

= County Borough of Leeds =

The County Borough of Leeds , and its predecessor , the Municipal Borough of Leeds , was a local government district in the West Riding of Yorkshire , England , from 1835 to 1974 . Its origin was the ancient borough of Leeds , which was reformed by the Municipal Corporations Act 1835 . In 1889 , when West Riding County Council was formed , Leeds became a county borough outside the administrative county of the West Riding ; and in 1893 the borough gained city status . The borough was extended a number of times , expanding from 21 @, @ 593 acres (8 @, @ 738 ha) in 1911 to 40 @, @ 612 acres (16 @, @ 435 ha) in 1961 ; adding in stages the former area of Roundhay , Seacroft , Shadwell and Middleton parishes and gaining other parts of adjacent districts . In 1971 Leeds was the fifth largest county borough by population in England . The county borough was abolished in 1974 and replaced with the larger City of Leeds , a metropolitan district of West Yorkshire .

= = Origins = =

= = = Manorial borough 1207 ? 1626 = = =

The Borough of Leeds was created in 1207 , when Maurice Paynel , Lord of the Manor , granted a charter to the inhabitants of the town of Leeds . They were created " burgesses " , and were given the right to hold half an acre of land , trade as they liked , and transport their goods by land or water , subject to tolls and restrictions paid to the manor . The only officer of the borough was a praetor , appointed annually at the Feast of Pentecost by the Lord of the Borough . The praetor had the duty of administering justice and collecting fines and other revenues . The borough formed only a small area adjacent to a crossing of the River Aire , between the old settlement centred on Leeds Parish Church to the east and the manor house and mills to the west . The borough consisted of a single street with approximately thirty burgage plots . By the seventeenth century the title of praetor had been abandoned in favour of the more customary " bailiff " , but otherwise the government of the town remained in the form introduced in the thirteenth century . An enquiry into the administration of local charities in 1620 disclosed that many of the funds were diverted by the bailiff for his private use . This , and other irregularities , led the inhabitants of Leeds to petition Charles I for a charter of incorporation .

= = = Incorporated borough (1626 ? 1836) = = =

= = = = Incorporation = = = =

A charter of incorporation was granted on 13 July 1626 , incorporating the entire parish of Leeds St Peter as the " Borough of Leedes in the County of York " . The parish and borough consisted of eleven chapelries (Armley , Beeston , Bramley , Chapel Allerton , Farnley , Headingley cum Burley , Holbeck , Hunslet , Leeds , Potternewton and Wortley) and parts of two more (Seacroft and Temple Newsam) .

The governing corporation of the borough was styled " The Alderman and Burgesses of the Borough of Leedes in the County of York " , and consisted of one Alderman , nine principal burgesses and twenty assistants . The charter named the members of the first corporation , with Sir John Savile becoming the first alderman .

= = = = Charter of Charles II = = = =

In January 1643 , during the English Civil War , Leeds fell to parliamentary forces . Royalist members of the corporation were replaced with those loyal to the Commonwealth . With the

restoration of the monarchy in 1660 , moves were made to reform the borough 's government . The leading merchants of the town submitted a petition to Charles II requesting a new charter as they felt the constitution and operation of the governing body was inadequate to the needs of the town .

A second charter was duly granted on 2 November 1661 , with the earlier charter withdrawn . The new corporation thus created consisted of a mayor , twelve aldermen , twenty four assistants , a recorder and a town clerk and was entitled the " Mayor , Aldermen and Burgesses of the Borough of Leedes in the County of York " . The charter named the first mayor as Thomas Danby . The new corporation was given extensive powers to enforce and make laws to regulate trade and ensure the good governance of the town . From 1684 to 1689 the town was governed under a charter of James II which gave the crown power over all appointments to the town council . With the accession of William III and Mary II the 1661 charter was restored to the townspeople , and remained the governing charter until 1836 .

= = Municipal borough (1836 ? 1889) = =

In 1833 the Whig Government of Lord Grey began enquiries into the government of the various boroughs in England and Wales , with a view to reforming their constitutions and methods of election . Following the recommendations of a Royal Commission , legislation was enacted as the Municipal Corporations Act 1835 .

Leeds was among the 178 boroughs reformed by the act , becoming the " Municipal Borough of Leeds " . The reformed borough was initially unchanged in area , and was divided into 12 wards , with a town council of 16 aldermen and 48 councillors , headed by a mayor . Each ward was represented by either three or six directly elected councillors . One third of the councillors retired annually . Aldermen were additional members of the council , there being one alderman for every three councillors : they had a six @-@ year term of office , with half of the aldermanic bench elected by the council itself every three years .

It was originally envisaged that the first elections would be held on 1 November 1835 , with the reformed town councils holding their first meetings on 9 November following . However , the process of dividing the boroughs into wards and preparing the burgess roll or electoral register was a lengthy one , and an Order in Council was made delaying the first elections to 26 December , with the new boroughs coming into formal existence on 1 January 1836 .

