



## **COMMITTEE SUMMONS**

C Hanagan  
Director of Communications & Interim Head of Democratic Services  
Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council  
The Pavilions  
Cambrian Park  
Clydach Vale CF40 2XX

Meeting Contact: Claire Hendy, Democratic Services (01443 424081)

A meeting of the **COMMUNITY LIAISON COMMITTEE** will be held at the County Borough Council Offices, The Pavilions, Cambrian Park, Clydach Vale on  
**Date:- Tuesday, 25th September, 2018**  
**Time:- 10.30 am**

## **ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION**

### **1. DECLARATION OF INTEREST**

To receive disclosures of personal interest from Members in accordance with the Code of Conduct

Note:

1. Members are requested to identify the item number and subject matter that their interest relates to and signify the nature of the personal interest: and
2. Where Members withdraw from a meeting as a consequence of the disclosure of a prejudicial interest they must notify the Chairman when they leave.

### **2. WELCOME & APOLOGIES**

### **3. YOUTH ENGAGEMENT AND PARTICIPATION SERVICE**

To consider the attached report of the Director of Communications & Interim Head of Democratic Services, and to receive a Powerpoint Presentation from the Head of Community Wellbeing and Resilience and the Youth Engagement and Participation Service Manager.

**(Pages 3 - 24)**

**4. A SHARED COMMUNITY - MODEL CHARTER REVISIONS**

To consider the report of the Director of Communications & Interim Head of Democratic Services.

**(Pages 25 - 54)**

**5. LOCAL RESOLUTION PROCEDURE FOR COMMUNITY AND TOWN COUNCILS - ONE VOICE WALES**

To receive the report of the Director of Communications & Interim Head of Democratic Services.

**(Pages 55 - 68)**

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

To consider the report presented at Rhondda Cynon Taf Council's Committee meeting on the 19<sup>th</sup> September, 2018.

**(Pages 69 - 98)**

**7. GENERAL DATA PROTECTION REGULATION - TRAINING**

To discuss training opportunities in respect of General Data Protection Regulations.

**8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

**Circulation - Members of the Community Liaison Committee:-**

Leader of Council, County Borough Councillor A. Morgan,  
Deputy Leader of the Council, County Borough Councillor M.Webber (Chair) :and  
County Borough Councillor D.R.Bevan Cabinet Member for Enterprise Development  
and Housing.

Chairs and Clerks of the Town Council of Pontypridd and the Community Councils of  
Ynysybwl & Coed y Cwm, Rhigos, Hirwaun & Penderyn, Llantwit Fardre, Llantrisant,  
Llanharan, Llanharry, Tonyrefail, Gilfach Goch, Pontyclun and Taffs Well & Nantgarw

Officers for Information.

Mr C Hanagan – Director of Communications & Interim Head of Democratic Services  
Mr .C.Bradshaw (Chief Executive),  
Mr.C.B.Jones (Director, Legal & Democratic Services),



## **RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**MUNICIPAL YEAR 2018-2019**

**COMMUNITY COUNCIL LIAISON COMMITTEE**

**25<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2018**

**YOUTH ENGAGEMENT AND PARTICIPATION SERVICE**

### **REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS & INTERIM HEAD OF DEMOCRATIC SERVICES.**

Author: Emma Wilkins – Council Business Unit.  
Tel.No.01443-424110

#### **1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

To provide Members with information regarding the Council's Youth Engagement and Participation service.

To consider how we can strengthen youth engagement within Community / Town Councils within Rhondda Cynon Taf.

#### **2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 To note the report that went before Cabinet on the 10<sup>th</sup> May, 2018 (as attached as appendix 1)
- 2.2 To note the content of the presentation provided to Members by the Head of Community Wellbeing and Resilience and Youth Engagement and Participation Service Manager.
- 2.3 To discuss and agree the way forward with the youth engagement and participation service and Community / Town Council's.

#### **3 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 3.1 The need to advise Members of the revised changes taken forward with the Youth Engagement and Participation Service and the need to review and strengthen the new ways of working with Community / Town Council's.

#### **4. BACKGROUND**

- 4.1 On the 10<sup>th</sup> May, 2018, Cabinet received a report outlining the revised priorities of the Youth Engagement and Participation Service in line with the transfer from Education and Lifelong Learning to Public Health and Protection and Community Services. The report also provided Cabinet members with information regarding the new delivery model required to deliver against these new priorities.
- 4.2 During discussions on the item, County Borough Councillor M Griffiths addressed the Cabinet highlighting the need for further work to be undertaken with Community / Town Council's and the Youth Engagement and Participation service, to which the Cabinet agreed.
- 4.3 Cabinet Resolved that the item be taken forward at a future Meeting of the Community Liaison Committee.

#### **5. YOUTH ENGAGEMENT AND PARTICIPATION SERVICE**

- 5.1 In conjunction with the information contained within the Cabinet report (as attached at appendix 1), Members will also receive a PowerPoint presentation from Head of Community Wellbeing and Resilience and the Youth Engagement and Participation Service Manager in respect of the service, at the meeting of the Community Council Liaison Committee on the 25<sup>th</sup> September.

#### **6 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 There are no Equality or Diversity implications aligned to this report

#### **7. CONSULTATION**

- 7.1 [Cabinet – 10<sup>th</sup> May, 2018.](#)

#### **8. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 8.1 There are no financial implications aligned to this report.

## **9. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

9.1 There are no legal implications aligned to this report.

## **10 LINKS TO THE COUNCILS CORPORATE PLAN / OTHER CORPORATE PRIORITIES**

10.1 Working in partnership with the Town and Community Council's within Rhondda Cynon Taf links with the three priorities within the Corporate plan of People, Economy and Place, as it will help people and Communities to help themselves and assists in building a sustainable Rhondda Cynon Taf.

10.2 Promoting the work of the Youth Engagement and Participation Service and developing positive working relationships with Community and Town Councils will further address the wellbeing goals –

- **A prosperous Wales**
- **A resilient Wales**
- **A healthier Wales**
- **A more equal Wales**
- **A Wales of cohesive communities**
- **A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language**
- **A globally responsible Wales**

## **11. CONCLUSION**

11.1 To provide Members with an update on the work of the youth engagement and participation service.

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972**

**AS AMENDED BY**

**THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985**

**RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**25<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER, 2018**

**REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS & INTERIM HEAD  
OF DEMOCRATIC SERVICES**

**YOUTH ENGAGEMENT AND PARTICIPATION SERVICE**

**Background Papers**

Freestanding Matter

**RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**CABINET**

**10<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2018**

**YOUTH ENGAGEMENT AND PARTICIPATION SERVICE**

**REPORT OF DIRECTOR, PUBLIC HEALTH, PROTECTION AND  
COMMUNITY SERVICES IN DISCUSSIONS WITH THE RELEVANT  
PORTFOLIO HOLDER, COUNCILLOR LEYSHON**

**Authors:** Zoe Lancelott – Head of Community Wellbeing and Resilience  
Claire Hutcheon – Youth Engagement and Participation Service Manager

**1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

1.1 The purpose of the report is to outline the revised priorities of the Youth Engagement and Participation Service in line with the transfer from Education and Lifelong Learning to Public Health and Protection and Community Services. It also provides Cabinet members with information regarding the new delivery model required to deliver against these new priorities.

**2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

It is recommended that the Cabinet:

2.1 Consider and approve the new priorities for the Youth Engagement and Participation Service

2.2 Consider and approve the new delivery model for the Youth Engagement and Participation Service

**3. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

3.1 The Youth Engagement and Participation Service continues to reach a significant proportion of young people in RCT. Having demonstrated its success in aligning to, and delivering against, Education priorities, refocusing the priorities of the Service offers the Council a further opportunity to deliver robust outcomes in other key areas of work. However, in order to contribute to new priorities, the current delivery model needs to be revised.

3.2 The new priorities and service delivery model refocuses the work of the Youth Engagement and Participation Service to contribute to key priorities set out in the Cwm Taf Wellbeing Plan, the Cwm Taf Children

and Young People's Statement of Intent and respond to Resilient Families Programme, Children Zone and Community Hub developments.

#### **4. BACKGROUND**

- 4.1 The current aim of the Youth Engagement and Participation Service is ***'to support young people aged 11-25yrs to achieve their full potential and overcome barriers to learning and progression'***. To achieve this aim, the early identification of young people through Vulnerability Profiling is the foundation of the Service.
- 4.2 Whilst part of the Education and Lifelong Learning Directorate, the Youth Engagement and Participation Service sat within the wider Engagement and Participation Service alongside the Attendance and Wellbeing Service, the Supporting Engagement in Education Employment and Training (SEET) Service and the ESF Projects Team.
- 4.3 The Youth Engagement and Participation Service has been subject to two service changes as part of the Council's Medium Term Service Planning arrangements; the first in 2014 delivering a saving of £2.2M (50% budget reduction) and the second in 2016, delivering a saving of £0.346M (16% budget reduction). Both service changes required the Service to align closely to the education agenda, contributing directly to the education priorities of improving school attendance rates, reducing NEETs rates, and supporting vulnerable learners. Both the process and the outcomes of these service changes were also identified by Finance and Performance Scrutiny Committee as good practice.
- 4.4 In December 2017, the Service has recently transferred to the Public Health and Protection and Community Services division under the newly established Community Wellbeing and Resilience Service. This new Service area has cross divisional responsibilities and comprises the Youth Engagement and Participation Service, SEETS Service and RCT Together under Public Health and Protection and Community Services and the Resilient Families Service and the Early Years and Family Support Service under Children's Services.
- 4.5 The current service delivery model is fully integrated with Education and Lifelong Learning and is focused around the 17 secondary schools in RCT, offering the following:
- A 'community offer' of open access provision located on secondary school sites, supported by the Enrichment Budget and delivered in partnership with voluntary sector organisations
  - Targeted support for:



