

LOCAL
GOVERNMENT
COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND

FINAL
RECOMMENDATIONS
ON THE FUTURE
ELECTORAL
ARRANGEMENTS FOR
ENFIELD

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

January 2000

LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND

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

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CONTENTS

| | page |
|--|------------|
| LETTER TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE | <i>v</i> |
| SUMMARY | <i>vii</i> |
| 1 INTRODUCTION | <i>1</i> |
| 2 CURRENT ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS | <i>3</i> |
| 3 DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS | <i>7</i> |
| 4 RESPONSES TO CONSULTATION | <i>9</i> |
| 5 ANALYSIS AND FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS | <i>11</i> |
| 6 NEXT STEPS | <i>27</i> |
| APPENDIX | |
| A Draft Recommendations for Enfield (August 1999) | <i>29</i> |

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



Local Government Commission for England

25 January 2000

Dear Secretary of State

On 9 February 1999 the Commission began a periodic electoral review of Enfield under the Local Government Act 1992. We published our draft recommendations in August 1999 and undertook a ten-week period of consultation.

We have now prepared our final recommendations in the light of the consultation. We have substantially confirmed our draft recommendations, although some modifications have been made (see paragraph 136) in the light of further evidence. This report sets out our final recommendations for changes to electoral arrangements in Enfield.

We recommend that Enfield Borough Council should be served by 63 councillors representing 21 wards, and that changes should be made to ward boundaries in order to improve electoral equality, having regard to the statutory criteria.

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

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

Yours sincerely

PROFESSOR MALCOLM GRANT
Chairman

SUMMARY

The Commission began a review of Enfield on 9 February 1999. We published our draft recommendations for electoral arrangements on 3 August 1999, after which we undertook a ten-week period of consultation.

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

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

- **in nine of the 33 wards the number of electors represented by each councillor varies by more than 10 per cent from the average for the borough, and one ward varies by more than 20 per cent from the average;**
- **by 2004 electoral equality shows no overall improvement, with the number of electors per councillor forecast to vary by more than 10 per cent from the average in eight wards, and by more than 20 per cent in two wards.**

Our main final recommendations for future electoral arrangements (Figures 1 and 2 and paragraphs 136–137) are that:

- **Enfield Borough Council should be served by 63 councillors, compared to 66 at present;**
- **there should be 21 wards, 12 fewer than at present, which would involve changes to the boundaries of all of the existing wards.**

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

- **In 19 of the 21 wards the number of electors**

per councillor would vary by no more than 10 per cent from the borough average, with two wards varying by over 10 per cent.

- **This level of electoral equality is forecast to improve further, with the number of electors per councillor in all wards expected to vary by no more than 8 per cent from the average for the borough in 2004.**

All further correspondence on these recommendations and the matters discussed in this report should be addressed to the Secretary of State for the Environment, Transport and the Regions, who will not make an order implementing the Commission's recommendations before 7 March 2000:

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

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

| Ward name | Number of councillors | Constituent areas (existing wards) |
|--------------------|------------------------------|--|
| 1 Bowes | 3 | Bowes ward; Arnos ward (part); Weir Hall ward (part) |
| 2 Bush Hill Park | 3 | Highfield ward (part); Raglan ward (part); St Marks ward (part); Village ward (part) |
| 3 Chase | 3 | Chase ward (part); Willow ward (part); Worcesters ward (part) |
| 4 Cockfosters | 3 | Merryhills ward (part); Oakwood ward (part); Trent ward (part) |
| 5 Edmonton Green | 3 | Craig Park ward; Huxley ward (part); Latymer ward (part); St Peters ward (part); Weir Hall ward (part) |
| 6 Enfield Highway | 3 | Enfield Wash ward (part); Green Street ward (part) |
| 7 Enfield Lock | 3 | Enfield Lock ward; Enfield Wash ward (part) |
| 8 Grange | 3 | Grange ward (part); Town ward (part); Village ward (part) |
| 9 Haselbury | 3 | Huxley ward (part); Latymer ward (part); Raglan ward (part); Weir Hall ward (part) |
| 10 Highlands | 3 | Chase ward (part); Grange ward (part); Merryhills ward (part); Town ward (part); Trent ward (part) |
| 11 Jubilee | 3 | Jubilee ward (part); St Alphege ward (part); St Marks ward (part) |
| 12 Lower Edmonton | 3 | Jubilee ward (part); St Alphege ward (part); St Peters ward (part) |
| 13 Palmers Green | 3 | Highfield ward (part); Huxley ward (part); Palmers Green ward (part) |
| 14 Ponders End | 3 | Ponders End ward; Green Street ward (part); Southbury ward (part) |
| 15 Southbury | 3 | Hoe Lane ward (part); Southbury ward (part); St Marks ward (part); Worcesters ward (part) |
| 16 Southgate | 3 | Grovelands ward (part); Merryhills ward (part); Oakwood ward (part); Southgate Green ward (part) |
| 17 Southgate Green | 3 | Arnos ward (part); Grovelands ward (part); Southgate Green ward (part) |
| 18 Town | 3 | Southbury ward (part); Town ward (part); Willow ward (part); Worcesters ward (part) |
| 19 Turkey Street | 3 | Bullsmoor ward; Hoe Lane ward (part) |

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

| Ward name | Number of councillors | Constituent areas (existing wards) |
|-------------------|------------------------------|--|
| 20 Upper Edmonton | 3 | Angel Road ward; Weir Hall ward (part) |
| 21 Winchmore Hill | 3 | Winchmore Hill ward; Highfield ward (part); Palmers Green ward (part); Southgate Green ward (part) |

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

Figure 2:
The Commission's Final Recommendations for Enfield

| Ward name | Number of councillors | Electorate (1999) | Number of electors per councillor | Variance from average % | Electorate (2004) | Number of electors per councillor | Variance from average % |
|--------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1 Bowes | 3 | 9,111 | 3,037 | -5 | 9,883 | 3,294 | 2 |
| 2 Bush Hill Park | 3 | 10,032 | 3,344 | 4 | 9,394 | 3,131 | -3 |
| 3 Chase | 3 | 9,458 | 3,153 | -2 | 9,383 | 3,128 | -3 |
| 4 Cockfosters | 3 | 10,426 | 3,475 | 8 | 9,131 | 3,044 | -6 |
| 5 Edmonton Green | 3 | 9,637 | 3,212 | 0 | 9,972 | 3,324 | 3 |
| 6 Enfield Highway | 3 | 9,809 | 3,270 | 2 | 10,028 | 3,343 | 4 |
| 7 Enfield Lock | 3 | 8,167 | 2,722 | -15 | 10,466 | 3,489 | 8 |
| 8 Grange | 3 | 9,548 | 3,183 | -1 | 9,104 | 3,035 | -6 |
| 9 Haselbury | 3 | 9,747 | 3,249 | 1 | 10,212 | 3,404 | 6 |
| 10 Highlands | 3 | 9,891 | 3,297 | 3 | 9,161 | 3,054 | -5 |
| 11 Jubilee | 3 | 9,480 | 3,160 | -2 | 9,722 | 3,241 | 0 |
| 12 Lower Edmonton | 3 | 9,169 | 3,056 | -5 | 9,809 | 3,270 | 1 |
| 13 Palmers Green | 3 | 10,060 | 3,353 | 5 | 9,620 | 3,207 | -1 |
| 14 Ponders End | 3 | 9,656 | 3,219 | 0 | 9,920 | 3,307 | 2 |
| 15 Southbury | 3 | 9,138 | 3,046 | -5 | 9,405 | 3,135 | -3 |
| 16 Southgate | 3 | 8,917 | 2,972 | -7 | 9,182 | 3,061 | -5 |
| 17 Southgate Green | 3 | 9,868 | 3,289 | 3 | 9,779 | 3,260 | 1 |
| 18 Town | 3 | 10,799 | 3,600 | 12 | 9,589 | 3,196 | -1 |
| 19 Turkey Street | 3 | 9,220 | 3,073 | -4 | 9,577 | 3,192 | -1 |
| 20 Upper Edmonton | 3 | 9,733 | 3,244 | 1 | 9,764 | 3,255 | 1 |

Figure 2:
The Commission's Final Recommendations for Enfield

| Ward name | Number of councillors | Electorate (1999) | Number of electors per councillor | Variance from average % | Electorate (2004) | Number of electors per councillor | Variance from average % |
|-------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 21 Winchmore Hill | 3 | 10,273 | 3,424 | 7 | 10,151 | 3,384 | 5 |
| Totals | 63 | 202,139 | — | — | 203,252 | — | — |
| Averages | — | — | 3,209 | — | — | 3,226 | — |

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

Notes: 1 Due to inaccuracies in the information provided, the total electorate figures for Enfield differ marginally from the totals in Figure 3, however, we would expect this to have a marginal impact on electoral variances.

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

1. INTRODUCTION

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

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

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

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

4 We are required to make representations to the Secretary of State on the number of councillors who should serve on the Borough Council, and the number, boundaries and names of wards.

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

6 The broad objective of PERs is to achieve, so far as practicable, equality of representation across the borough as a whole. Wherever possible we try to build on schemes which have been prepared locally on the basis of careful and effective consultation. Local interests are normally in a

better position to judge what council size and ward configurations are most likely to secure effective and convenient local government in their areas, while allowing proper reflection of the identities and interests of local communities.

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

The London Boroughs

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

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

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

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

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

13 Following publication of the White Paper, we advised all authorities in our 1998/99 PER programme, including the London boroughs, that until any direction is received from the Secretary of State, the Commission would continue to maintain the approach to PERs as set out in the March 1998 Guidance. Nevertheless, we added that local authorities and other interested parties would no doubt wish to have regard to the Secretary of State's intentions and legislative proposals in formulating electoral schemes as part of PERs of their areas. Our general experience has been that proposals for three-member ward patterns emerged from most areas in London.

14 Finally, it should be noted that there are no parishes in London, and in fact there is no legislative provision for the establishment of parishes in London. This differentiates the reviews of London boroughs from the majority of the other electoral reviews we are carrying out elsewhere in the country, where parishes feature highly and provide the building blocks for district or borough wards.

