

LOCAL  
GOVERNMENT  
COMMISSION  
FOR ENGLAND

FINAL  
RECOMMENDATIONS  
ON THE FUTURE  
ARRANGEMENTS FOR  
IN SURREY

# LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND

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

Members of the Commission are:

Professor Malcolm Grant (Chairman)

Helena Shovelton (Deputy Chairman)

Peter Brokenshire

Professor Michael Clarke

Pamela Gordon

Robin Gray

Robert Hughes

Barbara Stephens (Chief Executive)

© Crown Copyright 1998

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

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

This report is printed on recycled paper. 

# CONTENTS

	page
LETTER TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE	<i>v</i>
SUMMARY	<i>vii</i>
1 INTRODUCTION	<i>1</i>
2 CURRENT ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS	<i>3</i>
3 DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS	<i>7</i>
4 RESPONSES TO CONSULTATION	<i>9</i>
5 ANALYSIS AND FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS	<i>11</i>
6 NEXT STEPS	<i>23</i>
APPENDICES	
A Final Recommendations for Runnymede: Detailed Mapping	<i>25</i>
B Draft Recommendations for Runnymede (March 1998)	<i>27</i>





## Local Government Commission for England

1 September 1998

Dear Secretary of State

On 2 September 1997 the Commission commenced a periodic electoral review of the borough of Runcyede under the Local Government Act 1992. We published our draft recommendations in March 1998 and undertook an 11-week period of consultation.

We have now prepared our final recommendations in the light of the consultation. We have confirmed our draft recommendations, subject to four modifications in the light of further evidence (see paragraphs 97-98). This report sets out our final recommendations for changes to electoral arrangements in Runcyede.

We recommend that Runcyede Borough Council should be served by 42 councillors representing 14 wards, and that changes should be made to ward boundaries in order to improve electoral equality, having regard to the statutory criteria. We recommend that the Council should continue to hold elections by thirds.

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

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

Yours sincerely

PROFESSOR MALCOLM GRANT  
Chairman



# SUMMARY

The Commission began a review of Runnymede on 2 September 1997. We published our draft recommendations for electoral arrangements on 17 March 1998, after which we undertook a 11-week period of consultation.

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

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

- **in six of the 14 wards, the number of electors represented by each councillor varies by more than 10 per cent from the average for the borough, and in three wards by more than 20 per cent from the average;**
- **by 2002 electoral equality is not expected to improve substantially, with the number of electors per councillor forecast to vary by more than 10 per cent from the average in four wards, and by more than 20 per cent in three wards.**

Our main final recommendations for future electoral arrangements (Figure 1 and paragraphs 97-98) are that:

- **Runnymede Borough Council should be served by 42 councillors, the same as at present;**
- **there should be 14 wards, the same as at present;**
- **the boundaries of all 14 of the existing wards should be modified;**
- **elections should continue to be held by thirds.**

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

- **In all 14 of the wards the number of electors per councillor would vary by no more than 10 per cent from the borough average.**
- **This improved electoral equality is forecast to continue, with the number of electors per councillor in each ward expected to vary by no more than 10 per cent from the average for the borough by 2002.**

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 12 October 1998:

**The Secretary of State  
Department of the Environment,  
Transport and the Regions  
Local Government Review  
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>
1 Addlestone Bourneside	3	Addlestone Bourneside ward (part)
2 Addlestone North	3	Addlestone North ward; Addlestone St Paul's ward (part)
3 Chertsey Meads	3	Addlestone Bourneside ward (part); Chertsey Meads ward (part)
4 Chertsey St Ann's	3	Chertsey St Ann's ward (part); Chertsey Meads ward (part); Thorpe ward (part)
5 Chertsey South & Row Town	3	Addlestone St Paul's ward (part); Chertsey Meads ward (part); Woodham ward (part)
6 Egham Hythe	3	Egham ward (part); Hythe ward (part)
7 Egham Town	3	Egham ward (part)
8 Englefield Green East	3	Egham ward (part); Englefield Green East ward (part)
9 Englefield Green West	3	Englefield Green West ward; Englefield Green East ward (part)
10 Foxhills	3	Foxhills ward (part); Thorpe ward (part); Virginia Water ward (part)
11 New Haw	3	Addlestone Bourneside ward (part); Addlestone St Paul's ward (part); New Haw ward (part)
12 Thorpe	3	Chertsey St Ann's ward (part); Egham ward (part); Foxhills ward (part); Hythe ward (part); Thorpe ward (part)
13 Virginia Water	3	Thorpe ward (part); Virginia Water ward (part)
14 Woodham	3	New Haw ward (part); Woodham ward (part)

*Notes: 1 The borough of Runnymede is entirely unparished.*

*2 The large map in the back of the report illustrates the proposed wards outlined above.*

# 1. INTRODUCTION

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

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

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

3 We have also had regard to our *Guidance and Procedural Advice for Local Authorities and Other Interested Parties* (published in March 1996, supplemented in September 1996 and updated in March 1998), which sets out our approach to the reviews.

4 This review was in four stages. Stage One began on 2 September 1997, when we wrote to Runnymede Borough Council inviting proposals for future electoral arrangements. Our letter was copied to Surrey County Council, Surrey Police Authority, the local authority associations, Members of Parliament and the Member of the European Parliament with constituency interests in the borough, and the headquarters of the main political parties. At the start of the review and following publication of our draft recommendations, we published notices in the local press, issued a press release and invited the Borough Council to publicise the review more widely. The closing date for receipt of representations was 25 November 1997. At Stage Two we considered all the representations received during Stage One and prepared our draft recommendations.

5 Stage Three began on 17 March 1998 with the publication of our report, *Draft Recommendations on the Future Electoral Arrangements for Runnymede in Surrey*, and ended on 1 June 1998. 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

<sup>6</sup> Runnymede borough is situated in the north-west of Surrey and covers 7,800 hectares with a population of nearly 72,000. The northern boundary of the borough follows the River Thames. It contains the towns of Egham, Chertsey & Addlestone as well as the settlements of Woodham, Ottershaw, Englefield Green and Virginia Water. Large areas of the borough are green belt and it is bisected by M25 and M3 motorways. The borough is unparished.

