

[REDACTED]
By Email:

[REDACTED]
30 November 2012

Dear [REDACTED]

Our ref: 12/12

Thank you for your email of 15 November 2012, which was received on the same date, requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

You have requested:

- 1. The names of all officers and elected officials at Tower Hamlets whom officers, agents or representatives of the LGBCE have met during the consultation preceding the publication of their draft recommendations**
- 2. Copies of all internal correspondence, minutes of meetings and other annotated or recorded discussions where the "Spitalfields with Liberties" proposal as submitted by myself is referred to**
- 3. The precise locations visited by officers, agents or representatives of the LGBCE in the *Spitalfields and Banglatowns* and *Weavers* wards during your walking visits to those places**
- 4. The notes made by the aforementioned officers, agents or representatives of the LGBCE during or after their walking tours concerning those precise locations in the aforementioned wards**
- 5. Your definition of the word "arbitrary"**

The Commission does hold information relevant to your request. Please find enclosed a list of all documents released and hard copies of the information you have requested.

If you have any further queries, please do not hesitate to contact me, quoting the reference number above in any correspondence.

If you wish to request a review of our decision, you should write to:

Sarah Vallotton
Business & Committee Services Manager
Local Boundary Commission for England
Layden House
76-86 Turnmill Street
London
EC1M 5LG

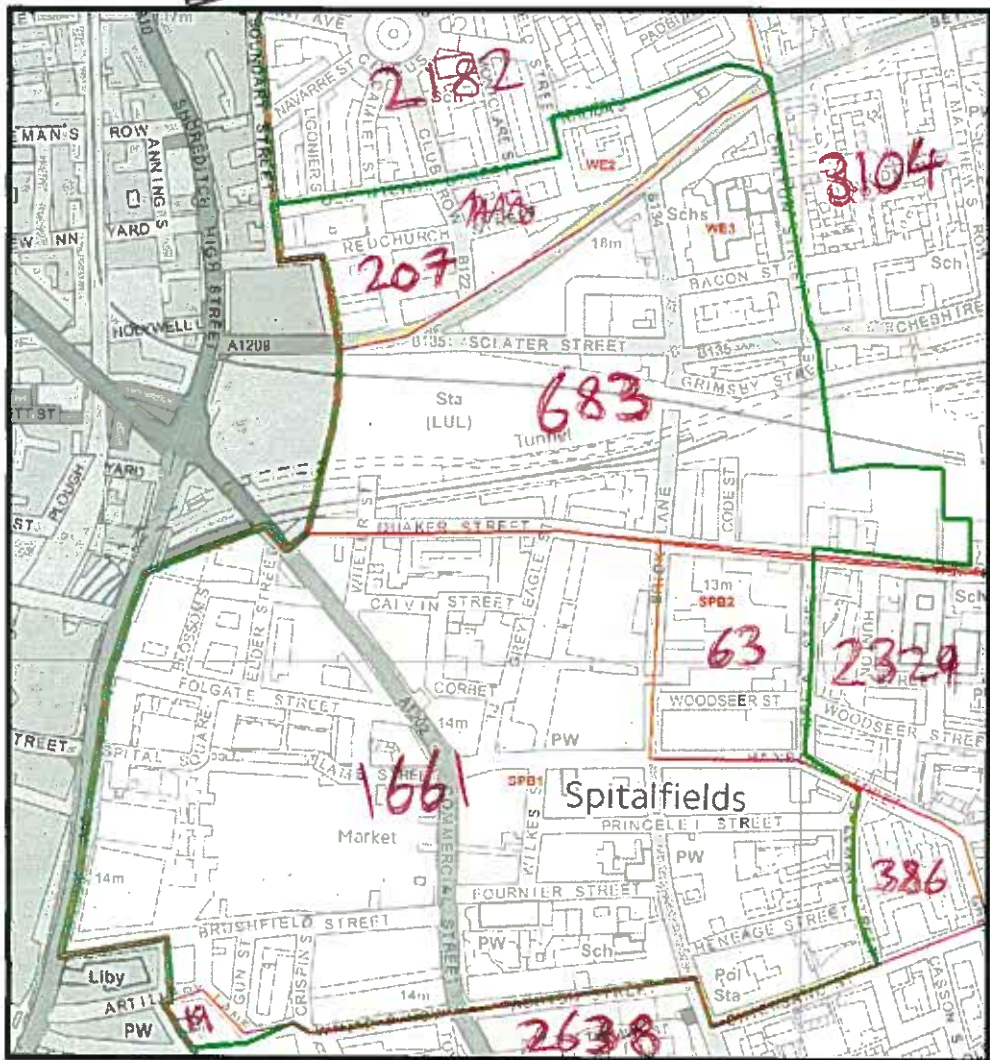
If you are not content with the outcome of your complaint or review, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. Details of this procedure can be found on the ICO website: <http://www.ico.gov.uk>.

Generally, the ICO cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted the complaints procedure provided by the Local Boundary Commission for England.

Yours sincerely,

Dean Faccini
Business & FOI Assistant
Dean.faccini@lgbce.org.uk
020 7664 8533

FOI 12/12		
FOI Request – Spitalfields and Banglatown		
Information	Date	Released/Withheld/Reasons
<p>The names of all officers and elected officials at Tower Hamlets whom officers, agents or representatives of the LGBCE have met during the consultation preceding the publication of their draft recommendations</p>		
Names of officers and elected officials	1 August 2012	Released
<p>Copies of all internal correspondence, minutes of meetings and other annotated or recorded discussions where the "Spitalfields with Liberties" proposal as submitted is referred to</p>		
Commission meeting paper	10 October 2012	Released
LGBCE Commission meeting minutes: 10 th Meeting	10 October 2012	Released – Commission minutes are available on the website at: http://www.lgbce.org.uk/about-us/commissioners-minutes
<p>The precise locations visited by officers, agents or representatives of the LGBCE in the <i>Spitalfields & Banglatown</i> and <i>Weavers</i> wards during the walking visits to those places</p>		
Notations of locations visited	21 August 2012 and 28 September 2012	Released
<p>The notes made by the aforementioned officers, agents or representatives of the LGBCE during or after their walking tours concerning those precise locations in the aforementioned wards</p>		
Notations regarding proposal	Made between 17 August 2012 and 11 September 2012	Released
<p>Commission's definition of the word 'arbitrary'</p>		
Guidance	N/A	Released



Spitalfields with Liberties → notes

- detailed sub w/ focus on communities

Numbers

In sub: PDs SPB1
 SPB2
 SPB3
 WE2
 WE3
 (Comp 33%)

2012
2047
100
50
500
1262
3959

where is the reduction for Chicksand for estate used?

If accurate = 4%

counts used?

Actual figs from electoral register

SPB1	1661	(counted out accurate Chicksand electors)
SPB2	63	
SPB3	19	
WE2	207	Counted from register
WE3	1262	(see proforma)
	683	

2633 = -31%

Improves only to -20% by 2018 (inc. dev. wand Redchurch St.)

