

# Public Document Pack



County Hall  
Rhadyr  
Usk  
NP15 1GA

Friday, 28 February 2025

## Notice of meeting

### Democratic Services Committee

Monday, 10th March, 2025 at 2.00 pm,  
Council Chamber, County Hall, Usk

### AGENDA

Item No	Item	Pages
1.	Apologies for Absence	
2.	Declarations of Interest	
3.	Electoral Review Consultation	1 - 64
4.	Date of Next Meeting - 7 April 2025	

**Paul Matthews**

**Chief Executive / Prif Weithredwr**

MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL  
CYNGOR SIR FYNWY

THE CONSTITUTION OF THE COMMITTEE IS AS FOLLOWS:

County Councillor Louise Brown	Shirenewton;	Welsh Conservative Party
County Councillor Tomos Dafydd Davies	Llanfoist & Govilon;	Welsh Conservative Party
County Councillor Meirion Howells	Llanbadoc & Usk;	Independent
County Councillor David Jones	Crucorney;	Independent Group
County Councillor Tony Kear	Llanbadoc & Usk;	Welsh Conservative Party
County Councillor Su McConnel	Croesonen;	Welsh Labour/Llafur Cymru
County Councillor Peter Strong	Rogiet;	Welsh Labour/Llafur Cymru
County Councillor Armand Watts	Bulwark and Thornwell;	Welsh Labour/Llafur Cymru
County Councillor Laura Wright	Grofield;	Welsh Labour/Llafur Cymru
County Councillor John Crook	Magor East with Undy;	Welsh Labour/Llafur Cymru
County Councillor Rachel Buckler	Devauden;	Welsh Conservative Party
County Councillor Tudor Thomas	Park;	Welsh Labour/Llafur Cymru

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## Public Information

### Access to paper copies of agendas and reports

A copy of this agenda and relevant reports can be made available to members of the public attending a meeting by requesting a copy from Democratic Services on 01633 644219. Please note that we must receive 24 hours notice prior to the meeting in order to provide you with a hard copy of this agenda.

### Watch this meeting online

This meeting can be viewed online either live or following the meeting by visiting [www.monmouthshire.gov.uk](http://www.monmouthshire.gov.uk) or by visiting our Youtube page by searching MonmouthshireCC.

### Welsh Language

The Council welcomes contributions from members of the public through the medium of Welsh or English. We respectfully ask that you provide us with adequate notice to accommodate your needs.

# Aims and Values of Monmouthshire County Council

## Our purpose

- to become a zero-carbon county, supporting well-being, health and dignity for everyone at every stage of life.

## Objectives we are working towards

- Fair place to live where the effects of inequality and poverty have been reduced;
- Green place to live and work with reduced carbon emissions and making a positive contribution to addressing the climate and nature emergency;
- Thriving and ambitious place, where there are vibrant town centres and where businesses can grow and develop
- Safe place to live where people have a home where they feel secure in;
- Connected place where people feel part of a community and are valued;
- Learning place where everybody has the opportunity to reach their potential

## Our Values

**Openness.** We are open and honest. People have the chance to get involved in decisions that affect them, tell us what matters and do things for themselves/their communities. If we cannot do something to help, we'll say so; if it will take a while to get the answer we'll explain why; if we can't answer immediately we'll try to connect you to the people who can help – building trust and engagement is a key foundation.

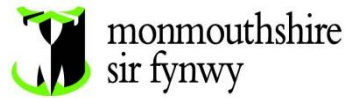
**Fairness.** We provide fair chances, to help people and communities thrive. If something does not seem fair, we will listen and help explain why. We will always try to treat everyone fairly and consistently. We cannot always make everyone happy, but will commit to listening and explaining why we did what we did.

**Flexibility.** We will continue to change and be flexible to enable delivery of the most effective and efficient services. This means a genuine commitment to working with everyone to embrace new ways of working.

**Teamwork.** We will work with you and our partners to support and inspire everyone to get involved so we can achieve great things together. We don't see ourselves as the 'fixers' or problem-solvers, but we will make the best of the ideas, assets and resources available to make sure we do the things that most positively impact our people and places.

**Kindness:** We will show kindness to all those we work with putting the importance of relationships and the connections we have with one another at the heart of all interactions.





## MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT

<b>SUBJECT:</b> Electoral Review Consultation
<b>MEETING:</b> Democratic Services Committee
<b>DATE:</b> 10 March 2025
<b>DIVISION/WARDS AFFECTED:</b> All

### 1. PURPOSE:

- 1.1 To consider a response to the consultation from the Local Democracy and Boundary Commission Wales (The Commission) regarding its Council Size Policy to be used at Electoral Reviews.

### 2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 That Democratic Services Committee debate and consider a response to the consultation to be forwarded to Cabinet for approval.
- 2.2 To delegate final approval of the recommendations to the chair of Democratic Services Committee to forward on to Cabinet following the meeting.

### 3. REASONS:

- 3.1 The Commission are required to keep under review the electoral arrangements of each local authority in Wales and do so by carrying out electoral reviews periodically. The '2025 programme' requires The Commission to have completed a cycle of electoral reviews within 12 years starting from the 30 September 2023.
- 3.2 An electoral review will consider;
  - The number of members of the Council for a local authority
  - The number, type and boundaries of electoral wards in to which the local authority is divided for the purpose of the election of councillors
  - The number of councillors to be elected for any electoral ward
  - The name of any electoral ward
- 3.3 Prior to the commencement of an electoral review, The Commission are required to consult on its intended procedure and methodology for the review and is doing so through the consultation on its Council Size policy. (The policy)
- 3.4 The policy is attached at appendix 1 of this report and a summary of the general principles of the policy is detailed below;

- A desire of having the same, or nearly the same, ratio of local government electors to councillors in every electoral ward with consideration of a five year forecast in changes to the electorates
- A desire to achieve a level of variance that is not greater than 20% of the council average
- Special geographical considerations including in particular the size, shape and accessibility of an electoral ward
- Consideration of any local ties that would be broken by changes to the electoral arrangements
- A view to making recommendations for electoral arrangements that will achieve effective and convenient local government and be internally coherent, with reasonable road links across the ward so it can be easily traversed and all electors can engage in community affairs and activities without needing to travel through an adjoining ward.
- Where multi-member wards are proposed it is not desirable to have more than 4 elected members per ward.
- In light of The Commissions duty to promote the use of Welsh language, a preference will be for wards to bear a single name in the Welsh language which is acceptable for use in English and will consult with the Welsh Language Commissioner with regards to the ward names.

3.5 More specifically for Monmouthshire, the Policy also sets the ideal size of the Council and the methodology used in calculating that figure. It is proposed that the electoral review for Monmouthshire will return between 41-48 councillors compared to the 46 councillors that currently represent the County.

3.6 The current and forecast electorates are included at appendix 2 of this report. The current electorate is 75,172 and with 46 councillors gives an average councillor:elector ratio of 1,634. The five year forecast for the electorate is 79,710 and will return a councillor:elector ratio of 1,661 based on 48 councillors as proposed in the report.

3.7 Previously, the commission have banded the electoral wards depending on the scale of variance to the average for the County. This is also highlighted in appendix 2 and includes a RAG rating depending on the level of variance and likely need for the wards to change based on the application of the Policy to the current arrangements. The consultation for this review aims to achieve a maximum variance of +/-20% of the average councillor:elector ratio.

3.8 In considering the response to the consultation, the Commission has provided a template response format which covers various aspects of the governance arrangements of the Council and why the proposed arrangements would not be suitable for the Council. Factors such as the effectiveness of scrutiny arrangements and quasi judicial committees, size of the cabinet, community leadership and councillor casework will need to be provided as evidence to support why the proposed arrangements are not suitable.

#### **4. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:**

4.1 Resources and costs relating to the electoral review will largely be met by The Commission. There will be significant officer time spent in assisting The Commission with the dissemination of information, reviewing the arrangements and drafting proposals to respond to the consultation, as well as implementing the final proposals.

4.2 Increases in the number of councillors will require further funding to remunerate the councillors at the level set by the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales at the time of the review being implemented.

**5. CONSULTATION:**

Political Group Leaders  
Relevant Cabinet Member

**6. BACKGROUND PAPERS:**

[2025 ERP: Draft Policy and Practice | DBCC](#)

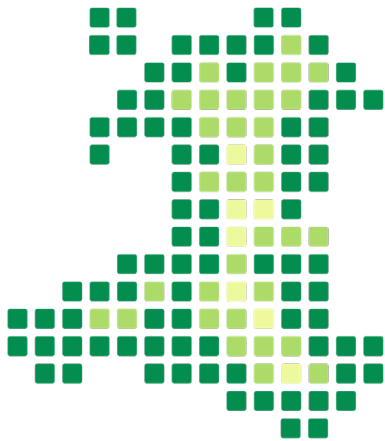
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DEMOCRACY AND BOUNDARY COMMISSION CYMRU

**ELECTORAL REVIEWS:  
CONSULTATION ON  
POLICY AND PRACTICE 2025**



**Comisiwn  
Democratiaeth  
a Ffiniau Cymru**

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**Democracy  
and Boundary  
Commission Cymru**

## FOREWORD

The Democracy and Boundary Commission Cymru etc. Act 2013 (“the 2013 Act”) requires the Democracy and Boundary Commission Cymru (“the Commission”) to review the electoral arrangements for each principal area in Wales at least once every 12 years.

Before carrying out a review of the electoral arrangements for a principal area (which the Commission describes as an “electoral review”), the Commission is required to consult certain specified bodies (known as “mandatory consultees”) on its intended procedure and methodology for the review, and in particular on how it proposes to determine the appropriate number of members for any principal council in the principal area or areas under review.

This document sets out the Commission’s proposed procedure and methodology and council size policy for the programme of electoral reviews which must be carried out during the 12-year period which started on 30 September 2023. The Commission anticipates that these reviews will start in 2025, and thus refers to this cycle of reviews as the “2025 programme”.

The Commission is now consulting on the policies and practices included within this document. Members of the public and interested parties are invited to submit their views and responses either in writing or via email to the contact details below:

The Chief Executive  
Democracy and Boundary Commission Cymru  
4th Floor  
Welsh Government Building  
Cathays Park  
Cardiff  
CF10 3NQ

Or by email to: [consultations@dbcc.gov.wales](mailto:consultations@dbcc.gov.wales)

no later than 24 March 2025.

Following the consultation the Commission will prepare its final Policy and Practice document for the 2025 programme and publish this document prior to the start of the programme. This final Document will also include a timetable for reviews and the final council size policy that the Commission will be adopting.

**Beverley Smith**  
**Chair**

The Commission welcomes correspondence and telephone calls in Welsh or English.  
This document is available in Welsh

## Background

- 1 The Commission is required to carry out periodic reviews of the electoral arrangements of principal areas in Wales. These reviews are described in this document as “electoral reviews”. The way the Commission conducts an electoral review is defined by legislation and may be guided by directions issued by Welsh Ministers.
- 2 This document sets out the Commission’s proposed procedure and methodology and council size policy for the programme of electoral reviews which must be carried out during the 12-year period which started on 30 September 2023 (and which is known as the “2025 programme”). The Commission is consulting on the contents of this document, and invites responses from members of the public and interested parties.

## Statutory Requirements

### The Democracy and Boundary Commission Cymru etc. Act 2013

- 3 The 2013 Act requires the Commission to review the electoral arrangements of principal councils in Wales. The 2013 Act has recently been amended (and given its new name) by the Elections and Elected Bodies (Wales) Act 2024 .
- 4 Section 21(3) of the 2013 Act provides that the Commission in carrying out its duties must seek to ensure effective and convenient local government. This is the paramount and primary function of the Commission.
- 5 Section 29 of the 2013 Act lays upon the Commission the duty to review the electoral arrangements for each principal area at least once in every 12-year review period.
- 6 The purpose of an electoral review is to consider whether changes should be made to the electoral arrangements of the principal area. At the outcome of the review, the Commission will recommend changes which it considers appropriate to those electoral arrangements (or will recommend that no changes are made). The Commission’s recommendations are made to the Welsh Ministers, who then decide whether to implement changes recommended by the Commission (with or without modifications).
- 7 In this context, the “electoral arrangements” of a principal area are defined in Section 29 (9) of the 2013 Act as:
  - (a) the number of members of the council for the principal area;
  - (b) the number, type and boundaries of the electoral wards into which the principal area is for the time being divided for the purpose for the election of members;
  - (c) the number of members to be elected for any electoral ward in the principal area; and
  - (d) the name of any electoral ward.

When the Commission recommends changes to electoral arrangements at the outcome of an electoral review, it may also recommend consequential changes to the boundaries, council and/or electoral arrangements of a community within the

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area under review, as well as consequential changes to the area of a preserved county (Wales is split into eight preserved counties. They are areas used for the ceremonial purposes of lieutenancy and shrievalty).

### Considerations for a Review of Principal Area Electoral Arrangements

- 8 When carrying out an electoral review, the Commission is required by Section 30 of the 2013 Act to have regard to the following factors-
- (a) the desirability of having a ratio of local government electors to the number of members of the council to be elected that is the same, or nearly the same, in every electoral ward of the principal area (which the Commission refers to as “electoral parity”);
  - (b) special geographical considerations, including in particular the size, shape and accessibility of an electoral ward; and
  - (c) any local ties (including local ties connected to the use of the Welsh language) that would be broken by changes to the electoral arrangements in the area.
- 9 When the Commission takes into account considerations of electoral parity (within the meaning of point (a) above), the Commission is also required to take into account:
- (a) any discrepancy between the number of local government electors and the number of persons that are eligible to be local government electors (as indicated by relevant official statistics); and
  - (b) any change to the number or distribution of local government electors in the principal area which is likely to take place in the period of five years immediately following the outcome of the Commission’s electoral review.