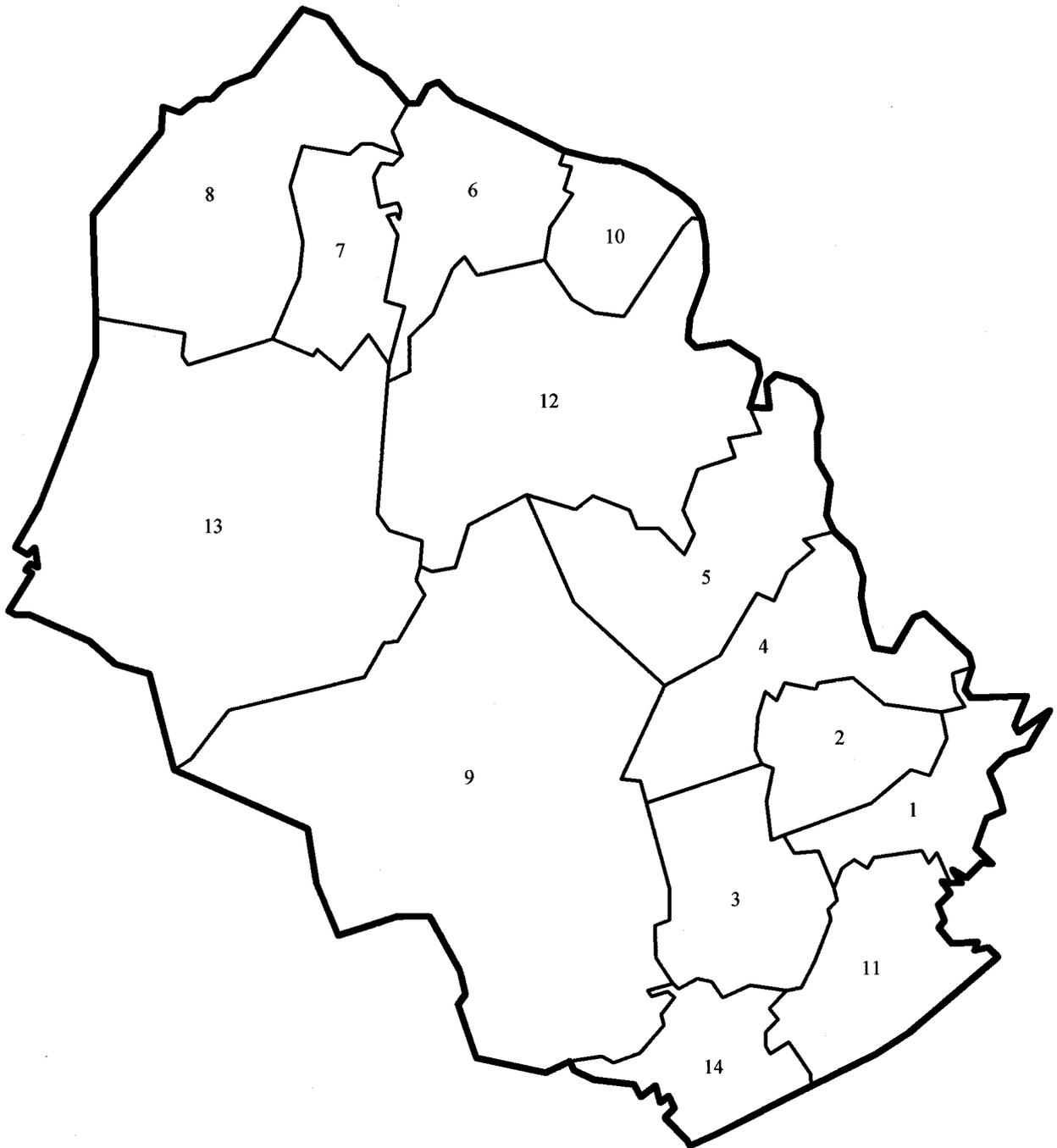
<sup>7</sup> To compare levels of electoral inequality between wards, we calculated the extent to which the number of electors per councillor in each ward (the councillor:elector ratio) varies from the average for the borough in percentage terms. In the report, this calculation may also be described as 'electoral variance'.

<sup>8</sup> The electorate of the borough (February 1997) is 59,206. The Council presently has 42 councillors who are elected from 14 wards, with each ward represented by three councillors (Map 1 and Figure 2). The Council is elected by thirds.

<sup>9</sup> Since the last electoral review, there has been an increase in the electorate in Runnymede, with around 8 per cent more electors than two decades ago.

<sup>10</sup> At present, each councillor represents an average of 1,410 electors, which the Borough Council forecasts would increase to 1,438 by the year 2002 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 six of the 14 wards varies by more than 10 per cent from the borough average and in three wards by more than 20 per cent. The worst imbalance is in Virginia Water ward where each councillor represents on average 29 per cent fewer electors than the borough average.

Map 1:  
Existing Wards in Runnymede



© Crown Copyright 1998

Key to Wards

- |   |                       |    |                       |    |                |
|---|-----------------------|----|-----------------------|----|----------------|
| 1 | Addlestone Bourneside | 6  | Egham                 | 11 | New Haw        |
| 2 | Addlestone North      | 7  | Englefield Green East | 12 | Thorpe         |
| 3 | Addlestone St Paul's  | 8  | Englefield Green West | 13 | Virginia Water |
| 4 | Chertsey Meads        | 9  | Foxhills              | 14 | Woodham        |
| 5 | Chertsey St Ann's     | 10 | Hythe                 |    |                |

Figure 2:  
Existing Electoral Arrangements

Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (1997)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2002)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
1 Addlestone Bourneside	3	4,279	1,426	1	4,327	1,442	0
2 Addlestone North	3	4,119	1,373	-3	4,119	1,373	-5
3 Addlestone St Paul's	3	4,420	1,473	5	4,520	1,507	5
4 Chertsey Meads	3	5,205	1,735	23	5,205	1,735	21
5 Chertsey St Ann's	3	3,780	1,260	-11	3,870	1,290	-10
6 Egham	3	5,391	1,797	27	5,603	1,868	30
7 Englefield Green East	3	4,202	1,401	-1	4,348	1,449	1
8 Englefield Green West	3	4,129	1,376	-2	4,129	1,376	-4
9 Foxhills	3	4,044	1,348	-4	4,136	1,379	-4
10 Hythe	3	4,739	1,580	12	4,739	1,580	10
11 New Haw	3	3,934	1,311	-7	3,934	1,311	-9
12 Thorpe	3	4,239	1,413	0	4,721	1,574	9
13 Virginia Water	3	2,990	997	-29	3,010	1,003	-30
14 Woodham	3	3,735	1,245	-12	3,735	1,245	-13
<b>Totals</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>59,206</b>	—	—	<b>60,396</b>	—	—
<b>Averages</b>	—	—	<b>1,410</b>	—	—	<b>1,438</b>	—

Source: Electorate figures are based on material provided by Runnymede 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 1997, electors in Virginia Water ward were relatively over-represented by 29 per cent, while electors in Egham ward were relatively under-represented by 27 per cent. Figures have been rounded to the nearest whole number.



### 3. DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS

<sup>11</sup> During Stage One we received 43 representations including those from the Conservative and Independent groups on the Borough Council and the Runnymede & Weybridge Constituency Labour Party which submitted borough-wide schemes. In the light of the 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 Runnymede in Surrey*. We proposed that:

- (a) Runnymede Borough Council should continue to be served by 42 councillors representing 14 wards;
- (b) the boundaries of all 14 wards should be modified;
- (c) the Council should continue to hold elections by thirds.

#### **Draft Recommendation**

Runnymede Borough Council should comprise 42 councillors, serving 14 wards. The Council should continue to be elected by thirds.

<sup>12</sup> Our proposals would have resulted in significant improvements in electoral equality, with the number of electors per councillor in all of the wards varying by no more than 6 per cent from the borough average. By 2002 this level of electoral equality was forecast to improve further with each ward varying by no more than 4 per cent from the average.



