

LOCAL
GOVERNMENT
COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND

FINAL
RECOMMENDATIONS
ON THE FUTURE
ELECTORAL
ARRANGEMENTS FOR
HARROGATE IN
NORTH YORKSHIRE

*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 borough of Harrogate in North Yorkshire.

Members of the Commission are:

Professor Malcolm Grant (Chairman)

Professor Michael Clarke (Deputy Chairman)

Peter Brokenshire

Kru Desai

Pamela Gordon

Robin Gray

Robert Hughes CBE

Barbara Stephens (Chief Executive)

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A large map illustrating the proposed ward boundaries for the towns of Harrogate, Knaresborough and Ripon is inserted inside the back cover of the report.



Local Government Commission for England

30 November 1999

Dear Secretary of State

On 3 November 1998 the Commission began a periodic electoral review of Harrogate under the Local Government Act 1992. We published our draft recommendations in May 1999 and undertook an eight-week period of consultation. We sought further comments on proposals provided at Stage Three regarding the rural wards. A further round of consultation in relation to the rural part of the borough took place from 18 August 1999, ending on 17 September 1999.

We have now prepared our final recommendations in the light of the consultation. We have made significant modifications to our draft recommendations in the light of further evidence (see paragraph 168) . This report sets out our final recommendations for changes to electoral arrangements in Harrogate.

We recommend that Harrogate Borough Council should be served by 54 councillors representing 35 wards, and that changes should be made to ward boundaries in order to improve electoral equality, having regard to the statutory criteria. We recommend that the Council should continue to hold elections by thirds.

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

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

Yours sincerely

PROFESSOR MALCOLM GRANT
Chairman

SUMMARY

The Commission began a review of Harrogate on 3 November 1998. We published our draft recommendations for electoral arrangements on 25 May 1999, after which we undertook an eight-week period of consultation. We also sought further comments on an alternative proposal concerning the rural areas received at Stage Three.

- **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 Harrogate:

- **in nine of the 32 wards the number of electors represented by each councillor varies by more than 10 per cent from the average for the borough, and four wards vary by more than 20 per cent from the average;**
- **by 2003 electoral equality is not expected to improve, with the number of electors per councillor forecast to vary by more than 10 per cent from the average in 12 wards, and by more than 20 per cent in four wards.**

Our main final recommendations for future electoral arrangements (Figures 1 and 2 and paragraphs 168 - 169) are that:

- **Harrogate Borough Council should have 54 councillors, five fewer than at present;**
- **there should be 35 wards, instead of 32 as at present;**
- **the boundaries of 29 of the existing wards should be modified, and three wards should retain their existing boundaries;**
- **elections should continue to take place by thirds.**

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

- **In 30 of the proposed 35 wards the number of electors per councillor would vary by no more than 10 per cent from the borough average.**
- **This improved level of electoral equality is forecast to continue, with the number of electors per councillor in only one ward, Mashamshire, expected to vary by more than 10 per cent from the average for the borough in 2003.**

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

- **revised warding arrangements for Knaresborough and Ripon town councils and Boroughbridge and Killinghall parish councils;**
- **an increase in the number of councillors for Whixley Parish Council.**

All further correspondence on these recommendations and the matters discussed in this report should be addressed to the Secretary of State for the Environment, Transport and the Regions, who will not make an order implementing the Commission's recommendations before 11 January 1999:

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

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

Ward name	Number of councillors	Constituent areas	Map reference
1 Bilton (in Harrogate)	2	Bilton ward (part); East Central ward (part); New Park ward (part)	Large map
2 Bishop Monkton	1	Bishop Monkton ward (part – the parishes of Bishop Monkton, Burton Leonard, Markenfield Hall, Markington with Wallerthwaite and South Stainley with Cayton); Fountains ward (part – Littlethorpe parish)	Map 2
3 Boroughbridge	1	Boroughbridge ward (part – Boroughbridge parish ward (as proposed) of Boroughbridge parish)	Maps 2 and A2
4 Claro	1	Boroughbridge ward (part – Minskip parish ward (as proposed) of Boroughbridge parish and Marton cum Grafton parish); Claro ward (part – the parishes of Arkendale, Brearton, Coneythorpe & Clareton, Farnham, Ferrensby, Scotton and Walkingham with Occaney); Newby ward (part – the parishes of Copgrove and Staveley); Ouseburn ward (part – the parish of Dunsforth)	Map 2
5 Granby (in Harrogate)	2	Granby ward (part)	Large map
6 Harlow Moor (in Harrogate)	2	Duchy ward (part); Harlow ward (part)	Large map
7 High Harrogate (in Harrogate)	2	East Central ward (part); Granby ward (part); West Central ward (part)	Large map
8 Hookstone (in Harrogate)	2	Starbeck ward (part); Wedderburn ward (part)	Large map
9 Killinghall	1	Killinghall ward (part – the parish of Hampsthwaite and Killinghall parish ward, as proposed, of Killinghall parish); Bishop Monkton ward (part – the parishes of Nidd and Ripley)	Maps 2 and A3
10 Kirkby Malzeard	1	Fountains ward (part – the parishes of Aldfield, Lindrick with Studley Royal & Fountains, North Stainley with Sleningford and Studley Roger); Kirkby Malzeard ward (part – the parishes of Azerley, Eavestone, Grantley, Kirkby Malzeard, Laverton, Sawley, Skelding, and Winksley)	Map 2

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

	Ward name	Number of councillors	Constituent areas	Map reference
11	Knaresborough East	2	Knaresborough East parish ward, as proposed, of Knaresborough parish	Large map
12	Knaresborough King James	2	Knaresborough King James parish ward, as proposed, of Knaresborough parish	Large map
13	Knaresborough Scriven Park	2	Knaresborough Scriven Park parish ward, as proposed, of Knaresborough parish	Large map
14	Lower Nidderdale	1	Lower Nidderdale ward (the parishes of Birstwith, Clint cum Hamlets, Felliscliffe and Hartwith cum Winsley); Kirkby Malzeard ward (part – the parishes of Bishop Thornton and Warsill)	Map 2
15	Low Harrogate (in Harrogate)	2	East Central ward (part); West Central ward (part)	Large map
16	Marston Moor	1	Marston Moor ward (the parishes of Bilton in Ainsty with Bickerton, Long Marston, Tockwith and Wighill); Nether Poppleton ward (part – Wilstrop parish)	Map 2
17	Mashamshire	1	<i>Unchanged</i> (the parishes of Burton-on-Yore, Colsterdale, Ellingstring, Ellington High and Low, Fearby, Grewelthorpe, Healey, Ilton-cum-Pott, Masham and Swinton with Warthermarske)	Map 2
18	Newby	1	Newby ward (part – the parishes of Ellenthorpe, Humberton, Kirby Hill, Langthorpe, Milby, Newby with Mulwith, Roecliffe, Skelton on Ure, Thornton Bridge and Westwick); Fountains ward (part – the parishes of Bridge Hewick, Copt Hewick, Givendale and Sharow); Wathvale ward (part – Marton-le-Moor parish)	Map 2
19	New Park (in Harrogate)	2	Duchy ward (part); New Park ward (part); East Central ward (part); West Central ward (part)	Large map
20	Nidd Valley	1	<i>Unchanged</i> (the parishes of Bewerley, Dacre, Menwith with Darley, Thornthwaite with Padside and Thruscross)	Map 2

continued overleaf

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

Ward name	Number of councillors	Constituent areas	Map reference
21 Ouseburn	1	Nether Poppleton ward (part – Moor Monkton parish); Ouseburn ward (part – the parishes of Great Ouseburn, Green Hammerton, Kirby Hall, Little Ouseburn, Nun Monkton, Thorpe Underwoods and Whixley)	Map 2
22 Pannal (in Harrogate)	2	Pannal ward (part)	Large map
23 Pateley Bridge	1	<i>Unchanged</i> (the parishes of High and Low Bishopside, Fountains Earth, Stonebeck Down and Stonebeck Up)	Map 2
24 Ribston	1	Claro ward (part – the parishes of Allerton Mauleverer with Hopperton, Cattal, Flaxby, Goldsborough, Great Ribston with Walshford, Hunsingore and Plompton); Nether Poppleton ward (part – the parishes of Kirk Hammerton and Thornville); Spofforth ward (part – the parishes of Follifoot, Kirk Deighton, Little Ribston and North Deighton)	Map 2
25 Ripon Minster	2	Ripon Minster parish ward, as proposed, of Ripon parish	Large map
26 Ripon Moorside	2	Ripon Moorside parish ward, as proposed, of Ripon parish	Large map
27 Ripon Spa	2	Ripon Spa parish ward, as proposed, of Ripon parish	Large map
28 Rossett (in Harrogate)	2	Harlow ward (part); Pannal ward (part)	Large map
29 Saltergate (in Harrogate)	2	Duchy ward (part); Killinghall ward (part – Killinghall Moor parish ward (as proposed) of Killinghall parish)	Large map
30 Spofforth with Lower Wharfedale	1	Almscliffe ward (part – the parishes of Kearby with Netherby, Kirkby Overblow, Sicklinghall and Weeton); Spofforth ward (part – Spofforth with Stockeld parish)	Map 2
31 Starbeck (in Harrogate)	2	Starbeck ward (part)	Large map
32 Stray (in Harrogate)	2	Pannal ward (part); Wedderburn ward (part); West Central ward (part)	Large map

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

Ward name	Number of councillors	Constituent areas	Map reference
33 Washburn	1	Wharfedale Moors ward (the parishes of Askwith, Blubberhouses, Castley, Denton, Farnley, Fewston, Great Timble, Leathley, Lindley, Little Timble, Middleton, Nesfield with Langbar, Newall with Clifton, Norwood, Stainburn and Weston); Almscliffe ward (part – the parishes of Haverah Park, Pannal and North Rigton)	Map 2
34 Wathvale	1	Fountains ward (part – Hutton Conyers parish); Newby ward (part – the parishes of Cundall with Leckby and Norton le Clay); Wathvale ward (part – the parishes of Asenby, Baldersby, Dishforth, Melmerby, Middleton Quernhow, Norton Conyers, Rainton with Newby and Wath)	Map 2
35 Woodfield (in Harrogate)	2	Bilton ward (part); East Central ward (part)	Large map

Notes: 1 Harrogate town is the only unparished part of the borough and comprises the 13 wards indicated above.

2 Map 2 and Appendix A, including the large map in the back of the report, illustrate the proposed wards outlined above.

Figure 2:
The Commission's Final Recommendations for Harrogate

Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (1998)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2003)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
1 Bilton (in Harrogate)	2	4,156	2,078	-2	4,216	2,108	-3
2 Bishop Monkton	1	2,167	2,167	3	2,167	2,167	0
3 Boroughbridge	1	2,123	2,123	0	2,329	2,329	8
4 Claro	1	2,337	2,337	11	2,375	2,375	10
5 Granby (in Harrogate)	2	4,430	2,215	5	4,510	2,255	4
6 Harlow Moor (in Harrogate)	2	4,112	2,056	-3	4,236	2,118	-2
7 High Harrogate (in Harrogate)	2	4,361	2,181	3	4,361	2,181	1
8 Hookstone (in Harrogate)	2	4,486	2,243	6	4,506	2,253	4
9 Killinghall	1	2,179	2,179	3	2,312	2,312	7
10 Kirkby Malzeard	1	2,086	2,086	-1	2,171	2,171	0
11 Knaresborough East	2	3,929	1,965	-7	3,960	1,980	-8
12 Knaresborough King James	2	4,001	2,001	-5	4,016	2,008	-7
13 Knaresborough Scriven Park	2	3,753	1,877	-13	4,145	2,073	-4
14 Lower Nidderdale	1	2,300	2,300	9	2,300	2,300	6
15 Low Harrogate (in Harrogate)	2	4,191	2,096	-1	4,398	2,199	2
16 Marston Moor	1	2,218	2,218	5	2,311	2,311	7
17 Mashamshire	1	1,872	1,872	-11	1,923	1,923	-11
18 Newby	1	2,282	2,282	8	2,354	2,354	9
19 New Park (in Harrogate)	2	4,215	2,108	0	4,215	2,108	-3
20 Nidd Valley	1	1,953	1,953	-8	1,953	1,953	-10

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

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 %
21 Ouseburn	1	2,118	2,118	0	2,272	2,272	5
22 Pannal (in Harrogate)	2	4,466	2,233	6	4,490	2,245	4
23 Pateley Bridge	1	1,974	1,974	-7	1,998	1,998	-8
24 Ribston	1	2,292	2,292	8	2,292	2,292	6
25 Ripon Minster	2	3,975	1,988	-6	4,019	2,010	-7
26 Ripon Moorside	2	4,075	2,038	-4	4,075	2,038	-6
27 Ripon Spa	2	3,655	1,828	-13	4,049	2,025	-6
28 Rossett (in Harrogate)	2	4,446	2,223	5	4,446	2,223	3
29 Saltergate (in Harrogate)	2	3,948	1,974	-7	4,273	2,137	-1
30 Spofforth with Lower Wharfedale	1	2,388	2,388	13	2,388	2,388	10
31 Starbeck (in Harrogate)	2	4,433	2,217	5	4,454	2,227	3
32 Stray (in Harrogate)	2	4,451	2,226	5	4,451	2,226	3
33 Washburn	1	2,362	2,362	10	2,362	2,362	9
34 Wathvale	1	2,047	2,047	-3	2,096	2,096	-3
35 Woodfield (in Harrogate)	2	4,300	2,150	2	4,328	2,164	0
Totals	54	114,081	—	—	116,751	—	—
Averages	—	—	2,113	—	—	2,162	—

Source: Electorate figures are based on information provided by Harrogate 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 borough of Harrogate in North Yorkshire. We have now reviewed seven districts in North Yorkshire (excluding York) as part of our programme of periodic electoral reviews (PERs) of all 386 principal local authority areas in England. Our programme started in 1996 and is currently expected to be completed by 2004. (We expect to undertake a PER of York unitary authority in 2000/01).

² This was our first review of the electoral arrangements of Harrogate. The last such review was undertaken by our predecessor, the Local Government Boundary Commission (LGBC), which reported to the Secretary of State in December 1978 (Report No. 312). The electoral arrangements of North Yorkshire County Council were last reviewed in August 1984 (Report No. 477). We intend reviewing the County Council's electoral arrangements in due course.