An early focus of the new authority was on policing and crime , with construction of a new borough prison begun in 1842 . The Leeds Improvement Act of 1842 gave the council further powers over markets , streets , street lighting , sewerage , building regulations , public cleansing and smoke regulation in the rapidly growing industrial city .

In 1881 the wards were redrawn , so that the borough comprised sixteen wards . The size of the town council remained the same , however , with each new ward returning one alderman and three councillors .

= = County borough 1889 ? 1974 = =

The Local Government Act 1888 created elected county councils to administer services throughout England and Wales . Where a municipal borough had a population of more than 50 @,@ 000 at the 1881 Census it was created a county borough , with the powers and duties of both a borough and county council .

As Leeds had an 1881 population of 309 @,@ 119 it duly became a county borough on 1 April 1889 . The borough , while independent of the West Riding County Council for local government , remained part of the county for purposes such as the administration of justice and lieutenancy .

The change of status in 1889 made no change to the boundaries of the borough or the size of the council .

= = = City status and lord mayoralty = = =

Until 1889 the right to the title of " city " in the United Kingdom was linked to the presence of an Anglican cathedral . In that year Birmingham , Dundee and Belfast were granted letters patent raising them to cities by virtue of their population , economic importance and history of good municipal government .

In 1892 another borough in the West Riding , Sheffield , announced that it was seeking the grant of city status to celebrate the Golden Jubilee of the town 's incorporation , which was to occur in 1893 . When the members of Leeds Town Council became aware of the application by Sheffield , which was both smaller in population and of more recent creation than Leeds , they immediately began the process of applying for the dignity themselves . A petition was approved on 4 January 1893 , which set out the reasons it was felt that Leeds deserved to become a city : these were the antiquity of the town , its many charters , its large area , its population that was " approaching 400 @, @ 000 " , the fact that it was the largest municipality not to be a city , and its commercial importance for the woollen industry .

A delegation from Leeds , including two Members of Parliament (MPs) , met with the Home Secretary , H H Asquith on 27 January to press the borough 's case . Along with the claims of the borough as set out in the original petition , the delegation made two more points : Leeds was the only university town not a city , and Leeds and Sheffield were the only boroughs returning five MPs to the House of Commons without the status (of a city) .

The Home Secretary forwarded the petitions of both boroughs to The Queen on 3 February , recommending that the honour be granted in both cases as they were the " only towns in the United Kingdom with a population exceeding 300 @, @ 000 to which the title of City , enjoyed by many smaller of less important places , has not been granted ; and that both appear to be well fitted by their loyalty , public spirit , and industrial progress , for this mark of your Majesty 's favour . "

On 7 February , Sir Godfrey Lushington , permanent secretary to the Home Office , wrote to the mayors of both towns signifying that the applications had been approved . The award was made by letters patent on 13 February , and was announced in the London Gazette on 21 February :

The Queen has been pleased , by Letters Patent under the Great Seal of the United Kingdom , bearing date the 13th February 1893 , to

ordain and declare that the Borough of Leeds shall be a City , and shall be called and styled " The City of Leeds " .

Four years later the Diamond Jubilee of the accession of Queen Victoria occurred . As part of the celebrations it was announced on 21 June that the mayor of Leeds " shall in future bear the title of Lord Mayor " . The award which empowered the Lord Mayor to enjoy and use all the rights , privileges , pre @-@ eminencies and advantages to " such degree duly and of right belonging " was made by Letters Patent dated 12 July , and was published in the London Gazette on the following day :

The Queen has been pleased , by Letters Patent under the Great Seal of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland , bearing date the 12th July , 1897 to ordain that the Chief Magistrate , now , and for the time being , of the City of Leeds , shall be styled Lord Mayor of Leeds .

= = = Parishes to 1912 = = =

Townships and chapelries which were separately rated for poor law purposes were formed into civil parishes in 1866 . The borough of Leeds contained eleven parishes and part of two others , and no changes were made to their boundaries until 1894 . The Local Government Act 1894 provided that no parish could lie in more than one local government area , with parishes being divided or amalgamated as required .

In Leeds this was effected by constituting the part of Temple Newsam parish within the city a separate parish of Osmondthorpe , and merging the portion of Seacroft that lay within the municipal boundaries with the existing parish of Potternewton . The number of parishes into which the city was divided was reduced to five in 1904 by the following mergers : A second application was made late in 1911 . The corporation sought to add 4 @, @ 839 acres (19 @. @ 58 km2) to the north and east of the city : the parishes of Roundhay and Seacroft (comprising Leeds Rural District) , the parish of

Shadwell (from Wetherby Rural District) and the Crossgates area of the parish of Barwick in Elmet (from Tadcaster Rural District) . The proposed extension would increase the county borough 's population by 7 @, @ 603 to 452 @, @ 171 . An inquiry was held in January 1912 , at which the strong opposition of the West Riding County Council and all the parish and rural district councils involved was made clear . On 4 May the town clerk of Leeds was informed that the extension had been granted , with the exception of 169 acres (0 @. @ 68 km2) of agricultural land with an estimated population of 50 to 100 .

