

LOCAL  
GOVERNMENT  
COMMISSION  
FOR ENGLAND

FINAL  
RECOMMENDATIONS  
ON THE FUTURE  
ELECTORAL  
ARRANGEMENTS FOR  
DACORUM  
IN HERTFORDSHIRE

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

*February 1998*

# LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND

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

Members of the Commission are:

Professor Malcolm Grant (Chairman)

Helena Shovelton (Deputy Chairman)

Peter Brokenshire

Professor Michael Clarke

Robin Gray

Bob Scruton

David Thomas O.B.E

Adrian Stungo (Chief Executive)

© Crown Copyright 1998

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

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

# CONTENTS

	page
LETTER TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE	<i>v</i>
SUMMARY	<i>vii</i>
1 INTRODUCTION	<i>1</i>
2 CURRENT ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS	<i>3</i>
3 DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS	<i>7</i>
4 RESPONSES TO CONSULTATION	<i>9</i>
5 ANALYSIS AND FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS	<i>13</i>
6 NEXT STEPS	<i>27</i>
APPENDICES	
A Final Recommendations for Dacorum: Detailed Mapping	<i>29</i>
B Draft Recommendations for Dacorum (August 1997)	<i>33</i>





## Local Government Commission for England

3 February 1998

Dear Secretary of State

On 10 December 1996, the Commission began a periodic electoral review of the borough of Dacorum under the Local Government Act 1992. We published our draft recommendations for electoral arrangements on 13 August 1997 and undertook a nine-week period of consultation.

We have now prepared our final recommendations in the light of the consultation. We have substantially confirmed our draft recommendations, although some modifications have been made (see paragraph 91) in the light of further evidence. This report sets out our final recommendations for changes to electoral arrangements in Dacorum.

We recommend that Dacorum Borough Council should be served by 52 councillors representing 27 wards, and that some changes should be made to ward boundaries in order to improve electoral equality, having regard to the statutory criteria. We recommend that elections should continue to take place every four years.

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

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

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

- **in 13 of the 28 wards, the number of electors represented by each councillor varies by 10 per cent or more from the average for the borough, with six wards varying by 20 per cent or more from the average;**
- **by 2001, the number of electors per councillor is likely to vary by 10 per cent or more from the average in 14 wards, with seven wards expected to vary by 20 per cent or more from the average.**

Our main final recommendations for future electoral arrangements (Figure 1 and paragraph 91) are that:

- **Dacorum Borough Council should be served by 52 councillors, compared with 58 at present;**
- **there should be 27 wards, one fewer than at present;**
- **the boundaries of 25 wards should be modified, while three wards should retain their existing boundaries;**
- **elections should continue to take place every four years.**

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

- **In 26 of the 27 wards, the number of electors per councillor would vary by no more than 10 per cent from the borough average.**
- **This level of electoral equality is expected to be maintained for 2001.**

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

- **revised warding arrangements for Berkhamsted and Tring town councils, and an increase in town councillors for Berkhamsted.**

All further correspondence on these recommendations and the matters discussed in this report should be addressed to the Secretary of State for the Environment, Transport and the Regions, who will not make an Order implementing the Commission's recommendations before 17 March 1998:

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

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

	<b>Ward name</b>	<b>Number of councillors</b>	<b>Constituent areas</b>	<b>Map reference</b>
1	Adeyfield East (in Hemel Hempstead)	2	Adeyfield East ward; Cupid Green ward (part)	Large map
2	Adeyfield West (in Hemel Hempstead)	2	Adeyfield West ward (part)	Large map
3	Aldbury & Wigginton	1	<i>Unchanged</i> (Aldbury and Wigginton parishes)	Map 2
4	Apsley (in Hemel Hempstead)	1	South ward (part); Bennetts End ward (part); Crabtree ward (part)	Large map
5	Ashridge	1	Ashridge ward (part – Little Gaddesden and Nettleden with Potten End parishes)	Map 2
6	Bennetts End (in Hemel Hempstead)	2	Bennetts End ward (part); Crabtree ward (part)	Large map
7	Berkhamsted Castle	2	Berkhamsted Central ward (part – Castle ward of Berkhamsted parish (part)); Berkhamsted East ward (part – Sunnyside ward of Berkhamsted parish (part))	Map A2
8	Berkhamsted East	2	Berkhamsted Central ward (part – Castle ward of Berkhamsted parish (part)); Berkhamsted East ward (part – Sunnyside ward of Berkhamsted parish (part))	Map A2
9	Berkhamsted West	2	Berkhamsted West ward (Shrublands ward of Berkhamsted parish); Berkhamsted Central ward (part – Castle ward of Berkhamsted parish (part)); Berkhamsted East ward (part – Sunnyside ward of Berkhamsted parish (part))	Map A2
10	Bovingdon, Flaunden & Chipperfield	3	Bovingdon & Flaunden ward (Bovingdon and Flaunden parishes); Chipperfield ward (Chipperfield parish); South ward (part)	Map 2 and Large map
11	Boxmoor (in Hemel Hempstead)	2	Boxmoor ward (part); South ward (part)	Large map
12	Chaulden & Shrubhill (in Hemel Hempstead)	2	Boxmoor ward (part); Chaulden ward; Warners End ward (part)	Large map
13	Corner Hall (in Hemel Hempstead)	2	Crabtree ward (part)	Large map

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

	<b>Ward name</b>	<b>Number of councillors</b>	<b>Constituent areas</b>	<b>Map reference</b>
14	Gadebridge (in Hemel Hempstead)	2	Gadebridge ward (part)	Large map
15	Grove Hill (in Hemel Hempstead)	3	Cupid Green ward (part); Grovehill ward	Large map
16	Hemel Hempstead Central (in Hemel Hempstead)	2	Adeyfield West ward (part); Central ward (part)	Large map
17	Highfield & St Pauls (in Hemel Hempstead)	3	Highfield ward; Adeyfield West ward (part); Central ward (part)	Large map
18	Kings Langley	2	<i>Unchanged</i> (Kings Langley parish)	Map 2
19	Leverstock Green (in Hemel Hempstead)	3	Bennetts End ward (part); Leverstock Green ward	Large map
20	Nash Mills (in Hemel Hempstead)	1	Bennetts End ward (part); Nash Mills ward (Nash Mills parish)	Large map
21	Northchurch	1	<i>Unchanged</i> (Northchurch parish)	Map 2
22	Tring Central	2	Tring Central ward (part – Bunstrux ward of Tring parish (part))	Map A3
23	Tring East	1	Tring Central ward (part – Bunstrux ward of Tring parish (part)); Tring East ward (part – Dunsley ward of Tring parish (part))	Map A3
24	Tring West	2	Tring East ward (part – Dunsley ward of Tring parish (part)); Tring West ward (Tring Rural parish and Miswell ward of Tring parish)	Map A3
25	Warners End (in Hemel Hempstead)	2	Boxmoor ward (part); Gadebridge ward (part); Warners End ward (part)	Large map
26	Watling	2	Ashridge ward (part – Great Gaddesden parish); Flamstead & Markyate ward (Flamstead and Markyate parishes)	Map 2
27	Woodhall (in Hemel Hempstead)	2	Cupid Green ward (part)	Large map

Notes: 1 Hemel Hempstead is the only unparished area in the borough.

2 The large map at back of this report illustrates the proposed ward boundaries for Hemel Hempstead.



# 1. INTRODUCTION

1 This report contains our final recommendations on the electoral arrangements for the borough of Dacorum in Hertfordshire.

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

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

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

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

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

Comments were sought on our preliminary conclusions. Finally, during Stage Four we reconsidered our draft recommendations in the light of the Stage Three consultation and now publish our final recommendations.



## 2. CURRENT ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS

<sup>6</sup> Dacorum borough lies at the western edge of Hertfordshire, covering some 21,000 hectares. Almost 60 per cent of the population live in the administrative centre of Hemel Hempstead in the south-east of the borough, while the two other main settlements of Berkhamsted and Tring lie to the west. The rest of the borough is largely rural. The borough is situated close to the M1 and M25 motorways and served by the London to Glasgow main railway line.

<sup>7</sup> The current electoral arrangements in the borough provide for 58 councillors representing 28 wards (Map 1 and Figure 2). Nine wards are represented by three councillors, 12 wards are represented by two councillors and seven wards by a single councillor. Dacorum currently holds whole-council elections, with the next election due to take place in 1999. The electorate of the borough at the start of the review was 103,252 with each councillor representing an average of 1,780 electors. The Borough Council forecasts that the electorate will increase to 104,976 by the year 2001, providing an average number of electors per councillor of 1,810 (Figure 2).

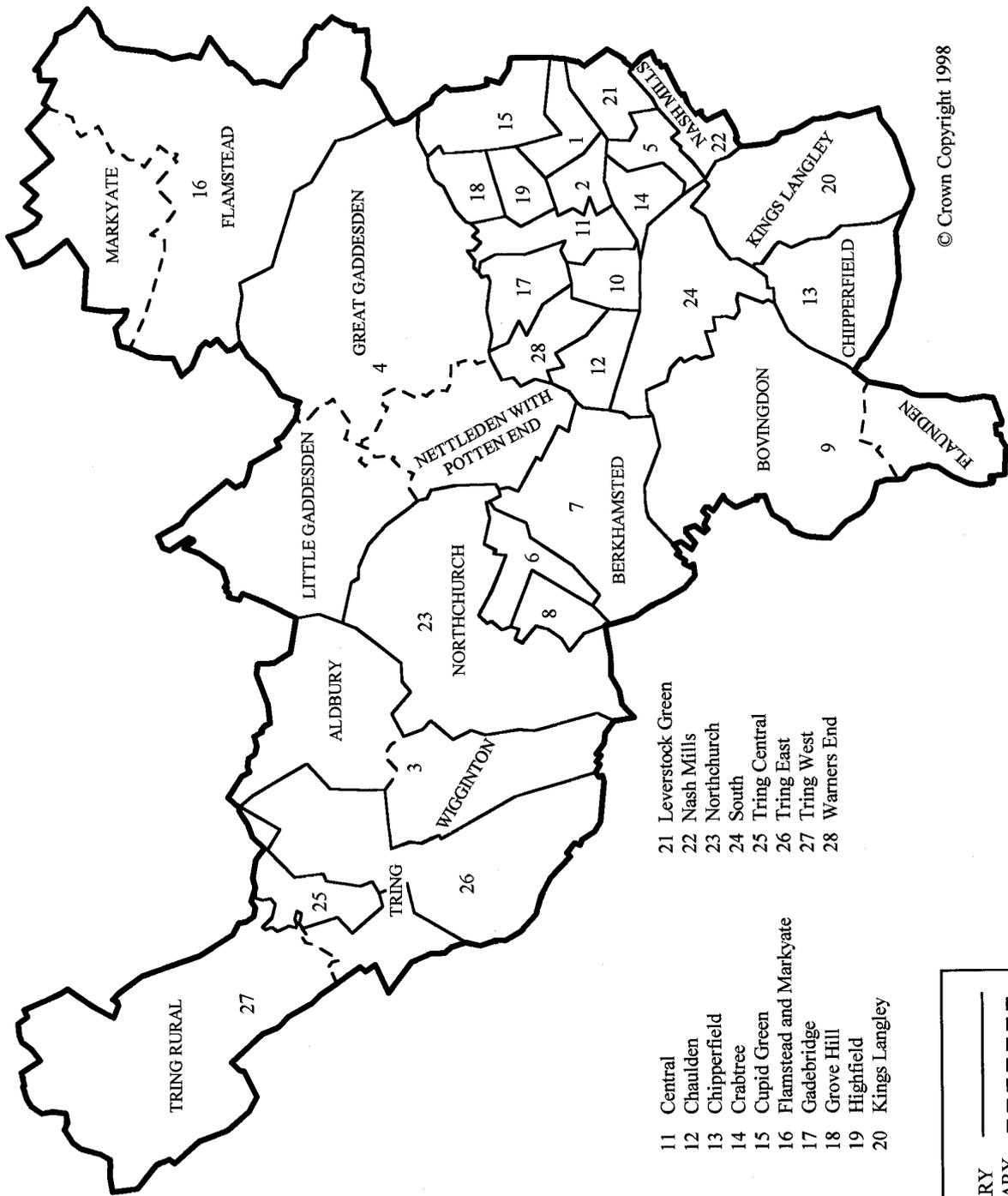
<sup>8</sup> To compare levels of electoral inequality between wards, the extent to which the number of electors per councillor in each ward (the councillor:elector ratio) varies from the borough average in percentage terms has been calculated. In the report this calculation may also be described as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

