

# Final recommendations on the future electoral arrangements for Knowsley

Report to The Electoral Commission

*March 2003*

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# 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  
Robin Gray  
Joan Jones CBE  
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 borough of Knowsley.



## Summary

The Local Government Commission for England (LGCE) began a review of Knowsley's electoral arrangements on 4 December 2001. As a consequence of the transfer of functions referred to earlier, it falls to The Boundary Committee for England to complete the work of the LGCE. We published our draft recommendations for electoral arrangements on 3 September 2002, after which we undertook an eight-week period of consultation. We now submit final recommendations to The Electoral Commission.

- **This report summarises the representations that we received during consultation on our draft recommendations, and contains our final recommendations to The Electoral Commission.**

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

- **in 14 of the 22 wards the number of electors represented by each councillor varies by more than 10% from the average for the borough and five wards vary by more than 20%;**
- **by 2006 this situation is expected to worsen, with the number of electors per councillor forecast to vary by more than 10% from the average in 16 wards and by more than 20% in eight wards.**

Our main final recommendations for future electoral arrangements (see Tables 1 and 2 and paragraphs 84–85) are that:

- **Knowsley Borough Council should have 63 councillors, three fewer than at present;**
- **there should be 21 wards, instead of 22 as at present;**
- **the boundaries of all of the existing wards should be modified, resulting in a net reduction of one ward.**

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

- **In 18 of the proposed 21 wards the number of electors per councillor would vary by no more than 10% from the borough average.**
- **This improved level of electoral equality is forecast to continue, with the number of electors per councillor in all wards expected to vary by no more than 10% from the average for the borough by 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 Halewood, Knowsley, Prescot and Tarbock;**
- **a reduction in the number and a redistribution of councillors serving Whiston Town Council.**

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 6 May 2003. The information in the representations will be available for public access once the Order has been made.

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

**Fax: 020 7271 0667**

**Email: [implementation@electoralcommission.org.uk](mailto:implementation@electoralcommission.org.uk)**

*Table 1: Final recommendations: Summary*

<b>Ward name</b>	<b>Number of councillors</b>	<b>Constituent areas</b>	<b>Large map reference</b>
1 Central	3	Part of Cherryfield ward; part of Kirkby Central ward; part of Northwood ward	1
2 Cherryfield	3	Part of Cherryfield ward; part of Whitefield ward	1
3 Halewood North	3	Part of Halewood parish (the proposed Halewood North parish ward); part of Tarbock parish (the proposed Tarbock South parish ward)	2 and 3
4 Halewood South	3	Part of Halewood parish (the proposed Halewood South parish ward)	3
5 Halewood West	3	Part of Halewood parish (the proposed Halewood West parish ward)	3
6 Longview	3	Part of Knowsley parish (Knowsley Park South parish ward); part of Longview ward; part of Prescott West ward	2
7 Northwood	3	Part of Kirkby Central ward; part of Northwood ward; part of Tower Hill ward	1
8 Page Moss	3	Part of Page Moss ward; part of Princess ward	2
9 Park	3	Part of Park ward; part of Whitefield ward; part of Tower Hill ward	1
10 Prescott East	3	Part of Prescott parish (the proposed Prescott Central, Prescott East and Prescott South parish wards)	2
11 Prescott West	3	Part of Knowsley parish (Knowsley Park North parish ward); part of Prescott parish (the proposed Prescott North West parish ward)	1 and 2
12 Roby	3	Part of Roby ward	2
13 St Bartholemews	3	Part of Longview ward; part of Page Moss ward; part of Roby ward; part of St Michaels ward; part of Swanside ward	2
14 St Gabriels	3	Part of Roby ward; part of St Gabriels ward; part of Tarbock parish (the proposed Tarbock North parish ward)	2
15 St Michaels	3	Part of Prescott East ward; part of Prescott West ward; part of St Gabriels ward; part of St Michaels ward	2
16 Shevington	3	Part of Tower Hill ward	1
17 Stockbridge	3	Part of Knowsley parish (the proposed Knowsley Stockbridge parish ward); part of Princess ward	2
18 Swanside	3	Part of Swanside ward	2
19 Whiston North	3	Part of Whiston parish (the proposed Whiston Delph parish ward; the proposed Whiston Tushingham parish ward; the proposed Whiston Royal Oak parish ward)	2
20 Whiston South	3	Cronton parish; part of Whiston parish (the proposed Whiston Whitestone parish ward)	2
21 Whitefield	3	Part of Cherryfield ward; part of Kirkby Central ward; part of Park ward; part of Whitefield ward	1

*Notes: 1 The borough contains six parishes and the unparished areas of Huyton and Kirkby.  
2 The wards on the above table are illustrated on Map 2 and the large maps.  
3 We have made a number of minor boundary amendments to ensure that existing ward boundaries adhere to ground detail. These changes do not affect any electors.*

Table 2: Final recommendations for Knowsley

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 Central	3	5,101	1,700	-3	5,025	1,675	-5
2 Cherryfield	3	5,543	1,848	6	5,525	1,842	4
3 Halewood North	3	4,431	1,477	-16	4,902	1,634	-8
4 Halewood South	3	5,566	1,855	6	5,530	1,843	4
5 Halewood West	3	4,889	1,630	-7	5,128	1,709	-3
6 Longview	3	6,016	2,005	15	5,471	1,824	3
7 Northwood	3	5,192	1,731	-1	5,178	1,726	-2
8 Page Moss	3	5,145	1,715	-2	5,136	1,712	-3
9 Park	3	4,858	1,619	-7	4,786	1,595	-10
10 Prescott East	3	5,174	1,725	-1	5,380	1,793	1
11 Prescott West	3	5,300	1,767	1	5,314	1,771	0
12 Roby	3	5,754	1,918	10	5,745	1,915	8
13 St Bartholemews	3	5,535	1,845	5	5,458	1,819	3
14 St Gabriels	3	5,249	1,750	0	5,229	1,743	-1
15 St Michaels	3	5,449	1,816	4	5,500	1,833	4
16 Shevington	3	4,276	1,425	-19	5,036	1,679	-5
17 Stockbridge	3	5,624	1,875	7	5,395	1,798	2
18 Swanside	3	5,344	1,781	2	5,825	1,942	10
19 Whiston North	3	5,350	1,783	2	5,336	1,779	1
20 Whiston South	3	5,677	1,892	8	5,662	1,887	7
21 Whitefield	3	4,813	1,604	-8	4,785	1,595	-10
<b>Totals</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>110,286</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>111,346</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Averages</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1,751</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1,767</b>	<b>-</b>

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

# 1 Introduction

1 This report contains our final recommendations for the electoral arrangements for the borough of Knowsley. We are reviewing the five metropolitan boroughs in Merseyside as part of our programme of periodic electoral reviews (PERs) of all 386 principal local authority areas in England. The programme started in 1996 and is currently expected to finish in 2004.

2 This is our first review of the electoral arrangements of Knowsley. Knowsley's last review was carried out by the Local Government Boundary Commission, which reported to the Secretary of State in March 1980 (Report no. 378).

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:
  - reflect the identities and interests of local communities;
  - secure effective and convenient local government; and
  - achieve equality of representation.
- Schedule 11 to the Local Government Act 1972.

4 Details of the legislation under which the review of Knowsley was conducted are set out in a document entitled *Guidance and Procedural Advice for Local Authorities and Other Interested Parties* (LGCE, fifth edition published in October 2001). 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 borough.

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% in any ward will have to be fully justified. Any imbalances of 20% or more should only arise in the most exceptional circumstances, and will require the strongest justification.

7 We are not prescriptive on council size. However, we believe that any proposals relating to council size, whether these are for an increase, a reduction or no change, should be supported by evidence and argumentation. Given the stage now reached in the introduction of new political management structures under the provisions of the Local Government Act 2000, it is important that, whatever council size interested parties may propose to us, they can demonstrate that their proposals have been fully thought through, and have been developed in the context of a review of internal political management and the role of councillors in the new structure. However, we have found it necessary to safeguard against upward drift in the number of councillors, and we believe that any proposal for an increase in council size will need to be fully justified. In particular, we do 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 the council simply to make it more consistent with the size of other similar councils.

8 Under the provisions of the Local Government Act 1972 there is no limit to the number of councillors which can be returned from each metropolitan borough ward. However, the figure must be divisible by three. In practice, all metropolitan borough wards currently return three councillors. Where our recommendation is for multi-member wards, we believe that the number of councillors to be returned from each ward should not exceed three, other than in very exceptional circumstances. Numbers in excess of three could lead to an unacceptable dilution of

accountability to the electorate and we have not, to date, prescribed any wards with more than three councillors.

