



Comisiwn
Democratiaeth a
Ffiniau Cymru

Democracy
and Boundary
Commission Cymru

Carmarthenshire Community Review: Decision Statement

Community Review Background

From time to time, there may be a need to make changes to community areas due to shifts in the population. Such changes may involve changes to the boundary of the community and, where a community council exists, changes to the electoral arrangements for the community council. These changes are predominantly achieved by means of community reviews under the Democracy and Boundary Commission Cymru etc. Act 2013 (the Act).

A review of community boundaries under section 25 should ensure that communities continue to reflect local identities and facilitate effective and convenient local government. For example, over time communities may expand with new housing developments. This can lead to boundaries becoming anomalous, for example if new housing is built across boundaries resulting in confusion over which community a housing estate falls into. A community review offers an opportunity to the principal council to put in place strong, clearly defined boundaries tied to ground features, and to remove any anomalous boundaries that exist.

The Commission has published guidance on how to conduct community reviews which is available on its [website](#).

Legal Process

The Act regulates:

- the process for conducting community reviews;
- the outcome of community reviews; and
- the implementation of changes that are proposed at the conclusion of community reviews.

Sections 35 and 36 of the Act require that a principal council carrying out a community review must take four essential steps:

- Initial publicity;
- Initial investigation and consultation;
- Draft proposals (and consultation on those proposals); and
- Final recommendations

At the conclusion of a section 25 boundaries review, the principal council may recommend “community boundary changes”. These are defined in section 23(4) of the Act as including changes to the boundary of an existing community, but also the abolition of an existing community and the creation of a new community.

The Commission is the “implementing authority” for section 25 boundaries reviews. Accordingly, upon completion of a section 25 review, the principal council is required to submit its report to the Commission.

Upon receiving the principal council’s report, the Commission has a choice:

- it can implement the principal council's recommendations without modifications;
- it can implement the recommendations with modifications that are agreed with the principal council;
- it can choose to conduct its own review; or
- it can take no action.

Importantly the law requires that the Commission only implement a recommendation with modification where they are satisfied it is in the interests of effective and convenient local government.

Decision

In coming to its decision the Commission first had to decide whether the principal council has complied with both the requirements of the Act and the detailed arrangements within its agreed Terms of Reference document. The Commission is satisfied the principal council has met these requirements.

The Commission then considered the individual recommendation and the representations received in respect of the recommendation.

The Commission has decided to implement the recommendation submitted by the principal council.

Recommendations submitted by the principal council

- Transfer the remains of Whitland Abbey and the surrounding land owned by the Menevia Diocese from the Pontyfenni ward of the Community of Llanboidy to the North ward of the Community of Whitland. (map 1)

Consequential Changes to Electoral Wards

The Commission will apply consequential changes to the electoral wards of Llanboidy, and Whitland to reflect the changes made by the above changes to the community boundaries.

The changes will be reflected in an implementation order and will come into force at the next local government elections.

Area to be transferred from Pontyfenni (Llanboidy) to North (Whitland)

