

FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS
ON THE
FUTURE LOCAL GOVERNMENT
OF THE ISLE OF WIGHT

A REPORT TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE
FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

APRIL 1993

Dear Secretary of State

**THE FUTURE LOCAL GOVERNMENT
OF THE ISLE OF WIGHT**

I am pleased to submit the recommendations of the Commission on the future structure, boundary and electoral arrangements for the Isle of Wight. These take full account of the needs to reflect the identities and interests of local communities and to secure effective and convenient local government.

The Isle of Wight review has been notable in that the three existing councils put forward a joint proposal for the creation of a single authority. The Commission wishes formally to record its appreciation of the efforts made by members and officers of the three councils to achieve this agreement.

In effect, the Commission was presented with two options to consider – the councils' proposals and the status quo. No other options were examined in any detail and, given the circumstances of this review and the degree of apparent public support for a single council, further work would have been wasteful of the Commission's resources and unnecessary.

The material submitted by the councils was carefully studied and showed clearly that a single council would meet the needs of the community and produce on-going savings through the rationalisation of existing structures.

Following public consultation the Commission has no doubt that the creation of a single authority will be welcomed by the people of the Isle of Wight.

The Commission now sets out its formal recommendations which it commends to you.



Sir John Banham
Chairman

THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND

Sir John Banham (Chairman)

David Ansbro

Professor Michael Chisholm

Kenneth Ennals CB

Professor Malcolm Grant

Brian Hill CBE DL

Howell Harris Hughes

Miss Mary Leigh

Mrs Ann Levick

Robert Scruton

David Thomas*

Lady Judith Wilcox

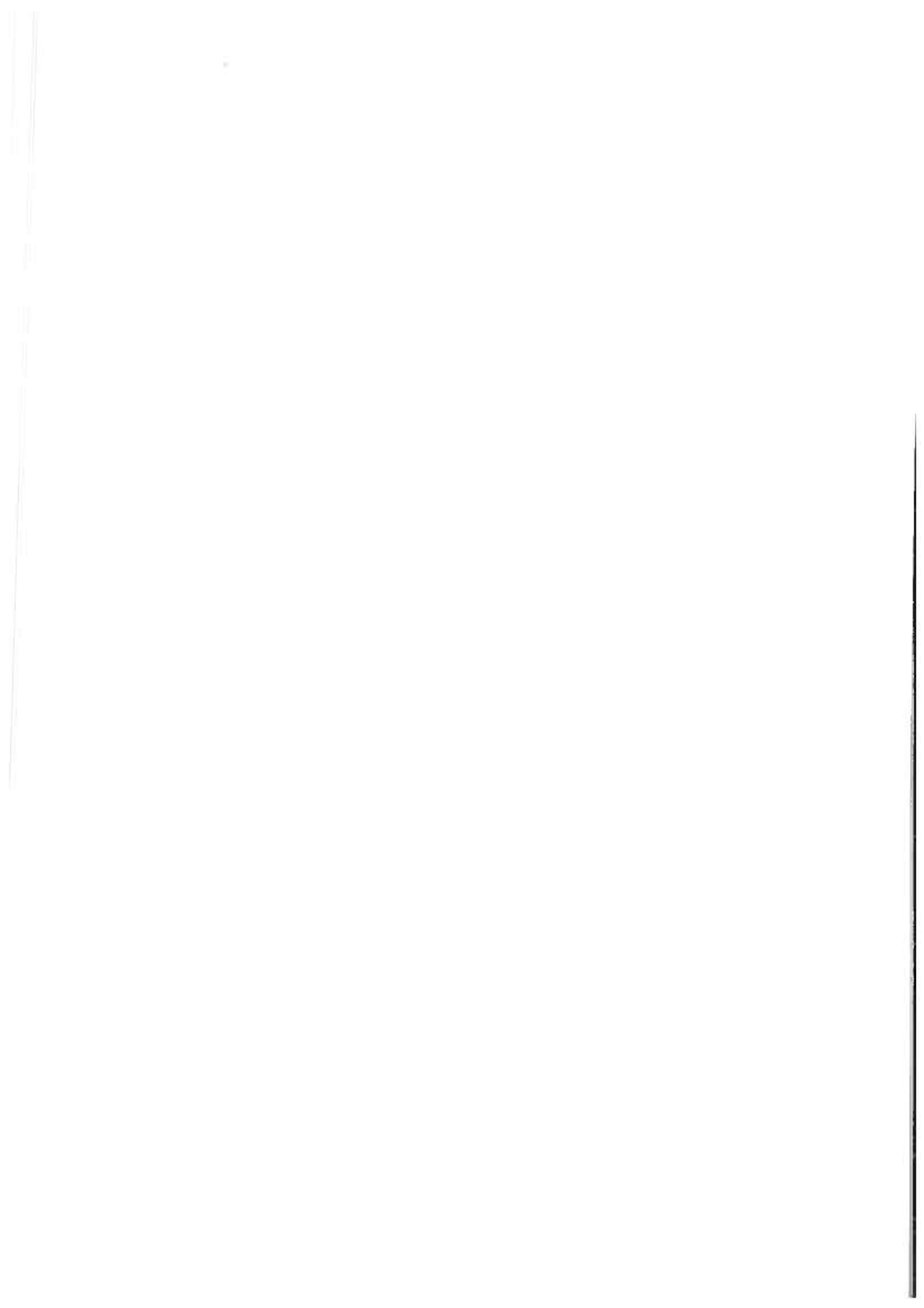
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SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

