

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOUNDARY COMMISSION FOR WALES**



Comisiwn Ffiniau  
Llywodraeth Leol  
i Gymru



Local Government  
Boundary Commission  
for Wales

**REVIEW OF ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS  
REPORT AND PROPOSALS**

**COUNTY OF DENBIGHSHIRE**



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**REVIEW OF ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE COUNTY OF**  
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**REPORT AND PROPOSALS**

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## FOREWORD

This is our report containing our Final Proposals for Denbighshire County Council.

In January 2009, the Local Government Minister, Dr Brian Gibbons asked this Commission to review the electoral arrangements in each principal local authority in Wales. Dr Gibbons said:

“Conducting regular reviews of the electoral arrangements in each Council in Wales is part of the Commission’s remit. The aim is to try and restore a fairly even spread of councillors across the local population. It is not about local government reorganisation.

Since the last reviews were conducted new communities have been created in some areas and there have been shifts in population in others. This means that in some areas there is now an imbalance in the number of electors that councillors represent.

The Commission will review the total number of councillors making up each council; the number of councillors representing each electoral division and the name and boundary of each division.

As far as possible, I want to restore fairness so that councillors generally represent the same number of people.” [13 January 2009].

This issue of fairness is set out clearly in the legislation and has been a key principle for our work. The situation which currently exists, where a councillor from one part of the County represents a small number of voters whereas another Councillor may represent many, many more is simply not fair on electors. In practical terms, it means that some areas have an unfair advantage over others in decisions made in the council chamber.

Putting this right is far from simple given the constraints against which the Commission must operate. We cannot just move lines on the map; we have to adhere to existing “building blocks”, which are the Community Areas and Community Wards which cover the whole of Wales. Sometimes, these do not reflect the current patterns of community life in Wales but, even where this is the case, we have not been able to accept suggestions which cut across these boundaries. This is frustrating for both respondents and the Commission.

We are also required to look to the future and have asked the council to give us predictions of the number of electors in 5 years time. At the best of times this would be challenging but, in the current economic climate, it is particularly difficult.

The publication of our first few draft proposals reports drew some concern that we were moving away from the principle of having one councillor for an electoral division to suggesting far greater use of multi member divisions. The Rules within which we operate envisage that each electoral division shall be represented by one councillor; this could be called the “default position”. However, we can move away from this for a variety of reasons, including where we have found this is the best way of ensuring that electors are more equally represented.

In working up our proposals, we have tried to cater for local ties and those who wish to retain current boundaries. We have looked carefully at every representation made to us. However, we have had to balance these issues and representations against all the other factors we have to consider and the constraints set out above. In particular, the requirement for electoral parity, democratic fairness for all electors, is the dominant factor in law and this is what we have tried to apply. We believe that greater fairness, along with other proposals in our report, will lead to local government which is effective and convenient.

Finally, may I thank the Members and officers of the Principal authority for their assistance in our work, the community and town councils for their contribution and last but most importantly, the ordinary citizens who have taken the time and trouble to make comments and suggestions.

Paul Wood  
Chairman

**Mr. Carl Sargeant  
Minister for Social Justice and Local Government  
Welsh Assembly Government**

## **REVIEW OF ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE COUNTY OF DENBIGHSHIRE**

### **REPORT AND PROPOSALS**

#### **1. INTRODUCTION**

1.1 In accordance with the directions issued by the Minister on 13 January 2009, we, the Local Government Boundary Commission for Wales (the Commission), have completed the review of electoral arrangements for the County of Denbighshire and present our Final Proposals for the future electoral arrangements. A glossary of terms used in this report can be found at Appendix 1. In 2009 the County of Denbighshire had an electorate of 74239. At present it is divided into 30 divisions returning 47 councillors. The average ratio of members to electors for the County is currently 1:1,580. The present electoral arrangements are set out in detail in Appendix 2.

#### **2. SUMMARY OF PROPOSALS**

2.1 We propose a reduction in the council size from 47 to 42 elected members, a reduction in the number of electoral divisions from 30 to 25 and a change to the arrangement of electoral divisions that will achieve a significant improvement in the level of electoral parity across the County of Denbighshire which will give an overall county average of 1,768 electors per councillors.

#### **3. SCOPE AND OBJECT OF THE REVIEW**

3.1 Section 57 of the Local Government Act 1972 (the 1972 Act) lays upon the Commission the duty, at intervals of not less than 10 and not more than fifteen years, to review the electoral arrangements for every principal area in Wales for the purpose of considering whether or not to make proposals to the Welsh Assembly Government for a change in those electoral arrangements.

3.2 The Minister for Social Justice and Local Government of the Welsh Assembly Government has directed the Commission to submit a report in respect of the review of electoral arrangements for the County of Denbighshire by 30 June 2011.

#### **Electoral Arrangements**

3.3 The "electoral arrangements" of a principal area are defined in section 78 of the Act as:

- i) the total number of councillors to be elected to the council;

- ii) the number and boundaries of electoral divisions;
- iii) the number of councillors to be elected for each electoral division; and
- iv) the name of any electoral division.

### **Rules to Be Observed Considering Electoral Arrangements**

3.4 We are required by section 78 to comply, so far as is reasonably practicable, with the rules set out in Schedule 11 to the Act. These require the Commission to provide for there to be a single member for each electoral division. However, the Welsh Assembly Government may direct the Commission to consider the desirability of providing for multi-member electoral divisions for the whole or part of a principal area.

3.5 The rules also require that:

Having regard to any change in the number or distribution of local government electors of the principal area likely to take place within the period of five years immediately following consideration of the electoral arrangements:

- i) subject to paragraph (ii), the number of local government electors shall be, as nearly as may be, the same in every electoral division in the principal area;
- ii) where there are one or more multi-member divisions, the ratio of the number of local government electors to the number of councillors to be elected shall be, as nearly as may be, the same in every electoral division in the principal area (including any that are not multi-member divisions);
- iii) every ward of a community having a community council (whether separate or common) shall lie wholly within a single electoral division; and
- iv) every community which is not divided into community wards shall lie wholly within a single electoral division.

In considering the electoral arrangements we must have regard to (a) the desirability of fixing boundaries which are and will remain easily identifiable; and (b) any local ties which would be broken by the fixing of any particular boundary.

### **Minister's Directions**

3.6 The Minister has directed that the Commission shall consider the desirability of multi member electoral divisions in each county and county borough council in Wales.

3.7 The Minister has also given the following directions to the Commission for their guidance in conducting the review:

- (a) it is considered that a minimum number of 30 councillors is required for the proper management of the affairs of a county or county borough council;
- (b) it is considered that, in order to minimise the risk of a county council or a county borough council becoming unwieldy and difficult to manage, a maximum number of 75 councillors is ordinarily required for the proper management of the affairs of a county or a county borough council;
- (c) it is considered that the aim should be to achieve electoral divisions with a councillor to electorate ratio no lower than 1:1,750;
- (d) it is considered that decisions to alter the existing pattern of multi and single member electoral divisions should only be taken where such proposals for alteration are broadly supported by the electorate in so far as their views can be obtained in fulfilment of the consultation requirement contained in Section 60 of the Act; and
- (e) It is considered that the Commission shall, when conducting reviews under Part 4 of the Act, comply with paragraph 1A of Schedule 11 to the Act that is, the Rules.

The full text of the Directions is at Appendix 4. The Directions were further confirmed in a letter from the Minister on 12 May 2009. A copy of this letter follows the Directions at Appendix 4.

### **Local Government Changes**

- 3.8 Since the last review of electoral arrangements there have been two changes to local government boundaries in Denbighshire:
- 2003 No. 3134 (W.300) The Denbighshire (Rhuddlan, Rhyl, Dyserth and Prestatyn) Order 2003; and
  - The Community of Rhyl Order 2006, made by Denbighshire County Council.
- 3.9 The 2003 No. 3134 (W.300) Order made changes to the boundary between the Communities of Rhuddlan and Rhyl, the boundary between the Communities of Rhuddlan and Prestatyn, and the boundary between the Communities of Dyserth, and Prestatyn and made consequential changes to the electoral divisions in the area.
- 3.10 The Community of Rhyl Order 2006 divided the Rhyl South East Ward into two new wards and named Ty Newydd and Trellewellyn. The remaining Rhyl wards were renamed as follows:
- South ward renamed as Derwen ward
  - South Central ward renamed as Pendyffryn ward
  - South West ward renamed as Cefndy ward
  - East ward renamed as Brynhedydd ward
  - East Central ward renamed as Plastirion ward
  - West ward renamed as Foryd ward
  - West Central ward renamed as Bodfor ward.

## **Procedure**

- 3.9 Section 60 of the Act lays down procedural guidelines which are to be followed in carrying out a review. In compliance with Section 60 of the Act we wrote on 26 February 2009 to Denbighshire County Council, all the community councils in the area, the Members of Parliament for the local constituencies and other interested parties to inform them of our intention to conduct the review, to request their preliminary views and to provide a copy of the Welsh Assembly Government's directions to the Commission. We invited the County Council to submit a suggested scheme or schemes for new electoral arrangements. We also publicised our intention to conduct the review in local newspapers circulating in the County and asked Denbighshire County Council to display a number of public notices in their area. We also made available copies of our electoral reviews guidance booklet. In addition we made a presentation to both City and Community councillors explaining the review process.

## **4. DRAFT PROPOSALS**

- 4.1 Prior to the formulation of our draft proposals we received representations from Denbighshire County Council; Cefn Meiriadog Community Council, Cynwyd Community Council, Rhyl Town Council, the Conservative Group on Denbighshire County Council, Ysgol Gynradd Llandrillo, and 5 other interested bodies and residents. These representations were taken into consideration and summarised in our Draft Proposals published on 19 October 2009. Those Draft Proposals proposed a reduction in the number of councillors from 47 to 40, and an average county ratio of 1:1,856, compared with the current average county ratio of 1:1,580. The following is a summary of our Draft Proposals.

### **Dyserth**

- 4.2 The existing electoral division of Dyserth consists of the Community of Dyserth and has an electorate of 1,861 (1,948 projected) represented by 1 councillor with a level of representation of 1,861 electors per councillor which was 18% above the existing county average. In our draft proposals report we considered that the level of representation for the Dyserth electoral division was satisfactory and we therefore proposed retaining the existing arrangement.

### **Llandrillo and Corwen**

- 4.3 The existing Llandrillo electoral division consists of the Community of Cynwyd (462 electorate, 471 projected) and the Community of Llandrillo (490 electors, 500 projected) and returns a single member with a level of representation of 952 electors per councillor which is 40% below the existing county average of 1,580 electors per councillor. The existing Corwen electoral division consists of the Community of Corwen which is split into two wards, Lower (645 electors, 658 projected) and Upper (1,244 electors, 1,269 projected) totalling 1,889 electors (1,927 projected) represented by a single member with a level of representation of 1,889 electors per councillor which is 20% above the existing county average.

- 4.4 In our draft proposals, we took into consideration the representations made in favour of retaining the existing Llandrillo electoral division, but considered that there was such a significant disparity between the councillor to elector ratio in Llandrillo and that of all other areas in Denbighshire, even after taking representations into account, the current arrangements could not be sustained.
- 4.5 In our Draft Proposals report we considered combining the electoral division of Llandrillo with the Upper ward of the Community of Corwen to form an electoral division with a total of 2,196 electors (2,240 projected) represented by 1 councillor with a level of representation of 2,196 electors per councillor which was 18% above the draft proposals county average. The amalgamation did not itself reduce the overall number of councillors but provided for improved electoral parity in the area. We gave the proposed electoral division a working name of **Afon Dyfrdwy**.

### **Llangollen and Corwen**

- 4.6 The existing Llangollen electoral division consists of the Community of Llangollen (3,018 electorate, 3,159 projected) and the Community of Llantysilio (329 electors, 336 projected) and returns 2 members with a level of representation of 1,674 electors per councillor which is 6% above the existing county average. The existing Corwen electoral division consists of the Community of Corwen which is split into two wards, Lower (645 electors, 658 projected) and Upper (1,244 electors, 1,269 projected) totalling 1,889 electors (1,927 projected) represented by a single member with a level of representation of 1,889 electors per councillor which is 20% above the existing county average. As in the previous proposal (at 4.5) to amalgamate the Upper ward of Corwen with Llandrillo electoral division meant that the Lower ward of Corwen was outside of an electoral division.
- 4.7 In our Draft Proposals we considered combining the electoral division of Llangollen with the Lower ward of the Community of Corwen to form an electoral division with a total of 3,992 electors (4,153 projected) represented by 2 councillors with a level of representation of 1,996 electors per councillor which was 8% above the draft proposals county average. The amalgamation did not reduce the number of councillors but provided for a marginal improvement electoral parity in the Corwen area. We gave the proposed electoral division a working name of **Glyn Dyfrdwy**.

### **Llanarmon-yn-Ial/Llandegla, Llanbedr Dyffryn Clwyd/Llangynhafal and Llanfair Dyffryn Clwyd/Gwyddelwern**

- 4.8 The existing Llanarmon-yn-Ial/Llandegla electoral division consists of the Community of Llanarmon-yn-Ial (903 electors (921 projected), the Community of Llandegla (424 electors, 432 projected) and the Community of Llanferres (600 electors, 612 projected) and returns a single member with a level of representation of 1,927 electors per councillor which is 22% above the existing county average. The Llanbedr Dyffryn Clwyd/Llangynhafal electoral division consists of the Community of Llanbedr Dyffryn Clwyd (700 electors, 714 projected) and the Community of Llangynhafal (516 electors, 526 projected) and returns a single member with a level of representation of 1,216 electors per councillor which is 23% below the current county average. The Llanfair Dyffryn Clwyd/Gwyddelwern electoral division consists of the Community of Bryneglwys (289 electors, 295 projected), the Community of Gwyddelwern (425 electors, 434 projected), the

Community of Llanelidan (251 electors, 256 projected) and the Community of Llanfair Dyffryn Clwyd (891 electors, 909 projected) returning a single member with a level of representation of 1,856 electors per councillor which is 18% above the existing county average.

- 4.9 In our Draft Proposals report we considered that it would be desirable to re-arrange the combination of communities that form the electoral divisions in this area in order to achieve improvements in electoral parity. We noted the comments made by Denbighshire County Council relating to the size of some existing rural electoral divisions and the concerns expressed over creating even larger electoral divisions and multi member rural divisions. We considered that an improvement in electoral parity outweighed the perceived difficulties that could arise from a geographically larger multi member arrangement.
- 4.10 In our Draft Proposals report we considered combining the electoral divisions of Llanarmon-yn-Ial/Llandegla and Llanbedr Dyffryn Clwyd/Llangynhafal with the Community of Bryneglwys (from the Llanfair Dyffryn Clwyd/Gwyddelwern electoral division) to form an electoral division with 3,432 electors (3,500 projected) represented by 2 councillors with a level of representation of 1,716 electors per councillor which is 8% below the draft proposals county average. This amalgamation would produce a reduction of 1 councillor representing the area but it provided an improvement in electoral parity. We gave the proposed electoral division a working name of **Llan**.

