

Final recommendations on the  
future electoral arrangements  
for Fylde in Lancashire

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

*September 2000*

# LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND

This report sets out the Commission's final recommendations on the electoral arrangements for the borough of Fylde in Lancashire.

Members of the Commission are:

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Peter Brokenshire  
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A large map illustrating the proposed ward boundaries for Lytham St Annes is inserted inside the back cover of the report.





## Local Government Commission for England

5 September 2000

Dear Secretary of State

On 7 September 1999 the Commission began a periodic electoral review of Fylde under the Local Government Act 1992. We published our draft recommendations in April 2000 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 78) in the light of further evidence. This report sets out our final recommendations for changes to electoral arrangements in Fylde.

We recommend that Fylde Borough Council should be served by 51 councillors representing 21 wards, and that changes should be made to ward boundaries in order to improve electoral equality, having regard to the statutory criteria. We recommend that whole-council elections should be held every four years.

The Local Government Bill, containing legislative proposals for a number of changes to local authority electoral arrangements, is currently being considered by Parliament. However, until such time as that new legislation is in place we are obliged to conduct our work in accordance with current legislation, and to continue our current approach to periodic electoral reviews.

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

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Malcolm Grant'.

PROFESSOR MALCOLM GRANT  
Chairman



## SUMMARY

The Commission began a review of Fylde on 7 September 1999. We published our draft recommendations for electoral arrangements on 4 April 2000, after which we undertook a nine-week period of consultation.

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

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

- **in eight of the 22 wards the number of electors represented by each councillor varies by more than 10 per cent from the average for the borough and two wards vary by more than 20 per cent from the average;**
- **by 2004 electoral equality is not expected to improve, with the number of electors per councillor forecast to vary by more than 10 per cent from the average in nine wards and by more than 20 per cent in three wards.**

Our main final recommendations for future electoral arrangements (Figures 1 and 2 and paragraphs 78-79) are that:

- **Fylde Borough Council should have 51 councillors, two more than at present;**
- **there should be 21 wards, instead of 22 as at present;**
- **the boundaries of 17 of the existing wards should be modified and three wards should retain their existing boundaries;**
- **whole-council elections should take place every four years.**

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

- **In all of the proposed 21 wards the number of electors per councillor would vary by no more than 10 per cent from the borough average.**
- **The number of electors per councillor in only one ward, Medlar-with-Wesham, is expected to vary by more than 10 per cent from the average for the borough in 2004.**

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

- **revised warding arrangements for the parish of Freckleton and the town of Kirkham.**

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 17 October 2000:

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

Figure 1: The Commission's Final Recommendations: Summary

	<b>Ward name</b>	<b>Number of councillors</b>	<b>Constituent areas</b>	<b>Map reference</b>
1	Ansdell (Lytham St Annes)	3	Ansdell ward (part); Park ward (part)	Map 2 and large map
2	Ashton (Lytham St Annes)	3	Ashton ward (part); St Leonards ward (part)	Map 2 and large map
3	Central (Lytham St Annes)	3	Central ward (part); Ashton ward (part); Fairhaven ward (part); Heyhouses ward (part); Kilnhouse ward (part)	Map 2 and large map
4	Clifton (Lytham St Annes)	3	Clifton ward; St Johns ward (part)	Map 2 and large map
5	Elswick & Little Eccleston	1	<i>Unchanged</i>	Map 2
6	Fairhaven (Lytham St Annes)	3	Fairhaven ward (part); Ansdell ward (part)	Map 2 and large map
7	Freckleton East	2	Freckleton East ward; Freckleton West ward (part)	Maps 2 and A4
8	Freckleton West	2	Freckleton West ward (part)	Maps 2 and A4
9	Heyhouses (Lytham St Annes)	3	Heyhouses ward (part); Central ward (part)	Map 2 and large map
10	Kilnhouse (Lytham St Annes)	3	Kilnhouse ward (part)	Map 2 and large map
11	Kirkham North	3	Kirkham North ward; Kirkham South ward (part)	Maps 2, A2 and A3
12	Kirkham South	2	Kirkham South ward (part)	Maps 2, A2 and A3
13	Medlar-with-Wesham	2	<i>Unchanged</i>	Map 2
14	Newton & Treales	2	<i>Unchanged</i>	Map 2
15	Park (Lytham St Annes)	3	Park ward (part); Heyhouses ward (part)	Map 2 and large map
16	Ribby-with-Wrea	1	<i>Unchanged</i>	Map 2
17	Singleton & Greenhalgh	1	<i>Unchanged</i>	Map 2
18	Staining & Weeton	2	Staining ward; Weeton & Westby ward (part - the parish of Weeton-with-Preese)	Map 2
19	St Johns (Lytham St Annes)	3	St Johns ward (part)	Map 2 and large map

	<b>Ward name</b>	<b>Number of councillors</b>	<b>Constituent areas</b>	<b>Map reference</b>
20	St Leonards (Lytham St Annes)	3	St Leonards ward (part)	Map 2 and large map
21	Warton & Westby	3	Bryning-with-Warton ward; Weeton & Westby ward (part - the parish of Westby-with-Plumpton)	Map 2

*Notes: 1 The town of Lytham St Annes is unparished and the remainder of the borough is parished.*

