

Monmouthshire County Council

Review of Communities and Electoral Arrangements

Terms of Reference

Monmouthshire County Council Review of Communities and Electoral Arrangements 2012 Terms of Reference

Table of Contents

What is a review of communities and electoral arrangements?
Aims of the review
Why undertake a review of communities and electoral arrangements?
Who will undertake the review4
Scope of the review4
Consequential changes4
A timetable for the review5
Consultation
Making Representation7
Terms of Reference to be used during review
How to contact us11
Appendix A – Written responses to Terms of Reference Consultation
Response from Llanover Community Council13
Response from Llangattock Vibon Avel Community Council14
Response from Chairman to Llanhennock Community Council15
Response from County Councillor Val Smith15
Response from Caerwent Community Council16
Response from Abergavenny Town Council17
Response from Chepstow Town Council18
Responses to Terms of Reference Consultation – Online20
APPENDIX B – Uncontested Election results since previous community review
APPENDIX C – Electorate Summary

What is a review of communities and electoral arrangements?

The Local Government Act 1972 places a duty on Monmouthshire County Council to keep the community and electoral arrangements within Monmouthshire under review.

The review will be conducted in two parts, a review of the community areas and a review of the electoral arrangements for those areas.

Reviewing the community areas considers the need to create, abolish and amend the current community/town council areas. Where the communities are warded (the community is split into areas for separate representation on the council) the review will consider the current boundaries of the wards and whether these need alteration, existing wards needs abolishing or whether new wards should be created.

It is worth noting that as the Electoral Divisions which form the County Council areas consist of whole communities, or if warded a whole community ward, then any changes to the boundaries of the community wards may also affect the boundaries of the electoral divisions. As the responsibility for setting the boundaries of the electoral divisions lies with the Local Government Boundary Commission for Wales (LGBCW) and not the Council, the Council will need to apply to the LGBCW to consider changing the boundaries of the electoral divisions so that they comply with the legislative requirements.

Reviewing the electoral arrangements takes into consideration the number of councillors representing individual wards or the whole community.

Aims of the review

The review of communities and electoral arrangements will aim to ensure that any proposals put forward by the Council achieve effective and convenient local government for the electors that the proposals will represent. The Council will aim to achieve this within the parameters set out in the Local Government Act 1972 and the consideration of the Local Government Boundary Commission for Wales and Secretary of State.

When looking at the current community and electoral arrangements within Monmouthshire, there is very little consistency in the levels of representation that electors receive. Whilst the council acknowledge that this is partly due to the need to ensure that smaller communities are given the same opportunity as larger ones, the Council is also mindful that, as far as is practicable, the weight of vote for each elector should be the same throughout Monmouthshire, or at least consistent in communities with similar demographic and geographic factors.

The review will also aim to rectify any obvious anomalies in existing boundaries where developments have been situated since the previous review and consider the levels of representation within the community due to these developments.

Why undertake a review of communities and electoral arrangements?

Section 55 (2) of the Local Government Act 1972 requires all principal authorities in Wales to keep under review the communities within its areas. Section 57 (4) requires all principal authorities in Wales to keep under review the electoral arrangements within its area.

The last review was completed by the Council in 1999 with the changes taking effect in 2004. In order to maintain its duty relating to the above legislation the Council will commence a review in 2012 with a view to having proposals finalised and approved in time for the next ordinary Council elections due in 2017.

Who will undertake the review

Monmouthshire County Council is responsible for conducting a review of communities and electoral arrangements. In order to conduct the review the Council has appointed a politically balanced working group of County Councillors to oversee the procedures and have responsibility for formulating the draft and final proposals which will then be submitted to the Council for approval.

Scope of the review

As part of the review, the Council will have regard to:

- The creation, abolition or merging of communities and community wards
- The number of councillors representing the community and, where warded, the number of councillors per ward
- The name of the community and, where warded, the name of community wards

Consequential changes

The Local Government Boundary Commission for Wales (LGBCW) are the responsible body for the setting of County Council ward boundaries in Monmouthshire. When undertaking this exercise the LGBCW must, by law, ensure that a whole community, or where warded a whole community ward, lies within a County Council ward. A consequential effect of the Council conducting a review of the communities and electoral arrangements may be the need for the LGBCW to review the County Council ward boundaries to ensure that they comply with legislation. In these instances it is likely that the Council will make recommendations to the LGBCW to amend the County Council boundary in line with the new communities.

A timetable for the review

There is no fixed timetable in legislation to conduct a review of the communities and electoral arrangements. The only requirements placed upon the Council are the requirements set in Section 60 of the Local Government Act 1972 to ensure effective consultation is carried out as part of the review.

The Council has already completed its first stage of the consultation process in seeking stakeholder views on key factors that would assist the Council in preparing this Terms of Reference. Again, there is no legal requirement for the Council to produce a Terms of Reference as part of the review. However, the Council consider that having a Terms of Reference will lead to a more transparent decision making process and stakeholders will be able to focus their representations based up the conditions contained within this document.

Timetable for Review of Communities and Electoral Arrangements						
Function	Timescales	Date(s)				
Report to Council to approve commencement of review and appoint members to a working group		26 th July 2012				
Working group meet to finalise pre-review consultation document which will assist in formulating the Terms of Reference for the review		Thursday 2 nd August 2012 – 10:00am				
Consultation period for Terms of Reference pre-requisites	9 weeks	10 th August 2012 – 5 th October 2012				
Working group to meet to finalise Terms of Reference for the review and prepare for submission to Council	2 weeks	8 th October 2012 – 19 th October 2012				
Terms of Reference for the review to Council for approval		22 nd November 2012				

Publication of Terms of Reference for the review and public notice of the commencement of the review		3 rd December 2012
Consultation period for initial proposals	12 weeks	3 rd December 2012 – 22 nd February 2013
*Working group to prepare draft proposals for publication	*14 weeks	*22 nd February 2013 – 14 th June 2012
Publish draft proposals		14 th June 2013
Consultation period on draft proposals	9 weeks	14 th June 2013 – 16 th August 2013
Working group to prepare final proposals	11 weeks	August – November 2013
Final proposals submitted to Council for approval		November 2013
Report to LGBCW on final proposals		December 2013
Council to make order for new electoral arrangements		Early 2014
New proposals take effect		Ordinary council elections 2017

Please note that the timetable for this review will vary dependent on the length of time necessary to prepare the draft and final proposals however there will always be a minimum of 9 weeks consultation for stakeholders to make representations to the initial and draft proposals.

