

Final recommendations on the future electoral arrangements for Tameside

Report to The Electoral Commission

August 2003

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Contents

	Page
What is The Boundary Committee For England?	5
Summary	7
1 Introduction	11
2 Current electoral arrangements	13
3 Draft recommendations	17
4 Responses to consultation	19
5 Analysis and final recommendations	21
6 What happens next?	33
Appendices	
A Final recommendations for Tameside: Detailed mapping	35
B Guide to interpreting the first draft of the electoral change Order	37
C First draft of electoral change Order for Tameside	39

What is The Boundary Committee for England?

The Boundary Committee for England is a committee of The Electoral Commission, an independent body set up by Parliament under the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000. The functions of the Local Government Commission for England (LGCE) were transferred to The Electoral Commission and its Boundary Committee on 1 April 2002 by the Local Government Commission for England (Transfer of Functions) Order 2001 (SI 2001 No. 3692). The Order also transferred to The Electoral Commission the functions of the Secretary of State in relation to taking decisions on recommendations for changes to local authority electoral arrangements and implementing them.

Members of the Committee are:

Pamela Gordon (Chair)
Professor Michael Clarke CBE
Robin Gray
Joan Jones CBE
Ann M. Kelly
Professor Colin Mellors

Archie Gall (Director)

We are required by law to review the electoral arrangements of every principal local authority in England. Our aim is to ensure that the number of electors represented by each councillor in an area is as nearly as possible the same, taking into account local circumstances. We can recommend changes to ward boundaries, the number of councillors and ward names. We can also recommend changes to the electoral arrangements of parish councils.

This report sets out our final recommendations on the electoral arrangements for the borough of Tameside.

Summary

We began a review of the electoral arrangements for Tameside on 8 May 2002. We published our draft recommendations for electoral arrangements on 25 February 2003, after which we undertook an eight-week period of consultation. We now submit final recommendations to The Electoral Commission.

- **This report summarises the representations that we received during consultation on our draft recommendations, and contains our final recommendations to The Electoral Commission.**

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

- **in four of the 19 wards the number of electors represented by each councillor varies by more than 10% from the average for the borough;**
- **by 2006 this situation is expected to worsen, with the number of electors per councillor forecast to vary by more than 10% from the average in five wards.**

Our main final recommendations for future electoral arrangements (see Tables 1 and 2 and paragraphs 92-93) are that:

- **Tameside Borough Council should have 57 councillors, as at present;**
- **there should be 19 wards, as at present;**
- **the boundaries of all of the existing wards should be modified.**

The purpose of these proposals is to ensure that, in future, each borough councillor represents approximately the same number of electors, bearing in mind local circumstances.

- **In all of the proposed 19 wards the number of electors per councillor would vary by no more than 9% from the borough average.**
- **This improved level of electoral equality is forecast to continue, with the number of electors per councillor in all wards expected to vary by no more than 6% from the average for the borough by 2006.**

All further correspondence on these final recommendations and the matters discussed in this report should be addressed to The Electoral Commission, which will not make an Order implementing them before 8 October 2003. The information in the representations will be available for public access once the Order has been made.

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Table 1: Final recommendations: Summary

Ward name	Number of councillors	Constituent areas	Large map reference
1 Ashton Hurst	3	Part of Ashton Hurst ward	1 and 2
2 Ashton St Michael's	3	Part of Ashton St Michael's ward	1
3 Ashton Waterloo	3	Part of Aston Hurst ward; part of Ashton St Peter's ward; part of Ashton Waterloo ward; part of Droylsden East ward	1
4 Audenshaw	3	Part of Ashton St Peter's ward; part of Audenshaw ward; part of Denton North East ward	1
5 Denton North East	3	Part of Audenshaw ward; part of Denton North East ward	1
6 Denton South	3	Part of Denton North East ward; Denton South ward; part of Denton West ward	1
7 Denton West	3	Part of Denton North East ward; part of Denton West ward	1
8 Droylsden East	3	Part of Ashton Waterloo ward; part of Ashton St Peter's ward; part of Audenshaw ward; part Droylsden East ward	1
9 Droylsden West	3	Part of Droylsden East ward; part of Droylsden West ward	1
10 Dukinfield	3	Part of Dukinfield ward	1
11 Dukinfield Stalybridge	3	Part of Dukinfield ward; part of Dukinfield Stalybridge ward; part of Hyde Newton ward; part of Stalybridge South ward	1 and 2
12 Hyde Godley	3	Part of Hyde Godley ward; part of Hyde Werneth ward	1 and 2
13 Hyde Newton	3	Part of Dukinfield ward; part of Dukinfield Stalybridge ward; part of Hyde Newton ward	1 and 2
14 Hyde Werneth	3	Part of Hyde Godley ward; part of Hyde Werneth ward	1 and 2
15 Longdendale	3	Part of Hyde Godley ward; Longdendale ward; part of Stalybridge South ward	2
16 Mossley	3	Part of Ashton Hurst ward; Mossley parish; part of Stalybridge North ward	2
17 St Peter's	3	Part of Ashton St Peter's ward; part of Audenshaw ward	1
18 Stalybridge North	3	Part of Ashton Hurst ward; part of Ashton St Michael's ward; part of Dukinfield Stalybridge ward; part of Stalybridge North ward; part of Stalybridge South ward	1 and 2
19 Stalybridge South	3	Part of Stalybridge North ward; part of Stalybridge South ward	2

Notes: 1. The borough contains one parish, Mossley, where the remainder of the borough is unparished.
2. The wards in the above table are illustrated on Map 2 and the large maps.
3. We have made a number of minor boundary amendments to ensure that existing ward boundaries adhere to ground detail. These changes do not affect any electors.

Table 2: Final recommendations for Tameside

	Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2001)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2006)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
1	Ashton Hurst	3	8,913	2,971	3	8,844	2,948	1
2	Ashton St Michael's	3	8,641	2,880	0	8,696	2,899	0
3	Ashton Waterloo	3	8,517	2,839	-1	8,381	2,794	-4
4	Audenshaw	3	8,737	2,912	1	8,733	2,911	0
5	Denton North East	3	8,712	2,904	1	8,392	2,797	-4
6	Denton South	3	8,614	2,871	0	8,543	2,848	-2
7	Denton West	3	9,328	3,109	8	9,221	3,074	6
8	Droylsden East	3	8,557	2,852	-1	8,960	2,987	3
9	Droylsden West	3	9,247	3,082	7	9,054	3,018	4
10	Dukinfield	3	9,130	3,043	6	8,971	2,990	3
11	Dukinfield Stalybridge	3	8,611	2,870	0	8,666	2,889	-1
12	Hyde Godley	3	7,961	2,654	-8	8,540	2,847	-2
13	Hyde Newton	3	8,945	2,982	4	9,036	3,012	4
14	Hyde Werneth	3	8,655	2,885	0	8,584	2,861	-2
15	Longdendale	3	8,094	2,698	-6	8,176	2,725	-6
16	Mossley	3	7,846	2,615	-9	8,278	2,759	-5
17	St Peter's	3	8,387	2,796	-3	8,764	2,921	1
18	Stalybridge North	3	8,743	2,914	1	9,173	3,058	5
19	Stalybridge South	3	8,306	2,769	-4	8,664	2,888	-1
	Totals	57	163,944	-	-	165,676	-	-
	Averages	-	-	2,876	-	-	2,907	-

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

1 Introduction

1 This report contains our final recommendations for the electoral arrangements for the borough of Tameside. We are reviewing the 10 metropolitan boroughs in Greater Manchester as part of our programme of periodic electoral reviews (PERs) of all 386 principal local authority areas in England. The programme started in 1996 and is currently expected to finish in 2004.

