

LOCAL
GOVERNMENT
COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND

FINAL
RECOMMENDATIONS
ON THE FUTURE
ELECTORAL
ARRANGEMENTS
FOR EREWASH IN
DERBYSHIRE

*Report to the Secretary of State for the
Environment, Transport and the Regions*

November 1998

LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND

This report sets out the Commission's final recommendations on the electoral arrangements for Erewash in Derbyshire.

Members of the Commission are:

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CONTENTS

	page
LETTER TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE	<i>v</i>
SUMMARY	<i>vii</i>
1 INTRODUCTION	<i>1</i>
2 CURRENT ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS	<i>3</i>
3 DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS	<i>7</i>
4 RESPONSES TO CONSULTATION	<i>9</i>
5 ANALYSIS AND FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS	<i>11</i>
6 NEXT STEPS	<i>21</i>
APPENDIX	
A Final Recommendations for Erewash: Detailed Mapping	<i>23</i>



Local Government Commission for England

24 November 1998

Dear Secretary of State

On 2 December 1997 the Commission began a periodic electoral review of Erewash under the Local Government Act 1992. We published our draft recommendations in June 1998 and undertook a ten-week period of consultation.

In the light of the consultation we have now prepared our final recommendations which confirm our draft recommendations in their entirety. This report sets out our final recommendations for changes to electoral arrangements in Erewash.

We recommend that Erewash Borough Council should be served by 51 councillors representing 22 wards, and that changes should be made to ward boundaries in order to improve electoral equality, having regard to the statutory criteria. We recommend that the Council should continue to be elected together every four years.

We note that you have now set out in the White Paper *Modern Local Government – In Touch with the People* (Cm 4014, HMSO), legislative proposals for a number of changes to local authority arrangements. However, until such time as that new legislation is in place we are obliged to conduct our work in accordance with current legislation, and to continue our current approach to periodic reviews.

I would like to thank members and officers of the Borough Council and other local people who have contributed to the review. Their co-operation and assistance have been very much appreciated by Commissioners and staff.

Yours sincerely

PROFESSOR MALCOLM GRANT
Chairman

SUMMARY

The Commission began a review of Erewash on 2 December 1997. We published our draft recommendations for electoral arrangements on 30 June 1998, after which we undertook a ten-week period of consultation.

- **This report summarises the representations we received during consultation on our draft recommendations, and offers our final recommendations to the Secretary of State.**

We found that the existing electoral arrangements provide unequal representation of electors in Erewash:

- **in 19 of the 25 wards the number of electors represented by each councillor varies by more than 10 per cent from the average for the borough, and 10 wards vary by more than 20 per cent from the average;**
- **by 2002 electoral equality is not expected to improve, with the number of electors per councillor forecast to vary by more than 10 per cent from the average in 17 wards, and by more than 20 per cent in 12 wards.**

Our main final recommendations for future electoral arrangements (Figure 1) are that:

- **Erewash Borough Council should be served by 51 councillors, one less than at present;**
- **there should be 22 wards, three fewer than at present;**
- **the boundaries of 18 of the existing wards should be modified, while seven wards should retain their existing boundaries;**
- **elections for the whole council should continue to take place every four years.**

These recommendations seek to ensure that the number of electors represented by each borough councillor is as nearly as possible the same, having regard to local circumstances.

- **In 17 of the 22 wards the number of electors per councillor would vary by no more than 10 per cent from the borough average, with no ward varying by more than 20 per cent from the average.**
- **By 2002 the number of electors per councillor is forecast to vary by no more than 10 per cent from the average in all but four wards, with no ward varying by more than 20 per cent.**

Recommendations are also made for changes to parish council electoral arrangements which provide for:

- **new warding arrangements for Ockbrook & Borrowash parish (formerly known as Ockbrook parish).**

All further correspondence on these recommendations and the matters discussed in this report should be addressed to the Secretary of State for the Environment, Transport and the Regions, who will not make an order implementing the Commission's recommendations before 4 January 1999:

**The Secretary of State
Department of the Environment,
Transport and the Regions
Local Government Review
Eland House
Bressenden Place
London SW1E 5DU**

*Figure 1:
The Commission's Final Recommendations: Summary*

Ward name	Number of councillors	Constituent areas	Map reference
1 Abbotsford (Ilkeston)	2	Abbotsford ward (part)	Large map
2 Breaston	2	<i>Unchanged</i> (the parish of Breaston)	Map 2
3 Cotmanhay (Ilkeston)	2	Cotmanhay ward (part)	Large map
4 Derby Road East (Long Eaton)	2	Derby Road East ward (part)	Large map
5 Derby Road West (Long Eaton)	3	Derby Road East ward (part); Derby Road West ward (part)	Large map
6 Draycott	2	Dale Abbey ward (part – the parishes of Hopwell, Risley and Stanton-by-Dale); Draycott ward (the parish of Draycott & Church Wilne)	Map 2
7 Hallam Fields (Ilkeston)	2	Ilkeston South ward; Old Park ward (part)	Large map
8 Ilkeston Central (Ilkeston)	2	Ilkeston Central ward (part)	Large map
9 Ilkeston North (Ilkeston)	2	Cotmanhay ward (part); Ilkeston North ward	Large map
10 Kirk Hallam	3	Kirk Hallam North ward; Kirk Hallam South ward	Map 2
11 Little Eaton & Breadsall	2	Breadsall & Morley ward (the parishes of Breadsall and Morley); Little Eaton ward (the parish of Little Eaton)	Map 2
12 Little Hallam (Ilkeston)	2	Abbotsford ward (part); Victoria ward	Large map
13 Long Eaton Central (Long Eaton)	3	Long Eaton Central ward; Wilsthorpe ward (part)	Large map
14 Nottingham Road (Long Eaton)	3	<i>Unchanged</i>	Large map
15 Ockbrook & Borrowash	3	<i>Unchanged</i> (the parish of Ockbrook & Borrowash)	Map 2

Figure 1 (continued):
 The Commission's Final Recommendations: Summary

	Ward name	Number of councillors	Constituent areas	Map reference
16	Old Park (Ilkeston)	2	Ilkeston Central ward (part); Old Park ward (part)	Large map
17	Sandiacre North	2	<i>Unchanged</i> (the Sandiacre North parish ward of Sandiacre parish)	Map 2
18	Sandiacre South	2	<i>Unchanged</i> (the Sandiacre South parish ward of Sandiacre parish)	Map 2
19	Sawley (Long Eaton)	3	<i>Unchanged</i>	Large map
20	Stanley	1	<i>Unchanged</i> (the parish of Stanley & Stanley Common)	Map 2
21	West Hallam & Dale Abbey	3	Dale Abbey ward (part – the Dale Abbey Village parish ward of Dale Abbey parish); West Hallam ward (the parish of West Hallam)	Map 2
22	Wilsthorne (Long Eaton)	3	Derby Road West ward (part); Wilsthorne ward (part)	Large map

Notes: 1 The borough of Erewash is parished except for the towns of Ilkeston and Long Eaton and part of the Kirk Hallam area.
 2 Map 2 and the maps in Appendix A illustrate the proposed wards outlined above.

