

Isle of Anglesey County Council	
Meeting:	Democratic Services Committee
Date:	25 September 2019
Title of report:	Review of the electoral arrangements for the Isle of Anglesey County Council by the Local Democracy and Boundary Commission for Wales
Report by:	Head of Democratic Services
Purpose of report:	To consider initial proposals and make recommendations to the County Council.

1.0 Background

- 1.1 The Local Democracy and Boundary Commission for Wales is required to carry out periodic reviews of the electoral arrangements of the principal areas of Wales. The Commission is now inviting stakeholders to comment on the Isle of Anglesey County Council's electoral arrangements. The intention is to introduce the changes in time for the 2022 elections.

2.0 Developing initial proposals

- 2.1 A cross party panel was established to develop proposals and make recommendations to this Committee. As part of the process, the panel has sought the observations of all Council Members, via Group Leaders, and has met on four occasions, on the following dates:

25 July 2019
1 August 2019
4 September 2019
17 September 2019

- 2.2 The Panel has developed proposals that recommend increasing the number of members to 35, with 14 electoral divisions – see appendix 1.

3.0 Recommendations

The Democratic Services Committee is requested:

- 3.1 to consider the Panel's proposals (appendix 1).
- 3.2 subject to any further observations, to recommend to the County Council that the proposals are accepted as the County Council's initial response.

- 3.3 to note that this Committee will need to consider the Commission's draft proposals in the Spring of 2020 and make recommendations to the County Council.

Huw Jones
Head of Democratic Services

18 September 2019

Review of the electoral arrangements for the Isle of Anglesey County Council by the Local Democracy and Boundary Commission for Wales – the Council's response

1) Background

The Local Democracy and Boundary Commission for Wales ("the Commission") is required to carry out periodic reviews of the electoral arrangements of the principal areas of Wales.

The Commission conducted a comprehensive review of electoral arrangements on Anglesey in 2011/12 under the directive of the Minister for Local Government at the time. Two important principles were contained in the Minister's directive, namely:

- 1) the need to move from single member electoral wards to multi-member wards,
- 2) the need for wards to be fairly equal in terms of the number of electors.

As a result of the review, a model was presented based on 11 multi-member wards of 2/3 members per ward and a total of 30 Members (a 25% reduction). The Anglesey County Council accepted this on 27 June 2102. This arrangement has been in operation since the 2013 elections.

A cross party Panel has been established by the Council to prepare proposal for consideration by the Commission.

2) Drawing up initial proposals to respond to the Commission's consultation

The Boundary Commission is now inviting stakeholders to comment on the Isle of Anglesey County Council's electoral arrangements. The intention is to introduce the changes in time for the 2022 elections.

The process and timetable

The Commission has already given a presentation to Members (briefing session held in June 2019) on the process of conducting the review, the Council's contribution to the work of drawing up the proposals and the timetable:

Step 1 – Official Start

Initial Consultation Period of 12 weeks – 19th July, 2019 to 10th October, 2019

Step 2 – Draft Proposals

The Commission will develop the Draft Proposals and publish them
12 week Consultation Period – Spring 2020

Step 3 – Final Recommendations

The Commission will draw up the Final Recommendations Report and will present it to Welsh Government – Winter 2020

Step 4 – Consideration by the Welsh Government

After 6 weeks, the Welsh Government can issue an Order (opportunity to write to the Welsh Government)

Step 5 – The Wards come into Force

The new wards will come into force in time for the 2022 elections.

3) Criteria

The Commission follows procedures and methodology for such reviews – see the Commission’s document: Electoral Reviews: Policy and Practice 2016:

<https://ldbc.gov.wales/sites/ldbc/files/pages/161110policyandpracticeen.pdf>

A number of statutory criteria are relevant to the review:

- Electoral equality
 - Optimum number of electors per councillor
 - 5 year forecast
 - Those eligible to vote (where possible)
- Community identity
 - Boundaries that are easily identifiable and are based on existing communities and wards
 - Should not break local ties
- Effective local government
 - Easily understood wards with common interests and good internal links

The review will also cover the whole of the geographical area, not only those areas where electoral inequality exists. As a result, there is an opportunity for the Council to submit comments on the following aspects:

- The total number of councillors
- Number of wards and their boundaries
- Number of councillors in each ward
- Ward names

4) Applying Council Size

The Commission has set constraints on council size:

- Minimum of 30 and maximum of 75 members
- Cap of 10% increase in member numbers as part of any review, i.e. 33, but a case can be made in favour of a bigger increase under exceptional circumstances. Based on the latest ONS population projections for Anglesey (nearly 70,000), the Commission acknowledges that the general aim in terms of the size of the Council is 35 members - 1:2000 electors.

Currently, Anglesey has 51,130 electors – an average of 1 Member to 1,704. Increasing the size of the Council to 33, in accordance with the Commission's aim, would result in 1 Member to 1,549 electors.

