



RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

COUNCIL

19th SEPTEMBER 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 details of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee Working Group's discussions and recommendation to Council that the Officer proposals 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') be subject to a period of stakeholder engagement prior to further consideration by Council at its meeting on 24th October 2018.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that Council:

- 2.1 Notes the Officer proposals relating to the review of the Council's electoral arrangements by the Boundary Commission as outlined in Appendix A to this report;
- 2.2 Acknowledges the comments and input of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee Working Group made at the Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 3rd September 2018 and which are detailed in the minutes of this meeting attached at Appendix B to this report;
- 2.3 In accordance with the recommendation of the Overview and Scrutiny Working Group agrees that the Officer proposals outlined in Appendix A be subject to a period of stakeholder engagement as detailed in section 5 of this report; and

- 2.4 Subject to 2.3 above, agrees that feedback from the stakeholder engagement be presented to the October Council meeting for consideration, prior to submission of any final Council proposal to the Boundary Commission by 5p.m. on the 26th October 2018.

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 23rd 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 Members will recall that at the Council Meeting held on Wednesday 27th 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 25th 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.
- 3.4 At the Overview and Scrutiny Committee's meeting held on Thursday 12th 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 27th June 2018.
- 3.5 Council subsequently also received a presentation from the Boundary Commission in respect of the electoral review at its meeting held on the 25th July 2018.
- 3.6 The initial phase of the electoral review itself commenced on 1st August 2018 and lasts until 23rd 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. Details can be found on the Boundary Commission website via the following link:

[RCT CBC ELECTORAL REVIEW](#) | [RCT CBC ELECTORAL REVIEW - CYMRAEG](#)

4. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – CONSIDERATION OF OFFICER PROPOSALS

- 4.1 A special meeting of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee was held on Monday 3rd September 2018 to consider proposals developed by Officers in respect of the review of the Council's electoral arrangements. The report presented to the Committee at this meeting containing those Officer proposals, further background information on the review and overall timetable is attached at Appendix A to this report. The minutes of this meeting which incorporate the comments and input from Members are also attached at Appendix B to this report.
- 4.2 The Overview and Scrutiny Committee resolved to recommend that the Council now agrees the Officer proposals outlined in Appendix A be subject to a period of stakeholder engagement as detailed in paragraph 5 of this report.

5. STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT AND PROPOSED WAY FORWARD

- 5.1 In accordance with the Overview and Scrutiny Committee's recommendation it is now proposed that Council agrees to initiate a period of stakeholder engagement on the Officer proposals outlined in Appendix A. The engagement would run from the 21st September until 12th October 2018. This would include holding a number of community events and the option to feedback online or in writing. Feedback from this exercise and the individual responses submitted by County Borough Councillors to the LGB Review Mailbox (LGBreview@rctcbc.gov.uk) would then be reported back to the October Council meeting for Members' consideration, prior to submission of any final Council proposal to the Boundary Commission by 5p.m. on the 26th October 2018.
- 5.2 As part of the engagement exercise, it is proposed the views of the Community and Town Councils would be sought at the meeting of the Community Council Liaison Committee to be held on the 25th September 2018.
- 5.3 Three community engagement events are also being proposed to be held as follows:
1. Hawthorn Leisure Centre - 5 - 7pm on the 4th October.
 2. Ferndale Library – 10am -12pm on the 8th October.
 3. Sobell Leisure Centre, Aberdare - 2 - 4pm on the 11th October.
- 5.4 Members should note that any individual responses submitted directly to the Boundary Commission as part of its initial consultation phase should be submitted by the closure date of the 23rd October 2018.

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 is currently undertaking a 12 Week initial consultation period, which commenced on the 1st August 2018 and ends on 23rd October 2018, to invite proposals ahead of 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 5 above is proposed to be undertaken on the officer proposals as outlined in Appendix A to this report.

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 will 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 There are no financial implications aligned to this report but Members should note the comments made under the financial implications section outlined in the report at Appendix A.

10. CONCLUSION

10.1 It is recommended that the Officer proposals in respect of the Boundary Commission's review of the Council's electoral arrangements now be subject to a period of stakeholder engagement, prior to further consideration by full Council at its October meeting.



RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

3rd SEPTEMBER 2018

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

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

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 Following the commencement of the initial phase of the consultation process in respect of the review of the Council's electoral arrangements, which is being undertaken by the Local Democracy and Boundary Commission for Wales, the aim of the report is to consider proposals developed by Officers in accordance with the terms of reference agreed by this Committee for revised Council Electoral Ward boundaries.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that Members:

- 2.1 Consider the Officer proposals relating to the Council's electoral arrangements, namely:
- 2.1.1 In accordance with the Local Democracy and Boundary Commission for Wales' Council Size Policy that the number of Elected Members for this Council remains at 75;
- 2.1.2 A proposed reduction in Electoral Wards from 52 to 44 resulting in the Electoral Wards shown in Appendix 3 to the report;
- 2.1.3 No changes are proposed to be made to 24 existing Electoral Wards as detailed in paragraph 6.3 of the report;

2.1.4 Retaining 4 existing Electoral Wards but increasing or decreasing the number of Members representing the particular Electoral Ward as detailed in paragraph 6 of the report;

2.1.5 Revised Electoral Ward boundaries for 18 existing Electoral Wards through merging existing Electoral Wards (and associated Community Wards) and any associated changes in Member representation as detailed in paragraph 6 of the report thereby creating 9 new Electoral Wards;

2.1.6

2.1.6.1 Revised Electoral Ward boundaries for 6 existing Electoral Wards through revising Community Ward boundaries and any associated changes in Member representation as detailed in paragraphs 6.19 and 6.20 of the report and shown on the maps set out in Appendix 4 to the report; and

2.1.6.2 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 as detailed in paragraph 6.20 of the report and shown on the maps set out in Appendix 4 to the report;

thereby creating 7 new Electoral Wards.

2.2 Subject to any comments Members may have, to recommend to Full Council that the proposals be subject to a period of stakeholder engagement prior to further consideration by Full Council at its October meeting and submission of a final Council proposal to the Local Democracy and Boundary Commission for Wales by 26th October 2018.

3. BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

3.1 Section 29 of the Local Government (Democracy) (Wales) Act 2013 places a duty upon the Local Democracy and Boundary Commission for Wales (the 'Boundary Commission') to review the electoral arrangements for each principal area at least once every ten years.

3.2 On 23rd 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 Members will recall that at the Council Meeting held on Wednesday 27th 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 25th 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.
- 3.4 At this Committee's meeting held on Thursday 12th July 2018 Members resolved to agree key terms of reference for the Working Group review as set out in paragraph 4 of this report, acknowledging that community boundaries should be used as the building blocks for the review.
- 3.5 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 27th June 2018.
- 3.6 Council subsequently also received a presentation from the Boundary Commission in respect of the electoral review at its meeting held on the 25th July 2018.
- 3.7 The initial phase of the electoral review itself commenced on 1st August 2018 and lasts until 23rd October 2018. After this date the 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. Details can be found on the Boundary Commission website via the following link: [RCT CBC ELECTORAL REVIEW](#) | [RCT CBC ELECTORAL REVIEW - CYMRAEG](#)
- 3.8 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.
- 3.9 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

4. TERMS OF REFERENCE

4.1 Members agreed the following key terms of reference for the review and for Officers in respect of developing proposals, namely:

4.1.1 To acknowledge the use of Community Boundary Wards as the essential building blocks for the review;

4.1.2 To keep change to a minimum;

4.1.3 To acknowledge that some Electoral Wards will need to be amended in some formal way within the parameters outlined in the Boundary Commission guidance;

4.1.4 To instruct Officers to develop options based on these principles; and

4.1.5 To instruct Officers to develop appropriate feedback mechanisms with the timetable set out below.

5. ELECTORAL REVIEW TIMETABLE

5.1 **Stage 1 – Official Start** – this is the 12 Week Initial Consultation Period currently underway and which commenced 1st August 2018 and ending on 23rd October 2018:

- 19th September 2018 – Full Council – consideration of preferred option proposal from Overview and Scrutiny Committee and initiation of stakeholder engagement
- 20th September 2018 – 5th October 2018 – Stakeholder engagement on the Council's preferred option
- 24th October 2018 – Full Council – consideration of feedback from stakeholder engagement, agreement of preferred option and submission to the Boundary Commission. Members should note that due to the October Council meeting falling the day after the closure of the consultation period the Council has received agreement from the Boundary Commission to submit any Council proposal by 5p.m. Friday 26th October. Any individual responses made by Members would need to be submitted by the closure date of 23rd October.

Stage 2 – Commission's Draft Proposals

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 – 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 WG 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. OFFICER ELECTORAL WARD PROPOSALS

- 6.1 Appendix 1 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 1st June 2018).
- 6.2 Appendix 2 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.
- 6.3 No changes are proposed to be made to the following 24 existing Electoral Wards:

| ELECTORAL WARD | MEMBERS | CURRENT VARIANCE |
|-------------------------|----------------|-------------------------|
| 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 6.21 and 6.22 for commentary on reasoning behind proposal to retain existing Electoral Wards of Hirwaun, Rhigos and Treforest

6.4 Changes are proposed to be made to the following existing Electoral Wards as follows.

6.5 **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%.

