

LOCAL  
GOVERNMENT  
COMMISSION  
FOR ENGLAND

FINAL  
RECOMMENDATIONS  
ON THE FUTURE  
ELECTORAL  
ARRANGEMENTS FOR  
NEWHAM

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

*November 1999*

# LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND

This report sets out the Commission's final recommendations on the electoral arrangements for Newham.

Members of the Commission are:

Professor Malcolm Grant (Chairman)

Professor Michael Clarke (Deputy Chairman)

Peter Brokenshire

Kru Desai

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A large map illustrating the proposed ward boundaries for Newham is inserted inside the back cover of the report.





## Local Government Commission for England

30 November 1999

Dear Secretary of State

On 5 January 1999 the Commission began a periodic electoral review of Newham under the Local Government Act 1992. We published our draft recommendations in June 1999 and undertook an 11-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 paragraphs 137-138) in the light of further evidence. This report sets out our final recommendations for changes to electoral arrangements in Newham.

We recommend that Newham Borough Council should be served by 60 councillors representing 20 wards, and that changes should be made to ward boundaries in order to improve electoral equality, having regard to the statutory criteria.

We note that you have now set out in the White Paper *Modern Local Government – In Touch with the People* (Cm 4014, HMSO), legislative proposals for a number of changes to local authority electoral arrangements. However, until such time as that new legislation is in place we are obliged to conduct our work in accordance with current legislation, and to continue our current approach to periodic electoral reviews.

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 Newham on 5 January 1999. We published our draft recommendations for electoral arrangements on 29 June 1999, after which we undertook an 11-week period of consultation.

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

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

- **in eight of the 24 wards the number of electors represented by each councillor varies by more than 10 per cent from the average for the borough, and in three wards varies by more than 20 per cent from the average;**
- **by 2004 electoral equality is expected to worsen, with the number of electors per councillor forecast to vary by more than 10 per cent from the average in 11 wards, and by more than 20 per cent in six wards.**

Our main final recommendations for future electoral arrangements (Figures 1 and 2 and paragraphs 137-138) are that:

- **Newham Borough Council should be served by 60 councillors, as at present;**
- **there should be 20 wards, four fewer than at present, which would involve changes to the boundaries of all of the existing wards.**

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 19 of the 20 wards the number of electors per councillor would vary by no more than 10 per cent from the borough average. Royal Docks ward, which is subject to significant growth, would initially vary by 57 per cent.**
- **Electoral equality is forecast to improve further, with the number of electors per councillor in all wards expected to vary by no more than 3 per cent from the average for the borough in 2004.**

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 11 January 2000:

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

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

<b>Ward name</b>	<b>Number of councillors</b>	<b>Constituent areas (existing wards)</b>
1 Beckton	3	Custom House & Silvertown ward (part); South ward (part)
2 Boleyn	3	Bemersyde ward (part); Castle ward (part); Central ward (part); Greatfield ward (part); Plaistow ward (part)
3 Canning Town North	3	Canning Town & Grange ward; Hudsons ward (part); Ordnance ward (part)
4 Canning Town South	3	Beckton ward (part); Custom House & Silvertown ward (part); Hudsons ward (part); Ordnance ward (part)
5 Custom House	3	Custom House & Silvertown ward (part); Beckton ward (part); South ward (part)
6 East Ham Central	3	Castle ward (part); Central ward (part); Greatfield ward (part); Wall End ward (part)
7 East Ham North	3	Kensington ward; Monega ward (part); St Stephens ward (part)
8 East Ham South	3	Greatfield ward (part); South ward (part)
9 Forest Gate North	3	Forest Gate ward; New Town ward (part)
10 Forest Gate South	3	Park ward (part); Stratford ward (part); Upton ward (part); West Ham ward (part)
11 Green Street East	3	Manor Park ward (part); Monega ward (part); St Stephens ward (part)
12 Green Street West	3	Park ward (part); Plashet ward (part); Upton ward (part)
13 Little Ilford	3	Little Ilford ward; Manor Park ward (part)
14 Manor Park	3	Manor Park ward (part); Monega ward (part)
15 Plaistow North	3	Plaistow ward (part); Plashet ward (part)
16 Plaistow South	3	Plaistow ward (part); Bemersyde ward (part); Hudsons ward (part)
17 Royal Docks	3	Custom House & Silvertown ward (part); South ward (part)
18 Stratford & New Town	3	New Town ward (part); Stratford ward (part)
19 Wall End	3	Wall End ward (part)
20 West Ham	3	West Ham ward (part); Park ward (part); Plashet ward (part); Stratford ward (part)

*Note: Map 2 and the large map in the back of the report illustrate the proposed wards outlined above.*



Figure 2:  
The Commission's Final Recommendations for Newham

Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (1999)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2004)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
1 Beckton	3	7,044	2,348	-5	7,680	2,560	1
2 Boleyn	3	7,774	2,591	4	7,557	2,519	-1
3 Canning Town North	3	7,694	2,565	3	7,498	2,499	-1
4 Canning Town South	3	7,670	2,557	3	7,486	2,495	-2
5 Custom House	3	7,804	2,601	5	7,664	2,555	1
6 East Ham Central	3	7,907	2,636	6	7,659	2,553	1
7 East Ham North	3	7,378	2,459	-1	7,420	2,473	-3
8 East Ham South	3	7,833	2,611	5	7,645	2,548	0
9 Forest Gate North	3	7,904	2,635	6	7,782	2,594	2
10 Forest Gate South	3	8,040	2,680	8	7,808	2,603	3
11 Green Street East	3	7,458	2,486	0	7,531	2,510	-1
12 Green Street West	3	7,626	2,542	2	7,521	2,507	-1
13 Little Ilford	3	7,648	2,549	3	7,542	2,514	-1
14 Manor Park	3	7,486	2,495	0	7,619	2,540	0
15 Plaistow North	3	7,549	2,516	1	7,438	2,479	-2
16 Plaistow South	3	7,858	2,619	5	7,505	2,502	-1
17 Royal Docks	3	3,180	1,060	-57	7,852	2,617	3
18 Stratford & New Town	3	7,592	2,531	2	7,649	2,550	0
19 Wall End	3	7,776	2,592	4	7,638	2,546	0

*continued overleaf*

Figure 2 (continued):  
The Commission's Final Recommendations for Newham

Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (1999)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2004)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
20 West Ham	3	7,840	2,613	5	7,728	2,576	2
<b>Totals</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>149,061</b>	—	—	<b>152,222</b>	—	—
<b>Averages</b>	—	—	<b>2,484</b>	—	—	<b>2,537</b>	—

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

Notes: 1 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.

2 The total numbers of electors in 1999 and 2004 are marginally different from those in Figures 3 and A1. This has a negligible effect on electoral variances and on the average number of electors per councillor.

# 1. INTRODUCTION

1 This report contains our final recommendations on the electoral arrangements for the London borough of Newham.

2 In broad terms, the objective of this periodic electoral review of Newham is to ensure that the number of electors represented by each councillor on the Borough Council is as nearly as possible the same, taking into account local circumstances.

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

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

4 We are required to make representations to the Secretary of State on the number of councillors who should serve on the Borough Council, and the number, boundaries and names of wards.

5 We have also had regard to our *Guidance and Procedural Advice for Local Authorities and Other Interested Parties* (second edition published in March 1998), which sets out our approach to the reviews. We are not required to have regard to parliamentary constituency boundaries in developing our recommendations. Any new ward boundaries will be taken into account by the Parliamentary Boundary Commission in its reviews of parliamentary constituencies.

6 The broad objective of PERs is to achieve, so far as practicable, equality of representation across the borough as a whole. Wherever possible we try to build on schemes which have been prepared locally on the basis of careful and effective consultation. Local interests are normally in a better position to judge what council size and ward configuration are most likely to secure effective and convenient local government in their areas, while allowing proper reflection of the identities and interests of local communities.

7 We are not prescriptive on council size. We start from the general assumption that the existing council size already secures effective and convenient local government in that borough but we are willing to look carefully at arguments why this might not be so. However, we have found it necessary to safeguard against an upward drift in the number of councillors, and we believe that any proposal for an increase in council size will need to be fully justified: in particular, we do not accept that an increase in a borough's electorate should automatically result in an increase in the number of councillors, nor that changes should be made to the size of a borough council simply to make it more consistent with the size of other boroughs.

## The London Boroughs

8 Our programme of periodic electoral reviews of all 386 local authorities in England started in 1996 and is currently expected to be completed by 2004. The 1992 Act requires us to review most local authorities every 10 to 15 years. However, the Act is silent on the timing of reviews by the Commission of the London boroughs. The Commission has no power to review the electoral arrangements of the City of London.

9 Most London boroughs have not been reviewed since 1977. Following discussions with local authority interests on the appropriate timing of London borough reviews, we decided to start as soon as possible after the May 1998 London local government elections so that all reviews could be completed, and the necessary orders implementing our recommendations made by the Secretary of State, in time for the next London elections scheduled for May 2002. Our reviews of the 32 London boroughs started on a phased basis between June 1998 and February 1999.

10 We have sought to ensure that all concerned were aware of our approach to the reviews. Copies of our *Guidance* were sent to all London boroughs, along with other major interests. In March 1998 we briefed chief executives at a meeting of the

London branch of the Society of Local Authority Chief Executives, and we also met with the Association of London Government. Since then we welcomed the opportunity to meet with chief officers and, on an all-party basis, members in the majority of individual authorities. This has enabled us to brief authorities about our policies and procedures, our objective of electoral equality having regard to local circumstances, and the approach taken by the Commission in previous reviews.

11 Before we started our work in London, the Government published for consultation a Green Paper, *Modernising Local Government – Local Democracy and Community Leadership* (February 1998) which, inter alia, promoted the possibility of London boroughs having annual elections with three-member wards so that one councillor in each ward would stand for election each year. In view of this, we decided that the order in which the London reviews are undertaken should be determined by the proportion of three-member wards in each borough under the current arrangements. On this basis, Newham was in the fourth phase of reviews.