Therefore, the Commission's methodology recommends an Authority of 33 Councillors based on 1 Councillor to 1,549 (where a figure as close as possible to this can be achieved).

Appendix 1 from the Commission identify where the biggest variances currently exist in terms of the county average, namely the Canolbarth Môn, Bro Rhosyr and Llifon Wards.

5) The Panel's response and recommendations

The Panel wishes to make a case to increase the number of Councillors to **35** as recognised by the Commission in the methodology for determining Councillor allocation, without applying the 10% cap increase in current membership. It is disappointing that the Commission wish to implement this constraint whilst this Council is entitled to 35 members, based on the current population of 70,000, notwithstanding significant seasonal increases in population as a result of visitor numbers. Overall, approximately 1.7 million visitors came to Ynys Môn during 2018, bringing additional pressures on local service demands. The Boundary Commission should justify its position in terms of the need for effective local representation for the entire population, including seasonal increases.

During the last review by the Commission in 2012, there was a reduction of 25% in Councillors and the introduction of Multi member wards. Increasing membership to 35 is necessary in the interest of meeting the Council's governance requirements, bearing in mind current workload of councillors.

The Panel supports the concept of continuing with the multi member wards for all wards introduced in 2013. However, it wishes to express disappointment on the clear lack of consistency in applying such an universal model of multi member wards in other reviews conducted already by the Commission, since commencement of the review programme for all 22 authorities. The County Council's electoral arrangements are unique in Wales as this is the only authority where all wards are multi-member. There are examples across

Wales of multi-member wards – up to 5 members - but this pattern is mainly seen in urban wards.

Notwithstanding the above, the Panel acknowledge there are merits to multi-member wards in terms of:

- co-operation amongst members, place shaping and community leadership roles,
- sharing workloads in both urban and large geographic areas as Council representatives on governing bodies, community councils and other local bodies,
- Opportunities to attract a more diverse base of candidates.

In increasing membership to 35 the Panel are mindful of the need to acknowledge also:

1. The workload of the current 30 Members – specific responsibilities and membership of internal and external committees – local and regional collaboration arrangements; representation on outside bodies, including school governing bodies; town and community councils and local community hubs.
2. The electoral arrangements should be easily understood and familiar to electors, whilst ensuring local accountability.
3. The scale of any changes to ward boundaries without having an overly negative effect on community ties and historical boundaries
4. Ensure equality in terms of elector numbers where possible.
5. Other community considerations e.g. density, rural and urban deprivation, and access to local services – **Appendix 2**.
6. Recognise the strategic role and service provision role of the 5 towns / these towns provide service hubs for extensive rural areas, and members representing these areas have an additional workload as a result of that role and involvement in local community/regeneration forums.
7. Arguments pertaining to community ties that justify an uncharacteristic level of electoral equality.
8. That wholesale changes are not justified and focus should be on Canolbarth Môn, Llifon, Rhosyr, Talybolion and Caergybi wards where some modifications are recommended – in the interest of electoral parity, reducing geographic footprint, community alignment where possible, and local demand on democratic representatives.

Furthermore, the Panel have made recommendations on the names of some existing /new wards to reflect the characteristics of the area and local historic/geographic ties.

The 35 member model equates to 1 councillor to 1,472 electors (2019 figures). Currently, the options below have been prepared on the basis of the August 2019 elector numbers and not the 2024 projections, which suggest an increase of 4,000 electors in total. See map - Appendix 3.

The table below summarises the model proposed based on 14 wards:

Ward	Nifer Cynghorwyr/ Number of Members	Etholwyr / Electors Awst/August 2019)	Cymhareb/ Ratio
Aethwy	3	5064	1688
Bro Aberffraw	2	2977	1498
Braint	2	2712	1356
Parc a'r Mynydd	2	2515	1257
Tref Cybi	2	2799	1399
Canolbarth Môn	3	3889	1296
Cefni	2	2398	1199
Crigyll	2	2558	1279
Bro'r Llynnoedd	2	3634	1817
Lligwy	3	4753	1584
Seiriol	3	4600	1533
Talybolion	3	3869	1289
Twrcelyn	3	5399	1799
Ynys Gybi	3	4338	1446

Specific proposals

These are detailed below for each electoral area.

Table 1 – Aethwy									
Number of Councillors	Electorate December 2019	2019 Ratio	% current variance from the county average	% variance from the recommended county average (33)	Electorate 2024	2024 Ratio	% current variance from the county average	% variance from the recommended county average (33)	Population eligible to vote
3	5,015	1,672	-2%	8%	5,164	1,721	-6%	3%	5,500
The Panel recommends no change to existing arrangements.									

