

ISLE OF ANGLESEY COUNTY COUNCIL	
Meeting:	County Council
Date:	24 September 2026
Title of report:	Community Review of electoral arrangements
Purpose of report:	To seek the Council's approval to consult on draft proposals.
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Background

1. The Isle of Anglesey County Council has a statutory duty, in accordance with the Local Government (Democracy) (Wales) Act 2013 (the Act), to monitor the communities within the county and the electoral arrangements of those communities, and to carry out reviews where appropriate. In performing its duties and when conducting any review, the Council must seek to secure effective and convenient local government.
2. For the purposes of these reviews, 'community' means a local government unit below the county council level (the 'main council'). Anglesey is divided into 40 communities, each served by a town council or community council. In this context, the legal status of the councils is the same regardless of what they are called, i.e., they are all considered 'community councils'.
3. Communities can in turn be divided into wards for electoral purposes, but this is not mandatory, and not every community council area is divided into wards. On Anglesey, 27 of the 40 town and community councils have been divided into electoral wards.

Community review of electoral arrangements 2026 – Terms of Reference

4. The Executive decided in December 2025 to support conducting a Community Review in accordance with section 31 of the Act. The purpose of the review is to ensure that the electoral arrangements for each town and community council provide effective local government.
5. In conducting the review, the County Council will consider:

- a. the number of members on the community council;
 - b. the division into wards (if appropriate) for the purpose of electing councillors;
 - c. the number and boundaries of any electoral wards;
 - d. the number of members to be elected for any ward;
 - e. the name of any ward.
6. The scope of the review does not cover community council boundaries, nor does it consider the merging or abolition of community councils. Its focus is solely on electoral arrangements within communities.
7. It is good practice to carry out the review before the 2027 local elections so that any recommendations are in place by then. The Council is also expected to carry out the review before the Democracy and Boundaries Commission Cymru conducts its planned electoral review of the County Council in 2027/28.

Schedule

8. There are 4 statutory stages to the review (table below). Stages 1 and 2 have been completed, and the purpose of this report is to seek the County Council's approval to carry out a consultation on the draft proposals (stage 3).

Stage 1 – initial publicity	• Contact town and community councils and other consultees to raise awareness about the review • Publish information on the Council's website
Stage 2 – preliminary research and consultation	• Initial consultation starts on 26 January and runs until 13 March • Consider comments and carry out further research from April to July
Stage 3 – draft proposals and consultation on those proposals	• Approve draft proposals at the County Council in September • Consult on the draft proposals for 6 weeks between September and November

Stage 4 – final recommendations	• Submit final recommendations to the County Council in December 2026 • Come into effect by the local elections in May 2027.
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Progress

9. There were 23 responses to the initial consultation (stage 2) held between January and March. Four town councils, 18 community councils, and one member of the public responded. A summary of the comments is in Appendix 1.
10. The main conclusions from the consultation are as follows:
 - a. There are a number of vacant seats across the councils, and some councils are experiencing difficulties in filling them.
 - b. Very few elections are held, with the co-option process being used in the vast majority of cases to fill vacancies.
 - c. Twenty seven of the 40 town and community councils are divided into electoral wards. While there is support for electoral wards in the larger councils, some smaller councils consider that the wards should be abolished / combined, as this could help simplify the process of filling vacant seats.
11. From an electoral administration perspective, electoral wards within a community can create practical difficulties and limitations. For example, there may be more candidates than available seats in one ward, while another ward does not have enough candidates to fill all its seats. In such circumstances, an election must be held in the oversubscribed ward, even though there are insufficient candidates across the community council as a whole to fill every seat. In addition to the cost of holding an election, this can also complicate the nomination process for councils and election officials.
12. Another factor considered is the uncertainty that electoral wards can create within some communities. In a recent by-election for a rural community council, the existence of two wards led to confusion among both candidates and voters, including a lack of awareness of ward boundaries and uncertainty about why voters in one ward could not vote in the other. However, these considerations must be balanced against any specific reasons why part of the community should be represented separately on the community council, which may justify retaining the wards.

