



**RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**COUNCIL**

**24<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2018**

**REVIEW OF ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS BY  
THE LOCAL DEMOCRACY AND BOUNDARY COMMISSION FOR WALES**

**JOINT REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF LEGAL AND DEMOCRATIC SERVICES  
AND THE DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INTERIM HEAD OF  
DEMOCRATIC SERVICES.**

**1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to provide Members with feedback from the stakeholder engagement initiated by Council in respect of the review of the Council's electoral arrangements being conducted by the Local Democracy and Boundary Commission for Wales (the 'Boundary Commission') and to consider whether or not to submit a Council proposal to the Boundary Commission as part of its initial phase of consultation relating to the review.

**2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

It is recommended that Council:

- 2.1 Considers the feedback received as part of the stakeholder engagement initiated by Council (and set out in Appendix B to the report), in respect of the proposals outlined in Appendix A that relate to the review of the Council's electoral arrangements by the Boundary Commission;
- 2.2 Determines whether or not to submit a Council proposal to the Boundary Commission as part of its initial phase of consultation relating to the review of the Council's electoral arrangements; and if unanimous Member agreement is not achieved in respect of all proposals, areas of no agreement, or majority agreement, are highlighted to the Boundary Commission to inform their future deliberations; and
- 2.3 Notes the timetable outlined in paragraph 5 of the report in respect of the process for conducting the remainder of the review by the Boundary Commission.

### **3. BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT**

- 3.1 Section 29 of the Local Government (Democracy) (Wales) Act 2013 places a duty upon the Boundary Commission to review the electoral arrangements for each principal area at least once every ten years.
- 3.2 On 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2016 the Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Local Government published a Written Statement asking the Boundary Commission to recommence its 10 year programme of electoral reviews with an expectation that a review of all 22 electoral areas be completed in time for the new arrangements to be put into place for the 2022 local government elections.
- 3.3 The review of electoral arrangements for a principal area includes consideration of:-
- The number of Members for that principal area
  - The number, type and boundaries of Electoral Wards
  - The number of Members for any Electoral Ward in the principal area.
  - The name of any Electoral Ward.
- 3.4 The principles of the review are a consideration of:-
- Electoral parity
  - The number of Councillors remaining at 75
  - To discourage multi member wards beyond a maximum of 3
  - Natural boundaries to be used as far as possible
  - Community Ward boundaries should not be revised unless absolutely necessary
  - Each Ward should have one name which should be bilingual
- 3.5 At the Council Meeting held on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> June 2018, consideration was given to the urgent report in respect of the Review of Electoral Arrangements by the Boundary Commission. It was resolved that, in accordance with Minute No.139 of the Council Meeting held on the 25<sup>th</sup> April 2018, commentary upon a review of electoral arrangements include a Working Group comprising all Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee with an invitation extended to all Members.
- 3.6 At the Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting held on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> July 2018 Members agreed key terms of reference for the Working Group review, acknowledging that community boundaries should be used as the building blocks for the review. Members also resolved to instruct Officers to develop proposals and appropriate feedback mechanisms in accordance with the principles set out in the report to Council on the 27<sup>th</sup> June 2018. Members agreed the following key terms of reference for the review and for Officers in respect of developing proposals, namely:

- 3.6.1 To acknowledge the use of Community Boundary Wards as the essential building blocks for the review;
  - 3.6.2 To keep change to a minimum;
  - 3.6.3 To acknowledge that some Electoral Wards will need to be amended in some formal way within the parameters outlined in the Boundary Commission guidance;
  - 3.6.4 To instruct Officers to develop options based on these principles; and
  - 3.6.5 To instruct Officers to develop appropriate feedback mechanisms.
- 3.7 On the 25<sup>th</sup> July 2018 Council received a presentation from the Boundary Commission in respect of the electoral review at its meeting held on the 25<sup>th</sup> July 2018.
- 3.8 The initial phase of the electoral review itself commenced on 1<sup>st</sup> August 2018 and ran until 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2018. The Boundary Commission will now prepare Draft Proposals for the electoral arrangements for the County Borough and this will present a further opportunity for comments and representations to be made. Details of their review can be found on the Boundary Commission website via the following link:
- [RCT CBC ELECTORAL REVIEW](#) | [RCT CBC ELECTORAL REVIEW - CYMRAEG](#)
- 3.9 A special meeting of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee was held on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2018 to consider proposals developed by Officers in respect of the review of the Council's electoral arrangements. The Overview and Scrutiny Committee resolved to recommend that Council agree those proposals be subject to a period of stakeholder engagement.
- 3.10 At the Council meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> September 2018 Members considered the proposals the Overview and Scrutiny Committee had recommended be subject to a period of stakeholder engagement. Those proposals are attached as Appendix A to this report.
- 3.11 Council resolved that the proposals be subject to a period of stakeholder engagement as was outlined in the report to Council.
- 3.12 Members should note that due to this meeting falling the day after the closure of the Boundary Commission's consultation period the Council has received agreement from the Boundary Commission to submit any Council proposal by 5p.m. Friday 26<sup>th</sup> October.

#### **4. STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT**

- 4.1 The period of engagement ran from the 21<sup>st</sup> September until 12<sup>th</sup> October 2018.
- 4.2 Feedback from this engagement exercise is attached at Appendix B to this report.
- 4.3 The engagement was publicised on the Council's website and via social media. Four community engagement events were held as follows:
- Llantrisant Leisure Centre - 5-7p.m. on the 4<sup>th</sup> October;
  - Rhondda Sports Centre, Ystrad - 12-2p.m. on the 5<sup>th</sup> October;
  - Ferndale Library - 10a.m.-12p.m. on the 8<sup>th</sup> October; and
  - Sobell Leisure Centre, Aberdare, 2-4p.m. on the 11<sup>th</sup> October.
- 4.4 The engagement also included seeking the views of the Community and Town Councils at the meeting of the Community Council Liaison Committee held on the 25<sup>th</sup> September 2018.
- 4.5 The individual responses submitted by County Borough Councillors to the LGB Review Mailbox ([LGBreview@rctcbc.gov.uk](mailto:LGBreview@rctcbc.gov.uk)) are also summarised in Appendix B to this report.

#### **5. ELECTORAL REVIEW TIMETABLE**

- 5.1 The overall timetable for the Electoral Review is detailed below:

**Stage 1 – Official Start** – this is the 12 week initial consultation period which ran from the 1<sup>st</sup> August 2018 - 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2018

##### **Stage 2 – Boundary Commission's Draft Proposals**

Boundary Commission develops and then publishes Draft Proposals - 12 Week consultation period during Summer 2019 – The Council will obviously be a consultee and be able to respond to those draft proposals should it resolve to do so

##### **Stage 3 – Boundary Commission formulating a Final Proposals report**

Submission to Welsh Government in spring 2020

##### **Stage 4 – Welsh Government Consideration**

Six weeks after receipt of the Boundary Commission's Final Proposals Welsh Government may make an Order in respect of the future electoral arrangements (n.b. there is an opportunity to write to Welsh Government regarding minor modifications at this point)

## **Stage 5 – New Electoral Wards come into force for May 2022 Local Government elections**

### **6. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 The Electoral Review is being conducted by the Boundary Commission under the provisions of the Local Government (Democracy) (Wales) Act 2013.

### **7. CONSULTATION**

- 7.1 The Boundary Commission has undertaken a 12 Week initial consultation period, which commenced on the 1<sup>st</sup> August 2018 and ended on 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2018 which invited proposals ahead of the Boundary Commission publishing its own draft proposals in summer 2019. As part of the approach agreed by Council, a period of stakeholder engagement as detailed in section 4 above was undertaken on the proposals outlined in Appendix A to this report, the results of which are included at Appendix B.
- 7.2 Unless it receives representations, the Boundary Commission will shape the future electoral arrangements in Rhondda Cynon Taf. By submitting a Council proposal the knowledge and wishes of local members and stakeholders would be taken into account.

### **8. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS**

- 8.1 A full equality and diversity assessment is not required at this time. This position will be re-evaluated on an ongoing basis as related actions are delivered.

### **9. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 9.1 Members should note that there would be some financial implications from 2022 because of the proposal to move the Tyla Garw Community (which currently forms part of Llanharry Community Council) from the Llanharry Electoral Ward into the Pont-y-clun Electoral Ward and consequently Pont-y-clun Community Council. This may mean a variance in council tax because of varying Community Council precept rates.

### **10. CONCLUSION**

- 10.1 Having initiated the stakeholder engagement in respect of the proposals detailed in Appendix A to the report and considered the feedback from that engagement as detailed in Appendix B it is now for Council to determine whether or not it wishes to submit a Council proposal to the Boundary Commission as part of its initial phase of consultation in respect of the review of the Council's electoral arrangements. Should unanimous Member agreement not be possible in respect of all the proposals delineation between

those the subject of no agreement, or majority agreement, be highlighted to the Boundary Commission to best inform their future deliberations.

**ELECTORAL WARD PROPOSALS**

- 1.1 Appendix A1 shows the current electoral arrangements in Rhondda Cynon Taf. This shows that currently across the 52 Electoral Wards there is a ratio of 2,302 electors per Member (based on 75 Members and an electorate of 172,673 as at 1<sup>st</sup> June 2018).
- 1.2 Appendix A2 is a map of the Electoral Wards highlighting the existing variance (from the County Borough average of 2,302) in electoral representation for each Ward.
- 1.3 There is a proposed reduction in Electoral Wards from 52 to 44 resulting in the Electoral Wards shown in Appendix A3. Appendix A3 shows the proposed Electoral Wards together with electorate totals and resulting variance in electoral representation from the County Borough average of 2,302 electorate per Member. Appendix A4 is a map showing the proposed changes for Rhondda Cynon Taf as a whole together with the resulting variance in electoral representation.
- 1.4 No changes are proposed to be made to the following 24 existing Electoral Wards:

<b>ELECTORAL WARD</b>	<b>MEMBERS</b>	<b>CURRENT VARIANCE</b>
Abercynon	2	-3%
Aberdare East	2	6%
Aberdare West/Llwydcoed	3	4%
Cilfynydd	1	-9%
Cwm Clydach	1	-16%
Cymmer	2	-14%
Gilfach Goch	1	6%
Glyncoch	1	-12%
Hirwaun	1	36%*
Llantwit Fardre	2	4%
Penrhiwceiber	2	-11%
Pentre	2	-16%
Pen-Y-Graig	2	-15%
Pen-Y-Waun	1	-13%
Pontypridd Town	1	-6%
Porth	2	-7%
Rhigos	1	-39%*
Taffs Well	1	23%
Tonypandy	1	15%
Tonyrefail East	2	-7%
Trallwng	1	21%
Treforest	1	26%*
Treherbert	2	-10%
Ystrad	2	-8%

\* See paragraph 1.25 and 1.26 for commentary on reasoning behind proposal to retain existing Electoral Wards of Hirwaun, Rhigos and Treforest

- 1.5 It is proposed to retain 4 existing Electoral Wards but increase or decrease the number of Members representing the particular Electoral Ward.
- 1.6 Revised Electoral Ward boundaries are proposed for 18 existing Electoral Wards through merging existing Electoral Wards (and associated Community Wards) and any associated changes in Member representation thereby creating 9 new Electoral Wards.
- 1.7 Revised Electoral Ward boundaries are proposed for 6 existing Electoral Wards through revising Community Ward boundaries and any associated changes in Member representation together with the creation of 1 new Electoral Ward as a consequential effect of a revision to the existing Electoral Ward boundaries (and associated constituent Community Wards) of Hawthorn and Rhydfelen Central/Ilan.
- 1.8 The proposed changes to the existing Electoral Wards are detailed below.

1.9 **Aberaman North & South**

**Proposal:** Merge existing Electoral Wards of Aberaman North and Aberaman South to create a single three Member Ward (Aberaman)

**Member Consequence:** Loss of one Member

**Reason:** Improve levels of representation. Both wards are currently -10% to -25% below the County Borough average of 2,302. Adoption of the proposal would take representation levels to between +/- 10%.

1.10 **Cwmbach**

**Proposal:** Make the existing Ward a two Member ward

**Member Consequence:** Additional Member

**Reason:** Cwmbach has been highlighted by the Boundary Commission as a Ward that must be addressed in the review, with the current representation level exceeding +50%. The additional Member would see the Ward fall to -10% to -25%.

