

LOCAL
GOVERNMENT
COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND

FINAL
RECOMMENDATIONS
ON THE FUTURE
ELECTORAL
ARRANGEMENTS FOR
CARLISLE
IN CUMBRIA

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

November 1997

LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND

This report sets out the Commission's final recommendations on the electoral arrangements for Carlisle in Cumbria

Members of the Commission are:

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Local Government Commission for England

4 November 1997

Dear Secretary of State

On 25 October 1996 the Commission commenced a periodic electoral review of the city of Carlisle under the Local Government Act 1992. We published our draft recommendations in May 1997 and undertook an eight-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 103) in the light of further evidence. This report sets out our final recommendations for changes to electoral arrangements in Carlisle.

We recommend that Carlisle City Council should be served by 52 councillors representing 22 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 the Council should continue to be elected by thirds.

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

Yours sincerely

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

PROFESSOR MALCOLM GRANT
Chairman

SUMMARY

The Commission began a review of Carlisle on 25 October 1996. We published our draft recommendations for electoral arrangements on 28 May 1997, after which we undertook an eight-week period of consultation.

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

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

- **in 10 of the 23 wards, the number of electors represented by each councillor varies by more than 10 per cent from the average for the district;**
- **in five wards, the number of electors represented by each councillor varies by more than 20 per cent from the average;**
- **by 2001, the number of electors per councillor in 11 of the 23 wards is likely to vary by more than 10 per cent from the average, six of which would vary by more than 20 per cent, and two by more than 30 per cent.**

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

- **Carlisle City Council should be served by 52 councillors, compared with 51 at present;**
- **there should be 22 wards, instead of the current 23;**
- **the boundaries of 16 of the existing wards should be modified, while seven wards should retain their existing boundaries;**
- **elections should continue to take place by thirds.**

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

- **In 21 of the 22 wards the number of electors per councillor would vary by no more than 10 per cent from the district average.**
- **By 2001 the number of electors per councillor is projected to vary by no more than 10 per cent from the average in all of the 22 wards.**

A recommendation is also made for change to parish council electoral arrangements which provides for:

- **new warding arrangements for Stanwix Rural parish.**

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 16 December 1997:

**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

	Ward name	Number of councillors	Constituent areas	Map reference
1	Belah (city of Carlisle)	3	Belah ward (part)	Large map
2	Belle Vue (city of Carlisle)	3	Belle Vue ward; Yewdale ward (part)	Large map
3	Botcherby (city of Carlisle)	3	<i>Unchanged</i>	Large map
4	Brampton	2	<i>Unchanged</i> (Brampton parish)	Map 2
5	Burgh	1	Burgh ward (part – the parishes of Beaumont, Burgh by Sands and Orton)	Map 2
6	Castle (city of Carlisle)	3	Trinity ward (part); Stanwix Urban ward (part)	Large map
7	Currock (city of Carlisle)	3	Currock ward; Stanwix Urban ward (part)	Large map
8	Dalston	3	Dalston ward (Dalston parish); Burgh ward (part – Cummersdale parish); St Cuthbert Without ward (St Cuthbert Without parish)	Map 2
9	Denton Holme (city of Carlisle)	3	<i>Unchanged</i>	Large map
10	Great Corby & Geltsdale	1	Great Corby & Geltsdale ward (the parishes of Carlatton, Castle Carrock, Cumrew, Cumwhitton and Geltsdale; and Great Corby parish ward of Wetheral parish); Hayton ward (part – Talkin parish ward of Hayton parish)	Maps 2 and A3
11	Harraby (city of Carlisle)	3	<i>Unchanged</i>	Large map
12	Hayton	1	Hayton ward (part – Heads Nook, Hayton and Corby Hill parish wards of Hayton parish)	Map 2
13	Irthing	1	<i>Unchanged</i> (the parishes of Askerton, Burtholme, Farlam, Kingwater, Midgeholme, Nether Denton, Upper Denton, Walton and Waterhead)	Map 2

Figure 1 (continued)

The Commission's Final Recommendations: Summary

	Ward name	Number of councillors	Constituent areas	Map reference
14	Longtown & Rockcliffe	2	Arthuret ward (the parishes of Arthuret and Kirkandrews); Lyne ward (part – Westlinton parish); Stanwix Rural ward (part – Rockcliffe parish)	Map 2
15	Lyne	1	Lyne ward (part – the parishes of Bewcastle, Hethersgill, Kirklington Middle, Nichol Forest, Solport and Stapleton)	Map 2
16	Morton (city of Carlisle)	3	Morton ward; Trinity ward (part)	Large map
17	St Aidans (city of Carlisle)	3	St Aidans ward; Stanwix Urban ward (part)	Large map
18	Stanwix Rural	2	Stanwix Rural ward (part – the parishes of Irthington, Kingmoor and Scaleby; and Crosby-on-Eden & Linstock parish ward and Houghton parish ward (part) of Stanwix Rural parish)	Maps 2 and A2
19	Stanwix Urban (city of Carlisle)	3	Stanwix Urban ward (part); Belah ward (part); Stanwix Rural ward (part – Houghton parish ward (part) of Stanwix Rural parish)	Large map and Map A2
20	Upperby (city of Carlisle)	3	<i>Unchanged</i>	Large map
21	Wetheral	2	<i>Unchanged</i> (the parish wards of Cotehill, Scotby, Warwick and Wetheral of Wetheral parish)	Map 2
22	Yewdale (city of Carlisle)	3	Yewdale ward (part)	Large map

Notes: 1 The city of Carlisle is unparished and comprises the 12 wards indicated.

2 Map 2 and the maps in Appendix A illustrate the Commission's final recommendations.

1. INTRODUCTION

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

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

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

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

4 This review was in four stages. Stage One began on 25 October 1996, when we wrote to Carlisle City Council inviting proposals for future electoral arrangements. Our letter was copied to Cumbria County Council, Cumbria Police Authority, the local authority associations, Cumbria Association of Local Councils, parish councils in the district, Members of Parliament and the Member of the European Parliament with constituency interests in the district, and the headquarters of the main political parties. At the start of the review, and following publication of our draft recommendations, we published notices in the local press, issued a press release and invited the City Council to publicise the review more widely. The closing date for receipt of initial representations was 20 January 1997. At Stage Two we considered all the representations received during Stage One and prepared our draft recommendations.

5 Stage Three began on 28 May 1997 with the publication of our report, *Draft Recommendations on the Future Electoral Arrangements for Carlisle in Cumbria*, and ended on 22 July 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

⁶ Carlisle is the sub-regional capital for north Cumbria and the southern Borders area and is the centre for the increasingly important service, retail and tourism sectors. The district encompasses 1,030 square kilometres and has a population of some 103,500. The urban area covers 25 square kilometres, comprising the city centre, retail and office developments, old inner-city industrial areas and terraced housing, surrounded by suburban housing estates, edge of town industrial estates and new housing developments. Seventy per cent of the population and electorate live in the urban area, the former Carlisle County Borough. A further 23 per cent live within a 10 mile radius (15 km) in commuter villages around the centre, and in the small towns of Brampton, Longtown and Dalston. The remaining 7 per cent live in the sparsely populated rural area to the north and east of the city. The rural area ranges in character from the Solway coast to the Pennine watershed, and supports mixed arable, dairy and hill sheep farming and areas of mixed woodland and commercial forestry. Carlisle contains 37 parishes, and the city itself is the only unparished area.

⁷ 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 average for the borough in percentage terms, has been calculated. In the report, this calculation may also be described as 'electoral variance'.

⁸ The City Council has 51 councillors elected from 23 wards (Map 1 and Figure 2). Twelve wards are each represented by three councillors, four wards elect two councillors each, while the other seven wards elect a single councillor each. The Council is elected by thirds, with the next elections due in May 1998. The electorate of the borough is 80,557 (February 1996) and each councillor represents an average of 1,580 electors. The City Council forecasts that the electorate will increase by nearly 2 per cent to 82,003 by the year 2001, which would change the average number of electors per councillor to 1,608 (Figure 2).

⁹ Since the last electoral review was completed in 1978 by our predecessor, the Local Government Boundary Commission (LGBC), changes in population and electorate have been unevenly spread across the district. As a result, in 10 of the 23 wards, the number of electors per councillor varies by more than 10 per cent from the average and in five wards it varies by more than 20 per cent. The most significant electoral imbalance is in Arthuret ward where each councillor represents on average 1,134 electors, 28 per cent fewer electors than the district average.

