



Comisiwn Ffiniau a  
Democratiaeth Leol  
Cymru



Local Democracy and  
Boundary Commission  
For Wales

# **ELECTORAL REVIEW PROGRAMME 2014**

## **ASSESSMENT AND TIMETABLE**

**SEPTEMBER 2014**

## Introduction

1. The Local Government (Democracy) (Wales) Act 2013 requires the Commission to publish a ten year programme of electoral reviews.
2. In February 2013 the Commission set about analysing the information it had obtained from principal councils and the relevant factors considered necessary to develop a 10 year programme of electoral reviews for the 22 principal councils of Wales.

## Assessment

3. It was decided that the factors used in the consideration of a programme of reviews would be:
  - i. Divergence from the Commission's Council Size Policy aim;
  - ii. Last electoral review Order;
  - iii. Last community review Order;
  - iv. Timing of the next planned/ongoing community review;
  - v. The electoral ward variance from the county average, with specific reference to;
    - vi. those above +/-50%;
    - vii. those between +/-25% and +/-50%;
    - viii. those below +/-25%; and,
  - ix. The number of existing electoral wards with more than 3 members.
4. In order to make an assessment based on these factors the Commission contacted the principal councils to gather data on electorates and their planning on future community reviews.
5. The information collected was collated in a spreadsheet. In order to develop a formula whereby an order of priority could be determined a points based RAG (red-amber-green) system was used. The factors where RAG was used and the determining parameters were as follows:

Factor	R		A		G	
	Points	Parameter	Points	Parameter	Points	Parameter
i.	3	Greater than +/-25%	2	Between +/-10% and +/-25%	1	Less than +/-10%
ii.	3	Pre 2003	2	Between 2003 and 2010	1	Post 2010
iii.	3	Pre 2003	2	Between 2003 and 2010	1	Post 2010
vi.	3	Any wards	2	N/A	1	No wards
vii.	3	Greater than 10%	2	Between 1% and 10%	1	No wards
viii.	3	Less than 75%	2	Between 75% and 90%	1	Greater than 90%
ix.	3	Greater than 10%	2	Between 1% and 10%	1	No wards

Note. Factor iv. does not appear in the above table as a planned/ongoing community review is taken into consideration in the timing of a review, not priority. Principle councils undertaking community reviews can be found in the programme at Appendix B.

6. A completed assessment table can be found at Appendix A. It should be noted that Ceredigion, Conwy, Gwynedd and Powys are predominantly highlighted in light blue.