<sup>9</sup> Since the last electoral review was completed in 1975 by our predecessor, the Local Government Boundary Commission (LGBC), the electorate has increased by some 15 per cent. At present, in 13 of the 28 wards the number of electors per councillor varies by more than 10 per cent from the borough average. Much of the growth has occurred in the suburbs of Hemel Hempstead, for example South ward (67 per cent above the average number of electors per councillor) and Cupid Green ward (33 per cent above the average), and in Berkhamsted. Conversely, several of the more established areas of Hemel Hempstead have witnessed a relative

decline in electorate. For instance, Bennetts End and Adeyfield West wards have 23 per cent and 19 per cent fewer electors per councillor than the average respectively.

<sup>10</sup> The borough is entirely parished except for Hemel Hempstead. As part of this review, the Commission may also make recommendations relating to the electoral arrangements of the 13 parish and town councils in the borough.

Map 1:  
Existing Wards in Dacorum



© Crown Copyright 1998

- 11 Central
- 12 Chaulden
- 13 Chipperfield
- 14 Crabtree
- 15 Cupid Green
- 16 Flamstead and Markyate
- 17 Gadebridge
- 18 Grove Hill
- 19 Highfield
- 20 Kings Langley
- 21 Leverstock Green
- 22 Nash Mills
- 23 Northchurch
- 24 South
- 25 Tring Central
- 26 Tring East
- 27 Tring West
- 28 Warners End

EY	EXISTING WARD BOUNDARY	---
	EXISTING PARISH BOUNDARY	- - - -

Figure 2:  
Existing Electoral Arrangements

	Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (1996)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2001)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
1	Adeyfield East (in Hemel Hempstead)	2	3,786	1,893	6	3,752	1,876	4
2	Adeyfield West (in Hemel Hempstead)	3	4,340	1,447	-19	4,376	1,459	-19
3	Aldbury & Wigginton	1	1,822	1,822	2	1,784	1,784	-1
4	Ashridge	2	2,816	1,408	-21	2,834	1,417	-22
5	Bennetts End (in Hemel Hempstead)	3	4,093	1,364	-23	3,856	1,285	-29
6	Berkhamsted Central	2	4,247	2,124	19	4,486	2,243	24
7	Berkhamsted East	3	4,788	1,596	-10	4,791	1,597	-12
8	Berkhamsted West	2	3,402	1,701	-4	3,409	1,705	-6
9	Bovingdon & Flaunden	2	3,744	1,872	5	3,886	1,943	7
10	Boxmoor (in Hemel Hempstead)	3	4,938	1,646	-8	4,946	1,649	-9
11	Central (in Hemel Hempstead)	2	4,010	2,005	13	4,093	2,047	13
12	Chaulden (in Hemel Hempstead)	1	2,160	2,160	21	2,266	2,266	25
13	Chipperfield	1	1,373	1,373	-23	1,367	1,367	-24
14	Crabtree (in Hemel Hempstead)	3	5,176	1,725	-3	5,495	1,832	1
15	Cupid Green (in Hemel Hempstead)	2	4,748	2,374	33	4,679	2,340	29
16	Flamstead & Markyate	2	3,348	1,674	-6	3,336	1,668	-8
17	Gadebridge (in Hemel Hempstead)	2	3,644	1,822	2	3,980	1,990	10
18	Grove Hill (in Hemel Hempstead)	3	5,665	1,888	6	5,590	1,863	3

*continued overleaf*

Figure 2 (continued):  
Existing Electoral Arrangements

Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (1996)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2001)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
19 Highfield (in Hemel Hempstead)	3	4,529	1,510	-15	4,669	1,556	-14
20 Kings Langley	2	3,895	1,948	9	4,024	2,012	11
21 Leverstock Green (in Hemel Hempstead)	3	5,334	1,778	0	5,240	1,747	-3
22 Nash Mills (in Hemel Hempstead)	1	1,544	1,544	-13	1,656	1,656	-9
23 Northchurch	1	2,100	2,100	18	2,163	2,163	20
24 South (in Hemel Hempstead)	1	2,973	2,973	67	2,973	2,973	64
25 Tring Central	2	4,251	2,126	19	4,335	2,168	20
26 Tring East	1	1,771	1,771	-1	1,856	1,856	3
27 Tring West	2	3,836	1,918	8	3,985	1,993	10
28 Warners End (in Hemel Hempstead)	3	4,920	1,640	-8	5,151	1,717	-5
<b>Totals</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>103,252</b>	—	—	<b>104,976</b>	—	—
<b>Averages</b>	—	—	<b>1,780</b>	—	—	<b>1,810</b>	—

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

Note: The 'variance from average' column shows by how far, in percentage terms, the number of electors per councillor varies from the average for the borough. The minus symbol (-) denotes a lower than average number of electors. For example, in 1996, electors in Bennetts End ward were relatively over-represented by 23 per cent, while electors in Chaulden ward were relatively under-represented by 21 per cent. Figures have been rounded to the nearest whole number.

### 3. DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS

11 During Stage One, we received representations from Dacorum Borough Council and the Hemel Hempstead and South West Hertfordshire Conservative Associations on electoral arrangements for the whole borough. Six further representations were received, including from three parish and town councils, while the Northend Residents' Association forwarded a petition from residents in the Hemel Hempstead area. In the light of these representations and evidence available to us, we reached preliminary conclusions which were set out in the report, *Draft Recommendations on the Future Electoral Arrangements for Dacorum in Hertfordshire*. We proposed that:

- (a) Dacorum Borough Council should be served by 52 councillors representing 27 wards;
- (b) the boundaries of 24 of the existing wards should be modified, while four wards should retain their existing boundaries;
- (c) there should be revised warding arrangements for Berkhamsted and Tring town councils.

#### **Draft Recommendation**

Dacorum Borough Council should comprise 52 councillors, serving 27 wards. Elections should be held by thirds rather than every four years as at present.

12 Our proposals would have resulted in significant improvements in electoral equality, with the number of electors per councillor in 26 of the 27 wards varying by no more than 10 per cent from the borough average. This level of electoral equality was expected to be maintained over the next five years.

13 Our draft recommendations are summarised at Appendix B.



## 4. RESPONSES TO CONSULTATION

14 During the consultation on our draft recommendations report, 499 representations were received. In addition, a total of 145 signatures on two petitions were received. A list of respondents is available on request from the Commission's offices.

### **Dacorum Borough Council**

15 The Borough Council accepted the Commission's recommendations, with the exception of those for the south-eastern corner of Hemel Hempstead, specifically the wards of Bennetts End, Crabtree, Leverstock Green and Nash Mills. In relation to Bennetts End, it expressed concern about the proposal that the representation for Bennetts End ward would be reduced from three councillors to one, fearing that the strong identity of the ward may be lost as a result. While the Council accepted the Commission's view that the Nash Mills area is a distinct parished part of Hemel Hempstead and that it should continue to have separate representation, it contended that the Commission's proposed boundary for a revised Nash Mills ward intruded too far into the Bennetts End area, and would consequently transfer roads in which the residents considered themselves to be a part of Bennetts End.

16 The Borough Council also considered that the Commission's proposed Leverstock Green ward should be modified better to reflect community ties in the area. The Council contended that the Commission's proposal to transfer several roads from Bennetts End and Crabtree wards to Leverstock Green ward would make the revised ward "far too large and unwieldy" and, as in the case of the proposed Nash Mills ward, would transfer out of Bennetts End residents who consider themselves to be a part of its community. Furthermore, the Council added, this proposal would mean that some residents of Bennetts End Road would be included in Leverstock Green ward.

17 Consequently, the Council put forward alternative proposals for these wards. First, it proposed the transfer of 22 streets from Leverstock Green ward to a revised Bennetts End ward, which,

the Council contended, would provide better representation for the electorate of Bennetts End by ensuring it had two councillors, while still maintaining a good level of electoral equality. The Council also proposed a realignment of the Nash Mills ward boundary which, it argued, would better reflect the communities of Nash Mills and Bennetts End, and could also provide a new parish boundary when the next parish review of the area takes place. The Council's proposals would also mean that Crabtree ward would be enlarged to take in part of the southern section of the existing Bennetts End ward. The Council's proposed revisions to the Commission's draft recommendations would mean that the number of electors per councillor would vary by more than 10 per cent from the borough average in only one ward, both now and in 2001.

### **Liberal Democrat Group of Dacorum Borough Council**

18 The Liberal Democrat Group of Dacorum Borough Council ('the Liberal Democrats') also accepted the majority of the Commission's recommendations for the borough. However, they argued that the Commission's proposals for Berkhamsted would involve major changes in the town, resulting in confusion and lower turnouts at elections, and instead contended "that the minimal changes originally proposed by the Borough should be accepted".

19 The Liberal Democrats also objected both to the Commission's draft recommendations and the Borough Council's alternative proposals for the south-eastern corner of Hemel Hempstead, stating that the area the Borough Council proposed should be transferred from Leverstock Green to Bennetts End was "unequivocally Leverstock Green". They argued that the proposal would not be supported locally, and instead proposed to transfer part of the existing Crabtree ward to a revised Bennetts End ward, which would in turn transfer several streets adjacent to the A414 St Albans Road to Leverstock Green ward. They also proposed the transfer of a total of 12 roads from the southernmost part of the existing Bennetts End ward to a revised Nash Mills ward. These proposals would mean that the wards

of Bennetts End, Crabtree, Leverstock Green and Nash Mills (represented by two, two, three and one councillors respectively) would contain 5 per cent more, 2 per cent more, 4 per cent fewer and 5 per cent more electors per councillor than the borough average.

