



CYNGOR BWRDEISTREF SIROL
RHONDDA CYNON TAF
COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

COMMITTEE SUMMONS

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

Meeting Contact: Julia Nicholls - Democratic Services (01443 424098)

YOU ARE SUMMONED to a virtual meeting of **RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL** to be held on **WEDNESDAY, 30TH JUNE, 2021** at **5.00 PM.**

AGENDA

**Page
No's**

TIME	ITEM	PAGE(S)
5 Minutes	ITEM 1. DECLARATION OF INTEREST To receive disclosures of personal interests from Members in accordance with the Code of Conduct <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Members are requested to identify the item number and subject that their interest relates to and signify the nature of the personal interest; and2. Where Members withdraw from a meeting as a consequence of the disclosure of prejudicial interest they must notify the Chairman when they leave.	
	ITEM 2. TRIBUTES TO THE LATE COUNCILLOR CLAYTON WILLIS To enable Members to pay tribute to the late County Borough Councillor Clayton Willis.	
10 Minutes	ITEM 3. ANNOUNCEMENTS	
5 Minutes	ITEM 4. MINUTES To approve as an accurate record, the minutes of the Council	7 - 48

	<p>Meetings held on:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 10th March 2021 2. 26th May 2021 (Annual General Meeting of the Council) 3. 26th May 2021 (Extraordinary Council Meeting) 	
OPEN GOVERNMENT:		
10 Minutes	<p>ITEM 5. STATEMENTS</p> <p>In accordance with Open Government Council Meeting Procedure Rule 2, to receive any statements from the Leader of the Council and/or statements from Cabinet Portfolio Holders:</p>	
20 Minutes	<p>ITEM 6. MEMBERS' QUESTIONS</p> <p>To receive Members questions in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 9.2.</p> <p>(N.B a maximum of 20 minutes shall be allowed for questions on notice.)</p>	49 - 54
OFFICERS' REPORTS		
10 Minutes	<p>ITEM 7. COUNCIL WORK PROGRAMME: 2021-2022 MUNICIPAL YEAR</p> <p>To receive the report of the Service Director Democratic Services & Communication in respect of the draft Council work programme for the 2021/2022 Municipal Year.</p>	55 - 70
30 Minutes	<p>ITEM 8. REVIEW OF THE ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE COUNTY BOROUGH OF RHONDDA CYNON TAF BY THE LOCAL DEMOCRACY AND BOUNDARY COMMISSION FOR WALES AND WELSH MINISTERS</p> <p>To provide the opportunity for members to consider the decision of the Welsh Minister for Finance & Local Government in respect of the recommendations of the Local Democracy and Boundary Commission Wales, as set out in the written statement tabled at the Senedd on the 24th June 2021.</p> <p>https://ldbc.gov.wales/reviews/03-20/rhondda-cynon-taf-final-recommendations</p>	71 - 180
15 Minutes	<p>ITEM 9. ACCESS & ENGAGEMENT IMPROVEMENTS WITHIN DEMOCRACY</p> <p>To receive the report of the Service Director, Democratic Services & Communication</p>	181 - 194

<p>10 Minutes</p>	<p>ITEM 10. URGENT EXECUTIVE DECISIONS</p> <p>To receive the report of the Service Director, Democratic Services & Communication.</p>	<p>195 - 200</p>
<p>45 Minutes</p>	<p>ITEM 11. NOTICES OF MOTION</p> <p>A. Notice of Motion standing in the names of County Borough Councillors M Powell, L Walker, W Owen, K Jones, W Jones and P Howe:</p> <p>"This Council recognises:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • that persistent littering has a detrimental effect on communities within Rhondda Cynon Taff. It makes the area unattractive for visitors and does not serve to instil any sense of pride in residents. • the need to educate people in order to change their habits if we are to be successful in cleaning up our local environment and in order to do so we need a campaign slogan which will capture people's attention. <p>This Council notes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the success of campaigns such as the 'Check Your Balls' campaign to promote awareness of testicular cancer. • the campaigns in other areas such as Swansea https://www.swansea.gov.uk/article/59211/Dont-be-a-tosser-this-Bank-Holiday-weekend • that there have been numerous anti-litter campaigns set up across the UK which include the 'Don't be a Tosser ' tag line since the idea was proposed to and turned down by this Council in <u>2009</u>. • that times have changed a great deal in the past 12 years and sayings that some may have found unacceptable then would not be considered in the same way now. <p>This Council therefore resolves:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to ask the Cabinet and relevant officers to give full consideration to introducing a 'Don't Be a Tosser' campaign as part of its anti-littering stance." <p style="text-align: center;">*****</p> <p>B. Notice of Motion standing in the names of County Borough Councillors: G. Caple, R. Williams, L. M. Adams, D. R. Bevan, H. Boggis, J. Bonetto, S. Bradwick, J. Brencher, A. Calvert, A. Crimmings, A. Davies-Jones, L. De- Vet, J. Edwards, J. Elliott, S. Evans, G. Jones, M. Fidler Jones, M. Forey, A. Fox, E. George, M. Griffiths, J. Harries, G. Holmes, G. Hopkins, R. Lewis, W.</p>	

Lewis, C. Leyshon, A. Morgan, S. Morgans, M. A. Norris, D. Owen-Jones, S. Pickering, S. Powell, S. Rees, A. Roberts, J. Rosser, G. Stacey, M. Tegg, G. Thomas, W. Treeby, R. K. Turner, M. Webber, D. Williams, T. Williams and R. Yeo

On April 29th, 2021, the Business Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) Select Committee published its report on the Mineworkers' Pension Scheme, which examined the historical injustice of mineworkers being deprived of their rightful pension entitlements.

As Members may recall, this Council supported a Notice of Motion supporting the UK Miners Pension Association Justice and Fair Play Campaign in 2017 and called for a renegotiation of the 50:50 sharing arrangement of any surplus between the former mineworkers and the U.K. Government. Despite calling for a Parliamentary Debate, the issue was made subject of a Select Committee inquiry.

Now, the recently published BEIS report found that this surplus award arrangement should be reviewed and replaced with a fairer system which sees the recipients of the pension given a "more realistic percentage of any surplus."

Indeed, the report acknowledges a number of significant issues with the outcome of the 1994 negotiations, including the failure of the Government to carry out due diligence and the absence of actuarial advice. This has resulted in the Westminster Government receiving over £4bn from the arrangement with a further £1.9bn expected to follow. This substantial profit has come without the U.K. Government paying a single penny in to the scheme.

The search for a revised arrangement should be pursued urgently, and this Council supports the recommended model proposed in the BEIS report which includes the following details:

- The U.K. Government would only be entitled to a share of surpluses if the Scheme falls into deficit and the Government has to provide funds. This would then be an entitlement to 50% of future surpluses up to the total value of the provided funds to bridge any shortfall.
- The Westminster Government should also relinquish its entitlement to the Investment Reserve and transfer the £1.2bn fund to former miners in order to provide an immediate cash uplift.

This Council therefore resolves for the Leader of the Council to write to the Prime Minister, Chancellor of the Exchequer and the Minister for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy to convey this Council's support for the recommendations of the BEIS report and to urge the Westminster Government to replace the unjust arrangement with a fair settlement that is based on actuarial advice and places the best interests of pension recipients at its heart.

ITEM 12. URGENT BUSINESS

To consider any items which the Chair, by reason of special circumstances, is of the opinion should be considered as a matter of urgency.

Service Director of Democratic Services & Communication

To: All Members of the Council

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RHONDDA CYNON TAF

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNCIL

Minutes of the virtual meeting of the Council held on Wednesday, 10 March 2021 at 4.00 pm

County Borough Councillors - Council Members in attendance:-

Councillor S Powderhill (Chair)

Councillor M Adams	Councillor S Belzak
Councillor R Bevan	Councillor H Boggis
Councillor J Bonetto	Councillor S Bradwick
Councillor J Brencher	Councillor A Calvert
Councillor G Caple	Councillor A Chapman
Councillor A Cox	Councillor A Crimmings
Councillor J Cullwick	Councillor A Davies-Jones
Councillor G Davies	Councillor J Davies
Councillor L De Vet	Councillor J Edwards
Councillor J Elliott	Councillor S Evans
Councillor M Forey	Councillor A Fox
Councillor H Fychan	Councillor E George
Councillor D Grehan	Councillor E Griffiths
Councillor M Griffiths	Councillor J Harries
Councillor G Holmes	Councillor L Hooper
Councillor G Hopkins	Councillor P Howe
Councillor G Hughes	Councillor J James
Councillor P Jarman	Councillor G Jones
Councillor K Jones	Councillor L Jones
Councillor W Jones	Councillor R Lewis
Councillor W Lewis	Councillor C Leyshon
Councillor A Morgan	Councillor K Morgan
Councillor S Morgans	Councillor M Norris
Councillor D Owen-Jones	Councillor W Owen
Councillor M Powell	Councillor S Powell
Councillor S. Rees-Owen	Councillor S Rees
Councillor A Roberts	Councillor J Rosser
Councillor G Stacey	Councillor E Stephens
Councillor G Thomas	Councillor W Treeby
Councillor R Turner	Councillor L Walker
Councillor M Weaver	Councillor M Webber
Councillor E Webster	Councillor D Williams
Councillor J Williams	Councillor T Williams
Councillor R Yeo	

Officers in attendance

Mr C Bradshaw, Chief Executive
Mr B Davies, Director of Finance & Digital Services
Ms G Davies, Director of Education and Inclusion Services
Mr R Evans, Director of Human Resources
Mr C Hanagan, Service Director of Democratic Services & Communication
Mr P Mee, Group Director Community & Children's Services
Mr A Wilkins, Director of Legal Services

108 Apologies

An apology of absence was received from County Borough Councillors Sera Evans, M Fidler Jones, S Pickering, M Tegg and C Willis.

109 Welcome & Introductions

Introductions were made by the Group Leaders present :-

County Borough Councillor M Webber (In the Group Leader's absence at this stage-Deputy

Leader of the Labour Group)

County Borough Councillor P Jarman (Plaid Cymru Group)

County Borough Councillor M Powell (RCT Independent Group)

County Borough Councillor L Hooper (In the Group Leader's absence at this stage- Deputy

Leader of the Conservative Group)

County Borough Councillor S Belzak (Independent Member)

110 Declaration of Interest

In accordance with the Council's Code of Conduct, the following declarations were made pertaining to the agenda:-

- County Borough Councillor R Lewis declared the following personal interest in Agenda item 11 – “YGG Abercynon is referenced within the report, I am Chair of Governors at the School and a close relative works at the School”
- County Borough Councillor S Belzak declared the following personal interest in Agenda Item 11 – “My daughter works in one of the schools referenced within the report”
- County Borough Councillor P Jarman –Agenda items 9-14 “Dispensation to speak and vote on all matters for the duration and adoption of the 2021-22 Budget process in my capacity as Leader of the Opposition”
- County Borough Councillor M Powell - “Dispensation to speak and vote on all matters relating to the Children's Services department (within the Community and Children's Group), save for any specific matters that directly affect his wife, who is employed by the Council in the Children's Services department as a Contact Worker”
- County Borough Councillor K Morgan declared the following personal and prejudicial interest and did not participate in the matter when the item was voted upon– Agenda item 15 Notice of Motion – “My brother is a striking employee of British Gas”
- County Borough Councillor J Harries declared the following personal interest-“My father works for the Council”

In respect of Item 14 – The Council’s Pay Policy Statement:

- Mr A Wilkins– Director, Legal Services on behalf of all Council Officers present in relation to Agenda Item 14 - “The Pay Policy statement for the Council has no effect on existing terms and conditions applying to individual employees and simply sets out the Council’s approach to previously approved pay policies, therefore Officers will remain in the meeting whilst the item is presented by the Director of Human Resources and during subsequent discussion.”

111 Cardiff Capital Region City Deal

Council received the Director of the Cardiff Capital Region City Deal and the Chair of the Regional Economic Growth Partnership (RECP) who delivered a Power Point presentation which addressed the following areas:-

- Executive Summary – last four years & what next
- CCR - Connected, Competitive, Resilient - We have strong sense of core purpose
- Solid Foundations - Data, Process, Frameworks and Collaboration
- Governance and Partnership Structures
- Effective Governance and Partnership Engagement -We have transformed working practices and speed of decision making
- Investment and Intervention Fund
- Approved Projects to date
- Wider investment pipeline
- Wider Impact of Investment – CS Foundry Project and Cluster
- Impact Overview -What does all this mean for RCT?
- The future for RCT...?
- New Corporate Joint Committees
- Regional Public Investment
- CCR Regional Cabinet – (Corporate Joint Committee)
- Next Five Years and Levelling Up
- Why Act as a Region? Because **T**ogether **E**veryone **A**chieves **M**ore

The Leader of the Council thanked both the Director of the Cardiff Capital Region City Deal and the Chair of the Regional Economic Growth Partnership

(REGP) for their comprehensive overview of the CCRCD.

The Leader outlined some key projects of the CCRD such as the Housing Investment Fund, the Graduate Scheme, agreed and enhanced by the funding from the 10 Local Authorities, Zip World, Porth Hub Transport (with over £6m investment) and he outlined the benefits of match funding from WG on a number of projects. He alluded to over £200m of metro funding to be invested in RCT, as a key beneficiary of core Metro funding through enhancements to the stations and the electric lines to Cardiff. An electric vehicle charging strategy across the region with further funds from WG. The Leader advised of strategic sites such as the A465 and potential development of disused industrial sites which have all promoted the closer working relationship between the 10 Local Authorities and he alluded to the advantages the City Deal will bring to this Local Authority.

Councillor P Jarman (Plaid Cymru Group)

- The key objective is to uplift GBA by 5% growth and to achieve 25,000 additional jobs, when this is likely to be achieved?
- Flexicare is a successful and valued employer in the community and has been for many years, it would be of benefit if they could expand in the ward
- The Housing Viability Gap Fund - Is the phurnacite plant one of the sites identified?
- Key to securing the new Regional Fund relates to the levelling up with reference to national infrastructure, does that refer to UK or Welsh Government?
- Corporate Joint Committees - Councillor Jarman hoped that a full report would be presented to Council to explain what that will mean

The Director of the Cardiff Capital Region City Deal confirmed that the targets of the City Deal mentioned are over a 20-year period from March 2021. The Director advised that there is a slight increase in productivity, but it is a long-term journey. In terms of Flexicare, the Director advised that a group of companies working together on medical devices and diagnostics companies with RCT at the centre is being taken forward. The Director was unable to comment on the names of the sites due to commercial sensitivity but would provide an update when possible. The Director advised that a lot of investment lays with the UK Government although there is a need to take advantage of any funding that is available to the Cardiff Capital Region whether from Welsh Government or UK Government. With regards to Corporate Joint Committees, which is a local issue and a local determination, the Director pointed out that she had previously advised of some of the benefits if they were adopted.

Councillor M Powell (RCT Independent Group)

Councillor Powell raised a concern that some of the local areas in RCT and their respective local issues had been overlooked such as the areas of Ynysybwl and Glyncoch, which would have been suitable for railway halts, and whether some other areas within RCT will be forgotten by the Capital Region.

Electric Vehicles – Councillor Powell raised a query as to where the charging points would be positioned, particularly with terraced houses which are prevalent within many areas of RCT and as many residents are unable to park directly

outside their own homes.

Long Term Empty Properties – RCT has over 3,000 long term empty properties with over 25,000 across the whole of Wales. Would it be a better to invest in the empty properties which could be brought up to current standards in a more efficient and less costly way?

Councillor J James (Conservative Party)

Councillor James stated that the GVA has not risen for a number of years therefore is 5% a realistic goal?

Councillor S Belzak (Independent Member)

Councillor Belzak asked how realistic is it to talk in terms of economic growth with the decline of growth rates globally since 2008, which was caused due to a decline in energy resources?

The Director of the Cardiff Capital Region City Deal referred to the RCT Empty Property Scheme which has been scaled up across the Valleys Taskforce areas with some incentives, stressed the importance of developing the industry around Zipworld such as the hospitality, hotel and catering industries to make sure it has an impact and advised of the importance of the aforementioned Masters Project, Graduate and Shared Apprenticeship schemes when addressing the shortage of skills and supply chain issues and the need to respond quickly to the changes in the employability market. The Director confirmed that they have not signed up to the Western Gateway but have engaged as observers, but no investment has been committed. With regards to GVA growth, the region does have one of the lowest growth productivity rates in the UK, which does need to be increased but stressed the importance of doing the right thing in the interests of the region as a whole.

A number of other queries were raised and responded to such as extending the rail line to Treherbert, the debate around electric vehicles over hydrogen vehicles, shared priorities- what percentage has been invested in Cardiff compared with RCT and the Levelling Up Fund.

112 Announcements

1. The Presiding Officer paid tribute to former County Borough Councillor Mike Diamond who had recently resigned as County Borough Councillor for RCT. He described him as a gentleman, a true professional and a worthy champion of his community. The Presiding Officer relayed former Councillor Diamond's gratitude to all Members and staff for the help he received while he was in office.
2. County Borough Councillor P Jarman wished to echo the tribute to former County Borough Councillor Mike Diamond.

Councillor Jarman stated that it is pleasing that the Council has already made an announcement that 12-year-old Alfie Ford, a Mountain Ash Comprehensive School pupil, has won £1,000 for his chosen charity, Noah's Ark Children's Hospital. His 'First Give' project was gifting little bags of happiness to frontline key workers for all they have done

throughout the pandemic. Councillor Jarman also paid tribute to Trudy Fisher, a critical key worker, a Young Carer's Project Co-ordinator who provides support to children between the ages of 5-18 years and has supported the needs of these young carers and their families with food and electricity grants and ensuring the voices of these children are heard. She has been nominated for a St. David Award from the First Minister (with the results being announced on the 24th March 2021). Councillor Jarman requested that a letter from the Mayor be written to both to recognise their achievements and sending best wishes for the future.

113 Council Procedure Rule 15.1

The Deputy Leader moved the suspension of Council Procedure Rule 15.1 which states that a matter would be decided by a simple majority of those Members voting and present in the room at the time the question was put in order to facilitate the smooth running of the virtual meeting.

Following consideration of the matter it was **RESOLVED** to suspend Council Procedure Rule 15.1

The Service Director Democratic Services & Communications confirmed the political party numbers present at the meeting as:-

Labour Group – 43

Plaid Cymru Group – 15

RCT Independent Group – 6

Conservative Group – 2

Independent member – 1

114 Minutes

The Council **RESOLVED** to approve the Minutes of the virtual Council meetings of the 20th January and 10th February 2021 as an accurate reflection of the meetings subject to it being noted that the Conservative Group abstained from voting on the Notice of Motion as set out in the Minutes of the 20th January 2021 (Minute 94 refers).

115 Audit Wales - Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council: Annual Audit Summary 2020

Mr C Davies, Audit Manager, Audit Wales, presented the annual Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council Audit Summary for 2020 which sets out the work completed since the last Annual Improvement Report, issued in September 2019. Council was advised that the audit summary forms part of the Auditor General for Wales' duties and this year has been presented in a more accessible and succinct format. He added that this would be the last year for him and his colleague Ms J Davies to present the summary for RCT as they were both moving on to other projects.

Following the presentation, the Leader of the Council thanked both Officers for

the report and commented that the frank and open relationship between the Council and Audit Wales had been constructive and helpful for the Council to recognise and prioritise those areas where improvements have been necessary.

Following discussion and comments from the Group Leaders it was **RESOLVED** to note the information contained within the report.

116 Statements

The Deputy Leader made a statement in respect of the illumination of prominent key buildings across the county borough on the 23rd March, as a mark of respect to RCT communities and as a thank you to the NHS and all staff to mark the official year date of the Covid lockdown.

117 Members' Questions

From County Borough Councillor J. Bonetto to the Leader of the Council, County Borough Councillor A Morgan:

“Can the Leader give an update on the plans for the new Train Station in Treforest Estate?”

Response from the Leader of the Council, County Borough Councillor A Morgan:-

The Leader advised that RCT is working with Transport for Wales (TFW) and Welsh Government (WG) on developing the new station which is a priority area on the Valley Lines and will be cited on the opposite side of the river to where the DWP Office buildings are currently located with a new footbridge, active travel compliant from Willowford Road and linking into the Estate. TFW is progressing with stage C design of the development and RCT Council is supporting the land assembly that is required. The Leader stated that programme funding discussions are ongoing and from this current and the next financial year progress with regional funding is progressing and the scheme will be taken forward over the next two years.

There was no supplementary question

From County Borough Councillor M. Powell to the Leader of the Council, County Borough Councillor A Morgan:

“Would Councillor Morgan state what the Council's policy or attitude is to reducing vehicular emissions to improve air quality in residential areas of RCT light of the recent Southwark Coroners ruling, link below.

"On 16 December, Southwark Coroner's Court in London found that air pollution "made a material contribution" to the death of nine-year-old Ella Adoo-Kissi-Debrah."

Response from County Borough Councillor A Morgan:-

“The Leader commented that Ella Adoo-Kissi-Debrah lived near the busy South Circular Road in Lewisham and suffered with a rare type of acute asthma which made her susceptible to toxic gases and particulates. The Coroner confirmed that her death was due to genetic conditions and partly due to the environment. On behalf of the Council, the Leader extended his sympathies to the family and paid tribute to the courageous way they had highlighted the issues.

The Leader confirmed that the Council routinely assess the air quality in RCT and has done so since the late 1990’s to gain a better understanding of the complex issues around local air quality and to support evidence-based decision making and the council continues to invest in the long term monitoring of certain air pollutants such as Nitrogen Dioxide. Monitoring shows that the levels of air quality in RCT has dramatically improved since the late 1990’s and levels are below the nationally set air quality objectives. Some locations within the county borough are more challenging in terms of poor air quality and associated Nitrogen Dioxide from traffic omissions and these areas have been identified as air quality management areas. By adopting bespoke air quality action plans, the council has identified a number of cost-effective actions relating to managing traffic.

Members were advised that sustainable traffic options are being encouraged such as the Metro, Park and Ride schemes as well as local neighbourhood solutions such as pedestrian routes and walking to school routes. There is also engagement with public transport providers to consider the barriers to using local transport options. The collaboration with partners such as WG is critical going forward, the Leader acknowledged some of the problem areas such as the A470 and further restrictions that have been introduced. The pandemic has disrupted some monitoring due to the reduction in traffic use, although positive for the environment, the longer-term trends will continue to be monitored.

There are a number of papers that have been published such as the Clean Air Wales Bill (white paper) looking at local air quality assessments and the deliverability of options. Clean Air Hubs look at community engagement looking at ways to tackle this long-term problem.”

Supplementary Question from Councillor Powell:

“Why is the Leader intent on diverting main road traffic through a residential area to increase air pollution and vehicular movements in a built-up area?”

Response of County Borough Councillor A Morgan:

“The Leader confirmed that the White Bridge has had a traffic (weight) limit on it for some time before its closure and there is no diversion sign in place to divert traffic in any direction. The Leader confirmed that work has been undertaken at the traffic lights near the junction by the Police Station and advised that extra lane capacity, phasing, road improvements to alleviate some of the traffic pressures. The Council is not diverting traffic through that estate and it is a public bridge, traffic is able to go across the bridge in both directions and the council hopes that local residents are discouraged from using the route as a rat

run”

From County Borough Councillor T. Williams to the Cabinet Member for Education and Inclusion Services, County Borough Councillor J. Rosser:

“Can the Cabinet Member outline what support the Welsh Government and the Council are providing in terms of Free School Meals?”

Response from County Borough Councillor J Rosser :-

Councillor Rosser advised that support continues to be provided to those eligible for Free School meals (FSM) and in the current arrangement a nutritious hot meal is being provided to pupils attending school. Those pupils not attending school due to shielding or self-isolation as well as remote learners are being support with a Bacs payment of £3.90 per day.

Councillor Rosser confirmed that as part of the £11m funding last year, WG have committed to supporting FSM pupils through the school holidays and eligible parents will receive a payment of £39.00 per child for the Easter Holiday period. Members were informed that since the start of the pandemic and the end of January 2021 the council has paid out a total of £5.5m in free school meal related payments and the full year is forecast to be £6.3m.

Supplementary Question from Councillor Williams:

“Can the Cabinet please provide information on the Pupil Deprivation Grant (PDG) and what support is available under that scheme?”

Response from County Borough Councillor J Rosser:-

“The PDG provides £125 for school uniform, equipment, sports kits and out of school activities. Welsh Government have extended eligibility to additional school years and the criteria has been extended to cover laptops and/or tablets. Pupils eligible for FSM’s can make one claim per year and apply if they are in school years 1,3, ,5 or are years 7-11years old or those are in a Special School, special needs resource base or in the Pupil Referral Units and are aged 4,5,7,9 or 11-15 years. Funding for Children Looked After is available in every school year”

From County Borough Councillor H. Boggis to the Leader of the Council, County Borough Councillor A. Morgan:

“Can the Leader provide an update on discussions with the Welsh Government regarding the timeframe for the dualling of the Heads of the Valleys road now that work has started?”

Response of County Borough Councillor A Morgan:

“The Leader confirmed that work on the dualling of the Heads of the Valleys is progressing well and started before Christmas. It is not just about connectivity from the Midlands to the Valleys but also about safety concerns in respect of sections 5 and 6 in response to a number of incidents and deaths on the road. The current works are scheduled to last three years to completion which will

include building a new junction at Cross Fychan and a new link road to the A459 to ensure the link into the Cynon Valley is improved instead of being severed.”

Supplementary Question from Councillor Boggis:

“I note the benefit of the connectivity but how much will the project help tourism in the northern area of the Cynon Valley?”

Response of County Borough Councillor A Morgan:

“There are lots of opportunities for tourism such as Zipworld, Penderyn Distillery and Aberdare Country Park, which has received significant funding through the Valleys Taskforce. Improving the travel links if plans can be taken forward with the metro and rail lines to improve the opportunities at the top of the valley for longer stays. It is hoped that the tourist attractions will attract hotel chains to the area so that visitors can stay for a few days and spend money locally to create jobs and improve the local economy.”

From County Borough Councillor A S Fox to the Leader of the Council, County Borough Councillor A Morgan

‘Will the Leader make a statement on the recent findings of the report on maternity services at Cwm Taf Morgannwg UHB?’

Response of County Borough Councillor A Morgan:

“The first independent report was published on the 25th January 2021 and the Leader confirmed he has a number of meetings with the Chair of the Oversight panel to discuss the recommendations. The Leader advised that the programme of work covers 160 pregnancies between the 1st January 2016 and the 30th September 2018 and is categorised into three areas, ‘Maternal Morbidity and Mortality’, ‘Babies Sadly Stillborn’ and ‘Babies Sadly Died or Needed Specialist Care Immediately After Birth’.

The first report focusses on mothers needing urgent care and needed admission into intensive care with 16 cases in Prince Charles Hospital and 12 cases in the Royal Glamorgan Hospital. The findings mirror the areas of concern previously identified in the review previously raised by the Royal College of Midwives and the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists. The Leader explained that in 27 out of the 28 cases, different outcomes would have been reached should different actions have been taken by management and staff.

A number of themes have since been taken forward such as the failure to listen to women, failure to identify and escalate risk, inadequate clinical leadership and inappropriate treatment leading to adverse outcomes which the Leader stressed will need to continue going forward for quite some time.

The Leader confirmed that a significant number of recommendations have partly or wholly put in place, but he recognised that there was still more to be done. The Leader recognised the importance of accountability and the importance of identifying what led to some of the outcomes”

Supplementary Question from Councillor Fox:

“The Leader has previously stated that he had no confidence in the Local Health Board, can he confirm if that is still the case?”

Response of County Borough Councillor A Morgan:

“The Leader explained that he had lack of confidence in certain individuals, senior management, but since then the senior management team has changed and four of them have now left the Health Board for different reasons, including the Chief Executive. The close working relationship between the council and the Health Board, during the pandemic, has strengthened the general approaches and has been constructive. The Leader advised that should he be asked the same question today he would reply that he does have confidence in the Health Board albeit not in every area. In some point in the future at the next presentation to Council, because Council took the same view, he hoped that view could be reversed. He stated he has far more confidence in the senior leadership team now in post.”

118 Council Work Programme 2020/21

The Service Director, Democratic Services & Communications presented an update regarding the Council Work Programme and announced that there were no amendments or additions to the council work programme 2020/21 as published.

119 Non Attendance by Councillor For Six Months

The Service Director Democratic Services & Communications presented his report in respect of the vacation of Office by a Councillor as a result of non-attendance at meetings. As part of his presentation the Service Director outlined the provisions of Section 85 and 86 of the Local Government Act 1972 (“LGA 1972”), which deal with a vacation of office by a Councillor because of a failure to attend meetings; and information in respect of the non-attendance at meetings by a Member of Rhondda Cynon Taf CBC for over a six-month period, without permission for absence being approved by Council.

The Service Director reminded Council that further to the introduction of the Local Authorities (Coronavirus) (Meetings) (Wales) Regulations 2020 on the 22nd April 2020, there was a further amendment to section 85 of the LGA 1972 that stated that the period from 22nd April 2020 to the first day on which a meeting is held (and which a Member could attend) was to be disregarded for the purpose of recording a Member’s attendance at meetings and the operation of the six-month rule.

At the time of the introduction to the regulations, the Council re-introduced committee functions incrementally, to allow Members to build experience operating in a virtual committee environment and for all concerned to gain experience of using the Zoom platform. This approach provided maximum opportunity for all members to engage in training and virtual meetings.

The Service Director, Democratic Services & Communications explained that despite reasonable efforts to contact Councillor Gavin Williams (for the Penrhiwceiber Electoral ward), the Member had not attended a meeting for a six month period (the last attended meeting of the Council on the 4th March 2020) with no reason for his non-attendance approved by Council within that period.

There followed discussion and opportunity afforded to the individual Group Leaders to ask questions of the Service Director, Democratic Services &

Communications in relation to the matter.

The Service Director Democratic Services & Communications responded to a number of queries relating to the 'reasonable efforts' to communicate with Councillor Williams since his last attendance on the 4th March 2020. Council was advised that all electronic committee summons and, where requested, hard copies of agendas had been routinely circulated to Members. He added that support to effectively engage in virtual meetings was offered in a number of ways, through open door sessions, open to all members during June, July and August 2020, smaller sessions to support individual needs of members, which all members received an invitation to attend and bespoke sessions for members who required further support from Democratic Services. The Service Director further added that correspondence with Councillor Williams during this time via letter, email and telephone had been undertaken and documented.

The Service Director confirmed that Councillor Williams had not attended any other formal meeting during this period such as Cabinet, Licensing Committee, Planning & Development Committee nor as an LEA Governor which would have meant he had complied with the Regulations. He further confirmed that as the Council's Head of Democratic Services, he was satisfied that all reasonable efforts had been met and sufficient support offered, which had been reflected in his 'Sufficiency of Resources' report to the Democratic Services Committee. At the meeting the positive comments received in respect of the support provided by Democratic Services to Members and specifically the support in relation to virtual meetings had been recorded.

A concern was raised that, as the report states at 4.8 'the six-month rule was therefore recorded from July 2020 when Full Council meetings resumed' there were 2 other members that had not attended meetings within the six month period up until the 31st December 2020.

Following further discussion, at this point in the proceedings and due to the sensitivity of the issue, the motion was put that Members consider the remaining business in camera.

Members **RESOLVED**:

"That the press and public be excluded from the meeting under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act, 1972 (as amended) for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraphs 12 and/or 13 of Part 4 of Schedule 12A of the Act, namely information relating to a particular employee, former employee or applicant to become an office holder under the authority and information relating to any consultations with any labour relations matter arising between the Authority or a Minister of the Crown and employees of, or office holder under the Authority."

In his absence, Councillor G William's representation was presented orally to Council in the form of a letter by the Group Leader for the RCT Independent Group.

(During the discussion Members **RESOLVED** to continue the meeting in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 8, to allow consideration of the

remaining agenda items and continuation of Council business).

Members further discussed the matter and the following lost motion was moved by County Borough Councillor P. Jarman:

“That this motion be deferred to the Monitoring Officer for the purpose of identifying other Members who failed the 6-month test and it is reported back to the next meeting”

(**Note:** The Plaid Cymru Group, RCT Independent Group, Conservative Group and Councillor Belzak (Independent Member) wished to have it recorded that they voted in favour of the lost motion).

Members **RESOLVED** to open the meeting to the public for the remaining business.

Following further consideration of the matter it was **RESOLVED** to:-

1. Acknowledge the detail provided within the report in respect of the non-attendance at meetings by Councillor G. Williams for over a six-month period without permission for absence being approved by Council; and
2. Agree that in line with Sections 85 and 86 of the Local Government Act 1972 Councillor G. Williams’ office as a Member of Rhondda Cynon Taf CBC (for the Penrhiwceiber Electoral Ward) should now be declared vacant.

(**Note:** The Plaid Cymru Group, RCT Independent Group, Conservative Group and Councillor Belzak (Independent Member) wished to have it recorded that they voted against the motion)

120 Revenue Budget Strategy 2021/22

The Director of Finance and Digital Services referred Members to his report which provided them with information on the final local government settlement for 2021/22 and set out the recommendations of the Cabinet with regard to the Council’s Revenue Budget and the level of Council Tax for the year ending 31st March 2022.

The Director of Finance and Digital Services advised of the “headlines” of the 2021/22 Final Settlement as set out at section 4 of the report and of the settlement for Rhondda Cynon Taf, which amounts to an increase in funding next year of **3.8%** which is the same as the all Wales average increase. Additional resources in the final costs included £206M to cover supporting costs and income losses due to the pandemic and covers the first 6 months of the new year.

The Director explained that the Council’s updated budget requirement for next Year was presented to Council on the 20th January 2021 which saw a remaining budget gap of £4.057M. Cabinet have considered their budget strategy options for 2021/22 against this detail, which is set out from paragraph 7 of the report.

The Director advised of a number of areas identified for additional resource and investment such as extending the Non Domestic Local Relief Scheme, additional resources to further the Councils Carbon and Climate reduction activity, to recruit more graduates and expand the wellbeing programmes and a number of

fees and charges are to be frozen next year.

In conclusion, the Director referred Members to the summary of the budget strategy proposals set out at table 1 at section 10 of the report with the remaining budget gap of £711,000 which can be balanced by an allocation from the already replenished transition funding, resulting in a proposed balanced budget for next year of £527.903M.

There followed discussion from the Group Leaders who acknowledged the levels of engagement for the consultation process in relation to the Council budget and a number of queries such as the grant relating to sanitary products to schools, Covid related costs which Welsh Government have continued to fund Local Government in Wales for all costs and income losses which at the end of Quarter 3 will rise to £46M estimate for the full year.

It was **RESOLVED** to:

1. Note the written statement from the Minister for Housing and Local Government (Julie James MS) and the table on the 2021/22 Final local government settlement, reproduced at Appendix 1;
2. Note the implications for the Council and the remaining budget gap as set out at section 5;
3. Agree a Council Tax increase for 2021/22 of 2.65%;
4. Agree the uplift to the aggregate Schools Budget as detailed at section 8;
5. Agree the budget strategy proposals as set out at paragraphs 10.3(a) to 10.3(i);
6. Agree the use of the 'Medium Term Financial Planning & Service Transformation Reserve' as transition funding, totalling £0.711M for 2021/22;
7. Approve Tables 3 and 4 in Section 13 of the report as the basis of allocating resources to the Individual Schools Budget (ISB), to other Council Services, and to meet its corporate financing requirements; and
8. Agree the Council's overall budget for 2021/22 at £527.903M, in order to pass the necessary statutory resolutions to set the Council Tax for the forthcoming financial year by the statutory deadline of the 11th March 2021.

(**Note:** The Conservative Group abstained from voting on the matter).

121 Council Tax Resolution

In his report the Director of Finance & Digital Services provided Members with details of the calculation of the Authority's Council Tax for the financial year ending 31st March 2022 prior to passing the necessary statutory resolutions.

Following consideration of the report it was **RESOLVED** to:-

1. Note the level of the precept from the Police & Crime Commissioner for South Wales;
2. Note the level of the Community Council Precepts, as detailed in Appendix 1;
3. Pass the formal Council Tax resolutions for the financial year ending 31st March 2022, as contained in Appendix 2; and
4. Note the comments of the Director of Finance & Digital Services upon robustness of the estimates and the adequacy of the proposed financial reserves as detailed at paragraph 9.2.

122 Capital Programme 2021/22 – 2023/24

This report sets out the Council's proposed Capital Programme for 2021/22 to 2023/24, following receipt of the final local government settlement for 2021/22.

Following consideration of the report it was **RESOLVED** to:-

1. Note the detail of the final 2021/22 local government settlement for capital expenditure, reproduced at Appendix 1;
2. Agree to the release of the Earmarked Reserve balances as detailed in paragraph 5.3;
3. Agree to the reallocation of resources as detailed in paragraphs 5.5 – 5.8;
4. Agree to allocate the funding released from Earmarked Reserves and existing core capital funding to the investment priorities as detailed in paragraph 6.2;
5. Agree the proposed 'core' three- year programme detailed at Appendix 2;
6. Agree the proposed total three-year Capital Programme, detailed at Appendices 3 (a) to (d), which includes the following non-core capital funding:
 - Prudential borrowing to support 21st Century School Schemes and Highways Improvements schemes;
 - Capital grants for specific schemes;
 - Third party contributions;
 - Additional Council resources previously allocated to support existing schemes and Corporate Plan investment priorities; and
 - The investment priorities detailed in paragraph 6.2, which are funded by additional one off Welsh Government capital funding detailed in paragraph 3.2, the release of Earmarked Reserves as per paragraph 5.3, and reallocation of resource as per paragraphs 5.5 – 5.8.

(Note: The Conservative Group abstained from voting on the matter).

123 Treasury Management Strategy

The Director of Finance & Digital Services presented his report with the purpose of setting out the Council's:-

- Treasury Management Strategy for 2021/22;
- Investment Strategy for 2021/22;
- Treasury Indicators for 2020/21 (actuals to date) and 2021/22, 2022/23 and 2023/24; and
- Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) Policy Statement.

Following consideration of the report it was **RESOLVED** to approve the Treasury Management Strategy, Investment Strategy, Treasury Indicators and the Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) Policy Statement as set out in the report.

124 Capital Strategy Report 2021/22

Members were presented with the report of the Director of Finance & Digital Services which set out a high level overview of how capital expenditure, capital financing and treasury management activity contribute to the provision of Council services along with an overview of the associated risk, its management and the implications for future financial sustainability.

Following discussion, it was **RESOLVED** to approve the Capital Strategy report incorporating the Prudential Indicators.

(Note: The Conservative Group abstained from voting on the matter)

125 The Council's Pay Policy Statement 2021/22

In accordance with Section 38(1) of the Localism Act, 2011, the Director, Human Resources provided Members with information in respect of the Council's 2021/22 Pay Policy Statement.

Following discussion and assurance that the Exit Cap has been disapplied, Members **RESOLVED** to approve the Pay Policy Statement as attached at Appendix A of the report.

126 NOTICE OF MOTION

To consider the under-mentioned Notice of Motion standing in the names of County Borough Councillors L. M. Adams, S. Bradwick, D. R. Bevan, H Boggis, J. Bonetto, J Brencher, A Calvert, G. Caple, A. Crimmings, A. Davies-Jones, L De Vet, J. Edwards, J Elliott, S. Evans, M Fidler Jones, M. Forey, A. Fox, E. George, M. Griffiths, J. Harries, G. Holmes, G. Hopkins, G. Jones, R. Lewis, W Lewis, C. Leyshon, A. Morgan, S. Morgans, M. A. Norris, D. Owen Jones,

S Pickering, S. Powell, S. Rees, A. Roberts, J. Rosser, G Stacey, M Tegg, G Thomas, W Treeby, R K Turner, M. Webber, D. Williams, T. Williams, C. J. Willis and R. Yeo.

“The COVID-19 global pandemic has been exceptionally difficult for businesses, with many across our nation, the U.K. and beyond having to close as the world looks to control the spread of the virus and keep people safe. This has naturally had a detrimental impact on those who work in the affected sectors, with millions across the U.K. placed on furlough and many others sadly losing their jobs. In light of this unprecedented situation, now is not the time for disputes overpay and conditions.

This Council notes the on-going dispute between British Gas (and their parent company Centrica) and their hardworking employees – who have been threatened with job losses if they do not accept worse pay and conditions.

Due to the strike action supported by the overwhelming majority of staff and engineers, over 100,000 customers have been left waiting for service, and this number is set to grow over the coming weeks throughout the winter.

This dispute is an unnecessary disruption, with Centrica posting a considerable profit of £901m in 2019 (before exceptional items and tax), whilst the profitability of the home heating business in the UK rose by 27% in the first 6 months of 2020 with a considerable proportion working from home due to the pandemic.

This Council **notes**:

- The valuable work undertaken by staff and engineers to keep British homes warm – with workers often having to go to people’s homes during the pandemic to ensure that they have access to warmth and comfortable living.
- The unjustified actions and threats made by Centrica to British Gas employees – particularly given the recent financial position of the company.

This Council therefore **resolves** to:

- Request that the Council Leader writes to Centrica to outline this Council’s support for local British Gas workers.

Following discussion, it was **RESOLVED** to adopt the Notice of Motion.

(**Note:** The Conservative Group abstained from voting on the matter).

This meeting closed at 9.00 pm

**Cllrs S Powderhill
Chairman & G Hughes
Deputy Chairman**

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RHONDDA CYNON TAF

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNCIL

Minutes of the Twenty-Sixth Annual General meeting of the Council held virtually on Wednesday, 26 May 2021 at 3.00 pm.

County Borough Councillors - Council Members in attendance:-

Councillor S Powderhill (Chair)

Councillor G Hughes	Councillor M Powell
Councillor H Boggis	Councillor J Bonetto
Councillor S Bradwick	Councillor R Bevan
Councillor A Calvert	Councillor T Williams
Councillor A Crimmings	Councillor D Williams
Councillor G Davies	Councillor S Pickering
Councillor L De Vet	Councillor S Rees
Councillor J Elliott	Councillor S Evans
Councillor S Evans	Councillor S. Rees-Owen
Councillor M Forey	Councillor A Fox
Councillor M Norris	Councillor E Webster
Councillor M Webber	Councillor M Griffiths
Councillor A Roberts	Councillor M Weaver
Councillor G Holmes	Councillor L Walker
Councillor G Hopkins	Councillor P Howe
Councillor K Morgan	Councillor R Yeo
Councillor P Jarman	Councillor G Thomas
Councillor A Morgan	Councillor M Adams
Councillor J Rosser	Councillor G Stacey
Councillor R Lewis	Councillor C Leyshon
Councillor J Brencher	Councillor S Powell
Councillor D Owen-Jones	Councillor W Owen
Councillor S Morgans	Councillor S Belzak
Councillor E Stephens	Councillor W Lewis
Councillor G Jones	Councillor W Treeby
Councillor W Jones	Councillor L Jones
Councillor L Hooper	Councillor J Harries
Councillor D Grehan	Councillor E George
Councillor J Davies	Councillor J Cullwick
Councillor A Cox	Councillor A Chapman
Councillor E Griffiths	Councillor G Caple
Councillor J Edwards	Councillor S Trask
	Councillor R Williams

Officers in attendance

Mr C Bradshaw, Chief Executive
Mr C Hanagan, Service Director of Democratic Services & Communication
Mr B Davies, Director of Finance & Digital Services
Mr P Mee, Group Director Community & Children's Services
Mr A Wilkins, Director of Legal Services
Mr R Evans, Director of Human Resources
Ms L Davies, Director, Public Health, Protection and Community Services

1 Declaration of Interest

In accordance with the Council's Code of Conduct, there were no declarations made pertaining to the agenda.

2 Apologies

An apology of absence was received from County Borough Councillors A Davies-Jones, M Fidler Jones, H Fychan, J James, K L Jones, M Tegg, R K Turner, J Williams and C Willis.

3 Council Procedure Rule 15.1

The Deputy Leader moved the suspension of Council Procedure Rule 15.1 which states that a matter would be decided by a simple majority of those Members voting and present in the room at the time the question was put in order to facilitate the smooth running of the virtual meeting.

Following consideration of the matter it was **RESOLVED** to suspend Council Procedure Rule 15.1

The Service Director Democratic Services & Communication confirmed the political party numbers present at the meeting as:-

Labour Group – 34

Plaid Cymru Group – 12

RCT Independent Group – 4

Conservative Group – 2

4 ELECTIONS & APPOINTMENTS

2a. To elect a Presiding Officer of the Council

RESOLVED – that County Borough Councillor S Powderhill be elected as Presiding Officer for the 2021/22 Municipal Year.

County Borough Councillor S Powderhill resumed the Chair following his appointment.

2b. To elect a Deputy Presiding Officer of the Council

RESOLVED – that County Borough Councillor G Hughes be elected as Deputy Presiding Officer for the 2021/22 Municipal Year.

(Note: The Conservative Group abstained from voting on the matter)

2c. To receive an address from the Mayor of the Council 2020-2021.

The retiring Mayor took the opportunity to reflect on her term of office as Mayor of Rhondda Cynon Taf for the 2020/21 Municipal Year. Councillor Morgans thanked Council for affording her the great honour of serving as Mayor of

Rhondda Cynon Taf, albeit in a very different capacity to previous Mayors. The outgoing Mayor highlighted some of the important events, whilst socially distancing, which had been undertaken during her term such as attending a Remembrance Service last November at Ferndale War Memorial and laid a Wreath honouring our Service men and women, past and present.

With the relaxation of restrictions, the outgoing Mayor was able to make a visit to Ty Nant Care Home to receive a generous donation given to the Mayor's Charities, by their residents and the Home in lieu of sending Christmas Cards.

The retiring Mayor paid tribute to all those who have lost their lives during the pandemic and paid a personal tribute to the key workers, frontline services and medical professionals and those working with the Vaccination Programme within Rhondda Cynon Taf. She acknowledged the dedication and professionalism of so many people, whose resilience and strength, during this time, has been commendable

The retiring Mayor took the opportunity to wish her successor all the very best and concluded with the words of the late Captain Sir Tom, "tomorrow will be a better day".

In response Members paid tribute to the retiring Mayor who was commended for her efforts and hard work during what had been an unprecedented year.

2d. To elect a Mayor of Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council for the Municipal Year 2021-2022.

RESOLVED – to elect County Borough Councillor J Bonetto as Mayor of Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council for the Municipal Year 2021-2022

The Mayor of Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council for the Municipal Year 2021-2022 thanked the retiring Mayor and for the opportunity afforded to her as incoming Mayor. She announced that her consorts will be her husband, Lawrence and daughter, Nicola Charlesworth, and her chosen charities as 'Help for Heroes', 'To Wish Upon A Star' and 'AP Cymru'.

Members wished the incoming Mayor well for her forthcoming year.

2e. To appoint a Deputy Mayor of Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council for the Municipal Year 2021 – 2022.

RESOLVED – to elect County Borough Councillor W Treeby as Deputy Mayor of Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council for the Municipal Year 2021-2022.

The Deputy Mayor congratulated the new incoming Madam Mayor and for affording her the honour of being elected as Deputy Mayor for 2021-22. She announced her Consort as Mr Paul Hammett and looked forward to supporting the Mayor during her term of office.

2f. To appoint a Leader of the Council.

RESOLVED – that County Borough Councillor A Morgan be appointed Leader of the Council for the 2021/2022 Municipal Year.

County Borough Councillor A Morgan extended his thanks to Members for their

support during the last year and to all the staff for their hard work and commitment over the last 12 months particularly the senior officers who had afforded the Leader the opportunity to engage with Welsh Government and represent the communities of RCT. He gave a firm commitment to Members and to the public that the next 12 months would focus on the recovery, jobs and improving our communities and taking RCT forward in a positive way.

The Group Leaders acknowledged the Leader's appointment and offered their continued support during the recovery period.

2g To confirm the appointment of the Leader of the largest opposition party, as the Leader of the Opposition.

RESOLVED to confirm the appointment of County Borough Councillor P Jarman as Leader of the Opposition.

5 EXECUTIVE FUNCTIONS

Executive Functions- Leader's Scheme of Delegation

The Leader of the Council, County Borough Councillor A Morgan, announced that the Leader's scheme of delegation would be published and circulated to all members during the meeting and to the Council website.

RESOLVED to note the Cabinet and their individual designations, as follows:-

- County Borough Councillor M. Webber, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Council Business
- County Borough Councillor R. Bevan, Cabinet Member for Enterprise Development & Housing
- County Borough Councillor A. Crimmings, Cabinet Member for Environment, Leisure & Heritage Services
- County Borough Councillor G. Hopkins, Cabinet Member for Adult Community Services & Welsh Language
- County Borough Councillor M. A. Norris, Cabinet Member for Corporate Services
- County Borough Councillor J. Rosser, Cabinet Member for Education & Inclusion Services
- County Borough Councillor R. Lewis, Cabinet Member for Stronger Communities, Well-Being & Cultural Services
- County Borough Councillor C. Leyshon, Cabinet Member for Children's Services

6 THE POLITICAL BALANCE OF THE COUNCIL

Through his joint report with the Director of Legal Services, the Service Director, Democratic Services & Communication advised Members of the outcome of the review of the Political Balance of the Authority which is reported to the Council's AGM. Members were advised that the Council's Political Balance reflected the outcome of the two recent By-Elections.

The Service Director highlighted Section 4 of the report which sets out the outcomes of the review undertaken and the available seats which require appointment by the respective political groups and in particular to paragraph 4.2 which sets out the amendments to the current political balance with the Conservative Group gaining representation on the Governance & Audit Committee, the Pension Fund Committee and the Council's Scrutiny Committees, seats previously held by the RCT Independent Group.

He advised that Section 5 seeks Council's determination of the allocation of the notices of motion for the new municipal year and authority would also be sought for the appointments to the Committees once the nominations are received from the political groups.

It was **RESOLVED** –

- 2.1 That the scheme for the allocation of seats to the different political groups and bodies to which Section 15 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 applies, as detailed in the Appendix to this report, be adopted;
- 2.2 That the Service Director of Democratic Services & Communication be authorised to make appointments to politically balanced bodies upon receipt by him of notification of the wishes of the political groups subject to any subsequent requests for amendment of membership of Committees, being referred to Council;
- 2.3 To note that Members of the Cabinet are not eligible for appointment to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee or Scrutiny Committees;
- 2.4 To note that at least one Member of the Cabinet can sit on the Governance & Audit and Democratic Services Committees, but the Council Leader is excluded from these positions; and
- 2.5 That the allocation of Notices of Motion for the 2021-2022 Municipal Year is as follows: -

Labour - 10
Plaid Cymru - 6
RCT Independent Group - 2
Conservatives - 1
Unallocated Member (x1) - 1

7 THE COUNCIL'S CONSTITUTION - PROPOSED AMENDMENTS AND ANCILLARY MATTERS

The Service Director, Democratic Services & Communication set out the proposed amendments to the Council's Constitution together with ancillary matters as outlined in the joint report which also responded to the requirements

of the Local Government & Elections Wales Act 2021. He added that the matters were subject to consideration, and supported by, the Constitution Committee.

The Service Director highlighted some of the key proposals which included moving to the default position of an electronic committee summons but added that it will not preclude any Member from requesting a hard copy in advance of a Committee. The introduction of an indicative agenda item time, which supports the virtual arrangements and supports all Members and political groups to plan their representations in advance of a meeting and the inclusion of a comfort break where appropriate, which he advised was particularly important for longer meetings and formalised the request to extend business where required.

The Service Director referred to the development of the Members Portal, which has been overseen by the Democratic Services Committee and the opportunities it provides for Members to undertake a number of democratic processes. The additional guidance in respect of supplementary questions which clarifies that where the 20-minute time duration has expired, a member will not be permitted to ask and have answered their supplementary question.

In conclusion, the Service Director referred to the change in the title of the Audit Committee to the 'Governance & Audit Committee' and that of the Corporate Governance & Constitution Committee to the 'Constitution Committee'.

Following discussions, it was **RESOLVED** to agree the proposed amendments and ancillary matters relating to the Council's Constitution as set out in the report between 2.1 and 2.21 and as follows:

Amendments to the Council Procedure Rules

Time and Place of Meetings

- 2.1 For the reasons outlined in paragraphs 4.1 – 4.3 of the report amends Council Procedure Rule 4 to include as follows:
 - 4.1 The time and place of meetings will be determined by the Proper Officer and notified to Members in the summons
 - 4.2 For all purposes of the Constitution the term "meeting" is not limited in meaning to a meeting of persons all of whom, or any of whom, are present in the same place. Any reference to "place" is to be interpreted as where a meeting is held, or to be held, includes reference to more than one place including electronic, digital or virtual locations such as internet locations, web addresses or conference call telephone numbers.

Committee Summons

- 2.2 For the reasons outlined in paragraphs 4.4 – 4.8 of the report amend Council Procedure Rule 5.1 as follows:
 - 5.1 "The Proper Officer will give notice to the public of the time and place of any meeting, in accordance with the Access to Information Rules. At least three clear days before a meeting, the Proper Officer will send a summons signed by him or her by email

to every Member of the Council. The summons will give the date, time and place of each meeting including reference to whether the meeting is to take place virtually or arrangements for a hybrid (physical and virtual) meeting are in place and specify the business to be transacted, and will be accompanied by such reports as are available at that time. The summons will also indicate whether the meeting is to be webcast. Any Member not wishing to receive the summons by email may request (in writing to the Proper Officer) such other reasonable method of delivery as they may wish, with such requests being reviewed periodically by the Proper Officer.

Quorum.

- 2.3 For the reasons outlined in paragraphs 4.9 – 4.12 of the report amend Council Procedure Rule 7 to include as follows:

Save for meetings of the Planning and Development Control Committee the quorum of a meeting will be one quarter of the whole number of Members.

A Member attending a meeting remotely will be counted for the purpose of establishing a quorum so long as that Member can, when they are speaking, be heard (and seen where possible) and they can hear (and see where possible) the other Members attending the meeting and the Proper Officer, or other officer appointed to act on his/her behalf.

During any meeting if the if the Presiding Officer/Chair counts the number of members present (both virtual attendance and actual attendee) and declares there is not a quorum present, then the meeting will adjourn immediately. If this is caused by technical difficulties experienced by a Members trying to access the meeting, or due to the hosting of a virtual meeting, then a period of 15 minutes shall be allowed to assess if the issue can be resolved. If the meeting remains inquorate, remaining business will be considered at a time and date fixed by the Presiding Officer / Chair. If he/she does not fix a date, the remaining business will be considered at the next ordinary meeting.

Duration of a meeting

- 2.4 For the reasons outlined in paragraphs 4.13 – 4.17 of the report amend Council Procedure Rule 8 to include as follows:
Duration & Business of Council Meetings

8.1 The Presiding Officer / Chair shall have the discretion to call an adjournment at an appropriate time in order to facilitate a 10-minute comfort break. The Presiding Member may repeat such a break as necessary.

8.2 The agenda and timings for items of business for any Council Meeting shall be agreed in accordance with these Rules by the Presiding Officer (Or deputy Presiding Officer in his / her absence) in consultation with the Proper Officer at least 7 Working Days prior to the date of the Council meeting. Any time limits on agenda items

may only be extended at the discretion of the Presiding Officer.

