

FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Date of Meeting	Tuesday, 6 December 2016
Report Subject	Local Democracy and Boundary Commission for Wales (LDBCW) Electoral Review – Policy and Practice
Report Author	Chief Executive

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The attached policy and practice document sets out how The Local Democracy and Boundary Commission for Wales (LDBCW) intends to conduct its review of all 22 principal Councils in Wales.

The objective of an electoral review is to ensure that within each local authority area electoral arrangements achieve parity of representation. This means having the same number of electors in each division, as far as is possible and practical. Utilising the existing community structure within a local authority, an electoral review will take into account community identities, electoral equality and consultation feedback to ensure that the Commissions proposals uphold the interests of effective and convenient local government for the electorate within Wales.

The Commission's review of the County of Flintshire will commence in Quarter 4 2018 and conclude in Quarter 2 2020.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1	Members are requested to note the details of the revised Policy and Practice Document and that the review for Flintshire will commence in Quarter 4 2018 and conclude in Quarter 2 2020.
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REPORT DETAILS

1.00	EXPLAINING THE LOCAL DEMOCRACY AND BOUNDARY COMMISSION FOR WALES (LDBCW) ELECTORAL REVIEW – POLICY AND PRACTICE DOCUMENT
1.01	The Local Government (Democracy) (Wales) Act 2013 requires the Local Democracy and Boundary Commission for Wales (LDBCW) to publish a 10 year programme of electoral reviews.
1.02	In December 2013 the Commission published its first Electoral Reviews: Policy and Practice document setting out the Commission intended timetable for conducting the reviews of the 22 principal councils in Wales, the Council Size policy; and, the policies and procedures that it would apply in the conduct of the reviews.
1.03	In January 2014 the Commission on Public Service Governance and Delivery reported to the First Minister recommending changes to the make-up and operation of Welsh principal councils. Following this the Commission suspended its electoral review programme.
1.04	On 23 June 2016 the Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Local Government published a Written Statement asking the Commission to restart its 10 year programme with a new prioritised timetable with an expectation that all 22 electoral reviews be completed in time for the new arrangements to be put into place for the 2022 Local Government Elections.
1.05	The revised Electoral Reviews: Policy and Practice sets out the Commission's intended timetable and approach for conducting the reviews of Wales' principle councils.
1.06	As part of the review approximately three months prior to the planned start of a review, Commission officials will meet with officers of the Council.
1.07	The Council will provide specific data including five year forecasts of electorate. The requirements is outlined in the technical note attached in Appendix 3.
1.08	The Commission has adopted a methodology to determine the number of elected members appropriate for each council. This is explained in Appendix 2 - Council Size Policy. Flintshire has been given a category allocation number 2 (Table 2). The Councillor to population ratio is 1:3,000 (Table 3). Our current divisions have electorates between 995 and 4,519. The 'target' number of Councillors determine for Flintshire is 63 (Table 5).
1.09	The assessment and timetable for the programme of reviews can be found in Appendix 1. The Commission's review of the County of Flintshire will commence in Quarter 4 2018 and conclude in Quarter 2 2020.

2.00	RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS
2.01	There are no specific resource implications within this report.

3.00	CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED / CARRIED OUT
3.01	The Commission will consult with all members of the Council, Town and Community councils and other interested parties.

4.00	RISK MANAGEMENT
4.01	No risk management issues have been identified during the preparation of this report.

5.00	APPENDICES
5.01	<p>Electoral Reviews: Policy And Practice Document 2016</p> <p>Appendix 1 - Electoral Review Programme 2017: Assessment and Timetable</p> <p>Appendix 2 - Electoral Reviews: Council Size Policy</p> <p>Appendix 3 - Technical Note: Requirements for each principal area for the provision of statistical data to the Local Democracy and Boundary Commission for Wales.</p> <p>Appendix 4 - Written Statement by Mark Drakeford, Cabinet Secretary For Finance and Local Government</p>

6.00	LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS
6.01	<p>Electoral Reviews: Policy and Practice document (March 2012)</p> <p>Consultation Paper on Council size (May 2012).</p> <p>Preferred Methodology Consultation Paper (March 2013)</p> <p>Contact Officer: Lynn Phillips, Team Leader – Democratic Services Telephone: 01352 702329 E-mail: lyn.phillips@flintshire.gov.uk</p>

7.00	GLOSSARY OF TERMS
7.01	Local Democracy and Boundary Commission for Wales: The role of the Commission is to keep under review all local government areas in Wales, and the electoral arrangements for the principal areas, and to make

such proposals to the Welsh Government as seem desirable in the interests of effective and convenient local government.

Local Government (Democracy) Wales Act 2013: An Act of the National Assembly for Wales to make provision about the constitution and functions of the Local Democracy and Boundary Commission for Wales; to make various provisions relating to local government; and for connected purposes.

Electoral Review: A review of electoral arrangements for a local authority area.

Council Size Methodology: A model the Commission has adopted for determining the size of Councils.

Assessment: 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 the Cabinet Secretary's desire for review of certain council's to be undertaken first.

Timetable: Order of when the review will take place.