13. Another consideration is the risk that historical and traditional names could lose their status if electoral wards are merged. We will take account of the views of community councils on this matter and work with them to protect those names where appropriate.

Draft proposals and next steps

14. The Draft Proposals are set out in Appendix 2. They have been prepared having regard to the considerations outlined above and any responses received during the consultation.
15. If the Council approves the proposals, the Draft Proposals Report will be published in accordance with the requirements of the Act. Publicity will also be given to inform stakeholders that representations may be submitted to the authority during the public consultation period.
16. The proposals will be sent to the consultees listed in the Act, including all town and community councils on the Island. The consultation period will last between six and seven weeks and will include an update at the Isle of Anglesey Town and Community Councils Forum.
17. Following the consultation period, the final proposals will be submitted to the County Council for approval.

Recommendation

18. The Council is asked to approve a consultation on the draft proposals set out in Appendix 2.

Appendix 1

Summary of the initial consultation comments:

Question	Summary of comments
Question 1: Is the number of members on the town / community council appropriate?	22 responses were received 16 were of the opinion that the number is appropriate, including 4 town councils. 3 believed that their council had too many members and were finding it challenging to fill seats. Another 3 submitted factual information only.
Question 2: Do you have any vacant seats?	21 responses were received. Seventeen reported that they had vacant seats and four reported that they did not. The majority of the councils reported that seats had become vacant relatively recently, but some had been unable to fill seats for two or three years.
Question 3: Have you held an election or co-opted members to your council since May 2022?	22 responses were received. 20 reported that they had gone through the process of filling seats since 2022, and 2 reported that they had not had to do so. 4 elections have been held in town and community councils since May 2022. Two full elections and two uncontested. All other seats have been filled through co-option.
Question 4: If the community has been divided into electoral wards, are the arrangements appropriate? If not, what would work better in your opinion?	14 responses were received. Four believed that the arrangements of electoral wards were suitable (three of them were town councils). Six believed that the wards should be abolished or merged. Four others provided factual information only. (27 of the 40 town and community councils on Anglesey have been divided into electoral wards).
Question 5: Do you have any comments on the names of your electoral wards, if applicable?	9 responses were received. Each one noted that they thought the names were appropriate, or that they had no comment.

