

LOCAL  
GOVERNMENT  
COMMISSION  
FOR ENGLAND

FINAL  
RECOMMENDATIONS  
ON THE FUTURE  
ELECTORAL  
ARRANGEMENTS FOR  
WORKING  
IN SURREY

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

*September 1998*

# LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND

This report sets out the Commission's final recommendations on the electoral arrangements for Woking in Surrey.

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Professor Malcolm Grant (Chairman)

Helena Shovelton (Deputy Chairman)

Peter Brokenshire

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Barbara Stephens (Chief Executive)

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## Local Government Commission for England

1 September 1998

Dear Secretary of State

On 2 September 1997 the Commission began a periodic electoral review of Woking under the Local Government Act 1992. We published our draft recommendations in March 1998 and undertook an 11-week period of consultation.

We have now prepared our final recommendations in the light of the consultation. We have confirmed our draft recommendations, except for a minor boundary modification (see paragraphs 99 – 100) in the light of further evidence. This report sets out our final recommendations for changes to electoral arrangements in Woking.

We recommend that Woking Borough Council should be served by 36 councillors representing 17 wards, and that changes should be made to ward boundaries in order to improve electoral equality, having regard to the statutory criteria. We recommend that the Council should continue to be elected by thirds.

We note that you have now set out in the White Paper *Modern Local Government – In Touch with the People* (Cm 4014, HMSO), legislative proposals for a number of changes to local authority electoral arrangements. However, until such time as that new legislation is in place we are obliged to conduct our work in accordance with current legislation, and to continue our current approach to periodic electoral reviews.

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

Yours sincerely

PROFESSOR MALCOLM GRANT  
Chairman



# SUMMARY

The Commission began a review of Woking on 2 September 1997. We published our draft recommendations for electoral arrangements on 17 March 1998, after which we undertook an 11-week period of consultation.

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

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

- **in eight of the 16 wards the number of electors represented by each councillor varies by more than 10 per cent from the average for the borough, and six wards vary by more than 20 per cent from the average;**
- **by 2002 the forecast figures show little improvement to electoral equality, with the number of electors per councillor forecast to vary by more than 10 per cent from the average in seven wards, and by more than 20 per cent in six wards.**

Our main final recommendations for future electoral arrangements (Figure 1 and paragraphs 99–100) are that:

- **Woking Borough Council should be served by 36 councillors, one more than at present;**
- **there should be 17 wards, compared to 16 at present;**
- **the boundaries of 15 of the existing wards should be modified, while Byfleet ward should retain its existing boundaries;**
- **elections should continue to be held by thirds.**

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

- **The number of electors per councillor would vary by less than 10 per cent from the borough average in all but one of the 17 proposed wards; Brookwood ward would have 15 per cent fewer electors than the average.**
- **Electoral equality is forecast to improve further, with the number of electors per councillor in all 17 wards expected to vary by no more than 7 per cent from the average for the borough by 2002.**

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 12 October 1998:

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

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

<b>Ward name</b>	<b>Number of councillors</b>	<b>Constituent areas</b>
1 Brookwood	1	Brookwood ward; Knaphill ward (part)
2 Byfleet	3	<i>Unchanged</i> (Byfleet parish)
3 Goldsworth East	3	Goldsworth Park ward (part); Central & Maybury ward (part); St John's ward (part)
4 Goldsworth West	2	Goldsworth Park ward (part)
5 Hermitage & Knaphill South	2	Knaphill ward (part); St John's ward (part)
6 Horsell East & Woodham	2	Horsell East & Woodham ward (part); Horsell West ward (part); Central & Maybury ward (part)
7 Horsell West	3	Horsell West ward (part); Horsell East & Woodham ward (part); Central & Maybury ward (part); Goldsworth Park ward (part); Knaphill ward (part)
8 Kingfield & Westfield	2	Kingfield & Westfield ward (part); Mayford & Sutton ward (part)
9 Knaphill	3	Knaphill ward (part)
10 Maybury & Sheerwater	3	Sheerwater ward (part); Central & Maybury ward (part); Mount Hermon East ward (part); Pyrford ward (part)
11 Mayford & Sutton Green	1	Mayford & Sutton ward (part); St John's ward (part)
12 Mount Hermon East	2	Mount Hermon East ward (part); Mount Hermon West ward (part); Central & Maybury ward (part)
13 Mount Hermon West	2	Mount Hermon West ward (part); St John's ward (part)
14 Old Woking	1	Old Woking ward; Kingfield & Westfield ward (part)
15 Pyrford	2	Pyrford ward (part); West Byfleet ward (part)
16 St John's & Hook Heath	2	St John's ward (part)
17 West Byfleet	2	West Byfleet ward (part); Pyrford ward (part); Sheerwater ward (part)

*Notes: 1 Byfleet is the only parish in the borough.*

*2 The proposed ward boundaries for the whole borough are illustrated on the large map inserted at the back of the report.*

# 1. INTRODUCTION

1 This report contains our final recommendations on the electoral arrangements for the borough of Woking in Surrey. We have now reviewed all the districts in Surrey as part of our programme of periodic electoral reviews of all principal local authority areas in England.

2 In undertaking these reviews, we have had regard to:

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

3 We have also had regard to our *Guidance and Procedural Advice for Local Authorities and Other Interested Parties* (published in March 1996, supplemented in September 1996 and updated in March 1998), which sets out our approach to the reviews.

4 This review was in four stages. Stage One began on 2 September 1997, when we wrote to Woking Borough Council inviting proposals for future electoral arrangements. Our letter was copied to Surrey County Council, Surrey Police Authority, the local authority associations, Surrey County Association of Parish and Town Councils, Byfleet Parish Council, the Member of Parliament and the Member of the European Parliament with constituency interests in the borough, and the headquarters of the main political parties. At the start of the review and following publication of our draft recommendations, we published notices in the local press, issued a press release and invited the Council to publicise the review more widely. The closing date for receipt of representations was 25 November 1997. At Stage Two we considered all the representations received during Stage One and prepared our draft recommendations.

5 Stage Three began on 17 March 1998 with the publication of our report, *Draft Recommendations on the Future Electoral Arrangements for Woking in Surrey*, and ended on 1 June 1998. Comments were sought on our preliminary conclusions. Finally, during Stage Four we reconsidered our draft recommendations in the light of the Stage Three consultation and now publish our final recommendations.