1.11 **Mountain Ash East & West**

**Proposal:** Merge existing Electoral Wards of Mountain Ash East and Mountain Ash West to create a single two Member Ward (Mountain Ash).

**Member Consequence:** Loss of one Member

**Reason:** Mountain Ash West has been identified as a ward with -25% to -50% below the representation requirements. Whilst Mountain Ash East is currently satisfying the Commission's representation levels at +/-10%, the only realistic



option to address the issue is to merge the two Wards. A merger would take the new representation to between +10% to +25%.

1.12 **Ynysybwll**

**Proposal:** Make the existing Ward a two Member Ward

**Member Consequence:** Additional Member

**Reason:** Ynysybwll has been highlighted by the Boundary Commission as a Ward that must be addressed in the review, with the current representation level at +50%. An additional Member would see the representation level fall to -10% to -25%.

1.13 **Llwyn-Y-Pia & Trealaw**

**Proposal:** Merge existing Electoral Wards of Llwyn-Y-Pia & Trealaw to create a single two Member ward

**Member Consequence:** None

**Reason:** Llwyn-Y-Pia is currently considered to be -25% to -50% below the desired representation level. The transition between Trealaw and Llwyn-Y-Pia appears to be the most natural (A4058 and Ynyscynon Road both cross the boundaries). A merger would also see the representation level fall into the +/- 10% classification.

1.14 **Ferndale & Maerdy**

**Proposal:** Merge existing Electoral Wards of Maerdy & Ferndale to create a single two Member Ward

**Member Consequence:** Loss of one Member

**Reason:** Ferndale has been identified as falling within -25% to -50% of the Commission's preferred representation level. Consideration was given to merging Ferndale with Tylorstown, although the objections raised in the last set of boundary reform proposals remain valid and, taking these into account, it is proposed instead to merge the Electoral Wards of Maerdy and Ferndale, despite the Maerdy Ward currently satisfying the Commission's preferred level of representation. The proposed Ward would have a +10% to +25% representation level.

1.15 **Tylorstown & Ynyshir**

**Proposal:** Merge existing Electoral Wards of Tylorstown and Ynyshir to create a single two Member Ward

**Member Consequence:** Loss of one Member

**Reason:** Like Ferndale, Tylorstown has been identified as an area that requires action to be undertaken during this review (-25% to -50%). In assessing options for the Rhondda Fach, it is felt that the community ties between Tylorstown and Ynyshir are more consistent - particularly given the proximity between Pontygwaith and Wattstown. The merger would see the Ward classified at +10% to +25%.

1.16 **Treorchy**

**Proposal:** Reduce from a three Member to two Member Ward

**Consequence:** Loss of one Member

**Reason:** Currently classified as -10% to -25%. With growing populations in the south of the County Borough, it is necessary to take Members from the north given that any reforms must maintain the 75 Councillors. The removal of a Member from the Treorchy Ward will take the representation levels to +10% to +25%.

1.17 **Beddau & Tyn-Y-Nant**

**Proposal:** Merge existing Electoral Wards of Beddau and Tyn-Y-Nant to create a single two Member Ward

**Member Consequence:** None

**Reason:** The Beddau Ward is considered to be under-represented (+25% to +50%), whilst the neighbouring Tyn-Y-Nant Ward is perfectly balanced. Given the close community ties and the need to address the representation issues in the Beddau Ward, it is proposed that both existing Wards are merged thereby creating a single two Member Ward that has a representation level of +10% to +25%.

1.18 **Brynna & Llanharan**

**Proposal:** Merge existing Electoral Wards of Brynna and Llanharan to create a single three Member Ward

**Member Consequence:** Addition of one Member

**Reason:** The Communities of Llanharan and Brynna are closely linked, with the current boundary dividing Brynna Road between streets. The proposal to merge the wards would originally see the Ward fall to a -10% to -25% classification, although by 2023 it is forecasted that the proposed Ward would be within +/-10% of the preferred ratio of representation.

1.19 **Graig & Rhondda**

**Proposal:** Merge existing Electoral Wards of Graig & Rhondda to create a single two Member ward

**Member Consequence:** Loss of one Member

**Reason:** Both Graig and Rhondda are considered to have an under-representation level of -10% to -25%. Merging the two Wards would take the representation level to +10% to +25%, thus improving the general level of representation in the upper Pontypridd area.

1.20 **Llantrisant Town & Talbot Green**

**Proposal:** Merge existing Electoral Wards of Llantrisant Town and Talbot Green to create a single two Member Ward

**Member Consequence:** None

**Reason:** A merger would help to address the current representation issues in both Wards. Presently, Llantrisant Town is under-represented at a level of +25% to +50%, whilst Talbot Green is over-represented at -10% to -25%. A merger of the two closely linked communities would see the new Ward situated within the +10% to +25% representation level.

1.21 **Tonyrefail West**

**Proposal:** Make the existing Ward a two Member ward

**Member Consequence:** Addition of one Member

**Reason:** The Ward has been highlighted by the Commission as one that must be addressed by the review, with the current population, which is forecast to grow considerably over the next five years, over 100% greater than the representation level desired. The addition of a Member into the Ward would see the new Ward situated within the +10% to +25% representation level.

1.22 **Church Village & Ton-teg**

**Proposal:** Reduce the existing Electoral Ward of Ton-teg to a single Member Ward and add an additional Member into the Church Village Ward whilst realigning the boundary of the Church Village Ward to incorporate the wider Upper Church Village area.

**Member Consequence:** Church Village – Addition of one Member; Ton-teg - Loss of one Member

**Reason:** Church Village has been identified as a ward with a severe level of under-representation, whilst the neighbouring Ton-teg ward is deemed as

being over-represented. The proposal would address both representation issues whilst realigning the current inconsistent boundary of the two Wards by incorporating the wider Upper Church Village area into the Church Village Ward. Under the proposals, both Wards would satisfy the Commission's requirements by falling to within +/-10% of the preferred representation ratio. Appendix A5 shows the proposed revised Electoral Ward boundaries of Church Village and Ton-teg. This proposal would also require a change to the Community Ward boundaries of Church Village and Ton-teg.

### 1.23 **Llanharry & Pont-y-clun**

**Proposal:** Transfer Tyla Garw Community from the Llanharry Ward into the Pont-y-clun Ward. Pont-y-clun Ward becomes a three Member ward; Llanharry remains a one Member ward.

**Member Consequence:** Addition of one Member (Pont-y-clun Ward)

**Reason:** Both wards are currently classified as having an undesirable level of representation (+25% to +50%). Pont-y-clun is a Ward where there is forecasted to be significant growth over the next five years, and the inclusion of the Tyla Garw Community, which has closer community ties with Pont-y-clun than Llanharry, would take Pont-y-clun within +/-10% of the ideal representation level. Consequently, Llanharry would also achieve the same level of representation. The proposal to move the Tyla Garw Community which currently forms part of Llanharry Community Council from the Llanharry Electoral Ward into the Pont-y-clun Electoral Ward would see the Tyla Garw Community becoming part of Pont-y-clun Community Council. Appendix A6 shows the proposed revised Electoral Ward boundaries of Llanharry and Pont-y-clun

### 1.24 **Hawthorn & Rhydfelen Central/Ilan**

**Proposal:** Creation of a new ward

**Member Consequence:** Additional single Member Electoral Ward (Upper Rhydfelen/Glyntaf area)

**Reason:** The existing Electoral Wards of Hawthorn and Rhydfelen Central/Ilan are classified as being +25% to 50% in terms of representation and, with a combined population of over 6000 electors, it is proposed that a new Electoral Ward be created covering the upper Rhydfelen/Glyntaf area as shown in Appendix A7 to the report. This Appendix also shows the proposed revised Electoral Ward boundaries of Hawthorn and Rhydfelen Central/Ilan. Based on this, the below table illustrates that the representation issues would be adequately addressed by adopting this proposal, with two wards falling between -10% to -25% of the desired representation ratio and the remaining ward achieving a +/-10% level of representation:

<b><u>PROPOSED WARD</u></b>	<b><u>ELECTORATE</u></b>
Hawthorn	1,803
Rhydfelen Central/Ilan	1,949
Upper Rhydfelen/Glyntaf	2,397
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>6,149</b>

This proposal would also require a change to the Community Ward boundaries of Ilan, Hawthorn, Rhydfelen Central and Rhydfelen Lower.

#### 1.25 **Hirwaun & Rhigos**

**Proposal:** Retain both existing Electoral Wards

**Member Consequence:** None

**Reason:** Hirwaun is classified as being +25 % to 50% in terms of representation and Rhigos as being -25% to 50%. Given the levels of variance a proposal to retain both existing Wards would therefore need to be justified and accepted by the Boundary Commission. It could be substantiated that the rural nature of the Rhigos Electoral Ward, including its situation within the Brecon Beacons National Park, is sufficient to ensure that the integrity and special characteristics of the ward are maintained in future proposals. Consideration was given to an arrangement between the three wards at top of the Cynon Valley (Rhigos, Hirwaun and Pen-Y-Waun), although it was felt that the aforementioned nature of the Rhigos Electoral Ward, and the planned development of the A465 would see a clearer boundary between Hirwaun and Pen-Y-Waun.

#### 1.26 **Treforest**

**Proposal:** Retain existing Electoral Ward

**Member Consequence:** None

**Reason:** Despite being between +25% and +50% over the preferred level of representation, it is proposed that the Treforest Electoral Ward be retained in its current form. This is justified by the highly transient nature of the population, which owes substantially to the high concentration of student accommodation in the area.

# APPENDIX A1

**RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL  
EXISTING COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP**

