FINAL REPORT ON THE REVIEW OF COMMUNITY ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS UNDER SECTION 31 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (DEMOCRACY)(WALES) ACT 2013 BY CYNGOR GWYNEDD

1. Introduction

Cyngor Gwynedd ('the Council') has completed its community boundary review under section 31 of the Local Government (Democracy)(Wales) Act 2013 (“the Act").

On 2 October 2025 the Full Council approved Final Proposals under section 31 of the Act as the appropriate implementing authority. This Final Report is published in accordance with section 36 of the Act.

2. The Final Proposals

The Final Proposals are to be seen in the **Appendicies 1 & 2** to this Report.

3. The Process

Approval of Review and Terms of Reference (07/03/24)

The conduct of a Review and the Terms of Reference was approved by the Full Council on 07/03/24. The authority had previously written to all community councils to ask if there were any issues they would like to bring to its attention in relation to their current boundaries. The recommendation to Full Council was based on the information received in response, along with information already known to officers.

The intention of looking specifically at the question of whether a community should be divided into wards for the purposes of elections to the community council was approved. Section 33 of the Act requires that, when a principal council considers whether a community should be divided into community wards, the council must consider whether the number or distribution of the local government electors for the community is such as to make a single election of community councillors impractical or inconvenient, and whether it is desirable that any area of the community should be separately represented on the community council.

From the point of view of election administration there are implications to the existence of wards within a community, where, in an election, there are more candidates than seats in one ward, while there are not enough candidates to fill all the seats in another ward. This leads to an election for one ward despite the fact that, taking the community council as a whole, there are not enough candidates to fill all the seats. As well as the cost to the community council of holding an election, it can complicate the nomination process for the councils and electoral officers.

Another factor which has been considered is the relationship of community wards to the county wards. In a situation where several community wards are located within the same county ward there is a presumption that they should be abolished to try to ensure consistency in the electoral process, unless there are other reasons to retain them.

However, the process requires these considerations to be weighed against any specific reasons why it would be suitable for a section of the community to be represented separately on the community council and be therefore justified in retaining wards. The consultation was an opportunity to put forward such reasons for consideration.

The full report submitted to the Council and the minutes of the meeting are available on Gwynedd Council's website via the following link (see Item 16):

Agenda for The Council on Thursday, 7th March, 2024, 1.30 pm

Initial Publicity and Terms of Reference Consultation (11/11/24 – 20/12/24)

Following the required publicity under the Act, Draft proposals were presented to the Full Council on 06/03/25. The Proposals were prepared on the basis of the above considerations together with any responses to the consulatation.

Draft Proposals Approved (06/03/25)

Following consideration of the responses the Full Council approved Draft Proposals in its meeting on 06/03/25.

The full report submitted to the Council and the minutes of the meeting are available on Gwynedd Council's website via the following link (see Item 12)

Agenda for The Council on Thursday, 6th March, 2025, 1.30 pm

Consultation on the Draft Proposals (28/03/25 – 23/05/25)

A Draft Proposals Report was published in accordance with the requirements of the Act and publicity was given to the fact that representations could be made to the authority during the public consultation period. It was sent to the consultees prescribed in the Act, which included all those who responded at the preliminary stage In addition to the mandatory consultees it was also sent to:

- The Community Councils
- The County Councillors
- Members of the Senedd
- Members of Parliament
- Local Democracy and Boundary Commission for Wales
- Welsh Language Commissioner

An eight-week consultation period took place between 28/05/25 and 23/05/25

Community councils and Gwynedd Council members were contacted during the consultation period to remind them of the deadline, explaining to the community councils that they could get in touch if the timing of their meetings made it difficult to respond by the deadline.

Full Council Approves Final Proposals (02/10/25)

The Council considered the responses received and approved the Final Proposals as referred to in paragraph 2 of this Report

The full report submitted to the Council and the minutes of the meeting are available on Gwynedd Council's website via the following link (see Item 12)

Agenda for The Council on Thursday, 2nd October, 2025, 1.30 pm

Publication of the Report

In accordance with section 36 of the Act, this report will be published electronically on Cyngor Gwynedd's website and will be available for inspection (free of charge) at the Cyngor Gwynedd Offices, Shirehall Street, Caernarfon, LL55 1SH for a period of 6 weeks. Copies of the report will be sent the mandatory consultees, the Ordnance Survey and the Welsh Ministers. Any other person who submitted evidence or made representations in relation to the report published under section 35 will be informed how to obtain a copy of the report.

Implementation of the Changes

Cyngor Gwynedd intends to implement the changes set out in this report by means of an order, in accordance with s.39 of the Act, after the expiry of a period of 6 weeks beginning with the date on which this report is published.

Dated 15 June 2026