

LOCAL
GOVERNMENT
COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND

FINAL
RECOMMENDATIONS
ON THE FUTURE
ELECTORAL
ARRANGEMENTS FOR
HILLINGDON

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

November 1999

LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND

This report sets out the Commission's final recommendations on the electoral arrangements for the London Borough of Hillingdon.

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



Local Government Commission for England

30 November 1999

Dear Secretary of State

On 5 January 1999 the Commission began a periodic electoral review of the London Borough of Hillingdon under the Local Government Act 1992. We published our draft recommendations in June 1999 and undertook an eleven-week period of consultation.

We have now prepared our final recommendations in the light of the consultation. We have substantially confirmed our draft recommendations, although some modifications have been made (see paragraph 128) in the light of further evidence. This report sets out our final recommendations for changes to electoral arrangements in Hillingdon.

We recommend that Hillingdon Borough Council should be served by 65 councillors representing 22 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

PROFESSOR MALCOLM GRANT
Chairman

SUMMARY

The Commission began a review of Hillingdon on 5 January 1999. We published our draft recommendations for changes to electoral arrangements on 29 June 1999, after which we undertook an eleven-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 Hillingdon:

- **in five of the 29 wards the number of electors represented by each councillor varies by more than 10 per cent from the average for the borough, and by more than 20 per cent from the average in one ward;**
- **electoral equality is not expected to improve significantly over the next five years, 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.**

Our main final recommendations for future electoral arrangements (Figures 1 and 2 and paragraphs 128-129) are that:

- **Hillingdon Borough Council should be served by 65 councillors, four fewer than at present;**
- **there should be 22 wards, seven fewer than at present, which would involve changes to the boundaries of all but one 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 all of the 22 wards the number of electors per councillor would vary by no more than 8 per cent from the borough average.**
- **This improved level of electoral equality is forecast to continue over the next five years, with no ward expected to vary from the borough average by more than 7 per cent by 2004.**

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 11 January 2000.

**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 Barnhill	3	Barnhill ward; Townfield ward (part); Yeading ward (part)
2 Botwell	3	Botwell ward (part); Colham ward (part); Wood End ward (part)
3 Brunel	3	Cowley ward (part); Hillingdon East ward (part); Hillingdon West ward (part)
4 Cavendish	3	Cavendish ward; Deansfield ward (part); Eastcote ward (part)
5 Charville	3	Charville ward; Wood End ward (part)
6 Eastcote & East Ruislip	3	Eastcote ward (part); Ruislip ward (part); St Martin's ward (part)
7 Harefield	2	<i>Unchanged</i>
8 Heathrow Villages	3	Crane ward (part); Harlington ward (part); Heathrow ward (part); Yiewsley ward (part)
9 Hillingdon East	3	Hillingdon North ward; Bourne ward (part); Hillingdon East ward (part); Ickenham ward (part)
10 Ickenham	3	Ickenham ward (part)
11 Manor	3	Manor ward; St Martins ward (part)
12 Northwood	3	Northwood ward; Northwood Hills ward (part)
13 Northwood Hills	3	Eastcote ward (part); Northwood ward (part); Northwood Hills ward (part)
14 Pinkwell	3	Crane ward (part); Harlington ward (part)
15 South Ruislip	3	Bourne ward; Deansfield ward (part)
16 Townfield	3	Botwell ward (part); Townfield ward (part)
17 Uxbridge North	3	Uxbridge North ward; Hillingdon West ward (part); Ickenham ward (part); Uxbridge South ward (part)
18 Uxbridge South	3	Cowley ward (part); Uxbridge South ward (part)
19 West Drayton	3	Heathrow ward (part); West Drayton ward (part); Yiewsley ward (part)
20 West Ruislip	3	Ickenham ward (part); Ruislip ward (part); St Martins ward (part)

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

Ward name	Number of councillors	Constituent areas (existing wards)
21 Yeading	3	Townfield ward (part); Yeading ward (part)
22 Yiewsley	3	Colham ward (part); West Drayton ward (part); Hillingdon West ward (part); Yiewsley ward (part)

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

Figure 2:
The Commission's Final Recommendations for Hillingdon

Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (1999)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2004)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
1 Barnhill	3	7,889	2,630	-4	8,048	2,683	-3
2 Botwell	3	8,252	2,751	0	8,516	2,839	3
3 Brunel	3	8,438	2,813	2	8,638	2,879	5
4 Cavendish	3	8,209	2,736	-1	7,803	2,601	-5
5 Charville	3	8,215	2,738	-1	8,281	2,760	0
6 Eastcote & East Ruislip	3	8,467	2,822	3	8,031	2,677	-3
7 Harefield	2	5,419	2,710	-2	5,239	2,620	-5
8 Heathrow Villages	3	7,958	2,653	-4	8,418	2,806	2
9 Hillingdon East	3	8,590	2,863	4	8,493	2,831	3
10 Ickenham	3	7,936	2,645	-4	7,877	2,626	-5
11 Manor	3	8,174	2,725	-1	7,877	2,626	-5
12 Northwood	3	8,168	2,723	-1	7,852	2,617	5
13 Northwood Hills	3	8,365	2,788	1	7,855	2,618	-5
14 Pinkwell	3	8,578	2,859	4	8,800	2,933	7
15 South Ruislip	3	8,127	2,709	-2	8,250	2,750	0
16 Townfield	3	8,299	2,766	0	8,425	2,808	2
17 Uxbridge North	3	8,814	2,938	7	8,695	2,898	5
18 Uxbridge South	3	8,436	2,812	2	8,476	2,825	3
19 West Drayton	3	8,555	2,852	4	8,771	2,924	6
20 West Ruislip	3	8,020	2,673	-3	7,868	2,623	-5

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

Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (1999)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2004)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
21 Yeading	3	7,622	2,541	-8	8,272	2,757	0
22 Yiewsley	3	8,426	2,809	2	8,408	2,803	2
Totals	65	178,957	—	—	178,893	—	—
Averages	—	—	2,753	—	—	2,752	—

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

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

2 In broad terms, the objective of this periodic electoral review (PER) of Hillingdon 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 configurations 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. 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 reviews by the Commission of the London boroughs. 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 the opportunity 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, Hillingdon was in the fourth 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 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 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

parishes in London. This differentiates the reviews of London boroughs from the majority of the other electoral reviews we are carrying out elsewhere in the country, where parishes feature highly and provide the building blocks for district or borough wards.

The Review of Hillingdon

14 This is our first review of the electoral arrangements for Hillingdon. The last such review was undertaken by our predecessor, the Local Government Boundary Commission (LGBC), which reported to the Secretary of State in June 1977 (Report No. 217).

15 This review was in four stages. Stage One began on 5 January 1999, when we wrote to Hillingdon Borough Council inviting proposals for future electoral arrangements. We also notified the local authority associations, the Metropolitan Police, Members of Parliament and the Members of the European Parliament with constituency interests in the borough, and the headquarters of the main political parties. At the start of the review and following publication of our draft recommendations, we placed a notice in the local press, issued a press release and other publicity, and invited the Borough Council to publicise the review further. The closing date for receipt of representations was 29 March 1999. At Stage Two we considered all the representations received during Stage One and prepared our draft recommendations.

16 Stage Three began on 29 June 1999 with the publication of our report, *Draft Recommendations on the Future Electoral Arrangements for Hillingdon*, and ended on 13 September 1999. Comments were sought on our preliminary conclusions. Finally, during Stage Four we reconsidered our draft recommendations in the light of the Stage Three consultation and now publish our final recommendations.

2. CURRENT ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS

17 The borough of Hillingdon covers an area of some 11,571 hectares, and is bounded by the counties of Hertfordshire, Buckinghamshire and Surrey, and by the London boroughs of Ealing, Harrow and Hounslow. The borough contains Brunel University and RAF Northolt, together with some 12,000 acres of green belt, parks and open space. The south of the borough is dominated by London Heathrow Airport and its associated support services, while the north of the borough is predominantly agricultural, with working farms based around the village of Harefield. The borough is traversed by the M4 motorway, A40 Western Avenue, the London to Bristol railway line, the London Underground Central, Piccadilly and Metropolitan lines, and the Grand Union Canal.

