

Final recommendations on the future electoral arrangements for Barnsley

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 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 No. 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. We can also recommend changes to the electoral arrangements of parish and town councils.

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

Summary

We began a review of Barnsley's electoral arrangements on 8 May 2002. 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 Barnsley:

- **In 11 of the 22 wards the number of electors represented by each councillor varies by more than 10% from the average for the borough, and five wards vary by more than 20%.**
- **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 11 wards and by more than 20% in six wards.**

Our main final recommendations for future electoral arrangements (see Tables 1 and 2 and paragraphs 106 –107) are that:

- **Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council should have 63 councillors, three less than at present;**
- **there should be 21 wards, instead of 22 as at present;**
- **the boundaries of all of the existing wards should be modified, resulting in a net reduction of one.**

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 21 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 10% from the average for the borough in 2006.**

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

- **revised warding arrangements for Penistone and Tankersley parishes.**

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	Map reference
1	Central	3	Part of Ardsley ward; part of Central ward; part of North West ward; part of Park ward; part of South West ward	4 and 5
2	Cudworth	3	Cudworth ward; part of Monk Bretton ward	4 and 7
3	Darfield	3	The parishes of Billingley and Little Houghton; part of Darfield ward; part of Wombwell North ward; part of Wombwell South ward	4,5 and 7
4	Darton East	3	Part of Darton ward; part of Dodworth ward	4
5	Darton West	3	Part of Darton ward; part of Dodworth ward; part of North West ward	2 and 4
6	Dearne North	3	Part of Dearne South ward; part of Dearne Thurnscoe ward	7
7	Dearne South	3	Part of Dearne South ward; part of Dearne Thurnscoe ward	7
8	Dodworth	3	Part of Dodworth ward; part of South West ward; part of Park ward	4 and 5
9	Hoyland Milton	3	Part of Hoyland East ward; part of Hoyland West ward; part of Wombwell South ward	5 and 6
10	Kingstone	3	Part of Central ward; part of Park ward; part of South West ward	5
11	Monk Bretton	3	Part of Athersley ward; part of Monk Bretton ward; part of Royston ward	4 and 5
12	North East	3	The parishes of Brierley, Great Houghton and Shafton	4 and 7
13	Old Town	3	Part of North West ward; part of Monk Bretton ward; part of South West ward	4 and 5
14	Penistone East	3	The parishes of Cawthorne, High Hoyland, Hunshef, Oxspring, Thurgoland, Silktone, Stainborough and Wortley, part of Penistone parish (the proposed of Hoylandswaine parish ward) part of Tankersley parish (the proposed West parish ward)	2,3,4,5 and 6
15	Penistone West	3	The parishes of Dunford, Gunthwaite & Ingbirchworth and Langsett, part Penistone parish (the proposed Cubley & Springvale parish ward; Penistone parish ward; Thurlstone & Millhouse parish ward)	1,2 and 3
16	Rockingham	3	Part Hoyland West ward, part Hoyland East ward, part of Tankersley parish; the proposed East parish ward	5 and 6
17	Royston	3	Part of Royston ward	4
18	St Helens	3	Part of Athersley ward; part of Monk Bretton ward; part of Darfield ward; part of North West ward; part of Park ward; part of Royston ward	4

	Ward name	Number of councillors	Constituent areas	Map reference
19	Stairfoot	3	Part of Ardsley ward; part of Central ward; part of Wombwell North	4 and 5
20	Wombwell	3	Part of Wombwell North ward; part of Wombwell South ward	5 and 7
21	Worsbrough	3	Part of Hoyland West ward; part of Wombwell South ward; part of Hoyland West ward	5

Notes:

- 1) *The east and west of the borough are parished.*
- 2) *The wards in the above table are illustrated on Map 2 and the large maps.*

Table 2: Final recommendations for Barnsley

	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	Central	3	7,873	2,624	-4	7,913	2,638	-4
2	Cudworth	3	7,892	2,631	-4	8,104	2,701	-2
3	Darfield	3	7,543	2,514	-8	7,485	2,495	-10
4	Darton East	3	8,452	2,817	3	8,387	2,796	1
5	Darton West	3	8,080	2,693	-1	8,003	2,668	-3
6	Dearne North	3	8,259	2,753	1	8,812	2,937	6
7	Dearne South	3	8,372	2,791	2	8,908	2,969	8
8	Dodworth	3	7,922	2,641	-3	7,836	2,612	-5
9	Hoyland Milton	3	8,625	2,875	5	8,925	2,975	8
10	Kingstone	3	8,165	2,722	0	8,047	2,682	-3
11	Monk Bretton	3	8,290	2,763	1	8,166	2,722	-1
12	North East	3	8,453	2,818	3	8,919	2,973	8
13	Old Town	3	7,776	2,592	-5	8,200	2,733	-1
14	Penistone East	3	8,751	2,917	7	8,902	2,967	8
15	Penistone West	3	8,252	2,751	1	8,437	2,812	2
16	Rockingham	3	8,485	2,828	4	8,638	2,879	4
17	Royston	3	8,189	2,730	0	8,107	2,702	-2
18	St Helens	3	8,089	2,696	-1	8,115	2,705	-2
19	Stairfoot	3	8,372	2,791	2	7,920	2,640	-4
20	Wombwell	3	8,386	2,795	2	8,387	2,796	1
21	Worsbrough	3	7,764	2,588	-5	7,622	2,541	-8
	Totals	63	171,990	-	-	173,838	-	-
	Average	-	-	2,730	-	-	2,759	-

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

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

1 Introduction

1 This report contains our final recommendations for the electoral arrangements for the borough of Barnsley in South Yorkshire. We are reviewing the four metropolitan boroughs in South 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 Barnsley. Barnsley's last review was undertaken by the Local Government Boundary Commission for England, which reported to the Secretary of State in November 1977 (Report No. 264).

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 No. 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 Barnsley 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 that 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, or 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/city ward. However, the figure

must be divisible by three. In practice, all metropolitan borough/city 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 This review was in four stages. Stage One began on 8 May 2002, when we wrote to Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council inviting proposals for future electoral arrangements. We also notified South Yorkshire Police Authority, the Local Government Association, National Association of Local Councils, parish and town councils in the borough, Members of Parliament with constituencies in the district, the Members of the European Parliament for the Yorkshire & Humber Region, and the headquarters of the main political parties. We placed a notice in the local press, issued a press release and invited the 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 draft recommendations.

