Local Government Act 1888

1888 CHAPTER 41

PART II

APPLICATION OF ACT TO BOROUGHS, THE METROPOLIS, AND CERTAIN SPECIAL COUNTIES.

Application of Act to Boroughs.

31 Certain large boroughs named in the schedule to be county boroughs.

Each of the boroughs named in the Third Schedule to this Act being a borough which on the first day of June one thousand eight hundred and eighty-eight, either had a population of not less than fifty thousand, or was a county of itself shall, from and after the appointed day, be for the purposes of this Act an administrative county of itself, and is in this Act referred to as a county borough

Provided that for all other purposes a county borough shall continue to be part of the county (if any) in which it is situate at the passing of this Act, and if a separate commission of assize, oyer and terminer, or gaol delivery is not directed to be executed within the borough, the borough shall, for the purposes of any such commission, and of the service of jurors, and the making of jury lists, be part of the county in which it is specified in the said schedule to be deemed for the purposes of this Act to be situate.

32 Adjustment of financial relations between counties and county boroughs.

(1) An equitable adjustment respecting the distribution of the proceeds of the local taxation licenses/and probate duty grant, and respecting all other financial relations, if any, between each county, and each county borough specified in the said schedule as being deemed for the purposes of this Act to be situate in that county, shall be made by agreement, within twelve months after the appointed day, between the councils of each county and each borough, and in default of any such agreement, by the Commissioners appointed under this Act; and such adjustment shall provide, in the ease of any expenses which may in future be incurred by the county wholly or partly on behalf of the borough for the liability of such borough to contribute, and save as provided by this Act, any existing liability to contribute or to incur expense shall, after

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the appointed day, cease, and an equitable provision for such cessation shall be made in the adjustment.

(2) Where a county borough is specified in the said schedule as being deemed for the purposes of this Act to be situate in more than one county, the necessary adjustment shall be made between the counties.

(3) In such adjustment regard shall be had to the existing property, debts, and liabilities (if any) connected with the financial relations of the county and borough, and to the consideration that the county is not to be placed in any worse financial position by reason of the boroughs therein being constituted county boroughs, and that a county borough is not to be placed in a worse financial position than it would have been in if it had remained part of the county and had shared in the division of the sums received by a county in respect of the licence duties and the probate duty grant, as provided by this Act, and to the amount of benefit and value of the services which the borough receives in return for existing contributions, if any, and to all the circumstances of each case which it appears equitable to consider, subject nevertheless to the following provisions:—

(a) Where separate commission's of assize, oyer and terminer, and gaol delivery are not directed to be executed in a county borough, the borough council shall contribute a proper share of the costs of and incidental to the assizes of the county:

(b) If the borough, is not at the passing of this Act a quarter sessions borough, the borough council shall contribute a proper share of the costs of and incidental to the quarter sessions and petty sessions of the county, and of and incidental to the coroners of the county or any franchise therein, and if a grant of a court of quarter sessions is hereafter made to the borough, the borough shall redeem the liability to such contribution, on such terms as may be agreed upon, or, in default of agreement, may be determined by arbitration under this Act:

(c) Where any portion of the costs of building and furnishing any county lunatic asylum has been contributed by a county borough, then, until a new arrangement is made between the county and borough councils, the borough council shall contribute in respect of the lunatic asylums for the time being of the county the like amount as would if this Act had not passed have been contributed by the borough; and the county council shall provide accommodation for and maintain pauper lunatics sent from the borough on the like terms as before the passing of this Act; and the borough council may, if they so desire, appoint to be members of the committee of visitors of any such asylum such number of members of the council as may be agreed upon, or in default of agreement be determined by the Commissioners under this Act, but such appointment shall be in substitution for any appointment made on the part of the borough under any existing law or arrangement. Any new arrangement may be made between the county council and all the borough councils concerned with respect to any such lunatic asylum, and if any such new arrangement is made, the borough and county councils may carry into effect any adjustment of property, debts, and liabilities which is the subject of such arrangement. If any council desires to make a new arrangement, and any or all of the other councils refuse to agree to the same, the matter shall be referred to the Commissioners under this Act, or, after they have ceased to hold office, to arbitration under this Act.

(d) Each county borough shall be liable for the maintenance of pauper lunatics in like manner as any other county.

(4) In the adjustment of any financial relations other than the distribution of the proceeds of the licences and probate duty grant, no borough wholly or partially exempt from contributing to any object shall be rendered liable so to contribute or to contribute in greater proportion than at present.