2 This is our first review of the electoral arrangements of Tameside. Tameside's last review was carried out by the Local Government Boundary Commission, which reported to the Secretary of State in July 1977 (Report no. 220).

3 In making final recommendations to The Electoral Commission, we have had regard to:

- the statutory criteria contained in section 13(5) of the Local Government Act 1992 (as amended by SI 2001 No. 3692), i.e. the need to:
 - reflect the identities and interests of local communities;
 - secure effective and convenient local government; and
 - achieve equality of representation.
- Schedule 11 to the Local Government Act 1972;
- The general duty set out in section 71(1) of the Race Relations Act 1996 and the statutory Code of Practice on the Duty to Promote Race Equality (Commission for Racial Equality, May 2002), i.e. to have due regard to:
 - eliminate unlawful racial discrimination;
 - promote equality of opportunity; and
 - promote good relations between people of different racial groups.

4 Details of the legislation under which the review of Tameside was conducted are set out in a document entitled *Guidance and Procedural Advice for Periodic Electoral Reviews*. This *Guidance* sets out the approach to the review.

5 Our task is to make recommendations on the number of councillors who should serve on a council, and the number, boundaries and names of wards. We can also propose changes to the electoral arrangements for parish and town councils in the borough.

6 The broad objective of PERs is to achieve, so far as possible, equal representation across the district as a whole. Schemes which would result in, or retain, an electoral imbalance of over 10% in any ward will have to be fully justified. Any imbalances of 20% or more should only arise in the most exceptional circumstances, and will require the strongest justification.

7 We are not prescriptive on council size. However, we believe that any proposals relating to council size, whether these are for an increase, a reduction or no change, should be supported by evidence and argumentation. Given the stage now reached in the introduction of new political management structures under the provisions of the Local Government Act 2000, it is important that whatever council size interested parties may propose to us, they can demonstrate that their proposals have been fully thought through, and have been developed in the context of a review of internal political management and the role of councillors in the new structure. However, we have found it necessary to safeguard against 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 electorate should automatically result in an increase in the number of councillors, nor that changes should be made to the size of the council simply to make it more consistent with the size of other similar councils.

8 Under the provisions of the Local Government Act 1972 there is no limit to the number of councillors which can be returned from each metropolitan borough ward. However, the figure

must be divisible by three. In practice, all metropolitan borough wards currently return three councillors. Where our recommendation is for multi-member wards, we believe that the number of councillors to be returned from each ward should not exceed three, other than in very exceptional circumstances. Numbers in excess of three could lead to an unacceptable dilution of accountability to the electorate and we have not, to date, prescribed any wards with more than three councillors.

9 This review was in four stages. Stage One began on 8 May 2002, when we wrote to Tameside Borough Council inviting proposals for future electoral arrangements. We also notified Greater Manchester Police Authority, the Local Government Association, Greater Manchester Local Councils Association, parish and town councils in the borough, Members of Parliament with constituency interests in the borough, Members of the European Parliament for the North West Region, and the headquarters of the main political parties. We placed a notice in the local press, issued a press release and invited Tameside Metropolitan Borough Council to publicise the review further. The closing date for receipt of representations, the end of Stage One, was 27 August 2002. At Stage Two we considered all the representations received during Stage One and prepared our final recommendations.

10 Stage Three began on 25 February 2003 with the publication of the report, *Draft recommendations on the future electoral arrangements for Tameside*, and ended on 22 April 2003. During this period comments were sought from the public and any other interested parties on the preliminary conclusions. Finally, during Stage Four the draft recommendations were reconsidered in the light of the Stage Three consultation and we now publish the final recommendations.

2 Current electoral arrangements

11 The metropolitan borough of Tameside is situated in the east of the Greater Manchester area, bordering the metropolitan boroughs of Manchester, Stockport and Oldham, and the county of Derbyshire. It comprises an amalgamation of nine towns, with the scenic Pennine moor land to the east, and benefits from strong road and rail links with Greater Manchester, Merseyside, Yorkshire and the north-east.

12 The current electorate of the borough is 163,944 (December 2001). The Council presently has 57 members who are elected from 19 wards, all of which are relatively urban, although the eastern fringes of the borough contain some moor land. All wards are three-member wards. The borough contains one civil parish, Mossley.

13 At present, each councillor represents an average of 2,876 electors, which the Borough Council forecasts will increase to 2,907 by the year 2006 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 four of the 19 wards varies by more than 10% from the borough average. The worst imbalance is in Ashton St Peter's ward, where each councillor represents 16% fewer electors than the borough average.

14 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'.

Map 1: Existing wards in Tameside

Table 3: Existing electoral arrangements

Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2001)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2006)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
1 Ashton Hurst	3	9,107	3,036	6	9,030	3,010	4
2 Ashton St Michael's	3	8,641	2,880	0	8,687	2,896	0
3 Ashton St Peters'	3	7,248	2,416	-16	7,623	2,541	-13
4 Ashton Waterloo	3	8,314	2,771	-4	8,181	2,727	-6
5 Audenshaw	3	9,891	3,297	15	9,887	3,296	13
6 Denton North East	3	9,394	3,131	9	9,059	3,020	4
7 Denton South	3	8,226	2,742	-5	8,171	2,724	-6
8 Denton West	3	9,034	3,011	5	8,937	2,979	2
9 Droylsden East	3	9,494	3,165	10	9,879	3,293	13
10 Droylsden West	3	8,337	2,779	-3	8,157	2,719	-6
11 Dukinfield	3	9,942	3,314	15	9,757	3,252	12
12 Dukinfield Stalybridge	3	8,176	2,725	-5	8,228	2,743	-6
13 Hyde Godley	3	8,223	2,741	-5	8,881	2,960	2
14 Hyde Newton	3	8,945	2,982	4	9,036	3,012	4
15 Hyde Werneth	3	8,921	2,974	3	8,877	2,959	2
16 Longdendale	3	7,533	2,511	-13	7,508	2,503	-14
17 Mossley	3	7,813	2,604	-9	8,250	2,750	-5
18 Stalybridge North	3	8,010	2,670	-7	8,427	2,809	-3
19 Stalybridge South	3	8,695	2,898	1	9,101	3,034	4
Totals	57	163,944	-	-	165,676	-	-
Averages	-	-	2,876	-	-	2,907	-

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

Notes: 1. The 'variance from average' column shows by how far, in percentage terms, the number of electors per councillor varies from the average for the borough. The minus symbol (-) denotes a lower than average number of electors. For example, in 2001, electors in Dukinfield ward were relatively under-represented by 15%, while electors in Ashton St Peter's ward were relatively over-represented by 16%. Figures have been rounded to the nearest whole number.