STRUCTURE

Under Section 13 of the Local Government Act 1992:

1. That a single unitary authority should be established for the Isle of Wight to replace the existing County Council and the Boroughs of Medina and South Wight.
2. That for the present, and subject to any separate reviews by the Home Office and Lord Chancellor's Department, there should be no change in the arrangements for the provision of law and order services on the Isle of Wight. Accordingly the Island should continue to be included in the Hampshire Police Authority and Hampshire Probation Service but should also continue to have its own Magistrates' Courts Committee.
3. That for the purposes of Part II of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 the new authority should be treated as an authority to whose area Chapter II of this Act applies. Therefore the new authority should have responsibility for both structure planning and local planning (including minerals and waste) for the Island.

BOUNDARIES

4. That for the present there should be no change to the existing seaward boundaries of the Isle of Wight. However, the Commission wishes to draw the Secretary of State's attention to the request of the three existing authorities (supported by the Hampshire County Council) that consideration should be given to extending the boundaries of the Isle of Wight further into the Solent.

ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS

5. That the new authority for the Isle of Wight should comprise 48 councillors elected for the single member wards or electoral divisions described in detail in Appendix 1.
6. All councillors should retire together every four years.

PARISH AND TOWN COUNCILS

7. That no new parishes should be created at this stage but the Commission believes that an early task of the new authority should be to determine the views of the Island's population regarding the role of town and parish councils, and the possible need for new parishes where they do not exist at present.
8. For the future, elections for town and parish councils should be held at the same time as elections for the new unitary authority.



INTRODUCTION

1. The Local Government Commission for England was established by the Local Government Act of 1992. Its main task is to conduct reviews of the structure, boundaries and electoral arrangements of all local authorities in the English shire counties and to make recommendations to the Secretary of State.
2. The Isle of Wight is the first area to have been reviewed by the Commission and the timetable for the work is set out below:

Stage

1	Opening of the review	03/08/92 – 18/10/92
2	Drafting of recommendations	19/10/92 – 20/12/92
3	Consultation on draft recommendations	21/12/92 – 21/02/93
4	Preparation of final report	22/02/93 – 25/04/93

THE OPENING OF THE REVIEW

3. At the start of Stage 1, notices announcing the review were issued in accordance with the Department of the Environment's Procedure Guidance. The public and other interested parties were invited to write to the Commission giving their views on the future of the Island's local government, and meetings were held on the Island during September and October 1992 for individuals and groups wishing to speak directly with David Thomas, the Commissioner leading the review.
4. At the end of Stage 1 the three existing principal councils of the Isle of Wight presented joint proposals for the future local government of the Island. Their document "One Island, One Council" put forward the case for a single unitary authority to replace the two-tier system of one County and two Borough Councils.
5. The Commission also received 82 separate written representations during the period. An analysis of the views received was given in the Commission's interim report published last December. This analysis showed that out of those people and organisations who expressed an opinion, 93 per cent supported the creation of a single authority (Table 1).



TABLE 1 – ANALYSIS OF INITIAL REPRESENTATIONS TO THE COMMISSION

	The General Public	Interest Groups/ Voluntary Bodies etc	The Business Community	Parish & Town Councils	Total	%
Support for the Status Quo	2	–	–	–	2	3.3
Support for a Single Unitary Authority	16	18	6	16	56	93.4
Support for two Unitary Authorities	1	1	–	–	2	3.3
Total	19	19	6	16	60	100
Note: Another 22 representations were received but these did not express a specific opinion on the future local government of the Isle of Wight.						

STAGE 2

- In Stage 2 the Commission studied the councils' proposals in detail, together with the views of those people and organisations who had made representations. The Commission's interim report supported the key proposal of the three authorities that a single Island council should be created.

STAGE 3 – CONSULTATION

- The Commission published its draft recommendations on 21 December 1992. The report was sent to all individuals and organisations who had given opinions to the Commission and to the organisations listed in Annex A of the Department of the Environment's Procedure Guidance.
- Reference copies and maps showing the Commission's re-warding proposals were displayed in council offices, libraries and other public buildings. Leaflets summarising the Commission's report, including a tear-off questionnaire, were also widely available. Over 1100 questionnaires were returned and the results analysed against the Commission's recommendations. The Commission also received 70 letters from individuals and organisations.
- Four public meetings were held on the Island in early February, at which broad support was expressed for all the Commission's recommendations. Publicity outlining the recommendations and promoting the public meetings included a double page feature in the Isle of Wight County Press and a series of advertisements on Isle of Wight Radio. The Commission Chairman and the lead Commissioner were interviewed by local newspapers, television and radio. The results of the consultations are set out below.



