

LOCAL
GOVERNMENT
COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND

FINAL
RECOMMENDATIONS
ON THE FUTURE
ELECTORAL
ARRANGEMENTS FOR
MACCLESFIELD
IN CHESHIRE

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

March 1998

LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND

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

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Helena Shovelton (Deputy Chairman)

Peter Brokenshire

Professor Michael Clarke

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Local Government Commission for England

31 March 1998

Dear Secretary of State

On 3 June 1997 the Commission began a periodic electoral review of the borough of Macclesfield under the Local Government Act 1992. We published our draft recommendations for electoral arrangements in November 1997 and undertook a nine-week period of consultation.

We have now prepared our final recommendations in the light of the consultation. We have substantially confirmed our draft recommendations, although some modifications have been made (see paragraph 84) in the light of further evidence. This report sets out our final recommendations for changes to electoral arrangements in Macclesfield.

We recommend that Macclesfield Borough Council should be served by 60 councillors representing 38 wards, and that some changes should be made to ward boundaries in order to improve electoral equality, having regard to the statutory criteria. We recommend that elections should continue to take place by thirds.

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

Yours sincerely

PROFESSOR MALCOLM GRANT
Chairman

SUMMARY

The Commission began a review of Macclesfield on 3 June 1997. We published our draft recommendations for electoral arrangements on 4 November 1997, after which we undertook a nine-week period of consultation.

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

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

- **in 16 of the 34 wards, the number of electors represented by each councillor varies by more than 10 per cent from the average for the borough and six wards vary by more than 20 per cent from the average;**
- **by 2002, electoral equality is expected to deteriorate further, with the number of electors per councillor forecast to vary by more than 10 per cent from the average in 19 wards, and by more than 20 per cent in seven wards.**

Our main final recommendations for future electoral arrangements (Figure 1 and paragraphs 83 to 84) are that:

- **Macclesfield Borough Council should continue to be served by 60 councillors, as at present;**
- **there should be 38 wards, compared with 34 at present;**
- **the boundaries of 29 wards should be modified, while five wards should retain their existing boundaries;**
- **elections should continue to take place by thirds.**

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

- **In 37 of the 38 wards, the number of electors per councillor would vary by no more than 10 per cent from the borough average.**
- **By 2002, the number of electors per councillor is projected to vary by no more than 10 per cent from the average in 35 of the 38 wards.**

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

- **new warding arrangements for Bollington and Knutsford town councils and Poynton Parish Council.**

All further correspondence on these recommendations and the matters discussed in this report should be addressed to the Secretary of State for the Environment, Transport and the Regions, who will not make an order implementing the Commission's recommendations before 12 May 1998:

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

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

Ward name	Number of councillors	Constituent areas	Map reference
1 Alderley Edge	2	Alderley Edge ward (Alderley Edge parish); Nether Alderley ward (part – Chorley parish)	Map 2
2 Bollington Central	1	Bollington Central borough and parish ward (part); Bollington East borough and parish ward (part); Bollington West borough and parish ward (part)	Map A3
3 Bollington East	1	Bollington East borough and parish ward (part); Bollington Central borough and parish ward (part)	Map A3
4 Bollington West	1	Bollington West borough and parish ward (part)	Map A3
5 Chelford	1	Nether Alderley ward (part – the parishes of Nether Alderley, Great Warford, Chelford and Snelsdon)	Map 2
6 Dean Row (in Wilmslow)	2	Dean Row ward (part); Lacey Green ward (part)	Map A6
7 Disley & Lyme Handley	2	Disley ward and parish; Rainow ward (part – Lyme Handley parish)	Map 2
8 Fulshaw (in Wilmslow)	2	Fulshaw ward (part)	Map A7
9 Gawsworth	1	<i>Unchanged</i> (the parishes of Gawsworth, North Rode and Bosley)	Map 2
10 Handforth (in Wilmslow)	3	Handforth ward; Dean Row ward (part)	Map A6
11 Henbury	1	Henbury ward (the parishes of Eaton, Henbury, Marton, Siddington and Lower Withington); Nether Alderley ward (part – Over Alderley parish)	Map 2
12 High Legh	1	High Legh ward (part – the parishes of Aston by Budworth, High Legh and Pickmere)	Map 2
13 Hough (in Wilmslow)	2	Hough ward; Fulshaw ward (part); Lacey Green ward (part); Morley & Styal ward (part)	Map A7
14 Knutsford Bexton	1	Knutsford West borough and parish ward (part); Knutsford South borough and parish ward (part)	Map A4

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

	Ward name	Number of councillors	Constituent areas	Map reference
15	Knutsford Nether	1	Knutsford Nether borough and parish ward (part); Knutsford West borough and parish ward (part)	Maps A4 and A5
16	Knutsford Norbury Booths	1	Knutsford South borough and parish ward (part)	Map A5
17	Knutsford Over	2	Knutsford Over borough and parish ward; Knutsford South borough and parish ward (part); Knutsford Nether borough and parish ward (part)	Map A5
18	Lacey Green (in Wilmslow)	1	Lacey Green ward (part)	Map A6
19	Macclesfield Bollinbrook	2	Macclesfield North-West ward (part); Macclesfield North-East ward (part); Macclesfield Central ward (part)	Large map
20	Macclesfield Central	2	Macclesfield Central ward (part); Macclesfield East ward (part); Macclesfield North-West ward (part)	Large map
21	Macclesfield East	2	Macclesfield East ward (part); Macclesfield North-East ward (part)	Large map
22	Macclesfield Hurdsfield	2	Macclesfield North-East ward (part); Macclesfield East ward (part)	Large map
23	Macclesfield Ivy	2	Macclesfield Central ward (part); Macclesfield West ward (part)	Large map
24	Macclesfield Ryles	1	Macclesfield South ward (part)	Large map
25	Macclesfield South	2	Macclesfield South ward (part); Sutton ward (part – Lyme Green ward of Sutton parish)	Large map
26	Macclesfield Tytherington	2	Macclesfield North-East ward (part)	Large map
27	Macclesfield Upton	2	Macclesfield North-West ward (part)	Large map
28	Macclesfield West	2	Macclesfield West ward (part)	Large map

continued overleaf

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

Ward name	Number of councillors	Constituent areas	Map reference
29 Mere	1	Mere ward (the parishes of Agden, Little Bollington, Ashley, Mere, Millington, Rostherne and Tatton); High Legh ward (part – the parishes of Tabley Inferior and Tabley Superior)	Map 2
30 Mobberley	1	<i>Unchanged</i> (Mobberley parish)	Map 2
31 Morley & Styal (in Wilmslow)	2	Morley & Styal ward (part)	Map A7
32 Plumley	1	<i>Unchanged</i> (the parishes of Plumley, Bexton, Toft, Peover Inferior, Peover Superior, Little Warford and Marthall)	Map 2
33 Poynton Central	3	Poynton Central ward (part)	Map A2
34 Poynton East	1	Poynton East ward; Poynton Central ward (part)	Map A2
35 Poynton West	2	<i>Unchanged</i> (Poynton West ward)	Map A2
36 Prestbury	2	<i>Unchanged</i> (the parishes of Prestbury, Adlington and Mottram St Andrew)	Map 2
37 Rainow	1	Rainow ward (part – the parishes of Higher Hurdsfield, Kettlehulme, Pott Shrigley and Rainow)	Map 2
38 Sutton	1	Sutton ward (part – the parishes of Macclesfield Forest and Wildboarclough, and Sutton Rural, Sutton Langley and Sutton Lane Ends wards of Sutton parish)	Maps 2 and A8

Notes: 1 The towns of Macclesfield and Wilmslow are unparished.

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

1. INTRODUCTION

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

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

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

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

4 This review was in four stages. Stage One began on 3 June 1997, when we invited proposals for the future electoral arrangements from Macclesfield Borough Council, and copied the letter to Cheshire County Council, Cheshire Police Authority, the local authority associations, the County Palatine of Chester Association of Parish Councils, parish and town councils in the borough, Members of Parliament and the Member of the European Parliament with constituency interests in the borough, and the headquarters of the main political parties. We placed a notice in the local press, issued a press release and other publicity, and invited the Borough Council to publicise the review further. The closing date for receipt of representations was 1 September 1997. At Stage Two, we considered all the representations received during Stage One and prepared our draft recommendations.

5 Stage Three began on 4 November 1997 with the publication of our report, *Draft Recommendations on the Future Electoral Arrangements for Macclesfield in Cheshire* and ended on 5 January 1998. Comments were sought on our preliminary conclusions.

Finally, during Stage Four we reconsidered our draft recommendations in the light of the Stage Three consultation and now publish our final recommendations.

2. CURRENT ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS

⁶ Macclesfield borough is the most easterly part of Cheshire. It abuts three metropolitan boroughs of Greater Manchester to the north, and is bounded by the Derbyshire National Park to the east, the Staffordshire Moorlands to the south, and levels out to form part of the Cheshire Plain to the west. Its principal town, and main administrative centre, Macclesfield town, received its Charter in 1261, and was one of only four municipal boroughs in Cheshire. Knutsford, another historic town within the borough, was granted its Charter in 1292. The other main centres of population are in Alderley Edge, Poynton, Bollington and Wilmslow. The borough has a population of some 152,000, and is one of the largest district councils in the country.

⁷ To compare levels of electoral inequality between wards, the extent to which the number of electors per councillor in each ward (the councillor:elector ratio) varies from the borough average in percentage terms has been calculated. In the report this calculation may also be described as 'electoral variance'.

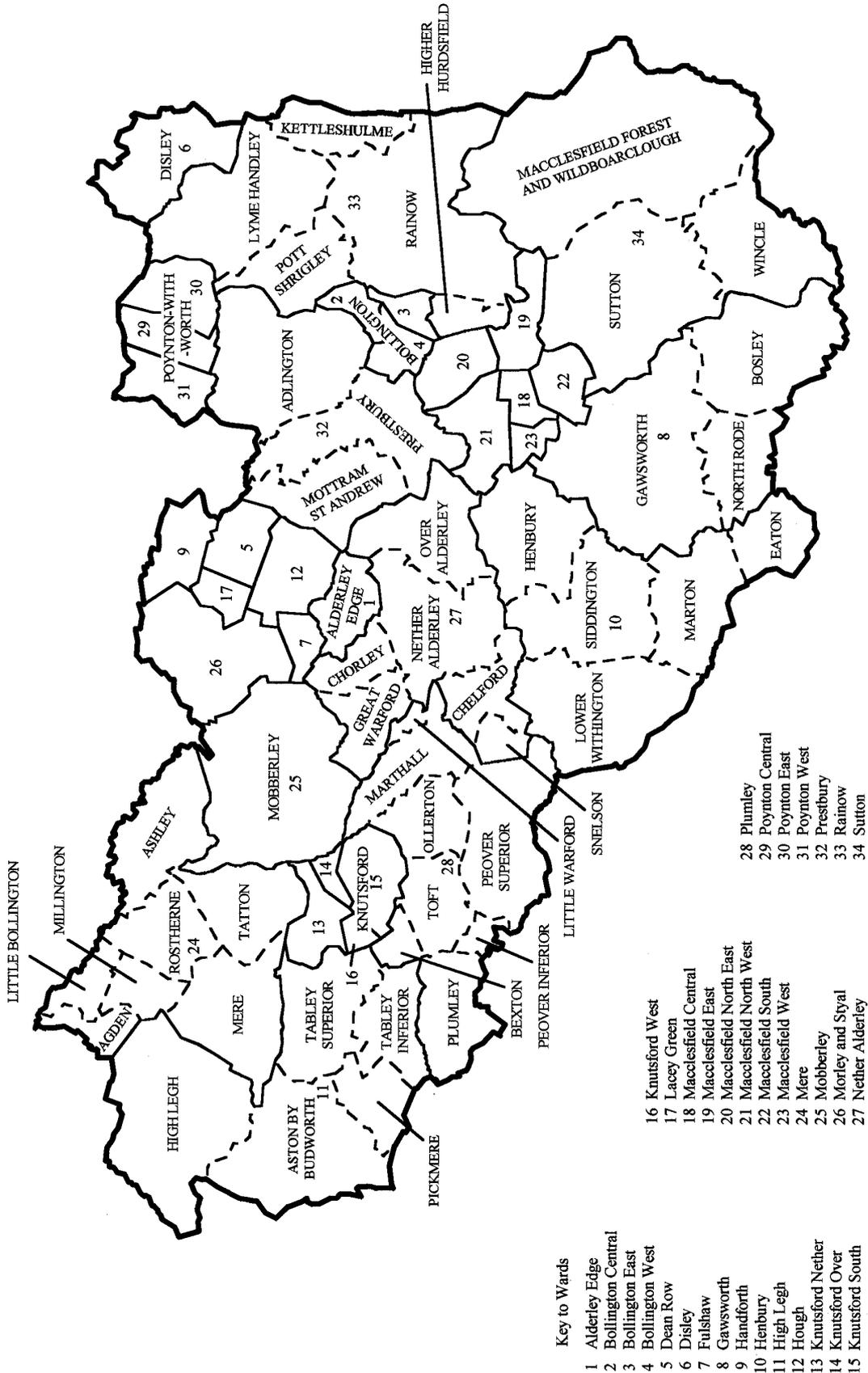
⁸ The Borough Council presently has 60 councillors who are elected from 34 wards, 22 of which are urban and 12 rural (Map 1 and Figure 2). Seven of the 34 wards are each represented by three councillors, 12 wards each elect two councillors, while the remaining 15 are single-member wards. The Council is elected by thirds. The electorate of the borough is 122,065 (February 1997), and each councillor represents an average of 2,034 electors. The Borough Council forecasts that the electorate will increase by nearly 3 per cent to 125,581 by the year 2002, which would change the average number of electors per councillor to 2,093, if the present number of councillors is maintained.

