

NORTH AND MID WALES ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS

Consultation on

The Draft Directions for the Boundary Commission

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Association

The Association represents over 30 larger Town and Community Councils in the area of North and Mid Wales. The Association meets regularly to discuss local and national issues and discussed this consultation in Flint on Friday 23rd October 2015.

1. Do you think the suggested ratio provides for effective and convenient local government?

The ratio of 1:4000 electors appears to be too large, however the Association does accept that much less will lead to a number of Councillors which would be unmanageable.

2. Do you think there is a minimum number of councillors required to ensure the effective and democratic working of a local authority?

The minimum number of Councillors should be around 60. There is a feeling that the cost of having too many Councillors is a factor when services are under threat.

3. Do you think a minimum number of elected members per local authority should be specified in the Draft Directions?

Yes it should. This will give clear directions to Authorities to enable a swift resolution of any issues.

4. Do you think that there should be a cap on the maximum number of elected members per local authority?

Yes there should be a cap which should be no more than 75.

5. Do you agree that each ward within a local authority area should have roughly the same number of electors per elected member?

Not necessarily. It is important that the electorate is represented taking into account local culture, demographics and other local matters.

6. What effect should the particular characteristics of an area have on the number of councillors needed to represent the population?

A very high level of consideration should be given to the local characteristics of an area before setting the level of local councillors. It is also important that local communities are consulted on such matters.

7. Do you agree that commonly used Welsh language names for wards do not also need an English language equivalent?

The name given to any ward should be chosen by the local community and should have just one name, be it in Welsh or English.

8. Other matters

The Association is very concerned that the division of wards is done in such a way that it reflects the following:

- 1) The number of electorate should reflect the demographics and characteristics of the area.
- 2) The wards should reflect the new boundaries of any new Town or Community Councils created (looking forward to local government re-organisation).
- 3) The wards should not divide communities.
- 4) The wards should not be divided so that a member is compromised with conflicts of interest between two communities in the same ward.
- 5) The size of a ward should take into account the population and also future developments which might affect such population or electorate.

The Association is willing to attend to give oral evidence if it were felt to be helpful.

Robert A Robinson FRICS MILCM
Secretary to the
North and Mid Wales Association of Local Councils

23rd October 2015