STRUCTURE

A SINGLE COUNCIL

10. The Commission proposed that the existing County Council and two District Councils should be replaced by a single unitary authority which should be called "The Isle of Wight Council".
11. This recommendation was widely supported. Approximately 95 per cent of the questionnaires returned by the public agreed with the creation of a single council and there was also very firm approval from those individuals and organisations who wrote to the Commission, and at public meetings (Table 2).

TABLE 2 - RESPONSES TO THE COMMISSION'S INTERIM RECOMMENDATIONS - VIEWS ABOUT THE PROPOSED ESTABLISHMENT OF A SINGLE AUTHORITY

Percentage Analysis of Questionnaire Responses		
	No. of Responses	Percentage
Support for a Single New Authority	1058	95%
Opposition to a Single New Authority	54	5%
"No Opinions"	7	-
Total Responses Received	1119	100%

Analysis of Correspondence		
Note: Not all respondents expressed a definite opinion		
	Organisation or Interest Group	Individuals
Support for a Single New Authority	33	14
Opposition to a Single New Authority	0	2
Total Responses Received	49	21

Percentage Analysis of Views at Public Meetings			
Note: Percentages are based on a show of hands. They are therefore only general indicators of opinion.			
Not all percentages reconcile to 100 due to abstentions.			
Venue	Turnout	Support for a Single New Authority	Opposition to a Single New Authority
Sandown	80	80%	10%
Newport	125	80%	10%
Freshwater	85	90%	5%
Ryde	95	99%	1%



12. The three principal councils and the Association of Parish and Town Councils reaffirmed their support for the creation of a single new authority.
13. The Commission also proposed that the new authority should be called the "Isle of Wight Council" in recognition of the fact that all the existing authorities favoured a "fresh start".
14. Although no clear response emerged from the public consultation on the name for the new authority, no agreed alternative emerged. South Wight Borough Council supported the Commission's recommendation on the name for the new authority while the County Council expressed a preference for the name "Isle of Wight County Council" and recommended that the Commission finance a survey of Islanders to find out their views.
15. The Commission makes no formal recommendation on this issue as the name of the new authority is a matter for the Secretary of State, but believes that the "Isle of Wight Council" would be a popular name.
16. The Commission is satisfied that the present councils and the public would much prefer to have a completely new authority and not just a continuation of the existing County Council. The Commission notes the Secretary of State's power under Section 17 (3) (c) of the Local Government Act 1992 to order the establishment of a new authority. The Secretary of State announced on March 5 1993 that fresh elections will be held to any new authority that is established.

RECOMMENDATION 1

That a single authority should be established for the Isle of Wight to replace the existing County Council and the Boroughs of Medina and South Wight.

LAW AND ORDER SERVICES

17. The Commission proposed that there should be no change in the present arrangements under which the Isle of Wight is included in the Hampshire Police Authority but has its own Magistrates' Courts Committee.
18. There was limited public reaction to this issue but 40 people actively opposed the recommendation, mainly on the grounds of wanting a separate police authority for the Island.
19. The HM Inspectorate of Probation wrote expressing the view that the existing arrangements whereby the probation service for the Island is provided by the Hampshire Probation Committee, with suitable arrangements for sharing costs between Hampshire County Council and the Isle of Wight County Council, should be retained. This was the Commission's intention, so the recommendation has been amended to clarify the point.



20. The recommendation has also been amended in the light of the Government's White Paper "A New Framework for Justice" and the concern that the Commission's interim recommendation – "that the Isle of Wight should retain its own Magistrates' Courts Committee" might conflict with the outcome of this review of the Magistrates' Courts Service.

RECOMMENDATION 2

That for the present, and subject to any separate reviews by the Home Office and Lord Chancellor's Department, there should be no change in the arrangements for the provision of law and order services on the Isle of Wight. Accordingly, the Island should continue to be included in the Hampshire Police Authority and Hampshire Probation Service but should also continue to have its own Magistrates' Courts Committee.

LAND USE PLANNING

21. The interim report made no reference to future land use planning on the Isle of Wight. The Commission, however, is empowered by the Local Government Act 1992 to make a recommendation as to whether the new authority should become a unitary plan-making authority (as is the case with the London boroughs and metropolitan districts), or should retain the present two-tier system of structure plan and local plans.
22. The Island Planning Unit (a joint unit for the three councils) is at present preparing a draft replacement structure plan and a minerals and waste local plan. These will be considered by the existing County Council before they are issued for public consultation later this year.
23. The Unit is also reviewing and amalgamating the existing local plans for Medina and South Wight Councils, which in due course will form a single local plan for the whole Island.
24. A number of national bodies made representations on land use planning. The Commission recognises the importance of this issue and the impact that planning has in general on individuals, local communities and the environment. It believes that, in the special circumstances of the Island, retention of the present two-tier structure will avoid transitional costs and delays, and continue to provide a convenient system of review of strategic and local issues. A move to a unitary planning structure is not therefore recommended.

RECOMMENDATION 3

That for the purposes of Part II of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 the new authority should be treated as an authority to whose area Chapter II of this Act applies. Therefore the new authority should have responsibility for both structure planning and local planning (including minerals and waste) for the Island.