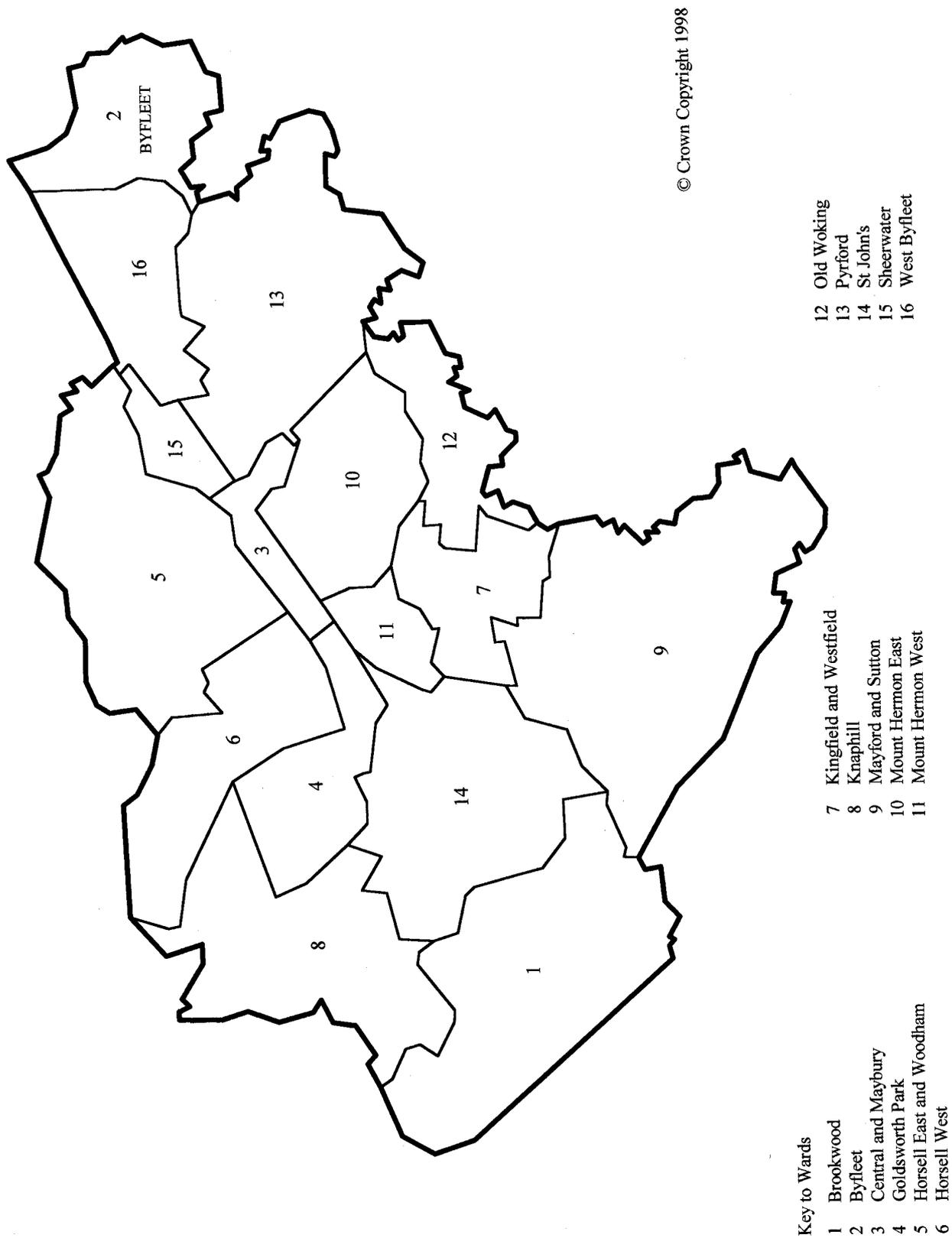
## 2. CURRENT ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS

<sup>6</sup> The borough of Woking is located 30 miles south-west of London and is a compact borough, comprising 6,359 hectares. It includes Woking town centre and 14 village centres with a total population of 90,700 (mid-1996). To the east, Woking extends to the M25, and to the north the M3 and A3 are just beyond the borough boundary. The railway line runs through the centre of the borough, with the main station located in the town centre providing direct services to London and linking with locations across the south and south-west of the country. The Basingstoke Canal runs the length of the borough and the River Wey Navigation passes through the east of the borough. Woking is predominantly urban, with only one parish, Byfleet, in the east.

<sup>7</sup> The borough consists of a mix of large residential areas, comprising detached houses set in spacious surroundings, substantial communities of mainly semi-detached and terraced housing, and some more modern blocks of low-rise flats. There are also smaller pockets of much older housing, especially in areas close to the town centre.

8

Map 1:  
Existing Wards in Woking



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Figure 2:  
Existing Electoral Arrangements

Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (1997)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2002)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
1 Brookwood	1	1,523	1,523	-21	1,523	1,523	-22
2 Byfleet	3	5,575	1,858	-4	5,601	1,867	-5
3 Central & Maybury	2	3,530	1,765	-8	3,694	1,847	-6
4 Goldsworth Park	3	9,224	3,075	60	9,304	3,101	58
5 Horsell East & Woodham	2	3,027	1,514	-21	3,041	1,521	-22
6 Horsell West	3	5,408	1,803	-6	5,426	1,809	-8
7 Kingfield & Westfield	3	3,943	1,314	-32	3,997	1,332	-32
8 Knaphill	3	7,647	2,549	32	8,097	2,699	38
9 Mayford & Sutton	1	1,707	1,707	-11	1,707	1,707	-13
10 Mount Hermon East	2	3,740	1,870	-3	3,788	1,894	-3
11 Mount Hermon West	2	3,540	1,770	-8	3,618	1,809	-8
12 Old Woking	1	1,792	1,792	-7	1,804	1,804	-8
13 Pyrford	2	4,218	2,109	9	4,288	2,144	9
14 St John's	3	6,412	2,137	11	6,422	2,141	9
15 Sheerwater	2	2,456	1,228	-36	2,456	1,228	-37
16 West Byfleet	2	3,726	1,863	-3	3,820	1,910	-3
<b>Totals</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>67,468</b>	—	—	<b>68,586</b>	—	—
<b>Averages</b>	—	—	<b>1,928</b>	—	—	<b>1,960</b>	—

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

Note: The 'variance from average' column shows by how far, in percentage terms, the number of electors per councillor varies from the average for the borough. The minus symbol (-) denotes a lower than average number of electors. For example, in 1997, electors in Sheerwater ward were relatively over-represented by 36 per cent, while electors in Goldsworth Park ward were significantly under-represented by 60 per cent. Figures have been rounded to the nearest whole number.



### 3. DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS

<sup>12</sup> During Stage One we received representations from Woking Borough Council, Mr Goldenberg, a Liberal Democrat Parliamentary candidate for Woking, Woking Constituency Conservative Association, two local councillors (county and borough), three local groups and 31 local residents. In the light of these representations and evidence available to us, we reached preliminary conclusions which were set out in our report, *Draft Recommendations on the Future Electoral Arrangements for Woking in Surrey*. Our draft recommendations were largely based on the Borough Council's proposals which would achieve improved electoral equality and provide good boundaries, having regard to the statutory criteria. We only moved away from the Council's proposals in two areas, where we proposed a minor modification to the boundary between Horsell East & Woodham and Horsell West wards; and proposed the retention of two separate wards for Kingfield & Westfield and Old Woking, with a minor modification to their common ward boundary. We proposed that:

- (a) Woking Borough Council should be served by 36 councillors representing 17 wards;
- (b) the boundaries of 15 of the existing wards should be modified, while Byfleet ward should retain its existing boundaries.