6.6 **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%.

6.7 **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%.

6.8 **Ynysybwl**

Proposal: Make the existing Ward a two Member Ward

Member Consequence: Additional Member

Reason: Ynysybwl 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%.

6.9 **Trealaw & Llwyn-Y-Pia**

Proposal: Merge existing Electoral Wards of Trealaw & Llwyn-Y-Pia 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.

6.10 **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.

6.11 **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%.

6.12 **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%.

6.13 **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%.

6.14 **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.

6.15 **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.

6.16 **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.

6.17 **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.

6.18 **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 4 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.

6.19 **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 4 shows the proposed revised Electoral Ward boundaries of Llanharry and Pont-y-clun

6.20 **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 4 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:

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

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

6.21 **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.

6.22 **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.

7. **MEMBER SUBMISSIONS**

- 7.1 Following queries from Members about how they can submit comments and their own proposals in relation to the Working Group's review and to the Boundary Commission's initial phase of consultation a dedicated mailbox was

setup to facilitate this - LGBReview@rctcbc.gov.uk . Members are, of course, able to respond to the Boundary Commission's consultation individually although it is considered one agreed Council proposal would carry more weight with the Boundary Commission. It is important to also highlight that the Boundary Commission have said they would like to receive responses in support of any proposal in addition to those which may be against. A number of representations have been received. In the main, the comments received requested that options take into consideration future and planned development proposals in the south of the County Borough. In addition, comments received also highlighted a general preference to create distinct new electoral divisions as a solution instead of multi-member wards represented by more than two members.

8. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

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

9. CONSULTATION

- 9.1 The Boundary Commission is currently undertaking a 12 Week initial Consultation Period which commenced on the 1st August 2018 and ends on 23rd October 2018 to invite proposals ahead of publishing its own draft proposals in Summer 2019. As part of the approach agreed by Council, a period of stakeholder engagement is proposed to be undertaken on any proposal Council may agree prior to its submission to the Boundary Commission.
- 9.2 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 will be taken into account.

10. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1 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.

11. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 11.1 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.

12. CONCLUSION

- 12.1 Officers have formulated a set of proposals in respect of the review of the Council's electoral arrangements for Members consideration.
- 12.2 In accordance with the Local Democracy and Boundary Commission for Wales' Council Size Policy the proposal brought forward keeps the number of Elected Members for this Council at 75.
- 12.3 There is a proposed reduction in Electoral Wards from 52 to 44 resulting in the Electoral Wards shown in Appendix 3 to the report;
- 12.4 No changes are proposed to be made to 24 existing Electoral Wards. It is proposed to retain 4 existing Electoral Wards but increase or decrease the number of Members representing the particular Electoral Ward as detailed in paragraph 6 of the report.
- 12.5 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 as detailed in paragraph 6 of the report thereby creating 9 new Electoral Wards.
- 12.6 Revised Electoral Ward boundaries are proposed for 6 existing Electoral Ward through revising Community Ward boundaries and any associated changes in Member representation as detailed in paragraphs 6.19 and 6.20 of the report and shown on the maps set out in Appendix 4 to the report, 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.
- 12.7 Subject to any comments Members may have, it is recommended that the proposals be commended to Council so that they may be subject to a period of stakeholder engagement, prior to further consideration by full Council at its October meeting and submission of a final Council proposal to the Local Democracy and Boundary Commission for Wales by 26th October 2018.

