

LOCAL
GOVERNMENT
COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND

FINAL
RECOMMENDATIONS
ON THE FUTURE
ELECTORAL
ARRANGEMENTS
FOR AMBER VALLEY
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 Amber Valley in Derbyshire.

Members of the Commission are:

Professor Malcolm Grant (Chairman)

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Peter Brokenshire

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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 Amber Valley 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, and have confirmed our draft recommendations in full. This report sets out our final recommendations for changes to electoral arrangements in Amber Valley.

We recommend that Amber Valley Borough Council should be served by 45 councillors representing 23 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 hold elections by thirds.

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 we are obliged to conduct our 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 Amber Valley 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 Amber Valley because:

- **in 14 of the 25 wards, the number of electors represented by each councillor varies by more than 10 per cent from the average for the borough, and four 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 16 wards, and by more than 20 per cent in five wards.**

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

- **Amber Valley Borough Council should be served by 45 councillors, two more than at present;**
- **there should be 23 wards, two less than at present;**
- **the boundaries of 14 of the existing wards should be modified, while 11 wards should retain their existing boundaries;**
- **elections should continue to take place by thirds.**

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 all 23 wards, the number of electors per councillor would vary by no more than 10 per cent from the borough average initially.**
- **By 2002 the number of electors per councillor is forecast to vary by no more than 10 per cent from the average in all but one ward.**

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

- **revised warding arrangements for the parish of Crich;**
- **revised warding arrangements for the towns of Belper, Heanor & Loscoe and Ripley.**

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

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

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

Ward name	Number of councillors	Constituent areas	Map reference
1 Aldercar	2	<i>Unchanged</i> (the parish of Aldercar & Langley Mill)	Map 2
2 Alfreton	3	Alfreton East ward; Alfreton West ward	Map 2
3 Alport	1	<i>Unchanged</i> (the parishes of Alderwasley, Ashleyhay, Dethick Lea & Holloway, Hazelwood, Idridgehay & Alton and Shottle & Postern)	Map 2
4 Belper Central	2	Belper East ward (part); Belper North ward (part); Belper South ward (part)	Map 2 and large map
5 Belper East	2	Belper East ward (part)	Map 2 and large map
6 Belper North	2	Belper North ward (part); Belper South ward (part)	Map 2 and large map
7 Belper South	2	Belper East ward (part); Belper South ward (part)	Map 2 and large map
8 Codnor & Waingroves	2	Codnor ward (the Codnor parish ward of Codnor parish); Heanor & Loscoe ward (part – the Crosshill & East parish ward of Codnor parish); Ripley ward (part – the proposed Waingroves parish ward of Ripley parish)	Map 2 and large map
9 Crich	1	<i>Unchanged</i> (the Crich parish ward of Crich parish)	Map 2
10 Duffield	2	<i>Unchanged</i> (the parish of Duffield)	Map 2
11 Heage & Ambergate	2	<i>Unchanged</i> (the Heage and Ambergate parish wards of Ripley parish)	Map 2 and large map
12 Heanor East	2	Heanor East ward (part)	Map 2 and large map
13 Heanor West	2	Heanor East ward (part); Heanor West ward (part)	Map 2 and large map
14 Horsley & Shipley Park	2	Denby & Horsley Woodhouse ward (part – the parish of Horsley Woodhouse); Holbrook & Horsley ward (part – the parish of Horsley); Shipley Park ward (the parishes of Mapperley, Smalley and Shipley)	Map 2

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

	Ward name	Number of councillors	Constituent areas	Map reference
15	Kilburn, Denby & Holbrook	3	Denby & Horsley Woodhouse ward (part – the parish of Denby); Holbrook & Horsley ward (part – the parish of Holbrook); Kilburn ward (the parish of Kilburn)	Map 2
16	Loscoe	2	Heanor & Loscoe ward (part – the Heanor & Loscoe parish ward of Heanor & Loscoe parish); Heanor West ward (part)	Map 2 and large map
17	Riddings	2	<i>Unchanged</i> (the parish of Ironville and the unparished area of Riddings)	Map 2
18	Ripley	3	Ripley ward (part – the North and Butterley parish wards of Ripley parish and the East parish ward of Ripley parish as amended)	Map 2 and large map
19	Ripley & Marehay	2	<i>Unchanged</i> (the Central, Elms and Marehay parish wards of Ripley parish)	Map 2 and large map
20	Somercotes	2	<i>Unchanged</i> (the parish of Somercotes)	Map 2
21	South West Parishes	1	<i>Unchanged</i> (the parishes of Kedleston, Kirk Langley, Mackworth, Quarndon, Ravensdale Park, Turnditch, Weston Underwood and Windley)	Map 2
22	Swanwick	2	<i>Unchanged</i> (the parish of Swanwick)	Map 2
23	Wingfield	1	<i>Unchanged</i> (the parishes of Pentrich and South Wingfield and the Fritchley parish ward of Crich parish)	Map 2

Note: Map 2 and the large map inserted at the back of this report illustrate the proposed wards outlined above.

1. INTRODUCTION

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

5 Stage Three began on 30 June 1998 with the publication of our report, *Draft Recommendations on the Future Electoral Arrangements for Amber Valley 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 The borough of Amber Valley is located in eastern Derbyshire, to the north of Derby and to the west of Nottinghamshire. With the exception of Derby, Amber Valley is the largest borough in the county in terms of population with over 110,000 residents and has an area of some 26,500 hectares. The majority of the population live in the centre or east of the borough in the towns of Alfreton, Belper, Heanor & Loscoe and Ripley. The eastern part of the borough also contains the majority of the local industrial land, especially important to the borough since the closure of local coal mines. The western part of the borough, which borders the Derbyshire Dales, is mainly rural in character. Amber Valley is the only authority in Derbyshire apart from Derby City to hold elections by thirds and is almost entirely parished with 33 parish or town councils.

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 91,433. The Council presently has 43 councillors who are elected from 25 wards (Map 1 and Figure 2). Two wards are represented by three councillors, fourteen wards elect two councillors each, while the remaining nine are single-member wards.

⁹ At present, each councillor represents an average of 2,126 electors, which the Borough Council forecasts would increase to 2,191 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 14 of the 25 wards varies by more than 10 per cent from the borough average and in four wards by more than

20 per cent. The worst imbalance is in Kilburn ward in which the number of electors per councillor is 48 per cent above the borough average.

