State for the Environment

1. In accordance with the responsibilities imposed by Section 48, subsection (8) of the Local Government Act 1972, Bolton Metropolitan Borough Council conducted a parish review and reported to us on 11 August 1981. The Borough Council's report, with supporting documents is enclosed. It recommends that the boundary between the parishes of Horwich and Blackrod in the Red Moss area should follow the line of the M61 Motorway. The Council were against the creation of a parish in the Westhoughton area and were unable to support any further changes to existing parish boundaries.

2. We considered the Borough Council's report and associated comments in accordance with the requirements of Section 48(9) of the Act, together with the enclosed representations which were received direct, and are satisfied that the review was carried out in accordance with the requirements of Section 60 of the Act.

3. As a result of our initial consideration we were disposed, bearing in mind the guidelines contained in Department of the Environment Circular 121/77 and our own report No. 286, to adopt the proposals for boundary changes to the parishes of Horwich and Blackrod recommended by the Borough Council as apt for securing effective and convenient local government; however, we had reservations about the Borough Council's decision not to recommend a new parish in the Westhoughton area, particularly in view of the strong arguments put forward by the Westhoughton Community Group in favour of a parish of Westhoughton and representations in similar vein made directly to us. We decided, therefore, that we should exercise the powers conferred on us by Section 48, subsection (9) of the 1972 Act and review the Westhoughton area of the Borough ourselves for the purpose of considering whether or not it would be desirable in the interests of effective and convenient local government for us to make a proposal for a parish in Westhoughton.

4. In making this decision, we concluded that the circumstances were sufficiently exceptional to enable us to shorten the normal procedure by publishing draft proposals at the same time as we announced our intention to carry out a review. On 28 April 1982 we issued a consultation letter announcing the start of a review and publishing our draft proposals, based on the Westhoughton Community Group's suggestion for a parish of Westhoughton, consisting of part of the former urban district. Our draft proposals also contained details of warding arrangements for the new parish, which would be divided into four wards to be represented by twelve parish councillors, as follows: Ward A - 1,603 electors (2 councillors); Ward B - 2,923 electors (3 councillors); Ward C - 3,100 electors (3 councillors) and Ward D - 4,810 electors (4 councillors). The letter was addressed to Bolton Borough Council; copies were sent to the Greater

Manchester County Council, all parishes within the area, the Members of Parliament for the constituencies concerned, the headquarters of the main political parties, the Lancashire Association of Parish and Town Councils, local newspapers circulating in the area, local radio stations, the local government press, and the Chairman of the Westhoughton Community Group. Notices in the local press announced the start of the review and invited views from members of the public and interested bodies.

5. Twenty seven comments were received in response to our draft proposals, almost all of which strongly supported the constitution of a parish of Westhoughton. However Mr Roger Statt MP proposed an alternative scheme for the electoral arrangements of the proposed parish which involved the splitting of our Ward D into two wards each represented by 2 councillors, thereby increasing the total number of wards to five. He also suggested names for the five wards, Wingates (Ward A), Daisy Hill (Ward B), Central (Ward C), Whitehorse (northern part of Ward D), and Chequerbent (southern part of Ward D).

6. We noted that Mr Statt's alternative scheme had the support of the County Council members and three Borough Council members for the area; and we decided to adopt it as part of our final proposals.

7. We accordingly make to you the proposals recommended by the Bolton Metropolitan Borough Council for changes in the boundary between Horwich and Blackrod parishes, together with our own final proposals for a new parish of Westhoughton including the amended warding arrangements described in paragraphs 5 and 6 above. Full details of our own proposals are set out in the Schedule to this report, and illustrated by a sketch map.

8. A letter is being sent with copies of this report (excluding enclosures) to Bolton Metropolitan Borough Council asking them, in accordance with Section 60(5)(b) of the Local Government Act 1972, to place the copies on deposit at their main offices, and to put notices to this effect on public notice boards and in the local press. The text of the notice will suggest that any comments on the Commission's report should be addressed to you, in writing, preferably within six weeks of the date of the letter. Copies of this report are also being sent to those who received

the consultation letter and to those who made comments.