Map 1:
Existing Wards in Carlisle



KEY	
EXISTING WARD BOUNDARY	—————
EXISTING PARISH BOUNDARY	- - - - -

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Key to Wards

1	Arthur et	9	Denton Holme	17	St Cuthbert Without
2	Belah	10	Great Corby and Geltsdale	18	Stanwix Rural
3	Belle Vue	11	Harraby	19	Stanwix Urban
4	Botcherby	12	Hayton	20	Trinity
5	Brampton	13	Irthing	21	Upperby
6	Burgh	14	Lyne	22	Wetheral
7	Currock	15	Morton	23	Yewdale
8	Dalston	16	St Aidans		

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 Arthuret	2	2,267	1,134	-28	2,283	1,142	-29
2 Belah (city of Carlisle)	3	5,772	1,924	22	5,944	1,981	23
3 Belle Vue (city of Carlisle)	3	4,221	1,407	-11	4,172	1,391	-14
4 Botcherby (city of Carlisle)	3	4,503	1,501	-5	4,565	1,522	-5
5 Brampton	2	3,315	1,658	5	3,455	1,728	7
6 Burgh	1	1,910	1,910	21	2,126	2,126	32
7 Currock (city of Carlisle)	3	4,466	1,489	-6	4,463	1,488	-7
8 Dalston	1	1,985	1,985	26	2,093	2,093	30
9 Denton Holme (city of Carlisle)	3	4,488	1,496	-5	4,678	1,559	-3
10 Great Corby & Geltsdale	1	1,503	1,503	-5	1,493	1,493	-7
11 Harraby (city of Carlisle)	3	4,631	1,544	-2	4,623	1,541	-4
12 Hayton	1	1,784	1,784	13	1,809	1,809	13
13 Irthing	1	1,600	1,600	1	1,585	1,585	-1
14 Lyne	1	1,878	1,878	19	1,878	1,878	17
15 Morton (city of Carlisle)	3	3,790	1,263	-20	3,829	1,276	-21
16 St Aidans (city of Carlisle)	3	4,607	1,536	-3	4,513	1,504	-6
17 St Cuthbert Without	1	1,492	1,492	-6	1,647	1,647	2
18 Stanwix Rural	2	3,938	1,969	25	4,258	2,129	32
19 Stanwix Urban (city of Carlisle)	3	4,732	1,577	0	4,899	1,633	2

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 %
20 Trinity (city of Carlisle)	3	4,517	1,506	-5	4,455	1,485	-8
21 Upperby (city of Carlisle)	3	4,376	1,459	-8	4,316	1,439	-11
22 Wetheral	2	3,158	1,579	0	3,244	1,622	1
23 Yewdale (city of Carlisle)	3	5,624	1,875	19	5,675	1,892	18
Totals	51	80,557	—	—	82,003	—	—
Averages	—	—	1,580	—	—	1,608	—

Source: Electorate figures are based on Carlisle City Council's Stage Three submission.

Notes: 1 At Stage Three the City Council submitted revised electorate figures for a number of wards. This table therefore differs from Figure 3 of the draft recommendations report.

2 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 1996, electors in Arthuret ward were relatively over-represented by 28 per cent, while electors in Dalston ward were relatively under-represented by 26 per cent. Figures have been rounded to the nearest whole number.

3. DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS

¹⁰ During Stage One we received representations from Carlisle City Council, the Conservative Group and the Liberal Democrat Group on the City Council, three parish councils and five local residents. In the light of these representations and evidence available to us, we reached preliminary conclusions which were set out in our report, *Draft Recommendations on the Future Electoral Arrangements for Carlisle in Cumbria*. We proposed that:

- (a) Carlisle City Council should be served by 52 councillors representing 22 wards;
- (b) in the urban city of Carlisle there should be modifications to the boundaries of the wards of Belah, Belle Vue, Currock, Morton, St Aidans, Stanwix Urban, Trinity and Yewdale. The wards of Botcherby, Denton Holme, Harraby and Upperby should remain unchanged;
- (c) the boundaries of eight of the existing 11 rural wards should be modified, with no change to Brampton, Irthing and Wetheral wards;
- (d) a new Vallum parish ward of Stanwix Rural parish should form part of Stanwix Urban district ward;
- (e) Arthuret ward should incorporate the parishes of Rockcliffe (from Stanwix Rural ward) and Westlinton (from Lyne ward);
- (f) the parishes of Cummersdale (from Burgh ward), Dalston and St Cuthbert Without should together form a three-member Dalston ward;
- (g) Talkin parish ward of Hayton parish should form part of Great Corby & Geltsdale district ward.

¹¹ Our proposals would have resulted in significant improvements in electoral equality, with the number of electors per councillor in 19 of the 22 wards varying by no more than 10 per cent from the district average. Electoral equality was expected to improve further by 2001 when no wards were projected to vary by more than 10 per cent from the average.

¹² Our draft recommendations are summarised at Appendix B.

Draft Recommendation

Carlisle City Council should comprise 52 councillors, serving 22 wards. The Council should continue to hold elections by thirds.

4. RESPONSES TO CONSULTATION

13 During the consultation on our draft recommendations report, 49 representations were received. A list of all respondents is available on request from the Commission.

Carlisle City Council

14 The City Council agreed with our draft recommendations for 20 of the 22 proposed wards, subject to a ward name change, and submitted the following alternative proposals:

- (a) in Arthuret ward, the Council opposed the inclusion of Rockcliffe parish and proposed that Kirklington Middle parish (in Lyne ward) be included instead;
- (b) in Trinity ward, the Council agreed with our proposed boundary, but proposed that the ward be renamed 'Castle'.

15 The Council reiterated its support for retaining the present system of elections by thirds, and requested that the Secretary of State "be urged to make a decision about the proposals quickly to enable the City Council to prepare for elections in May 1998".

Carlisle City Council Conservative Group

16 The Conservative Group on the City Council supported 14 of the 22 wards proposed by the Commission. However, the Group submitted alternative arrangements for the wards of Belah, Belle Vue, Great Corby & Geltsdale, Hayton, Stanwix Rural, Stanwix Urban, Trinity and Yewdale.

Carlisle Liberal Democrat Association

17 Carlisle Liberal Democrat Association opposed our draft recommendation for Trinity ward, preferring to retain the ward's existing boundaries, and proposed alternative boundaries for the wards of Belle Vue, Morton, St Aidans, Stanwix Urban, Trinity and Yewdale. No comments were submitted on the remaining wards in the district.

National Union of Conservative & Unionist Associations – North West Area

18 The National Union of Conservative & Unionist Associations – North West Area, opposed our draft recommendations on behalf of Carlisle Conservative Association and the Conservative Group on the City Council. They supported the alternative arrangements put forward by the Conservative Group.

Parish Councils

19 During Stage Three, representations were received from three parish councils. Dalston Parish Council supported our draft recommendations and Wetheral Parish Council welcomed an additional member for the Dalston area. The latter also supported our proposal that Talkin parish ward of Hayton parish should form part of Great Corby & Geltsdale district ward, but stated its opposition to "any parish boundary changes either now or in the future".

20 Stanwix Rural Parish Council objected to the creation of the proposed Vallum parish ward which would include the Whiteclosegate, Millcroft and Lansdowne areas. The Parish Council stated that the Lansdowne area "would be better served being part of the Stanwix Urban ward", and that "Whiteclosegate, Millcroft and Newfield Head should remain within the Stanwix Rural ward".

Other Representations

21 We received a further 42 representations in response to our draft recommendations. Cumbria County Council advised that it did not oppose our draft proposals. Five local residents and Councillor Fisher, a member for Belah ward, opposed the use of Kingstown Road as the boundary between the modified Belah and Stanwix Urban wards. Councillors Dodds and Stevenson, the members for Arthuret ward, opposed the inclusion of Rockcliffe parish in the modified Arthuret ward, and Councillor Stevenson suggested that Kirklington Middle parish be incorporated instead.

²² Twenty-eight local residents supported the Liberal Democrat Association's opposition to our draft recommendation which would split Trinity ward, one of whom queried the electorate projections for Morton ward. The 'Looking After Raffles Residents' Association' supported the draft recommendations for boundary changes to Belle Vue, Trinity and Yewdale wards. The Yewdale Branch of the Labour Party suggested an alternative boundary between Belle Vue and Yewdale wards, while Councillors Johnson, Styth and Breen, the members for Belle Vue ward, supported the draft recommendation for their ward.

5. ANALYSIS AND FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS

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

24 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.

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

26 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 we accept that absolute equality of representation is likely to be unattainable, we consider that, if electoral imbalances are to be kept to the minimum, such equality should be the starting point in any electoral review.

Electorate Projections

27 During Stage One the City Council submitted electorate forecasts for the period 1996 to 2001, projecting an increase in the electorate of almost 2 per cent over the five-year period from 80,557 to 82,003. 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.

28 During Stage Three the City Council submitted revised electorate projections for the existing arrangements, particularly affecting the wards of Burgh, Dalston, Stanwix Rural, Stanwix Urban and Trinity. The Council identified some arithmetic errors in their initial electorates, and submitted corrected figures. We have used these revised figures in our final recommendations.

29 During Stage Three, one resident of Trinity ward queried the projected electorate figures for Morton ward. Advice from the City Council on the likely effect on electorates of ward boundary changes has been obtained. We accept that this is an inexact science and, having given consideration to the projected electorates, we are satisfied that, subject to the Council's amendments, they represent the best estimates that can reasonably be made at this time.

Council Size

30 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.

31 Carlisle City Council is at present served by 51 councillors. At Stage One the City Council and the Liberal Democrat Group proposed an increase of two councillors to 53, while the Conservative Group proposed an increase of one.

32 In our draft recommendations report we considered the size and distribution of the electorate, the geography and other characteristics of the area, together with the representations

received. We concluded that the statutory criteria and the achievement of electoral equality would best be met by a council of 52 members.

33 In its Stage Three submission the City Council supported the proposed council size, while the Liberal Democrat Association's submission would have provided for a council size of 53, with an additional councillor for the area covered by St Aidans ward and the adjacent area to the west of the ward, south of the River Eden. However, we remain of the view that, under our recommendations, the urban city area would be adequately represented by 36 members. No other representations on council size were received, and we therefore confirm our recommendation for a council size of 52.