The Review of Enfield

15 This is our first review of the electoral arrangements for Enfield. The last such review was undertaken by our predecessor, the Local Government Boundary Commission (LGBC), which reported to the Secretary of State in September 1977 (Report No. 255).

16 This review was in four stages. Stage One began on 9 February 1999, when we wrote to Enfield Borough Council inviting proposals for future electoral arrangements. We also notified the local authority associations, the Metropolitan Police, Members of Parliament and the Members of the European Parliament with constituency interests in the borough, and the headquarters of the main political parties. At the start of the review and following publication of our draft recommendations, we placed a notice in the local press, issued a press release and other publicity, and invited the Borough Council to publicise the review further. At the request of the Borough Council, the closing date for receipt of representations was 25 May 1999. At Stage Two we considered all the representations received during Stage One and prepared our draft recommendations.

17 Stage Three began on 3 August 1999 with the publication of our report, *Draft Recommendations on the Future Electoral Arrangements for Enfield*, and ended on 11 October 1999. Comments were sought on our preliminary conclusions. Finally, during Stage Four we reconsidered our draft recommendations in the light of the Stage Three consultation and now publish our final recommendations.

2. CURRENT ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS

18 The borough of Enfield is located on the northern edge of Greater London and adjoins the Hertfordshire and Essex countryside. Over one quarter of the borough, mainly in the north-west, is Green Belt land in use as country parks, open spaces and farmland. There are five main shopping centres, including England's largest local authority-built shopping centre at Edmonton Green. In addition, several out-of-town superstores have been established along the A10 Great Cambridge Road. The borough is well served with public transport, including four British Rail surface lines to Central London, as well as the London Underground Piccadilly line. The A406 North Circular Road runs across the borough close to its southern boundary, and the M25 motorway runs across the northern part of the borough, linking the A1 to the M11 motorway and the Dartford Tunnel.

19 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'.

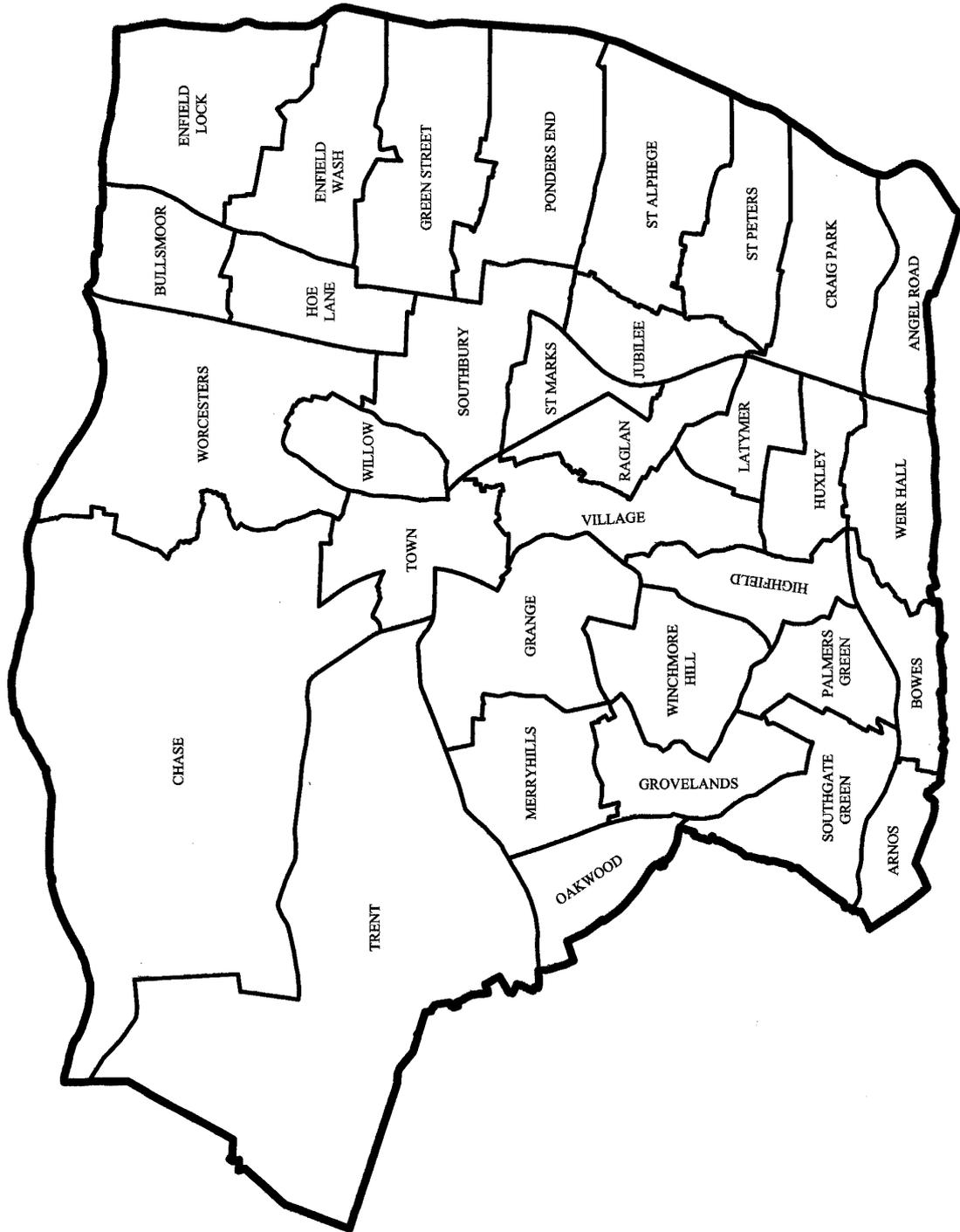
20 The electorate of the borough (February 1999) is 202,282. The Council currently has 66 councillors who are elected from 33 wards (Map 1 and Figure 3), with all wards each being represented by two councillors. As in all London boroughs, the whole council is elected together every four years.

21 Since the last electoral review there has been a slight increase in electorate in the borough, with less than 1 per cent more electors than two decades ago as a result of population changes, particularly in areas such as Highlands and Enfield Lock.

22 At present, each councillor represents an average of 3,065 electors, which the Borough Council forecasts will increase to 3,075 by the year 2004, 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 33 wards varies by more than 10 per cent from the borough average, and in one ward by more than 20 per cent. The worst imbalance is in Angel Road ward, where each of the two councillors represents on average 23 per cent fewer electors than the borough average.

Map 1:
Existing Wards in Enfield



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Figure 3:
Existing Electoral Arrangements

| Ward name | Number of councillors | Electorate (1999) | Number of electors per councillor | Variance from average % | Electorate (2004) | Number of electors per councillor | Variance from average % |
|--------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1 Angel Road | 2 | 4,717 | 2,359 | -23 | 4,714 | 2,357 | -23 |
| 2 Arnos | 2 | 5,543 | 2,772 | -10 | 5,587 | 2,794 | -9 |
| 3 Bowes | 2 | 6,231 | 3,116 | 2 | 6,424 | 3,212 | 4 |
| 4 Bullsmoor | 2 | 5,995 | 2,998 | -2 | 5,856 | 2,928 | -5 |
| 5 Chase | 2 | 5,963 | 2,982 | -3 | 5,814 | 2,907 | -5 |
| 6 Craig Park | 2 | 5,430 | 2,715 | -11 | 5,607 | 2,804 | -9 |
| 7 Enfield Lock | 2 | 7,154 | 3,577 | 17 | 8,219 | 4,110 | 34 |
| 8 Enfield Wash | 2 | 5,855 | 2,928 | -4 | 5,996 | 2,998 | -3 |
| 9 Grange | 2 | 7,023 | 3,512 | 15 | 6,850 | 3,425 | 11 |
| 10 Green Street | 2 | 5,698 | 2,849 | -7 | 5,681 | 2,841 | -8 |
| 11 Grovelands | 2 | 6,334 | 3,167 | 3 | 6,273 | 3,137 | 2 |
| 12 Highfield | 2 | 5,887 | 2,944 | -4 | 5,838 | 2,919 | -5 |
| 13 Hoe Lane | 2 | 6,193 | 3,097 | 1 | 6,323 | 3,162 | 3 |
| 14 Huxley | 2 | 5,864 | 2,932 | -4 | 5,897 | 2,949 | -4 |
| 15 Jubilee | 2 | 6,134 | 3,067 | 0 | 6,112 | 3,056 | -1 |
| 16 Latymer | 2 | 5,426 | 2,713 | -11 | 5,105 | 2,553 | -17 |
| 17 Merryhills | 2 | 6,521 | 3,261 | 6 | 6,728 | 3,364 | 9 |
| 18 Oakwood | 2 | 5,583 | 2,792 | -9 | 5,410 | 2,705 | -12 |
| 19 Palmers Green | 2 | 6,486 | 3,243 | 6 | 6,412 | 3,206 | 4 |
| 20 Ponders End | 2 | 6,385 | 3,193 | 4 | 6,489 | 3,245 | 5 |
| 21 Raglan | 2 | 7,115 | 3,558 | 16 | 7,011 | 3,506 | 14 |
| 22 Southbury | 2 | 7,031 | 3,516 | 15 | 7,050 | 3,525 | 15 |
| 23 Southgate Green | 2 | 6,182 | 3,091 | 1 | 6,153 | 3,077 | 0 |
| 24 St Alphege | 2 | 6,113 | 3,057 | 0 | 6,034 | 3,017 | -2 |

continued overleaf

Figure 3 (continued):
Existing Electoral Arrangements

| Ward name | Number of councillors | Electorate (1999) | Number of electors per councillor | Variance from average % | Electorate (2004) | Number of electors per councillor | Variance from average % |
|-------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 25 St Marks | 2 | 5,141 | 2,571 | -16 | 5,140 | 2,570 | -16 |
| 26 St Peters | 2 | 5,776 | 2,888 | -6 | 6,349 | 3,175 | 3 |
| 27 Town | 2 | 6,002 | 3,001 | -2 | 5,928 | 2,964 | -4 |
| 28 Trent | 2 | 6,838 | 3,419 | 12 | 6,533 | 3,267 | 6 |
| 29 Village | 2 | 6,679 | 3,340 | 9 | 6,495 | 3,248 | 6 |
| 30 Weir Hall | 2 | 6,094 | 3,047 | -1 | 6,313 | 3,157 | 3 |
| 31 Willow | 2 | 6,266 | 3,133 | 2 | 6,144 | 3,072 | 0 |
| 32 Winchmore Hill | 2 | 6,015 | 3,008 | -2 | 5,980 | 2,990 | -3 |
| 33 Worcesters | 2 | 6,608 | 3,304 | 8 | 6,510 | 3,255 | 6 |
| Totals | 66 | 202,282 | — | — | 202,975 | — | — |
| Averages | — | — | 3,065 | — | — | 3,075 | — |

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

Note: The 'variance from average' column shows by how far, in percentage terms, the number of electors per councillor varies from the average for the borough. The minus symbol (-) denotes a lower than average number of electors. For example, in 1999, electors in Angel Road ward were relatively over-represented by 23 per cent, while electors in Enfield Lock ward were relatively under-represented by 17 per cent. Figures have been rounded to the nearest whole number.

3. DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS

23 During Stage One we received representations from the Borough Council, Enfield North Conservative Association and Enfield Liberal Democrats, all of whom submitted borough-wide schemes, and one from a local resident. 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 Enfield*.

24 Our draft recommendations were based on the Borough Council's proposals, which we considered would represent the best possible balance between electoral equality and the statutory criteria. In particular, we noted that its proposals reflected the significant physical boundaries in the borough, including the A10 Great Cambridge and A1010 Hertford roads and the A406 North Circular Road, to a greater extent than the alternative proposals received. However, we departed from this scheme in a number of areas in the interests of electoral equality and to reflect elements from other proposals received during Stage One.

25 We proposed that:

- (a) Enfield Borough Council should be served by 63 councillors;
- (b) there should be 21 wards, involving changes to the boundaries of all existing wards.

Draft Recommendation

Enfield Borough Council should comprise 63 councillors serving 21 wards.

26 Our proposals would have resulted in significant improvements in electoral equality, with the number of electors per councillor in 19 of the 21 wards varying by no more than 10 per cent from the borough average. This level of electoral equality was forecast to improve further by 2004.

4. RESPONSES TO CONSULTATION

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

Enfield Borough Council

28 The Borough Council accepted the majority of our draft recommendations, subject to minor modifications in order to utilise the North Circular Road as a boundary for a greater part of its length.

Enfield Liberal Democrats

29 Enfield Liberal Democrats opposed the majority of our draft recommendations and submitted a revised borough-wide scheme for 63 councillors representing 21 wards, with all wards being represented by three members. Where possible they proposed that the North Circular Road should form the boundary of the southern wards, with other wards in the borough being based on “recognised town centres” and postal districts. They also proposed a number of new ward names. Although the Liberal Democrats largely moved away from our draft recommendations, a number of their proposed ward boundaries would reflect those of our draft recommendations.

30 Under Enfield Liberal Democrats’ proposals there would be improved electoral equality, with the number of electors per councillor varying by more than 10 per cent from the borough average in only one ward. Although the level of electoral equality is expected to deteriorate over the next five years, no wards are projected to have an electoral variance greater than 10 per cent by 2004.

Other Representations

31 A further seven representations were received in response to our draft recommendations from Enfield North Conservative Association, Bush Hill Park Residents’ Association, and five local residents.

32 Enfield North Conservative Association raised concerns regarding the projections provided by the Borough Council at Stage One, particularly in respect of Cockfosters ward. They also expressed concern regarding the size of the proposed Chase ward.

33 Bush Hill Park Residents’ Association welcomed our draft recommendations in principle, but proposed modifications to the boundary of the proposed Bush Hill Park ward in order to give our proposals “more credence”.

34 We received representations from five local residents. One argued that the North Circular Road should not form the boundary of the proposed Upper Edmonton ward, and that the existing Angel Road ward should be combined with the existing Craig Park ward rather than with Weir Hall ward. Another resident supported Enfield North Conservatives’ Stage One proposals and, in particular, expressed concerns in relation to the size of the proposed Chase ward.

35 One resident generally supported our proposals for Bush Hill Park ward, but proposed significant boundary modifications to the ward. Another resident broadly welcomed the Commission’s draft recommendations for Enfield Highway ward, but he argued that the northern boundary should be modified. He also proposed that The Ridgeway should form the boundary between Grange, Highlands and Town wards and suggested that Southgate Green ward should be renamed Arnos Grove. He also expressed concern regarding parliamentary constituency boundaries being crossed by new warding arrangements.

36 Another resident raised concerns regarding the size of the proposed Town ward and queried the Borough Council’s projected electorate for this ward. He supported Enfield North Conservatives’ Stage One proposals for this ward.

5. ANALYSIS AND FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS

37 As described earlier, our prime objective in considering the most appropriate electoral arrangements for Enfield 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 identities and interests of local communities – and Schedule 11 to the Local Government Act 1972, which refers to the number of electors per councillor being “as nearly as may be, the same in every ward of the district or borough”.

38 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.

39 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.

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

10 per cent in any ward. In reviews of predominantly urban areas such as the London boroughs, our experience suggests that we would expect to achieve a high degree of electoral equality in all wards.

Electorate Forecasts

41 At Stage One, the Borough Council submitted electorate forecasts for the year 2004, projecting an increase in the electorate of less than 1 per cent from 202,282 to 202,975 over the five-year period from 1999 to 2004. It expected most of the growth to be in the existing Enfield Lock ward, although significant growth was also planned in St Peters ward.

42 In our draft recommendations report, we noted that the Borough Council, in conjunction with the London Research Centre, had had difficulty in generating a satisfactory set of electorate forecasts at Stage Three. As unusually high levels of change were projected in certain wards in the borough, we closely examined the methodology used to calculate these figures and the assumptions on which they were based. The Borough Council's forecast electorates were produced by following a methodology which was built into its purpose-designed software known as the 'Electoral Review System'. The Borough Council indicated that as a consequence of the way in which its methodology worked it may have “not been as useful” in certain areas within the borough. It commented specifically on its proposed Bowes and Cockfosters wards, both of which showed significant electoral imbalances. It indicated that this was caused by a reliance on “dwelling counts as being proportionate to electors across the current wards”.

43 We are aware that this is an inexact science and, having given careful consideration to the Council's forecast electorates, we were content that they represented the best estimates that could reasonably be made at that time. Nevertheless, we had reservations regarding the accuracy of these forecast electorates, and in our draft report we

welcomed further evidence from all interested parties at Stage Three. We advised the Borough Council that it might wish to consider further and publish its projections during Stage Three in order that local interested parties could take any revised projections into account in responding to our draft recommendations.

44 At Stage Three, we received comments on the Council's electorate forecasts from Enfield North Conservatives and a local resident, with particular concern being expressed regarding the projected electorates of the proposed Cockfosters and Town wards. The Borough Council continued to share our concerns in relation to the implied scale of population changes in the proposed Bowes and Cockfosters wards, but argued that this was as a consequence of the proportion of the 1999 18+ projected populations (taken directly from the London Research Centre ward projections); these projections, it argued, were fundamental to the methodology used in determining its electoral forecasts. However, in the light of our reservations, it submitted revised projections for Bowes and Cockfosters wards which would lessen the effect of the adopted methodology by being based on absolute numeric differences rather than relative percentage differences based on the 1999 electorate. It maintained that there was "no reason to revisit the forecasts for all other wards at this late stage".

45 The team have considered the revised projections for these two wards, and note that the level of electoral equality would improve marginally over the next five years in Bowes and Cockfosters wards on the basis of the new figures. However, given our concerns about applying different methods of calculation to different parts of the borough, we propose confirming the electoral forecasts adopted for the purposes of our draft recommendations as the most accurate borough-wide forecasts which the Borough Council is able to provide.

Council Size

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

47 Enfield Borough Council currently has 66 members. Over the past 20 years the borough has experienced less than 1 per cent growth in electorate, with only a further 1 per cent growth

projected over the next five years. At Stage One, the Borough Council, Enfield North Conservatives and Enfield Liberal Democrats all proposed a decrease in the current council size to 63.

48 In our draft recommendations report we considered the size and distribution of the electorate, the geography and other characteristics of the area, together with the representations received. We concluded that the statutory criteria and the achievement of electoral equality would best be met by a council of 63 members. We have not received evidence during Stage Three to persuade us to move away from this view. We have therefore decided to confirm our draft recommendations for a council size of 63 as final.

Electoral Arrangements

49 As set out in our draft recommendations report, we considered carefully the representations received at Stage One, including borough-wide schemes from the Borough Council, Enfield North Conservatives and Enfield Liberal Democrats. From these representations some considerations emerged which helped to inform us when preparing our draft recommendations.

50 First, there was agreement on council size. All representations which made a specific proposal favoured a council size of 63. As already indicated, we agreed with this assessment and were content to recommend that Enfield should in future be represented by 63 councillors.

51 Second, the current electoral arrangements provide for a pattern of entirely two-member wards in Enfield. The Borough Council, Enfield North Conservatives and Enfield Liberal Democrats submitted proposals for future electoral arrangements based on a pattern of 21 three-member wards for the borough.

52 Third, we considered that all the proposals attempted to build on existing and well-known local communities, and respected the major natural boundaries within the borough where possible. In particular, we noted that all submissions largely followed the Great Cambridge and Hertford roads, while the Borough Council and Enfield North Conservatives agreed that the major physical boundary of the North Circular Road should be reflected in the new warding arrangements, as far as possible. In the absence of detailed evidence and

argumentation, we made judgements about the boundaries and the identities and interests of communities within the borough. We sought to reflect such considerations in our draft recommendations where it would be consistent with our objective of electoral equality, although we noted that there was no consensus locally on the precise boundaries of local communities.

53 Fourth, all three borough-wide schemes would have provided improved electoral equality, with each of the three schemes having only one ward in which the number of electors per councillor would vary by more than 10 per cent from the average. By 2004, the Borough Council's and Enfield North Conservatives' proposals would have resulted in two wards having electoral variances greater than 10 per cent, while under Enfield Liberal Democrats' proposals all wards would have had electoral variances of less than 10 per cent.