⁹ Since the last electoral review was completed in 1977, there has been an increase in the borough's population, and it now has around 9 per cent more electors per councillor than two decades ago.

However, these changes have been unevenly spread across the borough, with particular growth in Macclesfield and Poynton towns. As a result, the number of electors per councillor in 16 of the 34 wards varies by more than 10 per cent from the borough average and in six wards by more than 20 per cent. The worst imbalance is in Poynton Central ward which has 42 per cent more electors per councillor than the borough average.

¹⁰ As part of this review, the Commission may also make recommendations relating to the electoral arrangements of the 54 parish and town councils in the borough.

Map 1:
Existing Wards in Macclesfield



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Figure 2:
Existing Electoral Arrangements

Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (1997)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2002)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
1 Alderley Edge	2	3,796	1,898	-7	3,796	1,898	-9
2 Bollington Central	1	1,968	1,968	-3	1,985	1,985	-5
3 Bollington East	1	1,823	1,823	-10	1,833	1,833	-12
4 Bollington West	1	2,023	2,023	-1	2,035	2,035	-3
5 Dean Row (in Wilmslow)	2	4,251	2,126	4	5,023	2,512	20
6 Disley	2	3,692	1,846	-9	3,692	1,846	-12
7 Fulshaw (in Wilmslow)	2	4,020	2,010	-1	4,020	2,010	-4
8 Gawsworth	1	1,962	1,962	-4	1,985	1,985	-5
9 Handforth (in Wilmslow)	3	4,969	1,656	-19	5,002	1,667	-20
10 Henbury	1	1,756	1,756	-14	1,768	1,768	-16
11 High Legh	1	2,350	2,350	16	2,454	2,454	17
12 Hough (in Wilmslow)	2	2,926	1,463	-28	3,092	1,546	-26
13 Knutsford Nether	1	1,871	1,871	-8	1,923	1,923	-8
14 Knutsford Over	2	3,365	1,683	-17	3,365	1,683	-20
15 Knutsford South	2	3,905	1,953	-4	3,944	1,972	-6
16 Knutsford West	1	1,619	1,619	-20	1,702	1,702	-19
17 Lacey Green (in Wilmslow)	2	3,635	1,818	-11	3,635	1,818	-13
18 Macclesfield Central	3	7,079	2,360	16	7,324	2,441	17
19 Macclesfield East	3	5,716	1,905	-6	5,831	1,944	-7
20 Macclesfield North-East	3	7,004	2,335	15	7,643	2,548	22
21 Macclesfield North-West	3	7,920	2,640	30	8,426	2,809	34

continued overleaf

Figure 2 (continued):
Existing Electoral Arrangements

Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (1997)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2002)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
22 Macclesfield South	3	5,684	1,895	-7	5,867	1,956	-7
23 Macclesfield West	3	5,361	1,787	-12	5,361	1,787	-15
24 Mere	1	1,394	1,394	-31	1,413	1,413	-32
25 Mobberley	1	2,237	2,237	10	2,318	2,318	11
26 Morley and Styal (in Wilmslow)	2	4,011	2,006	-1	4,011	2,006	-4
27 Nether Alderley	1	2,675	2,675	31	2,851	2,851	36
28 Plumley	1	1,939	1,939	-5	1,939	1,939	-7
29 Poynton Central	2	5,770	2,885	42	5,872	2,936	40
30 Poynton East	1	1,886	1,886	-7	1,898	1,898	-9
31 Poynton West	2	4,307	2,154	6	4,361	2,181	4
32 Prestbury	2	4,391	2,196	8	4,406	2,203	5
33 Rainow	1	2,257	2,257	11	2,257	2,257	8
34 Sutton	1	2,503	2,503	23	2,549	2,549	22
Totals	60	122,065	—	—	125,581	—	—
Averages	—	—	2,034	—	—	2,093	—

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

Note: The 'variance from average' column shows by how far, in percentage terms, the number of electors per councillor varies from the average for the district. The minus symbol (-) denotes a lower than average number of electors. For example, electors in Hough ward are relatively over-represented by 28 per cent, while electors in Nether Alderley ward are relatively under-represented by 31 per cent. Figures have been rounded to the nearest whole number.

3. DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS

11 During Stage One, we received representations from Macclesfield Borough Council, Macclesfield Borough Council Labour Group, Macclesfield Borough Council Liberal Democrat Group, Handforth Ratepayers' Association, Macclesfield Constituency Labour Party, Tatton Constituency Labour Party, Wilmslow Branch Labour Party, three parish councils and three local residents. In the light of these representations and evidence available to us, we reached preliminary conclusions which were set out in the report, *Draft Recommendations on the Future Electoral Arrangements for Macclesfield in Cheshire*. We proposed that:

- (a) Macclesfield Borough Council should be served by 60 councillors representing 38 wards;
- (b) the boundaries of 29 of the existing wards should be modified, while five wards should retain their existing boundaries;
- (c) there should be revised warding arrangements for Bollington and Knutsford town councils and Poynton Parish Council.

Draft Recommendation

Macclesfield Borough Council should comprise 60 councillors, serving 38 wards. Elections should continue to take place by thirds.

12 Our proposals would have resulted in significant improvements in electoral equality, with the number of electors per councillor in all of the 38 wards varying by no more than 10 per cent from the borough average. This level of electoral equality was expected to be maintained over the next five years.

13 Our draft recommendations are summarised at Appendix B.

4. RESPONSES TO CONSULTATION

14 During the consultation on our draft recommendations report, 97 representations were received. In addition, 30 proformas were received in support of the creation of three single-member wards for the proposed Poynton Central ward, and nine proformas were received in support of Hough ward remaining a two-member ward. A list of respondents is available on request from the Commission.

Macclesfield Borough Council

15 The Borough Council supported our draft recommendations. It noted that we endorsed the Borough Council's proposals in Macclesfield town as the basis for our draft recommendations, and indicated that it accepted our recommendations where we departed from its proposals in the town. In the Wilmslow area, the Borough Council noted that we were not minded to propose a single-member South Handforth ward, but accepted our recommendation to transfer the Colshaw Farm Estate area from Dean Row ward to Handforth ward.

Cheshire County Council

16 The County Council noted that our draft recommendations were substantially based on the Borough Council's proposals at Stage One, and raised no objections.

Macclesfield Borough Council Labour Group

17 The Labour Group objected to our proposals in Macclesfield town. It considered that our draft recommendations were "far too sweeping", and that its proposals at Stage One for six three-member wards and one single-member ward offered a better alternative. While it did not disagree with the concept of two-member wards, it considered that the proposed ward boundaries would "destroy the social balance" in the present wards, and would benefit the Conservative Group.

Similarly, in Knutsford, the Labour Group argued that our proposed ward boundaries would result in the proposed Knutsford Over ward containing a majority of the area within Knutsford suffering from great social stress. It preferred that the area should continue to be contained within a single ward, although it also proposed an alternative division into two single-member wards.

18 The Labour Group had no objections to our draft recommendations in Poynton, Bollington and the rural wards, although it considered that the proposed merger of High Legh and Mere wards was not consistent with our proposals in the Knutsford area. It also expressed its support to our draft recommendations in Dean Row, Fulshaw, Handforth, Hough, Lacey Green and Morley & Styal wards.

Macclesfield Borough Council Liberal Democrat Group

19 The Liberal Democrat Group was "encouraged" that three of its five suggested boundary modifications for Macclesfield town had been adopted, but it continued to argue that its other two suggested boundaries in the south of the town should also have been adopted. It considered that our proposed boundaries in the south and central area of the town (where the proposed wards of Ryles, Central and East wards would meet) would not satisfactorily reflect community identities. A further boundary change between the proposed Macclesfield East and Macclesfield Hurdsfield wards was also put forward for consideration.

20 The Liberal Democrat Group accepted our draft recommendations for three of the five proposed Knutsford wards. However, it continued to argue that the proposed Knutsford Over and Knutsford Crosstown wards should be merged to form a two-member ward, and considered that the proposed Knutsford Over ward would include "most of the areas in Knutsford suffering from the highest social deprivation". It maintained that this

would result in an impossibly high workload for a single councillor, and that this was of greater importance than the benefit of single-member wards.

21 In the Wilmslow area, the Liberal Democrat Group continued to argue that a new Wilmslow Central ward should be established to represent the interests of the town centre area of Wilmslow. It noted our arguments against the commercial centre being divided between two wards, and submitted revised proposals for a Wilmslow Central ward, with the boundary with Hough ward moved eastwards to include properties to the eastern side of Alderley Road and Manchester Road. The Liberal Democrat Group opposed our draft recommendation to expand Handforth ward to include the Colshaw Farm Estate, which it argued would make the ward “too large and unwieldy”. It argued that its Stage One proposal for a separate South Handforth ward offered the best compromise.

22 In Poynton, the Liberal Democrat Group agreed that the number of councillors should be increased by one, but considered that the proposed Poynton Central ward should be divided into three single-member wards. It did not put forward responses for other wards in the borough, although it urged the Commission to request that the Secretary of State initiate a further review within the next five years to take account of house-building.

Handforth Ratepayers’ Association

23 The Handforth Ratepayers’ Association noted “with some relief” that Handforth would continue to be represented by three councillors, but was strongly opposed to any “interference” with the southern boundary with Wilmslow, which it stated has followed the River Dean since 1291. It considered that our proposals were “unfair and unnecessary”, and that they would result in councillors in that ward representing 2,000 electors, while councillors elsewhere in the county represent an average of 1,500 and 1,600 electors. It considered that were we to proceed with the proposed boundary change, a public meeting should be held.

Members of Parliament

24 Submissions were received from two Members of Parliament at Stage Three. Nicholas Winterton MP “strongly endorsed” the extensive changes to Macclesfield town, and argued that substantial population growth over the last 20 years had affected the character of the town. He also agreed with our draft recommendations in Poynton, which had similarly grown dramatically over recent years, and argued that an additional councillor for Poynton Central ward would maintain the present community of interest, and meet the statutory criteria with no disruption to existing ward boundaries. He supported our proposals in Bollington, and the proposals to transfer Lyme Handley parish to Disley ward, and Lyme Green ward of Sutton parish to Macclesfield South ward. He also agreed that the present system of elections by thirds should be maintained. Martin Bell MP noted that our draft recommendations were causing “strong reactions” from constituents in Wilmslow and Handforth, and endorsed the views put forward by the Liberal Democrat Group.

Parish and Town Councils

25 Six parish and town councils and two parish meetings submitted representations at Stage Three. High Legh and Mere parish councils and Agden Parish Meeting opposed our proposal to form a new two-member Bucklow ward from the existing High Legh and Mere wards, which they argued would result in a substantial rural ward. While High Legh Parish Council considered that there should be no change to the existing arrangements, Mere Parish Council and Agden Parish Meeting argued that the parishes of Tabley Inferior and Tabley Superior should be transferred from High Legh ward to Mere ward.

26 Sutton Parish Council opposed our draft recommendation to merge Lyme Green ward of Sutton parish with part of Macclesfield in a revised Macclesfield South ward. It argued that the two areas are totally different in character, and that there is a distinctive geographical spread between the Lyme Green semi-rural area and the extensive residential development within Macclesfield South

ward. Furthermore, it considered that Lyme Green formed an important and integral part of the parish. Bollington and Knutsford town councils, Poynton-with-Worth Parish Council and Macclesfield Forest & Wildboarclough Parish Meeting supported our draft recommendations.