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 Aldercar	2	3,838	1,919	-10	3,840	1,920	-12
2 Alfreton East	2	2,420	1,210	-43	2,544	1,272	-42
3 Alfreton West	2	3,940	1,970	-7	3,884	1,942	-11
4 Alport	1	2,049	2,049	-4	2,088	2,088	-5
5 Belper East	3	8,242	2,747	29	9,117	3,039	39
6 Belper North	2	3,998	1,999	-6	3,993	1,997	-9
7 Belper South	2	3,176	1,588	-25	3,222	1,611	-26
8 Codnor	1	2,372	2,372	12	2,356	2,356	8
9 Crich	1	1,831	1,831	-14	1,943	1,943	-11
10 Denby & Horsley Woodhouse	1	2,510	2,510	18	2,575	2,575	18
11 Duffield	2	3,705	1,853	-13	3,774	1,887	-14
12 Heage & Ambergate	2	3,907	1,954	-8	3,927	1,964	-10
13 Heanor & Loscoe	2	3,827	1,914	-10	3,809	1,905	-13
14 Heanor East	2	4,711	2,356	11	4,902	2,451	12
15 Heanor West	2	4,806	2,403	13	4,939	2,470	13
16 Holbrook & Horsley	1	1,840	1,840	-13	1,851	1,851	-16
17 Kilburn	1	3,146	3,146	48	3,175	3,175	45
18 Riddings	2	4,321	2,161	2	4,511	2,256	3
19 Ripley	3	7,320	2,440	15	7,618	2,539	16
20 Ripley & Marehay	2	4,481	2,241	5	4,561	2,281	4
21 Shipley Park	1	2,510	2,510	18	2,719	2,719	24

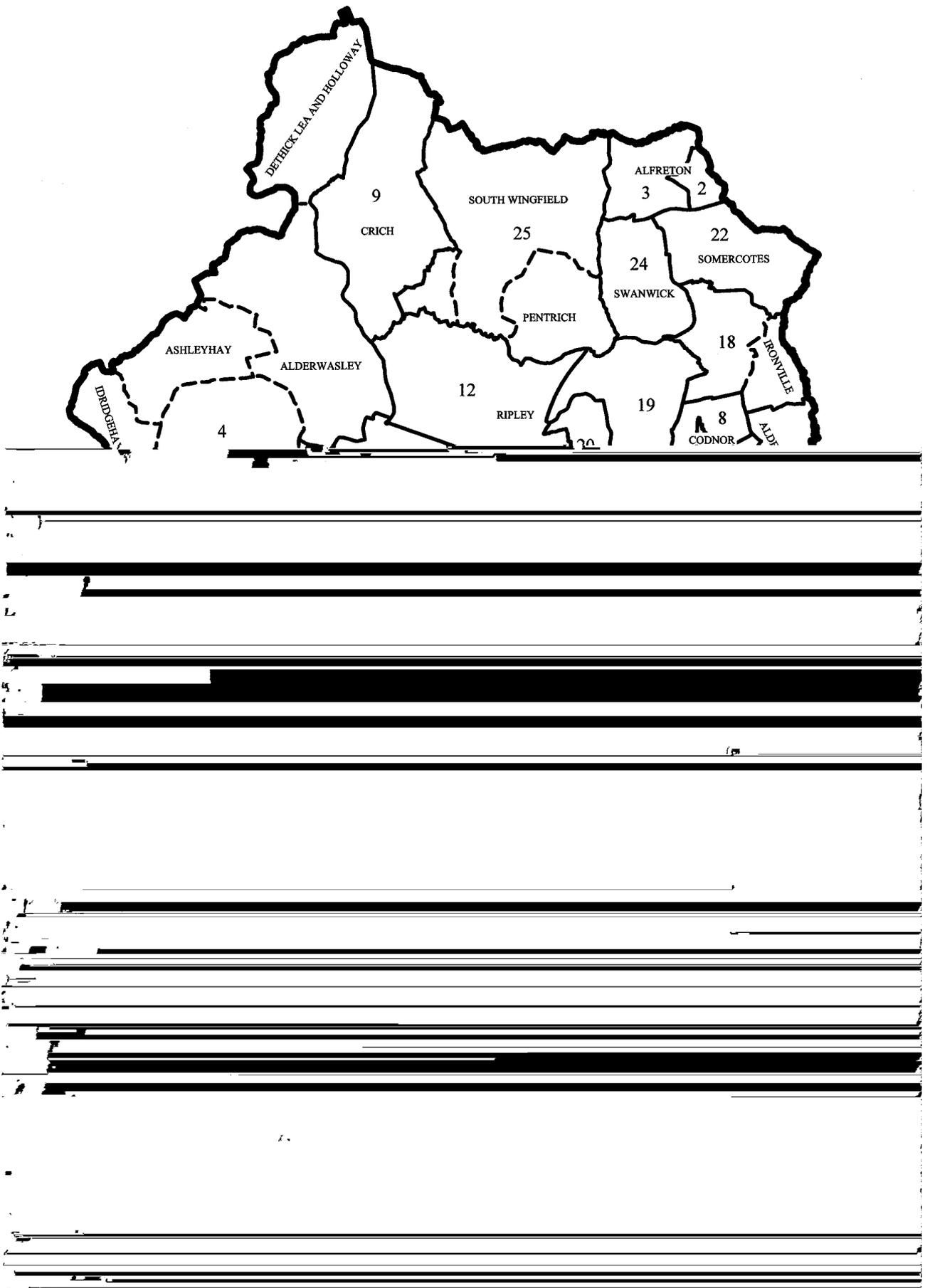
Figure 2 (continued):
Existing Electoral Arrangements

Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (1997)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2002)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
22 Somercotes	2	4,392	2,196	3	4,534	2,267	3
23 South West Parishes	1	2,080	2,080	-2	2,120	2,120	-3
24 Swanwick	2	4,171	2,086	-2	4,369	2,185	0
25 Wingfield	1	1,840	1,840	-13	1,856	1,856	-15
Totals	43	91,433	—	—	94,227	—	—
Averages	—	—	2,126	—	—	2,191	—

Source: Electorate figures are based on Amber Valley 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 Alfreton East ward were relatively over-represented by 43 per cent, while electors in Belper East ward were relatively under-represented by 29 per cent. Figures have been rounded to the nearest whole number.

Map 1:
Existing Wards in Amber Valley



3. DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS

¹⁰ During Stage One we received representations from Amber Valley Borough Council, the West Derbyshire and Amber Valley Conservative Associations, five parish councils and three town councils. In the light of these representations and the evidence available to us, we reached preliminary conclusions which were set out in our report, *Draft Recommendations on the Future Electoral Arrangements for Amber Valley in Derbyshire*. Our draft recommendations were partly based on the Borough Council's scheme, which in general terms achieved improved electoral equality, providing good boundaries while having regard to the statutory criteria. However, we moved away from the Borough Council's scheme in four areas, affecting eight wards in the south and east of the borough. In those areas we built on the West Derbyshire Conservative Association's scheme. We proposed that:

- (a) Amber Valley Borough Council should be served by 45 councillors, representing 23 wards;
- (b) the boundaries of 14 of the existing wards should be modified, while 11 wards should retain their existing boundaries;
- (c) elections should continue to take place by thirds.

Draft Recommendation

Amber Valley Borough Council should comprise 45 councillors, serving 23 wards. The Council should continue to be elected by thirds.

¹¹ Our proposals would have resulted in significant improvements in electoral equality, with the number of electors per councillor in all wards varying by no more than 10 per cent from the borough average. By 2002 only one ward was forecast to vary by more than 10 per cent from the average (the unchanged Wingfield ward at 11 per cent).

4. RESPONSES TO CONSULTATION

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

Amber Valley Borough Council

¹³ The Council concurred with many of the draft recommendations but put forward alternative proposals for the southern part of the borough. It proposed an unchanged Holbrook & Horsley single-member ward, a new two-member Kilburn & Horsley Woodhouse ward and a new two-member ward comprising the Shipley Park ward and Denby parish, although the Council ideally preferred that this latter ward be subdivided into single-member wards. It also proposed the creation of two three-member wards for Heanor & Loscoe, although its second preference for the town was for a modified version of our draft proposals, three two-member wards.