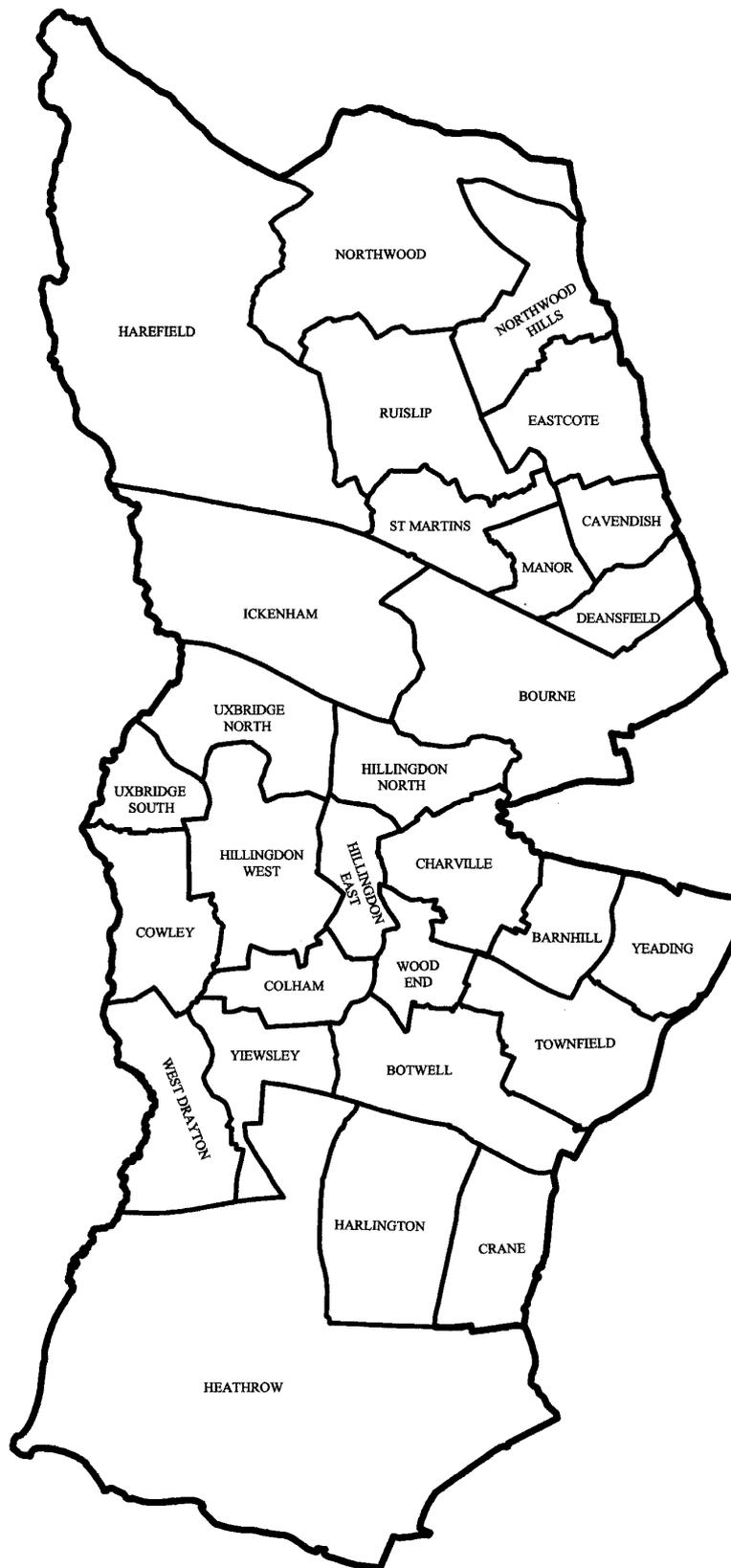
18 To compare levels of electoral inequality between wards, we calculated the extent to which the number of electors per councillor in each ward (the councillor:elector ratio) varies from the borough average in percentage terms. In the text which follows, this calculation may also be described using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

19 The electorate of the borough (February 1999) is 178,957. The Council currently has 69 councillors who are elected from 29 wards (Map 1 and Figure 3). Eleven wards are each represented by three councillors and 18 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 an increase in electorate in the borough, with around 4 per cent more electors than two decades ago as a result of new housing developments. At present, each councillor represents an average of 2,594 electors, which the Borough Council forecasts will remain constant over the next five years 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 29 wards varies by

more than 10 per cent from the borough average, and in one ward by more than 20 per cent. The worst imbalance is in Uxbridge South ward where each of the two councillors represents on average 21 per cent fewer electors than the borough average.

Map 1:
Existing Wards in Hillingdon



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Figure 3:
Existing Electoral Arrangements

Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (1999)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2004)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
1 Barnhill	3	6,897	2,299	-11	7,008	2,336	-10
2 Botwell	2	4,904	2,452	-5	5,163	2,582	0
3 Bourne	2	5,194	2,597	0	5,320	2,660	3
4 Cavendish	2	5,565	2,783	7	5,159	2,580	-1
5 Charville	3	7,425	2,475	-5	7,480	2,493	-4
6 Colham	2	4,999	2,500	-4	4,914	2,457	-5
7 Cowley	3	7,097	2,366	-9	7,038	2,346	-10
8 Crane	2	5,057	2,529	-3	5,157	2,579	-1
9 Deansfield	2	5,464	2,732	5	5,336	2,668	3
10 Eastcote	3	7,777	2,592	0	7,579	2,526	-3
11 Harefield	2	5,419	2,710	4	5,239	2,620	1
12 Harlington	3	7,211	2,404	-7	7,439	2,480	-4
13 Heathrow	2	5,657	2,829	9	6,261	3,131	21
14 Hillingdon East	2	5,420	2,710	4	5,305	2,653	2
15 Hillingdon North	2	5,199	2,600	0	5,175	2,588	0
16 Hillingdon West	3	7,548	2,516	-3	8,016	2,672	3
17 Ickenham	3	8,991	2,997	16	8,932	2,977	15
18 Manor	2	5,542	2,771	7	5,440	2,720	5
19 Northwood Hills	3	7,743	2,581	0	7,311	2,437	-6
20 Northwood	3	7,585	2,528	-3	7,179	2,393	-8
21 Ruislip	2	5,731	2,866	10	5,488	2,744	6
22 St Martins	2	5,896	2,948	14	5,660	2,830	9
23 Townfield	3	8,606	2,869	11	8,691	2,897	12

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 Uxbridge North	2	5,038	2,519	-3	4,709	2,355	-9
25 Uxbridge South	2	4,091	2,046	-21	4,182	2,091	-19
26 West Drayton	2	5,381	2,691	4	5,265	2,633	2
27 Wood End	2	5,026	2,513	-3	5,105	2,553	-2
28 Yeading	3	7,200	2,400	-7	7,888	2,629	1
29 Yiewsley	2	5,294	2,647	2	5,453	2,727	5
Totals	69	178,957	—	—	178,892	—	—
Averages	—	—	2,594	—	—	2,593	—

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

Note: The 'variance from average' column shows by how far, in percentage terms, the number of electors per councillor varies from the average for the borough. The minus symbol (-) denotes a lower than average number of electors. For example, in 1999, electors in Uxbridge South ward were relatively over-represented by 21 per cent, while electors in Ickenham ward were relatively under-represented by 16 per cent. Figures have been rounded to the nearest whole number.

3. DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS

21 During Stage One we received eight representations, from Hillingdon Borough Council Conservative Group, Hillingdon Borough Council Labour Group, Hillingdon Liberal Democrats, Uxbridge Conservatives, two residents' associations and two local residents. In the light of these representations and evidence available to us, we reached preliminary conclusions which were set out in our report, *Draft Recommendations on the Future Electoral Arrangements for Hillingdon*.

22 Our draft recommendations were based on the proposals from the Hillingdon Borough Council Labour Group and Hillingdon Liberal Democrats, which offered improved electoral equality, and provided good boundaries while having regard to the statutory criteria. However, we moved away from these proposals in three areas, affecting nine wards. First, in the north of the borough we proposed minor boundary modifications between East Ruislip, Northwood Hills, and West Ruislip wards in order to provide more easily identifiable boundaries. Second, in the south of the borough we proposed a boundary modification between the proposed Botwell and Yiewsley wards. Third, in the west of the borough we proposed boundary modifications between the proposed wards of Brunel, Uxbridge North, Uxbridge South and Yiewsley. We proposed that:

- (a) Hillingdon Borough Council should be served by 65 councillors;
- (b) there should be 22 wards, involving changes to the boundaries of all but one of the existing wards.

Draft Recommendation

Hillingdon Borough Council should comprise 65 councillors serving 22 wards.

23 Our proposals would have resulted in significant improvements in electoral equality, with the number of electors per councillor in all of the 22 wards varying by no more than 8 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 7 per cent from the borough average by 2004.

4. RESPONSES TO CONSULTATION

24 During the consultation on our draft recommendations report, 62 representations were received. A list of respondents is available on request from the Commission. All representations may be inspected at our offices and those of Hillingdon Borough Council.

Hillingdon Borough Council Labour Group

25 Hillingdon Borough Council Labour Group (‘the Labour Party’) broadly supported our draft recommendations, including the proposed reduction in council size to 65 members. It endorsed the proposed warding arrangements for all wards to the north of the A40 Western Avenue, but proposed minor modifications to Ickenham ward’s boundaries with Uxbridge North and Hillingdon East wards. In addition, it fully supported our draft recommendations for the majority of wards in the south of the borough, but proposed minor boundary modifications to Botwell, Brunel, Heathrow Villages, Pinkwell, Townfield, Uxbridge North, Uxbridge South and Yeading wards.

Hillingdon Liberal Democrat Group

26 Hillingdon Liberal Democrat Group (‘the Liberal Democrats’) endorsed our draft recommendation to reduce the council size to 65. They also broadly supported our draft recommendations for wards in the Hayes & Harlington parliamentary constituency, but suggested boundary modifications for wards contained in the Ruislip Northwood parliamentary constituency, and proposed an alternative boundary between Ickenham and West Ruislip wards. They also proposed that Eastcote be retained as a ward name.

Members of Parliament

27 We received two submissions from Members of Parliament. John Randall, MP for Uxbridge, put forward an alternative boundary between the

proposed Heathrow Villages and West Drayton wards. He also opposed our proposed boundary between Ickenham and West Ruislip wards, and expressed concern about the loss of Eastcote and Cowley as ward names. John Wilkinson, MP for Ruislip Northwood, proposed that East Ruislip ward be renamed Eastcote.

Other Representations

28 We received 58 representations in response to our draft recommendations from councillors, local groups and residents. Ruislip Northwood Conservative Association reiterated Hillingdon Borough Conservatives’ Stage One proposal for a 57-member council. In addition, it proposed alternative electoral arrangements for the existing wards of Eastcote, Manor, Northwood Hills, Ruislip and South Ruislip, assuming a council size of 65 members.