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

Figure 2: The Commission's Final Recommendations for Fylde

Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (1999)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2004)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
1 Ansdell	3	3,454	1,151	1	3,502	1,167	-1
2 Ashton	3	3,592	1,197	5	3,587	1,196	2
3 Central	3	3,492	1,164	2	3,551	1,184	1
4 Clifton	3	3,432	1,144	0	3,443	1,148	-2
5 Elswick & Little Eccleston	1	1,084	1,084	-5	1,111	1,111	-5
6 Fairhaven	3	3,387	1,129	-1	3,400	1,133	-3
7 Freckleton East	2	2,404	1,202	5	2,422	1,211	3
8 Freckleton West	2	2,408	1,204	5	2,426	1,213	3
9 Heyhouses	3	3,355	1,118	-2	3,539	1,180	0
10 Kilnhouse	3	3,629	1,210	6	3,544	1,181	1
11 Kirkham North	3	3,192	1,064	-7	3,209	1,070	-9
12 Kirkham South	2	2,209	1,105	-3	2,209	1,105	-6
13 Medlar-with-Wesham	2	2,405	1,203	5	2,724	1,362	16
14 Newton & Treales	2	2,457	1,229	7	2,537	1,269	8
15 Park	3	3,172	1,057	-8	3,400	1,133	-3
16 Ribby-with-Wrea	1	1,225	1,225	7	1,218	1,218	4
17 Singleton & Greenhalgh	1	1,107	1,107	-3	1,146	1,146	-6
18 Staining & Weeton	2	2,111	1,056	-8	2,189	2,189	-7
19 St Johns	3	3,104	1,035	-9	3,443	1,148	-2
20 St Leonards	3	3,441	1,147	0	3,511	1,170	0
21 Warton & Westby	3	3,647	1,216	6	3,774	1,258	7
<b>Totals</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>58,307</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>59,885</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Averages</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1,143</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1,174</b>	<b>-</b>

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

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



# 1 INTRODUCTION

1 This report contains our final recommendations on the electoral arrangements for the borough of Fylde in Lancashire on which we are now consulting. We are reviewing the 12 districts in Lancashire (excluding Blackburn with Darwen and Blackpool) as part of our programme of periodic electoral reviews (PERs) of all 386 principal local authority areas in England. We expect to review the unitary authorities of Blackburn with Darwen and Blackpool in 2001. Our programme started in 1996 and is currently expected to be completed by 2004.

2 This was our first review of the electoral arrangements of Fylde. The last such review was undertaken by our predecessor, the Local Government Boundary Commission (LGBC), which reported to the Secretary of State in August 1975 (Report No. 39). The electoral arrangements of Lancashire County Council were last reviewed in November 1980 (Report No. 399). We expect to review the County Council's electoral arrangements shortly after completion of the district reviews in order to enable orders to be made by the Secretary of State in time for the 2005 county elections.

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

- the statutory criteria contained in section 13(5) of the Local Government Act 1992, ie the need to:
  - (a) reflect the identities and interests of local communities; and
  - (b) secure effective and convenient local government;
- the *Rules to be Observed in Considering Electoral Arrangements* contained in Schedule 11 to the Local Government Act 1972.

4 We are required to make recommendations to the Secretary of State on the number of councillors who should serve on the Borough Council, and the number, boundaries and names of wards. We can also make recommendations on the electoral arrangements for parish and town councils in the borough.

5 We have also had regard to our *Guidance and Procedural Advice for Local Authorities and Other Interested Parties* (third edition published in October 1999), which sets out our approach to the reviews.

6 In our *Guidance*, we state that we wish wherever possible to build on schemes which have been prepared locally on the basis of careful and effective consultation. Local interests are normally in a better position to judge what council size and ward configuration are most likely to secure effective and convenient local government in their areas, while allowing proper reflection of the identities and interests of local communities.

7 The broad objective of PERs is to achieve, so far as practicable, equality of representation across the borough as a whole. Having regard to the statutory criteria, our aim is to achieve as low a level of electoral imbalance as is practicable. We will require particular justification for

schemes which would result in, or retain, an electoral imbalance of over 10 per cent in any ward. Any imbalances of 20 per cent or more should only arise in the most exceptional circumstances, and will require the strongest justification.

8 We are not prescriptive on council size. We start from the general assumption that the existing council size already secures effective and convenient local government in that district but we are willing to look carefully at arguments why this might not be so. 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 a district's electorate should automatically result in an increase in the number of councillors, nor that changes should be made to the size of a district council simply to make it more consistent with the size of other districts.

9 In July 1998, the Government published a White Paper, *Modern Local Government – In Touch with the People*, which set out legislative proposals for local authority electoral arrangements. In two-tier areas, it proposed introducing a pattern in which both the district and county councils would hold elections every two years, i.e. in year one half of the district council would be elected, in year two half the county council would be elected, and so on. The Government stated that local accountability would be maximised where every elector has an opportunity to vote every year, thereby pointing to a pattern of two-member wards (and divisions) in two-tier areas. However, it stated that there was no intention to move towards very large electoral areas in sparsely populated rural areas, and that single-member wards (and electoral divisions) would continue in many authorities. The proposals were taken forward in a Local Government Bill, published in December 1999, and are currently being considered by Parliament.

10 Following publication of the White Paper, we advised all authorities in our 1999/00 PER programme, including the Lancashire districts, that the Commission would continue to maintain its current approach to PERs as set out in the October 1999 *Guidance*. Nevertheless, we considered that local authorities and other interested parties might wish to have regard to the Secretary of State's intentions and legislative proposals in formulating electoral schemes as part of PERs of their areas.

11 Stage One began on 7 September 1999, when we wrote to Fylde Borough Council inviting proposals for future electoral arrangements. We also notified Lancashire County Council, Lancashire Police Authority, Lancashire Association of Parish and Town Councils, parish and town councils in the borough, the Members of Parliament and the 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 the Borough Council to publicise the review further. The closing date for receipt of representations, the end of Stage One, was 29 November 1999. At Stage Two we considered all the representations received during Stage One and prepared our draft recommendations.