54 At Stage One, Enfield Liberal Democrats proposed similar warding arrangements to the Borough Council in respect of the proposed Enfield Lock, Enfield Highway and Ponders End wards, although they proposed marginally different boundaries to those put forward by the Borough Council. We sought to build on these proposals in order to put forward electoral arrangements which would achieve further improvements to electoral equality, while also seeking to reflect the statutory criteria. Where it existed, we sought to reflect the consensus among representations regarding warding arrangements. Inevitably, we could not reflect the preferences of all of the respondents in our draft recommendations.

55 At Stage Three, Enfield Liberal Democrats put forward a revised borough-wide scheme for a council size of 63 members representing 21 wards. The Liberal Democrats largely supported our draft recommendations in the north-east of the borough but proposed moving away from our recommendations to a significant degree elsewhere. We have considered carefully the revised proposals submitted by Enfield Liberal Democrats, but we have not been persuaded that these would achieve a better balance between electoral equality and the statutory criteria than our draft recommendations. In particular, we note that the proposals have not been supported by detailed argumentation and evidence as to why this scheme would better meet the statutory criteria than our draft recommendations and, given that they have not been subject to local

consultation, we have not been persuaded that they would necessarily command widespread local support. We also consider a number of their proposed ward boundaries to be arbitrary, and note that while they would provide good electoral equality initially this level of electoral equality would deteriorate by 2004.

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

- (a) Bullsmoor, Enfield Lock, Enfield Wash, Green Street, Hoe Lane and Ponders End wards;
- (b) Craig Park, Huxley, Jubilee, Latymer, St Alphege and St Peters wards;
- (c) Angel Road, Arnos, Bowes and Weir Hall wards;
- (d) Highfield, Raglan, St Marks, Southbury, Village and Winchmore Hill wards;
- (e) Grange, Groveland, Merryhills, Oakwood, Palmers Green and Southgate Green wards;
- (f) Chase, Town, Trent, Willow and Worcesters wards.

57 Details of our final recommendations are set out in Figures 1 and 2, and illustrated on Map 2 and the large map inserted at the back of this report.

Bullsmoor, Enfield Lock, Enfield Wash, Green Street, Hoe Lane and Ponders End wards

58 The wards of Bullsmoor, Enfield Lock, Enfield Wash, Green Street, Hoe Lane and Ponders End are all situated in the north-east of the borough. Under existing arrangements, the number of electors per councillor in Bullsmoor, Enfield Wash, Green Street, Hoe Lane and Ponders End wards varies from the borough average by 2 per cent, 4 per cent, 7 per cent, 1 per cent and 4 per cent respectively, while the number of electors per councillor in Enfield Lock ward varies by 17 per cent from the average. This level of electoral equality is projected to deteriorate over the next five years.

59 At Stage One, the Borough Council proposed largely retaining the existing electoral arrangements in this area and, in particular, proposed the continued use of the Great Cambridge and Hertford roads as ward boundaries. It proposed combining the existing Enfield Lock ward with part of Enfield Wash ward to the north of Albany Park, with the remainder of Enfield Wash ward being combined with the majority of Green Street ward to form a new Enfield Highway ward, and the southern part of Green Street ward being combined with the existing Ponders End ward and the southern part of Southbury ward in a revised Ponders End ward. It also proposed combining the existing Bullsmoor ward with the northern part of Hoe Lane ward to form a new Turkey Street ward.

60 Enfield North Conservatives proposed combining the existing Enfield Lock ward with the northern part of Bullsmoor ward, to form Enfield Lock ward, with the remainder of Bullsmoor ward being combined with the northern part of Hoe Lane ward, to be called Turkey Street ward. They also proposed combining Enfield Wash ward, the western part of Green Street ward and the southern part of Hoe Lane ward to form a new Enfield Highway ward, with the remainder of Green Street ward being combined with that part of Ponders End ward to the north of South Street and Wharf Lane and the southern part of Southbury ward to form a revised Ponders End ward. The remainder of Ponders End ward would be combined with parts of St Alphege and St Peters wards to form a new Lower Edmonton ward.

61 Enfield Liberal Democrats proposed similar warding arrangements to the Borough Council in respect of the proposed Enfield Lock, Enfield Highway and Ponders End wards, although they proposed marginally different boundaries to those put forward by the Borough Council. They also proposed combining the existing Bullsmoor ward with the eastern part of Hoe Lane ward and the north-eastern part of Worcesters ward to form a new Turkey Street ward.

62 Having considered carefully the representations received, we noted that all three borough-wide submissions argued that the Great Cambridge and Hertford roads should continue to be utilised as ward boundaries in this area, although to varying degrees, and we concurred with this view. On the evidence received at Stage One, we decided to substantially endorse the Borough Council's

proposals, which we considered would achieve the best balance between electoral equality and the statutory criteria in this area, and would make better use of the clearly identifiable existing boundaries, including the Great Cambridge and Hertford roads. Nevertheless, in substantially endorsing the Borough Council's proposals in this area, we noted that they largely reflected the views of Enfield Liberal Democrats in relation to the proposed Enfield Lock, Enfield Highway and Ponders End wards, and the views of Enfield North Conservatives in relation to the proposed Turkey Street ward.

63 At Stage Three, the Borough Council accepted our draft recommendations for this area.

64 Enfield Liberal Democrats generally supported our proposals for this area, however, they proposed that Turkey Street ward should include that part of the proposed Southbury ward bounded by Boleyn Avenue and the northern edge of the school grounds, while Sherbourne Avenue should be transferred from Enfield Highway ward to Southbury ward. They also suggested that the part of the proposed Ponders End ward bounded by Alexandra Road, King Edward's Road and The Ride, should be included in Enfield Highway ward, while that part of the proposed Enfield Highway ward bounded by the Hertford Road and Wickham Close should be transferred to Ponders End ward.

65 Under the Liberal Democrats' proposals the number of electors per councillor in Enfield Highway, Enfield Lock, and Turkey Street wards would vary from the borough average by 1 per cent, 15 per cent, and 1 per cent respectively, while equalling the borough average in Ponders End ward. This level of electoral equality is projected to remain relatively stable over the next five years, varying by 1 per cent, 8 per cent, 1 per cent and 3 per cent Enfield Highway, Enfield Lock, Ponders End and Turkey Street wards by 2004.

66 A local resident supported our proposal to combine the majority of Enfield Wash and Green Street wards in a new Enfield Highway ward while proposing a minor boundary modification. He proposed that the part of the proposed Enfield Highway ward to the north of Bell Lane and Eastfield Road, should be transferred to Enfield Lock ward, thereby including Albany Park and Albany School in Enfield Lock ward. He argued that this proposal would use the "distinct boundary" of the Ridgeway.

67 Having given careful consideration to the representations received at Stage Three, we note that our draft recommendations have been broadly supported in this area. We therefore remain persuaded that our draft recommendations would achieve the best balance between electoral equality and the statutory criteria, and have decided to confirm them as final. While we have considered the proposed boundary modifications put forward by Enfield Liberal Democrats and a local resident, we have not been persuaded that they would utilise clearer boundaries or would result in better warding arrangements. In particular, we note that the proposal to include Albany School in Enfield Lock ward, as put forward by a local resident, would separate the school from roads in Enfield Highway ward with which it is directly connected.

68 Under our final recommendations, the number of electors per councillor in Enfield Highway, Enfield Lock and Turkey Street wards would vary from the borough average by 2 per cent, 15 per cent and 4 per cent respectively while Ponders End would be equal to the borough average. This level of electoral equality is projected to improve over the next five years to vary by 4 per cent, 8 per cent, 2 per cent and 1 per cent in Enfield Highway, Enfield Lock, Ponders End and Turkey Street wards by 2004.

Craig Park, Huxley, Jubilee, Latymer, St Alphege and St Peters wards

69 The wards of Craig Park, Huxley, Jubilee, Latymer, St Alphege and St Peters are all situated in the south-east of the borough. Under existing arrangements, the number of electors per councillor in Craig Park, Huxley, Latymer and St Peters wards varies from the borough average by 11 per cent, 4 per cent, 11 per cent and 6 per cent respectively, and is equal to the average in Jubilee and St Alphege wards. This level of electoral equality is projected to remain relatively constant over the next five years.

70 At Stage One, the Borough Council proposed largely retaining the existing electoral arrangements in this area. It proposed combining the majority of St Alphege ward with the northern part of Jubilee ward and part of St Marks ward to form a revised Jubilee ward, with part of St Peters ward being combined with the southern part of Jubilee ward and part of St Alphege ward to form a new Lower Edmonton ward. It also proposed combining

Craig Park ward, the eastern parts of Huxley and Latymer wards and part of St Peters ward to form a new Edmonton Green ward, with the remainder of Latymer and Huxley wards and part of Raglan ward to the south of the Great Cambridge Road forming a new Haselbury ward.

71 Enfield North Conservatives proposed combining most of St Peters and St Alphege wards with part of Ponders End ward in a new Lower Edmonton ward, with the remainder of St Alphege ward being combined with Jubilee ward to form a revised Jubilee ward, and the remainder of St Peters ward being combined with the existing Craig Park ward and parts of Angel Road, Huxley and Latymer wards to form a new Edmonton Green ward. They also proposed combining the remaining parts of Huxley and Latymer wards with part of Palmers Green ward to form a new Millfield ward.

72 Enfield Liberal Democrats proposed combining St Alphege ward with the northern part of Jubilee ward to form a revised St Alphege ward, with the existing St Peters ward being combined with the southern part of Jubilee ward and part of Craig Park ward to form a new Edmonton Green ward. They also proposed combining the majority of Craig Park ward with Angel Road ward to form a revised Angel Road ward, with Latymer ward, the majority of Huxley ward and the southern part of Raglan ward forming a revised Latymer ward.

73 Having carefully considered the representations received at Stage One, we decided to endorse the Borough Council's proposals, which we considered would achieve the best balance between electoral equality and the statutory criteria. We noted that Enfield North Conservatives' proposals would require endorsing their proposals in the north-east of the borough and we were not persuaded that their proposals would achieve as good a balance between electoral equality and the statutory criteria in this area as those of the Borough Council. Also, while we noted that Enfield Liberal Democrats' proposed warding arrangements for the existing wards of Jubilee, St Alphege and St Peters wards were broadly similar to those put forward by the Borough Council, we had reservations in respect of their proposal to combine Craig Park and Angel Road wards. This would result in a ward comprising areas either side of the North Circular Road which, on the basis of the evidence provided, appears to form a significant boundary between communities in this part of Enfield.

