

**REVIEW OF COMMUNITY AREAS AND THE
COMMUNITY ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS
FOR THE COMMUNITIES IN THE COUNTY OF
FLINTSHIRE**

DRAFT PROPOSALS

24 OCTOBER 2013

**FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
DRAFT PROPOSALS**

CONTENTS

		Page
1.	INTRODUCTION	2
2.	BACKGROUND	2
3.	NEXT STAGE OF THE REVIEW	3
4.	GUIDING PRINCIPLES	4 & 22 - 24
5.	FLINTSHIRE DRAFT PROPOSALS	4 – 21
6.	TABLE OF FLINTSHIRE’S DRAFT PROPOSALS	25 & 26
7.	TABLE OF CURRENT ARRANGEMENTS	27 & 28

1.00 INTRODUCTION

- 1.01 Flintshire County Council has a statutory duty to keep all the communities in its area under review.
- 1.02 The review is to ensure the electoral arrangements for each town or community council provide effective and convenient local government.
- 1.03 A review of town or community areas can include proposals for alterations of boundaries between town or community council areas, amalgamating two or more town or community council areas into one, or separating an existing town or community council area into two or more.
- 1.04 A review of town or community electoral arrangements also include proposals to review ward boundaries within a town or community council area, the warding of a previously unwarded town or community council area, the de-warding of a town or community council area currently separated into wards and changes to councillor numbers.

2.00 Background

- 2.01 At its meeting on the 28 February 2013 the County Forum received a report on the proposed Community Review including a draft timetable showing the various stages of a Community Review and an indicative timescale for each stage. On the 12 March 2013 all Town and Community Councils were written to seeking their views on the draft guiding principles for the review. (Guiding principles are shown in appendix 1).
- 2.02 Following reports to County Council on 16 April 2013 and to the Cabinet on the 23 April 2013 the guiding principles of the review were agreed, together with the consultation process for the first formal stage of the review and that the review commence. The review commenced on 1st May, 2013.
- 2.03 The first formal stage of the Community Review was to seek and obtain proposals from Town and Community Councils and other interested parties. A letter, questionnaire and the guiding principles were sent to Town and Community Councils, County Councillors and other interested parties on the 3 May 2013. Public notice was also give in local newspapers and information was also published on the website. In addition a series of meetings were co-hosted with Town Councils across the County on the first stage of the review. The consultation period ended on 2 July 2013. The proposals received under the first stage have been carefully considered in preparing Flintshire's Draft Proposals. A list of those who submitted a proposal is attached as Appendix 2.

3.00 Next Stage of the Review

- 3.01 Once the Council and the Cabinet has agreed the Draft Proposals there will be a further nine week consultation period. The Draft Proposals will be advertised in the press by giving Public Notice and on the Council's website. These Draft Proposals will also be sent to Town and Community Councils, County Councillors and other interested parties. At the end of the consultation period comments on the Draft Proposals will be considered and the Final Proposals prepared.
- 3.02 The Final Proposals will be presented to Council and Cabinet. The Council will publish the final Proposals in the same way as the Draft Proposals before they are adopted.
- 3.03 Where the Final Proposals involve changes to external community boundaries, Flintshire County Council will submit a report recommending them to the Local Democracy and Boundary Commission for Wales. All representations concerning the Final Proposals should be submitted to the Commission. In such situations the Commission considers all the changes to that community including the warding and the number Community Councillors each ward represents. The Commission also considers any consequential changes that the changes to the ward boundaries would have on the electoral divisions and make proposals for such changes. These are submitted to Welsh Government who, if approved by the Minister, prepare an Order for the community including consequential changes to the electoral divisions if there is any.
- 3.04 Where no change to an external community boundary is made, the Town/Community wards arising from this review should fit wholly within the electoral divisions for County Councillors. If as a result of any proposed changes to Town/Community Council wards, this would not be the case, it would cause an anomaly between community wards and county electoral divisions for the 2017 local government elections. The Council is keen to avoid the practical difficulties this would cause and for this reason has not agreed with some proposals received that would cause such an anomaly.. The Local Democracy and Boundary Commission for Wales will make proposals to amend the county electoral divisions in their future electoral review scheduled to be completed after the 2017 local government elections. That review could include recommendations to change both the county electoral divisions and the community ward boundaries.
- 3.05 Where the Final Proposals propose substantive changes to community electoral arrangements (e.g. number of Councillors), then the Council will make a legally binding Order to give effect to the Council's decision on the review.

4.00 Guiding Principles

- 4.01 The guiding principles are shown in Appendix 2. Please note that all Town and Community Councils have been informed that the objective of the seventh and eighth guiding principles is to have approximately the same ratio of electors to Councillors across the wards that a Town or Community Council may be divided into. As long as this is achieved there does not need to be the same number of Councillors in each ward. The important point is that the ratio of electorate to Councillors across the wards is very similar, so that an elector's vote carries the same weight.

5.00 Flintshire County Council's Draft Proposals

- 5.01 The Council's Draft Proposals include a number of area changes, changes to internal boundaries and the number of Town and Community Councillors across the County. The Draft Proposals aim to redress current anomalies wherever desirable in the interests of effective and convenient local government. The guiding principles to the review and the proposals received under the first stage of the consultation process have received detailed consideration in formulating the Draft Proposals.
- 5.02 Each Town or Community Council area is considered in turn by summarising current arrangements, any current anomalies, the proposals received and the County Council's observations on those proposals before indicating the County Council's Draft Proposals.

Argoed Community Council

- 5.03 The community of Argoed is currently divided into four wards. The East ward elects five Councillors, the New Brighton ward elects three Councillors, the South ward elects two Councillors and the West ward elects six Councillors. The overall membership of the Council is sixteen.
- 5.04 As part of the review process Flintshire identified the following anomalies. That the West ward elected more Councillors than the East ward even though it had a smaller electorate.
- 5.05 During the review period Argoed Community Council made the following proposal to amend the external boundary. That the properties in the village of Llong that are part of Leeswood Community Council should be part of Argoed Community Council. The village is currently split between the two Community Councils and Argoed felt it would be better represented by just one Community Council. It also identified one property that was split from the rest of the village which would be better served by the Community Council. The Community Council also proposed that it should be de-warded and still have

an overall membership of sixteen Councillors. No other proposals were received from interested parties.