10 Stage Three began on 11 February with the publication of the report, *Draft Recommendations on the Future Electoral Arrangements for Barnsley*, 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

11 The metropolitan borough of Barnsley is a thriving market town that is well served by good transport access to all parts of the country, particularly by the M1 motorway.

12 The borough contains 18 parishes, but Barnsley town itself is unparished. Barnsley town comprises 24% of the borough's total electorate.

13 The electorate of Barnsley Metropolitan Borough is presently 171,958 (December 2001) and is projected to increase to 173,807 by 2006. The Council presently has 66 members who are elected from 22 wards.

14 At present, each councillor represents an average of 2,605 electors, which the Borough Council forecasts will increase to 2,633 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 11 of the 22 wards varies by more than 10% from the borough average, in five wards by more than 20% and in four wards by more than 30%. The worst imbalance is in Darton ward where the councillors represent 40% more electors than the borough average. Moreover, the current allocation of councillors is incorrect.

15 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 that follows, this calculation may also be described using the shorthand term 'electoral variance'.

Map 1: Existing wards in Barnsley

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	Ardsley	3	6,661	2,220	-15	6,343	2,114	-20
2	Arthersley	3	6,188	2,063	-21	6,096	2,032	-23
3	Brierley	3	6,696	2,232	-14	7,003	2,334	-11
4	Central	3	8,336	2,779	7	8,223	2,741	4
5	Cudworth	3	7,847	2,616	0	8,060	2,687	2
6	Darfield	3	7,987	2,662	2	8,046	2,682	2
7	Darton	3	10,946	3,649	40	10,840	3,613	37
8	Dearne South	3	8,807	2,936	13	9,841	3,280	25
9	Dearne Thurnscoe	3	7,824	2,608	0	7,879	2,626	0
10	Dodworth	3	10,749	3,583	38	10,686	3,562	35
11	Hoyland East	3	8,117	2,706	4	8,382	2,794	6
12	Hoyland West	3	6,609	2,203	-15	6,759	2,533	-14
13	Monk Bretton	3	8,260	2,753	6	8,699	2,900	10
14	North West	3	7,079	2,360	-9	7,100	2,367	-10
15	Park	3	5,407	1,802	-31	5,404	1,801	-32
16	Penistone East	3	8,133	2,711	4	8,235	2,745	4
17	Penistone West	3	9,054	3,018	16	9,283	3,094	18
18	Royston	3	9,204	3,068	18	9,106	3,035	15
19	South West	3	7,335	2,445	-6	7,231	2,410	-8
20	Wombwell North	3	5,020	1,673	-36	4,924	1,641	-38
21	Wombwell South	3	8,160	2,720	4	8,266	2,755	5
22	Worsbrough	3	7,539	2,513	-4	7,401	2,467	-6
	Totals	66	171,958	-	-	173,807	-	-
	Average	-	-	2,605	-	-	2,633	-

Source: Electorate figures are based on information provided by Barnsley Metropolitan 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 Wombwell North ward were relatively over-represented by 36%, while electors in Darton ward were relatively under-represented by 40%. Figures have been rounded to the nearest whole number.

3 Draft recommendations

16 During Stage One 37 representations were received, including four borough-wide schemes from the Borough Council, the Independent Group of councillors on the council, the Liberal Democrat Group and one local resident. In the light of these representations and evidence available to us, we reached preliminary conclusions that were set out in our report, *Draft Recommendations on the Future Electoral Arrangements for Barnsley in South Yorkshire*.

17 Our draft recommendations were based on the Borough Council's proposal, which achieved some improvement in electoral equality. However, we moved away from the Borough Council's scheme in a number of areas, affecting Central, Darton West, Dodworth and Kingstone wards' with some of our own proposals. We proposed that:

- Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council should be served by 63 councillors, compared with the current 66, representing 21 wards, one less than at present;
- the boundaries of all of the existing wards should be modified;
- there should be new warding arrangements for Penistone and Tankersley parishes.

Draft recommendation

Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council should comprise 63 councillors, serving 21 wards.

18 Our proposals would have resulted in significant improvements in electoral equality, with the number of electors per councillor in none of the 21 wards varying by more than 10% from the borough average. This level of electoral equality was forecast to continue, with no ward varying by more than 10% from the average in 2006.

4 Responses to consultation

19 During the consultation on the draft recommendations report, 325 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 Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council.

Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council

20 The Borough Council supported the draft recommendations in their entirety.

Political groups and councillors

21 The Liberal Democrat Group on the Borough Council opposed the draft recommendations. They restated a preference for their Stage One scheme and argued that the Borough Council's proposals provided justification for their own proposed 60-member scheme.

22 The Independent Group of Barnsley councillors expressed opposition to the draft recommendations. They stated a preference for their Stage One borough-wide proposals based on a council size of 60 members.

23 Councillor J. Thomson, member for Dearne South, and Councillor A. Hancock, member for Dearne Thurnscoe, expressed support for the draft recommendations.

Parish councils

24 Brierley Town Council stated that it supported the draft recommendations. Penistone Town Council proposed alternative parish warding arrangements for Penistone parish. Tankersley Parish Council objected to the warding of Tankersley parish on the grounds of the need for good and convenient local government.

Other representations

25 A further 317 representations were received from a local organisation and residents in response to our draft recommendations. Old Town and District Residents' Association proposed an alternative boundary between the proposed Darton West and Old Town wards. One resident opposed being placed in the proposed Old Town ward. Another resident opposed the Borough Council's argumentation on council size and restated a preference for his Stage One borough-wide proposals based on a council size of 60 members.

26 We received 256 proforma slips supporting the draft recommendations and the proposed Cudworth ward. We received 45 proforma letters supporting the draft recommendations for the proposed Dearne North and Dearne South wards. A further 13 proforma letters were received supporting the proposed North East ward.

5 Analysis and final recommendations

27 As described earlier, our prime objective in considering the most appropriate electoral arrangements for Barnsley is to achieve electoral equality. In doing so we have regard to section 13(5) of the Local Government Act 1992 (as amended), which defines 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”.

28 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 must also have regard to the desirability of fixing identifiable boundaries and to maintaining local ties.

29 It is therefore impractical to design an electoral scheme that 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.

30 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 identities and interests. Five-year forecasts of changes in electorate must also be considered, and we would aim to recommend a scheme that provides improved electoral equality over this five-year period.

