

LOCAL
GOVERNMENT
COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND

FINAL
RECOMMENDATIONS
ON THE FUTURE
ELECTORAL
ARRANGEMENTS FOR
EALING

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

June 1999

LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND

This report sets out the Commission's final recommendations on the electoral arrangements for Ealing.

Members of the Commission are:

Professor Malcolm Grant (Chairman)

Professor Michael Clarke (Deputy Chairman)

Peter Brokenshire

Pamela Gordon

Robin Gray

Robert Hughes CBE

Barbara Stephens (Chief Executive)

© Crown Copyright 1999

Applications for reproduction should be made to: Her Majesty's Stationery Office Copyright Unit.

The mapping in this report is reproduced from OS mapping by The Local Government Commission for England with the permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office, © Crown Copyright. Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown Copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings. Licence Number: GD 03114G.

This report is printed on recycled paper. 

CONTENTS

	page
LETTER TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE	<i>v</i>
SUMMARY	<i>vii</i>
1 INTRODUCTION	<i>1</i>
2 CURRENT ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS	<i>3</i>
3 DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS	<i>7</i>
4 RESPONSES TO CONSULTATION	<i>9</i>
5 ANALYSIS AND FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS	<i>11</i>
6 NEXT STEPS	<i>31</i>
 APPENDIX	
A Draft Recommendations for Ealing (January 1999)	<i>33</i>

A large map illustrating the proposed ward boundaries for Ealing is inserted inside the back cover of the report.



Local Government Commission for England

22 June 1999

Dear Secretary of State

On 23 June 1998 the Commission began a periodic electoral review of Ealing under the Local Government Act 1992. We published our draft recommendations in January 1999 and undertook an eight-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 minor modifications have been made to ward boundaries and names (see paragraphs 157-158) in the light of further evidence. This report sets out our final recommendations for changes to electoral arrangements in Ealing.

We recommend that Ealing Borough Council should be served by 69 councillors representing 23 wards, and that changes should be made to ward boundaries in order to improve electoral equality, having regard to the statutory criteria.

We 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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Malcolm Grant'.

PROFESSOR MALCOLM GRANT
Chairman

SUMMARY

The Commission began a review of Ealing on 23 June 1998. We published our draft recommendations for electoral arrangements on 26 January 1999, after which we undertook an eight-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 Ealing:

- **in five of the 25 wards the number of electors represented by each councillor varies by more than 10 per cent from the average for the borough;**
- **by 2003 electoral equality is expected to show no overall improvement, with the number of electors per councillor forecast to vary by more than 10 per cent from the average in four wards, and by more than 20 per cent in one ward, Dormers Wells.**

Our main final recommendations for future electoral arrangements (Figures 1 and 2 and paragraphs 157-158) are that:

- **Ealing Borough Council should be served by 69 councillors, compared to 71 at present;**
- **there should be 23 wards, two fewer than at present, which would involve changes to the boundaries of all of the existing wards.**

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

- **In 22 of the 23 wards the number of electors per councillor would vary by no more than 7 per cent from the borough average, with Norwood Green ward varying by 12 per cent.**

- **This level of electoral equality is forecast to improve further, with the number of electors per councillor in all wards expected to vary by no more than 3 per cent from the average for the borough in 2003.**

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 2 August 1999:

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

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

Ward name	Number of councillors	Constituent areas (existing wards)
1 Acton Central	3	Springfield ward (part); Heathfield ward (part); Victoria ward (part)
2 Cleveland	3	Argyle ward (part); Hobbayne ward (part); Pitshanger ward (part)
3 Dormers Wells	3	Dormers Wells ward (part); Hobbayne ward (part); Mount Pleasant ward (part); Waxlow ward (part)
4 Ealing Broadway	3	Argyle ward (part); Ealing Common ward (part); Hanger Lane ward (part); Pitshanger ward (part); Walpole ward (part)
5 Ealing Common	3	Ealing Common ward (part); Hanger Lane ward (part)
6 East Acton	3	Hanger Lane ward (part); Springfield ward (part); Vale ward (part); Victoria ward (part)
7 Elthorne	3	Elthorne ward; Dormers Wells ward (part)
8 Greenford Broadway	3	Ravenor ward (part); Costons ward (part); Waxlow ward (part); West End ward (part)
9 Greenford Green	3	Costons ward (part); Ravenor ward (part); Wood End ward (part)
10 Hanger Hill	3	Hanger Lane ward (part); Pitshanger ward (part)
11 Hobbayne	3	Hobbayne ward (part); Argyle ward (part); Dormers Wells ward (part)
12 Lady Margaret	3	Mount Pleasant ward (part); Waxlow ward (part)
13 Northfield	3	Northfield ward (part)
14 North Greenford	3	Horsenden ward (part); Wood End ward (part)
15 Northolt Mandeville	3	Mandeville ward (part); Wood End ward (part)
16 Northolt West End	3	West End ward (part); Ravenor ward (part)
17 Norwood Green	3	Dormers Wells ward (part); Glebe ward (part)
18 Perivale	3	Perivale ward; Argyle ward (part); Costons ward (part); Horsenden ward (part)
19 South Acton	3	Heathfield ward (part); Springfield ward (part)
20 Southall Broadway	3	Northcote ward; Mount Pleasant ward (part)
21 Southall Green	3	Glebe ward (part); Dormers Wells ward (part)

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

	Ward name	Number of councillors	Constituent areas (existing wards)
22	Southfield	3	Southfield ward; Vale ward (part)
23	Walpole	3	Walpole ward (part); Northfield ward (part)

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

*Figure 2:
The Commission's Final Recommendations for Ealing*

Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (1998)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2003)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
1 Acton Central	3	9,118	3,039	0	9,024	3,008	-2
2 Cleveland	3	9,445	3,148	3	9,385	3,128	1
3 Dormers Wells	3	8,644	2,881	-6	8,981	2,994	-3
4 Ealing Broadway	3	9,549	3,183	4	9,385	3,128	1
5 Ealing Common	3	9,413	3,138	3	9,307	3,102	1
6 East Acton	3	9,354	3,118	2	9,306	3,102	1
7 Elthorne	3	9,208	3,069	0	9,028	3,009	-2
8 Greenford Broadway	3	9,333	3,111	2	9,389	3,130	2
9 Greenford Green	3	9,091	3,030	-1	9,092	3,031	-2
10 Hanger Hill	3	9,551	3,184	4	9,290	3,097	0
11 Hobbayne	3	9,303	3,101	2	9,379	3,126	1
12 Lady Margaret	3	9,160	3,053	0	9,386	3,129	1
13 Northfield	3	9,452	3,151	3	9,166	3,055	-1
14 North Greenford	3	9,277	3,092	1	9,277	3,092	0
15 Northolt Mandeville	3	9,071	3,024	-1	9,045	3,015	-2
16 Northolt West End	3	9,288	3,096	1	9,281	3,094	0
17 Norwood Green	3	8,020	2,673	-12	9,374	3,125	1
18 Perivale	3	9,389	3,130	2	9,406	3,135	2
19 South Acton	3	8,996	2,999	-2	9,019	3,006	-2
20 Southall Broadway	3	8,908	2,969	-3	9,353	3,118	1
21 Southall Green	3	8,533	2,844	-7	9,261	3,087	0
22 Southfield	3	9,347	3,116	2	9,349	3,116	1

Figure 2 (continued):
The Commission's Final Recommendations for Ealing

Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (1998)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2003)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
23 Walpole	3	9,303	3,101	2	9,225	3,075	0
Totals	69	210,753	—	—	212,708	—	—
Averages	—	—	3,054	—	—	3,083	—

Source: Electorate figures are based on Ealing Borough Council's submissions.

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

1. INTRODUCTION

1 This report contains our final recommendations on the electoral arrangements for the London borough of Ealing.

2 In broad terms, the objective of this periodic electoral review (PER) of Ealing is to ensure that the number of electors represented by each councillor on the Borough Council is as nearly as possible the same, taking into account local circumstances. We are required to make recommendations to the Secretary of State on the number of councillors who should serve on the Borough Council, and the number, boundaries and names of wards.

3 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.

4 We have also had regard to our *Guidance and Procedural Advice for Local Authorities and Other Interested Parties* (second edition published in March 1998), which sets out our approach to the reviews. We are not required to have regard to parliamentary constituency boundaries in developing our recommendations. Any new ward boundaries will be taken into account by the Parliamentary Boundary Commission in its reviews of parliamentary constituencies.

5 The broad objective of PERs is to achieve, so far as practicable, equality of representation across the borough as a whole. Wherever possible we try to build on schemes which have been prepared locally on the basis of careful and effective consultation. Local interests are normally in a better position to judge what council size and ward configuration are most likely to secure effective and convenient local government in their areas, while allowing proper reflection of the identities and interests of local communities.

6 We are not prescriptive on council size but, as indicated in our *Guidance*, would expect the overall number of members on a London borough council usually to be between 40 and 80. We start from the general assumption that the existing council size already secures effective and convenient local government in that borough but we are willing to look carefully at arguments why this might not be so. However, we have found it necessary to safeguard against an upward drift in the number of councillors, and we believe that any proposal for an increase in council size will need to be fully justified: in particular, we do not accept that an increase in a borough's electorate should automatically result in an increase in the number of councillors, nor that changes should be made to the size of a borough council simply to make it more consistent with the size of other boroughs.

The London Boroughs

7 Our programme of periodic electoral reviews of all 386 local authorities in England started in 1996 and is currently expected to be completed by 2004. The 1992 Act requires us to review most local authorities every 10 to 15 years. However, the Act is silent on the timing of the first London borough reviews by the Commission. The Commission has no power to review the electoral arrangements of the City of London.

8 Most London boroughs have not been reviewed since 1977. Following discussions with local authority interests on the appropriate timing of London borough reviews, we decided to start as soon as possible after the May 1998 London local government elections so that all reviews could be completed, and the necessary orders implementing our recommendations made by the Secretary of State, in time for the next London elections scheduled for May 2002. Our reviews of the 32 London boroughs started on a phased basis between June 1998 and February 1999.

9 We have sought to ensure that all concerned were aware of our approach to the reviews. Copies of our *Guidance* were sent to all London boroughs, along with other major interests. In March 1998 we briefed chief executives at a meeting of the London branch of the Society of Local Authority Chief Executives, and we also met with the Association of London Government. Since then we welcomed opportunities to meet with chief officers and, on an all-party basis, members in the majority of individual authorities. This has enabled us to brief authorities about our policies and procedures, our objective of electoral equality having regard to local circumstances, and the approach taken by the Commission in previous reviews.

10 Before we started our work in London, the Government published for consultation a Green Paper, *Modernising Local Government – Local Democracy and Community Leadership* (February 1998) which, inter alia, promoted the possibility of London boroughs having annual elections with three-member wards so that one councillor in each ward would stand for election each year. In view of this, we decided that the order in which the London reviews are undertaken should be determined by the proportion of three-member wards in each borough under the current arrangements. On this basis, Ealing was in the first phase of reviews.

11 The Government's subsequent White Paper, *Modern Local Government – In Touch with the People*, published in July 1998, set out legislative proposals for local authority electoral arrangements. For all unitary councils, including London boroughs, it proposed elections by thirds. It also refers to local accountability being maximised where the whole electorate in a council's area is involved in elections each time they take place, thereby pointing to a pattern of three-member wards in London boroughs to reflect a system of elections by thirds.