#### **Draft Recommendation**

Woking Borough Council should comprise 36 councillors, serving 17 wards. The Council should continue to hold elections by thirds.

<sup>13</sup> Our proposals would have resulted in significant improvements in electoral equality, with the number of electors per councillor in 16 of the 17 wards varying by less than 10 per cent from the borough average. This level of electoral equality was expected to improve further by 2002 when all wards are forecast to vary by less than 10 per cent from the average.



## 4. RESPONSES TO CONSULTATION

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

### Woking Borough Council

15 Woking Borough Council supported in total the draft recommendations (subject to a minor boundary modification), including the proposals for separate wards for Old Woking and Kingfield & Westfield, and the modification to the boundary between Horsell East & Woodham and Horsell West wards.

16 The Council identified three historic errors in the compilation of the electoral register since the last review in 1976, relating to the boundaries between Horsell East & Woodham and Horsell West wards; between Sheerwater and West Byfleet wards; and between Pyrford and West Byfleet wards. These errors have already been reflected in the draft recommendations, and the only modification necessary would be to the large map to show the transfer of Hurst Way and Golf Close from West Byfleet ward to Pyrford ward, to reflect the electorate figures cited in the draft recommendations report.

### Other Representations

17 A further six representations were received in response to our draft recommendations. Woking Constituency Conservative Association considered that the draft recommendations for the boroughs of Woking and Guildford show “different treatment” of two cases: in Woking the Commission proposed to retain two separate wards for Old Woking and Kingfield & Westfield, which the Association stated are in the same urban area of the borough and share many community facilities and interests; in Guildford the Commission proposed the merger of Normandy and Pirbright wards “where there is a physical separation of several miles between self contained villages and absolutely no community interests”. The Association asked that these two recommendations be reconsidered and that the Commission give them “equity of treatment”.

18 Councillor Mrs Compton, member for Woking South West division, remained opposed to the proposed realignment of the southern boundary of the existing St John’s ward to lie north of Saunders Lane, arguing that the present boundary along the railway line and the Hoe Stream is “exceptionally strong and permanent”. She believed that Saunders Lane relates as much or more in community terms to Hook Heath than Mayford. She proposed that the modified Brookwood ward should be extended northwards to incorporate much of the new development on the former hospital site in Knaphill and that the ward be renamed Brookwood & Bridley “to fit the historical background and the local geography”.

19 Mayford Village Society, on behalf of its 1,000 members, supported the draft recommendations for the new Mayford & Sutton Green ward.

20 We received three representations from local residents, two of whom supported the draft recommendation for Old Woking ward. One of the two residents also supported the new Mayford & Sutton Green ward. A resident of Pyrford opposed single-member wards, arguing that there would be no alternative councillor in the event of absence or sickness. He also opposed the current electoral system of partitioning into wards and preferred the “EEC system” of electing councillors as a whole by a suitable system of proportional representation, which would enable persons who are not sponsored by political parties to be elected.



## 5. ANALYSIS AND FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS

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

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

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

24 Our *Guidance* states that, while we accept that the achievement of absolute electoral equality for the authority as a whole is likely to be unattainable, we consider that, if electoral imbalances are to be kept to the minimum, such an objective should be the starting point in any review. We therefore strongly recommend that, in formulating electoral schemes, local authorities and other interested parties should start from the standpoint of absolute electoral equality and only then make adjustments to reflect relevant factors, such as community identity. Regard must also be had to five-year forecasts of change in electorates. We will require particular justification for schemes which result in, or retain, an imbalance of over 10 per cent in any ward. Any imbalances of 20 per cent and over should arise only in the most exceptional circumstances, and will require the strongest justification.

### Electorate Forecasts

25 At Stage One Woking Borough Council submitted electorate forecasts for the year 2002, projecting an increase in the electorate of some 2 per cent from 67,468 to 68,586 over the five-year period from 1997 to 2002. It expected most of the growth to be in Knaphill ward, with some growth also expected in Central & Maybury ward and other parts of the borough. The Borough 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 and assumed occupancy rates. In our draft recommendations report we accepted that this is an inexact science and, having given consideration to the forecast electorates, we were satisfied that they represented the best estimates that could reasonably be made at the time.

26 We received no comments on the Council's electorate projections during Stage Three, and remain satisfied that they represent the best estimates presently available.

### Council Size

27 Our *Guidance* indicated that we would normally expect the number of councillors serving a borough or district council to be in the range of 30 to 60.

28 Woking Borough Council is at present served by 35 councillors. At Stage One the Borough Council proposed a council size of 36, with the additional councillor in the Goldsworth Park area to accommodate the substantial increase in the electorate since the last review and the need to achieve equality of representation across the whole borough. Mr Goldenberg proposed an increase in council size from 35 to 37, with two additional councillors in the Goldsworth Park area. In our draft recommendations report we considered the size and distribution of the electorate, the geography and other characteristics of the area, together with the representations received. We concluded that the statutory criteria and the achievement of electoral equality would best be met by a council of 36 members.

29 At Stage Three no further comments were received on council size, and we confirm our draft recommendation for a council size of 36 as final.

## Electoral Arrangements

30 In our draft recommendations report we carefully considered all the representations received, including the two borough-wide schemes from the Borough Council and Mr Goldenberg. The schemes were based on different council sizes: the Borough Council proposed a council of 36 members, one more than at present, while Mr Goldenberg proposed a council of 37 members. Both schemes would retain a mix of single- and multi-member wards and secure improved electoral equality, with the number of electors per councillor varying by more than 10 per cent from the average in only two wards. By 2002, all wards would be within 10 per cent of the borough average under the Council's scheme, while one ward, Hook Heath, would vary by more than 10 per cent from the average under Mr Goldenberg's scheme.

31 The Borough Council's proposals would make only minor boundary changes in many areas to "protect the identities of whole communities". Mr Goldenberg stated that his proposals were based on the "physical boundary of the railway ... and have regard to natural communities". However, some of Mr Goldenberg's proposed boundaries appeared to split existing communities. There were two areas of agreement between the schemes: a new Goldsworth West ward was proposed, although Mr Goldenberg proposed the name Goldsworth Park West; and the Borough Council proposed no change to Byfleet ward, while Mr Goldenberg proposed only a minor ward boundary modification to follow the M25, which would not affect any electors.

32 The Commission is generally cautious about any increase in council size. However, we considered that one additional councillor, as proposed by the Borough Council, would facilitate a good electoral scheme, providing a better balance of representation throughout the borough. Having adopted a council of 36 members, the boundaries submitted by the Borough Council would provide better electoral equality than those proposed by Mr Goldenberg. Also, in view of the support that the Borough Council's proposals had following its local consultation with interested parties, we decided to base our draft recommendations on the Council's scheme. However, to improve electoral equality further, while having regard to local community identities and interests, we moved away from the Borough Council's scheme in two areas, affecting the wards of Horsell East

& Woodham, Horsell West and Old Woking & Hoe Valley.

