



**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, 29TH SEPTEMBER, 2021** at **5.00 PM.**

**AGENDA**

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No's**

TIME	ITEM	PAGE(S)
5 Minutes	<p><b>ITEM 1. DECLARATION OF INTEREST</b></p> <p>To receive disclosures of personal interests from Members in accordance with the Code of Conduct</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Members are requested to identify the item number and subject that their interest relates to and signify the nature of the personal interest; and</li> <li>2. Where Members withdraw from a meeting as a consequence of the disclosure of prejudicial interest they <b><u>must</u></b> notify the Chairman when they leave.</li> </ol>	
10 Minutes	<b>ITEM 2. ANNOUNCEMENTS</b>	
5 Minutes	<p><b>ITEM 3. MINUTES</b></p> <p>To approve as an accurate record, the minutes of the following virtual Council meetings:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ 30<sup>th</sup> June 2021 (5pm meeting)</li> </ul>	7 - 34

➤ 14<sup>th</sup> July 2021

	<b>OPEN GOVERNMENT:</b>	
10 Minutes	<p><b>ITEM 4. STATEMENTS</b></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><b>ITEM 5. MEMBERS' QUESTIONS</b></p> <p>To receive Members questions in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 9.2.</p> <p>(<b>N.B</b> a maximum of 20 minutes shall be allowed for questions on notice.)</p>	35 - 42
	<p><b>COUNCIL WORK PROGRAMME - FOR MEMBERS INFORMATION</b></p> <p><a href="#">Council Work Programme 2021-22</a></p>	
	<b>OFFICERS' REPORTS</b>	
10 Minutes	<p><b>ITEM 6. RHONDDA CYNON TAF STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS AND EXTERNAL AUDIT REPORT</b></p> <p>To receive the report of the Director of Finance &amp; Digital Services.</p>	43 - 240
25 Minutes	<p><b>ITEM 7. FLOOD ALLEVIATION PROGRESS &amp; OVERVIEW REPORT</b></p> <p>To receive the report of the Service Director of Frontline Services.</p>	241 - 260
25 Minutes	<p><b>ITEM 8. MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN UPDATE</b></p> <p>To provide Members with an update on the Medium-Term Financial Plan for 2021/22 – 2024/2025</p>	261 - 268
10 Minutes	<p><b>ITEM 9. COUNCIL INVESTMENT PRIORITIES</b></p> <p>To receive the report of the Director of Finance and Digital Services</p>	269 - 272
10 Minutes	<p><b>ITEM 10. 2023 REVIEW OF PARLIAMENTARY CONSTITUENCIES IN WALES - BOUNDARY COMMISSION FOR WALES' INITIAL PROPOSALS</b></p> <p>To receive the report of the Director of Legal Services</p>	273 - 434
5 Minutes	<p><b>ITEM 11. CHANGES TO MEMBERSHIP</b></p> <p>To receive the report of the Service Director Democratic Services &amp; Communication</p>	435 - 438

## ITEM 12. NOTICES OF MOTION

- A. To consider the under-mentioned Notices of Motion standing in the names of M. Griffiths, J. Barton, L. M. Adams, D. R. Bevan, H. Boggis, J. Bonetto, S. Bradwick, J. Brencher, A. Calvert, G. Caple, 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, J. Harries, G. Holmes, G. Hopkins, 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, R. Williams, T. Williams, R. Yeo

Over the course of the last 18 months, frontline heroes across the public and private sectors have led the fight against COVID-19, putting themselves at risk and making huge personal sacrifices to protect the NHS, save lives and ensure that the U.K. continues to operate.

Their contributions have been widely recognised, with millions going to the doorstep to show their appreciation over various points throughout the pandemic. This appreciation has also extended to the rhetoric of the U.K. Government who have been quick to offer regular soundbites of empty appreciation for the frontline heroes.

However, in the one-year Comprehensive Spending Review last Autumn, the Chancellor of the Exchequer announced a public sector pay “pause” for this financial year, with only those earning under £24,000 and NHS staff being exempt. In March, the U.K. Government came under fire after proposals for a 1% pay increase for those exempt from the “pause” were floated, whilst its improved offer of 3% following a recommendation from the NHS Pay Review body runs the risk of triggering industrial action.

Frontline heroes across the public sector now face another real terms cut despite their tireless efforts in ensuring services were maintained and our communities kept safe over the last 18 months. Senior representatives from Police forces across England and Wales have already expressed their dismay and opposition to a 0% pay increase – which comes at a time when assaults on police officers exceeded 100-a-day (20% increase on the previous year). In addition, the thousands of staff employed by this Council have been offered a 1.75% increase, which will need to be wholly funded by the Council’s own resources if it is accepted.

The Welsh Government’s Education Minister, Jeremy Miles MS has recently confirmed that he is minded to accept the recommended 1.75% rise in pay for teachers, although if agreed, it is likely that the funding will also need to be found from within existing resources, as the Welsh Government did not receive any additional funding through the Barnett formula to provide for public

sector wide pay awards in 2021-22. This is a decision of the UK Government's making but once again it has a direct consequence for Wales.

This Council therefore resolves for the Leader of the Council to write to the Chancellor of the Exchequer and the Prime Minister to outline this Council's view that our frontline heroes deserve a real and fair pay increase, and that this must be funded by the U.K. Government to avoid transferring the burden of the cost on to the Welsh Government and Welsh Local Authorities.

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- B. To consider the under-mentioned Notices of Motion standing in the names of W. Lewis, S. Evans, L. M. Adams, J. Barton, D. R. Bevan, H. Boggis, J. Bonetto, S. Bradwick, J. Brencher, A. Calvert, G. Caple, A. Crimmings, A. Davies-Jones, L. De- Vet, J. Edwards, J. Elliott, G. Jones, M. Fidler Jones, M. Forey, A. Fox, E. George, M. Griffiths, J. Harries, G. Holmes, G. Hopkins, R. 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, R. Williams, T. Williams, R. Yeo

Rhondda Cynon Taf Council continues to stand against all forms of racism and discrimination and is committed to working with partner organisations to combat such abhorrent beliefs and actions.

One such form of racism and discrimination that has seen a rise in recent years is Islamophobia. The Equalities and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) has highlighted how 70% of Muslims have experienced religious based prejudice within the last 12 months. Muslims face some of the worst outcomes in employment, health and education, and, as per Home Office data, have been the targets in over half of all religious based hate crime on record (2017-2019).

Following two years of consultation, on 27th November 2018, the APPG on British Muslims published a report titled "Islamophobia Defined: the inquiry into a working definition of Islamophobia."

This report contained the following definition:

"Islamophobia is rooted in racism and is a type of racism that targets expressions of Muslimness or perceived Muslimness."

Contemporary examples of Islamophobia in public life, the media, schools, the workplace, and in encounters between religions and non-religions in the public sphere could, taking into account the overall context, include, but are not limited to:

- Calling for, aiding, instigating or justifying the killing or harming of Muslims in the name of a racist/ fascist ideology, or an

	<p>extremist view of religion.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Making mendacious, dehumanizing, demonizing, or stereotypical allegations about Muslims as such, or of Muslims as a collective group, such as, especially but not exclusively, conspiracies about Muslim entryism in politics, government or other societal institutions; the myth of Muslim identity having a unique propensity for terrorism, and claims of a demographic ‘threat’ posed by Muslims or of a ‘Muslim takeover’.</li> <li>• Accusing Muslims as a group of being responsible for real or imagined wrongdoing committed by a single Muslim person or group of Muslim individuals, or even for acts committed by non-Muslims.</li> <li>• Accusing Muslims as a group, or Muslim majority states, of inventing or exaggerating Islamophobia, ethnic cleansing or genocide perpetrated against Muslims.</li> <li>• Accusing Muslim citizens of being more loyal to the ‘Ummah’ (transnational Muslim community) or to their countries of origin, or to the alleged priorities of Muslims worldwide, than to the interests of their own nations.</li> <li>• Denying Muslim populations the right to self-determination e.g., by claiming that the existence of an independent Palestine or Kashmir is a terrorist endeavour.</li> <li>• Applying double standards by requiring of Muslims behaviours that are not expected or demanded of any other groups in society, eg loyalty tests.</li> <li>• Using the symbols and images associated with classic Islamophobia (e.g. Muhammed being a paedophile, claims of Muslims spreading Islam by the sword or subjugating minority groups under their rule) to characterize Muslims as being ‘sex groomers’, inherently violent or incapable of living harmoniously in plural societies.</li> <li>• Holding Muslims collectively responsible for the actions of any Muslim majority state, whether secular or constitutionally Islamic.</li> </ul> <p>This Council resolves to formally adopt the above definition and pledges to do its utmost to tackle Islamophobia, support Muslim residents and communities who face the kind of discrimination described in the examples above, and build a common understanding of its causes and consequences.</p>	
	<p><b>ITEM 13. URGENT BUSINESS</b></p> <p>To consider any items which the Chair, by reason of special circumstances, is of the opinion should be considered as a matter of urgency.</p>	

**Service Director of Democratic Services & Communication**

**To: All Members of the Council**





**RHONDDA CYNON TAF**

## **RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNCIL**

Minutes of the virtual meeting of the Council held on Wednesday, 30 June 2021 at 5.00 pm.

### **County Borough Councillors - Council Members in attendance:-**

Councillor S Powderhill (Chair)

Councillor S Trask	Councillor R Williams
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 J James	Councillor P Jarman
Councillor R Turner	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 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 H Fychan
Councillor J Davies	Councillor J Cullwick
Councillor A Cox	Councillor A Chapman
Councillor E Griffiths	Councillor G Caple
Councillor J Edwards	

### **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

## **25 Apologies**

Apologies for absence were received from County Borough Councillors M Fidler Jones, K Jones, A Davies-Jones, M Tegg, W Owen and J Williams.

## **26 Declaration of Interest**

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

County Borough Councillor P Jarman declared a personal item- "Dispensation to speak and vote on all matters for the duration and adoption of the 2020-21 Budget process in my capacity as Leader of the Opposition"

### **Agenda Item 11B (Notice of Motion):**

County Borough Councillor G Jones declared the following personal and prejudicial interest and left the meeting when the item was voted upon - "I am in receipt of a Miner's Pension"

County Borough Councillor E George declared the following personal and prejudicial interest and left the meeting when the item was voted upon- "My husband is in receipt of a Miner's Pension"

County Borough Councillor R D Bevan declared the following personal and prejudicial interest and left the meeting when the item was voted upon- "I am in receipt of a Miner's Pension"

County Borough Councillor R Williams declared the following personal and prejudicial interest and left the meeting when the item was voted upon- "My Father is in receipt of a Miner's Pension"

County Borough Councillor G Hughes declared the following personal and prejudicial interest and left the meeting when the item was voted upon- "My Grandfather is in receipt of a Miner's Pension"

County Borough Councillor J Harries declared the following personal and prejudicial interest and left the meeting when the item was voted upon- "My Grandfather is in receipt of a Miner's Pension"

County Borough Councillor R Yeo declared the following personal and prejudicial interest and left the meeting when the item was voted upon- "My Stepfather is in receipt of a Miner's Pension"

County Borough Councillor J Edwards declared the following personal and prejudicial interest and left the meeting when the item was voted upon- "My Grandfather is in receipt of a Miner's Pension"

In his absence, the Service Director Democratic Services & Communication relayed the wishes of County Borough Councillor M Fidler Jones who wished to withdraw his support for the Notice of Motion set out at Agenda item 11B.



## 27 Tributes to the Late Councillor Clayton Willis

The following Members of the Council paid tributes to the late Councillor Clayton Willis:

- County Borough Councillor G Stacey led the tributes to his friend and colleague former Councillor Clayton Willis and shared memories of their time together. Councillor Stacey thanked the Mayor and others who attended the funeral.
- The Leader of the Council, County Borough Councillor A Morgan paid tribute to former Councillor C Willis who had represented the Tynant ward since 2004. The Leader acknowledged his 25 years' service from 1996, a Community Councillor and Cabinet Member since 2008.
- On behalf of the Plaid Cymru Group, the Leader of the Opposition, County Borough Councillor P Jarman paid tribute to former Councillor Clayton Willis and passed on her condolences to former Councillor C Willis's family.
- County Borough Councillor M Powell paid tribute to the late Councillor C Willis and extended his commiserations on behalf of the RCT Independent Group
- County Borough Councillor J James, as a bordering ward member and on behalf of the Conservative Group, paid his tribute to the late County Borough Councillor C Willis.
- County Borough Councillor R Yeo paid his tribute to his friend and former mentor former County Borough Councillor C Willis.

## 28 Announcements

- The Leader of the Opposition, County Borough Councillor P Jarman as Chair of Governors at Mountain Ash Comprehensive School congratulated a former pupil of the school, Brad Williams who had received the prestigious global Diana Award for his contribution to social action journalism. He was nominated by Mr David Church, Head of Religious Studies. Brad Williams has volunteered with GTFM and has recently been accepted to study for his master's degree in the Cardiff School of Journalism. Councillor Jarman requested that a letter be sent from the Mayor of RCT to acknowledge his achievement.
- County Borough Councillor A Crimmings, Cabinet Member for Environment, Leisure & Heritage Services acknowledged the success of the Welsh Football Team in the Euros and gave special mention to their Manager Mr Rob Paige who is from the Rhondda.
- County Borough Councillor L Hooper paid tribute to the school staff, the community and parents of Gwauncelyn Primary School in Tonteg for raising £3,000 to replace the tools and equipment which were stolen from the School. He acknowledged their efforts and community spirit to raise the funds within 72 hours following the incident.

- County Borough Councillor J James (and with fellow Councillor S Trask) presented a petition on behalf of residents in Llantwit Fardre to install a pedestrian crossing at Crown Hill in Llantwit Fardre
- County Borough Councillor J James (and with fellow Councillor S Trask) presented a petition on behalf of residents in Llantwit Fardre to install a pedestrian crossing at Crown Hill in Llanwit Fardre
- County Borough Councillor S Bradwick congratulated a young girl in his ward, Sofia Barnes who is 8 years old, who has turned old milk cartons into dispensers for dog poo bags and placed them in and around the ward to tackle dog fouling in the area. Councillor S Bradwick requested that a letter be sent from the Mayor of RCT to acknowledge her enthusiasm and achievement and that Sofia is invited to the Mayor's Parlour, when appropriate.

## 29 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

Based on the numbers of Members logged into the virtual Council meeting at that time, the Service Director Democratic Services & Communications advised of the numbers of Elected Members present by Group:-

Labour – 42  
 Plaid – 13  
 Conservative – 3  
 RCT Independent Group – 4  
 Unallocated - 1

## 30 Minutes

The Council **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the following virtual Council meetings as an accurate reflection:

1. 10<sup>th</sup> March 2021
2. 26<sup>th</sup> May 2021 (Annual General Meeting of the Council)
3. 26<sup>th</sup> May 2021 (Extraordinary Council Meeting)

(Subject to it being noted that unless requested by the Conservative Group, any future abstentions will not be recorded)

## 31 Statements

- The Deputy Leader announced that the Council had again celebrated success at the Apprenticeship Awards Cymru 2021 at the virtual online ceremony held on the 17<sup>th</sup> June 2021. Three of the Council's apprentices were shortlisted for awards, the Foundation Apprentice of the Year,

Brittany Mason, who won the category, Apprentice of the Year, Owen Lloyd who was a finalist and Tomorrow's Talent, Sophie Williams who was a winner in the category.

The Council was also named Macro Employer of the Year, the second time it has won the award. The Council was praised for its support of the apprentices during the Pandemic to continue their studies and how they were deployed to support essential community services such as working with the NHS on Coronavirus shielding data and distributing food parcels. Thanks were extended to the Apprenticeship cohort and to the Council's Human Resources staff

The Deputy Leader concluded by advising that the WLGA that they would like to work with the Council on its successful scheme.

- Councillor D R Bevan advised that Lloyds Bank has announced the imminent closure of its branch in Church Village in September without prior consultation with its customers. The Bank has cited a number of reasons for the closure such as online banking, low numbers of customers using the Bank's facility and as such they are making provision for the services to be transferred to the Pontypridd Branch or to the local Post Office. Councillor Bevan confirmed that the Council has appealed to Lloyds Bank to reconsider its position in the knowledge that older customers will have difficulty in attending Banks further afield and an update would be provided in due course.

## **32 Members' Questions**

**Question from County Borough Councillor G. Caple to the Leader of the Council, County Borough Councillor A. Morgan:**

**“Can the Council Leader give an update on the progress of the Porth Interchange scheme?”**

The Leader responded that the Council's Project Team have continued to make progress with the Porth Transport Hub. The site will see a bus and rail interchange created at the existing station and the development will also include electric vehicle charging points and further enhancements to the local Active Travel network.

The development site is already completely cleared and prepared for construction works and the Council recently received planning permission and completed detailed design on the proposal for the Transport Hub. This has been reviewed and agreed by the Council's key delivery partner, Transport for Wales and the tender period for the construction of the development has recently ended.

The Leader advised that the Council is now in advanced discussions with its preferred contractor to award the contract in advance of beginning construction works. Over £5.3m has been allocated to the scheme as part of the CCR City

Deal's Wider Investment Fund and to support future funding arrangements, a bid has been submitted to the UK Government Levelling Up Fund; putting forward the Porth Transport Hub as a key candidate project for funding.

In conclusion, the Leader commented that he had recently met with Robert Jenrick, the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, on a visit to Treorchy who was very positive and interested in the proposals.

**Supplementary question from County Borough Councillor G Caple:**

**“Can the Leader expand on the investment in Porth as part of the Town Centre Strategy?”**

In response, the Leader advised that the Transport Hub is key to the Porth Town Centre Strategy, recognising the key strategic role it plays as the junction of Fach and Fawr, and providing a better transport experience for both bus and rail passengers.

The Leader highlighted a series of other investment projects which are currently being implemented in Porth, as planned in the Porth Town Centre Strategy:

- The adjacent Park and Ride facility is undergoing expansion, complementing the benefits of the Transport Hub by increasing parking spaces and adding charging facilities for electric vehicles.
- The Council's Town Centre Maintenance Grant has successfully supported a number of businesses in improving their shop frontages in order to raise the town's image, whilst free Wi-Fi was made available to visitors and traders in September last year.
- The Council is currently working to utilise Welsh Government Place Making grant in Porth to assist with bringing vacant properties back into use in the Town Centre.
- Porth Plaza has been developed to house an extensive range of resilience and support functions to the community, including the library, the One4All service and employment advice and support.
- Plans continue to develop in order to accommodate extra care housing provision.

**Question from County Borough Councillor W. Lewis to the Leader of the Council, County Borough Councillor A. Morgan:**

**“Can the Leader please provide an update on the work to progress the Section 19 reports into the flooding of February 2019?”**

The Leader confirmed that following the RCT-wide public engagement exercise in January 2021 and the huge response from the public, reports are being

drafted which take into consideration both the physical and technical investigations whilst cross-referencing with information provided by the public through a door-knocking exercise, taking statements and receiving videos and photos from residents

The Leader advised that the Council is working with partners such as Natural Resources Wales (NRW) on how reports can be processed in the future as there are 19 reports under Section 19 of the Flood and Water Management Act to complete, which require a large amount of officer time and consultation, but announced that the Council will be publishing the first Section 19 report in early July 2021.

This will be together with an overview report which will also contain the areas of flood investigations to follow.

It is the intention to publish the balance of the reports on a regular basis over the forthcoming months until each report has been published. Some of these reports will require detailed consultation with other Risk Management Authorities so we cannot be specific on the publishing order of the reports.

**Supplementary question from County Borough Councillor W Lewis:**

**“Can the Leader provide an overview of the investment in flood-related projects since Storm Dennis?”**

The Leader outlined the investment that has been spent over the last 5 years with grant funding and a pipeline of works agreed in principle with Welsh Government.

This has included substantial investment in the Rhondda, with Pentre in particular seeing a number of schemes progressed, whilst schemes have also recently been announced in Ynyshir and Porth.

**Question from County Borough Councillor R. Yeo to the Cabinet Member for Adult Community Services and the Welsh Language, County Borough Councillor G. Hopkins:**

**“Will the Cabinet Member please make a statement on visiting arrangements at care homes across the County?”**

County Borough Councillor G Hopkins advised that Welsh Government updated its most recent guidance on visits to care homes with effect from 24<sup>th</sup> May 2021 - the expectation is now that risk assessed visits, including indoor visits, except in the event of an active outbreak, will be supported.

With restrictions on overall visitor numbers lifted, up to two people can now visit a resident indoors at the same time – they no longer need to be designated visitors. The guidance has also been amended to highlight the importance of

people's rights to privacy during visits, and of care home providers being more flexible when setting visiting times along with clarifying that visits may take place in resident's own rooms, if a designated visiting room is not available.

Councillor Hopkins added that being able to see relatives and friends is important to care home residents and their families, and the Council and commissioned care home providers are doing everything they can to ensure indoor visits are as safe as possible. Before visiting, relatives and friends must contact the relevant home to find out what arrangements are in place. He advised of the need to ensure that visits are implemented in a way that meets all requirements of the revised guidance from Welsh Government.

Councillor Hopkins advised that before visiting, relatives and friends must contact the home first and must undertake a lateral flow test for Covid-19 before being allowed to enter. Results are returned within 30 minutes.

Face coverings must be worn when entering the home, and visitors must follow all rules on social distancing, hand hygiene and PPE should be worn where there is likely to be more significant close contact with the resident, and particularly when there is an increased infection risk.

Councillor Hopkins stated that relatives and friends must refrain from visiting if they are symptomatic, have tested positive or are awaiting a test result, or are a close contact of a positive case of Covid-19. Everyone should follow Welsh Government's self-isolation guidance. In the event of an outbreak in a care home, the home should immediately stop visiting arrangements (except in exceptional circumstances such as end of life – and for essential care givers) to protect vulnerable residents, staff and visitors.

In conclusion, Councillor Hopkins assured Members that staff are doing all they can to keep residents and their own loved ones safe, so it's important that the public work with them to minimise risks.

**Supplementary question from County Borough Councillor R Yeo:**

**“If it becomes apparent that Boosters make a difference, how do we make sure our care homes are prioritised?”**

Councillor Hopkins advised that the Welsh Government's Vaccination Strategy continues to make excellent progress and it is important to follow the same sensible approach as in phase 1 and 2. He added that he anticipated a similar approach to Phase 3 about how we maintain immunity to keep people protected by following scientific advice.

**Question from County Borough Councillor G. Thomas to the Leader of the Council, County Borough Councillor A. Morgan:**

**“Will the Leader please update on whether there are any planned programmes to address the ongoing flooding issue on Rhigos Road?”**

The Leader responded that a number of issues have been tackled on Rhigos Road and the Council's Engineering Departments have been developing proposals for alleviating the repeat flooding in the area of Rhigos Road.

The development of the proposals is at an advanced stage, however, the proximity of multiple BT services in the vicinity of the works is currently affecting the program so further works will be carried out within the next 2-3 weeks with BT to allow the main works to commence, but the intentions are to commence on site Autumn 2021.

The Leader advised that the Council applied to the Welsh Government's Resilient Road Fund for 2021/22 and were successful in securing a grant for 90% of the project costs.

The Leader concluded his response and stated that the storms of February 2020 were 1 in 100-year storm event and since that time there has been a 20% increase in all new investments since Storm Callum.

**Question from County Borough Councillor S Trask to the Cabinet Member for Environment, Leisure and Heritage Services, County Borough Councillor A. Crimmings:**

**“Would the Cabinet Member for Environment, Leisure and Heritage Services make a statement on the Council's biodiversity strategy as a part of its green agenda?”**

Councillor A Crimmings advised that although she would take the opportunity to provide a detailed answer for the benefit of all Members, she was aware that many had received queries over recent weeks.

The Council's Biodiversity Duty process has identified priorities for biodiversity action and improvement through delivery of the Council's functions. For example, the objective of reducing the impacts of climate change and the establishment of the Climate Change Steering Committee has seen the development of a Nature's Assets approach, where priority biodiversity action also provides practical and long-term action to help tackle climate change.

In early 2020, Cabinet Members approved the Wildflower Grass Management Policy, which is now used to identify wildflower areas on road verges, parks, cemeteries, countryside sites and schools. Wildflower areas are left to flower in the summer and the grass is then “cut and collected” in the autumn. This form of “hay-meadow” management provides the ideal conditions for native wildflowers.

By changing management, soil nutrient levels are reduced, and the native wildflowers thrive, which provides important feeding and connecting habitat for pollinating insects, which consequently helps to reduce long-term impacts of climate change on local biodiversity. The tussocky nature of wildflower

grasslands can also help absorb and slow down surface water run-off and the reduced frequency of cutting can also reduce soil compaction and improve soil absorption.

Therefore, wildflower management also improves vegetation structure and soil health, and can help reduce the climate change impacts on native wildlife and from increased rainfall events.

There is currently an online consultation called 'Let's Talk RCT – Wildflowers' which is inviting local residents to nominate areas which they feel could be managed using the 'hay cut' method and which provides useful information in terms of what steps they can take to help support native wildflowers and insects in their own gardens. This campaign follows on the previous campaigns for electric vehicles and forms part of the wider Climate Change conversation that the Council is currently seeking to have with its residents.

Other Natural Asset solutions also include the potential to restore the carbon storage of peatbogs, and the Council is working in partnership with neighbouring Neath Port Talbot Council to restore over 540 hectares of historic landscape between the two Counties. This will help to both conserve the biodiverse-rich and stunning landscapes and also deliver natural flood attenuation and grass fire prevention, using natural tree regeneration to increase woodland areas, and increasing tree planting within the urban environment.

Councillor Crimmings concluded that the principle of working with nature to generate solutions which improve conditions for biodiversity and people through providing resilience to climate change is an example of how strategic biodiversity delivery is being integrated with other priority Council actions. She thanked staff who are leading the way with this piece of work.

### **33 COUNCIL WORK PROGRAMME: 2021-2022 MUNICIPAL YEAR**

The Service Director Democratic Services & Communications presented an update regarding the Council Work Programme advising that any amendments and updates would be brought before Council on a regular basis. The Service Director advised that following consultation with the Leader of the Council and Opposition Leaders, the Medium-Term Financial report would be presented to Full Council at a later date.

#### **RESOLVED:**

1. To note the draft Work Programme attached as Appendix 1 to the report; and
2. To 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.

### **34 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**

Members considered the final recommendations report which contained all of the Local Democracy and Boundary Commission's recommendations for the County Borough of Rhondda Cynon Taf which included any changes to the existing arrangements a description of the change, the representations it has received, the reasons for any change and a map of the proposals.

Following discussion, it was **RESOLVED** to note the final recommendations as set out in the report.

### **35 ACCESS & ENGAGEMENT IMPROVEMENTS WITHIN DEMOCRACY**

The Service Director Democratic Services & Communication presented a position statement in respect of the introduction arrangements to enable the broadcasting of committee meetings and the ability to operate through a hybrid approach. The Service Director advised that as previously reported the arrangements are in line with the requirements of the Local Government & Elections (Wales) Act which places a duty on principal councils to put in place arrangements for the broadcast of council meetings.

The Service Director confirmed that on the 15<sup>th</sup> April 2021 the Council signed off the webcasting equipment with the intention of adopting the same incremental approach as was utilised for the roll-out of virtual meetings during the summer of 2020.

The Service Director acknowledged the constructive comments of the Group Leaders and Members of the Democratic Services Committee all of whom support the phased approach through which all Members will learn and refine the processes as they progress.

It was confirmed that lateral flow tests will be available for a maximum of twenty-six Members and Officers who wish to attend the Council Chamber in person which will enforce a strong public health message.

Following consideration of the report with Group Leaders reiterating their support for the positive demonstration of accountability and transparency and adoption of the webcasting provision on an incremental basis, it was **RESOLVED** to:

- (i) Note the development of the provision of webcasting with 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.

### 36 URGENT EXECUTIVE DECISIONS

In accordance with the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules 17.2(a), the Service Director of Democratic Services and Communication presented an overview of the Urgent Decisions taken forward by the Cabinet Committee and Urgent Key Officer Delegated Decisions taken forward outside of the Cabinet Committee during the period January – May 2021.

Following consideration of the report and discussion in respect of the acquisition of land to the North West of Harriet Street, Trecynon, being the former Mayhew Chicken Factory, Trecynon, Aberdare, RCT it was **RESOLVED** to note the information contained within the report.

### 37 Notices of Motion

The following Notice of Motion standing in the names of County Borough Councillors M Powell, L Walker, W Owen, K Jones, W Jones and P Howe was received:

"This Council recognises:

- 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.

This Council notes:

- 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 2009.

- 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.

This Council therefore resolves:

- 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."

Following consideration, it was **RESOLVED** not to adopt the Notice of Motion.

(**Note:** County Borough Councillors P Jarman and W Lewis wished to have it recorded that they voted not to adopt the Notice of Motion).

.....  
Members **RESOLVED** – that in view of the Secorder of the Notice of Motion, County Borough Councillor R Williams having declared a personal and prejudicial interest and taking no part in the meeting that Council Procedure Rule 10.6 be suspended in order that the under-mentioned Notice of Motion could be considered.

The following 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. 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 was received:

On April 29<sup>th</sup>, 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.

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

**(Note:** The following members of the Labour Group wished to have their names recorded as voting in favour of the Notice of Motion:

Cllr Mark Adams
Cllr Jill Bonetto
Cllr Steve Bradwick
Cllr Jayne Brencher
Cllr Anita Calvert
Cllr Gareth Caple
Cllr Ann Crimmings
Cllr Jeffrey Elliott
Cllr Sheryl Evans
Cllr Mike Forey
Cllr Adam Fox
Cllr Geraint Hopkins
Cllr Rhys Lewis
Cllr Wendy Lewis
Cllr Tina Leyshon
Cllr Andrew Morgan
Cllr Susan Morgans
Cllr Mark Norris
Cllr Dan Owen-Jones
Cllr Sue Pickering
Cllr Steve Powderhill
Cllr Stephen Powell
Cllr Sharon Rees
Cllr Joy Rosser
Cllr Graham Stacey
Cllr Margaret Tegg
Cllr Graham Thomas
Cllr Wendy Treeby
Cllr Maureen Webber

Cllr Doug Williams
Cllr Tina Williams
Cllr Richard Yeo

The following Members of the Plaid Cymru Group wished to have their names recorded as voting in favour of the Notice of Motion:

Cllr Alun Cox
Cllr Danny Grehan
Cllr Eleri Griffiths
Cllr Pauline Jarman
Cllr Lorraine Jones
Cllr Elyn Stephens
Cllr Maureen Weaver
Cllr Emyr Webster

The following Members of the RCT Independent Group wished to have their names recorded as voting in favour of the Notice of Motion:

Cllr Phil Howe
Cllr Will Jones
Cllr Lyndon Walker

**This meeting closed at 7.40 pm**

**Cllr S Powderhill  
Chairman.**

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## **RHONDDA CYNON TAF**

### **RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNCIL**

Minutes of the virtual meeting of the Council held on Wednesday, 14 July 2021 at 5.00 pm.

#### **County Borough Councillors - Council Members in attendance:-**

Councillor S Powderhill (Chair)

Councillor S Trask	Councillor R Williams
Councillor G Hughes	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 S Rees
Councillor J Elliott	Councillor S Evans
Councillor S Evans	Councillor A Fox
Councillor M Norris	Councillor E Webster
Councillor M Webber	Councillor M Griffiths
Councillor A Roberts	Councillor M Weaver
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 W Owen
Councillor S Morgans	Councillor E Stephens
Councillor W Lewis	Councillor G Jones
Councillor W Treeby	Councillor K Jones
Councillor W Jones	Councillor L Jones
Councillor L Hooper	Councillor D Grehan
Councillor E George	Councillor J Williams
Councillor J Cullwick	Councillor A Cox
Councillor A Chapman	Councillor E Griffiths
Councillor G Caple	Councillor J Edwards

#### **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

An apology for absence was received from County Borough Councillors S Belzak, G R Davies, J Davies, L De Vet, M Forey, H Fychan MS, J Harries, G Holmes, J James MS, A Davies-Jones, Martin Fidler Jones, D Owen-Jones, S Pickering, M J Powell, S Rees-Owen, M Tegg and R Turner.

### **39 Declaration of Interest**

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

**Agenda item 6: ANNUAL TREASURY MANAGEMENT REVIEW  
2020/21 Agenda item 7: CHIEF OFFICER VER & REDUNDANCY  
PACKAGES**

**Agenda Item 8 – Review of the Council's Pay and Grading Structure &  
Agenda Item 10 - The Council's Senior Management Structure**

County Borough Councillor P Jarman's dispensation granted by the Standards Committee on 27th November 2020 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"

**Agenda Item 8 – Review of the Council's Pay and Grading Structure &  
Agenda Item 10 - The Council's Senior Management Structure**

County Borough Councillor D R Bevan declared a personal and prejudicial interest and advised that he would leave the meeting when the items are discussed and he referred to his dispensation received by the Standards Committee on the 27<sup>th</sup> November 2020 to speak and vote on all matters relating to the Community & Children's Services Group, save for any specific matters that directly affect his daughter who is employed by the Council in the Community and Children's Services Group.

**Agenda item 10 – The Council's Senior Management Structure**

**THE DIRECTOR OF LEGAL SERVICES:**

"I wish to declare a Personal and Pecuniary interest on behalf of myself and all Chief Officers present in relation to Agenda Item 10 as our posts are referenced in the report. All Chief Officers will leave the meeting for this item save for the Chief Executive, as the author and presenter of the report and the Director of Human Resources who will remain in the meeting to address any Member queries. Whilst I will leave the meeting during its discussion, I shall be available should any legal or constitutional queries arise during discussion of the item. "

### **40 Announcements**

**County Borough Council M Webber**



Councillor M Webber announced that Mr Paul Bromwell, Chief Executive of Valleys Veterans has been honoured at the inaugural Aneurin Bevan People's NHS Awards in recognition of his work in Rhondda Cynon Taf, supporting the Armed Forces community. Councillor Webber advised that she had met with Mr Bromwell to convey the Council's as well as her own personal congratulations.

#### **County Borough Councillor S A Bradwick**

Councillor Bradwick, as Chair of Governors at Aberdare Community School, announced that Mr James Jones, Digital Competency Co-ordinator at Aberdare Community School had won an award for Inspirational Teacher or Adviser of the Year from the University of South Wales by providing support to his students during lockdown as they were struggling to follow online tutorials. He was nominated by one of his Year 10 students. Mr Jones created a series of video tutorials for his students by using free software to create a timer to help them with remote learning. This was a combination of pastoral and subject support.

Councillor Bradwick thanked the University of South Wales for hosting the award ceremony and asked if the Cabinet Member for Education and Inclusion Services and/or Director of Education & Inclusion Services could send a letter of congratulations to Mr James Jones.

#### **County Borough Councillor S Evans**

Councillor S Evans also wished to congratulate Mr James Jones for his success at the University of South Wales Teacher and Adviser awards 2021 which her team within the University of South Wales had organised and she had hosted. Councillor Evans described the nomination by Alexander Martin, a Year 10 pupil as very emotional, depicting Mr James as a teacher who made you feel 'like you could do anything'. Councillor Evans concluded that it was pleasing to see a Teacher from RCT win the award.

#### **County Borough Councillor D Grehan**

Councillor Grehan wished to congratulate pupils in the class of Mr & Ms Hughes at Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Tonyrefail for undertaking research as part of the 2021 Census initiative 'Let's Count'. Students researched and compared the number of Welsh speakers in 1901 and in 2011 by giving special attention to their own community. The purpose of the research was to raise information for the 2021 Census. Out of 250 applications the school won first prize in Wales and second prize in Wales & England. This means the school will receive and play a key role in the providing the results of the Census next Autumn.

#### **41 Minutes**

The Council **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the Extra Ordinary Council Meeting held on the 30<sup>th</sup> June at 4pm as an accurate reflection of the meeting.

#### **42 Statements**

The Leader of the Council provided an update on the recent figures for cases of Covid-19 across Cwm Taf Morgannwg. The Leader advised the number of positive cases in the Cwm Taf Morgannwg region as 143.5 cases per 100,000 which represents a significant increase over recent weeks. In Wales the positivity rate has increased to 7.6%, in RCT the positivity rate is 7.5%. The highest rate of positivity remains with younger people, particularly in those aged 25 years and under. In recognition of this, the Cwm Taf Morgannwg Health Board is encouraging this age group to come forward and have the vaccine which does help reduce the spread of the virus. The Leader advised that unfortunately, the number of deaths may increase within the next few weeks as the number of positive cases increase.

