

LOCAL  
GOVERNMENT  
COMMISSION  
FOR ENGLAND

FINAL  
RECOMMENDATIONS  
ON THE FUTURE  
ELECTORAL  
ARRANGEMENTS FOR  
WELWYN HATFIELD  
IN HERTFORDSHIRE

*Report to the Secretary of State for the  
Environment, Transport and the Regions*

*February 1998*

# LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND

This report sets out the Commission's final recommendations on the electoral arrangements for Welwyn Hatfield in Hertfordshire.

Members of the Commission are:

Professor Malcolm Grant (Chairman)

Helena Shovelton (Deputy Chairman)

Peter Brokenshire

Professor Michael Clarke

Robin Gray

Bob Scruton

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## Local Government Commission for England

3 February 1998

Dear Secretary of State

On 10 December 1996, the Commission began a periodic electoral review of the district of Welwyn Hatfield under the Local Government Act 1992. We published our draft recommendations for electoral arrangements on 2 July 1997 and undertook an 11-week period of consultation.

We have now prepared our final recommendations in the light of the consultation. We have substantially confirmed our draft recommendations, although some modifications have been made (see paragraph 67) in the light of further evidence. This report sets out our final recommendations for changes to electoral arrangements in Welwyn Hatfield.

We recommend that Welwyn Hatfield District Council should be served by 48 councillors representing 17 wards, and that some changes should be made to ward boundaries in order to improve electoral equality, having regard to the statutory criteria. We recommend that elections should continue to take place by thirds.

I would like to thank members and officers of the District Council and other local people who have contributed to the review. Their co-operation and assistance have been very much appreciated by Commissioners and staff.

Yours sincerely

PROFESSOR MALCOLM GRANT  
Chairman



# SUMMARY

The Commission began a review of Welwyn Hatfield on 10 December 1996. We published our draft recommendations for electoral arrangements on 2 July 1997, after which we undertook an 11-week period of consultation.

- **This report summarises the representations we have received during consultation on our draft recommendations, and offers our final recommendations to the Secretary of State.**

We found that the existing electoral arrangements provide unequal representation of electors in Welwyn Hatfield because:

- **in six of the 16 wards, the number of electors represented by each councillor varies by more than 10 per cent from the average for the district;**
- **in one ward, the number of electors represented by each councillor varies by more than 20 per cent from the average;**
- **by 2001, the number of electors per councillor is likely to vary by more than 10 per cent from the average in four wards, with one ward varying by more than 20 per cent.**

Our main final recommendations for future electoral arrangements (Figure 1 and paragraphs 66 to 69) are that:

- **Welwyn Hatfield District Council should be served by 48 councillors, compared with 47 at present;**
- **there should be 17 wards, one more than at present;**
- **the boundaries of 12 wards should be modified, while four wards should retain their existing boundaries;**
- **elections should continue to take place by thirds.**

These recommendations seek to ensure that the number of electors represented by each district councillor is as nearly as possible the same, having regard to local circumstances.

- **In all 17 wards, the number of electors per**

**councillor would vary by no more than 10 per cent from the district average.**

- **This level of electoral equality is expected to be maintained by 2001.**

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

- **revised warding arrangements for Hatfield Town Council and North Mymms Parish Council.**

All further correspondence on these recommendations and the matters discussed in this report should be addressed to the Secretary of State for the Environment, Transport and the Regions, who will not make an Order implementing the Commission's recommendations before 17 March 1998:

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

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

	<b>Ward name</b>	<b>Number of councillors</b>	<b>Constituent areas</b>	<b>Map reference</b>
1	Brookmans Park and Little Heath	3	Brookmans Park and Little Heath ward (part – Brookmans Park ward (part) and Little Heath ward of North Mymms parish); Newgate Street and Wildhill ward of Hatfield parish)	Large map
2	Haldens (in Welwyn Garden City)	3	Haldens ward (part)	Map A3
3	Handside (in Welwyn Garden City)	3	<i>Unchanged</i>	Map 2
4	Hatfield Central	3	Hatfield Central district and parish ward; Hatfield East district and parish ward (part)	Large map
5	Hatfield East	3	Hatfield East ward (part – Essendon parish and East ward of Hatfield parish (part))	Large map
6	Hatfield North	3	<i>Unchanged</i> (Hatfield North parish ward)	Map 2
7	Hatfield South	2	Welham Green and Redhall ward (part – South ward of Hatfield parish); Hatfield West district and parish ward (part)	Large map
8	Hatfield West	3	Hatfield West district and parish ward (part)	Large map
9	Hollybush (in Welwyn Garden City)	3	Hollybush ward; Peartree ward (part)	Map A2
10	Howlands (in Welwyn Garden City)	3	Howlands ward; Panshanger ward (part)	Map A3
11	Panshanger (in Welwyn Garden City)	3	Panshanger ward (part); Haldens ward (part)	Map A3
12	Peartree (in Welwyn Garden City)	3	Peartree ward (part)	Map A2
13	Northaw	3	<i>Unchanged</i> (Northaw and Cuffley parish)	Large map
14	Sherrards (in Welwyn Garden City)	3	Sherrards ward (part)	Map A4



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

	<b>Ward name</b>	<b>Number of councillors</b>	<b>Constituent areas</b>	<b>Map reference</b>
15	Welham Green	2	Welham Green and Redhall ward (part – Welham Green ward and Brookmans Park ward (part) of North Mymms parish)	Large map
16	Welwyn South	3	Welwyn South ward (the parishes of Ayot St Lawrence and Ayot St Peter and Digswell, Danesbury, Hawbush and Queensway wards of Welwyn parish); Sherrards ward (part); Haldens ward (part)	Map 2
17	Welwyn North	2	<i>Unchanged</i> (Mardley Heath and Woolmer Green wards of Welwyn parish)	Map 2

Notes: 1 *Welwyn Garden City is the only unparished area in the district.*

2 *The large map inserted in the back of this report details the ward boundaries in the south of the district.*



# 1. INTRODUCTION

<sup>1</sup> This report contains our final recommendations on the electoral arrangements for the district of Welwyn Hatfield in Hertfordshire. We have now reviewed all the districts of Hertfordshire as part of our programme of periodic electoral reviews of all principal local authority areas in England.

<sup>2</sup> In undertaking these reviews, we have had regard to:

- the statutory criteria in section 13(5) of the Local Government Act 1992; and
- the *Rules to be Observed in Considering Electoral Arrangements* in Schedule 11 to the Local Government Act 1972.

<sup>3</sup> We have also had regard to our *Guidance and Procedural Advice for Local Authorities and Other Interested Parties* (published in March 1996 and supplemented in September 1996), which sets out our approach to the reviews.

<sup>4</sup> This review was in four stages. Stage One began on 10 December 1996, when we invited proposals for the future electoral arrangements from Welwyn Hatfield District Council, and copied the letter to Hertfordshire County Council, Hertfordshire Police Authority, the Metropolitan Police, the local authority associations, parish and town councils in the district, Members of Parliament and the Member of the European Parliament with constituency interests in the district, and the headquarters of the main political parties. At the start of the review and following publication of our draft recommendations, we published a notice in the local press, issued a press release and invited the District Council to publicise the review more widely. The closing date for receipt of representations was 10 March 1997. At Stage Two, we considered all the representations received during Stage One and prepared our draft recommendations.

<sup>5</sup> Stage Three began on 2 July 1997 with the publication of our report, *Draft Recommendations on the Future Electoral Arrangements for Welwyn Hatfield in Hertfordshire* and ended on 22 September 1997. Comments were sought on our preliminary conclusions. Finally, during Stage Four we reconsidered our draft recommendations in the light of the Stage Three consultation and now publish our final recommendations.



## 2. CURRENT ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS

<sup>6</sup> Welwyn Hatfield is situated in central Hertfordshire and is based on the towns of Welwyn Garden City and Hatfield. Its population of 95,000 is expected to rise by 2001 to around 97,000, three-quarters of which is in the two main towns. There are also a number of large villages, with populations ranging from 1,000 to 4,000. Welwyn and Woolmer Green, in the north of the district, have grown up around historic settlements, while Oaklands, Mardley Heath and Digswell are modern commuter settlements. To the south of Hatfield is Welham Green which has a historic core, but is still largely modern in origin. Further south are the affluent commuter areas of Brookmans Park and Cuffley. Most of the principal settlements are located along the A1(M) which runs north/south through the length of the district. The district is also served by six railway stations with regular services into central London.