74 At Stage Three the Borough Council accepted our draft recommendations for this area.

75 Enfield Liberal Democrats proposed that Jubilee ward should include Mayfield Crescent and Woodstock Crescent and that part of the proposed Lower Edmonton ward bounded by Grosvenor Road, Montagu Road and Woodlands Grove, while excluding that part of the proposed Jubilee ward to the west of the East Coast main line. They proposed that Edmonton Green ward should comprise the existing St Peters ward; that part of the existing Craig Park ward to the north of Brettenham Road, Pegamoid Road, Soloman Avenue, and the Pumping Station; Tottenham Park cemetery; that part of the existing Jubilee ward bounded by Balham Road, Hendon Road, Hertford Road and The Green; and those parts of the existing Huxley and Latymer wards bounded by Church Street, Pycroft Way and Victoria Road. In addition, they proposed that Pymmes ward should comprise the remainder of Craig Park ward and those parts of the existing Huxley, Latymer and Weir Hall wards bounded by Chalfont Road, Deansway, the Great Cambridge Road, Haselbury Road, the North Circular Road and Victoria Road. They proposed that Latymer ward should comprise the remaining parts of the existing Jubilee and Latymer wards and those parts of the existing Raglan, St Marks and Village wards bounded by the edge of King George's School grounds, Bury Street, Church Street, West Bury Street and Westview Crescent. They suggested that the ward should be named Church Street after the central road in the ward or Latymer after a number of roads and two schools in the area.

76 Under Enfield Liberal Democrats' proposals there would be improved electoral equality, with the number of electors per councillor in the proposed Edmonton Green and Jubilee wards varying from the borough average by 2 per cent and 1 per cent, while equalling the borough average in Latymer and Pymmes wards. This level of electoral equality is projected to deteriorate marginally over the next five years to vary from the borough average by 2 per cent, 3 per cent, 3 per cent and 4 per cent in Edmonton Green, Jubilee, Latymer and Pymmes wards by 2004.

77 We received no further representations regarding this area at Stage Three.

78 We have carefully considered the representations received during Stage Three, and note that only

Enfield Liberal Democrats have proposed alternative warding arrangements for this area. Having carefully examined these proposals, we have not been persuaded that they would provide a better balance between electoral equality and the statutory criteria. While we note that Enfield Liberal Democrats' proposals would utilise clear boundaries such as the East Coast main line and the boundary ditch, we have reservations about their proposal to depart from using the Great Cambridge Road as a boundary for the majority of this area, which we consider to be a principal boundary in the area. Similarly, we have considered their proposals in respect of renaming Edmonton Green ward as Pymmes, Haselbury ward as Latymer and Lower Edmonton ward as Edmonton Green, but we have received no other representations in support of this and have therefore not been persuaded that these proposals would necessarily command widespread local support.

79 Under our final recommendations, the number of electors per councillor in Haselbury, Jubilee and Lower Edmonton wards would vary from the borough average by 1 per cent, 2 per cent and 5 per cent respectively, while equalling the borough average in Edmonton Green ward. This level of electoral equality is projected to remain relatively stable over the next five years to vary by 3 per cent, 6 per cent and 1 per cent in Edmonton Green, Haselbury and Lower Edmonton wards by 2004, while equalling the borough average in Jubilee ward.

Angel Road, Arnos, Bowes and Weir Hall wards

80 The wards of Angel Road, Arnos, Bowes and Weir Hall wards are all situated to the south of the North Circular Road. Under existing arrangements, while the number of electors per councillor in Bowes and Weir Hall wards varies from the borough average by 2 per cent and 1 per cent respectively, there is poor electoral equality in Angel Road and Arnos wards, with the number of electors per councillor varying by 23 per cent and 10 per cent respectively. This level of electoral equality is projected to deteriorate marginally over the next five years.

81 At Stage One, the Borough Council proposed retaining the North Circular Road as the boundary in this area, with Angel Road ward being combined with part of Weir Hall ward, to be named Upper Edmonton ward, and the existing Bowes ward being combined with part of Arnos ward to form a revised Bowes ward.

82 Enfield North Conservatives proposed combining part of Angel Road ward with Craig Park ward to form a new Edmonton Green ward, with the remainder of Angel Road ward being combined with the existing Weir Hall ward to form a new Upper Edmonton ward and the existing Bowes ward, less the properties to the east of Chequers Way, being combined with part of Arnos ward to form a revised Bowes ward.

83 Enfield Liberal Democrats proposed combining Angel Road ward with most of Craig Park ward to form a revised Angel Road ward, with Weir Hall ward being combined with the western part of Huxley ward and the southern part of Highfield ward to form a revised Weir Hall ward. They also proposed combining part of Bowes ward with part of Palmers Green ward to form a revised Palmers Green ward, with the existing Arnos ward being combined with parts of Bowes, Palmers Green and Southgate Green wards to form a revised Bowes ward.

84 After careful consideration of the representations received at Stage One, we noted that the key distinction between the various proposals submitted related to whether or not the North Circular Road should continue to be utilised as a boundary in this area. The Borough Council and Enfield North Conservatives both proposed respecting this boundary, to varying degrees, while Enfield Liberal Democrats disregarded the road as a boundary. On balance, and in the absence of any substantive evidence to the contrary, we concluded that this section of the North Circular Road forms a significant barrier to movement and delineates communities in the area. We therefore proposed using the road as a ward boundary in this part of Enfield.

85 We noted that there was broad similarity between the proposals of the Borough Council and Enfield North Conservatives, and we reflected elements from these two proposals in our draft recommendations. We largely adopted the Borough Council's proposed Upper Edmonton ward given that we were not persuaded to breach the North Circular Road in this area by combining part of Angel Road ward with Craig Park ward. However, in relation to the proposed Bowes ward, we reflected elements from both proposals in our draft recommendations, together with our own modifications to boundaries with adjoining wards, in the interests of electoral equality.

86 While we proposed substantially following the North Circular Road, we proposed departing from it in relation to the boundary between Bowes and Palmers Green wards, and between the proposed Bowes and Southgate Green wards in the interests of electoral equality. We also proposed modifying the boundary between the proposed Bowes and Upper Edmonton wards.

87 Under our draft recommendations there would be improved electoral equality, with the number of electors per councillor in the proposed Bowes and Upper Edmonton wards varying from the borough average by 4 per cent and 1 per cent respectively. This level of electoral equality was projected to remain relatively constant over the next five years, to vary by 3 per cent and 1 per cent respectively by 2004.

88 At Stage Three the Borough Council accepted the majority of our draft recommendations for this area, however, it proposed a revised Bowes ward that would retain the "natural boundary" of the North Circular Road as much as possible. It proposed that that part of the proposed Palmers Green ward to the south of the North Circular Road should be included in Bowes ward and that Ollerton Road and Stanley Road should be transferred from the proposed Bowes ward to the proposed Southgate Green ward.

89 Enfield Liberal Democrats broadly supported our draft recommendations in this area, with minor boundary modifications. They proposed that Bowes ward should comprise the proposed ward, plus that part of the proposed Southgate Green ward to the south of the North Circular Road, and less the area comprising the sports ground and Devonia Gardens, which would be included in Edmonton South ward. They proposed that Upper Edmonton ward should be renamed Edmonton South ward because "within Edmonton people don't tend to use the names Upper and Lower", and Upper Edmonton postal district only covers part of this proposed ward. They proposed that the part of the proposed Upper Edmonton ward bounded by the Great Cambridge Road and Pasteur Gardens, excluding Chequers Way, Petersfield Close and Steeplestone Close, should be transferred to Palmers Green ward.

90 Under the Liberal Democrats' proposals the number of electors per councillor in the proposed Bowes and Edmonton South wards would vary from the borough average by 2 per cent and 1 per cent

cent respectively. This level of electoral equality is projected to deteriorate marginally over the next five years to vary by 7 per cent and 2 per cent respectively by 2004.

91 A local resident argued that the North Circular Road should not form the northern boundary of Upper Edmonton ward because the road is now “more easy to cross than it has ever been before”. He argued that the existing Angel Road ward should be combined with Craig Park ward rather than with Weir Hall ward, as we proposed, because the communities in Angel Road and Craig Park wards share facilities and community links, whereas there is “nothing” connecting the residents of Angel Road ward and Weir Hall ward. We received no further representations regarding this area.

92 Having carefully considered the 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, subject to minor boundary modifications. We have considered the Borough Council’s and the Liberal Democrats’ proposed boundary modifications which would utilise the North Circular Road to a greater extent and, on balance, we consider that the Borough Council’s proposal has greater merit. While we note that the Mitchell Road area is geographically isolated from adjoining areas, we consider that linking it with other properties that are connected to Chequers Way would best reflect the identities and interests of residents in the area. As a consequence, we also propose adopting the Borough Council’s proposal to make a minor boundary modification to the proposed boundary between Bowes and Southgate Green wards. We consider that the Borough Council’s proposals would provide a better balance between electoral equality and the statutory criteria than our draft recommendations and would offer a more clearly defined boundary to Bowes ward, and we have decided to endorse the Borough Council’s proposals in this area.

93 We note that the Liberal Democrats have proposed minor boundary modifications to Upper Edmonton ward, but have not provided detailed evidence and argumentation either in support of their proposals or to show that the draft recommendations are flawed, and we have not been persuaded that their proposals would better reflect the identities and interests of communities in the area. Similarly, we have not been persuaded by the proposal of a local resident regarding Upper

Edmonton ward, given that we received no other representations at Stage Three opposing our use of the North Circular Road as the boundary of this ward. We therefore remain of the view that our draft recommendations for this ward would achieve the best balance between electoral equality and the statutory criteria. We also note that the Liberal Democrats proposed renaming this ward Edmonton South but, in the absence of support for this, we have not been persuaded that this proposal would necessarily command widespread local support nor better reflect the identity of the local community, nor do we believe that postal district names are necessarily a good basis for identifying communities.

