

## **Cyngor Sir Caerfyrddin | Carmarthenshire County Council**

**\*Examining the implications of the electoral systems and boundaries recommended by the Expert Panel for democratic representation in Wales, and considering how the principles identified by the Expert Panel might be weighted to ensure that the Assembly's electoral arrangements are appropriate to the Welsh context:**

Carmarthenshire County Council is supportive of any change introduced that will enhance democratic representation and participation, the question as to what electoral system and boundaries are adopted are a matter for Welsh Government and the Assembly Commission. Our only observations/concerns would be that there is put in place within adequate timelines an all Wales comprehensive engagement package to lessen the confusion to the Welsh Electorate as Welsh Voters are already using multiple differing electoral systems. We would also ask that Returning Officers and their staff are given adequate time to effectively plan for and resource any electoral change.

**\*Exploring public sentiment and understanding of the Assembly's current electoral arrangements and boundaries and the options recommended by the Expert Panel:**

Carmarthenshire County Council is fully supportive of the Committee on Assembly Electoral Reform exploring public sentiment.

**\*Considering the implications for political parties in Wales of changing the electoral system and boundary models:**

Carmarthenshire County Council does not hold a view on this matter. However, we would like to stress our support for keeping local government franchise aligned with Welsh Assembly franchise

**\*Exploring the principles and practicalities of establishing boundary review arrangements for Assembly electoral areas:**

Carmarthenshire County Council fully support the proposal to explore establishing boundary review arrangements for Assembly electoral areas. We understand that this needs to be explored to establish the future electoral system for the National Assembly, our only observation is that we would welcome the retention of coterminous Westminster and Assembly constituencies as we believe a requirement for two completely different sets of constituency boundaries is not ideal for voters.

**Considering the cost and resource implications of reforming the electoral system and Assembly Boundaries:**

Carmarthenshire County Council urge the Committee on Assembly Electoral Reform to consider how Returning Officers and their staff will be able to effectively plan for and resource any electoral change