COSTS AND BENEFITS

25. The Commission has taken careful note of the three councils' estimated financial costs of the proposed change in structure. A comprehensive financial statement, based directly on the figures contained in the councils' proposals, is given in Appendix 2. This shows estimated on-going net savings of around £1.8 million per annum after four years of the new council, although the revised start date for the new authority means that the actual achievement of the expected savings will be delayed by one calendar year. In accordance with the Department of the Environment's Policy Guidance, "Transfer Costs" have been shown but are not included in the calculation of either transitional or on-going costs and benefits.
26. The main savings arise from a reduction in staff numbers across a range of functions and reflect opportunities for improved efficiency in the deployment of manpower, together with the ending of duplication in certain areas. The councils estimate total staff savings to be 62 posts. Other smaller savings are expected to arise through the rationalisation of computer systems and from the reduction in the number of councillors and their administrative support costs.
27. The councils' original calculations (based on a 1994 start date) assumed that up to 50 per cent of surplus posts would be retained in the first year of the new authority. The Secretary of State's announcement of an April 1995 start date, will allow the shadow authority more time to plan and have less need to retain experienced but surplus staff in its first year of existence. Most surplus posts will have disappeared by April 1995, allowing the new council to achieve near full savings in the first year of operation.
28. Estimated transitional costs total some £764,000 over five years, including approximately £400,000 net shadow authority costs which will fall during 1994-95.
29. The councils also estimate that capital receipts from the disposal of property/ accommodation could be notionally around £290,000. Out of prudence, this figure has not been included in the cost and benefit calculations because of the difficulty in assessing the saleability of council buildings in a depressed commercial property market.



BOUNDARIES

THE SEAWARD BOUNDARY

30. In undertaking its reviews, the Commission must consider the impact that any structural changes may have on the boundaries of local government areas. In the case of the Isle of Wight there are no boundary issues in the usual sense since the structural changes proposed do not alter present borders.
31. In their original proposals the three councils nevertheless asked the Commission to consider making recommendations to extend the boundaries of the Isle of Wight further into the Solent – in particular the area of the Western Solent – as they consider that some control by a public body is needed to protect the public interest.
32. The County Council and South Wight Borough reiterated this concern following the Commission's interim report and again invited the Commission to make a formal recommendation to the Secretary of State to this effect.
33. The Commission recognises the strong views of the Island (shared by the Hampshire County Council), on this issue. However, as the councils themselves have acknowledged, the issues require wide consultation and could not be dealt with as part of the current review. Furthermore, the Commission has been advised that there is some doubt about whether this issue properly falls within the scope of its present work. If this doubt is removed, the Commission would be prepared to return to this issue if so directed by the Secretary of State.

RECOMMENDATION 4

That for the present there should be no change to the existing seaward boundaries of the Isle of Wight. However, the Commission wishes to draw the Secretary of State's attention to the request of the three existing authorities (supported by the Hampshire County Council) that consideration should be given to extending the boundaries of the Isle of Wight further into the Solent.



ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS

NUMBER OF COUNCILLORS AND WARDS

34. The Commission proposed that the new authority should comprise 48 single member wards based on a mixture of existing county electoral divisions and borough wards, adjusted to follow parish boundaries. This was to respond to the desire on the Island for the new authority to be larger than the present County Council and to ensure fair representation between the Medina and South Wight areas.
35. Table 3 shows that out of the 1100 questionnaires returned to the Commission, only seven people thought 48 councillors was too few while 84 thought the figure to be either “too many” or “about right”. Over 900 people made no comment and it is reasonable to take this as tacit approval. Of the 70 people and organisations who wrote to the Commission, the balance was closer but overall favoured 48. At public meetings the “show of hands” reflected between 75 to 80 per cent support for the recommendation, except in Sandown where the figure was about 50 per cent.

TABLE 3 – RESPONSES TO THE COMMISSION’S INTERIM RECOMMENDATIONS – VIEWS ON ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS

Percentage Analysis of Questionnaire Responses					
	48 Members is too many	Support 48 Members but no more	48 Members is too few	No Comment	Total Responses
No. of Responses	48	36	7	967	1058
% of Responses	4.5%	3.4%	0.7%	91.4%	100%

Analysis of Correspondence		
	Organisation or Interest Group	Individuals
Support for 48 Members	9	6
Opposition to 48 Members (too many)	–	4
Opposition to 48 Members (too few)	5	–

Percentage Analysis of Views at Public Meetings			
Note: Percentages are based on a show of hands. They are therefore only general indicators of opinion. Not all percentages reconcile to 100 due to abstentions.			
Venue	Turnout	Support for 48 Wards	Opposition to 48 Wards
Sandown	80	50%	50%
Newport	125	75%	10%
Freshwater	85	70%	20%
Ryde	95	80%	20%



36. The County Council and South Wight Borough Council both gave formal support for the recommendation while Medina Borough Council, on balance, decided "to re-affirm its earlier request for the number of Members to be elected to the new unitary authority to be based on existing borough wards and boundaries".