(5) The provisions of Part III of this Act with respect to the adjustment of property, income, debts, liabilities, and expenses, and to borrowing for the purpose shall apply as if the Commissioners under this Act were the arbitrator in that Part mentioned.

(6) Provided that at any time after the end of five years from the date of an agreement or award adjusting the financial relations of any county and borough, if the council of either the county or borough satisfy the Local Government Board that the adjustment has become inequitable, and that the councils are unable to agree on a new adjustment, the board shall appoint an arbitrator; and such arbitrator shall proceed to make a new equitable adjustment as if he were the Commissioners under this Act, and the provisions of this Act shall apply accordingly. Any new adjustment made by agreement, or by the award of an arbitrator under this section, may, after the expiration of five years from the date of such agreement or award, be altered either by agreement or by arbitration as above mentioned.

(7) Until any adjustment in pursuance of this section has come into operation, the county or borough council shall pay out of the county or borough fund to the borough or county council, as the case may be, the average annual amount which during the three years next before the appointed day has been expended by the county for the benefit of the borough, or contributed by the borough to the county, as the case may be, but any sum so paid shall be taken into account in the making of the adjustment, and the adjustment shall be made so as to take effect as from the appointed day.

(8) Any contribution by a county borough to the county in pursuance of this section shall be required and made in accordance with section one hundred and fifty-three of the Municipal Corporations Act, 1882, and that section, except so far as relates to the appointment of an arbitrator, shall apply in like manner as if every such borough were a quarter sessions borough situate in the county.

(9) Expressions in this section relating to contributions by a borough to a county shall be construed to include any sum raised by the assessment of the parishes or hereditaments in the borough to the county rate.

33 Provisions as to police and rateable value in county boroughs.

(1) Nothing in this Act with respect to county boroughs shall prevent the continuance of one police force for any county borough and any county, or the consolidation of the police forces of any county borough and any county in like manner as heretofore, but where the provisions of this Act affect the arrangement with respect to the consolidated police force for a county and borough, an adjustment shall be made between the council of the borough and county in accordance with the provisions of this Act. The foregoing provisions of this section shall apply to boroughs which are not county boroughs in like manner as if they were re-enacted and in terms made applicable to those boroughs.

(2) Where, for the purpose of calculating any contribution or payment to be made under this Act, it is necessary to ascertain the rateable value of both a county and a county borough, such rateable value shall be ascertained and fixed by a joint committee composed of representatives of all the councils concerned, and such committee shall

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for that purpose have all the powers and jurisdiction of quarter sessions and of a committee of justices appointed under the County Rate Act, 1852, and the Acts amending the same, and the number of representatives for the county and each county borough respectively shall be settled by agreement, or in default of agreement by the Local Government Board.

34 Application of Act with modifications to county boroughs.

(1) The mayor, aldermen, and burgesses of each county borough acting by the council shall, subject as in this Act mentioned, have and be subject to all the powers, duties, and liabilities of .a county council under this Act (in so far as they are not already in possession of or subject to the same), and in particular shall, subject to the provisions of this Act as to adjustment between counties and county boroughs, be entitled to receive the like sums out of the Local Taxation Account, and be bound to make the like payments in substitution for local grants and the like grants in respect of the costs of the officers of unions and of district schools as in the case ,of a county council, so far as the circumstances make such payment applicable, and all the provisions of this Act (including those with respect to the forfeiture on the withholding by a Secretary of State of his certificate as respects the police of the county) shall accordingly, so far as circumstances admit, apply in the case of every such borough, with the necessary modifications, and in particular with the following modifications :—

(a) The county borough shall be substituted for the county, and borough; fund shall be substituted for county fund, and town clerk shall be substituted for clerk of the peace and clerk, of the council:

(b) A reference to two or more counties shall include a reference to county boroughs as well as counties.