12 Following publication of the White Paper, we advised all authorities in our 1998/99 PER programme, including the London boroughs, that until any direction is received from the Secretary of State, the Commission would continue to maintain the approach to PERs as set out in the March 1998 *Guidance*. Nevertheless, we added that local authorities and other interested parties would no doubt wish to have regard to the Secretary of State's intentions and legislative proposals in

formulating electoral schemes as part of PERs of their areas. Our general experience has been that proposals for three-member ward patterns have emerged from most areas in London.

13 Finally, it should be noted that there are no parishes in London, and in fact there is no legislative provision for the establishment of

London boroughs from the majority of the reviews (e

2. CURRENT ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS

17 The borough of Ealing is situated in the west of London covering approximately 5,550 hectares and has a population of around 275,000. There are several distinct local areas in the borough, including Acton, Ealing, Greenford, Hanwell, Northolt, Perivale and Southall. The borough contains significant areas of industry and commerce, including the industrial area at Park Royal and the major shopping centre in central Ealing and has around 770 hectares of parks and open spaces (*Municipal Year Book*). A significant amount of new development has been earmarked for the Glade Lane/Toplocks and Windmill Park developments in the south-west of the borough. The borough has good communication links, being served by the London Underground, and with good road links to the M4 and M40 motorways.

18 To compare levels of electoral inequality between wards, we calculated the extent to which the number of electors per councillor in each ward (the councillor:elector ratio) varies from the borough average in percentage terms. In the text which follows, this calculation may also be described using the shorthand term 'electoral variance'.

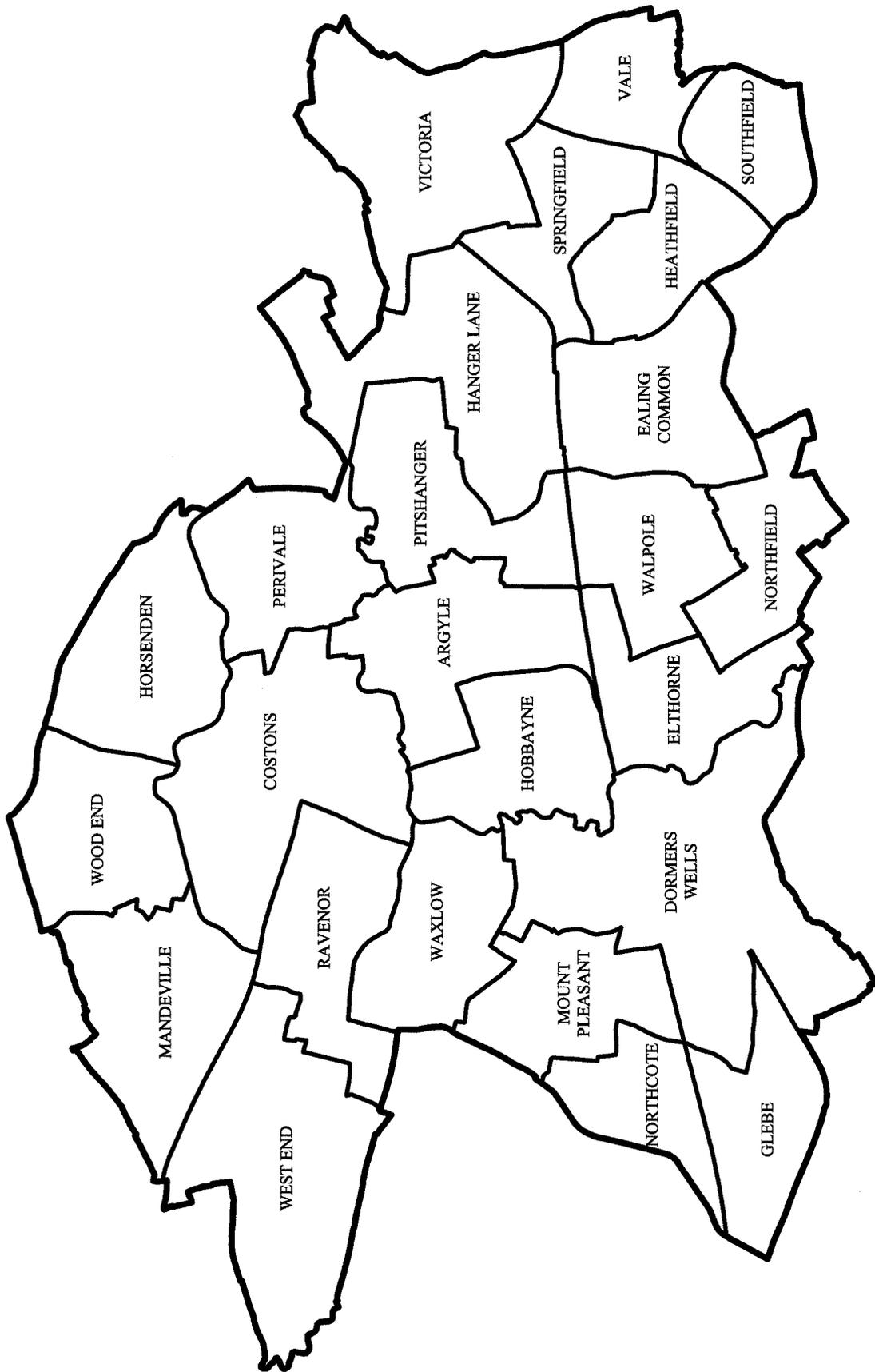
19 The electorate of the borough (February 1998) is 210,753. The Council currently has 71 councillors who are elected from 25 wards (Map 1 and Figure 3). Twenty-one wards are each represented by three councillors and four wards elect two councillors each. As in all London boroughs, the whole council is elected together every four years.

20 Since the last electoral review there has been a small increase in electorate in the borough, with around 2 per cent more electors than two decades ago.

21 At present, each councillor represents an average of 2,968 electors, which the Borough Council forecasts will increase to 2,996 by the year 2003 if the present number of councillors is

maintained. However, due to demographic and other changes over the past two decades, the number of electors per councillor in five of the 25 wards varies by more than 10 per cent from the borough average. The worst imbalance is in Vale ward where each of the two councillors represents on average 14 per cent fewer electors than the borough average.

Map 1:
Existing Wards in Ealing



© Crown Copyright 1999

Figure 3:
Existing Electoral Arrangements

Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (1998)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2003)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
1 Argyle	3	9,465	3,155	6	9,440	3,147	5
2 Costons	3	8,152	2,717	-8	8,120	2,707	-10
3 Dormers Wells	3	9,890	3,297	11	11,367	3,789	26
4 Ealing Common	3	10,031	3,344	13	9,925	3,308	10
5 Elthorne	3	9,208	3,069	3	9,028	3,009	0
6 Glebe	3	9,195	3,065	3	9,980	3,327	11
7 Hanger Lane	3	9,249	3,083	4	8,962	2,987	0
8 Heathfield	3	8,841	2,947	-1	8,871	2,957	-1
9 Hobbayne	3	8,178	2,726	-8	8,262	2,754	-8
10 Horsenden	2	5,665	2,833	-5	5,650	2,825	-6
11 Mandeville	3	7,848	2,616	-12	7,817	2,606	-13
12 Mount Pleasant	3	9,354	3,118	5	9,595	3,198	7
13 Northcote	3	8,018	2,673	-10	8,442	2,814	-6
14 Northfield	3	9,837	3,279	10	9,540	3,180	6
15 Perivale	2	6,092	3,046	3	6,120	3,060	2
16 Pitshanger	3	9,553	3,184	7	9,378	3,126	4
17 Ravenor	3	8,461	2,820	-5	8,480	2,827	-6
18 Southfield	3	8,397	2,799	-6	8,409	2,803	-6
19 Springfield	3	8,854	2,951	-1	8,754	2,918	-3
20 Vale	2	5,100	2,550	-14	5,048	2,524	-16
21 Victoria	2	5,623	2,812	-5	5,616	2,808	-6
22 Walpole	3	9,920	3,307	11	9,846	3,282	10
23 Waxlow	3	8,839	2,946	-1	9,050	3,017	1

continued overleaf

Figure 3 (continued):
Existing Electoral Arrangements

Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (1998)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2003)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
24 West End	3	8,783	2,928	-1	8,774	2,925	-2
25 Wood End	3	8,200	2,733	-8	8,234	2,745	-8
Totals	71	210,753	—	—	212,708	—	—
Averages	—	—	2,968	—	—	2,996	—

Source: Electorate figures are based on Ealing Borough Council's Stage One 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 1998, electors in Vale ward were relatively over-represented by 14 per cent, while electors in Ealing Common ward were relatively under-represented by 13 per cent. Figures have been rounded to the nearest whole number.

3. DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS

²² During Stage One we received only three representations – from the Borough Council, the Conservative Group on the Council and Mr Harris, a resident of the borough – all of whom submitted borough-wide schemes. 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 Ealing*.

²³ Our draft recommendations were based on both the Borough Council's and the Conservative Group's proposals which achieved improved electoral equality and provided good boundaries while having regard to the statutory criteria. In the west of the borough we adapted the nine wards proposed by the Council which were supported by the Conservative Group. In the east of the borough we broadly based our proposals on the Council's scheme. However, we moved away from the Council's scheme in four areas, affecting eight wards. We proposed that:

- (a) Ealing Borough Council should be served by 69 councillors;
- (b) there should be 23 wards, involving changes to the boundaries of all existing wards, with each new ward returning three councillors.

Draft Recommendation

Ealing Borough Council should comprise 69 councillors serving 23 wards.

²⁴ Our proposals would have resulted in significant improvements in electoral equality, with the number of electors per councillor in 22 of the 23 wards varying by no more than 7 per cent from the borough average. This level of electoral equality was forecast to improve further, with all wards expected to vary by no more than 3 per cent from the borough average in 2003.

4. RESPONSES TO CONSULTATION

25 During the consultation on our draft recommendations report, 38 representations were received. A list of respondents is available on request from the Commission. All representations may be inspected at the offices of Ealing Borough Council and the Commission.

Ealing Borough Council

26 In its Stage Three submission the Borough Council stated that “all three parties on the Council agreed to accept the Commission’s proposals, subject to [the Borough Council’s own] consultation, even where they differ from their preferred option”. The Council considered that the Commission, in its draft recommendations, had “broadly reflected the wide consensus of local opinions”. As a result of its own consultation, the Council proposed modifying the boundaries between the proposed Cleveland and Ealing Broadway wards, Hanger Hill and Heathfield wards, Lady Margaret and Ravenor wards and Northcote and Dormers Wells wards to improve electoral equality and provide more clearly defined boundaries, having regard to community identities.

27 The Borough Council proposed changes to 10 of the indicative ward names which it had put forward at Stage One.

Ealing Borough Council Conservative Group

28 The Conservative Group on the Borough Council stated that while it regretted that “the Commission did not accept the Conservative Group’s original proposals we will only comment on those points which we feel strongly need correcting”. Consequently, the Conservative Group supported the Council’s proposed modifications to the boundary between Cleveland and Ealing Broadway wards and Lady Margaret and Ravenor wards, but proposed that the area of land with no electors in the south-east of Hanger Hill ward should be included in Springfield ward and not Heathfield ward as proposed by the Council. In

addition it proposed modifying the boundary between Heathfield and Springfield wards to provide a better-defined boundary. The Conservative Group put forward new names for the majority of wards in the borough.

Other Representations

29 A further 36 representations were received in response to our draft recommendations, from five local political groups, two local residents’ associations, two councillors and 27 local residents.