12 Stage Three began on 4 April 2000 with the publication of our report, *Draft recommendations on the future electoral arrangements for Fylde in Lancashire*, and ended on 5 June 2000. 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

13 The borough of Fylde has an electorate of 58,307, which is forecast to increase by around 3 per cent over the next five years, to 59,885. The borough comprises the pre-1974 local authorities of Kirkham Urban District Council, Fylde Rural District Council and Lytham St Annes Borough Council. Fylde is located between Preston and the M6 in the east, Blackpool in the north and the Irish Sea in the west. The main town is Lytham St Annes, which is unparished. The remainder of the borough is parished and comprises two town councils and twelve parish councils. Fylde is easily accessible from the M6 and the M55 runs through the centre of the borough. There are railway stations at Kirkham, Moss Side, Lytham, Ansdell, St Annes and Squires Gate, linking the borough to Preston and the main lines to London and Glasgow.

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'.

15 The electorate of the borough is 58,307 (February 1999). The council presently has 49 members who are elected from 22 wards. Ten of the wards are each represented by three councillors, seven are each represented by two councillors and five are single-member wards. The council is elected as a whole every four years.

16 Since the last electoral review there has been an increase in the electorate in Fylde borough, with around 8 per cent more electors than two decades ago, as a result of new housing developments. The most notable increases have been in the wards of Staining, Freckleton East, Kirkham North, Bryning-with-Warton and St Leonards, with growth of 53 per cent, 25 per cent, 22 per cent, 20 per cent and 19 per cent respectively.

17 At present, each councillor represents an average of 1,190 electors, which the Borough Council forecasts will increase to 1,222 by the year 2004 if the present number of councillors is maintained. However, due to demographic and other changes over the past two decades, the number of electors per councillor in eight of the 22 wards varies by more than 10 per cent from the borough average, with two wards varying by more than 20 per cent and one ward by more than 30 per cent. The worst imbalance is in Staining ward where the councillor represents 51 per cent more electors than the borough average. Electoral equality is predicted to deteriorate further over the next five years.

*Map 1: Existing Wards in Fylde*

Figure 3: Existing Electoral Arrangements

Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (1999)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2004)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
1 Ansdell	3	3,167	1,056	-11	3,221	1,074	-12
2 Ashton	3	3,231	1,077	-9	3,223	1,074	-12
3 Bryning-with-Warton	2	2,726	1,363	15	2,853	1,427	17
4 Central	3	3,341	1,114	-6	3,404	1,135	-7
5 Clifton	3	2,877	959	-19	2,874	958	-22
6 Elswick & Little Eccleston	1	1,084	1,084	-9	1,116	1,116	-9
7 Fairhaven	3	3,127	1,042	-12	3,149	1,050	-14
8 Freckleton East	2	2,304	1,152	-3	2,316	1,158	-5
9 Freckleton West	2	2,508	1,254	5	2,530	1,265	4
10 Heyhouses	3	3,669	1,223	3	3,770	1,257	3
11 Kilnhouse	3	3,836	1,279	7	3,830	1,277	4
12 Kirkham North	2	3,026	1,513	27	3,043	1,522	24
13 Kirkham South	2	2,375	1,188	0	2,377	1,189	-3
14 Medlar-with-Wesham	2	2,405	1,203	1	2,724	1,362	11
15 Newton & Treales	2	2,457	1,229	3	2,544	1,272	4
16 Park	3	3,061	1,020	-14	3,275	1,092	-11
17 Ribby-with-Wrea	1	1,225	1,225	3	1,224	1,224	0
18 Singleton & Greenhalgh	1	1,107	1,107	-7	1,146	1,146	-6
19 Staining	1	1,800	1,800	51	1,871	1,871	53
20 St Johns	3	3,661	1,220	3	3,987	1,329	9
21 St Leonards	3	4,088	1,363	15	4,164	1,388	14

Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (1999)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2004)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
22 Weeton & Westby	1	1,232	1,232	4	1,244	1,244	2
<b>Totals</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>58,307</b>	–	–	<b>59,885</b>	–	–
<b>Averages</b>	–	–	<b>1,190</b>	–	–	<b>1,222</b>	–

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

Note: The 'variance from average' column shows by how far, in percentage terms, the number of electors per councillor varies from the average for the borough. The minus symbol (-) denotes a lower than average number of electors. For example, in 1999, electors in Clifton ward were relatively over-represented by 19 per cent, while electors in Staining ward were significantly under-represented by 51 per cent. Figures have been rounded to the nearest whole number.

### 3 DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS

18 During Stage One we received four representations, including a borough-wide scheme from Fylde Borough Council, and representations from the North West Conservatives and two local residents. In the light of these representations and evidence available to us, we reached preliminary conclusions which were set out in our report, *Draft recommendations on the future electoral arrangements for Fylde in Lancashire*.

19 Our draft recommendations were based on the Borough Council's proposals, which achieved some improvement in electoral equality. However, we moved away from the Borough Council's scheme in a number of areas, affecting eight wards, using some of our own proposals. We proposed that:

- Fylde Borough Council should be served by 51 councillors, compared with the current 49, representing 20 wards, two fewer than at present;
- the boundaries of 19 of the existing wards should be modified, while three wards should retain their existing boundaries;
- there should be new warding arrangements for the parish of Freckleton and the town of Kirkham.

**Draft Recommendation**

Fylde Borough Council should comprise 51 councillors, serving 20 wards. The whole council should continue to be elected every four years.

20 Our proposals would have resulted in significant improvements in electoral equality, with the number of electors per councillor in none of the 20 wards varying by no more than 10 per cent from the borough average. This level of electoral equality was forecast to remain the same in 2004.



## 4 RESPONSES TO CONSULTATION

21 During the consultation on our draft recommendations report, 11 representations were received. A list of all respondents is available on request from the Commission. All representations may be inspected at the offices of Fylde Borough Council and the Commission.

### **Fylde Borough Council**

22 The Borough Council supported our draft recommendations with the exception of our proposed merger of Singleton & Greenhalgh ward with Medlar-with-Wesham ward.