This page intentionally blank

**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 | Aberaman North | The Community of Aberaman North | 2 | 3,648 | 1,824 | -21% | 3,781 | 1,891 | -20% | 4,143 |
| 2 | Aberaman South | The Community of Aberaman South | 2 | 3,463 | 1,732 | -25% | 3,609 | 1,805 | -24% | 3,758 |
| 3 | Abercynon | The Community of Abercynon | 2 | 4,487 | 2,244 | -3% | 4,537 | 2,269 | -5% | 4,968 |
| 4 | Aberdare East | The Community of Aberdare East | 2 | 4,900 | 2,450 | 6% | 5,077 | 2,539 | 7% | 5,243 |
| 5 | Aberdare West/Llwydcoed | 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 | Beddau | The Beddau ward of the Community of Llantrisant | 1 | 3,167 | 3,167 | 38% | 3,174 | 3,174 | 34% | 3,575 |
| 7 | Brynna | 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 | Church Village | The Church Village ward of the Community of Llantwit Fardre | 1 | 4,313 | 4,313 | 87% | 4,350 | 4,350 | 83% | 3,898 |
| 9 | Cilfynydd | The Cilfynydd ward of the Town of Pontypridd | 1 | 2,095 | 2,095 | -9% | 2,136 | 2,136 | -10% | 2,260 |
| 10 | Cwm Clydach | The Community of Cwm Clydach | 1 | 1,944 | 1,944 | -16% | 2,049 | 2,049 | -14% | 2,177 |
| 11 | Cwmbach | The Community of Cwmbach | 1 | 3,679 | 3,679 | 60% | 3,959 | 3,959 | 67% | 3,940 |
| 12 | Cymmer | 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 | Ferndale | The Community of Ferndale | 2 | 3,037 | 1,519 | -34% | 3,072 | 1,536 | -35% | 3,369 |
| 14 | Gilfach Goch | The Community of Gilfach Goch | 1 | 2,434 | 2,434 | 6% | 2,495 | 2,495 | 5% | 2,723 |
| 15 | Glyncoch | The Glyncoch ward of the Town of Pontypridd | 1 | 2,021 | 2,021 | -12% | 2,023 | 2,023 | -15% | 2,310 |
| 16 | Graig | The Graig ward of the Town of Pontypridd | 1 | 1,853 | 1,853 | -20% | 1,910 | 1,910 | -20% | 1,901 |
| 17 | Hawthorn | 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 | Hirwaun | The Hirwaun ward of the Community of Hirwaun | 1 | 3,123 | 3,123 | 36% | 3,239 | 3,239 | 36% | 3,374 |
| 19 | Llanharan | The Llanharan ward of the Community of Llanharan | 1 | 2,730 | 2,730 | 19% | 2,783 | 2,783 | 17% | 2,717 |
| 20 | Llanharry | The Community of Llanharry | 1 | 3,121 | 3,121 | 36% | 3,167 | 3,167 | 33% | 2,999 |
| 21 | Llantrisant Town | The Llantrisant Town ward of the Community of Llantrisant | 1 | 3,162 | 3,162 | 37% | 3,247 | 3,247 | 37% | 3,935 |
| 22 | Llantwit Fardre | 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 | Llwyn-y-Pia | The Community of Llwyn-y-Pia | 1 | 1,632 | 1,632 | -29% | 1,713 | 1,713 | -28% | 1,858 |
| 24 | Maerdy | The Community of Maerdy | 1 | 2,287 | 2,287 | -1% | 2,398 | 2,398 | 1% | 2,387 |
| 25 | Mountain Ash East | The Community of Mountain Ash East | 1 | 2,158 | 2,158 | -6% | 2,381 | 2,381 | 0% | 2,335 |
| 26 | Mountain Ash West | The Community of Mountain Ash West | 2 | 3,120 | 1,560 | -32% | 3,197 | 1,599 | -33% | 3,608 |
| 27 | Pen-y-Graig | The Community of Pen-y-graig | 2 | 3,924 | 1,962 | -15% | 3,983 | 1,992 | -16% | 4,307 |
| 28 | Pen-y-Waun | The Community of Pen-y-waun | 1 | 2,011 | 2,011 | -13% | 2,122 | 2,122 | -11% | 2,345 |
| 29 | Penrhiwceiber | The Community of Penrhiwceiber | 2 | 4,114 | 2,057 | -11% | 4,136 | 2,068 | -13% | 4,561 |
| 30 | Pentre | The Community of Pentre | 2 | 3,857 | 1,929 | -16% | 3,885 | 1,943 | -18% | 4,147 |
| 31 | Pont-y-clun | The Community of Pont-y-clun | 2 | 6,014 | 3,007 | 31% | 6,873 | 3,437 | 45% | 6,470 |
| 32 | Pontypridd Town | The Town ward of the Town of Pontypridd | 1 | 2,153 | 2,153 | -6% | 2,217 | 2,217 | -7% | 2,279 |
| 33 | Porth | The Community of Porth | 2 | 4,301 | 2,151 | -7% | 4,426 | 2,213 | -7% | 4,799 |
| 34 | Rhigos | 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 | Rhondda | The Rhondda ward of the Town of Pontypridd | 2 | 3,481 | 1,741 | -24% | 3,520 | 1,760 | -26% | 3,703 |
| 36 | Rhydfelen Central/Ilan | 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 | Taffs Well | The Community of Taffs Well | 1 | 2,826 | 2,826 | 23% | 2,830 | 2,830 | 19% | 3,123 |
| 38 | Talbot Green | The Talbot Green ward of the Community of Llantrisant | 1 | 1,956 | 1,956 | -15% | 1,991 | 1,991 | -16% | 2,302 |
| 39 | Ton-Teg | The Ton-Teg ward of the Community of Llantwit Fardre | 2 | 3,222 | 1,611 | -30% | 3,222 | 1,611 | -32% | 3,282 |
| 40 | Tonypandy | The Community of Tonypandy | 1 | 2,638 | 2,638 | 15% | 2,695 | 2,695 | 13% | 3,001 |
| 41 | Tonyrefail East | 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 | Tonyrefail West | 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 | Trallwng | The Trallwng ward of the Town of Pontypridd | 1 | 2,795 | 2,795 | 21% | 2,819 | 2,819 | 19% | 3,087 |
| 44 | Trealaw | The Community of Trealaw | 1 | 2,809 | 2,809 | 22% | 2,840 | 2,840 | 19% | 3,244 |
| 45 | Treforest | The Treforest ward of the Town of Pontypridd | 1 | 2,901 | 2,901 | 26% | 2,997 | 2,997 | 26% | 4,449 |
| 46 | Treherbert | The Community of Treherbert | 2 | 4,165 | 2,083 | -10% | 4,242 | 2,121 | -11% | 4,583 |
| 47 | Treorchy | The Community of Treorchy | 3 | 5,652 | 1,884 | -18% | 5,750 | 1,917 | -19% | 6,118 |
| 48 | Tylorstown | The Community of Tylorstown | 2 | 2,981 | 1,491 | -35% | 3,034 | 1,517 | -36% | 3,404 |
| 49 | Tyn-y-Nant | The Tyn-y-Nant ward of the Community of Llantrisant | 1 | 2,414 | 2,414 | 5% | 2,414 | 2,414 | 2% | 2,657 |
| 50 | Ynyshir | The Community of Ynyshir | 1 | 2,391 | 2,391 | 4% | 2,398 | 2,398 | 1% | 2,649 |
| 51 | Ynysybwl | The Community of Ynysybwl and Coed-y-Cwm | 1 | 3,457 | 3,457 | 50% | 3,485 | 3,485 | 47% | 3,619 |
| 52 | Ystrad | 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

