

LOCAL
GOVERNMENT
COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND

FINAL
RECOMMENDATIONS
ON THE FUTURE
ELECTORAL
ARRANGEMENTS FOR
CHESTERFIELD
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 Chesterfield in Derbyshire.

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Professor Malcolm Grant (Chairman)

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Local Government Commission for England

24 November 1998

Dear Secretary of State

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

We have now prepared our final recommendations in the light of the consultation. We have substantially confirmed our draft recommendations, with the exception of renaming one ward (see paragraph 82) and making two minor boundary amendments, in the light of further evidence. This report sets out our final recommendations for changes to electoral arrangements in Chesterfield.

We recommend that Chesterfield Borough Council should be served by 48 councillors representing 19 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 electoral arrangements. However, until such time as that new legislation is in place the Commission is obliged to conduct its work in accordance with current legislation, and to continue our current approach to periodic electoral 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 Chesterfield Borough 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 Chesterfield:

- **in 12 of the 20 wards, the number of electors represented by each councillor varies by more than 10 per cent from the average for the borough, and seven 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 13 wards, and by more than 20 per cent in nine wards.**

Our main final recommendations for future electoral arrangements (Figure 1 and paragraph 82) are that:

- **Chesterfield Borough Council should be served by 48 councillors, one more than at present;**
- **there should be 19 wards, one less than at present;**
- **the boundaries of all 20 of the existing wards should be modified;**
- **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 18 of the 19 wards, the number of electors per councillor would vary by no more than 10 per cent from the borough average, with one ward, Linacre, varying by 19 per cent from the average.**
- **Electoral equality is forecast to improve further, with the number of electors per councillor in all wards expected to vary by no more than 10 per cent from the average for the borough by 2002.**

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

- **new warding arrangements for Brimington and Staveley parishes.**
- **a reduction in the number Brimington parish councillors from 16 to 10.**

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
1 Barrow Hill & New Whittington	3	Barrow Hill & Hollingwood ward (part – Barrow Hill parish ward of Staveley parish); New Whittington ward; Old Whittington ward (part)
2 Brimington North	2	Brimington North ward (part – Brimington North parish ward (part) of Brimington parish)
3 Brimington South	3	Brimington North ward (part – Brimington North parish ward (part) of Brimington parish); Brimington South ward (Brimington South parish ward of Brimington parish)
4 Brockwell	3	Brockwell ward; Holmebrook ward (part)
5 Dunston	3	Dunston ward (part); Moor ward (part)
6 Hasland	3	Hasland ward (part)
7 Hollingwood & Inkersall	3	Barrow Hill & Hollingwood ward (part – Hollingwood parish ward of Staveley parish); Inkersall ward (part – Inkersall Green parish ward (part) of Staveley parish); Markham ward (part – Markham parish ward (part) of Staveley parish); Middlecroft ward (part – Middlecroft parish ward (part) of Staveley parish)
8 Holmebrook	2	Holmebrook ward (part); West ward (part)
9 Linacre	2	Dunston ward (part); Newbold ward (part)
10 Lowgates & Woodthorpe	2	Lowgates & Woodthorpe ward (part – Woodthorpe parish ward (part) of Staveley parish); (Lowgates parish ward (part) of Staveley parish)
11 Loundsley Green	2	Newbold ward (part)
12 Middlecroft & Poolsbrook	2	Lowgates & Woodthorpe ward (part – Lowgates parish ward (part) of Staveley parish); Markham ward (part – Markham parish ward (part) of Staveley parish); Middlecroft ward (part – Middlecroft parish ward (part) of Staveley parish); Inkersall ward (part – Inkersall Green parish ward (part) of Staveley parish)
13 Moor	2	Moor ward (part); St Helen's ward (part)
14 Old Whittington	2	Old Whittington ward (part)
15 Rother	3	Holmebrook ward (part); Rother ward (part); St Leonard's ward (part)

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

	Ward name	Number of councillors	Constituent areas
16	St Helen's	2	St Helen's ward (part)
17	St Leonard's	3	Hasland ward (part); St Leonard's ward (part)
18	Walton	3	Walton ward (part)
19	West	3	Walton ward (part); West ward (part)

Notes: 1 The borough of Chesterfield is unparished except for Brimington North, Brimington South (part), Barrow Hill & Hollingwood, Inkersall, Markham, Middlecroft and Lowgates & Woodthorpe wards.

2 The proposed wards are illustrated on the large map at the back of the report.

1. INTRODUCTION

1 This report contains our final recommendations on the electoral arrangements for the borough of Chesterfield 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 Chesterfield Borough Council inviting proposals for future electoral arrangements. Our letter was copied to Derbyshire County Council, Derbyshire Police Authority, the local authority associations, Derbyshire County Association of Local Councils, the parish council and the town council in the borough, the Member 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 Chesterfield 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 Chesterfield borough is situated in the north-east of Derbyshire and has a population of around 100,000. The area has a history of coal-mining but the decline of the industry has led to unemployment, although this is falling. The borough covers Chesterfield town and a number of settlements to the east of the town mainly focused on the former mining areas, together with other existing industrial areas. It is well served by the Midland mainline railway and the M1 motorway. The borough contains two parishes: Staveley, which covers much of the north-east of the borough, and Brimington. Chesterfield town is unparished.

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'.