2. Please note that the existing Ashton St Peters' ward is known locally as Ashton St Peter's ward. However, the correct name of the existing ward, as per SI Order, is Ashton St Peters'. We are recommending that the name be changed to reflect the commonly used name and, for the purpose of this report, the existing Ashton St Peters' ward will be referred to as Ashton St Peter's ward.

3 Draft recommendations

15 During Stage One, six representations were received, from a town council, a town council steering committee, a member of parliament, a local political party, a local resident in addition to a borough-wide scheme from Tameside Borough Council. It proposed a retaining the existing council size of 57 members.

16 After carefully considering all representations received during Stage One, we were content to recommend that a council of 57 members should be retained. We based our draft recommendations on the Borough Council's main proposals but we moved away from them in a number of areas in order to better reflect communities and secure improved boundaries. We proposed that:

- a council of 57 members should be retained;
- there should be 19 wards, as at present;
- the boundaries of all of the existing wards should be modified.

Draft recommendation

Tameside Borough Council should comprise 57 councillors, serving 19 wards.

17 Our proposals would have resulted in significant improvements in electoral equality, with the number of electors per councillor in all wards varying by no more than 9% from the borough average. This level of electoral equality was forecast to improve further, with no wards varying by more than 6% from the average by 2006.

4 Responses to consultation

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

Tameside Borough Council

19 The Borough Council offered general support for the draft recommendations. It supported our proposals for the modified boundaries relating to the retention of the village of Heyrod in Stalybridge North ward and the retention of the estate around Matley Lane in Hyde Newton ward. It also supported the amended boundaries between Denton North East, Denton South and Denton West wards. It did oppose the revised boundary between Audenshaw and Ashton St Peter's wards and continued to support its original boundary proposal. The council also suggested that Ashton St Peter's ward should be renamed St Peter's ward. It stated there was an error in our mapping of the proposed boundary between Hyde Godley and Hyde Werneth wards.

Political Parties

20 The Audenshaw Ward Labour Party opposed the transfer of the Hooley Hill area to Ashton St Peter's ward and proposed that we retain Hooley Hill in Audenshaw. It suggested transferring some recent developments which lie on the edges of the town of Audenshaw, arguing that these areas relate more fully to either Ashton or Denton, although no specific proposals were made.

Other representations

21 We received 21 submissions from residents of Audenshaw who objected to our recommendations for the revision of Audenshaw ward boundary, which transferred the Hooley Hill area from Audenshaw ward to Ashton St Peter's ward.

22 A local resident supported our proposed Denton West ward and argued that the name of Dukinfield Stalybridge ward should be changed to better reflect the local community. He suggested 'Yew Tree' as a possible alternative name for Dukinfield Stalybridge.

5 Analysis and final recommendations

23 As described earlier, our prime objective in considering the most appropriate electoral arrangements for Tameside is to achieve electoral equality. In doing so we have regard to section 13(5) of the Local Government Act 1992 (as amended): the need to secure effective and convenient local government; reflect the identities and interests of local communities; and secure the matters referred to in paragraph 3(2)(a) of Schedule 11 to the Local Government Act 1972 (equality of representation). Schedule 11 to the Local Government Act 1972 refers to the number of electors per councillor being 'as nearly as may be, the same in every ward of the district or borough'.

24 In relation to Schedule 11, our recommendations are not intended to be based solely on existing electorate figures, but also on estimated changes in the number and distribution of local government electors likely to take place within the next five years. We also must have regard to the desirability of fixing identifiable boundaries and to maintaining local ties.

25 It is therefore impractical to design an electoral scheme which results in 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.

26 We accept that the achievement of absolute electoral equality for the authority as a whole is likely to be unattainable. However, we consider that, if electoral imbalances are to be minimised, the aim 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 make electoral equality their starting point, and then make adjustments to reflect relevant factors such as community identity and interests. Five-year forecasts of changes in electorate must also be considered and we would aim to recommend a scheme which provides improved electoral equality over this five-year period.

Electorate forecasts

27 Since 1975 there has been an increase of less than 1% in the electorate of Tameside. The Borough Council submitted electorate forecasts for the year 2006, projecting a further slight increase in the electorate, from 163,944 to 165,676 over the five-year period from 2001 to 2006. In order to prepare these forecasts, the Borough Council estimated rates and locations of housing development with regard to structure and local plans, the expected rate of building over the five-year period and assumed occupancy rates. Advice from the Borough Council on the likely effect on electorates of changes to ward boundaries has been obtained.

28 We know that forecasting electorates is difficult and, having considered the Borough Council's figures, accept that they are the best estimates that can be reasonably made at the time.

29 We received no comments regarding the electorate forecast during Stage Three. We are therefore content that the Borough Council's figures remain the best estimate at this time.

Council size

30 Tameside Borough Council presently has 57 members. At Stage One, the Borough Council proposed retaining a council of 57 members. In formulating its proposals, the Borough Council considered two options: retaining the existing council size, or reducing the council by three members, to 54, representing 18 wards. The Borough Council asserted that reducing the number of wards from 19 to 18 would 'result in massive boundary changes, particularly ignoring solid community and natural boundaries'. It therefore rejected the option to reduce the size of the

council by three. It concluded that the retention of 57 councillors, serving 19 wards, would 'maintain and respect communities and natural boundaries', and therefore proposed a council size of 57.

31 Having considered the argumentation received from the Borough Council regarding council size at Stage One, noting that there is general consensus in support of the proposal and no obvious opposition from the Borough Council members and other interested parties and having received no other representations regarding council size during Stage Three, we are content to adopt the Borough Council's proposal to retain 57 councillors representing Tameside. Therefore, having looked at the size and distribution of the electorate, the geography and other characteristics of the area, together with the responses received, we conclude that the statutory criteria would best be met by a council of 57 members.

Electoral arrangements

32 As detailed previously, we based our draft recommendations on the Borough Council's Stage One proposals, with some minor amendments to better reflect our statutory criteria. We noted the broad support received from three of the four political groups represented on the Borough Council for the proposals. In response to the draft recommendations report, we received broad support from the Borough Council for our proposals. We note that the main opposition during Stage Three of the review was in response to a proposed boundary change.