References in Constitution to Presiding Member

- 2.5 For the reason outlined in paragraph 4.18 it is proposed that all references in the Constitution to “Presiding Member” be replaced with reference to “Presiding Officer/ Llywydd”

Members’ Questions

- 2.6 For the reasons outlined in paragraph 4.19-4.20 of the report amend Procedure Rule 9.2 and 9.4(d) as follows:

9.2 A maximum of 20 minutes shall be allowed for Questions on Notice at Full Council. A member will not be permitted to ask and have answered their supplementary question if the 20 minute time duration has expired. Any questions that are not dealt with in this time limit shall fall. The order of questions to be asked at each meeting shall be determined by a ballot conducted by the Proper Officer. Any questions on notice not answered will need to be resubmitted to the Proper Officer for the next full Council meeting in accordance with these rules. This rule does not prevent a Member asking an urgent question to which the Presiding Officer has agreed can be put in accordance with Rule 9.4(b). Any such urgent questions shall be put prior to the commencement of the 20 minutes allocated for questions received on notice.

9.4(d) The question must be submitted to the Proper Officer by the Member wishing to ask that question or by the Group Leader on behalf of that Member at the relevant Council/Committee meeting

Motions on Notice

- 2.7 For the reasons outlined in paragraphs 4.21 – 4.22 of the report amend Council Procedure Rule 10.1(b), second bullet point as follows:

- in writing, by fax , e-mail or via the Member’s Portal (with the names of the Proposer and Seconder clearly stated) signed by ~~the Proposer~~; and

- 2.8 For the reasons outlined in paragraphs 4.23 of the report amend Council Procedure Rule 10.1(e), as follow

When Motions are submitted under this Rule 10 and more than two members are listed the first two signatures listed shall be deemed to be those of the Proposer and Seconder. A Group Leader may submit a Notice of Motion on behalf of the proposer and seconder of the motion.

Voting

- 2.9 For the reasons outlined in paragraphs 4.24 – 4.26 of the report amend Council Procedure Rule 15.1 as follow

Unless this Constitution provides otherwise, any matter will be decided

by a simple majority of those Members voting and present in the room or present at the meeting virtually at the time the question was put.

Photographs and Recording of Meetings

- 2.10 For the reasons outlined in paragraphs 4.27 – 4.29 of the report amend Council Procedure Rule 23 as follows:

Proceedings at meetings will be tweeted live via the Council's official twitter account and live streamed via webcasting through the Council's website. Elected Members and members of the public are also permitted to use social media during Council meetings provided it does not disrupt proceedings (*Members must keep their mobile phones (and other similar communication equipment) switched off, or set to silent, during the course of the meeting*). Save for these exemptions proceedings may not otherwise be photographed, videoed, sound recorded or transmitted in any way outside the meeting without prior permission of the Presiding Member. Failure to comply with this rule may invoke rule 19.4 (members to leave meeting) and 20.1 (removal of members of the public).

As part of the webcasting, participants images and sound will be captured for the duration of attendance within the meeting. If a participant has any concerns, about such recording they should contact the proper officer in advance of the meeting. If any concerns are received, a decision will be made by the Proper Officer on how best to continue the meeting, which could result in the meeting being rescheduled or postponed. Participants will not be penalised for raising concerns relating to the Video Recording.

Remote Attendance by Members (under the provisions of the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011

- 2.11 Notes that for the reasons outlined in paragraphs 4.30 – 4.32 of the report Council Procedure Rule 26.1 and 26.2 below were deleted from the Council Procedure Rules under the delegated powers afforded to the Monitoring Officer (and communicated in advance to the Group Leaders) and replaced with the following:

Multi-Location Meetings

26.1 Multi Location Meetings (Remote attendance) at meetings of the Council will only be permitted where the conditions of section 47(2)(b) of the Local Government & Elections Wales Act 2021 are met which means any Member attending a meeting remotely (the "remote attendee") must when they are speaking, be able to be seen and heard by the Members who are attending the meeting at the place where the meeting is held ("Members in actual attendance") and the remote attendee must, in turn, be able to see and hear those in actual attendance. In addition, a remote attendee must be able to be seen and heard by, and in turn see and hear any members of the public entitled to attend the meeting and who exercise a right to speak at the meeting. If there is more than one remote location, all the Members attending remotely must be able to hear, but not necessarily see, the other remote attendees.

- 26.2 The failure of any technological provision whether that leads to a partial or complete loss of contact between the remote attendees and those Members in actual attendance during the meeting shall not invalidate any part of the deliberations or any vote taken. The Presiding Officer / Chair may postpone the meeting if they deem that appropriate or may adjourn the meeting if they deem that appropriate whilst any technological issues are resolved.
- 26.3 If there is urgent or time-limited business that must be conducted at a meeting, it should be made clear to Members that the meeting would continue and a vote would be taken without their attendance in the event of a communications/technological failure.
- 26.4 It will be incumbent on participants attending meetings remotely to ensure the suitability of their location for the meeting and to ensure any confidential items considered at the meeting, as defined in Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 are not disclosed to the public.
- 26.5 Where the Presiding Officer / Chair determines the conditions stipulated in 26.4 above are not being adhered to by a Member they have the discretion to direct that the Member move to a location which would meet the conditions to satisfy 26.4 above.

Signing of Documents

- 2.12 For the reasons outlined in paragraphs 4.33 of the report amend Council Procedure Rules where the mention of 'signage' is advised upon, such as 16.1 (signage of minutes); 17 (record of attendance)

Where Members are present virtually, the Proper Officer will ensure that these details are captured accordingly.

Access to information procedure Rules

- 2.13 For the reasons outlined in paragraphs 4.34 – 4.36 of the report amend Council Procedure Rules 12.2 to include the following.

...The Cabinet Forward Work Programme will need to ensure it is robust, open and transparent of forthcoming decisions to ensure Overview and Scrutiny are provided with sufficient information to allow them to conduct their role effectively. The work programme will be published at least 14 days before the start of the period covered. The Proper Officer will publish the Forward Work Programme on the Council's website.

Proposed amendments to Executive Procedure rules

Delegation by the Leader

- 2.14 For the reasons outlined in paragraphs 4.37 of the report amend Executive Procedure Rules 1.2 as follow

At the annual meeting of the Council, the Leader will present to the

Council an electronic record of delegations made by him/her for inclusion in the Council's scheme of delegation at Part 3 to this Constitution. The document presented by the Leader will contain the following information about executive functions in relation to the coming year:

- (i) the names, of the people appointed to the Cabinet by the Leader;...

Cabinet Meetings – When and Where?

- 2.15 For the reasons outlined in paragraphs 4.38 of the report amends Executive Procedure Rules 1.6 as follow

The Cabinet will meet at least 12 times in each municipal year, at times to be agreed by the Leader. The Cabinet shall meet at the Council's main offices, through multi locations (hybrid) or at another location to be agreed by the Leader.

Proposed amendments to Overview & Scrutiny Procedure rules

Meetings of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, and thematic Scrutiny Committees

- 2.16 For the reasons outlined in paragraphs 4.39 – 4.40 of the report amend Overview & Scrutiny Rules 5 as follows:

There shall be at least six ordinary meetings of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and at least eight ordinary meetings of each of the thematic Scrutiny Committees in each year, subject to business needs. In addition, extraordinary meetings may be called from time to time as and when appropriate. A meeting may be called by the Chair or by the Proper Officer if he/she considers it necessary or appropriate

Call In

- 2.17 For the reasons outlined in paragraphs 4.41 of the report amend Overview & Scrutiny Rules 17.1 as follow

(I) A request for call in, made in accordance with these Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules, can be submitted either by hand to a Democratic Services officer using the designated call-in form (a copy of which is available on request from Democratic Services) or via electronic mail (email), or via completion of the relevant form through the Member's Portal. Any request submitted electronically must be sent by one of the three signatories to the call-in and in respect of emailed submission emailed to the following email address – scrutiny@rctcbc.gov.uk. For the purposes of checking compliance with these rules the electronic submissions will have been deemed to be received at the time it is received into the Scrutiny mailbox / received via the Members Portal. In order to be a valid call in request any request submitted electronically must include all of the same information and details as is required to be completed in the designated hardcopy call-in form. Attaching a copy of the call-in form to the email or Member's Portal is acceptable. The three signatories to the call-in request should keep an audit trail of their agreement to collectively submit the call-in request. This will only be requested by the Proper Officer in the event of there being any dispute that a member (or members) did not consent to being a signatory to the

call-in request.

Proposed amendments to Part 5 Codes & Protocols - Planning and Development Committee -

The Procedures of a meeting.

2.18 For the reasons outlined in paragraphs 4.42 – 4.44 of the report include and amend 'Public Speaking at meeting 'The Procedures' as follows:

- To allow remote tools (drones) in facilitating site visits although this does not replace the option for physical site visits.
- Details of the Meetings of the Planning and Development Committee are available on the Council website, with meetings occurring every other Thursday (unless the website advises differently.) General enquiries in respect of meetings should be made to the Council's Business Unit CouncilBusinessUnit@rctcbc.gov.uk
- If members of the public want to know when, or if, a particular planning application is due to be considered by the Planning and Development Committee, they should contact the Planning Section at Sardis House, Pontypridd: planningservices@rctcbc.gov.uk

Changes to Audit Committee Terms of Reference

2.19 For the reasons outlined in paragraphs 4.45 – 4.47 of the report to amend Financial Procedure Rule 4.3 and 4.1 of the Council Constitution (and consequently all references in the Constitution to the same) the change of name of the Audit Committee to the:

- Governance & Audit Committee

2.20 For the reasons outlined in the Audit Committee Report which was presented to Committee on the 26th April, 2021 as detailed in paragraphs 4.41 – 4.43 of this report, to recommend to Council the addition of the following two bullet points in the Committee's terms of reference:

“

Council Performance Arrangements

(W)

(i) To consider the Council's draft Annual Performance Self - Assessment report and if deemed necessary may make recommendations for changes to the Council.

(ii) To receive the Council's finalised Annual Self-Assessment report in respect of a financial year as soon as reasonably practicable after the end of that financial year.

(iii) At least once during the period between two consecutive ordinary elections of councillors to the Council, consider the independent Panel Performance Assessment report into which the Council is meeting its performance requirements.

(iv) To receive and review the Council's draft response to the report of the

independent Panel Performance Assessment and if deemed necessary may make recommendations for changes to the statements made in the draft response to the Council.

Complaints Handling

(X)

(i) To review and assess the Council’s ability to deal with complaints effectively.

(ii) To make reports and recommendations in relation to the Council’s ability to deal with complaints effectively. “

Corporate Governance & Constitution Committee

2.21 For the reasons outlined in paragraph 4.48 of the report to amend the name of the Corporate Governance & Constitution Committee to the ‘Constitution Committee’.

(Note: County Borough Councillor S Belzak wished to have it recorded that he voted against the recommendations set out at 2.1-2.21)

8 MEMBERS' SALARIES & ALLOWANCES - THE INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL FOR WALES ANNUAL REPORT

The joint report of the Director of Legal Services, the Director of Finance & Digital Services and the Service Director, Democratic Services & Communication sought Council’s decisions on the posts to be remunerated in line with the determinations of the Thirteenth Annual Report of the Independent Remuneration Panel (‘IRP’) for Wales.

The Service Director advised that, as directed by the IRP, it is important that council avoids the impression that it is determining the levels of remuneration of Members, however, determination is sought in respect of the areas where local discretion is afforded, that being up to a maximum of 19 senior salary posts for this local authority for the 2021-2022 Municipal Year.

It was **RESOLVED**:

1. To note the determinations of the IRP as set out in its annual report;
2. That the following qualifying post holders be paid a Senior Salary, and as set out at Appendix 2 to the report for the 2021 – 2022 Municipal Year:

Leader	£55,027
Deputy Leader	£38,858
Executive (Cabinet Member) (x7)	£33,805
Presiding Officer	£23,161
Planning & Development	£23,161

Committee Chair	
Licensing Committee Chair	£23,161
Overview and Scrutiny Committee Chair	£23,161
Scrutiny Committee Chairs (x4)	£23,161
Democratic Services Committee Chair	£23,161
Leader of Opposition* *must be paid subject to relevant criteria being met	£23,161

3. To confirm the continuation of associated arrangements in respect of salaries and allowances for the 2021 - 22 Municipal year.

9 APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES 2021-2022

The Service Director Democratic Services & Communication presented his report which sought the appointment of the Council's Committees for the 2021-2022 Municipal Year for the following Committees:

- Planning and Development Committee (x11 Members)
- Licensing Committee (x11 Members)
- Appointments Committee (x5 Members)
- Appeals/Employee Appeals/Chief Officer Appeals Committee (x5 Members)
- Overview and Scrutiny Committee (x14 Members)
- Finance and Performance Scrutiny Committee (x14 Members)
- Public Service Delivery, Communities and Prosperity Scrutiny Committee (x14 Members)
- Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee (x14 Members) plus Statutory Co-optees
- Health and Well-Being Scrutiny Committee (x14 Members)
- Governance & Audit Committee (x14 Members) plus 1 Lay Member
- Democratic Services Committee (x14 Members)
- Constitution Committee (x8 Members)
- Pension Fund Committee (x5 Members)
- Cwm Taf Public Services Board Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee (x5 Members)
- Cardiff Capital Region City Deal Joint Scrutiny Committee (x2 Members)

RESOLVED to appoint the under-mentioned Committees for the 2021-2022 Municipal Year:

- a) Planning and Development Committee (x11 Members)
- b) Licensing Committee (x11 Members)

- c) Appointments Committee (x5 Members)
- d) Appeals/Employee Appeals/Chief Officer Appeals Committee (x5 Members)
- e) Overview and Scrutiny Committee (x14 Members)
- f) Finance and Performance Scrutiny Committee (x14 Members)
- g) Public Service Delivery, Communities and Prosperity Scrutiny Committee (x14 Members)
- h) Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee (x14 Members) plus Statutory Co-optees
- i) Health and Well-Being Scrutiny Committee (x14 Members)
- j) Governance & Audit Committee (x14 Members) plus 1 Lay Member
- k) Democratic Services Committee (x14 Members)
- l) Constitution Committee (x8 Members)
- m) Pension Fund Committee (x5 Members)
- n) Cwm Taf Public Services Board Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee (x5 Members)
- o) Cardiff Capital Region City Deal Joint Scrutiny Committee (x2 Members)

10 APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRS & VICE CHAIRS 2021-2022

In his report the Service Director, Democratic Services & Communication sought consideration to the appointment of Chairs and Vice-Chairs to the Council's Committees for the Municipal Year 2021-2022, and it was **RESOLVED**:

1. To appoint the following Members to the posts of Chairs and Vice-Chairs:

Committee	Chair	Vice-Chair
Planning & Development	S Rees	G Cople
Licensing	A S Fox	D H Williams
Appointments	D Owen-Jones	M Webber
Appeals/Employee Appeals/Chief Officer Appeals	J Bonetto	S Pickering
Pension Fund Committee	M A Norris	M Griffiths

2. To appoint County Borough Councillor L Hooper as Chair and County Borough Councillor M Webber as Vice Chair of the Democratic Services Committee in accordance with the requirements of the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011 (the 'Measure');
3. To note that under the requirements of the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011, the Chair of the Governance & Audit Committee is to be appointed by the Governance & Audit Committee;
4. To agree that the responsibility for the appointment of the Vice-Chair of the Governance & Audit Committee be delegated to the Governance & Audit Committee;
5. That the appointment of Chairs of the Finance and Performance Scrutiny Committee be allocated to the RCT Independent Group and the Chair of the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee be allocated to the Plaid Cymru Group;

6. In accordance with the nominations received from the appropriate Political Groups, that the following Members be appointed as Chairs to the under-mentioned Scrutiny Committees together with the appointment of Vice-Chairs: --

Committee	Chair	Vice-Chair
Overview & Scrutiny	L M Adams	W. Lewis
Finance & Performance	M Powell	G Thomas
Public Service Delivery, Communities & Prosperity	S Bradwick	T Williams
Children & Young People	S Rees-Owen	J Edwards
Health & Well-Being	R Yeo	S Evans

7. To note the appointment of the Presiding Officer and Deputy Presiding Officer as the Chair and Vice-Chair to the Constitution Committee; and
8. To note that for Municipal Year 2021-2022 the Chair of the Cwm Taf Public Services Board Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee ('JOSC') is to be appointed by Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council.

(Note: The RCT Independent Group abstained from voting on the appointment of Chair of the Democratic Services Committee and the Plaid Cymru Group abstained from voting on the appointment of the Chair of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee)

11 QUASI JUDICIAL BODIES/AD HOC COMMITTEES 2021-2022

The Service Director Democratic Services presented his report in respect of appointing Members to the Quasi-Judicial Bodies/Ad Hoc Committees for the 2021-2022 Municipal Year subject to the political balance of the Council as set out below:

RESOLVED to appoint the following:

1. The Local Education Authority Governors (Appointments) Committee (5 Members). (3 Labour, 1 Plaid Cymru and 1 RCT Independent Group):
County Borough Councillors J Rosser, J Brencher, D Owen-Jones; Shelley Rees-Owen and M J Powell;
2. Voluntary Early Retirement/Redundancy Panel (5 Members) (3 Labour, 1 Plaid Cymru and 1 RCT Independent Group):
County Borough Councillors W Treeby, J Bonetto, M Webber, M Weaver and L Walker;
3. Joint Consultative Committee (4 Members):
County Borough Councillors A Crimmings, R Lewis, M Webber and A Morgan

(Note: The Plaid Cymru Group abstained from voting on the above-mentioned matter)

12 OUTSIDE BODIES & OTHER COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

Following consideration of the report of the Service Director, Democratic Services & Communication it was **RESOLVED** – that the under-mentioned Members be appointed to the following non-executive Joint Committees and Outside bodies for the 2021-2022 Municipal Year:-

- a) Welsh Joint Education Committee (1 representative: Councillor G Hopkins)
- b) Board of Governors Coleg y Cymoedd (1 representative and 1 Officer: Councillor J Rosser/Mrs G Davies)
- c) Joint Council for Wales (1 representative: Councillor M Webber)
- d) Welsh Local Government Association (5 representatives: Councillors R Bevan, C Leyshon, R Lewis, M Webber and A Morgan)
- e) Welsh Local Government Association Executive Board (1 representative / 1 sub: Councillor A Morgan and Councillor M Webber respectively)
- f) Wales Co-op Centre Board (1 representative: Councillor R Lewis)
- g) Edward Thomas Charity (4 representatives: Councillors A Fox, E George, R Lewis and S Pickering)
- h) The Alliance (3 representatives: Councillors J Brencher, G Jones and G Thomas)
- i) Tower Site Liaison Committee (3 representatives: Councillors H Boggis, G Thomas and K Morgan)
- j) Reserve Forces & Cadets Association (1 representative: Councillor J Harries)
- k) South Wales Economic Forum (1 representative: Councillor R Bevan)
- l) Judges Hall Trust (3 representatives: Councillors G Hughes, W Lewis and J Rosser)
- m) Welsh Centre for International Affairs (1 representative: Councillor R Lewis)
- n) Allotments Society (1 representative: Councillor S Bradwick)
- o) Valuation Tribunal Wales – Appointments Panel (1 representative: Councillor M Webber)
- p) Age Concern Cymru (1 representative: Councillor G Hopkins)
- q) Cynon Valley Indoor Bowls Committee (1 representative: Councillor A Morgan)
- r) Trivallis (Officer appointment: Ms. C Hutcheon)

Non-Executive Joint Committees

- s) South Wales Fire & Rescue Authority (x4: Councillors S Bradwick, S Morgans, A Roberts, and G Holmes)
- t) Brecon Beacons National Park Authority (x1: Councillor G Thomas)
- u) South Wales Police Crime Panel (x2: Councillors R Lewis and G Thomas)
- v) Cwm Taf Community Health Council (x3: Councillors G Caple, G Jones and J Williams)

(Note: The Conservative Group abstained from voting on item q Cynon Valleys Indoor Bowls Committee)

13 CALENDAR OF MEETINGS 2021-2022

Through his report, the Service Director, Democratic Services & Communication sought the approval of the attached Calendar of Meetings for 2021 – 2022

Municipal Year. In accordance with Section 6(2) of the Local Government (Wales), Measure, 2011, the survey of Members was recently undertaken to assess Members' preferences regarding the future timing of meetings and a number of other important, non-statutory matters were also included in the survey to which Members have contributed their views.

The Service Director referred to the element of flexibility within the calendar of meetings to allow Chairs to respond to up and coming matters during the course of the municipal year such as training and development, with specific reference to the Scrutiny Committees. He advised that the approaches to future hybrid meetings are set out, and for Members to note, in section 8 of the report.

Following discussion, it was **RESOLVED**:

1. To note the contents of the report; and in doing so note the responses to the Elected Members' Survey in respect of the Timing of Meetings, as outlined in paragraph 4;
2. That with the exception of the Planning and Development Committee, meetings will not be convened during School holidays, subject to urgent business needs;
3. To agree the proposed Calendar of Meetings for the Municipal Year 2021 - 2022, as attached at Appendix 1 to the report.
4. Note that this draft calendar is subject to change, based upon the demands of business over the coming municipal year. Any changes or additions will be undertaken in consultation with the appropriate committee chairs.

14 OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT 2020-2021

Members received County Borough Councillor M Adams (Chair of Overview & Scrutiny Committee) who presented the Overview & Scrutiny Annual report for the 2020/2021 Municipal Year.

Following discussion, and thanks extended from the Chair of the Children & Young People Scrutiny Committee and the Public Service Delivery, Communities and Prosperity Scrutiny Committee to Officers and Members of their committee including the Education Co-opted Members, it was **RESOLVED** to note the contents of the report.

This meeting closed at 4.45 pm

**Cllr S Powderhill
Chairman.**



RHONDDA CYNON TAF

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNCIL

Minutes of the virtual extraordinary meeting of the Council held on Wednesday, 26 May 2021 at 5.00 pm.

County Borough Councillors - Council Members in attendance:-

Councillor S Powderhill (Chair)

Councillor G Hughes	Councillor M Powell
Councillor H Boggis	Councillor J Bonetto
Councillor S Bradwick	Councillor R Bevan
Councillor A Calvert	Councillor T Williams
Councillor A Crimmings	Councillor D Williams
Councillor G Davies	Councillor L De Vet
Councillor S Rees	Councillor J Elliott
Councillor S Evans	Councillor S Evans
Councillor M Forey	Councillor A Fox
Councillor M Norris	Councillor E Webster
Councillor M Webber	Councillor A Roberts
Councillor M Weaver	Councillor G Holmes
Councillor L Walker	Councillor G Hopkins
Councillor P Howe	Councillor K Morgan
Councillor R Yeo	Councillor P Jarman
Councillor G Thomas	Councillor A Morgan
Councillor M Adams	Councillor J Rosser
Councillor G Stacey	Councillor R Lewis
Councillor C Leyshon	Councillor J Brencher
Councillor S Powell	Councillor D Owen-Jones
Councillor W Owen	Councillor S Morgans
Councillor E Stephens	Councillor W Lewis
Councillor G Jones	Councillor W Treeby
Councillor W Jones	Councillor L Jones
Councillor L Hooper	Councillor J Harries
Councillor D Grehan	Councillor E George
Councillor H Fychan	Councillor J Davies
Councillor J Cullwick	Councillor A Cox
Councillor A Chapman	Councillor E Griffiths
Councillor G Caple	Councillor J Edwards
Councillor S Trask	Councillor R Williams

Officers in attendance

Mr C Bradshaw, Chief Executive
Mr C Hanagan, Service Director of Democratic Services & Communication
Mr B Davies, Director of Finance & Digital Services
Mr P Mee, Group Director Community & Children's Services
Mr A Wilkins, Director of Legal Services
Mr R Evans, Director of Human Resources
Ms L Davies, Director, Public Health, Protection and Community Services

15 Apologies

An apology of absence was received from County Borough Councillors S Belzak, A Davies-Jones, M Fidler Jones, K L Jones, J James, M Griffiths, S Pickering, S Rees-Owen, M Tegg, R K Turner, J Williams and C Willis.

16 Welcome to New Members

The Presiding Member extended a welcome to the two new Members of the Council County Borough Councillors S Trask and R Williams.

17 Declaration of Interest

In accordance with the Council's Code of Conduct, the following declarations of interest were made pertaining to the agenda:

Agenda Item 2

FINANCING OF THE 21ST CENTURY SCHOOLS CAPITAL PROGRAMME USING PRUDENTIAL BORROWING

- County Borough Councillor P Jarman referred to her dispensation granted by the Standards Committee on 29th November 2019 providing the member "dispensation to speak and vote on all matters for the duration and adoption of the 2021-22 Budget process in her capacity as Leader of the Opposition"
- County Borough Councillor R. Williams – "My daughter attends YG Rhydywaun School"

18 Council Procedure Rule 15.1

The Deputy Leader moved the suspension of Council Procedure Rule 15.1 which states that a matter would be decided by a simple majority of those Members voting and present in the room at the time the question was put in order to facilitate the smooth running of the virtual meeting.

Following consideration of the matter it was **RESOLVED** to suspend Council Procedure Rule 15.1

The Service Director Democratic Services & Communications provided the numbers in attendance for each of the Political Groups as follows:-

Labour Group– 38 members
Plaid Cymru Group – 14 members
Conservative Group – 2 member
RCT Independent Group – 4 members

19 Financing of the 21st Century Schools Capital Programme Using Prudential Borrowing

The Director of Finance & Digital Services presented his report which sought Council's approval for a capital investment of £12.135M to increase the capacity and improve the educational facilities at Ysgol Gyfun Rhydywaun. The report also sought agreement to finance the project through the Welsh Government's (WG) 21st Century Schools Band B grant, and to fund the Council's contribution from Council borrowing using its powers under the Prudential Code.

Following discussion, it was **RESOLVED**:

1. To agree to the inclusion in the capital programme of a new teaching block at Ysgol Gyfun Rhydywaun at a total cost of £12.135M.
2. To agree that the net capital cost to the Council of £4.247M is funded through borrowing, using the Council's powers under the Prudential Code, with the annual revenue cost of £0.159M being met from savings from previous school reorganisations.

(**Note:** The Conservative Group abstained from voting on the matter)

20 **WAIVER OF SIX MONTH COUNCILLOR ATTENDANCE RULE**

Through his joint report with the Director of Legal Services, the Service Director Democratic Services & Communication requested that Council consider granting permission for absence from all Council and Committee meetings to Councillor Clayton Willis due to his current ill health. The permission for absence, in accordance with section 85 of the Local Government Act 1972, would be for a period of up to six months ending on the 26th November 2021 or until Councillor Willis resumes attendance,

The Service Director advised that communication has been maintained with Councillor Willis's family and with his Group Leader, following which it has been deemed appropriate to seek the permission of council for the six-month rule.

Following discussion and a request that Council's best wishes are sent to Councillor

Willis's family, it was **RESOLVED** that permission for absence from all Council and Committee meetings be granted to Councillor Clayton Willis due to his current ill-health for a period of up to six months ending on 26th November 2021, or

until he resumes attendance if that is sooner, in accordance with section 85 of the Local Government Act 1972.

(**Note:** the RCT Independent Group wished to abstain from voting on the matter but wished to extend their best wishes to Councillor C Willis and his family).

21 **Diversity in Democracy**

In his report, the Service Director Democratic Services & Communication presented the WLGA Council 'Diversity in Democracy' report which outlines the work undertaken

by the WLGA Cross Party Working Group on Diversity in Local Democracy. The Service Director advised that the proposals are supported by all WLGA Group Leaders which seek the support of all councils within Wales to endorse the

principles within the declaration which are aimed at increasing participation and widening the diversity of candidates for the 2022 Elections.

The Service Director also advised of the work undertaken by the Diversity Working Group of the Council's Democratic Services Committee and the interim report which Committee had recently adopted. The report sets out the actions the Democratic Services will progress next year to support the diversity of candidates and of the provision required, through political groups, to realise the ambitions within the interim report and the WLGA declaration.

The Service Director extended his thanks to Ms Emma Wilkins for producing the detailed interim report.

In conclusion, the Service Director advised that if Council supports the WLGA declaration to become a 'Diverse Council' this evening, Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council would be the first Council to do so.

The Cabinet Member for Council Business and the Council's Equalities & Diversity Champion praised the report and work of the WLGA led by Co-Chair - Cllr Mary Sherwood, WLGA spokesperson for Equalities, Welfare Reform and Anti-Poverty, City and County of Swansea and Co-Chair - Cllr Susan Elsmore, WLGA Spokesperson for Equalities, Welfare Reform and Anti-poverty, Cabinet Member for Social Care, Health and Well-being, Cardiff Council. The Cabinet Member also thanked members of the Democratic Services Committee for their contributions to the interim report and to the diversity agenda which resonates with the work the council has been looking to achieve for a number of years.

The Cabinet Member for Council Business welcomed and acknowledged the importance of supporting the WLGA diversity declaration and the recommendations of the Democratic Services Committee which would promote diversity within the council.

Through her discussions particularly around the data set within the interim report of the Democratic Services Working Group, the Leader of the Plaid Cymru Group commented on the missed opportunity to recently appoint a female Chair to the Democratic Services Committee and a female Chair of the Democratic Services Working Group the need for the Council to improve its ratio of female to male Committee Chairs. The Opposition Leader wished to formally correct the name of Councillor E Stephens within the report.

Through further discussion, the Council's positive approach to the promotion of the Welsh language was acknowledged. Further comment on the importance of all Members being treated equally regardless of their age, gender and background was made and the importance of committing to and measuring the outcomes to arise from the recommendations within the Diversity report.

The Chair of the Diversity Working Group was pleased to present the interim report and support the diversity declaration to be taken forward by the Council. The Chair commented that the recommendations within the report would progress the engagement needed to reach out to potential candidates and youth voters through the voting awareness raising campaigns that have been taken forward for the Senedd elections.

The Leader of the Council provided comment on the positive track record to date of the Council in terms of diversity and highlighted the number of female chairs of committees as being 54.5% compared to 45.3% of male chairs. He added that diversity means more than the consideration of male/female representation to committees and acknowledged that all political parties need to improve. The leader commended the report supported the WLGA declaration to become a 'Diverse Council'.

RESOLVED:

1. To note the work of the Democratic Services Committee and the interim report of the Working Group produced to promote the diversity agenda within the Council attached at Appendix A;
2. To note the actions outlined within the WLGA Council report, as attached at appendix B.
3. To endorse in principle a 'Diverse Council' declaration and agree for a bespoke RCTCBC diversity declaration to be brought forward to the July Council meeting.
4. To receive updates and progress reports on the work needed to be undertaken by the Council in respect of the actions outlined within the WLGA Council report and the ongoing work of the Democratic Services Committee as and when appropriate.

This meeting closed at 5.40 pm

**Cllr S Powderhill
Chairman.**

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RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

COUNCIL

30th JUNE 2021

MEMBERS QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, DEMOCRATIC SERVICES & COMMUNICATION.

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To present the order of questions in respect of the Members Questions on Notice, following the amendment to the process agreed at the [Council AGM 2019](#).

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that Members:

- 2.1 Receive the Questions and any supplementary questions proposed, as in accordance with the running order advised upon in 4.3 of the report, which should not exceed a 20-minute time period.

3. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 As agreed at the Council AGM on the 15th May, 2019, Members agreed to amend Council Procedure Rule 9.2 in respect of Members Questions on Notice. A further amendment was made to Council Procedure Rule 9.2 at the Council AGM on the 26th May 2021 in respect of supplementary questions following expiry of the 20 minute time duration. [Council AGM 2021](#)

4. MEMBERS QUESTION ON NOTICE

- 4.1 The closing date for receipt of Members Questions on Notice to the Council Business Unit for the 30th June 2021 Council meeting was 5pm on the 17th June 2021.
- 4.2 18 questions were received and put forward to the Council Ballot held on the 21st June 2021, to determine the running order of the questions at the Council Meeting.
- 4.3 The results of the ballot are outlined below:-

Number	Corresponding Question
1	<p>Question from County Borough Councillor G. Caple to the Leader of the Council, County Borough Councillor A. Morgan:</p> <p>“Can the Council Leader give an update on the progress of the Porth Interchange scheme?”</p>
2	<p>Question from County Borough Councillor W. Lewis to the Leader of the Council, County Borough Councillor A. Morgan:</p> <p>“Can the Leader please provide an update on the work to progress the Section 19 reports into the flooding of February 2019?”</p>
3	<p>Question from County Borough Councillor R. Yeo to the Cabinet Member for Adult Community Services and the Welsh Language, County Borough Councillor G. Hopkins:</p> <p>“Will the Cabinet Member please make a statement on visiting arrangements at care homes across the County?”</p>
4	<p>Question from County Borough Councillor G. Thomas to the Leader of the Council, County Borough Councillor A. Morgan:</p> <p>“Will the Leader please update on whether there are any planned programmes to address the ongoing flooding issue on Rhigos Road”.</p>
5	<p>Question from County Borough Councillor S Trask to the Cabinet Member for Environment, Leisure and Heritage Services, County Borough Councillor A. Crimmings:</p> <p>“Would the Cabinet Member for Environment, Leisure and Heritage Services make a statement on the councils biodiversity strategy as a part of it’s green agenda”</p>
6	<p>Question from County Borough Councillor E Webster to the Leader of the Council, County Borough Councillor A. Morgan:</p> <p>“What happens when a river wall is in danger of collapse, but there is no identifiable owner?”</p>

7	<p>Question from County Borough Councillor P Jarman to the Cabinet Member for Adult Community Services and the Welsh Language, County Borough Councillor G. Hopkins:</p> <p>“Does the Council have Intergenerational Policies?”</p>
8	<p>Question from County Borough Councillor M Powell to the Leader of the Council, County Borough Councillor A. Morgan:</p> <p>"Would the Cabinet Member say what RCTCBC is and has done to remove "rat runs" through residential areas to reduce the environmental damage and increase road safety to residents?"</p>
9	<p>Question from County Borough Councillor S Belzak to the Leader of the Council, County Borough Councillor A. Morgan:</p> <p>“Will the leader make a statement on the Inquiry and Report of the Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy Committee of the House of Commons dated April 2021 and its highlighting of historical injustices inflicted on the Mineworkers' Pension Scheme, and the Committee's conclusions and recommendations?”</p>
10	<p>Question from County Borough Councillor S. Bradwick to the Leader of the Council, County Borough Councillor A. Morgan:</p> <p>“Can the Leader of the Council provide an update on the progress of flood alleviation scheme bids for the forthcoming year please?”</p>
11	<p>Question from County Borough Councillor S. M. Powell to the Cabinet Member for Stronger Communities, Wellbeing and Cultural Services, County Borough Councillor R. Lewis:</p> <p>“How is this Council progressing plans for the introduction of Electric Charge Points throughout Rhondda Cynon Taf?”</p>

12	<p>Question from County Borough Councillor L Walker to the Cabinet Member for Corporate Services, County Borough Councillor M Norris:</p> <p>“Could the Cabinet Member inform me why the council have just authorised the purchase of a house on the Willowford Road, Tonteg for the total sum of 650k“</p>
13	<p>Question from County Borough Councillor J. Brencher to the Cabinet Member for Stronger Communities, Wellbeing and Cultural Services, County Borough Councillor R. Lewis:</p> <p>“Will the Cabinet Member please provide an progress update on the Muni in Pontypridd?”</p>
14	<p>Question from County Borough Councillor L Hooper to the Cabinet Member for Education & Inclusion Services, County Borough Councillor J Rosser:</p> <p>“Can the Cabinet Member please provide an update on how the project to install a modular building at Gwauncelyn Primary School to enhance its childcare and nursery provision is progressing?”</p>
15	<p>Question from County Borough Councillor S. Morgans to the Cabinet Member for Environment, Leisure and Heritage Services, County Borough Councillor A. Crimmings:</p> <p>“Will the Cabinet Member please make a statement on recycling in Rhondda Cynon Taf?”</p>
16	<p>Question from County Borough Councillor J. Elliott to the Leader of the Council, County Borough Councillor A Morgan:</p> <p>“Can the Council Leader please provide an update on the various flood schemes planned and ongoing across RCT, including for the Cwmbach ward?”</p>
17	<p>Question from County Borough Councillor R. Williams to the Leader of the Council, County Borough Councillor A. Morgan:</p> <p>“Will the Leader outline this Councils plans to develop an Integrated Transport Network across the County Borough?”</p>

18

Question from County Borough Councillor D. Owen-Jones to the Deputy Leader of the Council, County Borough Councillor M. Webber:

“Can the Deputy Leader please notify Members whether this Council has received any correspondence regarding the Boundary changes proposed as part of the Local Democracy and Boundary Commission for Wales’ exercise for Local Authorities in Wales?”

- 4.4 At the Council meeting a maximum of 20 minutes shall be allowed for Questions on Notice. Any questions that are not dealt with in this time limit shall fall. Any questions on notice not answered will need to be resubmitted to the Proper Officer for the next full Council meeting in accordance with these rules.

5. CONSULTATION / INVOLVEMENT

- 5.1 The amendment to the Council Procedure Rule in respect of Members Questions was considered and agreed at the Council’s AGM 2019 and AGM 2021, following consultation with the Constitution Committee.

6. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The amendment to the Council procedure rule taken forward at the Council AGM, allows the opportunity for more Members to ask a question at Council

7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

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

8. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS OR LEGISLATION CONSIDERED

- 8.1 The report has been prepared in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 9.2.

9. LINKS TO THE COUNCILS CORPORATE PLAN / OTHER CORPORATE PRIORITIES.

- 9.1 The opportunity for Members to propose questions at Council meetings allows Members to receive information which potentially detail the Council priorities. It also embraces the Future Generations Act as all work and decisions taken by Council seek to improve the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of the County Borough.

10. CONCLUSION

- 10.1 Detailing the procedure for Members Questions on Notice assists in transparency for both Members and for public engagement.

Other Information:-

Relevant Scrutiny Committee – Overview & Scrutiny Committee

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

AS AMENDED BY

THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

COUNCIL

30 JUNE 2021

**REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, DEMOCRATIC SERVICES &
COMMUNICATION.**

Item: MEMBERS QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Background Papers

[Council AGM 2019.](#)

[Council AGM 2021](#)

Officer to contact: Emma Wilkins, Council Business Unit

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

COUNCIL

30 JUNE 2021

COUNCIL WORK PROGRAMME: 2021-2022 MUNICIPAL YEAR

REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, DEMOCRATIC SERVICES & COMMUNICATION.

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To present, for Members' comment and approval, a draft Work Programme on the proposed list of matters requiring consideration by Council over the 2021-2022 Municipal Year.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that Members:

- 2.1 Note and comment on the draft Work Programme attached as Appendix 1 to the report; and
- 2.2 Subject to Members' comments, approve the Work Programme for the 2021-2022 Municipal Year (with appropriate amendments where necessary) and thereafter receive further updates from the Service Director Democratic Services & Communication as appropriate.

3. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 As agreed at the Council AGM on the 23rd May, 2018, a Council Committee Work programme should be provided for Members to assist them in forward planning and to advise other business functions of the Council
- 3.2 The Work Programme will also be made available in a central location on the Council website to improve transparency and public engagement.

4. COUNCIL REPORTS

- 4.1 The proposed Work Programme is a rolling work programme for the 2021-22 Municipal Year, which will be reported to Council at regular intervals to reflect additional updates and amendments.
- 4.2 In accordance with Rule 12.2 of the Access to Information Procedure Rules (Part 4 of the Council's Constitution) the Work Programme will contain information in respect of the timetable for considering the budget

and any plans forming part of the policy framework and requiring Council approval.

- 4.3 During the period outlined, the Work Programme may be subject to further change to take into account any additional/deleted reports, including any new consultative documents or legislative initiatives from the Welsh Government, which require urgent attention. Such changes to business will be undertaken by the Head of Democratic Services in consultation with the Presiding Member. Where possible, Groups Leaders will be informed of changes and additions throughout the Municipal Year.
- 4.4 The Work Programme will also assist Members if any items have been referred to a Committee or service area for consideration / action and relevant updates are required by Council (e.g. Action required in respect of a Notice of Motion considered by Council).
- 4.5 A draft Work Programme is attached as Appendix 1 to this report for Members' comment.
- 4.6 Subject to agreement, a link to the agreed Council work programme will be added to every Council meeting agenda for Members' information, to inform Members of any amendments to the programme going forward.

5. CONSULTATION / INVOLVEMENT

- 5.1 The Work Programme has been compiled by members of the Senior Leadership Team in discussion with the Presiding Officer.

6. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 An Equality Impact Assessment is not needed because the contents of the report are for information purposes only.

7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

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

8. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS OR LEGISLATION CONSIDERED

- 8.1 The report has been prepared in accordance with Rule 12.1 of the Access to Information Procedure Rules (found in Part 4 of the Council's Constitution).

9. LINKS TO THE COUNCILS CORPORATE PLAN / OTHER CORPORATE PRIORITIES.

- 9.1 The Council Work Programme encompasses all of the Council priorities as it references reports coming forward across the Directorates which may impact upon the Council's corporate priorities. It also embraces the Future Generations Act as all future decisions taken by Council seek to improve

the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of the County Borough.

10. CONCLUSION

- 10.1 The development of a Council Work Programme for the 2021-22 Municipal Year will assist in transparency for both Members and for public engagement.

Other Information:-

Relevant Scrutiny Committee – Overview & Scrutiny Committee

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

AS AMENDED BY

THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

COUNCIL

30 JUNE 2021

REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, DEMOCRATIC SERVICES & COMMUNICATION.

Item: COUNCIL WORK PROGRAMME: 2021- 2022 MUNICIPAL YEAR.

Background Papers

- Rule 12.1 and 12.2 of the Access to Information Procedure Rules (Found in Part 4 of the Council's Constitution.)
- [Council AGM – 23rd May, 2018.](#)

Council Work Programme.

Forward plan of proposed Council Business for the 2021/22 Municipal Year

Specific Period: -June 2021 – March 2022.

(Summary of proposed Key Decisions coming forward for Members consideration.)

N.B – The work programme is subject to change to take account of any additional / deletion of reports, including any new consultative documents or legislative initiatives from the Welsh Government, which require urgent attention.

Key Decision	Brief Outline	Responsible Officer	Open / Exempt Report	Consultation undertaken prior to Decision being made?
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JUNE

30.06.21

Invitation to the Cwm Taf University Health Board	To receive representatives from the Cwm Taf University Health Board	Cwm Taf UHB	Open	
Council Work Programme	To receive the Draft Council Work Programme for the 2021-22 Municipal Year.	Service Director, Democratic Services & Communication	Open	
Urgent Executive Decisions	To present, for Members' information an overview of the Urgent Decisions taken forward by the Cabinet Committee and the Urgent Key Officer Delegated Decisions taken forward outside of the Cabinet Committee during the period January – May 2021.	Service Director, Democratic Services & Communication	Open	Cabinet
Review of the Electoral arrangements for the County Borough of Rhondda Cynon Taf by the Local Democracy and Boundary Commission for Wales and Welsh Ministers	To receive a verbal update from the Service Director Democratic Services & Director, Legal Services in respect of the matter.	Service Director, Democratic Services & Communication Director of Legal Services		
Access & Engagement Improvements within Democracy	To provide Members with an update in respect of the introduction arrangements to enable the broadcasting of committee meetings and the ability to operate through a hybrid approach.	Service Director, Democratic Services & Communication	Open	

Key Decision	Brief Outline	Responsible Officer	Open / Exempt Report	Consultation undertaken prior to Decision being made?
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JULY

14.07.21

Medium Term Financial Plan – Update	To provide Members with an update on the Medium Term Financial Plan for 2021/22 – 2024/2025	Director of Finance & Digital Services.	Open	Cabinet
Annual Treasury Management Review 2020/21	To provide Members with information on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the Council’s Treasury Management activity during 2020/21; and the actual Prudential and Treasury Indicators for 2020/21 As statutory required	Director of Finance & Digital Services.	Open	
Review of the Council’s Senior and Associated Management post structure	To consider the report to revise the Council’s Senior and Associated Management post structure.	Chief Executive		
Freedom of the Borough	To award the Freedom of the Borough following endorsement of the FOB Working Group recommendations	Service Director, Democratic Services & Communication	Open	Freedom of the Borough Working Group.
Update on the Motor Neurone Disease Association’s MND Charter NOM	To receive an update on the Notice of Motion agreed at the Council meeting in March 2019	Service Director Democratic Services & Communications	Open	Health & Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee.

AUGUST – RECESS

Key Decision	Brief Outline	Responsible Officer	Open / Exempt Report	Consultation undertaken prior to Decision being made?
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SEPTEMBER	29.09.21
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2023 Review of Parliamentary Constituencies by the Boundary Commission for Wales	To receive an update on the Rhondda Cynon Taf CBC Electoral Review undertaken by the Local Democracy and Boundary Commission for Wales (following any Order which may be made by Welsh Ministers following receipt of the Commission's Final Recommendations)	Director of Legal Services/Service Director Democratic Services & Communications	Open	Overview & Scrutiny Committee
Council Investment Priorities	To consider any potential investment opportunities	Director of Finance & Digital Services.	Open	Cabinet
Rhondda Cynon Taf CBC 2020/21 Statement of Accounts and External Audit Report	To consider the Council's Annual Accounts and the report of Audit Wales	Director of finance & Digital Services	Open	
Appointment of additional Lay Members onto the Governance & Audit Committee	To consider the process for appointments to the Governance & Audit Committee to satisfy requirements of the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 (in advance of 5 th May 2022)	Director of Legal Services/Service Director Democratic Services & Communications	Open	
Scrutiny Recommendations- Development of future transport infrastructure in response to the South Wales Metro NOM	To receive the Scrutiny recommendations on the Notice of Motion agreed at the September 2019 Council meeting in respect of the development of future transport infrastructure in response to the	Service Director Democratic Services & Communications	Open	Overview & Scrutiny Committee.

Key Decision	Brief Outline	Responsible Officer	Open / Exempt Report	Consultation undertaken prior to Decision being made?
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	South Wales Metro			
Political Balance of the Council	To advise Members of the outcome of the review of political balance of the Authority	Service Director, Democratic Services & Communication	Open	

OCTOBER

20.10.21

Urgent Executive Decisions	To present, for Members' information an overview of the Urgent Decisions taken forward by the Cabinet Committee and the Urgent Key Officer Delegated Decisions taken forward outside of the Cabinet Committee during the period July – September 2021.	Service Director, Democratic Services & Communication	Open	Cabinet
Council Tax Discounts	To receive the report providing Members with proposals in respect of Council Tax discounts	Director of Finance & Digital Services.	Open	
Rhondda Cynon Taf Pension Fund 2020/21 Statement of Accounts and External Audit Report	To consider the RCT Pension Fund Annual Accounts and the report of Audit Wales	Director of Finance and Digital Services	Open	
Revised Local Development Plan (RLDP) 2020-2030	To consider the Revised LDP 2020-2030	Director of Prosperity, Development	Open	Cabinet
Council's Corporate Performance Report	To provide Members with the Council's Corporate Performance Report.	Chief Executive	Open	Cabinet / Finance & Performance Committee

Key Decision	Brief Outline	Responsible Officer	Open / Exempt Report	Consultation undertaken prior to Decision being made?
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NOVEMBER

24.11.21

2021-22 Mid-Year Treasury Management Stewardship Report	To provide Members with information on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Council's Treasury Management activity during the first 6 months of 2021-2022 and Prudential and Treasury Indicators for the same period. 	Director of Finance & Digital Services.	Open	
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DECEMBER

15.12.21

Invitation to the Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board	To receive representatives from the Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board	Cwm Taf UHB	Open	
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JANUARY

19.01.22

Council Revenue Budget 2022/23 - Provisional Local Government Settlement	This report provides Members with information in respect of the 2022/2023 Provisional Local Government Settlement (Subject to timing of WG announcements on the Local Government Settlement)	Director of Finance & Digital Services.	Open	The Finance and Performance Scrutiny Committee, in line with its Terms of Reference, is a consultee as part of the Council's overall consultation arrangements.
Council Tax Reduction Scheme	The need to consider whether to revise or replace the Council existing Council Tax Reduction Scheme (CTRS) and the requirement to adopt a scheme by 31 st January 2022.	Director of Finance & Digital Services.	Open	

Key Decision	Brief Outline	Responsible Officer	Open / Exempt Report	Consultation undertaken prior to Decision being made?
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Welsh Church Act Annual Report	To approve the statement of Accounts for the Welsh Church Act Fund for the financial year ended 31 st March 2021, as statutory required.	Director of Finance & Digital Services.	Open	Audit Committee
Urgent Executive Decisions	To present, for Members' information an overview of the Urgent Decisions taken forward by the Cabinet Committee and the Urgent Key Officer Delegated Decisions taken forward outside of the Cabinet Committee during the period October - December 2021.	Service Director, Democratic Services & Communication	Open	Cabinet

FEBRUARY

09.02.22

Leaders Annual Debate	To receive & participate in the Leaders Annual Debate	Leader of the Council	Open	
The Council's Pay Policy Statement	To provide Members with information in respect of the Council's 2022-2023 Pay Policy Statement	Director of Human Resources Director of Legal Services	Open	
Freedom of the Borough	To award the Freedom of the Borough following endorsement of the FOB Working Group recommendations	Service Director, Democratic Services & Communication	Open	Freedom of the Borough Working Group.

Key Decision	Brief Outline	Responsible Officer	Open / Exempt Report	Consultation undertaken prior to Decision being made?
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MARCH

02.03.22 / 09.03.22

Revenue Budget Strategy	To provide information to Members in respect of the Council's Revenue Budget, together with the level of Council Tax, for the year ending 31st March 2023.	Director of Finance & Digital Services.	Open	Finance and Performance Scrutiny Cabinet
Council Tax Resolution	To provide Members with the details of the calculation of the Authority's Council Tax for the financial year ending 31st March 2023 prior to passing the necessary statutory resolutions	Director of Finance & Digital Services.	Open	Cabinet
Capital Programme	To set out the Council's proposed Capital Programme for 2022-23 to 2024-25, following confirmation of the local government settlement for 2022-23.	Director of Finance & Digital Services.	Open	Cabinet
Treasury Management Strategy	To provide Members with information in respect of treasury Management Strategy, Incorporating Investment Strategy, Treasury Management indicators and minimum revenue provision (&MRP Statement for 2022/23.)	Director of Finance & Digital Services.	Open	Finance & Performance
Capital Strategy Report 2022/23	To receive the Capital Strategy 2022/23 incorporating prudential indicators.	Director of Finance & Digital Services.	Open	

MISCELLANEOUS (the following items to be considered as and when appropriate / necessary during the Municipal Year)

Local Government & Elections	To receive updates on the proposals contained within	Service Director, Democratic	Open	Overview & Scrutiny
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Key Decision	Brief Outline	Responsible Officer	Open / Exempt Report	Consultation undertaken prior to Decision being made?
(Wales) Act	the 'Local Government & Elections (Wales) Act'	Services & Communication.		Committee
Changes to Committee Membership	To consider the changes to Committee Memberships as advised	Service Director, Democratic Services & Communication	Open	
Resettlement Grants	To consider the resettlement grants in support of the Resettlement Schemes	Director of Finance & Digital Services/Director of Legal Services	Open	
Welsh Government Consultations	To consider the Council's response to relevant Welsh Government Consultations	Director of Legal Services ; Service Director, Democratic Services & Communication	Open	
Climate Change	To receive an update from the Climate Change Champion and Officer in respect of the Climate Change Steering Group	Climate Change	Open	
Public Questions & Presentations	To receive public questions & presentations	Service Director, Democratic Services & Communication	Open	
Wales Audit Office Reports	To consider reports brought forward by the Wales Audit Office	As applicable	Open	
Updates on the Coronavirus in RCT	To receive a position statement in respect of the Coronavirus in the County Borough.		Open	
Notices of Motion	To consider Notices of Motions / Amendments to the Motion as received and in accordance with the Council Constitution. To receive updates in respect of Notices of Motion as appropriate.	Service Director, Democratic Services & Communication	Open	

Key Decision	Brief Outline	Responsible Officer	Open / Exempt Report	Consultation undertaken prior to Decision being made?
Diversity Charter	To provide Members with updates in respect of the Council's Diversity Charter	Service Director Democratic Services & Communications	Open	Democratic Services Committee
Members Questions	To consider the Questions put to Members as received and in accordance with the Council Constitution	Service Director, Democratic Services & Communication	Open	
Cardiff Capital Region City Deal	To provide Members with updates / information in respect of the Cardiff Capital Region City Deal.	Chief Executive		
Scrutiny Working Groups	To receive details of Scrutiny Working Group reviews undertaken.	Service Director, Democratic Services & Communication		
Council Work Programme	To receive updates on the 2021-22 Council Work Programme	Service Director, Democratic Services & Communication	Open	

Key Decision	Brief Outline	Responsible Officer	Open / Exempt Report	Consultation undertaken prior to Decision being made?
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****Under Embargo: Not for publication, broadcast or use on social media until Thursday 24 June 2021, 10.00am****

WRITTEN STATEMENT BY THE WELSH GOVERNMENT

TITLE **Local Authority Electoral Boundary Review - Update**

DATE **24 June 2021**

BY **Rebecca Evans MS, Minister for Finance and Local Government.**

On 16 June I wrote to members to set out the current position in respect of the current programme of Electoral Arrangements Reviews. I also set out the process by which I intend to communicate my decisions about each area.

This included my commitment to provide regular updates to members through written statements. This is the first of these statements.

On 23 June I wrote to the Leader and Chief Executive of the City and County of Swansea to confirm the decision made by the First Minister to accept the recommendations of the Local Democracy and Boundary Commission for Wales with modifications in respect of City and County of Swansea, and to progress work to seek to implement such recommendations by order.

The Local Democracy and Boundary Commission for Wales Final Recommendations Report for the City and County of Swansea can be found [here](#). The modifications made to these recommendations are set out in the annex to this statement.

In addition, I wrote to the Leader and Chief Executive of the County Borough of Rhondda Cynon Taf to confirm my decision to accept the recommendations of the Local Democracy and Boundary Commission for Wales with modifications in respect of the County Borough of Rhondda Cynon Taf and to progress work to seek to implement such recommendations by order.

The Local Democracy and Boundary Commission for Wales Final Recommendations Report for the County Borough of Rhondda Cynon Taf can be found [here](#). The modifications made to these recommendations are set out in the annex to this statement.

Further information will be provided once I have made decisions about other areas.

Modifications made to the Commission's Final recommendations for electoral arrangements in the following areas.

City and County of Swansea

- The Commission proposed the electoral ward of Fairwood is given the English language name of Fairwood and the Welsh language name of Llwynteg. The electoral ward will be given the single name of Fairwood.
- The Commission proposed the electoral ward of St Thomas be given the English language name of St Thomas and the Welsh language name of Sain Tomos. The electoral ward will be given the single name of St Thomas.
- The Commission proposed the electoral ward of Townhill is given the English language name of Townhill and the Welsh language name of Pen y Graig. The electoral ward will be given the single name of Townhill
- The Commission proposed the electoral ward of Uplands be given the English language name of uplands and the Welsh language name of Tir Uchel. The electoral ward will be given the single name of Uplands.
- The Commission proposed the electoral ward of West Cross be given the English language name of West Cross and the Welsh language name of Y Groesffordd. The electoral ward will be given the single name of West Cross.
- The Commission proposed the electoral ward of Pontlliw and Tircoed be given the English name of Pontlliw and Tircoed and the Welsh language name of Pontlliw a Thir-coed. The electoral ward will have the English language name of Pontlliw and Tircoed and the Welsh language name of Pont-lliw a Thir-coed.