29 Cavendish Ward Labour Party broadly supported our draft recommendations, but expressed concern about the proposed boundary of Northwood Hills ward and our proposal for a ward name of East Ruislip. Uxbridge Labour Party supported our draft recommendations for the new Hillingdon East ward, but suggested a minor modification to its northern boundary.

30 Three councillors put forward alternative warding arrangements for the proposed South Ruislip ward. One councillor proposed an alternative northern boundary for the proposed Northwood Hills ward, and proposed that this ward should be renamed St Vincents ward. Another councillor proposed that East Ruislip ward should be renamed Eastcote.

31 We received a further eight submissions from residents’ associations. Eastcote Residents’ Association opposed our draft recommendations for Cavendish and Eastcote wards, and submitted a petition containing 1,628 signatories in support of its views. Northwood Hills Residents’ Association opposed our proposed Northwood Hills ward. Northwood Residents’ Association expressed

concern in relation to the proposed boundary between Northwood and Northwood Hills wards. Ruislip Residents' Association put forward alternative warding arrangements for the central part of the borough.

32 South Ruislip Residents' Association put forward alternative boundaries for the proposed South Ruislip ward. Ickenham Residents' Association opposed our draft recommendation for Ickenham ward, and proposed that West Ruislip ward be renamed West Ruislip & North-East Ickenham ward in the event that our draft recommendations for this area are finalised. It also proposed that Ickenham Marsh be included in Ickenham ward. Oak Farm Residents' Association proposed an alternative northern boundary for the proposed Hillingdon East ward, and proposed that the ward be renamed Hillingdon Northeast. Harmondsworth & Sipson Residents' Association welcomed our draft recommendation for Heathrow Villages ward, but proposed a minor modification to the ward's boundary with West Drayton ward.

33 Eastcote Chamber of Commerce opposed the loss of Eastcote as a ward name. Ruislip, Northwood & Eastcote Local History Society suggested that the proposed East Ruislip ward be renamed Ruislip & Eastcote ward.

34 We received 42 submissions from local residents. Of these, 39 opposed adopting the name East Ruislip as a ward name. One resident proposed alternative warding arrangements for the north of the borough, while another resident proposed alternative proposals for wards in the north-east of the borough. One resident opposed our draft recommendation for East Ruislip ward, while another resident expressed concern in relation to the proposed Northwood ward, and supported the retention of its existing warding arrangements. One resident broadly supported our draft recommendations for the wards of Ickenham, Hillingdon East and Uxbridge North, but put forward a minor modification to the boundary between the three wards. In addition, we received 25 proforma letters expressing concern over the proposed East Ruislip ward which, it was argued, should be renamed Eastcote & East Ruislip ward.

5. ANALYSIS AND FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS

35 As described earlier, our prime objective in considering the most appropriate electoral arrangements for Hillingdon 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 per councillor being “as nearly as may be, the same in every ward of the district or borough”.

36 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.

37 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.

38 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

39 At Stage One, the Borough Council submitted electorate forecasts for the year 2004, projecting a slight decline in the electorate from 178,957 to 178,892 over the five-year period from 1999 to 2004. However, substantial growth was projected for the existing wards of Heathrow and Yeading. 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. While the Borough Council’s electorate forecasts were queried by all three political groups during Stage One, following discussions with the Borough Council all three political groups agreed to adopt the electorate forecasts in order to achieve a consistent approach. In our draft recommendations report we accepted that forecasting electorate is an inexact science and, having given consideration to the forecast electorates, we were not persuaded that the Borough Council’s projections represented an unreasonable estimate of future growth in Hillingdon, and were content to use them for the purposes of formulating our draft recommendations.

40 At Stage Three the Labour Party, the Liberal Democrats and Ruislip Residents’ Association continued to express concern about the validity of the Borough Council’s electorate projections. In addition, Eastcote Residents’ Association and 25 residents using proforma letters expressed concern in relation to the accuracy of electorate forecasts for the Eastcote area, and a local councillor had reservations over electorate projections for Northwood Hills ward. In the light of these concerns, we sought further advice from the Borough Council. Having reconsidered the electorate projections in the light of representations

received during Stage Three, and following further advice from the Borough Council, we remain satisfied that the electorate projections used in our draft recommendations report provide the best estimates presently available.

Council Size

41 As already indicated, the Commission's starting point is to assume that the current council size facilitates effective and convenient local government.

42 Hillingdon Borough Council currently has 69 members. At Stage One, the Labour Party and the Liberal Democrats both proposed reducing the council size by four, to 65, while the Conservatives proposed reducing the number of councillors by 12, to 57.

43 In our draft recommendations report we carefully considered the competing arguments regarding council size. We noted that the Conservatives had argued the proposed reduction in council size on the basis of the Government's proposals for modernising local government, arguing that these changes would assist a move towards executive styles of political management. However, they did not supply any evidence supporting a council size of 57. Nor did they provide any evidence regarding the operation of proposed future management structures in Hillingdon under the proposed council size of 57. Furthermore, while the Conservatives' proposals would have achieved a reasonable degree of electoral equality, we had reservations about the extent to which these proposals would satisfactorily reflect the interests and identities of communities in the borough.

44 Accordingly, having considered the size and distribution of the electorate, the geography and other characteristics of the area, together with the representations received, and in the absence of detailed evidence supporting a reduction of 12 councillors, we decided that the statutory criteria and the achievement of electoral equality would best be met by a council of 65 members.

45 At Stage Three the Labour Party and the Liberal Democrats expressed full support for our draft recommendation for a council size of 65, while Ruislip Northwood Conservative Association argued that Hillingdon Borough Conservative Group's Stage One proposal for 57 members would achieve a good balance between electoral equality and the statutory criteria. This

view was endorsed by a local resident.

46 In view of the degree of the broad agreement that has been achieved in relation to council size, and the absence of substantive evidence supporting an alternative council size, we are content to confirm our draft recommendation for a council size of 65 as final.

Electoral Arrangements

47 As set out in our draft recommendations report, we carefully considered the borough-wide schemes put forward by the Conservatives, the Labour Party and the Liberal Democrats at Stage One. 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 First, we noted that there was a consensus among a number of respondents that the council size should be reduced, with the Labour Party and the Liberal Democrats both proposing a reduction of four members, to 65, and the Conservatives proposing a reduction of 12, to 57 members. We agreed with the view that the size of the council should be reduced and, as previously indicated, concluded that a council of 65 members would provide the best balance between electoral equality and the statutory criteria.

49 Second, the current electoral arrangements provide for a mix of two- and three-member wards in Hillingdon, with 11 wards each being represented by three councillors and 18 wards electing two councillors each. All three groups submitted proposals for future electoral arrangements based predominantly on a pattern of three-member wards for the borough. However, while the Conservatives proposed a new warding structure based wholly on three-member wards, both the Labour Party and the Liberal Democrats argued that Harefield ward, in the north-west of the borough, should be represented by two members. We agreed that Hillingdon should be represented by a pattern of predominately three-member wards, although we were persuaded that there was a case for a two-member Harefield ward.

50 Third, we considered that all proposals attempted to build on local communities and, where possible, respected the major natural

boundaries within the borough. In particular, there was agreement that the A40 Western Avenue forms a strong boundary and should be utilised where possible. We also noted that there was broad agreement between the Labour Party and the Liberal Democrats in relation to warding arrangements, particularly in the north of the borough. We noted the arguments put to us about boundaries and the need to respect the interests and identities of communities in the borough. We tried to reflect such considerations in our draft recommendations where it would be consistent with our objective of electoral equality, although we noted that there was no consensus locally on the precise boundaries of communities.

51 Finally, all three borough-wide schemes improved electoral equality, although to varying degrees. Under the Conservatives' and the Labour Party's proposals, the number of wards where the number of electors per councillor would vary by more than 5 per cent from the borough average, would reduce from 12 to none, while under the Liberal Democrats' submission five proposed wards would vary by more than five per cent from the average. By 2004, the Conservatives' proposal would result in two wards varying by more than 5 per cent from the borough average, the Labour Party's proposal would result in six and the Liberal Democrats' proposal would result in eight wards varying by more than 5 per cent from the average.

52 Our draft recommendations were based on elements of the 65 member schemes submitted by the Labour Party and the Liberal Democrats, and 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 parts of the borough. However, we made further modifications in order to put forward electoral arrangements which would achieve yet further improvements in electoral equality, while also seeking to reflect the statutory criteria. Inevitably, we could not reflect the preferences of all respondents in our draft recommendations.

53 We have reviewed our draft recommendations in the light of further evidence and the representations received during Stage Three, and judge that a number of modifications should be made to our draft recommendations. The following areas, based on existing wards, are

considered in turn:

- (a) Harefield, Ickenham, Ruislip and St Martins wards;
- (b) Bourne, Cavendish, Deansfield and Manor wards;
- (d) Harlington, Heathrow and Crane wards;
- (e) Botwell, Townfield and Wood End wards;
- (f) Barnhill, Charville and Yeading wards;
- (g) Colham, West Drayton and Yiewsley wards;
- (h) Cowley, Hillingdon West, Uxbridge North and Uxbridge South wards;
- (i) Hillingdon East and Hillingdon North wards.

