

APPENDIX A

REVIEW OF GWYNEDD ELECTORAL BOUNDARIES



GWYNEDD COUNCIL PROPOSALS

INTRODUCTION

1. Gwynedd Council is pleased to be able to submit local proposals as part of the Boundary Commission process but, in so doing, the Council is eager to make two principal points:-

a. The consultation period, which coincided with the County Council and Community Councils' election, was quite inadequate for any meaningful local discussion and this has affected the ability to provide details on some proposals. (With this in mind, the Council is very willing to assist the Commission further with more evidence as it draws up its draft proposals).

b. The Boundary Commission should address the needs of effective local representation and the impact of the population not on the electoral register at a particular point in time, when drawing up its proposals. Specifically, the demands and workload which arise as a result of the presence of students, tourists, second home owners and others who are not on the local electoral register mean that this must be addressed when determining the size of constituencies.

NB In drawing up its proposals, the Council has looked at the elector to councillor ratio which the Commission recommended for the county as a guide only as the nature of constituencies varies and has allowed up to approximately 25% variance above and below that figure. However, the Council has given its main attention to the small constituencies within the county. Where constituencies which appear large but are coherent in terms of community links and effective representation, the Council has not suggested reducing their size. Where possible, the Council has sought to draw up proposals which ensure one-member constituencies only as this, in the Council's opinion, is better in terms of local democratic accountability. There are two exceptions to this in the Bangor area (see paragraph 3.1) where the Council argues that there are special circumstances which justify that.

AREAS TO WHICH NO CHANGE IS SUGGESTED

2. The Council's proposals fall into two categories: the first where no change is recommended (paragraphs 2.1 to 2.35 below) and the second where the Council proposes some changes (paragraphs 3.1 to 3.12).

Areas in Arfon

2.1. Arllechwedd - This constituency of 1,000 electors has four community wards: Abergwyngregyn, Llandygai and Llanllechid Uchaf and Isaf. The constituency is already enormous geographically (8,168 hectares) and difficult to travel around. It is comparatively small according to the Commission's guidelines but within the variance which the Council has allowed for. Moreover, it makes cultural and community sense and the Council proposes no change.

2.2. Bethel - This constituency of 1,007 electors has one community ward within the community of Llanddeiniolen. Though comparatively small according to the Commission's guidelines, it is a village

which has its own identity as a unit and is a natural community which grows and develops and it makes cultural and community sense and the Council proposes no change.

2.3. Deiniolen - This constituency of 1,321 electors has three community wards: Deiniolen, Clwt y Bont and Dinorwig. The constituency is slightly above the Boundary Commission's guidelines but as it makes cultural and community sense splitting it would not make any sense at all and the Council proposes no change.

2.4. Dewi (Bangor) - This constituency of 1,204 electors is one community ward and is very close to the Boundary Commission's guideline figure. Modifying the constituency was given consideration in the context of the other changes (suggested below) in other constituencies in Bangor but any such changes would have detracted from a constituency which makes cultural and community sense. Therefore, the Council proposes no change.

2.5. Gerlan - This constituency of 1,615 electors has two community wards: Rachub and Gerlan. The constituency is larger than the Boundary Commission guidelines. As it is, the constituency forms a half-circle around the town of Bethesda and brings together similar communities on the outskirts of the old quarry town. Therefore, it makes cultural and community sense and the Council proposes no change.

2.6. Glyder (Bangor) - This constituency of 1,200 electors is one community ward. Modifying the constituency was given consideration in the context of the other changes (suggested below) in other constituencies in Bangor but any such changes would have detracted from a constituency which makes cultural and community sense. Therefore, the Council proposes no change.

2.7. Groeslon - This constituency of 1,284 electors has two community wards: Groeslon and Dinas. Consideration was given to changing this constituency as a result of the need to make other changes to neighbouring constituencies but this was not required ultimately and the existing constituency makes cultural and community sense and the Council proposes no change.

2.8. Llanberis - This constituency of 1,530 electors has two community wards: Padarn, which includes the town of Llanberis itself and Nant Peris. The Padarn constituency alone is larger than the Boundary Commission's guidelines but the obvious link between Nant Peris and Padarn means that the constituency makes cultural and community sense and the Council proposes no change.

