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Dear Jessica

ELECTORAL REVIEW IN CHESHIRE WEST & CHESTER


Please find attached, my Council's proposal for Electoral Arrangements in Cheshire West & Chester.

The proposal was made by resolution of the Council at its meeting held on 23 July 2009.

The proposal document contains as Appendices, the electoral data proformas which the Boundary Committee requires.

Should you require any further information regarding this proposal, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely



David Owen
Policy Manager



Electoral Review of Cheshire West & Chester

**The proposed scheme for new electoral
arrangements submitted to the Boundary
Committee for England**

Cheshire West & Chester Council

July 2009

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Summary

The Council is making a proposal for electoral arrangements which will come into effect at elections to be held in May 2011.

The Council proposes that there should be;

- ✓ 75 Elected Members to serve on Cheshire West and Chester Council.
- ✓ 30 Wards: 15 represented by two Members in each and 15 represented by 3 Members in each.
- ✓ An average electoral ratio of 1 Member for every 3,401 electors in 2013.
- ✓ Variances from the average electoral ratio based on the electoral register of December 2008 from -17.93% to +14.67%.
- ✓ Variances from the average electoral ratio in 2013 ranging from -11.89% to +11.63%.
- ✓ 28 Wards having a variance from the average electoral ratio of less than 10% in 2013.
- ✓ Representation of all grouped parishes in single Wards.
- ✓ Minimum disruption of existing voting arrangements
- ✓ "Whole Council" elections

The Council's approach has been to tackle the issues of electoral equality and the reflection and representation of communities of common interest in a way which is equitable and will lead to effective and convenient local government.

In taking this approach, the Council has heeded the advice given by the Boundary Committee and all of those local people and organizations who have expressed a view on these electoral matters.

1.0 Introduction to the Electoral Review

- 1.1 In February 2008, Government approved a proposal to re-structure local government in Cheshire. The decision came into effect by the replacement of the Cheshire County Council and six district councils, by two new all-purpose “unitary” Councils just 13 over months later, on 1 April 2009. Cheshire West & Chester is the area previously administered by Chester City Council and the Borough Councils for Vale Royal, and Ellesmere Port & Neston. The functions of the former Cheshire County Council are divided geographically between Cheshire West & Chester, and Cheshire East.
- 1.2 Elections to the Cheshire West & Chester Shadow Council took place on 1 May 2008. The initial task for the Shadow Council was to prepare for the transition from “two-tier” local government to unitary local government. The Shadow Council became, however, the local authority for Cheshire West & Chester on 1 April, having been elected for the term lasting until the normal Election Day in May 2011.
- 1.3 The electoral arrangements for the Shadow Authority represented an adaptation of those for the (now former) Cheshire County Council. County electoral divisions were regarded as unitary wards and three members returned to the Council for each (in County Council elections, just one Member was returned for each electoral division). There being 24 electoral divisions covering the three former districts, this resulted in a Shadow Authority and subsequent Council of 72 elected members.
- 1.4 Cheshire County Council's electoral arrangements were made in 2000. It is appropriate however, early in the life of the new Council, to move to electoral arrangements specifically designed to meet the needs of this new type of local government in Cheshire; to ensure a Council that not only represents but also serves, people in Cheshire West & Chester effectively and efficiently.
- 1.5 This review creates the opportunity to ensure that Cheshire West & Chester Council's electoral arrangements will serve people well for the years to come.
- 1.6 The circumstances described above have arisen in similar fashion in Cheshire East and a review of electoral arrangements is taking place there. However, the two reviews are not mutually dependent. Whilst both reviews are subject to the same statutory provisions and guidance, finding a solution in Cheshire West & Chester is not constrained by approaches taken in Cheshire East and vice versa.
- 1.7 This description of the proposal made by Cheshire West & Chester Council is made for the Boundary Committee, in order that it may understand the Council's reasoning. It does however, have a wider audience; the residents, businesses, town and parish councils and other local organisations to which the Council is accountable.

2.0 The Electoral Review Process

- 2.1 The conclusion of the review process is the implementation of a Statutory Order for electoral arrangements. Depending on the course of a Bill now before Parliament, the order will be made either by the Electoral Commission or by Parliament. The work done to date on the review and that still to come will enable that Statutory Order to be formulated.
- 2.2 Although the review formally commenced on 24 February 2009, commencement was preceded by discussion between the then Shadow Council and the Boundary Committee, to ensure the effective and efficient conduct of the review.
- 2.3 The first phase of the review was to examine the number of Councillors which the new Council needs in order to discharge its statutory roles; through the Council as a whole, and through an Executive body and regulatory and scrutiny bodies.
- 2.4 The Boundary Committee called for the submission of proposals on Council size – the number of Councillors – and received 24 submissions including that from Cheshire West & Chester Council.
- 2.5 The Council's proposal for a new Council of 75 elected Members was formulated having regard to what might be reasonably considered to be the burdens placed on, and commitment required of, those who are elected to serve as Councillors on a unitary Council. In this, data from national surveys of Members of local authorities was used to provide a comparative check. Those considerations were set against the policy-making, regulatory and scrutiny structures identified by the Council as the appropriate way to manage local government services effectively, to safeguard the interests of people and businesses in Cheshire West & Chester and to give value for money.
- 2.6 Some of the other submissions received by the Boundary Committee supported the Council's view, some presented a different conclusion.
- 2.7 The Boundary Committee, in announcing the call for proposals on details of electoral arrangements, declared that it is minded to recommend that the Cheshire West & Chester Council consist of 75 elected Members. The present call for proposals then seeks ideas about the number and names of Wards, the boundaries of those Wards, and solutions to the impact of implementation of proposals on the electoral arrangements for Town and Parish Councils. Submissions on these matters are required by the Boundary Committee on or before 4 August 2009.
- 2.8 Upon receipt of proposals, the Boundary Committee will give consideration to them, having regard to the following;
 - the need to reflect the identities and interests of local communities
 - the need to secure effective and convenient local government
 - the need to secure equality of representation

This consideration will lead the Boundary Committee to publish its Draft Recommendations – in effect, the Boundary Committee's proposal for new electoral arrangements. Those recommendations may reflect the contents of one or more submissions made to it in their entirety or in modified form.

- 2.9 The Boundary Committee will consult with organisations and the public at large on the Draft Recommendations, considering the response arising from that consultation before deciding whether to confirm, modify or replace the Draft Recommendations in the Final Recommendations it makes. There will then be a final opportunity for public comment on the terms of a draft before an Order implementing changes to present electoral arrangements is made.

3.0 How the Cheshire West & Chester Council has formulated its proposal

3.1 The Council has formulated its proposal to the Boundary Committee having had regard to formal published guidance, to the advice of Boundary Committee members and staff, to available research evidence and to an examination of the area for which it is responsible and to which it is accountable. The Council appointed a Working Group of Members to consider the matters which arise in the Electoral Review. This Working Group consisted of;

Cllr Gareth Anderson
Cllr Brian Crowe
Cllr Hugo Deynem
Cllr Malcolm Gaskill
Cllr Pat Merrick
Cllr George Miller
Cllr Ralph Oultram

3.2 This membership consists therefore of three Councillors for Wards which lie in the former Vale Royal Borough and two each from the former Chester City and former Ellesmere Port and Neston Borough. These were the three constituent districts of Cheshire West & Chester.

3.3 The Working Group has five Members of the Council's Conservative Group and one each from the Labour and Liberal Democrat Groups.

3.4 The Working Group, in a series of meetings considered first, Council size, making recommendations to the Council's Executive which then, on 2 April 2009 made its own recommendation to full Council. It next considered the respective virtues of Single and Multi-Member wards before then considering the merits of a warding pattern of two-Member wards and one of three-Member wards. In consequence of this, the Group then considered how a mix of two- and three-Member wards might best be presented in a warding pattern which best reflects community identity, effective and convenient local government, and electoral equality.

3.5 Following its consideration of these matters in detail, the Group again made a recommendation to the Council's Executive which in turn made a recommendation to full Council on 23 July 2009. The Council's proposal was, in effect, therefore formulated by resolution on that date.

3.6 The Council's proposal is for the entirety of its area. In reaching it, the Member Working Group considered very many alternative solutions for individual parts of the area. It is in particular, the requirement to achieve, as near as practicable, electoral equality across the whole area that has limited the scope to present proposals for individual communities. For example, a large village may have too many electors to form a single-member ward within a reasonable tolerance of variation from the average electoral ratio;

but it may have too few electors for a two-member ward. Creating a single-member ward for part of the village and a two-member ward which combines the remainder of the village with other communities might divide community interests. Creating a two- or three-member ward by adding particular adjoining settlements may have consequences for the balance of community identity and electoral equality in other parts of the area.

- 3.7 This means that the Council has had to reject solutions which for some individual communities might have seemed to be “ideal”. The Council’s proposal represents, therefore, a compromise; what for the area as a whole is a “best fit”. The details of this are presented later in this report.
- 3.8 The Council has not had opportunity to consult extensively with local people upon the proposal it makes. Neither has the Council had the opportunity to present options to people for their comment. The Council has, however, been informed about perceived communities of interest by local people and organisations in the preparation of its proposal. In particular, parish councillors have, individually and collectively been of help to the Cheshire West & Chester Council in its formulation of a proposal. Parish Councils, other organisations and local citizens have, however, had an opportunity equal to that of the Council to submit their own proposals to the Boundary Committee.

4.0 Background Information - Cheshire West & Chester

4.1 Location

- 4.1.1 Cheshire West & Chester lies on the south western edge of England's North West region. It is an area of over 350 square miles (91,664 hectares). Whilst this is a smaller area than covered by 5 of the North West's district and unitary Councils it is larger than that covered by 33.
- 4.1.2 Cheshire West & Chester borders both Wales and the West Midlands. The northern part of the Council's area is close to the Manchester and Liverpool conurbations, both of which can be, and are, reached by daily commuters using the motorway and rail networks.
- 4.1.3 The location of the area, particularly with reference to those conurbations has direct significance for the Council in its administration of the area and service to its residents, inasmuch as the northern part of the Council's area lies within a statutory Green Belt which represents a major constraint on the strategic planning, the implementation of development proposals and the potential development of the economy.
- 4.1.4 On its succession to former authorities, Cheshire West & Chester was granted Borough status by Her Majesty the Queen.

4.2 Characteristics

- 4.2.1 This is a mixed area, including the substantial built-up areas of the city of Chester, and the towns of Ellesmere Port, Northwich and Winsford. There are smaller towns and large villages such as Neston, Frodsham, Helsby, Tarvin, Tarporley and Malpas, finally there are extensive rural areas dotted with small villages and hamlets.
- 4.2.2 Cheshire West & Chester is bounded to the north by the estuary of the River Mersey and to the west by the course of the River Dee. The rivers Weaver and Dane run through the eastern part of the Council's area, with their confluence at Northwich, the Weaver joining the Mersey at Frodsham.
- 4.2.3 Cheshire's sandstone ridge runs from north to south, much of its total length lying in Cheshire West & Chester. This, in places, forms a dominant landscape feature and is a focus for outdoor recreation for residents and visitors. The area contains Delamere Forest, the Wirral Country Park and Ness Gardens, again areas for outdoor recreation of local and regional significance.
- 4.2.4 The city of Chester is a major tourist destination for UK and international visitors, significant not only for its Roman history but also its modern-day shopping and race-going. From Chester Castle in the west to Beeston Castle in the east however, the whole area is steeped in the history of the British Isles.

- 4.2.5 The M6 motorway, running north to south clips the eastern edges of the area although access to it is at junctions lying just beyond our boundary. Nevertheless, it is important to the life of the area. The M56 runs from west to east across the northern part of the area, giving fast road access to Manchester whilst the M53, running through Ellesmere Port gives similarly fast access to Liverpool. The A55 passing to the south of Chester gives the principal access to North Wales, or perhaps more significantly for us, bring areas of North Wales into the realm of the Cheshire West & Chester economy.
- 4.2.6 The principal regional roads, A41, A51, A54, A56 A483, A540 and A556 which converge on Chester and A49 which runs from north to south through the centre of the area, are the main arteries for local traffic fed by a network of urban and rural roads through which community life courses.
- 4.2.7 The rail network's West Coast main line passes through the area with its Holyhead spur providing direct services from Chester to London. From stations at Acton Bridge, Hartford and Winsford, services between Liverpool and Crewe give connections to London-bound trains. From Chester, the Wirral Line gives local services to Liverpool with stations at Bache, Capenhurst and Hooton. The North Cheshire Line from Chester to Manchester has stations at Helsby and Frodsham whilst the Mid-Cheshire Line, also from Chester to Manchester has stations at Mouldsworth, Delamere, Cuddington Greenbank (Northwich), Northwich and Lostock Gralam. The rail services link Ellesmere Port with Liverpool and, via stations at Stanlow & Thornton and Ince & Elton, with Warrington.
- 4.2.8 The populations of Cheshire West & Chester's built-up areas are well-served by urban and inter-urban bus routes whilst for the population of the rural areas, bus travel is limited. This places increasing reliance on school transport services by young people living in the rural areas.

4.3 The Population

- 4.3.1 The population of Cheshire West & Chester stood at an estimated 328,100 in 2007. Excepting the combined district council populations in Lancashire and Cumbria, only Manchester, Liverpool and Cheshire East have larger populations in the North West region.
- 4.3.2 Given Cheshire West & Chester's mix of urban and rural areas, this gives an overall average density of 3.58 persons per hectare, comparable with Cheshire East, West Lancashire and the Wyre district of Lancashire. Localised population densities vary widely of course: density in some wards of the former constituent districts is less than 1 person per hectare whilst in the most densely-populated former ward there are 57 people per hectare. This variation in density presents the Council with a variety of policy and service delivery challenges and in the context of electoral review, raises some challenges to those embarked on a process of securing electoral arrangements which reflect both community interest and fairness to all electors.

- 4.3.3 Cheshire West & Chester Council has forecast that the area's total population will grow by almost 5% between 2009 and 2026, an increase of almost 16,000 people. Forecasting may be fraught with difficulty, requiring as it does, assumptions to be made about how demographic changes and migration may occur in the future, but these figures represent a mid-point between higher and lower forecasts in which different assumptions are made (having regard to what may reasonably be expected) about future change.
- 4.3.4 In July 2008 it was announced by the government that West Cheshire would be one of the 20 new housing Growth Points in England and one of six in the North West. Growth Points are part of the Government's initiative to provide three million more new homes by 2020. West Cheshire contains a diverse mix of potential housing sites across the four principal urban areas of Chester, Ellesmere Port, Winsford and Northwich. The approval of the growth point for West Cheshire comes with an expectation of delivering a much higher level of housing growth than has been achieved in the past and the development of a high proportion of brownfield sites in sustainable locations and high levels of affordable housing.
- 4.3.5 This growth initiative will have a medium- to long-term impact on the size of the Cheshire West & Chester population, but in the short term, it will be planning commitments already made which have the greater impact.
- 4.3.6 It is actually more difficult to make forecasts with confidence about smaller areas than about larger ones. For this reason, although there are projections of population change for each of the years to 2026 in Cheshire West & Chester as a whole, the Council has made forecasts of changes to individual Ward populations only to 2016. Whilst for Cheshire West & Chester the total population was expected to grow by just over 2% between 2006 and 2016, within that period the population of the Council's Central and Westminster was expected to be the fastest-growing, by 24%. In the Sutton & Manor ward a decrease in population of around 10% is the largest expected fall amongst the 13 of Cheshire West & Chester's 24 wards in which population is expected to decrease. Localised decreases reflect particular demographic characteristics coupled with expectations that there will be very little or no new housebuilding.
- 4.3.7 Amongst the total population, the number of people aged under 45 is expected to fall by around 3% (almost 7,000 people) between 2006 and 2016 whilst the number of those aged over 65 is expected to increase in the same period by 25%, a change amounting to about 14,000 people. Again, there will be localised variations. Some wards, particularly where considerable housebuilding is expected will see an increase in the number of under-45's whilst in the City ward, a decrease (albeit very slight) in the number of over 65's is expected.
- 4.3.8 These demographic changes have implications for reviews of electoral arrangements, particularly in that change in population does not affect all

parts of the Council's area equally. For this reason, electoral reviews consider the implications of population change over a five-year period from the commencement of a review. Making reliable forecasts of change for very small geographic areas beyond five years is particularly difficult.

- 4.3.9 Of course, not all of the population are electors; those aged under 18 form the largest group of those not entitled to vote at any particular election. Those residents who have not registered to vote are amongst others who would not be eligible to vote. The review considers the number of people eligible to vote rather than total population or those who actually do turn out on any particular voting day, in order properly to address the question of electoral equality, or fairness of arrangements. This subject is dealt with in more detail in the following sections of this explanation of the Council's proposal.

4.4 The Economy

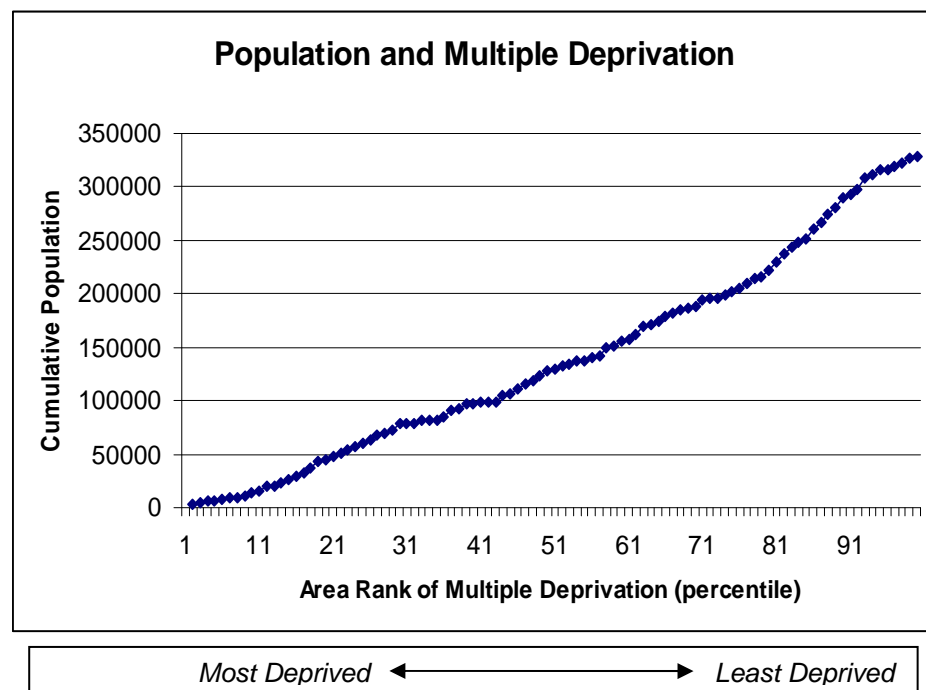
- 4.4.1 For Cheshire West & Chester, economic output, or GVA (Gross Value Added), per head was £16,000 in 2004, 1% below the UK (£16,200). Cheshire West and Chester's GVA growth has also been modest: for example, in the years 1999 – 2004, GVA rose by an average of only 1.4% a year in real terms, compared to higher rates for the North West (2.8%) and the UK (3.3%). This suggests that the reality of perceived advantage in Cheshire is outdated, with other areas of the country and region, partly reflecting national policy decisions to address inequalities in economic performance, have overtaken Cheshire.
- 4.4.2 In July 2008, there were 3,700 Cheshire West and Chester residents claiming JSA (Job Seekers Allowance), giving an unemployment rate of 1.9% (compared to 2.3% for Great Britain and 2.7% in the North West). By April 2009, the rate had risen to 3.6%, a stark reflection of the impact of the general economic downturn. At that time, 5% of unemployed people had been out of work for over a year. Unemployment varies throughout the area however; in a part of the Central & Westminster Ward in Ellesmere Port, the unemployment rate was 9%.
- 4.4.3 In 2006, 82% of Cheshire West & Chester's 150,000 workers worked in the service sector (similar to the Great Britain figure of 83%): 11% of employees worked in manufacturing (the same as Great Britain) and agricultural employment stood at 3,600. Over the previous five years, the stock of VAT registered businesses rose by 13.4%, exceeding the growth seen in the North West (10.5%) and the UK (9.4%). However, the area's business density (the number of businesses per 10,000 adults aged over 16 years) was below the UK average (369, compared to 399), reflecting the particularly low density in Ellesmere Port (240).
- 4.4.4 Incapacity and disablement can be a barrier to employment. In November 2008, 8% of Cheshire West & Chester's people of working age were in receipt of specific financial benefit payments for this, with 41% of the total

claimants receiving benefits for mental health conditions. Again, the Council's area does not show uniform characteristics: in part of Blacon in Chester, 30% of working age residents were receiving incapacity or disablement benefits.

- 4.4.5 In 2008 average household income in Cheshire West and Chester was about 4% above the average for Great Britain. There are variations again however, the lowest average income was in North Blacon (£25,900) whilst in Hartford & Kingsmead the average income was almost double, at £50,200.
- 4.4.6 The economic downturn of the last two years presents particular threats to the local economy: the importance of the car industry at Ellesmere Port and of the financial services sector at Chester are particular risks, but many established and new small businesses, encouraged to establish in recent years in the drive to diversify the rural economy face suppressed demand and constrained credit and cash flow.

4.5 Social Exclusion

- 4.5.1 Coupled with, but not entirely dependent on, the local economy and household income is social exclusion. One way in which this is depicted is the system of reporting the Index of Multiple Deprivation – a measure which assesses a number of different aspects of deprivation through a mosaic of over 32,000 small data area areas covering the whole of England. 211 of these make up the area of Cheshire West & Chester, and show a pattern of deprivation which ranges from low levels of deprivation in some areas to very high levels in others.



- 4.5.2 The diagram above shows about 50,000 residents live in the most deprived 20% of areas of England whilst around 75,000 live in the least deprived 20%.
- 4.5.3 Deprivation takes different forms. For example, the area in Cheshire West & Chester which shows the greatest level of deprivation as measured in terms of income, and health and disability, is only the 88th most deprived (out of 211) when measured for access to housing and services. Being part of an urban area, housing is plentiful and of low price, whilst services are close at hand. Meanwhile, the rural area in which barriers to housing and services are greatest ranks as 102nd in the list of Cheshire West & Chester areas for deprivation as a result of crime.
- 4.5.4 This diverse pattern of deprivation means that there are social, economic and environmental issues to be addressed by the Council in all parts of its area. This challenges the view that people living in some areas are deprived whilst people living in other areas present no case for service delivery or public investment. That there are different forms of deprivation to be addressed presents challenges to the Council in prioritising the use of its resources. The risk of adverse impact of prioritisation can be reduced if service delivery decisions are more tailored to the individual needs of particular communities than if more simple choices about uniform services and standards are offered. It calls for Councillors who understand the needs of their community and can argue the case for addressing those needs.
- 4.5.5 This is addressed by Cheshire West and Chester in its approach to area working, described in later paragraphs.

4.6 Social Cohesion

- 4.6.1 Social cohesion is often described in terms of characteristics of people living in an area, and this is done for Cheshire West & Chester in later paragraphs. It is perhaps best described however, in terms of how people feel about their life within the communities which surround them and in which they play a greater or lesser part.
- 4.6.2 The Place Survey of 2008 asked people about their feelings about the area in which they live. Some of their responses are summarized below.

% who believe that people from different backgrounds get on well together in their local area	77
% who feel that they belong to their neighbourhood	57.9
% involved in civic participation in the local area	13.3
% who feel they can influence decisions in their locality.	26.9
% satisfied with local area	83
% participating in regular volunteering	23.7
% with a high level of perceived anti-social behaviour	20.3
% agreeing that the police and other local public services are successfully dealing anti-social behaviour and crime issues in your local area (includes Don't Knows (DKs))	26.7

% of people that agree that in their local area, parents take enough responsibility for the behaviour of their children	32
% who perceive people not treating one another with respect and consideration to be a problem in their area (excludes DKs – new instruction)	30.7
% agreeing that the police and local council seek people’s views about the anti-social behaviour and crime issues that matter in this area (includes DKs)	24.3
% very or fairly well informed about what to do in the event of a large-scale emergency (includes DKs)	12.5
% stating a very big or fairly big problem with people being drunk or rowdy in public places	30.3
% stating a very big or fairly big problem with people using or dealing drugs	32.7
% reporting that their health status is ‘very good’ or ‘good’	78.8
% of people aged 65+ satisfied with both home and area	87.2
% stating ‘yes’ that older people locally receive the support they need to live independently at home as long as possible (includes DKs)	32.2
% stating ‘all of the time’ or ‘most of the time’ that they have been treated with respect and consideration by local public services.	75.4

4.6.3 It is the intention of Cheshire West & Chester Council to improve all of these measures, and therefore the Council’s intention to secure electoral arrangements which foster improvement in the views represented above is inherent in this proposal.