Consultation

Terms of Reference Pre-requisites

The Council believe that a key factor in achieving a focussed and transparent review is to ensure that a Terms of Reference document is used in the decision making process. To that end, the Council produced and consulted on a set of questions seeking feedback on key factors that will assist the Council in preparing a relevant Terms of Reference.

The Council published its consultation document on the 10th August 2012 and held a 9 week consultation period to receive responses to their questions. This included writing to political

parties, all community and town council councillors and clerks, the Returning Officer for Newport City Council, the Chief Constable of Gwent Police as well public notice of the consultation period. All responses received as part of that consultation are available to view at Appendix A.

Initial, Draft and Final Proposals

The remainder of the review will be conducted in three stages.

The first stage, following publication of the Terms of Reference and Notice of the Councils intention to conduct a review, will invite stakeholders to make representations to the Council on changes that in their opinion would lead to more effective and convenient local government.

Examples of initial representations could include;

- More relevant names for communities and/or community wards
- Boundary anomalies (for example, where the existing boundary cuts through a new development)
- Complete new boundaries and communities
- Merging or abolition of communities and / or community wards
- Proposed levels of representation for new and existing communities and / or wards

All representations for the initial proposals must be submitted to the Council by the 22nd February 2012. All representation received will be considered by the working group when preparing the draft proposals for publication.

Once the draft proposals are finalised by the working group they will be submitted to the Council for approval. Once Council has approved the draft proposals they will then be put out for another consultation period. Respondents will have a further 9 weeks following its publication to submit responses to the draft proposals.

The working group will again consider any representations they receive during this period and consider them when preparing the final proposals which will again be submitted to Council for approval. Following approval by the Council, the final proposals will then be submitted to the LGBCW. The LGBCW may hold a period of consultation for stakeholders to respond to the final proposals.

Making Representation

Publication of this Terms of Reference and notice of the Council intention to commence a review will be published on the 3rd December 2012. Following publication, the consultation

period for the initial proposals will commence for 12 weeks with the consultation period closing on the 22nd February 2013.

The council are inviting stakeholders to make representations based on the criteria set out in this Terms of Reference. Stakeholders can submit representations for the whole of Monmouthshire, a community/town council area or just a ward within a community. The Council would also wish to receive representations where the existing arrangements are suitable and do not require amendments but will require evidence based arguments to consider when formulating the proposals.

Terms of Reference to be used during review

The Council will apply the following factors to the decision making process as part of the review.

Consulation

The Council will ensure that various seminars are held during, or prior to, the consultation periods to allow stakeholders to be provided with any additional information they may need to better understand the processes involved in the review.

Statistics

The Council will use population statistics based upon the Electoral Register as published on the 16th October 2012. The Electoral Register published on this date will be active throughout the review period and will be replaced by a new electoral register published prior to the European Parliamentary Elections in 2014.

Projected forecast statistics will be taken from approved development plans supplied by the Councils planning department. When forecasting the future electorate the Council will apply the elector:property ratio of 2:1.

Should the Council's Local Development Plan (LDP) be finalised prior to the publication of the draft proposals of this review, the Council will have regard to the projected development plans contained within the LDP.

Communities and Electoral Arrangements

It is accepted that there will not be an ideal fixed size for a community however, the community will need to be of a large enough size to make it viable as an administrative unit of local government. The Council will seek to ensure that a community is created which is based on an area which reflects the identity and interests of that community.

When considering the boundaries between communities, the Council will ensure that where possible the boundaries will be easily identifiable for stakeholders and will consider the sphere of influence within a community area.

The Council will have regard to all representations it receives as part of the review and will consider the representations during the decision making process. The decision whether to adopt a particular recommendation or not will be that of the Council. The Council will disregard any representations that are not in the interests of the wider local community and which are contrary to the Council equalities policy.

The Council will not abolish an existing community or community ward without providing alternative arrangements for electors within that are to continue to receive representation at a local government level.

Should the Council make changes to existing communities or community wards, it will try to ensure that any changes do not upset perceived historic traditions. However, the Council may consider making changes to existing arrangements where changes, such as population shift or additional development, may have led to or potentially lead to a different community identity for that area.

Any stakeholder making representation to the Council requesting a status quo will need to provide the Council with justification as to how the existing arrangements fit within the criteria set out in this Terms of Reference both in the present and the future.

Any representations made that do not comply with this Terms of Reference must be made based upon sound evidence. The representation must also include an evidenced based argument as to the negative impact that any changes to the existing arrangements may have within the community.

In setting the boundaries of the communities, the Council will have regard to the boundaries of the County Council and Parliamentary Constituencies. Where the Council alter the community and/or community ward boundaries, it will make recommendations to the LGBCW to alter the boundary of the Parliamentary Constituency or County Council ward to ensure that all boundaries comply with the legislative requirement.

There is no legislation that dictates a minimum or maximum size of a community in Wales. For communities in England, legislation was introduced in 2007 relating to community governance reviews which recommend that an area with over 1,000 electors should have its own community. However, there is no upper limit in order for separate communities to be created as the Council still must have regard to local ties and community identity, for example the community of Western Super Mare represents 70,000 electors. For communities that contain between 151 and 999 electors the Council may recommend a community for that area and below 150 electors the Council cannot create a community.

The National Association for Local Councils have provided supplementary guidance to English local authorities conducting community governance reviews recommending that a community should have no fewer than seven councillors in order to carry out is statutory responsibilities effectively.

The Council consider the above information relevant to the review of communities and electoral arrangements and will seek to:

- Ensure that a community is created with no fewer than 1,000 electors
- Consider strong, evidenced based arguments to create a community that has fewer than 1,000 electors and more than 150 electors
- Will not create a community for less than 150 electors
- Ensure that each community that is created is represented by a minimum of 7 councillors

The Council accept that it will not be able to apply a one size fits all approach to the setting of communities and community wards in Monmouthshire however, the Council also believe that a consistent approach needs to be applied to the levels of representation that communities and community wards will provide.

To that end the Council will categorise the communities created as part of this review into three categories urban, rural and mixed. The characteristics of the community will depend on the category that the community is included but can be defined as follows:

Rural – A community where there is no dense area of population and the electorate is spread throughout the area within the boundaries that have been defined for that community.

Urban – A community where the electorate is densely populated within the boundaries that have been defined for that community.

Mixed – A predominantly rural area that contains a pocket of dense population within the boundaries that have been defined for that community.

The Council consider the following councillor:elector ratio's for each category relevant as part of this review to achieve a consistent level of representation between communities with similar characteristics.

