



Mae'r ddogfen hon ar gael yn Gymraeg hefyd.

REPORT TO:	Council
DATE OF MEETING:	9 October 2025
PORTFOLIO HOLDER	Councillor Dilwyn Roberts Cabinet Member for Culture, Governance and IT
LEAD OFFICER:	Matt Georgiou Head of Law and Governance
CONTACT OFFICER:	Sian Williams (Head of Democratic Services) Leanne Davies (Electoral Services Officer)
SUBJECT:	Community Reviews under the Local Government (Democracy) (Wales) Act 2013 – Initial Draft Proposals
EXEMPT REPORT:	N/A
ELECTORAL DIVISION:	All

1. SUMMARY AND KEY POINTS

- 1.1** As previously reported to Council on 22 May 2025, Conwy County Borough Council has a statutory duty to undertake Community Reviews under Sections 25 and 31 of the Local Government (Democracy) (Wales) Act 2013 ("the Act"). At that meeting, Council approved the Terms of Reference and the timetable to undertake the above reviews. The first stage of the review has been completed.
- 1.2** Council is asked to consider the representations received and proposed changes to the arrangement of 1 community area and 3 wards to ensure that communities continue to reflect local identities and facilitate effective and convenient local government across the principal council area.
- 1.3** If supported, these proposals would represent the Council's preliminary views on the community arrangements for the principal council area. There is then another period of consultation on the draft proposals when further representation is invited, after which Council will be required to formulate its final recommendations.

2. RECOMMENDATION(S)

- 2.1.** That Council consider the representations received in response to the first stage of the Review of Community Council Boundaries and Electoral Arrangements, as seen in the Draft Proposals Report, specifically the proposed changes to community ward boundaries within the Llandudno area:

Proposal 1 – Move the boundary between the existing Mostyn and Tudno wards from the current location, to the southern edge of the Llandudno Railway Station and the southern edge of the railway line between the Station and Maesdu Bridge (as detailed in para. 5.26 of the attached report).

Proposal 2 – Move the boundary between Craig y Don and Tudno wards to follow Clarence Crescent instead of Clarence Drive (as detailed in para. 5.28 of the attached report).

- 2.2** That Council note the implications of making changes to community ward boundaries and the consequential changes to the county borough electoral wards, and the timing required to submit any final recommendations to the Democracy and Boundary Commission Cymru (DBCC) in order to implement the changes in time for the Local Government Elections scheduled for May 2027.
- 2.3** That the Council considers and formally approves the consultation responses for which a recommendation of 'No Change' has been proposed.

3. REPORT DETAILS

- 3.1** At the meeting held on 22 May 2025, Council authorised the above community reviews to be undertaken in line with the approved Terms of Reference.
- 3.2** As part of the first stage of the review there was a public consultation period lasting 7 weeks (ending on 11 July 2025). During this first stage, stakeholders and the general public were invited to make submissions with regard to the boundaries and electoral arrangements of town and community councils. Those councils were sent a questionnaire to structure their answers and to encourage responses.
- 3.3** During the initial consultation period the Council received representation from; 4 Town and Community Councils, 3 County Borough Councillors and 1 Member of the Senedd.

- 3.4** As described in the Terms of Reference, in producing proposals on community arrangements, the Council must have regard to a number of issues contained in the legislation. It is not always possible to resolve all of these, sometimes there are conflicting issues. The proposals place an emphasis on ensuring that communities continue to reflect local identities and facilitate effective and convenient local government.
- 3.5** The Electoral Registration Officer's staff also collated information about each individual council. Following the consultation responses received, a series of recommendations for each council with regard to boundaries and electoral arrangements are detailed in the Draft Proposals Report (including where no change is recommended). These recommendations have been based on the information collated by the ERO's staff, any submissions received, and the Terms of Reference adopted by Council.
- 3.6** The DBCC is the implementing body for any review carried out by the principal council.
- 3.7** Any final recommendations, including changes to ward boundaries, are submitted to the DBCC. The DBCC then hold a 6-week period where people can submit comments to them on the final recommendations. At the end of the 6-week period the DBCC will consider those recommendations.
- 3.8** Upon receiving our final recommendations report, the DBCC has a choice:
- it can implement the principal council's recommendations without modifications;
 - it can implement the recommendations with modifications that are agreed with the principal council;
 - it can choose to conduct its own review; or
 - it can take no action.
- 3.9** Members will note that the proposed community ward boundary changes will have a consequential impact on the County Borough ward boundaries. When submitting our final recommendations report to the DBCC, we will include those consequential changes and recommend them as consequential changes.
- 3.10** Section 38(3) of the Local Government (Democracy) (Wales) Act 2013 provides that, if the DBCC's implementing order will make changes to the electoral arrangements of a principal area, the Commission must first obtain the consent of the Welsh Ministers. If, having considered what action to take