### **Fylde Liberal Democrats**

23 Fylde Liberal Democrats opposed our draft recommendations for the proposed Ashton and St Leonards wards and in particular, our proposed Central ward.

### **Parish and Town Councils**

24 Medlar-with-Wesham Town Council argued that the existing ward of Medlar-with-Wesham should either have one more councillor or that we should retain the existing arrangements for the wards of Singleton & Greenhalgh and Medlar-with-Wesham wards. Singleton Parish Council supported our proposals for Lytham St Annes and the increase in the number of councillors representing the parished areas of the borough. However, it objected to our three-member Medlar-with-Wesham and Singleton & Greenhalgh ward, proposing alternative warding arrangements. Greenhalgh-with-Thistleton Parish Council also objected to our proposal and supported the retention of the existing arrangements for the two wards.

25 Weeton-with-Preese Parish Council objected to being merged with Staining. Westby-with-Plumpton Parish Council stated that there were other alternatives to our draft proposals but did not make any specific recommendations.

### **Other Representations**

26 A further five representations were received in response to our draft recommendations. Councillor Stuart supported the views of Medlar-with-Wesham Town Council. Councillor Loftus and Councillor Renwick opposed the proposed Medlar-with-Wesham and Singleton & Greenhalgh ward. Councillors Mr and Mrs Wilson opposed our draft recommendations for Ashton and Park wards, arguing that, under the proposed arrangements, both wards would lose areas “which traditionally over many years have built up a strong personal relationship with the current sitting councillors”. A local resident objected to the draft proposals for Central ward in Lytham St Annes, proposing an alternative boundary.



## 5 ANALYSIS AND FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS

27 As described earlier, our prime objective in considering the most appropriate electoral arrangements for Fylde is, so far as reasonably practicable and consistent with the statutory criteria, to achieve electoral equality. In doing so we have regard to section 13(5) of the Local Government Act 1992 – the need to secure effective and convenient local government, and reflect the identities and interests of local communities – and Schedule 11 to the Local Government Act 1972, which refers to the number of electors per councillor being “as nearly as may be, the same in every ward of the district or borough”.

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

29 It is therefore impractical to design an electoral scheme which provides for exactly the same number of electors per councillor in every ward of an authority. There must be a degree of flexibility. However, our approach, in the context of the statutory criteria, is that such flexibility must be kept to a minimum.

30 Our *Guidance* states that 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 kept to the minimum, such an objective should be the starting point in any review. We therefore strongly recommend that, in formulating electoral schemes, local authorities and other interested parties should start from the standpoint of absolute electoral equality and only then make adjustments to reflect relevant factors, such as community identity and interests. Regard must also be had to five-year forecasts of change in electorates.

### **Electorate Forecasts**

31 The Borough Council submitted electorate forecasts for the year 2004, projecting an increase in the electorate of some 3 per cent, from 58,307 to 59,885 over the five-year period from 1999 to 2004. It expects most of the growth to be in the town of Lytham St Annes, most notably in Park and St Johns wards, although a significant amount is also expected in Medlar-with-Wesham ward. The Council has 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. In our draft recommendations report we accepted that this is an inexact science and, having given consideration to the forecast electorates, we were satisfied that they represented the best estimates that could reasonably be made at the time.

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

## **Council Size**

33 As already explained, the Commission’s starting point is to assume that the current council size facilitates effective and convenient local government, although we are willing to look carefully at arguments why this might not be the case.

34 Fylde Borough Council presently has 49 members. At Stage One, the Borough Council proposed a council of 51 members, which they argued achieved the best numerical solution together with sensible boundaries, taking into account the unparished town area of Lytham St Annes and the parished areas. A local resident suggested that there should be a “large reduction” in council size. He believed a reduction would save money, be more practical to manage and speed up the decision making process; however he did not specify a council size.

35 Having considered the size and distribution of the electorate, the geography and other characteristics of the area, together with the representations received, we concluded that the achievement of electoral equality and the statutory criteria would best be met by a council of 51 members.

36 At Stage Three, Medlar-with-Wesham Town Council proposed an increase in council size from 51 to 52. It proposed that Medlar-with-Wesham parish remain in a ward on its own and be allocated the extra councillor to take account of the development that is predicted in Wesham. Councillor Stuart also supported this proposal.

37 We have not been persuaded by this argumentation, as discussed later in this chapter, and therefore conclude that the statutory criteria would continue to be best met by a council of 51 members.

## **Electoral Arrangements**

38 In view of the degree of consensus behind large elements of the Borough Council’s proposals, and the consultation exercise which it undertook with interested parties, we concluded that we should base our recommendations on the Borough Council’s scheme. We considered that this scheme would provide a better balance between electoral equality and the statutory criteria than the current arrangements. However, to improve electoral equality further and having regard to local community identities and interests, we decided to move away from the Borough Council’s proposals in four areas, affecting eight of the Council’s proposed wards.

39 We have reviewed our draft recommendations in the light of further evidence and the representations received during Stage Three. For borough warding purposes, the following areas, based on existing wards, are considered in turn:

- (a) The town of Lytham St Annes (ten wards);
- (b) Bryning-with-Warton, Ribby-with-Wrea, Staining and Weeton & Westby wards;
- (c) Elswick & Little Eccleston, Medlar-with-Wesham, Newton & Treales and Singleton & Greenhalgh wards;

- (d) Kirkham North and Kirkham South wards;
- (e) Freckleton East and Freckleton West wards.