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* (updated in March 1998), which sets out our approach to the reviews.

⁵ In July 1998, the Government published a White Paper, *Modern Local Government – In Touch with the People*, which set out legislative proposals for local authority electoral arrangements. In two-tier areas, it proposed introducing a pattern in which both the district and county councils would hold elections every two years, i.e. in year one half of the district council would be elected, in year two

half the county council would be elected, and so on. The Government stated that local accountability would be maximised where every elector has an opportunity to vote every year, thereby pointing to a pattern of two-member wards (and divisions) in two-tier areas. However, it stated that there was no intention to move towards very large electoral areas in sparsely populated rural areas, and that single-member wards (and electoral divisions) would continue in many authorities.

⁶ Following publication of the White Paper, we advised all authorities in our 1998/99 PER programme, including the North Yorkshire districts, that until any direction is received from the Secretary of State, the Commission would continue to maintain its current approach to PERs as set out in the March 1998 *Guidance*. Nevertheless, we considered that local authorities and other interested parties might 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.

⁷ This review was in four stages. Stage One began on 3 November 1998, when we wrote to Harrogate Borough Council inviting proposals for future electoral arrangements. We also notified North Yorkshire County Council, North Yorkshire Police Authority, the local authority associations, North Yorkshire Association of Parish and Town Councils, parish and town councils in the borough, the Members of Parliament and the Members of the European Parliament with constituency interests in the borough, and the headquarters of the main political parties. We placed a notice in the local press, issued a press release and invited the Borough Council to publicise the review further. The closing date for receipt of representations, the end of Stage One, was 8 February 1999. At Stage Two we considered all the representations received during Stage One and prepared our draft recommendations.

⁸ Stage Three began on 25 May 1999 with the publication of our report, *Draft Recommendations*

on the Future Electoral Arrangements for Harrogate in North Yorkshire, and ended on 19 July 1999. Comments were sought on our preliminary conclusions. In the light of a proposal for alternative warding arrangements for the rural area, we carried out a further period of consultation. On 18 August 1999 we wrote to the Borough Council, relevant parish councils and other interested parties outlining our draft recommendations and proposals put to us by Councillor Watson regarding the rural areas of Harrogate, asking them to respond to us by 17 September 1999. Finally, during Stage Four we reconsidered our draft recommendations in the light of the Stage Three consultation and further consultation, and now publish our final recommendations.

2. CURRENT ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS

⁹ The borough of Harrogate is centrally situated in Great Britain, and is approximately equidistant between London and Edinburgh and between the east and west coasts. The focus of the borough is the historic spa town of Harrogate, which contains the Royal Baths Assembly Rooms, the Royal Hall and the Harrogate International Conference Centre. The town is encircled by 200 acres of lawns, protected from development by the Enclosure Act of 1770. The other major settlements within the borough are the ancient cathedral city of Ripon and the market town of Knaresborough. The borough is traversed by the River Nidd and the main A61 Leeds to Thirsk road. The River Wharfe forms the southern boundary to much of the borough. There are 135 parishes in the borough, and it is entirely parished, with the exception of Harrogate town.

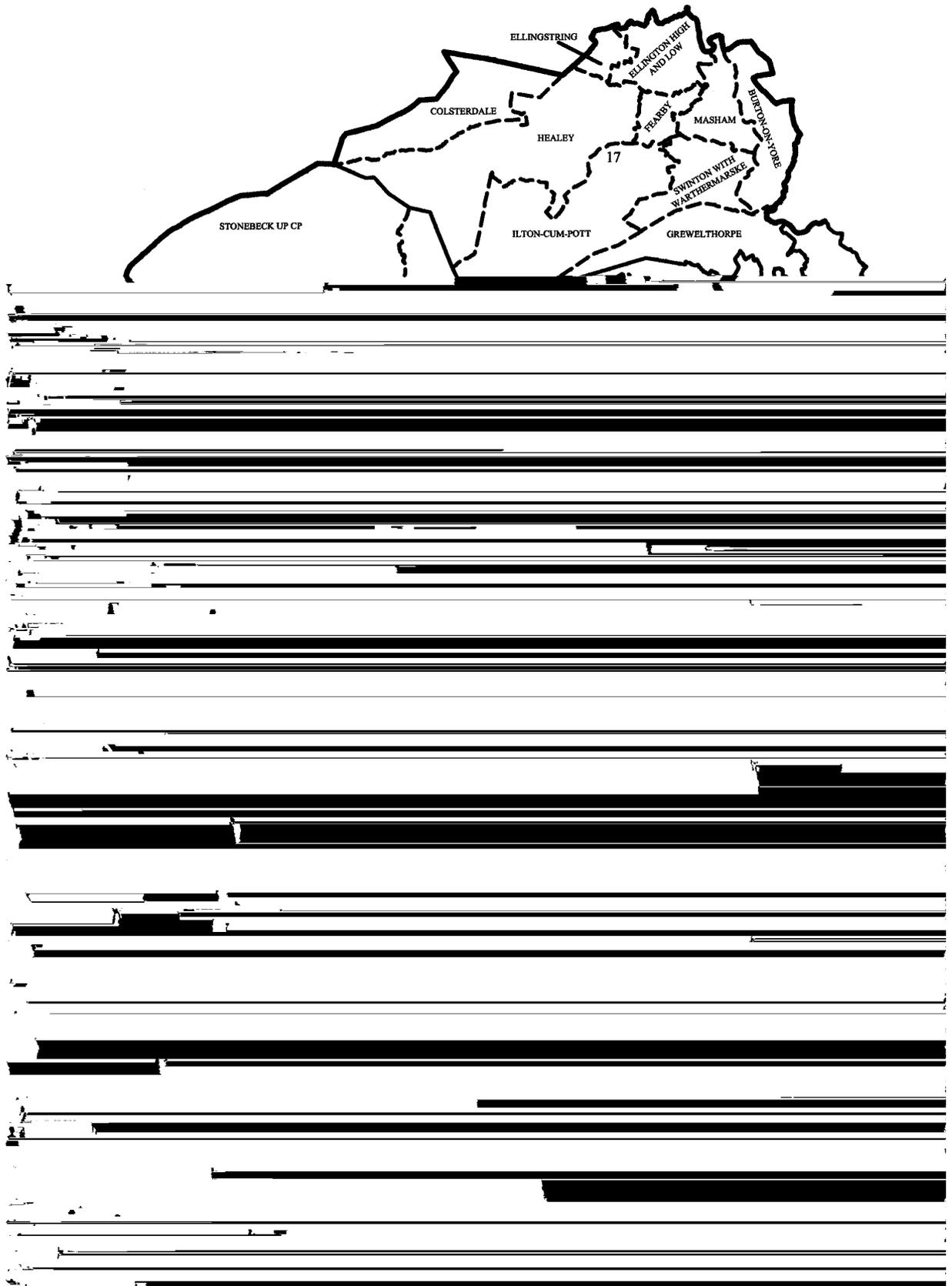
¹⁰ To compare levels of electoral inequality between wards, we calculated the extent to which the number of electors per councillor in each ward (the councillor:elector ratio) varies from the borough average in percentage terms. In the text which follows, this calculation may also be described using the shorthand term 'electoral variance'.

¹¹ The electorate of the borough is 114,081 (February 1998). The Council presently has 59 members who are elected from 32 wards. Thirteen of the wards are each represented by three councillors, one is represented by two councillors and the remaining 18 are single-member wards. The Council is elected by thirds.

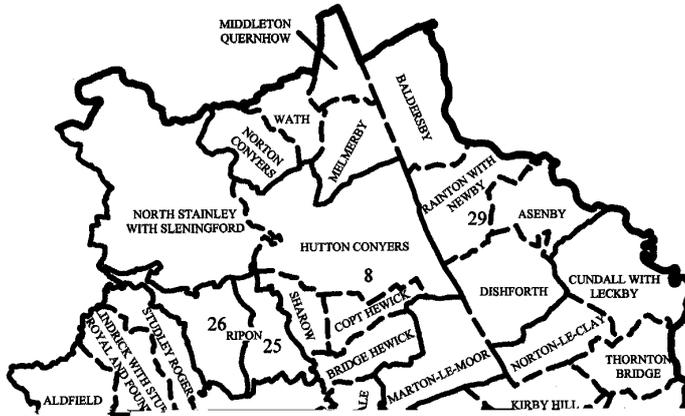
¹² Since the last electoral review there has been an increase in the electorate in Harrogate borough, with around 14 per cent more electors than two decades ago as a result of new housing developments. At present, each councillor represents an average of 1,934 electors, which the Borough Council forecasts will increase to 1,979 by the year 2003 if the present number of councillors is maintained. However, due to demographic and other changes

over the past two decades, the number of electors per councillor in nine of the 32 wards varies by more than 10 per cent from the borough average and in four wards by more than 20 per cent. The worst imbalance is in Nether Poppleton ward where the single councillor represents 64 per cent fewer electors than the borough average.

Map 1:
Existing Wards in Harrogate



Map 1 (continued):
Existing Wards in Harrogate



*Figure 3:
Existing Electoral Arrangements*

Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (1998)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2003)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
1 Almscliffe	1	2,096	2,096	8	2,096	2,096	6
2 Bilton (in Harrogate)	3	5,811	1,937	0	5,811	1,937	-2
3 Bishop Monkton	1	2,016	2,016	4	2,016	2,016	2
4 Boroughbridge	1	2,734	2,734	41	2,940	2,940	49
5 Claro	1	2,028	2,028	5	2,028	2,028	2
6 Duchy (in Harrogate)	3	6,699	2,233	15	6,724	2,241	13
7 East Central (in Harrogate)	3	5,068	1,689	-13	5,303	1,768	-11
8 Fountains	1	1,841	1,841	-5	1,880	1,880	-5
9 Granby (in Harrogate)	3	5,570	1,857	-4	5,650	1,883	-5
10 Harlow (in Harrogate)	3	6,169	2,056	6	6,270	2,090	6
11 Killinghall	1	3,069	3,069	59	3,527	3,527	78
12 Kirkby Malzeard	1	1,916	1,916	-1	1,962	1,962	-1
13 Knaresborough East	3	5,995	1,998	3	6,041	2,014	2
14 Knaresborough West	3	5,688	1,896	-2	6,080	2,027	2
15 Lower Nidderdale	1	1,904	1,904	-2	1,904	1,904	-4
16 Marston Moor	1	2,190	2,190	13	2,283	2,283	15
17 Mashamshire	1	1,872	1,872	-3	1,923	1,923	-3
18 Nether Poppleton	1	700	700	-64	700	700	-65
19 New Park (in Harrogate)	2	3,053	1,527	-21	3,113	1,557	-21
20 Newby	1	2,189	2,189	13	2,299	2,299	16
21 Nidd Valley	1	1,953	1,953	1	1,953	1,953	-1
22 Ouseburn	1	2,076	2,076	7	2,230	2,230	13

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 %
23 Pannal (in Harrogate)	3	5,198	1,733	-10	5,222	1,741	-12
24 Pateley Bridge	1	1,974	1,974	2	1,998	1,998	1
25 Ripon East	3	5,917	1,972	2	5,961	1,987	0
26 Ripon West	3	5,788	1,929	0	6,182	2,061	4
27 Spofforth	1	1,871	1,871	-3	1,871	1,871	-5
28 Starbeck (in Harrogate)	3	5,393	1,798	-7	5,414	1,805	-9
29 Wathvale	1	1,713	1,713	-11	1,762	1,762	-11
30 Wedderburn (in Harrogate)	3	6,071	2,024	5	6,091	2,030	3
31 West Central (in Harrogate)	3	5,759	1,920	-1	5,759	1,920	-3
32 Wharfedale Moors	1	1,760	1,760	-9	1,760	1,760	-11
Totals	59	114,081	—	—	116,753	—	—
Averages	—	—	1,934	—	—	1,979	—

Source: Electorate figures are based on information provided by Harrogate 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 1998, electors in Nether Poppleton ward were relatively over-represented by 64 per cent, while electors in Killinghall ward were relatively under-represented by 59 per cent. Figures have been rounded to the nearest whole number.

3. DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS

¹³ During Stage One we received 15 representations, including a borough-wide scheme from Harrogate Borough Council, and representations from the Harrogate Borough Labour Party, Harrogate and Knaresborough Liberal Democrats, 10 parish and town councils, a village society and a borough councillor. 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 Harrogate in North Yorkshire*.

¹⁴ Our draft recommendations were substantially based on the Borough Council's proposals, which achieved an improvement in electoral equality, and provided a mix of one- and two-member wards across the borough. However, we moved away from the Borough Council's scheme in a number of areas, affecting Knaresborough town, and the existing wards of Mashamshire, Kirkby Malzeard and Pateley Bridge. We proposed that:

- (a) there should be a reduction in council size from 59 to 54;
- (b) there should be 35 wards, three more than at present;
- (c) the boundaries of 29 of the existing wards should be modified;
- (d) elections should continue to be held by thirds.

Draft Recommendation

Harrogate Borough Council should comprise 54 councillors, serving 35 wards. The Council should continue to hold elections by thirds.

¹⁵ We note that the figures given for Fountains and Mashamshire wards were incorrect in our draft recommendations report and we have revised these calculations in this report accordingly. With these corrections, our proposals would have resulted in slightly less significant improvements in electoral equality, with the number of electors per councillor varying by more than 10 per cent from the

borough average in four of the 35 wards. This level of electoral equality was forecast to improve further, with only two wards varying by more than 10 per cent from the average in 2003.

4. RESPONSES TO CONSULTATION

¹⁶ During the consultation on our draft recommendations report, 70 representations were received. A list of all respondents is available on request from the Commission. All representations may be inspected at the offices of Harrogate Borough Council and the Commission.

Harrogate Borough Council

¹⁷ While the Borough Council generally supported our draft recommendations, it reiterated its initial Stage One proposals for Pateley Bridge ward and wards in Knaresborough. It also proposed minor boundary modifications between Hookstone, Rossett and Stray wards, in Harrogate town, and proposed that the proposed Timble ward be renamed Washburn.