Electoral Arrangements

34 Having considered all the representations received during Stage Three, we have reviewed our draft recommendations. The following areas, based on existing wards, are considered in turn:

- (a) the city of Carlisle (12 wards);
- (b) Arthuret, Lyne and Stanwix Rural wards;
- (c) Brampton, Great Corby & Geltsdale, Hayton, Irthing and Wetheral wards;
- (d) Burgh, Dalston and St Cuthbert Without wards.

35 Details of our final recommendations are set out in Figures 1 and 4, and illustrated in Map 2 and Appendix A.

The City of Carlisle

36 The urban city of Carlisle currently consists of 12 wards – Belah, Belle Vue, Botcherby, Currock, Denton Holme, Harraby, Morton, St Aidans, Stanwix Urban, Trinity, Upperby and Yewdale – each represented by three councillors. The number of electors per councillor in four of these wards currently varies by more than 10 per cent from the district average, one of which, Belah, varies by more than 20 per cent. At Stage One, the City Council proposed changes to eight of the 12 existing wards in the city: Belah, Belle Vue, Currock, Morton, St Aidans, Stanwix Urban, Trinity and Yewdale.

37 In our draft recommendations report, we proposed some alternative boundaries to those proposed by the City Council. At Stage Three the City Council supported our draft recommendations

for all 12 urban wards, subject to an alternative name for one ward.

38 Our final recommendations for the urban city area are illustrated in the large map inserted at the back of the report.

Belah and Stanwix Urban wards

39 During Stage One the City Council proposed modifications to the boundaries of Belah and Stanwix Urban wards, where the number of electors per councillor is 22 per cent above and equal to the average respectively. It proposed that the eastern boundary of Belah ward should be amended to run along Kingstown Road, with the area east of Kingstown Road (comprising 935 electors) forming part of a modified Stanwix Urban ward. It also proposed that the southern boundary of Stanwix Urban ward should follow the River Eden, with the electorate south of the river being divided between the wards of Currock, St Aidans and Trinity.

40 The Council proposed that the eastern boundary of Stanwix Urban ward be extended to incorporate some 450 electors currently in Stanwix Rural ward (and parish). To facilitate this, it proposed that a new parish ward be established for Stanwix Rural parish, to include the area around Windsor Way, Lansdowne Crescent, and the Whiteclosegate and Millcroft estates.

41 During Stage One, the Conservative Group agreed that the southern boundary of Stanwix Urban ward should be set at the River Eden, but opposed the use of Kingstown Road as the eastern boundary of Belah ward. Instead it proposed that, at the southern end of Kingstown Road, the ward boundary between Belah and Stanwix Urban should run in a south-westerly direction along the centre of Waverley Road and Eden Street, transferring the properties on the eastern side of Waverley Road and Eden Street (an area known as Edentown) from Belah ward to Stanwix Urban ward.

42 In our draft recommendations, due to the electoral inequality which would have remained under the City Council's scheme, we drew upon elements of both the City Council's and the Conservative Group's proposals: we proposed that the boundary between Belah and Stanwix Urban wards should run north from the River Eden, along the centre of Eden Street and Waverley Road and then along Scotland Road and Kingstown

Road. This would transfer a further 730 electors from Edentown in Belah ward to Stanwix Urban ward (together with the 935 electors in the area east of Kingstown Road). We also proposed that Stanwix Rural parish be warded to create an additional parish ward called Vallum, with some 450 electors, and that the parish ward should be included in Stanwix Urban ward for district electoral purposes, as put forward by the City Council.

43 Under our proposed 52-member scheme, the number of electors per councillor in Belah would be 12 per cent below the average (9 per cent in 2001) and 3 per cent below the average in Stanwix Urban (3 per cent above in 2001).

44 At Stage Three we received comments from the City Council, the Conservative Group, Stanwix Rural Parish Council, Councillor Fisher, a member for Belah ward, and five local residents, regarding the draft recommendation for Belah and Stanwix Urban wards.

45 The Conservative Group supported our Stage One proposal that the Edentown area should be transferred from Belah ward to Stanwix Urban ward, but said that it remained “of the very strong opinion that the transfer of the area east of Kingstown Road from Belah to Stanwix Urban ... should not be carried out”. The Group maintained that the use of Kingstown Road as the boundary between Belah and Stanwix Urban would break existing community ties in Belah ward, adding that the community is distinct from Stanwix and is “clearly physically separated from it by [a] block of land”. Councillor Fisher and five local residents were also opposed to the use of Kingstown Road as the boundary, citing the adverse effect it would have on the local communities.

46 The Conservative Group proposed an amendment to its original proposal that the Edentown area should be transferred from Belah to Stanwix Urban: it proposed that electors on the western side of Eden Street, and the streets leading off it, should also be transferred to Stanwix Urban ward. This proposal would involve transferring an additional 254 electors in Strawberry Terrace, Garden Street, Bowscale Close, Caldew Close and numbers 1 to 47 Eden Street, including Edentown Court, from Belah ward to Stanwix Urban ward, following the current boundary between polling districts AD and AE.

47 As a result of the City Council’s revised electorate figures, if the Edentown area and the area east of Kingstown Road were transferred from

Belah ward to Stanwix Urban ward, as per our draft recommendation, the resulting electoral equality in the two wards would not be as good as previously expected. Therefore, in the light of further evidence available to us, we have considered alternative options for these wards. In the interests of electoral equality and having regard to local communities, we propose to retain the existing boundary between Belah ward and Stanwix Rural ward, along California Lane (and not to use Kingstown Road), but to amend the proposed boundary further south to incorporate the whole of the Edentown area within Stanwix Urban ward, from Belah ward, similar to the Conservative Group’s proposal.

48 In addition to the 254 electors detailed above, we propose to transfer a further 40 electors in Waverley Gardens and the rest of Waverley Road, from Belah to Stanwix Urban. This would provide a clearer boundary and would involve transferring the whole of polling district AD (1,041 electors) to Stanwix Urban ward. We also propose to transfer 37 electors in Etterby Scour, to the east of Austin Friars School, from Belah ward to Stanwix Urban ward. The boundary between Belah and Stanwix Urban would run to the east of Dene Crescent, along the edge of the playing fields, to the west of Strawberry Terrace and along the eastern edge of the school playing fields as far as the existing boundary at the River Eden.

49 Under our final recommendation, the number of electors per councillor in Belah would be 1 per cent above the district average (3 per cent in 2001) and 6 per cent below the average in Stanwix Urban (4 per cent in 2001).

50 We noted that there is currently a small part of Kingmoor parish which is detached and lies between Belah and Stanwix Rural wards, and that under our final recommendations this detached area would be encircled by the enlarged Stanwix Urban ward. The anomaly of the detached part of Kingmoor parish can be addressed by the City Council under its new powers from the Local Government and Rating Act 1997.

Botcherby, Currock, Harraby, St Aidans and Upperby wards

51 The average number of electors represented by each councillor for these wards is 5 per cent below the district average in Botcherby, 6 per cent below in Currock, 2 per cent below in Harraby, 3 per cent below in St Aidans and 8 per cent below in Upperby.

52 At Stage One the City Council proposed no change for the eastern urban city wards of Botcherby, Harraby and Upperby, although changes were proposed for the wards of Currock and St Aidans. No other representations were received concerning these wards. Under our 52-member scheme, the number of electors per councillor would be 3 per cent below the district average in Botcherby (4 per cent in 2001), equal to the average in Harraby (2 per cent below in 2001) and 6 per cent below in Upperby (9 per cent in 2001). We consulted on no change to these wards during Stage Three.

53 In its Stage One submission, the City Council proposed that the northern boundary of Currock ward should be moved north to run along Botchergate and the Victoria Viaduct, thereby including some 150 electors from the existing Stanwix Urban ward. The Liberal Democrat Group submitted a similar proposal for Currock ward. We put forward this proposal for consultation. Under the draft recommendations, the number of electors per councillor for Currock ward would be 1 per cent below the average (2 per cent in 2001).

54 At Stage Three we received no alternative proposals for the wards of Botcherby, Currock, Harraby and Upperby, and confirm our draft recommendations for these wards as final.

55 In its Stage One submission, the City Council proposed that the existing western boundary of St Aidans ward be extended to incorporate some 90 electors in Broad Street and Rydal Street, currently in Stanwix Urban ward. The Liberal Democrat Group proposed that some 70 of these electors in Rydal Street and Rydal Place, currently in St Aidans ward, be transferred into an enlarged Denton Holme ward.

56 We had concerns over the proposed boundaries in the Rydal Street area, and concluded that a better boundary would be achieved by extending the City Council's proposed boundary for St Aidans ward further west to run along the lane to the rear of Broad Street, along South Henry Street, to the rear of Myddleton Terrace, to the rear of the flats on South Henry Street, further south along South Henry Street until it joins Botchergate, then turning east along Botchergate until it joins the existing boundary. This would incorporate some 230 electors in St Aidans ward, 140 more electors than under the City Council's proposals. Under our 52-member

scheme, the number of electors per councillor in St Aidans ward would be 4 per cent above the district average (equal to the average in 2001).

57 At Stage Three, the City Council and the Conservative Group supported our proposal for St Aidans ward, while the Liberal Democrat Association proposed that the part of Stanwix Urban ward which lies south of the River Eden – which the City Council proposed should form part of a revised Trinity ward – should form a new two-member Castle ward, incorporating an additional 1,358 electors from the western part of St Aidans ward, which would also be represented by two members.