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

### **The town of Lytham St Annes (ten wards)**

41 The coastal town of Lytham St Annes is located by the Irish Sea and is the only unparished part of the borough. The town is presently represented by 30 councillors, serving ten three-member wards, with varying degrees of electoral inequality. The wards of Ansdell, Ashton, Central, Clifton, Fairhaven and Park are over-represented. The number of electors per councillor in these wards varies from the borough average by 11 per cent, 9 per cent, 6 per cent, 19 per cent, 12 per cent and 14 per cent respectively (12 per cent, 12 per cent, 7 per cent, 22 per cent, 14 per cent and 11 per cent by 2004). The wards of Heyhouses, Kilnhouse, St Johns and St Leonards are under-represented. The number of electors per councillor in these wards varies from the borough average by 3 per cent, 7 per cent, 3 per cent and 15 per cent respectively (3 per cent, 4 per cent, 9 per cent and 14 per cent by 2004).

42 During Stage One the Borough Council proposed retaining 30 members in the town and the existing pattern of three-member wards. However, to improve the level of electoral equality across the town, it proposed boundary modifications affecting all of the existing wards. The Borough Council proposed transferring part of the CK polling district of St Leonards ward to Ashton ward. The modified St Leonards ward would have an electoral variance equalling the borough average both initially and by 2004. In order to improve the level of electoral equality in Ashton ward and Central ward, the Borough Council proposed transferring some electors from CN polling district in Ashton ward into Central ward. The modified Ashton ward would vary from the average number of electors per councillor by 5 per cent (2 per cent by 2004).

43 As stated above, the Borough Council proposed transferring part of polling district CN from Ashton ward to Central ward. However, because of the level of electoral inequalities in adjoining wards and the subsequent 'knock-on' effect, the Borough Council proposed that part of polling district CT from Heyhouses ward, part of polling district CV from Fairhaven ward and part of polling district CS from Kilnhouse ward should be transferred to Central ward. It also proposed transferring part of polling district CQ from Central ward to Heyhouses ward. The number of electors per councillor in the modified Central ward would vary from the average by 2 per cent (1 per cent by 2004).

44 The Borough Council's proposed Kilnhouse ward would lose some electors to Central ward and, in order to improve the present boundary between the wards of Kilnhouse and Heyhouses, it suggested that the boundary should continue along Queensway (commencing from the junction of Kilnhouse Lane) to the Fylde/Blackpool borough boundary. The modified Kilnhouse ward would vary from the borough average by 1 per cent (7 per cent by 2004).

45 The Borough Council further proposed transferring part of polling district CT to Central ward and adding part of polling district CQ from Central ward to Heyhouses ward. The Borough Council also proposed transferring parts of polling districts CT and CU from Heyhouses ward to

Park ward, and in order to improve the boundary between the wards, proposed continuing along North Houses Lane (from the junction of Moss Hall Lane) in a northerly direction, up to the boundary of the adjoining ward. The number of electors per councillor in the modified Heyhouses ward would vary from the average by 5 per cent (8 per cent by 2004).

46 The Borough Council's proposed Fairhaven ward would lose some electors to Central ward and gain part of polling district CW from Ansdell ward. The number of electors per councillor would vary from the average by 1 per cent (3 per cent by 2004). The Borough Council's proposed Ansdell ward would lose some electors to Fairhaven ward and gain electors from polling district CY in Park ward. The number of electors per councillor in the modified Ansdell ward would vary from the borough average by 1 per cent both initially and by 2004.

47 There was a significant amount of housing forecast within the Borough Council's proposed Park ward. As stated above, polling district CY of Park ward would be transferred to Ansdell Ward and parts of polling districts CT and CV would also be transferred from Heyhouses ward to Ansdell ward. The number of electors per councillor would vary from the average by 8 per cent (3 per cent by 2004).

48 The Borough Council stated that as a consequence of its proposals for the wards of Ansdell and Park, the best option to improve the level of electoral equality in the proposed wards of Clifton and St Johns would be to transfer electors from part of polling district DB of St Johns ward into Clifton ward. The number of electors per councillor in the modified Clifton and St Johns wards would vary from the average by 3 per cent and 12 per cent respectively (equal to and 5 per cent by 2004).

49 We were content that the proposals for the majority of the wards in the town of Lytham St Annes proposed by the Borough Council secured a substantially improved level of electoral equality, provided clearly recognisable boundaries and as far as we could gauge, had no adverse effect on local community ties. However, we believed that two further boundary modifications between the wards of Heyhouses and Kilnhouse and the wards of Clifton and St Johns would further improve the level of electoral equality across the town. We proposed transferring 250 electors from the proposed Heyhouses ward to the proposed Kilnhouse ward and 90 electors from the proposed Clifton ward to St Johns ward. These further boundary modifications would result in no ward in the town having an electoral variance exceeding 3 per cent by 2004.

50 At Stage Three, Fylde Liberal Democrats objected to our draft proposals for Central, Ashton and St Leonards wards. They particularly objected to the revised arrangements for Central ward, arguing that the seaward and landward sides of the railway lines were "markedly" different and stating that "... the draft recommendations have not taken into account the effect that the railway has in dividing the town of St Annes." They argued that the railway line can only be crossed from one bridge in order to get from one part of Central ward to the other. As an alternative to our draft recommendations, the Liberal Democrats proposed creating one ward on the seaward side of the railway line and one ward on the landward side of the railway line, to be composed of Ashton and Central wards. They contended that this would improve the "homogeneity" of each ward.

51 Councillors Mr and Mrs Wilson objected to our proposed Ashton and Park wards, arguing that we should consider other proposals for these wards, without making any specific suggestions.

They contended that, under our draft recommendations, the current sitting councillors stood to lose areas with which they had built strong relationships over time.

52 A local resident also opposed our revised Central ward, arguing that the new boundary was not easily identifiable and would result in local ties being broken. He proposed that the revised Central ward include Links Gate, Lawrence Avenue and Lima Road as they are inside the “natural” boundary of the golf course.