→ Star:

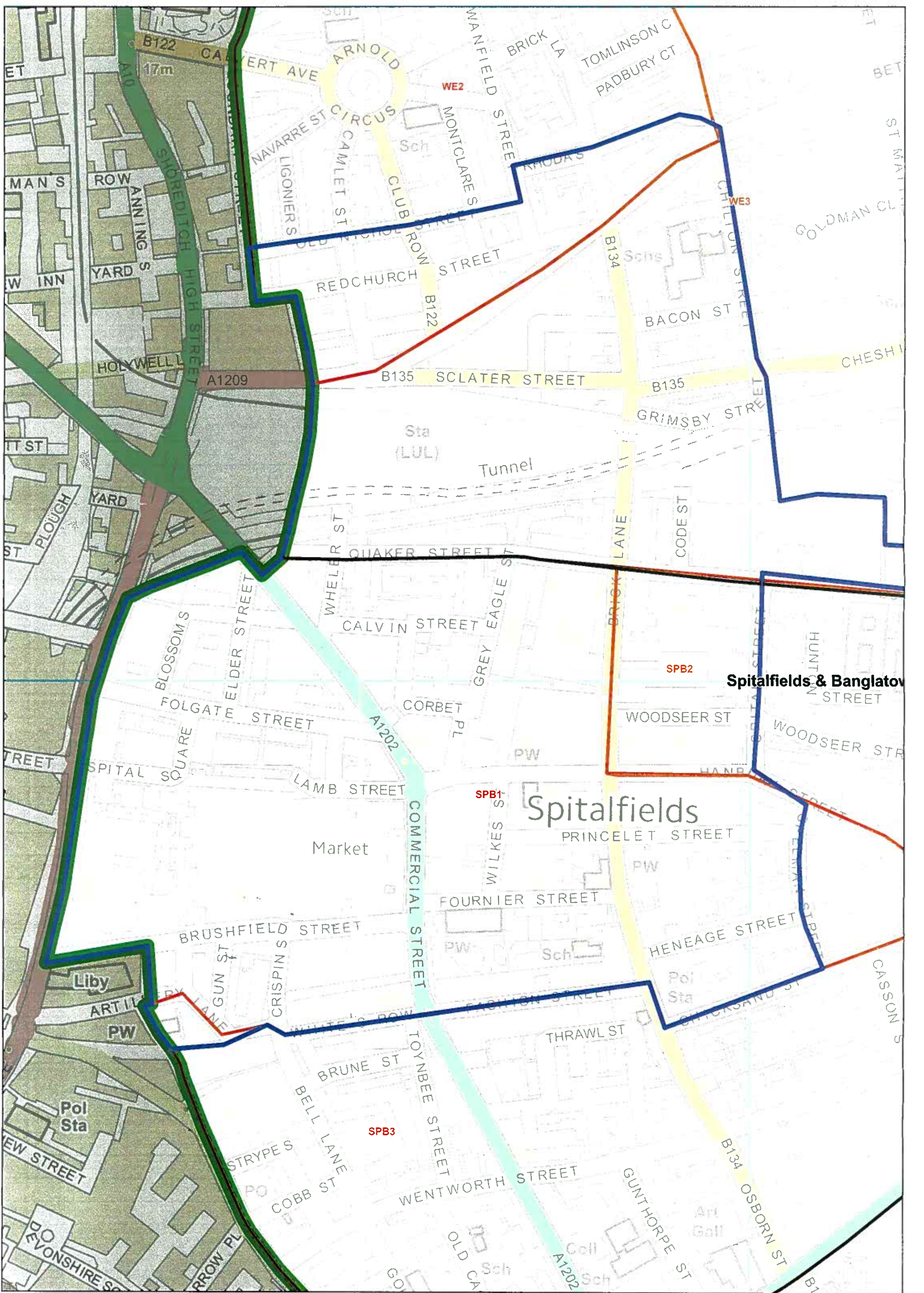
TS + CS → walked all bandary legth

- Chilton Str., Rhode Str; Shacklewell all minor roads = weak boundaries

→ dividing area east of Spelma Str. from Spitalfields

→ why? On the ground, seems an arbitrary split of community

→ Railway line strongest boundary
 → geographic separation north + south



Spitalfields

Spitalfields & Banglatow

Market

Liby

Pol Sta

Sta (LUL)

Tunnel

SPB1

SPB2

SPB3

WE3

WE2

B122

B134

B122

B135

B135

A1202

B134

A1202

17m

MAN'S ROW

W INN

TT ST

ST

TREET

NEW STREET

DEVONSHIRE SC

ARROW PL

ARNOLD

ERT AVE

BRICK LA

TOMLINSON C

PADBURY CT

NAVARRE ST CIRCUS

CAMLET ST

CLUB

MONICLARES

MANFIELD STREET

KRODA'S

LIGNONIER'S

REDCHURCH STREET

BACON ST

HOLYWELL L

A1209

SCLATER STREET

GRIMSBY STREET

GOLDMAN CL

CHESH I

YARD

SPITAL SQUARE

CALVIN STREET

CORBET PL

HUNT STREET

WOODSEER ST

WOODSEER STR

BLOSSOM'S

ELDER STREET

FOLGATE STREET

LAMB STREET

FOURNIER STREET

HENEAGE STREET

BRUSHFIELD STREET

GUN ST

CRISPIN'S

THRAWL ST

BRUNE ST

WENTWORTH STREET

GUNTHORPE ST

STRYPE'S

COBB ST

OLD CA Sch

Cell

Art Gall

CASSON'S

B7

The names of all officers and elected officials at Tower Hamlets whom officers, agents or representatives of the LGBCE have met during the consultation preceding the publication of their draft recommendations

**Meetings during consultation period (20 June – 11 September 2012):
1 August 2012**

6:30pm

Councillor Peter Golds (Leader, Conservative Group)
Councillor David Snowdon
Benn Huntley – Research Officer
Louise Stamp – Electoral Services Manager

7:30pm

Councillor Joshua Peck (Leader, Labour Group)
Councillor David Edgar
David Courcoux – Political Advisor to the Labour Group
Benn Huntley – Research Officer
Louise Stamp – Electoral Services Manager

The precise locations visited by officers, agents or representatives of the LGBCE in the *Spitalfields & Banglatown* and *Weavers* wards during the walking visits to those places

The Review Manager and Lead Commissioner toured the Spitalfields & Banglatown area on August 21 2012. On this day, the team walked the length of the boundaries of the proposed Spitalfields with Liberties ward. Beginning at Artillery Lane, the team walked east along the proposed Spitalfields with Liberties ward along White's Row, Fashion Street and Chicksand Street before turning north to follow the proposed eastern boundary. The team continued north along Spelman Street, Hanbury Street and Spital Street to Allen Gardens, briefly turning west along Buxton Street to view the community around Deal Street before returning east to Brick Lane. The team then walked north along Brick Lane to cross below the railway line. The team then walked east along Grimsby Street before turning north along Chilton Street and across Bethnal Green Road. The team then walked west along Rhoda Street and Old Nichol Street to the borough edge.

The Review Officer and Review Manager visited the Spitalfields & Banglatown and Weavers wards on September 18 2012. From Whitechapel Road, the team walked north to Merceron Street via Durward Street and Brady Street. The team then returned to Whitechapel Road via Darling Road and Cambridge Heath Road.

Later in the same day, the team walked west along Bethnal Green Road before turning north along Squirries Street and Warner Place. The team then walked throughout roads to the west of Warner Place: Wellington Row, Quilter Street, Wimbolt Street, Baxendale Street, and Durant Street.

Commission's definition of the word 'arbitrary'

The Commission has no formal definition of the word 'arbitrary'.

LGBCE (12) xx

Report to:	Commission Meeting on 10 October 2012
Subject	Electoral review of the London Borough of Tower Hamlets
From	Richard Otterway – Review Officer Tim Bowden – Review Manager
Commissioner	Dr Colin Sinclair
Appendices	Appendix A: Map of proposed warding arrangements in Tower Hamlets Appendix B: Summary of representations Appendix C1: Mayoral submission Appendix C2: Tower Hamlets Labour Group submission Appendix C3: Tower Hamlets Conservative Group submission
For decision	The Commission is invited to agree the draft recommendations for the London Borough of Tower Hamlets

The London Borough of Tower Hamlets: Electoral Arrangements

Current Council Size	Recommended Council Size
51	45

Current Electoral Arrangements	
Electoral cycle	Whole
Electorate (projected)	171,598 (198,777)
Electors per member (projected)	3,813 (4,417)
Wards	17
One-member wards	0
Two-member wards	0
Three-member wards	17
Date of last review	September 1999

Purpose

1. The purpose of this paper is to invite the Commission to consider the team's recommendation for a warding pattern for the London Borough of Tower Hamlets.

