

MINUTES OF THE DECISIONS OF THE COMMISSION ON THE INITIAL PROPOSALS  
FOR THE EAST MIDLANDS REGION - Wednesday 8 June 2016

Session 1: Wednesday 8 June 2016

Present:

David Elvin QC, Commissioner  
Neil Pringle, Commissioner  
Sam Hartley, Secretary to the Commission  
Tony Bellringer, Deputy Secretary to the Commission  
Tim Bowden, Head of Reviews  
Glenn Reed, Review Manager  
Sam Amponsah, Review Officer

Mr Reed and Mr Amponsah presented the Secretariat's schemes to Commissioners.

**Lincolnshire**

The Commissioners considered that, due to its almost whole allocation of constituencies with a Theoretical Entitlement (TE) to 6.97 constituencies, Lincolnshire could be treated on its own and should continue to be allocated seven constituencies. Commissioners considered that the two constituencies of Gainsborough, and South Holland and the Deepings could remain wholly unchanged, while Grantham and Stamford CC, and Louth and Horncastle CC would be changed following changes to local government ward boundaries.

The electorate of the existing Sleaford and North Hykeham CC constituency was too large at 86,652, while that of its neighbouring constituencies of Lincoln BC (at 67,115) and Boston and Skegness CC (66,250) were too small. Commissioners therefore agreed that the five wards comprising the town of North Hykeham, and the Waddington West ward be included in the new Lincoln constituency, which in turn loses the Bracebridge Heath and Waddington East ward to the Sleaford constituency. It would not be possible to retain this ward in the Lincoln constituency without dividing the town of North Hykeham. In order to further reduce the electorate of the existing Sleaford and North Hykeham constituency, and to increase that of Boston and Skegness, Commissioners also agreed the transfer of the additional two wards of Kirkby la Thorpe and South Kyme, and Heckington Rural from the existing Sleaford constituency.

Commissioners considered that any other arrangement would require a large area of the Gainsborough constituency, which did not need to be altered, being incorporated into a Lincoln constituency, or the Lincoln constituency extending further to the south, with the inclusion of rural wards from the existing Sleaford and North

Hykeham constituency. They considered that either of these options would have unnecessary and substantial knock-on effects throughout the whole of the county and rejected this approach.

## **Derbyshire**

Derbyshire's theoretical entitlement of 10.11 constituencies means that there is a reduction of one constituency from its existing eleven constituencies.

Commissioners considered that there was no reason to cross county boundaries with either Nottinghamshire or Leicestershire, and thus have treated the county on its own.

Commissioners agreed that the High Peak constituency could remain wholly unchanged. They noted that the electorate of the existing Derbyshire Dales constituency was very low at 60,909 and had to gain further electors in order to meet the electoral quota, and agreed the inclusion of five wards from the existing North East Derbyshire constituency in order to meet these requirements. Although the existing Chesterfield constituency did not need to change, with an electorate of 71,297, Commissioners decided to include the ward of Barrow Hill and New Whittington from the existing North East Derbyshire constituency, thus bringing an additional Borough of Chesterfield ward into the constituency. The electorate of the existing Erewash constituency was increased by the inclusion of just one ward (Ockbrook & Borrowash) from the existing Mid Derbyshire constituency. In accordance with their general rule on Borough and County designations, with an electorate density of 1107.41 per square kilometre, Erewash CC now becomes Erewash BC.

The Bolsover constituency in the north east of Derbyshire is significantly reconfigured and renamed Bolsover and Dronfield CC. Commissioners agreed the inclusion of several wards from the existing North East Derbyshire constituency in the north, including the town of Dronfield, whilst losing wards in the west and south to the newly created Alfreton and Clay Cross CC. This latter constituency would contain parts of the existing Bolsover, North East Derbyshire, and Amber Valley constituencies. Commissioners agreed to further changes in the boroughs of Erewash and Amber Valley, where the Secretariat proposed shifting the existing Amber Valley CC southwards to absorb most of the existing Mid Derbyshire constituency in order to increase its electorate. There would no longer be constituencies called North East Derbyshire and Mid Derbyshire.

In the City of Derby, Commissioners agreed changes to reflect the need of both the Derby North and Derby South constituencies to gain electors in order to fall within 5% of the electoral quota. The existing Derby North constituency loses the Chaddesden ward to Derby South CC, the Mickleover ward to South Derbyshire CC, and gains the three wards of Arboretum, Normanton, and Blagreaves from the

existing Derby South constituency. The Secretariat's proposed reconfiguration of Derby South includes all the remaining wards of the existing constituency, with the addition of the aforementioned Chaddesden ward, the Aston ward from South Derbyshire CC, and the two wards of Oakwood and Spondon from the existing Mid Derbyshire constituency. Commissioners noted that this retained the traditional north/south axis of the two Derby constituencies and agreed the proposals. Commissioners did explore different configurations of constituencies in Derby but considered these would not better reflect the statutory criteria.

