



Public Health Act 1875

1875 CHAPTER 55

PART VIII

ALTERATION OF AREAS AND UNION OF DISTRICTS.

Alterations of Areas.

270 Powers of Local Government Board in relation to alteration of areas.

The following enactments shall be made as to alteration of areas :

- (1) The Local Government Board, by provisional order, may dissolve any local government district, and may merge any such district in some other urban or rural district or districts ; or it may by provisional order declare the whole or any portion of a local government or a rural district immediately adjoining a local government district to be included in such last-mentioned district ; or it may by provisional order declare any portion of a local government district immediately adjoining a rural district to be included in such rural district; and thereupon the included area shall, for the purposes of this Act, be deemed to form part of the district in which it is included by such order ; and the remaining part (if any) of the local government district or rural district affected by such order shall continue subject to the like jurisdiction as it would have been subject to if such order had not been made unless and until the Local Government Board by provisional order otherwise directs :
- (2) In the case of a borough comprising within its area the whole of an improvement Act district, or having an area, co-extensive with such district, the Local Government, Board by provisional order may dissolve such district and transfer to the council of the borough all or any of the jurisdiction and powers of the improvement commissioners of such district remaining vested in them at the time of the passing of this Act :
- (3) The Local Government Board may by order dissolve any special drainage district constituted either before or after the passing of this Act in which a loan for the execution of works has not been raised, and merge it in the parish or parishes in which it is situated, and the Local Government Board may by provisional order dissolve any

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such district in which a loan has been raised for the execution of works, and merge it in the parish or parishes in which it is situated.

271 Local Government Board may by provisional order constitute local government district.

The Local Government Board may, by provisional order, declare any rural district, or any portion of any rural district or districts, to be a local government district; and from and after the commencement of the order, the district or portion of the district or districts therein referred to shall become a local government district, and shall be subject to the jurisdiction of a local board, to be elected in manner provided by Schedule II to this Act.

The Local Government Board may, by any order constituting a local government district under this section, divide such district into wards for the election of members of the local board.

272 Local Government Board may by order constitute local government district in pursuance of a resolution of owners and ratepayers.

The owners and ratepayers of any place situated in any rural district or districts, and having a known and defined boundary, may, by a resolution passed in manner provided by Schedule III to this Act, declare that it is expedient that such place should be constituted a local government district; and the Local Government Board may, if it thinks fit, by order made not less than six weeks after the receipt of a copy of such resolution by the said Board, declare such place to be a local government district, and from and after the commencement of such order such place shall become a local government district, and be subject to the jurisdiction of a local board to be elected in manner provided by Schedule II to this Act.

A petition may be presented to the Local Government Board from any place so situated as aforesaid, and not having a known and defined boundary, to settle its boundary for the purposes of this Act; the petition shall state the proposed boundaries of the place, shall be signed by one tenth of the persons rated to the relief of the poor and resident within such boundaries, and shall be supported by such evidence as the Local Government Board may require. The Local Government Board may, after local inquiry as to the genuineness of the petition, and as to the propriety of the proposed boundaries, either dismiss the petition altogether or make order as to the boundaries of the place, and may also make order as to the costs of the proceedings in relation thereto, and the persons by whom such costs are to be borne.

Any place the boundaries of which have been settled in pursuance of the foregoing provisions shall thenceforth, for the purposes of this Act, be deemed to be a place with a known and defined boundary.

273 Objection to resolution.

Where not less than one twentieth of the owners and ratepayers of any place (such twentieth to be one twentieth in number of the owners and ratepayers of the place taken together, or the owners and ratepayers in respect of one twentieth of the rateable property in the place,) in which a resolution has been passed declaring that it is expedient that such place should be constituted a local government district, are desirous that such district should not be constituted, or that any part of such place

should be excluded therefrom, they may present a petition to the Local Government Board objecting to such resolution, and specifying the grounds of their objection.

Such petition shall be subscribed by the owners and ratepayers presenting the same, and shall be presented within six weeks from the date of the passing of the resolution objected to, and shall, where the exclusion of part of the place is prayed for, state the part of the place proposed to be excluded, accompanied with an explanatory plan.