94 Under our final recommendations there would be improved electoral equality, with the number of electors per councillor in the proposed Bowes and Upper Edmonton wards varying from the borough average by 5 per cent and 1 per cent respectively. This level of electoral equality is projected to improve over the next five years to vary by 2 per cent and 1 per cent respectively by 2004.

Highfield, Raglan, St Marks, Southbury, Village and Winchmore Hill wards

95 The wards of Highfield, Raglan, St Marks, Southbury, Village and Winchmore Hill are situated towards the centre of the borough. Under existing arrangements, while Highfield, Village and Winchmore Hill wards vary from the borough average by 4 per cent, 9 per cent and 2 per cent, there is poor electoral equality in Raglan, St Marks and Southbury wards, with Raglan and Southbury wards having 16 per cent and 15 per cent more electors per councillor than the borough average, and St Marks ward having 16 per cent fewer electors per councillor than the borough average.

96 At Stage One, the Borough Council proposed combining the southern part of St Marks ward, most of Raglan ward to the north of the Great Cambridge Road, the southern part of Village ward and the northern part of Huxley ward to form a new Bush Hill Park ward, with the northern part of St Marks ward, the majority of Southbury ward and part of Hoe Lane ward being combined to form a new Southbury ward, and the remainder of St Marks ward being combined with parts of Jubilee and St Alphege wards to form a revised Jubilee ward. It also proposed combining the southern part of Raglan ward with parts of Huxley,

Latymer and Weir Hall wards to form a new Haselbury ward, with Palmers Green ward being combined with the southern part of Highfield ward and the western part of Huxley ward to form a revised Palmers Green ward, and Winchmore Hill ward being combined with the northern part of Highfield ward and the western part of Palmers Green ward to form a revised Winchmore Hill ward.

97 Enfield North Conservatives proposed combining most of Southbury and Willow wards to form a revised Willow ward, with St Marks ward being combined with parts of Raglan ward to the north of Park Avenue and to the south of the Great Cambridge Road and part of Latymer ward to form a revised St Marks ward. They proposed combining Village ward with part of Raglan ward to form a new Bush Hill Park ward, with the southern part of Grange ward being combined with parts of Highfield and Winchmore Hill wards to form a new River ward. They also proposed combining Palmers Green ward with parts of Southgate Green and Highfield wards to form a revised Palmers Green ward, and linking parts of Winchmore Hill, Grovelands, Oakwood, Merryhills and Grange wards to form a revised Winchmore Hill ward.

98 Enfield Liberal Democrats proposed combining most of Southbury ward with parts of Hoe Lane, Willow and Worcesters wards to form a new Carterhatch Lane ward, with the remainder of Southbury ward being combined with parts of St Marks, Raglan and Village wards to form a new Bush Hill Park ward. They also proposed combining most of Raglan ward and the southern part of Village ward to form a revised Raglan ward, with Highfield ward being combined with most of Winchmore Hill ward to form a revised Winchmore Hill ward. The majority of Palmers Green ward would be combined with part of Bowes ward, to the south of the North Circular Road, to form a new Palmers Green ward. The remainder of Highfield ward would be combined with parts of Huxley and Weir Hall wards to form a revised Weir Hall ward.

99 We also received a submission from a local resident, who proposed replacing the present Raglan ward with a new Bush Hill Park ward. He argued that Bush Hill Park is a well-known historic area, bounded by Lincoln Road to the north, the railway to Enfield Town in the east, the A10 to the south, and the Village Road to Park Avenue to the west.

100 Having carefully considered the representations received at Stage One, we adopted the Borough Council's proposals as our draft recommendations as we considered they would achieve the best balance between electoral equality and the statutory criteria. In particular, we noted that our proposals elsewhere in the borough restricted the extent to which we are able to reflect elements from other proposals. Nevertheless, while endorsing the Borough Council's proposals we reflected elements from alternative proposals, including combining parts of Raglan and Village wards to form a new Bush Hill Park ward. However, we proposed departing from the Borough Council's proposals in the interests of electoral equality, and modifying the boundary between Winchmore Hill and Southgate Green wards and Bush Hill Park and Winchmore Hill wards.

101 Under our draft recommendations, the number of electors per councillor in the proposed Bush Hill Park, Palmers Green, Southbury and Winchmore Hill wards would vary from the borough average by 4 per cent, 6 per cent, 5 per cent and 7 per cent respectively. This level of electoral equality was expected to improve over the next five years, with the number of electors per councillor in the proposed Bush Hill Park, Palmers Green, Southbury and Winchmore Hill wards varying from the average by 6 per cent, 1 per cent, 3 per cent and 5 per cent respectively by 2004.

102 At Stage Three the Borough Council accepted our draft recommendations for this area.

103 Enfield Liberal Democrats proposed that Bush Hill Park ward should comprise that part of the existing Raglan ward to the north of Bury Street West and Westview Crescent, that part of the existing St Marks ward to the north of Bury Street and that part of the existing Village ward bounded by Camberley Avenue, Lincoln Road, London Road, Lyndhurst Gardens, Park Avenue, and Village Road. They argued that this area has a "strong identity" among local residents. They proposed that the majority of Highfield ward should form a new Firs Farm ward, less that part to the east of the New River and to the south of Barrowell Green, with that part of Village ward to the south of Church Street and Ridge Avenue, and that part of Huxley ward to the west of the Great Cambridge Road and those parts of the existing Bowes and Weir Hall wards to the south of the North Circular Road.

104 They proposed that Southbury ward should comprise the remainder of Southbury ward, less the allotment gardens, and that area to the east of the Great Cambridge Road, while including those parts of Hoe Lane and Worcesters wards bounded by Boleyn Avenue, Great Cambridge Road, New River, Severn Drive, and the northern edge of the school grounds and playing fields, together with Sherbourne Avenue from the existing Green Street ward. They proposed that Winchmore Hill ward should comprise the existing ward, plus that part of Highfield ward, west of the New River and those parts of Grange ward, bounded by Drayton Gardens and Green Dragon Lane and those parts of Grovelands and Merryhills wards bounded by Chadwick Avenue, Field Road, MacLeod Road, Park Gate, South Lodge Drive, The Glade, Winchmore Hill Road, World's End Lane and the boundary of Oakwood and World's End parks.

105 Under Enfield Liberal Democrats' proposals the number of electors per councillor in the proposed Bush Hill Park and Firs Farm wards would each vary from the borough average by 3 per cent while equalling the borough average in Southbury and Winchmore Hill wards. This level of electoral equality is expected to deteriorate marginally over the next five years, to vary from the borough average in Bush Hill Park, Firs Farm and Winchmore Hill wards by 3 per cent, 5 per cent and 4 per cent respectively, while equalling the borough average in Southbury ward.

106 Bush Hill Park Residents' Association welcomed our draft recommendations for Bush Hill Park ward "in principle", however, it proposed modifications to the ward boundary in order to "give more credence" to the Commission's proposals. It argued that Bush Hill Park ward should exclude the area to the north of Ridge Avenue, while including that part of the proposed Grange ward bounded by Camberley Avenue, Lincoln Road, London Road, Lyndhurst Gardens, Park Avenue, and Village Road. It also proposed including that part of the proposed Southbury ward bounded by the Great Cambridge Road and Lincoln Road, while excluding that part of the proposed ward to the south of the existing Huxley ward boundary.

107 A local resident argued that the proposed Bush Hill Park ward was generally "satisfactory", although he proposed a number of modifications to the proposed boundaries. He proposed that

Bush Hill Park ward should include those parts of the proposed Grange ward bounded by Camberley Avenue, Lincoln Road, London Road, Lyndhurst Gardens, Park Avenue, Ridge Avenue, Village Road and Woodfield Close, in order to include the whole of the Bush Hill Park Conservation Area. He argued that the London Road, Park Avenue and Village Road section of the A105 would form a more consistent and distinct boundary in terms of geography and community identity. He also proposed that the area to the south of the existing Huxley ward boundary should be excluded from Bush Hill Park ward.

108 Having given careful consideration to the representations received at Stage Three, we note that, with the exception of Enfield Liberal Democrats, our draft recommendations have been broadly supported, subject to boundary modifications to the proposed Bush Hill Park ward. We have considered Enfield Liberal Democrats' alternative proposals for this area, but we have not been persuaded that these proposals would offer a better balance between electoral equality and the statutory criteria. Moreover, given our proposals elsewhere in the borough, we are limited to the extent to which we are able to reflect their proposals in this area. However, in the light of evidence received, we have been persuaded to make modifications to the boundaries of our proposed Bush Hill Park ward. On balance, we consider that there is merit in retaining the whole of the Bush Hill Park Conservation Area in Bush Hill Park ward, as proposed by Enfield Liberal Democrats, Bush Hill Park Residents' Association and a local resident. We therefore propose modifying the boundary between Bush Hill Park and Grange wards accordingly. However, in the interests of electoral equality, we are unable to reflect the views of these respondents in their entirety, and instead propose that Camberley Avenue, Lincoln Road, Lyndhurst Gardens, Ridge Avenue, Village Road and Woodfield Close should form the north-west boundary of Bush Hill Park ward.

109 Under our final recommendations, the number of electors per councillor in the proposed Bush Hill Park, Southbury and Winchmore Hill wards would vary from the borough average by 4 per cent, 5 per cent and 7 per cent respectively. This level of electoral equality is expected to remain relatively stable over the next five years, to vary by 3 per cent, 3 per cent and 5 per cent from the borough average respectively by 2004.

Grange, Groveland, Merryhills, Oakwood, Palmers Green and Southgate Green wards

110 The wards of Grange, Groveland, Merryhills, Oakwood, Palmers Green and Southgate Green are in the south-west of the borough. Under existing arrangements, the number of electors per councillor in Grange, Grovelands, Merryhills, Oakwood, Palmers Green and Southgate Green varies from the borough average by 15 per cent, 3 per cent, 6 per cent, 9 per cent, 6 per cent and 1 per cent respectively. This level of electoral equality is not projected to change significantly over the next five years.