Commissioners agreed that the South Derbyshire constituency could remain largely the same, with the only changes being the gain of the Mickleover ward and the compensating loss of the Aston ward.

### **Nottinghamshire**

Nottinghamshire is entitled to 10.28 constituencies, a reduction of one from its current number. Commissioners noted that the entitlement suggested that there would have to be a constituency that crossed the Nottinghamshire county boundary. With electorates, respectively, of 76,764 and 74,066, they agreed that Bassetlaw CC and Mansfield CC could remain wholly unchanged, and that Ashfield CC (76,490) should be changed following changes to local government ward boundaries. This would mean that boundaries of the Mansfield constituency would continue to be coterminous with the District of Mansfield.

In Newark CC, a number of changes are the result of changes to local government ward boundaries, where wards are currently divided by constituencies. Once taken into account, Commissioners agreed to moderate changes to the existing constituency, with the addition of the two wards of Ollerton and Boughton from the existing Sherwood constituency, and the transfer of the Lowdham ward, as well as the whole of the divided Dover Beck ward to Sherwood CC.

Commissioners agreed that the Sherwood constituency be reconfigured due to changes elsewhere, despite it being within the permitted electoral quota. Four wards that comprise the town of Hucknall in the south western tip of the existing constituency are now included in the Secretariat's newly created Broxtowe and Hucknall constituency. Commissioners also agreed that, from the existing Gedling constituency, Sherwood should gain several wards in the extreme south of the constituency comprising the town of Arnold, as well as the whole of the divided Bestwood St. Albans ward, and the Trent Valley ward.

They agreed on proposals for changes to the existing Broxtowe constituency, which would include the town of Hucknall in the north (from the District of Ashfield), but the loss of the town of Beeston in the south. A new constituency with the name of Broxtowe and Hucknall was proposed as it had changed considerably and the

existing name of the constituency, which recognised that it contained only Borough of Broxtowe wards, was no longer considered appropriate.

They agreed considerable changes within the City of Nottingham, where Nottingham South BC (65,512), Nottingham North BC (64,727) and Nottingham East (57,132) BC all need to acquire electors in order to meet the electoral quota. It was an aim of Commissioners to respect the River Trent as a physical boundary and, as a result, they have not constructed constituencies in the Nottingham area that cross the river. They agreed that the existing Nottingham South constituency would now extend south-westwards - but no longer across the River Trent - to include the town of Beeston (which they called Nottingham South and Beeston BC); the existing Nottingham East constituency would extend eastwards to include eight wards from the existing Gedling constituency, including the town of Carlton (to be called Nottingham East and Carlton); and that Nottingham North BC could remain largely the same, with the exception of the loss of the Bilborough ward, and the addition of the Sherwood and Berridge wards. As a result of their agreed changes, the name "Gedling" would not appear in a constituency name.

The Secretariat proposed a new constituency to the south of the River Trent, which Commissioners agreed should be called West Bridgford CC. It would comprise several wards from the existing Rushcliffe constituency, the Clifton North, and Clifton South wards from the existing Nottingham South constituency (although they noted that both these ward were City of Nottingham wards), and the whole of the divided East Bridgford ward.

## **Leicestershire**

Commissioners noted that the county of Rutland, with a small electorate of just 27,355, could not be considered on its own and that, traditionally, it had been included within Leicestershire for the purposes of constructing constituencies. Although Commissioners did consider whether Rutland should be included in a constituency with wards from Northamptonshire, they decided to retain the association of Rutland with Leicestershire.

The combined theoretical entitlement of Leicestershire with Rutland was 9.82, which gave an allocation of ten constituencies: no change. However, Commissioners noted that although a number of the existing constituencies in the county were currently within the permitted electoral quota, the electorates in the region as a whole required the crossing of the county boundary between Leicestershire and Nottinghamshire, and also the crossing of the boundary between Leicestershire and Northamptonshire. Northamptonshire's entitlement to 6.60 constituencies and location in the far south of the region, would unavoidably have significant ramifications and knock-on effects northwards beyond that county. As a result, Commissioners considered that the changes in Leicestershire were likely to be more

extensive than might have on a preliminary view have appeared necessary but were an important contributor to resolving pressures elsewhere within the region.