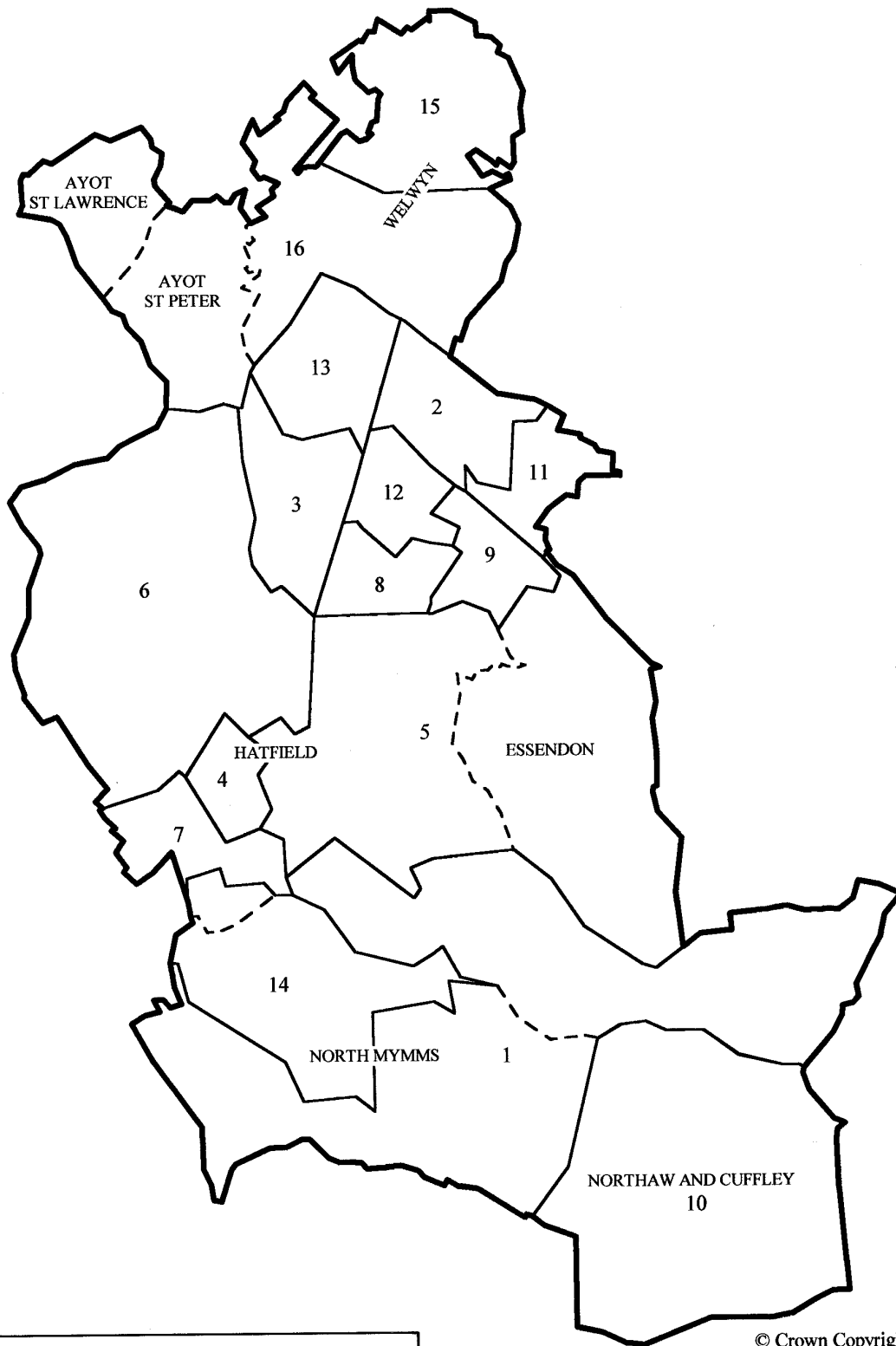
<sup>7</sup> To compare levels of electoral inequality between wards the extent to which the number of electors per councillor in each ward (the councillor:elector ratio) varies from the district average in percentage terms has been calculated. In the report this calculation may also be described as 'electoral variance'.

<sup>8</sup> The District Council has 47 councillors elected from 16 wards (Map 1 and Figure 2). Fifteen wards are represented by three councillors, and one ward by two councillors. Elections are held by thirds, with the next elections due to take place in May 1998. The electorate of the district is 71,831 (February 1996), and each councillor represents an average of 1,528 electors. The District Council forecasts that the electorate will increase to some 73,000 by the year 2001, which would change the average number of electors per councillor to 1,560. This increase is largely attributed to projected development within Welwyn Garden City.

<sup>9</sup> The last electoral review was completed relatively recently (in 1989), and the overall level of electoral inequality is at present relatively low, with 10 of the 16 wards having an electoral variance of no more than 10 per cent from the district average. The wards with the highest electoral imbalance are Haldens (26 per cent above average) and Panshanger (18 per cent below average).

<sup>10</sup> As part of this review, the Commission may also make recommendations relating to the electoral arrangements of the seven parish and town councils in the district.

Map 1:  
Existing Wards in Welwyn Hatfield



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

Key to Wards

1	Brookmans Park and Little Heath	5	Hatfield East	9	Howlands	13	Sherrards
2	Haldens	6	Hatfield North	10	Northaw	14	Welham Green and Redhall
3	Handside	7	Hatfield West	11	Panshanger	15	Welwyn North
4	Hatfield Central	8	Hollybush	12	Peartree	16	Welwyn South

Figure 2:  
Existing Electoral Arrangements

Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (1996)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2001)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
1 Brookmans Park and Little Heath	3	4,748	1,583	4	4,770	1,590	2
2 Haldens (in Welwyn Garden City)	3	5,762	1,921	26	5,762	1,921	23
3 Handside (in Welwyn Garden City)	3	4,897	1,632	7	5,037	1,679	8
4 Hatfield Central	3	4,185	1,395	-9	4,194	1,398	-10
5 Hatfield East	3	4,787	1,596	4	4,873	1,624	4
6 Hatfield North	3	4,339	1,446	-5	4,380	1,460	-6
7 Hatfield West	3	5,130	1,710	12	5,132	1,711	10
8 Hollybush (in Welwyn Garden City)	3	4,055	1,352	-12	4,271	1,424	-9
9 Howlands (in Welwyn Garden City)	3	4,459	1,486	-3	4,585	1,528	-2
10 Panshanger (in Welwyn Garden City)	3	3,773	1,258	-18	3,773	1,258	-19
11 Peartree (in Welwyn Garden City)	3	4,583	1,528	0	5,044	1,681	8
12 Northaw	3	4,187	1,396	-9	4,237	1,412	-10
13 Sherrards (in Welwyn Garden City)	3	4,476	1,492	-2	4,555	1,518	-3
14 Welham Green and Redhall	3	5,115	1,705	12	5,115	1,705	9
15 Welwyn North	2	3,249	1,625	6	3,372	1,686	8
16 Welwyn South	3	4,086	1,362	-11	4,242	1,414	-9
<b>Totals</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>71,831</b>	—	—	<b>73,342</b>	—	—
<b>Averages</b>	—	—	<b>1,528</b>	—	—	<b>1,560</b>	—

Source: Electorate figures are based on Welwyn Hatfield District 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 district. The minus symbol (-) denotes a lower than average number of electors. For example, electors in Panshanger ward are relatively over-represented by 18 per cent, while electors in Haldens ward are relatively under-represented by 26 per cent. Figures have been rounded to the nearest whole number.





### 3. DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS

<sup>11</sup> During Stage One, we received representations from Welwyn Hatfield District Council and the Welwyn Hatfield Conservative Association on electoral arrangements for the whole district. Representations were also received from Welwyn Hatfield Constituency Labour Party, Hatfield Town Council, Welwyn Parish Council and one resident of Hertsmere borough. In the light of these representations and evidence available to us, we reached preliminary conclusions which were set out in the report, *Draft Recommendations on the Future Electoral Arrangements for Welwyn Hatfield in Hertfordshire*. We proposed that:

- (a) Welwyn Hatfield District Council should be served by 48 councillors, representing 17 wards;
- (b) the boundaries of 13 of the existing wards should be modified, while three wards should retain their existing boundaries;
- (c) there should be modifications to the warding arrangements of North Mymms Parish Council;
- (d) there should be modifications to the warding arrangements and to the number of town councillors for Hatfield Town Council.

#### **Draft Recommendation**

Welwyn Hatfield District Council should comprise 48 councillors, serving 17 wards. Elections should continue to take place by thirds.

<sup>12</sup> Our proposals would have resulted in significant improvements in electoral equality, with the number of electors per councillor in all of the 17 wards varying by no more than 10 per cent from the district average. This level of electoral equality was expected to be maintained for the period to 2001.

<sup>13</sup> Our draft recommendations are summarised at Appendix B.



## 4. RESPONSES TO CONSULTATION

14 During the consultation on our draft recommendations report, 19 representations were received including one petition and a group of questionnaires. A list of respondents is available on request from the Commission's offices.

### **Welwyn Hatfield District Council**

15 The District Council welcomed our draft recommendations for no change to Welwyn North and Handside wards, and the proposed boundary amendments to Welwyn South, Haldens, Howlands, Panshanger, Sherrards, Handside, Hollybush and Peartree wards.

16 While the Council appreciated the Commission's arguments on the separate community identity of the Welham Green and Redhall areas, it opposed our proposal to divide the ward in two two-member wards (Welham Green and Hatfield South). It argued that in its experience the electorate in two-member wards "is confused when, every third year, there is no election in their area but there is in neighbouring wards. The Council feels strongly that, even if the community identity argument is considered paramount, the solution should still be in the form of three-member wards." Further it argued that the resultant increase in council size to 48 "will have potentially undesirable effects on political proportionality for the appointment of members to committees and other bodies".

17 The Council also had "serious reservations" about the proposed changes to Hatfield Central, Hatfield East, Hatfield West, Brookmans Park and Little Heath and Northaw wards. It proposed two alternative boundary changes. In relation to Hatfield Central and Hatfield West wards, it proposed the transfer of around 160 electors in Bishop's Rise, College Lane, Hilbury, Bishop's Close and Vigors Croft from Hatfield West ward to Hatfield Central ward. With regard to the proposed Welham Green and Redhall ward it proposed the transfer of around 195 electors in Bell Bar, Bulls Lane, Fox's Lane, Great North Road, Marshmoor Lane, Marshmoor

Crescent and Woodside Lane from Welham Green and Redhall ward to Brookmans Park and Little Heath ward.

