

LOCAL
GOVERNMENT
COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND

FINAL
RECOMMENDATIONS
ON THE FUTURE
ELECTORAL
ARRANGEMENTS FOR
KETTERING IN
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

*Report to the Secretary of State for
the Environment*

March 1997

LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND

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

Members of the Commission are:

Professor Malcolm Grant (Chairman)

Helena Shovelton (Deputy Chairman)

Peter Brokenshire

Professor Michael Clarke

Robin Gray

Bob Scruton

David Thomas

Adrian Stungo (Chief Executive)

© Crown Copyright 1997
Applications for reproduction should be made to:
Her Majesty's Stationery Office Copyright Unit

The mapping in this report is reproduced from OS mapping by The Local Government Commission for England with the permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office, © Crown Copyright. Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown Copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings. Licence Number: GD 03114G.

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>27</i>
APPENDICES	
A Final Recommendations for Kettering: Detailed Mapping	<i>29</i>
B Draft Recommendations for Kettering (October 1996)	<i>35</i>



Local Government Commission for England

25 March 1997

Dear Secretary of State

On 19 March 1996 the Commission began a review of the borough of Kettering under the Local Government Act 1992. It published its draft recommendations in October 1996 and undertook a nine-week period of consultation.

The Commission has now formulated its final recommendations in the light of the consultation and modified its initial warding proposals. This report sets out the Commission's final recommendations for changes to electoral arrangements in the area.

The Commission is recommending to you that Kettering should be served by 45 councillors representing 23 wards, and that some changes should be made to ward boundaries in order to improve electoral equality, having regard to the Commission's statutory criteria. It is recommended that the whole Council should continue to be elected every four years.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Malcolm Grant'.

PROFESSOR MALCOLM GRANT
Chairman

SUMMARY

The Commission began a review of Kettering on 19 March 1996. It published its draft recommendations for electoral arrangements on 31 October 1996, after which it undertook a nine-week period of consultation.

- **This report summarises the submissions received by the Commission during consultation on its draft recommendations, and offers its final recommendations to the Secretary of State.**

The Commission found that the existing electoral arrangements provide unequal representation of electors in Kettering because:

- **in 15 of the 22 wards, the number of electors represented by each councillor varies by more than 10 per cent from the average for the borough, and in six of these it varies by more than 20 per cent;**
- **by 2001, the number of electors per councillor is projected to vary by more than 10 per cent from the average in 14 of the wards, and in seven of these by more than 20 per cent.**

The Commission's final recommendations for electoral arrangements (Figure 1) are that:

- **Kettering Borough Council should be served by 45 councillors as at present,**
- **there should be 23 wards, rather than 22 as at present;**
- **the ward boundaries of 19 of the existing wards should be modified, while three wards should retain their existing boundaries;**
- **elections should continue to take place every four years, with the next elections taking place in 1999.**

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 13 of the 23 wards the number of electors per councillor would vary by no more than 10 per cent from the borough average.**
- **By 2001 the number of electors per councillor would vary by no more than 10 per cent from the average in 17 wards.**

Recommendations are also made for changes to town council electoral arrangements.

- **They provide for changes to the warding arrangements of Burton Latimer, Desborough and Rothwell town councils.**

All further correspondence on these recommendations and the matters discussed in this report should be addressed to the Secretary of State for the Environment, who will not make an Order implementing the Commission's recommendations before 5 May 1997.

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

	Ward name	Number of councillors	Constituent areas	Map reference
1	All Saints (Kettering town)	2	All Saints ward (part); Kingsley ward (part)	Large map
2	Avondale (Kettering town)	2	Avondale ward (part); All Saints ward (part)	Large map
3	Barton (Kettering town)	2	Barton ward (part); Latimer ward (part - proposed Burton Latimer parish ward of Barton)	Large map
4	Brambleside (Kettering town)	2	Kingsley ward (part); All Saints ward (part)	Large map
5	Buccleuch	1	Buccleuch ward (part - the parishes of Cranford, Grafton Underwood, Rushton, Warkton and Weekley)	Map 2
6	Latimer	2	Latimer ward (part - Burton Latimer parish ward of Latimer); Barton ward (part)	Maps 2 and A4
7	Loatland	2	Loatland ward (Desborough parish ward of Loatland); St Giles ward (part - Desborough parish ward of St Giles)	Maps 2 and A3
8	Millbrook (Kettering town)	2	Ise Valley ward (part)	Large map
9	Pipers Hill (Kettering town)	2	Pipers Hill ward (part); St Mary's ward (part)	Large map
10	Plessy	2	<i>Unchanged</i> (Burton Latimer parish ward of Plessy)	Map 2
11	Queen Eleanor	1	Queen Eleanor ward (Geddington parish); Buccleuch ward (part - Newton and Little Oakley parish)	Map 2
12	St Andrew's (Kettering town)	3	St Andrew's ward (part); St Peter's ward (part); Kingsley ward (part); All Saints ward (part)	Large map
13	St Giles	2	St Giles ward (part - Desborough parish ward of St Giles)	Maps 2 and A3
14	St Mary's (Kettering town)	3	St Mary's ward (part); St Peter's ward (part); Avondale ward (part); St Andrew's ward (part)	Large map

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

	Ward name	Number of councillors	Constituent areas	Map reference
15	St Michael's (Kettering town)	2	St Michael's ward (part)	Large map
16	St Peter's (Kettering town)	2	St Peter's ward (part); St Michael's ward (part)	Large map
17	Slade	2	<i>Unchanged</i> (the parishes of Broughton, Cransley, Harrington, Loddington, Orton, Pytchley and Thorpe Malsor)	Map 2
18	Spinney (Kettering town)	2	Ise Valley ward (part)	Large map
19	Tresham	2	Tresham ward (Rothwell parish ward of Tresham); Trinity ward (part - Rothwell parish ward of Trinity)	Maps 2 and A2
20	Trinity	2	Trinity ward (part - Rothwell parish ward of Trinity)	Maps 2 and A2
21	Warkton (Kettering town)	2	Warkton ward; Pipers Hill ward (part); St Mary's ward (part)	Large map
22	Welland	1	<i>Unchanged</i> (the parishes of Ashley, Brampton Ash, Braybrooke, Dingley, Stoke Albany, Sutton Bassett, Weston-by-Welland and Wilbarston)	Map 2
23	Wicksteed (Kettering town)	2	Wicksteed ward; St Michael's ward (part)	Large map

Note: Kettering town is unparished and comprises the 13 wards indicated.

1. INTRODUCTION

1 This report contains the Commission's final recommendations on the electoral arrangements for the borough of Kettering in Northamptonshire.

2 The Commission has now reviewed the seven districts in Northamptonshire as part of its programme of periodic electoral reviews of all principal local authority areas in England. This is the Commission's first review of the electoral arrangements for Kettering. The last such review was undertaken by the Commission's predecessor, the Local Government Boundary Commission (LGBC), which reported to the Secretary of State in October 1975 (Report No. 76). The electoral arrangements of Northamptonshire County Council were last reviewed in November 1980 (Report No. 403). It is intended that a review of the County Council's electoral arrangements will follow in due course.

3 In undertaking these reviews, the Commission is required to have regard to:

- the statutory criteria contained in section 13(5) of the Local Government Act 1992:
 - (a) to reflect the identities and interests of local communities; and
 - (b) to secure effective and convenient local government;
- the *Rules to be Observed in Considering Electoral Arrangements* contained in Schedule 11 to the Local Government Act 1972.

4 The Commission has also had regard to its own *Guidance and Procedural Advice for Local Authorities and Other Interested Parties* (published in March 1996 and supplemented in September 1996). This sets out its approach to the reviews.

5 The review of Kettering was in four stages (Figure 2).

6 Stage One commenced on 19 March 1996. The Commission wrote to Kettering Borough Council inviting it to make proposals for its future electoral arrangements. Copies of that letter were sent to Northamptonshire County Council, Northamptonshire Police Authority, the local authority associations, parish and town councils in the area, Members of Parliament and Members of the European Parliament with constituency interests in the borough, and the headquarters of the main political parties. The Commission also placed a notice in the local press, issued a press release and invited the Borough Council itself to publicise the review.

7 At Stage Two the Commission considered all the representations received during Stage One and formulated its draft recommendations.

8 Stage Three began on 31 October 1996 with the publication of the Commission's report, *Draft Recommendations on the Future Electoral Arrangements for Kettering in Northamptonshire*. Copies were sent to all those to whom the Commission wrote at the start of the review as well as to those who had written to the Commission during Stage One, inviting comments on the Commission's preliminary conclusions. Again, the Commission placed a notice in the local press, issued a press release and invited the Borough Council to publicise the report more widely.

9 Finally, during Stage Four the Commission reconsidered its draft recommendations in the light of the Stage Three consultation.

*Figure 2:
Stages of the Review*

Stage	Description
One	Submission of proposals to the Commission
Two	The Commission's analysis and deliberation
Three	Publication of draft recommendations and consultation
Four	Final deliberation and report to the Secretary of State for the Environment

2. CURRENT ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS

10 The borough of Kettering covers an area of more than 23,300 hectares in the north-east of Northamptonshire. The town of Kettering is the main urban centre of the borough and is located between the rivers Ise and Slade, the confluence of which is south of the town. The other main settlements of Desborough, Rothwell and Burton Latimer are located in the borough's substantial rural fringe. The remainder of the borough comprises villages and hamlets scattered throughout the rural area. The borough is parished except in Kettering town. The area has become a focus for investment and development due to its location and its transportation links. The borough is served by 25 parish and town councils, covering all areas except Kettering town.

11 The Borough Council has 45 councillors elected from 22 wards (Map 1 and Figure 3). Four wards are each represented by three councillors, 15 wards by two councillors each and three wards by a single councillor per ward. The whole Council is elected every four years, with the next elections due to take place in May 1999. The current electorate of the borough (February 1996) is 60,843 and each councillor represents an average of 1,352 electors. The Borough Council forecasts that the electorate will increase to 64,986 by the year 2001, which would increase the average number of electors per councillor to 1,444 (Figure 3).

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

13 Since the last electoral review of Kettering was completed in 1975, changes in population and electorate have not been evenly spread across the borough. As a result, the number of electors per councillor varies significantly from the average in many wards. In 15 of the 22 wards, the variation

is more than 10 per cent from the average and in six wards more than 20 per cent. The most significant variances are in Ise Valley (50 per cent) and Welland (29 per cent) both of which are relatively under-represented. In Ise Valley one councillor represents on average 2,033 electors, compared to the borough average of 1,352.

