

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

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%.

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%.

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%.

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%.

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.

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.

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%.

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%.

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%.

Bryнна & Llanharan

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

Member Consequence: Addition of one Member

Reason: The Communities of Llanharan and Bryнна are closely linked, with the current boundary dividing Bryнна 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.

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.

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.

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.

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. [Map A](#) 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.

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. [Map B](#) shows the proposed revised Electoral Ward boundaries of Llanharry and Pont-y-clun

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 [Map C](#) to the report. This map 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.

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.

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.