

Final recommendations on the
future electoral arrangements
for North Cornwall

Report to the Electoral Commission

June 2002

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A large map illustrating the proposed ward boundaries for Bude-Stratton is inserted inside the back cover of this report.

WHAT IS THE BOUNDARY COMMITTEE FOR ENGLAND?

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

Members of the Committee are:

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

Archie Gall (Director)

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

This report sets out our final recommendations on the electoral arrangements for the district of North Cornwall.

SUMMARY

The Local Government Commission for England (LGCE) began a review of North Cornwall's electoral arrangements on 12 June 2001. It published its draft recommendations for electoral arrangements on 27 November 2001, after which it undertook an eight-week period of consultation. As a consequence of the transfer of functions referred to earlier, it falls to us, the Boundary Committee for England, to complete the work of the LGCE and submit final recommendations to the Electoral Commission.

- **This report summarises the representations received by the LGCE during consultation on its draft recommendations, and contains our final recommendations to the Electoral Commission.**

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

- **in 16 of the 27 wards the number of electors represented by each councillor varies by more than 10 per cent from the average for the district and seven wards vary by more than 20 per cent;**
- **by 2006 this situation is not expected to improve, with the number of electors per councillor forecast to vary by more than 10 per cent from the average in 16 wards and by more than 20 per cent in six wards.**

Our main final recommendations for future electoral arrangements (see Tables 1 and 2 and paragraphs 75-76) are that:

- **North Cornwall District Council should have 36 councillors, two fewer than at present;**
- **there should be 23 wards, instead of 27 as at present;**
- **the boundaries of 25 of the existing wards should be modified, resulting in a net reduction of four, and two wards should retain their existing boundaries;**
- **elections should continue to take place every four years.**

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

- **The number of electors per councillor would vary by no more than 10 per cent from the district average in 22 of the proposed 23 wards.**
- **This improved level of electoral equality is forecast to continue, with the number of electors per councillor in none of our proposed wards expected to vary by more than 9 per cent from the average for the district in 2006.**

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

- **revised warding arrangements and the redistribution of councillors for the parishes of Bodmin and Bude-Stratton;**

All further correspondence on these final recommendations and the matters discussed in this report should be addressed to the Electoral Commission, which will not make an Order implementing them before 18 July 2002:

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

Table 1: Final Recommendations: Summary

	Ward name	Number of councillors	Constituent areas	Map reference
1	Allan	1	The parishes of Egloshayle, St Breock, St Mabyrn and St Tudy	Map 2
2	Altarnun	1	The parishes of Altarnun, North Hill and St Clether	Map 2
3	Blisland & St Breward	1	The parishes of Blisland, Cardinham, Helland and St Breward	Map 2
4	Bodmin St Mary's	3	Part of Bodmin parish (the proposed St Mary's parish ward)	Maps 2 and A2
5	Bodmin St Petroc	3	Part of Bodmin parish (the proposed St Petroc parish ward)	Maps 2 and A2
6	Bude	2	Part of Bude-Stratton parish (the proposed Bude parish ward)	Map 2 and large map
7	Camelford	1	The parish of Camelford	Map 2
8	Camelot	2	The parishes of Michaelstow, St Teath and Tintagel	Map 2
9	Grenville	1	The parishes of Morwenstow and Kilkhampton	Map 2
10	Lanivet	1	The parishes of Lanhydrock, Lanivet and Withiel	Map 2
11	Launceston	3	The parish of Launceston	Map 2
12	Marhamchurch	1	The parishes of Launcells, Marhamchurch and Poundstock	Map 2
13	North Petherwin	1	The parishes of North Petherwin, St Stephens by Launceston Rural, St Thomas the Apostle Rural and Werrington	Map 2
14	Padstow & District	3	The parishes of Padstow, St Ervan, St Eval, St Issey and St Merryn	Map 2
15	Poughill & Stratton	2	Part of the parish of Bude-Stratton (the proposed Poughill & Stratton parish ward)	Map 2 and large map
16	St Endellion & St Kew	1	The parishes of St Endellion and St Kew	Map 2
17	St Minver	1	<i>Unchanged</i> (the parishes of St Minver Highlands and St Minver Lowlands)	Map 2
18	South Petherwin	1	The parishes of Lawhitton Rural, Lewannick, South Petherwin and Trewen	Map 2
19	Stokeclimsland	1	<i>Unchanged</i> the parishes of Lezant and Stokeclimsland	Map 2
20	Tremaine	1	The parishes of Advent, Davidstow, Egloskerry, Laneast, Otterham, Tremaine, Treneglos, Tresmeer and Warbstow	Map 2

	Ward name	Number of councillors	Constituent areas	Map reference
21	Valency	1	The parishes of Forrabury & Minster, Lesnewth, St Gennys, St Juliot and Trevalga	Map 2
22	Wadebridge	3	The parish of Wadebridge	Map 2
23	Week St Mary & Whitstone	1	The parishes of Boyton, Jacobstow, North Tamerton, Week St Mary and Whitstone	Map 2

Notes: 1 The whole district is parished.

2 Map 2 and Appendix A, including the large map at the back of this report, illustrate the proposed wards outlined above.