- 5.06 *Flintshire's proposal is that the East and South wards should be amalgamated (this would then be coterminous with the County Electoral Division of Argoed) and the New Brighton and West wards should be amalgamated (this would then be coterminous with the County Electoral Division of New Brighton). As explained in paragraph 3.04 Town/Community wards arising from this review should fit wholly within a single County Council electoral division. Flintshire's proposal is therefore the nearest the review can implement the Community Council's proposal without creating the anomaly referred to in paragraph 3.04. The membership should be reduced from sixteen to fourteen as no valid reason has been given for departure from the first guiding principle. The external boundary should not be altered as Leeswood Community Council have objected to Argoed's proposal and it does not form a natural boundary as required by the guiding principles.*

Bagillt Community Council

- 5.07 The community of Bagillt is presently divided into two wards. The East ward elects seven Councillors and the West ward elects seven Councillors. The overall membership of Council is fourteen.
- 5.08 As part of the review process Flintshire identified no anomalies. In 2000 a review of warding arrangements was undertaken. The number of wards was reduced from four to two making the wards coterminous with the two County Council Electoral Divisions of Bagillt East and Bagillt West. The Councillors for the Central and Merlyn wards were re-distributed between the two wards, so that there was an equal number of Councillors.
- 5.09 During the review period Bagillt Community Council proposed that the current arrangements were satisfactory and that there should be no changes. No other proposals were received from interested parties.
- 5.10 *Flintshire's proposal is to agree with the Community Council as it is considered the current arrangements provide effective and convenient local government.*

Broughton and Bretton Community Council

- 5.11 The community of Broughton and Bretton is presently divided into three wards. The East ward elects two Councillors, the North ward elects four Councillors and the South ward elects eight Councillors. The overall membership of Council is fourteen.
- 5.12 As part of the review process Flintshire identified an inconsistent ratio of electorate to Councillors across the wards.

- 5.13 During the review period Broughton and Bretton Community Council made the following proposal regarding the external boundary. Properties the west of Cherry Orchard Lane known as the 'Old Warren' currently in Penyffordd Community Council area would be better served by Broughton and Bretton Community Council because of the stopping up of the 'Old Warren'. This area cannot be accessed without going through Broughton and Bretton Community Council's area. It has been suggested to use the A55 as the southern boundary and Stoney Hill as the western boundary. The Community Council also proposed that the number of Councillors for the North ward should be reduced from four to three and the number of Councillors for the South ward should be increased from eight to nine. No other proposals were received from interested parties.
- 5.14 *Flintshire's proposal is to agree with the proposal regarding the external boundary and properties in the 'Old Warren' should be transferred from Penyffordd Community Council to Broughton and Bretton Community Council. Penyffordd Community Council objected to the proposal but the 'Old Warren' can now only be accessed from Broughton. As explained in paragraph 3.03 where the final proposals involve changes to the external boundary the final decision rests with the Local Democracy and Boundary Commission. If the Commission considers the changes to be in the interests of effective and convenient local government, they will make recommendations to Welsh Government to make the boundary changes including consequential amendments to any county electoral divisions affected. To address the inconsistent ratio of electorate to Councillors, it is proposed that the wards of North and East should be amalgamated and named North East ward (this would then be coterminous with the County Electoral Division) and elect five Councillors and that the South ward elects nine Councillors. The overall membership of the Council would remain at fourteen.*

Brynford Community Council

- 5.15 The community of Brynford has a membership of ten Councillors. As part of the review process Flintshire identified no anomalies.
- 5.16 During the review period Brynford Community Council proposed that the current arrangements were satisfactory and that there should be no changes. No other proposals were received from interested parties.
- 5.17 *Flintshire's proposal is to agree with the Community Council as it is considered the current arrangements provide effective and convenient local government.*

Buckley Town Council

- 5.18 The town of Buckley is presently divided into four wards. The Bistre East ward elects five Councillors, the Bistre West ward elects six Councillors, the Mountain ward elects two Councillors and the Pentrobin ward elects five Councillors. The overall membership of the Council is eighteen.
- 5.19 As part of the review process Flintshire identified an inconsistent ratio of electorate to Councillors for the Mountain and Pentrobin wards.
- 5.20 During the review period Buckley Town Council made the following proposal to address the inconsistent ratio of electorate to Councillors. Taking into account the projected electorate and the number of major developments over the next five years, the overall membership of Council should be increased to twenty and the number of Councillors to be elected for the wards should be as follows. The Bistre East ward elect five Councillors, the Bistre West ward elect five Councillors, the Mountain ward elect four Councillors and the Pentrobin ward elect six Councillors. No other proposals were received from interested parties.
- 5.21 *Flintshire's proposal is to agree with the proposal made by the Town Council as it addresses the inconsistent ratio of electorate to Councillors across the Mountain and Pentrobin wards. The overall membership for the Council would increase from eighteen to twenty.*

Caerwys Town Council

- 5.22 The town of Caerwys has a membership of eleven Councillors. As part of the review process Flintshire identified no anomalies.
- 5.23 During the review period Caerwys Town Council proposed that the current arrangements were satisfactory and that there should be no changes. No other proposals were received from interested parties.
- 5.24 *Flintshire's proposal is to agree with the Community Council as it is considered the current arrangements provide effective and convenient local government.*

Cilcain Community Council

- 5.25 The community of Cilcain is presently divided into two wards. The Cilcain ward elects six Councillors and the Rhydymwyn ward elects six Councillors. The overall membership of Council is twelve.
- 5.26 As part of the review process Flintshire identified no anomalies. In 2008 Flintshire County Council made an Order to increase the number of Councillors for the Rhydymwyn ward from five to six.