¹⁸ Under the Borough Council's proposals, the number of electors per councillor would vary by more than 10 per cent from the borough average in four wards. This level of electoral equality would improve over the next five years, with the number of electors per councillor varying by more than 10 per cent in only one ward by 2003.

North Yorkshire County Council

¹⁹ The County Council objected to our draft recommendations on the grounds that "the review of electoral arrangements in each district [of North Yorkshire] has been carried out as a self-contained exercise, without regard for its implications for the electoral arrangements for the County Council".

²⁰ It reiterated its view that "significant benefits" to local electors would result from district wards and county divisions having shared boundaries, wherever practicable, as it believed that a high degree of coterminosity is a pre-requisite for securing effective and convenient local government and for the proper reflection of the identities and interests of local communities. It argued that more enduring electoral arrangements would have been achieved if the implications for county electoral divisions had been recognised earlier in the review process, allowing district and county reviews to be carried out concurrently.

Harrogate Borough Labour Group

²¹ Harrogate Borough Labour Group ('the Labour Party') supported our draft recommendation to reduce the council size to 54 members, five fewer than at present. It also supported our proposed warding arrangements for Harrogate town, Knaresborough and Ripon. In addition, it supported the Borough Council's Stage One proposals for Mashamshire and Pateley Bridge wards.

Councillor Watson

²² Councillor Watson supported our draft recommendations for Marston Moor, Mashamshire, Nidd Valley and Ouseburn wards. However, he proposed alternative electoral arrangements for the rest of the rural area.

²³ Under Councillor Watson's proposals the number of electors per councillor would vary by more than 10 per cent from the borough average in five wards. This level of electoral equality would improve over the next five years, with the number of electors per councillor varying by more than 10 per cent in only one ward by 2003. There was a discrepancy between the figures provided by Councillor Watson and the Borough Council regarding Killinghall ward and we have revised the figures in this report accordingly, based on information provided by the Borough Council.

Members of Parliament

²⁴ Anne McIntosh MP proposed that Claro, Ouseburn and Spofforth wards should retain their existing boundaries.

Parish and Town Councils

²⁵ North Stainley Parish Council supported our draft recommendation that urban wards should each be represented by two members and rural wards by one member. However, it expressed concern regarding the proposed reduction in council size and it put forward alternative warding

arrangements for Knaresborough and the rural areas, to enable North Stainley parish to be represented with parishes to its west. It also indicated that it supported Councillor Watson's proposals "in principle", as they would result in the parish being included in a revised Kirkby Malzeard ward.

26 Goldsborough & Flaxby Grouped Parish Council opposed our draft recommendations to include its constituent parishes in different wards, and proposed that Flaxby and Goldsborough parishes be included in Allerton ward. Knaresborough Town Council supported the Borough Council's Stage One proposals for the town, while Ripon City Council supported our draft recommendations for wards in Ripon. Pateley Bridge Town Council argued that Pateley Bridge ward should retain its existing boundaries.

27 Grantley, Sawley, Skelding & Eavestone Parish Council argued that the parishes should continue to be represented in a single ward, together with parishes to the north. Little Ribston and North Deighton parish councils opposed changes to Spofforth ward, and Thruscross Parish Meeting opposed our draft recommendation to modify the existing ward boundaries of Nidd Valley ward.

Other Representations

28 We received 56 further representations in response to our draft recommendations. Vale of York Conservative Association expressed concern that our draft recommendations would result in a number of wards not being coterminous with parliamentary constituencies, and proposed that Boroughbridge ward should retain its existing boundary, and be represented by two members, one more than at present. It supported our draft recommendation for Marston Moor ward, but put forward modifications to our proposed Claro and Ouseburn wards.

29 Duchy Ward Conservative Association proposed that Harlow ward should be named Duchy, and Ripon City and District Conservative Association supported our draft recommendation that Ripon should be represented by three two-member wards. Knaresborough Branch Labour Party supported our draft recommendations for Knaresborough, while Knaresborough Branch Liberal Democrats argued that the Borough Council's proposals for the town achieved a better

balance between electoral equality and the statutory criteria.

30 Harrogate District Labour Party supported our draft recommendations, particularly for Harrogate and Knaresborough towns, while Harrogate Branch Labour Party supported our proposals for Harrogate town, particularly for Bilton and Woodfield wards. A councillor broadly supported our draft recommendations for Harrogate town, but put forward a minor boundary modification between Rossett and Stray wards. A resident supported our proposals for East Central ward, while another resident supported our draft recommendations for Starbeck ward.

31 We received a further 47 representations regarding Claro ward, of which 44 respondents opposed our draft recommendations to divide Flaxby and Goldsborough parishes between wards, and a single resident supported retaining the boundaries of Claro ward. Councillor Brewis proposed alternative electoral arrangements for the rural area in order to achieve a better balance between electoral equality and the statutory criteria for parishes in the existing Claro ward.

5. FURTHER CONSULTATION

32 At Stage Three our draft recommendations were strongly opposed in parts of the rural areas. Councillor Watson's proposals were substantively different from our draft recommendations and appeared to address a number of the concerns expressed by other Stage Three respondents. As a result, we decided that further evidence was required regarding the electoral arrangements for the rural part of the borough. We therefore undertook further consultation and on 18 August 1999 wrote to Harrogate Borough Council, North Yorkshire County Council, the Association of Town and Parish Councils, Members of Parliament and Members of the European Parliament for the Yorkshire and Humber region, affected parish councils and relevant Stage Three respondents, seeking further views and evidence by 17 September 1999.

33 During this period of further consultation, we received 57 representations. Harrogate Borough Council reiterated its Stage One submission, but noted that Councillor Watson's proposals would be the "preferred option" if the Commission did not propose to endorse the Council's submission. North Yorkshire County Council was unable to make a formal submission in the further consultation period, but stated that "none of those members" representing the rural areas in Harrogate "has expressed support" for Councillor Watson's proposals.

34 Anne McIntosh MP opposed our draft recommendations and Councillor Watson's proposals relating to parishes in the existing Claro ward, arguing that the ward should retain its existing boundaries. Harrogate Labour Party noted that there was "little between the two proposals", as Councillor Watson's proposals achieve a good balance between electoral equality and the statutory criteria for his proposed Ribston and Lower Nidderdale wards, but that our draft recommendations represented a better balance in relation to the proposed Kirby Hill and Spofforth wards.

35 Hartwith cum Winsley Parish Council supported Councillor Watson's proposals for

Fountains, Kirkby Malzeard, Lower Nidderdale and Ribston wards. A borough councillor proposed alternative names for a number of Councillor Watson's proposed wards. Another borough councillor endorsed Councillor Watson's proposals for the rural areas, while a local resident opposed them.

36 North Stainley with Sleningford and Wath & Norton Conyers parish councils and 21 local residents supported Councillor Watson's proposal to include North Stainley with Sleningford parish in a revised Kirkby Malzeard ward. Bewerley, Birstwith, Dacre, Felliscliffe, Menwith with Darley and Upper Nidderdale parish councils and four local residents supported Councillor Watson's proposal to include Felliscliffe parish in Lower Nidderdale ward. In addition, we received a petition of 35 residents in support of this proposal.

37 Azerley and Grantley, Sawley, Skelding & Eavestone parish councils supported Councillor Watson's proposals for Kirkby Malzeard ward. Pateley Bridge Town Council supported Councillor Watson's proposal to retain Pateley Bridge ward's existing boundaries. Bishop Monkton, Littlethorpe and Markington-with-Wallerthwaite parish councils supported Councillor Watson's proposals for Bishop Monkton ward. Thruscross Parish Meeting argued that Councillor Watson's proposals would better reflect the interests and identities of the constituent local communities. Killinghall Parish Council supported our draft recommendations for Killinghall ward, and considered that a number of Councillor Watson's proposed ward names "could be confusing". Boroughbridge Town Council reiterated its Stage One proposal that the parish should form a district ward.

38 Goldsborough & Flaxby Grouped Parish Council described Councillor Watson's proposals as "infinitely more acceptable" than our draft recommendations, but reiterated their Stage Three proposal that Flaxby and Goldsborough parishes should be included in our proposed Allerton ward. These views were endorsed by a local resident. Follifoot with Plompton, Little Ribston, North Deighton and Spofforth-with-Stockeld parish

councils rejected Councillor Watson's proposals for Spofforth ward, arguing that our draft recommendations would provide a better balance between electoral equality and the statutory criteria.

6. ANALYSIS AND FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS

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

40 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.

41 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.

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

should arise only in the most exceptional circumstances, and will require the strongest justification.

Electorate Forecasts

43 At Stage One the Borough Council submitted electorate forecasts for the year 2003, projecting an increase in the electorate of some 2 per cent from 114,081 to 116,753 over the five-year period from 1998 to 2003. It expected most of the growth to be in Boroughbridge, Killinghall and Knaresborough West wards. The Borough Council estimated rates and locations of housing development with regard to structure and local plans, and the expected rate of building over the five-year period. In our draft recommendations report we accepted that this is an inexact science and, having given consideration to the forecast electorates, we were satisfied that they represented the best estimates that could reasonably be made at the time.

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

Council Size

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

46 Harrogate Borough Council is served by 59 members at present. At Stage One the Borough Council proposed a reduction in council size to 54. This proposal was supported by the Labour Party and the Liberal Democrats. In our draft recommendations report, having considered the size and distribution of the electorate, the geography and other characteristics of the area, together with the representations received, we concluded that the achievement of electoral equality and the statutory criteria would best be met by reducing the council size to 54.

47 At Stage Three our draft recommendation in respect of council size was broadly supported. However, the Vale of York Conservative Association proposed that Boroughbridge ward should be represented by two members, one more than at present, resulting in a council size of 55. In addition, North Stainley Parish Council argued that retaining the existing council size would “obviate much of the need” for boundary modifications, but put forward alternative electoral arrangements for a council size of 54. We received no further comments about council size. In the absence of new evidence being put forward regarding council size, and the general support for a council of 54 members, we are confirming our draft recommendation for a council size of 54.

Electoral Arrangements

48 As set out in our draft recommendations report, we carefully considered all the representations received at Stage One, including the borough-wide scheme from the Borough Council. From the representations, some considerations emerged which helped to inform us when preparing our draft recommendations.

49 In our draft recommendations report we sought to build on these proposals in order to put forward electoral arrangements which would achieve yet further improvements in electoral equality, while also seeking to reflect the statutory criteria. Where it existed, we sought to reflect the consensus among representations for warding arrangements in particular parts of the borough. Inevitably, we could not reflect the preferences of all respondents in our draft recommendations.

50 We concluded that we should base our draft recommendations on the Borough Council’s proposals which, we judged, would represent a better balance between electoral equality and the statutory criteria than the current arguments. However, we proposed departing from that scheme in relation to warding arrangements for Knaresborough town and Kirkby Malzeard, Mashamshire and Pateley Bridge wards.

51 At Stage Three the Borough Council largely supported our draft recommendations, but reiterated its Stage One proposals for wards in Knaresborough town and Pateley Bridge ward. We also received three new borough-wide proposals during Stage Three, from North Stainley Parish

Council, Councillor Brewis and Councillor Watson.

52 We have carefully considered all three proposals, together with other representations received during Stage Three. We consider that North Stainley Parish Council’s proposals would not achieve a better balance between electoral equality and the statutory criteria than our draft recommendations, and, in particular, we concur with the views of a borough councillor who noted that these proposals would result in “several areas which have traditional loyalties and affinities [that] would be divided”. Additionally, we note that North Stainley Parish Council indicated that it considered Councillor Watson’s proposals an acceptable alternative to its proposals.

53 We also have not been persuaded that Councillor Brewis’s proposals would achieve a better balance between electoral equality and the statutory criteria than our draft recommendations in the west of the borough. We note that while Councillor Brewis provided argumentation to support his proposals for the existing Claro ward, no evidence was put forward in support of his proposals for the rest of the rural area.

54 However, Councillor Watson’s proposals appeared to reflect the views of a number of respondents, particularly in Flaxby, Goldsborough, Eavestone, Sawley and North Stainley, and we considered that there was merit in these proposals. However, given that these proposals would result in a significant departure from our draft recommendations, we considered that further evidence was required. We therefore conducted a further period of consultation to provide further evidence, as indicated previously.

55 As stated earlier, North Yorkshire County Council objected to our draft recommendations. It argued that the Commission’s approach was likely to lead to “significant reductions” in the existing level of coterminosity, and urged us to change the review process so that district and county council reviews could be carried out concurrently during the Stage One consultation period.

56 The approach we have adopted in our PERs of two-tier county areas is the same as that taken by our predecessor, the Local Government Boundary Commission. That is to first review the electoral arrangements of each of the district council areas in the county and then, once the necessary electoral

change orders have been made for the districts, to review those of the County Council, This ensures that, as required by Schedule 11 to the 1972 Act, our recommendations for electoral division boundaries have regard to district ward boundaries, and that these are fixed and not subject to change.

57 This is an issue which has arisen in a number of review areas. It is indicative of the tensions which can arise between the achievement of electoral equality within the individual districts of a county, each of whose electoral arrangements can vary significantly in terms of councillor:elector ratios and ward sizes, and across county council electoral divisions, while also seeking some measure of coterminosity between the two. These tensions are not readily reconciled.

58 In certain cases, it has been put to us that in reviewing district electoral arrangements we should prescribe that ward patterns and sizes should be such that they would be compatible with county council divisions. We do not believe this to be an approach the Commission should take. As a Commission we rely heavily on local authorities and others to put proposals to us on how the electoral arrangements within their individual areas might be improved. We believe that the interests of local democracy are best served by basing our recommendations on schemes which are generated locally, address the statutory criteria and achieve a high level of electoral equality.

59 Nevertheless, we recognise that coterminosity between county divisions and borough wards is likely to be conducive to effective and convenient local government, and we place a high value on its achievement as part of our reviews of county council electoral arrangements.

60 It has been argued that ward boundaries should be coterminous with parliamentary boundaries; however, we are not required to have regard to parliamentary constituency boundaries in formulating recommendations for borough warding arrangements. In fact, any new borough ward boundaries will be taken into account by the Parliamentary Boundary Commission when it undertakes a review of parliamentary constituencies.