### Balance

- 10 The Commission’s task is to exercise a balanced judgement taking into account all relevant considerations, with a view to making recommendations for electoral arrangements that will achieve effective and convenient local government.
- 11 In an ideal situation, it would be possible to devise a pattern of electoral ward boundaries in which all electoral wards in a principal area had an equal ratio of electors to councillors, which brought together people in clearly identifiable communities, demonstrated clearly how local government would be both effective and convenient, and resulted in the appropriate number of councillors.
- 12 The geographical, social, economic and administrative make-up of Wales is however not so straightforward as to facilitate the drawing up of ideal electoral patterns. This means that the Commission must consider all relevant factors and exercise a judgement with a view to achieving a pattern of electoral wards which is as close as possible to the ideal described above. Achieving a structure that ensures effective and convenient local government is paramount.

### **Timetable**

- 13 The Commission’s proposed timetable for the 2025 programme of electoral reviews can be found at Appendix 1.
- 14 Section 36B(2) of the 2013 Act requires the Commission to use its best endeavours to publish its final report in an electoral review within 12 months of starting the review.

### **Proposed Council Size Policy**

- 15 This section describes how the Commission proposes to determine the appropriate number of councillors for principal councils in Wales.
- 16 For the 2025 programme the Commission proposes to allocate each principal council a range within which the total number of councillors for a council should fall. Details of the methodology followed by the Commission and the appropriate range of councillor numbers for each principal council are set out in Appendix 2.
- 17 The Commission requests that all principal councils respond to this council size policy, including by indicating whether they agree with the category that the Commission has placed them in and the suggested ranges of councillor numbers. The Commission has provided a response template to aid all interested parties in submitting their responses on appropriate number of councillors, which is accessible on the [Commissions website](#). The Commission will consider all responses before finalising its council size policy for the purposes of the 2025 programme.

### **Procedure**

- 18 The procedure for conducting electoral reviews is set out in Chapter 4 of the 2013 Act and is summarised in the following sections.

### **Pre-review Procedure**

- 19 The Commission will designate a Lead Commissioner for each electoral review, whose role will be to lead the Commission’s staff through the review and who will present proposals and recommendations internally for the Commission’s collective consideration and approval.
- 20 Before conducting an electoral review, the Commission will request that the principal council for the area under review provides electorate data and five-year forecasted electorate figures, in each case broken down to community ward level. The technical advice note in Appendix 3 to this document provides guidance for principal councils on the Commission’s requirements and on how forecasted electorate figures can be produced.
- 21 The Commission is also required at the start of the review to take such steps as it considers appropriate to bring the review to the attention of members of the public affected by the review, the mandatory consultees and any other person it considers likely to be interested in the review. If any directions have been given by the Welsh Ministers which are relevant to the review, then the Commission is also required to make the mandatory consultees and such other interested persons aware of these.
- 22 For these purposes, the “mandatory consultees” are defined in Section 34(3) of the Act as:

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- any local authority affected by the review;
- the police and crime commissioner for any police area which may be affected by the review;
- any fire and rescue authority constituted pursuant to the Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004 for an area in Wales which may be affected by the review;
- the National Park authority for a National Park in an area affected by the review,
- the Port Health authority constituted under section 2 of the Public Health (Control of Disease) Act 1984 (c. 22) for a port health district in an area affected by the review,
- the Welsh Language Commissioner
- any organisation representing the staff employed by local authorities which has asked to be consulted; and
- such other persons as may be specified by order made by the Welsh Ministers.

23 Prior to the planned start of the review programme the Commission will provide a number of online briefing sessions about the review process that can be attended by any interested parties. These briefings will describe the Commission's practice and procedures when carrying out electoral reviews.

### **Initial consultation and investigation**

24 At the official start of an electoral review the Commission will publish a statement specifying the date on which the review begins, as required by section 36B(1) of the 2013 Act.

25 The Commission will also communicate with the principal council under review, all the town or community councils in the area, the Members of Parliament and Members of the Senedd for the local constituencies and other interested parties as well as the mandatory consultees listed above to inform them of the review and to request preliminary views on the issues to be considered in the review.

26 The Commission will issue press releases about the review to publicise the review to the media. The Commission will also make available on its website a "partner pack" which will include materials designed to enable key stakeholders to help increase the profile of the review and engagement with the review.

27 The initial consultation period, during which anyone with an interest in the review can submit initial views to the Commission, will last for 6 weeks.

### **Draft Proposals**

- 28 Following the end of the initial consultation period, the Commission will consider the representations it has received and will publish draft proposals for consultation. The Commission will write to the principal council under review, all the community councils in the area, the Members of Parliament and Members of the Senedd for the local constituencies and other interested parties as well as the mandatory consultees to inform them of the draft proposals and to request their views. The Commission will also issue press releases about the proposals and provide publicity material that it will request both the principal council and town and community councils distribute in appropriate places, such as public libraries, town and community notice boards, websites and council newsletters etc in order to raise the profile of the review and to encourage public engagement.
- 29 Following the publication of the Draft Proposals Report there will be a consultation period, lasting 6 weeks, during which representations in relation to the draft proposals can be submitted to the Commission.
- 30 During this consultation period the Commission will offer a briefing via Microsoft Teams to the officials of the principal council under review to discuss the draft proposals and the next stages of the review.

### **Further Consultation**

- 31 Following the period of consultation on the Commission's draft proposals, the Commission will consider the representations it has received and prepare its final recommendations. The Commission's final recommendations may be the same as the proposals in the Commission's Draft Proposals Report, or the Commission may change its proposals in the light of the representations it has received and make recommendations in its final report reflecting those changed proposals.
- 32 However on occasion, after it has received representations, the Commission may wish to bring forward changes to the electoral arrangements of the area under review which are so different from the proposals in the Commission's Draft Proposals Report that the proposed changes amount to new proposals. Where this is the case, the Commission may engage in supplementary consultation in relation to its new proposals.
- 33 Any supplementary consultation period will usually last 4 weeks. The Commission will write to the principal council under review, all the community councils in the area, the Members of Parliament and Members of the Senedd for the local constituencies and other interested parties as well as the mandatory consultees to inform them of the further draft proposals, to request their views. The Commission will also issue press releases about the further proposals and provide publicity material that it will request both the principal council and town and community councils distribute in appropriate places, such as public libraries, town and community notice boards, websites and council newsletters etc in order to raise the profile of the review and to encourage public engagement.



- 34 When the Commission is ready, it will publish its final recommendations in the review (in a report known as a Final Recommendations Report) and submit them to Welsh Government. The Commission will write to the principal council under review, all the community councils in the area, the Members of Parliament and Members of the Senedd for the local constituencies and other interested parties as well as the mandatory consultees to inform them of its submission of recommendations to Welsh Government. The Commission will also issue press releases about the recommendations and provide publicity material that it will request both the principal council and town and community councils distribute in appropriate places, such as public libraries, town and community notice boards, websites and council newsletters etc.
- 35 Once the Commission has published its Final Recommendations Report, there is no further opportunity to provide representations to the Commission.
- 36 It is then for the Welsh Ministers to decide how they wish to proceed in relation to the Commission's recommendations. If the Welsh Ministers choose to implement the Commission's recommendations (with or without modifications) they will do so by making an Order, after waiting for a period of six weeks as required by section 37(3A) of the 2013 Act. During that six week period, anyone with an interest will have the opportunity to submit representations to the Welsh Ministers in relation to the representations.

#### **Matters which the Commission will consider during an electoral review**

- 37 Typically, electoral reviews present a range of issues and challenges which require a judgement on balance, taking into account matters, in addition to statutory requirements, that include the following:
- effective and convenient local government;
  - electoral parity (number of electors per councillor);
  - considerations that might justify atypical levels of electoral parity, such as particular community ties;
  - topography of the land, hills and rivers creating natural boundaries and motorways/railways forming man-made boundaries;
  - variable factors (such as deprivation, student populations and tourism);
  - differences between rural and urban areas; and,
  - community area boundaries and any community ward boundaries – since the Commission will use communities and community wards as the “building blocks” for principal area electoral wards.
- 38 The Commission will take into account all of these factors when designing proposals and making recommendations, and invites respondents to consider each of these when submitting representations to the Commission during electoral reviews.

#### *Effective and convenient local government*

- 39 It is a duty of the Commission to recommend to Welsh Ministers electoral arrangements that are designed to achieve effective and convenient local government for principal councils.

- 40 In seeking to ensure effective and convenient local government, the Commission, when considering potential electoral arrangements, seeks to ensure that electoral wards are internally coherent. In the Commission's view, this means that there are reasonable road links across the electoral ward so that it can be easily traversed, and that all electors in the ward can engage in the affairs and activities of all parts of it without having to travel through an adjoining ward. This may not be the case, for example, if a potential electoral ward boundary amalgamates two communities where a feature such as a mountain or river divides them.
- 41 Factors including convenient access to elected members by the electors and people they represent, patterns of settlements and ease of communications within electoral areas will be taken into account.

*Electoral parity and Numbers of Councillors*

- 42 As described above, the Commission is required to take into account the desirability of electoral parity when it carries out electoral reviews. Electoral parity refers to a situation in which the ratio of electors to elected members is the same, or nearly the same, in every electoral ward in the principal area.

The information which the Commission receives about the number of electors in an area will enable it to determine ward boundaries, and numbers of elected councillors for each ward, with a view to achieving electoral parity. The Commission will seek to achieve electoral ratios for electoral wards which are close to the council average, but the Commission nonetheless acknowledges that some degree of variance is inevitable in practice.

- 43 The Commission's policy will be to attempt to achieve a level of variance that is not greater than 20% from the council average for any electoral ward. However, the Commission takes the view that each council is different and that some councils and electoral wards will be able to provide for a better level of electoral parity than others. The Commission will seek to provide the best level of electoral parity for each area under review and will take each case on its merit. The Commission takes the view that departing from the average ratio for the council can only be justified by clear evidence of other balancing factors, such as local ties or other relevant considerations.
- 44 Many principal councils have both urban and rural electoral wards. On occasion the Commission has received comments to the effect that urban areas should have proportionately more councillors than rural areas because urban areas present more complex issues. Others have argued that rural areas should have proportionately more councillors because rural populations are more dispersed, and therefore harder to contact. There is no provision in legislation for such an approach. Increasing use of electronic communication methods generally makes no distinction between urban and rural areas. However, there may be exceptions where local characteristics, including topography and the availability of high-speed broadband, lead to an acceptance of a particular variance in electoral ratio for one or more electoral wards.
- 45 The Commission has commissioned independent research regarding the workload of County Councillors in Wales. The research shows that the biggest impact on the workload of a councillor

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is the various cabinet and committee responsibilities, however deprivation also has a large impact on the workload of a councillor. The report can be found on the [Commission's website](#), and the Commission has taken it into account in determining the approach to its council size policy which is set out above.

- 46 As noted above, the 2013 Act places a further requirement on the Commission to take into account “...any discrepancy between the number of local government electors and the number of persons eligible to be local government electors (as indicated by relevant official statistics)”. The Commission relies on the Office for National Statistics (ONS) to provide population figures, on the basis of which the discrepancy between the number of registered electors and the local population can be assessed. However it is often the case that population figures and elector numbers are recorded across slightly different local areas, so the discrepancy can only be the subject of a rough estimate. The Commission will utilise the available statistics as best it can and where it is appropriate to do so.
- 47 The Commission’s general aim is that electoral parity in a principal area should improve as a result of an electoral review. This will be informed by the data provided by councils as to current electors as well as five-year electoral forecasts. The Commission will consider and respond to the implications of changes in the number and distribution of electors which are forecast. The Commission looks to councils to provide estimates of electorate changes supported by appropriate evidence. However, in the experience of the Commission the projected figures are often at significant variance with actual changes in the number of electors which occur subsequently, and the Commission will also take this into account in its decision-making (see further below).

### *Multi-member electoral wards*

- 48 The Commission considers that multi-member electoral wards are more likely to be effective and convenient in urban areas than in rural areas. In areas of denser population, such as is found in urban areas, it is possible that many of the issues which a councillor may be called upon to address may be broadly similar in nature and may therefore allow multiple councillors to deal with similar issues. The Commission considers that multi-member wards in rural areas would lead to very large geographical areas which would cause issues to the electors and the elected members such as travel and time.
- 49 The Commission considers that it is not desirable to have more than 4 elected members per ward in a first-past-the-post electoral system since this may dilute accountability to the electorate to an excessive degree. Furthermore an election is increasingly difficult for electoral administrators and returning officers to administer where there are more than 4 members per ward. Accordingly, the Commission will not recommend any new multi-member wards with more than 4 members other than in exceptional circumstances.

### *Five-year forecasted figures*

- 50 The Commission must have regard to five-year projected electorate figures as part of its deliberations when creating proposals and recommendations. As noted above, the Commission requests these projections from the principal council under review. The Commission is aware that projections are not an exact science and therefore while the Commission will have regard

to the principal council's projected figures, the Commission will give greater weight to current electorate figures provided by the council.

### *Population figures*

- 51 The Commission will have regard to the population figures that are provided to it by the Office for National Statistics (ONS), as described above. The Commission uses the mid-year estimates of populations for national and local areas. These are based on Census data, updated with information from a variety of sources which are published annually. The Commission will refer in its deliberations to the most recently published mid-year estimate at the time when the electoral review started.