## 4. RESPONSES TO CONSULTATION

13 During the consultation on our draft recommendations report, 70 representations were received, together with a petition containing 291 signatures. All representations may be inspected at the offices of the Borough Council and the Commission. A list of all respondents is available on request from the Commission.

### **Runnymede Borough Council**

14 The Borough Council supported our draft recommendations to retain a council size of 42 serving 14 three-member wards, and the continuation of elections by thirds. The Council did not comment on specific ward boundaries.

### **Runnymede Borough Council Conservative Group**

15 The Conservative Group on the Borough Council generally supported the draft recommendations. However, it opposed the transfer of 568 electors from the area north of Woodham Lane and west of Grange Road from Woodham ward to New Haw ward, and supported its Stage One proposal in this area. The Conservative Group stated “we consider that the line we drew on this boundary was a more sensible ‘encroachment’ across the width of that part of New Haw rather than isolating an area.”

16 The Conservative Group proposed that “St Peter’s and St Paul’s” would be a more appropriate ward name than Chertsey South and Row Town. It argued that this name would mean something to each community and “give a better feel to what on the surface is a difficult amalgamation”.

### **Runnymede Borough Council Independent Group**

17 The Independent Group on the Borough Council stated that the review should be postponed in view of the Government’s recent consultation paper on annual elections and three-member wards. However, the Independent members’ submission focused on the wards in the north of the borough which its members represent, Egham

and Thorpe. The Independents objected to the proposal that the existing three-member ward pattern should be retained throughout the borough. They continued to support their Stage One proposals for two two-member wards in Egham and a two-member ward for Virginia Water, arguing that changes to the Egham boundaries, as proposed in the draft recommendations, would not reflect local communities.

### **Residents’ Associations**

18 We received representations from four residents’ associations in the borough. The Egham Residents’ Association proposed that Egham be served by an additional (fourth) councillor, either in one four-member ward or two two-member wards, and Virginia Water by one less councillor. The Residents’ Association argued that these proposals would require only minor boundary changes, and local community identities would be protected. It stated that both the Conservative and Labour groups in Runnymede, who favour retaining 14 three-member wards, do not have support from residents of Egham.

19 Additionally, Egham Residents’ Association enclosed a petition signed by 291 residents containing the following views: 151 residents objected to the inclusion of parts of Egham in Thorpe ward; 84 residents objected to the inclusion of parts of Egham in Englefield Green East ward; and 56 residents were opposed to including Woodhaw in Egham Hythe ward.

20 Thorpe Ward Residents’ Association also objected to the draft recommendations, continuing to support the Independent Group’s proposals for Thorpe ward. The Association stated that “we would find difficulty in identifying major parts of Thorpe ward with any other area in the vicinity.”

21 Stroude Residents’ Association supported the proposals put forward by the Independent Group, noting that it would involve a mixed pattern of two- and three-member wards in the borough. Its view was that “communities are much more important than exact numerical electorate equality”. Specifically, the Residents’ Association proposed that the boundary of Virginia Water ward

should follow the M3/M25 as far as New Wickham Lane rather than Hurst Lane. The Association objected to draft proposal to include Whitehall Farm, Crown Cottages and Milton Park Cottages in Virginia Water ward from Thorpe ward.

<sup>22</sup> The Chertsey Society supported the draft recommendations in general. However, it opposed the proposed creation of Chertsey South & Row Town ward “for the sake of equality of numbers”, arguing that it was an “artificial creation”. The Society also preferred to include Wheatash Road, Roakes Avenue and the houses close to the Chertsey Fire Station in Chertsey Meads ward to reflect local identity, rather than Addlestone North ward as it is at present.

## **Other Representations**

<sup>23</sup> We received a further 63 representations from individual residents commenting on our ward boundaries in the north of the borough. Of these, 16 Egham residents stated specific support for the views put forward by the Independent Group and the Egham Residents’ Association on the basis that the draft recommendations did not reflect community identity and 34 residents stated particular opposition to the transfer of Milton Road, Langham Place, Fairhaven Court and part of the High Street to Englefield Green East ward. Twenty four local residents opposed the proposed transfers of the areas into Thorpe ward.

## 5. ANALYSIS AND FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS

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

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

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

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

ward. Any imbalances of 20 per cent and over should arise only in the most exceptional of circumstances, and will require the strongest justification.

### Electorate Forecasts

28 During Stage One the Borough Council submitted electorate forecasts for the period 1997 to 2002, projecting an increase in the electorate of about 2 per cent over the five-year period from 59,206 to 60,396. The 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 ward boundary changes was obtained. In our draft recommendations report we accepted that this is an inexact science and, having given consideration to projected electorates, were content that they represented the best estimates that could reasonably be made at the time.

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

### Council Size

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

31 Runnymede Borough Council is at present served by 42 councillors. The Council did not propose any change to council size during Stage One; nor did any other respondents. In our draft recommendations report we considered the size and distribution of the electorate, the geography and other characteristics of the area, together with the representations received. We concluded that the statutory criteria and the achievement of electoral equality would best be met by a council of 42 members.

32 In its Stage Three submission, the Borough Council and political groups supported the proposed council size and we have not received any views to the contrary to suggest moving away from this view.

## Electoral Arrangements

33 At the start of the review we met with representatives of all three party groups on the Council and closely liaised with the Council's officers about the provision of current data and electorate forecasts. We received 43 submissions, including three borough-wide submissions: from the Conservative Group (supported by the Runnymede & Weybridge and Chertsey Town Conservative Associations), the Independent Group, and the Runnymede & Weybridge Constituency Labour Party. We paid close attention to the representations received. From these submissions, a number of considerations emerged which informed us when formulating our draft recommendations.

34 First, we welcomed the positive proposals for improvements to the present electoral arrangements we received.

35 Second, there was agreement on the preferred council size. All three borough-wide submissions provided for a continuation of the present 42 councillors. As indicated previously, we agreed with this assessment.

36 Third, there was consensus among the political groups for a continuation of the present pattern of multi-member wards in the borough. The Conservatives and Constituency Labour Party proposed the maintenance of 14 three-member wards. The Independents also preferred three-member wards apart from one area, in which they proposed that three two-member wards should replace the present two three-member Egham and Virginia Water wards. Looking at the borough as a whole, we concluded on the evidence received that we should adopt the majority view on the Council for the retention of the existing three-member ward pattern.

37 Fourth, respondents asked that we take into account established communities. We noted that there is some divergence of view on the precise location of those communities. However, we sought to reflect community identities and

interests in our draft recommendations, while also seeking electoral equality across the borough, taking into account the developments which are expected to occur.

38 There were significant areas of agreement on ward boundaries between the borough-wide proposals received at Stage One. The Conservatives and the Constituency Labour Party agreed over much of the borough. North of the M3 the Independents proposed a different pattern of representation – with three two-member wards, Egham Manorcrofts, Egham St John's and Virginia Water, replacing the present three-member ward pattern. Elsewhere, the Independents made similar proposals to those of the Conservatives and Constituency Labour Party, albeit with some minor boundary modifications.