Table 2 – Bro Aberffraw									
Number of Councillors	Electorate December 2019	2019 Ratio	% current variance from the county average	% variance from the recommended county average (33)	Electorate 2024	2024 Ratio	% current variance from the county average	% variance from the recommended county average (33)	Population eligible to vote
2	2,967	1,484	-13%	-4%	3,175	1,588	-14%	-5%	3,211
The Panel recommends no change to existing arrangements.									

Table 3 – Bro Rhosyr									
Number of Councillors	Electorate December 2019	2019 Ratio	% current variance from the county average	% variance from the recommended county average (33)	Electorate 2024	2024 Ratio	% current variance from the county average	% variance from the recommended county average (33)	Population eligible to vote
2	3,833	1,917	12%	24%	4,269	2,135	16%	28%	3,912
The Panel recommends changes: Changes are proposed due to the % variance from the county average and also the community characteristics of the current ward and links between the north of the ward and the Llangefni area – Ysgol Gyfun Llangefni school catchment area in particular. It is recommended that the community of Llangristiolus, bordering the Cefni Ward (Llangefni) currently forming part of Canolbarth ward be moved from Bro Rhosyr to create a new ward with Cefni ward. There are public transport links with Llangefni and close community ties with the town. Also this area is part of the Ysgol Gyfun Llangefni school catchment area and there are close links with community facilities. This change within Bro Rhosyr would result in a 2 member ward of 2,712. 1 Councillor to 1,356 electorate. Name: The Panel recommends that the Bro Rhosyr ward be renamed Braint to reflect local geography.									

Table 4 – Caergybi									
Number of Councillors	Electorate December 2019	2019 Ratio	% current variance from the county average	% variance from the recommended county average (33)	Electorate 2024	2024 Ratio	% variance from the county average	% variance from the recommended county average (33)	Population eligible to vote
3	5,250	1,750	3%	13%	6,064	2,021	10%	21%	5,982
The Panel recommends changes: This ward includes areas of high deprivation – see appendix 4. Also, high proportion of public sector housing and several community hubs - these factors add to the workload of Councillors representing urban areas. The Panel recommends: a) That the Parc and Mynydd and Porthyfelin wards of the Community of Holyhead merge to create 1 new ward with 2 Councillors. Number of electors – 2,515. 1 councillor to 1,257. Name – The Panel recommends that the new ward be named Parc a’r Mynydd due to local characteristics b) That the following wards combine to create a new ward with 2 members – Holyhead Town, Morawelon, London Road. Number of electors – 2,799. 1 councillor to 1,399. Name – The Panel recommends Tref Cybi due to local characteristics.									

Table 5 – Canolbarth Môn									
Number of Councillors	Electorate December 2019	2019 Ratio	% current variance from the county average	% variance from the recommended county average (33)	Electorate 2024	2024 Ratio	% current variance from the county average	% variance from the recommended county average (33)	Population eligible to vote
3	6,428	2,143	26%	38%	6,973	2,324	26%	39%	7,119
The Panel recommends changes: The % current variation from the county average is high based on the current electorate. This ward is geographically large. Some areas don't have a natural link with Llangefni eg Bryngwran and Gwalchmai – part of the Ysgol Uwchradd Bodedern catchment area rather than Llangefni. Llangefni serves as an urban hub for adjacent areas. High density of public housing stock in some Llangefni wards. The Panel recommends the following changes: a) Create a new 2 member ward – Trewalchmai, Bryngwran and Llanfaelog communities (currently part of Llifon ward). Number of electors – 2,558. 1 councillor to 1,279. This new ward is in the Ysgol Uwchradd Bodedern catchment area. Name – The Panel recommends Crigyll due to local geographical characteristics. b) Create a new 2 member wards by combining Cefni ward of the community of Llangefni with Llangristiolus community (currently part of Rhosyr) due to local community ties and close connection to Llangefni – secondary school. Number of electors 2,398. 1 member to 1,199. Name – The Panel recommends Cefni due to local geographical characteristics. Based on the 2019 electoral data, this model would create a 3 Councillor ward of 3,889 in Canolbarth Môn. 1 councillor to 1,296. Name – the Panel recommends no change to the name Canolbarth Môn.									

Table 6 – Llifon									
Number of Councillors	Electorate December 2019	2019 Ratio	% current variance from the county average	% variance from the recommended county average (33)	Electorate 2024	2024 Ratio	% current variance from the county average	% variance from the recommended county average (33)	Population eligible to vote
2	3,996	1,998	17%	29%	4,320	2,160	18%	29%	4,622
The Panel recommends changes: a) Create new 2 Councillor ward - communities of Trewalchmai, Bryngwran (currently in Canolbarth Môn) and Llanfaelog. Electorate of 2,558 - 1 councillor to 1,279. This new ward is within the Ysgol Uwchradd Bodedern catchment area and there are local community links and public transport links. Name – The Panel recommends Crigyll to reflect local geographic characteristics. b) Create a new 2 Councillor ward of the communities of Caergeiliog, Y Fali and Bodedern (Talybolion ward). This new ward is within the Ysgol Uwchradd Bodedern catchment area and there are local community links including primary care. This would create a ward with an electorate of 3,634 electors. 1 councillor to 1,817. Name – The Panel recommends Bro'r Llynnoedd to reflect local geographic characteristics.									