58 However, we have not been persuaded to move away substantially from our draft recommendation that Trinity ward should incorporate the bulk of the area south of the River Eden, which is currently in Stanwix Urban ward (Trinity ward is described in more detail below). Our proposal would retain a pattern of three-member wards in the urban city area. We therefore do not propose to adopt the Liberal Democrat Association's proposal for St Aidans ward, and instead confirm our draft recommendation for St Aidans ward as final.

Belle Vue, Denton Holme, Morton, Trinity and Yewdale wards

59 At Stage One the City Council proposed no change to Denton Holme ward, but did propose adjustments to the other western city wards of Belle Vue, Morton, Trinity and Yewdale.

60 The Council proposed several alterations to the boundaries of Trinity ward. First, the bulk of that part of Stanwix Urban ward which lies south of the River Eden would be incorporated into a revised Trinity ward, save for those electors in Broad Street and Rydal Street who would be transferred into St Aidans ward, and the area to the south of Botchergate, which would be incorporated into an enlarged Currock ward. Second, it proposed some adjustments to the western part of Trinity ward: the area south of Derwent Street and Bedford Road should be transferred to Morton ward; and the area bounded by Newtown Road and Bower Street, which it considered to be part of the Raffles Estate, should be transferred from Trinity ward to Belle Vue ward, in line with the rest of the estate.

61 The Conservative Group argued that the houses on Newtown Road, Collins Place and Bower Street should remain in Trinity ward and not be transferred to Belle Vue ward as they are not part of

the Raffles Estate. A local resident also opposed the City Council's proposals for Trinity ward. The Liberal Democrat Group proposed that the bulk of Stanwix Urban ward which lies to the south of the River Eden, should be transferred not to Trinity but to Denton Holme ward.

⁶² In the light of the representations received, and having regard to the statutory criteria, we decided to consult on the City Council's proposal for Trinity ward, subject to our modified boundary which would incorporate Rydal Street and South Henry Street in St Aidans ward. Under our 52-member scheme, the number of electors per councillor in Trinity ward would be 3 per cent below the district average (6 per cent in 2001).

⁶³ The City Council proposed that the existing Morton ward, which is significantly over-represented, should be enlarged northwards to incorporate part of Trinity ward, with its new boundary running to the south of Derwent Street, and continuing along the existing boundary at the centre of Bedford Road (affecting some 1,200 electors). We adopted the City Council's proposal for Morton ward as part of our draft recommendation, under which the number of electors per councillor would be 8 per cent above the district average (6 per cent in 2001).

⁶⁴ The City Council also proposed a modified boundary between Belle Vue and Yewdale wards, with the whole of Green Lane included in Belle Vue ward. It proposed further to enlarge Belle Vue ward to include that part of the Raffles Estate in the area of Dobinson Road and Sheehan Crescent (part of polling district LC), currently in Yewdale ward.

⁶⁵ The Conservative Group proposed that the boundary between Belle Vue and Yewdale wards should be moved further west than proposed by the City Council, to incorporate Heysham Park Avenue, Parham Drive and Coalfell Avenue in Belle Vue ward. Councillors Collins, Ridley and Thorburn, the three members representing Yewdale ward, opposed any division of polling district LC, and requested that it be wholly included in either Belle Vue ward or Yewdale ward and not split as proposed by the City Council.

⁶⁶ However, we consulted on the City Council's proposed boundaries for Belle Vue and Yewdale wards, which would achieve better electoral equality in both these and neighbouring wards. Under our 52-member scheme, the average

number of electors per councillor would be 13 per cent above the district average in Belle Vue (10 per cent in 2001) and 9 per cent above the average in Yewdale (8 per cent in 2001).

⁶⁷ While the City Council proposed no change for Denton Holme ward, the Liberal Democrat Group proposed that Denton Holme should gain the bulk of that part of the existing Stanwix Urban ward which lies to the south of the River Eden, and not Trinity as proposed by the City Council. The Group also proposed that the area west of Dalston Road should transfer from Denton Holme to Trinity. However, due to the improved electoral equality which would be secured in both Trinity and neighbouring wards, we adopted the City Council's proposal that an enlarged Trinity ward should incorporate that part of the existing Stanwix Urban ward south of the river, with no change for Denton Holme ward. Under our 52-member scheme, the number of electors per councillor in Denton Holme would be 3 per cent below the district average (1 per cent in 2001).

⁶⁸ At Stage Three, no proposals for change to Denton Holme ward were received, and we are therefore confirming our draft recommendation as final.

⁶⁹ We did, however, receive a number of representations regarding the wards of Belle Vue, Morton, Trinity and Yewdale. The City Council continued to support the proposal for a modified Trinity ward, noting that the ward would cover a mixed central and inner-city area, and stated that such areas "share common problems associated with their location in proximity to city centre uses". However, the Council proposed that the ward should be renamed 'Castle' ward because "the Castle is the most prominent and readily identifiable feature located at the geographical centre of the new ward and 'Castle ward' would revive the historical name by which the area was known prior to the last reorganisation".

⁷⁰ The Conservative Group reiterated its initial proposal that Heysham Park Avenue, Parham Drive and Coalfell Avenue should also be transferred from Yewdale ward to Belle Vue ward, because "all of the Raffles Estate should be brought together in one ward", and that Newtown Road, Collins Place and Bower Street should not be transferred to Belle Vue ward but should remain in Trinity ward in the interests of community identity and electoral equality.

71 The Liberal Democrat Association opposed the draft recommendation for Trinity ward. It supported the retention of the existing boundaries for Trinity ward and proposed that the area of Stanwix Urban ward which lies south of the River Eden should form a two-member 'Castle' ward. This ward would also gain 1,358 electors from the neighbouring St Aidans ward, which would also be represented by two councillors. The Association maintained that electoral inequality in the wards of Belle Vue, Morton and Yewdale could be addressed without the need to affect Trinity ward. It proposed that 555 electors be transferred from Yewdale to Morton, and 631 electors from Yewdale to Belle Vue. Twenty-five local residents also opposed the draft recommendation for Trinity ward and supported the retention of the ward's current boundaries.

72 The Yewdale Branch of the Labour Party proposed an alternative boundary between Belle Vue and Yewdale wards. It proposed that all of Dobinson Road together with Parham Grove should be transferred from Yewdale to Belle Vue ward. Councillors Breen, Johnson and Styth, the members for Belle Vue ward, supported the draft recommendation for Belle Vue, and the 'Looking After Raffles Residents' Association' supported our draft recommendation for Belle Vue, Trinity and Yewdale wards.

73 Having given careful consideration to the representations received, we propose to make some minor amendments to our draft recommendations for Belle Vue, Trinity and Yewdale wards. As a result of the City Council's revised electorate figures, Trinity ward would be relatively over-represented on the boundaries proposed in our draft recommendations report. Consequently, we propose that the existing boundary between Trinity and Belle Vue be retained, with the area around Newtown Road continuing to form part of Trinity (to be renamed Castle) ward, a proposal which was particularly supported by the Conservative Group, the Liberal Democrat Association and two local residents.

74 We do not propose to adopt the Liberal Democrat Association's proposal to retain Trinity ward on its existing boundaries and create two two-member wards south of the river: a modified St Aidans ward and a new Castle ward. Currently, the whole of the urban city area of Carlisle is served by three-member wards and we do not consider that there is sufficient evidence to move away from

this arrangement. The Liberal Democrat Association's proposal would also provide for an additional councillor in the urban area and a council size of 53, but this would produce overall an inferior level of electoral equality, with relative over-representation in the urban area.

75 We agree with the City Council's proposal that the revised ward be renamed 'Castle', recognising that there is no longer a Holy Trinity Church within the ward, but that the Castle is a prominent, central feature within the area of the new ward. It would comprise the existing Trinity ward as far south as, and including, Derwent Street, together with that part of the existing Stanwix Urban ward south of the river, taking into account the boundary changes with St Aidans ward to the east and Currock ward to the south (detailed earlier). Under the final recommendation, the number of electors per councillor in Castle ward would be 4 per cent above the district average (1 per cent in 2001).

76 We propose to substantially adopt the Conservative Group's modification to the proposed boundary between Belle Vue and Yewdale wards, to include the bulk of polling district LC in Belle Vue ward. Building on our draft recommendation, this would involve the transfer of an additional 221 electors from Coalfell Avenue, Heysham Park Avenue, Parham Drive and Parham Grove, from Yewdale ward to Belle Vue ward, on the grounds that this would better reflect local community identity, and provide a clearer boundary. Under the final recommendation, the number of electors per councillor would be 8 per cent above the district average in Belle Vue (5 per cent in 2001) and 4 per cent above in Yewdale (3 per cent in 2001).

77 In the light of the final recommendations detailed above, we also confirm our draft recommendation for Morton ward as final. Morton ward should be extended to include that part of the existing Trinity ward south of Derwent Street (comprising some 1,200 electors). The number of electors per councillor would be 8 per cent above the district average in Morton ward (6 per cent in 2001).

The Rural Wards

78 There are currently 11 wards outside the urban city area: six of these wards have an electoral variance of more than 10 per cent, four of them more than 20 per cent. At Stage One the City Council proposed

changes to the boundaries of only four rural wards: Burgh, Dalston, Lyne and Stanwix Rural. Our draft recommendations proposed that there should be 10 rural wards, involving changes to the boundaries of eight of the existing wards, with no change to the wards of Brampton, Irthing and Wetheral. At Stage Three the City Council supported the majority of our draft recommendations for the rural wards, but submitted an alternative proposal for Arthuret ward.