- young people who have attendance rates of between 86%-90% for pupils in Key Stage 4
  - young people experiencing multiple in-year transfers
  - young people aged 16+ in Tier 1 (destination unknown), to support them into Education, Employment or Training
  - vulnerable young people in need of support (Identified as Amber through Vulnerability Profiling)
  - young people with low participation levels who are socially isolated
  - young people who attend Pupil Referral Unit's and are EOTAS
  - young people who require LGBT+ support, advice and guidance
- Support for young people to have equitable access to their entitlements alongside their rights set out in the UNCRC, supporting schools to gain the Rights Respecting Schools Award
  - Support for young people to participate in local decision making via the County Youth Forum
- 4.6 The success of the youth Engagement and Participation Service to deliver significant outcomes against education priorities is well documented both locally and nationally. The Service won the Award for 'Outstanding Youth Work Project which Supports Young People's Engagement with Formal Education' at the 2016 National Youth Work Excellence Awards and provided a Keynote Speech on the unique contribution youth work makes to improving attendance, attainment and behaviour at the National Youth Work Conference.
- 4.7 The outcomes for young people are demonstrated in the performance data. Between the academic years 2013-2014 and 2016-2017 the Youth Engagement and Participation Service:
- prevented **262** young people aged 14-16yrs from entering statutory education services.
  - supported **257** young people aged 16-18yrs who were unknown to any service following leaving statutory education into Education, Employment or Training.
  - Engaged with **82%** of those young people identified by vulnerability profiling as being at 'amber' risk of disengaging from learning
- 4.8 During the same period of time secondary school attendance rates in RCT have improved by **0.4%** and the NEETs rate in RCT has decreased by **2.94%** improving our ranking in Wales from 20<sup>th</sup> to joint **1<sup>st</sup>**.
- 4.9 The Youth Engagement and Participation Service can also evidence improved performance in terms of national benchmarking. Since September 2014, the Service has engaged with a total of **20,608** young people. National benchmarking data for 2017 ranks RCT **4<sup>th</sup>** in Wales

for 11-19yrs reach and 5<sup>th</sup> in Wales for 11-25yrs reach. This is an improvement from 7<sup>th</sup> for 11-19yrs reach and joint 5<sup>th</sup> for 11-25yrs in 2016.

- 4.10 The quality of service delivery is also well evidenced at a national level with the work of the Youth Engagement and Participation Service enabling RCT to receive the accolade of the first Local Authority in Wales to gain the Bronze, Silver and Gold Quality Mark Awards for Youth Work in Wales. The assessment for the Gold Award concluded that the Service's processes for and use of management information are sector leading, that the relationships staff have with young people are outstanding and that there were no recommendations for improvement.

## **5. THE NEW SERVICE DELIVERY MODEL**

- 5.1 In response to the creation of community hubs and the opportunities created by the change of Directorate, with closer working with a range of community based provision, the development of new priorities and delivery model for the Youth Engagement and Participation Service has taken into consideration the following key developments in legislation, strategic planning and operational delivery:

- The Council's Corporate Plan: The Way Forward (2016 – 2020)
- The Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act (2015)
- The Cwm Taf Wellbeing Plan
- The establishment of the Resilient Families Programme
- The development of the new Regional Strategy for Children, Young People and Families
- Cwm Taf Funding Flexibilities Pilot
- Cwm Taf Children's First pilot
- Cwm Taf Early Years Integration Project
- The new Community Hubs being created across the County Borough
- The implementation of the new Children and Young People's Multi Agency Risk Assessment Framework
- The implementation of the Resilient Families Service to deliver improved Team Around the Family (TAF) arrangements in RCT
- The Chief Executive's challenge to all Council services to identify their contribution to the early intervention and prevention agenda and commit to making required changes to further the agenda.
- The WG National Youth Work Strategy
- The national review of the WG Extended Entitlement Guidance (Supporting young people in Wales 2002)
- Together for Mental Health Delivery plan (2016-2019)
- Homelessness Prevention Plans

5.2 The new aim of the Youth Engagement and Participation Service will be ***‘to support young people aged 11-25 to improve their resilience to deal with current and future challenges, supporting their wellbeing and their positive engagement in and contribution to the communities in which they live’.***

5.3 To achieve this aim, the new delivery model will see the Youth Engagement and Participation Service focus on the following four priorities to support the delivery of key Council programmes of work:

5.3.1 **PRIORITY 1: Establish a visible, community based youth service that supports the delivery of Community Zones and Hubs across the Local Authority;**

***To deliver a visible, community based Youth Service, we will:***

- Deliver a ‘community offer’ of open access youth provision located in community venues, supported by the Enrichment Budget and delivered in partnership with voluntary sector organisations. This will include relocating a proportion of the current 34 ‘Extended Provision’ sessions delivered each week from school sites to community settings to increase accessibility and rebranding ‘Extended Provision’ to reflect the youth club status given to this provision by young people. (This work has already started in the transfer of some Communities First youth provision to the Youth Engagement and Participation Service).
- Deliver a full suite of services from Community Hub settings including open access youth provision; targeted one to one work with young people; information advice and guidance; and informal accredited learning opportunities.
- Recruit volunteers from the community to support the delivery of youth provision, delivering a full suite of training and establishing a mentoring framework for qualified youth workers to work alongside volunteers to build their confidence in their practice.
- Support voluntary sector organisations to achieve the Quality Mark for Youth Work in Wales Award.
- Deliver open access provision during the day for young people aged 16+ to improve their resilience and offer information advice and guidance and support to engage in education, employment and training.

5.3.2 **PRIORITY 2: Provide early intervention and prevention support for vulnerable young people, to reduce social isolation and prevent issues escalating to a level that requires statutory intervention;**

***To provide early intervention and prevention support, we will:***

- Deliver targeted support for young people to improve their resilience, delivering 1-2-1 work in both schools and community settings to prevent young people from requiring statutory intervention or specialist help in the future.
- Deliver discreet targeted support for young people who are identified by vulnerability profiling as at amber/red risk of disengagement, to increase their participation in community based activities and prevent social isolation.
- Develop and deliver open access 'youth play' provision for children aged 9 to 11 years, in community settings as a means of early intervention, offering play opportunities alongside age appropriate information, advice and guidance sessions. This will serve to bridge the current gap between youth work and play, supporting transition to the next phase within a community development approach.

**5.3.3 PRIORITY 3: Implement a wellbeing, resilience and engagement pathway of support to improve young people's resilience, which is fully integrated with the Council's Resilient Families Programme;**

***To improve young people's resilience, we will:***

- Proactively respond to the existing needs of young people by building their resilience to deal with the challenges they face. Intervention will seek to build on the strengths of the young person to prevent further escalation of need. This will give young people the tools with which they can make positive changes to their own situation is in line with the fundamental underpinnings of the Social Services and Wellbeing Act and the Future Generations (Wales) Act.
- Implement the newly formed Wellbeing, Resilience and Engagement pathway (WREP), a young person centred programme that supports young people to improve wellbeing and build resilience. It focuses on improving the resilience of young people through a strengths based approach that reduces vulnerabilities and adversity.
- Measure and evidence the impact on resilience of our targeted interventions with young people through the new resilience assessment tool and action planning process completed with the young person.

- Provide training and support for partner organisations to also utilise the new resilience assessment and review tools to provide a single mechanism to provide a County Borough wide measurement of young people's resilience levels.

**5.3.4 PRIORITY 4: Facilitate opportunities for young people to have their voices heard and actively participate in the communities in which they live and contribute to building community resilience.**

***To provide opportunities for young people to participate in and contribute to building community resilience, we will:***

- Support young people to contribute to the development of Community Zones, as an integrated place-based approach to building resilient communities that prevents and mitigates the effects of ACEs and breaks the intergenerational cycle of adversity, which challenges so many young people and families across RCT.
- Actively promote young people's rights in line with the UNCRC and ensure young people have equitable access to their entitlements across all communities in the County Borough.

5.4 The new priorities of the Youth Engagement and Participation Service will require organisational changes to be made in order to facilitate a new service delivery model.

5.5 The current staffing structure organises frontline staff within the three geographical areas of Rhondda Cynon and Taf under the management of three Team Leaders who also hold Service wide thematic responsibilities. These thematic responsibilities are currently educational in nature: Accredited Learning; Early Intervention; and Closing the Gap. A fourth Team Leader holds the thematic responsibility for Community Engagement and Rights, managing staff who organise and deliver the full programme of youth activities and overseeing the Rights Respecting Schools Programme, SLA's with Voluntary Sector partners, the County Youth Forum and social media communications.

5.6 The new model will see these thematic responsibilities change to reflect the four domains used to manage Youth Support Services arrangements in RCT, namely:

- Education, Employment and Training
- Information, Advice and Guidance
- Participation, Consultation and Rights
- Sporting, Leisure and Cultural

This will ensure that the commitment to ensuring young people's access to their entitlements is both visible and meaningful across the Service.

- 5.7 In order to mitigate the impact of a significant cut in the WG Youth Work Strategy Grant for 2018-19, the post of Engagement and Progression Co-ordinator (EPC) will be disestablished. The Youth Engagement and Participation Service will absorb the EPC function and the SEETS Service which will offer better co-ordination and outcome reporting in line with the Youth Support Services domains.
- 5.8 In order to reduce duplication of effort, the Service will organise frontline staff within an East / West geographical split to ensure youth work provision is delivered where it is required and to support community based planning. The current and new staffing structures can be found in Appendix 1 and details of the new roles and responsibilities of staff can be found in Appendix 2.
- 5.9 With the exception of the Youth Engagement Officers, all other frontline staff within the Service are already based in community venues such as libraries and leisure centres. Whilst it is important that Youth Engagement Officers have a visible community presence we would not like to lose the benefits to young people of the excellent working relationships we have with schools. Therefore, by maximising the existing agile working arrangements staff will be able to work from both school sites and community venues. The Youth Engagement and Participation Service will actively seek to have a staff presence in the Community Zone and Community Hubs across RCT to ensure maximum visibility and accessibility for young people.
- 5.10 The Service will implement a new set of assessment and review tools as part of a Resilience Assessment Framework to support the focus of improving resilience when working with young people on a one to one basis. These resilience tools have been developed and tested by the Service over the last 12 months to align with the proportionate resilience assessment undertaken by the Resilient Families Service. The use of the new Resilience Assessment Framework enables the Youth Engagement and Participation Service to contribute directly to building overall resilience of families and measure its contribution to the work of the Resilient Families Service in preventing children entering statutory services.
- 5.11 The new tools provide a framework for assessment, intervention and review providing clear goals and actions for improvement and a simple distance travelled diagrammatic which has been very well received by young people.

