

LOCAL
GOVERNMENT
COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND

FINAL
RECOMMENDATIONS
ON THE FUTURE
ELECTORAL
ARRANGEMENTS FOR
HERTSMERE
IN HERTFORDSHIRE

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

February 1998

LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND

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

Members of the Commission are:

Professor Malcolm Grant (Chairman)

Helena Shovelton (Deputy Chairman)

Peter Brokenshire

Professor Michael Clarke

Robin Gray

Bob Scruton

David Thomas O.B.E

Adrian Stungo (Chief Executive)

© Crown Copyright 1998

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

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

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>23</i>
APPENDICES	
A Final Recommendations for Hertsmere: Detailed Mapping	<i>25</i>
B Draft Recommendations for Hertsmere: (August 1997)	<i>29</i>



Local Government Commission for England

3 February 1998

Dear Secretary of State

On 10 December 1996, the Commission began a periodic electoral review of the borough of Hertsmere under the Local Government Act 1992. We published our draft recommendations for electoral arrangements on 13 August 1997 and undertook a nine-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 71) in the light of further evidence. This report sets out our final recommendations for changes to electoral arrangements in Hertsmere.

We recommend that Hertsmere Borough Council should be served by 39 councillors representing 15 wards, and that changes should be made to all ward boundaries in order to improve electoral equality, having regard to the statutory criteria. We recommend that elections should continue to take place by thirds.

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 Hertsmere on 10 December 1996. We published our draft recommendations for electoral arrangements on 13 August 1997, after which we undertook a nine-week period of consultation.

- **This report summarises the representations we have 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 Hertsmere because:

- **in 12 of the 20 wards, the number of electors represented by each councillor varies by more than 10 per cent from the average for the borough, with five wards varying by more than 20 per cent from the average;**
- **this level of electoral equality is expected to deteriorate by 2001 when the number of electors per councillor is projected to vary by more than 10 per cent from the average in 13 wards, seven of which would vary by over 20 per cent.**

Our main final recommendations for future electoral arrangements (Figure 1 and paragraphs 70 to 71) are that:

- **Hertsmere Borough Council should continue to be served by 39 councillors, as at present;**
- **there should be 15 wards, five fewer than at present;**
- **the boundaries of all of the existing wards should be modified;**
- **elections should continue to take place by thirds.**

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

- **In 12 of the 15 wards, the number of electors per councillor would vary by no more than 10 per cent from the district average.**
- **This level of electoral equality is expected to improve, with all wards projected to vary by no more than 10 per cent from the average number of electors per councillor for the borough by 2001.**

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

- **revised warding arrangements for Elstree & Borehamwood Town Council and Aldenham Parish Council.**

All further correspondence on these recommendations and the matters discussed in this report should be addressed to the Secretary of State for the Environment, Transport and the Regions, who will not make an Order implementing the Commission's recommendations before 16 March 1998:

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

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

Ward name	Number of councillors	Constituent areas	Map reference
1 Aldenham East (in Radlett)	2	Aldenham East borough and parish ward; Aldenham West borough and parish ward (part)	Large map
2 Aldenham West (in Radlett)	2	Aldenham West borough and parish ward (part)	Large map
3 Borehamwood Brookmeadow	3	Brookmeadow borough and parish ward (part); Lyndhurst borough and parish ward	Large map
4 Borehamwood Cowley Hill	3	Campions borough and parish ward; Cowley borough and parish ward (part); Brookmeadow borough and parish ward (part)	Large map
5 Borehamwood Hillside	3	Hillside borough and parish ward (part); Kenilworth borough and parish ward (part); Elstree borough and parish ward (part)	Large map
6 Borehamwood Kenilworth	2	Cowley borough and parish ward (part); Kenilworth borough and parish ward (part); Hillside borough and parish ward (part)	Large map
7 Bushey Heath	3	Heath South borough ward (part); Heath North borough ward (part)	Large map
8 Bushey North	3	Mill borough ward (part); St James West borough ward (part)	Large map
9 Bushey Park	2	Heath South borough ward (part); Heath North borough ward (part); St James East borough ward (part); St James West borough ward (part)	Large map
10 Bushey St James	3	St James West borough ward (part); Mill borough ward (part); St James East borough ward (part)	Large map
11 Elstree	2	Elstree borough and parish ward (part)	Large map
12 Potters Bar Furzefield	3	Potters Bar West borough ward (part); Potters Bar Central borough ward (part)	Maps A2 and A3
13 Potters Bar Oakmere	3	Potters Bar East borough ward; Potters Bar North borough ward (part); Potters Bar South borough ward (part)	Map A2
14 Potters Bar Parkfield	3	Potters Bar Central borough ward (part); Potters Bar North borough ward (part); Potters Bar South borough ward (part)	Maps A2 and A3

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

Ward name	Number of councillors	Constituent areas	Map reference
15 Shenley	2	Shenley borough ward and parish; Potters Bar West borough ward (part – Ridge parish and the unparished area of South Mimms)	Map A3

Notes: 1 The areas of Bushey, Potters Bar and South Mimms are the only unparished areas in the borough.

2 The large map inserted in the back of this report illustrates the proposed ward boundaries for Bushey, Elstree & Borehamwood and Radlett.

1. INTRODUCTION

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

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

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

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

4 This review was in four stages. Stage One began on 10 December 1996, when we invited proposals for the future electoral arrangements from Hertsmere Borough Council, and copied the letter to Hertfordshire County Council, Hertfordshire Police Authority, the Metropolitan Police, the local authority associations, Hertfordshire Association of Local Councils, parish and town councils in the borough, Members of Parliament and 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 reports, we published a notice in the local press, issued a press release and invited the Borough Council to publicise the review more widely. The closing date for receipt of representations was 10 March 1997. At Stage Two, we considered all the representations received during Stage One and prepared our draft recommendations.

5 Stage Three began on 13 August 1997 with the publication of our report, *Draft Recommendations on the Future Electoral Arrangements for Hertsmere in Hertfordshire* and ended on 14 October 1997. 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

⁶ Hertsmere is located in south Hertfordshire, and has boundaries with the three London boroughs of Barnet, Harrow and Enfield. It is a compact borough, covering an area of 9,800 hectares, and has a population of some 94,000. The four main centres of population are the towns of Borehamwood, Bushey, Potters Bar and Radlett, which were each in separate local authority areas prior to the local government reorganisation in 1974. The borough is well served by excellent road and rail communications, with the M25, M1 and A1(M) all passing through the area, and is served by mainline rail services to central London. This, and the borough's proximity to London, have strongly influenced development patterns.

⁷ The Borough Council has 39 councillors elected from 20 wards (Map 1 and Figure 2). One ward is represented by three councillors, 17 wards are each represented by two councillors, and two wards are each represented by a single councillor. Elections are held by thirds, with the next elections due to take place in May 1998. The electorate of the borough is 68,871 (February 1996), and each councillor represents an average of 1,766 electors. The Borough Council forecasts that the electorate will increase to some 71,192 by the year 2001, which would increase the average number of electors per councillor to 1,825. The most significant areas of development over the next five years are expected to be in Shenley ward, with the development of the Shenley hospital site, and St James West ward in Bushey, as a result of the Blackwell House development.