12 The Government's subsequent White Paper, *Modern Local Government – In Touch with the People*, published in July 1998, set out legislative proposals for local authority electoral arrangements. For all unitary councils, including London boroughs, it proposed elections by thirds. It also refers to local accountability being maximised where the whole electorate in a council's area is involved in elections each time they take place, thereby pointing to a pattern of three-member wards in London boroughs to reflect a system of elections by thirds.

13 Following publication of the White Paper, we advised all authorities in our 1998/99 PER programme, including the London boroughs, that until any direction is received from the Secretary of State, the Commission would continue to maintain the approach to PERs as set out in the March 1998 *Guidance*. Nevertheless, we added that local authorities and other interested parties would no doubt wish to have regard to the Secretary of State's intentions and legislative proposals in formulating electoral schemes as part of PERs of their areas. Our general experience has been that proposals for three-member ward patterns emerged from most areas in London.

14 Finally, it should be noted that there are no parishes in London, and in fact there is no legislative provision for the establishment of

parishes in London. This differentiates the reviews of London boroughs from the majority of the other electoral reviews we are carrying out elsewhere in the country, where parishes feature highly and provide the building blocks for district or borough wards.

## **The Review of Newham**

15 This is our first review of the electoral arrangements for Newham. The last such review was undertaken by our predecessor, the Local Government Boundary Commission (LGBC), which reported to the Secretary of State in April 1977 (Report No. 192).

16 This review was in four stages. Stage One began on 5 January 1999, when we wrote to Newham Borough Council inviting proposals for future electoral arrangements. We also notified the local authority associations, the Metropolitan Police, Members of Parliament and the Member of the European Parliament with constituency interests in the borough, and the headquarters of the main political parties. At the start of the review and following publication of our draft recommendations, 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 29 March 1999. At Stage Two we considered all the representations received during Stage One and prepared our draft recommendations.

17 Stage Three began on 29 June 1999 with the publication of our report, *Draft Recommendations on the Future Electoral Arrangements for Newham*, and ended on 13 September 1999. 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

18 The borough of Newham is situated in east London, its boundaries being formed by the rivers Lee, Thames and Roding in the west, south and east, and by Epping Forest in the north. The borough covers an area of 3,875 hectares and has a population of approximately 212,200. There are six widely recognised communities in Newham: Beckton, Canning Town, East Ham, Forest Gate, Green Street and Stratford. There is major redevelopment under way across much of the borough on former industrial sites, in particular in the south, where about one-third of the borough was covered by the former London Docklands Development Agency. Newham is an important transport interchange for east London, with Stratford station connecting the East Anglian suburban and express services with the Docklands Light Railway and Jubilee Line extension. The international City Airport is also within its boundaries.

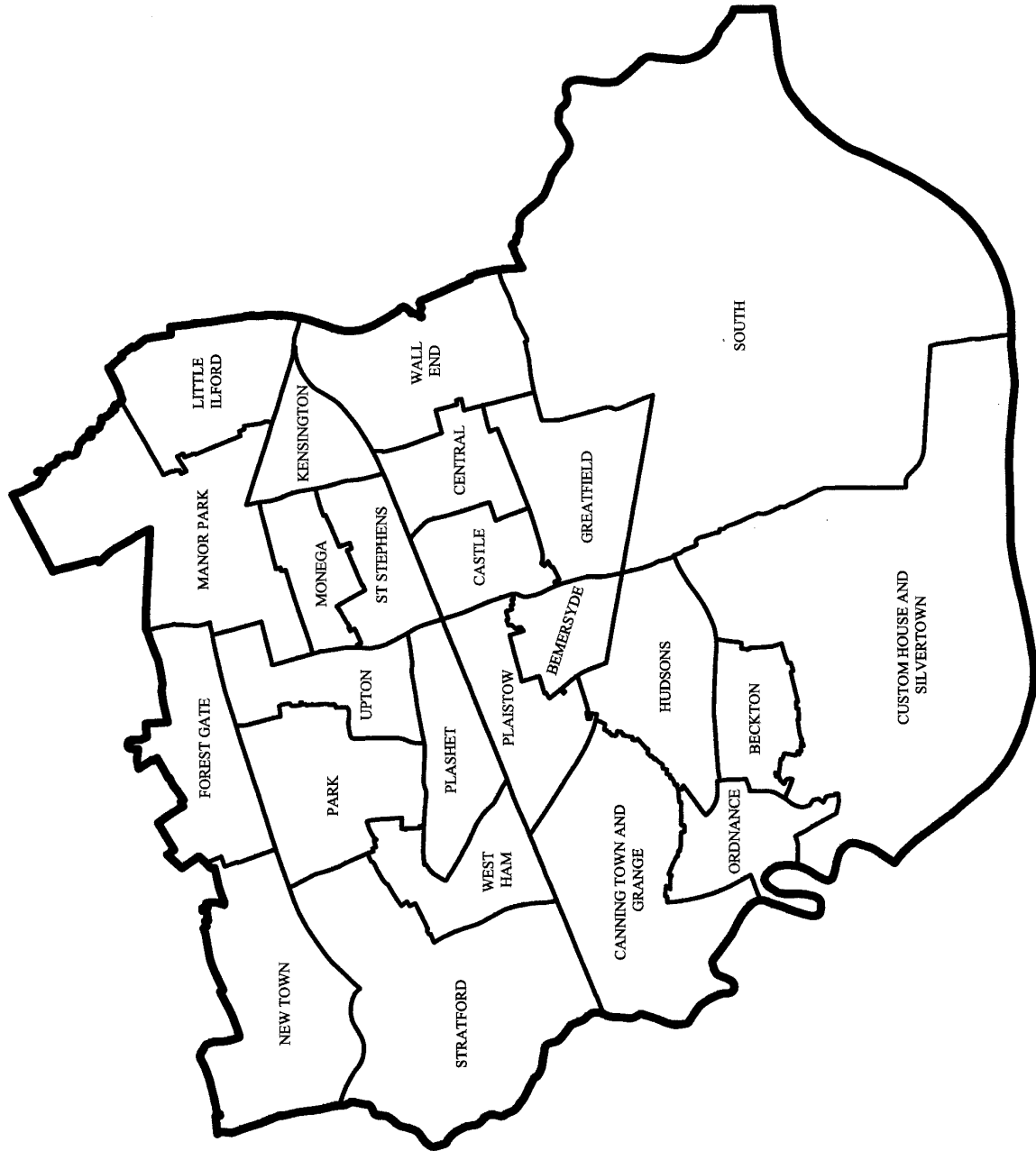
19 To compare levels of electoral inequality between wards, we calculated the extent to which the number of electors per councillor in each ward (the councillor:elector ratio) varies from the borough average in percentage terms. In the text which follows, this calculation may also be described using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

20 The electorate of the borough (February 1999) is 149,062. The Council currently has 60 councillors who are elected from 24 wards (Map 1 and Figure 3). Twelve of the wards are each represented by three councillors and the remaining 12 wards elect two councillors each. As in all London boroughs, the whole council is elected together every four years.

21 Since the last electoral review, there has been a decrease in electorate in the borough, with around 16 per cent fewer electors than two decades ago. It is understood from the Council that over the last decade some of the change in electorate can be attributed to improved methods of compiling the electoral register to achieve greater accuracy.

22 At present, each councillor represents an average of 2,484 electors, which the Borough Council forecasts will increase to 2,537 by the year 2004 if the present number of councillors is maintained. However, due to demographic and other changes over the past two decades, the number of electors per councillor in eight of the 24 wards varies by more than 10 per cent from the borough average, and in three wards by more than 20 per cent. The worst imbalance is in South ward where each of the three councillors represents on average 72 per cent more electors than the borough average.

Map 1:  
Existing Wards in Newham



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Figure 3:  
Existing Electoral Arrangements

Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (1999)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2004)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
1 Beckton	2	3,842	1,921	-23	3,899	1,950	-23
2 Bemersyde	2	4,035	2,018	-19	3,818	1,909	-25
3 Canning Town & Grange	2	5,464	2,732	10	5,347	2,674	5
4 Castle	2	4,972	2,486	0	4,883	2,442	-4
5 Central	2	5,285	2,643	6	5,148	2,574	1
6 Custom House & Silvertown	3	8,964	2,988	20	12,310	4,103	62
7 Forest Gate	3	6,813	2,271	-9	6,622	2,207	-13
8 Greatfield	3	7,453	2,484	0	7,093	2,364	-7
9 Hudsons	3	6,287	2,096	-16	6,000	2,000	-21
10 Kensington	2	5,251	2,626	6	5,312	2,656	5
11 Little Ilford	3	6,886	2,295	-8	6,792	2,264	-11
12 Manor Park	3	7,587	2,529	2	7,655	2,552	1
13 Monega	2	5,269	2,635	6	5,370	2,685	6
14 New Town	2	4,525	2,263	-9	4,820	2,410	-5
15 Ordnance	2	3,552	1,776	-29	3,461	1,731	-32
16 Park	3	6,587	2,196	-12	6,346	2,115	-17
17 Plaistow	3	6,374	2,125	-14	6,285	2,095	-17
18 Plashet	3	7,272	2,424	-2	7,084	2,361	-7
19 St Stephens	2	4,971	2,486	0	4,983	2,492	-2
20 South	3	12,838	4,279	72	14,535	4,845	91
21 Stratford	2	4,551	2,276	-8	4,357	2,179	-14
22 Upton	3	6,851	2,284	-8	6,833	2,278	-10

*continued overleaf*

Figure 3 (continued):  
Existing Electoral Arrangements

Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (1999)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2004)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
23 Wall End	3	8,009	2,670	7	7,861	2,620	3
24 West Ham	2	5,424	2,712	9	5,403	2,702	6
<b>Totals</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>149,062</b>	—	—	<b>152,217</b>	—	—
<b>Averages</b>	—	—	<b>2,484</b>	—	—	<b>2,537</b>	—

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

Notes: 1 The 'variance from average' column shows by how far, in percentage terms, the number of electors per councillor varies from the average for the borough. The minus symbol (-) denotes a lower than average number of electors. For example, in 1999, electors in Ordnance ward are relatively over-represented by 29 per cent, while electors in South ward are significantly under-represented by 72 per cent. Figures have been rounded to the nearest whole number.