Commissioners agreed that the crossing between Leicestershire and Nottinghamshire should occur in the new Loughborough and Rushcliffe South constituency, the name of which would recognise that it contained parts of two counties. The constituency would comprise the area around Loughborough and five large rural wards in the southeast of the existing Rushcliffe constituency.

The existing North West Leicestershire and Bosworth constituencies were altered in the agreed proposals due to the changes the Secretariat proposed elsewhere, despite both having electorates that were within the electoral quota. The former constituency would gain the two wards containing the town of Shepshed from Loughborough CC, and there would be the transfer of five wards along the southern edge of the existing constituency to the reconfigured Bosworth CC. In addition to gaining these wards, the Bosworth constituency sees two wards in the northeast - Ratby, Bagworth and Thornton, and Markfield, Stanton and Fieldhead - being transferred to the Charnwood constituency. The Commissioners' agreed proposals avoid any division of the town of Hinckley.

However, Charnwood would be further changed, despite having an electorate of 75,459, which is close to the electoral quota. Apart from the inclusion of these two wards to the reconfigured Charnwood constituency, Commissioners agreed to the inclusion of the Wolds and Sileby wards in the north of the constituency, the transfer to Rutland and Melton of the East Goscote and Queniborough wards in the east, and four wards in the south to the Secretariat's proposed South Leicestershire constituency. In gaining these four wards, Commissioners decided that the three wards containing the town of Braunstone should be included in the Leicester West constituency in order to increase its electorate, and that five wards in the south of the existing South Leicestershire constituency should be included in the cross county constituency of Daventry and Lutterworth.

Commissioners agreed the inclusion of the Thurnby and Houghton ward from the existing Rutland and Melton constituency to the Harborough constituency, and the transfer of the three wards of Bosworth, Lubenham and Fleckney to the cross-county Daventry and Lutterworth constituency. They agreed to no further changes to the Harborough constituency. Despite the Commission's agreed changes in Leicestershire, Commissioners concluded that they could avoid any substantial changes to the existing Rutland and Melton constituency, and decided only to include the East Goscote and Queniborough wards, and the transfer of the Thurnby and Houghton ward, as previously described.

Despite change elsewhere, the Commissioners' agreed proposals meant that there would be little change to constituencies within the City Of Leicester. Both Leicester

East BC (75,755) and Leicester South BC (72,227) could remain wholly unchanged, and the Leicester West constituency, which with an electorate of 62,793 did need to change, is altered by the addition of the three wards comprising the town of Braunstone (as described above) to achieve the necessary statutory electoral quota.

### **Northamptonshire**

With a theoretical entitlement of 6.60, and a continued allocation of seven constituencies, Commissioners noted that a cross county constituency (only possible with Leicestershire due to its geographical position in the south of the region) was necessary. The Commission's agreed a Daventry and Lutterworth constituency, which contains eight wards from the existing South Leicestershire and Harborough constituencies from Leicestershire, 15 wards from the existing Daventry constituency and the divided ward of Harrowden and Sywell from Wellingborough. Commissioners noted that this is a geographically large rural constituency that contains three districts.

The Commissioners agreed to only minimal changes to Corby CC to reduce its high electorate of 80,049 with the transfer of two wards containing the town of Irthlingborough to Wellingborough CC. They agreed that the low electorate of the Kettering constituency be increased by the inclusion of the Finedon ward (from the existing Wellingborough constituency). Although Wellingborough CC, with its electorate of 74,916 did not need to change, it has been modified in order to accommodate changes elsewhere with the inclusion of the two Irthlingborough wards, the transfer of the Finedon and divided Harrowden and Sywell wards, as described above, and the transfer of the Wollaston and Bozeat wards to the Northampton South constituency.

Commissioners noted that Northampton North BC and Northampton South BC, with electorates of 57,032 and 57,389 respectively, have two of the three lowest electorates in the region. These constituencies therefore needed a significant additional number of electors in order to reflect the required electoral quota. They decided to extend the existing Northampton North constituency to include the wards of Park, Riverside, and Billing, as well as the whole of the divided Rectory Farm ward from the existing Northampton South constituency. The existing Northampton South constituency, in addition to the aforementioned changes, extends south and eastwards to include the five remaining Northampton Borough wards (Upton, West Hunsbury, East Hunsbury, Nene Valley, and the divided Rushmills), and the Hackleton, and Brafield and Yardley wards from the existing South Northamptonshire constituency, and the Wollaston and Bozeat wards from the existing Wellingborough constituency. With an electorate density of 444.3 electors per square kilometre, Northampton South becomes a county constituency.