From the 17<sup>th</sup> July Wales will move to Alert Level 1 but the Leader advised caution as the country moves into this stage of alert level. Residents are encouraged to wear masks where necessary and to take personal responsibility for the safety of everyone around them. In conclusion, the Leader advised that a more detailed review of the changes would be circulated following the meeting to all Members, so they are aware of the changes following the 17<sup>th</sup> July, the 19<sup>th</sup> July and the 7<sup>th</sup> August.

In a further statement, the Leader commented that there would be a flood alleviation update to Full Council in September to reflect the progress to date and ahead of the winter months. Press releases will also be published regularly to keep residents updated on the work to culverts and pumping stations ahead of the winter months.

The Leader advised that he and the Deputy Leader had visited the new emergency control room which will operate in the event of any type of emergency. It houses the appropriate equipment to enable Officers and Members to make strategic decisions effectively such as monitored alarm systems at culvert inlets and pumphouses to remotely alert the council of any problems and access to the Council's CCTV system.

## **43 Members' Questions**

### **Question from County Borough Councillor A. S. Fox to the Deputy Leader of the Council, County Borough Councillor M. Webber:**

“How does this Council support its local Armed Forces community?”

### **Response from County Borough Councillor M Webber:**

“Councillor Webber advised that RCT is the first Council in Wales to sign up to the Armed Forces Covenant which is a voluntary statement of mutual support between the armed forces and the civilian communities and pledges to recognise the dual respect between the Council partner agencies and our Armed Forces personnel and their families. In 2019 RCT Council launched its Veteran Advice Service for the Armed Forces community by the Armed Forces Liaison Officer (AFLOW) which provides awareness raising sessions to staff and ensures the best level of support is offered. The Council offers discounted burial fees to serving and retired armed forces community who reside in the County Borough. The Council

has worked closely on the Aberdare War Memorial, the Llantrisant War Memorial, Gilfach Goch Memorial and held discussions regarding Tonypany, Penrhiwceiber and Cwmparc War Memorials. This year the Council has bid successfully for funding from the Armed Forces Covenant fund for the Veterans Connect Project to help maintain contact between veterans and their families through digital technology which reduces social isolation.

Future work will include a report to Cabinet regarding overcoming barriers to civilian employment which may introduce a guaranteed interview scheme for armed forces service personnel leavers, reservist veterans and their spouses if they meet the vacancy essential criteria.

In conclusion, the Deputy Leader advised that her own personal involvement has included supporting the War Memorial projects, Valleys Veterans Groups with their projects and breakfast clubs, giving evidence to the Commons Select Committee on the Armed Forces Bill, supporting Veterans through lockdown and is the WLGA Armed Forces Spokesperson.

#### **Supplementary question from County Borough Councillor A S Fox**

“Councillor Fox stated that the community of Penrhiwceiber are committed to paying tribute to the members of the armed forces community and asked if the Deputy Leader can provide an update on the work to restore the memorial clock”

#### **Response from County Borough Councillor M Webber**

“Councillor Webber confirmed that she has visited the War Memorial in Penrhiwceiber and advised that the Memorial clock is Listed but added that the Council has been in touch with Cadw. Although there are few clock experts available, an architect’s report and expert advice on the clock have been collated and sent to Cadw. The Council has applied for a level of funding from the War Memorial Fund towards the clock repair and the Deputy Leader gave a commitment that the clock will be restored.”

#### **Question from County Borough Councillor E Webster to the Leader of the Council, County Borough Councillor A. Morgan:**

"What happens when a major river defence wall in the borough is in danger of collapse, but there is no identifiable owner with riparian rights?"

#### **Response from County Borough Councillor A Morgan:**

“The Leader responded that the Flood Water Act Management Act 2010 identifies the appropriate risk management authority in dealing with any flood issues. RCT Council is the Lead Flood Risk Authority with direct responsibility for flood risk to ordinary water courses, surface water flooding it is Natural Resources Wales (NRW) who are responsible for main rivers and risk of river flooding. In the first instance referrals would be made to NRW who would identify whether the assets were theirs and if there was a riparian issue”

#### **Supplementary question from County Borough Councillor E Webster:**

“The river defence wall is a continuous structure which runs from the Barracks in Pentre through Treorchy up to Ynyswen. Parts are the responsibility of this authority, other parts are that of private residents and business and others like Swyn yr Afon are not the responsibility of anyone. The wall is showing signs of age and the failure at Swyn Yr Afon during Storm Dennis is a sign of that. The sink hole has grown to over 30 feet which is a concern to the residents. NRW claim that this breach has a low risk of flooding to residents, but they haven’t considered the damage should it fall into the river. There’s a similar sink hole at the top end of Treorchy and many areas on the wall where it has eroded. It is such an important defence, what assurances can this Council give to residents that this wall is safe and will you work with NRW to undertake a condition survey of the wall in its entirety?”

**Response from County Borough Councillor A Morgan:**

“Councillor Morgan advised that NRW do not class this wall as a flood defence. The Council is carrying out extensive surveys to all council owned river walls where there has been scour and undertaking any necessary works. The section of land where there is a sink hole isn’t in anyone’s ownership at present and is unregistered land and NRW state that the sinkhole does not cause a risk, and is not a river flood asset so it is riparian ownership in which case it is for the residents to discuss with their own insurance companies to see if there is a risk to their properties and gardens. The Leader added that miles of river walls within RCT are in private ownership and the Council’s responsibility is to use emergency powers or to serve notices on adjacent landowners to take action. In conclusion, the Leader gave a commitment that he would discuss this particular wall with NRW in further detail”

**Question from County Borough Councillor K Morgan to the Leader of the Council, County Borough Councillor A. Morgan:**

“Will the Member make a statement on the Highways Infrastructure in the village of Hirwaun please”.

**Response from County Borough Councillor A Morgan:**

“The Leader advised the following schemes and spending on highways infrastructure as follows:

Almost a £1m on infrastructure over the past 10 years, £150,000 on footways, £400,000 on structures, 21 Capital schemes completed to date such as Station Road Bridge refurbishment and footway repairs and a number of street lighting upgrades over the years.”

**Supplementary question from County Borough Councillor K Morgan:**

“Councillor K Morgan stated that previous requests for a traffic management review and a scheme to address the issues that residents experience have been met with the funding needed for review design, prioritisation of funding, review

design, the start of the Heads of the Valleys dualling works has further exacerbated the existing road safety issues including very large freight vehicles using our streets as a rat run to avoid the queues on the Heads of the Valley plus the inevitable official diversions. Councillor Morgan had hoped for a proactive approach to mitigate the effects on the village such as weight limits similar to Llwydcoed.

What steps will the council take over the next few years to ensure Hirwaun will have some of the gain not all of the pain?"

**Response from County Borough Councillor A Morgan:**

"Councillor Morgan advised that it is the responsibility of the highway developers to look at the mitigation measures, but he assured the Member that he would raise the issues with the Highway Officers to liaise with the development company taking forward the A465 dualling to highlight some of the concerns raised and see if further discussions are needed with Welsh Government and the A465 delivery partners."

**Question from County Borough Councillor M. Griffiths to the Leader of the Council, County Borough Councillor A. Morgan:**

"Has the Leader, through this Council or the WLGA, received any update on the implementation of the U.K. Government's Shared Prosperity Fund, which is supposed to be replacing EU Structural Funds?"

**Response from County Borough Councillor A Morgan:**

"Councillor Morgan advised that through the WLGA and as individual local authorities lobbying has been undertaken to ensure that the benefits of the European Revenue and Capital funding are maintained. The Community Renewal Fund is available, and a number of bids have been submitted (totalling £40m). The Leader added that he, along with other Leaders had provided evidence to the Welsh Affairs Committee about the Levelling Up Fund where a consistent message had been relayed that although the funding is welcome, a rapid increase in the quantum over the coming years would be necessary. The Leader advised that the message from UK Government regarding the involvement of Welsh Government had been unclear. The Leader stressed the importance of local communities benefitting from the funding"

**Supplementary question from County Borough Councillor M Griffiths:**

"Is the levelling up fund no more than a 'slush fund' for the Tory MP's who benefitted from it a few months ago?"

**Response from County Borough Councillor A Morgan:**

“The Leader of the Council confirmed that he had a positive meeting with Robert Jenrick, Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, about the importance of areas like RCT securing the Levelling Up funding. He hoped the quantum of funding would be increased”

#### **44 The Council Work Programme- For Members' Information**

The Service Director Democratic Services & Communications provided an update in respect of the adopted and published Council Work Programme for the Municipal Year 2021/22. He advised that the Freedom of the Borough report had been deferred to allow for discussions in respect of the nominations by the Freedom of the Borough Working Group to be confirmed.

In respect of the reported outcomes of the Notices of Motions to Scrutiny such as the Motor Neurone Disease, Autism and the Development of the Rail Infrastructure, these would be reported to Council in the near future collectively. There would be an update on the Broadcasting of Meetings to Council following the hybrid meeting of the Cabinet and further familiarisation meetings over the next few weeks.

#### **45 Annual Treasury Management Review 2020/21**

In accordance with the requirements of both the CIPFA Code of Practice on Treasury Management and the CIPFA Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities, the Director of Finance and Digital Services provided Members with information on:-

- The Council’s Treasury Management activity during 2020/21; and
- The actual Prudential and Treasury Indicators for 2020/21.

Following a discussion, it was **RESOLVED** to approve the content of the report.

#### **46 Chief Officer VER & Redundancy Packages**

Following a recommendation from the Council’s Voluntary Early Retirement (VER) Panel the Director of Human Resources sought Members’ approval of the Chief Officer severance package (as detailed in the report) in accordance with the Council’s approved 2021/22 Pay Policy statement.

The Director of Human Resources advised that the ‘strain’ or capitalised cost on the pension fund is a payment that the Council is required to make pursuant to the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) Regulations 2013 (30(7) and 68(2)) into the pension fund itself and any further explanation would be provided to the individual Member as appropriate.

Following discussion, it was **RESOLVED** to approve a Chief Officer severance package (as detailed at Appendix 1 of the report) in accordance with the Council’s approved 2021/22 Pay Policy statement.

#### **47 Review of the Council's Pay and Grading Structure**

The Director of Human Resources presented his report which sought Council's approval in respect of a review of the Council's Pay and Grading Structure.

The Director of Human Resources provided clarification at point 7.1 of the report which should refer to the current grading structure not to the 'amendments to the Council's senior management structure'. In response to a query regarding whether there is a Welsh Language evaluation process for the 1-18 grades, the Director advised that each job and person specification has a particular level of Welsh proficiency requirement attached to it.

Following responses to queries and further consideration of the report it was **RESOLVED** to agree an extension to the current pay and grading system of Grades 1 to 15, so as to now incorporate an expanded pay and grading system of Grades 16, 17 and 18 (as is detailed in the report), in relation to all staff employed under NJC for Local Government terms and conditions.

(**Note:** As referenced within minute No.39 County Borough Councillor D R Bevan left the meeting when the matter was discussed and voted upon).

**48 TO CONSIDER PASSING THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTION:**

It was **RESOLVED** that the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 12 and 13 of Part 4 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

**49 The Council's Senior Management Structure**

The Director of Human Resources provided Members with an overview of his report which contained exempt information.

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

To note that:

1. Cabinet approved the revised directorate structures shown at Appendices 2(i), 2(ii) and 2 (iii) will be implemented from the 1<sup>st</sup> August 2021 and structure at 2(iv) be implemented from the 1<sup>st</sup> October 2021. Furthermore, the structure shown at Appendix 3(i), will be implemented from the 1<sup>st</sup> May 2022. This will provide an overall estimated reduction in annual management costs at the Senior and Associated Management grade levels of £250,000 (inclusive of on-costs).
2. Emanating from the revised directorate structures outlined in 2.1.1, Cabinet authorised the amendment of the following posts:
  - i) the amendment of the post Director – Corporate Estates (Director Level 2) to Director – Corporate Estates (Director Level 1);
  - ii) the amendment of the post of Head of Corporate & Management Accounting (Head of Service Level 1) to Service Director – Corporate & Management Accounting (Service Director Level 2);
  - iii) the amendment of the post of Head of Education & Financial Reporting

- (Head of Service Level 1) to Service Director – Education & Financial Reporting (Service Director Level 2);
- iv) the amendment of the post of Head of Community & Children's Services Finance (Head of Service Level 1) to Service Director – Community & Children's Services Finance (Service Director Level 2);
  - v) the amendment of the post of Head of Organisational Development (Head of Service Level 1) to Service Director – Organisational Development (Service Director Level 2);
  - vi) the amendment of the post of Head of Employee Relations (Head of Service Level 2) to Head of Employee Relations (Head of Service Level 1);
  - vii) the amendment of the post of Service Director – Pensions, Procurement & Transactional Services (Service Director Level 2) to Service Director – Pensions, Procurement & Transactional Services (Service Director Level 1);
  - viii) the amendment of the post of Head of Revenues & Benefits (Head of Service Level 2) to Head of Revenues & Benefits (Head of Service Level 1);
  - ix) the amendment of the post of Head of Accommodation Services (Head of Service Level 2) to Head of Accommodation Services (Head of Service Level 1);
  - x) the amendment of the post of Director – Education & Inclusion Services (Director Level 2) to Director – Education & Inclusion Services (Director Level 1);
  - xi) the amendment of the post of Head of 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools (Head of Service Level 1) to Service Director- 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools & Transformation Services (Service Director Level 1);
  - xii) the amendment of the post of Head of Transformation & Education Information (Head of Service Level 2) to Head of Transformation, Admissions and Governance (Head of Service Level 1);
  - xiii) the amendment of the post of Head of Achievement Secondary (0.5) (soulbury grade) to Head of Secondary Achievement & Wellbeing (soulbury grade);
  - xiv) the amendment of the post of Head of School Advisory Support (soulbury grade) to Head of Primary Achievement (soulbury grade);
  - xv) the amendment of the post of Service Director – Frontline Services (Service Director L1) to Director – Frontline Services (Director L1);
  - xvi) the amendment of the post of Head of Strategic Investments (Head of Service Level 1) to Service Director – Transportation, Enforcement & Strategic Investments (Service Director Level 2);
  - xvii) the amendment of the post title of the Head of Operational Property



Services (Head of Service - Level 2) to Head of Energy and Carbon Reduction (Head of Service - Level 2).

3. Emanating from the revised directorate structures outlined in 2.1.1, Cabinet authorised the creation of the following posts:
  - i) the creation of the post of Head of Technology (Head of Service – Level 1);
  - ii) the creation of the post of Head of Digital Transformation (Head of Service – Level 2);
  - iii) the creation of the post of Head of ICT Operations (Head of Service – Level 2);
  - iv) the creation of the post of Head of Data, IM & Systems (Head of Service – Level 2);
  - v) the creation of the post of Head of Learning Disability & Mental Health (Head of Service – Level 1);
  - vi) the creation of the post of Head of Community & Welsh Language Services (Head of Service – Level 2);
  - vii) the creation of the post of Head of Arts, Culture & Library Services (Head of Service – Level 2);
  - viii) the creation of the post of Head of Leisure, Sports & Parks Services (Head of Service – Level 2);
  - ix) the creation of the post of Head of Public Protection & Regulatory Services (Head of Service – Level 1);
  - x) the creation of the post of Head of Community Protection & Housing Services (Head of Service – Level 2);
  - xi) the creation of the post of Head of Planning (Head of Service – Level 1);
  - xii) the creation of the post of Head of Major Developments & Investments (Head of Service – Level 2);
  - xiii) the creation of the post of Head of Housing Strategy & Investments (Head of Service – Level 2);
  - xiv) the creation of the post of Head of Infrastructure Asset Management (Head of Service – Level 2);
  - xv) the creation of the post of Head of Flood Risk Management and Strategic Projects (Head of Service – Level 2).
4. To agree to the amendment to the post of Group Director – Community & Children’s Services (Group Director grade) to Deputy Chief Executive & Group Director – Community & Children’s Services (Group Director grade) as recommended by Cabinet;
5. To note that Cabinet agreed to transfer:

- i) Facilities Cleaning from Frontline Services to Corporate Estates;
  - ii) Countryside Services from Public Health, Protection & Community Services to Frontline Services.
6. To endorse the following recommendations made by the Appointments Committee at its meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> July 2021:
  7. In accordance with the Council's change management process, due to the strong contractual claim in place, Mr. David Powell be assigned to the post of Director of Corporate Estates (Director Level 1) effective from 1<sup>st</sup> August 2021;
  8. In accordance with the Council's change management process, due to the strong contractual claim in place, Mrs. Gaynor Davies be assigned to the post of Director of Education & Inclusion Services (Director Level 1) effective from 1<sup>st</sup> August 2021;
  9. In accordance with the Council's change management process, due to the strong contractual claim in place, Mr. Roger Waters be assigned to the post of Director of Frontline Services (Director Level 1) effective from 1<sup>st</sup> October 2021
  10. That Mr. Paul Mee be formally placed into the role of Deputy Chief Executive & Group Director – Community & Children's Services (Group Director grade) effective from 1<sup>st</sup> August 2021;
  11. To give the Director of Legal Services delegated authority to make the consequential changes that are required to be made to the Council's Constitution as a result of implementation of the above initiatives.

**(Note:** As referenced within minute No.39 County Borough Councillor D R Bevan and Chief Offices in attendance left the meeting when the matter was discussed and voted upon, except the Chief Executive and Director, Human Resources who remained in the meeting to present the report to Members).

**This meeting closed at 6.30 pm**

**Cllr S Powderhill  
Chairman.**

## RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

### COUNCIL

29<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 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 15<sup>th</sup> 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 26<sup>th</sup> 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 Council meeting on the 29<sup>th</sup> September 2021 was 5pm on the 16<sup>th</sup> September 2021.
- 4.2 Twenty-nine questions were received and put forward to the Council Ballot held on the 20<sup>th</sup> September 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><b>Question from County Borough Councillor W. Treeby to the Leader of the Council, County Borough Councillor A. Morgan:</b></p> <p>“Can the Leader make a statement on community safety and local policing in Rhondda Cynon Taf?”</p>
2	<p><b>Question from County Borough Councillor R. Williams to the Leader of the Council, County Borough Councillor A. Morgan:</b></p> <p>“Will the Leader outline this Council’s plans to develop an Integrated Transport Network across the County Borough?”</p>
3	<p><b>Question from County Borough Councillor G Jones to the Leader of the Council, County Borough Councillor A. Morgan:</b></p> <p>“Can the Council Leader provide an update on the Levelling-Up Fund bids submitted to the U.K. Government by this Council?”</p>
4	<p><b>Question from County Borough Councillor G R Davies to the Leader of the Council, County Borough Councillor A. Morgan:</b></p> <p>“A wnewch chi ddatganiad ar isadeiledd trafndiaeth yn pen uchaf y Rhondda Fawr? Will you make a statement on the transport network in the Upper Rhondda Fawr?”</p>
5	<p><b>Question from County Borough Councillor A. S. Fox to the Leader of the Council, County Borough Councillor A. Morgan:</b></p> <p>“During this financial year there has been significant investment once again in resurfacing of highways and footways across the County. Can the Council Leader give an overview of the investment and what this means in terms of the number of schemes completed or planned for this financial year?”</p>
6	<p><b>Question from County Borough Councillor H. Boggis to the Cabinet Member for Environment, Leisure and Heritage Services, County Borough Councillor A. Crimmings:</b></p> <p>“Can the Cabinet Member provide an update on the Council’s investment in parks and confirm whether this remains a priority going forward?”</p>

7	<p><b>Question from County Borough Councillor K. Morgan to the Cabinet Member for Environment, Leisure and Heritage Services, County Borough Councillor A. Crimmings:</b></p> <p>“What criteria is used to determine which playgrounds in RCT are allocated funding for necessary refurbishments and who is involved in the decision making?”</p>
8	<p><b>Question from County Borough Councillor J. Elliott to the Leader of the Council, County Borough Councillor A Morgan:</b></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>
9	<p><b>Question from County Borough Councillor L. M. Adams to the Cabinet Member for Corporate Services, County Borough Councillor M. A. Norris:</b></p> <p>“Will the Cabinet Member provide an update on the Council’s Free Town Centre Wi-Fi rollout?”</p>
10	<p><b>Question from County Borough Councillor G. P. Thomas to the Leader of the Council, County Borough Councillor A. Morgan:</b></p> <p>“Can the Council Leader provide an update on the Zip World attraction in terms of jobs created, visitor numbers to the attraction so far and the potential economic boost to the County?”</p>
11	<p><b>Question from County Borough Councillor P Jarman to the Leader of the Council, County Borough Councillor A. Morgan:</b></p> <p>“How important is Good Governance and Audit to the Council's reputation?”</p>
12	<p><b>Question from County Borough Councillor S. Bradwick to the Leader of the Council, County Borough Councillor A. Morgan:</b></p> <p>“Can the Leader of the Council provide an update on the progress of flood alleviation scheme bids and programme of works for the forthcoming year please?”</p>
13	<p><b>Question from County Borough Councillor S. Pickering to the Cabinet Member for Environment, Leisure and Heritage Services, County Borough Councillor A. Crimmings:</b></p> <p>“Can the Cabinet Member of Environment, Leisure and Heritage Services provide an update on the investment in Ynysangharad War Memorial Park outline any future schemes that are planned?”</p>

14	<p><b>Question from County Borough Councillor J. Edwards to the Deputy Leader of the Council, County Borough Councillor M. Webber:</b></p> <p>“Can the Deputy Leader provide an update on the Council’s apprenticeship and graduate programmes, including the number of new places created since 2017 and could council have an update of the recent awards the Council received in relation to this scheme?”</p>
15	<p><b>Question from County Borough Councillor R. Yeo to the Leader of the Council, County Borough Councillor A. Morgan:</b></p> <p>“Can the Council Leader make a statement on the plans to develop the North West Transport Corridor?”</p>
16	<p><b>Question from County Borough Councillor S. Morgans to the Cabinet Member for Education and Inclusion Services, County Borough Councillor J. Rosser:</b></p> <p>“Can the Cabinet Member for Education and Inclusion Services please provide an update and timescale on the plans to develop a new Welsh Medium school in Ferndale to replace Ysgol Llyn-Y-Forwyn?”</p>
17	<p><b>Question from County Borough Councillor G. Caple to the Cabinet Member for Adult Services and the Welsh Language, County Borough Councillor G. Hopkins:</b></p> <p>“Will the Cabinet Member please provide an update on the development of an Extra Care facility in Porth?”</p>
18	<p><b>Question from County Borough Councillor J. Bonetto to the Leader of the Council, County Borough Councillor A. Morgan:</b></p> <p>“Can the Council Leader provide an update on what discussions have been held with Transport for Wales on the South Wales Metro plans and how far advanced is the preparation works for the electrification of the Valleys lines?”</p>
19	<p><b>Question from County Borough Councillor J. Barton to the Leader of the Council, County Borough Councillor A. Morgan:</b></p> <p>“What action can the Council take to improve road safety and reduce speeding traffic in local communities?”</p>

20	<p><b>Question from County Borough Councillor G. Holmes to the Leader of the Council, County Borough Councillor A. Morgan:</b></p> <p>“Can the Council Leader update on the completion and subsequent marketing of Llys Cadwyn in Pontypridd?”</p>
21	<p><b>Question from County Borough Councillor S. M. Powell to the Cabinet Member for Stronger Communities, Wellbeing and Cultural Services, County Borough Councillor R. Lewis:</b></p> <p>“How is this Council progressing plans for the introduction of Electric Car Charge Points throughout Rhondda Cynon Taf?”</p>
22	<p><b>Question from County Borough Councillor T. Williams to the Leader of the Council, County Borough Councillor A. Morgan:</b></p> <p>“Can the Leader provide an overview of the works completed to date to help protect residents of Bronallt Terrace in Abercwmbai from flooding, and can the Leader also outline whether further measures can be taken?”</p>
23	<p><b>Question from County Borough Councillor J. Brencher to the Cabinet Member for Stronger Communities, Wellbeing and Cultural Services, County Borough Councillor R. Lewis:</b></p> <p>“Will the Cabinet Member please provide a progress update on development plans for the Muni in Pontypridd?”</p>
24	<p><b>Question from County Borough Councillor M. Forey to the Cabinet Member for Enterprise, Development and Housing, County Borough Councillor D. R. Bevan:</b></p> <p>“How is the Council supporting our town centres to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic, both in the immediate future and over the longer term?”</p>
25	<p><b>Question from County Borough Councillor L Walker to the Cabinet Member for Education and Inclusion Services, County Borough Councillor J. Rosser:</b></p> <p>“Can the Cabinet Member for Education make a statement on why there is positive discrimination in this council towards children with special education needs “</p>
26	<p><b>Question from County Borough Councillor D. Williams to the Leader of the Council, County Borough Councillor A. Morgan:</b></p> <p>“Can the Council Leader provide an update on the Castle Inn Bridge replacement works following the significant damage caused in the flooding brought by Storm Dennis?”</p>

27	<p><b>Question from County Borough Councillor D. Owen-Jones to the Leader of the Council, County Borough Councillor A. Morgan:</b></p> <p>“What implications does the recent Welsh Government announcement to pause and review major roadbuilding schemes in Wales have for Rhondda Cynon Taf?”</p>
28	<p><b>Question from County Borough Councillor W. Lewis to the Leader of the Council, County Borough Councillor A. Morgan:</b></p> <p>“Can the Leader of the Council outline what discussions are ongoing through the WLGA or directly through RCT in relation to next year’s Budget settlement?”</p>
29	<p><b>Question from County Borough Councillor S. Evans to the Leader of the Council, County Borough Councillor A. Morgan:</b></p> <p>“Can the Leader please outline the potential losses to pensioners in Rhondda Cynon Taf as a result of the Conservative U.K. Government’s decision to not implement the rise from the triple-lock on pensions?”</p>

- 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 amendments 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**

**29 SEPTEMBER 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

## Audit of Accounts Report – Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council

Audit year: 2020-21

Date issued: September 2021

Document reference: 2603A2021-22

This document has been prepared as part of work performed in accordance with statutory functions.

In the event of receiving a request for information to which this document may be relevant, attention is drawn to the Code of Practice issued under section 45 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. The section 45 code sets out the practice in the handling of requests that is expected of public authorities, including consultation with relevant third parties. In relation to this document, the Auditor General for Wales and the Wales Audit Office are relevant third parties. Any enquiries regarding disclosure or re-use of this document should be sent to the Wales Audit Office at [infoofficer@audit.wales](mailto:infoofficer@audit.wales).

We welcome correspondence and telephone calls in Welsh and English. Corresponding in Welsh will not lead to delay. Rydym yn croesawu gohebiaeth a galwadau ffôn yn Gymraeg a Saesneg. Ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

# Contents

We intend to issue an unqualified audit report on your Accounts There are some issues to report to you prior to their approval.

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# Audit of Accounts Report

## Introduction

- 1 We summarise the main findings from our audit of your 2020-21 accounts in this report.
- 2 We have already discussed these issues with Director of Finance and Digital Services.
- 3 Auditors can never give complete assurance that accounts are correctly stated. Instead, we work to a level of 'materiality'. This level of materiality is set to try to identify and correct misstatements that might otherwise cause a user of the accounts into being misled.
- 4 We set this level at £8,575k for this year's audit. There are some areas of the accounts that may be of more importance to the reader and we have set a lower materiality level such as Senior Officer Remuneration and Related Parties.
- 5 We have now substantially completed this year's audit but the following work is outstanding:
  - a. IM&T review of financial systems.
- 6 In our professional view, we have complied with the ethical standards that apply to our work; remain independent of yourselves; and, our objectivity has not been compromised in any way. There are no relationships between ourselves and yourselves that we believe could undermine our objectivity and independence.

## Proposed audit opinion

- 7 We intend to issue an unqualified audit opinion on this year's accounts once you have provided us with a Letter of Representation based on that set out in **Appendix 1**.
- 8 We issue a 'qualified' audit opinion where we have material concerns about some aspects of your accounts; otherwise, we issue an unqualified opinion.
- 9 The Letter of Representation contains certain confirmations we are required to obtain from you under auditing standards along with confirmation of other specific information you have provided to us during our audit.
- 10 Our proposed audit report is set out in **Appendix 2**.

## Significant issues arising from the audit

### Uncorrected misstatements

- 11 There are no misstatements identified in the accounts, which remain uncorrected.

### Corrected misstatements

- 12 There were initially some misstatements in the accounts that have now been corrected by management. These are set out with explanations in **Appendix 3**.

### Other significant issues arising from the audit

- 13 In the course of the audit, we consider a number of matters relating to the accounts and report any significant issues arising to you. There were no issues arising in these areas this year.

# Appendix 1

## Final Letter of Representation

[Audited body's letterhead]

Auditor General for Wales  
Wales Audit Office  
24 Cathedral Road  
Cardiff  
CF11 9LJ

[Date]

### Representations regarding the 2020-21 financial statements

This letter is provided in connection with your audit of the financial statements of Rhondda Cynon Taf CBC for the year ended 31 March 2021 for the purpose of expressing an opinion on their truth and fairness.

We confirm that to the best of our knowledge and belief, having made enquiries as we consider sufficient, we can make the following representations to you.

### Management representations

#### Responsibilities

We have fulfilled our responsibilities for:

- the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with legislative requirements and the CIPFA Code of Practice; in particular the financial statements give a true and fair view in accordance therewith; and
- the design, implementation, maintenance and review of internal control to prevent and detect fraud and error.

### Information provided

We have provided you with:

- full access to:
  - all information of which we are aware that is relevant to the preparation of the financial statements such as books of account and supporting documentation, minutes of meetings and other matters;
  - additional information that you have requested from us for the purpose of the audit;



- unrestricted access to staff from whom you determined it necessary to obtain audit evidence;
- the results of our assessment of the risk that the financial statements may be materially misstated as a result of fraud;
- our knowledge of fraud or suspected fraud that we are aware of and that affects Rhondda Cynon Taf CBC and involves:
  - management;
  - employees who have significant roles in internal control; or
  - others where the fraud could have a material effect on the financial statements;
- our knowledge of any allegations of fraud, or suspected fraud, affecting the financial statements communicated by employees, former employees, regulators or others;
- our knowledge of all known instances of non-compliance or suspected non-compliance with laws and regulations whose effects should be considered when preparing the financial statements;
- the identity of all related parties and all the related party relationships and transactions of which we are aware.

## Financial statement representations

All transactions, assets and liabilities have been recorded in the accounting records and are reflected in the financial statements.

The methods, the data and the significant assumptions used in making accounting estimates, and their related disclosures are appropriate to achieve recognition, measurement or disclosure that is reasonable in the context of the applicable financial reporting framework.

Related party relationships and transactions have been appropriately accounted for and disclosed.

All events occurring subsequent to the reporting date which require adjustment or disclosure have been adjusted for or disclosed.

All known actual or possible litigation and claims whose effects should be considered when preparing the financial statements have been disclosed to the auditor and accounted for and disclosed in accordance with the applicable financial reporting framework.

The financial statements are free of material misstatements, including omissions. The effects of uncorrected misstatements identified during the audit are immaterial, both individually and in the aggregate, to the financial statements taken as a whole.

## Representations by the Council

We acknowledge that the representations made by management, above, have been discussed with us.

We acknowledge our responsibility for the preparation of true and fair financial statements in accordance with the applicable financial reporting framework. The financial statements were approved by Rhondda Cynon Taf CBC on 29 September 2021.

We confirm that we have taken all the steps that we ought to have taken in order to make ourselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that it has been communicated to you. We confirm that, as far as we are aware, there is no relevant audit information of which you are unaware.

Signed by:

[Officer who signs on behalf of management]

Date:

Signed by:

Member who signs on behalf of those charged with governance

Date:

# Appendix 2

## Proposed Audit Report

### The independent auditor's report of the Auditor General for Wales to the members of Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council

#### Opinion on financial statements

I have audited the financial statements of Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council for the year ended 31 March 2021 under the Public Audit (Wales) Act 2004.

Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council's financial statements comprise the Movement in Reserves Statement, the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement, the Balance Sheet, the Cash Flow Statement and the related notes, including a summary of significant accounting policies.

The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and international accounting standards as interpreted and adapted by the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2020-21.

In my opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the financial position of Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council as at 31 March 2021 and of its income and expenditure for the year then ended; and
- have been properly prepared in accordance with legislative requirements and international accounting standards as interpreted and adapted by the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2020-21.

#### Basis of opinion

I conducted my audit in accordance with applicable law and International Standards on Auditing in the UK (ISAs (UK)) and Practice Note 10 'Audit of Financial Statements of Public Sector Entities in the United Kingdom'. My responsibilities under those standards are further described in the auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of my report. I am independent of the Council in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to my audit of the financial statements in the UK including the Financial Reporting Council's Ethical Standard, and I have fulfilled my other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion.

#### Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, I have concluded that the use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work I have performed, I have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the Council's ability to continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting for a period of at least 12 months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue. My responsibilities and the responsibilities of the responsible financial officer with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

## **Other information**

The other information comprises the information included in the annual report other than the financial statements and my auditor's report thereon. The Responsible Financial Officer is responsible for the other information contained within the annual report. My opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in my report, I do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon. My responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or knowledge obtained in the course of the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If I identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, I am required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work I have performed, I conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, I am required to report that fact.

I have nothing to report in this regard.

## **Report on other requirements**

### **Opinion on other matters**

In my opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of my audit:

- the information contained in the Narrative Report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements and the Narrative Report has been prepared in accordance with the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2020-21;
- the information given in the Governance Statement for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements and the Governance Statement has been prepared in accordance with guidance.

### **Matters on which I report by exception**

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the Council and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, I have not identified material misstatements in the Narrative Report or the Governance Statement.

I have nothing to report in respect of the following matters, which I report to you, if, in my opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for my audit have not been received from branches not visited by my team;
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- I have not received all the information and explanations I require for my audit.

## Responsibilities

### Responsibilities of the responsible financial officer for the financial statements

As explained more fully in the Statement of Responsibilities for the Statement of Accounts set out on page 19, the responsible financial officer is responsible for the preparation of the statement of accounts, which give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the responsible financial officer determines is necessary to enable the preparation of statements of accounts that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the statement of accounts, the responsible financial officer is responsible for assessing the council's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless deemed inappropriate.

### Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

My objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes my opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. I design procedures in line with my responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud.

My procedures included the following:

- enquiring of management, and those charged with governance, including obtaining and reviewing supporting documentation relating to Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council's policies and procedures concerned with:
  - identifying, evaluating and complying with laws and regulations and whether they were aware of any instances of non-compliance;

- detecting and responding to the risks of fraud and whether they have knowledge of any actual, suspected or alleged fraud; and
- the internal controls established to mitigate risks related to fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations;
- considering as an audit team how and where fraud might occur in the financial statements and any potential indicators of fraud;
- obtaining an understanding of Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council's framework of authority as well as other legal and regulatory frameworks that Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council operates in, focusing on those laws and regulations that had a direct effect on the financial statements or that had a fundamental effect on the operations of Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council.

In addition to the above, my procedures to respond to identified risks included the following:

- reviewing the financial statement disclosures and testing to supporting documentation to assess compliance with relevant laws and regulations discussed above;
- enquiring of management, the Audit Committee about actual and potential litigation and claims;
- reading minutes of meetings of those charged with governance and the Council;
- in addressing the risk of fraud through management override of controls, testing the appropriateness of journal entries and other adjustments; assessing whether the judgements made in making accounting estimates are indicative of a potential bias; and evaluating the business rationale of any significant transactions that are unusual or outside the normal course of business.

I also communicated relevant identified laws and regulations and potential fraud risks to all the audit team and remained alert to any indications of fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations throughout the audit.

The extent to which my procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud, is affected by the inherent difficulty in detecting irregularities, the effectiveness of Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council's controls, and the nature, timing and extent of the audit procedures performed.

A further description of the auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website [www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities](http://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities). This description forms part of my auditor's report.

## Certificate of completion of audit

I certify that I have completed the audit of the accounts of Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council in accordance with the requirements of the Public Audit (Wales) Act 2004 and the Auditor General for Wales' Code of Audit Practice.

