

# Final recommendations on the future electoral arrangements for Calderdale

Report to The Electoral Commission

*July 2003*

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# What is The Boundary Committee for England?

The Boundary Committee for England is a committee of The Electoral Commission, an independent body set up by Parliament under the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000. The functions of the Local Government Commission for England (LGCE) were transferred to The Electoral Commission and its Boundary Committee on 1 April 2002 by the Local Government Commission for England (Transfer of Functions) Order 2001 (SI 2001 3692). The Order also transferred to The Electoral Commission the functions of the Secretary of State in relation to taking decisions on recommendations for changes to local authority electoral arrangements and implementing them.

Members of the Committee are:

Pamela Gordon (Chair)  
Professor Michael Clarke CBE  
Robin Gray  
Joan Jones CBE  
Ann M. Kelly  
Professor Colin Mellors

Archie Gall (Director)

We are required by law to review the electoral arrangements of every principal local authority in England. Our aim is to ensure that the number of electors represented by each councillor in an area is as nearly as possible the same, taking into account local circumstances. We can recommend changes to ward boundaries, the number of councillors and ward names.

This report sets out our final recommendations on the electoral arrangements for the borough of Calderdale.



# Summary

We began a review of the electoral arrangements for Calderdale on 8 May 2002. As a consequence of the transfer of functions referred to earlier, it falls to us to complete the work of the LGCE. We published our draft recommendations for electoral arrangements on 11 February 2003, after which we undertook an eight-week period of consultation. We now submit final recommendations to The Electoral Commission.

- **This report summarises the representations that we received during consultation on our draft recommendations, and contains our final recommendations to The Electoral Commission.**

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

- **in five of the 18 wards the number of electors represented by each councillor varies by more than 10% from the average for the borough;**
- **by 2006 this situation is expected to worsen, with the number of electors per councillor forecast to vary by more than 10% from the average in six wards and by more than 20% in one ward.**

Our main final recommendations for future electoral arrangements (see Tables 1 and 2 and paragraphs 118-119) are that:

- **Calderdale Borough Council should have 51 councillors, three fewer than at present;**
- **there should be 17 wards, one less than at present;**
- **the boundaries of all of the existing wards should be modified.**

The purpose of these proposals is to ensure that, in future, each borough councillor represents approximately the same number of electors, bearing in mind local circumstances.

- **In all of the proposed 17 wards the number of electors per councillor would vary by no more than 10% from the borough average.**
- **This improved level of electoral equality is forecast to continue, with the number of electors per councillor in all wards expected to vary by no more than 9% from the average for the borough by 2006.**

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

- **revised warding arrangements and the redistribution of councillors for Todmorden Town Council.**

All further correspondence on these final recommendations and the matters discussed in this report should be addressed to The Electoral Commission, which will not make an Order implementing them before 9 September 2003. The information in the representations will be available for public access once the Order has been made.

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*Table 1: Final recommendations: Summary*

Ward name	Number of councillors	Constituent areas	Large map reference
1 Brighouse	3	Brighouse ward; part of Rastrick ward.	6 and 7
2 Calder Valley	3	The parishes of Blackshaw, Erringden, Heptonstall and Wadsworth; part of the parish of Todmorden (the revised Stoodley parish ward); part of the parish of Hebden Royd (the existing Birchcliffe, Fairfield and West End parish wards).	1-4
3 Elland	3	Part of Elland ward; part of Greetland & Stainland ward; part of Rastrick ward.	7
4 Greetland & Stainland	3	Part of Greetland & Stainland ward; part of Ryburn ward.	4, 5 and 7
5 Hipperholme & Lightcliffe	3	Part of Hipperholme & Lightcliffe ward; part of Northowram & Shelf ward; part of Town ward.	6
6 Illingworth & Mixenden	3	Part of Illingworth ward; part of Ovenden ward; part of Mixenden ward.	3, 4 and 6
7 Luddendenfoot	3	Part of the parish of Hebden Royd (the existing parish wards of Caldene, Cragg Vale and White Lee); part of Luddendenfoot ward (unparished area); part of Ryburn ward; part of Sowerby Bridge ward.	3-5
8 Ovenden	3	Part of Ovenden ward; part of Illingworth ward; part of Mixenden ward; part of St John's ward.	4 and 6
9 Northowram & Shelf	3	Part of Hipperholme and Lightcliffe ward, part of Northowram & Shelf ward and part of Town ward.	6
10 Park	3	Part of St John's ward; part of Skircoat ward; part of Town ward; part of Warley ward.	4 and 6
11 Rastrick	3	Part of Rastrick ward; part of Elland ward.	7
12 Ryburn	3	Part of Ryburn ward (the parish of Ripponden and part of the unparished area).	4 and 5
13 Skircoat	3	Part of Skircoat ward; part of Town ward.	6 and 7
14 Sowerby Bridge	3	Part of Sowerby Bridge ward; part of Luddendenfoot ward; part of Ryburn ward; part of Skircoat ward; part of Warley ward.	4, 6 and 7
15 Todmorden	3	Part of the parish of Todmorden (the existing parish wards of Central, Cornholme, Stansfield and Walsden, and the revised Langfield parish ward).	1, 2 and 5
16 Town	3	Part of Elland ward; part of St John's ward; part of Town ward.	6 and 7
17 Warley	3	Part of Mixenden ward; part of Sowerby Bridge ward; part of Warley ward.	4 and 6

*Notes: 1 The borough contains the parishes of Blackshaw, Erringden, Hebden Royd, Heptonstall, Todmorden and Wadsworth as well as an unparished area in the east of the borough.*

*2 The wards in the above table are illustrated on Map 2 and the large maps.*

*3 We have made a number of minor boundary amendments to ensure that existing ward boundaries adhere to ground detail. These changes do not affect any electors.*

Table 2: Final recommendations for Calderdale

Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2001)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2006)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
1 Brighouse	3	8,593	2,864	-1	8,557	2,852	-2
2 Calder Valley	3	9,031	3,010	4	9,252	3,084	6
3 Elland	3	8,146	2,715	-6	8,077	2,692	-7
4 Greetland & Stainland	3	8,435	2,812	-3	8,600	2,867	-1
5 Hipperholme & Lightcliffe	3	8,193	2,731	-5	8,204	2,735	-6
6 Illingworth & Mixenden	3	9,248	3,083	7	8,853	2,951	2
7 Luddendenfoot	3	7,787	2,596	-10	7,913	2,638	-9
8 Northowram & Shelf	3	8,560	2,853	-1	8,745	2,915	0
9 Ovenden	3	8,638	2,879	0	8,471	2,824	-3
10 Park	3	9,414	3,138	9	9,289	3,096	7
11 Rastrick	3	8,759	2,920	1	8,579	2,860	-2
12 Ryburn	3	8,171	2,724	-6	8,645	2,882	-1
13 Skircoat	3	8,962	2,987	4	9,155	3,052	5
14 Sowerby Bridge	3	8,233	2,744	-5	8,588	2,829	-3
15 Todmorden	3	9,079	3,026	5	9,190	3,063	5
16 Town	3	9,104	3,035	5	9,208	3,069	6
17 Warley	3	8,809	2,936	2	8,950	2,983	3
<b>Totals</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>147,162</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>148,176</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Averages</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2,886</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2,905</b>	<b>-</b>

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

# 1 Introduction

1 This report contains our final recommendations for the electoral arrangements for the borough of Calderdale. We are reviewing the five metropolitan boroughs in West Yorkshire as part of our programme of periodic electoral reviews (PERs) of all 386 principal local authority areas in England. The programme started in 1996 and is currently expected to finish in 2004.

2 This is our first review of the electoral arrangements of Calderdale. Calderdale's last review was carried out by the Local Government Boundary Commission, which reported to the Secretary of State in June 1978 (Report no. 308).

3 In making final recommendations to The Electoral Commission, we have had regard to:

- the statutory criteria contained in section 13(5) of the Local Government Act 1992 (as amended by SI 2001 3692), i.e. the need to:
  - reflect the identities and interests of local communities;
  - secure effective and convenient local government; and
  - achieve equality of representation.
- Schedule 11 to the Local Government Act 1972.
- The general duty set out in section 71(1) of the Race Relations Act 1996 and the statutory Code of Practice on the Duty to Promote Race Equality (Commission for Racial Equality, May 2002), i.e. to have due regard to:
  - eliminate unlawful racial discrimination;
  - promote equality of opportunity; and
  - promote good relations between people of different racial groups.

4 Details of the legislation under which the review of Calderdale was conducted are set out in a document entitled *Guidance and Procedural Advice for Periodic Electoral Reviews*. This *Guidance* sets out the approach to the review.

5 Our task is to make recommendations on the number of councillors who should serve on a council, and the number, boundaries and names of wards. We can also propose changes to the electoral arrangements for parish and town councils in the borough.

6 The broad objective of PERs is to achieve, so far as possible, equal representation across the district as a whole. Schemes which would result in, or retain, an electoral imbalance of over 10% in any ward will have to be fully justified. Any imbalances of 20% or more should only arise in the most exceptional circumstances, and will require the strongest justification.

