

## Appendix 3

### **Electoral Review of Denbighshire:**

### **Recommendations and Summary of Discussions of a Member Working Group: 7<sup>th</sup> November 2018**

#### **1 Background**

The Local Democracy and Boundary Commission for Wales (the Commission) published their draft proposals in September 2018.

A working group of members re-convened on the 7<sup>th</sup> November 2018 to consider the Commission's proposals and make recommendations to Council as part of the Council's formal response to the Commission.

#### **2 Criteria, Scope and Consultation Responses**

The Working Group were reminded of the role of the Commission and the legislative background for the programme of reviews taking place across Wales. The statutory criteria covered electoral equality (the optimum number of electors per councillor), community identity and effective and convenient local government arrangements (e.g. coherent electoral wards with common interests).

#### **3 Rhyl South East**

The Commission agreed with the Council's and the Town Council's proposals to divide the existing Rhyl South East division into 2 new electoral wards named Trellewelyn y Rhyl / Rhyl Trellewelyn and Tŷ Newydd Y Rhyl / Rhyl Tŷ Newydd. Each ward would be represented by 2 councillors.

**RECOMMENDED – to support the Commission's proposals for Rhyl South East.**

#### **4 Denbigh Central and Denbigh Upper / Henllan**

The Commission disagreed with the Working Group's previous recommendation to retain the existing warding arrangements in Denbigh and Henllan because of the level of variance from the proposed county average of 1,589 electors per councillor.

The Commission proposes to combine the Central and Upper wards of Denbigh with the Community of Henllan to form 1 ward represented by 3 councillors.

Officers outlined an option to retain the existing wards but reduce the variance by moving Bryn Onnen and Cysgod Y Graig from the Central ward to Denbigh Upper / Henllan. Those streets had been included in the Register of Electors as part of Denbigh Upper until 2012.

The Working Group acknowledged that members had differing views and the member for Denbigh Central opposed the loss of the single member Central ward but had been unable to attend today's meeting.

The Working Group considered the name proposed by the Commission for the new ward to be too long and one that would create practical, administrative problems in being represented bilingually on electoral documents for example.

**RECOMMENDED –**

- (i) The Commission corrects the error in paragraph 20 of page 15 of the draft proposals report to correctly show the proposed ward being represented by 3 councillors.
- (ii) The Working Group supports the Commission's proposals to combine the Central and Upper wards of Denbigh with the Community of Henllan to form a single ward represented by 3 councillors. (*NOTE: The member for Denbigh Central opposes the Commission's proposal but was not present at the Working Group meeting. Following the meeting a member for Denbigh Upper / Henllan retracted his support for the Commission's proposals (thereby giving his support for the existing warding arrangements) but supported Bryn Onnen and Cysgod Y Graig being moved into Denbigh Upper.*)
- (iii) The name of the proposed new ward be 'Denbigh Caledfryn / Henllan'

**5 Llanarmon-yn-lâl / Llandegla and Llanbedr Dyffryn Clwyd / Llangynhafal**

The Commission proposes to combine the communities of Llanbedr Dyffryn Clwyd, Llanferres and Llangynhafal to form an electoral ward represented by 1 councillor under the name Llanbedr Dyffryn Clwyd, Llanferres a Llangynhafal (Llanbedr Dyffryn Clwyd, Llanferres and Llangynhafal in the English version).

As a consequence the Commission proposes to combine the communities of Llanarmon-yn –lâl and Llandegla to form a ward represented by 1 councillor (*paragraph 32 on page 17 of the draft proposals report erroneously refers to combining Llanarmon-yn –lâl and Llanferres*) to be called Llanarmon-yn –lâl a Llandegla (Llanarmon-yn –lâl and Llandegla).

The Working Group considered the opposition to the changes expressed by the community councils and the objections repeated by Llanferres Community Council.

The Working Group considered the proposals to be reducing one large ward through the creation of a new large ward (the proposed Llanbedr Dyffryn Clwyd, Llanferres and Llangynhafal ward would be be 18% above the proposed county average). As this change was against the wishes of the communities the Working Group repeated its opposition to the proposals and its support for the views of the communities.

The practical implications of the length of the proposed ward names concerned the Working Group.

**RECOMMENDED –**

- (i) That the Llanarmon yn lâl / Llandegla electoral ward should remain unchanged owing to their close geographical and historical links and the wishes of the communities expressed by the 3 community councils, and because the Commission's proposals would create a new ward well above the desired county average, largely negating the advantages of the proposed change.
- (ii) That the name of the Llanarmon yn lâl / Llandegla electoral ward be changed to *Dyffryn Alun / Alyn Valley.*
- (iii) That the consequent changes proposed for the Llanbedr Dyffryn Clwyd / Llangynhafal ward should not be implemented.

- (iv) If the Commission confirmed its proposals, that a shorter name be used for the proposed Llanbedr Dyffryn Clwyd, Llanferres and Llangynhafal ward, with a suggestion being *Moel Famau*, and the new Llanarmon yn lâl and Llandegla ward to be named *Dyffryn Alun / Alyn Valley*.

## 6 Corwen and Llandrillo

The Commission proposes to combine the communities of Cynwyd and Llandrillo and the town of Corwen to form an electoral ward represented by 2 councillors under the name Corwen a Llandrillo (Corwen and Llandrillo). The Commission makes the proposal owing to the wide variance in electoral parity under the current warding arrangements – Llandrillo has 965 electors represented by 1 councillor which is 41% below the proposed county average, and the largest variance in Denbighshire.

The Working Group acknowledged the difficulties Llandrillo ward presented in terms of its low elector to councillor ratio and how the geography of the area presented little scope for change that did not involve the Corwen ward. However, the Group wanted the Commission to re-consider retaining the existing warding arrangements as the new ward would cover a very large area and be more difficult for 2 members to represent than the existing single member wards. The Group viewed the rural / urban split between Llandrillo a Corwen to be important factors as were the social links in the communities that supported the retention of Corwen and Llandrillo as separate single member wards.

### RECOMMENDED –

- (i) That the Commission consider retaining the existing warding arrangements as the new ward would cover a very large area and be more difficult for 2 members to represent than the existing single member wards; the urban / rural split and the social links within the two areas; and the loss of two single member wards.
- (ii) If the Commission confirms its intention to merge the Corwen and Llandrillo wards that the new ward be called *Edeirnion*.

## 7 Naming of Wards

### RECOMMENDED –

- (i) That the Working Group supports the Commission's proposal to retain the ward name and spelling of *Efenechtyd*.
- (ii) That Llanfair Dyffryn Clwyd / Gwyddelwern be represented as *Llanfair Dyffryn Clwyd Gwyddelwern* to avoid overly long wording on official bilingual documents (i.e. the Commission's proposed name would read Llanfair Dyffryn Clwyd a Gwyddelwern - Llanfair Dyffryn Clwyd and Gwyddelwern).