2.9. Llanrug - This constituency of 1,349 electors is one community ward for the village of Llanrug itself. It is very close in terms of numbers to the Commission's guidelines, it is a village which has its own identity as a unit and is a natural community which grows and develops and it makes cultural and community sense and the Council proposes no change.

2.10. Ogwen - This constituency of 1,609 electors is one community ward: the town of Bethesda itself. It is a large, urban constituency but it makes cultural and community sense and the Council proposes no change.

2.11. Pentir - This constituency of 1,810 electors has two community wards: Faenol and Glasinfryn. Consideration was given to Pentir in the context of other possible changes in Bangor and Dyffryn Ogwen but the conclusion was reached that, though large, the constituency does make cultural and community sense and splitting it or linking parts of it with other constituencies did not make sense. Therefore the Council proposes no change.

2.12. Penygroes - This constituency of 1,341 electors is one community ward. The constituency is a village which has its own identity as a unit and is around the Commission's guideline figure in terms of numbers. It makes cultural and community sense and the Council proposes no change.

2.13. Tregarth and Mynydd Llandygai - This constituency of 1,625 electors has two community wards: Tregarth and St Ann's. This is a large constituency compared with the Commission's guideline figure but having considered it in the context of other possible changes in Dyffryn Ogwen, the conclusion was reached that, though large, the constituency does make cultural and community sense and splitting it or linking parts of it with other constituencies did not make sense. Therefore the Council proposes no change.

2.14. Waunfawr - This constituency of 1,265 electors has four community wards: Waunfawr itself, Caeathro, Betws Garmon and Rhyd-ddu. The most suitable link for Caeathro was considered when discussing the Bontnewydd constituency but, as the existing constituency is close to the Commission's guideline figure in terms of numbers and that it makes cultural and community sense, the Council proposes no change.

2.15. Felinheli - This constituency of 1,694 electors is one community ward. Though larger than the Commission's guideline figure in terms of numbers, geographically, it makes no sense to split it in any way as it has its own identity as a unit and, therefore, as it makes cultural and community sense, the Council proposes no change.

Areas in Dwyfor

2.16. Abererch - This constituency of 989 electors has two community wards: Abererch and Ffôr. The constituency is large geographically (2,489 hectares) and difficult to travel around. It is comparatively small according to the Commission's guidelines but within the variance which the Council has allowed for. Consideration was given to the constituency in the context of some neighbouring changes but this did not offer any significant improvement to the situation. Moreover, it makes cultural and community sense and the Council proposes no change.

2.17. Cricieth - This constituency of 1,301 is one community ward. The constituency is a town which has its own identity as a unit and is around the Commission's guideline figure in terms of numbers. It makes cultural and community sense and the Council proposes no change.

2.18. Dolbenmaen - This constituency of 920 electors has five community wards: Bryncir, Garn, Golan, Penmorfa and Pentrefelin. The constituency is comparatively small according to the Commission's guidelines and is very close to the threshold of variance which the Council has allowed for. The constituency is already enormous geographically (8,609 hectares) and difficult to travel around, and adding to it would make it extremely difficult in terms of effective local representation. Moreover, it makes cultural and community sense and the Council proposes no change.

2.19. Efailnewydd / Buan - This constituency of 998 electors has five small, rural community wards: Ceidio, Bodfuan, Pentreuchaf, Efailnewydd and Bachellaeth. The constituency is large geographically (5,571 hectares) and is comparatively small according to the Commission's guidelines but within the variance which the Council has allowed for. Consideration was given to the possibility of linking it with other areas but, owing to the geographical size of the constituency and the fact that it makes cultural and community sense, the Council proposes no change.

2.20. Llanystumdwy - This constituency of 1,493 electors has four small, rural community wards: Llanarmon, Llangybi, Rhoslan and Llanystumdwy itself. The constituency is slightly larger than the

guideline in terms of numbers set out by the Commission but it makes cultural and community sense and the Council proposes no change.