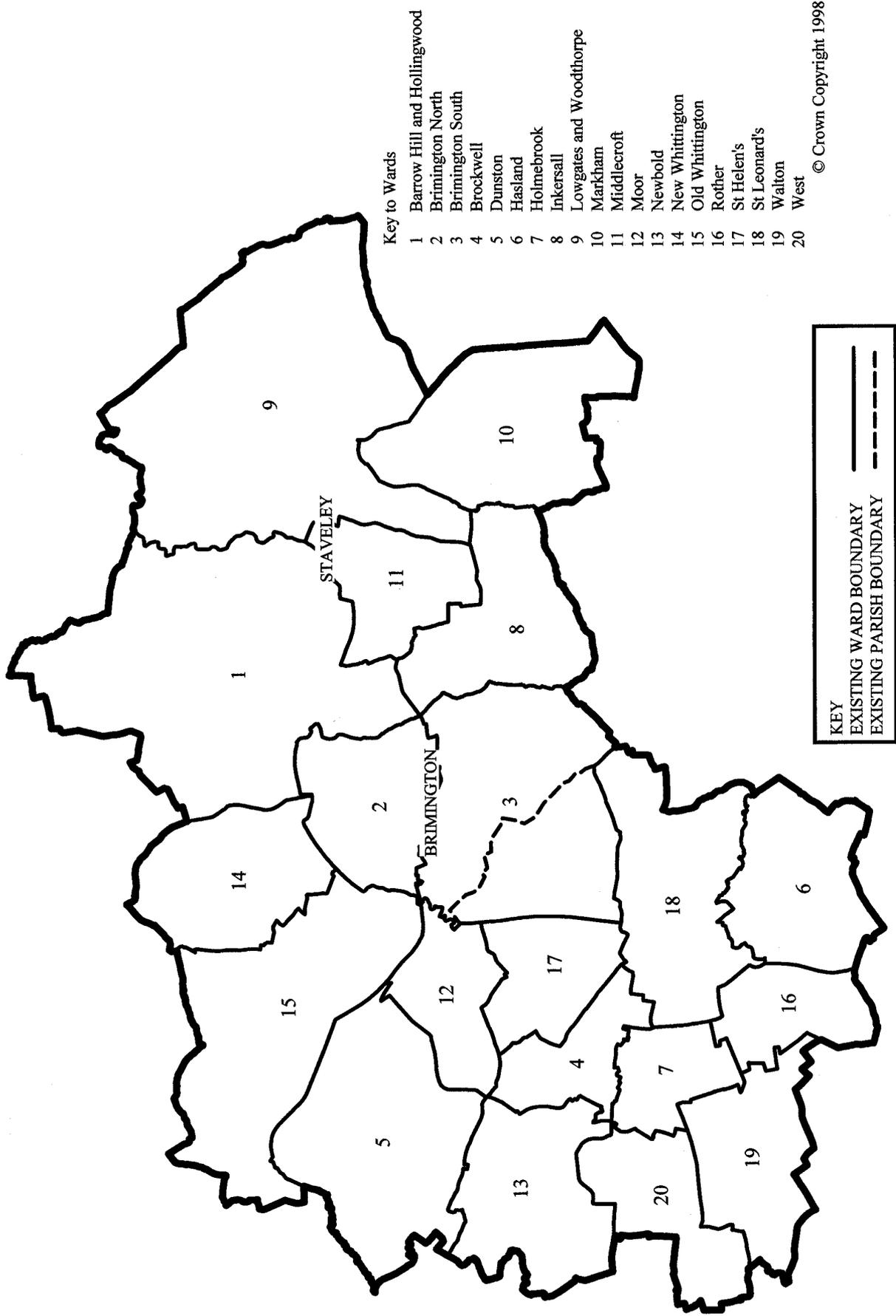
⁸ The electorate of the borough (February 1997) is 79,179. The Council presently has 47 councillors who are elected from 20 wards, 13 of which are in Chesterfield town (Map 1 and Figure 2). Eight wards are each represented by three councillors, 11 wards elect two councillors each, with Markham the only single-member ward. The Council is elected together every four years.

⁹ Since the last electoral review, there has been an increase in electorate in the borough, with around 9 per cent more electors than two decades ago. Newbold, Walton and West wards have experienced the most growth.

¹⁰ At present, each councillor represents an average of 1,685 electors, which the Borough Council forecasts will increase to 1,719 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 12 of the 20 wards varies by more than 10 per cent from the borough average and in seven wards by more than 20 per cent. The worst imbalance is in Markham ward, where the councillor represents 37 per cent fewer electors than the borough average.

Map 1:
Existing Wards in Chesterfield



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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 Barrow Hill & Hollingwood	2	2,295	1,148	-32	2,261	1,131	-34
2 Brimington North	2	3,790	1,895	12	3,866	1,933	12
3 Brimington South	2	4,468	2,234	33	4,326	2,163	26
4 Brockwell	3	4,627	1,542	-8	4,659	1,553	-10
5 Dunston	3	4,740	1,580	-6	4,561	1,520	-12
6 Hasland	3	5,969	1,990	18	6,405	2,135	24
7 Holmebrook	3	3,806	1,269	-25	3,796	1,265	-26
8 Inkersall	2	2,818	1,409	-16	2,855	1,428	-17
9 Lowgates & Woodthorpe	2	3,548	1,774	5	3,615	1,808	5
10 Markham	1	1,066	1,066	-37	1,256	1,256	-27
11 Middlecroft	2	2,889	1,445	-14	2,720	1,360	-21
12 Moor	2	3,739	1,870	11	3,544	1,772	3
13 Newbold	3	6,134	2,045	21	6,794	2,265	32
14 New Whittington	2	3,671	1,836	9	3,953	1,977	15
15 Old Whittington	2	3,319	1,660	-1	3,385	1,693	-2
16 Rother	3	5,090	1,697	1	5,139	1,713	0
17 St Helen's	3	3,820	1,273	-24	3,793	1,264	-26
18 St Leonard's	2	3,255	1,628	-3	3,426	1,713	0
19 Walton	3	6,472	2,157	28	6,734	2,245	31
20 West	2	3,663	1,832	9	3,707	1,854	8
Totals	47	79,179	—	—	80,795	—	—
Averages	—	—	1,685	—	—	1,719	—

Source: Electorate figures are based on Chesterfield 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 Markham ward were relatively over-represented by 37 per cent, while electors in Brimington South ward were significantly under-represented by 33 per cent. Figures have been rounded to the nearest whole number.

3. DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS

¹¹ During Stage One we received representations from Chesterfield Borough Council, the Liberal Democrat Group on the Council, two local residents' groups and seven residents. 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 Chesterfield in Derbyshire*. Our draft recommendations adopted the Borough Council's scheme, with two minor amendments, as it achieved improved electoral equality, provided good boundaries while having regard to the statutory criteria and maintained the present mix of multi-member wards. We proposed that:

- (a) Chesterfield Borough Council should be served by 48 councillors representing 19 wards;
- (b) the boundaries of all 20 of the existing wards should be modified;
- (c) there should be new warding arrangements for Brimington and Staveley parishes.

Draft Recommendation

Chesterfield Borough Council should comprise 48 councillors, serving 19 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 18 of the 19 wards varying by no more than 10 per cent from the borough average, with one ward, Linacre, varying by 19 per cent from the average. This level of electoral equality was forecast to improve by 2002, with all wards expected to vary by less than 10 per cent.

4. RESPONSES TO CONSULTATION

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

Chesterfield Borough Council

14 The Borough Council supported our draft recommendations in full but considered that Newbold ward should be renamed Loundsley Green & Holme Hall ward, to better reflect community identity in the area.

Chesterfield Borough Council Liberal Democrat Group

15 The Liberal Democrat Group, (the Liberal Democrats) expressed disappointment that its proposals had not been adopted as part of our draft recommendations but stated “of the relative values of electoral equality, and community representation ... [it] had placed value on the latter”. The Group also recognised that there would be a consequential effect on wards throughout the borough if parts of its scheme were adopted.