REPRESENTATION OF RURAL AREAS

37. There was concern at some of the public meetings that the re-warding proposals would lead to an under-representation of the sparsely populated but geographically large area of "West Wight", and a possibility that the rural areas of the Island would be disadvantaged as against the urban areas. However, the Commission's proposals, which take account of Schedule 11 of the Local Government Act 1972, have been designed to follow parish boundaries and to achieve a fair balance between the Medina and South Wight areas. They produce a ratio of one councillor per 2100 electors and this compares well with the rest of the country.
38. The Commission believes that, taken as a whole, the rural areas will not be disadvantaged. They are all parished and local communities thus have an additional effective voice in local government.

DETAILED CHANGES

39. In the interim report, the question of the division of the Lake Parish area (ward nos. 38 & 39) was left open in order to foster public consultation. Agreement between councillors, officials and representatives of local interest groups has now been reached on this matter and the re-warding proposals have been amended accordingly (Appendix 1). During the consultation period a number of other minor improvements to the re-warding proposals were suggested and some of these have been incorporated into the final tables.



ELECTORAL CYCLES

40. The Commission received very little feedback regarding the proposal that all councillors should retire together every four years. The great majority of respondents made no comments on this point and it was not an issue at any of the public meetings. In accordance with the Department of the Environment's Policy Guidance the Commission recommends that the existing electoral arrangements should continue, which is also the view of the existing councils.

RECOMMENDATION 5

That the new authority for the Isle of Wight should comprise 48 councillors elected for the single member wards or electoral divisions described in detail in Appendix 1.

RECOMMENDATION 6

All councillors should retire together every four years

TIMING

41. Although it is for the Secretary of State to determine when the new authority should first be elected, there were strong views on the Island about this issue and the Commission therefore set out some of the arguments in its interim report. On balance the Commission proposed that the new authority should come into being on 1 April 1994 with appropriate "shadow" arrangements being made to enable the transfer of services, staff and other assets to be carried out efficiently and effectively.
42. Feedback from the general public on this issue showed a majority in favour of a 1994 start for the new authority, though there was concern at the prospect of two elections in one year.
43. The County Council wanted the new authority to come into existence in April 1994 while Medina Borough Council supported a 1995 start date. This was also the view of the Isle of Wight Association of Parish Councils. South Wight Borough Council were less clear, although they were anxious to avoid two elections in one year, which would have been an almost inevitable consequence of the earlier start date.
44. The Commission recognises that this was a finely balanced issue and welcomes the early decision of the Secretary of State that any new authority will come into being on 1 April 1995, with elections for the shadow authority in May 1994. This decision will remove uncertainty and allow everyone to start planning for the transition. The difficulty of having to hold two elections in one year is also removed.



PARISH AND TOWN COUNCILS

ROLE AND NUMBER

45. The Commission proposed that an early task of the new authority should be to determine the views of the Island's population regarding the role of town and parish councils, and whether they should be created where they do not now exist.
46. The councils' proposals and the interim report stated that 75 per cent of the entire population were unrepresented at either town or parish council level. This is incorrect. At present the population of South Wight Borough is completely parished, but approximately 75 per cent of the population of Medina Borough is not represented at local council level, and the towns of Newport and Ryde have no such representation at all.
47. The view of the two existing Borough Councils is that additional town and parish councils should only be created where there is a significant demand shown by the inhabitants concerned. This is also the Government's view. However, the County Council and the Isle of Wight Association of Parish and Town Councils are of the opinion that there should be an early completion of the parishing of the Isle of Wight.
48. In its interim report the Commission considered the role that parish and town councils could play and how they might fit into the larger structure it has recommended. The Commission was keen to see that town and parish councils were given the opportunity to be consulted on neighbourhood services and, within the constraints of the present law, to be able to provide small scale local services directly if they wished.
49. At that time the Commission had received little input from the people of the Island on the role of town and parish councils and the possible need for their creation in areas where they do not exist at present. Against a backdrop of differing views from the existing councils the Commission felt unable to make a clear recommendation on this issue but proposed that any new authority should in the future seek the views of the population of the Island.
50. In the consultation period the Commission received very little additional feedback from individuals. Of those who did comment, over 90 people were against an increased number of town and parish councils and, of those, over 50 wanted them abolished entirely (Table 4). The Commission therefore believes that it is even more important that any new authority should seek the views of the general population on this matter.



TABLE 4 – RESPONSES TO THE COMMISSION’S INTERIM RECOMMENDATIONS – VIEWS ABOUT PARISH AND TOWN COUNCILS

Percentage Analysis Questionnaire Responses		
	No. of Responses	% of Responses
Opposition to Parish Councils (Calling for Abolition)	51	5%
Support for Parish Councils with Increased Powers	41	4%
Maintain Existing Number of Parish Councils	40	4%
Non-committals	926	87%

Analysis of Correspondence		
	Organisation or Interest Group	Individuals
Support for Parish Councils	17	4
Opposition to Parish Councils	0	2

ELECTORAL CYCLES

51. The Commission received strong representations that in the interests of economy and to ensure a high turnout, parish and town council elections should be held on the same day as those for the new authority.
52. Following the Secretary of State’s announcement on the timing of elections, the Commission recommends that in any Order made pursuant to Section 17 (3)(f) of the Local Government Act 1992 there should be provision to synchronise in due course the elections for the parish and town councils with those for the new authority.