The Local Government Board may after local inquiry make order with respect to the matter in question, and such order shall be binding on the place in respect of which it is made.

274 Appeal to Local Government Board in case of alleged invalidity of vote.

Any owner or ratepayer who disputes the validity of the vote for the adoption of the resolution may appeal, within six weeks from the declaration of the decision of the meeting, to - the Local Government Board, setting forth the grounds on which he disputes the validity of the vote ; and the Local Government Board may, on such appeal, after local inquiry, make such order as to the said Board seems fit as to the validity or invalidity of the vote, and any other questions arising on the appeal.

But no objection shall be made, at any trial or in any legal proceeding, to the validity of the vote for the adoption of the resolution, or to any order made in pursuance thereof, or to any proceedings on which such order was founded, unless the objector gives fourteen days notice to the other parties interested in such trial or proceeding of his intention to make the same, specifying fully the nature of the objection to be made ; and no, objection whatever in respect of the matters mentioned in this section shall be admissible at any trial or in any legal proceeding after the expiration of six months from the date of the constitution of the district.

275 General provisions as to orders.

Every order made by the Local Government Board under this part of this Act shall specify a day on which such order shall come into operation (in this Act referred to as the commencement of the order) ; and from and after the commencement of the order all the powers rights duties capacities liabilities obligations and property which under this Act are exercisable by or attaching to or vested in the local authority having, under this Act, jurisdiction in any district or part of a district which is by such order included in some other district, shall (so far as the same relate to the district or part of a district so included) pass to and vest in the local authority of such other district : Provided that in the case of the constitution of a new local government district, all the powers rights duties capacities liabilities obligations and property which under this Act are exercisable by or attaching to or vested in any local authority or authorities having, under this Act, jurisdiction in the area" so constituted a local government district, shall continue to be exercisable by attached to and vested in such authority or authorities, until the day of the first meeting of the local board for the district so constituted.

Any order made in pursuance of this part of this Act may, if necessary, provide for the settlement of any differences, or the adjustment of any accounts or apportionment of any liabilities arising between districts parishes or other places in consequence of the exercise of any powers conferred by this part of this Act, and may direct the persons by whom and to whom any moneys found to be due are to be paid, and the mode of raising such moneys ; and where any local government district is diminished or

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increased in extent under this part of this Act, the order shall prescribe the number of members to be elected for the district when altered.

The Local Government Board may include in the same order provisions for the dissolution of one district, and for the inclusion of the whole or any part of such district in any other district or districts.

276 Local Government Board may invest rural authority with powers of urban authority.

The Local Government Board may, on the application of the authority of any rural district, or of persons rated to the relief of the poor, the assessment of whose hereditaments amounts at the least to one tenth of the net rateable value of such district, or of any contributory place therein, by order to be published in the London Gazette or in such other manner as the Local Government Board, may direct declare any provisions of this Act in force in urban district to be in force in such rural district or contributory place, and may invest such authority with all or any of the powers rights duties capacities liabilities and obligations of an urban authority under this Act, and such investment may be made either unconditionally or subject to any conditions to be specified by the Board as to the time, portion of the district, or manner during at and in which such powers rights duties liabilities capacities and obligations are to be exercised and attach ;

Provided that an order of the Local Government Board made on the application of one tenth of the persons rated to the relief of the poor in any contributory place shall not invest the rural authority with any new powers beyond the limits of such contributory place.

277 Power of rural authority to form special drainage districts.

It shall be lawful for a rural authority, by resolution to be approved by the Local Government Board, but not otherwise, to constitute any portion of the area within their jurisdiction a special drainage district, for the purpose of charging thereon exclusively the expenses of works of sewerage water supply or of other works, which by this Act are or by order of the Local Government Board may be declared to be special expenses, and thereupon such area shall become a separate contributory place.

278 Power to settle disputes as to boundaries of districts.

On the application of any urban authority (being a local board or improvement commissioners), the Local Government Board may, by order after local inquiry, settle any dispute as to the boundaries of the district of such authority ; such order shall be published in some local newspaper circulating in the district to which it relates, and from and after its commencement shall be conclusive on the question determined by it.