61 We have reviewed our draft recommendations in the light of the representations received during Stage Three and the evidence put forward during the additional period of consultation and, as a result, we have made significant modifications to

our draft recommendations. For borough warding purposes the following areas, based on existing wards, are considered in turn:

- (a) The urban areas
 - Granby, Harlow, Pannal, Starbeck and Wedderburn wards;
 - Bilton, Duchy, East Central, New Park and West Central wards;
 - Knaresborough East and Knaresborough West wards;
 - Ripon East and Ripon West wards;
- (b) The rural areas
 - Mashamshire, Nidd Valley and Pateley Bridge wards;
 - Fountains, Kirkby Malzeard and Wathvale wards;
 - Bishop Monkton, Lower Nidderdale and Newby wards;
 - Boroughbridge and Claro wards;
 - Marston Moor, Nether Poppleton, Ouseburn and Spofforth wards;
 - Almscliffe, Killinghall and Wharfedale Moors wards.

62 Details of our draft recommendations are set out in Figures B1 and B2.

The urban areas

Granby, Harlow, Pannal, Starbeck and Wedderburn wards

63 The existing wards of Granby, Harlow, Pannal, Starbeck and Wedderburn cover a substantial area to the south and east of Harrogate town, and are each represented by three councillors. Under current arrangements the number of electors per councillor in the five wards varies from the borough average by 4 per cent, 6 per cent, 10 per cent, 7 per cent and 5 per cent respectively. This level of electoral equality is projected to remain relatively constant over the next five years.

64 At Stage One the Borough Council proposed that this area should be divided between six new wards – Granby, Hookstone, Pannal, Rossett, Stray and Starbeck – each to be represented by two councillors. It proposed that Granby ward should

comprise the majority of the existing Granby ward, with a modified western boundary. It proposed that Hookstone ward should comprise part of the existing Wedderburn ward and part of the existing Starbeck ward. It also proposed that the remainder of Starbeck ward should retain its existing boundaries, and that the remainder of Wedderburn ward should be combined with parts of Pannal and West Central wards to form a new Stray ward. The proposed Rossett ward would comprise part of the existing Pannal ward and part of the existing Harlow ward, while the revised Pannal ward would comprise the remainder of the existing Pannal ward. Harrogate Labour Party and The Pannal Village Society broadly supported the Borough Council's Stage One proposals.

65 In our draft recommendations report we adopted the Borough Council's proposals for this area; we judged that they offered a better balance between electoral equality and the statutory criteria than the current arrangements, and attracted a degree of local support. Under our draft recommendations the number of electors per councillor in each of the wards would vary by no more than 6 per cent from the borough average. This level of electoral equality was projected to improve over the next five years, with all wards varying by no more than 4 per cent from the average by 2003.

66 At Stage Three the Borough Council put forward minor boundary modifications to the proposed Stray and Hookstone wards, affecting 13 electors, and to the proposed Rossett and Stray wards, affecting 57 electors. The Labour Party, Harrogate Branch Labour Party, Harrogate Labour Party, a councillor and a resident supported our draft recommendations. Duchy Ward Conservative Association proposed that Harlow Moor ward should be renamed Duchy & Harlow Moor. Another councillor broadly supported our proposals, but proposed a modification identical to that proposed by the Borough Council to the boundary between Rossett and Stray wards, arguing that Leadhall Drive and adjoining roads have no direct access to the proposed Stray ward.

67 Having carefully considered the representations received at Stage Three, we note that our draft recommendations have achieved a high degree of local support. We are content to endorse them as final subject to a minor modification between the proposed Rossett and Stray wards, as proposed by the Borough Council and a borough councillor. We

note that Leadhall Drive would be represented in two wards under our draft recommendations, and are persuaded that the boundary modification proposed by the Borough Council and a borough councillor offers a better balance between electoral equality and the statutory criteria than our draft recommendation.

68 No evidence was put forward in support of the Borough Council's proposal to modify the boundary of Hookstone ward and we consider that our draft recommendation for this boundary has merit, as the affected residents have strong communication links with neighbouring roads in Stray ward. We have considered the alternative ward name put forward for the proposed Harlow Moor ward, but note that our draft recommendation has achieved broad support and there is no evidence to suggest that Duchy or Duchy & Harlow Moor would command greater local support.

Bilton, Duchy, East Central, New Park and West Central wards

69 The existing wards of Bilton, Duchy, East Central, New Park and West Central cover the north and west of Harrogate town, and are each represented by three councillors, with the exception of New Park ward, which is represented by two councillors. Under current arrangements, while the number of electors per councillor is equal to the borough average in Bilton ward, in Duchy, East Central, New Park and West Central wards there is a variance of 15 per cent, 13 per cent, 21 per cent and 1 per cent from the borough average respectively. This level of electoral equality is not projected to change significantly over the next five years.

70 At Stage One the Borough Council proposed dividing this area between seven new wards – Bilton, Harlow Moor, High Harrogate, Low Harrogate, New Park, Saltergate and Woodfield – each to be represented by two members. It proposed that part of Bilton ward should be transferred to the new Woodfield ward, together with part of East Central ward, with the remainder of Bilton ward being combined with part of the existing New Park ward to form a revised Bilton ward. It also proposed that part of East Central ward should be combined with part of Granby ward and a small part of West Central ward, to be named High Harrogate ward.

71 The Borough Council also proposed that a new Harlow Moor ward should comprise part of the existing Harlow ward and part of Duchy ward, with the remainder of Duchy ward being combined with the proposed Killinghall Moor parish ward of Killinghall parish in a new Saltergate ward. It proposed that the eastern part of Duchy ward should be combined with parts of New Park, East Central and West Central wards to form a revised New Park ward. It also proposed that a new Low Harrogate ward should include much of the existing West Central ward. The Labour Party supported the Borough Council's proposals and a local councillor supported the proposed ward boundaries, but proposed that Harlow Moor be renamed either Duchy or Valley Gardens.

72 Under the Borough Council's proposals the number of electors per councillor would be equal to the average in New Park ward, and vary by 2 per cent, 3 per cent, 3 per cent, 1 per cent, 7 per cent and 2 per cent from the average in Bilton, Harlow Moor, High Harrogate, Low Harrogate, Saltergate and Woodfield wards respectively. This level of electoral equality is projected to remain relatively constant over the next five years.

73 In our draft recommendations report, we noted that there was consensus on ward boundaries in the area, and we were content to endorse the Borough Council's proposals as our draft recommendations. We considered changing the proposed ward names but, on the balance of evidence put forward at Stage One, we were not persuaded that either of the alternative names would better reflect the interests and identities of communities in Harlow Moor ward.

74 At Stage Three, the Borough Council, Harrogate Branch Labour Party, Harrogate Labour Party, a councillor and a resident supported our draft recommendations. Having carefully considered all representations received at Stage Three, we note that our draft recommendations in this area have been broadly supported, and we have decided to confirm them as final.

Knareborough East and Knareborough West wards

75 At present, Knareborough town comprises the wards of Knareborough East and Knareborough West. It is represented by six councillors, with each ward being represented three councillors. Under current arrangements the number of electors per

councillor varies by 3 per cent and 2 per cent from the borough average respectively. This level of electoral equality is projected to marginally improve over the next five years, under a council size of 59.

76 At Stage One the Borough Council proposed that Knareborough should be divided between three new wards – Knareborough East, Knareborough King James and Knareborough Scriven Park – each to be represented by two members. It proposed that Knareborough King James ward should comprise the part of the existing Knareborough East and Knareborough West wards to the south of the A59 York Road, while Knareborough East ward should comprise the remainder of Knareborough East ward and part of Knareborough West ward bounded by the A59 and the A6065 Boroughbridge Road. It proposed that the remainder of the existing Knareborough West ward should form a new Knareborough Scriven Park ward. Under the Borough Council's proposals the number of electors per councillor in Knareborough East, Knareborough King James and Knareborough Scriven Park would vary from the borough average by 7 per cent, 5 per cent and 11 per cent respectively. This level of electoral equality would improve marginally over the next five years.

77 The Labour Party submitted alternative warding arrangements, also based on three two-member wards, with the B6165 Ripley Road and the River Nidd forming the boundary between the proposed Knareborough Nidd and Knareborough Scriven Park wards, while Knareborough Castle ward would comprise most of the area bounded by the Harrogate to York railway line and the A59 York Road.

78 In our draft recommendations report we noted that there was agreement that Knareborough should be split into three new wards, each to be represented by two councillors, and we concurred with this view. However, we noted that there was no agreement over the precise boundaries of these wards. While we considered that there was merit in both schemes we considered that, on the evidence received at that stage, the Labour Party's proposals represented the better balance between electoral equality and the statutory criteria. The Labour Party's proposals provided marginally better levels of electoral equality, and we noted that they would result in the town centre being represented in a single ward. However, we had some reservations

about the proposed Knaresborough Nidd ward, which we considered would combine areas that appear to have limited affinity, and we stated that we would welcome further evidence at Stage Three.

79 At Stage Three the Borough Council reiterated its Stage One proposals for Knaresborough East, Knaresborough King James and Knaresborough Scriven Park wards, as previously indicated. It argued that our draft recommendations created a large Knaresborough Nidd ward and pointed out that it would be impossible to traverse Knaresborough Nidd ward “without passing through the other two Knaresborough wards”.

80 The Labour Party, Harrogate Labour Party and Knaresborough Branch Labour Party supported our draft recommendations. The Labour Party argued that our draft recommendations would achieve effective representation for the town centre and that, while the proposed Knaresborough Nidd ward includes areas which are geographically separated, they are “well away from the town centre” and as a result share similar interests and identities.

81 Knaresborough Branch Liberal Democrats, Knaresborough Town Council and a borough councillor supported the Borough Council’s proposals for the town, arguing that our draft recommendation for Knaresborough Nidd ward do not reflect the interests and identities of communities. The Knaresborough Branch Liberal Democrats argued that residents on Ripley Road should be represented in a single ward, and pointed out that the division of the town centre was “as undesirable as it is necessary” if communities adjoining the town centre were to be effectively represented. It emphasised that all Knaresborough residents have an interest in the town centre while they do not share an affinity of community interests with areas on the other side of the town. In addition, the borough councillor proposed that the Borough Council’s Knaresborough East, Knaresborough King James and Knaresborough Scriven Park wards should be renamed Knaresborough Castle, Knaresborough Manor and Knaresborough Scriven Park.

82 Goldsborough & Flaxby Grouped Parish Council proposed that if Flaxby and Goldsborough parishes could not be included in Allerton ward then they should be combined with any one of the three proposed Knaresborough wards and with

Knaresborough Nidd ward in particular. This proposal was supported by a local resident.

83 Having given careful consideration to the representations received at Stage Three, we note that further evidence has been put forward supporting the alternative proposals for Knaresborough. However, in the light of additional evidence, we have been persuaded that there is merit in adopting the Borough Council’s proposals for Knaresborough town. While we note that the Labour Party, Harrogate Labour Party and Knaresborough Branch Labour Party’s proposals would represent the town centre in a single ward, they would not, in our judgement, satisfactorily represent the interests and identities of electors in the proposed Knaresborough Nidd ward. We have not been persuaded that the Borough Council’s proposals would adversely affect the representation of electors in the town centre to a significant degree.

84 We have also considered Goldsborough & Flaxby Grouped Parish Council’s proposal to combine Flaxby and Goldsborough in a Knaresborough ward. However, we have not been persuaded by this proposal, and do not consider that residents in the east of Knaresborough town share community interests and identities with electors from Flaxby and Goldsborough. In particular, we have not been persuaded that this proposal would necessarily command widespread local support.

85 We have considered the alternative ward names put forward by a borough councillor. However, we have not been persuaded that these alternative ward names would command local support.

86 Under our final recommendations the number of electors per councillor in Knaresborough East, Knaresborough King James and Knaresborough Scriven Park wards would vary from the borough average by 7 per cent, 5 per cent and 13 per cent respectively. This level of electoral equality is projected to further improve by 2003, with the number of electors per councillor in all three wards varying by no more than 8 per cent.

Ripon East and Ripon West wards

87 At present Ripon town comprises the wards of Ripon East and Ripon West. It is represented by six councillors, with each ward being represented by three councillors. Under current arrangements the

number of electors per councillor varies by 2 per cent from the borough average in Ripon East ward, and is equal to the average in Ripon West ward. This level of electoral equality is projected to remain relatively constant over the next five years.

88 At Stage One the Borough Council proposed that Ripon should be represented by three two-member wards. It proposed that the south-west of Ripon East ward should be combined with the area of Ripon West ward to the south of the River Skell to form a new Ripon Moorside ward, with the remaining part of Ripon West ward being combined with the part of Ripon East ward north of North Road and east of the River Ure to form a new Ripon Spa ward. The remainder of Ripon East ward would form a new Ripon Minster ward. Under the Borough Council's proposals the number of electors per councillor in Ripon Minster, Ripon Moorside and Ripon Spa wards would vary from the borough average by 6 per cent, 4 per cent, and 13 per cent respectively, and this level of electoral equality would improve to 7 per cent, 6 per cent and 6 per cent by 2003.

89 The Labour Party and the Liberal Democrats supported the Borough Council's proposals for Ripon. In addition, the Liberal Democrats proposed that ward names should be prefixed with the name Ripon. Ripon City Council put forward proposals for parish warding arrangements in Ripon.

90 In our draft recommendations report we endorsed the Borough Council's proposals, as they achieved a degree of local support and, in our judgement, would achieve the best balance between electoral equality and the statutory criteria.

91 At Stage Three the Borough Council, the Labour Party, Ripon City Council and a borough councillor supported our draft recommendations for Ripon. Ripon City and District Conservative Association also supported the division of the city into three two-member wards.

92 Having carefully considered representations received at Stage Three, we note that our draft recommendations have achieved a high level of local support, and we remain satisfied that our draft recommendations would strike the best balance between electoral equality and the statutory criteria. We have therefore decided to confirm our draft recommendations as final.

The rural areas

Mashamshire, Nidd Valley and Pateley Bridge wards

93 The existing wards of Mashamshire, Nidd Valley and Pateley Bridge, each represented by a single member, are located in the north-west of the borough, and border the districts of Craven, Richmondshire and Hambleton. Under current arrangements the number of electors per councillor in Mashamshire, Nidd Valley and Pateley Bridge wards varies from the borough average by 3 per cent, 1 per cent and 2 per cent respectively, based on a council size of 59. This level of electoral equality is expected to remain relatively constant over the next five years.