Adrian Crompton  
Auditor General for Wales  
Date:

24 Cathedral Road  
Cardiff  
CF11 9LJ

# Appendix 3

## Summary of Corrections Made

During our audit we identified the following misstatements that have been corrected by management, but which we consider should be drawn to your attention due to their relevance to your responsibilities over the financial reporting process.

### Exhibit 1: summary of corrections made

Value of correction	Nature of correction	Reason for correction
£76,500k	<b>Note 28 – Agency Transactions</b> Additional disclosures relating to business grants administered on behalf of the Welsh Government.	To comply with the CIPFA Code requirements regarding agency transactions.
£99k – £7,328k	<b>Note 29 – Related Parties</b> This disclosure is material by nature and 11 amendments were made to the note as incorrect totals were included in the initial reports.	To ensure the accuracy of related party transactions.
£7,147k	<b>Note 13.2 – Earmarked Reserves</b> Reclassifying transfers between reserves (no change to year-end earmarked reserve balances).	To show gross transfers in and out of earmarked reserves.
£716k	<b>Note 20.1 – Expenditure Funding Analysis</b> Reclassification of adjustment.	To ensure the note reflects the accurate classification of adjustments.
Various narrative and presentational changes	Minor corrections throughout the accounts.	To provide enhanced disclosures and understanding of the information contained within the financial statements.







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We welcome correspondence and telephone calls in Welsh and English.  
Rydym yn croesawu gohebiaeth a galwadau ffôn yn Gymraeg a Saesneg.



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

**29<sup>th</sup> September 2021**

**STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS FOR RHONDDA CYNON TAF CBC 2020/21**

**REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF FINANCE AND DIGITAL SERVICES**

**AUTHOR:** Barrie Davies (01443) 424026

**1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 This report ensures that the Authority complies with the legal requirements relating to the production of a “Statement of Accounts” for the financial year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021 with regard to Rhondda Cynon Taf CBC.

**2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

It is recommended that Members:

- (a) Approve and note the Statement of Accounts of Rhondda Cynon Taf CBC (Appendix 1), and associated Letter of Representation (Appendix 2).
- (b) Approve and note the audited final out-turn position for the Council with regard to the financial year 2020/21 and the level of General Fund Balances (paragraph 8.4); and
- (c) Note the considerations and comments of the 12<sup>th</sup> July 2021 and 13<sup>th</sup> September 2021 Governance and Audit Committee meetings as required by the Local Government Measure (paragraphs 11.1 and 11.2).

### **3.0 STATUTORY APPROVAL PROCESS**

- 3.1 The Accounts and Audit (Wales) Regulations require that Council approve the **audited** Statement of Accounts by the 31<sup>st</sup> July.
- 3.2 The regulations require the Responsible Financial Officer to certify unaudited accounts by the 31<sup>st</sup> May following financial year end and further information in this regard is set out in Section 5.
- 3.3 The Authority has administrative responsibility for the production of the Annual Return for Llwydcoed Crematorium Joint Committee. which has been audited and was approved by the relevant Joint Committee on 21<sup>st</sup> September 2021.
- 3.4 The Authority also has administrative responsibility for the production of the Statement of Accounts for the Central South Consortium Joint Education Service Joint Committee which has been audited and was approved by the relevant Joint Committee on 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2021.

### **4.0 ACCOUNTS AND AUDIT (WALES) (AMENDMENT) REGULATIONS 2018**

- 4.1 The Accounts and Audit (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2018 require Local Authorities to produce and publish Statements of Accounts in accordance with the table below:

<b>Financial Year</b>	<b>Draft Statement of Accounts certification</b>	<b>Audited Statement of Accounts publication</b>
2017/18	30 <sup>th</sup> June	30 <sup>th</sup> September
2018/19	15 <sup>th</sup> June	15 <sup>th</sup> September
2019/20	15 <sup>th</sup> June	15 <sup>th</sup> September
2020/21	31 <sup>st</sup> May	31 <sup>st</sup> July

- 4.2 To enable officers to meet the earlier closure requirements, and prior to the COVID 19 pandemic, an earlier closure timetable had been prepared which saw the Council publish audited accounts by the 31<sup>st</sup> July for the financial year 2018/19, 2 years before the statutory requirement. The pandemic and the necessary reprioritisation of resources however has resulted in a planned delayed production of the Council's accounts.

### **5.0 IMPACT OF COVID 19 UPON THE STATUTORY APPROVAL PROCESS**

- 5.1 The Accounts and Audit (Wales) Regulations 2014 (as amended) require the Responsible Financial Officer (for Rhondda Cynon Taf, the Director of Finance and Digital Services) to certify unaudited accounts by 31<sup>st</sup> May following financial year-end as detailed above. The regulations include a

provision whereby if the Responsible Financial Officer does not certify the draft accounts by 31<sup>st</sup> May, there is a requirement to publish a statement setting out the reasons for non-compliance. In accordance with the requirements, the appropriate notice was published on the Council website from the 31<sup>st</sup> May 2021.

- 5.2 Welsh Government clarified their expectation for the timescales for the preparation and publication of 2020/21 statutory financial statements, confirming there is no requirement to amend regulations and, in line with the revised 2019/20 timetable, would require preparation and certification of draft accounts by 31<sup>st</sup> August 2021 and publication of final audited accounts by 30<sup>th</sup> November 2021 for all local government bodies in Wales. However, the Welsh Government encouraged Councils to approve earlier wherever possible.
- 5.3 Officers have maintained regular dialogue with Audit Wales with regard to timescales for the production and audit of the Statement of Accounts. Finance teams have continued to work effectively (generally from home) and the target date was re-set in light of continued pressures as a result of the pandemic.
- 5.4 The draft Statement of Accounts for Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council was subsequently certified by the Director of Finance and Digital Services on the 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2021.

## **6.0 STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS**

- 6.1 The approval of this year's accounts provides Members with the continued assurance that the Council operates within the statutory requirements and builds further upon the robust financial management arrangements which the Council has in place.
- 6.2 The 2020/21 Statement of Accounts for Rhondda Cynon Taf CBC is attached at Appendix 1. These accounts are "final" and the external audit process has been completed in line with statutory timescales.

## **7.0 LETTER OF REPRESENTATION**

- 7.1 It is normal practice for Audit Wales to request that the Responsible Finance Officer provides a "Letter of Representation", which highlights material issues relating to the completeness and/or accuracy of the information included in their financial statements and could, therefore, influence his audit opinion. This is to ensure that the accounts properly reflect financial standing and is consistent with the approach taken by Audit Wales in prior years.
- 7.2 The draft Letter of Representation for this Council, which has been prepared after full consultation with the Council's Senior Leadership Team, is provided at Appendix 2.

## **8.0 OUT-TURN UPDATE, GENERAL FUND BALANCES & EARMARKED RESERVES**

- 8.1 The unaudited outturn for 2020/21 was presented to the Cabinet on the 20<sup>th</sup> July 2021, within the Council Performance report. Within this report, the variance against the revenue budget was an overspend of £0.204M. This results in the General Fund balances reducing from £8.709M to £8.505M.
- 8.2 During the intervening period, the external audit process has taken place resulting in a number of amendments to the Statement of Accounts. As detailed in the Audit Wales ISA 260 Report to those charged with governance, the auditor has identified a number of misstatements within the Financial Statements, which have been corrected in the updated version now presented to Council for approval. The misstatements are all presentational in nature and do not impact upon the primary financial statements nor General Fund balances.
- 8.3 In line with the 2021/22 Revenue Budget Strategy report presented to Council on 10<sup>th</sup> March 2021, it is my view, as Section 151 Officer, that £10M represents the minimum level of General Fund Balances the Council should maintain to ensure financial flexibility and stability going forward. Whilst the current level of General Fund reserves is below this minimum level, I am satisfied that plans are in place to replenish to the recommended level. The level of General Fund reserves will be kept under on-going review taking into account the overall quantum of the budget and the financial risks therein and facing the Council.
- 8.4 The level of balances maintained by the Council at the end of financial year 2020/21 are detailed below:

### **General Fund Balances**

	<b>£M</b>
General Fund Balances as at 1 <sup>st</sup> April 2020	(8.709)
2020/21 Net Overspend (as reported to Cabinet 20 <sup>th</sup> July 2021)	0.204
Audited General Fund Balances as at 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2021	(8.505)

### **Earmarked Reserves**

- 8.5 At the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021, revenue stream funding earmarked reserves amounted to £73.791M. These are detailed within the Statement of Accounts (note 13.2 to the accounts).
- 8.6 For Members information, I provide some detail on a number of these below.

Revenue Grant Reserves IFRS (£4.8M) – this represents accounting for grants entries necessary to comply with International Financial Reporting Standards (it is not distributable for other purposes).

Financial Management and Human Resources Risk Management (£31.6M) – this represents a risk based judgement as to financial risks into the future and protects the annual revenue budget from foreseeable volatility (e.g. economic downturn) and risk assessed future liabilities.

Prior Year Commitments (£18.6M) – represents monies allowed for carry forward from one year to another as a result of budgeted / committed spend not actually being incurred before the 31<sup>st</sup> March (as reported in the Council's quarterly Performance Reports).

Revenue Budget Strategy 2021/22 (£0.7M) – this reflects the money released from earmarked reserves as funding for the 2021/22 budget, as approved by Council (10<sup>th</sup> March 2021).

Medium Term Financial Planning and Service Transformation (£3.6M) – this represents transitional funding to support medium term financial and service planning requirements.

Investment / Infrastructure (£9.5M) – this represents funding for the costs of maintaining and enhancing infrastructure across the County Borough.

Invest to Save (£1.0M) – this represents funding identified (pump priming) to support Invest to Save opportunities as and when they arise.

- 8.7 In addition to the above, there are specific reserves relating to Capital Funding, Insurance and Treasury Management.

Capital Developments (£66.4M) – this relates to funding needed to balance the existing 3-year capital programme. This Council's capital funding strategy is to maximise the use of capital resources in the first instance, retaining revenue funding for latter years, thereby providing greater future year flexibility if necessary. Included here are the resources identified but not yet expended in respect of the additional capital investment agreed during 2020/21 (aligned to Corporate Plan Investment Priorities).

Insurance Reserve (£8.0M) – funding identified as needed for financing the Council's insurance liabilities over the medium term.

Treasury Management (£2.5M) – funding for known and potential future pressures upon the Capital Financing budget.

## **9.0 INTERNATIONAL STANDARD ON AUDITING (ISA) 260**

- 9.1 The External Auditor is required, under ISA260, to report to "those charged with governance", relevant matters relating to the audit of the financial statements. This is to be provided to those charged with governance, as distinct from management, before an opinion is given on the financial statements.

- 9.2 The auditor, in his report on the Rhondda Cynon Taf CBC Statement of Accounts, draws attention to a number of misstatements that have been corrected by management. These are detailed in the Audit Wales ISA 260 report.
- 9.3 Audit Wales intend to issue an unqualified auditor's report on the financial statements of Rhondda Cynon Taf CBC.

## **10.0 UNCORRECTED MISSTATEMENT**

- 10.1 The ISA260 report on the Rhondda Cynon Taf CBC Statement of Accounts identifies there are no misstatements identified in the accounts, which remain uncorrected

## **11.0 LOCAL GOVERNMENT MEASURE REQUIREMENTS**

- 11.1 The Statutory Guidance from the Local Government Measure 2011 was published in June 2012 which provided clarity on the role of Audit Committees in the approval process of a Council's Statement of Accounts. The relevant excerpt is shown below.

### ***Financial statements***

*9.21 Before their approval by the authority, the audit committee should consider and comment on the authority's certified draft financial statements. They will want to see to what extent the statements take cognisance of audit reports during the year, and changes in accounting policy and internal control mechanisms. Audit committees may approve the financial statements themselves where local authorities have delegated that power to them under regulation 9 of the Accounts and Audit Regulations (Wales) 2005 (as amended).\**

*\* The Statutory Guidance referred to above references regulation 9 of the Accounts and Audit Regulations (Wales) 2005 (as amended). However, this has now been replaced by regulation 10 of the Accounts and Audit Regulations (Wales) 2014. Welsh Government have advised that references to the 2005 regulations in subordinate legislation and statutory guidance will be replaced with the 2014 regulation references in due course.*

- 11.2 The Council's Governance and Audit Committee considered the draft accounts on 12<sup>th</sup> July 2021 and also received a verbal update from Audit Wales on the progress of the audit on 13<sup>th</sup> September 2021. Based on the verbal update of progress, the Governance and Audit Committee concluded that there were no issues that would prevent Council from approving the Statement of Accounts.



## **12.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC DUTY**

12.1 The report provides the legal requirements for the approval of the Council's Statement of Accounts in accordance with the Accounts and Audit (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2018. As a result, there are no equality and diversity or socio-economic duty implications to report.

## **13.0 CONSULTATION**

13.1 There are no consultation requirements emanating from the recommendations set out in the report.

## **14.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATION(S)**

14.1 The financial results / implications within this report have been reported to Cabinet on 20<sup>th</sup> July 2021. The Council's financial performance will continue to be monitored within quarterly Performance Reports during 2021/22. Such reports are presented to Cabinet and are also subject to scrutiny by the Finance and Performance Scrutiny Committee.

14.2 There are no additional financial implications as a result of the recommendations set out in the report.

## **15.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS OR LEGISLATION CONSIDERED**

15.1 The report ensures the Council complies with the Accounts and Audit (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2018 and in doing so is in line with the CIPFA Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom.

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

16.1 This report supports the Council's Corporate Plan 2020-24 – "Making a Difference", in particular through supporting the 'Living Within Our Means' theme.

16.2 The report also supports the Well-being of Future Generations Act in particular 'a globally responsible Wales' through responsible management of the Council's financial resources.

**17.0 CONCLUSION**

- 17.1 The certification of the draft Statement of Accounts by 2<sup>nd</sup> July demonstrates the continued effective financial management arrangements at this Council despite the challenges of COVID 19.
- 17.2 The completion of the external audit and sign off of the 2020/21 final accounts represents further assurance as to the Council's general financial standing.
- 17.3 The level of General Fund Balances will be replenished going forward.

**Other information:**

**Governance and Audit Committee 12<sup>th</sup> July 2021 and 13<sup>th</sup> September 2021**

\*\*\*\*\*



# Statement of Accounts 2020/21



**Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council****Statement of Accounts 2020/21**

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## Narrative Report

### 1. Introduction

Rhondda Cynon Taf is the third largest Council in Wales with a population of 241,264 (2019 mid-year estimate), serving an area in the South Wales Valleys covering 424 square kilometres, stretching from the Brecon Beacons National Park in the north to the Capital City of Cardiff in the south.

The accounts for 2020/21 have been prepared in accordance with:

- Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2020/21 based on International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS).
- Accounts and Audit (Wales) Regulations 2014 (as amended).

The accounts set out on pages 1 to 147 comply with the above.

### 2. Impact of Major Events

#### 2.1 Covid-19

The Council's financial and operational performance position throughout 2020/21 reflects the context of operating within a very challenging and unprecedented environment as a result of the on-going impact of Covid-19. This has required the Council, like all local authorities in Wales, to continue to adapt and change the way it provides services, many in partnership with others, to help meet the needs of residents and businesses.

The pandemic has resulted in widespread challenges in the delivery of Council services with significant additional cost and income losses that have, throughout 2020/21, been funded by Welsh Government. Specific financial assistance has been provided to local authorities for additional expenditure incurred as a result of Covid-19 (for example, additional costs incurred in respect of housing / homelessness, free school meal payments, Adult Social Services, staff cover due to absence / shielding and increased demand for the Council Tax Reduction Scheme) and also income loss where there has been a need to temporarily suspend or reduce service provision (for example, leisure centres and the provision of school meals).

On 21<sup>st</sup> May 2020, Cabinet received a [report](#) detailing the actions the Council had taken in response to the Covid-19 pandemic such as supporting vulnerable people, providing infection control support, developing a well-being helpline and counselling service, processing business grants, provision of free school meal support, emergency childcare and transforming the way the Council works with over 3,000 staff working from home. The report also identified the next steps, being:

- Contact Tracing;
- Recovery and Service Planning;
- Decision Making & Democratic Engagement;
- Counting the Cost (now and into the future); and
- Economic Resilience.

Cabinet was updated with the financial implications of Covid-19 for the Council on [25<sup>th</sup> June](#) where a number of emerging cost pressures were identified, such as:

- Supporting the sustainability of the social care sector;
- Council Tax Collection;
- Ongoing increases in Council Tax Reduction Scheme claimants;
- Contractual extension of time claims (capital);
- Waste Management costs as a consequence of increased volume and changing composition of kerbside waste;
- Increasing numbers of Children Looked After;
- Ongoing and longer term PPE requirements;
- Provision of support (e.g. food parcels) to the vulnerable;
- Ongoing cost of cover where staff are “shielding” or have caring responsibilities;
- Enabling and supporting different ways of working, including ICT costs associated with homeworking; and
- External / Grant Funding risks.

The report of the Chief Executive to the Council’s Cabinet on [28<sup>th</sup> July 2020](#) gave an update on the Covid-19 position in Rhondda Cynon Taf, setting out service recovery plans and the way forward.

In particular, the report set out:

- How the Council has responded to Covid-19 – this included:
  - Staff continuing to provide social care services and support to vulnerable adults, children and families (including homelessness, domestic abuse and substance misuse services);
  - Establishment of multi-agency regional and local command responses to coordinating the critical safeguarding activities of our partner agencies;
  - The Environmental Health, Procurement and the Social Care Commissioning teams working together to provide infection control support and guidance along with Personal Protective Equipment to the care sector;
  - Deployment of staff to a variety of service areas to build resilience e.g. social care; meals on wheels; food distribution centre;
  - Development of a Well Being helpline and Counselling Service for staff;
  - Processing the Covid-19 Business Grant (NDR) Payments, funded by Welsh Government, to help businesses through the pandemic;
  - Making weekly payments to over 9,000 families entitled to free school meals;
  - Setting up emergency childcare provision in school settings for vulnerable children and children of key workers; and
  - Working with contractors to continue to safely deliver major construction projects such as Llys Cadwyn.
- Next Steps – this covered the next few months, as the UK and Welsh Governments sought to phase the release of the lockdown measures, with the Council having 5 key tasks:
  - Contact Tracing - the Council playing a key role in leading on Contact Tracing across Cwm Taf Morgannwg in partnership with the local health board, Bridgend and Merthyr Tydfil Councils and Public Health Wales;



- Recovery and Service Planning - the Council's Senior Leadership Team preparing recovery plans that consider how the Council can begin to reopen services when the Welsh Government begins to lift the restrictions;
- Decision Making and Democratic Engagement - including making arrangements for virtual committee meetings;
- Counting the Cost (now and into the future) - putting in place arrangements to capture the additional costs to the Council of responding to the Covid-19 pandemic, together with loss of income that will be generated from a range of services; and
- Economic Resilience - recognising that more resilience is needed in terms of local supply chains and therefore more manufacturing in the UK. This will require the public sector in Wales to undertake a radical re-evaluation of our supply chains.

With regard to Procurement, at its meeting of [17<sup>th</sup> June 2021](#), Cabinet was updated with a summary of expenditure that was not on contract but was required in order to facilitate critical and timely support in respect of the Council's corporate responsibilities to both its residents and workforce, in addressing the Covid-19 pandemic risks.

During the financial year, regular Covid-19 updates have been reported to Members as part of full Council meetings. With specific regard to the financial impact of Covid-19, updates have been included within quarterly Performance Reports to Cabinet and the Finance and Performance Scrutiny Committee that have set out actual and projected additional costs and income losses for the year and accompanying Welsh Government Covid-19 funding received. The following table provides details of funding received (including funding received via the Furlough Scheme):

Service Area	Actual Additional Costs / Income Loss Recovered (Quarters 1 - 4)
	£'m
Education & Inclusion Services	(14.720)
Community & Children's Services	(22.890)
Chief Executive	(1.922)
Prosperity, Development & Frontline Services	(6.156)
Authority Wide	(5.305)
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>(50.993)</b>

Please note the above table excludes additional costs incurred / projected in respect of Test, Trace and Protect, the funding for which is being made available by Welsh Government. It also excludes spend incurred and funded on Welsh Government schemes for which we acted as an agent.

Due to the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic, there have been a large number of new grants and financial support packages made available by Welsh Government.

Some of these grants are made directly to support local authorities with their additional costs or loss of income because of the pandemic. Others have been to enable local authorities to meet the additional costs related to the pandemic of their commissioned services.

There have also been a number of grants or areas of financial support that local authorities have been asked to administer on the Welsh Government's behalf.

In terms of accounting arrangements, risk based criteria was used to determine whether grants are to be accounted as income and expenditure through the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement (Principal) or through the Balance Sheet (Agent). All administration fees are treated as Principal.

The table below details the main areas of financial support:

Grant Scheme	£m	Accounting treatment
Additional Expenditure and Loss of Income (Hardship Fund)	48.967	Principal
Furlough Scheme*	2.026	Principal
Social Care Bonus Scheme £500	2.807	Agent
Statutory Sick Pay Enhancement	0.167	Agent
Care Home Testing	0.100	Principal
Self Isolation Payments	0.510	Agent
NDR Rate Relief (Retail, Leisure & Hospitality)	15.920	Agent
Business Grants to Support Business During Closure	73.289	Agent
Start Up Grants	0.133	Agent

\*Furlough (Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme) (HMRC)

## 2.2 **The Council's Response to Extreme Weather**

A Strategic Flood Risk Management Board for Rhondda Cynon Taf has been established. The Board is chaired by Cllr Andrew Morgan, Leader of the Council and comprises senior representation from the Council, Welsh Government, Natural Resources Wales (NRW) and Dŵr Cymru. The Board's work-plan will include the management of investment opportunities and funding applications and the development of a comprehensive integrated emergency response. The first formal meeting of the Board took place on 9<sup>th</sup> February 2021.

The recommendations of the Cabinet report of [18<sup>th</sup> December 2020](#), "Review of the Council's response to Storm Dennis" will be monitored by the Council's Cabinet and scrutinised by the Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

The financial implications of the Council responding to extreme weather events are significant. The Council triggered an application to Welsh Government's Emergency Financial Assistance Scheme (EFAS) on 25<sup>th</sup> February 2020 to provide financial support to part-contribute to the immediate recovery costs at that time. The Council has also experienced extreme weather events during 2020/21 and has claimed from the Welsh Government Hardship Fund. The total costs incurred and claimed are shown in the table below:

Extreme Weather Events	£		
	2019/20	2020/21	Total
Total Cost to Council	2,782,950	8,429,619	11,212,569
Less Welsh Government Support	(717,695)	(8,429,619)	(9,147,314)
<b>Net Cost to Council</b>	<b>2,065,255</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2,065,255</b>
General Fund Allocation	(1,500,000)	0	(1,500,000)
<b>Balance funded in outturns</b>	<b>565,255</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>565,255</b>

It is estimated that the recovery costs linked to extreme weather events (including Storm Dennis and Storm Christoph), taking into account the need to replace highways infrastructure and drainage systems, will be in excess of £56m. To date we have had confirmation of funding from Welsh Government of £10.9m.

### 3. Impact of Economic Climate

On the 25<sup>th</sup> February 2020, the Minister for Housing and Local Government (Julie James AM) announced the 2020/21 Local Government Settlement. This included an overall increase in Revenue Support Grant (RSG) and Non-Domestic Rates funding of 4.3%, with an increase for Rhondda Cynon Taf of 4.5%. Council officers and Members continue to take their fiduciary duty extremely seriously and this has been demonstrated by the setting of prudent, equitable and fair budgets. The financial results and position demonstrated in this Statement of Accounts reflect sound financial stewardship.

Given the continuing financial pressures the Council is working under, it remains the view of the Director of Finance and Digital Services (Section 151 Officer) that the Council should hold a minimum of £10m as General Fund Balances, (i.e. its working balance). This level is set given the context of the need for continued strong financial management that is felt to be essential to ensure that the Council maintains financial flexibility and stability going forward. During financial year 2019/20, the reserves were used to support our residents and businesses in the immediate aftermath of Storm Dennis. The Director of Finance and Digital Services is satisfied that plans are in place to replenish General Fund Reserves to the minimum level over the period of our Medium Term Financial Plan.

### 4. Medium Term Financial Plan 2020/21 to 2023/24

As reported to Council on 21<sup>st</sup> October 2020, the Council has set out assumptions within its [Medium Term Financial Plan 2020/21 to 2023/24](#). The Medium Term Financial Plan is the cornerstone of good governance and is an enabler of service delivery and service improvement within the constraints of available resources. The Public Sector has faced a prolonged period of real term reductions in funding levels for a number of years and unprecedented challenges lie ahead for services across local government, not least as a result of the coronavirus pandemic. This position is also coupled with increasing demand and costs associated with many services, in particular Social Care Services.

Locally, this Council has demonstrated its ability and willingness to invest in services over a long term period, linked to our priorities as set out in the Council's '[Corporate Plan – 2016 – 2020](#)' and more recently as part of the new Corporate Plan "[Making a Difference - 2020 – 2024](#)", in order to meet the changing needs of

our residents and communities. The significant 'additional' investment already agreed by Members during recent years is providing real improvements across many areas including Schools, Town Centres, Roads and Parks and Play Areas.

Whilst investment through the use of one-off funds has been very positive, the Council recognises that it must still address base budget shortfalls and make difficult decisions to balance its ongoing revenue budget into the medium term.

The Council continues to focus on the budget gap position over the medium term and has successfully implemented a strategy of early identification and delivery of base budget reducing measures in-year. This has enabled the Council to deliver financial savings early and to replenish the Medium Term Financial Planning and Service Transformation Reserve which has been used proactively as part of the budget strategy for a number of years.

## **5. The Council's Corporate Plan 2020-2024 "Making a Difference"**

For 2020/21 the Council's Corporate Plan 2020-2024 was the key strategic plan, focusing on 3 priorities:

- Ensuring People are independent, healthy and successful;
- Creating Places where people are proud to live, work and play;
- Enabling Prosperity, creating the opportunity for people and businesses to be innovative, be entrepreneurial and fulfil their potential and prosper.

A set of key commitments sits underneath each core priority:

- People:
  - Supporting our residents who are older, vulnerable or who have disabilities, to remain independent and have a good quality of life
  - Encouraging all residents to lead active and healthy lifestyles and maintain their mental wellbeing
  - Integrating health and social care and providing support for those with mental health problems and complex needs
  - Improving services for children and young people and ensuring the needs of children are considered in everything we do
- Places:
  - Keeping RCT clean through efficient street cleaning services, minimising the amount of waste we send to landfill, achieving our recycling targets through weekly recycling and regular refuse collections, and reducing our carbon footprint
  - Keeping the County Borough moving, including improvements to roads and pavements and public transport, whilst also improving air quality
  - Ensuring the County Borough is one of the safest places in Wales, with high levels of community cohesion and where residents feel safe
  - Getting the best out of our parks by looking after and investing in our greenspaces

- Prosperity:
  - Investing in our town centres, bringing jobs and homes into our town centres to create vibrant, thriving places people wish to live, work and socialise
  - Delivering major regeneration and transportation schemes, maximising the impact of the new South Wales Metro, to create better places to live and work, whilst protecting and enhancing the County Borough
  - Ensuring we have good schools, so all children have access to a great education
  - Increase the number of quality homes available and affordable to provide greater housing choice for residents
  - Helping people into work and better paid employment

The delivery of the above priorities is underpinned within the Corporate Plan through an approach that, amongst other things, focusses on 'Living within our means' and being an 'Efficient and effective Council'.

During 2020/21, the Council's Cabinet received progress updates on the delivery of the three Corporate Plan priorities, these being reported as part of the Council's quarterly performance reporting arrangements and Cabinet confirmed that they were satisfied with the progress made. Following this, the Performance Reports were reported to the Council's Finance and Performance Scrutiny Committee for review and challenge.

The Council also publishes a Corporate Performance Report each year setting out an assessment of performance across its Corporate Plan priorities for the previous year and priority plans for the year ahead. The 2020/21 [report](#) was approved by Council on 21<sup>st</sup> October 2020. The publication of the Corporate Performance Report ensures the Council complies with its statutory responsibilities to assess its performance and set out plans for the year ahead in line with the Well-being of Future Generations Act 2015 and the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009.

To guide the delivery of Corporate Plan priorities, in September 2017, Cabinet agreed that the Council will focus on five workstreams to improve the essential services provided:

- Digitalisation - in line with the Council's Digital Plan approved by Cabinet on 22nd June 2017:
  - Working with residents to improve their digital skills and access to technology to empower more people to interact digitally with the Council; and
  - Enabling more of the Council's workforce to be agile to help further boost productivity and reduce the need for office space.

- Commercialisation - creating the conditions within the Council in terms of capacity and capability to widen opportunities to trade with external organisations.
- Early Intervention and Prevention - investing in preventative services to support the delivery of savings in the medium term.
- Independence - modernising and reshaping services to ensure independence is promoted for vulnerable residents; this includes building extra care facilities and linking into community hub provision.
- Efficient and Effective Organisation - challenging on-going service delivery and driving out further efficiencies through bringing together similar back-office functions, reducing administration costs and also the size of the property portfolio.

In addition to these modernisation changes, the Council has committed to a strategic capital investment programme, a number of which will link in with and complement the Cardiff Capital Region City Deal:

- Regeneration Projects;
- Improving school buildings and facilities;
- Improving adult social care provision through a long term programme of creating new Extra Care facilities;
- Improving the condition of both roads and community assets such as parks and playgrounds; and
- A programme of flood alleviation works.

The Council is also a key partner in the Cwm Taf Public Services Board. Its purpose is to improve the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being in this area by strengthening joint working and published its first well-being plan in May 2018.

The Cwm Taf Well-being Objectives are:

- Thriving Communities;
- Healthy People;
- Strong Economy; and
- Tackling Loneliness and Isolation.

The objectives set out in the Council's Corporate Plan and the Cwm Taf Well-being Plan will help the Council and Cwm Taf Public Services Board to contribute to the seven national Well-being goals, as set out in the Well-being of Future Generations Act:

- A globally responsible Wales;
- A prosperous Wales;
- A resilient Wales;
- A healthier Wales;
- A more equal Wales;
- A Wales of cohesive communities; and
- A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh Language.

## 6. Explanation of Core Financial Statements

The Statement of Accounts that follow this Narrative Report contains the following Core Financial Statements:

- **Movement in Reserves Statement (MiRS)** – analyses the movement in usable and unusable reserves.
- **Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement (CI&ES)** – reflects income and expenditure in accordance with IFRS and is analysed into service areas which reflect the way in which services operate and performance is managed.
- **Balance Sheet** – reflects all assets, liabilities and reserves of the Council as at the end of the financial year.
- **Cash Flow Statement** – analyses the movement in cash and cash equivalents for the year.

The Annual Governance Statement is included within the Statement of Accounts. This statement details the Council's governance arrangements and reviews its effectiveness.

In the financial statements for 2020/21, two joint committees are consolidated:

- Central South Consortium Joint Education Service (CSCJES); and
- Cardiff Capital Region City Deal (CCRCD).

## 7. Revenue Income and Expenditure 2020/21

The Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement provides an analysis of the Council's gross revenue expenditure and income in accordance with IFRS.

The broad objectives of [The Council's 2020/2021 Revenue Budget Strategy](#) were to:

- Support the delivery of our key strategic priorities (as set out in the new Corporate Plan "Making a Difference" 2020-2024):
  - People – Are independent, healthy and successful
  - Places – Where people are proud to live, work and play
  - Prosperity – Creating the opportunity for people and businesses to: be innovative; be entrepreneurial; and fulfil their potential and prosper;
- Retain the support of the Wales Audit Office for the approach the Council has adopted to securing strong financial management;
- Continue with the delivery of our key services and protect as many local jobs as possible; and
- Take a responsible approach to the level of Council Tax.

The Council's services are managed and delivered by four groups:

- **Chief Executive** - Providing the authority wide functions of Human Resources; Democratic Services & Communications; Legal Services; the frontline services of Customer Care, Housing Benefit & Council Tax administration; and key

support services of Finance, ICT & Digital Services, Corporate Estates Management and Procurement.

- **Prosperity, Development & Frontline Services** - Providing the frontline services of Highways; Transportation; Strategic Projects; Streetcare (including Waste and Street Cleansing) and Parks Services; together with Regeneration, Housing, Planning Services and Marketing, Events, Tourism & Design.
- **Education & Inclusion Services** - Providing support services to schools; Access and Inclusion; School Admissions and Governance; Attendance and Wellbeing; 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools; Asset and Data Management; Catering Services; and school improvement support in partnership with the Central South Consortium.
- **Community & Children's Services** - Providing Adult Services (Community Care Services and Health & Social Care Services); Children's Services; Community Housing Services; Public Health & Protection; Leisure, Countryside & Cultural Services (including Theatres); Visitor Attractions & Heritage; Community Learning Services; Libraries; Welsh Language Services; Youth Engagement & Participation and Employment Programmes.

The following table details each of the service groups' actual net expenditure and budget during 2020/21. Further details were published on the Council's website within the year-end Performance Report for 2020/21.

This represents the net revenue expenditure of the Council in line with the statutory provisions that need to be taken into account when setting local taxes.

The variance against budget contributes to the movement on the Council Fund Balance:

Service Group	Budget	Spend	Variance
	£'000	£'000	£'000
Chief Executive	30,644	30,236	(408)
Community & Children's Services	159,852	160,351	499
Education & Inclusion Services	191,845	191,767	(78)
Prosperity, Development & Frontline Services	55,167	55,510	343
<b>Total</b>	<b>437,508</b>	<b>437,864</b>	<b>356</b>
Authority Wide Budgets	71,239	71,087	(152)
<b>Total</b>	<b>508,747</b>	<b>508,951</b>	<b>204</b>

	<b>£'000</b>
<b>Council Fund Reserves as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020</b>	<b>8,709</b>
Revenue Budget Out-turn (Variance as above)	(204)
<b>Council Fund Reserves as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021</b>	<b>8,505</b>

Expenditure on services amounted to £795m and this can be analysed over the following expenditure categories:



Type of Expenditure	£'m	%
Employees	352	44
Premises	31	4
Transport	18	2
Supplies and Services	101	13
Payments to Third Parties	118	15
Transfer Payments	93	11
Capital Charges	78	10
Other Operating Costs (e.g. Support Services)	4	1
<b>Total Gross Expenditure</b>	<b>795</b>	<b>100</b>

Income during the year totalled £892m and came from the following sources:

Income Analysis	£'m	%
<u>Direct Service Income</u>		
Specific Grants	233	26
Sales, Fees & Charges	24	3
Other Income	32	4
<b>Sub-Total Direct Service Income</b>	<b>289</b>	<b>33</b>
<u>Other Income</u>		
Council Tax	141	16
Non-Domestic Rates	75	8
Non-Ringfenced Government Grants	321	36
Capital Grants and Contributions	65	7
Other	1	0
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>892</b>	<b>100</b>

## 8. Capital Expenditure and Income 2020/21

During the year the Council incurred £102.3m of capital expenditure, as summarised below:

Group	£'000
Chief Executive	2,495
Prosperity, Development & Frontline Services	73,610
Community & Children's Services	5,223
Education & Inclusion Services	20,992
<b>Total</b>	<b>102,320</b>

The type of capital expenditure incurred during the year is summarised below:

Capital Expenditure	£'000
Tangible Long-Term Assets	90,255
Intangible Long-Term Assets	1,330
Revenue Expenditure Funded from Capital under Statute	10,735
<b>Total</b>	<b>102,320</b>

This expenditure was financed as follows:

<b>Capital Financing</b>	<b>£'000</b>
Revenue Funding	14,209
Capital Receipts	515
Borrowing	24,922
Grants	57,767
Third Party Contributions	4,907
<b>Total</b>	<b>102,320</b>

Significant expenditure was incurred on:

- Llys Cadwyn (Taff Vale) Development;
- Highways improvements;
- Mountain Ash Cross Valley Link;
- Fleet purchases;
- Tonyrefail School; and
- Hirwaun Primary School.

## 9. Summary of Future Capital and Revenue Plans

The priorities included within the Council's Corporate Plan 2020-2024 "Making a Difference" need to be underpinned by robust financial management. Forward looking financial and service planning arrangements are critical in ensuring the Council's priorities are affordable and lead the work to become more efficient, transform services and deliver investment priorities.