30 Mr Harris, writing as the Honorary Secretary of Ealing North Liberal Democrats, made proposals for a borough-wide scheme which reflected in large part his own Stage One submission, which the Liberal Democrats stated would better reflect local communities than our draft recommendations. They considered that “far too much priority has been given to achieving a precise level of electoral equality above all other considerations”. Argyle & Pitshanger Liberal Democrats forwarded a petition signed by 72 local residents which opposed the proposed boundary between Cleveland and Hanger Hill wards, along Denison Road and Woodfield Road, stating that it would not reflect community identities locally. One local resident also made a representation generally opposing the proposed boundary in this area. Ealing North Liberal Democrats and Argyle & Pitshanger Liberal Democrats were also concerned that the proposal in this area would divide a ward between two parliamentary constituencies. However, in conducting PERs, the Commission is not required to have regard to constituency boundaries. Indeed the Boundary Commission will take into account any new ward boundaries when conducting its reviews of parliamentary constituencies.

31 Ealing, Acton & Shepherd’s Bush Conservative Association supported the Conservative Group’s proposed modifications to the boundaries between Hanger Hill and Springfield wards, and Heathfield and Springfield wards. It also made proposals for the names of wards which fall within its constituency. Ealing North Conservative Association

generally supported the proposed Ealing Broadway, Greenford Green, Hanger Hill, Hobbayne, Horsenden, Mandeville, Perivale, Ravenor and West End wards. It opposed the proposed boundary between Cleveland and Ealing Broadway wards, in the Drayton Road area, for community reasons. It proposed alternative names for a number of the wards within its constituency. Ealing Southall Conservative Association supported the ward names of Ealing Common, Northfield, Northfield, Walpole, Elthorne, Northcote, Glebe and Dormers Wells together with the draft recommendations for the remaining ward names in its constituency.

32 The Draytons Neighbourhood Watch, Councillor Gibb, member for Argyle ward, and three local residents opposed the proposal to divide The Draytons estate between the wards of Cleveland and Ealing Broadway as they said this would not reflect community identities locally. In addition, Councillor Gibb argued that the Copley Close estate should form part of Hobbayne ward and not Cleveland ward, as in our draft recommendations. Councillor Porter, member for Wood End ward, proposed boundary modifications to the three proposed wards of Greenford Green, Horsenden and Mandeville, which he considered would better reflect community identities. South Acton Residents' Action Group proposed that Springfield ward should be called Acton South.

33 Twenty-one residents of the borough generally supported our draft recommendations, but a number of them made alternative proposals relating to ward names. A further two residents only proposed different names for wards in the borough. One resident opposed the proposal for Southfield ward, preferring instead the existing boundaries, which he considered better reflected community identities. He stated that, if retaining the existing boundaries was not possible, a suitable alternative would be to adopt the Conservative Group's Stage One proposal for this area.

5. ANALYSIS AND FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS

34 As described earlier, our prime objective in considering the most appropriate electoral arrangements for Ealing is to achieve electoral equality. In doing so we have regard to the statutory criteria set out in the Local Government Act 1992 – the need to secure effective and convenient local government, and reflect the interests and identities of local communities – and Schedule 11 to the Local Government Act 1972, which refers to the number of electors being “as nearly as may be, the same in every ward of the district or borough”.

35 In relation to Schedule 11, 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. We must have regard to the desirability of fixing identifiable boundaries and to maintaining local ties which might otherwise be broken.

36 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.

37 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, the objective of electoral equality should be the starting point in any review. We therefore strongly recommend that, in formulating electoral schemes, local authorities and other interested parties should start from the standpoint of electoral equality, and then make adjustments to reflect relevant factors, such as community identity. Regard must also be had to five-year forecasts of changes in electorates. We will

require particular justification for schemes which result in, or retain, an electoral imbalance over 10 per cent in any ward. In reviews of predominantly urban areas such as the London boroughs, our experience suggests that we would expect to achieve a high degree of electoral equality in all wards.

Electorate Forecasts

38 At Stage One the Borough Council submitted electorate forecasts for the year 2003, projecting an increase in the electorate of around 1 per cent from 210,753 to 212,708 over the five-year period from 1998 to 2003. It expected most of the growth to be in Dormers Wells, Glebe and Northcote wards, while it forecast that Hanger Lane and Northfield wards would both experience a significant decline in electorate. The Council estimated rates and locations of housing development with regard to the unitary development plan for the borough, and the expected rate of building over the five-year period and assumed occupancy rates. Advice from the Borough Council on the likely effect on electorates of changes to ward boundaries was obtained.

39 In our draft recommendations report we accepted that forecasting electorate 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.

40 We received no comments on the Council's electorate forecasts during Stage Three, and remain satisfied that they represent the best estimates presently available. We note that the 1999 electoral register, which has become available during the course of the review, shows that the electorate in Dormers Wells has already increased by 444 out of a total forecast growth of 1,477 for the ward over the five-year period.

Council Size

41 We indicated in our *Guidance* that we would normally expect the number of councillors serving a London borough to be in the range of 40 to 80. As already explained, the Commission's starting point is to assume that the current council size facilitates convenient and effective local government.

42 Ealing Borough Council currently has 71 members. At Stage One the Borough Council and the Conservative Group on the Council both proposed a council of 69 members, a reduction of two. Mr Harris proposed an increase in council size from 71 to 72. The Borough Council and the Conservative Group had stated that a pattern of 23 three-member wards would facilitate a good electoral scheme, while allowing the River Brent to be used as a boundary for its entire length, with the exception of the Trumpers Lane industrial area which contains no electors. Such a boundary would permit the formation of 11 wards to the west of the river and 12 to the east, while achieving the achievement of good electoral equality. Mr Harris' proposals would have included a ward that straddled the river.

43 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 69 members.

44 At Stage Three the only alternative council size came from Ealing North Liberal Democrats who submitted a scheme reflecting the boundaries put forward by Mr Harris during Stage One, for 24 wards covering the borough which, if a pattern of three-member wards were adopted, would provide a council size of 72. However, all the other responses received commented on boundaries proposed under our draft recommendations which assumed a council size of 69. Therefore, in view of the general support for a council of 69 members, which would also provide a very good electoral scheme, we are confirming our draft recommendation for a council size of 69 as final.

Ward Names

45 In our draft recommendations report we decided to consult on the indicative ward names

which the Borough Council had provided at Stage One, giving details of alternative proposals where they were received, and invited further views during Stage Three.

46 At Stage Three many respondents commented on ward names, with the majority proposing alternative ward names across the borough. While there was some variety in the proposals for specific ward names, we noted that there was a significant degree of consensus in many areas of the borough. We have tried to reflect these views where such consensus existed. In particular we have sought to utilise ward names which include town or community names across the borough where this was generally supported. Where there has been a significant difference of views, we are generally proposing to retain existing ward names which are already locally recognised, and were included as part of our draft recommendations. The names of individual wards are detailed under the appropriate sections later in the chapter.

Electoral Arrangements

47 As set out in our draft recommendations report, we carefully considered the representations received at Stage One from the Borough Council, the Conservative Group on the Council and Mr Harris. We expressed gratitude for the positive approach taken by respondents, who had each submitted detailed borough-wide proposals for change to the present electoral arrangements. From these representations some considerations emerged which helped to inform us when preparing our draft recommendations.

48 In particular, there was a consensus among the majority of members of the Council for a small reduction in council size to 69, and respondents agreed on a pattern of entirely three-member wards. However, the Borough Council and the Conservative Group each proposed 23 wards while Mr Harris proposed 24 wards.

49 There was consensus between the two Stage One submissions based on 69 members – from the Borough Council and the Conservative Group – on the proposed boundaries of the nine wards in the west of the borough. There was also some broad agreement between these two schemes on the warding arrangements for the remainder of the borough. However, since Mr Harris' scheme was based on a different council size, and included a proposal for a ward which would straddle the River

Brent, his detailed boundaries were substantially different across the borough. In putting forward a council size of 69, it was not generally possible, therefore, to adopt Mr Harris' proposed boundaries.

50 We noted the arguments put to us about community identities in the borough. We tried to reflect such considerations in our draft recommendations where it was consistent with our objective of electoral equality, although we noted that there was no consensus locally on the precise boundaries of such communities.

51 Finally, all three borough-wide schemes provided improved electoral equality, although to varying degrees. Under the proposals of both the Borough Council and the Conservative Group, the number of wards where the electoral variance would be more than 10 per cent from the average for the borough reduced from five to one. By 2003, under the Council's scheme no ward varied by more than 5 per cent from the average for the borough, while under the Conservative Group's scheme no ward varied by more than 3 per cent from the average. Under Mr Harris' scheme, based on a different council size, which only included borough-wide figures for 2003, no ward varied by more than 10 per cent from the borough average.

52 In our draft recommendations we sought to build on both the Council's and the Conservative Group's proposals, based on a council size of 69, in order to put forward electoral arrangements which would achieve good electoral equality, having regard to the statutory criteria. Where it existed, we tried to reflect the consensus between the two schemes for warding arrangements in particular parts of the borough. This was most notable in the west of the borough. However, we made further modifications in order to put forward electoral arrangements which would achieve yet further improvements in electoral equality. Inevitably, we could not reflect the preferences of all respondents in our draft recommendations.

53 In view of the degree of consensus behind significant elements of the Council's proposals, we concluded that we should base our draft recommendations on the Council's scheme. The scheme provided much better electoral equality than the current arrangements and it used good boundaries. However, to improve electoral equality further, we proposed a number of boundary amendments.

54 At Stage Three we received a generally positive response to our draft recommendations. The Council and the Conservative Group each proposed a small number of amendments to the boundaries and ward names included in our draft recommendations, as did a number of other respondents. We received only one alternative borough-wide proposal at Stage Three, from Mr Harris, writing as Honorary Secretary of Ealing North Liberal Democrats, who again submitted proposals for a pattern of 24 wards covering the borough. As noted in our draft recommendations report, the proposal for a council size of 69 members serving 23 three-member wards precluded us from adopting Mr Harris' (or Ealing North Liberal Democrats') proposed boundaries. Furthermore, Ealing North Liberal Democrats considered that too much attention had been paid to the achievement of electoral equality in arriving at our draft recommendations. However, the prime objective of electoral reviews is to achieve the fairest balance of representation, and thus electoral equality, across the whole borough, having regard to the statutory criteria.

55 We have reviewed our draft recommendations in the light of further evidence and the representations received during Stage Three, and judge that the balance of opinion and evidence supports our draft recommendations. However, we also conclude that minor modifications should be made to a number of our proposed boundaries. The following areas, based on existing wards, are considered in turn:

- (a) Glebe and Northcote wards;
- (b) Dormers Wells, Mount Pleasant and Waxlow wards;
- (c) Horsenden, Mandeville, Ravenor, West End and Wood End wards;
- (d) Costons and Perivale wards;
- (e) Argyle, Hanger Lane, Hobbayne and Pitshanger wards;
- (f) Ealing Common, Elthorne, Northfield and Walpole wards;
- (g) Southfield, Vale and Victoria wards;
- (h) Heathfield and Springfield wards.

56 Details of our final recommendations are set out in Figures 1 and 2, and illustrated on the large map inside the back cover of the report.

Glebe and Northcote wards

57 The two wards of Glebe and Northcote are situated in the south-west of the borough and are currently served by three councillors each. The number of electors per councillor is 3 per cent above the borough average in Glebe ward (11 per cent in 2003), and 10 per cent below the average in Northcote ward (6 per cent in 2003).