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

Harefield, Ickenham, Ruislip and St Martins wards

55 The existing wards of Harefield, Ickenham, Ruislip and St Martins are located in the north-west of the borough, and are traversed by the London Underground Central, Metropolitan and Piccadilly lines. Ickenham ward is currently represented by three members, while the remaining three wards are each represented by two members. Under existing arrangements, while electoral equality in Harefield ward is relatively good, with the number of electors per councillor varying from the borough average by 4 per cent, Ickenham, St Martins and Ruislip wards have relatively poor electoral equality, with the number of electors per councillor varying by 16 per cent, 14 per cent and 10 per cent from the average respectively. This level of electoral imbalance is projected to remain relatively constant in Ickenham ward over the next five years, but is expected to improve in Harefield, Ruislip and St Martins wards, with the number of electors per councillor varying by less than 9 per cent in all three wards by 2004.

56 At Stage One the Labour Party, the Liberal Democrats and Uxbridge Conservatives proposed that Harefield ward should retain its existing boundaries and be represented by two members. It was argued that Harefield was a self-contained village, surrounded by open areas of agricultural land and woods, and that the existing ward was already much larger than some London

constituencies. Hillingdon Borough Conservative Group proposed that Harefield ward be combined with part of Ickenham ward, and be represented by three members. The Labour Party suggested combining parts of Ickenham, Ruislip and St Martins wards to form a new Ruislip West ward, with the rest of Ickenham ward forming a revised Ickenham ward, and the rest of St Martins ward being combined with Manor and West Ruislip wards. It also suggested combining part of Ruislip ward with Eastcote ward to form a new East Ruislip ward. The Liberal Democrats and Ickenham Residents' Association proposed that Ickenham's existing ward boundaries be retained. Uxbridge Conservatives suggested Ickenham ward be combined with part of Hillingdon North ward.

57 In our draft recommendations report, we noted that there was broad agreement that Harefield ward should continue to be represented by two members, with the only alternative proposal being put forward by the Conservatives. However, we were unable to take their proposals fully into account in formulating our draft recommendations as they were based on a council size of 57, as indicated previously. We concluded that the Labour Party's proposals achieved the best balance between electoral equality and the statutory criteria, and adopted them as our draft recommendations for this area, subject to a minor modification to the proposed boundary of West Ruislip ward in the interests of electoral equality.

58 Under our draft recommendations, the number of electors per councillor in Harefield, Ickenham and West Ruislip wards would vary from the borough average by 2 per cent, 4 per cent and 3 per cent respectively. This level of electoral imbalance is expected to remain unchanged over the next five years.

59 At Stage Three the Labour Party supported our draft recommendations for Harefield, Ickenham and West Ruislip wards. The Liberal Democrats also supported our draft recommendations for Harefield ward, but proposed that the area to the east of High Road and Ickenham Road should be transferred to the proposed West Ruislip ward. John Randall MP, Ickenham Residents' Association and Ruislip Residents' Association opposed combining part of the existing Ickenham ward with the proposed West Ruislip ward, on the grounds that it failed to satisfactorily reflect the interests and identities of communities in the area. This proposal

was endorsed by a resident, who additionally proposed that the area incorporating Parkfield Road, Oak Avenue and part of the High Road should remain within a revised Ickenham ward. Another resident proposed transferring the Brackenbury Villages area to the new West Ruislip ward. In addition, Ickenham Residents' Association proposed that the Ickenham Marsh area should be included in Ickenham ward, and that the proposed West Ruislip ward be renamed West Ruislip & North East Ickenham.

60 Uxbridge Labour Party, Oak Farm Residents' Association and a local resident proposed that the new A40 Western Avenue should form Ickenham's southern ward boundary. A local resident supported our draft recommendation to retain the existing Harefield ward, while another resident opposed our draft recommendation for Harefield ward, arguing that it should be represented by three members.

61 Ruislip Northwood Conservative Association supported our proposed boundary between Ickenham and West Ruislip wards, but opposed the division of the existing Ruislip ward. It proposed that a new North Ruislip ward should comprise the majority of the existing Ruislip ward, together with parts of the existing St Martins ward, and that the remainder of Ruislip and St Martins wards should be combined with part of Bourne ward to form a revised Ruislip ward. Under these proposals, the number of electors per councillor in North Ruislip ward would vary by 3 per cent, while the number of electors per councillor in Ruislip ward would be equal to the borough average.

62 A local resident put forward broadly similar proposals to those of Ruislip Northwood Conservative Association, except that he proposed that the ward comprising the majority of the existing Ruislip ward and part of St Martins ward should be named Woods. He also proposed that the Yeading Brook should form the northern boundary of the proposed Woods ward, and that Wiltshire Lane should be utilised as its eastern ward boundary. Under these proposals, the number of electors per councillor in Ruislip and Woods wards would vary by 1 per cent and 2 per cent respectively.

63 Having carefully considered the representations received during Stage Three, we note that our draft recommendation for Harefield ward has achieved broad support, and have decided to confirm it as

final. We are also confirming our draft recommendation for West Ruislip ward as final. While we have considered the alternative proposals put forward by Ruislip Northwood Conservatives and a local resident, and note that they achieve a good level of electoral equality, we have not been persuaded that these proposals would satisfactorily reflect the interests and identities of communities in this area or that they follow strong boundaries. In particular, we consider that there is merit in Hill Lane and Sharps Lane being contained within the same ward, and note that this would not be the case under Ruislip Northwood Conservatives' proposals. Furthermore, we note that the local resident's proposal for Woods ward would incorporate residents from the area bounded by Wiltshire Lane and Fore Street. They would, however, be separated from that ward by Park Wood.

64 We are also proposing to endorse substantially our draft recommendation for Ickenham ward which we consider would achieve a better balance between electoral equality and the statutory criteria than alternative proposals put forward at Stage Three. However, in the light of evidence received at Stage Three, we have been persuaded to modify Ickenham's ward boundary with Hillingdon East and Uxbridge North ward on the grounds that the new A40 Western Avenue forms a stronger boundary than that adopted for our draft recommendation. Also, while we have carefully considered the proposal that Ickenham Marsh should form part of Ickenham ward, we have not been persuaded that this would better reflect the interests and identities of local communities. In particular, we note that the Marsh is a natural resource, and that it is shared by electors from the proposed South Ruislip ward.

65 Under our final recommendations, the number of electors per councillor in Harefield, Ickenham and West Ruislip wards would vary by 2 per cent, 4 per cent and 3 per cent from the borough average respectively. This improved level of electoral equality is expected to remain constant over the next five years.

Bourne, Cavendish, Deansfield and Manor wards

66 The existing wards of Bourne, Cavendish, Deansfield and Manor are situated in the north-east of the borough and are each represented by two members. The London Underground Central Line

runs through this area, and RAF Northolt is contained in the existing Bourne ward. Under existing arrangements, the number of electors per councillor in Cavendish, Deansfield and Manor wards varies by 7 per cent, 5 per cent and 7 per cent, while the number of electors per councillor in Bourne ward is equal to the average.

67 At Stage One the Labour Party proposed combining Manor ward with part of St Martins ward to form a revised Manor ward, with High Street and Brickwall Lane forming its northern boundary. It also proposed combining Bourne ward with part of Deansfield ward to form a new South Ruislip ward, with the rest of Deansfield ward being combined with Cavendish ward and part of Eastcote ward to form a revised Cavendish ward. The Liberal Democrats' proposals for this area were broadly similar to those put forward by the Labour Party, although they utilised marginally different boundaries in some areas and proposed that the ward, which would also include the existing Cavendish ward, be named Field End.

68 In our draft recommendations report, we noted the similarity between the warding arrangements put forward by the Labour Party and the Liberal Democrats, although there were differing views about the precise boundaries. We concluded that, on balance, the Labour Party's proposals for this area achieved the best balance between electoral equality and the statutory criteria.

69 Under our draft recommendations the number of electors per councillor in Cavendish, Manor and South Ruislip wards would each vary by less than 2 per cent from the borough average. This level of electoral equality is projected to deteriorate marginally by 2004, with all three wards expected to vary by less than 5 per cent from the average.

70 At Stage Three the Labour Party and a local resident supported our draft recommendations for Cavendish, Manor and South Ruislip wards. The Liberal Democrats, Eastcote Residents' Association and a local resident proposed retaining Moreford Way in East Ruislip ward. As a consequence, the Liberal Democrats proposed including Parkfield Crescent and part of Field End Road in the proposed Cavendish ward. Eastcote Residents' Association also opposed the combining of Cavendish ward with parts of Bourne, Deansfield and Manor wards, arguing that the residents of Cavendish ward share little affinity

with these neighbouring wards. It also proposed that Yeading Brook should form part of Cavendish's southern ward boundary, and that Cavendish ward be renamed South Eastcote.

71 Ruislip Northwood Conservative Association supported our proposed boundary between South Ruislip and Ickenham wards, but proposed that Cavendish ward should be divided between revised Eastcote and Manor wards, while the majority of Deansfield ward would be included in South Ruislip ward. They also proposed retaining part of Manor ward's northern ward boundary. One resident put forward alternative electoral arrangements that were broadly similar to Ruislip Northwood Conservative Association's proposals. One resident argued that the proposed Cavendish ward would combine areas that have no common interest, while another opposed our draft recommendations for this area, arguing that they would not reflect the interests and identities of South Ruislip.