53 We considered the views of the respondents but have not been persuaded that we should move away from our draft recommendations. While we recognise that there is some opposition to our proposed Central ward, we do not consider that there is consensus on alternative proposals or that our draft recommendations would have a detrimental effect on community interests and identities in the area. We noted the councillors’ opposition to our proposed Ashton and Park wards but we have not received any other local opposition to the draft proposals and do not consider that our proposals would have an adverse effect on the representation of this area. We therefore propose confirming our draft recommendations for Lytham St Annes as final. Under our final recommendations no ward in the town would exceed an electoral variance of 3 per cent by 2004. Details of the proposed ward boundaries for the town are shown on the large map inserted at the back of this report.

#### **Bryning-with-Warton, Ribby-with-Wrea, Staining and Weeton & Westby wards**

54 These four wards lie in the west of the borough. The two-member Bryning-with-Warton ward and the single-member wards of Ribby-with-Wrea, Staining and Weeton & Westby, comprising the parishes of the same names, presently suffer from varying degrees of under-representation. The number of electors per councillor varies from the borough average by 15 per cent, 3 per cent, 51 per cent and 4 per cent respectively (17 per cent, equal to, 53 per cent and 2 per cent by 2004).

55 During Stage One the Borough Council proposed no change to the single-member Ribby-with-Wrea ward. In the remainder of the area the Borough Council proposed a two-member Staining & Weeton ward. The Borough Council stated that in order to obtain electoral equality and maintain community identity it proposed merging the existing ward with the parish of Weeton-with-Preese. It also proposed a three-member Warton & Westby ward, comprising the parishes of Bryning-with-Warton and Westby-with-Plumptions. Overall, representation in this area would be increased by one member.

56 We concluded that the proposals for this part of the borough put forward by the Borough Council secured a substantially improved level of electoral equality without, as far as we could gauge, having any adverse effect on local community ties. Therefore we were content to adopt the Borough Council’s proposals for no change to the existing single-member Ribby-with-Wrea ward and the proposed two-member ward of Staining & Weeton and three-member Warton & Westby ward, without amendment. The number of electors per councillor in the wards would vary from the average by 7 per cent, 8 per cent and 6 per cent respectively (4 per cent, 7 per cent and 7 per cent by 2004).

57 At Stage Three, Weeton-with-Preese Parish Council and Westby-with-Plumptions Parish Council both objected to the proposed division of the existing Weeton & Westby ward. Weeton-

with-Preese Parish Council opposed a merger with Staining parish, arguing that the "... interests and issues affecting the two parishes are entirely different." It contended that Staining is a small town whereas Weeton is a rural village and stated that Weeton-with-Preese has never had any contact with Staining. It expressed concern that "Staining will prove to be the worst possible 'parent' for Weeton" but proposed that "should there have to be a merger, it would be more practicable to merge with Singleton and Greenhalgh-with-Thistleton."

58 Westby-with-Plumpton Parish Council opposed the proposed merger with Bryning-with-Warton parish and stated that our draft recommendations "should be resisted" and they took "no account whatsoever of the interests of the electorate ...". It contended that the existing ward had similar rural and agricultural concerns, including the protection of the rural environment from "development and encroachment" from neighbouring towns. It also argued that under our draft recommendations, a candidate representing the rural and relatively small parish of Westby-with-Plumpton against the larger, more urban, Bryning-with-Warton would have little chance of success.

59 We have noted the opposition to our proposed Warton & Westby and Staining & Weeton wards and have carefully considered alternatives to our draft proposals. However, we have been unable to devise a more appropriate arrangement, as alternative configurations would result in a significant deterioration in electoral equality, which we do not consider is acceptable in the light of the improved level of electoral equality under our draft recommendations. We therefore propose endorsing our draft recommendations as final. Under our final recommendations the proposed wards of Ribby-with-Wrea, Staining & Weeton and Warton & Westby would vary from the borough average by 7 per cent, 8 per cent and 6 per cent respectively (4 per cent, 7 per cent and 7 per cent by 2004).

### **Elswick & Little Eccleston, Medlar-with-Wesham, Newton & Treales and Singleton & Greenhalgh wards**

60 The single-member wards of Elswick & Little Eccleston and Singleton & Greenhalgh are located in the north of the borough, and are over-represented. The number of electors per councillor in Elswick & Little Eccleston ward, comprising the parishes of Elswick and Little Eccleston-with-Larbreck, varies from the average by 9 per cent both initially and by 2004. Singleton & Greenhalgh ward, comprising the parishes of Singleton and Greenhalgh-with-Thistleton, varies from the average by 7 per cent (6 per cent by 2004). The two-member wards of Medlar-with-Wesham and Newton & Treales are located in the centre and the east of the borough, and are under-represented. Medlar-with-Wesham ward, comprising the town of the same name, varies from the average by 1 per cent (11 per cent by 2004). Newton & Treales ward, comprising the parishes of Treales, Roseacre & Wharles and Newton-with-Clifton, varies from the average by 3 per cent (4 per cent by 2004).

61 During Stage One the Borough Council proposed no change to the existing warding arrangements for the single-member wards of Elswick & Little Eccleston and Singleton & Greenhalgh and the two-member wards of Newton & Treales and Medlar-with-Wesham. Under the Borough Council's 51-member scheme, the number of electors per councillor would vary from the borough average by 5 per cent, 3 per cent, 7 per cent and 5 per cent respectively (5 per cent, 2 per cent, 8 per cent and 16 per cent by 2004).

62 We were content to adopt the Borough Council's proposals for no change to the existing wards of Elswick & Little Eccleston and Newton & Treales. The only contentious area appeared to be the proposal for no change to the two-member Medlar-with-Wesham ward, which under the Borough Council's scheme would vary from the borough average by 16 per cent by 2004. The Borough Council considered alternative warding arrangements for Medlar-with-Wesham ward but stated that they would have involved the warding of a parish or combining parishes that did not share community identities. However, we did not find this argument persuasive, given the electoral inequality which would result.