Table 7 – Lligwy									
Number of Councillors	Electorate December 2019	2019 Ratio	% current variance from the county average	% variance from the recommended county average (33)	Electorate 2024	2024 Ratio	% current variance from the county average	% variance from the recommended county average (33)	Population eligible to vote
3	4,742	1,581	-7%	2%	4,996	1,665	-9%	0%	5,189
The Panel recommends no change to existing arrangements.									

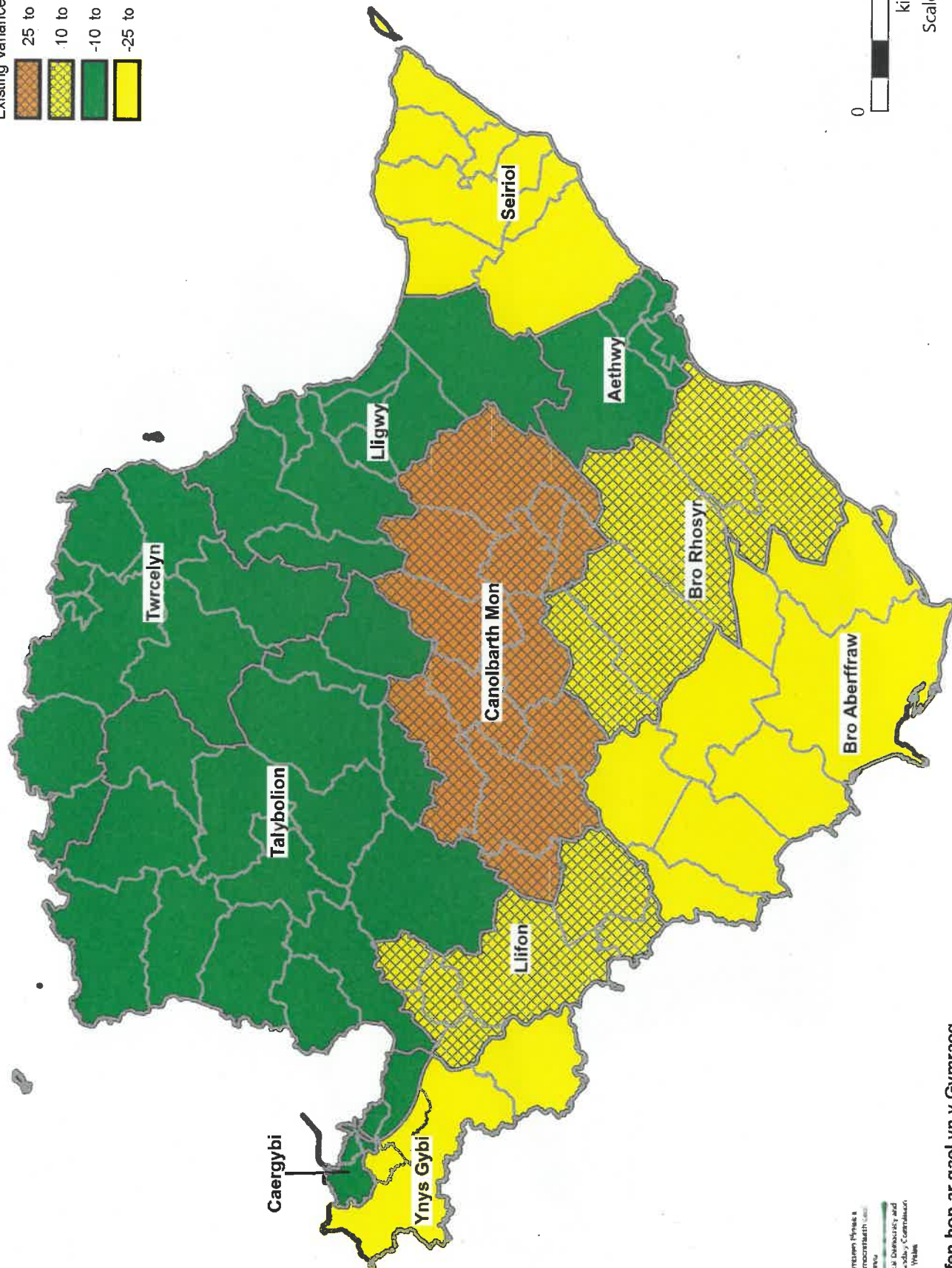
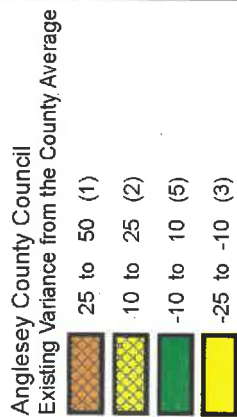
Table 8 – Seiriol									
Number of Councillors	Electorate December 2019	2019 Ratio	% current variance from the county average	% variance from the recommended county average (33)	Electorate 2024	2024 Ratio	% current variance from the county average	% variance from the recommended county average (33)	Population eligible to vote
3	4,567	1,522	-11%	-2%	4,776	1,592	-13%	-5%	4,902
The Panel recommends no change to existing arrangements.									