Rural – 150 electors per councillor

Urban – 500 electors per councillor

Mixed - 250 electors per councillor

Whilst the Council acknowledge that this will still provide varying levels of representation throughout Monmouthshire, it will ensure that the level of representation received in

communities with similar characteristics will be consistent throughout Monmouthshire whilst maintaining the need to ensure that smaller, rural communities still receive representation at local government level.

The Council would like to make clear that the above ratios are not prescriptive to the review but will aim to achieve a level of representation as close to these ratios as possible within the communities that are created. In determining whether additional representation is required for a community the council will have consideration to the levels of uncontested seats at community level since the previous review of electoral arrangements implemented at the 2004 ordinary council elections.

Community Wards

Once an area has been identified as a community the Council will consider the suitability of warding that particular area.

Warding is the division of a community into smaller areas for the purpose of electing councillors. The review will consider the number and boundaries of any wards, number of councillors to be elected for each ward and the names of the wards.

The Council will ensure that the boundaries of any community ward shall be wholly contained within the boundary for the community area in which the ward is situated.

In determining the boundaries between community wards the Council shall have regard to community identity and community interests in the area. Additionally the Council will consider whether any particular ties or linkages between communities will be broken by the placing of a ward boundary. However, the Council will also consider the benefit of merging existing community wards and consider the benefits this may bring to the community area particularly in terms of increasing their voice within the community.

In urban communities, if the Council decide that the community needs to be warded, the Council will ensure that whole streets are contained within a single ward where possible. The Council will not place boundaries along roads splitting opposite sides of the street between wards.

How to contact us

Should you wish to submit a written representation regarding this review please send them to: Election Office, Monmouthshire County Council PO BOX 106 Caldicot

NP26 9AN

Alternatively you can email your submission to <u>elections@monmouthshire.gov.uk</u>

ONLINE CONSULTATION – information to follow.

Should require any further information or need clarification on the review process then please contact:

John Pearson Local Democracy Manager Telephone: 01633 644978 / 01633 644212 Email: johnpearson@monmouthshire.gov.uk

Appendix A – Written responses to Terms of Reference Consultation

Response from Llanover Community Council

Clerk to the Council:

Mr. Hugh Candler

Tel: 01873 852432

Fax: 01873 857589

HC/SME/LLANOVER



Llanover Community Council Cyngor Cymuned Llanofer

> 32 Monk Street Abergavenny Monmouthshire NP7 5NW

Date: 24 September 2012

Election Office Monmouthshire County Council County Hall Cwmbran Torfaen NP44 2XH

Dear Sir/Madam

Re: Review of Communities and Electoral Arrangements - Terms of Reference Pre-requisites Consultation

I am instructed by my Council to reply to the questions in your consultation paper as follows:-

- 1 Mon TV.
- 2 Yes.

3 No.

- 4 Community Council areas are well established and work well. It would seem more sensible to adjust County Council Ward boundaries to be consistent with Community Council Ward boundaries. If there are particularly large or particularly small Community Councils they can be adjusted but otherwise it would be sensible to leave alone existing boundaries where they are reasonably sized.
- 5 No too complicated.
- 6 No.
- 7 No.

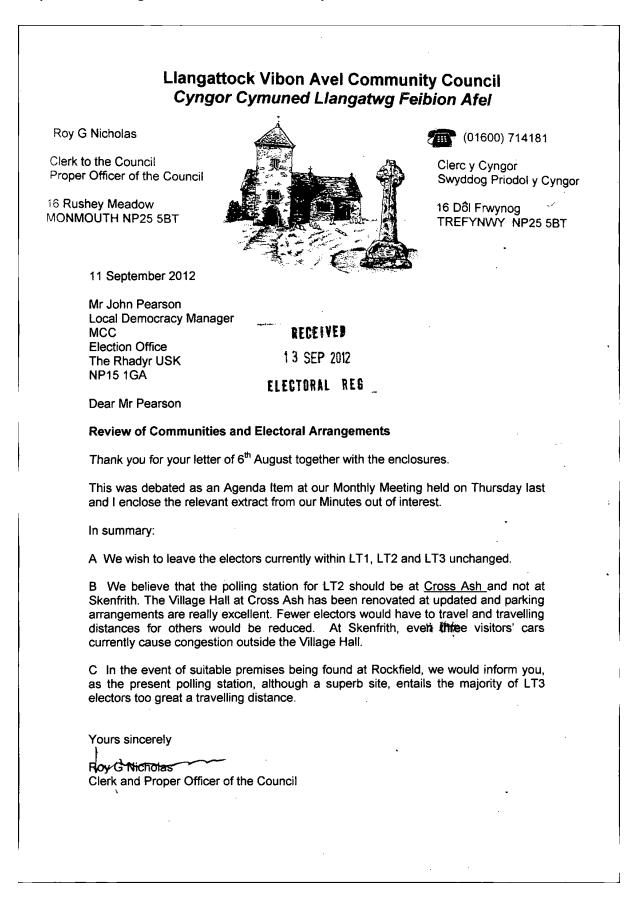
8 No – leave as present.

- 9 Not applicable to Llanover Community Council.
- 10 No.

Yours faithfully

A H B Candler Clerk to the Council

Response from Llangattock Vibon Avel Community Council



Response from Chairman to Llanhennock Community Council

From: ieuanponthir@aol.comSent: 03 October 2012 14:14To: ElectionsSubject: Review of Communities and Electoral Arrangements

Follow Up Flag: Follow up

Flag Status: Red

Sir

In my capacity as Chairman of Llanhennock Community Council I am responding to the Monmouthshire County Council consultation document 'Review of Communities and Electoral Arrangements.'

Whilst it is noted that Llanhennock Community Council has councillor:elector ratios at the lower end of the county scale we, as a Council, consider that this is fully justified due to the rural nature of our three wards. The geography and topography of the area combined with the dispersed nature of housing requires representatives who have an intimate knowledge of the community and its infrastructure. This knowledge cannot be imparted effectively by representatives covering a much wider area when important local issues are being considered such as planning, road repairs and improvements and crime matters.

Since each of our councillors are part of a close community who know each other so well, we are able to respond rapidly and effectively to any matter of local concern.

Our costs are minimal because we consider our roles as a privilege and pride ourselves in our community and so much of our work is done at no expense whatsoever, something which is not done for much larger urban areas.

Monmouthshire is a largely rural county and our job is to retain the appeal and sustainability of the rural community. This would not be achievable if we covered a much wider area or had a much larger councillor:elector ratio. Hence, we would request that he status quo is retained.