33 In response to our consultation report the Borough Council supported in totality the draft recommendations, subject to a minor modification to the boundary between the wards of Pyrford and West Byfleet to reflect the electorate figures included in the report.

34 We have reviewed our draft recommendations in the light of further evidence and the representations received during Stage Three. The following areas, based on existing wards, are considered in turn:

- (a) Brookwood, Knaphill, Goldsworth Park and St John's wards;
- (b) Kingfield & Westfield, Mayford & Sutton and Old Woking wards;
- (c) Central & Maybury, Sheerwater, Mount Hermon East and Mount Hermon West wards;
- (d) Horsell East & Woodham and Horsell West wards;
- (e) Byfleet, Pyrford and West Byfleet wards.

35 Details of our final recommendations are set out in Figures 1 and 4, and illustrated on the large map inserted at the back of the report.

### **Brookwood, Knaphill, Goldsworth Park and St John's wards**

36 Brookwood ward currently elects a single councillor, who represents 21 per cent fewer electors than the borough average, and no growth is forecast for the area. At Stage One the Borough Council proposed to extend the ward's northern boundary to Percheron Drive, to include an identifiable part of the new development on the former Brookwood hospital development site, currently in Knaphill ward. The Council stated that no established ties exist in the area of the new development, but that since the affected area forms part of the former Brookwood hospital site, it can "readily be identified as Brookwood". The Council added that it had considered combining the communities of Brookwood and Knaphill, but recognised the strong individual community identities of both villages.

37 Knaphill ward is represented by three councillors, and the number of electors represented by each councillor is 32 per cent above the borough average. To address the relative under-representation in the area, which is expected to

worsen by 2002, at Stage One the Council proposed a new Hermitage & Knaphill South ward to reflect the interests of the local communities. The ward would comprise the Hermitage Woods estate area, currently in St John's ward, and the south-eastern part of the existing Knaphill ward, including the Woodlands estate. A modified Knaphill ward would therefore comprise the village of Knaphill and the majority of the development on the former Brookwood hospital site. The ward's northern boundary would run along the south of the properties in Carhouse Lane.

38 Mr Goldenberg proposed a new two-member Brookwood & Knaphill West ward, comprising Brookwood village and polling district BA (Knaphill West); and a new three-member Knaphill East ward, consisting of polling districts BB and BC (Knaphill Central and Knaphill East). He considered that there are no real links between the village of Brookwood, which lies north of the railway, and the rest of Brookwood ward, south of the railway.

39 Councillor Mrs Compton, member for Woking South West division, supported the Borough Council's proposed extension of Brookwood ward to include part of the former Brookwood hospital site in Knaphill ward, but rejected the Council's draft proposal B, which would expand Brookwood ward even further northwards to include part of Knaphill, as there was "little community interrelationship between the two areas". In response to the Council's local consultation, both Brookwood Village Association and Sheets Heath Residents' Association stated that it would be preferable to include all the houses west of Bagshot Road (the A322) in Brookwood ward, as they have common interests. Brookwood Village Association added that the houses on the former hospital site, currently in Knaphill ward, would need different services, and should therefore not be included in Brookwood ward.

40 Following consideration of the evidence received, we included the Borough Council's proposed Brookwood, Hermitage & Knaphill South and Knaphill wards as part of our draft recommendations. The number of electors per councillor would be 15 per cent below, 8 per cent above and 1 per cent above the borough average respectively (4 per cent below, 6 per cent above and 3 per cent above in 2002).

41 The majority of Stage One respondents supported the retention of a single-member Brookwood ward, and we noted that the railway line was not generally perceived as dividing the north and south areas of the ward. We concluded

that the inclusion of part of the former hospital development site in Brookwood ward would receive some local support as the area has yet to establish any strong community ties and can be identified as Brookwood. Furthermore, the proposed Hermitage & Knaphill South ward would unite similar communities and recognise that the Hermitage area, which is separated from the rest of the existing St John's ward, has different interests from St John's. The rest of Knaphill ward would be based on Knaphill village and "retains the village centre together with the nucleus of the established residential area".

42 We recognised the electoral imbalance that would exist in Brookwood ward in the short term (15 per cent), but also that the development on the former hospital site would result in an increased electorate and therefore provide better electoral equality in 2002 (4 per cent).

43 At Stage Three the Borough Council supported the draft recommendations. In her Stage Three submission, Councillor Mrs Compton, member for Woking South West division, considered that the proposed Brookwood ward should be extended northwards to incorporate much of the new development on the former hospital site in Knaphill. She also proposed that the ward be renamed Brookwood & Bridley.

44 Having considered the representations received, we remain of the view that the Borough Council's proposals would achieve good electoral equality, taking into account the expected development, and adequately reflect the communities in these areas. We therefore confirm our draft recommendations for Brookwood, Hermitage & Knaphill South and Knaphill wards as final.

45 Goldsworth Park ward currently elects three councillors and has the worst electoral imbalance in the borough. The number of electors represented by each councillor is 60 per cent above the borough average. Over the past 20 years there has been rapid growth in housing development in the area, and the Borough Council stated that "to obtain electoral equality it would be necessary to create a five-member ward and this not being within the Commission's criteria has resulted in the twinned wards of Goldsworth East and Goldsworth West". The proposed boundary between the two wards would reflect the current polling district boundary.

46 At Stage One the Council proposed that the new three-member Goldsworth East ward should comprise the eastern part of the existing Goldsworth Park ward extended to Woking town

centre, which is currently in Central & Maybury ward. The ward's northern boundary would be revised, running from Lockfield Drive to Goldsworth Park trading estate, and then would follow the boundary of the recreation ground, turning south to Bampton Way until it rejoined Lockfield Drive. This would result in Goldsworth Park trading estate, Claydon Road and Crest Walk being transferred to a modified Horsell West ward (detailed later). The south-eastern boundary of Goldsworth East ward would be modified to follow Janoway Hill Lane, then go along the back of the houses in The Dell and Birch Close, thereby including those properties and the ones in The Triangle Lane, currently in St John's ward, since they would only have access to the new ward. The new two-member Goldsworth West ward would comprise the remainder of the existing Goldsworth Park ward.

47 Mr Goldenberg proposed a similar warding arrangement for this area. However, he proposed that the wards should be called Goldsworth Park East & Kingsway and Goldsworth Park West, and that the boundary between the new Goldsworth Park East & Kingsway ward and the existing Horsell West ward should follow Lockfield Drive, to include the properties in the Homelands Lane area in the new ward.