1. INTRODUCTION

1 This report contains our final recommendations on the electoral arrangements for the borough of Erewash in Derbyshire. We have now reviewed all the districts in Derbyshire as part of our programme of periodic electoral reviews of all principal local authority areas in England.

2 In undertaking these reviews, we have had regard to:

- the statutory criteria contained in section 13(5) of the Local Government Act 1992;
- the *Rules to be Observed in Considering Electoral Arrangements* contained in Schedule 11 to the Local Government Act 1972.

3 We have also had regard to our *Guidance and Procedural Advice for Local Authorities and Other Interested Parties* (published in March 1996, supplemented in September 1996 and updated in March 1998), which sets out our approach to the reviews.

4 This review was in four stages. Stage One began on 2 December 1997, when we wrote to Erewash Borough Council inviting proposals for future electoral arrangements. Our letter was copied to Derbyshire County Council, Derbyshire Police Authority, the local authority associations, Derbyshire Association of Local Councils, parish councils in the borough, Members of Parliament and the Member of the European Parliament with constituency interests in the borough, and the headquarters of the main political parties. At the start of the review and following publication of our draft recommendations, we published notices in the local press, issued a press release and invited the Council to publicise the review more widely. The closing date for receipt of representations was 9 March 1998. At Stage Two we considered all the representations received during Stage One and prepared our draft recommendations.

5 Stage Three began on 30 June 1998 with the publication of our report, *Draft Recommendations on the Future Electoral Arrangements for Erewash in Derbyshire*, and ended on 7 September 1998. Comments were sought on our preliminary conclusions. Finally, during Stage Four we reconsidered our draft recommendations in the light of the Stage Three consultation and now publish our final recommendations.

2. CURRENT ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS

⁶ Erewash borough is situated in the south-east corner of Derbyshire. It is bounded to the south by the River Trent and to the west by the River Derwent, and lies between the two conurbations of Derby to the west and Nottingham to the east. The borough covers a mixture of urban and rural areas, with the towns of Ilkeston and Long Eaton, in the north-east and south-east of the district respectively, being the main centres of population. The remainder of the borough comprises some sparsely populated rural parishes and the villages of Draycott and Breaston. The Midland main line railway runs through the borough as does the M1 motorway, connecting the area with London and the north of England.

⁷ To compare levels of electoral inequality between wards, we calculated the extent to which the number of electors per councillor in each ward (the councillor:elector ratio) varies from the borough average in percentage terms. In the text which follows, this calculation may also be described using the shorthand term 'electoral variance'.

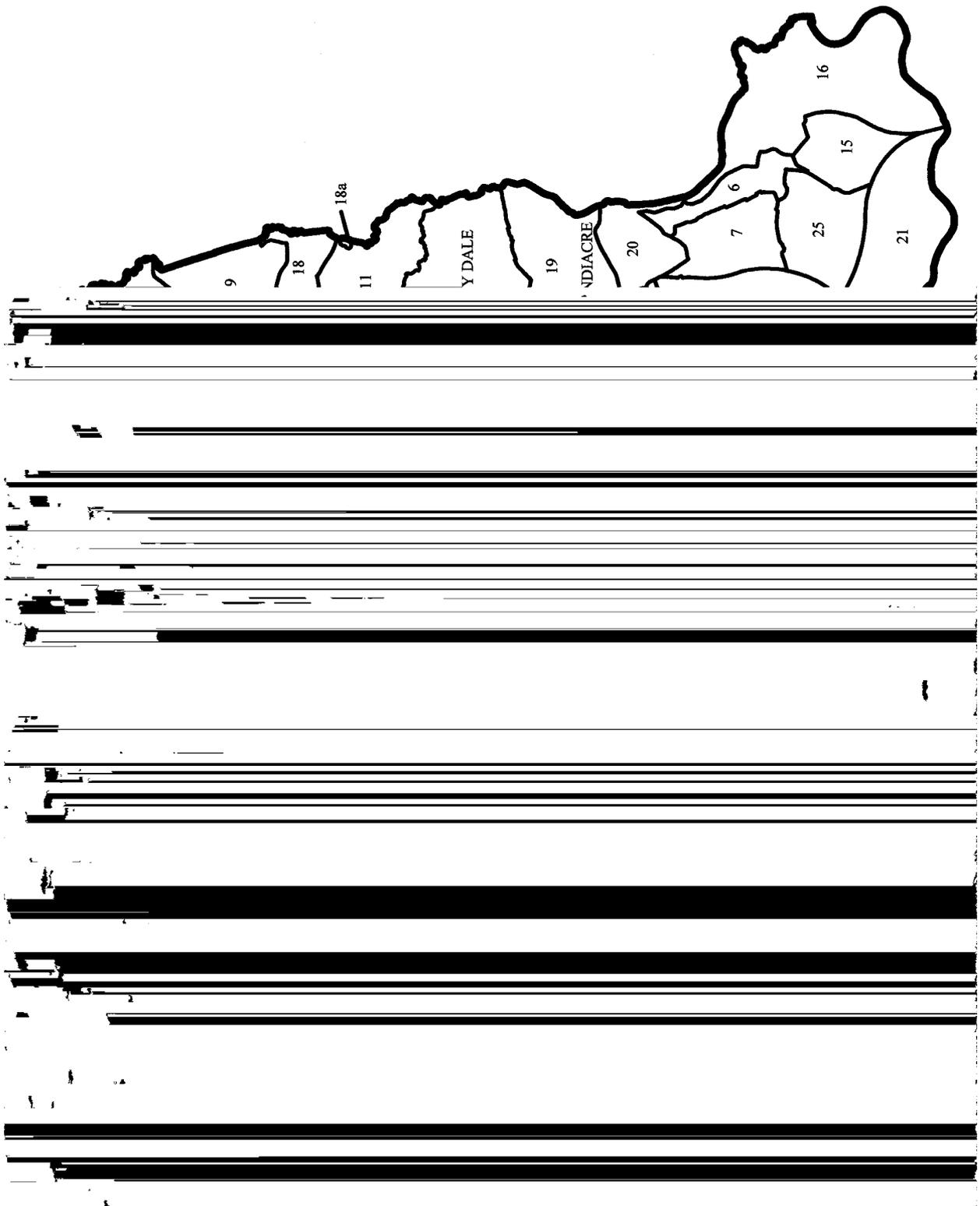
⁸ The electorate of the borough (February 1997) is 82,899. The Council presently has 52 councillors who are elected from 25 wards, nine covering Ilkeston and Kirk Hallam, eight covering Long Eaton and Sandiacre, with the remaining eight covering the more rural parished area (Map 1 and Figure 3). Eight of the 25 wards are each represented by three councillors, 11 wards elect two councillors each, while the remaining six are single-member wards. The whole Council is elected every four years.

⁹ Since the last electoral review there has been an increase in the electorate in Erewash, with around 11 per cent more electors than two decades ago.