Other Representations

²⁷ The Commission received a further 80 submissions from local groups, local councillors and residents. Macclesfield Conservative and Unionist Association supported our draft recommendations. It agreed that 60 councillors was an adequate number for the borough, and accepted that Macclesfield and Poynton should each have an additional councillor, while Wilmslow and Knutsford should both lose a councillor. Macclesfield District Labour Party opposed our proposed boundaries for Macclesfield town, which it considered would divide communities into “socio-economic areas devoid of community attachment and belonging”. It supported the view of Macclesfield Labour Group, and urged us to recommend that no changes take place to borough wards in Macclesfield town.

²⁸ Tatton Constituency Conservative Association supported our draft recommendations for Knutsford. Tatton Constituency Labour Party supported our proposal to include the Colshaw Farm Estate in a revised Handforth ward, and supported our proposals in Knutsford, except that it considered that the proposed Knutsford Crosstown and Over wards should be combined. Tatton Constituency Liberal Democrat Party supported the revised boundaries proposed by the Liberal Democrat Group for a Wilmslow Central ward. It argued that Wilmslow has special problems, and should therefore be separately represented, with the remainder of Hough ward forming a single-member ward.

²⁹ Wilmslow Conservative Group supported our draft recommendations for Wilmslow, Handforth and Hough wards. It expressed opposition to the proposals put forward by the Handforth Ratepayers, both in numerical terms and on locality grounds. Dean Row Ward Conservative Association and Fulshaw Ward Conservative

Association agreed with our draft recommendations for the borough, while Knutsford Town Conservative Branch, Knutsford Over Ward Conservative Branch, Knutsford West and Nether Wards Conservative Branch all agreed that Knutsford should be divided between five single-member wards.

³⁰ Of the other submissions received at Stage Three, the majority commented on our draft recommendation to transfer the Colshaw Farm Estate from Dean Row ward to Handforth ward. Colshaw Tenants and Residents’ Association argued that Colshaw Farm residents considered themselves to be part of the Wilmslow area and Dean Row ward, and that the majority of residents shop in Wilmslow. The three councillors representing Handforth ward and a further 31 residents opposed our draft recommendation. They argued that Handforth is a separate village from Wilmslow, and that it has few connections with the Colshaw Farm Estate. However, 10 residents supported our draft recommendation to modify the boundary between Handforth and Dean Row wards, and argued that there were a number of links between the two areas. One resident wrote in support of the proposal for a single-member South Handforth ward, while one resident expressed opposition to any reduction in the number of councillors currently representing Handforth.

³¹ Nine residents commented on our draft recommendations for Poynton. Of those, eight residents supported our proposals to increase Poynton Central ward’s representation by one councillor, and argued that any proposal to split the ward into single-member wards would divide existing communities. One resident opposed our proposed three-member Poynton Central ward, and argued that Poynton Central should be divided into three single-member wards. In addition, 30 proformas were submitted by local residents expressing opposition to the proposed Poynton Central ward, arguing that the area should be divided into three single-member wards.

³² Six residents and Hollinhey County Primary School opposed our draft recommendation to merge Lyme Green ward of Sutton parish with part of Macclesfield town in a revised Macclesfield

South ward. It was argued that the two areas are distinct from one another, one being predominantly rural in character, while the other had a strong urban character.

33 The local councillor representing Hough ward supported our draft recommendation for Hough ward to remain largely as it is, represented by two councillors. In addition, nine proformas were received from residents in support of retaining two councillors for Hough ward. Three residents opposed our draft recommendations in Macclesfield town, which they argued would “segregate income groups” and create wards “based on housing of different values and standards”. Two local residents opposed our proposal to create two new single-member wards in the north-east of Knutsford, and argued that the proposed Knutsford Over ward covers a “high stress area” with great problems, and that it would be unrealistic to expect a single councillor to provide sufficient support. One resident supported our proposal to transfer Lyme Handley parish to Disley ward. A further submission was received from a Wilmslow resident, who considered that 60 councillors was too great a number to represent Macclesfield borough, and that this could be reduced by giving an enhanced role to parish and town councils. He argued that Macclesfield and Wilmslow should be granted the opportunity of town council status, and that the Borough Council should have 22 councillors, using the same electoral boundaries as county electoral divisions. He also considered that a further option would be for the area of ‘New Cheshire’ to become a unitary authority.

5. ANALYSIS AND FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS

34 As indicated previously, our prime objective in considering the most appropriate electoral arrangements for Macclesfield is to achieve electoral equality, having regard to the statutory criteria set out in the Local Government Act 1992 and Schedule 11 to the Local Government Act 1972, which refers to the ratio of electors to councillors being “as nearly as may be, the same in every ward of the district or borough”.

35 However, our function is not merely arithmetical. First, our recommendations are not intended to be based solely on existing electorate figures, but also on assumptions as to changes in the number and distribution of local government electors likely to take place within the ensuing five years. Second, we must have regard to the desirability of fixing identifiable boundaries, and to maintaining local ties which might otherwise be broken. Third, we must consider the need to secure effective and convenient local government, and reflect the interests and identities of local communities.

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

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

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

Electorate Projections

38 During Stage One, the Borough Council submitted electorate forecasts for the year 2002, projecting an increase of some 3 per cent over the next five years from 122,065 to 125,581. Substantial growth was projected for the areas covered by the existing Macclesfield Central, Macclesfield North-East and Macclesfield North-West wards and Dean Row ward (in Wilmslow). The Council estimated rates and locations of housing development with regard to structure and local plans, and the expected rate of building over the five-year period. In our draft recommendations report, we accepted that this was an inexact science and, having given consideration to projected electorates, were content that the Borough Council’s figures represented the best estimates that could be reasonably made at that time.

39 We received no comments on the Council’s electorate projections at Stage Three, and remain satisfied that they provide the best estimates presently available.

Council Size

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

41 Macclesfield Borough Council, which is one of the largest districts in the country, currently lies at the top of this indicative range, with 60 councillors. During Stage One, the Borough

Council, two minority groups on the Council, Macclesfield Labour Party and Tatton Labour Party all agreed that there should be no change to the existing council size. A submission was also received from a Wilmslow resident, which proposed that Macclesfield borough should be represented by 22 borough councillors.

42 In our draft recommendations report, we considered the size and distribution of the electorate, the geography and other characteristics of the area, together with the representations received. We concluded that the statutory criteria and the achievement of electoral equality would be best met by a council size of 60 members and invited further comments. We have not received evidence during Stage Three to persuade us to move away from this view.

Electoral Arrangements

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

44 The following sections outline the Commission's analysis and final recommendations for the future electoral arrangements for Macclesfield, which are summarised in Figures 1 and 4 and illustrated on Map 2. Appendix A contains detailed mapping of boundary changes proposed by the Commission, while the map at the back of the report illustrates the final recommendations for Macclesfield town. The following wards are considered in turn:

- (a) the 12 rural wards;
- (b) the three Poynton wards;
- (c) the three Bollington wards;
- (d) the four Knutsford wards;
- (e) the six Wilmslow wards;
- (f) the six Macclesfield wards.

The rural wards

45 The rural area currently comprises 12 wards - Alderley Edge, Disley, Gawsworth, Henbury, High Legh, Mere, Mobberley, Nether Alderley, Plumley, Prestbury, Rainow and Sutton. Nine wards are each represented by one councillor, and three wards are each represented by two councillors. In six of the wards, the number of electors per councillor varies by more than 10 per cent from the borough average, and this level of electoral inequality is projected to remain over the next five years.

46 At Stage One, we endorsed the Borough Council's proposed changes to the rural area. The most significant of those changes was that the wards of High Legh and Mere should be combined, and that Lyme Green ward of Sutton parish should form part of a revised Macclesfield South ward. In addition, we proposed that Chorley parish be transferred from Nether Alderley ward to Alderley Edge ward, that Lyme Handley parish be transferred from Rainow ward to Disley ward and that Over Alderley parish be transferred from Nether Alderley ward to Henbury ward. Furthermore, we endorsed the proposal that the revised Disley ward be named Disley & Lyme Handley ward, that the combined High Legh and Mere wards be named Bucklow ward, and that the revised Nether Alderley ward be named Chelford ward. No changes were proposed to Gawsworth, Mobberley, Plumley and Prestbury wards. Our draft recommendations provided for much improved electoral equality, and would result in the number of electors per councillor varying by no more than 10 per cent from the average in all 11 wards. By 2002, the number of electors per councillor would vary by more than 10 per cent from the borough average in only Mobberley ward (at 11 per cent).

47 During Stage Three, our draft recommendations drew broad support from respondents. However, there were two major issues which emerged. First, our proposal that Lyme Green ward of Sutton parish should form part of a revised Macclesfield South ward attracted a degree of local opposition, with Sutton Parish Council, six residents and Hollinhey County Primary School objecting to the proposal. It was argued that the two areas are totally different in character, that there is a

distinctive geographical spread between the Lyme Green semi-rural area and the extensive residential development of the Macclesfield South ward, and that Lyme Green forms an important and integral part of Sutton parish. However, our draft recommendations were supported by the Borough Council, the Labour Group and Nicholas Winterton MP. While it was noted that there was local concern about the separation of a ward of Sutton parish and its inclusion in Macclesfield South ward, it was argued that this proposal was preferred to the creation of a substantial rural division.

48 Second, our proposal to merge the present wards of High Legh and Mere into a new two-member Bucklow ward similarly attracted a degree of local opposition from Agden Parish Meeting and High Legh and Mere Parish Councils. It was argued that the area covered by the proposed ward would be too unwieldy for councillors to represent effectively. While High Legh Parish Council maintained that there should be no change to the existing electoral arrangements, Agden Parish Meeting and Mere Parish Council argued that part of High Legh ward should be transferred to Mere ward. However, our draft recommendations were supported by the Borough Council and the Labour Group.

49 Having considered the representations received at Stage Three, we have concluded that we should largely endorse our draft recommendations. We do, however, propose to depart from our draft recommendation in respect of the proposed Bucklow ward. We have noted the concerns raised, and accept that our proposals would result in a large ward covering 12 parishes, and have been persuaded that a better balance between electoral inequality and the statutory criteria would be achieved by retaining two single-member wards. However, in order to improve electoral equality, we propose to transfer the parishes of Tabley Inferior and Tabley Superior from High Legh ward to Mere ward. While this proposal would result in a higher level of electoral inequality than a merger of the two wards, with the number of electors per councillor in the proposed Mere ward varying by 13 per cent from the borough average, we consider it would better reflect communities in the area, and would better secure effective and convenient local government.

50 We have noted the arguments put forward by Sutton Parish Council and other interested local parties in respect of our draft recommendation that Lyme Green ward of Sutton parish should form part of a revised Macclesfield South ward, and remain sympathetic to those views. However, while we accept that this is not ideal, we consider that the current level of electoral inequality in Sutton ward should be addressed. We note that while an alternative would be to merge the parishes of Sutton and Gawsorth into a two-member ward, we consider that such a proposal would not provide a better balance between electoral equality and the statutory criteria. This proposal would result in a large rural division, for which there would appear to be little support. Indeed, this proposal was not put forward by any respondents at Stage Three. In addition we note that our draft recommendation would also improve equality of representation for Macclesfield South ward.

51 Overall, our final recommendations would provide for improved electoral equality, with the number of electors per councillor varying by no more than 7 per cent in the proposed rural wards on current figures, except for the proposed Mere ward, which would have 13 per cent fewer electors per councillor than the borough average. The proposals are summarised in Figures 1 and 4 and illustrated on Map 2.

Poynton Central, Poynton East and Poynton West wards

52 At present, while Poynton East and Poynton West wards have reasonable electoral equality, varying from the borough average by 7 per cent and 6 per cent respectively, the number of electors per councillor in Poynton Central ward is 42 per cent above the borough average (40 per cent by 2002).

53 At Stage One, the Borough Council proposed that Poynton Central ward should be represented by three councillors rather than two, and that there should be a minor boundary change to transfer six properties in Hockley Close from Poynton Central ward to Poynton East ward. Poynton-with-Worth Parish Council agreed that the number of councillors for Poynton Central ward should be increased to three, but considered that the existing ward boundaries should remain unchanged. The Liberal Democrat Group accepted that Poynton

should be represented by an additional councillor, but proposed that a new Poynton South ward should be created from Poynton Central ward, to be represented by one councillor. Alternatively, it argued that there was a case for the current Poynton Central ward being divided between three single-member wards. On the evidence received at that stage, we concluded that we should endorse the Borough Council's scheme for Poynton. We noted that this proposal had the support of the Town Council, resulted in minimal change and secured the best level of electoral equality of the schemes put forward.

