

FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Date of Meeting	Wednesday, 11 th September 2019
Report Subject	Local Democracy & Boundary Commission for Wales Local Review
Report Author	Chief Executive and Chief Officer (Governance)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Local Democracy & Boundary Commission for Wales has published its draft proposals for Flintshire.

The Commission has proposed changes to the arrangement of local electoral wards to make a step towards achieving electoral parity across the County.

The Commission proposes a council of 65 members. This would be a reduction from the current size of 70 and would achieve an average ratio of 1,836 electors to each member.

The proposals are published per public consultation.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1	That Council advises what process it would like to follow to prepare and approve a response before the end of November.
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REPORT DETAILS

1.00	THE LOCAL DEMOCRACY & BOUNDARY COMMISSION PROPSALS FOR FLINTSHIRE
1.01	The Local Democracy & Boundary Commission for Wales has published its Review of the Electoral Arrangements for the County of Flintshire which sets out its draft proposals for our local electoral wards.
1.02	The initial consultation process took place between November 2018 and January 2019. The Commission had indicated at that time that Flintshire should have a Councillor/electorate ratio of 1:1,895. We currently have electorates of between 1,041 and 4,582.
1.03	During the consultation period we held extensive discussions with Members, including two workshops, a series of drop-in sessions and individual and group discussions, before drafting a response. The County Council approved a response at our meeting on 29 th January.
1.04	Members worked together to make proposals to the Commission for changes which would improve local representation. It was noted that Members representing rural areas had raised concerns that the size and topography of a ward is not taken into account by the Commission in balancing the ratio requirement with the logistics of local representation.
1.05	The Commission received representations from the County Council, 10 town and community councils, 14 county councillors, 6 town and community councillors, the Alyn and Deeside Conservative Association, Bagillt Labour Party and 6 members of the public. The Commission considered the representations before it formulated its own proposals. A summary of these representations can be found at Appendix 5 of the Draft Proposals report (attached).
1.06	<p>The Commission has proposed a change to the arrangement of our electoral wards to achieve what it believes will be “a significant improvement” in the level of electoral parity across the County of Flintshire.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Commission has proposed a Council of 65 members - a reduction from the current size of 70. This would result in a proposed county average ratio of 1,836 electors per member.• The Commission has proposed 39 electoral wards - a reduction from the 57 existing wards.• The proposed new wards show less variation from the target ratio of members to electors from the current.