Capital and revenue budgets are approved annually by full Council. The Capital Programme is approved for a rolling 3-year period and updated annually. Revenue budgets are set annually in line with the Welsh Government settlement announcements.

A summary of the [Capital Programme 2021-2024](#) agreed by Council in March 2021 is as follows:

<b>Group Expenditure</b>	<b>2021/22</b>	<b>2022/23</b>	<b>2023/24</b>	<b>Total</b>
	<b>£'000</b>	<b>£'000</b>	<b>£'000</b>	<b>£'000</b>
Chief Executive	1,900	1,625	1,625	<b>5,150</b>
Prosperity, Development & Frontline Services	48,342	10,356	9,393	<b>68,091</b>
Education & Inclusion Services	24,735	4,217	4,015	<b>32,967</b>
Community & Children's Services	6,336	2,490	990	<b>9,816</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>81,313</b>	<b>18,688</b>	<b>16,023</b>	<b>116,024</b>

Estimated resources required to fund the future Capital Programme are:

Estimated Resources Required to Fund Capital Programme	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	Total
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Supported Borrowing	6,873	6,873	6,873	20,619
Unsupported Borrowing	12,409	37	0	12,446
Capital Grants	19,587	4,254	4,112	27,953
Third Party Contributions	1,141	44	0	1,185
General Fund Capital Resources	13,919	3,976	3,115	21,010
Revenue Contributions	27,384	3,504	1,923	32,811
<b>Total</b>	<b>81,313</b>	<b>18,688</b>	<b>16,023</b>	<b>116,024</b>

As at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021, major capital commitments over the next three years (per the Capital Programme 2021-2024) include the following schemes:

Scheme	£'000
School Modernisation	5,184
Vehicles	5,227
Structures	5,590
Valleys Taskforce RCT and Empty Homes	6,000
Modernisation Programme (Adults)	6,083
Highways Improvements	9,004
Transportation Infrastructure	11,986
Disabled Facilities Grants/Adaptations (DFG)	12,200

A summary of the Council's [revenue budget for 2021/22](#) (agreed in March 2021) is outlined below:

Service Area	£'000
Authority Wide	72,575
Individual Schools Budget	163,784
Community & Children's Services	171,372
Prosperity, Development and Frontline Services	60,955
Chief Executive	26,809
Education & Inclusion Services	32,408
<b>Total</b>	<b>527,903</b>

## 10. Borrowing Arrangements and Sources of Funds

Each year, in accordance with the Local Government Act 2003 and the Prudential Code, the Council is required to set limits in relation to borrowing and to set various other prudential and treasury indicators.

The limits set at the start of the financial year were as follows:

The Authorised borrowing limit approved at the start of the year was £538.1m. The Council approved an amendment to this limit (to £532.0m) on 25<sup>th</sup> November 2020 as a result of changes to lease accounting.

The Council's borrowing totals £335.9m, of which £303.7m is long-term and £32.2m is short-term. This external borrowing is from the Public Works Loan Board (PWLB) £231.9m, £104.0m from market loans and other sources.

The Council is required to prepare a Treasury Management Strategy and a Capital Strategy for the forthcoming year, and these were approved by full Council on 18<sup>th</sup> March 2020 for the 2020/21 financial year. The Council's Treasury Management Practices allow the Council to raise funds from a variety of sources, including the PWLB and the money market. The Section 151 Officer is authorised to take the most appropriate form of borrowing from approved sources within the overall borrowing limits set by Council.

## 11. Pensions Assets and Liabilities

As a result of International Accounting Standard (IAS) 19 "Employee Benefits", local authorities are required to account for pensions liabilities in respect of the cost of decisions made up to the Balance Sheet date. Please refer to notes 14.4 and 33.0 to the Core Financial Statements for further details. The effect of IAS 19 upon the reserves of the Council is as follows:

	£'000
Net Assets excluding Pensions Reserve	934,173
Net Assets as per Balance Sheet	225,475

## 12. Cardiff Capital Region City Deal (CCRCD)

On 15<sup>th</sup> March 2016, the ten Council Leaders in South East Wales, the First Minister, the Welsh Government Minister for Finance and Government Business, the Secretary of State for Wales and the Chief Secretary to the Treasury signed the Cardiff Capital Region City Deal, an agreement between the UK Government, the Welsh Government and the ten leaders to develop and manage £1.2 billion investment in the Cardiff Capital Region's infrastructure through a 20-year Investment Fund. This investment comprises £734m on a Metro scheme and £495m for Investment in infrastructure, housing, skills and training, innovation, business growth and "Metro plus" transport proposals. On 25<sup>th</sup> February 2021, Rhondda Cynon Taf Cabinet received a report [The Cardiff Capital Region City Deal – Five Years On](#). This report provides an update on the progress made by the Cardiff Capital Region Joint Cabinet in respect of the agreed commitments set out in the CCRCD. Some of the major investments in the last five years are:

- Compound Semi Conductor Foundry;
- Metro Plus Schemes, for example Porth Interchange;
- Metro Central, redevelopment of Cardiff Central Station; and
- Housing Investment Fund.

For 2020/21 the Joint Committee accounts of CCRCD (which includes the subsidiary company CSC Foundry Ltd) have been consolidated into the Council's accounts based upon the population figures as specified in the Joint Working Agreement approved by Council on 25<sup>th</sup> January 2017.

## Statement of Responsibilities for the Statement of Accounts

### The Council's Responsibilities

The Council is required:

- To make arrangements for the proper administration of its financial affairs and to ensure one of its Officers has the responsibility for the administration of those affairs. In this Council, that Officer is the Director of Finance & Digital Services.
- To manage its affairs to ensure economic, efficient and effective use of resources and safeguard its assets.
- Approve the Statement of Accounts.

I confirm that these accounts were approved by Council.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### Presiding Officer

Rhondda Cynon Taf CBC  
The Pavilions  
Cambrian Park  
Clydach Vale  
Tonypany  
CF40 2XX

### The Director of Finance & Digital Services' Responsibilities

The Director is responsible for the preparation of the Council's Statement of Accounts which, in terms of the CIPFA Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom, is required to present a true and fair view of the financial position of the Council at the accounting date and its income and expenditure for the year.

In preparing this Statement of Accounts, the Director has:

- Selected suitable accounting policies and applied them consistently.
- Made judgements and estimates that were reasonable and prudent.
- Complied with the code.

The Director has also throughout the financial year:

- Maintained proper accounting records that were kept up to date.
- Taken reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

## **Certificate of the Director of Finance & Digital Services on the Accounts of Rhondda Cynon Taf CBC for 2020/21**

I certify that the accounts present a true and fair view of the financial position of Rhondda Cynon Taf CBC as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021 and its income and expenditure for the year.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Barrie Davies**

**Director of Finance & Digital Services**

Rhondda Cynon Taf CBC

The Pavilions

Cambrian Park

Clydach Vale

Tonypandy

CF40 2XX

## **Movement in Reserves Statement (MiRS)**

This Statement shows the movement in the year on the different reserves held by the Council, analysed into “usable reserves” (i.e. those that can be applied to fund expenditure or reduce local taxation) and “unusable reserves”. The Total Comprehensive Income and Expenditure line shows the economic cost of providing the Council’s services on an International Financial Reporting Standards basis, more details of which are shown in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. These are different from the statutory amounts required to be charged to the Council Fund Balance for Council Tax setting. The Net Increase/(Decrease) before transfers to Earmarked Reserves line shows the statutory Council Fund Balance before any discretionary transfers to or from Earmarked Reserves undertaken by the Council.

Movement in Reserves Statement for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020

	Council Fund Balance	Earmarked Reserves: Capital, Treasury & Insurance	Earmarked Reserves: Other Revenue Related	Delegated Schools Reserve	Usable Capital Receipts Reserve	Capital Grants Unapplied Account	MGCC Insurance Reserve	Total Usable Reserves	Unusable Reserves	Total Reserves of the Council
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
<b>Notes:</b>	13.1	13.2	13.2	13.3	13.4	13.5			14.0	
<b>Balance at 1<sup>st</sup> April 2019</b>	10,498	63,707	41,867	3,007	3,343	16,966	391	<b>139,779</b>	56,267	<b>196,046</b>
<b>Movement in reserves during 2019/20:</b>										
Total Comprehensive Income and Expenditure	(24,333)	0	255	0	0	0	0	<b>(24,078)</b>	27,764	<b>3,686</b>
<b>Adjustments between accounting basis and funding under regulations:</b>										
<b>Adjustments primarily involving the Capital Adjustment Account:</b>										
<b>Reversal of items debited/credited to CI&amp;ES:</b>										
Charges for depreciation and impairment of long-term assets	11,343	0	0	0	0	0	0	<b>11,343</b>	(11,343)	<b>0</b>
Revaluation losses on property, plant & equipment	59,139	0	0	0	0	0	0	<b>59,139</b>	(59,139)	<b>0</b>
Movement in the fair value of Investment Properties	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>	0	<b>0</b>
Amortisation of intangible assets	1,593	0	0	0	0	0	0	<b>1,593</b>	(1,593)	<b>0</b>
Revenue expenditure funded from capital under statute	20,297	0	0	0	0	0	0	<b>20,297</b>	(20,297)	<b>0</b>

Continued Overleaf...



Amounts of long-term assets written off on disposal or sale as part of the gain/loss on disposal to the CI&ES	22	0	0	0	2,131	0	0	2,153	(2,153)	(0)
<b>Insertion of items not debited/ credited to CI&amp;ES:</b>										
Statutory provision for the financing of capital investment	(12,191)	0	0	0	0	0	0	(12,191)	12,191	0
Capital expenditure charged against the Council Fund Balances	(17,839)	0	0	0	0	0	0	(17,839)	17,839	0
<b>Adjustments primarily involving the Capital Grants Unapplied Account:</b>										
Capital grants and contributions unapplied credited to CI&ES	(71,194)	0	0	0	0	71,194	0	0	0	0
Application of grants to capital financing transferred to the Capital Adjustment Account	0	0	0	0	0	(63,226)	0	(63,226)	63,226	0
<b>Adjustments involving the Capital Receipts Reserve:</b>										
Transfer of sale proceeds credited as part of the gain/loss on disposal to the CI&ES	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Use of the Capital Receipts Reserve to finance new capital expenditure	0	0	0	0	(3,724)	0	0	(3,724)	3,724	0
Transfer from Deferred Capital Receipts Reserve upon receipt of cash	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Adjustments involving the Financial Instruments Adjustment Account:</b>										
Amount by which finance costs charged to the CI&ES are different from finance costs chargeable in the year in accordance with statutory requirements	(86)	0	0	0	0	0	0	(86)	86	0
<b>Adjustments involving the Pensions Reserve:</b>										
Reversal of items relating to retirement benefits debited or credited to the CI&ES	72,590	0	307	0	0	0	0	72,897	(72,897)	0
<i>Continued Overleaf...</i>										

Employer's pensions contributions and direct payments to pensioners payable in the year	(40,610)	0	(80)	0	0	0	0	(40,690)	40,690	0
<b>Adjustment involving the Accumulated Absences Account:</b>										
Amount by which officer remuneration charged to the CI&ES on an accruals basis	1,189	0	1	0	0	0	0	1,190	(1,190)	0
<b>Other adjustments include:</b>										
Adjustment between the Capital Adjustment Account and the Revaluation Reserve	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Depreciation of long-term asset revaluation gains	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Net increase or (decrease) before transfers to Earmarked Reserves</b>	(80)	0	483	0	(1,593)	7,968	0	6,778	(3,092)	3,686
<b>Transfers to or from Earmarked Reserves</b>	(1,709)	5,909	(3,322)	(623)	0	0	(255)	0	0	0
<b>Increase or (decrease) in the year</b>	(1,789)	5,909	(2,839)	(623)	(1,593)	7,968	(255)	6,778	(3,092)	3,686
<b>Balance at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020</b>	<b>8,709</b>	<b>69,616</b>	<b>39,028</b>	<b>2,384</b>	<b>1,750</b>	<b>24,934</b>	<b>136</b>	<b>146,557</b>	<b>53,175</b>	<b>199,732</b>

### Movement in Reserves Statement for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021

	Council Fund Balance	Earmarked Reserves: Capital, Treasury & Insurance	Earmarked Reserves: Other Revenue Related	Delegated Schools Reserve	Usable Capital Receipts Reserve	Capital Grants Unapplied Account	MGCC Insurance Reserve	Total Usable Reserves	Unusable Reserves	Total Reserves of the Council
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
<b>Notes:</b>	13.1	13.2	13.2	13.3	13.4	13.5			14.0	
<b>Balance at 1<sup>st</sup> April 2020</b>	8,709	69,616	39,028	2,384	1,750	24,934	136	146,557	53,175	199,732
<b>Movement in reserves during 2020/21:</b>										
Total Comprehensive Income and Expenditure	34,811	0	(118)	0	0	0	0	34,693	(8,950)	25,743
<b>Adjustments between accounting basis and funding under regulations:</b>										
<b>Adjustments primarily involving the Capital Adjustment Account:</b>										
<b>Reversal of items debited/credited to CI&amp;ES:</b>										
Charges for depreciation and impairment of long-term assets	28,566	0	0	0	0	0	0	28,566	(28,566)	0
Revaluation losses on property, plant & equipment	36,900	0	0	0	0	0	0	36,900	(36,900)	0
Movement in the fair value of Investment Properties	215	0	0	0	0	0	0	215	(215)	0
Capital Grants and Contributions applied	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Amortisation of intangible assets	1,675	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,675	(1,675)	0
Revenue expenditure funded from capital under statute	10,735	0	0	0	0	0	0	10,735	(10,735)	0

*Continued Overleaf...*

Amounts of long-term assets written off on disposal or sale as part of the gain/loss on disposal to the CI&ES	(358)	0	0	0	358	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Insertion of items not debited/ credited to CI&amp;ES:</b>										
Statutory provision for the financing of capital investment	(13,561)	0	0	0	0	0	0	(13,561)	13,561	0
Capital expenditure charged against the Council Fund Balances	(14,209)	0	0	0	0	0	0	(14,209)	14,209	0
<b>Adjustments primarily involving the Capital Grants Unapplied Account:</b>										
Capital grants and contributions unapplied credited to CI&ES	(70,103)	0	(706)	0	0	70,103	0	(706)	706	0
Application of grants to capital financing transferred to the Capital Adjustment Account	0	0	0	0	0	(62,674)	0	(62,674)	62,674	0
<b>Adjustments involving the Capital Receipts Reserve:</b>										
Transfer of sale proceeds credited as part of the gain/loss on disposal to the CI&ES	0	0	0	0	1,512	0	0	1,512	(1,512)	0
Use of the Capital Receipts Reserve to finance new capital expenditure	0	0	0	0	(515)	0	0	(515)	515	0
Transfer from Deferred Capital Receipts Reserve upon receipt of cash	0	0	0	0	849	0	0	849	(849)	0
<b>Adjustments involving the Financial Instruments Adjustment Account:</b>										
Amount by which finance costs charged to the CI&ES are different from finance costs chargeable in the year in accordance with statutory requirements	(88)	0	0	0	0	0	0	(88)	88	0
<b>Adjustments involving the Pensions Reserve:</b>										
Reversal of items relating to retirement benefits debited or credited to the CI&ES	72,460	0	295	0	0	0	0	72,755	(72,755)	0

Continued Overleaf...

Employer's pensions contributions and direct payments to pensioners payable in the year	(35,120)	0	(52)	0	0	0	0	(35,172)	35,172	0
<b>Adjustment involving the Accumulated Absences Account:</b>										
Amount by which officer remuneration charged to the CI&ES on an accruals basis	123	0	7	0	0	0	0	130	(130)	0
<b>Other adjustments include:</b>										
Adjustment between the Capital Adjustment Account and the Revaluation Reserve	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Depreciation of long-term asset revaluation gains	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Net increase or (decrease) before transfers to Earmarked Reserves</b>	52,046	0	(574)	0	2,204	7,429	0	61,105	(35,362)	25,743
<b>Transfers to or from Earmarked Reserves</b>	(52,250)	7,213	35,337	9,651	0	0	49	0	0	0
<b>Increase or (decrease) in the year</b>	(204)	7,213	34,763	9,651	2,204	7,429	49	61,105	(35,362)	25,743
<b>Balance at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021</b>	<b>8,505</b>	<b>76,829</b>	<b>73,791</b>	<b>12,035</b>	<b>3,954</b>	<b>32,363</b>	<b>185</b>	<b>207,662</b>	<b>17,813</b>	<b>225,475</b>

## **Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement (CI&ES)**

This Statement shows the accounting cost in the year of providing services in accordance with generally accepted accounting practices, rather than the amount to be funded from taxation. Councils raise taxation to cover expenditure in accordance with regulations, this may be different from the accounting cost. The taxation position is shown in the Movement in Reserves Statement.

## Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021

2019/20					2020/21		
Gross Exp	Gross Income	Net Exp		Note:	Gross Exp	Gross Income	Net Exp
£'000	£'000	£'000			£'000	£'000	£'000
128,546	(27,405)	101,141	Prosperity, Development & Frontline Services		109,676	(24,785)	84,891
34,885	(9,588)	25,297	Chief Executive		65,526	(10,109)	55,417
267,717	(55,736)	211,981	Education & Inclusion Services		257,439	(56,989)	200,450
247,613	(83,057)	164,556	Community & Children's Services		262,473	(81,609)	180,864
100,185	(72,546)	27,639	Authority Wide Budgets		98,130	(113,705)	(15,575)
1,711	(1,945)	(234)	Joint Committees		1,308	(1,758)	(450)
<b>780,657</b>	<b>(250,277)</b>	<b>530,380</b>	<b>Cost of Services</b>		<b>794,552</b>	<b>(288,955)</b>	<b>505,597</b>
			<b>Other Operating Expenditure</b>				
21,852	0	21,852	Precepts	29.3	23,230	0	23,230
11,949	0	11,949	Levies	29.3	12,406	0	12,406
22	0	22	(Gains) or Losses on Disposal of Non-Current Assets		0	(358)	(358)
			<b>Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure</b>				
11,505	0	11,505	Interest Payable and Similar Charges	7.2	11,397	0	11,397
13,657	0	13,657	Net Interest on Net Defined Liability	33.2	14,579	0	14,579
0	(652)	(652)	Interest Receivable and Similar Income	7.2	0	(597)	(597)
		0	Income, Expenditure and Changes in the Fair Value of Investment Properties		1,310	(324)	986
			<b>Taxation and Non-Specific Grant Income</b>				
0	(135,930)	(135,930)	Council Tax Income	26.0	0	(140,915)	(140,915)
0	(76,383)	(76,383)	NDR Distribution	25.0	0	(74,592)	(74,592)
0	(293,404)	(293,404)	Non-Ringfenced Government Grants		0	(321,312)	(321,312)
0	(58,951)	(58,951)	Capital Grants and Contributions		0	(64,987)	(64,987)
86	0	86	Corporation Tax - Joint Committees		0	(127)	(127)
<b>839,728</b>	<b>(815,597)</b>	<b>24,131</b>	<b>(Surplus) or Deficit on the Provision of Services</b>		<b>857,474</b>	<b>(892,167)</b>	<b>(34,693)</b>
13,344	(57,950)	(44,606)	(Surplus) or Deficit on Revaluation of Property, Plant & Equipment Assets		14,468	(18,999)	(4,531)
16,789	0	16,789	Remeasurement of the Net Defined Benefit Liability		13,481	0	13,481
<b>30,133</b>	<b>(57,950)</b>	<b>(27,817)</b>	<b>Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure</b>		<b>27,949</b>	<b>(18,999)</b>	<b>8,950</b>
<b>869,861</b>	<b>(873,547)</b>	<b>(3,686)</b>	<b>Total Comprehensive Income and Expenditure</b>		<b>885,423</b>	<b>(911,166)</b>	<b>(25,743)</b>

## Balance Sheet

The Balance Sheet shows the value of the assets and liabilities recognised by the Council at the financial year end. The net assets (assets less liabilities) are matched by the reserves held by the Council. Reserves are reported in two categories. The first category of reserves are usable reserves, i.e. those reserves that the Council may use to provide services, subject to the need to maintain a prudent level of reserves and any statutory limitations on their use. The second category of reserves are those that the Council is not able to use to provide services. This category of reserves includes reserves that hold unrealised gains and losses (for example, the Revaluation Reserve) and reserves that hold timing differences shown in the Movement in Reserves Statement section 'Adjustments between accounting basis and funding basis under regulations'.



Balance Sheet as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021

31/03/20			31/03/21	
£'000		Note:	£'000	£'000
	<b>Long-Term Assets</b>	Property, Plant & Equipment:	6.0	
697,963		Other Land & Buildings		709,205
451,333		Infrastructure		497,215
8,262		Vehicles, Plant & Equipment		11,987
4,850		Community Assets		5,074
40,526		Assets Under Construction		1,983
145		Heritage Assets		145
3,805		Investment Properties		8,164
3,548		Long-Term Intangible Assets		3,204
4,250		Long-Term Investments	7.1	6,615
3,017		Investment in Subsidiaries		3,035
4,939		Long-Term Debtors		4,919
<b>1,222,638</b>		<b>TOTAL LONG-TERM ASSETS</b>		<b>1,251,546</b>
	<b>Current Assets</b>			
35,405		Short-Term Investments	7.1	23,479
623		Assets Held for Sale		705
717		Inventories		2,681
83,479		Short-Term Debtors	8.0	123,020
10,181		Cash and Cash Equivalents	9.0	14,533
<b>130,405</b>		<b>TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS</b>		<b>164,418</b>
	<b>Current Liabilities</b>			
(14,905)		Cash and Cash Equivalents	9.0	(20,932)
(60,776)		Short-Term Borrowing	7.1	(32,176)
0		Short-Term Donated Assets Account		(1,515)
(1,749)		Short-Term Provisions	11.0	(1,636)
(93,593)		Short-Term Creditors	10.0	(111,146)
<b>(171,023)</b>		<b>TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		<b>(167,405)</b>
	<b>Long-Term Liabilities</b>			
(7,019)		Long-Term Creditors		(6,770)
(2,649)		Long-Term Provisions	11.0	(3,580)
(314,278)		Long-Term Borrowing	7.1	(303,324)
(658,219)		Other Long-Term Liabilities	12.0	(709,287)
(123)		Long-Term Donated Assets Account		(123)
<b>(982,288)</b>		<b>TOTAL LONG-TERM LIABILITIES</b>		<b>(1,023,084)</b>
<b>199,732</b>	<b>NET ASSETS</b>			<b>225,475</b>

Continued Overleaf...

8,709	<b>Usable Reserves</b>	Council Fund Balance	13.1	8,505	
		Earmarked Reserves:	13.2		
69,616		Capital, Treasury and Insurance Reserves	13.2	76,829	
39,028		Other Revenue Related Reserves	13.2	73,791	
2,384		Delegated Schools Reserve	13.3	12,035	
1,750		Usable Capital Receipts Reserve	13.4	3,954	
24,934		Capital Grant Unapplied Account	13.5	32,363	
136		MGCC Insurance Reserve		185	
<b>146,557</b>			<b>TOTAL USABLE RESERVES</b>		
209,318	<b>Unusable Reserves</b>	Revaluation Reserve	14.1	207,440	
1,272		Deferred Capital Receipts Reserve		423	
511,372		Capital Adjustment Account	14.2	529,843	
(5,487)		Financial Instruments Adjustment Account	14.3	(5,399)	
(657,634)		Pensions Reserve	14.4	(708,698)	
(5,666)		Short-Term Accumulating Compensated Absence Account		(5,796)	
<b>53,175</b>		<b>TOTAL UNUSABLE RESERVES</b>			<b>17,813</b>
<b>199,732</b>		<b>TOTAL RESERVES</b>			<b>225,475</b>

## **Cash Flow Statement**

The Cash Flow Statement shows the changes in cash and cash equivalents of the Council during the reporting period. The statement shows how the Council generates and uses cash and cash equivalents by classifying cash flows as operating, investing and financing activities. The amount of net cash flows arising from operating activities is a key indicator of the extent to which the operations of the Council are funded by way of taxation and grant income or from the recipients of services provided by the Council. Investing activities represent the extent to which cash outflows have been made for resources which are intended to contribute to the Council's future service delivery. Cash flows arising from financing activities are useful in predicting claims on future cash flows by providers of capital (i.e. borrowing) to the Council.

## Cash Flow Statement 2020/21

2019/20			2020/21	
£'000		<i>Note:</i>	£'000	£'000
24,131	Net (Surplus) or Deficit on the Provision of Services		(34,693)	
(115,595)	Adjustments to Net (Surplus) or Deficit on the Provision of Services for Non-Cash Movements	15.0	(96,422)	
61,082	Adjustments for Items Included in the Net (Surplus) or Deficit on the Provision of Services that are Investing and Financing Activities	16.0	67,703	
<b>(30,382)</b>	<b>Net Cash Flows from Operating Activities</b>			<b>(63,412)</b>
73,629	Investing Activities	18.0	25,667	
(41,697)	Financing Activities	19.0	39,420	65,087
<b>1,550</b>	<b>Net Increase or Decrease in Cash or Cash Equivalents</b>			<b>1,675</b>
3,174	Cash and Cash Equivalents at the Beginning of the Reporting Period	9.0		4,724
<b>4,724</b>	<b>Cash and Cash Equivalents at the End of the Reporting Period</b>	9.0		<b>6,399</b>

## **Expenditure and Funding Analysis**

The Expenditure and Funding Analysis brings together the Council's performance reported on the basis of expenditure measured under proper accounting practices with statutorily defined charges to the Council Fund.

Proper accounting practices measure the resources that have been generated and consumed in the year including such things as the use of property (depreciation) and the value of pension benefits earned by the employees. Statutory provisions determine how much of the Council's expenditure needs to be met from council tax each year.

The Expenditure and Funding Analysis;

- shows for each of the Council's services a comparison of the net resources applied and the net charge against council tax, and
- provides an opportunity to explain significant differences between the two.

This analysis promotes accountability and stewardship by providing a direct link with the annual decision making process of the Council and its budget i.e. the Council Fund. It follows the performance framework of the Council.

**Expenditure and Funding Analysis Statement for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020**

	2019/20		
	Income and Expenditure Chargeable to the Council Fund	Adjustments Between Funding and Accounting Basis	Net Expenditure for the Equivalent Amounts for CI&ES
	£'000	£'000	£'000
Prosperity, Development & Frontline Services	56,936	44,205	101,141
Chief Executive	25,614	(317)	25,297
Education & Inclusion Services	179,135	32,846	211,981
Community & Children's Services	153,543	11,013	164,556
Authority Wide Budgets	68,530	(40,891)	27,639
Joint Committees	0	(234)	(234)
<b>Cost of Services</b>	<b>483,758</b>	<b>46,622</b>	<b>530,380</b>
<b>Other Income and Expenditure</b>	<b>(481,969)</b>	<b>(24,280)</b>	<b>(506,249)</b>
<b>(Surplus) or Deficit</b>	<b>1,789</b>	<b>22,342</b>	<b>24,131</b>
Opening Council Fund at 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2019	(10,498)		
Less (Surplus) Deficit on Council Fund in Year	1,789		
<b>Closing Council Fund at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020</b>	<b>(8,709)</b>		

**Expenditure and Funding Analysis Statement for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021**

	2020/21		
	Income and Expenditure Chargeable to the Council Fund	Adjustments Between Funding and Accounting Basis	Net Expenditure for the Equivalent Amounts for CI&ES
	£'000	£'000	£'000
Prosperity, Development & Frontline Services	55,510	29,381	84,891
Chief Executive	30,236	25,181	55,417
Education & Inclusion Services	191,767	8,683	200,450
Community & Children's Services	160,351	20,513	180,864
Authority Wide Budgets	71,087	(86,662)	(15,575)
Joint Committees	0	(450)	(450)
<b>Cost of Services</b>	<b>508,951</b>	<b>(3,354)</b>	<b>505,597</b>
<b>Other Income and Expenditure</b>	<b>(508,747)</b>	<b>(31,543)</b>	<b>(540,290)</b>
<b>(Surplus) or Deficit</b>	<b>204</b>	<b>(34,897)</b>	<b>(34,693)</b>
Opening Council Fund at 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2020	(8,709)		
Less (Surplus) Deficit on Council Fund in Year	204		
<b>Closing Council Fund at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021</b>	<b>(8,505)</b>		

## Notes to the Core Financial Statements

### 1.0 Significant Accounting Policies

#### 1.1 Accruals of Expenditure and Income

The accounts of the Council have been prepared on an accrual of income and expenditure basis in accordance with the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting. This ensures activity is accounted for in the year that it takes place not when cash payments are made or received.

Revenue from the sale of goods or services is recognised when the Council transfers the significant risks and rewards of goods, or provides the services to the purchaser, and it is probable that economic benefits or service potential associated with the transaction will flow to the Council.

Supplies are recorded as expenditure when they are consumed. Where the Balance Sheet date falls between supplies receipt and consumption, where significant, they are carried as inventories on the Balance Sheet.

Expenses in relation to services received (including services provided by employees) are recorded as expenditure when the services are received rather than when payments are made.

Interest receivable on investments and payable on borrowings is accounted for respectively as income and expenditure in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement on the basis of the effective interest rate for the relevant financial instrument rather than the cash flows determined by the contract. Statutory adjustments relating to interest are reflected in the Movement in Reserves Statement.

Capital transactions are also recorded on an accrual basis, as prescribed by the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting.

#### 1.2 Cash and Cash Equivalents

Cash and Cash Equivalents are sums of money available for immediate use by the Council. Such items are deemed to be cash balances held in the Council's bank accounts (less unpresented cheques), any overdrawn bank balance and petty cash balances.

Short-term investments are not deemed to be cash and cash equivalents as these are not readily available without incurring penalties.

#### 1.3 Contingent Liabilities

A contingent liability is a possible item of expenditure that arises from past events and whose existence will be confirmed only by the occurrence of one or more uncertain future events not wholly within the organisation's control.

Such contingent liabilities are not reflected in Provisions in the Balance Sheet as it may not be probable that an outflow of resources will be required or the amount of the obligation cannot be measured reliably.

Material contingent liabilities are disclosed in Notes to the Core Financial Statements.

## 1.4 **Employee Benefits**

All costs relating to employee benefits are accounted for on an accruals basis.

### **Termination Benefits**

These are amounts payable by the Council as a result of a decision to terminate an employee's employment before the normal retirement date, or an employee's decision to accept voluntary redundancy. Such costs are charged on an accruals basis to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

When terminations involve the enhancement of pensions, statutory provisions require the Council Fund to be charged with the amount payable by the Council. In the Movement in Reserves Statement, appropriations are required to and from the Pensions Reserve to remove the notional entries for pension enhancements and replace them with amounts paid and payable.

### **Pensions**

The Council participates in two separate pension schemes that meet the needs of employees in particular services:

Teachers - This is an unfunded scheme administered by Teachers' Pensions on behalf of the Department of Education. Contribution rates are set on the basis of a notional fund. Whilst this is a Defined Benefit Scheme, Teachers' Pensions is unable to identify the Council's share of the underlying assets and liabilities and accordingly, the Council has accounted for its contributions to the scheme as if it were a Defined Contribution Scheme.

Other employees - Rhondda Cynon Taf CBC administer a fund on behalf of employees under the Local Government Pension Scheme Regulations, under which contribution rates are set by the Fund's actuary based on triennial actuarial valuations. Under the regulations, contribution rates are set in order to lead to full funding of the overall liability of the Fund over time. The Local Government Scheme is accounted for as a Defined Benefit Scheme.

- The liabilities of the Rhondda Cynon Taf Pension Fund attributable to the Council are included in the Balance Sheet on an actuarial basis using the projected unit method – i.e. an assessment of the future payments that will be made in relation to retirement benefits earned to date by employees, based on assumptions about mortality rates, employee turnover rates, etc., and projections of earnings for current employees.
- Liabilities are discounted to their value at current prices, using a discount rate of 2.1% in 2020/21 (2.3% in 2019/20).
- The assets of the pension fund attributable to the Council are included in the Balance Sheet at their fair value:

Quoted Securities	–	Current Bid Price
Unitised Securities	–	Current Bid Price
Property	–	Market Value



- The change in the net pensions liability is analysed as follows:
  - Current Service Cost – the increase in liabilities as a result of years of service earned this year allocated in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement to the services for which the employees worked plus administration expenses.
  - Past Service Cost – the increase in liabilities arising from current year decisions whose effect relates to years of service earned in earlier years debited to the (Surplus) or Deficit on the Provision of Services in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.
  - Interest Cost – the expected increase in the present value of liabilities during the year as they move one year closer to being paid – debited to the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure section of the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.
  - Expected Return On Assets – the annual investment return on the fund assets attributable to the Council based on an average of the expected long-term return – credited to the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure section of the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.
  - Actuarial Gains and Losses – changes in the net pensions liability that arise because events have not coincided with assumptions made at the last actuarial valuation or because the actuaries have updated their financial, demographic or experience assumptions – debited or credited to the Pensions Reserve.
  - Contributions Paid to the Pension Fund – cash paid as employer's contributions to the Pension Fund in settlement of liabilities; not accounted for as an expense in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

In relation to retirement benefits, statutory provisions require the Council Fund Balance to be charged with the amount payable by the Council to the Pension Fund or directly to pensioners in the year, not the amount calculated according to the relevant accounting standards. In the Movement in Reserves Statement, this means that there are appropriations to and from the Pensions Reserve to remove the notional debits and credits for retirement benefits and replace them with the cash paid to the pension fund and pensioners and any such amounts payable but unpaid at the year-end. The negative balance that arises on the Pensions Reserve thereby measures the beneficial impact to the Council Fund of being required to account for retirement benefits on the basis of cash flows rather than as benefits are earned by employees.

### **Discretionary Benefits**

The Council is able to make discretionary awards of retirement benefits in the event of early retirements. Any such liabilities arising are accrued in the year of decision to make the award.

### **Accumulated Absence**

The Council accrues for staff holidays earned but not taken at each year-end. The Welsh Government has issued regulations to mitigate the impact of this charge upon Councils. This Council has taken advantage of the regulations and charged the additional costs to the Short-Term Accumulating Compensated Absence Account in Unusable Reserves.

## **1.5 Events after the Reporting Period**

Events after the reporting period are those both favourable and unfavourable that occur between the end of the reporting period and the date when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Two types of events can be identified;

- a) those that provide evidence of conditions existing at the end of the reporting period (adjusting events that shall be recognised in the financial statements);
- b) those that are indicative of conditions that arose after the reporting period (non-adjusting events that are not reflected in accounting statements but, where material, disclosure is made in the Notes to the Core Financial Statements).

## **1.6 Financial Instruments**

Financial Instruments consist of Financial Liabilities and Financial Assets.

### **Financial Liabilities**

Financial Liabilities are carried at amortised cost. Annual charges to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement for interest payable are based on the carrying amount of the liability, multiplied by the effective rate of interest for the instrument. Where a loan has a single rate of interest over its term, it results in the amount presented in the Balance Sheet being the outstanding principal repayable, and the interest charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement is the amount payable in the loan agreement. Where loans have a rate that is lower in the initial years, the effective interest rate charge to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement “smooths” the interest rate differential. The difference between the effective interest rate charge and actual interest paid is adjusted in the Movement in Reserves Statement.

For most borrowings, this means that the amount presented in the Balance Sheet is the outstanding principal repayable and the interest charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement is the amount payable for the year according to the loan agreement.

Gains (discounts) and losses (premiums) on the repurchase or early settlement of borrowing are credited/debited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement in the year of repurchase/settlement. However, where repurchase/early settlement is deemed to be a modification of existing instruments, the discounts/premiums are incorporated into the value of the instrument and written down to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement over the life of the loan via an adjustment to the effective interest rate.

Where premiums or discounts have been applied to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement, regulations allow the impact on the Council Fund Balance to be spread over future years equal to the life of the replaced or replacement loan.

## Financial Assets

Financial Assets are classified based on a classification and measurement approach that reflects the business model for holding the financial assets and their cashflow characteristics. There are three main classes of financial assets measured at:

- Amortised cost;
- Fair value through profit or loss; and
- Fair value through other comprehensive income.

