

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

MUNICIPAL YEAR 2016-2017

COUNCIL MEETING

Agenda Item: 13

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

**THE RHONDDA CYNON TAF
(COMMUNITIES) ORDER 2016**

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1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To confirm the making by Welsh Ministers of the Rhondda Cynon Taf (Communities) Order 2016 (“the Order”) on 25th November 2016 which came into force on 1st December 2016.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that Council:

- 2.1 Note the effect of the Agreement by Welsh Ministers to endorse, without modification, the proposals of the Local Democracy and Boundary Commission (“the Commission”) regarding community boundaries for the County Borough of Rhondda Cynon Taf.
- 2.2 Note that all required consequential amendments to maps and electoral registers have been duly made and can be inspected and the Council’s Election Office, Maritime Industrial Estate, Pontypridd.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 In July 2015 the Commission reported on the review which had been undertaken by this Council of community boundaries.
- 3.2 That report by the Commission has now been made into an Order by Welsh Ministers, without modification, in accordance with Section 58 (2) of the Local Government Act 1972.
- 3.3 Pursuant to the Order there are a number of changes to certain boundary areas and some consequential changes in community electoral arrangements. The specific areas affected are listed in the Order.
- 3.4 I have written to Political Group Leaders to make them aware of this issue and have since received a number of detailed queries which have been satisfactorily addressed by officers on the Elections Section based at Maritime Industrial Estate, Pontypridd.

- 3.5 Detailed maps can be inspected at the above mentioned Council's Election Offices.
- 3.6 All necessary boundary changes and consequential polling arrangements have been regularised.
- 3.7 An anomaly has appeared regarding the community ward boundaries between Brynna and Llanharan, both of which wards come within the community of Llanharan. Whilst the Council can made the necessary order in Council to affect changes to its community ward boundaries it has no power (due to the requirements of the Local Government Act 1972) to make consequential changes to the electoral wards within it. Therefore should changes be made prior to the 2017 Local Government Elections there will be an anomaly between the community boundaries and full council boundaries. The advice from the Electoral Commission is that they will process the necessary changes to ensure coterminosity in time for the next Council elections in 2022.