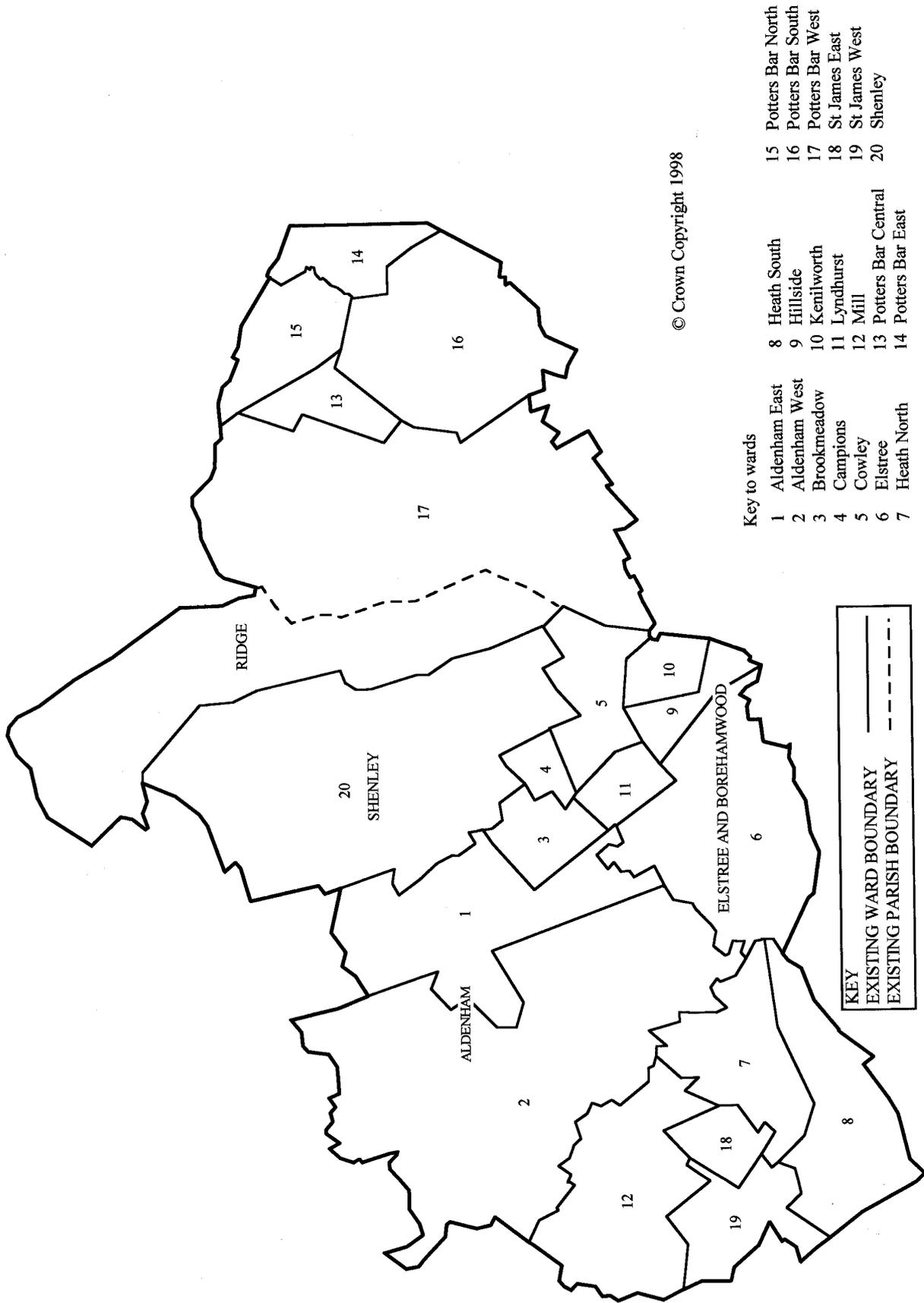
⁸ To compare levels of electoral inequality between wards, the extent to which the number of electors per councillor in each ward (the councillor:elector ratio) varies from the district average in percentage terms has been calculated. In the report this calculation may also be described as 'electoral variance'.

⁹ Since the last electoral review in 1975, there has been relatively little growth in the borough, with the electorate increasing by some 5 per cent. Changes in the electorate have not been evenly

spread across the borough, resulting in 12 wards in which the number of electors per councillor varies by more than 10 per cent from the borough average. In particular, there has been substantial redevelopment on the MGM Studio estate and Campions School site in Borehamwood, Laurel Fields in Potters Bar and the Shenley Hospital site in Shenley. Also, as a result of the review of the boundaries of London boroughs carried out by the LGBC, Hertsmere gained a large area in Elstree Village from the London boroughs of Barnet and Harrow, together with a small area in Bushey Heath.

¹⁰ As part of this review, the Commission may also make recommendations relating to the electoral arrangements of the four parish and town councils in the borough: namely, Aldenham (comprising the wards of Aldenham East and Aldenham West), Elstree & Borehamwood (comprising the wards of Brookmeadow, Campions, Cowley, Elstree, Hillside, Kenilworth and Lyndhurst), Ridge (which forms part of Potters Bar West ward) and Shenley (coterminous with Shenley ward).

Map 1:
Existing Wards in Hertsmere



© Crown Copyright 1998

Key to wards

- | | | |
|-----------------|------------------------|----------------------|
| 1 Aldenham East | 8 Heath South | 15 Potters Bar North |
| 2 Aldenham West | 9 Hillside | 16 Potters Bar South |
| 3 Brookmeadow | 10 Kenilworth | 17 Potters Bar West |
| 4 Campions | 11 Lyndhurst | 18 St James East |
| 5 Cowley | 12 Mill | 19 St James West |
| 6 Elstree | 13 Potters Bar Central | 20 Shenley |
| 7 Heath North | 14 Potters Bar East | |

KEY

- EXISTING WARD BOUNDARY
- EXISTING PARISH BOUNDARY

Figure 2:
Existing Electoral Arrangements

Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (1996)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2001)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
1 Aldenham East (in Radlett)	2	3,639	1,820	3	3,649	1,825	0
2 Aldenham West (in Radlett)	2	3,679	1,840	4	3,753	1,877	3
3 Brookmeadow (in Borehamwood)	2	2,821	1,411	-20	2,821	1,411	-23
4 Champions (in Borehamwood)	1	2,160	2,160	22	2,207	2,207	21
5 Cowley (in Borehamwood)	2	4,600	2,300	30	4,706	2,353	29
6 Elstree	2	5,176	2,588	47	5,424	2,712	49
7 Heath North (in Bushey)	2	3,993	1,997	13	4,033	2,017	10
8 Heath South (in Bushey)	2	4,116	2,058	17	4,214	2,107	15
9 Hillside (in Borehamwood)	2	3,241	1,621	-8	3,241	1,621	-11
10 Kenilworth (in Borehamwood)	2	2,870	1,435	-19	2,880	1,440	-21
11 Lyndhurst (in Borehamwood)	2	3,079	1,540	-13	3,170	1,554	-15
12 Mill (in Bushey)	2	3,433	1,717	-3	3,513	1,757	-4
13 Potters Bar Central	2	3,426	1,713	-3	3,452	1,726	-5
14 Potters Bar East	3	4,491	1,497	-15	4,491	1,497	-18
15 Potters Bar North	2	3,452	1,726	-2	3,468	1,734	-5
16 Potters Bar South	2	2,579	1,290	-27	2,579	1,290	-29
17 Potters Bar West	2	3,233	1,617	-8	3,331	1,666	-9
18 St James East (in Bushey)	2	3,090	1,545	-13	3,112	1,556	-15
19 St James West (In Bushey)	2	3,561	1,781	1	4,331	2,166	19

continued overleaf

Figure 2 (continued):
Existing Electoral Arrangements

Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (1996)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2001)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
20 Shenley	1	2,232	2,232	26	2,880	2,880	58
Totals	39	68,871	—	—	71,192	—	—
Averages	—	—	1,766	—	—	1,825	—

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

Note: The 'variance from average' column shows by how far, in percentage terms, the number of electors per councillor varies from the average for the borough. The minus symbol (-) denotes a lower than average number of electors. For example, electors in Brookmeadow ward are relatively over-represented by 20 per cent, while electors in Elstree ward are relatively under-represented by 47 per cent. Figures have been rounded to the nearest whole number.

3. DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS

¹¹ During Stage One, we received representations from Hertsmere Borough Council, James Clappison MP, the Hertsmere Borough Council Conservative Group and the Hertsmere Conservative Association (in a joint submission) and Hertsmere Labour Party. Three other submissions were received from local residents, all of which commented on the Potters Bar area. In the light of these representations and evidence available to us, we reached preliminary conclusions which were set out in the report, *Draft Recommendations on the Future Electoral Arrangements for Hertsmere in Hertfordshire*. We proposed that:

- (a) Hertsmere Borough Council should continue to be served 39 councillors, as at present;
- (b) there should be 15 wards, five fewer than at present;
- (c) the boundaries of all the existing wards should be modified;
- (d) there should be revised warding arrangements for Elstree & Borehamwood Town Council and Aldenham Parish Council.

Draft Recommendation

Hertsmere Borough Council should comprise 39 councillors, serving 15 wards. Elections should continue to take place by thirds.

¹² On the electoral data supplied by the Borough Council at Stage One, our proposals would have resulted in significant improvements in electoral equality, with the number of electors per councillor in 12 of the 15 wards varying by no more than 10 per cent from the borough average. This level of electoral equality was expected to improve over the next five years, with all wards projected to vary by no more than 10 per cent from the average number of electors per councillor for the borough.

¹³ Our draft recommendations are summarised at Appendix B.

4. RESPONSES TO CONSULTATION

14 During the consultation on our draft recommendations report, 11 representations were received. A list of respondents is available on request from the Commission's offices.

Hertsmere Borough Council

15 Hertsmere Borough Council endorsed the proposal for 39 councillors serving 15 wards, although it continued to argue that three-member wards should be adopted, as far as possible, to support the principle of elections by thirds.

16 The Council supported the proposals for Bushey and Potters Bar (except for the separation of South Mimms from Potters Bar West) subject to minor boundary modifications. It opposed the linking of Ridge and South Mimms, and argued that this was "unacceptable to Shenley Parish Council". It considered that South Mimms straddled the A1(M) rather than being separated by it, and that the M25 was a greater barrier between South Mimms and Shenley. It opposed the draft recommendation for a revised Elstree ward to the west of the London to Bedford railway line, and argued that Elstree Village was a distinct community recently reunited, which wished to be represented as an entity. In Borehamwood and Radlett, it reaffirmed its support for its initial warding proposals, on the basis that all wards should be represented by three councillors each.

17 The Borough Council proposed alternative names for the proposed Borehamwood and Potters Bar wards and Bushey Central and Elstree wards. It also supplied revised electoral data, which affected wards in Potters Bar and Elstree & Borehamwood.

James Clappison MP, Hertsmere Borough Council Conservative Group and Hertsmere Conservative Association

18 James Clappison MP (the Member of Parliament for Hertsmere), the Hertsmere Borough Council Conservative Group and the Hertsmere Conservative Association (the

Conservatives'), in a joint submission, agreed that there should be two councillors for each of the proposed Aldenham East, Aldenham West, Elstree and Shenley wards. They also agreed that other areas of the borough should be represented by three-member wards, and therefore supported our proposals for Borehamwood and Potters Bar.

19 In Bushey, the Conservatives agreed with the proposed north/south split, although they proposed alternative ward boundaries between the northern and southern parts of the town. They also argued that the proposed Bushey Central ward should be increased in size to incorporate all of Little Bushey and Sparrows Herne, and be represented by three councillors; the remainder of the proposed Bushey Heath ward would consequently be represented by two councillors. Furthermore, they contended that if their revised boundaries for Bushey were not adopted, their initial proposed warding arrangements were preferred to our draft recommendations.

Hertsmere Borough Council Liberal Democrat Group

20 The Liberal Democrats endorsed our proposed ward boundaries for the Bushey area, which it considered would "reflect the natural communities and...enable efficient and effective local representation". Elsewhere in the borough, it indicated its support to the Borough Council's original proposals, agreeing that three-member wards should be created, where possible.

Parish and Town Councils

21 Elstree & Borehamwood Town Council did not comment on the draft recommendations in the light of the Borough Council's queries regarding electorate data in the Borehamwood wards. It therefore expressed its continued support for the Borough Council's Stage One warding arrangements for Elstree & Borehamwood. It also indicated that it would like to make a number of changes to its parish boundary with the neighbouring parishes of Aldenham and Shenley.

Other Representations

22 The Commission received a further five submissions from local groups and residents. A local resident supported the retention of the current council size. He agreed that elections should continue to be held by thirds, and that the majority of wards should return three councillors to facilitate annual elections. While he recognised that a completely uniform system of elections by thirds was “impracticable”, he considered that the Borough Council’s scheme, in which six out of every seven voters would be in a three-member ward, had merit. As a result, he expressed his support to the Borough Council’s scheme for Hertsmere.

23 Potters Bar Branch Labour Party, Potters Bar & District Historical Society and two local residents expressed their opposition to the proposal to transfer the areas of Ridge parish and the unparished area of South Mimms to Shenley ward. It was argued that Potters Bar and South Mimms had strong links in terms of “local government, ecclesiastical matters, schools and education, community identity and interests”. Potters Bar Branch Labour Party maintained that if Shenley ward were to be expanded, electorate should be transferred from adjacent Borehamwood wards.

5. ANALYSIS AND FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS

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

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

26 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, is that such flexibility must be kept to a minimum, consistent with the statutory criteria.

27 In our March 1996 *Guidance*, we expressed the view that “proposals for changes in electoral arrangements should therefore be based on variations in each ward of no more than plus or minus 10 per cent from the average councillor:elector ratio for the authority, having regard to five-year forecasts of changes in electorates. Imbalances in excess of plus or minus 20 per cent may be acceptable, but only in highly exceptional circumstances ... and will have to be justified in full.” However, as emphasised in our September 1996 supplement to the *Guidance*: “While the Commission accepts that absolute equality of representation is likely to be unattainable, it considers that, if electoral

imbalances are to be kept to the minimum, such equality should be the starting point in any electoral review.”

Electorate Projections

28 During Stage One, the Borough Council submitted electorate forecasts for the year 2001, projecting an increase in the electorate of some 3 per cent over the next five years from 68,871 to 71,192. The Council estimated rates and locations of housing development with regard to structure and local plans, and the expected rate of building over the five-year period. In our draft recommendations report, we accepted that this was an inexact science and, having given consideration to projected electorates, were content that the Council’s figures represented the best estimates that could be reasonably be made at that time.

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

Council Size

30 Our March 1996 *Guidance* indicated that we would normally expect the number of councillors serving a district or borough council to be in the range of 30 to 60.

31 At present, Hertsmere Borough Council is represented by 39 councillors. It proposed no change to the council size at Stage One. This view was supported by the Hertsmere Labour Party. However, the Conservatives proposed that the council size should be increased from 39 to 41. 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 be best met by a council size of 39 members and invited further comments. We have not received evidence

during Stage Three to persuade us to move away from this view.