4.6.4 Statistics show that in 2001, 96.5% of Cheshire West and Chester residents classified themselves as being White British. A further 2% were of white Irish or other white backgrounds. This means that just over 4,800 people had one of a wide range of other ethnic backgrounds; many of these people found themselves in a tiny ethnic minority of the community in which they live. This can, but doesn’t necessarily, lead to a sense of isolation, even when living amongst a large and active community. It presents a challenge to elected Members who seek to serve everyone in the communities they represent: that of knowing and understanding the needs and circumstances of their electorate. Essentially, this means that any reference to a non-white community is an over-simplification; there are numerous communities formed by reference to ethnic origin, social characteristics or geographic distribution.

4.6.5 99% of those professing a religion at the time of the 2001 census declared themselves to be Christian. Religious conviction can influence the services people access, the way in which they access them and their requirements of service providers. Addressing the needs of the whole community often requires particular knowledge and skills on the part of elected Members, especially to ensure that the needs of tiny minorities are not “lost” in services designed for a community in which people display majority tendencies or characteristics.

4.6.6 A large number of people in Cheshire West & Chester’s area, almost 35,000, were unpaid carers in 2001. This number may well have grown as the population has aged since the last Census was conducted. Amongst these carers are young children and older people who themselves need care. Elected Members can play a major role in connecting people with the

support they need as carers, but again, a wide range of care needs will mean that no single approach or understanding of needs will suffice.

5.0 Existing Electoral Arrangements

5.1 Current Electorate

- 5.1.1 At 1 December 2008, there were 251,270 registered electors in Cheshire West & Chester. This figure excluded over a thousand students attending Chester University who would normally be registered but were not on the register for that day. December 1 was chosen as the day for measurement however, because this is the relevant date for national data: the Council wished the basis for the review to be consistent with that national data which other organisations and members of the public could verify for themselves.
- 5.1.2 The electoral register is presented by Polling Districts. These are physical areas designed to facilitate the administration and conduct of elections. For each polling district there must be a place where people can vote, which should, by preference be located within the polling district. Polling districts must not cross ward boundaries or parish boundaries, so for many parishes, there is a single polling district covering a whole parish, and only the parish. There is no minimum or maximum size for a polling district, although the requirement that councils should arrange elections which are convenient and effective for electors places practical limits on the size. There are currently 295 Polling Districts and at 1 December 2008, ranged from zero electors to 3,847. The average size was 852 electors.
- 5.1.3 151 polling districts equate to a parish. 63 are in the 15 parishes where there is more than one polling district. This leaves 81 polling districts for the unparished areas.
- 5.1.4 There is no requirement in an electoral review to leave existing polling district boundaries intact, and so a polling district boundary can be divided, amended or created, provided that all parts of the Council's area will in future lie within a polling district.

5.2 Current Electoral Arrangements

- 5.2.1 The division of existing Wards into polling districts and the distribution of electors in Cheshire West & Chester is shown at Appendix 1.
- 5.2.2 December 2008's electors are divided between 24 Cheshire West & Chester wards, with three elected members each. This equates to an average of 3,490 electors for each Councillor, or 10,470 electors for a three-Member ward. The electoral geography of the area is not so clinically structured that all Wards have equal numbers of electors however. The table below illustrates this by reference to the variance from the average of the actual electoral ratio for each Ward.

<i>Ward</i>	<i>Variance from average ratio of electors to members.</i>
Abbey	-5.33%
Blacon	-13.99%
Boughton Heath and Vicars	
Cross	1.84%
Broxton	-10.05%
Central & Westminster	-0.17%
City	-10.17%
Eddisbury	-7.86%
Frodsham & Helsby	6.23%
Gowy	6.46%
Grange & Rossmore	1.70%
Groves & Whitby	-0.49%
Hoole & Newton	-10.45%
Ledsham & Willaston	-11.73%
Marbury	7.22%
Mickle Trafford	1.15%
Neston & Parkgate	12.72%
Northwich East & Shakerley	1.43%
Northwich West	22.47%
Overleigh	3.38%
Sutton & Manor	-1.16%
Upton	-4.99%
Weaver	-2.49%
Winsford North & East	10.78%
Winsford South & West	3.39%

5.2.3 Some wards have close to the average number of electors, but others, Northwich West and Blacon in particular are quite a long way from that average, having “too many” or “too few” electors. This suggests a need for change in order that electoral ratios may be more nearly normalised.

5.2.4 Cheshire West & Chester elects all of its Councillors at the same time, a process known as “whole-Council” elections. In 2008, the Council’s current Members were elected as a “Shadow” Council, to facilitate the transition of former Councils to the Cheshire West & Chester “Unitary” Council. Whilst generally, the term for local government membership is four years, because of the transitional nature of the Council, the next whole-council election is due in 2011. Whole-Council elections will continue.

5.3 Electorate forecasts

5.3.1 It is important that those conducting an electoral review commence their work with an understanding of where the current electors are. That is why

we have a base point; ours is 1 December 2008. However, that base register changes. With continuing (“rolling”) registration, it could change daily. For that reason, reviewers are required to think about current and future changes in the numbers of electors. Of course, being concerned with the future requires a degree of forecasting, often for quite small areas. The difficulty of preparing long-term forecasts for very localised areas has been described in earlier paragraphs. The requirement for electoral reviews is, therefore that a forecast of change be made for the period of five years from the base date. Changes to the size and distribution of the electorate will not cease after five years of course and electoral reviews come round less frequently than at five-year intervals. A forecast period of five years represents, therefore a compromise between the requirement of reviews to deal with known facts, and to provide stable electoral arrangements over a period of, perhaps fifteen or more years.

- 5.3.2 Our forecasts show that whilst the electorate in Cheshire West & Chester was 251,270 in December 2008, by 2013 it will be 255,070. Not all of this increase represents demographic growth or migration. We would normally expect the electoral register to include over 1,000 students of the University of Chester. Those students were missing from the register for 1 December 2008 but our forecasts assume that a similar number of students will have been restored to the register for 2013.
- 5.3.3 In some areas, the forecast change is considerable. This is where there will be new housing developments giving accommodation to electors. The restoration of students to the voter numbers will also be concentrated on the location of student accommodation.
- 5.3.4 In other areas, forecast change will be for little growth, or even a decrease. This represents the expected absence of new housing development coupled with an expected continuation in the decrease in average household size and therefore number of electors a fixed number of houses may be expected to accommodate.
- 5.3.5 The methodology used in forecasting the electorate is described in detail in Appendix 3. The result of applying this methodology is shown for each current and proposed polling district in Appendices 1 and 4.

5.4 Local Councils.

- 5.4.1 Whilst the new system of local government in Cheshire is termed a “unitary” system, it remains the case that the most localised representative bodies in local government are town and parish councils and meetings.
- 5.4.2 There are 166 parishes in Cheshire West and Chester. There is a new parish council to be created at Kingsmead, currently part of Davenham Parish. This area was the subject of a local governance review in 2008/09 at which the decision to create a new parish was taken, but the review will not take effect until 2011 when electors will vote for the first time in elections for Kingsmead Parish Council. It will take the total to 167.

- 5.4.3 There are 89 parish and town councils. Twenty of them are joint councils, that is a single parish council covering several parishes, with people in those parishes electing a given number of parish councillors for each. In total, 64 parishes are represented in these joint councils.
- 5.4.4 For twelve parishes there is no council, but meetings (at least two per year) of parish residents at which collective decisions are taken, whilst an appointed meeting chairman and clerk or secretary acts throughout the year and can make decisions or act in an administrative capacity on behalf of the parish. These arrangements tend to prevail in small parishes such that the average electorate in the parishes with a parish meeting is 88, although the parishes range in size from 24 electors to 162.
- 5.4.5 Nineteen parishes do not even have a parish meeting. Their average size is 30 electors but the range is from 3 to 85. This means that some parishes without parish meetings are larger than some with.
- 5.4.6 Two parishes, Claverton and Chester Castle, have no registered electors at all.
- 5.4.7 Eleven parishes are warded, including the towns of Northwich, Winsford, Frodsham and Neston. Some warded parishes are large villages and some smaller parishes warded at previous electoral reviews as a consequence of setting the boundaries of the Wards of the former district councils.
- 5.4.8 There is a total of 856 seats on local councils, representing an enormous collective commitment to civic activity on the part of town and parish councillors.
- 5.4.9 Parished areas cover only 63% of the electorate. The remaining 37% live in unparished parts of the city of Chester and of the former Ellesmere Port & Neston Borough.
- 5.4.10 The details of parishing are tabulated in Appendix 2 of this document.
- 5.4.11 Parish boundaries cannot be altered in an electoral review. Warding arrangements for Town and Parish Councils can be introduced or varied as part of a review however. This is generally done where there are changes to principal authority wards requiring equivalent parish changes in order to maintain electoral clarity, efficiency and consistency.

6.0 The Size of the Council

- 6.1 The Size of the Council, means the number of Councillors. There are currently 72 Cheshire West and Chester Councillors, this having been determined at the time of submission of the initial proposal for the reorganisation of local government. It stems from a broad assessment of the elected manpower needed in order to create and establish the new Council, coupled with the simple multiplication by three of the 24 electoral divisions of the former County Council which lie in Cheshire West & Chester.
- 6.2 The Boundary Committee has canvassed views about the appropriate future size of the Council. After considering submissions made to it, the Committee concluded that in the future, there should be 75 Cheshire West & Chester Council Members. This confirms that the initial proposal for reorganisation included a broadly accurate assessment of the needs of a new unitary Council.
- 6.3 The increase of Council Size from 72 to 75 in itself requires a review of electoral arrangements.

7.0 Principles followed by the Council in its proposal for Electoral Review

7.1 Electoral Equality

- 7.1.1 Work to prepare proposals for new electoral divisions was based firmly on the criteria and approach defined by the Boundary Committee in its publication "Electoral Reviews - Technical guidance" (February 2008) and given directly to Members and managers of the Council by the Chairman and staff of the Boundary Committee in February 2009.
- 7.1.2 The principle that a vote should have equal impact throughout the Council's area is reaffirmed and is the starting point in any review. This principle is translated into a ratio between the number of electors and the number of Councillors.
- 7.1.3 In Cheshire West & Chester, dividing the 251,270 electors at 1 December 2008 by 75 (the number of Councillors which the Boundary Committee concludes is appropriate) gives a ratio of one Elected Member for every 3,350 electors. By 2013, this ratio would increase to 1:3,401. Although its starting point was an effort to achieve numerical equality rather than to define wards within a range of variances, as a rule of thumb, the Council tested the acceptability of options for configured Wards by reference to a former tolerance of 10%.
- 7.1.4 In practice the Council's proposal would leave all wards with a variance from the average of less than 12%.

7.2 Parishes

- 7.2.1 Cheshire West & Chester is largely parished, the exceptions being most of the built-up city of Chester and the former Ellesmere Port & Neston Borough, excepting Neston town in the west of that area and Ince parish in the east.
- 7.2.2 Parish Councils and Meetings represent the most local level of elected local government, and their councils play a significant part in the lives of their communities. They were therefore taken to be useful building blocks for preparing schemes for new wards in parished areas. There is, in addition, a variety of practical reasons; the administration of parish elections, normally held on the same day as Cheshire West & Chester elections, will be simplified if parishes "nest" in Wards. Similar nesting allows for the best compilation of the electoral register, and future data collection, analysis and mapping will be facilitated, allowing best measurement of quality of life factors and performance management by service providers. However, the boundaries of many parishes also relate very well to the area of influence of a village or group of villages and therefore reflect living communities.

- 7.2.3 Our contact with parish councils suggests to us that situations in which their parish was divided by ward boundaries are less desirable than is the inclusion of parishes in their entirety within a single ward. In the case of the majority of town councils, their larger population will require more than one Cheshire West & Chester Ward.
- 7.2.4 One consequence of dividing a parish between two or more Cheshire West & Chester Ward boundaries is that the parish then has to be warded for the purpose of parish council elections even though this may not be appropriate having regard to the nature of the community and the issues which arise. In Northwich and Winsford, warding to match Cheshire West & Chester Ward boundaries is inevitable but the Council has chosen to restrict to just those towns, the need for parish warding to accommodate its proposal. Of course, some parishes councils prefer parish warding and where this is the case, Cheshire West and Chester Council would not demur, believing that some self-determination at the parish level on that matter is appropriate.
- 7.2.5 For parish councils one important element of effective and convenient local government is a direct relationship with the Councillor or Councillors representing the area on higher level authorities. The electoral review can help to keep this relationship straightforward and effective.
- 7.2.6 In some cases electorate numbers mean that some rural parishes have too many residents to have one Councillor but too few to justify two and so division or combination with other areas is unavoidable. In these cases, Cheshire West & Chester Council has taken the view that it is better to aggregate parishes in multi-member wards rather than to divide them. The Council's advice to the Boundary Committee is clear; that it is important, wherever possible, to preserve the integrity of parishes for electoral purposes.
- 7.2.7 A further consideration arises; the case of joint parish councils, where a single Council serves two or more parishes, with each constituting in effect, a ward of the joint parish council. In these joint parish councils, electors vote only for representatives of their parish, but those elected representatives serve alongside those returned from the other parishes in the group. The Cheshire West & Chester Council proposal keeps all such groups intact within proposed wards.

7.3 Community Identity

- 7.3.1 Cheshire West & Chester Councillors have considered which neighbouring communities relate well to each other and those which relate less well. Communities which would have to "share" a councillor with others should be grouped together in ways which reflect their common interests as closely as possible. Councillors have done this on the basis of their own knowledge of their areas and communities, and with reference to the ongoing dialogue which they have with town and parish councils and other local organisations. Indeed, Councillors for the unparished urban areas in

Chester and Ellesmere Port have made broadly similar considerations of community identity in those areas.

- 7.3.2 Elements which reflect commonality of interests include school catchment, the role of larger villages as shopping, leisure and service centres for a surrounding rural area, ecclesiastical ties and burial arrangements. In some cases, the commonality of interest rests in transport network and service provisions or in the impact of land use development pressures or planning policies. Some communities, often through their parish councils, work together on projects, including regeneration or landscape initiatives.
- 7.3.3 In formulating its proposal, Cheshire West & Chester Council has taken the view that it is preferable for communities of interest, wherever possible to be represented in a single ward and that it is also preferable to accommodate in a ward, more than one community of interest than to divide a community of interest. The attention to be given to electoral equality has an impact on the capacity to reflect faithfully this principle throughout the entire area, but it remains, nevertheless, a guide to the understanding of the Council's proposal.
- 7.3.4 In descriptions of each proposed Ward which appear in later paragraphs, the particular community interest considerations made by the Council are explained.

7.4 Urban and rural areas

- 7.4.1 Earlier paragraphs have described Cheshire West & Chester as a mixed area; of extensive built-up areas of the city of Chester and the other towns, and extensive tracts of rural area where community life is focused on smaller villages, but also where significant numbers of people live in relatively remote locations.
- 7.4.2 Urban and rural areas, and indeed suburban peripheries, face some distinct issues but also share some issues. This means that Cheshire West & Chester Councillors have had to consider, in formulating a warding proposal, whether wards should be wholly urban and wholly rural, or whether it is appropriate to combine urban and rural areas together in some wards.
- 7.4.3 The arguments in favour of wholly urban/wholly rural wards centre largely on the perceived expectation which people have of the way in which elected Members will focus their attention on the issues which arise in the ward. It has been expressed that in wards which are wholly urban or wholly rural, the issues which face those who live in the ward will be obvious, and the understanding of them shared by all. It has been suggested that in a mixed ward, the electorate in urban parts will outweigh, both numerically and in terms of influence, the collective strength of the rural electors. It has also been suggested that in mixed wards, those Councillors returned at elections are more likely to be "urban" councillors, lacking in knowledge of rural issues.

- 7.4.4 There is no available evidence to support or disprove any assertions on these matters. Nevertheless, the Council has endeavoured to formulate a proposal in which electors in all parts of the area can have confidence. In resolving this issue, Councillors have had regard to two considerations; community of interest and the maintenance of electoral balance.
- 7.4.5 The Council's starting point has been to formulate a proposal constituting "urban" and "rural" wards. This endeavour threw up some anomalies however. The first concerns the physical distribution of the population in some parishes which lie adjacent to towns: in some parishes, the population, or the greater part of it live in housing developments which are contiguous with those of the town alongside which the parish lies. In some cases, a parish may have no community of interest, save that of mere rurality, with those others with which it must necessarily be grouped in a proposal founded exclusively on wholly urban/wholly rural wards. In other cases, a suburban community may not be identified as a "perfect" fit with a wholly urban or wholly rural Ward; it may have more in common with other communities that "feed" a nearby urban economy.
- 7.4.6 The impact of these considerations on the proposal is explained in the descriptions of the proposal for individual wards which appear in later paragraphs.
- 7.4.7 There is however, a further consideration arising from the character of areas as urban or rural. It is argued that it is more time consuming to represent a rural area, where population density is very low, than an urban area. It is commonly said by Councillors in urban areas that it is relatively easy to "walk down every street in the Ward in a day", something that cannot be done in an extensive rural area.
- 7.4.8 In rural wards, there will be a considerable number of parish councils whilst for urban areas, there is likely to be a single Town Council, or no local council at all. There may be other community organisations in urban areas, such as Residents', Community or Neighbourhood Associations but not necessarily fewer such bodies in rural wards. Whilst all Cheshire West and Chester Councillors will wish to maintain close relationships with the most local level of local government and with other organisations based in communities, there may be greater demands on his or her time in this respect when serving for a rural ward.

7.5 Administrative Considerations

- 7.5.1 The former district council areas no longer have particular administrative significance. Current electoral wards, replicating former County Council electoral divisions were compiled however, with reference to the boundaries of former districts, the Wards of which "nested" in electoral divisions. The present review provides an opportunity to make some suggestions for Wards which cross former district boundaries where linkages between communities seem close or where there are common physical features.

- 7.5.2 In formulating proposals, the Council's Member Working Group had regard to polling districts as building blocks from which to identify new Wards. There were a number of advantages to this approach. In rural areas, most parishes equate with a single polling district, and parish boundaries cannot be altered by the review. Polling districts are identified with polling places, such as schools, community halls, etc. Electors, particularly those resident for a long period are familiar with their polling place and this aids turnout at elections. Finally, former district councils reviewed their polling places in recent years, identifying the accessibility of individual buildings, promoting elections in which disabled people could most easily take part.
- 7.5.3 There is a real advantage to retaining polling districts where possible. This is because the review will not be completed until summer 2010, with a new electoral register to be constructed in the autumn next year. New polling districts will require the identification, assessment and selection of new polling places and a programme of communication with electors to tell them about their new polling places. With elections due in May 2011, the retention of polling districts and associated polling places will facilitate the work of promoting electoral participation.
- 7.5.4 It would be possible to devise an arrangement of Wards based entirely on current polling districts which, in terms of electoral equality, would satisfy the review. However, in the area's towns, some polling districts created to reflect the provisions of past electoral reviews no longer provide a best representation of communities of common interest. In some cases therefore, changes to polling districts would be required in order to implement the Council's proposal. Notwithstanding this, it was also possible to improve electoral equality, without compromising community identity, by proposing ward boundaries which also infer a change in polling district boundaries.
- 7.5.5 Whilst no particular account has been taken of the boundaries of existing wards, it is acknowledged that, where the numbers allow, there are in some cases, benefits in continuity for both councillors and electors. Some of the divisions proposed are, therefore, the same as or very similar to existing wards.
- 7.5.6 Parish council external boundaries can not be changed as part of the current review but there is an opportunity to change parish warding arrangements; either to create parish wards or to remove them. Whilst accepting that changes in Cheshire West & Chester Ward boundaries may lead to inevitable consequential changes to existing town Ward boundaries in Northwich, Winsford, and Neston, the Council believes that in respect of changes beyond this consequential requirement, the opinions of parish councils should be paramount. Cheshire West and Chester Council therefore makes no proposal in this submission for the creation or removal of parish or town wards.

7.6 Area Working

- 7.6.1 Cheshire West and Chester Council has formulated an approach to the management of services and the implementation of its own, and the community's, strategic policy priorities in its area working arrangements.
- 7.6.2 Area Working can deliver public services to tackle the issues that most concern residents at a local level. The Council's approach aims to ensure that local residents are at the heart of decision-making and service delivery and have a variety of opportunities to influence the shaping of strategic priorities, plans and policies.
- 7.6.3 In order to develop and implement effective area and neighbourhood working across Cheshire West and Chester, five geographic area working boundaries have been established;
- Ellesmere Port
 - Chester City
 - Winsford and Rural East
 - Northwich and Rural North
 - Rural West
- 7.6.4 These areas have been defined by reference to the national system for information geography. Middle Layer Super Output Areas (MLSOAs) have been defined by the Office for National Statistics as areas, with a minimum population of 5,000 and having common characteristics, as measured by Census data. These areas are now used as the basis of much data collection, analysis and reporting, to inform policy-making in order that policy may be developed which addresses quality of life issues.
- 7.6.5 The value of this approach to defining information geography is that it allows more genuine comparison of areas than can be achieved by reliance on information compiled according to administrative geography.
- 7.6.6 The boundaries of MLSOAs are not expected to change in the short term, and any change will be a consequence of changing census geography, not electoral review. The present review of Cheshire West & Chester's electoral arrangements does not therefore raise a direct requirement to change the boundaries of the five areas adopted for area working.
- 7.6.7 The Council is eager that its Members serve as "Community Champions" for their wards and their electorate. This is to be facilitated in a number of ways through the interactions which Members have with their electors and with the Council's partners in the provision of public services. The Local Strategic Partnership, its Thematic Boards, its Local Area Partnership Boards and Community Forums provide the mechanism for this. It is a structure designed to ensure that the priorities for the delivery of public services reflect the needs of communities in the quite different and distinct parts of Cheshire West & Chester. It also will enable the development of approaches and practices of service delivery which are appropriate to the needs and circumstances of service users and communities.

7.6.8 Community Forums have been established to increase resident involvement and engagement in the identification and delivery of improved services and outcomes for the local community. Their key purpose is to;

- Promote the role of Members in their role as Community Champions.
- Provide the first response to local petitions.
- Provide the duty to promote democracy.
- Engage the local community to identify needs and priorities to inform policy development and improvements to the delivery of local services.
- Raise community concerns to relevant bodies, for example Council Executive, Partner Agencies, and the Local Strategic Partnership.
- Decide on an appropriate approach reflecting the style of the Forum to ensure that improvements are delivered, eg, a plan or a log.

7.6.9 There are currently 14 Community Forums across the Borough which are either co-terminus with an individual ward or shared across 2 wards, eg, Gowy and Eddisbury share one Forum. Being based on Ward boundaries, electoral review does mean that the boundaries of areas covered by each of these Community Forums will change, but it is not expected that any such change will jeopardise the future value of the Forums either to the communities they embrace or to the Council.

7.6.10 Each Cheshire West & Chester Councillor has been allocated a budget, initially of £5,000, to help support the community and deliver local projects. Subject to rules of propriety, each Member will have the power to decide how the budgets will be spent to the benefit of the communities they represent. Members may pool their respective budgets if they wish and also use their budgets to provide leverage to draw in other funding.

7.7 Single and Multi Member Wards

7.7.1 Current electoral arrangements mean that for each of Cheshire West & Chester's 24 Wards, there are three elected Members. The Council has had to consider whether to break this approach and pursue a proposal for single-member wards. It has done so recognising that the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 and the White Paper "Strong and Prosperous Communities" makes suggests generally for a return to single member wards in local government, stating that this would have benefits including providing a simple strong link between a councillor and his or her electorate and giving clarity of leadership to the area. The Council understands the argument. There are however, advantages and disadvantages of a system of single-member wards as there are of a multi-member ward approach. Additionally, there are disadvantages to an approach which creates a pattern of some single-member wards and some multi-member wards.