16 Although it retained its preference for its Stage One approach, it made detailed comments on the proposed Walton, West, Newbold, Hasland and Barrow Hill & Hollingwood wards. It also proposed a number of new ward names, stating that West ward should be renamed St Thomas’, Walton ward should be renamed Brampton and that Newbold ward should be renamed Loundsley. For the wards covered by Staveley parish, the Group supported the names it had proposed during Stage One or those proposed by Councillor Burrows, detailed later.

17 The Liberal Democrats also supported Brimington Parish Council’s proposal for a reduction in the number of parish councillors from

16 to 10. The Group also stated that its preference for more frequent elections were met by the Government’s White Paper proposals for biennial elections.

Parish and Town Councils

18 Staveley Town Council accepted our draft recommendations with two amendments: that the whole of Fan Road Industrial Estate should be included in Lowgates & Woodthorpe ward and that the Erin Void area should be divided between Hollingwood & Inkersall and Middlecroft & Poolsbrook wards to ensure that “green space” is included in each of the wards. The Town Council also supported the borough ward names proposed by Councillor Burrows, detailed below.

19 Brimington Parish Council accepted our draft recommendations for Brimington North and Brimington South borough and parish wards but considered that the draft recommendation to retain 16 parish councillors “seemed excessive”. It therefore proposed a reduction to 10 councillors, (although it would find 12 acceptable) with Brimington North and Brimington South wards represented by five councillors each.

Other Representations

20 We received a further four representations in response to our draft recommendations. Derbyshire County Council fully supported our draft recommendations. The Inkersall Estates Committee fully supported the draft recommendations for the borough wards of Inkersall & Hollingwood, Middlecroft & Poolsbrook and Lowgates & Woodthorpe. It also supported the draft recommendations for the warding arrangements of Staveley Town Council.

21 Councillor Burrows (member for Chesterfield North county division) supported the draft recommendations for the wards of Lowgates & Woodthorpe, Middlecroft & Poolsbrook and Inkersall & Hollingwood but proposed that they should be called Staveley East, Staveley Central and Staveley West ward respectively, so that electors

would not “feel ‘left out’ because their particular local area does not get a mention in the new suggested ward name”. A local resident supported the draft recommendations for Newbold, Linacre and Holmebrook wards but proposed Newbold ward should be called Holme Valley ward and considered that Boythorpe & Brampton ward would be a more appropriate name for the proposed Holmebrook ward.

5. ANALYSIS AND FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS

22 As indicated previously, our prime objective in considering the most appropriate electoral arrangements for Chesterfield 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”.

23 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.

24 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.

25 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

26 At Stage One Chesterfield Borough Council submitted electorate forecasts for the year 2002, projecting an increase in the electorate of 2 per cent from 79,179 to 80,795 over the five-year period from 1997 to 2002. It is expected that there will be significant growth in Newbold ward. The Borough 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.

27 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

28 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.

29 Chesterfield Borough Council is at present served by 47 councillors. At Stage One the Borough Council proposed increasing the council size to 48, with an additional councillor in the Newbold area. The Liberal Democrat Group proposed to reduce the council size to 46, with two fewer councillors representing the Staveley area and one more councillor in the Brimington area. No other comments were received. 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 48 members.

30 At Stage Three, Chesterfield Borough Council supported the draft recommendations while the Liberal Democrat Group continued to support its Stage One proposal for 46 councillors, but acknowledged that it was unlikely to be adopted in the light of the draft recommendations. No other specific comments were received. Having considered the representations received we continue to consider that the statutory criteria would best be met by a council size of 48.

Electoral Arrangements

31 At Stage One, we received borough-wide schemes from the Council and from the Chesterfield Liberal Democrat Group. The Borough Council's scheme proposed 48 councillors representing 19 wards and involving changes to the boundaries of all of the existing wards, with the most significant reconfiguration of wards in the east of the borough. The Borough Council considered that it was "not proposing drastic alterations to the current ward boundaries ... with a few exceptional cases". The Liberal Democrats' scheme provided for 46 councillors representing 18 wards. The Borough Council consulted locally on its scheme before submitting it to us, including providing details in a free paper delivered to all households in the borough. Few substantive comments were received but the results were forwarded to us as part of its Stage One submission.

32 Under the Council's proposals the number of wards with an electoral variance over 10 per cent would reduce from 12 to one, with 17 wards varying by less than 5 per cent from the average. All wards would vary by less than 10 per cent from the average in 2002. The Liberal Democrats' proposals would significantly reduce the current electoral inequality with 15 of the 18 wards varying by no more than 5 per cent from the borough average in 2002. The Liberal Democrats provided figures for 2002 only.

33 In our draft recommendations report we recognised the difficulties involved in producing a scheme for the whole borough, particularly for the wards in the eastern parished area, which produces

good electoral equality, secures effective and convenient local government, and reflects local community identities and interests. In spite of the different views on council size, described earlier, both the Borough Council and the Liberal Democrats proposed schemes that would provide good electoral equality while building on the existing pattern of wards, although with differences in the detail of the proposed boundaries. However, we considered that the Borough Council's 48-member scheme provided for marginally better electoral equality with less overall disruption to the current ward boundaries, particularly in Chesterfield town. We particularly noted that, under the Borough Council's proposals the number of electors per councillor in 14 of the 19 proposed wards was forecast to vary by no more than 1 per cent from the average. In addition, we needed to consider the borough as a whole and, given that the different proposed council sizes provide different councillor:elector ratios, the two proposals did not provide for detailed comparison of the schemes.

34 At Stage Three the Borough Council and six other respondents supported the draft recommendations, although with some minor amendments and comments on the proposed ward names. The Liberal Democrats expressed disappointment that none of its proposals had been adopted, but acknowledged that, of the relative values of "electoral equality and community representation", its proposals had placed "a value" on community representation. The Group further stated that it "appreciated the reasons for following through one set of proposals because of the consequential effects of ... an alternative proposal in some parts of the town on the proposals elsewhere". While stating that it had not abandoned its Stage One approach as preferable, it only made detailed comments on the draft recommendations for Hasland, St Leonard's, Barrow Hill & New Whittington, Walton & West wards, together with some minor boundary changes elsewhere.

35 We are grateful to both the Borough Council and the Liberal Democrat Group for their constructive responses to the draft recommendations. In light of these we have made a number of judgements which have led to our conclusions for final recommendations. First, we continue to note that, while both borough-wide proposals received at Stage One were derived from a slightly different approach, each have merit in reducing the existing

electoral imbalances while reflecting the statutory criteria. However, our draft recommendations, based on the Borough Council's proposals, would provide a better balance of representation throughout the borough.