### **Rhuddlan and Tremeirchion**

- 4.11 The existing Rhuddlan electoral division consists of the Community of Rhuddlan with 2,960 electors (3,099 projected) represented by 2 councillors with a level of representation of 1,480 electors per councillor which is 6% below the existing county average. The adjoining Tremeirchion electoral division consists of the Community of Bodfari (279 electors, 285 projected), the Community of Cwm (260 electors, 265 projected), the Community of Tremeirchion (581 electors, 593 projected) and the Community of Waen (185 electors, 189 projected) with a total electorate of 1,305 (1,332 projected) represented by a single member with a level of representation of 1,305 electors per councillor which is 17% below the existing county average. We considered that it would be desirable to re-arrange the combination of communities that form the electoral divisions in this area in order to achieve improvements in electoral parity.
- 4.12 In our Draft Proposals report we considered combining the electoral division of Rhuddlan with the communities of Cwm and Waen from the Tremeirchion electoral division to form an electoral division with 3,405 electors (3,553 projected) represented by 2 councillors with a level of representation of 1,703 electors per councillor which is 8% below the draft proposals county average. This amalgamation would produce a reduction of 1 councillor representing the area but it provided an improvement in electoral parity. We gave the proposed division a working name of **Twt Hill**.

## Tremeirchion and Trefnant

- 4.13 As considered at 4.11 above, the existing Tremeirchion electoral division consists of the Community of Bodfari (279 electors, 285 projected), the Community of Cwm (260 electors, 265 projected), the Community of Tremeirchion (581 electors, 593 projected) and the Community of Waen (185 electors, 189 projected) with a total electorate of 1,305 (1,332 projected) represented by a single member with a level of representation of 1,305 electors per councillor which is 17% below the existing county average. The existing electoral division of Trefnant consists of the Communities of Trefnant (1,229 electors, 1,287 projected) and Cefnmeiriadog (337 electors, 344 projected) with a total electorate of 1,566 represented by a single member with a level of representation of 1,566 electors per councillor which is 1% below the existing county average. We considered that it would be desirable to re-arrange the combination of communities that form the electoral divisions in this area in order to achieve improvements in electoral parity.
- 4.14 In our Draft Proposals report we considered combining the electoral division of Trefnant with the Community of Tremeirchion (from the Tremeirchion electoral division) to form an electoral division with 2,147 electors (2,225 projected) represented by a single member with a level of representation of 2,147 electors per councillor which is 15% above the draft proposals county average. This amalgamation provided an improvement in electoral parity in the area. We gave the proposed electoral division a working name of **Bach y Graig**.

## Tremeirchion and Llandyrnog

- 4.15 As considered at 4.11 and 4.13 above the existing electoral division of Tremeirchion consists of the Community of Bodfari (279 electors, 285 projected), the Community of Cwm (260 electors, 265 projected), the Community of Tremeirchion (581 electors, 593 projected) and the Community of Waen (185 electors, 189 projected) with a total electorate of 1,305 (1,332 projected) represented by a single member with a level of representation of 1,305 electors per councillor which is 17% below the existing county average. The existing Llandyrnog electoral division consists of the Communities of Aberwheeler (273 electors, 278 projected), Llandyrnog (847 electors, 864 projected) and Llanynys (565 electors, 576 projected) with a total of 1,685 electors represented by a single member giving a level of representation of 1,685 electors per councillor which is 7% above the existing county average.
- 4.16 In our Draft Proposals report we considered combining the Llandyrnog electoral division with the Community of Bodfari (from the Tremeirchion electoral division) to form an electoral division with 1,964 electors (2,003 projected) represented by a single member with a level of representation of 1,964 electors per councillor which is 6% above the draft proposals county average. We gave the proposed electoral division a working name of **Llandyrnog**.
- 4.17 Overall the amalgamations that were proposed in paragraphs 4.11 to 4.16 produced an overall reduction of 1 councillor from 5 to 4 in the area covering the existing electoral divisions of Rhuddlan, Tremeirchion, Trefnant and Llandyrnog. Even though there was an overall proposed reduction in councillors it provided an improvement in electoral parity.

## **Bodelwyddan and St. Asaph**

- 4.18 The Community of St. Asaph is split into two electoral divisions, namely St. Asaph East and St. Asaph West. The existing electoral division of St. Asaph East has 1,337 electors (1,438 projected) represented by a single member with a level of representation of 1,337 electors per councillor which is 15% below the existing county average. The existing St. Asaph West electoral division has 1,339 electors (1,402 projected) represented by a single member with a level of representation of 1,339 electors per councillor which is also 15% below the existing county average. The existing Bodelwyddan electoral division consists of the Community of Bodelwyddan with 1,651 electors (1,728 projected) represented by a single member with a level of representation of 1,651 electors per councillor which is 5% above the existing county average.
- 4.19 In our Draft Proposals report we considered combining the two St. Asaph electoral divisions and the electoral division of Bodelwyddan to form an electoral division with an electorate of 4,327 (4,568 projected) represented by 2 councillors with a level of representation of 2,164 electors per councillor which is 17% above the draft proposals county average. We gave the proposed division a working name of **Llanelwy**.

## **Denbigh Central and Denbigh Upper and Henllan**

- 4.20 The existing Denbigh Central electoral division consists of the Central ward of the Community of Denbigh with 1,443 electors (1,511 projected) represented by a single member with a level of representation of 1,443 electors per councillor which is 9% below the existing county average. The adjoining existing Denbigh Upper and Henllan electoral division consists of the Upper ward of the Community of Denbigh (1,837 electors, 2,113 projected) and the Community of Henllan (678 electors, 710 projected) with a total of 2,515 electors (2,823 projected) represented by 2 councillors with a level of representation of 1,258 electors per councillor which is 20% below the existing county average.
- 4.21 We noted the suggestions made by Denbighshire County Council and the Conservative Group of Denbighshire County Council to rearrange the Denbigh and Henllan communities in different combinations. We considered that the suggestion by the Conservative Group had more merit as it provided a better level of electoral parity and is outlined below.
- 4.22 In our Draft Proposals report we considered combining the Denbigh Central and Denbigh Upper and Henllan electoral divisions to form an electoral division with an electorate of 3,958 (4,334 projected) represented by 2 councillors with a level of representation of 1,979 electors per councillor which is 7% above the draft proposals county average. This amalgamation would produce a reduction of 1 councillor representing the area but it provided an improvement in electoral parity. We gave the proposed division a working name of **Denbigh West and Henllan**.

## **Denbigh Lower**

- 4.23 In our Draft Proposals report we considered no change to the electoral arrangements for the existing electoral division of Denbigh Lower. However a

change of name to **Denbigh East** was suggested in conjunction with the name of Denbigh West and Henllan suggested for the adjoining electoral division (as proposed at 4.22 above).

### **Ruthin and Llanfair Dyffryn Clwyd/Gwyddelwern**

- 4.24 The existing Ruthin electoral division consists of the Community of Ruthin with 4,202 electors (4,614 projected) represented by 3 councillors with a level of representation of 1,401 electors per councillor which is 11% below the existing county average. The Llanfair Dyffryn Clwyd/Gwyddelwern electoral division consists of the Communities of Bryneglwys (289 electors, 295 projected), Gwyddelwern (425 electors, 434 projected), Llanelidan (251 electors, 256 projected) and Llanfair Dyffryn Clwyd (891 electors, 909 projected) with a total of 1,856 electors (1,894 projected) represented by a single member with a level of representation of 1,894 electors per councillor which is 18% above the existing county average.
- 4.25 In our Draft Proposals report, in order to reduce the level of disparity, we considered either changing the level of representation within Ruthin or combining the Ruthin electoral division with an adjoining community that has a ratio above the county average. We noted the suggestion from the Conservative Group to reduce the level of representation in Ruthin to 2 councillors but considered that it would be more detrimental to electoral parity than if Ruthin were joined to another community or electoral division.
- 4.26 In our Draft Proposals report we considered combining the Ruthin electoral division with the Community of Llanfair Dyffryn Clwyd (from the Llanfair Dyffryn Clwyd/Gwyddelwern electoral division) to form an electoral division with 5,093 electors (5,523 projected) represented by 3 councillors with a level of representation of 1,698 electors per councillor which is 9% below the draft proposals county average. We gave the proposed division a working name of **Ruthin Dyffryn Clwyd**.

### **Efenechtyd, Llanfair Dyffryn Clwyd/Gwyddelwern and Llanrhaedr-yng-Nghinmeirch**

- 4.27 The existing Efenechtyd electoral division consists of the Communities of Efenechtyd (491 electors, 501 projected), Betws Gwerfil Goch (251 electors, 256 projected), Clocaenog (196 electors, 200 projected) and Derwen (352 electors, 359 projected) with a total of 1,290 electors (1,316 projected) represented by 1 councillor with a level of representation of 1,290 electors per councillor which is 18% below the existing county average. The existing Llanfair Dyffryn Clwyd/Gwyddelwern electoral division consists of the Communities of Bryneglwys (289 electors, 295 projected), Gwyddelwern (425 electors, 434 projected), Llanelidan (251 electors, 256 projected) and Llanfair Dyffryn Clwyd (891 electors, 909 projected) with a total of 1,856 electors (1,894 projected) represented by a single member with a level of representation of 1,894 electors per councillor which is 18% above the existing county average. The existing Llanrhaedr-yng-Nghinmeirch electoral division consists of the Communities of Cyffylliog (407 electors, 415 projected), Llanrhaeadr-yng-Nghinmeirch (855 electors, 872 projected) and Nantglyn (272 electors, 277 projected) with a total of 1,534 electors (1,564 projected) represented by a single member with a level of representation of 1,534 electors per councillor which is 3% below the existing county average.

- 4.28 We noted the suggestion from the Conservative Group of Denbighshire County Council to combine the existing Efenechtyd electoral division with the Community of Gwyddelwern from the existing Llanbedr Dyffryn Clwyd / Gwyddelwern electoral division and the fact that the group considered that there are community and social links within these communities. The suggestion did improve the electoral parity of the area but we considered that further improvements on the electoral parity were possible by combining different areas.
- 4.29 In our Draft Proposals report we initially considered combining the remaining components of the Llanfair Dyffryn Clwyd/Gwyddelwern electoral division (we had already proposed, at 4.26 above, that the Community of Llanfair Dyffryn Clwyd be included within the Ruthin Dyffryn Clwyd electoral division and we proposed, at 4.10 above, that the Community of Bryneglwys be included within the Llan electoral division) which were the Communities of Llanelidan (251 electors, 256 projected) and Gwyddelwern (425 electors, 434 projected) with the Efenechtyd electoral division to form an electoral division with 1,966 electors (2,006 projected) represented a single member with a level of representation of 1,966 electors per councillor which is 24% above the existing county average. In order to improve electoral parity we considered combining this area with the Llanrhaedr-yng-Nghinmeirch electoral division as set out below.
- 4.30 In our Draft Proposals report we finally considered forming an electoral division that combined the Communities of Efenechtyd, Betws Gwerfil Goch, Clocaenog, Derwen, Llanelidan, Gwyddelwern, Cyffylliog, Llanrhaedr-yng-Nghinmeirch and Nantglyn having a total of 3,500 electors (3,570 projected) represented by 2 councillors with a level of representation of 1,750 electors per councillor which is 6% below the draft proposal county average. This amalgamation would produce a reduction of 1 councillor representing the area but it provided an improvement in electoral parity. We gave the proposed division a working name of **Gorllewin Clwyd**.

### **Prestatyn Central, Prestatyn East and Meliden**

- 4.31 The existing Prestatyn Central electoral division consists of the Central ward of the Community of Prestatyn with 2,778 electors (2,908 projected) represented by 2 councillors with a level of representation of 1,389 electors per councillor which is 12% below than the existing county average. The existing Prestatyn East electoral division consists of the Prestatyn East ward of the Community of Prestatyn with 3,117 electors (3,263 projected) represented by 2 councillors with a level of representation of 1,599 electors per councillor which is 1% below the existing county average. The adjoining existing Prestatyn Meliden electoral division consists of the Meliden ward of the Community of Prestatyn with 1,560 electors (1,633 projected) represented by a single member with a level of representation of 1,560 electors per councillor which is 1% below the existing county average. We considered that it would be desirable to re-arrange the combination of community wards that form the electoral divisions in this area in order to achieve improvements in electoral parity.
- 4.32 In our Draft Proposals report we considered combining the three existing electoral divisions of Prestatyn Central, Prestatyn East and Meliden to form an electoral division with 7,455 electors (7,804 projected) represented by 4 councillors, with a

level of representation of 1,864 which almost equalled the draft proposal county average. The amalgamation would produce a reduction of 1 councillor representing the area but it improved the electoral parity. We gave the proposed electoral division a working name of **Prestatyn East**.

### **Prestatyn North and Prestatyn South West**

4.33 The existing Prestatyn North electoral division consists of the North (3,629 electors, 3,422 projected) and North West (1,398 electors, 1,463 projected) wards of the Community of Prestatyn with a total of 4,667 electors (4,885 projected) represented by 3 councillors with a level of representation of 1,556 electors per councillor which is 2% below the existing county average. The existing Prestatyn South West electoral division consists of the Prestatyn South West ward of the Community of Prestatyn with 2,833 electors (2,966 projected) represented by 2 councillors with a level of representation of 1,417 electors per councillor which is 10% below the existing county average. We considered that it would be desirable to re-arrange the combination of community wards that form the electoral divisions in this area in order to achieve improvements in electoral parity.

4.34 In our Draft Proposals report we considered combining the existing electoral divisions of Prestatyn North and Prestatyn South West to form an electoral division with 7,500 electors (7,851 projected) represented by 4 councillors with a level of representation of 1,875 electors per councillor which is 1% above the draft proposal county average. This amalgamation would produce a reduction of 1 councillor representing the area but it provided an improvement in electoral parity. We gave the proposed electoral division a working name of **Prestatyn West**.

### **Rhyl Electoral Divisions (Rhyl East, Rhyl South, Rhyl South East, Rhyl South West and Rhyl West)**

4.35 The Community of Rhyl is currently divided into 5 electoral divisions. The existing Rhyl East electoral division consists of the Brynhedydd (1,634 electors, 1,710 projected) and Plastirion (2,125 electors, 2,224 projected) wards of the Community of Rhyl with a total of 3,759 electors (3,934 projected) represented by 2 councillors with a level of representation of 1,880 electors per councillor which is 19% above the existing county average. The existing Rhyl South electoral division consists of the Derwen ward of the Community of Rhyl with 3,084 electors (3,228 projected) represented by 2 councillors with a level of representation of 1,542 electors per councillor which is 2% below the existing county average. The existing Rhyl South East electoral division consists of the Trellewellyn (2,587 electors, 2,936 projected) and Tynewydd (3,384 electors, 3,546 projected) wards of the Community of Rhyl with a total of 5,974 electors (6,482 projected) represented by 3 councillors with a level of representation of 1,991 electors per councillor which is 26% above the existing county average. The existing Rhyl South West electoral division consists of the Cefndy (2,303 electors, 2,411 projected) and Pendyffryn (1,280 electors, 1,340 projected) wards of the Community of Rhyl with a total of 3,583 electors (3,751 projected) represented by 2 councillors with a level of representation of 1,792 electors per councillor which is 13% above the existing county average. The existing Rhyl West electoral division consists of the Bodfor (1,679 electors, 1,758 projected) and Foryd (1,827 electors, 2,101 projected) wards of the Community of Rhyl with a total of 3,506 electors (3,859 projected) represented by 2 councillors

with a level of representation of 1,753 electors per councillor which is 11% above the existing county average. We considered that it would be desirable to re-arrange the combination of community wards that form the electoral divisions of Rhyl in order to achieve improvements in electoral parity across the area.