Arthuret, Lyne and Stanwix Rural wards

79 At Stage One the City Council proposed no change to Arthuret ward but did propose adjustments to Lyne and Stanwix Rural, the other rural wards to the north of the urban area. Arthuret ward currently comprises the parishes of Arthuret and Kirkandrews and focuses on the market town of Longtown, in Arthuret parish, where the majority of the population live. The number of electors represented by each of the two councillors for Arthuret ward is 28 per cent below the district average (29 per cent in 2001).

80 During Stage One, a resident of Denton Holme ward proposed an alternative configuration of parishes for much of the rural area. He proposed that Kirkandrews parish should be transferred to Lyne ward and that Arthuret ward should consist only of Arthuret parish, and be represented by a single councillor. However, having considered the representations received during Stage One, we proposed that Arthuret ward should comprise the parishes of Arthuret and Kirkandrews as at present, together with the parishes of Rockcliffe (currently in Stanwix Rural ward) and Westlinton (currently in Lyne ward). This configuration was also put forward by the Conservative Group, which suggested that the enlarged ward be called 'Longtown and Rockcliffe'. The ward would continue to be represented by two councillors and, under our 52-member scheme, the average number of electors per councillor for Arthuret ward would be 2 per cent above the district average (equal to the average in 2001). We sought views on the ward name.

81 Lyne ward currently comprises the parishes of Bewcastle, Hethersgill, Kirklington Middle, Nichol Forest, Solport, Stapleton and Westlinton. The number of electors represented by the councillor for the ward is 19 per cent above the district average (17 per cent in 2001). The City Council proposed that Westlinton parish should form part of a modified three-member Stanwix Rural ward.

82 As already indicated, a resident of Denton Holme proposed an alternative configuration of parishes for Lyne ward. In addition to Lyne ward gaining the parish of Kirkandrews from Arthuret ward, he proposed that Bewcastle parish should be transferred to Irthing ward and Westlinton parish to Stanwix Rural ward. In order to achieve better electoral equality across the district, our draft recommendations adopted the City Council's proposal that Lyne ward should comprise the parishes of Bewcastle, Hethersgill, Kirklington Middle, Nichol Forest, Solport and Stapleton. The number of electors per councillor in Lyne ward would be 2 per cent above the district average (equal to the average in 2001).

83 At Stage Three we received four representations concerning the proposed Arthuret ward. The City Council and Councillors Dodds and Stevenson, the members for Arthuret ward, opposed the inclusion of Rockcliffe parish in the ward, and both the City Council and Councillor Stevenson suggested the inclusion of Kirklington Middle parish (currently in Lyne ward) as an alternative. The Conservative Group supported the draft recommendation for Arthuret ward and restated its preference that the ward should be called 'Longtown and Rockcliffe'.

84 We have carefully considered the representations received and have concluded that an alternative configuration for the parishes in this area, particularly Rockcliffe parish, would result in inferior levels of electoral equality in both Arthuret ward and the surrounding wards. Consequently, we propose to confirm our draft recommendation for Arthuret and Lyne wards as final, subject to renaming the former Longtown & Rockcliffe ward to reflect the area covered by the revised ward. The number of electors per councillor in each of the wards would be 2 per cent above the district average (both equal to the average in 2001).

85 Stanwix Rural ward currently comprises the parishes of Stanwix Rural, Irthington, Kingmoor, Rockcliffe and Scaleby, and the average number of electors represented by each of its two councillors is 25 per cent above the district average (32 per cent in 2001). At Stage One the City Council proposed amendments to the ward: Westlinton parish should be transferred from Lyne ward to Stanwix Rural ward; and a new parish ward should be created for Stanwix Rural parish, containing some 450 electors, which would form part of a revised Stanwix Urban ward (as detailed earlier). The City Council also proposed that Stanwix Rural ward should be represented by three councillors rather than two as at present.

86 In our draft recommendations report, we proposed a new parish ward for Stanwix Rural parish, to be called Vallum, comprising some 450 electors, which currently form part of Houghton parish ward. The proposed Vallum parish ward would be incorporated into a modified Stanwix Urban ward for district warding purposes. As detailed earlier, we proposed that Rockcliffe parish should form part of a revised Arthuret ward. The revised Stanwix Rural ward would therefore comprise the remainder of Stanwix Rural parish (part of Houghton parish ward plus Crosby-on-Eden & Linstock parish ward) together with the parishes of Irthington, Kingmoor and Scaleby, and should continue to be represented by two councillors. The number of electors per councillor would be 7 per cent below the district average (4 per cent in 2001).

87 In addition to receiving revised electorate figures for Stanwix Rural ward from the City Council, during Stage Three we also received representations from Stanwix Rural Parish Council and the Conservative Group on the City Council concerning the proposed Stanwix Rural ward. The Parish Council proposed that the Whiteclosegate and Millcroft areas should remain in Stanwix Rural ward, but supported the transfer of the Lansdowne area to Stanwix Urban ward.

88 The Conservative Group supported the creation of Vallum parish ward, but proposed an alternative north-western boundary for the ward, as a consequence of its proposals for Belah and Stanwix Urban wards. The Group proposed that the western boundary should follow Gosling Sike, so that the proposed development around Windsor Way (which would be part of the Newfield Estate) could be transferred to Belah ward by the City Council using its powers under the Local Government and Rating Act 1997. The Group also agreed that the detached part of Kingmoor parish should be dealt with by the City Council under the 1997 Act. Finally, the Group proposed that the parish ward be known as 'Lansdowne' not 'Vallum'.

89 As detailed earlier, we propose to retain the existing boundary between Belah ward and Stanwix Rural ward, and not use Kingstown Road as a boundary. As a result, we propose to modify our draft recommendation for warding Stanwix Rural parish: the northern boundary of the proposed Vallum parish ward would be realigned along Gosling Sike, as proposed by the Conservative Group. The proposed parish ward is illustrated in Map A2 at Appendix A. As per our

draft recommendation, Vallum parish ward would continue to form part of Stanwix Urban district ward, with the rest of Stanwix Rural parish remaining within Stanwix Rural district ward. The number of electors per councillor in Stanwix Rural ward would be 7 per cent below the district average (2 per cent above in 2001).

90 However, we are not adopting the Conservative Group's proposal to rename the parish ward 'Lansdowne', since the area covered by the ward would comprise the area around the Millcroft and Whiteclosegate estates as well as Lansdowne Crescent. No other representations were received to revise the proposed 'Vallum' name, and therefore we confirm our recommendation as final.

Brampton, Great Corby & Geltsdale, Hayton, Irthing and Wetheral wards

91 During Stage One the City Council proposed no change to the rural wards of Brampton, Great Corby & Geltsdale, Hayton, Irthing and Wetheral, which lie to the east of the city. The only other representation received which referred to these wards came from a resident of Denton Holme, who proposed that Irthington parish be transferred from Stanwix Rural to Brampton ward, and that Walton parish be transferred from Irthing to Brampton, with Brampton becoming a three-member ward.

92 In our draft recommendations report we noted the reasonable electoral equality which currently exists in some of the wards, and which would be retained under the City Council's proposed 53-member council. However, while we agreed that there should be no change for the wards of Brampton, Irthing and Wetheral as part of our draft recommendations, we were concerned at the degree of electoral inequality which would remain in Hayton ward (17 per cent above the average). Consequently, we proposed an alternative arrangement for Hayton and Great Corby & Geltsdale, whereby Talkin parish ward of Hayton parish (comprising 120 electors) would be transferred to Great Corby & Geltsdale ward.

93 Under our 52-member scheme, the number of electors per councillor would be 7 per cent above the district average in Hayton ward, both now and in 2001, and 5 per cent above the average in Great Corby & Geltsdale ward (2 per cent in 2001). In the unchanged wards of Brampton, Irthing and Wetheral, the number of electors per councillor would be 7 per cent above the average, 3 per cent

above and 2 per cent above respectively (10 per cent, 1 per cent and 3 per cent above in 2001).

94 At Stage Three the City Council and the Conservative Group both supported our draft recommendation for no change to the wards of Brampton, Irthing and Wetheral, and we confirm them as final.

95 However, the Conservative Group submitted an alternative proposal for the wards of Great Corby & Geltsdale and Hayton. The Group considered that “it is not in the best interests of community identity to separate one small part of Hayton parish, namely Talkin ward, from the bulk of the parish for district purposes”, and proposed instead that the wards of Great Corby & Geltsdale and Hayton should combine to form a new two-member ward called ‘Gelt’, named after the river which would run through the middle of the new ward. Under the Group’s proposals, the number of electors per councillor in Gelt ward would be 6 per cent above the district average (5 per cent in 2001).

96 Our draft recommendation for the wards of Great Corby & Geltsdale and Hayton was supported by the City Council and Wetheral Parish Council (the parish of Wetheral forms part of a neighbouring ward). We consider that the Conservative Group’s proposal for a two-member ward would not improve the overall electoral equality achieved by our draft recommendation for two single-member wards. We therefore confirm our draft recommendation for the two wards as final (see Map A3 at Appendix A).