Map 1:
Existing Wards in Kettering

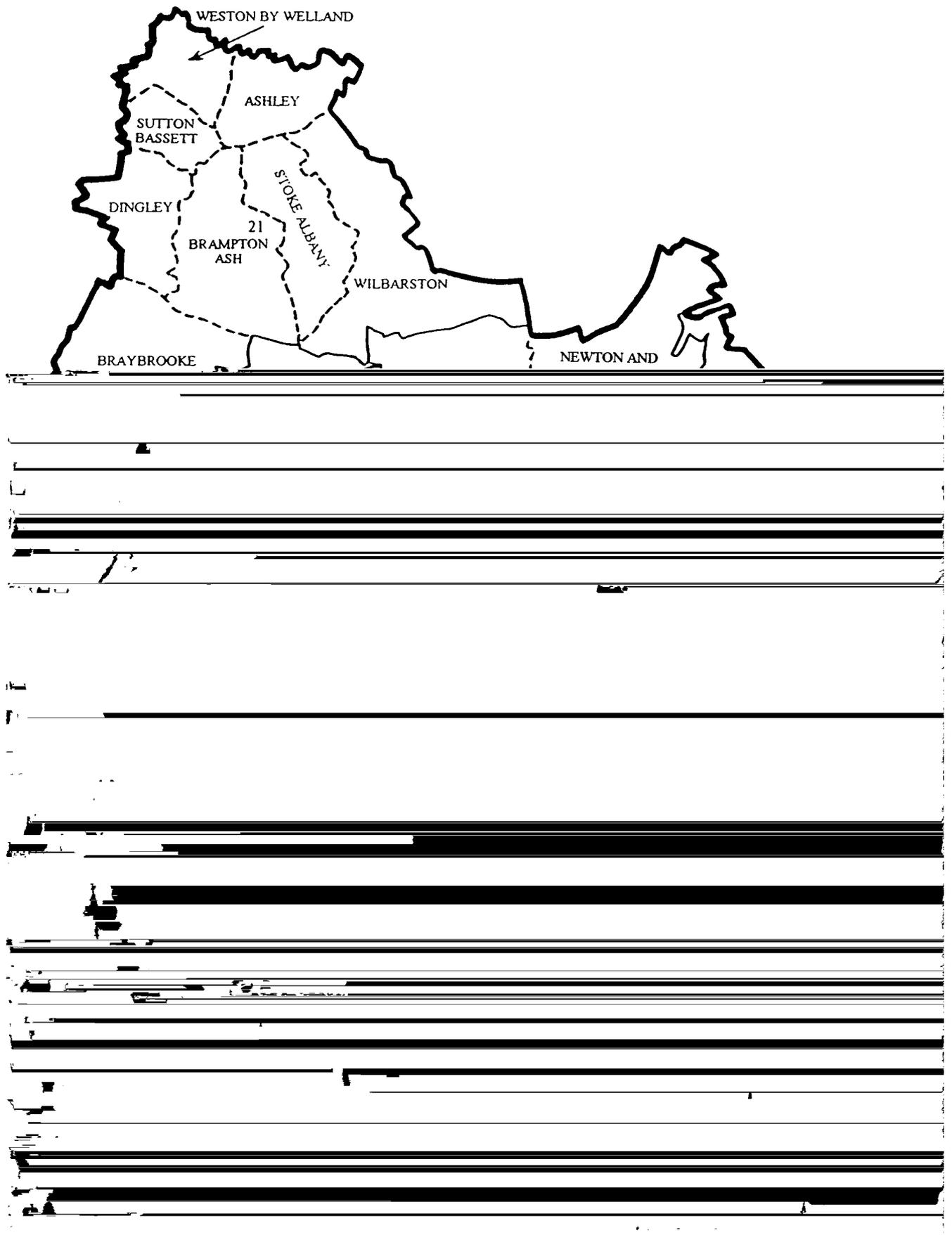


Figure 3:
Existing Electoral Arrangements

Ward name	1996				2001 (Projected)		
	Number of councillors	Electorate	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
1 All Saints (Kettering town)	2	2,614	1,307	-3	2,666	1,333	-8
2 Avondale (Kettering town)	3	3,287	1,096	-19	3,579	1,193	-17
3 Barton (Kettering town)	2	2,733	1,367	1	2,733	1,367	-5
4 Buccleuch	1	1,256	1,256	-7	1,360	1,360	-6
5 Ise Valley (Kettering town)	3	6,099	2,033	50	6,365	2,122	47
6 Kingsley (Kettering town)	2	3,404	1,702	26	4,239	2,120	47
7 Latimer	2	3,028	1,514	12	3,028	1,514	5
8 Loatland	2	2,799	1,400	4	2,900	1,450	0
9 Pipers Hill (Kettering town)	2	2,337	1,169	-14	2,382	1,191	-18
10 Plessy	2	2,376	1,188	-12	2,464	1,232	-15
11 Queen Eleanor	1	1,147	1,147	-15	1,257	1,257	-13
12 St Andrew's (Kettering town)	3	3,603	1,201	-11	3,675	1,225	-15
13 St Giles	2	3,199	1,600	18	3,329	1,665	15
14 St Mary's (Kettering town)	3	3,205	1,068	-21	3,335	1,112	-23
15 St Michael's (Kettering town)	2	2,670	1,335	-1	2,702	1,351	-6
16 St Peter's (Kettering town)	2	2,521	1,261	-7	3,542	1,771	23
17 Slade	2	2,797	1,399	3	2,964	1,482	3
18 Tresham	2	2,019	1,010	-25	2,019	1,010	-30

continued overleaf

Figure 3 (continued):
Existing Electoral Arrangements

Ward name	1996				2001 (Projected)		
	Number of councillors	Electorate	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
19 Trinity	2	3,318	1,659	23	3,582	1,791	24
20 Warkton (Kettering town)	2	2,312	1,156	-15	2,312	1,156	-20
21 Welland	1	1,744	1,744	29	1,935	1,935	34
22 Wicksteed (Kettering town)	2	2,375	1,188	-12	2,618	1,309	-9
Totals	45	60,843	—	—	64,986	—	—
Averages	—	—	1,352	—	—	1,444	—

Source: Electorate figures are based on Kettering Borough Council's Stage One 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 1996, electors in Tresham ward are relatively over-represented by 25 per cent, while electors in Ise Valley ward are relatively under-represented by 50 per cent. Figures have been rounded to the nearest whole number.

3. DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS

14 During Stage One the Commission received a submission from Kettering Borough Council on the electoral arrangements in the borough. It also received seven submissions from parish and town councils, one from the Conservative Group on the Borough Council and one from a resident of Loatland ward. In the light of these representations, the Commission formulated its preliminary conclusions which were set out in its report, *Draft Recommendations on the Future Electoral Arrangements for Kettering in Northamptonshire*. The Commission proposed that Kettering should be served by 45 councillors representing 22 wards. It also proposed that:

- (a) in Kettering town there should be modifications to the boundaries of the wards of All Saints, Avondale, Pipers Hill, St Andrew's, St Mary's, St Michael's, St Peter's, Warkton and Wicksteed. Kingsley ward should be abolished and part of it incorporated in a new Brambleside ward. Ise Valley should be replaced by two new wards, Millbrook and Spinney. Barton ward should remain unchanged;
- (b) in Burton Latimer the boundary between the borough and parish wards of Latimer and Plessy should be re-aligned and a parish ward should be created for that part of Latimer ward which lies to the north of the A14 bypass;
- (c) in Rothwell the boundary between the borough and parish wards of Tresham and Trinity should be re-aligned;
- (d) in Desborough the St Giles ward should be merged with part of Buccleuch ward to form a new ward of 'Buccleuch and St Giles', while there should be no change to Loatland ward;
- (e) in the rural areas the existing Queen Eleanor ward should be enlarged to include the parish of Newton and Little Oakley from Buccleuch ward. No changes were proposed to the wards of Slade and Welland.

15 The Commission's proposals would have resulted in significant improvements in electoral equality, with the number of electors per councillor in 19 of the 22 wards varying by no more than 10 per cent from the borough average. By 2001 the number of electors per councillor was projected to vary by no more than 10 per cent from the average in all but two wards.

16 The Commission's draft recommendations are summarised at Appendix B.

Draft Recommendation

Kettering Borough Council should comprise 45 councillors serving 22 wards. The whole Council should be elected every four years, as at present.

4. RESPONSES TO CONSULTATION

17 During the consultation on the Commission's draft recommendations report, 38 submissions were received. A list of all respondents is available on request from the Commission.

Kettering Borough Council

18 The Borough Council acknowledged the need for a review of electoral arrangements. It also acknowledged that the balance to be struck between the statutory criteria and good electoral equality is a matter of judgement. It endorsed the Commission's proposal that a council of 45 members, and a system of four-yearly whole-council elections, remained appropriate. However, it argued that elements of the draft recommendations sought electoral equality at the expense of the statutory criteria. In the light of the draft recommendations, the Council therefore re-examined its Stage One proposals and, in consultation with the parish and town councils in the borough and others, put forward revised proposals to the Commission. It stated that its proposals were endorsed by full Council without dissent.

19 The Council proposed detailed changes to electoral arrangements in the built-up areas of Kettering town, Burton Latimer, Rothwell and Desborough (where it opposed the proposal to merge the St Giles ward with the rural ward of Buccleuch). It welcomed the draft recommendations for the rural wards of Queen Eleanor and Welland.

20 A further key issue for the Borough Council was that the boundaries of some parishes have become out-dated following the construction of the A14 and A43 trunk roads around Kettering town which have broken previous local ties. With this in mind, the Council had argued at Stage One that using these roads as borough ward boundaries would mean that borough and parish boundaries - such as those of Burton Latimer and Rothwell town councils, and the parishes of Rushton (in Buccleuch ward) and Cransley, Broughton and Pytchley (in Slade ward) - would no longer be coterminous. It had therefore expressed its disappointment that the Secretary of State had not directed the Commission to conduct a concurrent parish review to correct these anomalies. In the

absence of such a review, it had urged the Commission to ward the affected parish and town council areas so facilitating borough wards which would reflect the new community realities. At Stage Three the Council reiterated its preference for a concurrent borough electoral review and parish review, and in the absence of such a review, for the establishment of parish and town wards to provide borough boundaries which follow the main roads.

Parish and Town Councils

21 The Commission received representations from seven parish councils and two town councils. Rushton Parish Council opposed the proposed merger of Buccleuch and St Giles wards, as did the parish councils of Cranford, Warkton and Weekley. Braybrooke and Weston-by-Welland parish councils supported the draft recommendation for Welland ward. Cransley Parish Council supported the Borough Council's proposal that the boundary of Cransley parish, in Slade ward, with Kettering town, be re-aligned to follow the A14 road. Rothwell Town Council opposed the Commission's proposed new boundary between the borough and parish wards of Tresham and Trinity and put forward an alternative boundary. Burton Latimer Town Council expressed support for the Borough Council's proposal that the southern boundary of Barton ward be re-aligned to follow the A14, with no change to Latimer or Plessey wards.

Other Representations

22 Twelve local residents supported the Borough Council's proposal that the boundary between Barton and Latimer wards be re-aligned to follow the A14. This was also supported by a local business and by Councillor Meads, the borough councillor for Latimer ward. Six local residents opposed the Commission's proposal that the wards of Buccleuch and St Giles be merged, as did the Church Council of the Anglican and Methodist Church of St Giles (Desborough), Councillor Tod (a member for St Giles ward) and Councillor Hiscock (a parish councillor for Grafton Underwood). The Commission also received a submission from a local resident in support of the merger.