9 This review was in four stages. Stage One began on 4 December 2001, when the LGCE wrote to Knowsley Borough Council inviting proposals for future electoral arrangements. It also notified Merseyside Police, the Local Government Association, Lancashire Association of Parish Councils (including Merseyside), Members of Parliament with constituency interests in the borough, Members of the European Parliament for the North West Region, and the headquarters of the main political parties. It placed a notice in the local press, issued a press release and invited Knowsley Borough Council to publicise the review further. The closing date for receipt of representations, the end of Stage One, was 25 March 2002. At Stage Two we considered all the representations received during Stage One and prepared our draft recommendations.

10 Stage Three began on 3 September 2002 with the publication of our report, *Draft recommendations on the future electoral arrangements for Knowsley*, and ended on 28 October 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

11 The borough of Knowsley is at the heart of the North West region and is one of the five metropolitan boroughs which comprise Merseyside. It benefits from strong transport and communication links, with the M57 and M62 motorways and the A580 East Lancashire Road intersecting the area. The Borough comprises an amalgamation of the urban areas of Kirkby, Huyton and Halewood and the more rural and green belt land of Knowsley Park and Tarbock parish.

12 The electorate of the borough is 110,286 (February 2001). The Council presently has 66 members who are elected from 22 wards, three of which are relatively rural (Halewood East, Knowsley Park and Whiston South) and the remainder being predominantly urban. Each ward is currently represented by three councillors. The borough contains six parishes – Cronton, Halewood, Knowsley, Prescot, Tarbock and Whiston – and the unparished areas of Kirkby and Huyton. The unparished areas of the borough comprise 60% of the total electorate.

13 At present, each councillor represents an average of 1,671 electors, which the Borough Council forecasts will increase to 1,687 by the year 2006 if the present number of councillors is maintained. However, due to demographic and other changes over the past two decades, the number of electors per councillor in 14 of the 22 wards varies by more than 10% from the borough average, in five wards by more than 20% and in two wards by more than 30%. The worst imbalance is in Halewood East ward where each councillor represents 55% more electors than the borough average.

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

*Map 1: Existing wards in Knowsley*

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 Cantril Farm	3	3,578	1,193	-29	3,567	1,189	-30
2 Cherryfield	3	4,266	1,422	-15	4,236	1,412	-16
3 Halewood East	3	7,765	2,588	55	8,234	2,745	63
4 Halewood South	3	4,233	1,411	-16	4,200	1,400	-17
5 Halewood West	3	4,353	1,451	-13	4,633	1,544	-8
6 Kirkby Central	3	4,601	1,534	-8	4,465	1,488	-12
7 Knowsley Park	3	5,030	1,677	0	4,876	1,625	-4
8 Longview	3	4,014	1,338	-20	3,553	1,184	-30
9 Northwood	3	3,511	1,170	-30	3,157	1,052	-38
10 Page Moss	3	5,254	1,751	5	5,240	1,747	4
11 Park	3	5,812	1,937	16	5,703	1,901	13
12 Prescott East	3	4,489	1,496	-10	4,492	1,497	-11
13 Prescott West	3	4,882	1,627	-3	5,167	1,722	2
14 Princess	3	4,038	1,346	-19	3,820	1,273	-25
15 Roby	3	7,055	2,352	41	7,050	2,350	39
16 St Gabriels	3	4,497	1,499	-10	4,426	1,475	-13
17 St Michaels	3	4,279	1,426	-15	4,267	1,422	-16
18 Swanside	3	6,009	2,003	20	6,488	2,163	28
19 Tower Hill	3	6,176	2,059	23	7,336	2,445	45
20 Whiston North	3	5,158	1,719	3	5,144	1,715	2
21 Whiston South	3	5,869	1,956	17	5,854	1,951	16
22 Whitefield	3	5,417	1,806	8	5,438	1,813	7
<b>Totals</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>110,286</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>111,346</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Averages</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1,671</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1,687</b>	<b>-</b>

Source: Electorate figures are based on information provided by Knowsley Borough Council.

Note: The 'variance from average' column shows by how far, in percentage terms, the number of electors per councillor varies from the average for the borough. The minus symbol (-) denotes a lower than average number of electors. For example, in 2001, electors in Northwood ward were relatively over-represented by 30%, while electors in Halewood East ward were relatively under-represented by 55%. Figures have been rounded to the nearest whole number.



### 3 Draft recommendations

15 During Stage One seven representations were received, including borough-wide schemes from Knowsley Borough Council, the Liberal Democrat Group on the Council, and a Borough Councillor, and representations from Whiston Town Council, Knowsley South Constituency Labour Party, Valley Community Association and a local resident. 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 Knowsley*.

16 Our draft recommendations were based on the Borough Council's proposals, in view of the degree of consensus behind large elements of its proposals and the consultation exercise which it undertook with interested parties. However, we moved away from the Borough Council's scheme in two areas, Halewood and Whiston, in order to improve electoral equality and having regard to local community identities and interests. We proposed that:

- Knowsley Borough Council should be served by 63 councillors, compared with the current 66, representing 21 wards, one fewer than at present;
- the boundaries of all of the existing wards should be modified;
- there should be new warding arrangements for the parishes of Halewood, Knowsley, Prescott and Tarbock and a reduction in number and redistribution of councillors serving the parish of Whiston.

*Draft recommendation*

Knowsley Borough Council should comprise 63 councillors, serving 21 wards.

17 Our proposals would have resulted in significant improvements in electoral equality, with the number of electors per councillor in 18 of the 21 wards varying by no more than 10% from the borough average. This level of electoral equality was forecast to improve further, with no ward varying by more than 10% from the average in 2006.



## 4 Responses to consultation

18 During the consultation on the draft recommendations report, seven representations were received. A list of all respondents is available from us on request. All representations may be inspected at our offices and those of Knowsley Borough Council.

### Knowsley Borough Council

19 The Borough Council offered full support for our draft recommendations, but corrected a minor anomaly between the text and maps for the Halewood area and the electorate figures provided in Table 2 of the draft recommendations.

### Parish and town councils

20 Knowsley Parish Council proposed that Knowsley Cantril Farm parish ward be renamed Knowsley Stockbridge parish ward. Prescott Town Council opposed our draft recommendations for the Prescott wards, proposing that the two Prescott wards be 'self-contained'. Whiston Town Council supported our draft recommendations for the parish of Whiston, but proposed revised parish ward names in order to better identify the parish wards with their constituent areas.

### Other representations

21 A further three representations were received in response to our draft recommendations. Three borough councillors (representing Whitefield ward) made one submission to us, supporting the Borough Council's proposals for Whitefield and Park wards. A local resident made comments with regard to the external boundaries of Knowsley Borough. Finally, Mr Fisher, a local resident and ex-councillor (who submitted proposals during Stage One), proposed a council size of 33 members, and included a borough-wide scheme. His proposals were supported by the Kirkby Labour Alliance Party.



## 5 Analysis and final recommendations

22 As described earlier, our prime objective in considering the most appropriate electoral arrangements for Knowsley is 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'.

23 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 within the next five years. We also must have regard to the desirability of fixing identifiable boundaries and to maintaining local ties.

24 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.

25 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

26 Since 1975 there has been a 13% decrease in the electorate of Knowsley borough. The Borough Council submitted electorate forecasts for the year 2006, projecting a 1% increase in the electorate from 110,286 to 111,346 over the five-year period from 2001 to 2006. It expects most of the growth to be in Halewood, although a significant amount is also expected in Prescott and northern Kirkby. However, a number of wards, particularly in central and eastern Kirkby and parts of Huyton, would see static or slightly declining electorate. In order to prepare these forecasts, the Council estimated rates and locations of housing development with regard to unitary development 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, we stated in our draft recommendations report that we were satisfied that they represented the best estimates that could reasonably be made at the time.

27 We 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

28 Knowsley Borough Council presently has 66 members. In the draft recommendations report we adopted the Council's proposal for a council of 63 members, as we considered that the Council's proposals provided more thorough justification for its council size than any other submissions received during Stage One. We further noted that a council size of 63 would

provide for a better distribution of councillors between the distinct areas within the borough than any other council size proposed during Stage One.

29 During Stage Three one representation was received regarding council size. A local resident, who proposed a council size of 24 during Stage One of the review, proposed a council size of 33 during Stage Three. The resident stated that the proposal for a council size of 33 'reflects the aims of modernising the electoral system' and argued that such a reduction in council size would not 'diminish the ability of councillors to perform effectively, or impair the level of service they will be expected to provide'. He further detailed the political management structure employed in Knowsley and the size and workings of scrutiny committees and area forums under his proposed council size, highlighted the fact that the electorate of the borough had decreased by some 26,000 since 1982 and compared the council size with the neighbouring metropolitan area of Liverpool.