58 In order to address the relative under-representation in Glebe ward, which is forecast to worsen, at Stage One the Borough Council proposed transferring the area east of Merrick Road from Glebe ward to a new Norwood Green ward (detailed later). It stated that this would reflect community identities in this area. The Council also proposed that the area south of the High Street and the Uxbridge Road, currently in Mount Pleasant ward, should form part of a modified Northcote ward in order to unite the "South Road shopping and entertainment area" in one ward, while improving electoral equality in Northcote ward. The Conservative Group accepted the Council's proposals for this area. Under the Council's Stage One scheme the number of electors per councillor was 7 per cent below the borough average in Glebe ward and 4 per cent below the average in Northcote ward, figures which were forecast to improve further by 2003 when both wards would achieve electoral equality.

59 Furthermore, the Council supported the retention of Glebe as the indicative name for the ward but stated that other alternatives could include Southall Green, Old Southall and South Southall. It stated that it had considered alternative names for the modified Northcote ward, including Southall Broadway, Southall Central, Southall Hambrough and Southall Town, but proposed retaining Northcote as the indicative name for the ward.

60 In our draft recommendations report, in view of the consensus on the proposed wards of Glebe and Northcote, the good electoral equality which would be achieved, based on a council size of 69, and the clear boundaries, we adopted the Council's proposals as part of our draft recommendations, subject to two minor amendments. First, following advice from Ordnance Survey, we recommended an incidental modification to the boundary of Glebe ward in the area of the Grand Union Canal which affected no electors but provided a clearer

boundary. Second, we noted that the mapping which accompanied the Council's submission showed the inclusion of properties on the north of Spike's Bridge Road in Northcote ward, although its electorate figures did not. This additional transfer involved some 68 electors and we put it forward as part of our draft recommendations, under which the number of electors per councillor in Northcote ward would be 3 per cent below the average (1 per cent above in 2003).

61 At Stage Three the Council proposed a minor amendment to the boundary of Northcote ward to include that part of the northern side of The Broadway which lies between Lady Margaret Road and Northcote Avenue, which would unite both sides of The Broadway in Northcote ward. This would transfer seven electors from the proposed Dormers Wells ward to the proposed Northcote ward and would have a negligible effect on electoral equality in the two wards concerned.

62 With regard to the issue of ward names in this area, the Council proposed that Glebe ward should be renamed Southall Green, and Northcote ward should be renamed Southall Broadway as it considered the new names to be well recognised locally. The Conservative Group supported the proposed changes to the names of these two wards, although it considered that Southall Green could also be called South Southall. Ealing Southall Conservative Association supported the names of Glebe and Northcote for the two wards concerned.

63 Having considered the representations which we have received at Stage Three, together with the identities of the areas concerned, we are confirming our draft recommendations as final, subject to adopting the Council's minor amendment to the boundary between Dormers Wells ward and Northcote ward, and to renaming Glebe ward as Southall Green and renaming Northcote ward as Southall Broadway, as we judge that the two new ward names would better reflect the areas which each ward covers and would be recognisable to the local populace.

Dormers Wells, Mount Pleasant and Waxlow wards

64 In the south-west of the borough, Dormers Wells ward is served by three councillors who each represent 11 per cent more electors than the average for the borough. As a result of the

significant new development earmarked for the ward, particularly in the Glade Lane/Toplocks and Windmill Park developments, the level of electoral inequality is expected to worsen by 2003, when each councillor is forecast to represent 26 per cent more electors than the average.

65 Mount Pleasant and Waxlow wards are situated generally to the west and north respectively of the existing Dormers Wells ward and each is represented by three councillors. The number of electors per councillor is 5 per cent above the borough average in Mount Pleasant ward (7 per cent above in 2003) and 1 per cent below in Waxlow ward (1 per cent above in 2003).

66 In order to address the electoral imbalance in Dormers Wells ward, which is expected to worsen over the five-year period to 2003, at Stage One the Borough Council put forward a modified three-member Dormers Wells ward comprising the northern part of the existing ward together with parts of Mount Pleasant and Waxlow wards, and a new three-member Norwood Green ward covering the southern part of the existing ward together with part of Glebe ward. The Council proposed that the boundary between Dormers Wells and Norwood Green wards should follow the Uxbridge Road in the west and, broadly, follow the railway line until it meets the River Brent.

67 The western boundary of the new Norwood Green ward was the same as that of the existing Dormers Wells ward, but modified to take in the area east of Merrick Road, currently in Glebe ward. The Council's proposed boundary between Norwood Green and Elthorne wards followed the River Brent and then the railway line, until it reaches the borough boundary in the south. The Council stated that while it proposed that the indicative name of the ward should be Norwood Green, other possible names included Havelock, Osterley, Southall Havelock, Three Bridges and Windmill Park.

68 Under the Council's scheme the area covered by the existing Mount Pleasant ward was divided between the three proposed wards of Dormers Wells, Lady Margaret and Northcote, while the existing Waxlow ward was divided between the three proposed wards of Dormers Wells, Lady Margaret and Ravenor.

69 The Council proposed that the boundary of its revised Dormers Wells ward with Northcote ward should extend along Uxbridge Road, the High Street and The Broadway and turn north to follow Northcote Avenue. The boundary between Dormers Wells ward and Lady Margaret ward would follow the rear of properties on the north side of Carlyle Avenue, as far as Lady Margaret Road, then to the south of Carlyle Avenue as far as North Road, continuing east along Burns Avenue, turning north to follow a footpath and Allenby Road, then generally east along Mansell Road and the northern boundary of Greenford Park Cemetery. The boundary would continue east to Greenford Road, turn south and then east again until it joined the River Brent which would form the eastern boundary of the new ward. The Council stated that it had considered other possible ward names including Greenford Park, Southall North East and Southall Golf Links in this area, but decided that Dormers Wells was the most appropriate.

70 Under the Council's Stage One proposals the number of electors per councillor was 5 per cent below the borough average in Dormers Wells ward (2 per cent below in 2003) and 12 per cent below the average in Norwood Green ward (1 per cent above in 2003). The Conservative Group accepted the Council's proposals for the wards of Dormers Wells and Norwood Green.

71 In our draft recommendations report, in view of the agreement between the proposals from the Council and the Conservative Group for this area, and the good electoral equality which would be achieved, we adopted the proposals for Dormers Wells and Norwood Green wards, subject to three minor amendments. First, following advice from Ordnance Survey, we proposed modifying the south-eastern boundary of Dormers Wells ward to follow the railway line itself, which would not affect any electors. Second, we proposed clarifying the boundary between Dormers Wells and Lady Margaret wards so that it would follow the centre of Carlyle Avenue rather than deviating from the north side to the south side. Third, we noted that the mapping provided by the Council proposed including an area on the north of Spikes Bridge Road in Northcote ward, a transfer which would involve some 68 electors, and we modified our figures accordingly.

72 Under our draft recommendations the number of electors per councillor would be 6 per cent below the average in Dormers Wells ward (3 per cent below in 2003) and 12 per cent below the average in Norwood Green ward (1 per cent above in 2003). We noted that although a degree of electoral inequality would persist in Norwood Green on 1998 electoral figures, the growth forecast at the Glade Lane/Toplocks and Windmill Park developments would result in a considerable improvement in electoral equality over the five-year period.

73 At Stage Three the Conservative Group suggested that Norwood Green ward could also be renamed Three Bridges which it considered would better reflect the area covered by the ward as a whole. We received no other proposals to modify the ward names of Dormers Wells or Norwood Green. We received only one proposal to amend the ward boundary in this area, between Dormers Wells and Northcote wards, around The Broadway, affecting seven electors, as detailed earlier.

74 As noted above, under the Council's scheme submitted at Stage One the remainder of the existing Mount Pleasant ward together with part of Waxlow ward would form a new Lady Margaret ward. In addition to the proposed boundary with Dormers Wells ward described above, the southern boundary of Lady Margaret ward with Northcote ward would run to the north of properties on Spike's Bridge Road as far as the borough boundary. Its northern boundary would include the properties on Hillside Road, Enmore Road, Towers Road, Avon Road, Garrick Road, Ellesmere Road and Portland Crescent in the new Lady Margaret ward, with the area to the north and east forming part of Ravenor ward. The Council stated that the new Lady Margaret ward would include "the communities on both sides of Lady Margaret Road, and most of that around Mansell and Mornington Roads".

75 Under the Council's Stage One scheme the number of electors per councillor in the new Lady Margaret ward would be equal to the borough average (1 per cent above the average in 2003). At Stage One the Conservative Group accepted the Council's proposals for this ward.

76 In its Stage One submission the Council proposed that the indicative name of this ward should be Lady Margaret. It did not consider the name Waxlow to be appropriate, but suggested Southall North and Southall North-West as other alternatives.

77 In view of the excellent electoral equality achieved in this area, we put forward the proposed Lady Margaret ward as part of our draft recommendations, subject to the modification to its southern boundary along Carlyle Avenue detailed earlier. Under our draft recommendations the number of electors per councillor would be equal to the average in Lady Margaret ward (1 per cent above in 2003).

78 At Stage Three the Council and the Conservative Group proposed amending the boundary between Lady Margaret and Ravenor wards in the area around Portland Crescent and Ellesmere Road, so that part of Greenford Park with no electors would fall within Ravenor ward, which would better reflect existing routes of access. Both the Council and the Conservative Group proposed Lady Margaret as the name for this ward.

79 We have considered the representations received during the consultation period and we remain of the view that, subject to the minor modification to the boundary between Dormers Wells and Northcote wards (affecting seven electors on The Broadway) and between Lady Margaret and Ravenor wards (affecting no electors), our draft recommendations for the three wards in this area would provide the best electoral equality taking into account the forecast growth, notably in Norwood Green ward, and build on the existing ward pattern, having regard to well-defined boundaries and communities. We therefore confirm our draft recommendations for Dormers Wells, Lady Margaret and Norwood Green wards as final subject to the two boundary modifications which we are content to adopt. With regard to ward names, we note the general support for the names included in our draft recommendations and are content to confirm these names as final.

Horsenden, Mandeville, Ravenor, West End and Wood End wards

80 These five wards are situated in the north and west of the borough and each is represented by

three councillors, except Horsenden which is a two-member ward. The number of electors per councillor in Horsenden ward is 5 per cent below the borough average (6 per cent in 2003), 12 per cent below in Mandeville ward (13 per cent in 2003), 5 per cent below in Ravenor ward (6 per cent in 2003), 1 per cent below in West End ward (2 per cent in 2003) and 8 per cent below in Wood End ward (unchanged in 2003).

81 At Stage One, in addition to its proposed boundary with the new Lady Margaret ward, the Borough Council proposed making further modifications to Ravenor ward so that "Greenford Town Centre will be united in the new Ravenor". The proposed ward would comprise the majority of the existing Ravenor ward, that part of Waxlow ward generally to the north and east of the boundary of the proposed Lady Margaret ward (described above), that part of Costons ward which lies generally to the west of Perivale Park, together with those roads in the Hazelmere Road area of West End ward which can only be accessed from Kensington Road. The Council argued that its proposals utilised natural boundaries and assisted work relating to the regeneration of Greenford town centre. It proposed Ravenor as the indicative name for this ward although alternatives could include Greenford Broadway, Greenford Town and Ruislip Road.