72 South Ruislip Residents' Association and three councillors proposed including the Ruislip Gardens area in Manor ward, arguing that this area is divided from the rest of South Ruislip ward by Northolt Airfield. They also opposed our draft recommendation to include the area bounded by Torcross Road, Mount Pleasant and Hartland Drive in the proposed Cavendish ward, arguing that this area has a greater affinity with the proposed South Ruislip ward. In addition, South Ruislip Residents' Association argued that the area to the south of Yeading Brook is geographically recognised as South Ruislip, and should therefore be contained within a proposed South Ruislip ward. Under their proposal the number of electors per councillor in Manor ward would vary by 12 per cent more than the average, while the number of electors per councillor in South Ruislip ward would vary by 15 per cent less than the average

73 Having considered the representations received at Stage Three, we note that our draft recommendations have been broadly supported, subject to minor boundary modifications. On balance, we are content to confirm our draft recommendations as final, subject to one boundary modification. In the light of further evidence, we have been persuaded that the northern edge of the recreation ground on Field End Road and Yeading Brook would form a stronger boundary between the proposed Cavendish and South Ruislip wards than that used for the purposes of our draft

recommendations.

74 While we have considered Ruislip Northwood Conservative Association's proposal to follow Yeading Brook as a ward boundary, we have not been persuaded that this would achieve a better balance between electoral equality and the statutory criteria than our draft recommendations. Nor have we been persuaded to include Morford Way in East Ruislip ward, as this would adversely affect the level of electoral equality, with the number of electors per councillor in East Ruislip ward varying by 11 per cent from the average. Similarly, the Liberal Democrats' proposal to transfer Parkfield Crescent from South Ruislip ward and South Ruislip Residents' Association's proposal to transfer Ruislip Gardens and the area bounded by West End Road and Odyssey Business Park from the proposed South Ruislip ward to Manor ward would each adversely affect the level of electoral equality in the area.

75 Under our final recommendations, the number of electors per councillor in Cavendish, Manor and South Ruislip wards would vary by 1 per cent, 1 per cent and 3 per cent respectively. This level of electoral equality is projected to marginally deteriorate over the next five years, although all three wards are projected to have an electoral imbalance of less than 5 per cent by 2004.

Eastcote, Northwood and Northwood Hills wards

76 The existing wards of Eastcote, Northwood and Northwood Hills are situated in the north-east of the borough and are bordered by the London Borough of Harrow and Three Rivers district. Each of the existing wards is represented by three members. Under current arrangements, the number of electors per councillor is equal to the borough average in Eastcote and Northwood Hills wards, and varies by 3 per cent from the average in Northwood ward. However, this level of electoral equality is projected to deteriorate over the next five years, with the number of electors per councillor in Eastcote, Northwood and Northwood Hills expected to vary from the borough average by 3 per cent, 8 per cent and 6 per cent respectively by 2004.

77 At Stage One the Labour Party proposed retaining the majority of Northwood's ward boundaries, but with the area to the north of Chester Road in Northwood Hills ward also being

included in a revised Northwood ward. It proposed that the rest of Northwood Hills ward should be combined with that part of Eastcote ward to the north of the River Pinn, while the larger part of Eastcote ward would be combined with parts of Manor and Ruislip wards to form a new East Ruislip ward. The Liberal Democrats proposed that Eastcote ward should be combined with a small part of Ruislip ward and that Northwood and Northwood Hills wards should retain their existing ward boundaries. Northwood Residents' Association proposed that the area bounded by High Street and Hallowell Road should be included in Northwood ward, while a local resident put forward alternative warding arrangements for Eastcote ward.

78 In our draft recommendations report we noted that the Liberal Democrats' proposals would result in relatively high levels of electoral inequality in this area, with the number of electors per councillor in Northwood and Northwood Hills wards both varying by more than 10 per cent by 2004. We therefore based our draft recommendations on the Labour Party's proposals. We noted that the Labour Party's proposals for this area achieved a better balance between electoral equality and the statutory criteria, and partly reflected the views of Northwood Residents' Association. However, in the interests of adopting a better boundary, we proposed that Joel Street and Wentworth Drive should form part of the boundary between the new East Ruislip and Northwood Hills wards.

79 Under our draft recommendations the number of electors per councillor in East Ruislip, Northwood and Northwood Hills wards would vary by less than 2 per cent from the borough average. By 2004, this level of electoral equality is projected to deteriorate, with all three wards expected to vary by less than 5 per cent from the average.

80 At Stage Three we received 54 representations relating to our draft recommendations for this area. The Labour Party fully supported our proposed Eastcote, Northwood and Northwood Hills wards, while the Liberal Democrats reiterated their Stage One proposals that Northwood and Northwood Hills wards should retain their existing ward boundaries. Eastcote Residents' Association opposed our draft recommendation to include the Morford Way area in Cavendish ward, and the area known as Old Eastcote in Northwood Hills ward. It also proposed that Northwood Hills ward be

renamed Northwood Hills & Old Eastcote and that Eastcote be retained as a ward name. Northwood Hills Residents' Association proposed that the Haydon Hall area should be included in the proposed East Ruislip ward rather than the proposed Northwood Hills ward, and that the proposed Northwood Hills ward should be renamed Haydon if Haydon Hall is included in the ward, and St Vincent's if it is not.

81 A local resident argued that Norwich Road should form the boundary between the Eastcote and Northwood Hills communities, and that Haydon Hall Park should be included in East Ruislip ward, to be renamed Ruislip-Eastcote.

82 The Liberal Democrats, John Randall MP and John Wilkinson MP suggested that our proposed East Ruislip ward be renamed Eastcote. In addition, Cavendish Ward Labour Party proposed that East Ruislip ward be named Eastcote or Eastcote-Ruislip. We also received 25 proforma letters from residents opposing our draft recommendations for East Ruislip ward, arguing that the ward be named either Eastcote & East Ruislip or East Ruislip & Eastcote. Ruislip, Northwood & Eastcote Local History Society argued that our proposal to include part of the existing Eastcote ward in Northwood Hills ward would not satisfactorily reflect the interests and identities of communities in this area, and proposed that East Ruislip ward be renamed Ruislip & Eastcote. Eastcote Chamber of Commerce and four residents opposed the loss of Eastcote as a ward name, while another resident proposed that the ward be named Highgrove. The Liberal Democrats, Eastcote Residents' Association and a resident proposed retaining Morford Way in the proposed East Ruislip ward. One resident proposed that the area to the west of Manor Way, bounded by Eastcote Road and Midcroft, be included in a revised East Ruislip ward. A further eight submissions opposed our proposals for the existing Eastcote ward, but did not put forward alternative electoral arrangements.

83 The Liberal Democrats proposed retaining the existing Northwood and Northwood Hills ward boundaries. One resident supported our draft recommendations for Northwood and Northwood Hills ward, while another proposed that Northwood's existing ward boundaries be retained. Northwood and Northwood Hills residents' associations proposed that the area to the west of High Street be included in Northwood ward to

better reflect the interests and identities of communities in the area. A councillor put forward a broadly similar boundary modification, but also proposed including the area to the east of Watford Road in Northwood Hills ward to achieve a better level of electoral equality. He additionally proposed that Northwood Hills ward be renamed St Vincents. Cavendish Ward Labour Party proposed several alternative names for Northwood Hills ward, including Haydon, Northwood Hills & Haydon and Northwood Hills & Old Eastcote.

84 Ruislip Northwood Conservative Association supported our draft recommendation for Northwood ward and suggested a minor modification to the proposed south-west boundary of Northwood Hills ward, taking the area to the south of Conniston Gardens into a proposed North Ruislip ward. In addition, it was proposed that a revised Eastcote ward should comprise the area to the east of Lime Grove and Oak Grove, and the area to the north of Yeading Brook. Under Ruislip Northwood Conservative Association's proposals, the number of electors per councillor in Northwood ward would vary by 1 per cent, while the number of electors per councillor in Eastcote and Northwood Hills wards would be equal to the borough average.

85 One resident proposed broadly similar warding arrangements for this area, but proposed that Northwood Hills ward be renamed Haydon. He proposed that Bridle Road should be utilised as the boundary between Eastcote and Haydon wards, and that the area to the north of High Street, in the existing Northwood Hills ward, be included in Northwood ward. He proposed that the area to the west of Wiltshire Lane be included in a new Woods ward, with the majority of the existing Ruislip ward. He also proposed that Coombe Drive and adjoining roads be included in Eastcote ward. Under these proposals, the number of electors per councillor in Haydon and Northwood wards would each vary by 1 per cent from the borough average, while the number of electors per councillor in Eastcote ward would be equal the average.

86 Having carefully considered the representations received at Stage Three, we note that our draft recommendations in this area have not achieved a high degree of support, and we have been persuaded to depart from them in three areas. First, we note that the proposed ward name of East

Ruislip has met with local opposition, and we concur with the view that Eastcote should be retained as a ward name. We are therefore proposing that the proposed East Ruislip ward be named Eastcote & East Ruislip. Second, we are proposing to include Haydon Hall Park and adjoining roads in the proposed Eastcote & East Ruislip ward, as proposed by Northwood Hills Residents' Association and a local resident. We have been persuaded that this boundary modification would better reflect the interests and identities of communities in the area. Third, we are proposing to include the area to the west of High Street in Northwood ward and the area to the east of Watford Way in Northwood Hills ward, as proposed by Northwood and Northwood Hills residents' associations. We consider that this modification would better reflect the interests and identities of communities in the area, while having only a marginal effect on the level of electoral.