48 Councillor Mrs Compton supported the Council's proposals for both Goldsworth East and Goldsworth West wards. Woking Constituency Conservative Association stated that "Goldsworth Park East should include Foxhills, Merrivale Gardens and Hedgerley Court as these were built as part of the Goldsworth Park development". However, this proposal would involve transferring 270 electors from the existing Horsell West ward (polling district EA) to the new Goldsworth East ward and would provide worse electoral equality in both wards, compared to the proposals put forward by both the Borough Council and Mr Goldenberg.

49 Following careful consideration of the representations received, we included the Council's proposals for Goldsworth East and Goldsworth West wards as part of our draft recommendations. Although the Borough Council's and Mr Goldenberg's proposals would both provide good electoral equality in this area, we noted the level of support from other respondents for all or part of the Council's proposals. Its proposals would also retain much of the existing boundary along Lockfield Drive and Sythwood. Under our draft recommendations the number of electors per councillor in Goldsworth East and Goldsworth West wards would be 4 per cent below and 2 per

cent above the borough average respectively (4 per cent below and equal to the average in 2002).

50 At Stage Three, the only comment received on the two wards was from Councillor Mrs Compton, who noted our proposals. We are therefore confirming our draft recommendations for Goldsworth East and Goldsworth West wards as final.

51 Under the current arrangements, the number of electors per councillor in the three-member St John's ward is 11 per cent above the borough average (9 per cent in 2002). The ward covers the two areas of St John's (north of the railway line) and Hook Heath (south of the railway line).

52 At Stage One the Borough Council proposed a new St John's & Hook Heath ward. The railway line would form the eastern boundary of the ward; part of the northern boundary would be modified to transfer The Triangle Lane area to the new Goldsworth East ward (detailed earlier); and the remainder of the northern boundary would follow the Basingstoke Canal, transferring those electors north of the canal, in the Hermitage Woods estate area, to the new Hermitage & Knaphill South ward. The southern boundary would be realigned so that Saunders Lane and the adjoining green belt land would form part of the new Mayford & Sutton Green ward (detailed later). The Council considered that the new ward name would more accurately reflect the nature of the revised ward.

53 Mr Goldenberg proposed a new two-member Hook Heath ward in the south-west of the borough, bounded by the two railway lines and the borough boundary. Councillor Mrs Compton stated that there was "no cohesive argument for altering the southern boundary of St John's to put some or all of the Saunders Lane properties into Mayford and Sutton ward ... and it can be argued that Saunders Lane relates as much to Hook Heath in St John's ward as to Mayford and Sutton". A local resident proposed that the Hermitage area needs either its own councillor or separation from the affluent Hook Heath area for community reasons.

54 After due consideration of the evidence received, our draft recommendations adopted the Borough Council's proposed St John's & Hook Heath ward in which the number of electors per councillor would be 6 per cent below the borough average (7 per cent in 2002). These proposals recognised the Hermitage area as a separate community from the rest of the existing ward, while keeping the rest of the built-up area together. They provided the best electoral equality, having regard to the statutory criteria. In our draft

recommendations report we expressed concern that the boundaries proposed by Mr Goldenberg may split the community in the Prey Heath area, and a significant degree of over-representation would remain (15 per cent).

55 At Stage Three the Borough Council supported the draft recommendations, which endorsed its Stage One proposal. Councillor Mrs Compton remained opposed to the realignment of the southern boundary of the proposed St John's & Hook Heath ward, arguing that the current boundary along the main railway line and the Hoe Stream is a strong one. She believed that the Saunders Lane community relates more to Hook Heath than to Mayford.

56 We considered retaining the Saunders Lane area (some 400 electors) in St John's & Hook Heath ward, but this proposal would result in Mayford & Sutton Green ward (detailed later) being relatively over-represented by 16 per cent. Therefore, in light of the good electoral equality which would be achieved under the Borough Council's proposal for the wider area, we have decided to confirm our draft recommendation for St John's & Hook Heath ward as final.

### **Kingfield & Westfield, Mayford & Sutton and Old Woking wards**

57 Kingfield & Westfield ward currently elects three councillors, each of whom represents on average 32 per cent fewer electors than the borough average (unchanged in 2002). The councillor for Old Woking ward represents 7 per cent fewer electors than the average (8 per cent in 2002).

58 In its Stage One submission the Borough Council stated that it had "given careful consideration to the proposal of retaining 'Old Woking' as a single member ward". However, to improve the current over-representation in the area, it proposed merging the two wards of Kingfield & Westfield and Old Woking as it believed that "the local residents already share the facilities within these two wards and the combining of them for electoral purposes will not damage the interests of the local community". The Council also proposed that the new ward be called Old Woking & Hoe Valley (taken from Old Woking village, the Hoe Stream and the surrounding area known as Hoe Valley), which would elect three councillors, with a minor adjustment to the boundary between Kingfield & Westfield and Mayford & Sutton wards in the Westfield Common area to reflect community identity.

59 Mr Goldenberg proposed the retention of the

existing Kingfield & Westfield and Old Woking wards, while addressing the current over-representation in the former ward by reducing its representation from three councillors to two, and transferring an area near its western boundary to his proposed Mayford & Sutton Green ward. He noted that "the local Council's proposals have encountered fierce local opposition" and argued that Old Woking has a long history. Councillor Mrs Johnson, member for Old Woking ward, proposed that part of Kingfield & Westfield ward (Shackleford Road & Rydens Way) should be included in Old Woking ward. A number of representations were also received supporting the retention of Old Woking and Kingfield & Westfield wards, the latter perhaps with representation reduced from three councillors to two.

60 After careful consideration of the representations received, our draft recommendations proposed moving away from the Council's scheme in this area. While either proposal – retaining the two existing wards with slight modifications to their ward boundaries, or merging the two – would achieve better electoral equality than the current arrangements, we were persuaded by the arguments in favour of the current ward structure. In our draft recommendations report we therefore proposed that Old Woking should retain its single-member representation and that Shackleford Road should be transferred to Old Woking ward from Kingfield & Westfield ward, with the latter ward served by two councillors. This proposal was similar to that proposed by Mr Goldenberg and Councillor Mrs Johnson, and appeared to have some local support. It would retain the distinct community of Old Woking and still achieve a reasonable level of electoral equality.

61 Under our draft recommendations, the number of electors per councillor in the modified wards would be 6 per cent above the average in Kingfield & Westfield (unchanged in 2002), and 1 per cent above in Old Woking (equal to the average in 2002).

62 In response to our consultation report, the Borough Council supported the draft recommendations for both wards which had moved away from the Council's initial proposals. Woking Constituency Conservative Association noted that both Kingfield & Westfield and Old Woking wards are "within the urban part of the borough with no physical boundary and share many community facilities and interests", and that we proposed to keep them as separate wards. It compared this proposal to Guildford borough, where it noted we proposed to merge two areas

with “no community interests” into one ward. Two local residents supported the proposals for Old Woking ward.

63 We considered the representations received at Stage Three, which generally expressed support for our draft recommendations in this area, and are confirming our draft recommendations for both Kingfield & Westfield and Old Woking wards as final.