Electoral Arrangements

32 Having considered all representations received during Stage Three of the review, we have further considered our draft recommendations. While we are endorsing the majority of our draft recommendations in the light of those views expressed at Stage Three, we are modifying some boundaries in Borehamwood to reflect revised electoral data supplied by the Borough Council, and in other areas to create stronger ward boundaries.

33 Our draft recommendations for 39 councillors serving 15 wards were for the most part supported during Stage 3. The Borough Council, the Conservatives and the Liberal Democrat Group all argued for proposals involving an increase in the number of three-member wards. Our final recommendations are that the number of three-member wards be increased from one to nine, together with six two-member wards, as proposed by the Conservatives. We have concluded that this would represent the best balance between reflecting the statutory criteria and the need to secure good electoral equality.

34 The following sections outline the Commission's analysis and final recommendations for the future electoral arrangements for Hertsmere, which are summarised in Figures 1 and 4 and illustrated on Map 2, and in Appendix A and the large map at the back of the report. The following wards are considered in turn:

- (a) the five wards of Potters Bar;
- (b) Shenley ward;
- (c) the seven wards of Elstree & Borehamwood;
- (d) the five wards of Bushey;
- (e) Radlett – the wards of Aldenham East and Aldenham West.

Potters Bar

35 Currently, Potters Bar is divided into five wards – Potters Bar Central, Potters Bar East, Potters Bar North, Potters Bar South and Potters Bar West – and is represented by 11 councillors. Four of the wards are represented by two councillors, while Potters Bar East ward is represented by three councillors. Only Potters Bar East and Potters Bar

South wards have electoral variances of more than 10 per cent from the average (15 per cent and 27 per cent respectively). The level of electoral equality in these two wards is projected to deteriorate marginally over the period up to 2001.

36 At Stage One, both the Borough Council and the Conservatives proposed a reduction in the level of representation in the town. It was noted that there had been a decrease in the town's electorate over the last 20 years, and this had caused all five wards to become over-represented. However, while the Council proposed to replace the existing five wards with three new wards, each represented by three councillors, the Conservatives proposed four new wards, two of which would be represented by two councillors, and two by three councillors. Hertsmere Labour Party expressed its support for the Borough Council's proposed warding arrangements.

37 In our draft recommendations report, we accepted the case made for a reduction in the current level of representation for Potters Bar. We carefully considered the two schemes, and while we considered that both had merit, we were persuaded, on balance, that the Borough Council's scheme offered the stronger boundaries within the town. However, we departed from that scheme by proposing that the boundary between Potters Bar West and Shenley wards be modified, with the areas of Ridge parish and the unparished area of South Mimms being transferred to Shenley ward. Accordingly, we proposed that Potters Bar be served by three new wards, Potters Bar Central, Potters Bar East and Potters Bar West, each returning three councillors.

38 At Stage Three, our draft recommendations drew the support of the Borough Council (except for the separation of South Mimms and Ridge from Potters Bar West ward) and the Conservatives. The Borough Council also made minor revisions to electoral data for the three proposed wards in Potters Bar.

39 Having considered the responses received at Stage Three, we are content to confirm the major part of our draft recommendations for the Potters Bar wards as final. However, we are proposing to modify the boundary between Potters Bar West and Shenley wards, to provide for properties in the Dancers Hill area to be contained within the same ward. We are also proposing to rename the wards in Potters Bar to reflect suggestions made by the Borough Council at Stage Three, as illustrated on maps A2 and A3

40 In our judgement, these proposed new warding arrangements would represent a better balance between the statutory criteria and the need to secure electoral equality than the current arrangements. Under these proposals, the number of electors per councillor would vary by less than 7 per cent in all three wards, a level of electoral equality that is projected to improve further over the next five years. The new boundaries for Potters Bar are illustrated on maps A2 and A3 at Appendix A.

Shenley

41 Shenley ward is currently represented by a single councillor. However, with the development of the Shenley Hospital site over recent years, the electorate has substantially increased, and this has resulted in the area becoming significantly under-represented (by 26 per cent). This development is projected to continue over the next five years, and would result in a further deterioration in electoral representation by 2001 (to 58 per cent).

42 At Stage One, the Borough Council and the Conservatives both contended that the boundaries of the current ward should remain untouched, but that the number of councillors representing Shenley ward should be increased from one to two. This proposal would initially over-compensate for the current level of under-representation, resulting in the ward having some 37 per cent fewer electors per councillor than the borough average. However, this level of electoral equality would steadily improve over the next five years, resulting in the ward having 21 per cent fewer electors per councillor than the average. While it was noted that this scheme would continue to leave a high degree of electoral equality, it was argued that this was unavoidable, given the significant growth in the ward and the fact that it is a distinct village community, with its own identity. The proposal was supported by the Hertsmere Labour Party. Also, the Borough Council indicated that Shenley Parish Council supported the proposal to increase its representation by two, and that it would oppose any proposal to amalgamate it with the neighbouring areas of Ridge parish and South Mimms. The Borough Council also indicated that Ridge Parish Council expressed a desire to remain linked with South Mimms, although it had not put forward a preference in respect of remaining with Potters Bar West ward or being merged with Shenley ward.

43 Having considered the views expressed at Stage One, we concurred that the number of councillors representing Shenley ward should be increased to two. However, we were not persuaded that merely increasing Shenley ward's representation would sufficiently address the issue of electoral equality. We considered that a better balance of the statutory criteria and the need for electoral equality would be achieved by merging the three areas of Shenley, Ridge and South Mimms into a new two-member Shenley ward. We noted that this was not an ideal solution, and invited local residents and other interested parties to demonstrate that alternative warding arrangements would better serve the statutory criteria.

44 During Stage Three, our draft recommendation for Shenley ward was opposed by the Borough Council, Potters Bar Branch Labour Party, Potters Bar & District Historical Society and three local residents. It was argued that this proposed merger was contrary to majority local opinion, and that South Mimms and Potters Bar had a close and historical relationship in terms of "local government, ecclesiastical matters, schools and education, community identity and interests". Furthermore, the Borough Council maintained that South Mimms straddled the A1(M) rather than being separated by it from the remainder of Potters Bar, and that the M25 arguably formed a greater barrier between South Mimms and Shenley. Potters Bar Branch Labour Party contended that if there were to be more electors in the existing Shenley ward, they should be drawn from adjacent Borehamwood wards. Hertsmere Conservatives agreed that Shenley should be represented by two councillors, and suggested that the new ward should be named either Three Parishes ward or Three Villages ward.

45 Having given careful consideration to the responses received, we recognise that Shenley is a distinct community, and note the comments made regarding the affinity between Potters Bar and South Mimms. However, we remain persuaded that the level of electoral equality should be addressed, and regret that none of the responses received at Stage Three satisfactorily addressed the issue of electoral equality. While Potters Bar Branch Labour Party argued that transferring part of adjacent Borehamwood wards should be considered, we have not been persuaded that this would provide better electoral equality in the area or better reflect the interest and identities of communities in either Shenley or Borehamwood.

46 As indicated in our draft recommendations report, we are aware of the difficulty in reconciling the achievement of electoral equality with the need to reflect community identity and interests, particularly in areas that are undergoing substantial development. However, on balance, we remain satisfied that our statutory criteria and electoral equality would best be achieved by merging the three areas of Shenley, Ridge and South Mimms into a new two-member Shenley ward, subject to the minor boundary modification between Shenley and Potters Bar West wards, as detailed above, and illustrated on Map A3 at Appendix A. This proposed warding arrangement would provide a better level of electoral equality than the existing electoral arrangements, with Shenley ward having 13 per cent more electors per councillor than the borough average. However, taking account of predicted future growth over the next five years, the standard of electoral equality is projected to improve to 2 per cent from the average.