Electorate forecasts

31 Since 1975 there has been a 5% increase in the electorate of Barnsley. However, between 1994 and 2001 there was no substantial growth overall. Development arising from regeneration initiatives has resulted in a shift of electors towards the regenerated areas, with the knock-on effect of many wards being substantially under-represented. The Borough Council submitted electorate forecasts for the year 2006, projecting an increase in the electorate of approximately 2% from 171,958 to 173,807 over the five-year period from 2001 to 2006. In order to prepare these forecasts, the Borough Council estimated rates and locations of housing development with regard to structure and local plans, the expected rate of building over the five-year period and assumed occupancy rates.

32 The three remaining borough-wide schemes each provided slightly different electorate forecasts for 2006. The Borough Council advised that due to the detailed computation of electorates below polling district level, and the use of enumeration district data derived from General Practitioner registers, there would be a small increase of 32 members for both 2001 and 2006 from its original forecast. However, it further stated that it continued to support its overall electorate forecast increase for 2006. The Borough Council projected that most growth in the borough would occur in the present Dearne South ward.

Council size

33 Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council presently has 66 members representing 22 wards. At Stage One the Borough Council proposed a council size of 63 members representing 21 wards. A further three borough-wide schemes were also submitted by the Liberal Democrats, the Independent Group and one local resident, each proposed 60-member schemes representing 20 wards.

34 Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council stated that it had adopted a new political management system in February 1999 that made its decision-making process more efficient and streamlined. This modernised system includes a nine-member cabinet, including the Leader of the Borough Council, which performs the executive functions within the borough council. Members not in the cabinet retain a representative function on nine area forums. These each cover two or three of the present 22 wards and provide forums for discourse between the public and Borough Council.

35 The Borough Council retains six scrutiny commissions that give councillors the opportunity to hold the cabinet and other agencies to account. The Borough Council also retains four regulatory boards that exercise quasi-judicial functions. It stated that these boards placed significant demands on councillors' time.

36 The full borough council meets once a month, and as the sovereign policy-making and budget-setting body it sets the parameters within which the cabinet must operate. Finally the Borough Council stated that councillors are involved in quasi-official structures such as ward surgeries, school governing bodies and inter-agency partnerships that make significant demands on their time.

37 The Borough Council stated there was no evidence that the modernised political structure had given councillors a lighter workload and argued that councillors collectively now made more meaningful contributions to governance in Barnsley. It further stated that councillors spent in excess of 21 hours per week on borough council/community related work. The Borough Council stated that below the range of 60-66 the ability of councillors to represent their constituents and properly hold the executive to account would be impaired. For example, it stated that at present the scrutiny commissions are currently served by 22 elected members and 11 co-opted members. These elected members are drawn from the non-executive councillors, and the Borough Council stated that in those wards where one of the councillors is in the cabinet the remaining members would have to serve on three or four commissions in lieu of their executive councillor colleagues. It further argued that a significant reduction in council size would either increase the workload or alternatively reduce the size of the commissions, which have since modernisation proven to be effective. Further to this, it stated that the number of co-optees would have to decrease in order to maintain the current member/co-optee ratio, thereby reducing the opportunities for community involvement in the work of the council.

38 The Borough Council further argued that a significant reduction in councillors would have a detrimental effect on their representational work, as the demands arising from wards related activities would not diminish in proportion to the decrease in councillors. With non-executive members covering for cabinet members, there would have to be a reduction in the number of members in the cabinet to reduce the workload. It argued that the net effect of this would be the diminution of councillors' decision-making capacity and reduced engagement with constituents.

39 In relation to ward surgeries, the Borough Council argued that with fewer wards and councillors the present frequency of one a week would not be sufficient. It also argued that larger wards with fewer councillors would need a higher frequency of surgeries to allow the varied communities sufficient access to their representatives. It also stated that the area forums would be difficult to operate in wards that covered even greater geographical areas, due to the cultural resistance of different communities to being subsumed into larger entities. Again it argued that

such disengagement could only be offset by an increase in the frequency of area forum meetings, which would also place a heavy burden on the remaining councillors.

40 The Borough Council stated that any significant reduction in council size would not reflect the views of the public as expressed during its public consultation. It stated that due to the geographical configuration of Barnsley a radical reduction in the number of wards could not be justified. Having explored a range of options including 66, 63 and 60 members' and having given consideration of the internal political management structure, electoral equality and community identity, the Borough Council concluded that it would operate most effectively under a council size of 63 members representing 21 wards. It argued that a council size of 63 members would ensure the continuity of modernised political management arrangements, provide improved levels of electoral equality and ensure ward boundaries that reflected community identities. Under this proposal the arrangements for the cabinet and area forums would remain the same; however, with 21 wards the Borough Council proposed that there should be one less three-ward forum. It proposed that the scrutiny commissions consist of one councillor from each ward with a maximum of 11 co-opted per commission. The number of regulatory boards would remain at four, again with one councillor per ward, therefore there would be a reduction to 21 councillors appointed to the regulatory boards.

41 The Independent Group proposed a council size of 60 members representing 20 wards. They argued that a reduction to eight area forums and 60 elected members would be adequate to ensure the provision of local services. They also asserted that with two less wards and the consequential increase in ward size, attendance by the public at the area forums would be higher. They stated that the only implication of such a reduction would be 17 councillors attending the scrutiny commissions, and 17 councillors on the regulatory boards. They argued that there was no reason why a Labour councillor from each ward should be on each board. They also stated that it was a councillor's own prerogative as to whether they sat on external bodies. However, they stated that opposition councillors had not been given proportional representation on outside bodies.

42 One local resident proposed a council size of 60 members, representing 20 wards. He also argued that a reduction in council size could be accommodated by reducing the number of councillors on the scrutiny commissions and regulatory boards. However, we could not further consider his argumentation on council size as we did not receive this particular information in time.

43 At Stage One the Liberal Democrats did not provide any further evidence before the end of Stage One consultation period as to why they proposed a council size of 60 members.

44 After careful evaluation of all the representations received we concluded that the Borough Council had adduced the most persuasive argumentation in support of its proposal for a council size of 63 members.