Union of Districts.

279 Formation of united district.

Where, on the application of the local authorities of any urban or rural, districts, or of any of such authorities, it appears to the Local Government Board that it would be for the advantage of such districts, or any of them, or any parts thereof, or of any

contributory places in any rural district or districts, to be formed into a united district for all or any of the purposes following ; (that is to say,)

- (1) The procuring a common supply of water ; or
 - (2) The making a main sewer or carrying into effect a system of sewerage for the use of all such districts or contributory places ; or
 - (3) For any other purposes of this Act ;
- the Local Government Board may by provisional order form such districts or contributory places into a united district.

All costs charges and expenses of and incidental to the formation of a united district shall, in the event of the united district being formed, be a first charge on the rates leviable in the united district in pursuance of this Act.

280 Governing body of united district.

The governing body of a united district shall be a joint board consisting of such ex-officio members and of such number of elective members as the Local Government Board may by the provisional order forming the district determine.

A joint board shall be a body corporate by such name as may be determined by the provisional order, having a perpetual succession and a common seal, with power to hold lands for the purposes of its constitution, without any license in mortmain.

281 Contents of provisional order forming united district.

The provisional order forming a united district under this Act shall define the purposes for which such united district is formed, and the powers rights duties capacities liabilities and obligations under this Act which the joint board is authorised to exercise or perform, or is made subject to, and shall contain regulations as to the qualification and mode of election of elective members of the joint board, as to their continuance in office, as to casual vacancies in the joint board, as to their meetings and officers, and any other matter or thing, including the adjustment, of present and future liabilities and property with respect to which the Local Government Board may think fit to make any regulations for the better carrying into effect the provisions of this Act with respect to united districts.

Upon the constitution of a joint board the local authorities having jurisdiction in the component districts or contributory places shall cease to exercise therein any powers, or to perform any duties, or to be subject to any liabilities or obligations, which the joint board is authorised to exercise or perform or is made subject to ; nevertheless, the joint board may delegate to the local authority of any component district the exercise of any of its powers or the performance of any of its duties.

282 Meetings and proceedings of joint boards.

Meetings of any joint board shall be held and the proceedings thereat shall be conducted (so far as such meetings and proceedings are not regulated by the order forming the joint board) in accordance with the rules as to meetings and proceedings contained in Schedule 1 to this Act.

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283 Expenses of joint board.

Any expenses incurred by a joint board in pursuance of this Act, unless otherwise determined by the provisional order, shall be defrayed out of a common fund, to be contributed by the component districts or contributory places in proportion to the rateable value of the property in each district or contributory place, such value to be ascertained according to the valuation list in force for the time being.

284 Payment of contributions to joint board.

For the purpose of obtaining payment from component districts of the sums to be contributed by them, the joint board shall issue their precept to the local authority of each component district, stating the sum to be contributed by such authority, and requiring such authority, within a time limited by the precept, to pay the sums therein mentioned to the joint board, or to such person as the joint board may direct;

Any sum mentioned in a precept addressed by a joint board to a local authority as aforesaid shall be a debt due from that authority, and may be recovered accordingly, such contribution in the case of a rural authority being deemed to be general expenses.

If any local authority makes default in complying with the precept addressed to it, the joint board may, instead of instituting proceedings for the recovery of a debt, or in addition to such proceedings as to any part of a debt which may for the time being be unpaid, proceed in a summary manner as in this Act mentioned to raise within the district of the defaulting authority such sum as may be sufficient to pay the sum due.

For the purpose of obtaining payment from contributory places of the sums to be contributed by them, the joint board shall have the same powers of issuing precepts and of recovering the amounts named therein as if such contributory places formed a rural district, and the joint board were the authority thereof.