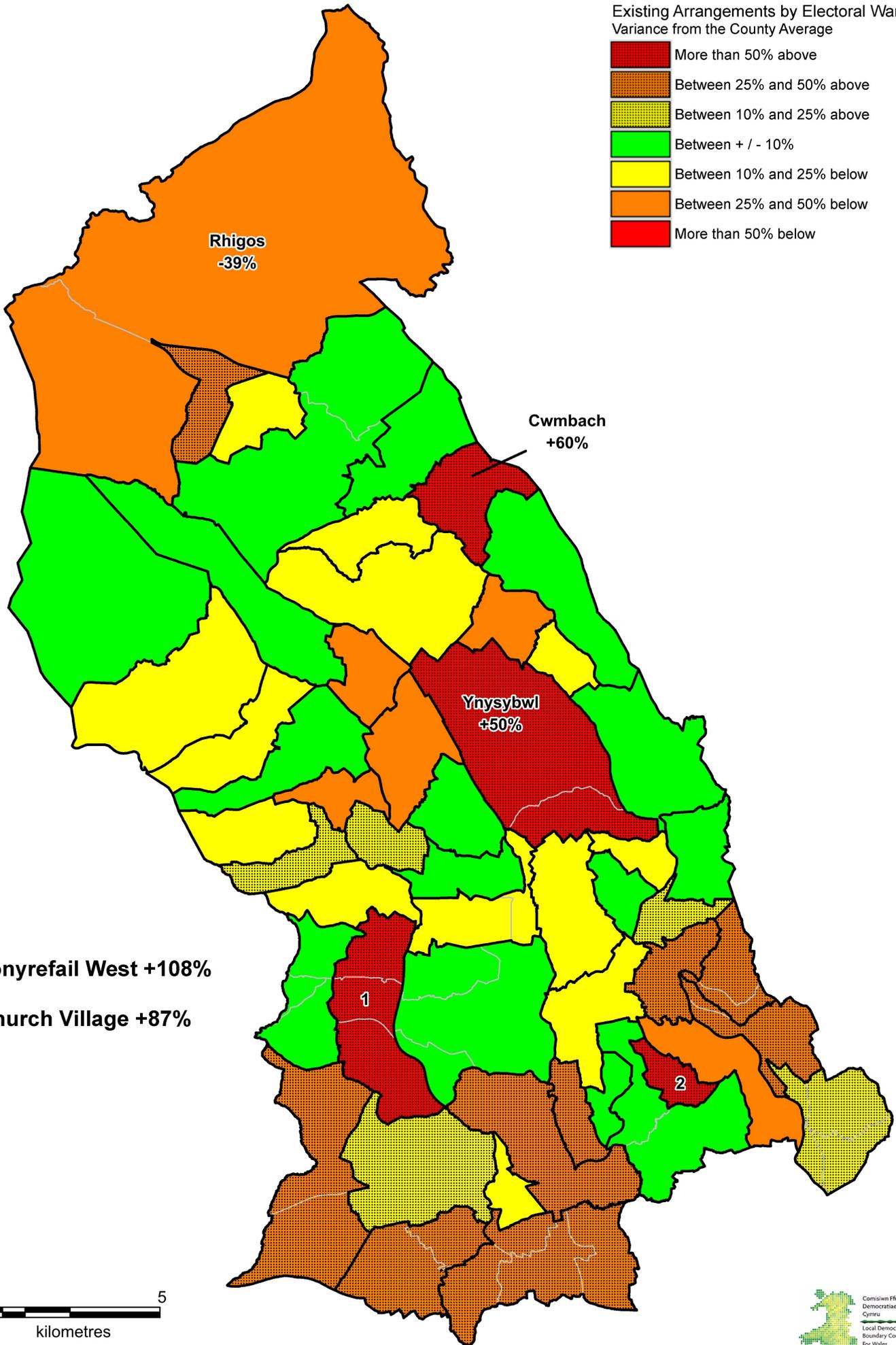
| | 2018 | 2023 |
|---|----------|----------|
| Greater than + or - 50% of County average | 4 8% | 4 8% |
| Between + or - 25% and + or - 50% of County average | 15 29% | 15 29% |
| Between + or - 10% and + or - 25% of County average | 18 35% | 23 44% |
| Between 0% and + or - 10% of County average |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