18 It argued that while the alternative proposals would not address the community identity issue between South Hatfield and Welham Green, they would improve electoral equality with "the minimum of disturbance to existing ward boundaries, pending a detailed reconstruction for the period beyond 2001". It argued that such a future review would be able to address the community identity issues in the south of the borough taking into account the major post-2001 developments at Panshanger and Hatfield airfields, and be able to maintain the principles of three-member wards, elections by thirds and the retention of an odd number of members for the district.

### **Welwyn Hatfield Conservative Association**

19 Welwyn Hatfield Conservative Association ("the Conservative Association") supported our draft recommendations with one exception – the proposed transfer of Newgate Street from Brookmans Park and Little Heath ward to Northaw ward. While it reiterated its view that the Newgate Street and Wildhill areas have a greater affinity with Hatfield East ward than Brookmans Park and Little Heath ward, it argued that it preferred the area to remain within Brookmans Park and Little Heath ward than to be combined with Northaw ward. It also enclosed a copy of a petition supporting Newgate Street's retention with Brookmans Park and Little Heath ward, also submitted by Hatfield Town Council.

### **Welwyn Hatfield Conservative Group**

20 The Conservative Group on Welwyn Hatfield Council ("the Conservative Group"), welcomed our draft recommendations with the same exception as the Conservative Association. It stated that it had sought the views of local residents and found that "there are some who feel closer to

Brookmans Park and Little Heath ward, but the general consensus of the majority appears to favour the Hatfield East ward where they have the ties of parish”.

## Parish and Town Councils

21 Representations were received from four parish and town councils during Stage Three. Hatfield Town Council stated that Newgate Street is currently in the same town council ward as Wild Hill and has more in common with Wild Hill than Northaw parish. It argued that Northaw is not only a different parish but is also in a different county division, Parliamentary constituency and European Constituency to Newgate Street. The Council also enclosed a petition signed by 111 Newgate Street residents, stating that “We, the undersigned electors of Newgate Street Village, consider our community relates more with that of Brookmans Park ... It is therefore our wish to remain in the Hatfield ward of Brookmans Park and Little Heath.” The Council also opposed our draft recommendation to transfer part of the Oxlease area from Hatfield East ward to Hatfield Central ward.

22 Welwyn Parish Council supported our draft recommendation that the Digswell area be transferred from Haldens and Sherrards wards to Welwyn South ward. It also enclosed 19 responses to a questionnaire it had sent to 39 householders affected by the proposal. Of these, 14 responded that they have a closer affinity with Digswell, while five responded that they have a closer affinity with Haldens. The fact that the proposed boundary change would leave Welwyn South ward partly parished and partly unparished concerned seven of the 19 respondents. Two respondents also urged that the area become part of Welwyn parish.

23 Northaw and Cuffley Parish Council expressed reservations over the proposal to merge the Newgate Street area with Northaw ward. It argued that the electorate of Northaw parish already suffer from some confusion, as the parish lies within the boundary of Welwyn Hatfield District Council but comes within the boundaries of the neighbouring constituency. It stated that the proposal would further confuse people as Newgate Street would come within Northaw ward but would not form part of Northaw parish. It further argued that while the boundaries of Newgate Street adjoin Northaw parish “the settlements themselves are some way apart”.

24 North Mymms Parish Council supported our draft recommendation for a new Welham Green ward. It argued that the current ward contains “two communities (which) are completely separate and independent of each other, as fields and the Southern Way A100 road very effectively divide the two areas”. It also stated that the proposal to transfer part of Brookmans Park and Little Heath ward to the new ward “would present no difficulties to this Council”.

## Other Representations

25 The Commission received 10 submissions from local residents in relation to district ward boundaries. Of those, six residents supported our draft recommendations with the exception of the proposal to transfer the Newgate Street area from Brookmans Park and Little Heath ward to the adjacent Northaw ward, while two residents supported our recommendations for Welwyn Hatfield. Two residents expressed support for the Commission’s proposals for Hatfield with the exception of the proposals for Newgate Street, in particular welcoming the proposal to create separate wards for Welham Green and Hatfield South; both also considered that Newgate Street could be part of a Hatfield ward.

26 We also received three submissions which requested changes to the external boundary of Welwyn Hatfield district. A Hertsmere resident reiterated his Stage One proposal that Potters Bar, which is currently part of Hertsmere borough, should be transferred to Welwyn Hatfield district. St Albans Liberal Democrats and a resident argued that the whole of the Bullen’s Green area should become part of St Albans City and District rather than be divided between Welwyn Hatfield and St Albans. We are unable to consider changes to the external boundaries of local authorities, however, as part of this review.

27 Digswell Lake Society supported the proposal to transfer the Digswell area from Sherrards ward to Welwyn South ward on the basis that councillors from the Welwyn area tended to take greater interest in issues regarding the lake. Welwyn Hatfield Conservative Association Women’s Committee supported the draft recommendations.

## 5. ANALYSIS AND FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS

28 As indicated previously, the Commission's prime objective in considering the most appropriate electoral arrangements for Welwyn Hatfield is to achieve electoral equality, having regard to the statutory criteria set out in the Local Government Act 1992 and Schedule 11 to the Local Government Act 1972, which refers to the ratio of electors to councillors being "as nearly as may be, the same in every ward of the district or borough".

29 However, our function is not merely arithmetical, for three reasons. First, our recommendations are not intended to be based solely on existing electorate figures, but also on assumptions as to changes in the number and distribution of local government electors likely to take place within the ensuing five years. Second, we must have regard to the desirability of fixing identifiable boundaries, and to maintaining local ties which might otherwise be broken. Third, we must consider the need to secure effective and convenient local government, and reflect the interests and identities of local communities.

30 It is therefore impractical to design an electoral scheme which provides for exactly the same number of electors per councillor in every ward of an authority. There must be a degree of flexibility. However, our approach, in the context of the statutory criteria, is that such flexibility must be kept to a minimum.

31 In our March 1996 *Guidance*, we expressed the view that "proposals for changes in electoral arrangements should therefore be based on variations in each ward of no more than plus or minus 10 per cent from the average councillor:elector ratio for the authority, having regard to five-year forecasts of changes in electorates. Imbalances in excess of plus or minus 20 per cent may be acceptable, but only in highly exceptional circumstances ... and will have to be justified in full." However, as emphasised in our September 1996 supplement to the *Guidance*, while we accept that absolute equality of representation is likely to be unattainable, we

consider that, if electoral imbalances are to be kept to the minimum, such equality should be the starting point in any electoral review.

### Electorate Projections

32 During Stage One, the District Council submitted electorate forecasts for the period 1996 to 2001, projecting an increase in the electorate of 1,511 (around 2 per cent) over the five-year period from 71,831 to 73,342. The Council estimated rates and locations of housing development with regard to structure and local plans, and the expected rate of building over the five-year period. Advice from the District Council on the likely effect on electorates of ward boundary changes has been obtained. In our draft recommendations report we accepted that this is an inexact science and, having given consideration to projected electorates, were content that they represented the best estimates that could reasonably be made at the time.

33 We did not receive any further comments on electorate projections during Stage Three, and we remain satisfied that they provide the best estimates presently available.

### Council Size

34 We indicated in our March 1996 *Guidance* that we would normally expect the number of councillors serving a district or borough council to be in the range of 30 to 60.

35 At present, Welwyn Hatfield District is represented by 47 councillors. The District Council, Welwyn Hatfield Constituency Labour Party and Welwyn Hatfield Conservative Association did not propose any changes to council size during Stage One of the review. However, Hatfield Town Council proposed an additional councillor for the town, contending that additional representation would be the best method of achieving better electoral equality and reflecting community identities.

36 As the Commission made clear in the Guidance, it would need substantial evidence to be persuaded that there was adequate justification for increasing the number of district councillors, although it acknowledges that in certain circumstances such a proposal would be warranted. Having considered the size and distribution of the electorate, the geography and other characteristics of the area, together with the representations received, the Commission has concluded that its statutory criteria and the achievement of electoral equality would best be met by an increase in council size from 47 to 48. The Commission has not received evidence during Stage Three to persuade it to move away from this view.

## Electoral Arrangements

37 Having considered all representations received during Stage Three of the review, we have further considered our draft recommendations. We are encouraged that most of the draft recommendations received local support in representations to us, and as a result we are largely confirming them. The following areas, based on existing wards, are considered in turn:

- (a) Welham Green & Redhall and Hatfield West wards;
- (b) Hatfield East, Hatfield Central, Brookmans Park and Little Heath and Northaw wards;
- (c) Welwyn North and Hatfield North wards;
- (d) Haldens, Howlands, Panshanger, Sherrards and Welwyn South wards;
- (e) Handside, Hollybush and Peartree wards.

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

### Welham Green & Redhall and Hatfield West wards

39 Under current arrangements, Welham Green & Redhall and Hatfield West wards each have 12 per cent more electors per councillor than the district average. At Stage One, the District Council proposed no change to these wards, particularly as electoral equality is projected to improve in both wards by 2001 and because development of the former British Aerospace site after 2001 would

require a substantial re-warding of the whole area at that stage.