2 The total numbers of electors in 2004 are different from those in Figure 4 (the draft recommendations report) by 306 electors largely due to the differences in methodology in calculating electorate at stages One and Three. This has a negligible effect on electoral variances and on the average number of electors per councillor.



### 3. DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS

<sup>23</sup> During Stage One we received six representations, including borough-wide schemes from the Borough Council, Newham Independents Association and Ms Okagbue, a local resident. The Council's scheme did not, however, include any detailed boundaries or electorate figures; it only showed indicative lines on an A4 map. We were also familiar with the work undertaken by council officers on a detailed 20-ward scheme, which did not form part of the Council's proposals. In the light of these representations and evidence available to us, we reached preliminary conclusions which were set out in our report, *Draft Recommendations on the Future Electoral Arrangements for Newham*.

<sup>24</sup> Our draft recommendations were based on the schemes prepared by officers and Ms Okagbue, together with some of our own proposals, which achieved improved electoral equality, provided good boundaries while having regard to the statutory criteria. We proposed that:

- (a) Newham Borough Council should be served by 60 councillors;
- (b) there should be 20 wards, involving changes to the boundaries of all existing wards.

#### **Draft Recommendation**

Newham Borough Council should comprise 60 councillors serving 20 wards.

<sup>25</sup> Our proposals would have resulted in significant improvements in electoral equality, with the number of electors per councillor in all of the 20 wards varying by no more than 10 per cent from the borough average, except for Royal Docks ward, which would initially vary by 57 per cent from the average. This level of electoral equality was forecast to improve further, with all wards expected to vary by no more than 4 per cent from the borough average in 2004.



## 4. RESPONSES TO CONSULTATION

<sup>26</sup> During the consultation on our draft recommendations report, three representations were received. A list of respondents is available on request from the Commission. All representations may be inspected at the offices of Newham Borough Council and the Commission.

### **Newham Borough Council**

<sup>27</sup> The Borough Council supported the thrust of the draft recommendations, modifying them slightly “to ensure communities are not divided and that there is better electoral equality”, except in the heart of the borough, in the Plaistow area, where its proposals differed substantially. Changes were proposed to all but three wards in order to achieve greater electoral equality, keep homogeneous communities together and use clearer, identifiable boundaries. The Council believed that “the boundaries offered here will assist in building convenient and [effective] local government in Newham, with wards that are largely compact, and which have regard to the finer detail of boundary lines”.

<sup>28</sup> The Council stated that it had consulted on its scheme, where “local members went out to speak to the public through their network of meetings and on the doorstep”. The Council also submitted slightly revised electorate figures, attributed largely to the differences in methodology in calculating electorate within geographic areas during stages One and Three of the review.

### **Other Representations**

<sup>29</sup> Two further representations from local residents were received in response to our draft recommendations. A resident of East Ham supported the draft recommendations if they would “make the voting system fairer”, and a resident of Stratford wrote in support of proportional representation.



## 5. ANALYSIS AND FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS

30 As described earlier, our prime objective in considering the most appropriate electoral arrangements for Newham is to achieve electoral equality. In doing so we have regard to the statutory criteria set out in the Local Government Act 1992 – the need to secure effective and convenient local government, and reflect the interests and identities of local communities – and Schedule 11 to the Local Government Act 1972, which refers to the number of electors being “as nearly as may be, the same in every ward of the district or borough”.

31 In relation to Schedule 11, 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. We must have regard to the desirability of fixing identifiable boundaries and to maintaining local ties which might otherwise be broken.

32 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.

33 Our *Guidance* states that, while we accept that the achievement of absolute electoral equality for the authority as a whole is likely to be unattainable, we consider that, if electoral imbalances are to be kept to the minimum, the objective of electoral equality should be the starting point in any review. We therefore strongly recommend that, in formulating electoral schemes, local authorities and other interested parties should start from the standpoint of electoral equality, and then make adjustments to reflect relevant factors, such as community identity. Regard must also be had to five-year forecasts of changes in electorates. We will require particular justification for schemes which result in, or retain, an electoral imbalance over 10

per cent in any ward. In reviews of predominantly urban areas such as the London boroughs, our experience suggests that we would expect to achieve a high degree of electoral equality in all wards.

### Electorate Forecasts

34 At Stage One the Borough Council submitted electorate forecasts for the year 2004, projecting an increase in the electorate of 2 per cent from 149,062 to 152,523 over the five-year period from 1999 to 2004. It expected most of the growth to be in the south of the borough, most notably in the existing wards of Custom House & Silvertown and South. In contrast, Bemersyde, Greatfield, Hudsons and Park wards are forecast to experience a decline in electorate. The Council estimated rates and locations of housing development with regard to the unitary development plan for the borough, and the expected rate of building over the five-year period and assumed occupancy rates. Advice from the Borough Council on the likely effect on electorates of changes to ward boundaries was obtained.

35 In our draft recommendations report we accepted that forecasting electorate is an inexact science and, having given consideration to the forecast electorates, we were satisfied that they represented the best estimates that could reasonably be made at the time.

36 At Stage Three, the Borough Council submitted slightly revised forecast electorate figures, attributed largely to the differences in methodology in calculating electorate within geographic areas during stages One and Three of the review. It stated that the differences between the figures “were felt worthy of further attention and the boundaries were shifted to produce greater electoral equality”. The Council’s revised forecast electorate figures for the borough was for 306 electors less in five years time, giving an overall total of 152,217.

37 We accept that forecasting electorates is an inexact science, but having again given careful consideration to the Council's revised forecast electorates, are content that they represent the best estimates that can reasonably be made at this time.

## Council Size

38 We indicated in our *Guidance* that we would normally expect the number of councillors serving a London borough to be in the range of 40 to 80. As already explained, the Commission's starting point is to assume that the current council size facilitates convenient and effective local government.

39 Newham Borough Council currently has 60 members. At Stage One the Council proposed no change to the current council size, as it recognised "that there is a very high level of uncertainty about future electoral and decision making arrangements in local government and considers that in these circumstances it would be wise to reduce to a minimum the changes caused by this periodic electoral review".

40 The Council had also considered an alternative 45-member option, but stated that "the 45 member option was acknowledged to be a significant change which should only be introduced if there were wide agreement and demonstrable public support". It did not believe therefore "that a strong enough consensus in favour of the reduced council size had emerged".

41 In our draft recommendations report we noted there was general agreement among Stage One respondents to retain a council size of 60. After considering the size and distribution of the electorate, the geography and other characteristics of the area, together with the representations received, we concluded that the statutory criteria and the achievement of electoral equality would best be met by a council of 60 members.

42 At Stage Three, no further comments were received regarding council size and we are confirming our draft recommendation for a council size of 60 as final.

## Ward Names

43 During Stage One, suggestions had been made for incorporating a geographical position in the ward name, such as East or West. However, while one suggestion was to prefix the ward name with

East or West, another suggestion was to include it at the end of the name. Following due consideration, in our draft recommendations report we decided to generally prefix names – for example East Green Street, except where a ward name already includes a compass reference, such as East Ham, when we proposed adding the reference at the end, for example, East Ham North. We invited further views on ward names during Stage Three as well as on the rest of our draft recommendations.

44 In response to our consultation report, the Borough Council largely supported the names proposed by the Commission, with the exception of Wall End being retained instead of Langdon for historical reasons and renaming Stratford as Stratford & New Town for community reasons. The Council also felt that the Commission's proposals "to add 'East or West' as a reference at the beginning of a ward name is divisive for those communities. It is felt that it would be more constructive for the people of Newham and those areas affected to have the suffix of 'East or West' instead". It therefore concluded that "placing a geographical reference at the end would be less divisive, and would assist the Council in its development of Community Forums, which are planned to be centred upon towns in Newham".

45 We have considered these proposals and have no objection to the Council's revised names. The individual ward names are dealt with under the appropriate headings.

## Electoral Arrangements

46 As set out in our draft recommendations report, we carefully considered the representations received during Stage One, including the borough-wide schemes from Newham Independents Association and Ms Okagbue, a local resident. The Borough Council submitted a scheme showing indicative lines without detailed mapping which provided for 20 wards, represented by three councillors each. However, this scheme did not include any detailed ward boundaries or electorate figures, as the Council considered that it was not possible to consult on such a scheme within the deadline set by the Commission. We were also familiar with the work undertaken by council officers on a detailed 20-ward scheme, but which did not form part of the Council's Stage One submission. From all the evidence received, a number of considerations emerged which informed us when preparing our draft recommendations.

47 There was general agreement on retaining a council of 60 members and, among those respondents who made detailed proposals, there was agreement on moving to a pattern of entirely three-member wards in the borough. (At present, half the wards are three-member wards, while the other half are two-member.)

48 The Council recognised that the indicative boundaries it had consulted on for a 20-ward option would not achieve an equitable solution, but acknowledged that the scheme devised by council officers included boundaries that “do satisfy the principles agreed by the council”. The schemes from officers and Ms Okagbue would have achieved a high level of electoral equality, both of which involved changes to all of the existing wards.

49 Newham Independents Association’s proposals would also have achieved very good electoral equality based on 1999 electorate figures. However, taking into account the substantial growth forecast in the south of the borough, significant electoral imbalances would result in 2004 (including 61 per cent in its proposed Dockland ward), and any attempt to improve these imbalances would have a consequential effect elsewhere. We did not therefore adopt the boundaries proposed by the Independents.

50 The schemes from the officers and Ms Okagbue would both have achieved similarly high levels of electoral equality in 2004, with no ward forecast to vary by more than 6 per cent from the average under the officers’ scheme and 2 per cent under Ms Okagbue’s scheme. Furthermore, there was significant similarity between the majority of wards under the two schemes, the only areas of significant difference being in the West Ham and Stratford areas.