County Borough of Rhondda Cynon Taf

- The Commission proposed the electoral ward of Ynysybwl be give the single name of Ynysybwl. The electoral ward will have the English language name of Ynysybwl and the Welsh language name of Ynys-y-bwl.
- The Commission proposed the electoral ward of Llwyn-y-pia be given the single name of Llwyn-y-pia. The electoral ward will be given the English language name of Llwyn-y-pia and the Welsh language name of Llwynypia.
- The Commission proposed the electoral ward of Cwmbach be given the single name of Cwmbach. The electoral ward will have the English language name of Cwmbach and the Welsh language name of Cwm-bach.
- The Commission proposed the single spelling of Pont-y-clun for the electoral wards and community wards which contain Pont-y-clun within the names. Pont-y-clun will have the English language spelling of Pontyclun and the Welsh language spelling of Pont-y-clun where the electoral wards and community wards contain this place name.

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LOCAL DEMOCRACY AND BOUNDARY COMMISSION FOR WALES



Comisiwn Ffiniau a
Democratiaeth Leol
Cymru

Local Democracy and
Boundary Commission
For Wales

Review of the Electoral Arrangements of the County Borough of Rhondda Cynon Taf

Final Recommendations Report

March 2020

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This document is also available from our website at www.ldbc.gov.wales

FOREWORD

The Commission is pleased to present this Report to the Minister for Housing and Local Government, which contains its recommendations for revised electoral arrangements for the County Borough of Rhondda Cynon Taf.

This review is part of the programme of reviews being conducted under the Local Government (Democracy) (Wales) Act 2013, and follows the principles contained in the Commission's Policy and Practice document.

The issue of fairness is at the heart of the Commission's statutory responsibilities. The Commission's objective has been to make recommendations that provide for effective and convenient local government, and which respect, as far as possible, local community ties. The recommendations are aimed at improving electoral parity, so that the vote of an individual elector has as equal a value to those of other electors throughout the County, so far as it is possible to achieve.

The Commission is grateful to the Members and Officers of Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council for their assistance in its work, to the Community and Town Councils for their valuable contributions, and to all who have made representations throughout the process.

Ceri Stradling

Deputy Chair

LOCAL DEMOCRACY AND BOUNDARY COMMISSION FOR WALES
REVIEW OF THE ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS OF THE COUNTY BOROUGH OF
RHONDDA CYNON TAF
FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS REPORT

Contents	Page	
Chapter 1	Introduction	1
Chapter 2	The Draft Proposals	2
Chapter 3	Summary of Final Recommendations	3
Chapter 4	Assessment	7
Chapter 5	The Final Recommendations	10
Chapter 6	Summary of Recommended Arrangements	72
Chapter 7	Consequential Arrangements	73
Chapter 8	Responses to this Report	76
Chapter 9	Acknowledgements	77
APPENDIX 1	GLOSSARY OF TERMS	
APPENDIX 2	EXISTING COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP	
APPENDIX 3	RECOMMENDED COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP	
APPENDIX 4	RULES AND PROCEDURES	
APPENDIX 5	SUMMARY OF DRAFT REPRESENTATIONS	
APPENDIX 6	CABINET SECRETARY FOR FINANCE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT 23 JUNE 2016 - WRITTEN STATEMENT	

1st Edition printed February 2020

The Commission welcomes correspondence and telephone calls in Welsh or English.
Mae'r ddogfen ar hon ar gael yn y Gymraeg.
This document has been translated into Welsh by Trosol.

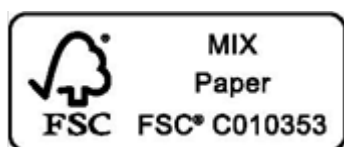
The Local Democracy and Boundary Commission for Wales

Hastings House

Fitzalan Court

CARDIFF

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Chapter 1. INTRODUCTION

1. The Local Democracy and Boundary Commission for Wales (the Commission) has conducted a review of the electoral arrangements of the County Borough of Rhondda Cynon Taf. This review was conducted in accordance with the Local Government (Democracy) (Wales) Act 2013 (the Act), specifically Sections 29, 30 and 34-36.
2. Pursuant to the Act, the Commission has completed the review of the electoral arrangements for the County Borough of Rhondda Cynon Taf and presents its final recommendations for future electoral arrangements.
3. This programme of reviews has come as a result of the former Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Local Government's Written Statement of 23 June 2016, where the Commission was asked to restart its programme of reviews, with an expectation that all 22 electoral reviews be completed in time for the new arrangements to be put in place for the 2022 local government elections. The Written Statement can be found at Appendix 6. The rules and procedures the Commission follows can be found in the Commission's *Electoral Reviews: Policy and Practice* [2016] and outlined in Appendix 4. A Glossary of Terms can be found at Appendix 1, providing a short description of some of the common terminology used within this report.
4. Section 35 of the Act lays down the procedural guidelines which are to be followed in carrying out a review. In compliance with Section 35 the Commission wrote to Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council, all the community and town councils in the area, the mandatory consultees and other interested parties on 25 July 2018 to inform them of the Commission's intention to conduct the review and request their preliminary views. This consultation ran from 1 August 2018 to 23 October 2018. The Commission also made copies of its *Electoral Reviews: Policy and Practice* [2016] document available.
5. The Commission published its Draft Proposals Report on 19 June 2019 and requested views on the proposals. This consultation ran from 26 June 2019 to 17 September 2019.
6. The Commission publicised the review on its website and social media channels and asked Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council to publicise the review and provided the Council with a number of public notices to display. These were also provided to the community and town councils in the area. In addition, the Commission made a presentation to both county, and town and community councillors to explain the review process and the Commission's policies. The County Borough Council was invited to submit a suggested scheme for new electoral arrangements.

Chapter 2. THE DRAFT PROPOSALS

1. Prior to the formulation of the draft proposals, the Commission received 37 representations from: Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council (which included representations from one town and community council, three Members of Parliament, three Assembly Members, 11 county councillors and two residents), four town and community councils, one Assembly Member, six county borough councillors, one community councillor, four political party groups and six residents.
2. These representations were taken into consideration and summarised in the Draft Proposals Report published on 19 June 2019. The listed mandatory consultees and other interested parties were informed of a period of consultation on the draft proposals which commenced on 26 June 2019 and ended on 17 September 2019. The Commission asked Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council to display copies of the report alongside public notices in the area. The Commission's draft proposals proposed a change to the arrangement of electoral wards that would have achieved a significant improvement in the level of electoral parity across the County Borough of Rhondda Cynon Taf.
3. The Commission proposed to retain a council of 75 members. This resulted in a proposed county average of 2,302 electors per member. The Commission proposed 45 electoral wards, a reduction from 52 existing electoral wards.
4. The largest under-representation (in terms of electoral variance) was proposed to be in Taffs Well and Treorchy (23% above the proposed county average). At present the greatest under-representation is in Tonyrefail West (108% above the proposed county average).
5. The largest over-representation (in terms of electoral variance) was proposed to be in Ynysybwl (25% below the proposed county average). At present the greatest over-representation is in Rhigos (39% below the proposed county average).
6. The Commission proposed 26 multi-member wards in the County Borough consisting of 22 two-member electoral wards and four three-member electoral wards.
7. The Commission proposed no changes to 18 electoral wards.
8. The Commission proposed to have one electoral ward within the County Borough which combined a part of a warded community along with its neighbouring community. This community split is proposed within the Community of Llanharry.
9. The Commission recommends making a number of boundary changes in the Town of Pontypridd and the Communities of Llantwit Fardre, Pont-y-clun and Trehafod.

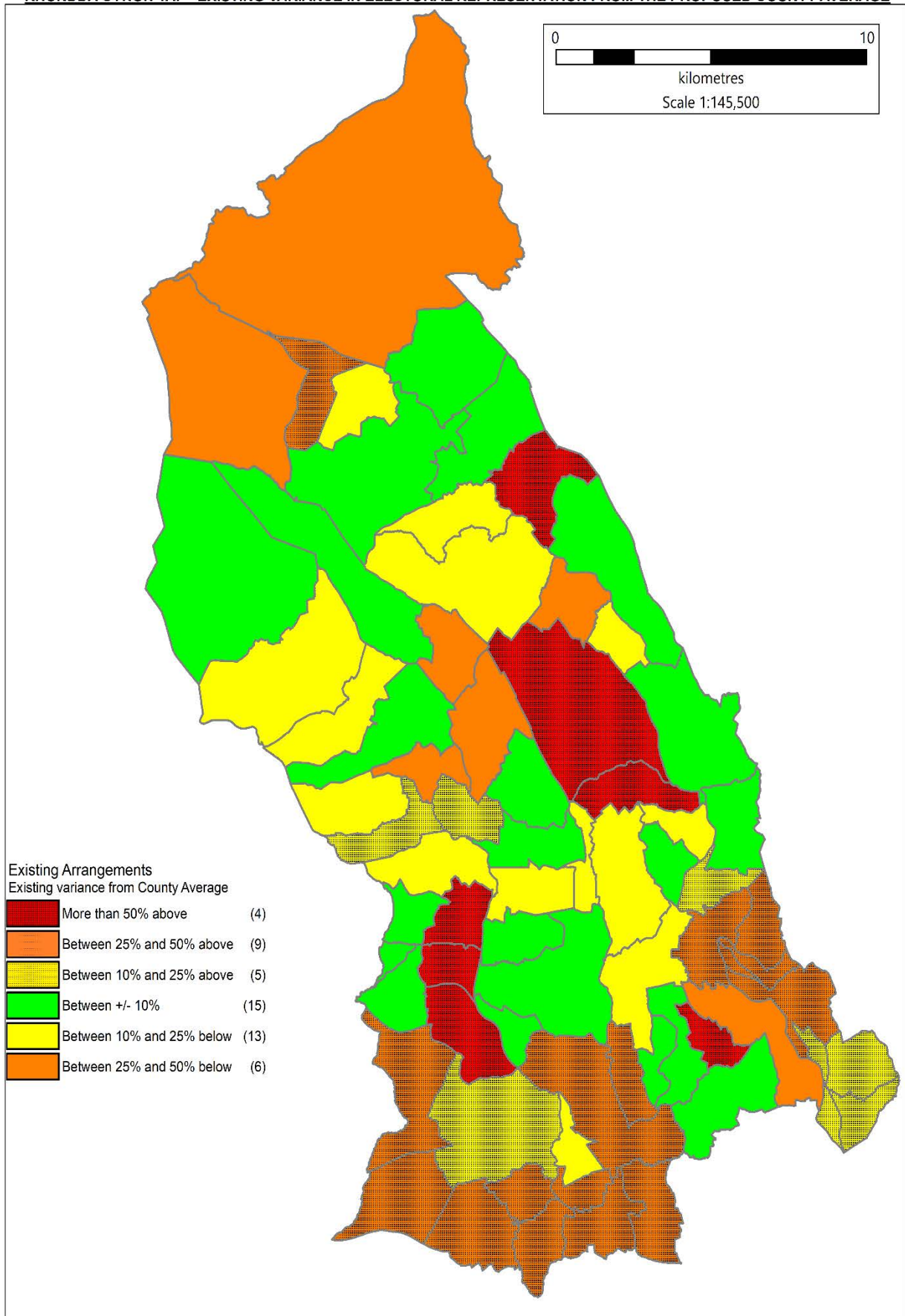
Chapter 3. SUMMARY OF FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS

- The Commission received 76 representations from: Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council Overview and Scrutiny Committee, six community councils, one Assembly Member, 11 county councillors, two town and Community Councillors, the South Wales Police and Crime Commissioner, two political party groups and 52 members of the public. The Commission considered all these representations carefully before it formulated its recommendations. A summary of those representations can be found at Appendix 5.
- The Commission recommends a change to the arrangement of electoral wards that will achieve a marked improvement in the level of electoral parity across the County Borough of Rhondda Cynon Taf.
- The Commission recommends a council of 75 members, unchanged from 75. This results in a recommended county average of 2,302 electors per member.
- The Commission recommends 46 electoral wards, a reduction from 52 existing wards.
- The Commission has recommended no changes to 20 electoral wards.
- The largest under-representation (in terms of electoral variance) is recommended to be in **Treforest** (26% above the proposed county average). At present the greatest under-representation is in Tonyrefail West (108% above the proposed county average).
- The largest over-representation (in terms of electoral variance) is recommended to be in **Ynysybwl** (25% below the proposed county average). At present the greatest over-representation is in Rhigos (39% below the proposed county average).
- The Commission is recommending 26 multi-member wards in the county: consisting of 23 two-member electoral wards and three three-member electoral wards.
- The Commission recommends having one electoral ward within the county which combine a part of a warded community, along with its neighbouring community. This community split is present within the Community of Llanharry.
- The Commission recommends making a number of boundary changes in the Town of Pontypridd and the Communities of Llantwit Fardre, Pont-y-clun and Trehafod. The Commission has recommended consequential changes to Pontypridd Town Council, Pont-y-clun Community Council and Llantwit Fardre Community Council as a result of these boundary changes.

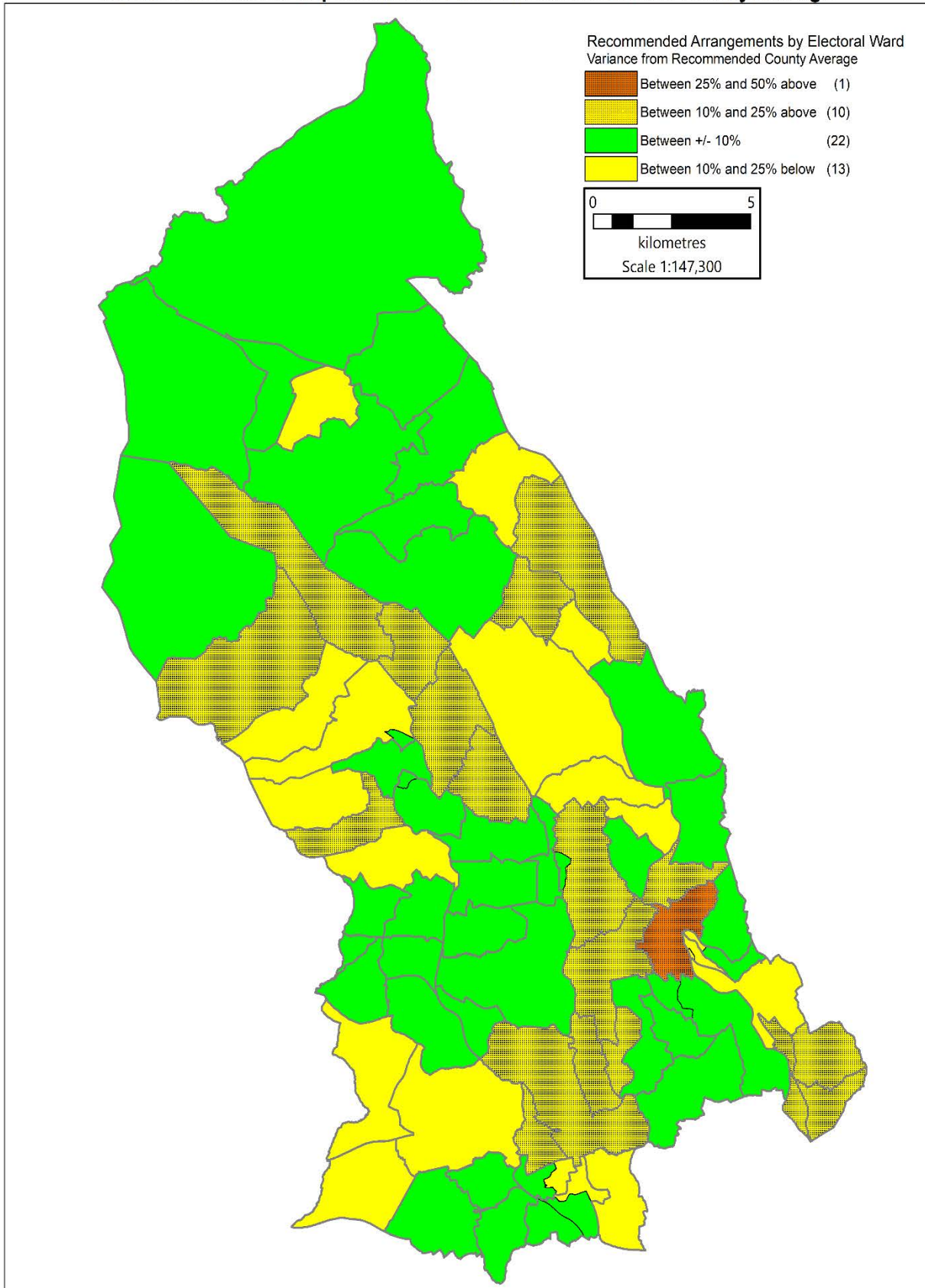
Summary Maps

1. On the following pages are thematic maps illustrating the current and recommended arrangements and their variances from the recommended county average. Those areas in green are within $\pm 10\%$ of the county average; yellow and hatched yellow between $\pm 10\%$ and $\pm 25\%$ of the county average; orange and hatched orange between $\pm 25\%$ and $\pm 50\%$ of the county average; and, finally, those in red are over $\pm 50\%$ of the county average.
2. As can be seen from these maps, the new arrangements provide for a marked improvement in electoral parity across the County.

RHONDDA CYNON TAF - EXISTING VARIANCE IN ELECTORAL REPRESENTATION FROM THE PROPOSED COUNTY AVERAGE



County Borough of Rhondda Cynon Taf
Variance in Electoral Representation From the Recommended County Average



Chapter 4. ASSESSMENT

Council size

3. The council size for the County Borough of Rhondda Cynon Taf has been determined by our council size policy and methodology. This policy can be found in our *Electoral Reviews: Policy and Practice* [2016] document. The methodology sets out a council size of 75 for the County Borough of Rhondda Cynon Taf. At present the size of the council at 75 members is equal to the methodology aim.
4. The Commission reviewed the electoral arrangements for the County Borough of Rhondda Cynon Taf in light of our methodology and took account of the representations which had been made. For the reasons given below, we consider that in the interests of effective and convenient local government, a council size of 75 would be appropriate to represent the County Borough of Rhondda Cynon Taf.

Number of electors

5. The numbers shown as the electorate for 2018 and the estimates for the electorate in the year 2023 are those submitted to the Commission by Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council. The forecast figures supplied by Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council show a forecasted increase in the electorate from 172,673 to 178,294.
6. The Office for National Statistics (ONS) has also provided its estimated number of persons eligible to vote but who are not on the electoral register. This showed an estimated 15,733 more people eligible to vote than the 2018 electorate.
7. The Commission is aware that the Welsh Government is legislating to extend the franchise to include 16 and 17 year olds and foreign nationals, not currently eligible to vote, at the 2022 local government elections. The Commission's Council Size Policy utilises the entire population to determine council size and these two groups were included in the Council Size deliberations.
8. While current 16 and 17 year olds are not in the existing electoral figures provided by Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council, those individuals will have been included in the forecasted figures provided by the Council. Consideration of these figures has been included in the Commission's deliberations on its recommendations.
9. Foreign nationals are included in the census data provided by the ONS. Consideration of this data has been included as part of the Commission's deliberations on its recommendations.

Councillor to electorate ratio

10. In respect of the number of electors per councillor in each electoral ward, there is a wide variation from the current county average of 2,302 electors per councillor ranging from 39% below (1,399 electors) (Rhigos) to 108% above (4,790 electors) (Tonyrefail West). The determination of the council size above results in an average of 2,302 electors being represented by each councillor.
11. In its deliberations the Commission considered the ratio of local government electors to the number of councillors to be elected, with a view to proposing changes to ensure that the number of local government electors shall be, as near as may be, the same in every ward in the principal area. The Commission considered the size and character of the council and a wide range of other factors including local topography, road communications, and local ties.

Judgement and Balance

12. In producing a scheme of electoral arrangements, the Commission must have regard to a number of issues contained in the legislation. The Commission's recommended scheme has placed emphasis on achieving improvements in electoral parity whilst maintaining community ties wherever possible. The Commission has made every effort to ensure that the revised electoral wards, in the Commission's view, are an appropriate combination of existing communities and community wards.
13. In some areas, because of the number of electors in a community or community ward, the Commission has considered the retention or creation of multi-member wards in order to achieve appropriate levels of electoral parity. This issue often arises in urban areas where the number of electors is too high to form a single-member ward. It also may arise in more rural wards where the creation of single-member wards would result in substantial variances in electoral parity. The Commission acknowledges the established practice of multi-member wards within the County Borough of Rhondda Cynon Taf and this is reflected in the Commission's proposals.
14. The Commission has looked at each area and is satisfied that it would be difficult to achieve electoral arrangements that keep the existing combination of communities and community wards, without having a detrimental effect on one or more of the other issues that the Commission must consider.

Electoral Ward Names

15. The Commission is naming electoral wards and not the places within the proposed electoral wards. In the creation of these final recommendations, the Commission has considered the names of all the electoral wards proposed in Welsh and English, where appropriate. For these final recommendations the Commission has considered names of either electoral wards or communities that appear in Orders, where they exist; those recommended by the Welsh Language Commissioner; and, in the representations it has received.
16. The Commission consulted with the Welsh Language Commissioner on the suitability of the names in their draft form prior to the publication of these final recommendations, with a particular focus on the Welsh language names. This recognises the Welsh Language Commissioner's responsibility to advise on the standard forms of Welsh place-names and specialist knowledge in the field. It must be clear that these recommendations are not proposals for changes to any place names. At each recommendation an indication is given of the Welsh Language Commissioner's recommended alternative and, where they differ, the specific recommendation and why the Welsh Language Commissioner has proposed an alternative to the Commission's recommended name.

Community and Town Council Arrangements

17. The Commission received a number of representations during the draft proposals consultation period which included a misunderstanding as to the scope of the review. The Commission therefore wishes to highlight that this review of electoral arrangements is seeking to make improvements to electoral representation within Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council. This process, except where specifically described in Chapter 7, is independent from any changes to arrangements concerning community or town councils. Where combinations of communities are used to create single electoral wards, the individual communities in question will retain their existing community council arrangements. These

councils will remain independent following the outcome of this review, any precepts generated or assets contained within a community council, will remain part of that community council.

18. Changes to community arrangements are dealt with under a separate part of the legislation, as part of a community review led by Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council.

Chapter 4. THE FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The Commission's recommendations are described in detail in this chapter. For each new proposal the report sets out:
 - The name(s) of the existing electoral wards which wholly or in part constitute the recommended ward;
 - A brief description of the existing electoral wards in terms of the number of electors now and projected, and their percentage variance from the recommended county average;
 - Key arguments made during the draft consultation (if any). Although not all representations are mentioned in this section, all representations have been considered and a summary can be found at Appendix 5;
 - The views of the Commission;
 - The composition of the recommended electoral ward and the recommended name;
 - A map of the recommended electoral ward (please see key on page 11).

Retained Electoral Wards

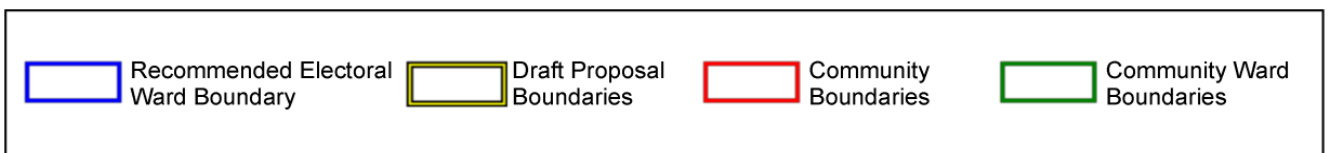
2. The Commission has considered the electoral arrangements of the existing electoral wards and the ratio of local government electors to the number of councillors to be elected. It is recommended that the existing arrangements should be retained within the following electoral wards. Names displayed in **bold** within the list below denote the electoral wards where the existing geography and electoral ward names have been prescribed within Orders, and which the Commission is recommending to retain.

• Abercynon	• Pen-y-Graig
• Aberdare East	• Pen-y-Waun
• Aberdare West/Llwydcoed	• Pontypridd Town
• Cilfynydd	• Porth
• Cwm Clydach	• Taffs Well
• Gilfach-goch	• Treforest
• Glyncoch	• Tonypandy
• Llantwit Fardre	• Tonyrefail East
• Penrhiwceiber	• Trallwng
• Pentre	• Treherbert
3. Whilst the Commission is recommending to preserve the geographical arrangements within the electoral wards listed above, it is recommending to introduce new electoral ward names for the following (names displayed in **bold** throughout the remainder of this report denote the Commission's recommended electoral ward names):
 - I. The Electoral Ward of Aberdare West/Llwydcoed to be given the Welsh language name of **Gorllewin Aberdâr a Llwydcoed**; and the English language name of **Aberdare West and Llwydcoed**. The Welsh Language Commissioner considered the name and is in agreement with the proposed name.

- II. The Electoral Ward of Gilfach Goch to be given the single name of **Gilfach-goch**. The Welsh Language Commissioner considered the name and is in agreement with the proposed name.
 - III. The Electoral Ward of Glyncoch to be given the single name of **Glyn-coch**. The Welsh Language Commissioner considered the name and is in agreement with the proposed name.
 - IV. The Electoral Ward of Penrhiwceiber to be given the single name of **Penrhiw-ceibr**. The Welsh Language Commissioner considered the name and is in agreement with the proposed name.
 - V. The Electoral Ward of Pen-y-Graig to be given the single name of **Pen-y-graig**. The Welsh Language Commissioner considered the name and is in agreement with the proposed name.
 - VI. The Electoral Ward of Pen-y-Waun to be given the single name of **Pen-y-waun**. The Welsh Language Commissioner considered the name and is in agreement with the proposed name.
 - VII. The Electoral Ward of Taffs Well to be given the Welsh language name of **Ffynnon Taf**; and the English language name of **Taff's Well**. The Welsh Language Commissioner considered the name and is in agreement with the proposed Welsh Language name.
4. In its Draft Proposals report the Commission proposed to combine the Graig and Treforest electoral wards to form an electoral ward by the name of Graig and Treforest. In light of the representations received the Commission has recommended that the existing arrangements for Treforest be retained.
5. In its Draft Proposals Report the Commission proposed to split the Pentre electoral ward into two single-member wards of Pentre and Tonpentre. In light of the representations received the Commission has recommended that the existing arrangement for Pentre be retained.

Proposed Electoral Wards

6. The Commission considered changes to the remaining electoral wards. Details of the current electoral arrangements can be found at Appendix 2. The Commission's recommended arrangements can be found in Appendix 3.



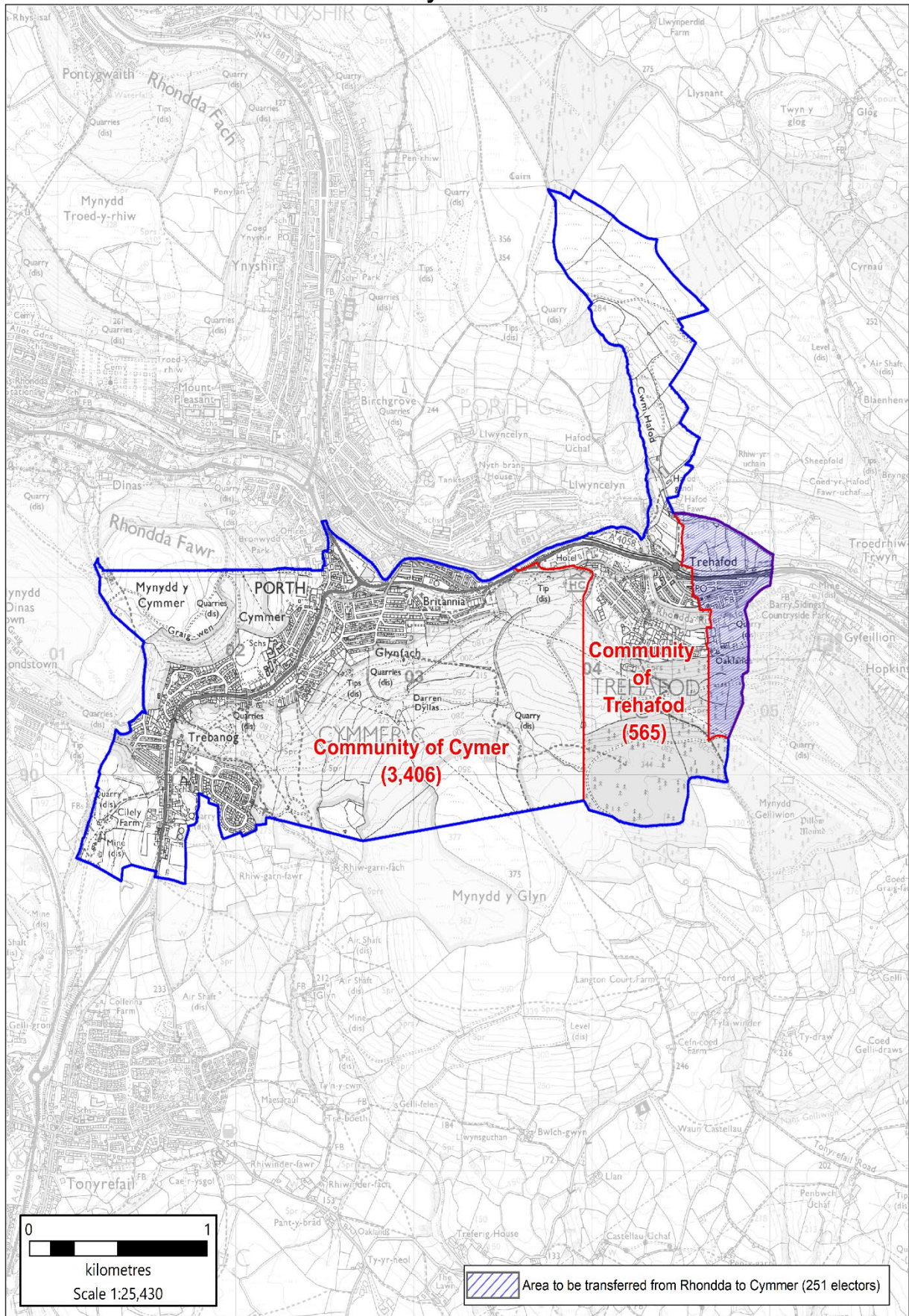
Cymmer, Graig and Rhondda

7. The existing Cymmer electoral ward is composed of the Communities of Cymmer and Trehafod. It has 3,971 electors (4,012 projected) represented by two councillors which is 14% below the proposed county average. The electoral ward has an estimated population of 4,417 eligible voters.
8. The existing Graig electoral ward is comprised of the Graig ward of the Town of Pontypridd. It has 1,853 electors (1,910 projected) represented by one councillor which is 20% below the proposed county average. The electoral ward has an estimated population of 1,901 eligible voters.
9. The existing Rhondda electoral ward is comprised of the Rhondda ward of the Town of Pontypridd. It has 3,481 electors (3,520 projected) represented by two councillors which is 24% below the recommended county average. The electoral ward has an estimated population of 3,703 eligible voters.
10. In its Draft Proposals the Commission proposed to transfer the Trehafod area of the Rhondda ward to the Cymmer electoral ward and a section of Maes-y-coed from the Rhondda ward to the Graig ward as proposed by Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council in the Initial Consultation stage. The Commission proposed to combine the resulting Graig ward with the Treforest ward.
11. The Commission received five representations in response to the Draft Proposals regarding this area from Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council Overview and Scrutiny Committee, Councillor Eleri Griffiths (Rhondda), The Rhondda Cynon Taf Labour Group, Pontypridd Town Councillor Jeffrey Baxter (Rhydfelen Central) and a resident of Maes-y-coed.
12. The Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Pontypridd Town Councillor Jeffrey Baxter supported the Commission's Draft Proposals for the Rhondda and Cymmer electoral wards but stated a preference for retaining the existing arrangements for the Graig and Treforest electoral wards.
13. Councillor Eleri Griffiths (Rhondda) suggested that combining the electoral wards of Graig and Rhondda would be more logical than the proposal to combine Graig and Treforest. However, Councillor Griffiths states that this is a less than ideal solution due to the very different natures of Graig and Maes-y-coed, and that there is a natural boundary along the bottom of the valley between the Graig and Maes-y-coed, which the Commission's proposal would cut across.
14. The Rhondda Cynon Taf Labour Group supported the Commission's proposal to unite the Community of Trehafod with the Cymmer electoral ward, and the proposal to transfer a section of Maes-y-coed into the Graig ward in order to improve electoral variance. However, the Group opposed the Commission's proposal to combine the electoral wards of Graig and Treforest. The Labour Group stated a preference for each ward maintaining its individual representation and also suggested re-naming the Rhondda electoral ward to 'Pontypridd South' in order to avoid confusion with the Rhondda constituency and to strengthen the sense of identity that residents have with Pontypridd.
15. The resident of Maes-y-coed opposed the Commission's proposal to transfer a section of Maes-y-coed from the Rhondda electoral ward to the Graig electoral ward, and to then combine the resulting Graig electoral ward with Treforest. The resident stated that the dividing feature between Maes-y-coed and the Graig has always been the valley floor

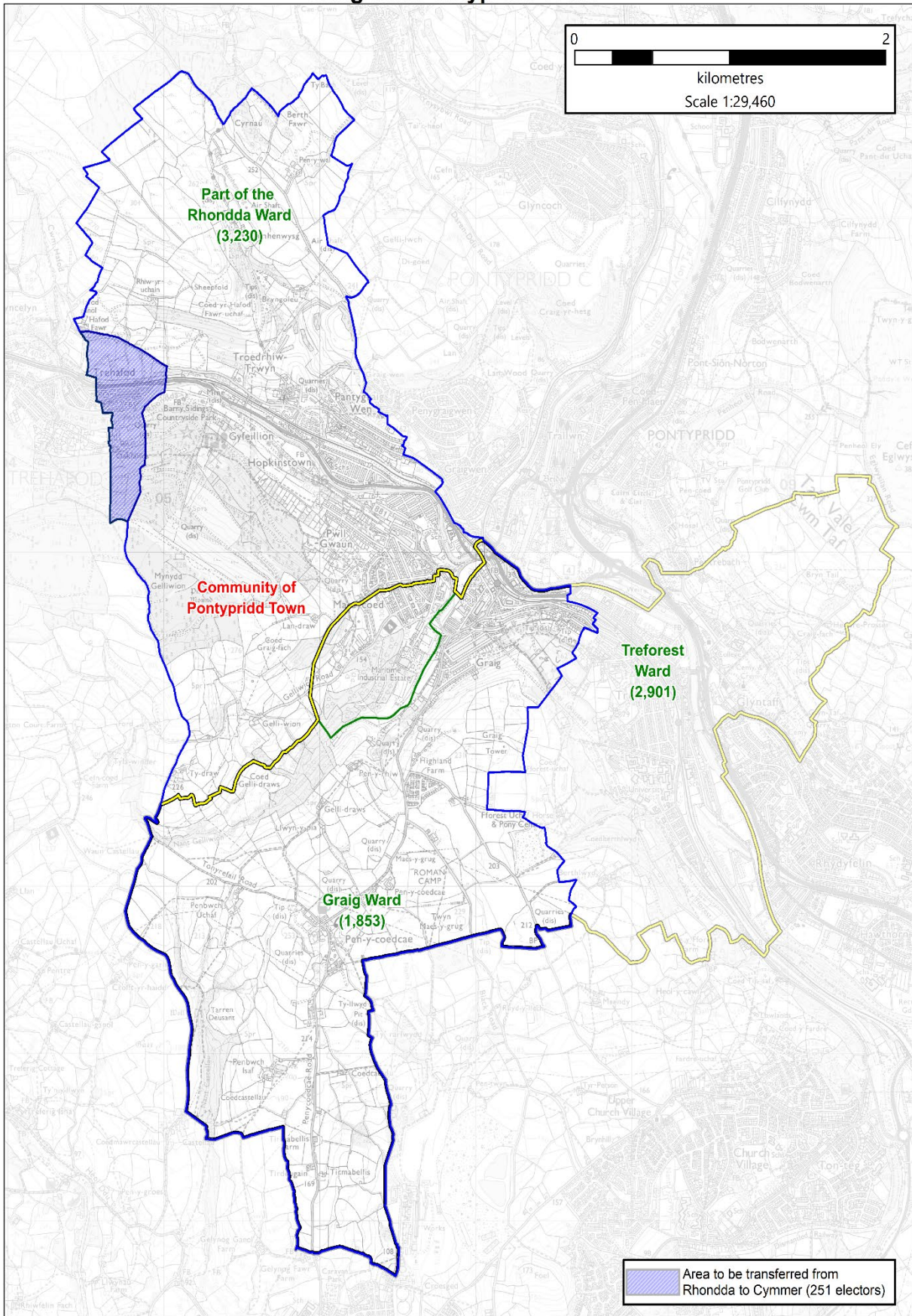
between the two areas. The resident stated a preference for the County Borough Council's alternative suggestion to combine the electoral wards of Graig and Rhondda, which would at least keep Maes-y-coed together even with the reduction in representation.

16. The Commission recommends that the boundaries as illustrated on Page 14 are applied to the Cymmer electoral ward to form an electoral ward with 4,222 electors (4,259 projected) which, if represented by two councillors, would result in a level of representation that is 8% below the recommended county average.
17. The Commission proposed the single name Cymmer in the Draft Proposals. The Welsh Language Commissioner considered the name and proposed the single name of Cymer as this is the form recommended in the national standard framework. If the difference between the Welsh form and the 'English' form consists of only one or two letters, the use of a single form is recommended, with preference being given to the Welsh form. This accords with the recommendations of the Ordnance Survey and the Highway Authorities.
18. The Commission has given the recommended electoral ward the single name of **Cymer**. Any comments on the recommended name can be sent to the Minister for Housing and Local Government.
19. The Commission recommends that the remainder of the Rhondda electoral ward be combined with the Graig electoral ward to form an electoral ward with 5,083 electors (5,179 projected) which, if represented by two councillors, would result in a level of representation that is 10% above the recommended county average.
20. The Commission has given the recommended electoral ward the Welsh language name of **Y Graig a Gorllewin Pontypridd**; and the English language name of **Graig and Pontypridd West**, based on the representation received from the Rhondda Cynon Taf Labour Group. The Welsh Language Commissioner agreed with the proposed name. Any comments on the recommended name can be sent to the Minister for Housing and Local Government.
21. The Commission agrees with the recommendation made by Councillor Griffiths (Rhondda), the other representations received and the improvement in electoral parity. It is the view of the Commission that this scheme best addresses the existing levels of electoral variance, retains a significant proportion of existing arrangements and addresses a number of the representations received.
22. The Commission acknowledges that the Treforest electoral ward would retain an inappropriate level of electoral variance, however, based on the evidence received in representations, it is the view of the Commission that the nature of the Treforest electoral ward should result in the area retaining its individual representation.
23. The Commission considers that this recommendation would be desirable in the interests of effective and convenient local government.
24. The Commission has also recommended changes to the electoral arrangements for Pontypridd Town Council, which can be seen at Chapter 7.

Cymer



Graig and Pontypridd West

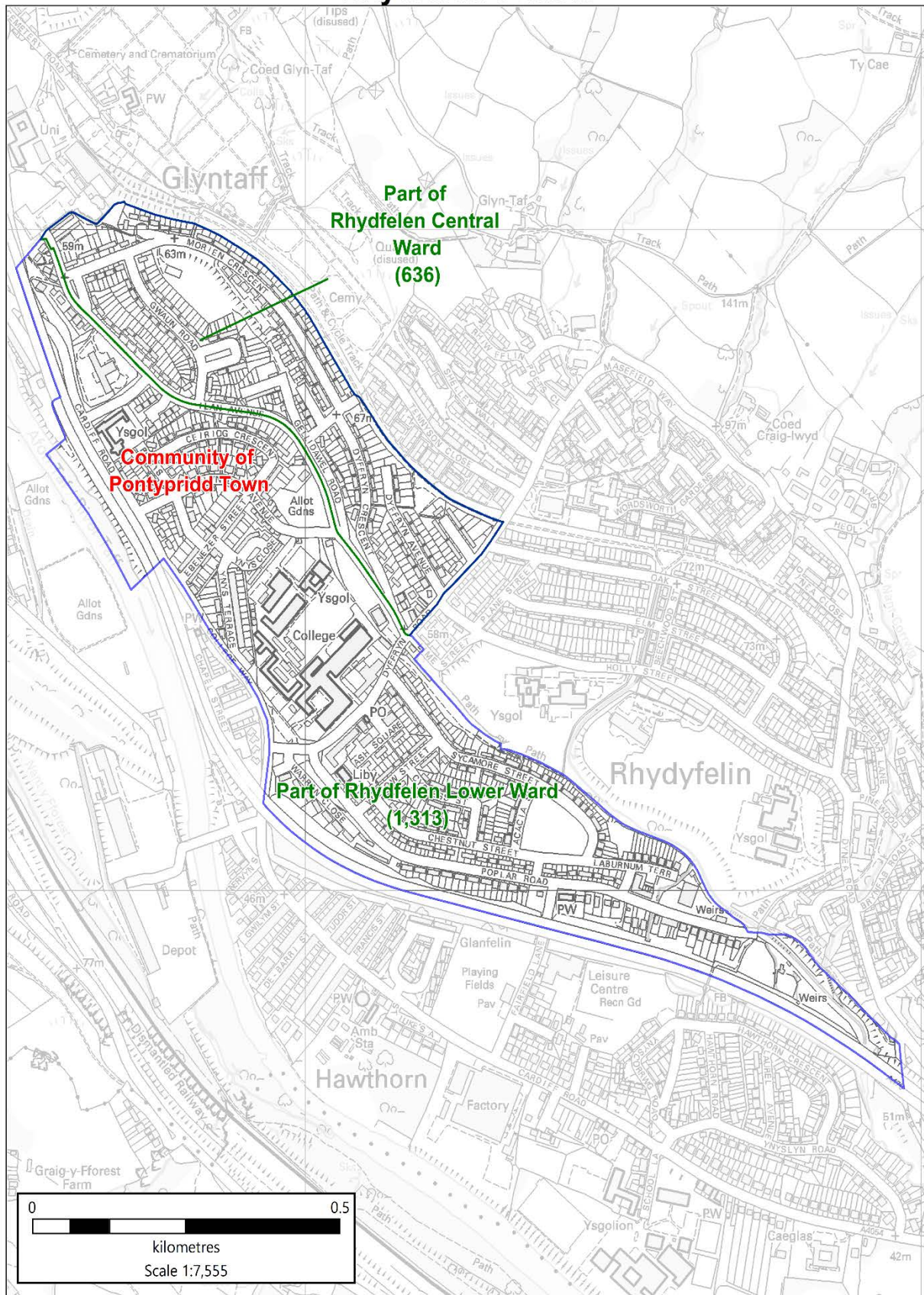


Hawthorn and Rhydfelen Central/Ilan

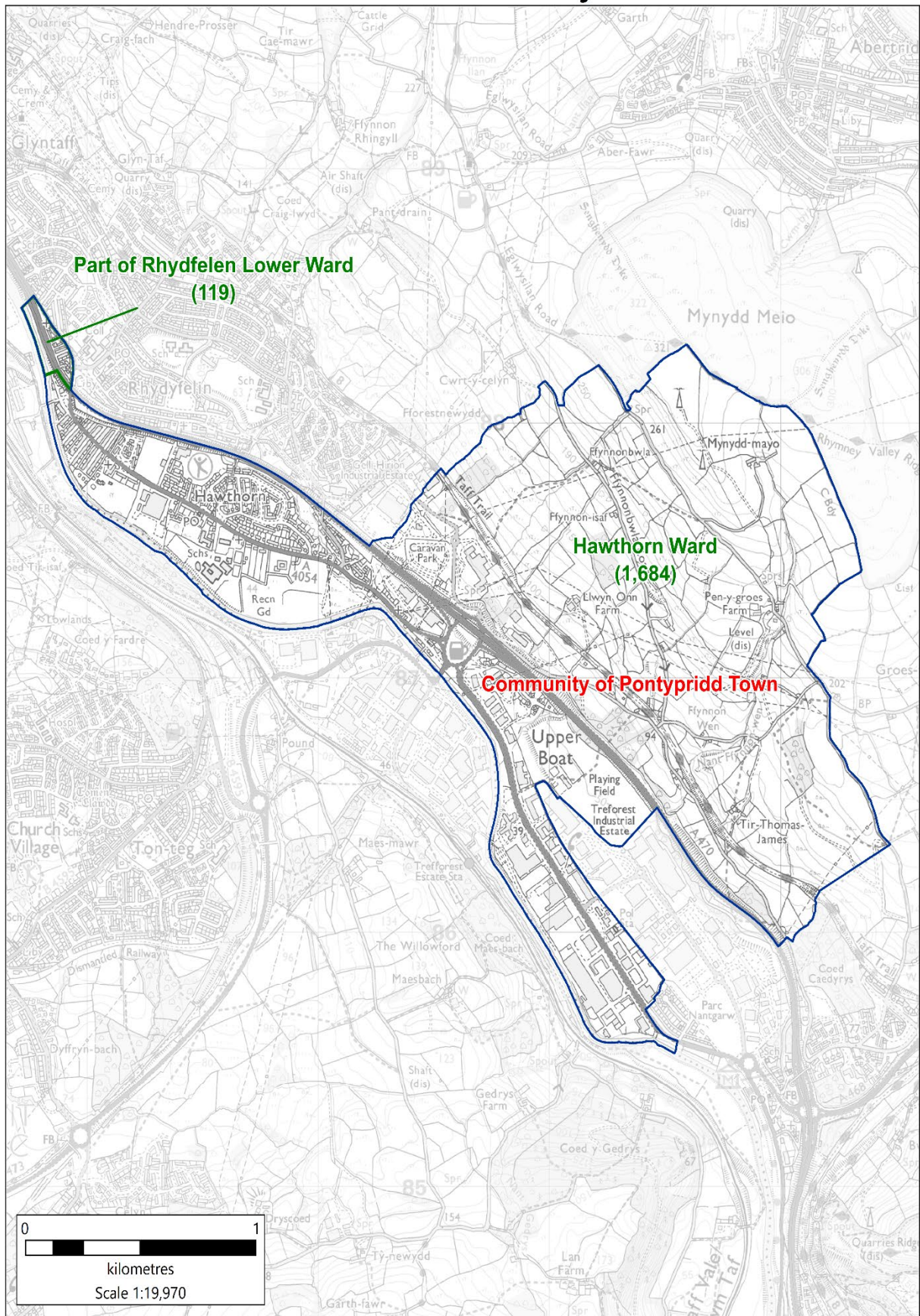
25. The existing Hawthorn electoral ward is composed of the Hawthorn and Rhydfelen Lower wards of the Town of Pontypridd. It has 3,116 electors (3,116 projected) represented by one councillor which is 35% above the recommended county average. The electoral ward has an estimated population of 3,138 eligible voters.
26. The existing Rhydfelen Central/Ilan electoral ward is composed of the Ilan and Rhydfelen Central wards of the Town of Pontypridd. It has 3,033 electors (3,035 projected) represented by one councillor which is 32% above the recommended county average. The electoral ward has an estimated population of 3,435 eligible voters.
27. In its Draft Proposals the Commission proposed to create a new single member electoral ward encompassing the Rhydfelen Central area by utilising elements of the existing Hawthorn and Rhydfelen Central electoral wards as proposed by Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council in the Initial Consultation stage.
28. The Commission received two representations in response to the Draft Proposals regarding this area from Councillor Martin Fidler-Jones (Hawthorn) and Councillor Maureen Webber (Rhydfelen Central).
29. Councillor Martin Fidler-Jones (Hawthorn) opposed the Commission's Draft Proposals for the area and stated that the proposals made no use of natural boundaries and would be impossible to describe to residents going forward. Councillor Fidler-Jones suggested that, if the Commission continues with its proposals, then the Hawthorn electoral ward should be re-named 'Hawthorn and Lower-Rhydfelen' in order to acknowledge the significant portion of lower Rhydfelen that sits within the revised ward. Councillor Fidler-Jones proposed that the boundary changes submitted by him at the initial stage be taken forward as an alternative to the Commission's Draft Proposals.
30. Councillor Maureen Webber (Rhydfelen Central) supported the Commission's Draft Proposals. Councillor Webber advised that locally elected members of Pontypridd Town Council and Hawthorn and Lower Rhydfelen were fully supportive of the proposals. Councillor Webber also wrote that residents are pleased that Rhydfelen will now be recognised as an electoral ward as many felt it was not aligned to Hawthorn.
31. The Commission recommends to apply the boundaries as proposed at the Draft stage and as illustrated on page 18 to form a new single member electoral ward of 1,949 electors (1,949 projected) which, if represented by one councillor would result in a level of representation that is 15% below the recommended county average.
32. The Commission proposed the Welsh language name of Canol Rhydfelen; and the English language name of Rhydfelen Central. The Welsh Language Commissioner agreed with the proposed names. The Commission received no representations regarding the names.
33. The Commission has given the recommended electoral ward the Welsh language name of **Canol Rhydfelen**; and the English language name of **Rhydfelen Central**. Any comments on the recommended name can be sent to the Minister for Housing and Local Government.
34. The Commission, as a consequence, recommends that the remaining part of the Hawthorn electoral ward form an electoral ward of 1,803 electors (1,805 projected) which, if represented by one councillor, would result in a level of representation that is 22% below the recommended county average.

35. The Commission proposed the Welsh language name *Y Ddraenen Wen*; and the English language name of Hawthorn in the Draft Proposals. The Welsh Language Commissioner agreed with the proposed names. The Commission received one representation regarding the name from Councillor Martin Fidler-Jones. Councillor Fidler-Jones recommended using the name of *Hawthorn and Lower Rhydfelen*.
36. The Commission has given the recommended electoral ward the Welsh language name of **Y Ddraenen-wen a Rhydfelen Isaf**; and the English language name of **Hawthorn and Lower Rhydfelen**. The Welsh Language Commissioner agreed with the recommended name. Any comments on the recommended name can be sent to the Minister for Housing and Local Government.
37. The Commission, as a consequence, recommends that the remaining part of the Rhydfelen Central/Ilan electoral ward form an electoral ward of 2,397 electors (2,397 projected) which, if represented by one councillor, would result in a level of representation that is 4% above the recommended county average.
38. The Commission proposed the Welsh language name of **Rhydfelen Uchaf a Glyn-taf**; and the English language name of **Upper Rhydfelen and Glyn-taf**. The Welsh Language Commissioner agreed with the proposed names. The Commission received no representations regarding these names.
39. The Commission agrees with the recommendation made in the initial consultation period by Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council and supported by Councillor Maureen Webber (Rhydfelen Central) and the improvement in electoral parity. It is the view of the Commission that this scheme best addresses the existing levels of electoral variance in the area.
40. The Commission considers that this recommendation would be desirable in the interests of effective and convenient local government.
41. The Commission has also recommended changes to the electoral arrangements for Pontypridd Town Council, which can be seen at Chapter 7.