Elstree & Borehamwood

47 Elstree & Borehamwood is currently divided between seven wards – Brookmeadow, Campions, Cowley, Elstree, Hillside, Kenilworth and Lyndhurst – and is represented by 13 councillors. The town is subject to a high degree of electoral inequality, with the number of electors per councillor varying by more than 10 per cent from the borough average in six of the seven wards. The most significant electoral imbalance lies within Elstree ward, which currently has 47 per cent more electors per councillor than the borough average. This level of electoral representation is projected to deteriorate further by 2001, when all seven wards are expected to have electoral variances in excess of 10 per cent, five of which would be more than 20 per cent.

48 At Stage One, the Borough Council proposed to retain 13 councillors for the town, but contended that there should be four wards returning three councillors, and one ward (Elstree) returning one councillor. This proposal drew the support of the Hertsmere Labour Party. The Conservatives proposed that the number of councillors should be increased to 14, with seven new wards, each represented by two councillors.

49 In distinguishing between the two schemes, we noted that an important distinction related to the proposed boundaries for Elstree ward. While the

Council proposed that the ward should be based upon Elstree village, to be represented by a single councillor, the Conservatives proposed that the ward should continue to contain the whole of the area to the west of the London to Bedford railway line. While we acknowledged that Elstree was a distinct area, which appeared to have a separate identity, we noted that the Council's scheme would result in the proposed Elstree ward containing some 1,300 electors, some 466 electors below the borough average. Accordingly, on balance, we were persuaded that the Conservatives' proposed warding arrangements for Elstree should be adopted, which secured good electoral equality and, in following the railway line, followed a clearly identifiable boundary.

50 In Borehamwood, the Commission concluded that the ward boundaries proposed by the Borough Council followed the stronger boundaries and offered a better warding structure for new borough and town wards. We proposed that the area to the south of Elstree Way be divided it into wards along similar lines to the proposals put forward by the Council and the Conservatives. The proposed Borehamwood South ward would be almost identical to that proposed by the Conservatives in its alternative arrangement and would cover the area to the south of Elstree Way and Rippon Way, east of the railway line and west of Bullhead Road. The proposed Borehamwood East ward would be similar to both the Council's and Conservative's alternative schemes, albeit with minor boundary modifications. Borehamwood North, Borehamwood South and Borehamwood West wards would each return three councillors, while Borehamwood East ward would return two councillors.

51 At Stage Three, the Borough Council reaffirmed its original proposals for Elstree & Borehamwood. It opposed the creation of three three-member wards and two two-member wards for the area, and argued that its proposed warding arrangement would have provided for a greater number of three-member wards. It opposed the use of the railway line as the boundary for Elstree ward rather than Elstree village, which, it argued, was a distinct community, and should be separately represented as an entity. It also indicated that it had revised electoral data supplied at Stage One, and that this would affect the good equality of representation achieved in the proposed Borehamwood East and Borehamwood South wards.

52 Elstree & Borehamwood Town Council decided not to comment on our draft recommendations for Elstree & Borehamwood in the light of revised electorates for two of the proposed Borehamwood wards, and therefore supported the Borough Council's proposed warding arrangement. It also argued that the boundaries with the parishes of Aldenham and Shenley should be revised. A local resident expressed support for the Borough Council's scheme, and agreed that there should be four three-member wards in Borehamwood. He argued that Elstree is a free-standing settlement, surrounded by open countryside and clearly separate from the built-up area of the town. While he noted that Elstree was occasionally used to refer to the entire locality, he contended that this was a consequence of "Borehamwood's comparative youthfulness" and did not detract from Elstree village's individuality. However, our draft recommendations were supported by the Conservatives.

53 We note that the Borough Council's objections to our proposed warding arrangement in Elstree & Borehamwood stem from a desire to maximise the number of three-member wards to enable as many voters as possible to participate in annual elections. However, the only way in which Borehamwood could be represented by four three-member wards would be by creating a single-member ward for Elstree, which would result in the ward having 26 per cent fewer electors per councillor than the borough average (23 per cent fewer electors per councillors than the average by 2001). While we accept that there is merit in Elstree being separately represented from Borehamwood, we are not persuaded that this proposal would represent the best balance of the statutory criteria and the need for electoral equality. We therefore remain satisfied that our draft recommendation for Elstree should be confirmed as final. This proposal would secure good electoral equality, with the number of electors per councillor equalling the borough average on both current and projected electorates.

54 We are also confirming our draft recommendations for Borehamwood, subject to a boundary modification between the proposed Borehamwood East and Borehamwood South wards, in the light of revised electoral data. We are now proposing that the boundary should follow the centre of Manor Way, until it meets the existing boundary on Rippon Way. We are also proposing to rename the wards in Borehamwood

to reflect suggestions made by the Borough Council at Stage Three, as illustrated on the large map at the back of the report.

55 Our final recommendations would secure improved electoral equality, resulting in the number of electors per councillor in all Borehamwood wards except for the proposed Borehamwood Cowley Hill ward varying by no more than 8 per cent from the borough average. While Borehamwood Cowley Hill ward would initially have 11 per cent more electors per councillor than the borough average, this is projected to improve to 9 per cent by 2001. The new boundaries for Elstree & Borehamwood are illustrated on the large map at the back of the report.

Bushey

56 Bushey is currently divided between five wards – Heath North, Heath South, Mill, St James East and St James West. While the number of electors per councillor in Mill and St James West wards varies by 3 per cent and 1 per cent from the borough average, Heath North, Heath South and St James East wards all have electoral variances greater than 10 per cent from the average (13 per cent, 17 per cent and 13 per cent respectively). This level of electoral inequality was not projected to improve over the next five years.

57 At Stage One, the Borough Council proposed that four new wards should be established, three of which would be represented by three councillors, and one by two councillors. This proposal drew the support of the Hertsmere Labour Party. The Conservatives proposed that the new wards should be largely based on the existing pattern of wards, although they proposed adjustments to the southern boundary of the two St James wards, and proposed that Heath South ward should be expanded, with its representation being increased to three councillors.

58 In our draft recommendations report, we noted that both schemes secured reasonable electoral equality, but concluded that the Borough Council's proposed warding would appear better to reflect the interests and identities of communities in the area. We noted that, under the Council's scheme, the proposed Bushey North ward would contain the separate community of Bushey Mill, and would reunite the Bushey Hall area. The proposed Bushey St James ward would reunite the Bushey village

area adjoining Watford borough. The proposed Bushey Central ward would include the community of Little Bushey and reunite both sides of Sparrows Heath within a single ward. The proposed Bushey Heath ward would include all of the Heath area within its boundary.

59 During Stage Three, our draft recommendations drew the support of the Borough Council (subject to a minor boundary modification) and the Hertsmere Liberal Democrats, who agreed that the new wards would “better reflect the natural communities and... enable efficient and effective local representation”. However, both considered that the name of Bushey Park would be a more appropriate name than Bushey Central. The Conservatives agreed with the north/south split, although they contended that it was hard to establish precise boundaries in places. They argued that opinions differed as to where the boundaries of Sparrows Herne and Heath should be drawn. As a result, they considered that the proposed Bushey Central ward should be extended to incorporate all of Little Bushey and Sparrows Herne, and should be renamed Little Bushey ward. The Conservatives argued that the increased electorate in the proposed Little Bushey ward would require three councillors, while the reduced Bushey Heath ward should be represented by two councillors. Furthermore, the Conservatives considered that if their revised proposed warding in Bushey was not acceptable, their original proposals offered a better warding arrangement than our draft recommendations.