23 The Commission received four further submissions during Stage Three, two supporting the Commission's proposal for the Ise Valley ward and two opposing.

5. ANALYSIS AND FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS

24 As indicated previously, the Commission's prime objective in considering the most appropriate electoral arrangements for Kettering was to achieve electoral equality, having regard to the statutory criteria and to 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".

25 However, the Commission's function is not merely arithmetical, for three reasons. First, its 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, it must have regard to the desirability of fixing identifiable boundaries, and to maintaining local ties which might otherwise be broken. Third, the Commission has had to consider the desirability of servicing effective and convenient local government, and reflecting the interests and identities of local communities.

26 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. In conducting its electoral reviews, the Commission's predecessor, the LGBC, considered that variations from the average number of electors per councillor for an authority as a whole should be kept to the absolute minimum: a variation of up to plus or minus 10 per cent in a particular ward may be regarded as being "acceptable", but variations in excess of plus or minus 20 per cent were generally accepted only in very exceptional circumstances.

27 The Commission's view is that the LGBC's approach to this issue had merit insofar as it combined a clearly defined tolerance threshold with the degree of flexibility necessary to achieve reasonable levels of electoral equality across a local authority's area. Accordingly, the Commission has decided to adopt this approach for the purposes of its reviews.

28 In its March 1996 *Guidance*, the Commission expressed the view that "proposals for changes in electoral arrangements should therefore be based on variations in each ward of no more than plus or minus 10 per cent from the average councillor:elector ratio for the authority, having regard to five-year forecasts of changes in electorates. Imbalances in excess of plus or minus 20 per cent may be acceptable, but only in highly exceptional circumstances ... and will have to be justified in full". However, as the Commission emphasised in its September 1996 supplement to the *Guidance*: "While the Commission accepts that absolute equality of representation is likely to be unattainable, it considers that, if electoral imbalances are to be kept to a minimum, such equality should be the starting point in any electoral review".

Electorate Projections

29 At Stage One of the review the Borough Council submitted electorate forecasts for the year 2001, projecting an increase in the electorate of 6 per cent over the five-year period from 60,834 to 64,986. At Stage Three the Borough Council provided amended electorate projections for its proposed scheme of 64,473. 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. Reasonable estimates have been made of the changes in electorate that will arise. Advice from the Borough Council on the likely effect on electorates of ward boundary changes has been obtained. The Commission accepts that this is an inexact science and, having given consideration to projected electorates, is content that they represent the best estimates that can reasonably be made at this time. However, the amendments made by the Council to its projections have led to minor variations in the data in Figures 3, 4, 5 and B2.

Council Size

30 The Commission indicated in its March 1996 *Guidance* that it would normally expect the number

of councillors serving a district or borough council to be in the range of 30 to 60.

31 Kettering Borough Council is at present served by 45 councillors, and at Stage One the Council proposed no change to council size. In its draft recommendations report the Commission considered the size and distribution of the electorate, the geography and other characteristics of the area, together with the representations received. The Commission concluded that the statutory criteria and the achievement of electoral equality would best be served by maintaining a council of 45 members. The Commission received support for this council size from the Borough Council at Stage Three and has not received evidence to persuade it to move away from its view. It therefore confirms its draft recommendations as final.

The Background to the Commission's Recommendations

32 Kettering town currently comprises 12 wards - All Saints, Avondale, Barton, Ise Valley, Kingsley, Pipers Hill, St Andrew's, St Mary's, St Michael's, St Peter's, Warkton and Wicksteed. At Stage One the Borough Council proposed boundary changes to 11 of the 12 existing wards in the town.

33 Currently, the number of electors per councillor varies by more than 10 per cent from the borough average in eight of the 12 wards (Avondale, Ise Valley, Kingsley, Pipers Hill, St Andrew's, St Mary's, Warkton and Wicksteed). Three of the eight (Ise Valley, Kingsley and St Mary's) vary by more than 20 per cent from the average, and the worst, Ise Valley, varies by 50 per cent. All Saints, Barton, St Michael's and St Peter's wards all vary by less than 10 per cent from the average. The search for improved electoral equality in Kettering town is hindered by several factors.

34 The geography and physical pattern of development in the south of the town does not facilitate the modification of boundaries between wards such as Barton, Ise Valley, Pipers Hill and Wicksteed. For example, there is open space between Ise Valley and Barton, Barton and Wicksteed, Wicksteed and Pipers Hill, and Pipers Hill and Ise Valley. In addition, this particular configuration of wards is split east-west by the River Ise and north-south by the A6 trunk road.

35 In the north of the town a different problem is posed by the wards of Kingsley, All Saints, Avondale and St Andrew's. These wards are closely

connected and any modification to the boundary of one will have an effect on electoral equality in the others. Any such changes would also affect St Mary's ward, which lies to the south of St Andrew's and Avondale wards, and Warkton ward which borders St Mary's and Avondale wards to the east.

36 A further issue which must be considered when reviewing the electoral arrangements of Kettering town, is the town's external boundary. With the construction of the A43 Kettering Northern Bypass and the A14 Kettering Southern By-pass, the boundary between the wards of Kingsley, All Saints, St Peter's, Wicksteed and Barton, and the parishes of Rushton, Rothwell, Thorpe Malsor, Cransley, Broughton, Pytchley and Burton Latimer, may no longer be appropriate. The parishes at present extend inside the new roads into what is perceived to be the Kettering town area, whereas it has been argued that the roads themselves would now provide the most appropriate boundary. The Borough Council and the affected parish and town councils generally remain of the view that the external boundary of Kettering town should be re-aligned to follow the A14 and A43 which the Borough Council says "have effectively broken any local ties on either side of them which may have existed prior to their construction".

37 The Borough Council's Stage One submission accepted that there was a need to undertake an electoral review because of the electoral imbalances in the borough and what it considered to be the inappropriateness of the existing boundaries of some wards. The Council proposed the modification of boundaries of several wards which comprise part of the town's external boundary: Avondale, Kingsley, St Peter's, Wicksteed and Barton wards, so that they follow the trunk roads which run to the north, west and south of the town. However, if coterminous parish ward and borough ward boundaries are to be maintained, all of the proposed amendments to the external boundaries of Kettering town would require adjustments to parish boundaries.

38 The Commission is unable to propose modifications to external parish boundaries as part of a periodic electoral review. The Borough Council therefore proposed that, in order to retain coterminous town ward and parish boundaries, the areas of the parishes which are now on the 'town' side of the roads, should become parish wards. However, the affected areas are unpopulated, except the area within Burton Latimer parish, and the Commission is unwilling to recommend parish

wards in such circumstances: under the terms of Schedule 11 to the Local Government Act 1972, section 4(2), the Commission is required to have regard to the following considerations when deciding whether to recommend that any parish is to be divided into parish wards:

- (a) whether the number or distribution of the local government electors for the parish or community is such as to make a single election of parish councillors impracticable or inconvenient; and
- (b) whether it is desirable that any area or areas of the parish should be separately represented on the parish council.

39 It would therefore be inappropriate for the Commission to recommend the creation of parish wards, with councillors to represent them, for areas which do not contain any electors. The Commission, however, has put forward a proposal to ward the area in Burton Latimer parish north of the A14 Southern By-pass (detailed below) in which some electors reside.

Electoral Arrangements

40 The Commission notes the improved electoral equality achieved in the Borough Council's Stage Three submission, particularly in Kettering town. It welcomes the further evidence which has been provided by the Borough Council and others about the impact of alternative electoral proposals on local community identities and interests and on effective and convenient local government. In the light of this, it has modified its draft recommendations and recommends to the Secretary of State much of the Council's Stage Three proposals.

41 However, the Commission is still concerned at the level of electoral inequality which would persist in some wards, particularly in Desborough and Rothwell. The Borough Council's Stage Three proposals would initially result in 11 of the borough's 23 wards having an electoral variance of more than 10 per cent from the average, and three wards over 20 per cent. Although this is an improved level of electoral equality compared with the Council's Stage One proposals (14 wards and five wards respectively), the Commission proposes relatively minor amendments in Desborough, Rothwell, the Ise Valley area and the wards of All Saints and St Andrew's in Kettering town. The Commission has also been unable to propose the realignment of most of the parish and borough

ward boundaries to the north, south and west of Kettering town. Its final recommendations are illustrated in the maps at Appendix A, including the large map inserted at the back of the report. The following areas, based on existing wards, are considered in turn:

- (a) Kettering town (12 wards);
- (b) Burton Latimer (two wards);
- (c) Rothwell (two wards);
- (d) Desborough (two wards);
- (e) the rural areas (four wards).

Kettering town

42 At Stage One the Council proposed adjustments to the boundaries of All Saints, Avondale, Barton, Pipers Hill, St Andrew's, St Mary's, St Michael's, St Peter's and Wicksteed, that Kingsley ward be abolished, that the three-member Ise Valley ward be replaced by the two-member wards of Millbrook and Spinney, and that a new Brambleside ward be created. Only Warkton ward was to retain its existing boundaries. Under the Council's proposals, the number of electors per councillor would vary by more than 10 per cent from the borough average in eight of the 13 wards in the town (in seven wards by 2001).

43 The Commission was concerned about such a degree of electoral inequality. It therefore prepared draft recommendations which sought to improve electoral equality, while building on the Council's proposals. The Commission adopted the Council's proposals for Brambleside and Spinney wards, but proposed a different western boundary for St Peter's ward (where the Council had proposed the creation of parish wards with no electors), and proposed alternative warding arrangements for the remaining 10 town wards. Under the Commission's proposals, the number of electors per councillor in All Saints ward would be 2 per cent below the borough average (24 per cent under the Borough Council's scheme), 1 per cent in Avondale (7 per cent), 1 per cent in Barton (19 per cent), 7 per cent in Millbrook (20 per cent), 2 per cent in Pipers Hill (6 per cent), 5 per cent in St Andrew's (6 per cent), 2 per cent in St Mary's (16 per cent), 1 per cent in St Michael's (2 per cent), 8 per cent in Warkton (15 per cent) and 3 per cent in Wicksteed (12 per cent). Thus, the Commission's draft recommendations would improve electoral equality in each of the 10 wards compared with the proposals put forward by the Borough Council.

44 At Stage Three the Borough Council acknowledged that the Commission “has a difficult task in preparing recommendations which meet the statutory criteria”. However, the Council considered that the Commission’s draft recommendations in several instances did not adequately reflect community identity or secure effective and convenient local government. The Council was particularly concerned about the draft recommendations for Ise Valley, Barton, Burton Latimer, Rothwell town and Desborough town, and expressed its disappointment that the Commission “has not agreed to establish new town and parish council wards in order to facilitate borough ward boundaries”. The Council said that it had “considered all the options for ward boundaries afresh” and “taken careful note of the Commission’s analysis and sought to reduce electoral inequalities as much as possible, compatible with the need to meet the other statutory criteria”. Having “fully considered the draft recommendations and re-examined its own initial (Stage One) proposals in consultation with the town and parish councils of the borough and local people”, the Borough Council’s Stage Three submission presented revised proposals for nine of the Kettering town wards which it had proposed at Stage One.