82 In addition to the transfer between Ravenor and West End wards, detailed earlier, the Council proposed a further change to the boundary between the two wards. It proposed transferring that part of Ravenor ward which lies to the west of Broadmead Road to West End ward, arguing that this would rationalise the boundary. The Council's indicative name for this ward was West End although another suggestion was Northolt West End. The number of electors per councillor would be 2 per cent above the borough average in Ravenor ward both now and in 2003, and 1 per cent above the average in West End ward (equal to the average in 2003). In its Stage One submission the Conservative Group accepted the Council's proposal for these two wards.

83 In view of the good electoral equality achieved under the proposals, both in these two wards and in neighbouring wards, and the consensus between the Council and the Conservative Group, we consulted on these proposals as our draft recommendations.

84 At Stage Three, with the exception of the Council's proposal to amend the boundary between Lady Margaret and Ravenor wards, detailed earlier, we received only one other proposal relating to ward boundaries in this area, from Ealing North Liberal Democrats which submitted substantially different warding arrangements. Ealing North Conservative Association supported our draft recommendations for West End and Ravenor wards, while three residents supported the proposals for Ravenor ward.

85 With regard to ward names the Council proposed that Ravenor ward should be renamed Greenford Broadway, while West End ward should be renamed Northolt West End. The Conservative Group and Ealing North Conservative Association supported the Council's alternative ward names, although each considered that West End ward could also be renamed South Northolt. Ealing North Conservative Association also proposed that Ravenor could be renamed Greenford Town while West End ward could be renamed Northolt South. One resident supported the proposal that Ravenor ward should be renamed Greenford Broadway.

86 We have carefully considered the further representations received during Stage Three. We note the general support of respondents for the draft recommendations for this area, and are including them as part of our final recommendations, subject to the modification to the boundary between Lady Margaret and Ravenor wards (detailed above) which would not affect any electors. With regard to the ward names of Ravenor and West End, we have considered the views received, together with the nature of the areas covered, and are content to recommend the names of Greenford Broadway and Northolt West End respectively.

87 In its Stage One submission the Council recognised the relative over-representation which exists in Mandeville ward. The borough boundary forms the north and west boundaries of the existing ward, therefore these are fixed, and the Council considered that the clarity of the southern boundary along the A40 necessitated an amendment to the ward's eastern boundary. Consequently, it proposed including an area which lies generally to the west of Girton Close, Girton Road and Newnham Gardens and to the south of Whitton Avenue West, currently in Wood End ward. It proposed that Mandeville should be

retained as the indicative name for this ward but put forward other possible names of Northolt Central, Northolt Manor, Northolt Park and Northolt Town.

88 Under the current arrangements the two-member Horsenden ward and three-member Wood End ward are both relatively over-represented. In order to create three-member wards in this area with good electoral equality, the Council proposed that the existing Horsenden ward should be expanded westwards to include that part of Wood End ward which lies to the north of part of Whitton Avenue West, and that the majority of the remainder of Wood End ward form part of a new Greenford Green ward (detailed below). While the Council proposed Horsenden as the indicative name for this ward, it stated that North Greenford was “the most credible alternative”, and added that other possible names for this ward included Sudbury Hill and Wood End. The Conservative Group accepted the Council’s proposals for Horsenden and Mandeville wards.

89 In view of the good levels of electoral equality and clearly identifiable boundaries which resulted from the Council’s proposals for this area, we consulted on them. However, advice from Ordnance Survey led us to make a minor alteration to the boundary of Horsenden ward with Perivale ward east of Sudbury Golf Course, which would affect no electors. We consulted on the existing ward names. Under our draft recommendations the number of electors per councillor would be 1 per cent above the borough average in Horsenden ward (equal to the average in 2003) and 1 per cent below the average in Mandeville ward (2 per cent in 2003).

90 At Stage Three the Council and Ealing North Conservative Association supported our draft recommendations for the boundaries of Horsenden and Mandeville wards. Two residents of the area also supported the proposed Mandeville ward, while another resident supported the proposed Horsenden ward. Councillor Porter, member for Wood End ward, proposed a new North Greenford ward comprising the existing Horsenden ward, together with parts of the existing Wood End ward on either side of Whitton Avenue West generally falling within the UB6 postal area. He considered that “the busy shopping areas of Greenford Road [would] form a very natural focus to this new ward configuration”. Councillor Porter proposed that

the remaining areas of the existing Wood End ward should be divided between the proposed Greenford Green and Mandeville wards. Under Councillor Porter’s proposals (which included 1998 figures only) the number of electors per councillor would be 1 per cent below the borough average in both Greenford Green and North Greenford wards, and 1 per cent above the average in Mandeville ward. This configuration of wards differed substantially from our draft recommendations.

91 The Council proposed that Mandeville ward should be renamed Northolt Mandeville, and Horsenden ward renamed North Greenford. The Conservative Group and Ealing North Conservative Association considered that Mandeville ward should be renamed either Northolt Mandeville or North Northolt, and proposed that the name of Horsenden ward could either be retained or changed to North Greenford. Ealing North Conservative Association proposed that Horsenden ward should continue to be known by that name while Mandeville ward should be renamed either Northolt Mandeville or Northolt South. A local resident proposed that Mandeville ward should be renamed Northolt Park.

92 We have given careful consideration to the comments received. While we recognise that Councillor Porter’s proposals would secure good electoral equality in 1998, we do not have any evidence of substantial local support for his proposals. Furthermore, we consider that our draft recommendations for this area would secure comparable levels of electoral equality, while enjoying some local support and utilising clearly identifiable boundaries. We do not consider that his proposals provide a better electoral solution and are not recommending any change to our proposed boundaries for these two wards. However, we received some differing views on ward names put forward, and having regard to the areas covered by the wards in question we have decided to recommend that Mandeville ward should be called Northolt Mandeville, and that Horsenden ward should be called North Greenford, as proposed by the Council.

Costons and Perivale wards

93 At present Costons ward is served by three councillors, each of whom represents 8 per cent fewer electors than the borough average (projected to worsen to 10 per cent by 2003), while Perivale ward is represented by two councillors, each of

whom represents 3 per cent more electors than the borough average (2 per cent in 2003).

94 At Stage One the Council proposed that a new three-member Greenford Green ward should be created in this area, comprising the majority of the existing Costons ward, together with the area of Wood End ward south of Whitton Avenue West and generally east of Lancaster Road, Gonville Crescent and Oriel Way, and that part of Ravenor ward east of Millett Road and north of Ravenor Park. The Council also proposed a new three-member Perivale ward, comprising the existing two-member Perivale ward, plus the area of Argyle ward north of the River Brent and the properties currently in Costons ward which lie to the east of the Greenford railway branch line and Perivale Wood. The Council stated that, while it had considered the transfer of properties in the Perivale Park area to Perivale ward in order to improve electoral equality in both Greenford Green and Perivale wards, it had discounted such an option as it would have less regard to community identity and would cross the strong boundary of the Greenford railway viaduct. Under the Council's scheme the number of electors per councillor in Greenford Green ward would be 6 per cent above the average for the borough (5 per cent in 2003) and 4 per cent below in Perivale ward (5 per cent in 2003). The Council proposed Greenford Green as the indicative ward name for the ward to the west, and stated that the only name which had been considered appropriate for the eastern ward was Perivale.

95 At Stage One the Conservative Group proposed an amendment to the Council's scheme in this area so that Anthony Road, Blenheim Close, David Avenue, Hicks Avenue and Leaver Gardens (comprising a total of 611 electors) would be transferred from the proposed Greenford Green ward to the proposed Perivale ward. The Group stated that this would improve electoral equality in the two wards concerned. Under the Conservative Group's scheme the number of electors per councillor would be 1 per cent below the borough average in Greenford Green ward (2 per cent in 2003) and 2 per cent above in Perivale ward both initially and in 2003.

96 In our draft recommendations report we recognised the good boundaries which would result, particularly in Perivale ward, under the Council's proposals. However, we noted that the Council considered that "the least worst area" for

an amendment to its scheme would be in the area of Hicks Avenue and Leaver Gardens, the area proposed for transfer by the Conservative Group. In view of the improved electoral equality that this modification would achieve, which would be in line with the high degree of electoral balance achieved elsewhere in the borough, we consulted on the Conservative Group's proposed boundary between these two wards. In calculating the precise electorates for the two wards concerned we identified slightly different electorates to those put forward by the Conservative Group, but this would not affect the overall electoral variances in the two wards.

97 At Stage Three the Council stated that the Labour and Liberal Democrat groups "regret the decision not to adopt the ... 'natural' boundaries for Perivale ward, but accept the Commission's judgement that electoral equality should be an overriding consideration of even very strong natural boundaries such as those recommended for Perivale". Consequently, the Council accepted the proposals for Greenford Green and Perivale wards. The Conservative Group and Ealing North Conservative Association supported the draft recommendations for the two wards concerned. Nine residents supported the proposals in this area.

98 In view of the level of support among respondents for the draft recommendations, we are confirming our proposals for Greenford Green and Perivale wards as final.

Argyle, Hanger Lane, Hobbayne and Pitshanger wards

99 These four three-member wards are situated in the centre of the borough, north of the Great Western mainline railway. The number of electors per councillor is 6 per cent above the borough average in Argyle ward (5 per cent in 2003), 4 per cent above in Hanger Lane ward (equal to the average in 2003), 8 per cent below in Hobbayne ward (unchanged in 2003) and 7 per cent above in Pitshanger ward (4 per cent in 2003).

100 The Borough Council and the Conservative Group both proposed modifications to the boundaries of all four wards, although they differed in detail. The Council proposed that the existing Hobbayne ward should be modified so that its eastern boundary would run to the west of properties on Copley Close, incorporating part of the existing Argyle ward north of Bordars Road.

The Council stated that this would unite the whole of the Cuckoo Estate in Hobbayne ward, a proposal which we understand was supported by the Cuckoo Estate Tenants' & Residents' Association, while uniting Copley Close Estate in the ward to the east.

101 The Council added that both the Labour and Liberal Democrat groups on the Council opposed any proposal to transfer the Churchfields/Golden Manor area of Hobbayne ward into Elthorne ward as it would breach existing community ties. The Council stated that Stephen Pound MP "strongly objected to any proposal to remove the Churchfields community from within the Hobbayne boundaries" for community reasons. The Council proposed retaining Hobbayne as the ward name, adding that the only obvious alternative would be North Hanwell.

102 The Conservative Group's Stage One submission included an alternative eastern boundary for Hobbayne ward which broadly followed the railway line, and included Cheyne Path and Copley Close in Hobbayne ward. The Group also proposed modifying the southern boundary of the ward so that an area around Church Road and Manor Court Road would be transferred to Elthorne ward. It proposed that Hobbayne ward should be renamed North Hanwell.

103 Having evaluated the views expressed for this area during Stage One, we commented that while both proposals would secure similar levels of electoral equality, we judged that the Council's proposals appeared to reflect existing community ties in Hobbayne and neighbouring wards and utilised clear boundaries. As the area which this ward would cover is substantially the same as that covered by the existing ward, we consulted on the existing name of Hobbayne. Under our draft recommendations the number of electors per councillor in Hobbayne ward would be 2 per cent above the average (1 per cent in 2003).

104 At Stage Three the Council and Ealing North Conservative Association supported our proposed boundaries for Hobbayne ward. Councillor Gibb, member for Argyle ward, opposed the draft recommendation to include Copley Close and Cheyne Path in Cleveland ward, instead arguing that they should form part of Hobbayne ward with which they share stronger communication links.

105 The Council proposed that Hobbayne ward should continue to be known by this name. The Conservative Group, Ealing North Conservative Association and a resident of the borough each proposed that this ward should be renamed North Hanwell.