33 The draft recommendations have been reviewed in the light of further evidence and the representations received during Stage Three. After considering those representations, we are broadly confirming our draft recommendations for Tameside as final, subject to a name change of a ward. For borough warding purposes, the following areas, based on existing wards, are considered in turn:

- i. Audenshaw, Droylsden East and Droylsden West wards (pages 22 to 24)
- ii. Denton North East, Denton South and Denton West wards (pages 24 to 25)
- iii. Hyde Godley, Hyde Newton, Hyde Werneth and Longdendale wards (pages 25 to 26)
- iv. Dukinfield, Dukinfield Stalybridge, Mossley, Stalybridge North and Stalybridge South wards (pages 26 to 28)
- v. Ashton Hurst, Ashton St Michael's, Ashton St Peter's and Ashton Waterloo ward (pages 28 to 29)

34 Details of our final recommendations are set out in Tables 1 and 2, and illustrated on Map 2, in Appendix A and on the large maps.

Audenshaw, Droylsden East and Droylsden West wards

35 These three wards are situated in the west of the borough, and are each represented by three councillors. Under the existing arrangements, the number of electors per councillor in Audenshaw, Droylsden East and Droylsden West wards is 15% above, 10% above and 3% below the borough average (13% above, 13% above and 6% below by 2006).

36 During Stage One, three representations were received regarding these wards. The Borough Council stated that Droylsden is a 'self-contained unit with both wards focused on the central complex of administration and shopping', and therefore proposed minor amendments to the boundaries of the two wards, in order to rectify the electoral imbalance between them. It proposed transferring an area from Droylsden East ward into Droylsden West ward, using the path along the disused Hollinwood Branch Canal as the boundary between the two wards. It also proposed transferring the eastern boundary of Droylsden East ward onto the newly built M60 motorway, in order to secure an easily identifiable boundary between the Droylsden wards and the Ashton wards.

37 The Borough Council proposed moving the eastern boundary of Audenshaw ward onto the M60, thus transferring all properties to the west of the motorway, currently in Ashton St Peter's ward, into Audenshaw ward. Similarly, those properties to the east of the motorway and north of the Manchester-Hadfield railway line and Audenshaw Road, currently in Audenshaw ward, would be transferred into Ashton St Peter's ward. The Borough Council stated that the Hooley Hill area is 'part of a continuous urban area between Ashton and Audenshaw. No community ties are broken as the area to be transferred has as much affinity to Ashton (being on the extreme eastern boundary of Audenshaw)'.

38 Under the Borough Council's proposals, the number of electors per councillor in Audenshaw, Droylsden East and Droylsden West wards would be 2% above, 1% below and 7% above the borough average initially (1%, 3% and 4% above by 2006).

39 Two further representations were received during Stage One regarding these wards. David Heyes, Member of Parliament for Ashton-Under-Lyne, fully supported the Borough Council's proposals for Droylsden East and Droylsden West wards. Droylsden West Ward Labour Party supported the Borough Council's proposal to transfer the area of Droylsden East into Droylsden West ward, stating that this is 'the only logical and sensible way to address the imbalance of electors in Droylsden'.

40 We carefully considered all representations received during Stage One regarding these wards. We agreed that the newly built M60 motorway provides a strong and easily identifiable boundary between the Droylsden wards to the west and the Ashton wards to the east, and were content to adopt this proposal as part of our draft recommendations. However, we also noted that, in order to facilitate a uniform pattern of three-member wards, it is necessary to breach this boundary further south. We noted the support for the Borough Council's proposals to alter the boundary between Droylsden East and Droylsden West wards and concurred that this amendment best reflects the communities in Droylsden, while addressing the electoral inequalities between the two wards.

41 Similarly, we considered that transferring the Hooley Hill area, currently in Audenshaw ward, into Ashton St Peter's ward best addressed the levels of electoral inequality in both wards. Having visited the area, officers from the Committee noted that there was sufficient access to this area from the existing Ashton St Peter's ward, via Guide Lane. We further noted that we received no opposition to this proposal during Stage One and we were therefore content to adopt this proposal as part of our draft recommendations. However, we proposed one minor amendment to the Borough Council's proposals for these wards, transferring the boundary between Audenshaw ward and Ashton St Peter's ward from Audenshaw Road to the Manchester-Hadfield railway line, thus transferring those properties to the north of the railway line into Ashton St Peter's ward and improving access to the remainder of Ashton St Peter's ward. This improved electoral equality and, in our view, provided for a more identifiable boundary. Subject to this minor amendment, we adopted the Borough Council's proposals for Audenshaw, Droylsden East and Droylsden West wards, as we believed that they struck the best balance between our statutory criteria.

42 Under our draft recommendations, the number of electors per councillor in Audenshaw ward would be 1% above the borough average initially (equal to by 2006). The number of electors per councillor in Droylsden East and Droylsden West wards would be the same as under the Borough Council's proposals.

43 We received 23 representations regarding these wards during Stage Three. The Borough Council offered general support for our recommendations. However, it proposed reverting to its Stage One boundary between Audenshaw and Ashton St Peter's ward of Audenshaw Road rather than using the railway line.

44 The Audenshaw Ward Labour Party opposed our proposal of transferring the area of Audenshaw south of the Manchester-Hadfield railway line, known as Hooley Hill, into the Ashton

St Peter's ward. It argued that Hooley Hill and the community around Guide Lane 'is a well established community'. It stated 'that it would not make practical sense for issues of Town Planning, provision of local youth and community services, social services and education services for the area around Guide Lane to be administered and represented by elected members who are also responsible for Ashton Town Centre and the rest of the St Peter's area which is an important and distinct community in its own right'. It suggested that we consider possible alternatives to our proposed Audenshaw division, such as the placement in adjacent wards of 'more recent development additions to the town of Audenshaw which lie on the edges of the Town and which are possibly able to relate more fully with either Ashton or Denton in terms of community services'.

45 Two residents of Audenshaw argued against our proposal for a revised boundary between Ashton St Peter's and Audenshaw wards, as we put forward at Stage One. They did not agree with our view, which we share with the Borough Council, that Hooley Hill is part of a continuous urban area between Ashton and Audenshaw. They also did not agree that Hooley Hill has much affinity to Ashton. They stated the areas of Hooley Hill and Ashton 'are notably separated, not only by the most significant border in the area – the Manchester-Hadfield railway line, but by a non-residential area of considerable industrial development'.

46 A number of other Audenshaw residents objected to our proposed revision of the boundary between Audenshaw and Ashton St Peter's wards, as outlined in our draft recommendations, on the bases of factors such as house prices and school catchment.