Areas for consideration

2. The following issues have arisen for consideration:
 - Three borough-wide proposals, which all provided for good levels of electoral equality, strong boundaries and some evidence of community identity;
 - Modifications to ward boundaries to better reflect the strong natural and man-made boundaries across the borough;
 - Orientation of wards in the Isle of Dogs (paragraphs 34-41);
 - Single-member wards for Limehouse and Poplar South (paragraphs 34-39 & 45-50);
 - The eastern boundary of the proposed Weavers ward (paragraphs 77-88)

Background

- 3 This further electoral review is being conducted following the Commission's decision to review Tower Hamlets Council's electoral arrangements. Based on December 2011 electorate data, 35% of the borough's wards currently have a variance of more than 10%. Of these, one ward – Millwall – has an electoral variance of 40%.
- 4 Tower Hamlets is currently represented by 51 councillors representing 17 three-member wards. Tower Hamlets operates with a directly elected Mayor, who was first elected in 2010. The borough is completely unparished.
- 5 Preliminary discussions with the authority began in October 2011 and meetings have been held with officers, the Mayor, Group Leaders, and Full Council. During the preliminary stage, the Commission sought views on council size from the political groups on the Council.
- 6 Subsequently, the Commission received six submissions advocating four different council sizes, which varied from the existing council size of 51 to a significantly smaller council size of 38. The majority Labour Group and two Labour councillors supported retaining the existing council size of 51. The Mayor and a cabinet member proposed a reduction of six councillors to 45. The Conservative Group proposed a reduction of nine councillors to 42. A Liberal Democrat councillor proposed a reduction of thirteen to 38.
- 7 On 9 January and 6 February 2012, the team met with the Council's Mayor and the leaders of the Labour and Conservative Groups. The information elicited during these discussions was included in the subsequent paper presented to the Commission at its meeting in March 2012.
- 8 At its March 2012 meeting, the Commission considered the evidence it had received on council size. The Commission concluded that the evidence received justified a relatively modest reduction in the number of councillors and determined to consult on a reduction in council size to 45 members. This consultation ended on 8 May 2012.
- 9 The Commission received 22 submissions during the consultation on council size. These were from the Conservative Group, the Labour Group, Jim Fitzpatrick

MP, four local councillors, a residents' association, and 13 local residents, one of whom submitted two representations. No further submission was received from the Mayor.

- 10 The Commission carefully considered the information provided during the consultation period. A number of residents supported a reduction in council size to 45 members, although provided limited evidence regarding the Council's management structures and representative roles. However, with the exception of the Labour Group, it was clear that there was a broad political consensus in favour of some reduction in council size.
- 11 The Commission considered that the combined evidence received during the preliminary period and consultation justified a reduction in council size. While the Commission noted the arguments regarding committee structures and workload made by the Conservative Group, it was concerned that a council size of 42 would leave only two non-executive councillors who would not be on one of the scrutiny panels or the main Overview & Scrutiny committee. In light of the need to allow for unplanned absence – especially given the heavy representational role described by the Labour group in each of its submissions – and to provide for a measure of flexibility for members, it was the Commission's view that a reduction to 42 members could potentially impact on the Council's ability to discharge its functions effectively.
- 12 Given the recent establishment of a directly elected Mayor and the evidence provided to date, the Commission considered that a council size of 45 would take account of the new executive arrangements, while not having a detrimental affect on elected members' ability to effectively scrutinise the decisions of the authority or effectively represent their constituents.
- 13 The Commission was therefore minded to adopt a council size of 45 elected members as the basis of this electoral review. Information-gathering for warding arrangements began on 19 June 2012 and ended on 11 September 2012.

Electorate Figures

- 14 At the start of the review, the Commission requested electorate forecasts for 2018 broken down to polling district level. The Council, at this stage, did not provide the team with data to the level of detail required. However, Council officers did provide a significant amount of developmental data. The team then applied a methodology to this data which broke down the information to polling district level. These were checked with officers at the Council and subsequently updated to reflect new population data before being published on the website at the start of the consultation period.
- 15 During the consultation period, a number of councillors in the Conservative and Labour Groups expressed concern about the electorate forecasts. The team subsequently met with the leaders of the groups, as well as with officers at the Council, to discuss the concerns. The team then worked with the Council to provide updated forecasts at polling district level. The Council subsequently provided the team with electorate figures across the borough and accompanied

this data with a list of developments planned to 2018. This list detailed developments to street level to ensure accuracy.

- 16 As a result of receiving the revised forecasts part-way through the information-gathering period, the consultation period was extended by two weeks to 11 September. A press release was issued and all interested parties were sent a letter informing them that revised projections were now available online.
- 17 The electorate forecasts project an increase of 16% between 2012 and 2018. This is clearly a large increase. However, having considered the evidence provided by the Council regarding developments, the methodology used, and seen evidence of large-scale developments on the ground in the borough, the team is of the view that these projections are the best available at the present time and form the basis of the draft recommendations.

Council size

- 18 The Commission received a further five submissions regarding council size during the information gathering stage. The Mayor reiterated his support for a council size of 45. Limehouse Community Forum also stated that they were in support of a council size of 45. However, Jim Fitzpatrick MP, a local resident and a local organisation – the Community Network – argued against a reduction in councillors. The submissions argued that the increase in population placed a greater workload on councillors. However, the team is of the view that these submissions were not supported by evidence relating to the management and governance structures of the Council. The team is therefore content to propose that the Commission recommend a council size of 45 as part of its draft recommendations

General analysis

- 19 During the information-gathering stage, the Commission received 10 submissions, including detailed borough-wide schemes from the Mayor, the Labour Group, and the Conservative Group. Five late submissions were also received. The remainder of the submissions provided localised comments for warding arrangements in particular areas of the borough. A summary of the representations is attached to this paper as Appendix B.
- 20 Submissions were received from Jim Fitzpatrick MP, Rushanara Ali MP, and John Biggs AM. These respondents gave general support to the Labour Group submission in their entirety, with only Mr Fitzpatrick providing specific evidence related to the statutory criteria for the area of the Isle of Dogs (see paragraph 34).
- 21 The schemes received during information-gathering provided competing warding arrangements for each part of the borough. The submissions provided by the Mayor and the Labour group proposed mixed warding patterns of two- and three-member wards. The Conservative Group proposed a mixed warding pattern of one-, two- and three-member wards.

Draft recommendations

- 22 Having carefully considered the proposals received, the team is of the view that all three of the borough-wide submissions provided good electoral equality, broadly used clear boundaries, and included evidence of community identity.
- 23 Consequently, the team has broadly based its draft recommendations on the proposals of all three borough-wide schemes, subject to modifications in some areas to provide clearer boundaries and reflect evidence of community identity received from other local interests.
- 24 The team's proposals would therefore result in two single-member wards, 11 two-member wards, and seven three-member wards. A summary of the proposed electoral arrangements is set out in Table 1 and detailed in Table 2.
- 25 The team's proposals result in a number of wards with electoral variances greater than 10% from the borough average in 2012. This is due to the significant development planned for the borough between 2012 and 2018, particularly in the areas of Bromley-by-Bow and on the Isle of Dogs. Each of the team's proposed wards is forecast to improve to within 10% of the borough average by 2018.