285 Power to execute works in adjoining districts, and to combine for execution of works.

Any local authority may, with the consent of the local authority of any adjoining district, execute and do in such adjoining district all or any of such works and things as they may execute and do within their own district, and on such terms as to payment or otherwise as may be agreed on between them and the local authority of the adjoining district; moreover two or more local authorities may combine together for the purpose of executing and maintaining any works that may be for the benefit of their respective districts or any part thereof. All moneys which any local authority may agree to contribute for defraying expenses incurred under this section shall be deemed to be expenses incurred by them in the execution of works within their district.

286 Districts may be united for appointing a medical officer of health.

Where it appears to the Local Government Board, on any representation made to it, that the appointment of a medical officer of health for two or more districts situated wholly or partially in the same county would diminish expense, or otherwise be for the advantage of such districts, the Local Government Board may by order unite such districts for the purpose of appointing a medical officer of health, and may make regulations as to the mode of his appointment and removal by representatives of the authorities of the constituent districts, and as to the meetings from time to time of such representatives, and the proportion in which the expenses of the appointment and of the salary and

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expenses of such officer are to be borne by such authorities, and as to any other matters (including the necessary expenses of such representatives) which, in the opinion of the said Board, require regulation for the purposes of this section ; and no other medical officer of health shall be appointed for any constituent district, except as an assistant to the officer appointed for the united districts :

Provided that no urban district containing a population of twenty-five thousand and upwards, or (in the case of a borough) having a separate court of quarter sessions, shall be included in any union of districts formed under this section without the consent of the local authority of such district or borough.

Not less than twenty-eight days notice that it is proposed to make an order under this section shall be given by the Local Government Board to the local authority of any district proposed to be included in the union, and if within twenty-one days after such notice has been given to any such authority they give notice to the Local Government Board that they object to the proposal, the Local Government Board may include their district in the union by a provisional order but not otherwise.

There may be assigned by the Local Government Board to the district medical officer of any union comprising or coincident with any constituent district such duties in rendering local assistance to the medical officer of health appointed for the united districts as the said Board may think fit ; and such district medical officer shall receive, in respect of any duties so assigned to him, such additional remuneration to be paid by the local authority or authorities of the district or districts within which his duties under this section are performed as those authorities may, with the approval of the Local Government Board, determine.

PORT SANITARY AUTHORITY.

287 Constitution of port sanitary authority.

The Local Government Board may, by provisional order, permanently constitute any local authority whose district or part of whose district forms part of or abuts on an)' part of a port in England, or the waters of such port, or any conservators commissioners or other persons having authority in or over such port or any part thereof, (which local authority conservators commissioners or other persons are in this Act referred to as a " riparian authority,") the sanitary authority of the whole of such port or of any part thereof (in this Act referred to as the " port sanitary authority ").

The Local Government Board may also by provisional order permanently constitute a port sanitary authority for the whole or any part of a port, by combining any two or more riparian authorities having jurisdiction within such port, or any part thereof, and may prescribe the mode of their joint action ; or by forming a joint board consisting of representative members of any two or more riparian authorities, in the same manner, as is by this Act provided with respect to the formation of a united district. Moreover the Local Government Board may by provisional order permanently constitute a port sanitary authority for any two or more ports, by forming a joint board consisting of representative members of all or any of the riparian authorities having jurisdiction within such ports, or any part thereof.

In any case in which the Local Government Board are by this section authorised permanently to constitute by provisional order a port sanitary authority, the said Board may, if it thinks fit, until such order has been made and confirmed by Parliament, temporarily constitute by order any such authority, and may from time to time renew

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any such last-mentioned order, and may by any order so made or renewed make any such provisions as it is by this section empowered to make by provisional

Any order constituting a port sanitary authority may assign to such authority any powers rights duties capacities liabilities and obligations under this Act, and direct the mode in which the expenses of such authority are to be paid ; and where such order constitutes a joint board the port sanitary authority, it may contain regulations with respect to any matters for which regulations may be made by a provisional order forming a united district under this Act.

A port shall mean a port as established for the purposes of the laws relating to the customs of the United Kingdom.