Table 2: Final Recommendations for North Cornwall

	Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2001)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2006)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
1	Allan	1	1,846	1,846	6	1,919	1,919	5
2	Altarnun	1	1,655	1,655	-5	1,726	1,726	-6
3	Blisland & St Breward	1	1,900	1,900	9	1,978	1,978	8
4	Bodmin St Mary's	3	5,127	1,709	-2	5,306	1,769	-3
5	Bodmin St Petroc	3	4,522	1,507	-14	5,146	1,715	-6
6	Bude	2	3,495	1,748	0	3,707	1,854	1
7	Camelford	1	1,819	1,819	4	1,903	1,903	4
8	Camelot	2	3,431	1,716	-2	3,580	1,790	-2
9	Grenville	1	1,584	1,584	-9	1,669	1,669	-9
10	Lanivet	1	1,890	1,890	8	1,937	1,937	6
11	Launceston	3	5,371	1,790	2	5,621	1,874	2
12	Marhamchurch	1	1,788	1,788	2	1,852	1,852	1
13	North Petherwin	1	1,873	1,873	7	1,893	1,893	3
14	Padstow & District	3	5,126	1,709	-2	5,316	1,772	-3
15	Poughill & Stratton	2	3,760	1,880	8	3,816	1,908	4
16	St Endellion & St Kew	1	1,789	1,789	2	1,818	1,818	-1
17	St Minver	1	1,931	1,931	10	1,978	1,978	8
18	South Petherwin	1	1,800	1,800	3	1,856	1,856	1
19	Stokeclimsland	1	1,896	1,896	8	1,921	1,921	5
20	Tremaine	1	1,809	1,809	4	1,875	1,875	3
21	Valency	1	1,824	1,824	4	1,852	1,852	1
22	Wadebridge	3	4,893	1,631	-7	5,295	1,765	-4
23	Week St Mary & Whitstone	1	1,791	1,791	2	1,888	1,888	3
	Totals	36	62,920	-	-	65,852	-	-
	Averages	-	-	1,748	-	-	1,829	-

Source: Electorate figures are based on information provided by North Cornwall District Council.

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

1 INTRODUCTION

1 This report contains our final recommendations on the electoral arrangements for the district of North Cornwall in Cornwall. The six districts in Cornwall have now been reviewed as part of the programme of periodic electoral reviews (PERs) of all 386 principal local authority areas in England started by the LGCE in 1996. We have inherited that programme, which we currently expect to complete in 2004.

2 North Cornwall's last review was undertaken by the Local Government Boundary Commission for England, which reported to the Secretary of State in December 1978 (Report no. 271). The electoral arrangements of Cornwall County Council were last reviewed in November 1983 (Report no. 456). We expect to begin reviewing the County Council's electoral arrangements towards the end of the year.

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

- the statutory criteria contained in section 13(5) of the Local Government Act 1992 (as amended by SI 2001 No 3692), i.e. the need to:
 - a) reflect the identities and interests of local communities;
 - b) secure effective and convenient local government; and
 - c) achieve equality of representation.
- Schedule 11 to the Local Government Act 1972.

4 Details of the legislation under which the review of North Cornwall was conducted are set out in a document entitled *Guidance and Procedural Advice for Local Authorities and Other Interested Parties* (LGCE, fourth edition, published in December 2000). This *Guidance* sets out the approach to the review.

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

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

7 The LGCE was not prescriptive on council size. Insofar as North Cornwall is concerned, it started from the assumption that the size of the existing council already secures effective and convenient local government, but was willing to look carefully at arguments why this might not be so. However, the LGCE found it necessary to safeguard against upward drift in the number of councillors, and that any proposal for an increase in council size would need to be fully justified. In particular, it did not accept that an increase in electorate should automatically result in an increase in the number of councillors, nor that changes should be made to the size of a council simply to make it more consistent with the size of other similar councils.

8 This review was in four stages. Stage One began on 12 June 2001, when the LGCE wrote to North Cornwall District Council inviting proposals for future electoral arrangements. It also notified Cornwall County Council, Devon & Cornwall Police Authority, the Local Government Association, Cornwall Association of Parish & Town Councils, parish and town councils in the district, the Members of Parliament with constituencies in the district, the Members of the European Parliament for the South West region and the headquarters of the main political

parties. It placed a notice in the local press, issued a press release and invited the District Council to publicise the review further. The closing date for receipt of representations, the end of Stage One, was 3 September 2001. At Stage Two it considered all the representations received during Stage One and prepared its draft recommendations.

9 Stage Three began on 27 November 2001 with the publication of the LGCE's report, *Draft recommendations on the future electoral arrangements for North Cornwall in Cornwall*, and ended on 28 January 2002. During this period comments were sought from the public and any other interested parties on the preliminary conclusions. Finally, during Stage Four the draft recommendations were reconsidered in the light of the Stage Three consultation and we now publish the final recommendations.

2 CURRENT ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS

10 The district of North Cornwall is situated in the north-east of the county. The area is predominantly rural in character and therefore the agricultural industry is of great importance. Virtually all of the coastline and Bodmin Moor are designated as areas of outstanding natural beauty and the district boasts a number of buildings of historic importance. The county town of Bodmin serves as the centre of road communications in the district, being connected to the A30 and A38 and served by a mainline railway station, Bodmin Parkway. Covering some 119,521 hectares, and with a population of 81,000, North Cornwall has a population density of just under 1.5 people per hectare.

11 The district contains 65 parishes, and is completely parished. Bodmin town comprises 15 per cent of the district's total electorate.

12 The electorate of the district is 62,920 (February 2001). The Council presently has 38 members who are elected from 27 wards. Four of the wards are each represented by three councillors, three are each represented by two councillors and 20 are single-member wards. The whole council is elected every four years.

13 To compare levels of electoral inequality between wards, the LGCE calculated, in percentage terms, the extent to which the number of electors per councillor in each ward (the councillor:elector ratio) varies from the district average. In the text which follows, this calculation may also be described using the shorthand term 'electoral variance'.

14 At present, each councillor represents an average of 1,656 electors, which the District Council forecasts will increase to 1,733 by the year 2006 if the present number of councillors is maintained. However, due to demographic change and migration since the last review, the number of electors per councillor in 16 of the 27 wards varies by more than 10 per cent from the district average, seven wards by more than 20 per cent and three wards by more than 30 per cent. The worst imbalance is in St Endellion ward, where the councillor represents 44 per cent fewer electors than the district average.