Tower Hamlets South

- 26 Tower Hamlets South is a densely populated area comprising the areas of the Isle of Dogs, Limehouse, and Poplar.
- 27 The Mayor, Labour Group, and the Conservative Group all proposed different warding arrangements for this area. All schemes provided for good levels of electoral equality, generally used strong boundaries, and included evidence of community identity. Jim Fitzpatrick MP also made a representation in relation to this area.

The Isle of Dogs and Limehouse

- 28 This area comprises the existing wards of Limehouse, Millwall and Blackwall & Cubitt Town. The submissions of the Mayor and the two political groups proposed mixed warding patterns of two- and three-member wards for this area.

Millwall South/Island Gardens

- 29 All three borough-wide submissions proposed a two-member ward across the southern tip of the Isle of Dogs. Each of the proposed wards used Millwall Outer Dock as a northern boundary, but proposed differing north-eastern boundaries. The Conservative Group proposed the boundary run along Pier Street and the Labour Group proposed to use Seyssel Street and Stors Quay. The Mayor proposed the boundary follow the backs of properties on Schooners Close. No reasons of community identity or effective and convenient local government were provided for these boundaries in any of the submissions.
- 30 Having walked the area, the team is of the view that the proposal of the Labour Group – to use Seyssel Street – provided both the clearest boundary on the ground whilst providing for good levels of electoral equality. However, the team noted that the Labour Group proposal to run the boundary along Stors Quay

divided a clearly cohesive community. The team therefore propose that, to reflect this community, the boundary should run along the rear of properties along the north side of Storers Quay.

- 31 The Mayor proposed an alternative north-western boundary for this ward. While the Labour and Conservative Groups' proposals continued along the Outer Docks' landing area to the western borough boundary, the Mayor proposed a western boundary which departed from the docks at Westferry Road. The Mayor's proposed boundary would then run south to Masthouse Terrace, where the boundary turned west to the borough's edge. This residential area was placed north into the Mayor's proposed Millwall ward.
- 32 No reason was provided by the Mayor for this boundary. In walking the area, the team was of the view that the proposal arbitrarily split the community south of Millwall docks. Furthermore, the team noted that the topographical detail of the area – a hill which reaches its highest point at the crossing beside the docks – provides a clear boundary between the areas north and south of the docks.
- 33 The team therefore propose that the Commission adopt the proposal of the Labour Group for this ward in its entirety as part of its draft recommendations, with the exception of the modification proposed for Storers Quay. This ward would have 4% more electors than the borough average by 2018. The team also propose that this ward be named Island Gardens, consistent with the proposals of the Mayor and Conservative Group. The team consider that this name more accurately reflects the local community.

Canary Wharf, Limehouse, and Blackwall & Cubitt Town

- 34 The Labour Group proposed a three-member Millwall & Cubitt Town North ward and a two-member Blackwall ward for this area. The wards were east-west in orientation and crossed West India and Millwall Inner Docks to span the Isle of Dogs peninsula. The Group argued that this orientation reflected the "development of the central area in the 'Millennium Quarter' since the last review which results in one contiguous area across the middle of the Isle of Dogs". Jim Fitzpatrick MP stated his support for this "horizontal" arrangement, arguing that it maintained "the longstanding communities on the island".
- 35 The Labour Group also proposed a three-member Limehouse ward which was bounded by Westferry Road and Limehouse Tunnel to the east, but which crossed the major roads of Aspen Way and Commercial Road to the north. The Group argued that this ward "clearly reflects the sense of where Limehouse is".
- 36 The Conservative Group proposed a three-member Limehouse & Canary Wharf ward and a three-member Blackwall & Cubitt Town ward. These wards were proposed to have north-south orientations to the east and west sides of the West India and Millwall Inner Docks. The Group argued that the Docks "act as a clear divide between the western and eastern sides of the Island; the only crossing is Marsh Wall at its northern-most point". The Group further proposed that its Limehouse & Canary Wharf ward should extend north-west, across Westferry Road, to include the majority of the 'Limehouse basin'. The Conservative Group argued that the housing in this area "has been built in the last twenty-five years deliberately to create a 'walk in suburb' for Canary Wharf".

- 37 The Mayor proposed a two-member Millwall ward, a two-member Canary ward, and a three-member Blackwall & Cubitt Town ward for this area. Like the Conservative proposal, the Mayor used the Millwall Inner Dock as a boundary, but proposed a split along Marsh Wall and Byng Street to separate the area west of the Inner Dock into two wards. The Mayor also proposed to link an area south of Millwall Outer Dock with the area proposed for Millwall ward (see paragraph 31). The Mayor further stated that the housing in the Limehouse basin was “better suited to West India Quay”, and therefore linked the Limehouse basin with Canary Wharf in his proposed Canary ward, as the Conservative Group had done.
- 38 The Commission also received a submission from Limehouse Community Forum. The Forum argued that the Limehouse area had very different problems, issues, and concerns to the Canary Wharf area. The Forum stated that it was important to keep in mind the disparities “between what is a primarily an international financial centre and a small local river-based community”. The submission stated that the Forum viewed the extent of Limehouse as bounded by West India Dock Road/Westferry Road to the east, Commercial Road to the north, and the Rotherhithe Tunnel to the west.
- 39 Having toured the area on foot, the team is of the view that the Limehouse basin is bounded by very strong boundaries on all sides. The team noted on its tour of the area that Westferry Road, West India Dock Road, and Commercial Road all require difficult, lengthy crossings and that the residential housing within the area looked towards the river. The team is therefore of the view that an arrangement which linked the Limehouse basin with areas north of Commercial Road or with Canary Wharf does not provide for effective and convenient local government or reflect the interests of local communities. The team therefore propose a single-member Limehouse ward bounded by these major roads. The team is of the view that this provides for strong boundaries and reflects the persuasive evidence of community identity the Commission received. Under the team’s proposal, the Limehouse ward would have 1% more electors than the borough average by 2018.
- 40 To the south of Limehouse, the team investigated the alternative warding configurations proposed for the Canary Wharf and Blackwall areas. The team was concerned that the Labour Group’s proposed east-west warding pattern did not reflect the communication links and communities in the area. The team noted that under this proposal the main crossing point over Inner Dock was the Pepper Street footbridge. Conversely, the team considered that north-south warding configurations for this area better reflected the communication links and communities. The team observed the strong north-south road links in the area and that the developments either side of West India and Millwall docks look towards these arterial roads, rather than towards the docks.
- 41 The team therefore propose that the Commission adopt the Conservative Group’s proposal for Blackwall & Cubitt Town, subject to modifications to its boundary with Island Gardens (already discussed in paragraph 30) and in the north-east corner with Poplar South (discussed in paragraph 48). The team also propose that the Commission adopt the Conservative’s proposed Limehouse & Canary Wharf ward, subject to the modification for the single-member Limehouse ward. However, the team also propose that the ward be named Canary to reflect

the local area of Canary Wharf, which comprises the majority of the ward. Under the team's proposal the wards of Canary and Blackwall & Cubitt Town would have 3% more and 1% fewer electors than the borough average by 2018, respectively. The team recommends the Commission adopt these wards as part of its draft recommendations.

Tower Hamlets Central East

42 Tower Hamlets Central East is a densely populated urban area comprising the areas of Poplar, East India, Lansbury, Mile End and Bromley-by-Bow.

43 The Mayor, Labour Group, and the Conservative Group all proposed differing warding arrangements for this area. All schemes provided for good levels of electoral equality, generally used strong boundaries, and included evidence of community identity.