1.07	<p>The Commission has proposed no changes to 14 electoral wards:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Broughton North East • Broughton South • Caerwys • Cilcain • Connah's Quay Wepre • Ewloe • Flint Coleshill • Greenfield • Mold Broncoed • Mostyn • Penyffordd • Sealand • Shotton West • Whitford 																																																				
1.08	<p>The Commission is proposing 17 x single member wards, 18 x 2 member wards and 4 x 3 member wards:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="320 801 1385 2074"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="320 801 1046 853">Ward name</th> <th data-bbox="1046 801 1385 853">Number of members</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td data-bbox="320 853 1046 904">Argoed & New Brighton</td><td data-bbox="1046 853 1385 904">2</td></tr> <tr><td data-bbox="320 904 1046 956">Aston & Hawarden</td><td data-bbox="1046 904 1385 956">2</td></tr> <tr><td data-bbox="320 956 1046 1008">Bagillt</td><td data-bbox="1046 956 1385 1008">2</td></tr> <tr><td data-bbox="320 1008 1046 1059">Broughton North East</td><td data-bbox="1046 1008 1385 1059">1</td></tr> <tr><td data-bbox="320 1059 1046 1111">Broughton South</td><td data-bbox="1046 1059 1385 1111">2</td></tr> <tr><td data-bbox="320 1111 1046 1162">Brynford & Halkyn</td><td data-bbox="1046 1111 1385 1162">2</td></tr> <tr><td data-bbox="320 1162 1046 1214">Buckley Bistre</td><td data-bbox="1046 1162 1385 1214">3</td></tr> <tr><td data-bbox="320 1214 1046 1265">Buckley Mountain & Pentrobin</td><td data-bbox="1046 1214 1385 1265">3</td></tr> <tr><td data-bbox="320 1265 1046 1317">Caergwrle</td><td data-bbox="1046 1265 1385 1317">1</td></tr> <tr><td data-bbox="320 1317 1046 1368">Caerwys</td><td data-bbox="1046 1317 1385 1368">1</td></tr> <tr><td data-bbox="320 1368 1046 1420">Cilcain</td><td data-bbox="1046 1368 1385 1420">1</td></tr> <tr><td data-bbox="320 1420 1046 1471">Connah's Quay Central</td><td data-bbox="1046 1420 1385 1471">2</td></tr> <tr><td data-bbox="320 1471 1046 1523">Connah's Quay Golftyn</td><td data-bbox="1046 1471 1385 1523">2</td></tr> <tr><td data-bbox="320 1523 1046 1574">Connah's Quay South</td><td data-bbox="1046 1523 1385 1574">2</td></tr> <tr><td data-bbox="320 1574 1046 1626">Connah's Quay Wepre</td><td data-bbox="1046 1574 1385 1626">1</td></tr> <tr><td data-bbox="320 1626 1046 1677">Ewloe</td><td data-bbox="1046 1626 1385 1677">2</td></tr> <tr><td data-bbox="320 1677 1046 1729">Flint Castle</td><td data-bbox="1046 1677 1385 1729">1</td></tr> <tr><td data-bbox="320 1729 1046 1780">Flint Coleshill</td><td data-bbox="1046 1729 1385 1780">2</td></tr> <tr><td data-bbox="320 1780 1046 1832">Flint Oakenholt & Trelawny</td><td data-bbox="1046 1780 1385 1832">3</td></tr> <tr><td data-bbox="320 1832 1046 1883">Greenfield</td><td data-bbox="1046 1832 1385 1883">1</td></tr> <tr><td data-bbox="320 1883 1046 1935">Gwernaffield & Gwernymynydd</td><td data-bbox="1046 1883 1385 1935">2</td></tr> <tr><td data-bbox="320 1935 1046 1986">Higher Kinnerton & Hope</td><td data-bbox="1046 1935 1385 1986">2</td></tr> <tr><td data-bbox="320 1986 1046 2038">Holywell</td><td data-bbox="1046 1986 1385 2038">3</td></tr> <tr><td data-bbox="320 2038 1046 2089">Leeswood</td><td data-bbox="1046 2038 1385 2089">1</td></tr> <tr><td data-bbox="320 2089 1046 2141">Llanasa & Trelawnyd</td><td data-bbox="1046 2089 1385 2141">2</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	Ward name	Number of members	Argoed & New Brighton	2	Aston & Hawarden	2	Bagillt	2	Broughton North East	1	Broughton South	2	Brynford & Halkyn	2	Buckley Bistre	3	Buckley Mountain & Pentrobin	3	Caergwrle	1	Caerwys	1	Cilcain	1	Connah's Quay Central	2	Connah's Quay Golftyn	2	Connah's Quay South	2	Connah's Quay Wepre	1	Ewloe	2	Flint Castle	1	Flint Coleshill	2	Flint Oakenholt & Trelawny	3	Greenfield	1	Gwernaffield & Gwernymynydd	2	Higher Kinnerton & Hope	2	Holywell	3	Leeswood	1	Llanasa & Trelawnyd	2
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	Mancot & Queensferry	2		
	Mold Broncoed	1		
	Mold East	1		
	Mold South	1		
	Mold West	1		
	Mostyn	1		
	Northop & Northop Hall	2		
	Penyffordd	2		
	Saltney	2		
	Sealand	1		
	Shotton East & Higher	2		
	Shotton West	1		
	Treuddyn	1		
	Whitford	1		
1.09	<p>A reduction in 5 wards is proposed:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The disaggregation of Llanfynydd between the neighbouring Caergwrle, Leeswood and Treuddyn wards. • The amalgamation of the current Aston and Hawarden wards - which between them have three Members - into a new ward called 'Aston and Hawarden' which will have two Members. • The reorganisation of the four Buckley wards - which are currently represented by seven Members - into two new wards 'Buckley Bistre' and 'Buckley Mountain and Pentrobin', both of which would have three Members. • The amalgamation of the current Ffynngroyw, Gronant and Trelawnyd & Gwaenysgor wards - which between them have three Members - into a new ward called 'Llanasa & Trelawnyd' which would have two Members. • The amalgamation of the Mancot and Queensferry wards - which currently have two and one representatives respectively - into one 'Mancot & Queensferry' ward with two Members. 			
1.10	<p>The following table shows the current wards alongside the proposed wards. Those names in bold are the proposed names of wards. Whilst most proposals are for the amalgamation of wards with broadly similar boundaries to the present, the Commission has accepted many of the Council's suggestions for some slight amendments, mostly in our County towns.</p>			
1.11	Current Ward	Number of members	Proposed Ward	Number of members
	Argoed	1	See below	
	New Brighton	1	Argoed & New Brighton	2
	Aston	2	See below	
	Hawarden	1	Aston & Hawarden	2