94 At Stage One the Borough Council proposed retaining the existing boundaries of Pateley Bridge and Nidd Valley wards, with the parishes of Azerley and Winksley being transferred from Kirkby Malzeard ward to Mashamshire ward. Under the Borough Council's proposals the number of electors per councillor in the proposed wards of Mashamshire, Nidd Valley and Pateley Bridge would vary from the borough average by 7 per cent, 8 per cent and 7 per cent respectively. This level of electoral equality was projected to remain relatively constant over the next five years.

95 We received two further representations in relation to this area. Masham Parish Council expressed concern about the proposed expansion of Mashamshire ward, while High & Low Bishopside Parish Council stated that Pateley Bridge ward should continue to be represented by a single councillor.

96 In our draft recommendations report, we endorsed the Borough Council's proposal to retain Nidd Valley's ward boundaries. However, we shared the concern expressed by Masham Parish Council that the Borough Council's proposal for Mashamshire ward would not satisfactorily reflect the interests and identities of communities in the area. We therefore proposed retaining Mashamshire's existing ward boundaries. However, we noted that this would result in a relatively high level of electoral imbalance in the Borough Council's proposed Fountains ward and, as a result, proposed transferring the parishes of Sawley and Eavestone from the proposed Fountains ward to Pateley Bridge ward.

97 Under our draft recommendations there would be improved electoral equality, with the number of electors per councillor in the proposed Mashamshire, Nidd Valley and Pateley Bridge wards varying from the borough average by 11 per cent, 8 per cent and 5 per cent respectively. This level of electoral equality was projected to remain relatively constant over the next five years.

98 At Stage Three the Borough Council supported its Stage One proposals for Mashamshire and Pateley Bridge wards, arguing that they would achieve a better balance between electoral equality and the statutory criteria than our draft recommendations. A borough councillor proposed that Mashamshire and Pateley Bridge wards should retain their existing boundaries and that the latter ward should be renamed Pateley Bridge & Upper Nidderdale. The Labour Party supported the Borough Council's proposals for Mashamshire and Pateley Bridge wards.

99 Grantley, Sawley, Skelding & Eavestone and North Stainley parish councils and Pateley Bridge Town Council argued that the parishes of Eavestone and Sawley should be united in Fountains ward. Thruscross Parish Meeting supported our draft recommendation to retain Nidd Valley's ward boundaries.

100 Councillor Watson supported our draft recommendations for Mashamshire and Nidd Valley wards, but proposed retaining Pateley Bridge's existing ward boundaries. Under Councillor Watson's proposals the number of electors per councillor in Mashamshire, Nidd Valley and Pateley Bridge wards would vary by 11 per cent, 8 per cent and 7 per cent respectively. This level of electoral equality was projected to remain relatively constant over the next five years.

101 As previously indicated, we conducted further consultation on the warding of the rural areas of Harrogate, as a result of which we received five submissions relating to this area. Bewerley and Hartwith cum Winsley parish councils, Pateley Bridge Town Council and two borough councillors supported Councillor Watson's proposals for Pateley Bridge ward, noting that they would retain the ward's existing boundaries. Thruscross Parish Meeting supported Councillor Watson's proposals for Nidd Valley ward.

102 Having carefully considered representations received at Stage Three and the further period

of consultation, we note that our draft recommendations for Nidd Valley and Mashamshire wards have been broadly supported, and we have decided to confirm them as final. However, we note that our draft recommendations for Pateley Bridge have received significant local opposition. In particular, we note that our draft recommendations would divide the joint parish council of Grantley, Sawley, Skelding & Eavestone, and we consider that the proposal put forward by the Borough Council and Councillor Watson to retain Pateley Bridge's existing ward boundaries has merit, and we have decided to endorse this proposal as final.

103 Under our final recommendations the number of electors per councillor in Mashamshire, Nidd Valley and Pateley Bridge wards would vary by 11 per cent, 8 per cent and 7 per cent from the borough average respectively. This level of electoral equality is projected to remain relatively constant over the next five years.

Fountains, Kirkby Malzeard and Wathvale wards

104 Fountains, Kirkby Malzeard and Wathvale wards are situated in the north of the borough, and are each represented by a single councillor. Currently, the number of electors per councillor in the three wards varies from the borough average by 5 per cent, 1 per cent and 11 per cent respectively, based on a council size of 59. This level of electoral equality is not expected to change significantly over the next five years.

105 At Stage One the Borough Council proposed combining the parishes of Aldfield, Lindrick with Studley Royal & Fountains, Littlethorpe and Studley Roger, from the existing Fountains ward, with the parishes of Eavestone, Grantley, Kirkby Malzeard, Laverton, Sawley and Skelding from the existing Kirkby Malzeard ward, and the parishes of Markingfield Hall and Markington & Wallerthwaite from the existing Bishop Monkton ward, to form a revised Fountains ward. It also proposed combining the existing Wathvale ward, less Marton-le-Moor parish, with North Stainley & Sleningford parish, from the existing Fountains ward, and the parishes of Cundall Leckby and Norton le Clay, from the existing Newby ward, to form a revised Wathvale ward, with the remaining parishes from Fountains ward being combined with the remaining parishes from Newby ward to form a new Kirby Hill ward.

106 In our draft recommendations report we noted that the Borough Council's proposals provided improved electoral equality in the proposed Wathvale ward, and were content to endorse these proposals. However, we proposed retaining the parishes of Azerley and Winksley with the majority of other parishes from the existing Kirkby Malzeard ward in the revised Fountains ward and, as a consequence, we proposed combining the parishes of Eavestone and Sawley with Pateley Bridge ward in order to improve electoral equality in the proposed Fountains ward. Under our draft recommendations the number of electors per councillor in the proposed Fountains, Kirby Hill and Wathvale wards would vary from the borough average by 15 per cent, 7 per cent and 8 per cent respectively. This level of electoral equality is expected to remain relatively constant over the next five years.

107 At Stage Three the Borough Council broadly supported our draft recommendations, but reiterated its Stage One proposals for Fountains ward, arguing that the parishes of Azerley and Winksley should be included in Mashamshire ward, and that the parishes of Eavestone and Sawley should be included in the proposed Fountains ward. Vale of York Conservative Association expressed concern that the proposed Kirby Hill and Wathvale wards would breach parliamentary constituency boundaries, and proposed that the parishes of Cundall with Leckby, Norton le Clay and Thornton Bridge should be included in Wathvale ward. Grantley, Sawley, Skelding & Eavestone Parish Council and a borough councillor opposed our draft recommendation and, as indicated above, argued that the four parishes should be retained in the same ward.

108 North Stainley Parish Council put forward proposals for the rural areas of the borough in order to ensure that the parish should be included in a ward with parishes to its west. It argued that it shares interests and identities with other parishes with connections with Ripon, unlike those in the proposed Wathvale ward. In addition, it noted that Councillor Watson's proposals would achieve "the same results" as their proposals in relation to North Stainley and supported his proposals "in principle". It also proposed renaming Fountains ward as Ripon Rural or Liberty.

109 Councillor Watson proposed that Kirkby Malzeard ward should comprise the parishes of Aldfield, Lindrick with Studley Royal & Fountains,

North Stainley with Sleningford and Studley Roger from the existing Fountains ward and the existing Kirkby Malzeard ward, less the parishes of Bishop Thornton and Warsill. He proposed that Wathvale ward should comprise the existing ward, together with the parishes of Cundall with Leckby, Marton-le-Moor and Norton-le-Clay from the existing Newby ward and Hutton Conyers parish from Fountains ward. He proposed that Newby ward should comprise the remainder of Newby ward, less Copgrove parish, with Marton-le-Moor parish from Wathvale ward, and the remainder of Fountains ward.

110 Under Councillor Watson's proposals the number of electors per councillor in Kirkby Malzeard, Newby and Wathvale wards would vary by 1 per cent, 8 per cent and 3 per cent from the borough average respectively. This level of electoral equality is projected to remain relatively constant over the next five years.

111 During the period of further consultation we received 26 representations regarding this area. Grantley, Sawley, Skelding & Eavestone Parish Council and two borough councillors supported Councillor Watson's proposals to include Eavestone and Sawley parishes in Kirkby Malzeard ward, which reflected the Borough Council's Stage One proposals. North Stainley with Sleningford and Wath & Norton Conyers parish councils and 21 residents supported Councillor Watson's proposals to include North Stainley with Sleningford parish in Kirkby Malzeard ward. Azerley and Hartwith-cum-Winsley parish councils also supported Councillor Watson's proposed Kirkby Malzeard ward.

112 Having carefully considered the representations received at Stage Three and further consultation, we note that Councillor Watson's proposals have achieved a high degree of local support. In the light of evidence received, we consider that Councillor Watson's proposals for Kirkby Malzeard ward would achieve a better balance between electoral equality and the statutory criteria than our draft recommendations, and have decided to endorse his proposed Kirkby Malzeard ward as final. In particular, we note that Councillor Watson's proposals address a number of concerns expressed by several respondents, including Grantley, Sawley, Skelding & Eavestone and North Stainley with Sleningford parish councils. As a consequence, we propose endorsing his proposals for the revised Newby and Wathvale wards, which also enjoy a

measure of local support and, in our judgement, would achieve a better balance between electoral equality and the statutory criteria than our draft recommendations.

113 We have noted the Vale of York Conservative Association's concern that our proposals would breach the boundaries of parliamentary constituencies. However, this falls outside our remit, and we do not consider sufficient evidence was put forward to persuade us that our proposals would adversely affect the interests and identities of communities to a significant degree.

114 Under our final recommendations there would be improved electoral equality, with the number of electors per councillor in the proposed Kirkby Malzeard, Newby and Wathvale varying from the borough average by 1 per cent, 8 per cent and 3 per cent respectively. This level of electoral equality is expected to remain relatively constant over the next five years.

Bishop Monkton, Lower Nidderdale and Newby wards

115 Bishop Monkton, Lower Nidderdale and Newby wards are each represented by a single member, and are situated in the centre of the borough, to the north of Harrogate town. Under existing arrangements the number of electors per councillor in the three wards varies from the borough average by 4 per cent, 2 per cent and 13 per cent respectively, under a council size of 59. Over the next five years this level of electoral equality is projected to remain relatively constant.

116 At Stage One the Borough Council proposed dividing Bishop Monkton ward, with the parishes of Markenfield Hall and Markington with Wallenthwaite being transferred to the proposed Fountains ward, while the parishes of Bishop Monkton and Burton Leonard would be combined

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electoral equality would improve marginally over the next five years.

¹²¹ Following further consultation, Bewerley, Birtswith, Dacre, Felliscliffe, Hartwith-cum-Winsley, Menwith with Darley, Pateley Bridge and Upper Nidderdale parish councils, Harrogate Labour Party, a councillor and four residents supported Councillor Watson's proposed Lower Nidderdale ward, which would include Felliscliffe parish. In addition, we received a petition of 35 signatures in support of this proposal. Bishop Monkton, Littlethorpe and Markington-with-Wallerthwaite parish councils supported Councillor Watson's revised Bishop Monkton ward. Another borough councillor noted there was "little difference" between our proposed Kirby Hill ward and Councillor Watson's proposed Newby ward, but argued that the ward should be named Newby to better reflect its constituent communities.

¹²² Having carefully considered the representations received at Stage Three and during further consultation, we consider that Councillor Watson's proposals for this area have merit, and we have decided to confirm them as final. We consider that his proposed Bishop Monkton ward would combine parishes with a shared interest in Ripon, while his proposed Lower Nidderdale ward addresses the concerns expressed by the majority of respondents in this area by retaining Felliscliffe parish in the revised Lower Nidderdale ward. Also, as previously indicated, we have decided to confirm Councillor Watson's proposals for Newby ward as a consequence of adopting his proposals elsewhere in the borough.

¹²³ We have considered the concerns expressed by the Vale of York Conservative Association in relation to our draft recommendations breaching the boundaries of parliamentary constituencies. However, as previously indicated, the coterminosity of ward and parliamentary boundaries falls outside our remit, and we do not consider sufficient evidence was put forward to persuade us that our that our proposals would adversely affect the interests and identities of communities to a significant degree.

¹²⁴ Under our final recommendations the number of electors per councillor in Bishop Monkton, Lower Nidderdale and Newby wards would vary by 3 per cent, 9 per cent and 8 per cent from the borough average respectively. This level of electoral equality is expected to improve over the next five

years, with the number of electors per councillor in Lower Nidderdale and Newby wards varying by 6 per cent and 9 per cent, while the number of electors per councillor in Bishop Monkton ward would be equal to the borough average.

Boroughbridge and Claro wards

¹²⁵ Currently, while the single-member Claro ward enjoys reasonable electoral equality, with the number of electors per councillor varying from the borough average by 5 per cent, there are 41 per cent more electors per councillor than the borough average in the adjoining Boroughbridge ward, which also returns one councillor. The level of electoral equality is projected to improve marginally in Claro ward over the next five years, but it is expected that electoral inequality will deteriorate further in Boroughbridge ward, with the number of electors per councillor varying by 49 per cent from the borough average by 2003.

¹²⁶ At Stage One, in order to address the high level of electoral imbalance in Boroughbridge ward, the Borough Council proposed dividing Boroughbridge town into two new town council wards, to be named Boroughbridge and Minskip. It proposed that the new Boroughbridge town parish ward should form a revised Boroughbridge borough ward and that the new Minskip town ward should be included in the proposed Allerton ward together with the parishes of Dunsforth, Marton cum Grafton, Kirk Hammerton and Thornville, and parishes to the east and north of Goldsborough parish from the existing Claro ward.

¹²⁷ It also proposed that the parishes of Goldsborough and Plompton should be transferred from Claro ward to Spofforth ward, while the parishes of Brearton, Scotton and Walkingham Hill with Occaney should be transferred from Claro ward to Walkingham ward. Under the Borough Council's proposals the number of electors per councillor would vary by 6 per cent from the borough average in the proposed Allerton ward, and would equal the average in the proposed Boroughbridge ward. However, due to projected housing development, this level of electoral equality was projected to deteriorate over the next five years, with the proposed Allerton and Boroughbridge wards having an electoral variance of 3 per cent and 8 per cent by 2003.