COUNTY BOROUGH OF RHONDDA CYNON TAF

EXISTING VARIANCE IN ELECTORAL REPRESENTATION

Existing Arrangements by Electoral Wards
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) |
|  | More than 50% below | (0) |



1 - Tonyrefail West +108%

2 - Church Village +87%

0 5
kilometres

Scale: 1:141,000



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% |
| Tonypanyd | 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% |
| Totals | 75 | 172,673 | 2,302 | |

| Electorate (5 Year Forecast 2023) | Electors per Councillor | Variance | Community Council | Key Variance - Electors 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% | | |
| 178,294 | 2377 | | | |



RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee held at the County Borough Council Offices, The Pavilions, Cambrian Park, Clydach Vale on Monday, 3rd September, 2018 at 5 p.m.

PRESENT

County Borough Councillor L.M.Adams – in the Chair

County Borough Councillors

| | | |
|-----------|------------|-------------|
| H.Boggis | S. Evans | S. Morgans |
| J.Bonetto | J. Harries | E. Stephens |
| G.Caple | P. Jarman | L. Walker |
| A.Cox | D. Macey | |

Cabinet Members

County Borough Councillors

R. Bevan – Cabinet Member for Enterprise Development and Housing
M. Webber – Cabinet Member for Council Business
C. Leyshon – Cabinet Member for Children & Young People

County Borough Councillors in Attendance

| | |
|----------------|-------------|
| S. A. Bradwick | W. Lewis |
| A. Chapman | E. Webster |
| M. Diamond | J. Williams |
| L. Hooper | R. Turner |
| G. Hughes | |

Education Co-opted Member(s)

Mr. J. Fish – Elected Parent/Governor Representative

Officers in Attendance

Mr. C. Hanagan – Director of Communications and Interim Head of Democratic Services

Mr C. B. Jones – Director, Legal & Democratic Services

10. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Committee Members - County Borough Councillors J. Brencher, E. George, J. James and C. Jones (Representing GMB), Non-Committee Members – County Borough Councillor S. Rees-Owen and R. Yeo.

11. **ANNOUNCEMENT**

The Director, Legal & Democratic Services informed Committee that for the purpose of accuracy, clarification was required in respect of the titles of both Mr Chris Jones and Mr Christian Hanagan which would read as follows for all future reports, namely Director, Legal & Democratic Services and Director of Communications & Interim Head of Democratic Services.

12. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

RESOLVED – to note that there were no declarations of interest made at the meeting pertaining to the agenda.

13. **SCRUTINY TOOLKIT – WELL BEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS (WALES) ACT**

The Director of Communications & Interim Head of Democratic Services presented his report in respect of the opportunity to work alongside the Future Generations Commissioner office to pilot a new scrutiny toolkit which would embrace the wellbeing goals and five ways of working within the Well being of Future Generations (Wales) Act (*The Act*).