Yours faithfully

Ieuan Williams

(Chairman Llanhennock Community Council)

Response from County Councillor Val Smith

From: Smith, Val E.
Sent: 16 August 2012 11:47
To: Pearson, John
Subject: RE: Review of Communities and Electoral Arrangements - Terms of Reference Prerequisites Consultation

I assume the Working Group will be attending ALL community and town councils to listen to their views and not simply dropping proposals on them
Regards Vla Smith Llanbadoc

Response from Caerwent Community Council

From: caerwentcouncil@aol.com
Sent: 14 September 2012 00:39
To: Pearson, John
Subject: Re: Review of Communities and Electoral Arrangements
Hello John

Our comments re the above are as follows:

We have proposed previously that one additional Councillor be added to the Dinham ward due to the extra 132 houses being built at Merton Green.

Candidates should have improved access to electoral rolls, eg the Electoral Registers in the libraries were not up-to-date in the latest elections.

We had an instance were a candidate in St Brides (Richard Trayler-Smith) used his adjacent neighbours as his nominators only to find that they were in a completely different ward some 5/6 miles away.

Regards.

Laraine McKeon Clerk to the Council CAERWENT COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Response from Abergavenny Town Council

From: peter johns [abertownclerk@btinternet.com]Sent: 25 September 2012 11:40To: ElectionsSubject: Review of Communities and Electoral Arrangements

Follow Up Flag: Follow up

Flag Status: Completed

Dear John,

Our Committee met last week and produced the following comments: Specifically, it was agreed that Llanwenarth Citra should be added to Grofield Ward to make

the river the boundary as this is much more logical.

It was agreed that streets should not be divided down the middle for ward boundaries, but at the back of properties or other more natural boundaries.

It was noted that there will be differences between ward populations in town and rural areas, but it was felt that the differences are too great at present. Without stipulating exact figures it was felt that the minimum number of electors per ward should be increased in rural areas and the minimum number of electors per local council should also be set at a level which makes the Council a viable entity, especially considering the additional powers now becoming available to local councils.

It was also considered that thought should be given to the concept of a "greater"

Abergavenny. In effect the Town had grown outwards over the years and many people living on the outskirts would consider themselves to live in Abergavenny when in fact they live in Llanfoist, Croesonen or Mardy.

I hope these comments can be incorporated in the Review regards Peter Johns

Town Clerk, Abergavenny

CONSULTATION QUESTIONS

REVIEW OF COMMUNITIES AND ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS

1. What other facilities can the Council utilise to ensure extensive consultation is carried out with as wide an audience as possible?

Provided adequate publicity for events is made the proposals are acceptable.

2. Is the existing level of representation across Town and Community Councils in Monmouthshire appropriate?

Given the discrepancies in ward size / elector representative ratios, a review is appropriate.

3. Should a consistent approach be applied to the level of representation of electors throughout Monmouthshire?

There may be an argument for retaining a discrepancy between Community Councils and Town Councils given the size and geographical spread of the former.

4. What methods could the Council utilise to ensure fair levels of representation throughout Monmouthshire?

Ensure that elector / member ratios are better distributed, particularly for Town Councils but it would be inappropriate to increase the size of any particular council.

5. Would a banding system of urban and rural wards be a suitable system to apply to the levels of representation and what factors should be considered when categorising the wards?

Yes: retain a differential between Community Councils and Town Councils.

6. Should there be a minimum and / or maximum number of electors in order for a ward to be created?

Yes. Maximum ward size of 1900 is suggested for Town Councils.

7. Should there be a minimum and / or maximum number of electors in order for a council to be created?

No: as there are arguments for retaining existing Councils.

8. In what circumstances should a council area be warded? Should there be a minimum and / or maximum number of wards the council area should be split into?

This will depend upon the elector / member ratio to be determined.

9. Do you agree that where possible whole streets should be contained in a single ward?

Yes.

10. If Streets must be split, what is the best approach to dividing them effectively?

The obvious differential topographical features e.g. respective side of the road / obvious cross roads.

11. What factors should the Council consider when identifying whether a boundary is easily identifiable?

As above.

12. Are there any other statistics that the Council should consider when projecting the population estimates for this review?

New build for which consent has been obtained and where work has started e.g. development of Severn Quay in Chepstow.

Responses to Terms of Reference Consultation – Online

idea	comment author	comment
ideas/question-1-what-other-facilities- can-the-council-utilise-to-ensure- extensive-consultation-is-carried-out- with-as-wide-an-audience-as-possible-2	mikefaraday	regular visits of officers to comunity councils and Rural Forum meetings
ideas/question-1-what-other-facilities- can-the-council-utilise-to-ensure- extensive-consultation-is-carried-out- with-as-wide-an-audience-as-possible-2	taashton	Utilise social networking sites such as Facebook and Twitter.
ideas/question-2-is-the-existing-level-of- representation-across-town-and- community-councils-in-monmouthshire- appropriate	geoweston	Yes but representation varies widely amongst communities. This needs to be addressed.
ideas/question-2-is-the-existing-level-of- representation-across-town-and- community-councils-in-monmouthshire- appropriate	mikefaraday	The representation should be based on communities regardless of size. The move to make all communities as near as possible identical in ratios will alienate members of the communities.
ideas/question-2-is-the-existing-level-of- representation-across-town-and- community-councils-in-monmouthshire- appropriate	taashton	The Councillor/elector ratio varies widely throughout. Whilst communities should remain the same the Councillor/elector ratio needs to be brought into line subject to a minumum number of councillors to run the council.

ideas/question-2-is-the-existing-level-of- representation-across-town-and- community-councils-in-monmouthshire- appropriate	kswift	Reducing the number of Community Councillors runs the risk that small but diverse communities/villages will loose their voice with the voice of the larger communities/villages dominating. To some extent the issue is not how many people you represent but ensuring that there is a strong engagement with the community/village that the Councillor represent. It may actually be reasonable that larger villages have a higher ratio of electors to Councillors.
ideas/question-3-should-a-consistent- approach-be-applied-to-the-level-of- representation-of-electors-throughout- monmouthshire	geoweston	Yes, insofar that it does not cut across "natural" community boundaries or create inappropriate new communities with no common interest. N.B. "natural" boundaries do not necessarily equate to all existing communities but many do.
ideas/question-3-should-a-consistent- approach-be-applied-to-the-level-of- representation-of-electors-throughout- monmouthshire	mikefaraday	Stick to community boundaries rather than creating artificial communities. The size is not always relevant. Consistency should not mean artificial divisions or amalgamations.
ideas/question-3-should-a-consistent- approach-be-applied-to-the-level-of- representation-of-electors-throughout- monmouthshire	taashton	Yes, with due regard to existing communities.
ideas/question-3-should-a-consistent- approach-be-applied-to-the-level-of- representation-of-electors-throughout- monmouthshire	kswift	Stick to natural boundaries.
ideas/question-4-what-methods-could- the-council-utilise-to-ensure-fair-levels- of-representation-throughout- monmouthshire	geoweston	Try to achieve changes in size of some communities by amalgamation, dissolution and/or creation of new ones. The difference is notable in rural communities, with some catering for only one discrete settlement (e.g. Llantrisant) whereas others cover a number of large villages (e.g. Trellech United).

