CARMARTHENSIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

REVIEW OF COMMUNITY COUNCIL BOUNDARIES AND ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS – LLANGENNECH COMMUNITY COUNCIL (LLANGENNECH WARD) AND LLANELLI RURAL COUNCIL (BYNEA WARD)

FINAL PROPOSALS

Sept 2015
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1. INTRODUCTION

Carmarthenshire County Council is conducting a review of electoral arrangements to consider what changes, if any, are needed to the existing arrangements for Llanelli Rural Council (Bynea Ward) and Llangennech Community Council (Llangennech).

The first stage of the review was to ask all interested parties to consider the current arrangements and submit their views of support or proposals for change.

The second stage of the review was to publish the draft proposals and invite views on the proposals from all interested parties.

We are now putting forward the final proposals for approval.

2. WHAT IS A COMMUNITY REVIEW?

Section 25(1), Local Government Act (Democracy) (Wales) Act 2013 allows a principal council to conduct a review of one or more communities in its area - either by its own initiative or at the request of a community council in its area, or a community meeting in its area.

The changes that a principal council may recommend in relation to a review under this section are:

(a) Such community boundary changes as it consider appropriate, and
(b) In consequences of any community boundary changes, such community council changes and associated changes to the electoral arrangements of-
   (i) the community or communities under review
   (ii) the principal area,

as it considers appropriate.

In conducting such a review, principal councils should be mindful of the procedures noted in the legislation and should consult widely on their proposals.
3. TIMETABLE FOR THE REVIEW

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Action</th>
<th>Period</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Start of Review</td>
<td></td>
<td>27 October 2014</td>
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<tr>
<td>Preliminary Investigation</td>
<td>9 weeks</td>
<td>27 October 2014 -02 January 2015</td>
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<tr>
<td>Consideration of submissions received</td>
<td>4 weeks</td>
<td>05 January 2015 – 30 January 2015</td>
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<tr>
<td>Draft Proposal Consultation</td>
<td>9 weeks</td>
<td>02 February 2015 – 03 April 2015</td>
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<tr>
<td>Consideration of submissions received</td>
<td>4 weeks</td>
<td>06 April 2015 – 01 May 2015</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Proposal Publication</td>
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<td>September 2015</td>
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4. WHY ARE WE CONDUCTING A REVIEW?

Carmarthenshire County Council is required to ensure that the community structure we have in place is relevant and reflects the identities and interests of the communities.

It is recognised that there is an anomaly with the community boundaries of Llanelli Rural Council (Bynea Ward) and Llangennech Community (Llangennech) which has been highlighted due to the recent housing development, namely Bryn Uchaf, Bryn, Llanelli. As the community boundaries are the primary building blocks to any review of electoral divisional boundaries, it is essential that this review be undertaken.

5. UNDERTAKING THE REVIEW

Carmarthenshire County Council has conducted a wide consultation. Purpose of the Review is to seek the opinions and recommendations of the two community councils, the public and elected members affected by this anomaly.

Carmarthenshire County Council has promoted this review through its website using the Council’s i-local Consultation process.

6. CONSIDERATION OF SUBMISSIONS

Submissions regarding the first stage were received from Nia Griffith MP; Llanelli Rural Council; Llangennech Community Council and Cllr. William Gwyn Hopkins.
Submissions regarding the second stage were received from Llanelli Rural Council and Llangennech Community Council.

7. ANALYSIS AND DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS

Initial comments made by Nia Griffith MP:
Nia Griffiths MP did not suggest where the boundaries should be drawn between Llangennech Community Council and Llanelli Rural Council, however she acknowledged that there is a need to address this anomaly so that the whole of the Bryn Uchaf Estate falls within one community council area.

Initial comments made by Llanelli Rural Council:
Llanelli Rural Council supports the view that the whole of the housing estate ought to reside within one single community and notes that the split of houses is currently divided between the Bynea Ward and Llangennech as 43/60 in Llangennech’s favour.

The Council proposed that the boundary should be redrawn to ensure that the whole of the Bryn Uchaf Estate fall within the Bynea ward of its council. The reasons that were given for this proposal is the potential for future development to field to the south and east of the Bryn Uchaf Estate and as such development should remain in the Bynea Ward.

Initial comments made by Llangennech Community Council:
Llangennech Community Council made the following observations:

Bryn Uchaf is adjacent on 3 sides to houses in the Llangennech Ward, namely Heol Y Mynydd, Harndfan and Penllwyngwyn Road.

The postal address of the site is Bryn, which is mainly in the Llangennech Ward.

The gravitational flow for residents of Bryn Uchaf is to Penllwyngwyn Road.

The Bryn Village Hall which provides a meeting place for various groups is hired out for birthday parties etc, is also the local polling station and is some 200 yards away from the Bryn Uchaf site.

Initial comments made by Councillor William Gwyn Hopkins:
Cllr Hopkins re-enforced the comments made by Llangennech Community Council as above. Cllr Hopkins also made reference to the councillor ratio, commenting that the Bynea ratio is currently 1:2985, already over the recommended Welsh Government figure of 1:1900.

Draft Proposals comments made by Llanelli Rural Council:

The Council have accepted the recommendation contained within the document “Initial Draft Proposals” which recommends that the Bryn Uchaf estate falls within the boundaries of Llangennech Community Council and Llangennech Electoral Division.
Draft Proposals comments made by Llangennech Community Council:

The Proposals that the community and electoral boundaries are amended to ensure that the whole of the Bryn Uchaf estate falls within the boundaries of Llangennech Community Council and Llangennech Electoral Division was accepted and endorsed by the Council on 9 February 2015.

8. Analysis and Final Proposals:

All representation received on the Draft Proposals have received detailed consideration in formulating these final proposals. The Final proposals aim to redress the current anomaly for the purpose of effective and convenient local government and so that all electors of the Bryn Uchaf estate fall within one community area and one electoral division, we propose that the community and electoral boundaries are amended to ensure that the whole of the Bryn Uchaf estate falls within the boundaries of Llangennech Community Council and Llangennech Electoral Division.

This proposal will result in the transfer of 60 properties and 94 electors (at time of writing this report) from the Bynea Ward of Llanelli Rural Council to Llangennech Community Council.

- See attached map for proposed new boundary.

9. Action to be taken following decision:

Should Council be minded to approve the recommendations within this report-

● The Local Democracy and Boundary Commission for Wales will be forwarded the review findings along with any views which the Council itself wishes to add
● The Commission will then, subject to their agreement, apply the findings and make the necessary orders
● It is anticipated that the Commission will communicate with Carmarthenshire County Council informing them of their findings
● It is also anticipated that the necessary amendments will be in force for the next County/Community elections in May 2017.
# Appendix 1

## List of Representations received from:

### Initial Proposals

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<th>Name</th>
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<tr>
<td>Nia Griffith MP</td>
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<td>Cllr. William Gwyn Hopkins</td>
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<td>Llangennech Community Council</td>
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### Draft Proposals

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