30 Having carefully considered the local resident's proposed council size of 33, we intend confirming our draft recommendations for a council size of 63 as final. Although we recognise that the resident voiced pertinent arguments regarding the political management structure employed in Knowsley, we also note that he compared Knowsley with a neighbouring metropolitan authority, and used the borough's decreasing electorate as part of his justification for such a decrease in council size. As outlined in our *Guidance*, we do not take account of comparisons with other metropolitan authorities when deciding on council size, nor do we assume that a decrease in electorate suggests a commensurate decrease in council size. Although the resident's proposal was supported by the Kirkby Labour Alliance Party, we note that there is little further local support for such a significant reduction in council size. We received no further representations regarding council size during Stage Three, and therefore propose confirming our draft recommendation for 63 members serving Knowsley Borough Council as final, given the local support received.

## Electoral arrangements

31 After carefully considering all representations received during Stage One, we based our draft recommendations on the Borough Council's proposals. We considered that they struck a better balance between our statutory criteria than the other proposals received, given the levels of consultation conducted by the Council before submitting its proposals to us. However, in our draft recommendations, we noted that the significant geographic features dissecting the borough, coupled with the mixture of parished and unparished areas and dispersed configuration of communities, inhibit the achievement of higher levels of electoral equality which might be expected in more urban metropolitan areas. We also stated that we believed community identity would be best reflected by using these significant geographic features as boundaries between wards. However, in order to facilitate a uniform pattern of three-member wards across the borough, it was necessary to breach these barriers in certain areas, in order to ensure the best allocation of councillors between the distinct areas in the borough.

32 In response to our draft recommendations, a local resident proposed a council size of 33, as detailed previously. As we do not intend adopting his proposed council size, our capacity to adopt any of the warding arrangements in his proposal is limited, due to the high levels of electoral inequality they would produce under a council size of 63. We also note that the proposal consisted of combinations of existing wards to produce a completely new scheme, rather than comments on our draft recommendations and we therefore cannot consider the resident's views.

33 Given that we intend recommending a council size of 63 as final, and in the light of the representations received during Stage Three, we intend confirming the majority of our draft recommendations as final. We note the representations from the parish councils proposing revised parish ward names and are content to recommend these changes, as detailed later in

this report. For borough warding purposes, the following areas, based on existing wards, are considered in turn:

- a) Cherryfield, Kirkby Central, Northwood, Park, Tower Hill and Whitefield wards;
- b) Knowsley Park, Prescot East, Prescot West, Whiston North and Whiston South wards;
- c) Cantril Farm, Page Moss, Princess and Swanside wards;
- d) Longview, Roby, St Gabriels and St Michaels wards;
- e) Halewood East, Halewood South and Halewood West wards.

34 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 maps.

## Cherryfield, Kirkby Central, Northwood, Park, Tower Hill and Whitefield wards

35 These six wards are situated in the north of the borough, in the unparished area of Kirkby, to the north of the A580 East Lancashire Road, and are each represented by three councillors. Under the existing arrangements, the numbers of electors per councillor in Cherryfield, Kirkby Central and Northwood wards is 15%, 8% and 30% below the borough average initially (16%, 12% and 38% below the borough average by 2006). The number of electors per councillor in Park, Tower Hill and Whitefield wards is 16%, 23% and 8% above the borough average initially (13%, 45% and 7% above the borough average by 2006).

36 At Stage One, the Borough Council proposed retaining the significant boundary of the A580 East Lancashire Road, therefore retaining a pattern of six wards to the north of the A580, albeit with changes to ward boundaries and ward names. The Borough Council proposed transferring the majority of the Tower Hill Estate, to the south of Shevington's Lane and west of Kirkby Brook and currently in Tower Hill ward, into a revised Park ward, and renaming the revised Tower Hill ward as Shevington ward. The revised Park ward would also comprise an area from the existing Whitefield ward, to the north and west of Whitefield Drive and Benwick Road. That part of the existing Park ward to the south of the Liverpool to Wigan railway line would be transferred into a revised Whitefield ward.

37 The Borough Council's proposed Whitefield ward would also comprise an area of the existing ward to the east of the M57, along with areas from the existing Kirkby Central ward (to the south of County Road and west of Cherryfield Drive) and Cherryfield ward (to the west of Cherryfield Drive and north of Bewley Drive). The area to the west of the M57, currently in Whitefield ward, would be transferred to the proposed Cherryfield ward.

38 Under the Borough Council's proposals, the remainder of the existing Cherryfield ward, to the east of Bewley Drive, would be transferred to the proposed Central ward, which would also comprise the industrial and rural areas of the existing Northwood ward and an area from Kirkby Central ward, to the east of Cherryfield Road and south of County Road. The remaining urban area of the existing Northwood ward would be retained in the Borough Council's revised Northwood ward, which would also comprise areas from the existing Tower Hill and Kirkby Central wards (to the south of the railway line and east of County Road).

39 We received three further submissions regarding these wards during Stage Three. The Liberal Democrats proposed an alternative warding pattern in this area based on five wards and 15 councillors. However they also retained the A580 East Lancashire Road as a boundary between these wards and those to the south. Councillor Fisher proposed two three-member wards based on the existing area forums of North Kirkby and South Kirkby. He also proposed retaining the A580 East Lancashire Road as a boundary. Valley Community Association proposed that the existing Whitefield ward remain unchanged.

40 After carefully considered all representations received for these wards during Stage One, we based our draft recommendations on the Borough Council's scheme. We noted the proposal from Valley Community Association to retain the existing Whitefield ward, however were unable to adopt this proposals without detrimental effects to electoral equality. As detailed previously, our capacity to adopt either the Liberal Democrats' proposals or Councillor Fisher's proposals was limited under our proposed council size of 63. However, we noted that none of the borough-wide submissions breached the significant boundary of the A580 East Lancashire Road and that there was local consensus that this major road be retained as a ward boundary. We also noted that retaining this boundary, allied with the geographic constraints of the borough boundary in this area, resulted in some wards retaining a slightly higher electoral variance. Given the geographic and borough boundary constraints, the warding pattern options in this area were limited and the Committee was content to accept that the Borough Council's proposals struck the best balance between achieving acceptable levels of electoral equality and meeting the other statutory criteria.

41 Under our draft recommendations, the number of electors per councillor in Cherryfield, Central and Northwood wards would be 6% above, 3% below and 1% below the borough average initially (4% above, 5% below and 2% below the borough average by 2006). The number of electors per councillor in Park, Shevington and Whitefield wards would be 7%, 19% and 8% below the borough average initially (10%, 5% and 10% below the borough average by 2006).

42 During Stage Three, we received two submissions specific to this area. Three borough councillors submitted one representation stating their support for the Borough Council's proposals for Park and Whitefield wards, which had been accepted as our draft recommendations. A local resident proposed revised warding arrangements for this area, suggesting three new wards, however his proposals were based on a council size of 33. The resident voiced concern regarding our draft recommendation to transfer those electors in the housing around Field Lane from Whitefield into Cherryfield ward and argued that this area had a more natural affinity to Fazakerley in the city of Liverpool.

43 Having carefully considered the representations received, we propose confirming our draft recommendations for these wards as final. Given that we do not intend adopting the local resident's council size of 33, we cannot accept his proposals for these wards. We note the resident's concern over the area around Field Lane and concur that this area associates more with areas in the city of Liverpool. However, we have no powers to alter the external borough boundaries of Knowsley as part of a Periodic Electoral Review. Therefore, given the support for the Borough Council's scheme received from the three councillors and the general support received for our draft recommendations from the Borough Council, we are confirming our draft recommendations for these wards as final.

44 Under our final recommendations, the number of electors per councillor in Central, Cherryfield, Northwood, Park, Shevington and Whitefield wards would be the same as under the draft recommendations.

## Knowsley Park, Prescott East, Prescott West, Whiston North and Whiston South wards

45 These five wards are situated in the east and centre of the borough and are each represented by three councillors. Knowsley Park ward comprises the Knowsley Park North and Knowsley Park South parish wards of Knowsley parish, and is currently a detached ward. Prescott East ward comprises the Prescott North East and Prescott South East parish wards of Prescott parish. Prescott West ward comprises the Prescott Central and Prescott North West parish wards of Prescott parish and the part of the unparished area to the west of the M57 around Huyton Lane. Whiston North ward comprises the Whiston East, Whiston North/Delph

and Whiston West parish wards of Whiston parish, and Whiston South ward comprises the Whiston South East and Whiston South West parish wards of Whiston parish and all of Cronton parish. Under the existing arrangements, the number of electors per councillor in Knowsley Park, Prescott East and Prescott West wards is equal to, 10% below and 3% below the borough average initially (4% below, 11% below and 2% above the borough average by 2006). The number of electors per councillor in Whiston North and Whiston South wards is 3% and 17% above the borough average initially (2% and 16% above the borough average by 2006).