- 5.27 During the review period no response was received from the Community Council and no other proposals were received from interested parties.
- 5.28 *Flintshire's proposal is that it considers the current arrangements provide effective and convenient local government.*

Connah's Quay Town Council

- 5.29 The town of Connah's Quay is presently divided into four wards. The Central ward elects five Councillors, the Golftyn ward elects five Councillors, the South ward elects six Councillors and the Wepre ward elects four Councillors. The overall membership of the Council is twenty.
- 5.30 As part of the review process Flintshire identified an inconsistent ratio of electorate to Councillors across the wards.
- 5.31 During the review period Connah's Town Council made the following proposal to address the inconsistent ratio of electorate to Councillors. To redraw the internal boundary between the Central, Golftyn and South wards. It would involve transferring approximately 900 electors from the South ward and 200 electors from the Golftyn ward to the Central ward. The Council also propose that the overall membership of Council should be increased to twenty two and the number of Councillors to be elected for the wards should be as follows. The Central ward would elect six Councillors, the Golftyn ward would elect six Councillors, the South ward would elect six Councillors and the Wepre ward would elect four Councillors. No other proposals were received from interested parties.
- 5.32 *As explained in paragraph 3.04 implementing the proposal of Connah's Quay Town Council would result in a community ward and electoral division anomaly at the 2017 local government elections. Until the county electoral divisions are reviewed by the Local Democracy and Boundary Commission for Wales the inconsistent ratio of electorate to Town Councillors would be addressed by altering the number of Councillors to be elected across the wards in 2017 as follows:-*

- *The Central Ward to elect four Councillors.*
- *The Golftyn Ward to elect six Councillors.*
- *The South Ward to elect seven Councillors.*
- *The Wepre Ward to elect three Councillors.*

The overall membership of the Town Council would remain at 20.

Flint Town Council

- 5.33 The town of Flint is presently divided into four wards. The Castle ward elects four Councillors, the Coleshill ward elects five Councillors, the Oakenholt ward elects four Councillors and the Trelawny ward elects five Councillors. The overall membership of Council is eighteen.
- 5.34 As part of the review process Flintshire identified an inconsistent ratio of electorate to Councillors across the wards.
- 5.35 During the review period Flint Town Council made three proposals. The first proposal was that it was the view of the Town Council that it was not appropriate to embark upon any review at this particular time. The second proposal was that there should be no change to the current arrangements. The Council feels that the present level of membership is appropriate for the Town. The third proposal, and notwithstanding the representations made in the first two proposals was to redraw the boundaries to transfer an area from Coleshill ward to Castle ward and reduce the number of Councillors to 16. No other proposals were received from interested parties.
- 5.36 *Flintshire's proposal is to partially agree with the third proposal made by the Town Council as it addresses the inconsistent ratio of electorate to Councillors. The number of Councillors elected from the Castle ward would be reduced from four to three and the overall membership for the Council reduced from eighteen to seventeen.*

Gwernaffield Community Council

- 5.37 The community of Gwernaffield is presently divided into two wards. The Gwernaffield ward elects six Councillors and the Pantymwyn ward elects six Councillors. The overall membership of Council is twelve.
- 5.38 As part of the review process Flintshire identified no anomalies.
- 5.39 During the review period Gwernaffield Community Council proposed that the current arrangements were satisfactory and that there should be no changes. No other proposals were received from interested parties.
- 5.40 *Flintshire's proposal is to agree with the Community Council as it is considered the current arrangements effective and convenient local government.*

Gwernymynydd Community Council

- 5.41 The community of Gwernymynydd has a membership of eleven Councillors. As part of the review process Flintshire identified no anomalies.

- 5.42 During the review period Gwernymynydd Community Council proposed that the current arrangements were satisfactory and that there should be no changes. The local County Councillor made the same proposal. No other proposals were received from interested parties.
- 5.43 *Flintshire's proposal is to agree with the Community Council and local County Councillor as it is considered the current arrangements provide effective and convenient local government.*

Halkyn Community Council

- 5.44 The Community of Halkyn is presently divided into four wards. The Halkyn ward elects three Councillors, the Pentre Halkyn ward elects four Councillors, the Rhesycae ward elects two Councillors and the Rhosesmor ward elects four Councillors. The overall membership of Council is thirteen.
- 5.45 As part of the review process Flintshire identified an inconsistent ratio of electorate to Councillors across the wards.
- 5.46 During the review period Halkyn Community Council were unable to agree any recommendations to submit to the Council. It was agreed by Members to wait for the County Council's Draft Proposals to be published on how to address the inconsistent ratio of electorate to Councillors across the wards. No other proposals were received from interested parties.
- 5.47 *Flintshire's proposal to address the inconsistent ratio of electorate to Councillors is that the wards of Halkyn, Rhesycae and Rhosesmor be merged to create a new ward and elect eight Councillors (this would then be coterminous with the County Electoral Division of Halkyn). The ward of Pentre Halkyn (which is part of the County Electoral Division of Brynford) would elect five Councillors. The overall membership of the Council would remain at thirteen. As explained in paragraph 5.80 it is proposed to alter the external boundary with Mold.*

Hawarden Community Council

- 5.48 The Community of Hawarden is presently divided into four wards. The Aston ward elects five Councillors, the Ewloe ward elects four Councillors, the Hawarden ward elects three Councillors and the Mancot ward elects five Councillors. The overall membership of Council is seventeen.
- 5.49 As part of the review process Flintshire identified an inconsistent ratio of electorate to Councillors making the Ewloe ward underrepresented.
- 5.50 During the review period Hawarden Community Council proposed that the number of Councillors for the Ewloe ward should be increased from four to six. The Community Council did not believe the inconsistent ratio of

electorate to Councillors could be solved by redistributing the current allocation from the other wards without adversely affecting their representational role. The overall membership of the Council would then be increased from seventeen to nineteen.

