

<b>ISLE OF ANGLESEY COUNTY COUNCIL</b>	
<b>Committee:</b>	Democratic Services Committee
<b>Date:</b>	11 June 2026
<b>Title of report:</b>	Community Review Update
<b>Purpose of report:</b>	To update the Committee on the initial consultation and the next steps.
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**Background**

1. The Isle of Anglesey County Council has a statutory duty, in accordance with the Local Government (Democracy) (Wales) Act 2013, to monitor the communities within the county and the electoral arrangements of those communities, and to carry out reviews where appropriate. In performing its duties and when conducting any review, the Council must seek to secure effective and convenient local government.
  
2. For the purposes of the reviews, a community is a local government unit below the county council level (the 'principal council'). Anglesey is divided into 40 communities, each served by a town council or community council. In this context, the legal status of the councils is the same regardless of what they are called, i.e., they are all considered 'community councils.' Communities can in turn be divided into wards for electoral purposes, but this is not mandatory, and not every community council area is divided into wards.

**Community review of electoral arrangements 2026 – Terms of Reference**

3. The Isle of Anglesey County Council has decided to review the island's community electoral arrangements during 2026. The purpose of the review is to ensure that the electoral arrangements for each town and community council provide effective local government.
  
4. In conducting the review, the County Council will consider:
  - a. the number of members on the community council;
  - b. the division into wards (if appropriate) for the purpose of electing councillors;

- c. the number and boundaries of any wards;
  - d. the number of members to be elected for any ward;
  - e. the name of any ward.
5. The review is carried out in accordance with section 31 of the Local Government (Democracy) (Wales) Act 2013. It is good practice to carry out the review before the 2027 local elections so that any recommendations are in place by then. The Council is also expected to carry out the review before the Democracy and Boundaries Commission Cymru conducts its planned electoral review of the County Council in 2027/28.

### Schedule

6. There are 4 statutory stages to the review, and we will implement the following timetable:

Stage 1 – initial publicity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contact town and community councils and other consultees to raise awareness about the review</li> <li>• Publish information on the Council’s website</li> </ul>
Stage 2 – preliminary research and consultation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Initial consultation starts on 26 January and runs until 13 March</li> <li>• Consider comments and carry out further research from April to July</li> </ul>
Stage 3 – draft proposals and consultation on those proposals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Approve draft proposals at the County Council in September</li> <li>• Consult on the draft proposals for 6 weeks between September and November</li> </ul>
Stage 4 – final recommendations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Submit final recommendations to the County Council in December 2026</li> <li>• Come into effect by the local elections in May 2027.</li> </ul>

### Progress

7. Stages 1 and 2 have been completed and we will develop draft proposals over the summer in order to consult on them in the autumn (stage 3).
8. We received 23 responses to the initial consultation (stage 2), 4 town councils, 18 community councils and one member of the public. A summary of the comments is provided below:

<b>Question</b>	<b>Summary of comments</b>
Question 1: Is the number of members on the town / community council appropriate?	22 responses were received  16 were of the opinion that the number is appropriate, including 4 town councils. 3 believed that their council had too many members and were finding it challenging to fill seats. Another 3 submitted factual information only.
Question 2: Do you have any vacant seats?	21 responses were received.  Seventeen reported that they had vacant seats and four reported that they did not. The majority of the councils reported that seats had become vacant relatively recently, but some had been unable to fill seats for two or three years.
Question 3: Have you held an election or co-opted members to your council since May 2022?	22 responses were received.  20 reported that they had gone through the process of filling seats since 2022, and 2 reported that they had not had to do so.  4 elections have been held in town and community councils since May 2022. Two full elections and two uncontested. All other seats have been filled through co-option.
Question 4: If the community has been divided into electoral wards, are the	14 responses were received.

<p>arrangements appropriate? If not, what would work better in your opinion?</p>	<p>Four believed that the arrangements of electoral wards were suitable (three of them were town councils). Six believed that the wards should be abolished or merged. Four others provided factual information only.</p> <p>(For information - 27 of the 40 town and community councils on Anglesey have been divided into electoral wards).</p>
<p>Question 5: Do you have any comments on the names of your electoral wards, if applicable?</p>	<p>9 responses were received.</p> <p>Each one noted that they thought the names were appropriate, or that they had no comment.</p>

### Initial findings and next steps

9. It is evident that there are a number of vacant seats across the councils and some councils are struggling to fill them. Very few elections are held, and the co-option system is used to fill seats in the vast majority of cases. Although there is support for electoral wards among larger councils, some smaller councils believe they should be abolished and that this could make the process of filling vacant seats easier.
  
10. Further work will take place over the summer to conduct further research and develop draft proposals. Based on the initial evidence, the draft proposals will recommend reducing the number of electoral wards in communities, unless there is strong evidence to retain them.
  
11. At present, the review is on schedule and we do not foresee any problem completing it in good time before the local elections in May 2027.

### Recommendation

12. The Committee is asked to:
  - a. note the content of the report and the schedule
  - b. consider the initial consultation questions and provide any relevant comments.