40 In our draft recommendations report, we adopted the alternative warding arrangements proposed by Hatfield Town Council. We recommended that the current three-member ward of Welham Green and Redhall should be divided into two new wards – Hatfield South and Welham Green – each represented by two councillors. To improve electoral equality in the two new wards, we recommended two boundary changes: first, that Millwards Road and St Audrey's Close be transferred from Hatfield West ward to the new Hatfield South ward, and second, that part of North Mymms parish to the west of the railway line (polling district CDC) be transferred from Brookmans Park & Little Heath ward to the new Welham Green ward. We considered that such a proposal would improve electoral equality and, by affording separate representation to the two constituent communities, better reflect community identities.

41 At Stage Three, the Conservative Association, the Conservative Group and North Mymms Parish Council supported our draft recommendations. In addition, 10 residents supported our draft recommendations in general, two of whom commented on this area in particular. North Mymms Parish Council welcomed the proposal for separate wards for Welham Green and Hatfield South, arguing that “the two communities are completely separate and independent of each other ... (and there is) little or no common interest between the two”. It further argued that the re-allocation of North Mymms, Water End, Warrengate Road and Hawkshead Lane from Brookmans Park & Little Heath ward to the proposed Welham Green ward “would present no difficulties to this Council”.

42 The District Council, however, expressed reservations over the proposed changes to Welham Green & Redhall and Hatfield West wards. While it accepted the Commission's arguments on the separate community identities of Welham Green and the Redhall area of Hatfield, it remained concerned that the proposal to create two two-member wards would lead to the council having an even number of councillors. It argued that two-member wards cause confusion when, every third year, there is no election in their area but there is in neighbouring wards. It further stated that “even if

the community identity argument is considered paramount, the solution should still be in the form of three-member wards". It suggested that achieving such a solution would involve a total reconfiguration of the southern wards in the district and that, as considerable development is planned in the period after 2001, such a review should be carried out at that stage.

43 The Council did, however, recognise that its original proposal for no change in this area would not achieve the same degree of electoral equality as our draft recommendations. Consequently, it suggested two minor changes to ward boundaries. It proposed that the 196 electors in the Bell Bar area (to the east of the London to Peterborough railway line) be transferred from Welham Green & Redhall ward to Brookmans Park & Little Heath ward, and that around 160 electors in Bishops Rise, College Lane, Hilbury, Bishop's Close and Vigor's Croft be transferred from Hatfield West ward to Hatfield Central ward. It argued that this proposal would ensure the minimum disturbance to existing ward boundaries, pending a detailed reconstruction for the period beyond 2001. The resultant Welham Green & Redhall, Brookmans Park & Little Heath and Hatfield West wards would have 7 per cent, 8 per cent and 9 per cent more electors than the district average respectively (6 per cent, 5 per cent and 6 per cent by 2001).

44 We have carefully considered the responses received during Stage Three, and note that our draft recommendations have received widespread support. The proposals for this area have attracted the support of both Hatfield Town Council (at Stage One) and North Mymms Parish Council, Welwyn Hatfield Conservative Association, Welwyn Hatfield Conservative Group and a number of local residents. Many of these submissions argued that our proposal would better reflect local community identities than the current arrangements, and this is acknowledged by the District Council. Our proposals would also achieve better electoral equality than either the current arrangements or the District Council's Stage Three proposals. We acknowledge that the creation of two-member wards, where there are elections by thirds and a pattern of three-member wards, may prove confusing to some electors. We do not consider, however, that this factor outweighs the advantages achieved in electoral equality or in terms of community identities and interests. We therefore consider that separate

wards should be formed for Welham Green and Hatfield South. We also confirm our draft recommendations that Millwards Road and St Audrey's Close be transferred from Hatfield West ward to the new Hatfield South ward, and that part of North Mymms parish to the west of the London to Peterborough railway line (polling district CDC) be transferred from Brookmans Park and Little Heath ward to the new Welham Green ward.

45 We have considered whether the District Council's two boundary proposals should also form part of our final recommendations. We have not been persuaded that we should make any change to the boundary between Hatfield West and Hatfield Central wards. We consider that the current boundary of Bishop's Way and Woods Avenue to be a strong boundary and can see no obvious benefit of change. We consider that there is some merit in the proposal to transfer the Bell Bar area to Brookmans Park & Little Heath ward. The area is the only part of the proposed Welham Green ward to the east of the London to Peterborough railway line, and most of its residents live on the boundary of Brookmans Park itself. However, while we consider that the Bell Bar area would appear to have a greater affinity with Brookmans Park than Welham Green, we cannot be sure that such a change would be supported locally and note that any change in this area would lead to a poorer level of electoral equality in both Brookmans Park & Little Heath and Welham Green wards.

46 To conclude, we have decided to confirm our draft recommendations as final. The proposed wards of Hatfield South, Welham Green and Hatfield West would have 2 per cent fewer, 5 per cent fewer and 6 per cent more electors per councillor than the borough average respectively (4 per cent, 7 per cent and 4 per cent by 2001). This proposal is detailed in Figures 1 and 4 and illustrated in the map at the back of this report.

### **Hatfield East, Hatfield Central, Brookmans Park & Little Heath and Northaw wards**

47 The current wards of Hatfield East, Hatfield Central, Brookmans Park & Little Heath and Northaw have 4 per cent more, 9 per cent fewer, 4 per cent more and 9 per cent fewer electors per councillor than the district average respectively. At Stage One, the District Council proposed no

change to the existing arrangements because the number of electors per councillor in all four wards is no more than 10 per cent from the district average and because significant development after 2001 would mean that warding arrangements would need to be reconsidered as part of a future electoral review. Welwyn Hatfield Conservative Association proposed two changes for this area. It argued that the Oxlease area of Hatfield East ward should be transferred to Hatfield Central ward, and that the Newgate Street and Wildhill area should be transferred from Brookmans Park & Little Heath ward to Hatfield East ward.

48 In our draft recommendations report, we proposed a number of alterations to ward boundaries in this area. We adopted the Conservatives' proposal to transfer that part of the Oxlease area bounded by Oxlease Drive, Woods Avenue and Stream Woods School (polling district CBR2) from Hatfield East ward to Hatfield Central ward. We considered that the area would appear to have little affinity with the Old Town of Hatfield or the rural areas to its east, and that such a change would improve electoral equality in this area. In relation to Brookmans Park & Little Heath ward, we proposed that the area to the west of the London to Peterborough railway line be transferred to Welham Green ward as suggested by Hatfield Town Council (and outlined above); and that the Newgate Street area (polling district CBA) be transferred to the adjacent Northaw ward. In our draft recommendations report we noted that the Newgate Street area was close to the villages of Northaw and Cuffley to its south while it appeared somewhat isolated from the rest of the Brookmans Park & Little Heath ward.

49 At Stage Three, the District Council opposed our draft recommendations. It argued that the major developments in the Hatfield and Panshanger areas after 2001 would lead to the need for a detailed reconstruction of wards after 2001. In the meantime, change should be kept to a minimum. In Hatfield, it proposed that there should be no change to Hatfield East ward but that there should be a minor boundary change between Hatfield West and Hatfield Central wards in order to improve electoral equality. Under the District Council's proposal, Hatfield East and Hatfield Central wards would have 4 per cent more, and 5 per cent fewer, electors per councillor than the district average respectively (4 per cent more and 7 per cent fewer by 2001). As outlined above, we have not accepted the need for a change to the

boundary between Hatfield Central and Hatfield West wards as the current boundary provides a strong boundary for both wards. Hatfield Town Council also opposed our draft recommendation for the transfer of the Oxlease area from Hatfield Central ward to Hatfield East ward. It did not accept that the area has little in common with either the Old Town or the rural area, and argued that "the area also has little in common with the northern part of Hatfield Central ward". Further, it noted that, while our draft recommendation would improve electoral equality at district level, it would lead to a deterioration at town council level. However, the Conservative Association, the Conservative Group, Welwyn Hatfield Conservative Association Women's Committee and 10 local residents supported our draft recommendations. One resident argued "the changes in Hatfield ... from Hatfield East to Hatfield Central seem reasonable and recognise the reality of community groupings".

50 During Stage Three, the District Council also opposed the transfer of Newgate Street parish ward from Brookmans Park & Little Heath ward to Northaw ward and argued that it should remain part of Brookmans Park & Little Heath ward. Welwyn Hatfield Conservative Association and Welwyn Hatfield Conservative Group also opposed the transfer of the area to Northaw, and argued that Newgate Street residents have a greater affinity with Brookmans Park and Little Heath ward than Northaw ward. However, both maintained that the area's strongest links are with Hatfield East ward. Hatfield Town Council opposed our draft recommendation on the basis that we had no evidence to support such a change and argued that "Northaw is not only a different parish but also in a different county division, Parliamentary constituency and European constituency to Newgate Street". It argued that the area has a greater affinity with Wildhill to its west, and noted that one result of our proposal would be that the current Newgate Street & Wildhill parish ward would be divided, increasing electoral inequality at Town Council level. The Town Council enclosed a petition signed by 111 residents of Newgate Street who preferred "to remain in the Hatfield ward of Brookmans Park & Little Heath". Northaw and Cuffley Parish Council also expressed reservations, arguing that the transfer of Newgate Street to Northaw ward would cause confusion among its electorate as they would be part of a different parish and parliamentary constituency. We received a further 11 submissions, three of which supported our draft recommendations, and eight of which



supported our draft recommendations with the exception of the proposals for Newgate Street. Two residents stated that there was merit in the area being part of a Hatfield ward, while one stated that there is a much greater community identity between Newgate Street and Brookmans Park, than with Northaw.