5.12 To monitor the outcomes of the new service delivery model it will be necessary to develop new local indicators to complement the existing performance indicators of the Service. The effective monitoring of these performance indicators will be facilitated by the continued use of the Capita One module IYSS (Integrated Youth Support Services). Further details of the performance indicators and outcome measurements can be found in Appendix 3.

## 6. MANAGING RISK

6.1 In order to facilitate the new model of service delivery to deliver against new priorities it will be necessary to make changes to current school based service delivery. Whilst the Service will continue to provide one to one sessions in school settings for young people in need of support to build their resilience, there will not be the capacity to deliver regular timetabled interventions. This could present potential service delivery risks for Education and Schools if not appropriately managed.

6.2 The table below identifies the areas of service delivery affected by the implementation of the new model, the potential risk, and the action that will be taken to mitigate against these risks:

<b>Area of service delivery</b>	<b>Changes</b>	<b>Potential risk</b>	<b>Mitigating action</b>
School attendance referrals	YEPS will no longer accept direct attendance referrals from schools for Key Stage 4 pupils with 86-90% attendance	Potential impact on the Attendance and Wellbeing Service and secondary school attendance rates (currently YEPS receive an average of 10 attendance referrals a month – 13% of total YEPS referrals)	Improved resilience is a key factor in improving attendance, therefore in accepting referrals for young people requiring support to improve their resilience, YEPS will continue to indirectly support the school attendance priority.
Delivery of formal OCN accredited learning	YEPS will no longer deliver formal OCN qualifications for pupils as part of the school curriculum	Potential impact on some schools' capacity to deliver aspects of the curriculum and Level 2 threshold outcomes for vulnerable learners	11-16 year olds gaining formal OCN qualifications in community settings can be linked to schools Level 2 threshold outcomes
Delivery of school based positive activities 5 days per week	YEPS will continue to provide positive activities from school sites however this will be reduced to 2/3	Depending on existing programmes of positive activities this may have an impact on the schools' capacity to deliver enhanced	Positive activity programme planning will be undertaken in collaboration with the school to identify joint priorities. Staff will remain based in

	nights a week	curriculum opportunities.	schools
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6.3 To mitigate further against potential risks, the new service delivery model is implemented in two phases. **Phase One will commence in May 2018** and will include:

- Rebranding of Extended Provision in collaboration with young people
- Identification of community venues for the delivery of youth work provision
- Plan for youth work provision to be incorporated into Community Hub settings
- Work with primary schools, Early Years and voluntary sector partners to plan the development of a community ‘youth play’ offer for 9-11 year olds
- Engage young people in the changes to the Service and co-construct a multi-platform communication strategy
- Discussion with schools to ensure there is an agreed plan in place to facilitate Phase Two
- Implementation of the Young Person’s Support Framework
- Implementation of the Resilience Assessment Framework

**Phase Two will commence in September 2018** and will include:

- Delivery of the communication strategy
- Relocation of the Extended Provision with low attendance rates from school sites to appropriate community settings
- Service no longer delivering OCN qualifications as part of the curriculum
- Service no longer accepting school attendance referrals
- Reduction in the number of evenings positive activities take place on school site
- Begin delivery of ‘youth play’ provision for 9-11 year olds

6.4 The delivery of service changes in two phases will facilitate the Service’s transition to new priorities mid academic year therefore minimising the impact on young people.

## 7. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

7.1 There are no equality and diversity implications in relation to the implementation of the new priorities and service delivery model. As a result of the service enhancements, children and young people will benefit from better access to services.

## 8. CONSULTATION



- 8.1 Consultation with young people is a core element of the Youth Engagement and Participation Service and will be fundamental to the implementation of the new delivery model.
- 8.2 Consultation with schools and partners will take place as part of the Phase One implementation.
- 8.3 Staff consultation will be carried out in accordance with the Council's statutory obligations and Managing Change policy. Staff and trade unions would be fully consulted at the appropriate time.

## **9. FINANCIAL IMPLICATION(S)**

- 9.1 There are no financial implications associated with the implementation of the new Youth Engagement and Participation Service model. This model is concerned with service enhancement within current resources, which will require the revision of duties and tasks of existing roles to maximise outcomes as opposed to incurring financial costs.

## **10. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS OR LEGISLATION CONSIDERED**

- 10.1 The Council has a statutory duty to provide youth services for 11 – 25 year olds as prescribed in section 123 of the *Learning and Skills Act (2000)*. This Act is in force in Wales under the *Youth Support Services Direction (Wales) 2002* which directs local authorities in Wales to:

- a) Provide youth support services;
- b) Secure the provision of youth support services, or
- c) Participate in the provision of youth support services, having regard to guidance issued by the National Assembly

- 10.2 In RCT the above statutory duties are the responsibility of the Youth Engagement and Participation Service with provision subject to inspection by ESTYN under the inspection of Local Authority Education Services for Children and Young People.

## **11. LINKS TO THE CORPORATE AND NATIONAL PRIORITIES AND THE WELL-BEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS ACT**

- 11.1 The new priorities and service delivery model for the Youth Engagement and Participation Service support the delivery of the following Corporate priorities:

**People** – Promoting independence and positive lives for everyone  
**Place** – Creating neighbourhoods where people are proud to live  
**Economy** – Building a strong economy

11.2 The Youth Engagement and Participation Service will appropriately support the Council's strategic plans and priorities in order to deliver **long term** improvements in the outcomes for young people. The Service will offer early intervention and **prevention** support for young people through the use of vulnerability profiling as a way of offering support to young people at risk of disengaging from learning as a result of the socio-economic factors they face. Leading on the delivery of **integrated** multi-agency support young people via the Young People's Support Framework, the Service will **collaborate** with communities to deliver a comprehensive 'youth offer' of both open access and targeted support to young people. **Collaboration** with partners such as schools, colleges, voluntary organisations, police and the fire service will be key to delivery of outcomes. Young people will remain **involved** in service planning through consultation events, focus groups, local youth forums and the RCT County Youth Forum.

11.3 The new priorities and delivery model will contribute to the following wellbeing goals:

- **A prosperous Wales** – The Service will seek to empower young people to raise their aspirations and their agency in participating in the communities in which they live. By supporting young people within a community context to build their own resilience to deal with challenges as they arise, the Service will be in a position to support the Council to meet its aim to empower communities to take a lead in delivering services to meet their needs. Supporting young people to identify and secure post 16 education, employment and training destinations that lead to them achieving their aspirations builds the prosperity of the communities in which they live.
- **A resilient Wales** – Focusing support on improving the resilience of young people in RCT, the Service will in turn contribute to improving the resilience of the wider family and the resilience of the community as a whole. By building the resilience of young people to deal with current and future challenges they face and providing them with strategies to cope with adversity, the Service will support the sustainability of resilient communities in the future.
- **A healthier Wales** – Ensuring young people have access to the full range of entitlements as well as opportunities to grow and develop socially, emotionally, educationally, the Service will actively support both the physical and emotional wellbeing of youth people in RCT. Improving young people's resilience provides them with the skills to emotionally deal with future set-backs and challenges, ensuring their future wellbeing.
- **A more equal Wales** – Providing youth services in a range of different settings will ensure that geography and location is not a

barrier to young people accessing youth provision or their entitlements.

- **A Wales of cohesive communities** – Delivering an open access community youth offer located in community venues and schools will raise the visibility of young people as members of their communities. Recruiting volunteers from the community and working alongside community groups to support the delivery of youth provision supports communities to meet their own needs. It also serves to break down perceived barriers between young people and adults leading to a more supportive and cohesive community environment. Ensuring young people play an active part in the creation and implementation of Community Hubs in RCT will also assist in breaking down these barriers and supporting cohesiveness.
- **A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language** – Delivery of all Youth Engagement and Participation Service activities will continue to be made available through the medium of Welsh including the provision of one to one support for young people which will assist the Council to meet the objectives of the Welsh in Education Strategic Plan. Existing working relationships with Welsh language providers will be maintained to ensure that young people wishing to access alternative provision through the medium of Welsh are not disadvantaged in line with Youth Support Services responsibilities.
- **A globally responsible Wales** – redefining new priorities for the Service and implementing an enhanced delivery model within existing resources provides the opportunity for the Council to ensure resources are being used efficiently and effectively to target the delivery of current priorities.

## **12. CONCLUSION**

- 12.1 The Youth Engagement and Participation Service has a robust track record for delivering outcomes for young people in line with the Education priorities it was given in 2014.
- 12.2 The recent transfer of the Service presents clear opportunities for the Youth Engagement and Participation Service to positively contribute to the work of the Public Health and Protection and Community Service Division and the wider Community and Children's Services Group.
- 12.3 The proposed priorities of the Youth Engagement and Participation Service and the new delivery model set out in this report clearly outlines how the efforts of the Service can directly support key programmes of work within the Council.

12.4 With careful planning, that keeps the young person's experience as the focus, the impact of these changes on Education priorities and schools can be minimised whilst the Service continues to deliver positive outcomes for young people.