7.7.2 The table below provides a comparison of benefits of single- and multi-member wards. Disadvantages of each approach are largely inferred in descriptions of advantages of the other.

<i>Single-Member Wards</i>	<i>Multi-Member Wards</i>
Was proposed in the People & Places submission upon which the decision to create Cheshire West & Chester was based.	Provides opportunity for multi-party representation in an area
Provides the clearest relationship between elected member and elector	Can provide opportunity to even-out numerical electoral imbalances
Provides for, geographically, the smallest ward	Maintains direct representation when a Member is absent or ill
Allows the elected member greater authority to speak for the area he/she represents	Allows Members to develop "specialist" responsibilities
Allows the elected member to be a strong community leader	Maintains direct representation when a Member has a personal interest in, and so cannot participate in, a subject for decision
Minimises ambiguity of voters' intentions	Provides opportunity for Members to "share the load"
Avoids the opportunity for constituents to play one Councillor off against the other	Replicates multi-member voting in Town and Parish Council elections
Avoids the possibility that in a multi-member, a Member voting in Council decisions has his/her vote cancelled out by another Member for the same ward.	Fosters diversity amongst candidates, and Councillors; for example disabled Councillors with constrained mobility can be supported by more mobile co-Councillors. Councillors who do not have full-time jobs can offer a day-time service to constituents in support of a co-Councillor who does have day-time employment. For people living alone and especially for lone parents, the support of co-councillors in a Ward is crucial to enabling their capacity to seek and win election to the Council

Single-Member Wards	Multi-Member Wards
	Encourages “new” candidates to stand for election, especially where they have an expectation of support from more experienced co-Councillors
	Avoids the loss of a community voice in the circumstance in the case of the determination of applications for planning permission, where a member of a planning committee is unable to voice community interests in advance of a planning decision.
	Increases the likelihood that constituents will find a receptive ear
	Creates the likelihood that even where an elector is represented by a Council Executive Member, he or she will also be represented by a Member charged with putting the Executive under scrutiny.
	Compensates the elector for the imbalance in Members’ capacity to deal with constituent caseload which is inherent in different Council roles, such as Executive group Member compared with “backbencher”

7.7.3 A further advantage of multi-member wards becomes apparent when applying a warding exercise to Cheshire West & Chester. The Council found that in testing possible models of single-member wards it would be necessary to divide inappropriately between wards, parts of existing and strongly established communities or to separate of from groups of parishes, some within a coherent group. Even these unwelcome steps would not ensure that numerical electoral equality would be preserved.

Electoral Equality issues which arise when there is a mix of single and multi-member wards
Some electors have a choice of Ward Members to turn to when pursuing a particular issue whilst others have no choice
Some electors are represented by only one vote in a Council decision whilst others “have” two or more votes
A Member for a single-Member ward has sanction of n electors whilst in a multi-Member ward a Member has sanction of $2n$ or $3n$ electors
Advantages of multi-Member wards are not available to all electors
Advantages of single-Member wards are not available to all electors

7.7.4 Creating a mix of single and multi-member wards would result in a qualitative imbalance in electoral equality which the Council cautions as inappropriate for its area. Furthermore, such a mix results in inequality both for the elector and for the prospective candidate/elected member.

7.7.5 When Wiltshire County Council made its submission in respect of the electoral review of that county, it proposed single-member wards. It reproduced some arguments in favour of single-member wards made by some Members of that Council. It quoted one who said that :-

“councillors of different political parties in multi member wards cannot share the workload and are therefore individually serving the whole electorate in that area. This is duplication of effort, not effective use of that effort and does not offer a good service to the public”

whilst another said

“even councillors of the same political persuasion in a multi member division cannot make the assumption that they can share their workload – if they have been elected by the total electorate for the division then their constituents will expect to see them working on their behalf – otherwise next time they may not get their vote”

A third said

“where a controversial local issue arises, the two or more members of a multi-member ward must consult their electors, then discuss and try to agree between themselves, and then seek to persuade relevant Councillors from other Wards or Divisions to support their view. A Councillor in a single-member ward clearly has a simpler process to go through”.

7.7.6. The experience of Cheshire West and Chester Councillors is different. Here Co-councillors do work together effectively in multi-member wards. In some cases, it is by dividing their Ward caseloads up amongst themselves, according to their capacity, in others it is by bringing particular specialisms to bear in dealing with constituent cases. In other circumstances it is by supporting each other in those circumstances in which the capacity of a Councillor to serve his or her electorate is constrained by temporary or permanent personal circumstance.

7.7.7. Whilst it might seem to be a simpler process by which a Councillor for a single-member ward hears from his or her electorate and then votes in a Council decision, it is not necessarily a better process. The opportunity to share and test arguments is a valuable one which can aid the Councillor to perform most effectively in decision-making.

7.7.8. In 2006 the Government published *Strong and Prosperous Communities - The Local Government White Paper*. It aired the discussion about the merits of single and multi-member wards and said;

“3.44 there have been calls for single member wards, where one member represents a particular area rather than the current position in many authorities where a number of elected representatives cover a particular place. This has benefits including providing a simple, strong link between the councillor and their electorate, and giving clarity of leadership to the area. However, we equally accept that there is no consensus on this.....”

and

*3.45 We **will not require** single member wards but will enable any council who holds whole council elections to request that the Electoral Commission undertakes a review for the purpose of re-warding the area with single member wards.”*

The Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act makes the provision promised in the White Paper. Even its strongest advocate therefore accepts that the case for single-member wards is unproven. It is clear however that Government intends it to be for *Councils* to determine whether single-member wards are appropriate for their area.

- 7.7.9 This Council has both assembled and assessed the arguments for single- and multi-member wards and recognises that both approaches have their virtues. For Cheshire West and Chester people, the balance of virtue lies with the multi-member approach and it is this which is embodied in the Council’s proposal.
- 7.7.10 The Council’s Member Working Group examined the desirability of warding schemes based entirely on single-member wards, two-member wards and three-member wards. It appeared to them that such schemes failed to represent community interest as effectively as does a scheme which consists of two member wards and three-member wards. However, because of the particular imbalance in the nature of representation which would arise from a scheme which presented a combination of single member wards with multi-member wards, the Council concluded strongly that such a mix would be unjustifiable in this circumstance.
- 7.7.11 It must also be remembered that no Cheshire Elector has any experience of a single-member system in their principal authorities. Prior to re-organisation all people were represented by a County Councillor and at least one district councillor. Electors could, and frequently did, bring their concerns about district council policy or service delivery to county councillors and vice-versa. That cross-flow of issues between tiers worked to an extent, but unitary local government offers an improvement upon it. Since reorganisation, each elector has had the services of, and access to, three Cheshire West & Chester Councillors in a system which has worked well.
- 7.7.12 The introduction of single-member wards would therefore be an experiment and a replacement of a system which we know works. Given the need to establish Cheshire West & Chester Council more thoroughly as a

representative and service organisation, people's recent dissatisfaction with Parliamentary government (a single-member system) and the clear weight of advantage of a multi-member system as presented in the analysis above, the Council believes its multi-member approach to be the right one.

7.8 Names of Proposed Wards

- 7.8.1 This is most often addressed at the end of a warding exercise, once boundaries have been drawn. In general, some easy solutions present themselves, being the commonly used name of a settlement or district, but where more than one settlement is involved, selection of the name of one can foster disengagement by residents of another or misplaced perceptions of where the Council's priorities lie.
- 7.8.2 Other sources of names might be physical features or historical associations.
- 7.8.3 In the present review, some wards proposed are the same as, or very similar to, existing wards. In these cases, there is merit in considering a continuation of an existing ward name, since to do so is likely to confuse the electorate less than might occur by changing it. In other cases, there are opportunities to introduce electoral names which improve on previous ones.

8.0 Proposals and Detailed Explanation of the Scheme

- 8.1 Cheshire West & Chester Council proposes a scheme of warding which provides electoral arrangements for the whole of the Council's area.
- 8.2 With the Boundary Commission's disposition to recommend a Council of 75 members, replacing the current 72, some change to warding is inevitable. Cheshire West & Chester Council proposes thirty wards, replacing the current 24. Fifteen of these are three-member wards and fifteen are two-member wards.
- 8.3 The table below sets out the "target" electoral ratios for two- and three-member wards using both 2008 data and 2013 forecasts. In order to indicate the scale of variance which might occur, the table indicates the number of electors which would be found in a ward 10% above and 10% below the average electoral ratio.

<i>Year</i>	<i>2008</i>	<i>2013</i>		
Number of Councillors	75	75		
Number of Electors	251,270	255,070		
Average number of electors per Councillor	3350	3401		
<i>Year</i>	<i>2008</i>	<i>2013</i>	<i>2008</i>	<i>2013</i>
		Three-Member Ward		
		Two-Member Ward		
Number of Electors at Average Electoral Ratio	6,700	6,802	10,050	10,203
Number of Electors at Ratio 10% above average	7,370	7,482	11,055	11,223
Number of Electors at Ratio 10% below average	6,030	6,122	9,045	9,183

- 8.4 The Council's proposed scheme is tabulated in detail at Appendix 4, using the Boundary Committee's standard Proforma No. 3, and is summarized below.

	No. of Councillors	Electors		Variance from Ave. Electoral Ratio	
		<i>2008</i>	<i>2013</i>	<i>2008</i>	<i>2013</i>
Over and Verdin	3	8851	8990	-11.93%	-11.89%
Broxton	3	9403	9330	-6.44%	-8.56%
Newton	2	6467	6260	-3.48%	-7.97%
Neston & Parkgate	2	6376	6282	-4.84%	-7.64%
Elton and Whitby	3	9895	9592	-1.54%	-5.99%
Great Boughton and Dodleston	3	9773	9620	-2.76%	-5.71%
Rivacre Valley and Pooltown	3	9921	9696	-1.28%	-4.97%

Blacon	2	6662	6481	-0.57%	-4.72%
Hoole	2	6705	6490	0.07%	-4.59%
Chester Villages	2	6721	6520	0.31%	-4.15%
Upton & Saughall	3	9894	9900	-1.55%	-2.97%
Ellesmere Port Town	3	9327	9942	-7.19%	-2.56%
Marbury	3	9746	10160	-3.02%	-0.42%
Little Neston and Willaston	3	10393	10168	3.41%	-0.34%
Abbey	3	10308	10360	2.57%	1.54%
Gowy	2	7044	6910	5.13%	1.59%
Rossmore and Netherpool	2	5499	6929	-17.93%	1.87%
Weaver	3	10209	10400	1.58%	1.93%
Shakerley	2	6881	6960	2.70%	2.32%
Eddisbury	3	10351	10440	3.00%	2.32%
Wharton	2	7008	7010	4.60%	3.06%
Overleigh	3	10807	10530	7.53%	3.20%
Witton and Winnington	2	6571	7030	-1.93%	3.35%
Sealand	2	5823	7159	-13.09%	5.25%
South Winsford	2	6989	7300	4.31%	7.32%
Ledsham and Manor	2	7411	7309	10.61%	7.45%
Sutton and Strawberry Fields	2	7683	7382	14.67%	8.53%
Castle, Kingsmead and Leftwich	3	10827	11090	7.73%	8.69%
Chester City and Boughton	2	6603	7440	-1.45%	9.38%
Frodsham and Helsby	3	11122	11390	10.67%	11.63%
	75	251270	255070		

8.5 Broadly, in these proposed arrangements, the towns of Ellesmere Port, Northwich and Winsford each “gain” a Councillor (and some electors of adjoining areas). However, consequential effects (by which changes in Warding arrangements “ripple” across the area) mean that it is not appropriate to say that no other communities in the remainder of Cheshire West and Chester gain numerically in terms of representation.

Ward Proposals

8.6 Abbey

8.6.1 The present Abbey Ward is currently constituted of 6 complete parishes and one part parish: Davenham is currently a warded parish with the Davenham Village parish ward lying in Cheshire West & Chester’s Abbey Ward. The Davenham Kingsmead parish ward which lies in the Northwich West Ward of Cheshire West & Chester forms the major part of an area for which the former Vale Royal Borough Council resolved to make a new parish following a Community Governance Review in 2008.

- 8.6.2 The largest community in the Ward however is Hartford, which had 4,430 electors in 2008. Hartford is one of the several large Vale Royal villages which are too large for a single-member ward and too small for two members. It is a residential suburb contiguous with the more densely built-up parts of Northwich Town.
- 8.6.3 The Council's proposal is to modify the present Abbey Ward but to retain the essence of it in a three-member ward. In this proposal, the small parishes of Stanthorne and Wimboldsley would be combined with the proposed Wharton Ward. These parishes had a combined electorate of just under 250 in 2008. Both parishes express their collective voice through parish meetings: neither has a parish council. They lie at the very edge of Cheshire West and Chester and caught between the towns of Winsford and Middlewich, the latter lying in Cheshire East. Not far to the south is Crewe. Both parishes, whilst sparsely populated rural areas have more in common with the Clive Green area which lies within Winsford town's boundaries, than with the larger villages of Moulton, Davenham and Hartford with which they are linked in the Abbey Ward. Clive Green is a small group of houses in the largely rural polling district EHB. Whilst the A54 and A530 link Stanthorne and Wimboldsley to Winsford and Middlewich, the parishes also access Winsford through the minor road network on which Clive Green stands.
- 8.6.4 The Council would add to the ward, the Northwich Town area of Greenbank, represented by Polling District WJC. Greenbank shares, in particular, education provision with Hartford but also shares other aspects of local public and private sector service provision. This area is separated from the rest of the Town's Castle Ward by the Mid-Cheshire rail line and the Greenbank station offers rail access to Manchester and Chester to Hartford residents as much as it does to the residents of Northwich Castle.
- 8.6.5 Polling district WJC had around 640 electors in 2008, a figure not expected to change significantly in the period to 2013
- 8.6.6 The consequence of the proposed changes to the Abbey Ward is a ward of around 10,300 electors and with little new housing proposed throughout the ward, except for some infilling, the figure will not change significantly. The Ward would be 2.6% above the average electoral ratio in 2008 and 1.5% above in 2013.
- 8.6.7 The proposed Ward would be constituted entirely of current polling districts. However, the inclusion of Greenbank would require the creation of a Town Ward for that area. Following the implementation of Vale Royal's Community Governance Review for Davenham, none of the other parishes in the Abbey Ward will themselves be warded.
- 8.6.8 The Ward takes its name from Vale Royal Abbey. It is an established name and the Council therefore proposes that retention of the Ward name *Abbey* will provide familiarity and continuity for most electors.

8.7 Blacon

- 8.7.1 Blacon lies at the western edge of Chester's built-up area and is often characterised by reference to its particular portrayal of urban deprivation, containing the most deprived of Cheshire West & Chester's local areas. Whilst this portrayal is an over-simplification of the character of the area, the need for social and economic regeneration does provide a particular focus for the activity of those who would represent the community.
- 8.7.2 The Council proposes a two-Member Ward largely made up of current polling districts, but including part of the polling district DB3, included in order to secure a tolerable variance from the average electoral ratio for Cheshire West & Chester. The result is a Ward currently 0.6% below the average ratio but in the absence of expected housing developments, presenting a ratio 4.7% below the average in 2013.
- 8.7.3 *Blacon* is a strong local name and appropriate for the Ward, ensuring recognition not only amongst the community and the Council, but also amongst the Council's key partners who will play a major part in addressing and resolving the community's needs.

8.8 Broxton

- 8.8.1 The Council proposes a three-member ward covering an extensive rural area which forms the southern part of the Borough.
- 8.8.2 The Ward would be similar to the current Broxton Ward, but the opportunity, having been taken to link parishes to the south of Tarporley (Beeston, Tilstone Fearnall and Tiverton) with their local service and social centre means a reduction in its overall size.
- 8.8.3 The Ward is sandwiched between Wales and Cheshire East, and has Shropshire lying immediately to the south. Ward building can only reasonably be accomplished by aggregating parishes from south to north.
- 8.8.4 This is a genuinely rural Ward comprised of 53 complete parishes. Only 9 of these have populations which, in 2008 and 2013 are of over 200 electors: Ten parishes had populations of fewer than 20 electors in 2008. There are 7 grouped Parish Councils, each kept together within the Ward proposed by Cheshire West & Chester Council. Of these, the opportunity has been taken to re-combine in one Ward the parishes which form the Aldford, Saughton & District grouped Parish Council by the addition of parishes currently represented in the Boughton Heath and Vicars Cross Ward. The Council's proposal strengthens the representation of the group as a whole and the individual parishes within it.
- 8.8.5 Throughout the Ward, population numbers will be relatively stable, which means that using 2008 figures, the ward would be 6.4% below the average electoral ratio, decreasing to 8.6% below average in 2013. However given

the geographical size of the Ward, a lower than average ratio is appropriate because, however the area were to be warded, elected Members can expect to spend considerably more time travelling in order to exercise their role than might Members for other Wards.

- 8.8.6 The Ward has its own significant major villages; Malpas in the south, Farndon in the west and Tattenhall in the north. In the Bishop Heber School, Malpas has the only secondary school serving this extensive rural area and that which reaches extensively into Cheshire East.
- 8.8.7 It might be possible to construct single-member wards or a combination of single and two-member wards, but to do so would deny electors the advantages of a multi-member ward in which continuous service to all electors and active representation of them would be threatened. Furthermore, in a Ward such as this, the villages not only function as a collective community, but are individually communities with quite distinct issues. In this respect, representation by a single member, who would have to direct his or her attention in many different directions would offer no particular advantages but many disadvantages.
- 8.8.8 Being substantially similar to the present *Broxton* Ward, the retention of the name reflects the historic Broxton Hundred which covered all of this area, reaching northwards to Chester (the Cheshire Hundreds were sub-divisions of Cheshire for administrative, military and judicial purposes. Reported in the Domesday Book of 1086, the Cheshire Hundreds were still relevant divisions in the mid-19th century. The retention of the name retains that historic link for the whole area and having been used for local government electoral purposes right up to reorganisation on 1 April 2009, offers continuity and familiarity to electors.

8.9 Castle, Kingsmead and Leftwich

- 8.9.1 The Council proposes a modification of the present Ward of Northwich West, partly in order to address the present electoral ratio which is 22.5 % above average and with an even higher variance in a 75-Member Council. The proposal would retain a three-Member ward, but would remove the Winnington area of the town, combining that area with Witton, and the addition to the Abbey Ward of the Greenbank area which abuts Hartford at the western end of Castle. The present Town Centre polling district is added to the Ward from the present Northwich East and Shakerley Ward.
- 8.9.2 Most of the proposed Ward lies in the town boundary of Northwich but the Kingsmead area, currently part of Davenham parish has been the subject of a Community Governance Review and will become a parish in its own right before 2011.
- 8.9.3 The Ward will present a picture of Northwich's extensive history, from the traces of Roman occupation, the historic centre of the town and its crossing point of the river Weaver through the remnants of a boatbuilding industry, the housing areas of Castle which sprang up during the industrial revolution,

public housing provision in the early and middle parts of the twentieth century and right up to the most modern of housing developments at Kingsmead and in the Town Centre.

- 8.9.4 Northwich is the focus of a regeneration programme designed to take advantage of the recently completed stabilisation of ground in the town centre previously rendered unstable by the effects of salt extraction. Whilst the town has suffered from relative under-investment from the private sector, the physical conditions which gave rise to that have now been resolved.
- 8.9.5 With economic conditions stalling the advantage that the stabilisation project created, there is now opportunity to plan with care, the recovery of the town.
- 8.9.6 Although the proposed Castle, Kingsmead and Leftwich ward includes four distinct housing areas; Castle, Kingsmead, Leftwich and the Town Centre, it does not however readily lend itself to sub-division into smaller wards in ways which satisfy the dual requirement to reflect community identity and present electoral equality.
- 8.9.7 The Council's proposal for a three-member Ward combines urban neighbourhoods therefore, each distinct but bound by a common concern about the impact of the town's regeneration on local transport and commercial systems.
- 8.9.8 The proposed Ward is composed of whole polling districts with registers and polling places currently and satisfactorily identified.
- 8.9.9 The Ward is 7.7% above the average electorate for a three-member ward using 2008 data, but with planned housing development in the town centre area, this will rise to 8.7% above the average by 2013.
- 8.9.10 *Castle, Kingsmead and Leftwich* are names which are prominent in the local understanding of Northwich people's communities. They were part of the electoral language of the former Vale Royal Borough Council and together, provide a name for the Ward which has currency and continuity, reflecting the neighbourhoods of this area.

8.10 Chester City and Boughton

- 8.10.1 Chester's city centre is an area not only of local significance, but indeed of international significance.
- 8.10.2 The Council proposes a two-Member Ward for the City Centre and the Boughton area of the city which lies immediately to the east of the commercial heart. This gives a more focused ward for the central part of the city of Chester than is given by the present three-member Ward. It creates more opportunity for local elected Members to address the concerns of city-centre businesses, many of which are small, locally-owned concerns.

- 8.10.3 The Ward would be composed of whole polling districts.
- 8.10.4 In this area we would normally expect to see a significant number of students included on the electoral register. On 1 December 2008, many of those we would expect to see were missing from the register, but have subsequently been included. Our forecasts of electorate assume that for 2013, the successors of current students will be included as electors. This means that a forecast increase in electors in the DF2 polling district implies more electorate growth than would arise from the housing development we expect to take place there.
- 8.10.5 These changes and those from other Wards mean that whilst the electoral ratio for the Ward was 1.5% below average in 2008, it would be 9.4% above the average in 2013.
- 8.10.6 Whilst the Ward will present its elected Members with City Centre issues, its compact nature, as a consequence of the reduction to two Members will mean that the above-average electoral ratio will present a manageable workload.
- 8.10.7 *Chester City and Boughton* describes how the proposed ward includes not only the historic and commercial centre of the city, but also the district on its to the east of the centre, having an established local name whilst retaining the identity of the centre of Chester, describing its character, unique in Cheshire West & Chester.

8.11 Chester Villages

- 8.11.1 The Council proposes to combine twelve parishes on Chester's eastern fringe into a two-Member Ward. This includes the villages of Mickle Trafford, Guilden Sutton, Waverton and Christleton; substantial villages of similar size and sharing social and economic characteristics of location close to, but physically separate from the City of Chester's built-up area. These villages are linked by rural parishes, some of which form part of a grouped Parish Council which has Mickle Trafford as its focus.
- 8.11.2 Although, or perhaps because, these parishes are close to but not part of Chester, constraints on development mean that new housing is not expected to add significantly to the electorate. This means that whilst the Ward's would currently have an electoral ratio 0.3% below average, this would widen to 4.2% below average in 2013.
- 8.11.3 The name *Chester Villages* is new to the electoral arrangements of the area but reflects the impact of the city upon this rural community. It indicates a commonality of issue without overemphasising any of the four main villages in the Ward.

8.12 Eddisbury

- 8.12.1 The Council proposes that the Eddisbury Ward be modified from its present form, but continue to be a three-member ward.
- 8.12.2 The Ward is composed of entire parishes; Cuddington has the largest population and an electorate of 4,402 in 2008. Most live in the contiguous villages of Cuddington and Sandiway but 926 of the electors (2008 figure) live in the Delamere Park polling district. This is made up very largely of a housing development slightly detached physically from Cuddington village, but nevertheless, related to it in terms of service provision and road and rail communications. Other parishes in the ward formed the south western boundary to the former Vale Royal borough, with Cuddington and Tarporley – which has a smaller population but is a more significant service centre – lying at the extreme ends of the Ward.
- 8.12.3 Electoral review for Cheshire West and Chester creates in particular, however, the opportunity to address the relationships of larger villages to the surrounding parishes which lie beyond former district boundaries. Currently comprised of 9 complete parishes in the former Vale Royal area, the present Warding arrangement does not recognise the role of Tarporley village as a social, educational and service centre for neighbouring parishes in the former Chester City Council area.
- 8.12.4 The Council would address this by adding to Eddisbury, the parishes of Beeston, Clotton, Iddinshall, and Tilston Fearnall & Tiverton. For people in these parishes, Tarporley is a stronger community focus than are other centres to which they may be linked in alternative Warding patterns.
- 8.12.5 The Council's proposal would, however, remove to South Winsford, the parish of Darnhall. This parish, lying between Winsford Town's southern boundary and Cheshire West & Chester's boundary with Cheshire East is both physically and functionally remote from Tarporley.
- 8.12.6 Consisting of entire parishes, the proposed Ward is also composed of current polling districts, with registers and polling places already identified.
- 8.12.7 Development will be limited in this rural area and electorate numbers consequently very stable throughout the ward. This means that whilst in 2008 the ward would be 3% above the average electoral ratio, by 2013 it would be 2.3% above.
- 8.12.8 The Council recognises however, that in the case of Darnhall, its electoral history is one in which it has been included first in a Ward containing Little Budworth, Rushton and Utkinton, and more recently with those parishes and Tarporley. Darnhall Parish Council has indicated that it would prefer the preservation of those electoral links. Furthermore, it has drawn Cheshire West & Chester's attention, a little too late to influence it in the making of its resolution on this matter, to the desirability of retaining shopping, social and community links which Darnhall has with Little Budworth and with Tarporley.