Map 1: Existing Wards in North Cornwall

Table 3: Existing Electoral Arrangements

	Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2001)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2006)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
1	Allan	1	1,321	1,321	-20	1,403	1,403	-19
2	Altarnun	1	2,247	2,247	36	2,322	2,322	34
3	Bodmin St Mary's	3	4,728	1,576	-5	4,888	1,629	-6
4	Bodmin St Petroc	3	4,921	1,640	-1	5,564	1,855	7
5	Bude & Poughill	3	5,945	1,982	20	6,135	2,045	18
6	Camelford	1	1,942	1,942	17	2,025	2,025	17
7	Grenville	1	2,032	2,032	23	2,121	2,121	22
8	Lanivet	1	1,760	1,760	6	1,805	1,805	4
9	Launceston North	2	3,162	1,581	-5	3,194	1,597	-8
10	Launceston South	2	2,209	1,105	-33	2,427	1,214	-30
11	Lesnewth	1	1,783	1,783	8	1,828	1,828	5
12	North Petherwin	1	1,561	1,561	-6	1,590	1,590	-8
13	Ottery	1	1,248	1,248	-25	1,314	1,314	-24
14	Padstow & St Merryn	2	3,646	1,823	10	3,739	1,870	8
15	Penfound	1	1,821	1,821	10	1,838	1,838	6
16	Rumford	1	1,480	1,480	-11	1,577	1,577	-9
17	South Petherwin	1	1,606	1,606	-3	1,650	1,650	-5
18	St Breward	1	1,415	1,415	-15	1,444	1,444	-17
19	St Endellion	1	929	929	-44	941	941	-46
20	St Minver	1	1,931	1,931	17	1,978	1,978	14
21	St Teath	1	1,825	1,825	10	1,923	1,923	11

22	Stokeclimsland	1	1,896	1,896	15	1,921	1,921	11
23	Stratton	1	1,310	1,310	-21	1,388	1,388	-20
24	Tintagel	1	1,443	1,443	-13	1,491	1,491	-14
25	Trigg	1	1,277	1,277	-23	1,337	1,337	-23
26	Wadebridge	3	5,779	1,926	16	6,183	2,061	19
27	Week St Mary	1	1,703	1,703	3	1,826	1,826	5
Totals		38	62,920	-	-	65,852	-	-
Averages		-	-	1,656	-	-	1,733	-

Source: Electorate figures are based on information provided by North Cornwall District Council.

Note: The 'variance from average' column shows by how far, in percentage terms, the number of electors per councillor varies from the average for the district. The minus symbol (-) denotes a lower than average number of electors. For example, in 2001, electors in St Endellion ward were relatively over-represented by 44 per cent, while electors in Altarnun ward were significantly under-represented by 36 per cent. Figures have been rounded to the nearest whole number.

3 DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS

15 During Stage One the LGCE received 16 representations, including a district-wide scheme from North Cornwall District Council, and representations from 14 parish and town councils and a local resident. In the light of these representations and evidence available to it, the LGCE reached preliminary conclusions which were set out in its report, *Draft recommendations on the future electoral arrangements for North Cornwall in Cornwall*.

16 The draft recommendations were based on the District Council's proposals, which achieved some improvement in electoral equality, and provided for a mixed pattern of wards across the whole of the district. However, we proposed a number of ward name changes. It proposed that:

- North Cornwall District Council should be served by 36 councillors, compared with the current 38, representing 23 wards, four fewer than at present;
- the boundaries of 25 of the existing wards should be modified, while two wards should retain their existing boundaries;
- there should be new warding arrangements for the parishes of Bodmin and Bude-Stratton.

Draft Recommendation

North Cornwall District Council should comprise 36 councillors, serving 23 wards. The whole council should continue to be elected every four years.

17 The LGCE's proposals would have resulted in significant improvements in electoral equality, with the number of electors per councillor in all of the wards varying by no more than 10 per cent from the district average. This level of electoral equality was forecast to improve further, with no ward varying by more than 10 per cent from the average in 2006.

4 RESPONSES TO CONSULTATION

18 During the consultation on its draft recommendations report, the LGCE received 23 representations. A list of all respondents is available from us on request. All representations may be inspected at our offices and those of North Cornwall District Council.

North Cornwall District Council

19 The District Council proposed that Stratton ward be renamed Poughill & Stratton. It stated that its general response to the draft recommendations was to “welcome and endorse” them.

Cornwall County Council

20 The County Council proposed boundary amendments between the proposed Bodmin St Mary’s and Bodmin St Petroc wards and between the proposed Bude and Stratton wards.

Bodmin Liberal Democrats and Paul Tyler MP

21 The Bodmin Liberal Democrats and Paul Tyler MP proposed a boundary amendment between the proposed Bodmin St Mary’s and Bodmin St Petroc wards.

North Cornwall Conservative Association

22 The North Cornwall Conservative Association supported the draft recommendations.

Parish and Town Councils

23 Representations were received from 13 parish and town councils. The parish councils of St Breward, St Endellion and Week St Mary supported the draft proposals for their areas. The parish councils of Boyton, Launceston, Michaelstow, Otterham, St Eval, St Issey and St Thomas the Apostle Rural objected to the draft proposals for their areas. Bude-Stratton Town Council proposed a ward name change and commented on a boundary anomaly. Cardinham Parish Council proposed a ward name change. Lezant Parish Council stated that it had no comment to make with regard to the draft recommendations.

Other Representations

24 A further six representations were received from local residents. One local resident proposed a minor boundary amendment in Bude-Stratton while another proposed a boundary amendment in Bodmin. A further four local residents supported the draft recommendations.

5 ANALYSIS AND FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS

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

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

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

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

Electorate Forecasts

29 Since 1975 there has been a 37 per cent increase in the electorate of North Cornwall district. At Stage One the District Council submitted electorate forecasts for the year 2006, projecting an increase in the electorate of approximately 5 per cent from 62,920 to 65,852 over the five-year period from 2001 to 2006. It expects most of the growth to be in Bodmin. In order to prepare these forecasts, the Council estimated rates and locations of housing development with regard to structure and local plans, the expected rate of building over the five-year period and assumed occupancy rates. Having accepted that this is an inexact science and, having considered the forecast electorates, the LGCE stated in its draft recommendations report that it was satisfied that they represented the best estimates that could reasonably be made at the time.

30 The LGCE received no comments on the Council’s electorate forecasts during Stage Three, and we remain satisfied that they represent the best estimates currently available.

Council Size

31 As already explained, the LGCE started its review by assuming that the current council size facilitated effective and convenient local government, although it was willing to carefully look at arguments why this might not be the case.

32 In its draft recommendations report the LGCE adopted the Council’s proposal for a council of 36 members. At Stage One the District Council had stated that it felt that 36 members was

“sufficient to service the interests of this community”. No other representations were received on council size.