51 We have carefully considered the responses received during Stage Three and note the opposition to our draft recommendation to transfer the Newgate Street area to Northaw ward. We are persuaded that local people feel a greater sense of attachment to Hatfield and Brookmans Park than Northaw and that such a change may not therefore best reflect community identities in this area. In addition, we note that the effect on electoral equality if there were to be no change would be minimal. We note that some have argued that Newgate Street has a greater affinity with Brookmans Park, while others have argued that its affinity is with Hatfield. The balance of opinion appears to support no change, however, and we are therefore content to put forward this as our final recommendation.

52 We note that there is no consensus locally on the proposal to transfer part of the Oxlease area from Hatfield East ward to Hatfield Central ward. While the proposal is opposed by Hatfield Town Council and the District Council, it is supported by the Conservatives and a number of residents. While both Hatfield East and Hatfield Central wards are a collection of communities, we remain of the view that such a change would better reflect community identities. In addition, while we note that the proposal would lead to a deterioration in electoral equality at Town Council level, our primary purpose in this review is to improve electoral equality at district level, and this would be achieved by this proposal. Accordingly, we confirm our draft recommendation as final.

53 Having given careful consideration to the warding arrangements for this area, we have concluded that we should confirm our draft recommendations for Hatfield East and Hatfield Central wards. We propose no change to Northaw ward, and that the only change to Brookmans Park & Little Heath ward is that the rural area to the west of the London to Peterborough railway line be transferred to Welham Green ward (as outlined above). We consider that these proposals would strike the best balance between electoral equality

and the statutory criteria. Our final recommendations would provide Hatfield East ward with 1 per cent fewer electors per councillor than the district average (both for 1996 and 2001), and Hatfield Central ward with equal to the average number of electors per councillor (and 2 per cent fewer than average by 2001). Brookmans Park & Little Heath and Northaw wards would have 3 per cent more and 7 per cent fewer electors per councillor than the district average respectively (1 per cent more and 7 per cent fewer respectively by 2001). This proposal is detailed in Figures 1 and 4 and illustrated in the large map at the back of this report.

### **Welwyn North and Hatfield North wards**

54 On the basis of a council size of 48, the current wards of Welwyn North and Hatfield North would have 9 per cent more and 3 per cent fewer electors per councillor than the district average respectively. At Stage One, there was widespread support for no change. On the basis of this, and that both wards provided a reasonable balance between electoral equality and community identities, our draft recommendation was that there should be no change to the existing arrangements.

55 Our draft recommendations drew the support of the District Council, Welwyn Hatfield Conservative Association and Welwyn Hatfield Conservative Group. Eight residents supported our proposals for the whole area, and a further two supported the proposals for Hatfield. Accordingly, having given further consideration to the warding arrangements for the area, we remain satisfied that the existing arrangements appear to strike the best balance between securing electoral equality and the statutory criteria. We have therefore decided to confirm our draft recommendations as final.

### **Haldens, Howlands, Panshanger, Sherrards and Welwyn South wards**

56 The wards of Haldens, Howlands, Panshanger and Sherrards are located in the north and the east of the unparished urban area of Welwyn Garden City. Welwyn South is a more mixed ward, containing the sparsely populated rural parishes of Ayot St Lawrence and Ayot St Peter and the larger settlements of Welwyn village and Digswell. While Howlands and Sherrards wards provide a good level of electoral equality, the three wards of Haldens, Panshanger and Welwyn South provide

some of the worst levels of electoral equality in the district. Haldens ward has some 26 per cent more electors per councillor than the average, while its neighbours, Panshanger and Welwyn South wards, have 18 per cent and 11 per cent fewer electors per councillor than the average.

57 In our draft recommendations report, we proposed a number of alterations to ward boundaries in this area. We supported the District Council's proposal that the area between the disused railway line and Black Fan Road be transferred from Panshanger ward to Howlands ward from the point where the two boundaries meet on the Ridgeway. This change would affect no electors, but would provide a stronger boundary for both wards. We also adopted the District Council's proposal to transfer that area bounded by Panshanger Drive, Black Fan Road, Hems Lane and Moors Walk from Haldens ward to Panshanger ward. However, we noted that this proposal would retain the main shopping area for the Panshanger area within Haldens ward and that the three roads of Long Ley, Hardings and Hilly Fields would remain divided between two wards. We therefore concluded that further alterations to ward boundaries in this area would be desirable. We proposed that an additional area bounded by Long Ley, Hardings and Moors Walk be transferred from Haldens ward to Panshanger ward, and that the part of Hilly Fields presently in Panshanger ward be transferred to Haldens ward.

58 We also proposed that a small area be transferred from Haldens and Sherrards wards to Welwyn South ward as proposed by Welwyn Parish Council, in order to unite the Digswell area in one ward. These recommendations would provide a reasonable level of electoral equality for the area. Haldens and Panshanger wards would have 3 per cent and 8 per cent more electors per councillor than the district average respectively; Sherrards ward would have a number of electors per councillor equal to the average; and Howlands and Welwyn South wards would have 1 per cent and 7 per cent fewer electors per councillor than the average respectively. These figures are not expected to change significantly over the period to 2001.

59 During Stage Three, we received widespread support for our draft recommendations. The District Council, Welwyn Hatfield Conservative Association, Welwyn Hatfield Conservative Group and eight local residents supported our draft recommendations in their entirety. In addition, Welwyn Parish Council supported our draft

recommendation to transfer the Digswell area from Haldens and Sherrards wards to Welwyn South ward. Welwyn Parish Council consulted local residents affected by the change and enclosed the 19 responses it had received from 39 householders in the area. Of these, 14 considered that they had affinity with the Digswell area while five argued they had affinity with the Haldens area. In addition, 12 were not concerned that the proposal would combine a parished area with an unparished area. Digswell Lake Society supported the proposal to transfer part of Sherrards ward to Welwyn South ward. It argued that the area included the parkland nature reserve owned by the Society, and that councillors from Welwyn South ward had tended to show a greater interest in issues regarding the lake.

60 Having given careful consideration to the warding arrangements for this area, we remain satisfied that our draft recommendations would appear to strike the best balance between securing a level of electoral equality of representation and the statutory criteria. We have therefore decided to confirm our draft recommendations as final.

### **Handside, Hollybush and Peartree wards**

61 On the basis of a council size of 48, Handside wards would have 9 per cent more electors per councillor than the district average, while Hollybush ward would have 6 per cent fewer than average and Peartree would have 1 per cent fewer than average. At Stage One, the District Council proposed no change for all three wards. It argued that Peartree and Handside wards are distinctive areas based on the original Garden City residential developments, and that Hollybush ward primarily consists of 1950s and 1960s social rented housing.

62 In our draft recommendations we proposed to transfer Woodhall Lane from Peartree ward to Hollybush ward. We considered that this change would marginally improve electoral equality while providing a clearer boundary between the two wards. We recognised that this change had not been proposed locally and requested to hear local views on the proposal during Stage Three.

63 At Stage Three, our draft recommendations for this area drew the support of the District Council, Welwyn Hatfield Conservative Association, Welwyn Hatfield Conservative Group and eight residents. Having given careful consideration to the warding arrangements for this area, we remain satisfied that our draft recommendation appears to

strike the best balance between securing a satisfactory level of electoral representation and the statutory criteria. We have therefore decided to confirm our draft recommendations as final. These recommendations would result in Handside ward having 9 per cent more electors per councillor than average, and Hollybush and Peartree wards having 6 per cent and 1 per cent fewer electors per councillor than average respectively (10 per cent more, 3 per cent fewer and 7 per cent more by 2001). Our final recommendations are detailed in Figures 1 and 4 and illustrated in Map A2 at Appendix A.

## Electoral Cycle

64 In our draft recommendations report, we proposed that the present system of elections by thirds in Welwyn Hatfield be retained. At Stage Three, the District Council supported this proposal. No other representations were received on this issue, and we have therefore decided to confirm our draft recommendation as final.

65 Two residents requested that implementation of these proposals take place in 1999 by full council elections. It is not, however, within our jurisdiction to make recommendations on this issue.

## Conclusions

66 Having considered carefully all the evidence and representations received in response to our consultation report, we have concluded that:

- (a) there should be an increase in council size from 47 to 48;
- (b) there should be 17 wards, one more than at present;
- (c) the boundaries of 12 of the existing wards should be modified;
- (d) elections should continue to take place by thirds.

67 We have decided substantially to endorse our draft recommendations, subject to the amendments indicated in the following areas:

- (a) the current Northaw ward should be retained;
- (b) the current Newgate Street and Wildhill ward of Hatfield parish should be retained in Brookmans Park & Little Heath district ward.

68 Figure 3 shows the impact of our final recommendations on electoral equality, comparing them with the current arrangements, based on 1996 and 2001 electorate figures.

69 As Figure 3 shows, our recommendations would reduce the number of wards with electoral variances of more than 10 per cent from the district average from six to none. This improved level of electoral equality is expected to be retained in the period up to 2001. Under these proposals, the average number of electors per councillor would decrease from 1,528 to 1,496. We conclude that our recommendations would best meet the need for electoral equality, having regard to the statutory criteria.

*Figure 3:  
Comparison of Current and Recommended Electoral Arrangements*

	1996 electorate		2001 projected electorate	
	Current arrangements	Final recommendations	Current arrangements	Final recommendations
Number of councillors	47	48	47	4
Number of wards	16	17	16	17
Average number of electors per councillor	1,528	1,496	1,560	1,528
Number of wards with a variance more than 10 per cent from the average	6	0	4	0
Number of wards with a variance more than 20 per cent from the average	1	0	1	0

### **Final Recommendation**

Welwyn Hatfield District Council should comprise 48 councillors serving 17 wards, as detailed and named in Figures 1 and 4, and illustrated in Map 2 and Appendix A to this report. The Council should continue to be elected by thirds.