**Other Information:-**

***Relevant Scrutiny Committee***

Children and Young People's Scrutiny Committee

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972**

**AS AMENDED BY**

**THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985**

**RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**CABINET**

**10<sup>th</sup> MAY 2018**

**REPORT OF DIRECTOR, PUBLIC HEALTH, PROTECTION AND  
COMMUNITY SERVICES IN DISCUSSIONS WITH THE RELEVANT  
PORTFOLIO HOLDER, COUNCILLOR LEYSHON**

**YOUTH ENGAGEMENT AND PARTICIPATION SERVICE**

**Background Papers**

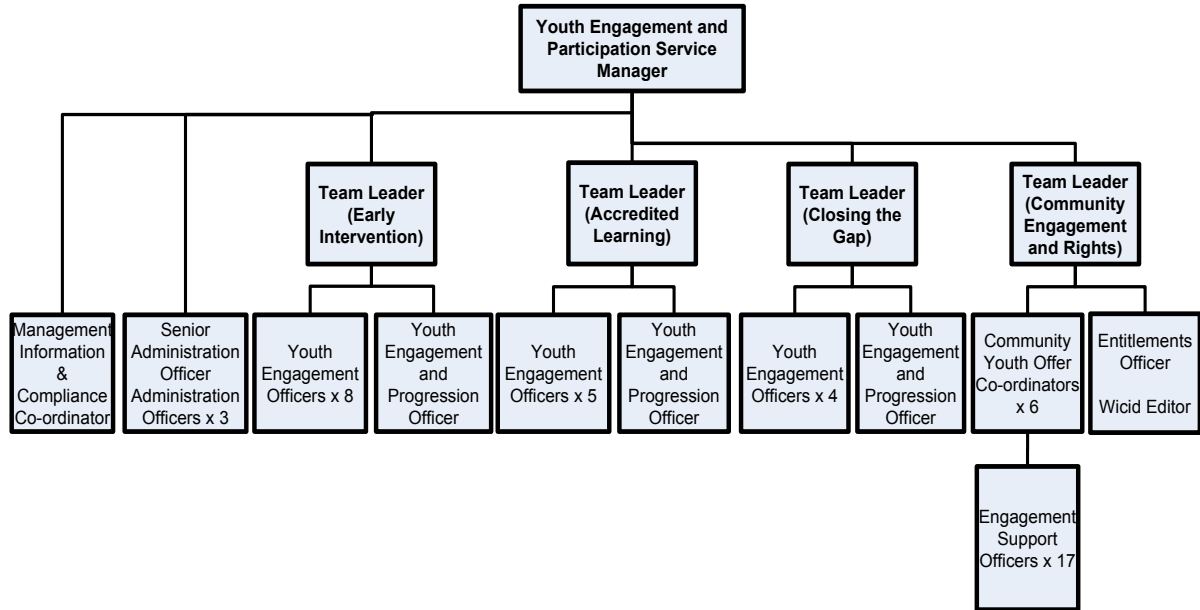
None

Officer to contact:

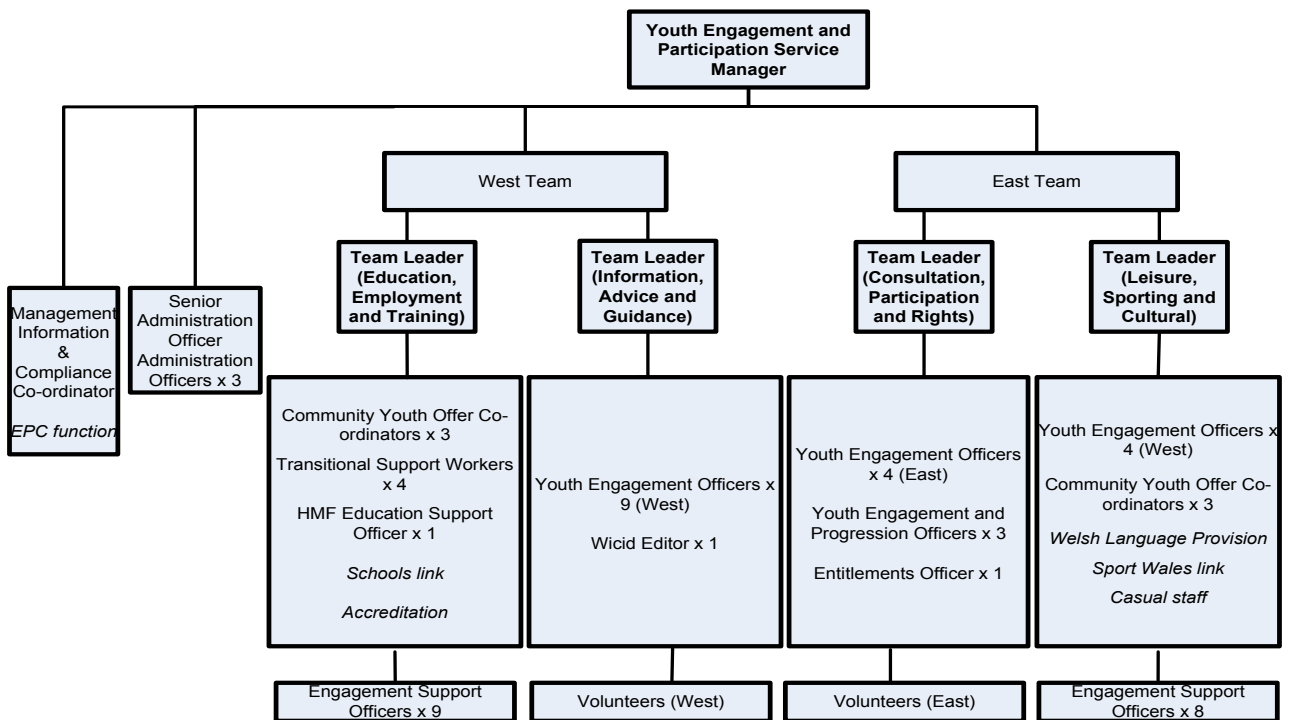
Claire Hutcheon –Youth Engagement and Participation Service Manager.  
Tel. No. 01443 744307

## APPENDIX 1

### Youth Engagement and Participation Service - Current staffing structure



### Youth Engagement and Participation Service - New staffing structure



## APPENDIX 2

### Roles and Responsibilities of Staff

<b>Post</b>	<b>Current duties</b>	<b>New duties</b>
Youth Engagement Officer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Deliver targeted one to one support in schools for young people referred to the service</li> <li>• Deliver taught Accredited learning group work as part of the school curriculum</li> <li>• Be single point of contact in school for positive activities until 5pm 5 nights a week</li> <li>• Deliver Extended Provision until 8pm 2 nights a week</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Deliver targeted one to one support to build resilience for young people identified by the Resilient Families Service, in any venue</li> <li>• Provide group work interventions to build resilience and delivery information advice and guidance</li> <li>• Deliver open access 'youth play' provision for children aged 9-11</li> <li>• Delivery open access youth club provision in most appropriate settings</li> <li>• Mentor and coach volunteers</li> </ul>
Youth Engagement & Progression Officer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Delivery targeted one to one support in special schools for young people referred to the service</li> <li>• Organise and manage youth forums</li> <li>• Provide support for young people ages 16yrs +</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide youth work activities in community settings during the day</li> <li>• Provide specialist information advice and guidance for young people aged 16+ from Community Hubs</li> <li>• Deliver targeted one to one support to build resilience for young people aged 16+ identified by the Resilient Families Service, in any venue</li> <li>• Focus on preventing youth homelessness</li> <li>• Mentor and coach volunteers</li> </ul>
Community Youth Offer Co-ordinators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Plan and deliver a full programme of youth activities 52 weeks a year</li> <li>• Undertaking tendering and procurement of specialist activity providers</li> <li>• Oversee quality assurance of all provision</li> <li>• Manage Extended Provision</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work collaboratively with voluntary sector youth and community groups to deliver a visible community based youth work offer</li> <li>• Work collaboratively with voluntary sector youth and community groups and play providers to deliver a visible community based open access 'youth play' provision for 9-11yr olds</li> <li>• Plan and deliver a full programme of youth activities alongside partner providers 52 weeks a year</li> <li>• Support partners to develop robust quality assurance procedures</li> </ul>

**To support the staff to adapt to the change in duties, a full training and skills analysis will be undertaken and any necessary upskilling of staff will be a priority.**

## APPENDIX 3

### Youth Engagement and Participation Service Performance Indicators

<b>Type</b>	<b>Description</b>
LEDU223	% 16 year olds (Yr11) leaving school who are known not to be in education, training or employment
LEDU224	% 17 year olds (Yr12) leaving school who are known not to be in education, training or employment
LEDU225	% 18 year olds (Yr13) leaving school who are known not to be in education, training or employment
WG - National Benchmarking	Number and % of young people that have engaged with open access provision
WG - National Benchmarking	Number and % of staff that are EWC registered
Local indicator	Number and % of young people that have engaged with open access provision identified as Amber/Red on Vulnerability Profiling
Local indicator (new)	Number and % of young people with increased resilience following support via the Young People's Support Framework
Local indicator (new)	Number and % of families with increased resilience following intervention with the Resilient Families Service where a young person in the family has received support via the Young People's Support Framework
Local indicator (new)	Number and % of families affected by disability with increased resilience following intervention with the Resilient Families Service where a young person in the family has received support via the Young People's Support Framework
Local indicator (new)	Number and % of young people that have engaged in formal participation sessions
Local indicator (new)	Number and % of young people that have engaged in formal participation sessions identified as Amber/Red on Vulnerability Profiling





## RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

MUNICIPAL YEAR 2018-2019

### COMMUNITY COUNCIL LIAISON COMMITTEE

25<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2018

#### A SHARED COMMUNITY –MODEL CHARTER REVISIONS.

#### REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS & INTERIM HEAD OF DEMOCRATIC SERVICES.

Author: Emma Wilkins – Council Business Unit.  
Tel.No.01443-424110

#### **1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

To review the 'Shared Community Model – Model Charter' as originally agreed by all Members.

#### **2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 To note the initial revisions to the Model Charter as attached in Appendix 1.
- 2.2 To agree that further revisions be made to the Charter to reflect the principles and goals of the Well Being of Future Generations (Wales) Act and to further strengthen the working relationship between all members.
- 2.3 To agree for Officers to progress further engagement and discussion with Community Council colleagues in respect of the content and scope of the revised charter and to agree the suggested way forward as outlined within paragraphs 5.3 and 5.4.
- 2.4 To provide an update on the Revised Charter at the next meeting of the Community Liaison Committee.

#### **3 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 3.1 The need to revise the Charter to reflect the requirements of the Well Being of Future Generations (Wales) Act and to further strengthen

collaborative arrangements between the Council and the Town / Community Councils.