36 Second, as stated in our draft recommendations report, although we considered the two schemes for each area in turn, we consider that the different proposed council size did not allow for the two to be combined as the alignment of ward boundaries in one area has a consequential effect on neighbouring wards in the borough.

37 Third, with regard to community identity we continue to consider that our draft recommendations provide a good balance of the criteria guiding our work. While the Liberal Democrats proposed different ward boundaries in the town their proposals generally reflected both the current ward pattern and that proposed by the Borough Council. In our experience, the realignment of individual boundaries, generally only affecting a small number of roads, does not have such a stark impact on communities and the evidence put to us at Stage Three has not persuaded us to move away from this view. In the east of the borough, we continue to consider that the Borough Council's proposals would provide reasonable electoral equality and, given the pattern of communities in this area, combine areas with similar community interests in the same ward. We have also noted the support of Staveley Town Council, albeit with alternative names and minor boundary changes, and a local residents' group for our draft recommendations as an indication of these organisations views on community identities, particularly the combination of parts of the parished Barrow Hill ward with New Whittington ward.

38 Finally, with regard to the particular boundaries, we consider that those proposed in our draft recommendations remain clear and identifiable.

39 In putting forward our final recommendations we have sought to balance our objective of electoral equality with the need to secure effective and convenient local government and reflect community identities and interests. The following areas, based on existing wards, are considered in turn:

- (a) Walton and West wards;
- (b) Brockwell, Dunston, Holmebrook and Newbold wards;

- (c) Hasland, Moor, Rother, St Helen's and St Leonard's wards;
- (d) Brimington North and Brimington South wards;
- (e) Barrow Hill & Hollingwood, New Whittington and Old Whittington wards;
- (f) Inkersall, Markham, Lowgates & Woodthorpe and Middlecroft wards.

Walton and West wards

40 Located in the south-west of the borough, the number of electors per councillor in the three-member Walton ward is 28 per cent above the borough average (31 per cent above in 2002) and 9 per cent above the average (8 per cent above in 2002) in the two-member West ward.

41 To reduce the under-representation in West ward, the Borough Council proposed that it should have an additional, third, councillor, together with a transfer of 1,591 electors from Walton ward to West ward. Additionally, the Council acknowledged that the area covered by Walton and West wards would be slightly over-represented with a total of six councillors and therefore proposed to transfer 285 electors from West ward to Holmebrook ward. Under these proposals, the number of electors per councillor would be 2 per cent below the borough average in Walton ward (1 per cent above in 2002) and 1 per cent above the average in West ward in both 1997 and 2002.

42 The Liberal Democrats also proposed increasing the number of councillors representing West ward to three, together with a boundary change which would transfer the area south of the Chatsworth Road (polling district BU4) from Walton ward to West ward. It also considered that West ward should be renamed St Thomas' ward to better reflect local identities. Under the Liberal Democrats' proposals, the number of electors per councillor would be 4 per cent below the borough average in Walton ward and 3 per cent below in St Thomas' ward in 2002.

43 We considered that both these proposals would significantly reduce the current electoral inequality without adversely affecting the statutory criteria. The Borough Council's proposals achieve marginally better equality and consideration must also be given to the consequential effect of boundary changes in this area on other wards in the borough. However, we noted that the Borough

Council's proposals would not provide a clear boundary in the Somersby Avenue area and proposed including a further four properties in West ward. Accordingly, we endorsed the Council's proposals for Walton and West wards as part of our draft recommendations, subject to this minor amendment.

44 At Stage Three, the Borough Council supported our draft recommendations. The Liberal Democrats stated that "we regret the need to split the western part of the Walton Estates" but considered that it was not much different from its proposals to divide the Loundsley Green Estate to retain a three-member ward pattern in this area. The Group also considered that West ward should be renamed St Thomas' ward and Walton ward should be renamed Brampton to better reflect community identities in the area. However, we do not consider that the alternative names would better reflect the local communities covered by these wards and we have not received strong evidence in support of changing them. In the light of this and the absence of alternative proposals received at Stage Three, we confirm our draft recommendations for Walton and West wards as final.

Brockwell, Dunston, Holmebrook and Newbold wards

45 The number of electors in the three-member wards of Brockwell, Dunston, Holmebrook and Newbold is 8 per cent below the borough average, 6 per cent below, 25 per cent below and 21 per cent above respectively, with no improvement expected over the five-year period.

46 In its Stage One submission, the Borough Council identified Newbold ward as "one of the fastest growing wards in the borough [where] considerable expansion in the next five years is planned on land set aside for development off Linacre Road and to the south of Newbold Road ... on top of a significant increase in the size of electorate in recent years caused by the building of new estates surrounding the new Holme Brook Valley Park". Accordingly, the Council stated that the area is currently under-represented and merits four councillors, one more than at present. It proposed two two-member wards: a modified Newbold ward on revised boundaries and a new ward, Linacre, covering most of the area due for development. The Council proposed Loundsley Green Road as an identifiable boundary between the two wards. Under the Borough Council's

proposals the number of electors per councillor would be 5 per cent above the borough average in Newbold ward (1 per cent above in 2002) and 19 per cent below the average in Linacre ward, which is forecast to improve substantially to 1 per cent above the average in 2002, due to the development in the area.

47 To reduce the over-representation in Dunston ward, the Borough Council proposed to include 497 electors from Moor ward, stating that the transfer would represent the "least disturbance to existing boundaries". Under its proposals the number of electors per councillor in Dunston ward would be 6 per cent above the borough average (equal to the average in 2002).

48 The Liberal Democrats, however, proposed the continuation of a three-member Newbold ward, stating that the current mix of public and private sector housing should remain in one ward. The Group, however, proposed significant changes to the boundary of neighbouring wards to reduce the under-representation, which is expected to worsen due to the projected growth in electorate.

49 In our draft recommendations report we noted that, while both proposals are expected to provide excellent electoral equality in 2002, the Borough Council's scheme for two two-member wards would better reflect local communities given the extent of planned growth. Moreover, it would limit the need for further boundary changes with surrounding wards, as the external boundary of Newbold and Linacre wards would remain substantially the same as the current Newbold ward. Accordingly we endorsed the Borough Council's proposals for Newbold, Linacre and Dunston wards as part of our draft recommendations.

