

ISLE OF ANGLESEY COUNTY COUNCIL	
COMMITTEE	County Council
DATE	9 June 2011
TITLE OF REPORT	County Electoral Review 2011. Background
REPORT BY	Chief Executive
PURPOSE OF REPORT	To provide a background of current activity.
ACTION	To consider the recommendation.

1. Background:

- a. Members are aware that one of the recommendations by the Auditor General to the Welsh Ministers, following the Corporate Governance Re-inspection of the County Council during February 2011 was; *to request the Local Government Boundary Commission for Wales to review its proposals published in 2010 to ensure that the changes proposed adequately address the need for democratic renewal in Anglesey in terms of the number of councillors and the introduction of multi-member wards.*
- b. On the 28 March 2011 the Minister for Social Justice and Local Government issued a Direction to the Local Government Boundary Commission for Wales (LGBCW) to conduct a further review of the county and its electoral arrangements and to make revised proposals on the desirability of multi member electoral divisions throughout the County and should aim to propose a councillor to electorate ratio as close as possible to 1:1750.
- c. The Commission was directed to submit the further review and proposals to the Minister no later than 30 September 2011. Once submitted the Minister will, we understand, announce a period of 6 weeks for consultation on the final proposals before he decides on the Order.

2. Previous Review: During 2009 and early 2010 a previous review was undertaken by the LGBCW and final proposals were presented to the Minister in September 2010 with a recommendation of 36 members representing 31 electoral divisions. This was discussed by Council on the 14 September 2010. Council resolving to: *“reluctantly accept the proposals but regret that the Boundary Commission did not take on board some of the observations made by Council”*. On the 8 December 2010 the Minister decided not to make any Order in respect of the boundary reviews for any local authority in Wales to take effect for the 2012 election.

3. The present position: the current direction could result in 29 elected members for the county, probably including multi member wards. Multi member wards already exist in 19 of present Welsh Counties and vary in number between 2 and 4 members per division. Members may wish to undertake their own research into multi member working in particular the situation in Scotland where this model of local government machinery is used for determining the member representation on the local councils. A report [Perspectives on Multi Member Ward Working](http://www.improvementservice.org.uk/news-2007/news-2007/perspectives-on-multi-member-ward-working/) (<http://www.improvementservice.org.uk/news-2007/news-2007/perspectives-on-multi-member-ward-working/>) may provide some initial background.

4. Draft proposals:

- i. The LGBCW has confirmed they will publish a copy of their initial proposals by late June or early July 2011 providing, we understand, an opportunity of 8 weeks for observation and comment to the Commission. This will enable them to consider representations from the electorate before compiling their final recommendations to the Minister by 30 September 2011. This latter date will be followed, we understand, by a further 6 week consultation period on the LGBCW final proposals with any representation directly to the Minister for consideration before he decides on the Order. The Order may approve the LGBCW recommendations or include alterations following the consultation, at the discretion of the Minister.
- ii. In addition a request has been made for a member of the Commission to attend the Council during July 2011 to present their initial proposals.

5. Recommendation: as the revised proposals, if any, will probably become effective from the next election, scheduled for in May 2012, and will provide a machinery of convenient county governance to the citizens of Ynys Mon for the next 10 to 15 years; Members may wish to promote the LGBCW initial proposals by discussion with the communities; possibly facilitating “roadshows” and publicity or similar across the county to enable the electorate to express an opinion on the arrangements? In addition Members may wish to consider how the Council will discuss and comment upon both the initial proposals in July and subsequently the final proposal in October 2011 within the consultation period provided.

END.