

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

MUNICIPAL YEAR 2013 - 2014

**CORPORATE SERVICES
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

8TH OCTOBER 2013

**REPORT OF:
DIRECTOR OF LEGAL AND
DEMOCRATIC SERVICES**

Agenda Item No. 6

**THE COUNCIL'S REVIEW OF THE
COMMUNITY BOUNDARY AND
ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS WITHIN
THE COUNTY BOROUGH.**

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1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to advise Members on the progress in relation to the Council's review of the community boundary and electoral arrangements within the County Borough and the outcome of the meeting of the Committee's Electoral Administration Scrutiny Working Group held on 9th September 2013.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that Members:

- 2.1 Note the content of this report.
- 2.2 Endorse the action proposed by the Electoral Administration Scrutiny Working Group as set out at paragraphs 4.4 & 4.5.
- 2.3 agree that County Borough Councillor E Webster should replace County Borough Councillor M Weaver on the Electoral Administration Scrutiny Working Group.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 At the meeting of the Corporate Services Scrutiny Committee held on 5th March 2013, the Committee agreed that a Scrutiny Working Group should be formed to assist the electoral service in the implementation of a number of forthcoming issues which included a review of the community boundary and electoral arrangements within the County Borough. The review will consider what changes, if any, are needed to existing community arrangements across the whole of the County Borough.

- 3.2 The review commenced on 1st June 2013 and this first stage involved asking all residents and interested parties to consider the current arrangements and submit their views of support or proposals for change. The closing date for these submissions was 31st August 2013.
- 3.3 All submissions have to be considered and draft proposals drawn up and made available for further public consultation. The submissions received will again be considered and final proposals drawn up for publication and adoption.

Timetable for the review

Action	Period	Date
Start of Review		1 st June 2013
Preliminary Investigation - Invite initial submissions	Three months	1 st June – 31 st August 2013
Consideration of submissions received	Two months	1 st September – 31 st October 2013
Draft Proposal Consultation - Publish draft proposals - Public consultation period	Three months	1 st November – 31 st January 2014
Consideration of submissions received	Two months	1 st February – 31 st March 2014
Final Proposal Publication - Publish final proposals & recommendations		April / May 2014

4. CURRENT POSITION

- 4.1 On the 9th September 2013, the Committee's Electoral Administration Scrutiny Working Group, namely County Borough Councillors S Carter, S Lloyd, G Stacey, D Weeks and R Yeo, met for the first time to agree its Terms of Reference and consider the submissions received as a result of the first consultation phase. (Apologies for absence were received from County Borough Councillors M Norris and M Weaver.)
- 4.2 It should be noted that declarations of personal interest were received from the following:
- County Borough Councillor G Stacey – 'submitted changes to properties moving from Llantwit Fardre ward to Church Village ward, also submission put forward by Llantwit Fardre Community Council of which I am a member.
 - County Borough Councillor R A Yeo – 'I submitted a proposal that affects my ward (Beddau) and the neighbouring Tynant, Graig and Llantwit Fardre wards.

- County Borough Councillor S Carter – ‘I am a member of Pontypridd Town Council.

- 4.3 In total, 14 submissions were received, 6 of which proposed no change to the current arrangements. Contained within many of the remaining 8 submissions, were several proposals, some of which were replicated.
- 4.4 The Working Group gave careful consideration to all the proposals and studied the supporting maps. The Working Group concluded that all the proposals put forward had merit and were worthy of going forward for consultation in the next round of draft proposals on the basis that these proposals can still be amended in light of any further submissions.
- 4.5 Of particular note:
- There were multiple submissions received concerning the location of the current community boundary between the communities of the Graig and Beddau. Following discussions amongst members of the working group it was decided to submit to the next public consultation stage the proposals supporting the relocation of the current boundary.
 - A submission received from Llantrisant Community Council, regarding the community of Ynysmaerdy which currently sits within the Llanharan Community Council. The Community Council undertook a public consultation exercise and asked the residents if they wished to remain within the community of Llanharan Community Council or move to the Llantrisant Community Council. The findings of this consultation were mixed and the working group decided to support the Llantrisant Community Council proposal at this stage subject to further consultation during Stage 2.

NEXT STEPS

- 5.1 Report to Corporate Services Scrutiny Committee to confirm agreed proposals for further consultation as part of Stage 2. Officers will prepare the revised maps and paperwork for the second phase of the consultation that will commence on the 1st November 2013 and last for 3 months. The Scrutiny Working Group will meet following this to examine the responses received and consider the final proposals.

6. MEMBERSHIP OF THE WORKING GROUP

- 6.1 A request has been made from County Borough Councillor M Weaver, that her place on the Scrutiny Working Group should be taken over by County Borough Councillor E Webster due to health issues. As Councillor Webster has indicated that he is prepared to take on this role the Committee is asked to endorse this change.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

as amended by

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

CORPORATE SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

8TH OCTOBER 2013

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF LEGAL AND DEMOCRATIC SERVICES

Item - The Council's Review of the Community Boundary and Electoral Arrangements within the County Borough.

Report considered by the Electoral Administration Scrutiny Working Group at its meeting held on 9th September 2013

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