¹²⁸ At Stage One Boroughbridge Town Council proposed that the proposed Boroughbridge and

Minskip parish wards should form a revised Boroughbridge ward.

129 In our draft recommendations report we noted that the existing Boroughbridge ward was subject to a high level of electoral inequality. We carefully considered Boroughbridge Town Council's proposal that the town be represented within a single borough ward, but were not persuaded that this would represent a better balance between electoral equality and the statutory criteria than the Borough Council's proposals. In particular, we noted that combining the town wards of Minskip and Boroughbridge would retain a high level of electoral inequality, and that this would worsen over the next five years due to housing development in the area. Accordingly, we endorsed the Borough Council's proposals as our draft recommendations in the area.

130 At Stage Three the Borough Council broadly supported our draft recommendations for the area. Vale of York Conservative Association proposed that Boroughbridge ward should comprise Boroughbridge town and Dunsforth parish, to be represented by two members. It also opposed our draft recommendation to divide Flaxby and Goldsborough parishes between wards. Anne McIntosh MP opposed our draft recommendation to divide the existing Claro ward between the proposed Allerton, Spofforth and Walkingham wards.

131 Goldsborough & Flaxby Grouped Parish Council reiterated its proposal that Flaxby and Goldsborough parishes should both be represented in a single ward, arguing that they should be included in the proposed Allerton ward. As an alternative, it proposed that the parishes should be combined with one of the wards in Knaresborough town. It also submitted a petition containing 40 signatures opposing our draft recommendation to divide Flaxby and Goldsborough parishes between wards.

132 Councillor Brewis submitted a new borough-wide scheme with the aim of retaining Claro's existing ward boundaries, with a revised Claro ward including the parishes of Allerton Mauleverer with Hopperton, Arkendale, Coneythorpe & Clareton, Dunsforth, Ferrensby, Great Ouseburn, Kirby Hall, Little Ouseburn, Marton-cum-Grafton and Staveley, together with the proposed Minskip parish ward of Boroughbridge town. He proposed

that the parishes of Flaxby, Goldsborough and Plompton should be transferred from Claro ward to Spofforth ward, and that the parishes of Cattal, Great Ribston with Walshford and Hunsingore should be combined with parts of Nether Poppleton and Ouseburn wards, to form a Ribston ward.

133 We received an additional 45 representations from local residents of Flaxby and Goldsborough. Of these, seven residents specifically opposed our draft recommendation to divide the parishes of Flaxby and Goldsborough between wards, while 36 residents also opposed our draft recommendation to include Goldsborough parish in Spofforth ward. A further resident opposed the division of the parishes, and objected to Goldsborough parish being included in the proposed Allerton ward, while another resident proposed retaining Claro ward's existing ward boundaries.

134 Councillor Watson supported our proposals for Boroughbridge ward, but proposed that the existing Claro ward should be divided between two wards. He proposed that a revised Claro ward should include the parishes of Arkendale, Brearton, Coneythorpe & Clareton, Copgrove, Dunsforth, Farnham, Ferrensby, Marton cum Grafton, Scotton, Staveley and Walkingham with Occaney, together with the proposed Minskip parish ward of Boroughbridge town, and that a revised Ribston ward should comprise the parishes of Allerton Mauleverer with Hopperton, Cattal, Flaxby, Follifoot, Goldsborough, Great Ribston with Walshford, Hunsingore, Kirk Deighton, Kirk Hammerton, Little Ribston, North Deighton, Plompton and Thornville.

135 During our period of further consultation we received a representation from Anne McIntosh MP, who proposed that Claro's existing ward boundaries should be retained. Goldsborough & Flaxby Grouped Parish Council described Councillor Watson's proposals as "infinitely more acceptable" than our draft recommendations, but stated that Councillor Watson's proposed Ribston ward would not effectively represent the interests of Flaxby and Goldsborough. A local resident supported this view. Hartwith-cum-Winsley Parish Council supported Councillor Watson's proposals for Flaxby and Goldsborough parishes. Boroughbridge Town Council reiterated its proposal that Minskip parish should be retained in Boroughbridge ward.

136 Having considered the representations received at Stage Three and further consultation, we note that three alternative proposals have been put forward for wards in this area. However, we note that our proposal to ward Boroughbridge parish, and combine the proposed Minskip parish ward with parishes to its south, has been supported by Councillor Brewis and Councillor Watson. We remain satisfied that this proposal would achieve the best balance between electoral equality and the statutory criteria, and have decided to confirm this proposal as our final recommendation.

137 We have considered the concerns expressed by Boroughbridge Town Council and the Vale of York Conservative Association, and agree that there is merit in Boroughbridge being separately represented. However, we note that this would result in the number of electors per councillor varying by 11 per cent in the proposed Boroughbridge ward, and that this electoral imbalance is projected to deteriorate to 18 per cent by 2003, and we have not been persuaded that it would provide a better balance between electoral equality and the statutory criteria than our draft recommendations. Similarly, the Vale of York Conservative Association's proposal to include Boroughbridge town and Dunsforth parish in a revised Boroughbridge ward would also result in a significantly poorer level of electoral inequality than our draft recommendations, with an electoral imbalance of 39 per cent. Accordingly, we have not been persuaded that this proposal would provide a better balance between electoral equality and the statutory criteria than our draft recommendations.

138 Our draft recommendation for the proposed Allerton ward has not achieved a high degree of local support and, in the light of new evidence, we propose departing from it. We consider that the parishes of Flaxby and Goldsborough share strong communication links and community interests, and we note that Councillor Watson's proposed Ribston ward would include both parishes, reflecting the views of the majority of respondents. We have decided to confirm this proposal as final. Also, as a consequence of proposals for adjoining areas we have decided to endorse Councillor Watson's proposal for Claro ward, which we consider achieves a good balance between electoral equality and the statutory criteria.

139 We have also considered the proposals put forward by Councillor Brewis, but note that he

proposes combining Flaxby and Goldsborough with Spofforth ward and, in the light of representations received during Stage Three and the further period of consultation, we consider that this proposal would not effectively represent the communities of Flaxby and Goldsborough.

140 We have also considered Goldsborough & Flaxby Grouped Parish Council's two options for Claro ward. As previously indicated, we have not been persuaded that combining the parishes with Knaresborough town for borough warding purposes would best reflect the interests and identities of electors from the east of Knaresborough or from Flaxby and Goldsborough. In addition, the Parish Council's proposal to combine the parishes with our proposed Allerton ward would result in a high level of electoral inequality, with the number of electors per councillor in the revised Allerton ward varying by 24 per cent from the borough average. We have not been persuaded that this would achieve a better balance between electoral equality and the statutory criteria than Councillor Watson's proposals, which we are adopting as our final recommendations for this area.

141 Under our final recommendations the numbers of electors per councillor in Claro ward would vary by 11 per cent from the borough average, while the number of electors per councillor in Boroughbridge ward would be equal to the borough average. This level of electoral equality is projected to improve marginally in Claro ward, to vary by 10 per cent in 2003, but is projected to deteriorate in Boroughbridge ward, due to significant development, with the number of electors per councillor in the ward projected to vary by 8 per cent from the average by 2003.

Marston Moor, Nether Poppleton, Ouseburn and Spofforth wards

142 Under current arrangements, while Ouseburn and Spofforth wards enjoy reasonable electoral equality, with the number of electors per councillor varying from the borough average by 7 per cent and 3 per cent respectively, the number of electors per councillor in Marston Moor and Nether Poppleton wards varies by 13 per cent and 64 per cent respectively. This level of electoral equality is projected to deteriorate marginally over the next five years. Each of the four wards is represented by a single member.

143 At Stage One the Borough Council proposed dividing Nether Poppleton ward between adjoining wards, with the parishes of Kirk Hammerton and Thornville being combined with the proposed Allerton ward, as already indicated, Wilstrop parish being combined with the existing Marston Moor ward, and Moor Monkton parish being combined with the existing Ouseburn ward (less Dunsforth parish). Also, as already indicated, it proposed transferring the parishes of Goldsborough and Plompton from the existing Claro ward to Spofforth ward.

144 Under the Borough Council's proposals the number of electors per councillor in Marston Moor and Spofforth wards would vary by 5 per cent and 9 per cent from the borough average respectively, and would be equal to the average in Ouseburn ward, under a 54-member council.

145 Kirk Deighton Parish Council supported the Borough Council's proposal to retain the parish in Spofforth ward. As indicated previously, Goldsborough & Flaxby Grouped Parish Council opposed the Borough Council's proposal to include Flaxby in Allerton ward and Goldsborough in Spofforth ward. Green Hammerton Parish Council proposed that it should be included in a ward with other parishes in the same ecclesiastical parish. Tockwith with Wilstrop Parish Council proposed that Wilstrop parish should be transferred from Nether Poppleton ward to Marston Moor ward to be represented in the same ward as Tockwith parish.

146 In our draft recommendations report we endorsed the Borough Council's proposals for this area, as we considered that they would represent a better balance of electoral equality and the statutory criteria than the current arrangements. We noted that the Borough Council's proposals would improve electoral equality while retaining the majority of ward boundaries in the area, and would additionally reflect the views of Green Hammerton, Kirk Deighton and Tockwith with Wilstrop parish councils. While we considered Goldsborough & Flaxby Grouped Parish Council's proposal that Flaxby and Goldsborough parishes be represented in a single ward, we noted that this would result in significantly worse electoral equality in the proposed Allerton and Spofforth wards.

147 At Stage Three the Borough Council broadly supported the Commission's recommendations for

the area. Anne McIntosh MP argued that the existing ward boundaries of Claro, Ouseburn and Spofforth should be retained. Vale of York Conservative Association supported the inclusion of Wilstrop parish in Marston Moor ward, but opposed our draft recommendation to include Flaxby and Goldsborough in different wards, and proposed that Kirk Hammerton, Thornville and Moor Monkton parishes be included in Ouseburn ward.

148 As previously indicated, Goldsborough & Flaxby Grouped Parish Council opposed dividing Goldsborough and Flaxby parishes between wards, arguing that Goldsborough does not share community interests and identities with parishes in Spofforth. It proposed that both parishes should be included either in Allerton ward or in a Knaresborough ward. It forwarded a petition opposing our draft recommendation to combine Goldsborough with Spofforth ward. In addition, we received 45 representations opposing our draft recommendations for this area. Little Ribston and North Deighton parish councils supported retaining the existing boundaries of Spofforth ward.

149 Councillor Watson supported our draft recommendations for Marston Moor and Ouseburn wards, but put forward alternative warding arrangements for parishes in the existing Nether Poppleton and Spofforth wards. He proposed combining parishes from the existing Almscliffe ward, less the parishes of Haverah Park and Pannal, with Spofforth with Stockeld parish, to form a new Spofforth with Lower Wharfedale ward. He also proposed that Kirk Hammerton and Thornville parishes, from Nether Poppleton ward, should be included in the new Ribston ward with the remainder of Spofforth ward and parishes from Claro ward, less Arkendale and Coneythorpe & Clareton parishes, and that Dunsforth parish, from Ouseburn ward, should be included in a revised Claro ward, as detailed above.

150 Under Councillor Watson's proposals the number of electors per councillor in Marston Moor, Ribston and Spofforth with Lower Wharfedale wards would vary by 5 per cent, 8 per cent and 13 per cent, while the number of electors per councillor in Ouseburn ward would equal the borough average. This level of electoral equality is projected to improve, with the number of electors per councillor in all three wards varying by not more than 10 per cent by 2003.

151 During our period of further consultation we received nine representations relating to this area. Follifoot with Plompton, Kirk Deighton and Spofforth with Stockeld parish councils supported our draft recommendations. Harrogate Labour Party argued that Councillor Watson's proposals would divide communities in the existing Spofforth ward. A borough councillor proposed that Councillor Watson's proposed Spofforth with Lower Wharfedale ward be renamed Spofforth & North Wharfe to better reflect the ward's constituent communities. Goldsborough & Flaxby Parish Council and a local resident supported Councillor Watson's proposal to include Flaxby and Goldsborough in the same ward, but opposed his proposed Ribston ward, as detailed above. Little Ribston and North Deighton parish councils supported the status quo, opposing Councillor Watson's proposal to divide Spofforth ward.

152 Having carefully considered the responses received during Stage Three and further consultation, we note that our draft recommendations for Marston Moor and Ouseburn wards have achieved a high degree of local support, and we have decided to confirm them as final. However, while our proposed Spofforth ward achieved broad support from parish councils in the area, it was opposed by Goldsborough & Flaxby Parish Council and 45 respondents at Stage Three. In the light of further evidence, we have been persuaded that there is merit in the parishes of Flaxby and Goldsborough being combined in the same ward with the majority of the existing Claro ward which, in our judgement, would achieve a better balance between electoral equality and the statutory criteria than our draft recommendations.

153 As a consequence of this proposal, we are unable to endorse our draft recommendations for Spofforth ward. We have considered alternative electoral arrangements to retain the links between Spofforth with Stockeld and parishes to its east, but consider that Councillor Watson's proposals would achieve the best possible balance between electoral equality and the statutory criteria. We note the concerns expressed by parish councils in the area, but have not been persuaded that Councillor Watson's proposals will have a significant adverse effect on the representation of community interests in the area as, in our judgement, the communities contained in the new Spofforth with Lower Wharfedale ward would have similar interests.

154 We have considered the proposal put forward by a borough councillor to rename Councillor Watson's proposed Spofforth with Lower Wharfedale ward. However, we do not consider that Spofforth & North Wharfe would better reflect the communities contained in the ward, and we have not been persuaded to endorse this proposal.

155 Under our final recommendations the number of electors per councillor in Marston Moor, Ribston and Spofforth with Lower Wharfedale wards would vary by 5 per cent, 8 per cent and 13 per cent from the borough average and would equal the borough average in Ouseburn ward. This level of electoral equality is projected to deteriorate marginally in Marston Moor and Ouseburn wards, to vary by 7 per cent and 5 per cent from the average by 2003 and to improve marginally in Ribston and Spofforth with Lower Wharfedale wards, to vary by 6 per cent and 10 per cent from the borough average by 2003.