46 At Stage One, the Borough Council proposed revised warding arrangements for this area. It proposed revising the existing Knowsley Park ward to include an area of Prescott parish (to the north of the railway line, Sewell Street, High Street and Warrington Road), and transferring the more urban areas to the south and west of the M57 motorway into the proposed Stockbridge and Longview wards, as detailed later. It further proposed renaming the ward as Prescott West ward. The Borough Council acknowledged 'the difficulty that has previously been experienced in determining electoral arrangements in this part of the borough', citing the existence of the detached ward of Knowsley Park.

47 The Borough Council proposed a revised Prescott East ward, comprising the entirety of the existing Prescott East ward, and an area of Prescott town centre currently in Prescott West ward. The Borough Council acknowledged that its proposals for Prescott East and Prescott West wards would have implications for the electoral arrangements for Knowsley and Prescott parishes. However, it offered no specific proposals for these arrangements.

48 The Borough Council also proposed revised warding arrangements for Whiston North and Whiston South wards. Its revised Whiston North ward would comprise the entire existing Whiston North ward, together with a small area of the existing Whiston South ward (to the south of the railway line and Dragon Lane). The Borough Council's proposed Whiston South ward would comprise the remainder of Whiston parish and all of Cronton parish. The Borough Council acknowledged that its proposals for these wards would have implications for the electoral arrangements for the parish of Whiston, but offered no specific proposals for these arrangements.

49 The Liberal Democrats proposed alternative warding arrangements for this area. They proposed combining the Knowsley Cantril Farm and Knowsley Park North (detached) parish wards with the majority of the existing Knowsley Park ward in a new Stockbridge ward. However, they proposed transferring Knowsley Park South parish ward, to the south of the M57, into a revised Longview ward. They proposed transferring an area of the existing Prescott East ward into the existing Prescott West ward to form a new Prescott ward. The area to the west of the M57, currently in Prescott West ward, would be transferred into a revised St Michaels ward. The remaining area of Prescott parish would be transferred into a revised Whiston North ward, which would also contain an area of the existing Whiston North ward. That area of Whiston parish between the Liberal Democrats' proposed Whiston North ward and the M62 motorway would form a revised Whiston South ward, thus transferring that part of Whiston parish to the south of the M62 and the entirety of Cronton parish into a revised Halewood North.

50 We received four further submissions regarding this area during Stage One. Councillor Fisher proposed two three-member wards for this area, Prescott & Knowsley Village ward, comprising all of Prescott parish and the Knowsley Park North parish ward of Knowsley parish, and Whiston ward, comprising the entirety of Whiston and Cronton parishes. Knowsley South Constituency Labour Party and Whiston Town Council proposed an amendment to the Borough Council's proposed boundary between Whiston North and Whiston South wards. A local resident of Jacqueline Drive in Huyton, currently in Prescott West ward, proposed that 'the residents of Huyton, that were part of an unnatural association with Prescott West ward, are returned to a Huyton community'.

51 Having carefully considered all representations received for these wards during Stage One, we noted that Borough Councillor Fisher's proposals were not compatible with our recommended council size of 63. We recognised that the Knowsley Park and Knowsley Village areas of Knowsley parish, to the north of the M57, are geographically separate from the remainder of Knowsley parish and that two of the three borough-wide schemes proposed linking the Knowsley Village area with the parish of Prescot, and agreed that this would provide the best reflection of the communities within this area. We did not consider that linking Knowsley Village with the Stockbridge area, thus breaching the M57 motorway, would better reflect the communities concerned. As a consequence, we did not accept the proposals from the Liberal Democrats regarding the remainder of the Prescot and Whiston area. However, we noted that they proposed utilising the M57 as the western boundary of their proposed Prescot ward, in agreement with the Borough Council and the proposal of a local resident. We therefore based our draft recommendations for these wards on the Borough Council's proposals.

52 Under the draft recommendations the number of electors per councillor in Prescot East and Prescot West wards would be 1% below and 1% above the borough average initially (1% above and equal to the borough average by 2006). The number of electors per councillor in Whiston North and Whiston South wards would be 2% and 8% above the borough average initially (1% and 7% above the borough average by 2006).

53 We received four representations regarding these wards during Stage Three. Knowsley Parish Council supported our draft recommendations, but proposed the renaming of a parish ward, detailed later in this report. Whiston Town Council also supported our draft recommendations for its parish, but offered revised parish ward names, also detailed later. Prescot Town Council opposed our draft recommendations for its parish, stating it was 'dismayed' at the proposals. It proposed that 'the two Prescot wards should be self-contained' and that the whole parish should be contained in one parliamentary constituency. A local resident supported our draft recommendation to transfer the Knowsley Village area of Knowsley parish into a Prescot ward, and he also proposed that the existing Prescot East and Prescot West wards be combined with the Knowsley Village area to form a new Prescot ward. He further proposed a new Whiston ward, comprising the existing Whiston North and Whiston South wards.

54 Having carefully considered those representations received during Stage Three, we are content to confirm our draft recommendations as final. We note the opposition received from Prescot Town Council and its proposal to retain two self-contained wards for Prescot. However this cannot be achieved without detrimental effects to the levels of electoral equality to the Prescot wards and those neighbouring wards and we therefore do not propose recommending this proposal. We also note the Town Council's opposition regarding parliamentary constituencies. However, this is something of which we can have no regard as part of a Periodic Electoral Review. We note the local resident's proposals for a new Prescot ward, comprising the two existing Prescot wards and the Knowsley Village area of Knowsley parish, and Whiston ward, comprising the existing Whiston North and Whiston South wards. Although we recognise his support for combining Knowsley Village with Prescot, we cannot adopt his proposal for revised Prescot and Whiston wards under a council size of 63. Given the general support received from the Borough Council, we therefore propose confirming our draft recommendations as final for these wards. The internal electoral arrangements of Knowsley, Prescot and Whiston parishes are discussed later in this report.

55 Under our final recommendations, Prescot East ward would comprise the existing Prescot North East and Prescot South East parish wards (renamed Prescot East and Prescot South parish wards, respectively) and the revised Prescot Central parish ward of Prescot parish, Prescot West ward would comprise the revised Prescot North West parish ward of Prescot parish and the revised Knowsley Park North parish ward of Knowsley parish. Whiston North ward would comprise the proposed Whiston Delph parish ward, the proposed Whiston Royal Oak parish ward and the proposed Whiston Tushingham parish ward of Whiston parish, Whiston South ward would comprise the proposed Whiston Whitestone parish ward of Whiston parish

and all of Cronton parish. The number of electors per councillor in Prescott East, Prescott West, Whiston North and Whiston South wards would be the same as under the draft recommendations.

## Cantril Farm, Page Moss, Princess and Swanside wards

56 These four wards are situated in the west of the borough and cover the unparished area of Huyton and part of the western part of Knowsley parish. Each ward is represented by three councillors. Under the existing arrangements, the number of electors per councillor in Cantril Farm and Page Moss wards is 29% below and 5% above the borough average initially (30% below and 4% above the borough average by 2006). The number of electors per councillor in Princess and Swanside wards is 19% below and 20% above the borough average initially (25% below and 28% above the borough average by 2006).

57 At Stage One, the Borough Council proposed combining the area known as Stockbridge Village with the unparished area of the Woolfall Heath Estate, currently in Princess ward. The remainder of the existing Princess ward would be combined with an area of the existing Page Moss ward (to the north of Western Avenue and west of Twig Lane) in a revised Page Moss ward. The remainder of Page Moss ward would be transferred into a new St Bartholemews ward. The Borough Council proposed retaining the majority of Swanside ward as a revised ward, transferring a small area (to the east of Windsor Road) into the proposed St Bartholemews ward.

58 At Stage One, the Liberal Democrats proposed combining the Knowsley Cantril Farm and Knowsley Park North (detached) parish wards with Knowsley Park parish ward in a revised Stockbridge ward. They proposed combining the entirety of the existing Princess ward with an area of the existing Page Moss ward in a revised Page Moss ward. They also proposed that the majority of the existing Swanside ward be retained, however proposed transferring those electors to the east of Windsor Road into a new St Bartholemews ward.