50 Both the Borough Council's and the Liberal Democrats' proposals for Holmebrook ward significantly reduce the current over-representation in the ward. The Borough Council proposed that the number of councillors should be reduced from three to two, together with minor boundary changes with neighbouring wards. The Liberal Democrats proposed that the ward should continue to be represented by three councillors but with a greater number of boundary changes.

51 In our draft recommendations report we acknowledged that both proposals for Holmebrook ward would provide a high degree of electoral

equality but that the Borough Council's proposal would also maintain, as far as possible, the current ward boundaries. Moreover, we recognised that the wider area must be considered as one, since boundary changes to one ward would have a consequential effect on the electoral equality of neighbouring wards. In view of the Borough Council's proposals for surrounding wards, particularly West, Walton and Rother, the Liberal Democrats' proposed Holmebrook ward does not fit into this pattern. Accordingly, we adopted the Borough Council's proposal for a two-member Holmebrook ward.

52 At Stage Three the Liberal Democrats continued to oppose the draft recommendations for Newbold ward and the new Linacre ward, citing "the division of the perceived types of housing". They also proposed two minor boundary changes to the wards in this area as a "tidying up" exercise. We do not, however, consider that there is any new evidence to persuade us to move away from our draft recommendations in this area. Moreover our proposals for these wards utilise a majority of existing boundaries which remain clear and identifiable.

53 The Borough Council, the Liberal Democrats and one local resident proposed a new name for Newbold ward to better reflect community identity. The Borough Council proposed that it should be called Loundsley Green & Holme Hall ward, the Liberal Democrats proposed that the name Loundsley would be acceptable, while the local resident proposed the name Holme Valley ward, with the neighbouring Holmebrook ward to be renamed Boythorpe & Brampton to avoid confusion. In light of the support for a change of name, and the agreement for a name containing Loundsley, we consider that the name Loundsley Green would best reflect the area covered by the ward.

54 We therefore confirm our draft recommendations for these wards as final, with the exception of renaming Newbold ward as Loundsley Green ward.

Hasland, Moor, Rother, St Helen's and St Leonard's wards

55 These wards cover the south and centre of Chesterfield town. The number of electors per councillor in the three-member Hasland, Rother and St Helen's wards is 18 per cent above the

borough average, 1 per cent above and 24 per cent below respectively (24 per cent above, equal to the borough average and 26 per cent below in 2002). In the two-member Moor and St Leonard's wards the number of electors per councillor is 11 per cent above and 3 per cent below the borough average respectively (3 per cent above and equal to the borough average in 2002).

56 At Stage One, the Borough Council and the Liberal Democrats proposed a reduction in the number of councillors representing the ward from three to two. The Borough Council also proposed transferring 396 electors in the area east of Sheffield Road and south of Rother Way from St Helen's ward to Moor ward, in addition to transferring 497 electors from Moor ward to Dunston ward as described earlier, providing a net decrease of 101 electors to ensure electoral equality in the two-member St Helen's ward. Under the Borough Council's proposals for Moor and St Helen's wards, the number of electors per councillor would be 8 per cent above and 3 per cent above the borough average (1 per cent above and equal to the average in 2002).

57 The Liberal Democrats proposed transferring the area in the west of St Helen's ward, including part of Highfield Lane, to Moor ward. Under their proposals the number of electors per councillor would be 4 per cent above the average in St Helen's ward and 5 per cent above in Moor ward in 2002.

58 In our draft recommendations report we recognised that there is agreement on reducing the number of councillors representing St Helen's ward, and realigning the boundary with Moor ward. We noted that the Borough Council's scheme would provide marginally better electoral equality in 2002 for both wards and would facilitate improved electoral equality in surrounding wards as a result of consequential boundary changes. We therefore consulted on the Borough Council's proposals for Moor and St Helen's wards as part of our draft recommendations. In proposing a boundary change between Hasland and St Leonard's wards, the Borough Council noted that, while St Leonard's ward has a small geographical area, it has a relatively small electorate because it covers much of the town centre. It further stated that Hasland ward has "seen much development in recent years and has a large tract of land allocated for residential development in the next five years". To provide electoral equality,

the Borough Council proposed transferring 1,185 electors in the Herriott Drive Estate and the St Phillip's Drive area from Hasland ward to St Leonard's ward and increasing the number of councillors representing St Leonard's ward from two to three.

59 The Borough Council acknowledged that the existing Rother ward has good electoral equality but proposed two boundary changes, with St Leonard's ward, affecting 329 electors and with Holmebrook ward, affecting 247 electors. These proposed changes would result in the electoral variance in Rother ward being unchanged. Hasland and St Leonard's wards would both have 3 per cent fewer electors per councillor than the borough average (1 per cent above and equal to the average respectively in 2002).

60 The Liberal Democrats considered that St Leonard's ward should continue to be represented by two councillors but with boundary changes to each of the neighbouring wards in the area to improve electoral equality. Specifically it proposed transferring electors from Hasland ward to St Leonard's ward and from St Leonard's ward to Holmebrook ward. It also proposed changes between Rother and Hasland wards and between Holmebrook and Walton wards. In doing so it proposed that the boundary between Hasland and Rother wards should follow the Midland main railway line. Under these proposals the number of electors in Hasland, Rother and St Leonard's wards would be 3 per cent above, 1 per cent above and 6 per cent below the borough average respectively in 2002.

61 We considered that the Borough Council's proposals for these wards would provide marginally better electoral equality in 2002 and the proposal to increase the number of councillors in St Leonard's ward would result in considerably fewer boundary changes. We proposed a further minor boundary amendment to ensure that the whole of Baden Powell Avenue is included in St Leonard's ward. Subject to this, we adopted the Borough Council's proposals for Hasland, Rother and St Leonard's wards as part of our draft recommendations.

62 At Stage Three, the Liberal Democrats considered that the proposed transfer of part of Hasland ward to St Leonard's ward would create a large ward in terms of area but that otherwise they supported the draft recommendations. However, much of St Leonard's ward covers the town centre and contains relatively few electors, while Hasland

ward has experienced recent development and is earmarked for future growth and we do not consider that the geographic size of the proposed ward outweighs the need to achieve electoral equality. No other views were expressed on these wards and we are therefore content to confirm our draft recommendations as final.

Brimington North and Brimington South wards

63 The two-member Brimington North ward covers the Brimington North parish ward of Brimington parish while the two-member Brimington South ward covers Brimington South parish ward together with the unparished Tapton area. The number of electors per councillor is 12 per cent above the borough average in Brimington North ward (remaining the same in 2002) and 33 per cent above the average in Brimington South ward (26 per cent above in 2002).