39 Finally, in our draft recommendations report we noted that Stage One respondents had put forward proposals which would secure significant improvements in electoral equality. While at present the number of electors per councillor varies by more than 10 per cent from the borough average in six wards, this would reduce to zero under all three borough-wide schemes by 2002. The number of wards with an electoral variance of over 5 per cent would be zero under both the Conservative and Labour schemes and two under the Independent scheme.

40 We carefully considered the views and evidence received during Stage One and concluded that we should retain the existing pattern of 14 three-member wards, and a council of 42 members. All three borough-wide proposals represented a degree of consensus in the area south of the M3, while north of the M3 we proposed retaining the integrity of the existing pattern of three-member wards, as proposed by the Conservatives and the Constituency Labour Party. We therefore proposed, as our draft recommendations, a mix of the boundaries proposed by the Conservative Group and the Labour Party where they best met the statutory criteria.

41 At Stage Three, we received submissions from the Borough Council, the Conservative Group and the Independent Group. We also took the opportunity to meet again with representatives of the political parties on the Council to ensure we had a full understanding of the issues which led to alternative views being expressed about the Egham

area during the consultation on our draft recommendations. A number of issues emerged from the responses to our draft recommendations, which we have taken into account in the formulation of our final recommendations. As already indicated, the majority of the responses focused on the area in the north of the borough. The Conservative Group agreed with our draft recommendations in this area, while the Independent Group, supported by the Egham Residents' Association and a number of local residents, supported two two-member wards for Egham retaining the current external ward boundary of Egham, together with a two-member ward for Virginia Water. No submission was received from the Constituency Labour Party at Stage Three.

42 With regard to the pattern of three-member wards, we have further considered the impact of retaining the current pattern or putting forward a mix of two- and three-member wards. In considering the two alternatives we acknowledge that the arguments are finely balanced. However, we received views that the arrangements work well within the current system of annual elections and that it is easily understood by the electorate. Furthermore, the current pattern of three-member wards was supported by the majority of members on the Borough Council and we have not received evidence to persuade us to move away from this view. We therefore continue to consider that the statutory criteria is best met by a pattern of three-member wards throughout the borough.

43 In terms of community identity, the Independent Group, supported by the Egham Residents' Association, considered that our draft recommendations did not reflect community identity in Egham. The Independents stated that "it seems that [the] proposals would largely destroy the Egham community and drastically change the Thorpe community."

44 We acknowledge that there are strongly held views, but we have not found that in our experience the warding arrangements and the placing of individual boundaries have such a stark impact on communities, especially in urban areas. We consider that, in this case, the issues are finely balanced. However, there would be a cost in electoral equality terms if we were to amend substantially our draft recommendations for the boundaries around Egham. We further consider

that Egham is one of a number of communities in the borough and that in order to achieve electoral equality throughout the whole borough, the wards covering each of these communities must be subject to change.

45 We must fix boundaries which are and will remain identifiable. In response to consultation a number of views were expressed regarding individual boundaries. We particularly sought evidence on the significance of motorways as boundaries in the borough. In general, views expressed have led us to conclude that the impact of the motorways as boundaries varies in different parts of the borough. Accordingly, we have utilised them in those areas where respondents generally have agreed that they are appropriate boundaries. Otherwise, we received evidence which has led us to some minor amendments to the boundaries proposed in our draft recommendations better to reflect the statutory criteria, while still achieving a reasonable balance of representation.

46 With regard to the representations received at Stage Three, we have sought, in the borough as a whole, to balance good electoral equality with the need to secure effective and convenient local government and reflect local community identities and interests. The following areas, based on existing wards, are considered in turn:

- (a) New Haw and Woodham wards;
- (b) Addlestone Bournside, Addlestone North and Addlestone St Paul's wards;
- (c) Chertsey Meads and Chertsey St Ann's wards;
- (d) Foxhills ward;
- (e) Egham and Hythe wards;
- (f) Englefield Green East and Englefield Green West wards;
- (g) Virginia Water and Thorpe wards.

47 Details of our final recommendations are summarised in Figures 1 and 4 and illustrated on Map 2 and the large map inserted at the back of the report.

### **New Haw and Woodham wards**

48 The number of electors per councillor in New Haw and Woodham wards is 7 per cent below and 12 per cent below the borough average respectively

(9 per cent and 13 per cent below in 2002). All three borough-wide schemes proposed changes to the boundary between the wards in order to reduce the imbalance.

49 At Stage One, the Conservative Group proposed the transfer of 568 electors from the area north of Woodham Lane and west of Grange Road from Woodham ward to New Haw ward, but would retain the current boundary to the south of Woodham Lane. Both the Constituency Labour Party and the Independent Group put forward an alternative transfer of streets, retaining the boundary to the north of Woodham Lane and transferring 535 electors from the area to the south of Woodham Lane and west of, and including, Heathervale Road from New Haw to Woodham ward. The boundary would run along the back of the properties on the east side of Heathervale Road and would include part of Park Side, in Woodham ward.

50 We considered that the 'ribbon' pattern of development centred around Woodham Lane and the similarity of housing profile mean that the statutory criteria may be met by either of the proposed boundaries, and the electoral variances would be similar under each scheme (within 2 per cent of the borough average in 2002). On balance, we decided to endorse the transfer of the southern area which provides a clear boundary, and formed part of two of the three borough-wide submissions, as part of our draft recommendations. In addition, we proposed the transfer of 90 electors from the Rosepark Caravan Park currently in Woodham ward to the new Chertsey South & Row Town ward (detailed later), which would bring the ward boundary in line with the Borough Council's electoral register in this area.

51 Each of the three schemes also proposed the transfer of areas from both Addlestone St Paul's and Addlestone Bourneside wards to New Haw ward, to reduce the current over-representation in New Haw ward which, without these additional transfers, would be further increased as a consequence of the proposed transfer of electorate from New Haw ward to Woodham ward. Each scheme proposed to transfer an area south of Liberty Lane currently in Addlestone St Paul's ward, together with Sayes Court from Addlestone Bourneside ward to New Haw ward, using the M25 as a boundary as far as possible. Given that the wards covering the Addlestone area must be considered in their entirety, as each change has a

consequential effect on neighbouring wards, which are detailed below, we adopted the Conservative Group's proposal to transfer 191 electors from Parklands, part of Liberty Lane and Sayes Court to New Haw ward, as part of our draft recommendations.

52 Under our draft recommendations for New Haw and Woodham wards, the number of electors per councillor would be 2 per cent and 1 per cent above the borough average respectively (equal to and 1 per cent below the borough average in 2002).

53 At Stage Three, the Conservative Group objected to our proposed boundary between New Haw and Woodham wards, instead supporting its original submission stating that its proposed boundary "was a more sensible 'encroachment' across the width of that part of New Haw rather than isolating the area".

54 However, we are not persuaded that the alternative proposal would provide a substantial benefit over our proposed boundary in this area and therefore confirm our draft recommendations for Woodham and New Haw wards as final, subject to one minor amendment to retain numbers 37 and 39 Park Side in New Haw ward to provide a clearer boundary at the junction where Heathervale Road meets Park Side. This would not effect the electoral variances for these wards.