Rhondda Cynon Taf CBC's business model is to hold investments to collect contractual cashflows. Financial assets are therefore classified at amortised cost.

Loans and Receivables are initially recognised at fair value and subsequently carried at amortised cost. Interest Receivable and Similar Income in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement is based upon the carrying amount of the asset multiplied by the effective interest rate for the instrument. This means that the value in the Balance Sheet is the outstanding principal plus any accrued income, and the income recognised in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement is based upon the rate quoted in the loan agreement.

Interest that is due but unpaid at year-end is categorised in the Balance Sheet as a current asset or liability. This is the case even if the financial asset or liability it relates to is a long-term instrument.

There needs to be a calculation for an "expected credit loss" on financial assets held at amortised costs, either on a 12 month or lifetime basis. Impairment losses are calculated to reflect the expectation that the future cashflows might not take place because the borrower could default on their obligations. Where risk has significantly increased since an asset was originally recognised, losses are assessed on a lifetime basis. Where risk has not increased significantly or remains low, losses are assessed on the basis of 12 month expected losses.

### 1.7 Intangible Assets

Intangible assets are those Long-Term Assets that do not have physical substance but are identifiable by the access to future economic benefits that are controlled by the Council through custody or legal rights.

Software and Licences are capitalised at cost and are amortised over their economic lives, which are reviewed at the end of each reporting period and revised if necessary.

An asset is tested for impairment whenever there is an indication that the asset may be impaired. Any losses are posted to the relevant service line(s) in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

Any gain or loss arising on the disposal or abandonment of an intangible asset is reflected in the Other Operating Expenditure section in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

Where expenditure on intangible assets qualifies as capital expenditure for statutory purposes, amortisation, impairment losses and disposal gains and losses are not permitted to have an effect upon Council Fund Balances and are reversed in the Movement in Reserves Statement.

## 1.8 **Leases**

Whether a lease is finance or operating depends upon the substance of the transaction rather than the legal form.

Leases are reviewed at inception and classed as finance or operating by reviewing arrangements such as:

- Transfer of ownership at the end of lease contract.
- Option to purchase asset at a price lower than fair value.
- Lease term is for a major part of the economic life of the asset.
- Present value of minimum lease payments amounts to at least substantially all of the fair value of leased asset.
- Leased assets are of a specialised nature and only the lessee can use them without major modifications.

Leases of land and buildings are considered separately for the purpose of lease classification.

### **Finance Leases**

A finance lease is one which transfers substantially all the risks and rewards incidental to ownership of an asset to the lessee.

Where the Council is lessee, an asset and liability is recognised at lease inception. The asset is subsequently depreciated and revalued as though it were the legal property of the Council. The liability reduces as lease payments are made.

Where the Council is lessor, the lease payment receivable is recognised as a repayment of principal with the interest element of the payment being recognised in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. No asset is recognised.

### **Operating Leases**

An operating lease is deemed to be any lease other than a Finance Lease.

Where the Council is lessee, lease payments are recognised as an expense in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement on a straight-line basis unless another systematic basis is more representative of the benefits received.

Where the Council is lessor, the income should be recognised on a straight-line basis unless another systematic basis is more representative of the benefits received. Other Land & Buildings leased out under an operating lease will be subject to depreciation in the same manner as other assets within the same category.

## 1.9 **Property, Plant and Equipment**

Assets that have physical substance and are held for use in the production or supply of goods or services, for rental to others, or for administrative purposes and that are expected to be used during more than one financial year are classified as Property, Plant and Equipment. Depreciation is charged on a straight-line basis on most tangible assets with a finite useful life, excluding non-depreciable land. Asset lives have been identified on an individual basis.

### 1.9.1 **Recognition**

Expenditure on the acquisition, creation or enhancement of Property, Plant and Equipment is capitalised on an accruals basis, provided that it is probable that the future economic benefits or service potential associated with the item will flow to the Council, and the cost of the item can be measured reliably. The Council operates a £10k de-minimis policy for recognising such expenditure as capital. Expenditure on assets not owned by the Council, but where continuing benefit is received, is also capitalised on an accruals basis. Although capitalised, this expenditure is amortised in the year it is incurred.

The Council operates a de-minimis policy for recording assets in the asset register. De-minimis levels are in place as follows:

<b>Asset Type</b>	<b>£'000</b>
Land & Buildings	20
Vehicles	10
Plant & Equipment	10
Infrastructure	20
Community Assets	Nil

### 1.9.2 **Measurement**

Assets are initially measured at cost, comprising:

- The purchase price.
- Any costs attributable to bringing the asset to the location and condition necessary for it to be capable of operating in the manner intended by management.
- The initial estimate of the costs of dismantling and removing the item and restoring the site on which it is located.

The Council does not capitalise borrowing costs.

The cost of assets acquired other than by purchase is deemed to be its fair value, unless the acquisition does not have commercial substance (i.e. it will not lead to a variation in the cash flows of the Council). In the latter case, where an asset is acquired via an exchange, the cost of the acquisition is the carrying amount of the asset given up by the Council.

Tangible Long-Term assets are valued on the basis recommended by CIPFA and in accordance with the Statement of Asset Valuation Principles and Guidance Notes issued by the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors (RICS). Property, Plant and Equipment

assets are generally valued on the basis of existing use value (EUV) which is deemed to be "current value". Specialist items (e.g. schools) are valued on a depreciated replacement cost basis (DRC). This method of valuation calculates the cost of constructing modern equivalent buildings and structures, depreciating them to account for the age and future economic life. This cost calculation is known as Modern Equivalent Valuation (MEV). Investment properties are valued on a fair value basis. Infrastructure assets are included at historic cost, and adjusted to reflect depreciation. Adopted roads, built by private developers, are deemed to have zero historical cost to the Council and therefore are not recognised in the Statement of Accounts.

Where assets are not in use but do not meet the criteria for Assets Held for Sale, then they are classed as Surplus Assets within the Property, Plant and Equipment and Other Land and Building categories. Surplus Assets are valued at fair value. Fair value is the price that would be received between willing market participants. The highest and best use of the asset needs to be considered. Inputs to the valuation techniques in respect of these assets are categorised as the following hierarchy levels:

Level 1 – quoted prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities that the Council can access at the measurement date.

Level 2 – inputs other than quoted prices that are observable for the asset or liability. For example, market conditions; recent sale prices.

Level 3 – unobservable inputs, for example, assumptions about rent growth; discount rates, etc.

Fair value measurement differentiates between measurements that are recurring i.e. at the end of each period, for example surplus assets and those that are non-recurring measured on particular circumstances, for example assets held for sale.

In the accounts there are approximately 176 Surplus Assets with a recurring fair value of £4.5m. Most of the assets are valued at level 2 inputs, with the exception of one asset which has been valued at £800k using level 3 inputs. For this asset an adjustment has been made to the level 2 inputs to take into account the condition of the asset.

Community assets are valued on an historic cost basis. These have no determinable useful life and are assets that the Council intend to hold in perpetuity. Examples of community assets are parks and memorials.

Assets under Construction are valued at historic cost until they become operational. When they are brought into use they are revalued on the relevant basis.

Heritage Assets are recognised as such if they are material non-operational assets that are held purely for cultural or knowledge gaining purposes. These assets are recognised at cost or market value, are reviewed for impairment but not depreciated.

Where there is no market-based evidence of current value because of the specialist nature of an asset, depreciated replacement cost (DRC) is used as an estimate of current value. Where non-property assets that have short useful lives or low values (or both), depreciated historical cost basis is used as a proxy for current value.

Assets included in the Balance Sheet at current value are revalued sufficiently regularly to ensure that their carrying amount is not materially different from their current value at the year-end, but as a minimum every five years. Increases in valuations are matched by credits to the Revaluation Reserve to recognise unrealised gains. Gains might be credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement where they arise from the reversal of a loss previously charged to a service.

Where decreases in value are identified, they are accounted for as follows:

- Where there is a balance of revaluation gains for the asset in the Revaluation Reserve, the carrying amount of the asset is written down against that balance (up to the amount of the accumulated gains).
- Where there is no balance in the Revaluation Reserve or an insufficient balance, the carrying amount of the asset is written down against the relevant service line(s) in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

The Revaluation Reserve contains revaluation gains recognised since 1<sup>st</sup> April 2007 only, the date of its formal implementation. Gains arising before that date have been consolidated into the Capital Adjustment Account.

### **1.9.3 Impairment**

Assets are assessed throughout the year as to whether there is any indication that an asset may be impaired. Where indications exist and any possible differences are estimated to be material, the recoverable amount of the asset is estimated and, where this is less than the carrying amount of the asset, an impairment loss is recognised for the shortfall.

Where impairment losses are identified, they are accounted for as follows:

- Where there is a balance of revaluation gains for the asset in the Revaluation Reserve, the carrying amount of the asset is written down against that balance (up to the amount of the accumulated gains).
- Where there is no balance in the Revaluation Reserve or an insufficient balance, the carrying amount of the asset is written down against the relevant service line(s) in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

Where an impairment loss is reversed subsequently, the reversal is credited to the relevant service line(s) in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement, up to the amount of the original loss, adjusted for depreciation that would have been charged if the loss had not been recognised.

### **1.9.4 Depreciation**

Depreciation is charged on a straight-line basis on most property, plant and equipment. All asset lives have been identified on an individual basis.

Exceptions are made for:

- Heritage Assets.
- Assets without a determinable finite useful life such as freehold land.
- Assets that are not yet available for use i.e. assets under construction and assets held for sale.

Where an item of Property, Plant and Equipment has major components whose cost is significant in relation to the total cost of the item, the components are depreciated separately.

Revaluation gains are also depreciated, with an amount equal to the difference between current value depreciation charged on assets and the depreciation that would have been chargeable based on their historical cost being transferred each year from the Revaluation Reserve to the Capital Adjustment Account.

Depreciation is calculated in the year of acquisition and not in the year of disposal.

### 1.9.5 Disposals and Assets Held for Sale

When it becomes probable that the carrying amount of an asset will be recovered principally through a sale transaction rather than through its continuing use, it is reclassified as an Asset Held for Sale. These assets are measured at the lower of the value they had when it was agreed they would be sold and fair value less costs to sell.

The valuation in the balance sheet can be split as follows:

	£'000
Fair value	705
Carrying value	0
<b>Total value in Balance Sheet</b>	<b>705</b>

The non-recurring fair value is measured using level 2 in the input hierarchy (refer to note 1.9.2 for explanation of levels). Where there is a subsequent decrease to fair value less costs to sell, the loss is posted to the Other Operating Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. Gains in fair value are recognised only up to the amount of any previous losses recognised in the (Surplus) or Deficit on Provision of Services. Depreciation is not charged on Assets Held for Sale. If assets no longer meet the criteria to be classified as Assets Held for Sale, they are reclassified back to long-term assets and valued at the lower of their carrying amount before they were classified as held for sale (adjusted for depreciation, amortisation or revaluations), and their recoverable amount at the date of the decision not to sell.

Assets that are to be abandoned or scrapped are not reclassified as Assets Held for Sale. The criteria for recognising assets as being held for sale are:

- Available for immediate sale in present condition.
- Sale highly probable.
- Actively marketed.
- Sale completion expected within 12 months.



When an asset is disposed of or decommissioned, the carrying amount of the asset in the Balance Sheet (whether Property, Plant and Equipment or Assets Held for Sale) is written off to the Other Operating Expenditure section in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement as part of the gain or loss on disposal. Receipts from disposals (if any) are credited to the same line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement also as part of the gain or loss on disposal (i.e. netted off against the carrying value of the asset at the time of disposal). Any revaluation gains accumulated for the asset in the Revaluation Reserve are transferred to the Capital Adjustment Account.

Amounts received for a disposal in excess of £10k are categorised as capital receipts. Receipts are required to be credited to the Usable Capital Receipts Reserve, and can then be used for new capital investment or set aside to reduce the Council's underlying need to borrow (the Capital Financing Requirement). Receipts are appropriated to the Usable Capital Receipts Reserve from the Council Fund Balance in the Movement in Reserves Statement.

The written-off value of disposals is not a charge against Council Tax, as the cost of long-term assets is fully provided for under separate arrangements for capital financing. Amounts are appropriated to the Capital Adjustment Account from the Council Fund Balance in the Movement in Reserves Statement.

## **1.10 Reserves**

The Council sets aside specific amounts as reserves for future policy purposes or to cover contingencies. Reserves are created by appropriating amounts out of the Council Fund Balance in the Movement in Reserves Statement. When expenditure to be financed from a reserve is incurred, it is charged to the appropriate service in that year. To ensure this is not a charge against the Council Fund Balance, the expenditure is funded via an adjustment in the Movement in Reserves Statement.

Certain reserves are kept to manage the accounting processes for long-term assets, financial instruments, retirement and employee benefits and do not represent usable resources for the Council.

## **1.11 Revenue Expenditure Funded from Capital Under Statute**

This is expenditure incurred during the year that may be capitalised under statutory provisions but does not result in the creation of a Long-Term Asset. It is charged as expenditure to the relevant service line(s) in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement in the year. Where the Council funds such expenditure from capital resources, a transfer in the Movement in Reserves Statement to the Council Fund Balance from the Capital Adjustment Account then reverses out the amounts charged so that there is no impact on the level of Council Tax.

## **1.12 Government Grants and Other Contributions**

Government grants and other contributions relating to capital and revenue expenditure shall be accounted for on an accruals basis and recognised in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement when there is reasonable assurance that;

- the conditions for their receipt have been/will be complied with; and
- the grant or contribution will be received.

Monies advanced where there is no reasonable assurance of the above two criteria are held as creditors in the Balance Sheet.

Revenue grants are credited to the relevant service and capital grants are credited to the Taxation and Non-Specific Grant Income section of the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

Where a revenue grant has been recognised in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement but not yet used to fund expenditure, it is set aside as an Earmarked Reserve.

Where a capital grant has been recognised as income but not yet used to finance capital expenditure, it is credited to Capital Grants Unapplied via the Movement in Reserves Statement. Subsequently, when the funds are used, the grant is transferred from Capital Grant Unapplied Account to Capital Adjustment Account.

Where a claim has yet to be signed off by Audit Wales, Balance Sheet values in relation to grants are included on an unaudited draft claim basis.

Due to the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic, there have been a large number of new grants and financial support packages made available by Welsh Government.

In terms of accounting arrangements, risk based criteria was used to determine whether grants are to be accounted as income and expenditure through the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement (Principal) or through the Balance Sheet (Agent). All administration fees are treated as Principal. Please refer to the Narrative Report for more details on Covid-19.

### **1.13 Charges to Revenue for Long-Term Assets**

Services are debited with the following items to record the cost of holding Long-Term Assets during the year:

- Depreciation attributable to the assets used by the relevant service.
- Revaluation and impairment losses on assets used by the service where there are no accumulated gains in the Revaluation Reserve against which the losses can be written off.
- Amortisation of Intangible Assets attributable to the service.

The Council is not required to raise Council Tax to fund depreciation, revaluation and impairment losses or amortisation. Therefore, these charges to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement are reversed in the Movement in Reserves Statement.

### **1.14 Minimum Revenue Provision/Provision for the Repayment of Debt**

The Local Government Act 2003 requires each local authority to set aside a Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) for debt redemption. In accordance with the Local Authorities

(Capital Finance and Accounting) (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2008 the Council's accounting treatment is as follows:

**Supported Borrowing:** The MRP on supported borrowing is written off on a straight line basis over 40 years, linked (broadly) to the lives of the Council's assets.

**Unsupported Borrowing:** MRP is charged to the Council Fund Balance as follows:

- Charge in equal instalments (or to match the benefits derived) over the life of the asset created (asset life must be applied for any expenditure capitalised under a Capitalisation Direction);
- Annuity method;
- Charge in accordance with the depreciation of the asset; or
- An alternative appropriate method permitted by the guidance.

**Finance Leases:** In accordance with MRP guidance issued by the Welsh Government, MRP for finance leases, represents the principal element of repayments made by the Council (refer to Lease policies).

### 1.15 Provisions

Provisions are made where an event has taken place that gives the Council a legal or constructive obligation that probably requires settlement by a transfer of economic benefits or service potential, and a reliable estimate can be made of the amount of the obligation.

Provisions are charged as an expense to the appropriate service line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement in the year that the Council becomes aware of the obligation, and are measured at the best estimate at the Balance Sheet date of the expenditure required to settle the obligation, taking into account relevant risks and uncertainties.

When payments are eventually made, they are charged to the provision carried in the Balance Sheet. Estimated settlements are reviewed at the end of each financial year. Where it becomes less than probable that a transfer of economic benefits will now be required (or a lower settlement than anticipated is made), the provision is reversed and credited back to the relevant service.

### 1.16 Interests in Companies and Other Entities

The Council has interests in companies and other entities which are required to be included in the financial statements.

Amgen Cymru Ltd. and Amgen Rhondda Ltd. meet the criteria of subsidiaries and are represented within Long-Term Assets in the Balance Sheet of the financial statements.

Capita Glamorgan Consultancy Ltd. meets the criteria of an associated company.

Due to materiality, Group financial statements have not been produced. The accounts for Amgen Cymru Ltd., Amgen Rhondda Ltd. and Capita Glamorgan Consultancy Ltd. will be available separately once audited.

The Council participates in various Joint Committee arrangements. In line with materiality considerations, only two of these Joint Committees, Central South Consortium Joint Education Service (CSCJES) and Cardiff Capital Region City Deal (CCRCD), have been included within the Council's financial statements. The consolidation has been done on a line-by-line basis, calculated using a reasonable apportionment methodology.

Based on materiality individually or collectively, the following Joint Committees have not been consolidated into the Council's financial statements:

- Glamorgan Archives
- Vale, Valleys and Cardiff Regional Adoption Collaborative (VVC)
- Coychurch Crematorium
- Llwydcoed Crematorium

### **1.17 Inventories**

Stock items are held on the balance sheet at latest price within Inventories if received but not used by the end of the financial year. Donated stock is valued at equivalent product latest price in the balance sheet with a corresponding credit held in a Donated Stock account and disclosed within Short-Term Donated Assets Account in the Balance Sheet. The value of stock in the balance sheet includes items which are held and distributed by the Council to both Council establishments and other external organisations and individuals.

### **2.0 Accounting Standards Issued, Not Adopted**

The Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom (the Code) requires the disclosure of information relating to the expected impact of an accounting change that will be required by a new standard that has been issued but not yet adopted.

IFRS 16 Leases was due to be implemented during 2020/21. However, CIPFA/ LASAAC have agreed to defer the implementation until the 2022/23 financial year, this aligns with the governments Financial Reporting Advisory Board proposals.

The 2021/22 Code introduces changes arising from the accounting guidance in relation to:

- Definition of a Business: Amendments to IFRS 3 Business Combinations;
- Interest Rate Benchmark Reform; Amendments to IFRS 9, IAS 39 and IFRS 7; and
- Interest Rate Benchmark Reform - Phase 2 Amendments to IFRS 9, IAS 39, IFRS 7, IFRS 4 and IFRS 16.

These amendments should not materially affect this Council.

The Code requires implementation after 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021, there is therefore no impact on the 2020/21 statement of accounts.

### **3.0 Critical Judgements in Applying Accounting Policies**

In applying the Accounting Policies set out in note 1.0, the Council has had to make certain judgements about complex transactions and those involving uncertainty about future events. The critical judgements made in the Statement of Accounts are:

#### **3.1 Grants and Contribution Conditions**

Judgements are made in terms of conditions attached to both capital and revenue grants. Grants are recognised as income when received/receivable. Unless there are assumptions that conditions of the grant are breached, a return obligation is not recognised. As a result, capital grants received, with no expected return obligation are reflected in the Capital Grants Unapplied Account until they are used to fund the Capital Programme. Similarly, revenue grants received with no expected return obligation that are to be used to fund future years' expenditure are reflected in Earmarked Reserves in the Balance Sheet.

#### **3.2 Voluntary Aided and Voluntary Controlled Schools**

The Code confirms that the accounting treatment of local authority maintained schools in England and Wales depends on the balance of control. For voluntary aided schools any long-term assets that are not owned by the Council but by another legal body, such as the Diocese, are not to be shown on the Balance Sheet.

The Balance Sheet includes land at St Margaret's Catholic School and playing fields at both St John Baptist Church in Wales High School and Cardinal Newman Comprehensive School, as ownership lies with the Council. When reviewing the existing criteria, the Council does not consider it has any voluntary controlled schools.

### **4.0 Assumptions Made About the Future and Other Major Sources of Estimation Uncertainty**

This Statement of Accounts contains estimated figures that are based on assumptions made by the Council about the future or that are otherwise uncertain. Estimates are made taking into account historical experience, current trends and other relevant factors. However, because assets and liabilities cannot always be determined with certainty, actual results could be materially different from the assumptions and estimates. The items in the Council's Balance Sheet at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021 for which there is a significant risk of material adjustment in the forthcoming financial year are as follows:

#### **4.1 Pensions Asset and Liability (including GMP equalisation and indexation, McCloud/Sargeant Judgement and Cost Management process)**

Estimation of the net asset/liability to pay pensions depends on a number of complex judgements relating to the discount rate used, the rate at which salaries are projected to increase, changes in retirement ages, mortality rates and expected returns on pension fund assets. AON is engaged to provide the Council with advice about the assumptions to be applied.

The effects on the net pensions asset/liability of changes in individual assumptions can be measured, however, the assumptions interact in complex ways.

### GMP equalisation and indexation

The disclosures allow for full CPI inflation pension increases to be paid on Guaranteed Minimum Pension (GMP) for those reaching State Pension Age on or after 6th April 2016. This is an approximate method of recognising the cost of the Government's commitment to compensate public service scheme members from the removal of the Additional Pension element of the State Pension from this date, and for the outcome of the Lloyds judgement which found GMPs to be illegally sex discriminatory. Government is consulting on its approach to compensating affected members. Whilst the final remedy arising from that consultation may be different than that reflected in the accounts, the actuary expects the outcome will include an extension of full indexation for many members yet to be compensated therefore the approach is deemed to be a reasonable estimate.

In October 2020 a second ruling in the Lloyds bank case clarified that compensation would be required for members who transferred benefits out since May 1990. Government has not yet acknowledged a liability in public service schemes nor indicated an approach in rectifying this. Therefore, no allowance for potential liabilities relating to the second Lloyds ruling is included in the accounts.

### Goodwin Ruling

In June 2020 an Employment Tribunal ruled in relation to the Teacher's Pension Scheme, that provisions for survivor's benefits of a female member in an opposite sex marriage are less favourable than for a female in a same sex marriage or civil partnership, and that treatment amounts to direct discrimination on grounds of sexual orientation. The chief secretary to the Treasury announced in a ministerial statement on 20th July 2020 that he believed that changes would be required to other public service pension schemes with similar arrangements. As these changes are yet to be reflected in the LGPS regulations and also on the basis of materiality, allowance has not been made in the calculations.

### McCloud / Sargeant Judgement

The Court of Appeal found that the transitional protection arrangements put in place when firefighters' and judges' pension schemes were reformed were age discriminatory. This has implications for other public sector schemes that were reformed around the same time (including the LGPS) and could potentially lead to members deemed to be discriminated against being compensated. The Supreme Court denied the Government's application for permission to appeal this judgement on 27th June 2019. The matter was referred to Employment Tribunals for remedy hearings and the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) undertook a consultation on the remedy. MHCLG has not yet published its consultation response. The method used by AON to value the McCloud remedy and therefore disclosed within the Statement of Accounts is closely aligned to that proposed in the consultation.

## Cost Management Process

Legislation requires HM Treasury and the Scheme Advisory Board (SAB) to undertake periodic valuations to monitor the cost of the LGPS to ensure it remains sustainable and affordable. This is referred to as the “Cost Management Process”. HM Treasury and the Scheme Advisory Board had paused their reviews following the McCloud judgement in the Court of Appeal. These have now been unpaused and HMT Directions are expected during 2021 allowing reviews to proceed. It is unlikely the outcome of those reviews will be known in 2021 and no changes in benefits or contributions are expected until 2024. No allowance for the impact of the cost management process has been made in the calculations.

## **4.2 Insurance Provision**

The Council makes provision for all claims received (but not yet paid) according to the “reserve” value attached to that claim. The reserve value represents the most likely value to settle the claim, not taking into account probability of settlement. Reserve values are provided by the Council’s in-house insurance team, claims handlers and loss adjusters depending on the claim type and estimated value of the claim. Motor and property claims are provided for at 100% of the reserve value. Liability claims are provided for at a percentage based on the length of time a claim remains unresolved. This reflects that not all claims received are paid. Some are successfully repudiated. Refer to note 11.0 for further details.

The risks attached to misstatement are that existing claims will change in value (increase or decrease) or be successfully repudiated. An earmarked reserve is established to meet the additional costs relating to the impact of these potential changes in estimates. The earmarked reserve also funds claims or incidents that have occurred but claims are yet to be received. Refer to note 13.2 for further details.

## **4.3 Property, Plant and Equipment**

External valuers undertake formal valuations within a maximum of a 5-year rolling programme to ensure that assets in the Balance Sheet are represented at “current value”. Valuations are undertaken in accordance with guidance issued by the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors (RICS). Within the computation of the current value valuation, assumptions are made upon the useful lives of assets which could be subject to change in future years.

## **5.0 Events After the Reporting Period**

The audited Statement of Accounts was authorised for issue by the Director of Finance & Digital Services, as Chief Finance Officer, on 29<sup>th</sup> September 2021. Events taking place after this date are not reflected in the financial statements or notes. Where events taking place before this date provided information about conditions existing at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021, the figures in the financial statements and notes have been adjusted in all material respects to reflect the impact of this information.

**6.0 Property, Plant and Equipment****6.1 Movements on Balances****Movements in 2019/20:**

	Other Land & Buildings	Infrastructure	Vehicles, Plant & Equipment	Community Assets	Assets Under Construction	Total Property, Plant and Equipment
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
<b>Cost or Valuation</b>						
At 1 <sup>st</sup> April 2019	714,959	628,529	37,582	5,698	70,918	<b>1,457,686</b>
Joint Committees Opening Balance	0	0	0	0	5,555	<b>5,555</b>
Additions	52,240	26,710	7,852	574	11,796	<b>99,172</b>
Revaluation Increases/ (Decreases) Recognised in the Revaluation Reserve	26,903	0	0	0	0	<b>26,903</b>
Revaluation Increases/ (Decreases) Recognised in the Surplus/Deficit on the Provision of Services	(59,152)	0	0	(26)	0	<b>(59,178)</b>
Derecognition – Disposals	(2,069)	0	(3,231)	0	0	<b>(5,300)</b>
Derecognition – Other	0	0	(3,340)	0	0	<b>(3,340)</b>
Assets Reclassified (to)/from Held for Sale	877	0	0	0	0	<b>877</b>
Other Reclassifications	47,743	0	0	0	(47,743)	<b>0</b>
Other Movements in Cost or Valuation	0	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>
<b>At 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020</b>	<b>781,501</b>	<b>655,239</b>	<b>38,863</b>	<b>6,246</b>	<b>40,526</b>	<b>1,522,375</b>

*Continued Overleaf...*



<b>Accumulated Depreciation and Impairment</b>						
At 1 <sup>st</sup> April 2019	(111,872)	(189,418)	(30,475)	(848)	0	<b>(332,613)</b>
Joint Committees Opening Balance	0	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>
Depreciation Charge	(15,922)	(12,338)	(3,257)	0	0	<b>(31,517)</b>
Depreciation Written Out of the Revaluation Reserve	15,095	0	0	0	0	<b>15,095</b>
Depreciation Written Out to the Surplus/Deficit on the Provision of Service	4,721	0	0	0	0	<b>4,721</b>
Impairment (Losses)/Reversals Recognised in the Revaluation Reserve	2,623	0	0	0	0	<b>2,623</b>
Impairment (Losses)/Reversals Recognised in the Surplus/Deficit on the Provision of Services	21,484	(2,150)	(3,340)	(548)	0	<b>15,446</b>
Derecognition – Disposals	422	0	3,131	0	0	<b>3,553</b>
Derecognition – Other	0	0	3,340	0	0	<b>3,340</b>
Assets Reclassified (to)/from Held for Sale	(89)	0	0	0	0	<b>(89)</b>
Other Reclassifications	0	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>
Other Movements in Cost or Valuation	0	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>
<b>At 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020</b>	<b>(83,538)</b>	<b>(203,906)</b>	<b>(30,601)</b>	<b>(1,396)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>(319,441)</b>

**Net Book Value:**

<b>At 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020</b>	<b>697,963</b>	<b>451,333</b>	<b>8,262</b>	<b>4,850</b>	<b>40,526</b>	<b>1,202,934</b>
<b>At 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019</b>	<b>603,087</b>	<b>439,111</b>	<b>7,107</b>	<b>4,850</b>	<b>76,473</b>	<b>1,130,628</b>

**Movements in 2020/21:**

	Other Land & Buildings	Infrastructure	Vehicles, Plant & Equipment	Community Assets	Assets Under Construction	Total Property, Plant and Equipment
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
<b>Cost or Valuation</b>						
At 1 <sup>st</sup> April 2020	775,932	655,238	38,863	6,246	40,526	<b>1,516,805</b>
Joint Committees Opening Balance	5,569	0	0	0	0	<b>5,569</b>
Additions	33,967	44,858	9,608	224	1,983	<b>90,640</b>
Revaluation Increases/ (Decreases) Recognised in the Revaluation Reserve	(4,954)	0	0	0	0	<b>(4,954)</b>
Revaluation Increases/ (Decreases) Recognised in the Surplus/Deficit on the Provision of Services	(36,949)	0	0	0	0	<b>(36,949)</b>
Derecognition – Disposals	(2,476)	0	(4,242)	0	0	<b>(6,718)</b>
Derecognition – Other	0	0	(1,722)	0	0	<b>(1,722)</b>
Assets Reclassified (to)/from Held for Sale	10	0	0	0	0	<b>10</b>
Other Reclassifications	18,717	16,240	0	0	(40,526)	<b>(5,569)</b>
Other Movements in Cost or Valuation	0	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>
<b>At 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021</b>	<b>789,816</b>	<b>716,336</b>	<b>42,507</b>	<b>6,470</b>	<b>1,983</b>	<b>1,557,112</b>

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<b>Accumulated Depreciation and Impairment</b>						
At 1 <sup>st</sup> April 2020	(83,538)	(203,906)	(30,601)	(1,396)	0	<b>(319,441)</b>
Joint Committees Opening Balance	0	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>
Depreciation Charge	(16,239)	(13,688)	(4,095)	0	0	<b>(34,022)</b>
Depreciation Written Out of the Revaluation Reserve	12,169	0	0	0	0	<b>12,169</b>
Depreciation Written Out to the Surplus/Deficit on the Provision of Service	6,814	0	0	0	0	<b>6,814</b>
Impairment (Losses)/Reversals Recognised in the Revaluation Reserve	(2,789)	0	0	0	0	<b>(2,789)</b>
Impairment (Losses)/Reversals Recognised in the Surplus/Deficit on the Provision of Services	1,867	(1,527)	(1,722)	0	0	<b>(1,382)</b>
Derecognition – Disposals	1,105	0	4,176	0	0	<b>5,281</b>
Derecognition – Other	0	0	1,722	0	0	<b>1,722</b>
Assets Reclassified (to)/from Held for Sale	0	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>
Other Reclassifications	0	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>
Other Movements in Cost or Valuation	0	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>
<b>At 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021</b>	<b>(80,611)</b>	<b>(219,121)</b>	<b>(30,520)</b>	<b>(1,396)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>(331,648)</b>

**Net Book Value:**

<b>At 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021</b>	<b>709,205</b>	<b>497,215</b>	<b>11,987</b>	<b>5,074</b>	<b>1,983</b>	<b>1,225,464</b>
<b>At 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020</b>	<b>697,963</b>	<b>451,333</b>	<b>8,262</b>	<b>4,850</b>	<b>40,526</b>	<b>1,202,934</b>

## 6.2 Investment Properties

	2019/20	2020/21
	£'000	£'000
<b>Balance at 1<sup>st</sup> April</b>	<b>3,805</b>	<b>3,805</b>
Net Gains/Losses from fair value adjustments	0	(1,210)
Other Reclassifications - City Deal Joint Committee reclassification from Other Land & Buildings	0	5,569
<b>Balance at 31<sup>st</sup> March</b>	<b>3,805</b>	<b>8,164</b>

The fair values for investment properties have been calculated using level 2 in the fair value hierarchy.

## 6.3 Capital Commitments

At 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021 the Council has entered into a number of contracts for the construction or enhancement of Property, Plant and Equipment in 2020/21 and future years, budgeted to cost £10.4m. Similar commitments at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020 were £16.9m.

Within this amount the significant contract values as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021 are:

Scheme	£'000
YGG Aberdar	3,475
Robertstown Development	4,501
<b>Total</b>	<b>7,976</b>

## 6.4 Revaluations

The Council carries out a rolling programme that ensures that all Property, Plant and Equipment required to be measured at current value is revalued at least every 5 years. Valuations are carried out by the Council's appointed valuer. Valuations of land and buildings are carried out in accordance with the methodologies and bases for estimation set out in the professional standards of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors. Valuations of vehicles, plant and equipment are based on current prices where there is an active second-hand market or latest list prices adjusted for the condition of the asset.

The significant assumptions applied in estimating the current values are:

- Valuations include the cost of construction on a modern equivalent basis.
- The cost has been depreciated to account for the age and future economic life of the buildings.
- Valuations are subject to the prospect and viability of the continuance of the occupation and use of the property.

## 7.0 Financial Instruments

### 7.1 Categories of Financial Instruments

The following categories of financial instrument are carried in the Balance Sheet:

Assets	Long-Term		Current	
	31/03/20	31/03/21	31/03/20	31/03/21
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Investments: Loans and Receivables	4,250	6,615	35,405	23,479
Debtors: Financial Assets Carried at Contract Amounts	4,939	4,919	83,479	123,020
<b>Total</b>	<b>9,189</b>	<b>11,534</b>	<b>118,884</b>	<b>146,499</b>

Liabilities	Long-Term		Current	
	31/03/20	31/03/21	31/03/20	31/03/21
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Borrowings: Financial Liabilities at Amortised Cost	314,278	303,324	60,776	32,176
Finance Lease Liabilities	383	382	1	1
Creditors: Financial Liabilities at Amortised Cost	0	0	32,151	34,346
<b>Total</b>	<b>314,661</b>	<b>303,706</b>	<b>92,928</b>	<b>66,523</b>

There are no expected credit loss calculations for the financial assets. The value of creditors in the table relates to invoices authorised for payment by the Council but remaining unpaid at year-end. This balance is included within the Balance Sheet heading *Short-Term Creditors*.

## 7.2 Income, Expense, Gains and Losses

	2019/20			2020/21		
	Financial Liabilities Measured at Amortised Cost	Financial Assets: Loans and Receivables	Total	Financial Liabilities Measured at Amortised Cost	Financial Assets: Loans and Receivables	Total
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Interest Expense	11,505	0	11,505	11,397	0	11,397
Impairment Losses	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total Expense in (Surplus) or Deficit on the Provision of Services</b>	<b>11,505</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>11,505</b>	<b>11,397</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>11,397</b>
Interest Income	0	(652)	(652)	0	(597)	(597)
Interest Income Accrued on Impaired Financial Assets	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total Income in (Surplus) or Deficit on the Provision of Services</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>(652)</b>	<b>(652)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>(597)</b>	<b>(597)</b>
<b>Net (Gain)/Loss for the Year</b>	<b>11,505</b>	<b>(652)</b>	<b>10,853</b>	<b>11,397</b>	<b>(597)</b>	<b>10,800</b>

## 7.3 Fair Value of Assets and Liabilities

Financial liabilities, financial assets (represented by loans and receivables) and long-term debtors and creditors are carried in the Balance Sheet at amortised cost. Their fair value

can be assessed by calculating the present value of the cash flows that will take place over the remaining term of the instruments, using the following assumptions:

- Loans borrowed by the Council have been valued by discounting the contractual cashflows over the whole life of the instrument at the appropriate market rate for Local Authority loans.
- No early repayment or impairment is recognised.
- Where a financial instrument will mature in the next 12 months, carrying amount is assumed to approximate to fair value.
- The fair value of trade and other receivables is taken to be the invoiced or billed amount.
- Short-term debtors and creditors are carried at cost as this is a fair approximation of their value.