64 At Stage One there was general agreement between the Borough Council and the Liberal Democrats that the area covered by the two Brimington wards merits five councillors, mainly due to the significant growth which has occurred in Brimington South ward since the last review. As a result, both submissions proposed that Brimington South ward should be represented by three councillors, together with a minor boundary modification between Brimington North ward and Brimington South ward. These proposals would significantly improve the balance of representation in the area. The Borough Council's scheme would result in the number of electors per councillor in Brimington North and Brimington South wards being 2 per cent above the borough average and 1 per cent below respectively (2 per cent below and 3 per cent below in 2002), and was supported by Brimington Parish Council, while the Liberal Democrats' scheme would result in the number of electors per councillor in Brimington North and Brimington South wards being 5 per cent and 8 per cent below the borough average respectively in 2002. Given the marginally better electoral equality under the Borough Council's proposals and the clearly defined boundary, we put forward its proposals for Brimington for consultation.

65 At Stage Three the Borough Council, the Liberal Democrats and Brimington Parish Council supported our draft recommendations for the two borough wards and we therefore confirm them as final.

Barrow Hill & Hollingwood, New Whittington and Old Whittington wards

66 The two-member Barrow Hill & Hollingwood ward, which covers part of Staveley parish, has one of the largest electoral imbalances in the borough with each councillor representing on average 32 per cent fewer electors than the borough average (34 per cent in 2002). The number of electors per councillor in the two-member wards of New Whittington and Old Whittington is 9 per cent above and 1 per cent below the borough average respectively (15 per cent above and 2 per cent below in 2002).

67 In its Stage One submission, the Borough Council proposed that New Whittington ward should be combined with the Barrow Hill area to form a new three-member Barrow Hill & New Whittington ward.

68 Additionally, the Council proposed modifying the boundary between the two wards of New Whittington and Old Whittington, transferring 89 electors in part of Ashcroft Drive, Burnbridge Road and Laurel Garth Close from Old Whittington ward to the new Barrow Hill & New Whittington ward. Under the Council's proposals the number of electors per councillor would be 9 per cent below the borough average in New Whittington & Barrow Hill ward (6 per cent below in 2002) and equal to the borough average in Old Whittington ward in both 1997 and 2002.

69 The Liberal Democrats considered that there should continue to be two wards for New Whittington and Old Whittington, both represented by two councillors, but proposed a transfer of electors in the area south of High Street and west of Brierley Street from New Whittington ward to Old Whittington ward to improve electoral equality. Under the Liberal Democrats' proposals the number of electors per councillor would be 2 per cent and 7 per cent above the average respectively.

70 To reduce the inequality in Barrow Hill & Hollingwood ward, the Liberal Democrats proposed that the current ward should be combined with Middlecroft ward to form a new three-member ward, together with some minor boundary changes between the new ward and

Inkersall and Lowgates & Woodthorpe wards. The number of electors per councillor in their proposed Barrow Hill, Hollingwood & Troughbrook ward would be 2 per cent above the average in 2002.

71 In our draft recommendations report we noted that both proposals would provide better electoral equality than the current arrangements. The Borough Council's proposals would address the over-representation in Barrow Hill ward by combining Barrow Hill & New Whittington ward rather than linking the area with Middlecroft Estate as proposed by the Liberal Democrats which would further expand the ward southwards crossing the Staveley Chemical works and industrial areas. This proposal would also preclude the adoption of the Borough Council's proposal for Middlecroft & Poolsbrook ward, described later. We therefore adopted the Borough Council's ward configuration for Barrow Hill & New Whittington and Old Whittington wards subject to a minor boundary modification. We also noted that under the Borough Council's proposals Ashcroft Drive is split between wards and, in order to provide a clearer boundary between the wards, we proposed that the whole road should be included in Old Whittington ward as part of our draft recommendations.

72 At Stage Three, the Borough Council, subject to a minor amendment of electorate figures, and Staveley Town Council, supported the draft recommendations. The Liberal Democrats expressed concern over our proposals for the New Whittington & Barrow Hill ward. In particular, it highlighted that the proposed ward would combine a parished area with an unparished area.

73 We, however, continue to consider that combining these communities for warding purposes will provide good electoral equality while having regard to the statutory criteria. Moreover, Staveley Town Council supported our draft recommendation and no objections were received from the local residents. During Stage Three, we clarified the minor anomaly in the electorate figures for our proposals for these wards, which would have a negligible impact on electoral variances, and have revised the electorate figures accordingly. We therefore confirm our draft recommendations for Old Whittington and Barrow Hill & New Whittington wards as final, subject to this correction.

Inkersall, Markham, Lowgates & Woodthorpe and Middlecroft wards

74 These four wards lie in the south and east of the borough and, together with the existing Barrow Hill & Hollingwood ward, comprise Staveley parish. In the two-member Inkersall and Middlecroft wards, the number of electors per councillor is 16 per cent below and 14 per cent below the borough average respectively (17 per cent below and 21 per cent below in 2002). Markham ward, which comprises the two settlements of Duckmanton and Poolsbrook, is presently the only single-member ward in the borough and has the worst electoral imbalance, with the councillor representing 37 per cent fewer electors than the borough average (27 per cent fewer in 2002). In the two-member Lowgates & Woodthorpe ward the number of electors per councillor is 5 per cent above the borough average, forecast to remain the same in 2002.

75 At Stage One, the Borough Council proposed combining Inkersall ward with Duckmanton from Markham ward and the Hollingwood Estate from Barrow Hill & Hollingwood ward to form a new three-member Hollingwood & Inkersall ward. It also included the Avondale Estate, currently in Inkersall ward. The Council further proposed a new two-member Middlecroft & Poolsbrook ward combining Poolsbrook, the northern part of the existing Markham ward, the existing Middlecroft ward (less the Avondale Estate) and parts of Lowgates & Woodthorpe ward. Under the Council's proposals the number of electors per councillor would be 4 per cent above the average in Hollingwood & Inkersall ward and 1 per cent above the average in Middlecroft & Poolsbrook ward (6 per cent above and 4 per cent below in 2002).

76 The Liberal Democrats proposed that Lowgates & Woodthorpe ward should be combined with Poolsbrook to form a two-member Lowgates, Staveley & Woodthorpe ward; and that Duckmanton should be combined with the current Inkersall ward to form a two-member Duckmanton & Inkersall ward. They further proposed that Middlecroft should be combined with Barrow Hill & Hollingwood ward to form a three-member ward subject to some minor boundary changes between their proposed Barrow Hill & Troughbrook, Inkersall and Lowgates Staveley & Woodthorpe wards, as mentioned

earlier. The number of electors per councillor in Lowgates, Staveley & Woodthorpe ward would be 5 per cent above the borough average and in Duckmanton & Inkersall ward 4 per cent above in 2002. We also received 84 proforma letters from residents on the Inkersall Estate supporting a two-member Inkersall ward to reflect community ties. We received seven further submissions. In particular, the Duckmanton Estate Committee supported no change to Markham ward, arguing that changes to the ward boundary would have a detrimental effect on an already deprived area.