### *Communities*

- 52 There can be some confusion over what is meant by the word community. Some may consider it to refer to the street in which they live, others a more broad village area, others much larger areas. All of these are entirely accurate and reflect the lives of people and the differences and similarities of places where we live, work and interact. However, in Wales there is an additional and more technical meaning to the word as the whole of Wales is divided into community areas.
- 53 Many community areas have community or town councils. Where a community area has a community or town council then these areas may be divided into wards for electoral purposes. Over two-thirds of Wales' population is covered by town and community councils.
- 54 The Commission will use communities and community wards as its primary "building blocks" making up electoral wards.
- 55 The 2013 Act also enables the Commission to recommend changes to community and community ward boundaries as a consequence of changes to the electoral ward boundaries.
- 56 Accordingly, the Commission has flexibility as to how it uses the existing communities and community wards as building blocks to create electoral wards. However in creating electoral wards the Commission must have regard to the desirability of fixing boundaries which are and will remain easily identifiable, and the desirability of not breaking local ties (these requirements are considered in more detail below). The Commission will ensure that proposals for significant changes to electoral ward boundaries and for consequential changes to community and community ward boundaries are subject to consultation (either in a draft proposals report or in a supplementary consultation) before being included in a Final Recommendations Report. The Commission will especially welcome representations relating to proposals for changes to boundaries that are supported by clear and relevant evidence.

### *Easily identifiable boundaries*

- 57 The Commission will generally use community areas and, where they exist, community wards as the primary building blocks for electoral wards. This in effect means that the boundaries of any proposed electoral wards are usually formed from the boundaries of existing local government areas and as such should be easily identifiable. This does however depend on community boundaries and community ward boundaries being regularly reviewed by the

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principal council to take account of new developments that cross existing boundaries.

- 58 On occasion during an electoral review the Commission may identify changes that have occurred in a local area that might suggest that electoral ward boundaries should be changed, in circumstances where those changes in the area have not yet been reflected in changes to communities or community wards. For example, it may be the case that a large new housing development has been created across existing electoral ward and community boundaries. In these situations, the Commission may consider in the course of an electoral review whether the electoral ward boundaries should be changed so as to be more easily identifiable in light of the changes to the area. If the Commission considers that electoral ward boundaries should be changed in this way, it may also consider whether consequential changes to community or community ward boundaries should be made for the same or related reasons.
- 59 Where changes to community or community ward boundaries are considered as a consequence of changes proposed to electoral ward boundaries, the Commission will seek to ensure that these new boundaries are easily identifiable in the same way.
- 60 More generally, roads can influence the boundaries between electoral wards or communities, for example if they are the location of shops or community facilities which people visit regularly and where they interact, or if they are the source of community interactions for example in relation to safety, environmental or economic considerations. Alternatively, major highways, rivers or railway lines are often physical barriers marking the boundary between different communities. The Commission will take into account geographic elements such as these in seeking to arrive at identifiable boundaries between electoral units.

### *Local ties*

- 61 The legislation requires the Commission to have regard to any local ties which would be broken by changes to electoral arrangements. This may be particularly relevant when proposals are made for new arrangements that divide existing electoral wards. However, such is the complexity of the term “local ties” that people may consider that their area has ties to a number of other areas. It can also be the case that those sharing an interest in the physical maintenance and management of their immediate living environment may consider that their local ties are within quite confined boundaries.
- 62 However, the Commission may also receive representations from those who may have an interest in the way their general hospital or secondary school provides services or in the continuation of a large-scale employer and thus identify themselves as also part of a community much wider in extent. This often leads to suggestion of local ties between multiple community areas (whether they have a community or town council or not) and can often bring deep opposition to dividing those areas into 2 (or more) electoral wards where they were previously contained within 1.
- 63 Another example of local ties could be that an area identifies itself as a Welsh-speaking area. The Commission takes into account the Welsh language characteristics of an area when conducting an electoral review, and has a general duty to promote the use of the Welsh language. The Commission will utilise census data to attempt to ensure that it does not put forward proposals which would undermine the use of the Welsh language.

- 64 The Commission often only hears from respondents who oppose its proposals on the basis that they would break local ties. The Commission also asks that respondents tell it when its proposals do reflect local ties, so that any support for the Commission's proposals can be taken into account when the Commission decides whether to reflect its proposals in its final recommendations.
- 65 In many areas electoral wards will need to be greater in physical extent than individual communities due to considerations of electoral parity. In these instances the Commission will combine 2 or more communities within individual electoral wards.

*Electoral ward names*

- 66 As part of an electoral review, the Commission considers the names of electoral wards in the area under review. The Commission's general practice will be to recommend changes to the name of an electoral ward if it considers that the name can be improved, whether or not the Commission is also recommending changes to other electoral arrangements affecting that ward.
- 67 In the light of the Commission's duty to promote the use of the Welsh language, the Commission's general preference will be for electoral wards to bear a single name in the Welsh language which is acceptable for use in English.
- 68 The Commission will regard a Welsh-language name as acceptable for use in English if it considers that the name is likely to be recognisable to residents of the same broad area of Wales whose primary language is not Welsh. This may be because (for example) the name is composed of a place name which is the same or similar in Welsh and English or because the place name in Welsh is particularly well-known in the area.
- 69 If the Welsh-language name is composed of more than 1 word, the Commission will regard that name as acceptable for use in English only if every word of the name is likely to be recognisable in this way. Accordingly:
- if the Welsh-language name incorporates 1 or more place names which are likely to be recognisable in this way as well as a place name which is not, the Commission will not regard that name as acceptable for use in English;
  - if the Welsh-language name incorporates words which are not place names (for example a geographic designation such as "north", "south" or "central") the Commission will usually not regard that name as acceptable for use in English;
  - however if the Welsh-language name is composed solely of place names which are likely to be recognisable in this way together with a Welsh-language word meaning "and", the Commission will regard that name as acceptable for use in English.
- 70 The Commission will also propose names that aim to avoid the need for mutations in Welsh in order to make names more recognisable.

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- 71 If the Commission is unable to identify a suitable single name in the Welsh language which is acceptable for use in English in relation to an electoral ward, the Commission will propose alternative names for that ward in Welsh and English.
- 72 The Commission will consult with the Welsh Language Commissioner (WLC) in relation to the names of electoral wards in the area which is subject to an electoral review. The WLC is responsible for advising on the standard forms of Welsh place-names. The WLC has convened a Place-names Standardisation Panel to provide recommendations and expert advice in this field. In forming its recommendations, the Panel follows national standardisation guidelines and also gives consideration to the meaning, history and etymology of the place-names, as well as their usage. The WLC has agreed to provide specialist advice to the Commission regarding how electoral ward names should be spelt in official contexts.
- 73 The Commission welcomes suggestions as to electoral ward names at all stages of an electoral review.

### *Representations*

- 74 The Commission encourages principal councils, town and community councils, elected representatives, interested parties and the general public to make representations and suggestions as part of the process of electoral reviews. The Commission welcomes representations that are based on evidence and facts which are relevant to the electoral arrangements under consideration. The Commission will consider and acknowledge every representation made. If any person or body makes a representation to the Commission and does not receive an acknowledgment, they should contact the Commission to ensure it has received the representation. If your representation is not acknowledged, then it is highly likely the Commission has not received the representation and it will not be considered in the Commission's deliberations. If you have not received an acknowledgement in response to your representations please get in touch with the Commission.
- 75 All representations which the Commission receives will be published on the Commission's website alongside the Commission's Draft Proposals and Final Recommendation Reports. To protect the privacy of individuals participating in the reviews, the Commission will take the following approach to redacting personal information contained in the written representations that the Commission publishes.
- 76 Representations from public figures and officials (such as councillors, Members of Parliament or Members of the Senedd) acting in an official capacity:
- the Commission will publish the name of any public figure or official writing in an official capacity
  - however, all postal and email addresses, telephone numbers and signatures will be redacted
- 77 Representations from members of the public, and from public figures or officials writing in a personal capacity:
- the Commission will redact the name and postal address of individuals submitting

representations, but will publish the approximate location of the individual's postal address – that is, by reference to the village, town or city stated

- all email addresses, telephone numbers and signatures will be redacted

78 The Commission will also redact anything in a representation that could be illegal, libellous or both.

79 The Commission wishes to encourage representations from those with local knowledge of their area to suggest appropriate electoral arrangements to the Commission when a review is being undertaken. The Commission will accept representations by email, letter or via its consultation portal. All communication details will be provided at the start of a review.

### Conclusion

80 An electoral review is an exercise of the Commission's statutory responsibility, the application of powers given to the Commission, and the use of judgement which the legislation calls for. The Commission's policies are intended to give confidence in how it will approach the challenges in any review, but do not preclude striking the right balance in the particular circumstances of the communities and principal council under review. The Commission exercises a collective judgment in determining issues in its reviews and the consideration given to the issues and the reasoning adopted will be explained in the Commission's reports.

81 As noted above, the Commission is required to consult certain specified bodies (known as "the mandatory consultees") on its intended procedure and methodology for the 2025 programme of electoral reviews, and on its council size policy for the programme. The Commission is therefore consulting on the matters included within this document. Members of the public and interested parties are invited to submit their views and responses either in writing or via email to the contact details below:

The Chief Executive  
Democracy and Boundary Commission Cymru  
4th Floor  
Welsh Government Building  
Cathays Park  
Cardiff  
CF10 3NQ

Or by email to: [consultations@dbcc.gov.wales](mailto:consultations@dbcc.gov.wales)

82 Responses to this consultation must be received by the Commission no later than 24 March 2025. The Commission will consider all responses it receives by this deadline, and will take them into account in finalising its policies, procedures and council size policy for the 2025 programme, which it will publish when ready.





Appendix 2

**COUNCIL SIZE METHODOLOGY**

**Key Principals**

**1. Minimum and Maximum Council Size:**

- Council size should not be less than 30 members.
- Council size should not normally exceed 75 members.

**2. Exclusion of Cardiff:**

- Cardiff is excluded from calculations due to its significantly higher population and density. Cardiff Council currently has 79 members, which will be the starting point for future reviews. Should Cardiff be included within the calculations the Commission deems that this number of councillors would be unmanageable and would not provide for effective and convenient local government.

**Methodology**

**1. Population Factor:**

- The smallest council size is set at 30 members.
- The principal council area with the smallest population is Merthyr Tydfil (58,593). This is considered the minimum population.
- Additional councillors are allocated based on the population over this minimum. The range of councillors (30 to 75) is proportioned to the range of populations over the minimum (58,593 to 246,742).

**2. Sparsity Factor:**

- Population density is calculated by dividing the population by the area.
- A sparsity factor is determined by expressing each council's population density as a percentage of the highest density (Newport at 859.2) and then inverting it.
- Additional councillors are allocated based on this sparsity factor.

**3. Deprivation Factor:**

- Councils with 10-20% of their areas in the most deprived 20% of LSOAs in Wales receive 1 additional councillor.
- Councils with more than 20% in the most deprived areas receive 2 additional councillors.
- Councils already at the maximum of 75 members do not receive additional councillors.

**4. Rurality Factor:**

- Councils with 40-75% of their built-up areas (BUAs) under 10,000 people receive 1 additional councillor.
- Councils with more than 75% of their BUAs under 10,000 people receive 2 additional councillors.
- Councils already at the maximum of 75 members do not receive additional councillors.

**5. Recommended 10% Change Cap:**

- A recommended 10% maximum change from the existing number of councillors is applied.
- Councils already at the maximum of 75 or minimum of 30 members do not receive additional or fewer councillors.

**6. Range:**

- Each principal council is allocated a range of number of councillors.
- Councils are asked to provide their preferred number of councillors within this range in their response to the policy and practice consultation.

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## Council Size Methodology

1. This council size utilises published population and area statistics in order to calculate an optimum council size for each principal council area. This methodology is based on the following principals:

- Council size should not be less than 30 members;
- Council size should not normally be more than 75 members;
- population;
- population sparsity;
- Deprivation;
- Rurality, and,
- Recommended 10% change cap

It was also considered that Cardiff should be taken out of all calculations because of both its substantially higher population and population density. Cardiff Council currently has 79 members and that will be the starting point for any future reviews.

The following table shows the existing number of councillors and the population sizes for each principal council area.

<b>Authority</b>	<b>Population (2023 ONS MYE)</b>	<b>Current Councillors</b>
Blaenau Gwent	67,356	33
Bridgend	146,743	51
Caerphilly	176,437	69
Cardiff	383,536	79
Carmarthenshire	190,083	75
Ceredigion	73,050	38
Conwy	114,410	55
Denbighshire	97,156	48
Flintshire	155,812	66
Gwynedd	119,173	69
Isle of Anglesey	69,291	35
Merthyr Tydfil	58,593	30
Monmouthshire	94,572	46
Neath Port Talbot	142,898	60
Newport	163,628	51
Pembrokeshire	125,006	60
Powys	134,439	68
Rhondda Cynon Taf	241,178	75
Swansea	246,742	75
Torfaen	93,419	40
Vale of Glamorgan	134,733	54
Wrexham	136,149	56

The population information is from the 2023 Mid-Year Estimate figures published by the ONS.

### Population Factor

3. On the basis that the smallest council size should be 30, all areas are given this allocation as the minimum number of councillors (Min Cllrs). The principal council area with the smallest population is Merthyr Tydfil with 58,593 so this has been considered the minimum population and the population over this minimum has been calculated (Population over Min). The number of additional councillors based on population size (Additional Pop Cllrs) has then been calculated by proportioning the range of numbers of councillors (30 to 75 = 45) to the range of populations over the minimum (58,593 to 246,742 = 188,149). Dividing 188,149 by 45 gives an allocation of 1 councillor per 4,181 people. The number of additional councillors is then calculated by dividing the population over the minimum by 4,181. For example, Denbighshire has a population of 35,107 over the minimum this, when divided by 4,181, gives a total of 8 (8.3 rounded down) additional councillors.