45 At Stage Three the Borough Council stated that it supported the draft recommendations for the council size of 63 members. The Liberal Democrats objected to the proposed council. They stated that they had not provided argumentation on council size at Stage One, because they relied upon the Borough Council's initial justification for the optimum council size of 60-66 members. They therefore continued to prefer their Stage One 60-member scheme based on a pattern of 20 wards.

46 However, we note that the part of the Borough Council's submission to which the Liberal Democrats referred did not provide specific evidence of how any particular council size within this range would operate. We therefore do not consider that a viable case for a 60-member council could be made on this basis.

47 The Independent Group opposed the draft recommendations and objected to the Borough Council's argumentation supporting a council size of 63-members. They also objected to the Borough Council's initial consultation process, stating that it had only presented one option for consideration. We noted at Stage One the extensive public consultations that both the Borough Council and the Independent Group conducted in respect of their proposals. The Independent Group submitted evidence of 532 proforma letters supporting their proposals. However, the Borough Council submitted evidence in the form of 738 proforma letters supporting its proposals for a 21-ward scheme, notwithstanding that it submitted only one scheme for public consultation.

48 The Independent Group argued that it was not necessary for every ward to be represented on each scrutiny commission and regulatory board. They proposed reducing the membership of councillors on both the scrutiny commissions and regulatory boards to 17. They also argued that this approach would result in the majority of non-executive councillors being appointed to three scrutiny commissions and regulatory boards, as opposed to four at present. They also argued that arrangements in neighbouring boroughs should be taken into consideration in determining council size.

49 As stated in the draft recommendations, we accept that the council could operate within the range of 60–66 members. However, we remain of the view that on the balance of argumentation the Borough Council has made a persuasive case that it would operate best under a council size of 63 members.

50 The one resident who made a Stage One representation also opposed the Borough Council's argumentation in respect of council size at Stage Three. He stated that it had made its case for 63 members only in general terms and therefore he continued to prefer his Stage One scheme based on 60 members. He proposed that a reduction in the size of membership of the scrutiny commissions and regulatory boards would not impair their effectiveness, and that the introduction of 10 area forums of two wards each would give greater equality to the forum electorate. He further argued that a 60-member council was more appropriate in terms of councillor workload, when compared with the other 36 metropolitan borough councils.

51 We have given careful consideration to the views received at Stage Three. As stated above we considered the arguments received from the Borough Council, the Independent Group and the local resident each had merit in respect of council size. However in determining the appropriate council size, we remain persuaded that the Borough Council provided the best evidence as to how the council would operate with its proposed 63 members.

52 We also note that the Borough Council's proposals received substantial support from local residents, particularly from the north-west of the borough. As for comparing council sizes with other authorities, we mention in our *Guidance* that such comparisons do not provide suitable evidence for determining the appropriate council size. Having considered the submissions received we remain of the view that the council size of 63 members is the most appropriate for Barnsley.

Electoral arrangements

53 We gave careful consideration to all the responses received at Stage One. As stated above, we proposed adopting the Borough Council's proposals for 63 members based on a ward pattern of 21 wards. The main issue of contention was council size, with the three other borough-wide schemes each proposing 60 members based on differing patterns of 20 wards. These differences made ward patterns within these schemes, particularly in the urban areas towards the centre of Barnsley, mutually exclusive.

54 At Stage One we received a response from one local resident that included 227 proforma letters objecting to the Borough Council's initial consultation proposals for the transfer of Stainborough parish to the proposed Dodworth ward. In light of those objections the Borough

Council proposed that Stainborough parish remain in the proposed Penistone East ward. In support of their scheme, the Independent Group submitted 532 proforma letters in support of their proposals, 101 of which expressed a preference for Great Houghton parish remaining part of the Darfield ward along with Billingley and Little Houghton parishes. They further argued that the Borough Council proposals were deliberately designed to split the present South West ward, on political grounds.

55 Their alternative 20-member scheme proposed a new South West ward similar to the present ward of same name, with a total of 18 boundary amendments and no additional parish warding. They further proposed that the present Wombwell North and Park wards should be split up and transferred to other wards.

56 The two remaining borough-wide schemes each also proposed ward patterns based on a council size of 60-members. The scheme proposed by the local resident provided a similar ward pattern to that of the Independent Group, providing good levels of electoral equality by 2006. However, due to the late arrival of argumentation relating to the appropriate council size, we were not able to consider these proposals further.

57 All four borough-wide schemes we received provided good levels of electoral equality. However, in view of the degree of consensus behind large elements of the Borough Council's proposals, the argumentation underpinning its proposed council size and the consultation exercise that it undertook with interested parties, we based our recommendations on the Borough Council's scheme.

58 In the light of all the submissions received during Stage Three and the support for our draft recommendations in various areas, we propose confirming the majority of our draft recommendations as final. However, to better reflect community identity we propose adopting Penistone Town Council's proposed parish ward amendments to Penistone parish.

59 The draft recommendations have been reviewed in the light of further evidence and the representations received during Stage Three. For borough warding purposes, the following areas, based on existing wards, are considered in turn:

- i. Darton, Dodworth, Penistone East and Penistone West wards; (pages 25 & 27)
- ii. Brierley, Cudworth, Darfield, Dearne South, Dearne Thurscoe, Hoyland East, Hoyland West, Wombwell North, Wombwell South and Worsbrough wards; (pages 27 & 29)
- iii. Ardsley, Athersley, Central, Monk Bretton, North West, Park, Royston and South West wards; (pages 29 & 31)

60 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.

Darton, Dodworth, Penistone East and Penistone West wards

61 These wards are located in the west of the borough. Darton and Dodworth wards are unparished. Penistone East ward comprises the parishes of Cawthorne, High Hoyland, Hunshelf, Oxspring, Tankersley, Thurgoland, Silkstone, Stainborough and Wortley. Penistone West ward comprises the parishes of Dunford, Gunthwaite & Ingbirchworth, Langsett and Penistone. The number of electors per councillor is 40% above the borough average in Darton ward (37% above by 2006), 38% above the borough average in Dodworth ward (35% above by 2006), 4% above the borough average in Penistone East ward (4% above by 2006) and 16% above the borough average in Penistone West ward (18% above by 2006).