Poplar, Mile End & Bromley

44 This area comprises the existing wards of East India & Lansbury, Bromley-by-Bow, and Mile End East. The submissions of the Mayor and the two political groups proposed mixed warding patterns of one-, two- and three-member wards for this area.

Poplar and East India

45 The three borough-wide submissions proposed very different arrangements for this area. The Conservative Group proposed a single-member Poplar South ward and a three-member Poplar North ward. Under this proposal, Poplar South was bounded to its south by the six-lane Aspen Way, to its north by Commercial Road and East India Dock Road, and to the west by West India Dock Road. The Group argued that the ward was bounded by "unusually strong boundaries" and represented an area with "particular community interest". The Group further argued that its Poplar North ward, which used main roads and the Limehouse Cut Canal as boundaries, ended the "arbitrary division of Lansbury estate" under the current boundaries.

46 The Labour Group proposed a three-member East India & Lansbury ward which crossed East India Dock Road and divided Poplar High Street using an alleyway between the Leisure Centre and Tower Hamlets College. The Mayor proposed an East India & Lansbury ward which used East India Dock Road as part of its southern boundary. For the remainder of the Poplar area, the Mayor linked the majority of areas below East India Dock Road into his Canary and Blackwall & Cubitt Town wards. This arrangement crossed the six-lane highway of Aspen Way, which can only be physically crossed by a footbridge at Poplar DLR station.

47 Having walked the area and crossed the Aspen Way highway using the footbridge, the team is in agreement with the Conservative Group that the area of Poplar South is bounded to the north, south and west by very strong boundaries, and that an arrangement which crosses Aspen Way or East India Dock Road would not provide for effective and convenient local government or reflect community identity. The team therefore propose that the Commission adopt the Conservative Group's proposal for the area, with two modifications to provide for improved electoral equality and follow consistent ground detail.

- 48 The Conservative Group's proposed eastern boundary used Brunswick Road before following the Blackwall Tunnel to Aspen Way. Due to Blackwall Tunnel being underground, however, the boundary does not follow ground detail and, in the team's view, therefore arbitrarily splits Naval Row and the areas east and west of the tunnel. The team therefore propose to extend Poplar South ward east along Aspen Way to the roundabout on Leamouth Road. This modification links the non-residential area around the Town Hall with Poplar South and does not impact on electoral equality. The team is of the view that this modification provides for a clearer, more consistent boundary by following the six-lane Aspen Way to its conclusion at the roundabout. These modifications result in the Poplar South ward having 10% more electors than the borough average by 2018.
- 49 The team also propose a modification to the western boundary of Poplar North. Under the Conservative Group's proposal, Poplar North would have an electoral variance of 10% more electors than the borough average by 2018. However, due to the warding arrangements proposed for Bromley-by-Bow (paragraphs 51-55), the ward to its immediate west in Mile End would have an electoral variance of 21% fewer electors than the borough average by 2018. To improve electoral equality, the team therefore propose that the western boundary of Poplar North is modified to run along the western edges of Burdett Park either side of Lindfield Street, rather than along Burdett Road further west. This amendment provides for improved electoral equality in Mile End and, by retaining the Festival Quarter developments in Poplar North, also provides reasonable electoral equality in this ward. This modification would result in the Poplar North ward have 9% fewer electors than the borough average by 2018.
- 50 The team recommends that the Commission adopt the wards of Poplar North and Poplar South as part of its draft recommendations.

Bromley-by-Bow and Mile End

- 51 The Conservative Group proposed a two-member Bromley North ward, a two-member Bromley South ward, and a three-member Burdett ward for this area. The two Bromley wards were divided north and south of the overground railway line. The Bromley North ward followed Bow Road as a northern boundary but departed the road at the railway line to run north-east to the borough's eastern edge. The Group argued that this arrangement "preserved community ties".
- 52 The Labour Group proposed a three-member Mile End ward and a three-member Bromley-by-Bow ward. The Group's Bromley-by-Bow ward linked much of the area proposed by the Conservative's two Bromley wards, with the exception of the 'British Estate' north of the railway line, which the Group placed into its Mile End ward. The Group argued that the 'British estate' was accessed from the A11 (Bow Road) to the north, that it had close links to the roads around Wellington Way, and that the residents of the latter were "served by a mosque on the British estate and the Methodist church on Merchant Street". The Labour Group also argued that the areas north and south of the railway line – split by the Conservative Group – were linked by Devons Road and that its proposal maintained "the identity of this area".
- 53 The Mayor proposed a two-member Bromley-by-Bow ward encompassing the area east of the DLR railway line and linked by Devons Road and the A12. He

argued that this area constituted the “distinct historical area and community of Bromley-by-Bow”.

54 A submission from Councillor Aston, a Conservative councillor, argued that while he agreed with the Conservative proposal on the whole, Bromley North should use the A11 as its northern boundary and extend west to encompass the British estate and Wellington Road area. The Councillor argued that this arrangement offered “real representation of communities”.

55 Having toured the area, the team is of the view that the overground railway line used as a boundary by the Conservative Group provides for the strongest boundary in the area. The team noted that there was a geographical divide between estates on both sides of the railway line along Devons Road. The team is also of the view that Councillor Aston’s proposal, which extends Bromley North ward around the British estate, reflected evidence received from the Labour Group which linked the British estate with properties around Wellington Way. The team also views the A11 as a much clearer northern boundary than that proposed by the Conservative Group. The team therefore propose that the Commission adopt Councillor Aston’s proposals for Bromley North and Bromley South. Under the team’s recommendation, Bromley North and Bromley South would have 1% fewer and 1% more electors than the borough average by 2018, respectively.

56 As a result of the recommendations the team proposes for Bromley, a three-member ward for Mile End would have an electoral variance of -21%. The team therefore propose a modification to the south-east boundary of the ward to improve electoral equality. This modification is outlined in paragraph 49. For the remainder of the ward, the team propose that the Commission adopt Councillor Aston’s proposed Burdett ward without further modification to its boundaries, but that the ward be named Mile End to reflect the local community. Under the team’s proposal, Mile End would have 2% fewer electors per councillor than the borough average by 2018.

57 The team recommends that the Commission adopt its proposed wards of Bromley North, Bromley South and Mile End as part of its draft recommendations.

Tower Hamlets Central West

58 Tower Hamlets Central West is a densely populated urban area comprising the areas of Stepney, Shadwell, Whitechapel, and Wapping.

59 The Mayor, Labour Group, and the Conservative Group all proposed differing warding arrangements for this area. All schemes provided for good levels of electoral equality, generally used strong boundaries, and included evidence of community identity.

Stepney, Whitechapel, Shadwell, and Wapping

60 This area comprises the existing wards of St Dunstan’s & Stepney Green, Shadwell, Whitechapel, and St Katharine’s & Wapping. The Mayor, Conservative Group, and Labour Group proposed competing warding patterns of two- and

three-member wards for this area. The Commission received an additional two submissions for this area from a local resident and London Dockers Club.