33 During Stage Three no specific comments regarding council size were received. Therefore, having looked at the size and distribution of the electorate, the geography and other characteristics of the area, together with the responses received, we conclude that the achievement of electoral equality and the statutory criteria would best be met by a council of 36 members.

Electoral Arrangements

34 At Stage One careful consideration was given to the views received, including the district-wide scheme received from the District Council. There was limited opposition to the District Council’s scheme as a whole and the majority of the opposition concerned its proposed ward names. The District Council’s scheme also avoided the need for parish warding and secured a good level of electoral equality across the district. Therefore, the LGCE adopted the Council’s scheme, subject to a number of ward name changes.

35 In response to the LGCE’s draft recommendations report, a number of respondents reiterated objections voiced at Stage One while a number proposed minor boundary amendments for the towns of Bodmin and Bude-Stratton.

36 The draft recommendations have been reviewed in the light of further evidence and the representations received during Stage Three. For district warding purposes, the following areas, based on existing wards, are considered in turn:

- (a) Allan, Padstow & St Merryn, Rumford, St Endellion, St Minver and Wadebridge wards;
- (b) Bodmin St Mary’s, Bodmin St Petroc, Lanivet, St Breward and Trigg wards;
- (c) Camelford, Lesnewth, Ottery, Penfound, St Teath and Tintagel wards;
- (d) Bude & Poughill, Grenville, Stratton and Week St Mary wards;
- (e) Altarnun, Launceston North, Launceston South, North Petherwin, South Petherwin and Stokeclimsland wards.

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

Allan, Padstow & St Merryn, Rumford, St Endellion, St Minver and Wadebridge wards

38 These six wards are situated in the south-west of the district. Allan ward, comprising the parishes of St Kew and St Maby, is represented by a single councillor and currently has 20 per cent fewer electors per councillor than the district average (19 per cent fewer in 2006). Padstow & St Merryn ward, comprising the parishes of Padstow and St Merryn, is represented by two councillors and has 10 per cent more electors per councillor than the district average currently (8 per cent more in 2006). Rumford ward, comprising the parishes of St Ervan, St Eval and St Issey, is represented by a single councillor and has 11 per cent fewer electors per councillor than the district average currently (9 per cent fewer in 2006). St Endellion ward, comprising the parish of the same name, is represented by a single councillor and has 44 per cent fewer electors per councillor than the district average currently (46 per cent fewer in 2006). St Minver ward, comprising the parishes of St Minver Highlands and St Minver Lowlands, is represented by a single councillor and has 17 per cent more electors than the district average currently (14 per cent more in 2006). Wadebridge ward, comprising the parishes of Egloshayle, St Breock and Wadebridge, is represented by three councillors and has 16 per cent more electors per councillor than the district average currently (19 per cent more in 2006).

39 At Stage One the District Council proposed that the wards of Padstow & St Merryn and Rumford be combined in a three-member Padstow & District ward, that the current single-member St Minver ward be maintained on its current boundaries and that the parishes of St Endellion and St Kew be combined in a single-member St Endellion ward. It proposed that the town of Wadebridge be represented by a three-member ward and that the parishes of Egloshayle and St Breock be combined with the parishes of St Mabyn and St Tudy to form a revised single-member Allan ward. The parish councils of St Ervan and St Issey both objected to the District Council's proposed Padstow & District ward. St Mabyn Parish Council supported the District Council's proposals while St Tudy Parish Council objected to the District Council's proposed Allan ward. St Kew Parish Council objected to the proposed St Endellion ward name and proposed it be named St Endellion & St Kew or vice versa.

40 Having considered all of the evidence received during the initial consultation stage, the LGCE adopted the District Council's proposals for this area subject to renaming its proposed St Endellion ward as St Endellion & St Kew ward.

41 Under the draft recommendations, the proposed Allan ward (comprising the parishes of Egloshayle, St Breock, St Mabyn and St Tudy), Padstow & District ward (comprising the parishes of Padstow, St Ervan, St Eval, St Issey and St Merryn), St Endellion & St Kew ward (comprising the parishes of the same name), St Minver ward (comprising the parishes of St Minver Highlands and St Minver Lowlands) and Wadebridge ward (comprising the parish of the same name) would have 6 per cent more, 2 per cent fewer, 2 per cent more, 10 per cent more and 7 per cent fewer electors per councillor than the district average currently (5 per cent more, 3 per cent fewer, 1 per cent fewer, 8 per cent more and 4 per cent fewer in 2006).

42 At Stage Three St Endellion Parish Council stated that it had resolved, with one abstention, to accept the draft proposals. St Eval Parish Council objected to the proposed Padstow & District ward, stating that the current ward had received good service from its councillor. St Issey Parish Council also objected to the proposed Padstow & District ward, arguing that the electors of the current Rumford ward would receive "little or no representation".

43 The representations received at Stage Three have been carefully considered and the objections to the proposed Padstow & District ward noted. However, as stated in the draft recommendations report, retaining the current Rumford ward would not achieve an acceptable level of electoral equality by 2006. Therefore, we are of the view that the proposed Padstow & District ward would best reflect the statutory criteria in the area. We have also decided to confirm the proposals for Allan, St Endellion & St Kew, St Minver and Wadebridge wards as final.

44 Under our final recommendations the proposed Allan ward (comprising the parishes of Egloshayle, St Breock, St Mabyn and St Tudy), Padstow & District ward (comprising the parishes of Padstow, St Ervan, St Eval, St Issey and St Merryn), St Endellion & St Kew ward (comprising the parishes of the same name), St Minver ward (comprising the parishes of St Minver Highlands and St Minver Lowlands) and Wadebridge ward (comprising the parish of the same name) would have 6 per cent more, 2 per cent fewer, 2 per cent more, 10 per cent more and 7 per cent fewer electors per councillor than the district average currently (5 per cent more, 3 per cent fewer, 1 per cent fewer, 8 per cent more and 4 per cent fewer in 2006). Our proposals are illustrated on Map 2.