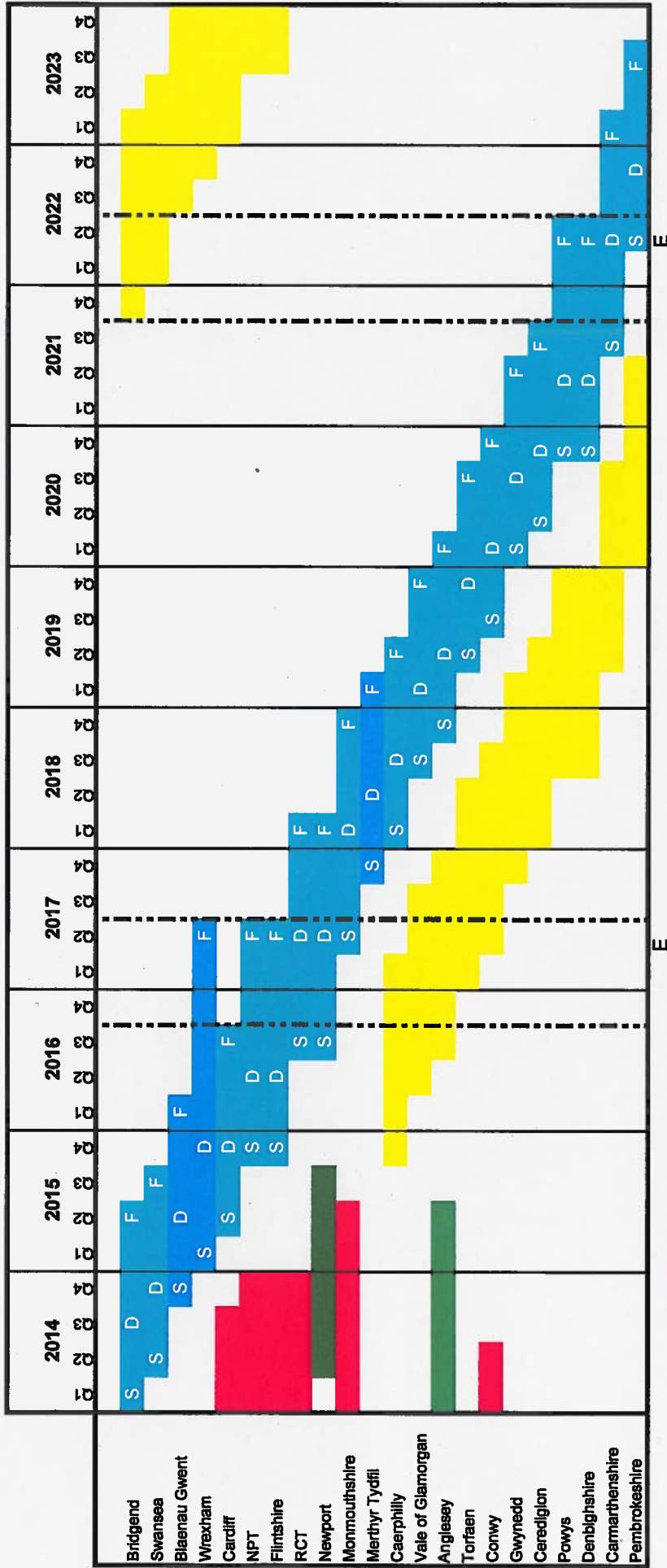
This indicates that new electoral review Orders are to be made by Welsh Government (WG) and the data is not relevant. It should also be noted that Carmarthenshire, Denbighshire, Pembrokeshire and Torfaen are predominantly highlighted in dark blue. The Commission are undertaking electoral reviews of these areas at present or have submitted recommendations to WG but no decision has been made.

## **Electoral Review Programme 2014 (ERP 2014)**

7. The ERP 2014 can be found at Appendix B.
8. The programme is based upon the base data in the assessment table but moving principal councils up or down the order to take into consideration where a community review is underway or in the planning. The programme also reflects provision we have made to provide enough time for WG or the Commission to produce an Order before an electoral review can commence.
9. It should be noted that there is a short period between the reporting of the Commission on the Cardiff Community Review to WG and them drafting an Order. The Commission has discussed this with WG and they have assured us that an Order will be produced in a timely manner.
10. It should also be noted that the Wrexham Review would be a 'combined review' as the Commission is aware, through discussions with the principal council, of the need for community changes in the principal area which will also be necessary to conduct an effective electoral review. This has also elongated the review process by a quarter at each stage. This pause is extended by the period, set out in legislation, where we may not publish proposals before a local government election.
11. Furthermore, it should be noted that a request has been made to Newport City Council to ensure they undertake a review of communities prior to our electoral review in 2016. It may be that they request the Commission to do this on their behalf if they do not have the resources or the Commission *may* be able to undertake a combined review. Discussions with the Authority on the best way forward for both parties are continuing.

