

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Local Government (Democracy) (Wales) Act 2013 (“the Act”)-Community Review

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT.

Council will recall that this Community Review was initiated as The Council has a duty under s22 of the Local Government (Democracy) (Wales) Act 2013 (“the Act”) to report every ten years on a community review having regard to the Local and Democracy and Boundary Commission for Wales (LDBCW) timetable for conducting the reviews of principal areas’ electoral arrangements required by section 29 (1) of the Act.

The last electoral review was carried out by LDBCW was conducted in 2021 with consequential changes being introduced with the Local Government Elections in May 2022. The next round of electoral reviews carried out by LDBCW will commence in 2024 with any consequential changes being introduced with the Local Government Elections in May 2027.

At its meeting on 9 February 2023, Council approved the commencement of a Community Review to examine existing Town and Community governance arrangements and make Final Recommendations for any appropriate change.

The formal consultation period was published on the Council’s website, but a more targeted engagement was sent to:

All Town and Community Council
Local Members of Parliament
Local Members of the Senedd
All Ward Councillors

Representations were invited from Monday 13 March to Monday 24 April 2023. Twenty-four representations were received during the consultation period, and these have been reviewed and proposals for Draft Recommendations have been prepared. Annex 1 to the Report summarises the responses received and proposals for Draft Recommendations arising from these.

Also detailed in the Draft Recommendations are those recommendations put forward by the Electoral Registration Officer/Returning Officer.

Full Council considered and approved the Draft Recommendation at their meeting on 21 June 2023. The Draft Recommendations have been subject to a second consultation period, this second stage consultation involved the public and interested stakeholders being able to comment on the draft recommendations There was a total of 14 respondents to the second stage. Recommendations, with further detailed responses can be seen on the attached Appendix A.

Members are advised that detailed within Appendix A is those Town/Community Councils where we recommend status quo, this was as a result of a level of public support to maintain

the current arrangements for their Town/Community councils and or there was no evidence /comments submitted to show that any form of alteration was required.

As part of this review, it was identified that there were anomalies with community boundaries at (See Appendix B for relevant maps showing anomalies:

- a) Anomaly at community boundary between Llangyndeyrn Community Council and Trimsaran Community Council involving Nos. 7-15 and 58-60 Heol Waunhir.
- b) Anomaly at community boundary between Llangyndeyrn Community Council and Llanelli Rural Council involving No. 1, Erwau'r Garn, Carway.
- c) Anomaly at community boundary between Llangyndeyrn Community Council and Pontyberem Community Council involving one property: Brynceirios, Bancffosfelen, Llanelli.

This current review cannot address community boundaries and hence to address these anomalies we need to carry out a Section 25 of the Local Government (Democracy) (Wales) Act 2013 ("the Act"). If permission is granted to carry out a review under Section 25, it is our intention to commence this review immediately following the conclusion of this current review. We hope to conclude this review within a six-month window.

DETAILED REPORT ATTACHED?

NO

Public Consultation Responses-Appendix A
Relevant maps highlighting anomalies-
Appendix B

IMPLICATIONS

I confirm that other than those implications which have been agreed with the appropriate Directors / Heads of Service and are referred to in detail below, there are no other implications associated with this report:

Signed: Amanda Edwards, Electoral Services and Civil Registration Manager

Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities	Legal	Finance	ICT	Risk Management Issues	Staffing Implications	Physical Assets
NONE	YES	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE

2. Legal

S22 (2) Local Government (Democracy) (Wales) Act 2013 provides that a principal council must have regard to LDBCW's timetable for conducting reviews of principal areas' electoral arrangements when determining when to conduct a community review.

Section 34 of the Act stipulates the mandatory consultees for a community review.

CONSULTATIONS

I confirm that the appropriate consultations have taken in place and the outcomes are as detailed below

Signed Amanda Edwards, Electoral Services and Civil Registration Manager

(Please specify the outcomes of consultations undertaken where they arise against the following headings)

1. Scrutiny Committee request for pre-determination	Not applicable
If yes include the following information: -	
Scrutiny Committee	
Date the report was considered: -	
Scrutiny Committee Outcome/Recommendations: -	

2. Local Member(s)

N/A

3. Community / Town Council

N/A

4. Relevant Partners

N/A

5. Staff Side Representatives and other Organisations

N/A

CABINET MEMBER PORTFOLIO HOLDER(S) AWARE/CONSULTED	Include any observations here
YES	

Section 100D Local Government Act, 1972 – Access to Information
List of Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:

THERE ARE NONE

Title of Document	File Ref No.	Locations that the papers are available for public inspection
Public Consultation Responses		