54 At Stage Three, our proposals were supported by the Borough Council, the Labour Group, Nicholas Winterton MP, Poynton-with-Worth Parish Council and eight local residents. The majority of those respondents opposed any proposal to split the existing Poynton Central ward into three single-member wards, and argued that this would divide existing communities, and would be "unnecessary and confusing". However, our proposals were opposed by the Liberal Democrat Group, which continued to argue that Poynton should be divided into three single-member wards. It argued that these proposed wards were already clearly identified areas, each with their own electoral districts. This proposal had the support of one resident. In addition, the Liberal Democrat Group circulated a proforma throughout the town, which argued against our proposals and for single-member wards, of which 30 were returned.

55 In the light of representations received at Stage Three, we are content to endorse our draft recommendation for the area. Our draft recommendation would appear to satisfactorily meet the need for electoral equality and the statutory criteria, and with minimal disruption to existing ward boundaries. Our draft recommendation also attracted local support from the Borough Council, the Labour Group, the local Member of Parliament, the parish council and eight local residents. Furthermore, we note that the proposed three single-member wards would result in the level of electoral equality deteriorating, with the number of electors per councillor in the proposed Poynton North and Poynton Central wards varying by 10 per cent and 11 per cent from the average. The proposed ward boundary change is illustrated on Map A2.

Bollington Central, Bollington East and Bollington West wards

56 Under current arrangements, the number of electors per councillor in Bollington Central, Bollington East and Bollington West wards are currently 3 per cent, 10 per cent and 1 per cent fewer than the borough average respectively. This level of electoral equality is projected to remain relatively stable over the next five years, although the level of electoral equality in Bollington East ward is projected to deteriorate marginally to 12 per cent.

57 At Stage One, the Borough Council indicated that there was a current anomaly between borough and town council ward boundaries, and proposed that two areas be transferred from Bollington Central ward to Bollington East ward and that two areas be transferred from Bollington West ward to Bollington Central ward in order to ensure coterminosity between borough and town council wards and secure a better level of electoral equality. No other representations were received. In our draft recommendations report, we endorsed the Borough Council's scheme. The proposals appeared to better reflect community identities and provided for improved electoral equality, resulting in the number of electors per councillor in all three wards varying by no more than 6 per cent from the borough average. This level of electoral equality was projected to remain relatively constant over the next five years, with all wards varying by no more than 8 per cent from the average.

58 During Stage Three, our draft recommendation drew the support of the Borough Council, the Labour Group, Nicholas Winterton MP, Bollington Town Council and the Macclesfield Conservative & Unionist Association. However, the Borough Council indicated that part of the proposed boundary between Bollington Central and Bollington East wards had not been correctly shown on Map A3 of our draft recommendations report. No other submissions were received.

59 Having considered the responses received at Stage Three, we note that our proposed boundary changes in the town have met with broad support, and therefore are content to confirm our draft recommendations, subject to a minor boundary modification between Bollington Central and

Bollington East wards, as proposed by the Borough Council. Our proposed boundary changes in Bollington are illustrated on Map A3 at Appendix A.

Knutsford Nether, Knutsford Over, Knutsford South and Knutsford West wards

60 Currently, Knutsford Nether and Knutsford South wards have 8 per cent and 4 per cent fewer electors per councillor than the borough average respectively, while Knutsford Over and Knutsford West wards have 17 per cent and 20 per cent fewer electors per councillor than average. This electoral imbalance is not expected to change significantly over the next five years.

61 At Stage One, the Borough Council argued that Knutsford was entitled to five councillors rather than six, and proposed substantial amendments to current ward boundaries to produce five single-member wards. While this proposal drew broad support from the Labour Group, the Liberal Democrat Group and Tatton Labour Party, all three expressed concern over changes to the north-east of the town – the proposed Over and Crosstown wards. It was argued that the proposed split would result in a particularly high workload for the councillor representing the proposed Knutsford Over ward, given that this ward would contain areas that suffer from the highest degree of social deprivation in the town. All considered that this area should remain as one ward, although the Labour Group proposed an alternative boundary for two single-member wards.

62 In our draft recommendations report, we noted that the key distinction between the differing schemes was in relation to the proposed warding arrangements to the current Knutsford Over ward area. On the evidence received at that stage, we concluded that there was merit in dividing the area into two single-member wards, given the proposed structure of single-member wards for the rest of the town. Of the two schemes for single-member wards, we noted that both secured improved electoral equality, although we had reservations over proposed ward boundaries. Nevertheless, we concluded that we should endorse the Borough Council's proposed ward boundaries, which would appear to better reflect community identities in the area.

63 At Stage Three, our draft recommendation drew the support of the Borough Council, Knutsford Town Council, Knutsford Town Conservative Branch, Knutsford Over Ward Conservative Branch, Knutsford West and Nether Wards Conservative Branch and Tatton Constituency Conservative Association. The Labour Group continued to oppose the proposed Over and Crosstown wards, and maintained that this would “destroy the social balance” in the area. While it continued to argue for a two-member ward, it considered that its proposed boundary at Stage One would offer a better alternative for two single-member wards. Similarly, the Liberal Democrat Group opposed our draft recommendations, and considered that the two proposed wards should be merged. Its views were endorsed by Martin Bell MP and two local residents.

64 In the light of representations received at Stage Three, we note that there is clear consensus over the proposed Knutsford Bexton, Knutsford Nether and Knutsford Norbury Booths wards, and are content to confirm our proposals for these wards. However, there remains a divergence of views over the most appropriate warding for the north-east of the town. We have considered the arguments put forward during our Stage Three consultations, and note that of the two proposals for single-member wards in that part of the town, no further supporting evidence has been submitted that demonstrates the respective merits of one proposal over the other. In the absence of strong community evidence for the two single-member ward proposals, we consider that, on balance, a proposal that largely retains the existing arrangements in that area would secure a better balance between electoral equality and the statutory criteria. We are therefore proposing that a revised two-member ward be established to represent the interests in the north-east of the town. While we note that the uniform pattern of single-member wards for the town would be lost, we consider that this proposal would retain good electoral equality, reflect the views of two of the political groups on the council and the local Member of Parliament, and would not undermine the Borough Council's proposals in the rest of the town.

65 Our final recommendations would secure an improved level of electoral equality in Knutsford, with the number of electors per councillor in all four wards varying by no more than 10 per cent

from the average, both on current and forecast electorates. These proposals are detailed in Figures 1 and 4 and illustrated on Maps A4 and A5 at Appendix A.

Dean Row, Fulshaw, Handforth, Hough, Lacey Green and Morley & Styal wards

66 Wilmslow is currently divided between six wards. Dean Row, Fulshaw, Hough, Lacey Green and Morley & Styal wards are each represented by two councillors and Handforth ward is represented by three councillors. Under current arrangements, the wards in Wilmslow are subject to significant electoral inequality, with the number of electors per councillor in Handforth, Hough and Lacey Green wards all significantly below the borough average – by 19 per cent, 28 per cent and 11 per cent respectively.

67 In our draft recommendations, we concurred that the number of councillors representing Wilmslow should be reduced by one. We noted that there was general consensus over proposed changes to Fulshaw, Lacey Green and Morley & Styal wards, and were content to endorse the Borough Council's proposals for those wards. Under this proposal, Lacey Green ward would be represented by a single councillor, with parts of that ward merged with Dean Row and Hough wards, and there would also be minor boundary modifications to Fulshaw and Morley & Styal wards. However, we noted that there were differing views over the most appropriate boundaries for Dean Row, Handforth and Hough wards.

68 In examining the alternative warding configurations received for Dean Row and Handforth wards, we concluded that the best balance of electoral equality and statutory criteria would be achieved by modifying the boundary between the two wards, transferring the Colshaw Farm Estate into an expanded Handforth ward, as proposed by Tatton Labour Party, Wilmslow Branch Labour Party and two local residents. Although we noted that the Colshaw Farm Estate is different in character to Handforth ward, we considered that the estates' residents appeared to have a greater affinity with areas to their north than with the rest of Wilmslow. We carefully considered the other schemes, but were not persuaded that these offered a better alternative. We noted that the Borough Council's scheme would divide the

current Handforth ward, and this had been opposed at Stage One; while the Handforth Ratepayers' Association proposed boundary change had not satisfactorily addressed electoral equality in the area, particularly in respect of expected development in Dean Row ward over the next five years.

69 In examining the alternative warding configurations received for Hough ward, we concluded that the best balance between electoral equality and the statutory criteria would be to endorse the Borough Council's proposal for Hough ward to largely retain its existing boundaries, to be represented by two councillors. We carefully considered the Liberal Democrat Group's proposal that Hough ward should be divided into two single-member wards, with one ward, Wilmslow Central ward, representing the interests of Wilmslow town centre area. However, while we accepted that there was merit in the concept of a separate Wilmslow ward, we noted that the proposed boundary would divide the central commercial area between the two wards, and were not persuaded that this would satisfactorily reflect community identities in the area, nor provide for effective and convenient local government.

70 During Stage Three, no objections were received in respect of our draft recommendations for Fulshaw, Lacey Green and Morley & Styal wards, and we are therefore content to confirm our draft recommendations for those wards. Our draft recommendation for changes to Handforth and Dean Row wards drew the support of the Borough Council, the Labour Group, Dean Row Conservative Association, Wilmslow Conservative Group, Tatton Constituency Labour Party and 10 residents. However, the Liberal Democrat Group, whose submission was endorsed by Martin Bell MP and one local resident, continued to argue for a separate single-member South Handforth ward. The Handforth Ratepayers' Association also opposed our draft recommendation, expressing its objection to "any interference" with Handforth's southern boundary which, it argued, has followed the River Dean since 1291. It considered that our proposals were "unfair and unnecessary", and that they would result in each councillor in that ward representing some 2,000 electors, while councillors elsewhere in the county represented an average of between 1,500 and 1,600. It maintained that

should we proceed with this proposed boundary change, a public meeting should be held. The Handforth Ratepayers' Association also distributed a circular throughout the area which expressed opposition to our proposal, of which a total of 30 were returned. In addition, the Colshaw Tenants' Association, the three councillors representing Handforth ward and 31 residents opposed our draft recommendation in the area.

71 Having regard to the representations received at Stage Three, we accept that any changes to the existing warding arrangements for Handforth and Dean Row wards are likely to prove contentious. However, we remain persuaded that the level of electoral equality should be addressed. We are aware of the difficulty in reconciling the achievement of electoral equality with the need to reflect community identity and interests, particularly in areas that are undergoing substantial development, as is the case with Dean Row ward. Nevertheless, on balance, we remain satisfied that the transfer of the Colshaw Farm Estate from Dean Row ward to Handforth ward would represent the best balance between securing electoral equality and reflecting communities in the area. As indicated in our draft recommendations report, while we recognise that Handforth is a distinct settlement in its own right, we remain persuaded that residents from the Colshaw Farm Estate would appear to have a greater affinity with areas to their north than with the rest of Wilmslow. We have carefully considered the suggestion from the Ratepayers' Association that we hold a public meeting, but have concluded that the consultation period has given all concerned the opportunity to provide the Commission with their views, argument and evidence. In our judgement, a meeting would not necessarily engender further evidence, and we are therefore not persuaded in this instance that such a meeting would be justified.

72 Our draft recommendation for the retention of two councillors to represent Hough ward on largely existing boundaries was supported by the Borough Council, the Labour Group, Wilmslow Conservative Group and the local councillor for Hough ward. In addition, nine proformas were received from local residents, which agreed that Hough ward should continue to be represented by two councillors. However, our draft recommendation was opposed by the Liberal Democrat Group, who continued to argue that a

Wilmslow Central ward should be established to represent the town centre area of Wilmslow, and suggested alternative boundaries to provide for the central commercial area to be wholly contained within the proposed Wilmslow Central ward. Its proposals were endorsed by Martin Bell MP and Tatton Constituency Liberal Democrats.

73 We have considered the Liberal Democrat Group's revised proposals for a new Wilmslow Central ward to be formed from part of the existing Hough ward. However, we have not been persuaded that we should depart from our draft recommendation. First, we note that the proposed Wilmslow Central ward would result in a deterioration in the level of electoral equality in the area, with the number of electors per councillor varying by 11 per cent in the proposed Hough ward (13 per cent by 2002). Second, the Liberal Democrat Group's proposed Wilmslow Central ward appears to command little support locally, with the balance of representations received supporting our draft recommendation.

74 Overall, our draft recommendations would provide for a much improved level of electoral equality, with the number of electors per councillor varying by no more than 8 per cent from the borough average in the six proposed wards. This level of electoral equality is projected to remain over the next five years. Details of the proposed ward boundaries are detailed in Figures 1 and 4 and illustrated on Maps A6 and A7 at Appendix A.

Macclesfield Central, Macclesfield East, Macclesfield North-East, Macclesfield North-West, Macclesfield South and Macclesfield West wards

75 Under current arrangements, Macclesfield is divided between six three-member wards. Overall the town is under-represented on the Borough Council. While Macclesfield East and Macclesfield South wards have reasonable electoral equality, the number of electors per councillor in the remaining four wards all vary by more than 10 per cent from the borough average. This electoral inequality is expected to remain over the next five years.