47 Having considered the representations received at Stage Three, we propose broadly confirming our draft recommendations as final. After having carefully considered the arguments against our proposed revision of the boundary between Ashton St Peter's and Audenshaw, we have not been persuaded that they have provided satisfactory argumentation to justify a departure from our draft recommendations for the area in question. This is due to no alternative scheme being put forward in which Audenshaw ward contains the Hooley Hill area while maintaining adequate electoral equality. We have not been persuaded by the argument that the Hooley Hill area is not well linked to Ashton St Peter's ward due to the Manchester-Hadfield railway line and the nearby industrial area as Guide Lane links Hooley Hill with Ashton. Any proposal for Audenshaw ward, which contains the Hooley Hill area, would require a substantial transfer of current Audenshaw electors (from areas other than Hooley Hill) to adjacent wards. We have no evidence of local support for such a scheme.

48 We have not been persuaded by the Borough Council's objection to part of the Ashton St Peter's and Audenshaw ward boundary being the Manchester-Hadfield railway line instead of Audenshaw Road, as in the Borough Council's Stage One proposal. We consider the Manchester-Hadfield railway line to be a more recognisable boundary than Audenshaw Road, and in terms of electoral variance, neither ward deteriorates significantly under our proposals.

49 Under our final recommendations, the number of electors per councillor in Audenshaw, Droylsden East and Droylsden West wards would be the same as under our draft recommendations. Our draft recommendations are set out in Tables 1 and 2, and illustrated on Map 2, in Appendix A and the large maps.

Denton North East, Denton South and Denton West wards

50 These three wards are situated in the south-west of the borough, and are each represented by three councillors. Under the existing arrangements, the numbers of electors per councillor in Denton North East, Denton South and Denton West wards is 9% above, 5% below and 5% above the borough average (4% above, 6% below and 2% above by 2006).

51 During Stage One, two representations were received regarding these wards. The Borough Council proposed a minimal amount of change to these wards. It proposed modifying only a small

area between the three wards, in order to rectify the electoral imbalance between Denton South ward and Denton North East and Denton West wards. The Borough Council's proposals would transfer areas from Denton North East and Denton West wards into Denton South ward. It argued that 'as Denton forms a continuous urban development there would be no impact on current community ties'. The Borough Council proposed to retain the remainder of the existing boundaries of the Denton wards.

52 Under the Borough Council's proposals, the number of electors per councillor in Denton North East, Denton South and Denton West wards would be 5% above, equal to and 3% above the borough average initially (equal to, 2% below and 1% above by 2006).

53 One further representation was received during Stage One regarding these wards. A local resident of Denton West stated that it was 'important for the ward to be retained much as it is now', arguing that 'it is in the local interest and ensures effective local government in terms of accountability not to unduly interfere with the ward as constituted at present'.

54 We carefully considered both representations received regarding these wards during Stage One. We proposed a minor amendment to the Borough Council's modified boundaries between the three Denton wards, in order to better reflect community identity and improve access within the wards. We proposed that a revised boundary between Denton North East and Denton West wards should follow the rear of the properties on the eastern side of Circular Road, before running westwards along the rear of the properties along the southern side of Westbourne Road. We further proposed that the area to the south of Westbourne Road and St Thomas More High School's playing fields (south of Capesthorne Walk) should be transferred from Denton North East ward into Denton South ward. Subject to this amendment, we recommended the Borough Council's proposals for these wards, as we believed they struck the best balance between our statutory criteria.

55 Under our draft recommendations, the number of electors per councillor in Denton North East, Denton South and Denton West wards would be 1% above, equal to and 8% above the borough average initially (4% below, 2% below and 6% above by 2006).

56 Two representations were received during Stage Three regarding these wards. The Borough Council offered support for our proposals for the amended boundaries between Denton North East, Denton South and Denton West wards. A resident of Denton expressed support for our proposed Denton West ward.

57 Having considered those representations received during Stage Three, we intend confirming our draft recommendations for these wards as final as we have received general support for them.

58 Under our final recommendations, the number of electors per councillor in Denton North East, Denton South and Denton West wards would be the same as under our draft recommendations. Our draft recommendations are set out in Tables 1 and 2, and illustrated on Map 2, in Appendix A and the large maps.

Hyde Godley, Hyde Newton, Hyde Werneth and Longdendale wards

59 These four wards are situated in the south and east of the borough, and are each represented by three councillors. Under the existing arrangements, the numbers of electors per councillor in Hyde Godley, Hyde Newton, Hyde Werneth and Longdendale wards is 5% below, 4% above, 3% above and 13% below the borough average (2% above, 4% above, 2% above and 14% below by 2006).

60 During Stage One, one representation was received regarding these wards. In order to rectify the electoral imbalance between Hyde Werneth and Hyde Godley wards, the Borough Council

proposed transferring an area currently in Hyde Werneth ward, into Hyde Godley ward. It further proposed transferring two areas of Hattersley, in the east of Hyde Godley ward, into Longdendale ward.

61 As detailed previously, the Borough Council included its alternative option for the proposed boundary between Longdendale and Hyde Newton wards. Under this option, the residential estate around Pentland Way, off Matley Lane, would be retained in Hyde Newton ward. The Borough Council stated that its alternative option for this area 'attempts to respect all community and natural boundaries, whilst keeping the number of electors per ward as close as possible to the average'.

62 Under the Borough Council's main proposals, the number of electors per councillor in Hyde Godley, Hyde Newton, Hyde Werneth and Longdendale wards would be 8% below, equal to, equal to and 3% below the borough average initially (2% below, equal to, 2% below and 3% below by 2006). Under the Borough Council's alternative option, which better reflected communities, the number of electors per councillor in Hyde Newton and Longdendale wards would be 4% above and 6% below the borough average, both initially and by 2006.

63 Having carefully considered the Borough Council's proposals, and considering the general support and the lack of opposition received for them, we based our draft recommendations for this area on the Borough Council's proposals. However, we departed from the Borough Council's main proposal for the boundary between Hyde Newton and Longdendale wards and adopted its alternative option, which we believed better reflected the local communities. Having visited the area, officers from the Committee were of the opinion that the residential estate around Pentland Way, off Matley Lane, shared no affinity with the remainder of Longdendale ward and therefore should be retained in Hyde Newton ward. Although we recognised that our recommendations resulted in slightly worse levels of electoral equality, the Committee believed this decision was justifiable, given the better reflection of communities in the area.

64 Under our draft recommendations, the number of electors per councillor in Hyde Godley and Hyde Werneth wards would be the same as under the Borough Council's main proposals. The number of electors per councillor in Hyde Newton and Longdendale wards would be the same as under the Borough Council's alternative proposals.

65 We received one representation regarding these wards during Stage Three. The Borough Council supported the proposal in our draft recommendations to retain the housing estate in the vicinity of Matley Lane in Hyde Newton ward.

66 Given the support received for our draft recommendations for these wards, we intend confirming our draft recommendations for these wards as final.