<b>Authority</b>	<b>Min Cllrs</b>	<b>Population</b>	<b>Pop over min</b>	<b>Additional Pop Cllrs</b>
Blaenau Gwent	30	67,356	8,763	2
Bridgend	30	146,743	88,150	21
Caerphilly	30	176,437	117,844	28
<b>Cardiff</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>383,536</b>	<b>324,943</b>	
Carmarthenshire	30	190,083	131,490	31
Ceredigion	30	73,050	14,457	3
Conwy	30	114,410	55,817	13
Denbighshire	30	97,156	38,563	9
Flintshire	30	155,812	97,219	23
Gwynedd	30	119,173	60,580	14
Isle of Anglesey	30	69,291	10,698	3
Merthyr Tydfil	30	58,593	-	-
Monmouthshire	30	94,572	35,979	9
Neath Port Talbot	30	142,898	84,305	20
Newport	30	163,628	105,035	25
Pembrokeshire	30	125,006	66,413	16
Powys	30	134,439	75,846	18
Rhondda Cynon Taf	30	241,178	182,585	44
Swansea	30	246,742	188,149	45
Torfaen	30	93,419	34,826	8
Vale of Glamorgan	30	134,733	76,140	18
Wrexham	30	136,149	77,556	19

The population information is from the 2023 Mid-Year Estimate figures published by the ONS.

## Sparsity Factor

4. The following table shows the area for each principal council area as derived from the standard area measurements published by ONS published in December 2022. The population density (Pop Density) has been calculated by dividing the population by the area. A Sparsity Factor has then been calculated by expressing each principal council's population density (Pop Density) as a percentage of the highest density figure (Newport at 859.2) and expressed as an inverse so that areas with the highest densities will have the lowest percentage figures.

Authority	Population	Area (sq km)	Pop Density	Sparsity Factor
Blaenau Gwent	67,356	109	619.49	28%
Bridgend	146,743	251	585.13	32%
Caerphilly	176,437	277	636.07	26%
<b>Cardiff</b>	<b>383,536</b>	<b>141</b>	<b>2721.77</b>	
Carmarthenshire	190,083	2,370	80.19	91%
Ceredigion	73,050	1,785	40.92	95%
Conwy	114,410	1,126	101.62	88%
Denbighshire	97,156	837	116.09	86%
Flintshire	155,812	440	354.25	59%
Gwynedd	119,173	2,535	47.01	95%
Isle of Anglesey	69,291	712	97.31	89%
Merthyr Tydfil	58,593	111	525.75	39%
Monmouthshire	94,572	849	111.37	87%
Neath Port Talbot	142,898	441	323.85	62%
Newport	163,628	190	859.25	0%
Pembrokeshire	125,006	1,618	77.24	91%
Powys	134,439	5,181	25.95	97%
Rhondda Cynon Taf	241,178	424	568.61	34%
Swansea	246,742	378	653.42	24%
Torfaen	93,419	126	743.20	16%
Vale of Glamorgan	134,733	331	406.87	53%
Wrexham	136,149	504	270.26	69%

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5. The number of additional councillors for each principal council in respect of population sparsity (Sparsity Cllrs) is then calculated by applying the Sparsity Factor (described in the table above) to the number of Population Councillors (Pop Cllrs). For example for Neath Port Talbot the number of Sparsity Councillors is 62% of 20 which is 12 (12.4 rounded down).

<b>Authority</b>	<b>Pop Cllrs</b>	<b>Sparsity Cllrs</b>
Blaenau Gwent	2	1
Bridgend	21	7
Caerphilly	28	7
<b>Cardiff</b>		
Carmarthenshire	31	28
Ceredigion	3	3
Conwy	13	11
Denbighshire	9	8
Flintshire	23	14
Gwynedd	14	13
Isle of Anglesey	3	3
Merthyr Tydfil	0	0
Monmouthshire	9	8
Neath Port Talbot	20	12
Newport	25	0
Pembrokeshire	16	15
Powys	18	17
Rhondda Cynon Taf	44	15
Swansea	45	11
Torfaen	8	1
Vale of Glamorgan	18	10
Wrexham	19	13

## Deprivation Factor

6. For this Review Programme the Commission has also included a factor for areas of high deprivation. Principal councils with a percentage between 10 and 20 of the most deprived 20% LSOA's in Wales have been allocated an additional councillor, those with a percentage higher than 20 have been allocated a further councillor (total of 2). The number of allocated councillors following the deprivation factor is shown as Dep Cllrs in the table. Those with an allocation of 75 are already at the maximum number of councillors allowed within this policy and therefore no additional councillors have been added.

<b>Authority</b>	<b>% LSOAs in Most Deprived 20% (WIMD 2019)</b>	<b>Additional Cllrs for Deprivation</b>
Blaenau Gwent	45	2
Bridgend	20	1
Caerphilly	24	2
Cardiff	28	2
Carmarthenshire	11	1
Ceredigion	4	0
Conwy	13	1
Denbighshire	16	1
Flintshire	11	1
Gwynedd	5	0
Isle of Anglesey	14	1
Merthyr Tydfil	31	2
Monmouthshire	2	0
Neath Port Talbot	33	2
Newport	35	2
Pembrokeshire	11	1
Powys	6	0
Rhondda Cynon Taf	29	2
Swansea	24	2
Torfaen	32	2
Vale of Glamorgan	13	1
Wrexham	12	1



**Rurality Factor**

7. For this Review Programme the Commission has also included a factor for areas of high rurality. Principal councils with a percentage between 40 and 75 of its build up areas (BUA's) being under 10,000 people have been allocated an additional councillor, those with a percentage higher than 75 have been allocated a further councillor (total of 2). Those with an allocation of 75 are already at the maximum number of councillors allowed within this policy and therefore no additional councillors have been added.

<b>Authority</b>	<b>% population in BUA's &lt; 10K (ONS 2001)</b>	<b>Additional Rural Cllrs</b>
Blaenau Gwent	34	0
Bridgend	23	0
Caerphilly	59	1
<b>Cardiff</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>
Carmarthenshire	69	1
Ceredigion	80	2
Conwy	48	1
Denbighshire	54	1
Flintshire	60	1
Gwynedd	86	2
Isle of Anglesey	84	2
Merthyr Tydfil	33	0
Monmouthshire	61	1
Neath Port Talbot	40	0
Newport	18	0
Pembrokeshire	79	2
Powys	92	2
Rhondda Cynon Taf	36	0
Swansea	24	0
Torfaen	17	0
Vale of Glamorgan	37	0
Wrexham	57	1

The BUA information is published by the ONS based on the 2021 Census data.

**Allocations**

<b>Authority</b>	<b>Min Cllrs</b>	<b>Additional Pop Cllrs</b>	<b>Sparsity Cllrs</b>	<b>Additional Cllrs for Deprivation</b>	<b>Additional Rural Cllrs</b>	<b>Allocation</b>
Blaenau Gwent	30	2	1	2	0	35
Bridgend	30	21	7	1	0	59
Caerphilly	30	28	7	2	1	68
<b>Cardiff</b>	<b>30</b>					
Carmarthenshire	30	31	28	1	1	91
Ceredigion	30	3	3	0	2	38
Conwy	30	13	11	1	1	56
Denbighshire	30	9	8	1	1	49
Flintshire	30	23	14	1	1	69
Gwynedd	30	14	13	0	2	59
Isle of Anglesey	30	3	3	1	2	39
Merthyr Tydfil	30	-	0	2	0	32
Monmouthshire	30	9	8	0	1	48
Neath Port Talbot	30	20	12	2	0	64
Newport	30	25	0	2	0	57
Pembrokeshire	30	16	15	1	2	64
Powys	30	18	17	0	2	67
Rhondda Cynon Taf	30	44	15	2	0	91
Swansea	30	45	11	2	0	88
Torfaen	30	8	1	2	0	41
Vale of Glamorgan	30	18	10	1	0	59
Wrexham	30	19	13	1	1	64

**Final Allocations**

8. For this Review Programme the Commission has allocated each Principal Council a range of number of councillors which takes into account all of the factors listed in the sections above. The Commission has also included a factor of a recommended 10% maximum change from the existing arrangements as anything larger would cause significant disruption across the whole Principal Council. The Commission has maintained the position that no council should have more than 75 councillors and no council should have less than 30 councillors. It should be noted that Cardiff has been taken out of all calculations because of both its substantially higher population and population density.

The Commission will ask each principal council in their response to the policy and practice consultation to set out their preferred number of councillors from within the allocated range. The Commission has provided a template which responses to the council size policy should be made, in order to make sure that the submission is evidenced. The Commission will consider responses from any interested parties.

<b>Authority</b>	<b>Existing Councillors</b>	<b>Allocation</b>	<b>Allocation with Cap</b>	<b>Range</b>
Blaenau Gwent	33	35	35	30-35
Bridgend	51	59	56	46-59
Caerphilly	69	68	68	62-68
<b>Cardiff</b>	<b>79</b>			<b>78-79</b>
Carmarthenshire	75	91	75	67-75
Ceredigion	38	38	38	34-38
Conwy	55	56	56	49-56
Denbighshire	48	49	49	43-49
Flintshire	66	69	69	59-69
Gwynedd	69	59	62	59-62
Isle of Anglesey	35	39	39	31-39
Merthyr Tydfil	30	32	32	30-32
Monmouthshire	46	48	48	41-48
Neath Port Talbot	60	64	64	54-64
Newport	51	57	56	45-57
Pembrokeshire	60	64	64	54-64
Powys	68	67	67	61-67
Rhondda Cynon Taf	75	91	75	66-75
Swansea	75	88	75	66-75
Torfaen	40	41	41	36-41
Vale of Glamorgan	54	59	59	49-59
Wrexham	56	64	62	49-64

### Appendix 3

## Technical Note: Requirements for each principal council for the provision of statistical data to the Democracy Boundary Commission Cymru.

### Introduction and History

- 1 In order to conduct an electoral review of a principal council area it is necessary for the Commission to have the requisite statistical information upon which it can make decisions, including as to the number of councillors in a Council and the number of electors in each electoral ward.
- 2 At the start of an electoral review the Commission requests from the Electoral Registration Officer (ERO) of the council for the area under review the latest electoral figures for each community area and ward (where a community is warded). A 5-year projection of the number of electors is also requested on the same basis.
- 3 In respect of the existing figures, these have not always been provided in a consistent format and, on a number of occasions, this has required the Commission to go back to the ERO for clarification of the figures. The inconsistencies have taken a number of forms such as electorate broken down by polling district rather than community/community ward, missing data, incorrect totals, etc. The clarification and correction of this data has taken time and effort to resolve and, on occasion, this has had an impact on the timely running of a review.
- 4 In respect of projected figures, the Commission has in the past received projections based on a number of different methodologies, ranging from blanket increases by percentile, to carefully thought-out determination by reference to attainers, deaths and development proposals. On some occasions the Commission has been told that it is not possible to provide such statistics, and in such circumstances the Commission has no alternative but to use the existing electorates when proposing electoral arrangements and is then unable to gauge the future suitability of those arrangements. Again, the difficulties in obtaining these statistics have, on occasion, had an impact on the timely running of a review.
- 5 In order to avoid problems which the Commission has previously encountered in respect of electoral statistics, the Commission has created this Technical Note. This is intended to assist the ERO's of each principal council to understand the precise requirements of the Commission with regard to the electoral data it will be requesting before the start of a review.

### Requirements

- 6 The Commission requires 2 different sets of data from the ERO of each principal council:
  - i. Data as to existing arrangements; and
  - ii. A 5 year projection.

### Existing Arrangements

- 7 The Commission requires the most up-to-date number of registered local government electors in each **community and community ward** (where a community is warded) in the principal council area. These areas are the primary building blocks which the Commission will use when creating electoral wards. Numbers of electors by postcode, polling district or electoral ward are **not** acceptable alternatives.

- 8 The information should be provided in the pro forma provided to the council at the beginning of the review. Different councils will have different officers responsible for compiling these figures and the Council itself should identify who in the council is best placed to provide this information.
- 9 The Commission also asks that the full register of elector data, from which the information is derived, is retained at the principal council (saved).

### **A Five-Year Projection**

- 10 The Commission requires a carefully considered and, so far as is possible, accurate projection of the number of electors in each existing **community and community ward** (where a community is warded) in the principal council area in the year that is five years after the register that is being used for the review. These projected figures should also be submitted in the pro forma provided to the council at the beginning of the review.
- 11 It is up to the council under review to determine a precise methodology for producing these forecasts, and the Commission recognises that this is not an exact science. However projected figures should be calculated using determination of attainers, deaths, development proposals and trends of population shift. It is unacceptable to merely provide projected population figures or blanket increases across the principal council's area. Where it is difficult to calculate a forecast figure at the community ward level, the Council should seek to make the best forecast possible, making pro rata forecasts only where absolutely necessary.
- 12 In addition to providing the forecast data, the Commission expects each council to explain clearly how the projected figures have been calculated.
- 13 Whilst the Commission recognises that it is not straightforward to provide a completely accurate projection in every case a significant effort should be made by the Councils to attain the best possible evidence-based projection.



Democracy and Boundary Commission Cymru

2025 – Electoral Review Programme

# Council Size Policy

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## Introduction

1. This guidance is indented to assist interested parties in preparing their submission on council size to the Democracy and Boundary Commission Cymru ('the Commission') as part of the electoral review process. It highlights the range of issues that the Commission considers when determining council size and will help councillors, officers and others in making strong and well-evidenced submissions.
2. The starting point for every review is to decide the appropriate number of councillors for the local authority. While the final decision on council size rests with the Commission, its approach has always been one of dialogue with each council that it reviews. The Commission's view is that a 'good' review is 1 where the local authority actively engages with the process. Ideally, the Commission's decision will be informed by locally generated proposals and underpinned by sound evidence and reasoning.