### **Addlestone Bourneside, Addlestone North and Addlestone St Paul's wards**

55 The number of electors per councillor is 1 per cent above the average in Addlestone Bourneside, 3 per cent below in Addlestone North and 5 per cent above in Addlestone St Paul's (equal to the average, 5 per cent below and 5 per cent above the average respectively in 2002).

56 At Stage One, we considered that, while there is reasonable electoral equality in these wards, the proposed changes to Woodham and New Haw wards, together with Chertsey Meads ward in the north, would necessitate a number of minor boundary changes to the Addlestone wards. All three schemes proposed only a minor change to the boundary between Woodham and Addlestone Bourneside wards, as described above, and to Addlestone North ward – leaving its northern boundary with Chertsey Meads ward intact but modifying the western boundary so that it runs

along the M25, which would include the whole of School Lane together with St Paul's and Abbeylands schools in Addlestone North ward. The Conservative Group together with a local resident also proposed a minor boundary change to transfer 11 electors in the Dockett Eddy area from Addlestone Bourneside ward to Chertsey Meads ward to reflect better community identity.

57 Each of the three schemes also proposed changes to Addlestone St Paul's ward. The main change in this area would centre around the triangle of development, bounded by main roads, in the south Chertsey area. Each of the three schemes transferred part of this area from Chertsey Meads ward to Addlestone St Paul's ward. The Constituency Labour Party used Green Lane as the ward's northern boundary stating that the proposal would also provide "more identifiable boundaries, i.e. the M25, Liberty Lane and Church Road". The Labour Party noted that, of the three wards, Addlestone St Paul's ward would be subject to the most change, and should therefore be renamed Chertsey South & Row Town ward to reflect the community identity of the affected residents.

58 The Conservative Group's proposed boundary between the current Addlestone St Paul's ward and Chertsey Meads ward would follow Little Green Lane running behind the properties on Hillcrest Avenue and Ferndale Avenue. The Independent Group used the whole length of Little Green Lane as the ward's northern boundary. Both the Conservative and Independent groups proposed that the ward should continue to be called Addlestone St Paul's. Each of the three proposals would achieve improved electoral equality.

59 However, we considered that the best electoral equality for this area with minimal disruption to the current arrangements would be achieved by the Conservative scheme and consulted on the Conservative Group's proposals in this area. Additionally, we recognised that the St Paul's area would not be included in the proposed ward and we therefore consulted on the name, Chertsey South & Row Town ward, which would better reflect the area covered. The number of electors per councillor in Addlestone Bourneside, Addlestone North and Chertsey South & Row Town wards would be 4 per cent below, 1 per cent above and 3 per cent below the average (4 per cent below, 1 per cent below and 3 per cent below in 2002).

60 At Stage Three, the Conservative Group supported the draft recommendations but considered that Chertsey South & Row Town ward should be called St Peter's & St Paul's ward. It stated that "whilst both the names of Chertsey and Row Town mean something to the residents, the combination means little to either". The Chertsey Society considered that Chertsey South & Row Town "is [a] totally artificial grouping of communities", but did not offer an alternative solution for wards in this area. In considering the alternative name proposed by the Conservative Group, we are not persuaded that it would more adequately reflect the area covered by the ward, and consider that residents will be able to relate to the name Chertsey South & Row Town. Accordingly, in the absence of alternative proposals which would reflect the statutory criteria, we are confirming our draft recommendations for Addlestone North, Addlestone St Paul's and Chertsey South & Row Town wards as final.

### **Chertsey Meads and Chertsey St Ann's wards**

61 In Chertsey Meads and Chertsey St Ann's wards, the number of electors per councillor is 23 per cent above and 11 per cent below the borough average respectively (21 per cent above and 10 per cent below in 2002).

62 At Stage One, the Conservative Group and the Constituency Labour Party proposed a similar boundary amendment between Chertsey Meads and Chertsey St Ann's wards. The Conservative Group proposed a transfer of 392 electors from Bridge Road and London Street together with the Abbey Chase area from Chertsey Meads to Chertsey St Ann's ward. The Labour Party proposed a transfer of 260 electors also from the area around Bridge Road. The Independent Group proposed no change to the boundary between the two wards.

63 We noted that the Conservative Group's proposals for Chertsey Meads and Chertsey St Ann's wards would achieve marginally better electoral equality (both 1 per cent compared with around 5 per cent under the Labour Party's and Independent Group's proposals in 2002). In the overall pattern of change in this area, which includes the transfer of part of Chertsey Meads to the new Chertsey South & Row Town ward, we endorsed the Conservative Group's proposed changes to Chertsey Meads and Chertsey St Ann's

wards (together with the transfer of Dockett Eddy described above) as part of our draft recommendations. The number electors per councillor in Chertsey Meads and Chertsey St Ann's wards would be 1 per cent above and 1 per cent below the borough average respectively (both 1 per cent below in 2002).

64 At Stage Three, the Chertsey Society considered that Wheatash Road/Roakes Avenue together with properties around Chertsey fire station should be included in Chertsey Meads ward rather than Addlestone North ward affecting some 800 electors. This would have a substantial impact on electoral equality in both wards, and we conclude that our draft recommendations would provide a better balance of representation, and would in fact retain the existing boundary in this area. Accordingly, we are confirming our draft recommendations for Chertsey Meads and Chertsey St Ann's wards as final.

### **Foxhills ward**

65 Each of the three councillors for Foxhills ward represent 4 per cent fewer electors than the borough average, remaining the same in 2002. At Stage One, each of the three borough-wide schemes proposed changes to the northern boundary of Foxhills ward so that it would follow the M3 motorway, which would transfer just three electors at Trumps Farm, located south-west of the M3, from Virginia Water ward to Foxhills ward. In view of the well-defined boundary of the motorway, the good balance of representation which currently exists and the general consensus for this minor boundary modification, we endorsed this proposal as part of our draft recommendations. The electoral variance would be unchanged from the current arrangements.

66 At Stage Three, we received no detailed comments on the proposed Foxhills ward, and are confirming our draft recommendation as final.

### **Egham and Hythe wards**

67 Electors in Egham ward are currently under-represented, with the number of electors per councillor varying by 27 per cent from the borough average (30 per cent in 2002). Each of the proposals received at Stage One for this area would significantly improve electoral equality.

68 The Conservative Group proposed that an area at the foot of Egham Hill containing 291 electors

in Greenways, Malt Hill, Mount Lea, Sweeps Lane, Milton Road, Langham Place and Fairhaven, together with part of Runnymede Park, should be transferred from Egham ward to Englefield Green East ward. The Constituency Labour Party proposed a similar boundary change, but used the southern part of the Egham by-pass as the boundary. Both the Conservative and the Labour schemes would also involve boundary changes between Egham, Hythe and Thorpe wards, described below.