ideas/question-4-what-methods-could- the-council-utilise-to-ensure-fair-levels- of-representation-throughout- monmouthshire	kswift	Using a numerical model has some merit in defining perhaps a minimum representation but, within a community council in particular using a strict numerical model can mean there is a domination by one large village. The effects may be less within a Town Council.
ideas/question-5-would-a-banding- system-of-urban-and-rural-ward-be-a- suitable-system-to-apply-to-the-levels-of- representation-and-what-factors-should- be-considered-when-categorising-the- wards	geoweston	Yes - try to achieve some consistency in representation through setting "ideal" representation figures for rural and urban wards. This will of course differ greatly between community councils and town councils, with town councils' levels of representation being higher than communities', due to population densities per square kilometre.
ideas/question-5-would-a-banding- system-of-urban-and-rural-ward-be-a- suitable-system-to-apply-to-the-levels-of- representation-and-what-factors-should- be-considered-when-categorising-the- wards	taashton	Yes, again with due respeot to existing towns and communities.
ideas/question-5-would-a-banding- system-of-urban-and-rural-ward-be-a- suitable-system-to-apply-to-the-levels-of- representation-and-what-factors-should- be-considered-when-categorising-the- wards	kswift	Banding could be used as a guide for indicative numbers for electors but, geographical considerations MUST be give due weight so that areas are duly represented.
ideas/question-6-should-there-be-a- minimum-and-or-maximum-number-of- electors-in-order-for-a-ward-to-be- created	geoweston	Ideally, yes but not in the case of wards which represent discrete villages, where it would be inappropriate to dissolve such a ward and merge it with a village some miles away.
ideas/question-6-should-there-be-a- minimum-and-or-maximum-number-of- electors-in-order-for-a-ward-to-be-	mikefaraday	Yes but these should be guidelines not rules and should not create artificial communities or split up clearly defined ones.

taashton	Yes, but any ward should reflect existing communities and towns. Small communities should still have a say in their community council.
kswift	Yes, there would have to be a minimum size but not to the extent of being so rigid that clearly discrete communities are not given a voice. The range between maximum and minimum should not be too small.
geoweston	In the case of community councils, yes, for reasons of equity. Town councils would probably need to stay "as is", for the reason that town boundarise are well-known and accepted. To create additional (and artifiacial) councils in such areas would be counter-productive and would generate much ill-feeling (for instance, Monmouth North and Monmouth South town councils).
taashton	Yes. However, whether new councils are necessary should be a matter for the electorate.
kswift	Only if there is a major change in an area effectively creating a new community where geographically no such centre existed previously ie., creating a "new town".
	kswift geoweston taashton

ideas/question-8-in-what-circumstances- should-a-council-area-be-warded-should- there-be-a-minimum-and-or-maximum- number-of-wards-the-council-should-be- split-into	geoweston	All councils should be warded, as electors prefer to to "own" a local councillor for their area, in the same way that they "own" their country councillor, AM and MP. I sometimes wonder whether the electors of, say, Usk prefer the current unwarded council or not. If I lived there, I would want to know who my local coucillor was. I wouldn't!
ideas/question-8-in-what-circumstances- should-a-council-area-be-warded-should- there-be-a-minimum-and-or-maximum- number-of-wards-the-council-should-be- split-into	taashton	Once a mean has been established for the Councillor/elector ratio this should be used to decide whether a council should be warded or not.
ideas/question-8-in-what-circumstances- should-a-council-area-be-warded-should- there-be-a-minimum-and-or-maximum- number-of-wards-the-council-should-be- split-into	kswift	I think ALL councils should be warded.
ideas/question-9-do-you-agree-that- where-possible-whole-streets-should-be- contained-in-a-single-ward	geoweston	Yes - otherwise it causes confusion. Keep it simple!
ideas/question-9-do-you-agree-that- where-possible-whole-streets-should-be- contained-in-a-single-ward	taashton	Certainly, there is currently a street in Monmouth where one side is in one ward and the other side in another ward.
ideas/question-9-do-you-agree-that-	kswift	Yes
where-possible-whole-streets-should-be- contained-in-a-single-ward		

ideas/question-10-if-streets-must-be- split-between-wards-what-is-the-best- approach-to-dividing-the-street- effectively	taashton	Should such a measure be absolutely necessary, streets should be divided across rather than along.
ideas/question-10-if-streets-must-be- split-between-wards-what-is-the-best- approach-to-dividing-the-street- effectively	kswift	Neither is ideal but, the geographical siting of the two wards should be used to decide whether to split across or along.
ideas/question-11-what-factors-should- the-council-consider-when-identifying- whether-a-boundary-is-easily-identifiable- 1	geoweston	In the case of communities, by using village boundaries wherever possible and/or "community of interest". There are of course anomalies, due to historical factors and geography. To quote an example, Trellech Grange adjoins and has historical links with Llanishen and Trellech, including its postal address - and indeed its name. However, despite those strong links, it finds itself in Tintern community, rather than being part of its "natural home", Trellech United. Towns would be best divided by district names and in most cases already are, although some anomalies exist.
ideas/question-11-what-factors-should- the-council-consider-when-identifying- whether-a-boundary-is-easily-identifiable- 1	kswift	Use village boundaries or geographical features where possible. But, not to the extent that this ignores long standing assocations between communities.