Burgh, Dalston and St Cuthbert Without wards

97 To the south and west of the urban city area lie the wards of Burgh, Dalston and St Cuthbert Without. The number of electors per councillor in St Cuthbert Without ward (and parish) is 6 per cent below the district average (2 per cent above in 2001).

98 Burgh ward comprises the parishes of Beaumont, Burgh by Sands, Cummersdale and Orton, and the number of electors represented by the councillor for the ward is 21 per cent above the average (32 per cent in 2001). The number of electors represented by the councillor for Dalston ward (and parish) is 26 per cent above the average (30 per cent in 2001).

99 In its Stage One submission the City Council proposed no change for St Cuthbert Without ward,

that Cummersdale parish should be transferred from Burgh ward to Dalston ward, and that the under-represented Dalston ward should gain an additional councillor to become a two-member ward.

100 We accepted the City Council’s proposal that Burgh ward should comprise the parishes of Beaumont, Burgh by Sands and Orton. Under our 52-member scheme, the level of representation would be 4 per cent below the average in Burgh ward (2 per cent in 2001). However, we were concerned at the electoral inequality which would remain in the modified Dalston ward and therefore proposed an alternative warding arrangement. We agreed that the Dalston area merited an additional councillor, but proposed that a new three-member Dalston ward be created for the combined area of the City Council’s proposed two-member Dalston ward and single-member St Cuthbert Without ward. The ward would comprise the parishes of Cummersdale, Dalston and St Cuthbert Without. The number of electors per councillor would be 16 per cent below the district average (9 per cent in 2001).

101 At Stage Three the City Council provided amended electorate projections for the existing wards of Burgh and Dalston, but this did not affect the electorate figures for our draft recommendation. Both the City Council and Dalston Parish Council supported our proposals, and we are confirming our draft recommendation for a three-member Dalston ward and single-member Burgh ward as final.

Electoral Cycle

102 In our draft recommendations report, we proposed that the present system of elections by thirds in Carlisle be retained. At Stage Three the City Council reiterated its support for this proposal, which was also endorsed by the Conservative Group. No other representations were received on this issue, and we therefore confirm our draft recommendation as final.

Conclusions

103 Having considered carefully all the evidence and representations received in response to our consultation report, we have concluded that there should be an increase in council size from 51 to 52; that there should be 22 wards, one fewer than at present; that the boundaries of 16 of the

existing wards should be modified; and that the Council should continue to hold elections by thirds. We have decided substantially to endorse our draft recommendations, subject to the following amendments:

- (a) retention of the existing boundary between Belle Vue ward and Trinity (to be renamed Castle) ward;
- (b) further modification to the proposed boundary between Belle Vue and Yewdale to include the bulk of polling district LC in Belle Vue ward;
- (c) retention of the existing north-east boundary for Belah ward, along California Lane, but further modification to the boundary between Belah ward and Stanwix Urban ward in the Edentown area, to include the whole of polling district AD and part of AE in Stanwix Urban ward;
- (d) modification to the north-western boundary of the proposed Vallum parish ward of Stanwix Rural parish so that it runs along Gosling Sike.

104 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.

105 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 10 to one, with none by 2001. We conclude that our recommendations would best meet the need for electoral equality, having regard to the statutory criteria.

Final Recommendation

Carlisle City Council should comprise 52 councillors serving 22 wards, as detailed and named in Figures 1 and 4, and illustrated in Map 2 and Appendix A to this report. The Council should continue to hold elections by thirds.

Parish Council Electoral Arrangements

106 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 district wards, it must also be divided into parish wards, so that each parish ward lies wholly within a single ward of the district. Accordingly, we propose consequential parish ward changes as a result of our final recommendations for the City Council's warding arrangements.

107 In our draft recommendations report we proposed to modify the parish warding for Stanwix Rural parish to reflect the proposed City Council wards, which would include a new Vallum parish ward, to be represented by three councillors, and a reduction in the number of councillors being returned from Houghton parish ward, from 11 to eight.

*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	51	52	51	52
Number of wards	23	22	23	22
Average number of electors per councillor	1,580	1,549	1,608	1,577
Number of wards with a variance more than 10 per cent from the average	10	1	11	0
Number of wards with a variance more than 20 per cent from the average	5	0	6	0

108 At Stage Three, Stanwix Rural Parish Council opposed the creation of Vallum parish ward, which would include the Whiteclosegate, Millcroft and Lansdowne areas. The Parish Council stated that the Lansdowne area would be better served being part of Stanwix Urban district ward, but considered that Whiteclosegate, Millcroft and Newfield Head should remain within Stanwix Rural ward. However, having finalised our proposals for the City Council wards of Stanwix Urban and Stanwix Rural, we propose to modify the parish wards of Stanwix Rural parish to reflect the proposed City Council wards: the proposed Vallum parish ward would form part of Stanwix Urban ward, while a modified Houghton parish ward, together with the existing Crosby-on-Eden & Linstock parish ward, would continue to form part of Stanwix Rural ward.

Final Recommendation

Stanwix Rural Parish Council should continue to comprise 15 councillors, representing three wards: Vallum (returning three councillors); Crosby-on-Eden & Linstock (four); and Houghton (eight). The parish ward boundaries for Crosby-on-Eden & Linstock should remain unchanged, while the boundaries for Vallum and Houghton should reflect the proposed City Council ward boundaries, as illustrated in Map A2 at Appendix A.

109 In our draft recommendations report we also proposed that there should be no change to the electoral cycle of parish councils in the district, and are confirming this as final.

Final Recommendation

Elections for parish councils should continue to be held at the same time as elections for principal authorities.