- 4.36 We noted the representation from Denbighshire County Council suggesting that the existing Rhyl South East division had a very large electorate of 5,974 represented by 3 members and asking the Commission to be consistent in the ratios of electorate to councillors. We also noted the suggestion from Rhyl Town Council regarding dividing the existing Rhyl South East electoral division in to two electoral divisions (Rhyl Trellewellyn and Rhyl Tynewydd) each being represented by 2 councillors. They also suggested that consideration should be given to the Rhyl South West electoral division to increase the number of councillors by 1 to 3 and likewise for the Rhyl West electoral division to increase the number of councillors by 1 to 3. The Conservative Group of Denbighshire County Council also suggested that the Rhyl South East division be divided into two electoral divisions (Rhyl Trellewellyn and Rhyl Tynewydd) each being represented by 2 councillors. We noted that as a result of the suggested changes the electoral parity and level of representation would not provide significant improvements to the electoral parity of the Rhyl electoral divisions.
- 4.37 In our Draft Proposals report we proposed alternative arrangements to combine wards of the Community of Rhyl to form 4 electoral divisions, retaining 11 councillors overall but improving the electoral parity. We proposed to combine the Brynhedydd (1,634 electors, 1,710 projected), Plastirion (2,125 electors, 2,224 projected) and Tynewydd (3,384 electors, 3,546 projected) wards of the Community of Rhyl to form an electoral division with a total of 7,146 electors (7,480 projected), represented by 4 councillors, with a level of representation of 1,787 electors per councillor which is 4% below the draft proposal county average. We gave the proposed electoral division a working name of **Rhyl North East**.
- 4.38 We proposed to combine the Pendyffryn (1,280 electors, 1,340 projected) and Trellewellyn (2,587 electors, 2,936 projected) wards of the community of Rhyl to form an electoral division with a total of 3,867 electors (4,276 projected) represented by 2 councillors, with a level of representation of 1,934 electors per councillor which is 4% above the draft proposal county average. We gave the proposed electoral division a working name of **Rhyl South East**.
- 4.39 We proposed to combine the Cefndy (2,303 electors, 2,411 projected) and Derwen (3,084 electors, 3,228 projected) wards of the community of Rhyl to form an electoral division with a total of 5,387 electors (5,639 projected) represented by 3 councillors, with a level of representation of 1,796 electors per councillor which is 3% below the draft proposal county average. We gave the proposed electoral division a working name of **Rhyl South West**.
- 4.40 We proposed no changes to the electoral arrangements for the electoral division of Rhyl West, although we did propose a change of name to **Rhyl North West** to correspond with the proposed names of the other Rhyl electoral divisions.

## **Summary of Draft Proposals**

- 4.41 Our Draft Proposals recommended a reduction in council size from 47 to 40 elected members and a change to the arrangement of electoral divisions that would achieve a significant improvement in the level of electoral parity across the County of Denbighshire. We considered that these arrangements provided for effective and convenient local government and met in principle the directions provided by the Welsh Assembly Government.
- 4.42 Copies of the Draft Proposals were sent to all the councils, bodies and individuals referred to in paragraph 2.8 seeking their views. A copy was also sent to anyone who had submitted preliminary comments. By public notice we also invited any other organisation or person with an interest in the review to submit their views. Copies of the Draft Proposals were made available for inspection at the offices of Denbighshire County Council and the Commission.

## **5. REPRESENTATIONS RECEIVED IN RESPONSE TO THE DRAFT PROPOSALS**

- 5.1 In response to our Draft Proposals report we received representations from Denbighshire County Council, 21 Town and Community Councils, Eleanor Burnham AM, 6 Councillors and 11 other interested bodies and residents. A summary of these representations can be found at Appendix 5.

## **6. ASSESSMENT**

### **Request for Boundary Change**

- 6.1 Before considering the electoral arrangements for the County of Denbighshire, we would like to respond to the representations that asked the Commission to undertake a review of community and of community ward boundaries. It is evident from these requests that some uncertainty exists about the appropriate machinery for effecting such reviews. We wish to set out the statutory position.
- 6.2 The Commission completed their programme of Special Community Reviews for the whole of Wales in 1983 and since that time it has been the principal councils' responsibility to keep the community structure under review. Section 55(2) of the Act requires each principal council in Wales to keep the whole of their area under review for the purpose of considering whether to make recommendations to the Commission for the constitution of new communities, the abolition of communities or the alteration of communities in their area. The Commission consider the principal council's proposals and report to the Welsh Assembly Government who may, if it thinks fit, by order give effect to any of the proposals.
- 6.3 Under Section 57(4) of the Act, the principal councils also have a duty to keep under review the electoral arrangements for the communities within their areas, for the purpose of considering whether to make substantive changes. The principal councils must also consider requests for changes made by a community council or

by not less than thirty local government electors of a community and, if they think fit, make an order giving effect to those changes. Therefore the boundaries of communities and community wards are a matter for the principal council to consider in the first instance.

### **Councillor to electorate ratio**

- 6.4 The Minister's directions include the following at 3.7 (a): "It is considered that the aim should be to achieve electoral divisions with a councillor to electorate ratio no lower than 1:1,750." The Minister has indicated to the Commission that this means that the number of electors per councillor should not normally fall below 1,750, and this is how the Commission has interpreted and applied the Direction. We bear very much in mind that the directions are provided as guidance and should not be applied without regard to the special circumstances of the particular area: there may well be circumstances, having to do with topography or population etc of the area where it will be considered that an electoral division of fewer than 1,750 electors to be represented by each councillor is appropriate. This was explained in the letter from the Minister (Appendix 4) which stated: "This means that the ratio remains as the aim to be worked towards and not as a goal to be achieved in each case. In doing so attention should be paid to local communities having their own identifiable representation even where the indicative figure of 1,750 electors/councillor is not always achievable". In the absence of special circumstances we will aim to propose electoral arrangements in which the level of representation does not fall below 1,750 electors per councillor. We are not constrained in the same way by this direction from proposing electoral arrangements in which the number of electors to be represented by each councillor is, in appropriate cases, higher than 1,750. Throughout this review we will keep the ratio of 1:1,750 very much in mind, and will not normally think it necessary to refer to it expressly in every case.

### **Council Size**

- 6.5 At present the size of the council at 47 members is within the numerical limits advised in the Minister's direction. The current member to electorate ratio for the council is 1:1,580 which is 10% below 1,750 electors per councillor (see Councillor to electorate ratio above). There are currently 14 multi-member divisions out of a total of 30 electoral divisions.
- 6.6 We reviewed the electoral arrangements for the County of Denbighshire in the light of the Welsh Assembly Government's directions for our guidance and took account of the representations which had been made to us. In our deliberations we considered the ratio of the number of local government electors to the number of councillors to be elected, with a view to ensuring that the number of local government electors shall be, as nearly as may be, the same in every division in the principal area. We looked at the present multi-member divisions to consider if we should recommend the creation of single member divisions. We considered the size and character of the authority and a wide range of other factors including population density, the local topography, road communications and local ties.
- 6.7 For the reasons given below we believe that in the interests of effective and convenient local government a council size of 42 would be appropriate to represent

the County of Denbighshire. This determination of the council size results in an average of 1,768 electors being represented by each councillor.

### **Number of Electors**

6.8 The numbers shown in Appendix 2 as the electorate for 2009 and the estimates for the electorate in the year 2014 are those submitted to us by Denbighshire County Council.

### **Electoral Divisions**

6.9 We have considered the boundaries of the existing electoral divisions of Bodelwyddan, Dyserth, Llandyrnog, Llangollen, Llanrhaedr-yng-Nghinmeirch, Prestatyn Meliden, Rhuddlan, St Asaph East and St Asaph West and the ratio and number of local government electors to the number of councillors to be elected and we propose that the existing arrangements should continue. The list given in this paragraph of areas we now propose no change is considerably expanded from the list (consisting of one electoral division) mentioned in paragraph 5.7 of our draft proposals report. This is because we have modified our draft proposals upon further consideration and in light of the representations received. We deal in more detail with each of these additional divisions where we now propose no change in the paragraphs below. We considered changes to the remaining electoral divisions and also outlined our proposals in the paragraphs below. Details of the existing electoral arrangements for the area can be found at Appendix 2.

6.10 In the following section the proposals for each of the new Electoral Divisions are laid out in the same way. The first part of the initial paragraph for each of these gives a historical context by listing all the existing Electoral Divisions or their component parts used to construct each proposed Electoral Division. These components - the Communities and Community Wards - are described as a complete Community together with its current and projected electorates if it was used as such. If only part of a Community is used – i.e. a Community Ward - then the name of that Community Ward, its electorate figures, and the name of its Community will be shown as such. The final part of that paragraph in each section then lists the component parts of the proposed new Electoral Division in the same way - either as whole Communities with current and projected electorates, or as a named Community Ward, its electorate figures and the name of its Community - as before. This method of describing the make-up of Electoral Divisions is also used in the tables at Appendix 2 and 3.

### **Llandrillo and Corwen**

6.11 The existing Llandrillo electoral division consists of the Community of Cynwyd (462 electorate, 471 projected) and the Community of Llandrillo (490 electors, 500 projected) and returns a single member with a level of representation of 952 electors per councillor which is 40% below the existing county average of 1,580. The existing Corwen electoral division consists of the Community of Corwen which is split into two wards, Lower (645 electors, 658 projected) and Upper (1,244 electors, 1,269 projected) totalling 1,889 electors (1,927 projected) represented by a single member with a level of representation of 1,889 electors per councillor which is 20% above the existing county average of 1,580. In our Draft Proposals

report we proposed combining the electoral division of Llandrillo with the Upper ward of the Community of Corwen to form an electoral division with a total of 2,196 electors (2,240 projected) represented by 1 councillor with a level of representation of 2,196 electors per councillor which was 18% above the draft proposals county average of 1,856 electors per councillor.

- 6.12 We received objections to this proposal from Corwen Community Council, Llandrillo Community Council and three local residents. The main objection was on the grounds that it involved splitting the community of Corwen, and Llandrillo wanting to retain the status quo if possible. Three representations including those of Corwen and Llandrillo Community Councils suggested expanding on the draft proposal by incorporating other communities to form a larger 2 member electoral division to represent an area that was the former Edeyrnion Rural District. The reasoning behind this suggestion is that there already exists a synergy between those communities based on history, culture, geography and long held affinities based on history.
- 6.13 We noted the concern regarding splitting the Community of Corwen and the suggestion from both Corwen Community Council and Llandrillo Community Council which has been further echoed by 2 residents to link Corwen, Cynwyd, Llandrillo, Glyndyfrdwy, Bettws Gwerfil Goch and Gwyddelwern together to form a 2 member division. We are of the view that owing to the support given to this suggestion and the fact that it would also resolve the concern expressed over splitting the Community of Corwen it would be of greater benefit in terms of effective and convenient local government to combine those communities to form a new electoral division. We therefore propose that the communities of Llandrillo, Cynwyd, Corwen, Gwyddelwern and Bettws Gwerfil Goch be combined to form an electoral division with an electorate of 3,517 (3,588 projected) represented by 2 councillors with a level of representation of 1,759 electors per councillor which would be 1% below the proposed county average of 1,768. As this new electoral division consists of the building blocks of the previous Edeyrnion Rural District, we propose that the name for the division be **Edeyrnion**.

### **Llangollen and Corwen**

- 6.14 The existing Llangollen electoral division consists of the Community of Llangollen (3,018 electorate, 3,159 projected) and the Community of Llantysilio (329 electors, 336 projected) and returns 2 members with a level of representation of 1,674 electors per councillor which is 6% above the existing county average of 1,580. The existing Corwen electoral division consists of the Community of Corwen which is split into two wards, Lower (645 electors, 658 projected) and Upper (1,244 electors, 1,269 projected) totalling 1,889 electors (1,927 projected) represented by a single member with a level of representation of 1,889 electors per councillor which is 20% above the existing county average of 1,580. In our Draft Proposals we proposed combining the electoral division of Llangollen with the Lower ward of the Community of Corwen to form an electoral division with a total of 3,992 electors (4,153 projected) represented by 2 councillors with a level of representation of 1,996 electors per councillor which was 8% above the draft proposals county average of 1,856.

- 6.15 We received objections to this proposal from Llantysilio Community and Llangollen Town Councils objecting strongly to the name Glyn Dyfrdwy. Llangollen Town Council requested that whatever changes may occur, the name of the electoral division should remain as Llangollen, but it objected to the Lower ward of Corwen being included as it has more natural links with the Town of Corwen and the Community of Llandrillo. Llantysilio Community Council had no objection to Corwen joining the Llangollen division as they state that they have strong links but did not see the wisdom of such a change. Corwen Community Council raised an objection to being split between two electoral divisions.
- 6.16 We noted the concerns made by the respective community councils and considered that in view of the opposition to this proposal and the fact that the Lower ward of the Community of Corwen is proposed to be included in the new Edeyrnion division outlined in paragraph 6.12 above, that the existing electoral division of Llangollen should remain as it is. We therefore propose, in the interests of convenient and effective local government, to preserve the status quo and allow the Communities of Llangollen and Llantysilio to continue to constitute the electoral division which will have an electorate of 3,347 electors (3,495 projected) represented by 2 councillors with a level of representation of 1,674 electors per councillor which will be 5% below the proposed county average of 1,768. As suggested by Llangollen Town Council, we propose the name for this division remains as **Llangollen**.

#### **Llanarmon-yn-Ial/Llandegla, Llanbedr Dyffryn Clwyd/Llangynhafal and Llanfair Dyffryn Clwyd/Llangynhafal**

- 6.17 The existing Llanarmon-yn-Ial/Llandegla electoral division consists of the Community of Llanarmon-yn-Ial (903 electors (921 projected), the Community of Llandegla (424 electors, 432 projected) and the Community of Llanferres (600 electors, 612 projected) and returns a single member with a level of representation of 1,927 electors per councillor which is 22% above the existing county average of 1,580. The Llanbedr Dyffryn Clwyd/Llangynhafal electoral division consists of the Community of Llanbedr Dyffryn Clwyd (700 electors, 714 projected) and the Community of Llangynhafal (516 electors, 526 projected) and returns a single member with a level of representation of 1,216 electors per councillor which is 23% below the current county average of 1,580. The Llanfair Dyffryn Clwyd/Llangynhafal electoral division consists of the Community of Bryneglwys (289 electors, 295 projected), the Community of Gwyddelwern (425 electors, 434 projected), the Community of Llanellidan (251 electors, 256 projected) and the Community of Llanfair Dyffryn Clwyd (891 electors, 909 projected) returning a single member with a level of representation of 1,856 electors per councillor which is 18% above the existing county average of 1,580. In our Draft Proposals report we proposed combining the electoral divisions of Llanarmon-yn-Ial/Llandegla and Llanbedr Dyffryn Clwyd/Llangynhafal with the Community of Bryneglwys (from the Llanfair Dyffryn Clwyd/Llangynhafal electoral division) to form an electoral division with 3,432 electors (3,500 projected) represented by 2 councillors with a level of representation of 1,716 electors per councillor which is 8% below the draft proposals county average of 1,856.
- 6.18 We received objections from Bryneglwys Community Council who felt that if they were to be amalgamated into a large electoral division they would lose their voice and meaningful representation and be forgotten. Further objection came from

Llangynhafal Community Council who preferred single member representation as it is such a rural area. It suggested being linked only with communities within the vale of Clwyd such as neighbouring Llanbedr and Llanynys.