No.	NAME	DESCRIPTION	No. OF COUNCILLORS	ELECTORATE 2018	2018 RATIO	% variance from County average	ELECTORATE 2023	2023 RATIO	% variance from County average	Population Eligible to Vote
1	<b>Aberaman North</b>	The Community of Aberaman North	2	3,648	1,824	-21%	3,781	1,891	-20%	4,143
2	<b>Aberaman South</b>	The Community of Aberaman South	2	3,463	1,732	-25%	3,609	1,805	-24%	3,758
3	<b>Abercynon</b>	The Community of Abercynon	2	4,487	2,244	-3%	4,537	2,269	-5%	4,968
4	<b>Aberdare East</b>	The Community of Aberdare East	2	4,900	2,450	6%	5,077	2,539	7%	5,243
5	<b>Aberdare West/Llwydcoed</b>	The Communities of Aberdare West (5,943) [6,295] and Llwydcoed (1,233) [1,266]	3	7,176	2,392	4%	7,561	2,520	6%	7,601
6	<b>Beddau</b>	The Beddau ward of the Community of Llantrisant	1	3,167	3,167	38%	3,174	3,174	34%	3,575
7	<b>Brynna</b>	The Brynna (2,025) [2,084] and Llaniliad (1,416) [2,153] wards of the Community of Llanharan	1	3,441	3,441	49%	4,237	4,237	78%	3,496
8	<b>Church Village</b>	The Church Village ward of the Community of Llantwit Fardre	1	4,313	4,313	87%	4,350	4,350	83%	3,898
9	<b>Cilfynydd</b>	The Cilfynydd ward of the Town of Pontypridd	1	2,095	2,095	-9%	2,136	2,136	-10%	2,260
10	<b>Cwm Clydach</b>	The Community of Cwm Clydach	1	1,944	1,944	-16%	2,049	2,049	-14%	2,177
11	<b>Cwmbach</b>	The Community of Cwmbach	1	3,679	3,679	60%	3,959	3,959	67%	3,940
12	<b>Cymmer</b>	The Communities of Cymmer (3,406) [3,427] and Trehafod (565) [585]	2	3,971	1,986	-14%	4,012	2,006	-16%	4,417
13	<b>Ferndale</b>	The Community of Ferndale	2	3,037	1,519	-34%	3,072	1,536	-35%	3,369
14	<b>Gilfach Goch</b>	The Community of Gilfach Goch	1	2,434	2,434	6%	2,495	2,495	5%	2,723
15	<b>Glyncoch</b>	The Glyncoch ward of the Town of Pontypridd	1	2,021	2,021	-12%	2,023	2,023	-15%	2,310
16	<b>Graig</b>	The Graig ward of the Town of Pontypridd	1	1,853	1,853	-20%	1,910	1,910	-20%	1,901
17	<b>Hawthorn</b>	The Hawthorn (1,684) [1,684] and Rhydfelen Lower (1,432) [1,432] wards of the Town of Pontypridd	1	3,116	3,116	35%	3,116	3,116	31%	3,138
18	<b>Hirwaun</b>	The Hirwaun ward of the Community of Hirwaun	1	3,123	3,123	36%	3,239	3,239	36%	3,374
19	<b>Llanharan</b>	The Llanharan ward of the Community of Llanharan	1	2,730	2,730	19%	2,783	2,783	17%	2,717
20	<b>Llanharry</b>	The Community of Llanharry	1	3,121	3,121	36%	3,167	3,167	33%	2,999
21	<b>Llantrisant Town</b>	The Llantrisant Town ward of the Community of Llantrisant	1	3,162	3,162	37%	3,247	3,247	37%	3,935
22	<b>Llantwit Fardre</b>	The Efail Isaf (1,025) [1,029] and Llantwit Fardre (3,778) [3,785] wards of the Community of Llantwit Fardre	2	4,803	2,402	4%	4,814	2,407	1%	4,795
23	<b>Llwyn-y-Pia</b>	The Community of Llwyn-y-Pia	1	1,632	1,632	-29%	1,713	1,713	-28%	1,858
24	<b>Maerdy</b>	The Community of Maerdy	1	2,287	2,287	-1%	2,398	2,398	1%	2,387
25	<b>Mountain Ash East</b>	The Community of Mountain Ash East	1	2,158	2,158	-6%	2,381	2,381	0%	2,335
26	<b>Mountain Ash West</b>	The Community of Mountain Ash West	2	3,120	1,560	-32%	3,197	1,599	-33%	3,608
27	<b>Pen-y-Graig</b>	The Community of Pen-y-graig	2	3,924	1,962	-15%	3,983	1,992	-16%	4,307
28	<b>Pen-y-Waun</b>	The Community of Pen-y-waun	1	2,011	2,011	-13%	2,122	2,122	-11%	2,345
29	<b>Penrhiwceiber</b>	The Community of Penrhiwceiber	2	4,114	2,057	-11%	4,136	2,068	-13%	4,561
30	<b>Pentre</b>	The Community of Pentre	2	3,857	1,929	-16%	3,885	1,943	-18%	4,147
31	<b>Pont-y-clun</b>	The Community of Pont-y-clun	2	6,014	3,007	31%	6,873	3,437	45%	6,470
32	<b>Pontypridd Town</b>	The Town ward of the Town of Pontypridd	1	2,153	2,153	-6%	2,217	2,217	-7%	2,279
33	<b>Porth</b>	The Community of Porth	2	4,301	2,151	-7%	4,426	2,213	-7%	4,799
34	<b>Rhigos</b>	The Penderyn ward (658) [658] of the Community of Hirwaun and the Community of Rhigos (741) [785]	1	1,399	1,399	-39%	1,443	1,443	-39%	1,441

**RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL  
EXISTING COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP**

No.	NAME	DESCRIPTION	No. OF COUNCILLORS	ELECTORATE 2018	2018 RATIO	% variance from County average	ELECTORATE 2023	2023 RATIO	% variance from County average	Population Eligible to Vote
35	<b>Rhondda</b>	The Rhondda ward of the Town of Pontypridd	2	3,481	1,741	-24%	3,520	1,760	-26%	3,703
36	<b>Rhydfelen Central/Ilan</b>	The Ilan (934) [934] and Rhydfelen Central wards (2,099) [2,101] of the Town of Pontypridd	1	3,033	3,033	32%	3,035	3,035	28%	3,435
37	<b>Taffs Well</b>	The Community of Taffs Well	1	2,826	2,826	23%	2,830	2,830	19%	3,123
38	<b>Talbot Green</b>	The Talbot Green ward of the Community of Llantrisant	1	1,956	1,956	-15%	1,991	1,991	-16%	2,302
39	<b>Ton-Teg</b>	The Ton-Teg ward of the Community of Llantwit Fardre	2	3,222	1,611	-30%	3,222	1,611	-32%	3,282
40	<b>Tonypandy</b>	The Community of Tonypandy	1	2,638	2,638	15%	2,695	2,695	13%	3,001
41	<b>Tonyrefail East</b>	The Coedely (1,347) [1,474], Collena (1,619) [1,623], and Tylcha (1,294) [1,312] wards of the Community of Tonyrefail	2	4,260	2,130	-7%	4,409	2,205	-7%	4,701
42	<b>Tonyrefail West</b>	The Penrhiw-fer (1,062) [1,066], Thomastown (1,307) [1,441], and Tynybryn (2,421) [2,718] wards of the Community of Tonyrefail	1	4,790	4,790	108%	5,225	5,225	120%	5,145
43	<b>Trallwng</b>	The Trallwng ward of the Town of Pontypridd	1	2,795	2,795	21%	2,819	2,819	19%	3,087
44	<b>Trealaw</b>	The Community of Trealaw	1	2,809	2,809	22%	2,840	2,840	19%	3,244
45	<b>Treforest</b>	The Treforest ward of the Town of Pontypridd	1	2,901	2,901	26%	2,997	2,997	26%	4,449
46	<b>Treherbert</b>	The Community of Treherbert	2	4,165	2,083	-10%	4,242	2,121	-11%	4,583
47	<b>Treorchy</b>	The Community of Treorchy	3	5,652	1,884	-18%	5,750	1,917	-19%	6,118
48	<b>Tylorstown</b>	The Community of Tylorstown	2	2,981	1,491	-35%	3,034	1,517	-36%	3,404
49	<b>Tyn-y-Nant</b>	The Tyn-y-Nant ward of the Community of Llantrisant	1	2,414	2,414	5%	2,414	2,414	2%	2,657
50	<b>Ynyshir</b>	The Community of Ynyshir	1	2,391	2,391	4%	2,398	2,398	1%	2,649
51	<b>Ynysybwl</b>	The Community of Ynysybwl and Coed-y-Cwm	1	3,457	3,457	50%	3,485	3,485	47%	3,619
52	<b>Ystrad</b>	The Community of Ystrad	2	4,248	2,124	-8%	4,266	2,133	-10%	4,630
TOTAL:			75	172,673	2,302		178,294	2,377		188,406

Ratio is the number of electors per councillor

Electoral figures supplied by Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council

Population figures supplied by the Office for National Statistics







	2018	2023
Greater than + or - 50% of County average	4    8%	4    8%
Between + or - 25% and + or - 50% of County average	15   29%	15   29%
Between + or - 10% and + or - 25% of County average	18   35%	23   44%
Between 0% and + or - 10% of County average	15   29%	10   19%

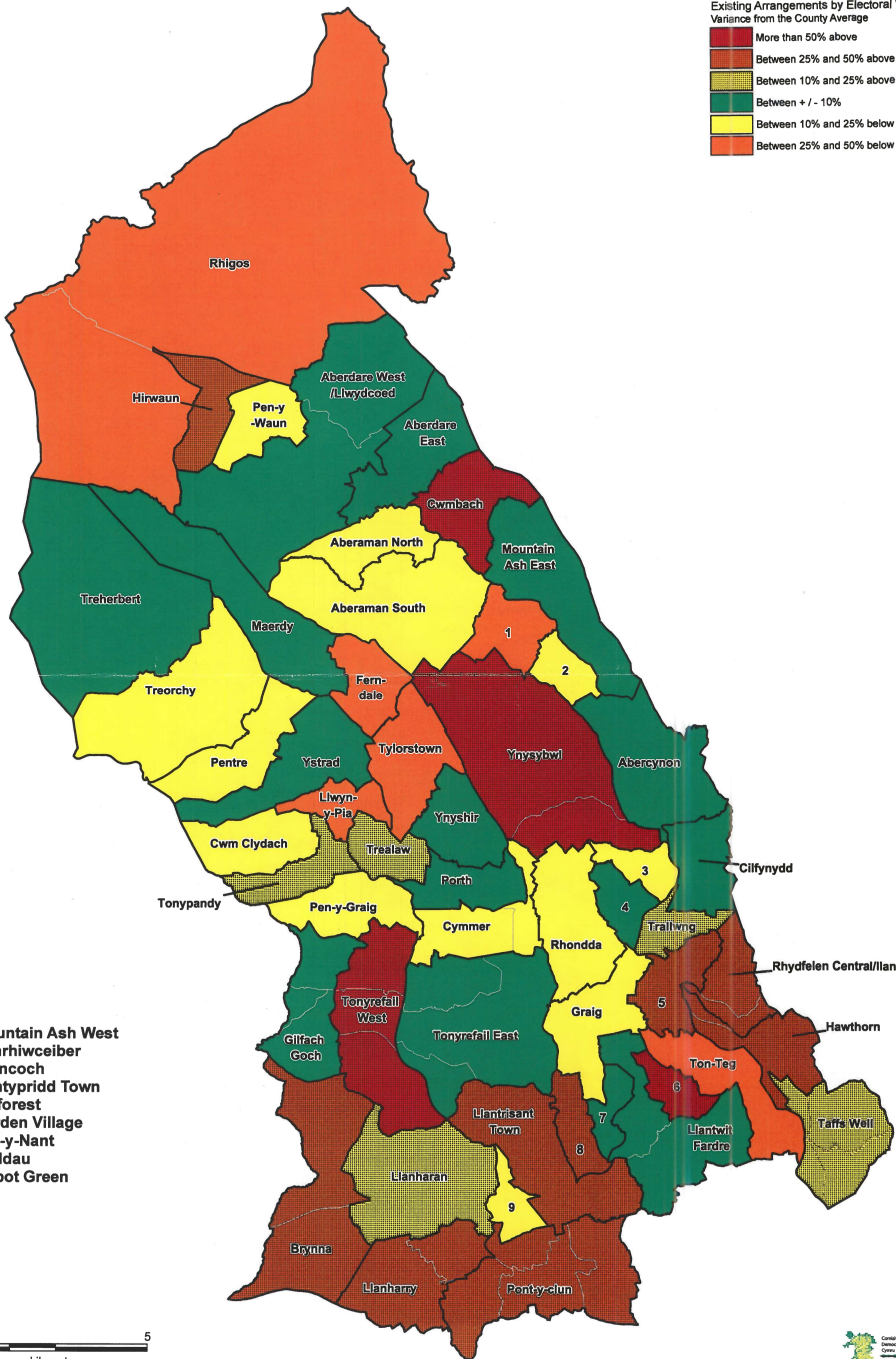


# APPENDIX A2

**COUNTY BOROUGH OF RHONDDA CYNON TAF  
EXISTING VARIANCE IN ELECTORAL REPRESENTATION**

Existing Arrangements by Electoral Ward  
Variance from the County Average

	More than 50% above	(4)
	Between 25% and 50% above	(9)
	Between 10% and 25% above	(5)
	Between +/- 10%	(15)
	Between 10% and 25% below	(13)
	Between 25% and 50% below	(6)



- 1 - Mountain Ash West
- 2 - Penrhwiwceiber
- 3 - Glyncoch
- 4 - Pontypridd Town
- 5 - Treforest
- 6 - Garden Village
- 7 - Tyn-y-Nant
- 8 - Beddau
- 9 - Talbot Green