Bagillt East	1	See below	
Bagillt West	1	Bagillt	2
Broughton North East	1	No change	1
Broughton South	2	No change	2
Brynford	1	See below	
Halkyn	1	Brynford & Halkyn	2
Buckley Bistre East	2	See below	
Buckley Bistre West	2	Buckley Bistre	3
Buckley Mountain	1	See below	
Buckley Pentrobin	2	Buckley Mountain & Pentrobin	3
Caergwrle	1	Caergwrle (incorporating the Cefn y Bedd and Cymau wards of Llanfynydd)	1
Caerwys	1	No change	1
Cilcain	1	No change	1
Connah's Quay Central	2	Slight change as proposed by Council	2
Connah's Quay Golftyn	2	Slight change as proposed by Council	2
Connah's Quay South	2	Slight change as proposed by Council	2
Connah's Quay Wepre	1	No change	1
Ewloe	2	No change	2
Flint Castle	1	Slight change as proposed by Council	1
Flint Coleshill	2	No change	2
Flint Oakenholt	1	See below	
Flint Trelawny	2	Flint Oakenholt & Trelawny	3
Greenfield	1	No change	1
Gwernaffield	1	See below	
Gwernymynydd	1	Gwernaffield & Gwernymynydd	2
Higher Kinnerton	1	See below	
Hope	1	Higher Kinnerton & Hope	2
Holywell Central	1	See below	
Holywell East	1	See below	
Holywell West	1	Holywell	3
Leeswood	1	Leeswood (Incorporating the Pontybodkin ward of Llanfynydd)	1
Gronant	1	See below	
Ffynnongroyw	1	See below	

Trelawnyd & Gwaenysgor	1	Llanasa & Trelawnyd	2
Mancot	2	See below	
Queensferry	1	Mancot & Queensferry	2
Llanfynydd	1	The areas which formed this ward are to be disaggregated to the new Caergwrle, Leeswood and Treuddyn	
Mold Broncoed	1	No change	1
Mold East	1	Slight change as proposed by Council	1
Mold South	1	Slight change as proposed by Council	1
Mold West	1	Slight change as proposed by Council	1
Mostyn	1	No change	1
Northop	1	See below	
Northop Hall	1	Northop & Northop Hall	2
Penyffordd	2	No change	2
Saltney Mold Junction	1	See below	
Saltney Stonebridge	1	Saltney	2
Sealand	1	No change	1
Shotton East	1	See below	
Shotton Higher	1	Shotton East & Higher	2
Shotton West	1	No change	1
Treuddyn	1	Treuddyn (incorporating the Ffrith ward of Llanfynydd)	1
Whitford	1	No change	1
Number of members	70	Number of Members	65

1.12 The full list of proposed wards is shown in Appendix A (see Appendix 3 in the Commission report). This shows the 14 unchanged wards together with the Commission's proposals for each ward, the 2018 electorate, the projected electorate for 2023, and the variances from the County average.

1.13 The Council needs to advise on the process it would like to follow for considering the proposals and approving a response to the consultation.

1.14 At Stage Three the Commission will prepare a Final Proposals Report which will be submitted to Welsh Government in 2020 along with those for all other councils in Wales. Welsh Government will consider these proposals at Stage Four of the process. After six weeks, the Welsh Government may make an Order and there will be a further opportunity to write to Welsh Government with comments. The final Stage of the Review will be the electoral arrangements coming into force for the next local government elections in 2022.

2.00	RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS
2.01	A reduction in the number of members will result in a reduction in the budget required for Members' salaries.

3.00	CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED / CARRIED OUT
3.01	This report has been drafted as part of the Council's response to consultation by the Local Democracy & Boundary Commission on their proposals for Flintshire.

4.00	RISK MANAGEMENT
4.01	None specifically from this consultation.

5.00	APPENDICES
5.01	<p>Appendix A: Local Democracy & Boundary Commission for Wales – details of Flintshire proposals</p> <p>Appendix B: Draft Proposals Report- Local Democracy & Boundary Commission for Wales Review of the Electoral Arrangements for Flintshire. https://ldbc.gov.wales/reviews/08-19/flintshire-draft-proposals</p>

6.00	LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS
6.01	<p>Electoral Reviews: Policy and Practice document 2016 http://ldbc.gov.wales/reviews/electoralreviews/58417614/?lang=en Local Democracy and Boundary Commission for Wales Presentation to County Council on Tuesday 23 October 2018 Email from the Democratic Services Manager to all Members dated Wednesday 31 October 2018. Officer's suggestions and Member representations circulated at the workshop on Wednesday 9 January 2019. Email from the Democratic Services Manager to all Members dated Monday 14 January 2019. Report of the Chief Executive and Chief Officer (Governance) <i>Flintshire Electoral Review</i>, County Council 29th January 2019 Minute number 90 of County Council, <i>Flintshire Electoral Review</i>, 29th January 2019</p>

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7.00	GLOSSARY OF TERMS
7.01	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Electoral Review: A review of electoral arrangements for a local authority area.</p> <p>Council Size Methodology: A model the Commission has adopted for determining the size of Councils.</p> <p>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 former Cabinet Secretary's desire for review of certain councils to be undertaken first.</p>