¹⁴ The Council supported (or 'noted') our proposals for Belper, Codnor & Waingroves, Ripley and Swanwick but maintained its view that the town of Alfreton should be represented by four members (as now) rather than three as we proposed.

West Derbyshire Conservative Association

¹⁵ The West Derbyshire Conservative Association generally supported our draft recommendations across the borough. However, it reiterated its earlier concern that the Borough Council's forecast electorate increase for the current Belper East ward had been calculated by uniformly applying a statistical formula across polling districts and may not, therefore, produce an accurate electorate projection for that particular ward. The Association also proposed that each of the four suggested Belper Town Council wards should be represented

by three town councillors rather than four.

Parish and Town Councils

¹⁶ Three town councils and five parish councils submitted representations during Stage Three. Belper Town Council fully supported the draft recommendations regarding the Belper borough wards and those proposed for the Town Council. Ripley Town Council stated that it "could see the logic in the proposed borough council ward of Codnor & Waingroves" but could see no reason for some of the town council wards to be modified. Heanor & Loscoe Town Council supported the Borough Council's Stage Three proposal for two new three-member wards to be created in the town and additionally proposed alternative town council warding arrangements.

¹⁷ Kilburn Parish Council supported the draft recommendations insofar as they affected the parish. However, the parish councils of Holbrook, Horsley, Horsley Woodhouse and Shipley all opposed our recommendations. Holbrook Parish Council stated a preference for retaining the present Holbrook & Horsley ward, although it added that a possible alternative option would be to include additional electors from lower Kilburn and Derby Road in the ward, arguing that this would "even out the numerical anomaly whilst keeping a geographical and historic unit". Horsley Parish Council also preferred to remain part of the present Holbrook & Horsley ward and supported the alternative proposed by Holbrook Parish Council.

¹⁸ Horsley Woodhouse Parish Council reiterated its preference for the parish to remain in a ward with the neighbouring parish of Denby and argued that the additional councillor merited in the southern part of Amber Valley should represent the Kilburn ward. Shipley Parish Council reaffirmed its support for the Borough Council's Stage One proposal to retain the single-member Shipley Park ward, covering the parishes of Smalley, Mapperley and Shipley.

Derbyshire County Council

19 The County Council generally supported our draft recommendations, although it proposed two three-member wards for the town of Heanor & Loscoe and an alternative warding arrangement for some of the parishes in the south of the borough. It proposed a two-member ward which would comprise Denby Village, Horsley Woodhouse and Shipley Park and a two-member Kilburn & Denby ward which would comprise most of Kilburn parish and the Bottles and Openwoodgate areas of Denby parish. It also proposed to add 171 electors from the southern part of Kilburn parish to an enlarged single-member Holbrook & Horsley ward.

Other Representations

20 A further representation was received in response to our draft recommendations from a local resident. He supported our proposals regarding Duffield ward and the towns of Alfreton, Belper and Ripley, but put forward possible alternatives for the wards of Alport, Crich and Wingfield.

5. ANALYSIS AND FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS

21 As indicated previously, our prime objective in considering the most appropriate electoral arrangements for Amber Valley 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”.

22 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.

23 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.

24 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

25 At Stage One Amber Valley Borough Council submitted electorate forecasts for the year 2002, projecting an increase in the electorate of some 3 per cent from 91,433 to 94,227 over the five-year period from 1997 to 2002. The Council estimated rates and locations of housing development with regard to structure and local plans, 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, were satisfied that they represented the best estimates that could reasonably be made at the time.

26 During Stage Three the West Derbyshire Conservative Association reiterated its Stage One contention that the Borough Council’s projected electorate data for the existing Belper East ward had been calculated by uniformly applying a formula across the relevant polling districts. We have considered the Conservative Association’s concerns but, in view of the fact that the Borough Council confirmed to us during Stage Three that it remains content with its projected electorate methodology (which was agreed by the County Council), we remain satisfied that the Borough Council’s projections are the most appropriate available to us.

Council Size

27 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.

28 Amber Valley Borough Council is at present served by 43 councillors. 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 size of 45 members. During the consultation period we did not receive any representations specifically arguing against our proposed council size. However, the proposal by the Borough Council for the town of Alfreton to retain four councillors would result in a council size of 46. That proposal is not acceptable to us (see paragraph 38 below) and therefore we are confirming our draft recommendation for a council size of 45 as final.

Electoral Arrangements

29 Having considered the representations received during Stage Three, we have reviewed our draft recommendations. The following areas, based on existing wards, are considered in turn:

- (a) Alfreton East and West, Crich, Swanwick and Wingfield wards;
- (b) Aldercar, Riddings and Somercotes wards;
- (c) Heage & Ambergate, Ripley and Ripley & Marehay wards;
- (d) Codnor, Heanor & Loscoe, Heanor East and Heanor West wards;
- (e) Denby & Horsley Woodhouse, Holbrook & Horsley, Kilburn and Shipley Park wards;
- (f) Belper East, North and South wards;
- (g) Alport, Duffield and South West Parishes wards.

Details of our final recommendations are set out in Figures 1 and 4 and illustrated in Map 2, Appendix A and the large map inserted in the back of this report.

Alfreton East and West, Crich, Swanwick and Wingfield wards

30 The town of Alfreton is presently divided into two borough wards. The two-member Alfreton East ward with an electorate of 2,420 is substantially over-represented, the number of electors per councillor varying from the borough average by 43 per cent (42 per cent in 2002). The two-member Alfreton West ward with an

electorate of 3,940 is relatively well-represented, the number of electors per councillor varying from the borough average by 7 per cent (11 per cent in 2002).

31 The single-member Crich ward, with an electorate of 1,831, comprises the Crich parish ward of Crich parish and currently has 14 per cent fewer than the average number of electors per councillor (11 per cent in 2002). The two-member Swanwick ward, which comprises the parish of that name, has an electorate of 4,171 and varies by 2 per cent below the average number of electors per councillor (equalling it in 2002). The single-member Wingfield ward comprises the Fritchley parish ward of Crich parish and the parishes of Pentrich and South Wingfield and has an electorate of 1,840. The number of electors per councillor is 13 per cent fewer than the borough average (15 per cent in 2002).

32 During Stage One, the Borough Council acknowledged the “considerable electoral inequality” in Alfreton, but preferred that no change be made to the existing electoral arrangements. The proposal for no change was supported by Alfreton Town Council during the Borough Council’s own consultation. If this proposal were not acceptable, the Borough Council favoured the creation of a three-member ward for the whole of the town area, reducing representation in the town overall by one member. This proposal was supported by the Amber Valley and West Derbyshire Conservative Associations. A third option was also proposed by the Council which would retain four members for the area, but would involve the warding of the neighbouring parish of South Wingfield and its division between two enlarged Alfreton wards.

33 The Borough Council looked at two options in relation to the Crich ward. Its preferred option was for no change, a proposal supported by the Amber Valley and West Derbyshire Conservative Associations. While acknowledging that electoral equality would not be improved, its second preference was to include the Fritchley parish ward (containing 462 electors), which is in Crich parish but presently forms part of the Wingfield borough ward, in a revised Crich borough ward.