## **Hemel Hempstead Conservative Association and South West Hertfordshire Conservative Association**

20 Hemel Hempstead Conservative Association ('the Conservatives'), in a submission endorsed by the South West Hertfordshire Conservative Association, stated that they supported much of the Commission's draft recommendations report. However, they contended that the Commission's proposed Crabtree ward covered too large an area and consequently too many communities. Instead they proposed two separate wards of Belswains and Corner Hall, which would be represented by one and two councillors respectively. Similarly, the Conservatives argued that the proposed Grove Hill ward should be divided between two new wards, Grove Hill and Grove Hill West, represented by two and one councillors respectively, in order to recognise the distinctive nature of each of these areas.

21 The Conservatives opposed the Commission's draft recommendation to merge the parishes of Bovingdon, Flaunden and Chipperfield with part of the existing South ward. They stated that these three rural parishes "have no affinity whatsoever" with the areas of Felden and Bourne End on the fringes of Hemel Hempstead. The Conservatives instead proposed that the parishes should form a three-member ward in their own right, and that South ward, containing Apsley, Felden and Bourne End be retained, but modified to include parts of the current Chaulden and Berkhamsted East wards. These wards would be represented by three and two councillors respectively, which would in turn increase the council size to 53. The Conservatives also proposed a number of minor alterations to the Commission's proposed wards of Bennetts End, Leverstock Green, Nash Mills and Chaulden & Shrubhill.

## **Richard Page MP**

22 Richard Page MP expressed concern at our proposed Bovingdon, Flaunden & Chipperfield

ward. He argued that this ward would cross a parliamentary constituency and so prove confusing to electors in the area. In addition, he argued that the rural areas contained within the proposed ward "have little in common with urban Hemel Hempstead".

## **Parish and Town Councils**

23 We received a total of 12 representations from parish and town councils. Kings Langley Parish Council supported the Commission's recommendations for its area, a reduction in council size to 52, and a change to elections by thirds. However, the Council opposed the Commission's recommendations for the Bennetts End area of Hemel Hempstead. Nash Mills Parish Council also supported the Commission's draft recommendation for its area, subject to several minor modifications to our proposed ward. Bovingdon, Flaunden and Chipperfield parish councils all objected to the Commission's recommendation for this area of the borough. While each council emphasised that it had no objection to being placed in a borough ward with other rural parishes, all three objected to the inclusion in the proposed ward of part of the urban area of Hemel Hempstead.

24 Great Gaddesden Parish Council opposed our proposal that the parish be transferred from the existing Ashridge ward to a new Watling ward, stating that "the changes proposed would be totally disruptive". Little Gaddesden Parish Council also objected to this proposal, arguing that the two existing wards are distinct from each other, while the fact that they are dispersed in nature would lead to problems for the respective councillors in representing the electorate effectively. Both Flamstead and Markyate parish councils also wrote to oppose our recommendation to transfer Great Gaddesden parish to the new Watling ward. Flamstead Parish Council argued that for practical, geographical and historic reasons the transfer of Great Gaddesden parish was inappropriate, while Markyate Parish Council stated that the time and travelling involved for the prospective councillor for the new Watling ward had led it to the conclusion that the current Flamstead & Markyate ward should remain unchanged.

25 Berkhamsted Town Council supported the Borough Council's original proposals for Berkhamsted, but opposed the proposed change to

elections by thirds for the borough. Tring Town Council noted our proposals, proposing that the area south of the A41 should remain part of Tring East ward. Northchurch Parish Council supported our recommendation for no change to Northchurch ward.

## Other Representations

<sup>26</sup> We received a further 483 submissions from local groups, councillors and residents. Of those, the large majority commented on the warding structure for the south-eastern corner of Hemel Hempstead. Bennetts End Neighbourhood Association objected to our proposals for a revised Bennetts End ward. The Association argued that this proposal would transfer areas to Leverstock Green and Crabtree wards in which residents consider themselves to be part of the Bennetts End community. Furthermore, it contended that parts of the existing Nash Mills ward had many links with Bennetts End and that, given the legislation requiring parish councils that are not warded to be wholly contained within a borough ward, the whole of the Nash Mills area should be included in a revised Bennetts End ward.

<sup>27</sup> Leverstock Green Village Association, while supporting our draft recommendation to retain the Northend Farm estate in Leverstock Green ward, opposed Dacorum Borough Council's Stage Three proposal that several roads be transferred from Leverstock Green ward to Bennetts End ward. We received around 350 representations from residents of the area, opposed to the Borough Council's proposals that part of Leverstock Green ward be transferred to Bennetts End ward. In addition, we received two petitions, with a total of 145 signatures, objecting to the Borough Council's proposal.

<sup>28</sup> We received a number of representations opposing our draft recommendation to transfer Great Gaddesden parish from Ashridge ward to a new Watling ward. Several respondents argued that the two wards are different in character, that the present arrangements recognise the geographical and historical relationships between the respective parishes, that the foci of each ward were several miles apart and that the distances involved would prove too much for effective representation.

<sup>29</sup> We also received a number of representations in relation to our draft recommendations for the area covered by the existing wards of Bovingdon &

Flaunden, Chipperfield and South. Several respondents objected to our proposal to form a new ward comprising Bovingdon, Flaunden and Chipperfield parishes together with the Felden and Bourne End areas of the existing South ward, arguing that the distinct natures of both these areas militated against their inclusion in the same ward. Other respondents argued that in order to preserve the green belt, the two areas should continue to have separate representation. The retention of South ward was supported by several residents, some of whom suggested it could become a viable two-member ward by adding the Pouchen End area from Chaulden ward.

<sup>30</sup> A total of six respondents supported the Conservative Association's proposal for a new Belswains ward, while another six supported the Conservatives' proposal to divide the proposed Grove Hill ward into two separate wards. Four residents supported our recommendations for Tring East ward, the three Berkhamsted wards, Hemel Hempstead Central ward and Warners End ward respectively. Two residents supported the retention of the existing Crabtree ward, one resident suggested that our proposed Woodhall ward should be known as Woodhall Farm, and one further resident wrote in general terms regarding the operation of the Borough Council services.

<sup>31</sup> Finally, of 499 submissions we received, a total of 20 opposed our draft recommendation for a change from whole-council elections to elections by thirds.



## 5. ANALYSIS AND FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS

32 As indicated previously, our prime objective in considering the most appropriate electoral arrangements for Dacorum 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”.

33 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.

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

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

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

### Electorate Projections

36 Dacorum Borough Council submitted electorate forecasts for the period 1996 to 2001, projecting an increase in the electorate of 1,724 (around 2 per cent) over the five-year period from 103,252 to 104,976. The Borough Council estimated rates and locations of housing development with regard to structure and local plans, and the expected rate of building over the five-year period. Advice from the Borough Council on the likely effect on electorates of ward boundary changes has been obtained. In our draft recommendations report we accepted that this was an inexact science and, having given consideration to projected electorates, were persuaded that the Borough Council's figures represented the best estimates that could reasonably be made at that time.

37 We did not receive any further comments on electorate projections during Stage Three and remain satisfied that they provide the best estimates presently available.

### Council Size

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

39 At present, Dacorum Borough is represented by 58 councillors. The Borough Council proposed a reduction in council size to 52 during Stage One of the review, while the Conservatives supported the retention of the existing council size. In our draft recommendations report we considered the size and distribution of the electorate, the geography and other characteristics of the area, together with the representations received. We concluded that the statutory criteria and the achievement of electoral

equality would be best met by a council size of 52 members and invited further comments.

40 During Stage Three, the Borough Council confirmed its support for a reduced council size of 52. In their Stage Three submission, the Conservatives proposed a council size of 53. Having further considered the evidence surrounding the issue of council size, we confirm as final our draft recommendation for a council size of 52.

## **Electoral Arrangements**

41 Having considered all representations received during Stage Three of the review, we have reviewed our draft recommendations. While we are endorsing the major part of our draft recommendations in the light of those views expressed at Stage Three, we consider that some changes are required in order to provide for a scheme which would secure a better balance between the achievement of electoral equality and the need to reflect community identities in the area.

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

### **Hemel Hempstead**

- (a) Bennetts End, Crabtree, Leverstock Green and Nash Mills wards;
- (b) Adeyfield West, Central and Highfield wards;
- (c) Adeyfield East, Cupid Green and Grove Hill wards;
- (d) Boxmoor, Chaulden, Gadebridge and Warners End wards;

### **Berkhamsted**

- (e) Berkhamsted Central, Berkhamsted East and Berkhamsted West wards;

### **Tring**

- (f) Tring Central, Tring East and Tring West wards;

## **The Rural Wards**

- (g) Aldbury & Wigginton and Northchurch
- (h) Ashridge and Flamstead & Markyate wards;
- (i) Bovingdon & Flaunden, Chipperfield and South wards;
- (j) Kings Langley ward.

## **Hemel Hempstead**

### **Bennetts End, Crabtree, Leverstock Green and Nash Mills wards**

43 Currently, Bennetts End, Crabtree, Leverstock Green and Nash Mills wards contain 23 per cent fewer, 3 per cent fewer, approximately equal to and 13 per cent fewer electors per councillor than the borough average. The four wards are currently represented by ten councillors, but would in fact be entitled to only eight under a council size of 52. At Stage One, the Borough Council proposed that Bennetts End and Nash Mills wards be merged, together with several smaller areas from Crabtree ward and the Northend Farm estate from Leverstock Green ward. The Conservatives proposed largely retaining the existing Leverstock Green ward, while also proposing a modified Bennetts End ward represented by two councillors. Crabtree ward would be divided into two, Belswains and Corner Hall, represented by one and two councillors respectively.

44 In our draft recommendations report, we were not convinced that the proposals put forward by the Council would either best reflect the pattern of community ties in this area of Hemel Hempstead or indeed reflect local preferences. Consequently, we proposed that Nash Mills ward should continue to be separately represented but on modified boundaries in order to improve electoral equality. Sections of Bennetts End ward would be transferred to Leverstock Green and Crabtree wards, which would each retain three members, and the resultant ward would be represented by one councillor, rather than three as at present.

45 At Stage Three, the Borough Council put forward a new set of proposals for all four wards. It proposed that several roads adjacent to the A414 St Albans Road should be transferred from Bennetts End to Leverstock Green ward, while the southernmost section of Bennetts End ward would be transferred to revised Nash Mills and Crabtree wards. These

proposals would mean that the wards of Bennetts End, Crabtree, Leverstock Green and Nash Mills (represented by two, three, two and one councillor respectively) would contain 6 per cent more, 8 per cent fewer, 1 per cent more and 3 per cent more electors per councillor than the borough average respectively (2 per cent fewer, 5 per cent fewer, 3 per cent fewer and 9 per cent more by 2001).