106 We have given careful consideration to the views received relating to Hobbayne ward. While we note that the Copley Close and Cheyne Path area is directly connected to the remainder of Cleveland ward by pedestrian access alone, we also note that it may be indirectly accessed readily by road via Hobbayne ward. We have also calculated that to include the Copley Close and Cheyne Path area in Hobbayne ward would have a significant adverse effect on electoral equality in the two wards concerned. Furthermore, there was some local support for our proposal in this area. In view of these factors we are proposing to confirm our draft recommendation for Hobbayne ward as final. With regard to the ward name, we note that no clear agreement on ward names has emerged in this area, with proposals for the names Hobbayne and North Hanwell. We note that the ward in question would cover much of the same area as the existing ward and are recommending that the name Hobbayne should be retained.

107 At Stage One the Council and the Conservative Group both proposed a new Ealing Broadway ward covering the Ealing Broadway commercial area, made up of parts of the existing Argyle, Ealing Common, Hanger Lane, Pitshanger and Walpole wards, although they each submitted different boundaries. The Council proposed that the western boundary of Ealing Broadway ward should follow Drayton Green Road and Argyle Road; its northern boundary should run behind the properties on the southern side of Cleveland Road, then to the north of the Royal Ear, Nose and Throat Hospital, continuing south on Castlebar Road and east along Montpelier Road; its eastern boundary should run south along West Walk, then east of Haven Lane, Haven Green and, south of the railway line, Windsor Road as far as The Grove; and the southern boundary should follow The Grove and a small part of Mattock Lane, turning north to follow Barnes Pikle and west along Uxbridge Road. The Council stated that the only name it considered appropriate for this ward was Ealing Broadway.

108 The Conservative Group proposed an alternative boundary for Ealing Broadway ward which would run north along Argyle Road, turning east along St Stephens Avenue, north along Edgehill Road, turning east to follow Castlebar Hill and Montpelier Road, in a southerly direction to the east of Corfton Road and Westbury Road, extending southwards with the boundary lying to the south of The Grove and Mattock Lane, continuing north at Culmington Road and along St Leonards Road, and finally west to follow the railway line as far as Argyle Road.

109 The Council proposed that, in addition to its boundary modifications between Argyle ward and the revised wards of Ealing Broadway, Hobbayne and Perivale, the eastern boundary of Argyle ward should be amended to follow Denison Road, Woodfield Road and part of Eaton Rise, thereby transferring an area from Pitshanger ward to Argyle ward. It proposed that Cleveland should be the indicative name of this ward. Under the Council's Stage One scheme the remainder of Pitshanger ward would be combined with the major part of the existing Hanger Lane ward to form a new Hanger Hill ward. The number of electors per councillor would be 5 per cent above the borough average in Cleveland ward (3 per cent in 2003), 1 per cent below in Ealing Broadway ward (4 per cent in 2003) and 8 per cent above in Hanger Hill ward (4 per cent in 2003).

110 The Council had proposed that the indicative name of the revised Argyle ward should be Cleveland, reflecting "the central position of Cleveland Road and Cleveland Park in the new ward". It stated that other possible names for this ward were Argyle, Castlebar Park and North Ealing. It put forward the indicative name of Hanger Hill for the modified Hanger Lane ward, adding that alternatives such as Brentham, Hanger Lane and Montpelier did not reflect the ward as a whole.

111 The Conservative Group agreed with the Council's proposed eastern boundary between Cleveland and Hanger Hill wards. The Conservative Group's proposed Cleveland ward would cover a substantially similar area to the Council's, but with different boundaries with their proposed Ealing Broadway and North Hanwell wards, detailed earlier. Broadly, they agreed with the proposed Hanger Hill ward on the same

boundaries as the Council, subject to their proposals to include the Corfton Road and Westbury Road area in Ealing Broadway ward, and to retain the Ealing Village area in Hanger Hill ward. Under the Conservative Group's Stage One proposals the number of electors per councillor would be 1 per cent above the borough average in Cleveland ward (1 per cent below in 2003), 5 per cent above in Ealing Broadway ward (1 per cent above in 2003) and 2 per cent above in Hanger Hill ward (1 per cent below in 2003).

112 Having considered the Stage One proposals received for the three wards in this area, we noted the improved levels of electoral equality which both schemes would achieve. However, in arriving at our recommendations we cannot look at any area in isolation and must consider the impact which any changes would have on the warding arrangements for the borough as a whole. In view of the scheme which we put forward for the rest of the borough, we proposed adopting the Council's proposals for this area, subject to two amendments. First, we proposed transferring Corfton Road from Hanger Hill ward to Ealing Broadway ward, as proposed by the Conservative Group. Second, we proposed amending the western boundary of Ealing Broadway ward with Cleveland ward. For the second amendment, in order to further improve electoral equality, we looked at drawing the boundary along the centre of Cleveland Road, thereby transferring those properties in the area on the south side of Cleveland Road from Cleveland ward to Ealing Broadway ward. However, in view of the Council's proposal to create a Cleveland ward which would include Cleveland Road, we decided instead to draw the boundary along Drayton Road, thereby transferring the properties between Drayton Road and Argyle Road from Cleveland ward to Ealing Broadway ward. These two amendments would achieve improved electoral equality across the three wards, having regard to the changes which we put forward in neighbouring wards.

113 Under our draft recommendations the number of electors per councillor would be 2 per cent above the borough average in Cleveland ward (1 per cent in 2003), 5 per cent above in Ealing Broadway ward (2 per cent in 2003) and 4 per cent above in Hanger Hill ward (equal to the average in 2003).

114 At Stage Three the Council indicated its support for the proposed Cleveland, Ealing Broadway and Hanger Hill wards, subject to two amendments to the boundary between Cleveland and Ealing Broadway. It proposed that the boundary should not follow Drayton Road, instead following Argyle Road, and it should follow Castlebar Hill and Mount Avenue as far as the junction with Woodfield Road (which forms the boundary with the proposed Hanger Hill ward). The Council stated that the amendments to this boundary would address “local objections to the split of the Drayton Green community between wards” resulting from the draft recommendations, while improving electoral equality in the two wards concerned. The proposed amendments to this boundary were specifically supported by the Conservative Group and Councillor Gibb, while Ealing North Conservative Association, The Draytons Neighbourhood Watch and three residents of the borough also opposed the draft recommendation to divide the Draytons estate between two wards.

115 At Stage Three we also received a petition with 72 signatories from Argyle & Pitshanger Liberal Democrats opposing the proposed boundary between Cleveland and Hanger Hill wards, along Denison Road and Woodfield Road, as it would divide the Brentham estate in two. This boundary was also opposed by Ealing North Liberal Democrats and a resident of the borough.

116 With regard to ward names for these three wards, the Council proposed that Ealing Broadway and Hanger Hill wards should retain the same names, while Cleveland ward should be called Ealing Cleveland. The Conservative Group made the same proposals although it proposed that Cleveland ward could also retain the name Cleveland. Ealing, Acton & Shepherd’s Bush Conservative Association accepted the names of Ealing Broadway and Hanger Hill wards as included in our draft recommendations.

117 We have noted the views expressed to us regarding the wards of Cleveland, Ealing Broadway and Hanger Hill and, in particular, the clear preference of respondents to retain the Drayton estate in a single ward. We propose adopting the alternative boundary between Cleveland and Ealing Broadway wards which would follow the length of Argyle Road together with Castlebar Hill and Mount Avenue, as supported by the Borough Council and the Conservative Group. This would address local concerns while improving electoral

equality in the two wards and providing a clear boundary. With regard to the concerns of residents in the Brentham estate area, while we note their opposition to our proposed boundary, we have to consider the impact on the electoral scheme for the wider area. While in the case of the Drayton estate an alternative boundary was proposed that would provide improved electoral equality, in the case of the Brentham estate we received no such proposal. We note that to include the whole of the Brentham estate area in either Cleveland or Hanger Hill ward would require a significant reconfiguration of the borough wards if comparable electoral equality was to be achieved. We have decided to confirm the ward boundary along Woodfield Road and Denison Road as our final recommendation. Subject to the proposed modifications to the boundary between Cleveland and Ealing Broadway wards, detailed above, and the modification to the boundary of Hanger Hill and Springfield wards, detailed below, we are confirming our draft recommendations for ward boundaries in the three wards of Cleveland, Ealing Broadway and Hanger Hill as final.

118 With regard to ward names we note the general consensus for the names of Ealing Broadway and Hanger Hill wards, as included in the draft recommendations, and are confirming them as final. In the case of the proposals for an alternative name for Cleveland ward, while we note there is some support for changing the name to Ealing Cleveland, we consider that our draft recommendation adequately reflects the area concerned and we are therefore confirming it as final.

119 Under our final recommendations the number of electors per councillor in Ealing Broadway and Cleveland wards would be 4 per cent above and 3 per cent above the borough average respectively (1 per cent above in each in 2003).

Ealing Common, Elthorne, Northfield and Walpole wards

120 These four three-member wards are situated in the south of the borough, and, overall, the area is relatively under-represented. The number of electors per councillor is 13 per cent above the borough average in Ealing Common ward (10 per cent in 2003), 3 per cent above in Elthorne ward (equal to the average in 2003), 10 per cent above in Northfield ward (6 per cent in 2003) and 11 per cent above in Walpole ward (10 per cent in 2003).

121 In its Stage One submission the Council stated that “one of the identified advantages of a council size of 69 is that it permits minimal change in the ward boundaries in south Ealing and Hanwell”. The Council considered that Elthorne ward should remain largely unchanged due to the robustness of its existing boundaries, in particular the Great Western mainline railway, the River Brent and the borough boundary, and the strength of community identity and good electoral equality which would exist under a 69-member council. The only modification to Elthorne ward which the Council proposed was to include in the ward the Trumpers Way industrial estate (currently in Dormers Wells ward), an area which can only be accessed from Elthorne ward and contains no electors.

122 In the case of Northfield ward the Council proposed the transfer of Cranmer Avenue, Lothair Road, Windermere Road (even numbers) and 23 electors on Northfield Road to Walpole ward in order to improve electoral equality in Northfield ward. Under the Council’s scheme the average number of electors per councillor would be equal to the borough average in Elthorne ward (2 per cent below in 2003) and 3 per cent above the average in Northfield ward (1 per cent below in 2003).

123 In addition to the inclusion of the Trumpers Way industrial estate, the Conservative Group proposed three other amendments to the boundaries of Elthorne ward. First, it proposed transferring an area around Manor Court Road and Church Road from Hobbayne ward to Elthorne ward, as detailed earlier. Second, it proposed that the north-eastern boundary of the ward should be amended so that the area lying east of, and including, Eccleston Road and Squirrel Mews would be transferred from Elthorne ward to a new West Ealing ward. Third, it proposed that the boundary with Northfield ward should be amended to include Cawdor Crescent, Clitherow Avenue and those roads to their west in Elthorne ward.

124 The Group also proposed modifying the northern boundary of Northfield ward so that it followed Leighton Road as far as Northfield Avenue, turning south along the east side of Northfield Avenue, then east along the railway line until it reached the existing boundary. It stated that these proposals would unite the Northfield Avenue shopping area in Northfield ward. Under the Conservative Group’s Stage One scheme the

average number of electors per councillor would be 1 per cent above the borough average in Elthorne ward (2 per cent below in 2003) and 1 per cent above the average in Northfield ward (3 per cent below in 2003).

125 The Council put forward the indicative ward names of Elthorne and Northfield, as at present. In the case of Elthorne, it stated that possible alternatives included Hanwell Broadway, Hanwell Town and South Hanwell, while in the case of Northfield possible alternatives included Boston Manor, Little Ealing, Northfields and South Ealing.