34 The Borough Council’s preferred option for the wards of Swanwick and Wingfield was for no change to the existing electoral arrangements,

proposals supported by the Amber Valley and West Derbyshire Conservative Associations and, during the Borough Council's own consultation period, by Pentrich and South Wingfield parish councils. However, the Borough Council also considered alternatives which would result in the parish of Pentrich being added to Swanwick ward and South Wingfield parish being warded and "added" to Alfreton as discussed above.

35 The proposal to ward the parish of South Wingfield did not appear sensible on the ground. Officers from the Commission visited this area and noted that the community of South Wingfield is some distance from Alfreton, while the existing Alfreton wards are contained within clearly defined town boundaries. In view of this and of the reasonable level of electoral equality that would be attained in Alfreton, we adopted as our draft recommendation the alternative proposal put forward by the Council and supported by the Amber Valley and West Derbyshire Conservative Associations, for a three-member Alfreton ward. Under our proposals for a council size of 45 members, the number of electors per councillor in the three-member Alfreton ward would vary from the borough average by 4 per cent (2 per cent in 2002).

36 We also considered whether a projected electoral variance of 11 per cent in an unchanged Wingfield ward could be improved upon. The only viable alternative option appeared to be to merge the present Crich and Wingfield wards together into a two-member ward. This possibility had attractions as it would marginally improve electoral equality (the ward would have a projected variance of 9 per cent) and would unite the parish of Crich within one borough ward. However, such a ward would be fairly large and the centres of population within it would be some distance apart. Having carefully considered the available options, we adopted the Borough Council's proposals for no change to the wards of Crich, Swanwick and Wingfield. Under our proposals, the number of electors per councillor in these wards would vary from the borough average by 10 per cent, 3 per cent and 9 per cent respectively (7 per cent, 4 per cent and 11 per cent in 2002).

37 During Stage Three, Derbyshire County Council and the West Derbyshire Conservative Association endorsed our proposals for this area in

their entirety. We also received a representation from a local resident supporting our proposal for Alfreton, although he proposed alternative arrangements for Crich and raised the possibility of transferring some electors from Ripley into the Wingfield ward. The Borough Council supported our draft recommendations in relation to the wards of Crich, Swanwick and Wingfield. However, it reaffirmed its preference that there should be no change to the two existing two-member wards in Alfreton because "this area is identified as one of economic and social deprivation". The Council submitted interesting background material about the town to support its submission.

38 We concluded in our draft recommendations report that the town of Alfreton (the wards of Alfreton East and Alfreton West) merits three councillors in total rather than the present four and therefore proposed the creation of a three-member ward for the town. We stated that we had carefully considered the Council's case for departing from electoral equality in Alfreton but concluded then – and maintain the view – that our statutory requirements would be better satisfied by replacing the two present two-member wards with one three-member ward. While we fully acknowledge the socio-economic issues raised by the Council, we do not consider that such factors justify an electoral 'weighting' for the town of Alfreton.

39 Given the general support for our other proposals in this area, and in the absence of substantive new evidence during Stage Three, we confirm our draft recommendations for the Alfreton, Crich, Swanwick and Wingfield wards as final. Details of parishing proposals relating to Crich Parish Council are outlined at the end of this chapter (see page 21).

Aldercar, Riddings and Somercotes wards

40 The two-member Aldercar ward, which comprises Aldercar & Langley Mill parish, has an electorate of 3,838 and the number of electors per councillor is presently 10 per cent below the borough average (12 per cent in 2002). The two-member ward of Riddings, which contains 4,321 electors, comprises the only unparished area in the borough and the parish of Ironville. The number of electors per councillor currently varies from the

borough average by 2 per cent (3 per cent in 2002). The two-member Somercotes ward, which comprises the parish of that name, has an electorate of 4,392. The number of electors per councillor varies from the borough average by 3 per cent both initially and in 2002.

41 During Stage One, the Borough Council and the Amber Valley and West Derbyshire Conservative Associations proposed no change to the existing electoral arrangements of these wards. Given the reasonable levels of electoral equality that would result and the lack of alternative options, we adopted these proposals. Under a 45-member council size, the number of electors per councillor in unchanged wards of Aldercar, Riddings and Somercotes would vary from the borough average by 6 per cent, 6 per cent and 8 per cent respectively (all 8 per cent by 2002).

42 During Stage Three our proposals for no change to these wards received support from the Borough Council, Derbyshire County Council and the West Derbyshire Conservative Association; no other submissions were received relating to these wards. Given the general support for our proposals and the reasonable levels of electoral equality that would be attained in this part of the borough, we confirm our draft recommendations in this area as final.

Heage & Ambergate, Ripley and Ripley & Marehay wards

43 The town of Ripley is currently divided into three borough wards and has an electorate of 15,708 which is forecast to increase to 16,106 by 2002. The number of electors per councillor in the two-member ward of Heage & Ambergate is presently 8 per cent less than the borough average (10 per cent in 2002). The three-member Ripley ward is currently under-represented, with 15 per cent more electors per councillor than the average (16 per cent in 2002). The two-member Ripley & Marehay ward presently has a reasonable level of electoral equality, with 5 per cent more than the average number of electors per councillor (4 per cent in 2002).

44 During Stage One, the Borough Council's first preference was for no change to any of the wards of Ripley. It stated that Heage & Ambergate ward, which is relatively rural in nature, is "significantly

different" to the other two Ripley 'town' wards and that the A38 road provides a strong boundary between the two distinctive areas. However, the Council also proposed two alternatives. First, it proposed the transfer of the RYY polling district from Ripley ward to Ripley & Marehay ward, although electoral equality in the two wards would not be significantly improved. Second, an additional transfer of 72 electors was proposed between the two wards but this would still result in the number of electors per councillor in both wards varying by more than 10 per cent from the borough average. Ripley Town Council, while preferring no change to the existing electoral arrangements, supported the Borough Council's alternatives.

45 The West Derbyshire Conservative Association also proposed no change to Heage & Ambergate and Ripley & Marehay wards. However, in order to improve the level of electoral equality in the Ripley ward, the Association proposed that the 'Waingroves' area of Ripley (the RYW and RYZ polling districts) be placed with the neighbouring parish of Codnor to create a new two-member Codnor & Waingroves ward.

46 In considering the electoral arrangements for Ripley, we concluded that it was appropriate to consider the town with the neighbouring urban areas of Codnor and Heanor & Loscoe. Ripley as a town is slightly under-represented with seven district councillors but is not sufficiently under-represented to warrant eight councillors. Similarly, the town of Heanor & Loscoe, which is discussed in more detail below, is marginally under-represented at present. Between them, the two towns are entitled to an additional councillor, and it was for this reason that the Conservatives' scheme for this area appeared to have most merit.

47 In our draft recommendations report we concluded that placing the two Ripley polling districts (RYW and RYZ) into a new Codnor & Waingroves ward would be appropriate in principle because it would enable the 'extra' councillor to be given to this part of the district and would improve electoral equality in the Ripley ward. It would also address a boundary anomaly where some electors who are to all intents and purposes part of Codnor are presently within Ripley ward, and would enable the parish of Codnor, presently split between two borough wards, to be united within one ward.

48 However, we considered that it was possible to improve upon the Conservatives' proposal by modifying their proposed Codnor & Waingroves ward boundary to enable all the electors of Waingroves Road and Coope Street (880 electors) to be transferred from the Ripley ward. This proposal would result in the modified three-member Ripley ward varying by 6 per cent from the average initially (7 per cent by 2002). An unchanged Ripley & Marehay ward would vary by 10 per cent initially (9 per cent by 2002) while an unchanged Heage & Ambergate ward would vary by 4 per cent initially (6 per cent by 2002).