87 We note that the proposals put forward by Ruislip Northwood Conservatives would achieve a good level of electoral equality, but that this level of electoral equality is projected to deteriorate by 2004. Accordingly, we have not been persuaded that these alternative warding arrangements would achieve a better balance between electoral equality and the statutory criteria than our draft recommendations. In particular, we have reservations in relation to a number of the proposed alternative ward boundaries. In addition, we do not consider that the Liberal Democrats' proposal to retain the existing boundary between Northwood and Northwood Hills ward has particular merit; we consider that High Street is an integral part of the Northwood community and should be represented in Northwood ward. Similarly, we have not been persuaded that their proposal to retain Morford Way in East Ruislip ward, which would result in the proposed Cavendish and East Ruislip wards having an electoral imbalance of 10 and 11 per cent respectively, has merit.

88 We have also considered alternative ward names for the proposed Northwood Hills ward, but note that there is no broad agreement, and have therefore not been persuaded that any of the proposed alternative names would necessarily command a greater level of local support than 'Northwood Hills'. We are therefore confirming our draft recommendation for this ward name.

89 Under our final recommendations, the number of

electors per councillor in Eastcote & East Ruislip, Northwood and Northwood Hills wards would all vary by no more than 3 per cent from the borough average. This level of electoral equality is projected to marginally deteriorate over the next five years.

Crane, Harlington and Heathrow wards

90 The existing wards of Crane, Harlington and Heathrow are situated in the south of the borough. The wards are traversed by the M4 motorway, and the London to Bristol railway line forms the northern boundary of much of Harlington and Crane wards. Heathrow and Crane wards are currently represented by two members, while Harlington ward is represented by three members. Under existing arrangements the number of electors per councillor in Crane, Harlington and Heathrow wards varies from the borough average by 3 per cent, 7 per cent and 9 per cent respectively. While this level of electoral equality is expected to improve slightly over the next five years in Crane and Harlington wards, as a result of projected development, Heathrow ward is expected to have an electoral variance of 21 per cent by 2004.

91 At Stage One the Labour Party proposed combining Heathrow ward with parts of Crane, Harlington and Yiewsley wards. It proposed that the rest of Harlington ward should be combined with part of Crane ward, while the remainder of Crane ward would be included in a new Hayes Town ward. The Liberal Democrats contended that the M4 motorway forms a recognisable barrier between communities and proposed a new Heathrow Villages ward comprising all the existing Heathrow ward to the south of the motorway together with parts of Crane and Harlington wards. They proposed combining the rest of Crane and Harlington wards to form a new Pinkwell ward.

92 In our draft recommendations report we endorsed the Liberal Democrats' proposals for this area which we considered achieved the best balance between electoral equality and the statutory criteria. In particular, we considered that the M4 motorway formed a strong and logical division of communities in the area, while the London to Bristol railway line would form a good northern boundary for the new Pinkwell ward.

93 Under our draft recommendations the number of electors per councillor in Heathrow Villages and Pinkwell wards would each vary by 4 per cent from

the borough average. By 2004 the two wards are expected to have electoral variances of 2 per cent and 7 per cent respectively.

94 At Stage Three John Randall MP proposed that the area bounded by Harmondsworth Road and Sipson Road should be included in West Drayton ward and, as a consequence, he proposed that part of the existing Yiewsley ward, to the south of the London to Bristol railway line and to the east of the RAF station, should be included in Heathrow Villages ward in order to improve electoral equality. Under this proposal, the number of electors per councillor in Heathrow Villages and West Drayton wards would both vary by 10 per cent from the borough average.

95 The Labour Party accepted our draft recommendation for Heathrow Villages ward "with some reservations". However, it proposed that the Stockley bypass should be utilised as the boundary between Heathrow Villages and Pinkwell wards, and supported our draft recommendation for Pinkwell ward, subject to the boundary modification detailed above. It also argued that the Bell Farm estate has links with communities in Heathrow Villages ward. Harmondsworth & Sipson Residents' Association supported our draft recommendation to unite the five villages to the south of the M4 motorway in a single ward, but also opposed the inclusion of the area bounded by Harmondsworth Road and Sipson Road in Heathrow Villages ward.

96 Having carefully considered the representations received at Stage Three, we note that our draft recommendation to include part of Yiewsley ward in Heathrow Villages ward has not achieved a high degree of local support. However, we have not been persuaded that alternative warding arrangements would achieve a better balance between electoral equality and the statutory criteria, and are therefore confirming our draft recommendations as final. In particular, while Harmondsworth & Sipson Residents' Association's proposal would utilise the M4 motorway as a boundary between Heathrow Villages and West Drayton wards, we note that it would result in poor electoral equality, with both proposed wards having electoral variances of 19 per cent. We also consider that our proposal to utilise the M4 motorway as a boundary between Heathrow Villages and Pinkwell wards is more easily identifiable than the Stockley Bypass.

Botwell, Townfield and Wood End ward

97 The existing wards of Botwell, Townfield and Wood End are situated in the east of the borough. Botwell and Wood End wards are each represented by two members, while Townfield ward is represented by three members. Under current arrangements the number of electors per councillor in Botwell, Townfield and Wood End wards varies from the borough average by 5 per cent, 11 per cent and 3 per cent respectively. While this level of electoral equality is expected to remain relatively constant over the next five years in Townfield and Wood End wards, it is projected to improve in Botwell ward, where the number of electors per councillor is expected to be equal to the borough average by 2004.

98 At Stage One the Labour Party proposed combining Wood End ward with parts of Botwell and Townfield wards to form a new Barra Hall ward. It proposed that the remainder of Townfield ward should be divided between a new Hayes Town ward together with part of Crane ward, while a new College ward would include parts of Barnhill and Yeading Brook wards. The Liberal Democrats proposed combining Townfield ward with part of Botwell ward to form a revised Townfield ward, with the remainder of Botwell ward being included with part of Wood End ward in a revised Botwell ward.

99 In our draft recommendations report we noted that there was broad agreement that parts of Botwell and Wood End wards be combined, and we concurred with this view, although we noted that there were differences over the precise ward boundaries in the area. On balance, we were persuaded that the Liberal Democrats' proposals achieved the best balance between electoral equality and the statutory criteria. In particular, we considered that their proposal to use Uxbridge Road as Botwell's northern ward boundary, had merit. However, in order to further improve electoral equality we proposed including the area bounded by Harlington Road and West Drayton Road in Botwell ward.

100 Under our draft recommendations, the number of electors per councillor in Botwell and Townfield wards would both be equal to the borough average. This level of electoral equality was projected to marginally deteriorate over the next five years, with the number of electors per councillor in both wards expected to vary by less than 3 per cent from the average.

101 At Stage Three the Labour Party proposed that the area to the east of Station Road and to the south of the London to Bristol railway line should be included in Townfield ward rather than Botwell ward, and argued that our proposed boundary between the two wards was "confused". This proposed modification would result in the number of electors per councillor in Botwell and Townfield wards each varying by less than 1 per cent.

102 Having carefully considered the representations received, we note that the Labour Party's proposed modification achieves a level of electoral equality comparable to that achieved under our draft recommendations. However, we are not persuaded to depart from our draft recommendations in this area on the evidence received at Stage Three. We consider that Nestles Avenue and adjoining roads to the south of the London to Bristol railway line are linked to the rest of Botwell ward by Station Road, and note that there are no roads directly linking the area with Townfield ward. We have therefore decided to confirm our draft recommendations as final.

Barnhill, Charville and Yeading wards

103 The existing wards of Barnhill, Charville and Yeading are located in the east of the borough and are each represented by three members. Under current arrangements, the number of electors per councillor in the three wards varies from the borough average by 11 per cent, 5 per cent and 7 per cent respectively. While this level of electoral equality is expected to remain relatively constant in Barnhill and Charville wards over the next five years, as a result of projected development it is expected to improve in Yeading ward, which is expected to have an electoral variance of 1 per cent by 2004.

104 At Stage One the Conservatives proposed combining Charville ward with parts of Barnhill and Wood End wards, while they proposed Yeading ward should be combined with the part of Barnhill ward to the north of Yeading Brook and Findhorn Avenue. They also proposed that the remainder of Barnhill ward should form part of a revised Townfield ward. The Labour Party proposed combining Charville ward with part of Barnhill ward in a new Hayes Park ward. Also, as indicated previously, it proposed that a new College ward should comprise parts of Barnhill and Yeading wards, and that a new Yeading Brook ward includes the rest of Barnhill and Yeading wards. The Liberal Democrats proposed that Uxbridge

Road should form the southern boundary of Barnhill, Charville and Yeading wards, and that the existing boundary between Barnhill and Charville wards be retained. They proposed that the boundary between Barnhill and Yeading should utilise Yeading Lane and The Parkway.

105 In our draft recommendations report we noted that there was broad agreement that the northern and western boundaries of the existing Charville ward be retained, and that the Conservatives and the Liberal Democrats both proposed combining parts of Wood End ward with Charville ward, with the eastern boundary of Charville ward being retained. On balance, we endorsed the Liberal Democrats' proposals for this area, as we were persuaded that they achieved the best balance between electoral equality and the statutory criteria. In particular, we noted that the Liberal Democrats' proposals utilised Uxbridge Road as the southern boundary of Barnhill, Charville and Yeading wards.

106 Under our draft recommendations, the number of electors per councillor in Barnhill, Charville and Yeading wards would vary by 4 per cent, 1 per cent and 8 per cent from the borough average respectively. This level of electoral equality is projected to improve significantly over the next five years, with the number of electors per councillor projected to vary by less than 3 per cent in all three wards by 2004.

107 At Stage Three the Labour Party accepted our draft recommendations for this area, but proposed that the Wagon & Horses Public House should be included in Yeading ward rather than the proposed Townfield ward. No other representations were received.