¹⁰ At present each councillor represents an average of 1,594 electors, which the Borough Council forecasts will increase to 1,612 by the year 2002 if the present number of councillors is maintained. However, due to demographic and other changes over the past two decades, the number of electors

per councillor in 19 of the 25 wards varies by more than 10 per cent from the borough average and in 10 wards by more than 20 per cent. The worst imbalance is in Abbotsford ward where the councillor represents 86 per cent more electors than the borough average, and this imbalance is expected to deteriorate even further over the five-year period with the number of electors per councillor forecast to exceed the borough average by 124 per cent by 2002.

Map 1:
Existing Wards in Erewash



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Figure 2:
Existing Electoral Arrangements

Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (1997)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2002)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
1 Abbotsford (Ilkeston)	1	2,962	2,962	86	3,615	3,615	124
2 Breadsall & Morley	1	966	966	-39	906	906	-44
3 Breaston	3	3,710	1,237	-22	3,728	1,243	-23
4 Cotmanhay (Ilkeston)	3	4,198	1,399	-12	4,222	1,407	-13
5 Dale Abbey	1	1,156	1,156	-27	1,235	1,235	-23
6 Derby Road East (Long Eaton)	3	3,931	1,310	-18	3,639	1,213	-25
7 Derby Road West (Long Eaton)	3	4,936	1,645	3	5,105	1,702	6
8 Draycott	1	2,112	2,112	32	2,123	2,123	32
9 Ilkeston Central (Ilkeston)	3	4,206	1,402	-12	4,080	1,360	-16
10 Ilkeston North (Ilkeston)	2	2,449	1,225	-23	2,413	1,207	-25
11 Ilkeston South (Ilkeston)	2	2,760	1,380	-13	2,914	1,457	-10
12 Kirk Hallam North	2	2,721	1,361	-15	2,688	1,344	-17
13 Kirk Hallam South	2	2,231	1,116	-30	2,013	1,007	-38
14 Little Eaton	1	1,987	1,987	25	2,011	2,011	25
15 Long Eaton Central (Long Eaton)	2	4,128	2,064	29	4,326	2,163	34
16 Nottingham Road (Long Eaton)	3	4,810	1,603	1	4,917	1,639	2
17 Ockbrook & Borrowash	3	5,686	1,895	19	5,523	1,841	14

continued overleaf

Figure 2 (continued):
Existing Electoral Arrangements

Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (1997)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2002)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
18 Old Park (Ilkeston)	2	2,709	1,355	-15	2,716	1,358	-16
19 Sandiacre North	2	3,282	1,641	3	3,188	1,594	-1
20 Sandiacre South	2	3,365	1,683	6	3,437	1,719	7
21 Sawley (Long Eaton)	3	5,327	1,776	11	4,955	1,652	2
22 Stanley	1	1,671	1,671	5	1,670	1,670	4
23 Victoria (Ilkeston)	2	2,918	1,459	-8	3,149	1,575	-2
24 West Hallam	2	3,801	1,901	19	4,092	2,046	27
25 Wilsthorpe (Long Eaton)	2	4,877	2,439	53	5,164	2,582	60
Totals	52	82,899	—	—	83,829	—	—
Averages	—	—	1,594	—	—	1,612	—

Source: Electorate figures are based on Erewash Borough Council's submission.

Note: The 'variance from average' column shows by how far, in percentage terms, the number of electors per councillor varies from the average for the borough. The minus symbol (-) denotes a lower than average number of electors. For example, in 1997, electors in Breadsall & Morley ward were relatively over-represented by 39 per cent, while electors in Abbotsford ward were significantly under-represented by 86 per cent. Figures have been rounded to the nearest whole number.

3. DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS

¹¹ During Stage One we received representations from Erewash Borough Council, the Erewash Conservative Association, the Erewash Borough Council Minority Group – Conservative Members, Councillor Cresswell and three parish councils. In the light of these representations and evidence available to us, we reached preliminary conclusions which were set out in our report, *Draft Recommendations on the Future Electoral Arrangements for Erewash in Derbyshire*. Our draft recommendations were based on the Borough Council's scheme, which achieved improved electoral equality, provided good boundaries while having regard to the statutory criteria and maintained the present mix of single- and multi-member wards. However, we moved away from the Borough Council's scheme in Ilkeston and Long Eaton, affecting eight wards. We proposed that:

- (a) Erewash Borough Council should be served by 51 councillors representing 22 wards;
- (b) the boundaries of 18 of the existing wards should be modified, while seven wards should retain their existing boundaries;
- (c) there should be new warding arrangements for the towns of Ilkeston and Long Eaton.

Draft Recommendation

Erewash Borough Council should comprise 51 councillors, serving 22 wards. The whole Council should continue to be elected together every four years.

¹² Our proposals would have resulted in significant improvements in electoral equality, with the number of electors per councillor in 17 of the

22 wards varying by no more than 10 per cent from the borough average. This level of electoral equality was forecast to continue to 2002.

4. RESPONSES TO CONSULTATION

13 During the consultation on our draft recommendations report, 12 representations were received. A list of all respondents is available on request from the Commission. All representations may be inspected at the offices of Erewash Borough Council and the Commission.

Erewash Borough Council

14 The Borough Council accepted our draft recommendations in most areas, but made the following points: it supported the original submission by the Ilkeston North Labour Party Branch to retain the boundaries of Abbotsford ward, and reiterated its previous views for an extended Ilkeston Central ward with a reduction in the number of councillors representing Victoria ward. The Borough Council also included with its submission a response it had received from a local resident.

Derbyshire County Council

15 The County Council supported the majority of the Commission's proposals, although it requested that the proposed Cotmanhay ward in Ilkeston be re-named Ilkeston North (Cotmanhay).

The Erewash Conservative Association

16 The Erewash Conservative Association largely supported our draft proposals. However, it proposed that the south-west area of Derby Road West ward in Long Eaton, which we had proposed to include in Wilsthorpe ward, should remain in the former ward, and reiterated its preference for the wards of Breaston and Draycott to be included in a four-member ward.

Ilkeston Central Labour Party

17 The Ilkeston Central Labour Party opposed our draft recommendations for Ilkeston Central and Victoria wards. It argued that "the present ward arrangements are unsatisfactory in that the dividing line between two of the most important wards in the centre of Ilkeston runs along the main retail and

strategic centre of the town". It proposed instead that Ilkeston Central ward be enlarged, and represented by three councillors, with Victoria ward being represented by one councillor.

Parish Councils

18 During Stage Three representations were received from six parish councils. Ockbrook & Borrowash Parish Council "fully endorse[d] the proposals ... for the warding of Ockbrook & Borrowash parish for parish election purposes". Breaston Parish Council stated that it was "disappointed at having its representation reduced". Dale Abbey Parish Council opposed placing the Dale Abbey Village parish ward of Dale Abbey parish with West Hallam, stating that the proposed merger "with West Hallam, and loss of Kirk Hallam [was] too radical". Draycott and Risley parish councils both opposed placing Draycott, Stanton-by-Dale and Risley within one ward. Risley Parish Council accepted the new Draycott ward but proposed that it be divided into two wards, one ward covering "most of Draycott" and the other ward covering the remainder of Draycott, Risley & Hopwell and Stanton-by-Dale. Draycott Parish Council argued that the pattern of warding proposed in the draft recommendations was "unworkable" and "not coherent in terms of community".