## **Parish and Town Council Electoral Arrangements**

70 In undertaking reviews of electoral arrangements, we are required to comply as far as is reasonably practicable with the provisions set out in Schedule 11 to the 1972 Act. The Schedule provides that if a parish is to be divided between different district wards, it must also be divided into parish wards, so that each parish ward lies wholly within a single ward of the district. Accordingly, we propose a number of consequential parish ward changes, as detailed below.

71 In our draft recommendations report, we proposed that the parish wards of Hatfield Town Council should be modified to reflect the proposed district ward boundary changes, and that the number of councillors for each ward should be modified accordingly. Since as part of our final recommendations we are proposing no change to the Newgate Street and Wildhill area, we are no longer proposing any change to town council electoral arrangements in this area.

### **Final Recommendation**

Hatfield Town Council should continue to be represented by 15 town councillors. The boundaries of the town council wards of Hatfield Central, Hatfield West and Hatfield South should be modified to reflect the proposed district council wards and be represented by three, three and two town councillors respectively. Hatfield East parish ward should reflect that part of Hatfield parish within Hatfield East district ward, and be represented by three councillors. There should be no change to Hatfield North and Newgate Street & Wildhill parish wards, which should continue to be represented by three and one councillors respectively. This proposal is illustrated in the large map inserted at the back of this report.

72 There are similar considerations to be taken into account with regard to North Mymms parish. In our draft recommendations report we proposed to transfer the predominantly rural area to the west of the London to Peterborough railway line (containing some 248 electors) from Brookmans Park parish ward to Welham Green parish ward in order to reflect the revised district wards.

### **Final Recommendation**

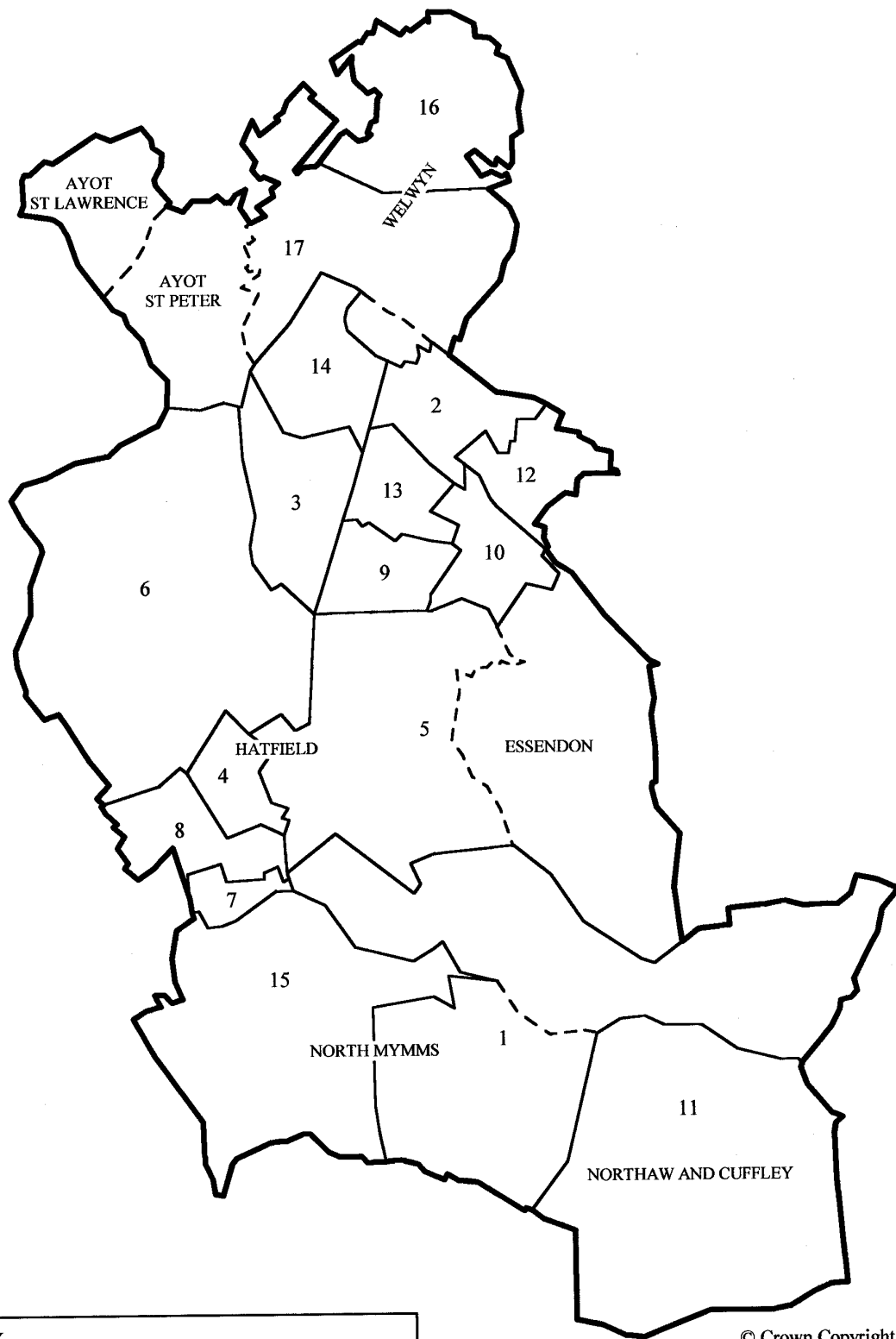
North Mymms Parish Council should be represented by 10 councillors, as at present. That part of Brookmans Park parish ward to the west of the railway line should be transferred to Welham Green parish ward. Each ward should continue to be represented by four parish councillors. Little Heath parish ward should remain unchanged, and continue to be represented by two councillors. This proposal is illustrated in the large map inserted at the back of this report.

73 In our draft recommendations report we proposed that there should be no change to the electoral cycle of parish and town councils in the district. We have not received any evidence to persuade us to move away from this proposal.

### **Final Recommendation**

Elections for parish and town councils should continue to take place at the same time as elections for principal authorities.

Map 2:  
The Commission's Final Recommendations for Welwyn Hatfield



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

Key to Wards

1 Brookmans Park and Little Heath	5 Hatfield East	9 Hollybush	13 Peartree
2 Haldens	6 Hatfield North	10 Howlands	14 Sherrards
3 Handside	7 Hatfield South	11 Northaw	15 Welham Green
4 Hatfield Central	8 Hatfield West	12 Panshanger	16 Welwyn North
			17 Welwyn South

Figure 4:  
The Commission's Final Recommendations for Welwyn Hatfield

Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (1996)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2001)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
1 Brookmans Park and Little Heath	3	4,500	1,500	0	4,423	1,474	-3
2 Haldens (in Welwyn Garden City)	3	4,613	1,538	3	4,613	1,538	1
3 Handside (in Welwyn Garden City)	3	4,897	1,632	9	5,037	1,679	10
4 Hatfield Central	3	4,493	1,498	0	4,502	1,501	-2
5 Hatfield East	3	4,437	1,479	-1	4,523	1,508	-1
6 Hatfield North	3	4,339	1,446	-3	4,380	1,460	-4
7 Hatfield South	2	2,930	1,465	-2	2,930	1,465	-4
8 Hatfield West	3	4,754	1,585	6	4,756	1,585	4
9 Hollybush (in Welwyn Garden City)	3	4,208	1,403	-6	4,424	1,475	-3
10 Howlands (in Welwyn Garden City)	3	4,459	1,486	-1	4,585	1,528	0
11 Northaw	3	4,187	1,396	-7	4,236	1,412	-7
12 Panshanger (in Welwyn Garden City)	3	4,842	1,614	8	4,842	1,614	6
13 Peartree (in Welwyn Garden City)	3	4,430	1,477	-1	4,891	1,630	7
14 Sherrards (in Welwyn Garden City)	3	4,474	1,491	0	4,553	1,518	-1
15 Welham Green	2	2,851	1,426	-5	2,851	1,426	-7
16 Welwyn North	2	3,249	1,625	9	3,372	1,686	10

Figure 4 (continued):

*The Commission's Final Recommendations for Welwyn Hatfield*

Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (1996)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2001)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
17 Welwyn South	3	4,168	1,389	-7	4,324	1,441	-6
<b>Totals</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>71,831</b>	—	—	<b>73,342</b>	—	—
<b>Averages</b>	—	—	<b>1,496</b>	—	—	<b>1,528</b>	—

Source: Electorate figures are based on Welwyn Hatfield District Council's submission.

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





## 6. NEXT STEPS

<sup>74</sup> Having completed our review of electoral arrangements in Welwyn Hatfield and submitted our final recommendations to the Secretary of State, we have fulfilled our statutory obligation under the Local Government Act 1992.

<sup>75</sup> It now falls to the Secretary of State to decide whether to give effect to our recommendations, with or without modification, and to implement them by means of an Order. Such an Order will not be made earlier than six weeks from the date that our recommendations are submitted to the Secretary of State.

<sup>76</sup> All further correspondence concerning our recommendations and the matters discussed in this report should be addressed to:

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



# APPENDIX A

## Final Recommendations for Welwyn Hatfield: Detailed Mapping

The following maps illustrate the Commission's proposed ward boundaries for the Welwyn Hatfield area.