- 6.19 We noted the opposition to the proposals and the suggestions made and considered that in the interests of convenient and effective local government the draft proposal should not be taken forward. We considered that two geographically smaller single member electoral divisions would be better placed in such an area, which would satisfy the representation made to retain single member divisions in rural areas. We therefore propose to amalgamate the Communities of Bryneglwys, Llandegla and Llanarmon yn Ial to form an electoral division which would have an electorate of 1,616 (1,648 projected) represented by a single member with a level of representation of 1,616 electors per councillor which would be 9% below the proposed county average of 1,768. This results in the creation of a single member electoral division which it seems to us is a proposal likely to attract support in light of the representations we have received to the effect that single member representation is suited to rural areas, such as this one. We carefully considered the community ties in the area and as Llandegla and Llanarmon yn Ial currently form an electoral division, we feel that there are already community ties that bind these areas together, adding Bryneglwys which is a geographically similar area which is linked by road, we consider that as a whole the amalgamation should be sustainable. As this division forms the lower part of the Vale of Clwyd we propose that the name for the electoral division is **Dyffryn Clwyd Isaf**. In addition to this we propose that the communities of Llanbedr Dyffryn Clwyd, Llanferres and Llangynhafal be amalgamated to form another electoral division which would have an electorate of 1,816 (1,852 projected) represented by 1 councillor with a level of representation of 1,816 which is 3% above the proposed county average of 1,768. As with Dyffryn Clwyd Isaf above, we considered the links between these communities and consider that community ties should already exist between Llangynhafal and Llanbedr Dyffryn Clwyd as they currently form an electoral division together, linking a similar community like Llanferres to form a new division would be sustainable. Again it creates another single member division and as it lies geographically further north within the Vale of Clwyd we therefore propose that the name of this electoral division should be in line with the proposal above and it should be called **Dyffryn Clwyd Uchaf**.

### **Rhuddlan and Tremeirchion**

- 6.20 The existing Rhuddlan electoral division consists of the Community of Rhuddlan with 2,960 electors (3,099 projected) represented by 2 councillors with a level of representation of 1,480 electors per councillor which is 6% below the existing county average of 1,580. The adjoining Tremeirchion electoral division consists of the Community of Bodfari (279 electors, 285 projected), the Community of Cwm (260 electors, 265 projected), the Community of Tremeirchion (581 electors, 593 projected) and the Community of Waen (185 electors, 189 projected) with a total electorate of 1,305 (1,332 projected) represented by a single member with a level of representation of 1,305 electors per councillor which is 17% below the existing county average of 1,580. In our Draft Proposals report we proposed combining the electoral division of Rhuddlan with the communities of Cwm and Waen from the Tremeirchion electoral division to form an electoral division with 3,405 electors (3,553 projected) represented by 2 councillors with a level of representation of

1,703 electors per councillor which is 8% below the draft proposals county average of 1,856.

- 6.21 We received objections from Tremeirchion, Cwm and Waen Community Council, a Rhuddlan Councillor, and 4 residents. The objections mainly focused on the divide between rural and urban and the differences between the types of community. It was stated that the needs of a rural community are far different from that of an urban one and that the Commission should give higher priority to that when considering merging communities to form electoral divisions. It was suggested that only rural divisions should be merged with each other and that Rhuddlan should remain as an electoral division in its own right represented by 2 councillors to be able to cater for the needs of Rhuddlan's expanding population.
- 6.22 We noted and considered the clear objections to the proposed amalgamation of the electoral division of Rhuddlan and adjoining rural communities. Taking those objections into account we propose in the interests of convenient and effective local government to retain the status quo and leave Rhuddlan as a stand alone electoral division with an electorate of 2,960 (3,099 projected) represented 2 councillors with a level of representation of 1,480 electors per councillor which would be 16% below the proposed county average of 1,768, while noting that it is unfortunate that we have been unable to devise an appropriate scheme which would be capable of addressing this electoral disparity. We propose that the name for the electoral division remains as **Rhuddlan**. Alternative proposals for the Cwm and Waen communities are outlined in the following paragraphs.

### **Tremeirchion and Trefnant**

- 6.23 The existing Tremeirchion electoral division consists of the Community of Bodfari (279 electors, 285 projected), the Community of Cwm (260 electors, 265 projected), the Community of Tremeirchion (581 electors, 593 projected) and the Community of Waen (185 electors, 189 projected) with a total electorate of 1,305 (1,332 projected) represented by a single member with a level of representation of 1,305 electors per councillor which is 17% below the existing county average of 1,580. The existing electoral division of Trefnant consists of the Communities of Trefnant (1,229 electors, 1,287 projected) and Cefnmeiriadog (337 electors, 344 projected) with a total electorate of 1,566 represented by a single member with a level of representation of 1,566 electors per councillor which is 1% below the existing county average of 1,580. In our Draft Proposals report we proposed combining the electoral division of Trefnant with the Community of Tremeirchion (from the Tremeirchion electoral division) to form an electoral division with 2,147 electors (2,225 projected) represented by a single member with a level of representation of 2,147 electors per councillor which is 15% above the draft proposals county average of 1,856.
- 6.24 We received objections from Cefn Meiriadog and Trefnant Community Councils. The objections focused on the need for more not less councillors in rural areas as fewer councillors would weaken the rural voice. However neither Community Council dismissed the idea of joining with others to form a larger division, although Cefn Meiriadog did state that it wished to remain as it was. We also received an objection from Bodfari Community Council stating that it would prefer to remain with the communities it was currently grouped with as they had more in common. To

add to this the Community of Henllan stated that it preferred to be joined with the draft proposal electoral division of Bach y Graig instead of Denbigh on the grounds that they had more in common as they were village communities.

- 6.25 Taking into consideration the objections from several communities around this area such as Cwm and Waen making representations against being joined with Rhuddlan (paragraph 6.20 above), Henllan not wanting to remain joined to Denbigh but preferring amalgamation with other more rural communities and Bodfari preferring to stay as they are. We considered creating a new electoral division consisting of these rural wards that have common interests and are linked by a network of A and B roads. In the interests of effective and convenient local government we therefore propose amalgamating the communities of Cwm, Waen, Tremeirchion, Cefn Meiriadog, Trefnant, Henllan and Bodfari to form an electoral division would have a total of 3,549 electors (3,673 projected) represented by 2 councillors with a level of representation of 1,775 electors per councillor which less than 1% above the proposed county average of 1,768. We propose that the name **Bach y Graig** remains as there were no objections to it in the first instance from the draft proposals and it is a more general name covering a division of 7 communities, therefore not preferring any one of them in its name.

### **Tremeirchion and Llandyrnog**

- 6.26 As previously stated the existing electoral division of Tremeirchion consists of the Community of Bodfari (279 electors, 285 projected), the Community of Cwm (260 electors, 265 projected), the Community of Tremeirchion (581 electors, 593 projected) and the Community of Waen (185 electors, 189 projected) with a total electorate of 1,305 (1,332 projected) represented by a single member with a level of representation of 1,305 electors per councillor which is 17% below the existing county average of 1,580. The existing Llandyrnog electoral division consists of the Communities of Aberwheeler (273 electors, 278 projected), Llandyrnog (847 electors, 864 projected) and Llanynys (565 electors, 576 projected) with a total of 1,685 electors represented by a single member giving a level of representation of 1,685 electors per councillor which is 7% above the existing county average of 1,580. In our Draft Proposals report we proposed combining the Llandyrnog electoral division with the Community of Bodfari (from the Tremeirchion electoral division) to form an electoral division with 1,964 electors (2,003 projected) represented by a single member with a level of representation of 1,964 electors per councillor which is 6% above the draft proposals county average of 1,856.
- 6.27 We received an objection from Bodfari Community Council stating that it would prefer to remain with the communities it was currently grouped with as they had more in common. This request was taken in to account in paragraph 6.25 above. Bodfari also put forward concerns regarding the elected member of the proposed electoral division having a heavier workload having to deal with more electors which could discourage professionals from standing for office as councillor as they could be pulled in different directions and not available and visible locally.
- 6.28 We carefully considered the representation made by Bodfari, took the objection into account and proposed that the community be incorporated into the proposed Bach y Graig electoral division outlined in paragraph 6.25. As a consequence of this change the existing electoral division of Llandyrnog remains alone and as the

number of electors in the division is satisfactory in terms of electoral parity, we consider that retaining Llandyrnog as a division in its own right is acceptable. We therefore propose in the interests of effective and convenient local government to retain the status quo, the electoral division will have an electorate of 1,685 represented by a single member with a level of representation of 1,685 electors per councillor which is 5% below the proposed county average of 1,768. We propose that the name remains as **Llandyrnog**.

### **Bodelwyddan and St. Asaph**

- 6.29 The existing electoral division of St. Asaph East has 1,337 electors (1,438 projected) represented by a single member with a level of representation of 1,337 electors per councillor which is 15% below the existing county average of 1,580. The existing St. Asaph West electoral division has 1,339 electors (1,402 projected) represented by a single member with a level of representation of 1,339 electors per councillor which is also 15% below the existing county average of 1,580. The existing Bodelwyddan electoral division consists of the Community of Bodelwyddan with 1,651 electors (1,728 projected) represented by a single member with a level of representation of 1,651 electors per councillor which is 5% above the existing county average of 1,580. In our Draft Proposals report we proposed combining the two St. Asaph electoral divisions and the electoral division of Bodelwyddan to form an electoral division with an electorate of 4,327 (4,568 projected) represented by 2 councillors with a level of representation of 2,164 electors per councillor which is 17% above the draft proposals county average of 1,856.
- 6.30 We received objections from Bodelwyddan and St Asaph Town Councils and a St Asaph West Councillor. Bodelwyddan Town Council wanted to retain the status quo to remain as a division in its own right, and it pointed to the fact that it only fell short of the recommended level of electors to councillors using the projected elector figures by 22 voters. They argued that therefore it was reasonable that Bodelwyddan should be able to command an elected member in its own right. It also pointed out that the A55 road separated not linked Bodelwyddan with St Asaph. St Asaph Town Council understood how the Commission arrived at its proposals but felt that no consideration was given to the community spirit of each of the communities, both being sizeable with their own needs and appropriate representation. St Asaph wanted to retain the status quo and remain as two electoral divisions in their own right. A resident of St Asaph wrote in support of the proposals, stating that they made better sense and he wanted to see more towns and villages working together. He was in agreement that the number of councillors should be reduced.
- 6.31 We considered the representations and found that the strong opposition outweighed the support for the proposal and as a consequence of these objections we decided that retaining existing electoral divisions with no change overall would be a more satisfactory outcome than continuing to pursue the draft proposals. Therefore, in the interests of convenient and effective local government we propose that Bodelwyddan remains as an electoral division in its own right, with the name of **Bodelwyddan** having an electorate of 1,651 (1,728 projected) represented by a single member with a level of representation of 1,651 electors per councillor which is 7% below the proposed county average of 1,768. We also propose that the two St Asaph electoral divisions remain as a separate single member division electoral

divisions, with no change from the existing arrangements. **St Asaph East** having an electorate of 1,337 (1,438 projected) represented by a single member with a level of representation of 1,337 electors per councillor which is 24% below the proposed county average of 1,768. **St Asaph West** having an electorate of 1,339 (1,402 projected) represented by a single member, with a level of representation of 1,337 electors per councillor which is also 24% below the proposed county average of 1,768. We therefore make these proposals, while noting that it was unfortunate that we were unable to devise an appropriate scheme which addressed electoral parity.

### **Denbigh Central and Denbigh Upper and Henllan**

- 6.32 The existing Denbigh Central electoral division consists of the Central ward of the Community of Denbigh with 1,443 electors (1,511 projected) represented by a single member with a level of representation of 1,443 electors per councillor which is 9% below the existing county average of 1,580. The adjoining existing Denbigh Upper and Henllan electoral division consists of the Upper ward of the Community of Denbigh (1,837 electors, 2,113 projected) and the Community of Henllan (678 electors, 710 projected) with a total of 2,515 electors (2,823 projected) represented by 2 councillors with a level of representation of 1,258 electors per councillor which is 20% below the existing county average of 1,580. In our Draft Proposals report we proposed combining the Denbigh Central and Denbigh Upper and Henllan electoral divisions to form an electoral division with an electorate of 3,958 (4,334 projected) represented by 2 councillors with a level of representation of 1,979 electors per councillor which is 7% above the draft proposals county average of 1,856.
- 6.33 We received objections from Denbigh Town Council and Henllan Community Council. Henllan preferred to be joined with the proposed electoral division of Bach y Graig on the grounds that they had more in common as they were village locations. Denbigh objected to the amalgamation as it would be too difficult a task for the members to cope with, including Henllan with Denbigh affects funding opportunities and they thought Henllan would be better suited to joining a more rural division.
- 6.34 Taking into account the request from both Denbigh and Henllan for Henllan to be detached from Denbigh, we consider that the suggestion had merit and we proposed that Henllan join the Bach Y Graig division (see paragraph 6.25). We therefore propose that Denbigh Central remain as a single member division having 1,443 electors (1,511 projected) giving a level of representation of 1,443 electors per councillor which would be 18% below the proposed county average of 1,768. The name for this division shall be **Denbigh Central**. In addition to this we propose that Denbigh Upper be a single member division having 1,837 electors (2,113 projected) with a level of representation of 1,837 electors per councillor which would be 4% above the proposed county average of 1,768. The name for this division shall be **Denbigh West**.

### **Denbigh Lower**

- 6.35 In our Draft Proposals report we proposed no change to the electoral arrangements for the existing electoral division of Denbigh Lower. We did propose a change of

name to Denbigh East to correspond with the name of the other Denbigh division. No representations supporting or objecting to the proposals were received.

- 6.36 In light of no representations opposing this minor change we propose that in the interests of convenient and effective local government the draft proposal should be taken forward. The electoral division would consist of the Lower ward of the Community of Denbigh and have 3,503 electors (3,667 projected) represented by 2 councillors with a level of representation of 1,752 electors per councillor which is 1% below the proposed county average of 1,768. The name of the electoral division shall be **Denbigh East**.