#### **4. BACKGROUND**

- 4.1 During 2011, Rhondda Cynon Taf Council, along with 11 Community Councils and 1 Town Council signed up to a shared Charter, following guidance received from Welsh Government in respect of 'Relationship Building Measures and Charters for Unitary Authorities and Town and Community Councils'.
- 4.2 Since this time representatives from the Council, Town and Community Council's have attended meeting of the Community Liaison Committee to strengthen partnership working.

#### **5. SHARED MODEL CHARTER**

- 5.1 With updates in legislation and as good practice, revisions have been made to the 2011 Charter to incorporate the principles and wellbeing goals of the Well Being of Future Generations (Wales) Act.
- 5.2 A revised Charter has been circulated to all Community and Town Councils earlier in the year as a platform for discussion. It is proposed that further amendments are made to the Charter to further strengthen the document, illustrating the work already being taken forward in line with the Future Generations goals and five ways of working and to reflect the working relationship between each of its members.
- 5.3 Going forward it is proposed that following discussions on the Charter, (attached as appendix 1), at the meeting on the 25<sup>th</sup> September, the Chair of the Community Liaison Committee and the Interim Head of Democratic Services meet with Town and Community Council representatives to discuss the Charter in further detail.
- 5.4 Alongside this, the Council's Performance Manager, will also assist with revisions to ensure the Charter complies with the Well Being of Future Generations (Wales) Act.

#### **6 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 There are no Equality or Diversity implications aligned to this report

#### **7. CONSULTATION**

- 7.1 Initial revisions to the Charter have been taken forward following meetings and discussions with Town and Community Council Clerks, to ensure the charter was fit for purpose.

## **8. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

8.1 There are no financial implications aligned to this report.

## **9. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

9.1 There are no legal implications aligned to this report.

## **10 LINKS TO THE COUNCILS CORPORATE PLAN / OTHER CORPORATE PRIORITIES**

10.1 Working in partnership with the Town and Community Council's within Rhondda Cynon Taf links with the three priorities within the Corporate plan of People, Economy and Place, as it will help people and Communities to help themselves and assists in building a sustainable Rhondda Cynon Taf.

10.2 The revised charter reflects the seven well being goals and the five ways of working, from within the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act, to which the Town / Community Council as well as Rhondda Cynon Taf Council work to. However, further work can be done in this area to strengthen these links, which will be made through further revisions to the Charter.

## **11. CONCLUSION**

11.1 The Welsh Government has been clear that charters should be voluntary and not a statutory obligation, although all Town / Community Councils within Rhondda Cynon Taf have shared the willingness to support and strength partnership working through the original signing of the Charter in 2011. Continued support has been provided through the Community and Liaison Committee.

11.2 Revisions to the Charter are necessary to reflect new legislation and are deemed as good practice.

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972**

**AS AMENDED BY**

**THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985**

**RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**25<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER, 2018**

**REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS & INTERIM HEAD  
OF DEMOCRATIC SERVICES**

**A SHARED COMMUNITY –MODEL CHARTER REVISIONS.**

**Background Papers**

Freestanding Matter

## **A SHARED COMMUNITY – MODEL CHARTER**

**Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council  
and the  
Town Council of Pontypridd  
and the  
Community Councils  
of**

**Ynysybwl & Coed y Cwm, Rhigos, Hirwaun, Llantwit Fardre, Llantrisant,  
Llanharan, Llanharry, Tonyrefail, Gilfach Goch, Pontyclun and  
Taff's Well & Nantgarw have agreed to publish a Charter which sets out  
how we aim to work together for the benefit of the local communities**

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## **Introduction**

Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council and the Town Council of Pontypridd and the Community Councils of Ynysybwl & Coed y Cwm Community Council, Rhigos, Hirwaun, Llantwit Fardre, Llantrisant, Llanharan, Llanharry, Tonyrefail, Gilfach Goch, Pontyclun and Taffs Well & Nantgarw have agreed to publish a Charter which sets out how we aim to work together for the benefit of local communities whilst recognising our respective responsibilities as autonomous, democratically elected statutory bodies.

The Charter is designed to build on existing good practice and embrace the shared principles of openness, respect for each other's opinions, honesty and our common priority of putting citizens at the centre. This Charter is based on equality of partnership and is not a top-down arrangement.

## **Partners to the Charter**

The following Unitary Authority, Town and Community Councils are committed to the principles and statements as outlined in this Charter, for the benefit of local people:

- Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council
- Pontypridd Town Council
- Community Councils of:
  - Ynysybwl & Coed y Cwm
  - Rhigos
  - Hirwaun
  - Llantwit Fardre
  - Llantrisant
  - Llanharan
  - Llanharry
  - Tonyrefail
  - Gilfach Goch
  - Pontyclun
  - Taff's Well & Nantgarw

## RECOGNITION

We accept the legitimacy and benefits of partnership working whilst at the same time recognising and respecting each other's roles. We aim to work together as a partnership of equals rather than tiers.

<b>Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council</b>	<b>Town and Community Councils</b>
Acknowledges and recognises that Town and Community Councils are the grass roots level of local government. In their role as democratically accountable bodies, Town and Community Councils offer a means of engaging with local people, of decentralising the provision of certain services and of revitalising local communities.	Recognise the strategic importance of the Unitary Authority and the economy of scale and equitable distribution of certain services they are able to achieve.
Recognise and respect the diversity of Town and Community Councils and that their needs vary according to size and the extent to which they participate varies.	Recognise that Town and Community Councils come within the common umbrella of the Unitary Authority.



## LOCAL GOVERNANCE

We will be clear about the expectations that we have of each other in order to facilitate a smooth working relationship. In this regard, we will define the way in which we interact with each other. We will be clear about the role of Councillors at all levels in the relationship and community leadership.

<b>Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council</b>	<b>Town and Community Councils</b>
<p>At its Council Meeting held on the 12<sup>th</sup> January, 2011, Members agreed to the establishment of a Community Liaison Committee comprising the Leader of the Council and the Cabinet Member for Community Engagement and Council Business and other Cabinet Members as and when appropriate and the Chairs of the Town and Community Councils.</p> <p>Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council will hold liaison meetings with representatives of all Town and Community Councils that wish to take part; and will be convened as and when felt appropriate, with due consideration to others e.g. sufficient notice will be given of such meetings.</p>	<p>Will contribute towards the agenda of liaison meetings and participate proactively to the attendance and discussion.</p>
<p>Will ensure that a member of staff within the Authority will undertake the Liaison Officer duties and will be the point of contact between the Authority and the Town and Community Councils.</p>	<p>Will contact the nominated Officer on the agreed issues and make them aware of any difficulties being encountered.</p>
<p>Will administer the holding of Town and Community Council elections.</p>	<p>Will notify the need for elections in a timely manner.</p>

<b><u>CONSULTATION</u></b>	
<b>Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council</b>	<b>Town and Community Councils</b>
<p>All formal meetings of the Council, Cabinet, Regulatory Committees (Development Control and Licensing), Scrutiny and its Working Groups are published on the Council's website together with the agendas and reports (excluding reports that contain exempt information) and links to such reports will be emailed to the Clerks of the Town and Community Councils prior to each meeting.</p>	<p>Town and Community Councils will respond to consultation opportunities in a timely manner, addressing the key issues as appropriate.</p> <p>Will make full use of the papers available to them to inform local decision-making.</p>
<p>Officers of the Authority will attend meetings with Town and Community Councils (or groups of Councils) at a mutually agreed time to discuss matters of common interest when requested to do so and will be given sufficient notice.</p>	<p>County Borough Councillors and Officers will be given the opportunity to speak at Town and Community Council meetings on matters of mutual interest.</p>
<p>Will encourage Scrutiny Committees to liaise with Town and Community Councils on relevant local issues.</p>	<p>Will respond to requests to input views to Scrutiny Committees.</p>

## INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION

We appreciate the need for timely, clear and relevant information and communication in fostering good relationships and better joint working for the benefit of local people.

<b>Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council</b>	<b>Town and Community Councils</b>
Will provide to Town and Community Councils a list of named contacts, telephone numbers and where possible email addresses. In times of uncertainty, the Clerks can go direct to the nominated Liaison Officer.	Will utilise the agreed contact points and respond in the most appropriate and timely method.
Will communicate by providing sufficient numbers of documents for members of Town and Community Councils.	Will ensure that all Town and Community Councillors have access to the appropriate documents.

## JOINT WORKING AND ENGAGEMENT

The Charter defines `Partnership` as working together towards a common set of goals based on equality in terms of ownership, decision-making and recognition of each party's distinctive contribution. It is recognised that an equal and effective partnership brings benefits and responsibilities to all those involved. Local government at both tiers must work together to promote the economic, social and environmental well-being of our area. If doing things differently achieves a better service, we will seriously examine these methods.

<b>Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council</b>	<b>Town and Community Councils</b>
Will provide opportunities for Clerks of Town and Community Councils to meet to discuss common concerns and will endeavour to resolve issues.	Will encourage participation by Clerks in opportunities to network and share common concerns.
Will be clear about how devolved services can be discussed and agreed.	Will use the agreed procedures, if there is a wish, to progress devolved services.
Will give due consideration to devolving services that would provide better value for money and/or enhanced services.	Will be clear about how any devolvement of services will provide better value for money and/or enhanced services.
Will encourage accountability for all acquired activities.	Will take responsibility for aspects of joint working that are signed up to.

**TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT**

We accept the benefits of training and development for Councillors to assist them in undertaking their role.

**Rhondda Cynon Taf  
County Borough Council**

**Town and Community Councils**

Will provide opportunities for Town and Community Councils to partake in its training and development programme.

Will encourage its Members to attend training sessions offered by Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council.

## LAND USE PLANNING

Town and Community Councils know and understand their local area and must be able to comment effectively on planning matters. Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council is able to take an overview of the needs of the whole local area and make decisions, taking local views into account.