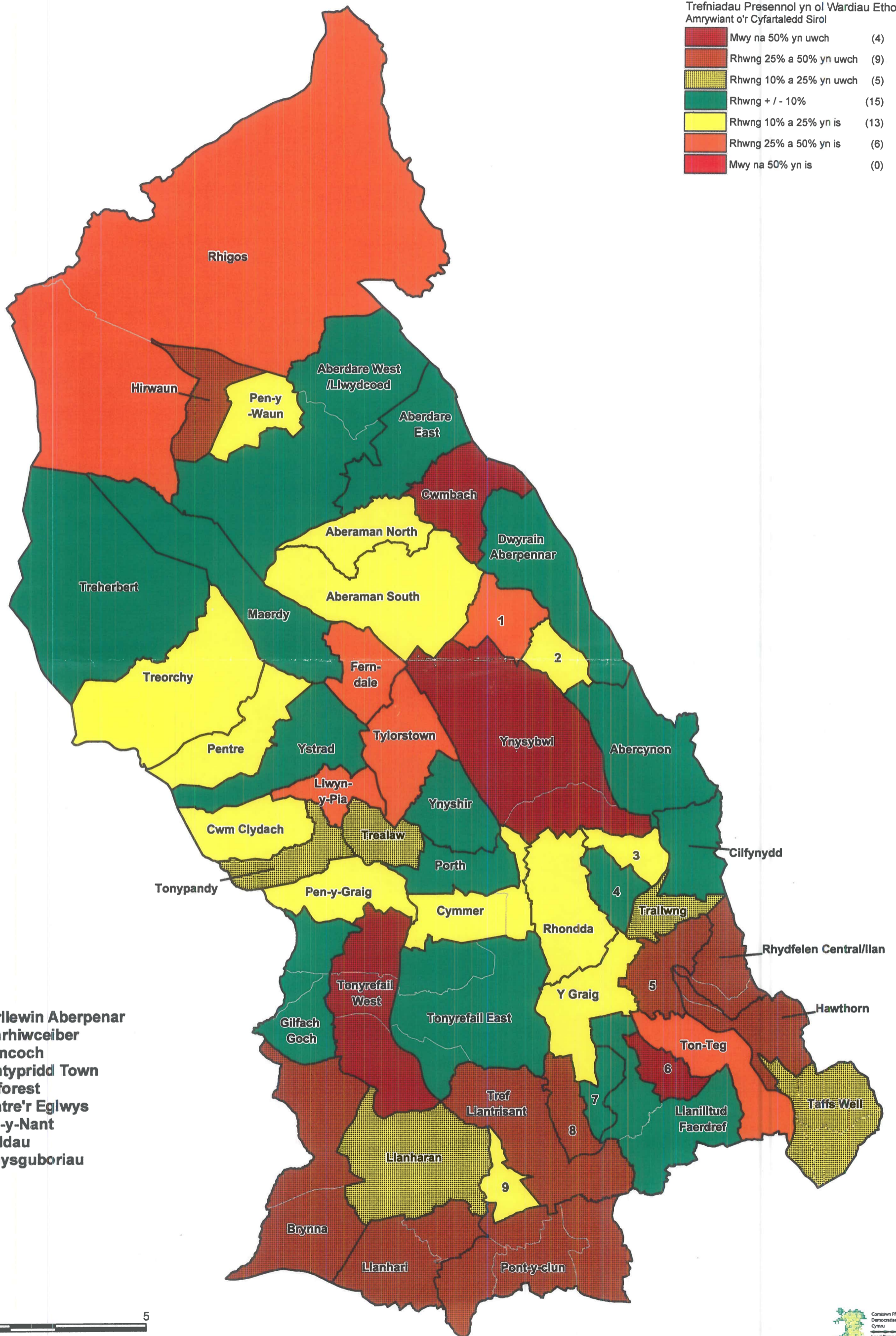
Scale: 1:101,000




**BWRDEISTREF SIROL RHONDDA CYNON TAF**  
**AMRYWIAD PRESENNOL O RAN CYNRYCHIOLAETH ETHOLIADOL**

Trefniadau Presennol yn ol Wardiau Etholiadol  
 Amrywiant o'r Cyfartaledd Sirol

	Mwy na 50% yn uwch	(4)
	Rhwng 25% a 50% yn uwch	(9)
	Rhwng 10% a 25% yn uwch	(5)
	Rhwng + / - 10%	(15)
	Rhwng 10% a 25% yn is	(13)
	Rhwng 25% a 50% yn is	(6)
	Mwy na 50% yn is	(0)



- 1 - Gorllewin Aberpenar
- 2 - Penrhiwceiber
- 3 - Glyncoch
- 4 - Pontypridd Town
- 5 - Treforest
- 6 - Pentre'r Eglwys
- 7 - Tyn-y-Nant
- 8 - Beddau
- 9 - Tonysguboriau

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# APPENDIX A3

### Rhondda Cynon Taf Proposed Electoral Ward & Electorate Figures

Rhondda Cynon Taf Electoral Ward Electorate Figures 2018	Councillors	Electorate (as at 1st June 2018)	Electors per Councillor	Variance
Aberaman (Aberaman North & South)	3	7,111	2,370	3%
Abercynon	2	4,487	2,244	-3%
Aberdare East	2	4,900	2,450	6%
Aberdare West/Llwydcoed	3	7,176	2,392	4%
Beddau & Tyn-Y-Nant	2	5,581	2,791	21%
Brynna & Llanharan	3	6,171	2,057	-11%
Church Village	2	5,033	2,517	9%
Cilfynydd	1	2,095	2,095	-9%
Cwm Clydach	1	1,944	1,944	-16%
Cwmbach	2	3,679	1,840	-20%
Cymmer	2	3,971	1,986	-14%
Ferndale & Maerdy	2	5,324	2,662	16%
Gilfach Goch	1	2,434	2,434	6%
Glyncoch	1	2,021	2,021	-12%
Graig & Rhondda	2	5,334	2,667	16%
Hawthorn	1	1,803	1,803	-22%
Hirwaun	1	3,123	3,123	36%
Llanharry	1	2,523	2,523	10%
Llantrisant & Talbot Green	2	5,118	2,559	11%
Llantwit Fardre	2	4,803	2,402	4%
Llwyn-y-Pia & Trealaw	2	4,441	2,221	-4%
Mountain Ash (Mountain Ash East & West)	2	5,278	2,639	15%
Penrhiwceiber	2	4,114	2,057	-11%
Pentre	2	3,857	1,929	-16%
Pen-y-Graig	2	3,924	1,962	-15%
Pen-y-Waun	1	2,011	2,011	-13%
Pont-Y-Clun	3	6,612	2,204	-4%
Pontypridd Town	1	2,153	2,153	-6%
Porth	2	4,301	2,151	-7%
Rhigos	1	1,399	1,399	-39%
Rhydfelen Central/Ilan	1	1,949	1,949	-15%
Rhydfelen Upper/Glyntaf	1	2,397	2,397	4%
Taffs Well	1	2,826	2,826	23%
Ton-Teg	1	2,502	2,502	9%
Tonypanydy	1	2,638	2,638	15%
Tonyrefail East	2	4,260	2,130	-7%
Tonyrefail West	2	4,790	2,395	4%
Trallwng	1	2,795	2,795	21%
Treforest	1	2,901	2,901	26%
Treherbert	2	4,165	2,083	-10%
Treorchy	2	5,652	2,826	23%
Tylorstown & Ynyshir	2	5,372	2,686	17%
Ynysybwl	2	3,457	1,729	-25%
Ystrad	2	4,248	2,124	-8%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>172,673</b>	<b>2,302</b>	

Electorate (5 Year Forecast 2023)	Electors per Councillor	Variance	Community Council	Key Variance - Elector to Councillor Ratio
7,390	2463	4%		
4,537	2269	-5%		+/- 10%
5,077	2539	7%		11% - 25% (+/-)
7,561	2520	6%		26% - 50% (+/-)
5,588	2794	18%	Llantrisant	
7,020	2340	-2%	Llanharan	
BOUNDARY CHANGE			Llantwit Fardre	
2,136	2136	-10%	Pontypridd Town	
2,049	2049	-14%		
3,959	1980	-17%		
4,012	2006	-16%		
5,470	2735	15%		
2,495	2495	5%	Gilfach Goch	
2,023	2023	-15%	Pontypridd Town	
5,430	2715	14%	Pontypridd Town	
BOUNDARY CHANGE			Pontypridd Town	
3,239	3239	36%	Hirwaun & Penderyn	
2,569	2569	8%	Llanharry	
5,238	2619	10%	Llantrisant	
4,814	2407	1%	Llantwit Fardre	
4,553	2277	-4%		
5,578	2789	17%		
4,136	2068	-13%		
3,885	1943	-18%		
3,983	1992	-16%		
2,122	2122	-11%		
7,471	2490	5%	Pont-Y-Clun / Llanharry (Tyla Garw)	
2,217	2217	-7%	Pontypridd Town	
4,426	2213	-7%		
1,443	1443	-39%	Rhigos	
BOUNDARY CHANGE			Pontypridd Town	
BOUNDARY CHANGE			Pontypridd Town	
2,830	2830	19%	Taffs Well	
BOUNDARY CHANGE			Llantwit Fardre	
2,695	2695	13%		
4,409	2205	-7%	Tonyrefail	
5,225	2613	10%	Tonyrefail	
2,819	2819	19%	Pontypridd Town	
2,997	2997	26%	Pontypridd Town	
4,242	2121	-11%		
5,750	2875	21%		
5,432	2716	14%		
3,485	1743	-27%	Ynysybwl & Coed-Y- Cwm	
4,266	2133	-10%		
<b>178,294</b>	<b>2377</b>			

# APPENDIX A4

# Newidiadau Arfaethedig i Wardiau Etholiadol Rhondda Cynon Taf

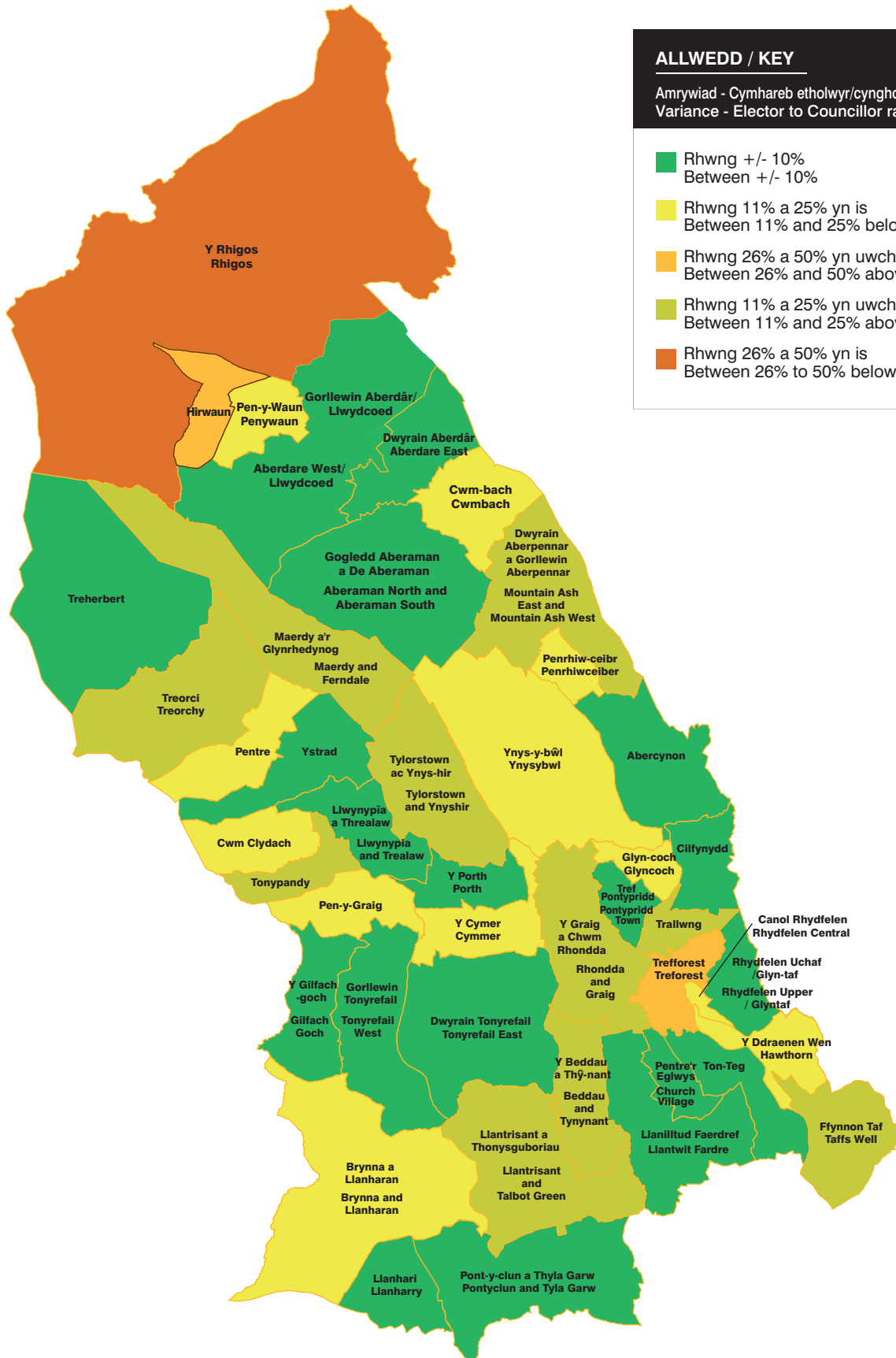
## Proposed changes to Rhondda Cynon Taf Electoral Wards