The Parish Council looks for the ability of Ward Members to focus more on rural matters than would the emphasis on the urban interests of the majority of electors in the Council's proposed South Winsford Ward. Including Darnhall in the Eddisbury Ward would increase the variance in the Wards electoral ratio, but only to 4.8% above the average in 2008 and 4.1% above in 2013. There would be a reduction in the variance in South Winsford.

- 8.12.9 The proposed Ward takes its name from the geographical feature and hill fort of Eddisbury Hill, with Eddisbury also adopted as name of the parliamentary constituency for the area. Eddisbury, like Broxton described earlier, was one of the Cheshire Hundreds. With that name therefore recognised by residents of parishes in both the former Vale Royal and the City of Chester areas, the Ward should retain the name *Eddisbury*, as this presents continuity and familiarity to electors.

8.13 Ellesmere Port Town

- 8.13.1 This Review creates the opportunity to represent in electoral terms, Ellesmere Port's central area. The Council proposes a three-Member Ward which, in addition to residential areas, includes the town centre and a substantial industrial area lying to the east of M53 which passes through the proposed ward. It also includes the regional shopping and entertainment centre at Cheshire Oaks. The composition of the Ward will therefore allow elected representatives to address the economic interrelationships and impact between the longer-established town centre and this significant edge-of-town development.
- 8.13.2 The Council does not propose to include in this Ward any housing areas on the northern and eastern side of M53. This means that it is necessary to subdivide the existing polling district NA. This subdivision is not undertaken in pursuit of electoral equality, although it does no harm in that respect. It is proposed in order to reflect communities of interest. There has been a considerable amount of new housing around the canal basin just to the north of the town centre, adding around 150 electors to those who live in older properties in the Merseyton Road area. The Council's proposed Rossmore and Netherpool Ward also has much new housing and a great deal more expected in the near future. By ensuring that all of this new development is embraced within a single ward, the Council would expect elected representatives to be able to address the particular needs that arise in a resettling population.
- 8.13.3 The new ward therefore has well defined and understood local boundaries with Stanney Lane to the south, the M53, the parish of Little Stanney to the east and the edge of the "Fields" area to the west. The residents within this ward live predominantly in the most socio-economically deprived parts of the town. This has been a focus in the recent past for regenerative work which will be continued and developed by Cheshire West & Chester Council, using the town centre itself as a focus for regeneration activities. This will be in terms of access to services, economic regeneration with

access to employment being a major theme, as well as health and education initiatives.

- 8.13.4 This ward provides a focussed and coherent structure of local representation which does not pit predominantly industrial areas, retail areas and residential areas against each other as smaller wards would do. It will give residents and businesses an opportunity to work effectively in an area that needs a strong team of councillors.
- 8.13.5 Whilst the proposal excludes the new housing in polling district NA around the Canal Basin, some housing redevelopment is expected in the Ward however, and this will have a significant impact on the electoral variance shown by the ward. It is expected to narrow from the current 7.2% below average to 2.6% below in 2013.
- 8.13.6 Describing this area as *Ellesmere Port Town* encapsulates that this is an area with a broad mix of housing, commerce and industry.

8.14 Elton & Whitby

- 8.14.1 The Council makes a radical proposal for Elton & Whitby. It does so partly to address electoral equality issues but also to reflect the relationship of the town to those outlying communities, and particularly Elton, traversed by the A5117.
- 8.14.2 Whitby was the original urban area of this part of Cheshire, indeed one of the names first given to the town was Whitby Locks. It is a defined “urban village” area with 2 secondary schools, a number of primary schools and a village centre along with two other local shopping areas. The previous boundary review at district level split Whitby between three different areas, and it is currently split into two, with the majority in Groves & Whitby and remainder in Sutton & Manor ward. With the allowance of multi-member wards we propose to bring the entire locally- identifiable Whitby area together into one ward.
- 8.14.3 Elton itself is also an urban village, albeit an isolated one which has been closely linked for many years with the rural parishes which run along the A5117 and abut Whitby. Elton’s residents have the choice of services such as education and shopping in Helsby, Ellesmere Port and Whitby. Many students from Elton go to secondary school within Whitby ward and this is likely to continue in future. Many other students from the village attend school in Helsby, but the motorway is too great a physical barrier to link Elton with for warding arrangements; and Helsby itself has a better and more established settlement with Frodsham. The proposed Ellesmere Port Town is also too large to accept Elton and environs and is of a substantially different character. Therefore to keep communities of interest together rather than separating them, and combine communities of interest where necessary we propose to combine Elton with Whitby in one ward as two urban villages. This brings into consideration, the parishes, small in terms of numbers of residents, which link Elton and Whitby.

- 8.14.4 The Whitby area of Ellesmere Port is tied to these outlying parishes, not least of all, by the presence of schools and by the impact of the transport network and its use. The creation of Cheshire West & Chester Council creates the opportunity to address and represent these ties more firmly than had previously been the case by recognising the interrelationship of parts of the former Ellesmere Port & Neston Borough with parishes in the former Chester City Council area.
- 8.14.5 The proposed Ward is made up largely of existing polling districts, including the unparished Whitby area of Ellesmere Port town, together with six parishes in the area of the former Chester City Council. Four of these are grouped to form the Little Stanney and District Parish Council and the Cheshire West & Chester Council has chosen to retain the whole group within a single Ward.
- 8.14.6 This will allow its representatives to work together on the issues of highways, retail and employment opportunities in Whitby village, and the major changes in secondary education provision which will leave Whitby High School as the only secondary school in this ward, and which will serve all of this proposed ward. Single member wards would fracture this urban village even more than it currently is and create artificial boundaries between similar parts of the village.
- 8.14.7 In making its proposal however, the Council is taking the opportunity better to reflect communities within Ellesmere Port by dividing the present polling district VA between this and the proposed Rivacre Valley and Pooltown Ward. By doing this, not only is the Ward more distinguishable on the ground, but the division also improves the variance in electoral ratio for this ward.
- 8.14.8 The result is a Ward which is currently 1.5% below the average for a three-Member Ward. A lack of anticipated new housing in the proposed Ward leads to a forecast increase in the variance to 6% below average in 2013.
- 8.14.9 The name *Elton & Whitby* describes not only the physical extent of the proposed Ward but also the principal communities. They are established sufficiently as place names to enable their use for electoral purposes, ensuring recognition amongst electors.

8.15 Frodsham & Helsby

- 8.15.1 The Council's proposal retains the current ward, with three members. It consists of two parishes, Frodsham, currently with 7,290 electors and Helsby, with 3,832. Anticipated change in the electorate is not evenly distributed, with development expected in particular in the northern part of Frodsham.

- 8.15.2 Frodsham has a vibrant street market which provides not only a shopping facility but also a social focus, a meeting place for people in Frodsham and Helsby.
- 8.15.3 Frodsham and Helsby share common services, with the recent focussing of secondary education at Helsby High School as part of the former County Council's 'Transforming Learning Communities' programme. The Helsby Sports and Social Club is an important recreational facility for people throughout the Ward whilst Castle Park in Frodsham provides an attractive and historic parkland and a local cultural centre serving the whole ward.
- 8.15.4 The two parishes share issues relating to industrial development on the Mersey estuary and in terms of road and rail transport services and infrastructure. The main parts of both settlements lie at the foot of the escarpment which marks the northern end of Cheshire's Sandstone Ridge which, together with the Mersey estuary channel traffic movement along a corridor which includes the M56, A56 and North Cheshire rail line.
- 8.15.5 The Ward has an electorate 10.7% above average for a three-member ward using 2008 figures but future development will increase this to 11.6% making this the Ward with the greatest variance in 2013. Development in the area is constrained by statutory Green Belt and will, it is expected, be limited in the future, beyond the forecast period.
- 8.15.6 Whilst electoral variance for these communities may be reduced by combining each parish with others adjacent, there is such strength of commonality of interest that the two parishes are each other's most natural partner.
- 8.15.7 Frodsham and Helsby both are warded parishes. In Helsby, the electoral ratios range from 1:211 in the Helsby South parish ward to 1:287 in Helsby Central. Variances in Frodsham are greater, from 1:387 to 1:604. Whilst the Cheshire West and Chester Council proposal would not itself require a continuation of parish warding, the Council believes that retention of parish wards is a matter upon which the respective views of Frodsham Town Council and Helsby Parish Council should prevail.
- 8.15.8 In a single-member proposal for Helsby, numerical electoral variance would be greater. Furthermore, a single-member ward would deny the community the advantages of multi-member wards and, in a proposal which mixed single-and multi-member wards would lead to, in qualitative terms, electoral inequality.
- 8.15.9 The Ward should retain the name *Frodsham & Helsby* as this presents continuity and familiarity to electors and the names of the two settlements are often linked in a single breath by people speaking beyond the context of local government warding arrangements.

8.16 Gowy

- 8.16.1 The Council's proposal for the Gowy Ward reflects the opportunity presented by the review to address the representation of parishes lying in the eastern part of the former Chester City Council area; along the western side of Cheshire's sandstone ridge. The proposed ward contains two large villages, Kelsall and Tarvin together with substantial rural communities at Ashton Hayes, Dunham-on-the-Hill, Great Barrow, Hargrave, Mouldsworth and Willington.
- 8.16.2 The Ward consists of fifteen parishes, with Dunham Hill and Hapsford having a group parish council. The area combines a free-standing rural economy with a commuter orientation towards Chester.
- 8.16.3 This is an area in which little new housing development is expected, although a number of small rural infill and conversion developments are expected. The overall constraint on housing will result in an initial ratio 5.1% above average falling to just 1.6% above average in 2013.
- 8.16.4 Whilst the name *Gowy* is used for a current ward, the configuration of which would be changed considerably by the proposal, it is a name taken from the small river which forms a substantial part of the western boundary of the proposed ward and which is fed by a number of streams and brooks running across the ward from the slopes of the sandstone ridge.

8.17 Great Boughton & Dodleston

- 8.17.1 The Council proposes to modify the existing Boughton Heath and Vicars Cross Ward by excluding from it, unparished areas of Chester, by re-combining the two parts of the parish of Marlston-cum-Lache (rendered separate during a previous electoral review), and by removing to the proposed Broxton Ward, four parishes to the east of the River Dee.
- 8.17.2 The result is a three-member ward of ten complete parishes. Great Boughton and Huntington have the largest populations, both being part of Chester's south western suburbs. The remaining parishes are much more rural, forming three grouped parish councils, Dodleston & District, Poulton & Pulford, and Eaton, Eccleston, & Claverton.
- 8.17.3 The Ward has a current electoral ratio 2.8% below average and this variance is expected to increase, so that in 2013 it is likely to be 5.7% below average.
- 8.17.4 By using the name *Great Boughton & Dodleston* the Council would describe the physical extent of the Ward and encapsulate its character, ranging from the suburban to the outlying settlements and communities embraced by the Ward.

8.18 Hoole

- 8.18.1 Another opportunity to create a two-member ward, this time for the Hoole area of Chester allows a greater clarity of representation of a distinct part of

the City than is possible in the present pattern of three-member wards. The proposed ward has particularly clear physical boundaries. It lies to the north-east of the Chester's central core and consists almost entirely of housing and local services including the prominent Hoole Road area of shops and services. Hoole Road has many hotels serving visitors to the City. In general terms, housing development decreases in density with distance from the City Centre but this proposal still creates one of the most compact wards in the overall pattern proposed by the Council.

- 8.18.2 This is an area which won't see significant housing development in the next five years and the total electorate is expected to decrease. This will mean an electoral ratio almost at parity at 0.1% below average falling to 4.6% below average.
- 8.18.3 The proposed Ward is composed entirely of current polling districts, meaning that polling places and registers are in place.
- 8.18.4 The name *Hoole* is the local name for this established area of Chester and its retention and use offers familiarity and continuity to electors.

8.19 Ledsham & Manor

- 8.19.1 The Council proposes to use the opportunity to create a two-Member Ward for Ledsham and Manor which has greater focus and identity than is given to this area of Ellesmere Port by the current electoral arrangements. The proposed ward would be the unparished area lying between the A41 Chester Road and the parishes of Capenhurst and Ledsham.
- 8.19.2 This area has seen substantial development in housing over the last 15 years which has changed its character considerably. It consists of a central core containing housing mostly developed in the 1960s and 1970s, with its outer areas developed in these past 15 years. Parts of what is currently in Sutton & Manor used to be in the old district ward of Ledsham, being removed at the previous rewording because it would have created a ward too large numerically speaking. This Electoral Review provides the opportunity to bring these two areas back together into a coherent two-member ward.
- 8.19.3 Issues of education access, anti-social behaviour, further housing development, highways and play areas have been predominant, affecting local residents in recent years throughout this new proposed ward. Despite being made up of a number of very small physical communities, therefore, the proposal forms a very coherent community of interest, with the A41 acting as a strong and locally understood ward boundary.
- 8.19.1 This area, almost exclusively of housing consists of three whole polling districts together with that part of polling district PA which lies south of the railway line.

- 8.19.2 The forecasts suggest a relatively stable electorate, due to a fairly small amount of expected new housing. The electoral ratio which initially stands at 10.6% above average will narrow to 7.5% above average in 2013. Although this Ward has a long, thin shape when seen on a map, its relative compact nature and homogeneity would suggest that a variance of this proportion is manageable by elected Members.
- 8.19.3 The name *Ledsham & Manor* is taken from current local and electoral geography and will offer familiarity and continuity to electors.

8.20 Little Neston & Willaston

- 8.20.1 The Council proposes a three-Member Ward embracing the communities at Little Neston and Ness, which are embraced as Wards of the recently-created Town Council, those in the grouped parish of Puddington and District, and those unparished areas of Burton, Willaston and Hooton. Whilst much of the Ward consists of open countryside, its character is formed by its position in relation to Liverpool and the Wirral, Chester and Ellesmere Port. Containing the Botanic Gardens at Ness and the Wirral Country Park, the Ward has a two-way relationship with the people of those larger urban centres.
- 8.20.2 The different communities which make up this new ward all tend to look towards Neston town centre for their services, from shopping to education, especially as Neston High School is the only secondary school within this part of Cheshire West & Chester. Whether they live in Little Neston or Willaston, most residents see themselves as close to or in the countryside and these areas are all perceived as villages of some kind or other, rather than suburbs of a town. They are also quite distinct in feel from the more urbanised Neston.
- 8.20.3 These areas have been covered for some time by the "Project Rural Matters" scheme and have excellent transport links between each other. Indeed this area of the new Borough seems distinct from much of the rest of the area and is quite identifiable as a community of interest in terms of character and history, even linked by the Wirral Way which runs right through, from the border with Wirral to Hooton.
- 8.20.4 Whilst most of the Ward, those parished parts as well as the unparished, consists of whole polling districts, the Council proposes to divide the current CE polling district between this Ward and the neighbouring Neston & Parkgate Ward. The division of the polling district can be done in a way which reflects distinct housing areas. However, whilst dividing it in this way leaves a variance rising to 7.6% in the adjoining Ward, it results in a Little Neston & Willaston Ward currently 3.4% above the average electoral ratio, but almost normalising at 0.3% below the average ratio in 2013.
- 8.20.5 The Ward contains a number of communities. However, the Council proposes retention of the names of the two largest in the name *Little Neston and Willaston*.

8.21 Marbury

- 8.21.1 Whilst largely replicating an existing Ward, the “removal” of Lostock Gralam village to Shakerley provides the opportunity to retain the remainder of Marbury as a three-member ward. At the very edge of Cheshire West and Chester, any ward which includes the individual parishes of this area can only be built by “adding” parishes southward and westwards from Antrobus.
- 8.21.2 The proposal therefore is for a ward of nine complete parishes. Of these, Barnton has the largest electorate, 4,400 rising to 4,600. This is too many for a single-member ward and too few for a two-member ward: a similar situation to that which arises at Weaverham. The Council’s proposal represents principles of equality not just in the mathematics of representation, but also in the character of representation.
- 8.21.3 The area is subject to land-use planning restrictions, being part of the north Cheshire Green Belt but, being close to junctions of both of M56 and M6 and close to Warrington, the area is particularly subject to development pressure. The resistance of this pressure can mean that it is difficult to meet local needs without “opening the door” to those external pressures.
- 8.21.4 Development is channelled however, and at Barnton and Wincham, will lead to some population increase and an electorate increase of around 170. The effect of this is to narrow the electoral variance of the ward, from 3% below the average for a three-member ward in 2008 to 0.4% below in 2013.
- 8.21.5 The Ward should retain the name *Marbury*, as this presents continuity and familiarity to electors.

8.22 Neston & Parkgate

- 8.22.1 The proposed Neston and Parkgate lies at the north-western extremity of Cheshire West & Chester, against the Wirral Metropolitan Borough area and the Dee estuary. The physical and administrative geography of the area combine to restrict the scope for ward-building in this area. Neston and Parkgate share much history and the communities are interwoven with each other in a way that it can be difficult for people from outside the area to tell when they have moved from one to the other. Undeniably the centre of the proposed Ward is Neston town centre, which is undergoing considerable redevelopment. The consequences of this have been identified by the current and former councils as affecting a much wider area than just the town centre itself. Neston town centre is an Historic Market Town and Parkgate is a conservation area. Each relies on the other for tourism and economic development.
- 8.22.2 Highways issues which concern Neston have a direct impact upon Parkgate and vice versa, as the limited routes of access to these areas demonstrate. It therefore makes sense to have the areas of Neston and Parkgate more accurately defined than they are now, and represented by two councillors

who will be able to work together on the issues which rarely affect just one part of this historic area. There is no coherent single member alternative which does not in some way carve up this area to its detriment.

- 8.22.3 As a consequence, and in order to secure a tolerable variance in electoral ratios, the Council's proposal requires a change to polling district CE in order that part may be added to polling districts, CF, CH and CJ. A boundary has been devised which groups together, distinct housing areas.
- 8.22.4 The Ward has an electoral ratio 4.8% below the average, using 2008 figures and 7.6% below average in 2013. Whilst a ratio closer to the average could be achieved in the dividing up of polling districts, it would not be possible to do so in a way which similarly embodied distinct housing areas.
- 8.22.5 Neston was the subject of a recent parishing review and has a newly-formed Town Council.
- 8.22.6 *Neston & Parkgate* is the current ward name for this extremity of the Borough and should be retained for whilst the reduced Ward no longer embraces the whole of Neston Town, the part of the town excluded is known locally as Little Neston, the name of which is restored in the Council's proposal for the adjoining Ward. The name also reflects and retains the distinct identity of the Parkgate area.

8.23 Newton

- 8.23.1 The opportunity to create a two-member ward for the Newton area of Chester allows, as in Hoole, a greater clarity of representation of a distinct part of the City than is possible in the present pattern of three-member wards. The proposed ward lies to the north of Chester's central core and consists almost entirely of housing and local services including primary schools.
- 8.23.2 This is an area which won't see significant housing development in the next five years and the total electorate is expected to decrease. This will mean an electoral ratio falling from 3.5% below average to 8% below average.
- 8.23.3 The proposed Ward is composed entirely of current polling districts, meaning that polling places and registers are in place.
- 8.23.4 The name *Newton* is the local name for this established area of Chester and its retention and use offers familiarity and continuity to electors.

8.24 Over and Verdin

- 8.24.1 The northern part of Winsford lying to the west of the River Weaver is made up of the former Vale Royal Borough Wards of Over and Verdin. This Ward is the part of the town which accommodated most of the development which took place during the 1960's when Winsford was grown under a Town Expansion programme, accommodating families relocated from

Manchester, Liverpool and London. These housing areas grew in parallel with the rapid growth of the town's industrial base and suffered with industrial decline in the early 1980's.

- 8.24.2 Whilst the area has benefited from a number of housing, social and economic regeneration programmes, it still has a concentration of deprivation with three of the six most deprived areas in Cheshire West & Chester when measured on the income scale and those three areas amongst the most deprived seven using the employment scale.
- 8.24.3 The Ward contains the Town's two secondary schools which have, over recent years increasingly worked together to address the educational issues which have themselves led to employment disadvantage in the town.
- 8.24.4 The ward will have the proposal's lowest electoral ratio in 2013, 11.9% below the average, but whilst it is a relatively compact urban ward, persisting economic, social and health challenges remain for the Council and its partners which warrant a high level of capacity for the Council's elected members to work to engage the communities in developing neighbourhood management approaches to securing quality of life improvements.
- 8.24.5 *Over and Verdin* is a composite name drawn from the history of the area; so whilst many of the issues facing the ward stem from its development in the last century, the names are rooted in the area from centuries before that. Taking names which have been part of the established electoral map of the town, their maintenance in the name of the proposed ward will present the electorate with familiarity and continuity.

8.25 Overleigh

- 8.25.1 The Council's proposal essentially retains the current ward, with three members. There is a small variation from the present boundary which currently includes a small part of Marlston-cum-Lache parish, included in a former Chester City ward at a previous electoral review. Re-joining this part of the parish with the remainder reduces the 2008 electorate of Overleigh by 17 and the forecast electorate by 20.
- 8.25.2 The Overleigh Ward as proposed would be an entirely unparished built-up part of the city of Chester bounded to the north and east by the River Dee, to the west by the Welsh border and to the south by the parishes of Claverton, which has no electors, and by Marlston-cum-Lache (88 electors in 2008) which, with Dodleston and Lower Kinnerton has a group parish council.
- 8.25.3 The ward contains the Lache and Handbridge areas of the city of Chester, two predominantly residential districts of the city. There are two road bridges and one footbridge connecting this ward to the major part of the city of Chester.

- 8.25.4 The ward as proposed had 10,807 electors in 2008, but with no significant development opportunity, this is expected to decrease to 10,530 in 2013. This means, as a three-member ward, the electoral ratio, whilst 7.5% above average in 2008 will fall to 3.2% above average in 2013. The proposed Ward is composed entirely of current polling districts.
- 8.25.5 Whilst the Handbridge part of the ward, lying to the east of the Wrexham Road A483 could form a single-member Ward, 11% below average electoral ratio in 2013, this would leave the Lache area requiring 2 members at 10% above average. There is no clear and suitable feature to offer as a boundary between wards within the Lache area if further sub-division of the proposed ward were sought. Additionally, the Council's grounds for avoiding a mix of single- and multi-member wards are clear and for these reasons, the three-member ward is proposed.
- 8.25.6 The Ward should retain the name *Overleigh* as this presents continuity and familiarity to electors.