<b>Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council</b>	<b>Town and Community Councils</b>
Will uphold its statutory duty to consult Town and Community Councils on all planning applications in their communities.	Make appropriate responses to the Unitary Authority recognising the parameters imposed by planning law and agreed planning policy.
Will advise the appropriate Town and Community Councils, by emailing the link to the respective Clerk(s) of the agenda for site visits relating to planning applications in its area.	Ensure that Councillors receive training on planning issues and have a sound understanding of how planning law works and will also encourage its Members to partake in any training in respect of planning issues that the Unitary Authority may provide.
The outcome of all planning decisions taken by the Council's Development Control Committees will be published, in minutes format, on the Council's website, 10 working days following the date of the meeting.	Maintain an objective and professional approach to planning matters at all times.
Will email links to relevant Development Control meetings to the Clerks of the appropriate Town and Community Councils in order that they can inform their respective members so that they may attend as observers.	Councillors to take up the opportunity to attend Development Control meetings of the Unitary Authority.

### **PRACTICAL SUPPORT**

In order to be effective, elected members and officers must be well-trained and have the support they need to carry out their roles.

<b>Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council</b>	<b>Town and Community Councils</b>
Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council will, where practical, offer Town and Community Councils access to support services, to enable them to take advantage of facilities such as printing, IT, purchasing at a mutually agreed price.	Will follow procedures set out to access the Authority's support services, but will also have the opportunity to make their own arrangements.

## EXPERTISE

We will encourage continuous development of Officers and Members in both Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council and the Town and Community Councils, either in their individual groupings or together. Improved expertise leads to professionalism and more effective joint working.

<b>Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council</b>	<b>Town and Community Councils</b>
Will offer Member induction training to Town and Community Councillors to enable them to understand the role and functions of Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council.	Will provide an induction to newly elected Councillors to enable them to undertake their role effectively.



## ETHICS

We will provide an ethical service to local people, following the appropriate standards and Code of Conduct. We will encourage links between Town and Community Councils Clerks and Rhondda Cynon Taf Council's Standards Committee

<b>Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council</b>	<b>Town and Community Councils</b>
Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council will, through the appointed Monitoring Officer, support Town and Community Councils in the timely consideration and provision of advice in relation to the application of the Members' Code of Conduct.	Town and Community Councillors shall not make vexatious complaints under the Code and will provide all such information as required by the Monitoring Officer to enable him/her to carry out his/her function effectively.

### **FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS**

Both Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council and the Town and Community Councils recognise the need for clarity and transparency in financial arrangements. In developing and implementing financial arrangements, relevant national and local priorities will be taken into account.

<b>Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council</b>	<b>Town and Community Councils</b>
Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council, in setting the level of Council Tax for the area, will have regard to services being delivered by Town and Community Councils in its area, and the funding thereof.	Town and Community Councils, in setting the annual precept, shall have regard to the plans for service delivery of Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council for the coming year.

### **DELEGATING RESPONSIBILITY FOR SERVICE PROVISION**

Services should be delivered in the most appropriate manner, with regard to value for money and added value for local people.

<b>Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council</b>	<b>Town and Community Councils</b>
Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council will give due consideration to all reasonably argued cases for the delegation of service delivery to Town and Community Councils, basing its consideration primarily on the improvement of service delivery for citizens whilst ensuring value for money is retained or enhanced.	Town and Community Councils will recognise that there are certain instances where it is not appropriate or desirable Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council to delegate service delivery.
Where it is not appropriate or desirable to delegate service delivery, Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council will seek ways in which local information from communities might be used to enhance service delivery to better meet citizen needs.	Town and Community Councils will engage with the citizens in the Communities they serve to understand better their needs and convey these needs in a coherent and constructive manner to Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council, so that it can be taken into account of in service design and delivery.

## SUSTAINABILITY AND WELL BEING

We will work in ways that are sustainable, reconciling the long-term needs with those of the present and protecting and improving the quality of life of current generations without compromising the quality of life of future generations. We will work to build a strong local economy, to promote independence and positive lives and to create neighbourhoods where people are proud to live and work.

<b>Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council</b>	<b>Town and Community Councils</b>
Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council will assist Town and Community Councils with information on sustainable practices.	Will proactively assess the sustainability of current practices and processes.
Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council will outline how it is actively pursuing sustainable development.	Will investigate projects which contribute to sustainability where beneficial to the community.
Rhondda Cynon Taff will proactively assist Town and Community Councils in addressing and fulfilling their relative responsibilities and duties under the Well Being of Future Generations Act 2015.	Town and Community Councils will work with Rhondda Cynon Taff where appropriate in relation to meeting the Well Being Objectives and reporting to the Cwm Taf Public Services Board's published Well Being Plan.
Rhondda Cynon Taff will inform and update the Town and Community Councils regarding the work of the Cwm Taf Public Services Board and the Well Being Objective Plan and assist the Town and Community Councils where necessary in working towards the Well Being goals.	Town and Community Councils will work with Rhondda Cynon Taff where appropriate regarding consultation with their local communities in relation to the Well Being Objectives.

## COMMUNITY STRATEGY

We recognise the strategic importance of the Community Strategy as the overarching strategic vision and priorities for the local area. Furthermore, we recognise that the Community Strategy will only be fully effective if it is informed by the grass roots experiences from within our communities.

<b>Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council</b>	<b>Town and Community Councils</b>
Will involve Town and Community Councils in the development of the local Community Strategy.	Will contribute to the development of the Community Strategy in its development stage.
Will involve Town and Community Councils in the implementation of the Community Strategy.	Will respond actively and fully to consultation of the draft Community Strategy.

## LOCAL ELECTIONS

Fair and open elections are the bedrock of local democracy. We will ensure that elections are fairly contested, and encourage local people to become involved in local democracy.

<b>Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council</b>	<b>Town and Community Councils</b>
Will involve Town and Community Councils in the local election planning process.	Will encourage participation in the local election process by members of the local community.
Will involve Town and Community Councils in any awareness raising/publicity to encourage nominations for candidacy at local elections.	Will ensure wide publicity of vacancies on Town and Community Councils to maximise community representation.
Will help to publicise forthcoming local elections on behalf of Town and Community Councils.	Will facilitate public participation at all relevant meetings of the Council and its Committees to encourage community involvement.
Will brief Town and Community Councils on the nomination process so that they are equipped to assist any potential candidates who come forward for local elections.	
Will provide help and assistance with the local election legal and administrative processes and procedures.	

### **ACTION PLAN**

This Charter will be supported by the development of an annual Action Plan addressing each of the individual topics contained therein. The Action Plan will be developed on a joint basis and shall attribute responsibilities to each partner. Actions will be accompanied by a timescale and will be reported on at least quarterly during the year concerned.

<b>Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council</b>	<b>Town and Community Councils</b>
Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council will nominate a lead Officer for the development and monitoring of the Action Plan.	Town and Community Councils will collectively agree priorities for inclusion in the Action Plan.
Responsible Officers of the Authority will have due regard to the Action Plan and include relevant actions in their workplan for the year.	Town and Community Councils will have due regard to the Action Plan and include all actions relevant to them during the course of the year.

**MONITORING AND REVIEW**

The Charter will be fully reviewed every four years or more often if there is a need to do so. The Community Liaison Committee will measure progress annually in achieving the measures set out in the Charter through the setting and reviewing of actions contained in an action plan.

<b>Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council</b>	<b>Town and Community Councils</b>
Will arrange for the Charter to be reviewed every four years or as agreed.	Will actively contribute to the review of the Charter.
Will arrange for the development of an action plan linked to the Charter and will actively contribute to achieving the action plan.	Will actively contribute to the development and delivery of the Charter action plan.



**Partners to the Charter**

The undersigned Unitary Authority, Town and Community Councils are committed to the principles and statements with the Charter, for the benefit of local people.

***Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council***

\_\_\_\_\_  
Leader of the Council

\_\_\_\_\_  
Dated

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chief Executive

\_\_\_\_\_  
Dated

***Pontypridd Town Council***

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chair

\_\_\_\_\_  
Dated

\_\_\_\_\_  
Clerk

\_\_\_\_\_  
Dated

***Ynysybwl & Coed y Cwm Community Council***

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chair

\_\_\_\_\_  
Dated

\_\_\_\_\_  
Clerk

\_\_\_\_\_  
Dated

***Rhigos Community Council***

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chair

\_\_\_\_\_  
Dated

\_\_\_\_\_  
Clerk

\_\_\_\_\_  
Dated

***Hirwaun Community Council***

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chair

\_\_\_\_\_  
Dated

\_\_\_\_\_  
Clerk

\_\_\_\_\_  
Dated

***Llantwit Fardre Community Council***

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Chair

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Dated

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Clerk

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Dated

***Llantrisant Community Council***

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Chair

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Dated

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Clerk

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Dated

***Llanharan Community Council***

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***Llanharry Community Council***

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Dated

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Clerk

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Dated

***Tonyrefail Community Council***

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Chair

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Dated

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Clerk

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Dated

***Gilfach Goch Community Council***

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Chair

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Dated

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Clerk

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Dated

***Pontyclun Community Council***

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Chair

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Dated

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Clerk

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Dated

***Taff's Well & Nantgarw Community Council***

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Chair

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**RHONDDA CYNON TAF**

**RHONDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**COMMUNITY LIAISON COMMITTEE**

**25 SEPTEMBER 2018**

**LOCAL RESOLUTION PROCEDURE FOR COMMUNITY AND TOWN COUNCILS**

**REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS & INTERIM HEAD OF  
DEMOCRATIC SERVICES**

Author: Emma Wilkins – Council Business Unit – Democratic Services

**1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

- 1.1 To advise Members of the decision taken by Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council's Standards Committee in respect of the endorsement of the One Voice Wales local resolution procedure for Community & Town Councils.

**2. RECOMMENDATION**

That this Committee notes the Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council's Standards Committee endorsement, in principle, of the One Voice Wales Local Resolution Procedure and provides any feedback it may have on the same.

**3. BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 At the Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council Standards Committee on the 18<sup>th</sup> September, Members considered the report (attached as appendix A), in respect of the One Voice Wales Local Resolution Procedure For Community And Town Councils.
- 3.2 Following discussion at that meeting, Members resolved to endorse, in principle, the Procedure subject to the comments and feedback of the Town and Community Councils at the meeting of the Community Liaison Committee on the 25<sup>th</sup> September.
- 3.3 Committee Members did acknowledge that some Community and Town Councils will not be members of One Voice Wales. In this regard they considered it advisable those Councils should seek to adopt a similar set of local resolution procedures, if they had not done so already.