2.21. Nefyn - This constituency of 975 electors is one community ward. The constituency is comparatively small according to the Commission's guidelines but within the variance which the Council has allowed for. Consideration was given to the constituency in the context of some neighbouring changes but this did not offer any significant improvement to the situation. Moreover, it has its own identity as a unit and makes cultural and community sense and the Council proposes no change.

2.22. Porthmadog (East) - This constituency of 1,132 electors has two community wards: Porthmadog East itself and Ynys Galch. The constituency is only slightly lower than the Commission's guideline figure in terms of numbers. It makes cultural and community sense and the Council proposes no change.

2.23. Porthmadog (West) - This constituency of 1,265 electors has three community wards: Porthmadog West itself, Gest and Morfa Bychan. As the existing constituency is close to the Commission's guideline figure in terms of numbers and that it makes cultural and community sense, the Council proposes no change.

2.24. Porthmadog (Tremadog) - This constituency of 943 electors has two community wards: Prenteg and Beddgelert. The constituency is comparatively small according to the Commission's guidelines but within the variance which the Council has allowed for. The constituency is already enormous geographically (9,924 hectares) and difficult to travel around, and adding to it would make it extremely difficult in terms of effective local representation. Moreover, it makes cultural and community sense and the Council proposes no change.

2.25. Pwllheli (South) - This constituency of 1,268 electors is one community ward. As the existing constituency is close to the Commission's guideline figure in terms of numbers and that it makes cultural and community sense, the Council proposes no change.

2.26. Pwllheli (North) - This constituency of 1,502 electors is one community ward. Although higher than the guideline figure given by the Commission, splitting it would not make geographical or community sense. The constituency makes cultural and community sense and the Council proposes no change.

Areas in Meirionnydd

2.27. Aberdyfi - This constituency of 884 electors, the southern-most constituency in the county, has three community wards: Dyfi, Abertafol and Pennal. The county boundary limits the flexibility to make any adaptations. The constituency is extremely rural with a dispersed population across an enormous area of 5,298 hectares and is difficult to travel around and, though consideration was given to linking it with other areas, no such proposal offered genuine improvement to the existing situation. It makes cultural and community sense and the Council proposes no change.

2.28. Barmouth - This constituency of 1,531 electors is one community ward. Though larger than the Commission's guideline figure in terms of numbers, geographically, it makes no sense to split it in any way as it has its own identity as a unit and, therefore, as it makes cultural and community sense, the Council proposes no change.

2.29. Brithdir and Llanfachreth / Y Ganllwyd / Llanelltyd - This constituency of 1,116 electors has four community wards: Llanelltyd, Ganllwyd, Machreth and Brithdir. It forms a 'u' shape around Dolgellau to the east, north and west. The constituency is already enormous geographically (19,594 hectares) and difficult to travel around. It is close enough to the Commission's guidelines in terms of numbers to justify not reviewing in order to add to it. The constituency makes cultural and community sense and the Council proposes no change.

2.30. Bowydd and Rhiw - This constituency of 1,237 electors has two community wards: Bowydd and Rhiw itself and Tanygrisiau. The constituency was considered in the context of the changes which had to take place in a neighbouring constituency but that was resolved without affecting this constituency. The constituency is very close to the Commission's guideline figure and makes cultural and community sense and the Council proposes no change.

2.31. Corris and Mawddwy - This constituency of 963 electors has four community wards: Corris, Aberangell, Dinas Mawddwy and Llanymawddwy which is also on the county's southern boundary. The county boundary limits the flexibility to make any adaptations. The constituency is comparatively small according to the Commission's guidelines but within the variance which the Council has allowed for. The constituency is already enormous geographically (16,490 hectares) and difficult to travel around, and adding to it would make it extremely difficult in terms of effective local representation. Moreover, it makes cultural and community sense and the Council proposes no change.

2.32. Dolgellau (South) - This constituency of 1,044 electors is one community ward. Although slightly small according to the Commission's guidelines in terms of numbers, it sits comfortably within the variance which the Council has allowed for and it makes no sense to make any adaptations to it. The constituency makes cultural and community sense and the Council proposes no change.