64 Mayford & Sutton ward is located in the south of the borough, and its eastern, southern and western boundaries are also the borough boundary. The ward currently elects a single councillor who represents 11 per cent fewer electors than the borough average (13 per cent in 2002).

65 At Stage One the Borough Council proposed several modifications to the ward. Its northern boundary would be adjusted in a number of areas: Moor Lane and The Orchard would be transferred to the new Old Woking & Hoe Valley ward; the green belt land between Egley Road and the main railway line would be transferred from the existing St John’s ward; and the north-western boundary would be extended as far as Saunders Lane to include the Mayford Village Hall (currently in St John’s ward) and the Smarts Heath area (north of the Hoe Stream). The Council also proposed that the ward name be changed to Mayford & Sutton Green to reflect the village name of Sutton Green. This proposal was supported by Mayford Village Society and a resident of Mayford.

66 Mr Goldenberg also proposed that the ward be renamed Mayford & Sutton Green, but he submitted slightly different boundaries. The western boundary would follow the railway line, while the northern boundary would be extended to Old Hill to include part of the existing St John’s ward. The ward would also include the area bounded by Acacia Avenue and Lilac Avenue on the eastern side of Egley Road (the A320), currently in Kingfield & Westfield ward. However, he agreed with the Council’s proposal to omit Moor Lane and The Orchard in the Westfield Common area from the ward. Councillor Mrs Compton argued that the Woking to Guildford main railway line and the Hoe Stream provide a clear boundary between the existing St John’s and Mayford & Sutton wards, and should therefore be retained.

67 Having considered all the evidence received and taking into consideration our proposals for the neighbouring wards, our draft recommendations included the Borough Council’s proposed Mayford & Sutton Green ward, which would appear to

unite areas of similar interests and communities, and would fundamentally retain the existing ward, but modified to reflect community identity. Under our draft recommendation the number of electors per councillor in Mayford & Sutton Green ward would be 5 per cent above the borough average (4 per cent in 2002).

68 At Stage Three, the Borough Council, Mayford Village Society and a local resident supported the new Mayford & Sutton Green ward. However, Councillor Mrs Compton stated that the Saunders Lane community relates more to Hook Heath than to Mayford, and wanted to retain the existing ward boundary in this area. We calculated that retaining the existing boundary along the Hoe Stream and the railway line would not provide balanced representation in the area (Mayford & Sutton Green ward would be over-represented by 16 per cent). Therefore, in view of the good electoral equality achieved under our draft recommendation and a degree of local support, we have decided to confirm our proposed Mayford & Sutton Green ward as final.

### **Central & Maybury, Sheerwater, Mount Hermon East and Mount Hermon West wards**

69 The average number of electors represented by each of the two councillors for Central & Maybury ward is 8 per cent below the borough average (6 per cent in 2002). At present, Sheerwater ward elects two councillors, with each representing 36 per cent fewer electors than the borough average (37 per cent in 2002).

70 At Stage One the Borough Council proposed that, in order to improve electoral equality in the area, part of the existing Central & Maybury ward should be merged with the existing Sheerwater ward to form a new three-member Maybury & Sheerwater ward. The Council also proposed minor boundary adjustments to include parts of the existing Mount Hermon East and Pyrford wards in the new ward to reflect community identity. In support of its proposal the Council stated: “The Sheerwater/Maybury Partnership Single Regeneration Project pays special attention to the area, attracting a grant of £3.4 million to revitalise housing, employment, education ... Neither the characteristics nor experiences of this area are shared by any of the surrounding wards.” The remainder of Central & Maybury ward (the town centre) would be transferred to the new Goldsworth East ward.

71 Mr Goldenberg proposed a new single-member

Walton Road ward based on the Central area of Central & Maybury ward, and the combination of Sheerwater ward with part of the existing Horsell East & Woodham ward (polling district FB) to form a new two-member Sheerwater & Woodham ward. He stated that “the Central area (polling district GA) is multi-ethnic to an extent unparalleled in the rest of the borough [and] ... has very little, if anything, in common with the Maybury and Sheerwater estates”. He added that “although parts of Sheerwater are deprived, this is not universally true” and “it should also be noted that historically Sheerwater and Woodham constituted a single ward”. The Maybury area of the existing Central & Maybury ward would be merged with the existing Mount Hermon East ward and part of the existing Pырford ward to form a new Mount Hermon East & Maybury ward (detailed later).

72 Having considered the representations received, we decided to consult on the Borough Council’s proposal, which would create a ward incorporating the two areas which were identified as the most deprived areas in the whole of Surrey, and had attracted substantial funding from central Government to deal with the deprivation, health and unemployment problems. During the Borough Council’s local consultation, members had generally concluded that whatever proposal was adopted, the two areas should be kept together. Under our draft recommendations the number of electors per councillor in the new Maybury & Sheerwater ward would be 7 per cent above the borough average (5 per cent in 2002).

73 At Stage Three no adverse comments were received on the above proposal and we are confirming our draft recommendation for Maybury & Sheerwater ward as final.

74 Mount Hermon East and Mount Hermon West wards are each served by two councillors, and the number of electors represented by each councillor is 3 per cent below and 8 per cent below the borough average respectively (unchanged in 2002).

75 At Stage One the Borough Council proposed minor adjustments to both wards to reflect better community identities. The common boundary between the wards would be modified by transferring 10 properties in White Rose Lane from Mount Hermon West to Mount Hermon East. In addition, the northern boundary of Mount Hermon East ward would be modified by aligning it with Maybury Hill and College Road, thereby transferring electors to the new Maybury & Sheerwater ward, and to include those properties in

the Mayhurst area and East Hill (currently in Central & Maybury ward) in Mount Hermon East ward, since they “relate to the area and only have access to Mount Hermon East”. Mount Hermon West ward boundary would be modified further by including the Old Hill estate, currently in St John’s ward, for community reasons.

76 Mr Goldenberg also proposed the transfer of 10 properties in White Rose Lane from Mount Hermon West ward to Mount Hermon East ward, but proposed modifying the south-western boundary of Mount Hermon West ward by including some 40 electors in Blackbridge Road from the existing St John’s ward. He also proposed that Mount Hermon East ward should be merged with that part of Central & Maybury ward south-east of the railway (the Maybury Estate area) and part of the existing Pырford ward, to form a new three-member Mount Hermon East & Maybury ward.

77 In our consultation report, we recognised the improved electoral equality which would be achieved by both proposals. However in the light of our proposals for neighbouring areas, we adopted the Council’s proposals for Mount Hermon East and Mount Hermon West wards, particularly as they retained the integrity of the existing wards. Under our draft recommendations the number of electors per councillor would be 3 per cent below the borough average in Mount Hermon East ward (unchanged in 2002), and 2 per cent below the average in Mount Hermon West ward (1 per cent in 2002).