Kingsley, All Saints, St Andrew’s and Avondale wards

45 As stated previously, because of the pattern of settlement in the north of the town, changes to one ward would impact upon neighbouring wards. In line with the Borough Council’s Stage One submission, the Commission proposed the abolition of the existing Kingsley ward in the north of the town and the establishment of a new Brambleside ward, comprising parts of the existing Kingsley and All Saints wards. At Stage Three the Borough Council revised its initial proposal for Brambleside ward which the Commission has decided to put forward as its final recommendation. The average number of electors per councillor would be 3 per cent below the borough average (8 per cent above in 2001).

46 The Commission consulted on a revised All Saints ward which built on the Borough Council’s Stage One scheme. At Stage Three the Borough Council stated that it believed that the Commission’s draft recommendation for All Saints ward did not reflect community identity and interests in this area. It proposed an amendment to

its Stage One scheme, with the area around Dyson Drive being transferred from All Saints ward to St Andrew’s ward. The number of electors per councillor for the Borough Council’s revised All Saints ward would vary by 5 per cent from the average both now and in 2001.

47 The Commission recognises the improved electoral equality which the Borough Council’s revised scheme would produce in this area, but proposes one minor modification in order to arrive at a more easily identifiable boundary. The southern boundary of All Saints ward with St Andrew’s ward should run west off Bath Road to the rear of the buildings on the north side of Wood Street, as far as Park Avenue, where it would go down the middle of Park Avenue, south along the centre of Wilson Terrace and west to the rear of the properties on the north side of the western end of Wood Street until it rejoins the existing boundary at Rockingham Road. The number of electors per councillor would be 4 per cent above the borough average both now and in 2001. The Commission is satisfied that this proposal meets the statutory criteria, and therefore puts it forward as its final recommendation for All Saints ward.

48 At Stage One the Borough Council described St Andrew’s ward as “the most densely populated ward anywhere in Northamptonshire”, with an electorate of more than 3,600 in a relatively small area. The Commission’s draft recommendation differed slightly from the Borough Council’s Stage One proposal for this ward. In the interests of better electoral equality, the Commission proposed to retain the existing eastern and southern boundaries of the ward, although it adopted the Council’s proposed boundaries with St Peter’s and All Saints wards to the north and west. The revised St Andrew’s ward would continue to be served by three councillors and the average number of electors per councillor would be 5 per cent below the borough average (9 per cent in 2001).

49 At Stage Three the Council noted that the draft recommendation drew heavily on its proposals for St Andrew’s ward. The only changes which the Council proposed were that the Dyson Drive area in the west of the proposed All Saints ward be transferred from All Saints to St Andrew’s ward, and that in the south of St Andrew’s ward, Martha Wallis Court, the Carey Baptist Mission House, Upper Street and Tanners Lane should transfer to St Mary’s ward. The number of electors per councillor would be 2 per cent below the borough average (6 per cent in 2001). The Commission is

satisfied that this proposal meets the statutory criteria and puts forward the amended St Andrew's ward as part of its final recommendations.

50 At Stage One the Council proposed that the south-west boundary of Avondale ward be modified to run along the middle of Lancaster Road and Clarence Road, with the area to the south-west of this boundary being transferred to St Andrew's ward. The Council also proposed that the revised Avondale ward be served by two councillors and not three as at present. The resulting number of electors per councillor would be 7 per cent above the borough average (10 per cent in 2001). However, as its draft recommendation, the Commission proposed that the western boundary of Avondale ward be amended to include the area bounded by Scott Road and Bath Road, then follow the existing boundary of Masefield Road, going southwards to the west of Park Road, an area currently in All Saints ward. The average number of electors for each of the three councillors in the revised Avondale ward would be 1 per cent below the borough average both now and in 2001.

51 At Stage Three the Council reiterated its Stage One proposal for a reduction in the electorate and representation in this ward. It proposed that Avondale should be a two-member ward and that its southern boundary should run from Stamford Road to Bath Road, via Lancaster Road and Edinburgh Road, with the area to the south of this boundary being transferred to St Andrew's ward. The Council also proposed extending the western boundary of the Avondale ward to follow Bath Road and incorporate all the properties in Scott Road, Byron Road and North Park Drive, currently in All Saints ward. This proposal would affect a smaller area than that proposed by the Commission. The number of electors per councillor would be 7 per cent above the borough average both now and in 2001. The Commission is satisfied that these arrangements for Avondale would contribute to a scheme which would provide reasonable electoral equality across the borough and would reflect the statutory criteria. It therefore puts forward the proposal as its final recommendation.

Warkton and St Mary's wards

52 At Stage One the Council proposed no change for Warkton ward, so that the number of electors represented by each of the two councillors would

remain at 15 per cent below the borough average (20 per cent in 2001). The Commission, however, proposed that the southern part of Warkton ward, comprising polling district LP, should be incorporated into St Mary's ward. The number of electors represented by a single councillor for the revised Warkton ward would be 8 per cent above the average for the borough (1 per cent in 2001).

53 At Stage Three the Borough Council opposed the draft recommendation for Warkton ward and proposed instead that the ward be enlarged to the south and west to include the properties in the area bound by Elm Road, St Mary's Road and Windmill Avenue in St Mary's ward, on the grounds that the affected electors are "closer in terms of community identity and interests to those currently in Warkton ward". The Borough Council also proposed that the boundary of Warkton be extended southward to incorporate the Henry Gotch Schools. The boundary would run along the footpath at the southern end of the schools and eastwards until it joins the western boundary of the proposed Millbrook ward. Under these revised proposals, the number of electors per councillor for Warkton ward, which would retain two councillors, would be 5 per cent below the borough average (9 per cent in 2001). The Commission concludes that this proposal would better reflect local identities and puts it forward as its final recommendation.

54 The draft recommendation for St Mary's ward would provide for an average number of electors per councillor of 2 per cent below the borough average (5 per cent in 2001). However, it differed markedly from the Borough Council's Stage One proposal. At Stage Three the Council revised its proposal. While it reiterated its suggestion that the polling district LD be transferred from St Peter's ward to St Mary's ward with which it has "an identifiable link", it also proposed the transfer of Martha Wallis Court, the Carey Baptist Mission House, Upper Street and Tanners Lane, from St Andrew's ward to St Mary's ward, and the realignment of the boundary in the south-east of St Mary's ward to continue along St Mary's Road until it joins the existing boundary at Windmill Avenue. The Commission is satisfied that these proposals would reflect the statutory criteria and puts them forward as its final recommendation. The number of electors per councillor would be 4 per cent below the average (5 per cent in 2001).

Ise Valley ward

55 The number of electors represented by each of the three councillors for Ise Valley ward is currently 50 per cent above the borough average (47 per cent in 2001). At Stage One the Borough Council proposed that the ward be divided into two new wards, Millbrook and Spinney, each represented by two councillors.

56 While the Commission adopted the Council's proposed boundary between the two wards as its draft recommendation, it remained concerned about the level of electoral inequality which would result. In Millbrook, the western ward, the number of electors per councillor would be 20 per cent above the borough average (17 per cent in 2001), while in Spinney, the eastern ward, the number of electors per councillor would be 6 per cent above the borough average (3 per cent in 2001). In order to secure better electoral equality, the Commission proposed that a number of roads in the south-west of Millbrook ward, to the west of St John's Road as far north as Oban Close, be included in Pipers Hill ward. Under the Commission's draft recommendations, the average number of electors represented by each of the two councillors in Millbrook ward would be 7 per cent above the borough average (5 per cent in 2001).

57 At Stage Three the Borough Council opposed the transfer of the area around Oban Close to Pipers Hill ward on grounds of community identity. It stated that the sense of community in the Ise Valley area arises from its "geographical separation from the rest of urban Kettering". The Commission also received four representations from local residents, two in support of the draft recommendation and two opposing it. The Council, however, did propose an amendment to its proposed boundary between Millbrook and Spinney in order to improve electoral equality and "reflect building patterns on this estate". The boundary would run further westwards along St John's Road to its junction with Walsingham Avenue, then to the rear of the houses on the west side of Walsingham Avenue, and then south to meet Barton Road. The average number of electors per councillor would be 11 per cent above the borough average in Millbrook ward (5 per cent in 2001) and 15 per cent above the borough average in Spinney ward (13 per cent in 2001).

58 The Commission proposes to adopt the Council's revised proposals subject to the transfer of an additional 110 electors from Spinney to Millbrook. In the north of the area, the boundary

between the two wards would join St Catherine's Road further east, then run west along the middle of St Catherine's Road, east along the middle of St David's Close before turning south to join Deeble Road and following the boundary proposed by the Borough Council as outlined above. In Millbrook ward the average number of electors per councillor would be 15 per cent above the borough average (9 per cent in 2001) and in Spinney ward it would be 11 per cent above the average (9 per cent in 2001). The Commission is satisfied with the level of electoral equality which will be achieved by 2001 and accepts that this proposal is more in tune with local community identity than the draft recommendation. Consequently, the Commission proposes this as its final recommendation for the Ise Valley area.

Barton, Pipers Hill, St Michael's, St Peter's and Wicksteed wards

59 The Borough Council re-stated its Stage One proposals for the wards of Barton, St Michael's, St Peter's and Wicksteed with a minor modification to its original proposal for Pipers Hill. Under its proposals the average number of electors per councillor in Barton would be 22 per cent above the average (16 per cent in 2001), 11 per cent below in Pipers Hill (14 per cent in 2001), 2 per cent below in St Michael's (6 per cent in 2001), 22 per cent below in St Peter's (1 per cent in 2001), and 12 per cent below in Wicksteed (7 per cent in 2001).

60 In its draft recommendations, the Commission proposed two amendments to the existing boundary of Pipers Hill: first, the incorporation of properties between London Road and Elm Road (from St Mary's ward); and second, that it should run along the west of St John's Road, thereby including Oban Close, Glencoe Drive, Braemar Close, Glenshee Close, Burness Close, Grantown Close, Kylesku Crescent and Rannock Close (from Ise Valley ward). As indicated above, at Stage Three the Borough Council proposed that the area around Oban Close remain in the Ise Valley area because it considered that the community identity issue is so strong on this estate that "it would be totally wrong for any part of it to be attached to another ward". The only change that the Council proposed to the existing Pipers Hill ward was that the north-east boundary of the ward should run in a south-easterly direction from behind the properties on the north side of St Mary's Road, along Elm Road to its junction with Windmill Avenue.