## What is Council Size?

3. The Democracy and Boundary Commission Cymru etc. Act 2013 gives the Commission the power to review the electoral arrangements of principal councils in Wales.
4. The legislation does not set out how many members (or councillors) each authority (or type of authority) will have. It is the Commission's responsibility to determine the appropriate number of councillors for each authority.
5. The Commission will always recommend a council size that, in its judgement, enables the council to take its decisions effectively, to discharge the business and responsibilities of the council successfully, and to provide for effective community leadership and representation.

## General Principles

6. The Commission recognises that there is considerable variation in council size across Wales, not only between different types of local authority – County, County Borough, City or City and County – but also between authorities of the same type.
7. In the Commission's opinion, local government is as diverse as the communities it serves – providing leadership, services and representation suited to the characteristics and needs of individual areas. The Commission aims to recommend electoral arrangements, including council size, which are appropriate for the particular local authority. The Commission believes that changes to the number of councillors should be limited to 10% from the existing number of councillors in order to minimise disruption to the councils functions.
8. The way in which local authorities conduct their business and provide for the effective representation of their electorate has changed considerably over recent decades. The implementation of the Local Government Act 2000 ('the 2000 Act') saw most local authorities change how they made decisions and operate. Similarly, subsequent legislation, including the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 and the Localism Act 2011, introduced further opportunities for local government to

modify governance and management arrangements. In addition, partnership working, developments in service delivery, and digital working have also impacted on local authorities.

9. An electoral review provides the opportunity for respondents to think carefully about current arrangements in the context of modern governance and service delivery needs; and what these mean for the future in terms of the number of elected members.
10. The Commission wants to see evidence that several different council size options have been explored together with the reasons why a particular figure has, or has not, been selected. This should be done irrespective of whether the respondent arrives at the same or a different number of elected members. The most persuasive submissions are those which, rather than considering whether the current number ought not to be changed, reflect on what number of councillors would be required if the council was being newly established.
11. The Commission does not recommend that any submissions made on council size need to be particularly long. However, submissions should be made on the Commission's Council Size Submission Template and demonstrate careful thinking about the issues. Electoral reviews take place every 10 years and the Commission wants local authorities to take the opportunity to ask themselves questions about the important roles of councillors in providing leadership, securing accountability and offering community leadership.
12. The Commission seeks to understand elected member requirements across 3 aspects:
  - **Strategic Leadership** – how many councillors are needed to give strategic leadership and direction to the authority?
  - **Accountability**
    - *Scrutiny* – how many councillors are needed to provide scrutiny to the authority?
    - *Regulatory* – how many councillors are needed to meet the regulatory requirements of the authority?
    - *Partnerships* – how many councillors are required to manage partnerships between the local authority and other organisations?
  - **Community Leadership** – how the representational role of councillors in the local community is discharged and how they engage with people and conduct casework.
13. In every review, the Commission will make recommendations that will remain appropriate for the medium to longer term, i.e. to recommend a council size that delivers effective and convenient local government well after the completion of the electoral review. Accordingly, respondents should set out their longer-term vision for operation of the local authority.

## Approach

14. Since the last round of electoral reviews, the Commission has commissioned independent research into the variable factors that have an impact on the workload of county councillors across Wales. The findings of the research can be found in the report available on the [Commissions website](#).
15. The Commission must construct electoral arrangements that reflect local circumstances, and in doing so will neither apply any strict mathematical criteria nor impose a formula for the national determination of council size. However, the Commission has set out a council size allocation as a recommendation for the number of councillors required to achieve an effective and convenient set of electoral arrangements these allocations have been modelled on, population, population sparsity and deprivation, more information on the modelling can be found in Appendix 1. It is recommended that submissions to this consultation clearly demonstrate the characteristics and needs of each local authority, and its communities, and how such factors have informed both the proposed and alternative council sizes considered.
16. Local authorities should be mindful of the overall appropriateness of the proposed council sizes in terms of governance, specifically in ensuring that an authority is neither too small to discharge its statutory functions nor too large to function in an effective manner and with purposeful roles for all elected members. Accordingly, whilst recognising that such thresholds might vary depending on the type of local authority and its specific setting, the Commission will look for particularly strong evidence in support of proposals that place the authority amongst the highest and lowest levels of similar councils nationwide, especially where authorities would be below 30 or exceed 75 councillors in size.
17. The Commission's decision about an authority's council size will mark the formal start to the review process. However, the Commission's decision on council size will not be formalised until the Final Recommendations are agreed and published. This is because the number of councillors may change marginally from the initial decision if it is felt that modifying the number of councillors may provide for a pattern of electoral wards that better reflects the statutory criteria.
18. The Final Recommendations describe the complete set of electoral arrangements, including ward names as well as the number of elected members, alongside community warding arrangements. These recommendations will be submitted to Welsh Government who if it thinks fit, will give effect to these recommendations either as submitted, or with modifications. The changes would then come into force at the next local government election by means of a Welsh Government Order.

## Multiple Submissions and Balancing the Evidence

19. Political (or other) groups may present their own submissions to the Commission either alongside or as an alternative to the council's formal submission. It is recommended that all submissions are underpinned by sound evidence and reasoning whether they propose to reduce, retain or increase councillor numbers.
20. All submissions will be considered equally, and decisions will be made based on the strength of evidence put forward.
21. Where the Commission receives multiple finely balanced proposals, or a single poorly evidenced case, it may request further information from the respondents. If further information is not forthcoming, the Commission reserves the right to put forward its own number based on its own experience and judgement.

## Making a Submission

22. All submissions made to the Commission should follow the 'Council Size Submission' template. This template presents a broad set of issues for respondents to consider; however, the Commission does not require lengthy responses to every section. The Commission recommends that respondents use the opportunity to consider not just how the council works now but how it is likely to work in the future. Submissions will explain the reasoning that underpins and explains the proposed council size as well as describing the necessary arrangements.
23. The submission will focus on 3 aspects of councillor roles: Strategic Leadership, Accountability and Community Leadership. However, the Commission will consider any further relevant issues raised outside of these topics.

# Appendix 1

## COUNCIL SIZE METHODOLOGY

### Key Principals

#### 1. Minimum and Maximum Council Size:

- Council size should not be less than 30 members.
- Council size should not normally exceed 75 members.

#### 2. Exclusion of Cardiff:

- Cardiff is excluded from calculations due to its significantly higher population and density. Cardiff Council currently has 79 members, which will be the starting point for future reviews. Should Cardiff be included within the calculations the Commission deems that this number of councillors would be unmanageable and would not provide for effective and convenient local government.

### Methodology

#### 1. Population Factor:

- The smallest council size is set at 30 members.
- The principal council area with the smallest population is Merthyr Tydfil (58,593). This is considered the minimum population.
- Additional councillors are allocated based on the population over this minimum. The range of councillors (30 to 75) is proportioned to the range of populations over the minimum (58,593 to 246,742).

#### 2. Sparsity Factor:

- Population density is calculated by dividing the population by the area.
- A sparsity factor is determined by expressing each council's population density as a percentage of the highest density (Newport at 859.2) and then inverting it.
- Additional councillors are allocated based on this sparsity factor.

#### 3. Deprivation Factor:

- Councils with 10-20% of their areas in the most deprived 20% of LSOAs in Wales receive 1 additional councillor.
- Councils with more than 20% in the most deprived areas receive 2 additional councillors.
- Councils already at the maximum of 75 members do not receive additional councillors.

#### 4. Rurality Factor:

- Councils with 40-75% of their built-up areas (BUAs) under 10,000 people receive 1 additional councillor.
- Councils with more than 75% of their BUAs under 10,000 people receive 2 additional councillors.
- Councils already at the maximum of 75 members do not receive additional councillors.

#### 5. Recommended 10% Change Cap:

- A recommended 10% maximum change from the existing number of councillors is applied.
- Councils already at the maximum of 75 or minimum of 30 members do not receive additional or fewer councillors.

#### 6. Range:

- Each principal council is allocated a range of number of councillors.
- Councils are asked to provide their preferred number of councillors within this range in their response to the policy and practice consultation.

## Council Size Methodology

1. This council size utilises published population and area statistics in order to calculate an optimum council size for each principal council area. This methodology is based on the following principals:

- Council size should not be less than 30 members;
- Council size should not normally be more than 75 members;
- population;
- population sparsity;
- Deprivation;
- Rurality, and,
- Recommended 10% change cap

It was also considered that Cardiff should be been taken out of all calculations because of both its substantially higher population and population density. Cardiff Council currently has 79 members and that will be the starting point for any future reviews.

The following table shows the existing number of councillors and the population sizes for each principal council area.

<b>Authority</b>	<b>Population (2023 ONS MYE)</b>	<b>Current Councillors</b>
Blaenau Gwent	67,356	33
Bridgend	146,743	51
Caerphilly	176,437	69
<b>Cardiff</b>	<b>383,536</b>	<b>79</b>
Carmarthenshire	190,083	75
Ceredigion	73,050	38
Conwy	114,410	55
Denbighshire	97,156	48
Flintshire	155,812	66
Gwynedd	119,173	69
Isle of Anglesey	69,291	35
Merthyr Tydfil	58,593	30
Monmouthshire	94,572	46
Neath Port Talbot	142,898	60
Newport	163,628	51
Pembrokeshire	125,006	60
Powys	134,439	68
Rhondda Cynon Taf	241,178	75
Swansea	246,742	75
Torfaen	93,419	40
Vale of Glamorgan	134,733	54
Wrexham	136,149	56
<b>Wales</b>	<b>3,164,404</b>	<b>1,233</b>

The population information is from the 2023 Mid-Year Estimate figures published by the ONS.

## Population Factor

3. On the basis that the smallest council size should be 30, all areas are given this allocation as the minimum number of councillors (Min Cllrs). The principal council area with the smallest population is Merthyr Tydfil with 58,593 so this has been considered the minimum population and the population over this minimum has been calculated (Population over Min). The number of additional councillors based on population size (Additional Pop Cllrs) has then been calculated by proportioning the range of numbers of councillors (30 to 75 = 45) to the range of populations over the minimum (58,593 to 246,742 = 188,149). Dividing 188,149 by 45 gives an allocation of 1 councillor per 4,181 people. The number of additional councillors is then calculated by dividing the population over the minimum by 4,181. For example, Denbighshire has a population of 35,107 over the minimum this, when divided by 4,181, gives a total of 8 (8.3 rounded down) additional councillors.

<b>Authority</b>	<b>Population</b>	<b>Pop over min</b>	<b>Additional Pop Cllrs</b>
Blaenau Gwent	67,356	8,763	2
Bridgend	146,743	88,150	21
Caerphilly	176,437	117,844	28
<b>Cardiff</b>	<b>383,536</b>	<b>324,943</b>	
Carmarthenshire	190,083	131,490	31
Ceredigion	73,050	14,457	3
Conwy	114,410	55,817	13
Denbighshire	97,156	38,563	9
Flintshire	155,812	97,219	23
Gwynedd	119,173	60,580	14
Isle of Anglesey	69,291	10,698	3
Merthyr Tydfil	58,593	-	-
Monmouthshire	94,572	35,979	9
Neath Port Talbot	142,898	84,305	20
Newport	163,628	105,035	25
Pembrokeshire	125,006	66,413	16
Powys	134,439	75,846	18
Rhondda Cynon Taf	241,178	182,585	44
Swansea	246,742	188,149	45
Torfaen	93,419	34,826	8
Vale of Glamorgan	134,733	76,140	18
Wrexham	136,149	77,556	19

The population information is from the 2023 Mid-Year Estimate figures published by the ONS.

## Sparsity Factor

4. The following table shows the area for each principal council area as derived from the standard area measurements published by ONS published in December 2022. The population density (Pop Density) has been calculated by dividing the population by the area. A Sparsity Factor has then been calculated by expressing each principal council's population density (Pop Density) as a percentage of the highest density figure (Newport at 859.2) and expressed as an inverse so that areas with the highest densities will have the lowest percentage figures.

<b>Authority</b>	<b>Population</b>	<b>Area (sq km)</b>	<b>Pop Density</b>	<b>Sparsity Factor</b>
Blaenau Gwent	67,356	109	619.49	28%
Bridgend	146,743	251	585.13	32%
Caerphilly	176,437	277	636.07	26%
<b>Cardiff</b>	<b>383,536</b>	<b>141</b>	<b>2721.77</b>	
Carmarthenshire	190,083	2,370	80.19	91%
Ceredigion	73,050	1,785	40.92	95%
Conwy	114,410	1,126	101.62	88%
Denbighshire	97,156	837	116.09	86%
Flintshire	155,812	440	354.25	59%
Gwynedd	119,173	2,535	47.01	95%
Isle of Anglesey	69,291	712	97.31	89%
Merthyr Tydfil	58,593	111	525.75	39%
Monmouthshire	94,572	849	111.37	87%
Neath Port Talbot	142,898	441	323.85	62%
Newport	163,628	190	859.25	0%
Pembrokeshire	125,006	1,618	77.24	91%
Powys	134,439	5,181	25.95	97%
Rhondda Cynon Taf	241,178	424	568.61	34%
Swansea	246,742	378	653.42	24%
Torfaen	93,419	126	743.20	16%
Vale of Glamorgan	134,733	331	406.87	53%
Wrexham	136,149	504	270.26	69%



5. The number of additional councillors for each principal council in respect of population sparsity (Sparsity Cllrs) is then calculated by applying the Sparsity Factor (described in the table above) to the number of Population Councillors (Pop Cllrs). For example for Neath Port Talbot the number of Sparsity Councillors is 62% of 20 which is 12 (12.4 rounded down).