Other Representations

19 A further two representations were received in response to our draft recommendations from the Parochial Church Council for Stanton-by-Dale with Dale Abbey, and one parish councillor. The Parochial Church Council put forward similar views to Risley Parish Council, i.e. that the proposed Draycott ward should comprise two wards, and opposed placing Dale Abbey with West Hallam, stating that there are few links between the two. Councillor Sisson, a parish councillor for Dale Abbey, also opposed merging West Hallam and Dale Abbey, stating that there is no affinity between them, and that there is "a much greater affinity and rapport between Kirk Hallam and Dale Abbey".

5. ANALYSIS AND FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS

20 As indicated previously, our prime objective in considering the most appropriate electoral arrangements for Erewash is to achieve electoral equality, having regard to the statutory criteria set out in the Local Government Act 1992 and Schedule 11 to the Local Government Act 1972, which refers to the ratio of electors to councillors being “as nearly as may be, the same in every ward of the district or borough”.

21 However, our function is not merely arithmetical. First, our recommendations are not intended to be based solely on existing electorate figures, but also on assumptions as to changes in the number and distribution of local government electors likely to take place within the ensuing five years. Second, we must have regard to the desirability of fixing identifiable boundaries, and to maintaining local ties which might otherwise be broken. Third, we must consider the need to secure effective and convenient local government, and reflect the interests and identities of local communities.

22 It is therefore impractical to design an electoral scheme which provides for exactly the same number of electors per councillor in every ward of an authority. There must be a degree of flexibility. However, our approach, in the context of the statutory criteria, is that such flexibility must be kept to a minimum.

23 Our *Guidance* states that, while we accept that the achievement of absolute electoral equality for the authority as a whole is likely to be unattainable, we consider that, if electoral imbalances are to be kept to the minimum, such an objective should be the starting point in any review. We therefore strongly recommend that, in formulating electoral schemes, local authorities and other interested parties should start from the standpoint of absolute electoral equality and only then make adjustments to reflect relevant factors, such as community identity. Regard must also be had to five-year forecasts of change in electorates. We will require particular justification for schemes which result in,

or retain, an imbalance of over 10 per cent in any ward. Any imbalances of 20 per cent and over should arise only in the most exceptional of circumstances, and will require the strongest justification.

Electorate Forecasts

24 At Stage One Erewash Borough Council submitted electorate forecasts for the year 2002, projecting an increase in the electorate of 1 per cent from 82,899 to 83,829 over the five-year period from 1997 to 2002. The Council estimated rates and locations of housing development with regard to structure and local plans, and the expected rate of building over the five-year period and assumed occupancy rates. In our draft recommendations report we accepted that this is an inexact science and, having given consideration to the forecast electorates, we were satisfied that they represented the best estimates that could reasonably be made at the time.

25 We received no comments on the Council's electorate forecasts during Stage Three, and remain satisfied that they represent the best estimates presently available.

Council Size

26 Our *Guidance* indicates that we would normally expect the number of councillors serving a borough or district council to be in the range of 30 to 60.

27 Erewash Borough Council is presently served by 52 councillors. At Stage One the representations received indicated a general consensus for a council size of 52, with the exception of Councillor Cresswell, who proposed a council size of 50. In our draft recommendations report we considered the size and distribution of the electorate, the geography and other characteristics of the area, together with the representations received. We concluded that the statutory criteria and the achievement of electoral equality would best be met by a council of 51 members.

28 During Stage Three we did not receive any comments on council size and we confirm our proposal for a 51-member council as final.

Electoral Arrangements

29 As set out in our draft recommendations report, we carefully considered all the representations received at Stage One, including the Borough Council's scheme and the three other borough-wide schemes. From these representations, some considerations emerged which helped to inform us when preparing our draft recommendations.

30 There was a positive response to the review. Respondents, including the Borough Council, the Erewash Conservative Association, the Erewash Borough Council Minority Group – Conservative Members (hereafter referred to as the Conservative members of the Council) and Councillor Cresswell, all made positive proposals for change to the present electoral arrangements.

31 There was also a degree of consensus between the Borough Council and the two Conservative groups on the appropriate warding arrangements for Kirk Hallam, Long Eaton, Sandiacre, Ockbrook & Borrowwash, Breadsall & Morley, Little Eaton and Stanley.

32 In our draft recommendations we sought to build on these proposals in order to put forward electoral arrangements which would achieve yet further improvements in electoral equality, while also seeking to reflect the statutory criteria. Where it existed, we sought to reflect the consensus among representations for warding arrangements in particular parts of the borough.

33 We recognised that all the proposals had merit, and in our draft recommendations we adopted a combination of a number of respondents' proposals in order to improve electoral equality while having regard to the statutory criteria. In Ilkeston we adopted the Erewash Conservative Association's scheme, in the parished area we adopted the Borough Council's scheme, while in Long Eaton we developed our own scheme, based on the area being represented by 17 councillors. It is our task to balance the sometimes conflicting evidence we receive and match it against the

statutory criteria; therefore, whatever proposals we put forward for the borough, we will not be able to reflect all the preferences of all respondents.

34 At Stage Three most of our recommendations received support from the County Council and the Borough Council, although the latter opposed the proposals for the wards of Abbotsford, Ilkeston Central and Victoria. The Erewash Conservative Association proposed alternative arrangements in Long Eaton, while a number of respondents opposed our recommendations for Draycott, Dale Abbey, Breaston and West Hallam wards.

35 We have reviewed our draft recommendations in the light of further evidence and the representations received during Stage Three. The following areas, based on existing wards, are considered in turn:

- (a) Ilkeston (seven wards);
- (b) Kirk Hallam (two wards);
- (c) Long Eaton (six wards);
- (d) Sandiacre (two wards);
- (e) Breadsall & Morley, Little Eaton and Stanley wards;
- (f) Breaston, Dale Abbey, Draycott and West Hallam wards;
- (g) Ockbrook & Borrowwash ward.

Ilkeston (seven wards)

36 Ilkeston, in the north-east of the borough, comprises seven wards represented by 15 councillors. Six of the wards, Cotmanhay, Ilkeston Central, Ilkeston North, Ilkeston South, Old Park and Victoria, are over-represented by 12 per cent, 12 per cent, 23 per cent, 13 per cent, 15 per cent and 8 per cent respectively (13 per cent, 16 per cent, 25 per cent, 10 per cent, 16 per cent and 2 per cent in 2002). In contrast, the remaining Abbotsford ward is under-represented by 86 per cent (124 per cent in 2002).