288 Jurisdiction of port sanitary authority.

The order of the Local Government Board constituting a port sanitary authority shall be deemed to give such authority jurisdiction over all waters within the limits of such port, and also over the whole or such portions of the district within the jurisdiction of any riparian authority as may be specified in the order.

289 Delegation of powers by port sanitary authority.

A port sanitary authority may, with the sanction of the Local Government Board, delegate to any riparian authority within or bordering on their district the exercise of any powers conferred on such port sanitary authority by the order of the Local Government Board, but, except in so far as such delegation may extend, no other authority shall exercise any powers conferred on a port sanitary authority by the order of the Local Government Board within the district of such port sanitary authority.

290 Expenses of port sanitary authority.

Any expenses incurred by a port sanitary authority constituted temporarily in carrying into effect any purposes of this Act shall be defrayed out of a common fund to be contributed by the riparian authorities in such proportions as the Local Government Board thinks just.

Such port sanitary authority, if itself a local authority under this Act independently of its character of a port sanitary authority, shall raise the proportion of expenses due in respect of its own district in the same manner as if such expenses had been incurred by it in the ordinary manner for the purposes of this Act.

For the purpose of obtaining payment from the contributory riparian authorities of the sums to be contributed by them, such port sanitary authority shall issue their precept to each such authority, requiring such authority, within a time limited by the precept, to pay the amount therein mentioned to such port sanitary authority, or to such person as such port sanitary authority may direct.

Any contribution payable by a riparian authority to such port sanitary authority shall be a debt due from them, and may be recovered accordingly, such contribution in the case of a rural authority being deemed general expenses of that authority. If any riparian authority makes default in complying with the precept addressed to it by such port sanitary authority, such port sanitary authority may, instead of instituting proceedings for the recovery of the debt, or in addition to such proceedings, as to any part of the debt which may for the time being be unpaid, proceed in the summary manner in this

Act mentioned to raise within the district of the defaulting authority such sum as may be sufficient to pay the debt due.

Where several riparian authorities are combined in the district of one port sanitary authority the Local Government Board may by order declare that some one Or more of such authorities shall be exempt from contributing to the expenses incurred by such authorities.

291 Provision as to port of London.

The mayor aldermen and commons of the City of London shall be the port sanitary authority of the port of London, and shall pay out of their corporate funds all their expenses as such port sanitary authority.

292 Proceedings for raising a sum for payment of debt within district of a defaulting authority.

Where any port sanitary authority joint board or other authority are authorised, in pursuance of this Act, to proceed in a summary manner to raise within the district of a defaulting authority such sum as may be sufficient to pay any debt due to them, the authority so authorised for the purpose of raising such sum shall, within the district of the defaulting authority, have, so far as relates to the raising such sum, the same powers as if they were the defaulting authority, and as if such sum were expenses properly incurred by the defaulting authority within the district of such authority.

Where the defaulting authority have power to raise any moneys due for their expenses by levy of a rate from individual ratepayers, the authority so authorised as aforesaid shall have power to levy such a rate by any officer appointed by them, and the officer so appointed shall have the same powers, and the rate shall be levied in the same manner and be subject to the same incidents in all respects as if it were being levied by the officer of the defaulting authority for the payment of the expenses of that authority ; and where the defaulting authority have power to raise moneys due for their expenses by issuing precepts, or otherwise requiring payments from any other authorities, the authority so authorised as aforesaid shall have the same power as the defaulting authority would have of issuing precepts, or otherwise requiring payment from such other authorities.

Any precepts issued by the authority so authorised as aforesaid for raising the sum due to them may be enforced in the same manner in all respects as if they had been issued by the defaulting authority.

The authority so authorised as aforesaid may, in making an estimate of the sum to be raised for the purpose of paying the debt due to them, add such sums as they think sufficient, not exceeding ten per cent. on the debt due, and may defray thereout all costs charges and expenses (including compensation to any persons they may employ) to be incurred by such authority by reason of the default of the defaulting authority; and the authority so authorised as aforesaid shall apply all moneys raised by them in payment of the debt due to them, and such costs charges and expenses as aforesaid, and shall render the balance, if any, remaining in their hands after such application to the defaulting authority.