### **Ruthin and Llanfair Dyffryn Clwyd/Gwyddelwern**

- 6.37 The existing Ruthin electoral division consists of the Community of Ruthin with 4,202 electors (4,614 projected) represented by 3 councillors with a level of representation of 1,401 electors per councillor which is 11% below the existing county average of 1,580. The Llanfair Dyffryn Clwyd/Gwyddelwern electoral division consists of the Communities of Bryneglwys (289 electors, 295 projected), Gwyddelwern (425 electors, 434 projected), Llanellidan (251 electors, 256 projected) and Llanfair Dyffryn Clwyd (891 electors, 909 projected) with a total of 1,856 electors (1,894 projected) represented by a single member with a level of representation of 1,894 electors per councillor which is 18% above the existing county average of 1,580. In our Draft Proposals report we proposed combining the Ruthin electoral division with the Community of Llanfair Dyffryn Clwyd (from the Llanfair Dyffryn Clwyd/Gwyddelwern electoral division) to form an electoral division with 5,093 electors (5,523 projected) represented by 3 councillors with a level of representation of 1,698 electors per councillor which is 9% below the draft proposals county average of 1,856.
- 6.38 We received an objection from Llanfair Dyffryn Clwyd Community Council outlining concern over the compatibility of the two areas with urban representation prevailing over rural areas and requesting that the status quo remained to ensure that the rural area would still have its own representation. Councillor Feeley (Ruthin) approved of the amalgamation and stated that as a member in a multi member division she found that multi member divisions work well.
- 6.39 We took careful note of the representations against the proposed amalgamation, which relied in the main on the different needs and doubtful compatibility of urban and rural areas. On balance we were persuaded to accede to these representations, and therefore we propose that Ruthin, a more urban area, remain as a separate electoral division with 4,202 electors (4,614 projected). We propose however that Ruthin be represented by 2 councillors instead of 3, giving a level of representation of 2,101 electors per councillor which is 19% above the proposed county average of 1,768. If the division were to retain 3 councillors this would lead to a level of representation of 1,401 electors per councillor, which would be 21% below the proposed county average of 1,768. We make this proposal while noting that it is unfortunate that we are unable to propose an appropriate scheme capable of better addressing electoral parity. The name for this division will remain as **Ruthin**. Arrangements for Llanfair Dyffryn Clwyd are outlined in paragraph 6.43.

## **Efenechtyd, Llanfair Dyffryn Clwyd/Gwyddelwern and Llanrhaedr-yng-Nghinmeirch**

- 6.40 The existing Efenechtyd electoral division consists of the Communities of Efenechtyd (491 electors, 501 projected), Betws Gwerfil Goch (251 electors, 256 projected), Clocaenog (196 electors, 200 projected) and Derwen (352 electors, 359 projected) with a total of 1,290 electors (1,316 projected) represented by 1 councillor with a level of representation of 1,290 electors per councillor which is 18% below the existing county average of 1,580. The existing Llanfair Dyffryn Clwyd/Gwyddelwern electoral division consists of the Communities of Bryneglwys (289 electors, 295 projected), Gwyddelwern (425 electors, 434 projected), Llanelidan (251 electors, 256 projected) and Llanfair Dyffryn Clwyd (891 electors, 909 projected) with a total of 1,856 electors (1,894 projected) represented by a single member with a level of representation of 1,894 electors per councillor which is 18% above the existing county average of 1,580. The existing Llanrhaedr-yng-Nghinmeirch electoral division consists of the Communities of Cyffylliog (407 electors, 415 projected), Llanrhaeadr-yng-Nghinmeirch (855 electors, 872 projected) and Nantglyn (272 electors, 277 projected) with a total of 1,534 electors (1,564 projected) represented by a single member with a level of representation of 1,534 electors per councillor which is 3% below the existing county average of 1,580. In our Draft Proposals report we proposed forming an electoral division that combined the Communities of Efenechtyd, Betws Gwerfil Goch, Clocaenog, Derwen, Llanelidan, Gwyddelwern, Cyffylliog, Llanrhaeadr-yng-Nghinmeirch and Nantglyn having a total of 3,500 electors (3,570 projected) represented by 2 councillors with a level of representation of 1,750 electors per councillor which is 6% below the draft proposal county average of 1,856.
- 6.41 We received objections from Clocaenog, Derwen, Efenechtyd, Llanelidan, Cyffylliog and Llanrhaedr-yng-Nghinmeirch Community Councils and the Llanrhaedr-yng-Nghinmeirch member also wrote to object. The general consensus was that the proposed rural division was too large geographically for 2 councillors to look after. Clocaenog and Efenechtyd Community Councils suggested splitting the division in two having a single member for each. Efenechtyd Community Council went on to suggest that geographic, community and social links were not given enough consideration as Nantglyn and Llanrhaeadr had better links with other communities not included in the proposal. It also suggested that Gorllewin Clwyd could be made up of Bettws Gwerfil Goch, Clocaenog, Cyffylliog, Derwen, Efenechtyd, Gwyddelwern, Llanelidan and Llanfair DC as those communities had strong geographical, community and social links. The existing member representing Llanrhaedr-yng-Nghinmeirch was concerned over the lack of community and road links in the proposed division and that two members covering such a large would not be feasible, duplication of work could happen and that the electorate could get confused as to who is representing them.
- 6.42 We took those representations, objections and suggestions into consideration and recognise that in such a rural area, a geographically large electoral division may not be the way forward. Therefore in the interests of effective and convenient local government we propose to retain the existing Llanrhaedr-yng-Nghinmeirch electoral division as it is with 1,534 electors (1,564 projected) represented by a single member with a level of representation of 1,534 electors per councillor which is 13% below the proposed county average of 1,768. We propose that the name would remain as **Llanrhaedr-yng-Nghinmeirch**.

6.43 With regard to the remainder of the draft proposal division, Bettws Gwerfil Goch and Gwyddelwern have already been taken out and placed in the new Edeyrnion division (see paragraph 6.13). Considering this we propose that the remaining Clocaenog, Derwen, Llanelidan and Efenechtyd communities amalgamate with Llanfair Dyffryn Clwyd (see paragraph 6.39) to form a new division with 2,181 electors (2,225 projected) represented by a single member with a level of representation of 2,181 electors per councillor which is 23% above the proposed county average. We propose that the name **Gorllewin Clwyd** remains as there was no objection to the name from the retained communities.

### **Prestatyn Central, Prestatyn East and Meliden**

6.44 The existing Prestatyn Central electoral division consists of the Central ward of the Community of Prestatyn with 2,778 electors (2,908 projected) represented by 2 councillors with a level of representation of 1,389 electors per councillor which is 12% below than the existing county average of 1,580. The existing Prestatyn East electoral division consists of the Prestatyn East ward of the Community of Prestatyn with 3,117 electors (3,263 projected) represented by 2 councillors with a level of representation of 1,599 electors per councillor which is 1% below the existing county average of 1,580. The adjoining existing Prestatyn Meliden electoral division consists of the Meliden ward of the Community of Prestatyn with 1,560 electors (1,633 projected) represented by a single member with a level of representation of 1,560 electors per councillor which is 1% below the existing county average of 1,580. In our Draft Proposals report we proposed combining the three existing electoral divisions of Prestatyn Central, Prestatyn East and Meliden to form an electoral division with 7,455 electors (7,804 projected) represented by 4 councillors, with a level of representation of 1,864 which almost equalled the draft proposal county average of 1,856.

6.45 We received a strong objection from the Meliden Residents Action Group stating that Meliden was situated away from Prestatyn and it felt that it would not be properly represented if it were joined with the Prestatyn Central and East wards as it would not have a dedicated councillor representing the village area. Prestatyn Town Council also objected saying that Meliden would lose its individuality and voice. Councillors Mike and Isobel German (Prestatyn Town Council) wrote to oppose the amalgamation arguing that independent candidates would be put off from campaigning in a 'super ward' due to the size of the area and cost of campaigning. A resident of Prestatyn echoed the sentiments of the Prestatyn Town Councillors, opposing the amalgamation.

6.46 We considered the strong opposition to this proposal and recognise that Meliden is geographically and socially a different type of area to that of Prestatyn Town. In light of the opposition and in the interests of effective and convenient local government we propose that Meliden stands alone as an electoral division with 1,560 electors (1,633 projected) returning a single member with a level of representation of 1,560 electors per councillor which is 12% below the proposed county average with a name of **Prestatyn Meliden**. Further to that proposal, we propose that the Prestatyn Central and Prestatyn East divisions amalgamate with 5,895 electors (6,171 projected) represented by 3 councillors with a level of representation of 1,965 electors per councillor which is 11% above the proposed

county average. We propose that this division be called **Prestatyn East**. This proposal will produce an overall reduction in the number of councillors from 5 to 4, but does result in an improvement in electoral parity.

### **Prestatyn North and Prestatyn South West**

6.47 The existing Prestatyn North electoral division consists of the North (3,629 electors, 3,422 projected) and North West (1,398 electors, 1,463 projected) wards of the Community of Prestatyn with a total of 4,667 electors (4,885 projected) represented by 3 councillors with a level of representation of 1,556 electors per councillor which is 2% below the existing county average of 1,580. The existing Prestatyn South West electoral division consists of the Prestatyn South West ward of the Community of Prestatyn with 2,833 electors (2,966 projected) represented by 2 councillors with a level of representation of 1,417 electors per councillor which is 10% below the existing county average of 1,580. In our Draft Proposals report we proposed combining the existing electoral divisions of Prestatyn North and Prestatyn South West to form an electoral division with 7,500 electors (7,851 projected) represented by 4 councillors with a level of representation of 1,875 electors per councillor which is 1% above the draft proposal county average of 1,856.

6.48 No representations supporting or objecting to the proposals were received. Therefore in the interests of effective and convenient local government we propose that the draft proposal is taken forward and that the existing electoral divisions of Prestatyn North and Prestatyn South West amalgamate to form an electoral division with 7,500 electors (7,851 projected) represented by 4 councillors with a level of representation of 1,875 electors per councillor which is 6% above the proposed county average of 1,768 electors per councillor. We propose that the name of this division be **Prestatyn West**. This proposal will produce an overall reduction in the number of councillors from 5 to 4, but does result in an improvement in electoral parity.

### **Rhyl Electoral Divisions (Rhyl East, Rhyl South, Rhyl South East, Rhyl South West and Rhyl West)**

6.49 The existing Rhyl East electoral division consists of the Brynhedydd (1,634 electors, 1,710 projected) and Plastirion (2,125 electors, 2,224 projected) wards of the Community of Rhyl with a total of 3,759 electors (3,934 projected) represented by 2 councillors with a level of representation of 1,880 electors per councillor which is 19% above the existing county average of 1,580. The existing Rhyl South electoral division consists of the Derwen ward of the Community of Rhyl with 3,084 electors (3,228 projected) represented by 2 councillors with a level of representation of 1,542 electors per councillor which is 2% below the existing county average of 1,580. The existing Rhyl South East electoral division consists of the Trellewellyn (2,587 electors, 2,936 projected) and Tynewydd (3,384 electors, 3,546 projected) wards of the Community of Rhyl with a total of 5,974 electors (6,482 projected) represented by 3 councillors with a level of representation of 1,991 electors per councillor which is 26% above the existing county average of 1,580. The existing Rhyl South West electoral division consists of the Cefndy (2,303 electors, 2,411 projected) and Pendyffryn (1,280 electors, 1,340 projected)

wards of the Community of Rhyl with a total of 3,583 electors (3,751 projected) represented by 2 councillors with a level of representation of 1,792 electors per councillor which is 13% above the existing county average of 1,580. The existing Rhyl West electoral division consists of the Bodfor (1,679 electors, 1,758 projected) and Foryd (1,827 electors, 2,101 projected) wards of the Community of Rhyl with a total of 3,506 electors (3,859 projected) represented by 2 councillors with a level of representation of 1,753 electors per councillor which is 11% above the existing county average of 1,580.

- 6.50 In our Draft Proposals report we proposed to combine the Brynhedydd (1,634 electors, 1,710 projected), Plastirion (2,125 electors, 2,224 projected) and Tynewydd (3,384 electors, 3,546 projected) wards of the Community of Rhyl to form an electoral division with a total of 7,146 electors (7,480 projected), represented by 4 councillors, with a level of representation of 1,787 electors per councillor which is 4% below the draft proposal county average of 1,856. We proposed to combine the Pendyffryn (1,280 electors, 1,340 projected) and Trellewellyn (2,587 electors, 2,936 projected) wards of the community of Rhyl to form an electoral division with a total of 3,867 electors (4,276 projected) represented by 2 councillors, with a level of representation of 1,934 electors per councillor which is 4% above the draft proposal county average of 1,856. We proposed to combine the Cefndy (2,303 electors, 2,411 projected) and Derwen (3,084 electors, 3,228 projected) wards of the community of Rhyl to form an electoral division with a total of 5,387 electors (5,639 projected) represented by 3 councillors, with a level of representation of 1,796 electors per councillor which is 3% below the draft proposal county average of 1,856. We proposed no change to the electoral arrangements for the electoral division of Rhyl West, but we did propose a change of name to correspond with the proposed names of the other Rhyl electoral divisions.
- 6.51 We received no representations supporting or objecting to the proposals. However we have reconsidered the electoral arrangements of this area and believe that better electoral parity and smaller electoral divisions can be achieved by splitting the draft proposal division of Rhyl North East into two. We propose that in the interests of effective and convenient local government that the Brynhedydd and Plastirion wards of the Community of Rhyl be amalgamated to form an electoral division with 3,759 electors (3,934 projected) represented by 2 councillors with a level of representation of 1,880 electors per councillor which is 6% above the proposed county average of 1,768. We propose that the name of this electoral division be **Rhyl North East**. Further to this we also propose that the Ty Newydd ward of the Community of Rhyl stands alone as an electoral division in its own right with an electorate of 3,387 (3,546 projected) represented by 2 councillors with a level of representation of 1,694 electors per councillor which is 4% below the proposed county average of 1,768. We propose that the name of this electoral division be **Rhyl Ty Newydd**.

### Summary of Proposed Arrangements

- 6.52 The proposed electoral arrangements (as shown at Appendix 3) provide a level of parity that ranges from 24% below to 23% above the proposed county average of 1,768 electors per councillor (based on the existing electoral figures). Eight of the electoral divisions have levels of representation more than 10% above or below the

proposed county average of 1,768 electors per councillor and the remaining 16 (67%) all less than 10% above or below the proposed county average of 1,768 electors per councillor. This compares with the existing electoral arrangements (as shown at Appendix 2) where the level of parity ranges from 40% below to 26% above the existing county average of 1,580 electors per councillor. Two electoral divisions (7%) having levels of representation more than 25% above or below the current county average of 1,580 electors per councillor, 17 (57%) electoral divisions having levels of representation between 10% and 25% above or below than the current county average of 1,580 electors per councillor and the remaining 11 (36%) electoral divisions having levels of representation less than 10% above or below the current county average of 1,580 electors per councillor.

- 6.53 In producing a scheme of electoral arrangements it is necessary to have regard to a number of issues contained in the legislation and in the Minister's Direction. It is often not possible to resolve all of these sometimes conflicting issues because of the requirement of using the existing community and community wards as building blocks of electoral divisions and the varying level of representation that currently exists within these areas. In our proposed scheme we have placed emphasis on achieving improvements in electoral parity, moving towards 1,750 electors per councillor and retaining, where possible, single member electoral divisions. We recognise that the creation of electoral divisions which depart from the pattern which now exists would inevitably bring some disruption to established 'ties' between communities and may straddle community council areas in a way which is different. We have made every effort to ensure that the revised electoral divisions do reflect logical combinations of existing communities and community wards. We have looked at each of these areas and are satisfied that it would be difficult to achieve electoral arrangements that keep the existing combination of communities and community wards within single electoral divisions without having a detrimental effect on one or more of the other issues that are required to be considered.