The Director advised that, as referred to at the meetings of the Overview & Scrutiny held on the 18th April and 25th June 2018 and in consultation with the Chair of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee, a formal approach is being sought in respect of taking forward the pilot. The Director of Communications & Interim Head of Democratic Services advised that following the meeting, nominations would be sought via email for two members from each of the respective Scrutiny Committees to form a politically balanced scrutiny working group which will undertake a review utilising the toolkit formulated by the Commissioner's Office. Committee was informed that nominations from Co-Opted Members would also be welcome.

Further to a query it was confirmed that the email referred to earlier would be circulated immediately following the meeting to enable Members sufficient opportunity to submit their nominations which would be agreed by the Group Leaders.

Following discussion it was **RESOLVED** -

- 1) To take forward the pilot project working with the Future Generations Commissioner as outlined in section 5 of the report; and
- 2) That the Chair of the working group be appointed at the group's first meeting.

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

In his joint report with the Director of Communications and Interim Head of Democratic Services, the Director, Legal & Democratic Services presented the proposals developed by Council officers, in accordance with the terms of reference agreed by the Overview & Scrutiny Committee at its meeting held on the 12th July 2018, for the revised Council Electoral Ward boundaries. He sought Committee's consideration of the proposals relating to the Council's electoral arrangements as set out in the recommendations within the report.

The Director, Legal & Democratic Services referred Committee to the Electoral Review Timetable which set out the deadlines by which feedback would be received, commencing with Full Council on the 24th October 2018 when consideration of the preferred option proposal from Overview & Scrutiny Committee would be considered. He confirmed that the initial 12 week consultation period was currently underway and would end on the 23rd October 2018 (however, given the date of October Council on the 24th October 2018 the Boundary Commission have extended the deadline for a Council response to 5pm on the 26th October 2018).

The Director advised that there are no changes proposed to be made to 24 existing Electoral Wards but changes are proposed for 18 existing wards.

It was confirmed that a dedicated mailbox had been set up to ensure that the views of this Council's Members are recorded and communicated to the Local Democracy and Boundary Commission for Wales. It was agreed that information would be circulated to all Members advising them how to access the dedicated mailbox.

Summary of Members' Comments Made

Committee considered the 24 existing Electoral Wards to which no changes are proposed to be made and no comments were made in respect of these.

Aberaman North & South

- Has consideration been given to the LDP in respect of this proposal as land is allocated at the Former Phurnacite Plant, Abercwmboi for 500 dwellings which would increase by at least 500 the number of inhabitants in the area? In 2015 both were known as the Aberaman Ward then the Community First designation triggered the split into two separate communities. I am not content this is a good idea as the strategic site for future development is in the heart of the community. I am sure the Welsh Government would want to see the regeneration of the land at the former Phurnacite Plant (£12 million of public money).
- Former Blaengwar School has also been listed for a development of 300 houses (Local Member Aberaman North)

Cwmbach

- This is a large ward where the public are entitled to expect an additional Member.

Mountain Ash East & West

- In 2015 the ward was split into the communities of Mountain Ash East and West (based on the Communities First initiative) and the Council decided the wards and communities were entitled to an East and West coalition. In 1990 I was the only Councillor for Mountain Ash (both East and West) Why change the status of the two communities? There is reluctance within the communities towards the proposal to merge the existing Electoral Wards of Mountain Ash East and Mountain Ash West as there is a difference between the two areas. Leave it to the people of Mountain Ash to have their say (Local Member Mountain Ash East).

Ynysybwl

- I consider there is a case to be made for linking Ynysybwl and Glyncoch and making it a two Member ward. It makes sense as they are a good fit.
- I agree that Ynysybwl/Coed Y Cwm are a close knit community and close to Glyncoch.

Trealaw & Llwyn-Y-Pia

- I have submitted my comments to the mailbox but will resubmit them (Local Member Llwynypia)

Ferndale & Maerdy

- It would reconnect the community (Local Member Maerdy)
- This is a better merger than with Tylorstown (Local Member Ferndale)
- I disagree – the single Member ward is the way forward. I have an issue with the figures and numbers therefore I disagree with the proposal.

Tylorstown & Ynyshir

- To lose two Councillors from the Rhondda Fach is excessive and lets the public down (Local Member Ynyshir)

Treorchy

- This will create a ward which will take the representation levels to +10% and +25% and yet the purpose of the exercise is to eliminate wards, that is part and parcel of the exercise. Treorchy is a flourishing town centre where the responsibility of Community Councils in other wards is picked up by County Councillors. If the Northern Valleys are to prosper, they must not be sacrificed by the growth in the South. The level of representation matters to all parts of

RCT and the Northern part of the County deserves representation. Is the population of those eligible to vote a consideration as there are examples of areas where the population eligible to vote is less than the electorate – can the data be checked?