7 We are not prescriptive on council size. However, we believe that any proposals relating to council size, whether these are for an increase, a reduction or no change, should be supported by evidence and argumentation. Given the stage now reached in the introduction of new political management structures under the provisions of the Local Government Act 2000, it is important that whatever council size interested parties may propose to us, they can demonstrate that their proposals have been fully thought through, and have been developed in the context of a review of internal political management and the role of councillors in the new structure. However, we have found it necessary to safeguard against upward drift in the number of councillors, and we believe that any proposal for an increase in council size will need to be fully justified. In particular, we do not accept that an increase in electorate should automatically result in an increase in the number of councillors, nor that changes should be made to the size of the council simply to make it more consistent with the size of other similar councils.

8 Under the provisions of the Local Government Act 1972 there is no limit to the number of councillors which can be returned from each metropolitan borough ward. However, the figure must be divisible by three. In practice, all metropolitan borough wards currently return three

councillors. Where our recommendation is for multi-member wards, we believe that the number of councillors to be returned from each ward should not exceed three, other than in very exceptional circumstances. Numbers in excess of three could lead to an unacceptable dilution of accountability to the electorate and we have not, to date, prescribed any wards with more than three councillors.

9 In exercising our functions under the 1992 Act we have a general duty to have regard to the provisions of section 71(1) of the Race Relations Act 1996 and the statutory Code of Practice in

- eliminating unlawful racial discrimination;
- promoting equality of opportunity; and
- promoting good relations between people of different racial groups.

10 This review was in four stages. Stage One began on 8 May 2002, when we wrote to Calderdale Borough Council inviting proposals for future electoral arrangements. We also notified West Yorkshire Police Authority, the Local Government Association, Yorkshire Local Councils Association, parish and town councils in the borough, Members of Parliament with constituency interests in the borough, Members of the European Parliament for the Yorkshire & the Humber Region, and the headquarters of the main political parties. We placed a notice in the local press, issued a press release and invited Calderdale Metropolitan Borough Council to publicise the review further. The closing date for receipt of representations, the end of Stage One, was 27 August 2002. At Stage Two we considered all the representations received during Stage One and prepared our final recommendations.

11 Stage Three began on 11 February 2003 with the publication of the report, *Draft recommendations on the future electoral arrangements for Calderdale*, and ended on 7 April 2003. During this period comments were sought from the public and any other interested parties on the preliminary conclusions. Finally, during Stage Four the draft recommendations were reconsidered in the light of the Stage Three consultation and we now publish the final recommendations.

## 2 Current electoral arrangements

12 With a population of some 193,000, Calderdale borough covers an area of 36,346 hectares and is situated in the west of West Yorkshire. The borough is bounded by the districts of Bradford and Kirklees to the north, south and east and Lancashire to the west. The town of Halifax constitutes the main urban settlement, with the Calder Valley area to the west constituting a rural hinterland. Much of the rural west of the borough consists of the upland of the South Pennines, broken by narrow steep valleys, and contains the settlements of Hebden Bridge, Ripponden and Todmorden. The borough contains seven parishes in the rural Calder Valley area.

13 At present, each councillor represents an average of 2,725 electors, which the Borough Council forecasts will increase to 2,744 by the year 2006 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 five of the 18 wards varies by more than 10% from the borough average. The worst imbalance is in Greetland & Stainland ward, where each of the councillors represents 18% more electors than the borough average. All wards are three-member wards.

14 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'.

*Map 1: Existing wards in Calderdale*

Table 3: Existing electoral arrangements

Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2001)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2006)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
1 Brighouse	3	7,744	2,581	-5	7,657	2,552	-7
2 Calder Valley	3	9,140	3,047	12	9,338	3,113	13
3 Elland	3	8,035	2,678	-2	7,847	2,616	-5
4 Greetland & Stainland	3	9,620	3,207	18	9,838	3,279	20
5 Hipperholme & Lightcliffe	3	8,004	2,668	-2	8,015	2,672	-3
6 Illingworth	3	6,862	2,287	-16	6,542	2,181	-21
7 Luddendenfoot	3	8,585	2,862	5	8,765	2,922	6
8 Mixenden	3	7,094	2,365	-13	7,214	2,405	-12
9 Northowram & Shelf	3	8,637	2,879	6	8,822	2,941	7
10 Ovenden	3	7,345	2,448	-10	7,200	2,400	-13
11 Rastrick	3	8,077	2,692	-1	8,019	2,673	-3
12 Ryburn	3	9,182	3,061	12	9,652	3,217	17
13 St John's	3	8,007	2,669	-2	7,892	2,631	-4
14 Skircoat	3	8,642	2,881	6	8,824	2,941	7
15 Sowerby Bridge	3	7,742	2,581	-5	7,993	2,664	-3
16 Todmorden	3	7,843	2,614	-4	7,922	2,641	-4
17 Town	3	8,792	2,931	8	8,907	2,969	8
18 Warley	3	7,811	2,604	-4	7,729	2,576	-6
<b>Totals</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>147,162</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>148,176</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Averages</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2,725</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2,744</b>	<b>-</b>

Source: Electorate figures are based on information provided by Calderdale Borough Council.

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 2001, electors in Illingworth ward were relatively over-represented by 16%, while electors in Greetland & Stainland ward were relatively under-represented by 18%. Figures have been rounded to the nearest whole number.



### 3 Draft recommendations

15 During Stage One, seven representations were received, including borough-wide schemes from the three political groups on the Council, and the Calder Valley Conservatives. All three political groups on the council proposed a reduction in council size of three, from the current 54 members to 51 members. The Calder Valley Conservatives proposed a reduction in council size of six, from 54 to 48 members. We also received submissions from North Halifax Partnership, West Yorkshire Police Authority and a borough councillor.

16 After carefully considering all representations received during Stage One, we were content to recommend a reduction in council size of three members to 51 councillors. We based our draft recommendations on the Liberal Democrat Group's proposals, but we moved away from them in a number of areas in order to better reflect communities and secure improved boundaries. We proposed that:

- Calderdale Borough Council should be served by 51 councillors, representing 17 wards;
- the boundaries of all of the existing wards should be modified;
- there should be revised warding arrangements for Todmorden Town Council.

*Draft recommendation*

Calderdale Borough Council should comprise 51 councillors, serving 17 wards.

17 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% from the borough average. This level of electoral equality was forecast to improve further, with no wards varying by more than 9% from the average by 2006.



## 4 Responses to consultation

18 During the consultation on the draft recommendations report, 21 representations were received. A list of all respondents is available from us on request. All representations may be inspected at our offices and those of Calderdale Borough Council.

### Calderdale Borough Council

19 The Chief Executive's office of the Borough Council stated that it referred any response to our recommendations to the political groups on the Council.

### Political groups on the Council

20 The controlling Conservative Group on the Council supported our draft recommendations but proposed some minor boundary amendments in order to better reflect community identity. It proposed boundary amendments to Elland, Greetland & Stainland, Rastrick, Ryburn and Sowerby Bridge wards. It further proposed renaming Highroad Well and Southowram wards as Warley and Town wards, respectively.

21 The Liberal Democrat Group on the Council strongly supported our draft recommendations, however it made one proposal to amend the boundary between Sowerby Bridge and Luddendenfoot ward. It also proposed renaming Calder Valley and St. John's wards as Upper Calder and Kingston & Park wards, respectively.

22 The Labour Group on the Council (whose response to our draft recommendations was combined with that of the Calderdale Labour Local Government Committee) also offered general support for our draft recommendations. However, it also proposed transferring the community of Mount Tabor from our proposed Highroad Well ward into Luddendenfoot ward. It further proposed renaming Illingworth, St John's and Southowram wards as Mixenden & Illingworth, Park and Town wards respectively, and made proposals regarding the internal electoral arrangements of Todmorden Parish Council.

### Parish and Town Councils

23 Erringden Parish Council offered general support for our draft recommendations and particularly welcomed the transferral of the Walsden parish ward of Todmorden parish from Calder Valley ward to Todmorden ward. It further argued that the Stoodley parish ward of the same parish also be included in the Todmorden ward.

24 Hebden Royd Town Council offered general support for our draft recommendations. It further made comments regarding the internal electoral arrangements of its council, suggesting that 'the parish ward boundaries be scrutinised to ensure that they reflect community needs rather than arithmetic criteria'. However, it made no specific proposals to amend those boundaries.

25 Todmorden Town Council offered full support for our draft recommendations. Todmorden Town Council Labour Group (supported by Todmorden, Walsden & Stoodley Branch Labour Party) opposed our draft recommendations for the Todmorden parish, preferring to retain the current arrangements. It further proposed that Calder Valley ward be renamed as Top ward.

### Other representations

26 A further 14 representations were received in response to our draft recommendations. Alice Mahon, Member of Parliament for Halifax, proposed that St John's ward be renamed Park ward.

Councillor Ginely, member for Warley ward, opposed the renaming of the ward to Highroad Well, preferring to retain the existing name. Seven local residents echoed this view, while one further local resident argued that the ward be renamed either Warley & Pellon or Highroad Well & Pellon. This local resident also proposed that Southowram ward be renamed Southowram & Boothtown ward.

27 Councillor Swift, member for Town ward, opposed the draft recommendation to renaming the ward Southowram. She proposed that the name of Town ward be retained. A local resident proposed five minor amendments to the boundary of Sowerby Bridge ward. He further proposed that the Norland area be reunited with the remainder of Ryburn ward and opposed the draft recommendation which linked the Claremont Estate with the remainder of Northowram & Shelf ward. Finally, he proposed renaming Southowram ward as Beacon ward. A local resident opposed our draft recommendations for Warley, however voiced no specific alternatives.