### ALLWEDD / KEY

Amrywiad - Cymhareb etholwyr/cyngorydd  
Variance - Elector to Councillor ratio

- Rhwng +/- 10%  
Between +/- 10%
- Rhwng 11% a 25% yn is  
Between 11% and 25% below
- Rhwng 26% a 50% yn uwch  
Between 26% and 50% above
- Rhwng 11% a 25% yn uwch  
Between 11% and 25% above
- Rhwng 26% a 50% yn is  
Between 26% to 50% below

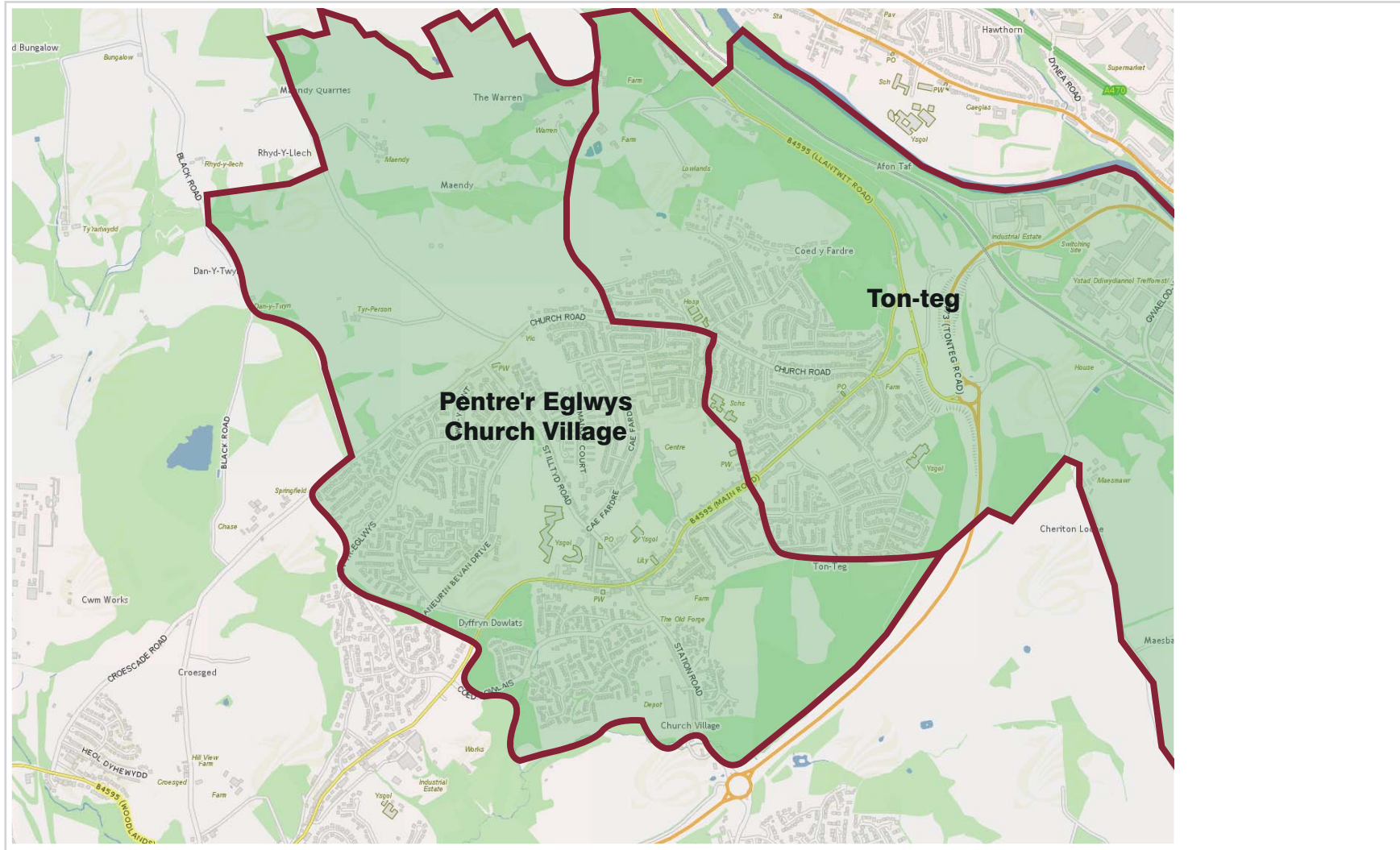


# APPENDIX A5



# Newidiadau Arfaethedig i Wardiau Etholiadol Pentre'r Eglwys a Thon-teg

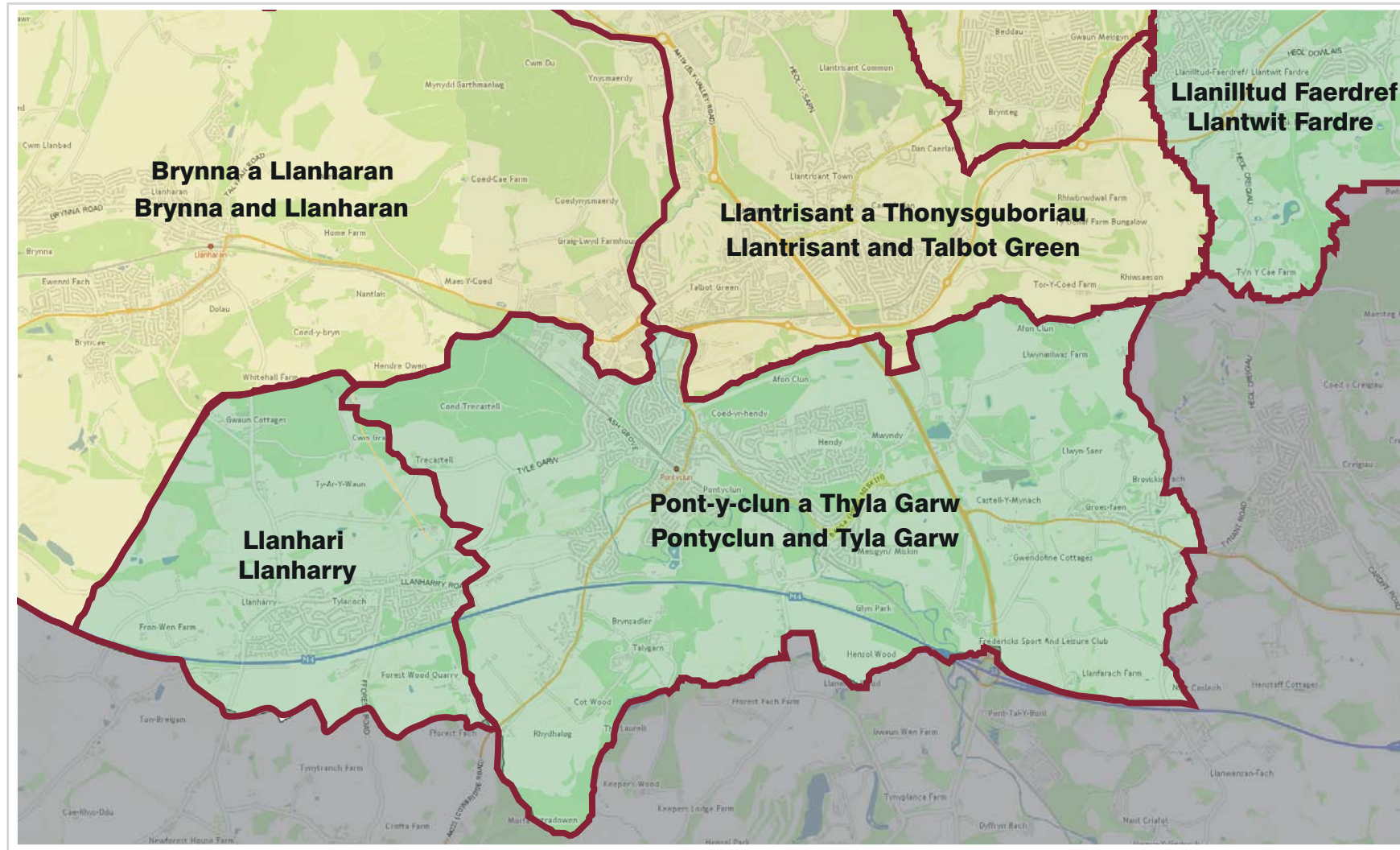
## Proposed changes to the **Church Village** and **Ton-teg** Electoral Wards



# APPENDIX A6

# Newidiadau Arfaethedig i Wardiau Etholiadol Llanhari a Phont-y-clun

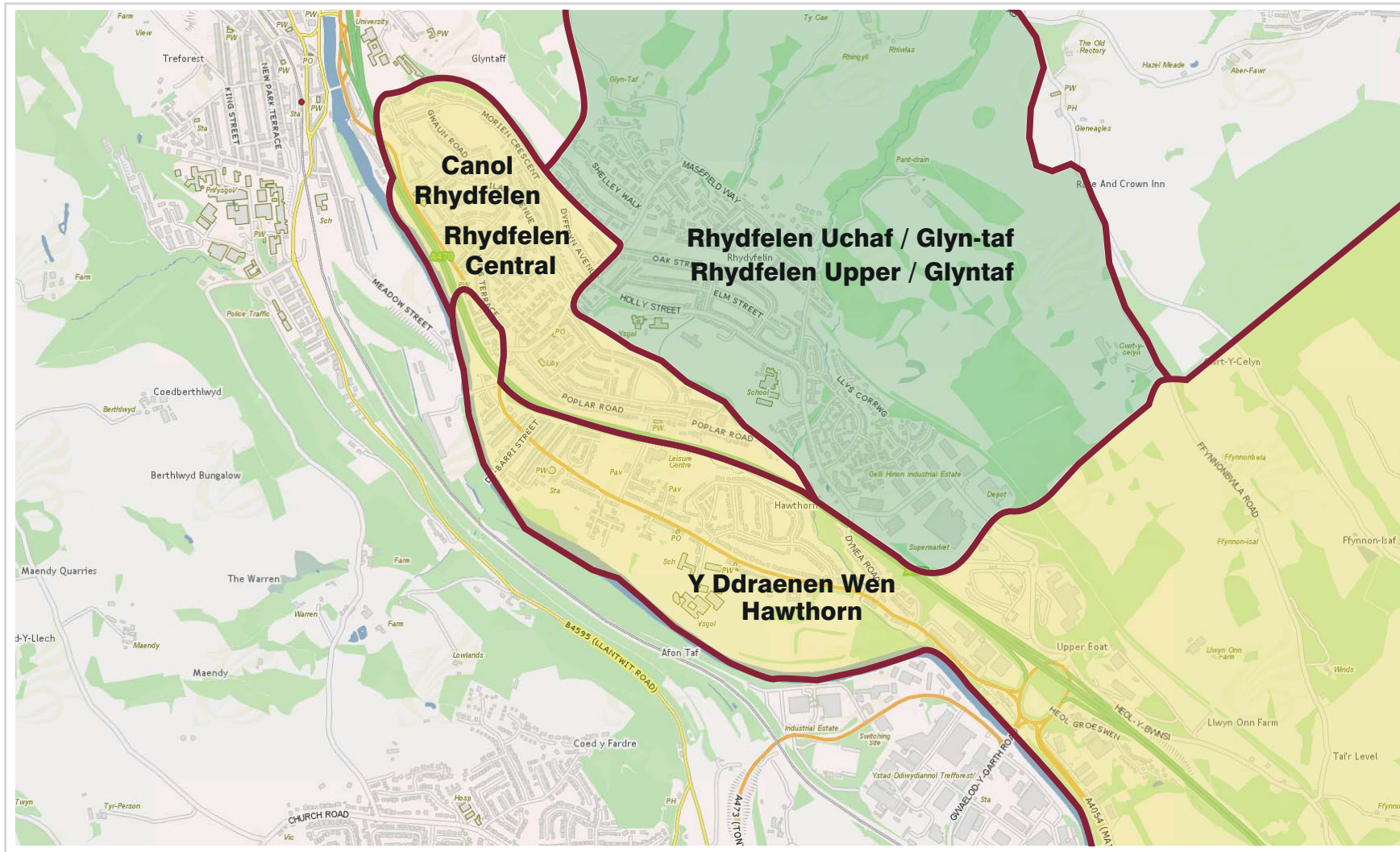
## Proposed changes to the Llanhari and Pont-y-clun Electoral Wards



# APPENDIX A7

# Newidiadau Arfaethedig i Wardiau Etholiadol y Ddraenen Wen a Rhydfelen

## Proposed changes to the Hawthorn and Rhydfelen Central Electoral Wards





# **Review of the Council's Electoral Arrangements – Boundary Commission**

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## **Results of the Stakeholder Engagement on Rhondda Cynon Taf Council's Proposals**

*Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council*

*October 2018*

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<b>2. BACKGROUND</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>3. METHODOLOGY</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>4. FEEDBACK</b>	<b>6</b>

## **1. INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 The Boundary Commission has undertaken an initial 12 week consultation on electoral boundary changes.
- 1.2 The Council agreed to undertake a period of stakeholder engagement on a set of its own proposals in response to the Boundary Commission consultation.
- 1.3 This report presents the findings of the engagement exercise undertaken in Rhondda Cynon Taf.
- 1.4 Section 2 outlines a brief background to the proposal.
- 1.5 Section 3 details the methodology used.
- 1.6 Section 4 presents the results of the engagement exercise. The full detailed responses and proposals have been analysed by the appropriate Council Officers.

