

FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

REPORT TO: **FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

DATE: **THURSDAY, 24 SEPTEMBER 2015**

REPORT BY: **CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

SUBJECT: **CONSULTATION ON ELECTORAL REVIEWS FOR
MERGED AUTHORITIES**

1.00 **PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1.01 To agree a Council response to the Welsh Government consultation on electoral arrangements for merged authorities.

2.00 **BACKGROUND**

2.01 Welsh Government has recently issued a consultation paper on the electoral arrangements for the intended future merging of local authorities. The paper covers key issues including the total number of councillors for each merged authority and benchmark councillor:elector ratios. The closing date for responses is 9 November 2015. The consultation questions are attached at Appendix 1.

2.02 The Welsh Local Government Association (WLGA) have provided some initial guiding comments which are attached at Appendix 2. The WLGA proposed response will be discussed and agreed its Co-ordinating Committee to be held on 30 October 2015.

3.00 **CONSIDERATIONS**

3.01 A key consideration during any electoral review is the councillor:elector ratio which impacts on the size and possible grouping of wards. Ratios will also determine the total overall number of councillors on a local authority.

3.02 Welsh Government is proposing a ratio of 1 councillor:4000 electors. This compares to the current ratio of approximately 1:1691 in Flintshire and 1:1806 across Wales as a whole.

3.03 By comparison when the new whole county unitary authorities were created in 2009 the projected ratios (allowing for anticipated growth) were as follows:

County	Ratio at time of review	Anticipated ratio after growth
Cornwall	3,334	3,537
Durham	3,234	3,268
Shropshire	3,121	3,321
Wiltshire	3,525	3,695

3.04 Further advice will be given at the meeting to inform the debate.

4.00 RECOMMENDATIONS

4.01 That Council delegates authority to respond to the consultation paper to the Chief Executive in consultation with the Leader to make a final written response based on the discussion at the meeting.

5.00 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.01 None.

6.00 ANTI POVERTY IMPACT

6.01 Adequate democratic representation is a key foundation to ensuring that the potential impact of future actions or issues such as poverty, the environment and equalities is properly scrutinised and that the views of communities are heard.

7.00 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

7.01 As 6.01.

8.00 EQUALITIES IMPACT

8.01 As 6.01.

9.00 PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

9.01 None.

10.00 CONSULTATION REQUIRED

10.01 This is a public consultation by Welsh Government so everyone may comment.

11.00 CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN

11.01 All county councillors.

12.00 APPENDICES

12.01 Appendix 1 – Consultation Questions

Appendix 2 – WLGA Initial Comments

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION ACT) 1985
BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

As referred to in the report.

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