60 Having considered the representations received at Stage Three, we are content to endorse our draft recommendations for the proposed Bushey wards, subject to the minor boundary modification suggested by the Borough Council at Stage Three. We also propose that the proposed Bushey Central ward should be renamed Bushey Park ward. We have considered the Conservatives’ proposed warding, but are not persuaded that their proposed ward boundaries would better reflect community interests and identities. Accordingly, we propose that Bushey be divided into four wards, with Bushey Heath, Bushey North and Bushey St James wards each to be represented by three councillors, and Bushey Park ward to be represented by two councillors. The proposed boundaries for the Bushey wards are illustrated on the large map at the back of the report.

61 Overall, our scheme would provide a good level

of electoral equality, with the number of electors per councillor varying by no more than 6 per cent from the borough average in all wards except for Bushey St James ward, which would have 12 per cent fewer electors per councillor than the average. However, by 2001, all wards would vary by no more than 8 per cent from the borough average.

Radlett

62 Aldenham East and Aldenham West wards are currently two-member wards, and have good levels of electoral equality, with the number of electors per councillor varying by 3 per cent and 4 per cent from the average respectively. The level of electoral equality is projected to improve further over the next five years, taking into account future growth patterns (with Aldenham East ward equal to the average and Aldenham West ward varying by 3 per cent).

63 At Stage One, the Borough Council proposed that the existing wards be replaced by two new wards - Radlett ward, to be represented by three councillors, and Battlers Green & Aldenham ward, to be represented by one councillor. It contended that this would unify the main centre of population in one ward and reflect the distinctive identity which the Battlers Green area has from the remainder of Radlett, together with the small adjacent villages of Aldenham and Letchmore Heath. However, the Conservatives proposed that no changes should be made, other than tidying the boundary to the south of Radlett, transferring the area covered by polling district BE from Aldenham West to Aldenham East ward.

64 In our draft recommendations report, we endorsed the Conservatives’ proposal for the retention of the existing warding arrangements, albeit with a minor boundary modification to the south of Radlett. We were not persuaded that the changes proposed by the Council would represent a better balance between electoral equality and our statutory criteria than the present arrangements. Under its scheme, the number of electors per councillor in the proposed Battlers Green & Aldenham ward would vary from the borough average by 16 per cent. Furthermore, under its scheme, the western part of the urban area of Radlett would be transferred to the largely rural ward of Battlers Green & Aldenham.

65 At Stage Three, the Borough Council opposed our draft recommendation for Radlett on the basis that there should be as many three-member wards as possible to complement the existing electoral

cycle of elections by thirds. This view was supported by a local resident, who argued that there were only too many electors in the proposed Battlers Green & Aldenham ward because of the boundary anomaly in the area of Birds Estate. He proposed that a provisional recommendation be made, which would be conditional upon the successful outcome of an approach to the Secretary of State. However, our draft recommendation drew the support of the Conservatives, who agreed that two two-member wards was the best solution.

⁶⁶ In the light of representations received at Stage Three, we are content to confirm our draft recommendation for two Aldenham wards as final. While we note the arguments put forward in terms of increasing the number of three-member wards, we are not persuaded that the resultant electoral inequality in the proposed Battlers Green & Aldenham ward can be justified, particularly given the good equality of representation that currently exists. While we recognise that there may be merit in transferring the Birds Estate in Garston from Hertsmere borough to Watford borough, it is not within our remit to address this particular anomaly as part of the current review nor to put forward provisional recommendations subject to future outcomes. The proposed boundary change is illustrated on the large map at the back of the report.

⁶⁷ Overall, this proposed warding arrangement would provide for a continuing good level of electoral equality for the area, with the number of electors per councillor in the revised Aldenham East and Aldenham West wards varying by 4 per cent and 3 per cent from the borough average respectively. This level of electoral equality is projected to improve over the next five years.

Electoral Cycle

⁶⁸ In our draft recommendations report, we proposed that the present system of elections by thirds in Hertsmere be retained. At Stage Three, the Borough Council reiterated its support for this proposal. Submissions supporting this proposal were also received from the Conservatives, the Hertsmere Liberal Democrats and one local resident. Accordingly, we confirm our draft recommendation as final.

Administrative Boundary Issues

⁶⁹ At Stage One, the Borough Council and the Conservatives both proposed the transfer of the Birds Estate in Garston from Hertsmere borough to Watford borough. It was argued that the area was isolated from the remainder of Hertsmere by the M1 motorway and that it shared closer ties with Watford. This view was reiterated at Stage Three. However, it is not within our remit to address this particular anomaly during a periodic electoral review. Respondents may wish to bring their concerns to the attention of the Secretary of State.

Conclusions

⁷⁰ Having considered carefully all the evidence and representations received in response to our consultation report, we have concluded that the council size should remain at 39; that there should be 15 wards, five fewer than at present; that the boundaries of all the existing wards should be modified; and that elections should continue to take place by thirds.

⁷¹ We have decided substantially to endorse our draft recommendations, subject to the minor boundary amendments indicated in the following areas:

- (a) in Potters Bar, we are proposing to modify the boundary between Potters Bar West and Shenley wards, as illustrated in Map A3 at Appendix A;
- (b) in Borehamwood, we are proposing to modify the boundary between Borehamwood East and Borehamwood South wards, as illustrated on the large map at the back of the report.

⁷² Figure 3 (overleaf) shows the impact of our final recommendations on electoral equality, comparing them with the current arrangements, based on 1996 and 2001 electorate figures.

⁷³ As Figure 3 shows, our recommendations would reduce the number of wards with electoral variances greater than 10 per cent from 12 to three. This level of electoral equality is expected to continue to improve over the next five years, with all wards projected to vary by less than 10 per cent from the average by 2001. Under these proposals, the average number of electors per councillor would increase from 1,766 to 1,825. We conclude that our

Figure 3:
Comparison of Current and Recommended Electoral Arrangements

	1996 electorate		2001 projected electorate	
	Current arrangements	Final recommendations	Current arrangements	Final recommendations
Number of councillors	39	39	39	39
Number of wards	20	15	20	15
Average number of electors per councillor	1,766	1,766	1,825	1,825
Number of wards with a variance more than 10 per cent from the average	12	3	13	0
Number of wards with a variance more than 20 per cent from the average	5	0	7	0

recommendations would best meet the need for electoral equality, having regard to the statutory criteria.

Final Recommendation

Hertsmere Borough Council should comprise 39 councillors, serving 15 wards, as detailed and named in Figures 1 and 5, and illustrated on Map 2, Appendix A and on the large map at the back of the report. The Council should continue to be elected by thirds.

Parish and Town Council Electoral Arrangements

⁷⁴ In undertaking reviews of electoral arrangements, we are required to comply as far as is reasonably practicable with the provisions set out in Schedule 11 to the 1972 Act. The Schedule provides that if a parish is to be divided between different district wards, it must also be divided into parish wards, so that each parish ward lies wholly within a single ward of the district. Accordingly, we propose a number of consequential parish ward changes, as detailed below.

⁷⁵ In our draft recommendations report, we proposed that Elstree & Borehamwood Town Council should continue to comprise 13 town councillors, but that the number of wards should be reduced from seven to five. We further proposed that parish ward boundaries should be modified to reflect proposed changes to borough wards. We have received no evidence to persuade us to move away from this view.