- 5.51 The local County Councillor proposed that the internal boundary between the Hawarden and Mancot wards should be redrawn. The current boundary is the middle of the road along Cross Tree Lane and Glynne Way. It is proposed that three residential properties from Cross Tree Lane, nine residential properties from Glynne Way and two residential properties from Moor Lane be transferred from the Mancot ward to the Hawarden ward. No other proposals were received from interested parties. As explained in paragraph 3.04 above, amending the ward boundaries in the way proposed by the local County Councillor would lead to anomalies at the 2017 elections and would therefore be inappropriate at this time.
- 5.52 *Flintshire proposes that in order to address the inconsistent ratio of electorate to councillors, the Aston Ward elect four councillors, the Ewloe Ward elect six councillors, the Hawarden Ward elect two councillors and the Mancot Ward elect four councillors. The overall membership for the Council would be reduced from 17 to 16 in accordance with the first guiding principle.*

Higher Kinnerton Community Council

- 5.53 The community of Higher Kinnerton has a membership of nine Councillors. As part of the review process Flintshire identified no anomalies. In 2008 Flintshire County Council made an order to reduce the overall membership of the Council from eleven to nine.
- 5.54 During the review period Higher Kinnerton Community Council proposed that the current arrangements were satisfactory and that there should be no changes. No other proposals were received from interested parties.
- 5.55 *Flintshire's proposal is to agree with the Community Council as it is considered the current arrangements provide effective and convenient local government.*

Holywell Town Council

- 5.56 The town of Holywell is presently divided into four wards. The Central ward elects four Councillors, the East ward elects four Councillors, the Greenfield ward elects five Councillors and the West ward elects four Councillors. The overall membership of the Council is seventeen.
- 5.57 As part of the review process Flintshire identified an inconsistent ratio of electorate to Councillors across the wards.

5.58 During the review period Holywell Town Council proposed that the current arrangements were satisfactory and that there should be no changes. The Council felt that they would not be able to provide the same level representation on Community groups etc, if the number of Councillors was reduced. A local resident proposed that their property Chipwood Cottage should be moved from the East to Greenfield ward because they feel they have no association with the East ward. No other proposals were received from interested parties.

5.59 *Flintshire's proposal is that to address the inconsistent ratio of electorate to Councillors across the wards, the Central ward elect three Councillors, the East ward elect three Councillors, the Greenfield ward elect five Councillors and the West ward elect four Councillors. The overall membership of the Council would reduce from seventeen to fifteen in line with the first guiding principle.*

Hope Community Council

5.60 The community of Hope is presently divided into two wards. The Caergwrle ward elects six Councillors and the Hope ward elects eight Councillors. The overall membership of the Council is fourteen.

5.61 As part of the review process Flintshire identified an inconsistent ratio of electorate to Councillors across the wards.

5.62 During the review period Hope Community Council made the following proposal regarding the internal boundary. In an effort to equalise the electorate across the two wards, the boundary should be the River Alyn as a natural boundary. The community area west of the river would form the Caergwrle ward and the community area east of the river would form the Hope ward. The Caergwrle ward would elect seven Councillors and Hope would elect seven Councillors. The local County Councillor for Hope also made a proposal that the internal boundary should be redrawn by either the railway line or the River Alyn. No other proposals were received from interested parties. As explained in paragraph 3.04 to alter the ward boundaries in the way that the Community Council and the local County Councillor have proposed would lead to anomalies at the 2017 local government elections and would therefore not be appropriate at this time.

5.63 *Flintshire's proposal to address the inconstant ratio of electorate to councillors across the wards pending the outcome of the Local Democracy and Boundary Commission review of county electoral divisions is that the Councillors from the Caergwrle Ward be reduced from 6 to 5 and that the overall membership of the Council would therefore reduce from 14 to 13 in line with the first guiding principle.*

Leeswood Community Council

- 5.64 The community of Leeswood is divided into two wards. The Leeswood ward elects eleven Councillors and the Pontblyddyn ward elects two Councillors. The overall membership of the Council is thirteen.
- 5.65 As part of the review process Flintshire identified no anomalies.
- 5.66 During the review period Leeswood Community Council proposed that the current arrangements were satisfactory and that there should be no changes. No other proposals were received from interested parties.
- 5.67 *Flintshire's proposal is to agree with the Community Council as it is considered the current arrangements provide effective and convenient local government.*

Llanasa Community Council

- 5.68 The community of Llanasa is presently divided into three wards. The Axton ward elects four Councillors, the Ffynnongroyw ward elects six Councillors and the Gronant ward elects five Councillors. The overall membership of the Council is fifteen.
- 5.69 As part of the review process Flintshire identified an inconsistent ratio of electorate to Councillors across the wards.
- 5.70 During the review period Llanasa Community Council proposed that the current arrangements were satisfactory and that there should be no changes because of the rural nature of the area. No other proposals were received from interested parties.
- 5.71 *Flintshire's proposal is that to address the inconsistent ratio of electorate to Councillors across the wards, the Axton ward elect three Councillors, the Ffynnongroyw ward elect six Councillors and the Gronant ward elect five Councillors. The overall membership of the Council would reduce from fifteen to fourteen.*

Llanfynydd Community Council

- 5.72 The community of Llanfynydd is presently divided into four wards. The Cefn y Bedd ward elects four Councillors, the Cymau ward elects two Councillors, the Ffrith ward elects four Councillors and the Pontybodkin ward elects two Councillors. The overall membership of the Council is twelve.
- 5.73 As part of the review process Flintshire identified an inconsistent ratio of electorate to Councillors across the wards. In particular the Cefn y Bedd and Cymau wards have a similar electorate but Cymau only elects 2 Councillors half the number of Councillors elected in Cefn y Bedd.

- 5.74 During the review period Llanfynydd Community Council proposed that to address the inconsistent ratio of electorate to the Councillors, the Cefn y Bedd ward elect three Councillors, the Cymau ward elect three Councillors, the Ffrith ward elect three Councillors and the Pontybodkin ward elect three Councillors. Also the external boundary between Llanfynydd Community Council and Treuddyn Community Council be redrawn so that four properties currently along Ffordd-y-Blaenau be transferred to the settlement of Treuddyn. No other proposals were received from interested parties.
- 5.75 *Flintshire's proposal is that to address the inconsistent ratio of electorate to Councillors across the wards, the Cefn y Bedd ward elect four Councillors, the Cymau ward elect three Councillors, the Ffrith ward elect three Councillors and the Pontybodkin ward elect two Councillors. The external boundary should not be altered as it does not form a natural boundary as required by the guiding principle.*

Mold Town Council

- 5.76 The town of Mold is presently divided into four wards. The Broncoed ward elects four Councillors, the East ward elects four Councillors, the South ward elects four Councillors and the West ward elects four Councillors. The overall membership of the Council is sixteen.
- 5.77 As part of the review process Flintshire identified an inconsistent ratio of electorate to Councillors across the wards. In particular the East ward seems over represented when considering the ratio of the electorate to Councillors.
- 5.78 During the review period Mold Town Council proposed that the internal boundaries should be redrawn. The Council made two options which involved either transferring 272 electors plus 233 electors (505 in total) from the West ward and 212 electors from the Broncoed ward to the East ward. Alternatively transferring 404 electors from the South ward to the West ward and transferring 98 electors from Broncoed ward to the South ward. The Council also proposed that the overall membership remained at sixteen. The Council also made a proposal regarding the external boundary with Halkyn Community Council, that properties east side of Black Brook Lane currently in their area had a close identity with the Town Council and this would form a more natural boundary.
- 5.79 The local County Councillor for the Mold Broncoed Electoral Division proposed that the current arrangements were satisfactory and that there should be no changes. Representations were also received from two local residents who agreed with the local Councillor's proposal. No other proposals were received from interested parties.