59 We received one further submission regarding these wards during Stage One. Borough Councillor Fisher proposed combining the existing Cantril Farm, Longview and Princess wards with the Knowsley Park North (detached) parish ward of Knowsley parish, in a new three-member ward, and combining Swanside and Roby in a single ward.

60 After carefully considering all representations received during Stage One regarding these wards, we adopted the Borough Council's proposals as part of our draft recommendations. We noted that there were elements of consensus between the Borough Council's and the Liberal Democrats' proposals in this area and that those proposals, in general, used readily identifiable boundaries. We acknowledged that combining the Stockbridge Estate with the Woolfall Heath Estate to the south of the River Alt was not ideal; however, we felt that this was necessary, both to facilitate a good scheme across the borough as a whole and as a consequence of our decision to retain the M57 as a strong boundary between the urban areas and the green belt land of Knowsley Park. We noted Councillor Fisher's proposal for two three-member wards for the unparished area of Huyton. However, under our recommended council size of 63, the wards were not feasible and consequently we did not adopt them as part of our draft recommendations.

61 Under our draft recommendations the number of electors per councillor in Page Moss, Stockbridge and Swanside wards would be 2% below, 7% above and 2% above the borough average initially (3% below, 2% above and 10% above the borough average by 2006).

62 We received only one representation regarding these wards during Stage Three. A local resident proposed combining the existing wards of Page Moss and Princess wards to create a revised Page Moss ward, and combining the existing Longview and Cantril Farm wards to create a revised Longview ward. However, as detailed previously, given our recommendation for a council size of 63, we cannot adopt the resident's proposed warding pattern for these wards

which are based on a council size of 33. Considering the general support for our draft recommendations received from the Borough Council at Stage Three, we intend confirming them as final for these wards.

63 Under our final recommendations, Stockbridge ward would comprise the revised Cantril Farm parish ward of Knowsley parish (to be renamed Knowsley Stockbridge parish ward) and an unparished area, and both Page Moss and Swanside wards would comprise unparished areas of Huyton. The number of electors per councillor in Page Moss, Stockbridge and Swanside wards would be the same as under our draft recommendations.

## Longview, Roby, St Gabriels and St Michaels wards

64 These four wards are also situated in the west of the borough in the unparished area of Huyton, and are each represented by three councillors. Under the existing arrangements, the number of electors per councillor in Longview and Roby wards is 20% below and 41% above the borough average initially (30% below and 39% above the borough average by 2006). The number of electors per councillor in St Gabriels and St Michaels wards is 10% and 15% below the borough average initially (13% and 16% below the borough average by 2006).

65 At Stage One, the Borough Council proposed transferring the Knowsley South parish ward of Knowsley parish into a revised Longview ward, as detailed previously. The revised Longview ward would also comprise part of the existing Longview ward, to the north of Salerno Drive. The Borough Council's proposed St Michaels ward would comprise that part of the existing Prescott West ward to the west of the M57, part of the existing St Gabriels ward (to the north of the railway line) and part of St Michaels ward (to the northwest of Huyton Lane, the northeast of Marshfield Close and the east of Knowsley Hey School).

66 The Borough Council's proposed St Gabriels ward would comprise the majority of the existing St Gabriels ward (less that area to the north of the railway line), an area of the existing Roby ward to the east of The Park, and the entirety of Tarbock parish.

67 The Borough Council proposed combining the majority of Roby ward (less the small area to the east of The Park) and an area of St Bartholemews ward (to the north of the railway line) in a revised Roby ward. The proposed St Bartholemews ward would therefore comprise part of the existing Swanside ward, the remaining area of Page Moss ward, part of Longview ward and part of St Michaels ward.

68 At Stage One, the Liberal Democrats' proposed wards for this area showed large amounts of consensus with the Borough Council's wards. They proposed transferring Knowsley Park South parish ward from the existing Knowsley Park ward into a revised Longview ward, which would therefore comprise the same area as the Borough Council's, minus those electors to the south of the northern part of Salerno Drive, who would be transferred into a new St Bartholemews ward. The Liberal Democrats' proposed St Michaels ward would comprise the same area as the Borough Council's proposed St Michaels ward.

69 The Liberal Democrats proposed combining the majority of the existing St Gabriels ward with a small area of the existing Roby ward and the area of Tarbock parish to the north of the M62 motorway, in a revised St Gabriels ward. Their proposed Roby ward would comprise the majority of the existing Roby ward and their proposed St Bartholemews ward would comprise the same area as the Borough Council's proposed ward, and an area of Longview ward.

70 We received two further submissions regarding these wards during Stage One. Borough Councillor Fisher proposed combining St Gabriels, St Michaels and Page Moss wards in a single three-member ward. Knowsley South Constituency Labour Party proposed that the area of Tarbock parish to the north of the M62 be in a borough ward with the St Gabriels area, and the

remaining area of Tarbock parish, to the south of the M62, be in a ward with the northern part of Halewood parish, in order to reflect better the two distinct communities within the parish.

71 Having carefully considered all representations received regarding these wards during Stage One, we noted that there were areas of consensus between the Borough Council's scheme and the Liberal Democrats' scheme for these wards. We adopted the Borough Council's proposals for Longview, Roby, St Bartholemews and St Michaels wards as part of our draft recommendations. However, we proposed an amendment to the Borough Council's proposals for St Gabriels ward. We noted the proposal from both the Liberal Democrats and Knowsley South Constituency Labour party to combine those electors to the north of the M62 in Tarbock parish, currently in Halewood East ward, with those electors currently in St Gabriels ward. We agreed that the resultant wards would better reflect the two different communities of Tarbock parish and therefore adopted this proposal as part of our draft recommendations.

72 Under our draft recommendations, the number of electors per councillor in Longview, Roby, St Bartholemews and St Michaels wards would be 15%, 10%, 5% and 4% above the borough average initially (3%, 8%, 3% and 4% above the borough average by 2006). The number of electors per councillor in St Gabriels ward would be equal to the borough average initially (1% below the borough average by 2006).

73 We received one submission regarding these wards during Stage Three. As detailed previously, a local resident proposed combining the existing Longview and Cantril Farm wards to create a revised Longview ward. He further proposed combining the existing Roby and Swanside wards in a revised Roby ward, and the existing St Gabriels and St Michaels ward in a revised St Gabriels ward. However, this warding pattern is not feasible under a council size of 63, as it would produce unacceptable levels of electoral equality. Given the general support received from the Borough Council regarding our draft recommendations for these wards, we intend confirming them as final.

74 Under our final recommendations, Longview ward would comprise the existing Knowsley Park South parish ward of Knowsley parish and an unparished area of Huyton, St Gabriels ward would comprise the proposed Tarbock North parish ward of Tarbock parish and an unparished area of Huyton, and Roby, St Bartholemews and St Michaels wards would comprise unparished areas of Huyton. The number of electors per councillor in Longview, Roby, St Bartholemews, St Gabriels and St Michaels wards would be the same as under our draft recommendations.

## Halewood East, Halewood South and Halewood West wards

75 These three wards are situated in the south of the borough and are each represented by three councillors. Halewood East ward comprises the Halewood East parish ward of Halewood parish and the entirety of Tarbock parish. Halewood South and Halewood West wards comprise the parish wards of the same names of Halewood parish. Under the existing arrangements, the number of electors per councillor in Halewood East, Halewood South and Halewood West wards is 55% above, 16% below and 13% below the borough average initially (63% above, 17% below and 8% below the borough average by 2006).

76 At Stage One, the Borough Council proposed transferring the entirety of Tarbock parish, currently in Halewood East ward, into a revised St Gabriels ward, as detailed previously. It further proposed revising the southern and western boundaries of Halewood East ward and renaming the ward as Halewood North ward. The proposed northern and eastern boundaries of the ward would be formed by the borough boundary and the parish boundary. The southern boundary would comprise the Liverpool to Widnes railway line, Baileys Lane, Leather's Lane, Northand Wood Road and Hollies Road, Church Road, Okell Drive, the track to the west of Okell Drive and finally the disused Liverpool Loop railway line to the borough boundary. That area to the west of the disused Liverpool Loop railway line and to the north of Lydiate Lane would therefore be transferred into a revised Halewood West ward, which would also comprise an area

of the existing Halewood South ward. The western boundary of Halewood North ward, detailed previously, would serve as the eastern boundary of Halewood West ward. The borough boundary would provide the western boundary of the ward, and the southern boundary would run along the Liverpool to Widnes railway line, south along Higher Road, northeast along Wood Road and north along Hollies Road to join the western boundary of Halewood North ward, detailed previously. The remaining area of Halewood parish would constitute the Borough Council's proposed Halewood South ward.