<b>Authority</b>	<b>Pop Cllrs</b>	<b>Sparsity Cllrs</b>
Blaenau Gwent	2	1
Bridgend	21	7
Caerphilly	28	7
<b>Cardiff</b>		
Carmarthenshire	31	28
Ceredigion	3	3
Conwy	13	11
Denbighshire	9	8
Flintshire	23	14
Gwynedd	14	13
Isle of Anglesey	3	3
Merthyr Tydfil	0	0
Monmouthshire	9	8
Neath Port Talbot	20	12
Newport	25	0
Pembrokeshire	16	15
Powys	18	17
Rhondda Cynon Taf	44	15
Swansea	45	11
Torfaen	8	1
Vale of Glamorgan	18	10
Wrexham	19	13

## Deprivation Factor

6. For this Review Programme the Commission has also included a factor for areas of high deprivation. Principal councils with a percentage between 10 and 20 of the most deprived 20% LSOA's in Wales have been allocated an additional councillor, those with a percentage higher than 20 have been allocated a further councillor (total of 2). The number of allocated councillors following the deprivation factor is shown as Dep Cllrs in the table. Those with an allocation of 75 are already at the maximum number of councillors allowed within this policy and therefore no additional councillors have been added.

<b>Authority</b>	<b>% LSOAs in Most Deprived 20% (WIMD 2019)</b>	<b>Additional Cllrs for Deprivation</b>
Blaenau Gwent	45	2
Bridgend	20	1
Caerphilly	24	2
<b>Cardiff</b>	<b>28</b>	
Carmarthenshire	11	1
Ceredigion	4	0
Conwy	13	1
Denbighshire	16	1
Flintshire	11	1
Gwynedd	5	0
Isle of Anglesey	14	1
Merthyr Tydfil	31	2
Monmouthshire	2	0
Neath Port Talbot	33	2
Newport	35	2
Pembrokeshire	11	1
Powys	6	0
Rhondda Cynon Taf	29	2
Swansea	24	2
Torfaen	32	2
Vale of Glamorgan	13	1
Wrexham	12	1

## Rurality Factor

7. For this Review Programme the Commission has also included a factor for areas of high rurality. Principal councils with a percentage between 40 and 75 of its build up areas (BUA's) being under 10,000 people have been allocated an additional councillor, those with a percentage higher than 75 have been allocated a further councillor (total of 2). Those with an allocation of 75 are already at the maximum number of councillors allowed within this policy and therefore no additional councillors have been added.

<b>Authority</b>	<b>% population in BUA's &lt; 10K (ONS 2001)</b>	<b>Additional Rural Cllrs</b>
Blaenau Gwent	34	0
Bridgend	23	0
Caerphilly	59	1
<b>Cardiff</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>
Carmarthenshire	69	1
Ceredigion	80	2
Conwy	48	1
Denbighshire	54	1
Flintshire	60	1
Gwynedd	86	2
Isle of Anglesey	84	2
Merthyr Tydfil	33	0
Monmouthshire	61	1
Neath Port Talbot	40	0
Newport	18	0
Pembrokeshire	79	2
Powys	92	2
Rhondda Cynon Taf	36	0
Swansea	24	0
Torfaen	17	0
Vale of Glamorgan	37	0
Wrexham	57	1

The BUA information is published by the ONS based on the 2021 Census data.

## Allocations

Authority	Min Cllrs	Additional Pop Cllrs	Sparsity Cllrs	Additional Cllrs for Deprivation	Additional Rural Cllrs	Total
Blaenau Gwent	30	2	1	1	0	34
Bridgend	30	21	7	0	0	58
Caerphilly	30	28	7	1	1	67
Cardiff	30					
Carmarthenshire	30	31	28	0	1	90
Ceredigion	30	3	3	0	2	38
Conwy	30	13	11	0	1	55
Denbighshire	30	9	8	1	1	49
Flintshire	30	23	14	0	1	68
Gwynedd	30	14	13	0	2	59
Isle of Anglesey	30	3	3	0	2	38
Merthyr Tydfil	30	-	0	2	0	32
Monmouthshire	30	9	8	0	1	48
Neath Port Talbot	30	20	12	1	0	63
Newport	30	25	0	2	0	57
Pembrokeshire	30	16	15	0	2	63
Powys	30	18	17	0	2	67
Rhondda Cynon Taf	30	44	15	1	0	90
Swansea	30	45	11	1	0	87
Torfaen	30	8	1	0	0	39
Vale of Glamorgan	30	18	10	0	0	58
Wrexham	30	19	13	0	1	63

## Final Allocations

8. For this Review Programme the Commission has allocated each Principal Council a range of number of councillors which takes into account all of the factors listed in the sections above. The Commission has also included a factor of a recommended 10% maximum change from the existing arrangements as anything larger would cause significant disruption across the whole Principal Council. The Commission has maintained the position that no council should have more than 75 councillors and no council should have less than 30 councillors. It should be noted that Cardiff has been taken out of all calculations because of both its substantially higher population and population density.

The Commission will ask each principal council in their response to the policy and practice consultation to set out their preferred number of councillors from within the allocated range. The Commission has provided a template which responses to the council size policy should be made, in order to make sure that the submission is evidenced. The Commission will consider responses from any interested parties.

<b>Authority</b>	<b>Existing Councillors</b>	<b>Allocation</b>	<b>Allocation with Cap</b>	<b>Range</b>
Blaenau Gwent	33	34	34	30-34
Bridgend	51	58	58	46-58
Caerphilly	69	67	67	62-67
<b>Cardiff</b>	<b>79</b>			<b>78-79</b>
Carmarthenshire	75	90	75	67-75
Ceredigion	38	38	38	34-38
Conwy	55	55	55	49-55
Denbighshire	48	49	49	43-49
Flintshire	66	68	68	59-68
Gwynedd	69	59	59	59-62
Isle of Anglesey	35	38	38	31-38
Merthyr Tydfil	30	32	32	30-32
Monmouthshire	46	48	48	41-48
Neath Port Talbot	60	63	63	54-63
Newport	51	57	57	45-57
Pembrokeshire	60	63	63	54-63
Powys	68	67	67	61-67
Rhondda Cynon Taf	75	90	75	66-75
Swansea	75	87	75	66-75
Torfaen	40	39	39	36-39
Vale of Glamorgan	54	58	58	49-58
Wrexham	56	63	63	49-63

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Insert Your Organisation Name Here

# Council Size Submission

Insert Local Authority Name Here



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### How to Make a Submission

1. It is recommended that submissions on council size follow the format provided below. Submissions should focus on the future needs of the council and not simply describe the current arrangements. Submissions should also demonstrate that alternative council sizes have been considered in drawing up the proposal and why you have discounted them.
2. The template allows respondents to enter comments directly under each heading. It is not recommended that responses be unduly long; as a guide, it is anticipated that a 15 to 20-page document using this template should suffice. Individual section length may vary depending on the issues to be explained.

### About You

3. The respondent should use this space to provide the Commission with a little detail about who is making the submission, whether it is the full Council, Officers on behalf of the Council, a political party or group, or an individual.

[Click or tap here to enter text.](#)

### Local Authority Profile

Please provide a short description of the authority and its setting. This should set the scene for the Commission and give it a greater understanding of any current issues. The description may cover all, or some of the following:

- Brief outline of area - are there any notable geographic constraints for example that may affect the review?
- Rural or urban - what are the characteristics of the authority?
- Variable factors – such as deprivation, student population, tourism
- Demographic pressures - such as distinctive age profiles, migrant or transient populations, is there any large growth anticipated?
- Are there any other constraints, challenges, issues or changes ahead?

[Click or tap here to enter text.](#)

## The Context for your proposal

Your submission gives you the opportunity to examine how you wish to organise and run the council for the next 10 years. The Commission expects you to challenge your current arrangements and determine the most appropriate arrangements going forward. In providing context for your submission below, please demonstrate that you have considered the following issues:

- When did your Council last change/reorganise its internal governance arrangements and what impact on effectiveness did that activity have?
- To what extent has transference of strategic and/or service functions impacted on the effectiveness of service delivery and the ability of the Council to focus on its remaining functions?
- Have any governance or capacity issues been raised by any Inspectorate or similar?
- What impact on the Council's effectiveness will your council size proposal have?

[Click or tap here to enter text.](#)

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### Council Size

The Commission believes that councillors have 3 broad aspects to their role. These are categorised as: Strategic Leadership, Accountability (Scrutiny, Regulation and Partnerships), and Community Leadership. Submissions should address each of these in turn and provide supporting evidence. Prompts in the boxes below should help shape responses.

## Strategic Leadership

6. Respondents should provide the Commission with details as to how elected members will provide strategic leadership for the authority. Responses should also indicate how many members will be required for this role and why this is justified.

Topic		
<b>Governance Model</b>	<i>Key lines of explanation</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <i>What governance model will your authority operate? e.g. Committee System, Executive or other?</i></li> <li>➤ <i>The Cabinet model, for example, usually requires 6 to 10 members. How many members will you require?</i></li> <li>➤ <i>If the authority runs a Committee system, we want to understand why the number and size of the committees you propose represents the most appropriate for the authority.</i></li> <li>➤ <i>By what process does the council aim to formulate strategic and operational policies? How will members in executive, executive support and/or scrutiny positions be involved? What particular demands will this make of them?</i></li> <li>➤ <i>Whichever governance model you currently operate, a simple assertion that you want to keep the current structure does not in itself, provide an explanation of why that structure best meets the needs of the council and your communities.</i></li> </ul>
	<b>Analysis</b>	<a href="#">Click or tap here to enter text.</a>
<b>Portfolios</b>	<i>Key lines of explanation</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <i>How many portfolios will there be?</i></li> <li>➤ <i>What will the role of a portfolio holder be?</i></li> <li>➤ <i>Will this be a full-time position?</i></li> <li>➤ <i>Will decisions be delegated to portfolio holders? Or will the executive/mayor take decisions?</i></li> </ul>
	<b>Analysis</b>	<a href="#">Click or tap here to enter text.</a>
<b>Delegated Responsibilities</b>	<i>Key lines of explanation</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <i>What responsibilities will be delegated to officers or committees?</i></li> <li>➤ <i>How many councillors will be involved in taking major decisions?</i></li> </ul>
	<b>Analysis</b>	<a href="#">Click or tap here to enter text.</a>

## Accountability

7. Give the Commission details as to how the authority and its decision makers and partners will be held to account. The Commission is interested in both the internal and external dimensions of this role.

Topic		
<b>Internal Scrutiny</b>		The scrutiny function of authorities has changed considerably. Some use theme or task-and-finish groups, for example, and others have a committee system. Scrutiny arrangements may also be affected by the officer support available.
<i>Key lines of explanation</i>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ How will decision makers be held to account?</li> <li>➤ How many committees will be required? And what will their functions be?</li> <li>➤ How many task and finish groups will there be? And what will their functions be? What time commitment will be involved for members? And how often will meetings take place?</li> <li>➤ How many members will be required to fulfil these positions?</li> <li>➤ Explain why you have increased, decreased, or not changed the number of scrutiny committees in the authority.</li> <li>➤ Explain the reasoning behind the number of members per committee in terms of adding value.</li> </ul>
Analysis		<a href="#">Click or tap here to enter text.</a>
<b>Statutory Function</b>		This includes planning, licencing and any other regulatory responsibilities. Consider under each of the headings the extent to which decisions will be delegated to officers. How many members will be required to fulfil the statutory requirements of the council?
<b>Planning</b>	<i>Key lines of explanation</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ What proportion of planning applications will be determined by members?</li> <li>➤ Has this changed in the last few years? And are further changes anticipated?</li> <li>➤ Will there be area planning committees? Or a single council-wide committee?</li> <li>➤ Will executive members serve on the planning committees?</li> <li>➤ What will be the time commitment to the planning committee for members?</li> </ul>
	Analysis	<a href="#">Click or tap here to enter text.</a>
<b>Licensing</b>	<i>Key lines of explanation</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ How many licencing panels will the council have in the average year?</li> <li>➤ And what will be the time commitment for members?</li> <li>➤ Will there be standing licencing panels, or will they be ad-hoc?</li> <li>➤ Will there be core members and regular attendees, or will different members serve on them?</li> </ul>
	Analysis	<a href="#">Click or tap here to enter text.</a>

<b>Other Regulatory Bodies</b>	<i>Key lines of explanation</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <i>What will they be, and how many members will they require?</i></li> <li>➤ <i>Explain the number and membership of your Regulatory Committees with respect to greater delegation to officers.</i></li> </ul>
	Analysis	<a href="#">Click or tap here to enter text.</a>
<b>External Partnerships</b>		Service delivery has changed for councils over time, and many authorities now have a range of delivery partners to work with and hold to account.
	<i>Key lines of explanation</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <i>Will council members serve on decision-making partnerships, sub-regional, regional or national bodies? In doing so, are they able to take decisions/make commitments on behalf of the council?</i></li> <li>➤ <i>How many councillors will be involved in this activity? And what is their expected workload? What proportion of this work is undertaken by portfolio holders?</i></li> <li>➤ <i>What other external bodies will members be involved in? And what is the anticipated workload?</i></li> </ul>
	Analysis	<a href="#">Click or tap here to enter text.</a>

## Community Involvement

8. The Commission understands that there is no single approach to community leadership and that members represent, and provide leadership to, their communities in different ways. The Commission wants to know how members are required to provide effective community leadership and what support the council offers them in this role. For example, does the authority have a defined role and performance system for its elected members? And what support networks are available within the council to help members in their duties?