37 During Stage One the Borough Council, the Conservative members of the Council and Councillor Cresswell put forward proposals for re-warding the town providing a mixture of single- and multi-member wards. The Erewash Conservative Association also put forward

proposals including a realignment of the boundary between Victoria and Abbotsford wards and the retention of the current boundary between the wards of Ilkeston Central and Victoria. We adopted the Erewash Conservative Association's proposals for this area as part of our draft recommendations, as the scheme would provide improved levels of electoral equality, retain the integrity of the current ward pattern and provide a uniform pattern of two-member warding within the town.

38 During Stage Three the Erewash Conservative Association "support[ed] the draft warding arrangements as they provide roughly equal sections", while the County Council recommended that Cotmanhay ward should be renamed Ilkeston North (Cotmanhay). The Borough Council and the Ilkeston Central Labour Party opposed the transfer of the south-east corner of Abbotsford ward to Victoria ward, arguing that "the Manor Road area has become a natural, integral part of the ward" and supported the retention of the current boundary between the wards of Ilkeston Central and Victoria, which would be renamed Little Hallam.

39 We have carefully considered the alternatives proposed by the Borough Council and the Ilkeston Central Labour Party. However, we have concluded that this south-east area is isolated from the rest of Abbotsford (as shown on the large map at the back of this report), and that community ties would be closer with Victoria ward. Therefore our proposed realignment of the boundary between Abbotsford and Victoria wards would not have a detrimental effect on the area and would give improved levels of electoral equality. There is already an Ilkeston North ward, and we have therefore concluded that renaming Cotmanhay ward Ilkeston North (Cotmanhay), as proposed by the County Council, might cause confusion. We propose retaining the current ward name in our final recommendations and also confirm our draft recommendations for Ilkeston as final.

Kirk Hallam (two wards)

40 Kirk Hallam, to the west of Ilkeston, is divided into two two-member wards, Kirk Hallam North and Kirk Hallam South, both of which are over-represented by 15 per cent and 30 per cent respectively (17 per cent and 38 per cent in 2002).

41 During Stage One there was consensus between the Borough Council, the Erewash Conservative Association, the Conservative members of the Council and Councillor Cresswell for the creation of a new three-member Kirk Hallam ward, combining the two existing wards. We considered a number of alternative warding arrangements at this stage, given Dale Abbey Parish Council's wish to be included in a ward with Kirk Hallam. However, our draft recommendations would not affect the existing parish arrangements of Dale Abbey.

42 At Stage Three we received one submission directly relating to our draft recommendations for Kirk Hallam. The Erewash Conservative Association supported our proposals stating that "they give better electoral equality". We also received a number of submissions which proposed linking Kirk Hallam and the remainder of Dale Abbey parish. This latter area is discussed in more detail later in this chapter. Given the levels of electoral equality achieved, and the fact that the links between the more urban parish wards of Dale Abbey parish and the unparished parts of Kirk Hallam would be retained, we confirm our draft recommendations for Kirk Hallam ward as final.

Long Eaton (six wards)

43 Long Eaton town, in the south-east corner of the borough, is divided into six wards. One ward, Derby Road East, is currently over-represented, with the number of electors per councillor varying from the average by 18 per cent, while the other five wards are all currently under-represented. The number of electors per councillor is 3 per cent above the average in Derby Road West ward, 29 per cent above the average in Long Eaton Central ward, 1 per cent above the average in Nottingham Road ward, 11 per cent above the average in Sawley ward and 53 per cent above the average in Wilsthorpe ward.

44 During Stage One we received representations from the Borough Council, the Erewash Conservative Association and the Conservative members of the Council, all proposing identical schemes for six three-member wards in the town. Councillor Cresswell proposed an alternative warding scheme of five three-member wards and one two-member ward.

45 Under a 51-member council the town warrants 17 councillors, one fewer than proposed by the Borough Council. As part of our draft recommendations we therefore proposed modifications to the Borough Council's scheme in order to reflect this level of representation. We proposed that Nottingham Road and Sawley wards retain their current boundaries, resulting in electoral variances of 2 per cent and 9 per cent respectively (both equal to the borough average in 2002); realigning the boundary between Wilsthorpe and Derby Road West wards; realigning the boundary between Derby Road East and Derby Road West wards; reducing the number of councillors representing Derby Road East ward from three to two; and increasing the number of councillors representing Wilsthorpe and Long Eaton Central wards from two to three each. These proposals would result in the number of electors per councillor being 11 per cent above the average in Derby Road East ward (2 per cent above the average in 2002), 3 per cent above the average in Derby Road West ward (5 per cent above the average in 2002), 9 per cent below the average in Long Eaton Central ward (6 per cent below the average in 2002) and 1 per cent below the average in Wilsthorpe ward (3 per cent above the average in 2002).

46 During Stage Three the Borough Council expressed support for our draft proposals, while the Erewash Conservative Association opposed our draft recommendation to realign the boundary between Derby Road West and Wilsthorpe wards, arguing that the "Eaton Grange area has no community bonds with Wilsthorpe".

47 We have investigated retaining the Eaton Grange area in Derby Road West ward, but this would give an electoral variance of 19 per cent (9 per cent in 2002) in Derby Road West ward and 6 per cent (2 per cent in 2002) in Wilsthorpe ward, and we do not consider that this worsening of electoral equality can be justified. Under our draft recommendations the integrity of the town of Long Eaton would still be retained and we are therefore confirming our draft recommendations as final.

Sandiacre (two wards)

48 The number of electors per councillor in these two wards, situated to the north of Long Eaton, is currently 3 per cent above the average in Sandiacre

North ward (1 per cent below the average in 2002) and 6 per cent above the average in Sandiacre South ward (7 per cent above the average in 2002). Under the proposals for a 51-member council these variances would become 1 per cent and 4 per cent respectively (3 per cent and 5 per cent in 2002). As part of our draft recommendations we proposed no change to these wards.

49 We did not receive any proposals for change to these two wards during Stage Three, and given the level of electoral equality we confirm our draft recommendations as final.

The Rural Wards

50 The remainder of the borough comprises the more rural parishes to the north and west and the commuter villages of Breaston, Draycott and Ockbrook and Borrowash to the south. Under a 51-member council, this area as a whole merits 17 councillors.

Breadsall & Morley, Little Eaton and Stanley wards

51 These wards are situated to the north-west of the borough and are each represented by a single councillor. Little Eaton ward is currently under-represented by 25 per cent, Breadsall & Morley ward is over-represented by 39 per cent, while Stanley ward is slightly under-represented by 5 per cent.

52 During Stage One the Borough Council, the Erewash Conservative Association and the Conservative members of the Council all proposed that the wards of Little Eaton and Breadsall & Morley be combined in a new two-member ward, and that Stanley ward be retained as a single-member ward on its current boundaries. Our draft recommendations reflected these proposals, and would result in the number of electors per councillor being 9 per cent below the average in Little Eaton & Breadsall ward (11 per cent below in 2002) and 3 per cent above the average in Stanley ward (2 per cent in 2002). At this stage we considered combining all three wards into one three-member ward, but concluded that this ward would be disproportionately large.