Stepney

- 61 The Labour Group proposed a two-member Stepney West ward and a two-member Stepney East ward. These wards were proposed to have an east-west orientation and were split along Bromley Street and Redman's Road, uniting the properties along Stepney Green into the same Stepney East ward. The Group argued that these arrangements maintained estates within the same ward and incorporated an area "recognised as Stepney by the local residents". The Labour Group extended the southern boundary of its Stepney West ward south of Commercial Road to Cable Street. However, the southern boundary of Stepney East did not extend as far south as Commercial Road. Instead, it used the minor road of Salmon Lane.
- 62 The Mayor and Conservative Group both proposed north-south arrangements which used Commercial Road as a southern boundary and split Stepney vertically along Jubilee Street and West Arbour Street respectively. The Conservative Group argued that, although its boundary did "not follow any major road or dominant physical feature, this is the case at the moment also, and the proposed boundary does not divide any estate". The Conservative Group argued that the Mayor's proposed boundary – which used the current ward boundary – divided the Clichy estate. The Mayor did not provide any community evidence in support of his proposed boundary along Jubilee Street.
- 63 Having walked the area, the team is of the view that the diverse estates and housing in Stepney are linked by Stepney Way, which runs east-west in the area. The team is of the view that neither the Mayor nor the Conservative Group provided for strong boundaries in their submissions. The team is further of the view that the Mayor's proposal has split a cohesive estate along Jubilee Street.
- 64 The team therefore consider that the arrangement proposed by the Labour Group provides for strong east and west boundaries and keeps communities together within the Stepney area. However, the team was concerned that the Group's southern boundary of Stepney West crossed the busy Commercial Road. To provide for both clear boundaries and reflect local communities, the team therefore propose that the southern boundary for the Stepney West ward should run along Commercial Road. As a result of the recommendations for Limehouse (paragraph 39), the team also recommends that the southern boundary for Stepney East should be Commercial Road.
- 65 As a result of these modifications, an electoral imbalance of -22% would result in Stepney West. The team therefore propose two further modifications to ensure improved levels of electoral equality in the ward.
- 66 Firstly, the team propose that the north-east boundary is extended to run along the backs of the properties on the east side of Stepney Green. This ensures that the houses along Stepney Green are not divided between wards. This modification improves electoral equality in Stepney West to 10% fewer electors than the borough average by 2018. To improve electoral equality still further, the team propose to extend the ward's eastern boundary to Belgrave Street, a road with housing consistent to much of the housing in Stepney West. For the

remainder of Stepney West and Stepney East, the team propose that the Commission adopt the Labour Group submission without modification. As a result of the team's recommendation, the wards of Stepney East and Stepney West would have 5% fewer and 7% fewer electors than the borough average by 2018, respectively.

- 67 The team recommends the Commission adopt its proposed wards of Stepney East and Stepney West as part of its draft recommendations.

Shadwell, Wapping, and Whitechapel

- 68 The Labour Group proposed a three-member Shadwell & Wapping ward which extended north across The Highway to Cable Street. The Conservative Group proposed a two-member Shadwell ward and a two-member St Katharine's & Wapping ward. The Group proposed using Commercial Road and The Highway as northern and southern boundaries for its proposed Shadwell ward, and the entirety of The Highway as a northern boundary for its proposed St Katharine's & Wapping ward.

- 69 The Mayor proposed an identical St Katharine's & Wapping ward to the Conservative Group. However, he proposed extending a Shadwell ward west to include a narrow stretch of housing between Cable Street and The Highway. The Mayor also proposed that Shadwell ward should extend east and split the Limehouse basin. This proposal crossed The Highway and included properties west of the Limehouse locks into a Shadwell ward.

- 70 The Commission also received submissions from a resident and London Dockers Club covering this area. Both submissions argued that the Highway and Commercial Road made strong boundaries. Both submissions also argued that those properties south of the Highway, currently in Shadwell ward, should be placed with those in St Katharine's & Wapping.

- 71 Having walked this area, the team is of the view that the Conservative proposal for Shadwell used very strong boundaries and linked identifiable communities between Commercial Road and The Highway. The team therefore propose that the Commission adopt the Conservative proposal for Shadwell ward without modification, and that it also adopt the identical Conservative and Mayoral proposal for St Katharine's & Wapping ward without modification. Under the team's proposal, Shadwell and St Katharine's & Wapping would have 2% fewer and 5% fewer electors than the borough average by 2018, respectively.

- 72 As a result of these proposals, the team propose a Whitechapel ward which is bounded by The Highway, Whitechapel Road, and Sidney Street. The team is of the view that this ward uses strong boundaries, provides for good levels of electoral equality and keeps communities together. Under the team's proposal, the Whitechapel ward would have 4% fewer electors than the borough average by 2018.

- 73 The team recommends the Commission adopt its proposed wards of Shadwell, St Katharine's & Wapping and Whitechapel as part of its draft recommendations.

Tower Hamlets North

74 Tower Hamlets North is a densely populated urban area comprising the areas of Spitalfields, Bethnal Green and Bow.

75 The Mayor, Labour Group, and the Conservative Group all proposed differing warding arrangements for Bethnal Green, Weavers, and Spitalfields. The Mayor and Labour Group proposed identical configurations for the area of Bow. All schemes provided for good levels of electoral equality, generally used strong boundaries, and included evidence of community identity.

North-west Tower Hamlets: Bethnal Green, Weavers, and Spitalfields

76 This area comprises the existing wards of Spitalfields & Banglatown, Weavers, Bethnal Green North, Bethnal Green South, and Mile End & Globe Town. The submissions of the Mayor and the two political groups for this area proposed mixed warding patterns of two- and three-member wards.

Weavers & Spitalfields

77 The Labour Group proposed a three-member Weavers ward in the north-west of the borough. The ward extended between the western borough boundary and Cambridge Heath Road, crossing Warner Place. It proposed Bethnal Green Road as a southern boundary. The Group argued that these were “natural boundaries” and stated that its proposed ward linked together residents’ groups which worked together, as well as schools which served the area.

78 The Mayor and Conservative Group both proposed very similar arrangements for a two-member Weavers ward which, in contrast to the Labour Group, crossed Bethnal Green Road using a north-south orientation. The Conservative Group stated that this arrangement linked “an increasingly mixed and diverse community in the bustling area of Brick Lane and Bethnal Green Road”.

79 The proposals from the Mayor and Conservative Group for Weavers diverged at their southern and eastern boundaries. To the south, the Mayor’s proposals crossed the railway line and proposed Quaker Street/Buxton Street as a southern boundary. The Conservative Group, in contrast, proposed the railway line as a southern boundary, arguing that the line was a “natural boundary” and that the area to the south had “a close affinity with Spitalfields”.

80 To the east of the ward, the Conservative Group proposed the existing boundary of Warner Place, while the Mayor departed from Warner Place at Wellington Row to include the Jesus Green Estate in his proposed St Peter’s ward (paragraph 89). The Mayor stated that the estate was unique, and that it formed part of the Jesus Green Conservation Area, alongside St Peter’s Church and Square.

81 Having walked this area, the team is of the view that Bethnal Green Road is a uniting factor in the area and that it provides a focal point for the communities north and south of it. The team is therefore of the view that a north-south orientation which crosses Bethnal Green Road more accurately reflects local communities. The team also consider that, to the south, the railway line provides for a very strong boundary. In contrast, an arrangement which uses Quaker Lane/Buxton Street as a boundary arbitrarily splits Brick Lane.