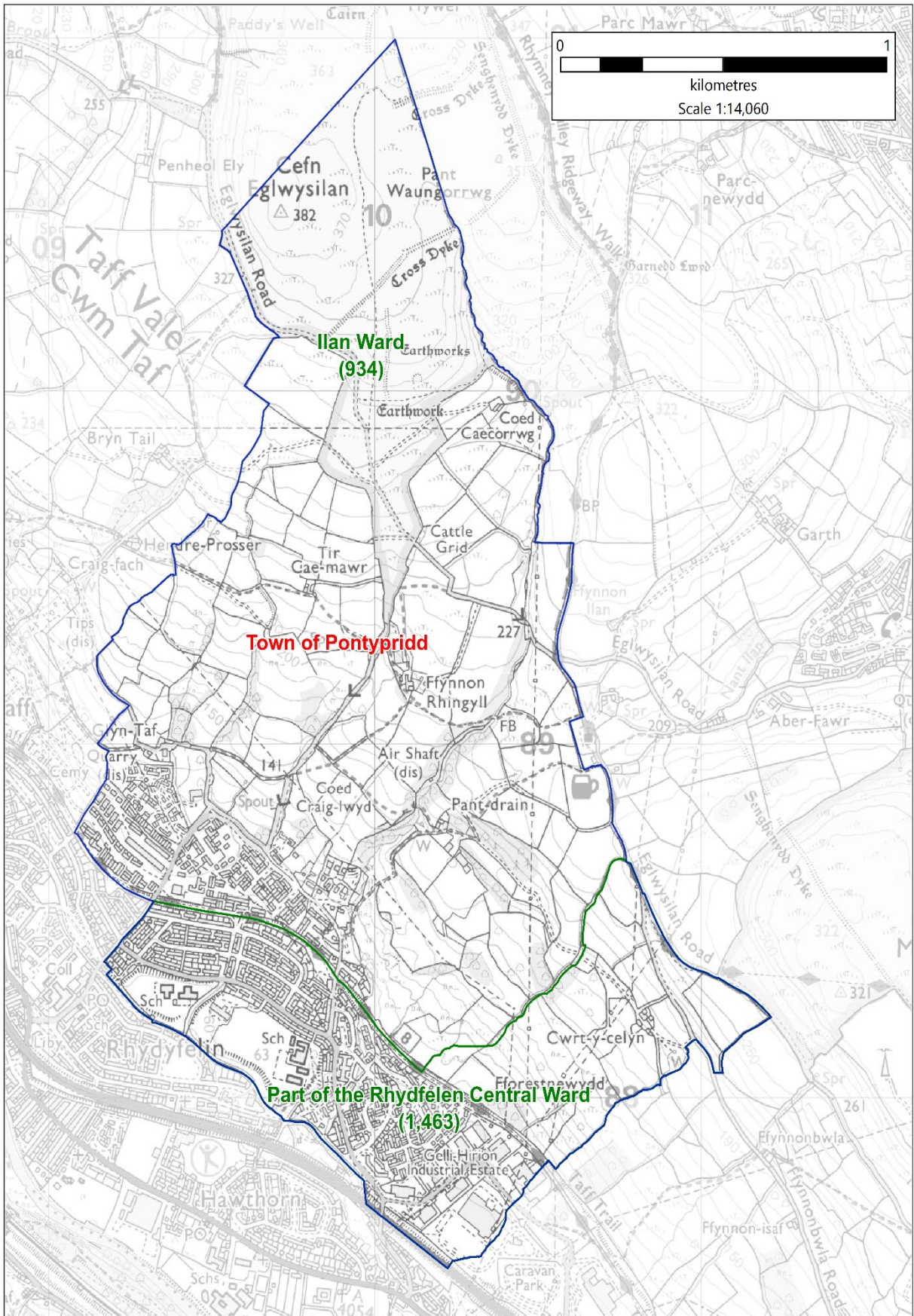
Rhydfelen Central



Hawthorn and Lower Rhydfelen



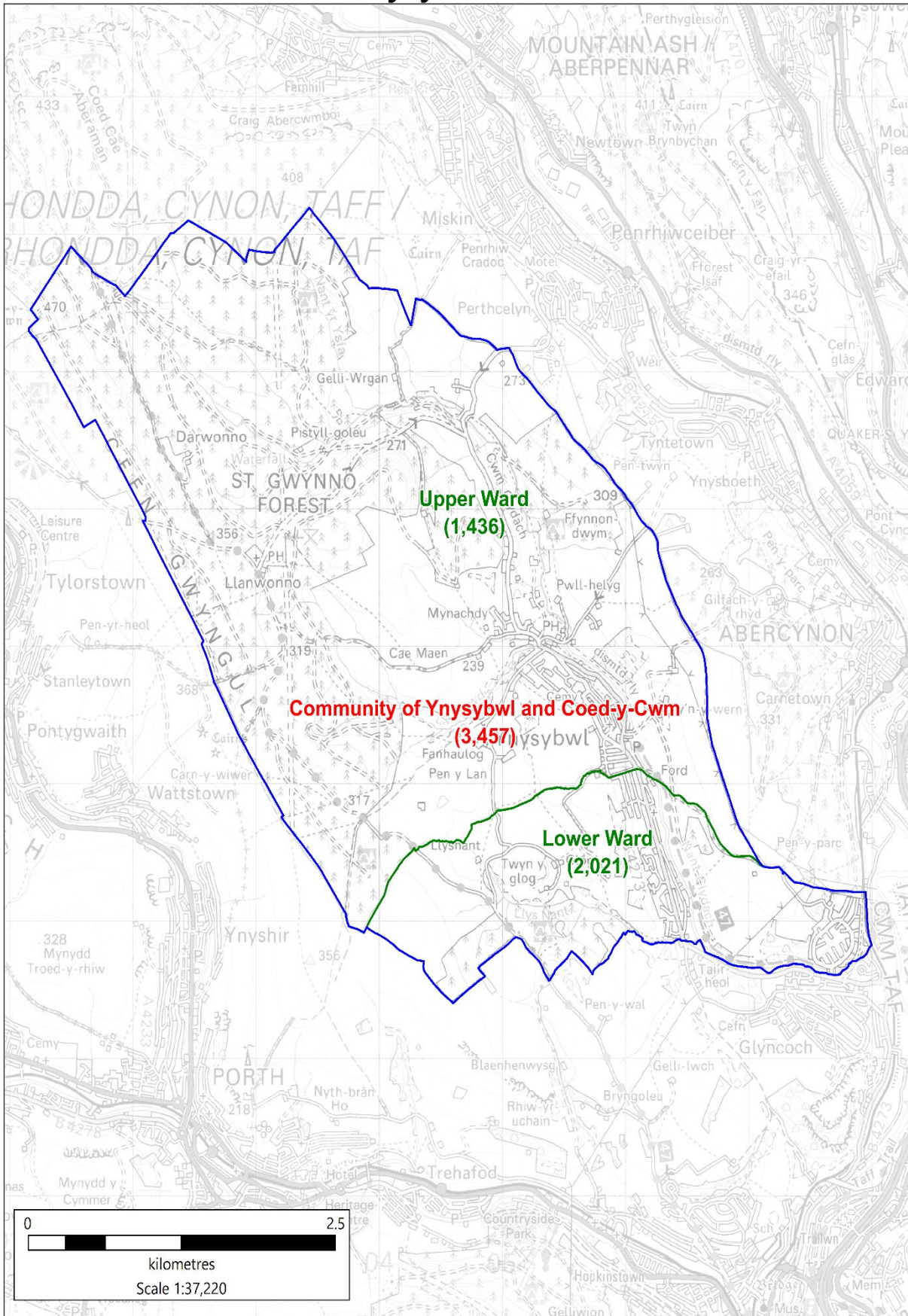
Upper Rhydfelen and Glyn-taf



Ynysybwl

42. The existing Ynysybwl electoral ward is comprised of the Community of Ynysybwl and Coed-y-Cwm. It has 3,457 electors (3,485 projected) represented by one councillor which is 50% above the recommended county average. The electoral ward has an estimated population of 3,619 eligible electors.
43. In its Draft Proposals the Commission proposed that the Community of Ynysybwl and Coed-y-Cwm be represented by two councillors (an increase of one) to form a two-member electoral ward.
44. The Commission received no representations in response to the Draft Proposals regarding this area.
45. The Commission recommends the Community of Ynysybwl and Coed-y-Cwm form an electoral ward with 3,457 electors (3,485 projected) which, if represented by two councillors (an increase of one), would result in a level of representation that is 25% below the recommended county average.
46. The Commission proposed the single name of Ynysybwl. The Welsh Language Commissioner suggested the single name of Ynys-y-bwl. The Welsh Language Commissioner stated that the hyphen is used in Welsh place-names when the Welsh definite article (y/yr) occurs before the final monosyllable; hyphens are used before and after the definite article in order to highlight the individual elements and aid pronunciation. The Commission received no representations with regards to the name in response to the Draft Proposals.
47. The Commission has given the recommended electoral ward the single name of **Ynysybwl**. The Welsh Language Commissioner considered the name and recommended the single name of Ynys-y-bwl. The Welsh Language Commissioner notes the hyphen is used in Welsh place-names when the Welsh definite article (y/yr) occurs before a final monosyllable; hyphens are used before and after the definite article in order to highlight the individual elements and aid pronunciation. Any comments on the recommended name can be sent to the Minister for Housing and Local Government.
48. It is the view of the Commission that providing Ynysybwl with an additional councillor successfully addresses the existing inappropriate level of variance within the ward.
49. The Commission considers that this recommendation would be desirable in the interests of effective and convenient local government.

Ynysybwl

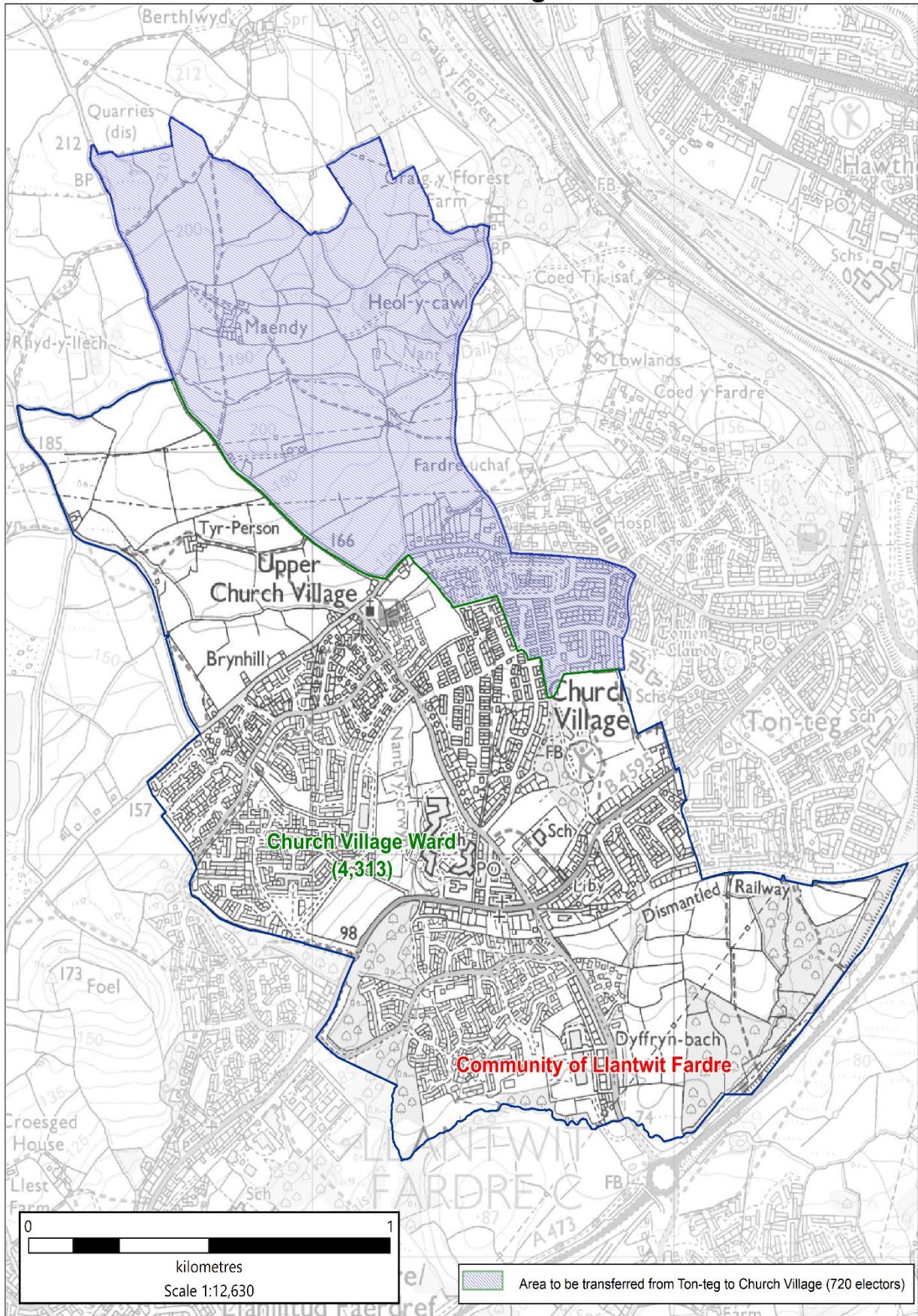


Church Village and Ton-teg

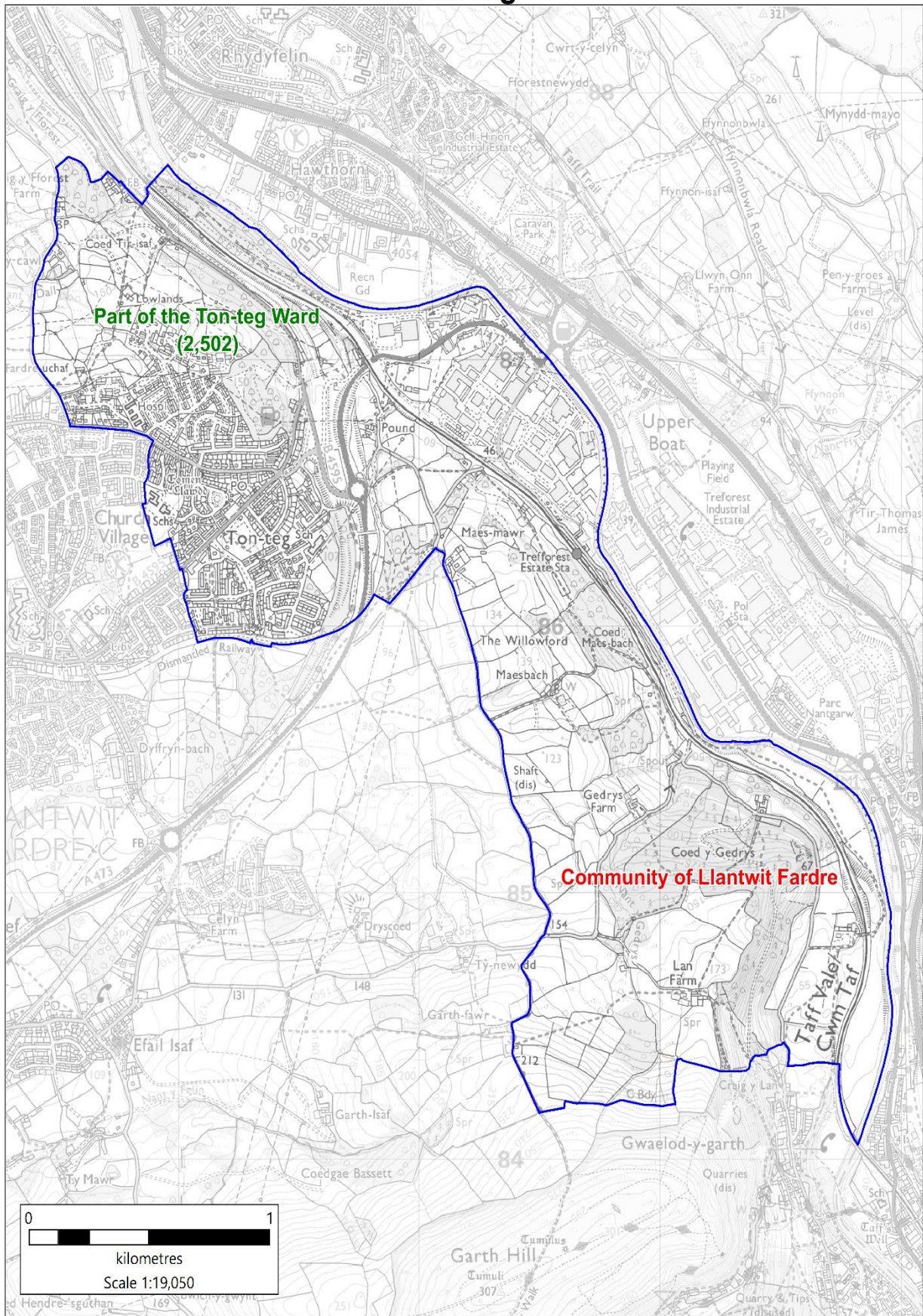
50. The existing Church Village electoral ward is comprised of the Church Village ward of the Community of Llantwit Fardre. It has 4,313 electors (4,350 projected) represented by one councillor which is 87% above the recommended county average. The electoral ward has an estimated population of 3,898 eligible electors.
51. The existing Ton-teg electoral ward is comprised of the Ton-teg ward of the Community of Llantwit Fardre. It has 3,222 electors (3,222 projected) represented by two councillors which is 30% below the recommended county average. The electoral ward has an estimated population of 3,282 eligible voters.
52. In its Draft Proposals the Commission adopted the proposal made to it by Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council. It proposed to re-align the boundary between Church Village and Ton-teg in order to transfer the area known as 'Upper Church Village' into the Church Village electoral ward. This proposal transfers 720 electors into the Church Village electoral ward. The Commission also proposed to allocate an additional councillor to the Church Village ward to form a two-member electoral ward.
53. The Commission received three representations in response to the Draft Proposals regarding this area from: The Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council Overview and Scrutiny Committee, Councillor Joel James (Llantwit Fardre) and Councillor Lewis Hooper (Ton-teg).
54. All of the representations received supported the Draft Proposal. The Rhondda Cynon Taf Overview and Scrutiny Committee's submission supported the proposal, however, included comments from Councillor Lewis Hooper. Councillor Hooper requested clarification that the boundary alteration proposed by the Commission did not transfer the areas of Bryn Rhedyn, The Rise and a small section of Church Road be retained in Ton-teg. Councillor Joel James was supportive of the Commission's Draft Proposals, provided they adhered to the boundary alteration requested by Councillor Lewis Hooper.
55. The Commission recommends that the boundary of the Church Village electoral ward be re-aligned as proposed in its Draft Proposals (and as illustrated on page 25) to form an electoral ward with 5,033 electors (5,070 projected) which, if represented by two councillors (an increase of one), would result in a level of representation that is 9% above the recommended county average.
56. The Commission proposed the Welsh language name of *Pentre'r Eglwys*; and the English language name of Church Village. The Welsh Language Commissioner agreed with the proposed name. The Commission received no representations regarding the name.
57. The Commission has given the recommended electoral ward the Welsh language name of **Pentre'r Eglwys**; and the English language name of **Church Village**. Any comments on the recommended name can be sent to the Minister for Housing and Local Government.
58. The Commission, as a consequence, proposes that the remainder of the Ton-teg electoral ward, as illustrated on page 26, would form an electoral ward with 2,502 electors (2,502 projected) which, if represented by one councillor (a reduction of one), would result in a level of representation that is 9% above the recommended county average.
59. The Commission proposed the single name of Ton-teg. The Welsh Language Commissioner agreed with the proposed name. The Commission received no representations regarding the name.

60. The Commission has given the recommended electoral ward the single name of **Ton-teg**. Any comments on the recommended name can be sent to the Minister for Housing and Local Government.
61. The Commission considers that this recommendation would provide for a significant improvement in electoral parity. The Commission also considers that the ward would build on the existing community, communication and social links.
62. The Commission has recommended the boundaries as suggested originally by Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council and Councillor Lewis Hooper.
63. The Commission considers that this recommendation would be desirable in the interests of effective and convenient local government.
64. The Commission has also recommended changes to the electoral arrangements for Pontypridd Town Council, which can be seen at Chapter 7.

Church Village



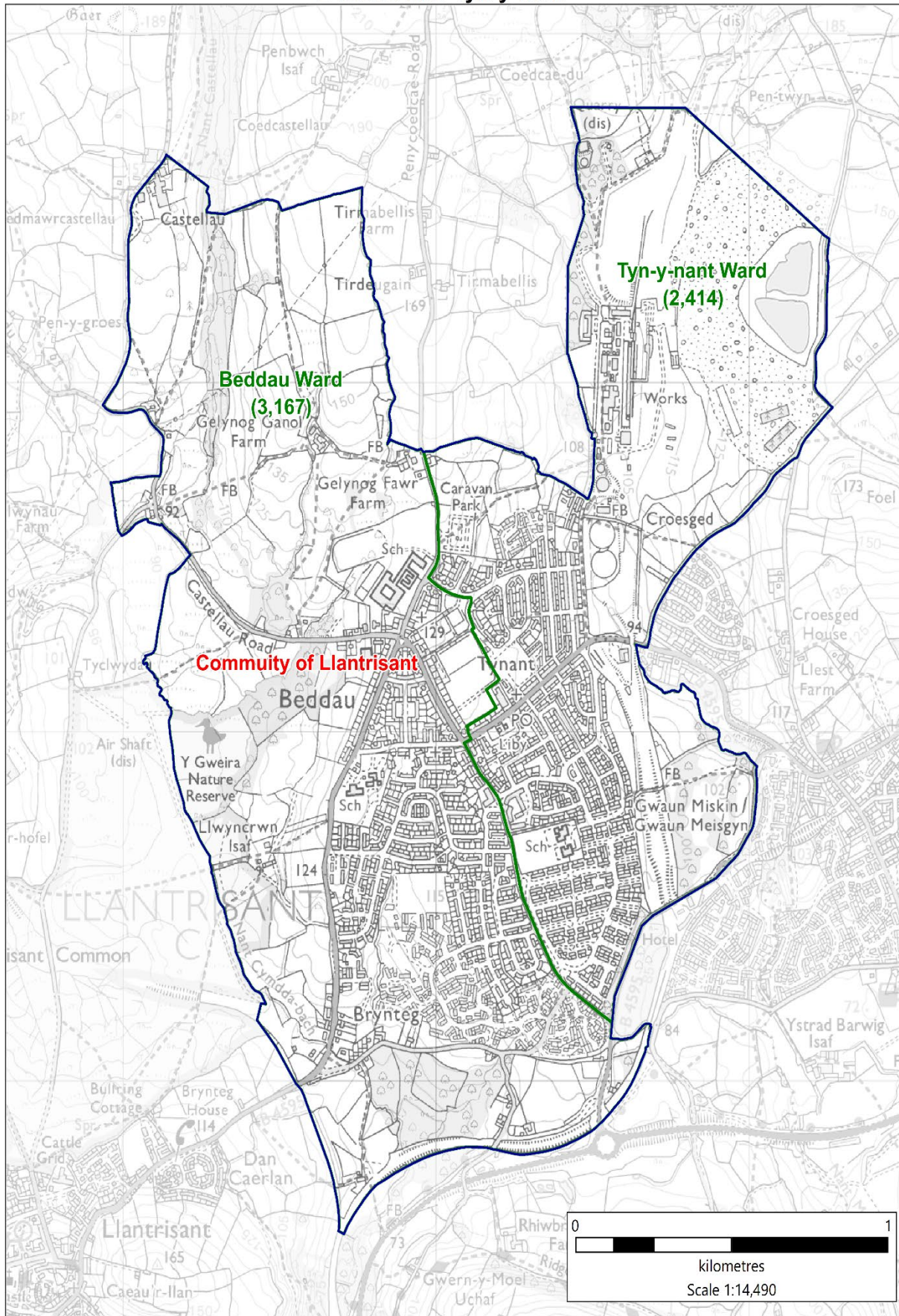
Ton-teg



Beddau and Tyn-y-nant

65. The existing Beddau electoral ward is comprised of the Beddau ward of the Community of Llantrisant. It has 3,167 electors (3,174 projected) represented by one councillor which is 38% above the recommended county average. The electoral ward has an estimated population of 3,575 eligible voters.
66. The existing Tyn-y-nant electoral ward is comprised of the Tyn-y-nant ward of the Community of Llantrisant. It has 2,414 electors (2,414 projected) represented by one councillor which is 5% above the recommended county average. The electoral ward has an estimated population of 2,657 eligible voters.
67. In its Draft Proposals the Commission proposed to combine the electoral wards of Beddau and Tyn-y-nant to form a two-member electoral ward as proposed by Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council in the Initial Consultation stage.
68. The Commission received one representation in response to the Draft Proposals regarding this area from Llantrisant Community Council.
69. Llantrisant Community Council proposed to include an additional (third) member to the proposed Beddau and Tyn-y-nant electoral ward to reflect the expanding housing development in the area.
70. The Commission recommends that the electoral wards of Beddau and Tyn-y-nant be combined to form an electoral ward with 5,581 electors (5,588 projected) which, if represented by two councillors, would result in a level of representation that is 21% above the recommended county average.
71. The Commission proposed the Welsh language name of Beddau a Thyn-y-nant and the English language name of Beddau and Tyn-y-nant. The Welsh Language Commissioner agreed with the proposed names. The Commission received no representations with regards to the name in response to the Draft Proposals.
72. The Commission has given the recommended electoral ward the Welsh language name of **Beddau a Thyn-y-nant** and the English language name of **Beddau and Tyn-y-nant**. Any comments on the recommended name can be sent to the Minister for Housing and Local Government.
73. The Commission considers that this recommendation provides significant improvements to electoral parity for the area whilst maintaining the same level of representation.
74. The Commission considered the representation received from Llantrisant Community Council to include an additional (third) member in the electoral ward. However, it is the view of the Commission that the recommended ward provides an appropriate solution to electoral variance in the ward and assists the Commission in attaining the Council Size Aim for the Review.
75. It is the view of the Commission that this recommendation would be desirable in the interests of effective and convenient local government.

Beddau and Tyn-y-nant

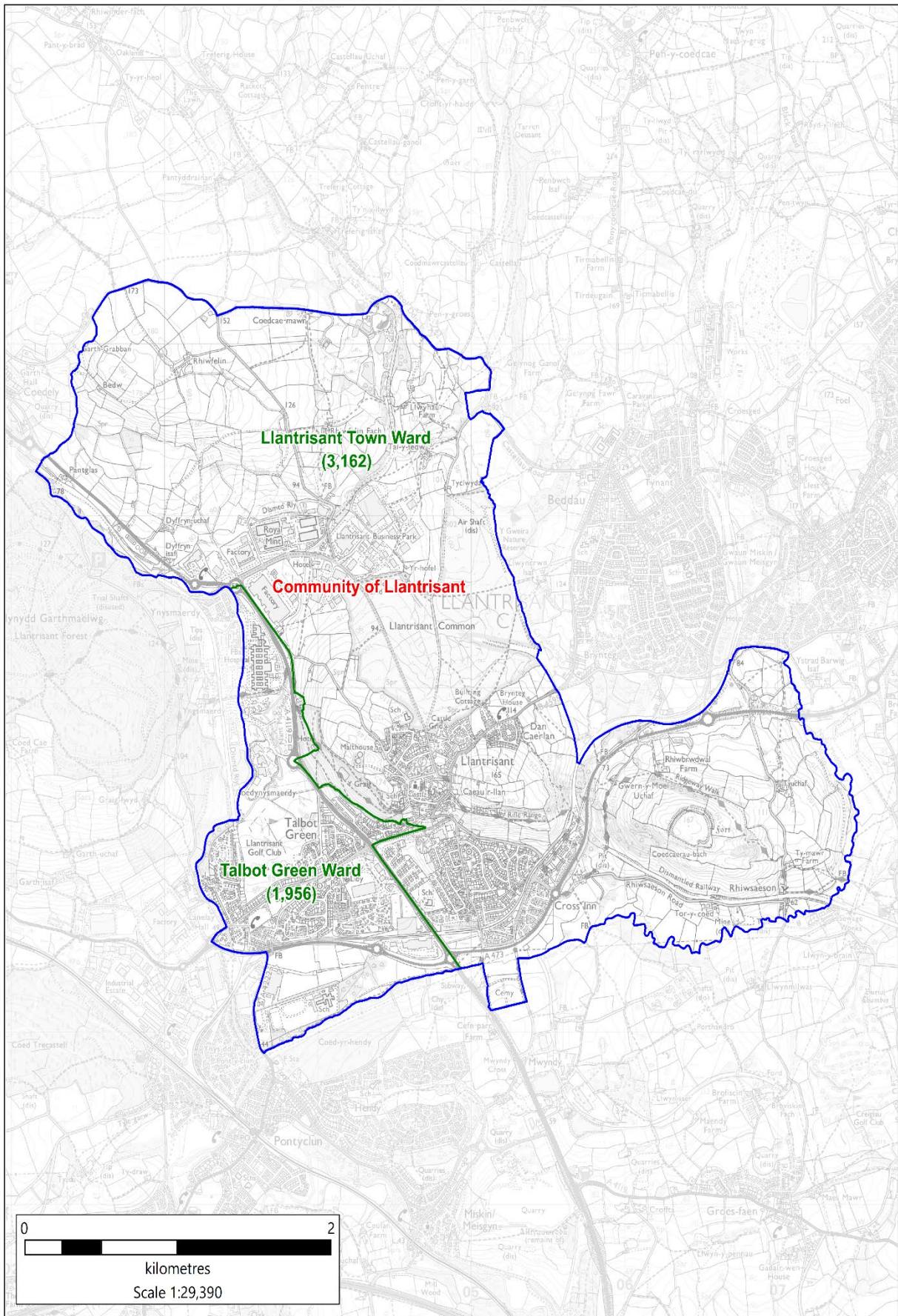


Llantrisant Town and Talbot Green

76. The existing Llantrisant Town electoral ward is comprised of the Llantrisant Town ward of the Community of Llantrisant. It has 3,162 electors (3,247 projected) represented by one councillor which is 37% above the recommended county average. The electoral ward has an estimated population of 3,935 eligible electors.
77. The existing Talbot Green electoral ward is comprised of the Talbot Green ward of the Community of Llantrisant. It has 1,956 electors (1,991 projected) represented by one councillor which is 15% below the recommended county average. The electoral ward has an estimated population of 2,302 eligible electors.
78. In its Draft Proposals the Commission proposed to combine the electoral wards of Llantrisant Town and Talbot Green to form a two-member electoral ward.
79. The Commission received two representations in response to the Draft Proposals regarding this area from: Llantrisant Community Council and Councillor Joel James (Llantwit Fardre).
80. Llantrisant Community Council suggested that the proposed Llantrisant Town and Talbot Green electoral ward be given the single name of Llantrisant.
81. Councillor Joel James (Llantwit Fardre) was broadly supportive of the Commission's Draft Proposals but asked for consideration to be given to including the development of Lanelay Hall within the electoral ward. Councillor James stated that the majority of Lanelay Hall's residents identify themselves as residents of Talbot Green and not Llanharan, which is some considerable distance away.
82. The Commission recommends that the Llantrisant Town and Talbot Green wards of the Community of Llantrisant be combined to form an electoral ward of 5,118 electors (5,238 projected) which, if represented by two councillors would result in a level of representation that is 11% above the recommended county average.
83. The Commission proposed the Welsh language name of Tref Llantrisant a Thonysguborion; and the English language name of Llantrisant Town and Talbot Green. The Welsh Language Commissioner proposed the Welsh language name of Tonysguboriau. The Commission received one representation regarding the name from Llantrisant Community Council who proposed the single name of Llantrisant be used.
84. The Commission has given the recommended electoral ward the Welsh language name of **Llantrisant a Thonysguboriau** and the English language name of **Llantrisant and Talbot Green** to reflect the representations received and the advice of the Welsh Language Commissioner regarding Talbot Green. Any comments on the recommended name can be sent to the Minister for Housing and Local Government.
85. The Commission considered the representation received from Councillor Joel James (Llantwit Fardre) regarding the inclusion of the Lanelay Hall development as part of the recommended Llantrisant Town and Talbot Green electoral ward. It is the view of the Commission that, since no public consultation takes place on its Final Recommendations, it is inappropriate to propose such changes which would involve external community boundaries. The Commission felt that this change would best be addressed as part of a community review under Section 31 of the Act, led by Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council.

86. The Commission considers that this recommended ward would provide significant improvement in electoral parity. The Commission also considers that the ward builds on the existing community, communication and social links.
87. The Commission considers that this recommendation would be desirable in the interests of effective and convenient local government.

Llantrisant and Talbot Green



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Llanharry and Pont-y-clun

88. The existing Llanharry electoral ward is comprised of the Community of Llanharry. It has 3,121 electors (3,167 projected) represented by one councillor which is 36% above the recommended county average. The electoral ward has an estimated population of 2,999 eligible electors.
89. The existing Pont-y-clun electoral ward is comprised of the Community of Pont-y-clun. It has 6,014 electors (6,873 projected) represented by two councillors which is 31% above the recommended county average. The electoral ward has an estimated population of 6,470 eligible electors.
90. In its Draft Proposals the Commission proposed to transfer the Tyle-garw ward of the Community of Llanharry to the Pont-y-clun electoral ward to form a three-member electoral ward as proposed by Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council in the Initial Consultation stage.
91. The Commission received 48 representations in response to the Draft Proposals regarding this area from: Llanharry Community Council, Pont-y-clun Community Council, Councillor Joel James (Llantwit Fardre), Councillor Margaret Griffiths (Pont-y-clun), the Rhondda Cynon Taf Labour Group and 43 local residents.
92. Pont-y-clun Community Council and Councillor Margaret Griffiths (Pont-y-clun) were broadly supportive of the Commission's Draft Proposals but requested that the electoral ward be divided into three single-member electoral wards of Pont-y-clun West, Pont-y-clun Central and Pont-y-clun East.
93. The Community Council and Councillor Griffiths proposed that the electoral ward of Pont-y-clun West include the town centre and the villages of Tyle-garw, Maesyfelin, Brynsadler and Talygarn.
94. Pont-y-clun Central would lie East of the railway line and include properties on Llantrisant Road including Ynys Ddu and houses lying off Heol Miskin, including Miskin village.
95. Pont-y-clun East would include residences approached from Ffordd Cefn yr Hendy and the village of Groes-faen. Most of the land with development potential in Pont-y-clun would lie within this ward.
96. The Community Council and Councillor Griffiths also proposed the ward names be *Pontyclun* as this form is widely accepted locally in both languages.
97. Councillor Joel James (Llantwit Fardre) supported the Commission's Draft Proposals for the area and supports the transfer of Tyle-garw to Pont-y-clun. Councillor James did not support the proposals put forward by other parties to create three single-member electoral wards for the revised Pont-y-clun electoral ward.
98. The Rhondda Cynon Taf Labour Group opposed the Commission's Draft Proposals for the area. The Labour Group proposes that the revised Pont-y-clun electoral ward be divided into three single-member electoral wards for Pont-y-clun West, Pont-y-clun Central and Pont-y-clun East, as suggested by Pont-y-clun Community Council.
99. Llanharry Community Council and 40 local residents of Rhondda Cynon Taf submitted a pro-forma letter of objection in opposition to the Commission's Draft Proposals. The pro-forma, issued by Llanharry Community Council, stated that the Commission's Draft Proposals

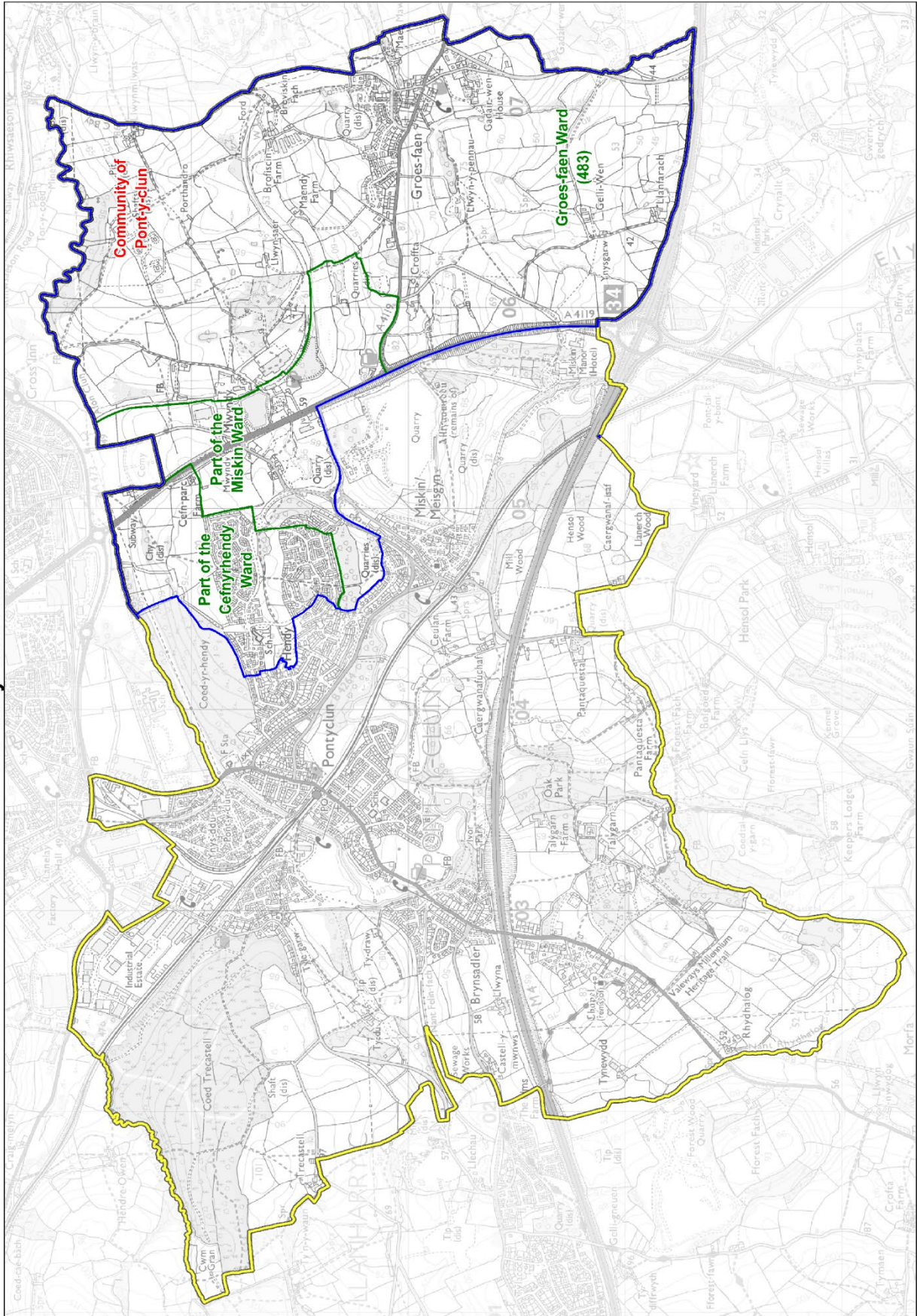
involved transferring the Community Ward of Tyle-garw to Pont-y-clun Community Council for representation. The pro-forma stated that this would impact the community council's ability to provide services to their residents and that the Council Tax precepts from Tyle-garw would be collected by Pont-y-clun Community Council in the future. The residents also cited numerous factors including community ties, historical links and local initiatives as reasons to retain Tyle-garw as part of Llanharry Community Council.

100. Three residents submitted representations in support of the Commission's Draft Proposals for Pont-y-clun.
101. The Commission responded individually to the letters of objection to explain that the proposals set out in this Review are for electoral wards and County Borough Council representation only and that Tyle-garw is to remain part of the Community of Llanharry. The Commission also released an article on its website which was highlighted on the Commission's social media accounts to clarify the situation. The Commission wrote to the community councils to clarify the proposals and asked them to update the information they provided to their residents.
102. The Commission recommends applying the boundaries as described in paragraph 94 above and as shown on page 36 to form an electoral ward of 1,778 electors (2,631 projected) which, if represented by one councillor, would result in a level of representation that is 23% below the recommended county average.
103. The Commission has given the recommended electoral ward the Welsh language name of **Dwyrain Pont-y-clun**; and the English language name of **Pont-y-clun East**. The Welsh Language Commissioner agreed with the proposed name. The Commission received two representations concerning the ward name from Pont-y-clun Community Council and Councillor Margaret Griffiths (Pont-y-clun) who requested that the form of *Pontyclun* be used in both languages. Any comments on the recommended name can be sent to the Minister for Housing and Local Government.
104. As a consequence, The Commission recommends applying the boundaries as described in paragraph 93 above and as shown on page 37 to form an electoral ward of 2,312 electors (2,312 projected) which, if represented by one councillor, would result in a level of representation that meets the recommended county average.
105. The Commission has given the recommended electoral ward the Welsh language name of **Canol Pont-y-clun**; and the English language name of **Pont-y-clun Central**. The Welsh Language Commissioner agrees with the proposed name. The Commission received two representations concerning the ward name from Pont-y-clun Community Council and Councillor Margaret Griffiths (Pont-y-clun) who requested that the form of *Pontyclun* be used in both languages. Any comments on the recommended name can be sent to the Minister for Housing and Local Government.
106. As a further consequence, The Commission recommends applying the boundaries as shown on page 38 and combining the area with the Tyle-garw ward of the Community of Llanharry to form an electoral ward of 2,522 electors (2,528 projected) which, if represented by one councillor, would result in a level of representation that is 10% above the recommended county average.
107. The Commission has given the recommended electoral ward the Welsh language name of **Gorllewin Pont-y-clun**; and the English language name of **Pont-y-clun West**. The Welsh

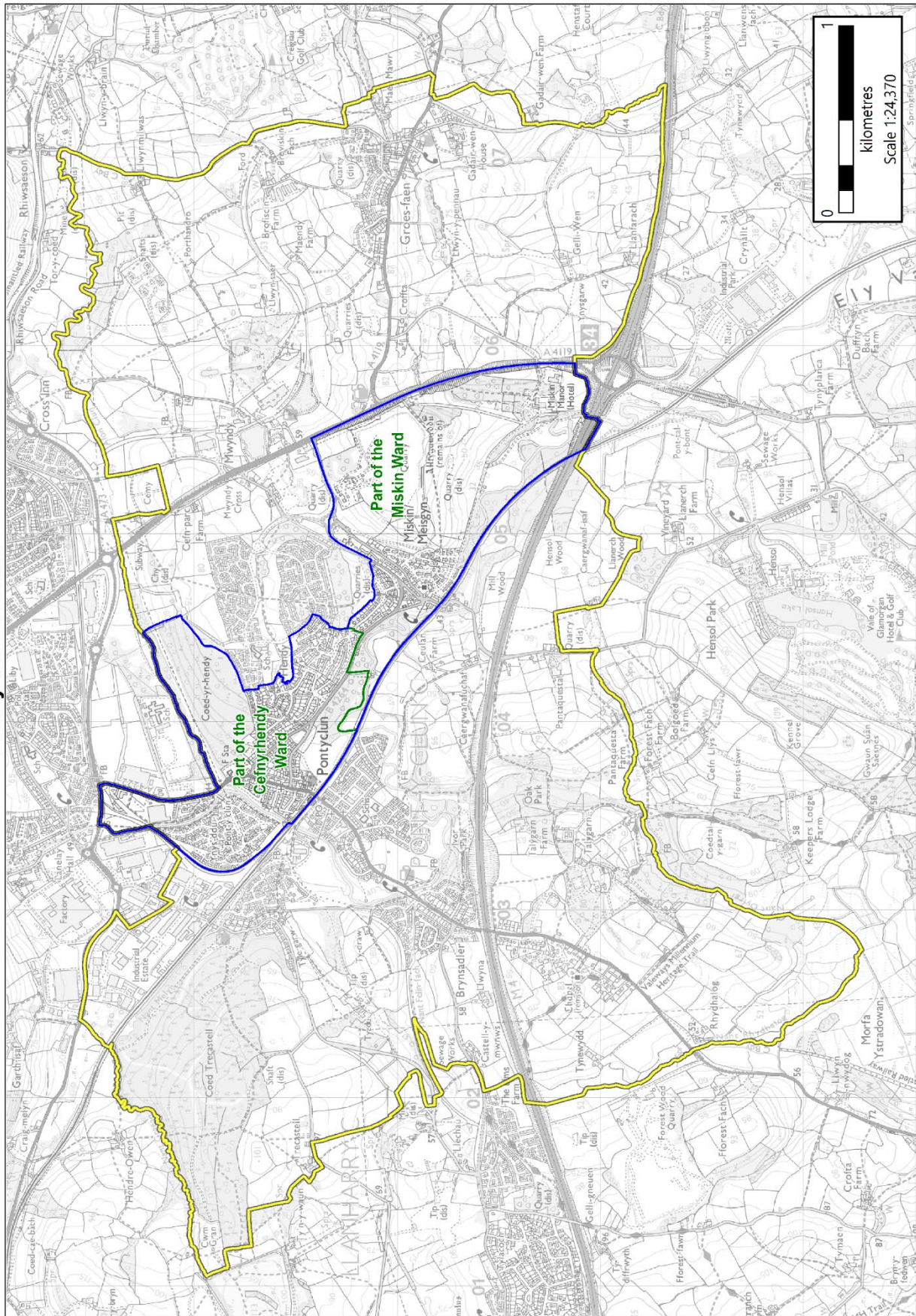
Language Commissioner agrees with the proposed name. The Commission received two representations concerning the ward name from Pont-y-clun Community Council and Councillor Margaret Griffiths (Pont-y-clun) who requested that the form of *Pontyclun* be used in both languages. Any comments on the recommended name can be sent to the Minister for Housing and Local Government.

108. The Commission, as a consequence, recommends that the Llanharry ward of the Community of Llanharry form an electoral ward of 2,523 electors (2,569 projected) which, if represented by one councillor, would result in a level of representation that is 10% above the recommended county average.
109. The Commission proposed the Welsh language name of Llanhari; and the English language name of Llanharry. The Welsh Language Commissioner considered the name and proposed the Welsh language name of Llanhari as Llanhari is the form recommended in the national standard reference work. The Commission received no representations with regards to the name in response to the Draft Proposals.
110. The Commission has given the recommended electoral ward the Welsh language name of **Llanhari**; and the English language name of **Llanharry**. The Welsh Language Commissioner agreed with the proposed name. Any comments on the recommended name can be sent to the Minister for Housing and Local Government.
111. The Commission agrees with the representations received from Pont-y-clun Community Council, Councillor Margaret Griffiths (Pont-y-clun) and three local residents who proposed to create three single-member electoral wards for Pont-y-clun.
112. The Commission considers that these arrangements provide for an improvement in electoral parity and could provide for effective electoral wards which could build on the community, communication and social links within the area.
113. The Commission considers that this recommendation would be desirable in the interests of effective and convenient local government.
114. The Commission has also recommended changes to the electoral arrangements for Pont-y-clun Town Council, which can be seen at Chapter 7.
115. The Commission is aware of the significant opposition to the proposal to include the Tylegarw ward of the Community of Llanharry in an electoral ward with part of the Pont-y-clun Community. However, this proposal is the only viable alternative to address the existing inappropriate level of electoral variance. The Commission would also like to reiterate that the arrangements proposed in this report are for electoral wards for representation at County Borough Council level only and do not affect existing community arrangements.

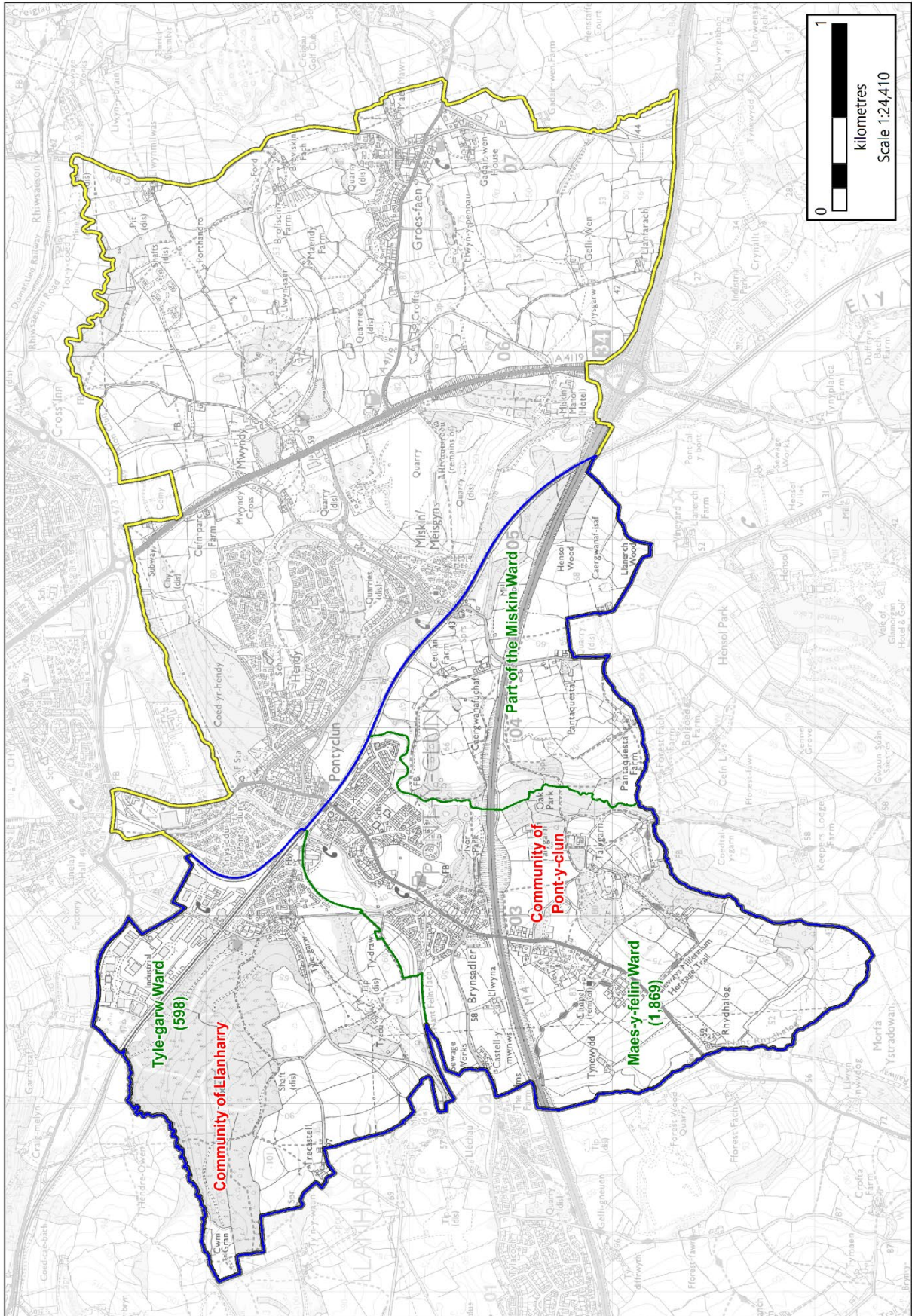
Pont-y-clun East



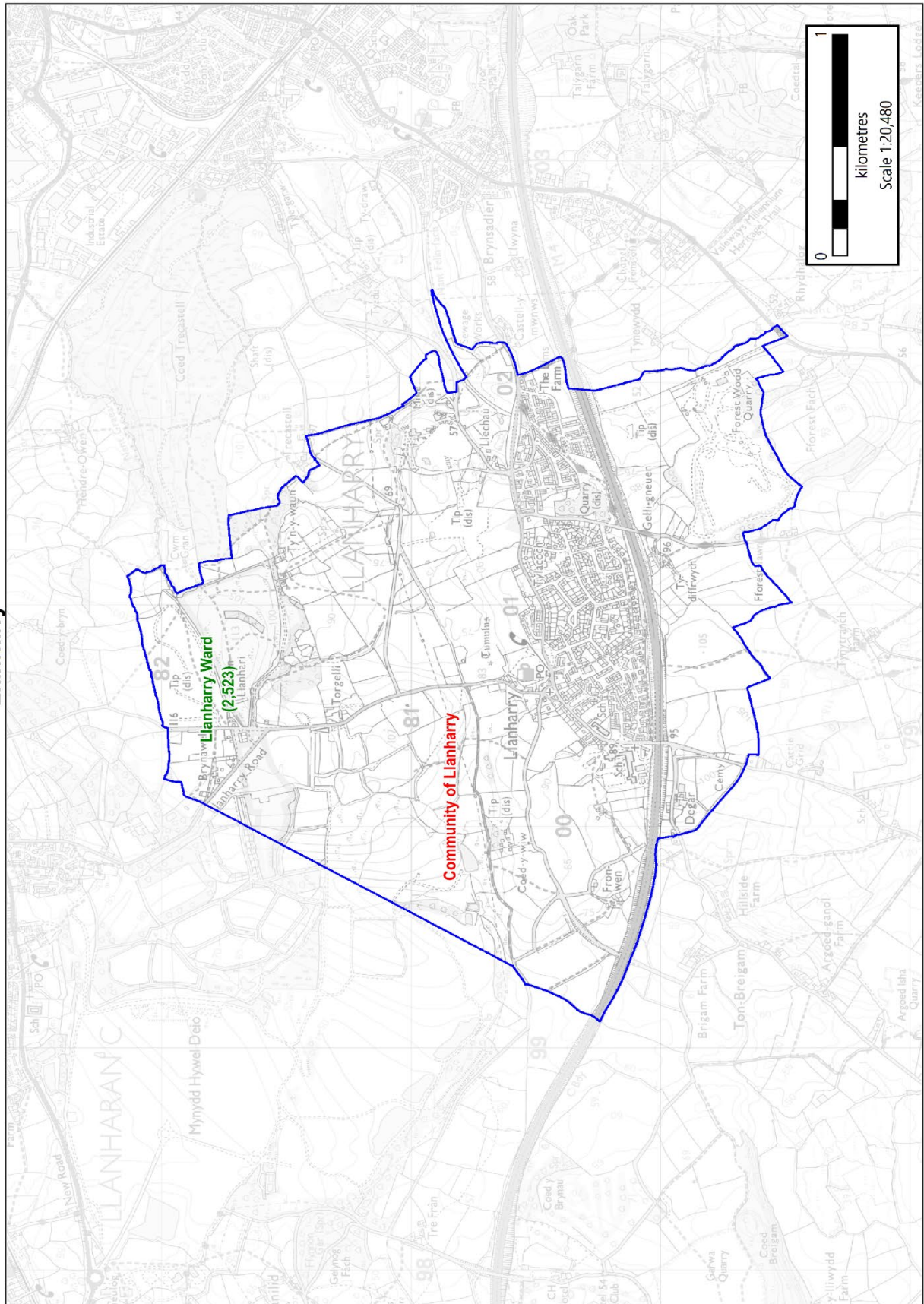
Pont-y-clun Central



Pont-y-clun West



Llanharry



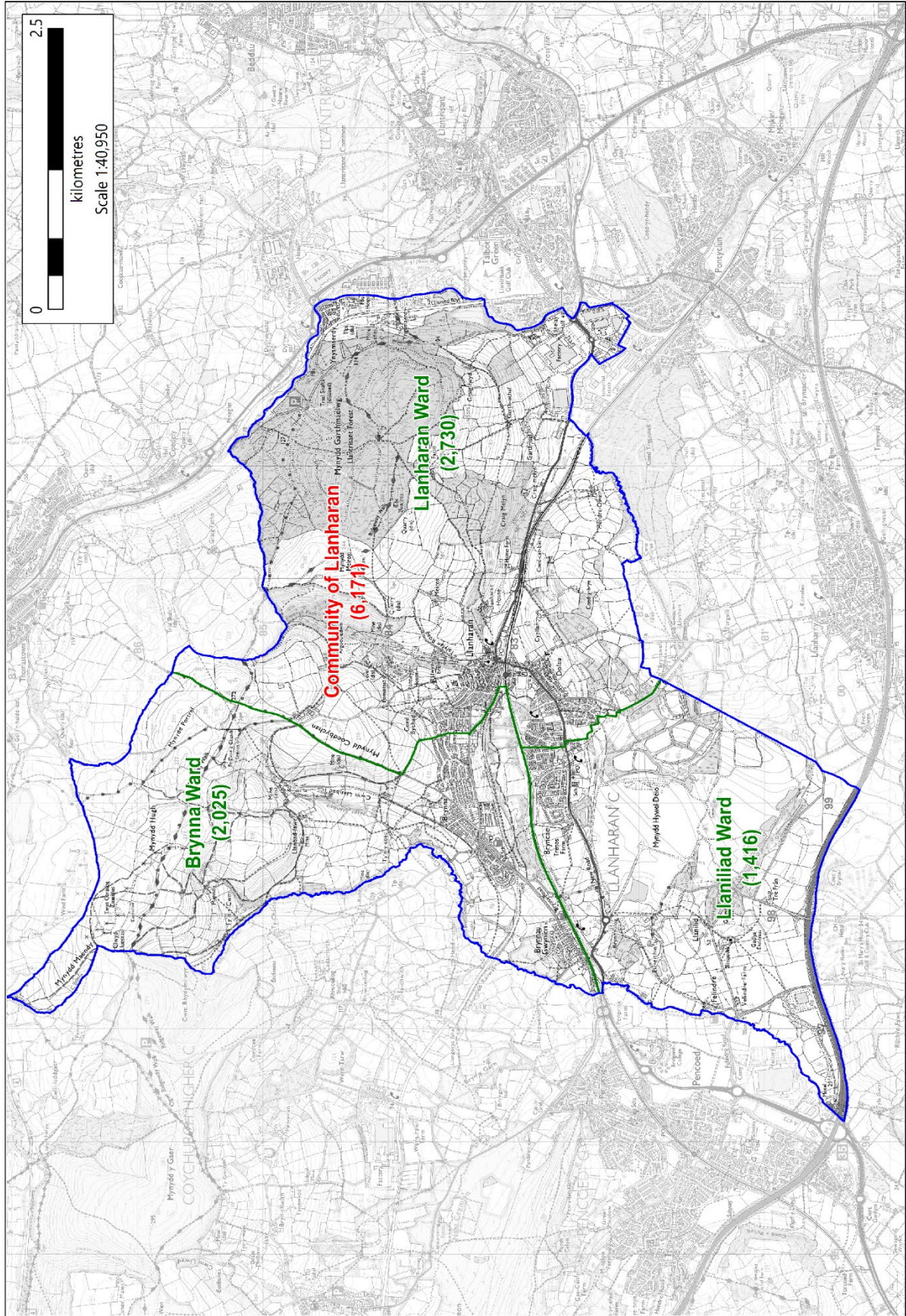
Bryнна and Llanharan

116. The existing Bryнна electoral ward is composed of the Bryнна and Llaniliad wards of the Community of Llanharan. It has 3,441 electors (4,237 projected) represented by one councillor which is 49% above the recommended county average. The electoral ward has an estimated population of 3,496 eligible electors.
117. The existing Llanharan electoral ward is comprised of the Llanharan ward of the Community of Llanharan. It has 2,730 electors (2,783 projected) represented by one councillor which is 19% above the recommended county average. The electoral ward has an estimated population of 2,717 eligible electors.
118. In its Draft Proposals the Commission proposed that the entirety of the Community of Llanharan form an electoral ward represented by three councillors in-line with Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council's alternative proposal submitted in the Initial Consultation stage.
119. The Commission received six representations in response to the Draft Proposals regarding this area from: the Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council Overview and Scrutiny Committee, Llanharan Community Council, Councillor Roger Turner (Bryнна), Councillor Joel James (Llantwit Fardre), Llanharan Community Councillor Jeff Williams and the Rhondda Cynon Taf Labour Group.
120. Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committee, Llanharan Community Council, Councillor Roger Turner and the Rhondda Cynon Taf Labour Group all opposed the Commission's Draft Proposal to create a single three-member ward for the Community of Llanharan. All the respondents advocated the creation of three single-member electoral wards for the community wards of Bryнна, Llanharan and Llaniliad.
121. Councillor Joel James (Llantwit Fardre) requested that consideration be given to transferring the development of Lanelay Hall from Llanharan to the recommended Llantrisant Town and Talbot Green electoral ward as he stated that many residents identify more closely with Talbot Green than Llanharan, which is some considerable distance away.
122. Llanharan Community Councillor Jeff Williams supported the Commission's Draft Proposal for the area. Councillor Williams stated that members of Llanharan Community Council work well together and run a community shop which donates its earnings equally among the Bryнна, Bryncae, Llanharan and Ynysmaerdy areas.
123. The Commission recommends that the Community of Llanharan form an electoral ward with 6,171 electors (7,020 projected) which, if represented by three councillors, would result in a level of representation that is 11% below the recommended county average.
124. The Commission proposed the Welsh language name of Bryнна a Llanharan; and the English language name of Bryнна and Llanharan. The Welsh Language Commissioner agreed with the name. The Commission received no representations with regards to the name in response to the Draft Proposals.
125. The Commission has given the recommended electoral ward the Welsh language name of **Bryнна a Llanharan**; and the English language name of **Bryнна and Llanharan**. Any comments on the recommended name can be sent to the Minister for Housing and Local Government.
126. The Commission considered the representations to create three single-member wards for the area, however, the Commission considers that the level of variance in the proposed Llaniliad

ward at 38% below the recommended county average would be inappropriate. It is the view of the Commission that this proposal provides for the best level of parity for the area and would build on the existing community, communication and social links within the ward.