(It was reported that there are examples where people are registered as electors but not as voters such as those within the armed forces or those voting by post).

- What consideration is being given to the electoral division registering more people?

(It was reported that the canvass process for Rhondda Cynon Taf, is now a detailed process and is currently underway, and will involve visits to properties to encourage registration).

Beddau & Tyn-Y-Nant

- This is a well tested arrangement

Brynna & Llanharan

- This is the fastest growing ward in the County Borough with a proposal that a further 1,850 houses will be built. I disagree with the proposal to merge the existing Electoral Wards of Brynna and Llanharan to create a single three member ward. Bryncae and Brynna would be manageable but with the new housing estates, Llanilid would have to be included and that does not fit the one ward proposal. Currently, there are 2,019 electors within Brynna village with further planning permission granted for 250 new homes, so this ward alone can justify having its own Councillor. The clerk of Llanharan Community Council has commented that the projected figures within the report are underestimated. I have also consulted with my fellow local Member who agrees that Llanharan, Brynna and Llanilid should be kept separate (Local Member Brynna)
- A single, three member ward flies in the face of the three communities. Logical to create three distinct electoral divisions.

Graig & Rhondda

- This would split the village of Trehafod. Pontypridd Town Council is to consider and address the issue of the one village syndrome.

Llantrisant Town & Talbot Green

(No comments were provided)

Tonyrefail West

(No comments were provided)

Church Village & Ton-teg

- I support this proposal (Local Member Tonteg)

Llanharry & Ponty-y-clun

- Consideration should be given to Miskin, Groesfain and Hendy remaining separate with one Member and Pont-y-clun as the other. Three member arrangement goes against the principles adopted.

Hawthorn & Rhydfelen Central/Ilan

- Keep this two – its a compact area
- This is a massive ward where there has been significant increase in development; three sites have been built recently. It is under represented (Local Member - Rhydfelin)

Hirwaun & Rhigos

- Hirwaun is a strategic site in the LDP which will result in a significant increase in the number of dwellings. It is an important growth area in the northern part of the County Borough. Has the option of Rhigos being included with Brecon Beacons National Park been considered?
(It was reported that other rural areas are subject to a different representation ratio).

Treforest

(No comments were provided)

In addition to the comments presented at the meeting, the Chair urged all members to submit their representations via the dedicated mailbox. The Director of Communications & Interim Head of Democratic Services reminded Committee of the timeline for comments to be submitted and confirmed that the final version, which will take in all the expressions and comments will be presented to Full Council to be held on the 24th October 2018.

A Member confirmed that they are unable to endorse the proposals in their entirety as a result of the degree of discontentment shown by the Overview & Scrutiny Committee following scrutiny of the proposals relating to the Council's electoral arrangements.

Following discussion of the proposals it was **RESOLVED** –

In accordance with the Local Democracy and Boundary Commission for Wales' Council Size Policy that the number of Elected Members for this Council remains at 75;

2.1.2 A proposed reduction in Electoral Wards from 52 to 44 resulting in the Electoral Wards shown in Appendix 3 to the report;

2.1.3 No changes are proposed to be made to 24 existing Electoral Wards as detailed in paragraph 6.3 of the report;

2.1.4 Retaining 4 existing Electoral Wards but increasing or decreasing the number of Members representing the particular Electoral Ward as detailed in paragraph 6 of the report;

2.1.5 Revised Electoral Ward boundaries for 18 existing Electoral Wards through merging existing Electoral Wards (and associated Community Wards) and any associated changes in Member representation as detailed in paragraph 6 of the report thereby creating 9 new Electoral Wards;

2.1.6

2.1.6.1 Revised Electoral Ward boundaries for 6 existing Electoral Wards through revising Community Ward boundaries and any associated changes in Member representation as detailed in paragraphs 6.19 and 6.20 of the report and shown on the maps set out in Appendix 4 to the report; and

2.1.6.2 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 as detailed in paragraph 6.20 of the report and shown on the maps set out in Appendix 4 to the report;

thereby creating 7 new Electoral Wards.

2.2 Subject to the comments made this day (and as recorded) , to recommend to Full Council that the proposals be subject to a period of stakeholder engagement prior to further consideration by Full Council at its October meeting and submission of a final Council proposal to the Local Democracy and Boundary Commission for Wales by 26th October 2018.

**L.M.ADAMS
CHAIR**

The meeting closed at 18.10 p.m.