76 At Stage One, the Borough Council, the Labour Group, the Liberal Democrat Group and Macclesfield Labour Party all agreed that the

number of councillors for the town should be increased from 18 to 19. However, while the Borough Council proposed that there should be significant modifications to all existing wards in order to produce nine two-member wards and a single-member ward, the Labour Group and Macclesfield Labour Party proposed that the town should continue to be served by six wards, each represented by three councillors, but that an additional single-member ward should be formed from parts of the existing Macclesfield North-East and Macclesfield North-West wards. The Liberal Democrat Group had “limited enthusiasm” for both the proposed warding arrangements, but considered that there was a “certain logic” to the Borough Council’s proposals. However, it did propose a number of boundary modifications to the Borough Council’s proposed warding arrangements in the town.

77 In our draft recommendations report, we accepted the case made for increasing the number of councillors for Macclesfield town. We also gave careful consideration to the two schemes submitted, and considered that both had merit. We noted that the Labour proposals would cause the least disruption by largely retaining the current wards, and would achieve reasonable electoral equality. However, while the Borough Council’s scheme would provide for a substantial re-warding of all ward boundaries, it would also achieve reasonable electoral equality. On balance, we concluded that we should endorse the Borough Council’s scheme for the town, which, in our judgement, appeared to better reflect community ties. In particular, we noted that the Borough Council’s proposed warding arrangements would provide separate representation for the distinct communities of Tytherington and Hurdsfield, and would recognise the natural boundaries of The Silk Road and Chester Road. Also, we noted that the proposals would unite the central commercial district within one ward. However, we considered that some changes could be made to ward boundaries in order to achieve a better balance between electoral equality and the need to reflect communities in the area. We therefore proposed to adopt a number of boundary suggestions put forward by the Liberal Democrat Group.

78 At Stage Three, our draft recommendations drew the support of the Borough Council, Nicholas Winterton MP and the Macclesfield

Conservative & Unionist Association. It was argued that Macclesfield town had undergone substantial population growth over the last 20 years, and that this had affected the character of the town. However, the Labour Group objected to our proposed warding arrangements, which it considered to be “too sweeping at this time”. While it did not disagree with the concept of two-member wards, it considered that the proposed ward boundaries would benefit the Conservatives by “destroying the social balance” in the present wards. It argued that the proposals put forward in its original submission would offer a better alternative, providing a better balance between electoral equality and the statutory criteria, and would cause the least disruption. Its view was supported by Macclesfield District Labour Party, which contended that our proposed warding arrangements would divide communities into “socio-economic areas devoid of community attachment and belonging”. The Liberal Democrat Group was “encouraged” that we adopted three of its five suggestions for the town, although it maintained that its other two suggestions should also have been adopted. It also proposed a further boundary change between Macclesfield East and Macclesfield Hurdsfield wards. Three residents also opposed our proposed warding arrangements in Macclesfield town, and argued that they would “segregate income groups” and create wards “based on housing of different values and standards”.

79 Having considered the responses received at Stage Three, we are content to confirm the majority of our draft recommendations for Macclesfield town, which we consider represent the best balance between electoral equality and reflecting the interests and identities of communities in the town. We have noted the arguments put forward in opposition to our draft recommendations, but these have not been made in the context of the statutory criteria. It has been argued that our proposed warding arrangements would result in there no longer being a mixed social balance in a majority of town wards, with the proposed Ivy, Ryles and Tytherington wards comprising high to middle income social areas, and the proposed West, South, Central and Hurdsfield wards comprising council-owned and terraced properties with residents on low income and unemployed. However, while it could be argued that there is merit in maintaining a social balance within wards, we consider that it could be equally argued

that by combining areas of a similar nature, we would be better reflecting the interests and identities of communities within an area, in line with our statutory obligations. We remain of the view, on balance, that there are separate communities within the town such as Tytherington and Hurdsfield, and that these areas may benefit from separate representation.

80 However, we also consider that there is merit in adopting a further boundary change between the proposed Macclesfield Hurdsfield and Macclesfield East wards, as proposed by the Liberal Democrat Group. We agree that as a result of the proposed transfer of the Sandringham Road area from Macclesfield East ward to Macclesfield Hurdsfield ward, there is merit in transferring a small area to the east side of Hurdsfield Road between Fence Avenue and Holy Trinity Church inclusive, together with Bamford Street, Lansdowne Street and Trinity Square. We consider that this area, including Hurdsfield Parish Church, would fall more naturally in Hurdsfield ward, and note that it would improve electoral equality in the two wards concerned. We have also further considered the two proposals which the Liberal Democrat Group proposed at Stage One, but were not adopted as part of our draft recommendations. However, we remain of the view that our draft recommendations would provide a better balance between the achievement of electoral equality and reflecting communities in these areas.

81 Overall, our draft recommendations would provide a good level of electoral equality, with the number of electors per councillor varying by no more than 8 per cent from the borough average in all wards. This level of electoral equality is projected to deteriorate marginally over the next five years, with one ward (Macclesfield Tytherington ward) varying by 11 per cent from the borough average by 2002. These proposed ward boundaries are detailed in Figures 1 and 4 and are illustrated in the large map at the back of the report.

Electoral Cycle

82 In our draft recommendations report, we proposed that the present system of elections by thirds in Macclesfield should be retained. At Stage Three, the Borough Council, the Labour Group

and Nicholas Winterton MP expressed support for this proposal. Accordingly, we confirm our draft recommendation as final.

Conclusions

83 Having considered carefully all the evidence and representations received in response to our consultation report, we have concluded that:

- (a) Macclesfield Borough Council should continue to be served by 60 councillors;
- (b) there should be 38 wards, compared with 34 at present;
- (c) the boundaries of 29 of the existing wards should be modified;
- (d) elections should continue to take place by thirds.

84 We have decided substantially to endorse our draft recommendations, subject to the amendments indicated in the following areas:

- (a) in Macclesfield town, we propose a minor boundary modification between Macclesfield Hurdsfield and Macclesfield East wards, as proposed by the Liberal Democrat Group at Stage Three;
- (b) in Knutsford, we propose that our proposed wards of Knutsford Over and Knutsford Crosstown be combined to form a single ward, to be represented by two councillors;
- (c) in the rural area, we propose to transfer the parishes of Tabley Inferior and Tabley Superior from High Legh ward to Mere ward rather than combining the two wards to form a two-member Bucklow ward.

85 Figure 3 (overleaf) shows the impact of our final recommendations on electoral equality, comparing them with the current arrangements, based on 1997 and 2002 electorate figures.

86 As Figure 3 (overleaf) shows, our recommendations would reduce the number of wards with electoral variances greater than 10 per cent from the borough average from 16 to one. This improved level of electoral equality is expected to be retained over the next five-year period. Under these proposals, the average number of electors per

Figure 3:
Comparison of Current and Recommended Electoral Arrangements

	1997 electorate		2002 projected electorate	
	Current arrangements	Final recommendations	Current arrangements	Final recommendations
Number of councillors	60	60	60	60
Number of wards	34	38	34	38
Average number of electors per councillor	2,034	2,034	2,093	2,093
Number of wards with a variance more than 10 per cent from the average	16	1	19	3
Number of wards with a variance more than 20 per cent from the average	6	0	7	0

councillor would remain at 2,034. We conclude that our recommendations would best meet the need for electoral equality, having regard to the statutory criteria.

Final Recommendation

Macclesfield Borough Council should comprise 60 councillors serving 38 wards, as detailed and named in Figures 1 and 4, and illustrated in Map 2, Appendix A and the large map inserted at the back of the report. The Council should continue to hold elections by thirds.

Parish and Town Council Electoral Arrangements

⁸⁷ In undertaking reviews of electoral arrangements, we are required to comply as far as is reasonably practicable with the provisions set out in Schedule 11 to the 1972 Act. The Schedule provides that if a parish is to be divided between different borough wards, it must also be divided into parish wards, so that each parish ward lies wholly within a single ward of the borough. Accordingly, we propose a number of consequential parish and town council ward changes, as detailed below.

⁸⁸ In our draft recommendations report, we proposed that Poynton-with-Worth Parish Council should continue to comprise 17 parish councillors representing three parish wards. We also proposed that the boundary between Poynton Central and Poynton East parish wards should be modified to reflect the proposed boundary change between Poynton Central and Poynton East borough wards. No changes were proposed to Poynton West parish ward. We have received no evidence at Stage Three to persuade us to move away from this view.

Final Recommendation

Poynton-with-Worth Parish Council should continue to comprise 17 parish councillors representing three wards, with Poynton Central ward returning eight parish councillors, Poynton West ward returning six parish councillors and Poynton East ward returning three parish councillors. The parish wards of Poynton Central and Poynton East should be modified to reflect the proposed borough wards, as illustrated on Map A2 at Appendix A.

⁸⁹ In our draft recommendations report, we proposed that Bollington Town Council should continue to comprise 15 town councillors

representing three wards. We also proposed that the boundary between Bollington Central, Bollington East and Bollington West wards should be modified to reflect proposed changes to their borough wards. We have received no evidence at Stage Three to persuade us to move away from this view.

Final Recommendation

Bollington Town Council should continue to comprise 15 town councillors representing three wards, each returning five town councillors. The new town wards should be modified to reflect the proposed borough wards, as illustrated on Map A3 at Appendix A.

⁹⁰ In our draft recommendations report, we proposed that Knutsford Town Council should in future comprise 15 town councillors, and that the number of wards should be increased from four to five. We also proposed that the boundaries of the new wards should be modified to reflect proposed changes to their borough wards. However, as a result of a boundary change to borough wards, we are modifying our draft recommendations.

Final Recommendation

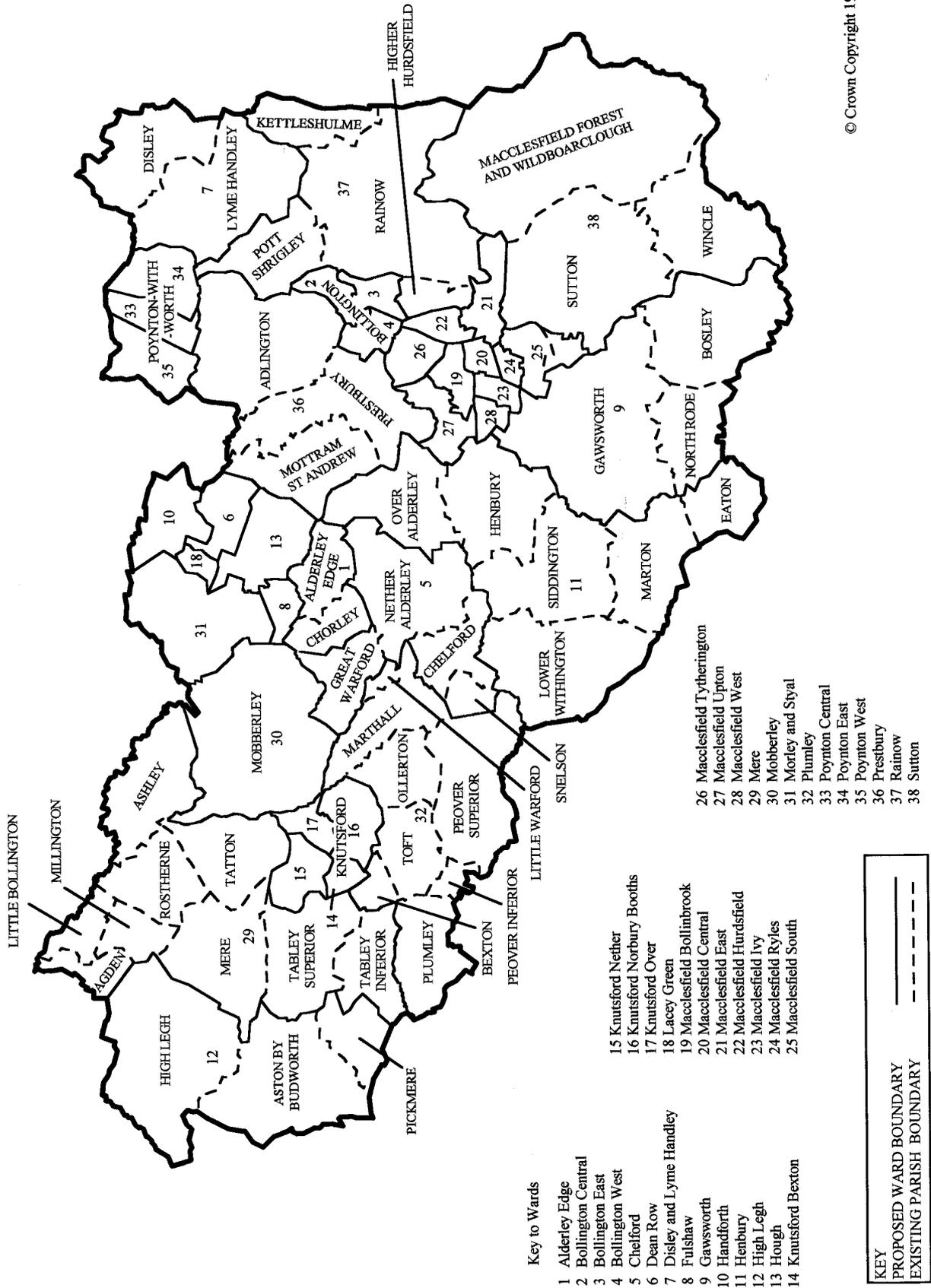
Knutsford Town Council should comprise 15 town councillors representing four wards, with Knutsford Bexton, Knutsford Nether and Knutsford Norbury Booths wards returning three town councillors, and Knutsford Over ward returning six town councillors. The new town wards should be modified to reflect the proposed borough wards, as illustrated on Maps A4 and A5 at Appendix A.