Topic		Description
Community Leadership	Key lines of explanation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <i>In general terms how do councillors carry out their representational role with electors?</i></li> <li>➤ <i>Does the council have area committees and what are their powers?</i></li> <li>➤ <i>How do councillors seek to engage with their constituents? Do they hold surgeries, send newsletters, hold public meetings or maintain blogs?</i></li> <li>➤ <i>Are there any mechanisms in place that help councillors interact with young people, those not on the electoral register, and/or other minority groups and their representative bodies?</i></li> <li>➤ <i>Are councillors expected to attend community meetings, such as parish or resident's association meetings? If so, what is their level of involvement and what roles do they play?</i></li> <li>➤ <i>Explain your approach to the Area Governance structure. Is your Area Governance a decision-making forum or an advisory board? What is their relationship with locally elected members and Community bodies such as Town and Parish Councils? Looking forward how could they be improved to enhance decision-making?</i></li> </ul>
	Analysis	<a href="#">Click or tap here to enter text.</a>
Casework	Key lines of explanation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <i>How do councillors deal with their casework? Do they pass it on to council officers? Or do they take a more in-depth approach to resolving issues?</i></li> <li>➤ <i>What support do members receive?</i></li> <li>➤ <i>How has technology influenced the way in which councillors work? And interact with their electorate?</i></li> <li>➤ <i>In what ways does the council promote service users' engagement/dispute resolution with service providers and managers rather than through councillors?</i></li> </ul>
	Analysis	<a href="#">Click or tap here to enter text.</a>

### Other Issues

9. Respondent may use this space to bring any other issues of relevance to the attention of the Commission.

[Click or tap here to enter text.](#)

### Summary

10. In following this template respondents should have been able to provide the Commission with a robust and well-evidenced case for their proposed council size; one which gives a clear explanation as to the number of councillors required to represent the authority in the future. Use this space to summarise the proposals and indicate any other options considered. Explain why these alternatives were not appropriate in terms of their ability to deliver effective Strategic Leadership, Accountability (Scrutiny, Regulation and Partnerships), and Community Leadership.

[Click or tap here to enter text.](#)

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Type 1	Community Ward	Type 2	Community Council	Type 3	County Ward	Polling District	Electorate - Feb 25	Five Year Forecast	Total Forecast Electorate	Current Cllrs	Variance	RAG rating	Cllrs	Future Variance	Future RAG
Parish Ward	Bulwark	Parish	Chepstow	County	Bulwark and Thornwell	CH1 - Bulwark	1810	0	1810						
Parish Ward	Thornwell	Parish	Chepstow	County	Bulwark and Thornwell	CH2 - Thornwell	1417	0	1417						
Parish Ward	Maple Avenue	Parish	Chepstow	County	Bulwark and Thornwell	CH3 - Maple Avenue	590	0	590						
					<b>Bulwark and Thornwell Total</b>		<b>3817</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3817</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>116.80%</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>114.90%</b>	<b>2</b>
Parish Ward	Caerwent	Parish	Caerwent	County	Caerwent	CA1 - Caerwent	613	80	693						
Parish Ward	Crick	Parish	Caerwent	County	Caerwent	CA2 - Crick	173	0	173						
Parish Ward	Dinham	Parish	Caerwent	County	Caerwent	CA3 - Dinham	434	0	434						
Parish Ward	Llanvair Discoed	Parish	Caerwent	County	Caerwent	CA4 - Llanvair Discoed	206	0	206						
Parish Ward	St. Brides Netherwent	Parish	Caerwent	County	Caerwent	CA5 - St. Brides Netherwent	288	0	288						
					<b>Caerwent Total</b>		<b>1714</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>1794</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>104.90%</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>108.01%</b>	<b>1</b>
Parish Ward	Caldicot Castle	Parish	Caldicot	County	Caldicot Castle	V1 - Caldicot Castle	1573	30	1603						
					<b>Caldicot Castle Total</b>		<b>1573</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>1603</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>96.27%</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>96.51%</b>	<b>1</b>
Parish Ward	Caldicot Cross	Parish	Caldicot	County	Caldicot Cross	V2 - Caldicot Cross	1556	0	1556						
					<b>Caldicot Cross Total</b>		<b>1556</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1556</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>95.23%</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>93.68%</b>	<b>1</b>
Parish Ward	Cantref	Parish	Abergavenny	County	Cantref	AB1 - Cantref	1516	0	1516						
Parish Ward	Llanwenarth Citra	Parish	Abergavenny	County	Cantref	AB2 - Llanwenarth Citra	169	0	169						
					<b>Cantref Total</b>		<b>1685</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1685</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>103.12%</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>101.44%</b>	<b>1</b>
Parish Ward	Chepstow Castle	Parish	Chepstow	County	Chepstow Castle and Larkfield	CH4 - Chepstow Castle	1935	346	2281						
Parish Ward	Larkfield	Parish	Chepstow	County	Chepstow Castle and Larkfield	CH5 - Larkfield	1074	0	1074						
					<b>Chepstow Castle and Larkfield Total</b>		<b>3009</b>	<b>346</b>	<b>3355</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>92.07%</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>100.99%</b>	<b>1</b>
Parish Ward	Croesonen	Parish	Llantilio Pertholey	County	Croesonen	LP1 - Croesonen	1515	70	1585						
					<b>Croesonen Total</b>		<b>1515</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>1585</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>92.72%</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>95.42%</b>	<b>1</b>
Parish Ward	Bwlch Trewyn and Old Caslte	Parish	Crucorney	County	Crucorney	CR1 - Bwlch Trewyn & Old Castle	62	0	62						
Parish Ward	Cwmyoy	Parish	Crucorney	County	Crucorney	CR2 - Cwmyoy	101	0	101						
Parish Ward	Forest and Fwddog	Parish	Crucorney	County	Crucorney	CR3 - Forest and Fwddog	136	0	136						
Parish Ward	Llanvihangel Crucorney	Parish	Crucorney	County	Crucorney	CR4 - Llanvihangel Crucorney	361	0	361						
Parish Ward	Pandy	Parish	Crucorney	County	Crucorney	CR5 - Pandy	364	0	364						
Parish Ward	Grosmont	Parish	Grosmont	County	Crucorney	CR6 - Grosmont	483	0	483						
Parish Ward	Llangatock Lingoed	Parish	Grosmont	County	Crucorney	CR7 - Llangatock Lingoed	96	0	96						
					<b>Crucorney Total</b>		<b>1603</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1603</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>98.10%</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>96.51%</b>	<b>1</b>
Parish Ward	Devauden	Parish	Devauden	County	Devauden	DE1 - Devauden	465	20	485						
Parish Ward	Itton	Parish	Devauden	County	Devauden	DE2 - Itton	233	0	233						
Parish Ward	Kilgwrrwg	Parish	Devauden	County	Devauden	DE3 - Kilgwrrwg	107	0	107						
Parish Ward	Llanvihangel Tor-Y-Mynydd	Parish	Devauden	County	Devauden	DE4 - Llanvihangel Tor-Y-Mynydd	121	0	121						
Parish Ward	Llangwm	Parish	Llantrisant Fawr	County	Devauden	DE5 - Llangwm	240	0	240						
Parish Ward	Llansoy	Parish	Llantrisant Fawr	County	Devauden	DE6 - Llansoy	122	0	122						
					<b>Devauden Total</b>		<b>1288</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>1308</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>78.82%</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>78.75%</b>	<b>2</b>
Parish Ward	Dewstow	Parish	Caldicot	County	Dewstow	V3 - Dewstow	1479	0	1479						
					<b>Dewstow Total</b>		<b>1479</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1479</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>90.51%</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>89.04%</b>	<b>2</b>
Parish Ward	Drybridge	Parish	Monmouth	County	Drybridge	MO3 - Drybridge	1808	446	2254						
					<b>Drybridge Total</b>		<b>1808</b>	<b>446</b>	<b>2254</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>110.65%</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>135.70%</b>	<b>3</b>
Parish Ward	Llanddewi Rhydderch	Parish	Gobion Fawr	County	Gobion Fawr	GF1 - Llanddewi Rhydderch	352	0	352						
Parish Ward	Llanfair Cilgydyn	Parish	Gobion Fawr	County	Gobion Fawr	GF2 - Llanfair Cilgydyn	184	0	184						
Parish Ward	Llangatock-nigh-Usk	Parish	Gobion Fawr	County	Gobion Fawr	GF3 - Llangatock-Nigh-Usk	358	500	858						
Parish Ward	Llanvapley	Parish	Gobion Fawr	County	Gobion Fawr	GF4 - Llanvapley	95	0	95						
Parish Ward	Bryngwyn	Parish	Llanarth	County	Gobion Fawr	GF5 - Bryngwyn	187	0	187						
Parish Ward	Clytha	Parish	Llanarth	County	Gobion Fawr	GF6 - Clytha	179	0	179						
Parish Ward	Kemeys Commander and Llancayo	Parish	Llanarth	County	Gobion Fawr	GF7 - Kemeys Commander and Llancayo	130	0	130						
Parish Ward	Llanarth	Parish	Llanarth	County	Gobion Fawr	GF8 - Llanarth	170	0	170						
					<b>Gobion Fawr Total</b>		<b>1655</b>	<b>500</b>	<b>2155</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>101.29%</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>129.74%</b>	<b>3</b>
Parish Ward	Goetre Wharf	Parish	Goetre Fawr	County	Goetre Fawr	G1 - Goetre Wharf	363	84	447						
Parish Ward	Goytre	Parish	Goetre Fawr	County	Goetre Fawr	G2 - Goytre	1116	0	1116						
Parish Ward	Llanover	Parish	Goetre Fawr	County	Goetre Fawr	G3 - Llanover	207	0	207						
Parish Ward	Nant-Y-Derry	Parish	Goetre Fawr	County	Goetre Fawr	G4 - Nant-Y-Derry	150	0	150						
					<b>Goetre Fawr Total</b>		<b>1836</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>1920</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>112.36%</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>115.59%</b>	<b>2</b>
Parish Ward	Grofield	Parish	Abergavenny	County	Grofield	AB3 - Grofield	1980	0	1980						
					<b>Grofield Total</b>		<b>1980</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1980</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>121.18%</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>119.21%</b>	<b>2</b>
Parish Ward	Lansdown	Parish	Abergavenny	County	Lansdown	AB4 - Lansdown	1803	0	1803						
					<b>Lansdown Total</b>		<b>1803</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1803</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>110.34%</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>108.55%</b>	<b>1</b>
Parish Ward	Glascoed	Parish	Llanbadoc	County	Llanbadoc and Usk	LBU1 - Glascoed	205	0	205						
Parish Ward	Little Mill	Parish	Llanbadoc	County	Llanbadoc and Usk	LBU2 - Little Mill	435	0	435						
Parish Ward	Llanbadoc	Parish	Llanbadoc	County	Llanbadoc and Usk	LBU3 - Llanbadoc	199	0	199						
Parish Ward	Monkswood	Parish	Llanbadoc	County	Llanbadoc and Usk	LBU4 - Monkswood	234	0	234						
Parish Ward	Usk	Parish	Usk	County	Llanbadoc and Usk	LBU5A - Usk	1221	80	1301						