## **2. BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 Section 29 of the Local Government (Democracy) (Wales) Act 2013 places a duty upon the Boundary Commission to review the electoral arrangements for each principal area at least once every ten years.
- 2.2 The Local Democracy and Boundary Commission for Wales (the 'Boundary Commission') has commenced its review of the Council's Electoral Arrangements with a view to considering and formulating proposals for future arrangements that would come into force at the next Local Government elections planned for 2022.
- 2.3 The review of the Council's Electoral Arrangements includes consideration of:
- The number of Councillors;
  - The number, type and boundaries of Electoral Wards;
  - The number of Councillors for any Electoral Ward; and
  - The name of any Electoral Ward.
- 2.4 The initial phase of the electoral review itself commenced on 1<sup>st</sup> August 2018 and ran until 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2018. After this date the Boundary Commission will



prepare Draft Proposals for the electoral arrangements for the County Borough and this will present a further opportunity for comments and representations to be made.

2.5 The Council initiated a period of stakeholder engagement on a set of its own proposals in response to the Boundary Commission's initial consultation. As part of formulating the Council's proposals the Council agreed that the following principles should apply:

- Achieving electoral parity as far as is practicable;
- The number of Councillors remaining at 75 (in accordance with the Boundary Commission's council size policy);
- To discourage multi member wards beyond a maximum of 3;
- Natural boundaries to be used as far as possible;
- Community Ward boundaries (which make up Electoral Wards) should not be revised unless absolutely necessary; and
- Each Ward should have one name which should be bilingual

### 3. METHODOLOGY

3.1 The purpose of the engagement was to seek views on the proposals put forward by the Council in response to the Boundary Commission consultation.

3.2 The exercise has been conducted in-house. The engagement period ran from 21<sup>st</sup> September until 12<sup>th</sup> October 2018.

3.3 4 community engagement events were held in the following locations:

Llantrisant Leisure Centre 4<sup>th</sup> October 5-7pm

Rhondda Leisure Centre 5<sup>th</sup> October 12-2pm

Ferndale Library 8<sup>th</sup> October 10am-12pm

Sobell Leisure Centre 11<sup>th</sup> October 2-4pm

3.4 In addition to these events, a link was placed on the RCT website homepage with information about the proposed changes and a freepost address and dedicated email inbox (LGBreview@rctcbc.gov.uk) was created for responses to be submitted to.

3.5 The following Email/Letter responses were received;

#### MPs

- Rt Hon Ann Clwyd MP (Cynon Valley Constituency)
- Rt Hon Chris Bryant MP (Rhondda Constituency)
- Rt Hon Chris Elmore MP (Ogmore Constituency)

AMs

- Mick Antoniw - AM for Pontypridd
- Vikki Howells - AM for Cynon Valley
- Huw Irranca Davies - AM for Ogmore

Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Councillors

- Councillor Yeo (Beddau Ward) & Councillor Willis (Tynnant Ward)
- Councillor Hooper (Tonteg Ward)
- Councillor Fidler Jones (Hawthorn Ward)
- Councillor Turner (Brynna Ward)
- Councillor Caple (Cymmer Ward)
- Councillor Webber (Rhydyfelin Central/Ilan Ward)
- Councillor Morgan & Councillor Treeby (Mountain Ash West Ward)
- Councillor Holmes (Llantrisant Town Ward) & Councillor S Powell (Talbot Green Ward)
- Councillor Leyshon & Councillor Smith (Rhondda Ward)
- Councillor Rosser (Trealaw Ward) & Councillor Lewis (Llwyn-y-pia Ward)
- Councillor Brencher (Graig Ward)

Community Councils

- Llanharry Community Council
- Pont-y-Clun Community Council
- Llanharan Community Council

## 4. FEEDBACK

4.1 The Council received the following general feedback:

*“I am pleased to support the overwhelming majority of RCT CBC’s proposals, which deliver on this principle and will increase community cohesion and ‘make sense’ to those residents affected.”*

*“In general, I am of the opinion that the options consulted on meet the requirements of the review and offer a fair outcome for residents of the Cynon Valley.”*

*“Whilst I support the proposals drawn up by Officers, I would express my reservations on the scope of the review in that it bases representation solely on electorate figures and not the total population. I feel that this could lead to false representation whereby Councillors are actually having to represent and respond to hundreds more individuals than this review allows for, as residents will contact their local Member(s) regardless of whether they are engaged with the voting process or not. I also have concerns that the review does not account for the enfranchisement of 16 and 17 year olds, who look set to be given the vote at the next Local Elections in 2022. Nevertheless, I generally believe that the Council’s proposals have attempted to account for these factors, where possible, in addition to local characteristics and geography and I am happy to support the options consulted on.”*

*“I would like to express my disappointment at the number of elected Council representatives in the constituency diminishing, particularly in the Rhondda Fach, which is an area of significant deprivation. Whilst I accept that the Rhondda has suffered from general loss of population as a result of de-industrialisation I believe that the Commission should take into account social factors such as deprivation, as there are far higher numbers of unregistered voters in such communities and therefore the number of electors is not a true reflection of the community represented and I would suggest need greater representation not less.”*

4.2 In respect of the following existing Electoral Wards the Council either received general support in favour of the proposal, as outlined in Appendix A, or no specific feedback/response was received in relation to the proposal:

<b>ELECTORAL WARD</b>	<b>PROPOSAL</b>
Abercynon	Retain as two Member Ward
Aberdare East	Retain as two Member Ward
Aberdare West/Llwydcoed	Retain as three Member Ward
Church Village	Increase to two Member Ward (realign boundary with Tonteg Ward)
Cilfynydd	Retain as one Member Ward
Cwmbach	Increase to two Member Ward
Cwm Clydach	Retain as one Member Ward
Gilfach Goch	Retain as one Member Ward

ELECTORAL WARD	PROPOSAL
Glyncoch	Retain as one Member Ward
Llantwit Fardre	Retain as two Member Ward
Pen-Y-Graig	Retain as two Member Ward
Pen-Y-Waun	Retain as one Member Ward
Penrhiwceiber	Retain as two Member Ward
Pontypridd Town	Retain as one Member Ward
Taffs Well	Retain as one Member Ward
Tonteg	Reduce to one Member Ward (from two) (realign boundary with Church Village Ward)
Tonypandy	Retain as one Member Ward
Tonyrefail East	Retain as two Member Ward
Trallwng	Retain as one Member Ward
Treforest	Retain as one Member Ward
Treherbert	Retain as two Member Ward
Treorchy	Reduce to two Member Ward (from three)
Ynysybwl	Increase to two Member Ward

4.3 Specific feedback and/or observations were received in respect of the following existing Electoral Wards.

4.4 **Aberaman North and Aberaman South**

**Proposal (Option 1):** Merge both wards to create a single three Member ward. This arrangement would see the variance improve to 3% based on current electorate figures, rising to just 4% in accordance with the 2023 electorate figures.

Member Representation Consequence: Loss of 1 Member

Support was received in relation to the proposal as follows:

*“the benefit of unifying the North and South wards would be the removal of the artificial boundary, which often presents a source of confusion for residents as adjacent streets can find themselves being represented by two different wards and consequently different Councillors. Removing this unnatural boundary would enable residents, particularly in the Lower Aberaman and Godreaman areas, to have one clear route to make representations, rather than risk being told that they are contacting the wrong Councillor.”*

**Option 2:** Feedback was received in respect of splitting Aberaman North and Aberaman South Wards into 3 single member wards in line with the Boundary Commission’s preference for single member wards. No specific details were received about how this could be achieved. The demographics and spread of the electorate that make up the existing wards of Aberaman North and South

suggest this is not wholly conducive to creating a natural arrangement for three separate electoral wards with single Member representation.

Member Representation Consequence: Loss of 1 Member

#### 4.5 **Mountain Ash East and Mountain Ash West**

**Proposal (Option 1):** Merge the two wards to create a two Member ward covering the whole area currently represented by the two existing wards. This would necessitate the loss of one representative and a consequential variance level of +15% above the RCT average, rising to +17% above.

Feedback received during the consultation acknowledged that given the geographical constraints and the rejection of the Boundary Commission's previous proposal to merge Mountain Ash East and West with Penrhiwceiber, it was felt that a direct merge involving solely the Mountain Ash Wards was the most appropriate and agreeable solution.

Comments suggested that "*whilst the current wards are separated by both the A4059 and the River Cynon, there is little doubt locally that Mountain Ash is very much one community.*"

*"Residents in Mountain Ash East and West make use of the same amenities and have access to the same services, such as the Community Hub development and the new health centre, which will reinforce the town centre's role in acting as a focal point for the entire community. In addition, the option forwarded by the Council sufficiently meets the aim of the review in addressing the over-representation in the West ward, which currently stands at 32% below the County average."*

Member Representation Consequence: Loss of 1 Member

**Option 2:** Keep existing arrangement of the two Member Mountain Ash West ward (-32% rising to -33%) and the single Member Mountain Ash East ward (-6% falling to 0%)

Feedback suggested there was support for this option although it acknowledged that the proposal (Option 1) consulted on will improve the general level of representation across Mountain Ash in line with requirements of the Boundary Commission's review.

Member Representation Consequence: None

#### 4.6 **Llwyn-Y-Pia and Trealaw**

**Proposal (Option 1):** Merge existing Electoral Wards of Llwyn-Y-Pia & Trealaw to create a single two Member ward. Llwyn-Y-Pia is currently considered to be -25% to -50% below the desired representation level. The transition between Trealaw and Llwyn-Y-Pia appears to be the most natural

(A4058 and Ynyscynon Road both cross the boundaries). A merger would also see the representation level fall into the +/-10% classification.