63 Therefore we looked at an alternative configuration of the parishes in the area and also considered the possibility of warding the parish of Medlar-with-Wesham. However, we concluded that the best option (avoiding parish warding) would be to merge the two-member Medlar-with-Wesham ward with the Borough Council's proposed single-member ward of Singleton & Greenhalgh, creating a three-member ward. Our recommendation would have resulted in an electoral variance of 10 per cent by 2004. However, in our draft recommendations report, we stated that we would welcome further views and evidence at Stage Three.

64 The number of electors per councillor in the unchanged wards of Elswick & Little Eccleston and Newton & Treales and the proposed three-member ward of Medlar-with-Wesham and Singleton & Greenhalgh would vary from the average by 5 per cent, 7 per cent and 2 per cent respectively (5 per cent, 8 per cent and 10 per cent by 2004).

65 At Stage Three, several respondents objected to the proposed three-member ward of Medlar-with-Wesham and Singleton & Greenhalgh. Fylde Borough Council requested that we reconsider our proposals for this ward in view of the differing nature of the two areas. Medlar-with-Wesham Town Council also objected to this draft proposal and instead proposed that it remain in a ward on its own and be allocated an extra councillor. It justified its proposal by arguing that there was potential growth in the town of Wesham which would improve electoral equality in the existing ward. The Town Council contended that it would be "unfair to the electorate" to amalgamate the present ward of Singleton & Greenhalgh with that of Medlar-with-Wesham as it would have a detrimental effect on representation in the area.

66 Singleton Parish Council also objected to our draft recommendations and proposed that, "... given similarities", Kirkham North, Kirkham South and Medlar-with-Wesham form an area comprising seven members, or alternatively that Wesham be represented by two councillors and Singleton, Greenhalgh and Medlar be represented by one councillor. Greenhalgh-with-Thistleton Parish Council opposed the draft recommendations, contending that the proposed ward would "always be dominated by the bigger urban population at Medlar-with-Wesham" and that the "needs of the more rural communities will not be adequately met". It proposed that the status quo be retained with a further review of Medlar-with-Wesham in five years "to allow an additional Councillor representative if the population there warrants it". Councillor Loftus, Councillor Renwick and Councillor Stuart all expressed objections to the proposed ward. Councillor Loftus stated "this proposal has met with universal opposition here in Fylde." He argued that the combination of a rural and an urban ward and the "enormous" difference in character of the two wards would produce "conflicts of representation".

67 In view of the significant opposition to our proposed Medlar-with-Wesham and Singleton & Greenhalgh ward, we have been persuaded that our draft recommendations would not represent the interests and identities of the two communities and that the current arrangements best satisfy the statutory criteria. We have noted that, although Medlar-with-Wesham ward would initially enjoy a good level of electoral equality, projected growth within the ward would result in an electoral variance of 16 per cent by 2004. However, we agree with respondents that the ward covers a separate and cohesive community, which reflects the local community identity and provides convenient and effective local government. We are persuaded that this factor is significantly strong as to allow us to accept such an exceptionally high level of electoral inequality.

68 Under our final recommendations the number of electors per councillor in the unchanged two-member Medlar-with-Wesham ward and unchanged single-member Singleton & Greenhalgh ward would vary by 5 per cent and 3 per cent from the average respectively (16 per cent and 6 per cent in 2004).

### **Kirkham North and Kirkham South wards**

69 The town of Kirkham is centrally located and comprises the two-member wards of Kirkham North and Kirkham South. Kirkham North ward is presently under-represented, varying from the borough average by 27 per cent (24 per cent by 2004). However, Kirkham South ward is relatively well represented, equalling the borough average (3 per cent by 2004).

70 At Stage One the Borough Council proposed that the area as a whole should be represented by five borough councillors, an increase of one member, and recommended that a modified Kirkham North ward should be represented by three members. It also proposed a boundary modification, transferring 166 electors from Kirkham South to Kirkham North ward. Under the Borough Council's scheme, the number of electors per councillor in the three-member Kirkham North and two-member Kirkham South wards would vary from the average by 7 per cent and 3 per cent respectively (9 per cent and 6 per cent by 2004).

71 The proposals for this part of the borough were supported by Kirkham Town Council during the Borough Council's own consultation. We concluded that the proposals for the town of Kirkham secured a substantially improved level of electoral equality overall, without having an adverse effect on local community ties. Therefore we were content to adopt the Borough Council's proposals for the three-member ward of Kirkham North and the two-member ward of Kirkham South, without amendment.

72 At Stage Three we received support from the Borough Council for our draft recommendations and no further submissions were received. Therefore we propose confirming our draft recommendations as final. As a consequence of these recommendations, we propose amendments to the town wards of Kirkham to reflect the proposed borough wards (see paragraph 88 later in this chapter and maps A2 and A3 in Appendix A).

## **Freckleton East and Freckleton West wards**

73 The parish of Freckleton is located in the south of the borough and is covered by the two-member wards of Freckleton East and Freckleton West. At present the wards are reasonably well represented. The number of electors per councillor vary from the borough average by 3 per cent and 5 per cent respectively (5 per cent and 4 per cent by 2004).

74 At Stage One, the Borough Council proposed no change to the existing warding arrangements for the two-member Freckleton East and Freckleton West wards. Under the Borough Council's scheme, the number of electors per councillor would vary from the borough average by 1 per cent and 10 per cent (1 per cent and 8 per cent by 2004). However, we were not convinced that the present boundary is clearly identifiable and believed that a further modification would improve the boundary and have a positive effect on electoral equality. Therefore, in consultation with the Borough Council, we proposed redrawing the boundary along Naze Lane East until the junction with Stoney Lane, to follow Naze Lane and including the 119 electors to the east of Clitheroes Lane, to the existing boundary line. We concluded that our proposal for the parish of Freckleton secured an improved level of electoral equality overall, without having an adverse effect on local community ties. Under our proposals the modified two-member wards of Freckleton East and Freckleton West would each vary from the borough average by 5 per cent (3 per cent by 2004).