Bodmin St Mary's, Bodmin St Petroc, Lanivet, St Breward and Trigg wards

45 These five wards are situated in the south-east of the district. Bodmin St Mary's ward, comprising St Mary's parish ward of Bodmin parish, is represented by three councillors and currently has 5 per cent fewer electors per councillor than the district average (6 per cent fewer in 2006). Bodmin St Petroc ward, comprising St Petroc parish ward of Bodmin parish, is represented by three councillors and has 1 per cent fewer electors per councillor than the

district average currently (7 per cent more in 2006). Lanivet ward, comprising the parishes of Lanivet and Withiel, is represented by a single councillor and has 6 per cent more electors per councillor than the district average currently (4 per cent more in 2006). St Breward ward, comprising the parishes of Michaelstow, St Breward and St Tudy, is represented by a single councillor and has 15 per cent fewer electors per councillor than the district average currently (17 per cent fewer in 2006). Trigg ward, comprising the parishes of Blisland, Cardinham, Helland and Lanhydrock, is represented by a single councillor and has 23 per cent fewer electors per councillor than the district average currently (23 per cent fewer in 2006).

46 At Stage One the District Council proposed that the current Bodmin St Mary's and Bodmin St Petroc wards be maintained on their current boundaries. However, under a 36-member council its proposed Bodmin St Mary's ward would have 11 per cent fewer electors per councillor by 2006, therefore, it also proposed an alternative warding arrangement in the town. It noted that this would reduce the electoral imbalance within Bodmin St Mary's ward to 6 per cent fewer electors per councillor than the district average by 2006. It also proposed that the parish of Lanhydrock be combined with the current Lanivet ward to form a new single-member Lanivet ward and that the parishes of Blisland, Cardinham, Helland and St Breward be combined to form a single-member Blisland ward. St Breward Parish Council objected to the District Council's proposed Blisland ward name, arguing that the parish of St Breward had the largest electorate in the ward and stating that the current ward covering the area is called Trigg ward.

47 The draft recommendations report noted that the District Council proposed no change to Bodmin St Mary's and Bodmin Petroc wards. However, it was also noted that the proposed Bodmin St Mary's ward would have 11 per cent fewer electors per councillor than the district average in 2006. An electoral variance of 11 per cent in an urban area would have to be particularly well argued. However, the LGCE did not believe that the argumentation was sufficiently compelling to endorse these proposals in Bodmin town, certainly in the light of the alternative proposal. It was noted that the District Council's alternative proposals for the town would provide for a superior level of electoral equality while having regard for the statutory criteria. Therefore, the LGCE proposed adopting the District Council's alternative configuration for its proposed Bodmin St Mary's and Bodmin Petroc wards. It was also noted that its proposed Lanivet and Blisland wards would combine parishes of a similar nature while securing an acceptable level of electoral equality. However, the opposition of St Breward Parish Council to the proposed Blisland ward name was noted and the LGCE proposed renaming it Blisland & St Breward ward.

48 Under the draft recommendations the proposed Bodmin St Mary's ward, Bodmin St Petroc ward, Blisland & St Breward ward (comprising the parishes of Blisland, Cardinham, Helland and St Breward) and Lanivet ward (comprising the parishes of Lanhydrock, Lanivet and Withiel) would have 10 per cent fewer, 6 per cent fewer, 9 per cent more and 8 per cent more electors per councillor than the district average currently (6 per cent fewer, 4 per cent fewer, 8 per cent more and 6 per cent more in 2006).

49 At Stage Three Cornwall County Council proposed that the boundary between the proposed Bodmin St Mary's and Bodmin St Petroc be realigned. It proposed that the boundary run south along Watery Lane, to the rear of Brownlow Place, south along Chapel Lane, to the rear of Beacon Hill as far as Meadow Place before rejoining the present boundary on Beacon Hill. It argued that the proposals would split the Finn VC Estate between two wards, that Burnards Court sheltered housing would be transferred to the proposed Bodmin St Mary's ward and that it was likely that the elderly residents would face a longer journey to a polling station and, in order to "minimise confusion", roads should only be divided between wards where this was unavoidable. The proposals of the Bodmin Liberal Democrats and Paul Tyler MP were similar to those of the County Council. However, they proposed that the whole of Fore Street be transferred to the proposed Bodmin St Petrocs ward and that the whole of Flaxmoor Terrace be transferred to the proposed Bodmin St Mary's ward. A local resident stated that the proposed

boundary had “some disadvantages” and proposed identical proposals to those of the Bodmin Liberal Democrats and Paul Tyler MP.

50 Cardinham Parish Council proposed that Blisland & St Breward ward be renamed Trigg ward or another “mutually inclusive name”. St Breward Parish Council stated that it had no objections to the “constitution and name” of the proposed Blisland & St Breward ward.

51 Careful consideration has been given to the evidence and representations received. We have noted the proposals of both the County Council and the Bodmin Liberal Democrats (supported by Paul Tyler MP) and are of the view that both proposals would better reflect community identity in the town without significantly affecting electoral equality. However, having considered the argumentation, we are of the view that the proposals of the County Council would provide slightly more identifiable boundaries. We have therefore decided to adopt Cornwall County Council’s proposals for Bodmin as part of our final recommendations. However, we propose that the boundary between the two wards run along the centre of Beacon Hill in order to provide a more identifiable boundary. We note that under these proposals the proposed Bodmin St Petroc ward would have 14 per cent fewer electors per councillor than the district average currently, however, it would secure an acceptable level of electoral equality, 6 per cent fewer electors by 2006. We have also considered the proposals regarding the naming of the proposed Blisland & St Breward ward. We note the proposals of Cardinham Parish Council but have not been persuaded that their proposals secure widespread support. Therefore we propose confirming as final the draft recommendations for Blisland & St Breward ward.

52 Under our final recommendations the proposed Bodmin St Mary’s, Bodmin St Petroc, Blisland & St Breward and Lanivet wards would have 2 per cent fewer, 14 per cent fewer, 9 per cent more and 8 per cent more electors per councillor than the district average currently (3 per cent fewer, 6 per cent fewer, 8 per cent more and 6 per cent more in 2006).