46 The Liberal Democrats also proposed modifications to all four wards in this area. It largely supported our draft recommendation to transfer a small area from Bennetts End ward to Leverstock Green ward, but proposed that the whole of Bennetts End Road should become part of Bennetts End ward. It also supported the retention of Nash Mills ward but proposed that the northern boundary of the ward should be Barnacres Road and Great Elms Road. The area to the south of Stonelea Road and Hobbs Hill Road would be transferred from Crabtree to Bennetts End ward. The resultant scheme provided for a three-member Leverstock Green ward, two-member Bennetts End and Crabtree wards and a one-member Nash Mills ward. The Conservatives supported our draft recommendations for this area subject to minor modifications, with the exception of Crabtree ward, where they confirmed their support for dividing the ward into two new wards, Corner Hall and Belswains, represented by two and one councillor respectively.

47 We also received over 350 representations from local residents opposing the Borough Council's proposal that part of Leverstock Green ward should be transferred to Bennetts End ward. Many of these residents, in addition to the Leverstock Green Village Association, contended that the pattern of community ties in the area concerned focused on Leverstock Green and its amenities, rather than Bennetts End. The Bennetts End Residents' Association argued that our draft recommendations for Bennetts End "lack historical perspective", and that they "fail to recognise the fact that Bennetts End is the focal point for most of the area in the current Hemel Hempstead South-East County Council division (which includes Nash Mills) and parts of Leverstock Green".

48 We have received an unusually large response to our draft recommendations (and the Borough Council's subsequent proposals) from this area of Hemel Hempstead. We recognise the concern of both the Borough Council and Bennetts End Residents' Association that the identity of Bennetts

End may be lost by transferring parts of the area to neighbouring wards. We are not convinced, however, that expanding the area's electorate by including part of Leverstock Green is the most appropriate solution. The area that the Borough Council propose should be transferred to Bennetts End appears to have a greater affiliation with Leverstock Green than Bennetts End, and any transfer would be opposed by many residents.

49 The existing boundaries of Bennetts End, Leverstock Green and Nash Mills wards, and to a lesser extent Crabtree ward, appear to reflect established communities reasonably well. Consequently, while we have been obliged to modify the current configuration of wards in the interests of electoral equality, we have attempted to keep these modifications to a minimum.

50 We see considerable merit in the proposals for this area put forward by the Liberal Democrats. These broadly support our draft recommendations for separate representation for Nash Mills and the retention of a three-member Leverstock Green ward but on slightly modified boundaries. However, instead of transferring part of Bennetts End ward to Crabtree ward, the Liberal Democrats proposed that Bennetts End ward be expanded to include part of the current Crabtree ward, in which the representation would be reduced to two councillors. Under a revised council size of 52, these proposals would provide a reasonable level of electoral equality. The proposed Bennetts End and Nash Mills wards would both contain 3 per cent more electors per councillor than the borough average (8 per cent fewer and 9 per cent more by 2001). The revised Crabtree and Leverstock Green wards would have approximately equal to and 6 per cent fewer electors per councillor than the borough average respectively (5 per cent more and 6 per cent fewer by 2001).

51 We have noted, however, that there are several roads which would form part of the Liberal Democrats' proposed Nash Mills ward which are accessed from Bennetts End and would appear to have more ties with this area than Nash Mills. In addition, their retention in Bennetts End ward would improve the level of electoral equality in 2001. Consequently, we have concluded that Fairhill, Fairway, Fairway Court and Oakdene Road should remain part of a revised Bennetts End ward. These modifications to the Liberal Democrats proposed wards would mean that the wards of Bennetts End and Nash Mills would initially contain 9 per cent more and 9 per cent

fewer electors per councillor than the borough average, but are projected to improve to 3 per cent fewer and 2 per cent fewer than average by 2001.

52 We also received a number of submissions proposing that Woodfield Drive and Woodfield Gardens be transferred from Nash Mills ward to Leverstock Green ward. However, this proposal would entail either an alteration to the Nash Mills parish boundary (which is not within the remit of this review) or the warding of Nash Mills Parish Council. We consider that this matter would more properly be dealt with as part of a future parishing review.

53 We conclude that these proposals would provide the best balance between securing reasonable electoral equality and the statutory criteria. Given our recommendation that part of the existing Crabtree ward should be transferred to a revised Bennetts End ward, we have decided to recommend a change of name for the residual ward to 'Corner Hall', largely as a result of the proposed ward's similarity to the ward of that name proposed by the Conservatives and because this is a well recognised name locally. These recommendations are set out in Figures 1 and 4 and illustrated in the large map at the back of the report.

### **Adeyfield West, Central and Highfield wards**

54 Under existing arrangements, Adeyfield West, Central and Highfield wards, which cover the 'old town' and some of the more established areas of Hemel Hempstead, contain 19 per cent fewer, 13 per cent more and 15 per cent fewer electors per councillor than the borough average respectively, a degree of inequality that is projected to remain at a similar level by 2001.

55 At Stage One, the Borough Council proposed little change to the ward boundaries in the area, although it did propose that Adeyfield West should be represented by two councillors rather than three as at present. We concurred with the Borough Council's proposals for this area, as we considered they would address the level of electoral inequality and reflect community identities. However, we did propose a change of name for Highfield ward to 'Highfield & St Paul's' (as suggested by the Conservatives, who also proposed minimal changes to these three wards) and for Central ward to 'Hemel Hempstead Central'.

56 At Stage Three, our draft recommendations were supported by the Borough Council, the Liberal Democrats and the Conservatives. However, the Conservatives proposed that our Hemel Hempstead Central ward should continue to be known simply as 'Central', as did several other respondents, in order to avoid confusion with the County Council division of Hemel Hempstead Central.

57 Given the support which our draft recommendations for this area have enjoyed, we have decided to confirm them as final. While we recognise that there is some potential for confusion between our proposed Hemel Hempstead Central ward and the county division of the same name, we do not consider that this is sufficient to recommend the continuation of the existing name. Our final recommendations are set out in Figures 1 and 4 and illustrated in the large map at the back of the report.

### **Adeyfield East, Cupid Green and Grove Hill wards**

58 Adeyfield East and Cupid Green wards, each represented by two members, and the three-member Grove Hill ward lie in the north and east of Hemel Hempstead and contain the Grove Hill and Woodhall estates, part of the Adeyfield estate and a large industrial area. Under current arrangements, all three wards are under-represented. While both Adeyfield East and Grove Hill wards each have 6 per cent more electors per councillor than the borough average, Cupid Green ward has 33 per cent more electors per councillor than average.

59 At Stage One, the Borough Council sought to address the level of electoral inequality by the division of Cupid Green ward between a new Woodhall ward (containing Woodhall Farm estate) and the current wards of Adeyfield East and Grove Hill. The proposed wards of Adeyfield East, Grove Hill and Woodhall, represented by two, three and two councillors respectively, would contain 5 per cent more, 2 per cent fewer and 5 per cent more electors per councillor than the borough average respectively. The Conservatives proposed that there should be no change to Grove Hill ward, with only minor modifications to Adeyfield East ward. They also proposed that Maylands Avenue and Buncefield Lane should be added to Cupid Green, and that the ward should be represented by three councillors. We concurred with the Borough Council's proposals and put them forward for consultation.

60 During Stage Three, the Borough Council and the Liberal Democrats supported our draft recommendations for this area. However, while the Conservatives largely supported our proposals for Adeyfield East and Woodhall wards (although they proposed that the boundary of Woodhall ward should be extended to include Three Cherry Trees Lane), they also proposed that the proposed Grove Hill ward should be divided into two wards, Grove Hill and Grove Hill West, represented by two and one councillor respectively. They argued that this proposal would recognise the difference in communities and development between the two areas. The proposed Grove Hill ward would have 6 per cent fewer electors per councillor than average, while Grove Hill West ward would have 5 per cent more electors per councillor than average. A total of six local residents wrote to support this proposal. We also received one further submission from a local resident in support of the proposed Woodhall ward, who suggested that the ward should be known as Woodhall Farm.

61 We recognise the merit in the Conservatives' proposals to divide the current Grove Hill ward. While much of the Grove Hill area developed in the 1960s and 1970s, Grove Hill West developed in the late 1970s and early 1980s. However, given the support of the Borough Council and Liberal Democrats for largely retaining the existing ward, and the better level of electoral equality that would result, we have not been persuaded to change our draft recommendations in this area. Our draft recommendation for Grove Hill ward entails only minimal change to the existing ward, so preserving the community identity that has been established since the last electoral review of the borough. We have considered expanding the proposed Woodhall ward to include properties on Three Cherry Trees Lane, but have concluded that we should make no change as the area is earmarked for industrial development in the local plan, and is therefore expected to have greater similarity with the industrial areas to its south than the residential areas to its north.

62 Accordingly, we have decided to confirm our draft recommendations as final for the wards of Adeyfield East, Grove Hill and Woodhall. The proposed wards would have 5 per cent more, 2 per cent fewer and 5 per cent more electors per councillor than the borough average respectively (3 per cent more, 5 per cent fewer and 2 per cent more by 2001). These recommendations are

detailed in Figures 1 and 4 and illustrated in the large map at the back of the report.

### **Boxmoor, Chaulden, Gadebridge and Warners End wards**

63 Boxmoor, Chaulden, Gadebridge and Warners End wards are on the west side of Hemel Hempstead. Boxmoor and Warners End wards currently have 8 per cent fewer electors per councillor than the borough average, while Gadebridge and Chaulden have 2 per cent and 21 per cent more electors per councillor than the average respectively. The current Chaulden and Gadebridge wards are represented by one and two councillors respectively, while Boxmoor and Warners End wards are represented by three councillors each. At Stage One, the Borough Council proposed no change to Gadebridge ward, with modifications to the boundaries of each of the other three wards in the area, and that each ward should be represented by two councillors. The Borough Council also proposed a change of name for Chaulden ward to Chaulden & Shrubhill. The Conservatives proposed no change to Boxmoor and Gadebridge wards, while proposing the transfer of the Roseheath area from Warners End ward to a renamed Chaulden & Shrubhill ward. We concurred with the Borough Council's proposals, subject to one minor modification, the transfer of the whole of Northridge Way to Chaulden & Shrubhill and Warners End wards from Boxmoor ward.

64 At Stage Three, the Borough Council, the Liberal Democrats and the Conservatives supported our draft recommendations, although the Conservatives drew our attention to a minor anomaly in the mapping contained in our draft recommendations report. They pointed out that although the Knights Orchard development was included in Gadebridge ward, the electors concerned were in fact on the electoral roll in Warners End ward. We also received a letter from a local resident supporting our draft recommendation for a revised Warners End ward.

65 Given the support for our draft recommendations, we confirm them as final for the wards of Boxmoor, Chaulden & Shrubhill, Gadebridge and Warners End, subject to one modification. We recommend that the boundary between Gadebridge and Warners End wards be modified so that the Knights Orchard area be

included within the Warners End ward where its electors appear on the electoral roll. This recommendation will not affect the level of electoral equality within our proposed wards. The wards of Boxmoor, Chaulden & Shrubhill, Gadebridge and Warners End would contain 9 per cent more, 2 per cent more, 8 per cent fewer and 8 per cent fewer electors per councillor than the borough average (7 per cent, 3 per cent, 1 per cent and 3 per cent by 2001). These recommendations are detailed in Figures 1 and 4 and illustrated in the large map at the back of the report.