127. The Commission considers that this recommendation would be desirable in the interests of effective and convenient local government.

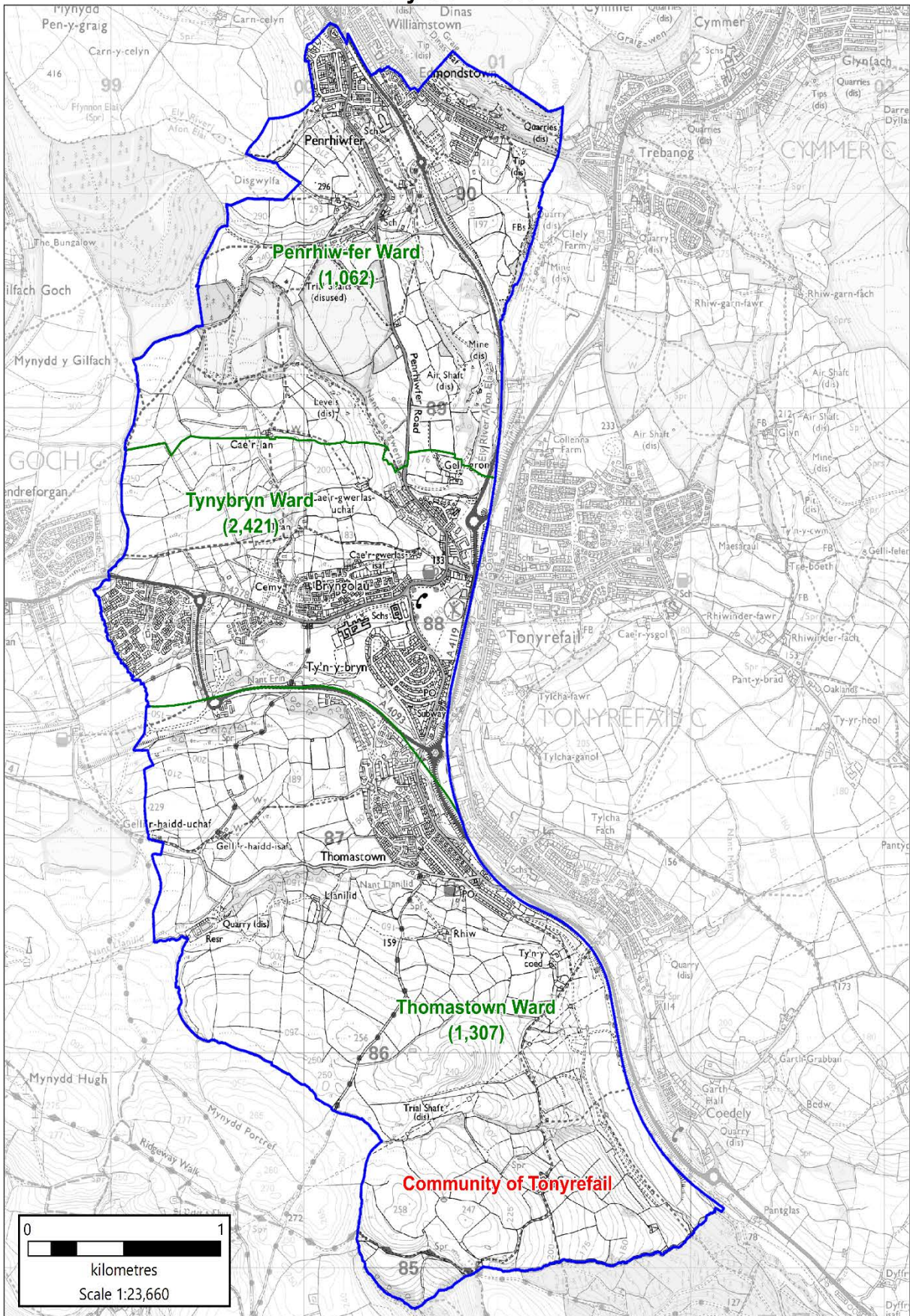
Bryna and Llanharan



Tonyrefail West

128. The existing Tonyrefail West electoral ward is composed of the Penrhiw-fer, Thomastown and Tynybryn wards of the Community of Tonyrefail. It has 4,790 electors (5,225 projected) represented by one councillor which is 108% above the recommended county average. The electoral ward has an estimated population of 5,145 eligible electors.
129. In its Draft Proposals the Commission proposed that the existing Tonyrefail West electoral ward form an electoral ward with two councillors (an increase of one) in order to improve electoral parity as proposed by Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council in the Initial Consultation stage.
130. The Commission received no representations in response to the Draft Proposals regarding this area.
131. The Commission recommends that the existing Tonyrefail West ward forms an electoral ward with 4,790 electors (5,225 projected) which, if represented by two councillors (an increase of one), would result in a level of representation that is 4% above the recommended county average.
132. The Commission proposed the Welsh language name of Gorllewin Tonyrefail; and the English language name of Tonyrefail West. The Welsh Language Commissioner agreed with the names. The Commission received no representations with regards to the name in response to the Draft Proposals.
133. The Commission has given the recommended electoral ward the Welsh language name of **Gorllewin Tonyrefail**; and the English language name of **Tonyrefail West**. Any comments on the recommended name can be sent to the Minister for Housing and Local Government.
134. The Commission considers this proposal provides significant improvement to electoral representation in the electoral ward. The Commission also considers that the proposed electoral ward builds on the existing community, communication and social links within the area.
135. The Commission considers that this recommendation would be desirable in the interests of effective and convenient local government.

Tonyrefail West

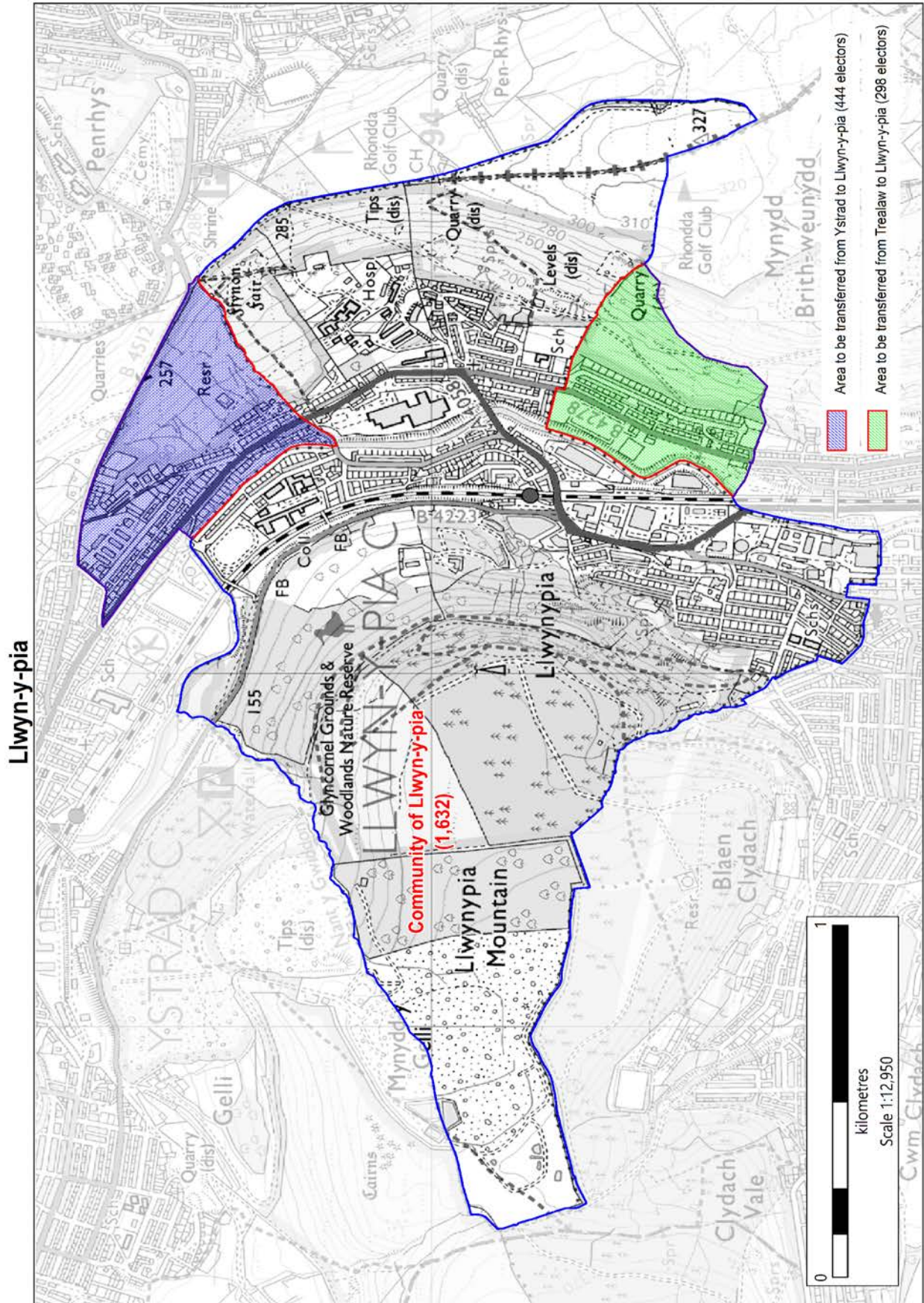


Llwynypia, Trealaw and Ystrad

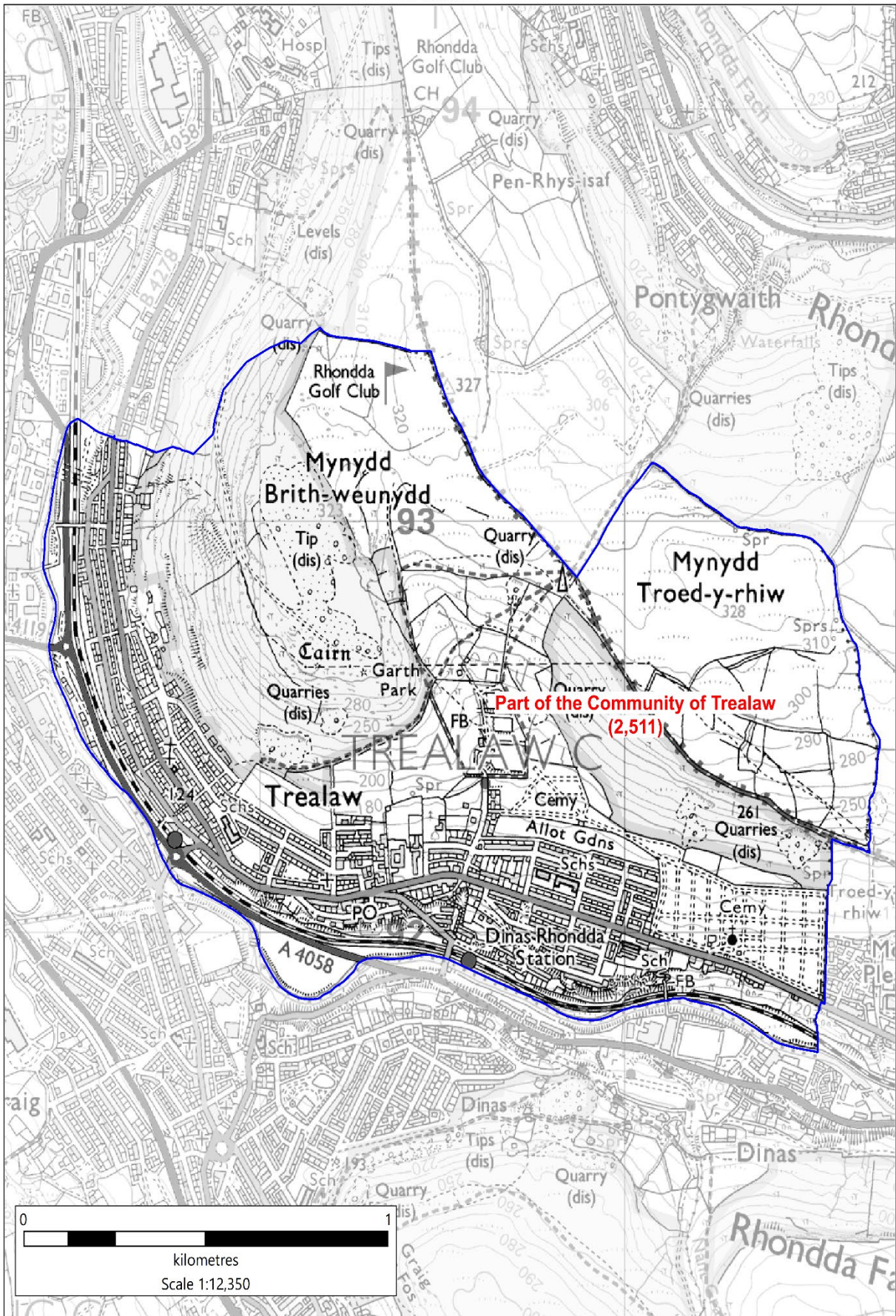
136. The existing Llwynypia electoral ward is comprised of the Community of Llwynypia. It has 1,632 electors (1,713 projected) represented by one councillor which is 29% below the recommended county average. The electoral ward has an estimated population of 1,858 eligible electors.
137. The existing Trealaw electoral ward is comprised of the Community of Trealaw. It has 2,809 electors (2,840 projected) represented by one councillor which is 22% above the recommended county average. The electoral ward has an estimated population of 3,244 eligible voters.
138. The existing Ystrad electoral ward is comprised of the Community of Ystrad. It has 4,248 electors (4,266 projected) represented by two councillors which is 8% below the recommended county average. The electoral ward has an estimated population of 4,630 eligible voters.
139. In its Draft Proposals the Commission proposed to extend the boundaries of the existing Llwynypia ward to include sections of the Trealaw and Ystrad electoral wards as suggested by Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council.
140. The Commission received no representations in response to the Draft Proposals regarding this area.
141. The Commission recommends that the boundaries of the Llwynypia electoral ward be extended as illustrated on page 49 to form an electoral ward with 2,374 electors (2,459 projected) which, if represented by one councillor, would result in a level of representation that is 3% above the recommended county average.
142. The Commission proposed the single name of Llwyn-y-pia. The Welsh Language Commissioner considered the name and proposed the single name of Llwynypia. The Commission received no representations with regards to the name in response to the Draft Proposals.
143. The Commission has given the recommended electoral ward the single name of **Llwyn-y-pia**. Any comments on the recommended name can be sent to the Minister for Housing and Local Government.
144. The Commission, as a consequence, recommends that the remainder of the Community of Trealaw form an electoral ward with 2,511 electors (2,542 projected) which, if represented by one councillor, would result in a level of representation that is 9% above the recommended county average.
145. The Commission proposed the single name Trealaw in the Draft Proposals. The Welsh Language Commissioner agreed with the proposed name. The Commission received no representations with regards to the name in response to the Draft Proposals.
146. The Commission has given the recommended electoral ward the single name of **Trealaw**. Any comments on the recommended name can be sent to the Minister for Housing and Local Government.
147. The Commission, as a further consequence, recommends that the remainder of the Community of Ystrad form an electoral ward with 3,804 electors (3,822 projected) which, if

represented by two councillors, would result in a level of representation that is 17% below the recommended county average.

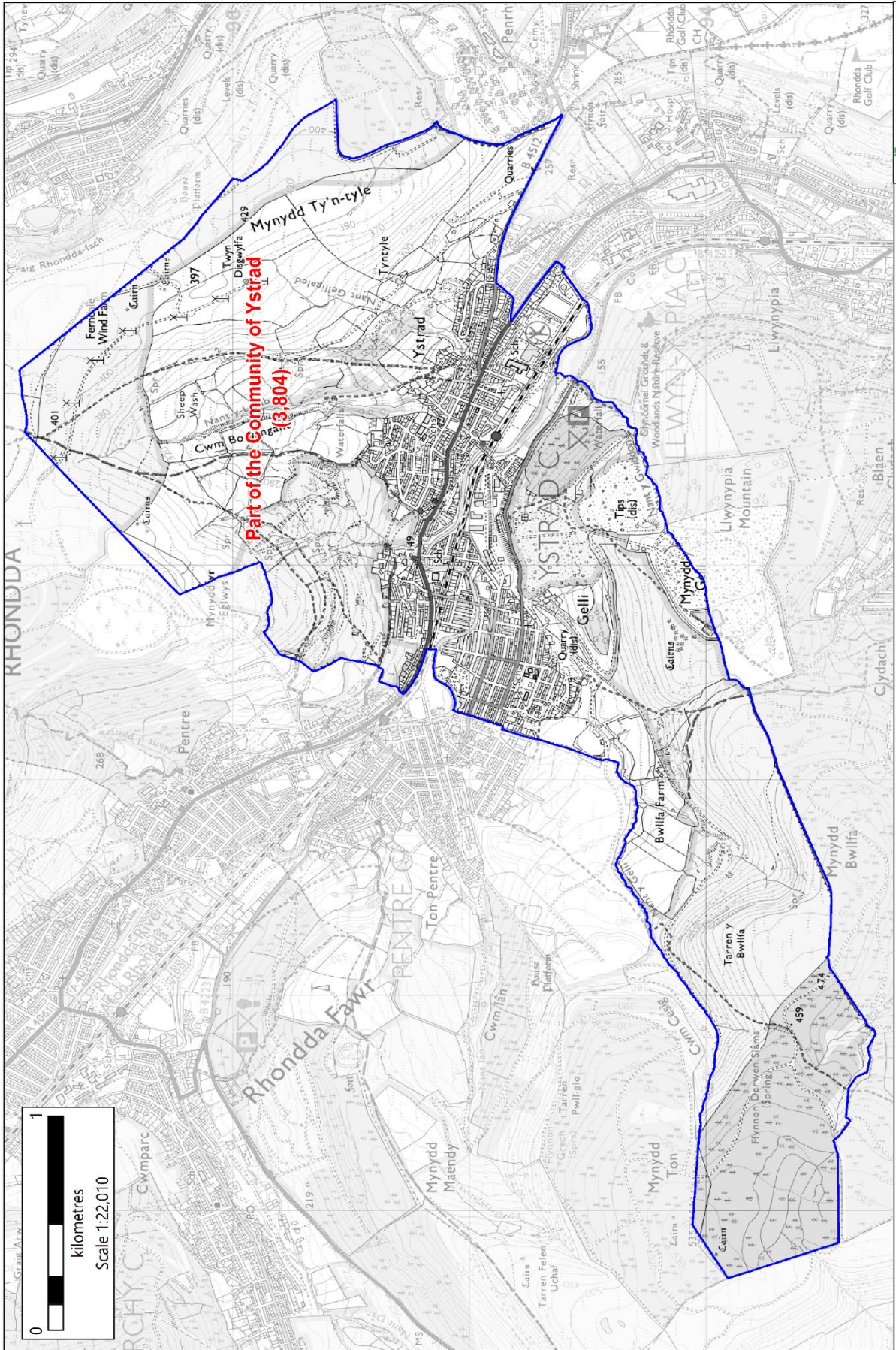
148. The Commission proposed the single name Ystrad in the Draft Proposals. The Welsh Language Commissioner agreed with the proposed name. The Commission received no representations with regards to the name in response to the Draft Proposals.
149. The Commission has given the recommended electoral ward the single name of **Ystrad**. Any comments on the recommended name can be sent to the Minister for Housing and Local Government.
150. It is the view of the Commission that this proposal aligns with Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council's majority proposal. It creates no split communities and provides improvements to electoral variance in the area. The proposed wards build on the existing community, communication and social links within the area.
151. The Commission considers that this recommendation would be desirable in the interests of effective and convenient local government.
152. The Commission has also recommended changes to the electoral arrangements for the Llwynypia, Trealaw and Ystrad Community areas, which can be seen at Chapter 7.



Trealaw



Ystrad

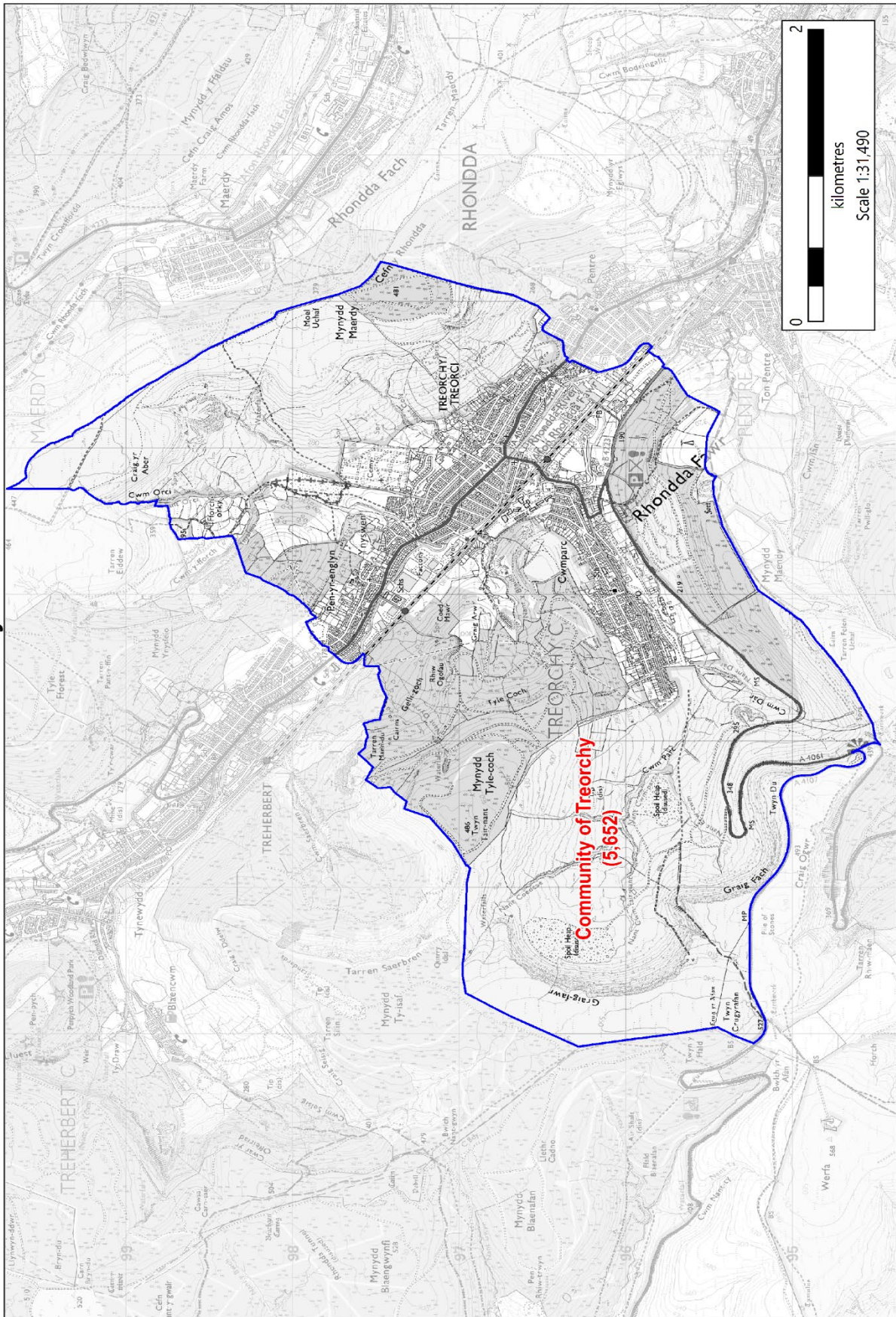


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Treorchy

153. The existing Treorchy electoral ward is comprised of the Community of Treorchy. It has 5,652 electors (5,750 projected) represented by three councillors which is 18% below the recommended county average. The electoral ward has an estimated population of 6,118 eligible voters.
154. In its Draft Proposals the Commission proposed to reduce the number of councillors representing the Treorchy electoral ward from three to two as proposed by Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council at the initial stage.
155. The Commission received three representations in response to the Draft Proposals concerning the area from: the Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council Overview and Scrutiny Committee, Leanne Wood AM and the Rhondda Plaid Cymru group.
156. The Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council Overview and Scrutiny Committee opposed the reduction of representation in the Treorchy electoral ward.
157. Leanne Wood AM opposed the reduction of representation in the Treorchy electoral ward on the basis that it would create a situation where the ward is under-represented by 24% where currently it is not the case. Ms Wood asked that the Commission reconsider its proposal for this ward and retain the existing three-member arrangement.
158. Rhondda Plaid Cymru Group opposed the reduction of representation in the Treorchy electoral ward. The group believes the loss of one councillor in the Treorchy ward will cause undue burden on the two councillors representing the area.
159. The Commission recommends that the Community of Treorchy form an electoral ward with 5,652 electors (5,750 projected) which, if represented by two councillors (a reduction of one) would result in a level of representation that is 23% above the recommended county average.
160. In its Draft Proposals the Commission proposed the Welsh language name of Treorci; and the English language name of Treorchy. The Welsh Language Commissioner agreed with the proposed names. The Commission received no representations with regards to the names in response to its Draft Proposals.
161. The Commission has given the recommended electoral ward the Welsh language name of **Treorci**; and the English language name of **Treorchy**. Any comments on the recommended name can be sent to the Minister for Housing and Local Government.
162. The Commission considered the representations received and the request to retain the existing three-member arrangement in the Treorchy electoral ward. However, it is the view of the Commission that this proposal, which was submitted by Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council at the initial consultation stage, provides for an effective electoral ward with good communication, community and social links. The projected electorate for the ward is expected to achieve a level of representation that is 21% above the recommended county average. It is the view of the Commission that this arrangement provides for appropriate levels of electoral parity for this area and is desirable in the interests of effective and convenient local government.

Treorchy



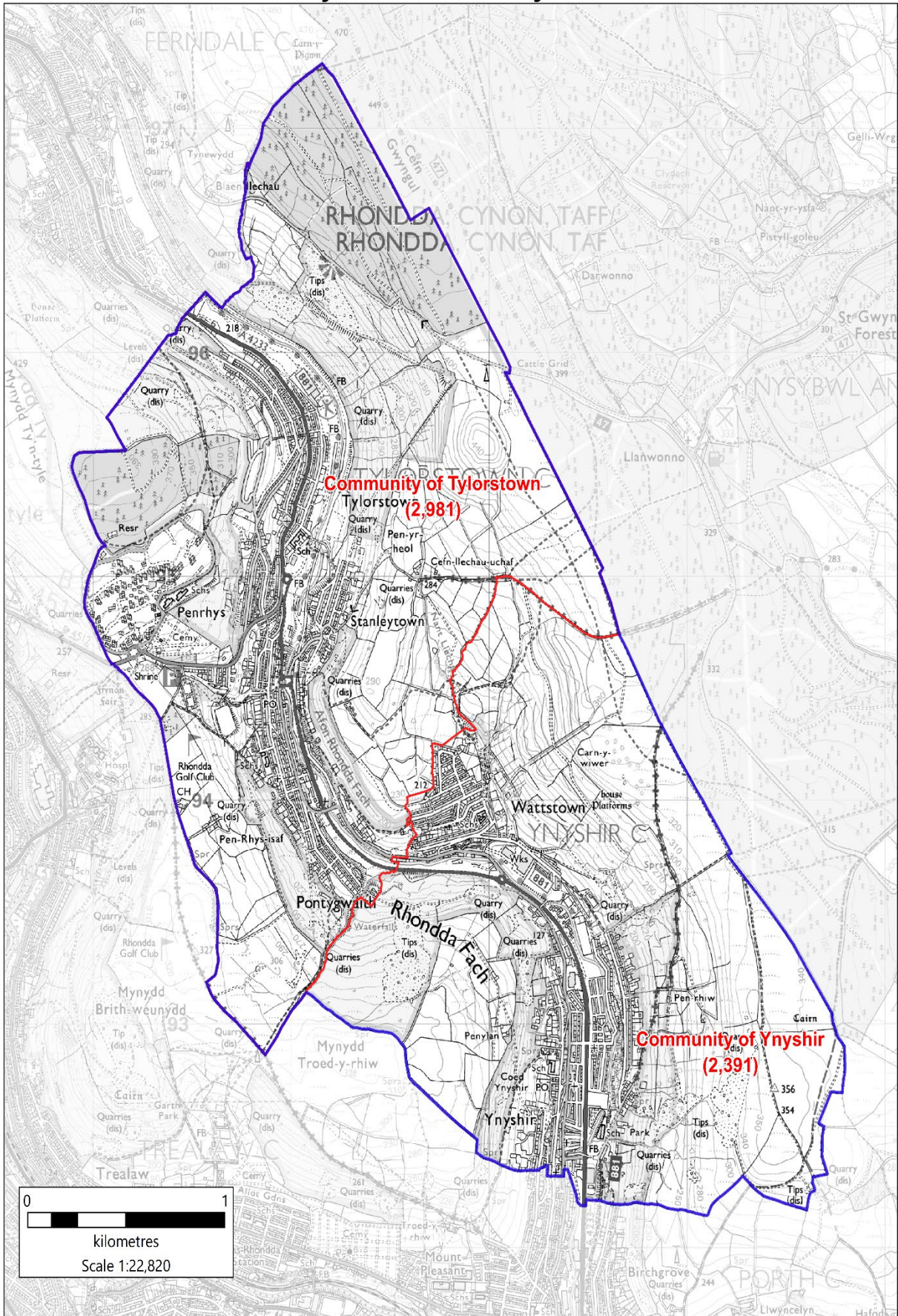
Community of Treorchy
(5,652)

Tylorstown and Ynyshir

163. The existing Tylorstown electoral ward is comprised of the Community of Tylorstown. It has 2,981 electors (3,034 projected) represented by two councillors which is 35% below the recommended county average. The electoral ward has an estimated population of 3,404 eligible voters.
164. The existing Ynyshir electoral ward is comprised of the Community of Ynyshir. It has 2,391 electors (2,398 projected) represented by one councillor which is 4% above the recommended county average. The electoral ward has an estimated population of 2,649 eligible voters.
165. In its Draft Proposals, the Commission proposed to combine the electoral wards of Tylorstown and Ynyshir to form a two-member electoral ward as proposed by Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council at the initial stage.
166. The Commission received seven representations in response to the Draft Proposals concerning the area from: the Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council Overview and Scrutiny Committee, Councillor Robert Bevan (Tylorstown), Councillor Darren Macey (Ynyshir), Rhondda Plaid Cymru group, the Rhondda Cynon Taf Labour Group and two residents of Rhondda Fach.
167. Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council Overview and Scrutiny Committee opposed the Commission's Draft Proposals. The Committee stated that the level of representation in these wards should remain as it currently stands. The Committee felt that reducing the number of members in the area would be to the detriment of residents who live in the area due to the increased size of the proposed wards and as there are no community councils in the area. The Committee also felt that local schools may suffer as they may end up with no councillor representation on their governing bodies.
168. Councillor Robert Bevan (Tylorstown) opposed the Commission's Draft Proposals. Councillor Bevan stated that residents are very reliant on their local council and councillors for support and the Commission's Draft Proposals will lead to further alienation from the democratic process. Councillor Bevan proposed that Tylorstown retain its existing two-member representation.
169. Councillor Darren Macey (Ynyshir) opposed the Commission's Draft Proposals. Councillor Macey recognised that there are issues around the number of residents currently represented by each councillor. Councillor Macey proposed that Ynyshir and Wattstown be represented by one councillor; Tylorstown and Ferndale to be represented by three councillors; and, for Maerdy to be represented by one councillor.
170. Rhondda Plaid Cymru Group opposed the Commission's Draft Proposals. Rhondda Plaid Cymru Group requested that the Ynyshir ward be retained and changes made to the Tylorstown and Ferndale wards to achieve the desired voter ratios.
171. The Rhondda Cynon Taf Labour Group opposed the Commission's Draft Proposals. The Group acknowledges that a direct merger between Tylorstown and Ynyshir creates the best outcome in terms of electoral representation; the Group states a preference to retain the existing level of representation in the Rhondda Fach. However, as this would prove problematic in the frame of the Commission's guidelines, the Group suggested an alternative proposal would be to reduce Tylorstown to a single-member ward and to retain the existing arrangements for Ynyshir.

172. A resident of Rhondda Fach opposed the Commission's Draft Proposals. The resident urged the Commission to reconsider its Draft Proposals retain the existing arrangement for Ynyshir. The Resident suggested that Ferndale and Blaenllechau should have a councillor and Tylorstown and Stanleytown should have a councillor along with Pontygwaith and Penrhys.
173. A resident of Rhondda Fach opposed the Commission's Draft Proposals. The resident objects to the combination of the Tylorstown and Ynyshir electoral wards as the Rhondda Fach is a deprivation hotspot with only two sub-wards not in the highest deprivation areas in Wales. The Ynyshir area is one of the highest deprivation areas, and by combining it with another high deprivation area, Tylorstown, would mean two of the most deprived wards in Wales combining. The resident questions how it makes sense to combine two deprived wards and then reduce the representation. The resident feels they already live in an invisible village.
174. The Commission recommends that the Communities of Tylorstown and Ynyshir be combined to form an electoral ward with 5,372 electors (5,432 projected) which, if represented by two councillors, would result in a level of representation that is 17% above the recommended county average.
175. In its Draft Proposals the Commission proposed the Welsh language name of Rhondda Fach Isaf; and the English language name of Rhondda Fach Lower. The Welsh Language Commissioner agreed with the name. The Commission received no representations concerning the name in response to the Draft Proposals.
176. Although the Commission received no representations concerning the ward name, the Commission acknowledged the representations to retain the identities of the wards in the area. The Commission has given the recommended electoral ward the Welsh language name of **Tylorstown ac Ynys-hir**; and the English language name of **Tylorstown and Ynyshir**. The Welsh Language Commissioner agreed with the proposed name. Any comments on the recommended name can be sent to the Minister for Housing and Local Government.
177. The Commission considered the representations received in opposition to its Draft Proposals and the potential alternative arrangements for the area. However, it is the view of the Commission that this option provides for the best arrangement for the area whilst also addressing electoral variance across the County Borough. Whilst the Commission acknowledges the arguments to retain the existing representation, it is felt that combining the electoral wards provides the most appropriate level of electoral parity for the area.
178. It is the view of the Commission that this proposal, which was submitted by Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council at the initial consultation stage, provides for arrangements which are in the interest of effective and convenient local government.

Tylorstown and Ynyshir

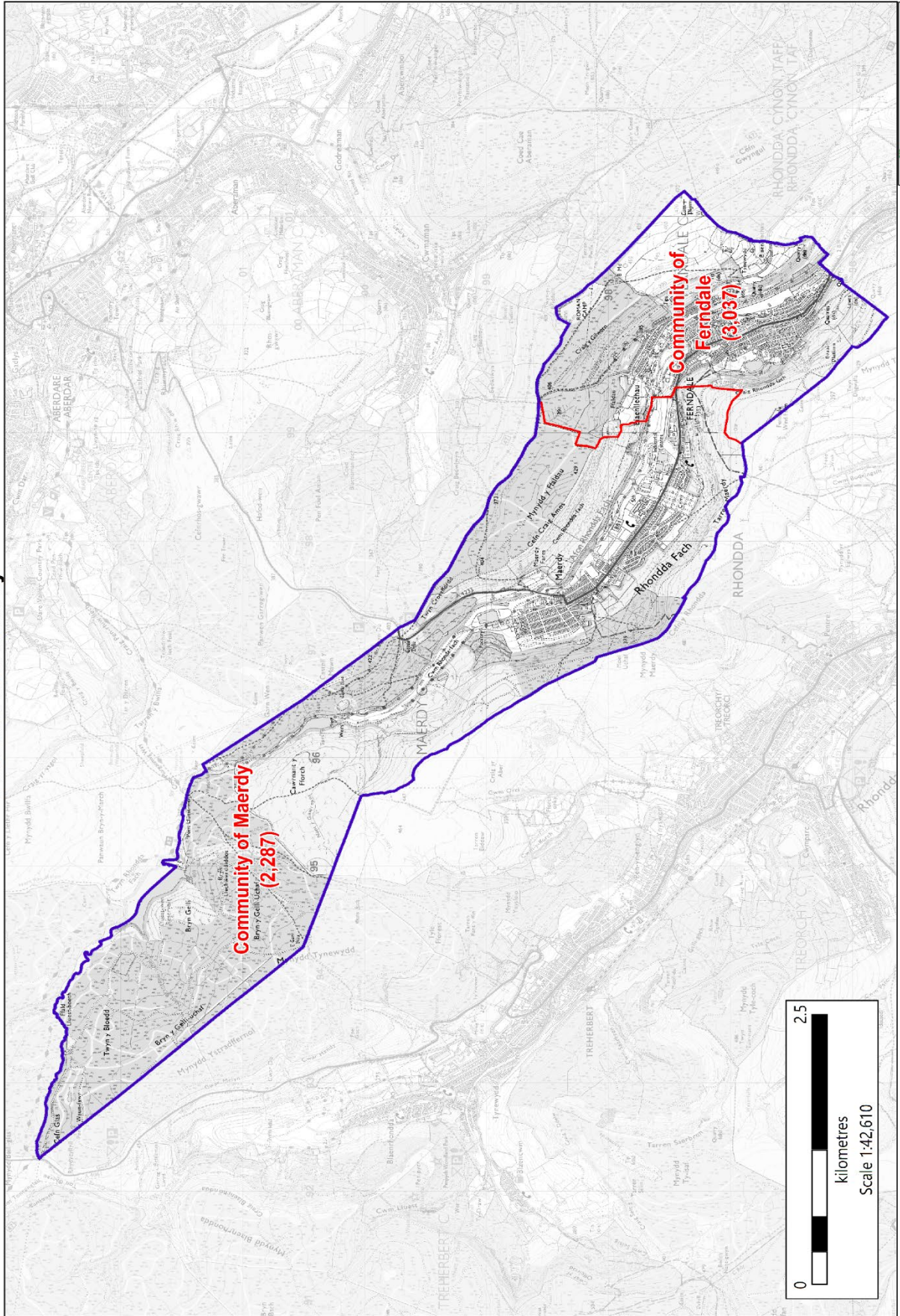


Ferndale and Maerdy

179. The existing Ferndale electoral ward is comprised of the Community of Ferndale. It has 3,037 electors (3,072 projected) represented by two councillors which is 34% below the recommended county average. The electoral ward has an estimated population of 3,369 eligible voters.
180. The existing Maerdy electoral ward is comprised of the Community of Maerdy. It has 2,287 electors (2,398 projected) represented by one councillor which is 1% below the recommended county average. The electoral ward has an estimated population of 2,387 eligible voters.
181. In its Draft Proposals the Commission proposed to combine the electoral wards of Ferndale and Maerdy to form a two-member electoral ward as proposed by Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council at the initial stage.
182. The Commission received four representations in response to the Draft Proposals concerning the area from: the Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council Overview and Scrutiny Committee, Councillor Darren Macey (Ynyshir), the Rhondda Plaid Cymru group and a resident of Rhondda Fach.
183. The Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council Overview and Scrutiny Committee opposed the Commission's Draft Proposals. The Committee stated that the level of representation in these wards should remain as it currently stands. The Committee felt that reducing the number of members in the area would be to the detriment of residents who live in the area due to the increased size of the proposed wards and as there are no community councils in the area. The Committee also felt that local schools may suffer as they may end up with no councillor representation on their governing bodies.
184. Councillor Darren Macey (Ynyshir) opposed the Commission's Draft Proposals. Councillor Macey recognises there are issues around the number of residents currently represented by each councillor. Councillor Macey proposes that Ynyshir and Wattstown be represented by one councillor; Tylorstown and Ferndale to be represented by three councillors; and, for Maerdy to be represented by one councillor.
185. Rhondda Plaid Cymru opposed the Commission's Draft Proposals. Rhondda Plaid Cymru Group requested that the Ynyshir ward be retained and changes made to the Tylorstown and Ferndale wards to achieve the desired voter ratios.
186. A resident of Rhondda Fach opposed the Commission's Draft Proposals. The resident objects to the combination of the Tylorstown and Ynyshir electoral wards as the Rhondda Fach is a deprivation hotspot with only two sub-wards not in the highest deprivation areas in Wales. The Ynyshir area is one of the highest deprivation areas, and by combining it with another high deprivation area, Tylorstown, would mean two of the most deprived wards in Wales combining. The resident questions how it makes sense to combine two deprived wards and then reduce the representation. The resident feels they already live in an invisible village.
187. The Commission recommends that the electoral wards of Ferndale and Maerdy be combined to form an electoral ward with 5,324 electors (5,470 projected) which, if represented by two councillors would result in a level of representation that is 16% above the recommended county average.

188. In its Draft Proposals the Commission proposed the Welsh language name of Rhondda Fach Uchaf; and the English language name of Rhondda Fach Upper. The Welsh Language Commissioner agreed with the proposed names. The Commission received no representations concerning the names in response to the Draft Proposals.
189. Although the Commission received no representations concerning the ward name, the Commission acknowledged the representations to retain the identities of the wards in the area. The Commission has given the recommended electoral ward the Welsh language name of **Glynrhedynog a'r Maerdy**; and the English language name of **Ferndale and Maerdy**. The Welsh Language Commissioner agreed with the proposed name. Any comments on the recommended name can be sent to the Minister for Housing and Local Government.
190. The Commission acknowledges the representations received in opposition to its Draft Proposals and the potential alternative arrangements for the area. Whilst the Commission acknowledges the arguments to retain the existing representation, it is felt that combining the electoral wards provides the most appropriate level of electoral parity for the area.
191. It is the view of the Commission that this proposal, which was submitted by Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council at the initial consultation stage, provides for arrangements which are in the interest of effective and convenient local government.

Ferndale and Maerdy



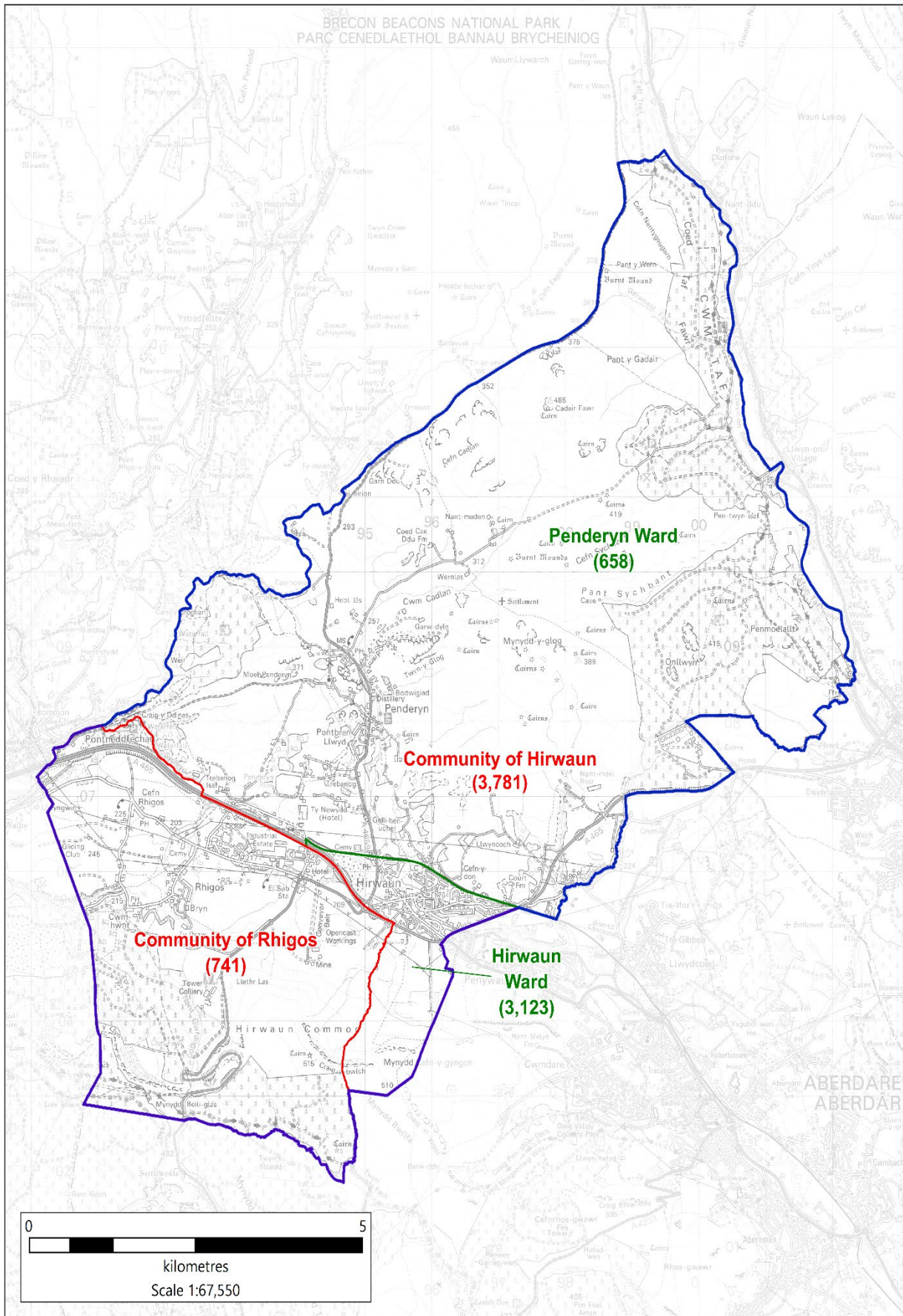
Hirwaun and Rhigos

192. The existing Hirwaun electoral ward is comprised of the Hirwaun ward of the Community of Hirwaun. It has 3,123 electors (3,239 projected) represented by one councillor which is 36% above the recommended county average. The electoral ward has an estimated population of 3,374 eligible voters.
193. The existing Rhigos electoral ward is composed of the Penderyn ward of the Community of Hirwaun and the Community of Rhigos. It has 1,399 electors (1,443 projected) represented by one councillor which is 39% below the recommended county average. The electoral ward has an estimated population of 1,441 eligible voters.
194. In its Draft Proposals the Commission proposed to combine the electoral wards of Hirwaun and Rhigos to form a two-member electoral ward.
195. The Commission received three representations in response to the Draft Proposals concerning the area from: the Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council Overview and Scrutiny Committee, Hirwaun and Penderyn Community Council and the Rhondda Cynon Taf Labour Group.
196. Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council Overview and Scrutiny Committee's representation included comments from the Hirwaun and Penderyn Community Council in opposition to the Commission's Draft Proposals. Comments supplied to the Council's Overview and Scrutiny Commission requested that the existing arrangements be retained when considering the land mass for these electoral wards. The land area in Rhigos amounts to eight or more times the size of Hirwaun which, along with the special qualities of the National Park, there is a strong case for Rhigos to remain as it is presently. The submission states that a natural boundary could be drawn to place a greater number of electors in Rhigos, but felt this should not be necessary given the substantive points raised. Should the proposed changes prevail, the Community Council believes the ward name should be Hirwaun, Penderyn and Rhigos to reflect the Community Council's name.
197. Hirwaun and Penderyn Community Council opposed the Commission's Draft Proposals. The Community Council states that each village has different needs and the current arrangements meet those needs well. The Community Council proposed the ward name of Hirwaun, Penderyn and Rhigos for the proposed ward.
198. The Rhondda Cynon Taf Labour Group opposed the Commission's Draft Proposals. The Group states that the existing Rhigos ward is unique when compared to other wards in Rhondda Cynon Taf. It contains the smallest electorate and covers the largest geographic area. The ward also contains a portion of the Brecon Beacons National Park which contributes to the ward under the Rural Development Fund. The group requested that the existing arrangements be retained.
199. The Commission recommends that the Communities of Hirwaun and Rhigos be combined to form a two-member electoral ward with 4,522 electors (4,682 projected) which, if represented by two councillors would result in a level of representation that is 2% below the recommended county average.
200. In its Draft Proposals, the Commission proposed the Welsh language name of Hirwaun a'r Rhigos; and the English language name of Hirwaun and Rhigos. The Welsh Language Commissioner agreed with the names. The Commission received one representation with

regards to the name in response to the Draft Proposals from Hirwaun and Penderyn Community Council.

201. Hirwaun and Penderyn Community Council proposed the name of Hirwaun, Penderyn and Rhigos for the electoral ward. The Community Council stated that the name of the ward should also reflect the name of the Community Council representing the area, and that the proposed name was no more convoluted than the proposed Llantrisant and Talbot Green or Upper Rhydfelen and Glyntaf ward names.
202. The Commission has given the recommended electoral ward the Welsh language name of **Hirwaun, Penderyn a'r Rhigos**; and the English language name of **Hirwaun, Penderyn and Rhigos**. The Welsh Language Commissioner agreed with the proposed name. Any comments on the recommended name can be sent to the Minister for Housing and Local Government.
203. The Commission acknowledges the representations received in opposition to the Draft Proposals and the unique nature of the existing electoral wards. However, it is the view of the Commission that the existing arrangements retain highly inappropriate levels of electoral variance. Combining the two wards while maintaining representation of two councillors provides for a significant improvement to electoral parity without altering the overall representation.
204. It is the view of the Commission that this arrangement provides for an electoral ward that is in the interests of effective and convenient local government.

Hirwaun, Penderyn and Rhigos

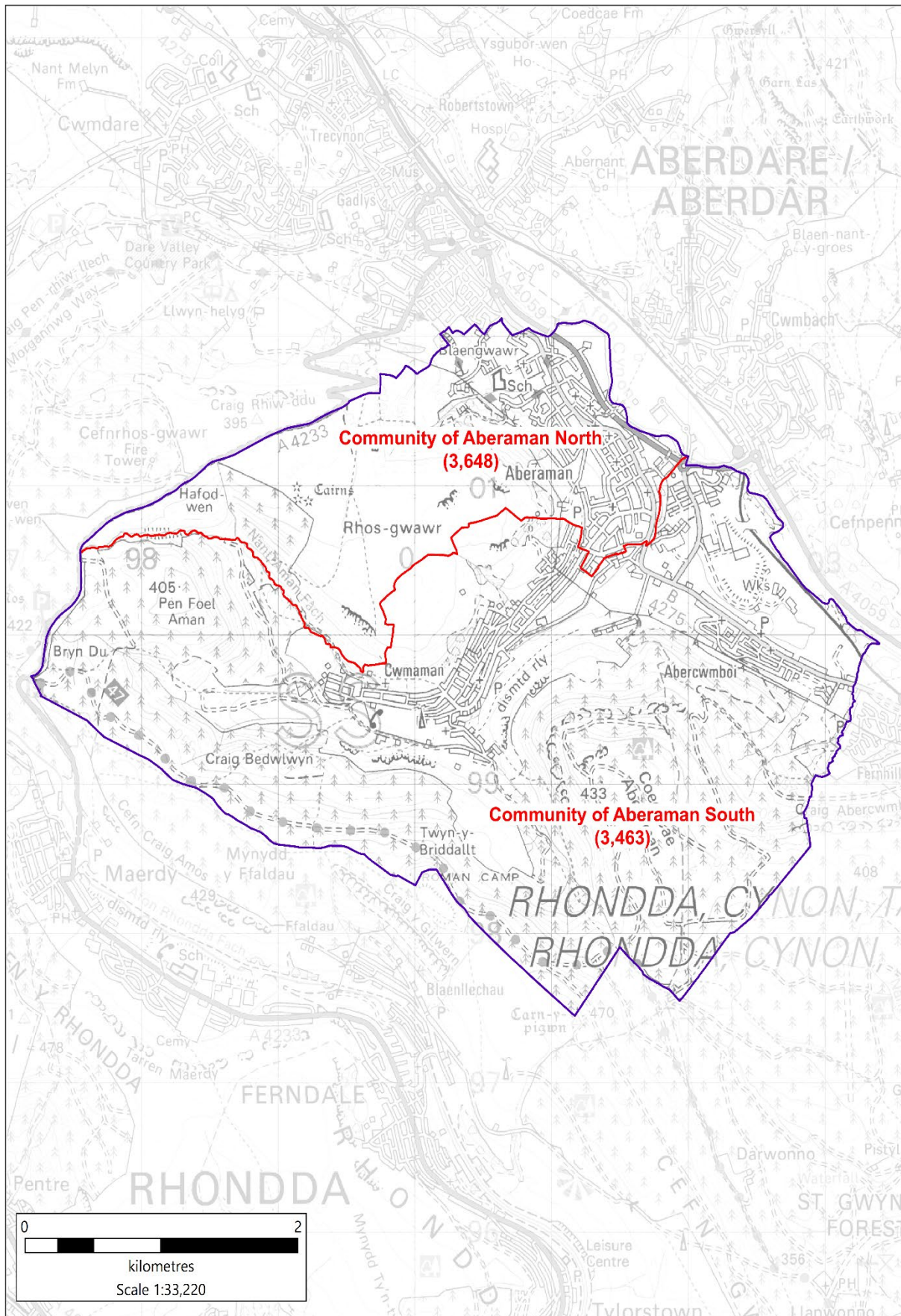


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Aberaman North and Aberaman South

205. The existing Aberaman North electoral ward is comprised of the Community of Aberaman North. It has 3,648 electors (3,781 projected) represented by two councillors which is 21% below the recommended county average. The electoral ward has an estimated population of 4,143 eligible voters.
206. The existing Aberaman South electoral ward is comprised of the Community of Aberaman South. It has 3,463 electors (3,609 projected) represented by two councillors which is 25% below the recommended county average. The electoral ward has an estimated population of 3,758 eligible voters.
207. In its Draft Proposals the Commission proposed to combine the electoral wards of Aberaman North and Aberaman South to form a three-member electoral ward (a reduction of one member) as proposed by Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council in the Initial Consultation stage.
208. The Commission received no representation in response to the Draft Proposals concerning the area.
209. The Commission recommends that the Communities of Aberaman North and Aberaman South be combined to form an electoral ward with 7,111 electors (7,390 projected) which, if represented by three councillors, would result in a level of representation that is 3% above the recommended county average.
210. In its Draft Proposals the Commission proposed the single name of Aberaman. The Welsh Language Commissioner agreed with the proposed name. The Commission received no representations concerning the name in response to its Draft Proposals.
211. The Commission has given the recommended ward the single name of **Aberaman**. Any comments on the recommended name can be sent to the Minister for Housing and Local Government.
212. The Commission agrees with the submission originally made by Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council that this proposal provides for significant improvement in electoral parity in the area.
213. It is the view of the Commission that this proposal is desirable in the interest of effective and convenient local government.