APPENDIX B – Uncontested Election results since previous community review

Community/Town Council (Ward)	Туре	No of seats	2012	2008	2004
Abergavenny (Cantref)	Town	3	No	YES	NO
Abergavenny (Castle)	Town	3	Yes	YES	YES
Abergavenny (Grofield)	Town	3	Yes	YES	YES
Abergavenny (Lansdown)	Town	3	Yes	YES	NO
Abergavenny (Priory)	Town	3	Yes	NO	YES
Caerwent (Caerwent)	Community	4	No	NO	NO
Caerwent (Crick)	Community	1	No	NO	NO
Caerwent (Dinham)	Community	1	No	NO	NO
Caerwent (Llanvair Discoed)	Community	2	No	NO	NO
Caerwent (St Brides Netherwent)	Community	2	No	NO	NO
Caldicot (Caldicot Castle)	Town	3	Yes	YES	YES
Caldicot (Dewstow)	Town	4	Yes	YES	YES
Caldicot (Green Lane)	Town	4	No	YES	YES
Caldicot (Severn)	Town	3	Yes	YES	YES
Caldicot (West End)	Town	3	Yes	YES	YES
Chepstow (Larkfield)	Town	3	Yes	YES	NO
Chepstow (St Christopher`s)	Town	3	No	NO	NO
Chepstow (St Kingsmark)	Town	3	Yes	YES	NO
Chepstow (St Mary`s)	Town	3	Yes	YES	NO
Chepstow (Thornwell)	Town	3	Yes	NO	NO
Crucorney (Bwlch Trewyn & Oldcastle)	Community	1	No	NO	NO
Crucorney (Forest & Ffwddog)	Community	2	No	NO	NO
Crucorney (Llanvihangel Crucorney)	Community	6	No	NO	NO
Crucorney (Lower Cwmyoy)	Community	1	No	NO	NO
Crucorney (Upper Cwmyoy)	Community	1	No	NO	NO
Devauden (Devauden)	Community	3	Yes	YES	NO
Devauden (Itton)	Community	2	No	NO	NO
Devauden (Kilgwrrwg)	Community	2	No	NO	NO
Devauden (Llanvihangel Wolvesnewton)	Community	1	No	NO	NO
Goetre Fawr (Goetre)	Community	9	No	NO	NO
Goetre Fawr (Mamhilad)	Community	3	No	NO	NO
Grosmont (Grosmont)	Community	5	No	NO	NO
Grosmont (Llangattock Lingoed)	Community	1	No	NO	NO
Grosmont (Llangua)	Community	1	No	NO	NO
Grosmont (Llanvetherine)	Community	2	No	NO	NO
Gwehelog Fawr (Gwehelog/llancayo)	Community	4	No	NO	NO
Gwehelog Fawr (Kemeys Commander)	Community	1	No	NO	NO

Gwehelog Fawr (Trostre)	Community	2	No	NO	NO
Llanarth (Bryngwyn)	Community	3	No	NO	NO
Llanarth (Clytha)	Community	3	No	NO	NO
Llanarth (Llanarth)	Community	2	No	NO	NO
Llanarth (Llanvapley)	Community	2	No	NO	NO
Llanbadoc (Glascoed)	Community	3	No	NO	NO
Llanbadoc (Llanbadoc)	Community	4	No	NO	NO
Llanbadoc (Monkswood)	Community	3	No	NO	NO
Llanelly (Clydach)	Community	2	No	NO	NO
Llanelly (Darrenfelin)	Community	2	Yes	NO	NO
Llanelly (Gilwern)	Community	10	No	NO	YES
Llanfoist Fawr (Llanellen)	Community	2	No	NO	YES
Llanfoist Fawr (Llanfoist)	Community	3	Yes	NO	NO
Llanfoist Fawr (Llanwenarth Citra)	Community	1	No	NO	NO
Llanfoist Fawr (Llanwenarth Ultra)	Community	6	No	YES	NO
Llangattock-Vibon-Avel (Llangattock)	Community	3	No	NO	NO
Llangattock-Vibon-Avel (Rockfield and St					
Maughans)	Community	3	No	YES	NO
Llangattock-Vibon-Avel (Skenfrith)	Community	4	No	NO	NO
Llangwm (Llangwm)	Community	5	No	NO	NO
Llangwm (Llansoy)	Community	2	No	NO	NO
Llangybi (Coed-Y-Paen)	Community	2	Yes	NO	NO
Llangybi (Llandegfedd)	Community	2	No	NO	NO
Llangybi (Llangybi)	Community	5	No	NO	NO
Llanhennock (Llangattock-Nigh-Caerleon)	Community	2	No	NO	NO
Llanhennock (Llanhennock)	Community	3	No	NO	NO
Llanhennock (Tredunnock)	Community	3	No	NO	NO
Llanover (Llanddewi Rhydderch)	Community	3	No	NO	NO
Llanover (Llanfair Cilgydyn)	Community	2	No	NO	NO
Llanover (Llangattock-Nigh-Usk)	Community	4	No	NO	NO
Llanover (Llanover)	Community	3	No	YES	NO
Llantilio Crossenny (Llantilio Crossenny)	Community	6	No	NO	YES
Llantilio Crossenny (Llanvihangel-Ystern-					
Llewern)	Community	1	No	YES	NO
Llantilio Crossenny (Penrhos)	Community	2	No	NO	NO
Llantilio Pertholey (Croesonen East)	Community	2	No	NO	NO
Llantilio Pertholey (Croesonen West)	Community	5	No	NO	NO
Llantilio Pertholey (Mardy)	Community	3	No	NO	NO
Llantilio Pertholey (Pantygelli)	Community	1	No	NO	NO
Llantilio Pertholey (Sgyrrid East)	Community	1	No	NO	NO
Llantilio Pertholey (Sgyrrid West)	Community	1	No	NO	NO
Llantrisant Fawr (Gwernesney)	Community	3	Yes	NO	NO
Llantrisant Fawr (Llantrisant)	Community	4	No	NO	NO
Magor with Undy (Denny)	Community	1	No	NO	NO
Magor with Undy (Mill)	Community	4	No	NO	YES

Magor with Undy (Salisbury)	Community	2	No	NO	NO
Magor with Undy (The Elms)	Community	6	No	NO	YES
Mathern (Mathern)	Community	5	No	YES	YES
Mathern (Mounton)	Community	1	No	NO	NO
Mathern (Pwllmeyric)	Community	3	No	NO	NO
Mitchel Troy (Cwmcarvan)	Community	2	No	NO	NO
Mitchel Troy (Dingestow)	Community	2	No	NO	NO
Mitchel Troy (Mitchel Troy)	Community	3	No	NO	NO
Mitchel Troy (Tregare)	Community	2	No	NO	NO
Mitchel Troy (Wonastow)	Community	1	No	NO	NO
Monmouth (Dixton with Osbaston)	Town	4	Yes	NO	NO
Monmouth (Drybridge)	Town	3	Yes	YES	NO
Monmouth (Overmonnow)	Town	4	Yes	YES	NO
Monmouth (Town)	Town	1	Yes	YES	YES
Monmouth (Wyesham)	Town	4	Yes	NO	YES
Portskewett (Leechpool)	Community	1	No	NO	YES
Portskewett (Portskewett Village)	Community	7	No	YES	YES
Portskewett (Sudbrook)	Community	2	No	NO	NO
Raglan (Llandenny)	Community	2	No	NO	NO
Raglan (Pen-Y-Clawdd)	Community	1	No	NO	YES
Raglan (Raglan)	Community	8	No	YES	NO
Rogiet	Community	11	No	NO	NO
Shirenewton (Earlswood)	Community	2	No	NO	NO
Shirenewton (Mynyddbach)	Community	2	No	NO	NO
Shirenewton (Newchurch)	Community	1	No	NO	NO
Shirenewton (Shirenewton)	Community	5	Yes	NO	NO
St Arvans	Community	8	No	NO	NO
Tintern (Chapel Hill)	Community	3	No	NO	NO
Tintern (Penterry)	Community	1	No	NO	NO
Tintern (Tintern Parva)	Community	3	No	YES	NO
Tintern (Trellech Grange)	Community	1	No	NO	NO
Trellech United (Catbrook)	Community	2	No	YES	NO
Trellech United (Llandogo)	Community	2	No	NO	NO
Trellech United (Llanishen)	Community	2	No	NO	YES
Trellech United (Narth)	Community	2	No	NO	NO
Trellech United (Penallt)	Community	2	No	NO	NO
Trellech United (Trellech Town)	Community	2	No	NO	YES
Trellech United (Whitebrook)	Community	1	No	NO	NO
Usk	Town	12	No	YES	YES