## **7. PROPOSALS**

- 7.1 We propose a council of 42 members and 25 electoral divisions as set out in Appendix 3. For purposes of comparison the present electoral arrangements for the County are given at Appendix 2. The boundaries of the proposed electoral divisions are shown by continuous yellow lines on the map placed on deposit with this Report at the Offices of Denbighshire County Council and the Office of the Commission in Cardiff.

## **8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

- 8.1 We wish to express our gratitude to the principal council and all the community councils for their assistance during the course of the review and to all bodies and persons who made representations to us.

## **9. RESPONSES TO THIS REPORT**

- 9.1 Having completed our review of the County of Denbighshire and submitted our recommendations to the Welsh Assembly Government on the future electoral arrangements for the principal authority, we have fulfilled our statutory obligation under the directions issued by the Welsh Assembly Government.
- 9.2 It now falls to the Welsh Assembly Government, if it thinks fit, to give effect to these proposals either as submitted by the Commission or with modifications, and if the Welsh Assembly Government decides to give effect to these proposals with modifications, it may direct the Commission to conduct a further review.
- 9.3 Any further representations concerning the matters in the report should be addressed to the Welsh Assembly Government. They should be made as soon as possible, and in any event not later than six weeks from the date that the Commission's recommendations are submitted to the Welsh Assembly Government. Representations should be addressed to:

Democracy Team  
Local Government Policy Division  
Welsh Assembly Government  
Cathays Park  
Cardiff  
CF10 3NQ

**MR P J WOOD (Chairman)**

**REV. HYWEL MEREDYDD DAVIES BD (Deputy Chairman)**

**Mr D J BADER (Member)**

**E H LEWIS BSc. DPM FRSA FCIPD (Secretary)**

**August 2010**

## GLOSSARY OF TERMS USED IN THIS REPORT

|                                      |  |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| <b><i>Commission</i></b>             | The Local Government Boundary Commission for Wales   |
| <b><i>Council size</i></b>           | The number of councillors elected to the council   |
| <b><i>Directions</i></b>             | Directions issued to the Commission by the Government under Section 59 of the 1972 Act   |
| <b><i>Electoral arrangements</i></b> | How many Councillors there should be on the council of local government area, the parts into which the area should be divided for the purpose of electing councillors, the number of councillors for each electoral division, and the name of any electoral area |
| <b><i>Electoral divisions</i></b>    | The divisions into which principal areas are divided for the purpose of electing councillors, sometimes referred to colloquially as wards  |
| <b><i>Electoral review</i></b>       | A review in which the Commission considers electoral arrangements for a local government area  |
| <b><i>Electorate</i></b>             | The number of persons entitled to vote in a local government area  |
| <b><i>Electoral parity</i></b>       | The principle that votes within a principal area should carry equal weight, measured by a comparison between an electoral division and the county average of the number of electors represented by a single councillor.  |
| <b><i>Government</i></b>             | The Welsh Assembly Government  |
| <b><i>Interested person</i></b>      | Person or body who has an interest in the outcome of an electoral review such as the principal council concerned, local MPs, AMs and political parties, community and town councils  |
| <b><i>Multi member division</i></b>  | Electoral division within a principal area represented by more than one councillor   |
| <b><i>Order</i></b>                  | Order made by the Government, giving effect to the proposals of the Commission, either as submitted or with modifications  |
| <b><i>Principal area</i></b>         | The area governed by a principal council: in Wales, a County or County Borough   |
| <b><i>Principal council</i></b>      | In Wales, one of the unitary authorities: a County or County Borough council   |

|                                      |  |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| <b><i>Projected electorate</i></b>   | The five-year forecast of the number of electors provided by the Council for the area under review   |
| <b><i>Respondent</i></b>             | Body or individual person who responds to the Commission's consultation by making representations or suggesting alternative proposals  |
| <b><i>Rules</i></b>                  | Rules to be observed by the Commission in considering electoral arrangements   |
| <b><i>Single member division</i></b> | Electoral division of a principal authority represented by one councillor  |
| <b><i>The 1972 Act</i></b>           | The Local Government Act 1972 as amended by the 1994 Act   |
| <b><i>The 1994 Act</i></b>           | The Local Government (Wales) Act 1994  |
| <b><i>Unitary authority</i></b>      | A principal council - the single tier organ of local government, responsible for all or almost all local government functions within its area, which in Wales replaced the two tier system of county councils and district councils: a County Council, or a County Borough Council |
| <b><i>Wards</i></b>                  | The electoral areas of Community Councils (not all Community Council areas are warded). The term is also used to describe the principal council electoral divisions  |

**COUNTY OF DENBIGHSHIRE  
EXISTING COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP**

**Appendix 2**

| No. | NAME                                | DESCRIPTION  | No. OF COUNCILLORS | ELECTORATE 2009 | 2009 RATIO | % variance from County average | ELECTORATE 2014 | 2014 RATIO | % variance from County average |
|-----|-------------------------------------|--|--------------------|-----------------|------------|--------------------------------|-----------------|------------|--------------------------------|
| 1   | Bodelwyddan                         | The Community of Bodelwyddan   | 1                  | 1,651           | 1,651      | 5%                             | 1,728           | 1,728      | 4%                             |
| 2   | Corwen                              | The Community of Corwen  | 1                  | 1,889           | 1,889      | 20%                            | 1,927           | 1,927      | 16%                            |
| 3   | Denbigh Central                     | The Central ward of the Community of Denbigh                                       | 1                  | 1,443           | 1,443      | -9%                            | 1,511           | 1,511      | -9%                            |
| 4   | Denbigh Lower                       | The Lower ward of the Community of Denbigh   | 2                  | 3,503           | 1,752      | 11%                            | 3,667           | 1,834      | 10%                            |
| 5   | Denbigh Upper/Henllan               | The Upper ward of the Community of Denbigh and the Community of Henllan            | 2                  | 2,515           | 1,258      | -20%                           | 2,823           | 1,412      | -15%                           |
| 6   | Dyserth                             | The Community of Dyserth   | 1                  | 1,861           | 1,861      | 18%                            | 1,948           | 1,948      | 17%                            |
| 7   | Efenechtyd                          | The Communities of Betws Gwerfil Goch, Clocaenog, Denwen and Efenechtyd            | 1                  | 1,290           | 1,290      | -18%                           | 1,316           | 1,316      | -21%                           |
| 8   | Llanarmon-yn-Ial/Llandegla          | The Communities of Llanarmon-yn-Ial, Llandegla and Llanferres                      | 1                  | 1,927           | 1,927      | 22%                            | 1,965           | 1,965      | 18%                            |
| 9   | Llanbedr Dyffryn Clwyd/Llangynhafal | The Communities of Llanbedr Dyffryn Clwyd and Llangynhafal                         | 1                  | 1,216           | 1,216      | -23%                           | 1,240           | 1,240      | -25%                           |
| 10  | Llandrillo                          | The Communities of Cynwyd and Llandrillo   | 1                  | 952             | 952        | -40%                           | 971             | 971        | -42%                           |
| 11  | Llandymog                           | The Communities of Aberwheeler, Llandymog and Llanynys                             | 1                  | 1,685           | 1,685      | 7%                             | 1,718           | 1,718      | 3%                             |
| 12  | Llanfair Dyffryn Clwyd/Gwyddelwern  | The Communities of Bryneglwys, Gwyddelwern, Llanellidan and Llanfair Dyffryn Clwyd | 1                  | 1,856           | 1,856      | 18%                            | 1,894           | 1,894      | 14%                            |
| 13  | Llangollen                          | The Communities of Llangollen and Llantysilio                                      | 2                  | 3,347           | 1,674      | 6%                             | 3,495           | 1,748      | 5%                             |
| 14  | Llanrhaeadr-yn-Nghinmeirch          | The Communities of Cyffylliog, Llanrhaeadr-yn-Nghinmeirch and Nantglyn             | 1                  | 1,534           | 1,534      | -3%                            | 1,564           | 1,564      | -6%                            |
| 15  | Prestatyn Meliden                   | The Meliden ward of the Community of Prestatyn                                     | 1                  | 1,560           | 1,560      | -1%                            | 1,633           | 1,633      | -2%                            |
| 16  | Prestatyn Central                   | The Central ward of the Community of Prestatyn                                     | 2                  | 2,778           | 1,389      | -12%                           | 2,908           | 1,454      | -13%                           |
| 17  | Prestatyn East                      | The East ward of the Community of Prestatyn  | 2                  | 3,117           | 1,559      | -1%                            | 3,263           | 1,632      | -2%                            |

COUNTY OF DENBIGHSHIRE  
EXISTING COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP

| No.            | NAME                 | DESCRIPTION  | No. OF COUNCILLORS | ELECTORATE 2009 | 2009 RATIO   | % variance from County average | ELECTORATE 2014 | 2014 RATIO   | % variance from County average |
|----------------|----------------------|--|--------------------|-----------------|--------------|--------------------------------|-----------------|--------------|--------------------------------|
| 18             | Prestatyn North      | The North and North West wards of the Community of Prestatyn | 3                  | 4,667           | 1,556        | -2%                            | 4,885           | 1,628        | -2%                            |
| 19             | Prestatyn South West | The South West ward of the Community of Prestatyn            | 2                  | 2,833           | 1,417        | -10%                           | 2,966           | 1,483        | -11%                           |
| 20             | Rhuddlan             | The Community of Rhuddlan                                    | 2                  | 2,960           | 1,480        | -6%                            | 3,099           | 1,550        | -7%                            |
| 21             | Rhyl East            | The Brynheddyd and Plasirion wards of the Community of Rhyl  | 2                  | 3,759           | 1,880        | 19%                            | 3,934           | 1,967        | 18%                            |
| 22             | Rhyl South           | The Derwen ward of the Community of Rhyl                     | 2                  | 3,084           | 1,542        | -2%                            | 3,228           | 1,614        | -3%                            |
| 23             | Rhyl South East      | The Ty Newydd and Trellwelyn wards of the Community of Rhyl  | 3                  | 5,974           | 1,991        | 26%                            | 6,482           | 2,161        | 30%                            |
| 24             | Rhyl South West      | The Penyffryn and Cefndy wards of the Community of Rhyl      | 2                  | 3,583           | 1,792        | 13%                            | 3,751           | 1,876        | 13%                            |
| 25             | Rhyl West            | The Foryd and Bodfor wards of the Community of Rhyl          | 2                  | 3,506           | 1,753        | 11%                            | 3,859           | 1,930        | 16%                            |
| 26             | Ruthin               | The Community of Ruthin                                      | 3                  | 4,202           | 1,401        | -11%                           | 4,614           | 1,538        | -8%                            |
| 27             | St. Asaph East       | The East ward of the Community of St. Asaph                  | 1                  | 1,337           | 1,337        | -15%                           | 1,438           | 1,438        | -14%                           |
| 28             | St. Asaph West       | The West ward of the Community of St. Asaph                  | 1                  | 1,339           | 1,339        | -15%                           | 1,402           | 1,402        | -16%                           |
| 29             | Trefnant             | The Communities of Cefnmeiriadog and Trefnant                | 1                  | 1,566           | 1,566        | -1%                            | 1,631           | 1,631        | -2%                            |
| 30             | Tremeirchion         | The Communities of Bodfari, Cwm, Tremeirchion and Waen       | 1                  | 1,305           | 1,305        | -17%                           | 1,332           | 1,332        | -20%                           |
| <b>TOTALS:</b> |                      |  | <b>47</b>          | <b>74,239</b>   | <b>1,580</b> |                                | <b>78,192</b>   | <b>1,664</b> |                                |

Ratio is the number of electors per councillor

Electoral figures supplied by Denbighshire County Council

|   | 2009 | 2014 |
|---|------|------|
| Greater than + or - 50% of County average           | 0    | 0    |
| Between + or - 25% and + or - 50% of County average | 2    | 3    |
| Between + or - 10% and + or - 25% of County average | 17   | 15   |
| Between 0% and + or - 10% of County average         | 11   | 12   |
|   |      | 0%   |
|   |      | 10%  |
|   |      | 50%  |
|   |      | 40%  |