LS

Signed: R R THORNTON (Deputy Chairman)

J M ACKNER

TYRRELL BROCKBANK

WILFRED BURNS

G E CHERRY

D P HARRISON

L B GRIMSHAW
Secretary

4 November 1982

LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOUNDARY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND

PARISH REVIEW

BOROUGH OF BOLTON

FINAL PROPOSALS

NOTE: Where a boundary is described as following a road, railway, river, canal or similar feature, it should be deemed to follow the centre of that feature, unless otherwise stated.

WESTHOUGHTON PARISH

Commencing at a point where the western boundary of the Borough of Bolton meets the southeastern boundary of the Parish of Blackrod, thence north-eastwards along said parish boundary to the M61 motorway, thence south-eastwards along said motorway to a point being the prolongation north-eastwards of the portion of the dismantled Bolton to Leigh railway lying to the south of the M61 motorway, thence southwestwards along said prolongation to and continuing southwestwards along said dismantled railway to the southern boundary of the Borough, thence generally southwestwards and northwestwards along the southern and western boundaries of the Borough to the point of commencement.

DESCRIPTIONS OF PROPOSED PARISH WARDS:

WINGATES WARD

Commencing at a point where the western boundary of the Borough of Bolton meets the northwestern boundary of the Parish of Westhoughton, thence northeastwards and southeastwards along the northwestern and northern boundaries of said parish to the southeastern boundary of the Borough of Bolton Ward of Blackrod, thence southwestwards along said ward boundary to the western boundary of the Borough, thence generally northwards along said Borough boundary to the point of commencement.

DAISY HILL WARD

Commencing at a point where the western boundary of the Borough of Bolton meets the northwestern boundary of the Borough of Bolton Ward of Westhoughton, thence northeastwards along said ward boundary to the dismantled Blackrod to Dobb Brow Junction railway, thence southeastwards along said dismantled railway to the Wigan to Manchester railway, thence southeastwards along said railway to and continuing southeastwards along the northeastern boundary of the Borough of Bolton Ward of Westhoughton to the southern boundary of the Borough, thence generally southwestwards and northwestwards along the southern and western boundaries of the Borough to the point of commencement.

CENTRAL WARD

Commencing at a point where the northeastern boundary of Daisy Hill Ward meets the northwestern boundary of the Borough of Bolton Ward of Westhoughton, thence northeastwards and generally southwestwards along the northwestern and eastern boundaries of said Borough ward to the northeastern boundary of Daisy Hill Ward, thence northwestwards along said northeastern boundary to the point of commencement.

WHITEHORSE WARD

Commencing at a point where the eastern boundary of the Borough of Bolton Ward of Westhoughton meets the southeastern boundary of the Borough of Bolton Ward of Blackrod, thence northeastwards along said southeastern boundary to the northeastern boundary of Westhoughton CP, thence southeastwards along said boundary to the road known as Snyderdale Way, thence generally southwestwards along said road to the roundabout junction of Snyderdale Way, Manchester Road and Park Road, thence southwestwards along Park Road to the eastern boundary of the Borough of Bolton Ward of Westhoughton, thence generally northwards along said boundary to the point of commencement.

CHEQUERBENT WARD

Commencing at a point where the eastern boundary of the Borough of Bolton Ward of Westhoughton meets the southern boundary of the Westhoughton Parish Ward of Whitehorse, thence generally northeastwards along said southern boundary to the northeastern boundary of Westhoughton CP, thence southeastwards along said boundary to the eastern boundary of said CP, thence generally southwards along said boundary to the southern boundary of the Borough of Bolton, thence generally westwards along said boundary to the eastern boundary of the Borough of Bolton Ward of Westhoughton, thence westwards and northwards along said boundary to the point of commencement.

PARISH BOUNDARY REVIEW.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOUNDARY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND
FINAL PROPOSAL

BOROUGH OF BOLTON
PROPOSED WESTHOUGHTON CP

BLACKROD CP

ASPULL

WINGATES WARD

WHITEHORSE WARD

CENTRAL
WARD

CHEQUERBENT
WARD

DAISY HILL WARD

BOROUGH BOUNDARY
EXISTING CP BOUNDARY
PROPOSED CP BOUNDARY
PROPOSED CP WARD BOUNDARY