67 Under our final recommendations, the number of electors per councillor in Hyde Godley, Hyde Newton, Hyde Werneth and Longdendale wards would be the same as under our draft recommendations. Our draft recommendations are set out in Tables 1 and 2, and illustrated on Map 2, in Appendix A and the large maps.

Dukinfield, Dukinfield Stalybridge, Mossley, Stalybridge North and Stalybridge South wards

68 These five wards are situated in the centre, east and north-east of the borough, and are each represented by three councillors. Under the existing arrangements, Mossley parish is contained in Mossley ward. Under the existing arrangements, the number of electors per councillor in Dukinfield, Dukinfield Stalybridge and Mossley wards is 15% above, 5% below and 9% below the borough average (12% above, 6% below and 5% below by 2006). The number of electors per councillor in Stalybridge North and Stalybridge South wards is 7% below and 1% above the borough average (3% below and 4% above by 2006).

69 During Stage One, four representations were received regarding these wards. The Borough Council proposed transferring two small areas of Dukinfield ward into Dukinfield Stalybridge ward, in order to address the electoral imbalance between the two wards. The Borough Council stated that these two areas are 'physically isolated from Dukinfield by school playing fields and [are] more appropriately located, therefore, in Dukinfield Stalybridge'. It also proposed transferring an area, currently in Dukinfield Stalybridge ward into Stalybridge North ward. The Borough Council proposed retaining the remainder of the existing boundaries of Dukinfield and Dukinfield Stalybridge wards.

70 As detailed previously, the Borough Council proposed transferring the rural area to the south of Matley Lane, currently in Stalybridge South ward, into Longdendale ward. It further proposed transferring an area of the existing Stalybridge South ward into Stalybridge North ward, using the canal as the boundary between the two wards. It also proposed transferring an area currently in Ashton St Michael's ward and an area currently in Ashton Hurst ward, into Stalybridge North ward.

71 As detailed previously, the Borough Council also included details of an alternative option in its submission, which would better reflect communities in the area. Under this option, the village of Heyrod would be retained in Stalybridge North ward and an area to the south of Carrbrook Village would be transferred from Stalybridge North ward into Stalybridge South ward. The Borough Council also addressed Mossley Town Council's proposals, detailed subsequently, in which it proposed to divide the village of Carrbrook between Mossley ward and Stalybridge North ward, arguing that the proposal 'clearly does cut through an existing community'.

72 Under the Borough Council's main proposals, the number of electors per councillor in Dukinfield, Dukinfield Stalybridge and Mossley wards would be 6% above, equal to and 6% below the borough average initially (3% above, 1% below and 2% below by 2006). The number of electors per councillor in Stalybridge North and Stalybridge South wards would be 2% and 4% below the borough average initially (2% above and 1% below by 2006).

73 Three further representations were received during Stage One regarding these wards. Mossley Town Council and Mossley Town Council Steering Committee both proposed transferring an area of Carrbrook into Mossley ward in order to address the electoral imbalance in the ward. Both also opposed the Borough Council's proposal to transfer the village of Heyrod into Mossley ward. Mossley Town Council Steering Committee argued that 'there has never been any connection between Heyrod and Mossley as a community' and 'geographically, Heyrod is estranged from Mossley', while Mossley Town Council stated 'Heyrod is linked more closely for its services to residents to Stalybridge than Mossley and should remain in the Stalybridge [North] ward'. A local resident of Denton West ward commented that Dukinfield Stalybridge's three current councillors are all from Stalybridge, and argued that 'the local identity and interest of Dukinfielders in this spill-over ward appear to be compromised'. However, the resident made no specific proposals regarding the future electoral arrangements of the wards.

74 We carefully considered the representations received during Stage One regarding these wards. Given the lack of opposition to the Borough Council's proposals for Dukinfield, Dukinfield Stalybridge and Stalybridge South wards, we adopted the Borough Council's proposals, as we believed that they struck the best balance between our statutory criteria, while utilising readily identifiable boundaries.

75 We noted that the Borough Council's proposal aimed to achieve high levels of electoral equality by transferring the village of Heyrod from Stalybridge North ward into Mossley ward. Having visited the area, officers from the Committee were of the opinion that retaining Heyrod in Stalybridge North ward would provide a better reflection of communities in the area. We also noted the opposition to this proposal received from Mossley Town Council and Mossley Town Council Steering Committee. Similarly, we did not intend to divide the village of Carrbrook

between Mossley and Stalybridge North wards, as we did not believe this would facilitate convenient and effective local government in the area. We therefore adopted the Borough Council's main proposals for this area, subject to the amendment of retaining Heyrod in Stalybridge North ward. Although we recognised that the levels of electoral equality deteriorated under our draft recommendations, we believed that this was justifiable given the better reflection of communities in the area, and we concluded that our draft recommendations for this area struck the best balance between our statutory criteria.

76 Under our draft recommendations, the number of electors per councillor in Dukinfield, Dukinfield Stalybridge and Stalybridge South wards would be the same as under the Borough Council's proposals. The number of electors per councillor in Mossley and Stalybridge North wards would be 9% below and 1% above the borough average initially (5% below and 5% above by 2006). Under our draft recommendations, Mossley parish is situated in Mossley ward.

77 We received two representations regarding these wards during Stage Three. The Borough Council supported the proposal put forward in our draft recommendations to retain the village of Heyrod in Stalybridge North ward.

78 A resident suggested the name of Dukinfield Stalybridge ward be changed 'to better reflect the identity of the local community'. He suggested a possible name of 'Yew Tree' which, he stated, 'is how the area between the two towns [of Dukinfield and Stalybridge] is known locally'.

79 We have not been persuaded by the local resident's argument for changing the name of Dukinfield Stalybridge ward as the ward covers areas of both of the major urban areas of Dukinfield and Stalybridge. The suburb of Yew Tree is only one small part of the area covered by the proposed ward and we therefore do not intend departing from our draft recommendations to alter this ward name.

80 Given the support received for our draft recommendations for these wards, we intend confirming our draft recommendations for these wards as final.

81 Under our final recommendations, the number of electors per councillor in Dukinfield, Dukinfield Stalybridge, Mossley, Stalybridge North and Stalybridge South would be the same as under our draft recommendations. Our final recommendations are set out in Tables 1 and 2, and illustrated on Map 2, in Appendix A and the large maps.

Ashton Hurst, Ashton St Michael's, Ashton St Peter's and Ashton Waterloo wards

82 These four wards are situated in the north of the borough, and are each represented by three councillors. Under the existing arrangements, the numbers of electors per councillor in Ashton Hurst, Ashton St Michael's, Ashton St Peter's and Ashton Waterloo wards is 6% above, equal to, 16% below and 4% below the borough average (4% above, equal to, 13% below and 6% below by 2006).