**Map A1** illustrates, in outline form, the proposed ward boundaries for Welwyn Hatfield and indicates the areas shown in more detail in Maps A2, A3, A4 and the large map inserted at the back of the report.

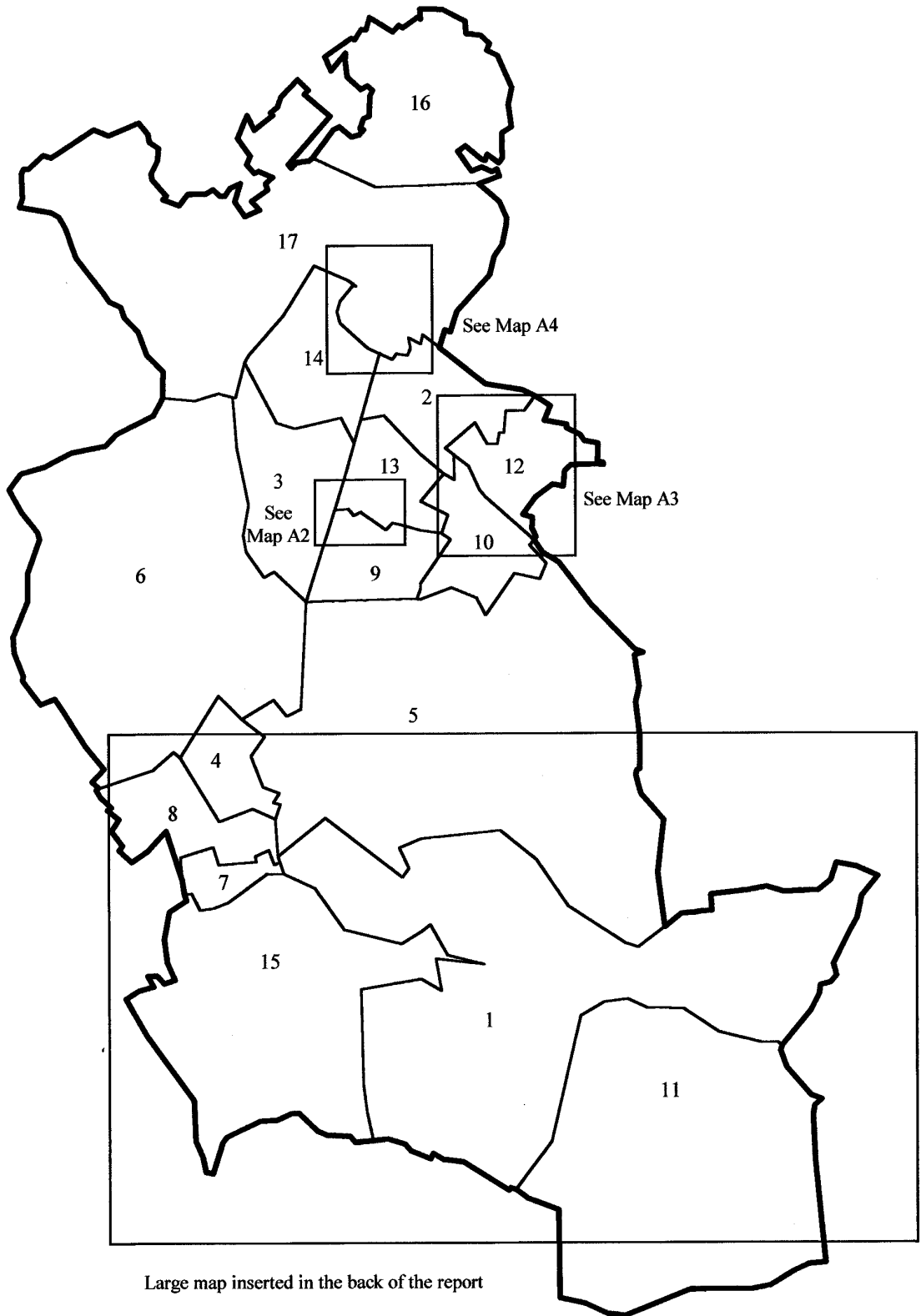
**Map A2** illustrates the proposed boundary change between Peartree and Hollybush wards.

**Map A3** illustrates the proposed boundary changes between Panshanger ward and Haldens and Howlands wards.

**Map A4** illustrates the proposed boundary changes between Welwyn South ward and Sherrards and Haldens wards.

The **large map** inserted at the rear of the report illustrates the proposed ward boundaries in the south of the district.

Map A1:  
*The Commission's Final Recommendations for Welwyn Hatfield: Key Map*

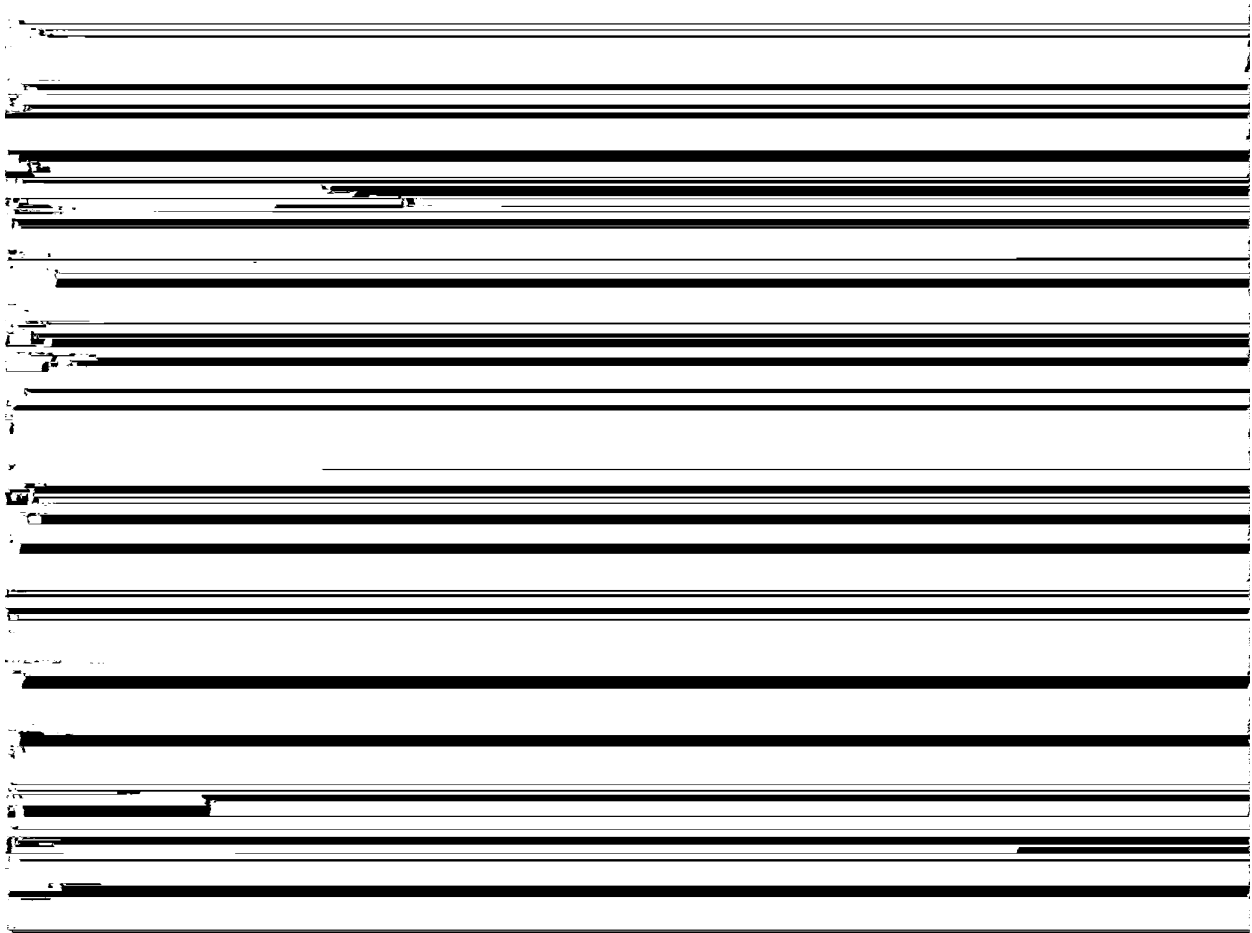


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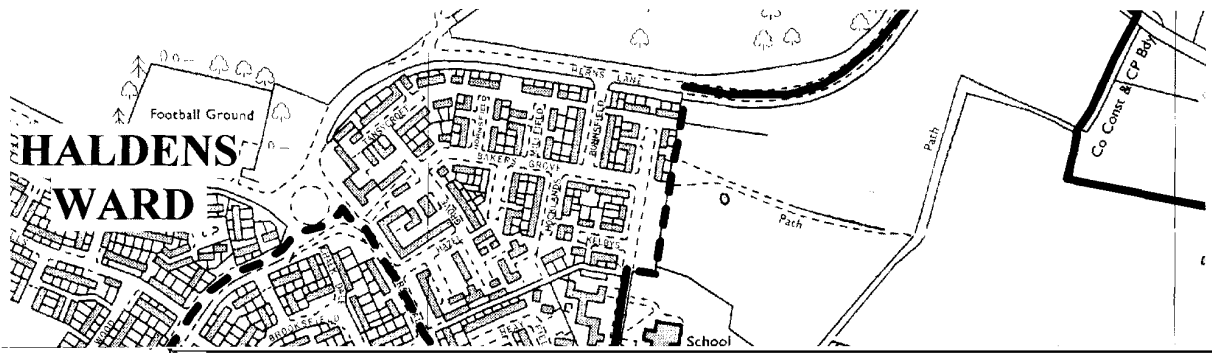
Key to Wards