Member Representation Consequence: None

**Option 2:** Adjust the ward boundaries of Llwyn-Y-Pia and Trealaw, and also Llwyn-Y-Pia and Ystrad.

Comments were received as follows:

*"I note that the proposal recommend merging the current electoral wards of Trealaw and Llwynypia in their entirety to create a one-2 member ward. I would propose that in place of this, an alternative that satisfies the Commission's requirements would be to redraw the Llwynypia ward boundaries to encompass a section of neighbouring wards, Ystrad to the north and Trealaw to the south. There are some streets in the village of Llwynypia that currently fall under the Ystrad electoral division; these streets could be brought into Llwynypia as part of the review. I would suggest extending the current Llwynypia ward boundary as far north as the old Penrhys Rd/Tyntylda Rd. junction, which would transfer approximately 444 electors from Ystrad into Llwynypia. In addition to this, I propose extending the Llwynypia ward boundary southward to encompass residents of Ynyscynon Rd, which is currently serviced by Trealaw electoral ward. Residents in this area identify more closely with Llwynypia. Additionally, there is a polling station in this area that serves only the Llwynypia ward and often leads to a particularly low turnout in Trealaw from this area as the distance to their dedicated polling station is prohibitive. Extending the boundary lines as far as the end of Buckley St., across to Ynyscynon MOT centre would see 298 electors transfer into the Llwynypia ward. In its entirety, this proposal would see Llwynypia take in an extra 742 electors, therefore taking the number of electors to 2,374, which satisfies the Commission's preference for wards to have a classification of between 0 and 10% below the preferred number of 2,302 electors per Elected Member. In addition, the under-representation in the Trealaw ward would be lessened somewhat, with the new electorate of 2,511 falling into the 0% -10% variance. But more importantly, it would address some of the anomalies inherent in the current arrangements and would help to strengthen community ties by respecting the integrity and characteristics of Llwynypia"*

Further feedback stated:

*"There are properties in Llwynypia that are in the Ystrad Ward. Would it be possible to bring these in to the Llwynypia Ward to increase the numbers? It would also be possibly less confusing for the residents.*

*Alternatively, as Trealaw is a large ward, maybe the Ynyscynon area including Buckley Rd and Avenue could be brought into the Llwynypia Ward. This may*

*increase the vote in this area as the polling station, which is currently in Rhys St Trealaw, is a very long way down for these residents when the Llwynypia polling station is a couple of hundred yards away.*

*“We would request that the Council look at an alternative arrangement to the proposed merger of the Llwyn-y-pia and Trealaw wards on the basis that it does not sufficiently reflect the character of either village.*

*Instead of merging the wards, we would suggest that realigning the current boundaries of the Llwyn-y-pia ward may be a more practical solution.”*

Under this proposal put forward, the Llwyn-Y-Pia ward would be extended to cover the Ynyscynon area currently in the Trealaw ward, whilst it would also be extended to cover streets as far up as Old Penrhys Road in Ystrad which belong to the village of Llwyn-Y-Pia. In terms of electorate and the variance consequences, the affected wards would have revised electorates of:

Llwyn-Y-Pia - 2,374 (+/- 10%)

Trealaw - 2,511 (+/- 10%)

Ystrad - 3,804 (-10% to -25%)

Member Representation Consequence: Both Llwyn-Y-Pia and Trealaw would remain single Member Wards.

#### 4.7 **Pentre**

**Proposal (Option 1):** Retain the existing two Member ward. The electoral division currently has an electorate of 3,857, which is 16% below the County average. Over the next five years, it is projected that the electorate will grow to 3,885, which will be 18% below the expected County average.

Member Representation Consequence: No change

**Option 2:** Some resident feedback suggested the existing Pentre Ward be split into two single Member wards that represent the communities of Ton Pentre and Pentre.

Specifically the feedback stated:

*“This consultation offers a tangible opportunity for real and beneficial change to be made to communities across the County Borough and I would urge the Council and the Commission to examine the possibility of splitting the current Pentre ward to form two single Member wards that would give recognition to the significant differences between the communities of Pentre and Ton Pentre. Whilst these two areas share the Pentre name, there is a noticeable lack of community cohesion between them and taking forward this proposal*

*would serve to improve the level of representation in both communities. By way of administration of the proposed new wards, I would suggest that the railway line offers a natural and clearly identifiable boundary for each ward. Using this, the proposed Ton Pentre ward would have an electorate of 2,112 (between 0% and -10%); whilst Pentre would have an electorate of 1,738 (between -10% and -25%), which falls within the levels of the minimum threshold and the Commission will accept.”*

*“Pentre and Ton Pentre should be split into separate wards. Treorchy Industrial estate provides a natural gap for a split. It is not working as it is, so something needs to change”*

*“Pentre is unique in its own rite. Pentre has very little in common with Ton pentre which at the moment it is joined with as one ward.*

*There are very definite differences between the two. Ton Pentre and Pentre are separated by a railway track and river, these are physical separations, this is not to mention the difference in the housing make up and poverty statistics. Pentre needs its own identity, after losing so much of itself through local authority cuts, the community as a whole need to be identified as Pentre, not a through road to Treorchy. It makes no sense joining such a large community to another just because they share a bridge, Ton Pentre and Pentre are worlds apart. Ton Pentre would be far better off joined to Gelli as geographically they are in exactly the same area and are already as one, where as Pentre sits alone but misses out on so many opportunities because of the surrounding more affluent areas. “*

By utilising the suggested railway line as a boundary between the two communities, the ‘Pentre ward’ would have an electorate of 1,738, which is -10% to -25% below the County average; whilst the ‘Ton Pentre’ ward would have an electorate of 2,112, which is +/- 10% below the County average.

Member Representation Consequence: No change

#### 4.8 **Ystrad**

**Proposal (Option 1):** Retain current two Member Ward arrangement. Current variance is 8% below the County Borough average, and the forecast suggests that the figure will increase slightly to -10% by 2023.

Member Representation Consequence: No change

**Option 2:** Some feedback suggested the existing Ystrad Ward be split into two single Member wards that represent the communities of Ystrad and Gelli as outlined below.

*“I would also propose an extension of the above division by separating the current Ystrad ward into two single Member wards that encompass the distinct villages of Gelli and Ystrad. Again, the railway line offers a natural distinct boundary from which they can be separated.*



Please note the above option is dependent on any option which may be pursued by Members in regards to the electoral divisions of Trealaw and Llwyn-y-pia. Should Members opt for Option 2 in respect of those electoral wards, as outlined above, the electorate figures would be adjusted to 1991 (Ystrad) and 1813 (Gelli). Based on this, the option to split the ward remains viable, although the representation variance would fall within the -10% to -25% bracket in both respective cases.

Member Representation Consequence: No change

#### 4.9 **Ferndale & Maerdy**

**Proposal (Option 1)**: Merge the Ferndale and Maerdy Electoral wards to create one, two Member ward. On current electorate figures, this ward would have a population of 5,324, rising to an expected 5,470 over the course of the next five years. Based on the current electorate variance, the ward would be 16% above the average, although with the forecasted population growth across the County, this would drop to 15% by 2023 once the necessary variance adjustments are made.

Consideration was given to merging Ferndale with Tylorstown, although the objections raised in the last set of boundary reform proposals remain valid and, taking these into account, it is proposed instead to merge the Electoral Wards of Maerdy and Ferndale, despite the Maerdy Ward currently satisfying the Commission's preferred level of representation.

Feedback from residents at the engagement event held in Ferndale included the following:

*"makes sense, Maerdy/Ferndale link well, feels more of a community"*

*"won't make much difference"*

*"traditional boundaries returned"*

*"Happy with this, don't know why they split it in the past"*

*"seems sensible to me"*

*"Providing it's a cost saving exercise. Council bill is too big so savings needed."*

Other feedback suggested:

*"It could be hard work for Councillors, social media has created more workload/more calls. It is a big area to cover. The new hub in Ferndale will be good for this, as we can hold surgeries in there going forward. If there was to*

*be a cross party split in the area in the future this might make it more difficult politically and geographically and therefore increase the workload.”*

Member Representation Consequence: Loss of one Member

#### 4.10 **Tylorstown and Ynyshir**

**Proposal (Option 1)**: Merge the electoral divisions to create a two Member ward that encompasses the electoral territory of both of the current wards. This would give a combined electorate of 5,372, which at 2,686 electors per Member, gives a variance of +17% above the County average. The projected electorate would reach 5,432, situating the ward at +14% above the average.

Feedback was received that this would be a large area to cover for one Member but they acknowledged the comparatively small electorate that currently exists. It was also noted there are a large number of people not registered to vote currently based on population figures and if the electorate were to increase in number the proposed area may be too large and under-represented by one Member.

One resident queried why Ynyshir had not been proposed to be joined with Porth.

Consequence: Loss of one Member

#### 4.11 **Beddau and Tyn-Y-Nant**

**Proposal (Option 1)**: Merge Beddau and Tyn-Y-Nant Wards to create a two Member ward. The communities of the two existing wards are intertwined and rely on many of the same services. In terms of representation, the merger would see the variance level at 21% above the County Borough average based on the 2018 electorate figures, although this would decrease to 18% based on the 2023 electorate forecast.

Member Representation Consequence: None

**Option 2**: Merge Beddau and Tyn-Y-Nant Wards to create a three Member ward.

The following feedback was received in respect of this option:

*“The current local government boundaries in RCT have remained unchanged since 1995, during this time there has been substantial changes in population movement, growth & decline in the county borough. Beddau & Tyn-y-nant is one community; the problems which occur within the village often affect the whole community and not just part of it”.*

This option would increase the variance level to a significant over-representation when taking into account the 2023 forecast electorate figures for these two wards.

Member Representation Consequence: Addition of one Member

#### 4.12 **Bryнна and Llanharan**

**Proposal (Option 1):** Merge the wards to create one three Member ward. Based on the current electorates, a combined Bryнна and Llanharan ward would have a current figure of 6,171, although by 2023 this would rise to an estimated 7,020 as the proposed Llanilid development takes shape. This level of electorate warrants the addition of an extra Member and will translate to a variance of -11% (2018) and -2% (2023).

Member Representation Consequence: Addition of one Member

**Option 2:** Create three individual, single Member wards. Following feedback in the consultation, it was proposed that the above option be adjusted to create separate electoral wards to better respond to the emerging needs of the new developments at Llanilid. In terms of administrating these proposals, the existing Llanharan boundary would be retained, whilst a division would be drawn through the Bryнна ward that reflects the Bryнна and Llanilid wards on the Llanharan Community Council. These arrangements would mean that the electorate variance of Llanharan would be the same as outlined in Option 1, whilst the “Upper Bryнна” ward would have an electorate of 2,025 (2,084 in 2023) - translating to a -10% to -25% variance (+/- 0% to 10%). By contrast, the “Lower Bryнна” ward would have an electorate of just 1,416 (> -25%) on 2018 figures, although this would rise significantly to 2,153 (+/- 0% to 10%) by 2023 as the forecasted electorate of the Llanilid development comes into place.

Feedback that supported this option was received from Llanharan Community Council, local Members and both the Member of Parliament and the Assembly Member for Ogmere.

*“The Council should consider putting forward an alternative arrangement for the Bryнна and Llanharan electoral division. Greater consideration should be given to the creation of a distinct ward for the southern area of the current Bryнна ward. I would like to suggest that Bryнна and Bryncae are separated into different wards. If we consider the ideal size of each ward to be 2300 then I would suggest that Bryнна Village be an independent ward.”*

*“Whilst I am not against merging the Bryнна and Llanharan electoral divisions, I do believe that consideration should be given to creating three individual, single Member wards. This would not only be more in keeping with the aims of the review, but it would also provide a greater degree of flexibility*

*in responding to the demographical changes in the area that are set to develop over the course of the next few years. I would suggest that the Llanharan ward be retained in its present form, whilst the Brynna ward could be split into an upper-lower arrangement that uses the railway line as a natural boundary. I appreciate that the 'Brynna south' ward would not satisfy the Commission's requirements in terms of population variance now, but by 2023 there is forecast to be over 2,000 electors living in the area as the new Llanilid development progresses. I would argue that the option to pursue single Member representation in this instance would offer more clarity and accountability in tackling the prevalent issues that will arise as the inhabiting of the Llanilid site takes shape."*

Member Representation Consequence: Addition of one Member

#### 4.13 **Cymmer**

**Proposal (Option 1):** Retain existing two Member ward with the current boundaries. With an electorate of 3971, the variance level is 14% below the County average, with this figure set to rise to -16% by 2023.

Member Representation Consequence: None

**Option 2:** Retain existing ward, although the Rhondda ward element of Trehafod would be transferred to Cymmer, encompassing approximately an extra 251 electors. In terms of electorate variance, this would have a positive impact as the total electorate would rise to 4,222 and consequently improve the representation variance by situating it within the +/- 10% range.