RECOMMENDATION 7

That no new parishes should be created at this stage but the Commission believes that an early task of the new authority should be to determine the views of the Island’s population regarding the role of town and parish councils, and the possible need for new parishes where they do not exist at present.

RECOMMENDATION 8

For the future, elections for town and parish councils should be held at the same time as elections for the new unitary authority.



APPENDIX 1

PROPOSED 48 SINGLE MEMBER WARDS FOR NEW UNITARY AUTHORITY

Medina Wards	Registration Units	Electorate	Description of Area
1 Ashy	MMC(1), MMD	2,160	Part of the present borough ward
2 Binstead	MMA, MMC(2), MMB	2,489	Part of the present borough ward
3 Carisbrooke East	MFA	1,609	The present county electoral division
4 Carisbrooke West	MFB(1), MFB(2), MJA(2)	2,468	The present county electoral division
5 Cowes Castle – 1	MAA	1,461	Part of the present county electoral division & borough ward
6 Cowes Castle – 2	MAB	1,717	Part of the present county electoral division & borough ward
7 Cowes Central	MBA	1,905	The present county electoral division & borough ward
8 Cowes Medina	MCA, MCC, MCD	2,496	The present borough ward
9 East Cowes – 1	MEA	1,693	Part of the present county electoral division & borough ward
10 East Cowes – 2	MEB	1,356	Part of the present county electoral division & borough ward
11 Fairlee	MKA, MKB(1)	2,139	The present county electoral division
12 Gurnard	MDA(1)	1,517	The present county electoral division
13 Mount Joy	MHA, MHB	2,550	The present county electoral division & borough ward
14 Seaview and Nettlestone	MOA(1), MOA(2), MOB	2,779	Part of the present borough ward
15 Newport Central	MGA, MIA	2,639	The present county electoral division
16 Northwood	MDA(2), MDB	1,616	Part of the present county electoral division
17 Osborne	MLA, MLB	2,401	The present county electoral division & borough ward
18 Pan	MIB, MIC	2,280	The present county electoral division
19 Parkhurst	MJA(1), MJB	2,631	The present county electoral division
20 Ryde North East	MNA, MNB	2,610	The present county electoral division
21 Ryde North West	MQA, MQB	2,164	The present county electoral division
22 Ryde South East	MNC, MND	1,968	The present county electoral division
23 Ryde South West	MQC, MQD	2,362	The present county electoral division
24 St Helens	MOC	1,029	Part of the present borough ward
25 St Johns – 1	MPA	1,845	Part of the present borough ward
26 St Johns – 2	MPB, MPC	2,194	Part of the present borough ward
27 Wootton	MKB(2), MKC, MKD	2,831	The present county electoral division
Total		56,909	
	Average Electors per Ward	2,108	



**PROPOSED 48 SINGLE MEMBER WARDS
FOR NEW UNITARY AUTHORITY (CONTINUED)**

South Wight Wards	Registration Units	Electorate	Description of Area
28 Arreton & Newchurch	SAA, SAB, SAC, SAD	2,802	The present county electoral division & borough ward
29 Bembridge – 1	SBA	1,814	Part of the present county electoral division & borough ward
30 Bembridge – 2	SBB	1,416	Part of the present county electoral division & borough ward
31 Brading	SCA	1,662	The present county electoral division & borough ward
32 Brighstone & Shorwell	SDA, SDB, SDC, SDD, SDE	2,042	The present county electoral division & borough ward
33 Calbourne, Shalfleet, Yarmouth	SEA, SEB, SEC, SED, SEE, SEF, SEG, SPA, SPB	2,742	The present county electoral division
34 Chale, Niton, Whitwell	SFA, SFB, SFC	2,361	The present county electoral division & borough ward
35 Freshwater Afton	SGA	2,320	The present county electoral division
36 Freshwater Norton	SGB, SGC, SGD	2,323	The present county electoral division
37 Gatcombe, Godshill, Rookley	SHA, SHB, SHC	2,053	The present county electoral division & borough ward
38 Lake – 1	SIA	2,035	Part of present borough ward
39 Lake – 2	SIB	1,721	Part of present borough ward
40 Sandown – 1	SJA, SJD	2,314	Part of the present borough ward
41 Sandown – 2	SJB, SJC	1,914	Part of the present borough ward
42 Shanklin Central	SKB, SLA	2,543	The present county electoral division
43 Shanklin North	SKA	1,813	The present county electoral division
44 Shanklin South	SLB	2,300	The present county electoral division
45 Totland	SMA	2,177	The present county electoral division & borough ward
46 Ventnor – 1	SNA, SNB, SNC	2,428	Part of the present borough ward
47 Ventnor – 2	SND, SNE, SNF	2,513	Part of the present borough ward
48 Wroxall	SOA	1,296	The present borough ward
Total		44,589	
	Average Electors per Ward	2,123	

The following changes have been made to the earlier re-warding proposals:

- the MMC(2) Registration Unit has been transferred from Ashley to Binstead ward;
- the MCD Registration Unit has been transferred from Northwood to Cowes Medina ward;
- the Nettlestone Ward has been renamed the “Seaview and Nettlestone” ward;
- agreement has been reached on the division of the Lake Parish area. Details have been submitted to the Department of the Environment.