# ELECTORAL REVIEW PROGRAMME 2014

## Appendix B



- S - Start of review
- D - Draft Proposals
- F - Final Proposals
- E - Local Government Election
- CR under old legislation
- CR under new legislation
- CR at Commission request
- Electoral Review
- Combined Electoral and Community Review
- LDBCW recommended principal council Community Review schedule
- Period whereby recommendations may not be made by the Commission - August to May

ERP 2014 Timetable Assessment

Council	Members	Council Size Aim	Divergence from Council Size Aim %	Last electoral Order	Last community change	Electoral Wards	EWS variance > 50%	EWS % variance > 50%	EWS variance 25-50%	EWS % variance 25-50%	EWS variance 0-25%	EWS % variance 0-25%	No. EWS with >3 members	% EWS with >3 members	RAG	Formula	Overall ER Priority	Note		
Iale of Anglesey	30	35	-14%	2012	2009	11	0	0%	0	0%	11	100%	0	0%	0	1	5	7	14	
Blaenau Gwent	42	30	40%	n/c	2010	16	0	0%	2	13%	14	88%	1	6%	3	2	1	14	4	No changes to the electoral arrangements have been made
Bridgend	54	46	17%	1998	2009	39	3	8%	12	31%	24	82%	1	3%	4	2	0	16	1	
Caerphilly	73	60	22%	1998	2012	33	0	0%	3	9%	30	91%	2	6%	1	3	2	11	12	
Cardiff	75	75	0%	1998	2009	29	1	3%	2	7%	26	90%	5	17%	3	1	2	13	8	Butdown over 100% from the county average. Community Review underway
Cardiff	74	75	-1%	1998	2008	58	1	2%	11	19%	46	79%	0	0%	0	0	1	1	20	LDBCW Review underway
Carmarthenshire	37	38	-3%	2013*	2000	40	4	10%	12	30%	24	60%	0	0%	0	0	2	2	17	LDBCW Review underway
Ceredigion	57	46	24%	2013*	2009	36	0	0%	10	26%	28	74%	1	3%	0	1	1	3	15	New Order awaited
Conwy	47	47	0%	1998*	2008	36	0	0%	3	10%	27	90%	0	0%	0	0	1	1	20	LDBCW Further (limited) review submitted to WG on 1 August 2013. Decision awaited.
Denbighshire	70	61	15%	1998	2008	57	1	2%	13	23%	43	75%	0	0%	3	2	1	14	4	LDBCW Review underway
Flintshire	66	61	8%	2013*	2007	71	4	6%	28	39%	39	55%	0	0%	0	0	2	2	17	New Order awaited
Gwynedd	33	30	10%	n/c	n/c	11	0	0%	2	16%	9	82%	3	27%	3	1	2	13	8	No changes to the electoral arrangements have been made
Merthyr Tydfil	43	46	7%	2002	2002	43	1	2%	8	19%	34	79%	0	0%	3	1	2	13	8	No changes to the electoral arrangements have been made
Monmouthshire	64	56	14%	n/c	n/c	42	1	2%	16	36%	25	60%	0	0%	4	1	1	15	2	Community Review underway
Neath Port Talbot	50	49	2%	2002	2002	20	0	0%	8	40%	12	60%	1	5%	3	1	2	13	8	Electoral statistics based on 2012
Newport	60	61	-2%	1988*	2011	60	2	3%	17	28%	41	66%	0	0%	0	0	1	1	20	LDBCW Review underway
Pembrokeshire	64	67	-4%	2013*	2008	73	6	8%	26	36%	41	56%	0	0%	0	0	2	2	17	LDBCW Review underway
Powys	75	75	0%	1998	2008	52	4	6%	13	29%	33	63%	0	0%	4	0	2	14	4	Two unresolved anomalies (Aberaman and Aberdare). Community Review underway
Rhondda Cynon Taf	72	75	-4%	1998	2011	36	2	6%	7	19%	27	75%	8	17%	4	1	1	15	2	
Swansea	47	51	-8%	2002	2010	17	0	0%	1	6%	16	94%	5	20%	2	1	3	11	12	
The Vale of Glamorgan	39	30	30%	2002*	2013*	24	0	0%	7	29%	17	71%	0	0%	1	0	0	3	15	LDBCW electoral review on hold: awaiting community review Order
Torfaen	47	51	-8%	2002	2010	17	0	0%	1	6%	16	94%	5	20%	2	1	3	11	12	
Wrexham	52	54	-4%	1998	2009	47	1	2%	11	23%	35	74%	0	0%	4	0	2	14	4	