

Report To: Democratic Services Committee

Date of Meeting: 23 March 2018

Lead Member / 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 report is about Denbighshire's response to the Local Democracy and Boundary Commission for Wales (the Commission) who are undertaking a boundary review of Denbighshire.

2 What is the reason for making this report?

The Committee previously requested an update on the boundary review at this meeting.

3 What are the Recommendations?

That the Committee considers the issues raised and the response in Appendix A to the Commission's consultation exercise.

4 Report details

- 4.1 The Local Democracy and Boundary Commission for Wales (the Commission) are undertaking Electoral Reviews of all 22 Local Authorities in Wales. These began in January 2017, with final recommendations to be presented to the Welsh Government to approve changes in time for the local government elections expected to be held in 2022.
- 4.2 Representatives from the Commission met with the Leader, Group Leaders and officers in September 2017 prior to attending a full Council meeting in October 2017 to present information on the policy and practice for electoral reviews and specifically to cover how these would shape Denbighshire's Electoral Review.
- 4.3 A working group of members agreed with the Group Leaders was established to consider Denbighshire's Electoral Review and met on the 22 November 2017. Issues that were not resolved at that meeting were brought to a further meeting held on the 16 January 2018.
- 4.4 A summary of the working group's deliberations including their recommendations to the Commission are attached as Appendix A.

5 How does the decision contribute to the Corporate Priorities?

The issues considered in this report do not directly relate to the Corporate Priorities.

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

If implemented, the recommendations by the working group would result in 1 extra county councillor who would be entitled to draw a 'basic salary' for the role and appropriate services and support from the Council.

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

The electoral reviews are the responsibility of the Commission and conducted according to legislative requirements. An impact assessment is not required for this report.

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

The Commission has consulted with the Leader and Group Leaders and addressed full Council. A working group of elected members were tasked with responding to the Commission's consultation.

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

Representation of some of Denbighshire's residents at county council level could be affected if the Welsh Government decides to make changes to ward boundaries. A working group of members considered the criteria for the Commission's review and has responded with its views.

10 Power to make the Decision

Sections 21, 29 and 30 of the Local Government (Democracy)(Wales) Act 2013.