- |                                   |                  |               |                 |
|-----------------------------------|------------------|---------------|-----------------|
| 1 Brookmans Park and Little Heath | 5 Hatfield East  | 9 Hollybush   | 13 Peartree     |
| 2 Haldens                         | 6 Hatfield North | 10 Howlands   | 14 Sherrards    |
| 3 Handside                        | 7 Hatfield South | 11 Northaw    | 15 Welham Green |
| 4 Hatfield Central                | 8 Hatfield West  | 12 Panshanger | 16 Welwyn North |
|                                   |                  |               | 17 Welwyn South |

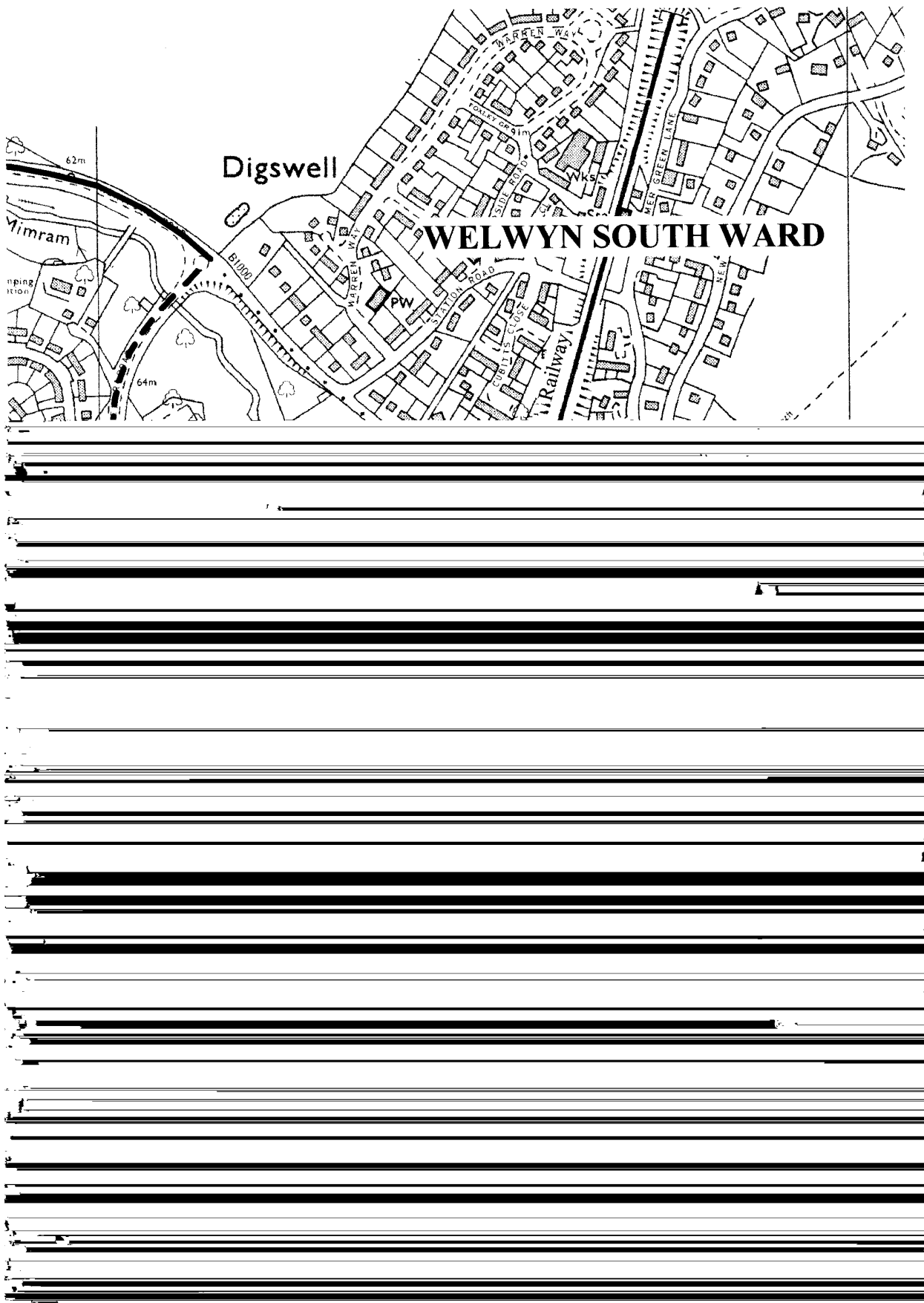
Map A2:  
*Proposed Boundary Change Between Peartree and Hollybush Wards*



Map A3:  
*Proposed Boundary Changes Between Howlands, Haldens and Panshanger Wards*



Map A4:  
*Proposed Boundary Changes Between Welwyn South, Sherrards and Haldens Wards*







# APPENDIX B

## Draft Recommendations for Welwyn Hatfield

*Figure B1:  
The Commission's Draft Recommendations: Constituent Areas*

	<b>Ward name</b>	<b>Number of councillors</b>	<b>Constituent areas</b>	<b>Map reference</b>
1	Brookmans Park and Little Heath	3	Brookmans Park and Little Heath ward (part – Brookmans Park ward (part) and Little Heath ward of North Mymms parish); Newgate Street and Wildhill ward of Hatfield parish (part)	Large map
2	Haldens (in Welwyn Garden City)	3	Haldens ward (part)	Map A3
3	Handside (in Welwyn Garden City)	3	<i>Unchanged</i>	Map 2
4	Hatfield Central	3	Hatfield Central district and parish ward; Hatfield East district and parish ward (part)	Large map
5	Hatfield East	3	Hatfield East ward (part – Essendon parish and East ward of Hatfield parish (part))	Large map
6	Hatfield North	3	<i>Unchanged</i> (Hatfield North parish ward)	Map 2
7	Hatfield South	2	Welham Green and Redhall ward (part – South ward of Hatfield parish), Hatfield West district and parish ward (part))	Large map
8	Hatfield West	3	Hatfield West district and parish ward (part)	Large map
9	Hollybush (in Welwyn Garden City)	3	Hollybush ward; Peartree ward (part)	Map A2
10	Howlands (in Welwyn Garden City)	3	Howlands ward; Panshanger ward (part)	Map A3
11	Panshanger (in Welwyn Garden City)	3	Panshanger ward (part); Haldens ward (part)	Map A3

*continued overleaf*

*Figure B1 (continued):  
The Commission's Draft Recommendations: Constituent Areas*

	<b>Ward name</b>	<b>Number of councillors</b>	<b>Constituent areas</b>	<b>Map reference</b>
12	Peartree (in Welwyn Garden City)	3	Peartree ward (part)	Map A2
13	Northaw	3	Northaw ward (Northaw and Cuffley parish); Brookmans Park and Little Heath ward (part – Newgate Street and Wildhill ward of Hatfield parish (part))	Large map
14	Sherrards (in Welwyn Garden City)	3	Sherrards ward (part)	Maps 2 and A4
15	Welham Green	2	Welham Green and Redhall ward (part – Welham Green ward and Brookmans Park ward (part) of North Mymms parish)	Large map
16	Welwyn South	3	Welwyn South ward (Ayot St Lawrence parish, Ayot St Peter parish and Digswell, Danesbury, Hawbush and Queensway wards of Welwyn parish); Sherrards ward (part); Haldens ward (part)	Map 2
17	Welwyn North	2	<i>Unchanged</i> (Mardley Heath and Woolmer Green wards of Welwyn parish)	Map 2

Figure B2:

*The Commission's Draft Recommendations for Welwyn Hatfield*

Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (1996)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2001)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
1 Brookmans Park and Little Heath	3	4,174	1,391	-7	4,197	1,399	-8
2 Haldens (in Welwyn Garden City)	3	4,613	1,538	3	4,613	1,538	1
3 Handside (in Welwyn Garden City)	3	4,897	1,632	9	5,037	1,679	10
4 Hatfield Central	3	4,493	1,498	0	4,502	1,501	-2
5 Hatfield East	3	4,437	1,479	-1	4,523	1,508	-1
6 Hatfield North	3	4,339	1,446	-3	4,380	1,460	-4
7 Hatfield South	2	2,930	1,465	-2	2,930	1,465	-4
8 Hatfield West	3	4,754	1,585	6	4,756	1,585	4
9 Hollybush (in Welwyn Garden City)	3	4,208	1,403	-6	4,424	1,475	-3
10 Howlands (in Welwyn Garden City)	3	4,459	1,486	-1	4,585	1,528	0
11 Northaw	3	4,513	1,504	1	4,562	1,521	0
12 Panshanger (in Welwyn Garden City)	3	4,842	1,614	8	4,842	1,614	6
13 Peartree (in Welwyn Garden City)	3	4,430	1,477	-1	4,891	1,630	7
14 Sherrards (in Welwyn Garden City)	3	4,474	1,491	0	4,553	1,518	-1
15 Welham Green	2	2,851	1,426	-5	2,851	1,426	-7
16 Welwyn North	2	3,249	1,625	9	3,372	1,686	10
17 Welwyn South	3	4,168	1,389	-7	4,324	1,441	-6
<b>Totals</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>71,831</b>	—	—	<b>73,342</b>	—	—
<b>Averages</b>	—	—	<b>1,496</b>	—	—	<b>1,528</b>	—