Map 2:
The Commission's Final Recommendations for Carlisle

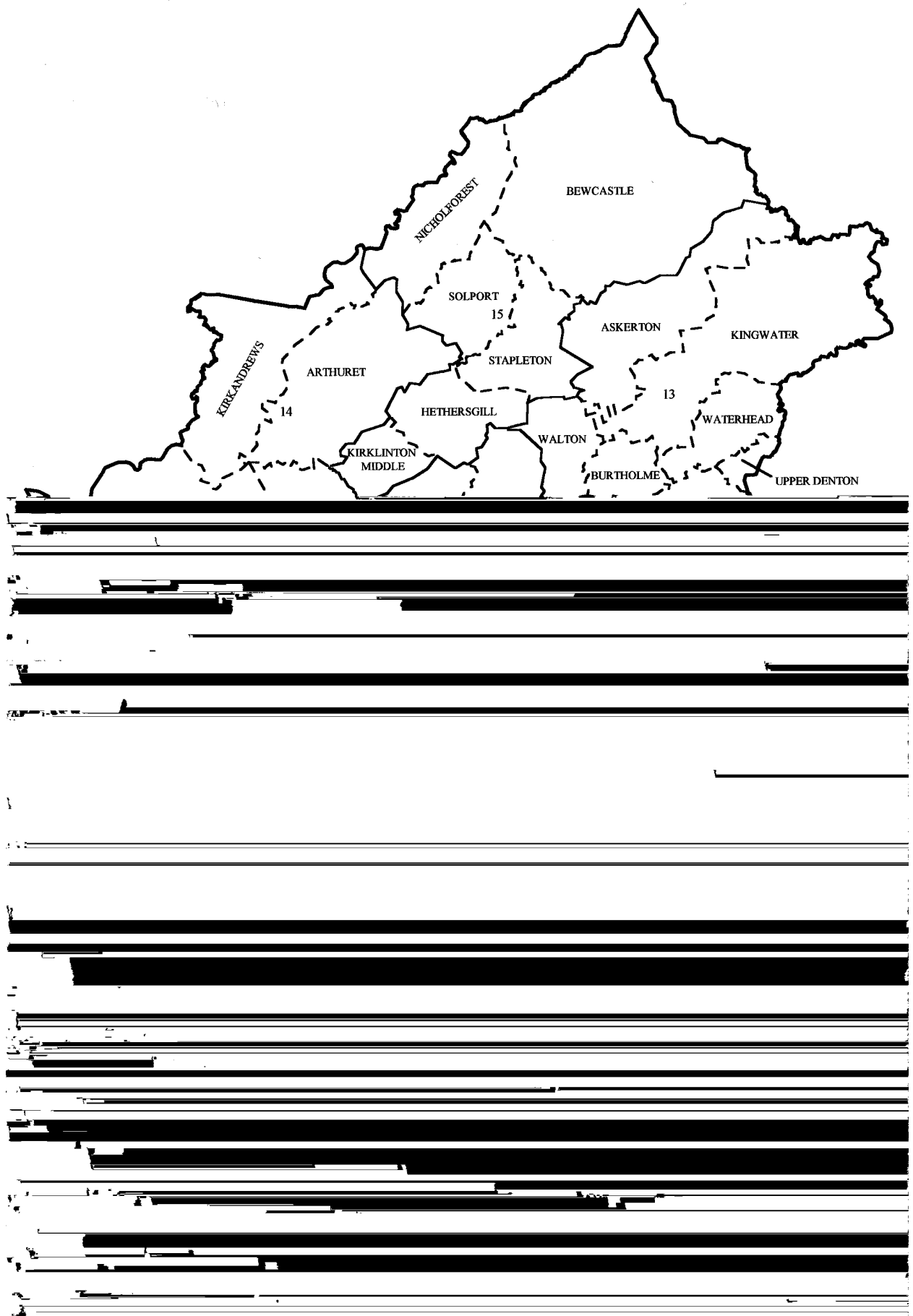


Figure 4:
The Commission's Final Recommendations for Carlisle

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 Belah (city of Carlisle)	3	4,694	1,584	1	4,866	1,622	3
2 Belle Vue (city of Carlisle)	3	5,012	1,671	8	4,963	1,654	5
3 Botcherby (city of Carlisle)	3	4,503	1,501	-3	4,565	1,522	-4
4 Brampton	2	3,315	1,658	7	3,455	1,728	10
5 Burgh	1	1,486	1,486	-4	1,538	1,538	-2
6 Castle (city of Carlisle)	3	4,811	1,604	4	4,779	1,593	1
7 Currock (city of Carlisle)	3	4,616	1,539	-1	4,613	1,538	-2
8 Dalston	3	3,901	1,300	-16	4,328	1,443	-9
9 Denton Holme (city of Carlisle)	3	4,488	1,496	-3	4,678	1,559	-1
10 Great Corby & Geltsdale	1	1,623	1,623	5	1,613	1,613	2
11 Harraby (city of Carlisle)	3	4,631	1,544	0	4,623	1,541	-2
12 Hayton	1	1,664	1,664	7	1,689	1,689	7
13 Irthing	1	1,600	1,600	3	1,585	1,585	1
14 Longtown & Rockcliffe	2	3,168	1,584	2	3,162	1,581	0
15 Lyne	1	1,577	1,577	2	1,583	1,583	0
16 Morton (city of Carlisle)	3	5,019	1,673	8	5,028	1,676	6
17 St Aidans (city of Carlisle)	3	4,837	1,612	4	4,743	1,581	0
18 Stanwix Rural	2	2,888	1,444	-7	3,224	1,612	2

continued overleaf

Figure 4 (continued):
The Commission's Final Recommendations for Carlisle

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 Stanwix Urban (city of Carlisle)	3	4,357	1,452	-6	4,524	1,508	-4
20 Upperby (city of Carlisle)	3	4,376	1,459	-6	4,316	1,439	-9
21 Wetheral	2	3,158	1,579	2	3,244	1,622	3
22 Yewdale (city of Carlisle)	3	4,833	1,611	4	4,884	1,628	3
Totals	52	80,557	—	—	82,003	—	—
Averages	—	—	1,549	—	—	1,577	—

Source: Electorate figures are based on Carlisle City Council's Stage Three submission.

Notes: 1 At Stage Three the City Council submitted revised electorate figures for a number of wards. This table is therefore based on the revised figures, which differ from Figure 5 in the draft recommendations report.

2 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.

6. NEXT STEPS

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

111 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.

112 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 Carlisle: Detailed Mapping

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

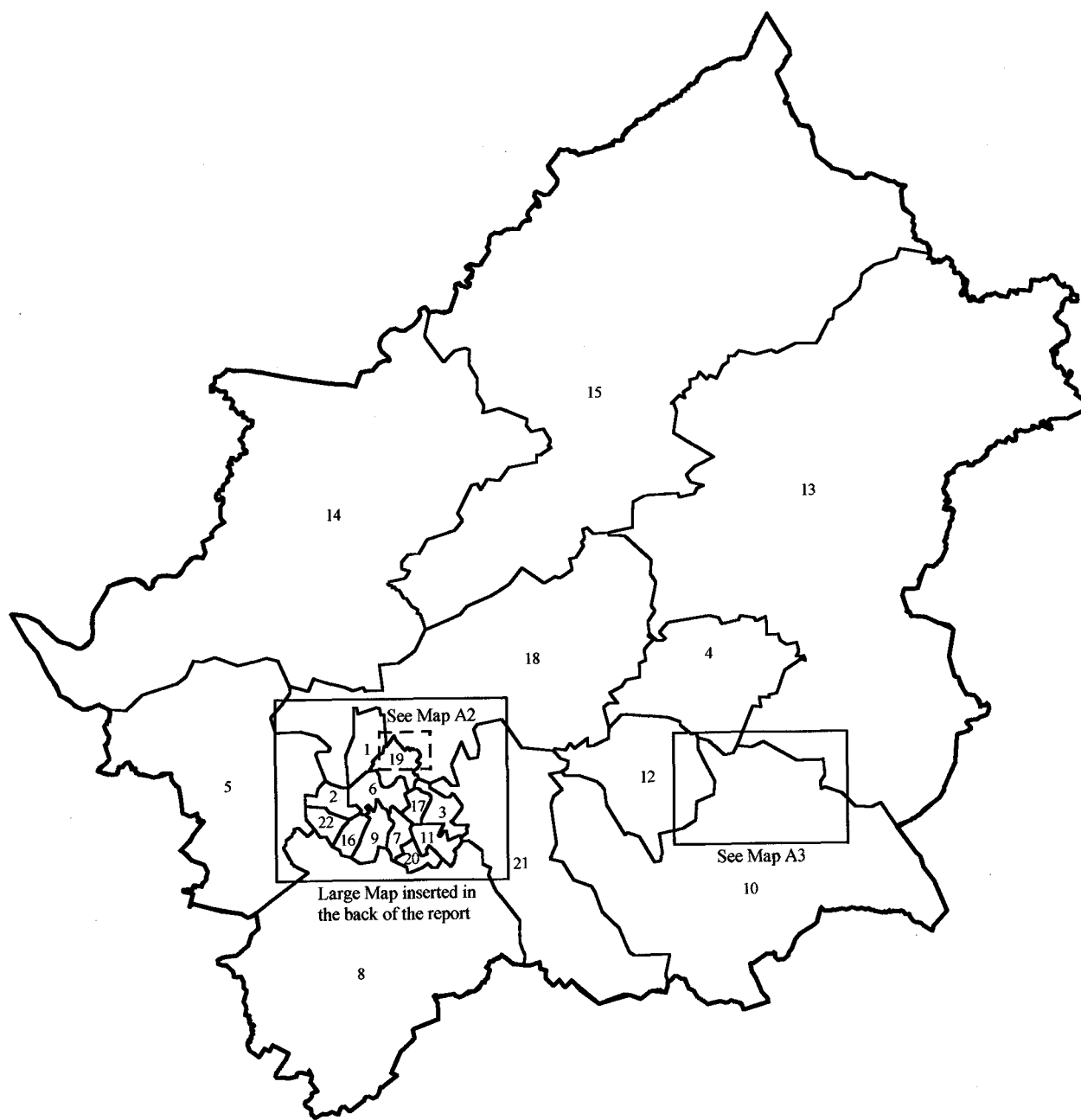
Map A1 illustrates, in outline form, the proposed ward boundaries within the district and indicates the areas which are shown in more detail in Maps A2, A3 and the large map inserted in the back of the report.

Map A2 illustrates the proposed warding for Stanwix Rural parish.

Map A3 illustrates the proposed boundary between Hayton ward and Great Corby & Geltsdale ward.

The **large map** inserted in the back of this report illustrates the Commission's proposed warding for the urban city of Carlisle.