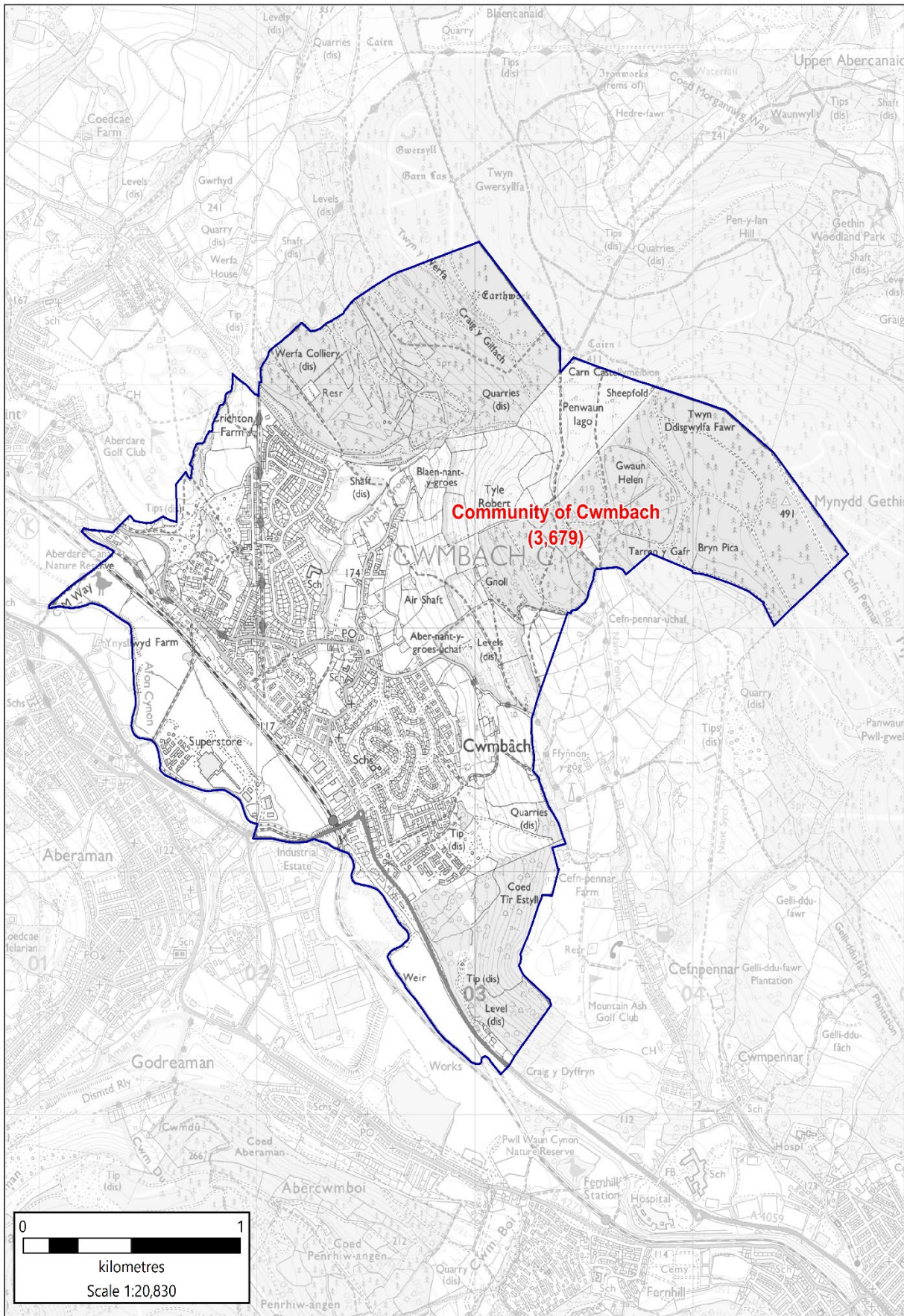
Aberaman



Cwmbach

214. The existing Cwmbach electoral ward is comprised of the Community of Cwmbach. It has 3,679 electors (3,959 projected) represented by one councillor which is 60% above the recommended county average. The electoral ward has an estimated 3,940 eligible voters.
215. In its Draft Proposals the Commission proposed that the Cwmbach electoral ward be represented by two members (an increase of one) as proposed by Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council in the Initial Consultation stage.
216. The Commission received no representations in response to the Draft Proposals concerning the area.
217. The Commission recommends that the Community of Cwmbach form an electoral ward with 3,679 electors (3,959 projected) which, if represented by two councillors (an increase of one), would result in a level of representation that is 20% below the recommended county average.
218. In its Draft Proposals the Commission proposed the single name of Cwmbach. The Welsh Language Commissioner considered the name and proposed Cwm-bach as this is the form recommended by the Gazeteer of Welsh Place Names. The hyphen is often used in Welsh place names to aid pronunciation by showing that stress does not fall on the penultimate syllable. The Commission received no representations in response to the Draft Proposals concerning the name.
219. The Commission has given the recommended electoral ward the single name of **Cwmbach**. Any comments on the recommended name can be sent to the Minister for Housing and Local Government.
220. This proposal provides significant improvement to electoral parity in the ward and received support of representations at the Initial consultation stage. The Commission believes that the proposed electoral ward would build on the existing community, communication and social links within the Cwmbach electoral ward.
221. It is the view of the Commission that this proposal is desirable in the interest of effective and convenient local government.

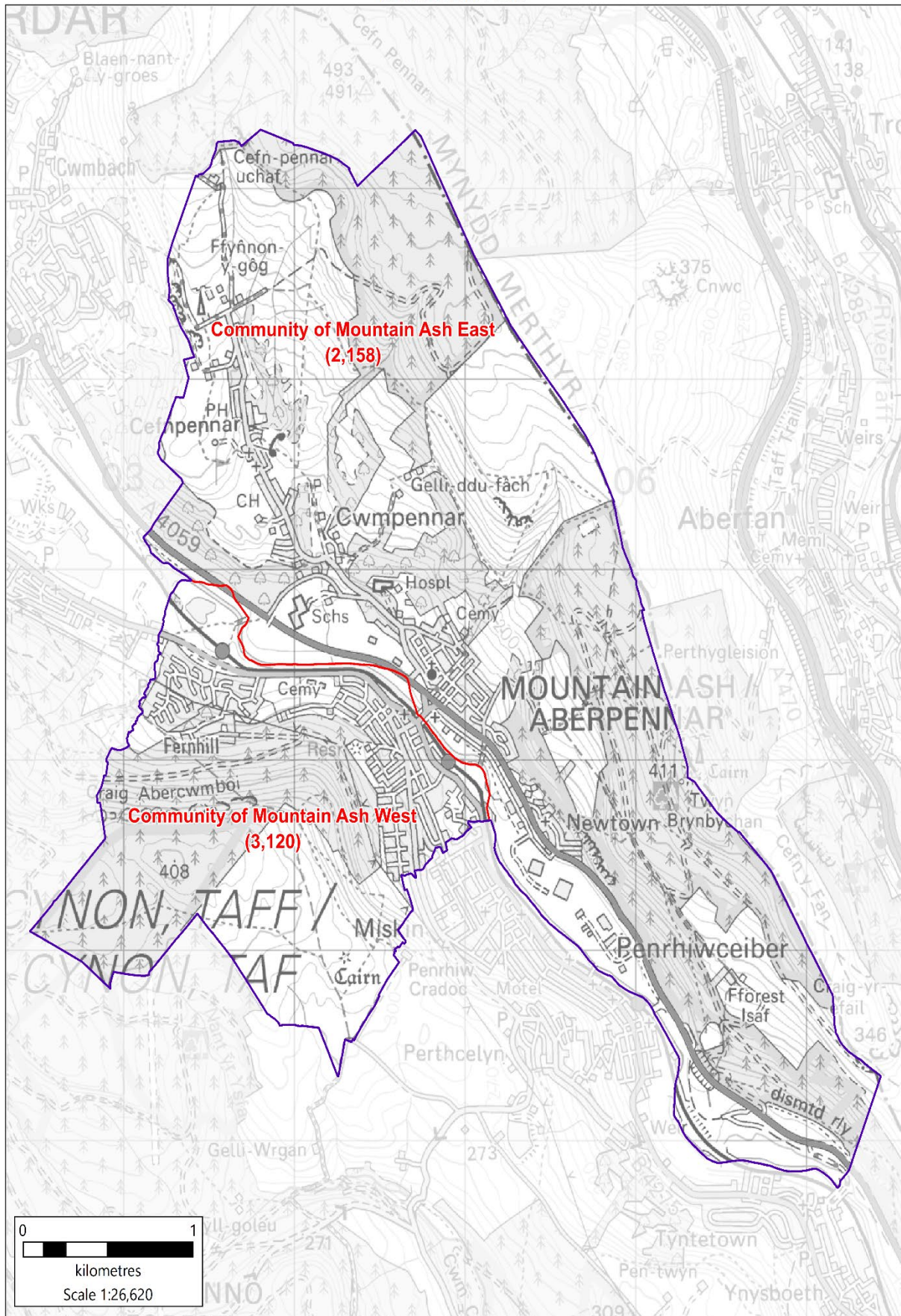
Cwmbach



Mountain Ash East and Mountain Ash West

222. The existing Mountain Ash East electoral ward is comprised of the Community of Mountain Ash East. It has 2,158 electors (2,381 projected) represented by one councillor which is 6% below the recommended county average. The electoral ward has an estimated population of 2,335 eligible voters.
223. The existing Mountain Ash West electoral ward is comprised of the Community of Mountain Ash West. It has 3,120 electors (3,197 projected) represented by two councillors which is 32% below the recommended county average. The electoral ward has an estimated population of 3,608 eligible voters.
224. In its Draft Proposals the Commission proposed that the Communities of Mountain Ash East and Mountain Ash West be combined to form a two-member electoral ward (a reduction of one member) as proposed by Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council in the Initial Consultation stage.
225. The Commission received one representation in response to its Draft Proposals concerning the area from the Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
226. The Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council Overview and Scrutiny Committee opposed the Commission's Draft Proposals. A member of the Committee raised concerns about under representation and felt that it was a mathematical exercise and they stated that residents within the communities wished to retain the existing arrangements.
227. The Commission recommends that the Communities of Mountain Ash East and Mountain Ash West be combined to form an electoral ward with 5,278 electors (5,578 projected) which, if represented by two councillors, would result in a level of representation that is 15% above the recommended county average.
228. In its Draft Proposals the Commission proposed the Welsh language name of Aberpennar; and the English language name of Mountain Ash. The Welsh Language Commissioner agreed with the proposed names. The Commission received no representations in response to its Draft Proposals concerning the names.
229. The Commission has given the recommended ward the Welsh language name of **Aberpennar**; and the English language name of **Mountain Ash**. Any comments on the recommended name can be sent to the Minister for Housing and Local Government.
230. The Commission agrees with the recommendation originally made by Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council for this area, and the improvement in electoral parity. The Commission believes that the proposed ward would provide for effective and convenient local government and build on the existing community, communication and social links within the Mountain Ash area.
231. The Commission acknowledges the representation to retain the existing arrangements for Mountain Ash East and Mountain Ash West. However, this proposal is the only viable solution to address the existing inappropriate electoral variance in the Mountain Ash West electoral ward.
232. It is the view of the Commission that this arrangement is desirable in the interest of effective and convenient local government.

Mountain Ash



Chapter 5. SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDED ARRANGEMENTS

1. The existing electoral arrangements (as shown at Appendix 2) provide for the following levels of electoral representation within the County Borough of Rhondda Cynon Taf:
 - Electoral variance ranges from 39% below the current county average (Rhigos) to 108% above the current county average (Tonyrefail West) of 2,302 electors per councillor.
 - Four electoral wards have levels of representation more than 50% above or below the current county average of 2,302 electors per councillor.
 - 15 electoral wards have levels of representation between 25% and 50% above or below the current county average of 2,302 electors per councillor.
 - 18 electoral wards have levels of representation between 10% and 25% above or below the current county average of 2,302 electors per councillor.
 - 15 electoral wards have levels of representation less than 10% above or below the current county average of 2,302 electors per councillor.
2. In comparison with the existing electoral arrangements shown above, the recommended electoral arrangements (as shown in Appendix 3) illustrate the following improvements to the electoral representation across the County:
 - Electoral variance ranges from 25% below the recommended county average (**Ynysybwl**) to 26% above the recommended county average (**Treforest**) of 2,302 electors per councillor.
 - One electoral ward has a level of representation that is between 25% and 50% above or below the recommended county average of 2,302 electors per councillor.
 - 23 electoral wards have a level of representation between 10% and 25% above or below the recommended county average of 2,302 electors per councillor.
 - 22 electoral wards have a level of representation less than 10% above or below the recommended county average of 2,302 electors per councillor.
3. As described in Chapter 4 and Appendix 4, in producing a scheme of electoral arrangements the Commission must have regard to a number of issues contained in the legislation. It is not always possible to resolve all of these, sometimes conflicting, issues. In the Commission's recommended scheme the Commission have placed emphasis on achieving improvements in electoral parity whilst maintaining community ties wherever possible. The Commission recognises that the creation of electoral wards which depart from the pattern which now exists would inevitably bring some disruption to existing ties between communities and may straddle community council areas. The Commission has made every effort to ensure that the revised electoral wards do reflect logical combinations of existing communities and community wards.
4. The Commission has looked at each area and is satisfied that it would be difficult to achieve electoral arrangements that keep the existing combination of communities and community wards without having a detrimental effect on one or more of the other issues that it must consider.

Chapter 7. CONSEQUENTIAL ARRANGEMENTS

1. In considering the changes to electoral wards where the Commission has recommended boundary changes, it has also been necessary to consider the consequence of these changes to the boundaries and electoral arrangements of the community and town councils. This section of the report details our recommendations for such consequential changes. The electoral statistics used in this section were also provided by Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council.

Community and Community Ward Boundaries

2. There are a number of changes to electoral wards which, as a consequence, the Commission must consider the underlying community and community ward arrangements. The proposed changes to community and community ward boundaries are as follows:

Llantwit Fardre Community Council

3. The recommended electoral ward of **Church Village** is recommended to have the same consequential change to the warding arrangements of the Community Council of Llantwit Fardre, as illustrated on the map at page 25.
4. The recommended electoral ward of **Ton-teg** is recommended to have the same consequential change to the Ton-teg ward of the Community Council of Llantwit Fardre, as illustrated on the map at page 26.

Pontypridd Town Council

5. The recommended electoral ward of **Graig and Pontypridd West** is recommended to have the same consequential change to the warding arrangements within the Pontypridd Town Council, as illustrated on the map at page 15.
6. The recommended electoral ward of **Hawthorn and Lower Rhydfelen** is recommended to have the same consequential change to the warding arrangements within the Pontypridd Town Council, as illustrated on the map at page 19.
7. The recommended electoral ward of **Rhydfelen Central** is recommended to have the same consequential change to the warding arrangements within the Pontypridd Town Council, as illustrated on the map at page 18.
8. The recommended electoral ward of Rhydfelen Upper and Glyn-taf is recommended to have the same consequential change to the warding arrangements within the Pontypridd Town Council, as illustrated on the map at page 20.

Llwynypia, Trealaw and Ystrad Community areas

9. The recommended electoral wards of Llwynypia, Trealaw and Ystrad are recommended to have the same consequential change to the Llwynypia, Trealaw and Ystrad Communities as illustrated on the maps at pages 49, 50 and 51.

Pont-y-clun Community Area

10. The recommended electoral wards of Pont-y-clun East, Pont-y-clun Central and Pont-y-clun West are recommended to have the same consequential change to the Pont-y-clun Community as illustrated on the maps at pages 36, 37 and 38.

Trehafod Community Area

11. The recommended electoral wards of **Cymer and Graig and Pontypridd West** are recommended to have the same consequential change to the Trehafod Community as illustrated on the maps at pages 14 and 15.

Town and Community Council Electoral Arrangements

12. The Commission is required to consider the consequential changes to the community electoral arrangements that would occur following the recommendations detailed above. The existing electoral arrangements and the recommended changes to those arrangements are shown below:

Llantwit Fardre Community Council

Llantwit Fardre Community Council								
Existing					Proposed			
Wards	Electors	Community Councillors	Electors per Councillor	Variance	Electors	Community Councillors	Electors per councillor	Variance
Church Village	4,313	4	1,078	5%	5,033	5	1,007	6%
Efail Isaf	1,025	1	1,025	0%	1,025	1	1,025	8%
Llantwit Fardre	3,778	4	945	-8%	3,778	4	945	0%
Ton-teg	3,222	3	1,074	4%	2,502	3	834	-12%
	12,338	12	1,028		12,338	13	949	

13. The Commission is satisfied that these recommended changes are appropriate and are in the interests of effective and convenient local government.

Pont-y-clun Community Council

Pont-y-clun Community Council									
Existing					Proposed				
Wards	Electors	Community Councillors	Electors per Councillor	Variance	Wards	Electors	Community Councillors	Electors per councillor	Variance
Cefnyrhendy	3,107	5	621	14%	Pont-y-clun East	1,778	3	593	8%
Groes-faen	483	1	483	-12%	Pont-y-clun Central	2,312	4	578	6%
Maes-y-felin	1,869	4	467	-15%	Pont-y-clun West	1,924	4	481	-12%
Miskin	555	1	555	2%					
	6,014	11	547			6,014	11	547	

14. The Commission is satisfied that these recommended changes are appropriate and are in the interests of effective and convenient local government.

Pontypridd Town Council

Pontypridd Town Council									
Existing					Proposed				
Wards	Electors	Community Councillors	Electors per Councillor	Variance	Wards	Electors	Community Councillors	Electors per councillor	Variance
Cilfynydd	2,095	2	1,048	3%	Cilfynydd	2,095	2	1,048	4%
Glyncoch	2,021	2	1,011	-1%	Glyncoch	2,021	2	1,011	0%
Graig	1,853	2	927	-9%	Graig	1,853	2	927	-8%
Hawthorn	1,684	2	842	-17%	Hawthorn and Lower Rhydfelen	1,803	2	902	-11%
Ilan	934	1	934	-8%	Upper Rhydfelen and Glyn- taf	2,397	2	1,199	19%
Rhondda	3,481	4	870	-15%	Rhondda	3,230	3	1,077	7%
Rhydfelen Central	2,099	2	1,050	3%	Rhydfelen Central	1,949	2	975	-3%
Rhydfelen Lower	1,432	1	1,432	40%	-	-	-	-	-
Town	2,153	2	1,077	6%	Town	2,153	2	1,077	7%
Trallwng	2,795	3	932	-9%	Trallwng	2,795	3	932	-8%
Treforest	2,901	2	1,451	42%	Treforest	2,901	3	967	-4%
	23,448	23	1,019			23,197	23	1,009	

15. The Commission is satisfied that these recommended changes are appropriate and are in the interests of effective and convenient local government.

Chapter 8. RESPONSES TO THIS REPORT

1. Having completed the review of the County Borough of Rhondda Cynon Taf and submitted the Commission's recommendations to the Welsh Government on the future electoral arrangements for the principal authority, the Commission has fulfilled its statutory obligations under the Act.
2. It now falls to the Welsh Government, if it thinks fit, to give effect to these recommendations either as submitted, or with modifications. The Welsh Government may also direct us to conduct a further review.
3. Any further representations concerning the matters in this report should be addressed to the Welsh Government. They should be made as soon as possible and, in any event, not later than six weeks from the date the Commission's recommendations are submitted to the Welsh Government. Representations should be addressed to:

Local Government Democracy Team
Democracy, Diversity and Remuneration Division
Welsh Government
Cathays Park
Cardiff
CF10 3NQ

Or by email to:

lgdtmailbox@gov.wales

Chapter 9. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

1. The Commission wishes to express its gratitude to the principal council, all the town and community councils and other interested bodies and persons who made representations to us during the course of developing these final recommendations. We, the undersigned, commend this recommendations report.

CERI STRADLING (Deputy Chair)

DAVID POWELL (Member)

JULIE MAY (Member)

THEODORE JOLOZA (Member)

SHEREEN WILLIAMS (Chief Executive)

[March 2020]

APPENDIX 1 – GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Commission	The Local Democracy and Boundary Commission for Wales.
Community (area)	The unit of local government that lies below the level of the Principal Council.
Community Council	An elected council that provides services to their particular community area. A Community Council may be divided for community electoral purposes into community wards.
Community / Town ward	An area within a Community Council created for community electoral purposes.
Directions	Directions issued by Welsh Ministers under Section 48 of the Act.
Electoral wards	The areas into which Principal Councils are divided for the purpose of electing county councillors, previously referred to as electoral divisions.
Electoral review	A review in which the Commission considers the electoral arrangements for a Principal Council.
Electoral variance	How far the number of electors per councillor in a ward varies from the county average; expressed as a percentage.
Electorate	The number of persons registered to vote in a local government area.
Estimated Population of Eligible Voters	The estimated number of eligible persons (18+) within a local government area who are eligible to vote. These figures have been sourced from the Office of National Statistics' 2015 Ward population estimated for Wales, mid-2015 (experimental statistics).
Interested party	Person or body who has an interest in the outcome of an electoral review such as a community or town council, local MP or AM or political party.
Order	Order made by an implementing body, giving effect to proposals made by the Principal Council or the Commission.
Over-representation	Where there are fewer electors per councillor in a ward compared to the county average.
Principal area	The area governed by a Principal Council: in Wales a county or county borough.

Principal council	The single tier organ of local government, responsible for all or almost all local government functions within its area. A county or county borough council.
Projected electorate	The five-year forecast of the electorate.
Split Community	A Community which is divided between two, or more, Electoral Wards.
The Act	The Local Government (Democracy) (Wales) Act 2013.
Town Council	A Community Council with the status of a town are known as Town Councils. A Town Council may be divided for community electoral purposes into wards.
Under-representation	Where there are more electors per councillor in a ward compared to the county average.

**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	Aberaman North	The Community of Aberaman North	2	3,648	1,824	-21%	3,781	1,891	-20%	4,143
2	Aberaman South	The Community of Aberaman South	2	3,463	1,732	-25%	3,609	1,805	-24%	3,758
3	Abercynon	The Community of Abercynon	2	4,487	2,244	-3%	4,537	2,269	-5%	4,968
4	Aberdare East	The Community of Aberdare East	2	4,900	2,450	6%	5,077	2,539	7%	5,243
5	Aberdare West/Llwydcoed	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	Beddau	The Beddau ward of the Community of Llantrisant	1	3,167	3,167	38%	3,174	3,174	34%	3,575
7	Brynna	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	Church Village	The Church Village ward of the Community of Llantwit Fardre	1	4,313	4,313	87%	4,350	4,350	83%	3,898
9	Cilfynydd	The Cilfynydd ward of the Town of Pontypridd	1	2,095	2,095	-9%	2,136	2,136	-10%	2,260
10	Cwm Clydach	The Community of Cwm Clydach	1	1,944	1,944	-16%	2,049	2,049	-14%	2,177
11	Cwmbach	The Community of Cwmbach	1	3,679	3,679	60%	3,959	3,959	67%	3,940
12	Cymmer	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	Ferndale	The Community of Ferndale	2	3,037	1,519	-34%	3,072	1,536	-35%	3,369
14	Gilfach-goch	The Community of Gilfach-goch	1	2,434	2,434	6%	2,495	2,495	5%	2,723
15	Glyn-coch	The Glyn-coch ward of the Town of Pontypridd	1	2,021	2,021	-12%	2,023	2,023	-15%	2,310
16	Graig	The Graig ward of the Town of Pontypridd	1	1,853	1,853	-20%	1,910	1,910	-20%	1,901
17	Hawthorn	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	Hirwaun	The Hirwaun ward of the Community of Hirwaun	1	3,123	3,123	36%	3,239	3,239	36%	3,374
19	Llanharan	The Llanharan ward of the Community of Llanharan	1	2,730	2,730	19%	2,783	2,783	17%	2,717
20	Llanharry	The Community of Llanharry	1	3,121	3,121	36%	3,167	3,167	33%	2,999

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
21	Llantrisant Town	The Llantrisant Town ward of the Community of Llantrisant	1	3,162	3,162	37%	3,247	3,247	37%	3,935
22	Llantwit Fardre	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	Llwyn-y-pia	The Community of Llwyn-y-pia	1	1,632	1,632	-29%	1,713	1,713	-28%	1,858
24	Maerdy	The Community of Maerdy	1	2,287	2,287	-1%	2,398	2,398	1%	2,387
25	Mountain Ash East	The Community of Mountain Ash East	1	2,158	2,158	-6%	2,381	2,381	0%	2,335
26	Mountain Ash West	The Community of Mountain Ash West	2	3,120	1,560	-32%	3,197	1,599	-33%	3,608
27	Pen-y-Graig	The Community of Pen-y-graig	2	3,924	1,962	-15%	3,983	1,992	-16%	4,307
28	Pen-y-Waun	The Community of Pen-y-waun	1	2,011	2,011	-13%	2,122	2,122	-11%	2,345
29	Penrhiwceiber	The Community of Penrhiwceiber	2	4,114	2,057	-11%	4,136	2,068	-13%	4,561
30	Pentre	The Community of Pentre	2	3,857	1,929	-16%	3,885	1,943	-18%	4,147
31	Pont-y-clun	The Community of Pont-y-clun	2	6,014	3,007	31%	6,873	3,437	45%	6,470
32	Pontypridd Town	The Town ward of the Town of Pontypridd	1	2,153	2,153	-6%	2,217	2,217	-7%	2,279
33	Porth	The Community of Porth	2	4,301	2,151	-7%	4,426	2,213	-7%	4,799
34	Rhigos	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
35	Rhondda	The Rhondda ward of the Town of Pontypridd	2	3,481	1,741	-24%	3,520	1,760	-26%	3,703
36	Rhydfelen Central/Ilan	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	Taffs Well	The Community of Taffs Well	1	2,826	2,826	23%	2,830	2,830	19%	3,123
38	Talbot Green	The Talbot Green ward of the Community of Llantrisant	1	1,956	1,956	-15%	1,991	1,991	-16%	2,302
39	Ton-Teg	The Ton-Teg ward of the Community of Llantwit Fardre	2	3,222	1,611	-30%	3,222	1,611	-32%	3,282
40	Tonypanyd	The Community of Tonypanyd	1	2,638	2,638	15%	2,695	2,695	13%	3,001
41	Tonyrefail East	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	Tonyrefail West	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

APPENDIX 2

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
43	Trallwng	The Trallwng ward of the Town of Pontypridd	1	2,795	2,795	21%	2,819	2,819	19%	3,087
44	Trealaw	The Community of Trealaw	1	2,809	2,809	22%	2,840	2,840	19%	3,244
45	Treforest	The Treforest ward of the Town of Pontypridd	1	2,901	2,901	26%	2,997	2,997	26%	4,449
46	Treherbert	The Community of Treherbert	2	4,165	2,083	-10%	4,242	2,121	-11%	4,583
47	Treorchy	The Community of Treorchy	3	5,652	1,884	-18%	5,750	1,917	-19%	6,118
48	Tylorstown	The Community of Tylorstown	2	2,981	1,491	-35%	3,034	1,517	-36%	3,404
49	Tyn-y-Nant	The Tyn-y-Nant ward of the Community of Llantrisant	1	2,414	2,414	5%	2,414	2,414	2%	2,657
50	Ynyshir	The Community of Ynyshir	1	2,391	2,391	4%	2,398	2,398	1%	2,649
51	Ynysybwl	The Community of Ynysybwl and Coed-y-Cwm	1	3,457	3,457	50%	3,485	3,485	47%	3,619
52	Ystrad	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	34%	23	44%
Between 0% and + or - 10% of County average	15	29%	10	19%

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL
RECOMMENDED ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS

APPENDIX 3

No	NAME	DESCRIPTION	No OF COUNCILLORS	ELECTORATE 2018	RATIO 2018	% Variance from County Average	ELECTORS 2023	RATIO 2023	% Variance from County Average
1	Aberaman	The Communities of Aberaman North and Aberaman South	3	7,111	2,370	3%	7,390	2,463	4%
2	Abercynon	The Community of Abercynon	2	4,487	2,244	-3%	4,537	2,269	-5%
3	Aberdare East	The Community of Aberdare East	2	4,900	2,450	6%	5,077	2,539	7%
4	Aberdare West and Llwydcoed	The Communities of Aberdare West and Llwydcoed	3	7,176	2,392	4%	7,561	2,520	6%
5	Beddau and Tyn-y-nant	The Beddau and Tyn-y-nant wards of the Community of Llantwit Fardre	2	5,581	2,791	21%	5,588	2,794	18%
6	Brynna and Llanharan	The Brynna, Llaniliad and Llanharan wards of the Community of Llanharan	3	6,171	2,057	-11%	7,020	2,340	-2%
7	Church Village	The Church Village ward of the Community of Llantwit Fardre	2	5,033	2,517	9%	5,070	2,535	7%
8	Cilfynydd	The Cilfynydd ward of the Town of Pontypridd	1	2,095	2,095	-9%	2,136	2,136	-10%
9	Cwm Clydach	The Community of Cwm Clydach	1	1,944	1,944	-16%	2,049	2,049	-14%
10	Cwmbach	The Community of Cwmbach	2	3,679	1,840	-20%	3,959	1,980	-17%
11	Cymmer	The Communities of Cymmer and Trehafod	2	4,222	2,111	-8%	4,259	2,130	-10%
12	Gilfach-goch	The Community of Gilfach-goch	1	2,434	2,434	6%	2,495	2,495	5%
13	Glyn-coch	The Glyn-coch ward of the Town of Pontypridd	1	2,021	2,021	-12%	2,023	2,023	-15%
14	Graig and Pontypridd West	The Graig and Rhondda wards of the Town of Pontypridd	2	5,083	2,542	10%	5,179	2,590	9%
15	Hawthorn and Lower Rhydfelen	The Hawthorn ward of the Town of Pontypridd	1	1,803	1,803	-22%	1,805	1,805	-24%
16	Hirwaun, Penderyn and Rhigos	The Communities of Hirwaun and Rhigos	2	4,522	2,261	-2%	4,682	2,341	-2%
17	Llanharry	The Llanharry ward of the Community of Llanharry	1	2,523	2,523	10%	2,569	2,569	8%
18	Llantrisant and Talbot Green	The Llantrisant Town and Talbot Green wards of the Community of Llantrisant	2	5,118	2,559	11%	5,238	2,619	10%
19	Llantwit Fardre	The Efail Isaf and Llantwit Fardre wards of the Community of Llantwit Fardre	2	4,803	2,402	4%	4,814	2,407	1%
20	Llwynypia	The Community of Llwynypia	1	2,374	2,374	3%	2,459	2,459	3%
21	Mountain Ash	The Communities of Mountain Ash East and Mountain Ash West	2	5,278	2,639	15%	5,578	2,789	17%
22	Penrhiwceiber	The Community of Penrhiwceiber	2	4,114	2,057	-11%	4,136	2,068	-13%
23	Pentre	The Community of Pentre	2	3,857	1,929	-16%	3,885	1,943	-18%
24	Pen-y-graig	The Community of Pen-y-graig	2	3,924	1,962	-15%	3,983	1,992	-16%
25	Pen-y-waun	The Community of Pen-y-waun	1	2,011	2,011	-13%	2,122	2,122	-11%
26	Pont-y-clun Central	The Pont-y-clun Central ward of the Community of Pont-y-clun	1	2,312	2,312	0%	2,312	2,312	-3%
27	Pont-y-clun East	The Pont-y-clun East ward of the Community of Pont-y-clun	1	1,778	1,778	-23%	2,631	2,631	11%
28	Pont-y-clun West	The Pont-y-clun West ward of the Community of Pont-y-clun and the Tyle-garw ward of the Community of Llanharry	1	2,522	2,522	10%	2,528	2,528	6%
29	Pontypridd Town	The Town ward of the Town of Pontypridd	1	2,153	2,153	-6%	1,949	1,949	-18%
30	Porth	The Community of Porth	2	4,301	2,151	-7%	4,426	2,213	-7%
31	Tylorstown and Ynysir	The Communities of Tylorstown and Ynysir	2	5,372	2,686	17%	5,432	2,716	14%
32	Ferndale and Maerdy	The Communities of Ferndale and Maerdy	2	5,324	2,662	16%	5,470	2,735	15%
33	Rhydfelen Central	The Rhydfelen Central ward of the Town of Pontypridd	1	1,949	1,949	-15%	2,397	1,949	-18%
34	Taff's Well	The Community of Taffs Well	1	2,826	2,826	23%	2,830	2,830	19%
35	Ton-teg	The Ton-teg ward of the Community of Llantwit Fardre	1	2,502	2,502	9%	2,502	2,502	5%
36	Tonypanyd	The Community of Tonypanyd	1	2,638	2,638	15%	2,695	2,695	13%
37	Tonyrefail East	The Coedely, Collena and Tylcha wards of the Community of Tonyrefail	2	4,260	2,130	-7%	4,409	2,205	-7%
38	Tonyrefail West	The Penrhiw-fer, Thomastown and Tynybryn wards of the Community of Tonyrefail	2	4,790	2,395	4%	5,225	2,613	10%
39	Trallwng	The Trallwng ward of the Town of Pontypridd	1	2,795	2,795	21%	2,819	2,819	19%
40	Trealaw	The Community of Trealaw	1	2,511	2,511	9%	2,542	2,542	7%

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL
RECOMMENDED ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS

APPENDIX 3

41	Treforest	The Treforest ward of the Town of Pontypridd	1	2,901	2,901	26%	2,997	2,997	26%
42	Treherbert	The Community of Treherbert	2	4,165	2,083	-10%	4,242	2,121	-11%
43	Treorchy	The Community of Treorchy	2	5,652	2,826	23%	5,750	2,875	21%
44	Upper Rhydfelen and Glyn-taf	The Upper Rhydfelen and Glyn-taf and Ilan wards of the Town of Pontypridd	1	2,397	2,397	4%	2,217	2,397	1%
45	Ynysybwl	The Community of Ynysybwl	2	3,457	1,729	-25%	3,485	1,743	-27%
46	Ystrad	The Community of Ystrad	2	3,804	1,902	-17%	3,822	1,911	-20%
			75	172,673	2,302		178,294	2,377	

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 (ONS)

	2018	2023
Greater than + or - 50% of County Average	0	0
Between + or - 25% and + or - 50% of County Average	1	2
Between + or - 10% and + or - 25% of County Average	23	24
Between 0% and + or - 10% of County Average	22	20

RULES AND PROCEDURES

Scope and Object of the Review

1. Section 29 (1) of the Local Government (Democracy) (Wales) Act 2013 (the Act) lays upon the Commission the duty, at least once in every review period of ten years, to review the electoral arrangements for every principal area in Wales, for the purpose of considering whether or not to make proposals to the Welsh Government for a change in those electoral arrangements. In conducting a review the Commission must seek to ensure effective and convenient local government (Section 21 (3) of the Act).
2. The former Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Local Government of the Welsh Government asked the Commission to submit a report in respect of the review of electoral arrangements for the County Borough of Rhondda Cynon Taf before the 2022 local government elections.

Electoral Arrangements

3. The changes that the Commission may recommend in relation to an electoral review are:
 - (a) such changes to the arrangements for the principal area under review as appear to it appropriate; and
 - (b) in consequence of such changes:
 - (i) Such community boundary changes as it considers appropriate in relation to any community in the principal area;
 - (ii) Such community council changes and changes to the electoral arrangements for such a community as it considers appropriate; and
 - (iii) Such preserved county changes as it considers appropriate.
4. The “electoral arrangements” of a principal area are defined in section 29 (9) of the 2013 Act as:
 - i) the number of members for the council for the principal area;
 - ii) the number, type and boundaries of the electoral wards;
 - iii) the number of members to be elected for any electoral ward in the principal area; and
 - iv) the name of any electoral ward.

Considerations for a review of principal area electoral arrangements

5. Section 30 of the Act requires the Commission, in considering whether to make recommendations for changes to the electoral arrangements for a principal area, to:
 - (a) seek to ensure that the ratio of local government electors to the number of members of the council to be elected is, as near as may be, the same in every electoral ward of the principal area;
 - (b) have regard to:
 - (i) the desirability of fixing boundaries for electoral wards which are and will remain easily identifiable;
 - (ii) the desirability of not breaking local ties when fixing boundaries for electoral wards.
6. In considering the ratio of local government electors to the number of members, account is to be taken of:
 - (a) any discrepancy between the number of local government electors and the number of persons that are eligible to be local government electors (as indicated by relevant official statistics); and,
 - (b) any change to the number or distribution of local government electors in the principal area which is likely to take place in the period of five years immediately following the making of any recommendation.

Local government changes

7. Since the last review of electoral arrangements the following changes to local government boundaries in Rhondda Cynon Taf have taken place.
 - The Rhondda Cynon Taf (Communities) Order 2016

Procedure

8. Chapter 4 of the Act lays down procedural guidelines which are to be followed in carrying out a review. In compliance with this part of the Act, the Commission wrote on 25 July 2018 to Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council, the Community Council in the area, the Member of Parliament for the local constituency, the Assembly Members for the area, and other interested parties to inform them of our intention to conduct the review and to request their preliminary views. The Commission invited the County Borough Council to submit a suggested scheme or schemes for new electoral arrangements. The Commission also requested Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council display a number of public notices in their area. The Commission also made available copies of the *Electoral Reviews: Policy and Practice* document. In addition, the Commission made a presentation to both County and

Community councillors explaining the review process. The initial consultation period closed on 26 June 2018.

9. This Report is on deposit at the Offices of Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council and the Office of the Commission in Cardiff, as well as on the Commission's website (<http://ldbc.gov.wales>).

Policy and Practice

10. The Commission published the *Electoral Reviews: Policy and Practice* document in October 2016. This document details the Commission's approach to resolving the challenge of balancing electoral parity and community ties; it sets out the issues to be considered and gives some understanding of the broad approach which the Commission takes towards each of the statutory considerations to be made when addressing a review's particular circumstances. However, because those circumstances are unlikely to provide for the ideal electoral pattern, in most reviews compromises are made in applying the policies in order to strike the right balance between each of the matters the Commission must consider.
11. The document also provides the overall programme timetable, and how this was identified, and the Commission's Council Size Policy. The document can be viewed on the Commission's website or are available on request.

SUMMARY OF REPRESENTATIONS RECEIVED FOR THE COMMISSION DRAFT CONSULTATION ON THE REVIEW OF ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS IN RHONDDA CYNON TAF

1. **Councillors of Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council's Scrutiny Committee** wrote on the 17 September 2019 to provide the following submission;

5. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY CONSIDERATION

- 5.1 Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee at their meeting on 22nd July 2019 considered the Draft Proposals Report. A summary of the representations made at that meeting is set out below and relevant extract from the minutes is attached as Appendix 1 to the report. These representations shall be submitted to the Commission as part of its consultation on the Draft Proposals.

5.2 Brynna & Llanharan

Several Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee felt that the LDP forecast figures for 2023 electorate should be given greater weight and consideration, particularly in relation to the proposal for Brynna and Llanharan (The Council's majority proposal submitted in respect of the first stage of the review conducted last year was to create three single member wards from the existing two wards due to the forecasted growth in the Llaniliad area by 2023).

Graig and Treforest Wards

A Member of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee acknowledged whilst certain parts of Treforest could transfer to the Graig Ward to ensure electoral parity they should remain separate wards as opposed to the Commission's proposal to combine the two Wards.

Maerdy, Ferndale, Tylorstown and Ynyshir

In respect of the Wards within the Rhondda Fach Area Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee agreed that the level of representation should remain as it currently stands. Members felt by lowering the numbers from six Members to four Members would be to the detriment of the residents who live in the area particularly as there was no Community Council and the size of the proposed Electoral Ward areas. Members felt that the number of

4. **REVIEW OF THE COUNCIL'S ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS BY THE LOCAL DEMOCRACY & BOUNDARY COMMISSION FOR WALES**

The Chair informed Members that before the Director of Legal Services presented the report in respect of the 'Review of the Council's Electoral Arrangements by the Local Democracy and Boundary Commission for Wales', he had received written submissions from individual Members that being County Borough Councillors G. Thomas, R. Turner, M Griffiths and T Leyshon which would be taken into consideration as part of reporting to full Council.

The Director of Legal Services outlined the background of the report and it was explained that the Commission has now developed its Draft Proposals in relation to its review and these are contained in the Draft Proposal Report, which Members would have had the opportunity to consider before the meeting.

The Director of Legal Services continued to explain that the Commission has now commenced a 12-week period of statutory consultation on the Draft Proposals Report, which runs from 26th June 2019 to 17th September 2019 and invites representations, which are based on evidence and facts relevant to the specific proposal in consideration.

Members were asked to consider the summary of the draft proposal for each Electoral Ward and put their representations forward as part of the consultation feedback – either at the meeting or in advance of the Council meeting which would consider the Draft Proposals Report.

The Chair opened up the meeting to Members for their view and comments.

In respect of the Wards within the Rhondda Fach Area Members strongly agreed that the level of representation should remain as it currently stands. Members felt by lowering the numbers from six Members to four Members would be to the detriment of the residents who live in the area particularly as there was no Community Council and the size of the proposed Electoral Ward areas. Members felt that the number of schools within the proposed areas would also suffer, as some schools could end up with no Councillor representation on their governing bodies.

A Member requested clarification relating to the maps of the Church Village area. The Member observed that properties within the Dyffryn Y Coed area are not depicted on the map contained with the Draft Proposals Report and sought clarification as to whether the number of the dwellings and electors within that area had been taken into consideration when preparing the report. Officers confirmed that this would be checked but it was understood they had been even though the OS map which was being used which did not show the development.

A Member raised the proposals relating to combining the existing Treforest and Graig Wards and whilst acknowledging certain parts of Treforest could transfer to the Graig Ward they should remain separate wards.

In respect of the proposed arrangements for the Mountain Ash Electoral Ward, a Member raised concerns about under representation and felt that it was a number

schools within the proposed areas would also suffer, as some schools could end up with no Councillor representation on their governing bodies.

Mountain Ash East and West

A Member of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee raised concerns about under representation and felt that it was a number crunching exercise and residents within the communities wished to retain the existing arrangements.

Treorchy

A Member of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee commented that Treorchy is a thriving area and the 'capital of Rhondda' and to reduce the ward to a two Member ward shows lack of knowledge.

Rhigos & Hirwaun

The Local Member for Rhigos submitted written representations at the meeting in relation to these wards as appended at Appendix 1(i) to the report.

6. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1 The Electoral Review is being conducted by the Commission under the provisions of the Local Government (Democracy) (Wales) Act 2013.

7. CONSULTATION

7.1 The Commission is conducting a 12 week period of statutory consultation which runs from 26th June 2019 until 17th September 2019.

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. CONCLUSION

9.1 Members are asked to note the Commission's Draft Proposals concerning its review of the Electoral Arrangements of the Council as detailed in their report and the timetable for conducting the remainder of the Commission's review.

Overview & Scrutiny Committee – 22.07.19

RE: Observations regarding the Boundary Review re Rhigos and Hirwaun proposals:

The current boundaries should be retained when you consider the land mass of the respective wards. The current measure only considers the electorate and is over simplified in this situation. While it is accepted that the electorate in Hirwaun Ward is over twice that in the Rhigos Ward the land area in Rhigos taking into the farming community, Hirwaun Industrial Estate and working areas such as Tower, amounts to eight or more times the size of Hirwaun. Taken together with the special qualities of the National Park there is a strong case for Rhigos Ward to remain at its' present boundary.

if it is a question simply of electorate then a natural boundary could be drawn to place a greater number of electors in the Rhigos boundary and fewer in the Hirwaun boundary although ,again, this should not be necessary given the substantive point above.

There is also an error in the map provided giving the name of the "Hirwaun" Community and electorate of 3,781. This is the Hirwaun & Penderyn Community and not the "Hirwaun Community" as it is represented by Hirwaun & Penderyn Community Council.

Should the proposed changes prevail then the name of the proposed new electoral division should include Penderyn e.g. Hirwaun & Rhigos/Penderyn. While I note there is a preference for a single name in the outlined principles the name that I propose is no more convoluted than, for example, the accepted/proposed Llantrisant Town and Talbot Green or Upper Rhydfelin and Glynstaff.

The name, Penderyn, should also be included in any proposed Welsh equivalent.

Regards,

Cllr Graham Thomas.

Rhigos/Penderyn Division.

RCTCBC

APPENDIX 1

Extract from the Overview & Scrutiny Committee Minutes – 22.07.19

crunching exercise and residents within the communities need to retain the existing arrangements.

In respect of the Treorchy proposal, a Member commented that Treorchy is a thriving area and the 'capital of Rhondda' and to reduce the ward to a two Member ward shows lack of knowledge.

In relation to Aberaman North and South a Member queried whether consideration has been given to the LDP when considering the proposal. The Member felt that the LDP forecast figures for 2023 electorate should have been taken into account, they continued by asking if the Boundary Commission could clarify what level of consideration they have given to this aspect when reflecting on their recommendations as this would increase the numbers within the Ward.

After further discussion Member's **RESOLVED**:

- To acknowledge the Commissions Draft Proposals Report in respect of the Council's future Electoral Arrangements, as outlined in their draft proposal
- That Members comments , observations and recommendations in respect of the Draft proposals will be taken into consideration before being presented to Full Council at its meeting in September 2019

2. **Hirwaun and Penderyn Community Council** wrote on the 24 July 2019 to oppose the Commission's proposal to combine the electoral wards of Hirwaun and Rhigos. The Community Council states that Hirwaun and Penderyn are entirely separate communities with Hirwaun being town based, and Penderyn being rural. The Community Council states that each village has different needs and the current arrangements meet those needs well. The Community Council proposed to re-name the ward as 'Hirwaun, Penderyn and Rhigos'. The Community Council stated that the name of the ward should also reflect the name of the Community Council representing the area, and that the proposed name was no more convoluted than the proposed Llantrisant and Talbot Green or Upper Rhydfelen and Glyn-taf ward names.
3. **Llantrisant Community Council** wrote on the 22 July 2019 to propose that the proposed Beddau and Tyn-y-Nant electoral ward be allocated an additional councillor to form a three-member electoral ward to reflect the expanding housing development in the area. The Community Council also proposed that the proposed ward of Llantrisant Town and Talbot Green be given the single name of Llantrisant.
4. **Taffs Well and Nantgarw Community Council** wrote on the 28 August 2019 to suggest a boundary alteration for the Taffs Well electoral ward. The Community Council proposes to include the area up to the roundabout at Upper Boat in the Taffs Well electoral ward. The Community Council advises that this proposal would not affect the number of electors in the ward.
5. **Pont-y-clun Community Council** wrote on the 12 September 2019 supporting the Draft Proposal to transfer the Community of Tyle-garw into Pont-y-clun. They, however, suggested an alternative name to the proposed 'Pont-y-clun' ward. They proposed the single name of Pontyclun stating that this form is widely accepted locally in both Welsh and English, and as such, does not require the hyphens.

The Community Council proposed to re-align the boundary of the existing Pont-y-clun electoral ward with the A473. They believe this change would provide for an easily identifiable boundary. They also proposed that the existing Pont-y-clun electoral ward be divided into three single-member wards of Pont-y-clun West, Pont-y-clun Central and Pont-y-clun East. They proposed that the electoral ward of Pont-y-clun West include the town centre, Tyle-garw, Maesyfelin, Brynsadler and Talygarn. Pont-y-clun Central would lie East of the railway line and include properties on Llantrisant Road including Ynys Ddu and residences lying off Heol Miskin, including Miskin village. Pont-y-clun East would include residences approached from Ffordd Cefn yr Hendy and the village of Groes-faen. Most of the land with development potential in Pont-y-clun would lie within this ward.

The Community Council provided results to a locally conducted survey on residents' opinion of the Commission's proposal to transfer the community of Tyle-garw into Pont-y-clun. The survey received 54 responses, of which, 42 respondents agreed with the proposal, and 12 disagreed.

6. **Llanharan Community Council** wrote on the 16 September 2019 opposing the Draft Proposals for the Llanharan and Brynna electoral wards. They opposed the creation of a multi-member ward for the area and advocates the retention of single-member wards. They advise that Llanharan is comprised of a number of separate villages. They stated that each of these settlements were established at different times and although they are part of the same community, it is important that their individual characteristics are recognised. They also cited several issues in maintaining a multi-member ward. They concluded that residents are better represented in a single-member ward as their councillor would be clearly identifiable.
7. **Llanharry Community Council** wrote on the 16 September stating that they felt strongly that the Draft Proposals for Llanharry and Pont-y-clun will cause confusion to some residents. They stated that it would be very difficult to deal with one member for one area and another for another area. They stated that both their members and those of Pont-y-clun Community Council were unaware that the review was only for the county borough electoral arrangements. They have a close working relationship with their current member. They cannot see this being the case with the ward member for Tyle-garw. If this proposal is approved, they believe there will be a conflict of interest with the member putting the residents of Pont-y-clun's needs before those of Tyle-garw.
8. **Leanne Wood, Assembly Member (Rhondda)** wrote on the 16 September opposing the Draft Proposals for the Rhondda. The AM for the Rhondda reiterated their comments from the initial consultation period. The AM urged the Commission to re-think their proposals. The AM also queried the proposal to split a two-member ward (Pentre) to create two single-member wards. The AM also opposed reducing the number of councillors representing the Treorchy electoral ward to create a situation where the ward is underrepresented by 24%. The AM asks the Commission to reconsider its proposal for this ward and retain the existing three-member arrangement.
9. **Councillor Joel Stephen James (Llantwit Fardre)** wrote on the 29 August 2019 to support the Commission's proposals to retain the existing arrangements in the Llantwit Fardre electoral ward. Councillor James broadly supported the Commission's proposals for the Church Village electoral ward, in particular, the increase in representation for Church Village. However, Councillor James believed this could be achieved without changing the current boundaries as he had reservations as to whether residents living in the affected area in Ton-teg would be supportive. Should the Commission make recommendations to proceed with its Draft Proposals, Councillor James supported the recommendations put forward by Councillor Lewis Hooper at the initial consultation stage.

Councillor James also broadly supported the Commission's Draft Proposals for Llantrisant Town and Talbot Green, but asked that consideration be given to including Lanelay Hall within the electoral ward. Lanelay Hall is a relatively new-build estate on the outskirts of Talbot Green and Councillor James suspects many residents consider themselves as residents of Talbot Green and not Llanharan, which is some considerable distance away.

Councillor James supported the Commission's Draft Proposals for Pont-y-clun, and supports the inclusion of Tyle-garw within the revised Pont-y-clun electoral ward. Councillor James does not support the proposal to divide the ward into three single member electoral wards.

10. **Councillor Martin Fidler-Jones (Hawthorn)** wrote on the 1 July 2019 to oppose the Commission's proposal for the Rhydfelen and Hawthorn electoral wards. Councillor Fidler-Jones stated that the Commission's proposals make no use of natural boundaries and will be impossible to describe to residents going forward. The proposal also includes a section of the Lower Rhydfelen Town Council ward, requiring a commensurate amendment to the existing Town Council ward to facilitate it. Councillor Fidler-Jones also stated that the initial representations from residents of the area which were opposed to the proposals put forward by the Commission, appear to have been ignored. Councillor Fidler-Jones also suggested that, should the Commission continue with its proposals, then the Hawthorn electoral ward should be re-named Hawthorn and Lower-Rhydfelen in order to acknowledge the significant proportion of the lower Rhydfelen community that would sit within the revised ward. Councillor Fidler-Jones suggested that the boundary changes proposed by him at the initial consultation stage be taken forward as an alternative to the Commission's proposal.

11. **Councillor Roger Turner (Brynna)** wrote on the 13 September 2019 to oppose the Commission's Draft Proposals for the Brynna and Llanharan electoral wards. Councillor Turner opposed the Commission's proposal to create a multi-member ward consisting of Brynna, Llanilid and Llanharan. Councillor Turner felt that, as single member wards, constituents would clearly know who their elected representative is and, consequently, can hold that person to account. Similarly, a single member ward councillor can promote their achievements, which would prove difficult in a multi-member ward. Councillor Turner also understood that the Commission has a preference for single-member representation where possible and he is firmly satisfied that the Council's preferred option for three single-member wards complies with this. Councillor Turner further stated that the areas of Brynna and Llanilid are quite unique and felt that consideration should be given to both the nature and scale of the development. Councillor Turner also stated that the electorate for the Brynna ward has stagnated due to an embargo on connecting any new properties to the mains sewer, however, Councillor Turner has identified an opportunity to negotiate the development of approximately 242 new properties in Brynna. Councillor Turner advised that work to develop the site has already commenced. Councillor Turner is confident that over half of the 242 properties will be built by 2023, with the remainder to follow thereafter. The development in Llanilid consists of a planned 125 properties each year with planning permission for a total of 1,850 properties in the Llanilid Polling District. Councillor Turner hoped that this information provides an indication as to why single-member representation would provide the best arrangements for the area.

12. **Councillor Jill Bonetto (Taff's Well)** wrote on the 12 September 2019 to suggest that the boundary for the Taff's Well electoral ward be amended to the Upper Boat Roundabout as the peculiar shape of the current boundary causes

confusion particularly when planning applications are considered. This change will not cause any changes to the number of residents within both wards as the area is an industrial estate.