## **Berkhamsted**

### **Berkhamsted Central, Berkhamsted East and Berkhamsted West wards**

<sup>66</sup> Berkhamsted is the second largest settlement in the borough, and is currently represented by seven of the 58 borough councillors. It is divided into three wards – Berkhamsted Central, Berkhamsted East and Berkhamsted West. While Berkhamsted East ward is represented by three councillors, Berkhamsted Central and Berkhamsted West wards are represented by two councillors each. Berkhamsted Central ward currently has 19 per cent more electors per councillor than the borough average, and is projected to have 24 per cent more electors per councillor than average by 2001. The other two wards, Berkhamsted East and Berkhamsted West, have fewer electors per councillor than the borough average by some 10 per cent and 4 per cent respectively. The electorates of both wards are expected to decline marginally over the next five years so that by 2001, Berkhamsted East ward would have 12 per cent fewer electors per councillor than average, and Berkhamsted West ward is projected to have 6 per cent fewer electors per councillor than average.

<sup>67</sup> At Stage One, the Borough Council proposed that the current wards be retained on modified boundaries, and that all three wards should be represented by two councillors. It proposed that part of the existing Berkhamsted East ward be transferred to Berkhamsted Central, and a section of Berkhamsted Central ward be transferred to Berkhamsted West. The Conservatives also proposed minor modifications to the Berkhamsted wards, by the redistribution of some of the electorate in Berkhamsted Central to the other two wards in the town. However, in our draft recommendations report, we considered that the

current electoral review of the borough provided the opportunity to consider the warding structure in Berkhamsted as a whole. Consequently, our proposals attempted to reflect the topography of the town, the development that has occurred since the last review of the borough (and the new communities that have grown up with the development) as well as some of the physical boundaries that effectively divide the town. Our proposals would mean that the three wards of Berkhamsted Castle, Berkhamsted East and Berkhamsted West would contain 4 per cent, 4 per cent and 5 per cent more electors per councillor than the borough average. This level of electoral equality is projected to remain at a similar level by 2001.

<sup>68</sup> During Stage Three, our draft recommendations drew the support of the Borough Council and the Conservatives, although the Conservatives proposed that several properties to the south-east of the town be transferred to Bourne End and its proposed South ward. The Liberal Democrats, however, opposed our proposals, stating that “there is little or no practical merit in making a major change which will affect a large number of electors and cause confusion and probably lower election turnouts with regard to polling stations”. They confirmed their support for the original proposals submitted by the Borough Council, arguing that “the logical division of the town into three reasonably compact wards of numerical equality is to have the boundary lines running north to south”. Berkhamsted Town Council also supported the Borough Council’s original proposals rather than our draft recommendations.

<sup>69</sup> We have given careful consideration to the evidence on the best warding arrangements for Berkhamsted. We have noted the views of the Liberal Democrats and Berkhamsted Town Council that minor modifications to the existing arrangements would provide the best solution for the town. However, while in some cases the retention of existing arrangements can protect the identities of communities, we remain of the opinion that in Berkhamsted the existing wards fail to reflect several new and distinct areas of the town, while also ignoring physical boundaries. Given these factors, and the support of the Borough Council and the Conservatives, we have decided to confirm as final our draft recommendations for the town, subject to one minor modification. We have noted that the streets of Acacia Grove, Alderley Court and Pine Close, which would be in

Berkhamsted West ward under our draft recommendations, would appear to have a greater affinity with the revised Berkhamsted East ward. For this reason, we have decided to recommend that they should form part of Berkhamsted East ward under our final recommendations. Under these recommendations, the wards of Berkhamsted Castle, Berkhamsted East and Berkhamsted West would contain 4 per cent, 6 per cent and 4 per cent more electors per councillor than the borough average respectively (5 per cent, 5 per cent and 4 per cent more than the average respectively by 2001). Map A2 at Appendix A illustrates these recommendations.

## **Tring**

### **Tring Central, Tring East and Tring West wards**

<sup>70</sup> Tring lies in the north-west of the borough, and is the borough's third largest town. Tring Central and Tring East wards cover part of the town council area, while Tring West ward covers both part of the town council area and Tring Rural parish to its north. While Tring East and Tring West wards currently provide a reasonable level of electoral equality (with 1 per cent fewer and 8 per cent more electors per councillor than the borough average respectively), Tring Central ward has some 19 per cent more electors per councillor than average.

<sup>71</sup> By reducing the council size from 58 to 52, the most significant imbalances within the three Tring wards would be eliminated. The Borough Council, having taken into account this factor, proposed minimal change to all three wards at Stage One, while at the same time proposing boundary changes which would reflect community identities within the town. The Conservatives proposed no change to all three wards. In our draft recommendations report, we noted the advantages that the Borough Council's proposals would entail in terms of electoral equality and the statutory criteria, but also noted that the area south of the A41 may have more in common with Tring West ward rather than Tring East ward, where it is located at present. We put forward the Borough Council's proposals as our draft recommendations, while inviting interested parties to make their views known.

<sup>72</sup> At Stage Three, the Borough Council, the Liberal Democrats and the Conservatives

supported our draft recommendations for the area. Tring Town Council noted our recommendations, while also supporting the retention of the area south of the A41 within Tring East ward. We received no further submissions on this area.

<sup>73</sup> As indicated above, we have considered the possibility that the area of Tring East ward which lies to the south of the A41 is somewhat different in nature to the rest of the ward, and may have more in common with the neighbouring and almost entirely rural Tring West ward. However, given the support of the Borough Council, the Conservatives and the Liberal Democrats, in addition to the wish of Tring Town Council that the area should remain part of Tring East ward, we are content to confirm as final our draft recommendations for the Tring area. These recommendations would mean that the wards of Tring Central, Tring East and Tring West would contain 1 per cent fewer, 1 per cent more and 1 per cent fewer electors per councillor than the borough average respectively (1 per cent fewer, 4 per cent more and 1 per cent more by 2001). These recommendations are detailed in Figures 1 and 4 and illustrated in Map A3 at Appendix A.

## **The Rural Wards**

### **Aldbury & Wigginton and Northchurch wards**

<sup>74</sup> Aldbury & Wigginton ward, which comprises the parishes of Aldbury and Wigginton currently contains 2 per cent more electors per councillor than the borough average, while Northchurch ward, which comprises Northchurch parish, contains 18 per cent more electors per councillor than the average.

<sup>75</sup> At Stage One, the Borough Council proposed no change to either of these wards arguing that, due to the proposed reduction in council size, both would provide reasonable electoral equality. The Conservatives, however, proposed that the parish of Aldbury should form part of a revised Ashridge ward, while Wigginton should form a new ward with Northchurch parish. We concurred with the Borough Council's proposals, noting that although the level of electoral equality in Aldbury & Wigginton ward is projected to deteriorate so that it would have 12 per cent fewer electors per councillor than average by 2001, the ward is essentially rural, in contrast to the essentially urban

parish of Northchurch, and that any merger may fail to reflect community identities in this area.

76 At Stage Three, Northchurch Parish Council supported our draft recommendations for an unchanged Northchurch ward, while the Borough Council, the Conservatives and the Liberal Democrats all supported our draft recommendations for both wards.

77 Given the level of support enjoyed by our draft recommendations, we are content to confirm them as final. Our final recommendations are detailed in Figures 1 and 4 and illustrated in Map 2.

### **Ashridge and Flamstead & Markyate wards**

78 The current wards of Ashridge and Flamstead & Markyate contain 21 per cent and 6 per cent fewer electors per councillor than the borough average. In our draft recommendations report, we adopted the Borough Council's proposals for the transfer of the parish of Great Gaddesden from Ashridge ward to a new Watling ward, which would also incorporate the existing ward of Flamstead & Markyate. These proposals would mean that the wards of Ashridge and Watling would contain 6 per cent and 2 per cent more electors per councillor than the borough average respectively.

79 During Stage Three, the Borough Council, the Liberal Democrats and the Conservatives (albeit "with reservations") supported our draft recommendation for these wards. However, Little Gaddesden, Great Gaddesden, Flamstead and Markyate parish councils all objected to our draft recommendations. Great Gaddesden Parish Council argued that "there is no logical or administrative connection between Markyate and the Gade Valley", while Markyate Parish Council considered that "the borough councillor has local knowledge of both places and people which would be lost if the area involved were to be increased". A total of 58 local residents also wrote to us to object to our draft recommendation.

80 It appears from the views of residents submitted during Stage Three that the current arrangements in this part of the borough are considered locally to be effective and satisfactory, and that there are community ties between the parishes of the Gade Valley – Great Gaddesden, Little Gaddesden and Nettleden with Potten End. It also appears that any

proposal to reconfigure wards in this area is likely to prove contentious. We have been faced with a further difficulty in this area, in that the number of viable alternative options available have been restricted, given the support for retaining the existing wards to the west (Aldbury & Wigginton and Northchurch), and that the area is bounded by the urban area of Hemel Hempstead, the district of St Albans and the counties of Bedfordshire and Buckinghamshire.

81 The evidence we have considered during Stage Three of the review has illustrated the difficulty of reconciling improved electoral equality with community identities. Although we recognise, as some respondents have argued, that there may be some difficulties in representing a large rural ward with relatively poor communications links, the retention of existing arrangements, together with a reduction in council size, would mean the continuation of high levels of electoral inequality. Were we to recommend no change to Ashridge and Flamstead & Markyate wards, as many respondents have proposed, they would contain 28 per cent and 14 per cent fewer electors per councillor than the borough average respectively (28 per cent and 16 per cent by 2001). In addition, while we recognise that road links between the parishes of Great Gaddesden and Flamstead and Markyate are somewhat poorer than between other parishes in the borough, they are by no means isolated from one another.

82 Given the lack of viable alternatives, allied to the support of the Borough Council, the Conservatives and the Liberal Democrats for our draft recommendations, we have decided to confirm our draft recommendations for Ashridge and Watling wards as final. These recommendations, detailed in Figures 1 and 4 and illustrated in Map 2, would mean that Ashridge and Watling wards would contain 6 per cent and 2 per cent more electors per councillor than the borough average respectively (4 per cent more and approximately equal to the average by 2001).

### **Bovingdon & Flaunden, Chipperfield and South wards**

83 The existing wards of Bovingdon & Flaunden, Chipperfield and South (represented by two, one and one councillor respectively) contain 5 per cent more, 23 per cent fewer and 67 per cent more electors per councillor than the borough average. In

our draft recommendations report, we adopted the Borough Council's proposals for this area of the borough. This entailed a new ward comprising the parishes of Bovingdon, Flaunden and Chipperfield (to be known by that name), together with the Felden and Bourne End areas from South ward on the southern fringes of Hemel Hempstead, while the remainder of the existing South ward would form a new Apsley ward. The Conservatives proposed no change to all three wards at Stage One.