Map A1:
Final Recommendations for Carlisle: Key Map

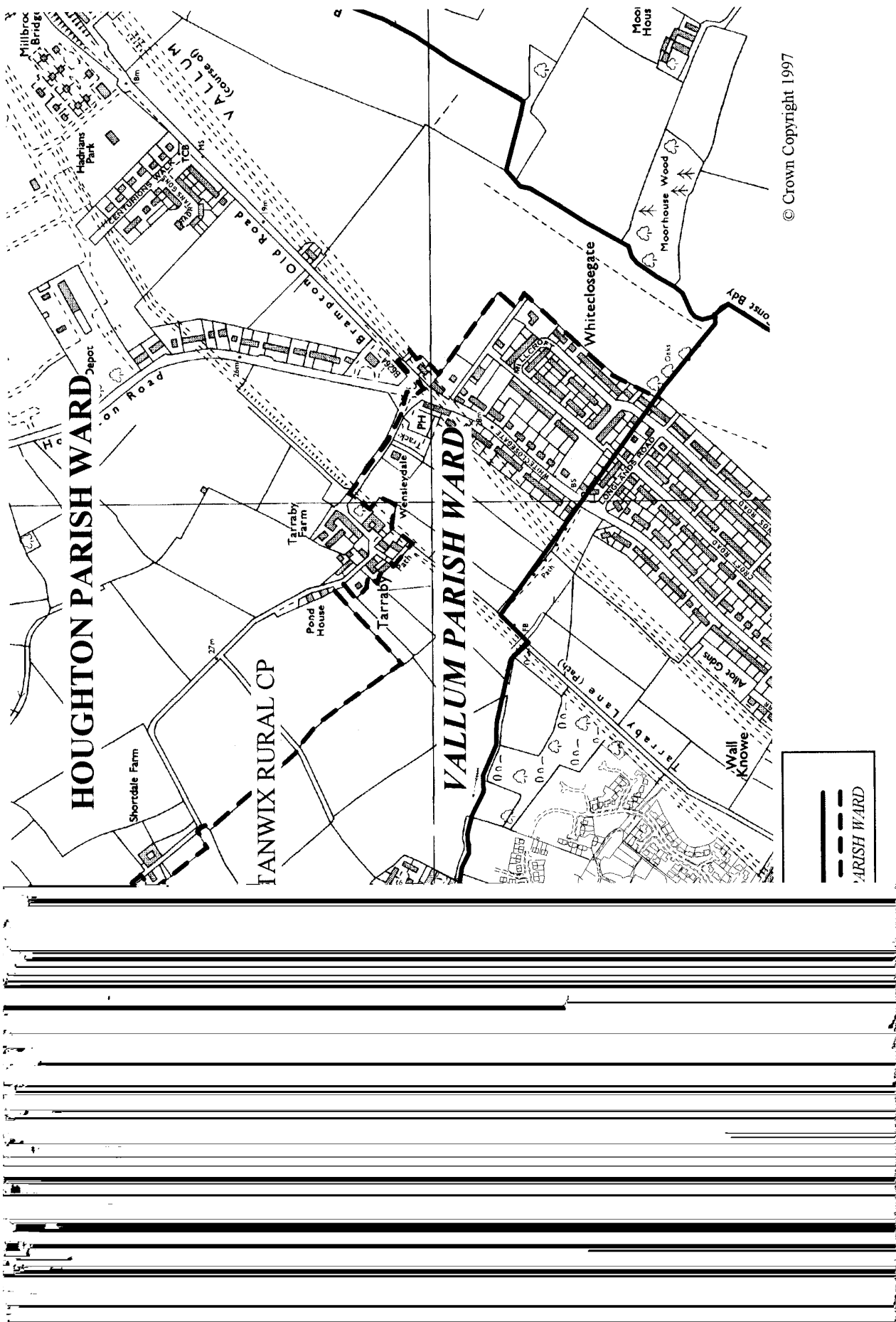


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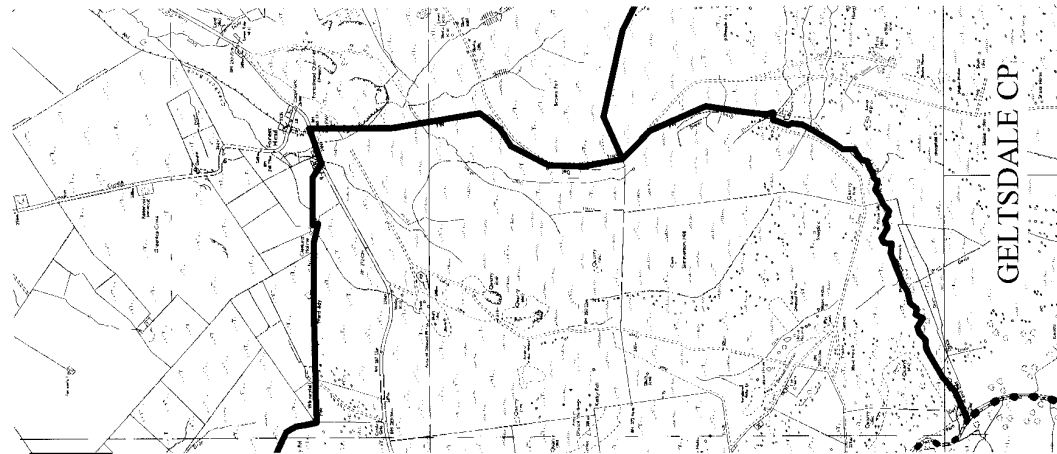
Key to Wards

- | | | | | | |
|---|-----------|----|---------------------------|----|---------------|
| 1 | Belah | 9 | Denton Holme | 17 | St Aidans |
| 2 | Belle Vue | 10 | Great Corby and Geltsdale | 18 | Stanwix Rural |
| 3 | Botcherby | 11 | Harraby | 19 | Stanwix Urban |
| 4 | Brampton | 12 | Hayton | 20 | Upperby |
| 5 | Burgh | 13 | Irthing | 21 | Wetheral |
| 6 | Castle | 14 | Longtown and Rockcliffe | 22 | Yewdale |
| 7 | Currock | 15 | Lyne | | |
| 8 | Dalston | 16 | Morton | | |

Map A2:
Proposed Warding for Stanwix Rural Parish



*Map A3:
Proposed Boundary between Hayton Ward and Great Corby & Geltsdale Ward*



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APPENDIX B

Draft Recommendations for Carlisle

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

	Ward name	Number of councillors	Constituent areas
1	Arthuret	2	Arthuret ward (the parishes of Arthuret and Kirkandrews); Lyne ward (part – Westlinton parish); Stanwix Rural ward (part – Rockcliffe parish)
2	Belah (city of Carlisle)	3	Belah ward (part)
3	Belle Vue (city of Carlisle)	3	Belle Vue ward; Trinity ward (part); Yewdale ward (part)
4	Botcherby (city of Carlisle)	3	<i>Unchanged</i>
5	Brampton	2	<i>Unchanged</i> (Brampton parish)
6	Burgh	1	Burgh ward (part – the parishes of Beaumont, Burgh by Sands and Orton)
7	Currock (city of Carlisle)	3	Currock ward; Stanwix Urban ward (part)
8	Dalston	3	Dalston ward (Dalston parish); Burgh ward (part – Cummersdale parish); St Cuthbert Without ward (St Cuthbert Without parish)
9	Denton Holme (city of Carlisle)	3	<i>Unchanged</i>
10	Great Corby & Geltsdale	1	Great Corby & Geltsdale ward (the parishes of Carlatten, Castle Carrock, Cumrew, Cumwhitton and Geltsdale, and Great Corby parish ward of Wetheral parish); Hayton ward (part – Talkin parish ward of Hayton parish)
11	Harraby (city of Carlisle)	3	<i>Unchanged</i>
12	Hayton	1	Hayton ward (part – Corby Hill, Hayton and Heads Nook parish wards of Hayton parish)

continued overleaf

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

	Ward name	Number of councillors	Constituent areas
13	Irthing	1	<i>Unchanged</i> (the parishes of Askerton, Burtholme, Farlam, Kingwater, Midgeholme, Nether Denton, Upper Denton, Walton and Waterhead)
14	Lyne	1	Lyne ward (part – the parishes of Bewcastle, Hethersgill, Kirkinton Middle, Nicol Forest, Solport and Stapleton)
15	Morton (city of Carlisle)	3	Morton ward; Trinity ward (part)
16	St Aidans (city of Carlisle)	3	St Aidans ward; Stanwix Urban ward (part)
17	Stanwix Rural	2	Stanwix Rural ward (part – the parishes of Irthington, Kingmoor and Scaleby; and Crosby-on-Eden & Linstock parish ward and Houghton parish ward (part) of Stanwix Rural parish)
18	Stanwix Urban (city of Carlisle)	3	Stanwix Urban ward (part); Belah ward (part); Stanwix Rural ward (part – Houghton parish ward (part) of Stanwix Rural parish)
19	Trinity (city of Carlisle)	3	Trinity ward (part); Stanwix Urban ward (part)
20	Upperby (city of Carlisle)	3	<i>Unchanged</i>
21	Wetheral	2	<i>Unchanged</i> (the parish wards of Cotehill, Scotby, Warwick and Wetheral of Wetheral parish)
22	Yewdale (city of Carlisle)	3	Yewdale ward (part)

Note: The city of Carlisle is parished and comprises the 12 wards indicated.

Figure B2:
The Commission's Draft Recommendations for Carlisle

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 Arthuret	2	3,168	1,584	2	3,162	1,581	0
2 Belah (city of Carlisle)	3	4,107	1,369	-12	4,304	1,435	-9
3 Belle Vue (city of Carlisle)	3	5,236	1,745	13	5,161	1,720	9
4 Botcherby (city of Carlisle)	3	4,503	1,501	-3	4,565	1,522	-4
5 Brampton	2	3,315	1,658	7	3,456	1,728	10
6 Burgh	1	1,486	1,486	-4	1,548	1,548	-2
7 Currock (city of Carlisle)	3	4,623	1,541	-1	4,616	1,539	-2
8 Dalston	3	3,901	1,300	-16	4,316	1,439	-9
9 Denton Holme (city of Carlisle)	3	4,488	1,496	-3	4,678	1,559	-1
10 Great Corby & Geltsdale	1	1,623	1,623	5	1,613	1,613	2
11 Harraby (city of Carlisle)	3	4,631	1,544	0	4,623	1,541	-2
12 Hayton	1	1,664	1,664	7	1,690	1,690	7
13 Irthing	1	1,600	1,600	3	1,585	1,585	1
14 Lyne	1	1,577	1,577	2	1,583	1,583	0
15 Morton (city of Carlisle)	3	5,019	1,673	8	5,028	1,676	6
16 St Aidans (city of Carlisle)	3	4,837	1,612	4	4,741	1,580	0
17 Stanwix Rural	2	2,891	1,446	-7	3,033	1,517	-4
18 Stanwix Urban (city of Carlisle)	3	4,489	1,496	-3	4,878	1,626	3
19 Trinity (city of Carlisle)	3	4,811	1,604	4	4,736	1,579	0

continued overleaf

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

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 %
20 Upperby (city of Carlisle)	3	4,376	1,459	-6	4,317	1,439	-9
21 Wetheral	2	3,158	1,579	2	3,244	1,622	3
22 Yewdale (city of Carlisle)	3	5,054	1,685	9	5,121	1,707	8
Totals	52	80,557	—	—	82,003	—	—
Averages	—	—	1,549	—	—	1,577	—

Source: Electorate figures are based on Carlisle City Council's Stage One submission (see Note 1).

Notes: 1 At Stage Three the City Council submitted revised electorate figures for a number of wards. This table is as it appeared in the draft recommendations report, containing the Council's original figures.

2 The 'variance from average' column shows by how far, in percentage terms, the councillor :elector ratio 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.