51 We concluded that the proposals prepared by officers and Ms Okagbue would provide an excellent basis for future warding arrangements, based on a pattern of 20 three-member wards. Ms Okagbue’s proposals were supported by 2004 electorate figures only, and we therefore calculated the 1999 electorate for her proposed wards. We, however, built on these two schemes to put forward electoral arrangements which would achieve yet further improvements in electoral equality, and enable the establishment of clear and identifiable boundaries, while having regard to the statutory criteria.

52 In response to our draft recommendations report, the Borough Council supported three of our proposed wards in their entirety, but modified the remaining wards slightly, which they asserted would secure community identity and improve electoral equality, except in the heart of the borough around the Plaistow area, where the Council’s proposals were substantially different from the draft recommendations.

53 We have reviewed our draft recommendations in the light of further evidence and the representations received during Stage Three. While we recognise that the Council’s revised proposals in the Plaistow area are significant, we believe they reflect the statutory criteria equally well as our draft recommendations. The following areas, based on existing wards, are considered in turn:

- (a) Forest Gate, Little Ilford and Manor Park wards;
- (b) New Town and Stratford wards;
- (c) Park, Plashet, Upton and West Ham wards;
- (d) Kensington, Monega and St Stephens wards;
- (e) Castle, Central and Wall End wards;
- (f) Bemersyde, Greatfield and Plaistow wards;
- (g) Canning Town & Grange, Hudsons and Ordnance wards;
- (h) Beckton, Custom House & Silvertown and South wards.

54 Details of our final recommendations are set out in Figures 1 and 2, and illustrated on the large map inside the back cover of the report.

### **Forest Gate, Little Ilford and Manor Park wards**

55 These three-member wards are situated in the north of the borough. The average number of electors represented by each councillor is 9 per cent below the average in Forest Gate ward (13 per cent in 2004), 2 per cent above in Manor Park ward (1 per cent in 2004) and 8 per cent below in Little Ilford ward (11 per cent in 2004).

56 At Stage One, the two borough-wide schemes from council officers and Ms Okagbue achieved a level of consensus for change, but differed considerably in some areas. Both schemes based their proposed boundaries upon the boundaries of

existing wards, modifying them as appropriate to facilitate an improved warding pattern.

57 The officers' scheme included a modified Forest Gate ward formed from parts of the existing Forest Gate, Manor Park, Park and Upton wards. Ms Okagbue's proposed Forest Gate & Maryland ward would broadly follow the boundaries of the existing Forest Gate ward, extended to include part of the existing New Town ward (polling district NTCW).

58 The officers' new Manor Park ward would comprise much of the existing Manor Park ward, including the eastern part of Monega ward and a smaller part of Kensington ward. Ms Okagbue's proposed Manor Park North ward would follow the western boundary of the existing Manor Park ward (Ridley Road and Balmoral Road), continuing along Romford Road, Nigel Road and Sherrard Road to Shrewsbury Road. The eastern and southern boundaries would be broadly similar to those proposed by the officers.

59 Both schemes included a modified three-member Little Ilford ward based predominantly on the existing ward, but extended to the north and west on almost identical boundaries. The ward's eastern boundary is the borough boundary and its southern boundary is the Gospel Oak to Barking railway line, which remained unchanged under both schemes. Both schemes also proposed that the ward should be extended northwards to include the City of London Cemetery (currently in Manor Park ward), with Aldersbrook Road forming the ward's north-western boundary.

60 The only difference between the two Little Ilford wards was that Ms Okagbue's western boundary followed the centre of Second Avenue, turning west to follow a line to the north of properties on Church Road, whereas the officers' scheme included both sides of Second Avenue in the ward and did not include the additional properties on Church Road, between Second Avenue and the railway line.

61 The number of electors per councillor would be 6 per cent above the borough average in the officers' Forest Gate ward (2 per cent in 2004) and 1 per cent above in Ms Okagbue's Forest Gate & Maryland ward in 2004; equal to the average in the officers' Manor Park ward (1 per cent below in 2004) and 1 per cent below the average in 2004 in

Ms Okagbue's Manor Park North ward; 2 per cent above in the officers' Little Ilford ward (1 per cent below in 2004) and 2 per cent below in 2004 in Ms Okagbue's Little Ilford ward.

62 We carefully considered the two schemes for this area. While both schemes would achieve good electoral equality in the three wards, we noted that the boundaries included in Ms Okagbue's scheme would more closely reflect the existing ward pattern and, we judged, would use more identifiable boundaries. Furthermore, in our view, her ward configuration would facilitate a more coherent warding pattern for the north of the borough. We therefore adopted Ms Okagbue's proposals as our draft recommendations in this area.

63 There were slight variations in proposed ward names under both sets of proposals. We proposed retaining the ward names of Little Ilford (as included in both schemes) and Manor Park (as included in the officers' proposals), judging that they accurately reflected the local community. We also proposed renaming Forest Gate ward as Forest Gate North ward, which would be consistent with the naming of wards elsewhere in the borough. Under our proposals, we calculated that the number of electors per councillor would be 6 per cent above the borough average in Forest Gate North ward (1 per cent above in 2004), 2 per cent below in Manor Park ward (1 per cent below in 2004) and 1 per cent above in Little Ilford ward (2 per cent below in 2004).

64 In response to our draft recommendations the Borough Council supported the draft recommendations for both Forest Gate North and Little Ilford wards and we are confirming them as final. However, the electoral variances differ slightly from those put forward in our draft recommendations report, due to the Council's revised electorate figures. Under the final recommendations the number of electors per councillor would be 6 per cent above the borough average in Forest Gate North ward (2 per cent above in 2004) and 3 per cent above the average in Little Ilford ward (1 per cent below in 2004).

65 At Stage Three, the Council put forward minor modifications to our proposed Manor Park ward in order, it said, to keep similar communities together, while also improving electoral equality and using clearer boundaries. In the south, the whole of Lincoln Road would be transferred from East Ham



North ward to the ward, and part of the ward's western boundary would be modified to follow the back of Sherrard Road and Birchdale Road.

66 We have carefully considered the Council's revised boundaries and propose that they should be included as part of our final recommendations since they would further improve electoral equality, while reflecting the statutory criteria. Under our final recommendations the number of electors per councillor in Manor Park ward would be equal to the average both now and in 2004. The proposed ward boundaries are shown on the large map at the back of the report.

### **New Town and Stratford wards**

67 New Town and Stratford wards are located in the north-west of the borough, their boundaries partially defined by the borough boundary. Each ward elects two councillors and the number of electors represented by each is 9 per cent below the average in New Town ward (5 per cent in 2004) and 8 per cent below in Stratford ward (14 per cent in 2004).

68 At Stage One, the proposed ward configurations received were significantly different. The officers' scheme included a new three-member North Stratford ward, which included the whole of the existing New Town ward together with parts of the existing Forest Gate and Stratford wards. The remainder of the existing Stratford ward would form the basis of a new three-member South Stratford ward, together with parts of the existing Park and West Ham wards. A triangular shaped area of land in the south of the existing Stratford ward (including Crows Road) would be included in a modified West Ham ward (detailed later). Under these proposals the councillors for North Stratford ward would represent 2 per cent more electors than the borough average (3 per cent in 2004) and for South Stratford ward 8 per cent more (2 per cent in 2004).

69 Ms Okagbue's scheme for this area predominantly used existing ward boundaries. The existing two-member New Town and Stratford wards would be united to form a new three-member Stratford New Town ward, except for the area east of Leytonstone Road (polling district NTCW), which would be transferred from New Town ward to the new Forest Gate & Maryland

ward (detailed earlier) and the area bounded by Vicarage Lane and Glenavon Road (part of polling district STCW), which would be transferred from Stratford ward to the new Romford Road ward (detailed later). The three councillors for Stratford New Town ward would each represent 1 per cent more electors than the borough average in 2004.

70 In considering alternative warding arrangements for this area, we must consider the warding arrangements for the whole borough. Ms Okagbue's proposal to merge the two existing wards of New Town and Stratford to form a new three-member Stratford New Town ward would have the benefits of uniting an area that we consider already functions as a community, utilising many existing boundaries, achieving excellent electoral equality and facilitating a good warding pattern across the north of the borough. We therefore included her proposal for this area as part of our draft recommendations. However, to better reflect the whole area that would be covered by the new ward, we proposed naming it Stratford; the electoral variance would be 1 per cent initially and in 2004.

71 At Stage Three the Borough Council supported our proposed Stratford ward, except for transferring the Manbey Grove area to Forest Gate South ward (detailed later) to keep the Manbey Estate together and moving the ward's south-eastern boundary from Glenavon Road to Vicarage Lane (the existing boundary) in order to keep "homogeneous communities together in traditional identifiable areas". It also proposed that Stratford ward should be renamed Stratford & New Town (similar to Ms Okagbue's preferred name), as the new ward comprises the existing Stratford ward and most of the existing New Town ward.

72 Having carefully considered the Council's revised proposals for this area, we are content that they would continue to provide good electoral equality whilst taking into account the community factors. We have no objection to renaming the ward Stratford & New Town, on the grounds that it better reflects the local area. Under our final recommendations, the number of electors per councillor in Stratford & New Town ward would be 2 per cent above the borough average (equal to the average in 2004). The proposed ward boundaries are illustrated on the large map at the back of the report.

## **Park, Plashet, Upton and West Ham wards**

73 The four wards of Park, Plashet, Upton and West Ham are located in the north of the borough. They are each served by three councillors, except for West Ham which elects two councillors. The number of electors represented by each councillor is 9 per cent above the borough average in West Ham ward (6 per cent in 2004), 12 per cent below in Park ward (17 per cent in 2004), 8 per cent below in Upton ward (10 per cent in 2004) and 2 per cent below in Plashet ward (7 per cent in 2004).

74 In order to improve electoral equality and provide for a pattern of all three-member wards, both Stage One schemes, prepared by the officers and Ms Okagbue, involved considerable change. The officers' West Ham ward would include parts of Park, Plashet, Stratford and West Ham wards and its boundaries would follow the London Underground District Line in the south; Romford Road in the north; broadly Vicarage Lane, Tennyson Road and Manor Road in the west; and Upton Lane, Portway, Liddington Road and Harcourt Road in the east.