84 At Stage Three, our draft recommendations were supported by the Borough Council and the Liberal Democrats. However, they were opposed by the Conservatives, Bovingdon, Flaunden and Chipperfield parish councils, Richard Page MP and 30 local residents. Many of these respondents objected to the rural parishes of Bovingdon, Flaunden and Chipperfield being placed in a borough ward with an urban area (Felden and Bourne End). Bovingdon Parish Council argued that there was a need for "a higher ratio of councillors due to the scattered nature of the population", while Chipperfield Parish Council continued to argue, as it had done at Stage One, that "there is a strong case for the special local circumstances warranting the maintenance of the status quo". Richard Page MP argued that the parished rural area has little in common with urban Hemel Hempstead, and that to cross parliamentary boundaries within a borough ward would prove confusing to the electorate. The Conservatives also opposed our recommendation, stating that Felden and Bourne End had no affinity with the three rural parishes to their west. They proposed that these three parishes should form a three-member ward in their own right, while a revised South ward would comprise our proposed Apsley ward, plus the Pouchen End, Felden and Bourne End areas, together with several properties in Berkhamsted East ward, and would be represented by two councillors, leading to an increase in council size to 53.

85 It would appear from the high response we have received to our draft recommendation for this area that there is some support for a delineation between the urban and rural areas in this part of the borough. However, were we to recommend a three-member ward for the three rural parishes of Bovingdon, Flaunden and Chipperfield, it would contain 14 per cent fewer electors per councillor than the borough average. If we were to adopt the Conservatives' proposals for a three-member ward for these three parishes, in addition to a revised South ward as indicated above, the proposed

Bovingdon, Flaunden & Chipperfield ward would provide slightly better electoral equality (12 per cent fewer electors per councillor than the average), while the revised South ward would contain some 13 per cent fewer electors per councillor than the average.

86 Many respondents have argued that, in order to reflect community identities, we should not propose a new ward which would include rural parishes with part of urbanised Hemel Hempstead. However, we are not convinced that the part of Hemel Hempstead which, in our draft recommendations report, we proposed should be merged with the three rural parishes, is akin to those parts of Hemel Hempstead to which is it adjacent. Indeed, Felden and Bourne End are separated from the rest of the urban area by the A41 Hemel Hempstead bypass and the London to Glasgow railway line respectively. Furthermore, although several respondents have expressed concern that placing urban and rural areas within the same borough ward may lead to development pressures, both Felden and Bourne End are located in the green belt. While it could be considered that Felden and Bourne End differ from Bovingdon, Flaunden and Chipperfield, it could equally be argued they are somewhat different in character to Apsley.

87 With these factors in mind, we have decided to confirm as final our draft recommendations for a three-member Bovingdon, Flaunden & Chipperfield ward and a single-member Apsley ward, which will contain 8 per cent and 6 per cent more electors per councillor than the borough average, a level of electoral equality which will remain at the same level by 2001. These recommendations are detailed in Figures 1 and 4, and illustrated in Map 2 and the large map at the back of the report.

### **Kings Langley ward**

88 In our draft recommendations report, we proposed that there should be no change to the existing Kings Langley ward, as did the Borough Council and the Conservatives at Stage One. Due to the reduction in council size, the ward would contain 2 per cent fewer electors per councillor than the borough average, and would be approximately equal to the average by 2001. The Borough Council, the Conservatives, the Liberal Democrats and Kings Langley Parish Council all supported our draft recommendation.

89 Given the support which our draft recommendation has enjoyed, we are content to confirm it as final.

## Electoral Cycle

90 During Stage One, the Borough Council argued that the present system of whole-council elections every four years should be replaced by elections by thirds. In our draft recommendations report, we put this proposal forward for consultation, although we also invited further views and evidence on this issue.

81 During Stage Three, the Borough Council, the Liberal Democrats and Kings Langley Parish Council supported our draft recommendation. However, the Conservatives, Berkhamsted Town Council, Chipperfield Parish Council and 17 further respondents opposed our recommendation. We recognise the arguments put forward by the Borough Council at Stage One that elections by thirds could improve accountability to the electorate and increase the opportunity for electors to pass judgement on the Council's record. However, we also note that many others locally are concerned that such a change could lower turnout and interest in local government. We are also concerned that, while advocating a change in electoral cycle to thirds, the Borough Council has proposed a structure primarily consisting of two-member wards.

92 We state in our *Guidance* that we will respect local preferences or practices. However, in view of the

absence of consensus, we do not consider that we should propose a change to elections by thirds. We consider that it would be more appropriate for the Council itself to resolve this issue, as it is empowered to alter its electoral cycle unilaterally, by a two-thirds majority, under the 1972 Local Government Act.

## Conclusions

93 Having considered carefully all the evidence and representations received in response to our consultation report, we have decided substantially to endorse our draft recommendations, subject to the amendments indicated for Bennetts End, Crabtree, Leverstock Green and Nash Mills wards. We have concluded that there should be a decrease in council size from 58 to 52; that there should be 27 wards, one fewer than at present; that the boundaries of 25 of the existing wards should be modified; and that elections should continue to be held every four years.

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

95 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 the borough average from 13 to one. This improved level of electoral equality is expected to be retained over the next five-year period. Under these proposals, the average number of electors per councillor would increase from 1,780 to 1,986. We

*Figure 3:  
Comparison of Current and Recommended Electoral Arrangements*

	1996 electorate		2001 projected electorate	
	Current arrangements	Final recommendations	Current arrangements	Final recommendations
Number of councillors	58	52	58	52
Number of wards	28	27	28	27
Average number of electors per councillor	1,780	1,986	1,810	2,019
Number of wards with a variance more than 10 per cent from the average	13	1	14	1
Number of wards with a variance more than 20 per cent from the average	6	0	7	0

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

### **Final Recommendation**

Dacorum Borough Council should comprise 52 councillors, serving 27 wards, as detailed and named in Figures 1 and 4, and illustrated in Map 2, Appendix A and the large map at the back of the report. The Borough Council should continue to be elected together every four years.

## **Parish and Town Council Electoral Arrangements**

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

97 In our draft recommendations report, we proposed that Berkhamsted Town Council should comprise 15 town councillors representing three wards, rather than 13 as at present. We further proposed that the boundaries of the parish wards should be modified to reflect proposed changes to borough ward boundaries. We have received no evidence to persuade us to move away from this view.

### **Final Recommendation**

Berkhamsted Town Council should comprise 15 town councillors representing three wards, with the wards of Berkhamsted Castle, Berkhamsted Shrublands and Berkhamsted Sunnyside each returning five town councillors. The town wards of Berkhamsted Castle, Berkhamsted Shrublands and Berkhamsted Sunnyside should be modified to reflect the proposed borough wards of Berkhamsted Castle, Berkhamsted West and Berkhamsted East respectively, as illustrated in Map A2 at Appendix A.

98 In our draft recommendations report, we proposed that Tring Town Council should continue to comprise 12 town councillors representing three wards. We further proposed that the boundaries of the parish wards should be modified to reflect proposed changes to borough ward boundaries. We have received no evidence to persuade us to move away from this view.

### **Final Recommendation**

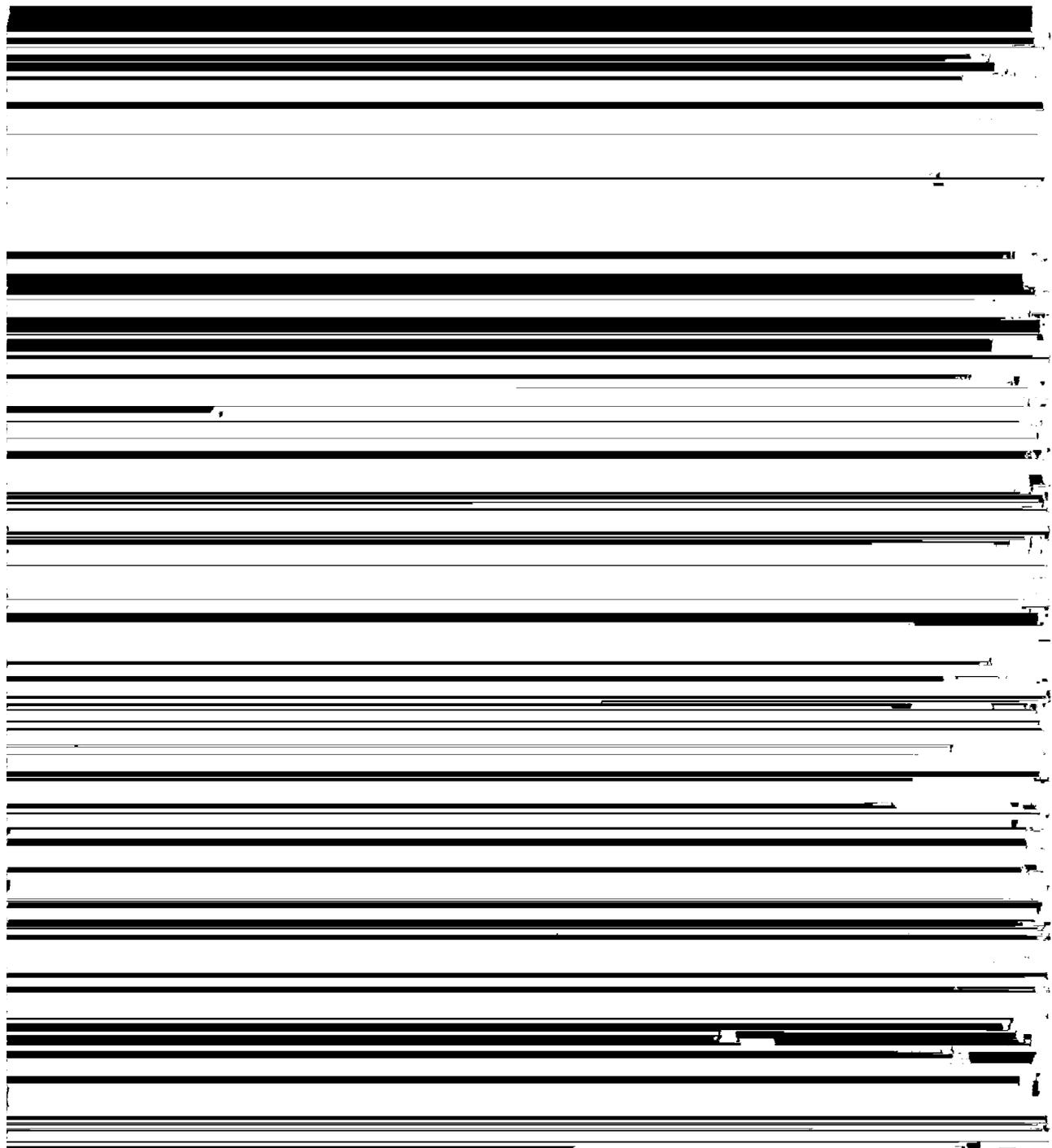
Tring Town Council should continue to comprise 12 town councillors representing three wards, with the wards of Tring Bunstrux, Tring Dunsley and Tring Miswell returning five, three and four town councillors respectively. The town wards of Tring Bunstrux, Tring Dunsley and Tring Miswell should be modified to reflect the proposed borough wards of Tring Central, Tring East and Tring West, as illustrated in Map A3 at Appendix A.