69 In dealing with the Egham and Hythe area, the Conservative Group stated that it proposed the extension of "the boundaries of Thorpe and Englefield Green East to maintain the principle of the three-member ward establishing the motorway as the eastern boundary of Egham ward". The Labour Party acknowledged the difficulties involved in achieving a balance of representation in this area, but considered that its proposal would address "the community identity of the large majority of residents".

70 The Independent Group proposed that Egham should have an additional, fourth, councillor in a pattern of two two-member wards, Egham St John's and Egham Manorcrofts, with only minor changes to the external boundary of the current ward which would not affect any electors. It stated that its proposals were "based on minimal disturbance to existing boundaries and communities whilst addressing electoral equity". Its proposal would obviate the need for significant boundary changes to the external boundary of Egham ward to achieve electoral equality. The Independents, however, did propose a boundary change between the new Egham St John's and Hythe wards. They further proposed a reduction in the number of councillors representing Virginia Water ward, from three to two. These proposals were supported by the Egham Residents' Association and the Egham Riverside Residents' Association together with a number of Egham residents.

71 In our draft recommendations report, we concluded that we should adopt the majority view on the Council for the retention of the existing three-member ward pattern. We considered that the existing pattern of 14 three-member wards, proposed in two of the three borough-wide schemes, best reflects the statutory criteria and we would be reluctant to propose changes which would alter this pattern.

72 In addition to the boundary changes between Egham and Englefield Green East wards, both the Conservative Group and the Constituency Labour Party put forward similar changes to the boundary between Egham and Thorpe wards. The Conservative Group's proposal, involving a transfer of 336 electors from the area around Vicarage Road, would provide a clearer boundary to include the whole of Vicarage Road up to the railway line. We therefore proposed to consult on the Conservative Group's proposed boundary changes to Egham ward, which would achieve marginally better electoral equality (2 per cent in 2002) than the Labour Party's proposals (3 per cent in 2002).

73 In Hythe ward the number of electors per councillor is 12 per cent above the borough average (10 per cent above in 2002). Each of the three borough-wide schemes also proposed changes to Hythe ward to reduce the current electoral imbalance.

74 The Conservative Group and the Constituency Labour Party proposed similar changes to the boundary between Egham and Hythe wards to include part of the Causeway Estate and some of the roads south of the railway line in Hythe ward, utilising the M25 as an identifiable boundary. Additionally, both the Conservative Group and the Labour Party proposed to transfer part of Hythe ward to Thorpe ward, again on slightly different boundaries. Specifically, the Conservative Group proposed to include the area south of Langton Way including Oak Avenue, with 844 electors, in Thorpe ward. The Labour Party's proposals would affect 796 electors, with the proposed boundary running along the back of the properties on Devil's Lane. It noted that most of the electors which would be transferred from Hythe ward to Thorpe ward under its proposals live in the area known as Thorpe Lea. The Independent Group proposed modifying the boundary between its proposed Egham St John's ward and both Hythe and Thorpe wards, as part of its reconfiguration of the wards in the area.

75 We considered that the proposals put forward by the Conservative Group for the boundary between Hythe and Egham wards and Thorpe ward would achieve good electoral equality and provide clear boundaries with minimal disruption to current arrangements.

76 In addition, we adopted the Labour Party's proposed names for the wards, Egham Town and Egham Hythe, to reflect the areas they would cover.

77 Under our draft recommendation the number of electors per councillor in Egham Town and Egham Hythe wards would be 1 per cent below and 6 per cent above the borough average (2 per cent above and 4 per cent above in 2002).

78 At Stage Three, we received strong objections to our proposals for the Egham area from the Independent Group, the Egham Residents' Association (which attached a petition containing 290 signatures), the Stroud Residents' Association, the Chertsey Society and a further 60 residents opposed our draft recommendations for the Egham wards. The arguments put forward centred around community identity issues. In particular, we considered whether the placing of individual boundaries would affect the community identity in Egham and how far the achievement of electoral equality could be compromised by different boundaries in this area.

79 In light of the representations received we consider that Egham Hill would provide a more identifiable boundary and that retaining the streets to the east of Egham Hill in Egham Town ward would better reflect community identity. This boundary would also be in line with the Independent Group's original Stage One proposal. We are therefore amending our proposed boundary between Egham Town and Englefield Green East wards to include 238 electors from Fairhaven Court, Langham Place, Malt Hill and Milton Road, situated to the east of Egham Hill, in Egham Town ward. We also consider that 10 electors in the properties around Whitehall Lane should be included in Egham Town ward, as proposed by a number of respondents, which would retain the existing boundary in this area. The revised boundaries are illustrated on the large map at the back of the report.

80 However, we remain of the view that the properties on Woodhaw lie to the east of the M25 which provides a clearly identifiable boundary, and therefore are not amending our proposal to include Woodhaw in Egham Hythe ward. Similarly, the arguments put forward in favour of retaining the streets south of Langton Way together with the Vicarage Road area in Egham Hythe ward have not persuaded us to amend our draft recommendations. The alternative proposal would result in electoral inequality between the two wards, and again the use of the M25 provides an identifiable boundary.

81 Under our final recommendations the number of electors per councillor in the revised Egham Town ward would be 5 per cent above the average (8 per cent below in 2002).

### **Englefield Green East and Englefield Green West wards**

82 In Englefield Green East and Englefield Green West wards, the number of electors per councillor is 1 per cent below and 2 per cent below the borough average respectively (1 per cent above and 4 per cent below in 2002).

83 At Stage One, in addition to the boundary change between Egham and Englefield Green East wards described earlier, the Conservative Group proposed a boundary change between Englefield Green East and Englefield Green West wards to include a small area at the top of Egham Hill, including the recent development of St David's Drive and St Jude's Road, containing 226 electors, in Englefield Green West ward. The Labour Party and the Independent Group also proposed a similar boundary change.

84 Given the current good levels of electoral equality and the minor nature of the transfer proposed, we endorsed the Conservative Group's proposal for the boundary between these wards. Under our draft recommendations the number of electors per councillor in Englefield Green East and Englefield Green West wards would be 4 per cent above and equal to the borough average (2 per cent above and 1 per cent above the borough average in 2002).

85 At Stage Three, we received objections to our proposed ward boundary between Englefield Green East and Egham wards from the Independent Group, the Egham Residents' Association (together with 68 signatures) and a number of residents, the majority of which specifically opposed our draft recommendation to include the area to the east of Egham Hill in Englefield Green East ward. As stated earlier, we have reconsidered the proposals and agree that Egham Hill would provide a clearer boundary and retaining the area to the east of Egham Hill in the proposed Egham Town ward would better reflect community identity.

86 We are therefore confirming our draft recommendations for Englefield Green East and Englefield Green West wards as final, subject to the boundary amendment along Egham Hill described

above. The number of electors per councillor in the revised Englefield Green East ward would be 2 per cent below the average (3 per cent below in 2002).

### **Virginia Water and Thorpe wards**

87 Virginia Water ward is currently over-represented, with the number of electors per councillor 29 per cent below the borough average (30 per cent in 2002). In Thorpe ward the number of electors per councillor is currently equal to the borough average, forecast to deteriorate to 9 per cent above the average in 2002 due to the housing development at Virginia Parks on the former Holloway Sanatorium Si4054 002678 eforecast to provide 500 additional electors in the area.