62 At Stage One the Borough Council stated that it expected new house-building to increase the electorate in the present Penistone West ward. It therefore proposed a ward pattern in the

east of the borough that accommodated this by transferring the Hoylandswaine settlement within the present Penistone West ward to the new Penistone East ward. It argued that this option was preferred to any division of the continuous urban area of Penistone. The proposed Penistone West ward would therefore comprise the parishes of Dunford, Gunthwaite & Ingbirchworth and Langsett and also the parish wards of Cubley, Thurlstone & Millhouse, Springvale & Green Road, Penistone Town and Wentworth & Wellhouse.

63 Towards the south the Borough Council stated that parts of Tankersley parish were closely associated in terms of community identity with the Hoyland area. It therefore proposed that Tankersley parish be warded and that a new West parish ward, situated west of the M1 motorway, be transferred to Penistone East ward. It further proposed that Penistone East ward comprise the parishes of Cawthorne, High Hoyland, Hunshelf, Oxspring, Thurgoland, Silkstone, Stainborough, Wortley and the proposed Hoylandswaine parish ward. The Borough Council proposed that the new East parish ward, east of the M1 motorway, be placed within the proposed Rockingham ward. It proposed that Rockingham ward also comprise the settlements of Hoyland Common, Birdwell and the south-west part of the present Hoyland East ward generally east of Skiers View Road.

64 Towards the north of the borough the Borough Council considered new warding arrangements for the present Darton and Dodworth wards which it stated would both increase in size due to new house-building. It argued under the proposed 21-ward pattern there were insufficient electors for three wards, but too many electors for the present two wards. It therefore proposed transferring electors from the urban areas of central Barnsley to facilitate a three-ward pattern for this area. The proposed Darton East ward would therefore comprise the general area of housing in the Staincross and Mapplewell areas to the north of the Barnsley to Wakefield railway. A new Darton West ward would comprise the remainder of the present Darton ward and the Barugh Green, Redbrook and Gawber settlements. The Borough Council also proposed transferring parts of the present North West and South West wards into the new Darton East ward.

65 The Borough Council proposed a new Dodworth ward comprising the remainder of Dodworth, the Higham settlement, the Broadway area and the western part of the Pogmoor area. Although the Broadway and Pogmoor areas lie on the opposite side of the M1 motorway, these areas retain good links to the rest of the proposed ward by access via A628 Barnsley/Dodworth road.

66 Penistone Town Council expressed support for the Borough Council's proposals for this area. Tankersley Parish Council stated that it preferred to remain totally within Penistone East ward. Cawthorne Parish Council stated it was satisfied with the current warding arrangements.

67 Councillor Harrison, of Penistone Town Council, objected to the Borough Council's proposals for a 21-ward pattern. Two local residents objected to parts of the Pogmoor area being placed in the proposed Dodworth ward. Stainborough Parish Councillor Poppleton, expressed opposition to the transfer of Hood Green village to the proposed Dodworth ward. As mentioned above, we also received one submission from a local resident containing a further 227 proforma letters opposing the transfer of Stainborough parish into the proposed Dodworth ward. Four residents objected to the transfer of Stainborough parish, which includes Hood Green village, from the present Penistone East ward to the proposed Dodworth ward. Two residents objected to the transfer of Hoylandswaine settlement to the proposed Penistone East ward.

68 At Stage One we noted the objections to the transfer of the proposed Hoylandswaine settlement to the new Penistone East ward. However, due to the need to provide a viable warding pattern in the west of the borough, under a 21 ward pattern, we were persuaded that the Borough Council proposals provided the best balance between the statutory criteria. We also noted that Penistone Town Council stated it would support the re-warding of Penistone parish as proposed by the Borough Council. We further noted Tankersley Parish Council's objection to

being warded. However, we were of the view that in order to facilitate a warding pattern in the west of the borough the Borough Council's proposals provided the most acceptable option for this area.

69 However, to further improve levels of electoral equality we proposed amending the boundaries between the proposed Darton West and Dodworth wards. We proposed that all the properties south of Church Street and along Wharfdale Road up until No.35 be transferred to the proposed Dodworth ward.

70 Under our draft recommendations the number of electors per councillor would be 3% above the borough average in Darton East ward (1% above by 2006), 1% below the borough average in Darton West ward (3% below by 2006), 3% below the borough average in Dodworth ward (5% below by 2006), 7% above the borough average in Penistone East ward (8% above by 2006), 1% above the borough average in Penistone West ward (2% above by 2006) and 4% above the borough average in Rockingham ward (4% above by 2006).

71 As indicated above, the Borough Council supported our draft recommendations in full. Only one objection was received, relating to parish warding. Tankersley Parish Council objected to our draft recommendations, stating that the proposed single parish councillor in the new East ward would be isolated. It further stated that this proposal would be difficult to implement in terms of the administration of polling districts.

72 Having carefully considered the representations received, we have decided to confirm the majority our draft recommendations for wards in this area as they provide the best balance between the statutory criteria. In relation to the objections of Tankersley Parish Council, we remain of the view that the warding of Tankersley parish along the M1 motorway provides the most viable ward pattern that achieves a balance between the statutory criteria. Moreover, we consider that the main settlements in the north of the new East parish ward in Tankersley parish along Tankersley Lane actually constitute urban overspill of the Hoyland Common area in the proposed Rockingham ward. We have therefore decided to confirm the draft recommendations for this area as final.

73 Under our final recommendations, the number of electors per councillor would be the same as under the draft recommendations.

Brierley, Cudworth, Darfield, Dearne South, Dearne Thurnscoe, Hoyland East, Hoyland West, Wombwell North, Wombwell South and Worsbrough wards

74 These wards are located towards the east of the borough. The wards of Cudworth, Dearne South, Dearne Thurnscoe, Hoyland East, Hoyland West, Wombwell North, Wombwell South and Worsbrough are all unparished. Brierley ward comprises the parishes of Brierley and Shafton. Darfield ward comprises the unparished area of Darfield and the parishes of Billingley, Great Houghton and Little Houghton. The number of electors per councillor is 14% below the borough average in Brierley ward (11% below by 2006), equal to the borough average in Cudworth ward (2% above by 2006), 2% above the borough average in Darfield ward (2% above by 2006), 13% above the borough average in Dearne South ward (25% above by 2006), equal to the borough average in Dearne Thurnscoe ward (equal to the average by 2006), 4% above the borough average in Hoyland East ward (6% above by 2006), 15% below the borough average in Hoyland West ward (14% below by 2006), 36% below the borough average in Wombwell North ward (38% below by 2006), 4% above the borough average in Wombwell South ward (5% above by 2006) and 4% below the borough average in Worsbrough ward (6% below by 2006).