77 In our draft recommendations report, we adopted the Borough Council's proposals for the area. We recognised that this part of the borough is relatively over-represented and that each of the proposals received would provide better electoral equality than the current arrangements, although to varying degrees. We stated that, in seeking to achieve electoral equality across the borough, we are unable to take into account issues such as councillor workload or social deprivation which lie beyond the statutory criteria. We further recognised the majority view that the Avondale Estate should form part of the same ward as the rest of the Inkersall Estate, which we consider best reflects community identity in the area as outlined by the Borough Council, the Inkersall Estate Committee and local residents. In looking at the area as a whole we considered that the Borough Council's proposals provided the best electoral equality while having regard to the statutory criteria and therefore endorsed them as part of our draft recommendations.

78 At Stage Three, there was general support for our draft recommendations, particularly for the inclusion of the whole of the Avondale Estate in Inkersall ward. Staveley Town Council proposed a minor amendment to the boundary of Middlecroft & Poolsbrook ward to include the area south of Cemetery Lane, designated for industrial development but not containing any electors, in Lowgates & Woodthorpe ward. This would result in this area being included with the industrial areas north of Cemetery Lane. It also considered that the boundary between Hollingwood & Inkersall ward and Middlecroft & Poolsbrook ward should be amended to run midway between the opencast mining site lying to the north of Duckmanton. The Town Council also supported the proposals from Councillor Burrows (member for Chesterfield North county division) for alternative ward names

for Lowgates & Woodthorpe ward (Staveley East), Middlecroft & Poolsbrook ward (Staveley Central) and Hollingwood & Inkersall ward (Staveley West) so that none of the communities in these wards feel “left out” because their particular local area is not included in the new ward names.

79 The Town Council further advised us that the course of the River Doe Lea had been altered and that this would necessitate a minor boundary amendment between Lowgates and Woodthorpe parish wards. This would have a consequential affect on the respective borough ward boundaries. In light of the river continuing to provide a clear boundary and the change not affecting any electors, we are proposing the amended boundary as part of our final recommendations.

80 We have concluded that the Town Council’s other proposed amendments would not provide more effective representation for the area and would lead to less identifiable boundaries. In the case of the area south of Cemetery Lane, we noted that although this area is designated for industrial growth, it is not currently undergoing large-scale development. We further consider each of the proposed ward names in our draft recommendations adequately reflect the settlements covered and are more descriptive than the alternative names proposed. We therefore confirm our draft recommendations for these wards as final, together with the consequential boundary amendment between Middlecroft & Poolsbrook and Lowgates & Woodthorpe ward.

Electoral Cycle

81 At Stage One, the Borough Council proposed retaining the present system of whole-council elections every four years. The Liberal Democrats expressed a preference for elections by thirds as it would offer “greater accountability”. In our draft recommendations report we considered that there was not sufficient evidence or support to move away from the current electoral cycle and therefore proposed that the present system of whole-council elections every four years in Chesterfield be retained. At Stage Three, the Liberal Democrat Group considered that the proposals for elections every two years contained in the Government’s White Paper went some way to meet its wishes for more frequent elections. The Borough Council

continued to support the existing system and no other comments were received on this issue. In light of this we confirm our draft recommendation for whole-council elections as final.

Conclusions

82 Having considered carefully all the representations and evidence received in response to our consultation report, we have decided substantially to endorse our draft recommendations, subject to renaming Newbold ward as Loundsley Green ward and making two minor amendments to provide a clearer boundary and correct some electorate figures in response to representations received.

83 We conclude that, in Chesterfield:

- (a) there should be an increase in council size from 47 to 48;
- (b) there should be 19 wards, one less than at present;
- (c) the boundaries of all of the existing wards should be modified;
- (d) whole-council elections should continue to be held every four years.

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

85 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 12 to one. By 2002, no wards are forecast to vary by more than 10 per cent from the average. We conclude that our recommendations would best meet the need for electoral equality, having regard to the statutory criteria.

Final Recommendation

Chesterfield Borough Council should comprise 48 councillors serving 19 wards, as detailed and named in Figures 1 and 4, and illustrated on Map 2 and the large map at the back of the report. 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	47	48	47	48
Number of wards	20	19	20	19
Average number of electors per councillor	1,685	1,649	1,719	1,683
Number of wards with a variance more than 10 per cent from the average	12	1	13	0
Number of wards with a variance more than 20 per cent from the average	7	0	9	0

Parish and Town Council Electoral Arrangements

86 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 consequential changes to the warding arrangements for Brimington and Staveley parishes to reflect the proposed borough wards.

87 At Stage Three, Brimington Parish Council proposed a reduction in the total number of parish councillors from 16 to 10, (although it would find 12 acceptable), with each proposed parish ward represented by five councillors, stating that this “would make for good, efficient representation”. No other comments were received on parish council size.

88 In light of the Parish Council’s views we are endorsing a reduction to 10 parish councillors for Brimington Parish Council, together with the proposed distribution of the councillors between the wards.

Final Recommendation

Brimington Parish Council should comprise 10 councillors, six less than at present, representing two wards: Brimington North and Brimington South, represented by five councillors each. The parish ward boundaries should be modified to reflect the borough wards in the area, as illustrated on the large map at the back of the report.

89 Staveley Town Council is currently represented by 17 councillors serving seven parish wards. At Stage One, the Borough Council noted that as a consequence of its proposed changes to the borough wards in the area, it would be necessary to make changes to the parish warding arrangements. The Liberal Democrats proposed that the Town Council should continue to have seven wards represented by a total of 18 town councillors, an increase of one, with a re-distribution of councillors between the wards. However, we proposed that Staveley parish should be represented by 17 councillors serving eight wards, as a consequence of our draft recommendations.

90 At Stage Three, the Town Council supported our draft recommendations for parish wards with the exception of three minor boundary changes between Lowgates and Middlecroft, Duckmanton

and Poolsbrook, and Poolsbrook and Lowgates parish wards. However, as a consequence of our final recommendations for the borough wards we are confirming our draft recommendations for the town council warding as final, with the exception of a small realignment of the boundary between Poolsbrook and Lowgates parish wards to follow the new course of the River Doe Lea.