75 Ms Okagbue proposed an alternative West Ham ward which would incorporate the whole of the existing West Ham ward, retaining the southern and western boundaries of the existing ward. The ward's northern boundary would also broadly follow the existing boundary, but would extend eastwards across West Ham Park to Upton Lane. In the east, the boundary would follow Upton Lane, Portway, East Road and Valetta Grove.

76 Both schemes included a new three-member ward covering the area of the current Upton ward, but named West Green Street by officers and Green Street West by Ms Okagbue. The boundaries under both schemes were broadly similar: the northern boundary followed Romford Road; the southern boundary followed the London Underground District Line and the eastern boundary followed the existing ward boundary along Green Street. In the west the boundaries differed slightly. Both followed part of Upton Lane, but the officers' boundary continued further north along Upton Road and the existing boundary as far as Romford Road, while Ms Okagbue proposed that the boundary be similarly drawn, but would also include Dunbar Road and Skelton Road in the ward.

77 Under the officers' scheme Park ward would cease to exist. Ms Okagbue proposed a new three-member Romford Road ward in this area, comprising parts of the existing Park, Stratford, Upton and West Ham wards. The proposed ward boundaries would broadly follow the railway line in the north; Balmoral Road, Romford Road and Upton Lane in the east; bisect West Ham Park in the south; and broadly follow Hartland Road, Faringford Road, Vernon Road and Water Lane in the west.

78 Both proposed that the area covered by the existing Plashet ward should be redistributed to form parts of three new wards, West Ham and West Green Street (officers' scheme) or Green Street West (Ms Okagbue's scheme), both detailed earlier, and a new North Plaistow (officers) or Plaistow North (Ms Okagbue), detailed later. Plashet ward would therefore cease to exist.

79 Under the officers' scheme the number of electors per councillor would be 7 per cent above the borough average in West Ham ward (2 per cent above in 2004) and 1 per cent above in West Green Street ward (2 per cent below in 2004). Under Ms Okagbue's proposals the number of electors per councillor would be 1 per cent above the average in all three wards – Green Street West, Romford Road and West Ham – in 2004.

80 Having considered the alternatives for this area, we concluded that Ms Okagbue's proposed ward configuration would achieve an excellent level of electoral equality while following boundaries similar to those currently in use and facilitating a coherent borough-wide scheme. We were not persuaded that the officers' proposed West Ham ward would reflect community identities in the area, and therefore included Ms Okagbue's proposals as part of our draft recommendations for this ward. Consequently, we could not adopt the officers' proposals for the remaining wards in this area.

81 We did, however, adopt West Green Street ward name, as suggested by officers, considering it to better reflect the community represented. Furthermore, we proposed that Ms Okagbue's Romford Road ward should be renamed Forest Gate South as we judged that this name would more accurately reflect the community covered and would be consistent with the proposed Forest Gate North ward name. Under our draft recommendations the number of electors per councillor would be 3 per cent above the borough

average in West Ham ward, 1 per cent above in West Green Street ward and 10 per cent above in Forest Gate South ward (each 1 per cent above in 2004).

82 At Stage Three the Council supported our proposals in this area, except for the following minor ward boundary amendments: part of West Green Street south-western ward boundary with Plaistow North ward would be redrawn between Harold Road and Terrace Road to avoid splitting Harold Road into two separate wards; part of the boundary between West Green Street and Forest Gate South wards would be redrawn to ensure that the whole of Disraeli Road and Wyatt Road were in Forest Gate South ward; part of West Green Street with West Ham ward boundary would be adjusted slightly to include 48 electors (from Upton Lane and Ham Park Road) in the former ward, allowing easier access during elections; the boundary between Forest Gate South and West Ham wards would follow paths through West Ham Park, transferring properties from the latter to the former ward and allowing easy access during elections; West Ham Vicarage would be transferred from Forest Gate South ward to West Ham ward for community reasons; and as already mentioned earlier, the Manbey area would be transferred from Stratford (now renamed Stratford & New Town) to Forest Gate South and the area between Vicarage Lane and Glenavon Road would be transferred from Forest Gate South to Stratford ward. The Council also proposed that West Green Street ward should be renamed Green Street West ward, as placing a suffix to a ward name “would be less divisive” for those communities.

83 We have given careful consideration to the Council’s revised proposals for the wards in this area. On the whole we are content that they would achieve good electoral equality, follow clear, identifiable boundaries and have regard to the statutory criteria. We are therefore adopting these proposals, together with the revised name, as part of our final recommendations, subject to the following minor modification. We propose that instead of the boundary running between Forest Gate South and West Ham wards through West Ham Park, it should run along the back of the properties, to allow the whole park to be in one ward. Under our final recommendations the number of electors per councillor in the wards would be 8 per cent above the borough average in Forest Gate South (3 per cent above in 2004), 2 per cent above in Green Street West (1 per cent

below in 2004) and 5 per cent above in West Ham (2 per cent above in 2004). The proposed ward boundaries are illustrated on the large map at the back of the report.

### **Kensington, Monega and St Stephens wards**

84 Located in the north-eastern part of the borough, these three wards are each served by two councillors. The current number of electors represented by each councillor is 6 per cent above the borough average in both Monega and Kensington wards (6 per cent and 5 per cent above respectively in 2004) and equal to the average in St Stephens ward (2 per cent below in 2004).

85 Under the schemes prepared by both the officers and Ms Okagbue, these three wards would form the basis of two new three-member wards, but with different names: East Green Street and North East Ham (under the officers’ scheme) or Green Street East and Manor Park South (under Ms Okagbue’s scheme).

86 Under both schemes, the proposed western boundary of East Green Street ward or Green Street East ward would be Green Street itself. However Ms Okagbue proposed that the southern boundary should follow the existing boundary of London Underground District Line, while the officers proposed that the ward should extend further south to the north of Boleyn Ground. Both schemes used Katherine Road as the eastern boundary, but differed slightly in the north and the north-east.

87 They both proposed that the southern boundary of a new North East Ham ward or Manor Park South ward should follow the London Underground District Line. The proposed northern boundary (with Manor Park ward or Manor Park North ward, detailed earlier) would follow Stafford Road, Lincoln Road, High Street North and the Gospel Oak to Barking railway line under the officers’ scheme, while Ms Okagbue’s proposed northern boundary would follow Rutland Road, Lincoln Road, High Street North and the railway line.

88 Under the officers’ scheme the number of electors per councillor would be 1 per cent above the borough average in East Green Street ward and 1 per cent below the average in North East Ham ward, with little change forecast in 2004. Under

Ms Okagbue's proposals the number of electors per councillor would be 2 per cent below and equal to the average in Green Street East and Manor Park South wards respectively in 2004.

89 Both schemes would have provided an excellent level of electoral equality. Although in this area there were relatively few differences between them in terms of boundaries and electoral equality, we concluded, on balance, that Ms Okagbue's proposals would facilitate a better electoral scheme across the wider area, and we included these boundaries as part of our draft recommendations. However, we adopted the officers' suggested ward names, as we considered they better reflected the areas, but proposed that North East Ham should be renamed East Ham North.

90 Under our draft recommendations we calculated that, initially, the number of electors represented by each councillor for East Green Street and East Ham North wards would be 2 per cent and 3 per cent above the average respectively (2 per cent below and equal to the average in 2004 respectively).

91 At Stage Three the Council supported our proposals in this area, except for proposing some minor ward boundary adjustments on the grounds that this would retain similar communities in one ward, while providing clearer boundaries, and renaming East Green Street as Green Street East ward. As detailed earlier, it proposed that Lincoln Road should be transferred from East Ham North to Manor Park and that the north-eastern ward boundary of Green Street East with Manor Park should be modified to follow the backs of houses on Sherrard Road, then run along Birchdale Road. It also proposed a minor amendment between Green Street East and East Ham North wards in the Rutland Road area to keep neighbouring terraced houses together.

92 Having considered the Council's amendments to the two wards, we consider that they would better reflect the statutory criteria and therefore include them as part of our final recommendations; the number of electors per councillor would be 1 per cent below the borough average in East Ham North ward (3 per cent below in 2004) and equal to the average in Green Street East ward (1 per cent below in 2004). The proposed ward boundaries are illustrated on the large map at the back of the report.

## **Castle, Central and Wall End wards**

93 These three wards lie in the east of the borough, south of the District Line. Castle and Central wards are each represented by two councillors, while Wall End ward elects three councillors. The number of electors represented by each councillor is equal to the average, 6 per cent above and 7 per cent above the borough average in Castle, Central and Wall End wards respectively (4 per cent below, 1 per cent above and 3 per cent above in 2004).

94 The schemes prepared by officers and Ms Okagbue both included a new three-member Boleyn ward which would be based to some extent on the existing Castle ward, extended to include parts of the existing Bemersyde and Plaistow wards in the west, and Greatfield ward in the south. The officers' proposed northern boundary for Boleyn ward would follow the District Line, Green Street and Grangewood Street; the southern boundary would follow Barking Road, Green Street and Frinton Road; the eastern boundary would follow Abbots Road, Barking Road, Kimberley Avenue, Geoffrey Gardens and Burford Road; and the western boundary would be formed by Queens Road, the playing fields of Southern Road Primary School, Davis Street and Prigel Street. Ms Okagbue proposed that the northern boundary of Boleyn ward should follow the District Line; the southern boundary should follow Henniker Gardens, part of Hatherley Gardens, Lichfield Road and Green Street; the eastern boundary should follow the eastern boundary of the existing Castle ward; and the western boundary should follow Western Road.

95 Both the officers' Central East Ham ward and Ms Okagbue's East Ham Central ward would be based on the existing Central ward, extending southwards to Mitcham Road under the officers' scheme (to include part of the existing Greatfield ward), or to Masterman Road under Ms Okagbue's scheme. Both recommended that the District Line should form the ward's northern boundary. The ward's western boundary would also form the eastern boundary of Boleyn ward (as described above) for both schemes. The ward's eastern boundary – with the officers' Langdon ward or Ms Okagbue's Wallend ward – is described below.