2.33. Dolgellau (North) - This constituency of 900 electors is one community ward which forms a circle around the town of Dolgellau itself and brings together the smaller communities which see Dolgellau as the town which they are connected to. The constituency is comparatively small according to the Commission's guidelines and is very close to the threshold of variance which the Council has allowed for. However, adding to it would make it extremely difficult in terms of effective local representation. Moreover, it makes cultural and community sense and the Council proposes no change.

2.34. Penrhyndeudraeth - This constituency of 1,745 electors has two community wards: Penrhyndeudraeth and Llanfrothen. It is a large constituency in terms of numbers considering the Commission's guideline, but it makes no sense to split it in any way. It makes cultural and community sense and the Council proposes no change.

2.35. Bala - This constituency of 1,353 electors is one community ward. The constituency is a town which has its own identity as a unit and is around the Commission's guideline figure in terms of numbers. It makes cultural and community sense and the Council proposes no change.

AREAS TO WHICH THE COUNCIL PROPOSES SPECIFIC CHANGES

3.1. Bangor City Area

The Bangor City area is greatly affected by the changes in the way the electoral register has been drawn up. Although this does not have any effect on councillors' workload, it does lead to a

significant reduction in the number of registered electors, particularly in some wards, though no reduction has been seen in the population in a city which continues to grow.

The nature of the city and some of the communities within it has also changed since the last review and it continues to evolve.

As mentioned in 2.4, 2.6 and 2.11 above, the Council suggests keeping the constituencies of Pentir, Dewi and Glyder as they are currently.

The rest of the city splits into three sections, which are obvious geographical splits between the two hills and valley between them where the city centre lies. The Council's proposal is that those geographical splits should be followed, resulting in:-

- Marchog Constituency (1,559) to remain as it currently is including keeping two members due to the size of the ward (population of 2,556 in the 2011 Census) and also owing to the nature of the deprived community (Communities First area with 56.6% living in a social rented property) which increases the work load of any member representing the constituency
- Merging the Menai and Garth constituencies (1,439) but again pressing for two members here owing to the workload and the size of the constituency (population of 5,125 according to the 2011 Census) as a result of the presence of thousands of students in the area (1,900 students split over 14 University Halls of Residence, not to mention private halls) and the fact that the University intends to introduce a new system of trying to get more students to vote locally
- Splitting the Deiniol ward around Glanrafon and the Cathedral with the north-eastern side of it joining the Hirael ward to create a constituency of approximately 1,200 and the south-western part of it, including Cae Llepa, joining the Hendre constituency to create a constituency of approximately 1,250.

This proposal by the Council, which involves changing the community ward boundaries of the old Deiniol constituency ward, has received the support of Bangor City Council also.

(A map showing the suggestions is appended)

3.2. Abersoch, Aberdaron, Botwnnog, Tudweiliog, Morfa Nefyn and Llanbedrog Area

Various existing constituencies require attention in this area with the constituencies of Abersoch (523) Llanbedrog (734), Aberdaron (724) Tudweiliog (660) Morfa Nefyn and Edern (897) and Llangian (503) all too small to warrant seats according to the Commission's guidelines. The existing community wards were looked at as building blocks and discussions were held with the local members regarding the natural community connections within the local area.

The Council's proposal is as follows:-

- A constituency for the Llanbedrog community extending from Penrhos to the Coed y Fron cross-road, Mynytho, which includes Llanbedrog (768) and Mynytho up to Coed y Fron (approx. 450)(single-member constituency with approximately 1,218 electors).
- Another constituency for the Llanengan community from the Coed y Fron cross-road which will include the rest of Llangian (approx. 53 electors beyond Mynytho), Llanengan (333) and Abersoch (523) as a one-member constituency with approximately 909 electors.
- Merging the constituencies of Aberdaron (733) and Botwnnog (724) to create a new constituency of 1,457 electors (two entire Community Councils).
- Merging the constituencies of Tudweiliog (660) and Morfa Nefyn and Edern (897) to create one new constituency of 1,557 electors (two entire Community Council areas).