The extension took effect on 9 November 1912 , with the added areas initially being added to the existing north ward and to the parish of Leeds .

== = 1920 extension == =

In 1919 the city council sought another extension , this time to the south , by taking in the parish of Middleton from Hunslet Rural District . The boundary change took effect on 1 April 1920 , and Middleton formed a 17th ward , electing 3 councillors and 1 alderman to the city council , which was increased in size accordingly . The parish of Middleton was abolished , with its area added to the existing parish of Hunslet . The extra territory was acquired by the county borough for a major scheme of council housing , the construction of which commenced almost immediately . On 1 April 1925 the five parishes in the county borough were united into a single parish of Leeds .

== = 1928 extension == =

In 1927 Leeds Corporation promoted a bill to add further areas to the city , namely Gildersome Urban District , and parts of the rural districts of Hunslet , Tadcaster and Wharfedale (the parishes of Adel cum Eccup , Alwoodley , Austhorpe ? except for a detached part ? and Templenewsham) . The Leeds Corporation Act 1927 , as passed , omitted Gildersome and most of Austhorpe from the area added to Leeds . The extension , which took effect on 1 April 1928 added approximately 7 @, @ 131 acres (28 @. @ 86 km2) to the county borough . The area added comprised the parishes of Adel cum Eccup and Alwoodley to the north , and Templenewsham with 206 acres (0 @. @ 83 km2) from the parish of Austhorpe to the east .

In 1930 the wards of the county borough were redrawn , necessitating a general election of the entire city council . Twenty @- @ six wards were created , each returning 3 councillors and 1 alderman . The membership of the council was increased from 68 (51 councillors and 17 aldermen) to 104 (78 councillors and 26 aldermen) . The twenty @- @ six wards were as follows :

On 1 April 1937 the boundary of the county borough with the surrounding areas of the West Riding was adjusted under a county review order . The city exchanged areas with the following districts :

In 1950 the city council petitioned for an alteration in the number and boundaries of the municipal wards , and a consequent change in the number of aldermen and councillors . The petition was successful , with an Order in Council made on 28 July dividing the city into twenty @- @ eight wards :

The redrawing of wards made a general election of the entire council necessary in May 1951 . The new council had a membership of 112 : 84 councillors and 28 aldermen .

== = 1957 extension == =

Following the Second World War a Local Government Boundary Commission was appointed to review administrative structures throughout England and Wales . While the commission was in existence , local authorities were not permitted to make unilateral proposals for boundary changes . Although the commission recommended that Leeds should form the basis of a new unitary " one tier county " no action was taken . The commission itself was wound up in 1949 , and the final enlargement of the county borough took place under the Leeds Corporation Act 1956 , on 1 April 1957 . 2 @, @ 322 acres (9 @. @ 40 km2) of Tadcaster Rural District were added to the city . The 1958 commission was disbanded in 1966 , and the Redcliffe @- @ Maud Commission appointed in

its place . When their report was published in 1969 , they recommended a system of large unitary authorities . A new Leeds authority was proposed , with an area of 317 @,@ 000 acres (1 @,@ 280 km2) and a population of 840 @,@ 000 . The boundaries would have included a large rural area including part of the Yorkshire Dales and the town of Harrogate . The proposal was welcomed by Leeds City Council . Following a change of government , a white paper issued in 1971 rejected the unitary structure and instead proposed a metropolitan county of West Yorkshire , with Leeds forming a district in a two @-@ tier system . During the passing of the subsequent legislation , which was enacted as the Local Government Act 1972 , the boundaries of the Leeds Metropolitan District (or District 6b) were altered . Knaresborough and Harrogate were removed (becoming the basis of a non @-@ metropolitan district in North Yorkshire) while Rothwell was added from the neighbouring Wakefield district .

= = = Metropolitan borough = = =

The 1972 legislation came into effect on 1 April 1974 , with the county borough ceasing to exist at midnight on 31 March . The county borough 's area was combined with that of the Municipal Borough of Morley , the Municipal Borough of Pudsey , Aireborough Urban District , Horsforth Urban District , Otley Urban District , Garforth Urban District , Rothwell Urban District and parts of Tadcaster Rural District , Wetherby Rural District and Wharfedale Rural District from the West Riding . The new Leeds district was one of five metropolitan districts in West Yorkshire . It was granted a borough and city status to become the City of Leeds .