Camelford, Lesnewth, Ottery, Penfound, St Teath and Tintagel wards

53 These six wards are situated along the eastern coast and centre of the district. Camelford ward, comprising the parishes of Advent and Camelford, is represented by a single councillor and currently has 17 per cent more electors per councillor than the district average (17 per cent more in 2006). Lesnewth ward, comprising the parishes of Davidstow, Forrabury & Minster, Lesnewth, Otterham, St Clether, St Juliot and Trevalga, is represented by a single councillor and has 8 per cent more electors per councillor than the district average currently (5 per cent more in 2006). Ottery ward, comprising the parishes of Egloskerry, Laneast, Tremaine, Treneglos, Tresmeer, Trewen and Warbstow, is represented by a single councillor and has 25 per cent fewer electors per councillor than the district average currently (24 per cent fewer in 2006). Penfound ward, comprising the parishes of Jacobstow, Poundstock and St Gennys, is represented by a single councillor and has 10 per cent more electors per councillor than the district average currently (6 per cent more in 2006). St Teath ward, comprising the parish of the same name, is represented by a single councillor and has 10 per cent more electors than the district average currently (11 per cent more in 2006). Tintagel ward, comprising the parish of the same name, is represented by a single councillor and has 13 per cent fewer electors per councillor than the district average currently (14 per cent fewer in 2006).

54 At Stage One the District Council proposed combining the parishes of Michaelstow, St Teath and Tintagel in a two-member Camelot ward. It proposed that the town of Camelford form a single-member Camelford ward and that the parishes of Forrabury & Minster, Lesnewth, St Gennys, St Juliot and Trevalga be combined to form a single-member St Juliot ward. It proposed that the parishes of Advent, Davidstow, Egloskerry, Laneast, Otterham, Tremaine, Treneglos, Tresmeer and Warbstow be combined to form a single-member Tremaine ward. Forrabury & Minster Parish Council objected to the District Council’s proposed St Juliot ward name, arguing that it was one of the smaller parishes in the proposed ward. It proposed that it

be renamed Valency ward after the river that runs through three of the parishes or that it be renamed Boscastle & District. Michaelstow Parish Council objected to the District Council's proposed Camelot ward.

55 The LGCE noted Michaelstow Parish Council's objection to the District Council's proposed Camelot ward but also noted that, were it to be combined with the District Council's proposed Blisland ward, it would have a detrimental effect on electoral equality. Indeed, the proposed Blisland ward would have 17 per cent more electors per councillor than the district average in 2006. Although not ideal, the LGCE considered that Michaelstow parish shared adequate links with the parishes of St Teath and Tintagel and noted that the alternative proposal would significantly impact on the electoral equality in the proposed Blisland ward. Therefore it was content to adopt the District Council's proposed Camelot ward as part of its draft recommendations. It was also content to adopt the District Council's proposed St Juliot ward. However, it was persuaded to rename the ward Valency ward, as proposed by Forrabury & Minster Parish Council. The LGCE also noted that the District Council's proposed Camelford and Tremaine wards secured good levels of electoral equality and proposed adopting both as part of its draft recommendations.

56 Under the draft recommendations the proposed Camelford, Camelot, Valency and Tremaine wards would have 4 per cent more, 2 per cent fewer, 4 per cent more and 4 per cent more electors per councillor than the district average currently (4 per cent more, 2 per cent fewer, 1 per cent more and 3 per cent more in 2006).

57 At Stage Three Michaelstow Parish Council objected to the proposed Camelot ward, arguing that the parish would "lose adequate representation and its identity". Otterham Parish Council stated that it felt it had been "misplaced" in the proposed Tremaine ward. It argued that its links were with the parishes of St Juliot and St Gennys with which it shares its main public places.

58 We have carefully considered the representations received during the consultation period and note the objections of the parishes of Michaelstow and Otterham. However, we cannot view any area in isolation and note that transferring the parishes to adjacent wards would seriously impact on electoral equality in the area. Indeed, the proposed Valency ward would have 12 per cent more electors per councillor than the district average by 2006 were we to transfer Otterham parish to the ward. Therefore we are confirming the draft recommendations in this area as final.

Bude & Poughill, Grenville, Stratton and Week St Mary wards

59 These four wards make up the northern region of the district. Bude & Poughill ward, comprising the parish wards of Bude and Poughill of Bude-Stratton parish, is represented by three councillors and currently has 20 per cent more electors per councillor than the district average (18 per cent more in 2006). Grenville ward, comprising the parishes of Morwenstow, Kilkhampton and Launcells, is represented by a single councillor and has 23 per cent more electors per councillor than the district average currently (22 per cent more in 2006). Stratton ward, comprising the Stratton parish ward of Bude-Stratton parish, is represented by a single councillor and has 21 per cent fewer electors per councillor than the district average currently (20 per cent fewer in 2006). Week St Mary ward, comprising the parishes of Marhamchurch, Week St Mary, Whitstone and North Tamerton, is represented by a single councillor and has 3 per cent more electors per councillor than the district average currently (5 per cent more in 2006).

60 At Stage One the District Council proposed that Bude-Stratton town be divided between a two-member Bude ward and a two-member Stratton ward. It argued that this would retain the community identities of the town. It proposed combining the parishes of Morwenstow and Kilkhampton to form a single-member Grenville ward and proposed combining the parishes of Launcells, Marhamchurch and Poundstock to form a single-member Marhamchurch ward. It

also proposed combining the parishes of Week St Mary, Whitstone and North Tamerton with the parishes of Boyton and Jacobstow to form a single-member Whitstone ward.

61 Bude-Stratton Town Council supported the District Council's proposed Bude and Stratton wards. Week St Mary Parish Council, in a representation submitted by the District Council, supported the proposed warding arrangements but objected to the District Council's proposed Whitstone ward name. Boyton Parish Council proposed that the current North Petherwin ward be maintained.