Table 9 – Talybolion									
Number of Councillors	Electorate December 2019	2019 Ratio	% current variance from the county average	% variance from the recommended county average (33)	Electorate 2024	2024 Ratio	% current variance from the county average	% variance from the recommended county average (33)	Population eligible to vote
3	4,644	1,548	-9%	0%	5,046	1,682	-8%	1%	5,038
The Panel recommends changes: This is an extensive geographic area, including 7 Community Councils. It is recommended that the Community of Bodedern be moved from this ward to create a new ward with the communities of Y Fali and Llanfair-yn neubwll (see proposals relating to Llifon above). This new ward is within the Ysgol Uwchradd Bodedern catchment area and there are local community links including primary care. This would result in an electorate of 3,869 for Talybolion served by 3 Councillors. 1 councillor to 1,289.									

Table 10 – Twrcelyn									
Number of Councillors	Electorate December 2019	2019 Ratio	% current variance from the county average	% variance from the recommended county average (33)	Electorate 2024	2024 Ratio	% current variance from the county average	% variance from the recommended county average (33)	Population eligible to vote
3	5,385	1,795	5%	16%	5,667	1,889	3%	13%	6,011
The Panel recommends no change to existing arrangements.									

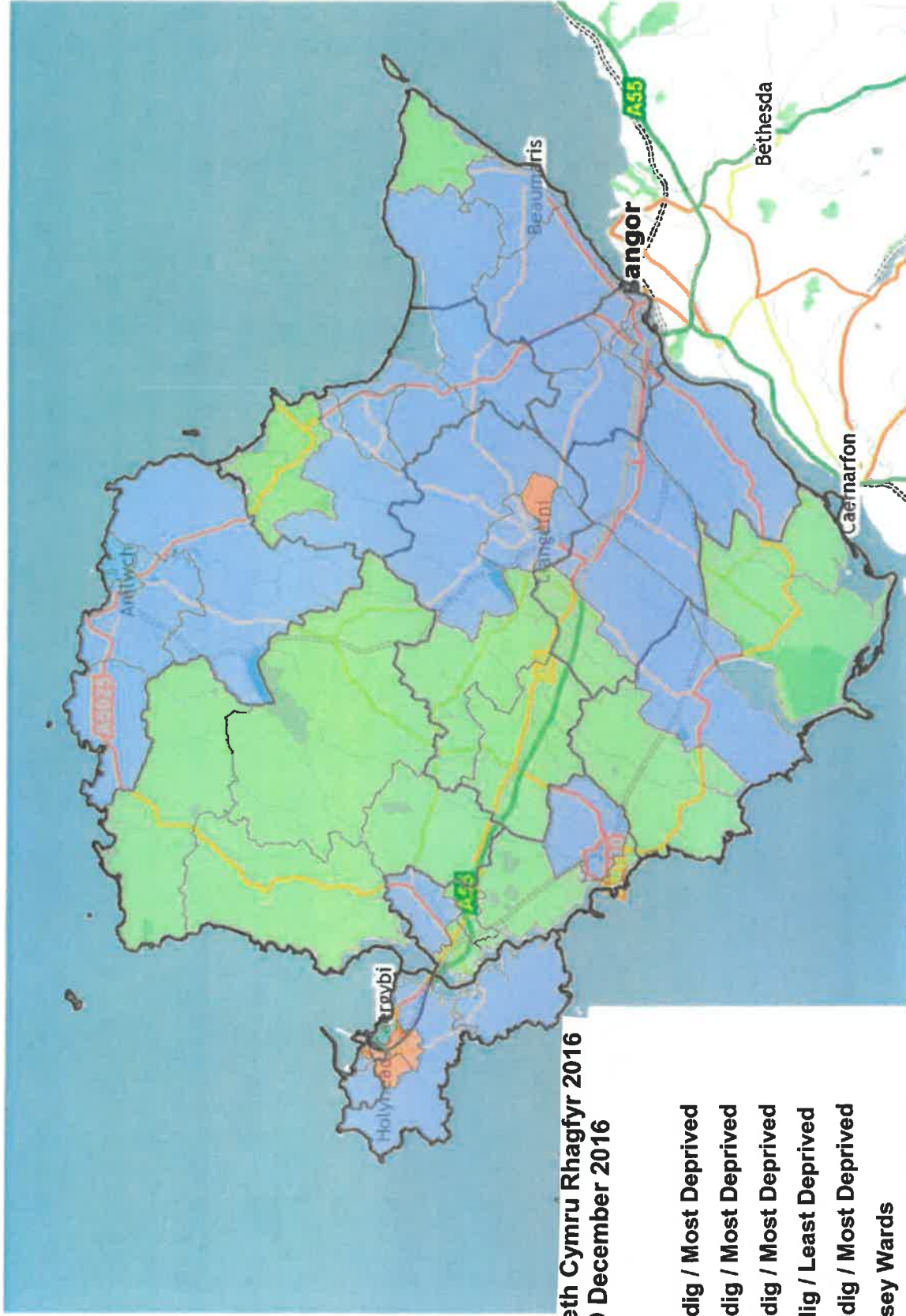
Table 11 – Ynys Gybi									
Number of Councillors	Electorate December 2019	2019 Ratio	% current variance from the county average	% variance from the recommended county average (33)	Electorate 2024	2024 Ratio	% current variance from the county average	% variance from the recommended county average (33)	Population eligible to vote
3	4,303	1,434	-16%	-7%	4,682	1,561	-15%	-7%	4,879
The Panel recommends no change to existing arrangements.									