78 The only comment received in relation to this area at Stage Three was from the Borough Council, which supported the draft recommendations for the two wards. We are therefore confirming our draft recommendations for Mount Hermon East and Mount Hermon West wards as final.

### **Horsell East & Woodham and Horsell West wards**

79 Horsell East & Woodham and Horsell West wards are currently represented by two and three councillors respectively. Both wards are over-represented; the number of electors per councillor is 21 per cent and 6 per cent below the borough average respectively, with minimal growth forecast over the five-year period.

80 At Stage One the Borough Council proposed modifications to the boundaries of both wards to take account of more recent housing development and to achieve electoral equality.

81 Their common boundary would be realigned by

transferring the whole of Horsell Rise from Horsell West ward to Horsell East & Woodham ward. This proposal would also include the whole of the Kettlewell Close development (which is split between two wards by the existing ward boundary) in Horsell East & Woodham. Those properties (comprising 18 electors) on the western side of South Road would be transferred from Horsell East & Woodham ward to Horsell West ward, as they appear to relate more, and are physically closer, to the other residential properties in the ward. In addition, the southern boundary of Horsell East & Woodham ward would be modified to include the proposed development on the former Victoria hospital site which is expected to include some 180 electors by 2002. Horsell West ward boundary would be modified in the west with Goldsworth Park ward to include the whole of Carthouse Lane, as well as the Goldsworth Park trading estate and Claydon Road residential area, both of which only have vehicular access from Horsell West ward.

82 Under the Council's proposals, the number of electors per councillor in the modified Horsell East & Woodham and Horsell West wards would be 12 per cent below and 3 per cent below the borough average respectively (9 per cent and 5 per cent in 2002).

83 Mr Goldenberg proposed that part of the existing Horsell East ward (polling district FB) should be merged with the existing Sheerwater ward to form a new Sheerwater & Woodham ward (as detailed earlier). A new Horsell East ward would comprise polling district FA, with a minor adjustment to its western boundary to take in the six houses in Kettlewell Close, currently in Horsell West ward. The remainder of Horsell West ward would be retained, with the addition of the Claydon Road area, currently in Goldsworth Park ward. Under his proposals for a 37-member council, the number of electors per councillor in each of the wards of Horsell East, Horsell West and Sheerwater & Woodham would be 4 per cent or less from the borough average (unchanged in 2002).

84 A resident of Kettlewell Close suggested that the whole of Kettlewell Close should be in either Horsell East & Woodham ward or Horsell West ward in the interest of community identity, instead of being split between the wards as at present. Both borough-wide schemes would address this concern.

85 Our draft recommendations included the

Borough Council's proposals in this area, subject to the boundary between Horsell East & Woodham and Horsell West wards being modified to achieve a better balance of representation. Our proposed boundary would transfer an additional 100 electors from Horsell West to Horsell East & Woodham: this includes 16 electors in Horsell Rise Close (who only have access to Horsell Rise); the whole of Laleham Court (62 electors); and Thurlton Court (22 electors). Under our draft recommendations, the number of electors per councillor in the proposed Horsell East & Woodham and Horsell West wards would be 9 per cent below and 5 per cent below the borough average respectively (6 per cent below in both wards in 2002).

86 We recognised that the electoral equality in our proposed wards in this area would not be quite as good as under Mr Goldenberg's proposal for a 37-member council. However, based on a 36-member council, our draft recommendations would achieve better electoral equality across the whole borough, utilising identifiable boundaries.

87 At Stage Three the Borough Council supported the proposals for both wards. No further representations were received and we are confirming our draft recommendations for the two wards as final.

### **Byfleet, Pyrford and West Byfleet wards**

88 Byfleet ward (and parish) currently elects three councillors and is the only parished area in the borough. The number of electors represented by each councillor is 4 per cent below the borough average (5 per cent in 2002). The ward is surrounded by green belt and is separated from the rest of the borough by the M25 motorway.

89 At Stage One the Borough Council proposed no change to the ward as "it has a strong community identity and the existing boundaries are well established, being coterminous with those of the Parish Council".

90 Mr Goldenberg proposed that the western boundary of Byfleet ward should follow the M25. This proposal would require warding Byfleet parish, with one ward covering the small area west of the M25. However, we are unable to put it forward, as there would be no electors in the proposed parish ward. However, under the Local Government and Rating Act 1997, the Council can review the parish boundary as part of a parish review.

91 In light of the very good electoral equality in

the ward, and its well-defined boundaries, we included the Council's proposal for no change to Byfleet ward as part of our draft recommendations. At Stage Three no comments were received regarding Byfleet ward and we confirm our draft recommendation as final. The number of electors per councillor would be 1 per cent below the borough average (2 per cent in 2002).

92 Pyrford ward currently elects two councillors, and the number of electors represented by each councillor is 9 per cent above the borough average (unchanged in 2002). West Byfleet ward is also represented by two councillors, with each councillor representing 3 per cent fewer electors than the average in both 1997 and 2002.

93 At Stage One, to improve the respective under- and over- representation in these two wards, the Borough Council proposed a minor adjustment to their common boundary, which would "not affect community identity". The Council proposed to transfer properties in and around Thorley Close and Dane Court from Pyrford to West Byfleet ward. In addition, a minor change was also proposed to the western boundary of Pyrford ward to transfer the Maybury School caretaker's house to the new Maybury & Sheerwater ward (so that it would be in the same ward as the school). The Council's electorate figures also included the transfer of three houses (which only have access to Old Avenue) from the existing Sheerwater ward to the modified West Byfleet ward.

94 Mr Goldenberg proposed that the Old Avenue area and the Golf Course should be transferred from West Byfleet ward to Pyrford ward. He also proposed some minor adjustments between Pyrford ward and his proposed Mount Hermon East & Maybury ward.

95 Although Mr Goldenberg's proposals for this particular area would result in better electoral equality, we had to consider them in the context of our proposals as a whole. Overall, we concluded that the Borough Council's proposals would provide a better balance of the need for electoral equality and have regard to the statutory criteria. We therefore consulted on the Council's proposals for both wards, as the changes proposed are minimal and would continue to reflect well-established communities. Under our draft recommendations the number of electors per councillor would be 6 per cent above the borough average in both Pyrford and West Byfleet

wards (6 per cent above and 7 per cent above respectively in 2002).

96 In response to our consultation report the Borough Council proposed that the map should show the proposed transfer of Hurst Way and Golf Close from West Byfleet to Pyrford ward in order to be in line with the electorate figures in Figure 5 of the draft recommendations report, and to reflect local practice which has been in place for over 20 years. No other representations were received and we are content to include this minor modification as part of our final recommendations, which would not affect the electoral variances.

97 No comments were received on Byfleet ward (and parish). In view of the good electoral equality found in the ward, we confirm our draft recommendation for no change as final.

## Electoral Cycle

98 In the initial stage of the review, we did not receive any proposals for change to the Borough Council's electoral cycle. In our draft recommendations report, therefore, we proposed that the present system of elections by thirds in Woking be retained. At Stage Three no comments were received to the contrary and we confirm our draft recommendation as final.