as implementing authority for a section 25 boundaries review, the Commission proposes to implement a change to the principal council's electoral arrangements which is consequential on community boundary changes, the Commission will therefore consult with the Welsh Ministers.

- 3.11** Therefore, the DBCC will consult WG Ministers and should be able to make those consequential changes. Provided the final recommendations are submitted to the DBCC by March 2026, the DBCC have indicated that should be sufficient time for the changes to be made in time for the 2027 local elections.

4. OPTIONS

- 4.1** To approve the recommendations affecting 3 community wards in the accompanying Draft Proposals Report.
- 4.2** To suggest alternative proposals, noting the reasons behind the initial proposals.

5. ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION

- 5.1** Engagement has taken place with the following partners/stakeholders:

Residents of Conwy County Borough
Chief Executive, Conwy County Borough Council
Town and Community Councils in Conwy County Borough Council
Conwy County Borough Council Members
Democracy & Boundary Commission Cymru (DBCC)
Welsh Government, Scrutiny, Democracy and Participation
Janet Finch-Saunders, MS
Mark Isherwood, MS
Darren Millar, MS
Samuel Rowlands, MS
Carolyn Thomas, MS
Secretary, North Wales Association of Local Councils
North Wales Deaf Association
North Wales Society for the Blind
Disability Wales
Conwy Voluntary Access Group

- 5.2** Consultation with the public and stakeholders has taken place at this first stage, and they will also be consulted during the second stage of the review where submissions in response to the draft proposals will be invited.
- 5.3** The timetable for the review can be found in the Terms of Reference.

5.4 Consultation has been carried out with the Cabinet Member(s) for Culture, Governance and IT, whose observations are as follows:

5.5 Consultation has been carried out with the local Elected Members as part of the public consultation exercise.

6. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

6.1 The Community Review is a statutory requirement and therefore must be undertaken. Conwy's Electoral Officer is leading on the community review process and, as such, the cost will be funded from within the service budget using existing staff resource.

6.2 Additional costs are potentially, printing, postage and translation costs.

7. CORPORATE PLAN OUTCOMES

7.1 The Council's priorities include the delivery of high quality services which are accessible to all. Town & Community Councils and appropriate ward boundaries are vitally important for the electorate to engage in the democratic process, which links directly to the priority that "People in Conwy are informed, included and listened to and can actively contribute to a community where their background and identity are valued and respected".

8. WELL-BEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS ACT (includes any Tackling Poverty issues)

8.1 Long Term - ensuring electors have appropriate access to a polling station local to them, and that Town and Community Councils are equipped with adequate Councillors to run efficiently and to support their local area.

8.2 Prevention - aim to promote ease of voting for the electorate at election times. Any changes to ward boundaries or Council member numbers will result in an Equality Impact Assessment being carried out.

8.3 Integration - communities and relevant parties included to facilitate elector engagement as part of the election process.

8.4 Collaboration - working with communities and individuals to ensure an efficient election process.

- 8.5** Involvement - to ensure the electorate are situated within the most pertinent ward and are supported by an effective Town or Community Council

9. EQUALITY & SOCIO-ECONOMIC DUTY IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1** A full Equality Impact Assessment has been undertaken and is included with this report.

10. POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

N/A

11. RISK IMPLICATIONS

- 11.1** Not considering the potential issues to the boundary proposals, and implementing necessary solutions, could breach the agreed Terms of Reference for the review and fail to ensure that communities preserve their local identities. Not approving the recommendations may lead to less effective local governance than what is currently achieved.

12. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE COMMENTS

N/A

13. REPORT REVIEW GROUP (RRG) COMMENTS

Appendices:

- 1 Terms of Reference
- 2 Community ward details – electorate statistics
- 3 Draft Proposals Report
- 4 Equality Impact Assessment