108 Having carefully considered the representations received, we remain of the view that our draft recommendations would achieve the best possible balance between electoral equality and the statutory criteria, and we are content to endorse them. In particular, our proposals utilise the easily identifiable A4020 Uxbridge Road as the southern boundary of Barnhill, Charville and Yeading wards. While we have considered the Labour Party's proposal to modify the boundary between Yeading and Townfield wards, we note that this proposal would breach the A4020 Uxbridge Road. Nor have we been persuaded that their proposed modification would better reflect the interests and identities of communities in this area.

Colham, West Drayton and Yiewsley wards

109 The wards of Colham, West Drayton and Yiewsley are situated in the west of the borough, are traversed by the London to Bristol railway line and bounded in the south by the M4 motorway. Each of the existing wards is represented by two members. Under current arrangements the number of electors per councillor varies from the borough average by 4 per cent, 4 per cent and 3 per cent respectively. In five years time the number of electors per councillor in the three wards is projected to vary from the borough average by 5 per cent, 2 per cent and 5 per cent respectively.

110 At Stage One the Labour Party proposed combining West Drayton ward with part of Yiewsley ward to form a new West Drayton & Yiewsley ward, with the remainder of Yiewsley ward forming a separate ward with parts of Colham, Cowley and Hillingdon West wards. The Liberal Democrats proposed combining parts of West Drayton and Yiewsley wards to form a revised West Drayton and Yiewsley ward, with part of Yiewsley and West Drayton ward being combined with the whole of Colham ward.

111 In our draft recommendations report we indicated that we had been persuaded that the London to Bristol railway line forms a significant barrier to movement and delineates communities in this area and, on balance, we were persuaded that the Liberal Democrats' proposals to utilise the railway line and the M4 motorway as ward boundaries had merit. While alternative warding arrangements achieved better levels of electoral equality than the Liberal Democrats, they breached the railway line and, in our judgement, did not satisfactorily reflect the interests and identities of communities.

112 Under our draft recommendations, the number of electors per councillor in West Drayton and Yiewsley wards would vary by 4 per cent and 2 per cent from the borough average respectively. This level of electoral equality is not expected to change significantly over the next five years.

113 At Stage Three John Randall MP proposed including the area bounded by Harmondsworth Road and Sipson Road in West Drayton ward, with the area located to the south of the London to Bristol railway line and to the east of the RAF station being included in Heathrow Villages ward.

Harmondsworth & Sipson Residents' Association broadly supported our draft recommendations, but also proposed that the area bounded by Harmondsworth Road and Sipson Road be included in West Drayton ward. The Labour Party accepted our draft recommendations for West Drayton and Yiewsley wards.

114 Having carefully considered the representations received at Stage Three, we have decided to confirm our draft recommendations for this area. In particular, we note that our proposal to utilise the London to Bristol railway line as the boundary between West Drayton and Yiewsley ward is easily identifiable, and has been broadly supported. As indicated earlier, while we have considered proposed modifications to ward boundaries in this area, we consider that these proposals would result in a poor level of electoral equality.

Cowley, Hillingdon West, Uxbridge North and Uxbridge South wards

115 The existing wards of Cowley, Hillingdon West, Uxbridge South and Uxbridge North are situated in the west of the borough and contain Brunel University and Hillingdon Hospital. Cowley and Hillingdon West wards are each represented by three members, while Uxbridge South and Uxbridge North wards are each represented by two members. Under current arrangements the number of electors per councillor in the four wards varies from the borough average by 9 per cent, 3 per cent, 3 per cent and 21 per cent. Over the next five years while this level of electoral equality is expected to remain relatively constant in Colham, Hillingdon West and Uxbridge South wards, it is projected to deteriorate in Uxbridge North ward, which is expected to have an electoral variance of 9 per cent by 2004.

116 At Stage One the Labour Party proposed that the whole of Uxbridge North ward should be combined with part of Hillingdon West ward to form a new Uxbridge ward, with the rest of Hillingdon West ward being combined with parts of Colham and Hillingdon East wards in a new University ward. It also proposed that Uxbridge South ward should be combined with part of Cowley ward to form a new Cowley Mill ward. The Liberal Democrats proposed combining Uxbridge North ward with part of Hillingdon West ward to form a revised Hillingdon West ward, while the rest of Hillingdon West ward would be combined with parts of Cowley and Hillingdon

East wards in a new Brunel ward. They also proposed including the remainder of Cowley ward with Uxbridge South ward to form a new Uxbridge ward. Uxbridge Conservatives proposed combining Uxbridge North ward with parts of Uxbridge South and Cowley wards to form a new Uxbridge ward, with part of Cowley ward being included in the proposed West Drayton ward.

117 In our draft recommendations report, we noted that there was some agreement between the Labour Party and the Liberal Democrats that parts of Hillingdon East and Hillingdon West wards should be combined, and that part of Cowley ward be combined with Uxbridge ward. There was also broad agreement that Uxbridge North ward be combined with part of Hillingdon West ward. However, while we considered that both proposals would provide much improved electoral equality and reflect the interests and identities of communities, on balance, we preferred the Liberal Democrats' scheme for this area, largely as a consequence of our draft recommendations for adjoining wards. Nevertheless, we proposed departing from the Liberal Democrats' proposals in two areas. First, in the interests of better reflecting communities in the area, we proposed renaming the proposed Hillingdon West and Uxbridge wards as Uxbridge North and Uxbridge South respectively. Second, in the interests of achieving better electoral equality, we proposed including Manor Way and Nursery Way in Uxbridge North ward and Clarkes Drive in Yiewsley ward.

118 Under our draft recommendations, the number of electors per councillor in Uxbridge North and Uxbridge South wards would vary by 7 per cent and 2 per cent from the borough average respectively. This level of electoral equality is projected to remain constant over the next five years.

119 At Stage Three the Labour Party proposed including electors to the south of Hillingdon Road in either Brunel or Uxbridge South wards. It also argued that our proposed boundary between Brunel and Uxbridge South ward was not particularly strong, and proposed that the Uxbridge bypass should form the boundary between the two wards. John Randall MP opposed the loss of the name Cowley. One resident generally supported our draft recommendations for this area, but proposed that the A40 Western Avenue should form Uxbridge North's northern boundary, rather than Freezeland Way. Another resident proposed that a new Uxbridge ward should comprise the

whole of the existing Uxbridge South ward together with parts of the existing Uxbridge North, Hillingdon West and Cowley wards. He also proposed that a new Hillingdon West ward should comprise parts of the existing Hillingdon West, Uxbridge North and Hillingdon East wards, and that a new Cowley Brunel ward should comprise part of the existing Cowley and Hillingdon West wards. Under these proposals, the number of electors per councillor in Uxbridge, Hillingdon West and Brunel Cowley wards would vary by 2 per cent, 3 per cent and 6 per cent respectively. This level of electoral equality is projected to remain constant over the next five years.

¹²⁰ Having carefully considered the representations received at Stage Three, we note that our draft recommendations for Uxbridge North and Uxbridge South have achieved a degree of local support and have decided to confirm them as final, subject to one modification. We consider that there is merit in the proposal put forward by a local resident to utilise the A40 Western Avenue as a ward boundary, and we have decided to adopt it as part of our final recommendation. This modification would not affect any electors. We have considered retaining the Cowley ward name, as proposed by John Randall MP, but have not been persuaded that this would necessarily command widespread local support, and are therefore confirming our draft recommendations as final. We have considered the alternative proposal put forward by another local resident in this area but, while achieving good electoral equality, we have not been persuaded that it would satisfactorily reflect the interests and identities of communities in the area. In particular, we note that this proposal would combine a number of disparate communities and would not utilise strong boundaries.

¹²¹ We have also not been persuaded to transfer Dawes Road and Valley Road from Uxbridge North ward to either Brunel or Uxbridge South ward on the grounds that these two roads would appear to have stronger links to other parts of Uxbridge North ward than other parts of the borough. Also, while we consider that the Labour Party's proposal to utilise the Uxbridge bypass as a ward boundary has some merit, given the resultant level of electoral equality in the proposed Brunel and Uxbridge South wards, we have not been persuaded to modify our draft recommendations in this area.

Hillingdon East and Hillingdon North wards

¹²² The existing wards of Hillingdon East and Hillingdon North are bounded by Long Lane to the west and the parliamentary constituency boundary to the east. Each of the existing wards is currently represented by two members. Under existing arrangements, the number of electors per councillor in the two wards varies from the borough average by 4 per cent and is equal to the average respectively. Over the next five years this level of electoral equality is expected to improve, with the two wards projected to have electoral variances of 2 per cent and equal to the average in five years time.

¹²³ At Stage One the Labour Party proposed that parts of Hillingdon East and Hillingdon North wards should form a new Hillingdon ward, with the remainder of Hillingdon East ward being combined with the proposed Brunel ward, as indicated earlier. The Liberal Democrats' proposals were broadly similar to the Labour Party's, except that the Liberal Democrats proposed that Long Lane should be included in a revised Hillingdon East ward. Uxbridge Conservatives proposed combining Hillingdon East ward with part of Hillingdon North ward in a new Hillingdon ward, with the remainder of Hillingdon North ward being included in a revised Ickenham ward.

¹²⁴ In our draft recommendations report, we noted that there was broad agreement between the Labour Party and Liberal Democrats, but concluded that the Liberal Democrats' proposals achieved the best balance between electoral equality and the statutory criteria. We noted that the Labour Party and Uxbridge Conservatives' proposals would require adopting their proposals in neighbouring parts of the borough and, as already discussed, we were not persuaded that their proposals would provide for better warding arrangements.