111 At Stage One, the Borough Council proposed combining parts of Arnos, Grovelands and Southgate Green wards to form a new Southgate Green ward, with the remainder of Southgate Green ward being combined with parts of Grovelands, Merryhills and Oakwood wards to form a new Southgate ward. It also proposed combining the remainder of Oakwood ward with parts of Merryhills and Trent wards to form a new Cockfosters ward, with parts of Chase, Grange, Merryhills, Town and Trent wards forming a revised Grange ward, and Palmers Green, Highfield and Huxley wards forming a revised Palmers Green ward.

112 Enfield North Conservatives proposed combining parts of Arnos, Grovelands and Southgate Green wards to form a revised Southgate Green ward, with the remainder of Southgate Green ward being combined with the existing Palmers Green ward and part of Highfield ward in a revised Palmers Green ward. They also proposed combining the remainder of Grovelands ward, the southern parts of Merryhills and Oakwood wards, part of Grange ward and the majority of Winchmore Hill ward to form a revised Winchmore Hill ward. The northern part of Grange ward, the majority of Merryhills ward and the eastern part of Trent ward would be combined to form a new Highlands ward, while parts of Merryhills, Oakwood and the remainder of Trent ward would form a new Cockfosters ward.

113 Enfield Liberal Democrats proposed combining most of Southgate Green ward with part of Grovelands and Palmers Green wards to form a revised Southgate Green ward, with the existing Oakwood ward being combined with parts

of Grovelands and Merryhills wards to form a revised Oakwood ward. They also proposed combining most of Grange ward with the eastern part of Merryhills ward and the northern part of Winchmore Hill ward to form a revised Grange ward, with the remainder of Grange ward being combined with the existing Trent ward and part of Chase ward to form a revised Trent ward. Also, as indicated earlier, they proposed combining parts of Arnos, Bowes, Palmers Green and Southgate Green wards in a revised Bowes ward, with parts of Bowes and Palmers Green wards forming a revised Palmers Green ward.

114 Having carefully considered the representations received at Stage One, we substantially endorsed the Borough Council's proposals as our draft recommendations, which we considered would achieve the best balance between electoral equality and the statutory criteria. In particular, we were not persuaded by Enfield Liberal Democrats' proposal to breach the North Circular Road in relation to the proposed Bowes and Palmers Green wards. Furthermore, we noted that the extent to which we were able to reflect the views of Enfield North Conservatives and Enfield Liberal Democrats was restricted as a consequence of our draft recommendations elsewhere in the borough. However, in the interests of electoral equality we proposed departing from the Borough Council's proposals by modifying the boundary between Bowes and Palmers Green wards, Bowes and Southgate Green wards, and Southgate Green and Winchmore Hill wards.

115 Under our draft recommendations, the number of electors per councillor in the proposed Palmers Green and Southgate wards would vary from the borough average by 6 per cent and 7 per cent respectively, while equalling the borough average in Grange and Southgate Green wards. This level of electoral equality would remain relatively constant over the next five years.

116 At Stage Three the Borough Council accepted our proposals for this area, with two minor boundary modifications, as indicated above; namely that that part of the proposed Palmers Green ward to the south of the North Circular Road should be transferred to Bowes ward, and that the part of Bowes ward bounded by Evesham Road and Stanley Road, should be transferred to the proposed Southgate Green ward.

117 Enfield Liberal Democrats proposed significant changes to our draft recommendations in this area. They proposed that Grange ward should comprise the majority of the existing Grange ward, less those parts bounded by Drayton Gardens and Green Dragon Lane, and that part to the west of Salmon's Brook and Worlds End Park with that part of Town ward bounded by the drain on the golf course and the remainder of Village ward. They proposed that Palmers Green ward should comprise the remainder of the existing Palmers Green ward and those parts of Grovelands and Southgate Green wards to the east of Conway Road, Fox Lane, Powys Lane and Wilmer Way. They proposed that Southgate Green ward should comprise the remainder of the existing Southgate Green ward, plus that part of Arnos ward to the west of the North Circular Road and those parts of Grovelands and Oakwood ward bounded by Conway Road, Fox Hill, Park Gate and Winchmore Hill Road. They proposed that Southgate ward should comprise the remainder of Oakwood ward and the majority of Merryhills ward, less that part to the east of Oakwood Park, South Lodge Drive and The Glade.

118 Under Enfield Liberal Democrats' proposals the number of electors per councillor in the proposed Grange and Southgate wards would vary from the borough average by 4 per cent and 3 per cent respectively, while equalling the borough average in Palmers Green and Southgate Green wards. This level of electoral equality would deteriorate marginally over the next five years to vary by 5 per cent, 3 per cent and 6 per cent in Grange, Palmers Green and Southgate ward by 2004, while equalling the borough average in Southgate Green ward.

119 We also received a response from a local resident who argued that it would be "confusing" to use Southgate as the basis of two ward names, and therefore suggested that the proposed Southgate Green ward be renamed Arnos Grove, to reflect the underground station of the same name.

120 Having carefully considered the representations received at Stage Three, we note that our draft recommendations in this area have been broadly supported, with the exception of Enfield Liberal Democrats' proposals for change. We have considered Enfield Liberal Democrats' proposals,

and note that while they would offer improved electoral equality, while reflecting the North Circular Road as a boundary, they have not been supported by detailed argumentation and evidence. Moreover, we note that the extent to which we are able to reflect their proposed boundaries is limited as a consequence of recommendations elsewhere in the borough. On balance, we have not been persuaded that their proposals would offer a better balance between electoral equality and the statutory criteria than our draft recommendations.

121 However, as already indicated, we consider that there is merit in the Borough Council's proposal to utilise the North Circular Road as a ward boundary to a greater extent, and we therefore propose minor boundary modifications to Palmers Green and Southgate Green wards. We have also considered the proposal in relation to the potential confusion of using the name 'Southgate' in naming two wards. In the absence of any further views, we have not been persuaded that there is sufficient evidence to warrant modifying ward names in this area, and therefore confirm our proposed ward names as final.

122 Under our final recommendations, the number of electors per councillor in the proposed Grange, Palmers Green, Southgate and Southgate Green wards would vary from the borough average by 1 per cent, 5 per cent, 7 per cent and 3 per cent respectively. This level of electoral equality would deteriorate marginally over the next five years in Grange ward to vary by 6 per cent from the borough average, while improving in Palmers Green, Southgate and Southgate Green wards to vary by 1 per cent, 5 per cent and 1 per cent respectively by 2004.

Chase, Town, Trent, Willow and Worcesters wards

123 The wards of Chase, Town, Trent, Willow and Worcesters are situated in the north-west of the borough. Under existing arrangements, the number of electors per councillor in Chase, Town and Willow wards varies by 3 per cent, 2 per cent and 2 per cent from the borough average, while the number of electors per councillor in Trent and Worcesters wards varies from the average by 12 per cent and 8 per cent. This level of electoral equality is projected to remain relatively constant over the next five years.

124 At Stage One, the Borough Council proposed combining parts of Merryhills, Oakwood and Trent wards to form a new Cockfosters ward, with the remainder of Trent ward being combined with parts of Chase, Grange, Merryhills and Town wards to form a new Highlands ward. It also proposed combining the remainder of Chase ward with most of Worcesters ward to form a revised Chase ward, and combining Town and Willow wards to form a new Town ward.

125 Enfield North Conservatives proposed combining parts of Merryhills, Oakwood and Trent wards to form a new Cockfosters ward, with the remainder of Trent ward being combined with the northern parts of Grange and Merryhills wards. They also proposed combining Chase ward and part of Town ward to form a new Enfield Ridgeway ward, with the remainder of Town ward being combined with Worcesters ward and a small part of Willow ward to form a revised Worcesters ward. The remainder of Willow ward would be combined with most of Southbury ward in a revised Willow ward.

126 Enfield Liberal Democrats proposed combining Trent ward with parts of Chase, Grange and Merryhills wards in a revised Trent ward, with the remainder of Chase ward being combined with parts of Town and Worcesters wards in a revised Chase ward. They also proposed combining Willow ward and part of Town ward in a new Enfield Town ward with the remainder of Worcesters ward being combined with parts of Hoe Lane, Southbury and Willow wards to form a new Carterhatch Lane ward.

127 Having carefully considered the representations received at Stage One, we substantially endorsed the Borough Council's proposals which we considered would achieve the best balance between electoral equality and the statutory criteria. While we noted that there was broad similarity between the Borough Council's and Enfield North Conservatives' proposals, the extent to which we were able to reflect the views of Enfield North Conservatives and Enfield Liberal Democrats in this area was restricted as a consequence of our draft recommendations elsewhere in the borough.

128 Under our draft recommendations, the number of electors per councillor in the proposed Chase, Cockfosters, Highlands and Town wards would vary from the borough average by 2 per cent, 8 per

cent, 3 per cent and 12 per cent respectively. However, this level of electoral equality is projected to deteriorate over the next five years, with the number of electors per councillor in the proposed Chase, Cockfosters, Highlands and Town wards varying from the borough average by 3 per cent, 6 per cent, 5 per cent and 1 per cent respectively by 2004.

129 At Stage Three the Borough Council accepted our proposals for this area.

130 Enfield Liberal Democrats' proposals for this area were broadly similar to our draft recommendations. They proposed that Chase ward should comprise the proposed Chase ward, less those parts to the south of Farr Road, New River, Severn Drive, Salmon's Brook, The Ridgeway and Weardale Gardens, plus those parts of the proposed Highlands ward bounded by Drapers Road, Holtwhite's Hill, Lavender Hill and Padstow Road, and that part of the proposed Town ward to the north of Kenilworth Crescent, Myddleton Avenue, Myddleton Close and Sinclair Close. They argued that Chase was the "most appropriate" name for this ward. They proposed that Enfield Town ward should comprise the remainder of the proposed Town ward, plus that area of the proposed Chase ward bounded by Farr Road and Weardale Gardens. They also proposed that Trent ward should comprise the existing Trent ward plus the remaining parts of the existing Chase, Grange and Merryhills wards, and that this ward should be renamed Trent, on the grounds that Trent Park is the "predominant feature" of this ward.

131 Under the Liberal Democrats' proposals the number of electors per councillor for the proposed wards of Chase, Enfield Town and Trent would vary by 2 per cent, 4 per cent, and 1 per cent from the borough average. This level of electoral equality is projected to deteriorate marginally to vary by 3 per cent, 6 per cent and 9 per cent respectively by 2004.