88 At Stage One both the Conservative Group and the Constituency Labour Party proposed that the eastern boundary of Virginia Water ward should be extended to include the Virginia Parks area together with St Ann's Heath, Stroude and a small area at the southern end of Egham ward, and the ward should continue to be served by three councillors.

89 The Independent Group, supported by the Egham, Egham Riverside, Stroude and Thorpe Residents' Associations, and five local residents, proposed only minor changes to the boundary between the two wards. The Independents' scheme would retain Stroude in Thorpe ward but would transfer Virginia Parks to Virginia Water ward, and reduce the number of councillors representing Virginia Water ward from three to two. The Independents argued that "the Stroude area identifies strongly with Thorpe". Under its proposals the number of electors per councillor in Thorpe and Virginia Water wards would be 7 per cent above and 8 per cent above the borough average respectively in 2002. The Independents recognised that the "percentage difference 8 ehigher than would be liked", but considered that th8 ewas justified by the characteristics of the respective areas.

90 While both proposals would achieve improved electoral equality<sup>54</sup> e considered that retaining the pattern of 14 three-member wards throughout the borough best meets the statutory criteria. We considered that the inclusion of the Virginia Parks development in Virginia Water ward would reflect the community identity of the area and would reduce the current over-representation in the ward. We therefore consulted on the proposals put forward by the Conservative Group and the

Constituency Labour Party for Virginia Water and Thorpe wards, together with the boundary change between Thorpe ward and Egham and Hythe wards, described earlier, as part of our draft recommendations.

91 Under our draft recommendations, the number of electors per councillor in Virginia Water and Thorpe wards would be 6 per cent below and 5 per cent above the borough average respectively (both 3 per cent above in 2002).

92 At Stage Three, the Independents reiterated their Stage One proposal, for a two-member Virginia Water ward, together with fewer boundary changes with Thorpe ward, on community identity grounds. This was supported by the residents' associations for Egham, Stroude and Thorpe and a number of residents from the Egham area. The Independent Group and the Stroude Residents' both indicated that the properties on Whitehall Lane should continue to be included in Thorpe ward as there is no road directly connecting these electors to Virginia Water ward.

93 The Independents favoured keeping Stroude in Thorpe ward, but supported the transfer of Virginia Parks to Virginia Water ward. The Independents noted that, under our draft recommendations, six properties (comprising 10 electors) in Whitehall Lane, currently in the most southerly part of Egham ward, would be transferred to Virginia Water ward. They argued that the affected residents would have to travel through Egham and Stroude to get to Virginia Water. They therefore proposed that the existing boundary would have to be retained in this area which would have no material effect on electoral equality. The Chertsey Society supported this view.

94 Furthermore, the Independents stated that the proposed boundary between Thorpe and Virginia Water wards running along Hurst Lane should be modified to include a property on the east side of the road in the same ward as the rest of the road.

95 However, having concluded that a pattern of three-member wards should be retained throughout the borough, we consider that our draft recommendations for these two wards would achieve good electoral equality. They recognise the general view that the Virginia Parks development, together with the St Ann's Heath area, which are situated close to Virginia Water station and shops, have greater affinity with Virginia Water than

Thorpe. Accordingly, we are confirming our draft recommendations for Thorpe and Virginia Water wards as final, subject to amending the two boundary changes described above which we recognise would have clearer boundaries and would have a negligible effect on electoral equality.

## Electoral Cycle

96 In our draft recommendations report, we proposed that the present system of elections by thirds in Runnymede be retained. At Stage Three the Borough Council reiterated its support for this proposal. The Independent Group also supported the continuation of elections by thirds. No other representations were received on this issue, and we therefore confirm our draft recommendation as final.

## Conclusions

97 Having considered carefully all the evidence and representations we have received in response to our consultation report, we have decided to substantially endorse our draft recommendations, subject to the two amendments described below. We have concluded that:

- (a) the council size should remain the same at 42;
- (b) there should be 14 three-member wards, the same as at present;
- (c) the boundaries of all 14 of the existing wards should be modified; and
- (d) elections should continue to be held by thirds.

98 We believe that these recommendations strike a satisfactory balance of the criteria guiding our work, namely the need to secure electoral equality, while having regard to the need to reflect community identities. We are therefore confirming our draft recommendations as final, subject to the following:

- (a) to amend the boundary between Egham Town and Englefield Green East wards to run along Egham Hill;
- (b) to retain part of the existing boundary between Egham and Virginia Water wards in the Whitehall Lane area;
- (c) to modify the proposed boundary between Thorpe and Virginia Water wards to include all properties on Hurst Lane in the same ward, Virginia Water;

Figure 3:  
Comparison of Current and Recommended Electoral Arrangements

	1997 electorate		2002 forecast electorate	
	Current arrangements	Final recommendations	Current arrangements	Final recommendations
Number of councillors	42	42	42	42
Number of wards	14	14	14	14
Average number of electors per councillor	1,410	1,410	1,438	1,438
Number of wards with a variance more than 10 per cent from the average	6	0	4	0
Number of wards with a variance more than 20 per cent from the average	3	0	3	0

- (d) to modify the proposed boundary between New Haw and Woodham wards to retain two properties in New Haw ward.