8.26 Rivacre Valley and Pooltown

- 8.26.1 The Council proposes arrangements to reflect community identity in Ellesmere Port much more effectively than do those currently in place. The proposed Rivacre Valley and Pooltown Ward provides good illustration of this. It combines whole polling districts bounded by Sutton Way, Chester Road and the railway with polling districts divided between this proposed Ward and the proposed Sutton and Strawberry Fields Ward and between this and the proposed Elton and Whitby Ward. These divisions of polling district reflect local housing areas, but in the Ward as a whole, embrace a clear community identity which could not be reflected in a subdivided Ward where endeavours to create electoral equality would result in a divided community but one having no clear internal ward boundaries.
- 8.26.2 Rivacre Valley is an important local amenity which is used well by many residents, but also has been the source of anti-social behaviour for residents living either side of it. Substantial parts of this proposed new ward are currently linked in the same Grange and Rossmore ward, but the railway line is a more appropriate physical barrier to communities of interest than is Sutton Way, which, rather than being a boundary, as represented in current arrangements, is an essential artery of the community.
- 8.26.3 The proposed new ward has a central area of similar character, containing as it does a predominance of council-owned housing. Housing either side of Sutton Way is identical in nature, and many parts of it is most easily accessed by Sutton Way itself. The shops in Great Sutton village, and Thelwall Road act as a local centre for residents who live either side of Sutton Way, and Brookside Primary School on Rostherne Drive similarly serves residents living across Sutton Way.
- 8.26.4 The Pooltown and Grange areas also have a central core of council housing with local shopping centres and are identifiable communities for those living

in the area. Each of these areas also has outlying areas of private housing which is often more affordable than average for Cheshire West & Chester. It seems sensible to ensure that the majority of these residents who live in council-owned housing are represented by the same team of councillors who will have to guide the authority through the process of housing management in the coming years. The Council will be obliged to re-visit the issue of as stock transfer. Whilst the former Chester City Council and Vale Royal Borough Council transferred their housing stock to local Housing Trusts, those from the old Ellesmere Port & Neston are the only directly-owned and managed houses in the new Borough.

- 8.26.5 The proposed ward also contains significant areas of deprivation which, like Ellesmere Port Town, would benefit from councillors working together within the great community of interest rather than competing for their much smaller geographical area.
- 8.26.6 The Council's conclusion is a Ward of almost 10,000 electors which, with three Members would be currently 1.3% below the average electoral ratio and 5% below the average ratio in 2013.
- 8.26.7 The Ward takes its name, *Rivacre Valley and Pooltown* from the names of Wards of the former Ellesmere Port & Neston Borough, restoring the identity of these parts of the built-up area of Ellesmere Port.

8.27 Rossmore and Netherpool

- 8.27.1 The Council proposes a two-Member Ward for Rossmore and Netherpool in Ellesmere Port. The Council's proposal addresses a number of current warding issues. In the Ellesmere Port Town Ward, the town rail station and the crossing of the rail line by the main thoroughfare provides a link between those living on either side of the railway. To the West and away from the town's main artery however, the railway forms a barrier between communities currently straddled by the Grange and Rossmore Ward.
- 8.27.2 Rossmore and Netherpool contains currently 9 identifiable communities, from the new developments on the riverfront, to the area known affectionately as "Tin Town" off Netherpool Road, over to the established Little Sutton area by the A41. Whilst each of these is far too small to warrant its own councillor it has been successfully represented in the past as one unit in the old Rossmore ward. With the new developments around the riverfront and the major access routes criss-crossing this area, this is an opportune moment to link them all together in a coherent manner.
- 8.27.3 Currently, the local shops for this entire area are located across from the cemetery acting as a focus for the new ward. Education will be provided by the primary schools which exist in the ward also and it is bounded by the M53 and the railway line which are both identifiable local markers.
- 8.27.4 Combining all the whole current polling districts lying to the north of the railway in this part of Ellesmere Port's built-up area, and adding that small

part of polling district PA which also lies north of the railway, the Council has the essence of a new two-Member Ward. To this is added new housing which has been developed around the Canal Basin. This in part reflects the particular needs of a re-settling population, whether those occupying new housing are already resident in the area or live beyond it. These needs arise often when existing services struggle to keep pace with population change associated with new housing development. Elected Members may need to address how service providers locate the delivery of their public service investments.

- 8.27.5 This gives a Ward with an electoral ratio currently 17.9% below the average. This under normal circumstance would be an intolerable variance. However, the area is the location of much anticipated redevelopment; indeed some significant developments have already commenced and are accommodating electors not previously recorded. The Council forecasts that by 2013, the electoral ratio will be 1.9% above average. Reliance on this scale of “recovery” of electoral variance would be less secure in a three-Member Ward where a greater amount of housing yet to be built would be required.
- 8.27.6 The name Rossmore is an established one used for warding in this area but we propose to revive the original name for the town before it became Whitby Locks, the Port of Ellesmere and then Ellesmere Port, which is Netherpool. It is the name of a major road in the area, still visible on direction signs from the motorway and links the riverfront development with its historic origins, as those of Liverpool across the river also began. *Rossmore and Netherpool* therefore describes the local geography of this part of Ellesmere Port in terms recognised by those who live here, offering familiarity and continuity to electors.

8.28 Sealand

- 8.28.1 The Council proposes to take the opportunity presented by Electoral Review to establish the Sealand and university area of the town as having a stronger identity of its own. A two-Member Ward is proposed therefore.
- 8.28.2 The area contains a range of housing, from older terraces close to the City Centre to the public housing estates extending into Blacon. Caught between Wales and a former railway line the principal routes through the area are Saughall Road and Sealand Road. Creating a Sealand Ward will give a more localised sense of representation to those resident along these roads. In this area are also extensive trading estates, retail and leisure parks and the home ground of Chester City FC.
- 8.28.3 The proposal includes the division of the present polling district DB3 which improves electoral ratios in both Blacon and Sealand.
- 8.28.4 Using 2008 figures, this area has an electoral ratio 13.1% below average. However, the electoral register for December 2008 did not include around 1,000 students who we would normally expect to see registered. The Council’s electorate forecasts “restores” those students, if not personally then in their successors. Whilst there is some new housing expected in

polling district DG2 which will add electors, the forecast increase in the number of electors for that polling district, from 1554 to 2650, is largely made up of this adjustment for students.

- 8.28.5 The effect is that the present “deficit” in the electoral ration will be replaced in 2013 by a ratio 5.25% above average.
- 8.28.6 *Sealand* is a long-established name in this part of the city of Chester, reflecting the long history of the impact of the tidal River Dee of the land and of communities with it. This name is proposed as it has a currency and familiarity for people in this area of the City.

8.29 Shakerley

- 8.29.1 The Council proposes a two-member ward for Shakerley, removing from the present Ward of Northwich East and Shakerley, much of the built-up parts of Northwich Town. The ward as proposed contains eight parishes in their entirety and one small town ward from Northwich.
- 8.29.2 Shakerley lies on the eastern edge of Cheshire West and Chester and consists of a large area where population density is low, coupled with the more densely populated villages of Rudheath, itself an extension of the town of Northwich, and Lostock Gramam, also one of Northwich’s suburbs. This ward as much as any other illustrates how a position on the edge of the borough, coupled with the low population density of very rural areas present challenges in ward-building by addition of adjoining areas.
- 8.29.3 The largest community, Rudheath has almost 3,000 electors whilst Lostock Gramam has nearly 1,800. The other parishes in the Ward are much smaller by comparison.
- 8.29.4 The proposed ward will re-unite the two parish wards of Lostock Gramam parish which was warded for the first time as a consequence of the Vale Royal electoral review in 1998. Whilst Cheshire West & Chester Council can see some advantages to retaining parish warding, it believes that this should be a matter upon which the views of the parish council and parish residents should prevail.
- 8.29.5 The Ward will contain a small part of Northwich town, South Witton. This is an area which is indistinguishable from the parts of Rudheath alongside which it lies. This part of the town is soon to join Rudheath in the parliamentary constituency of Tatton following the latest parliamentary review which also recognised the contiguous nature of Rudheath and South Witton.
- 8.29.6 Elector numbers for the ward are expected to be stable in all parts of it. This means that whilst as a two-member ward it was 2.7% above average in 2008, by 2013 it will be only 2.3% above average.
- 8.29.7 *Shakerley* was formerly the name of a Vale Royal Borough ward, taken from Shakerley Mere, formed from abandoned sand workings and around which

a noted wildlife site and park has been created. The name was adopted in the creation of the former Northwich East and Shakerley electoral division during the most recent County Council electoral review. Retaining this presents continuity and familiarity to electors.

8.30 South Winsford

- 8.30.1 Proposals for the town of Winsford address the requirements of the town as a whole as well as for the neighbourhoods within it. Having experienced very rapid growth in population as an “Expanding Town” in the 1960’s followed by a cessation of growth until the recovery of developer interest in the 1980’s, the town is set for a further period of consolidation. The major part of growth in the number of electors up to 2013 is in the area proposed by the Council as South Winsford.
- 8.30.2 The area comprises the town wards of Dene and Swanlow, which were also wards of the former Vale Royal Borough. To these is added the parish of Darnhall which covers the area between the town and the southern boundary of Cheshire West and Chester.
- 8.30.3 Darnhall, currently part of the Eddisbury Ward shares some rural characteristics with other parishes in that ward, but geographically and functionally, is much closer to Winsford than it is to Tarporley. In many respects, Darnhall is similar to the northern part of Winsford which lies between the built-up area of the town and Whitegate and Marton Parish, and the Clive Green area in the south-east of the town. In particular, the part of the parish on either side of Swanlow Lane bears a character of the urban fringe more than it does of an isolated rural area. A substantial proportion of the Darnhall parish’s residents live in housing developments which abut the built-up area of Winsford and are contemporary with the housing in this part of the town.
- 8.30.4 This is proposed as a two-member ward with an electoral ratio 4.3% above average for such a ward in 2008 and 7.3% above in 2013. Even with the inclusion of Darnhall, the ward is relatively compact and it is likely that electors will find their Councillors to be accessible.
- 8.30.5 Acceding to Darnhall Parish Council’s preference for inclusion of that parish in the Council’s proposed Eddisbury Ward would result in a reduction in the variance in electoral ratio in South Winsford to 1.7% above average in 2008 and 4.7% above in 2013 and in this respect, in numerical terms, be a favourable solution.
- 8.30.6 The Ward as proposed will contain two Town Council Wards. Cheshire West & Chester Council can see no reason to change the boundaries of those town wards in this review, but would concede to the wishes of the Town Council on this matter.
- 8.30.7 The Dene Drive and Swanlow Lane areas of Winsford are distinct housing areas. Swanlow Lane traverses the parish of Darnhall from north to south. It

is proposed that the name *South Winsford* be adopted reflecting the functional character of the area.

8.31 Sutton and Strawberry Fields

- 8.31.1 This proposal in the southern part of Ellesmere Port's built-up area is for the creation of a two-Member Ward presenting a clear physical and community identity. It is composed of four whole polling districts plus parts of UA and UB. The division of these latter polling districts not only leads to a better reflection of community but also improves electoral variance.
- 8.31.2 The boundaries of this proposed ward are clearly indentifiable locally: to the west it is the A41, to the north the open spaces of Rivacre Valley's tail end and Summertrees park, to the east Overpool Road and the historic area of Whitby and to the south, the A5117.
- 8.31.3 Housing is predominantly of two periods; 1960s/70s new town build, and early 1990s development in Strawberry Fields. The residents of these areas tend to use Hope Farm shops, Woodlands and Meadow Primary Schools, and are linked by a number of major roads such as Summertrees Road, Baker Drive, Hope Farm Road, Yeoman Way and Willowdale Way. Issues of anti-social behaviour in the open spaces, footpaths and at shops are high on resident's list of priorities for the work of local councillors.
- 8.31.4 This is not an area which will grow in electorate as part of Ellesmere Port's inclusion in the Growth Point programme. With electorate planned to decrease therefore, a variance in 2008 which shows the Ward to be 14.7% above the average electoral ratio will have narrowed to 8.5% above in 2013. As a compact urban Ward, the Council believes that this variance is manageable in a two-Member Ward.
- 8.31.5 There is no satisfactory alternative to warding this area into single-member wards that does not recognise the focal strength and importance of the Hope Farm area to all residents; this compact urban ward is a cohesive community of interest which could be ably served by a team of two councillors.
- 8.31.6 *Sutton & Strawberry Fields* represents locally understood and recognised names and offers familiarity and continuity to electors.

8.32 Upton & Saughall

- 8.32.1 The Council proposes a bold step by reflecting the relationship between Chester's northern suburban area of Upton and Bache with ten parishes in the rural area which lies between Chester and Ellesmere Port. Of these, eight form parts of grouped Parish Councils but the relationship in particular of Saughall, Mollington, Moston and Backford to Chester is sufficiently strong to encourage the Council to reflect the issues facing people throughout northern Chester in a Ward of 3 Members.

- 8.32.2 Whilst the Council has paid close attention to the nature of issues affecting this area, coupling Upton with Bache and the other parishes has a beneficial effect on the pursuit of electoral equality and whilst electoral variance from the average is initially 1.6% (below average), notwithstanding anticipated development, in particular that at Bache, it will remain close to the norm, at 3% below average in 2013.
- 8.32.3 The name *Upton & Saughall* reflects the character of the area, having suburban and detached parts of north Chester's housing market.

8.33 Weaver

- 8.33.1 The Council's proposal retains the current ward, with three members. It consists of ten parishes, one of which, Aston, has no parish council but expresses community preference through a parish meeting. The largest parish in the Ward is Weaverham with 5,000 electors, almost half of the ward's total. Anticipated change in the electorate is relatively slight, with the only significant housing, a re-development of the Crossley hospital site (which has been commenced) adding around 100 electors in the parish of Manley.
- 8.33.2 The parishes share the land-use planning context of the north Cheshire Green Belt, which imposes a constraint on urban forms of development. The area forms part of the Weaver Valley Park system and so contributes to the Mersey Forest programme which seeks to promote economic and landscape regeneration in rural north Cheshire. In this respect, parish councils and other local organisations are used to working together.
- 8.33.3 Weaverham High School provides the focus for secondary education for much of the area and beyond.
- 8.33.4 The Ward has an electorate 1.6% above average for a three-member ward using 2008 figures increasing to 1.9% in 2013.
- 8.33.5 The ward displays very clearly the difficulties which would arise from an approach which used single-member wards either in total or in combination with multi-member wards. Weaverham is too large to be represented by a single member and too small to be represented by two. This means that in a single-member approach, part of the village would be a single-member ward whilst the remainder would be part of a ward which also includes other parishes and be represented by one or more councillors. The effect of this would be that the two parts of the Weaverham community would be represented differently. The Council reverts therefore to its principle that it is better to combine communities in a multi-member ward than to split them by single-member-ward boundaries.
- 8.33.6 Whilst alternative solutions to that proposed might combine Weaverham with other areas, Cheshire West and Chester Council considers that the proposed Ward is not only appropriate in its entirety, but also reflects best the interrelationships between the parishes within it. For example, Alvanley, Crowton, Kingsley, Manley and Norley have been working together to bring

forward an affordable housing scheme. Crowton, Kingsley and Norley are associated ecclesiastically. Weaverham, Acton Bridge, Crowton, Kingsley, Aston, Sutton and Dutton all “share” the River Weaver and therefore interests in landscape, tourism, drainage and flood control matters and the development of the current “Weaver Valley Initiative”. The proposal reflects the relationship between Acton Bridge and Weaverham as it does that between Acton Bridge and Crowton, the Parish Councils of which both have confidence in this proposal.

8.33.7 Weaverham is a warded parish in which electoral ratios are almost equal. This proposal does not require a continuation of parish warding, but Cheshire West and Chester Council would defer to the wishes of Weaverham Parish Council on any decision concerning parish warding. A decision to divide the parish of Weaverham by a Cheshire West and Chester Council Ward boundary would require a modification of parish warding.

8.33.8 The Ward should retain the name *Weaver*, taken from the river, as this presents continuity and familiarity to electors.

8.34 Wharton

8.34.1 The town of Winsford is currently divided into two wards, by a boundary which runs, broadly from north-west to south-east. However, the River Weaver forms a clearer, natural, boundary from north to south. Historically, the river separated the townships of Wharton and Over. The Council proposes to re-instate the river as a demarcation of community by the creation of a two-member ward including all parts of the town lying to the east of the river.

8.34.2 In addition, the Council would add the parishes of Wimboldsley and Stanthorne. These parishes on the periphery of Cheshire West & Chester are currently in the Council’s Abbey Ward.

8.34.3 The parishes lie between Winsford and Middlewich and to the north of Crewe. They are remote from the Abbey Ward’s larger village communities both of Davenham and Hartford.

8.34.4 They are connect to Winsford by the A54 and the local road network via Clive Green. Both parishes express a community voice through parish meetings, neither having a parish council.

8.34.5 The size of the electorate is expected to be stable over the review’s five-year forecast period. This means that the proposed ward would be 4.6% above the average electoral ratio in 2008 but this would reduce to 3.1% above average ratio by 2013.

8.34.6 The Ward would consist entirely of current polling districts. Currently, the Winsford Town part of the proposed Ward is warded for Town Council representation; the town wards of Winsford Wharton and Winsford Gravel were also wards of the former Vale Royal Borough Council. Cheshire West

and Chester can see no reason to change this, but would concede to the wishes of Winsford Town Council on this matter.

- 8.34.7 The Council proposes to adopt the name of the historic township *Wharton* for the entire Ward. Notwithstanding the inclusion of Stanthorne and Wimboldsley, the Council believes that this name is acceptably established in the community as representing the township lying to the east of the River Weaver.

8.35 Witton and Winnington

- 8.35.1 The Council's proposal for Witton and Winnington reflects the unacceptable variance in the electoral ratio for the present Northwich West Ward. With the opportunity taken to reflect the Shakerley Ward as an area distinct from Northwich's urban centre, the Council is proposing a two-member ward which covers those parts of Northwich most closely identified with the chemical industry of the 20th century. The decline of that sector creates issues for the regeneration of the sites of former chemical plants in both Winnington and Witton and common issues of regeneration and renewal of older housing.
- 8.35.2 The social impacts of industrial decline are more sharply seen in the eastern parts of Northwich than in Winnington, with overall deprivation marked by employment, health and education issues. The Ward contains the town's Victoria Infirmary, part of the Mid Cheshire Hospitals Trust and a partner in programmes to address deprivation-related health issues.
- 8.35.3 The Ward will call for the development of particular Member expertise related to regeneration and the particular physical issues which arise from the chemical industry legacy.
- 8.35.4 The site of former chemical plants in Winnington is to be the subject of an Urban Village development, bringing substantial numbers of new dwellings in the future. However, the planning permissions necessary to allow development to commence have not yet been secured. Furthermore, there are physical and financial challenges to the redevelopment of sites affected by chemical industries and for these reasons, it has not been possible to forecast with certainty, the timing of expected housing growth. For this reason, whilst development at Winnington Urban Village within five years may be expected, no addition to the electorate as a consequence of this development has been factored into the forecast. More certain developments in the Winnington area have, however, been factored in.
- 8.35.5 The effect of this is to create a two-Member Ward which, using 2008 data has an electoral ratio 1.9% below average but where the ratio will in 2013 be 3.4% above average.
- 8.35.6 The proposed Ward is composed of entire current polling districts with registers and polling places already identified. The Ward does not give the prospect of subdivision in a way which could reflect community identity.

8.35.7 *Witton and Winnington* are names of two distinct areas of Northwich and were the names of Wards of the former Vale Royal Borough Council. Both names have a strong identity in the community, reflected in Witton Albion FC and Winnington Park RFC. Retention of these identities in the proposed Ward name gives continuity and context to the electoral arrangements here.

9.0 Conclusions

- 9.1 Cheshire West & Chester Council's proposal for electoral review has been designed to create arrangements that are equitable and lead to efficient and convenient local democracy in which communities are adequately represented. It represents, however, a best balance of the many and detailed local considerations which the Council has made in addressing electoral matters for the whole Borough.
- 9.2 The Council's proposal is a principled one; and those principles are set out in this statement of the Council's case. It considers the quality of representation as well as the mathematics of electoral ratio. It is this which underpins the principle that all Wards should have multi-Member representation, and the principle that communities of common interest and identity should have certainty of their representation at Borough level and beyond.
- 9.3 The Council's proposal is for fifteen two-member and fifteen three-member wards. This is a result of the endeavour of the Council to ensure that communities of common interest are not divided. This is illustrated in the Council's proposed Marbury Ward: whilst Barnton cannot sustain in its entirety, a single-member ward within the terms of numerical electoral equality, it is not possible to add to Barnton "enough" electors to create a two-member ward without dividing the community interests in adjoining parishes. By creating a three-Member Ward as proposed, the requirements of electoral equality and community interests are satisfied. A similar situation arises at Weaverham and Hartford. In other instances, however, including Shakerley, Mickle Trafford and Goway, it has been possible to create two-member wards based on community interest, combining the advantage of retained multi-member representation with the reflection of localised community identity. Whilst these illustrations reflect rural areas in Cheshire West and Chester, the same approach has been adopted to ensure that the identities of very particular urban neighbourhoods have been protected.
- 9.4 The Council's case is presented not only to the Boundary Committee for England but also to all of those who wish to understand the Council's desire to be as excellent in its democratic processes as in its delivery of service to the people of Cheshire West and Chester.

Appendix 1

ELECTORATE FORM 1: EXISTING ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS

District : Cheshire West & Chester

Contact name: David Owen
 Contact number: 01244 975932
 Date: 6 April 2009

(i)	(ii)	(iii)	(iv)	(v)	(vi)
Ward no. (1,2,3 etc)	Ward name	No. of councillors	Constituent areas (parish, parish ward or polling district, as appropriate)	Electorate (2008)	Electorate (5 year forecast)
1	Abbey		EBA - Bostock	198	210
			EBB - Davenham Village	2170	2170
			EBC - Davenham Whatcroft	56	60
			EBD - Moulton	1877	1880
			EBE - Stanthorne	114	110
			EBF - Wimboldsley	134	130
			ECA - Whitegate & Marton	933	930
			WDA - Hartford (part 1)	1505	1510
			WDB - Hartford (part 2)	1498	1530
			WDC - Hartford (part 3)	1427	1430
	Totals	3		9912	9960

2	Blacon		DA1	2724	2650
			DA2	1272	1240
			DA3	1479	1430
			DB1	854	830
			DB2	1277	1470
			DB3	1399	1350
			Totals	3	
3	Boughton Heath and Vicars Cross		DD1 -Great Boughton (South Ward)	1359	1320
			DD2 -Great Boughton (South Ward)	1643	1590
			DD3	98	90
			D11 - Alford	178	180
			D12 - Buerton	24	20
			D13 - Churton Heath	11	10
			D14 - Claverton	0	0
			D15 - Dodleston	610	600
			D16 - Eaton	40	40
			D17 - Eccleston	146	140
			D18 - Lea Newbold	16	20
			D19 - Lower Kinnerton	105	100
			D110 - Marlston-cum-Lache (part)	71	70
			D111 - Poulton	74	90
			D112 - Pulford	353	350
			DM1 - Huntington	1508	1580
			DU1	382	430
DU2 - Great Boughton (north ward)	3847	3720			
DU3	198	190			
Totals	3		10663	10540	

4	Broxton
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FB1 - Churton-by-Aldford	114	110
FB2 - Churton-by-Farndon	120	120
FB3 - Crewe-by-Farndon	17	20
FB4 - Edgerley	3	0
FB5 - Farndon	1272	1260
FB6 - Kings Marsh	23	20
FD1 - Agden	35	30
FD2 - Bickley	423	410
FD3 - Bradley	49	50
FD4 - Chidlow	6	10
FD5 - Chorlton	44	40
FD6 - Cuddington	154	150
FD7 - Edge	159	170
FD8 - Hampton	312	320
FD9 - Larkton	32	30
FD10 - Macefen	73	70
FD11 - Malpas	1391	1430
FD12 - Newton-by-Malpas	8	10
FD13 - Oldcastle	42	40
FD14 - Overton	49	50
FD15 - Stockton	13	10
FD16 - Threapwood	240	230
FD17 - Tushingam-cum-Grindley	130	130
FD18 - Wigland	85	80
FD19 - Wychough	3	0
DW1 - Saighton	145	140
FF1 - Beeston	161	160
FF2 - Burwardsley	144	140

		FF3 - Chowley	16	20
		FF4 - Golbourne Bellow	61	60
		FF5 - Golbourne David	47	50
		FF6 - Handley	129	130
		FF7 - Hatton	81	80
		FF8 - Newton-by-Tattenhall	98	100
		FF9 - Tattenhall	1680	1630
		FF10 - Tilstone Fearnall	93	90
		FF11 - Tiverton	335	320
		FG1 - Aldersey	63	60
		FG2 - Barton	59	60
		FG3 - Broxton	342	330
		FG4 - Caldecott	28	30
		FG5 - Carden	47	50
		FG6 - Church Shocklach	85	80
		FG7 - Clutton	222	210
		FG8 - Coddington	52	50
		FG9 - Duckington	40	40
		FG10 - Grafton	3	0
		FG11 - Harthill	31	30
		FG12 - Horton-by-Malpas	55	50
		FG13 - Shocklach Oviatt	70	70
		FG14 - Stretton	40	80
		FG15 - Tilston	494	480
	Totals	3	9418	9330