77 At Stage One, the Liberal Democrats also proposed three three-member wards for the Halewood area. As detailed previously, they proposed transferring the area of Tarbock parish to the north of the M62 motorway into a revised St Gabriels ward. The remaining area of Tarbock parish would be combined with the entirety of Cronton parish and areas of the existing Halewood East and Halewood South wards in a new Halewood North ward. The northern and eastern boundaries of the proposed Halewood North ward would be the M62 motorway and the borough boundary. The southern boundary would run along the Halewood/Tarbock parish boundary, then west along Cartbridge Lane, south along Church Road, southwest along the rear of the properties on Helston Avenue, Cranstock Close and Trispen Close before running south to meet the Liverpool to Manchester railway line. The boundary would then run west along the railway line to meet the disused Liverpool Loop railway line, north along this line to Lydiate Lane, and then west along Lydiate Lane to meet the borough boundary. This boundary would also form part of the eastern boundary of the proposed Halewood West ward. From the Liverpool to Manchester railway line, the boundary would run south along Hollies Road and Wood Road, southwest along Leather's Lane, New Hutte Lane and Holland Road to meet the Liverpool to Runcorn railway line, along which it would run west to the borough boundary. That area of Halewood parish remaining would form the Liberal Democrats' proposed Halewood South ward.

78 We received one further submission regarding this area during Stage One. Borough Councillor Fisher proposed combining the existing Halewood East, Halewood South and Halewood West wards in a new three-member Halewood ward.

79 Having carefully considered all submissions received during Stage One regarding these wards, and as a consequence of our recommendation to transfer those electors currently in Halewood East ward to the north of the M62 into the proposed St Gabriels ward, we departed from the Borough Council's proposals for the Halewood area. We noted that the Borough Council's proposed boundary between Halewood North and Halewood West wards would limit access to the Rainbow Drive/Fernwood Drive culs de sac and the area immediately to the east of these roads from the remainder of the proposed Halewood West ward. Having considered the Liberal Democrats' proposals, we were of the opinion that they would provide a better reflection of the Halewood community and therefore based our draft recommendations for this area on their proposals. However, as a consequence of our recommendations for a council size of 63 and in order to retain Cronton parish in Whiston South ward, it was necessary to amend the Liberal Democrats' proposals in Halewood in order to improve electoral equality in the area. We noted that the Borough Council proposed transferring the area to the north of Lydiate Lane and west of the disused Liverpool Loop railway line from Halewood East ward into Halewood West ward, and we agreed that this would better reflect the local community. Our proposed Halewood West ward therefore comprised the existing Halewood West ward, together with part of Halewood East ward (to the north of Lydiate Lane and to the west of the disused Liverpool Loop railway line). Our proposed Halewood South ward comprised the entire existing Halewood South ward, in addition to part of the existing Halewood East ward. That area of Halewood parish remaining was combined with the proposed Tarbock South parish ward of Tarbock parish in a new Halewood North ward. We were of the opinion that our proposals in this area struck a better balance between our statutory criteria than the existing arrangements or the proposals received during Stage One.

80 Under our draft recommendations, the number of electors per councillor in Halewood North, Halewood South and Halewood West wards would be 16% below, equal to and 1% below the borough average initially (8% below, 2% below and 3% above the borough average by 2006).

81 We received two representations regarding these wards during Stage Three. The Borough Council offered general support for our recommendations, but it corrected an anomaly in the electorate figures provided in Table 2 of our draft recommendations for Halewood South and Halewood West wards. Our final recommendations correct the electorate figures in Halewood South and Halewood West wards. Whilst we acknowledge that the levels of electoral equality deteriorate, we are content that they remain acceptable under our statutory criteria. A local resident proposed two new wards of Halewood North ward (comprising the existing Halewood West ward and part of Halewood East ward) and Halewood South ward (comprising Halewood South ward and part of Halewood East ward). In considering the representations received regarding these wards, we note that the resident's proposals for two wards representing Halewood are not feasible under a council size of 63. Therefore, given the general support offered by the Borough Council during Stage Three, we intend confirming our draft recommendations as final, subject to the correction of the electorate figures in Table 2.

82 Under our final recommendations, the number of electors per councillor in Halewood North ward would be the same as under our draft recommendations. The number of electors per councillor in Halewood South and Halewood West wards would be 6% above and 7% below the borough average initially (4% above and 3% below the borough average by 2006).

## Electoral cycle

83 Under section 7(3) of the Local Government Act 1972, all metropolitan boroughs have a system of elections by thirds.

## Conclusions

84 Having considered carefully all the representations and evidence received in response to our consultation report, we have decided substantially to endorse those draft recommendations, subject to the following amendments:

- we propose correcting the minor anomaly in the electorate figures for Halewood South and Halewood West wards;
- we propose renaming parish wards in Knowsley and Whiston parishes according to the parish and town councils' suggestions.

85 We conclude that, in Knowsley:

- there should be a reduction in council size from 66 to 63;
- there should be 21 wards, one fewer than at present;
- the boundaries of all of the existing wards should be modified.

86 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 electorate	
	Current arrangements	Final recommendations	Current arrangements	Final recommendations
Number of councillors	66	63	66	63
Number of wards	22	21	22	21
Average number of electors per councillor	1,671	1,751	1,687	1,767
Number of wards with a variance more than 10% from the average	14	3	16	0
Number of wards with a variance more than 20% from the average	5	0	8	0

87 As Table 4 shows, our recommendations would result in a reduction in the number of wards with an electoral variance of more than 10% from 14 to three. By 2006 no wards are forecast to have an electoral variance of more than 10%. We conclude that our recommendations would best meet the statutory criteria.

*Final recommendation*

Knowsley Borough Council should comprise 63 councillors serving 21 wards, as detailed and named in Tables 1 and 2, and illustrated on Map 2 and in Appendix A and the large maps.

## Parish and town council electoral arrangements

88 When reviewing parish electoral arrangements, we are required to comply as far as possible with the rules set out in Schedule 11 to the 1972 Act. The Schedule provides that if a parish is to be divided between different borough wards it must also be divided into parish wards, so that each parish ward lies wholly within a single ward of the borough. In our draft recommendations report we proposed consequential changes to the warding arrangements for Halewood, Knowsley, Prescot, Tarbock and Whiston parishes to reflect the proposed borough wards.

89 The parish of Halewood is currently served by 12 councillors representing three wards: Halewood East, Halewood West and Halewood South (each represented by four councillors). In our draft recommendations, we proposed modifying the existing parish ward boundaries in order to reflect our proposed borough wards. We further proposed renaming Halewood East parish ward as Halewood North parish ward, and retaining four councillors representing each parish ward.

90 During Stage Three, no representations were received regarding the parishing arrangements for Halewood. We therefore confirm the draft recommendation for warding Halewood parish as final.

*Final recommendation*

Halewood Town Council should comprise 12 councillors, as at present, representing three wards: Halewood North, Halewood South and Halewood West (each returning four councillors). The parish ward boundaries should reflect the proposed borough ward boundaries in the area, as illustrated and named on the large maps.

91 The parish of Knowsley is currently served by 16 councillors, representing three parish wards: Cantril Farm (returning eight councillors), Knowsley Park North and Knowsley Park South (each returning four councillors). Knowsley Park South parish ward is a detached ward, reflecting the existing Knowsley Park borough ward. In our draft recommendations, we modified the electoral arrangements within Knowsley parish in order that the existing Cantril Farm parish ward would include the detached area of Knowsley South parish ward (directly to its south-west) in our proposed Stockbridge ward. Having reviewed the electorate and current allocation of councillors in the parish, we proposed retaining the existing allocation of parish councillors.

92 We received one representation regarding the parishing arrangements for Knowsley parish during Stage Three. Knowsley Parish Council supported our draft recommendations, but proposed renaming Cantril Farm parish ward as Knowsley Stockbridge parish ward. We are content that this better reflects the community of this area and propose adopting it as part of our final recommendations. Subject to this amendment, we are confirming our draft recommendations for Knowsley parish as final.

*Final recommendation*

Knowsley Parish Council should comprise 16 councillors, as at present, representing three wards: Knowsley Park North, Knowsley Park South (each returning four councillors) and Knowsley Stockbridge (returning eight councillors). The boundaries between the parish wards should reflect the proposed borough ward boundaries and the existing parish ward boundaries, as illustrated and named on the large maps.