TREF/CYMUNED TOWN/COMMUNITY	WARD	NIFER O ETHOLWYR NO. OF ELECTORS	NIFER O SEDDI NO. OF SEATS	CYNIGION DRAFFT / DRAFT PROPOSALS
AMLWCH	GWLEDIG / RURAL	1019	5	
	Y DREF / TOWN	909	5	
	Y BORTH / PORT	856	5	
		2784	15	
				Amlwch - Dim newid / No change
BIWMARES / BEAUMARIS	GORLLEWINOL / WEST	716	7	
	DWYREINIOL / EAST	350	3	
	CANOLOG / CENTRAL	258	4	
		1324	14	
				Biwmares / Beaumaris - Dim newid / No change
CAERGYBI / HOLYHEAD	PARC A'R MYNYDD	1267	2	
	PORTHYFELIN	1594	3	
	Y DREF / TOWN	801	2	
	FFORDD LLUNDAIN / LONDON ROAD	1118	2	
	MORAWELON	1026	2	
	MAESHYFRYD	1590	3	
	KINGSLAND	1163	2	
		8559	16	
				Caergybi / Holyhead - Dim newid / No change
LLANGEFNI	CEFNI	1317	5	
	CYNGAR	1734	5	
	TUDUR	993	5	
		4044	15	
				Llangefni - Dim newid / No change
PORTHAETHWY	CADNANT	886	7	Porthaethwy / Menai Bridge - Dim newid / No change
	TYSILIO	1491	8	
		2377	15	
CYLCH Y GARN	LLANRHUDDLAD	399	7	
	LLANFAIRYNGHORNWY	225	4	
		624	11	
				Cylch y Garn - Cyfuno wardiau Llanrhuddlad a Llanfairynghornwy / Combine Llanrhuddlad and Llanfairynghornwy wards
LLANFAETHLU	LLANFAETHLU	316	7	
	LLANFWROG	112	2	
		428	9	Llanfaethlu - Cyfuno wardiau Llanfaethlu a Llanfwrog / Combine Llanfaethlu and Llanfwrog wards
TREF ALAW	LLANDDEUSANT	241	6	
	LLANBABO	52	2	
	LLANTRISANT	95	2	
	LLECHCYNFARWY	55	2	
		443	12	Tref Alaw - Cyfuno wardiau Llanddeusant, Llanbabo, Llantrisant a Llechcynfarwy / Combine Llanddeusant, Llanbabo, Llantrisant and Llechcynfarwy wards
LLANFACHRAETH	LLANFACHRAETH	477	8	Llanfachraeth - Dim newid / No change
Y FALI / VALLEY	GORAD	651	4	
	LLANYNGHENEDL	74	1	
	Y PENTREF / VILLAGE	790	5	
	GORLLEWINOL / WEST	384	3	
		1899	13	
				Y Fali / Valley - Dim newid / No change
RHOSCOLYN	RHOSCOLYN	426	8	Rhoscolyn - Dim newid / No change
TREARDDUR	TREARDDUR	1264	12	Trearddur - Dim newid / No change
LLANFAIR YN NEUBWLL	LLANFAIR YN NEUBWLL	1134	11	Llanfair yn Neubwll - Dim newid / No change
BODEDERN	BODEDERN	831	11	Bodedern - Dim newid / No change
LLANFAELOG	RHOSNEIGR	608	6	
	MAELOG	561	6	
		1169	12	Llanfaelog - cyfuno wardiau Rhosneigr a Maealog / Combine Rhosneigr and Maealog wards
BRYNGWRAN	BRYNGWRAN	540	8	
	LLANBEULAN	137	2	

		677	10	Bryngwran - cyfuno wardiau Bryngwran a Llanbeulan / Combine Bryngwran and Llanbeulan wards
BOFFORDD	HENEGLWYS	425	5	
	BODWROG	208	3	
	LLANDRYGARN	145	2	
		778	10	Bodffordd - cyfuno wardiau Heneglwys, Bodwrog a Llandrygarn / Combine Heneglwys, Bodwrog and Llandrygarn wards
TREWALCHMAI	TREWALCHMAI	757	10	Trewalchmai - Dim newid / No change
LLANGRISTIOLUS	LLANGRISTIOLUS	687	5	
	CERRIGCEINWEN	466	5	
		1153	10	Llangristiolus - cyfuno wardiau Llangristiolus a Cerrigceinwen / Combine Llangristiolus and Cerrigceinwen wards
ABERFFRAW	GOGLEDDOL / NORTHERN	92	2	
	DEHEUOL / SOUTHERN	322	8	
	LLANGWYFAN	48	2	
		462	12	Aberffraw - cyfuno wardiau Gogleddol, Deheuol a Llangwyfan / Combine Northern, Southern and Llangwyfan wards
LLANBADRIG	CEMAES	763	9	
	PADRIG	179	2	
		942	11	Llanbadrig - cyfuno wardiau Cemaes a Padrig / Combine Cemaes and Padrig wards
MECHELL	LLANFEHELL	819	8	
	CARREGLEFN	225	3	
		1044	11	Mechell - cyfuno wardiau Llanfechell a Carreglefn / Combine Llanfechell and Carreglefn wards
RHOSYBOL	RHOSYBOL	609	7	
	LLANDYFRYDOG	246	3	
		855	10	Rhosybol - cyfuno wardiau Rhosybol a Llandyfydog / Combine Rhosybol and Llandyfydog wards
LLANEILIAN	EILIAN	438	6	
	LLWYFO	566	5	
		1004	11	Llaneilian - cyfuno wardiau Eilian a Llwyfo / Combine Eilian and Llwyfo wards
MOELFRE	PENRHOSLLIGWY	185	3	
	LLANALLGO	570	8	
		755	11	Moelfre - cyfuno wardiau Penrhoslligwy a Llanallgo / Combine Penrhoslligwy and Llanallgo wards
LLANEUGRAD	LLANEUGRAD	218	7	Llaneugrad - Dim newid / No change
LLANFAIR MATHAFARN EITHAF	BRYNTEG	366	2	
	LLANBEDRGOCH	366	2	
	BENLLECH A	705	4	
	BENLLECH B	1156	6	
		2593	14	Llanfair Mathafarn Eithaf - cyfuno wardiau Brynteg, Llanbedrgoch, Benllech A, a Benllech B. Mae'r gymuned yn ddigon mawr i gyfiawnhau wardiau, ond mae'r cyngor cymuned wedi nodi awydd i gyfuno / Combine Brynteg, Llanbedrgoch, Benllech A and Benllech B wards. The community is large enough to justify electoral wards, but the council has expressed a willingness to combine the wards
LLANDDYFNAN	LLANDDYFNAN	531	7	
	LLANFIHANGEL TRE'R BEIRDD	225	4	
	TREGAIAN	61	1	
	LLANGWYLLOG	86	2	