(c) Such powers, duties, and liabilities of the court of quarter sessions or justices as in the case of a county are transferred to the county council shall be transferred to the council of the county borough, whether the same are vested in or attached to the court of quarter sessions or justices of the borough or of the county in which the borough is situate;

(d) In the case of the duties collected by the Commissioners of Inland Revenue in respect of the licences for trade carts, locomotives, horses, mules, and horse dealers under any Act of the. present session, those Commissioners shall certify the amount collected in each county in like manner as if the county included each county borough specified in the Third Schedule to this Act as deemed to be situate in that county, and the amount as so ascertained shall be divided between the said boroughs, and the residue of the said county in proportion to rateable value as fixed by the joint committee in pursuance of this Act, and until such value is fixed in proportion to rateable value according to the standard or basis for county contributions for the time being, and the share so ascertained shall be paid in like manner as if it had been collected in the county borough or in the residue of the county, as the case may be:

(e) Any sum standing to the Exchequer contribution account of a county borough which remains after payment of the graut required to be made in respect of the costs of union officers shall be carried to the borough fund, or be applied in aid of such rate leviable over the whole of the borough as the council may determine, and the provisions respecting the payment of the same to the general county account of the county fund, and the subsequent application and division thereof, shall not apply.

(2) On the appointed day there shall be transferred to the mayor, aldermen, and burgesses of each county borough all such bridges and approaches thereto, or parts thereof, situate within the borough as were previously repairable by the county or any hundred therein, and the . costs of the council in repairing such bridges and approaches, or parts thereof, and in repairing any roads in the borough which by virtue of this Act or any Act applied by this Act are main roads, shall be payable out of the borough fund.

(3) The provisions of this Act with respect to—

(a) the constitution, election, proceedings, or position of the county council or the chairman thereof,

(b) the county treasurer, county surveyor, and other county officers,

(c) the standing joint committee of the justices and the council, or

(d) coroners, or

(e) gas meters, or

(f) the transfer to the council of powers relating to county and other rates, and the preparation or revision of the basis or standard for the county rate ;

shall not apply to county boroughs, nor shall Part IV. of this Act relating to finance apply, save so far as is expressly provided in that Part.

(4) Provided that where the district of any county coroner is wholly situate within a county borough, the coroner for that district shall be appointed, by the council of that borough, and the writ for his election may be issued to that council instead of to the county council, and where the district of any county coroner is situate partly within and partly without a county borough, the writ for the election of such coroner shall be issued to the county council, but if there is a joint committee of the county and borough councils for the purpose, the question of the person to be elected shall be referred to that joint committee, and the county council shall appoint the person recommended by the majority of such committee.

(5) If the council of a county borough so require, a joint committee shall from time to time be appointed for the purposes of coroners, consisting of such number of members of the county and borough councils as may be agreed upon, or in default of agreement may be determined by a Secretary of State.

(6) Nothing in this Act shall transfer to the council of any borough any power in relation to the division of the county into polling districts for the purpose of a parliamentary election for the county, the appointment of places of election for the county, the places of holding courts for the revision of the lists of voters, and the costs of, and other matters to be done for, the registration of parliamentary voters for the county.

(7) The powers and duties of the county authority under the Allotments Act, 1887, shall, as respects the borough, continue to be exercised and performed by the Local Government Board.

(8) This Act and the Municipal Corporations Act, 1882, shall be construed so as to give effect to the provisions of this section.

35 Application of Act to larger quarter sessions boroughs not county counties.

In the case of a quarter sessions borough, not being one of the boroughs named in the Third Schedule to this Act, but containing, according to the census of one thousand eight hundred and eighty-one, a population of ten thousand or upwards, the following provisions shall, on and after the appointed day, apply:

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(1) Nothing in this Act shall transfer to the county council any power of the council of the borough as local authority under any Act, or (save as in this Act expressly mentioned) alter the powers, duties, and liabilities of the council of the borough under the Municipal Corporations Act, 1882, but subject to the above provisions and to the savings herein-after contained, the borough shall form part of the county for the purposes of this Act, and the parishes in the borough shall, subject to the exemptions herein-after mentioned, be liable to be assessed to county contributions in like manner as the rest of the county.

(2) Where such borough is at the passing of this Act exempt, in whole or in part, from contributing towards costs incurred for any purpose for which the quarter sessions of the county in which the borough is situate are authorised to incur cost the parishes in the borough shall not, save as in this Act expressly mentioned, be assessed by the county council to county contributions in respect of costs incurred for any such purpose, nor in the case of a partial exemption, be so assessed for any larger sum than such as will give effect to that exemption, but this exemption shall not extend to any costs incurred for the purpose of any powers, duties, or liabilities of the justices of the borough, which will by virtue of this Act be exercised or discharged by the county council nor to any costs of or incidental to the assizes of the county.