53 During Stage Three the Erewash Conservative Association and the Borough Council supported our draft recommendations for these wards. We did

not receive any other submissions concerning the proposals for these wards, and we therefore confirm our draft recommendations for the wards of Breadsall & Morley, Little Eaton and Stanley as final.

Breaston, Dale Abbey, Draycott and West Hallam wards

54 The wards of Breaston and Dale Abbey are currently over-represented by 22 per cent and 27 per cent respectively, while the wards of Draycott and West Hallam are under-represented by 32 per cent and 19 per cent respectively.

55 During Stage One we received a number of different proposals regarding this area. The Borough Council submitted a scheme which would combine the Dale Abbey Village parish ward of Dale Abbey parish with the whole of the West Hallam parish in a three-member ward, which under a 52-member council would result in an electoral variance of 17 per cent (12 per cent by 2002). It also proposed combining the parishes of Stanton-by-Dale, Hopwell and Risley with Draycott to form a new two-member ward, and that Breaston ward retain its current boundaries, but be represented by two councillors, one less than at present. Under a 51-member council the number of electors per councillor in these two proposed wards would be 6 per cent and 14 per cent below the average (5 per cent and 13 per cent by 2002). We also received other submissions proposing to parish the larger wards and the creation of a four-member ward for the whole area.

56 At Stage One Dale Abbey Parish Council opposed the Borough Council's proposals for the parish. We therefore investigated a variety of other warding options, but due to the consequential effects of increased levels of electoral inequality in the surrounding wards we put forward the Borough Council's scheme for Breaston, Dale Abbey, Draycott and West Hallam wards as part of our draft recommendations.

57 At Stage Three the Borough Council supported our draft recommendations, and we received five submissions opposing this warding pattern. Councillor Sisson and Dale Abbey Parish Council argued that there is no affinity between Dale Abbey and West Hallam.

58 It should be noted, in response to concerns, expressed by respondents during Stage Three, that we are not proposing to alter the parish arrangements that currently include parts of Dale Abbey parish in the borough ward of Kirk Hallam. The Kirk Hallam Estate North and Kirk Hallam Estate South parish wards of Dale Abbey parish would continue to form part of the Kirk Hallam ward, while the Dale Abbey Village parish ward of Dale Abbey parish would continue to form part of a separate borough ward. Combining the two current Kirk Hallam wards into a single three-member ward as described earlier would retain the current links between Dale Abbey parish and the Kirk Hallam area.

59 We have considered the points of view opposing our draft recommendations, and have re-investigated alternative warding patterns for this area. Councillor Sisson argued that "Dale Abbey is a very rural area; West Hallam is very much a suburb of Ilkeston". We considered including Dale Abbey Village parish ward in the proposed Kirk Hallam borough ward, however, this is also a suburb of Ilkeston and is even more built up. As discussed in our draft recommendations, we consider that the electoral inequality of 19 per cent that would result in West Hallam if Dale Abbey were to be warded with Kirk Hallam, would be contrary to the objectives specified in our *Guidance*. We also considered that splitting the parished and unparished areas of Kirk Hallam into different borough wards would break existing ties in the town.

60 Having received no workable alternatives during Stage Three that would produce an equivalent level of electoral equality, we remain of the view that our draft recommendations for Dale Abbey offer the most appropriate balance between electoral equality and the statutory criteria, and therefore put them forward as final.

61 At Stage Three Draycott Parish Council argued that placing the parishes of Stanton-by-Dale and Risley in the same ward would be "unworkable", while Risley Parish Council argued that the proposed ward should be split into two wards so that "one councillor would come from Draycott and the other from one of the other communities". Breaston Parish Council expressed its disappointment at having its representation reduced. Erewash Conservative Association reiterated its preference for a four-member ward but stated that if

this was not acceptable, it regarded our draft recommendations as “the next best option”. As explained in our *Draft Recommendations on the Future Electoral Arrangements for Erewash in Derbyshire*, we would not seek to propose a four-member ward unless the circumstances were exceptional enough to warrant such distancing of electors and councillors. We are therefore confirming our draft recommendations for Draycott & Stanton-by-Dale ward as final.

62 We have reconsidered alternative configurations of parishes for this area, but as they would result in significantly higher levels of electoral equality we confirm our draft recommendations as final.

Ockbrook & Borrowash ward

63 The ward of Ockbrook & Borrowash is situated to the south-west of the borough and is currently represented by three councillors. The area is bisected by the A52, with Ockbrook situated to the north and Borrowash to the south (see Map A2 in Appendix A). The number of electors per councillor for this ward is currently 19 per cent above the average (14 per cent above in 2002).

64 During Stage One there was a consensus of opinion from all respondents that there should be no change to the boundaries or councillor representation of this ward. Under a 51-member council, retaining the current ward would result in an electoral variance of 17 per cent (12 per cent in 2002). Ockbrook & Borrowash Parish Council (previously Ockbrook Parish Council) put forward alternative parish warding arrangements.

65 During Stage Two we considered alternative warding patterns in an attempt to improve electoral equality, but we concluded that any other arrangements would not reflect community links in the area, requiring an arbitrary division of either town. We also proposed alternative parish warding arrangements as discussed later.

66 At Stage Three the Borough Council supported our draft proposals for this area, while Ockbrook & Borrowash Parish Council supported the proposals for the warding of Ockbrook and Borrowash parish for parish election purposes. We therefore confirm our draft recommendations for Ockbrook & Borrowash as final.

Electoral Cycle

67 In the initial stage of the review we did not receive any proposals for change to the Borough Council’s electoral cycle. In our draft recommendations report, therefore, we proposed that the present system of whole-council elections every four years in Erewash be retained. At Stage Three no comments were received to the contrary, and we confirm our draft recommendation as final.

Conclusions

68 Having carefully considered all the representations and evidence received in response to our consultation report, we have decided to endorse our draft recommendations in their entirety.

69 We conclude that, in Erewash:

- (a) there should be a decrease in council size from 52 to 51;
- (b) there should be 22 wards, three fewer than at present;
- (c) the boundaries of 18 of the existing wards should be modified;
- (d) whole-council elections should continue to be held every four years.

70 Figure 3 (opposite) shows the impact of our final recommendations on electoral equality, comparing them with the current arrangements, based on 1997 and 2002 electorate figures.

71 As Figure 3 shows, our recommendations would result in a reduction in the number of wards with an electoral variance of more than 10 per cent from 19 to five, with no wards varying by more than 20 per cent above the borough average. This level of electoral equality would improve marginally in 2002. We conclude that our recommendations would best meet the need for electoral equality, having regard to the statutory criteria.

Final Recommendation

Erewash Borough Council should comprise 51 councillors serving 22 wards, as detailed and named in Figures 1 and 4, and illustrated on Map 2 and the maps in Appendix A. The whole Council should continue to be elected together every four years.