The fair values calculated are as follows:

	31/03/20		31/03/21	
	Carrying Amount	Fair Value	Carrying Amount	Fair Value
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
PWLB Debt	242,393	305,445	231,925	300,462
Market Debt	85,515	138,058	85,515	139,154
Local Authority Debt	47,078	47,079	17,988	17,988
Other Debt	68	68	72	72
Finance Lease	384	384	383	383
Trade Creditors	32,151	32,151	34,346	34,346
<b>Total</b>	<b>407,589</b>	<b>523,185</b>	<b>370,229</b>	<b>492,405</b>

	31/03/20		31/03/21	
	Carrying Amount	Fair Value	Carrying Amount	Fair Value
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Loans and Receivables	39,655	39,650	29,780	29,780

The fair values for PWLB debt and market debt have been calculated using level 2 in the fair value hierarchy. Please see note 1.9.2 in the accounting policies for the explanation of these levels.

#### **7.4 Nature and Extent of Risks Arising from Financial Instruments**

The Council's activities expose it to a variety of financial risks:

##### **Key Risks**

- Credit Risk – the possibility that other parties might fail to pay amounts due to the Council.
- Liquidity Risk – the possibility that the Council might not have funds available to meet its commitments to make payments.
- Refinancing and Maturity Risk – the possibility that the Council may be required to renew a financial instrument on maturity at less favourable interest rates or terms.

- Market Risk – the possibility that financial loss might arise for the Council as a result of changes in such measures as interest rates and stock market movements.

## **7.5 Overall Procedures for Managing Risk**

The Council's overall risk management procedures focus on the unpredictability of the financial markets and implementing restrictions to minimise these risks. The procedures for risk management are defined in the Local Government Act 2003 and the associated regulations. These require the Council to comply with the CIPFA Prudential Code, the CIPFA Treasury Management in the Public Services Code of Practice and Investment Guidance issued through the Act. This Council complies with these requirements by:

- Formally adopting the requirements of the Code of Practice.
- By adopting a Treasury Management Policy Statement and Treasury Management Clauses being incorporated into Financial Procedure Rules.
- Approving annually in advance Prudential and Treasury Indicators for the following three years.
- Approving an Investment Strategy for the forthcoming year setting out criteria for both investing and selecting investment counterparties in compliance with guidance from the Welsh Government.
- Approving a Capital Strategy report which provides 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.

These are required to be reported and approved before the start of the year to which they relate. The Treasury Management Strategy outlines the detailed approach to managing risk in relation to the Council's financial instrument exposure. Actual performance is reported in a mid-year review to Members, in addition to a full year review and also included within quarterly performance reports.

Policies are implemented by a corporate Treasury Management team. The Council maintains written principles for overall risk management, as well as written policies covering specific areas, such as interest rate risk, credit risk and the investment of surplus cash through Treasury Management Practices (TMPs). The TMPs are a requirement of the Code of Practice and are reviewed periodically.

The Treasury Management Strategy and Capital Strategy are available on the Council's website.

## **7.6 Credit Risk**

Credit Risk arises from deposits with banks and financial institutions as well as credit exposures to the Council's customers.

This risk is minimised through the Investment Strategy, which requires that deposits are not made with financial institutions unless they meet identified minimum credit criteria. Such criteria include credit ratings assigned by credit ratings agencies. The Investment Strategy also imposes a maximum amount and duration to be invested with a financial institution. The Council undertakes appropriate due diligence and puts in place appropriate security arrangements when lending to organisations. There are also other

criteria and controls in place regarding counterparty selection, further details of which can be found in the approved Treasury Management Strategy.

The following analysis summarises the Council's potential maximum exposure to credit risk. The default rates give details of the Council's experience of its customer collection levels.

	31/03/21	Historical Experience of Default	Adjustment for Market Conditions at 31/03/21	Estimated Maximum Exposure to Default at 31/03/21	Estimated Maximum Exposure to Default at 31/03/20
	(a)	(b)	(c)	(a*c)	
	£'000	%	%	£'000	£'000
Deposits with Government Departments & Local Authorities	29,780	0	0	0	0
Trade Debtors	14,892	0.49	0.49	73	79

The 0.49% Historical Experience of Default represents debt written off in 2020/21 expressed as a percentage of invoices raised during that year. This percentage is not the basis of the Bad Debt Provision, which is calculated using various percentages designed to reflect the risk of debts of various ages not being collectable, as opposed to the far lower rate of actual write-offs for the year.

Investments with the Debt Management Office and other Government backed public bodies have the rating applicable to Government borrowing.

The Council does not generally allow credit for its trade debtors. However, £4.5m of the £14.9m balance is debt greater than 30 days old. This debt can be analysed as follows:

	31/03/20	31/03/21
	£'000	£'000
Less than 3 months	1,057	1,110
3 – 6 months	392	627
6 months to 1 year	1,109	842
More than 1 year	1,331	1,937
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,889</b>	<b>4,516</b>

## 7.7 Liquidity Risk

The Council manages its liquidity position through effective cash flow management procedures.

The Council has ready access to borrowings from the money markets to cover any day-to-day cash flow need, and whilst the PWLB provides access to longer-term funds, it also acts as a lender of last resort to Councils (although it will not provide funding to a Council whose actions are unlawful). The Council is also required to produce a balanced budget



in accordance with the Local Government Finance Act 1992, which ensures sufficient monies are raised to cover annual expenditure. There is therefore no significant risk that it will be unable to raise finance to meet its commitments under financial instruments.

## 7.8 Refinancing and Maturity Risk

The Council maintains a significant debt and investment portfolio. Whilst the cash flow procedures above are considered against the refinancing risk procedures, longer-term risk to the Council relates to managing the exposure to replacing financial instruments as they mature. This risk relates to both the maturing of longer-term financial liabilities and longer-term financial assets.

The approved prudential indicator limits for the maturity structure of debt and the limits set on investments placed for greater than one year in duration are the key parameters used to address this risk. The Council approved treasury and investment strategies address the main risks and the Council's Treasury Management team manage operational risks within approved parameters.

This includes;

- monitoring the maturity profile of financial liabilities and amending the profile through either new borrowing or the rescheduling of existing debt; and
- monitoring the maturity profile of investments to ensure sufficient liquidity is available for the Council's day-to-day cash flow needs, and the spread of longer term investments provide stability of maturities and returns in relation to the longer term cash flow needs.

The maturity analysis of the principal value of the Rhondda Cynon Taf CBC element of financial liabilities is as follows:

	31/03/20	31/03/21
	£'000	£'000
Less than 1 year	57,492	28,491
Between 1 and 2 years	10,420	10,967
Between 2 and 5 years	31,259	31,259
Between 5 and 10 years	22,012	37,115
More than 10 years	251,918	225,848
<b>Total</b>	<b>373,101</b>	<b>333,680</b>

The maturity analysis of financial assets is as follows:

	31/03/20	31/03/21
	£'000	£'000
Maturity greater than one year	4,250	6,300
Maturity less than one year	35,405	23,480
<b>Total</b>	<b>39,655</b>	<b>29,780</b>

Trade Debtors are not included in the table above.

## 7.9 Market Risk

### Interest Rate Risk

The Council is exposed to interest rate movements on its borrowings and investments. Movements in interest rates have a complex impact upon the Council, depending how variable and fixed rates move across differing financial instrument periods.

The Council has a number of strategies for managing interest rate risk. The Annual Treasury Management Strategy draws together the Council's prudential indicators and its expected treasury operations, including an expectation of interest rate movements. The Council's Treasury Management team, together with the appointed Treasury Management Advisors, monitor the market and forecast interest rates within the year to adjust the Council's exposures appropriately.

If all interest rates had been 1% higher (with all other variables being constant) the financial effect would be:

	<b>£'000</b>
Increase in interest payable on variable rate borrowings	1
Increase in interest receivable on variable rate investments	N/A
<b>Impact on Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement</b>	<b>1</b>
Decrease in fair value of fixed rate borrowing liabilities (no impact on CI&ES)	62,672

The approximate impact of a 1% fall in interest rates would also be as above.

## 8.0 Short-Term Debtors

An analysis of Short-Term Debtors in the Balance Sheet is as follows:

<b>31/03/20</b>		<b>31/03/21</b>
<b>£'000</b>		<b>£'000</b>
44,691	Central Government Bodies	67,860
8,022	Other Local Authorities	18,563
10,823	NHS Bodies	11,404
510	Public Corporations and Trading Funds	1,028
19,433	Other Entities and Individuals	24,165
<b>83,479</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>123,020</b>

**Debtors for Local Taxation**

The past due date but not impaired amount for Council Tax can be analysed by age as follows:

<b>2019/20</b>		<b>2020/21</b>
<b>£'000</b>		<b>£'000</b>
3,489	Less than 1 year	4,012
1,322	1 year to 2 years	1,773
780	2 years to 3 years	1,001
535	3 years to 4 years	631
340	4 years to 5 years	442
894	More than 5 years	1,039
<b>7,360</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>8,898</b>

**9.0 Cash and Cash Equivalents**

The Cash and Cash Equivalents are made up of the following elements:

<b>31/03/20</b>		<b>31/03/21</b>
<b>£'000</b>		<b>£'000</b>
10,181	Cash Held by the Council	14,533
(14,905)	Bank Current Accounts	(20,932)
<b>(4,724)</b>	<b>Total Cash and Cash Equivalents</b>	<b>(6,399)</b>

Short-term cash surpluses are invested in line with the investment strategy and are represented in the Balance Sheet as "Short-Term Investments". Bank Current Accounts represent the position of the bank account as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021 adjusted for unrepresented cheques.

**10.0 Short-Term Creditors**

An analysis of Short-Term Creditors in the Balance Sheet is as follows:

<b>31/03/20</b>		<b>31/03/21</b>
<b>£'000</b>		<b>£'000</b>
(11,593)	Central Government Bodies	(18,391)
(7,542)	Other Local Authorities	(19,003)
(9,990)	NHS Bodies	(9,329)
1,015	Public Corporations and Trading Funds	(522)
(65,483)	Other Entities and Individuals	(63,901)
<b>(93,593)</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>(111,146)</b>

## 11.0 Provisions

Provisions are amounts set aside for specific future costs, which are likely to be incurred, but the amount or timing of which cannot be determined accurately. Provisions for bad debts are shown as a deduction from debtors.

Movements in provisions during the year were:

Short-Term Provision	Land Purchases and Part 1 Claims	Insurance Claims	Total
	£'000	£'000	£'000
<b>Balance at 1<sup>st</sup> April 2020</b>	<b>(525)</b>	<b>(1,224)</b>	<b>(1,749)</b>
Additional provisions made in 2020/21	0	(1,116)	<b>(1,116)</b>
Amounts used in 2020/21	5	1,042	<b>1,047</b>
Unused amounts reversed in 2020/21	0	182	<b>182</b>
<b>Balance at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021</b>	<b>(520)</b>	<b>(1,116)</b>	<b>(1,636)</b>

Long-Term Provision	Insurance Claims	Joint Committees	Total
	£'000	£'000	£'000
<b>Balance at 1<sup>st</sup> April 2020</b>	<b>(2,421)</b>	<b>(228)</b>	<b>(2,649)</b>
Additional provisions made in 2020/21	(3,134)	(99)	<b>(3,233)</b>
Amounts used in 2020/21	1,125	0	<b>1,125</b>
Unused amounts reversed in 2020/21	1,177	0	<b>1,177</b>
<b>Balance at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021</b>	<b>(3,253)</b>	<b>(327)</b>	<b>(3,580)</b>

## 12.0 Other Long-Term Liabilities

An analysis of Other Long-Term Liabilities is given in the following table:

31/03/20		31/03/21
£'000		£'000
(657,634)	Pension Liability (IAS19)	(708,698)
(585)	Other	(589)
<b>(658,219)</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>(709,287)</b>

**13.0 Usable Reserves**

<b>31/03/20</b>			<b>31/03/21</b>
<b>£'000</b>			<b>£'000</b>
8,709	Council Fund Balance	13.1	8,505
69,616	Capital, Treasury and Insurance Reserves	13.2	76,829
39,028	Other Revenue Related Reserves	13.2	73,791
2,384	Delegated Schools Reserve	13.3	12,035
1,750	Usable Capital Receipts Reserve	13.4	3,954
24,934	Capital Grant Unapplied Account	13.5	32,363
136	MGCC Insurance Reserve		185
<b>146,557</b>	<b>Total Usable Reserves</b>		<b>207,662</b>

**13.1 Council Fund Balance**

Council Fund Balances are accumulated working balances and relate to general fund services. These exclude "ring-fenced" Council services such as Delegated Schools.

Movements in the Council Fund Balance during 2020/21 were:

	<b>£'000</b>
<b>Council Fund Reserves as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020</b>	<b>8,709</b>
Revenue Budget Out-turn	(204)
<b>Council Fund Reserves as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021</b>	<b>8,505</b>

**13.2 Earmarked Reserves**

This note sets out the amounts set aside from the Council Fund Balances in earmarked reserves to provide financing for future expenditure plans and the amounts posted back from earmarked reserves to meet Council Fund expenditure in 2020/21. All earmarked reserves are deemed to be revenue reserves.

**Capital, Treasury and Insurance Reserves**

Reserve	Purpose	Balance at	Transfers	Transfers	Balance at
		31/03/20	Out	In	31/03/21
		£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
<b>Capital Developments</b>	Resources set-aside from revenue budget, earmarked to fund the Council's approved 3-year capital programme.	<b>59,029</b>	(10,056)	17,392	<b>66,365</b>
<b>Treasury Management Reserve</b>	Funding for known and potential future pressures upon the Capital Financing budget.	<b>2,465</b>	0	0	<b>2,465</b>
<b>Insurance Reserve</b>	To provide for estimated costs of incidents that have occurred during the policy year but have not yet resulted in a claim being received.	<b>8,122</b>	(1,123)	1,000	<b>7,999</b>
<b>Total</b>		<b>69,616</b>	<b>(11,179)</b>	<b>18,392</b>	<b>76,829</b>

**Other Revenue Related Reserves**

Reserve	Purpose	Balance at	Transfers	Transfers	Balance at
		31/03/20	Out	In	31/03/21
		£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
<b>Revenue Budget Strategy 2020/21</b>	Medium Term Financial Planning & Service Transformation (transitional funding) to be released to fund the 2020/21 budget.	800	(800)	0	0
<b>Revenue Budget Strategy 2021/22</b>	Medium Term Financial Planning & Service Transformation (transitional funding) to be released to fund the 2021/22 budget.	0	0	711	711
<b>Joint Committee Reserve</b>	Reflects the Council's share of General and Earmarked Reserves of the Joint Committees in which it has an interest.	1,243	(574)	0	669
<b>Revenue Grant Reserves (IFRS)</b>	Carry forward of Revenue Grants not yet applied to spend - required accounting treatment to comply with International Financial Reporting Standards.	2,600	(2,600)	4,824	4,824
<b>Financial Management and Human Resources Risk Management</b>	Resources set aside as cover for future liabilities relating to various risks identified and being managed.	13,287	(4,219)	22,573	31,641
<b>Investment / Infrastructure</b>	To fund current and future costs of maintaining and enhancing infrastructure across the County Borough	6,235	(6,054)	9,316	9,497
<b>Prior Year Commitments</b>	Carry forward of existing funding to finance projects for which commitments have already been made in the prior year.	8,416	(2,422)	12,642	18,636
<b>Medium Term Financial Planning and Service Transformation</b>	Resources set aside as transitional (one-off) funding to support the Council's medium-term financial and service planning requirements.	3,562	(710)	767	3,619
<b>Other Specific Reserves</b>	Represents a number of reserves held for specific and identified purposes.	2,885	(752)	1,025	3,158
<b>Invest to Save</b>	Funding identified (pump priming) to support Invest to Save opportunities as and when they arise.	0	0	1,036	1,036
<b>Total</b>		<b>39,028</b>	<b>(18,131)</b>	<b>52,894</b>	<b>73,791</b>

### 13.3 Delegated Schools Reserve

Delegated schools are those that are managed independently. As such, these balances are committed to be spent on delegated services and are not available to the Council for general use.

The movements on the reserve are as follows:

	Balance at 31/03/20 £'000	Balance at 31/03/21 £'000
Delegated Primary Schools	2,943	7,654
Delegated Secondary Schools	(1,191)	2,546
Delegated Special Schools	317	760
Delegated All Through Schools	315	1,075
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,384</b>	<b>12,035</b>

### 13.4 Usable Capital Receipts Reserve

The Usable Capital Receipts Reserve is the proportion of capital receipts that may be used to finance capital expenditure.

The movements on the reserve are as follows:

2019/20		2020/21
£'000		£'000
3,343	<b>Balance as at 1<sup>st</sup> April</b>	1,750
	<u>Receipts during the year:</u>	
2,131	Sale of assets	2,716
0	Mortgage repayments	3
	<u>Application during the year:</u>	
(3,724)	Financing of capital expenditure	(515)
1,750	<b>Balance as at 31<sup>st</sup> March</b>	3,954

### 13.5 Capital Grant Unapplied Account

The Capital Grant Unapplied Account consists of Capital Grants and Contributions received and credited to Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement but not yet applied to fund capital expenditure. It represents resources available to fund future capital expenditure. It is assumed that the conditions of grants held within this account will be met.

2019/20		2020/21
£'000		£'000
16,966	<b>Balance at 1<sup>st</sup> April</b>	24,934
71,194	Grants received	70,103
(63,226)	Grants utilised to fund capital expenditure	(62,674)
24,934	<b>Balance at 31<sup>st</sup> March</b>	32,363

**14.0 Unusable Reserves**

These are reserves established as a result of various regulations to ensure costs chargeable to Council Tax are appropriate. They do not represent resources available for the general use of the Council.

<b>31/03/20</b>			<b>31/03/21</b>
<b>£'000</b>			<b>£'000</b>
209,318	Revaluation Reserve	14.1	207,440
1,272	Deferred Capital Receipts Reserve		423
511,372	Capital Adjustment Account	14.2	529,843
(5,487)	Financial Instruments Adjustment Account	14.3	(5,399)
(657,634)	Pensions Reserve	14.4	(708,698)
(5,666)	Short-Term Accumulating Compensated Absence Account		(5,796)
<b>53,175</b>	<b>Total Unusable Reserves</b>		<b>17,813</b>

**14.1 Revaluation Reserve**

The Revaluation Reserve contains the gains made by the Council arising from increases in the value of its Property, Plant and Equipment and Intangible Assets. The balance is reduced when assets with accumulated gains are;

- revalued downwards or impaired and the gains are lost;
- used in the provision of services and the gains are consumed through depreciation; or
- disposed of and the gains are realised.

The Reserve contains only revaluation gains accumulated since 1<sup>st</sup> April 2007, the date that the Reserve was created. Accumulated gains arising before that date are consolidated into the balance on the Capital Adjustment Account.



2019/20		2020/21	
		£'000	£'000
<b>171,042</b>	<b>Balance at 1<sup>st</sup> April</b>	<b>209,318</b>	
54,263	Upward revaluation of assets	10,717	
(9,658)	Downward revaluation of assets and impairment losses not charged to the Surplus/Deficit on the Provision of Services	(6,186)	
<b>215,647</b>	<b>Surplus or Deficit on revaluation of Long-Term Assets not posted to the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services</b>		<b>213,849</b>
0	Adjustment between the Capital Adjustment Account and the Revaluation Reserve	(447)	
(5,722)	Difference between Current Value Depreciation and Historical Cost Depreciation	(5,725)	
(607)	Accumulated Gains on Assets sold or scrapped	(237)	
<b>(6,329)</b>	<b>Amount written off to the Capital Adjustment Account</b>		<b>(6,409)</b>
<b>209,318</b>	<b>Balance at 31<sup>st</sup> March</b>		<b>207,440</b>

## 14.2 Capital Adjustment Account

The Capital Adjustment Account absorbs the timing differences arising from the different arrangements for accounting for the consumption of Long-Term Assets and for financing the acquisition, construction or enhancement of those assets under statutory provisions. The Account is debited with the cost of acquisition, construction or enhancement as depreciation, impairment losses and amortisation are charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement (with reconciling postings from the Revaluation Reserve to convert fair value figures to a historical cost basis). The Account is credited with the amounts set aside by the Council as finance for the costs of acquisition, construction and enhancement.

This account also contains revaluation gains accumulated on Property, Plant and Equipment before 1<sup>st</sup> April 2007, the date that the Revaluation Reserve was created to hold such gains.

2019/20 £'000		2020/21	
		£'000	£'000
503,909	<b>Balance at 1<sup>st</sup> April</b>	511,372	
	Reversal of items relating to Capital Expenditure debited or credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement:		
(11,343)	Charges for depreciation and impairment of Long-Term Assets*	(28,566)	
(59,139)	Revaluation losses on Property, Plant and Equipment	(36,900)	
0	Movement in the market value of Investment Properties	(215)	
(1,593)	Amortisation of Intangible Assets	(1,675)	
(20,297)	Revenue Expenditure Funded from Capital Under Statute	(10,735)	
(3,421)	Amounts of Long-Term Assets written off on disposal or sale as part of the gain/loss on disposal to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	(1,512)	
6,329	Adjusted items written out of the Revaluation Reserve	6,409	
(53)	Joint Committee Adjustments	0	
<b>414,392</b>	<b>Net written out amount of the cost of Long-Term Assets consumed in the year</b>		<b>438,178</b>
	Capital Financing Applied in the Year:		
3,724	Use of the Capital Receipts Reserve to finance new Capital Expenditure	515	
52,482	Capital Grants and Contributions credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement that have been applied to capital financing	61,517	
10,744	Application of grants to capital financing from the Capital Grants Unapplied Account	1,863	
12,191	Statutory provision for the financing of capital investment charged against the Council Fund	13,561	
17,839	Capital Expenditure charged against the Council Fund	14,209	
0	Private mortgage repayments	0	
<b>96,980</b>			<b>91,665</b>
<b>511,372</b>	<b>Balance at 31<sup>st</sup> March</b>		<b>529,843</b>

\* Charges for depreciation and impairment of long-term assets include credits representing reversal of accumulated depreciation and impairment, and debits representing in year changes.

### 14.3 Financial Instruments Adjustment Account

The Financial Instruments Adjustment Account represents the accumulated difference between the financing costs included in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement and the accumulated financing costs required in accordance with regulations to be charged to the Council Fund Balance. As at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021 there was a debit balance of £5.4m (debit balance of £5.5m as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020).

### 14.4 Pensions Reserve

The Pensions Reserve absorbs the timing differences arising from the different arrangements for accounting for post-employment benefits and for funding benefits in accordance with statutory provisions. The Council accounts for post-employment benefits in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement as the benefits are earned by employees accruing years of service, updating the liabilities recognised to reflect inflation, changing assumptions and investment returns on any resources set aside to meet the costs. However, statutory arrangements require benefits earned to be financed as the Council makes employer's contributions to pension funds or eventually pays any pensions for which it is directly responsible. The debit balance on the Pensions Reserve therefore shows a substantial shortfall in the benefits earned by past and current employees and the resources the Council has set aside to meet them. The statutory arrangements will ensure that funding will have been set aside by the time the benefits are due to be paid.

2019/20		2020/21
£'000		£'000
<b>(608,638)</b>	<b>Balance at 1<sup>st</sup> April</b>	<b>(657,634)</b>
(16,789)	Actuarial gains or (losses) on Pensions Assets and Liabilities	(13,481)
(72,897)	Reversal of items relating to retirement benefits debited or credited to the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	(72,755)
40,690	Employer's pensions contributions and direct payments to pensioners payable in the year	35,172
<b>(657,634)</b>	<b>Balance at 31<sup>st</sup> March</b>	<b>(708,698)</b>

### **15.0 Cash Flow Statement – Adjustments to Net (Surplus) or Deficit on the Provision of Services for Non-Cash Movements**

<b>2019/20</b>		<b>2020/21</b>
<b>£'000</b>		<b>£'000</b>
(70,482)	Depreciation and Impairment	(65,682)
(1,593)	Amortisation	(1,675)
(3,256)	(Increase)/Decrease in Creditors	(16,485)
18,381	Increase/(Decrease) in Debtors	39,521
(11)	Increase/(Decrease) in Stock	1,964
(32,207)	Movement in Pension Liability	(37,583)
(383)	Contribution to Provisions	(818)
(1,190)	Short-Term Accumulated Absence Accrual	(130)
(3,421)	Carrying amount of Long-Term Assets and Assets Held For Sale, sold or derecognised	(1,512)
(21,433)	Other non-cash items charged to the Net (Surplus) or Deficit on the Provision of Services	(14,022)
<b>(115,595)</b>	<b>Adjustments to Net (Surplus) or Deficit on the Provision of Services for Non-Cash Movements</b>	<b>(96,422)</b>

### **16.0 Cash Flow Statement - Adjustments for Items Included in the Net (Surplus) or Deficit on the Provision of Services that are Investing and Financing Activities**

<b>2019/20</b>		<b>2020/21</b>
<b>£'000</b>		<b>£'000</b>
2,131	Proceeds from the sale of Property, Plant & Equipment, Investment Property and Intangible Assets	2,716
58,951	Any other items for which the cash effects are investing or financing cash flows	64,987
<b>61,082</b>		<b>67,703</b>

### **17.0 Cash Flow Statement – Interest within Operating Activities**

The following table details interest received, and interest paid included within 'Net Cash Flows from Operating Activities' on the Cash Flow Statement.

<b>2019/20</b>		<b>2020/21</b>
<b>£'000</b>		<b>£'000</b>
(652)	Interest received	(921)
11,505	Interest paid	11,397
<b>10,853</b>	<b>Interest within Operating Activities</b>	<b>10,476</b>

**18.0 Cash Flow Statement - Investing Activities**

2019/20		2020/21
£'000		£'000
125,639	Purchase of Property, Plant and Equipment, Investment Property and Intangible Assets	102,931
9,072	Purchase and Redemption of Short-Term and Long-Term Investments	(9,561)
(2,131)	Proceeds from the sale of Property, Plant and Equipment, Investment Property and Intangible Assets	(2,716)
(58,951)	Other receipts from Investing Activities	(64,987)
<b>73,629</b>	<b>Net Cash Flows from Investing Activities</b>	<b>25,667</b>

**19.0 Cash Flow Statement - Financing Activities**

2019/20		2020/21
£'000		£'000
(154,250)	Cash receipts of Short and Long-Term Borrowing	(18,000)
1	Cash payments for the reduction of the outstanding liabilities relating to Finance Leases	1
112,552	Repayments of Short and Long-Term Borrowing	57,419
<b>(41,697)</b>	<b>Net Cash Flows from Financing Activities</b>	<b>39,420</b>

**20.0 Notes to the Expenditure and Funding Analysis****20.1 Adjustments between Funding and Accounting Basis 2019/20**

Adjustments from General Fund to Arrive at the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement Amounts	Adjustments for Capital Purposes £'000s	Net change for the Pensions Adjustments £'000s	Other Differences £'000s	Total Adjustments £'000s
Prosperity, Development & Frontline Services	29,132	14,966	107	44,205
Chief Executive	6,736	(8,492)	1,439	(317)
Education & Inclusion Services	35,041	4,595	(6,790)	32,846
Community & Children's Services	5,011	7,259	(1,257)	11,013
Authority Wide Budgets	(25,495)	(8)	(15,388)	(40,891)
Joint Committees	0	0	(234)	(234)
<b>Net Cost of Services</b>	<b>50,425</b>	<b>18,320</b>	<b>(22,123)</b>	<b>46,622</b>
Other income and expenditure from the Expenditure and Funding Analysis	(59,254)	13,660	21,314	(24,280)
<b>Difference between General Fund (surplus) or deficit and Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement (Surplus) or Deficit on the Provision of Services</b>	<b>(8,829)</b>	<b>31,980</b>	<b>(809)</b>	<b>22,342</b>

**Adjustments between Funding and Accounting Basis 2020/21**

Adjustments from General Fund to Arrive at the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement Amounts	Adjustments for Capital Purposes £'000s	Net change for the Pensions Adjustments £'000s	Other Differences £'000s	Total Adjustments £'000s
Prosperity, Development & Frontline Services	24,694	3,740	947	29,381
Chief Executive	19,882	3,357	1,942	25,181
Education & Inclusion Services	17,534	6,072	(14,923)	8,683
Community & Children's Services	6,225	9,596	4,692	20,513
Authority Wide Budgets	(23,734)	5	(62,933)	(86,662)
Joint Committees	0	0	(450)	(450)
<b>Net Cost of Services</b>	<b>44,601</b>	<b>22,770</b>	<b>(70,725)</b>	<b>(3,354)</b>
Other income and expenditure from the Expenditure and Funding Analysis	(64,424)	14,570	18,311	(31,543)
<b>Difference between General Fund (surplus) or deficit and Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement (Surplus) or Deficit on the Provision of Services</b>	<b>(19,823)</b>	<b>37,340</b>	<b>(52,414)</b>	<b>(34,897)</b>

Details of the total adjustments above are within the Movement in Reserves Statement.

**20.2 Expenditure and Income Analysed by Nature**

The Council's expenditure and income is analysed as follows:

	2019/20	2020/21
<b>Expenditure</b>	<b>£'000</b>	<b>£'000</b>
Employee Benefits Expenses	351,485	366,612
Other Services Expenses	350,543	365,952
Depreciation, Amortisation and Impairment	92,372	77,877
Interest Payments	11,505	11,397
Precepts and Levies	33,801	35,636
Loss on the Disposal of Assets	22	0
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>839,728</b>	<b>857,474</b>
<b>Income</b>		
Fees, Charges and Other Service Income	(250,277)	(289,082)
Interest and Investment Income	(652)	(921)
Income from Council Tax and NNDR	(212,313)	(215,507)
Gain on the Disposal of Assets	0	(358)
Government Grants and Contributions	(352,355)	(386,299)
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>(815,597)</b>	<b>(892,167)</b>
<b>(Surplus) or Deficit on the Provision of Services</b>	<b>24,131</b>	<b>(34,693)</b>

## 21.0 Members' Allowances

The Local Authorities (Allowances for Members of County and County Borough Councils and National Parks Authorities) (Wales) Regulations 2002, require authorities to make public their schemes for Members' allowances and to disclose annually amounts paid to each Member under such schemes.

During the year the Council paid the following amounts in respect of basic allowances, special responsibility allowances and dependent care allowances to 75 Members (excluding employer's national insurance contributions, employer's pension contribution and other associated costs).

	2019/20	2020/21
	£'000	£'000
Allowances	1,322	1,338
Expenses	29	21
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,351</b>	<b>1,359</b>

Details of all remuneration and allowances paid annually by the Council to each Councillor and Co-opted Member is published on the Council's website following the end of each financial year.

## 22.0 Officers' Remuneration

Statutory guidance issued by Welsh Ministers recommends the use of pay multipliers as a means of measuring the relationship between pay rates across the workforce and that of senior managers, as included within the Hutton 'Review of Fair Pay in the Public Sector' (2010).

Rhondda Cynon Taf CBC's remuneration ratio is 1:8 (1:8 in 2019/20) with the median earnings being £19,698 (£18,612 in 2019/20). This is the ratio between the Chief Executive's pay and the median earnings of the workforce within the Council, including employees of Central South Consortium and Voluntary Aided Schools, using current pay levels.

Under the Accounts and Audit (Wales) Regulations 2014 (as amended), local authorities must disclose in their accounts the number of employees whose remuneration in the year fell in each bracket of a scale in multiples of £5,000 commencing at £60,000 (excluding employer pension contributions). The disclosure includes redundancy payments.

During 2020/21 the average number of employees paid per month by the Council was 9,920 (9,887 2019/20), paying total remuneration of £241m (excluding employer's national insurance and pension contributions) (£231m 2019/20). Within this, the following remuneration payments were made within the categories specified:

Remuneration Band	2019/20	2020/21		
	No. of Employees	No. of Employees		
	Total	At 31/03/21	Left in Year	Total
£60,000 - £64,999	77	45	2	47
£65,000 - £69,999	52	63	4	67
£70,000 - £74,999	10	30	0	30
£75,000 - £79,999	4	7	0	7
£80,000 - £84,999	4	6	0	6
£85,000 - £89,999	4	3	2	5
£90,000 - £94,999	7	2	1	3
£95,000 - £99,999	2	7	1	8
£100,000 - £104,999	1	1	0	1
£105,000 - £109,999	0	2	1	3
£110,000 - £114,999	0	0	0	0
£115,000 - £119,999	0	0	0	0
£120,000 - £124,999	2	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>163</b>	<b>166</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>177</b>

Officers employed by Voluntary Aided Schools have been excluded.

Salary costs for Joint Committees are not included in the above note, but can be found in the relevant Joint Committee Statement of Accounts. However, a percentage of Joint Committee salaries has been consolidated into the Net Cost of Services within the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

The above table excludes specific Senior Officers, disclosed in the following table.



The following table sets out the remuneration for specific Senior Officers;

- Senior Officers whose salary is £60,000 or more per annum but less than £150,000. These are identified by job title.
- Senior Officers whose salary is £150,000 or more on an annualised basis. These are identified by name.
- Employer pension contributions are included.

Post Holder Information  (Post Title)	2019/20			2020/21						
	Total Remuneration	Employer's Pension Contributions	Total Remuneration Including Employer's Pension Contributions	Salary	Taxable Benefits in Kind	Compensation for Loss of Employment		Total Remuneration	Employer's Pension Contributions	Total Remuneration Including Employer's Pension Contributions
						Redundancy	Early Access Costs			
£'000			£'000							
Chief Executive - Chris Bradshaw	151	39	190	154	1	0	0	155	33	188
Group Director, Community & Children's Services & Deputy Chief Executive to 31/12/2020	121	31	152	93	0	0	0	93	20	113
Group Director, Community & Children's Services wef 01/01/2021	0	0	0	31	0	0	0	31	7	38
Director of Public Health, Protection & Community Services to 31/12/2020	90	24	114	73	0	0	0	73	16	89
Group Director, Prosperity, Development & Frontline Services to 31/12/2020	121	31	152	93	0	0	0	93	20	113
Group Director, Prosperity, Development & Frontline Services & Deputy Chief Exec wef 01/01/2021	0	0	0	31	0	0	0	31	7	38

*Continued Overleaf...*

Director of Education & Inclusion Services	90	24	<b>114</b>	93	0	0	0	<b>93</b>	20	<b>113</b>
Director of Human Resources	98	25	<b>123</b>	100	0	0	0	<b>100</b>	22	<b>122</b>
Director of Finance & Digital Services (& Section 151 Officer)	98	25	<b>123</b>	100	0	0	0	<b>100</b>	22	<b>122</b>
Director of Legal Services	89	23	<b>112</b>	92	1	0	0	<b>93</b>	20	<b>113</b>
Director of Legal Services - Returning Officer	4	0	<b>4</b>	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>	0	<b>0</b>
Director of Corporate Estates	91	23	<b>114</b>	93	0	0	0	<b>93</b>	20	<b>113</b>
Director of Regeneration & Planning to 12/04/19	3	1	<b>4</b>	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>	0	<b>0</b>
Director of Prosperity & Development	90	24	<b>114</b>	94	0	0	0	<b>94</b>	20	<b>114</b>
Director of Public Health, Protection & Community Services wef 01/01/2021	0	0	<b>0</b>	23	0	0	0	<b>23</b>	5	<b>28</b>
Service Director - Democratic Services & Communications	69	18	<b>87</b>	71	0	0	0	<b>71</b>	15	<b>86</b>

The table above represents the Senior Leadership Team for Rhondda Cynon Taf CBC. Disclosure of Senior Officer remuneration of Joint Committees are included in the relevant Joint Committee Statement of Accounts.

## 23.0 Severance Costs

This note provides details of the cost of severance to the Council in respect of employees who have left the employment of the Council during the financial year (costs do not reflect the value of the severance received by the individual as it includes pension strain). All costs incurred are in line with the Council's relevant and applicable schemes of termination and as required under relevant Pension Fund Regulations where applicable, with each decision being based upon and supported by a business case.