⁹¹ In our draft recommendations report we proposed that there should be no change to the electoral cycle of parish and town councils in the borough. We have not received any evidence to persuade us to move away from this proposal.

Final Recommendation

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

Map 2:
The Commission's Final Recommendations for Macclesfield



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Figure 4:
The Commission's Final Recommendations for Macclesfield

Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (1997)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2002)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
1 Alderley Edge	2	4,164	2,082	2	4,164	2,082	-1
2 Bollington Central	1	1,981	1,981	-3	1,998	1,998	-5
3 Bollington East	1	1,924	1,924	-5	1,934	1,934	-8
4 Bollington West	1	1,909	1,909	-6	1,921	1,921	-8
5 Chelford	1	2,063	2,063	1	2,219	2,219	6
6 Dean Row (in Wilmslow)	2	3,786	1,893	-7	4,323	2,162	3
7 Disley & Lyme Handley	2	3,782	1,891	-7	3,782	1,891	-10
8 Fulshaw (in Wilmslow)	2	3,870	1,935	-5	3,870	1,935	-8
9 Gawsworth	1	1,962	1,962	-4	1,985	1,985	-5
10 Handforth (in Wilmslow)	3	6,328	2,109	4	6,584	2,195	5
11 Henbury	1	2,000	2,000	-2	2,031	2,031	-3
12 High Legh	1	1,972	1,972	-3	2,076	2,076	-1
13 Hough (in Wilmslow)	2	3,751	1,876	-8	3,929	1,965	-6
14 Knutsford Bexton	1	2,225	2,225	9	2,308	2,308	10
15 Knutsford Nether	1	2,039	2,039	0	2,091	2,091	0
16 Knutsford Norbury Booths	1	2,237	2,237	10	2,276	2,276	9
17 Knutsford Over	2	4,259	2,130	5	4,259	2,130	2
18 Lacey Green (in Wilmslow)	1	2,147	2,147	6	2,147	2,147	3
19 Macclesfield Bollinbrook	2	4,109	2,055	1	4,590	2,295	10
20 Macclesfield Central	2	4,382	2,191	8	4,571	2,286	9

continued overleaf

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

Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (1997)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2002)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
21 Macclesfield East	2	4,270	2,135	5	4,382	2,191	5
22 Macclesfield Hurdsfield	2	4,066	2,033	0	4,066	2,033	-3
23 Macclesfield Ivy	2	4,187	2,094	3	4,243	2,122	1
24 Macclesfield Ryles	1	2,063	2,063	1	2,063	2,063	-1
25 Macclesfield South	2	4,187	2,094	3	4,417	2,209	6
26 Macclesfield Tytherington	2	4,014	2,007	-1	4,653	2,327	11
27 Macclesfield Upton	2	4,118	2,059	1	4,143	2,072	-1
28 Macclesfield West	2	3,937	1,969	-3	3,937	1,969	-6
29 Mere	1	1,772	1,772	-13	1,791	1,791	-14
30 Mobberley	1	2,237	2,237	10	2,318	2,318	11
31 Morley & Styal (in Wilmslow)	2	3,930	1,965	-3	3,930	1,965	-6
32 Plumley	1	1,939	1,939	-5	1,939	1,939	-7
33 Poynton Central	3	5,762	1,921	-6	5,864	1,955	-7
34 Poynton East	1	1,894	1,894	-7	1,906	1,906	-9
35 Poynton West	2	4,307	2,154	6	4,361	2,181	4
36 Prestbury	2	4,391	2,196	8	4,406	2,203	5
37 Rainow	1	2,167	2,167	7	2,167	2,167	4
38 Sutton	1	1,937	1,937	5	1,937	1,937	-7
Totals	60	122,065	—	—	125,581	—	—
Averages	—	—	2,034	—	—	2,093	—

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

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

6. NEXT STEPS

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

93 It now falls to the Secretary of State to decide whether to give effect to our recommendations, with or without modification, and to implement them by means of an order. Such an order will not be made earlier than six weeks from the date that our recommendations are submitted to the Secretary of State.

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

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

APPENDIX A

Final Recommendations for Macclesfield: Detailed Mapping

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

Map A1 illustrates, in outline form, the proposed ward boundaries within the borough and indicates the areas which are shown in more detail in Maps A2, A3, A4, A5, A6, A7 and the large map inserted at the back of the report.

Map A2 illustrates the proposed boundary change between Poynton Central and Poynton East wards.

Map A3 illustrates the proposed ward boundaries in Bollington town.

Map A4 illustrates the proposed boundary changes between Knutsford Nether, Knutsford Over and Knutsford West wards.

Map A5 illustrates the proposed boundary changes between Knutsford Nether, Knutsford Over and Knutsford South wards.

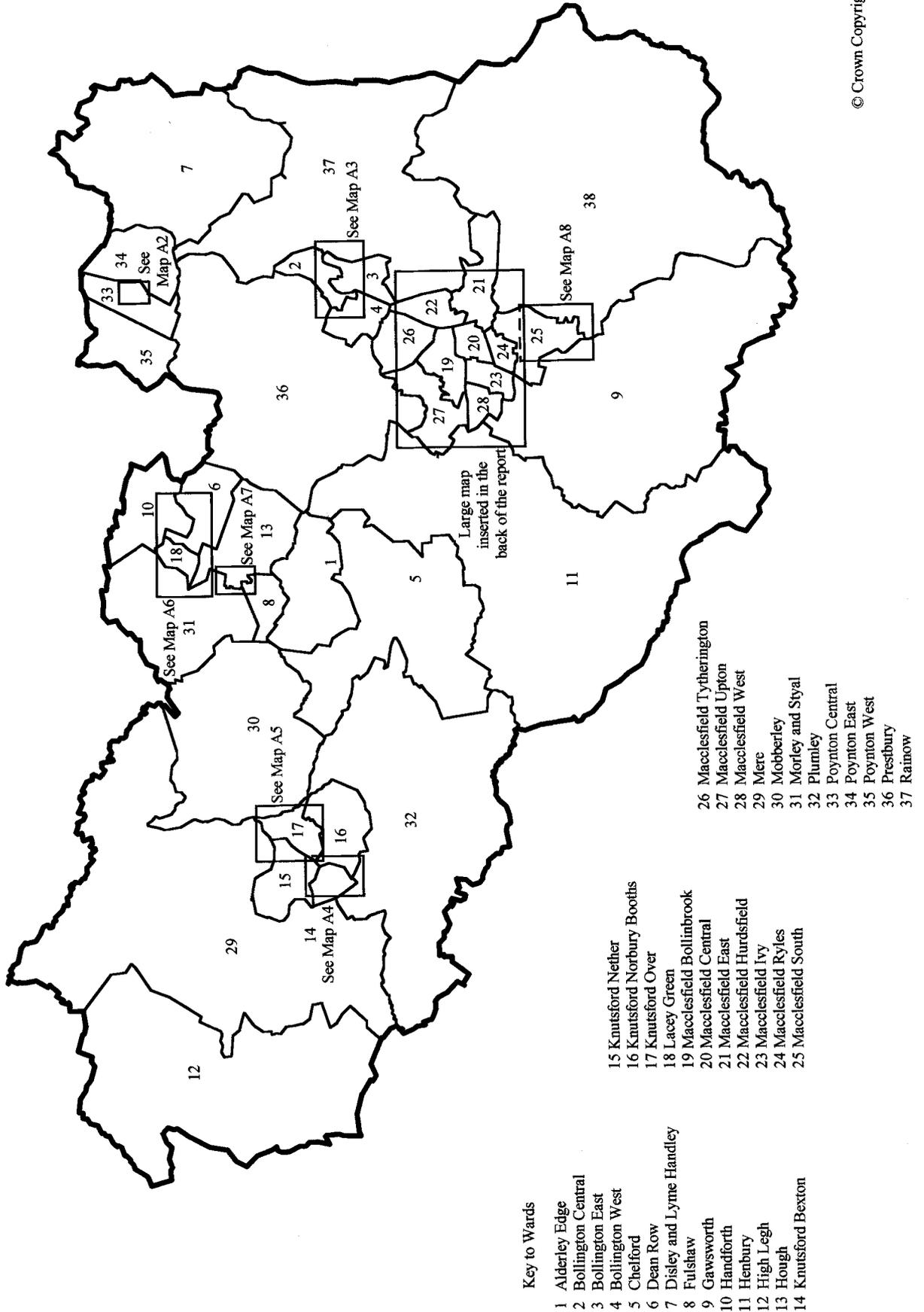
Map A6 illustrates the proposed boundary changes between Dean Row, Handforth and Lacey Green wards.

Map A7 illustrates the proposed boundary changes between Hough, Fulshaw and Morley & Styal wards.

Map A8 illustrates the proposed boundary change between Macclesfield South ward and Sutton wards.

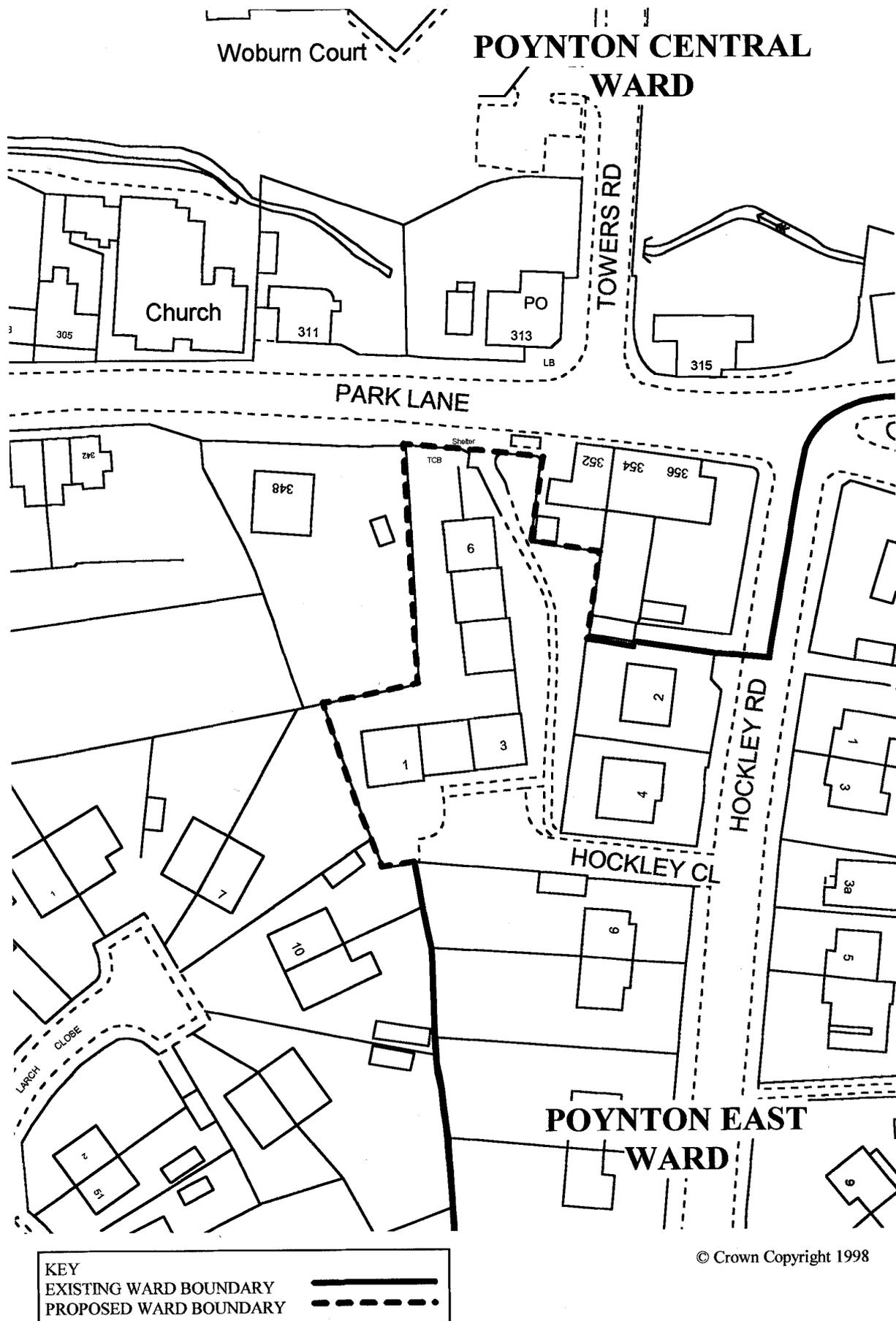
The **large map** inserted in the back of the report illustrates the Commission's proposed warding arrangements for Macclesfield town.

