

**FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

<b>Date of Meeting</b>	Tuesday, 11 December 2018
<b>Report Subject</b>	Flintshire Electoral Review
<b>Report Author</b>	Chief Executive

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The Local Democracy and Boundary Commission for Wales (LDBCW) are reviewing the electoral arrangements for the County of Flintshire with a view to considering and formulating proposals for future arrangements.

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

The 12 week consultation period began on 1 November 2018 and closes on 30 January 2019. This has been extended to allow Flintshire County Council to consider its final proposals at County Council on 29 January 2019.

A verbal report will be made at the meeting on the process for engaging members and aiming to develop options which may or may not meet agreement for submission.

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

1	That the County Council notes the work undertaken on the review of electoral arrangements for Flintshire.
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## REPORT DETAILS

<b>1.00</b>	<b>EXPLAINING THE REVIEW OF ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR FLINTSHIRE</b>
1.01	The Local Government (Democracy) (Wales) Act 2013 requires the Local Democracy & Boundary Commission for Wales (LDBCW) to publish a 10 year programme of electoral reviews.
1.02	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.
1.03	The Cabinet Secretary agreed to the Commissions proposed timetable, of which Flintshire was sixteenth in the programme beginning in November 2018.
1.04	The Commission has published a Policy and Practice document 2016 and 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 1:2,500 (Table 3). Our current electoral wards have electorates between 1,041 and 4,582. The number of Councillors determined for Flintshire after constraints have been applied is 63 (Table 5). The aim is to obtain a Councillor/electorate ratio of 1:1,895.
1.05	The Commission met with Group Leaders and Officers on 10 October 2018 to explain the process and timetable for the review.
1.06	The Commission gave a presentation to the full Council and Town & Community councils on 23 October 2018. The Commission explained the process and outlined what would and would not be included as part of the review. The Policy and Practice document, statistical information and a map showing the existing variance in electoral representation from the proposed County average was circulated at the meeting. It was decided at this meeting that the preference was to reach a local agreement for presentation to the Commission as far as possible.
1.07	An email was sent to all Members on 31 October 2018, inviting Members to make suggestions on how to create wards as close to 1:1,895 electors as possible. We specifically invited councillors who represented 'orange shaded' electoral wards or those adjacent wards to make suggestions.
1.08	The first stage of the process began on 1 November 2018. The 12 week initial consultation period closes on 23 January 2019. The Commission has agreed to extend the consultation period until 30 January 2019 so that a report can be made to full Council on 29 January 2019. Representations can be made to the Commission as a Member of the public, as an individual Councillor, local Party or as a Town or Community Council.

1.09	<p>An all Member workshop took place on the 6 December 2018 to discuss all suggestions and the outcome of the workshop will be reported verbally to Members. At the workshop a presentation was made on explaining the process so far, and the possible outcomes.</p> <p>Following the workshop three drop in sessions in December would be offered, where suggestions could be explored further.</p> <p>An evening workshop in early January will be held in order to prepare a final report for consideration at County Council on 29 January 2019.</p>
1.10	Council Officers worked on objective suggestions and a range of options formulated a proactive discussion at the workshop along with Member suggestions.
1.11	Once the initial consultation period has ended Stage two of the process will begin. The Commission will prepare a Draft Proposals Report which will be published in Autumn 2019. There will then be a further 12 week consultation period.
1.12	At Stage three, the Commission will prepare a Final Proposals Report which will be submitted to Welsh Government in Summer 2020.
1.13	Following that Welsh Government will consider these proposals at Stage four of the process.
1.14	After 6 weeks Welsh Government may make an Order and there will be an opportunity to write to Welsh Government with comments during this period.
1.15	The final Stage is that the electoral arrangements for Flintshire come into force for May 2022 Local Government Elections.

<b>2.00</b>	<b>RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS</b>
2.01	There are no specific resource implications within this report.

<b>3.00</b>	<b>CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED / CARRIED OUT</b>
3.01	The Commission are consulting with all members of the Council, Town and Community council and other interested parties.

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

<b>5.00</b>	<b>APPENDICES</b>
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5.01	None.

<b>6.00</b>	<b>LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS</b>
6.01	<p>Electoral Reviews: Policy and Practice document 2016  <a href="http://ldbc.gov.wales/reviews/electoralreviews/58417614/?lang=en">http://ldbc.gov.wales/reviews/electoralreviews/58417614/?lang=en</a></p> <p>Local Democracy and Boundary Commission for Wales Presentation to County Council on Tuesday 23 October 2018</p> <p>Email of the Democratic Services Manager to all Members dated 31 October 2018.</p> <p><b>Contact Officer:</b> Lynn Phillips, Team Leader – Democratic Services  <b>Telephone:</b> 01352 702329  <b>E-mail:</b> <a href="mailto:lyn.phillips@flintshire.gov.uk">lyn.phillips@flintshire.gov.uk</a></p>

<b>7.00</b>	<b>GLOSSARY OF TERMS</b>
7.01	<p><b>Local Democracy and Boundary Commission for Wales:</b> 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.</p> <p><b>Local Government (Democracy) Wales Act 2013:</b> 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.</p> <p><b>Electoral Review:</b> A review of electoral arrangements for a local authority area.</p> <p><b>Council Size Methodology:</b> A model the Commission has adopted for determining the size of Councils.</p> <p><b>Assessment:</b> 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.</p> <p><b>Timetable:</b> Order of when the review will take place.</p>