APPENDIX 2

REORGANISATION OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT ON THE ISLE OF WIGHT

Summary of Costs and Savings (£'000s at 1992 prices)

	93/4	94/5	95/6	96/7	97/8	98/9	99/0	0/01	01/2	02/3	03/4	04/5	05/6	06/7	07/8	08/9
Transfer Costs																
Redundancy T	500		500													
Pensions		300	110	105	100	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	75
Enhancement etc	1,440															
Total Transfer	1,940	800	110	105	100	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	75
Resource Costs																
Staff Relocation T	84		30	18	18	18										
Adaptations T	200				200											
Planning for Change T	80		80													
Elections Shadow T	60		60													
Recruit and Training T	80		70	10												
Records T	20		20													
Information T	50		25	25												
Shadow Authority exp T	140		140													
Removals T	50		25	25												
Employers Superann.	1,450		145	145	145	145	145	145	145	145	145	145	145	145	145	145
Total Resource	2,214	395	290	188	163	163	145	145	145	145	145	145	145	145	145	145
Savings																
New Structure	-20,372		-1,286	-1,422	-1,472	-1,472	-1,472	-1,472	-1,472	-1,472	-1,472	-1,472	-1,472	-1,472	-1,472	-1,472
Computing	-3,450				-150	-300	-300	-300	-300	-300	-300	-300	-300	-300	-300	-300
Elections	-220		-55													
Cost of Democracy	-3,024		-216	-216	-216	-216	-216	-216	-216	-216	-216	-216	-216	-216	-216	-216
Total Savings	-27,066		-1,557	-1,638	-1,838	-1,988	-2,043	-1,988	-1,988	-1,988	-2,043	-1,988	-1,988	-1,988	-2,043	-1,988
Total Costs/Savings	-24,852	395	-1,267	-1,450	-1,675	-1,825	-1,898	-1,843	-1,843	-1,843	-1,898	-1,843	-1,843	-1,843	-1,988	-2,043
Present Value	-14,233	352	-1,064	-1,149	-1,252	-1,287	-1,262	-1,156	-1,091	-1,029	-1,000	-916	-864	-879	-853	-783

T = Transitional Costs



NOTES TO APPENDIX 2

Appendix 2 gives a summary of the costs and savings resulting from the creation of single authority on the Isle of Wight. The statement is based directly on the figures contained in the three councils proposals, adjusted only for the need to take account of the Secretary of State's decision that any new authority should come into being in April 1995. (The original figures assumed a 1994 start.)

The proposals were based upon a functional analysis of activities. This is an acceptable method to identify costs and savings and the figures were agreed between the three authorities.

The summary sheet shows on-going net savings of around £1.8 million per annum after four years. In accordance with the the Policy Guidance, "Transfer Costs" have been shown but not included in the calculations.

DELIVERY OF SERVICES

The councils' proposals are based on a rationalisation of present management structures and methods of service delivery, on the basis that there will be no change in existing service levels standards, policies or priorities. The majority of existing services are already provided on an all-Island basis and the existing councils estimate that "In 70 per cent of service areas there will be no immediate change arising from an alteration in the structure of local government".

The new authority's management arrangements, corporate style and culture will be decided by the elected members, as will the method of service provision. Different assumptions about management styles and service providers have an obvious impact on costings, staffing levels, skill requirements etc. However the new authority will be inheriting all the functions and responsibilities of the three present councils.

STAFF SAVINGS

The main savings arise from a reduction in staff numbers across a range of functions and reflect opportunities for improved efficiency in the deployment of manpower, together with the ending of duplication in certain areas. Staff costs have been assessed by the councils' as either:

- indirect – management (active task/professional supervision)
- indirect – staff undertaking support and administrative work
- direct – staff performing direct services, or having contact with the public



A detailed breakdown of staff savings is given in Table 5 overleaf. These identify four types of local authority function:

Category A

Services already provided on an all-island basis, in line with the Policy Guidance, which will not change as a result of restructuring local government.

Category B

Those areas where change is likely as a result of reorganisation.

Category C

Similar to Category B as it also covers areas affected by change, but where the staff savings have been included under the “Cost of Democracy” or “Information Technology” headings (not “New Structure”) in the overall summary table.

Category D

Non-functional elements of departmental administration, general management and corporate activity.

The staffing savings are summarised as follows:

- in the balance of service areas there is a gross annual reduction in staff-related costs of £0.89 million and a surplus of 21 staff and 6.7 management posts;
- in computing and “costs of democracy” areas there is a gross annual reduction in staff-related costs of £0.29 million and a surplus of 9.6 staff and 1.3 management posts;
- in departmental and corporate areas there is a gross annual reduction in staff-related costs of £0.59 million and a surplus of 18.9 staff and 4.8 management posts.