99 In our draft recommendations report we proposed that there should be no change to the electoral cycle of parish and town councils in the district.

### **Final Recommendation**

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

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



Key to Wards	10 B
1 Adeyfield East	11 B
2 Adeyfield West	12 C
3 Aldbury and Wiggington	13 C
4 Apsley	14 G
5 Ashridge	15 G
6 Bennetts End	16 H
7 Berkhamsted Castle	17 H
8 Berkhamsted East	18 K
9 Berkhamsted West	

KEY
PROPOSED WARD BOUNDARY
EXISTING PARISH BOUNDARY

Figure 5:  
The Commission's Final Recommendations for Dacorum

Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (1996)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2001)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
1 Adeyfield East (in Hemel Hempstead)	2	4,183	2,092	5	4,149	2,075	3
2 Adeyfield West (in Hemel Hempstead)	2	3,809	1,905	-4	3,845	1,923	-5
3 Aldbury & Wigginton (in Hemel Hempstead)	1	1,822	1,822	-8	1,784	1,784	-12
4 Apsley	1	2,107	2,107	6	2,137	2,137	6
5 Ashridge	1	2,097	2,097	6	2,097	2,097	4
6 Bennetts End (in Hemel Hempstead)	2	4,338	2,169	9	3,925	1,963	-3
7 Berkhamsted Castle	2	4,121	2,061	4	4,242	2,121	5
8 Berkhamsted East	2	4,200	2,100	6	4,247	2,124	5
9 Berkhamsted West	2	4,114	2,057	4	4,197	2,099	4
10 Bovingdon, Flaunden & Chipperfield	3	6,404	2,135	8	6,540	2,180	8
11 Boxmoor (in Hemel Hempstead)	2	4,315	2,158	9	4,323	2,162	7
12 Chaulden & Shrubhill (in Hemel Hempstead)	2	4,051	2,026	2	4,159	2,080	3
13 Corner Hall (in Hemel Hempstead)	2	3,990	1,995	0	4,220	2,110	5
14 Gadebridge (in Hemel Hempstead)	2	3,644	1,822	-8	3,980	1,990	-1
15 Grove Hill (in Hemel Hempstead)	3	5,827	1,942	-2	5,752	1,917	-5
16 Hemel Hempstead Central	2	3,779	1,890	-5	3,862	1,931	-4
17 Highfield & St Pauls (in Hemel Hempstead)	3	5,291	1,764	-11	5,431	1,810	-10

*continued overleaf*

Figure 5 (continued):

The Commission's Final Recommendations for Dacorum

Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (1996)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2001)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
18 Kings Langley	2	3,896	1,948	-2	4,024	2,012	0
19 Leverstock Green	3	5,584	1,861	-6	5,670	1,890	-6
20 Nash Mills (in Hemel Hempstead)	1	1,814	1,814	-9	1,981	1,981	-2
21 Northchurch	1	2,100	2,100	6	2,163	2,163	7
22 Tring Central	2	3,923	1,962	-1	4,007	2,004	-1
23 Tring East	1	2,010	2,010	1	2,095	2,095	4
24 Tring West	2	3,925	1,963	-1	4,074	2,037	1
25 Warners End (in Hemel Hempstead)	2	3,652	1,826	-8	3,902	1,951	-3
26 Watling	2	4,067	2,034	2	4,050	2,025	0
27 Woodhall (in Hemel Hempstead)	2	4,189	2,095	5	4,120	2,060	2
<b>Totals</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>103,252</b>	—	—	<b>104,976</b>	—	—
<b>Averages</b>	—	—	<b>1,986</b>	—	—	<b>2,019</b>	—

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

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

## 6. NEXT STEPS

<sup>100</sup> Having completed our review of electoral arrangements in Dacorum and submitted our final recommendations to the Secretary of State, we have fulfilled our statutory obligation under the Local Government Act 1992.

<sup>101</sup> 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.

<sup>102</sup> All further correspondence concerning our recommendations and the matters discussed in this report should be addressed to:

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



# APPENDIX A

## Final Recommendations for Dacorum: Detailed Mapping

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

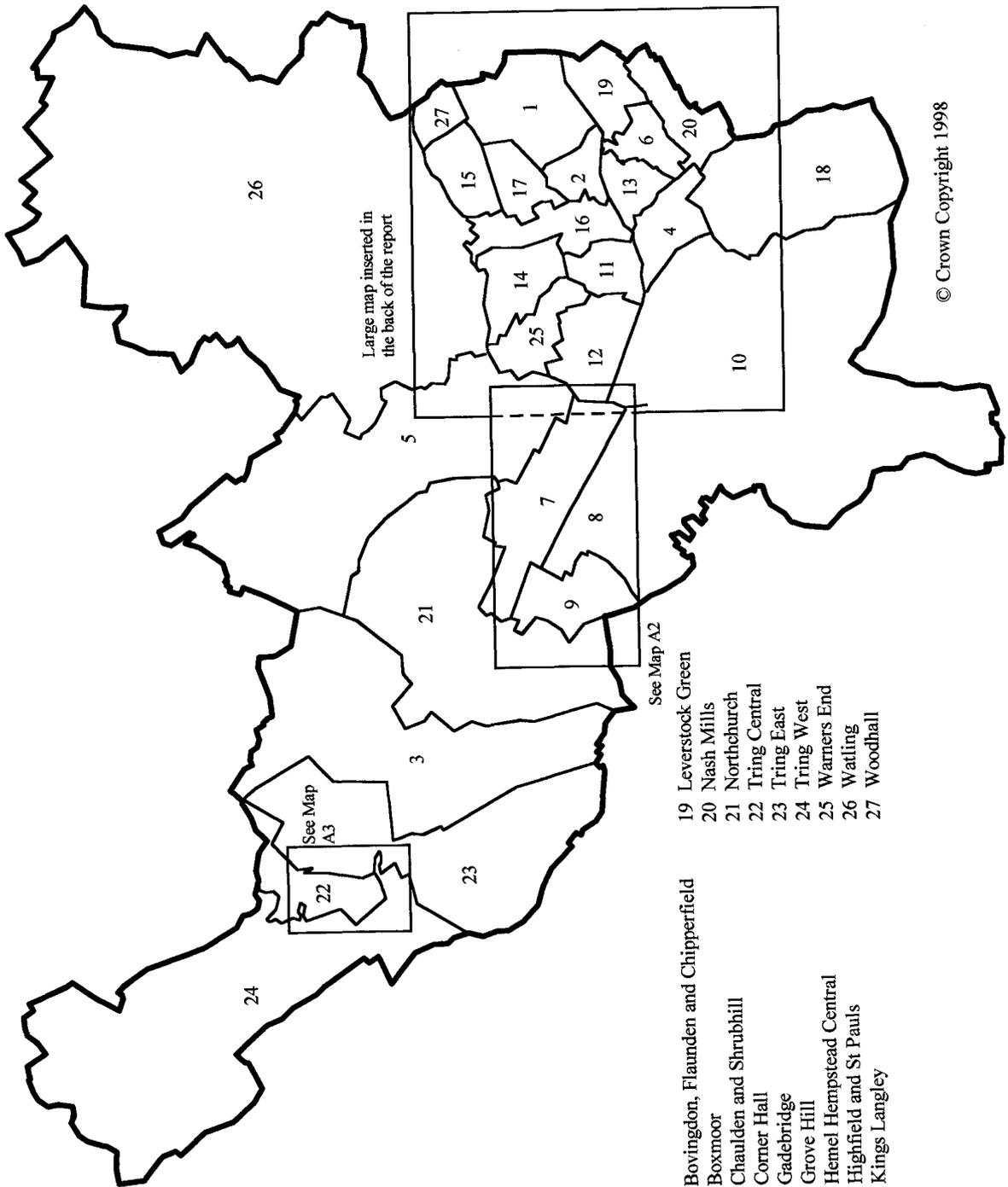
**Map A1** illustrates, in outline form, the proposed ward boundaries for Dacorum and indicates the areas shown in more detail in Maps A2 and A3 and the large map at the back of the report.

**Map A2** illustrates the proposed ward boundaries in Berkhamsted.

**Map A3** illustrates the proposed ward boundaries in Tring.

The **large map** inserted at the back of the report illustrates the proposed ward boundaries in Hemel Hempstead.

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



© Crown Copyright 1998

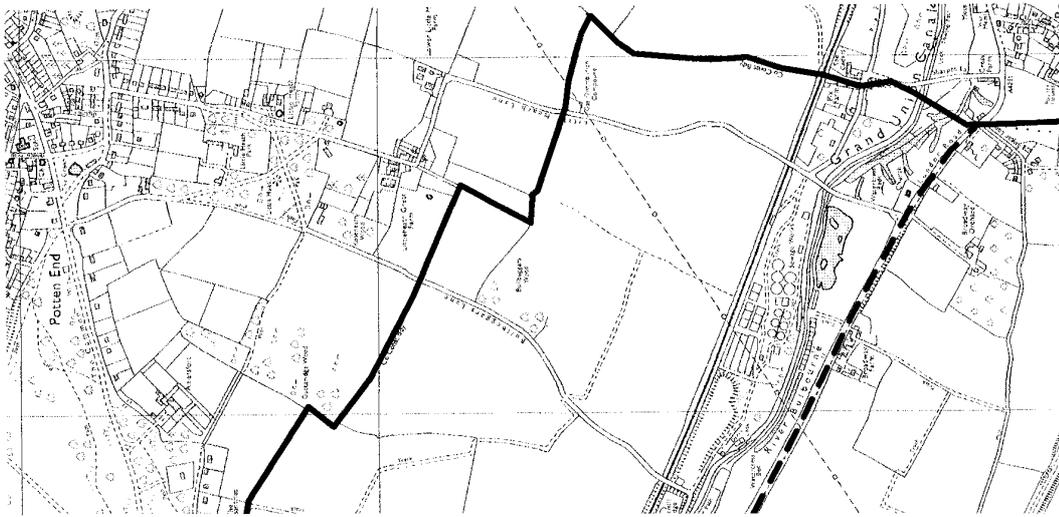
Key to Wards

- 1 Adeyfield East
- 2 Adeyfield West
- 3 Aldbury and Wiggington
- 4 Apsley
- 5 Ashridge
- 6 Bennetts End
- 7 Berkhamsted Castle
- 8 Berkhamsted East
- 9 Berkhamsted West

