

**Local Government
Boundary Commission
For England
Report No. 540**

Review of Non-Metropolitan Counties

THE COUNTY OF
LINCOLNSHIRE: BOUNDARY
WITH NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

BOUNDARY COMMISSION

FOR ENGLAND

REPORT NO. 540

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

THE RT. HON. NICHOLAS RIDLEY MP

SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

REVIEW OF NON-METROPOLITAN COUNTIES

THE COUNTY OF LINCOLNSHIRE: BOUNDARY WITH NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

COMMISSION'S FINAL PROPOSAL

INTRODUCTION

1. On 27 January 1986 we wrote to Lincolnshire County Council announcing our intention to undertake a review under section 48(1) of the Local Government Act 1972. Copies of the letter were sent to the principal local authorities and all the parishes in the county of Lincolnshire and the surrounding counties of Cambridgeshire, Humberside, Leicestershire, Norfolk, Northamptonshire and Nottinghamshire, Members of Parliament with constituency interests, the headquarters of the main political parties, various government departments which might have an interest, the East Anglian, Northern and Trent District Health Authorities, British Telecom, the Eastern, East Midlands and Yorkshire Electricity Boards, the Eastern, East Midlands and North Eastern Gas Boards, the Anglian and Severn Trent Water Authorities, the English Tourist Board, Port Authorities in the counties, the Editors of the Municipal Journal and Local

Government Chronicle, local T.V. and radio stations serving the area, and the National and County Associations of Local Councils.

2. The County Councils were requested, in co-operation as necessary with other County Councils and with the District Councils concerned, to assist us in giving publicity to the start of the review by publishing a notice for two successive weeks in appropriate local newspapers so as to give the widest possible publicity in the areas concerned. The County Councils were asked, in particular, to use their best endeavours to ensure that the issue of the consultation letter was drawn to the attention of those concerned with services such as the administration of justice and police, in respect of which they have a statutory function.

3. A period of six months from the date of the letter was allowed for all local authorities, including those in the surrounding counties, and any person or body interested in the review, to submit to us their views in detail on whether changes in the county 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 SUBMISSIONS MADE TO US

4. In response to our letter we received representations from the County Councils of Lincolnshire and Nottinghamshire and the District Council of Newark and Sherwood.

5. Submissions have also been made to us containing various proposals for changes to Lincolnshire's boundaries with Cambridgeshire, Humberside, Leicestershire, Norfolk and Nottinghamshire. The changes put forward in respect of Lincolnshire's boundaries with Cambridgeshire, Humberside, Leicestershire and Norfolk are being dealt with under the reviews of those counties, which are still in progress.

BOUNDARY BETWEEN THE COUNTIES OF LINCOLNSHIRE AND NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

6. Lincolnshire County Council recommended an amendment to the boundary between Lincolnshire and Nottinghamshire so as to transfer the parish of Broadholme and a small part of the parish of Harby from the district of Newark and Sherwood in Nottinghamshire to the district of West Lindsey in Lincolnshire. The County Council stated that the parish of Broadholme is almost completely surrounded by Lincolnshire and can only be reached by road from Nottinghamshire by passing through Lincolnshire. It felt that Broadholme had an affinity with the Lincolnshire village of Saxilby and that county services would be more easily provided from Lincolnshire.

7. Nottinghamshire County Council and Newark and Sherwood District Council opposed Lincolnshire County Council's proposal. They wished to see no change to the county boundary and referred to a locally organised poll of the parishioners of Broadholme, the result of which indicated that those who participated seemed

to be more or less evenly divided as to the county in which they wished to live.