This produces a total gross cost saving of £1.76 million per annum and a staffing surplus of 62 posts.





TABLE 5 - CONSEQUENCES OF MOVING TO A SINGLE UNIT OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT - STAFFING SAVINGS

Index	Cost Difference £'000s	Staff Difference Staff Mgt	Index	Cost Difference £'000s	Staff Difference Staff Mgt
Category A - Functions			Category A - Functions		
Advisory Services (Education)	No Change	No Change	Nursery Education	No Change	No Change
Architectural (Planning)			Pension Services		
Awards (Education)			Personnel (Education Staffing)		
Careers			Personnel (Social Services)		
Centres for the Unemployed			Pest Control		
Civic & Public Relations			Planning & Development (Social Services)		
Client Management Unit (Education)			Planning & Resources (Education)		
Countryside Management (Planning)	" "	" "	Planning Enforcement	" "	" "
Countryside/Rights of Way			Planning Information/Reception		
Cowes Ferry			Policy Review		
Development Board			Primary Schools		
Development Control (Highways)			Public Transport		
Development Control (Planning)			Purchasing (Central)		
Development Plan			Recycling		
Display Services (Cultural Services)			Registrars		
Drawing Office (Planning)			Rent Office		
DSO (Contracts)	" "	" "	Ryde/Newport Harbours	" "	" "
Education (other than schools)			School Crossing Patrols		
Education Welfare			School Management (Education)		
Elderly/P.H. (Social Services)			School Psychology Service		
Field Centres (Education)			South Wight Youth Training Group		
Fire Services Management			Special Education		
Fleet Management			Sports Development		
High Schools			T.V.E.E.		
Indoor Sports & Recreation			Teachers' Centre		
Information Systems Development (Social Services)	" "	" "	Tourist Information	" "	" "
Joint Registration & Inspection (Social Services)			Trading Standards		
Learning Difficulties/M.I. (Social Services)			Traffic Education		
Library Services			Traffic Management		
Management Services			Training & Development (Central)		
Middle Schools			Training (Social Services)		
Museums & Heritage			Tutorial Units		
Neighbourhood Office Administration	" "	" "	Waste Disposal		
			Wight Care		
			Youth & Community Services	" "	" "



Index	Cost Difference £'000s	Staff Difference	
		Staff	Management
Category B – Functions			
Accountancy	-82.2	-2.0	-0.2
Architectural	-32.0	-1.0	-0.1
Audit	-57.1	-1.0	-0.4
Benefits	-65.0	-1.0	-0.4
Building Control	-21.1	-1.0	-0.1
Cashiers	-46.7	-2.0	-0.2
Community Charge Collection	-64.7	-1.0	-0.4
Consumer Protection	-7.4	N/C	-0.2
Electoral Registration	-11.1	N/C	-0.1
Emergency Planning	-6.0	N/C	N/C
Engineering	-84.3	-2.0	-0.9
Environmental Health	-8.7	N/C	-0.5
Environmental Protection	-62.1	-2.0	-0.3
Estates	-20.6	-0.5	-0.1
Exchequer	-58.9	-2.0	-0.3
Health & Safety	-9.5	-0.5	N/C
Housing	-12.3	N/C	-0.3
Insurance	-1.2	N/C	N/C
Joint Crematorium	-3.0	N/C	N/C
Land Charges	-21.5	-1.0	-0.1
Legal	-68.5	N/C	-0.6
Leisure	-28.9	-0.8	-0.2
Maintenance of Buildings	-16.8	-1.0	-0.3
Parks, Gdns & Cemeteries	-14.4	N/C	-0.3
Personnel	-45.0	-1.2	-0.4
Recoveries/Investigation	-14.4	N/C	-0.2
Salaries/Pay-roll	-22.8	-1.0	-0.1
Sub Totals	-886.2	-21.0	-6.7
Category C – Functions			
Committee Admin	*-98.0	-2.6	-0.4
Word Processing	*-38.8	-2.0	-0.3
Computer Services	*-151.6	-5.0	-0.6
Sub Totals	-288.4	-9.6	-1.3
Category D – Functions			
Departmental Admin – Central	-67.1	-3.9	-0.1
Departmental Admin – Other	-116.0	-5.0	-0.5
General Management	-230.7	-5.0	-2.3
Corporate Services/Management	-172.6	-5.0	-1.9
Sub Totals	-586.4	-18.9	-4.8
Totals	-1,761.0	-49.5	-12.8

N/C No Change

* Included in either "Cost of Democracy" or in "Computing" savings.



INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

The three authorities estimate that approximately £300,000 (including £152,000 in staff costs) might ultimately be saved by the rationalisation of computer systems.

“COSTS OF DEMOCRACY” SAVINGS

The three councils estimate that the creation of a single authority could reduce the cost of staffing support for committee administration by £137,000. In addition they calculate that a reduction in the number of councillors would reduce the total cost of members allowances by £37,000 for 60 members or £96,500 for 43 members. The figure shown in Appendix 2 is based on the 48 councillors proposed by the Commission and this produces a reduction in cost of £79,000 per annum.