126 While the proposals of both the Council and the Conservative Group would achieve improved levels of electoral equality, both initially and in five years’ time, in our draft recommendations report we noted that the Council’s scheme broadly retained the existing ward pattern, provided clear ward boundaries and was consistent with our recommendations for neighbouring areas. Therefore we endorsed the Council’s proposals for Elthorne and Northfield wards as part of our draft recommendations.

127 At Stage One the Council considered that, in addition to its proposed changes to the boundary between Northfield ward and Walpole ward, Walpole’s northern boundary should be modified to “ensure that electoral equality can be achieved ... whilst also creating a more rational and compact Walpole ward”. The Council proposed that the boundary should follow Uxbridge Road, turning south into Barnes Pikle, then east along part of Mattock Lane until it met the present ward boundary. As detailed earlier, it proposed that the area of the existing Ealing Common ward generally north of The Grove and west of, and including, Windsor Road should form part of Ealing Broadway ward. It also proposed transferring Ealing Village, Hanger Lane (numbers 25 to 32) and Waldegrave Road from Hanger Lane ward to Ealing Common ward, arguing that “these roads are somewhat isolated from the remainder of the current Hanger Lane ward”. The Council proposed retaining Walpole as the indicative name of the ward although it considered West Ealing to be a possible alternative. It proposed retaining the existing ward name of Ealing Common, as it was the only name considered to be appropriate. The number of electors per councillor in Ealing Common ward would be 3 per cent above the borough average (1 per cent in 2003) and 2 per

cent above the average in Walpole ward (equal to the average in 2003).

128 The Conservative Group proposed a significant reconfiguration of wards in this area. It proposed a new West Ealing ward comprising parts of the existing wards of Elthorne, Walpole and Northfield. The northern boundary of the proposed new ward would follow the Great Western mainline railway; the western boundary would broadly follow the edge of Kensington Cemetery and continue southwards along Grosvenor Road and Seward Road. Turning eastwards, the boundary would follow Leighton Road, then southwards to follow the eastern side of Northfield Avenue, east along the London Underground Piccadilly line, and finally continue in a northerly direction to the east of Weymouth Avenue, Lammas Park, Culmington Road and along part of St Leonard's Road as far as the Great Western mainline railway. The Conservative Group also proposed a minor modification to the existing ward boundary so that part of Popes Road would be transferred from Ealing Common ward to Northfield ward.

129 In addition, the Conservative Group proposed transferring an area bounded to the east by The Mall and The Common and to the south by The Grove, from Ealing Common ward to Ealing Broadway ward. It also proposed modifying the eastern boundary of Ealing Common ward so that the area north of Uxbridge Road and east of Hanger Lane would be transferred to a modified Springfield ward. Under the Conservative Group's proposals the number of electors per councillor in Ealing Common ward would be 1 per cent above the borough average (1 per cent below in 2003) and 2 per cent above the average in West Ealing ward (equal to the average in 2003).

130 We considered the representations received for this area at Stage One. In our draft recommendations report we concluded that, while both schemes would achieve similar electoral equality, the Council's proposals would utilise, in the main, clear boundaries while involving less change to the existing ward pattern and be likely to result in less confusion locally. We therefore adopted them as our draft recommendations.

131 At Stage Three the Council supported the proposals for Ealing Common, Elthorne, Northfield and Walpole wards, although it stated that the "Conservative Group regret the decision not to adopt their proposals for Hanwell [and]

South Ealing ... but accept that they reflect the borough-wide considerations that the Commission is required to take into account". In its own representation, the Conservative Group expressed regret that its alternative scheme for the area had not been adopted.

132 With regard to ward names, the Council proposed that the wards of Ealing Common, Elthorne, Northfield and Walpole should retain the same names. The Conservative Group proposed that Elthorne ward should be renamed South Hanwell, that Northfield ward be renamed South Ealing, and that Walpole ward be renamed Ealing Walpole. It proposed retaining Ealing Common as the name of the ward covering that area. Ealing North Conservative Association proposed that Elthorne ward should be renamed South Hanwell, and Ealing Southall Conservative Association proposed retaining the existing names of Ealing Common, Elthorne, Northfield and Walpole.

133 Having considered the representations received at Stage Three, we remain of the view that the Council's proposed ward boundaries, as included in our draft recommendations, would provide the best balance of the statutory criteria in this area. We are therefore confirming our proposed boundaries for all four wards as final. With regard to the names of the four wards concerned, we note the general consensus for the name Ealing Common. In the remaining three wards, we consider that the names Elthorne, Northfield and Walpole would continue to reflect the areas concerned, particularly in view of the generally minimal change proposed to the wards, and we are including these names as part of our final recommendations.

Southfield, Vale and Victoria wards

134 The two two-member wards of Vale and Victoria and the three-member Southfield ward are situated in the east of the borough, and the area as a whole is relatively over-represented. The number of electors per councillor is 6 per cent below the borough average in Southfield ward (unchanged in 2003), 14 per cent below in Vale ward (16 per cent in 2003) and 5 per cent below in Victoria ward (6 per cent in 2003).

135 At Stage One the Council argued that Southfield ward is separated from the rest of South Acton by the North London railway, while the borough boundary forms its southern and eastern boundaries. As a result, the Council proposed improving electoral equality in the three-member

Southfield ward by extending its northern boundary to follow The Vale and the rear of properties on the east side of Dordrecht Road. It added that the Liberal Democrats supported its proposal for this area.

136 The Conservative Group proposed two amendments to the existing Southfield ward. First, it proposed crossing the North London railway to transfer the area generally east of the centre of Newton Avenue and south of Acton Lane from Heathfield ward to Southfield ward. Second, it proposed extending the northern boundary of Southfield ward to include an area west of Eastman Road and south of The Vale, arguing that the area from Eastman Road eastwards is isolated from the rest of the ward by the industrial area.

137 The Council proposed addressing the over-representation in the two two-member wards of Vale and Victoria by combining the wards to form a new three-member East Acton ward, and modifying its boundaries. In addition to the proposed boundary with Southfield ward, detailed above, the Council proposed transferring an area around the North Acton Recreation Ground, together with an area south of Noel Road and west of Horn Lane, currently in Victoria ward, to Springfield ward. It proposed the transfer of several properties on Western Avenue from Springfield ward to East Acton ward, and transferring the Westpoint Trading Estate industrial area from Hanger Lane ward to the new East Acton ward (the latter transfer involving no electors).

138 The Council put forward Southfield as the indicative name for the revised ward, although it stated that alternative names included Acton Green, Bedford Park, Chiswick and Chiswick Southfield. The Council proposed the indicative name of East Acton for the ward covering much of the combined Vale and Victoria wards. It stated that, while it had considered North East Acton as the name for this ward, or the use of Park Royal in a possible ward name, it had concluded that they were inappropriate for the ward as a whole. Under the Council's proposals the number of electors per councillor would be 2 per cent above the borough average in East Acton ward (1 per cent above in 2003) and 2 per cent above the average in Southfield ward (1 per cent above in 2003).

139 With regard to the Council's proposed East Acton ward, the Conservative Group stated that it agreed "with the principle of the ward". However, in addition to the different boundary which the

Conservative Group proposed with Southfield ward, it proposed modifying the boundary between East Acton and Springfield wards to follow Horn Lane, turning north-west along the Western Avenue and then south-west along the London Underground Piccadilly line (which is above ground in this area) until it joins the existing boundary. Under the Conservative Group's proposals the number of electors per councillor would be 1 per cent below the borough average in East Acton ward (2 per cent in 2003) and 3 per cent above the average in Southfield ward (2 per cent in 2003).

140 In our draft recommendations report we recognised that both proposals would achieve improved electoral equality, although the Council's proposals were expected to achieve slightly better electoral equality by 2003. The Council's proposals followed clearly defined boundaries, including much of the North London railway and The Vale, as well as facilitating consequential changes to secure electoral equality in neighbouring wards. We therefore adopted the Council's proposals for East Acton and Southfield wards as our draft recommendations for this area.

141 At Stage Three the Council indicated its support for the draft recommendations for the boundaries of East Acton and Southfield wards. A resident of Chiswick proposed that Southfield ward should be retained on its existing boundaries or, if change was considered necessary, he preferred the Conservative Group's Stage One proposals in this area as such a modification would better reflect community identities locally.

142 The Council proposed that Southfield ward should be renamed Chiswick Southfield, while it continued to support the name East Acton for the ward covering that area. The Conservative Group and Ealing, Acton & Shepherd's Bush Conservative Association both proposed Southfield ward should be renamed Acton Southfield, while both supported East Acton as included in the draft recommendations.

143 We have given careful consideration to the views received for this area. We note that the proposal to modify Southfield ward to reflect the Conservative Group's original proposal would have an adverse effect on electoral equality in neighbouring wards and does not appear to enjoy substantial local support. Consequently, we remain of the view that the achievement of electoral equality, having regard to the statutory criteria, is best satisfied by our draft recommendation. We

therefore confirm our proposed ward boundaries for the two wards in this area as final.

144 We have considered the proposals to rename Southfield ward. There does not appear to be consensus on a preferred ward name, although we note the preference of all respondents for maintaining in part the name Southfield. We have therefore decided to confirm our draft recommendation for the name Southfield as final. There is general support for the ward name of East Acton, and we are content to include it as part of our final recommendations.

Heathfield and Springfield wards

145 The two three-member wards of Heathfield and Springfield are situated to the west of the existing wards of Southfield, Vale and Victoria and currently have good levels of electoral equality. The number of electors per councillor in Heathfield ward is 1 per cent below the borough average both now and in 2003 and 1 per cent below the average in Springfield ward (3 per cent below in 2003).

146 At Stage One the Council stated that in seeking to achieve electoral equality in Springfield ward and the surrounding wards it had considered a number of options but “concluded that no major change option could achieve electoral equality without breaching the strong natural boundaries of Acton High Street and the North London Railway, or without splitting the core Springfield north Acton community”. Accordingly it proposed only minor boundary modifications to the existing Springfield ward. In addition to the modification between Springfield and East Acton wards, detailed earlier, it proposed transferring a total of 529 electors in Bloomsbury Close, Daniel Road, Montague Gardens, Oakley Avenue and Western Gardens, and parts of Creffield Road and Twyford Avenue, from Springfield ward to Heathfield ward.

147 The Council also proposed transferring an area around Steyne Road from Heathfield ward to Springfield ward, which would result in the High Street being utilised as the ward boundary for its entire length. It proposed no further modifications to Heathfield ward. Under the Council’s scheme, the number of electors per councillor in Heathfield ward would be 2 per cent below the borough average (unchanged in 2003) and equal to the average in Springfield ward (2 per cent below in 2003).

148 The Council proposed that the existing ward names of Heathfield and Springfield should be

consulted on. It noted that in the case of Heathfield ward, South Acton Residents’ Action Group supported the name Acton South. The Council added that other alternatives were Acton Hill, Acton Town and South West Acton. In the case of Springfield ward it stated that alternative names included Acton Central, North Acton and North West Acton.