Almscliffe, Killinghall and Wharfedale Moors wards

156 Almscliffe, Killinghall and Wharfedale Moors wards, which are each represented by a single councillor, cover the south western part of the borough. Under current arrangements, while Almscliffe and Wharfedale Moors wards enjoy reasonable electoral equality, with the number of electors per councillor varying from the borough average by 8 per cent and 9 per cent respectively, there are 59 per cent more electors per councillor than average in Killinghall ward than the borough average, to deteriorate to 78 per cent over the next five years.

157 At Stage One, in order to reduce the high level of electoral inequality in Killinghall ward, the Borough Council proposed warding Killinghall parish, with the proposed Killinghall Moor parish ward being combined with Saltergate ward in Harrogate, as indicated previously. It also proposed combining the proposed Killinghall parish ward with Hampsthwaite parish, currently in Killinghall ward, and Nidd parish, currently in Bishop Monkton ward, to form a revised Killinghall ward. The Borough Council proposed that Felliscliffe parish, should be combined with parishes in Wharfedale Moors ward in a new Timble ward. It proposed that Almscliffe's existing ward boundaries should be retained. Under the Borough

Council's proposals the number of electors per councillor in Almscliffe, Killinghall and Timble wards would vary by 1 per cent, 5 per cent and 5 per cent from the borough average. This level of electoral equality would remain relatively constant over the next five years.

¹⁵⁸ Felliscliffe Parish Council opposed the Borough Council's proposal to combine the parish with the existing Wharfedale Moors ward, arguing that the proposed Timble ward would not reflect the interests and identities within Felliscliffe. No other representations were received.

¹⁵⁹ In our draft recommendations report we endorsed the Borough Council's proposals for this area. While we considered Felliscliffe Parish Council's concerns at being included in the proposed Timble ward, we noted that retaining the parish in Lower Nidderdale ward would result in significantly worse electoral equality.

¹⁶⁰ At Stage Three the Borough Council supported our draft recommendation for Timble ward, but suggested renaming the ward Washburn to better reflect the ward's constituent communities. Councillor Watson's proposal for Nidd ward was similar to our proposed Killinghall ward, but additionally included Ripley parish. Similarly, his proposals for Washburn Valley were similar to our draft recommendation for Timble ward, but additionally included the parishes of Haverah Park, North Rigton and Pannal, while excluding Felliscliffe parish. He proposed combining the remainder of the existing Almscliffe ward with Spofforth with Stockeld parish to form a new Spofforth with Lower Wharfedale ward, as previously indicated.

¹⁶¹ Under Councillor Watson's proposals the number of electors per councillor in Nidd, Spofforth with Lower Wharfedale and Washburn Valley wards would vary from the borough average by 3 per cent, 13 per cent and 10 per cent respectively. By 2003 the number of electors per councillor in all three wards would vary by no more than 10 per cent from the borough average.

¹⁶² During our further consultation we received two representations concerning this area. Killinghall Parish Council supported Councillor Watson's proposed Nidd ward, but also supported our draft recommendation for the name of Killinghall, arguing that wards named Lower Nidderdale, Nidd and Nidd Valley "could be

confusing". A borough councillor noted that there was "very little difference" between our draft recommendations and Councillor Watson's proposals, but supported Councillor Watson's proposal to name the ward Nidd, arguing that the River Nidd flows through the ward. He also commented that either Washburn or Washburn Valley would represent the identity of the south-western ward. As previously indicated, Spofforth with Stockeld Parish Council supported our draft recommendation for Spofforth ward.

¹⁶³ Having considered the representations received at Stage Three and further consultation, we have decided to endorse Councillor Watson's proposals as our final recommendations for this area. However, we share the concern expressed by Killinghall Parish Council that the proliferation of wards including reference to the River Nidd could lead to confusion, and consider that Killinghall should be retained as a ward name. Similarly, we consider that the Borough Council's proposal to name the revised Wharfedale Moor ward as Washburn ward has merit, and we have decided to adopt this name for the purposes of our final recommendations.

¹⁶⁴ We note the concern of Spofforth with Stockeld Parish Council but, as previously indicated, consider that Councillor Watson's proposed Spofforth with Lower Wharfedale ward achieves the best possible balance between electoral equality and the statutory criteria, given the limited alternatives available.

¹⁶⁵ Under our final recommendations the number of electors per councillor in Killinghall, Spofforth with Lower Wharfedale and Washburn wards would vary from the borough average by 3 per cent, 13 per cent and 10 per cent respectively. This level of electoral equality will improve over the next five years, with the number of electors per councillor in all three wards projected to vary by no more than 10 per cent by 2003.

Electoral Cycle

¹⁶⁶ In the initial stage of the review the Borough Council stated that it had "decided not to make any recommendations to vary its current electoral cycle". We received no other proposals at Stage One in relation to the electoral cycle of the borough.

167 At Stage Three we received one recommendation with regard to the electoral cycle. Ripon City Council and Ripon City & District Conservative Association objected to the proposal to hold elections in Ripon in three out of every four years, and proposed that elections should be biannual. However, we legislation only allows us to retain the existing electoral arrangements or to recommend whole-council elections, therefore we do not propose any change to the Council's present system of elections by thirds.

Conclusions

168 Having considered carefully all the representations and evidence received in response to our consultation report, we have decided to make significant changes to our draft recommendations, and propose the following:

- (a) in the urban area – we propose that Knaresborough town should comprise Knaresborough East, Knaresborough King James and Knaresborough Scriven Park wards, as proposed by the Borough Council. We also propose a minor modification to the boundary between Rossett and Stray wards in Harrogate town;
- (b) in the rural area – we propose alternative warding arrangements for all rural wards, except Mashamshire, Marston Moor, Nidd Valley and Ouseburn.

169 We conclude that in Harrogate:

- there should be a reduction in council size from 59 to 54;
- there should be 35 wards, three more than at present;
- the boundaries of 29 of the existing wards should be modified;
- the Council should continue to hold elections by thirds.

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

171 As Figure 4 shows, our recommendations would result in an increase in the number of wards, resulting in an electoral variance of more than 10 per cent in five wards, with no wards varying by more than 20 per cent from the borough average. This improved level of electoral equality would improve further in 2003, with only one ward varying by more than 10 per cent from the average, and no wards varying by more than 20 per cent. We conclude that our recommendations would best meet the need for electoral equality, having regard to the statutory criteria.

Figure 4 : Comparison of Current and Recommended Electoral Arrangements

1998 electorate		2003 forecast electorate	
Current arrangements	Final recommendations	Current arrangements	Final recommendations
resulting in 5 Tw[a at46/TT2(osse10.32(54.9(5.612 m829.32514her)17.end5ons)t fr)14 Twthe average,			

Final Recommendation

Harrogate Borough Council should comprise 54 councillors serving 35 wards, as detailed and named in Figures 1 and 2, and illustrated on Map 2 and in Appendix A. The Council should continue to hold elections by thirds.

Parish and Town Council Electoral Arrangements

¹⁷² In undertaking reviews of electoral arrangements, we are required to comply as far as is reasonably practicable with the provisions set out in Schedule 11 to the 1972 Local Government Act. The Schedule provides that if a parish is to be divided between different borough wards it must also be divided into parish wards, so that each parish ward lies wholly within a single ward of the borough. Accordingly, we propose consequential warding arrangements for the parishes of Boroughbridge and Killinghall and for Knaresborough and Ripon town councils, to reflect the proposed borough wards.

¹⁷³ Boroughbridge parish is currently served by 11 councillors and is not warded. We propose that it should be divided into two new parish wards, Boroughbridge and Minskip, in order to facilitate our proposed warding arrangements at borough level. Under these proposals the parish would continue to have 11 councillors, with the proposed Boroughbridge parish ward being represented by 10 councillors and the proposed Minskip parish ward being represented by one councillor.

Final Recommendation

Boroughbridge Parish Council should comprise 11 councillors, as at present, representing two wards: Boroughbridge (returning 10 councillors) and Minskip (returning one councillor). The parish ward boundaries should reflect the proposed borough ward boundaries in the area, as illustrated and named on Map A2 in Appendix A.

¹⁷⁴ Killinghall parish is currently served by nine councillors and is not warded. We propose that it should be divided into two new parish wards,

Killinghall and Killinghall Moor, in order to facilitate our proposed warding arrangements at borough level. Under these proposals there would be an increase of one in the size of the parish council, with the proposed Killinghall parish ward being represented by six councillors and the proposed Killinghall Moor parish ward being represented by four councillors.

Final Recommendation

Killinghall Parish Council should comprise 10 councillors, one more than at present, representing two wards: Killinghall (returning six councillors) and Killinghall Moor (returning four councillors). The boundary between the two parish wards should reflect the proposed borough ward boundary, as illustrated and named on Map A3 in Appendix A.

¹⁷⁵ Knaresborough Town Council is currently divided into two town council wards, Knaresborough East and Knaresborough West, each of which is represented by seven town councillors. In order to facilitate our proposed warding arrangements at borough level we propose that there should be an increase of one in town council size, to 15, and that the town should be divided into three town council wards, Knaresborough East, Knaresborough Nidd and Knaresborough Scriven Park, each to be coterminous with the proposed borough wards and to be represented by five councillors.

Final Recommendation

Knaresborough Town Council should comprise 15 town councillors, one more than at present, representing three wards: Knaresborough East, Knaresborough Nidd and Knaresborough Scriven Park, each returning five town councillors. The boundary between the three parish wards should reflect the proposed borough ward boundaries, as illustrated on the large map at the back of the back of the report.

¹⁷⁶ Ripon City Council is currently divided into two parish council wards, Ripon East and Ripon West, each of which is represented by seven councillors. In order to facilitate our proposed

warding arrangements at borough level we propose that there should be an increase of one in the parish council size, to 15, and that the town should be divided into three parish wards, Ripon Minster, Ripon Moorside and Ripon Spa, each to be represented by five councillors.

Final Recommendation

Ripon City Council should comprise 15 town councillors, one more than at present, representing three wards: Ripon Minster, Ripon Moorside and Ripon Spa, each returning five town councillors. The boundary between the three parish wards should reflect the proposed borough ward boundaries, as illustrated on the large map at the back of the report.

¹⁷⁷ Whixley parish is currently represented by five parish councillors. At Stage One, following representations from the Parish Council, the Borough Council proposed that the council size should be increased to seven. At Stage Three we received no further representations on this matter. Our proposed borough warding arrangements would not result in change to this area but we are content to endorse this increase in the size of the parish council.

Final Recommendation

Whixley Parish Council should comprise seven parish councillors instead of the current five. The parish should remain unwarded.

¹⁷⁸ We are not proposing any change to the electoral cycle of parish and town councils in the borough.

Final Recommendation

Elections for parish and town councils, should continue to be held at the same time as elections for the Borough Council.

Map 2:
The Commission's Final Recommendations for Harrogate



7. NEXT STEPS

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

180 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.

181 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

Final Recommendations for Harrogate: Detailed Mapping

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

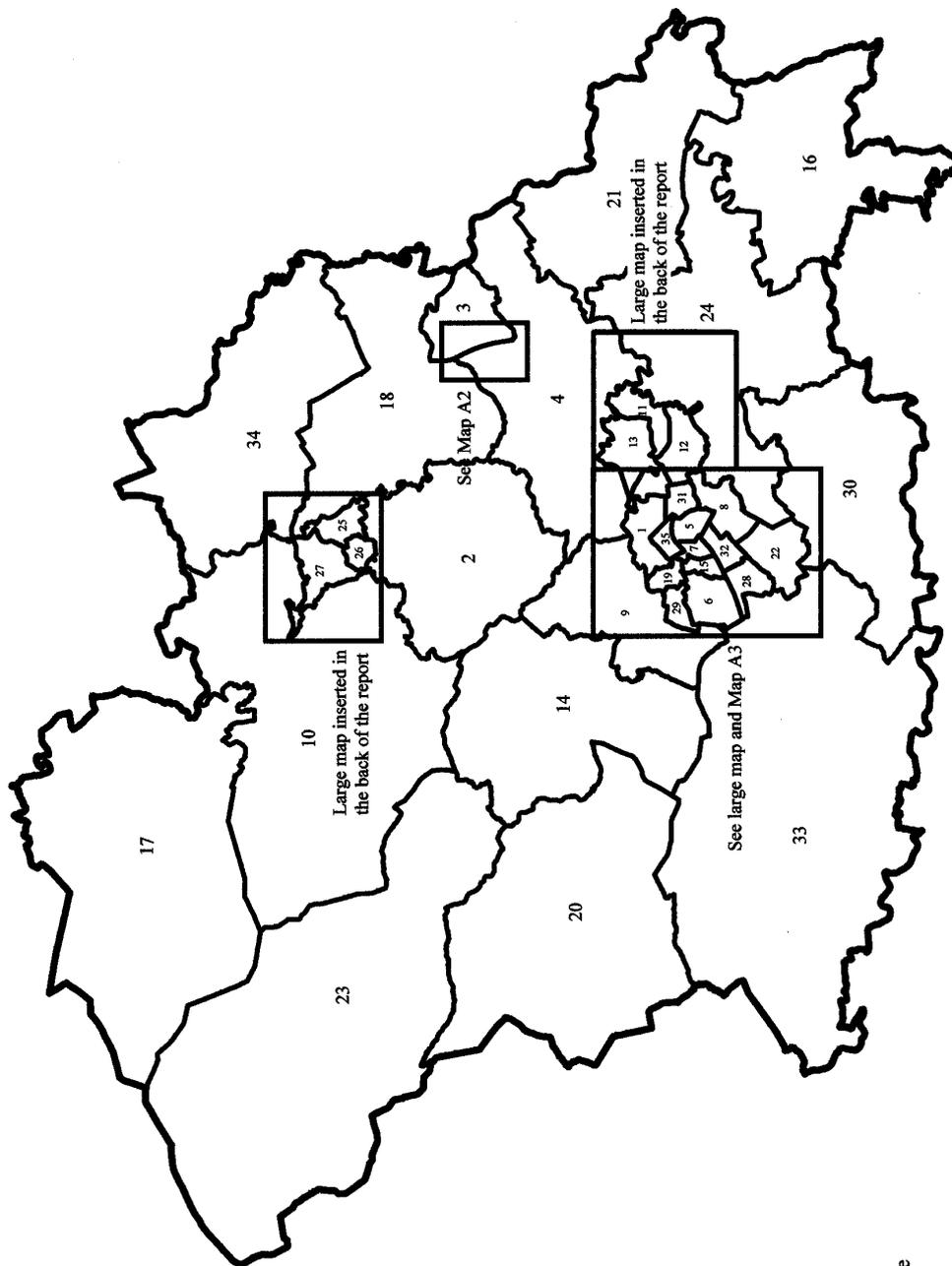
Map A1 illustrates, in outline form, the proposed ward boundaries within the borough and indicates the areas which are shown in more detail in Maps A2 and A3 and the large map inserted at the back of the report.