Final Recommendation

Elstree & Borehamwood Town Council should comprise 13 town councillors representing five wards, with the new wards of Borehamwood Cowley Hill, Borehamwood Hillside and Borehamwood Brookmeadow returning three town councillors each and the new wards of Borehamwood Kenilworth and Elstree returning two town councillors each. The boundaries of the town wards should reflect the proposed borough wards, as illustrated on the map at the back of the report

76 In our draft recommendations report, we proposed that Aldenham Parish Council should continue to comprise 12 parish councillors representing two wards, but that the boundary between Aldenham East and Aldenham West parish wards should be modified to reflect the proposed change between Aldenham East and Aldenham West borough wards. We have received no evidence to persuade us to move away from this view.

Final Recommendation

Aldenham Parish Council should continue to comprise 12 parish councillors representing two wards, with Aldenham East parish ward and Aldenham West parish ward returning six parish councillors each. The parish ward boundaries should be modified to reflect the proposed borough wards, as illustrated on the map at the back of the report.

77 In our draft recommendation report we proposed that there should be no change to the electoral cycle of parish and town councils in the district. We have not received any evidence to persuade us to move away from this proposal.

Final Recommendation

Elections for town and parish councils should take place at the same time as elections for principal authorities.

Map 2:
The Commission's Final Recommendations for Hertsmere

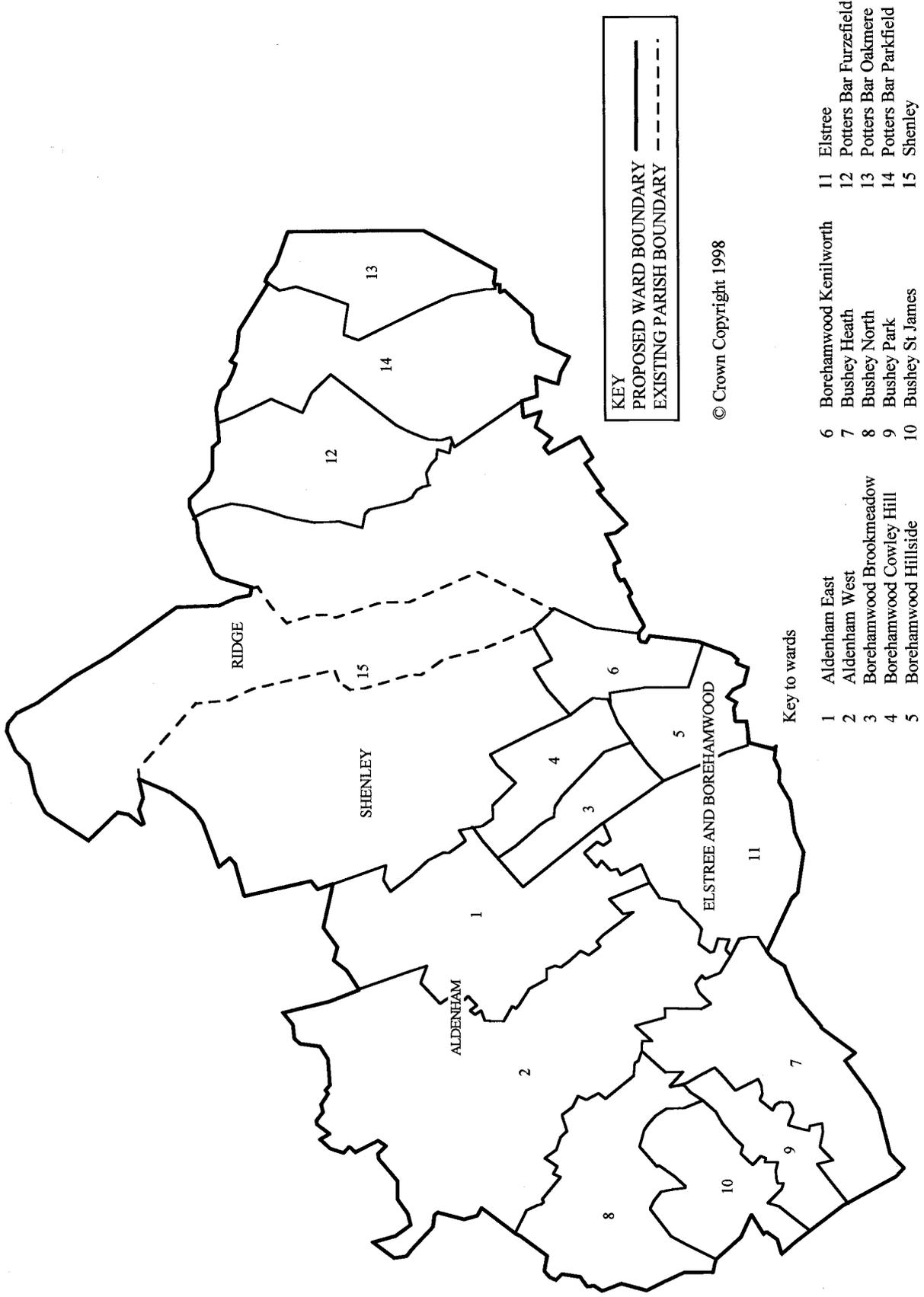


Figure 4:
The Commission's Final Recommendations for Hertsmere

Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (1996)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2001)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
1 Aldenham East	2	3,677	1,839	4	3,687	1,844	1
2 Aldenham West	2	3,641	1,821	3	3,715	1,858	2
3 Borehamwood Brookmeadow	3	5,144	1,715	-3	5,172	1,724	-6
4 Borehamwood Cowley Hill	3	5,890	1,963	11	5,963	1,988	9
5 Borehamwood Hillside	3	5,720	1,907	8	5,838	1,946	7
6 Borehamwood Kenilworth	2	3,675	1,838	4	3,755	1,878	3
7 Bushey Heath	3	5,081	1,694	-4	5,179	1,726	-5
8 Bushey North	3	4,981	1,660	-6	5,061	1,687	-8
9 Bushey Park	2	3,438	1,719	-3	3,478	1,739	-5
10 Bushey St James	3	4,693	1,564	-12	5,485	1,828	0
11 Elstree	2	3,518	1,759	0	3,658	1,829	0
12 Potters Bar Furzefield	3	5,039	1,680	-5	5,121	1,707	-6
13 Potters Bar Oakmere	3	5,626	1,875	6	5,626	1,875	3
14 Potters Bar Parkfield	3	5,681	1,894	7	5,723	1,908	5
15 Shenley	2	3,067	1,534	-13	3,731	1,866	2
Totals	39	68,871	—	—	71,192	—	—
Averages	—	—	1,766	—	—	1,825	—

Source: Electorate figures are based on Hertsmere Borough Council's revised electoral data submitted at Stage Three.

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

6. NEXT STEPS

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

79 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.