## 5 Analysis and final recommendations

28 As described earlier, our prime objective in considering the most appropriate electoral arrangements for Calderdale is to achieve electoral equality. In doing so we have regard to section 13(5) of the Local Government Act 1992 (as amended): the need to secure effective and convenient local government; reflect the identities and interests of local communities; and secure the matters referred to in paragraph 3(2)(a) of Schedule 11 to the Local Government Act 1972 (equality of representation). Schedule 11 to the Local Government Act 1972 refers to the number of electors per councillor being 'as nearly as may be, the same in every ward of the district or borough'.

29 In relation to Schedule 11, our recommendations are not intended to be based solely on existing electorate figures, but also on estimated changes in the number and distribution of local government electors likely to take place within the next five years. We also must have regard to the desirability of fixing identifiable boundaries and to maintaining local ties.

30 It is therefore impractical to design an electoral scheme which results in 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.

31 We accept that the achievement of absolute electoral equality for the authority as a whole is likely to be unattainable. However, we consider that, if electoral imbalances are to be minimised, the aim of electoral equality should be the starting point in any review. We therefore strongly recommend that, in formulating electoral schemes, local authorities and other interested parties should make electoral equality their starting point, and then make adjustments to reflect relevant factors such as community identity and interests. Five-year forecasts of changes in electorate must also be considered and we would aim to recommend a scheme which provides improved electoral equality over this five-year period.

### Electorate forecasts

32 Since 1975 there has been a 3% increase in the electorate of Calderdale borough. The Borough Council submitted electorate forecasts for the year 2006, projecting an increase in the electorate of less than 1% from 147,162 to 148,176 over the five-year period from 2001 to 2006. It expects most of the growth to be in Ryburn ward, although a significant amount is also expected in Sowerby Bridge ward. However, a number of wards, in parts of Halifax and in the south-east of the borough, would see a static or slight decline in electorate. In order to prepare these forecasts, the Council estimated rates and locations of housing development with regard to unitary development plans, the expected rate of building over the five-year period and assumed occupancy rates. Having accepted that this is an inexact science and, having considered the forecast electorates, we stated in our draft recommendations report that we were satisfied that they represented the best estimates that could reasonably be made at the time.

33 We received no comments on the electoral forecasts provided by the Council and remain content that these represent the best estimates that could be made and are content to base our final recommendations on them.

### Council size

34 Calderdale Borough Council currently comprises 54 councillors. During Stage One, we received four submissions regarding council size. The Labour Group on the Council proposed a decrease in council size from 54 members to 51. It argued that a strong case existed for a reduction in council size due to the modernisation process, which has 'significantly changed the

role of elected members', and the fact that 'ward sizes in Calderdale are well below those in neighbouring Metropolitan authorities'. In addition, the Labour Group argued that Calderdale, with its combination of small towns, villages and rural areas provides a case for retaining a size of authority that enables councillors to develop strong links with local communities. It also noted that the requirement for three-member wards in the borough has been restrictive, notably in the rural area.

35 The Liberal Democrat Group on the Council proposed a decrease in council size of three members. The Conservative Group also proposed a decrease in council size of three-members to 51, based on the proposal to retain nine wards in the Calder Valley Parliamentary Constituency and to have eight wards in the Halifax Parliamentary Constituency. In addition, it was argued that consideration should be given to 'removing geographical and social anomalies where this is possible'.

36 The Calder Valley Conservatives' initial submission was based on a council size of 48, proposing eight wards each in the Calder Valley and Halifax Parliamentary Constituencies. They argued that Calderdale should be kept as one council with two parliamentary constituencies and that 'in order to achieve that we must... attempt to equalise the ward size at the same time as equalising the parliamentary boundary size'. However, we noted that the initial scheme only provided details of the proposed wards in the Calder Valley Parliamentary Constituency.

37 Having considered the levels of argumentation provided in the submissions regarding council size, we were not persuaded that the evidence put forward for the proposed council sizes, particularly in relation to the internal management of the Borough Council, was sufficient to support the respective schemes. We therefore requested further evidence and information on the proposed council sizes from the four groups in question.

38 Further evidence was received from all four groups. The three groups who proposed a council size of 51 each submitted detailed further evidence and argumentation addressing the issues on which we had sought further information, identifying a number of points in support of the proposed council size of 51. Each of the groups put emphasis on the representational role of councillors in the new internal management structure and the internal management of the Council under a modernised constitutional framework.

39 The Calder Valley Conservatives based their further evidence on the need to create two parliamentary constituencies of equal size and to 'equate the number of councillors from each of the constituencies hence ensuring equal council representation to each half of the valley'. In addition, it was argued that a reduction in council size would reduce the financial cost of the Council. In conjunction with their further evidence on council size, they submitted more detailed proposals for the warding arrangements for the Halifax constituency. Thus, the two sets of proposals for the warding arrangements in the borough were combined to form a borough-wide scheme based on a council size of 48.

40 After considering the representations and the further evidence received, we were of the opinion that the three Groups on the council provided a significant level of evidence and argumentation justifying the reduction in council size of three members. Each Group considered how the Council would operate under the reduced council size, taking into account the role of the Council in the new management structure, in particular, the role of the councillors, their accountability in decision making and allocation to council bodies. We noted that the three groups submitted broadly similar argumentation and evidence in support of the proposed council size, thus highlighting the cross-party consensus of approach to this issue. We also noted that the Conservative Group and the Liberal Democrat Group provided similar proposals for the possibility of establishing area committees in the future which, they argued, would be aided by a council size of 51.

41 With regard to the Calder Valley Conservatives' proposed council size of 48, we were of the view that limited argumentation was provided in support of this proposal and that the main aim of the submission was to equalise the size of the parliamentary constituencies. However, as outlined in our *Guidance*, we can take no account of Parliamentary Constituency Boundaries in recommending new warding arrangements, and did not believe that a future review of parliamentary constituency boundaries was sufficient justification for altering council size.

42 In view of the consensus from the three Groups, the detailed argumentation that we received and having looked at the size and distribution of the electorate, the geography and other characteristics of the area, we concluded that the achievement of electoral equality and the statutory criteria would best be met by a council of 51 members.

43 We received no comments on our proposed reduction in council size of three members during Stage Three and, given the general levels of overall support received, are therefore content to confirm a council size of 51 as final.

## Electoral arrangements

44 As detailed previously, we based our draft recommendations on the Liberal Democrat Group's Stage One proposals, with some minor amendments to better reflect our statutory criteria. However, we noted that there were large elements of consensus between the proposals of the three political groups on the Council. In response to our draft recommendations report, we received a significant level of general support from the groups on the Council, councillors, parish and town councils and local residents. We note that the main opposition received during Stage Three of the review was in response to a number of proposed ward name changes, although we also received some representations regarding possible boundary amendments.

45 The draft recommendations have been reviewed in the light of further evidence and the representations received during Stage Three. After considering those representations, we are broadly confirming our draft recommendations for Calderdale as final, subject to four minor boundary amendments and the renaming of four wards. For borough warding purposes, the following areas, based on existing wards, are considered in turn:

- i. Calder Valley, Luddendenfoot, Ryburn and Todmorden wards;
- ii. Illingworth, Mixenden and Ovenden wards;
- iii. St John's, Skircoat and Town wards;
- iv. Sowerby Bridge and Warley wards;
- v. Brighouse, Elland, Greetland & Stainland and Rastrick wards;
- vi. Hipperholme & Lightcliffe and Northowram & Shelf wards.

46 Details of our final recommendations are set out in Tables 1 and 2, and illustrated on Map 2, in Appendix A and on the large maps.

## Calder Valley, Luddendenfoot, Ryburn and Todmorden wards

47 The existing wards of Calder Valley, Luddendenfoot, Ryburn and Todmorden are situated in the more rural west of the borough. Each ward is represented by three councillors. Calder Valley ward comprises the parishes of Blackshaw, Erringden, Heptonstall and Wadsworth, the Birchcliffe and West End parish wards of Hebden Royd parish and the Stoodley and Walsden parish wards of Todmorden parish. Luddendenfoot ward comprises the Caldene, Cragg Vale, Fairfield and White Lee parish wards of Hebden Royd parish and an unparished area. Ryburn ward comprises Ripponden parish and an unparished area. Todmorden ward comprises the Central, Cornholme, Langfield and Stansfield parish wards of Todmorden parish. Under the current arrangements Calder Valley, Luddendenfoot and Ryburn wards are slightly under-represented, containing 12%, 5% and 12% more electors per councillor than the borough

average respectively (13%, 6% and 17% more by 2006), while Todmorden ward contains 4% fewer electors per councillor than the borough average (4% fewer by 2006).

48 At Stage One, the Labour Group proposed transferring polling district TN from Calder Valley ward to Todmorden ward to form a revised Todmorden ward. It further proposed transferring the Fairfield parish ward, of Hebden Royd parish, from Luddendenfoot ward to Calder Valley ward and transferring the area broadly around Chiserley and Midgeley Moor (in the north-east of Calder Valley ward) into a new Warley Royd ward, to form a revised Calder Valley ward. In relation to Luddendenfoot ward, it proposed transferring polling district QC into a revised Sowerby Bridge ward. The remainder of Luddendenfoot ward would be combined with part of the existing Warley ward (polling district EE) and the area broadly around Chiserley and Midgeley Moor to form a new Warley Royd ward. With regard to Ryburn ward, the Group proposed transferring polling district RG into a new Stainland ward, with the remainder of the ward forming a revised Ryburn ward.