61 The Commission acknowledges that the proposed Millbrook and Spinney wards in the Ise Valley area are physically separate from the rest of the town and has concluded that a degree of electoral inequality in the Pipers Hill area is unavoidable. It therefore puts forward the Borough Council's proposal for Pipers Hill as its final recommendation. The number of electors per councillor in Pipers Hill ward would be 11 per cent below the borough average (14 per cent in 2001).

62 At Stage One the Borough Council proposed adjustments to the western and southern boundaries of St Michael's ward. The western boundary would run along the railway line, thereby transferring the strip of land on the western side of the line to St Peter's ward, which would not affect any electors. The proposal for the southern boundary was that the small number of properties on the north side of Highfield Road (as far as The Oval) should transfer to Wicksteed ward, in line with the rest of Highfield Road. The average number of electors represented by each of the two councillors in St Michael's ward would be 2 per cent below the borough average (6 per cent in 2001).

63 In addition to the transfer of those properties on the north side of Highfield Road, the Commission put forward a further amendment as its draft recommendation, as a result of proposed changes elsewhere. It recommended that the area around Silverwood Road in the south-east of St Michael's ward be transferred to Wicksteed ward. Under this arrangement the average number of electors represented by each of the two councillors in St Michael's ward would be 1 per cent below the borough average both now and in 2001.

64 However, in the light of proposed changes elsewhere, the Commission has concluded that the statutory criteria would best be met by the Borough Council's proposal for St Michael's ward and recommends it as final.

65 St Peter's ward currently covers a large area in the west of Kettering town. At Stage One the Council proposed modifications to its boundary with St Andrew's, St Mary's and St Michael's wards, stating that "the most easily identifiable boundaries of the ward, which would not sever local ties, would be provided by the A43 Kettering Northern By-pass, the A14 Kettering Southern By-pass and the railway line".

66 Using the railway line as a boundary would entail the transfer of land from St Peter's ward to St Andrew's and St Mary's wards, as well as a transfer

of land from St Michael's ward to St Peter's ward, none of which would affect any electors. The proposal to use the A14 as a boundary would involve the transfer of land between several town wards and the parishes of Cransley and Broughton in Slade ward. The proposal to use the A43 Kettering Northern By-pass as a boundary would entail the transfer of land from Trinity ward, a borough and parish ward in Rothwell, to St Peter's ward, again not affecting any electors.

67 Based on the boundaries proposed by the Borough Council, the average number of electors represented by each of the two councillors would be 22 per cent below the borough average (3 per cent above the average in 2001). Because the Commission is unable to revise parish boundaries as part of the current periodic electoral review, the Council proposed warding the areas of the affected parishes. However, as explained earlier, the Commission would not propose the establishment of new parish wards in areas where there are currently no electors. The Commission, nevertheless, endorsed the Borough Council's proposals for realigning the boundary between St Peter's ward and St Andrew's and St Michael's wards along the railway line.

68 At Stage Three the Council said that it largely agreed with the Commission's proposals for St Peter's ward, but still considered that there should be a realignment of the boundary between St Peter's ward and Slade and Trinity wards, to follow the A14 and A43. Because this proposal would involve the creation of parish wards for areas which contain no electors, the Commission confirms its draft recommendation for St Peter's ward as final. The number of electors per councillor would be 22 per cent below the borough average (1 per cent in 2001). (The difference in the projected electoral variances at draft and final recommendations is a consequence of the Borough Council submitting revised electorate figures at Stage Three).

69 At Stage One the Council proposed that the southern and western boundaries of Wicksteed ward be extended to the A14 Kettering Southern By-pass, thereby incorporating parts of Broughton and Pytchley parishes, in Slade ward. The only other proposed change was that the small number of properties on the northern part of Highfield Road (as far as The Oval), should be transferred from St Michael's ward to Wicksteed ward in line with the majority of Highfield Road. The number of electors per councillor in Wicksteed ward, as proposed by the Borough Council, would be 12 per cent below the average (9 per cent in 2001).

70 However, as stated before, the Commission cannot review parish boundaries as part of this review and it is not prepared to recommend the creation of new parish wards for Broughton and Pytchley, for areas which currently contain no electors. The Commission, however, proposed a further amendment, that an area in the south-east of St Michael's ward, around Silverwood Road, be included in Wicksteed ward, in order to improve electoral equality. Under the Commission's draft recommendations, the average number of electors represented by each of the two councillors would be 3 per cent above the borough average (5 per cent in 2001).

71 At Stage Three the Council reiterated its Stage One proposal and said that the area being transferred into Wicksteed had little community identity with the rest of the ward. In the absence of any alternative proposals for this area, the Commission puts forward as its final recommendation the Borough Council's proposal for retaining the existing boundaries of Wicksteed ward, except for the inclusion of those properties on the northern part of Highfield Road as far as The Oval. The number of electors per councillor would be 12 per cent below the average (7 per cent in 2001 on the Borough Council's amended electorate figures).

72 Barton ward (which is unparished) lies to the south of the town, and the Council proposed that its boundary with Latimer ward (also a parish ward of Burton Latimer parish) be modified, to follow the A14 Kettering Southern By-pass, which it described at Stage One as "easily identifiable and providing an obvious physical separation between the communities of Barton Seagrave and Burton Latimer". The area around Farmfield Close, south of the A14, but within the existing Barton ward, would transfer to Latimer ward, while the area north of the A14, currently in Latimer ward, would transfer to Barton. Under the Borough Council's scheme, the average number of electors represented by each of the two councillors for Barton ward would be 19 per cent above the borough average (12 per cent in 2001). To facilitate this boundary change the Borough Council proposed the creation of a new parish ward for Burton Latimer Town Council, to be called Barton ward (detailed below).

73 The Commission, however, was concerned about the electoral inequality which would result from the Council's proposal and therefore proposed that the existing Barton ward boundary be retained. Under the draft recommendations the average number of electors per councillor would be 1 per cent above the borough average in Barton

ward (5 per cent below in 2001) and equal to the average in Latimer ward (6 per cent below in 2001).

74 During Stage Three the Borough Council reiterated its proposal that the southern boundary of Barton ward should follow the A14, which would require that a new parish ward should be created for Burton Latimer Town Council. Burton Latimer Town Council supported the Borough Council's proposal, as did Councillor Meads, the member for Latimer ward. One local business and 12 local residents also requested that the Commission re-align the boundary to follow the A14.

75 Such a proposal would have an impact on the electoral arrangements in Burton Latimer, and cannot therefore be considered in isolation. However, as a consequence of the proposals for the Burton Latimer area (detailed below), the Commission has decided to adopt the Borough Council's proposal to use the A14 as the ward boundary between Barton and Burton Latimer, as its final recommendation. The number of electors per councillor in Barton ward would be 22 per cent above the borough average (16 per cent in 2001). Although the level of electoral equality provided by this proposal is not as good as in the draft recommendation the Commission acknowledges the significant boundary created by the Southern By-pass, and the impact that the trunk road has had on community identities.

Burton Latimer

76 The town of Burton Latimer currently comprises two borough wards, Latimer and Plessy, each represented by two councillors. At Stage One the Borough Council proposed that the boundary between the parish of Burton Latimer and Barton ward in Kettering town be realigned to follow the A14 Southern By-pass. It also proposed that Plessy ward should retain its existing boundaries and that a new parish ward should be created for Burton Latimer parish, incorporating some 590 electors in the area around Radnor Way – that part of Latimer ward which lies to the north of the A14 Kettering Southern By-pass – a proposal that was supported by Burton Latimer Town Council. Both Latimer and Plessy wards would continue to be represented by two councillors, with representation in Latimer varying by 6 per cent below the borough average (12 per cent in 2001), and in Plessy by 12 per cent below the average (15 per cent in 2001).

77 In its draft recommendations, in order to achieve improved electoral equality, the Commission proposed to realign the boundary between the current Plessy and Latimer wards so that some 320 electors in The Crescent, Elm Road, Woodland Road, Poplar Road and part of Spinney Road, currently in Latimer ward, would be incorporated into Plessy ward. The average number of electors per councillor for Plessy ward would equal the borough average (4 per cent below in 2001). The Commission proposed to retain the existing boundary between Latimer ward and Barton ward which, as indicated above, would result in representation equal to the borough average in Latimer ward and varying by 1 per cent above the average in Barton ward (6 per cent and 5 per cent below the average respectively in 2001). The Commission did, however, propose rewarding the parish of Burton Latimer.

78 During Stage Three the Borough Council reiterated its request that the northern boundary of Latimer ward should follow the A14, and that a new ward should be created for Burton Latimer parish for the area north of the road. The Borough Council contended that if this proposal was accepted, and the properties in the area around Radnor Way were transferred to Barton ward, there would be no need for any further change to the boundary between Latimer and Plessy wards.

79 In its draft recommendations the Commission proposed that a parish ward be created for the area around Radnor Way - that part of Latimer ward which lies to the north of the A14. This area would also become a parish ward of Burton Latimer parish, called Barton parish ward, comprising some 590 electors.

80 In light of the representations received the Commission has reconsidered its draft recommendations with regard to the Burton Latimer area. However, the Commission is aware that the Borough Council's Stage Three proposal for this area would result in electoral inequality, with the average number of electors per councillor in Latimer ward varying from the borough average by 9 per cent (13 per cent in 2001), and in Plessy ward by 12 per cent (11 per cent in 2001).

81 The warding arrangements in Burton Latimer parish cannot be considered in isolation. As indicated above, if the Borough Council's proposals were implemented, Barton ward in Kettering town would be affected - the area around Radnor Way, which would form a new parish ward for Burton Latimer parish, would be transferred to Barton ward from Latimer ward. With the A14

forming the new ward boundary between Barton and Latimer, this would also mean transferring that part of the existing Barton ward which lies south of the A14 - the area around Farmfield Close - to Latimer ward (see Map A4). The average number of electors per councillor in Barton ward would be 22 per cent above the borough average (16 per cent in 2001). The Commission has considered this issue carefully and has concluded that, in order to arrive at a boundary which better reflects the statutory criteria, it should recommend the Borough Council's proposal as its final recommendation.

82 In moving away from its draft recommendation in the Barton/Burton Latimer area, there is no longer the need to revise the boundary between Latimer and Plessy wards in Burton Latimer. The Commission has therefore decided to adopt the Borough Council's proposal as its final recommendation. The number of electors per councillor in Latimer ward would be 9 per cent below the borough average and 12 per cent below the average in Plessy (13 per cent and 11 per cent respectively in 2001 on the Borough Council's amended electorate figures). The Commission is aware that the level of electoral equality provided by this proposal is not as good as in the draft recommendation. However, as stated earlier, the Commission has concluded that, given the physical presence of the Southern By-pass, the pattern of development of Barton Seagrave and Burton Latimer, and the resulting community identity, such electoral inequality is unavoidable.