This proposal involves one change to a community ward boundary in the Llangian ward within the old Llanengan constituency.

(A map showing the suggestions is appended)

The entire area is very rural (17,054 hectares in total) and is a combination of small villages and detached rural houses and is difficult to travel around. It is also an area which is greatly affected by tourists during the extended holiday season. The proposals offer larger constituencies in the north of Pen Llŷn than in the south with one very small constituency of 909 electors. The Council's opinion is that they are reasonable proposals in the context of the Boundary Commission's current expectations and maintain and build upon the local community links and they have received local support.

3.3. Llanwnda, Groeslon and Carmel

Various proposals were considered for this area with the main requirement of trying to respond to the size of the existing Bontnewydd constituency, which is too small as it is, as changes associated with that. Following discussions at the Audit and Governance Committee, and a quick consultation with the relevant local members, the recommendations, which are different from those submitted to the committee, are now as follows:-

As mentioned in paragraphs 2.7 and 2.14 above, it is suggested that the constituencies of Groeslon and Waunfawr should be kept as they are but the following adaptations are proposed:-

Adding the ward of Dinas (499) to the existing Bontnewydd constituency (849) to create a new constituency of 1,339 electors which reflects the close community link between the Dinas area and the village of Bontnewydd in terms of community activities and shopping and travelling links.

Connect the existing wards of Rhostryfan (515) and Rhosgadfan (433) with Carmel (396) and Ceserea (241) to create a new constituency of 1,585 for communities which are similar in nature on the upper side of the valley which also breaks the connection between Carmel and Talysarn (see 3.9 below).

(A map showing the suggestions is appended)

3.4. Caernarfon Town Area

Caernarfon is also an urban area which has seen changes since the boundaries were last reviewed. The following proposals, which have received unanimous support from all local members and the Caernarfon Town Council, use the natural boundaries of Llanberis Road and the Link Road through the town as obvious and natural boundaries.

Under the old boundaries, the two wards of Menai and Cadnant were large; Menai especially so with 1,718 electors, and the proposals submitted (shown on the maps attached) address this and reflect the obvious physical boundaries of the main roads through and around the town that local people would recognise. This proposal involves changes to community ward boundaries within the town.

This leads to a proposal which will reduce the size of the Menai constituency to approximately 1,500, reduce the size of the Cadnant constituency to approximately 1,307 and an increase in the size of the Peblig constituency to approximately 1,485.

This leaves the situation of the current Seiont constituency which, as a result of the aforementioned changes, will be a two-member constituency with approximately 2,392. However, in order to implement the Council's wish of trying to have single-member constituencies, the Committee suggests splitting it into two constituencies - the Caernarfon Town Centre Constituency of

approximately 1,177 and the Hendre Constituency, which is mainly a single large housing estate, of approximately 1,215 electors.

(Maps showing the current boundaries and suggestions are attached)

3.5. Ffestiniog Area

While the Bowydd and Rhiw area is fine as it is, the Diffwys and Maenofferen constituency with 750 electors is too small and the Teigl constituency (1,315) is a little higher than the average. Both constituencies together would make a constituency of 2,065 electors which could justify two members. As the Council is seeking to avoid two-member constituencies, it is suggested that a new boundary is established between the Diffwys and Maenofferen constituency and the Teigl constituency, across Manod Road, along a natural boundary agreed with the Town Council. This allows for two single-member constituencies: Diffwys and Maenofferen with 1,012 and Teigl with 1,053. This proposal involves moving the boundary between two community wards.

(A map showing the suggestions is appended)

3.6. Tywyn Area

The Tywyn constituency is currently a two-member constituency of 2,388. As the Council is seeking to avoid two-member constituencies, it is suggested that two new constituencies are established using the existing community wards as building blocks. This would involve creating two constituencies: Morfa Tywyn with 1,240 electors and the Town of Tywyn (West and East) with 1,148 electors.

(A map showing the suggestions is appended)

3.7. Trawsfynydd, Harlech, Dyffryn Ardudwy and Llanbedr Area

Various existing constituencies require attention in this area with the constituency of Llanbedr (789) far too small according to the Commission's guidelines, and other constituencies which will require attention in the longer-term in relation to their size.