- 5.80 *Flintshire's proposal is to agree to the external boundary being redrawn to include the 13 properties from Halkyn Community Council as no objections were received from Halkyn Council and it forms a natural boundary complying with the guiding principles. Flintshire's proposal for internal ward boundaries is based on the second of the two options produced by Mold Town Council but retaining the Bromfield Park Estate within Broncoed Ward. This results in the ratios of electorate to each Councillor across the four wards only varying by approximately 10%. Whilst the Mold East ward would then have the highest electorate per Councillor the future growth proposals for Mold are in the other three wards. Flintshire agrees with Mold Council that the overall membership of the Council should remain at 16.*
- 5.81 *If, as part of the final proposals, the external boundary is proposed to be changed, it will be submitted to the Local Democracy and Boundary Commission for Wales pursuant to paragraph 3.03 above. If the Commission considers the change to be in the interests of effective and convenient local government, it will make recommendations to Welsh Government to make the boundary change, including consequential amendments to any county electoral divisions affected.*

Mostyn Community Council

- 5.82 The community of Mostyn is presently divided into two wards. The Mostyn ward elects nine councillors and the Rhewl ward elects three Councillors. The overall membership of the Council is twelve.
- 5.83 As part of the review process Flintshire identified an inconsistent ratio of electorate to Councillors across the wards.
- 5.84 During the review period Mostyn Community Council proposed that the current arrangements were satisfactory and that there should be no changes because of the Council member's involvement in community groups. The Council had strong views that the two wards had separate identities. No other proposals were received from interested parties.
- 5.85 *Flintshire's proposal is to agree with the Community Council not remove the warding arrangements. To address the inconsistent ratio of electorate to Councillors across the wards, the Mostyn ward elect eight Councillors and Rhewl ward elect three Councillors. The overall membership of the Council would reduce from twelve to eleven.*

Nannerch Community Council

- 5.86 The community of Nannerch has a membership of eight Councillors. As part of the review process Flintshire identified no anomalies.

- 5.87 During the review period no response was received from the Community Council and no other proposals were received from interested parties.
- 5.88 *Flintshire's proposal is that the current arrangements provide effective and convenient local government.*

Nercwys Community Council

- 5.89 The community of Nercwys has a membership of nine Councillors. As part of the review process Flintshire identified no anomalies.
- 5.90 During the review period no response was received from the Community Council and the local County Councillor proposed the current arrangements should continue.
- 5.91 *Flintshire's proposal is that the current arrangements provide effective and convenient local government.*

Northop Community Council

- 5.92 The community of Northop is presently divided into two wards. The Northop ward elects six Councillors and the Sychdyn ward elects seven Councillors. The overall membership of Council is thirteen.
- 5.93 As part of the review process Flintshire identified no anomalies.
- 5.94 During the review period Northop Community Council proposed that the current arrangements were satisfactory and that there should be no changes. No other proposals were received from interested parties.
- 5.95 *Flintshire's proposal is to agree with the Community Council as it is considered the current arrangements provide effective and convenient local government.*

Northop Hall Community Council

- 5.96 The community of Northop Hall has a membership of eleven Councillors. As part of the review process Flintshire identified no anomalies.
- 5.97 During the review period no response was received from the Community Council and no other proposals were received from interested parties.
- 5.98 *Flintshire's proposal is that the current arrangements provide effective and convenient local government.*

Penyffordd Community Council

- 5.99 The community of Penyffordd has a membership of ten Councillors. As part of the review process Flintshire identified no anomalies.
- 5.100 During the review period Penyffordd Community Council made proposals regarding the external boundary. The Council provided a plan and referred to the following locations. Location 1 - Southern end boundary. Members considered the properties on the identified inclusion currently located in Hope Community Council area would be better served by the Council. Location 2 - Easterly boundary - Lower Mountain Road, the properties are currently in the Higher Kinnerton Community Council area and would be better served by Penyffordd. Location 3 - North Easterly boundary - Old Warren. The Old Warren is split half way up with one half served by Broughton and Bretton Community Council and the other half by Penyffordd. It would be logical if residents were served by one Community Council. Location 4 - Northern boundary - Entrance to Tinkersdale the property Thatched Roof which is currently located in Hawarden Community Council area has closer links with Penyffordd. Location 5 - Western boundary - The Reed. The property to the west of the brook on the Reed is closer to Penyffordd which is currently in the Leeswood Community Council area.
- 5.101 The local County Councillors also made similar proposals as Penyffordd Community Council. They also proposed that the overall membership of the Council should increase from ten to thirteen.
- 5.102 *Flintshire's proposal is to agree with the proposal made the local County Councillor that the overall membership of the Council be increased from ten to thirteen in line with first guiding principle. Broughton and Bretton Community Council and Hawarden Community Council objected to Penyffordd Community Council's proposals regarding locations three and four respectively. Hope Community Council did not provide a response regarding location one, having said that the proposal regarding these three locations do not form a natural boundary in line with the guiding principles. The Council agrees with the proposals regarding locations two and five and no objections were received from Leeswood Community Council and Higher Kinnerton Community Council. For the boundary of location two, the Council proposes a more natural boundary than the one submitted by the Community Council. As explained in paragraph 5.14 the County Council proposes that all of the Old Warren will be in Broughton and Bretton Community. As explained in paragraph 3.03 where the final proposals involve changes to the external boundary the final decision rests with the Local Democracy and Boundary Commission.*

5.103 *If, under the final proposals, it is proposed to change the two external boundaries in locations 2 and 5, they will be submitted to the Local Democracy and Boundary Commission for Wales pursuant to paragraph 3.03 above. If the Commission considers the changes to be in the interests of effective and convenient local government, it will make recommendations to Welsh Government to make the boundary changes, including consequential amendments to any county electoral divisions affected.*

Queensferry Community Council

5.104 The community of Queensferry is presently divided into three wards. The Pentre ward elects two Councillors, the Queensferry ward elects four Councillors and the Sandycroft ward elects seven Councillors. The overall membership of the Council is thirteen.