The number and costs (in bandings) of compulsory and other terminations are set out in the table below

Severance Cost Band	Number of Compulsory Terminations		Number of Other Terminations		Total Number of Terminations		Total Cost of Severance	
	2019/20	2020/21	2019/20	2020/21	2019/20	2020/21	2019/20	2020/21
£							£'000	
£0 - £20,000	5	2	173	75	178	77	1,023	336
£20,001 - £40,000	2	2	28	13	30	15	798	416
£40,001 - £60,000	2	0	11	6	13	6	660	276
£60,001 - £80,000	1	0	4	5	5	5	353	333
£80,001 - £100,000	2	0	3	4	5	4	441	326
£100,001 - £150,000	6	0	10	2	16	2	1,948	258
£150,001 - £200,000	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	153
<b>Total</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>229</b>	<b>106</b>	<b>247</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>5,223</b>	<b>2,098</b>

During 2020/21, the Council saved annual payroll costs of £1,264k (£3,535k 2019/20) through Voluntary Redundancy and Voluntary Early Retirement.

Severance Costs for Joint Committees are not included in the above note but can be found in the relevant Joint Committee Statement of Accounts. However, a percentage of Joint Committee severance costs has been consolidated into the Net Cost of Services within the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

## 24.0 External Audit Costs

The estimated costs to the Council for financial year 2020/21 in relation to the audit of the Statement of Accounts for certification of grant claims, statutory inspections and other services provided by the Council's external auditors are set out in the table below:

	2019/20	2020/21
	Actual	Estimated
<b>Fees Payable to the Auditor General for Wales</b>	£'000	£'000
External audit services carried out by the Statutory Auditor for the year	230	230
Local Government Measure Work	94	94
Certification of Grant Claims and Returns for the year	61	55
<b>Total</b>	<b>385</b>	<b>379</b>

## 25.0 Non-Domestic Rates

The level of Non-Domestic Rates (NDR) is based on a “multiplier” set nationally by the Welsh Government, multiplied by the rateable value of a particular property. This calculation will give the property a rate liability for the year. The multiplier for 2020/21 was 53.5p (52.6p for 2019/20). The total rateable value as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021 was £129.0m (£128.8m as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020).

The Council is responsible for collecting the business rates in its area and pays the proceeds into the NDR pool administered by the Welsh Government. The Welsh Government redistributes total collections back to local authorities on the basis of a fixed amount per head of population. Total NDR collected from ratepayers in respect of 2020/21 rates is £36.1m (£50.5m in 2019/20). The contribution back to the Council from the pool in the year amounted to £74.6m (£76.4m in 2019/20) and the amount payable to the pool amounts to £54.2m (£53.3m in 2019/20 (Restated)). As the Council acts as an agent collecting income on behalf of the Welsh Government, the income collected is not recognised as income in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

## 26.0 Council Tax

Council Tax income derives from charges raised according to the value of residential properties. Charges are calculated by taking the amount of income required for Rhondda Cynon Taf CBC, the Police and Crime Commissioner for South Wales and the Community Councils for the year, and dividing this amount by the Council Tax base.

The Council Tax base for 2020/21 was calculated to be £77,334.38 (compared with £76,873.20 for 2019/20). This represents the anticipated yield for every £1 of Council Tax levied.

The base is calculated by placing properties in ten bands (A\*-I). After allowing for discounts and exemptions, these are then converted to the equivalent number of Band D properties, using the appropriate multiplier as below:

Band	A*	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
No. of Properties	218	39,116	21,951	14,783	8,445	6,260	3,160	1,088	180	32
Multiplier	5/9	6/9	7/9	8/9	1	11/9	13/9	15/9	18/9	21/9

The resultant number of Band D properties is reduced by a percentage to reflect anticipated non-collection. The target collection rate for 2020/21 was 97.5%.

An analysis of the net proceeds from Council Tax is shown as follows:

<b>Council Tax Analysis</b>	<b>2019/20</b>	<b>2020/21</b>
	<b>£'000</b>	<b>£'000</b>
Council Tax Collectable	135,930	140,915
<b>Net Proceeds from Council Tax</b>	<b>135,930</b>	<b>140,915</b>
Less Payable:		
Police and Crime Commissioner for South Wales	(19,796)	(21,090)
Community Councils	(2,056)	(2,140)
<b>Total</b>	<b>114,078</b>	<b>117,685</b>

## **27.0 Grant Income**

The following grants, contributions and donations were credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement in 2020/21:

### **27.1 Credited to Services**

A number of grants and contributions have been recognised as income within Net Cost of Services. This income amounts to £268m in 2020/21 (in 2019/20 these grants and contributions amounted to £215m).

### **27.2 Capital Grants Receipts in Advance**

All Capital Grants received have been recognised as income within the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

## **28.0 Agency Transactions**

During the Covid-19 pandemic, the Welsh Government provided funding for "Business Grants to Support Businesses" and "Start Up Grants". These were administered by the Council and accounted for as an agency arrangement. The value received from the Welsh Government in 2020/21 amounted to £76.5m, which included £2.7m relating to grants paid by the Council in 2019/20. The amount of 2020/21 grants paid and payable totalled £73.4m.

## **29.0 Related Parties**

The Council is required to disclose material transactions with related parties – bodies or individuals that have the potential to control or influence the Council or to be controlled or influenced by the Council. Disclosure of these transactions allows readers to assess the extent to which the Council might have been constrained in its ability to operate independently or might have secured the ability to limit another party's ability to bargain freely.

## 29.1 Welsh Government

The Welsh Government is responsible for providing the statutory framework within which the Council operates, provides the majority of its funding in the form of grants and prescribes the terms of many of the transactions that the Council has with other parties (e.g. Council Tax bills). Transactions between the Council and Welsh Government are as follows:

	2019/20	2020/21
	£'000	£'000
Non-Ringfenced Government Grants	(293,404)	(321,312)
Capital Grants and Contributions	(62,570)	(67,128)
Credited to Services	(146,865)	(206,453)
<b>Total</b>	<b>(502,839)</b>	<b>(594,893)</b>

## 29.2 Chief Officers and Members

### Members of the Council

Under the Code of Conduct incorporated in the Council's Constitution, Members are required to record in the Register of Members Interests any financial and other personal interests, together with any gift, hospitality, material benefit or advantage. The Register is open to inspection by the public and is available on an individual Member basis on the Council website.

Members of the Council are nominated to serve on numerous outside bodies some of which either receive funding from the Council or issue levies and precepts to be paid by the Council. When sitting on these bodies Members are expected to act independently and not to represent the views of the County Borough Council. Membership details are available from the Service Director Cabinet Office and Public Relations, The Pavilions, Clydach Vale.

During 2020/21 there were no Members identified as having a controlling interest in any company commissioned to supply works or services to the Council of any material value. However, Members have identified interests with organisations with which the Council has had financial transactions during 2020/21. The value of these transactions amounted to payments of £2,326k (£1,786k in 2019/20), of which £124k was outstanding at year end (nil in 2019/20), and receipts of £181k (£260k in 2019/20), of which £19k was outstanding at year end (£23k in 2019/20).

The Council has transactions with a Construction Company that carries out work on Council owned properties. A Member of the Council declared that a relative is an Electrical and Project Manager within this company. Payments to the company amount to £3,106k with nil outstanding at year end. No receipts were received during 2020/21. The Member did not take part in any discussion, decision or administration relating to the services.

The Council has transactions with a Transport Company that leases a Council owned property. A Member of the Council declared that a relative is a Director within this company. Payments to the company amount to £710k of which £335k was outstanding at year end and receipts of £1,421k, of which nil was outstanding. The Member did not take part in any discussion, decision or administration relating to the services.

### **Chief Officers (Senior Leadership Team)**

Under the Employees' Code of Conduct, Officers are required to declare potential conflicts of interest arising from employment arrangements together with gifts or hospitality and offers thereof and, under Section 117 of the 1972 Local Government Act, contractual arrangements where there is a conflict of interest. Most professional bodies also have codes of professional conduct to which members of those bodies are expected to adhere.

During 2020/21, the Council had transactions with a company that provides specialist support to people with disabilities. A member of the Senior Leadership Team of the Council declared that a relative is one of the trustees of the company. The value of these transactions amounted to payments of £7,328k (£6,825k in 2019/20), of which £1,171k was outstanding at year end (nil in 2019/20), and receipts of £208k (£222k in 2019/20), of which £1k was outstanding (nil in 2019/20). The Officer did not take part in any discussion, decision or administration relating to the services.

The Council has transactions with a Construction Company that carries out work on Council owned properties. A Member of the Senior Leadership Team of the Council declared that a relative is a director of the company. The value of these transactions amounted to payments of £2,197k (£3,000k in 2019/20), of which £33k was outstanding at year end (nil in 2019/20), and receipts of £1k (£1k in 2019/20), of which £1k was outstanding at year end (£1k in 2019/20). The Officer did not take part in any discussion, decision or administration relating to the services.

The Council has transactions with a neighbouring University Health Board and a Member of the Senior Leadership Team of the Council declared that a relative holds an Executive Director position within this organisation. The value of these transactions amounted to payments of £450k (£379k in 2019/20), of which nil was outstanding at year end (nil in 2019/20), and no receipts (£28k in 2019/20), of which nil was outstanding at year end (£19k in 2019/20). The Officer did not take part in any discussion, decision or administration relating to the services.

There were no other transactions of material value.

### **29.3 Precepts and Levies**

Details of precepts collected on behalf of other organisations are provided in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

An analysis of precepts is given in the following table:

	2019/20	2020/21
	£'000	£'000
Police and Crime Commissioner for South Wales	19,796	21,090
Community Councils	2,056	2,140
<b>Total</b>	<b>21,852</b>	<b>23,230</b>

An analysis of levies is given in the following table:

	2019/20	2020/21
	£'000	£'000
South Wales Fire and Rescue Service	11,252	11,730
Coroner	485	464
Brecon Beacons National Park	48	48
Glamorgan Archives Joint Committee	164	164
<b>Total</b>	<b>11,949</b>	<b>12,406</b>

#### **29.4 Rhondda Cynon Taf Pension Fund**

The Director of Finance & Digital Services is also the responsible Finance Officer to the Rhondda Cynon Taf Pension Fund. The Council charged the Pension Fund an amount of £1.4m (£1.5m in 2019/20) in respect of administration and support during financial year 2020/21. The amount owed from the Council to the Pension Fund as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021 is nil (nil as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020).

#### **29.5 Associated and Subsidiary Companies**

The Council has an interest in three companies: namely; Amgen Cymru Ltd., Amgen Rhondda Ltd. and Capita Glamorgan Consultancy Ltd. Officers of the Council are directors of Amgen Cymru Ltd and Amgen Rhondda Ltd. During 2020/21 the following related party transactions took place with these companies.

##### **Amgen Cymru Ltd.**

The Council paid Amgen Cymru £10,233k (£7,145k in 2019/20) in respect of waste management and waste disposal charges, with £1,554k (£1,400k in 2019/20) due to the company at the year-end. Amgen Cymru paid the Council £1,067k (£843k in 2019/20) in respect of goods and services, with £110k (£65k in 2019/20) due to the Council at the year-end.

##### **Amgen Rhondda Ltd.**

The Council paid Amgen Rhondda £175k (£175k in 2019/20) in respect of site management fees, with nil (nil in 2019/20) outstanding at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021.



## **Capita Glamorgan Consultancy Ltd.**

Capita Glamorgan Consultancy Ltd is a Joint Venture between Capita Symonds and Bridgend, Merthyr Tydfil and Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Councils. The Council owns 27.93% of the shares of the company and holds voting rights to this value on the Board.

During 2020/21, the Council was charged £6,490k (£4,524k in 2019/20) in respect of goods, services and capital works. The balance owed to Capita Glamorgan Consultancy Ltd at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021 was £1,136k (£920k in 2019/20).

Capita Glamorgan Consultancy Ltd paid the Council nil (nil in 2019/20) in respect of goods and services, with nil (nil in 2019/20) due to the Council at the year-end.

## **29.6 Joint Committees**

The Council participates in the following Joint Committees.

### **Glamorgan Archives Joint Committee**

The Glamorgan Record Office is managed and administered by the Glamorgan Archives Joint Committee under powers conferred by the Local Government (Wales) Act 1994. The Joint Committee has 16 members in total. There are 4 Rhondda Cynon Taf CBC Members on the Joint Committee.

During 2020/21, the Council contributed to the Joint Committee an amount of £164k (£164k in 2019/20). This was calculated proportionately based upon population.

### **Llwydcoed Crematorium**

Llwydcoed Crematorium is subject to the control of a Joint Committee of Members from Rhondda Cynon Taf CBC and Merthyr Tydfil CBC.

During 2020/21, the Council charged Llwydcoed Crematorium £41k (£40k in 2019/20) in respect of central establishment charges. As at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021 the Council held cash balances relating to the Crematorium of £1,519k (£1,002k in 2019/20).

### **Education School Improvement Service (ESIS)**

ESIS became non-operational from 1<sup>st</sup> September 2012 and was administered by a Joint Committee comprising Bridgend, Caerphilly, Merthyr Tydfil and Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Councils.

Exit agreement negotiations are ongoing.

### **Central South Consortium Joint Education Service (CSCJES)**

The Central South Consortium Joint Education Service provides a range of school improvement services within the local authority areas of Bridgend, Cardiff, Merthyr Tydfil, Rhondda Cynon Taf and the Vale of Glamorgan.

The Council consolidates 27.29% of the assets, liabilities and transactions of CSCJES into its financial statements.

During 2020/21, the Council received income of £391k from CSCJES (received income of £198k in 2019/20) in respect of advisory and training services, along with grants of £19,856k (£18,978k in 2019/20), and charged CSCJES £112k (£114k in 2019/20) in respect of central establishment charges. The Council also paid CSEC expenditure of £1,009k (£1,034k in 2019/20). As at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021 the Council owed cash balances of £1,984k relating to CSCJES (the Council owed cash balances to CSCJES of £1,422k as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020). As part of the Joint Committee consolidation process, offsetting transactions and balances are removed from the accounts to ensure individual values are not overstated. CSCJES distributes grants to participating authorities on behalf of Welsh Government.

### **Coychurch Crematorium**

Coychurch Crematorium is owned and operated by a Joint Committee on behalf of Bridgend CBC, the Vale of Glamorgan Council and Rhondda Cynon Taf CBC.

At 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021 there were no balances outstanding between the Council and Coychurch Crematorium (no balances outstanding as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020).

### **Vale, Valleys and Cardiff Regional Adoption Collaborative (VVC)**

The Vale, Valleys and Cardiff Regional Adoption Collaborative (VVC) became operational on 1<sup>st</sup> June 2015 and is administered by the Vale of Glamorgan Council. It is comprised of the adoption services of the Vale of Glamorgan Council, Rhondda Cynon Taf CBC, Merthyr Tydfil CBC and Cardiff City and County Council. It is one of five regional Collaboratives which form part of the National Adoption Service in Wales (NAS).

During 2020/21, the Council contributed £579k to the Vale, Valleys and Cardiff Regional Adoption Collaborative (£585k in 2019/20).

### **Cardiff Capital Region City Deal (CCRCD)**

On 15<sup>th</sup> March 2016, the ten Council Leaders in South East Wales, the First Minister, the Welsh Government Minister for Finance and Government Business, the Secretary of State for Wales and the Chief Secretary to the Treasury signed the Cardiff Capital Region City Deal, an agreement between the UK Government, the Welsh Government and the ten leaders to develop

and manage £1.2 billion investment in the Cardiff Capital Region's infrastructure through a 20-year Investment Fund.

The Council consolidates 15.77% of the assets, liabilities and transactions of CCRCD into its financial statements.

During 2020/21, there was a revenue contribution to CCRCD of £346k (£172k in 2019/20), there was a capital contribution of £315k (nil in 2019/20).

## **29.7 Partnership Agreement**

### **Biogen Tomorrow's Valley Food Waste Plant**

The Biogen Food Waste Plant became fully operational on the 19<sup>th</sup> July 2015. The 3 local authorities who form the Hub (Rhondda Cynon Taf CBC, Merthyr CBC and Newport City Council) send a combined annual contracted guaranteed minimum tonnage of 13,500 tonnes to be treated at the facility. In 2020/21 a total amount of £1,117k (£1,040k in 2019/20) associated costs have been incurred by the parties, of which RCT's associated costs in 2020/21 were £613k (£572k in 2019/20), with Welsh Government contributing £124k (£124k in 2019/20) of grant funding.

## **29.8 Other Related Parties**

### **Trivallis**

Trivallis is one of Wales' largest registered social landlords providing homes for thousands of families in Rhondda Cynon Taf. There is 1 Rhondda Cynon Taf CBC Member and 1 officer on the board of Trivallis.

During 2020/21, the Council paid Trivallis £1,614k (£1,438k in 2019/20) and received income of £1,282k (£1,540k in 2019/20). At year-end, Trivallis owed £253k to the Council (£439k in 2019/20).

In line with the Council's agreed Investment Strategy, following appropriate due diligence and subject to appropriate and acceptable security arrangements being put in place, the Council entered into a commercially agreed loan arrangement with Trivallis, for an amount of £5,250k. As at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021 £4,250k was outstanding.

## **30.0 Capital Expenditure and Capital Financing**

The total amount of capital expenditure incurred in the year is shown in the table below (including the value of assets acquired under finance leases), together with the resources that have been used to finance it. Where capital expenditure is to be financed in future years by charges to revenue as assets are used by the Council, the expenditure results in an increase in the Capital Financing Requirement (CFR) - a measure of the capital expenditure incurred historically by the Council that has yet to be financed. The CFR is analysed in the second part of this note.

	2019/20	2020/21
	£'000	£'000
Opening Capital Financing Requirement	469,183	493,487
<b>Capital Investment:</b>		
Property, Plant & Equipment	99,157	90,255
Intangible Assets	1,830	1,330
Revenue Expenditure Funded from Capital Under Statute	20,297	10,735
	<b>121,284</b>	<b>102,320</b>
<b>Sources of Finance:</b>		
Capital Receipts	(3,724)	(515)
Government Grants and Other Contributions	(63,226)	(62,674)
	<b>(66,950)</b>	<b>(63,189)</b>
<b>Sums Set Aside from Revenue:</b>		
Direct Revenue Contributions	(17,839)	(14,209)
Minimum Revenue Payment	(12,191)	(13,561)
	<b>(30,030)</b>	<b>(27,770)</b>
<b>Closing Capital Financing Requirement</b>	<b>493,487</b>	<b>504,848</b>
<b>Explanation of Movements in Year</b>		
Increase/(Decrease) in underlying need to borrowing supported by government financial assistance)	(413)	(663)
Increase in underlying need to borrowing (unsupported by government financial assistance)	24,718	12,025
Finance Leases	(1)	(1)
<b>Increase/(Decrease) in Capital Financing Requirement</b>	<b>24,304</b>	<b>11,361</b>

### 31.0 Leases

The following disclosures relate to the Council as a lessee.

#### 31.1 Finance Leases

The Council has a number of properties arranged under finance leases. The assets acquired under these leases are carried as Property, Plant and Equipment in the Balance Sheet at the following net amounts:

	31/03/20	31/03/21
	£'000	£'000
Other Land and Buildings	121	153

These assets are part of the Council's impairment review.

The Council is committed to making minimum payments under these leases comprising settlement of the long-term liability for the interest in the property acquired and finance costs that will be payable in future years while the liability

remains outstanding. The minimum lease payments are made up of the following amounts:

	31/03/20	31/03/21
	£'000	£'000
Finance Lease Liabilities:		
Current	1	1
Long-Term	384	383
Finance costs payable in future years	1,210	1,188
<b>Minimum Lease Payments</b>	<b>1,595</b>	<b>1,572</b>

The minimum lease payments will be payable over the following periods:

	Minimum Lease Payments		Finance Lease Liabilities	
	31/03/20	31/03/21	31/03/20	31/03/21
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Less than 1 year	23	23	1	1
1 to 5 years	91	90	3	3
Greater than 5 years	1,481	1,459	380	379
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,595</b>	<b>1,572</b>	<b>384</b>	<b>383</b>

### 31.2 Operating Leases

The future minimum lease payments due under non-cancellable operating leases in future years are demonstrated in the table below. Examples of such assets utilised under operating lease arrangements are photocopiers and printers.

	31/03/20			31/03/21		
	Other Land & Buildings	Vehicles, Plant & Equip.	Totals	Other Land & Buildings	Vehicles, Plant & Equip.	Totals
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Not later than 1 year	352	443	795	526	746	1,272
Later than 1 year and not later than 5 years	1,275	837	2,112	1,991	1,528	3,519
Later than 5 years	6,861	408	7,269	6,983	304	7,287
<b>Total</b>	<b>8,488</b>	<b>1,688</b>	<b>10,176</b>	<b>9,500</b>	<b>2,578</b>	<b>12,078</b>

The expenditure charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement during the year in relation to these leases was:

	31/03/20	31/03/21
	£'000	£'000
Minimum Lease Payments	1,514	1,478

**31.3 Sub-Leases**

The Council has sub-let buildings. Non-cancellable sub-lease payments are expected to be received until expiry of the lease agreement, as shown in the table below:

	<b>2019/20</b>	<b>2020/21</b>
	<b>£'000</b>	<b>£'000</b>
Less than 1 year	94	113
1 to 5 years	176	193
Greater than 5 years	53	75
<b>Total</b>	<b>323</b>	<b>381</b>

**32.0 Impairment Losses**

During 2020/21, the Council has recognised an impairment loss of £20.7m (a loss of £17.1m in 2019/20) in relation to its Long-Term Assets. This impairment charge is included within the Long-Term Asset note 6.1, which also includes reversal of impairment from previous years.

### **33.0 Retirement Benefits - Defined Benefit Schemes**

#### **33.1 Participation in Pension Schemes**

As part of their terms and conditions Members and Officers are offered retirement benefits by the Council. Although these benefits will not actually be payable until retirement, the Council has a commitment to make these payments. The liability for these payments needs to be accounted for at the time the future entitlement is earned.

The Council participates in two pension schemes:

- Teachers - Please refer to note 34.0.
- Other Employees and Members - The Local Government Pension Scheme administered by Rhondda Cynon Taf CBC. This is a funded defined benefit career average scheme. The Council and participants pay contributions into the fund calculated at a level intended to balance the pensions liabilities with investment assets. The pension costs that are charged to the Council's accounts are defined by IAS 19 "Employee Benefits".

The CSCJES Joint Committee charges pension costs to their accounts in line with IAS 19. The Rhondda Cynon Taf CBC share of these entries is consolidated into the main accounts, and disclosed in the following notes.

#### **33.2 Transactions Relating to Post-Employment Benefits**

The cost of retirement benefits is recognised in the cost of services when they are earned by employees, rather than when the benefits are eventually paid as pensions. However, the charge we are required to make against Council Tax is based on the cash payable in the year, so the real cost of post employment/retirement benefits is reversed out of the Council Fund via the Movement in Reserves Statement. The following transactions have been made in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement and the Council Fund Balance via the Movement in Reserves Statement during the year:

	2019/20	2020/21		
		RCT	Joint Comm's	Total
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
<b>Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement:</b>				
Cost of Services:				
Current Service Cost	57,044	56,860	286	57,146
Past Service Cost	2,196	1,030	0	1,030
Consolidation Adjustment	0	0	0	0
<i>Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure:</i>				
Net Interest Expense	13,657	14,570	9	14,579
<b>Total Post Employment Benefit charged to the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services</b>	<b>72,897</b>	<b>72,460</b>	<b>295</b>	<b>72,755</b>
<i>Remeasurement of the Net Defined Benefit Liability Comprising:</i>				
Return on Plan Assets (Excluding the Amount Included in the Net Interest Expense)	55,419	(345,000)	(1,938)	(346,938)
Actuarial (Gains) and Losses Arising on Liabilities - Demographic Assumptions	(20,936)	0	0	0
Actuarial (Gains) and Losses Arising on Liabilities - Financial Assumptions	(33,794)	378,470	1,565	380,035
Actuarial (Gains) and Losses Arising on Liabilities - Experience	16,100	(19,530)	(87)	(19,617)
Net Increase in Liabilities from Disposals/Aquisitions on Liabilities - Experience	0	0	0	0
Consolidation Adjustment	0	0	0	0
<b>Total Post Employment Benefit charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement</b>	<b>89,686</b>	<b>86,400</b>	<b>(165)</b>	<b>86,235</b>
<b>Movement in Reserves Statement:</b>				
Reversal of net charges made to the Surplus or Deficit for the Provision of Services for post employment benefits in accordance with the code	(72,897)	(72,460)	(295)	(72,755)
Actual amount charged against the Council Fund Balance for pensions in the year:				
Employers' contributions payable to scheme	40,690	35,120	52	35,172

The total remeasurement of the Net Defined Benefit Liability recognised in Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure to the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021 is a loss of £13.5m (£16.8m loss in 2019/20).



The cumulative amount of actuarial gains and losses recognised in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement to the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021 is a loss of £128.3m.

### 33.3 Reconciliation of Present Value of the Scheme Liabilities

	2019/20	2020/21		
		RCT	Joint Comm's	Total
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
<b>Balance at 1<sup>st</sup> April</b>	<b>1,741,294</b>	<b>1,753,790</b>	<b>7,165</b>	<b>1,760,955</b>
Current Service Cost	57,044	56,860	286	57,146
Interest Cost on Defined Obligation	40,833	39,910	164	40,074
Contributions by scheme participants	9,095	9,670	72	9,742
<b>Remeasurement (Gains) and Losses</b>				
Actuarial (Gains) and Losses Arising on Liabilities - Demographic Assumptions	(20,936)	0	0	0
Actuarial (Gains) and Losses Arising on Liabilities - Financial Assumptions	(33,794)	378,470	1,565	380,035
Actuarial (Gains) and Losses Arising on Liabilities - Experience	16,100	(19,530)	(87)	(19,617)
Benefits paid	(50,877)	(48,980)	(128)	(49,108)
Past service costs	2,196	1,030	0	1,030
Consolidation Adjustment	0	0	0	0
<b>Balance at 31<sup>st</sup> March</b>	<b>1,760,955</b>	<b>2,171,220</b>	<b>9,037</b>	<b>2,180,257</b>

### 33.4 Reconciliation of Fair Value of the Scheme Assets

	2019/20	2020/21		
		RCT	Joint Comm's	Total
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
<b>Balance at 1<sup>st</sup> April</b>	<b>1,132,656</b>	<b>1,096,570</b>	<b>6,751</b>	<b>1,103,321</b>
Interest Income	27,176	25,340	155	25,495
<b>Remeasurement (Gains) and Losses:</b>				
The Return on Plan Assets, Excluding the Amount Included in the Net Interest Expense	(55,419)	345,000	1,938	346,938
Employer contributions	40,690	35,120	52	35,172
Contributions by scheme participants	9,095	9,670	71	9,741
Benefits paid	(50,877)	(48,980)	(128)	(49,108)
Net Increase in Assets from Disposals/Aquisitions	0	0	0	0
Consolidation Adjustment	0	0	0	0
<b>Balance at 31<sup>st</sup> March</b>	<b>1,103,321</b>	<b>1,462,720</b>	<b>8,839</b>	<b>1,471,559</b>

The expected return on scheme assets is determined by considering the expected returns available on the assets underlying the current investment policy. Expected yields on fixed interest investments are based on gross redemption yields as at the Balance Sheet date.

Expected returns on equity investments reflect long-term real rates of return experienced in the respective markets. The actual return on scheme assets in the year was a gain of £365.37m (£21.18m loss in 2019/20).

### 33.5 Scheme History

	2016/17 Inc Joint Comm's	2017/18 Inc Joint Comm's	2018/19 Inc Joint Comm's	2019/20 Inc Joint Comm's	2020/21 Inc Joint Comm's
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Present Value of the Defined Obligation	(1,564,560)	(1,644,122)	(1,741,294)	(1,760,955)	(2,180,257)
Fair Value of Plan Assets	985,512	1,032,264	1,132,656	1,103,321	1,471,559
<b>Surplus/(Deficit)</b>	<b>(579,048)</b>	<b>(611,858)</b>	<b>(608,638)</b>	<b>(657,634)</b>	<b>(708,698)</b>

The liabilities show the underlying commitments that the Council has in the long run to pay post-employment (retirement) benefits. The total liability of £709m has a substantial impact on the Net Worth of the Council as recorded in the Balance Sheet. However, statutory arrangements for funding the deficit mean that the financial position of the Council is not impacted upon. The deficit on the local government scheme will be made good in line with actuarial assumptions.

### 33.6 Local Government Pension Scheme Assets

As at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021, the Rhondda Cynon Taf Pension Fund Assets used in IAS19 calculations comprised of:

Fair Value of Scheme Assets		
	2019/20	2020/21
	£'000	£'000
UK Equities	269,841	491,294
Overseas Equities	1,867,679	2,769,614
UK Fixed Interest Gilts	417,123	372,929
UK Corporate Bonds	383,684	550,961
Overseas Government Bonds	44,776	0
Overseas Corporate Bonds	50,846	0
Property	287,697	282,289
Cash and Net Current Assets	28,578	26,320
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,350,224</b>	<b>4,493,407</b>

### **33.7 Basis for Estimating Assets and Liabilities**

#### **Roll-forward of Assets**

The valuation results from the last full valuation of the Fund (or results at the previous accounting date as appropriate) are adjusted to the accounting year-end allowing for:

- Investment returns, and
- Cash-flows including investment returns on those cashflows.

The asset value at the start of the accounting period is accumulated with the Fund investment return over the accounting period. Net cashflows are assumed to be paid halfway through the period and accrue half of the Fund investment return over the period.

#### **Roll-forward of Liabilities**

The valuation results from the last full valuation of the Fund (or results at the previous accounting date as appropriate) are adjusted to allow for the later calculation date (by adding interest to the liabilities) and make allowance for changes in liabilities due to:

- The accrual of new benefits and the discharge of liabilities from the payment of benefits.
- The financial and demographic assumptions adopted at the year-end.
- The impact of any known experience affecting the liabilities, such as the impact of actual pension increases on pensions in payment and deferred benefits.
- If applicable, the impact of events which result in a change in the liability such as past service costs, settlements and curtailments.

The full valuation was based on funded benefits and the principal assumptions used by the actuary have been:

	31/03/20	31/03/21
Long-Term Expected Rate of Return on Assets in the Scheme (in line with the discount rate)	4.3%	4.25%
Mortality assumptions:		
Longevity at 65 for current pensioners:		
Men	21.7	21.8
Women	24.0	24.1
Longevity at 65 for future pensioners:		
Men	22.7	22.8
Women	25.5	25.6
Rate of inflation (CPI)	2.0%	2.7%
Rate of increase in salaries	3.25%	3.95%
Rate of increase in pensions	2.0%	2.7%
Rate for discounting scheme liabilities	2.3%	2.1%
Take-up of option to convert annual pension into retirement lump sum:		
Post-2010 Service	80%	80%
Pre-2010 Service	80%	80%

The estimation of the defined benefit obligations is sensitive to the actuarial assumptions set out in the table above. The sensitivity analysis below has been determined based on reasonably possible changes of the assumptions occurring at the end of the reporting period and assumes for each change that the assumption analysed changes while all the other assumptions remain constant.

	RCT		Joint Committes		Total	
	Increase in Assumption	Decrease in Assumption	Increase in Assumption	Decrease in Assumption	Increase in Assumption	Decrease in Assumption
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Longevity (Increase or Decrease in 1 Year)	77,810	(75,650)	325	(316)	78,135	(75,966)
Rate of Increase in Salaries (Increase or Decrease by 0.1%)	6,480	(6,480)	18	(18)	6,498	(6,498)
Rate of Increase in Pensions (Increase or Decrease by 0.1%)	38,900	(38,900)	172	(172)	39,072	(39,072)
Rate for Discounting Scheme Liabilities (Increase or Decrease by 0.1%)	(45,390)	45,390	(190)	190	(45,580)	45,580

### **33.8 Contributions for the Accounting Period ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022**

The Employer's regular contributions to the Fund for the accounting period 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022 are estimated to be £35.9m. In addition, "strain on fund" contributions may be required.

Further information can be found in the Pension Fund Annual Report, which is on the [RCT Pension Fund website](#) and also available on request from the Director of Finance & Digital Services, Oldway House, Porth, Rhondda, CF39 9ST.

### **34.0 Retirement Benefits - Defined Contribution Schemes**

Teachers employed by the Council are members of the Teachers' Pension Scheme, administered by Teachers' Pensions on behalf of the Department for Education. The Scheme provides teachers with specified benefits upon their retirement, and the Council contributes towards the costs by making contributions based on a percentage of members' pensionable salaries.

The Scheme is technically a defined benefit scheme. However, the Scheme is unfunded and the Department for Education uses a notional fund as the basis for calculating the employers' contribution rate paid by local authorities. The Council is not able to identify its share of underlying financial position and performance of the Scheme with sufficient reliability for accounting purposes. For the purposes of this Statement of Accounts, it is therefore accounted for on the same basis as a defined contribution scheme.

In 2020/21, the Council paid £19.7m to Teachers' Pensions in respect of teachers' retirement benefits, representing 23.68% of pensionable pay. The figures for 2019/20 were £16.5m, representing 20.68% of pensionable pay. In addition, the Council is responsible for all pension payments relating to added years that it has awarded, together with related increases. In 2020/21 these amounted to £753k (£787k in 2019/20).

The Council is responsible for the costs of any additional benefits awarded upon early retirement outside of the terms of the teachers' scheme. These costs are accounted for on a defined benefit basis.

### **35.0 Contingent Liabilities**

#### **35.1 Insurance**

The Council is liable for insurance claims made against it in respect of certain events. A provision is made in respect of claims received as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021. There is a further contingent liability in respect of events which will have occurred but which have not resulted in a claim being made as at the date of the accounts. The "statute of limitation" sets out the timescale by which a claim will have to be made in respect of such past events. An earmarked reserve has been set up to provide towards the costs of these incidents.

Due to the volume and differing circumstances of each potential claim it is impractical to provide an estimate of the possible financial effect. Similarly, it is impractical to provide an indication of uncertainties relating to the amount and timing of such liabilities.

Insurance claims are also referenced in note 4.2.

### **35.2 Municipal Mutual Insurance Ltd.**

The former authorities of Rhondda Borough Council, Cynon Valley Borough Council, Taff Ely Borough Council and Mid Glamorgan County Council are creditors of Municipal Mutual Insurance Ltd. (MMI). MMI ceased to write new insurance business from 30<sup>th</sup> September 1992 and a Scheme of Arrangement was put in place in January 1994. The scheme was set up to ensure an orderly run off of claims in the event of MMI not being solvent. As creditors of MMI, the Council is legally bound by the Scheme and in November 2012, the scheme was triggered.

Future claim settlements by MMI will be made at a level of 75% with the funding of the remaining 25% being met from the former authorities' funds. Correspondence from the scheme administrator states that it is not possible to guarantee that the initial and second levy, paid in February 2014 and May 2016, will be sufficient but they are the best estimates given the current position. The scheme requires the administrator to review the Levy at least once a year. Given the uncertainty regarding how sufficient the initial clawback will be, a contingent liability exists as the Council could be subject to further clawback dependent upon the resources of MMI, the insurer.

### **36.0 Trust Funds**

The Council acts as sole trustees for various charities. Separate accounts are maintained for these. Net assets as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021 are shown as follows and are not included in the Council's Balance Sheet. The 2020/21 figures are draft, subject to audit (the Audit Wales for Welsh Church Act, the Regional Internal Audit Service for the other funds).

	Description	31/03/20	31/03/21
		£'000	£'000
Education & Miscellaneous	Various funds established for educational and community benefits	262	278
Rhondda Cynon Taf Charity for the Visually Impaired	Fund established for the benefit of visually impaired citizens	59	59
Welsh Church Act Fund	Fund established under the Welsh Church Act for various charitable aims within the counties of Rhondda Cynon Taf, Merthyr Tydfil and Bridgend	12,137	13,512

## RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

### DRAFT ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT 2020/21

#### 1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Council's [Corporate Plan 2020 - 2024](#) 'Making a Difference' sets the overall direction for the Authority over a period of 4 years describing the vision, purpose and priorities to be delivered.