49 The Liberal Democrat Group proposed a revised Todmorden ward by transferring the Walsden parish ward of Todmorden parish, from Calder Valley ward into Todmorden ward. It further proposed transferring the Kilnhurst area from Todmorden ward into a new Upper Calder ward. The Liberal Democrat Group acknowledged that its proposals for these wards would have implications for the electoral arrangements of the parish of Todmorden, but offered no specific proposals for these arrangements. The Fairfield parish ward of Hebden Royd parish would be transferred from Luddendenfoot ward and combined with the remainder of the Calder Valley ward and the Kilnhurst area to form a new Upper Calder ward. The remainder of Luddendenfoot ward, less the properties in Canal View, would be combined with an area from the existing Sowerby Bridge ward, and with a rural area from the existing Ryburn ward, to form a revised Luddendenfoot ward. With regard to Ryburn ward, it further proposed transferring the rural area around Norland Town to a new Stainland ward and including Lower Bentley Royd Farm and the properties to the east of Cemetery Lane in a revised Sowerby Bridge ward, with the remainder of the Ryburn ward forming a revised Ryburn ward.

50 The Conservative Group proposed transferring the area broadly around Lumbutts and Mankinholes from Calder Valley ward to Todmorden ward, to form revised Calder Valley and Todmorden wards. It proposed combining a rural area from Ryburn ward with the existing Luddendenfoot ward, to form a revised Luddendenfoot ward. It further proposed that the area to the east of the centre of Norland Town, in the existing Ryburn ward, be included in a revised Greetland & Stainland ward, with the remainder of the existing Ryburn ward forming a revised Ryburn ward.

51 Councillor McManus proposed that Calder Valley ward be renamed Top ward 'since the ward isn't coterminous with Calder Valley constituency'.

52 Having carefully considered all representations received regarding these wards, we based our draft recommendations on the Liberal Democrat Group's proposals. We noted that there were areas of consensus between the Liberal Democrat Group's scheme and the Labour and Conservative Groups' schemes. We therefore adopted the Liberal Democrat Group's proposals for Calder Valley, Luddendenfoot, Ryburn and Todmorden wards, subject to three amendments in order to provide for more identifiable boundaries and to retain two ward names. We proposed retaining the ward names of Calder Valley and Luddendenfoot, as we believed that they better reflect the areas covered by the wards. We proposed including the properties to the north of Burnley Road, from Blackwell Lane to the back of the properties in Water Hill and to the south of Blackwall Lane and Hoyle House Farm, in the revised Sowerby Bridge ward. These properties are linked to the Sowerby Bridge area and we proposed including them in a revised Sowerby Bridge ward to better reflect community identity. We proposed adopting the Conservative Group's proposed boundary between the north-west of Ryburn ward and the south-east of Luddendenfoot ward as we were of the view that it provides a more identifiable boundary.

53 Under our draft recommendations, Calder Valley ward would retain the parishes of Blackshaw, Erringden, Heptonstall and Wadsworth. It would also comprise the existing Birchcliffe, Fairfield and West End parish wards of Hebden Royd parish and the revised Stoodley parish ward of Todmorden parish. Luddendenfoot ward would comprise the existing Caldene, Cragg Vale and White Lee parish wards of Hebden Royd parish and an unparished area. Todmorden ward would comprise the existing Central, Cornholme and Stansfield parish wards, the revised Langfield parish ward and the existing Walsden parish ward of Todmorden parish. Ryburn ward would retain the parish of Ripponden and include a revised unparished area.

54 Under our draft recommendations, Calder Valley and Todmorden wards would have 4% and 5% more electors per councillor than the borough average respectively (6% and 5% more by 2006 respectively). Luddendenfoot and Ryburn wards would have 10% and 6% fewer electors per councillor than the borough average (9% and 1% fewer by 2006).

55 We received eight representations regarding these wards during Stage Three. The Labour Group on the Council offered general support for our recommendations, but proposed transferring the community of Mount Tabor from the proposed Highroad Well ward into Luddendenfoot ward, in order to address the higher levels of electoral inequality in both wards. It argued that the Mount Tabor settlement has 'at least as strong connections with the Wainstalls community as it does with Pellon'. The group further made proposals regarding the internal electoral arrangements of Todmorden parish, which are discussed in more detail subsequently in this report.

56 The Liberal Democrat Group on the Council also offered general support for the draft recommendations for these wards. However, it suggested that the Calder Valley ward be renamed Upper Calder ward which, it was argued, would 'add an element of precision'. The Group also requested that the Committee reconsider its recommendations to retain a number of properties around Canal View and Hollins Mill Lane in the Luddendenfoot ward, rather than transfer them into Sowerby Bridge ward. The group further queried the rationale behind a boundary amendment in the Mount Tabor area. This amendment is necessary to tie the boundary to ground detail, and was required by Ordnance Survey.

57 The Conservative Group on the Council offered general support for these wards. However, it further proposed that the Norland Town area (polling district RF) be retained in Ryburn ward, arguing that 'the community of Norland has no connections with Greetland & Stainland and all the children from Norland go to Ryburn High School'.

58 Erringden Parish Council supported our draft recommendation to transfer the Walsden parish ward of Todmorden parish from Calder Valley ward into Todmorden ward. However, it further proposed transferring the Stoodley parish ward into Todmorden ward, arguing that the 'historical background lends itself to this exchange'.

59 Hebden Royd Town Council also supported our draft recommendations, in particular the transferral of its Fairfield parish ward from Luddendenfoot ward into Calder Valley ward. It also made a number of comments on its internal electoral arrangements, as discussed subsequently in this report. Todmorden Town Council offered full support for our draft recommendations for its ward. However, the Todmorden Town Council Labour Group (supported by Todmorden, Walsden & Stoodley Branch Labour Party) opposed our draft recommendations for the parish, preferring the retention of the existing arrangements. The Group also made comments regarding the internal electoral arrangements of the parish, discussed later in this report.

60 A local resident of Halifax echoed the Conservative Group's proposals to retain the Norland town area in Ryburn ward. He also supported the Liberal Democrat Group's minor amendment to the boundary between Sowerby Bridge and Luddendenfoot wards to transfer the Canal View and Hollins Mill Lane area into Sowerby Bridge ward.

61 We have carefully considered all representations received regarding these wards during Stage Three. Given the general levels of support for our draft recommendations, we intend confirming them as final, subject to one minor boundary amendment. Having considered the Labour Group's proposal to transfer the Mount Tabor area from Highroad Well ward into Todmorden, we are of the view that the area in question shares more community links and considerably better access routes with the Highroad Well ward, as opposed to the smaller communities within Luddendenfoot ward. Although we recognise that the levels of electoral inequality remain slightly high, the dispersed rural nature of this area and the requirement to elect three members per ward necessitates a higher electoral variance.

62 Similarly, we do not consider that the proposals of the Conservative Group and a local resident to transfer the Norland Town area into Ryburn ward are justified by sufficient evidence and argumentation for us to depart from our draft recommendations. We are of the opinion that the area shares as much affinity and communication links with the Greetland & Stainland ward to the east as with the Ryburn ward to the south, and therefore do not intend departing from this recommendation.

63 Having reconsidered the proposal from the Liberal Democrat Group and a local resident to include the area around Canal View and Hollins Mill Lane in Sowerby Bridge ward, we agree that these properties would be better served in the Sowerby Bridge ward, and therefore propose transferring them. This has a negligible affect on the levels of electoral equality in both wards. In considering the opposition received from Todmorden Town Council Labour Group to our draft recommendations for the parish of Todmorden, we note that the only alternative suggestion was to retain the existing arrangements. However, this is not possible due to the levels of electoral inequality they provide. We further note that Todmorden Town Council offered full support for our draft recommendations for its parish. Having considered the Liberal Democrat Group's proposals to rename Calder Valley ward as Upper Calder ward, we do not believe, based on submissions received, that this would better reflect the area covered.

64 In considering Erringden Parish Council's response to our draft recommendations, and its proposal to transfer the Stoodley parish ward from Calder Valley ward into Todmorden ward, we have noted that this would result in unacceptable levels of electoral equality in both wards. Transferring the parish ward would result in the number of electors per councillor in Calder Valley and Todmorden wards being 13% below and 26% above the borough average by 2006. We therefore do not intend adopting this proposal.

65 We therefore intend confirming our draft recommendations for these wards as final, subject to the minor boundary amendment detailed above. Our proposals for the electoral arrangements of Todmorden Town Council, as a consequence of our final recommendations for the borough wards, are discussed later in this report.

66 Under our final recommendations, the number of electors per councillor in Calder Valley, Luddendenfoot, Ryburn and Todmorden wards would be the same as under our draft recommendations. Our draft recommendations are set out in Tables 1 and 2, and illustrated on Map 2, in Appendix A and the large maps.

## Illingworth, Mixenden and Ovenden wards

67 The existing wards of Illingworth, Mixenden and Ovenden are situated in the north of the borough and are unparished. Each ward is represented by three councillors. Under the current arrangements Illingworth, Mixenden and Ovenden wards are slightly over-represented, containing 16%, 13% and 10% fewer electors per councillor than the borough average respectively (21%, 12% and 13% fewer by 2006).