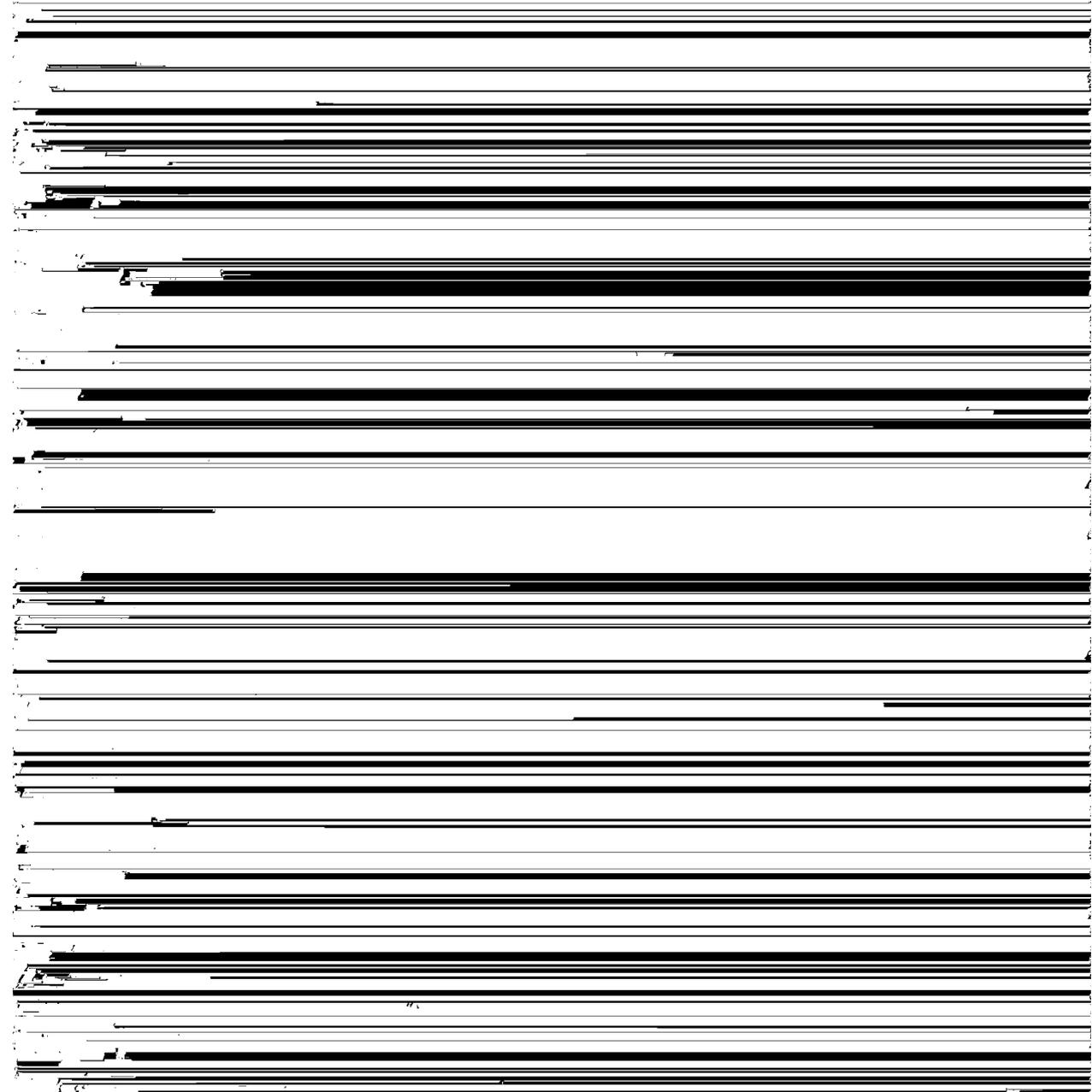
- 10 Bovington, Flaunden and Chipperfield
- 11 Boxmoor
- 12 Chaulden and Shrubhill
- 13 Corner Hall
- 14 Gadebridge
- 15 Grove Hill
- 16 Hemel Hempstead Central
- 17 Highfield and St Pauls
- 18 Kings Langley

- 19 Leverstock Green
- 20 Nash Mills
- 21 Northchurch
- 22 Tring Central
- 23 Tring East
- 24 Tring West
- 25 Warners End
- 26 Watling
- 27 Woodhall

Map A2:  
*Proposed Ward Boundaries in Berkhamsted*



© Crown Copyright 1998



Map A3:  
Proposed Ward Boundaries in Tring



# APPENDIX B

## Draft Recommendations for Dacorum:

Figure B1:

*The Commission's Draft Recommendations: Constituent Areas*

	<b>Ward name</b>	<b>Number of councillors</b>	<b>Constituent areas</b>
1	Adeyfield East (in Hemel Hempstead)	2	Adeyfield East ward, Cupid Green ward (part)
2	Adeyfield West (in Hemel Hempstead)	2	Adeyfield West ward (part)
3	Aldbury & Wigginton	1	<i>Unchanged</i> (Aldbury and Wigginton parishes)
4	Apsley (in Hemel Hempstead)	1	South ward (part), Crabtree ward (part)
5	Ashridge	1	Ashridge ward (part – Little Gaddesden and Nettleden with Potten End parishes)
6	Bennetts End (in Hemel Hempstead)	1	Bennetts End ward (part)
7	Berkhamsted Castle	2	Berkhamsted Central ward (part – Castle ward of Berkhamsted parish (part)), Berkhamsted East ward (part – Sunnyside ward of Berkhamsted parish (part))
8	Berkhamsted East	2	Berkhamsted Central ward (part – Castle ward of Berkhamsted parish (part)), Berkhamsted East ward (part – Sunnyside ward of Berkhamsted parish (part))
9	Berkhamsted West	2	Berkhamsted West ward (Shrublands ward of Berkhamsted parish), Berkhamsted Central ward (part – Castle ward of Berkhamsted parish (part)), Berkhamsted East ward (part – Sunnyside ward of Berkhamsted parish (part))
10	Bovingdon, Flaunden & Chipperfield	3	Bovingdon & Flaunden ward (Bovingdon and Flaunden parishes), Chipperfield ward (Chipperfield parish), South ward (part)
11	Boxmoor (in Hemel Hempstead)	2	Boxmoor ward (part)
12	Chaulden & Shrubhill (in Hemel Hempstead)	2	Boxmoor ward (part), Chaulden ward, Warners End ward (part)

*continued overleaf*

Figure B1 (continued):  
The Commission's Draft Recommendations: Constituent Areas

	<b>Ward name</b>	<b>Number of councillors</b>	<b>Constituent areas</b>
13	Crabtree (in Hemel Hempstead)	3	Crabtree ward (part), Bennetts End ward (part)
14	Gadebridge (in Hemel Hempstead)	2	<i>Unchanged</i>
15	Grovehill (in Hemel Hempstead)	3	Cupid Green ward (part), Grovehill ward
16	Hemel Hempstead Central (in Hemel Hempstead)	2	Adeyfield West ward (part), Central ward
17	Highfield & St Pauls (in Hemel Hempstead)	3	Highfield ward, Adeyfield West ward (part)
18	Kings Langley	2	<i>Unchanged</i> (Kings Langley parish)
19	Leverstock Green (in Hemel Hempstead)	3	Crabtree ward (part), Bennetts End ward (part), Leverstock Green ward
20	Nash Mills (in Hemel Hempstead)	1	Bennetts End ward (part), Nash Mills ward (Nash Mills parish)
21	Northchurch	1	<i>Unchanged</i> (Northchurch parish)
22	Tring Central	2	Tring Central ward (part – Bunstrux ward of Tring parish (part))
23	Tring East	1	Tring Central ward (part – Bunstrux ward of Tring parish (part)), Tring East ward (part – Dunsley ward of Tring parish (part))
24	Tring West	2	Tring East ward (part – Dunsley ward of Tring parish (part)), Tring West ward (Tring Rural parish and Miswell ward of Tring parish)
25	Warners End (in Hemel Hempstead)	2	Boxmoor ward (part), Warners End ward (part)
26	Watling	2	Ashridge ward (part – Great Gaddesden parish), Flamstead & Markyate ward (Flamstead and Markyate parishes)
27	Woodhall (in Hemel Hempstead)	2	Cupid Green ward (part)

Figure B2:  
The Commission's Draft Recommendations for Dacorum

Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (1996)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2001)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
1 Adeyfield East (in Hemel Hempstead)	2	4,183	2,092	5	4,149	2,075	3
2 Adeyfield West (in Hemel Hempstead)	2	3,809	1,905	-4	3,845	1,923	-5
3 Aldbury & Wigginton	1	1,822	1,822	-8	1,784	1,784	-12
4 Apsley (in Hemel Hempstead)	1	2,140	2,140	8	2,137	2,137	6
5 Ashridge	1	2,097	2,097	6	2,097	2,097	4
6 Bennetts End (in Hemel Hempstead)	1	2,123	2,123	7	1,918	1,918	-5
7 Berkhamsted Castle	2	4,121	2,061	4	4,242	2,121	5
8 Berkhamsted East	2	4,146	2,073	4	4,193	2,097	4
9 Berkhamsted West	2	4,168	2,084	5	4,251	2,126	5
10 Bovingdon, Flaunden & Chipperfield	3	6,404	2,135	7	6,540	2,180	8
11 Boxmoor (in Hemel Hempstead)	2	4,315	2,158	9	4,323	2,162	7
12 Chaulden & Shrubhill (in Hemel Hempstead)	2	4,017	2,026	2	4,159	2,080	3
13 Crabtree (in Hemel Hempstead)	3	5,659	1,886	-5	5,934	1,978	-2
14 Gadebridge (in Hemel Hempstead)	2	3,644	1,822	-8	3,980	1,990	-1
15 Grovehill (in Hemel Hempstead)	3	5,827	1,942	-2	5,752	1,917	-5
16 Hemel Hempstead Central	2	3,779	1,890	-5	3,862	1,931	-4
17 Highfield & St Pauls (in Hemel Hempstead)	3	5,291	1,764	-11	5,431	1,810	-10

*continued overleaf*

Figure B2: (continued)  
The Commission's Draft Recommendations for Dacorum

Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (1996)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2001)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
18 Kings Langley	2	3,896	1,948	-2	4,024	2,012	0
19 Leverstock Green	3	5,897	1,966	-1	5,770	1,923	-5
20 Nash Mills (in Hemel Hempstead)	1	2,012	2,012	1	2,174	2,174	8
21 Northchurch	1	2,100	2,100	6	2,163	2,163	7
22 Tring Central	2	3,923	1,962	-1	4,007	2,004	-1
23 Tring East	1	2,010	2,010	1	2,095	2,095	4
24 Tring West	2	3,925	1,963	-1	4,074	2,037	1
25 Warners End (in Hemel Hempstead)	2	3,652	1,826	-8	3,902	1,951	-3
26 Watling	2	4,067	2,034	2	4,050	2,025	0
27 Woodhall (in Hemel Hempstead)	2	4,189	2,095	5	4,120	2,060	2
<b>Totals</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>103,250</b>	—	—	<b>104,976</b>	—	—
<b>Averages</b>	—	—	<b>1,986</b>	—	—	<b>2,019</b>	—