49 During Stage Three, we received support for our proposals in Ripley from the Borough Council, Derbyshire County Council, the West Derbyshire Conservative Association and a local resident. Ripley Town Council stated that it "could see the logic" in transferring the Waingroves area out of Ripley ward but did not agree with our proposal to alter the town council wards.

50 In view of the general support for our proposals in Ripley we are confirming them as final recommendations. Ripley Town Council's comments regarding the town council wards are discussed at the end of this chapter (see page 21). For details of our proposed borough ward boundaries in Ripley please refer to the large map inserted at the back of the report.

Codnor, Heanor & Loscoe, Heanor East and Heanor West wards

51 The single-member Codnor ward comprises the Codnor parish ward of Codnor parish and has an electorate of 2,372. The number of electors per councillor is 12 per cent above the borough average (8 per cent in 2002). There is presently a degree of electoral inequality within the three wards of Heanor & Loscoe, although the town is very nearly correctly represented with six councillors overall. The two-member ward named Heanor & Loscoe (which includes the Crosshill & East parish ward of Codnor parish) has an electorate of 3,827. The ward is currently over-represented, varying from the borough average by 10 per cent (13 per cent in 2002). The two-member ward of Heanor East with an electorate of 4,711 is presently under-represented, varying from the average number of electors per councillor by 11 per cent (12 per cent in 2002). The two-member

ward of Heanor West with an electorate of 4,806 is also under-represented, varying from the average by 13 per cent both initially and in 2002.

52 During Stage One, the Borough Council proposed relatively minor changes to this area, suggesting transfers of electors from Heanor West and Codnor wards into Heanor & Loscoe ward and from Heanor East to Heanor West ward. However, the Council's proposals would not substantially improve electoral equality and, as described above in relation to Ripley, we formed the view that the combined area of Ripley, Codnor and Heanor was entitled to an additional councillor overall.

53 Predominantly for these reasons, we built upon the Conservatives' proposals in this area. We recommended that 880 electors from the Waingroves area of Ripley be transferred from the Ripley borough ward and be placed in a ward with the whole of the parish of Codnor. The resultant two-member Codnor & Waingroves ward would initially vary from the average number of electors per councillor by 1 per cent (5 per cent by 2002).

54 During Stage Three, our proposal to create a two-member Codnor & Waingroves ward was supported by the Borough Council, the County Council, the West Derbyshire Conservative Association, Ripley Town Council and a local resident. We did not receive any representations opposing this proposal. In view of this support and of the good level of electoral equality that would be achieved, we therefore confirm our draft recommendation as final. Details of this proposal are shown on the large map inserted at the back of the report.

55 In order to improve the present levels of electoral equality in the town of Heanor & Loscoe, we built upon the proposals of the West Derbyshire Conservative Association for a new two-member Loscoe ward and revised two-member wards of Heanor East and Heanor West. We put forward alternative boundaries to the Conservatives in order to secure further improved levels of electoral equality, resulting in proposed wards of Loscoe, Heanor East and Heanor West varying from the borough average by 5 per cent, 2 per cent and 3 per cent respectively (1 per cent, 4 per cent and 3 per cent by 2002).

56 During Stage Three the West Derbyshire Conservative Association supported our proposals for the town of Heanor & Loscoe. However, the Borough Council, Derbyshire County Council and Heanor & Loscoe Town Council proposed two three-member wards for the town, rather than three two-member wards. In addition, the Borough Council put forward a second preference, for three two-member wards, but with alternative boundaries to those we put forward as draft recommendations. Heanor & Loscoe Town Council also proposed alternative town council warding arrangements.

57 The Borough Council's proposal for three-member wards would move away from the existing pattern of two-member wards in Heanor & Loscoe (which the Council supported the retention of in its Stage One submission). Under its Stage Three proposal the current Heanor West ward would be divided between the proposed Loscoe and Heanor East wards. Given that under this proposal electoral equality would be broadly similar to our draft recommendations, we examined it closely. The proposed boundaries of the two wards did not appear to improve on the draft recommendations and there was no evidence submitted to justify the creation of three-member wards in a town which presently does not have that warding pattern. Also lacking in the Borough Council's submission (and those of Derbyshire County Council and Heanor & Loscoe Town Council) were any arguments relating to community identities in the town.

58 This lack of evidence was also the case with the Borough Council's second preference for modified two-member wards: no substantive reasons were given as to why we should move away from our draft recommendations. In view of this and of the reasonable levels of electoral equality that our draft recommendations would provide, we confirm our draft recommendations in Heanor & Loscoe as final. The large map at the back of the report shows details of our proposed boundaries in this area. Heanor & Loscoe Town Council's proposals for town council electoral arrangements are discussed at the end of this chapter (see page 20).

Denby & Horsley Woodhouse, Holbrook & Horsley, Kilburn and Shipley Park wards

59 The four single-member wards of Denby & Horsley Woodhouse, Holbrook & Horsley, Kilburn and Shipley Park, situated in the south-east

of the borough, at present suffer from a significant degree of electoral inequality. The number of electors per councillor in each ward is 18 per cent above, 13 per cent below, 48 per cent above and 18 per cent above the borough average respectively (18 per cent, 16 per cent 45 per cent and 24 per cent in 2002).

60 During Stage One, the Borough Council and the West Derbyshire Conservative Association proposed an increase in representation for this area as a whole from four to five members, although they put forward differing warding arrangements. The Borough Council proposed that the parish of Smalley, currently part of Shipley Park ward, be warded. The proposed North parish ward would be placed in a new three-member borough ward with the parishes of Kilburn, Denby and Horsley Woodhouse. The number of electors per councillor in this ward would have varied from the average by 3 per cent (1 per cent in 2002).

61 The proposed South parish ward of Smalley parish would form part of a modified single-member Shipley Park ward with the parishes of Mapperley and Shipley. The number of electors per councillor would have varied from the borough average by 6 per cent initially (1 per cent in 2002). The single-member Holbrook & Horsley ward would remain unchanged, with the number of electors per councillor varying from the borough average by 9 per cent (12 per cent in 2002) under a 45-member council size.

62 We were persuaded, however, that we should adopt the proposals of the West Derbyshire Conservative Association in this area. It proposed a three-member ward, comprising the parishes of Denby, Kilburn and Holbrook, in which the number of electors per councillor varied from the borough average by 3 per cent (4 per cent in 2002). It also proposed a two-member ward comprising the present Shipley Park ward plus the parishes of Horsley and Horsley Woodhouse. This ward would initially equal the average number of electors per councillor, varying by 3 per cent by 2002.

63 In Stage Three we received a number of submissions in relation to this area. The West Derbyshire Conservative Association and Kilburn Parish Council supported our proposals. However, with the exception of Kilburn Parish Council, the local parish councils in this area were hostile to our proposals. The view generally held was that the

creation of relatively large wards (in terms of area) could diminish the representational role of councillors. The Borough Council and Derbyshire County Council also opposed the draft recommendations and put forward alternatives.