75 At Stage One the Borough Council stated that due to demolitions the existing Brierley ward was decreasing in terms of electorate size. It therefore proposed a new Cudworth ward similar in

composition to the present ward, except that, to improve electoral equality it proposed the inclusion of 45 electors on Fish Dam Lane and also the inclusion of the Rexam Glassworks area to provide a better defined ward boundary.

76 It further proposed a new North East ward comprising the parishes of Brierley and Shafton. To secure better levels of electoral equality it also proposed the inclusion of Great Houghton parish from the current Darfield ward.

77 As a consequence of this transfer the Borough Council noted that the electorate in its proposed Darfield ward would be reduced. It therefore proposed the transfer of the Low Valley and Broomhill areas into the proposed Darfield ward. The Borough Council considered this to be the best option available, as the Darfield urban area was isolated from other areas in the borough.

78 Towards the eastern boundary of the borough lie the wards of Dearne North and Dearne Thurnscoe. Again, due to the isolation of these urban areas, the Borough Council proposed amending of the boundary between these wards to achieve better electoral equality. The Dearne wards are currently divided by the A635 Barnsley/Doncaster road. However, the Borough Council forecast significant growth within Dearne South ward. It therefore proposed that the boundary between these wards be amended to follow the railway line, then run along Thurnscoe Dike, with the whole of Goldthorpe town centre being transferred into the proposed Dearne North ward.

79 Towards the southern end of the borough, in trying to provide a more defined urban Wombwell ward the Borough Council proposed transferring the villages of Jump and Hemingfield into the new Hoyland Milton ward. It considered that this transfer would not diminish the representation of resident's interests in these areas. This would provide a southern boundary for the proposed Wombwell ward running along the Dearne Valley Parkway. It proposed that the northern boundary would generally follow along the dismantled railway.

80 To the north the Borough Council proposed that the Aldham House area be transferred into the proposed Stairfoot ward. The Borough Council proposed that the new Hoyland Milton ward should comprise the Platts Common, Jump and Hemingfield areas across the centre, the Elsecar area to the south and the Milton area in the west, with the boundary following the rear of properties on Croft Road, St Andrew's Crescent and Valley Way. To the north the Borough Council proposed including the Blacker Hill settlement that is separated by the A619 Dearne Valley Parkway, but which retains good access to the rest of the ward by the Barnsley Road. After public consultation the Borough Council considered that Hoyland Milton was the most appropriate name for this ward.

81 The Borough Council proposed a new Worsbrough ward that would have a configuration similar to the current ward, with the inclusion of Worsbrough village from the present Hoylands West ward to the south.

82 Jump Community Social Club objected to the village of Jump being transferred from the present Wombwell South ward on grounds of community identity. One resident expressed support for the proposed Cudworth ward within a 21-ward pattern. Two residents objected to the configuration of the proposed Cudworth ward. One resident objected to the Borough Council's proposed Wombwell ward. Another resident proposed that Brierley parish be abolished, however this was not a matter we could consider as part of our review.

83 We also took the view that the transfer of the villages of Jump and Hemingfield to Hoyland Milton ward provided the most acceptable ward pattern in this area, with these areas retaining good road access to the main Hoyland area via Church Street. We noted the objections received concerning the proposed Cudworth ward. However, we were persuaded that this proposal best reflected the statutory criteria in this area. It also avoided the need to ward the parish. We

therefore adopted all of the Borough Council's proposals for this area. We considered that the proposals achieved the best balance of the statutory criteria available as they grouped similar communities together and utilised good boundaries.

84 Under the draft recommendations the number of electors per councillor would be 4% below the borough average in Cudworth ward (2% below by 2006), 8% below the borough average in Darfield ward (10% below by 2006), 1% above the borough average in Dearne North ward (6% above by 2006), 2% above the borough average in Dearne South ward (8% above by 2006), 5% above the borough average in Hoyland Milton ward (8% above by 2006), 3% above the borough average in North East ward (8% above by 2006), 2% above the borough average in Wombwell ward (1% above by 2006) and 5% below the borough average in Worsbrough ward (8% below by 2006).

85 At Stage Three the Borough Council stated that it supported to the draft recommendations. Brierley Town Council also expressed support for the draft recommendations in their entirety as did Councillor Thomson, member for Dearne South, and Councillor Hancock, member for Dearne Thurnscoe.

86 We received 256 proforma letters supporting the draft proposals in respect of the new Cudworth ward within a pattern of 21 wards. We also received 45 proforma letters supporting the draft proposals for the Dearne area in the south of the borough within a pattern of 21 wards. We received a further 13 proforma letters supporting the draft proposals for North East ward.

87 The Independent Group objected to the transfer of Great Houghton and its church, which it commented is the daughter church of Darfield Church, out of the present Darfield ward. They also stated that their proposals would not divide the town of Wombwell or the village of Carlton and that their proposals would unite all of the Monk Bretton area in a single ward. However, they also admitted that the drawback of their proposal for a Brierley & Shafton ward would be the division of the present Cudworth ward.

88 We have given careful consideration to the evidence and representations received at Stage Three. We noted the objections of the Independent Group and some local residents to the draft proposals for this area. However, we also noted the high levels of support the draft recommendations received from residents in the north-west of the borough. In the light of the evidence received and this support we remain of the view that the draft recommendations for this area represent the best balance between of the statutory criteria available.

89 Under our final recommendations the number of electors per councillor would be the same as under the draft recommendations.

Ardasley, Athersley, Central, Monk Bretton, North West, Park, Royston and South West wards

90 These wards are located in the centre of the borough and are all unparished. The number of electors per councillor is 15% below the borough average in Ardsley ward (20% below by 2006), 21% below the borough average in Athersley ward (23% below by 2006), 7% above the borough average in Central ward (4% above by 2006), 6% above the borough average in Monk Bretton ward (10% above by 2006), 9% below the borough average in North West ward (10% below by 2006), 31% below the borough average in Park ward (32% below by 2006), 18% above the borough average in Royston ward (15% above by 2006) and 6% below the borough average in South West ward (8% below by 2006).

91 At Stage One the Borough Council proposed a configuration of the central area that was similar to the present wards in terms of urban character. It proposed a new Central ward that would comprise Barnsley town centre, including the area presently in South West ward between

Summer Land and Sackville Street. This ward would also include the Longham Road area presently in North West ward. In the east of the new ward it would also include the terraced areas of Hoyle Mill and Measborough Dike, now presently within Ardsley ward.