5.105 As part of the review process Flintshire identified an inconsistent ratio of electorate to Councillors across the wards.

5.106 During the review period Queensferry Community Council proposed to amend the external boundary with Hawarden Community Council. At present the boundary is the middle of the main road from Sandycroft to Queensferry. The left side of the road is represented by the Mancot ward of Hawarden Community Council and the right hand side is represented by the Sandycroft and Pentre wards. It would make it easier for the Council to arrange the clearing/cleaning of the ditch along this road instead of going through Hawarden Community Council. The local County Councillor proposed that the current arrangements were satisfactory and that there should be no changes. No other proposals were received from interested parties.

5.107 *Flintshire's proposal is that the external boundary should not be altered as Hawarden Community Council have objected to Queensferry's proposal and it does not form a natural boundary as required by the guiding principle. To address the inconsistent ratio of electorate to Councillors across the wards, the wards of Pentre and Queensferry should be merged to form a new ward to be named Queensferry. The new ward would elect five Councillors and the Sandycroft ward would elect seven Councillors. The overall membership of the Council would reduce from thirteen to twelve.*

Saltney Town Council

5.108 The town of Saltney is presently divided into two wards. The Mold Junction ward elects five Councillors and the Stonebridge ward elects nine Councillors. The overall membership of the Council is fourteen.

5.109 As part of the review process Flintshire identified an inconsistent ratio of electorate to Councillors across the wards.

5.110 During the review period Saltney Town Council's proposal was to amend the internal boundary. At present the boundary divides the town along the High Street in a North/South divide. The Town Council proposes following the line of the Balderton Brook in an East/West direction. It proposes the wards being renamed East ward and West ward. No other proposals were received from interested parties. As explained in 3.04 above it is the view of the County Council that to amend the ward boundaries in the way proposed as part of the current Community Review would not be appropriate at this time.

5.111 *Flintshire's proposal is that pending the Local Democracy and Boundary Commission for Wales reviewing the county electoral divisions, the inconsistent ratio of electorate to councillors should be addressed by amending the number of councillors elected from each ward. It is proposed that the number of councillors from Mold Junction should be reduced from 5 to 4 and the number from Stonebridge Ward increased by 1 from 9 to 10. The overall membership of the Council would remain at 14.*

Sealand Community Council

5.112 The community of Sealand is presently divided into two wards. The East ward elects four Councillors and the West ward elects eight Councillors. The overall membership of the Council is twelve.

5.113 As part of the review process Flintshire identified an inconsistent ratio of electorate to Councillors across the wards.

5.114 During the review period Sealand Community Council proposed that it should be de-warded and the overall membership of the Council increase from twelve Councillors to thirteen Councillors. The local County Councillor also made the same proposal. No other proposals were received from interested parties.

5.115 *Flintshire's proposal is to agree that the Community Council and the local County Councillor and the Council should have its warding arrangements removed and the membership of the Community Council should be increased from twelve to thirteen Councillors as required by the first guiding principle.*

Shotton Town Council

5.116 The town of Shotton is divided into three wards. The East ward elects four Councillors, the Higher ward elects six Councillors and the West ward elects four Councillors. The overall membership of Council is fourteen.

5.117 As part of the review process Flintshire identified no anomalies.

5.118 During the review period no response was received from the Town Council and no other proposals were received from interested parties.

5.119 *Flintshire's proposal is that the current arrangements provide effective and convenient local government.*

Trelawnyd & Gwaenysgor Community Council

5.120 The community of Trelawnyd & Gwaenysgor is presently divided into two wards. The Gwaenysgor ward elects three Councillors and the Trelawnyd ward elects six Councillors. The overall membership of Council is nine.

5.121 As part of the review process Flintshire identified no anomalies.

5.122 During the review period no response was received from the Community Council and no other proposals were received from interested parties.

5.123 *Flintshire's proposal is that the current arrangements provide effective and convenient local government.*

Treuddyn Community Council

5.124 The community of Treuddyn has a membership of eleven Councillors. As part of the review process Flintshire identified no anomalies.

5.125 During the review period Treuddyn Community Council proposed to alter the external boundary between Treuddyn Community Council and Llanfynydd Community Council. It should be redrawn so that four properties currently along Ffordd-y-Blaenau be transferred from Llanfynydd Community Council to the settlement of Treuddyn. No other proposals were received from interested parties.

5.126 *Flintshire's proposal is that the external boundary should not be altered as it does not form a natural boundary as required by the guiding principle. It is considered that the current arrangements provide effective and convenient local government.*

Whitford Community Council

5.127 The community of Whitford is divided into two wards. The Carmel ward elects ten Councillors and the Whitford ward elects three Councillors. The overall membership of the Council is thirteen.

5.128 As part of the review process Flintshire identified an inconsistent ratio of electorate to Councillors across the wards.

5.129 During the review period no response was received from the Community Council and no other proposals were received from interested parties.

5.130 *Flintshire's proposal to address the inconsistent ratio of electorate to Councillors across the wards is that, the Carmel ward elect ten Councillors and the Whitford ward elect two Councillors. The overall membership of the Council would reduce from thirteen to twelve.*

Ysceifiog Community Council

5.131 The community of Ysceifiog has a membership of ten Councillors. As part of the review process Flintshire identified no anomalies.

5.132 During the review period Ysceifiog Community Council proposed that the current arrangements were satisfactory and that there should be no changes. No other proposals were received from interested parties.

5.133 *Flintshire's proposal is to agree with the Community Council as it is considered the current arrangements provide effective and convenient local government.*

6.00 Flintshire County Council's Draft Proposals

6.01 A table showing Flintshire's proposals are listed in Appendix 3.

7.00 Current Arrangements

7.01 A table showing the current arrangements of Town and Community Councils are listed in Appendix 4.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

First Principle

To provide effective and convenient local government [Sec 54(1) of the Local Government Act 1972].