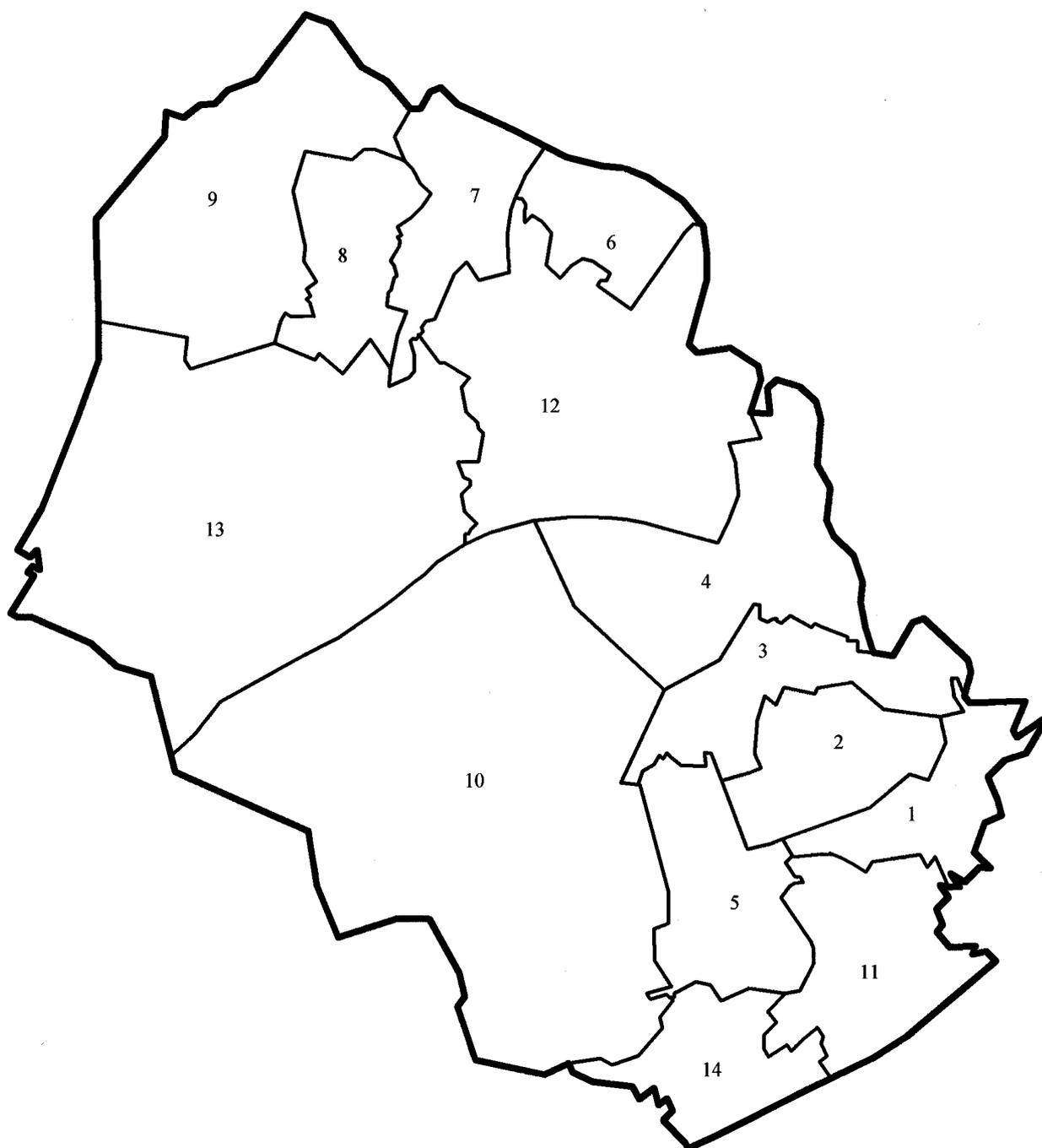
99 Figure 3 shows the impact of our final recommendations on electoral equality, comparing them with the current arrangements, based on 1997 and 2002 electorate figures.

100 As Figure 3 shows, our recommendations would result in a reduction in the number of wards with electoral variances of more than 10 per cent from six to zero. By 2002 all wards are forecast to vary by no more than 8 per cent from the average. We conclude that our recommendations would best meet the need for electoral equality, having regard to the statutory criteria.

### **Final Recommendation**

Runnymede Borough Council should comprise 42 councillors serving 14 wards, as detailed and named in Figures 1 and 4, and illustrated in Map 2 and the large map inserted at the back of the report. The Council should continue to be elected by thirds.

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



© Crown Copyright 1998

Key to Wards

- |                               |                         |                   |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|
| 1 Addlestone Bourneside       | 6 Egham Hythe           | 11 New Haw        |
| 2 Addlestone North            | 7 Egham Town            | 12 Thorpe         |
| 3 Chertsey Meads              | 8 Englefield Green East | 13 Virginia Water |
| 4 Chertsey St Ann's           | 9 Englefield Green West | 14 Woodham        |
| 5 Chertsey South and Row Town | 10 Foxhills             |                   |

Figure 4:  
The Commission's Final Recommendations for Runnymede

Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (1997)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2002)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
1 Addlestone Bourneside	3	4,077	1,359	-4	4,125	1,375	-4
2 Addlestone North	3	4,286	1,429	1	4,286	1,429	-1
3 Chertsey Meads	3	4,278	1,426	1	4,278	1,426	-1
4 Chertsey St Ann's	3	4,172	1,391	-1	4,262	1,421	-1
5 Chertsey South & Row Town	3	4,094	1,365	-3	4,194	1,398	-3
6 Egham Hythe	3	4,465	1,488	6	4,465	1,488	4
7 Egham Town	3	4,444	1,481	5	4,656	1,552	8
8 Englefield Green East	3	4,142	1,381	-2	4,166	1,389	-3
9 Englefield Green West	3	4,233	1,411	0	4,355	1,452	1
10 Foxhills	3	4,047	1,349	-4	4,139	1,380	-4
11 New Haw	3	4,298	1,433	2	4,298	1,433	0
12 Thorpe	3	4,449	1,483	5	4,449	1,483	3
13 Virginia Water	3	3,954	1,318	-7	4,456	1,485	3
14 Woodham	3	4,267	1,422	1	4,267	1,422	-1
<b>Totals</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>59,206</b>	—	—	<b>60,396</b>	—	—
<b>Averages</b>	—	—	<b>1,410</b>	—	—	<b>1,438</b>	—

Source: Electorate figures are based on the submissions from Runnymede Borough Council Conservative Group and Runnymede & Weybridge Constituency Labour Party.

Note: 1 The 'variance from average' column shows by how far, in percentage terms, the number of electors per councillor varies from the average for the borough. The minus symbol (-) denotes a lower than average number of electors. Figures have been rounded to the nearest whole number.

2 The total electorate figures differ marginally from Figure 2; however, this has a negligible effect on electoral variances.

## 6. NEXT STEPS

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

102 It now falls to the Secretary of State to decide whether to give effect to our recommendations, with or without modification, and to implement them by means of an order. Such an order will not be made earlier than six weeks from the date that our recommendations are submitted to the Secretary of State.

103 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 Review  
Eland House  
Bressenden Place  
London SW1E 5DU



# APPENDIX A

## Final Recommendations for Runnymede: Detailed Mapping

The **large map** inserted in the back of the report illustrates the Commission's proposed warding arrangements for Runnymede.



# APPENDIX B

## Draft Recommendations for Runnymede (March 1998):

Our final recommendations, detailed in Figures 1 and 4, differ from those we put forward as draft recommendations only in respect of Egham Town, Englefield Green East, Thorpe and Virginia Water wards where our draft proposals were as follows:

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

Ward name	Constituent areas
Egham Town	Egham (part)
Englefield Green East	Egham ward (part); Englefield Green East ward (part)
Thorpe	Chertsey St Ann's ward (part); Egham ward (part); Foxhills ward (part); Hythe ward (part); Thorpe ward (part)
Virginia Water	Egham ward (part); Thorpe ward (part); Virginia Water ward (part)

*Note: Although the constituent areas appear the same as under our draft recommendations, we propose that a smaller part of the existing Egham ward should be transferred to Englefield Green East ward and a smaller part of Thorpe ward should be transferred to Virginia Water ward (see Chapter 5).*

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

Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (1997)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2002)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
Egham Town	3	4,187	1,396	-1	4,399	1,466	2
Englefield Green East	3	4,389	1,463	4	4,413	1,471	2
Thorpe	3	4,452	1,484	5	4,452	1,484	3
Virginia Water	3	3,961	1,320	-6	4,463	1,488	3

*Source: Electorate figures are based on the submissions from the Runnymede Borough Council Conservative Group and Runnymede & Weybridge Constituency Labour Party.*