132 Enfield North Conservative Association raised concerns regarding the projected electorate for the proposed Cockfosters ward. They also expressed concern regarding the size of the proposed Chase ward, which they considered would be "excessive".

133 We received representations from three local residents with regard to this area. One resident expressed concern regarding the "large

geographical area” of the proposed Chase ward on the grounds that it would be difficult for councillors to consult their electorate and, as a result, supported Enfield North Conservatives’ Stage One proposals. One resident proposed that The Ridgeway would form a “more suitable boundary” between Grange, Highlands and Town wards. Another resident expressed concern regarding the size of the proposed Town ward, raising concerns regarding the Borough Council’s projections for the ward, and supporting Enfield North Conservatives’ Stage One proposals.

134 Having carefully considered representations received at Stage Three, we have not been persuaded to modify our draft recommendations in this area. While we note that the Liberal Democrats’ proposals would provide improved electoral equality, we have not been persuaded that they would provide a better balance between electoral equality and the statutory criteria. In particular, we do not consider that they have proposed more clearly identifiable boundaries than our draft recommendations, and we have noted that the extent to which we are able to reflect their proposals is limited as a consequence of our recommendations elsewhere in the borough. We have also noted the concerns expressed regarding the geographical size of Chase and Town wards, however, the size of these wards is necessary in the interests of electoral equality, and there was support for similar sized wards at Stage One. We have considered Enfield Liberal Democrats’ proposal to rename Cockfosters ward as Trent ward to reflect the name of the park and the existing ward but, in the absence of any further support, we have not been persuaded that there is sufficient evidence to warrant modifying ward names in this area, and therefore confirm our proposed ward names as final.

135 Under our final recommendations the number of electors per councillor for the proposed wards of Chase, Cockfosters and Town would vary by 2 per cent, 8 per cent and 12 per cent. This level of electoral equality is projected to improve over the next five years, to vary by 3 per cent, 6 per cent and 1 per cent from the borough average by 2004.

Conclusions

136 Having considered carefully all the representations and evidence received in response to our

consultation report, we have decided substantially to endorse our draft recommendations, subject to the following amendments:

- (a) that part of the proposed Palmers Green ward to the south of the North Circular Road should be included in Bowes ward;
- (b) that part of the proposed Bowes ward bounded by Evesham Road and Stanley Road should be transferred to Southgate Green ward;
- (c) that Camberley Avenue, Lincoln Road, Lyndhurst Gardens, Ridge Avenue, Village Road and Woodfield Close should form the north-east boundary of Bush Hill Park ward.

137 We conclude that, in Enfield:

- (a) there should be a reduction in council size from 66 to 63;
- (b) there should be 21 wards, 12 less than at present, which would involve changes to the boundaries of all of the existing wards.

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

139 As shown in Figure 4, our final recommendations for Enfield Borough Council would result in a reduction in the number of wards where the number of electors per councillor varies by more than 10 per cent from the borough average from 9 to 2. This improved balance of representation is expected to improve further with all wards expected to vary by less than 10 per cent in 2004. Our final recommendations are set out in more detail in Figures 1 and 2, and are illustrated on Map 2 and on the large map at the back of this report.

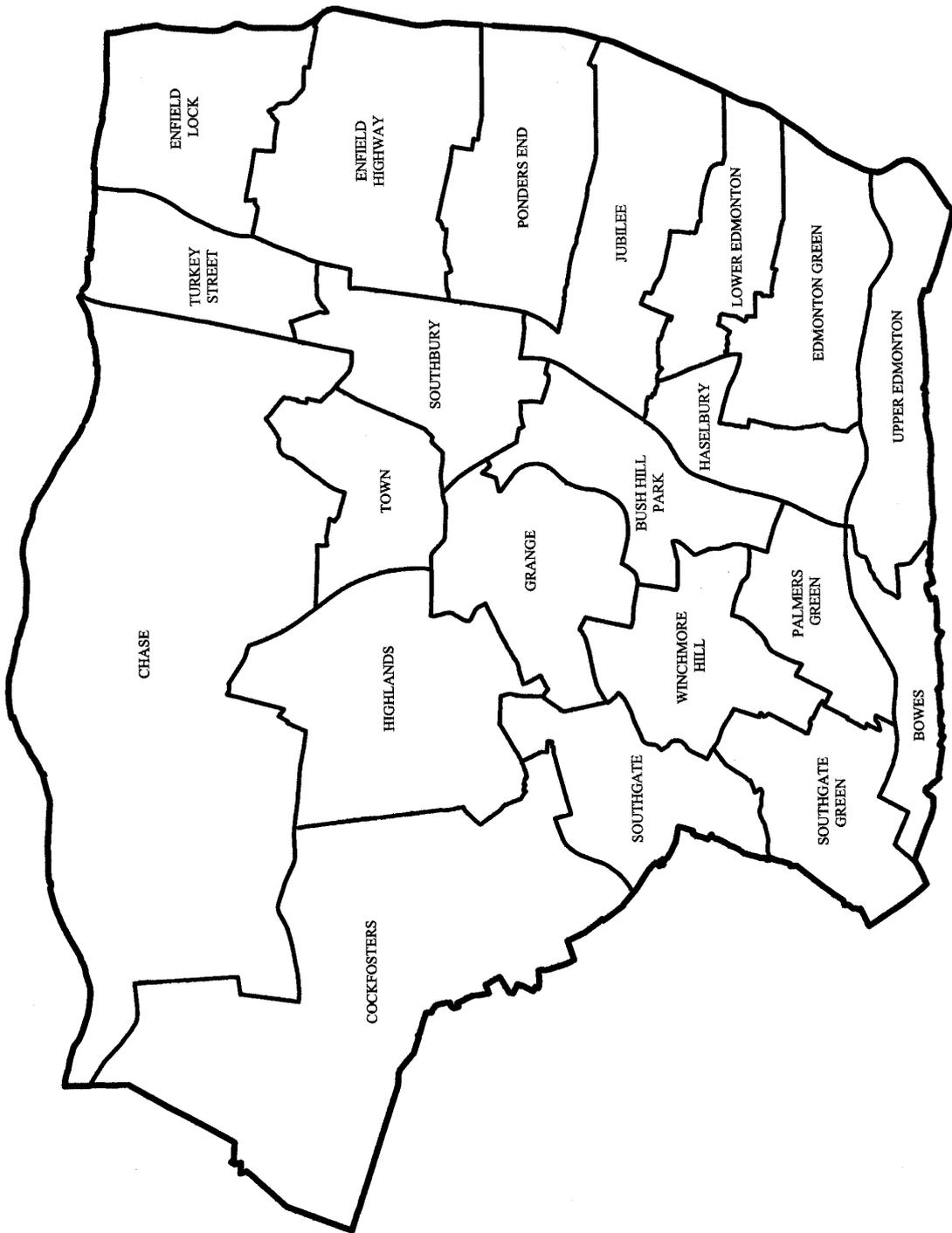
Final Recommendation

Enfield Borough Council should comprise 63 councillors serving 21 wards, as detailed and named in Figures 1 and 2, and illustrated on Map 2 and on the large map at the back of this report.

Figure 4 :
Comparison of Current and Recommended Electoral Arrangements

| | 1999 electorate | | 2004 forecast electorate | |
|--|----------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|
| | Current arrangements | Final recommendations | Current arrangements | Final recommendations |
| Number of councillors | 66 | 63 | 66 | 63 |
| Number of wards | 33 | 21 | 33 | 21 |
| Average number of electors per councillor | 3,065 | 3,209 | 3,075 | 3,226 |
| Number of wards with a variance more than 10 per cent from the average | 9 | 2 | 8 | 0 |
| Number of wards with a variance more than 20 per cent from the average | 1 | 0 | 2 | 0 |

Map 2:
The Commission's Final Recommendations for Enfield



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6. NEXT STEPS

¹⁴⁰ Having completed our review of electoral arrangements in Enfield and submitted our final recommendations to the Secretary of State, we have fulfilled our statutory obligation under the Local Government Act 1992.

¹⁴¹ 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.

¹⁴² All further correspondence concerning our recommendations and the matters discussed in this report should be addressed to:

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

APPENDIX A

Draft Recommendations for Enfield

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

*Figure A1:
The Commission's Draft Recommendations: Constituent Areas*

| Ward name | Number of councillors | Constituent areas (existing wards) |
|--------------------|------------------------------|---|
| 1 Bowes | 3 | Bowes ward; Arnos ward (part); Weir Hall ward (part) |
| 2 Bush Hill Park | 3 | Highfield ward (part); Raglan ward (part); St Marks ward (part); Village ward (part) |
| 8 Grange | 3 | Grange ward (part); Town ward (part); Village ward (part) |
| 13 Palmers Green | 3 | Bowes ward (part); Highfield ward (part); Huxley ward (part); Palmers Green ward (part) |
| 17 Southgate Green | 3 | Arnos ward (part); Grovelands ward (part); Southgate Green ward (part) |

Figure A2:

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

| Ward name | Number of councillors | Electorate (1999) | Number of electors per councillor | Variance from average % | Electorate (2004) | Number of electors per councillor | Variance from average % |
|--------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1 Bowes | 3 | 9,241 | 3,080 | -4 | 10,013 | 3,338 | 3 |
| 2 Bush Hill Park | 3 | 9,979 | 3,326 | 4 | 9,130 | 3,043 | -6 |
| 8 Grange | 3 | 9,601 | 3,200 | 0 | 9,368 | 3,123 | -3 |
| 13 Palmers Green | 3 | 10,220 | 3,407 | 6 | 9,780 | 3,260 | 1 |
| 17 Southgate Green | 3 | 9,578 | 3,193 | -0 | 9,489 | 3,163 | -2 |
| Totals | 63 | 202,139 | — | — | 203,252 | — | — |
| Averages | — | — | 3,209 | — | — | 3,226 | — |

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

Notes: 1 Due to inaccuracies in the information provided, the total electorate figures for Enfield differ marginally from the totals in Figure 3, however, we would expect this to have a marginal impact on electoral variances.

2 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.