Rothwell

83 During Stage One the Borough Council proposed no change to the boundaries of Tresham and Trinity wards in Rothwell town, except for a minor adjustment to the ward boundary between Trinity and Kettering town, to follow the A43 Northern By-pass. However, the existing Tresham ward is substantially over-represented (the number of electors per councillor being 25 per cent below the borough average), while Trinity ward is substantially under-represented (with 23 per cent above the average number of electors per councillor). In its draft recommendations the Commission therefore proposed a boundary modification in order to secure better electoral equality. In Tresham the number of electors per councillor would be 2 per cent below the borough average (9 per cent in 2001), and in Trinity it would equal the borough average (2 per cent above in 2001).

84 At Stage Three Rothwell Town Council acknowledged the improved electoral equality which would result from the draft recommendation but considered that the proposed boundary did not reflect local community identities. The Town Council also proposed that Holy Trinity Parish Church should remain in Trinity ward and, once again, that the boundary between Trinity ward and the relevant wards of Kettering town be amended to follow the A43 Kettering Northern By-pass. The Borough Council supported the views of Rothwell Town Council.

85 The Commission is unable to realign the boundary of Trinity ward to follow the A43 because it is also a parish boundary, and, as it stated in its draft recommendations report, the Commission is unable to review parish boundaries as part of a periodic electoral review and is not prepared to recommend a parish ward for an area which does not contain any electors.

86 The Commission has concluded that the boundary between Tresham and Trinity wards should be modified in order to secure reasonable electoral equality, while retaining Holy Trinity Parish Church within Trinity ward. The revised boundary would run to the rear of Jubilee Street and Gordon Street, then generally north along field boundaries until it reaches the western edge of Trinity Church, east along the middle of Bridge Street and Market Hill, north along New Street, east to the end of Cecil Street (No. 45), then north along the fence line to the rear of Spencer Street, west along the fence line to the rear of Cambridge Street, and finally in a north-westerly direction until it rejoins the existing boundary of the A6 where it meets Greening Road (see Map A2).

87 The number of electors per councillor in Tresham would be 1 per cent above the borough average (3 per cent below in 2001), while in Trinity it would be 3 per cent below both now and in 2001. The Commission is satisfied that this proposal would reflect the statutory criteria and puts it forward as its final recommendation for Tresham and Trinity wards.

Desborough

88 Desborough is the second largest settlement in the borough, with a population of more than 7,300. It is located six miles north-west of Kettering town and is covered by two wards, Loatland and St Giles, each represented by two councillors. At Stage One both Desborough Town

Council and the Borough Council proposed no change in this area. The Commission accepted the proposal that there should be no change in Loatland ward, where the number of electors per councillor would be 3 per cent above the borough average (projected to equal the average in 2001). However, in St Giles ward the number of electors per councillor is currently 18 per cent above the average (15 per cent in 2001). Therefore, the Commission concluded that better electoral equality could be achieved by creating a new three-member ward comprising St Giles ward and the revised ward of Buccleuch (comprising the parishes of Cranford, Grafton Underwood, Rushton, Warkton and Weekley), in which the number of electors per councillor would be 7 per cent above the borough average (5 per cent in 2001).

89 At Stage Three the Borough Council expressed the view that a merger of the urban St Giles ward and part of the rural Buccleuch ward would run counter to the statutory criteria and reiterated its preference for no change in St Giles. The draft recommendation was also opposed by Rushton, Warkton and Weekley parish councils (all in the existing Buccleuch ward), a councillor for the existing St Giles ward, a parish councillor for Grafton Underwood, a church council and seven local residents.

90 The Commission has carefully considered all the representations received and taken account of all the evidence presented to it. It is aware of the strength of feeling among the parishes and local residents that Buccleuch and St Giles are different in character, and of their preference for the option put forward by the Borough Council. However, the Commission is still mindful of the electoral imbalance which would result if this option was accepted. It therefore proposes a modification to the boundary between St Giles and Loatland wards in Desborough town, involving the transfer of an area with some 230 electors from St Giles to Loatland. The ward boundary would follow the existing boundary north along the A6, turning east along the middle of Victoria Street and Union Street, before going north along the middle of Queen Street where it would rejoin the existing boundary (see Map A3).

91 The average number of electors per councillor in the revised Loatland ward would be 12 per cent above the borough average (9 per cent in 2001), and 10 per cent above the average in the revised St Giles ward (7 per cent in 2001). Due to the overall improvement in electoral equality and having regard to local circumstances, the Commission has

decided to propose this as its final recommendation for the Desborough area (Buckleuch ward is detailed below).

The Rural Areas

92 The Commission adopted the Borough Council's initial proposals for Queen Eleanor and Welland wards as part of its draft recommendations. The number of electors per councillor in Queen Eleanor would be 7 per cent below the borough average (2 per cent in 2001) and 29 per cent above the average in Welland ward (36 per cent in 2001 on the Borough Council's amended electorate figures). The Commission recognised the considerable level of electoral imbalance in Welland ward, but due to the configuration of the parishes and wards in the area, was unable to put forward an alternative proposal that would not have a detrimental effect on the improved level of equality in neighbouring wards.

93 At Stage Three the Borough Council supported the proposal that Queen Eleanor ward should comprise the parishes of Geddington and Newton with Little Oakley (the latter from Buckleuch ward) and that there should be no change to Welland ward. The Commission received no proposals on ways to address the imbalance in Welland ward and therefore confirms as final its draft recommendations for both Queen Eleanor and Welland wards.

94 At Stage One the Borough Council proposed that the eastern boundary of Slade ward, where it borders Kettering town, be amended to follow the A14 Kettering Southern By-pass. This would affect the parish boundaries of Cransley, Broughton and Pytchley, but would not affect any electors. As previously stated, the Commission cannot review parish boundaries as part of a periodic electoral review, and would not recommend parish wards for unpopulated areas. In its draft recommendations the Commission therefore proposed no change to the electoral arrangements of Slade ward, where the number of electors represented by each of the two councillors would be 3 per cent above the borough average both now and in 2001.

95 During Stage Three the Borough Council supported the draft recommendation for no change to Slade ward, subject to continuing to press for a "sensible boundary" between the boundaries of the parishes within Slade ward which border St Peter's ward in Kettering town. The Commission's position on this issue remains as stated in its draft recommendations report. No further evidence was

received during Stage Three to make the Commission move away from its proposal and it therefore confirms its draft recommendation for no change to Slade ward as final.

96 As indicated earlier, the Commission proposes to revise its draft recommendation that the rural ward of Buckleuch be combined with the Desborough town ward of St Giles. The Commission is putting forward as its final recommendation the Borough Council's proposal that Buckleuch ward should comprise the parishes of Cranford, Grafton Underwood, Rushton, Warkton and Weekley, and be represented by one councillor. The number of electors represented by the councillor would be 15 per cent below the borough average (13 per cent in 2001). The Commission recognises that the level of electoral equality provided by this proposal is not as good as under the draft recommendation, but it considers that the proposal would better reflect local communities in the area and would receive local support.

Electoral Cycle

97 In its draft recommendations report, the Commission proposed that the present system of whole-council elections be retained. At Stage Three the Borough Council reiterated its support for this proposal. No other representations were received on this issue, and the Commission therefore confirms its draft recommendation as final.

Town Council Electoral Arrangements

98 As indicated below, the Commission recommends that the warding arrangements of Burton Latimer Town Council, Desborough Town Council and Rothwell Town Council be modified to reflect the new borough warding arrangements in those areas.

Conclusions

99 The Commission welcomes the revised proposals put forward by the Borough Council in response to the Commission's draft recommendations. The Commission has substantially adopted the Council's Stage Three proposals, subject to the modifications outlined above. The Commission has concluded that its final recommendations provide better electoral

equality throughout the borough while having regard to community identities and interests and seeking to secure effective and convenient local government.

100 Having considered all the evidence and representations received in response to its draft recommendations, the Commission has concluded that the council size should remain at 45 members; that there should be 23 wards - two three-member wards, 18 two-member wards and three single-member wards; that elections should continue to be held on a whole-council basis; and that the boundaries of 19 of the existing wards should be modified. Figure 4 shows the impact of the Commission's final recommendations on electoral equality, comparing them with the current arrangements, as based on 1996 electorate figures and with projected electorates in the year 2001.

101 As Figure 4 shows, the Commission's recommendations would result in a reduction in the number of wards with electoral variances of more than 10 per cent from the borough average, from 15 to 10, reducing further to six in 2001. The Commission concludes that its recommendations would best meet the need for electoral equality, having regard to the statutory criteria.

Final Recommendation

Kettering Borough Council should comprise 45 councillors serving 23 wards, as detailed and named in Figures 1 and 5, Map 2 and Appendix A. The whole Council should continue to be elected together every four years.

102 Changes in town council electoral arrangements would be required as a consequence of the Commission's final recommendations for the Borough Council's warding arrangements.

103 In the Burton Latimer Town Council area, the Commission recommends that the parish wards are modified to reflect the proposed Borough Council wards in the town. It also recommends the creation of a new Barton parish ward, to be represented by one councillor, and a reduction in the number of town councillors being returned from the Latimer ward, from six to five.

Final Recommendation

Burton Latimer Town Council should comprise 12 councillors representing three parish wards, with Plessy ward returning six councillors, Latimer ward returning five councillors and Barton ward returning one councillor. The parish ward boundaries should be modified to reflect the proposed Borough Council wards as illustrated in Map A4 at Appendix A.

104 The Commission recommends that the parish wards of Desborough Town Council should be modified to reflect the proposed Borough Council wards in the town.

Final Recommendation

Desborough Town Council should comprise 12 councillors, representing two wards, with the wards of Loatland and St Giles each returning six councillors as at present. The parish ward boundaries should be modified to reflect the proposed Borough Council wards as illustrated in Map A3 at Appendix A.

105 The Commission recommends that the parish wards of Rothwell Town Council should be modified to reflect the proposed Borough Council wards in the town.

Final Recommendation

Rothwell Town Council should comprise 12 councillors, representing two wards, with the wards of Tresham and Trinity each returning six councillors as at present. The ward boundaries should be modified to reflect the proposed Borough Council wards as illustrated in Map A2 at Appendix A.

106 The Commission also proposes that there should be no change to the electoral cycle of parish and town councils in the borough.

Final Recommendation

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

Figure 4:
Comparison of Current and Recommended Arrangements

	1996 electorate		2001 projected electorate	
	Current arrangements	Final recommendations	Current arrangements	Final recommendations
Number of councillors	45	45	45	45
Number of wards	22	23	22	23
Average number of electors per councillor	1,352	1,352	1,444	1,433
Number of wards with a variance more than 10 per cent from the average	15	10	14	6
Number of wards with a variance more than 20 per cent from the average	6	3	7	1

Note: The average number of electors per councillor differ under the 2001 projected electorate figures due to the different total electorate figures provided by the Borough Council at Stages One and Three (see under 'Electorate Projections' and in Figures 3 and 5).