68 At Stage One, the Labour Group proposed combining the area to the north of Mount Tabor and Gibb Lane, from the existing Mixenden ward, with the majority of the existing Illingworth ward, to form a new Halifax North ward. The remaining part of Mixenden ward, less the area to the east of Springhall Lane, would be combined with part of the existing Warley ward and part of the existing Skircoat ward to form a new Halifax West ward. Finally, the remaining part of the existing Illingworth ward would be combined with the existing Ovenden ward and Lee Mount area, from the existing St John's ward, to form a revised Ovenden ward.

69 The Liberal Democrat Group proposed combining the Mixenden village settlement from the existing Mixenden ward with part of the existing Illingworth ward and an area from the existing Ovenden ward, to form a revised Illingworth ward. The Group further proposed combining the remainder of the existing Ovenden and Illingworth wards with areas from the existing St John's and Mixenden wards to form a revised Ovenden ward. In addition, it proposed that the remainder of Mixenden ward be combined with parts of the existing Sowerby Bridge and Warley wards to form a new Highroad Well ward.

70 The Conservative Group proposed combining the existing Illingworth ward with the rural areas in the north of Mixenden and St John's wards and the area broadly around Ovenden Park and Drakes Industrial Estate, from the existing Ovenden ward, to form a new North Halifax ward. The remainder of the existing Ovenden ward would be combined with the Mixenden village settlement, from the existing Mixenden ward, and the Lee Mount area, from the existing St John's ward, to form a new Hebble ward. It was further proposed that the majority of the remainder of the existing Mixenden ward be combined with part of the existing Warley ward to form a revised Warley ward.

71 The North Halifax Partnership Ltd proposed that the Lee Mount area be transferred from St John's ward to Ovenden ward.

72 Having carefully considered all the representations received regarding these wards, we based our draft recommendations on the Liberal Democrat Group's proposals. Again, we noted that there were areas of consensus between the Liberal Democrat Group's scheme and the Labour and Conservative Groups' schemes. We stated that, in our view, the Liberal Democrat Group's proposals provided for more identifiable boundaries and did not divide communities. We noted that a number of boundaries proposed by the Labour Group and the Conservative Group would have divided communities and provided for less identifiable boundaries and therefore did not provide an adequate balance between our statutory criteria. With regard to the Mixenden settlement, in the north of the existing Mixenden ward, we noted that it has no real links with the settlements to the south or east of the borough and links more with the existing Ovenden ward. However, we were of the view that, in order to facilitate a good scheme in the north of the Halifax area, the Mixenden settlement needed to be combined with the settlement to the east, in the existing Illingworth ward. This enabled the Lee Mount area to be included in a revised Ovenden ward, as proposed by the Liberal Democrat, Labour and Conservative Groups, Calder Valley Conservatives and the North Halifax Partnership. It also enabled the Furness Estate area to be included in a revised Ovenden ward, as proposed by the Liberal Democrat Group and the North Halifax Partnership. We believed that the Liberal Democrat Group's revised Illingworth and Ovenden wards and new Highroad Well ward provided the best balance between the statutory criteria in the area and facilitated a good scheme across the borough as a whole.

73 Under our draft recommendations, Illingworth and Ovenden wards would have 7% more and equal to the borough average number of electors per councillor respectively (2% more and 3% fewer than the average by 2006).

74 We received three representations regarding these wards during Stage Three. The Labour Group on the Council proposed that Illingworth ward be renamed Illingworth & Mixenden ward, to reflect the distinct communities within the ward. Both the Liberal Democrat and Conservative Groups on the Council offered full support for our draft recommendations for these wards.

75 We have given careful consideration to the evidence and representations received during Stage Three. We recognise the general levels of support received and intend confirming our draft recommendations for these wards as final, subject to the renaming of Illingworth ward as Illingworth & Mixenden ward. We agree that this would better reflect the constituent areas of the ward.

76 Under our final recommendations, the number of electors per councillor in Highroad Well and Ovenden wards would be the same as under our draft recommendations. The number of electors per councillor in Illingworth & Mixenden ward would be the same as for Illingworth ward in our draft recommendations. Our draft recommendations are set out in Tables 1 and 2, and illustrated on Map 2, in Appendix A and the large maps.

## St John's, Skircoat and Town wards

77 These existing wards of St John's, Skircoat and Town are situated in the centre of the borough, in the unparished area, and cover the majority of central Halifax. Each ward is represented by three councillors. Under the current arrangements St John's, Skircoat and Town wards contain 2% fewer, 6% more and 8% more electors per councillor than the borough average respectively (4% fewer, 7% more and 8% more by 2006).

78 At Stage One, the Labour Group proposed combining an area from the existing St John's ward with parts of the existing Mixenden and Warley wards, as detailed earlier, and with an area from the existing Town ward, to form a revised St John's ward. It further proposed transferring part of the existing Town ward into a revised Skircoat ward. The remainder of the existing Town ward would be combined with part of the existing St John's ward, as detailed earlier, to form a new Halifax East ward. Finally, the group proposed combining part of the existing Skircoat ward with parts of the existing Town ward to form a revised Skircoat ward.

79 The Liberal Democrat Group proposed combining the existing St John's ward, less the area transferred to a revised Ovenden ward, as detailed earlier, with areas from the existing Skircoat and Town wards, and with part of the existing Warley ward, also detailed earlier, to form a new Kingston Park ward. It further proposed combining the majority of the remainder of the existing Skircoat ward with an area from the existing Town ward, to form a revised Skircoat ward. The remainder of the existing Town ward, less an area to be transferred to a revised Hipperholme & Lightcliffe ward, would be combined with part of the existing Ovenden ward and part of the existing Elland ward, to form a new Boothtown/Southowram ward. A new ward name was not proposed.

80 The Conservative Group's proposed wards for this area showed large amounts of consensus with the Labour Group's wards. It proposed the same revised St John's ward, apart from slightly revised boundaries with Ovenden and Town wards. The group also proposed broadly similar revised Skircoat and Town wards.

81 Having carefully considered all the representations received regarding these wards, we based our draft recommendations on the Liberal Democrat Group's proposals. We noted that there was a large element of consensus between the Liberal Democrat Group's scheme and the Labour and Conservative Groups' schemes in the east of Town ward. We therefore adopted the Liberal Democrat Group's proposals for St John's, Skircoat and Town wards. However, we proposed amendments to the Liberal Democrat Group's proposals for Skircoat ward, in order to provide for more identifiable boundaries and to better reflect community identity and interests. We adopted the Labour Group's proposed boundary from Burdock Way to Harrison Road and the Conservative Group's boundary from Harrison Road to Skircoat Road, to form the northern boundary of a revised Skircoat ward, in order to retain a majority of the town centre in a single ward. We also proposed utilising the Labour Group and Liberal Democrat Group's proposed

eastern boundary for Skircoat ward as we were of the view that the properties around Rossley Hill are provided with better links to the properties in Skircoat ward. We proposed that Town ward be renamed Southowram ward to better reflect the area.

82 Under our draft recommendations, Skircoat, Southowram and St John's wards would have 3%, 5% and 9% more electors per councillor than the borough average respectively (5%, 6% and 7% more than the average by 2006).

83 We received seven representations in response to our draft recommendations for these wards. The Labour Group on the Council proposed retaining the name of Town ward, rather than our proposed Southowram ward. Similarly, it proposed renaming our proposed St John's ward as Park ward. The Liberal Democrat Group also highlighted the fact that there is no St John's church within the ward, arguing that this ward be renamed Kingston ward or Park ward. The Conservative Group on the Council also argued that the name Town ward be retained for our proposed Southowram ward.

84 Alice Mahon, Member of Parliament for Halifax, proposed that St John's ward be renamed Park ward to better reflect the area encompassed by the ward. Councillor Swift, a member for Town ward, argued that the existing name should be retained, rather than changed to Southowram ward. A local resident argued that our proposed Southowram ward be renamed Southowram & Boothtown ward, in order to recognise the residents of Akroyden and Boothtown. Another local resident argued that Southowram ward be renamed Beacon ward.

85 Having considered the representations received during Stage Three regarding these wards and in light of the general levels of support received, we intend broadly confirming our draft recommendations as final. However, we intend renaming St John's and Southowram wards as Park and Town wards, respectively, as we concur that these names provide for a more recognisable area and appear to have some level of consensual support amongst those who responded.

86 Under our final recommendations, the number of electors per councillor in Skircoat ward would be 4% above the borough average (5% above by 2006). The number of electors per councillor in Park and Town wards would be the same as under the draft recommendations' St John's and Southowram wards, respectively. Our draft recommendations are set out in Tables 1 and 2, and illustrated on Map 2, in Appendix A and the large maps.

## Sowerby Bridge and Warley wards

87 The existing wards of Sowerby Bridge and Warley are situated in the area to the west of Halifax and are unparished. Each ward is represented by three councillors. Under the current arrangements Sowerby Bridge and Warley wards contain 5% fewer and 4% fewer electors per councillor than the borough average respectively (3% and 6% fewer by 2006).

88 At Stage One, the Labour Group proposed combining the existing Sowerby Bridge ward with the Friendly and Barwood area (polling district QC), as detailed earlier, from the existing Luddendenfoot ward, to form a revised Sowerby Bridge ward. The group proposed transferring polling district EE to a new Warley Royd ward, as detailed earlier, and further proposed transferring polling districts EA and ED to a new Halifax West ward. The remainder of the existing Warley ward would be transferred into a revised St John's ward.