APPENDIX C – Electorate Summary

Community Council	Council electorate	Number of councillors	Councillor/ elector ratio	Ward	Polling District	County Division	Electors	Number of Clirs	Councillor/ Elector Ratio	2017 electorate forecast *	CIIr/ Elector ratio
Abergavenny Town Council				Cantref	AB1	Cantref	1695	3	565		
Abergavenny Town Council				Grofield	AB2	Grofield	1413	3	471		
Abergavenny Town Council	7990	15	533	Castle	AB3	Castle	1607	3	536		
Abergavenny Town Council				Lansdown	AB4	Lansdown	1721	3	574		
Abergavenny Town Council				Priory	AB5	Priory	1554	3	518		
Caerwent Community Council				Caerwent	CA1	Caerwent	599	4	150		
Caerwent Community Council			151	Dinham	CA2	Caerwent	262	1	262	526	526
Caerwent Community Council	1510	10		Crick	CA3	Caerwent	166	1	166		
Caerwent Community Council				Llanvair Discoed	CA4	Caerwent	252	2	126		
Caerwent Community Council				St Brides Netherwent	CA5	Caerwent	231	2	116		
Caldicot Town Council				Caldicot Castle	V1	Caldicot Castle	1676	3	559	2006	669
Caldicot Town Council				Dewstow	V2	Dewstow	1517	4	379		
Caldicot Town Council	7704	17	453	Green Lane	V3	Green Lane	1539	4	385		
Caldicot Town Council				Severn	V4	Severn	1385	3	462		
Caldicot Town Council				West End	V5A/V5B	West End	1587	3	529		

Chepstow Town Council				Larkfield	CH1	Larkfield	1581	3	527		
Chepstow Town Council				St Christophers	CH2	St Christophers	1892	3	631		
Chepstow Town Council	9430	15	629	St Kingsmark	CH3	St Kingsmark	2336	3	779		
Chepstow Town Council				St Mary's	CH4	St Mary's	1522	3	507	1860	620
Chepstow Town Council				Thornwell	CH5	Thornwell	2099	3	700		
Crucorney Community Council				Bwlch Trewyn & Old Castle	CR1	Crucorney	51	1	51		
Crucorney Community Council			95	Forest & Ffwddog	CR2	Crucorney	119	2	60		
Crucorney Community Council	1048	11		Llanvihangel Crucorney	CR3	Crucorney	731	6	122		
Crucorney Community Council				Lower Cwmyoy	CR4	Crucorney	86	1	86		
Crucorney Community Council				Upper Cwmyoy	CR5	Crucorney	61	1	61		
Devauden Community Council				Devauden	DE1	Devauden	409	3	136		
Devauden Community Council	050	0	407	Itton	DE2	Devauden	196	2	98		
Devauden Community Council	852	8	107	Kilgrwwg	DE3	Devauden	104	2	52		
Devauden Community Council				Llanvihangel Wolvesnewton	DE4	Devauden	143	1	143		
Goetre Community Council	1889	12	157	Goetre	G1	Goetre	1309	9	145		
Goetre Community Council	1009	12	157	Mamhilad	G2	Goetre	580	3	193		

Grosmont Community Council			75	Grosmont	CR6	Crucorney	420	5	84	
Grosmont Community Council	673	9		Llangattock Lingoed	CR7	Crucorney	89	1	89	
Grosmont Community Council	0/5	5		Llangua	CR8	Crucorney	43	1	43	
Grosmont Community Council				Llanvetherine	CR9	Crucorney	121	2	61	
Gwehelog Fawr Community Council				Gwehelog / Llancayo	LB1	Llanbadoc	265	4	66	
Gwehelog Fawr Community Council	384	7	55	Kemeys Commander	LB2	Llanbadoc	34	1	34	
Gwehelog Fawr Community Council				Trostre	LB3	Llanbadoc	85	2	43	
Llanarth Community Council				Bryngwyn	LO1	Llanover	209	3	70	
Llanarth Community Council	684	10	68	Clytha	LO2A / LO2B	Llanover	220	3	73	
Llanarth Community Council	004	10		Llanarth	LO3	Llanover	145	2	73	
Llanarth Community Council				Llanvapley	LO4	Llanover	110	2	55	
Llanbadoc Community Council				Glascoed	LB4	Llanbadoc	221	3	74	
Llanbadoc Community Council	671	10	67	Llanbadoc	LB5	Llanbadoc	205	4	51	
Llanbadoc Community Council				Monkswood	LB6	Llanbadoc	245	3	82	
Llanelly Hill Community Council			233	Clydach	LE1A / LE1B	Llanelly Hill	549	2	275	
Llanelly Hill Community Council	3261	14		Darrenfelin	LE2	Llanelly Hill	502	2	251	
Llanelly Hill Community Council				Gilwern	LE3A / LE3B	Llanelly Hill	2210	10	221	