COUNTY OF ISLE OF ANGLESEY
EXISTING VARIANCE IN ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS



kilometres
Scale 1:201,100





Mynegai WIMD Llywodraeth Cymru Rhagfyr 2016
Welsh Government WIMD December 2016

Cyfanswm / Overall

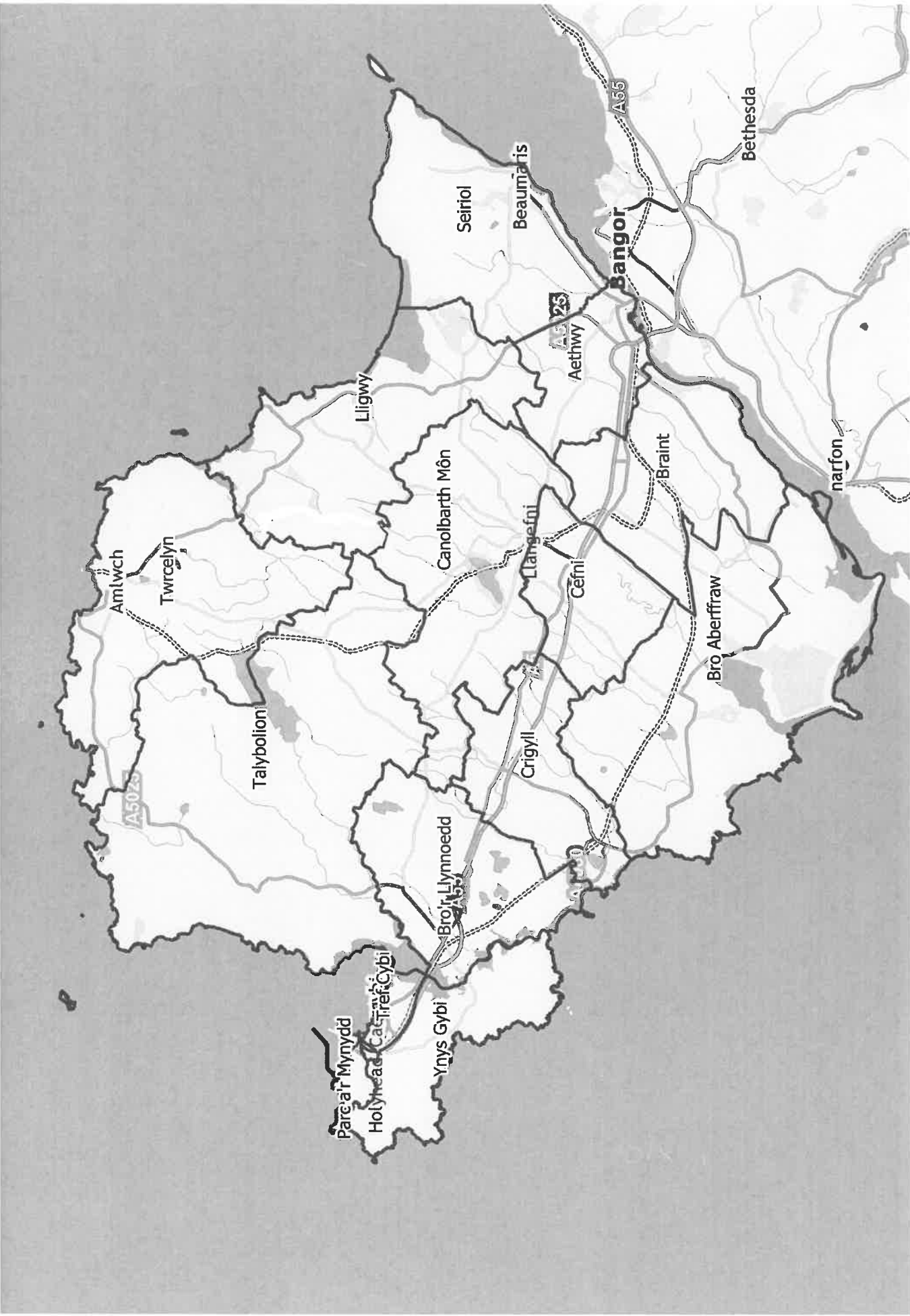
- 10% Mwyaf Difreintiedig / Most Deprived
- 20% Mwyaf Difreintiedig / Most Deprived
- 30% Mwyaf Difreintiedig / Most Deprived
- 50% Lleiaf Difreintiedig / Least Deprived
- 50% Mwyaf Difreintiedig / Most Deprived
- Wardiau Môn / Anglesey Wards