Feedback in respect of this option was received as follows:

*"Trehafod should be in Cymmer Ward."*

*"My submission refers to the historic and heritage village of Trehafod. This village is recognised as one, natural village with its own identity. However, for over a century, the village has been divided by a boundary which exists near the site of the former Trehafod Hotel (now a Newydd Housing social housing estate) and splits Trehafod Rd itself. The north of the village is in RCT Council's Cymmer Ward whilst the south of the village is in the Rhondda Ward. Similarly, the village is divided between the Parliamentary Constituencies of Rhondda and Pontypridd. Furthermore, part of the village is not served by a Community Council whereas the south of the village is served by Pontypridd Town Council. I contend that this is an ideal opportunity for the Commission to give consideration to removing the anachronistic boundaries of the past and treating Trehafod as one entity."*

*"The current arrangements relating to the village of Trehafod, which is currently split between the Cymmer electoral division in the Rhondda constituency and the Rhondda ward in the Pontypridd constituency also need*

*reviewing in my opinion. Trehafod is undoubtedly a 'Rhondda village' and unifying the village under the Cymmer ward would remove the obvious anomaly that is currently in place. As you will be aware, Trehafod is quite a distance from the other constituent villages of the Rhondda ward and with no obvious links to either Pantygraigwen or Hopkinstown. Furthermore the village is in close proximity to Porth and many residents access a number of services in the Porth area. As part of the review, I propose that the whole of the Trehafod village is brought into the Cymmer ward, seeing an additional 251 electors transferred in from the Rhondda ward. This would take the electorate of Cymmer to 4,222 which improves the level of representation by taking the electoral division from the -10% to -25% to within the 0% - 10% classification."*

Member Representation Consequence: None

4.14 **Graig and Rhondda**

***In considering this proposal, Members should note the previous paragraph in regards to the Trehafod element of the Rhondda ward and the possible transfer of this area (251 electors) to the Cymmer ward.***

**Proposal (Option 1):** Merge the electoral divisions of Graig and Rhondda Wards to create a single two Member ward. Both Graig and Rhondda are considered to have an under-representation level of -10% to -25%. Merging the two Wards would take the representation level to +10% to +25%, thus improving the general level of representation in the upper Pontypridd area.

Without Trehafod the merged ward would have an electorate of 5,083 and a +16% variance based on the 2018 average; whilst this would rise to an expected 5,430 electors (+14% above the County average).

Feedback in respect of this proposal suggested that:

*"We have concerns over the size of the proposed new ward. Whilst the proposal would have an improvement on the electoral variance, we believe that it does not give sufficient weighting to the importance of more salient issues, such as the need to respect local identities and have manageable boundaries that enable Councillors to provide the best level of representation to their residents.*

*"I am not convinced that the existing proposal to address overrepresentation in the Graig ward and by merging it with the Rhondda ward will enhance community identity."*

Member Representation Consequence: Loss of One Member

**Option 2:** Retain existing arrangement of one single Member ward (Graig) and one two Member ward (Rhondda).

Feedback suggested there was support for this option although it acknowledged that the proposal (Option 1) consulted on will improve the general level of representation across the Graig and Rhondda Wards in line with requirements of the Boundary Commission's review.

Specific feedback was received in respect of retaining the existing Graig Ward as follows:

*"The Graig Ward is one of the oldest residential areas in Pontypridd. High St Area is a key part of the night time economy and the Pontypridd Train Station is a key part of the new Metro. In addition to a longstanding community, the Graig has a significant proportion of social housing (Trivallis) in St. Andrew Court, Taff Vale flats and Fernbank House. An additional development at the former magistrates court for assisted living is planned. The Ward includes areas of Treforest such as Wood Street, Laura Street, Alma Terrace and Rickards Street with a significant student population which has its own challenges. There is a geographic and historical link here. Recently the Ward has been extended to include the wider Pencoedcae area which has meant engagement with properties which are remote and not easily accessible especially in inclement weather. The Ward has significant child poverty and anti-social issues especially related to its proximity to the Town Centre. Recently Courthouse Street has become home to Artis Community and other organisations whilst Dewi Sant Hospital has been established as a health park with additional services. This strong and long established community is home to many Churches and the newly revitalised Community Centre where a number of events reflect its unique nature. These factors make it an important area of the Town. In view of the location, challenges and particular circumstances we believe that the Graig should maintain an independent voice as its own Ward."*

Member Representation Consequence: None

**Option 3:** Based on feedback from the stakeholder engagement, one suggested solution would be to extend the Graig boundaries to encompass a section of Maes-Y-Coed, which is currently situated in the Rhondda ward. In addition to the proposed transfer of Trehafod, this solution would also include 450 electors being brought under the extended Graig ward. In terms of variance, this would mean that the Rhondda would have an electorate of 2,780 (2018) and 2,819 (2023) which falls within the +25% threshold. Also, this option would mean that the Graig Ward would have an electorate of 2,303 which is just one elector above the 2018 County average.

Member Representation Consequence: None

#### 4.15 **Llantrisant Town and Talbot Green**

**Proposal (Option 1):** Merge the electoral divisions of Llantrisant Town and Talbot Green. This would equate to a combined electorate of 5,118, which is +11% above the current County average and +10% above the forecasted 2023 average based on the anticipated electorate of 5,238.

The current Councillors for the two Wards asked that it be recorded they support the proposals put forward by the Council in relation to the Llantrisant Town and Talbot Green electoral wards. Specifically that the option;

- *Satisfies the demands of the review by offering a solution to the over representation in the Talbot green ward and the under-representation in the Llantrisant Town Ward.*
- *Acknowledged and recognised the ties between the local communities constituting both wards.*
- *Did not seek to make excessive or disruptive change to the way local residents are represented.*
- *Paid due consideration to Llantrisant Community Council.*

Member Representation Consequence: None

#### 4.16 **Tonyrefail West**

**Proposal (Option 1):** Increase the number of Members to two. The severe under-representation necessitates the requirement for an extra Member and the proposal satisfies this need. The additional Member would give a variance of +4% (2018), rising to +10% based on projected electorate growth.

Feedback on this proposal suggested there is evidence that the communities of Penrhiwfer and Edmondstown identify more closely with communities to the north.

Member Representation Consequence: Addition of one Member

#### 4.17 **Llanharry and Pont-y-Clun**

**Proposal (Option 1):** Transfer the community of Tyla-Garw and allocate an additional representative to Pont-y-Clun to create a three-Member ward. Llanharry would consequently remain as a single Member ward. In respect of the electoral variance, Pont-y-Clun would initially be situated at -4% below the County average, whilst there would also be a beneficial effect for the Llanharry electoral division as the variance excess would fall to +10%. According to the 2023 forecast, Pont-y-Clun would be +5% above the County Borough average, whilst the average in Llanharry would fall slightly to 8% above.

This proposal did receive support and some objections.

*"I am pleased to see that the Council is consulting on the option of transferring the Tyla-Garw area into the Pontyclun ward, which it has far more in common with. Many of those living in Tyla-Garw identify themselves as residents of Pontyclun, with the main access to the estate via the Bailey bridge in Pont-Y-Clun, which also allows residents to make use of the services available in the Pont-Y-Clun town area."*

*"I believe that, in addition to solidifying the connectivity and identity issues outlined above, the transferral would help to address the under-representation in the Llanharry ward, thus providing a more efficient and appropriate system of local representation for residents."*

Feedback suggested the effects on Llanharry Community Council (due to the transfer of Tyla-Garw out of the Llanharry Ward) are fully assessed before proceeding.

Llanharry Community Council also submitted the following feedback:

*"The Boundary Commission has indicated that they are not in favour of three member wards, which Pontyclun would become with the inclusion of Tylagarw."*

*It seems logical to utilise natural boundaries such as rivers and with this in mind we propose utilising the Ely and Nant Melyn Rivers as the boundary for Llanharry, which in effect would mean Tylagarw remaining in Llanharry Ward and the transfer of Brynsadler from Pontyclun Ward to Llanharry Ward. Not that long ago Clos Brenin in Brynsadler was in the ward of Llanharry. This would result in Pontyclun remaining a two member ward and depending on numbers Llanharry could become a two member ward.*

*Llanharry seems the only ward to be losing an area! If this proposal is successful we believe that it would have a detrimental effect on the services we can provide for Llanharry as well as on the communities of both Llanharry and Tylagarw, who have strong links between the two including organisations that work in both areas such as Llanharry and Tylagarw Community Association."*

Member Representation Consequence: Addition of one Member

**Option 2:** Adopt the same arrangement as Option 1, although the area be divided into three separate single Member wards. This option was proposed by Pont-y-Clun Community Council.

Pont-y-Clun Community Council suggested the electorate for the proposed wards (based on 1<sup>st</sup> June 2018 electorate figures) would be:



- Pont-y-Clun “West” - 2,451 (+/- 10%)
- Pont-y-Clun “Central” - 2,372 (+/- 10%)
- Pont-y-Clun “East” - 1,762 (-10% to -25%), although this could rise to over 2,500 by 2023 with the progression of planning applications that have been granted approval.

Member Representation Consequence: Addition of one Member

#### 4.18 **Hawthorn and Rhydfelen Central/Ilan**

**Proposal (Option 1)**: To create an additional single Member Ward. The existing Electoral Wards of Hawthorn and Rhydfelen Central/Ilan are classified as being +25% to 50% in terms of representation and, with a combined population of over 6000 electors, it is proposed that a new Electoral Ward be created covering the upper Rhydfelen/Glyntaf area. This would mean that the area of the two current electoral wards of Hawthorn and Rhydfelen Central/Ilan is served by three separate electoral wards, based loosely on the Hawthorn, Rhydyfelin Central and Upper Rhydyfelin arrangement in effect from 1995 to 1999. In terms of representation, this would see the variance levels adjusted to -22% (Hawthorn), -16% (Rhydyfelin Central) and +4% (Rhydyfelin Upper). Specific forecast figures are not available for 2023.

Specific feedback in relation to this proposal included:

*“I support the proposal to reduce the democratic deficit across the existing Rhydfelin and Hawthorn wards by increasing the number of Councillors to three. Dividing the area into three wards better reflects community identities.”*

*“I am writing to confirm my support for the proposals drawn up by officers relating to the electoral arrangements in the Rhydfelen Central Ilan and Hawthorn wards.*

*I am confident that the creation of the new ward will instil a greater sense of identity amongst residents and I hope that it will also lead to greater engagement in local politics, as the Rhydfelen ward in particular suffers from one of the lowest turnout rates in the Borough.”*

The local Member for Hawthorn acknowledged that alternative proposals were difficult to draw up without the specific elector details for neighbouring wards, but offered a different option that suggested using existing ward boundaries between the current Hawthorn and Central Rhydyfelin wards for much of its boundaries, with Dyffryn Road offered as the key boundary between the new ward and existing two. The alternative also used the A470 as a natural boundary along the remaining axis.

Member Representation Consequence: Additional single Member Electoral Ward (Upper Rhydfelen/Glyntaf area)

4.19 **Hirwaun**

**Proposal (Option 1)**: Retain the existing arrangement (single Member ward). Despite being 36% over the County Borough variance (2018), Officers felt that the unique nature of the Rhigos ward should be given greater consideration. The variance is forecast to remain at 36% over the course of the next five years.

Specific feedback on this proposal was received as follows:

*"I am pleased to see that the Council is not proposing to alter the electoral divisions of Hirwaun and Rhigos. Whilst I appreciate that Hirwaun is currently under represented, I would argue that the unique and rural nature of the Rhigos ward should take precedence in the considerations of the review."*

*"I also wish for it to be noted that I support the retaining of the Rhigos and Hirwaun wards as separate divisions on the basis that they are two very distinct communities. The villages constituting the Rhigos ward again qualify for EAFRD funding and starkly contrast the demands and issues of the more urbanised Hirwaun ward. I believe that this distinct nature is sufficient for keeping the wards as separate electoral divisions, and I am pleased to see that Council Officers have given due consideration to such local characteristics when compiling these proposals."*

Member Representation Consequence: No change

4.20 **Rhigos**

**Proposal (Option 1)**: Retain the current single Member ward. The current variance is 39% below the County average, with an electorate of 1,399. The ward variance is forecasted to remain at 39% below by 2023 even with an increase in the electorate to the anticipated 1,443. Members are requested to be mindful of the unique and rural nature of the constituent communities in deliberating the outcome for this ward.

Specific feedback was received in respect of this proposal as outlined above in the commentary relating to the Hirwaun Ward.

Member Representation Consequence: No change