Llanfoist Community Council			226	Llanellen	LF1	Llanfoist	411	2	206		
Llanfoist Community Council	2716	12		Llanfoist	LF2	Llanfoist	1026	3	342	1568	523
Llanfoist Community Council	2710	12	220	Llanwenarth Citra	LF3	Llanfoist	139	1	139		
Llanfoist Community Council				Llanwenarth Ultra	LF4	Llanwenarth Ultra	1140	6	190		
Llangattock Vibon Avel Community Council				Llangattock- Vibon-Avel	LT1	Llantilio Crossenny	296	3	99		
Llangattock Vibon Avel Community Council	850	10	85	Skenfrith	LT2	Llantilio Crossenny	314	4	79		
Llangattock Vibon Avel Community Council				St Maughans	LT3	Llantilio Crossenny	240	3	80		
Llangwm Community Council	355	7	51	Llangwm	DE5	Devauden	224	5	45		
Llangwm Community Council	300	7		Llansoy	DE6	Devauden	131	2	66		
Llangybi Fawr Community Council				Coed-Y-Paen	LG1	Llangybi	116	2	58		
Llangybi Fawr Community Council	740	9	82	Llandegfedd	LG2	Llangybi	153	2	77		
Llangybi Fawr Community Council				Llangybi	LG3	Llangybi	471	5	94		
Llanhennock Community Council				Llangattock-Nigh- Caerleon	LG4	Llangybi	96	2	48		
Llanhennock Community Council	413	413 8	52	Llanhennock	LG5	Llangybi	162	3	54		
Llanhennock Community Council				Tredunnock	LG6	Llangybi	155	3	52		

Llanover Community Council				Llanddewi Rhydderch	LO6	Llanover	321	3	107		
Llanover Community Council	4400	12		Llanfair Cilgydyn	LO7	Llanover	179	2	90		
Llanover Community Council	1128	12	94	Llangattock-Nigh- Usk	LO8	Llanover	387	4	97		
Llanover Community Council				Llanover	LO9	Llanover	241	3	80		
Llantilio Crossenny Community Council				Llantilio Crossenny	LT4	Llantilio Crossenny	362	6	60		
Llantilio Crossenny Community Council	580	9	64	Llanvihangel- Ystern-Llewern	LT5	Llantilio Crossenny	71	1	71		
Llantilio Crossenny Community Council				Penrhos	LT6	Llantilio Crossenny	147	2	74		
Llantilio Pertholey Community Council				Croesonen East	LP1	Croesonen	556	2	278	600	300
Llantilio Pertholey Community Council				Croesonen West	LP2	Croesonen	1131	5	226		
Llantilio Pertholey Community Council	0000	10		Mardy	LP3	Mardy	874	3	291		
Llantilio Pertholey Community Council	3098	13	238	Pantygelli	LP4	Mardy	85	1	85		
Llantilio Pertholey Community Council				Sgyrrid East	LP5	Mardy	180	1	180		
Llantilio Pertholey Community Council				Sgyrrid West	LP6	Mardy	272	1	272		
Llantrisant Community Council	329	7	47	Gwernesney	LG7	Llangybi	116	3	39		
Llantrisant Community Council	523	329 7	47	Llantrisant	LG8	Llangybi	213	4	53		

Magor with Undy Community Council				Denny	W1	Mill	143	1	143		
Magor with Undy Community Council	4676	13	360	Mill	W2A / W2B	Mill	1331	4	333		
Magor with Undy Community Council	4070		360	Salisbury	W3	Mill	734	2	367	914	457
Magor with Undy Community Council				The Elms	W4	The Elms	2468	6	411	2488	415
Mathern Community Council				Mathern	S5	Shirenewton	471	5	94		
Mathern Community Council	874	9	97	Mounton	S6	Shirenewton	77	1	77		
Mathern Community Council				Pwllmeyric	S7	Shirenewton	326	3	109		
Mitchel Troy Community Council				Cwmcarvan	MT1	Mitchel Troy	162	2	81		
Mitchel Troy Community Council			99	Dingestow	MT2	Mitchel Troy	234	2	117		
Mitchel Troy Community Council	993	10		Mtichel Troy	МТЗ	Mitchel Troy	341	3	114		
Mitchel Troy Community Council				Tregare	MT4	Mitchel Troy	179	2	90		
Mitchel Troy Community Council				Wonastow	MT5	Mitchel Troy	77	1	77		
Monmouth Town Council				Osbaston	MO1A / MO1B	Dixton with Osbaston	1902	4	476	1980	495
Monmouth Town Council				Town	MO2	Drybridge	588	1	588	612	612
Monmouth Town Council	7994 16	500	Drybridge	MO3	Drybridge	2051	3	684	2219	740	
Monmouth Town Council			Overmonnow	MO4	Overmonnow	1774	4	444			
Monmouth Town Council				Wyesham	MO5	Wyesham	1679	4	420	1783	446

Portskewett Community Council				Leechpool	P1	Portskewett	168	1	168		!
Portskewett Community Council	1765	10	177	Portskewett Village	P2	Portskewett	1308	7	187	1392	199
Portskewett Community Council				Sudbrook	P3	Portskewett	289	2	145		
Raglan Community Council		585 11		Llandenny	R1A / R1B	Raglan	366	2	183		
Raglan Community Council	1585		144	Pen-Y-Clawdd	R2	Raglan	99	1	99		
Raglan Community Council				Raglan	R3	Raglan	1120	8	140		
Roget Community Council	1349	11	123	Rogiet	Х	Rogiet	1349	11	123		
Shirenewton Community Council			92	Earlswood	S1	Shirenewton	143	2	72		
Shirenewton Community Council	915	10		Mynyddbach	S2	Shirenewton	217	2	109		
Shirenewton Community Council	313	10		Newchurch	S3	Shirenewton	91	1	91		
Shirenewton Community Council				Shirenewton	S4	Shirenewton	464	5	93		
St Arvans Community Council	626	8	78	St Arvans	ST1	St Arvans	626	8	78		
Tintern Community Council				Chapel Hill	ST2	St Arvans	200	3	67		
Tintern Community Council	687	8	86	Penterry	ST3	St Arvans	55	1	55		
Tintern Community Council				Tintern Parva	ST4	St Arvans	360	3	120		
Tintern Community Council				Trellech Grange	ST5	St Arvans	72	1	72		

Trellech United Community Council				Catbrook	TU1	Trellech United	319	2	160				
Trellech United Community Council				Llandogo	TU2	Trellech United	441	2	221				
Trellech United Community Council				Llanishen	TU3	Trellech United	274	2	137				
Trellech United Community Council	2199	13	169	Narth	TU4	Trellech United	342	2	171				
Trellech United Community Council				Penallt	TU5	Trellech United	414	2	207				
Trellech United Community Council						Trellech Town	TU6	Trellech United	327	2	164		
Trellech United Community Council				Whitebrook	TU7	Trellech United	82	1	82				
Usk Town Council	1957	12	163	Usk	U1 / U2	Usk	1957	12	163	2187	182		
						Total	71925	356	202				

* 2017 electorate forecast relates to those areas with significant housing development planned or in progress over the next 5 years.