## COUNTY OF DENBIGHSHIRE PROPOSED COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP

| No. | NAME                      | DESCRIPTION   | No. of Councillors 2009 | ELECTORATE 2009 | 2009 RATIO   | % variance from County average | No. of Councillors 2014 | ELECTORATE 2014 | 2014 RATIO   | % variance from County average |
|-----|---------------------------|---|-------------------------|-----------------|--------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------|--------------|--------------------------------|
| 1   | Bach y Graig (285)        | The Communities of Cefnmeiriadog 337 (344), Cwm 260 (265), Henllan 678 (710), Treihant 1,229 (1,227), Waen 185 (189), Treimeirchion 581 (593) and Bodfair 279 | 2                       | 3,549           | 1,775        | 0%                             | 2                       | 3,673           | 1,837        | -1%                            |
| 2   | Bodelwyddan               | The Community of Bodelwyddan  | 1                       | 1,651           | 1,651        | -7%                            | 1                       | 1,728           | 1,728        | -7%                            |
| 3   | Denbigh Central           | The Central ward of the Community of Denbigh  | 1                       | 1,443           | 1,443        | -18%                           | 1                       | 1,511           | 1,511        | -19%                           |
| 4   | Denbigh East              | The Lower ward of the Community of Denbigh  | 2                       | 3,503           | 1,752        | -1%                            | 2                       | 3,667           | 1,834        | -2%                            |
| 5   | Denbigh West              | The Upper ward of the Community of Denbigh  | 1                       | 1,837           | 1,837        | 4%                             | 1                       | 2,113           | 2,113        | 13%                            |
| 6   | Dyffryn Clwyd Isaf        | The Communities of Llandegla 424 (432), Llanarmon yn Ial 903 (921) and Bryneglwys 289 (295)   | 1                       | 1,616           | 1,616        | -9%                            | 1                       | 1,648           | 1,648        | -11%                           |
| 7   | Dyffryn Clwyd Uchaf       | The Communities of Llanbedr Dyffryn Clwyd 700 (714), Llanferres 600 (612) and Llangynhatal 516 (526)  | 1                       | 1,816           | 1,816        | 3%                             | 1                       | 1,852           | 1,852        | -1%                            |
| 8   | Dyserth                   | The Community of Dyserth  | 1                       | 1,861           | 1,861        | 5%                             | 1                       | 1,948           | 1,948        | 5%                             |
| 9   | Edeyrnion                 | The Communities of Llandrillo 490 (500), Cynwyd 462 (471), Corwen 1,889 (1,927), Betws Gwerfyl Goch 251 (256) and Gwyddelwern 425 (434)                       | 2                       | 3,517           | 1,759        | -1%                            | 2                       | 3,588           | 1,794        | -4%                            |
| 10  | Gorllewin Clwyd           | The Communities of Clocaenog 196 (200), Derwen 352 (359), Efenectyd 490 (501), Llanfair Dyffryn Clwyd 891 (909) and Llanellidan 251 (256)                     | 1                       | 2,181           | 2,181        | 23%                            | 1                       | 2,225           | 2,225        | 20%                            |
| 11  | Llandyrnog                | The Communities of Aberwheeler 273 (278), Liandrymog 847 (864) and Llanynys 565 (576)   | 1                       | 1,685           | 1,685        | -5%                            | 1                       | 1,718           | 1,718        | -8%                            |
| 12  | Llangollen                | The Communities of Llangollen 3,018 (3,159) and Llantysilio 329 (336)   | 2                       | 3,347           | 1,674        | -5%                            | 2                       | 3,495           | 1,748        | -6%                            |
| 13  | Llanhaedryng-Nghinmelirch | The Communities of Nantglyn 272 (277), Llanhaedryng-Nghinmelirch 855 (872) and Cyfylllog 407 (415)  | 1                       | 1,534           | 1,534        | -13%                           | 1                       | 1,564           | 1,564        | -16%                           |
| 14  | Prestatyn East            | The Central (2,778 (2,908) and East 3,117 (3,263) wards of the Community of Prestatyn   | 3                       | 5,895           | 1,965        | 11%                            | 3                       | 6,171           | 2,057        | 10%                            |
| 15  | Prestatyn Meliden         | The Meliden ward of the Community of Prestatyn  | 1                       | 1,560           | 1,560        | -12%                           | 1                       | 1,633           | 1,633        | -12%                           |
| 16  | Prestatyn West            | The North West 1,398 (1,463), North 3,269 (3,422) and South West 2,833 (2,966) wards of the Community of Prestatyn  | 4                       | 7,500           | 1,875        | 6%                             | 4                       | 7,851           | 1,963        | 5%                             |
| 17  | Rhuddlan                  | The Community of Rhuddlan   | 2                       | 2,960           | 1,480        | -16%                           | 2                       | 3,099           | 1,550        | -17%                           |
| 18  | Rhyl North East           | The Plasirion 2,125 (2,224) and Brynchedydd 1,634 (1,710) wards of the Community of Rhyl  | 2                       | 3,759           | 1,880        | 6%                             | 2                       | 3,934           | 1,967        | 6%                             |
| 19  | Rhyl North West           | The Bodfor 1,679 (1,758) and Foryd 1,827 (2,101) wards of the Community of Rhyl   | 2                       | 3,506           | 1,753        | -1%                            | 2                       | 3,859           | 1,930        | 4%                             |
| 20  | Rhyl South East           | The Trellewelllyn 2,587 (2,936) and Pendyffryn wards of the Community of Rhyl   | 2                       | 3,867           | 1,934        | 9%                             | 2                       | 4,276           | 2,138        | 15%                            |
| 21  | Rhyl South West           | The Cefndy 2,303 (2,411) and Derwen 3,084 (3,228) wards of the Community of Rhyl  | 3                       | 5,387           | 1,796        | 2%                             | 3                       | 5,639           | 1,880        | 1%                             |
| 22  | Rhyl Ty Newydd            | The Ty Newydd ward of the Community of Rhyl   | 2                       | 3,367           | 1,694        | -4%                            | 2                       | 3,546           | 1,773        | -5%                            |
| 23  | Ruthin                    | The Community of Ruthin   | 2                       | 4,202           | 2,101        | 19%                            | 2                       | 4,614           | 2,307        | 24%                            |
| 24  | St Asaph East             | The East Ward of the Community of St Asaph  | 1                       | 1,337           | 1,337        | -24%                           | 1                       | 1,438           | 1,438        | -23%                           |
| 25  | St Asaph West             | The West Ward of the Community of St Asaph  | 1                       | 1,339           | 1,339        | -24%                           | 1                       | 1,402           | 1,402        | -25%                           |
|     |                           | <b>TOTALS:</b>  | <b>42</b>               | <b>74,239</b>   | <b>1,768</b> |                                | <b>42</b>               | <b>78,192</b>   | <b>1,862</b> |                                |

Ratio is the number of electors per councillor

The number of electors (or 2009 and 2014 (in brackets) are included in the description of those electoral divisions which comprise more than one community / community ward.

Electoral figures supplied by Denbighshire County Council

|   | 2009 | 2014 |
|---|------|------|
| Greater than + or - 50% of County average           | 0    | 0    |
| Between + or - 25% and + or - 50% of County average | 0    | 0    |
| Between + or - 10% and + or - 25% of County average | 9    | 12   |
| Between 0% and + or - 10% of County average         | 16   | 13   |
|   | 0%   | 0%   |
|   | 0%   | 0%   |
|   | 36%  | 48%  |
|   | 64%  | 52%  |

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 SUBORDINATE LEGISLATION
 

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## 2009 NO. 2

## LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

Directions to the Local Government Boundary Commission for  
Wales 2009

*Made* 2009

*Coming into force* 2009

The Welsh Ministers, in exercise of the powers conferred on the Secretary of State by section 59 (1) of the Local Government Act 1972<sup>(1)</sup> and now vested in them <sup>(2)</sup> make the following Directions:

**Title, commencement and application**

**1.**—(1) The title of these Directions is the Directions to the Local Government Boundary Commission for Wales 2009.

(2) These Directions come into force on the day after the day on which they are made.

(3) These Directions are given to the Local Government Boundary Commission for Wales and apply in relation to Wales.

**Interpretation**

**2.** In these Directions—

“the Act” means the Local Government Act 1972; and

“the Commission” means the Local Government Boundary Commission for Wales.

**Multi Member Divisions**

**3.**—(1) Pursuant to paragraph 1A(3) of Schedule 11 to the Act <sup>(3)</sup> the Welsh Ministers direct that the Commission shall consider the desirability of multi member electoral divisions in each county council and county borough council <sup>(4)</sup> in the principal areas in Wales mentioned in section 20, Schedule 4 of the Act.

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(1) 1972 c. 70.

(2) By virtue of the National Assembly for Wales (Transfer of Functions) Order 1999 (S.I. 1999/672) and paragraph 30(1) and 2 (a) of Schedule 11 to the Government of Wales Act 2006.

(3) as inserted by section 7(3) of the Local Government (Wales) Act 1994.

(4) as referred to in the Local Government Act 1972, section 20, Schedule 4, substituted by the Local Government (Wales) Act 1994, section 1 (2), Schedule 1, paragraph 2.

**Review of electoral arrangements**

4.—(1) Pursuant to section 59 (1) of the Act the Welsh Ministers give the following directions to the Commission for their guidance in conducting the review of electoral arrangements which they are required to carry out under section 55 of the Act—

- (a) It is considered that a minimum number of 30 councillors is required for the proper management of the affairs of a county or a county borough council;
- (b) It is considered that, in order to minimise the risk of a county council or a county borough council becoming unwieldy and difficult to manage, a maximum number of 75 councillors is ordinarily required for the proper management of the affairs of a county or a county borough council;
- (c) It is considered that the aim should be to achieve electoral divisions with a councillor to electorate ratio no lower than 1:1750;
- (d) It is considered that a decision to alter the existing pattern of multi and single member divisions in the areas referred to in paragraph 3 of these Directions should only be taken where such proposals for alteration are broadly supported by the electorate so far as their views can be obtained in fulfilment of the consultation requirement contained in section 60 of the Act;
- (e) It is considered that the Commission shall, when conducting reviews under Part 4 of the Act, comply with paragraph 1A of Schedule 11 to the Act and these Directions.

**Reports of the review of electoral arrangements**

5.—(1) Pursuant to section 58(1) of the Act the Welsh Ministers direct that reports prepared by the Commission in respect of the review of electoral arrangements in relation to county and county borough councils in Wales shall be submitted to the Welsh Ministers by no later than 30 June 2011.



Signed by the Minister for Social Justice and Local Government

Date 13 / 1 / 2009

**Brian Gibbons AC/AM**  
Y Gweinidog dros Gyfiawnder Cymdeithasol a Llywodraeth  
Leol  
Minister for Social Justice and Local Government



Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru  
Welsh Assembly Government

Eich cyf/Your ref  
Ein cyf/Our ref MB/BG/291/09

Paul Wood  
Chair  
Local Government Boundary  
Commission for Wales  
Caradog House  
1-6 St Andrews Place  
Cardiff  
CF10 3BE

12<sup>th</sup> May 2009

*Dear Paul,*

**Directions on Reviews of Electoral Arrangements**

I am aware that you have now commenced preliminary work on the cycle of reviews of electoral arrangements in each of the principal councils. Representations I have received from local government suggest to me that you may have interpreted my directions as being more prescriptive than those issued by the Secretary of State for Wales in 1995 prior to the last review cycle. I want to make clear that this is not the case.

The directions are issued for your guidance and are not to be viewed as instructions. In a number of respects – notably, in relation to the areas appropriate for multi-member divisions and the timetable – the last directions were more prescriptive but in relation to the central issue of the councillor to elector ratio the wording is identical. This means that the ratio remains as the aim to be worked towards and not as a goal to be achieved in each case. In doing so attention should be paid to local communities having their own identifiable representation even where the indicative figure of 1750 electors/councillor is not always achievable.

I do, of course, recognise that since 1995 we have seen the introduction of executive or alternative arrangements in principal councils, which may have implications for the number of councillors required to make a council fully functional. The 1995 directions were also introduced at a time of reorganisation, in a different political atmosphere from now.

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay  
Caerdydd • Cardiff  
CF99 1NA

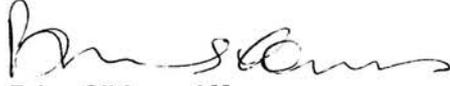
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*Wedi'i argraffu ar bapur wedi'i ailgylchu (100%)*

Finally, I should also point out the stipulation in Schedule 11 of the Local Government Act 1972, that regard should be had to the need to fix boundaries which are easily identifiable and which recognise local community ties.

I wish you well in the review process.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Brian Gibbons', written in a cursive style.

**Brian Gibbons AM**

## SUMMARY OF REPRESENTATIONS RECEIVED IN RESPONSE TO DRAFT PROPOSALS

**Denbighshire County Council** submitted an overall response whilst giving opportunity to individual members to respond with their own representations. The Council is of the view that the proposals do not meet the objective of securing effective and convenient local government.

- The Council focused on what was thought to be a purely mathematical approach with no account taken of communities, local ties, topography and easily identifiable boundaries. They state that there is an over reliance on creating divisions that fit into existing parliamentary boundaries.
- They are concerned with the geographical size of some of the proposed divisions.
- They are aware of arguments to merge outlying rural areas with some larger towns to achieve electoral parity, but local ties need to be taken into consideration.
- There is concern over deterring a broader range of candidates and that it would hinder young working candidates and those with family commitments from wanting to stand.

**Bodelwyddan Town Council** is against the proposals for the following reasons:

- The projected number of electors only falls short of the recommended level by 22 voters and therefore it is reasonable for Bodelwyddan to be able to command its own County Councillor for its area based on the Boundary Commission's predictions.
- In comparison the Boundary Commission have recognised independent identity of the Meliden ward of Prestatyn and recommended a single councillor. This area has similar number proposed electors as Bodelwyddan and like Bodelwyddan it is a distinct area but neighbouring on an adjacent Town and linked by a road network
- The Bodelwyddan area has a distinct identity separate from St Asaph and is separated by the A55 not linked by it.
- Also the Boundary commission have failed to take into account the possible impact of the proposed Local Development Plan on Bodelwyddan in that this will possibly increase the electoral population. The increase in the population could be around 3540 people as there is a proposal that Bodelwyddan is a key site for housing development. This would there raise the estimated number of electors to 5286 electors and the need would be for 3 County Councillor to represent the area based on the Boundary Commission recommendations . The Community of Bodelwyddan would be come one of the highest populated areas in the Denbighshire County.
- Bodelwyddan Town Council also supports the views of Denbighshire County Council and St Asaph Town Council who are also against this reduction in the number of councillors.

**Bodfari Community Council** wrote with the following points:

- Councillor pulled around and not available/visible locally, particularly in rural areas
- The additional work due to dealing with more electors could detract 'professionals' from standing for council.
- In particular, Bodfari has more in common with the communities it is currently grouped with.
- Questionable as to whether the population projections are accurate based on current ongoing housing developments in the area.

**Bryneglwyns Community Council** was extremely dissatisfied with the proposals and wishes the existing electoral divisions to remain as they are. They felt that as their county councillor lives and works in their area they are well represented and he is aware of all

local issues. They feel that if they were incorporated into a larger electoral division that they would lose all meaningful representation. They feel that Bryneglwys will be a forgotten village if the proposals go ahead.

**Cefn Meiriadog Community Council** state that they would like to remain the same as it would mean more travelling for the local councillor and a loss of the more personal services. There would not be an adequate number of councillors for rural areas.

**Clocaenog Community Council** wrote to oppose the draft proposals relating to the Gorllewin Clwyd ward as members feel it is too large an area to cover and would be unworkable as the members would not have time and ability to work for all nine community council areas. Members felt that the ward should be split in two and have one member per area.

**Corwen Community Council** commented and supports the intent of having similar numbers of electors in each electoral division across a principle area. However, they suggest that in deep rural areas some latitude is required. They contend that the rule states that every ward of a community that has a council should lie wholly in a single electoral division, in the case of splitting the wards of Corwen to join Llangollen and Llandrillo respectively. They suggest an alternative proposal to link Corwen, Cynwyd, Llandrillo, Carrog, and Glyndyfrdwy with Bettws Gwerfil Goch and Gwyddelwern to form a 2 member division. They state that there already exists a synergy between those communities based on culture and history. Prior to 1974 the community was managed by the rural district council of Edeyrnion.

**Cyffylliog Community Council** wrote to oppose the draft proposals relating to the Gorllewin Clwyd ward. Community council members strongly agree and endorse the views of Councillor Paul Marfleet as set out in his representation letter.

**Denbigh Town Council** resolved to object to the proposals for the Denbigh Upper and Central wards for the following reasons:

- Proposal to reduce the county membership to 40 was impractical and not viable.
- Proposals would do nothing to encourage young people to stand as candidates.
- Busy work schedule that exists for elected members prohibits young people from standing in elections.
- Adding Denbigh Central to Denbigh Upper and Henllan would increase the workload for 2 members and the diversity that existed within the two wards would be too much for 2 members to cope with.
- Looking after the Central ward as well and the Upper and Henllan ward would be too difficult a task taking in to account the combination of the main retail area and large residential area in the town and the Henllan community.
- Members felt that a number of factors had not been taken into account.
- The current arrangement of including Henllan with Upper Denbigh had an impact on Denbigh Upper missing out on a number of funding opportunities.
- Henllan would be better served being combined with another rural ward such as Cefn Meiriadog.

**Derwen Community Council** wrote to oppose the draft proposals relating to the Gorllewin Clwyd ward. The council members felt that the area was too big for two ward councillors to represent and they suggest that would the change take place then the candidates for the ward should reside within the ward area, which is the same ruling that qualifies a member to become a community councillor.

**Efenechtyd Community Council** does not feel that enough consideration has been given to the geographic, community and social links between communities in the proposals. Due to the links between Efenechtyd and Llanfair DC they propose that Llanfair DC join the proposed Gorllewin Clwyd division. They have no objections to Llanelidan, Gwyddelwern and Cyffylliog joining to form Gorllewin Clwyd. However they do suggest that Nantglyn and Llanrhaeadr would have better links with other communities such as Denbigh West & Henllan and Llandyrnog. They also suggested that Gorllewin Clwyd be made up of Bettws Gwerfil Goch, Clocaenog, Cyffylliog, Derwen, Efenechtyd, Gwyddelwern, Llanelidan and Llanfair DC as those communities have strong geographical, community and social links.