96 Both schemes included a ward which would be almost identical to the existing Wall End ward. The ward's eastern boundary is the borough boundary,

and both schemes proposed retaining the existing northern and southern ward boundaries. The only difference between the two schemes was that they included marginally different western boundaries (both of which iterated on the existing boundary) and different ward names. The officers' boundary followed Keppell Road, Kempton Road, Altmore Avenue and Wellington Road, while Ms Okagbue's followed Skevington Road, Altmore Avenue and Wellington Road. The officers suggested that the ward be renamed Langdon, while Ms Okagbue proposed retaining the existing Wall End ward name (although it was spelt Wallend).

97 Under the officers' proposals the electoral variance in the three wards would be 8 per cent, 4 per cent and 6 per cent in Boleyn, Central East Ham and Langdon wards respectively (2 per cent each in 2004). Under Ms Okagbue's proposals all three wards (Boleyn, East Ham Central and Wallend) would have an electoral variance of 1 per cent in 2004.

98 We noted that the schemes included very similar warding arrangements in this area, but concluded that the officers' proposed ward boundaries for Central East Ham and Langdon wards would provide the best balance of electoral equality and clear boundaries, together with having regard to the arrangements across the borough as a whole. We recognised that under 2004 figures Ms Okagbue's scheme would achieve marginally better electoral equality than the officers', but judged that the officers' scheme not only facilitated good electoral equality and a coherent borough-wide scheme, but also provided clearer boundaries. Furthermore, we adopted the suggested ward name of Langdon, named after the large comprehensive school in the area which we understood is recognised locally. However, we adopted the name East Ham Central, as proposed by Ms Okagbue, as we considered it was a better description of the area, and would reflect the suggested naming of wards elsewhere in the borough.

99 Under our draft recommendations, the councillors for East Ham Central and Langdon wards would represent 4 per cent and 6 per cent more electors than the borough average respectively (1 per cent fewer and 2 per cent more in 2004).

100 While both schemes included a new three-member Boleyn ward that would meet the criteria of the review, we were unable to look at this one

area in isolation, but had to consider the warding arrangements for the borough as a whole. Therefore, in light of our proposals for surrounding areas, we put forward a three-member Boleyn ward on alternative boundaries to those proposed by either the officers or Ms Okagbue. Where possible we sought to build on both the existing boundaries and those submitted during Stage One, recognising that both schemes proposed a ward that would straddle Green Street in order to achieve a more balanced representation across the borough.

101 We proposed that the ward's northern boundary should be the District Line and the southern boundary should follow Haig Road (excluding Sutton Court Road) and Green Street, then go east to utilise parts of the southern boundary of the existing Castle ward (Central Park Road). The ward's eastern boundary would follow Katherine Road, Abbots Road, Barking Road and Mafeking Road and its western boundary would follow Hollybush Street and the western edge of the allotments and school playing fields. Under our proposals the number of electors per councillor in Boleyn ward would be 4 per cent above the borough average (2 per cent below in 2004).

102 At Stage Three the Borough Council generally supported our proposed boundaries for East Ham Central and Langdon wards, subject to minor modifications to include some properties in Kempton Road (east of Altmore Avenue) in East Ham Central ward from Langdon ward, and move the south-western ward boundary edge of East Ham Central ward to Buxton Road, thereby transferring some 50 electors to Boleyn ward. It also proposed that Wall End ward name should be retained, instead of Langdon, for historical and community reasons. On balance, we consider that these minor boundary modifications would not adversely affect the statutory criteria and are including them in our final recommendations, together with the proposal to retain Langdon ward name. Under our final recommendations the number of electors per councillor would be 6 per cent above the average in East Ham Central ward (1 per cent in 2004) and 4 per cent above in Wall End ward (equal to the average in 2004).

103 The Council also put forward substantial changes to our proposed Boleyn ward on the grounds that this would ensure that like communities were kept together, while achieving electoral equality. The south-western part of the

ward (the New City Estate area) would be transferred to South Plaistow to keep the entire estate in one ward; the north-western part of the ward which “is traditionally seen as part of Plaistow” would be transferred to North Plaistow; and the north-eastern part of South Plaistow ward would be included in Boleyn ward as it “has substantial traditional links to the Boleyn area”, together with the Buxton Road area from East Ham Central ward (detailed above). South Plaistow and North Plaistow wards would be renamed Plaistow South and Plaistow North under the Council’s revised proposals and is dealt with in more detail later. Under these proposals the number of electors per councillor in Boleyn ward would be 4 per cent above the borough average (1 per cent below in 2004).

104 After due consideration of the Council’s revised proposals for Boleyn ward, we note that they provide better electoral equality in five years’ time, compared to the draft recommendations, they follow the current ward pattern more closely and further contribute to a coherent borough-wide scheme, while meeting the statutory criteria. We are therefore persuaded to depart from our draft recommendations in this area and include the revised proposals for Boleyn ward as part of our final recommendations. The variance would be the same as under the Council’s proposals. Our proposals are shown on the large map at the back of the report.

### **Bemersyde, Greatfield and Plaistow wards**

105 These three wards are located in the centre of the borough, and overall as an area is relatively over-represented. Greatfield and Plaistow are each served by three councillors, while Bemersyde elects two councillors. The current number of electors per councillor is equal to the average in Greatfield ward (7 per cent below in 2004), 19 per cent below in Bemersyde ward (25 per cent below in 2004) and 14 per cent below in Plaistow ward (17 per cent below in 2004).

106 Both the officers and Ms Okagbue proposed a new three-member ward, comprising parts of the existing Greatfield and South wards. The ward would be called South East Ham under the officers’ scheme and East Ham South under Ms Okagbue’s scheme. Under both schemes the western ward boundary would bisect the playing fields of Brampton Manor Comprehensive School, linking Newham Way (the A13) and the Northern Outfall Sewer, but differed slightly elsewhere.

107 Under both schemes, Bemersyde ward would be almost wholly incorporated in a new three-member South Plaistow ward (officers’ name) or Plaistow South ward (Ms Okagbue’s name). They both used Newham Way as the ward’s southern boundary, Boundary Road as its eastern boundary and broadly followed the Northern Outfall Sewer, Barking Road and Cumberland Road in the west. The two schemes differed in the north, where the officers suggested that the boundary should follow Chesterton Terrace, Davis Street and Barking Road, while Ms Okagbue proposed that it should run to the south of properties on Howards Road, then east to follow Balaam Road, Dundee Road and generally the northern boundary of the existing Bemersyde ward.

108 They both proposed a new three-member North Plaistow ward (officers’ scheme) or Plaistow North ward (Ms Okagbue’s scheme), incorporating parts of the existing Bemersyde, Plaistow and Plashet wards, but on slightly different boundaries. The officers suggested that sections of Portway and Plashet Road should form the ward’s northern boundary; its eastern boundary should broadly follow Claude Road, the edge of the allotments and school playing fields; the southern boundary should run along High Street and Chesterton Terrace; and its western boundary should follow Geere Road and Holbrook Road. Ms Okagbue’s proposal differed in that the part of Plashet ward, west of Park Road and Maud Road. Her proposal also included Queens Terrace, Western Road, Chesterton Road and Herbert Street, areas which had not formed part of the officers’ ward for this area.

109 Under the officers’ scheme the electoral variances would be 4 per cent, 1 per cent and 2 per cent in South Plaistow, North Plaistow and South East Ham wards respectively (3 per cent each in 2004). Under Ms Okagbue’s scheme, each of the three wards (East Ham South, Plaistow North and Plaistow South) would have an electoral variance of 1 per cent in 2004.

110 Following careful consideration of these proposals, we judged that the boundaries included in the officers’ scheme for South East Ham ward would be consistent with the view that Newham Way (the A13) should form ward boundaries, where at all possible, as it is a significant physical boundary in the borough. Consequently, we adopted the boundaries included in the officers’ scheme for South East Ham ward, but renamed it East Ham South as proposed by Ms Okagbue. The

electoral variance would be the same as those under the officers' scheme.

111 In the light of our conclusions for warding arrangements elsewhere in the borough, we proposed our own boundaries for North Plaistow and South Plaistow wards, and where possible built on boundaries that had been suggested by respondents. As proposed under both schemes, the three-member North Plaistow ward would include parts of the existing Plashet, Plaistow and Bemersyde wards. However, its southern boundary would be the same as the southern boundary of the existing Plaistow ward (the District Line as far as High Street), but continued further east to include that part of Bemersyde ward west of Hollybush Street. Its eastern boundary would follow the western boundary of the school playing fields and allotments, turning north along Donald Road and Gwendoline Avenue (thereby excluding them from the ward).

112 The northern boundary of our proposed South Plaistow ward would follow the northern boundary of the existing Greatfield ward from Geoffrey Gardens to Boundary Road, continuing west to bisect Bemersyde ward, and following Upperton Road West and Sutton Court Road. The eastern boundary would follow Boundary Road, Lichfield Road, Brampton Road, Burford Road, Haldane Road and Geoffrey Gardens. The southern boundary would follow Newham Way and the western boundary would be as suggested by officers (except that it would follow the centre of Cumberland Road). We noted that the two borough-wide schemes did not propose straddling Green Street in the manner which we proposed for this ward. However, after careful consideration we judged that it was necessary to cross Green Street at some point in order to achieve an acceptable level of electoral equality.

113 Under our draft recommendations the number of electors per councillor would be 5 per cent above the average in North Plaistow ward and 6 per cent above in South Plaistow ward (1 per cent above and 1 per cent below respectively in 2004).

114 At Stage Three the Borough Council proposed substantial changes to the boundaries of our proposed North Plaistow and South Plaistow wards, including renaming them Plaistow North and Plaistow South. As stated earlier, the New City Estate area would be transferred from Boleyn to Plaistow South; the north-western part of Boleyn

ward would be included in Plaistow North ward and part of the south-eastern part of Plaistow North would be included in Plaistow South. The Council explained that these changes were aimed at keeping similar communities together and better reflecting the statutory criteria, while continuing to secure electoral equality.