92 The Borough Council proposed a new Kingstone ward that would join the area of the present Park ward from Park Road to Town End with similar areas from the present Central and South West wards along Racecommon Road and Park Grove which are located in the area south-west of the town centre. It also proposed the inclusion of Worsbrough Common from the present Park ward.

93 The Borough Council proposed a new Old Town ward formed from the Honeywell, Old Town, Wilthorpe and Willow Bank areas of the present North West ward. It also proposed the inclusion from the present South West ward of the area south of the Barnsley District General Hospital. It further proposed the inclusion of the Smithies area east of Honeywell that is currently in the present Monk Bretton ward.

94 The Borough Council proposed a new Monk Bretton ward comprising the two main settlements of Monk Bretton and Lundwood that are separated by fields and the Priory School campus. It also proposed the inclusion of the Smithies area generally west of Rotherham Road. The Borough Council further proposed that the southern part of Carlton be included within Monk Bretton ward as this village is too large to remain entirely within the proposed Royston ward.

95 To the north of the borough, the Borough Council proposed a new Royston ward similar in composition to the present ward. To improve electoral equality by 2006 the Borough Council proposed that this ward comprise the main Royston settlement and include part of the Carlton area that retains access by Royston Lane. It therefore proposed that the southern boundary of Royston ward run along the dismantled railway and along to Sandybridge Dyke.

96 The Borough Council's new St Helens ward would comprise the present Athersley ward and the New Lodge area from the current North West ward. It also proposed including part of the Smithies area separated from the Athersley area by the Rotherham Road. The Borough Council further proposed a new Royston ward comprising the whole of the Royston settlement and the part of the Charlton settlement that lies generally north of Wood Lane.

97 The Borough Council proposed a new Stairfoot ward comprising the Ardsley settlement and the Aldham House area presently located in the Wombwell North ward that retains access to the centre of Stairfoot by Wombwell Lane/Barnsley Road. To the west of the proposed ward it proposed the inclusion of the Kendray area, which is presently split between Ardsley and Park wards. Within this area the Borough Council also proposed a new Worsbrough ward comprising the settlement of Worsbrough and the small settlement of Worsbrough Village that is presently in Hoyland West ward, as mentioned above.

98 Derby Street & Knowsley Street Neighbourhood Watch objected to the proposed changes to South West ward. Two residents stated that they preferred Monk Bretton Priory as a ward name. Seven residents expressed objections to the Borough Council's amendment to South West ward.

99 We gave careful consideration to the evidence and representations received at Stage One. As mentioned above, we received three other borough-wide schemes for this area, and noted that there was some merit in each of them. However, due to our adoption of a council size of 63 members we were unable to adopt any of the proposals within those schemes.

100 Subject to one amendment, we therefore proposed broadly basing our draft recommendations on Borough Council's proposals in this area. To improve levels of electoral equality we proposed amending the boundary between the proposed Central and Kingstone

wards, transferring the properties between Sackville Street and Summer Lane along to Fitzwilliam Street from Central ward to Kingstone ward.

101 Under the draft recommendations the number of electors per councillor would be 4% below the borough average in Central ward (4% below by 2006), equal to the borough average in Kingstone ward (3% below by 2006), 1% above the borough average in Monk Bretton ward (1% below by 2006), 5% below the borough average in Old Town ward (1% below by 2006), equal to the borough average in Royston ward (2% below by 2006), 1% below the borough average in St Helens ward (2% below by 2006) and 2% above the borough average in Stairfoot ward (4% below by 2006).

102 At Stage Three the Borough Council expressed support for the draft recommendations. Old Town and District Residents' Association opposed the proposal to place the areas around Rowland Road and Walton Street into the proposed Darton West ward. They referred us to their representations on the Borough Council's consultation scheme, in which they proposed that this area should instead be placed within the proposed Old Town ward. One local resident objected to being transferred from the present Old Town ward to the proposed Darton West ward.

103 We have carefully considered the responses to the draft recommendations for this area. We noted the objections to the proposed boundaries of the new Darton West and Old Town wards. However, we are not persuaded by the argumentation for alternatives to our draft proposals. We further note that the properties around Rowland Road and Walton Street have direct access to the proposed Darton West ward as opposed to the new Old Town ward. We therefore remain of the view that the draft recommendations best reflect the statutory criteria for this area.

104 Under our final recommendations the number of electors per councillor would be the same as under the draft recommendations.

Electoral cycle

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

Conclusions

106 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:

- In Penistone town we propose amendments to the parish ward boundaries.

107 We conclude that, in Barnsley:

- there should be a reduction in council size from 66 to 63;
- there should be 21 wards, one less than at present;
- the boundaries of 22 of the existing wards should be modified.

108 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	66	63	66	63
Number of wards	22	21	22	21
Average number of electors per councillor	2,605	2,730	2,633	2,759
Number of wards with a variance of more than 10 per cent from the average	11	0	11	0
Number of wards with a variance of more than 20 per cent from the average	5	0	6	0

109 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 11 to none. This level of electoral equality would continue further by 2006, with no ward varying by more than 10%. We conclude that our recommendations would best meet the statutory criteria.

Final recommendation

Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council should comprise 63 councillors serving 21 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

110 When reviewing parish electoral arrangements, we are required to comply as far as possible with the rules set out in Schedule 11 to the 1972 Local Government 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. In our draft recommendations report we proposed consequential changes to the warding arrangements for Penistone and Tankersley parishes to reflect the proposed borough wards.

111 The parish of Penistone is currently served by 15 councillors representing three wards: Hoylandswaine, Thurlstone & Millhouse and Penistone. At Stage One the Borough Council proposed transferring part of the Hoylandswaine settlement into the proposed Penistone East ward. It therefore proposed the re-warding of Penistone parish, maintaining the present number of 15 councillors. It proposed that Thurlstone & Millhouse parish ward return three councillors, Wentworth and Wellhouse parish ward return two councillors, Hoylandswaine parish ward return two councillors, Springvale & Green Road parish ward return two wards, Penistone Town parish ward return four councillors and Cubley parish ward return two councillors. As a result of adopting the Borough Council's proposals at borough level we consequently proposed new warding arrangements for Penistone parish as proposed by the Borough Council.