Map 2:
The Commission's Final Recommendations for Kettering



KEY	
PROPOSED WARD BOUNDARY	—————
EXISTING PARISH BOUNDARY	- - - - -

© Crown Copyright 1997

Key to Wards

1 All Saints	9 Pipers Hill	17 Slade
2 Avondale	10 Plessy	18 Spinney
3 Barton	11 Queen Eleanor	19 Tresham
4 Brambleside	12 St Andrew's	20 Trinity
5 Buccleuch	13 St Giles	21 Warkton
6 Latimer	14 St Mary's	22 Welland
7 Loatland	15 St Michael's	23 Wicksteed
8 Millbrook	16 St Peter's	

Figure 5:
The Commission's Final Recommendations for Kettering

Ward name	1996				2001 (Projected)		
	Number of councillors	Electorate	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
1 All Saints (Kettering town)	2	2,812	1,406	4	2,979	1,490	4
2 Avondale (Kettering town)	2	2,884	1,442	7	3,074	1,537	7
3 Barton (Kettering town)	2	3,307	1,654	22	3,327	1,664	16
4 Brambleside (Kettering town)	2	2,611	1,306	-3	3,103	1,552	8
5 Buccleuch	1	1,143	1,143	-15	1,252	1,252	-13
6 Latimer	2	2,455	1,228	-9	2,488	1,244	-13
7 Loatland	2	3,033	1,517	12	3,115	1,558	9
8 Millbrook (Kettering town)	2	3,101	1,551	15	3,128	1,564	9
9 Pipers Hill (Kettering town)	2	2,417	1,209	-11	2,464	1,232	-14
10 Plessy	2	2,376	1,188	-12	2,563	1,282	-11
11 Queen Eleanor	1	1,260	1,260	-7	1,397	1,397	-2
12 St Andrew's (Kettering town)	3	3,968	1,323	-2	4,045	1,348	-6
13 St Giles	2	2,965	1,483	10	3,067	1,534	7
14 St Mary's (Kettering town)	3	3,913	1,304	-4	4,076	1,359	-5
15 St Michael's (Kettering town)	2	2,657	1,329	-2	2,700	1,350	-6
16 St Peter's (Kettering town)	2	2,113	1,057	-22	2,834	1,417	-1
17 Slade	2	2,797	1,399	3	2,964	1,482	3

continued overleaf

Figure 5 (continued):
The Commission's Final Recommendations for Kettering

Ward name	1996				2001 (Projected)		
	Number of councillors	Electorate	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
18 Spinney (Kettering town)	2	3,000	1,500	11	3,124	1,562	9
19 Tresham	2	2,723	1,362	1	2,778	1,389	-3
20 Trinity	2	2,614	1,307	-3	2,789	1,395	-3
21 Warkton (Kettering town)	2	2,573	1,287	-5	2,600	1,300	-9
22 Welland	1	1,744	1,744	29	1,951	1,951	36
23 Wicksteed (Kettering town)	2	2,388	1,194	-12	2,655	1,328	-7
Totals	45	60,854	—	—	64,473	—	—
Averages	—	—	1,352	—	—	1,433	—

Source: Electorate figures are based on Kettering Borough Council's submissions.

Notes: 1 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.

2 The total number of electors in the borough shown in this table, both current and projected, differ marginally from the totals shown in Figures 3 and B2 as a result of the difficulty of comparing polling district information with street-by-street records.

6. NEXT STEPS

107 Having completed its review of electoral arrangements in Kettering and submitted its final recommendations to the Secretary of State, the Commission has fulfilled its statutory role under the Local Government Act 1992.

108 It now falls to the Secretary of State to decide whether to give effect to the Commission's 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 the Commission's recommendations are submitted to the Secretary of State.

109 All further correspondence concerning the Commission's recommendations and the matters discussed in this report should be addressed to the Secretary of State at the following address:

The Secretary of State for the Environment
Local Government Review
Department of the Environment
Eland House
Bressenden Place
London SW1E 5DU

APPENDIX A

Final Recommendations for Kettering: Detailed Mapping

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

Map A1 illustrates, in outline form, the proposed ward boundaries within the borough and indicates the areas which are shown in more detail in Maps A2, A3, A4 and the large map inserted at the back of the report.

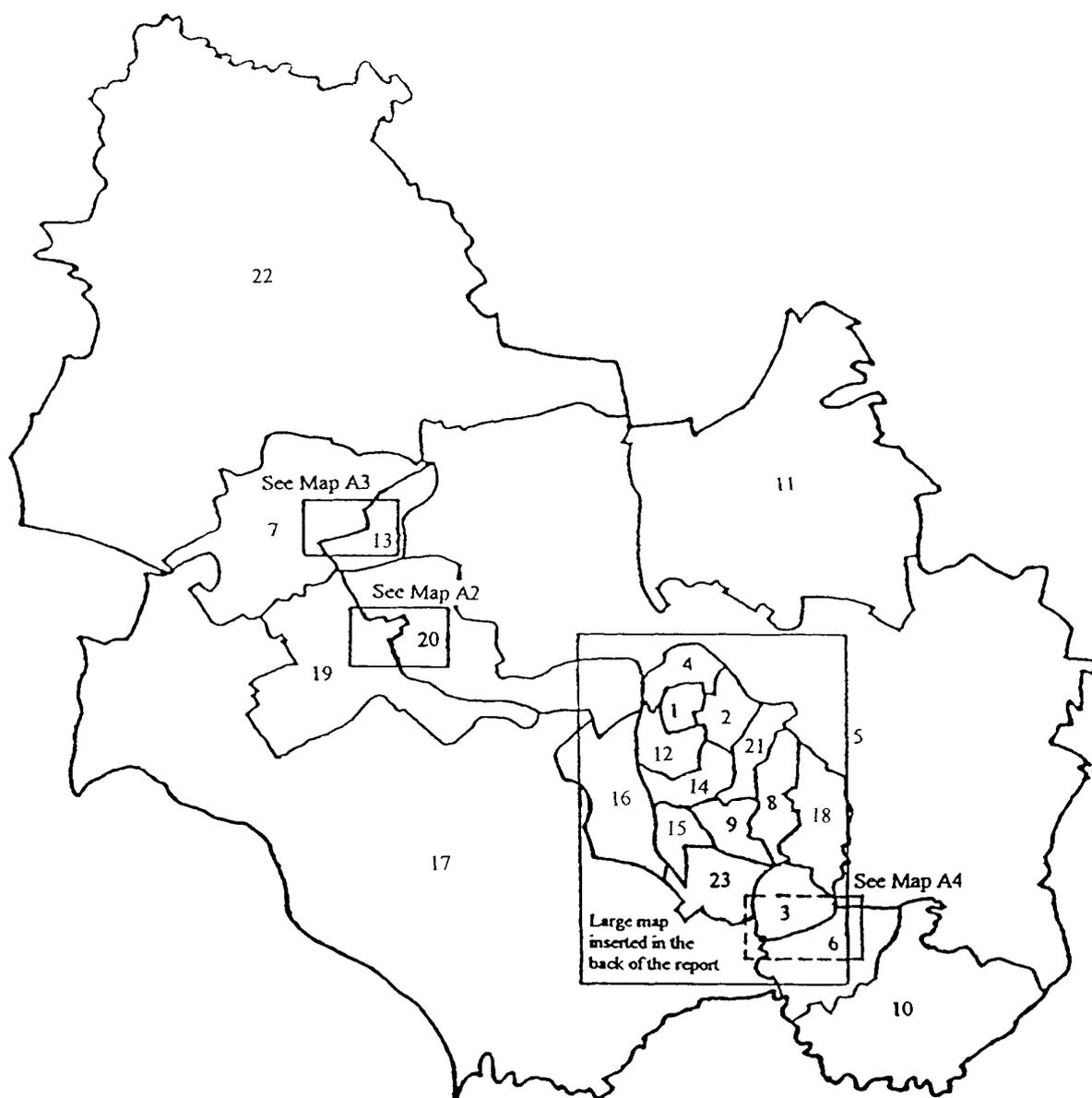
Map A2 illustrates the proposed boundary between Tresham ward and Trinity ward in Rothwell town.

Map A3 illustrates the proposed boundary between Loatland ward and St Giles ward in Desborough town.

Map A4 illustrates the proposed warding arrangements for Burton Latimer parish.

In addition, the **large map** inserted at the back of this report illustrates the Commission's proposed warding arrangements in Kettering town.