- 82 Furthermore, while the team acknowledges the unique nature of the Jesus Green Estate, it considers that the Mayor's arrangement does not provide for a strong boundary. The team therefore propose that the Commission adopt the Conservative proposal for Weavers ward without modification. Under the team's proposal, the ward would have 8% more electors than the borough average by 2018. The team recommends the Commission adopt the proposed Weavers ward as part of its draft recommendations.
- 83 To the immediate south of Weavers, the three borough-wide submissions argued for similar warding arrangements for the Spitalfields area. Aside from the differences proposed for the northern extent of the ward (paragraphs 77-81), all three proposals linked together the same areas east and west of Brick Lane. Furthermore, all three submissions proposed Whitechapel Road as a strong southern boundary, with minor differences proposed for the eastern boundary.
- 84 A proposal for Spitalfields was also received from a local resident, who proposed a single-member Spitalfields & Liberties ward which crossed the railway line. The resident's arguments were mainly focused upon the historical boundaries of the former Spitalfields Parish and included the area immediately around Brick Lane.
- 85 Having walked the area, the team is of the view that the Mayor's eastern boundary – along Cambridge Heath Road, Darling Road, and the western edge of the Burial Ground – provides for the clearest boundary. Furthermore, the team is of the view that the resident's proposal arbitrarily divided the Brick Lane community and did not use strong boundaries.
- 86 The Commission received different proposals for ward names for the Spitalfields area. The Mayor and Labour Group argued that the ward should be named Spitalfields & Banglatown, as at present. The Labour Group argued that this name "reflects the historic area of Spitalfields and its more recent, additional identity as Banglatown". The Conservative Group stated that the ward should be named simply Spitalfields, arguing that "the Bangladeshi community lives across the borough" and that to include 'Banglatown' in the name "implies that the Bangladeshi community in Tower Hamlets is restricted to the Spitalfields area alone". The local resident argued that 'Spitalfields & Liberties' reflected the inclusion of the former Liberties of Norton Folgate and Old Artillery Ground.
- 87 The team has reflected on why the current ward for the area is named Spitalfields & Banglatown. The team note that, during the previous review, there was controversy over the ward name. At that time, support was received for the separate ward names of Spitalfields and Banglatown. In its final recommendations of the previous review, the Commission included both names for the ward, arguing that "there were strong feelings among local residents on both sides of the argument" and that "interests of residents in the area would be best served by both names in the ward title". The Spitalfields area is also the site of the annual Banglatown festival. Having considered the evidence received, the team is of the view that the current ward name reflects the local community and the history of the area. The team proposes that both names still be included in the title of the ward.

88 Therefore the team propose that the Commission adopt the name Spitalfields & Banglatown as part of its draft recommendations. Under the team's proposal, this ward would have 8% more electors than the borough average by 2018.

Bethnal Green:

89 The Mayor proposed a three-member St Peter's ward which extended between the Jesus Green Estate to Cambridge Heath road and along Oldford and Approach Roads to the Grand Union Canal. The proposed ward also straddled Bethnal Green Road, linking the estates via Squirries Street and Cambridge Heath Road. The Conservative Group proposed a two-member Cambridge Heath ward which used an identical north-east boundary (along the Canal, Oldford, and Approach Roads) but which used Bethnal Green Road as a southern boundary.

90 South of Bethnal Green Road, the Labour Group and Conservative Group proposed almost identical two-member Bethnal Green wards. Both proposals extended east-west between Squirries Road and Globe Road, crossing Cambridge Heath Road, and used Bethnal Green Road as a northern boundary. The Labour Group argued that this arrangement linked together "well established and active residents associations," while the Conservative Group argued that the ward linked together "conjoined" communities. The Group added that there were "extensive transport links with Cambridge Heath Road acting as a spine for both sides of the ward".

91 As discussed in paragraph 81, having walked the area, the team consider that Bethnal Green Road is a focal point for the local communities and that a north-south ward which straddles the road provides the best reflection of community identity in the area. The team therefore proposes that the Commission adopt the Mayor's proposal for St Peter's ward as part of its draft recommendations, with the only modification being the use of Warner Place as a north-western boundary, as proposed in paragraph 82. Under the team's proposal, the St Peter's ward would have 2% more electors than the borough average in 2018. The team recommends the Commission adopt this ward as part of its draft recommendations.

92 As a result of the team's proposal to recommend the Mayor's St Peter's ward and use Cambridge Heath road as a ward boundary, the team recommends that the Commission adopt a three-member Bethnal Green East ward, as proposed by the Mayor in his submission. This ward uses strong boundaries, links together communities north and south of Roman Road – as also proposed by the Labour and Conservative Groups – and provides for a reasonable level of electoral equality. Under the team's proposal, the Bethnal Green East ward would have 7% more electors than the borough average by 2018. The team recommends the Commission adopt this ward as part of its draft recommendations.

Bow

93 This area comprises the existing wards of Bow East and Bow West. The submissions of the Mayor and the two political groups proposed mixed warding patterns of two- and three-member wards for this area.

94 The Conservative Group proposed a two-member Park ward and a three-member Bow ward on an east-west orientation, using Roman Road as a boundary between the two wards. The Group argued that the road (a community

market street) acted “more as a clear dividing line between estates... than it acts as a community focus”.

- 95 The Mayor and the Labour Group proposed identical warding arrangements for this area, using the existing boundaries and a north-south orientation. The Labour Group argued that, “due to the position of tube stations on the A11, the flow of pedestrian traffic is mostly north-south”. The Mayor argued that Roman Road runs through the whole area of Bow and was “used by most Bow residents”.
- 96 Having walked the area, the team was of the view that Roman Road acted as a community focal point for the area. In particular, the team observed the busy market stalls along the narrow part of Roman Road east of St Stephen’s Road. The team viewed the road as a uniting factor for estates to the north and to the south, and therefore consider that the proposal of the Conservative Group would divide a community. Furthermore, the team is of the view that the proposals of the Mayor and Labour group unite communities around Roman Road and use the strong boundary of St Stephen’s road.
- 97 The Mayor and the Labour Group both proposed the name Bow West for the ward comprising the western part of the area. However, for the ward comprising the eastern part of the area, the Labour Group proposed the name Bow East & Fish Island, while the Mayor simply proposed Bow East. The Labour Group argued that ‘Fish Island’ was now widely used by residents in the area and local business. However, the name is also used “in the surrounding areas of Bow, Hackney Wick and Stratford”. The Group further argued that the name had also “been formally acknowledged in regeneration strategies put forward by the Greater London Authority, the Olympic Park Legacy Company, and Tower Hamlets Council”.
- 98 Having considered the evidence provided, the team is of the view that the names ‘Bow East’ and ‘Bow West’ more accurately reflect the communities represented by the warding arrangements on the ground. The team therefore propose that the Commission adopt the proposal of the Mayor for a two-member Bow West ward and a three-member Bow East ward as part of its draft recommendations. Under the team’s proposal, Bow West and Bow East would have 2% fewer and 5% more electors than the borough average by 2018, respectively.

Conclusion

- 99 The team’s proposed warding pattern provides good electoral equality and identifiable ward boundaries, as well as reflecting evidence of community identity received. The team therefore recommends that the Commission agrees to its proposed electoral arrangements for the London Borough of Tower Hamlets.

Table 1: Summary of electoral arrangements:

		Current arrangements	Draft recommendations
Council size		51	45
No. of wards		17	20
	single- member	0	2
	two- member	0	11
	three member	17	7
wards with a variance of more than10%	2011	5	10
	2018	10	0

- 100 This report has been screened for impact on equalities, with due regard being given to the general equalities duties as set out in section 149 of the Equality Act 2010. As no potential negative impacts were identified, a full equality impact analysis is not required.

Recommendation

- 101 The team recommends that the Commission agree the proposed draft recommendations for the London Borough of Tower Hamlets.