		903	14	Llanddyfnan - cyfuno wardiau Llanddyfnan, Llanfihangel Tre'r Beirdd, Tregaian a Llangwyllog / Combine Llanddyfnan, Llanfihangel Tre'r Beirdd, Tregaian and Llangwyllog wards
LLANNERCHYMEDD	COEDANA	219	2	
	RHODOGEIDIO	70	3	
		131		
	LLANNERCHYMEDD	598	8	
		1018	13	Llanerchymedd - cyfuno wardiau Coedana, Rhodogeidio a Llanerchymedd / Combine Coedana, Rhodogeidio and Llanerchymedd wards
PENTRAETH	PENTRAETH	990	11	Pentraeth - dim newid / no change
LLANDDONA	LLANDDONA	441	7	
	LLANIESTYN	95	2	
		536	9	Llanddona - cyfuno wardiau Llanddona a Llaniestyn / Combine Llanddona and Llaniestyn wards
LLANGOED	LLANGOED	837	9	
	PENMON	206	2	
		1043	11	Llangoed - cyfuno wardiau Llangoed a Penmon / Combine Llangoed and Penmon wards
CWM CADNANT	CWM CADNANT	1642	12	Cwm Cadnant - dim newid / no change
LLANFAIRPWLLGWYNGYLL	BRAINT	1162	7	
	GWYNGYLL	1283	7	
		2445	14	Llanfairpwll - cyfuno wardiau Braint a Gwyngyll. Mae'r gymuned yn ddigon mawr i gyfiawnhau wardiau etholiadol, ond mae'r cyngor wedi nodi parodrwydd i gyfuno wardiau. / Combine Braint and Gwyngyll wards. The community is large enough to justify electoral wards, but the council has expressed a willingness to combine wards.
LLANFIHANGEL ESCEIFIOG	LLANFIHANGEL ESCEIFIOG	1338	11	Llanfihangel Esceifiog - dim newid / no change
LLANDDANIEL FAB	LLANDDANIEL FAB	622	9	Llanddaniel Fab - dim newid / no change
PENMYNYDD	PENMYNYDD	394	8	Penmynydd - dim newid / no change
LLANIDAN	LLANIDAN	809	11	Llanidan - dim newid / no change
RHOSYR	NIWBWRCH / NEWBOROUGH	774	7	
	LLANGEINWEN	736	5	
	LLANGAFFO	265	2	
		1775	14	Rhosyr - cyfuno wardiau Niwbwrch, Llangeinwen a Llangaffo / Combine Newborough, Llangeinwen and Llangaffo wards
BODORGAN	LLANGADWALADR	172	3	
	TREFDRAETH	564	7	
		736	10	Bodorgan - cyfuno wardiau Llangadwaladr a Trefdraeth / Combine Llangadwaladr and Tredraeth wards