Map A1:
The Commission's Final Recommendations for Kettering: Key Map

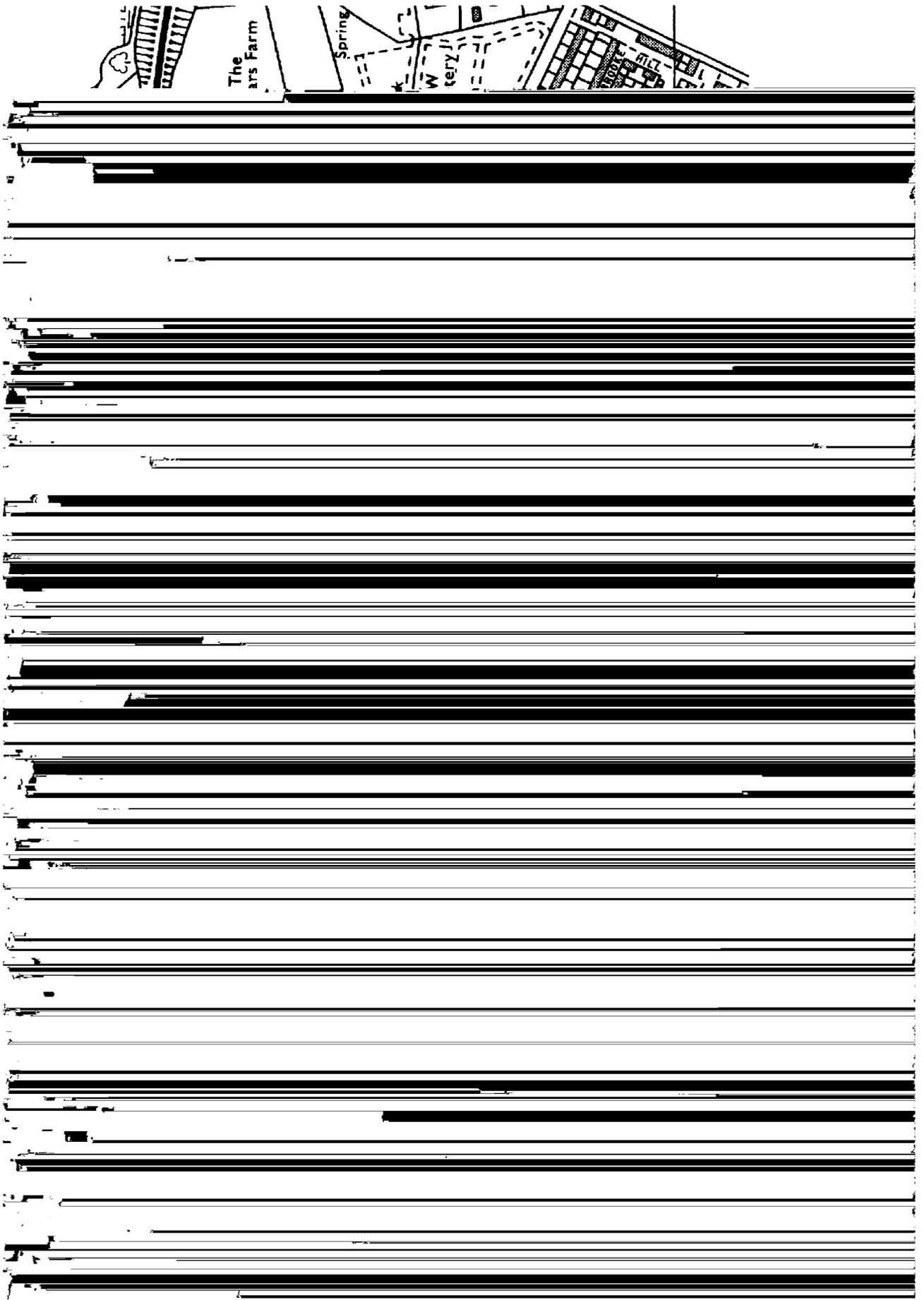


© Crown Copyright 1997

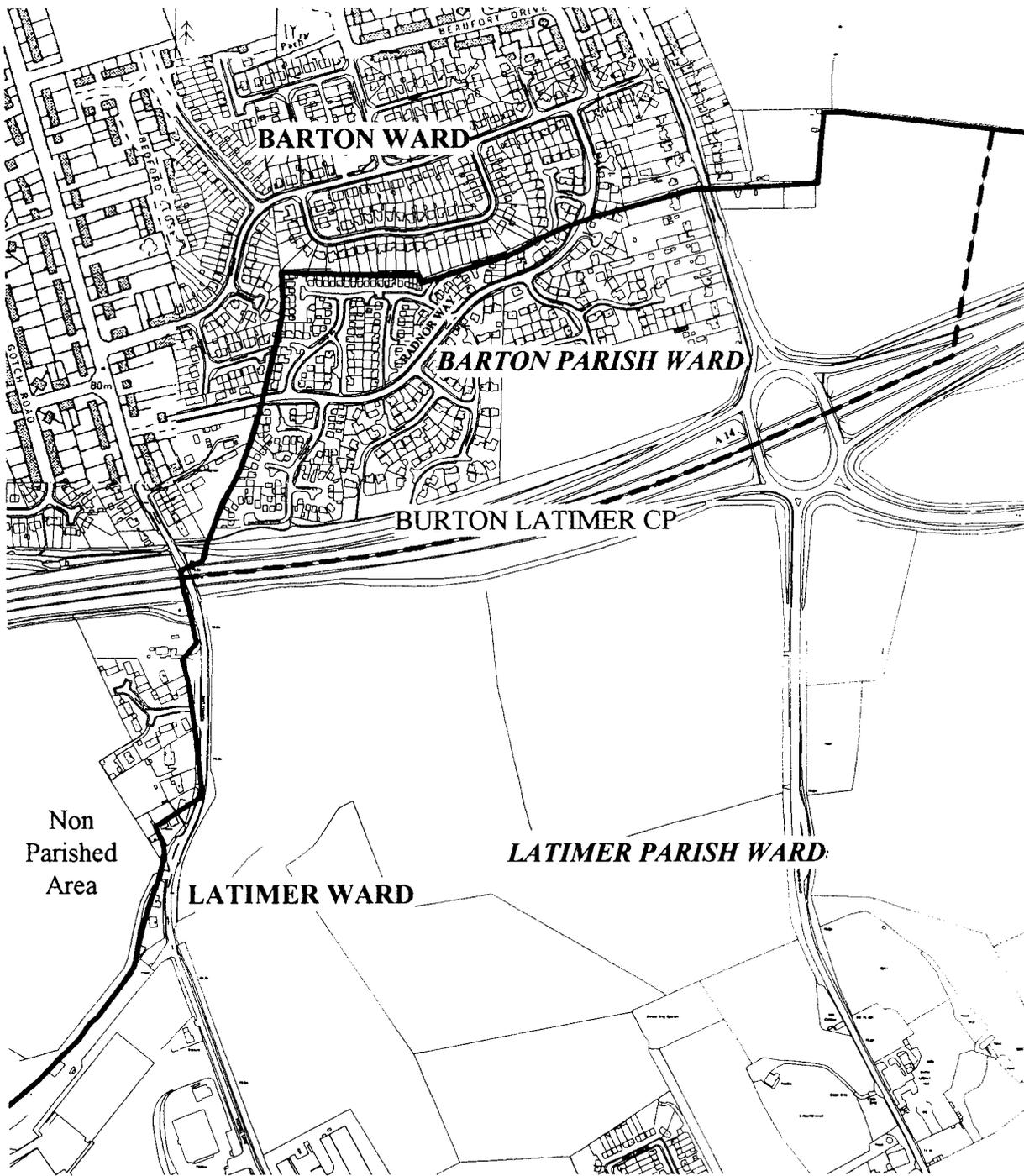
Key to Wards

1 All Saints	9 Pipers Hill	17 Slade
2 Avondale	10 Plessey	18 Spinney
3 Barton	11 Queen Eleanor	19 Tresham
4 Brambleside	12 St Andrew's	20 Trinity
5 Buccleuch	13 St Giles	21 Warkton
6 Latimer	14 St Mary's	22 Welland
7 Loatland	15 St Michael's	23 Wicksteed
8 Millbrook	16 St Peter's	

Map A3:
Proposed Ward Boundary between Loatland and St Giles



Map A4:
 Proposed New Parish Ward for Burton Latimer Parish



© Crown Copyright 1997

KEY	
EXISTING PARISH BOUNDARY	—————
PROPOSED NEW PARISH WARD BOUNDARY	- - - - -
PROPOSED PARISH WARD NAME	<i>BARTON PARISH WARD</i>

APPENDIX B

Draft Recommendations for Kettering

*Figure B1:
The Commission's Draft Recommendations: Constituent Areas*

Ward name	Constituent areas
1 All Saints (Kettering town)	All Saints ward (part); Kingsley ward (part)
2 Avondale (Kettering town)	Avondale ward; All Saints ward (part)
3 Barton (Kettering town)	Barton ward
4 Brambleside (Kettering town)	All Saints ward (part); Kingsley ward (part)
5 Buccleuch and St Giles	Buccleuch ward (part - the parishes of Cranford, Grafton Underwood, Rushton, Warkton and Weekley); St Giles ward (Desborough parish ward of St Giles)
6 Latimer	Latimer ward (part - Burton Latimer parish ward of Latimer)
7 Loatland	Loatland ward (Desborough parish ward of Loatland)
8 Millbrook (Kettering town)	Ise Valley ward (part)
9 Pipers Hill (Kettering town)	Pipers Hill ward; Ise Valley ward (part); St Mary's ward (part)
10 Plessy	Plessy ward (Burton Latimer parish ward of Plessy); Latimer ward (part - Burton Latimer parish ward of Latimer)
11 Queen Eleanor	Queen Eleanor ward (Geddington parish); Buccleuch ward (part - Newton and Little Oakley parish)
12 St Andrew's (Kettering town)	St Andrew's ward; All Saints ward (part); Kingsley ward (part); St Peter's ward (part)
13 St Mary's (Kettering town)	St Mary's ward (part); Warkton (part)
14 St Michael's (Kettering town)	St Michael's ward (part); St Peter's ward (part)
15 St Peter's (Kettering town)	St Peter's ward (part); St Michael's ward (part)
16 Slade	Slade ward (the parishes of Broughton, Cransley, Harrington, Loddington, Orton, Pytchley and Thorpe Malsor)

continued overleaf

Figure B1 (continued):

The Commission's Draft Recommendations: Constituent Areas

Ward name	Constituent areas
17 Spinney (Kettering town)	Ise Valley ward (part)
18 Tresham	Tresham ward (Rothwell parish ward of Tresham); Trinity ward (part - Rothwell parish ward of Trinity)
19 Trinity	Trinity ward (part - Rothwell parish ward of Trinity)
20 Warkton (Kettering town)	Warkton ward (part)
21 Welland	Welland ward (the parishes of Ashley, Brampton Ash, Braybrooke, Dingley, Stoke Albany, Sutton Bassett, Weston-by-Welland and Wilbarston)
22 Wicksteed (Kettering town)	Wicksteed ward; St Michael's ward (part)

Figure B2:
The Commission's Draft Recommendations for Kettering

Ward name	1996				2001 (Projected)		
	Number of councillors	Electorate	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
1 All Saints (Kettering town)	2	2,645	1,323	-2	2,680	1,340	-7
2 Avondale (Kettering town)	3	4,023	1,341	-1	4,315	1,438	-1
3 Barton (Kettering town)	2	2,733	1,367	1	2,733	1,367	-5
4 Brambleside (Kettering town)	2	2,381	1,191	-12	3,215	1,608	11
5 Buccleuch and St Giles	3	4,342	1,447	7	4,562	1,521	5
6 Latimer	2	2,706	1,353	0	2,706	1,353	-6
7 Loatland	2	2,799	1,400	3	2,900	1,450	0
8 Millbrook (Kettering town)	2	2,885	1,443	7	3,033	1,517	5
9 Pipers Hill (Kettering town)	2	2,771	1,386	2	2,898	1,449	0
10 Plessy	2	2,698	1,349	0	2,786	1,393	-4
11 Queen Eleanor	1	1,260	1,260	-7	1,384	1,384	-4
12 St Andrew's (Kettering town)	3	3,865	1,288	-5	3,937	1,312	-9
13 St Mary's (Kettering town)	3	3,976	1,325	-2	4,106	1,369	-5
14 St Michael's (Kettering town)	2	2,669	1,335	-1	2,867	1,434	-1
15 St Peter's (Kettering town)	2	2,113	1,057	-22	2,968	1,484	3
16 Slade	2	2,797	1,399	3	2,964	1,482	3
17 Spinney (Kettering town)	2	2,862	1,431	6	2,980	1,490	3
18 Tresham	2	2,643	1,322	-2	2,643	1,322	-9

continued overleaf

Figure B2 (continued):
The Commission's Draft Recommendations for Kettering

Ward name	1996				2001 (Projected)		
	Number of councillors	Electorate	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
19 Trinity	2	2,694	1,347	0	2,958	1,479	2
20 Warkton (Kettering town)	1	1,459	1,459	8	1,459	1,459	1
21 Welland	1	1,744	1,744	29	1,935	1,935	34
22 Wicksteed (Kettering town)	2	2,786	1,393	3	3,027	1,514	5
Totals	45	60,851	—	—	65,056	—	—
Averages	—	—	1,352	—	—	1,446	—

Source: Electorate figures are based on Kettering Borough Council's Stage One submission.

Notes: 1 As a result of the difficulty of reconciling polling district information with street-by-street records, the total number of electors in the borough shown in this table, both current and projected, differ from the totals shown in Figures 3 and 5.

2 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.