93 The parish of Prescott is currently served by 17 councillors, representing four parish wards: Prescott Central (returning three councillors), Prescott North East (returning four councillors), Prescott North West (returning four councillors) and Prescott South East (returning six councillors). In our draft recommendations for borough wards in this area, we modified the existing boundaries of Prescott North West and Prescott Central parish wards, and retained the existing boundaries of Prescott North East and Prescott South East parish wards (but renamed them Prescott East and Prescott South parish wards, respectively). Having reviewed the electorate and current allocation of councillors in the parish, we proposed altering the allocation of parish councillors between the wards. We therefore recommended that Prescott Central, Prescott East, Prescott North West and Prescott South parish wards return two, four, six and five councillors, respectively.

94 We received one representation regarding this parish during Stage Three. Prescott Town Council opposed our draft recommendations for its parish, preferring to have two self-contained borough wards for Prescott. However, as detailed previously in this report, this is not feasible without detrimental effects to the levels of electoral equality in both the Prescott wards and those neighbouring wards. We therefore proposed confirming our draft recommendations for Prescott parish as final.

*Final recommendation*

Prescot Town Council should comprise 17 parish councillors, as at present, representing four wards: Prescot Central (returning two councillors), Prescot East (returning four councillors), Prescot North West (returning six councillors) and Prescot South (returning five councillors). The boundaries between the parish wards should reflect the proposed borough ward boundaries and the existing parish ward boundaries in the area, as illustrated and named on the large maps.

95 The parish of Tarbock is currently served by eight councillors and is not warded. In our draft recommendations, we proposed creating two parish wards, Tarbock North and Tarbock South, in order to reflect the borough wards in the area. Having reviewed the electorate of the parish, we further proposed that Tarbock North parish ward be represented by seven councillors and Tarbock South parish ward be represented by one councillor.

96 During Stage Three, no representations were received regarding the parishing arrangements of Tarbock parish. We are therefore confirming our draft recommendations as final for this parish.

*Final recommendation*

Tarbock Parish Council should comprise eight councillors, as at present, representing two wards: Tarbock North (returning seven councillors) and Tarbock South (returning one councillor). The parish ward boundaries should reflect the proposed borough ward boundaries in the area, as illustrated and named on the large maps.

97 The parish of Whiston is currently served by 18 councillors, representing five wards: Whiston East (returning four councillors), Whiston North/Delph (returning three councillors), Whiston South East (returning five councillors), Whiston South West (returning two councillors) and Whiston West (returning four councillors). At Stage One, Whiston Town Council proposed reducing its membership to '14 or 15' councillors, in order that each councillor would represent 700 electors. The Council stated that it 'had found it very difficult to recruit sufficient people to sit on the Town Council' and that it was 'entitled to recruit the right calibre of person to become a town councillor'. The Council also stated that its parish ward names should 'reflect the specific locality' in which they are situated, but offered no particular suggestions for those names.

98 After carefully considering Whiston Town Council's proposals for a reduction in its membership, our draft recommendations for Whiston proposed a reduction in councillors to 14, in order to facilitate a good balance of representation. We proposed combining Whiston West parish ward with part of Whiston South West parish ward in a revised Whiston West parish ward, and combining the remainder of Whiston South West parish ward with Whiston South East parish ward in a revised Whiston South parish ward, in order to reflect our proposed borough ward boundaries in this area. After reviewing the electorate and current allocation of councillors in the parish, we further proposed altering the allocation of parish councillors between the wards. We recommended that Whiston East, Whiston North/Delph, Whiston South and Whiston West parish wards return two, three, six and three councillors respectively.

99 One representation was received during Stage Three in response to our draft recommendations for Whiston parish. Whiston Town Council supported our draft recommendations for its parish, but suggested revised parish ward names, which would better reflect the areas in the parish. Having considered the Town Council's proposals for new ward names, we are content that they better reflect the communities in the parish and intend adopting them as part of our final recommendations.

*Final recommendation*

Whiston Town Council should comprise 14 councillors, instead of the current 18, representing four wards: Whiston Delph (returning three councillors), Whiston Royal Oak (returning two councillors), Whiston Tushingham (returning three councillors) and Whiston Whitestone (returning six councillors). The parish ward boundaries should reflect the proposed borough ward boundaries and the existing parish ward boundaries in the area, as illustrated and named on the large maps.

*Map 2: Final recommendations for Knowsley*

## 6 What happens next?

100 Having completed our review of electoral arrangements in Knowsley 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).

101 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 6 May 2003, and The Electoral Commission will normally consider all written representations made to it by that date. It particularly welcomes any comments on the first draft of the Order in Appendix C, which will implement the new arrangements.

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

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

**Fax: 020 7271 0667**

**Email: [implementation@electoralcommission.org.uk](mailto:implementation@electoralcommission.org.uk)  
(This address should only be used for this purpose.)**



# Appendix A

## Final recommendations for Knowsley: Detailed mapping

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

**Map A1** illustrates, in outline form, the proposed ward boundaries within the borough and indicates the areas which are shown in more detail on the large maps.

The **large maps** illustrate the proposed warding arrangements for Knowsley.

*Map A1: Final recommendations for Knowsley: Key map*

# Appendix B

## Guide to interpreting the first draft of the electoral change Order

### **Preamble**

This describes the process by which the Order will be made, and under which powers. Text in square brackets will be removed if The Electoral Commission decide not to modify the Final recommendations.

### **Citation and commencement**

This establishes the name of the Order and when it will come into force.

### **Interpretation**

This defines terms that are used in the Order.

### **Wards of the borough of Knowsley**

This abolishes the existing wards, and defines the names and areas of the new wards, in conjunction with the map and the schedule.

### **Elections of the council of the borough of Knowsley**

This sets the date on which a whole council election will be held to implement the new wards, and the dates on which councillors will retire.

### **Wards of the parish of ...**

This describes how five parishes in Knowsley are being changed.

### **Maps**

This requires Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council to make a print of the map available for public inspection.

### **Electoral registers**

This requires the Council to adapt the electoral register to reflect the new wards.

### **Revocation**

This revokes the Order that defines the existing wards, with the exception of the articles that established the system of election by thirds.

### **Explanatory Note**

This explains the purpose of each article. Text in square brackets will be removed if The Electoral Commission decide not to modify the Final recommendations.



# Appendix C

## First draft of electoral change order

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### STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

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**2003 No.**

## **LOCAL GOVERNMENT, ENGLAND**

### **The Borough of Knowsley (Electoral Changes) Order 2003**

*Made* - - - - 2003

*Coming into force in accordance with article 1(2)*

Whereas the Boundary Committee for England(**a**), acting pursuant to section 15(4) of the Local Government Act 1992(**b**), has submitted to the Electoral Commission(**c**) recommendations dated March 2003 on its review of the borough(**d**) of Knowsley:

And whereas the Electoral Commission have decided to give effect [with modifications] to those recommendations:

And whereas a period of not less than six weeks has expired since the receipt of those recommendations:

Now, therefore, the Electoral Commission, in exercise of the powers conferred on them by sections 17(**e**) and 26(**f**) of the Local Government Act 1992, and of all other powers enabling them in that behalf, hereby make the following Order:

#### **Citation and commencement**

1. —(1) This Order may be cited as the Borough of Knowsley (Electoral Changes) Order 2003.
  - (2) This Order shall come into force –
    - (a) for the purpose of proceedings preliminary or relating to any election to be held on 6th May 2004, on 15th October 2003;
    - (b) for all other purposes, on 6th May 2004.

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**(a)** The Boundary Committee for England is a committee of the Electoral Commission, established by the Electoral Commission in accordance with section 14 of the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000 (c. 41). The Local Government Commission for England (Transfer of Functions) Order 2001 (S.I. 2001/3962) transferred to the Electoral Commission the functions of the Local Government Commission for England.

**(b)** 1992 c.19. This section has been amended by S.I. 2001/3962.

**(c)** The Electoral Commission was established by the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000 (c. 41). The functions of the Secretary of State, under sections 13 to 15 and 17 of the Local Government Act 1992, to the extent that they relate to electoral changes within the meaning of that Act, were transferred with modifications to the Electoral Commission on 1st April 2002 (S.I. 2001/3962).

**(d)** The metropolitan district of Knowsley has the status of a borough.

**(e)** This section has been amended by S.I. 2001/3962 and also otherwise in ways not relevant to this Order.

**(f)** This section has been amended by S.I. 2001/3962.

## **Interpretation**

2. In this Order –
- “borough” means the borough of Knowsley;
  - “existing”, in relation to a ward, means the ward as it exists on the date this Order is made;
- any reference to the map is a reference to the map marked “Map referred to in the Borough of Knowsley (Electoral Changes) Order 2003”, of which prints are available for inspection at –
- (a) the principal office of the Electoral Commission; and
  - (b) the offices of Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council; and
- any reference to a numbered sheet is a reference to the sheet of the map which bears that number.