Richard Otterway & Tim Bowden
The Local Government Boundary Commission for England
October 2012

Table 2: Draft recommendations for the London Borough of Tower Hamlets

	Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2012)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2018)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
1	Blackwall & Cubitt Town	3	8,866	2,955	-22%	13,151	4,384	-1%
2	Bethnal Green East	3	13,701	4,567	20%	14,215	4,738	7%
3	Bow East	3	10,809	3,603	-6%	13,047	4,349	-2%
4	Bow West	2	8,944	4,472	17%	9,239	4,620	5%
5	Bromley North	2	6,367	3,184	-17%	8,774	4,387	-1%
6	Bromley South	2	6,079	3,040	-20%	8,881	4,441	1%
7	Canary	2	7,859	3,930	3%	9,078	4,539	3%
8	Island Gardens	2	8,802	4,401	15%	9,159	4,580	4%
9	Limehouse	1	4,195	4,195	10%	4,441	4,441	1%
10	Mile End	3	11,120	3,707	-3%	13,001	4,334	-2%
11	Poplar North	3	9,640	3,213	-16%	12,049	4,016	-9%
12	Poplar South	1	4,061	4,061	6%	4,872	4,872	10%
13	Shadwell	2	8,278	4,139	9%	8,653	4,327	-2%
14	Spitalfields & Banglatown	2	8,748	4,374	15%	9,501	4,751	8%

	Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2012)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2018)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
15	St Katharine's & Wapping	2	7,909	3,755	4%	8,379	4,190	-5%
16	St Peter's	3	12,551	4,062	10%	13,498	4,499	2%
17	Stepney East	2	7,509	4,195	-2%	8,405	4,203	-5%
18	Stepney West	2	8,123	3,216	7%	8,211	4,106	-7%
19	Weavers	2	8,390	3,955	10%	9,563	4,782	8%
20	Whitechapel	3	9,647	4,184	-16%	12,660	4,220	-4%
	Totals	45	171,598	-	-	198,777	-	-
	Averages	-	-	3,813	-	-	4,417	-

Source: Electorate figures are based on information provided by London Borough of Tower Hamlets Council.

Note: The 'variance from average' column shows by how far, in percentage terms, the number of electors per councillor in each ward 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.

Appendix B: Summary of representations for London Borough of Tower Hamlets

Key	Organisation	Position	Title	Initial	Surname	Comments	Borough-wide scheme	Area	Specific area(s)?
1	Tower Hamlets Council	Mayor	Mr	L	Rahman	Borough-wide submission which provided for good electoral equality, strong boundaries, and included some evidence of community identity. The submission is for a mixed pattern of two- and three-member wards	Yes	All	All
2	Tower Hamlets Council	Labour Group	Cllr	D	Edgar	Borough-wide submission which provided for good electoral equality, strong boundaries, and included some evidence of community identity. The submission is for a mixed pattern of two- and three-member wards	Yes	All	All
3	Tower Hamlets Council	Conservative Group	Cllr	P	Golds	Borough-wide submission which provided for good electoral equality, strong boundaries, and included some evidence of community identity. The submission is for a mixed pattern of one-, two- and three-member wards (single-member ward for Poplar South)	Yes	All	All
4		Member of Parliament	Mr	J	Fitzpatrick	Supported the Labour Group submission in its entirety, with particular focus on the 'horizontal arrangement' the Group proposed for the Isle of Dogs.	Yes	All	All
5		Member of Parliament	Ms	R	Ali	Supported the Labour Group submission in its entirety. No specific evidence regarding warding arrangements was included.	Yes	All	All

6		Assembly Member	Mr	J	Biggs	Supported the Labour Group submission in its entirety. No specific evidence regarding warding arrangements was included.	Yes	All	All
7	London Dockers Club	Secretary	Mr	B	Nicholson	Argued that the Shadwell community was bounded by Commercial Road to the North, Limehouse Basin in the east, and The Highway in the south. Argued that the existing ward should remain as it included these communities, but that those communities south of the Highway could be placed into a St Katharine's & Wapping ward.	No	Shadwell	Shadwell
8	Resident		■	■	■	Provided a detailed submission for a single-member Spitalfields with Liberties ward which extended north of the railway line around Brick Lane.	No	Spitalfields & Banglatown	Spitalfields
9	Resident		■	■	■	Argued that the existing Shadwell ward was a cohesive community and that its current boundaries were strong. Disagreed with the Labour submission. Argued that the area south of the Highway could be placed into a St Katharine's & Wapping ward.	No	Shadwell	Shadwell
10	Resident		■	■	■	No arguments regarding boundaries or council size. Made comment regarding the ethnic make-up of Tower Hamlets.	No	All	All
11	Tower Hamlets Council	Labour Group	Cllr	D	Edgar	Reiterated the arguments made in the original submission and made some additional observations regarding community identity.	No	All	All

12	Tower Hamlets Council	Cllr	Cllr	C	Aston	Provided an alternative warding arrangement for Mile End and Bromley which made use of Bow Road. Affirmed his support for the remainder of the Conservative submission.	No	Bromley	Bromley
13	Limehouse Community Forum	Chair	Mr	M	Slankard	Argued against the boundaries proposed for Limehouse by the Conservative Group and Mayor. Argued that the bounds of 'Limehouse' were Commercial Road to the north, Westferry Road to the east, Rotherhithe Tunnel to the west, and the river to the south.	No	Limehouse	Limehouse
14	Community Network		■	■	████████	Argued against a reduction in council size on the grounds that the representative workload had increased due to higher, more diver population.	N/A	N/A	N/A
15	Resident		■	■	████████	Argued against a reduction in council size due to the increase in population in Tower Hamlets.	N/A	N/A	N/A

From: Faccini, Dean
Sent: 15 November 2012 16:41
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: Otterway, Richard
Subject: RE: FOI Request - Tower Hamlets Review
Dear [REDACTED],

FOI Ref: 12/12

You requested: **Information on proposals regarding Spitalfields Ward (Spitalfields and Banglatown) within the London Borough of Tower Hamlets**

The Commission aims to respond promptly and within the statutory deadline of 20 working days set by the Freedom of Information Act 2000. Please expect a response by **13 December 2012**.

In some cases a fee may be payable and if that is the case I will let you know. A fees notice will be issued to you, and you will be required to pay before I will proceed to deal with your request.

If you have any queries or concerns please do not hesitate to contact me on the details provided below. Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

Regards,

Dean Faccini
Business Assistant
Local Government Boundary Commission for England
Layden House
76-86 Turnmill Street
London EC1M 5LG
Tel: 020 7664 8533

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 15 November 2012 16:00
To: FOI@ (LGBCE)
Cc: Otterway, Richard
Subject: FOI Request - Tower Hamlets Review

The Freedom of Information Officer
The Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE)
Layden House
76-86 Turnmill Street
London
EC1M 5LG

Dear Sirs

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST PURSUANT TO THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 (FOIA 2000)

Re: Local Government Boundary Commission for England's (LGBCE) proposals regarding Spitalfields Ward (Spitalfields and Banglatown) within the London Borough of Tower Hamlets pursuant to the LGBCE's consultations preceding the publication

of their Draft Recommendations for Tower Hamlets on 13 November 2012 (the Consultation)

Pursuant to the FOIA 2000, I would be grateful if the Local Government Boundary Commission for England would provide me with details of the following:

1. The names of all officers and elected officials at Tower Hamlets whom officers, agents or representatives of the LGBCE have met during the consultation preceeding the publication of their draft recommendations
2. Copies of all internal correspondence, minutes of meetings and other annotated or recorded discussions where the "Spitalfields with Liberties" proposal as submitted by myself is referred to
3. The precise locations visited by officers, agents or representatives of the LGBCE in the *Spitalfields and Banglatowns* and *Weavers* wards during your walking visits to those places
4. The notes made by the aforementioned officers, agents or representatives of the LGBCE during or after their walking tours concerning those precise locations in the aforementioned wards
5. Your definition of the word "arbitrary"

I would be grateful if you could provide me with the said information at the following email address: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

For and on behalf of
Spitalfields with Liberties Action Group

cc. Review Officer (Tower Hamlets)