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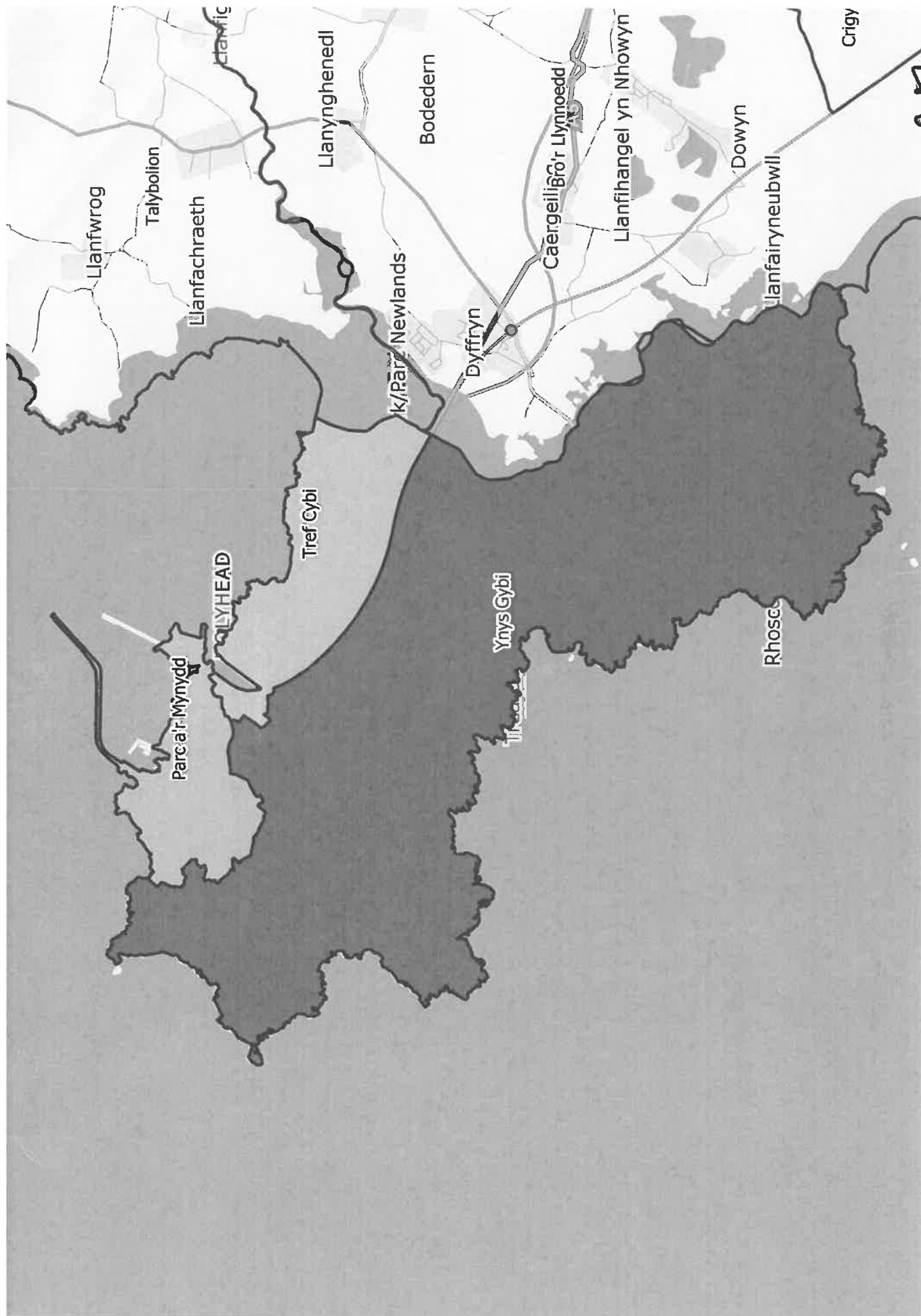
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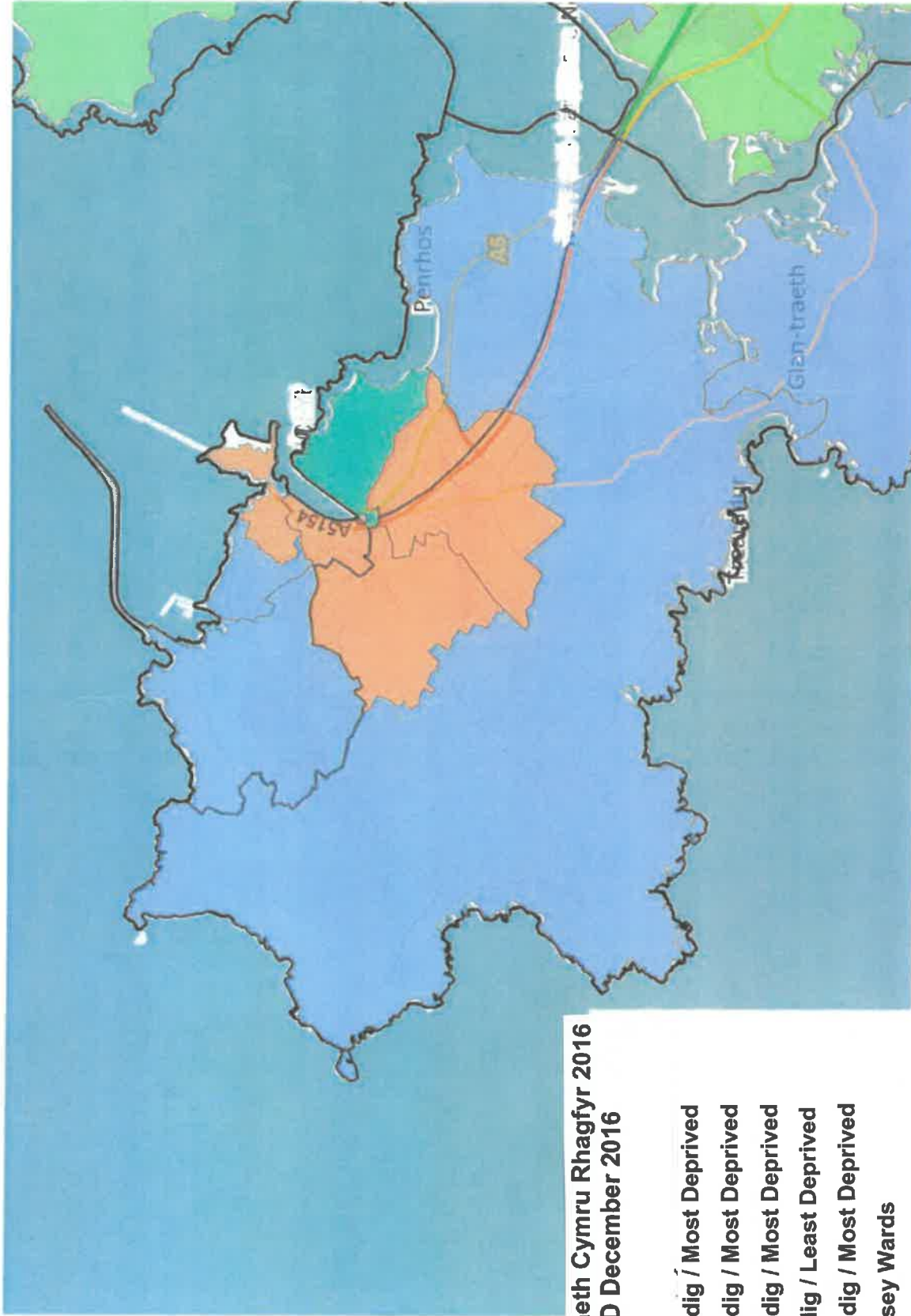
Wardiau Aelodau Lleol Ynys Môn / Anglesey Local Member Wards



Wardiau Aelodau Lleol Caergybi / Holyhead Local Member Wards

ATODIAD/APPENDIX 3





Mynegai WIMD Llywodraeth Cymru Rhagfyr 2016 Welsh Government WIMD December 2016

Cyfanswm / Overall

- 10% Mwyaf Difreintiedig / Most Deprived
- 20% Mwyaf Difreintiedig / Most Deprived
- 30% Mwyaf Difreintiedig / Most Deprived
- 50% Lleiaf Difreintiedig / Least Deprived
- 50% Mwyaf Difreintiedig / Most Deprived

Wardiau Môn / Anglesey Wards



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