

Report To:	Council
Date of Meeting:	17 October 2017
Lead Officer:	Gary Williams, Head of Legal, HR & Democratic Services
Report Author:	Steve Price, Democratic Services Manager
Title:	Electoral Review of Denbighshire

1. What is the report about?

The Local Democracy and Boundary Commission for Wales are undertaking Electoral Reviews of all 22 local authorities in Wales. This report covers Denbighshire's Electoral Review.

2. What is the reason for making this report?

This report is intended to outline Denbighshire's Electoral Review by the Local Democracy and Boundary Commission for Wales (the Commission) and inform Council of the presentation to be given by the Commission's representatives at today's meeting.

3. What are the Recommendations?

That Council considers the presentation by the Commission at the meeting.

4. Report details

4.1 The Commission will be undertaking a review of all 22 local authorities which began in January 2017, presenting final recommendations to the Welsh Government before the 2022 local government elections. The Welsh Government's Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Local Government, Mark Drakeford, has agreed to a timetable with Denbighshire's review beginning in November 2017. Denbighshire's review will be the eighth in the overall programme.

4.2 Representatives from the Commission met with Group Leaders and Council officials in September to outline the scope of the review and clarify the process to be used. The objective of an electoral review is to ensure that, within each local authority area, electoral arrangements seek to achieve parity. This means the Commission is required to seek to ensure that the ratio of local government electors to the number of members of the Council is, as nearly as may be, the same in every electoral ward in Denbighshire. Utilising the existing community structure within a local authority, an electoral review will also take into account community identities and consultation feedback to ensure that the Commission's proposals uphold the interests of effective and convenient local government for the electorate within Wales.

4.3 An electoral review may therefore consider:

- The number of members on the Council
- The boundaries of the electoral wards
- The number of members to be elected for any electoral ward
- The name of any electoral ward

4.4 Members can view the Commission's guidance documents on the policy and practice for electoral reviews and the programme timetable on the websites below.

Welsh version:

<http://ldbc.gov.wales/reviews/electoralreviews/58417614/?skip=1&lang=cy>

English version:

<http://ldbc.gov.wales/reviews/electoralreviews/58417614/?lang=en>

4.5 The Commission will be attending today's Council meeting to introduce the forthcoming review to all members and answer any questions. Representatives of the city, town and community councils have also been invited to meet with the Commission this evening (17 October).

5. How does the decision contribute to the Corporate Priorities?

No decision is required as a result of this report.

6. What will it cost and how will it affect other services?

Any costs associated with assisting the Commission with its review are likely to only relate to officer time.

7. What are the main conclusions of the Well-being Impact Assessment?

The Electoral Review is a statutory exercise being conducted by the Commission for the Welsh Government. A Well-being Impact Assessment is not required for this report.

8. What consultations have been carried out with Scrutiny and others?

Group leaders and officers with electoral and democratic governance roles were invited to meet with the Commission's representatives in September.

9. Chief Finance Officer Statement

There are no obvious financial implications arising from this presentation to Council by the Commission. Any future financial implications will depend on the conclusions of the review, for example, in respect of the number of elected members on the Council after 2022.

10. What risks are there and is there anything we can do to reduce them?

The aims of an electoral review are to provide effective and convenient local government and it will be in Denbighshire's interest to contribute appropriately to the review process to achieve these aims.

11. Power to make the Decision

The Local Government (Democracy)(Wales) Act 2013 including sections 21, 29, 30 and 34 relating to the conduct of electoral reviews.