Figure 3:
Comparison of Current and Recommended Electoral Arrangements

	1997 electorate		2002 forecast electorate	
	Current arrangements	Final recommendations	Current arrangements	Final recommendations
Number of councillors	52	51	52	51
Number of wards	25	22	25	22
Average number of electors per councillor	1,594	1,625	1,612	1,644
Number of wards with a variance more than 10 per cent from the average	19	5	17	4
Number of wards with a variance more than 20 per cent from the average	10	0	12	0

Parish Council Electoral Arrangements

⁷² In undertaking reviews of electoral arrangements we are required to comply as far as is reasonably practicable with the provisions set out in Schedule 11 to the 1972 Act. The Schedule provides that if a parish is to be divided between different borough wards, it must also be divided into parish wards, so that each parish ward lies wholly within a single ward of the borough. Accordingly, in our draft recommendations report we proposed changes to the warding arrangements for Ockbrook & Borrowwash parish, in light of proposals for alternative warding arrangements received from Ockbrook & Borrowwash Parish Council.

⁷³ We proposed the following: a new Ashbrook parish ward comprising that part of the parish south of the A52 and west of the Ock brook; a new Ockbrook parish ward comprising that part of the parish to the north of the A52 Borrowwash by-pass; and a new Prior's Barn parish ward comprising that part of the parish to the south of the A52 and east of the Ock brook. We received only one comment regarding this proposal during Stage Three, from Ockbrook & Borrowwash Parish Council which "fully endorse[d] the proposals contained in [our] review for the warding of Ockbrook and

Borrowwash Parish for Parish election purposes". We have therefore decided to confirm our draft recommendations as final.

Final Recommendation

Ockbrook & Borrowwash Parish Council should comprise 11 parish councillors, one fewer than at present, representing three wards: Ashbrook, represented by four parish councillors; Ockbrook, represented by three parish councillors; and Prior's Barn, represented by four parish councillors. These proposals are illustrated on Map A2 in Appendix A.

⁷⁴ In our draft recommendations report we proposed that there should be no change to the electoral cycle of parish councils in the borough, and are confirming this as final.

Final Recommendation

For parish councils, whole-council elections should continue to take place every four years, on the same cycle as that of the Borough Council.

Map 2:
The Commission's Final Recommendations for Erewash

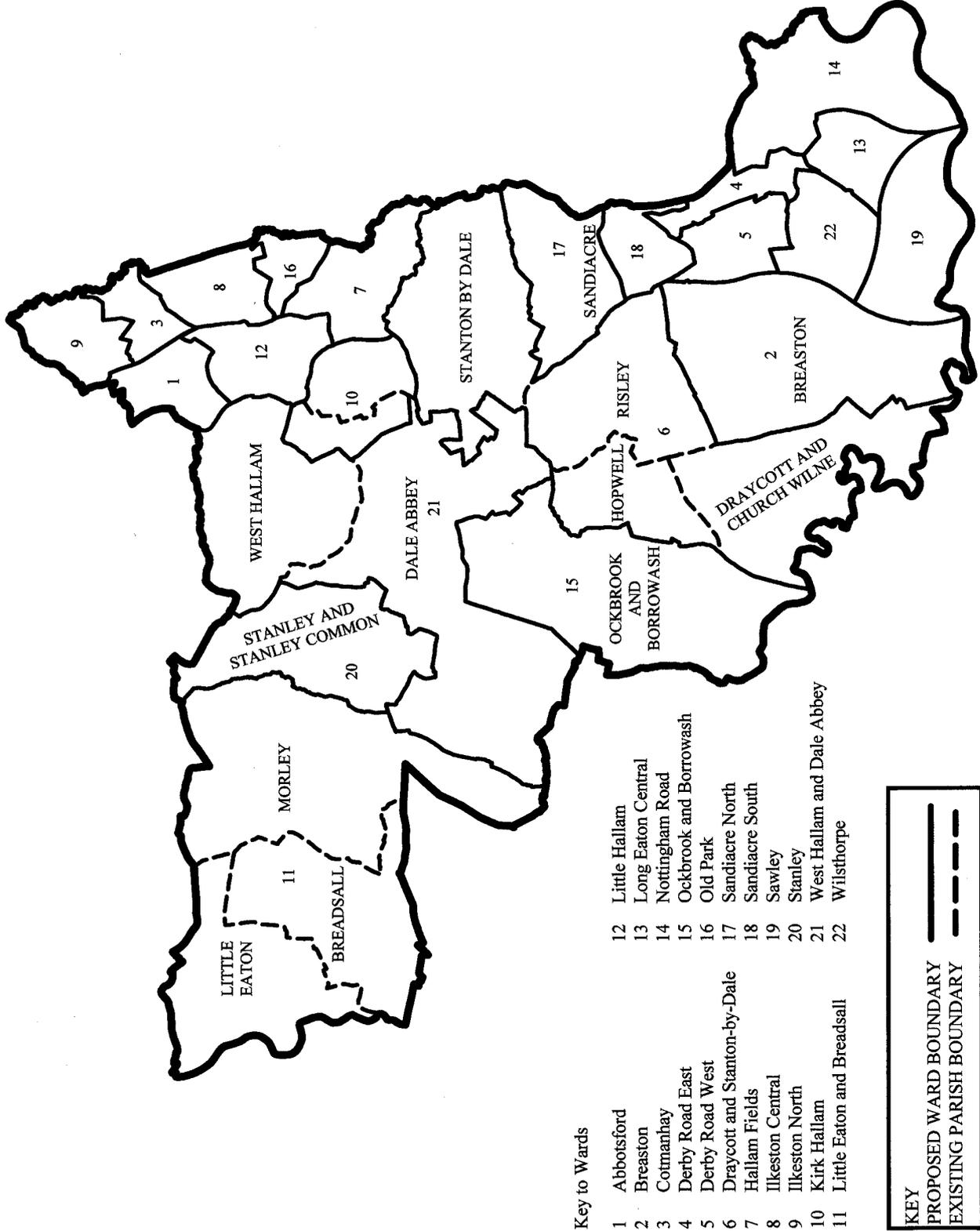


Figure 4:
The Commission's Final Recommendations for Erewash

Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (1997)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2002)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
1 Abbotsford (Ilkeston)	2	2,880	1,440	-11	3,533	1,767	7
2 Breaston	2	3,710	1,855	14	3,728	1,864	13
3 Cotmanhay (Ilkeston)	2	3,304	1,652	2	3,328	1,664	1
4 Derby Road East (Long Eaton)	2	3,631	1,816	12	3,339	1,670	2
5 Derby Road West (Long Eaton)	3	5,010	1,670	3	5,179	1,726	5
6 Draycott & Stanton-by-Dale	2	3,043	1,522	-6	3,118	1,559	-5
7 Hallam Fields (Ilkeston)	2	2,975	1,488	-8	3,129	1,565	-5
8 Ilkeston Central (Ilkeston)	2	3,508	1,754	8	3,382	1,691	3
9 Ilkeston North (Ilkeston)	2	3,343	1,672	3	3,307	1,654	1
10 Kirk Hallam	3	4,952	1,651	2	4,701	1,567	-5
11 Little Eaton & Breadsall	2	2,953	1,477	-9	2,917	1,459	-11
12 Little Hallam (Ilkeston)	2	3,000	1,500	-8	3,231	1,616	-2
13 Long Eaton Central (Long Eaton)	3	4,419	1,473	-9	4,617	1,539	-6
14 Nottingham Road (Long Eaton)	3	4,810	1,603	-1	4,917	1,639	0
15 Ockbrook & Borrowash	3	5,686	1,895	17	5,523	1,841	12