75 At Stage Three we received support from the Borough Council for our draft recommendations and no further submissions were received. Therefore we propose confirming our draft recommendations as final. As a consequence of these recommendations, we propose amendments to the parish wards of Freckleton to reflect the proposed borough wards (see paragraph 87 later in this chapter and Map A4 in Appendix A).

## **Electoral Cycle**

76 We received only one representation regarding the Borough Council's electoral cycle. The Borough Council itself stated a preference for retaining whole-council elections. There appeared to be no desire to move away from the present electoral cycle and we therefore proposed no change to the current electoral cycle of whole-council elections for the Borough Council.

77 At Stage Three no further comments were received to the contrary, and we confirm our draft recommendation as final.

## **Conclusions**

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

- We propose retaining the existing arrangements for the wards of Singleton & Greenhalgh and Medlar-with-Wesham.

79 We conclude that, in Fylde:

- there should be an increase in council size from 49 to 51;
- there should be 21 wards, one fewer than at present;
- the boundaries of 17 of the existing wards should be modified;
- the Council should continue to hold whole-council elections every four years.

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

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

	1999 electorate		2004 forecast electorate	
	Current arrangements	Final recommendations	Current arrangements	Final recommendations
Number of councillors	49	51	49	51
Number of wards	22	21	22	21
Average number of electors per councillor	1,190	1,143	1,222	1,174
Number of wards with a variance more than 10 per cent from the average	8	0	9	1
Number of wards with a variance more than 20 per cent from the average	2	0	3	0

81 As Figure 4 shows, our recommendations would result in a reduction in the number of wards with an electoral variance of more than 10 per cent from eight to none. However, one ward would vary by 16 per cent by 2004. We conclude that our recommendations would best meet the need for electoral equality, having regard to the statutory criteria.

**Final Recommendation**  
 Fylde Borough Council should comprise 51 councillors serving 21 wards, as detailed and named in Figures 1 and 2, and illustrated on Map 2, Appendix A and the large map at the back of the report. The Council should continue to hold whole-council elections every four years.

# Parish and Town Council Electoral Arrangements

82 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 borough wards, it must also be divided into parish wards, so that each parish ward lies wholly within a single ward of the borough. Accordingly, in our draft recommendations report we proposed consequential warding arrangements for the parish of Freckleton and the town of Kirkham to reflect the proposed borough wards.

83 The parish of Freckleton is currently served by 12 councillors representing two wards: Freckleton East parish ward, returning six councillors and Freckleton West parish ward, returning six councillors. As mentioned earlier, we proposed modifying the boundary between the existing Freckleton East and Freckleton West parish wards, and proposed that the revised wards should each continue to return six parish councillors respectively. At Stage Three, no further comments were received and we are therefore content to confirm our draft recommendations as final.

**Final Recommendation**  
Freckleton Parish Council should comprise 12 councillors, as at present, representing two wards: Freckleton East (returning six councillors) and Freckleton West (six). The parish ward boundaries should reflect the proposed borough ward boundaries in the area, as illustrated and named on Map A4 in Appendix A.

84 The town of Kirkham is currently served by ten councillors representing two wards: Kirkham North town ward, returning five councillors and Kirkham South town ward, returning five councillors. As mentioned earlier, we proposed modifying the boundary between the existing Kirkham North and Kirkham South town wards, and proposed that the revised wards should return six town councillors and four town councillors respectively, to reflect the fact that Kirkham North borough ward will now return three borough councillors, and Kirkham South will now return two borough councillors. At Stage Three, no further comments were received and we are therefore content to confirm our draft recommendations as final.

**Final Recommendation**  
Kirkham Town Council should comprise ten councillors, as at present, representing two wards: Kirkham North (returning six councillors) and Kirkham South (four). The town ward boundaries should reflect the proposed borough ward boundaries in the area, as illustrated and named on Maps A2 and A3 in Appendix A.

85 In our draft recommendations report we proposed that there should be no change to the electoral cycle of parish councils in the borough. We received no comments at Stage Three and are confirming this as final.

**Final Recommendation**  
For parish and town councils, whole-council elections should continue to take place every four years, on the same cycle as that of the Borough Council.

*Map 2: The Commission's Final Recommendations for Fylde*



## 6 NEXT STEPS

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

87 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 before 17 October 2000.

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

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



## APPENDIX A

### **Final Recommendations for Fylde: Detailed Mapping**

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

**Map A1** illustrates, in outline form, the proposed ward boundaries within the borough and indicates the areas which are shown in more detail in Maps A2, A3, A4 and the large map at the back of the report.

**Map A2** illustrates the proposed warding of Kirkham town.

**Map A3** illustrates the proposed warding of Kirkham town.

**Map A4** illustrates the proposed warding of Freckleton parish.

The **large map** inserted in the back of the report illustrates the existing and proposed warding arrangements for the Lytham St Annes area.

*Map A1: Final Recommendations for Fylde: Key Map*

*Map A2: Proposed Warding of Kirkham Town*

*Map A3: Proposed Warding of Kirkham Town*

*Map A4: Proposed Warding of Freckleton Parish*



# APPENDIX B

## Draft Recommendations for Fylde

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

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

Ward name	Constituent areas
Medlar-with-Wesham and Singleton & Greenhalgh	Medlar-with-Wesham ward; Singleton & Greenhalgh ward

*Figure B2: The Commission’s Draft Recommendations: Number of Councillors and Electors by Ward*

Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (1999)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2004)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
Medlar-with-Wesham and Singleton & Greenhalgh	3	3,512	1,171	2	3,870	1,290	10

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

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