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

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

APPENDIX A

Final Recommendations for Hertsmere: Detailed Mapping

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

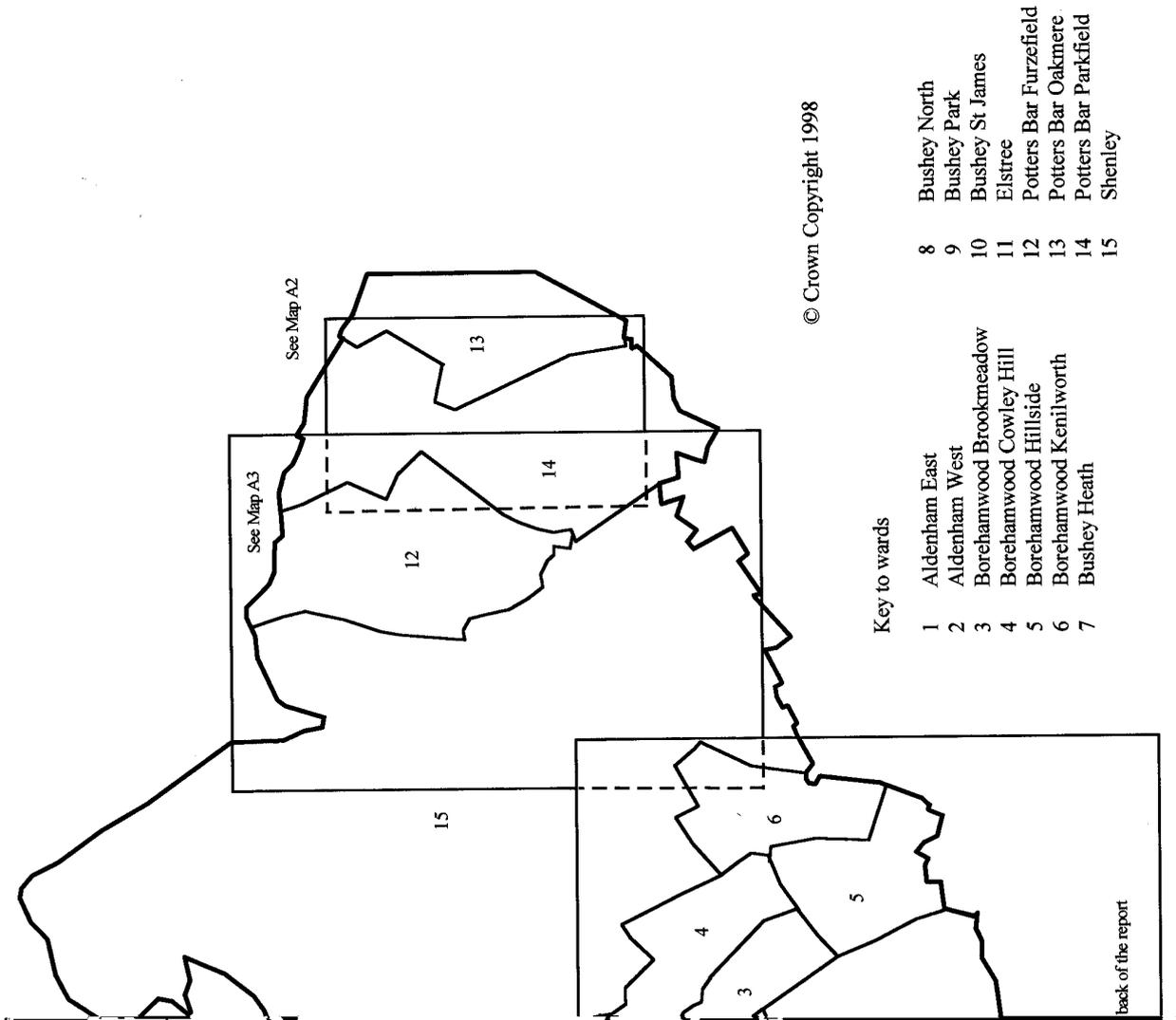
Map A1 illustrates, in outline form, the proposed ward boundaries for the Hertsmere area and indicates the areas shown in more detail in Maps A2, A3 and the large map at the back of the report.

Map A2 illustrates the proposed ward boundary changes in Potters Bar.

Map A3 illustrates the proposed boundary changes between Shenley and Potters Bar West wards.

The **large map** inserted at the back of the report illustrates the proposed ward boundary changes in Bushey, Elstree, Borehamwood and Radlett.

Map A1:
 The Commission's Final Recommendations for Hertsmere: Key Map



Map A2:
Proposed Ward Boundary Changes in Potters Bar



Map A3:
Proposed Boundary Changes between Shenley and Potters Bar West Wards



APPENDIX B

Draft Recommendations for Hertsmere

*Figure B1:
The Commission's Draft Recommendations: Constituent Areas*

	Ward name	Number of councillors	Constituent areas
1	Aldenham East (in Radlett)	2	Aldenham East borough and parish ward; Aldenham West borough and parish ward (part)
2	Aldenham West (in Radlett)	2	Aldenham West borough and parish ward (part)
3	Borehamwood East	2	Cowley borough and parish ward (part); Kenilworth borough and parish ward; Hillside borough and parish ward (part)
4	Borehamwood North	3	Campions borough and parish ward; Cowley borough and parish ward (part); Brookmeadow borough and parish ward (part)
5	Borehamwood South	3	Hillside borough and parish ward (part); Elstree borough and parish ward (part)
6	Borehamwood West	3	Brookmeadow borough and parish ward (part); Lyndhurst borough and parish ward
7	Bushey Central	2	Heath South borough ward (part); Heath North borough ward (part); St James East borough ward (part); St James West borough ward (part)
8	Bushey Heath	3	Heath South borough ward (part); Heath North borough ward (part)
9	Bushey North	3	Mill borough ward (part); St James West borough ward (part)
10	Bushey St James	3	St James West borough ward (part); Mill borough ward (part); St James East borough ward (part)
11	Elstree	2	Elstree borough and parish ward (part)
12	Potters Bar Central	3	Potters Bar Central borough ward (part); Potters Bar North borough ward (part); Potters Bar South borough ward (part)
13	Potters Bar East	3	Potters Bar East borough ward; Potters Bar North borough ward (part); Potters Bar South borough ward (part)

continued overleaf

Figure B1 (continued):

The Commission's Draft Recommendations: Constituent Areas

	Ward name	Number of councillors	Constituent areas
14	Potters Bar West	3	Potters Bar West borough ward (part); Potters Bar Central borough ward (part)
15	Shenley	2	Shenley borough ward and parish; Potters Bar West borough ward (part – Ridge parish and the unparished area of South Mimms)

Note: The areas of Bushey, Potters Bar and South Mimms are the only unparished areas in the borough.

Figure B2:
The Commission's Draft Recommendations for Hertsmere

Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (1996)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2001)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
1 Aldenham East	2	3,677	1,839	4	3,687	1,844	1
2 Aldenham West	2	3,641	1,821	3	3,715	1,858	2
3 Borehamwood East	2	4,524	2,262	28	4,604	2,302	26
4 Borehamwood North	3	5,890	1,963	11	5,963	1,988	9
5 Borehamwood South	3	4,871	1,624	-8	4,989	1,663	-9
6 Borehamwood West	3	5,144	1,715	-3	5,172	1,724	-6
7 Bushey Central	2	3,438	1,719	-3	3,478	1,739	-5
8 Bushey Heath	3	5,081	1,694	-4	5,179	1,726	-5
9 Bushey North	3	4,981	1,660	-6	5,061	1,687	-8
10 Bushey St James	3	4,693	1,564	-12	5,485	1,828	0
11 Elstree	2	3,518	1,759	0	3,658	1,829	0
12 Potters Bar Central	3	5,681	1,894	7	5,723	1,908	5
13 Potters Bar East	3	5,626	1,875	6	5,626	1,875	3
14 Potters Bar West	3	5,039	1,680	-5	5,121	1,707	-6
15 Shenley	2	3,067	1,534	-13	3,731	1,866	2
Totals	39	68,871	—	—	71,192	—	—
Averages	—	—	1,766	—	—	1,825	—

Source: Electorate figures are based on Hertsmere Borough Council's revised electoral data submitted at Stage Three.

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 district. The minus symbol (-) denotes a lower than average number of electors. Figures have been rounded to the nearest whole number.