64 The Borough Council's alternative proposals consisted of an unchanged single-member Holbrook & Horsley ward, a new two-member ward consisting of the parishes of Kilburn and Horsley Woodhouse and a new two-member ward consisting of the parishes of Denby, Mapperley, Shipley and Smalley, although the Council ideally preferred that this latter ward be subdivided into single-member wards. Derbyshire County Council proposed that the parishes of Denby and Kilburn both be warded to facilitate the creation of a two-member ward comprising Denby Village, Horsley Woodhouse and Shipley Park and a two-member Kilburn & Denby ward. A small part of Kilburn parish (the 'Lower Kilburn' area) would be added to a revised single-member Holbrook & Horsley ward.

65 The parish councils of Holbrook and Horsley supported the Borough Council's proposal for no change to the single-member Holbrook & Horsley ward. However, they also supported, as a second preference, the County Council's proposal to include the Lower Kilburn area within the ward, arguing that this would "even out the numerical anomaly whilst keeping a geographical and historic unit".

66 We can see merit in the alternative proposals of both the Borough Council and the County Council. The Borough Council's proposals, while securing reasonable electoral equality in two wards, would result in one ward (the unchanged Holbrook & Horsley ward) varying by 12 per cent from the borough average by 2002. In the Council's proposed ward consisting of the parishes of Denby, Mapperley, Shipley and Smalley, community identities would not appear to be enhanced as the centres of population in the parish of Denby, for example, do not appear to share strong ties with the remainder of the proposed ward.

67 The County Council's proposals would involve the warding of two parishes, those of Kilburn and Denby. Electoral equality would be similar to that attained under our draft recommendations: on the County Council's own calculations all three of its proposed wards in this area would vary by no more

than 5 per cent from the borough average by 2002. However, the County Council's proposed ward of Shipley Park and Denby Village would not, in our view, enhance community identities as Denby Village appears to share little in common with the rest of the ward. Additionally, no details of proposed parish ward boundaries (or consequential changes to parish council electoral arrangements) were submitted with the County Council's proposals.

68 There is general agreement by all respondents that this area as a whole merits five councillors rather than the present four, but how these are allocated is the difficult question: there appears to be no perfect solution for this part of the borough. On balance, and taking all relevant factors into account – the levels of electoral equality, community identities and the desirability of the avoidance of unnecessarily warding parishes, together with the views received during Stage Three, we remain of the view that our draft recommendations for a three-member Kilburn, Denby & Holbrook ward and a two-member Horsley & Shipley Park ward are the most appropriate. We therefore confirm these draft recommendations as final.

Belper East, North and South wards

69 The town of Belper, which has an electorate of 15,416 (projected to increase to 16,332 by 2002) is currently divided into three borough wards. The three-member Belper East ward is presently considerably under-represented, with the number of electors per councillor varying by 29 per cent from the borough average (39 per cent in 2002). The two-member Belper North and Belper South wards are over-represented, with the number of electors per councillor varying from the borough average by 6 per cent and 25 per cent respectively (9 per cent and 26 per cent in 2002).

70 During Stage One, the Borough Council, Belper Town Council and the Amber Valley and West Derbyshire Conservative Associations each proposed an overall increase in representation for the town of Belper from seven to eight members. However, differing schemes were proposed to us. The Borough Council proposed a re-configuration of the existing wards to create four new two-member borough wards, and an increase in town councillors from 14 to 16. This was supported by Belper Town Council.

71 In order to address the high levels of electoral inequality in the current Belper East and Belper South wards, the Council proposed to create a new two-member Belper Central ward by transferring electors from those wards. Belper South ward would also lose some electors to the existing Belper North ward. Under the Council's scheme the resultant two-member Belper Central, East, North and South wards would vary from the average number of electors per councillor by 10 per cent, 9 per cent, 2 per cent and 4 per cent respectively (6 per cent, 1 per cent, 1 per cent and 2 per cent in 2002).

72 The Conservative Associations proposed six new single-member wards and a new two-member ward for the Whitemoors area of the town (currently part of Belper East ward). The proposals endeavoured to create wards, we were informed, based on identifiable areas of the town and which used boundaries such as the river Derwent and main roads. Under this proposal none of the six single-member wards would exceed 10 per cent from the average either initially or by 2002. However, the two-member Whitemoor ward would be substantially over-represented initially by 27 per cent, although the Associations argued that the projected electorate for this area would result in the two-member ward varying from the average number of electors per councillor by only 5 per cent by 2002.

73 While we accepted that the alternative proposals would produce similarly good levels of electoral equality, the Associations' proposals moved away from the established pattern of multi-member wards in the town. We were therefore content in principle to accept the proposals for multi-member wards in Belper, but invited comment on the desirability or otherwise of single- and multi-member wards in the town. We believed that further improvement could be made to the Council's scheme by a transfer of 114 electors from its proposed Belper North ward to its proposed Belper Central ward. This would result in no ward exceeding 9 per cent from the average initially, and no more than 4 per cent by 2002.

74 During Stage Three, the Borough Council, Belper Town Council and a local resident supported our proposals for the town of Belper. The West Derbyshire Conservative Association, while not directly commenting on the proposed warding pattern for Belper, reiterated its concerns over the forecast electorate growth statistics for the existing Belper East ward. It also contended that each of our four proposed town council wards should be represented by three (rather than four) town councillors.

75 As detailed in paragraphs 25 and 26 above, in the absence of specific evidence being submitted by the West Derbyshire Conservative Association we remain content to accept the Borough Council's electorate forecasts for the town of Belper as being the best available. In light of the broad support received for our proposals, we wish to confirm our draft recommendations for the town of Belper as final. Proposals for town council electoral arrangements are discussed at the end of this chapter (see page 20).

Alport, Duffield and South West Parishes wards

76 The single-member Alport ward with an electorate of 2,049 comprises the parishes of Alderwasley, Ashleyhay, Dethick Lea & Holloway, Hazelwood, Idridgehay & Alton and Shottle & Postern. The number of electors per councillor varies from the borough average by 4 per cent (5 per cent in 2002). The two-member Duffield ward, which comprises the parish of the same name, has an electorate of 3,705. The number of electors per councillor currently varies from the borough average by 13 per cent (14 per cent in 2002). The single-member South West Parishes ward with an electorate of 2,080 comprises the parishes of Kedleston, Kirk Langley, Mackworth, Quarndon, Ravensdale Park, Turnditch, Weston Underwood and Windley. The number of electors per councillor currently varies from the borough average by 2 per cent (3 per cent in 2002).

77 During Stage One the Borough Council proposed no change to the electoral arrangements of all three wards. These proposals received support from Duffield Parish Council and the Amber Valley and West Derbyshire Conservative Associations. The Borough Council had considered a proposal to transfer the parish of Hazelwood from Alport ward to Duffield ward, but electoral equality would not have been improved. Additionally, as Duffield ward shares a boundary with Derby City, alternative options in this area were limited.

78 With a 45-member council size, the levels of electoral equality in the single-member wards of Alport and South West Parishes would be among the best in the borough (neither ward varying by more than 2 per cent from the average either initially or by 2002). The two-member Duffield ward would vary by 9 per cent (10 per cent in 2002). Given the configuration of parishes in this area and the levels of electoral equality that would result, we

were content to propose no change to these three wards.