Map A2 illustrates the proposed warding of Boroughbridge parish.

Map A3 illustrates the proposed warding of Killinghall parish.

The **large map** inserted in the back of the report illustrates the existing and proposed warding arrangements for Harrogate, Knaresborough and Ripon.

Map A1:
Final Recommendations for Harrogate: Key Map

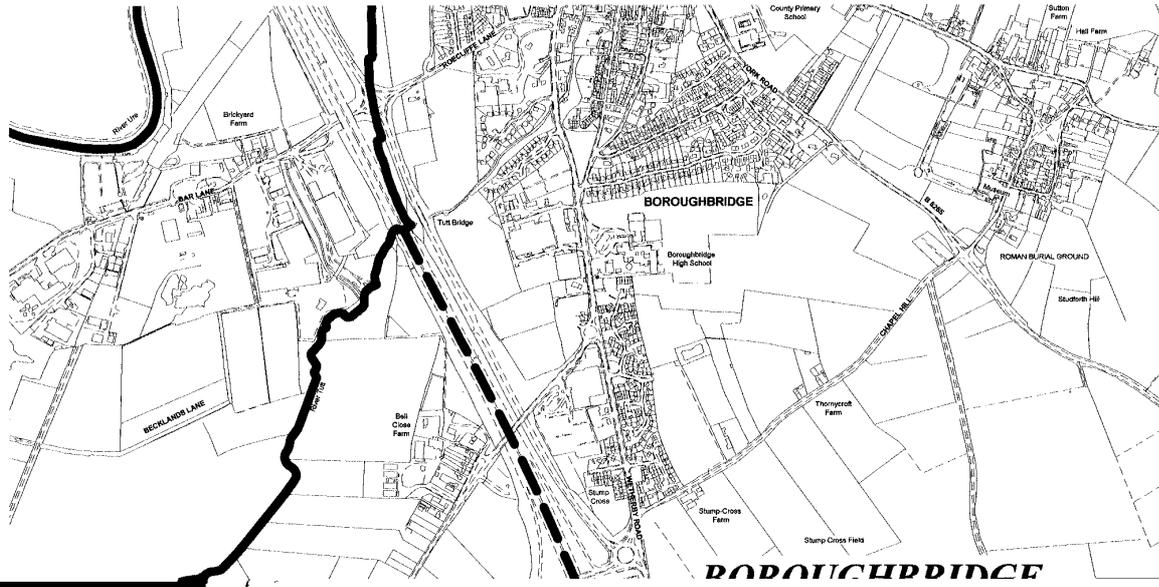


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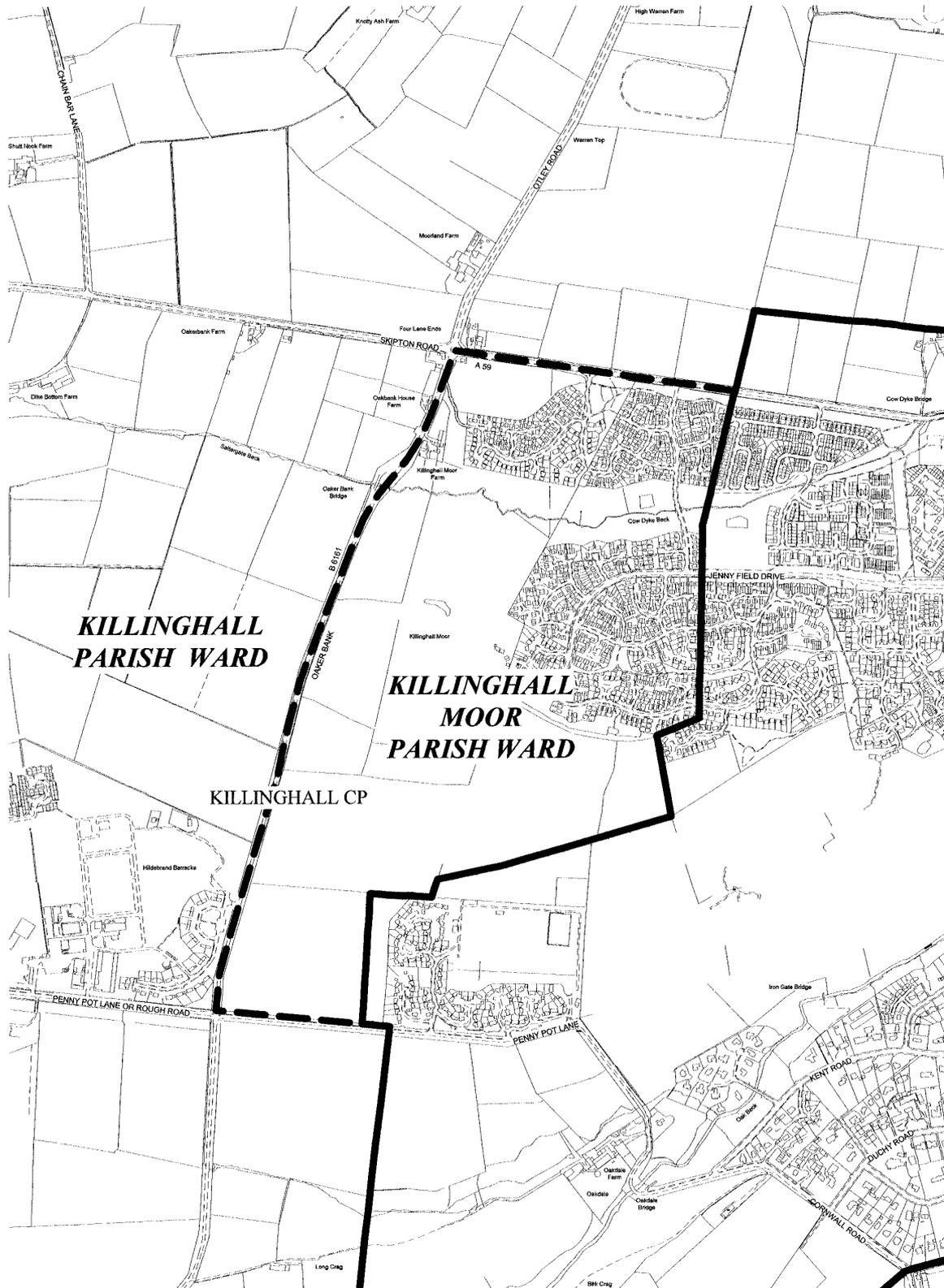
Key to Wards

- 1 Bilton
- 2 Bishop Monkton
- 3 Boroughbridge
- 4 Claro
- 5 Granby
- 6 Harlow Moor
- 7 High Harrogate
- 8 Hookstone
- 9 Killinghall
- 10 Kirkby Malzeard
- 11 Knaresborough East
- 12 Knaresborough King James
- 13 Knaresborough Scriven Park
- 14 Lower Nidderdale
- 15 Low Harrogate
- 16 Marston Moor
- 17 Mashamshire
- 18 Newby
- 19 New Park
- 20 Nidd Valley
- 21 Ouseburn
- 22 Pannal
- 23 Pateley Bridge
- 24 Ribston
- 25 Ripon Minster
- 26 Ripon Moorside
- 27 Ripon Spa
- 28 Rossett
- 29 Saltergate
- 30 Spofforth with Lower Wharfedale
- 31 Starbeck
- 32 Stray
- 33 Washburn
- 34 Wathvale
- 35 Woodfield

Map A2:
Proposed Warding for Boroughbridge Parish



Map A3:
Proposed Warding of Killinghall Parish



KEY	
EXISTING PARISH WARD BOUNDARY	—————
PROPOSED PARISH WARD BOUNDARY	—————
PROPOSED PARISH WARD NAME	KILLINGHALL MOOR PARISH WARD

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APPENDIX B

Draft Recommendations for Harrogate

Our final recommendations, detailed in Figures 1 and 2, differ from those we put forward as draft recommendations in respect of 16 wards where our draft proposals are set out below.

*Figure B1:
The Commission's Draft Recommendations: Summary*

Ward name	Number of councillors	Constituent areas
1 Allerton	1	Boroughbridge ward (part – Minskip parish ward (as proposed) of Boroughbridge parish, the parish of Marton cum Grafton); Claro ward (part – the parishes of Allerton Mauleverer with Hopperton, Arkendale, Cattal, Coneythorpe & Clareton, Farnham, Ferrensby, Flaxby, Hunsingore and Great Ribston with Walshford); Nether Poppleton ward (part – the parishes of Kirk Hammerton and Thornville); Ouseburn ward (part – the parish of Dunsforth)
2 Almscliffe	1	<i>Unchanged</i> (the parishes of Haverah Park, Kearby with Netherby, Kirkby Overblow, North Rigton, Pannal, Sicklinghall and Weeton)
3 Fountains	1	Bishop Monkton ward (part – the parishes of Markenfield Hall and Markington with Wallethwaite); Fountains ward (part – the parishes of Aldfield, Lindrick with Studley Royal & Fountains, Littlethorpe and Studley Roger); Kirkby Malzeard ward (part – the parishes of Azerley, Grantley, Skelding, Kirkby Malzeard Laverton and Winksley)
4 Killinghall	1	Killinghall ward (part – the parish of Hampsthwaite and Killinghall parish ward (as proposed) of Killinghall parish); Bishop Monkton ward (part – Nidd parish)
5 Kirby Hill	1	Newby ward (part – the parishes of Ellenthorpe, Humberton, Kirby Hill, Langthorpe, Milby, Newby with Mulwith and Skelton on Ure); Fountains ward (part – the parishes of Bridge Hewick, Copt Hewick, Givendale, Hutton Conyers and Sharow); Wathvale ward (part – Marton-le-Moor parish)
6 Knaresborough Castle	2	Knaresborough East ward (part); Knaresborough West ward (part)

continued overleaf

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

Ward name	Number of councillors	Constituent areas
7 Knaresborough Nidd	2	Knaresborough East ward (part); Knaresborough West ward (part)
8 Knaresborough Scriven Park	2	Knaresborough East ward (part); Knaresborough West ward (part)
9 Lower Nidderdale	1	Bishop Monkton ward (part – the parishes of Ripley and South Stainley with Cayton); Lower Nidderdale ward (the parishes of Birstwith, Clint cum Hamlets and Hartswith cum Winsley); Kirkby Malzeard ward (part – the parishes of Bishop Thornton and Warsill)
10 Pateley Bridge	1	Kirkby Malzeard ward (part – the parishes of Eavestone and Sawley); Pateley Bridge ward (the parishes of Fountains Earth, High & Low Bishopside, Stonebeck Down and Stonebeck Up)
11 Rossett (in Harrogate)	2	Harlow ward (part); Pannal ward (part)
12 Spofforth	1	Claro ward (part – the parishes of Goldsborough and Plompton); Spofforth ward (the parishes of Follifoot, Kirk Deighton, North Deighton, Little Ribston and Spofforth with Stockeld)
13 Stray (in Harrogate)	2	Pannal ward part; Wedderburn ward (part); West Central ward (part)
14 Timble	1	Lower Nidderdale ward (part – Felliscliffe parish); Wharfedale Moor ward (the parishes of Askwith, Blubberhouses, Castley, Denton, Farnley, Fewston, Great Timble, Leathley, Lindley, Little Timble, Middleton, Nestfield with Langbar, Newall with Clifton, Norwood, Stainburn and Weston)
15 Walkingham	1	Claro ward (part – the parishes of Brearton, Scotton and Walkingham Hill with Occaney); Newby ward (part – the parishes of Copgrove, Roecliffe, Staveley and Westwick); Bishop Monkton ward (part – the parishes of Bishop Monkton and Burton Leonard)
16 Wathvale	1	Fountains ward (part – North Stainely with Slenningford parish); Newby ward (part – the parishes of Cundall with Leckby and Norton le Clay); Wathvale ward (part – the parishes of Asenby, Baldersby, Dishforth, Melmerby, Rainton with Newby, Middleton Quernhow, Norton Conyers and Wath)

Figure B2:
The Commission's Draft Recommendations for Harrogate: Number of Councillors and Electors by Ward

Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (1998)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2003)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
1 Allerton	1	2,236	2,236	6	2,236	2,236	3
2 Almscliffe	1	2,096	2,096	-1	2,096	2,096	-3
3 Fountains	1	2,424	2,424	15	2,470	2,470	14
4 Killinghall	1	2,014	2,014	-5	2,147	2,147	-1
5 Kirby Hill	1	2,262	2,262	7	2,334	2,334	8
6 Knaresborough Castle	2	3,984	1,992	-6	4,015	2,008	-7
7 Knaresborough Nidd	2	3,948	1,974	-7	4,060	2,030	-6
8 Knaresborough Scriven	2	3,751	1,876	-11	4,046	2,023	-6
9 Lower Nidderdale	1	2,334	2,334	10	2,334	2,334	8
10 Pateley Bridge	1	2,208	2,208	5	2,234	2,234	3
11 Rossett (in Harrogate)	2	4,446	2,223	5	4,446	2,223	3
12 Spofforth	1	2,310	2,310	9	2,310	2,310	7
13 Stray (in Harrogate)	2	4,451	2,226	5	4,451	2,226	3
14 Timble	1	2,017	2,017	-5	2,017	2,017	-7
15 Walkingham	1	2,241	2,241	6	2,279	2,279	5
16 Wathvale	1	2,272	2,272	8	2,360	2,360	9
Totals	54	114,081	—	—	116,753	—	—
Averages	—	—	2,113	—	—	2,162	—

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

Notes: 1 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.

2 Figures for Fountains ward has been revised since the publication of the draft recommendations report.