OUR DRAFT PROPOSAL

8. We considered the submission from Lincolnshire County Council together with the representations made by Nottinghamshire County Council and Newark and Sherwood District Council. We accepted that the existing parish boundary of Broadholme, where it forms part of the county boundary between Nottinghamshire and Lincolnshire, was unsatisfactory because it followed no discernible features; that there appeared to be no vehicular access except through Lincolnshire; and that the Lincolnshire village of Saxilby was geographically closer to Broadholme than the nearest Nottinghamshire village of Harby. We considered that the proposed change was logical and that the B1190 road would provide a more clearly defined boundary. We decided, therefore, to publish a draft proposal based on Lincolnshire County Council's suggestion, amended to reflect a minor technical adjustment suggested by Ordnance Survey. The draft proposal provided for the county boundary at Broadholme to follow the eastern side of the B1190.

9. Our draft proposal was published on 10 February 1987. Copies were sent to all those who had received a copy of our letter of 27 January 1986 and those who had made representations to us. Lincolnshire and Nottinghamshire County Councils were asked to arrange publication of a notice giving details of our

draft proposal and to post copies of it at places where public notices are customarily displayed. They were also asked to place copies of our draft proposal letter on deposit for inspection at their main offices for a period of eight weeks. Comments were invited by 10 April 1987.

RESPONSE TO OUR DRAFT PROPOSAL

10. We received representations from 22 sources in response to our draft proposal letter. They included comments from Nottinghamshire and Lincolnshire County Councils. Newark and Sherwood District Council, Thorney with Broadholme Parish Council, Mr Richard Alexander MP, Lincolnshire County Councillor Mrs S Turner, and other interested bodies and individuals. We also received two petitions on behalf of the "Keep Broadholme in Nottinghamshire" campaign and the "Broadholme Residents Campaign to Stay in Nottinghamshire," each signed by the same 45 individuals and raising the same points.

11. Only four of the representations supported our draft proposal. Lincolnshire County Council did so and made a further suggestion to re-align the proposed boundary to follow the west side of the B1190 so as to place the entire road in Lincolnshire. Three residents of Broadholme claimed that the majority of facilities and services, including the emergency services, were provided by Lincolnshire County Council although they paid high rates to Nottinghamshire County Council, and that the village of Saxilby met all their immediate requirements.

12. The majority of representations objected to our draft proposal. Nottinghamshire County Council pointed out that it would be made responsible for maintenance of a small section of the B1190 road of little value to traffic in Nottinghamshire. It also referred to a meeting at which local residents had voted (by 26 to 11) in favour of remaining in Nottinghamshire. Thorney with Broadholme Parish Council referred to the same meeting. Newark and Sherwood District Council considered that the reasons advanced by Lincolnshire County Council for the transfer of Broadholme were inappropriate and an overstatement of the true position. Mr Richard Alexander MP forwarded a letter from one of his constituents and a petition on behalf of the "Keep Broadholme in Nottinghamshire" campaign. They both listed the services and benefits which they saw as being lost, including school transport, a high standard of education, a superior refuse service and a possibility that their properties might one day be connected to mains sewerage at Harby. Mr Alexander also said that school children would have to cross dangerous roads to get to Lincolnshire Schools. County Councillor Mrs Sheila Turner said she had ascertained, at a meeting of local residents of Broadholme, that there was an earnest wish to retain close traditional ties with Nottinghamshire and the district of Newark and Sherwood. She felt that Lincolnshire County Council's proposal should be left open for future reference.

13. In addition we received letters from nine private individuals, one of whom forwarded a petition on behalf of the "Broadholme Residents Campaign to Stay in Nottinghamshire," objecting to our draft proposal. Their main concern was

about the effects the proposed transfer would have on their children's education and school transport. Other arguments referred to their concern that they might lose the following services and facilities:

- (i) superior refuse service
- (ii) possibility of connection to mains sewerage at Harby
- (iii) Senior Citizens £10 travel/television licence voucher
- (iv) voluntary car scheme
- (v) mobile library service
- (vi) easy access to Newark and Sherwood District Council's offices in Newark.

Two residents, in particular, feared that their daughter, who requires special education, would not qualify for the place they believed they had secured for her at a Newark School in 1988.