112 In response to the our draft recommendations Penistone Town Council proposed alternative parish warding. It proposed that Penistone parish ward comprise the Penistone Town area and include the Wentworth and Wellhouse areas and should be represented by six councillors. It proposed that the Cubley and Springvale areas be combined and be represented by four councillors. It also proposed the Thurstone and Millhouse areas be combined and be represented by three councillors. It further proposed that Hoylandswaine parish ward continue to be served by two councillors.

113 We note that Penistone Parish Council's proposals would not affect our proposed borough wards, and in the light of the confirmation of our proposals in the area we are content to amend the draft recommendation for warding in Penistone parish.

Final recommendation

Penistone Town Council should comprise 15 councillors, as at present, representing four wards: Penistone (returning six councillors), Cubley & Springvale (returning four councillors), Thurlstone & Millhouse (returning three councillors) and Hoylandswaine (returning two councillors). The parish ward boundaries should reflect the proposed borough ward boundaries as detailed and named in Tables 1 and 2, and illustrated on Map 2 and in Appendix A and the large maps.

114 The parish of Tankersley is currently served by 11 councillors and is not warded. At Stage One the Borough Council proposed warding this parish, placing West parish ward in the proposed Penistone East ward and East parish ward in the proposed Rockingham ward. The Borough Council proposed that East parish ward be served by one councillor. As a result of adopting the Borough Council's proposals at borough level we consequently proposed new warding arrangements for Tankersley parish as proposed by the Borough Council.

115 In response to the draft recommendations Tankersley Parish Council objected to the proposed parish warding, on the grounds of good and convenient local government. However, having considered all the evidence received, and in the light of our confirmation of the proposed wards in this area, we confirm the draft recommendations for the warding of Tankersley as final.

Final recommendation

Tankersley Parish Council should comprise 11 councillors, as at present, representing two wards: East and West, returning one and ten councillors respectively. The boundary between the two parish wards should reflect the proposed borough ward boundary as detailed and named in Tables 1 and 2, and illustrated on Map 2 and in Appendix A and the large maps.

Map 2: Final recommendations for Barnsley

6 What happens next?

116 Having completed our review of electoral arrangements in Barnsley 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 No. 3692).

117 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 to them by that date. They particularly welcome any comments on the first draft of the Order, which will implement the new arrangements.

118 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
(This address should only be used for this purpose.)**

Appendix A

Final recommendations for Barnsley: **Detailed mapping**

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

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

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

Map A1: Final recommendations for Barnsley: key map

Appendix B

Guide to interpreting the draft of the Statutory Instrument

Preamble

This describes the process by which the Statutory Instrument will be made, and under which powers. Text in square brackets will be removed if The Electoral Commission decides not to modify the Final Recommendations.

Citation and Commencement

This defines the name of the Statutory Instrument and sets the dates on which it will come into force.

Interpretation

This defines terms that are used in the Statutory Instrument.

Wards of the Borough of Barnsley

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 Barnsley

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.

Maps

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

Electoral Registers

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

Revocation

This revokes the Statutory Instrument that defines the existing wards, with the exception of any 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 decides not to modify the Final Recommendations.

Appendix C

First draft of the electoral change Order for Barnsley

STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

2003 No.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT, ENGLAND

The Borough of Barnsley (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 Barnsley:

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 Barnsley (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;

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- (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 Barnsley 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 Barnsley;

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

any reference to the map is a reference to the map marked “Map referred to in the Borough of Barnsley (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 Barnsley 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 Barnsley

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

- (2) The borough shall be divided into twenty-one wards which shall bear the names set out in column (1) of Schedule 1.
- (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 Barnsley

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.

(a) See the Borough of Barnsley (Electoral Arrangements) Order 1978 (S.I. 1978/1639).

(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(7) of S.I. 1978/1639.

(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 Penistone

- 5.—(1) The existing wards of the parish of Penistone shall be abolished.
- (2) The parish shall be divided into four parish wards which shall bear the names Cubley and Springvale, Hoylandswaine, Penistone, and Thurlstone and Millhouse; and the wards shall comprise the areas designated on sheet 3 by reference to the name of the ward and demarcated by orange lines.
- (3) The number of councillors to be elected for the parish ward of Penistone shall be six, for the parish ward of Cubley and Springvale shall be four, for the parish ward of Thurlstone and Millhouse shall be three, and for the parish ward of Hoylandswaine shall be two.

Wards of the parish of Tankersley

6. The parish of Tankersley shall be divided into two parish wards which shall bear the names set out in column (1) of Schedule 2; each parish ward shall comprise the area of the borough ward specified in respect of the parish ward in column (2) of that Schedule, and the number of councillors to be elected for each parish ward shall be the number specified in respect of the parish ward in column (3) of that Schedule.

Maps

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

Electoral registers

8. 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

9. The Borough of Barnsley (Electoral Arrangements) Order 1978 (b) is revoked, save for articles 8 and 9(7).

(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. 1979/1639.

SCHEDULE 1

article 3

NAMES OF WARDS

Central	North East
Cudworth	Old Town
Darfield	Penistone East
Darton East	Penistone West
Darton West	Rockingham
Dearne North	Royston
Dearne South	St Helens
Dodworth	Stairfoot
Hoyland Milton	Wombwell
Kingstone	Worsbrough
Monk Bretton	

SCHEDULE 2

article 6

WARDS OF THE PARISH OF TANKERSLEY NAMES AND AREAS OF WARDS AND NUMBERS OF COUNCILLORS

(1) <i>Name of Ward</i>	(2) <i>Area of Ward</i>	(3) <i>Number of Councillors</i>
East	So much of the borough ward of Rockingham as comprises the parish of Tankersley	1
West	So much of the borough ward of Penistone as comprises the parish of Tankersley	10

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 Barnsley.

[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 of Barnsley and provides for the creation of 21 new wards. That article and Schedule 1 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.

Articles 5 and 6 make electoral changes in the parishes of Penistone and Tankersley.

Article 8 obliges the Electoral Registration Officer to make any necessary amendments to the electoral register to reflect the new electoral arrangements.

Article 9 revokes the Borough of Barnsley (Electoral Arrangements) Order 1978, with the exception of articles 8 and 9(7).

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 Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council and at the principal office of the Electoral Commission at Trevelyan House, Great Peter Street, London SW1P 2HW.