## Conclusions

99 Having considered carefully all the representations and evidence received in response to our consultation report, we have decided to confirm our draft recommendations, subject to a minor modification which would transfer Hurst Way and Golf Close from West Byfleet to Pyrford ward, as illustrated on the large map. Electoral variances would not be affected.

100 We have concluded that, in Woking:

- (a) there should be an increase in council size from 35 to 36;
- (b) there should be 17 wards, one more than at present;
- (c) the boundaries of 15 of the existing wards should be modified;
- (d) elections should continue to be held by thirds.

101 Figure 3 shows the impact of our final

recommendations on electoral equality, comparing them with the current arrangements, based on 1997 and 2002 electorate figures.

<sup>102</sup> As Figure 3 shows, our recommendations would result in a reduction in the number of wards with an electoral variance of more than 10 per cent from eight to one, with no ward varying by more than 10 per cent from the average in 2002. We conclude that our recommendations would best meet the need for electoral equality, having regard to the statutory criteria.

### Final Recommendation

Woking Borough Council should comprise 36 councillors serving 17 wards, as detailed and named in Figures 1 and 4, and illustrated on Map 2 and the large map at the back of the report. The Council should continue to hold elections by thirds.

<sup>103</sup> During both Stages One and Three, no

comments were received on the electoral arrangements for Byfleet parish and we are not proposing any change. Neither are we recommending change to the electoral cycle of Byfleet Parish Council.

### Final Recommendation

Elections for the parish council should continue to be held at the same time as elections for the principal authorities.

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

	1997 electorate		2002 forecast electorate	
	Current arrangements	Final recommendations	Current arrangements	Final recommendations
Number of councillors	35	36	35	36
Number of wards	16	17	16	17
Average number of electors per councillor	1,928	1,874	1,960	1,905
Number of wards with a variance more than 10 per cent from the average	8	1	7	0
Number of wards with a variance more than 20 per cent from the average	6	0	6	0

Map 2:  
*The Commission's Final Recommendations for Woking*

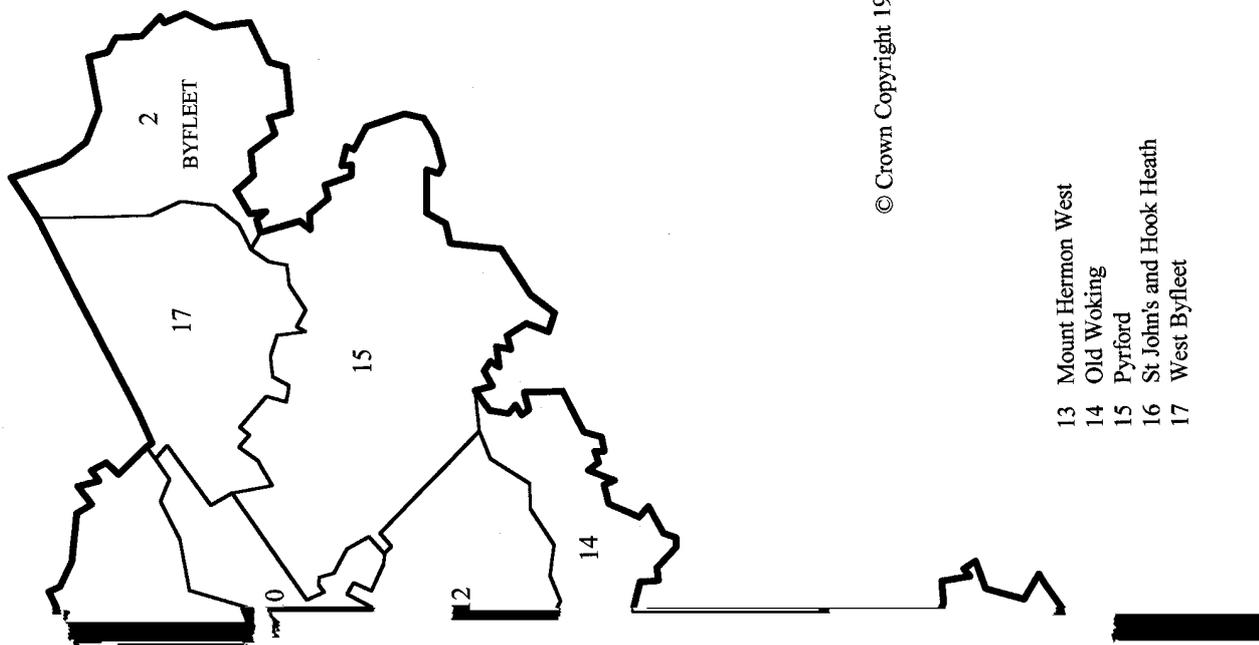


Figure 4:  
The Commission's Final Recommendations for Woking

Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (1997)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2002)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
1 Brookwood	1	1,601	1,601	-15	1,823	1,823	-4
2 Byfleet	3	5,575	1,858	-1	5,601	1,867	-2
3 Goldsworth East	3	5,406	1,802	-4	5,486	1,829	-4
4 Goldsworth West	2	3,813	1,907	2	3,813	1,907	0
5 Hermitage & Knaphill South	2	4,043	2,022	8	4,043	2,022	6
6 Horsell East & Woodham	2	3,410	1,705	-9	3,574	1,787	-6
7 Horsell West	3	5,329	1,776	-5	5,347	1,782	-6
8 Kingfield & Westfield	2	3,969	1,985	6	4,023	2,012	6
9 Knaphill	3	5,685	1,895	1	5,913	1,971	3
10 Maybury & Sheerwater	3	5,997	1,999	7	6,011	2,004	5
11 Mayford & Sutton Green	1	1,972	1,972	5	1,972	1,972	4
12 Mount Hermon East	2	3,630	1,815	-3	3,678	1,839	-3
13 Mount Hermon West	2	3,678	1,839	-2	3,756	1,878	-1
14 Old Woking	1	1,896	1,896	1	1,908	1,908	0
15 Pyrford	2	3,985	1,993	6	4,045	2,023	6
16 St John's & Hook Heath	2	3,522	1,761	-6	3,532	1,766	-7
17 West Byfleet	2	3,957	1,979	6	4,061	2,031	7
<b>Totals</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>67,468</b>	—	—	<b>68,586</b>	—	—
<b>Averages</b>	—	—	<b>1,874</b>	—	—	<b>1,905</b>	—

Source: Electorate figures are based on Woking 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.

## 6. NEXT STEPS

104 Having completed our review of electoral arrangements for Woking and submitted our final recommendations to the Secretary of State, we have fulfilled our statutory obligation under the Local Government Act 1992.

105 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.

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

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



# APPENDIX A

## Final Recommendations for Woking: Detailed Mapping

The **large map** inserted in the back of the report illustrates the proposed warding arrangements for the borough of Woking.