The Council's recommendation is to change four seats (Trawsfynydd, Harlech, Dyffryn Ardudwy and Llanbedr) into three, affecting Dyffryn Ardudwy (1,179), Llanbedr (442), Llanfair (347), Harlech (1,045), Talsarnau (428), Maentwrog (428) and Trawsfynydd (672). Therefore, the new constituencies would be:-

One seat - Harlech, Talsarnau and Llanfair (1820) - (three entire community council areas)

One seat - Llanbedr, Dyffryn Ardudwy and Talybont (1,621) - (Two entire community council areas)

One seat - Trawsfynydd and Maentwrog (1,016) - no change - (one community council area)

(A map showing the suggestions is appended)

3.8. Llanrug Area

There is a need to refine the situation in the Llanrug area in order to even-out the constituencies by dealing with the existing communities of Cwm y Glo (438), Brynrefail (224) and Ceunant (305) and also Penisarwaun (560) and Rhiwlas (533).

The Council's proposal, which is supported by the Llanrug Community Council, is:-

One constituency for Cwm y Glo, Brynrefail and Ceunant (967) which creates a 'u' shaped constituency around the southern side of Llanrug.

One constituency for Penisarwaun and Rhiwlas (1,093) which extends to the communities to the north-east of the village of Llanrug.

(A map showing the suggestions is appended)

3.9. Llanllyfni, Talysarn and Nantlle Area

The existing ward of Talysarn (which includes Carmel) has been the subject of local discussion for some time because of the obvious natural boundary between the two main areas of the constituency and there are various small communities within the constituency. This means that, at present, in order to travel from one part of the constituency to another, you have to go through Penygroes, which is a separate constituency and the existing constituency has various different small communities.

It is recommended that Llanllyfni (513), Talysarn (794) and Nantlle (152) are brought together to create one new constituency of 1,369 (the majority of the geographical area of Llanllyfni Community Council).

(A map showing the suggestions is appended)

3.10. Clynnog, Trefor and Llithfaen Area

Various existing constituencies require attention in this area with the constituency of Clynnog with only 713 electors requiring specific attention.

The committee's recommendation is that the existing constituency of Llanaelhaearn (1,151) remains as it is, though calling it "Yr Eifl" would be more sensible. The Nebo ward (233) would then be added to Clynnog to create a new constituency of 946 electors (which is a very small constituency in the Commission's terms) and removing it from the Llanllyfni ward which would reduce the size of that ward to 1,369 which is more reasonable (see paragraph 3.9 above). This would address concerns expressed by Pistyll Community Council about linking small rural communities with larger and very different areas.

(A map showing the suggestions is appended)

3.11. Penllyn Area

Some refinement is required in this area to address the situation of some small constituencies. The scope for change in a rural area such as this is limited, but it is felt that the changes suggested address the requirement while accepting that constituencies in rural areas will always be smaller.

It is recommended that wards are exchanged between the two existing constituencies but keeping two seats so that there are three seats in the entire area, namely Bala and Penllyn West – Llanuwchllyn (494), Cwm y Glyn (83) and Llanycil (323) (constituency of 900) and Penllyn East – Gwalia (125), Llan y Betws (456) and Llanfor (347) (constituency of 928). The constituencies are small in looking to the future but this is inevitable in such a rural area which is 2,388 hectares according to the 2011 Census.

(A map showing the suggestions is appended)

3.12. Llanegryn, Brynchrug and Friog Area

The situation of the constituencies in the area needs to be addressed. (Brynchrug and Llanfihangel has only 755 electors at present while the Constituency of Llangelynnin has only 1,577 electors)

It is recommended that the ward of Llanegryn is moved from one constituency to the other in order to create two constituencies that are more equal in terms of number of electors:-

Llanegryn, Bryncreug and Llanfihangel which would be a constituency of 1,000 (extending over the area of three Community Councils)

Friog, Islaw'r Dre and Llangelynnin which would be a constituency of 1,332 (extending over the area of two Community Councils)

(A map showing the suggestions is appended)