13. **Councillor Lewis Hooper** (Ton-teg) wrote on the 15 September 2019 to highlight the importance of the Commission's Draft Proposals for the Church Village and Ton-teg electoral wards. Councillor Hooper advised at the initial representation stage that it was essential for the streets of Bryn Rhedyn, The Rise and several properties of Church Road to remain as part of Ton-teg. The Councillor wished to stress the importance of those changes – both the utilisation of the natural boundary and retaining of those three streets in the Ton-teg ward.
14. **Councillor Darren Macey** (Ynyshir) wrote on the 15 September 2019 to oppose the Commission's Draft Proposals for the Rhondda Fach area. Councillor Macey recognised the issues around the number of residents currently represented by each councillor with Ynyshir and Wattstown slightly over the recommended number, Maerdy slightly under and both Ferndale and Tylorstown well below the average resident to councillor ratio. To address this, Councillor Macey proposed that Ynyshir and Wattstown be represented by one councillor, Tylorstown and Ferndale be represented by three councillors and Maerdy be represented by one councillor. Councillor Macey feels Ynyshir are their own community and deserve representation.
15. **Councillor Margaret Griffiths** (Pont-y-clun) wrote on the 15 September 2019 to oppose the Commission's Draft Proposals for the Pont-y-clun electoral ward. Councillor Griffiths seconded the representation submitted by Pont-y-clun Community Council at the Initial Consultation stage to create three single-member electoral wards of Pont-y-clun West, Pont-y-clun Central and Pont-y-clun East. Councillor Griffiths also suggested the single name of Pontyclun for the ward(s) as the name is well established amongst local communities of both English and Welsh speakers.
16. **Councillors Shelley Rees-Owen and Maureen Weaver** (both Pentre) wrote on the 16 September 2019 to oppose the Commission's Draft Proposals for the Pentre electoral ward. The Councillors felt that creating two single-member wards would not achieve improvements to electoral parity and would endanger existing community ties. The Councillors state that many local initiatives straddle both communities such as the local football teams, churches, the local theatre and local amenities. The local PCSO's also deal with the ward as a whole and the arrangements work well for residents. The Councillors urged the retention of a two member electoral ward to enable the Pentre and Ton Pentre communities to co-exist and continue to build on the relationships already established.
17. **Councillor Robert Bevan** (Tylorstown) wrote on the 16 September 2019 to oppose the Commission's Draft Proposals for the Rhondda Fach area. Councillor Bevan advised that he has represented the Tylorstown ward for 28 years and has experienced many changes in the four villages that make up the ward. Councillor Bevan stated that the residents of Tylorstown rely on their local council and councillors for support. Councillor Bevan felt that the changes have alienated many residents from everyday life with many choosing to opt out of the

democratic process by not registering to vote or not voting when they are registered. Councillor Bevan felt the proposals would only lead to further alienation. Councillor Bevan proposed to retain the existing two-member arrangement for Tylorstown. Councillor Bevan also provided the two submissions (of which he is fully supportive) made by the Tylorstown Ward Labour Party, of which he is the secretary. The Labour Party submission details a locally conducted survey of Tylorstown residents which clearly shows no appetite for a reduction in the number of councillors in the Tylorstown ward, nor to combine the Tylorstown ward with Ynyshir. The Labour Party reiterates its previous submission and request that there is no reduction in the number of councillors for the Tylorstown ward, nor is there a need to combine Tylorstown with Ynyshir.

18. **Councillor Eleri Griffiths (Rhondda)** wrote on the 15 September 2019 to support the Commission's Draft Proposal to unite the Community of Trehafod under the Cymmer electoral ward. Councillor Griffiths noted that she favours the 'Cymer' spelling as opposed to the 'Cymmer' spelling as advised by the Welsh Language Commissioner. Councillor Griffiths objected to the Commission's Draft Proposal for the Rhondda electoral ward and disagreed with transferring a section of Maes-y-coed from the Rhondda ward to the Graig ward. Councillor Griffiths stated that the Council's alternative proposal to combine the electoral wards of Graig and Rhondda would be more logical, however, Councillor Griffiths stated this was not an ideal solution due to the very different natures of Graig and Maes-y-coed. Councillor Griffiths further stated that there are two organisations that are significant in showing how people identify. There is a PACT and neighbourhood watch meeting for the Maes-y-coed and Pwllgwaun area, a separate PACT meeting for Hopkinstown and lower Pantygraigwen. Previous attempts to merge these in the past have failed due to people identifying with specific communities.
19. **Councillor Maureen Webber (Rhydfelen Central)** wrote on the 16 September 2019 to support the Commission's Draft Proposals for the Rhydfelen and Hawthorn area. Councillor Webber advised that she has been contacted by the local elected members of Pontypridd Town Council in relation to the boundary changes who are fully supportive of the proposed changes. Councillor Webber stated that as a political branch, they have discussed the changes and the consensus is that it would be a fairer representation for residents. Councillor Webber also advised that she took the opportunity to speak to residents in her capacity as Chair of a local Community Group, and again people are pleased that the identity of Rhydfelen will now be recognised as an electoral ward.
20. **Pontypridd Town Councillor Jeffrey Baxter (Rhydfelen Central)** wrote on the 24 July 2019 to oppose the Commission's proposal to combine the electoral wards of Graig and Treforest. Councillor Baxter opposed the arguments put forward at the Initial Consultation stage as they did not reflect the reality that the community of Treforest is overwhelmingly distinct from the Graig community. Councillor Baxter stated that there is no natural ebb and flow between the two communities, with the occasional project involving a small amount of university students in no way altering that reality. The Treforest ward has its own distinctive issues such as; HMO's (Houses of Multiple Occupancy), the impact of the University on parking and relations between students and permanent residents.

Councillor Baxter also mentioned Treforest's unique history as the oldest part of Pontypridd with the first market in the area as it was the centre of the Tin Plating industry as well as the University, which dates back to 1913 as the South Wales School of Mines.

21. **Llanharan Community Councillor Jeff Williams** wrote on the 1 July 2019 to support the Commission's proposals to combine the electoral wards of Brynna and Llanharan to form a three-member electoral ward. Councillor Williams stated that the members of Llanharan Community Council work well together and run a community shop which donates its earnings equally among the Brynna, Bryncae, Llanharan and Ynysmaerdy areas.
22. **Mr Alun Michael, the South Wales Police and Crime Commissioner** wrote on the 19 July 2019 to state that he has reviewed the proposals and has no objections or comments to make.
23. **Rhondda Plaid Cymru** wrote on the 17 September 2019 to oppose the Commission's Draft Proposals for the Treorchy electoral ward. The group believed the loss of one councillor in the Treorchy ward would cause undue burden on the two councillors representing that area. The group also believed that the existing arrangements for Ynyshir should be retained and that changes should be made to the Tylorstown and Ferndale wards to achieve the desired voter ratios. The group was especially concerned about the Commission's Draft Proposals for the Pentre ward. The group does not believe splitting the ward into two single member wards would achieve the goals set out by the Commission or have widespread support in the community. The group cites local issues and changes had shown a clear tendency for residents in the community look for facilities and services within the communities of Pentre and Ton Pentre before looking outside them. The group cites other initiatives such as local football clubs and churches. Plaid Cymru Rhondda requested that the existing two-member arrangements for Pentre be retained.
24. **Rhondda Cynon Taf Labour Group** wrote on the 17 September 2019 to provide a response to the Commission's Draft Proposals. The Labour Group opposed the Commission's proposals for the Rhondda, Graig and Treforest electoral wards. Whilst the group supported the transfer of Trehafod wholly into the Cymmer ward, and to transfer a section of Maesycoed from the Rhondda ward into the Graig ward in order to improve electoral variance in both of these wards. However, the Group was concerned about the Commission's proposal to combine the electoral wards of Graig and Treforest. The Group stated there are unique challenges and issues in both wards that they feel have not been considered by the Commission. The Group asked that the contrast in nature between the two wards should be respected. The group also proposed to re-name the Rhondda ward as Pontypridd North, in order to avoid confusion with the Rhondda constituency and to strengthen the sense of identity that residents have with Pontypridd.

Regarding the Commission's proposals for the Brynna and Llanharan electoral wards, the group wished to reinforce the importance of adopting the option preferred by the Council of creating three single-member electoral wards for

Brynna, Llanharan and Llaniliad respectively. The group cited the anticipated growth in the Llaniliad ward as reason to support the single-member wards, despite the initial level of electoral variance in Llaniliad being below the recommended threshold.

With regards to the Commission's Draft Proposals for Pont-y-clun, the Group stated that without physically visiting the ward, it would be difficult to see how what appears to be one housing estate could contain what is essentially two disparate communities; but this in fact reflects the reality on the ground. The Cefn-Yr-Hendy estate is separated by a physical barrier that runs the entire length of the "old" and "new" boundary, with walking access only available at two points and no through access for motorists. Whilst the estate shares one name, they are in fact two neighbouring communities. The Group would therefore respectfully suggest that three single-Member wards (outlined below) be established to reflect these unique community elements which would fall within the Commission's acceptable thresholds.

Pontyclun West

This proposed ward has a clear boundary provided by the railway line. It would include the town centre, Tyle Garw, Maesyfelin, Brynsalder and Talygarn. In terms of representation, this ward would fall in the +/- 0%-10% variance threshold.

Pontyclun Central

This proposed ward would lie to the east of the railway line. It would include properties lying off Llantrisant Road including Ynys Ddu and residences lying off Heol Miskin including Miskin Village, as well as the road off Heol y Coed and Heol Cefn yr Hendy. This ward would also fall into the +/- 0%-10% variance threshold.

Pontyclun East

This proposed ward includes the residences approached from Ffordd Cefn yr Hendy on one side of the dual carriageway along with the village of Groes Faen. Most of the land with development potential within the Pontyclun Community lies within this proposed electoral ward. It is acknowledged that this ward would, based on the 2018 electorate figures, be close to the -25% variance; however, the considerable development that is planned for the area (and reflected in the 2023 electorate forecasts) would see over 2,500 electors living in the ward, which would then situate the variance into the same bracket as the above two divisions.

The Labour Group also opposed the Commission's proposals for the Hirwaun and Rhigos electoral wards. The Group stated that the Commission will be aware that the Rhigos ward is unique when compared with other wards within Rhondda Cynon Taf. It contains both the smallest electorate and also covers the largest geographical area, encompassing the main communities of Rhigos and Penderyn, and also a portion of the Brecon Beacons National Park which contributes to the ward receiving funding under the Rural Development Fund.

The Group was disappointed to see that the Commission has seemingly ignored these factors in favour of creating a merger between the Rhigos and Hirwaun wards.

Whilst the Group acknowledged that a direct merger between the Tylorstown and Ynyshir electoral division would create the best outcome in terms of electoral representation, the Group wished to highlight the wider and arguably more important factors that should be considered. The Group outlined that their preference would be to retain the existing level of representation in the Rhondda Fach but acknowledge that this would prove problematic in the frame of the Commission's guidelines and would also mean that communities that have experienced high levels of growth would lose the opportunity of representation. To this end, our alternative proposal would be to reduce the Tylorstown ward to single-Member representation and also to retain the Ynyshir ward in its current form.

The Labour Group also proposed an amendment to the existing Taff's Well ward boundary with Hawthorn. The Group wished to note the inconsistency in the boundary between Hawthorn and Taff's Well that covers the Treforest Industrial Estate area. The Group proposed that the boundary between the wards be "tidied up" with a redrawing of the line at the lights on the roundabout at Upper Boat. No properties or voters would be affected by this change, although it would provide clarity for businesses in the area.

25. 22 residents of Llanharry, Tyle-garw and Pont-y-clun wrote during the consultation period to submit a pro-forma letter of objection in opposition of the Commission's proposals for the Llanharry electoral ward. The pro-forma opposed the Commission's proposal to combine the Community of Tyle-garw with the Pont-y-clun electoral ward for the purposes of Community Council representation.
26. A resident of Tyle-garw wrote during the consultation period to submit a pro-forma letter of objection in opposition of the Commission's proposals for the Llanharry electoral ward. The pro-forma opposed the Commission's proposal to combine the Community of Tyle-garw with the Pont-y-clun electoral ward for the purposes of Community Council representation. The resident stated they have lived in the village for 33 years and want it to stay as it is. The resident stated that they have lived in Tyle-garw for 33 years and want it to stay as it is.
27. A resident of Tyle-garw wrote on the 27 July 2019 to support the Commission's proposal to combine the Community Ward of Tyle-garw with the Pont-y-clun electoral ward for Community Council representation.
28. A resident of Pont-y-clun wrote on the 30 July 2019 to submit a pro-forma letter of objection in opposition of the Commission's proposals for the Llanharry electoral ward. The pro-forma opposed the Commission's proposal to combine the Community of Tyle-garw with the Pont-y-clun electoral ward for the purpose of Community Council representation. The resident stated that Tyle-garw is a distinctive little community which is quite separate in residents' minds from Pont-y-clun. The resident is firmly of the belief that it could lose that individuality as a community if it is absorbed into Pont-y-clun.

29. A resident of Llanharry wrote on the 31 July 2019 to submit a pro-forma letter of objection in opposition of the Commission's proposals for the Llanharry electoral ward. The pro-forma opposed the Commission's proposal to combine the Community of Tyle-garw with the Pont-y-clun electoral ward for the purpose of Community Council representation. The resident stated that Llanharry and Tyle-garw have always linked together, if Tyle-garw joined Pont-y-clun then Llanharry would be left out again.
30. A resident of Tyle-garw wrote on the 31 July 2019 to submit a pro-forma letter of objection in opposition of the Commission's proposals for the Llanharry electoral ward. The pro-forma opposes the Commission's proposal to combine the Community of Tyle-garw with the Pont-y-clun electoral ward for the purpose of Community Council representation. The resident stated they would like to stay in Llanharry Community Council.
31. A resident of Rhondda Cynon Taf wrote on the 31 July 2019 to advise that they, their wife and their daughter would like to keep Tyle-garw with Llanharry.
32. Two residents of Tyle-garw wrote on the 30 July 2019 to support the Commission's proposal to transfer the Community of Tyle-garw into Pont-y-clun Community Council. The resident stated they have absolutely no affinity with Llanharry and have been poorly served over the years by that council. The resident stated that proximity-wise, Tyle-garw abuts Pont-y-clun, the local post code is Pont-y-clun, local children attend Pont-y-clun Primary School and Y Pant Comprehensive which are both situated in Pont-y-clun.
33. Two residents of Llanharry wrote on the 1 August 2019 to object to the Commission's proposals for the Llanharry electoral ward. The residents stated that Llanharry has been self-sufficient for decades and as residents, they would like their share of their council tax to maintain their link with the village.
34. A resident of Tyle-garw wrote on the 29 July 2019 to lodge their full support behind the transfer of Tyle-garw to Pont-y-clun Community Council.
35. A resident of Tyle-garw wrote on the 6 August 2019 to submit a pro-forma letter of objection in opposition of the Commission's proposals for the Llanharry electoral ward. The pro-forma opposed the Commission's proposal to combine the Community of Tyle-garw with the Pont-y-clun electoral ward for the purposes of Community Council representation. The resident stated that they would like to remain an integral part of Llanharry and not become just a speck in Pont-y-clun and that history shows Tyle-garw has always had links with Llanharry.
36. A resident of Llanharry wrote on the 6 August 2019 to submit a pro-forma letter of objection in opposition of the Commission's proposals for the Llanharry electoral ward. The pro-forma opposed the Commission's proposal to combine the Community of Tyle-garw with the Pont-y-clun electoral ward for the purposes of Community Council representation. The resident thought that Chris Elmore and Huw Irranca-Davies should keep out of the debate.

37. A resident of Llanharry wrote on the 6 August 2019 to submit a pro-forma letter of objection in opposition of the Commission's proposals for the Llanharry electoral ward. The pro-forma opposed the Commission's proposal to combine the Community of Tyle-garw with the Pont-y-clun electoral ward for the purposes of Community Council representation. The resident stated that taking money from Llanharry, will have a detrimental effect on the village and its inhabitants. They stated Pont-y-clun is a larger and more affluent village and has more chance of bringing in money for their community.
38. A resident of Rhondda Cynon Taf wrote on 6 August 2019 to support the Commission's proposals to transfer the Community of Tyle-garw into Pont-y-clun for Community Council representation. The resident stated that Tyle-garw is a part of Pont-y-clun. The resident has never understood (in the 20 years plus that they have lived there) why it has been attached to Llanharry.
39. A resident of Llanharry wrote on the 7 August 2019 to submit a pro-forma letter of objection in opposition of the Commission's proposals for the Llanharry electoral ward. The pro-forma opposed the Commission's proposal to combine the Community of Tyle-garw with the Pont-y-clun electoral ward for the purposes of Community Council representation. The resident stated that if the proposal goes ahead, Llanharry will lose out badly.
40. A resident of Llanharry wrote during the consultation period to submit a pro-forma letter of objection in opposition of the Commission's proposals for the Llanharry electoral ward. The pro-forma opposed the Commission's proposal to combine the Community of Tyle-garw with the Pont-y-clun electoral ward for the purposes of Community Council representation. The resident opposed the Commission's proposals for the Llanharry electoral ward. The resident stated that they are the local historian for Llanharry and to advise that Tyle-garw has belonged to Llanharry since early Norman times and he would hate to see that historical link broken.
41. A resident of Rhondda Cynon Taf wrote on the 11 August to submit a pro-forma letter of objection in opposition of the Commission's proposals for the Llanharry electoral ward. The pro-forma opposed the Commission's proposal to combine the Community of Tyle-garw with the Pont-y-clun electoral ward for the purposes of Community Council representation. The resident stated that Llanharry and Tyle-garw support each other very well in organising different events for both villages. The resident felt that Pont-y-clun is big enough alone.
42. Two residents of Pont-y-clun wrote on the 13 August to submit a pro-forma letter of objection in opposition of the Commission's proposals for the Llanharry electoral ward. The pro-forma opposed the Commission's proposal to combine the Community of Tyle-garw with the Pont-y-clun electoral ward for the purposes of Community Council representation. The residents are quite happy with being in the Llanharry ward and see no reason to change to Pont-y-clun.
43. A resident of Llanharry wrote on the 13 August 2019 to submit a pro-forma letter of objection in opposition of the Commission's proposals for the Llanharry electoral ward. The pro-forma opposed the Commission's proposal to combine

the Community of Tyle-garw with the Pont-y-clun electoral ward for the purposes of Community Council representation. The resident stated that Llanharry receives no business rates like Pont-y-clun and that Pont-y-clun is big enough on its own.

44. A resident of Pont-y-clun wrote on the 13 August to submit a pro-forma letter of objection in opposition of the Commission's proposals for the Llanharry electoral ward. The pro-forma opposed the Commission's proposal to combine the Community of Tyle-garw with the Pont-y-clun electoral ward for the purposes of Community Council representation. The resident believes Tyle-garw is a small community whose voice will be lost in the ever-growing community of Pont-y-clun. The resident believes that the recently approved traffic calming measures to be installed throughout Tyle-garw could be lost in red-tape if the transfer goes ahead.
45. A resident of Tyle-garw wrote on the 16 August to submit a pro-forma letter of objection in opposition of the Commission's proposals for the Llanharry electoral ward. The pro-forma opposed the Commission's proposal to combine the Community of Tyle-garw with the Pont-y-clun electoral ward for the purposes of Community Council representation. The resident stated that Community Councils are the voice of the local residents and that traditionally, Tyle-garw has always been combined with Llanharry. The resident stated both communities have benefited from shrewd and sympathetic management of funds.
46. Two residents of Rhondda Cynon Taf wrote on the 28 August to object to the Commission's proposals for the Llanharry electoral ward. The residents stated that the relationship between Llanharry and Tyle-garw has always been close and that Llanharry Community Council has never left the Tyle-garw ward to fend for itself when it comes to their needs. The residents also stated that both Llanharry and Tyle-garw use Pont-y-clun facilities.
47. A resident of Maes-y-coed wrote on the 11 September 2019 to oppose the Commission's Draft Proposals for the Graig electoral ward. The resident felt that the proposed transfer of a section of Maes-y-coed from the Graig ward to the Rhondda ward has been proposed on a purely and somewhat flawed numerical exercise. The resident stated that the dividing feature between Maesycoed and the Graig has always been the valley floor between the two areas. The resident stated a preference for the Council's alternative proposal to combine the electoral wards of Graig and Rhondda, which would at least keep Maesycoed together even with the reduction in representation.
48. A resident of Ynyshir wrote on the 15 September 2019 to object to the Commission's Draft Proposals for the Rhondda Fach area. The resident objects to the idea of combining Ynyshir and Tylorstown to form a two-member electoral ward. The resident stated that a relatively high proportion of areas in Rhondda Cynon Taf are among the 10% most deprived in the county, and overall, many areas in RCT fall in the more deprived half of Wales. Within the county Borough of RCT the Rhondda Fach area is a deprivation hotspot with only two sub-wards not in the highest deprivation areas in Wales. The resident stated that the Ynyshir area is one of the highest deprivation areas and combining it with another high

deprivation area, Tylorstown, would mean two of the most deprived wards in Wales combining to make a super deprived area. At the same time, the combination would create a ward size of 5372, which is 2686 per councillor and results in a level of under-representation. The resident questioned the proposal to combine two of the most deprived wards in Wales and then reduce the representation. The resident feels they are already living in an invisible village which the council have systematically stripped bare of schools and services.

49. A resident of Pentre wrote on the 16 September 2019 to oppose the Commission's Draft Proposals for the Pentre electoral ward. The resident finds the proposed boundary change unnecessary as both communities have become one. The resident felt that a community has been built up within those communities that use facilities from both Ton Pentre and Pentre.
50. A resident of Pentre wrote on the 16 September 2019 to oppose the Commission's Draft Proposals for the Pentre electoral ward. The resident disagreed that the Commission's proposals would not have a detrimental effect on the area as residents currently have the benefit of sharing local facilities and community centres, The resident feels the status quo should remain as there is nothing wrong with the present arrangements and they are well served by two councillors.
51. A resident of Rhondda Fach wrote on the 17 September 2019 to oppose the Commission's Draft Proposals for the Rhondda Fach area. The resident stated that Rhondda Fach has for years been known as 'the forgotten valley'. The resident stated that many people in the Rhondda are already completely disengaged from council matters, from politics to voting. The resident urged the Commission to reconsider its Draft Proposals and allow Ynyshir to work together with the help of their own councillor. They stated Maerdy's unique position at the top of the valley means it also needs a councillor of its own, Ferndale and Blaenllechau to have a councillor, and Tylorstown and Stanleytown should have a councillor along with Pontygwaith and Penrhys.



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

WRITTEN STATEMENT BY THE WELSH GOVERNMENT

TITLE LOCAL ELECTIONS AND ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS

DATE Thursday 23rd JUNE 2016

BY MARK DRAKEFORD, CABINET SECRETARY FOR FINANCE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

The Local Authority Elections (Wales) Order 2014 provided for local elections in Wales to be delayed for a year, from May 2016 to May 2017. This allowed the elections to be separated from the Assembly elections.

At the present time, the Local Government Act 1972 provides that ordinary elections to local government in Wales take place on the first Thursday of May every four years. Therefore, the next local government elections would normally take place in May 2021. Since the implementation of the provisions of the Wales Act 2014, elections to the National Assembly take place on a five-yearly cycle. The policy of the Welsh Government is that elections at local level should also be placed on a five year cycle. It is intended that councillors elected next May will therefore hold office until May 2022.

The Wales Bill, currently before Parliament, includes provisions which would enable the Assembly to legislate to determine the term of office for local government. As the Bill is currently in draft form and should these provisions, for any reason, not come into force, the Welsh Government could use the same powers under the Local Government Act 2000 as we did in 2014 to delay the elections by a year. This statement therefore provides clarity to local government as to the length of office of those to be elected next year.

APPENDIX 6

In the light of this, I have considered the decision made last year in relation to the electoral arrangements of some principal councils. It was determined that reviews conducted by the Local Democracy and Boundary Commission for Wales in relation to nine principal areas would not be implemented, given the intention that councils elected in 2017 would only serve a short term prior to mergers.

However, even though the elections in May next year will now result in a full term, due to their proximity, the arrangements which would be required and the disruption for potential candidates, I do not intend to implement any changes to current electoral arrangements in advance of the 2017 elections resultant from those reviews. The councils concerned are Carmarthenshire, Ceredigion, Conwy, Denbighshire, Gwynedd, Monmouthshire, Pembrokeshire, Powys and Torfaen.

The decision that councils will be elected for a full term also means that the Local Democracy and Boundary Commission (the Commission) will return to its normal ten-year cycle of reviews of electoral arrangements. I expect the Commission to publish a new, prioritised programme as soon as possible which takes into account the age of the current arrangements in some areas and the amount of change since the last review was undertaken. I will ask the Commission, in planning their work, to start by revisiting the nine outstanding reviews, with a view to presenting fresh reports on these at the very start of their programme.

It is my intention that reviews of electoral arrangements in principal councils will be conducted against a set of common criteria to be agreed through the Commission. I also expect electoral reviews to have been completed for all 22 authorities within the next local government term.

These arrangements provide clarity for those considering standing for election in 2017 and also set out a long term planning horizon for local authorities and their public service partners. However, I want to be clear that discussions on the reform agenda are on-going with local authorities and other stakeholders. I will be proposing a way forward on local government reform in the Autumn.

APPENDIX 1 – GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Commission	The Local Democracy and Boundary Commission for Wales.
Community (area)	The unit of local government that lies below the level of the Principal Council.
Community Council	An elected council that provides services to their particular community area. A Community Council may be divided for community electoral purposes into community wards.
Community / Town ward	An area within a Community Council created for community electoral purposes.
Directions	Directions issued by Welsh Ministers under Section 48 of the Act.
Electoral wards	The areas into which Principal Councils are divided for the purpose of electing county councillors, previously referred to as electoral divisions.
Electoral review	A review in which the Commission considers the electoral arrangements for a Principal Council.
Electoral variance	How far the number of electors per councillor in a ward varies from the county average; expressed as a percentage.
Electorate	The number of persons registered to vote in a local government area.
Estimated Population of Eligible Voters	The estimated number of eligible persons (18+) within a local government area who are eligible to vote. These figures have been sourced from the Office of National Statistics' 2015 Ward population estimated for Wales, mid-2015 (experimental statistics).
Interested party	Person or body who has an interest in the outcome of an electoral review such as a community or town council, local MP or AM or political party.
Order	Order made by an implementing body, giving effect to proposals made by the Principal Council or the Commission.
Over-representation	Where there are fewer electors per councillor in a ward compared to the county average.
Principal area	The area governed by a Principal Council: in Wales a county or county borough.

Principal council	The single tier organ of local government, responsible for all or almost all local government functions within its area. A county or county borough council.
Projected electorate	The five-year forecast of the electorate.
Split Community	A Community which is divided between two, or more, Electoral Wards.
The Act	The Local Government (Democracy) (Wales) Act 2013.
Town Council	A Community Council with the status of a town are known as Town Councils. A Town Council may be divided for community electoral purposes into wards.
Under-representation	Where there are more electors per councillor in a ward compared to the county average.

**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	Aberaman North	The Community of Aberaman North	2	3,648	1,824	-21%	3,781	1,891	-20%	4,143
2	Aberaman South	The Community of Aberaman South	2	3,463	1,732	-25%	3,609	1,805	-24%	3,758
3	Abercynon	The Community of Abercynon	2	4,487	2,244	-3%	4,537	2,269	-5%	4,968
4	Aberdare East	The Community of Aberdare East	2	4,900	2,450	6%	5,077	2,539	7%	5,243
5	Aberdare West/Llwydcoed	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	Beddau	The Beddau ward of the Community of Llantrisant	1	3,167	3,167	38%	3,174	3,174	34%	3,575
7	Brynna	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	Church Village	The Church Village ward of the Community of Llantwit Fardre	1	4,313	4,313	87%	4,350	4,350	83%	3,898
9	Cilfynydd	The Cilfynydd ward of the Town of Pontypridd	1	2,095	2,095	-9%	2,136	2,136	-10%	2,260
10	Cwm Clydach	The Community of Cwm Clydach	1	1,944	1,944	-16%	2,049	2,049	-14%	2,177
11	Cwmbach	The Community of Cwmbach	1	3,679	3,679	60%	3,959	3,959	67%	3,940
12	Cymmer	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	Ferndale	The Community of Ferndale	2	3,037	1,519	-34%	3,072	1,536	-35%	3,369
14	Gilfach-goch	The Community of Gilfach-goch	1	2,434	2,434	6%	2,495	2,495	5%	2,723
15	Glyn-coch	The Glyn-coch ward of the Town of Pontypridd	1	2,021	2,021	-12%	2,023	2,023	-15%	2,310
16	Graig	The Graig ward of the Town of Pontypridd	1	1,853	1,853	-20%	1,910	1,910	-20%	1,901
17	Hawthorn	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	Hirwaun	The Hirwaun ward of the Community of Hirwaun	1	3,123	3,123	36%	3,239	3,239	36%	3,374
19	Llanharan	The Llanharan ward of the Community of Llanharan	1	2,730	2,730	19%	2,783	2,783	17%	2,717
20	Llanharry	The Community of Llanharry	1	3,121	3,121	36%	3,167	3,167	33%	2,999

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
21	Llantrisant Town	The Llantrisant Town ward of the Community of Llantrisant	1	3,162	3,162	37%	3,247	3,247	37%	3,935
22	Llantwit Fardre	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	Llwynypia	The Community of Llwynypia	1	1,632	1,632	-29%	1,713	1,713	-28%	1,858
24	Maerdy	The Community of Maerdy	1	2,287	2,287	-1%	2,398	2,398	1%	2,387
25	Mountain Ash East	The Community of Mountain Ash East	1	2,158	2,158	-6%	2,381	2,381	0%	2,335
26	Mountain Ash West	The Community of Mountain Ash West	2	3,120	1,560	-32%	3,197	1,599	-33%	3,608
27	Pen-y-Graig	The Community of Pen-y-graig	2	3,924	1,962	-15%	3,983	1,992	-16%	4,307
28	Pen-y-Waun	The Community of Pen-y-waun	1	2,011	2,011	-13%	2,122	2,122	-11%	2,345
29	Penrhifceiber	The Community of Penrhifceiber	2	4,114	2,057	-11%	4,136	2,068	-13%	4,561
30	Pentre	The Community of Pentre	2	3,857	1,929	-16%	3,885	1,943	-18%	4,147
31	Pont-y-clun	The Community of Pont-y-clun	2	6,014	3,007	31%	6,873	3,437	45%	6,470
32	Pontypridd Town	The Town ward of the Town of Pontypridd	1	2,153	2,153	-6%	2,217	2,217	-7%	2,279
33	Porth	The Community of Porth	2	4,301	2,151	-7%	4,426	2,213	-7%	4,799
34	Rhigos	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
35	Rhondda	The Rhondda ward of the Town of Pontypridd	2	3,481	1,741	-24%	3,520	1,760	-26%	3,703
36	Rhydfelen Central/Ilan	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	Taffs Well	The Community of Taffs Well	1	2,826	2,826	23%	2,830	2,830	19%	3,123
38	Talbot Green	The Talbot Green ward of the Community of Llantrisant	1	1,956	1,956	-15%	1,991	1,991	-16%	2,302
39	Ton-Teg	The Ton-Teg ward of the Community of Llantwit Fardre	2	3,222	1,611	-30%	3,222	1,611	-32%	3,282
40	Tonypanyd	The Community of Tonypanyd	1	2,638	2,638	15%	2,695	2,695	13%	3,001
41	Tonyrefail East	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	Tonyrefail West	The Penrhif-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

APPENDIX 2

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
43	Trallwng	The Trallwng ward of the Town of Pontypridd	1	2,795	2,795	21%	2,819	2,819	19%	3,087
44	Trealaw	The Community of Trealaw	1	2,809	2,809	22%	2,840	2,840	19%	3,244
45	Treforest	The Treforest ward of the Town of Pontypridd	1	2,901	2,901	26%	2,997	2,997	26%	4,449
46	Treherbert	The Community of Treherbert	2	4,165	2,083	-10%	4,242	2,121	-11%	4,583
47	Treorchy	The Community of Treorchy	3	5,652	1,884	-18%	5,750	1,917	-19%	6,118
48	Tylorstown	The Community of Tylorstown	2	2,981	1,491	-35%	3,034	1,517	-36%	3,404
49	Tyn-y-Nant	The Tyn-y-Nant ward of the Community of Llantrisant	1	2,414	2,414	5%	2,414	2,414	2%	2,657
50	Ynyshir	The Community of Ynyshir	1	2,391	2,391	4%	2,398	2,398	1%	2,649
51	Ynysybwl	The Community of Ynysybwl and Coed-y-Cwm	1	3,457	3,457	50%	3,485	3,485	47%	3,619
52	Ystrad	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	34%	23	44%
Between 0% and + or - 10% of County average	15	29%	10	19%

**RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL
RECOMMENDED ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS**

APPENDIX 3

No	NAME	DESCRIPTION	No OF COUNCILLORS	ELECTORATE 2018	RATIO 2018	% Variance from County Average	ELECTORS 2023	RATIO 2023	% Variance from County Average
1	Aberaman	The Communities of Aberaman North and Aberaman South	3	7,111	2,370	3%	7,390	2,463	4%
2	Abercynon	The Community of Abercynon	2	4,487	2,244	-3%	4,537	2,269	-5%
3	Aberdare East	The Community of Aberdare East	2	4,900	2,450	6%	5,077	2,539	7%
4	Aberdare West and Llwydcoed	The Communities of Aberdare West and Llwydcoed	3	7,176	2,392	4%	7,561	2,520	6%
5	Beddau and Tyn-y-nant	The Beddau and Tyn-y-nant wards of the Community of Llantwit Fardre	2	5,581	2,791	21%	5,588	2,794	18%
6	Brynna and Llanharan	The Brynna, Llaniliad and Llanharan wards of the Community of Llanharan	3	6,171	2,057	-11%	7,020	2,340	-2%
7	Church Village	The Church Village ward of the Community of Llantwit Fardre	2	5,033	2,517	9%	5,070	2,535	7%
8	Cilfynydd	The Cilfynydd ward of the Town of Pontypridd	1	2,095	2,095	-9%	2,136	2,136	-10%
9	Cwm Clydach	The Community of Cwm Clydach	1	1,944	1,944	-16%	2,049	2,049	-14%
10	Cwmbach	The Community of Cwmbach	2	3,679	1,840	-20%	3,959	1,980	-17%
11	Cymer	The Communities of Cymmer and Trehafod	2	4,222	2,111	-8%	4,259	2,130	-10%
12	Gilfach-goch	The Community of Gilfach-goch	1	2,434	2,434	6%	2,495	2,495	5%
13	Glyn-coch	The Glyn-coch ward of the Town of Pontypridd	1	2,021	2,021	-12%	2,023	2,023	-15%
14	Graig and Pontypridd West	The Graig and Rhondda wards of the Town of Pontypridd	2	5,083	2,542	10%	5,179	2,590	9%
15	Hawthorn and Lower Rhydfelen	The Hawthorn ward of the Town of Pontypridd	1	1,803	1,803	-22%	1,805	1,805	-24%
16	Hirwaun, Penderyn and Rhigos	The Communities of Hirwaun and Rhigos	2	4,522	2,261	-2%	4,682	2,341	-2%
17	Llanharry	The Llanharry ward of the Community of Llanharry	1	2,523	2,523	10%	2,569	2,569	8%
18	Llantrisant and Talbot Green	The Llantrisant Town and Talbot Green wards of the Community of Llantrisant	2	5,118	2,559	11%	5,238	2,619	10%
19	Llantwit Fardre	The Efail Isaf and Llantwit Fardre wards of the Community of Llantwit Fardre	2	4,803	2,402	4%	4,814	2,407	1%
20	Llwynypia	The Community of Llwynypia	1	2,374	2,374	3%	2,459	2,459	3%
21	Mountain Ash	The Communities of Mountain Ash East and Mountain Ash West	2	5,278	2,639	15%	5,578	2,789	17%
22	Penrhiw-ceibr	The Community of Penrhiw-ceibr	2	4,114	2,057	-11%	4,136	2,068	-13%
23	Pentre	The Community of Pentre	2	3,857	1,929	-16%	3,885	1,943	-18%
24	Pen-y-graig	The Community of Pen-y-graig	2	3,924	1,962	-15%	3,983	1,992	-16%
25	Pen-y-waun	The Community of Pen-y-waun	1	2,011	2,011	-13%	2,122	2,122	-11%
26	Pont-y-clun Central	The Pont-y-clun Central ward of the Community of Pont-y-clun	1	2,312	2,312	0%	2,312	2,312	-3%
27	Pont-y-clun East	The Pont-y-clun East ward of the Community of Pont-y-clun	1	1,778	1,778	-23%	2,631	2,631	11%
28	Pont-y-clun West	The Pont-y-clun West ward of the Community of Pont-y-clun and the Tyle-garw ward of the Community of Llanharry	1	2,522	2,522	10%	2,528	2,528	6%
29	Pontypridd Town	The Community of Pontypridd Town	1	2,153	2,153	-6%	2,217	2,217	-7%
30	Porth	The Community of Porth	2	4,301	2,151	-7%	4,426	2,213	-7%
31	Tylorstown and Ynyshir	The Communities of Tylorstown and Ynyshir	2	5,372	2,686	17%	5,432	2,716	14%
32	Ferndale and Maerdy	The Communities of Ferndale and Maerdy	2	5,324	2,662	16%	5,470	2,735	15%
33	Rhydfelen Central	The Rhydfelen Central ward of the Town of Pontypridd	1	1,949	1,949	-15%	1,949	1,949	-18%
34	Taff's Well	The Community of Taffs Well	1	2,826	2,826	23%	2,830	2,830	19%
35	Ton-teg	The Ton-teg ward of the Community of Llantwit Fardre	1	2,502	2,502	9%	2,502	2,502	5%
36	Tonypanyd	The Community of Tonypanyd	1	2,638	2,638	15%	2,695	2,695	13%
37	Tonyrefail East	The Coedely, Collena and Tylcha wards of the Community of Tonyrefail	2	4,260	2,130	-7%	4,409	2,205	-7%
38	Tonyrefail West	The Penrhiw-fer, Thomastown and Tynybryn wards of the Community of Tonyrefail	2	4,790	2,395	4%	5,225	2,613	10%
39	Trallwng	The Trallwng ward of the Town of Pontypridd	1	2,795	2,795	21%	2,819	2,819	19%
40	Trealaw	The Community of Trealaw	1	2,511	2,511	9%	2,542	2,542	7%

**RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL
RECOMMENDED ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS**

APPENDIX 3

41	Treforest	The Treforest ward of the Town of Pontypridd	1	2,901	2,901	26%	2,997	2,997	26%
42	Treherbert	The Community of Treherbert	2	4,165	2,083	-10%	4,242	2,121	-11%
43	Treorchy	The Community of Treorchy	2	5,652	2,826	23%	5,750	2,875	21%
44	Upper Rhydfelen and Glyn-taf	The Upper Rhydfelen and llan wards of the Town of Pontypridd	1	2,397	2,397	4%	2,397	2,397	1%
45	Ynysybwl	The Community of Ynysybwl and Coed-y-Cwm	2	3,457	1,729	-25%	3,485	1,743	-27%
46	Ystrad	The Community of Ystrad	2	3,804	1,902	-17%	3,822	1,911	-20%
			75	172,673	2,302		178,294	2,377	

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 (ONS)

	2018		2023	
Greater than + or - 50% of County Average	0	0%	0	0%
Between + or - 25% and + or - 50% of County Average	1	2%	2	4%
Between + or - 10% and + or - 25% of County Average	23	50%	24	52%
Between 0% and + or - 10% of County Average	22	48%	20	44%

RULES AND PROCEDURES

Scope and Object of the Review

1. Section 29 (1) of the Local Government (Democracy) (Wales) Act 2013 (the Act) lays upon the Commission the duty, at least once in every review period of ten years, to review the electoral arrangements for every principal area in Wales, for the purpose of considering whether or not to make proposals to the Welsh Government for a change in those electoral arrangements. In conducting a review the Commission must seek to ensure effective and convenient local government (Section 21 (3) of the Act).
2. The former Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Local Government of the Welsh Government asked the Commission to submit a report in respect of the review of electoral arrangements for the County Borough of Rhondda Cynon Taf before the 2022 local government elections.

Electoral Arrangements

3. The changes that the Commission may recommend in relation to an electoral review are:
 - (a) such changes to the arrangements for the principal area under review as appear to it appropriate; and
 - (b) in consequence of such changes:
 - (i) Such community boundary changes as it considers appropriate in relation to any community in the principal area;
 - (ii) Such community council changes and changes to the electoral arrangements for such a community as it considers appropriate; and
 - (iii) Such preserved county changes as it considers appropriate.
4. The “electoral arrangements” of a principal area are defined in section 29 (9) of the 2013 Act as:
 - i) the number of members for the council for the principal area;
 - ii) the number, type and boundaries of the electoral wards;
 - iii) the number of members to be elected for any electoral ward in the principal area; and
 - iv) the name of any electoral ward.

Considerations for a review of principal area electoral arrangements

5. Section 30 of the Act requires the Commission, in considering whether to make recommendations for changes to the electoral arrangements for a principal area, to:
 - (a) seek to ensure that the ratio of local government electors to the number of members of the council to be elected is, as near as may be, the same in every electoral ward of the principal area;
 - (b) have regard to:
 - (i) the desirability of fixing boundaries for electoral wards which are and will remain easily identifiable;
 - (ii) the desirability of not breaking local ties when fixing boundaries for electoral wards.
6. In considering the ratio of local government electors to the number of members, account is to be taken of:
 - (a) any discrepancy between the number of local government electors and the number of persons that are eligible to be local government electors (as indicated by relevant official statistics); and
 - (b) any change to the number or distribution of local government electors in the principal area which is likely to take place in the period of five years immediately following the making of any recommendation.

Local government changes

7. Since the last local government order there has been a number of changes to local government boundaries in the County Borough of Rhondda Cynon Taf.
 - The Rhondda Cynon Taf (Communities) Order 2016

Procedure

8. Chapter 4 of the Act lays down procedural guidelines which are to be followed in carrying out a review. In compliance with this part of the Act, the Commission wrote on 25 July 2018 to Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council, the Community Councils in the area, the Members of Parliament for the local constituencies, the Assembly Members for the area, and other interested parties to inform them of our intention to conduct the review and to request their preliminary views. The Commission invited Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council to submit a suggested scheme or schemes for new electoral arrangements. The Commission also requested that Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council display a number of public notices in their area. The Commission also made available copies of the *Electoral Reviews: Policy*

and Practice document. In addition, the Commission made a presentation to both County and Community councillors explaining the review process.

9. In line with Section 35 of Chapter 4 of the Act, the Commission published its Draft Proposals Report on 19 June 2019, notifying the listed mandatory consultees and other interested parties of a period of consultation on the draft proposals would commence on 26 June 2019 and end 17 September 2019. The Commission met with Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council Group Leaders and Chief Executive to discuss the Draft Proposals and the process of developing the Final Recommendations. The Commission invited Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council and other interested parties to submit comments on the Draft Proposals and how they could be improved. The Commission also asked Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council to display copies of the report alongside public notices in the area.
10. The boundaries of the recommended electoral wards are shown by continuous blue lines on the map placed on deposit with this Report at the Offices of Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council and the Office of the Commission in Cardiff, as well as on the Commission's website (<http://ldbc.gov.wales>).

Policy and Practice

11. The Commission published the *Electoral Reviews: Policy and Practice* document in October 2016. This document details the Commission's approach to resolving the challenge of balancing electoral parity and community ties; it sets out the issues to be considered and gives some understanding of the broad approach which the Commission takes towards each of the statutory considerations to be made when addressing a review's particular circumstances. However, because those circumstances are unlikely to provide for the ideal electoral pattern, in most reviews compromises are made in applying the policies in order to strike the right balance between each of the matters the Commission must consider.
12. The document also provides the overall programme timetable, and how this was identified, and the Commission's Council Size Policy. The document can be viewed on the Commission's website or are available on request.

Crown Copyright

13. The maps included in this report, and published on the Commission's website, were produced by the Local Democracy and Boundary Commission for Wales under licence from Ordnance Survey. These maps are subject to © Crown Copyright. Unauthorised reproduction will infringe Crown Copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings. Any newspaper editor wishing to use the maps as part of an article about the draft proposals should first contact the copyright office at Ordnance Survey.

SUMMARY OF REPRESENTATIONS RECEIVED FOR THE COMMISSION DRAFT CONSULTATION ON THE REVIEW OF ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS IN RHONDDA CYNON TAF

1. **Councillors of Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council's Scrutiny Committee** wrote on the 17 September 2019 to provide the following submission;

5. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY CONSIDERATION

- 5.1 Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee at their meeting on 22nd July 2019 considered the Draft Proposals Report. A summary of the representations made at that meeting is set out below and relevant extract from the minutes is attached as Appendix 1 to the report. These representations shall be submitted to the Commission as part of its consultation on the Draft Proposals.

5.2 Brynna & Llanharan

Several Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee felt that the LDP forecast figures for 2023 electorate should be given greater weight and consideration, particularly in relation to the proposal for Brynna and Llanharan (The Council's majority proposal submitted in respect of the first stage of the review conducted last year was to create three single member wards from the existing two wards due to the forecasted growth in the Llaniliad area by 2023).

Graig and Treforest Wards

A Member of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee acknowledged whilst certain parts of Treforest could transfer to the Graig Ward to ensure electoral parity they should remain separate wards as opposed to the Commission's proposal to combine the two Wards.

Maerdy, Ferndale, Tylorstown and Ynyshir

In respect of the Wards within the Rhondda Fach Area Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee agreed that the level of representation should remain as it currently stands. Members felt by lowering the numbers from six Members to four Members would be to the detriment of the residents who live in the area particularly as there was no Community Council and the size of the proposed Electoral Ward areas. Members felt that the number of

4. **REVIEW OF THE COUNCIL'S ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS BY THE LOCAL DEMOCRACY & BOUNDARY COMMISSION FOR WALES**

The Chair informed Members that before the Director of Legal Services presented the report in respect of the 'Review of the Council's Electoral Arrangements by the Local Democracy and Boundary Commission for Wales', he had received written submissions from individual Members that being County Borough Councillors G. Thomas, R. Turner, M Griffiths and T Leyshon which would be taken into consideration as part of reporting to full Council.

The Director of Legal Services outlined the background of the report and it was explained that the Commission has now developed its Draft Proposals in relation to its review and these are contained in the Draft Proposal Report, which Members would have had the opportunity to consider before the meeting.

The Director of Legal Services continued to explain that the Commission has now commenced a 12-week period of statutory consultation on the Draft Proposals Report, which runs from 26th June 2019 to 17th September 2019 and invites representations, which are based on evidence and facts relevant to the specific proposal in consideration.

Members were asked to consider the summary of the draft proposal for each Electoral Ward and put their representations forward as part of the consultation feedback – either at the meeting or in advance of the Council meeting which would consider the Draft Proposals Report.

The Chair opened up the meeting to Members for their view and comments.

In respect of the Wards within the Rhondda Fach Area Members strongly agreed that the level of representation should remain as it currently stands. Members felt by lowering the numbers from six Members to four Members would be to the detriment of the residents who live in the area particularly as there was no Community Council and the size of the proposed Electoral Ward areas. Members felt that the number of schools within the proposed areas would also suffer, as some schools could end up with no Councillor representation on their governing bodies.

A Member requested clarification relating to the maps of the Church Village area. The Member observed that properties within the Dyffryn Y Coed area are not depicted on the map contained with the Draft Proposals Report and sought clarification as to whether the number of the dwellings and electors within that area had been taken into consideration when preparing the report. Officers confirmed that this would be checked but it was understood they had been even though the OS map which was being used which did not show the development.

A Member raised the proposals relating to combining the existing Treforest and Graig Wards and whilst acknowledging certain parts of Treforest could transfer to the Graig Ward they should remain separate wards.

In respect of the proposed arrangements for the Mountain Ash Electoral Ward, a Member raised concerns about under representation and felt that it was a number

schools within the proposed areas would also suffer, as some schools could end up with no Councillor representation on their governing bodies.

Mountain Ash East and West

A Member of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee raised concerns about under representation and felt that it was a number crunching exercise and residents within the communities wished to retain the existing arrangements.

Treorchy

A Member of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee commented that Treorchy is a thriving area and the 'capital of Rhondda' and to reduce the ward to a two Member ward shows lack of knowledge.

Rhigos & Hirwaun

The Local Member for Rhigos submitted written representations at the meeting in relation to these wards as appended at Appendix 1(i) to the report.

6. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1 The Electoral Review is being conducted by the Commission under the provisions of the Local Government (Democracy) (Wales) Act 2013.

7. CONSULTATION

7.1 The Commission is conducting a 12 week period of statutory consultation which runs from 26th June 2019 until 17th September 2019.

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. CONCLUSION

9.1 Members are asked to note the Commission's Draft Proposals concerning its review of the Electoral Arrangements of the Council as detailed in their report and the timetable for conducting the remainder of the Commission's review.

Overview & Scrutiny Committee – 22.07.19

RE: Observations regarding the Boundary Review re Rhigos and Hirwaun proposals:

The current boundaries should be retained when you consider the land mass of the respective wards. The current measure only considers the electorate and is over simplified in this situation. While it is accepted that the electorate in Hirwaun Ward is over twice that in the Rhigos Ward the land area in Rhigos taking into the farming community, Hirwaun Industrial Estate and working areas such as Tower, amounts to eight or more times the size of Hirwaun. Taken together with the special qualities of the National Park there is a strong case for Rhigos Ward to remain at its' present boundary.

if it is a question simply of electorate then a natural boundary could be drawn to place a greater number of electors in the Rhigos boundary and fewer in the Hirwaun boundary although ,again, this should not be necessary given the substantive point above.

There is also an error in the map provided giving the name of the "Hirwaun" Community and electorate of 3,781. This is the Hirwaun & Penderyn Community and not the "Hirwaun Community" as it is represented by Hirwaun & Penderyn Community Council.

Should the proposed changes prevail then the name of the proposed new electoral division should include Penderyn e.g. Hirwaun & Rhigos/Penderyn. While I note there is a preference for a single name in the outlined principles the name that I propose is no more convoluted than, for example, the accepted/proposed Llantrisant Town and Talbot Green or Upper Rhydfelin and Glynstaff.

The name, Penderyn, should also be included in any proposed Welsh equivalent.

Regards,

Cllr Graham Thomas.

Rhigos/Penderyn Division.

RCTCBC

APPENDIX 1

Extract from the Overview & Scrutiny Committee Minutes – 22.07.19

crunching exercise and residents within the communities need to retain the existing arrangements.

In respect of the Treorchy proposal, a Member commented that Treorchy is a thriving area and the 'capital of Rhondda' and to reduce the ward to a two Member ward shows lack of knowledge.

In relation to Aberaman North and South a Member queried whether consideration has been given to the LDP when considering the proposal. The Member felt that the LDP forecast figures for 2023 electorate should have been taken into account, they continued by asking if the Boundary Commission could clarify what level of consideration they have given to this aspect when reflecting on their recommendations as this would increase the numbers within the Ward.

After further discussion Member's **RESOLVED**:

- To acknowledge the Commissions Draft Proposals Report in respect of the Council's future Electoral Arrangements, as outlined in their draft proposal
- That Members comments , observations and recommendations in respect of the Draft proposals will be taken into consideration before being presented to Full Council at its meeting in September 2019

2. **Hirwaun and Penderyn Community Council** wrote on the 24 July 2019 to oppose the Commission's proposal to combine the electoral wards of Hirwaun and Rhigos. The Community Council states that Hirwaun and Penderyn are entirely separate communities with Hirwaun being town based, and Penderyn being rural. The Community Council states that each village has different needs and the current arrangements meet those needs well. The Community Council proposed to re-name the ward as 'Hirwaun, Penderyn and Rhigos'. The Community Council stated that the name of the ward should also reflect the name of the Community Council representing the area, and that the proposed name was no more convoluted than the proposed Llantrisant and Talbot Green or Upper Rhydfelen and Glyn-taf ward names.
3. **Llantrisant Community Council** wrote on the 22 July 2019 to propose that the proposed Beddau and Tyn-y-Nant electoral ward be allocated an additional councillor to form a three-member electoral ward to reflect the expanding housing development in the area. The Community Council also proposed that the proposed ward of Llantrisant Town and Talbot Green be given the single name of Llantrisant.
4. **Taffs Well and Nantgarw Community Council** wrote on the 28 August 2019 to suggest a boundary alteration for the Taffs Well electoral ward. The Community Council proposes to include the area up to the roundabout at Upper Boat in the Taffs Well electoral ward. The Community Council advises that this proposal would not affect the number of electors in the ward.
5. **Pont-y-clun Community Council** wrote on the 12 September 2019 supporting the Draft Proposal to transfer the Community of Tyle-garw into Pont-y-clun. They, however, suggested an alternative name to the proposed 'Pont-y-clun' ward. They proposed the single name of Pontyclun stating that this form is widely accepted locally in both Welsh and English, and as such, does not require the hyphens.

The Community Council proposed to re-align the boundary of the existing Pont-y-clun electoral ward with the A473. They believe this change would provide for an easily identifiable boundary. They also proposed that the existing Pont-y-clun electoral ward be divided into three single-member wards of Pont-y-clun West, Pont-y-clun Central and Pont-y-clun East. They proposed that the electoral ward of Pont-y-clun West include the town centre, Tyle-garw, Maesyfelin, Brynsadler and Talygarn. Pont-y-clun Central would lie East of the railway line and include properties on Llantrisant Road including Ynys Ddu and residences lying off Heol Miskin, including Miskin village. Pont-y-clun East would include residences approached from Ffordd Cefn yr Hendy and the village of Groes-faen. Most of the land with development potential in Pont-y-clun would lie within this ward.

The Community Council provided results to a locally conducted survey on residents' opinion of the Commission's proposal to transfer the community of Tyle-garw into Pont-y-clun. The survey received 54 responses, of which, 42 respondents agreed with the proposal, and 12 disagreed.

6. **Llanharan Community Council** wrote on the 16 September 2019 opposing the Draft Proposals for the Llanharan and Brynna electoral wards. They opposed the creation of a multi-member ward for the area and advocates the retention of single-member wards. They advise that Llanharan is comprised of a number of separate villages. They stated that each of these settlements were established at different times and although they are part of the same community, it is important that their individual characteristics are recognised. They also cited several issues in maintaining a multi-member ward. They concluded that residents are better represented in a single-member ward as their councillor would be clearly identifiable.
7. **Llanharry Community Council** wrote on the 16 September stating that they felt strongly that the Draft Proposals for Llanharry and Pont-y-clun will cause confusion to some residents. They stated that it would be very difficult to deal with one member for one area and another for another area. They stated that both their members and those of Pont-y-clun Community Council were unaware that the review was only for the county borough electoral arrangements. They have a close working relationship with their current member. They cannot see this being the case with the ward member for Tyle-garw. If the Commission's proposal is approved, they believe there would be a conflict of interest with the member putting the residents of Pont-y-clun's needs before those of Tyle-garw.
8. **Leanne Wood, Assembly Member (Rhondda)** wrote on the 16 September opposing the Draft Proposals for the Rhondda. The AM for the Rhondda reiterated their comments from the initial consultation period. The AM urged the Commission to re-think its proposals. The AM also queried the proposal to split a two-member ward (Pentre) to create two single-member wards. The AM also opposed reducing the number of councillors representing the Treorchy electoral ward to create a situation where the ward is under-represented by 24%. The AM asks the Commission to reconsider its proposal for this ward and retain the existing three-member arrangement.
9. **Councillor Joel Stephen James (Llantwit Fardre)** wrote on the 29 August 2019 to support the Commission's proposals to retain the existing arrangements in the Llantwit Fardre electoral ward. Councillor James broadly supported the Commission's proposals for the Church Village electoral ward, in particular, the increase in representation for Church Village. However, Councillor James believed this could be achieved without changing the current boundaries as he had reservations as to whether residents living in the affected area in Ton-teg would be supportive. Should the Commission make recommendations to proceed with its Draft Proposals, Councillor James supported the recommendations put forward by Councillor Lewis Hooper at the initial consultation stage.

Councillor James also broadly supported the Commission's Draft Proposals for Llantrisant Town and Talbot Green, but asked that consideration be given to including Lanelay Hall within the electoral ward. Lanelay Hall is a relatively new-build estate on the outskirts of Talbot Green and Councillor James suspects many residents consider themselves as residents of Talbot Green and not Llanharan, which is some considerable distance away.

Councillor James supported the Commission's Draft Proposals for Pont-y-clun, and supports the inclusion of Tyle-garw within the revised Pont-y-clun electoral ward. Councillor James does not support the proposal to divide the ward into three single member electoral wards.