89 The Liberal Democrat Group proposed combining the majority of the existing Sowerby Bridge ward with parts of the existing Ryburn, Skircoat and Warley wards to form a revised Sowerby Bridge ward. It further proposed combining the remainder of the existing Warley ward, less an area to be transferred to a new Kingston Park ward, with part of the existing Mixenden ward to form a new Highroad Well ward.

90 The Conservative Group proposed combining the existing Sowerby Bridge ward with part of the existing Warley ward and an area from the existing Skircoat ward to form a revised Sowerby Bridge ward. It further proposed combining the remainder of the existing Warley ward, less the area being transferred to a revised St John's ward as detailed earlier with part of the existing Mixenden ward to form a revised Warley ward.

91 Having carefully considered all representations received regarding these wards, we based our draft recommendations on the Liberal Democrat Group's proposals, whilst noting that there were large elements of consensus between the Liberal Democrat Group's scheme and those of the Labour and Conservative Groups. We therefore adopted the Liberal Democrat Group's proposals for its Highroad Well and Sowerby Bridge wards, subject to a boundary amendment. We stated that a number of boundaries proposed by the Labour and the Conservative Groups would divide communities, provide for less identifiable boundaries and would therefore not provide an adequate reflection of the statutory criteria in these wards. We considered that the Liberal Democrat Group's proposals provided for more identifiable boundaries, utilising the significant boundaries of the railway line and Burnley Road/Burdock Way, and did not divide communities. However, we proposed amending the boundary between the Liberal Democrat Group's proposed Sowerby Bridge and Luddendenfoot wards, as detailed previously, in order to better reflect community identity and improve access for the area into Sowerby Bridge ward.

92 Under our draft recommendations, Highroad Well and Sowerby Bridge wards would have 2% more and 6% fewer electors per councillor than the borough average (3% more and 4% fewer than the average by 2006).

93 We received 12 representations in response to our draft recommendations for these wards. As detailed previously, the Labour Group on the Council proposed transferring the Mount Tabor community from Highroad Well ward into Luddendenfoot ward. The Liberal Democrat Group requested that the Committee reconsider its proposals to retain a number of properties on Canal View and Hollins Mill Lane in Luddendenfoot ward. The Group preferred that these properties be transferred into Sowerby Bridge ward, also detailed previously.

94 The Conservative Group, Councillor Ginley, a member for Warley ward, and seven residents opposed the renaming of Warley ward as Highroad Well ward. All proposed that the existing name be retained, on the basis of historical and community identity. The Conservative Group further proposed uniting the whole of Sowerby Bridge station in Sowerby Bridge ward. One local resident opposed our draft recommendations for the existing Warley ward, but made no specific alternative proposals.

95 A local resident made three proposals to amend the boundaries between Sowerby Bridge ward and Luddendenfoot, Skircoat and Warley wards. He proposed including the few properties on Woodhouse Lane, Birdcage Lane, Canal View and Burnley Road in Sowerby Bridge ward, with which they share more affinity. He also proposed removing a number of properties at Sandal Terrace on Harper Royd Lane from Sowerby Bridge ward, arguing that they share more affinity with the Norland area in our proposed Greetland & Stainland ward. He further argued that the area of Norland has always shared identity with the Ryland ward to the west, and therefore opposed our draft recommendation to transfer it into Greetland & Stainland ward.

96 Having considered the representations received regarding these wards, we propose broadly confirming our draft recommendations as final. As detailed previously, we intend amending the boundary between Sowerby Bridge ward and Luddendenfoot wards in order to transfer the properties on Canal View and Mill Hollins Lane into Sowerby Bridge. We note the proposals from a local resident to transfer a number of properties around the periphery of Sowerby Bridge ward into either this ward or Greetland & Stainland ward. We agree that those properties on Woodhouse Lane, Birdcage Lane and Canal View would be better served in Sowerby Bridge ward and propose transferring them as part of our final recommendations. Similarly, we accept that those properties on Harper Royd Lane share more affinity with the Norland Town area to the

south, and therefore propose transferring them from Sowerby Bridge ward into Greetland & Stainland ward. These amendments have a negligible affect on the levels of electoral equality. We also propose uniting Sowerby Bridge station within Sowerby Bridge ward, as proposed by the Conservative Group on the Council. This affects no electors.

97 We note the significant responses received regarding the renaming of Warley ward, and are content to retain the existing name of Warley as part of our final recommendations.

98 Under our final recommendations, Sowerby Bridge and Warley wards would have 5% fewer and 2% more electors per councillor than the borough average (3% fewer and 3% more by 2006). Our draft recommendations are set out in Tables 1 and 2, and illustrated on Map 2, in Appendix A and the large maps.

## Brighouse, Elland, Greetland & Stainland and Rastrick wards

99 The existing wards of Brighouse, Elland, Greetland & Stainland and Rastrick are situated in the south and east of the borough and are unparished. Each ward is represented by three councillors. Under the current arrangements Brighouse, Elland, Greetland & Stainland and Rastrick wards contain 5% fewer, 2% fewer, 18% more and 1% fewer electors per councillor than the borough average respectively (7% fewer, 5% fewer, 20% more and 3% fewer by 2006).

100 At Stage One, the Labour Group proposed combining the existing Brighouse ward, less an area transferred to a revised Northowram & Shelf ward, with an area from the existing Rastrick ward, to form a revised Brighouse ward. The remainder of the existing Rastrick ward would be combined with most of the Field Lane estate (polling district NC) from the existing Elland ward, to form a revised Rastrick ward. The remainder of the existing Elland ward would be combined with an area of the existing Greetland & Stainland ward, to form a revised Elland ward. The Group further proposed that the remainder of the existing Greetland & Stainland ward be combined with part of the existing Ryburn ward to form a new Stainland ward.

101 The Liberal Democrat Group proposed combining the existing Brighouse ward with the area to the north of the River Calder, from the existing Rastrick ward, to form a revised Brighouse ward. The remainder of the existing Rastrick ward, less a small area to the west of Slade Lane and south of Clough Lane (transferred to a revised Elland ward), would be combined with an area from the existing Elland ward, to form a revised Rastrick ward. The remainder of Elland ward, less the area transferred to a new Boothtown/Southowram ward, as detailed earlier, would be combined with part of the existing Rastrick ward and an area from the existing Greetland & Stainland ward, to form a revised Elland ward. The remainder of the existing Greetland & Stainland ward would be combined with the Norland Town area, from the existing Ryburn ward, to form a revised Greetland & Stainland ward.

102 The Conservative Group proposed combining part of the existing Brighouse ward with the area to the north of the River Calder (as proposed by the Liberal Democrat Group), from the existing Rastrick ward, to form a revised Brighouse ward. The remainder of the existing Rastrick ward would be combined with an area from the existing Elland ward, to form a revised Rastrick ward. The remainder of Elland ward would be combined with part of the existing Greetland & Stainland ward, to form a revised Elland ward. The remainder of the existing Greetland & Stainland ward would be combined with part of the existing Ryburn ward, as detailed earlier, to form a revised Greetland & Stainland ward.

103 Having carefully considered all representations received regarding these wards during Stage Three, we based our draft recommendations on the Liberal Democrat Group's proposals, noting that there were areas of consensus between the Liberal Democrat Group's scheme and the Labour and Conservative Groups' schemes. However, we made two boundary amendments and proposed the retention of a ward name. We proposed including the area around Shannon Road, south of Lower Edge Road, in a revised Rastrick ward, as we considered that it is part of

the settlement to the north and its main transport links are also to the north. This amendment had a negligible effect on electoral equality. We also proposed adopting the Labour and Conservative Groups' proposed boundary for the north-west of Elland ward, as it provided for a more identifiable boundary. We proposed retaining the Greetland & Stainland ward name, as we were of the view that it better reflects the area.

104 Under our draft recommendations, Brighouse, Elland, Greetland & Stainland and Rastrick wards would have 1%, 6% and 3% fewer and 1% more electors per councillor than the borough average respectively. (2%, 7%, 2% and 2% fewer by 2006)

105 During Stage Three, we received four representations in response to our draft recommendations for these wards. The Labour and Liberal Democrat Groups on the Council offered full support for our draft recommendations. The Conservative Group offered general support but proposed an amendment to the boundary between Elland and Rastrick wards. It proposed retaining the existing boundary on Crowtrees Lane, thus retaining those properties to the east of the road, around Slade Lane and Garlick Street, in Elland ward. Our draft recommendations for these wards proposed transferring them into Rastrick ward. As detailed previously, the Conservative Group and one resident also proposed retaining the Norland Town area in Ryburn ward.

106 Having considered all representations received regarding these wards, and in light of the general support offered during Stage Three, we intend confirming our draft recommendations as final. Having considered the Conservative Group's proposals to retain the area to the east of Crowtrees Road in Rastrick ward, we note that this would result in 11% fewer electors per councillor in neighbouring Elland ward. We do not feel that there was sufficient argumentation to justify this level of electoral inequality, and therefore do not intend adopting the proposal as part of our final recommendations. As detailed previously, we do not intend transferring the Norland Town area into Ryburn ward, as proposed by the Conservative Group on the Council. We are therefore confirming our draft recommendations for these wards as final.