62 The LGCE, having carefully considered Boyton Parish Council's opposition to the District Council's proposed Whitstone ward, noted that maintaining the present warding arrangements for North Petherwin ward would have a detrimental impact on electoral equality in the area. Given the high levels of electoral inequality that would result, the LGCE was of the view that it could not endorse Boyton Parish Council's proposals. The LGCE noted Week St Mary Parish Council's objection to the proposed Whitstone ward name and was persuaded that the name Week St Mary & Whitstone ward would better represent the ward, as it reflected the two largest parishes. Therefore it was content to adopt the District Council's proposed Whitstone ward as part of its draft recommendations subject to it being renamed Week St Mary & Whitstone ward. The LGCE was also content to adopt the District Council's proposed wards of Bude and Stratton subject to minor amendments to the boundary between them, to tie it to ground detail. It was also noted that the District Council's proposed Marhamchurch and Grenville wards would secure good levels of electoral equality, while having regard to our statutory criteria. Therefore the LGCE proposed adopting both as part of its draft recommendations.

63 Under the draft recommendations the proposed Bude ward, Stratton ward, Week St Mary & Whitstone ward (comprising the parishes of Boyton, Jacobstow, North Tamerton, Week St Mary and Whitstone), and Grenville ward (comprising the parishes of Morwenstow and Kilkhampton) would have equal to, 8 per cent more, 2 per cent more and 9 per cent fewer electors per councillors than the district average currently (1 per cent more, 4 per cent more, 3 per cent more and 9 per cent fewer in 2006).

64 At Stage Three the District Council proposed that the name Poughill be added to the proposed Stratton ward name. Cornwall County Council proposed that King's Hill Industrial Estate be contained within one ward. Bude-Stratton Parish Council proposed that the proposed Stratton ward be renamed Poughill & Stratton ward and that the boundary between the proposed wards in the town run along the stream so as to include the property known as Berkeley within the proposed Stratton ward. A local resident also proposed that the Berkeley property be included within the proposed Stratton ward.

65 Boyton Parish Council objected to the draft proposals for its parish, arguing that its links are with Launceston. It argued further that should the proposed Week St Mary & Whitstone ward be confirmed as final a "strong case exists to include Boyton in the ward title". Week St Mary Parish Council supported the proposed Week St Mary & Whitstone ward, arguing that the "name consists of the two largest parishes".

66 We have carefully considered the representations received during the consultation period. We have noted the submissions concerning the Bude-Stratton area and have been persuaded to amend the boundary between the proposed wards in the town. We propose that the Berkeley property and the King's Hill Industrial Estate be transferred to the proposed Stratton ward. We consider that this would better reflect community identity and provide for more identifiable boundaries. We also propose that Stratton ward be renamed Poughill & Stratton ward. We have also considered the submission of Boyton Parish Council, however, we consider that we cannot view any area in isolation. We have also considered its proposal that the name Boyton be added to our proposed Week St Mary & Whitstone ward name. However, we consider that this would make the ward name too unwieldy. Therefore we propose confirming the proposed Week

St Mary & Whitstone ward as final. We also propose confirming the proposed Grenville ward as final.

67 Under our final recommendations our proposed Bude ward, Poughill & Stratton ward, Week St Mary & Whitstone ward and Grenville ward would have equal to, 8 per cent more, 2 per cent more and 9 per cent fewer electors per councillors than the district average currently (1 per cent more, 4 per cent more, 3 per cent more and 9 per cent fewer in 2006).

Altarnun, Launceston North, Launceston South, North Petherwin, South Petherwin and Stokeclimsland wards

68 These six wards are situated on the south-east border of the district. Altarnun ward, comprising the parishes of Altarnun, North Hill and Lewannick, is represented by a single councillor and currently has 36 per cent more electors per councillor than the district average (34 per cent more in 2006). Launceston North ward, comprising the North parish ward of Launceston parish, is represented by two councillors and has 5 per cent fewer electors per councillor than district average currently (8 per cent fewer in 2006). Launceston South ward, comprising the South parish ward of Launceston parish, is represented by two councillors and has 33 per cent fewer electors per councillor than the district average currently (30 per cent fewer in 2006). North Petherwin ward, comprising the parishes of North Petherwin, Boyton, Werrington and St Stephens By Launceston Rural, is represented by a single councillor and has 6 per cent fewer electors per councillor than the district average currently (8 per cent fewer by 2006). South Petherwin ward, comprising the parishes of South Petherwin, St Thomas the Apostle Rural and Lawhitton Rural, is represented by a single councillor and has 3 per cent fewer electors per councillor than the district average currently (5 per cent fewer by 2006). Stokeclimsland ward, comprising the parishes of Lezant and Stokeclimsland, is represented by a single councillor and has 15 per cent more electors per councillor than the district average currently (11 per cent more by 2006).

69 At Stage One the District Council proposed a single-member Altarnun ward, combining the parishes of Altarnun, North Hill and St Clether. It proposed that the town of Launceston form a three-member Launceston ward. It proposed a single-member North Petherwin ward, combining the parishes of St Thomas the Apostle Rural, North Petherwin, St Stephens by Launceston Rural and Werrington. It proposed a single-member South Petherwin ward, combining the parishes of Lewannick, Trewen, Lawhitton Rural and South Petherwin. It proposed maintaining the present warding arrangements for Stokeclimsland ward. Launceston Town Council stated that it would “object to any proposal which would lead to a reduction in the number of (district) ward members”, and argued that planned development in the present Launceston South ward would entitle Launceston to four district councillors.

70 The LGCE noted Launceston Town Council’s proposal to retain four district councillors in the town. However, the District Council stated that “although planning permission exists for a considerable number of new houses to be built in Launceston it is very unlikely that the majority of these will be completed and occupied by 2006.” As stated in the LGCE’s *Guidance* it had to have regard to the five-year forecasts of electorate based on firm evidence and realistic expectations. Having considered the District Council’s statement, the LGCE was content that the five-year forecast produced by the Council represented the best estimate that could be reasonably made at that time. Therefore it was content to adopt the proposed Launceston, North Petherwin, South Petherwin and Stokeclimsland wards as part of its draft recommendations.

71 Under the draft recommendations the proposed Altarnun ward (comprising the parishes of Altarnun, North Hill and St Clether), Launceston ward (comprising the parish of Launceston), North Petherwin ward (comprising the parishes of North Petherwin, Werrington, St Stephens by

Launceston Rural and St Thomas the Apostle Rural), South Petherwin ward (comprising the parishes of South Petherwin, Lewannick, Trewen and Lawhitton Rural) and Stokeclimsland ward (comprising the parishes of Stokeclimsland and Lezant) would have 5 per cent fewer, 2 per cent more, 7 per cent more, 3 per cent more and 8 per cent more electors per councillor than the district average (6 per cent fewer, 2 per cent more, 3 per cent more, 1 per cent more and 5 per cent more in 2006).