79 During Stage Three our proposals for no change to the wards of Alport, Duffield and South West Parishes were supported by the Borough Council, Derbyshire County Council and the West Derbyshire Conservative Association. A local resident supported our recommendation for Duffield ward but suggested an alternative for Alport ward, proposing that the Wheatcroft area of Crich parish be added to it. However, this proposal would have an adverse affect on the levels of electoral equality in both the Crich and the Alport wards. As discussed earlier in this chapter, we have recommended no change to the existing Crich ward.

80 Given the general support for our proposals for no change to the existing wards of Alport, Duffield and South West Parishes and the reasonable levels of electoral equality that would be attained in this part of the borough, we wish to confirm our draft recommendations for these three wards as final.

Electoral Cycle

81 During Stage One, the Borough Council supported the continuation of elections by thirds. No other representations were received on this issue, so we did not propose at that stage to recommend any change. At Stage Three the

Borough Council and the County Council endorsed this proposal; we therefore wish to confirm our draft recommendation as final.

Conclusions

82 Having considered carefully all the representations and evidence received in response to our consultation report, we have decided to endorse our draft recommendations in their entirety. We conclude that, in Amber Valley:

- (a) there should be an increase in council size from 43 to 45;
- (b) there should be 23 wards, two less than at present;
- (c) the boundaries of 14 of the existing wards should be modified;
- (d) elections should continue to take place by thirds.

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

84 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 14 to none. By 2002 only one ward is forecast

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	43	45	43	45
Number of wards	25	23	25	23
Average number of electors per councillor	2,126	2,032	2,191	2,094
Number of wards with a variance more than 10 per cent from the average	14	0	16	1
Number of wards with a variance more than 20 per cent from the average	4	0	5	0

to vary by more than 10 per cent from the average (the Wingfield ward at 11 per cent). We conclude that our recommendations would best meet the need for electoral equality, having regard to the statutory criteria.

Final Recommendation

Amber Valley Borough Council should comprise 45 councillors serving 23 wards, as detailed and named in Figures 1 and 4, and illustrated in Appendix A and the large map inserted at the back of this report. The Council should continue to be elected by thirds.

Parish and Town Council Electoral Arrangements

85 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, we propose a number of consequential parish ward changes, as detailed below.

86 In our draft recommendations report, we proposed to increase the number of town councillors from 14 to 16 in the town of Belper. The proposed borough council wards of Belper Central, Belper East, Belper North and Belper South would each be represented by four town councillors. During Stage Three, this proposal was supported by Belper Town Council but opposed by the West Derbyshire Conservative Association, which contended that the town should be represented by 12 town councillors. However, having confirmed our draft recommendations for borough council wards in the town as final, we see no substantive reason to alter our proposals for town council electoral arrangements and remain of the view that the town should be represented by 16 town councillors.

Final Recommendation

The town of Belper should comprise four town wards and 16 town councillors. A revised Belper Central town ward, represented by four town councillors, should be created and be coterminous with the proposed borough council ward of the same name. A new Belper East town ward, represented by four town councillors, should be created and be coterminous with the proposed borough council ward of the same name. A new Belper North town ward, represented by four town councillors, should be created and be coterminous with the proposed borough council ward of the same name. A new Belper South town ward, represented by four town councillors, should be created and be coterminous with the proposed borough council ward of the same name. Details of our proposed boundaries are shown on the large map inserted at the back of this report.

87 During Stage One we proposed to increase the number of town councillors in the town of Heanor & Loscoe, from 20 to 21. The proposed borough council wards of Heanor East, Heanor West and Loscoe would each be represented by seven town councillors. During Stage Three the Borough Council supported our proposal to increase the number of town councillors by one. Heanor & Loscoe Town Council proposed three alternative town council warding schemes, two of which would result in 20 town councillors and one 21 councillors. However, in the light of our final recommendations for the borough council warding arrangements, we are confirming our draft recommendations as final.

Final Recommendation

The town of Heanor & Loscoe should comprise three town wards and 21 town councillors. A revised Heanor East town ward, represented by seven town councillors, should be created and be coterminous with the proposed borough council ward of the

same name. A revised Heanor West town ward, represented by seven town councillors, should be created and be coterminous with the proposed borough council ward of the same name. A new Loscoe town ward, represented by seven town councillors, should be created and be coterminous with the proposed borough council ward of the same name. Details of our proposed boundaries are shown on the large map inserted at the back of this report.

88 During Stage One we proposed that in the town of Ripley the town wards of East and Waingroves should be modified to reflect the proposed borough council ward boundary in this area. All other town wards would remain unchanged, and Ripley Town Council would remain represented by 21 town councillors. During Stage Three, Ripley Town Council, while supporting the proposed borough warding proposals, stated that it could see no reason to modify the town council's present warding arrangements. Paragraph 85 above sets out our reasons. In light of our final recommendation for the borough council ward of Codnor & Waingroves, we are confirming our draft recommendation as final.

Final Recommendation

The town ward of Waingroves should be modified such that it lies entirely within the proposed borough council ward of Codnor & Waingroves. The town ward of East should be expanded to include the area presently in the Waingroves town ward which is proposed to remain within the Ripley borough council ward. The revised Waingroves town ward should be represented by one town councillor while the revised East town ward should be represented by five town councillors. All other Ripley town council wards should remain unchanged. Details of our proposed boundary change are shown on Map A3 in Appendix A.

89 During Stage One we received a proposal from Crich Parish Council to create a parish ward for the area of Whatstandwell, to be represented by two parish councillors. The Borough Council supported this recommendation during Stage Three, and we therefore confirm this proposal as final.

Final Recommendation

We propose that a new Whatstandwell parish ward be created, and that the parish ward should be represented by two parish councillors. A revised Crich parish ward would in future be represented by seven parish councillors. Fritchley parish ward would remain unchanged and continue to be represented by three parish councillors. Details are shown on Map A2 in Appendix A.

90 In our draft recommendations report we also proposed no change to the electoral cycle of parish and town councils in the borough. No comments were received on this proposal during Stage Three, and we therefore propose to confirm this proposal as final.

Final Recommendation

Elections for parish and town councils should continue to be held at the same time as elections for the Borough Council.

Figure 4:
The Commission's Final Recommendations for Amber Valley

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 Aldercar	2	3,838	1,919	-6	3,840	1,920	-8
2 Alferton	3	6,360	2,120	4	6,428	2,143	2
3 Alport	1	2,049	2,049	1	2,088	2,088	0
4 Belper Central	2	3,776	1,888	-7	4,044	2,022	-3
5 Belper East	2	3,707	1,854	-9	4,162	2,081	-1
6 Belper North	2	4,040	2,020	-1	4,031	2,016	-4
7 Belper South	2	3,893	1,947	-4	4,095	2,048	-2
8 Codnor & Waingroves	2	4,015	2,008	-1	3,999	2,000	-5
9 Crich	1	1,831	1,831	-10	1,943	1,943	-7
10 Duffield	2	3,705	1,853	-9	3,774	1,887	-10
11 Heage & Ambergate	2	3,907	1,954	-4	3,927	1,964	-6
12 Heanor East	2	4,144	2,072	2	4,335	2,168	4
13 Heanor West	2	4,189	2,095	3	4,322	2,161	3
14 Horsley & Shipley Park	2	4,067	2,034	0	4,305	2,153	3
15 Kilburn, Denby & Holbrook	3	5,939	1,980	-3	6,015	2,005	-4
16 Loscoe	2	4,248	2,124	5	4,230	2,115	1
17 Riddings	2	4,321	2,161	6	4,511	2,256	8
18 Ripley	3	6,440	2,147	6	6,738	2,246	7
19 Ripley & Marehay	2	4,481	2,241	10	4,561	2,281	9
20 Somercotes	2	4,392	2,196	8	4,534	2,267	8

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

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 %
21 South West Parishes	1	2,080	2,080	2	2,120	2,120	1
22 Swanwick	2	4,171	2,086	3	4,369	2,185	4
23 Wingfield	1	1,840	1,840	-9	1,856	1,856	-11
Totals	45	91,433	—	—	94,227	—	—
Averages	—	—	2,032	—	—	2,094	—

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

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

Map 2:
The Commission's Final Recommendations for Amber Valley



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

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6. NEXT STEPS

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

92 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.