5	Central & Westminster		MC	1029	1000
			NA	1277	1240
			NB	915	1010
			NC	517	1980
			OA	2208	2140
			OB	176	170
			OC	1675	2350
			SA	1251	1210
			SB	1404	1470
			Totals	3	
6	City		DC1	868	890
			DC2	1274	1240
			DC3	1114	1090
			DF1	1207	1410
			DF2	679	1260
			DF3	428	480
			DF4	355	360
			DF5 - Chester Castle	0	0
			DG1	1926	2020
			DG2	1554	2650
Totals	3		9405	11400	

7	Eddisbury		EAA - Cuddington (part 1)	1811	1810
			EAB - Cuddington (part 2) Delamere Park	926	930
			EAC - Sandiway	1665	1680
			EAD - Oakmere	533	540
			EEA - Cotebrook	199	200
			EEB - Utkinton	363	370
			EEC - Delamere	915	920
			EFA - Darnhall	176	180
			EFB - Little Budworth	519	520
			EFC - Rushton	375	380
			EFD - Tarporley (part 1)	910	920
			EFE - Tarporley (part 2)	1255	1280
		Totals	3		9647
8	Frodsham & Helsby		WBA - Frodsham East	1935	1940
			WBB - Frodsham North	2414	2540
			WBC - Frodsham West	1187	1280
			WCA - Frodsham South	1754	1760
			WEA - Helsby Central	1436	1440
			WEB - Helsby North	1342	1350
			WEC - Helsby South	1054	1080
		Totals	3		11122

9	Gowy		DE1 - Christleton	1626	1580
			DE2 - Littleton	493	480
			DE3 - Guilden Sutton	1131	1100
			FC1 - Ashton	754	730
			FC2 - Kelsall	2139	2110
			FE1 - Bruen Stapleford	66	60
			FE2 - Burton-by-Tarvin	43	40
			FE3 - Clotton Hoofield	261	260
			FE4 - Cotton Edmunds	24	20
			FE5 - Duddon	394	380
			FE6 - Foulk Stapleford	140	140
			FE7 - Hockenhull	27	30
			FE8 - Huxley	205	200
			FE9 - Iddinshall	30	60
			FE10 - Prior's Heys	16	20
			FE11 - Tarvin (Outer Ward)	320	310
			FE12 - Tarvin (Village Ward)	1747	1690
			FE13 - Willington	73	70
			DX1 - Rowton	379	370
			FH1 - Cotton Abbots	7	10
			FH2 - Waverton	1271	1230
	Totals	3		11146	10890

10	Grange & Rossmore		RD	739	720
			MA	2020	2040
			MB	1139	1100
			MD	391	380
			QA	728	710
			QB	856	830
			QC	1404	1360
			RA	411	400
			RB	2049	1990
			RC	911	880
	Totals	3		10648	10410
11	Groves & Whitby		WA	1017	990
			WB	1896	1840
			XA	1861	1800
			XB	873	850
			YA	1105	1070
			YB	1451	1410
			YC	2216	2150
	Totals	3		10419	10110

12	Hoole & Newton		DK1	1255	1210
			DK2	1214	1170
			DL1	1321	1280
			DL2	1423	1380
			DL3	358	350
			DP2	1134	1100
			DQ1	2009	1940
			DQ2	139	130
			DQ3	523	510
				3	
13	Ledsham & Willaston		CA	585	570
			CB	759	740
			CK	2293	2250
			LA	943	960
			PA	1777	1720
			PB	2885	2900
			Totals	3	

14	Marbury		TAA - Barnton (part 1)	1428	1590
			TAB - Barnton (part 2)	1402	1400
			TAC - Barnton (part 3)	1568	1630
			TBA - Anderton with Marbury	470	470
			TBB - Comberbach	805	810
			TBC - Little Leigh	472	470
			TCA - Lostock Gralam Village	1480	1490
			TCB - Wincham	1773	1950
			TEA - Antrobus	644	650
			TEB - Great Budworth	303	300
			TEC - Marston	448	450
			TED - Whitley	433	440
		Totals	3		11226

15	Mickle Trafford
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EC1 - Dunham-on-Hill	397	390
EC2 - Hapsford	62	70
FA1 - Barrow	746	750
FA2 - Horton-cum-Peel	26	30
FA3 - Mouldsworth	234	230
DV1 - Croughton	21	20
DV2 - Little Stanney	161	160
DV3 - Stoak	90	90
DV4 - Wervin	108	100
EA1 - Elton	2632	2550
EA2 - Thonton-le-Moors	194	190
EB1 - Bridge Trafford	21	20
EB2 - Hoole Village	185	180
EB3 - Mickle Trafford	1449	1400
EB4 - Picton	46	40
EB5 - Wimbolds Trafford	89	90
DO1 - Backford	85	80
DO2 - Capenhurst	205	200
DO3 - Caughall	22	20
DO4 - Chorlton-by-Backford	77	70
DO5 - Lea-by-Backford	150	150
DO6 - Ledsham	98	90
DO7 - Mollington	518	510
DO8 - Moston	181	170
DR1 - Puddington	303	290
DR2 - Saughall	2380	2300
DR3 - Shotwick	35	40

			DR4 - Shotwick Park	26	30
			DR5 - Woodbank	49	50
	Totals	3		10590	10310
16	Neston & Parkgate		CC	2870	2780
			CD	1652	1600
			CE	1082	1050
			CF	3070	3050
			CH	1437	1390
			CJ	1691	1680
	Totals	3		11802	11550
17	Northwich East & Shakerley		TDA - Rudheath (part 1)	1487	1490
			TDB - Rudheath (part 2)	1406	1460
			TFA - Allostock	623	630
			TFB - Byley	162	160
			TFC - Lach Dennis	212	210
			TFD - Lostock Green	288	290
			TFE - Nether Peover	349	350
			TFF - Sproston	176	180
			WLA - Northwich Witton (part 1)	428	430
			WLB - Northwich Witton (part 2)	1239	1240
			WLC - Northwich Witton (part 3)	1203	1320
			WLD - Northwich Witton (part 4)	1673	1960
			WLE - Northwich Witton (part 5)	676	830
			WMA - Northwich South Witton	698	700
	Totals	3		10620	11250

18	Northwich West		EDA - Davenham Kingsmead	2881	2880
			WGA - Northwich Leftwich (part 1)	1569	1620
			WGB - Northwich Leftwich (part 2)	1636	1640
			WJA - Northwich Castle (part 1)	1520	1530
			WJB - Northwich Castle (part 2)	2545	2590
			WJC - Northwich Castle (part 3)	644	640
			WKA - Northwich Winnington	2028	2080
	Totals	3		12823	12980
19	Overleigh		DH1	1426	1430
			DH2	1942	1880
			DJ1	620	600
			DJ2	2523	2440
			DN1	1181	1150
			DN2	3115	3030
			DN3 - Marlston-cum-Lache (part)	17	20
	Totals	3		10824	10550
20	Sutton & Manor		UA	994	960
			UB	1184	1150
			UC	2204	2140
			VA	2427	2350
			VB	530	510
			ZA	1485	1440
			ZB	1525	1480
	Totals	3		10349	10030

21	Upton		DS1 - Upton-by-Chester (Upton Grange Ward)	947	920
			DS2 - Upton-by-Chester (Upton Grange Ward)	931	900
			DS3 - Upton-by-Chester (Upton Grange Ward)	440	430
			DS4 - Upton-by-Chester (Upton Park ward)	697	670
			DS5 - Bache	125	440
			DS6	1820	1770
			DS7	2	0
			DT1 - Upton-by-Chester (Upton Heath Ward)	3010	2920
			DP1	1976	1910
			3		9948
22	Weaver		WAA - Alvanley	373	380
			WAB - Manley	472	600
			WAC - Norley	965	970
			WFA - Kingsley	1684	1690
			WHA - Acton Bridge	519	520
			WHB - Aston	85	90
			WHC - Crowton	377	380
			WHD - Dutton	346	360
			WHE - Sutton	388	390
			WNA - Church	1650	1660
			WNB - Gorstage	1626	1630
			WNC - Owley Wood	1724	1730
		Totals	3		10209

23	Winsford North & East		EHA - Winsford Gravel (part 1)	1531	1530
			EHB - Winsford Gravel (part 2)	1679	1680
			ELA - Winsford Verdin (part 1)	135	140
			ELB - Winsford Verdin (part 2)	1958	1990
			ELC - Winsford Verdin (part 3)	2746	2750
			EMA - Winsford Wharton (part 1)	1223	1220
			EMB - Winsford Wharton (part 2)	2327	2340
	Totals	3		11599	11650
24	Winsford South & West		EGA - Winsford Dene (part 1)	2011	2020
			EGB - Winsford Dene (part 2)	1434	1700
			EJA - Winsford Over (part 1)	2361	2360
			EJB - Winsford Over (part 2)	548	550
			EJC - Winsford Over (part 3)	1103	1200
			EKA - Winsford Swanlow (part 1)	1731	1760
			EKB - Winsford Swanlow (part 2)	1637	1640
	Totals	3		10825	11230

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	Authority-wide totals	72		251270	255070
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Appendix 2

ELECTORATE FORM 2: PARISHING ARRANGEMENTS

District :	Cheshire West & Chester
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Contact name:	David Owen
Contact number:	01244 975932
Date:	21 May 2009

Parish or Town Council / Parish Meeting	Number of councillors (none for parish meeting, insert 'Meeting')	Electorate (2008)	No. of electors per councillor	Parish wards or constituent parishes (where applicable - state if a whole parish or parish ward)	No. of councillors	Electorate	No. of electors per councillor	District ward
Acton Bridge	8	519	65					Weaver
Agden (Parish Meeting)	meeting	35						Broxton
Aldford, Saughton and District	10	374	37	Aldford	4	178	45	Boughton Heath & Vicars Cross
				Buerton	1	24	24	Boughton Heath & Vicars Cross
				Churton Heath	1	11	11	Boughton Heath & Vicars Cross
				Lea Newbold	1	16	16	Boughton Heath & Vicars Cross
				Saughton	3	145	48	Broxton
Allostock	8	623	78					Northwich East & Shakerley

Alvanley	8	373	47					Weaver
Anderton with Marbury	8	470	59					Marbury
Antrobus	9	644	72					Marbury
Ashton Hayes	9	754	84					Gow
Aston	Meeting	85						Weaver
Backford & District	10	184	18	Backford	7	85	12	Mickle Trafford
				Caughall	1	22	22	Mickle Trafford
				Chorlton-by-Backford	2	77	39	Mickle Trafford
Barnton	15	4398	293					Marbury
Barrow	9	746	83					Mickle Trafford
Beeston	7	161	23					Broxton
Bostock	5	198	40					Abbey
Bradley (Parish Meeting)	meeting	49						Broxton
Broxton & District	10	413	41	Broxton	8	342	43	Broxton
				Harthill	1	31	31	Broxton
				Duckington	1	40	40	Broxton
Bruen Stapleford (Civil Parish)	0	66						Gow
Burton-by-Tarvin (Civil Parish)	0	43						Gow
Burwardsley	7	144	21					Broxton
Byley	Meeting	162						Northwich East & Shakerley
Capenhurst & Ledsham	9	303	34	Capenhurst	6	205	34	Mickle Trafford
				Ledsham	3	98	33	Mickle Trafford
Chidlow (Civil Parish)	0	6						Broxton
Chester Castle (Civil Parish)	0	0						
Chorlton (Parish Meeting)	meeting	44						Broxton
Christleton	10	1626	163					Gow
Churton	8	234	29	Churton-by-Aldford	5	114	23	Broxton
				Churton-by-Farndon	3	120	40	Broxton

Claverton (Civil Parish)	0	0						
Clotton Hoofield	7	261	37					Gowy
Coddington & District	6	483	81	Aldersey	1	63	63	Broxton
				Barton	1	59	59	Broxton
				Carden	1	47	47	Broxton
				Clutton	1	222	222	Broxton
				Coddington	1	52	52	Broxton
				Stretton	1	40	40	Broxton
Comberbach	8	805	101					Marbury
Cotton Abbots (Civil Parish)	0	7						Gowy
Cotton Edmunds (Parish Meeting)	meeting	24						Gowy
Crewe-by-Farndon (Civil Parish)	0	17						Broxton
Crowton	8	377	47					Weaver
Cuddington (Parish Meeting)	meeting	154						Broxton
Cuddington	10	4402	440	Cuddington Ward	5	2737	547.4	Eddisbury
				Sandiway Ward	5	1665	333	Eddisbury
Darnhall	7	176	25					Eddisbury
Davenham	11	5107	464	Davenham Kingsmead Ward	5	2881	576	Northwich West
				Davenham Village Ward	6	2226	371	Abbey
Delamere	11	915	83					Eddisbury
Dodleston & District	10	803	80	Dodleston	5	610	122	Boughton Heath & Vicars Cross
				Lower Kinnerton	3	105	35	Boughton Heath & Vicars Cross
				Marlston-cum-Lache	2	88	44	Boughton Heath & Vicars Cross
Duddon	5	394	79					Gowy
Dunham Hill & Hapsford	10	459	46	Dunham Hill	7	397	57	Mickle Trafford
				Hapsford	3	62	21	Mickle Trafford

Dutton	8	346	43					Weaver
Eaton, Eccleston & Claverton	11	186	17	Eaton	2	40	20	Boughton Heath & Vicars Cross
				Eccleston	8	146	18	Boughton Heath & Vicars Cross
				Claverton	1	0	0	Boughton Heath & Vicars Cross
Edgerley (Civil Parish)	0	3						Broxton
Elton	8	2632	329					Mickle Trafford
Farndon	11	1272	116					Broxton
Foulk Stapleford	5	140	28					Goway
Frodsham Town Council	16	7290	456	Frodsham East Ward	5	1935	387	Frodsham & Helsby
				Frodsham North Ward	4	2414	604	Frodsham & Helsby
				Frodsham South Ward	4	1754	439	Frodsham & Helsby
				Frodsham West Ward	3	1187	396	Frodsham & Helsby
Grafton (Civil Parish)	0	3						Broxton
Great Boughton	15	6849	457	North Ward	8	3847	481	Boughton Heath & Vicars Cross
				South Ward	7	3002	429	Boughton Heath & Vicars Cross
Great Budworth	8	303	38					Marbury
Guilden Sutton	8	1131	141					Goway
Handley & District	8	192	24	Chowley	1	16	16	Broxton
				Golbourne David	1	47	47	Broxton
				Handley	6	129	22	Broxton
Hartford	10	4430	443					Abbey
Hatton (Civil Parish)	0	81						Broxton
Helsby	15	3832	255	Helsby Central Ward	5	1436	287	Frodsham & Helsby
				Helsby North Ward	5	1342	268	Frodsham & Helsby

				Helsby South Ward	5	1054	211	Frodsham & Helsby
Hockenhull (Civil Parish)	0	27						Gowy
Horton-cum-Peel (Civil Parish)	0	26						Mickle Trafford
Huntington	10	1508	151					Boughton Heath & Vicars Cross
Huxley	7	205	29					Gowy
Ince	5	176	35					Central & Westminster
Kelsall	9	2139	238					Gowy
Kings Marsh (Civil Parish)	0	23						Broxton
Kingsley	11	1684	153					Weaver
Iddinshall (Civil Parish)	0	30						Gowy
Lach Dennis	7	212	30					Northwich East & Shakerley
Lea-by-Backford	6	150	25					Mickle Trafford
Little Budworth	8	519	65					Eddisbury
Little Leigh	8	472	59					Marbury
Little Stanney & District	11	380	35	Croughton	1	21	21	Mickle Trafford
				Little Stanney	5	161	32	Mickle Trafford
				Stoak	3	90	30	Mickle Trafford
				Wervin	2	108	54	Mickle Trafford
Littleton	7	493	70					Gowy
Lostock Gralam	10	1768	177	Lostock Green Ward	2	288	144	Northwich East & Shakerley
				Lostock Gralam Village Ward	8	1480	185	Northwich East & Shakerley
Macefen (Parish Meeting)	meeting	73						Broxton
Malpas	11	1391	126					Broxton
Manley	9	472	52					Weaver
Marston	10	448	45					Marbury
Mickle Trafford & District	20	1790	90	Bridge Trafford	1	21	21	Mickle Trafford

				Hoole Village	5	185	37	Mickle Trafford
				Mickle Trafford	9	1449	161	Mickle Trafford
				Picton	2	46	23	Mickle Trafford
				Wimbolds Trafford	3	89	30	Mickle Trafford
Mollington	7	518	74					Mickle Trafford
Mouldsworth	5	234	47					Mickle Trafford
Moulton	11	1877	171					Abbey
Neston Town Council	17	12561	739	Little Neston Ward	4	2734	684	Neston and Parkgate
				Riverside Ward	4	2870	718	Neston and Parkgate
				Neston Ward	4	3070	768	Neston and Parkgate
				Parkgate Ward	4	3128	782	Neston and Parkgate
				Ness Ward	1	759	759	Ledsham and Willaston
Nether Peover	4	349	87					Northwich East & Shakerley
Newton-by-Malpas (Civil Parish)	0	8						Broxton
No Mans Heath & District	15	926	62	Bickley	7	423	60	Broxton
				Hampton	6	312	52	Broxton
				Edge	1	159	159	Broxton
				Larkton	1	32	32	Broxton
Norley	9	965	107					Weaver
Northwich Town Council	21	15859	755	Northwich Castle Ward	7	4709		Northwich West
				Northwich Leftwich Ward	4	3205		Northwich West
				Northwich Winnington Ward	2	2028		Northwich West
				Northwich Witton Ward	7	5219		Northwich East & Shakerley
				South Witton Ward	1	698		Northwich East & Shakerley
Oakmere	7	533	76					Eddisbury

Oldcastle (Civil Parish)	0	42						Broxton
Overton (Parish Meeting)	meeting	49						Broxton
Poulton & Pulford	10	427	43	Poulton	4	74	19	Boughton Heath & Vicars Cross
				Pulford	6	353	59	Boughton Heath & Vicars Cross
Prior's Heyes (Civil Parish)	0	16						Gowy
Puddington & District	11	387	35	Puddington	7	303	43	Mickle Trafford
				Shotwick	2	35	18	Mickle Trafford
				Woodbank	2	49	25	Mickle Trafford
Rowton	7	379	54					Gowy
Rudheath	15	2893	193					Northwich East & Shakerley
Rushton	7	375	54					Eddisbury
Saughall & Shotwick Park	14	2406	172	Saughall	13	2380	183	Mickle Trafford
				Shotwick Park	1	26	26	Mickle Trafford
Shocklach & District	10	238	24	Caldecott	2	28	14	Broxton
				Church Shocklach	3	85	28	Broxton
				Shocklach Oviatt	3	70	23	Broxton
				Horton-by-Malpas	2	55	28	Broxton
Sproston	6	176	29					Northwich East & Shakerley
Stanthorne	Meeting	114						Abbey
Stockton (Civil Parish)	0	13						Broxton
Sutton	7	388	55					Weaver
Tarporley	12	2165	180					Eddisbury
Tarvin	11	2067	188	Tarvin Outer Ward	2	320	160	Gowy
				Tarvin Village Ward	9	1747	194	Gowy
Tattenhall & District	15	1839	123	Golbourne Bellow	2	61	31	Broxton
				Newton-by-Tattenhall	3	98	33	Broxton

				Tattenhall	10	1680	168	Broxton
Thornton-Le-Moors	7	194	28					Mickle Trafford
Threapwood	7	240	34					Broxton
Tilston	8	494						Broxton
Tiverton & Tilstone Fearnall	9	428	48	Tiverton	8	335	42	Broxton
				Tilstone Fearnall	1	93	93	Broxton
Tushingam-cum-Grindley (Parish Meeting)	meeting	130						Broxton
Upton-by-Chester & District	16	6331	396	Bache	1	125	125	Upton
				Moston	1	181	181	Mickle Trafford
				Upton Grange	5	2318	464	Upton
				Upton Heath	7	3010	430	Upton
				Upton Park	2	697	349	Upton
Utkinton	9	562	62					Eddisbury
Waverton	11	1271	116					Gowy
Weaverham	12	5000	417	Church Ward	4	1650	413	Weaver
				Gorstage Ward	4	1626	407	Weaver
				Owley Wood Ward	4	1724	431	Weaver
Whitegate and Marton	8	933	117					Abbey
Whitley	7	433	62					Marbury
Wigland (Civil Parish)	0	85						Broxton
Willington (Civil Parish)	0	73						Gowy
Wimboldsley	Meeting	134						Abbey
Wincham	11	1773	161					Marbury
Winsford Town Council	15	22424	1495	Winsford Dene Ward	2	3445	1,723	Winsford South & West
				Winsford Gravel Ward	2	3210	1,605	Winsford North & East
				Winsford Over Ward	3	4012	1,337	Winsford South & West

				Winsford Swanlow Ward	3	3368	1,123	Winsford South & West
				Winsford Verdin Ward	3	4839	1,613	Winsford North & East
				Winsford Wharton Ward	2	3550	1,775	Winsford North & East
Wychough (Civil Parish)	0	3						Broxton
TOTALS		158026						

Note: the average number of electors per councillor does not apply to parish meetings

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**ELECTORATE FORM 2:
continued**

Unparished district wards	Electorate
Blacon	9005
Boughton Heath and Vicars Cross (part)	678
Central & Westminster (part)	10276
City	9405
Grange & Rossmore	10648
Groves & Whitby	10419
Hoole & Newton	9376
Ledsham & Willaston (part)	8483
Overleigh	10807
Sutton & Manor	10349

Upton (part)	3798
Total	93244

Total electorate in unparished areas	93244
% of total electorate	37%
Total electorate in parished areas	158026
% of total electorate	63%
Total electorate	251270

Appendix 3

Cheshire West & Chester Electoral Review 2009

The Current Electorate and Forecast Electorate

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Boundary Committee (BC) is to carry out an electoral review (ER) of the electoral arrangements of Cheshire West & Chester Council. The review process invites the local authority and others to submit proposals for the creation of new wards for the authority to the BC.
- 1.2 Those submitting proposals during the electoral review are required to have regard to current electorate and to five-year forecasts of the electorate. For the purposes of the review, the data submitted as part of the national collection of electorate data, 1 December 2008, is used as current electorate. This means that forecasts of the number of electors expected at 1 December 2013 are required. To ensure consistency and to facilitate direct comparison of the merits of alternative proposals, those who wish to prepare proposals, whether for the whole of Cheshire West & Chester or for part of its area only, should use these two sets of electorates in their submissions to the Boundary Committee.
- 1.3 The purpose of the forecasts is to ensure, as far as practicable, that changes in the number and location of electors do not, within a short time of completing the review, significantly upset the general balance of elected members to voters.
- 1.4 The Boundary Committee has produced guidance based on the methodologies used in, and experience of, previous reviews. Cheshire West & Chester Council has followed this guidance.
- 1.5 This Appendix sets out the methodology used by the Council to prepare the forecasts that have been sent to the BC and that we have used to prepare this proposal for electoral arrangements. The methodology is essentially that which has previously been used in, and found to be satisfactory for electoral review in Cheshire. It is a methodology that has reportedly been adopted in other areas.
- 1.6 Wherever possible, the methodology uses information that is already published. It seeks to produce the most reasonable forecasts of the electorate having regard to the current and changing nature of the population in any particular area.

2. The Current Electorate

- 2.1 The electorate is made up of those people whose names appear on the electoral register. This includes people aged 18 and over and people who were not yet aged 18 when the register was compiled but who will attain

voting age while the register is in force. In stating the size of the electorate in a given area, we are not necessarily stating the number of residents aged 18 and over living in the area.

- 2.2 For the purposes of electoral review, the current electorate is that shown in the Electoral Register for the year commencing 1 December 2008. It is the total number of people included on the Register. It, therefore, includes the people aged 18 and over on 1 December 2008 who are included on the Register and the number of people who will become 18 while the Register is in force. The district councils (up to 31 March 2009), as electoral registration authorities, provided the current electorate figures.
- 2.3 Table 1 gives the total current electorate for Cheshire West & Chester and each of the three former districts which were aggregated to create the new Council.