149 At Stage One the Conservative Group proposed a reconfiguration of Springfield and Heathfield wards so that the area would be divided on a south-west to north-east orientation which would, it stated, produce wards with similar boundaries to those that had existed prior to the previous review of the borough’s electoral arrangements in the late 1970s. For Springfield ward, the Group argued that “ideally its boundaries would be Western Avenue, Horn Lane, Steyne Road, Uxbridge Road, the Piccadilly line and the Central line”. However, it acknowledged that such a ward would be too small in electorate terms and proposed combining this area with Springfield ward polling district GEA (with the exception of those properties on Western Avenue), Nemoure Road, Highlands Avenue and those properties in polling district EG north of Uxbridge Road and east of Hanger Lane.

150 The Group’s revised Heathfield ward would comprise the remainder of the existing Heathfield and Springfield wards, subject to the modified boundary with Southfield ward detailed earlier. Under the Conservative Group’s Stage One proposals the number of electors per councillor would be 3 per cent above the borough average in both Heathfield ward and Springfield ward (2 per cent in each ward in 2003).

151 While the Council’s and the Conservative Group’s proposals achieved similar levels of electoral equality, we had to consider the impact which any changes would have on the borough as a whole. The Conservative Group’s proposed Heathfield and Springfield wards would have an adverse impact on the electoral equality achieved by our proposals for neighbouring wards. The Council’s proposals for these two wards would, in the main, utilise clear boundaries, and achieve good electoral equality while broadly retaining the existing ward pattern and would accord with the proposals for neighbouring wards. We therefore adopted them as our draft recommendations for the area.

152 At Stage Three the Council indicated that it supported our draft recommendation for Heathfield

and Springfield wards, subject to proposing that a small area within the proposed Hanger Hill ward containing no electors should be transferred to Heathfield ward. It argued that “the Council’s experience of environmental problems around the nearby Acton Goods Yard site” had led it to propose such a transfer rather than including this area of land in Springfield ward, the only ward from which it can be accessed. The Conservative Group and Ealing, Acton & Shepherd’s Bush Conservative Association queried why this area did not form part of Springfield ward from which this area is accessible.

¹⁵³ The Conservative Group and Ealing, Acton & Shepherd’s Bush Conservative Association also proposed amending the boundary between Heathfield and Springfield wards so that all of Lexden Road, Langtry Court, Rufford Tower and Moreton Tower would be transferred to Heathfield ward, while transferring electors on the south of Rosemount and Creffield Roads to Springfield ward. They argued that such a proposal would provide a clearer boundary in this area. Under this proposal the number of electors per councillor would be 2 per cent below the average in Heathfield ward (the same in 2003) and 1 per cent below the average in Springfield ward (3 per cent below in 2003).

¹⁵⁴ The Council and Ealing, Acton & Shepherd’s Bush Conservative Association proposed that Heathfield ward should be renamed South Acton and that Springfield ward should be renamed Acton Central. The Conservative Group proposed Acton South as an alternative name for Heathfield ward, a name which was also favoured by South Acton Residents’ Action Group.

¹⁵⁵ We have carefully considered the views received for this area. With regard to the boundary between Heathfield and Springfield wards, we do not consider that there is an appreciable difference in clarity between the boundary put forward by the Conservative Group at Stage Three and that included in our draft recommendations. Moreover, we note that the electoral equality in Springfield ward would be marginally worse in 2003 if this change was made than under our draft recommendations. With regard to the area of land with no electors currently in Hanger Hill ward (referred to earlier), we concur with the Conservative Group’s view that the area would best form part of Springfield ward as it can only be accessed from this ward, and in fact forms part of

the existing Springfield ward. Consequently, we propose confirming our draft recommendations for ward boundaries for these two wards as final, subject to transferring the unpopulated area of Hanger Hill ward to Springfield ward.

¹⁵⁶ We note the locally submitted proposals for alternative ward names for these two wards and, having considered the identities of the areas concerned, are recommending that Heathfield ward should be renamed South Acton and Springfield ward should be renamed Acton Central.

Conclusions

¹⁵⁷ Having considered carefully all the representations and evidence received in response to our consultation report, noting the level of support for much of the draft recommendations, we have decided substantially to endorse our draft recommendations, subject to the following amendments:

- (a) the boundary between Cleveland and Ealing Broadway wards should be modified to follow Argyle Road instead of Drayton Road in the west, and to follow Castlebar Hill and Mount Avenue in the north;
- (b) the boundary between Dormers Wells and Southall Broadway (formerly Northcote) wards should be modified to run to the north of The Broadway between Lady Margaret Road and Northcote Avenue;
- (c) the boundary between Lady Margaret and Greenford Broadway (formerly Ravenor) wards should be amended to transfer an area of parkland with no electors from the former ward to the latter;
- (d) the boundary between Hanger Hill and Acton Central (formerly Springfield) wards should be amended to transfer an area of land with no electors from the former ward to the latter.
- (e) the names of eight wards in our draft recommendations should be modified.

¹⁵⁸ We conclude that, in Ealing:

- (a) there should be a reduction in council size from 71 to 69;
- (b) there should be 23 wards, two less than at present, which would involve changes to the

boundaries of all of the existing wards, with each ward returning three councillors.

159 Figure 4 shows the impact of our final recommendations on electoral equality, comparing them with the current arrangements, based on 1998 and 2003 electorate figures.

160 As shown in Figure 4, our final recommendations for Ealing Borough Council would result in a reduction in the number of wards where the number of electors per councillor varies by more than 10 per cent from the borough average from five to one. This improved balance of representation is expected to improve further, with all wards expected to vary by less than 10 per cent in 2003, in fact varying by 3 per cent or less. Our final recommendations are set out in more detail in

Figures 1 and 2, and illustrated on Map 2 and the large map at the back of this report.

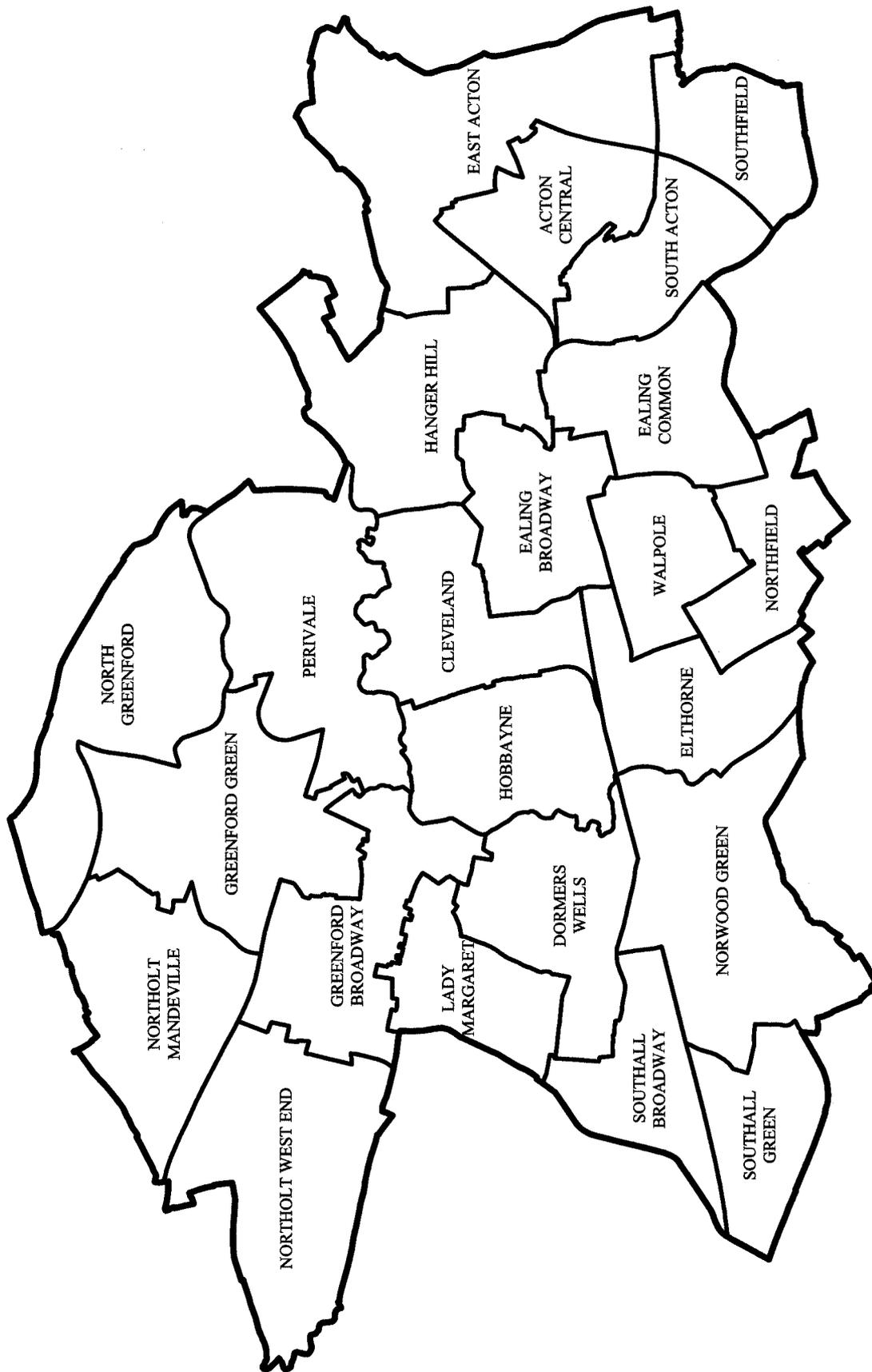
Final Recommendation

Ealing Borough Council should comprise 69 councillors serving 23 wards, as detailed and named in Figures 1 and 2, and illustrated on the large map in the back of the report.

*Figure 4 :
Comparison of Current and Recommended Electoral Arrangements*

	1998 electorate		2003 forecast electorate	
	Current arrangements	Final recommendations	Current arrangements	Final recommendations
Number of councillors	71	69	71	69
Number of wards	25	23	25	23
Average number of electors per councillor	2,968	3,054	2,996	3,083
Number of wards with a variance more than 10 per cent from the average	5	1	4	0
Number of wards with a variance more than 20 per cent from the average	0	0	1	0

Map 2:
The Commission's Final Recommendations for Ealing



© Crown Copyright 1999

6. NEXT STEPS

¹⁶¹ Having completed our review of electoral arrangements in Ealing and submitted our final recommendations to the Secretary of State, we have fulfilled our statutory obligation under the Local Government Act 1992.

¹⁶² 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.

¹⁶³ 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 Sponsorship Division
Eland House
Bressenden Place
London SW1E 5DU

APPENDIX A

Draft Recommendations for Ealing

Our final recommendations, detailed in Figures 1 and 2, differ from those we put forward as draft recommendations in respect of only four boundaries affecting eight wards. However, the electorate is unaffected in four of those wards, and therefore only the four wards where the electorate differs from the draft recommendations are detailed below. The only other changes from draft to final recommendations, which are not included in Figure A1, relate to our proposals for alternative ward names: Glebe ward as Southall Green, Heathfield ward as South Acton, Horsenden ward as North Greenford, Mandeville ward as Northolt Mandeville, Northcote ward as Southall Broadway, Ravenor ward as Greenford Broadway, Springfield ward as Acton Central, and West End ward as Northolt West End.

Figure A1:

The Commission's Draft Recommendations: Number of Councillors and Electors by Ward

Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (1998)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2003)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
Cleveland	3	9,377	3,126	2	9,315	3,105	1
Dormers Wells	3	8,651	2,884	-6	8,988	2,996	-3
Ealing Broadway	3	9,617	3,206	5	9,455	3,152	2
Northcote	3	8,901	2,967	-3	9,346	3,115	1

Source: Electorate figures are based on Ealing Borough Council's Stage One 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.