Final Recommendation

Staveley Town Council should comprise 17 councillors, as at present, representing eight parish wards: Barrow Hill (represented by two councillors); Duckmanton (two); Hollingwood (two); Inkersall Green (two); Lowgates (two); Middlecroft (four); Poolsbrook (one) and Woodthorpe (two). The parish ward boundaries should be modified to reflect the proposed borough ward boundaries, as illustrated on the large map in the back of the report.

⁹¹ 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 Chesterfield

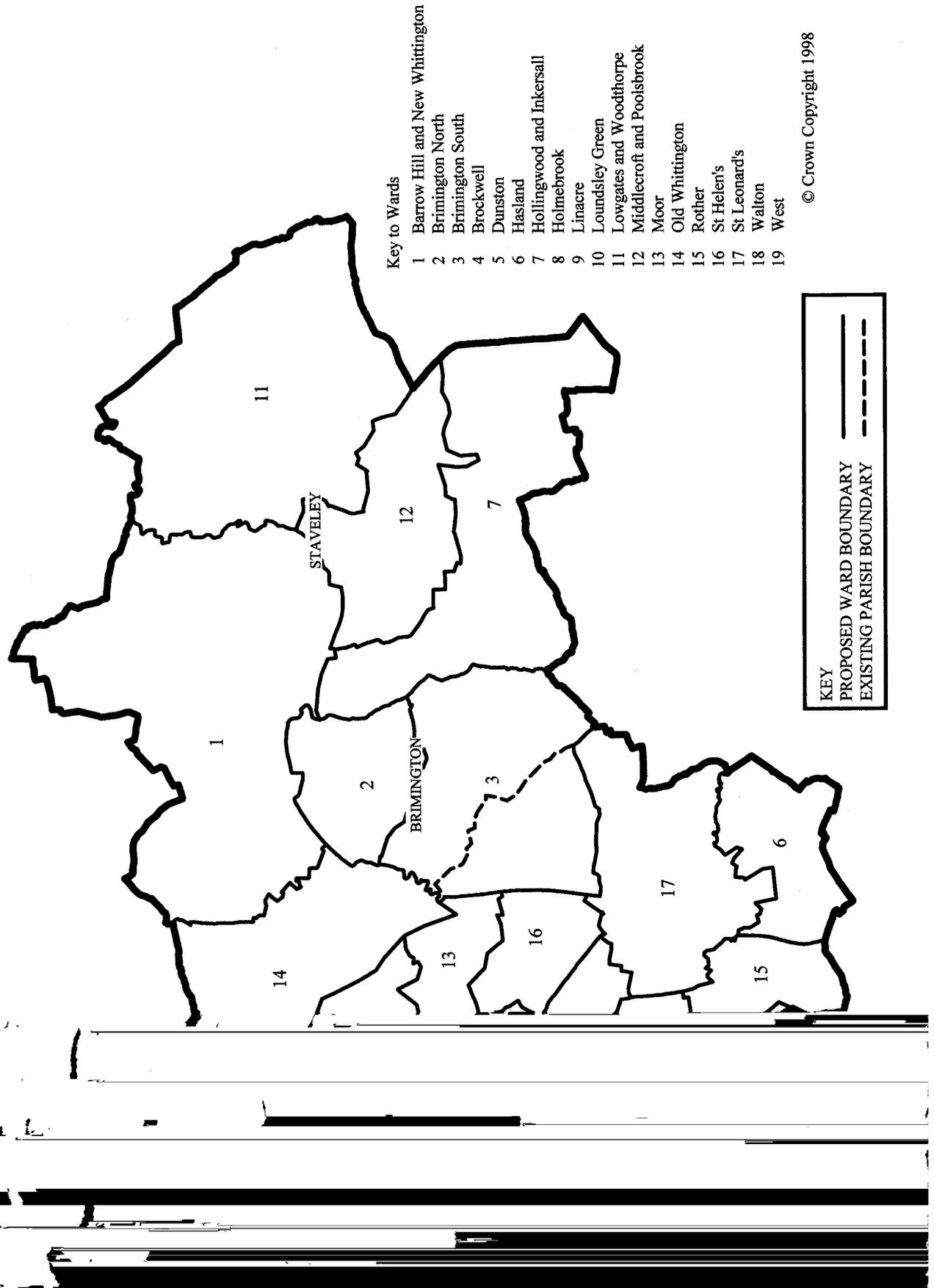


Figure 4:
The Commission's Final Recommendations for Chesterfield

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 Barrow Hill & New Whittington	3	4,463	1,488	-10	4,714	1,571	-7
2 Brimington North	2	3,349	1,675	2	3,298	1,649	-2
3 Brimington South	3	4,909	1,636	-1	4,892	1,631	-3
4 Brockwell	3	5,061	1,687	2	5,093	1,698	1
5 Dunston	3	5,229	1,743	6	5,026	1,675	0
6 Hasland	3	4,797	1,599	-3	5,117	1,706	1
7 Hollingwood & Inkersall	3	5,167	1,722	4	5,340	1,780	6
8 Holmebrook	2	3,410	1,705	3	3,402	1,701	1
9 Linacre	2	2,686	1,343	-19	3,400	1,700	1
10 Lowgates & Woodthorpe	2	3,344	1,672	1	3,412	1,706	1
11 Loundsley Green	2	3,454	1,727	5	3,400	1,700	1
12 Middlecroft & Poolsbrook	2	3,331	1,666	1	3,243	1,622	-4
13 Moor	2	3,556	1,778	8	3,390	1,695	1
14 Old Whittington	2	3,351	1,676	2	3,414	1,707	1
15 Rother	3	5,007	1,669	1	5,065	1,688	0
16 St Helen's	2	3,385	1,693	3	3,361	1,681	0
17 St Leonard's	3	4,792	1,597	-3	5,074	1,691	0

continued overleaf

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

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 Walton	3	4,871	1,624	-2	5,079	1,693	1
19 West	3	4,980	1,660	1	5,075	1,692	1
Totals	48	79,142	—	—	80,795	—	—
Averages	—	—	1,649	—	—	1,683	—

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

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 1997 electorate differs marginally from Figure 2 due to the Borough Council not including 'other electors'. This has a negligible effect on electoral variances.

6. NEXT STEPS

⁹² Having completed our review of electoral arrangements in Chesterfield and submitted our final recommendations to the Secretary of State, we have fulfilled our statutory obligation under the Local Government Act 1992.

⁹³ 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.

⁹⁴ 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 Chesterfield: Detailed Mapping

The **large map** inserted in the back of the report illustrates the Commission's proposed warding arrangements for Chesterfield.