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

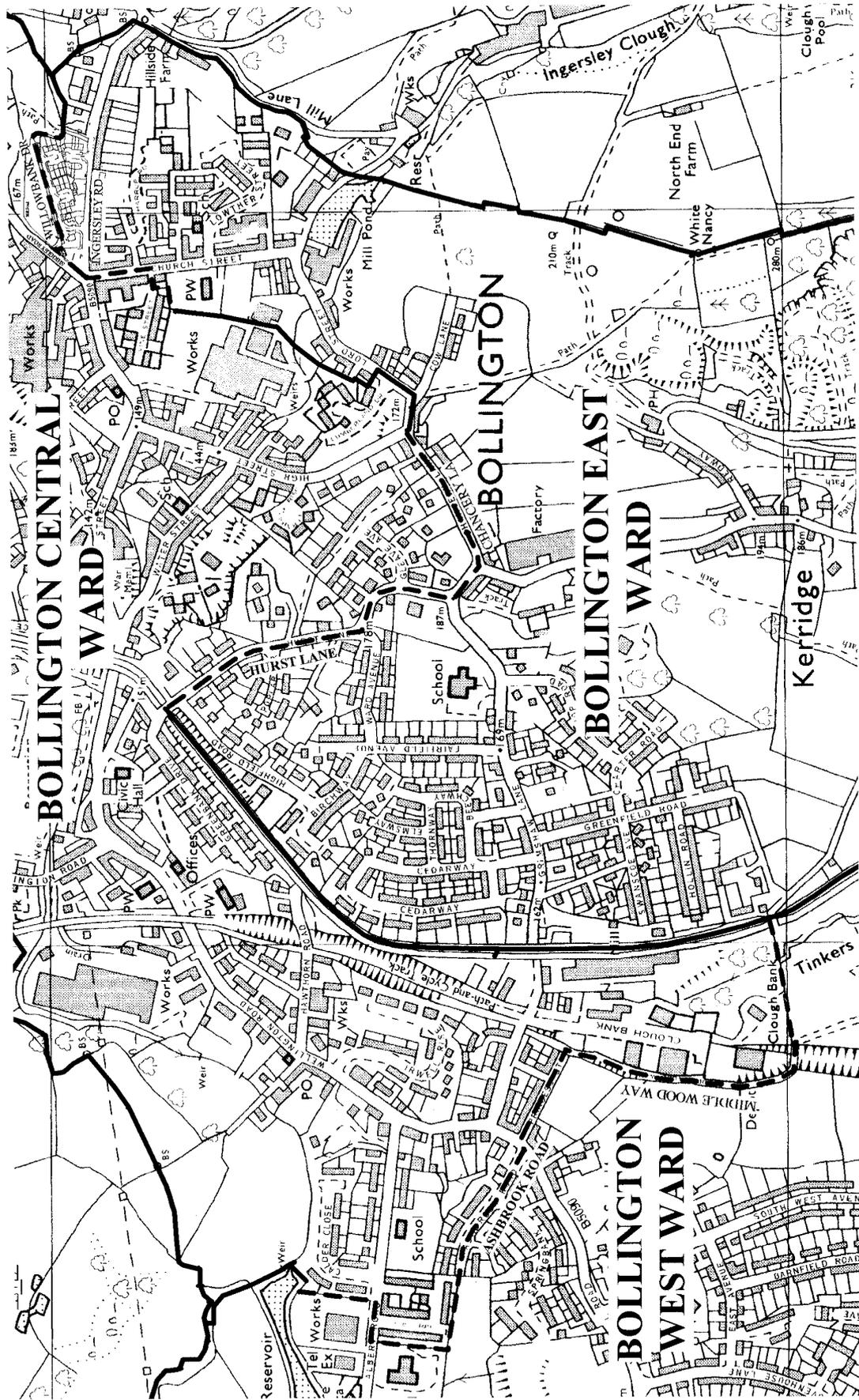


Map A2:

Proposed Boundary Change between Poynton Central and Poynton East Wards



Map A3:
Proposed Ward Boundaries for Bollington Town



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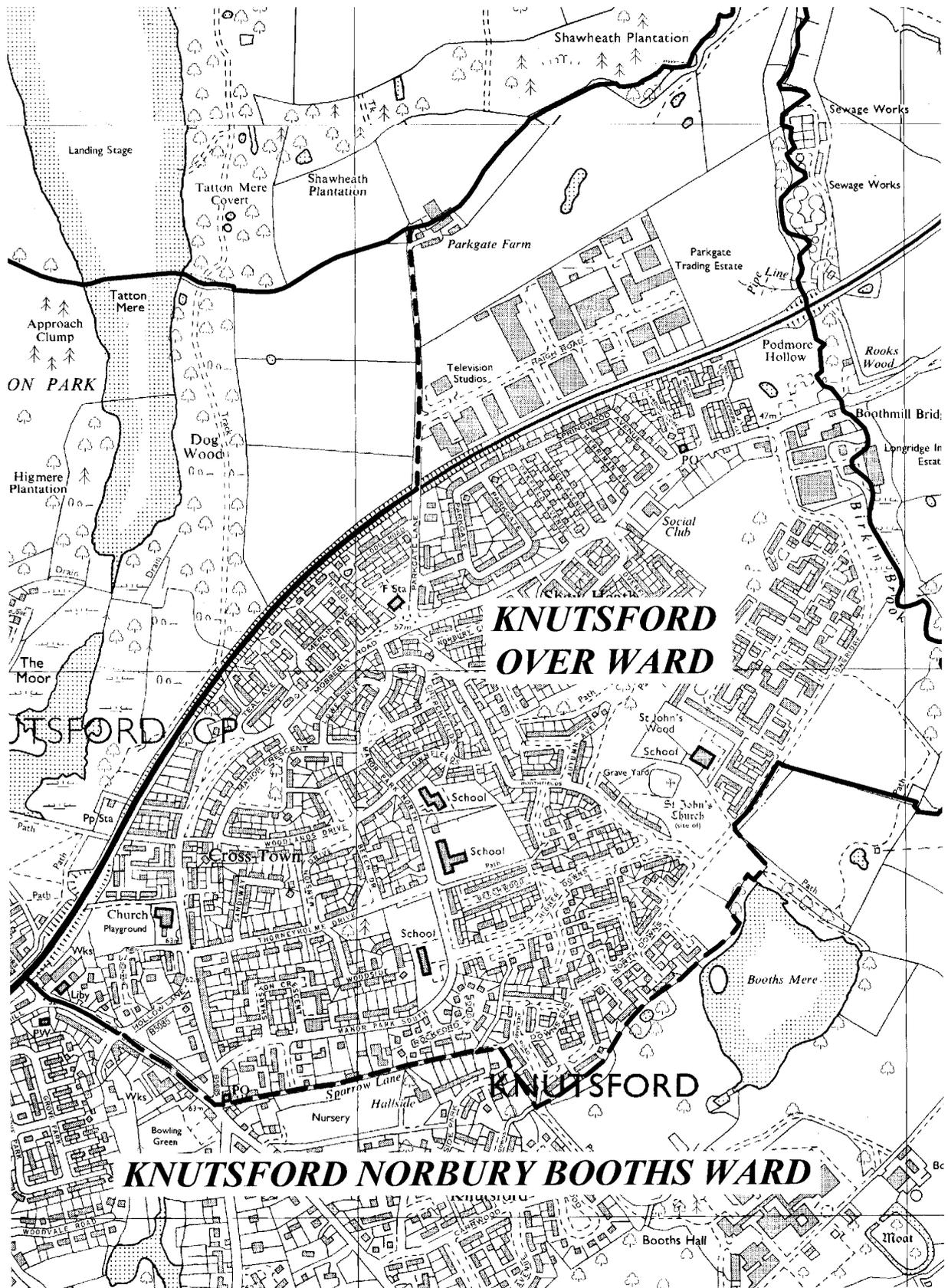
Map A4:
 Proposed Boundary Changes between Knutsford Nether, Knutsford Over and Knutsford West Wards



KEY	
EXISTING WARD BOUNDARY	—————
PROPOSED WARD BOUNDARY	- - - - -
PROPOSED WARD NAME	KNUTSFORD NETHER WARD

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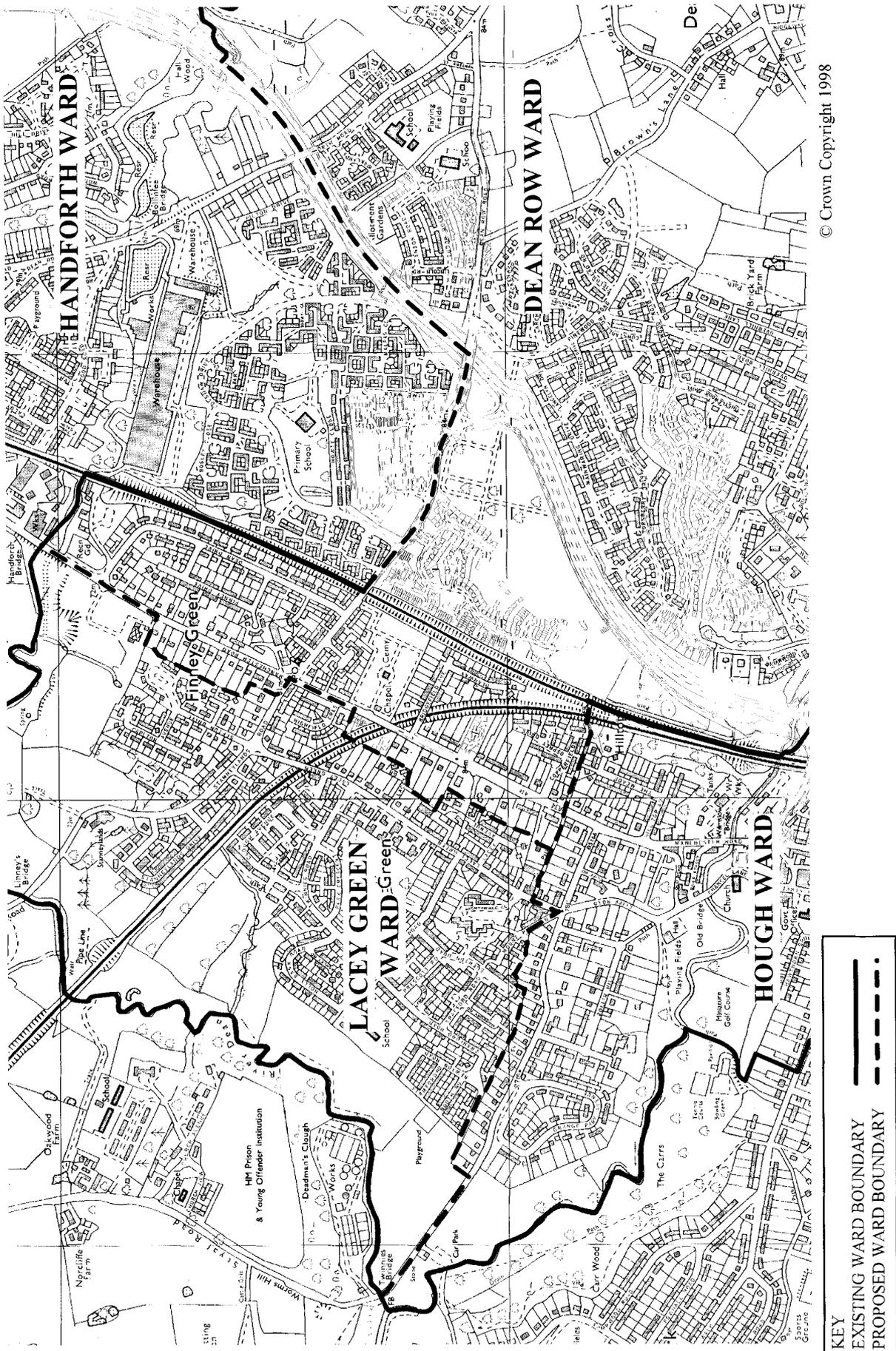
Map A5:
 Proposed Boundary Changes between Knutsford Nether, Knutsford Over and Knutsford South Wards