107 Under our final recommendations, the number of electors per councillor in Brighouse, Elland and Rastrick wards would be the same as under our draft recommendations. The number of electors per councillor in Greetland & Stainland ward would be 3% below the borough average initially (1% below by 2006). Our draft recommendations are set out in Tables 1 and 2, and illustrated on Map 2, in Appendix A and the large maps.

## **Hipperholme & Lightcliffe and Northowram & Shelf wards**

108 The existing wards of Hipperholme & Lightcliffe and Northowram & Shelf are situated in the north-east of the borough and are unparished. Each ward is represented by three councillors. Under the current arrangements Hipperholme & Lightcliffe and Northowram & Shelf wards contain 2% fewer and 6% more electors per councillor than the borough average respectively (3% fewer and 7% more by 2006).

109 During Stage One, the Labour Group proposed retaining the existing Northowram & Shelf ward. It proposed combining the existing Hipperholme & Lightcliffe ward with an area from the existing Brighouse ward, to form a revised Hipperholme & Lightcliffe ward.

110 The Liberal Democrat Group proposed combining the existing Hipperholme & Lightcliffe ward with an area from the existing Northowram & Shelf and Town wards, to form a revised Hipperholme & Lightcliffe ward. The Liberal Democrat Group proposed that the remainder of the existing Northowram & Shelf ward form a revised Northowram & Shelf ward.

111 The Conservative Group proposed combining the existing Hipperholme & Lightcliffe ward with part of the existing Brighouse ward, to form a revised Hipperholme & Lightcliffe ward. It

further proposed to combine the existing Northowram & Shelf ward with part of the existing Town ward, to form a revised Northowram & Shelf ward.

112 Having carefully considered all the representations received regarding these wards, we based our draft recommendations on the Liberal Democrat Group's proposals, noting that there were areas of consensus between the Liberal Democrat Group's scheme and the Labour Group and Conservative Group's schemes. We proposed a minor amendment to tie a boundary to ground detail, which will result in part of the existing Hipperholme & Lightcliffe ward being included in the revised Northowram & Shelf ward. This amendment had no effect on electoral equality. We noted that all three schemes proposed to retain the majority of the existing boundaries and achieved good levels of electoral equality.

113 Under our draft recommendations, Hipperholme & Lightcliffe and Northowram & Shelf wards would have 5% and 1% fewer electors per councillor than the borough average respectively (6% fewer and equal to the average by 2006).

114 During Stage Three, four representations were received in response to our draft recommendations for these wards. All three political groups on the Council offered full support for our draft recommendations. A local resident stated that the Claremont area shared little affinity with the remainder of Northowram & Shelf ward.

115 After carefully considering those representations received during Stage Three, and in light of the full support received from the political groups on the Council, we intend confirming our draft recommendations for these wards as final. We note the local resident's concerns over the Claremont Estate, however no alternative was suggested and we do not consider that there is significant argumentation to depart from our draft recommendations for this area.

116 Under our final recommendations, the number of electors per councillor in Hipperholme & Lightcliffe and Northowram & Shelf wards would be the same as under our draft recommendations.

## Electoral cycle

117 Under section 7(3) of the Local Government Act 1972, all metropolitan boroughs have a system of elections by thirds.

## Conclusions

118 Having considered carefully all the representations and evidence received in response to our consultation report, we have decided substantially to endorse those draft recommendations, subject to the following amendments:

- we propose amending the boundary between Luddendenfoot and Sowerby Bridge wards to transfer those properties on Canal View and Hollins Mill Lane into Sowerby Bridge ward, in order to better reflect community identity;
- we propose amending the boundary between Greetland & Stainland and Sowerby Bridge wards to transfer those properties on Harper Royd Lane into Greetland & Stainland ward, in order to better reflect community identity;
- we propose amending the boundary between Skircoat and Sowerby Bridge wards to transfer those properties on Woodhouse Lane into Skircoat ward, in order to better reflect community identity;
- we propose renaming Highroad Well, Illingworth, St John's and Southowram wards as Warley, Illingworth & Mixenden, Park and Town wards respectively, in order to better reflect the wards' constituent communities and provide for more recognisable ward names.

119 We conclude that, in Calderdale:

- there should be a reduction in council size from 54 to 51;
- there should be 17 wards;
- the boundaries of all the existing wards should be modified, resulting in a net reduction of one.

120 Table 4 shows the impact of our final recommendations on electoral equality, comparing them with the current arrangements, based on 2001 and 2006 electorate figures.

*Table 4: Comparison of current and recommended electoral arrangements*

	2001 electorate		2006 electorate	
	Current arrangements	Final recommendations	Current arrangements	Final recommendations
Number of councillors	54	51	54	51
Number of wards	18	17	18	17
Average number of electors per councillor	2,725	2,886	2,744	2,905
Number of wards with a variance more than 10% from the average	5	0	6	0
Number of wards with a variance more than 20% from the average	0	0	1	0

121 As Table 4 shows, our recommendations would result in a reduction in the number of wards with an electoral variance of more than 10% from five to zero. This level of electoral equality would improve further by 2006, with no wards varying by more than 9% from the average. We conclude that our recommendations would best meet the statutory criteria.

*Final recommendation*

Calderdale Borough Council should comprise 51 councillors serving 17 wards, as detailed and named in Tables 1 and 2, and illustrated on Map 2 and in Appendix A and the large maps.

## Parish and town council electoral arrangements

122 When reviewing electoral arrangements, we are required to comply as far as possible with the rules 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, as part of our draft recommendations we proposed consequential warding arrangements for the parish of Todmorden, to reflect the proposed borough wards.

123 In our draft recommendations report, we stated that we were concerned that there are a number of uncontested seats on some parish and town councils. We stated that this situation should be improved in the interests of local democracy, either by The Boundary Committee as part of this review or by the borough council carrying out a parish review in the area. We invited views at Stage Three on this issue, particularly from parish and town councils in the area. Accordingly, the Liberal Democrat Group on the Council and Hebden Royd Town Council made representations on this issue. The Liberal Democrat Group stated that it shared our concern, but

referred any specific response to the parish and town councils themselves. Hebden Royd Town Council stated that it also shared our concerns, but proposed only that its internal ward boundaries be scrutinised in order to better reflect communities, rather than arithmetic criteria. However, without any specific proposals, the Boundary Committee is unable to address this issue any further.

124 The parish of Todmorden is currently served by 18 councillors representing six wards: Central, Cornholme, Langfield, Stansfield, Stoodley and Walsden (each returning three councillors). In light of our draft recommendations for borough wards in this area, we proposed modifying the existing parish ward boundaries of Langfield and Stoodley parish wards, and retaining the existing boundaries of Central, Cornholme, Stansfield and Walsden. Having reviewed the electorate and current allocation of councillors in the parish, we also proposed altering the allocation of parish councillors between the wards to provide for a better balance of representation. We proposed that Central, Cornholme, Stansfield and Walsden parish wards return three councillors each, as existing, and Langfield and Stoodley parish wards return two and four councillors respectively.

125 We received four representations regarding the parishing arrangements of Todmorden Town Council during Stage Three. Todmorden Town Council Labour Group opposed our draft recommendations for two town councillors to be returned from Langfield parish ward. However, no alternative was proposed. This opposition was supported by the Labour Group on the Council and Todmorden, Walsden & Stoodley Branch Labour Party. However, the Labour Group also suggested splitting the Stoodley parish ward of Todmorden parish into two further parish wards, although no specific suggestions were proposed. Todmorden Town Council fully supported our draft recommendations for its parish.

126 Having considered the representations received regarding Todmorden parish during Stage Three, we are content to confirm them as final. Although we note the opposition to the Langfield and Stoodley parish wards, we note that no specific alternative was suggested. In the light of the full support from Todmorden Town Council, we do not intend departing from our draft recommendations for this parish.

*Final recommendation*

Todmorden Town Council should comprise 18 councillors, as at present, representing six wards: Central, Cornholme, Stansfield and Walsden parish wards, each returning three councillors, Langfield parish ward, returning two councillors, and Stoodley parish ward, returning four councillors. The boundary between the six parish wards should reflect the proposed borough ward boundaries and the existing parish ward boundaries in the area, as illustrated and named on the large maps in Appendix A.

*Map 2: Final recommendations for Calderdale*

## 6 What happens next?

127 Having completed our review of electoral arrangements in Calderdale and submitted our final recommendations to The Electoral Commission, we have fulfilled our statutory obligation under the Local Government Act 1992 (as amended by SI 2001 3692).

128 It is now up to The Electoral Commission to decide whether to endorse our recommendations, with or without modification, and to implement them by means of an Order. Such an Order will not be made before 9 September 2003, and The Electoral Commission will normally consider all written representations made by that date. It particularly welcomes any comments on the first draft of the Order, which will implement the new arrangements.

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

**The Secretary  
The Electoral Commission  
Trevelyan House  
Great Peter Street  
London SW1P 2HW**

**Fax: 020 7271 0667**

**Email: [implementation@electoralcommission.org.uk](mailto:implementation@electoralcommission.org.uk)  
(This address should only be used for this purpose)**



## Appendix A: Final recommendations for Calderdale: Detailed mapping

The following maps illustrate our proposed ward boundaries for the Calderdale area.

**Map A1** illustrates, in outline form, the ward boundaries within the borough and indicates the areas which are shown in more detail on the large maps.

The **large maps** illustrate the proposed warding arrangements for Calderdale.