83 During Stage One, two representations were received regarding these wards. As detailed previously, the Borough Council proposed using the newly built M60 motorway as a boundary between Ashton Waterloo and Ashton St Peter's wards and Denton East ward. It proposed transferring the Hooley Hill area of Audenshaw ward into Ashton St Peter's ward in order to rectify the electoral imbalance between the two wards, also detailed previously. The Borough Council further proposed transferring the Park Bridge area from Ashton Hurst ward into Ashton Waterloo ward. It also proposed to transfer an area to the north and west of the railway line at Ashton Station, and Turner Lane, currently in Ashton St Peter's ward, into Ashton Waterloo ward. The Borough Council proposed transferring an area to the east of Mossley Road, currently in Ashton Hurst and Ashton St Michael's wards, into Stalybridge North and Mossley wards, as detailed previously. The remainder of the existing Ashton wards' boundaries would be retained.

84 Under the Borough Council's proposals, the number of electors per councillor in Ashton Hurst, Ashton St Michael's, Ashton St Peter's and Ashton Waterloo wards would be 3% above, equal to, 4% below and 1% below the borough average initially (1% above, equal to, equal to and 4% below by 2006).

85 One further representation was received regarding these wards during Stage One. David Heyes, Member of Parliament for Ashton-Under-Lyne, fully supported the Borough Council's proposals for Ashton Hurst, Ashton St Michael's, Ashton St Peter's and Ashton Waterloo wards.

86 We carefully considered the representations received regarding these wards during Stage One. Given the support received from the Member of Parliament for Ashton-Under-Lyne and the lack of local opposition to the Borough Council's proposals, we intended adopting its proposals as part of our draft recommendations, subject to the modification to the southern boundary of Ashton St Peter's ward as detailed earlier, as we believe that they strike the best balance between our statutory criteria.

87 Under our draft recommendations, the number of electors per councillor in Ashton Hurst, Ashton St Michael's, and Ashton Waterloo wards would be the same as under the Borough Council's proposals. The number of electors per councillor in Ashton St Peter's ward would be 3% below the borough average initially (1% above by 2006).

88 We received one submission regarding these wards. The Borough Council argued that, in light of its proposed Ashton St Peter's ward comprising part of the former Audenshaw ward, Ashton St Peter's should be renamed St Peter's ward.

89 We have been persuaded by the Borough Council's argument that the name of Ashton St Peter's ward should be altered to St Peter's ward, as a significant part of the current Audenshaw ward (Hooley Hill) is to be contained in a ward which includes part of Ashton. We therefore intend confirming our draft recommendations for these wards as final, subject to the change in name of Ashton St Peter's ward to St Peter's ward.

90 Under our final recommendations, the number of electors per councillor in Ashton Hurst, Ashton St Michael's, Ashton St Peter's (renamed St Peter's) and Ashton Waterloo wards would be the same as under our draft recommendations. Our final recommendations are set out in Tables 1 and 2, and illustrated on Map 2, in Appendix A and the large maps.

Electoral cycle

91 Under section 7(3) of the Local Government Act 1972, all metropolitan boroughs have a system of elections by thirds.

Conclusions

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

- The renaming of Ashton St Peter's ward as St Peter's ward to better reflect the community;

93 We conclude that, in Tameside:

- the council size should remain at 57 members;
- there should be 19 wards, as at present;
- the boundaries of all the existing wards should be modified.

94 Table 4 shows the impact of our final recommendations on electoral equality, comparing them with the current arrangements, based on 2001 and 2006 electorate figures.

Table 4: Comparison of current and recommended electoral arrangements

	2001 electorate		2006 electorate	
	Current arrangements	Final recommendations	Current arrangements	Final recommendations
Number of councillors	57	57	57	57
Number of wards	19	19	19	19
Average number of electors per councillor	2,876	2,876	2,907	2,907
Number of wards with a variance more than 10% from the average	4	0	5	0
Number of wards with a variance more than 20% from the average	0	0	0	0

95 As Table 4 shows, our recommendations would result in a reduction in the number of wards with an electoral variance of more than 10% from four to zero. This level of electoral equality would improve further by 2006, with no wards varying by more than 6% from the average. We conclude that our recommendations would best meet the statutory criteria.

Final recommendation

Tameside Borough Council should comprise 57 councillors serving 19 wards, as detailed and named in Tables 1 and 2, and illustrated on Map 2 and in Appendix A and the large maps.

Map 2: Final recommendations for Tameside

6 What happens next?

96 Having completed our review of electoral arrangements in Tameside and submitted our final recommendations to The Electoral Commission, we have fulfilled our statutory obligation under the Local Government Act 1992 (as amended by SI 2001 No. 3692).

97 It is now up to The Electoral Commission to decide whether to endorse our recommendations, with or without modification, and to implement them by means of an Order. Such an Order will not be made before 8 October 2003, and The Electoral Commission will normally consider all written representations made by that date. It particularly welcomes any comments on the first draft of the Order, which will implement the new arrangements.

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

**The Secretary
The Electoral Commission
Trevelyan House
Great Peter Street
London SW1P 2HW**

Fax: 020 7271 0667

**Email: implementation@electoralcommission.org.uk
(This address should only be used for this purpose)**

Appendix A

Final recommendations for Tameside: Detailed mapping

The following maps illustrate our proposed ward boundaries for the Tameside area.

Map A1 illustrates, in outline form, the ward boundaries within the borough and indicates the areas which are shown in more detail on the large maps.

The **large maps** illustrate the proposed warding arrangements for Tameside.

Map A1: Final recommendations for Tameside: Key map

Appendix B

Guide to interpreting the first draft of the electoral change Order

Preamble

This describes the process by which the Order will be made, and under which powers. Text in square brackets will be removed if The Electoral Commission decide not to modify the Final recommendations.

Citation and commencement

This establishes the name of the Order and when it will come into force.

Interpretation

This defines terms that are used in the Order.

Wards of the borough of Tameside

This abolishes the existing wards, and defines the names and areas of the new wards, in conjunction with the map and the schedule.

Elections of the council of the borough of Tameside

This sets the date on which a whole council election will be held to implement the new wards, and the dates on which councillors will retire.

Maps

This requires Tameside Metropolitan Borough Council to make a print of the map available for public inspection.

Electoral registers

This requires the Council to adapt the electoral register to reflect the new wards.

Revocation

This revokes the Order that defines the existing wards, with the exception of the articles that established the system of election by thirds.

Explanatory Note

This explains the purpose of each article. Text in square brackets will be removed if The Electoral Commission decide not to modify the Final recommendations.