KEY	
EXISTING WARD BOUNDARY	
PROPOSED WARD BOUNDARY	
PROPOSED WARD NAME	KNUTSFORD OVER WARD

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Map A6:
 Proposed Boundary Changes between Dean Row, Handforth and Lacey Green Wards

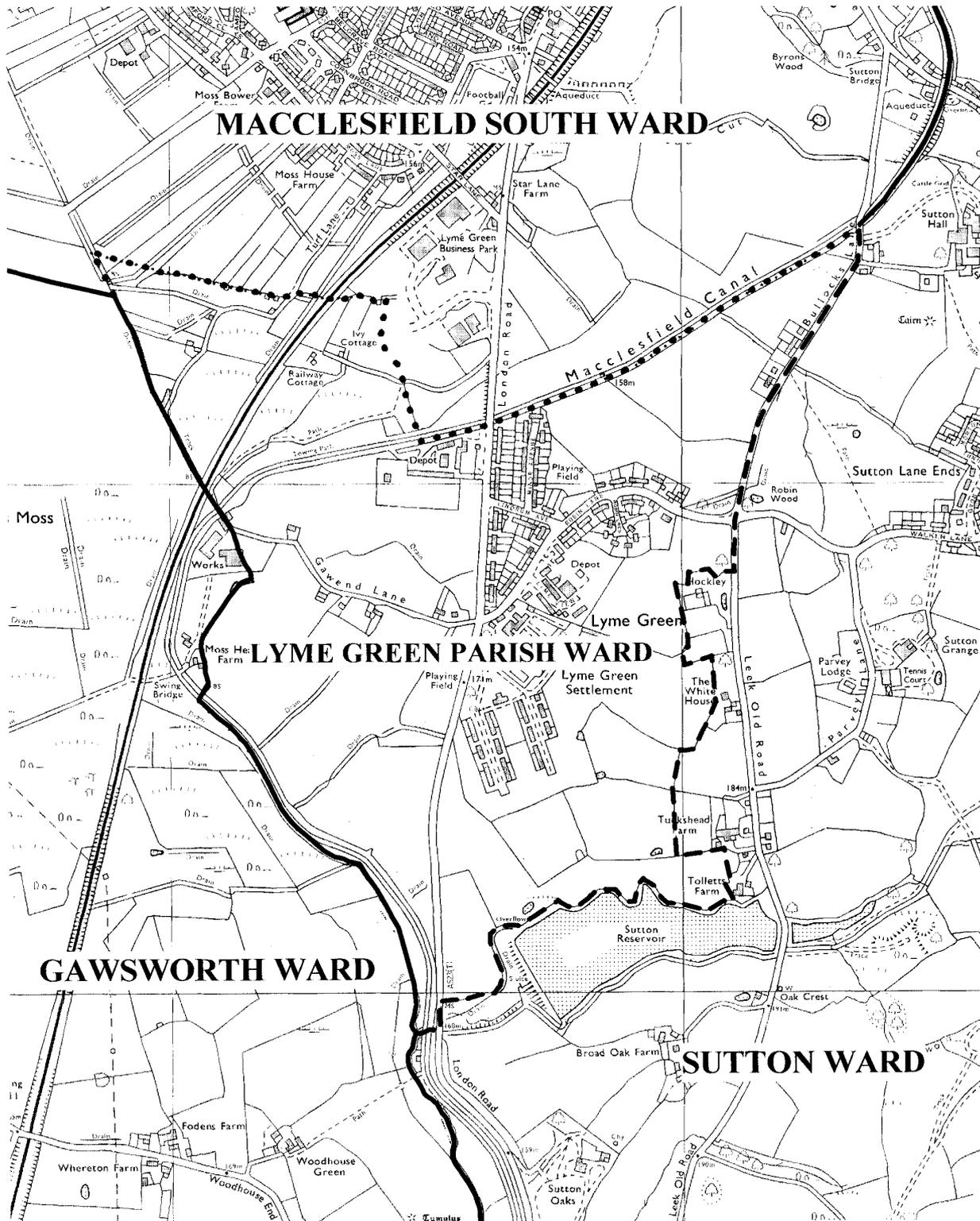


Map A7:
 Proposed Boundary Changes between Hough, Fulshaw and Morley & Styal Wards



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Map A8:
Proposed Boundary Change between Macclesfield South and Sutton Wards



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

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APPENDIX B

Draft Recommendations for Macclesfield: November 1997

Figure B1:

The Commission's Draft Recommendations: Constituent Areas

	Ward name	Number of councillors	Constituent areas
1	Alderley Edge	2	Alderley Edge ward (Alderley Edge parish); Nether Alderley ward (part – Chorley parish)
2	Bollington Central	1	Bollington Central borough and parish ward (part); Bollington East borough and parish ward (part); Bollington West borough and parish ward (part)
3	Bollington East	1	Bollington East borough and parish ward (part); Bollington Central borough and parish ward (part)
4	Bollington West	1	Bollington West borough and parish ward (part)
5	Bucklow	2	High Legh ward (the parishes of Aston by Budworth, High Legh, Pickmere, Tabley Inferior, Tabley Superior); Mere ward (the parishes of Agden, Little Bollington, Ashley, Mere, Millington, Rostherne and Tatton)
6	Chelford	1	Nether Alderley ward (part – the parishes of Nether Alderley, Great Warford, Chelford and Snelsdon)
7	Dean Row (in Wilmslow)	2	Dean Row ward (part); Lacey Green ward (part)
8	Disley & Lyme Handley	2	Disley ward and parish; Rainow ward (part – Lyme Handley parish)
9	Fulshaw (in Wilmslow)	2	Fulshaw ward (part)
10	Gawsworth	1	<i>Unchanged</i> (the parishes of Gawsworth, North Rode and Bosley)
11	Handforth (in Wilmslow)	3	Handforth ward; Dean Row ward (part)
12	Henbury	1	Henbury ward (the parishes of Eaton, (in Wilmslow) Henbury, Marton, Siddington and Lower Withington); Nether Alderley ward (part – Over Alderley parish)
13	Hough (in Wilmslow)	2	Hough ward; Fulshaw ward (part); Lacey Green ward (part); Morley and Styal ward (part)

continued overleaf

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

	Ward name	Number of councillors	Constituent areas
14	Knutsford Bexton	1	Knutsford West borough and parish ward (part); Knutsford South borough and parish ward (part)
15	Knutsford Crosstown	1	Knutsford South borough and parish ward (part); Knutsford Over borough and parish ward (part)
16	Knutsford Nether	1	Knutsford Nether borough and parish ward (part); Knutsford West borough and parish ward (part)
17	Knutsford Norbury Booths	1	Knutsford South borough and parish ward (part);
18	Knutsford Over	1	Knutsford Over borough and parish ward (part); Knutsford Nether borough and parish ward (part)
19	Lacey Green (in Wilmslow)	1	Lacey Green ward (part)
20	Macclesfield Bollinbrook	2	Macclesfield North-West ward (part); Macclesfield North-East ward (part); Macclesfield Central ward (part)
21	Macclesfield Central	2	Macclesfield Central ward (part); Macclesfield East ward (part); Macclesfield North-West ward (part)
22	Macclesfield East	2	Macclesfield East ward (part); Macclesfield North-East ward (part)
23	Macclesfield Hurdsfield	2	Macclesfield North-East ward (part); Macclesfield East ward (part)
24	Macclesfield Ivy	2	Macclesfield Central ward (part); Macclesfield West ward (part)
25	Macclesfield Ryles	1	Macclesfield South ward (part)
26	Macclesfield South	2	Macclesfield South ward (part); Sutton ward (part – Lyme Green ward of Sutton parish)
27	Macclesfield Tytherington	2	Macclesfield North-East ward (part)
28	Macclesfield Upton	2	Macclesfield North-West ward (part)
29	Macclesfield West	2	Macclesfield West ward (part)
30	Mobberley	1	<i>Unchanged</i> (Mobberley parish)
31	Morley & Styal (in Wilmslow)	2	Morley and Styal ward (part)

Figure B1 (continued):

The Commission's Draft Recommendations: Constituent Areas

Ward name	Number of councillors	Constituent areas
32 Plumley	1	<i>Unchanged</i> (the parishes of Plumley, Bexton, Toft, Peover Inferior, Peover Superior, Little Warford and Marthall)
33 Poynton Central	3	Poynton Central ward (part)
34 Poynton East	1	Poynton East ward; Poynton Central ward (part)
35 Poynton West	2	<i>Unchanged</i> (Poynton West ward)
36 Prestbury	2	<i>Unchanged</i> (the parishes of Prestbury, Adlington and Mottram St Andrew)
37 Rainow	1	Rainow ward (part – the parishes of Higher Hurdsfield, Kettleshulme, Pott Shrigley and Rainow);
38 Sutton	1	Sutton ward (part – the parishes of Macclesfield Forest and Wildboarclough, and Sutton Rural, Sutton Langley and Sutton Lane Ends wards of Sutton parish)

Figure B2:
The Commission's Draft Recommendations for Macclesfield

Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (1997)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2002)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
1 Alderley Edge	2	4,164	2,082	2	4,164	2,082	-1
2 Bollington Central	1	1,981	1,981	-3	1,998	1,998	-5
3 Bollington East	1	1,924	1,924	-5	1,934	1,934	-8
4 Bollington West	1	1,909	1,909	-6	1,921	1,921	-8
5 Bucklow	2	3,744	1,872	-8	3,867	1,934	-8
6 Chelford	1	2,063	2,063	1	2,219	2,219	6
7 Dean Row (in Wilmslow)	2	3,786	1,893	-7	4,323	2,162	3
8 Disley & Lyme Handley	2	3,782	1,891	-7	3,782	1,891	-10
9 Fulshaw (in Wilmslow)	2	3,870	1,935	-5	3,870	1,935	-8
10 Gawsworth	1	1,962	1,962	-4	1,985	1,985	-5
11 Handforth (in Wilmslow)	3	6,328	2,109	4	6,584	2,195	5
12 Henbury	1	2,000	2,000	-2	2,031	2,031	-3
13 Hough (in Wilmslow)	2	3,751	1,876	-8	3,929	1,965	-6
14 Knutsford Bexton	1	2,225	2,225	9	2,308	2,308	10
15 Knutsford Crosstown	1	2,164	2,164	6	2,164	2,164	3
16 Knutsford Nether	1	2,039	2,039	0	2,091	2,091	0
17 Knutsford Norbury Booths	1	2,237	2,237	10	2,276	2,276	9
18 Knutsford Over	1	2,095	2,095	3	2,095	2,095	0
19 Lacey Green (in Wilmslow)	1	2,147	2,147	6	2,147	2,147	3
20 Macclesfield Bollinbrook	2	4,109	2,055	1	4,590	2,295	10

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

Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (1997)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2002)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
21 Macclesfield Central	2	4,382	2,191	8	4,571	2,286	9
22 Macclesfield East	2	4,393	2,197	8	4,508	2,254	8
23 Macclesfield Hurdsfield	2	3,940	1,970	-3	3,940	1,970	-6
24 Macclesfield Ivy	2	4,187	2,094	3	4,243	2,122	1
25 Macclesfield Ryles	1	2,063	2,063	1	2,063	2,063	-1
26 Macclesfield South	2	4,187	2,094	3	4,417	2,209	6
27 Macclesfield Tytherington	2	4,014	2,007	-1	4,653	2,327	11
28 Macclesfield Upton	2	4,118	2,059	1	4,143	2,072	-1
29 Macclesfield West	2	3,937	1,969	-3	3,937	1,969	-6
30 Mobberley	1	2,237	2,237	10	2,318	2,318	11
31 Morley & Styal (in Wilmslow)	2	3,930	1,965	-3	3,930	1,965	-6
32 Plumley	1	1,939	1,939	-5	1,939	1,939	-7
33 Poynton Central	3	5,762	1,921	-6	5,864	1,955	-7
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35 Poynton West	2	4,307	2,154	6	4,361	2,181	4
36 Prestbury	2	4,391	2,196	8	4,406	2,203	5
37 Rainow	1	2,167	2,167	7	2,167	2,167	4
38 Sutton	1	1,937	1,937	5	1,937	1,937	-7
Totals	60	122,065	—	—	125,581	—	—
Averages	—	—	2,034	—	—	2,093	—

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

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