115 The Council further proposed minor changes to the boundary between Plaistow South and South Canning Town (renamed Canning Town South and detailed later) wards: properties on the east side of Cumberland Road would be transferred to Canning Town South ward to keep the whole road in the same ward for community identity purposes, while improving electoral equality; and the few properties in Chadwin Road would be transferred to Plaistow South, again, to keep the whole road in one ward, while creating "a more coherent boundary".

116 We have considered the Council's revised proposals for these two wards, noting the arguments concerning community identities and boundaries together with the continued improved electoral equality. We have been persuaded to move away from our draft recommendations in this area, and taking into account our final recommendations for the surrounding wards, we are including these proposals as part of our final recommendations. The number of electors per councillor would be 1 per cent above the borough average in Plaistow North ward (2 per cent below in 2004) and 5 per cent above in Plaistow South ward (1 per cent below in 2004). Our revised ward boundaries are shown on the large map at the back of the report.

### **Canning Town & Grange, Hudsons and Ordnance wards**

117 These three wards are located in the south-west of the borough. Canning Town & Grange and Ordnance wards each elect two councillors, while Hudsons ward is served by three councillors. The number of electors per councillor is 10 per cent above the borough average in Canning Town & Grange ward (5 per cent in 2004), 16 per cent below in Hudsons ward (21 per cent in 2004) and 29 per cent below in Ordnance ward (32 per cent in 2004).

118 While the two borough-wide schemes included broadly similar changes to the warding arrangements in this area, the boundaries differed

in detail. In order to provide for a pattern of three-member wards across the borough, a new North Canning Town ward (officers' scheme) or Canning Town North & Grange ward (Ms Okagbue's scheme) would comprise the existing Canning Town & Grange ward, together with the northern part of the existing Ordnance ward and a small part of the existing Hudsons ward. Both schemes would utilise the existing northern and eastern boundaries of Canning Town & Grange ward as boundaries for the new ward, with the borough boundary forming the western boundary. They differed slightly, however, in the south around the Newham Way and Barking Road areas.

119 Under both schemes, a new three-member South Canning Town ward (officers' scheme) or Canning Town South ward (Ms Okagbue's scheme) would incorporate the southern part of Ordnance ward, the western parts of Hudsons and Beckton wards, and the north-western corner of Custom House & Silvertown ward. Under both schemes Royal Victoria Dock would form the ward's southern boundary, but there were differences elsewhere. The officers' proposed eastern boundary would follow Freemasons Road, Coolfin Road, Boreham Avenue, Butchers Road, Newham Way, Chadwin Road and Cumberland Road as far as Barking Road. Ms Okagbue's proposed eastern boundary would lie east of Coolfin Road, Hopper Road, Butchers Road and Beeby Road, and then run along the centre of Cumberland Road to the junction with Barking Road. The ward's north-western boundary with the officers' North Canning Town ward would follow Barking Road, the west of properties on Chandler Avenue and Alexandra Street, and then run along Newham Way; and with Ms Okagbue's Canning Town North & Grange ward would follow Barking Road.

120 Under the officers' scheme the number of electors per councillor in North Canning Town and South Canning Town wards would be 3 per cent and 2 per cent above the borough average respectively (both 2 per cent below in 2004). Under Ms Okagbue's scheme the number of electors per councillor would be 2 per cent and 1 per cent below the average in Canning Town North & Grange and Canning Town South wards respectively in 2004.

121 A further representation was received for the Canning Town area. A resident of Canning Town wanted the Commission to create a new ward

south of the A13, as the existing Ordnance ward was "physically and psychologically" divided by this main road.

122 Having considered all the evidence received, we noted that the proposals included in the officers' scheme for this area would achieve good electoral equality, while utilising clearer boundaries, and that the names were consistent with the approach taken in other parts of the borough. We therefore adopted them as part of our draft recommendations, subject to a modification to the eastern boundary of South Canning Town ward to follow the centre of Cumberland Road, as proposed by Ms Okagbue. Under our draft recommendations the number of electors per councillor would be 3 per cent and 2 per cent above the average in North Canning Town and South Canning Town wards respectively (2 per cent and 3 per cent below in 2004).

123 At Stage Three the Borough Council supported the ward boundaries for North Canning Town, but proposed that the ward be renamed Canning Town North, in line with the ward names in other parts of the borough. We consider that this change in ward name is minor and therefore include it as part of our final recommendations. The electoral variance in Canning Town North ward would be 3 per cent (1 per cent in 2004).

124 The Council also proposed minor amendments to South Canning Town ward, including changing the name to Canning Town South. Its boundary with Custom House ward would be revised to follow Mandela Road and Hooper Road, thereby moving a small number of electors to Canning Town South ward to improve electoral equality. As already stated, the boundary between Canning Town South and Plaistow South wards would be revised to allow the whole of Cumberland Road to be in Canning Town South ward and the whole of Chadwin Road to be in Plaistow South ward. On balance, we consider that these minor boundary amendments would not adversely affect the statutory criteria and include them as part of our final recommendations. The number of electors per councillor in Canning Town South ward would be 3 per cent above the borough average (2 per cent below in 2004). The proposed ward boundaries are shown on the large map at the back of the report.



## **Beckton, Custom House & Silvertown and South wards**

125 The wards of Beckton, Custom House & Silvertown and South are situated in the extreme south of the borough. Custom House & Silvertown and South wards are each served by three councillors, while Beckton ward elects two councillors. This area currently has the worst imbalances in the borough. The number of electors per councillor is 23 per cent below the borough average in Beckton ward (unchanged in 2004), 20 per cent above in Custom House & Silvertown ward (62 per cent in 2004) and 72 per cent above in South ward (91 per cent in 2004).

126 Both the officers' and Ms Okagbue's schemes included significant change to the warding arrangements in this area, to take account of the substantial housing development which has occurred, and further development planned for the area. A new three-member Custom House ward (officers' scheme) or Custom House & West Beckton ward (Ms Okagbue's scheme) would include the eastern part of the existing Beckton ward and that part of the existing Custom House & Silvertown ward which lies north of the docks. Under both schemes the northern ward boundary would follow Newham Way and the southern ward boundary formed by Royal Victoria Dock.

127 The western ward boundary differed between both schemes. The officers suggested that the boundary should follow the centre of Butchers Road, while Ms Okagbue's boundary would lie east of Beeby Road, Butchers Road, Goldwing Close, Hooper Road and Coolfin Road. They both suggested modifying the eastern boundary of the existing Custom House & Silvertown ward, by extending it further east to incorporate some properties east of the Golf Course within Beckton District Park. Ms Okagbue's proposals however extended further to also include Linton Gardens.

128 Both schemes included a new ward covering the most southerly part of the borough, south of the docks. The officers' Royal Docks ward and Ms Okagbue's Silvertown & North Woolwich ward would both unite the housing development in the area in one ward. The ward would incorporate that part of the existing Custom House & Silvertown ward south of Royal Victoria Dock, and that part of the existing South ward south of King George V

Dock. The ward's southern boundary would be the borough boundary. Under both schemes the northern boundary would be formed by Royal Victoria Dock and Royal Albert Dock. The only area where these two schemes differed was in the east, where the officers' boundary would follow part of Armada Way, while Ms Okagbue's boundary would run further south to include The Nortons area (in the proposed Beckton ward, detailed below).

129 A new three-member Beckton ward, consisting of the majority of the existing South ward, was included under both schemes. The officers' northern ward boundary would follow all of Newham Way, while Ms Okagbue's boundary would follow only part of Newham Way, deviating southwards along the Northern Outfall Sewer and Royal Docks Road (although no electors are affected under these alternative boundaries). The western boundary would be the boundary with the officers' proposed Custom House ward or Ms Okagbue's Custom House & West Beckton ward, as described above.

130 The number of electors per councillor under the officers' scheme would be 1 per cent above the average in Custom House ward (3 per cent below in 2004), 57 per cent below in Royal Docks ward (improving to 6 per cent above in 2004 as a result of forecast housing development) and 1 per cent below in Beckton ward (3 per cent above in 2004). Under Ms Okagbue's scheme, in 2004 the number of electors per councillor would be 1 per cent above the borough average in Beckton ward and equal to the average in both Custom House & West Beckton and Silvertown & North Woolwich wards.

131 We noted that under Newham Independents Association's scheme for this area, although the proposals would lead to good electoral equality initially, the poor electoral imbalance that exists under the current arrangements would re-emerge by 2004. We therefore did not adopt their proposed ward pattern. A further representation was received from the Chairman of the North Woolwich & Silvertown Area Team Royal Docks Consultative Group, who proposed that the North Woolwich and Silvertown areas be merged to form one ward, instead of being split north and south of the Royal Docks as at present.

132 Having compared the slightly different ward boundaries proposed in this area, both the officers'

and Ms Okagbue's would achieve good electoral equality over the five-year period, and we noted that the main difference was in the east, to the north of Gallions Point Marina, where a proposed new housing development, known as The Nortons (150 units), would fall within the officers' Royal Docks ward, but in Ms Okagbue's Beckton ward. We considered future road access to the new development, north of the docks, which is likely to be from Armada Way in the proposed Beckton ward, and concluded that the area subject to development would more appropriately form part of Beckton ward. We therefore adopted Ms Okagbue's boundary in this area. However, we judged that the ward name of Royal Docks, as suggested by officers, would better reflect the new ward, comprising the whole area south of the Royal Victoria, Royal Albert and King George V docks.

133 In the light of our proposals for wards to the east and west, and noting that the existing eastern boundary includes properties to the east of the Golf Course in Beckton District Park, we adopted the officers' Custom House ward as the basis for our proposed ward in this area. We proposed, however, that the eastern boundary be extended further east, to follow the centre of Remington Road and Linton Gardens and to include Woodhatch Close, Leamouth Road, Greencroft Close, Robson Close and Fraser Close in the new ward. This ward pattern would achieve good electoral equality in the wider area, having regard to future growth.