continued overleaf

Figure 4 (continued):
The Commission's Final Recommendations for Erewash

Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (1997)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2002)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
16 Old Park (Ilkeston)	2	3,192	1,596	-2	3,199	1,600	-3
17 Sandiacre North	2	3,282	1,641	1	3,188	1,594	-3
18 Sandiacre South	2	3,365	1,683	4	3,437	1,719	5
19 Sawley (Long Eaton)	3	5,327	1,776	9	4,955	1,652	0
20 Stanley	1	1,671	1,671	3	1,670	1,670	2
21 West Hallam & Dale Abbey	3	4,026	1,342	-17	4,332	1,444	-12
22 Wilsthorpe (Long Eaton)	3	4,812	1,604	-1	5,099	1,700	3
Totals	51	82,899	—	—	83,829	—	—
Averages	—	—	1,625	—	—	1,644	—

Source: Electorate figures are based on Erewash Borough Council's submission.

Note: The 'variance from average' column shows by how far, in percentage terms, the number of electors per councillor varies from the average for the borough. The minus symbol (-) denotes a lower than average number of electors. Figures have been rounded to the nearest whole number.

6. NEXT STEPS

⁷⁵ Having completed our review of electoral arrangements in Erewash and submitted our final recommendations to the Secretary of State, we have fulfilled our statutory obligation under the Local Government Act 1992.

⁷⁶ It now falls to the Secretary of State to decide whether to give effect to our recommendations, with or without modification, and to implement them by means of an order. Such an order will not be made earlier than six weeks from the date that our recommendations are submitted to the Secretary of State.

⁷⁷ All further correspondence concerning our recommendations and the matters discussed in this report should be addressed to:

The Secretary of State
Department of the Environment,
Transport and the Regions
Local Government Review
Eland House
Bressenden Place
London SW1E 5DU

APPENDIX A

Final Recommendations for Erewash: Detailed Mapping

The following maps illustrate the Commission's proposed ward boundaries for the Erewash area.

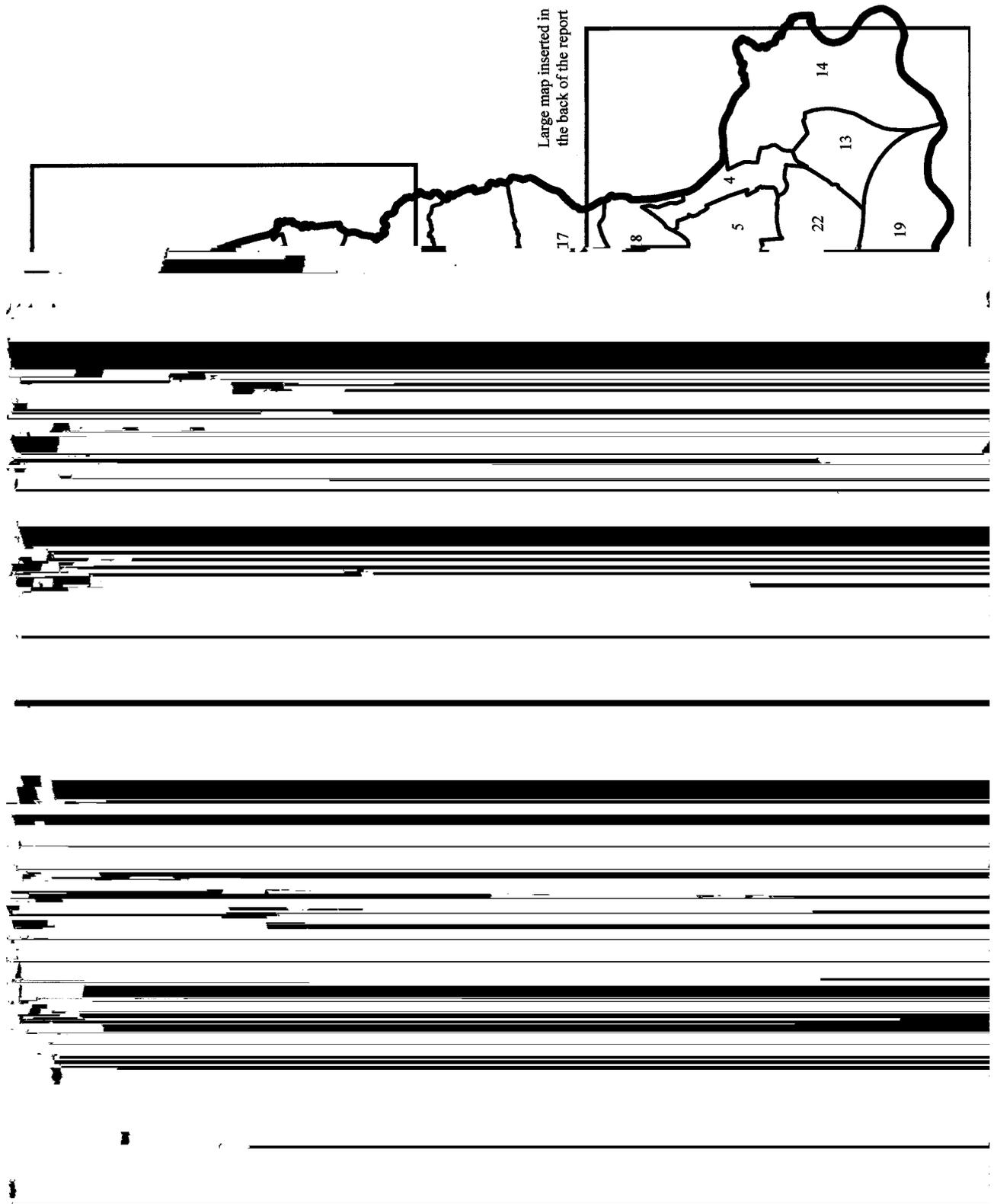
Map A1 illustrates, in outline form, the proposed ward boundaries within the borough and indicates the areas which are shown in more detail on Map A2 and the large maps inserted at the back of the report.

Map A2 illustrates the proposed parish warding for Ockbrook & Borrowash parish.

The **large maps** inserted in the back of the report illustrate the Commission's proposed warding arrangements for the unparished areas of Ilkeston and Long Eaton.

Map A1:
Final Recommendations for Erewash: Key Map

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*Map A2:
Proposed Parish Warding Arrangements for Ockbrook & Borrowash Parish*