Parish Ward	Usk	Parish	Usk	County	Llanbadoc and Usk	LBU5B - Usk	715	0	715						
					<b>Llanbadoc and Usk Total</b>		<b>3009</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>3089</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>92.07%</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>92.99%</b>	<b>1</b>
Parish Ward	Clydach	Parish	Llanelly	County	Llanelly	LE1 - Clydach	454	0	454						
Parish Ward	Darrenfelen	Parish	Llanelly	County	Llanelly	LE2 - Darrenfelen	483	0	483						
Parish Ward	Gilwern	Parish	Llanelly	County	Llanelly	LE3A - Gilwern	1764	0	1764						
Parish Ward	Gilwern	Parish	Llanelly	County	Llanelly	LE3B - Gilwern	554	0	554						
					<b>Llanelly Total</b>		<b>3255</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3255</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>99.60%</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>97.98%</b>	<b>1</b>
Parish Ward	Llanellen	Parish	Llanfoist Fawr	County	Llanfoist Fawr and Govilon	LF1 - Llanellen	458	20	478						
Parish Ward	Llanfoist	Parish	Llanfoist Fawr	County	Llanfoist Fawr and Govilon	LF2 - Llanfoist	1535	58	1593						
Parish Ward	Govilon	Parish	Llanfoist Fawr	County	Llanfoist Fawr and Govilon	LF3 - Govilon	1123	0	1123						
					<b>Llanfoist Fawr and Govilon Total</b>		<b>3116</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>3194</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>95.35%</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>96.15%</b>	<b>1</b>
Parish Ward	Coed-Y-Paen	Parish	Llangybi Fawr	County	Llangybi Fawr	LG1 - Coed-Y-Paen	119	0	119						
Parish Ward	Llandegfedd	Parish	Llangybi Fawr	County	Llangybi Fawr	LG2 - Llandegfedd	149	0	149						
Parish Ward	Llangattock Nigh Caerleon	Parish	Llangybi Fawr	County	Llangybi Fawr	LG3 - Llangattock Nigh Caerleon	90	0	90						
Parish Ward	Llangybi	Parish	Llangybi Fawr	County	Llangybi Fawr	LG4 - Llangybi	480	0	480						
Parish Ward	Llanhennock	Parish	Llangybi Fawr	County	Llangybi Fawr	LG5 - Llanhennock	143	0	143						
Parish Ward	Tredunnoch	Parish	Llangybi Fawr	County	Llangybi Fawr	LG6 - Tredunnoch	144	0	144						
Parish Ward	Gwernesney	Parish	Llantrisant Fawr	County	Llangybi Fawr	LG7 - Gwernesney	115	0	115						
Parish Ward	Llantrisant	Parish	Llantrisant Fawr	County	Llangybi Fawr	LG8 - Llantrisant	208	0	208						
					<b>Llangybi Fawr Total</b>		<b>1448</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1448</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>88.62%</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>87.18%</b>	<b>2</b>
Parish Ward	Cross Ash	Parish	Skenfrith	County	Llantilio Crossenny	LT1 - Cross Ash	268	0	268						
Parish Ward	Llanvetherine	Parish	Skenfrith	County	Llantilio Crossenny	LT2 - Llanvetherine	132	0	132						
Parish Ward	Skenfrith	Parish	Skenfrith	County	Llantilio Crossenny	LT3 - Skenfrith	129	0	129						
Parish Ward	Llangattock Vibon Avel	Parish	Whitecastle	County	Llantilio Crossenny	LT4 - Llangattock Vibon Avel	73	0	73						
Parish Ward	Llanvihangel-Ystern-Llewern	Parish	Whitecastle	County	Llantilio Crossenny	LT5 - Llanvihangel-Ystern-Llewern	80	0	80						
Parish Ward	Newcastle	Parish	Whitecastle	County	Llantilio Crossenny	LT6 - Newcastle	166	0	166						
Parish Ward	Penrhos	Parish	Whitecastle	County	Llantilio Crossenny	LT7 - Penrhos	154	0	154						
Parish Ward	Rockfield and St Maughans	Parish	Whitecastle	County	Llantilio Crossenny	LT8 - Rockfield and St Maughans	376	0	376						
Parish Ward	Whitecastle	Parish	Whitecastle	County	Llantilio Crossenny	LT9 - Whitecastle	269	0	269						
					<b>Llantilio Crossenny Total</b>		<b>1647</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1647</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>100.80%</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>99.16%</b>	<b>1</b>
Parish Ward	Magor East	Parish	Magor with Undy	County	Magor East with Undy	W2 - Magor East	1805	238	2043						
Parish Ward	Undy	Parish	Magor with Undy	County	Magor East with Undy	W3 - Undy	1547	240	1787						
					<b>Magor East with Undy Total</b>		<b>3352</b>	<b>478</b>	<b>3830</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>102.57%</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>115.29%</b>	<b>2</b>
Parish Ward	Magor West	Parish	Magor with Undy	County	Magor West	W1 - Magor West	1622	0	1622						
					<b>Magor West Total</b>		<b>1622</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1622</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>99.27%</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>97.65%</b>	<b>1</b>
Parish Ward	Mardy	Parish	Llantilio Pertholey	County	Mardy	LP2 - Mardy	1077	130	1207						
Parish Ward	Pantygelli	Parish	Llantilio Pertholey	County	Mardy	LP3 - Pantygelli	151	0	151						
Parish Ward	Sgyrrid	Parish	Llantilio Pertholey	County	Mardy	LP4 - Sgyrrid	320	0	320						
					<b>Mardy Total</b>		<b>1548</b>	<b>130</b>	<b>1678</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>94.74%</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>101.02%</b>	<b>1</b>
Parish Ward	Cwmcarvan	Parish	Mitchel Troy	County	Mitchel Troy and Trellech United	MT1 - Cwmcarvan	180	0	180						
Parish Ward	Dingestow	Parish	Mitchel Troy	County	Mitchel Troy and Trellech United	MT2 - Dingestow	225	0	225						
Parish Ward	Mitchell Troy	Parish	Mitchel Troy	County	Mitchel Troy and Trellech United	MT3 - Mitchell Troy	338	0	338						
Parish Ward	Tregare	Parish	Mitchel Troy	County	Mitchel Troy and Trellech United	MT4 - Tregare	263	0	263						
Parish Ward	Wonastow	Parish	Mitchel Troy	County	Mitchel Troy and Trellech United	MT5 - Wonastow	64	0	64						
Parish Ward	Pen-y-Clawdd	Parish	Mitchel Troy	County	Mitchel Troy and Trellech United	MT6 - Pen-y-Clawdd	106	0	106						
Parish Ward	The Narth	Parish	Trellech United	County	Mitchel Troy and Trellech United	MT10 - The Narth	347	0	347						
Parish Ward	Trellech Grange	Parish	Trellech United	County	Mitchel Troy and Trellech United	MT11 - Trellech Grange	85	0	85						
Parish Ward	Trellech Town	Parish	Trellech United	County	Mitchel Troy and Trellech United	MT12 - Trellech Town	433	0	433						
Parish Ward	Whitebrook	Parish	Trellech United	County	Mitchel Troy and Trellech United	MT13 - Whitebrook	75	0	75						
Parish Ward	Catbrook	Parish	Trellech United	County	Mitchel Troy and Trellech United	MT7 - Catbrook	320	0	320						
Parish Ward	Llanishen	Parish	Trellech United	County	Mitchel Troy and Trellech United	MT8 - Llanishen	229	0	229						
Parish Ward	Penallt	Parish	Trellech United	County	Mitchel Troy and Trellech United	MT9 - Penallt	448	0	448						
					<b>Mitchel Troy and Trellech United Total</b>		<b>3113</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3113</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>95.26%</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>93.71%</b>	<b>1</b>
Parish Ward	Mount Pleasant	Parish	Chepstow	County	Mount Pleasant	CH6 - Mount Pleasant	1575	292	1867						
					<b>Mount Pleasant Total</b>		<b>1575</b>	<b>292</b>	<b>1867</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>96.39%</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>112.40%</b>	<b>2</b>
Parish Ward	Osbaston	Parish	Monmouth	County	Osbaston	MO1A - Osbaston	318	0	318						
Parish Ward	Osbaston	Parish	Monmouth	County	Osbaston	MO1B - Osbaston	1393	250	1643						
					<b>Osbaston Total</b>		<b>1711</b>	<b>250</b>	<b>1961</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>104.71%</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>118.06%</b>	<b>2</b>
Parish Ward	Overmonnow	Parish	Monmouth	County	Overmonnow	MO4 - Overmonnow	1628	34	1662						
					<b>Overmonnow Total</b>		<b>1628</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>1662</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>99.63%</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>100.06%</b>	<b>1</b>
Parish Ward	Park	Parish	Abergavenny	County	Park	AB5 - Park	1593	0	1593						
					<b>Park Total</b>		<b>1593</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1593</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>97.49%</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>95.91%</b>	<b>1</b>
Parish Ward	Pen Y Fal	Parish	Abergavenny	County	Pen Y Fal	AB6 - Pen Y Fal	1583	0	1583						
					<b>Pen Y Fal Total</b>		<b>1583</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1583</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>96.88%</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>95.30%</b>	<b>1</b>
Parish Ward	Leechpool	Parish	Portskewett	County	Portskewett	P1 - Leechpool	175	650	825						

Parish Ward	Portskewett Village	Parish	Portskewett	County	Portskewett	P2 - Portskewett Village	1304	510	1814						
Parish Ward	Sudbrook	Parish	Portskewett	County	Portskewett	P3 - Sudbrook	699	0	699						
					<b>Portskewett Total</b>		<b>2178</b>	<b>1160</b>	<b>3338</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>133.29%</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>200.96%</b>	<b>4</b>
Parish Ward	Gwehelog	Parish	Raglan	County	Raglan	R1 - Gwehelog	276	0	276						
Parish Ward	Kingcoed	Parish	Raglan	County	Raglan	R2 - Kingcoed	131	0	131						
Parish Ward	Llandenny	Parish	Raglan	County	Raglan	R3 - Llandenny	237	0	237						
Parish Ward	Raglan	Parish	Raglan	County	Raglan	R4 - Raglan	1045	184	1229						
					<b>Raglan Total</b>		<b>1689</b>	<b>184</b>	<b>1873</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>103.37%</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>112.76%</b>	<b>2</b>
Parish Ward	Rogiet	Parish	Rogiet	County	Rogiet	X - Rogiet	1439	0	1439						
					<b>Rogiet Total</b>		<b>1439</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1439</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>88.07%</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>86.63%</b>	<b>2</b>
Parish Ward	Severn	Parish	Caldicot	County	Severn	V4 - Severn	707	0	707						
Parish Ward	The Village	Parish	Caldicot	County	Severn	V5 - The Village	997	92	1089						
					<b>Severn Total</b>		<b>1704</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>1796</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>104.28%</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>108.13%</b>	<b>1</b>
Parish Ward	Mathern	Parish	Mathern	County	Shirenewton	S3 - Mathern	389	0	389						
Parish Ward	Mounton	Parish	Mathern	County	Shirenewton	S4 - Mounton	34	0	34						
Parish Ward	Pwllmeyric	Parish	Mathern	County	Shirenewton	S5 - Pwllmeyric	344	0	344						
Parish Ward	Earlswood and Newchurch	Parish	Shirenewton	County	Shirenewton	S1 - Earlswood and Newchurch	313	0	313						
Parish Ward	Shirenewton and Mynyddbach	Parish	Shirenewton	County	Shirenewton	S2 - Shirenewton and Mynyddbach	651	52	703						
					<b>Shirenewton Total</b>		<b>1731</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>1783</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>105.94%</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>107.34%</b>	<b>1</b>
Parish Ward	St Arvans	Parish	St Arvans	County	St Arvans	ST1 - St Arvans	591	32	623						
Parish Ward	Llandogo	Parish	Wye Valley	County	St Arvans	ST2 - Llandogo	382	0	382						
Parish Ward	Tintern	Parish	Wye Valley	County	St Arvans	ST3 - Tintern	536	0	536						
					<b>St Arvans Total</b>		<b>1509</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>1541</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>92.35%</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>92.78%</b>	<b>1</b>
Parish Ward	St Kingsmark	Parish	Chepstow	County	St Kingsmark	CH7 - St Kingsmark	1579	0	1579						
					<b>St Kingsmark Total</b>		<b>1579</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1579</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>96.63%</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>95.06%</b>	<b>1</b>
Parish Ward	Town	Parish	Monmouth	County	Town	MO2 - Town	1725	0	1725						
					<b>Town Total</b>		<b>1725</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1725</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>105.57%</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>103.85%</b>	<b>1</b>
Parish Ward	West End	Parish	Caldicot	County	West End	V6 - West End	1401	0	1401						
					<b>West End Total</b>		<b>1401</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1401</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>85.74%</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>84.35%</b>	<b>2</b>
Parish Ward	Wyesham	Parish	Monmouth	County	Wyesham	MO5 - Wyesham	1696	100	1796						
					<b>Wyesham Total</b>		<b>1696</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>1796</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>103.79%</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>108.13%</b>	<b>1</b>
					<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>75172</b>	<b>4538</b>	<b>79710</b>	<b>46</b>			<b>46</b>		
							1634		1661						

County Ward	Electorate - Feb 25	Five Year Forecast	Total Forecast Electorate	Current Cllrs	Current Variance	RAG rating	Future Variance	Future RAG
Bulwark and Thornwell Total	3817	0	3817	2	116.80%	2	114.90%	2
Caerwent Total	1714	80	1794	1	104.90%	1	108.01%	1
Caldicot Castle Total	1573	30	1603	1	96.27%	1	96.51%	1
Caldicot Cross Total	1556	0	1556	1	95.23%	1	93.68%	1
Cantref Total	1685	0	1685	1	103.12%	1	101.44%	1
Chepstow Castle and Larkfield Total	3009	346	3355	2	92.07%	1	100.99%	1
Croesonen Total	1515	70	1585	1	92.72%	1	95.42%	1
Crucorney Total	1603	0	1603	1	98.10%	1	96.51%	1
Devauden Total	1288	20	1308	1	78.82%	2	78.75%	2
Dewstow Total	1479	0	1479	1	90.51%	1	89.04%	2
Drybridge Total	1808	446	2254	1	110.65%	2	135.70%	3
Gobion Fawr Total	1655	500	2155	1	101.29%	1	129.74%	3
Goetre Fawr Total	1836	84	1920	1	112.36%	2	115.59%	2
Grofield Total	1980	0	1980	1	121.18%	2	119.21%	2
Lansdown Total	1803	0	1803	1	110.34%	2	108.55%	1
Llanbadoc and Usk Total	3009	80	3089	2	92.07%	1	92.99%	1
Llanelly Total	3255	0	3255	2	99.60%	1	97.98%	1
Llanfons Fawr and Govilon Total	3116	78	3194	2	95.35%	1	96.15%	1
Llangyn Fawr Total	1448	0	1448	1	88.62%	2	87.18%	2
Llantilio Crossenny Total	1647	0	1647	1	100.80%	1	99.16%	1
Magor East with Undy Total	3352	478	3830	2	102.57%	1	115.29%	2
Magor West Total	1622	0	1622	1	99.27%	1	97.65%	1
Mardy Total	1548	130	1678	1	94.74%	1	101.02%	1
Mitchel Troy and Trellech United Total	3113	0	3113	2	95.26%	1	93.71%	1
Mount Pleasant Total	1575	292	1867	1	96.39%	1	112.40%	2
Osbaston Total	1711	250	1961	1	104.71%	1	118.06%	2
Overmonnow Total	1628	34	1662	1	99.63%	1	100.06%	1
Park Total	1593	0	1593	1	97.49%	1	95.91%	1
Pen Y Fal Total	1583	0	1583	1	96.88%	1	95.30%	1
Portskewett Total	2178	1160	3338	1	133.29%	3	200.96%	4
Raglan Total	1689	184	1873	1	103.37%	1	112.76%	2
Rogiet Total	1439	0	1439	1	88.07%	2	86.63%	2
Severn Total	1704	92	1796	1	104.28%	1	108.13%	1
Shirenewton Total	1731	52	1783	1	105.94%	1	107.34%	1
St Arvans Total	1509	32	1541	1	92.35%	1	92.78%	1
St Kingsmark Total	1579	0	1579	1	96.63%	1	95.06%	1
Town Total	1725	0	1725	1	105.57%	1	103.85%	1
West End Total	1401	0	1401	1	85.74%	2	84.35%	2
Wyesham Total	1696	100	1796	1	103.79%	1	108.13%	1
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>75172</b>	<b>4538</b>	<b>79710</b>	<b>46</b>				
Average Cllr:Electo Ratio	1634		1661					

	RAG rating	2025	Future
<b>Greater than 50%</b>	<b>4</b>	0	1
<b>25% to 50%</b>	<b>3</b>	1	2
<b>10-25%</b>	<b>2</b>	9	12
<b>0-10%</b>	<b>1</b>	29	24