**4. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 There are no legal implications arising from this report.

**5. CONSULTATION**

5.1 Standards Committee – 18<sup>th</sup> September 2018

**6. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS**

6.1 There are no equality and diversity implications arising from this report.

**7. FINANCIAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

7.1 Council officers give governance advice to town and community councils. Resources are insufficient to operate such a local resolution process for other councils. Town and community councils will therefore have to operate this process themselves.



**LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972**

**AS AMENDED BY**

**THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985**

**RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**COMMUNITY LIAISON COMMITTEE**

**25 SEPTEMBER 2018**

**REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INTERIM HEAD OF  
DEMOCRATIC SERVICES.**

**Background Papers:** Standards Committee – 18<sup>th</sup> September

**Contact:** Emma Wilkins – 01443 424110.

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**RHONDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**STANDARDS COMMITTEE**

**18 SEPTEMBER 2018**

**LOCAL RESOLUTION PROCEDURE FOR COMMUNITY AND TOWN COUNCILS  
– ONE VOICE WALES**

**REPORT OF THE MONITORING OFFICER**

**1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

- 1.1 To provide Members with information and seek the Committee's endorsement in respect of One Voice Wales' Local Resolution Procedure for Community and Town Councils.

**2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 That the Committee endorses the One Voice Wales Local Resolution Procedure and notes its level of adoption by Community and Town Councils within Rhondda Cynon Taf.

**3. BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 For some time the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales (PSOW) has been concerned about the growing number of, generally, low level complaints under the Code. His office has instituted a two stage test to carve out those cases not worthy of investigation, so that only the most serious are allocated scarce investigation resources.
- 3.2 The Ombudsman's guidance on the Code of Conduct for Community and Town Councils encourages the use of local resolution for low level complaints. This Council adopted a local protocol in January 2011 which was revised in July 2013. That protocol and associated procedures would not have been appropriate for Community and Town Councils and until recently there was no suitable precedent for them to adopt.
- 3.3 One Voice Wales have now produced a protocol, attached as Appendix 1 to this report. It is relatively simple in nature, which should make it easy to use and/or adopt to local circumstance. The procedure will only work where both parties try to make it work, and the same is true with Rhondda Cynon Taf's own local resolution process. Failure to cooperate might therefore be a factor in favour of referral to the PSOW for formal investigation.

- 3.4 The procedure is intended for use where complaints are low level and have been made by an officer (not the clerk) or another member. Serious complaints, or those made by the clerk or a member of the public are recommended for referral to the PSOW.
- 3.5 The simple nature of the document does mean that some flexibility and a willingness to make the process work will be required. Experience with our own local protocol indicates that it works best with willing participants as well. If one party refuses to cooperate then it is still open, and perhaps preferable, to refer the matter to the PSOW.
- 3.6 The Committee is therefore asked to endorse the procedure. An oral update will be provided at the meeting in respect of the current adoption rate of the procedure by Rhondda Cynon Taf Community and Town Councils.

#### **4. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 There are no legal implications arising from this report.

#### **5. CONSULTATION**

- 5.1 There are no consultation implications arising from this report.

#### **6. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 There are no equality and diversity implications arising from this report.

#### **7. FINANCIAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

- 7.1 Council officers give governance advice to town and community councils. Resources are insufficient to operate such a local resolution process for other councils. Town and community councils will therefore have to operate this process themselves. There would therefore be minimal resource implications for this Council.

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972**

**AS AMENDED BY**

**THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985**

**RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**STANDARDS COMMITTEE**

**18 SEPTEMBER 2018**

**REPORT OF THE MONITORING OFFICER**

**Background Papers:** Freestanding matter

**Contact:** Mr Andy Wilkins (Head of Legal – Corporate & Democratic Services) –  
01443 424189



Un Llais Cymru



One Voice Wales

**Model Local Resolution Protocol  
for Community and Town Councils**

# ONE VOICE WALES

## Model Local Resolution Protocol for Community and Town Councils

### Background

The Public Service Ombudsman has agreed to the principle of referring some complaints against Members back to Community and Town Councils for a local resolution. However to date there has not been a common process for Community and Town Councils to follow in dealing with such matters. To assist the sector, One Voice Wales has drawn up the following as a model protocol which any Community and Town Council can use in dealing with such complaints.

This model protocol is meant as a starting point for Community and Town councils. Individual councils may wish to add or amend this model to suit their particular needs. Councils wishing to use this process should first of all be clear about its purpose and intention, formally adopt it in its current or in a revised form and ensure that all Councillors are provided with a copy for their attention. The Council should then determine the framework through which it is operated which may require the establishment of a Committee or Panel or an extension of the terms of reference of an existing Panel or Committee such as a Complaints Panel or Committee. In the case of establishment of a new Panel it is important that terms of reference are prepared and approved by the Council. In either case it will be important for Councils to document in the terms of reference as to what will happen if there is a lack of co-operation shown by the member concerned or a breakdown occurring during the operation of the process. For example, in such cases the default position might be that the matter is referred to the Public Ombudsman for Wales.

### The Local Resolution Process

#### Issues which should be considered under this process

Low level complaints about Members, including:

- Minor complaints from Members about Members
- Minor complaints from Officers about Members
- Members alleged to have not shown respect and consideration for others – either verbally or in writing

#### Issues which should not be considered under this process

Complaints which must be directed to the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales, including:

- Complaints instigated by a member of the public
- Serious complaints – breaches of the Code of Conduct/failure to disclose interests/bullying/abuse of position or trust/repeated breaches
- Complaints made by the Clerk/Proper Officer
- Vexatious, malicious or frivolous complaints
- Members' complaints about officers which should be dealt with using the Council's internal complaints process
- Repetitive low level complaints

## **The Process**

### **The complaint**

The complaint would need to be sent to the Clerk/Proper Officer of the Council to undertake a first sift to ensure that the complaint is at a low level and should not be dealt with by way of a complaint to the Ombudsman. If appropriate, therefore, the Clerk/Proper Officer should firstly seek an early resolution of any such dispute by liaising informally with the individual members concerned prior to the resolution process described below. It is vitally important that the 'accused' member is given full details of the complaint against them so that in the interests of natural justice they are in a position to prepare their response to the accusation.

### **Resolution Process**

The involvement of the Chair/Vice Chair of the Council in the following process is not to adjudicate on the complaint, but to attempt to get the members/officers involved to come to an agreement as to how the issue(s) could be resolved on an amicable basis.

The Clerk/Proper Officer will act as a facilitator for the resolution process below.

If the complaint is between Members other than the Chair of the Council, the Clerk/Proper Officer and the Chair will meet individually with the complainant and Member subject of the complaint to seek an agreed resolution.

If the complaint is between Members, one of whom is the Chair of Council, but not the Vice Chair, the Clerk/Proper Officer and the Vice Chair will meet with the complainant and Member subject of the complaint to seek an agreed resolution.

If the complaint has been made by an officer/employee, but not the Clerk/Proper Officer, against a Member other than the Chair of Council, the Clerk/Proper Officer and the Chair of Council will meet with the officer and the Member subject of the complaint to seek an agreed resolution.

If the complaint has been made by an officer/employee, but not the Clerk/Proper Officer, against the Chair of Council, the Clerk/Proper Officer and the Vice Chair of Council will meet with the officer and the Chair to seek an agreed resolution.

If the complaint has been made by the Clerk/Proper Officer, then it is likely to be best practice that this complaint is forwarded by way of a complaint to the Ombudsman.

### **Possible results of the process**

If an agreement is reached by Members and/or officers during this Stage then no further action is required.

If agreement cannot be reached the aggrieved Member/officer would always have the opportunity of referring the matter to the Ombudsman.

Examples of agreements might include issue of a letter of apology, a written undertaking or commitment not to breach the Code of Conduct in the future, a commitment to undertake training or an agreement that on the basis of the evidence that no further action should be taken and the matter be closed.



**Time for the process**

It is the intention that all of the processes can be completed as quickly as possible to resolve the issue. However exact timing will depend on the availability of individuals to attend the meetings.

### ***Important Points to Note in preparing a process for use by the Council***

*The Clerk/Proper officer, Chair and Vice Chairs of Councils should consider receiving appropriate training in facilitation and mediation to be in a position to maximise the benefit of this process. Councils wishing to pursue this route should contact One Voice Wales for guidance.*

*Councils might want to include some guidance where complaints which are most appropriately dealt with under this process are referred back to the Council by PSOW. The PSOW could actively do this if the Council has an approved process.*

*It is suggested that any meetings held with a view to discussing the issues of complaints and/or resolving matters are at the very least minuted, if not recorded. This is to ensure that agreements are captured. This will also be useful in the event that matters break down or escalate and need to be referred to the PSOW. It may also be useful as evidence in the event of further similar breaches of the conduct and future conduct.*

*Councils need to be clear on their powers in respect of code of conduct matters. The Ombudsman has seen examples of councils who have deemed it appropriate to fully investigate a code complaint, decide that there has been a breach and some have even thought it appropriate to consider the issue of a sanction. Investigations of possible breaches of the Code are matters for the Ombudsman. The Local Government Act 2000 gives him the authority to carry out such investigations. The Council has no legal authority to undertake such investigations or to make findings of a breach of the Code of Conduct, which are decisions that can only be reached by a Standards Committee or the Adjudication Panel for Wales.*



## ABOUT ONE VOICE WALES

One Voice Wales is the national representative organisation for Community and Town Councils throughout Wales. The vision subscribed to by One Voice Wales is:

***“Working with local councils in Wales to shape places communities want to live in”***

One Voice Wales aims to support Community and Town Councils in achieving this vision and has adopted the following Mission Statement to guide its work:

***“To represent the interests of Community and Town Councils; raise awareness and understanding of this primary tier of government; and work collaboratively with our partners to ensure the sector contributes fully to the goal of developing dynamic and sustainable communities in Wales.”***

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**RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**COUNCIL**