¹²⁵ Under our draft recommendations, the number of electors per councillor in Hillingdon East ward would vary from the borough average by 4 per cent now and 3 per cent by 2004.

¹²⁶ At Stage Three, we received five submissions in relation to this area. The Labour Party and Uxbridge Labour Party broadly supported our

draft recommendations for the proposed Hillingdon East ward, subject to revising the proposed boundary of the proposed Hillingdon East and Uxbridge North wards to follow the A40. It argued that this would provide a far more logical and sensible northern boundary. This proposal was endorsed by a local resident and Oak Farm Residents' Association. Oak Farm Residents' Association also suggested extending the eastern boundary of the proposed Hillingdon East ward, arguing that this would cover more of their area. It also suggested that the proposed ward name be modified to Hillingdon North-East ward to better reflect the constituent community. One resident supported our draft recommendation for Hillingdon East ward.

127 Having carefully considered the representations received at Stage Three, we note that our draft recommendations for this area have achieved a degree of local support, and have decided to confirm them subject to one modification. We consider that the proposal put forward by The Labour Party, Uxbridge Labour Party, Oak Farm Residents' Association and a local resident to utilise the A40 Western Avenue as Hillingdon East's northern ward boundary has merit, and have decided to adopt this modification as our final recommendation. This proposal would affect 11 electors, and would have only marginal effect on electoral equality.

Conclusions

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

- (a) High Street and the area to its north-west should be transferred from Northwood Hills ward to Northwood ward, while the area south-east of Watford Road should be transferred from Northwood ward to Northwood Hills ward;
- (b) East Ruislip ward should be renamed Eastcote & East Ruislip ward;
- (c) Haydon Hall Park and adjoining roads should be transferred from Northwood Hills ward to Eastcote & East Ruislip ward;

- (d) the southern boundary of Eastcote & East Ruislip ward should follow Yeading Brook between the borough boundary and Field End Road;
- (e) the southern boundary of Ickenham ward with Hillingdon East and Uxbridge wards should follow the A40 Western Avenue. Similarly, the southern boundary of South Ruislip ward with Hillingdon East ward should follow the A40 Western Avenue.

129 We conclude that, in Hillingdon:

- (a) there should be a reduction in council size from 69 to 65;
- (b) there should be 22 wards, seven less than at present, which would involve changes to the boundaries of all but one of the existing wards.

130 Figure 4 (opposite) shows the impact of our final recommendations on electoral equality, comparing them with the current arrangements, based on 1999 and 2004 electorate figures.

131 As shown in Figure 4, our final recommendations for Hillingdon Borough Council would result in the number of electors per councillor varying by less than 10 per cent in all 22 wards. This improved balance of representation is expected to improve further with all wards expected to vary by less than 7 per cent in 2004. 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.

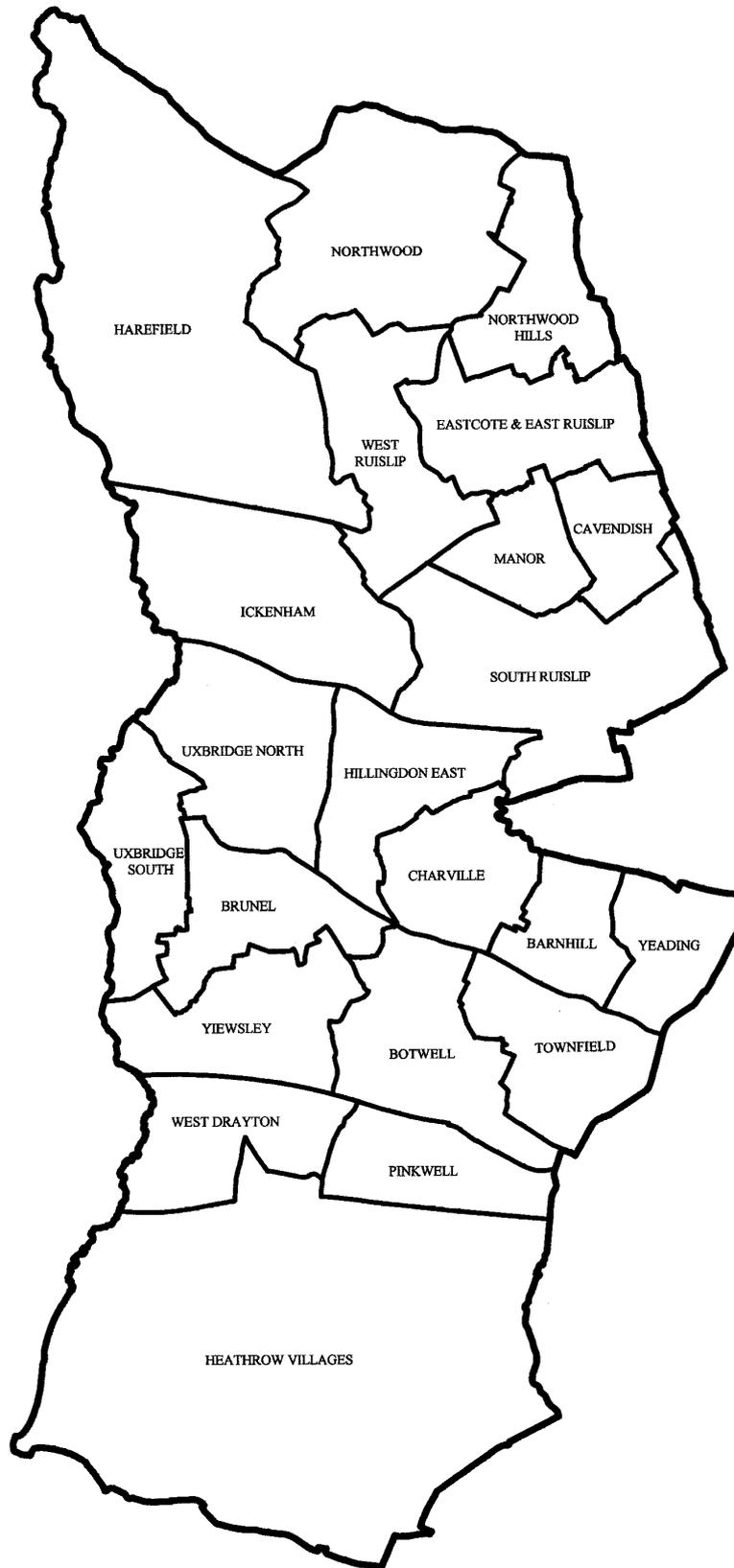
Final Recommendation

Hillingdon Borough Council should comprise 65 councillors serving 22 wards, as detailed and named in Figures 1 and 2, and illustrated on the large map at the back of this report.

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

	1999 electorate		2004 forecast electorate	
	Current arrangements	Final recommendations	Current arrangements	Final recommendations
Number of councillors	69	65	69	65
Number of wards	29	22	29	22
Average number of electors per councillor	2,594	2,753	2,593	2,752
Number of wards with a variance more than 10 per cent from the average	5	0	4	0
Number of wards with a variance more than 20 per cent from the average	1	0	1	0

Map 2:
The Commission's Final Recommendations for Hillingdon



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6. NEXT STEPS

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

133 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.

134 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 Hillingdon

Our final recommendations, detailed in Figures 1 and 2, differ from those we put forward as draft recommendations in respect of a number of wards where our draft proposals are set out below. The only other change from draft to final recommendations, which is not included in Figure B1, is that we propose to rename East Ruislip ward as Eastcote & East Ruislip.

Figure A1:

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

Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (1999)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2004)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
1 Barnhill	3	7,889	2,630	-4	8,048	2,683	-3
2 Botwell	3	8,252	2,751	0	8,516	2,839	3
3 Brunel	3	8,438	2,813	2	8,638	2,879	5
4 Cavendish	3	8,209	2,736	-1	7,803	2,601	-5
5 Charville	3	8,215	2,738	-1	8,281	2,760	0
6 East Ruislip	3	8,394	2,798	2	7,939	2,646	-4
7 Harefield	2	5,419	2,710	-2	5,239	2,620	-5
8 Heathrow Villages	3	7,958	2,653	-4	8,418	2,806	2
9 Hillingdon East	3	8,568	2,856	4	8,471	2,824	3
10 Ickenham	3	7,958	2,653	-4	7,899	2,633	-4
11 Manor	3	8,174	2,725	-1	7,877	2,626	-5
12 Northwood	3	8,221	2,740	0	7,930	2,643	-4
13 Northwood Hills	3	8,385	2,795	2	7,848	2,616	-5

continued overleaf

Figure A1 (continued):

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

Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (1999)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2004)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
14 Pinkwell	3	8,578	2,859	4	8,800	2,933	7
15 South Ruislip	3	8,127	2,709	-2	8,250	2,750	0
16 Townfield	3	8,299	2,766	0	8,425	2,808	2
17 Uxbridge North	3	8,814	2,938	7	8,695	2,898	5
18 Uxbridge South	3	8,436	2,812	2	8,476	2,825	3
19 West Drayton	3	8,555	2,852	4	8,771	2,924	6
20 West Ruislip	3	8,020	2,673	-3	7,868	2,623	-5
21 Yeading	3	7,622	2,541	-8	8,272	2,757	0
22 Yiewsley	3	8,426	2,809	2	8,408	2,803	2
Totals	65	178,957	—	—	178,872	—	—
Averages	—	—	2,753	—	—	2,752	—

Source: Electorate figures are based on Hillingdon Borough Council data.

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.

