



**Review of Community Boundaries:
Final Recommendations – Supporting Information**

March 2025

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL
REVIEW OF THE COMMUNITY ARRANGEMENTS:
FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS

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Chapter 1. INTRODUCTION

1. This document accompanies a Final Recommendations Report which the Council is publishing upon completion of a review of community boundaries under section 25 of the 2013 Act.
2. A Final Recommendations Report includes recommendations for changes to community boundaries in the area under review (as well as possible recommendations for consequential changes to other arrangements). The Council submits its report to the Commission. It is then for them, if they consider it appropriate, to bring into force (with or without modification) some or all of the recommendations which are included in the report.
3. The Commission are required by the 2013 Act to wait for a period of at least 6 weeks before making any Order arising from the report. During that period, anyone interested in the subject matter of the Council's Final Recommendations Report may make their views about the Council's recommendations known to the Commission.
4. This document provides general information about the context, procedure and relevant considerations for the Council's review. Additional information with regards to the Review can be found on the Council's website.

Chapter 2. CONTEXT AND PROCEDURE FOR THE REVIEW

Context

1. Under the 2013 Act, each principal council has a duty to monitor the communities in its area and the electoral arrangements of those communities for the purposes of considering whether to make or recommend changes. These changes are brought about by means of a community boundaries review or a community electoral review.
2. Principal councils are also required to publish a report every 10 years on how they have complied with their duties to monitor and review.
3. The principal councils, when carrying out their duties, are required by the Act to seek to ensure effective and convenient local government.

About community boundaries reviews

4. A community boundaries review is a review of the boundaries of one or more communities within a principal council's area. This may be appropriate in particular if new housing developments have made significant differences to the map or to patterns of settlement within an area, if there are anomalies which have not been identified in previous reviews (for example, golf courses split across two communities, or areas where a small road or cul-de-sac is 'split off' from the rest of a community), or if there are changes to water courses or large landholdings such as farms.
5. At the conclusion of a community boundaries review under section 25 of the 2013 Act, the Council may recommend "*such community boundary changes as it considers appropriate*". In this context, a "community boundary change" means a change to the boundary of an existing community, or the abolition of an existing community and/or the creation of a new community.
6. Where the Council recommends community boundary changes to the Commission at the conclusion of a community boundaries review, the Commission also has power to recommend certain kinds of further change where the further changes are a consequence of the boundary changes. The permitted further changes are:
 - "community council changes", meaning the dissolution of an existing community council, the establishment of a new community council, or the addition of communities to (or subtraction of communities from) a common community council; and
 - "associated changes to the electoral arrangements" of one or more of the communities under review or of the principal area. In this context the "electoral arrangements of a community" refers to the number of members of the community council and any arrangements for the division of the community into wards for the purposes of elections to the community council, while the "electoral arrangements of the principal area" has a similar meaning in relation to the principal council.

Procedure

9. The procedure for a community boundaries review is laid down by sections 34 to 36 of the 2013 Act. In broad summary, these provisions require four “stages”.
10. First, at the “initial publicity” stage, the Council publicises the review to interested parties (including “mandatory consultees” determined by the 2013 Act).
11. Second, at the “initial investigation” stage, the Council is required to “*consult the mandatory consultees and such other persons as it considers appropriate*” and to “*conduct such investigations as it considers appropriate*”. At this stage the Council will generally allow an initial consultation period of between 6 and 12 weeks. During this time the Council will usually receive preliminary views and proposals for local community arrangements from local interested parties, which may include the principal council, the political parties represented on the council and local residents. The Council will consider the views and responses it receives, and will consider whether it should make proposals for changes to the community boundaries (and related arrangements) under review.
12. Third, at the “draft proposals” stage, the Council is required to prepare a report describing the review process it has carried out and any proposals for change that it considers appropriate. The Council refers to this report as its “Draft Proposals Report”. Once the Draft Proposals Report is published, the Council is required to allow a “period for representations”, with a duration between 6 and 12 weeks, during which members of the public and other interested parties can inform the Council of their views of and responses to the proposals for change described in the Council’s report.
13. Fourth, during the “final recommendations” stage, the Council is required to consider again its proposals for change taking into account any representations it has received the period for representations. The Council is then required to publish a report describing any recommendations for community boundary changes (and related arrangements) which the Council considers appropriate. The Council refers to this report as its “Final Recommendations Report”. The Final Recommendations Report must also describe the review the Council has conducted, the consultation it has carried out in relation to its Draft Proposals Report, and any ways in which the Council’s recommendations differ from the proposals in the Draft Proposals Report, with an explanation for the difference.
14. The Council is required to submit its Final Recommendations Report to the Commission. They have the power (but no obligation) to make an Order which implements any one or more of the Council’s recommendations, with or without modification.

Chapter 3. FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The Council's Final Recommendations Report contains the Council's recommendations for changes to community boundaries and other consequential matters in the area under review.
2. In each instance where the Council recommends a change, the report sets out:
 - a brief description of the existing community area and arrangements, including names, numbers of electors and warding arrangements (if applicable);
 - key arguments made during the Commission's deliberations;
 - the composition of the recommended community arrangements; and,
 - a map of the recommended community and/or community ward.
3. Where the Council is recommending boundary changes, it will also have considered the consequences of those changes for the electoral arrangements of the community and the principal area. The *Consequential Arrangements* section of the Final Recommendations Report details recommendations for such consequential changes.

Chapter 4. RESPONSES TO FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS REPORTS

1. Having completed a review of a principal council community areas and submitted the Council's recommendations to the Welsh Government on the future community arrangements for the principal council, the Council has fulfilled its statutory obligations under the Act.
2. It now falls to the Commission, if it thinks fit, to give effect to those recommendations either as submitted, or with modifications.
3. Any further comments concerning the matters in Final Recommendations Reports should be addressed to the Commission. They should be made as soon as possible and, in any event, not later than six weeks from the date the Council's recommendations are submitted to the Commission. Representations should be addressed to:

Democracy and Boundary Commission Cymru
4th Floor
Welsh Government Building
Cathays Park
Cardiff
CF10 3NQ
Or by email to: consultations@dbcc.gov.wales