**19<sup>th</sup> 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 24<sup>th</sup> 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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 26<sup>th</sup> 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 23<sup>rd</sup> 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 27<sup>th</sup> 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 25<sup>th</sup> 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 12<sup>th</sup> 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 27<sup>th</sup> 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 25<sup>th</sup> July 2018.
- 3.6 The initial phase of the electoral review itself commenced on 1<sup>st</sup> August 2018 and lasts until 23<sup>rd</sup> 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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 21<sup>st</sup> September until 12<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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 26<sup>th</sup> 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 25<sup>th</sup> 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 4<sup>th</sup> October.
  2. Ferndale Library – 10am -12pm on the 8<sup>th</sup> October.
  3. Sobell Leisure Centre, Aberdare - 2 - 4pm on the 11<sup>th</sup> 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 23<sup>rd</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> August 2018 and ends on 23<sup>rd</sup> 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**

**3<sup>rd</sup> 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 26<sup>th</sup> 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 23<sup>rd</sup> 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 27<sup>th</sup> 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 25<sup>th</sup> 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 12<sup>th</sup> 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 27<sup>th</sup> 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 25<sup>th</sup> July 2018.
- 3.7 The initial phase of the electoral review itself commenced on 1<sup>st</sup> August 2018 and lasts until 23<sup>rd</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> August 2018 and ending on 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2018:

- 19<sup>th</sup> September 2018 – Full Council – consideration of preferred option proposal from Overview and Scrutiny Committee and initiation of stakeholder engagement
- 20<sup>th</sup> September 2018 – 5th October 2018 – Stakeholder engagement on the Council's preferred option
- 24<sup>th</sup> 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 26<sup>th</sup> October. Any individual responses made by Members would need to be submitted by the closure date of 23<sup>rd</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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:

<b>ELECTORAL WARD</b>	<b>MEMBERS</b>	<b>CURRENT VARIANCE</b>
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 **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.

#### 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:

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

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](mailto: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 1<sup>st</sup> August 2018 and ends on 23<sup>rd</sup> 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 26<sup>th</sup> October 2018.

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

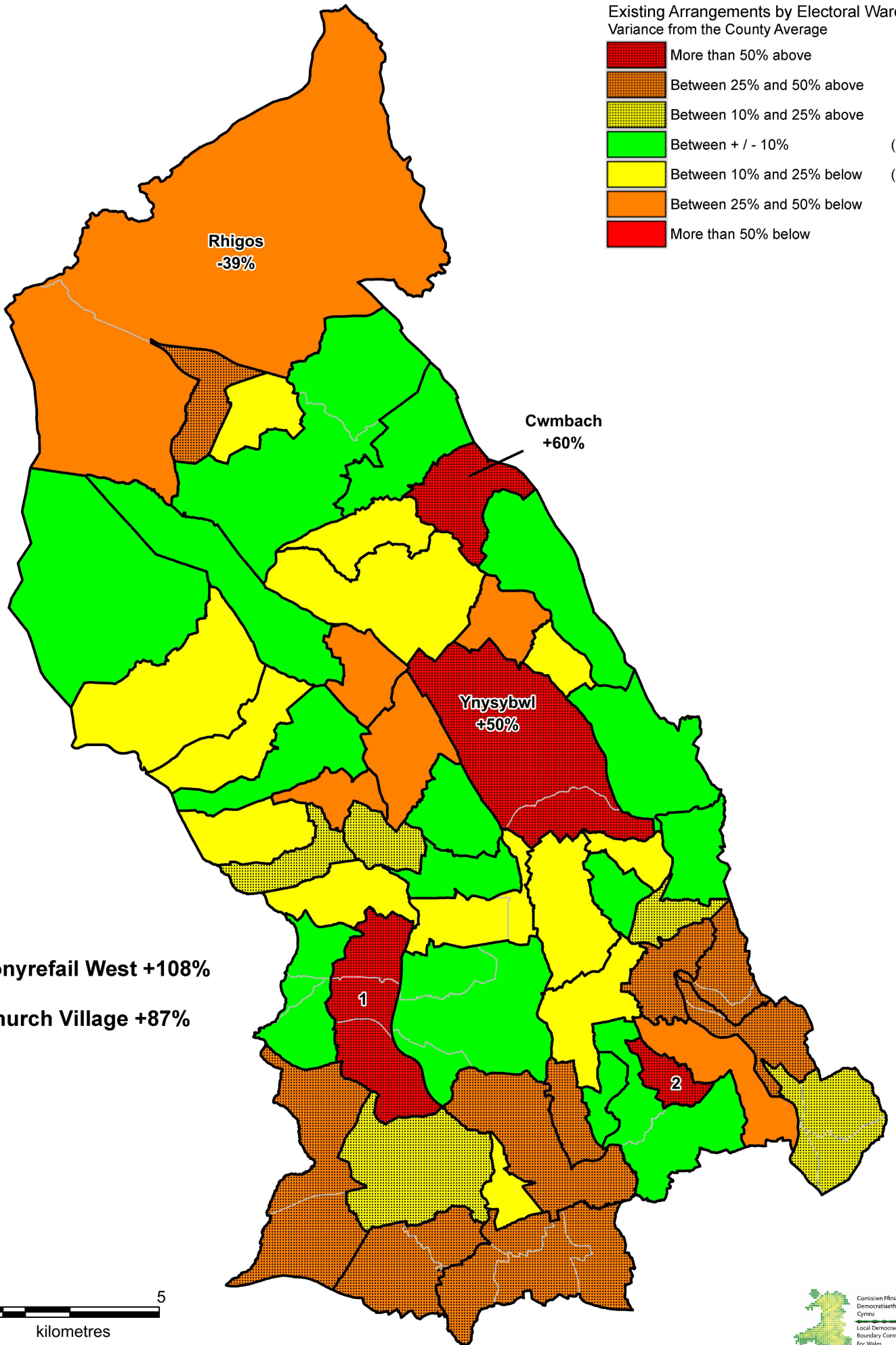


# COUNTY BOROUGH OF RHONDDA CYNON TAF

## 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%



kilometres

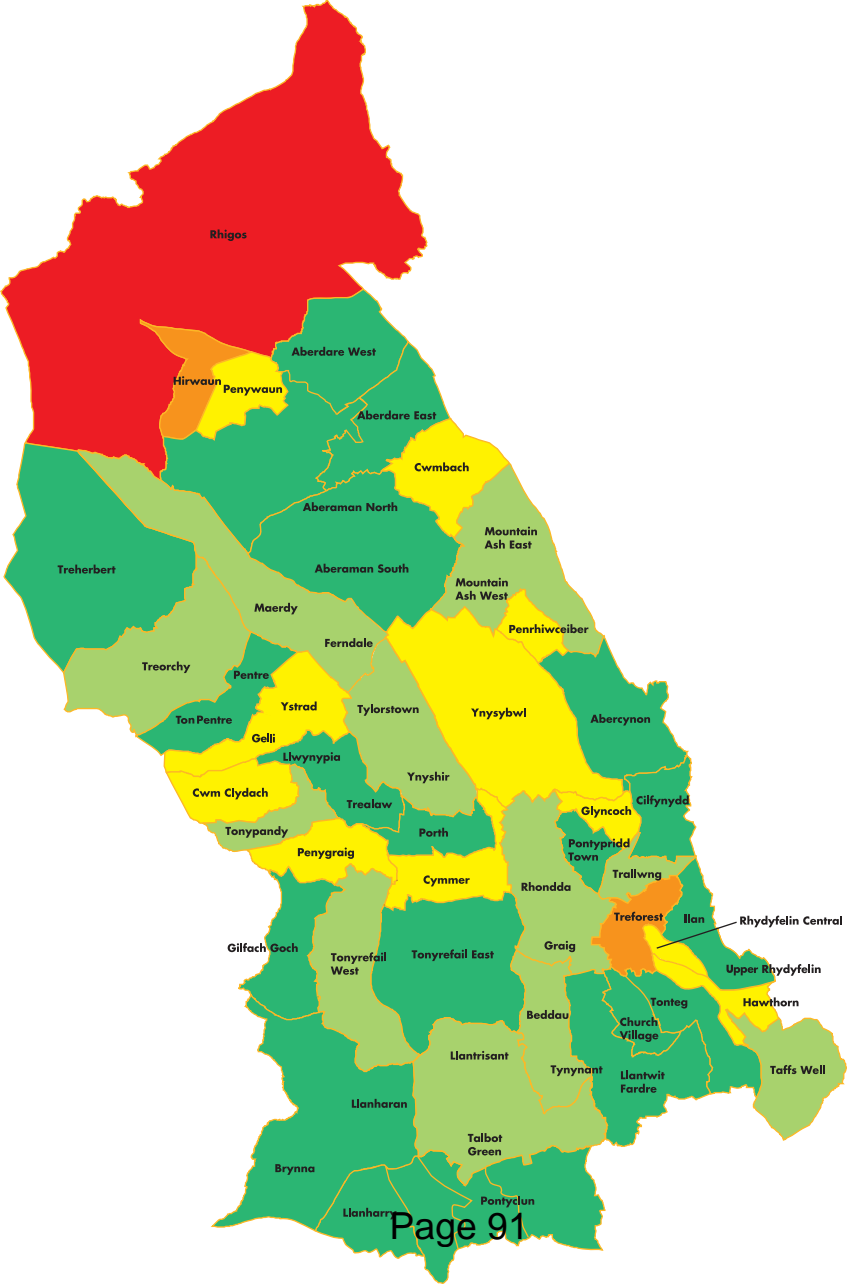
Scale: 1:141,000



### 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%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>172,673</b>	<b>2,302</b>	

Electorate (5 Year Forecast 2023)	Electors per Councillor	Variance	Community Council	Key Variance - Elector 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%		
<b>178,294</b>	<b>2377</b>			



**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, 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 18<sup>th</sup> April and 25<sup>th</sup> 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 12<sup>th</sup> 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 24<sup>th</sup> 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 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2018 (however, given the date of October Council on the 24<sup>th</sup> October 2018 the Boundary Commission have extended the deadline for a Council response to 5pm on the 26<sup>th</sup> 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 24<sup>th</sup> 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 26<sup>th</sup> October 2018.

**L.M.ADAMS  
CHAIR**

**The meeting closed at 18.10 p.m.**