**Henllan Community Council** wrote to oppose the draft proposal to be joined with Denbigh Town and felt it to be more acceptable to be in the Bach-y-Graig ward with other village communities.

**Llandrillo Community Council** forwarded the following comments:

- There is no need to change the boundaries at all and leave Llandrillo Community Council and Cynwyd Community Council as they are, namely Llandrillo Ward.
- If there are changes, we would ask you to leave the boundaries as they were in the past - namely the former Edeyrnion boundaries.
- Carrog and Glyndyfrdwy remain with Edeyrnion instead of being moved to the Llangollen Ward. There is no reason why Carrog and Glyndyfrdwy should be transferred to Llangollen - both historically and geographically, they are part of Edeyrnion - part of the old Merionethshire.
- It is necessary to retain the Councils of Gwyddelwern and Melin y Wig with Edeyrnion.
- To have two county councillors to represent Edeyrnion.
- To leave everything as it is at present.

**Llanelidan Community Council** wrote to oppose the draft proposal to have Llanelidan in the Gorllewin Clwyd ward as the rural ward to be too large and impractical and feel strongly that the status quo should remain.

**Llanfair Dyffryn Clwyd Community Council** was aghast to read of the Commissions proposals and their main concern being urban representation would prevail over rural communities. Most of the Community Council area is agricultural and has no compatibility with its town neighbours. Should the proposals be enforced the council would like a guarantee that one of the vacancies would be allocated to their area even though they realise that it is unlikely to happen. The community council objects to the proposals and wish the status quo to remain to enable rural representation to continue.

**Llangollen Town Council** restricted its comments to the proposals relating to Corwen and Llangollen. The council does not agree with the proposal to include the lower ward of the Community of Corwen with Llangollen. It states that Carrog and Glyndyfrdwy have more natural and cultural links with Corwen rather than Llangollen and the council feels a solution should be found within the Corwen and Llandrillo areas. The council also strongly objects to the proposed name of Glyn Dyfrdwy and suggest that whatever electoral changes are made in the area, the name of Llangollen should stay.

**Llangynhafal Community Council** stated that they could not support the proposals affecting their community and felt that single member representation was important for rural divisions to endure that public/councillor relationships and accountability were maintained. They oppose the multi member proposal. They state that their community has

strong ties with Ruthin and Denbigh and that other communities proposed to be included in a new electoral division have more in common with Mold in Flintshire and Wrexham. They suggest that Llangynhafal only be linked to communities within the vale of Clwyd such as Llanbedr and Llanynys.

**Llanrhaeadr YC Community Council** wrote to oppose the draft proposals relating to the Gorllewin Clwyd ward. The council members felt that the ward should be named Gorllewin Dinbych as the County of Clwyd no longer exists where the County of Denbighshire does exist and the Llanrhaeadr YC community has more connections with the Llandyrnog ward.

**Llantysilio Community Council** stated that in principle it supports the proposal to reduce elected members but it has concerns over the proposed electoral division changes. Llantysilio has strong connections with Glyndyfrdwy and Corwen and has no objection to being joined with Corwen although it does not see the wisdom in joining the lower ward of Corwen with Llangollen. The council does have strong objections to being named Glyn Dyfrdwy and suggests Cwm Dyfrdwy as an alternative. As one of the largest rural areas in the county the community is concerned at losing its identity with the Llangollen Boundary. Whilst there is no objection to being kept within the Llangollen electoral division it is hoped that WAG will take that concern into account when the Final Proposals are submitted.

**Prestatyn Town Council** stated that it had considered the proposals and made the following unanimous objections in respect of Prestatyn and Meliden:

- Proposals would lead to an increase in workload and discourage individuals from standing for election. Large size of proposed electoral wards may cause difficulty for single non party councillors.
- Meliden community would lose its individuality and own voice.
- Any proposal to improve representational priority should be accompanied by a review of the County electoral boundaries.

**St Asaph Town Council** wrote to state that while members understand the way in which the Commission has arrived at its proposals, it feels that no consideration has been given to:-

- The 'Community spirit' attributable to the two communities effected i.e. St.Asaph & Bodelwyddan - both of which are sizeable communities in their own right, with their own needs and appropriate representation and
- The effect of the County Council's Local Development Plan for the next 15 years which, in part, proposes to increase the housing stock for Bodelwyddan by approximately 2,000 dwellings,[together with a moderate increase for St.Asaph] which would, of course by the Commission's own calculations, require two representatives for Bodelwyddan, in addition to the two for St.Asaph.
- It recommends therefore that for the Community of St.Asaph the status quo remains.

**Trefnant Community Council** considered that that proposals to reduce the number of councillors in rural areas would weaken the voice in rural communities. It would leave rural communities under represented on the County Council as the coastal town areas maintain their high number of seats.

**Tremeirchion, Cwm and Waen Community Council** made the following points:

- If Cwm and Waen communities are attached to an urban council such as Rhuddlan then it would result in the rural status and identities of those communities being lost forever. The needs of an urban district are very different from rural needs and that

## Appendix 5

should have been given higher priority when the Commission were merging different wards.

- Councillors are mindful that the community council is unique in that it comprises of more than one ward and will mean it will be disenfranchised in the future if they decided to amalgamate to 1 ward.
- They ask for consideration to be made to just combine rural wards such as Tremeirchion, Cwm, Waen, Bodfari and Aberwheeler or alternatively Cwm, Waen, Tremeirchion and Trefnant in order for the community to keep its rural status.

**Eleanor Burnham AM** for North Wales wrote to voice concerns made to her by constituents and councillors within Denbighshire as follows:

- It is false premise to re-arrange boundaries as it alienates the electorate.
- It is confusing for electorate if there are multiple councillors in a ward.
- It is nonsense to split existing wards without assessing cultural connections e.g. between Llangollen and Corwen.
- Increasing travelling distances for councillors is not efficient as it adds to their workload and reduces proper meaningful contact.

**Councillor W. L. Cowie** (St Asaph West) wrote regarding the proposal to join Bodelwyddan and St Asaph together. He made the point that the Local Development Plan that was currently being put together proposes that Bodelwyddan would have up to 2,000 extra houses and an increase in employment land. He disagrees with the suggestion that 2 councillors could cover what would in effect be two separate towns and requested that the Commission rethink the proposal.

**Councillor Janet Ann Davies** (Rhuddlan) does not support the proposal to join Rhuddlan with Waen, Rhualt, Tremeirchion and Cwm as she felt it did not benefit rural areas. She did think that joining Rhuddlan with Waen would be acceptable. She opposed the proposed name of Twt Hill and suggested the alternative of Bro Rhuddlan.

**Councillor Bobby Feeley**, (Ruthin) wrote with no objection in principle to the overall representation being cut from 47 to 40. As a councillor in a multi member ward of 3 she is happy to include Llanfair DC within the electoral division. She states she is also happy with the multi member ward as it has always been operated in Ruthin and works well. She finishes by saying that some rural areas may need some re-working and some proposed names need changing.

**Councillor Paul Marfleet** (Llanrhaeadr-yng-Nghinmeirch) voiced his concerns over the proposals and he supports, in principle, initiatives that result in greater efficiency and develops community engagement. He is not adverse to changing electoral boundaries to remove duplication. However he is concerned that the proposals do not appear to address those objectives in an adequate manner. He argues that the projected electorate figure should lead to 45 elected members as a minimum if divided by the 1,750 ratio proposed. He mentions the increase in multi member wards citing his own area as an example and the fact that two members covering a large area with several community councils would not be feasible. He also mentions the lack of community and road links in some areas.

He goes on to say that the logistics of canvassing at election time especially in rural areas can be difficult, and even more difficult if that area is expanded. He is concerned that two members could submit conflicting requests to Local Authority officers and that the electorate could become confused as to who their elected member is and that some duplication of work may happen. Further to this he points out that some missed

opportunities have taken place such as splitting the affluent Henllan from Denbigh Upper that would be categorised as one of Wales's areas of greatest deprivation. He recognises the suggested electoral division names but thinks it most important that local knowledge is given priority in renaming areas.

**Councillors Mike and Isobel German**, (Prestatyn North ward of Prestatyn Town Council) commented on the proposed reduction in representation for Prestatyn and the restructure and amalgamation of Prestatyn North and Prestatyn South west to form a new '*Super Prestatyn West Ward*' and Meliden, Central and East to form a new '*Super Prestatyn East Ward*'. They were of the view that whilst satisfying an economy of scale in regard to a reduction of 2 paid elected members it would also deny any aspiring Independent candidate from mounting a successful challenge. They believe that any Independent challenger would be able to mount a credible campaign due to the increased cost and difficulty in distributing a larger number of leaflets for the two new '*Super Wards*'.

They were also of the view that any challenger would soon be 'put off' or be 'seen off' by any large group mobilising a party machine for their campaign which would enable easy delivery of election addressed and a sharing of costs for that election address with an inevitable land slide block vote. They urged the Commission to reconsider the proposals for Prestatyn/Meliden and realise the daunting task and difficulties in terms of election material that would face any prospective challenger in a '*Super Ward*'.

**Meliden Residents Action Group** stated that after a meeting, discussion and vote, they rejected the proposal to merge Prestatyn Central, East and Meliden to form one electoral division and reducing the number of councillors from 5 to 4. They considered the reduction in councillor and amalgamation to be detrimental to the residents of Meliden who would lose a dedicated councillor for the village, as the proposed 4 councillors would have a wider area to cover. They also said that it may also deter Independent candidates from standing as councillors in the future due to the size of the area, and number of households to be leafleted and visited. It would favour large political party machines with more money and labour available. As Meliden is physically situated away from Prestatyn it is likely that the 4 proposed councillors would be less inclined to visit as often as they might be required. However, if the proposals were to be put in place they favoured the name of the new electoral division to be Prestatyn East & Meliden.

**Two residents** of Cwm, wrote stating that they have long held the opinion that Cwm Community Council should merge with Dyserth as the communities have a common interest. They send their children to school there and share a vicar. They asked if their suggestion could be taken in to consideration.

**A resident** of Prestatyn, wrote to say that he believed that we are over burdened by bureaucracy but posed the question asking for a fair and practical answer to the problem of increasing electoral divisions therefore disadvantaging the independent, non party candidate, and the practicality of delivering leaflets to what would be three times the voters or possibly up to 10,000 electors and the size of the electoral division.

**A resident** of Rhuddlan wrote to object to the proposals for Rhuddlan as it is an expanding town and it needs two elected members as one would not cater to the needs of Rhuddlan's population. She also strongly objects to the renaming of the ward to Twt Hill and suggested the alternative of Bro Rhuddlan.

**A resident** of Llandrillo commented as follows:

- It is almost impossible to find someone with a good word in support.
- Your estimate of the number of future electors in the Llandrillo and Corwen wards are incredible and cannot be substantiated.
- Many statutory bodies and individuals have put forward good reasons for you to consider. No notice has been taken of them. This is a dictatorship, not a Democracy.
- Your names for proposed new wards are laughable
- The Welsh Assembly and Denbighshire County Council believe in respecting distinctiveness in communities. Your commission clearly does not.
- The draft report indicates a very basic standard. As a retired headmaster, I would have been disappointed with the standard if it had been the work of average pupils in the earlier years.
- I wonder if there has been a hidden pre-determined agenda, which would be against democracy.

**A resident** of Rhuddlan wrote to say that she understood the economic value of a reduction in councillors; she thought the reduction in electoral divisions was disproportionate. She also thought the proposal to rename the extended ward of Rhuddlan to Twt Hill was offensive.

**A resident** of Preston wrote that as a non-resident, he believes that submissions from outside the areas concerned provides a 'fresh set of eyes' that does not have the inherent geographical or political bias from those within the boundaries of Denbighshire. His submission deals solely with the proposed names of the electoral divisions. He understands that the disparity between 1 member and 4 or 5 member divisions in the same council area could lead to somewhat of a shambles in future electoral administration. The bonus of "name only" submissions is that one does not depend on the other, so each suggestion can be treated in isolation.

He said he would forward suggestions for alternative combinations of wards were he confident that the information available would provide him with the opportunity to do so. The Commission's decision use the size and shape of existing divisions, wards, and Community sub-divisions seems to ensure that non-residents are almost completely stopped from submitting proposals in reaction to the draft document. In his experience of sending submissions to various Boundary Commissions and Committees, the naming of wards is often regarded as the least important, as though "the numbers game" means more than the labelling. It should be remembered that confusing or inaccurate names can often lead to just as much a democratic deficit as badly drawn lines on a map.

The Commission invite on the subject of names, "Where English language names are suggested we would also wish to consider if there is a Welsh language alternative." For all his submissions in this document he has used names as he sees fit from the information available. He has no problem or issue at all with the Commission translating his proposals into (or out of) Welsh where appropriate, his proposals are as follows:

### **LGBC Proposal**

Afon Dyfrdwy  
Bach y Graig  
Denbigh East  
Denbigh West and Henllan  
Glyn Dyfrdwy  
Gorllewin Clwyd

### **Alternative**

Llandrillo/Clawdd Poncen  
Trefnant / Tremeirchion  
Denbigh East  
Denbigh West and Henllan  
Llangollen/Glyn Dyfrdwy  
Llanelidan/Clocaenog/Llanrhaeadr

|                      |                            |
|----------------------|----------------------------|
| Llan                 | Llanarmon-yn-Ial /         |
| Llandyrnog           | Llangynhafal/Bryneglwys    |
| Llanelwy             | Llandyrnog with Bodfari    |
| Prestatyn East       | Bodelwyddan/Llanelwy       |
| Prestatyn West       | Prestatyn Town and Meliden |
| Rhyl North East      | Prestatyn Coast            |
| Rhyl North West      | Rhyl North East            |
| Rhyl South East      | Rhyl North West            |
| Rhyl South West      | Rhyl Belle Vue             |
| Ruthin Dyffryn Clwyd | Rhyl South and Derwen      |
| Twt Hill             | Ruthin Dyffryn Clwyd       |
|                      | Rhuddlan/Cwm               |

**A resident** of St Asaph wrote stating as an ex councillor for Denbighshire, he believed the proposals will make much better sense. He wanted to see more towns and villages working together, having fewer councillors which will save on the public purse. He was 100% in agreement to combine Bodelwyddan and St Asaph and also cut down on members, as some do work and others don't.

**Two residents** of Corwen, were horrified to read of the draft proposals put forward. They state that the area of Edeyrnion included the villages of Glyndyfrdwy, Carrog, Gwyddelwern, Cynwyd, and Bettws Gwrfyl Goch. Melin y Wig. Bryn Saith Marchog, Llandrillo yn Edeyrnion with Corwen in the centre. Before 1974 Edeyrnion was part of the County of Merioneth with its own Rural District Council during the previous 80 years. After that it became part of the new County of Clwyd, represented by 1 councillor, until 1996 when reorganisation brought about the County of Denbighshire. Much to the dismay of local people, Edeyrnion was divided into 4, thus splitting long held affinities of communities. They hoped that now is the time to rectify the split by bringing back historic Edeyrnion into a ward of its own being represented by two councillors according to population numbers.