Table 1 – Current Electorate in Cheshire West and Chester

District	Current Electorate December 2008
Chester	90,375
Ellesmere Port & Neston	62,912
Vale Royal	97,983
Cheshire West and Chester	251,270

- 2.4 The Council has completed the Boundary Committee's proformas 1 and 2 that show the current electorate in each current polling district and parish in Cheshire West and Chester. The totals for all areas within a former district from the proformas are the same as the figures for the district shown in Table 1 above.

3 Five Year Forecasts of Electorate

District Level Forecasts

- 3.1 It is not possible to prepare population forecasts of the change in the electorate from December 2008 to December 2013 from published sources. It is necessary, therefore, to use information relating to comparable periods and apply ratios in order to relate published material to
- the particular time periods being considered in the review
 - the discrepancy between “electorate” and “resident population of voting age”.
- 3.2 Prior to the re-organisation of local government in Cheshire, the County Council’s Research & Intelligence service regularly produced population forecasts for Cheshire and its districts. Demographers and researchers drew on national and local data in order to produce forecasts which, over

time were tested against actual occurrence and led to recognition that the Cheshire forecasting methodology produced high quality forecasts for service and land use planning. Whilst the most recent full Cheshire Population Report was published in 2007, the publication of new national data allowed an update for Cheshire West & Chester to be prepared in 2008 using the same established methodology. It is the forecasts produced in the 2008 update which underpin the electorate forecasting prepared for the Cheshire West & Chester Electoral Review.

- 3.3 This produced estimates and forecasts of the population in Cheshire West and Chester and each of its predecessor districts. There are forecasts of the population aged 18 and over in Cheshire West & Chester and each constituent district at June 2008 and June 2013. This reflects that Mid-year estimates and forecasts of population published by the Office for National Statistics enable local forecasting to remain in step with nationally established and tested data and methodologies.
- 3.4 For each district, the current electorate at December 2008 is divided by the forecast of the population aged 18 and over at June 2008 to give an electorate-to-population ratio. This has two effects. First it provides a factor which recognises the fact that not all residents are electors. It is not only children and young people under 18 who can't vote, but also those who are ineligible or who choose not to register or fail inadvertently to register. Second, factoring in this way builds in an allowance which recognises that population (and electorate) will have changed between June and December 2008 and will change between those months in any future year.
- 3.5 The district ratio is applied to the forecast of the population aged 18 and over at June 2013 in each respective former district to give the district's forecast electorate at December 2013. This means that their methodology implies that the relative differences between the electorate and resident population and between June and December in 2008 will be repeated in 2013. Whilst some change in those mathematical relationships would be expected over time, it is not possible to predict with accuracy what those changes will be. Adopting a stable mathematical ratio therefore is as reliable as any other ratio, although it might not be used in long-range forecasting (although in such long-range forecasting, less precision is sought and achieved). Using district figures rather than Cheshire West & Chester figures is useful, because they reflect the different population characteristics that are demonstrated by their current resident populations: most of the people who will be residents of those areas in five years' time are already there now.
- 3.6 Table 2 gives the population aged 18 and over at June 2008, the electorate to population ratio, the population aged 18 and over at June 2013 and the forecast electorate at December 2013 for each district.

Table 2 – Population aged 18+ at June 2008, electorate to population ratio, population aged 18+ at June 2013 and forecast electorate

Area	Population aged 18+ June 2008	Electorate to population ratio	Population aged 18+ June 2013	Forecast electorate December 2013
Chester	96,300	0.9382	97,100	91,100
Ellesmere Port & Neston	64,200	0.9792	65,100	63,800
Vale Royal	98,800	0.9920	101,000	100,200
Cheshire West and Chester	259,300	0.9689	263,200	255,100

- 3.7 The Cheshire Population Forecasts give “high” and “low” forecasts of population. The range in the forecasts reflects reasonable tolerance in future uncertainties in assumptions about each of the demographic elements of population change. The forecasts consider changes in the age profile of the population, life expectancy, the formation of new households from the population already living in the area and migration into and out of the area.
- 3.8 The incidence of future house building has also been taken into consideration in the population forecasts. Housing factors considered include current and proposed strategic housing land policies, local land use planning policies and the number of sites with planning permission or which are allocated for housing.
- 3.9 For the electoral review, the Council has made specific assumptions about the effect of new house building on the electorate. These assumptions are derived from a list of individual housing sites that are expected to be developed within the five-year period 2008 to 2013, based on “firm evidence and realistic expectations” as expressed in the Boundary Committee’s guidance. Because their inclusion is based on an site-by-site assessment of the likelihood of development, the specific locations of each site can be allocated to the appropriate polling district.
- 3.10 Planning experts in each of the former district councils were asked to assess the likelihood and scale of development within the period 2008 to 2013, of each site identified. They did so having regard to the nature of each site, any constraints on the development of each, the level of housing market activity in the surrounding area and their overall assessment of housing development pressures. Those sites classified as attracting a “high” or “medium” level of certainty were included in the methodology to prepare forecasts. This left a number of others where a “low” level of certainty warranted exclusion from the methodology.

- 3.11 Housing development will continue beyond 2013 of course and this will see further development on some of those sites included in the methodology described here, whilst new housing, accommodating new electors, will appear elsewhere. This is understood and reproduces circumstances which arise in every Electoral Review.
- 3.12 The total new housing for Cheshire West and Chester produced using this method has been compared against the “low” and “high” housing forecasts for the period 2008 to 2013 from the Cheshire Population Forecasts. Reflecting the economic downturn of the past two years and its impact on the level of activity of the local construction sector, the list of individual sites produces a total closer to the “low” housing forecast used in the population forecasts, so the “low” population forecast is used to calculate the electorate forecast for the district.
- 3.13 For each district, the “low” population aged 18 and over at June 2013 is converted into the forecast electorate as described in paragraph 3.3 above.

Polling District Level Forecasts

- 3.14 The Cheshire Population Forecasts do not give population forecasts for polling districts. For the electoral review, changes in the age structure of the population in the whole former district are assumed to apply equally to each polling district within that district. This is achieved by adjusting or “constraining” the initial electorate forecast for each polling district so that the sum of the polling district forecasts equal the electorate forecast for the former district area. The benefit of this is to constrain the impact of assumptions which may, in the longer term, prove to be inaccurate.
- 3.15 The effect of demographic and housing changes means that the electorate in some wards and parishes will decrease from December 2008 to December 2013. This will usually be in areas where very or no new house building is expected.
- 3.16 The number of electors in new dwellings in each polling district is the number of new dwellings forecast to be built from 2008 to 2013 multiplied by the average number of electors per dwelling in the former district as a whole. The average number of electors per dwelling is the current electorate divided by the number of dwellings at 30 June 2008. The average for each former district is given in Table 3 below.

Table 3 – Average Number of Electors per Dwelling in Districts

District	Average Electors per Dwelling
Chester	1.67
Ellesmere Port & Neston	1.78
Vale Royal	1.78

- 3.17 It is known that on some sites, new housing will be specifically designed for the elderly, e.g. sheltered accommodation. It would not be appropriate to assume that these new dwellings would house the same number of electors as a family house. Where new housing is known to be for elderly people, an average of one elector per new dwelling is used. In this assumption, dwellings with more than one elector compensate for vacant dwellings in this specialised part of the housing stock.
- 3.18 Adding the number of electors in new dwellings to the current electorate gives an initial “unconstrained” forecast of the electorate in each polling district at December 2013.
- 3.19 In polling districts DF2 and DG2 in City ward, Chester, students who were not included in the December 2008 register but who would normally be expected to appear on the electoral register have been added in to the 2013 electorate forecast.
- 3.20 For each former district, the “unconstrained” polling district electorate forecasts are summed. The former district forecast electorate for December 2013 is divided by the sum of the “unconstrained” polling district forecasts to give a constraining factor. This constraining factor is applied to the “unconstrained” forecast of the electorate in each polling district to give a “constrained” forecast of the electorate in each polling district. This “constraining” reflects the way in which expected changes in household size, composition and vacancy rate at a district level will affect the average number of electors in all dwellings in December 2013.
- 3.21 The “constrained” electorate forecasts for polling districts are rounded to the nearest ten and are summed to give the “constrained” forecasts of the electorate in each parish or ward.
- 3.22 For completion of the Local Boundary Committee’s proforma 1, the Council shows the forecast electorate in each 2008 polling district (and ward) in Cheshire West and Chester. The totals for all areas within a district from the proformas are the same as the figures for the district shown in Table 2 above, subject to rounding.

Forecasts for Other Areas

- 3.23 The rounded polling district electorate forecasts for December 2013 will be used to calculate electorate forecasts for all other areas, including parishes, the old county electoral divisions and old district wards if needed.

Rounding

- 3.24 The method of forecasting the electorate described above, involves data from the Cheshire Population Forecasts which are rounded. In order that no spurious accuracy is assumed by those reading or using the forecasts of the electorate, the forecasts of the polling district electorates at December 2013 have been rounded to the nearest ten. This level of rounding is of such a scale that at present or potential future ward level, the degree of change in the electorate will not be significantly misrepresented. In Appendix 4, there are indications of forecast populations in some polling districts which are to be divided between adjacent Wards. In these instances, the division has been of a rounded figure, and therefore not rounded a second time.

4. Conclusion

- 4.1 Forecasting population and electorate is not an exact science. It involves elements of fertility, mortality and social change. These are based on the best available observations of past trends but are still incorporated as assumptions.
- 4.2 The method of forecasting the electorate used above represents the best use of available information. The method has been developed for the electoral review and has not been designed to be used for any other purpose.

Appendix A

List of housing sites included in the forecasting of the electorate.

Eastings	Northing	Address or Location description	To be completed 01/12/08 - 31/11/13	Confidence of Expectation - Medium/High	Polling District Code
366164	368300	Adamshaw Fields, Smokehall Lane	1	high	EBA
352051	377730	Former St Lukes School Site	63	Medium	WBA
351755	377626	Frodsham High School	50	Medium	WBC
365243	371004	Land adjacent 126 Hartford Road	3	Medium	EBB
365075	373333	71-75 Chester Rd, Castle	3	medium	WJB
367380	374757	Wincham Urban Village	100	medium	TCB
329643	377576	Hinderton Road, Neston (Former Police Station)	44	Medium	CF
329083	377755	Scholars Court, Neston	12	High	CJ
328276	377550	Manorial Road South (Land at Harford Hey)	12	Medium	CJ
332065	378110	Birkenhead Road, Willaston (The Lydiate)	16	High	CK

338650	368090	Rear of 28 - 38 Durham Road, Blacon, Chester	8	HIGH	DA1
338736	368028	22 Durham Road, Blacon, Chester CH1 5BN	2	MED	DA1
339424	368033	13 Blacon Avenue, Blacon, Chester, CH1 5BB	8	HIGH	DA2
337549	368020	26 Oakfield Road Blacon	1	HIGH	DA3
337900	367829	2 Cairns Crescent and 18 Melbourne road, Blacon, Chester CH1 5JF	2	HIGH	DB1
337604	367221	Land at Treborth Road, Blacon	120	HIGH	DB2
337388	367318	Tilston's Yard, Land at Crane Wharf, Sealand Road, Chester	24	High	DB2
338321	367957	Land btwn 1 Cedar Mews and rear of 85 Saughall Road, Blacon	1	MED	DB3
341431	366690	Calder Industrial Estates Ltd. Leadworks Lane	33	Med	DC1
341350	366790	9 Queens Road, Chester CH1 3BQ	1	MED	DC1
342124	366329	97A Christleton Road, Boughton	8	Med	DC2
340970	366760	M Print Site, Milton Street, Chester	10	High	DC3
341933	365375	Btwn 8 & 10 Dee Banks	1	HIGH	DD1
342416	365756	Land to rear 64-90, 68 Becketts Lane / btwn 66&70 and 90&92 Becketts Lane Great Boughton	1	HIGH	DD1
342318	365712	28 Heath Lane, Great Boughton CH3 5SX	1	MEDIUM	DD1
345468	364811	Land between Middleheath, Channings, Brown Heath Road	1	HIGH	DE1
343886	365271	Carinda, Whitchurch Road, Christleton	1	HIGH	DE1
344900	368200	The Vicarage Wicker Lane Guilden Sutton Chester CH3 7EL	1	HIGH	DE3
340992	367011	Land at Black Diamond Street	144	High	DF1
340907	366854	First Floor, 30 Hoole Way, Chester CH1 3EE	2	High	DF1
340895	366819	69-71 Brook Street, Chester CH1 3DZ	7	Med	DF1
340497	366782	Site 1, Gorse Stacks, Delamere Street	141	High	DF2
340474	366363	1 Hamilton Place, Chester CH1 2BH	4	MED	DF2
340190	366280	Linenhall Stables, Stanley Street, Chester CH1 2LR	144	Med	DF2
340497	366782	Site 2, Gorse Stacks	29	Med	DF2
340497	366782	Site 3, Gorse Stacks	59	Med	DF2
340342	365854	Cheshire Police HQ. Nicholas Street CH1 2NX	35	High	DF3
340539	365966	Land rear of 10-12 Castle Street	1	MED	DF3
340550	365937	10 Castle Street, Chester CH1 2DS	1	MED	DF3
340250	366073	3 Greyfriars, Chester CH1 2NW	1	MED	DF3
340580	366100	67 Bridge Street Row	2	High	DF4
341070	366340	Land Adjacent to Murlain House Union Street	10	HIGH	DF4
339829	366201	Old Port of Chester (southern tail)	90	High	DG1
339920	366684	Land btwn Charlotte St & Whipcord Lane	7	Med	DG1
339802	367163	Cheyney Lodge, 77-79 Cheyney	2	MED	DG1

		Road, Chester CH1 4BS			
340052	366789	Tower Wharf, Raymond Street	153	Med	DG2
340052	366789	Tower Wharf, Raymond Street: (Site A) East of Tower Wharf, Upper Cambrian View	27	Med	DG2
339130	365020	84 Hough Green	6	HIGH	DH1
339740	365290	Curzon House, 8 Curzon Park South, Curzon Park	12	HIGH	DH1
339740	365290	Curzon House Coach House, 8 Curzon Park South, Curzon Park	1	HIGH	DH1
339492	365066	The Redland Hotel, 64 Hough Green	2	MED	DH1
339144	365238	Land adjacent to 41 Park Road West, Curzon Park	1	MED	DH1
339607	365705	40 Curzon Park North, Chester CH4 8AR	1	MED	DH1
339702	365094	Youth Hostel Association, 40 Hough Green, Chester. CH4 8JQ	11	MED	DH1
341972	359213	Grosvenor Estate Yard, Middle Lane, Aldford, Chester CH3 6JA	8	HIGH	DI1
339502	358722	Yew Tree Farm, Straight Mile, Poulton	4	HIGH	DI11
339660	358410	Chapel House Farm, The Green, Poulton	8	MED	DI11
339502	358722	Yew Tree Farm, The Green, Poulton, Chester CH4 9EE	2	MED	DI11
336103	360008	Meadow House Farm, Dodleston Lane, Pulford	4	HIGH	DI12
337331	362387	Yew Tree Farm, Welsh Road, Dodleston, Chester CH4 9LF	8	MED	DI5
340766	365601	22 - 26 Handbridge, Chester CH4 7JE		MED	DJ1
341123	365798	Plot 8 South Crescent Road, Queens Park	1	MED	DJ2
341107	365211	93 Hartington Street, Chester CH4 7BP	2	MED	DJ2
342746	367574	Land to rear of 2 Cedar Drive, Chester CH2 3LG	1	High	DL2
342649	364350	Saighton Camp, Sandy Lane, Huntington, Chester	53	HIGH	DM1
342377	364490	Hartwell Garage, 93-99 Chester Rd, Huntington	20	MED	DM1
342680	362780	Huntington Hall Farm, Aldford Road, Huntington CH3 6EA	2	MED	DM1
338788	364725	Fairford Road Chester	2	MED	DN1
338732	364651	Newbury Road (Between no's 7 and 9), Lache, Chester	3	MED	DN1
338789	364725	Fairford Road (Between no's 29 and 31), Lache, Chester	2	MED	DN1
338840	364970	56 St Marks Road, Chester, CH4 8DQ	1	MED	DN1
339156	364887	Land Rear of 6 Cliveden Road Lache	2	MED	DN2
338540	364000	Hilary Hawarth Nursery School Sycamore Drive Lache	8	MED	DN2
339030	364213	Rear of 32-34 Oldfield Crescent, Lache, Chester	1	MED	DN2
338701	370658	Willow Farm Cottage Well Lane	1	MED	DO7

		Mollington			
337803	370213	Saughall Nurseries, Parkgate Road, Saughall, Chester CH1 6JS	2	MED	DO7
341285	367676	7 Western Approach	2	High	DP1
341120	367260	Land at West Street, Hoole	5	Medium	DP2
335652	372878	Pitts Farm Parkgate Road Saughall	1	MED	DR2
333740	371920	Vicarage Farm, The Village, Shotwick	1	MED	DR3
341470	369561	Land to the rear of 52 Long Lane Upton	1	High	DS1
340107	368335	Land at the Countess of Chester Health Park, Liverpool Road, Upton	199	Medium	DS5
340386	367874	62 Liverpool Road, Chester CH2 1AS	9.5		DS6
340083	367741	40 Abbots Park	4	Medium	DS6
341490	369267	18 Dukesway, Upton	4	High	DT1
341223	368748	100 Weston Grove, Upton, Chester CH2 1QN	1	MED	DT1
342460	366240	Boughton Hall, Filkins Lane, Chester CH3 5EJ	38.5	HIGH	DU1
342870	366702	25 Green Lane Vicar's Cross Chester	1	HIGH	DU2
345400	375901	Former Railway Sidings Elton	5	MED	EA1
360247	370594	584 Chester Road, CW8 2DX	1	High	EAC
359505	370689	Golden Nook, Forest Road	5	Medium	EAC
357259	369380	Farm Road Barns, Farm Road, CW8 2DF	1	Medium	EAD
344280	369855	Land adjacent to 29 School Lane, Mickle Trafford CH2 4EF	1	MED	EB3
344938	370785	Mill Farm, Warrington Road, Mickle Trafford, Chester CH2 4EB	1	MED	EB3
366066	369482	Jack Lane Farm, Moulton	6	High	EBA
366196	369848	Land to rear 10 Fairholme Road	1	Medium	EBB
365613	369515	John Barlow Butchers, 81 Regent Street, CW9 8NX	1	high	EBD
347271	372840	Dunham Hall, Dunham Hill Village Road, Dunham on the Hill. WA6 0LU	2	MED	EC1
347341	374529	Hapsford Poultry Farm, Moor Lane, Hapsford	6	MED	EC2
355789	366304	Cave Bank Farm, Knights Lane	1	Medium	EEA
354700	365400	Methodist Chapel, Quarry Bank	1	High	EEB
355764	368650	Rectory Farm	3	Medium	EEC
361282	363222	Bawk House Farm	1	High	EFB
355395	362567	52 High Street	5	High	EFD
355326	362883	The Old Bakery, 16 High Street	1	Medium	EFD
356037	362416	Ardern Estate House, Cobblers Cross Lane	15	Medium	EFE
364118	365721	60 Swanlow Lane (Medical Centre), CW7 1JF	3	high	EGA
365306	366028	former Save Petrol Station, Court and Walker Garage, Weaver Street	23	high	EGB
365317	365739	Land rear of 255, 257 & 259 Ways Green	17	High	EGB
365100	365900	Ways Green	109	High	EGB

362792	366992	148 Chester Road	1	high	EJB
363393	365380	Land At Hambleton Way	53	High	EJC
363990	365640	Handley Hill Primary School		medium	EJC
364326	364513	The Hollies, Darnhall School Lane, CW7 1LH	14	High	EKA
364651	365039	Windyridge, Swanlow Lane	1	Medium	EKA
364583	364273	1 Peewit Close, CW7 1SS	1	Medium	EKB
365041	366307	148 High Street, CW7 2AY	2	high	ELB
365292	366327	St Pauls Church, High Street	17	Medium	ELB
366045	366543	2 School Road, Wharton, CW7 3EF	4	High	EMB
366349	367891	Land at the rear of 6 Wharton Green, Bostock Road	1	medium	EMB
347438	368366	Adj Mill House, Mill Lane Great Barrow Chester	1	HIGH	FA1
347794	369131	Hulme Hall and 11 Irons Lane, Barrow, Chester CH3 7LD	16	HIGH	FA1
349351	368778	Horton Hall, Chester Road, Horton Cum Peel. CH3 8NR	3	MED	FA2
349386	368837	Barns Horton Hall Chester Road	3	MED	FA2
351151	370813	Smithy House Garage Station Road Mouldsworth	4	MED	FA3
341777	356303	Wayside Farmhouse, Chester Road, Churton	1	HIGH	FB2
341152	354678	Speedsway, Farndon	3	HIGH	FB5
341200	354860	Field parcel No 176 adjacent Riverway, Townfield Lane, Farndon CH3 6QW	13	HIGH	FB5
341442	354311	Adj Riverbank, Old Lane, Farndon	1	MED	FB5
341274	354806	Builders Yard, Churton Road, Farndon, Chester	1	MED	FB5
351432	370294	Grange House Grange Road Ashton Hayes	1	MED	FC1
351888	367963	Reliance Works and Holly Cottage, Chester Road Kelsall Tarporley	2	HIGH	FC2
353074	368612	Rosemead/ Frome House, Chester Road, Kelsall	1	HIGH	FC2
352849	367900	Hillside, 82 Quarry Lane, Kelsall	2	HIGH	FC2
351529	368235	Street House, Chester Road, Kelsall CW6 0RN	2	HIGH	FC2
352622	368300	Greengates, 22 Old Coach Road, Kelsall, Chester CW6 0QL	1	HIGH	FC2
352337	368214	Grasmere, Chester Road, Kelsall CW6 0RZ	3	HIGH	FC2
353085	368569	Whitegate, Quarry Lane, Kelsall	12	MED	FC2
350286	368026	Lower Street Farm, Kelsall Riad, tarvin CH3 8NR	3	MED	FC2
352389	368345	Ashton and Kelsall Scout Hut, Grub Lane, Kelsall, Chester CW6 0QU	1	MED	FC2
349581	346019	The Hough, Hough Bridge Road, Wigland, Malpas SY14 7JJ	1	HIGH	FD11
348600	347400	Prospect House Nursing Home and Woodvile, Tilston Road, Malpas SY14 8NR	12.5	HIGH	FD11
348900	347270	Gasworks House, Well Street	7	MED	FD11
348278	346174	Manor Farm, Lower Wych Lane,	3	MED	FD11

		Lower Wych			
348850	347614	Corn Depot, Chester Road, Malpas	20	MED	FD11
348457	347055	Land adjacent Hayes Lodge, Church Street, Malpas, Chester SY14 8PQ	1	MED	FD11
351000	347583	Whitegates Farm, Back Lane, No Mans Heath, Malpas, Chester	8	MED	FD11
347570	348974	Land adjacent to Greenfields Chester Road, Malpas	3	HIGH	FD14
353340	345540	Moorhead Farm, Milley Moor Lane, Tushingham cum Grindley SY13 4QN	1	MED	FD17
351496	347964	Wellcroft, Chester Road, No Mans Heath, Malpas SY14 8DY	1	MED	FD2
347236	346803	The Deran Chorlton Lane Malpas	1	HIGH	FD6
347080	346810	Land and buildings south of Ashcroft, Cherry Hill, Cuddington, Malpas	1	MED	FD6
347660	351094	Edge Grange, Grange Lane, Tilston SY14 7DZ	7	HIGH	FD7
349359	349879	Land adjoining Ash Grove, Witney Lane, Edge	2	MED	FD7
351480	348089	The Cottage, Chester Road, NoMansHeath	1	HIGH	FD8
351230	348200	Garage House Chester Road No Mans Heath Malpas	8	MED	FD8
351432	348060	The Wheafsheaf Inn Chester Road Nomansheath	5	MED	FD8
350592	367038	Dogwood Cottage, Shay Lane, Tarvin, Chester CH3 8NW	2	MED	FE11
349074	367067	Land between 69 to 71 High Street Tarvin	2	MED	FE12
348828	366718	22 Hockenhull Lane, Tarvin, Chester CH3 8LB	1	MED	FE12
352600	363820	Rose Farm, Tarporley Road, Clotton	1	HIGH	FE3
351870	364373	Yew Tree Farm, Tarporley Road, Clotton. CW6 0EH	4	MED	FE3
352494	363959	Laurel Bank Farm High Street Clotton	1	MED	FE3
349801	361365	Higher Huxley Hall Red Lane	2	MED	FE8
351172	362260	Brook Lodge and adjacent land, hoofield Lane, Huxley, tarvin	1	MED	FE8
353231	363429	Iddenshall Hall, Tarporley Road, Clotton	22	HIGH	FE9
344908	359786	Weetwood House Mill Lane Willington Tarporley	1	MED	FF5
344908	359786	Birchwood Farm, Welsh Rd, Ledsham	1	MED	FF5
344909	359786	The Orchard Warrington Road, Mickle Trafford	1	MED	FF5
346150	358630	The Cottage Whitchurch Road Milton Green Chester CH3 9DS	1	MED	FF6
349026	360086	Newton Hall Farm Tattenhall	3	MED	FF8
348640	358608	Church of St Alban CE, Church Bank, Tattenhall, Chester CH3 9QE	1	MED	FF9
344538	351535	Blakefield Meadow Grafton Hall,	1	MED	FG10