134 Under our draft recommendations the electoral variance in Royal Docks ward would improve substantially from 57 per cent to 4 per cent in 2004, due to ongoing development in the area. For Custom House and Beckton wards the number of electors per councillor would be 4 per cent above the average and 4 per cent below respectively (equal to the average and 2 per cent above in 2004).

135 At Stage Three the Borough Council supported our draft recommendations for these three wards, except for the following minor modifications: the boundary between Royal Docks and Beckton wards would be amended to follow the Albert Basin to the River Thames (with no electors affected), as the road followed under the draft recommendations "will disappear in the near future"; a transfer of electors from Beckton ward to Custom House ward with the boundary amended to follow Linton Gardens, Swan Approach and Tollgate Road (which the Council considered to be

more identifiable); and, as stated earlier, the boundary between Custom House and Canning Town South wards would be amended to follow Mandela Road and Hooper Road, again considered a much clearer boundary, transferring electors from Custom House to Canning Town South ward. Under these proposals the number of electors per councillor in the wards would be 5 per cent below the borough average in Beckton, 5 per cent above in Custom House and initially, 57 per cent below in Royal Docks (1 per cent above in both Beckton and Custom House wards, and 3 per cent above in Royal Docks ward in 2004).

136 Having considered the Council's revision to these three wards and having visited the area, we consider that these proposals continue to meet the statutory criteria, while providing clearer boundaries and we are including them as part of our final recommendations. The electoral variances would be the same as under the Council's proposals. We acknowledge that a degree of electoral imbalance is inevitable in Royal Docks ward initially, but any further improvement in electoral equality would be difficult to achieve because of the substantial ongoing development. The proposed boundaries are illustrated on the large map at the back of the report.

## Conclusions

137 Having considered carefully all the representations and evidence received in response to our consultation report, we have decided substantially to confirm our draft recommendations, subject to:

- (a) substantial boundary amendments to the wards of Boleyn, North Plaistow and South Plaistow;
- (b) very minor boundary amendments to 14 other wards;
- (c) renaming Langdon and Stratford wards as Wall End and Stratford & New Town respectively, and adding suffixes to ward names, rather than prefixes (e.g. North Plaistow becomes Plaistow North).

138 We conclude that, in Newham:

- (a) there should be no change to the council size of 60;
- (b) there should be 20 wards, four fewer than at present, which would involve changes to the boundaries of all of the existing wards, with each ward returning three councillors.

Figure 4 :  
Comparison of Current and Recommended Electoral Arrangements

	1999 electorate		2004 forecast electorate	
	Current arrangements	Final recommendations	Current arrangements	Final recommendations
Number of councillors	60	60	60	60
Number of wards	24	20	24	20
Average number of electors per councillor	2,484	2,484	2,537	2,537
Number of wards with a variance more than 10 per cent from the average	8	1	11	0
Number of wards with a variance more than 20 per cent from the average	3	1	6	0

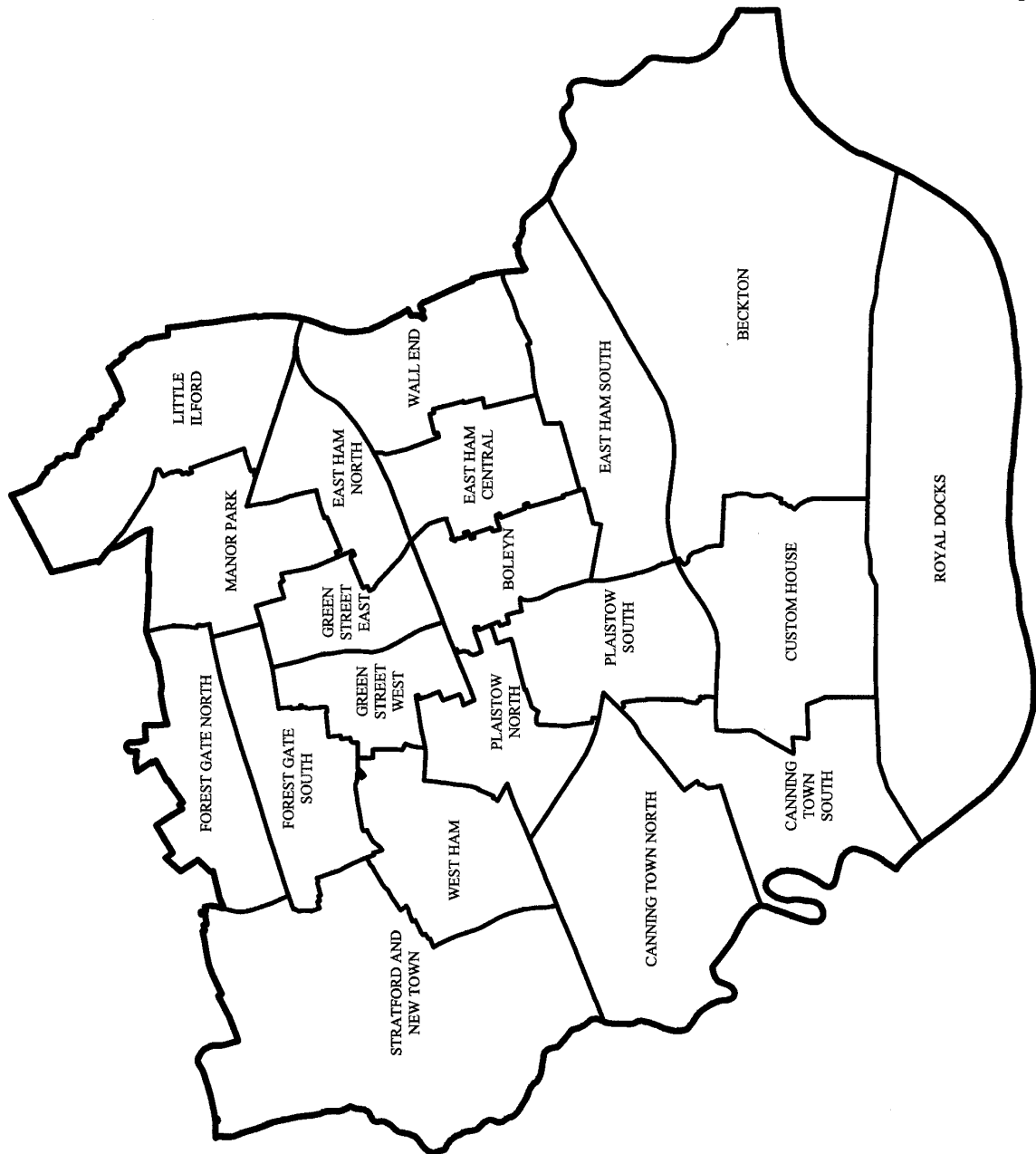
139 Figure 4 shows the impact of our final recommendations on electoral equality, comparing them with the current arrangements, based on 1999 and 2004 electorate figures.

140 As shown in Figure 4, our final recommendations for Newham Borough Council would result in a reduction in the number of wards where the number of electors per councillor varies by more than 10 per cent from the borough average from eight to one. Although this one ward, Royal Docks, would initially vary by more than 50 per cent from the borough average, it is subject to ongoing developments which would redress this imbalance. This improved balance of representation is expected to improve further in 2004, with no ward having an electoral variance of more than 3 per cent.

### Final Recommendation

Newham Borough Council should comprise 60 councillors serving 20 wards, as detailed and named in Figures 1 and 2, and illustrated on the large map in the back of the report.

Map 2:  
The Commission's Final Recommendations for Newham



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## 6. NEXT STEPS

<sup>141</sup> Having completed our review of electoral arrangements in Newham and submitted our final recommendations to the Secretary of State, we have fulfilled our statutory obligation under the Local Government Act 1992.

<sup>142</sup> 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.

<sup>143</sup> 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 Sponsorship Division  
Eland House  
Bressenden Place  
London SW1E 5DU



# APPENDIX A

## Draft Recommendations for Newham

Figure A1:  
*The Commission's Draft Recommendations: Number of Councillors and Electors by Ward*

Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (1999)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2004)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
1 Beckton	3	7,167	2,389	-4	7,783	2,594	2
2 Boleyn	3	7,773	2,591	4	7,459	2,486	-2
3 Custom House	3	7,729	2,576	4	7,606	2,535	0
4 East Green Street	3	7,612	2,537	2	7,485	2,495	-2
5 East Ham Central	3	7,748	2,583	4	7,523	2,508	-1
6 East Ham North	3	7,652	2,551	3	7,629	2,543	0
7 East Ham South	3	7,588	2,529	2	7,431	2,477	-3
8 Forest Gate North	3	7,907	2,636	6	7,720	2,573	1
9 Forest Gate South	3	8,183	2,728	10	7,740	2,580	1
10 Langdon	3	7,935	2,645	6	7,816	2,605	2
11 Little Ilford	3	7,559	2,520	1	7,489	2,496	-2
12 Manor Park	3	7,276	2,425	-2	7,546	2,515	-1
13 North Canning Town	3	7,684	2,561	3	7,504	2,501	-2
14 North Plaistow	3	7,818	2,606	5	7,725	2,575	1
15 Royal Docks	3	3,194	1,065	-57	7,903	2,634	4
16 South Canning Town	3	7,581	2,527	2	7,431	2,477	-3
17 South Plaistow	3	7,896	2,632	6	7,517	2,506	-1
18 Stratford	3	7,518	2,506	1	7,740	2,580	1

*continued overleaf*

Figure A1 (continued):

*The Commission's Draft Recommendations: Number of Councillors and Electors by Ward*

Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (1999)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2004)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
19 West Green Street	3	7,555	2,518	1	7,740	2,580	1
20 West Ham	3	7,694	2,565	3	7,740	2,580	1
<b>Totals</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>149,069</b>	—	—	<b>152,527</b>	—	—
<b>Averages</b>	—	—	<b>2,484</b>	—	—	<b>2,542</b>	—

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

Notes: 1 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.

2 The total electorate figures differ slightly from those in Figure 2 due to minor revisions provided by Newham Borough Council at Stage Three.