

PEMBROKESHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
REVIEW OF COMMUNITY ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS
FINAL REPORT

Published pursuant to Section 31 of the Local Government (Democracy) (Wales) Act 2013

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1. Introduction

Pembrokeshire County Council has undertaken a Review of Community Electoral Arrangements under Section 31 of the Local Government (Democracy) (Wales) Act 2013.

The purpose of the review has been to consider whether the existing electoral arrangements within a number of communities continue to secure effective and convenient local government and to determine whether changes should be made to community council membership, community warding arrangements and related electoral arrangements.

The review has considered the electoral arrangements of the following communities:

- Lamphey
- Llanrhian
- St Dogmaels
- Wolfscastle
- Nolton and Roch
- Martletwy
- Stackpole and Castlemartin
- Pencaer

The review has been undertaken having regard to the Council's adopted Community Council Size Policy and the guidance issued by Democracy and Boundary Commission Cymru.

2. Background

On 12 October 2023, Pembrokeshire County Council adopted a Community Council Size Policy establishing a consistent framework for determining the appropriate size of community councils across the County.

The policy provides that:

- Community councils with fewer than 500 electors should ordinarily comprise six councillors unless alternative arrangements are approved;
- Community councils with more than 500 electors should generally have a councillor-to-electors ratio of between 1:80 and 1:160, with the aim of achieving a ratio as close as possible to 1:120;
- Community councils should comprise no fewer than six and no more than twelve councillors; and
- Community warding arrangements should be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Following completion of the wider Pembrokeshire Community Review, a number of electoral arrangements were identified as requiring further consideration through a Section 31 Review of Community Electoral Arrangements.

The Council therefore commenced this review to consider council size, warding arrangements and related matters within the affected communities.

3. Review Process

The review was undertaken in accordance with the Local Government (Democracy) (Wales) Act 2013 and the guidance issued by Democracy and Boundary Commission Cymru.

The review process included:

1. Notification of statutory consultees;
2. Consultation with affected community councils;
3. Consultation with local elected members;
4. Public consultation;
5. Consideration of all representations received; and
6. Preparation of Final Proposals.

The consultation period closed on 11 September 2026.

A total of twelve responses were received from community councils, elected members, statutory consultees and members of the public.

4. Summary of Consultation Responses

The Democracy and Boundary Commission Cymru supported all of the proposals consulted upon.

A number of respondents supported the proposals generally and agreed that electoral arrangements should be brought into closer alignment with the Council's adopted policy framework.

Several respondents raised concerns regarding reductions in community council membership, citing the importance of maintaining local representation, supporting community activity and ensuring sufficient councillor capacity within rural communities.

Detailed consideration was given to all representations received before final proposals were formulated.

5. Final Proposals

Having considered all representations received during the review process, Pembrokeshire County Council makes the following Final Proposals.

Lamphey

Final Proposal

Reduce community council membership from **9 councillors to 6 councillors**.

Llanrhian

Final Proposal

Reduce community council membership from **9 councillors to 7 councillors**.

St Dogmaels

Final Proposal

Reduce community council membership from **12 councillors to 9 councillors**.

Wolfscastle

Final Proposal

Retain the existing community ward structure and reduce overall community council membership from **7 councillors to 6 councillors**, allocated as follows:

Ward	Councillors
Trefgarn	2
Wolfscastle	4

Nolton and Roch

Final Proposal

- Abolish the existing community ward structure; and
 - Reduce community council membership from **8 councillors to 7 councillors**.
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Martletwy

Final Proposal

- Abolish the existing community ward structure.
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Stackpole and Castlemartin

Final Proposal

- Abolish the existing community ward structure; and
 - Reduce community council membership from **7 councillors to 6 councillors**.
-

Pencaer

Final Proposal

- Abolish the existing community ward structure; and
-

6. Reasons for the Proposals

In reaching its Final Proposals, the Council has considered:

- The Community Council Size Policy adopted by the Council;
- The representations received during consultation;
- Electoral equality and effective representation;
- The need to secure effective and convenient local government;
- The conclusions of the wider Pembrokeshire Community Review; and
- Guidance issued by Democracy and Boundary Commission Cymru.

The Council recognises the views expressed during the consultation process and the valuable contribution made by community councils throughout Pembrokeshire.

However, having considered all evidence submitted, the Council is satisfied that the Final Proposals represent an appropriate balance between maintaining effective local representation and achieving greater consistency with the Council's adopted policy framework.

The Council has further concluded that the proposals will simplify electoral arrangements where appropriate, remove unnecessary warding arrangements and continue to secure effective and convenient local government within the affected communities.

7. Conclusion

The review has been completed in accordance with the requirements of the Local Government (Democracy) (Wales) Act 2013.

Having considered all representations received, Pembrokeshire County Council has resolved to adopt the proposals set out in this report as its Final Proposals for the future electoral arrangements of the communities reviewed.

8. Publication of Final Proposals

This Final Proposals Report is published by Pembrokeshire County Council in accordance with the requirements of the Local Government (Democracy) (Wales) Act 2013.

Copies of this report are available:

- On the Council's website; and
- For inspection at County Hall, Haverfordwest, during normal office hours.

Following publication of this report, Pembrokeshire County Council may make an Order giving effect to the proposals contained within this report after the expiry of a period of six weeks beginning with the date of publication.

Any Order made by the Council will specify the date upon which the approved electoral arrangements shall come into force.

Appendix A - Schedule of Final Proposals

Community	Final Proposal
Lamphey	Reduce membership from 9 to 6
Llanrhian	Reduce membership from 9 to 7
St Dogmaels	Reduce membership from 12 to 9
Wolfscastle	Retain wards; Trefgarn 2, Wolfscastle 4
Nolton and Roch	Abolish wards and reduce membership from 8 to 7
Martletwy	Abolish wards
Stackpole and Castlemartin	Abolish wards and reduce membership from 7 to 6
Pencaer	Abolish wards