In considering this principle it is believed that local Town & Community Councils need to have a membership between seven as a minimum and twenty as a maximum and the following table to be used as a flexible guide.

Electorate	Suggested Councillor Allocation
0 -299	7
300 – 499	8
500 – 749	9
750 – 999	10
1000 – 1499	11
1500 – 1999	12
2000 – 3999	13
4000 – 5999	14
6000 – 8999	15
9000 – 11,999	16
12,000 +	17 - 20

Second Principle

To recognise that the different demands and issues between urban and rural communities will mean different levels of representation being appropriate.

This is reflected in the above table having an increased Councillor allocation for smaller electorates.

Third Principle

To consider the number and distribution of the local government electors in each community including any change in either, which is likely to take place within 5 years [Sch 11, para 4(3)(a) of the Local Government Act 1972]

For example, if a large residential development is likely to be implemented within 5 years it is likely to lead to an increase in the number of electors in that community.

Fourth Principle

In considering whether any town or community is to be divided into wards regard should be had to the questions whether [Sch 11, para 4(2) of the Local Government Act 1972] –

- a) ***The number or distribution of the local government electors for the town or community is such as to make a single election of town or community councillors impractical or inconvenient.***

If it is impractical or inconvenient to have a single election of the town or community council that would support having separate wards within that town or community council.

- b) ***It is desirable that any area or areas of the town or community should be separately represented on the town or community council.***

It may, for example, be desirable because a particular part of the town or community has a separate identity which should be reflected by it being a separate ward.

Fifth Principle

Where a town or community is being divided into wards regard will be had to the desirability of fixing boundaries which are and will remain easily identifiable [Sch 11, para 4(3)(b) of the Local Government Act 1972].

Examples of such boundaries are the course of a river or the route of a road.

Sixth Principle

Where a town or community is divided into wards regard should be had to any local ties which will be broken by the fixing of any particular boundaries [Sch 11, para 4(3)(c) of the Local Government Act 1972.

In fixing ward boundaries identifiable local ties should not be broken wherever this is practical.

Seventh Principle

Where a town or community is divided into wards to equalise as far as practical the number of electors in each ward.

This is to ensure fair representation on the Council.

Eighth Principle

Where a town or community is divided into wards for each ward to elect the same number of Councillors as far as practical.

This is to ensure fair representation on the Council.

Please note that the objective of the 7th & 8th principles is to have approximately the same ratio of electors to Councillors across the different wards that a Town or Community may be divided into. As long as this is achieved there does not need to be the same number of electors and Councillors in each ward.

Appendix Two

List of who made a proposal during the first stage of the review	
Town / Community Councils	County Councillors
Argoed Community Council	Councillor N. Matthews, Gwernymynydd & Nercwys
Bagillt Community Council	Councillor C. Carver, Hawarden
Broughton & Bretton Community Council	Councillor T. Newhouse, Hope
Brynford Community Council	Councillor H. Bateman, Mold Broncoed
Buckley Town Council	Councillor C. Hinds, Penyffordd
Caerwys Town Council	Councillor D. Williams, Penyffordd
Cilcain Community Council	Councillor D. Wisinger, Queensferry
Connah's Quay Town Council	Councillor C. Jones, Sealand
Flint Town Council	
Gwernaffield Community Council	Local Residents
Gwernymynydd Community Council	
Halkyn Community Council	Mr & Mrs. Harrison, Greenfield
Hawarden Community Council	Mr. K. Corbett, Mold
Higher Kinnerton Community Council	Mr. J. Ellis, Mold
Holywell Town Council	
Hope Community Council	
Leeswood Community Council	
Llanasa Community Council	
Llanfynydd Community Council	
Mold Town Council	
Mostyn Community Council	
Nannerch Community Council	
Nercwys Community Council	
Northop Community Council	
Northop Hall Community Council	
Penyffordd Community Council	
Queensferry Community Council	
Saltney Town Council	
Sealand Community Council	
Shotton Town Council	
Trelawnyd & Gwaenysgor Community Council	
Treuddyn Community Council	
Whitford Community Council	
Ysceifiog Community Council	