The town of Northampton and its rural suburbs, which were previously held in three different constituencies, are now contained within two.

Commissioners decided that the wards of Woodford, Weedon, Heyfords and Bugbrooke, and Harpole and Grange from the existing Daventry constituency should be transferred to South Northamptonshire CC, which has been reconfigured to accommodate the changes elsewhere in the county.

Session 2: - Monday 13 June 2016

Present:

The Hon Mrs Justice Patterson, Deputy Chair of the Commission  
Neil Pringle, Commissioner  
Sam Hartley, Secretary to the Commission  
Tony Bellringer, Deputy Secretary to the Commission  
Tim Bowden, Head of Reviews

Mr Pringle presented the Commissioners' agreed conclusions from Session 1. Mr Pringle outlined the previously agreed sub regions of Lincolnshire, Derbyshire, and Nottinghamshire/Leicestershire/Northamptonshire.

In Lincolnshire, the Secretariat had proposed that Lincolnshire be treated as a sub region on its own, due to its allocation of seven constituencies. This approach was agreed by the Commission. Out of a total of seven constituencies, four would remain either wholly unchanged, or changed due to modifications to local government ward boundaries.

The Sleaford and North Hykeham, Lincoln, and Boston and Skegness constituencies were adjusted in order to gain or lose electors as required. The Commission's agreed solution was to transfer six wards, including the town of North Hykeham, from the existing Sleaford and North Hykeham constituency into the Lincoln constituency, and to transfer the two wards of Kirkby la Thorpe and South Kyme, and Heckington Rural to the Boston and Skegness constituency.

In Derbyshire, the Commission considered it unnecessary to create cross county constituencies with either Leicestershire or Nottinghamshire, and have thus treated Derbyshire on its own. The Commission agreed this approach minimised knock on effects throughout the rest of the region.

Commissioners noted the significant reconfiguration of the Bolsover constituency, which receives several wards including the town of Dronfield from the existing North East Derbyshire constituency, and the transfer of wards in the west and south to the newly created Alfreton and Clay Cross constituency.

Reconfiguration in the boroughs of Amber Valley and Erewash mean Amber Valley CC absorbs most of the existing Mid Derbyshire constituency to increase its electorate.

In the City of Derby, the Commission noted the need for both the Derby North and Derby South constituencies to gain enough electors to meet the electoral quota, but the north/south axis of the constituencies has been retained. The Commission agreed with the Secretariat's recommendation for Derbyshire.

Due to its TE of 10.28, the Secretariat suggested that a constituency in Nottinghamshire would have to cross a county boundary, which the Commission agreed. Due to having electorates within the electoral quota, two constituencies (Bassetlaw CC and Mansfield CC) could remain wholly unchanged, while Ashfield could be changed following modifications to local government ward boundaries.

The Secretariat outlined its proposal for changes in the City of Nottingham, in which the existing constituencies of Nottingham East, Nottingham North, and Nottingham South all needed to gain a substantial amount of electors in order to meet the electoral quota. The Commission agreed the proposal, which included the proposing of constituencies named Nottingham East and Carlton, Nottingham South and Beeston, and no constituencies bearing the name "Gedling".

The Commission concurred with the Secretariat proposals for the remaining constituencies in Nottinghamshire.

In Leicestershire, the Secretariat recommended that Rutland continue to be associated with Leicestershire. Taking this into account, the total TE for Leicestershire was 9.82, an allocation of ten constituencies. The Secretariat explained that while a number of the ten constituencies were currently within the electoral quota, the electorates in the region as a whole required the crossing of the county boundary between Leicestershire and Nottinghamshire, and also the crossing of the boundary between Leicestershire and Northamptonshire. In the City of Leicester, two constituencies remain wholly unchanged, and the Leicester West constituency is changed only by the inclusion of three wards containing the town of Braunstone. The Commission agreed to the two cross county constituencies of Loughborough and Rushcliffe South, and Daventry and Lutterworth (counted as a Northamptonshire constituency), as well as the proposals for the rest of the county.

Northamptonshire, with its TE of 6.60 and allocation seven constituencies, required one constituency to cross the Northamptonshire and Leicestershire county boundary, which occurs in the aforementioned Daventry and Lutterworth CC. The Commission noted single ward changes to both Corby CC and Kettering CC, and further changes elsewhere in the county. The town of Northampton and its rural suburbs, which were previously held in three different constituencies, are now contained within two.

The Deputy Chair agreed that the Commission's initial proposals would be as described during session 1.