Appendix C

First draft of electoral change Order for Tameside

STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

2003 No.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT, ENGLAND

The Borough of Tameside (Electoral Changes) Order 2003

Made - - - - *2003*

Coming into force in accordance with article 1(2)

Whereas the Boundary Committee for England(**a**), acting pursuant to section 15(4) of the Local Government Act 1992(**b**), has submitted to the Electoral Commission(**c**) recommendations dated August 2003 on its review of the borough(**d**) of Tameside:

And whereas the Electoral Commission have decided to give effect [with modifications] to those recommendations:

And whereas a period of not less than six weeks has expired since the receipt of those recommendations:

Now, therefore, the Electoral Commission, in exercise of the powers conferred on them by sections 17(**e**) and 26(**f**) of the Local Government Act 1992, and of all other powers enabling them in that behalf, hereby make the following Order:

Citation and commencement

- 1.—(1) This Order may be cited as the Borough of Tameside (Electoral Changes) Order 2003.
- (2) This Order shall come into force –
 - (a) for the purpose of proceedings preliminary or relating to any election to be held on the ordinary day of election of councillors in 2004, on the day after that on which it is made;

(a) The Boundary Committee for England is a committee of the Electoral Commission, established by the Electoral Commission in accordance with section 14 of the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000 (c.41). The Local Government Commission for England (Transfer of Functions) Order 2001 (S.I. 2001/3962) transferred to the Electoral Commission the functions of the Local Government Commission for England.

(b) 1992 c.19. This section has been amended by S.I. 2001/3962.

(c) The Electoral Commission was established by the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000 (c.41). The functions of the Secretary of State, under sections 13 to 15 and 17 of the Local Government Act 1992 (c.19), to the extent that they relate to electoral changes within the meaning of that Act, were transferred with modifications to the Electoral Commission on 1st April 2002 (S.I. 2001/3962).

(d) The metropolitan district of Tameside has the status of a borough.

(e) This section has been amended by S.I. 2001/3962 and also otherwise in ways not relevant to this Order.

(f) This section has been amended by S.I. 2001/3962.

- (b) for all other purposes, on the ordinary day of election of councillors in 2004.

Interpretation

2. In this Order –

“borough” means the borough of Tameside;

“existing”, in relation to a ward, means the ward as it exists on the date this Order is made; and

any reference to the map is a reference to the map marked “Map referred to in the Borough of Tameside (Electoral Changes) Order 2003”, of which prints are available for inspection at –

- (a) the principal office of the Electoral Commission; and
(b) the offices of Tameside Metropolitan Borough Council.

Wards of the borough of Tameside

3.—(1) The existing wards of the borough(a) shall be abolished.

- (2) The borough shall be divided into nineteen wards which shall bear the names set out in the Schedule.
- (3) Each ward shall comprise the area designated on the map by reference to the name of the ward and demarcated by red lines; and the number of councillors to be elected for each ward shall be three.
- (4) Where a boundary is shown on the map as running along a road, railway line, footway, watercourse or similar geographical feature, it shall be treated as running along the centre line of the feature.

Elections of the council of the borough of Tameside

4.—(1) Elections of all councillors for all wards of the borough shall be held simultaneously on the ordinary day of election of councillors in 2004(b)(c).

- (2) The councillors holding office for any ward of the borough immediately before the fourth day after the ordinary day of election of councillors in 2004 shall retire on that date and the newly elected councillors for those wards shall come into office on that date.
- (3) Of the councillors elected in 2004 one shall retire in 2006, one in 2007 and one in 2008.
- (4) Of the councillors elected in 2004 –
- (a) the first to retire shall, subject to paragraphs (6) and (7), be the councillor elected by the smallest number of votes; and
- (b) the second to retire shall, subject to those paragraphs, be the councillor elected by the next smallest number of votes.
- (5) In the case of an equality of votes between any persons elected which makes it uncertain which of them is to retire in any year, the person to retire in that year shall be determined by lot.
- (6) If an election of councillors for any ward is not contested, the person to retire in each year shall be determined by lot.
- (7) Where under this article any question is to be determined by lot, the lot shall be drawn at the next practicable meeting of the council after the question has arisen and the drawing shall be conducted under the direction of the person presiding at the meeting.

(a) See the Borough of Tameside (Electoral Arrangements) Order 1979 (S.I. 1979/1368).

(b) Article 4 provides for a single election of all the councillors and for reversion to the system of election by thirds, as established by section 7 of the Local Government Act 1972 (c.70).

(c) For the ordinary day of election of councillors of local government areas, see section 37 of the Representation of the People Act 1983 (c.2), amended by section 18(2) of the Representation of the People Act 1985 (c.50) and section 17 of, and paragraphs 1 and 5 of Schedule 3 to, the Greater London Authority Act 1999 (c.29).

Maps

5. Tameside Metropolitan Borough Council shall make a print of the map marked “Map referred to in the Borough of Tameside (Electoral Changes) Order 2003” available for inspection at its offices by any member of the public at any reasonable time.

Electoral registers

6. The Electoral Registration Officer(a) for the borough shall make such rearrangement of, or adaptation of, the register of local government electors as may be necessary for the purposes of, and in consequence of, this Order.

Revocation

7. The Borough of Tameside (Electoral Arrangements) Order 1979(b) is revoked, save for articles 8 and 9(8).

Sealed with the seal of the Electoral Commission on the day of 2003

Chairman of the Commission

Secretary to the Commission

SCHEDULE

article 3

NAMES OF WARDS

Ashton Hurst	Droylsden East	Longdendale
Ashton St Michael's	Droylsden West	Mossley
Ashton Waterloo	Dukinfield	St Peter's
Audenshaw	Dukinfield Stalybridge	Stalybridge North
Denton North East	Hyde Godley	Stalybridge South
Denton South	Hyde Newton	
Denton West	Hyde Werneth	

(a) As to electoral registration officers and the register of local government electors, *see* sections 8 to 13 of the Representation of the People Act 1983 (c.2).

(b) S.I. 1979/1368.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

(This note is not part of the Order)

This Order gives effect, [with modifications], to recommendations by the Boundary Committee for England, a committee of the Electoral Commission, for electoral changes in the borough of Tameside.

The modifications are *indicate the modifications*.

The changes have effect in relation to local government elections to be held on and after the ordinary day of election of councillors in 2004.

Article 3 abolishes the existing wards of the borough and provides for the creation of 19 new wards. That article and the Schedule also make provision for the names and areas of, and numbers of councillors for, the new wards.

Article 4 makes provision for a whole council election in 2004 and for reversion to the established system of election by thirds in subsequent years.

Article 6 obliges the Electoral Registration Officer to make any necessary amendments to the electoral register to reflect the new electoral arrangements.

Article 7 revokes the Borough of Tameside (Electoral Arrangements) Order 1979, with the exception of articles 8 and 9(8).

The areas of the new borough wards are demarcated on the map described in article 2. Prints of the map may be inspected at all reasonable times at the offices of Tameside Metropolitan Borough Council and at the principal office of the Electoral Commission at Trevelyan House, Great Peter Street, London SW1P 2HW.