		Tilston Road Stretton			
343860	349121	Land to the south of Bullcroft Close, worthenbury Road, Shocklach Oviatt	1	HIGH	FG13
344919	353201	Site of Former Stretton Dairy, Tilston Road, Stretton, Malpas	26	MED	FG14
345929	351714	Isle Farm Carden Lane Tilston	3	HIGH	FG15
344816	354289	Barton Farm, Barton Road, Barton, Malpas SY14 7HU	4	HIGH	FG2
349519	354243	Frogg Manor, Barnhill Lane, Broxton, Chester .CH3 9JH	1	HIGH	FG3
343632	351025	Castletown House Farm, Castletown Lane Farndon CH3 6PF	1	HIGH	FG4
335576	376685	Dehon House, Welsh Road, Childer Thornton	25	High	LA
337649	377045	Rossmore Road West, Little Sutton	39	Medium	MA
337418	377112	Station Green, Little Sutton, Ellesmere Port	10	Medium	MA
339788	377173	New Grosvenor Road, Ellesmere Port (Land at)	71	High	NB
338884	377593	Overpool Land at Netherpool Road (Bellway)	309	High	NC
339614	377121	Rosfield Road (Phase 1)	130	High	NC
339614	377121	Rosfield Road, Ellesmere Port	70	High	NC
338884	377593	Overpool – Land at Netherpool Road, Ellesmere Port (Wimpey)	52	High	NC
339493	376870	Rosfield Road Ellesmere Port (Parcel 2b)	13	Medium	NC
339614	377121	Rosfield Road, Ellesmere Port	287	Medium	NC
340871	375993	Cambridge Road Ellesmere Port (Former McAlpines)	150	Medium	OC
340871	375993	Cromwell Road, Ellesmere Port	68	Medium	OC
340871	375993	Cambridge Road, Ellesmere Port	202	Medium	OC
337110	376626	Chester Road Little Sutton (Former Black Lion Public House)	59	High	PB
339929	375727	Stanney Lane Social Club	64	Medium	SB
362900	375638	16 Stoneheyes Lane, CW8 4QH	1	Medium	TAA
363700	375400	Barton Stadium Site	86	medium	TAA
363470	375275	Land to the rear of the Royal British Legion Club, Meadow Drive, CW8 4PH	12	High	TAC
363756	374843	Barnton Scout Group, Church Road	3	High	TAC
363528	374815	Tunnel Road	13	High	TAC
363735	375244	19 Ashwood Crescent	1	Medium	TAC
363736	374810	Shepherds View, Church Road	1	Medium	TAC
363537	374639	2 Canal Side CW8 4EN	1	Medium	TAC
362534	377273	Brookfield, Hall Lane	1	High	TBC
369103	374857	14 Station Road	3	High	TCA
369055	374896	The Old Bakery, Fitton Street	1	Medium	TCA
368261	373457	Land at Broken Cross Farm, Rudheath	27	High	TDB
366231	382142	Cowley Green Barn, Caldwell's Gate Lane	2	High	TEA
363154	380921	Fogg's Farm, Stockley Lane	2	High	TEA
364547	381837	Moss Farm, Reed Lane	1	High	TEA

367408	375787	Barn at Oak Hill Farm, Creewood Common Road	1	Medium	TEC
360472	380479	Millstone Hotel, Grimsditch Lane	2	high	TED
375826	371492	Clay Bank Farm, Booth Bed Lane	1	High	TFA
375299	370988	Hales Pasture Farm, Brick Bank Lane, WA16 9LX	1	Medium	TFA
371754	367555	Tall Barn, Byley Hall, Byley	1	High	TFB
349661	374159	Greenbank Garage, Frodsham Road, WA6 9DB	3	Medium	WAA
352843	373296	Crossley Hospital East, Waterloo Lane, Kingswood	68	high	WAB
351573	372212	Highwood, Ravelstone	1	Medium	WAB
356009	372151	Low Farm, Post Office Lane	2	Medium	WAC
352831	377003	The Old Frodsham C of E school, Kydds Wint	4	High	WBA
351825	378289	22 Hawthorne Road, WA6 7NP	5	Medium	WBB
351377	377645	The Bourne, 4B Main Street, WA6 7AX	4	Medium	WBC
352604	376672	Land at 10 Warren Court	1	high	WCA
363670	371989	1 Abbey Way, CW8 1LY	1	medium	WDA
362667	371665	Sandiway Cotage, Adj Sandiway House	15	High	WDB
362584	372303	Land adj 3 The Grange	1	High	WDB
362329	371705	7 Sandiway Park	1	high	WDB
362869	372553	Brownheath Farm, Hodge Lane	1	Medium	WDB
363464	372073	Garages, Walnut Lane	1	0	WDC
363688	372145	Wholesale Heath Ltd, 219 Chester Road, CW8 1QL	1	Medium	WDC
348824	374687	3A The Rock, Alvanley, Frodsham	1	Medium	WEA
349193	375791	The Old Hall, Vicarage Lane	1	Medium	WEB
348395	374703	former BICC site, Chester Rd	8	high	WEC
348499	374570	1 High St	1	high	WEC
348631	374893	111 Chester Road, Helsby	7	Medium	WEC
355980	374744	Land adjacent Stable Block, The Hatch, Roddy Lane	1	high	WFA
354047	374972	Blakelees Cottage, Hollow Lane	1	high	WFA
352328	374075	Maxton Engineering, Chapel Works, Waterloo Lane, WA6 6HX	1	Medium	WFA
365766	373012	land adj to 12 The Crescent	1	high	WGA
365916	373046	Land Off Hollands Road	24	high	WGA
365829	372454	Leftwich Farm 2 Dobells Road	1	Medium	WGA
359908	374688	The Smithy, Acton Bridge	1	High	WHA
360061	378999	Whitley Brook Farm, Marsh Lane, WA4 4EY	7	High	WHD
364989	373751	5 Felix Road	1	Medium	WJA
364728	373068	151A Chester Road, CW7 4AD	2	Medium	WJA
365343	373519	Northwich United Reform Church, Castle Street	14	high	WJB
365481	373215	land and buildings formerly known as Hobsons Nursery, Spencer Street	8	Medium	WJB
365424	373173	Land at Former 16 Castle Bank	2	Medium	WJB
364900	374000	22 Appleton Street	3	high	WKA
364410	374396	land on the south west side of Winnington Lane	24	high	WKA
364348	374236	Network House, Winnington Avenue	1	Medium	WKA
364100	374500	Winnington Urban Village Site		Medium	WKA

366517	373722	the Council House, Church Rd	9	Medium	WLC
365767	373909	3 Market Street, CW9 5BD	1	Medium	WLC
366018	374032	71-73 Witton Street, Northwich, CW9 5DW	2	Medium	WLC
366825	373948	Newsagent, 96-98 Station Road, CW9 5RB	1	Medium	WLC
366300	374400	Land West of Old Warrington Road	50	Medium	WLC
367255	373990	Land off Pullman Drive	7	High	WLD
367347	373808	Middlewich Road Phase 1	150	Medium	WLD
367347	373808	Land at Hargreaves Road		Medium	WLD
365919	373735	Land and Buildings at Chester Way	55	high	WLE
365988	373407	Water Street	28	medium	WLE
361438	374188	Weaverham Post Office, 3 Church Street, CW8 3NG	1	high	WNA
361378	374120	1 Forest Street, CW8 3EY	1	high	WNA

Appendix 4

ELECTORATE FORM 3: PROPOSED ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS

District : Cheshire West & Chester

Contact name: David Owen
Contact number: 01244 975932
Date: 30 July 2009

(i) Ward no. (1,2,3 etc)	(ii) Ward name	(iii) No. of councillors	(iv) Constituent areas (parish, parish ward or polling district, as appropriate)	(v) Electorate (current) Year = 2008	(vi) Electorate (5 year forecast) Year = 2013
1	Abbey		EBA - Bostock	198	210
			EBB - Davenham Village	2170	2170
			EBC - Davenham Whatcroft	56	60
			EBD - Moulton	1877	1880
			ECA - Whitegate & Marton	933	930
			WDA - Hartford (part 1)	1505	1510
			WDB - Hartford (part 2)	1498	1530
			WDC - Hartford (part 3)	1427	1430
			WJC - Northwich Castle (part 3)	644	640
	Totals	3		10308	10360

2	Blacon		DA1	2724	2650
			DA2	1272	1240
			DA3	1479	1430
			DB1	854	830
			Part DB3	333	331
	Totals	2		6662	6481
3	Castle, Kingsmead and Leftwich		EDA - Davenham Kingsmead	2881	2880
			WGA - Northwich Leftwich (part 1)	1569	1620
			WGB - Northwich Leftwich (part 2)	1636	1640
			WJA - Northwich Castle (part 1)	1520	1530
			WJB - Northwich Castle (part 2)	2545	2590
			WLE - Northwich Witton (part 5)	676	830
	Totals	3		10827	11090

4	Chester City and Boughton		DC1	868	890
			DC2	1274	1240
			DC3	1114	1090
			DD3	98	90
			DF1	1207	1410
			DF2	679	1260
			DF3	428	480
			DF4	355	360
			DF5 - Chester Castle	0	0
			DU1	382	430
			DU3	198	190
		Totals	2		6603
5	Chester Villages		DE1 - Christleton	1626	1580
			DE2 - Littleton	493	480
			DE3 - Guilden Sutton	1131	1100
			DX1 - Rowton	379	370
			FH1 - Cotton Abbots	7	10
			FH2 - Waverton	1271	1230
			FE4 - Cotton Edmunds	24	20
			EB2 - Hoole Village	185	180
			EB3 - Mickle Trafford	1449	1400
			EB1 - Bridge Trafford	21	20
			EB4 - Picton	46	40
		EB5 - Wimbolds Trafford	89	90	
	Totals	2		6721	6520

6	Eddisbury		EAA - Cuddington (part 1)	1811	1810
			EAB - Cuddington (part 2) Delamere Park	926	930
			EAC - Sandiway	1665	1680
			EAD - Oakmere	533	540
			EEA - Cotebrook	199	200
			EEB - Utkinton	363	370
			EEC - Delamere	915	920
			EFB - Little Budworth	519	520
			EFC - Rushton	375	380
			EFD - Tarporley (part 1)	910	920
			EFE - Tarporley (part 2)	1255	1280
			FE3 - Clotton Hoofield	261	260
			FE9 - Iddinshall	30	60
			FF1 - Beeston	161	160
			FF10 - Tilstone Fearnall	93	90
			FF11 - Tiverton	335	320
			Totals	3	
7	Ellesmere Port Town		NB	915	1010
			OA	2208	2140
			OC	1675	2350
			RD	739	720
			SA	1251	1210
			SB	1404	1470
			Part NA	1135	1042
			Totals	3	

8	Elton and Whitby		VB	530	510
			XB	873	850
			YA	1105	1070
			YB	1451	1410
			YC	2216	2150
			DV1 - Croughton	21	20
			DV2 - Little Stanney	161	160
			DV3 - Stoak	90	90
			DV4 - Wervin	108	100
			EA1 - Elton	2632	2550
			EA2 - Thonton-le-Moors	194	190
			OB	176	170
			Part VA	338	322
			Totals	3	
9	Frodsham and Helsby		WBA - Frodsham East	1935	1940
			WBB - Frodsham North	2414	2540
			WBC - Frodsham West	1187	1280
			WCA - Frodsham South	1754	1760
			WEA - Helsby Central	1436	1440
			WEB - Helsby North	1342	1350
			WEC - Helsby South	1054	1080
			Totals	3	

10	Gowy		FA1 - Barrow	746	750
			FA2 - Horton-cum-Peel	26	30
			FA3 - Mouldsworth	234	230
			FC1 - Ashton	754	730
			FC2 - Kelsall	2139	2110
			EC1 - Dunham-on-Hill	397	390
			EC2 - Hapsford	62	70
			FE1 - Bruen Stapleford	66	60
			FE2 - Burton-by-Tarvin	43	40
			FE5 - Duddon	394	380
			FE7 - Hockenhull	27	30
			FE10 - Prior's Heys	16	20
			FE11 - Tarvin (Outer Ward)	320	310
			FE12 - Tarvin (Village Ward)	1747	1690
			FE13 - Willington	73	70
	Totals	2		7044	6910

11	Great Boughton and Dodleston		DD1 -Great Boughton (South Ward)	1359	1320
			DD2 -Great Boughton (South Ward)	1643	1590
			DU2 - Great Boughton (north ward)	3847	3720
			DM1 - Huntington	1508	1580
			DN3 - Marlston-cum-Lache (part)	17	20
			DI4 - Claverton	0	0
			DI5 - Dodleston	610	600
			DI6 - Eaton	40	40
			DI7 - Eccleston	146	140
			DI9 - Lower Kinnerton	105	100
			DI10 - Marlston-cum-Lache (part)	71	70
			DI11 - Poulton	74	90
			DI12 - Pulford	353	350
			Totals	3	
12	Hoole		DK1	1255	1210
			DK2	1214	1170
			DL1	1321	1280
			DL2	1423	1380
			DL3	358	350
			DP2	1134	1100
			Totals	2	
13	Ledsham and Manor		PB	2885	2900
			ZA	1485	1440
			ZB	1525	1480
			Part PA	1516	1489
			Totals	2	

14	Little Neston and Willaston		CA	585	570		
			CB	759	740		
			CC	2870	2780		
			CD	1652	1600		
			CK	2293	2250		
			DR1 - Puddington	303	290		
			LA	943	960		
			Part CE	904	888		
			DR3 - Shotwick	35	40		
			DR5 - Woodbank	49	50		
			Totals	3		10393	10168
		15	Marbury		TAA - Barnton (part 1)	1428	1590
	TAB - Barnton (part 2)			1402	1400		
	TAC - Barnton (part 3)			1568	1630		
	TBA - Anderton with Marbury			470	470		
	TBB - Comberbach			805	810		
	TBC - Little Leigh			472	470		
	TCB - Wincham			1773	1950		
	TEA - Antrobus			644	650		
	TEB - Great Budworth			303	300		
	TEC - Marston			448	450		
	TED - Whitley			433	440		
	Totals			3		9746	10160

16	Neston & Parkgate		CF	3070	3050
			CH	1437	1390
			CJ	1691	1680
			Part CE	178	162
			Totals	2	
17	Newton		DP1	1976	1910
			DQ1	2009	1940
			DQ2	139	130
			DQ3	523	510
			DS6	1820	1770
Totals	2		6467	6260	
18	Over and Verdin		EJA - Winsford Over (part 1)	2361	2360
			EJB - Winsford Over (part 2)	548	550
			EJC - Winsford Over (part 3)	1103	1200
			ELA - Winsford Verdin (part 1)	135	140
			ELB - Winsford Verdin (part 2)	1958	1990
			ELC - Winsford Verdin (part 3)	2746	2750
Totals	3		8851	8990	
19	Overleigh		DH1	1426	1430
			DH2	1942	1880
			DJ1	620	600
			DJ2	2523	2440
			DN1	1181	1150
			DN2	3115	3030
Totals	3		10807	10530	

20	Rivacre Valley and Pooltown		QA	728	710
			QB	856	830
			QC	1404	1360
			RA	411	400
			RB	2049	1990
			RC	911	880
			Part VA	2089	2028
			Part UA	476	490
			Part UB	997	1008
			Totals	3	
21	Rossmore and Netherpool		MA	2020	2040
			MB	1139	1100
			MC	1029	1000
			MD	391	380
			NC	517	1980
			Part NA	142	198
			Part PA	261	231
			Totals	2	
22	Sealand		DB2	1277	1470
			DG1	1926	2020
			DG2	1554	2650
			Part DB3	1066	1019
			Totals	2	

23	Shakerley		TCA - Lostock Gralam Village	1480	1490		
			TDA - Rudheath (part 1)	1487	1490		
			TDB - Rudheath (part 2)	1406	1460		
			TFA - Allostock	623	630		
			TFB - Byley	162	160		
			TFC - Lach Dennis	212	210		
			TFD - Lostock Green	288	290		
			TFE - Nether Peover	349	350		
			TFF - Sproston	176	180		
			WMA - Northwich South Witton	698	700		
			Totals	2		6881	6960
		24	Broxton		FB1 - Churton-by-Aldford	114	110
	FB2 - Churton-by-Farndon			120	120		
	FB3 - Crewe-by-Farndon			17	20		
	FB4 - Edgerley			3	0		
	FB5 - Farndon			1272	1260		
	FB6 - Kings Marsh			23	20		
	FD1 - Agden			35	30		
	FD10 - Macefen			73	70		
	FD11 - Malpas			1391	1430		
	FD12 - Newton-by-Malpas			8	10		
	FD13 - Oldcastle			42	40		
	FD14 - Overton			49	50		
	FD15 - Stockton			13	10		
	FD16 - Threapwood			240	230		
	FD17 - Tushingam-cum-Grindley			130	130		
	FD18 - Wigland			85	80		

FD19 - Wychough	3	0
FD2 - Bickley	423	410
FD3 - Bradley	49	50
FD4 - Chidlow	6	10
FD5 - Chorlton	44	40
FD6 - Cuddington	154	150
FD7 - Edge	159	170
FD8 - Hampton	312	320
FD9 - Larkton	32	30
FG1 - Aldersey	63	60
FG10 - Grafton	3	0
FG11 - Harthill	31	30
FG12 - Horton-by-Malpas	55	50
FG13 - Shocklach Oviatt	70	70
FG14 - Stretton	40	80
FG15 - Tilston	494	480
FG2 - Barton	59	60
FG3 - Broxton	342	330
FG4 - Caldecott	28	30
FG5 - Carden	47	50
FG6 - Church Shocklach	85	80
FG7 - Clutton	222	210
FG8 - Coddington	52	50
FG9 - Duckington	40	40
DI1 - Alford	178	180
DI2 - Buerton	24	20
DI3 - Churton Heath	11	10
DI8 - Lea Newbold	16	20

			DW1 - Saighton	145	140
			FF2 - Burwardsley	144	140
			FF3 - Chowley	16	20
			FF4 - Golbourne Bellow	61	60
			FF5 - Golbourne David	47	50
			FF6 - Handley	129	130
			FF9 - Tattenhall	1680	1630
			FF7 - Hatton	81	80
			FF8 - Newton-by-Tattenhall	98	100
			FE6 - Foulk Stapleford	140	140
			FE8 - Huxley	205	200
		Totals		9403	9330
25	South Winsford		EGA - Winsford Dene (part 1)	2011	2020
			EGB - Winsford Dene (part 2)	1434	1700
			EKB - Winsford Swanlow (part 2)	1637	1640
			EKA - Winsford Swanlow (part 1)	1731	1760
			EFA - Darnhall	176	180
		Totals		6989	7300
26	Sutton and Strawberry Fields		UC	2204	2140
			WA	1017	990
			WB	1896	1840
			XA	1861	1800
			Part UA	518	470
			Part UB	187	142
		Totals		7683	7382

27	Upton & Saughall		DS1 - Upton-by-Chester (Upton Grange Ward)	947	920
			DS2 - Upton-by-Chester (Upton Grange Ward)	931	900
			DS3 - Upton-by-Chester (Upton Grange Ward)	440	430
			DS4 - Upton-by-Chester (Upton Park ward)	697	670
			DS5 - Bache	125	440
			DS7	2	0
			DT1 - Upton-by-Chester (Upton Heath Ward)	3010	2920
			DO1 - Backford	85	80
			DO2 - Capenhurst	205	200
			DO3 - Caughall	22	20
			DO4 - Chorlton-by-Backford	77	70
			DO5 - Lea-by-Backford	150	150
			DO6 - Ledsham	98	90
			DO7 - Mollington	518	510
			DO8 - Moston	181	170
			DR2 - Saughall	2380	2300
			DR4 - Shotwick Park	26	30
Totals		3		9894	9900

28	Weaver		WAA - Alvanley	373	380
			WAB - Manley	472	600
			WAC - Norley	965	970
			WFA - Kingsley	1684	1690
			WHA - Acton Bridge	519	520
			WHB - Aston	85	90
			WHC - Crowton	377	380
			WHD - Dutton	346	360
			WHE - Sutton	388	390
			WNA - Church	1650	1660
			WNB - Gorstage	1626	1630
			WNC - Owley Wood	1724	1730
			Totals	3	
29	Wharton		EHA - Winsford Gravel (part 1)	1531	1530
			EHB - Winsford Gravel (part 2)	1679	1680
			EMA - Winsford Wharton (part 1)	1223	1220
			EMB - Winsford Wharton (part 2)	2327	2340
			EBE - Stanthorne	114	110
			EBF - Wimboldsley	134	130
Totals	2		7008	7010	
30	Witton and Winnington		WKA - Northwich Winnington	2028	2080
			WLA - Northwich Witton (part 1)	428	430
			WLB - Northwich Witton (part 2)	1239	1240
			WLC - Northwich Witton (part 3)	1203	1320
			WLD - Northwich Witton (part 4)	1673	1960
Totals	2		6571	7030	

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	Authority-wide totals	75		251270	255070
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Appendix 5

Maps

In electronic versions of the Council's Case, maps of the proposed wards are presented separately. This is because of the cumulative file size of the complete set of maps.

Appendix 6

Indications of preference received by Cheshire West & Chester Council from other organisations:

Organisation	Preference (<i>summarised</i>)	Indicated by:-
Cheshire Police	A Warding pattern which supports the arrangement of Beat Areas and the machinery of local and area working	Discussion
Churton Parish Council	Single-member wards for Broxton area based on former Chester City Wards	E-mail
Crowton Parish Council	Support the Council's proposal	Telephone discussion
Darnhall Parish Council	To remain within a cluster of rural parishes forming an Eddisbury Ward	E-mail
Helsby Parish Council	Single-Member Ward for parish	Verbal report to Vale Royal area meeting of Cheshire Association of Local Councils
Little Leigh Parish Council	No comment	E-mail
Manley Parish Council	Support the Council's proposal	E-mail
Mickle Trafford District Parish Council	Support the Council's proposal	E-mail
Moulton Parish Council	Single-Member Ward which includes parish	E-mail
Northwich Town Council	Single-member wards throughout CW&C	E-mail
Rushton PC	Rushton to be included in a two-member ward which does not include Cuddington & Sandiway	E-mail
Shocklach Oviatt & District Parish Council	Will wait for Boundary Committee draft recommendations before commenting	E-mail
Tarporley Parish Council	A single councillor ward serving the community that consists of Tarporley and immediately adjacent smaller rural villages.	E-mail
Tiverton and Tilstone Fearnall Parish Council	Whilst recognising relationship of parish to Tarporley, wishes to be assured that parish interests will not be subjugated to those of Tarporley. Parish Council is divided on virtues of Single/Multi-member wards	E-mail
Utkinton Parish Council	Three-member ward	E-mail

The Weaverham Society	A three-member ward consisting of Weaverham, Cuddington & Sandiway, and Acton Bridge	Discussion
Western Cheshire PCT	Support the Council's proposal	Letter
Whitley Parish Council	Support the Council's proposal	E-mail
Wincham Parish Council	Support the Council's proposal	Letter