## **Wards of the borough of Knowsley**

3. —(1) The existing wards of the borough **(a)** shall be abolished.
- (2) The borough shall be divided into twenty-one wards which shall bear the names set out in Schedule 1.
  - (3) Each ward shall comprise the area designated on the map by reference to the name of the ward and demarcated by red lines; and the number of councillors to be elected for each ward shall be three.
  - (4) Where a boundary is shown on the map as running along a road, railway line, footway, watercourse or similar geographical feature, it shall be treated as running along the centre line of the feature.

## **Elections of the council of the borough of Knowsley**

4. —(1) Elections of all councillors for all wards of the borough shall be held simultaneously on the ordinary day of election of councillors in 2004 **(b)(c)**.
- (2) The councillors holding office for any ward of the borough immediately before 10th May 2004 shall retire on that date and the newly elected councillors for those wards shall come into office on that date.
  - (3) Of the councillors elected in 2004 one shall retire in 2006, one in 2007 and one in 2008.
  - (4) Of the councillors elected in 2004 –
    - (a) the first to retire shall, subject to paragraphs (6) and (7), be the councillor elected by the smallest number of votes; and
    - (b) the second to retire shall, subject to those paragraphs, be the councillor elected by the next smallest number of votes.
  - (5) In the case of an equality of votes between any persons elected which makes it uncertain which of them is to retire in any year, the person to retire in that year shall be determined by lot.
  - (6) If an election of councillors for any ward is not contested, the person to retire in each year shall be determined by lot.
  - (7) Where under this article any question is to be determined by lot, the lot shall be drawn at the next practicable meeting of the council after the question has arisen and the drawing shall be conducted under the direction of the person presiding at the meeting.

## **Wards of the parish of Halewood**

5. —(1) The existing wards of the parish of Halewood shall be abolished.

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**(a)** See the Borough of Knowsley (Electoral Arrangements) Order 1980 (S.I. 1980/1402).

**(b)** Article 4 provides for a single election of all the councillors and for reversion to the system of election by thirds, as established by articles 8 and 9(10) of S.I. 1980/1402.

**(c)** For the ordinary day of election of councillors of local government areas, see section 37 of the Representation of the People Act 1983 (c.2), amended by section 18(2) of the Representation of the People Act 1985 (c.50) and section 17 of, and paragraphs 1 and 5 of Schedule 3 to, the Greater London Authority Act 1999 (c.29).

- (2) The parish shall be divided into three parish wards which shall bear the names Halewood North, Halewood South and Halewood West; the parish wards of Halewood South and Halewood West shall be coterminous with the borough wards of the same name, and the Halewood North parish ward shall consist of the rest of the parish.
- (3) The number of councillors to be elected for each parish ward shall be four.

#### **Wards of the parish of Knowsley**

6. —(1) The existing wards of the parish of Knowsley shall be abolished.
  - (2) The parish shall be divided into three parish wards which shall bear the names set out in column (1) of Schedule 2; each parish ward shall comprise the area of the borough ward specified in respect of the parish ward in column (2) of that Schedule, and the number of councillors to be elected for each parish ward shall be the number specified in respect of the parish ward in column (3) of that Schedule.

#### **Wards of the parish of Prescott**

7. —(1) The existing wards of the parish of Prescott shall be abolished.
  - (2) The parish shall be divided into four parish wards which shall bear the names Prescott Central, Prescott East, Prescott North West and Prescott South; and the wards shall comprise the areas designated on sheet 2 by reference to the name of the ward and demarcated by orange lines.
  - (3) The number of councillors to be elected for the Prescott North West parish ward shall be six, for the Prescott South parish ward shall be five, for the Prescott East parish ward shall be four and for the Prescott Central parish ward shall be two.

#### **Wards of the parish of Tarbock**

8. The parish of Tarbock shall be divided into two parish wards which shall bear the names set out in column (1) of Schedule 3; each parish ward shall comprise the area of the borough ward specified in respect of the parish ward in column (2) of that Schedule, and the number of councillors to be elected for each parish ward shall be the number specified in respect of the parish ward in column (3) of that Schedule.

#### **Wards of the parish of Whiston**

9. —(1) The existing wards of the parish of Whiston shall be abolished.
  - (2) The parish shall be divided into four parish wards which shall bear the names Whiston Delph, Whiston Royal Oak, Whiston Tushingham and Whiston Whitestone; and the wards shall comprise the areas designated on sheet 2 by reference to the name of the ward and demarcated by orange lines.
  - (3) The number of councillors to be elected for the Whiston Whitestone parish ward shall be six, for each of the Whiston Delph and the Whiston Tushingham parish wards shall be three and for the Whiston Royal Oak parish ward shall be two.

#### **Maps**

10. Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council shall make a print of the map marked “Map referred to in the Borough of Knowsley (Electoral Changes) Order 2003” available for inspection at its offices by any member of the public at any reasonable time.

### Electoral registers

11. The Electoral Registration Officer(**a**) for the borough shall make such rearrangement of, or adaptation of, the register of local government electors as may be necessary for the purposes of, and in consequence of, this Order.

### Revocation

12. The Borough of Knowsley (Electoral Arrangements) Order 1980(**b**) is revoked, save for articles 8 and 9(10).

Signed by the members of the Electoral Commission

Date *Pamela Gordon*  
Commissioner

Date *Glyn Mathias*  
Commissioner

Date *Neil McIntosh*  
Commissioner

Date *Karamjit Singh*  
Commissioner

Date *Sam Younger*  
Commissioner

Date *Graham Zellick*  
Commissioner

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**(a)** As to electoral registration officers and the register of local government electors, *see* sections 8 to 13 of the Representation of the People Act 1983 (c.2).  
**(b)** S.I. 1980/1402.

# SCHEDULE 1

article 3

## NAMES OF WARDS

Central
Cherryfield
Halewood North
Halewood South
Halewood West
Longview
Northwood
Page Moss
Park
Prescot East
Prescot West
Roby
St Bartholemews
St Gabriels
St Michaels
Shevington
Stockbridge
Swanside
Whiston North
Whiston South
Whitefield

## SCHEDULE 2

article 6

### WARDS OF THE PARISH OF KNOWSLEY

#### NAMES AND AREAS OF WARDS AND NUMBERS OF COUNCILLORS

<i>(1)</i> <i>Name of Ward</i>	<i>(2)</i> <i>Area of Ward</i>	<i>(3)</i> <i>Number of Councillors</i>
Knowsley Park North	So much of the borough ward of Prescott West as comprises the parish of Knowsley	4
Knowsley Park South	So much of the borough ward of Longview as comprises the parish of Knowsley	4
Knowsley Stockbridge	So much of the borough ward of Stockbridge as comprises the parish of Knowsley	8

## SCHEDULE 3

article 8

### WARDS OF THE PARISH OF TARBOCK

#### NAMES AND AREAS OF WARDS AND NUMBERS OF COUNCILLORS

<i>(1)</i> <i>Name of Ward</i>	<i>(2)</i> <i>Area of Ward</i>	<i>(3)</i> <i>Number of Councillors</i>
Tarbock North	So much of the borough ward of St Gabriels as comprises the parish of Tarbock	7
Tarbock South	So much of the borough ward of Halewood North as comprises the parish of Tarbock	1

## EXPLANATORY NOTE

*(This note is not part of the Order)*

This Order gives effect, [with modifications], to recommendations by the Boundary Committee for England, a committee of the Electoral Commission, for electoral changes in the borough of Knowsley.

The modifications are *indicate the modifications*.

The changes have effect in relation to local government elections to be held on and after 6th May 2004.

Article 3 abolishes the existing wards of the borough and provides for the creation of 21 new wards. That article and Schedule 1 also make provision for the names and areas of, and numbers of councillors for, the new wards.

Article 4 makes provision for a whole council election in 2004 and for reversion to the established system of election by thirds in subsequent years.

Articles 5 to 9 make electoral changes in the parishes of Halewood, Knowsley, Prescot, Tarbock and Whiston.

Article 11 obliges the Electoral Registration Officer to make any necessary amendments to the electoral register to reflect the new electoral arrangements.

Article 12 revokes the Borough of Knowsley (Electoral Arrangements) Order 1980, with the exception of articles 8 and 9(10).

The areas of the new borough and parish wards are demarcated on the map described in article 2. Prints of the map may be inspected at all reasonable times at the offices of Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council and at the principal office of the Electoral Commission at Trevelyan House, Great Peter Street, London SW1P 2HW.