(3) Notwithstanding the last enactment the borough shall, for the purposes of the provisions of the Highways and Locomotives (Amendment) Act, 1878, respecting main roads, form part of the county, and the costs of maintaining, repairing, improving, enlarging, or otherwise dealing with any main road in the borough shall be paid out of the county fund, and the payment of the costs incurred in the execution of the provisions of this Act with respect to main roads shall be a general county purpose for which the parishes of the borough may be assessed to county contributions:

(4) Provided that—

(a) the borough shall be deemed to be an urban sanitary district within the meaning of the Highways and Locomotives (Amendment) Act, 1878; and the council of the borough shall have the power under the Highways and Locomotives (Amendment) Act, 1878, of making byelaws respecting locomotives, and authorising locomotives to be used on any road within the borough, save that if any difference is made by such byelaws or authority between any main road maintained by the county council and the other roads in the borough, such authority and byelaws shall require the approval of the county council; and

(b) the council of the borough shall have power as an urban authority to claim, in accordance with this Act, to retain the powers and duties of maintaining and repairing any main road in the borough; and

(c) the council of the borough may within two years after the passing of this Act apply to the county council to declare such roads in the borough as are mentioned in the application to be main roads within the meaning of the Highways and Locomotives (Amendment) Act, 1878, and the county council shall consider such application and inquire whether such roads are or ought to be main roads within the meaning of the said Act, and shall make or refuse the declaration accordingly, and if the county council refuse to make the declaration, the council of the borough may within a reasonable time after such refusal apply to the Local Government Board, and that Board, shall have power, if after a local inquiry they think it just so to do, to make the said declaration, which shall have the same effect as if made by the county council.

(5) The payment of the costs of assizes and sessions shall be a general county purpose for which the parishes in the borough may be assessed to county contributions, and all costs of prosecutions mentioned in section one hundred and sixty-nine of the Municipal Corporations Act, 1882, shall be paid out of the county fund.

(6) The county councillors elected for an electoral division consisting wholly of such borough, or of some part of such borough, shall not act or vote in respect of any question arising before the county council as regards matters involving expenditure on account of which the parishes in the borough are not, for the time being, liable to be assessed equally with the rest of the county to county contributions.

(7) The county council and the council of any such borough may agree for the cessation in whole or in part of any exemption under this section of the parishes in the borough from assessment to county contributions, in consideration either of payment by the county council of a capital sum, or of an annual payment, or of a transfer of property or liabilities, or of the county council undertaking in substitution for the council of the borough any powers or duties, or partly for one consideration and partly for another, or in any other manner, according as may be determined.

(8) A borough which is a county of a city or a county of a town shall, for the purposes of this section, be deemed to be situate in and form part of the county which it adjoins, or if it adjoins more than one county, then in and of the county of which it forms part for the purposes of parliamentary elections.

36 General application of Act to boroughs with separate commission of the peace.

(1) Where a borough has a separate commission of the peace, whether a quarter sessions borough or not (and is not a borough named in the Third Schedule to this Act), then, subject to the provisions of this Act, all such powers, duties, and liabilities of the court of quarter sessions or justices of the borough, as in the case of the county are by this Act transferred to the county council, shall cease, and the county council shall have those powers, duties, and liabilities within the area of the borough in like manner as in the rest of the county;

(2) Provided that such powers, duties, or liabilities, so far as they are under the Acts relating to pauper lunatics, shall, save as otherwise provided by this Act, be transferred to. the council of the borough and not to the county council, and the provisions of this Act with respect to the transfer to a county council shall apply with the necessary modifications to such transfer to the council of the borough.

37 Application of Act to quarter sessions boroughs hereafter created.

The grant after the passing of this Act of a court of quarter sessions to any borough, not being a county borough, shall not affect the powers, duties, or liabilities of the county council as respects the area of that borough, nor exempt the parishes in the borough from being assessed to county contributions for any purpose to which such parishes were previously liable to be assessed, and shall not confer or impose on the mayor, aldermen, and burgesses, or the council of such borough, any powers, duties, or liabilities further than such as are necessary for establishing and maintaining the court of quarter sessions in the borough.

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38 Application of Act to smaller quarter sessions boroughs with population under 10,000.