14. West Lindsey District Council, the Trent Regional Health Authority, the Yorkshire Electricity Board and the Anglian Water Authority, all confirmed that they had no comments to make.

OUR FINAL PROPOSAL

15. As required by section 60(2) of the Local Government Act 1972, we have carefully considered the representations made to us.

16. We considered Nottinghamshire County Council's statement about responsibility for maintenance of a small section of the B1190, in conjunction with Lincolnshire County Council's suggestion that the whole of that road would be better placed in Lincolnshire. Nottinghamshire County Council told us that if Broadholme were to become part of Lincolnshire it would be preferable to include the B1190 in the transfer. We took the view that it would be conducive to effective and convenient local government if the whole of that road was under the administration of one authority.

17. We took account of the meeting of local residents and we noted that the two petitions showed a slight increase in the number of those wishing to remain in Nottinghamshire. We also noted, however, that the majority of residents objecting to the transfer seemed particularly concerned about the effects upon education and provision of school transport. We ascertained from Lincolnshire County Council that, if our draft proposal was implemented, it would meet the cost of school transport for children in Broadholme currently attending Harby Primary School (in Nottinghamshire) until they reached secondary school age. We established that in all six children would be affected. However, it would not be responsible for the cost of school transport for new entrants to Harby Primary School, nor secondary school children who continue their education in Nottinghamshire. Lincolnshire County Council also advised us that it would probably provide school transport between Broadholme and Saxilby, taking into consideration the distance of approximately two miles and the nature of the journey, and that it would raise no objection to the continuation of special

education arrangements in Nottinghamshire. The County Council further advised us that it would give favourable consideration to the continuation of the voluntary car scheme. We ascertained from the Anglian Water Authority that if Broadholme became part of Lincolnshire it would not object to properties in the parish being connected, by the Severn Trent Water Authority, to the mains sewerage at Harby. We considered that the arguments advanced for retention of the existing refuse service was based on what residents saw as more hygienic collection facilities by Newark and Sherwood District Council. No evidence was put to us however to suggest that the refuse service provided by West Lindsey District Council is less efficient. We noted, from information provided with the two petitions, that Senior Citizens of Broadholme would receive a £6 travel voucher from West Lindsey District Council. Whilst we accepted the ease of access to the offices of Newark and Sherwood District Council in the town of Newark, access to those of West Lindsey District Council in Gainsborough did not appear significantly more difficult. Both appear to be similar in distance from Broadholme and linked to it by direct routes.

18. We took note of the number of objections to our draft proposal, but we have concluded that no significant new factors have been brought to light. Vehicular access to the parish of Broadholme is provided only by Lincolnshire's road system and the Lincolnshire community of Saxilby seems to meet many of the needs of the residents of that parish. Furthermore, because Broadholme is almost completely surrounded by Lincolnshire, and taking into account its close proximity to the City of Lincoln, it appears to us that services would be more

easily provided from Lincolnshire than from Nottinghamshire. To some extent this is already indicated by the provision of emergency services by Lincolnshire County Council to Broadholme. We have also taken note of the County Council's willingness to help overcome transitional difficulties in the sphere of education.

19. In the interests of effective and convenient local government we therefore confirm our draft proposal as our final proposal, with an amendment to place the whole of the Broadholme stretch of the B1190 in Lincolnshire.

PUBLICATION

20. A separate letter enclosing copies of this report is being sent to the County Councils of Lincolnshire and Nottinghamshire asking them to deposit copies of this report at their main offices for inspection over a six-month period. The County Councils are also asked to co-operate in putting 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 proposal, if you think fit, after the expiry of six weeks from the date it is submitted to you. Copies of this report, which also includes small scale maps, are also being sent to those who received the consultation letter and to those who responded in writing.

LS

Signed: G J ELLERTON (Chairman)

J G POWELL (Deputy Chairman)

JOAN ACKNER

G E CHERRY

K J L NEWELL

G R PRENTICE

BRIAN SCHOLES

S T GARRISH

Secretary

3 November 1987