72 At Stage Three Launceston Town Council proposed that the town be combined with the parishes of St Stephens by Launceston, St Thomas the Apostle and South Petherwin in order to retain four councillors in the area. St Thomas the Apostle Rural Parish Council objected to the draft recommendations arguing that it did not feel they could be as well represented as they are currently.

73 We have carefully considered Launceston Town Council's proposal. However, we cannot view any area in isolation and note that this proposal would impact on electoral equality in surrounding wards. We have also considered the objection of St Thomas the Apostle Rural Parish Council but again cannot view any area in isolation. Indeed, we note that if we were to maintain the current North Petherwin ward it would have 13 per cent fewer electors than the district average by 2006. Therefore, we propose confirming the draft recommendations for the wards of Altarnun, Launceston, North Petherwin, South Petherwin and Stokeclimsland as final.

Electoral Cycle

74 By virtue of the amendments made to the Local Government Act 1992 by the Local Government Commission for England (Transfer of Functions) Order 2001, we have no powers to make recommendations concerning electoral cycle.

Conclusions

75 Having carefully considered all the representations and evidence received in response to the LGCE's consultation report, we have decided substantially to adopt its draft recommendations, subject to the following amendments:

- in Bude-Stratton we propose minor boundary amendments between our proposed Bude and Poughill & Stratton wards;
- in Bodmin we propose amending the boundary between our proposed Bude St Mary's and Bude St Petroc wards;
- the proposed Stratton ward should be renamed Poughill & Stratton ward.

76 We conclude that, in North Cornwall:

- there should be a reduction in council size from 38 to 36;
- there should be 23 wards, four fewer than at present;
- the boundaries of 25 of the existing wards should be modified.

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

Table 4: Comparison of Current and Recommended Electoral Arrangements

	2001 electorate		2006 forecast electorate	
	Current arrangements	Final recommendations	Current arrangements	Final recommendations
Number of councillors	38	36	38	36
Number of wards	27	23	27	23
Average number of electors per councillor	1,656	1,748	1,733	1,829
Number of wards with a variance more than 10 per cent from the average	16	1	16	0
Number of wards with a variance more than 20 per cent from the average	7	0	6	0

78 As Table 4 shows, our recommendations would result in a reduction in the number of wards with an electoral variance of more than 10 per cent from 16 to one. By 2006 no wards are forecast to have an electoral variance of more than 10 per cent. We conclude that our recommendations would best meet the statutory criteria.

Final Recommendation

North Cornwall District Council should comprise 36 councillors serving 23 wards, as detailed and named in Tables 1 and 2, and illustrated on Map 2 and in Appendix A including the large map inside the back cover.

Parish and Town Council Electoral Arrangements

79 When reviewing parish electoral arrangements, we are required to comply as far as is reasonably practicable with the rules set out in Schedule 11 to the 1972 Act. The Schedule states that if a parish is to be divided between different district wards, it should also be divided into parish wards, so that each parish ward lies wholly within a single ward of the district. In the LGCE’s draft recommendations report it proposed consequential warding arrangements for the parishes of Bodmin and Bude-Stratton to reflect the proposed district wards. It also proposed that Launceston town be represented in a single Launceston district ward rather than two different wards as at present. However, this would not impact on the current parish wards in the town and therefore no change was proposed.

80 The parish of Bodmin is currently served by 16 councillors representing two wards: St Mary’s and St Petroc, both returning eight councillors

81 At Stage One the LGCE proposed adopting the District Council’s proposed district wards in the town. Therefore, in order to reflect the draft recommendations it proposed modifying the parish ward boundaries to correspond with the district ward boundaries in the town.

82 In response to representations received at Stage Three, we are proposing to amend the boundary between our proposed Bodmin St Mary’s and Bodmin St Petroc district wards. We therefore propose that the parish wards be amended accordingly.

Final Recommendation

Bodmin Town Council should comprise 16 councillors, as at present, representing two wards: St Mary's (returning eight councillors) and St Petroc (returning eight councillors). The parish ward boundaries should reflect the proposed district ward boundaries in the area, as illustrated and named on Map A2 in Appendix A.

83 Bude-Stratton Town Council is currently served by 18 councillors representing three wards: Bude returning nine councillors, Poughill returning three councillors and Stratton returning six councillors.

84 At Stage One the LGCE proposed that, in the light of its proposed district warding arrangements, Bude-Stratton parish should comprise two parish wards: Bude returning nine councillors and Stratton returning nine councillors. It proposed modifying the parish ward boundaries to correspond with those of the district wards within the town.

85 We are proposing minor boundary amendments between the proposed Bude and Stratton wards. We are also proposing that our proposed Stratton district ward be renamed Poughill & Stratton ward. We therefore propose that the parish ward boundaries be amended accordingly and that Stratton parish ward be renamed Poughill & Stratton ward. We confirm these and the remainder of the draft recommendations as final.

Final Recommendation

Bude-Stratton Town Council should comprise 18 councillors, as at present, representing two wards: Bude and Poughill & Stratton, each returning nine councillors. The boundary between the two parish wards should reflect the proposed district ward boundary, as illustrated and named on the large map at the back of this report.

Map 2: Final Recommendations for North Cornwall

6 WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

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

87 It is now up to the Electoral Commission to decide whether to endorse our recommendations, with or without modification, and to implement them by means of an Order. Such an Order will not be made before 18 July 2002.

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

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

APPENDIX A

Final Recommendations for North Cornwall: Detailed Mapping

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

Map A1 illustrates, in outline form, the proposed ward boundaries within the district and indicates the areas which are shown in more detail on Map A2 and the large map at the back of this report.

Map A2 illustrates the proposed warding of Bodmin parish.

The **large map** inserted at the back of this report illustrates the proposed warding arrangements for Bude-Stratton.

Map A1: Final Recommendations for North Cornwall: Key Map

Map A2: Proposed Warding of Bodmin Parish