Where a borough having a separate court of quarter sessions contained according to the census of one thousand eight hundred and eighty-one a population of less than ten thousand, the following provisions shall after the appointed day apply:—

(1) There shall be transferred to the county council the powers, duties and liabilities of the council and justices of the borough as regards the provision, enlargement, maintenance, management, and visitation of and other dealing with asylums for pauper lunatics:

(2) There shall be transferred to the county council the powers, duties, and liabilities of the council of the borough—
- (a) as regards coroners ; and
- (b) as regards the appointment of analysts under the Acts relating to the sale of food and drugs ; and
- (c) under the Acts relating to—
  - (i) reformatoiy and industrial schools; and
  - (ii) fish conservancy ; and
  - (iii) explosives; and
- (d) under the Highways and Locomotives (Amendment) Act, 1878;

Provided that the transfer by this section—
- (a) shall be subject to the provisions in this Act for the protection of existing officers and the continuance of existing contracts; and
- (b) shall not, save as respects the coroners, affect the powers, duties, and liabilities of the council of the borough under the Municipal Corporations Act, 1882 :

(3) The borough shall be an urban sanitary district within the meaning of the Highways and Locomotives (Amendment) Act, 1878:

(4) The council of the borough may within two years after the passing of this Act, apply to the county council to declare such roads in the borough as are mentioned in the application to be main roads within the meaning of the Highways and Locomotives (Amendment) Act, 1878, and the county council shall consider such application, and inquire whether such roads are, or ought to be, main roads within the meaning of the said Act, and shall make or refuse the declaration accordingly and if the county council refuse the declaration, the council of the borough may, within a reasonable time after such refusal, apply to the Local Government Board, and that Board, after a local inquiry, shall have power, if they think it just so to do, to make the said declaration, which shall have the same effect as if it had been made by the county council:

(5) The area of the borough shall for the purposes of the above-mentioned Acts and all other administrative purposes of the county council be included in the county, as if the borough had not a separate court of quarter sessions, and accordingly shall be subject to the authority of the county council and the county coroners, and may be annexed by the county council to a coroner's district of the county, and the parishes in the borough shall be liable to be assessed to all county contributions:

(6) Any property, debts, or liabilities of the county or of any borough affected, by this or the next succeeding section (including the charge to be made for lunatics which but for this Act would have been maintainable by the borough) may be adjusted in manner provided by Part Three of this Act:

(7) It shall be lawful for Her Majesty the Queen, on petition from the council of any borough to which this or the next succeeding section applies, by Order in Council, to revoke the grant of a court of quarter sessions to the borough, and by letters patent to revoke the grant of a commission of the peace for the borough, and to make such provision as to Her Majesty seems proper for the protection of interests existing at the date of the revocation, and after the date of the revocation all enactments and laws relating to courts of quarter sessions and justices and their jurisdiction shall apply, as if such court of quarter sessions or commission of the peace, as the case may be, did not exist:

(8) A borough which is a county of a city or a county of a town shall, for the purposes of this and the next succeeding section, and if Her Majesty revokes the grant of a court of quarter sessions or a commission of the peace to such borough, then also for all purposes of quarter sessions and justices, be deemed to be situate in and form part of the county of which it forms part for the purpose of parliamentary elections:

(9) Where this section applies to a cinque port it shall apply also to all the members thereof, and those members when not situate in a quarter sessions borough shall form part of the county for all purposes.

39 Application of Act to all boroughs with population under 10,000.

(1) Where a borough, whether with or without a separate court of quarter sessions, contained according to the census of one thousand eight hundred and eighty-one a population of less than ten thousand, then after the appointed day all powers, duties, and liabilities of the mayor, aldermen, and burgesses, or council of the borough, or the watch committee of the borough in relation—

(a) to the police force of the borough, or .

(b) to the appointment of analysts under the Acts relating to the sale of foods and drugs, or

(c) to the execution of the Contagious Diseases (Animals) Acts, 1878 to 1886, or the Destructive Insects Act, 1877, or

(d) to gas meters, or

(e) to weights and measures, if the council exercise any jurisdiction in relation thereto,

shall cease, and, subject to the provisions of this Act as to the members of the police force holding office on the said day, the area of the borough shall for all purposes of the Acts relating to the county police force, or other matters above in this section mentioned, form part of the county in like manner as if it were not a borough;

(2) Provided that nothing in this section shall transfer to the county council any powers, duties, or liabilities under section thirty-four of the Contagious Diseases (Animals) Act, 1878, as amended by section nine of the Contagious Diseases (Animals) Act, 1886.

(3) The urban authority for any borough or town with such population as above in this section mentioned shall cease to be the local authority under the Acts relating to explosives, and the county council shall have the like authority under the said Acts in the said borough or town as they have in the rest of their county.