10. **Councillor Martin Fidler-Jones (Hawthorn)** wrote on the 1 July 2019 to oppose the Commission's proposal for the Rhydfelen and Hawthorn electoral wards. Councillor Fidler-Jones stated that the Commission's proposals make no use of natural boundaries and will be impossible to describe to residents going forward. The proposal also includes a section of the Lower Rhydfelen Town Council ward, requiring a commensurate amendment to the existing Town Council ward to facilitate it. Councillor Fidler-Jones also stated that the initial representations from residents of the area which were opposed to the proposals put forward by the Commission, appear to have been ignored. Councillor Fidler-Jones also suggested that, should the Commission continue with its proposals, then the Hawthorn electoral ward should be re-named Hawthorn and Lower-Rhydfelen in order to acknowledge the significant proportion of the lower Rhydfelen community that would sit within the revised ward. Councillor Fidler-Jones suggested that the boundary changes proposed by him at the initial consultation stage be taken forward as an alternative to the Commission's proposal.

11. **Councillor Roger Turner (Brynna)** wrote on the 13 September 2019 to oppose the Commission's Draft Proposals for the Brynna and Llanharan electoral wards. Councillor Turner opposed the Commission's proposal to create a multi-member ward consisting of Brynna, Llanilid and Llanharan. Councillor Turner felt that, as single member wards, constituents would clearly know who their elected representative is and, consequently, can hold that person to account. Similarly, a single member ward councillor can promote their achievements, which would prove difficult in a multi-member ward. Councillor Turner also understood that the Commission has a preference for single-member representation where possible and he is firmly satisfied that the Council's preferred option for three single-member wards complies with this. Councillor Turner further stated that the areas of Brynna and Llanilid are quite unique and felt that consideration should be given to both the nature and scale of the development. Councillor Turner also stated that the electorate for the Brynna ward has stagnated due to an embargo on connecting any new properties to the mains sewer, however, Councillor Turner has identified an opportunity to negotiate the development of approximately 242 new properties in Brynna. Councillor Turner advised that work to develop the site has already commenced. Councillor Turner is confident that over half of the 242 properties will be built by 2023, with the remainder to follow thereafter. The development in Llanilid consists of a planned 125 properties each year with planning permission for a total of 1,850 properties in the Llanilid Polling District. Councillor Turner hoped that this information provides an indication as to why single-member representation would provide the best arrangements for the area.

12. **Councillor Jill Bonetto (Taff's Well)** wrote on the 12 September 2019 to suggest that the boundary for the Taff's Well electoral ward be amended to the Upper Boat Roundabout as the peculiar shape of the current boundary causes

confusion particularly when planning applications are considered. This change will not cause any changes to the number of residents within both wards as the area is an industrial estate.

13. **Councillor Lewis Hooper** (Ton-teg) wrote on the 15 September 2019 to highlight the importance of the Commission's Draft Proposals for the Church Village and Ton-teg electoral wards. Councillor Hooper advised at the initial representation stage that it was essential for the streets of Bryn Rhedyn, The Rise and several properties of Church Road to remain as part of Ton-teg. The Councillor wished to stress the importance of those changes – both the utilisation of the natural boundary and retaining of those three streets in the Ton-teg ward.
14. **Councillor Darren Macey** (Ynyshir) wrote on the 15 September 2019 to oppose the Commission's Draft Proposals for the Rhondda Fach area. Councillor Macey recognised the issues around the number of residents currently represented by each councillor with Ynyshir and Wattstown slightly over the recommended number, Maerdy slightly under and both Ferndale and Tylorstown well below the average resident to councillor ratio. To address this, Councillor Macey proposed that Ynyshir and Wattstown be represented by one councillor, Tylorstown and Ferndale be represented by three councillors and Maerdy be represented by one councillor. Councillor Macey feels Ynyshir are their own community and deserve representation.
15. **Councillor Margaret Griffiths** (Pont-y-clun) wrote on the 15 September 2019 to oppose the Commission's Draft Proposals for the Pont-y-clun electoral ward. Councillor Griffiths seconded the representation submitted by Pont-y-clun Community Council at the Initial Consultation stage to create three single-member electoral wards of Pont-y-clun West, Pont-y-clun Central and Pont-y-clun East. Councillor Griffiths also suggested the single name of Pontyclun for the ward(s) as the name is well established amongst local communities of both English and Welsh speakers.
16. **Councillors Shelley Rees-Owen and Maureen Weaver** (both Pentre) wrote on the 16 September 2019 to oppose the Commission's Draft Proposals for the Pentre electoral ward. The Councillors felt that creating two single-member wards would not achieve improvements to electoral parity and would endanger existing community ties. The Councillors state that many local initiatives straddle both communities such as the local football teams, churches, the local theatre and local amenities. The local PCSO's also deal with the ward as a whole and the arrangements work well for residents. The Councillors urged the retention of a two member electoral ward to enable the Pentre and Ton Pentre communities to co-exist and continue to build on the relationships already established.
17. **Councillor Robert Bevan** (Tylorstown) wrote on the 16 September 2019 to oppose the Commission's Draft Proposals for the Rhondda Fach area. Councillor Bevan advised that he has represented the Tylorstown ward for 28 years and has experienced many changes in the four villages that make up the ward. Councillor Bevan stated that the residents of Tylorstown rely on their local council and councillors for support. Councillor Bevan felt that the changes have alienated many residents from everyday life with many choosing to opt out of the

democratic process by not registering to vote or not voting when they are registered. Councillor Bevan felt the proposals would only lead to further alienation. Councillor Bevan proposed to retain the existing two-member arrangement for Tylorstown. Councillor Bevan also provided the two submissions (of which he is fully supportive) made by the Tylorstown Ward Labour Party, of which he is the secretary. The Labour Party submission details a locally conducted survey of Tylorstown residents which clearly shows no appetite for a reduction in the number of councillors in the Tylorstown ward, nor to combine the Tylorstown ward with Ynyshir. The Labour Party reiterates its previous submission and request that there is no reduction in the number of councillors for the Tylorstown ward, nor is there a need to combine Tylorstown with Ynyshir.

18. **Councillor Eleri Griffiths (Rhondda)** wrote on the 15 September 2019 to support the Commission's Draft Proposal to unite the Community of Trehafod under the Cymmer electoral ward. Councillor Griffiths noted that she favours the 'Cymer' spelling as opposed to the 'Cymmer' spelling as advised by the Welsh Language Commissioner. Councillor Griffiths objected to the Commission's Draft Proposal for the Rhondda electoral ward and disagreed with transferring a section of Maes-y-coed from the Rhondda ward to the Graig ward. Councillor Griffiths stated that the Council's alternative proposal to combine the electoral wards of Graig and Rhondda would be more logical, however, Councillor Griffiths stated this was not an ideal solution due to the very different natures of Graig and Maes-y-coed. Councillor Griffiths further stated that there are two organisations that are significant in showing how people identify. There is a PACT and neighbourhood watch meeting for the Maes-y-coed and Pwllgwaun area, a separate PACT meeting for Hopkinstown and lower Pantygraigwen. Previous attempts to merge these in the past have failed due to people identifying with specific communities.
19. **Councillor Maureen Webber (Rhydfelen Central)** wrote on the 16 September 2019 to support the Commission's Draft Proposals for the Rhydfelen and Hawthorn area. Councillor Webber advised that she has been contacted by the local elected members of Pontypridd Town Council in relation to the boundary changes who are fully supportive of the proposed changes. Councillor Webber stated that as a political branch, they have discussed the changes and the consensus is that it would be a fairer representation for residents. Councillor Webber also advised that she took the opportunity to speak to residents in her capacity as Chair of a local Community Group, and again people are pleased that the identity of Rhydfelen will now be recognised as an electoral ward.
20. **Pontypridd Town Councillor Jeffrey Baxter (Rhydfelen Central)** wrote on the 24 July 2019 to oppose the Commission's proposal to combine the electoral wards of Graig and Treforest. Councillor Baxter opposed the arguments put forward at the Initial Consultation stage as they did not reflect the reality that the community of Treforest is overwhelmingly distinct from the Graig community. Councillor Baxter stated that there is no natural ebb and flow between the two communities, with the occasional project involving a small amount of university students in no way altering that reality. The Treforest ward has its own distinctive issues such as; HMO's (Houses of Multiple Occupancy), the impact of the University on parking and relations between students and permanent residents.

Councillor Baxter also mentioned Treforest's unique history as the oldest part of Pontypridd with the first market in the area as it was the centre of the Tin Plating industry as well as the University, which dates back to 1913 as the South Wales School of Mines.

21. **Llanharan Community Councillor Jeff Williams** wrote on the 1 July 2019 to support the Commission's proposals to combine the electoral wards of Brynna and Llanharan to form a three-member electoral ward. Councillor Williams stated that the members of Llanharan Community Council work well together and run a community shop which donates its earnings equally among the Brynna, Bryncae, Llanharan and Ynysmaerdy areas.
22. **Mr Alun Michael, the South Wales Police and Crime Commissioner** wrote on the 19 July 2019 to state that he has reviewed the proposals and has no objections or comments to make.
23. **Rhondda Plaid Cymru** wrote on the 17 September 2019 to oppose the Commission's Draft Proposals for the Treorchy electoral ward. The group believed the loss of one councillor in the Treorchy ward would cause undue burden on the two councillors representing that area. The group also believed that the existing arrangements for Ynyshir should be retained and that changes should be made to the Tylorstown and Ferndale wards to achieve the desired voter ratios. The group was especially concerned about the Commission's Draft Proposals for the Pentre ward. The group does not believe splitting the ward into two single member wards would achieve the goals set out by the Commission or have widespread support in the community. The group cites local issues and changes had shown a clear tendency for residents in the community to look for facilities and services within the communities of Pentre and Ton Pentre before looking outside them. The group cites other initiatives such as local football clubs and churches. Plaid Cymru Rhondda requested that the existing two-member arrangements for Pentre be retained.
24. **Rhondda Cynon Taf Labour Group** wrote on the 17 September 2019 to provide a response to the Commission's Draft Proposals. The Labour Group opposed the Commission's proposals for the Rhondda, Graig and Treforest electoral wards. Whilst the group supported the transfer of Trehafod wholly into the Cymmer ward, and to transfer a section of Maesycoed from the Rhondda ward into the Graig ward in order to improve electoral variance in both of these wards. However, the Group was concerned about the Commission's proposal to combine the electoral wards of Graig and Treforest. The Group stated there are unique challenges and issues in both wards that they feel have not been considered by the Commission. The Group asked that the contrast in nature between the two wards should be respected. The group also proposed to re-name the Rhondda ward as Pontypridd North, in order to avoid confusion with the Rhondda constituency and to strengthen the sense of identity that residents have with Pontypridd.

Regarding the Commission's proposals for the Brynna and Llanharan electoral wards, the group wished to reinforce the importance of adopting the option preferred by the Council of creating three single-member electoral wards for

Brynna, Llanharan and Llaniliad respectively. The group cited the anticipated growth in the Llaniliad ward as reason to support the single-member wards, despite the initial level of electoral variance in Llaniliad being below the recommended threshold.

With regards to the Commission's Draft Proposals for Pont-y-clun, the Group stated that without physically visiting the ward, it would be difficult to see how what appears to be one housing estate could contain what is essentially two disparate communities; but this in fact reflects the reality on the ground. The Cefn-Yr-Hendy estate is separated by a physical barrier that runs the entire length of the "old" and "new" boundary, with walking access only available at two points and no through access for motorists. Whilst the estate shares one name, they are in fact two neighbouring communities. The Group would therefore respectfully suggest that three single-Member wards (outlined below) be established to reflect these unique community elements which would fall within the Commission's acceptable thresholds.

Pontyclun West

This proposed ward has a clear boundary provided by the railway line. It would include the town centre, Tyle Garw, Maesyfelin, Brynsalder and Talygarn. In terms of representation, this ward would fall in the +/- 0%-10% variance threshold.

Pontyclun Central

This proposed ward would lie to the east of the railway line. It would include properties lying off Llantrisant Road including Ynys Ddu and residences lying off Heol Miskin including Miskin Village, as well as the road off Heol y Coed and Heol Cefn yr Hendy. This ward would also fall into the +/- 0%-10% variance threshold.

Pontyclun East

This proposed ward includes the residences approached from Ffordd Cefn yr Hendy on one side of the dual carriageway along with the village of Groes Faen. Most of the land with development potential within the Pontyclun Community lies within this proposed electoral ward. It is acknowledged that this ward would, based on the 2018 electorate figures, be close to the -25% variance; however, the considerable development that is planned for the area (and reflected in the 2023 electorate forecasts) would see over 2,500 electors living in the ward, which would then situate the variance into the same bracket as the above two divisions.

The Labour Group also opposed the Commission's proposals for the Hirwaun and Rhigos electoral wards. The Group stated that the Commission will be aware that the Rhigos ward is unique when compared with other wards within Rhondda Cynon Taf. It contains both the smallest electorate and also covers the largest geographical area, encompassing the main communities of Rhigos and Penderyn, and also a portion of the Brecon Beacons National Park which contributes to the ward receiving funding under the Rural Development Fund.

The Group was disappointed to see that the Commission has seemingly ignored these factors in favour of creating a merger between the Rhigos and Hirwaun wards.

Whilst the Group acknowledged that a direct merger between the Tylorstown and Ynyshir electoral division would create the best outcome in terms of electoral representation, the Group wished to highlight the wider and arguably more important factors that should be considered. The Group outlined that their preference would be to retain the existing level of representation in the Rhondda Fach but acknowledge that this would prove problematic in the frame of the Commission's guidelines and would also mean that communities that have experienced high levels of growth would lose the opportunity of representation. To this end, the group's alternative proposal would be to reduce the Tylorstown ward to single-Member representation and also to retain the Ynyshir ward in its current form.

The Labour Group also proposed an amendment to the existing Taff's Well ward boundary with Hawthorn. The Group wished to note the inconsistency in the boundary between Hawthorn and Taff's Well that covers the Treforest Industrial Estate area. The Group proposed that the boundary between the wards be "tidied up" with a redrawing of the line at the lights on the roundabout at Upper Boat. No properties or voters would be affected by this change, although it would provide clarity for businesses in the area.

25. 22 residents of Llanharry, Tyle-garw and Pont-y-clun wrote during the consultation period to submit a pro-forma letter of objection in opposition of the Commission's proposals for the Llanharry electoral ward. The pro-forma opposed the Commission's proposal to combine the Community of Tyle-garw with the Pont-y-clun electoral ward for the purposes of Community Council representation.
26. A resident of Tyle-garw wrote during the consultation period to submit a pro-forma letter of objection in opposition of the Commission's proposals for the Llanharry electoral ward. The pro-forma opposed the Commission's proposal to combine the Community of Tyle-garw with the Pont-y-clun electoral ward for the purposes of Community Council representation. The resident stated they have lived in the village for 33 years and want it to stay as it is.
27. A resident of Tyle-garw wrote on the 27 July 2019 to support the Commission's proposal to combine the Community Ward of Tyle-garw with the Pont-y-clun electoral ward for Community Council representation.
28. A resident of Pont-y-clun wrote on the 30 July 2019 to submit a pro-forma letter of objection in opposition of the Commission's proposals for the Llanharry electoral ward. The pro-forma opposed the Commission's proposal to combine the Community of Tyle-garw with the Pont-y-clun electoral ward for the purpose of Community Council representation. The resident stated that Tyle-garw is a distinctive little community which is quite separate in residents' minds from Pont-y-clun. The resident is firmly of the belief that it could lose that individuality as a community if it is absorbed into Pont-y-clun.

29. A resident of Llanharry wrote on the 31 July 2019 to submit a pro-forma letter of objection in opposition of the Commission's proposals for the Llanharry electoral ward. The pro-forma opposed the Commission's proposal to combine the Community of Tyle-garw with the Pont-y-clun electoral ward for the purpose of Community Council representation. The resident stated that Llanharry and Tyle-garw have always linked together, if Tyle-garw joined Pont-y-clun then Llanharry would be left out again.
30. A resident of Tyle-garw wrote on the 31 July 2019 to submit a pro-forma letter of objection in opposition of the Commission's proposals for the Llanharry electoral ward. The pro-forma opposes the Commission's proposal to combine the Community of Tyle-garw with the Pont-y-clun electoral ward for the purpose of Community Council representation. The resident stated they would like to stay in Llanharry Community Council.
31. A resident of Rhondda Cynon Taf wrote on the 31 July 2019 to advise that they, their wife and their daughter would like to keep Tyle-garw with Llanharry.
32. Two residents of Tyle-garw wrote on the 30 July 2019 to support the Commission's proposal to transfer the Community of Tyle-garw into Pont-y-clun Community Council. The resident stated they have absolutely no affinity with Llanharry and have been poorly served over the years by that council. The resident stated that proximity-wise, Tyle-garw abuts Pont-y-clun, the local post code is Pont-y-clun, local children attend Pont-y-clun Primary School and Y Pant Comprehensive which are both situated in Pont-y-clun.
33. Two residents of Llanharry wrote on the 1 August 2019 to object to the Commission's proposals for the Llanharry electoral ward. The residents stated that Llanharry has been self-sufficient for decades and as residents, they would like their share of their council tax to maintain their link with the village.
34. A resident of Tyle-garw wrote on the 29 July 2019 to lodge their full support behind the transfer of Tyle-garw to Pont-y-clun Community Council.
35. A resident of Tyle-garw wrote on the 6 August 2019 to submit a pro-forma letter of objection in opposition of the Commission's proposals for the Llanharry electoral ward. The pro-forma opposed the Commission's proposal to combine the Community of Tyle-garw with the Pont-y-clun electoral ward for the purposes of Community Council representation. The resident stated that they would like to remain an integral part of Llanharry and not become just a speck in Pont-y-clun and that history shows Tyle-garw has always had links with Llanharry.
36. A resident of Llanharry wrote on the 6 August 2019 to submit a pro-forma letter of objection in opposition of the Commission's proposals for the Llanharry electoral ward. The pro-forma opposed the Commission's proposal to combine the Community of Tyle-garw with the Pont-y-clun electoral ward for the purposes of Community Council representation.
37. A resident of Llanharry wrote on the 6 August 2019 to submit a pro-forma letter of objection in opposition of the Commission's proposals for the Llanharry

electoral ward. The pro-forma opposed the Commission's proposal to combine the Community of Tyle-garw with the Pont-y-clun electoral ward for the purposes of Community Council representation. The resident stated that taking money from Llanharry, will have a detrimental effect on the village and its inhabitants. They stated Pont-y-clun is a larger and more affluent village and has more chance of bringing in money for their community.

38. A resident of Rhondda Cynon Taf wrote on 6 August 2019 to support the Commission's proposals to transfer the Community of Tyle-garw into Pont-y-clun for Community Council representation. The resident stated that Tyle-garw is a part of Pont-y-clun. The resident has never understood (in the 20 years plus that they have lived there) why it has been attached to Llanharry.
39. A resident of Llanharry wrote on the 7 August 2019 to submit a pro-forma letter of objection in opposition of the Commission's proposals for the Llanharry electoral ward. The pro-forma opposed the Commission's proposal to combine the Community of Tyle-garw with the Pont-y-clun electoral ward for the purposes of Community Council representation. The resident stated that if the proposal goes ahead, Llanharry will lose out badly.
40. A resident of Llanharry wrote during the consultation period to submit a pro-forma letter of objection in opposition of the Commission's proposals for the Llanharry electoral ward. The pro-forma opposed the Commission's proposal to combine the Community of Tyle-garw with the Pont-y-clun electoral ward for the purposes of Community Council representation. The resident opposed the Commission's proposals for the Llanharry electoral ward. The resident stated that they are the local historian for Llanharry and to advise that Tyle-garw has belonged to Llanharry since early Norman times and he would hate to see that historical link broken.
41. A resident of Rhondda Cynon Taf wrote on the 11 August to submit a pro-forma letter of objection in opposition of the Commission's proposals for the Llanharry electoral ward. The pro-forma opposed the Commission's proposal to combine the Community of Tyle-garw with the Pont-y-clun electoral ward for the purposes of Community Council representation. The resident stated that Llanharry and Tyle-garw support each other very well in organising different events for both villages. The resident felt that Pont-y-clun is big enough alone.
42. Two residents of Pont-y-clun wrote on the 13 August to submit a pro-forma letter of objection in opposition of the Commission's proposals for the Llanharry electoral ward. The pro-forma opposed the Commission's proposal to combine the Community of Tyle-garw with the Pont-y-clun electoral ward for the purposes of Community Council representation. The residents are quite happy with being in the Llanharry ward and see no reason to change to Pont-y-clun.
43. A resident of Llanharry wrote on the 13 August 2019 to submit a pro-forma letter of objection in opposition of the Commission's proposals for the Llanharry electoral ward. The pro-forma opposed the Commission's proposal to combine the Community of Tyle-garw with the Pont-y-clun electoral ward for the purposes of Community Council representation. The resident stated that Llanharry

receives no business rates like Pont-y-clun and that Pont-y-clun is big enough on its own.

44. A resident of Pont-y-clun wrote on the 13 August to submit a pro-forma letter of objection in opposition of the Commission's proposals for the Llanharry electoral ward. The pro-forma opposed the Commission's proposal to combine the Community of Tyle-garw with the Pont-y-clun electoral ward for the purposes of Community Council representation. The resident believes Tyle-garw is a small community whose voice will be lost in the ever-growing community of Pont-y-clun. The resident believes that the recently approved traffic calming measures to be installed throughout Tyle-garw could be lost in red-tape if the transfer goes ahead.
45. A resident of Tyle-garw wrote on the 16 August to submit a pro-forma letter of objection in opposition of the Commission's proposals for the Llanharry electoral ward. The pro-forma opposed the Commission's proposal to combine the Community of Tyle-garw with the Pont-y-clun electoral ward for the purposes of Community Council representation. The resident stated that Community Councils are the voice of the local residents and that traditionally, Tyle-garw has always been combined with Llanharry. The resident stated both communities have benefited from shrewd and sympathetic management of funds.
46. Two residents of Rhondda Cynon Taf wrote on the 28 August to object to the Commission's proposals for the Llanharry electoral ward. The residents stated that the relationship between Llanharry and Tyle-garw has always been close and that Llanharry Community Council has never left the Tyle-garw ward to fend for itself when it comes to their needs. The residents also stated that both Llanharry and Tyle-garw use Pont-y-clun facilities.
47. A resident of Maes-y-coed wrote on the 11 September 2019 to oppose the Commission's Draft Proposals for the Graig electoral ward. The resident felt that the proposed transfer of a section of Maes-y-coed from the Graig ward to the Rhondda ward has been proposed on a purely and somewhat flawed numerical exercise. The resident stated that the dividing feature between Maesycoed and the Graig has always been the valley floor between the two areas. The resident stated a preference for the Council's alternative proposal to combine the electoral wards of Graig and Rhondda, which would at least keep Maesycoed together even with the reduction in representation.
48. A resident of Ynyshir wrote on the 15 September 2019 to object to the Commission's Draft Proposals for the Rhondda Fach area. The resident objects to the idea of combining Ynyshir and Tylorstown to form a two-member electoral ward. The resident stated that a relatively high proportion of areas in Rhondda Cynon Taf are among the 10% most deprived in the county, and overall, many areas in RCT fall in the more deprived half of Wales. Within the county Borough of RCT the Rhondda Fach area is a deprivation hotspot with only two sub-wards not in the highest deprivation areas in Wales. The resident stated that the Ynyshir area is one of the highest deprivation areas and combining it with another high deprivation area, Tylorstown, would mean two of the most deprived wards in Wales combining to make a super deprived area. At the same time, the

combination would create a ward size of 5372, which is 2686 per councillor and results in a level of under-representation. The resident questioned the proposal to combine two of the most deprived wards in Wales and then reduce the representation. The resident feels they are already living in an invisible village which the council have systematically stripped bare of schools and services.

49. A resident of Pentre wrote on the 16 September 2019 to oppose the Commission's Draft Proposals for the Pentre electoral ward. The resident finds the proposed boundary change unnecessary as both communities have become one. The resident felt that a community has been built up within those communities that use facilities from both Ton Pentre and Pentre.
50. A resident of Pentre wrote on the 16 September 2019 to oppose the Commission's Draft Proposals for the Pentre electoral ward. The resident disagreed that the Commission's proposals would not have a detrimental effect on the area as residents currently have the benefit of sharing local facilities and community centres, The resident feels the status quo should remain as there is nothing wrong with the present arrangements and they are well served by two councillors.
51. A resident of Rhondda Fach wrote on the 17 September 2019 to oppose the Commission's Draft Proposals for the Rhondda Fach area. The resident stated that Rhondda Fach has for years been known as 'the forgotten valley'. The resident stated that many people in the Rhondda are already completely disengaged from council matters, from politics to voting. The resident urged the Commission to reconsider its Draft Proposals and allow Ynysir to work together with the help of their own councillor. They stated Maerdy's unique position at the top of the valley means it also needs a councillor of its own, Ferndale and Blaenllechau to have a councillor, and Tylorstown and Stanleytown should have a councillor along with Pontygwaith and Penrhys.



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

WRITTEN STATEMENT BY THE WELSH GOVERNMENT

TITLE LOCAL ELECTIONS AND ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS

DATE Thursday 23rd JUNE 2016

BY MARK DRAKEFORD, CABINET SECRETARY FOR FINANCE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

The Local Authority Elections (Wales) Order 2014 provided for local elections in Wales to be delayed for a year, from May 2016 to May 2017. This allowed the elections to be separated from the Assembly elections.

At the present time, the Local Government Act 1972 provides that ordinary elections to local government in Wales take place on the first Thursday of May every four years. Therefore, the next local government elections would normally take place in May 2021. Since the implementation of the provisions of the Wales Act 2014, elections to the National Assembly take place on a five-yearly cycle. The policy of the Welsh Government is that elections at local level should also be placed on a five year cycle. It is intended that councillors elected next May will therefore hold office until May 2022.

The Wales Bill, currently before Parliament, includes provisions which would enable the Assembly to legislate to determine the term of office for local government. As the Bill is currently in draft form and should these provisions, for any reason, not come into force, the Welsh Government could use the same powers under the Local Government Act 2000 as we did in 2014 to delay the elections by a year. This statement therefore provides clarity to local government as to the length of office of those to be elected next year.

APPENDIX 6

In the light of this, I have considered the decision made last year in relation to the electoral arrangements of some principal councils. It was determined that reviews conducted by the Local Democracy and Boundary Commission for Wales in relation to nine principal areas would not be implemented, given the intention that councils elected in 2017 would only serve a short term prior to mergers.

However, even though the elections in May next year will now result in a full term, due to their proximity, the arrangements which would be required and the disruption for potential candidates, I do not intend to implement any changes to current electoral arrangements in advance of the 2017 elections resultant from those reviews. The councils concerned are Carmarthenshire, Ceredigion, Conwy, Denbighshire, Gwynedd, Monmouthshire, Pembrokeshire, Powys and Torfaen.

The decision that councils will be elected for a full term also means that the Local Democracy and Boundary Commission (the Commission) will return to its normal ten-year cycle of reviews of electoral arrangements. I expect the Commission to publish a new, prioritised programme as soon as possible which takes into account the age of the current arrangements in some areas and the amount of change since the last review was undertaken. I will ask the Commission, in planning their work, to start by revisiting the nine outstanding reviews, with a view to presenting fresh reports on these at the very start of their programme.

It is my intention that reviews of electoral arrangements in principal councils will be conducted against a set of common criteria to be agreed through the Commission. I also expect electoral reviews to have been completed for all 22 authorities within the next local government term.

These arrangements provide clarity for those considering standing for election in 2017 and also set out a long term planning horizon for local authorities and their public service partners. However, I want to be clear that discussions on the reform agenda are on-going with local authorities and other stakeholders. I will be proposing a way forward on local government reform in the Autumn.



RHONDDA CYNON TAF

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

COUNCIL

30TH JUNE 2021

ACCESS & ENGAGEMENT IMPROVEMENTS WITHIN DEMOCRACY

REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, DEMOCRATIC SERVICES & COMMUNICATION

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of the report is to provide Members with an update in respect of the introduction arrangements to enable the broadcasting of committee meetings and the ability to operate through a hybrid approach. These developments aim to encourage engagement and improve public participation in the democratic process.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 It is recommended that Members:

- (i) Note the development of the provision of webcasting within Rhondda Cynon Taf Council, in line with the requirements of the Local Government & Elections Wales Act, 2021.
- (ii) Note the development of webcasting to further assist with the promotion of public engagement and transparency of decision making by the Council;
- (iii) Note the decision of the Democratic Services Committee in respect of the meetings that are proposed to remain as virtual meetings and those that will be facilitated through a future hybrid approach, subject to the caveats outlined within the report
- (iv) Note the meetings that will be webcast and live streamed through the Council website and the roll out of such meetings.
- (v) Note the move to the Modern.Gov system to publish information to the Council website, including Member attendance details.
- (vi) Note the funding received via the Digital Democracy Fund to further support the developments needed to be taken forward with webcasting within the Council Headquarters.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The Local Government & Elections (Wales) Act places a duty on principal councils to put in place arrangements for the broadcast of council meetings so that members of the public who are unable to attend meetings are able to see and hear proceedings as they happen. Recordings of meetings should also be publicly available for a reasonable period after the meeting.
- 3.2 There are a number of benefits achieved through webcasting which include:
- A positive demonstration of accountability and transparency;
 - Encouraging engagement and debate, by creating more opportunities for the public to access meetings;
 - Accuracy of recording of meetings including recording of decisions, voting and attendance;
 - The opportunity to raise the profile of the work of Councillors, and the discussions behind the decisions of Council and its committees.
 - Assists in supporting our paper light approaches to meetings moving forward as some facilities in the Council chamber are currently inhibiting the role-out of a paper-light approach.
- 3.3 On the 15th April 2021, following significant delays to the implementation of the webcasting equipment due to the covid pandemic, the webcasting equipment within the Council Chamber was signed off and the Council Business Unit, along with colleagues from ICT and the Welsh Language Unit undertook socially distanced training on the new equipment at the beginning of May 2021.

4. WEBCASTING GOING FORWARD.

- 4.1 The introduction of a webcasting service will require the Council Business Unit to conduct a number of trial meetings to ensure the final product is a professional webcast stream of Council meetings. For this reason, it is recommended that the introduction of live webcasting be rolled out on an incremental basis to allow for experience to be gained with the live system operations.
- 4.2 It is intended to adopt the same incremental approach as was utilised for the roll-out of virtual meetings during the summer of 2020.
- 4.3 Potential options to roll-out this new technology and new committee working arrangements have been discussed with the Chair of Democratic Services County Borough Councillor Lewis Hooper and County Borough Councillor Maureen Webber as the Cabinet Member responsible for Council Business. Cabinet Committee has also received an update on the proposed approach to be adopted.

- 4.4 The Democratic Services will consider the practicalities to enable the roll-out proposed and the associated support to be made available for members and officers, on the [29th June](#).
- 4.5 The proposed approach would initially prioritise Cabinet, Democratic Services, Planning and Development and the Overview & Scrutiny Committee. This would include a number of 'dress rehearsal' sessions before using the equipment in a formal setting. The table set below provides an indication of the timeline to be utilised:

Next Steps	Outcome	Scheduled (dates to be confirmed for formal report)
Briefing on new arrangements to Cabinet members and officers	To familiarise Cabinet & SLT with the new operation arrangements for webcast and hybrid meetings	Late June/early July
Briefing on the new arrangements to members of the Democratic Services Committee (DSC)	To familiarise the DSC with the new operation arrangements for webcast and hybrid meetings	Late June/ early July
Briefing on new arrangements to Overview & Scrutiny Committee (O&S) members	To familiarise O&S members with the new operation arrangements for webcast and hybrid meetings	July
Broadcast meeting of Cabinet	Utilise the Public-I infrastructure to webcast a Cabinet meeting including hybrid attendance	July
Briefing on new arrangements to Planning & Development (P&D) Committee members	To familiarise P&D members with the new operation arrangements for webcast and hybrid meetings	August
Broadcast meeting of Democratic Services Committee (DSC)	Utilise the Public-I infrastructure to webcast a DSC meeting including the ability for hybrid attendance	September
Broadcast meeting of Planning & Development Committee	Utilise the Public-I infrastructure to webcasting a P&D meeting including the ability for hybrid attendance	September
Broadcast meeting of Overview & Scrutiny	Utilise the Public-I infrastructure to webcast a O&S meeting including the ability for hybrid attendance	September
Review progress to date	DSC to review progress and feedback from members	September
Wider briefing on new arrangements to all members, including	Subject to review To familiarise members not already briefed on new ways	September

committee by committee engagement	of working (including specific session for Chairs & Vice-Chairs)	
Wider committee roll-out	Subject to review work towards Implementing webcasting and hybrid arrangements across all functions	September

- 4.6 The next phase would see the adoption, on an incremental basis by thematic scrutiny committees following the schedule of the committee calendar, with a hybrid Council meeting being enabled at the end of this process.
- 4.7 This technology will provide the opportunity to 'lock-in' the opportunity already created, through the virtually meetings arrangement via Zoom and the publication of meeting recordings on the Council website.
- 4.8 It will be important to maintain flexibility in our approach to each specific committee, between full attendance, hybrid and virtual, to maintain and build upon the positive enhancements, which have been achieved over the last twelve months.
- 4.9 A full programme of training will be needed to be developed for members over the coming weeks to provide the opportunity for members to familiarise themselves with this technology. Again this support would be provided through 'mock' meetings to enable members and officers to become familiar with the arrangement before public use.
- 4.10 The Council's Rules of Procedure were considered at the Constitution Committee on the 13th May and ratified at the Council's 26th Annual General Meeting to allow for the introduction of hybrid meetings and webcasting. Further amendments to the constitution may need to be taken forward as we still await the publication of the Welsh Government guidance into hybrid meetings. It is also suggested that a multi-location policy is taken forward by the Democratic Services Committee to further support the implementation of hybrid meetings.
- 4.11 Due to the current Covid restrictions and to ensure Member and Officer safety we will need to ensure that the number of Members that choose to attend a meeting physically does not exceed the recommended Chamber capacity of 26 (socially distanced). This figure will need to include officers from Democratic Services to run the hybrid infrastructure. It is therefore proposed that attendance will be proportional to the political balance, with Group leaders confirming physical attendance within those numbers in advance of a meeting.
- 4.12 In respect of the Covid Safety Measures and practicalities that need to be considered for Members attending the Council Chamber, it will be dependent on the stage of the roll out and the restrictions in place. Consideration would need to be given to the possibility for Covid Safety Checklist on arrival / the need for temperature readings / the need for lateral flowing testing / provision

of face masks / Hand sanitisers. Members views on these approaches will factored into the final working arrangements.

- 4.13 Going forward, in advance of any hybrid meeting, Members will be asked to attend a meeting at least 30 minutes in advance of the meeting to check for any potential technical problems and to check Members are comfortable with the systems.
- 4.14 Alongside the discussions with the Democratic Services Committee, the Head of Democratic Services will continue to engage with Group Leaders in respect of these developments and future roll-out plans.

5 COUNCIL CHAMBER AND COMMITTEE ROOM 1.

- 5.1 As well as the introduction of webcasting the Council Chamber has undergone significant amendments to ensure accessibility and to improve the democratic environment. The new webcasting equipment improves the audio within the Chamber, the addition of screens will make it easier for Members to engage in the process and the new furniture arrangements addresses accessibility requirements. The pavement outside of the Council Chamber has also been lowered due to accessibility issues. These issues have been identified via the Diversity in Democracy Working Group.
- 5.2 To further enhance the translation facilities provided during Committee meetings the chamber now consists of an integrated translation booth, which will benefit members of the welsh language team to undertake this vital role and further enhance diversity in the democratic process.
- 5.3 In addition to the expansion of webcasting infrastructure equipment the procurement of new headset systems for all Members / Officers and Members of the public when in attendance at meetings will be taken forward, to ensure the translation provided within a meeting is easily accessible for all. The current headsets are no longer compatible with the new system and there is a need for any new headsets purchased to be easily sanitised after each use, as is with current practice in the Council Chamber and which is even more important in the current climate. The provision of such headsets again ensures equality of provision for those Members / Officers / public that wish to transverse bilingually at meetings.
- 5.4 In December 2020, the Minister for Housing and Local Government, Julie James announced funding opportunities of £500,000 to support the digital transformation of democracy required to underpin many of the provisions contained within the Local Government & Elections (Wales) Act, 2021. RCT Council submitted 3 bids to the fund:
- Expansion of the Webcasting infrastructure (Bid 1)
 - Strengthening of the Members Portal and voting Apps (Bid 2)
 - Support framework to further assist Town and Community Councils with the implementation of the Local Government & Elections Wales Act.(Bid 3)

Expansion of the Webcasting infrastructure (Bid 1)

- 5.5 Our first bid recognised that the Council's current investment in the webcasting infrastructure would only support webcasting of Chamber proceedings, with this facility supporting full Council and planning meetings. The bespoke set-up used for scrutiny proceedings, which as Members will be aware is often better facilitated within our smaller committee rooms would require regular reconfiguration. This funding will take forward a further purchase of webcasting infrastructure within our smaller committee room settings. The bid also recognized the importance of the provision to provide a hybrid platform for most meetings to support Members whether they attend remotely or in person at a meeting. The Council recognised there was a strong need to plan for future hybrid meetings for the benefit of all Members, ensuring meetings are accessible and Members are treated equally. There are always significant accessibility risks for hybrid meetings and enabling use of the smaller committee room settings in the first instance, learning where possible from other successful organisations who conduct hybrid meetings, would increase the scope of engagement, not just formal committee meetings, but in terms of public and partner engagement and participation. It was therefore seen as essential that the smaller committee rooms were equipped with the webcasting facilities in the first instance.

Strengthening of the Members Portal and voting Apps (Bid 2)

- 5.6 The Second bid looked to further improve the facilities within the Members portal which is being developed for the benefit of Members. The need for an online voting system when undertaking hybrid meetings will be instrumental to the continuation of Council business in a timely and proficient manner, preventing a roll call basis as currently utilised. An online voting system for all Members to utilise regardless of their location at a meeting will ensure accessibility and equality without any discrimination for those outside of the Council Chamber and preventing any members who are attending a meeting virtually from feeling disengaged from the voting process. Through the current virtual meetings arrangements taken forward by the Council it had been considered that the Members Portal could serve as an important area for a voting system to be developed. Since these initial discussions, the facilitators of Modern Gov has since developed its own online voting system integrated within the Modern Gov App, which Members utilise to access Committee papers. The use of this voting system within Modern Gov is considered to be the best way forward in respect of voting at Committee meetings, promoting Members use of the Modern Gov app to access Committee papers and ensure ease of access for all Members.

Support framework to further assist Town and Community Councils with the implementation of the Local Government & Elections Wales Act. (Bid 3)

- 5.7 The third bid looked at supporting Community and Town Councils in responding to the Local Government & Elections Wales Act, particularly in respect of public engagement to assist in the diversity in democracy agenda. The bid included

the development of a digital support framework to assist in the delivery of virtual and hybrid meetings and strengthen the opportunity such meetings will have in the diversity of democracy agenda and public engagement. Through the use of the digital support fund the Council would look to further support our Town and Community Councils with digital engagement as we recognise that Community and Town Councils offer a means of connecting with residents at a local level. This work would promote participation within communities and support broader diversity in terms of engagement and representation at a Community Council level. As a Council we feel we would be able to provide and work with Community and Town Councils to identify digital solutions to assist their democratic processes and respond to the Act. This funding will enable practical support to be provided to support Town & Community Council Clerks to develop their digital environment, ensuring that their Elected Members can represent and communicate with residents in a digital way. This funding would enable 'good digital working practices' to be shared with our respective town and community councils. Through this support we would provide access to training available to principal council members.

- 5.8 On the 10th March, the Head of Democratic Services received notification that RCT had been successful with each of the bids submitted. Going forward this means, that the Council will look to procure additional equipment to support the webcasting provision and future hybrid meetings. In respect of the voting app the Council Business unit will work with the Modern Gov to pilot the voting facilities and to take forward any bespoke requirements potentially needed.

6 WEBCASTING RECORDINGS.

- 6.1 A webcast is a transmission of audio and video over the internet. The webcasting equipment within the Council Chamber and going forward Committee Room 1 captures the live information of a Committee meeting and sends it to a central server, which in turn sends it to anyone that would like to view the meeting. Through the use of a persons internet Members of the public can view Council meetings live from the comfort of their own home.
- 6.2 The system also allows viewers to watch / re-watch meetings following closure of the meeting through the publication of such materials on the Councils website. The archives allow viewers to view the meeting at their leisure and, through the use of the index points, allow viewers to jump to a specific agenda point or speaker.
- 6.3 The webcasting system is fully integrated within the Modern.Gov system, which further enhances a viewers understanding of a meeting. Through such integration agenda items are easily accessible and in addition viewers can find out further information about a member speaking by linking to a Members profile page in the Modern Gov system.
- 6.4 For such information to be available, it has been necessary for RCT to push the Modern.Gov system 'public', which was taken forward on the 14th June. Previously, the Council had been utilising a 'restricted' version of the system. This means only RCT members / co-opted Members and Officers have access

to its content. When the system becomes public the information published on the system will be pushed to the Council website, therefore in the public domain, unless a report is an exempt item, where system parameters are in place to prevent public view. The benefits of this publication prevents the duplication that is currently being undertaken by the Council Business unit (Officers publish agendas within the modern gov system and then further have to publish through the contensis system on the Council website); The Modern. Gov system will populate the Council website in respect of a Members profile data, including extra features such as party logos. The system will also capture details in respect of Member attendance and details such as Member training. The recording of Member attendance will become a seamless and real-time public-facing record of members attendance. Attendance will be 'live' with the information being made available a few days after a meeting. Previously the recording and updating of Member attendance records is input manually by the Council Business Unit which often requires an updating period before up-to-date attendance is subsequently published on the web. Another benefit of the system is the timely notifications of Member Attendance to the Council Business unit if a Member has not attended a meeting for a four month consecutive period.

- 6.5 Another benefit of the Modern.Gov system is the availability of a 'live calendar of meetings'. This calendar will illustrate all meetings that are scheduled in line with the agreed Calendar of Meetings and will illustrate all documentation linked to these meetings when such documentation has been published in line with current publication requirements. Any amendments to the calendar will automatically be updated so always providing a 'live' calendar of meetings.
- 6.6 Members must be mindful that the publication of the information to the web via the modern gov system will need to be from a point in time. Committee agenda's, minutes and things such as Member attendance details will be available on the system prior to the 14th June, due to the details already being recorded by the Council Business Unit, but for accuracy going forward the details should be viewed from June 2021.
- 6.7 Design and Development will also need to be taken forward in respect of a new webcasting area of the website to assist Members of the public in navigating around this area of the site, ensuring the website is available bilingually.

7. COMMITTEE MEETINGS GOING FORWARD.

- 7.1 Following the need to conduct virtual meetings through the Local Authorities (Coronavirus) (Meetings) (Wales) Regulations 2020 and in readiness for the forthcoming requirements of hybrid meetings and remote attendance through the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act the Council already have well established practices in place to conduct such meetings through the zoom platform, with the recording following these meetings being available on the Council website.

- 7.2 Going forward, and with the future steady move (restrictions permitted) to undertake physical meetings for most Committee meetings it is proposed that some of the smaller Council meetings that are undertaken are continued to be held through a virtual meeting setting. The reason for such a proposal is following consideration of:
- The likely duration of the meetings – Consideration of the agenda item content and also using Councillor and Officers time more sensibly by reducing the travel requirements;
 - Promote diversity in Democracy by encouraging the flexibility of remote access to virtual meetings and thereby attracting more people who work and young parents
 - Contribute to the carbon reduction agenda by reducing travelling and reducing travelling costs.
- 7.3 At the Democratic Services Committee meeting on the 10th May, Members supported the proposal that the following meetings are undertaken on a virtual basis only and reviewed annually to ensure the arrangements are fit for purpose:
- LEA Governors
 - VER Panel
 - Llwydcoed Crematorium Joint Committee
 - Ynysangharad War Memorial park Cabinet Committee
 - Community Liaison Committee
 - Pensions Fund Committee
 - Corporate Parenting Board
 - Welsh Language Cabinet Steering Group
 - Arts & Strategic Culture Steering Group
 - City Deal Joint Overview & Scrutiny Committee
 - Cwm Taf PSB Joint Overview & Scrutiny Committee
- 7.4 In addition, it was proposed that appropriate flexibility is provided for the Head of Democratic Services and the responsible Committee Chair to determine whether a meeting should be convened virtually, through a hybrid set-up or at a physical location. This should be determined by the nature of business being considered.
- 7.5 Subject to the above proposal it was also suggested that where necessary, the Chair of the Committee will be able to hold a meeting with Members present in a specific location if in the interests and benefit of the Committee ...i.e Site visits / meetings on location to assist Members with their role and understanding of work being undertaken.

8 HYBRID MEETINGS

- 8.1 The Local Government & Elections (Wales) Act 2021 modifies the provisions in the 2011 Measure with the intention of making it easier for remote attendance to operate. Essentially, the conditions attached to the operation of remote attendance within the 2011 Measure are removed, in favour of leaving the principal council's standing orders to specify the conditions about how it should

operate within that council. In addition, the Chair and Proper Officer of the meeting will need to be happy that the conditions for remote attendance are satisfied in the case of any particular meeting before business should proceed. A local authority must ensure that the facilities necessary to satisfy the conditions set out in its standing orders are available where the meeting is being held.

- 8.2 The Council are in a good position to undertake hybrid meetings and working with the webcasting facilitators will enhance the process going forward.
- 8.3 Going forward, any member attending a meeting remotely (“remote attendee”) must, when they are speaking, be able to be seen and heard by the members who are attending the meeting at the place where the meeting is held (“members in actual attendance”) and the remote attendee must, in turn, be able to see and hear those in actual attendance. In addition, a remote attendee must be able to be seen and heard by, and in turn see and hear any members of the public entitled to attend the meeting and who exercise a right to speak at the meeting. If there is more than one remote location, all the members attending remotely must be able to hear – but not necessarily see – the other remote attendees.
- 8.4 Practicalities surrounding confidential, or “exempt” issues in consideration at a meeting – as defined in Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 – will need to be considered. It would be important to ensure that there are no members of the public at remote locations able to hear or see the proceedings during discussions of such confidential items. Any member in remote attendance who failed to disclose that there were in fact persons present who were not so entitled would be in breach of their Code of Conduct responsibilities.
- 8.5 The inclusion of the online voting system will need to be in place prior to the roll out of hybrid and webcasting meetings.

9 **TRAINING**

- 9.1 Members have previously positively taken forward training in respect of the zoom platform to assist them in undertaking virtual meetings. Future training will need to be taken forward on the equipment within the Council Chamber, when safe to do so, to allow for hybrid meetings to take place.
- 9.2 Training to Chairs and Vice Chairs of Committees will also be provided to assist in the chairing of hybrid meetings.
- 9.3 Once in place, training will also be provided on the voting app that will be available for Members to utilise through the Modern.Gov app.
- 9.4 Development of useful guidance manuals in respect of the Chamber equipment and the hybrid voting app, including a video tutorial

10 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS / SOCIO-ECONOMIC DUTY

- 10.1 The provision of a webcasting service would promote democracy and encourage public engagement. By removing potential barriers for members of the public to attend meetings at the chamber, webcasting opens up opportunities for wider public engagement and transparency. The aspect of hybrid and virtual meetings also promotes the democracy agenda, allowing the undertaking of Council business by Members to be more accessible and manageable.
- 10.2 The provision of an online voting app will help ensure the accessibility and inclusion of all Members in the democratic process regardless of their location. Where a member is unable to access the Modern.Gov app an alternative provision of a manual hand raising will need to be taken forward for those Members.

11 WELSH LANGUAGE IMPLICATIONS

- 11.1 The developments within the Council Chamber and webcasting infrastructure will further strengthen the welsh language within the democratic process. Members of the public will be able to live stream meetings or watch pre-recorded meetings and choose the floor language used. ie When Members / Officers converse at a meeting through the medium of welsh they can either choose to hear these discussions in welsh or the alternative of the English translation, which is currently unavailable through the current zoom recordings.

12 CONSULTATION

- 12.1 The opportunities offered by web-casting have been considered by members as part of the business of full Council, Cabinet, the Overview & Scrutiny Committee, the Corporate Governance and Constitution Committee, formal meetings of Chairs & Vice-Chairs.
- 12.2 Promoting public engagement in the democratic processes, including webcasting, has also been discussed in the recent introduced meeting between the Chief Executive and Political Group Leaders, which the Head of Democratic Services attends.
- 12.3 A further report regarding the practicality issues in respect of Hybrid meetings it to be considered by the Democratic Services Committee on the 29th June.
- 12.4 A demonstration on the layout and functionality of the Council Committee pages was provided to Members at a recent Members coffee session and a demonstration is to be presented at Democratic Services Committee.

13. FINANCIAL IMPLICATION(S)

- 13.1 The associated funding to deliver these improvements were included as part of the Council's 2020/21 Budget, following support provided previously by the Democratic Services Committee. Additional funding has also been sought from Welsh Government in respect of further advancements with webcasting equipment as outlined within the report.

14. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 14.1 The Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 outlines a mandatory requirement for Local Authorities to provide a webcasting service.
- 14.2 The implementation of webcasting require amendments to the Council's Constitution which were taken forward at the Council's 26th Annual General meeting

15. LINKS TO CORPORATE AND NATIONAL PRIORITIES AND THE WELL-BEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS ACT.

- 15.1 The provision of webcasting would link to the Corporate Plan priorities with particular reference to 'living within our means' and an 'efficient and effective Council', ensuring transparency with our decision making process for the benefits of our residents.
- 15.2 Ensuring that there are greater opportunities for public engagement through webcasting links to the Wellbeing of Future Generations goals of a more equal Wales and a Wales of cohesive communities. This proposal would further support the ability of this council to involve communities in key decisions.

16 CONCLUSION

- 16.1 Through the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 Councils will be legally required to webcast meetings to strengthen local democracy and encourage public participation.
- 16.2 The provision of webcasting, has received cross-party support in the Council for the reasons set out, in particular for supporting positive engagement with the public going forward.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

AS AMENDED BY

THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

COUNCIL

**REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, DEMOCRATIC SERVICES &
COMMUNICATION**

ACCESS & ENGAGEMENT IMPROVEMENTS WITHIN DEMOCRACY

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RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

COUNCIL

30 JUNE 2021

URGENT EXECUTIVE DECISIONS TAKEN FORWARD

**REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, DEMOCRATIC SERVICES AND
COMMUNICATION**

Author: Hannah Williams, Council Business Unit – 01443 424062

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To present, for Members' information an overview of the Urgent Decisions taken forward by the Cabinet Committee and the Urgent Key Officer Delegated Decisions taken forward outside of the Cabinet Committee during the period January – May 2021.
- 1.2 This is excluding those reports which were presented to another Committee of the Council for final decision.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that Members:

- 2.1 Note the information contained within the report.

3. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 In accordance with the Overview & Scrutiny Procedure Rules 17.2(a) Urgent Executive Decisions taken forward should be reported to Council for information purposes.
- 3.2 To assist in the openness and transparency of the Decision-making process within the Council.

4. **URGENT DECISIONS OF THE CABINET COMMITTEE**

- 4.1 The following urgent Decision was taken forward by the Cabinet Committee during the period January – May 2021:

Date	Decision Taken	Reason for Exemption
28-01-21	The Council's 2021/2022 Revenue Budget	To allow Phase 2 of the consultation to proceed with immediate effect; final budget strategy will be presented to Council on the 10th March 2021
25-03-21	Non Domestic Rate (NDR) Relief Scheme for Retail, Leisure and Hospitality	Due to the need for Non Domestic Rate demands to be dispatched in line with requirements.
29-04-21	Acquisition of Land to the North West of Harriet Street, Trecynon, being the former Mayhew Chicken Factory, Trecynon, Aberdare, RCT	The acquisition will need to be completed by 30th April 2021.

5. **DELEGATIONS OF EXECUTIVE FUNCTIONS TO CABINET MEMBERS**

- 5.1 As outlined in Section 3 of the Leader's Scheme of Delegation, Cabinet Members are permitted to make decisions falling under their portfolio if deemed urgent to protect the interest of the Council, subject to prior consultation with the relevant Senior Leadership Team Officer(s).
- 5.2 The Leader can take urgent decisions in the absence of the appropriate portfolio holder.
- 5.3 The confirmation and signature of the Mayor or Deputy Mayor to the proposed decision must be sought in accordance with the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules 17.2(a)
- 5.4 The following urgent Cabinet Member Decision was taken forward during the period January – May 2021:

Date	Decision Taken	Reason for Exemption
12-02-21	Acquisition of 97- 102 Taff Street, Pontypridd CF37 4SL	The conditions attached to the purchase by the seller as regards to completion timescales.
27.05.21	RCT Together Application To The Community Renewal Fund	The closing date for the Community Renewal Fund in RCT is 31st May therefore it is vital for

		approval to be provided if the application is to meet this very tight timescale
27.05.21	Regional application 'Connect, Engage, Listen, Transform' to the Community renewal fund	The closing date for the Community Renewal Fund in RCT is 31st May therefore it is vital for approval to be provided if the application is to meet this very tight timescale.

6. DELEGATION OF EXECUTIVE FUNCTIONS TO OFFICERS.

- 6.1 As outlined within section 6 of the Leaders Scheme of Delegation, and in accordance with Section 15 of the Local Government Act 2000, executive functions can be delegated to Officers (as set out within the terms of Section 5 of Part 3 of this part of the Council Constitution)
- 6.2 Following the Council AGM in 2016 and to increase transparency and accountability, Key Officer Delegated Decisions taken forward would be subject to the Overview and Scrutiny Call in procedure Rules.
- 6.3 The following urgent Key officer Delegated Decision was taken forward during the period January – May 2021:

Date	Decision Taken	Reason for Exemption
19-02-21	RCT Together – Community Asset Transfer of the Muni Arts Centre to Awen Cultural Trust (Registered Charity and Private Limited Company by guarantee without share capital).	There is an imminent deadline for refurbishment works to be undertaken before the end of March 2021, due to WG Targeted Regional Investment Funding criteria.

7. CONSULTATION

- 7.1 None Applicable, this report is for information purposes only.

8. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 An Equality Impact Assessment is not needed because the contents of the report are for information purposes only.

9. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

9.1 There are no financial implications aligned to this report.

10. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS OR LEGISLATION CONSIDERED.

10.1 There are no legal implications aligned to this report.

11. LINKS TO THE COUNCILS CORPORATE PLAN / OTHER CORPORATE PRIORITIES.

11.1 All of the decisions taken forward link to the Councils Corporate plan / priorities and Members should look to each of the decisions to see how they link accordingly.

11.2 All decisions taken by the Executive are taken through the lens of the Well Being of Future Generations (Wales) Act, ensuring that the decision takes account of the impact it could have on people living their lives in Wales now and in the future.

12. CONCLUSION

12.1 Members are advised of the current position in respect of urgent decisions taken forward within Cabinet Committee and through Individual Cabinet Members and Officer Decisions.

Other Information:-

Relevant Scrutiny Committee – Overview & Scrutiny Committee

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

AS AMENDED BY

THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

COUNCIL

30 JUNE 2021

URGENT EXECUTIVE DECISIONS TAKEN FORWARD

**REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, DEMOCRATIC SERVICES AND
COMMUNICATION**

Item: URGENT EXECUTIVE DECISIONS TAKEN FORWARD

Background Papers

- Annual General Meeting – May 2016

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