*Map A1: Final recommendations for Calderdale: Key map*

# Appendix B: Guide to interpreting the first draft of the electoral change Order

## **Preamble**

This describes the process by which the Order will be made, and under which powers. Text in square brackets will be removed if The Electoral Commission decide not to modify the Final recommendations.

## **Citation and commencement**

This establishes the name of the Order and when it will come into force.

## **Interpretation**

This defines terms that are used in the Order.

## **Wards of the borough of Calderdale**

This abolishes the existing wards, and defines the names and areas of the new wards, in conjunction with the map and the schedule.

## **Elections of the council of the borough of Calderdale**

This sets the date on which a whole council election will be held to implement the new wards, and the dates on which councillors will retire.

## **Wards of the parish of Todmorden**

This describes how one parish in Calderdale is being changed.

## **Maps**

This requires Calderdale Metropolitan Borough Council to make a print of the map available for public inspection.

## **Electoral registers**

This requires the Council to adapt the electoral register to reflect the new wards.

## **Revocation**

This revokes the Order that defines the existing wards, with the exception of the articles that established the system of election by thirds.

## **Explanatory Note**

This explains the purpose of each article. Text in square brackets will be removed if The Electoral Commission decide not to modify the Final recommendations.



# Appendix C

## First draft of electoral change Order for Calderdale

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### STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

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**2003 No.**

## **LOCAL GOVERNMENT, ENGLAND**

### **The Borough of Calderdale (Electoral Changes) Order 2003**

*Made* - - - - *2003*

*Coming into force in accordance with article 1(2)*

Whereas the Boundary Committee for England(a), acting pursuant to section 15(4) of the Local Government Act 1992(b), has submitted to the Electoral Commission(c) recommendations dated July 2003 on its review of the borough(d) of Calderdale:

And whereas the Electoral Commission have decided to give effect [with modifications] to those recommendations:

And whereas a period of not less than six weeks has expired since the receipt of those recommendations:

Now, therefore, the Electoral Commission, in exercise of the powers conferred on them by sections 17(e) and 26(f) of the Local Government Act 1992, and of all other powers enabling them in that behalf, hereby make the following Order:

#### **Citation and commencement**

- 1.—(1) This Order may be cited as the Borough of Calderdale (Electoral Changes) Order 2003.
- (2) This Order shall come into force –
  - (a) for the purpose of proceedings preliminary or relating to any election to be held on the ordinary day of election of councillors in 2004, on 15th October 2003;

- 
- (a) The Boundary Committee for England is a committee of the Electoral Commission, established by the Electoral Commission in accordance with section 14 of the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000 (c. 41). The Local Government Commission for England (Transfer of Functions) Order 2001 (S.I. 2001/3962) transferred to the Electoral Commission the functions of the Local Government Commission for England.
- (b) 1992 c.19. This section has been amended by S.I. 2001/3962.
- (c) The Electoral Commission was established by the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000 (c. 41). The functions of the Secretary of State, under sections 13 to 15 and 17 of the Local Government Act 1992, to the extent that they relate to electoral changes within the meaning of that Act, were transferred with modifications to the Electoral Commission on 1st April 2002 (S.I. 2001/3962).
- (d) The metropolitan district of Calderdale has the status of a borough.
- (e) This section has been amended by S.I. 2001/3962 and also otherwise in ways not relevant to this Order.
- (f) This section has been amended by S.I. 2001/3962.

- (b) for all other purposes, on the ordinary day of election of councillors in 2004.

## **Interpretation**

### **2. In this Order –**

“borough” means the borough of Calderdale;

“existing”, in relation to a ward, means the ward as it exists on the date this Order is made;

any reference to the map is a reference to the map marked “Map referred to in the Borough of Calderdale (Electoral Changes) Order 2003”, of which prints are available for inspection at –

- (a) the principal office of the Electoral Commission; and
- (b) the offices of Calderdale Metropolitan Borough Council; and

any reference to a numbered sheet is a reference to the sheet of the map which bears that number.

## **Wards of the borough of Calderdale**

### **3.—(1) The existing wards of the borough(a) shall be abolished.**

- (2) The borough shall be divided into seventeen wards which shall bear the names set out in the Schedule.
- (3) Each ward shall comprise the area designated on the map by reference to the name of the ward and demarcated by red lines; and the number of councillors to be elected for each ward shall be three.
- (4) Where a boundary is shown on the map as running along a road, railway line, footway, watercourse or similar geographical feature, it shall be treated as running along the centre line of the feature.

## **Elections of the council of the borough of Calderdale**

### **4.—(1) Elections of all councillors for all wards of the borough shall be held simultaneously on the ordinary day of election of councillors in 2004(b)(c).**

- (2) The councillors holding office for any ward of the borough immediately before the fourth day after the ordinary day of election of councillors in 2004 shall retire on that date and the newly elected councillors for those wards shall come into office on that date.
- (3) Of the councillors elected in 2004 one shall retire in 2006, one in 2007 and one in 2008.
- (4) Of the councillors elected in 2004 –
  - (a) the first to retire shall, subject to paragraphs (6) and (7), be the councillor elected by the smallest number of votes; and
  - (b) the second to retire shall, subject to those paragraphs, be the councillor elected by the next smallest number of votes.
- (5) In the case of an equality of votes between any persons elected which makes it uncertain which of them is to retire in any year, the person to retire in that year shall be determined by lot.
- (6) If an election of councillors for any ward is not contested, the person to retire in each year shall be determined by lot.

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(a) See the Borough of Calderdale (Electoral Arrangements) Order 1979 (S.I. 1979/1320).

(b) Article 4 provides for a single election of all the councillors and for reversion to the system of election by thirds, as established by articles 8 and 9(8) of S.I. 1979/1320.

(c) For the ordinary day of election of councillors of local government areas, see section 37 of the Representation of the People Act 1983 (c.2), amended by section 18(2) of the Representation of the People Act 1985 (c.50) and section 17 of, and paragraphs 1 and 5 of Schedule 3 to, the Greater London Authority Act 1999 (c.29).

- (7) Where under this article any question is to be determined by lot, the lot shall be drawn at the next practicable meeting of the council after the question has arisen and the drawing shall be conducted under the direction of the person presiding at the meeting.

### **Wards of the parish of Todmorden**

- 5.—(1) The existing wards of the parish of Todmorden shall be abolished.
- (2) The parish shall be divided into six parish wards which shall bear the names Central, Cornholme, Langfield, Stansfield, Stoodley and Walsden; and the wards shall comprise the areas designated on sheets 1, 2 and 4 by reference to the name of the ward and demarcated by orange lines.
- (3) The number of councillors to be elected for the Stoodley parish ward shall be four, for each of the Central, Cornholme, Stansfield and Walsden parish wards shall be three, and for the Langfield parish ward shall be two.

### **Maps**

6. Calderdale Metropolitan Borough Council shall make a print of the map marked “Map referred to in the Borough of Calderdale (Electoral Changes) Order 2003” available for inspection at its offices by any member of the public at any reasonable time.

### **Electoral registers**

7. The Electoral Registration Officer(a) for the borough shall make such rearrangement of, or adaptation of, the register of local government electors as may be necessary for the purposes of, and in consequence of, this Order.

### **Revocation**

8. The Borough of Calderdale (Electoral Arrangements) Order 1979(b) is revoked, save for articles 8 and 9(8).

Signed by the members of the Electoral Commission

Date

*Pamela Gordon*  
Commissioner

Date

*Glyn Mathias*  
Commissioner

Date

*Neil McIntosh*  
Commissioner

Date

*Karamjit Singh*  
Commissioner

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(a) As to electoral registration officers and the register of local government electors, *see* sections 8 to 13 of the Representation of the People Act 1983 (c.2).  
(b) S.I. 1979/1320.

Date *Sam Younger*  
Commissioner

Date *Graham Zellick*  
Commissioner

## SCHEDULE

article 3

### NAMES OF WARDS

Brighouse	Luddendenfoot	Skircoat
Calder Valley	Ovenden	Sowerby Bridge
Elland	Northowram and Shelf	Todmorden
Greetland and Stainland	Park	Town
Hipperholme and Lightcliffe	Rastrick	Warley
Illingworth and Mixenden	Ryburn	

#### EXPLANATORY NOTE

*(This note is not part of the Order)*

This Order gives effect, [with modifications], to recommendations by the Boundary Committee for England, a committee of the Electoral Commission, for electoral changes in the borough of Calderdale.

The modifications are *indicate the modifications*.

The changes have effect in relation to local government elections to be held on and after the ordinary day of election of councillors in 2004.

Article 3 abolishes the existing wards of the borough and provides for the creation of 17 new wards. That article and the Schedule also make provision for the names and areas of, and numbers of councillors for, the new wards.

Article 4 makes provision for a whole council election in 2004 and for reversion to the established system of election by thirds in subsequent years.

Article 5 makes electoral changes in the parish of Todmorden.

Article 7 obliges the Electoral Registration Officer to make any necessary amendments to the electoral register to reflect the new electoral arrangements.

Article 8 revokes the Borough of Calderdale (Electoral Arrangements) Order 1979, with the exception of articles 8 and 9(8).

The areas of the new borough and parish wards are demarcated on the map described in article 2. Prints of the map may be inspected at all reasonable times at the offices of Calderdale Metropolitan Borough Council and at the principal office of the Electoral Commission at Trevelyan House, Great Peter Street, London SW1P 2HW.