93 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 Amber Valley: Detailed Mapping

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

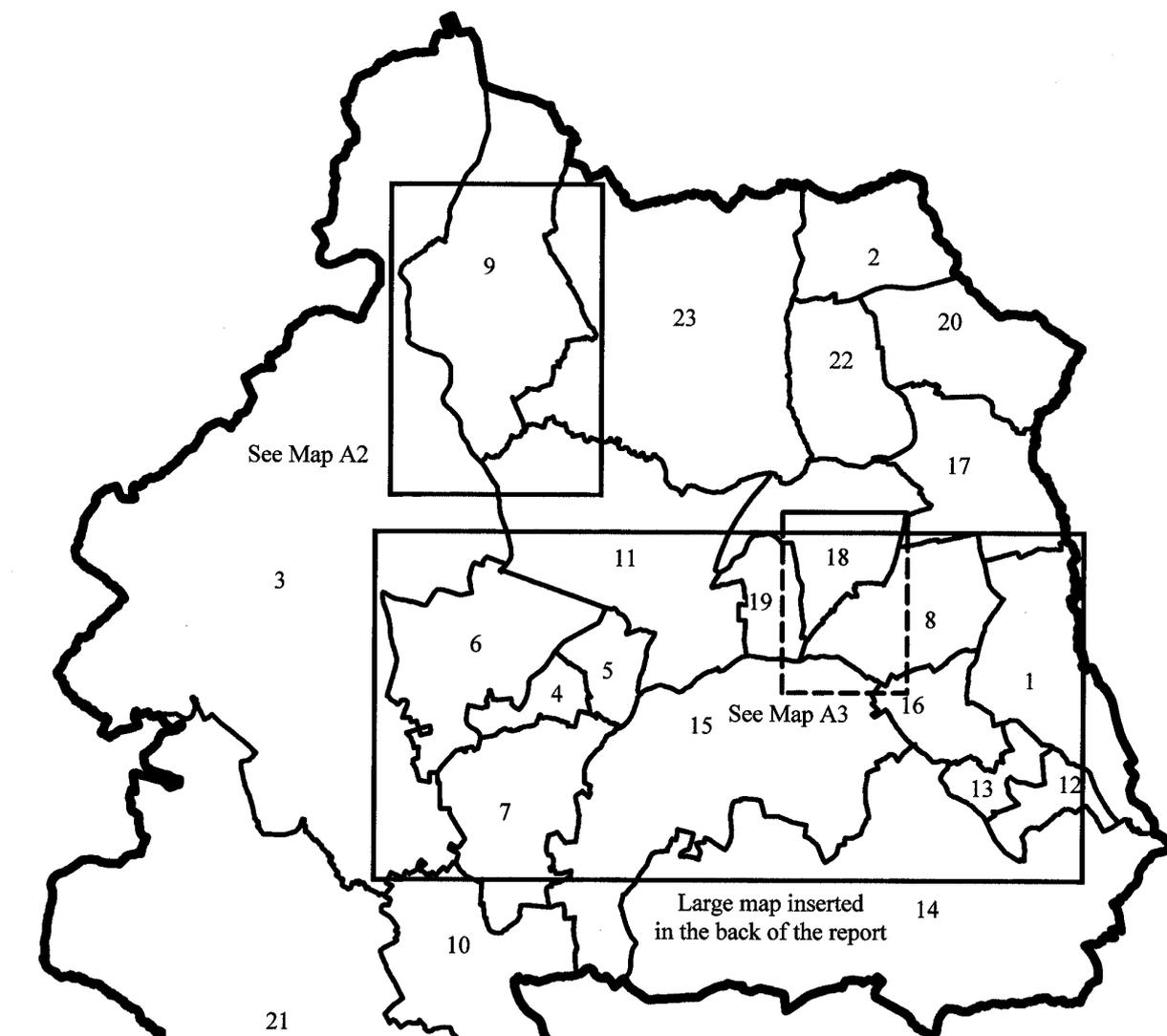
Map A1 illustrates, in outline form, the proposed ward boundaries within the borough and indicates the areas which are shown in more detail on Maps A2, A3 and the large map inserted at the back of the report.

Map A2 illustrates the proposed parish warding arrangements for the parish of Crich.

Map A3 illustrates the proposed parish ward boundary change within Ripley.

The **large map** inserted in the back of the report illustrates the Commission's proposed ward boundaries within the towns of Codnor, Ripley and Heanor & Loscoe.

Map A1:
Final Recommendations for Amber Valley: Key Map

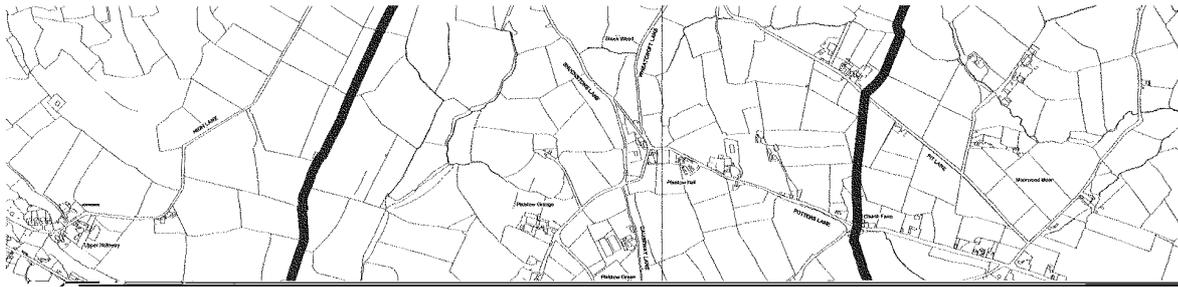


Key to Wards

- | | |
|-------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1 Aldercar | 13 Heanor West |
| 2 Alfreton | 14 Horsley and Shipley Park |
| 3 Alport | 15 Kilburn, Denby and Holbrook |
| 4 Belper Central | 16 Loscoe |
| 5 Belper East | 17 Riddings |
| 6 Belper North | 18 Ripley |
| 7 Belper South | 19 Ripley and Marehay |
| 8 Codnor and Waingroves | 20 Somercotes |
| 9 Crich | 21 South West Parishes |
| 10 Duffield | 22 Swanwick |
| 11 Heage and Ambergate | 23 Wingfield |
| 12 Heanor East | |

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*Map A2:
Proposed Parish Warding Arrangements for the Parish of Crich*



*Map A3:
Proposed Parish Ward Boundary Change Within the Town of Ripley*