Flintshire County Council's Draft Proposals

Town / Community	Ward	Electorate (1 May 2013)	Current No of Seats	Av. No of Electors per Cllr	Current No. of Seats per Council	Summary of Draft Proposals	Ward	Electorate (1 May 2013) amended	Proposed No of Seats	Av. No of Electors per Cllr	Proposed No. of Seats per Council
Argoed	East	1,647	5	329.4	16	Alteration to the warding arrangements The new wards will need to be renamed Reduction in Councillor numbers	East	2,199	7	314.1	14
	New Brighton	885	3	295.0			South				
	South	552	2	276.0			New Brighton				
	West	1,525	6	254.2			West				
Bagillt	East	1,501	7	214.4	14	No changes	East	1,501	7	214.4	14
	West	1,643	7	234.7			West	1,643	7	234.7	
Broughton and Bretton	East	858	2	429.0	14	Transfer properties in the Old Warren that is currently part of Penyffordd Community Council Alteration to the warding arrangements	North East	1,749	5	349.8	14
	North	891	4	222.8			South	2,914	9	323.8	
	South	2,845	8	355.6							
Brynford		853	10	85.3	10	No changes		853	10	85.3	10
Buckley	Bistre East	2,729	5	545.8	18	Increase the Councillor numbers.	Bistre East	2,729	5	545.8	20
	Bistre West	3,370	6	561.7			Bistre West	3,370	5	674.0	
	Mountain	2,342	2	1171.0			Mountain	2,342	4	585.5	
	Pentrobin	3,736	5	747.2			Pentrobin	3,736	6	622.7	
Caerwys		1,025	11	93.2	11	No changes		1,025	11	93.2	11
Cilcain	Cilcain	580	6	96.7	12	No changes	Cilcain	580	6	96.7	12
	Rhydymwyn	565	6	94.2			Rhydymwyn	565	6	94.2	
Connah's Quay	Central	2,523	5	504.6	20	Redistribution of councillors across the wards	Central	2,523	4	630.8	20
	Golftyn	4,041	5	808.2			Golftyn	4,041	6	673.5	
	South	4,443	6	740.5			South	4,443	7	634.7	
	Wepre	1,760	4	440.0			Wepre	1,760	3	586.7	
Flint	Castle	1,579	4	394.8	18	Reduction in Councillor numbers	Castle	1,579	3	526.3	17
	Coleshill	3,130	5	626.0			Coleshill	3,130	5	626.0	
	Oakenholt	2,165	4	541.3			Oakenholt	2,165	4	541.3	
	Trelawny	2,767	5	553.4			Trelawny	2,767	5	553.4	
Gwernaffield	Gwernaffield	784	6	130.7	12	No changes	Gwernaffield	784	6	130.7	12
	Pantymwyn	832	6	138.7			Pantymwyn	832	6	138.7	
Gwenymynydd		925	11	84.1	11	No changes		925	11	84.1	11
Halkyn	Halkyn	422	3	140.7	13	Alteration to the warding arrangements The new ward will need to be renamed Alteration to external boundary with Mold	Halkyn	1378	8	172.3	13
	Pentre Halkyn	931	4	232.8			Rhesycae				
	Rhesycae	297	2	148.5			Rhosesmor				
	Rhosesmor	685	4	171.3			Pentre Halkyn				
Hawarden	Aston	2,559	5	511.8	17	Reduction in Councillor numbers	Aston	2,559	4	639.8	16
	Ewloe	4,218	4	1054.5			Ewloe	4,218	6	703.0	
	Hawarden	1,532	3	510.7			Hawarden	1,532	2	766.0	
	Mancot	2,718	5	543.6			Mancot	2,718	4	679.5	
Higher Kinnerton		1,283	9	142.6	9	No changes		2,718	9	302.0	9
Holywell	Central	1,485	4	371.3	17	Reduction in Councillor numbers	Central	1,485	3	495.0	15
	East	1,408	4	352.0			East	1,408	3	469.3	
	Greenfield	2,114	5	422.8			Greenfield	2,114	5	422.8	
	West	1,858	4	464.5			West	1,858	4	464.5	
Hope	Caergwrle	1,289	6	214.8		Reduction in Councillor numbers	Caergwrle	1,289	5	257.8	

	Hope	1,997	8	249.6	14		Hope	1,997	8	249.6	13
Leeswood	Leeswood	1,365	11	124.1	13	No changes	Leeswood	1,365	11	124.1	13
		Pontblyddyn	239	2			119.5	Pontblyddyn	239	2	
Llanasa	Axton	826	4	206.5	15	Reduction in Councillor numbers	Axton	826	3	275.3	14
	Ffynnongroyw	1,542	6	257.0			Ffynnongroyw	1,542	6	257.0	
	Gronant	1,249	5	249.8			Gronant	1,249	5	249.8	
Llanfynydd	Cefn y Bedd	409	4	102.3	12	Redistribution of Councillors across the wards	Cefn y Bedd	409	4	102.3	12
	Cymau	392	2	196.0			Cymau	392	3	130.7	
	Ffrith	469	4	117.3			Ffrith	469	3	156.3	
	Pontybodkin	204	2	102.0			Pontybodkin	204	2	102.0	
Mold	Broncoed	1,987	4	496.8	16	Alteration to the warding arrangements Transfer properties from West to East ward, South to West ward and Broncoed to South ward Amendment to external boundary transfer 13 properties from Halkyn Community Council	Broncoed	1,880	4	470.0	16
	East	1,520	4	380.0			East	2,047	4	511.8	
	South	2,126	4	531.5			South	1,935	4	483.8	
	West	2,029	4	507.3			West	1,822	4	455.5	
Mostyn	Mostyn	1,011	9	112.3	12	Reduction in Councillor numbers	Mostyn	1,011	8	126.4	11
	Rhewl	454	3	151.3			Rhewl	454	3	151.3	
Nannerch		409	8	51.1	8	No changes		409	8	51.1	8
Nercwys		461	9	51.2	9	No changes		461	9	51.2	9
Northop	Northop	1,027	6	171.2	13	No changes	Northop	1,027	6	171.2	13
	Sychdyn	1,468	7	209.7			Sychdyn	1,468	7	209.7	
Northop Hall		1,274	11	115.8	11	No changes		1,274	11	115.8	11
Penyffordd		3,035	10	303.5	10	Amendment to external boundary transfer 26 properties from Penyffordd Community Council to Broughton and Bretton Community Council. Transfer 6 properties from Higher Kinnerton Community Council to Penyffordd Community Council and transfer 1 property from Leeswood Community Council to Penyffordd Community Council. Increase the Councillor numbers.		2,980	13	229.2	13
Queensferry	Pentre	132	2	66.0	13	Alteration to the warding arrangements The new ward will need to be renamed Reduction in Councillor numbers	Pentre				12
	Queensferry	438	4	109.5			Queensferry	570	5	114.0	
	Sandycroft	953	7	136.1			Sandycroft	953	7	136.1	
Saltney	Mold Junction	972	5	194.4	14	Reduction in Councillor numbers	Mold Junction	972	4	243.0	14
	Stonebridge	2,759	9	306.6			Stonebridge	2,759	10	275.9	
Sealand	East	900	4	225.0	12	Removal of the warding arrangement Increase the Councillor numbers				13	13
	West	1,303	8	162.9				2,203	13		
Shotton	East	1,436	4	359.0	14	No changes	East	1,436	4	359.0	14
	Higher	1,836	6	306.0			Higher	1,836	6	306.0	
	West	1,599	4	399.8			West	1,599	4	399.8	
Trelawnyd & Gwaenysgor	Gwaenysgor	219	3	73.0	9	No changes	Gwaenysgor	219	3	73.0	9
	Trelawnyd	498	6	83.0			Trelawnyd	498	6	83.0	
Treuddyn		1,306	11	118.7	11	No changes		1,306	11	118.7	11
Whitford	Carmel	1,534	10	153.4	13	Reduction in Councillor numbers	Carmel	1,534	10	153.4	12
	Whitford	356	3	118.7			Whitford	356	2	178.0	
Ysceifiog		1,032	10	103.2	10	No changes		1,032	10	103.2	10
		118,061	441		441			117,307	436		436