1.2 The Council's agreed vision, purpose and priorities are:

- Vision – ***To be the best place in Wales to live, work and play, where people and businesses are independent, healthy and prosperous.***
- Purpose - ***To provide strong community leadership and create the environment for people and businesses to be independent, healthy and prosperous.***
- Priorities:
  - Ensuring ***People***: are independent, healthy and successful:
  - Creating ***Places***: where people are proud to live, work and play: and
  - Enabling ***Prosperity***: creating the opportunity for people and businesses to: be innovative; be entrepreneurial; and fulfil their potential and prosper.

1.3 Underpinning the above priorities are the cross-cutting themes of '***Live within our means***' and '***Efficient and effective Council***' – both of which focus on robust financial planning and management arrangements to ensure the Council maintains its financial stability, is financially resilient and makes the best use of scarce resources.

1.4 This Annual Governance Statement sets out for the community, service users, tax payers and other stakeholders the Council's governance arrangements together with a review of their effectiveness in managing risks of failure in delivering Corporate Plan priorities.

#### 2. SCOPE OF RESPONSIBILITY

2.1 Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council (RCT) is responsible for ensuring that its business is conducted in accordance with the law and proper standards, and that public money is safeguarded and properly accounted for, and used economically, efficiently and effectively.

- 2.2 In discharging this overall responsibility, the Council is responsible for putting in place proper arrangements for the governance of its affairs and facilitating the effective exercise of its functions, which includes the arrangements for the management of risk.
- 2.3 The Council, in compiling the Annual Governance Statement, has adopted the *Delivering Good Governance in Local Government: Framework (2016)* developed by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) and the Society of Local Authority Chief Executives and Senior Managers (Solace). In doing so, the Annual Governance Statement meets the Council's legal duty as set out in the Accounts and Audit (Wales) Regulations 2014, as amended by the Accounts and Audit (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2018.
- 2.4 Regard has also been given to the CIPFA Bulletin 06 – 'Application of the Good Governance Framework 2020/21' in respect of conducting the review of the Council's governance arrangements for the 2020/21 financial year. This provides guidance on the impact of the continuing Covid-19 pandemic on governance in local government bodies (see paragraphs 5.4.5 and 5.4.6) and also the CIPFA Financial Management Code 2019 (see paragraphs 5.11.23 to 5.11.27 and Section 7), both of which should form part of local authorities' review of governance arrangements for the period April 2020 to March 2021.
- 2.5 The Council's Annual Governance Statement aims to provide an accurate representation of the governance arrangements in place for financial year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021.

### **3. THE PURPOSE OF THE GOVERNANCE FRAMEWORK**

- 3.1 The governance framework comprises the systems, processes and cultural values by which the Council is directed and controlled, and the activities through which it accounts to, engages with and leads the community. It enables the Council to monitor the achievement of its strategic objectives and to consider whether those objectives have led to the delivery of appropriate, cost-effective services.
- 3.2 For RCT governance is about ensuring that the Council does the right things, in the right way, for the right people, in a timely, inclusive, open, honest and accountable manner.
- 3.3 The system of internal control is a significant part of that framework and is designed to manage the risk to a reasonable level. It cannot eliminate all risk of failure to achieve aims and objectives, and can therefore only provide reasonable and not absolute assurance of effectiveness.
- 3.4 The system of internal control is based on an ongoing process designed to identify and prioritise the risks to the achievement of the Council's priorities, to



evaluate the likelihood and impact of those risks materialising, and to manage them efficiently, effectively and economically.

- 3.5 The governance framework outlined below has been in place at Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021 (and up to the date of approval of the 2020/21 Statement of Accounts).

#### 4. **THE GOVERNANCE FRAMEWORK**

- 4.1 The Council has a range of governance arrangements in place, in line with the *Delivering Good Governance in Local Government: Framework (2016)*, many of which are set out within its [Constitution](#). Appendix A provides examples of the key systems, processes and documents that were in place within the Council during 2020/21.

- 4.2 The *Delivering Good Governance in Local Government: Framework (2016)* supports the principle for local authorities to develop and maintain an up-to-date local code of governance. The Council has developed a Local Code of Corporate Governance, setting out an overview of the Council's governance framework, and was reported to the Council's Audit Committee on [29<sup>th</sup> April 2019](#).

#### 5. **REVIEW OF EFFECTIVENESS**

- 5.1 The Council has responsibility for conducting, at least annually, an assessment of its governance framework including the system of internal control.

- 5.2 The exercise has entailed reviewing the activities in place around the Council's main governance arrangements, discussing governance arrangements 'virtually' with senior officers across services and taking account of the findings from a range of existing reports. The Review of Effectiveness has also given key regard to the on-going impact of Storm Dennis and the start of the coronavirus pandemic, and is set out at sub-section 5.4.

- 5.3 The findings and proposals for improvement have been reviewed and challenged by the Council's Senior Leadership Team (SLT) and Audit Committee, and have been set out in line with the *Delivering Good Governance in Local Government: Framework (2016)*.

#### 5.4 **STORM DENNIS AND COVID-19**

- 5.4.1 The Council's [2019/20 Annual Governance Statement](#) set out the specific governance and decision-making arrangements put in place by the Council up to and including June 2020, in response to Storm Dennis and Covid-19. Sections 5.4.2 to 5.4.6 review the arrangements from this point.

## Storm Dennis

5.4.2 As part of the Council's on-going work with communities affected by this unprecedented event, a range of support continued during 2020/21, for example, Community Flood Recovery Grants for eligible residents and businesses, with actions taken being in line with published delegated decisions made in February and March 2020. These were as follows:

- 17<sup>th</sup> February 2020 and 21<sup>st</sup> February 2020 – [Storm Dennis - Allocation of Resources from General Fund Balances](#) and [Further Allocation of Resources from General Fund Balances](#) respectively.
- 18<sup>th</sup> February 2020 - [Storm Dennis - Financial Support for Residents and Businesses](#).
- 25<sup>th</sup> February 2020 - [Storm Dennis - Grant Funding Support for Property Renovation and Free School Meals](#).
- 4<sup>th</sup> March 2020 - [Storm Dennis - Support to Businesses - Non-Domestic Rate Relief](#).

5.4.3 In parallel, the Council progressed emergency response works and reclaimed eligible expenditure via the Welsh Government funded Emergency Financial Assistance Scheme amounting to £1.697M (relating to 2019/20 and 2020/21) and, in addition, accessed further Welsh Government funding during 2020/21 as part of an on-going programme of infrastructure repair. The extent of damage to the Council's infrastructure necessitates a long-term programme of work and, as part of this, discussions are on-going with Welsh Government in terms of future funding arrangements.

5.4.4 On the 18th December 2020, the Council's Cabinet received a report setting out a [Review of the Council's Response to Storm Dennis](#) together with recommendations for improvement and arrangements for the monitoring of progress updates on an on-going basis. The recommendations reported were informed by detailed and evidenced based review work undertaken by the Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committee during autumn 2020 (this included a Scrutiny Inquiry Session that heard the experiences of elected members whose electoral divisions were severely impacted, consideration of written submissions and engagement with Welsh Water / Dwr Cymru and Natural Resources Wales to respond to questions raised by the Committee). In terms of on-going monitoring arrangements, it is noted that progress updates will be included as part of the Council's quarterly Performance Reports and be reported to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, and will ensure the continuation of an open approach to setting out the Council's work to enhance its response to extreme weather events.

## Covid-19

- 5.4.5 The Covid-19 pandemic has been the central feature in planning and delivery arrangements throughout 2020/21, with services quickly adapting and implementing changes to ensure the continued provision of essential frontline services.
- 5.4.6 Following the UK being put into lockdown on the 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2020, easing of restrictions in June and July, a two week 'firebreak' from 23<sup>rd</sup> October until 9<sup>th</sup> November followed by a further lockdown from 19<sup>th</sup> December, the Council has operated and taken decisions in accordance with its Constitution. Key work and steps taken by the Council during this period were:

### Decision Making and Democratic Engagement

- Further to the temporary suspension of all formal meetings of the Council when the country moved into lockdown in March 2020, the Council put in place arrangements, in line with The Local Authorities (Coronavirus) (Meetings) (Wales) Regulations 2020, to enable the phased reintroduction of fully remote meetings to take place. This included Cabinet meetings from May 2020, Scrutiny Committee meetings from June 2020 (on a phased basis and starting with the Overview and Scrutiny Committee) and full Council and Audit Committee meetings from July 2020.
- Council, Cabinet and Scrutiny Work Programmes were agreed and published, providing both transparency on the work to be undertaken and enabling Committees to plan their work.
- Covid-19 position statements were reported regularly to full Council ensuring that all elected Members were provided within on-going and timely updates.

### Service Planning and Corporate Plan priorities

- All services produced Service Recovery Plans that set out key priorities and actions to manage and support recovery from the Pandemic, these being reported to Cabinet on [28<sup>th</sup> July 2020](#).
- Full Council agreed Corporate Plan action plans at the [21<sup>st</sup> October 2020](#) meeting for its priorities of People, Places and Prosperity, these being informed by Service Recovery Plans to ensure focus was afforded to recovery work from the pandemic. During the year, Corporate Plan progress updates were reported to Cabinet and scrutinised by the Finance and Performance Scrutiny Committee on a quarterly basis, enabling elected Members to scrutinise the extent of progress and hold services to account.

### Financial support to businesses and individuals

- Part of the Welsh Government's response to the impact of the pandemic has been the provision of additional financial support to the economy via a series of Business Grants and extended business rate relief. The packages of financial support have been administered by all local authorities in Wales on behalf of Welsh Government and, for RCT, this has required staff to focus on administering, managing and paying a large volume of grants in short timescales to ensure financial support reached eligible businesses on a timely basis. The range of grant support has included Business and Charity Grants Phase 1, NDR Lockdown / Firebreak Grant and Business Restrictions Fund.
  
- In total over £72Million has been paid out to a wide range of businesses during 2020/21, with each grant having different criteria to target those businesses in most need and also different award processes and amounts payable. To ensure public money is safeguarded, this required a coordinated effort across the Council and the application of robust internal control arrangements.
  
- A range of other individual grant payments were also administered by the Council on behalf of Welsh Government including Social Care Workforce Payments of £500, Self-Isolation Payments for those on low incomes, Statutory Sick Pay top-ups for social care workers and Free school meal support to families with eligible learners.
  
- Each area of financial support administered by the Council has required consideration of process, including enabling submission of on-line applications, cashflow management and accounting requirements. In parallel, a number of Internal Audit assignments undertaken during 2020/21 were focussed on financial transactions relating to Covid-19 and provided Management with assurance on the robustness of processes and internal controls in place (see also paragraphs 5.12.5 to 5.12.8 - Internal Audit).

### 2020/21 Financial Position and Medium-Term Financial Planning

- **2020/21 Financial Position - Revenue Budget**
  - Underpinning the priority focus on maintaining essential frontline services was robust financial management arrangements, with close working between Service Managers and Senior Finance Officers to control, forecast and report overall revenue budget expenditure levels through to March 2021. These arrangements also effectively managed the additional expenditure and income losses incurred across the Council's Revenue Budget as a direct result of Covid-19,

forecasted to be in excess of £50M for 2020/21, and have been reclaimed on a monthly basis via the Welsh Government's Covid Hardship Fund claims process. Appropriate use was also made of the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme in order to mitigate losses. Where additional expenditure and additional income losses have materialised that are not deemed eligible to reclaim via the Hardship Fund, these have been included within the in-year reported financial position of relevant services.

- The year-end Revenue Budget outturn position for the Council was a £0.204Million overspend against a net budget of £508.747Million.

- **2020/21 Financial Position - Capital Programme**

- The immediate impact of the pandemic resulted in temporary delays to a number of capital schemes as a result of the need to agree and implement revised and safe working arrangements with contractors and suppliers. This partnership approach enabled most capital projects to recommence from quarters 1 and 2 of the year, with capital programme investment for 2020/21 amounting to £102Million.
- The Council also recognised its key role in supporting businesses and the local economy through the continued safe delivery of key infrastructure and construction projects and reported an update to Cabinet on [25<sup>th</sup> June 2020](#). During the year, detailed progress updates on the Council's Capital Programme projects were reported as part of the Council's quarterly Performance Reports.

- **Medium-Term Financial Planning**

- The Council's latest [Medium-Term Financial Plan](#) was reported to Cabinet, Council and the Finance and Performance Scrutiny Committee during autumn 2020. The Plan is based on, amongst other things, the assumption that additional expenditure and income losses as a direct result of Covid-19 will continue to be funded by Welsh Government.
- The Council is in the process of updating its Medium-Term Financial Plan for reporting in 2021; whilst the medium to longer term consequences of the pandemic are not fully known, the update process will refresh assumptions around key areas such as Welsh Government settlement levels, service cost pressures and demand, council tax collection and income, as well as the on-going priority focus required for businesses, town centres, those most in need and recognising the on-going work with partners to protect public health as recovery from the pandemic continues.

- The Council has for a number of years delivered ambitious efficiency saving targets without adversely impacting frontline service provision. The Council's current Medium-Term Financial Plan sets out, at a high level, the framework to balancing the budget over the medium term and the requirement to 'lock in' the transformation and service delivery changes which have been made across service areas during the pandemic.

## 5.5 PROGRESS MADE TO IMPLEMENT PROPOSALS FOR IMPROVEMENT REPORTED IN THE 2019/20 ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

- 5.5.1 The 2019/20 Annual Governance Statement identified 4 proposals for improvement. An update on progress was reported to the Council's Audit Committee on [1<sup>st</sup> February 2021](#) indicating that the proposals for improvement were either complete or were on-target to be completed in line with the agreed delivery dates. The Audit Committee **RESOLVED**: *'To acknowledge the information provided'*.
- 5.5.2 A year-end position statement of progress is set out in Appendix B. In summary, out of the 4 proposals for improvement, all have been implemented.

## 5.6 BEHAVING WITH INTEGRITY, DEMONSTRATING STRONG COMMITMENT TO ETHICAL VALUES AND RESPECTING THE RULE OF LAW

### Behaving with integrity

#### Elected Members<sup>1</sup>

- 5.6.1 The Council's Scrutiny Committee meeting minutes were examined to determine whether the virtual / remote proceedings were conducted in line with the Council's Code of Conduct. This identified that all Minutes showed that declarations of interest were sought and declarations were made by elected Councillors, where appropriate.

#### The Standards Committee

- 5.6.2 A Standards Committee was in place during the year to promote, maintain and oversee high standards of conduct by elected Members, with the Terms of Reference for the Standards Committee included within the Council's Constitution.

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<sup>1</sup> Elected Members – also referred to as elected Councillors

- 5.6.3 During 2020/21 the Standards Committee had a work-plan in place and met on 2 occasions. A draft Annual Report for 2020/21 was presented to the Standards Committee on [19<sup>th</sup> March 2021](#).

#### Council employees

- 5.6.4 All officers who started employment within the Council were provided with a local induction in line with social distancing requirements and Individual Performance Review discussions continued 'virtually' with officers. The overall arrangements were managed by the Council's Human Resources Service.

#### Arrangements in place to tackle potential misappropriation

- 5.6.5 In the event that an officer decides to operate outside of the intended terms and conditions of employment, arrangements were in place for officers to "blow the whistle" through the Council's [Whistleblowing Policy & Procedure](#). In addition, there were arrangements in place to tackle potential [fraud, bribery and corruption](#).
- 5.6.6 The Audit Committee has overall responsibility for overseeing the governance arrangements in place in respect of whistleblowing and tackling potential fraud, bribery and corruption. Updates received by Audit Committee during the year in respect of these arrangements were:

- **Anti-Fraud, Bribery & Corruption**

- An update was reported to Audit Committee on 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2020, setting out the progress made to date against the Anti-Fraud, Bribery & Corruption work programme for 2020/21. The report concluded that ongoing progress is being made against the Council's Anti-Fraud, Bribery and Corruption work programme to ensure that the Council continues to operate within an effective anti-fraud culture across the organisation, with resilient preventive measures capable of identifying and addressing new threats. Audit Committee **RESOLVED** - To review the work undertaken in 2020/21 and provide direction and guidance where necessary within the Terms of Reference of the Committee.
- It is noted that the 2020/21 Annual Report for Anti-Fraud, Bribery & Corruption is due to be presented to Audit Committee in July 2021.

- **Whistle-Blowing**

- At the 20<sup>th</sup> July 2020 Audit Committee meeting, Members agreed for a review of the Whistle-Blowing Policy to be undertaken and the outcome reported to Audit Committee during 2020/21. The review

was completed and was presented to Audit Committee for consideration and approval on [26<sup>th</sup> April 2021](#).

- The Whistle-Blowing Annual Report for 2020/21 was also reported to the same meeting. The conclusion of the Director of Human Resources, as set out in the 2020/21 Annual Report, is that '*the Council's Whistle-Blowing arrangements are appropriate*'. It is also noted that the revised Policy and Procedure will be published on the Council's website, awareness raising undertaken across Council Services and its content will be kept under on-going review and where further updates are proposed, these will be reported to Audit Committee for consideration/approval.

- 5.6.7 Gifts and Hospitality Policy - the Council has a Gifts and Hospitality Policy and arrangements were in place, via registers, to record gifts and hospitality in line with the Policy.

#### Comments, Compliments and Complaints – Social Services

- 5.6.8 A report was presented to Cabinet at its meeting held on [17<sup>th</sup> November 2020](#) setting out an overview of the Council's statutory Social Services complaints procedure for the period April 2019 to March 2020. The report provided a summary of all complaints and compliments received, and concluded by identifying lessons to be learnt and changes to relevant procedures / protocols.

- 5.6.9 The Report noted that a total of 113 complaints were received across both Adult and Children's Services during the year which was slightly higher than the previous year, with the increase in the main being complaints relating to Children's Services. While Children's Services received more complaints than the previous year, it also received more compliments; however, overall the report set out that for both Adult and Children's Services fewer compliments were recorded than in the previous year.

#### Comments, Compliments and Complaints - Non-social services

- 5.6.10 An Annual Report covering 2019/20 was presented to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on [18<sup>th</sup> January 2021](#) that set out areas for improvement and also for progress reports regarding the Council's corporate Customer Feedback Scheme to be presented to the Committee on a bi-annual basis to provide further visibility on this area and enable monitoring of areas for improvement. It is noted that from 2021/22 onwards, reports will be considered by the Audit and Governance Audit Committee in line with its new responsibilities under the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021.



## Demonstrating a strong commitment to ethical values

### Elected Members

- 5.6.11 Further to the Local Government Elections in May 2017, all elected Members received induction training on the Member's Code of Conduct that supports the principle of ethical values. Code of Conduct training is mandatory and is continually available to all Elected Members. Training is provided to all newly elected Members on a one-to-one basis following bi-elections and Members are reminded through their Personal Development Reviews that they are able to contact the Council's Monitoring Officer directly with any queries relating to the Code of Conduct.

### The Council's supply chains

- 5.6.12 The Council plays a significant role in the utilisation of national framework contracts as well as local contractual arrangements, and is responsible for ensuring that its business is conducted in accordance with the law, applies high ethical values, that public money is safeguarded and properly accounted for, and used economically, efficiently and effectively. The Council's Contract Procedure Rules provides the framework to achieve this and the 'Procurement Policy – Social Responsibility' aligns with the three key initiatives issued by Welsh Government, namely Community Benefits; Code of Practice Ethical Employment in Supply Chains; and Opening Doors: the Charter for SME Friendly Procurement.
- 5.6.13 The Council applied the guidance and advice set out in UK Government Cabinet Office Procurement Policy Notices issued during the year (for example, 02/20: Supplier relief due to Covid-19) to support suppliers and in doing so, suppliers were required to operate on an 'open book' basis.

### **Respecting the rule of law**

- 5.6.14 The Chief Executive (as Head of Paid Service) led the Council's officers and chaired the Senior Leadership Team (that also comprised the statutory roles of Chief Finance Officer and Monitoring Officer together with other key positions).
- 5.6.15 With specific regard to the Chief Finance Officer position within the Council during 2020/21, the role complied with the principles outlined in the CIPFA document '[The Role of Chief Finance Officer](#)' because the Chief Finance Officer:
- Was a key member of the Leadership Team, helping it to develop and implement strategy and to resource and deliver the organisation's strategic objectives sustainably and in the public interest;
  - Was actively involved in, and able to bring influence to bear on, all material business decisions to ensure immediate and longer term

*implications, opportunities and risks are fully considered, and alignment with the organisation's financial strategy; and*

- *Led the promotion and delivery by the whole organisation of good financial management so that public money is safeguarded at all times and used appropriately, economically, efficiently and effectively.*

*To deliver these responsibilities the Chief Financial Officer:*

- *Led and directed a finance function that was resourced to be fit for purpose; and*
- *Is professionally qualified and suitably experienced.*

## 5.7 ENSURING OPENNESS AND COMPREHENSIVE STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

### Openness

#### A commitment to openness

#### *General Data Protection Regulation*

5.7.1 The General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) came into force on the 25<sup>th</sup> May 2018. During 2020/21 the Council demonstrated accountability and transparency when handling and processing personal and sensitive information that it holds in respect of individuals by:

- Having in place a Data Protection Policy, Data Protection web-page and a designated Data Protection Officer;
- Formally recording the lawful basis upon which data / information is processed within suites of documents called Data Protection Registers; and
- Having in place 'Privacy Notices' that are available on the Council's website setting out how it intends to use information and how it will deliver its services and statutory responsibilities.

5.7.2 It is considered that the publication of this information supports the Council in complying with the GDPR and demonstrates openness and transparency when dealing with its customers.

#### *Freedom of Information*

5.7.3 The Council operated a Freedom of Information (FOI) Act 2000 publication scheme in accordance with legislative requirements. During 2020/21 the

Council received 870 FOI/Environmental Information Regulations (EIR) requests. Response statistics and any complaints investigated by the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) concerning FOI/EIR requests are reported through the Information Management Board's quarterly meeting highlight reports and allows the Board to maintain an overview of the Council's compliance with the relevant legislation.

5.7.4 During 2020/21 the Council received 8 complaints which had been referred to it by the ICO:

- 2 of the complaints related to requests not being responded to within the statutory 20 working day period. Both requests were subsequently responded to.
- 1 complaint related to a request where the requester believed not all information was being disclosed as part of a response but following the Council's explanation of how information is recorded the case was closed.
- 2 of the complaints were investigated and both requests were subsequently responded to.
- 3 of the complaints are being investigated and cases are still ongoing.

5.7.5 The Council's website provided information on the [Freedom of Information Act 2000](#) and a [Publication Scheme](#) was in place to advise citizens how to request public information the Council holds.

#### Openness – Forward work programmes

5.7.6 The Council had in place a forward plan of Committee meetings together with the matters to be considered, where appropriate:

- In accordance with the Council Constitution, the Calendar of Committee meetings was presented to the Council Annual General Meeting in September 2020, which provided details of the schedule of Committee meetings for the 2020-2021 Municipal Year. The calendar was also published on the [Council website](#);
- Cabinet published its work programme on [24<sup>th</sup> September 2020](#) for the 2020/21 Municipal Year with updates provided on a 3 monthly basis (i.e. to the Cabinet meetings on 18<sup>th</sup> December 2020 and 25<sup>th</sup> March 2021). The Cabinet Work programme was also published on the [Council website](#); and
- Scrutiny work programmes were considered and agreed by respective Scrutiny Committees on a periodic basis throughout the Municipal Year to allow for an element of flexibility and taking into account any additional consultative documents or legislative matters requiring attention. The

agreed work programmes were available on a stand-alone [Scrutiny Work Programme](#) page on the Council's website, in line with a proposal for improvement previously made by the Wales Audit Office (now Audit Wales).

- 5.7.7 Committee Work Programmes are an important tool for Members to assist them in viewing items that are coming forward to Committees and for other Committees to utilise to prevent duplication of work and assist with pre-scrutiny. Work Programmes also assist members of the public to engage in the democratic process of the Council. It is noted that work programmes are placing more emphasis on key service or policy matters, based upon a revised criteria which includes alignment to the Council's priorities and those matters of interest to the public, and they allow for more in depth reviews and referrals from other Committees including Council and Audit Committee. As part of the Local Government & Elections (Wales) Act 2021 a duty is now placed on Local Authorities to ensure scrutiny committees are given sufficient notice of important decisions before they are made, so they may scrutinise the executive more effectively. The continuation of a robust Cabinet Work Programme will therefore be essential in accommodating this duty placed on the Authority.

#### Decision making and scrutiny of decisions made

- 5.7.8 Cabinet is a key decision-making body within the Council. From a review of reports presented to virtual Cabinet meetings during 2020/21:

- All reports were in the required format;
- A total of 88 reports were presented, 80 of which were made publicly available and 8 were excluded from the press / public on the grounds that the items of business involved the likely disclosure of exempt information, for example, commercially sensitive information;
- 2 updates were presented verbally by officers due to the uniqueness of the year;
- For all decisions made by the Cabinet, 'Decision Notices' were published on the Council's website and did not become effective (i.e. implementable) until the expiry of the required 'call-in' period (unless deemed to be urgent decisions and therefore not subject to call in); and
- During 2020/21 the Council received one Call In of a Key Officer Delegated Decision: **SALE OF PART OF THE FORMER LADY WINDSOR COLLIERY SITE, YNYSYBWL:**

- The Call-In was considered at a special Overview & Scrutiny Committee held on the [12<sup>th</sup> August 2020](#). In addition to the three signatories to the call-in and members of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee, the Vice-Chair of Ynysybwl Community Council made representations at the meeting and a written representation was submitted by the Chair of the Regeneration Partnership; and
- Following consideration of the issues set out within the call-in form and in accordance with the Overview & Scrutiny procedure rules, it was determined that the matter be referred back to the decision maker, the Director of Corporate Estates, for further consideration based on the grounds of the call-in.

5.7.9 Record of Urgent Decisions of the Leader, Cabinet Members and Delegated Officer Decisions were published on the Council's website. For the 2020/21 financial year, 51 decisions were published and in line with the Council's Constitution, these were reported to full Council for information purposes. Due to the temporary postponement of Council meetings at the start of the Covid-19 pandemic, Council decisions were taken forward via Delegated decisions until the Local Authorities (Coronavirus)(Meetings)(Wales) Regulations 2020 permitted the commencement of Committee meetings; this therefore necessitated a higher number of delegated decisions compared to the same period in previous years.

### **Engagement with residents / stakeholders**

- 5.7.10 The Council regularly engages with residents and stakeholders and a consultation exercise was undertaken in respect of the 'Corporate Plan 2020 – 2024 'Making a Difference' – this Plan was agreed by Council on 4<sup>th</sup> March 2020 and sets out the Council's priorities for the next 4 years.
- 5.7.11 Engagement arrangements are supported through a dedicated [Consultation page](#) on the Council's website and a wider commitment by the Council to engagement via the [Public Services Board](#).
- 5.7.12 The Council has an on-going programme of engagement with residents and communities, to find out what matters to them. During the year this engagement has continued using Zoom to hold public meetings and the development of a telephone call back option so as not to exclude those who are not or do not wish to engage online. Throughout the pandemic there was a greater need to communicate clear advice and keep residents informed about Covid-19 in RCT, this being delivered through a dedicated web page and also through social media channels to make information available to residents, businesses and other stakeholders in communities.

- 5.7.13 The Council has developed more ways for residents to get involved and ensure that consultations are accessible, through Let's Talk RCT. The first two projects, Let's Talk Climate Change and Let's Talk Electric Charging Vehicles, were pilots for the site and will help shape future Let's Talk projects.
- 5.7.14 Putting in place online and virtual ways for people to provide views and opinions will continue to develop, albeit, the Council recognises that this does not replace the valuable local information captured through face-to-face engagement with residents. It is noted that these conversations with individuals and representative groups will resume as soon as it is safe to do so to obtain the views and opinions on decisions that will affect them.

## 5.8 **DEFINING OUTCOMES IN TERMS OF SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC, SOCIAL, AND ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS**

- 5.8.1 For the 2020/21 reporting year, to address the unprecedented circumstances in which the Council was working, the Council's performance management arrangements were amended to focus on recovery from the pandemic whilst retaining the ambitions set out in the [Corporate Plan 2020-24 'Making a Difference'](#).
- 5.8.2 The Council undertook a backward-looking assessment of Corporate Plan performance (2019/20) and compiled priority action plans for its 3 Corporate Plan priorities (People, Places and Prosperity) covering the 2020/21 financial year. This information was set out in a 'Corporate Performance Report 2020' that was endorsed by Cabinet on [13 October 2020](#) and reported to and approved by Council [21 October 2020](#); in doing so, the Council met its statutory reporting requirements in this regard.
- 5.8.3 During 2020/21, in line with the Council's Constitution, progress in the delivery of the Priority Plans was reported every quarter as part of Performance Reporting arrangements i.e. presented to Cabinet for review/approval, followed by Finance and Performance Scrutiny Committee for further review/scrutiny. These reports were available to residents and stakeholders through the Council's [website](#).
- 5.8.4 To meet the current statutory reporting requirements in line with the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009 and the Well-being of Future Generations Act 2015, the Council intends to publish an assessment of its performance for the 2020/21 financial year no later than the statutory reporting deadline of 31<sup>st</sup> October and also publish 2021/22 action plans for its Corporate Plan Priorities of People, Places and Prosperity.

### Medium Term Financial Plan

- 5.8.5 The Council's latest Medium-Term Financial Plan (2020/21 to 2023/24) was reported to and agreed by Cabinet on [13<sup>th</sup> October 2020](#) and subsequently

reported to full Council on the 21<sup>st</sup> October 2020 and the Finance and Performance Scrutiny Committee on 16<sup>th</sup> November 2020.

5.8.6 The Medium-Term Financial Plan is set in the context of the Covid-19 pandemic, recognising that the course of the pandemic and its effect on the Council's finances will be subject to change. Key information around the allocation of resources includes:

- 2020/21 Revenue Budget (£508.747M) - 85% of the revenue budget was allocated to Corporate Plan priorities and the remaining 15% allocated to Authority Wide Costs, Other Services To The Public, Regulatory Public Services and Core Support; and
- 2020/21 to 2023/24 Capital Programme (£131.772M) – 98% of capital resources allocated to Corporate Plan priorities. The remaining 2% was allocated to Regulatory Public Services, Authority Wide Costs and Core ICT Systems Support.

#### Additional Investment

5.8.7 As part of the Council setting its Capital Programme for the period 2021/22 to 2023/24 (reported to full Council on [10<sup>th</sup> March 2021](#)), an assessment of existing earmarked reserves enabled £5.484M to be released for additional investment in Corporate Plan priority areas (alongside the reallocation of £1.137M of core capital funding and additional Welsh Government funding of £2.779M, amounting to a total investment of £9.4M).

5.8.8 Based on the Council's Medium-Term Financial Planning arrangements and processes for identifying funding to support additional investment, there is clarity on the Council's ambitions and medium term outlook; a demonstrable commitment to prioritise resources to Corporate Plan areas; and opportunities available for elected Members and stakeholders to scrutinise the Council's work in these areas.

### **5.9 DETERMINING THE INTERVENTIONS NECESSARY TO OPTIMISE THE ACHIEVEMENT OF THE INTENDED OUTCOMES**

#### **Determining and planning interventions**

5.9.1 The Council's decision-making arrangements during 2020/21 were based on written reports in an agreed format, having regard to financial, legal and consultation matters, and alignment with the Well-Being of Future Generations Act (this includes, for example, Council and Cabinet reports). It is noted that an update was reported to Cabinet on [25<sup>th</sup> March 2021](#) setting out the Socio Economic Duty (Equality Act 2010) requirements coming into force on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021 and the need to ensure that the duty is incorporated into Council

decisions to reduce the inequalities of outcomes from social economic disadvantage.

5.9.2 Of the approaches or interventions used by the Council during the year, overall, these are making a positive contribution to the delivery of outcomes in line with Corporate Plan priorities. Examples of key interventions are set out below.

#### Cabinet and the Senior Leadership Team

5.9.3 The Cabinet and SLT jointly planned the work programme of items to be reported during the year and required timescales, with this information informing the pace of progress and outcomes being delivered. This has included:

- PEOPLE – Are independent, healthy and successful.

Meeting the needs of residents requiring support via the extra care housing scheme in Porth; supporting the roll out of asymptomatic lateral flow testing to frontline care staff and the Covid-19 vaccination programme; and reinstating Community Resilience Centres following the introduction of local and national restrictions to support communities.

- PLACES – Where people are proud to live, work and play.

Continuation of the Highways Improvement Programme, managing the safe delivery of the home to school transport provision within Welsh Government and Public Health Wales guidelines, planting 300 trees in various parks and open spaces and continued improvement works across Council parks and play areas.

- PROSPERITY – Creating the opportunity for people and businesses to: be innovative; be entrepreneurial; and fulfil their potential and prosper.

New Council grant offers for businesses in light of Covid-19 and flood prevention, for example, the refocussed Enterprise Investment Fund has supported businesses with grant awards totalling £165k and 4 business in Pontypridd town centre have benefited from Flood Resilience Grants. Key town centre schemes are under development which will help improve pedestrian access and social distancing, and longer-term developments to promote RCT as a tourism destination when restrictions allow, including a review of the accommodation sector. Construction of new attractions at Zip World and Dare Valley County Park are ongoing and a significant National Lottery fund grant awarded in December 2020 will allow further improvements at Ynysangharad War Memorial Park.

#### Scrutiny Committees



- 5.9.4 Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, scrutiny committees were temporarily suspended to enable the Council to focus its efforts on protecting residents and continue the delivery of key frontline services. An incremental approach for the re-commencement of the Council's scrutiny function was applied, with the Overview and Scrutiny initially taking forward the scrutiny role on behalf of all Committees. This was to ensure that scrutiny were still playing its vital role in the decision making process and governance arrangements of the Council, and also ensure the Council could retain its focus on managing service delivery during the pandemic. Members supported this way of working for the Overview & Scrutiny Committee, as the Council's overarching Scrutiny Committee, to take a council-wide approach and all Members were invited to engage in these key matters as well as to undertake urgent business that ordinarily would have been under review by the four themed scrutiny committees. This arrangement was recognised by both the Council's Senior Leadership Team and the Cabinet.
- 5.9.5 Beyond the Annual General Meeting (which was postponed until September 2020 due to the pandemic) all four thematic Scrutiny Committees resumed their activity, via agreed work programmes, that also allowed space for the identification of emerging issues. The Scrutiny Committees have all undertaken focussed work, alongside traditional scrutiny reports, during an unprecedented period.
- 5.9.6 Scrutiny committees also received regular individual service responses to Covid-19, particularly in respect of the Children & Young People Scrutiny Committee, with five updates from the Director of Education & Inclusion (from an educational perspective) and Director of Children's Services outlining the support in place for vulnerable children and families across Rhondda Cynon Taf.
- 5.9.7 During the 2020/21 Municipal Year, pre-scrutiny of 6 key decisions of the Cabinet have been undertaken in areas such as the Modernisation of Residential Care for Older People, the Council's Annual Equalities Report 2020/21 and pre-scrutiny of the proposed extension and variation to RCT's Dog Control (Public Spaces Protection Order). This ensured that the Council's scrutiny function has continued to impact / inform Cabinet decisions before they are made.
- 5.9.8 In addition to scrutiny work programme items, referrals have been made to scrutiny committees i.e. from Full Council through a Notice of Motion regarding Kinship Care and from the Governance & Audit Committee in respect of unauthorised absence at statutory school ages and Post 16 attendance levels. Following review of both issues, the respective scrutiny committees will form its view and provide feedback.
- 5.9.9 Whilst working under virtual arrangements, scrutiny has undertaken a total of 41 meetings and covered a broad range of work throughout the year and considered important and strategic issues with a number of outcomes and recommendations as evidenced in the [Overview & Scrutiny Annual Report](#)

[2020/21](#). The Annual Report evidences the robustness of the Council's scrutiny activities to shape and inform decision making and its role in supporting the delivery of effective governance arrangements within the Council.

### Performance Reports

5.9.10 Performance Reports provided Executive Summary style quarterly updates on financial performance (Revenue Budget, Capital Programme and Treasury Management); progress against Corporate Plan priorities (including investment priorities); staffing information for sickness absence and turnover; and strategic risks, and provided electronic links to more detailed information. During the year additional information was also included within quarterly Performance Reports in respect of Covid-19 and its impacts from a financial, performance and strategic risk perspective.

5.9.11 With specific regard to financial performance, Corporate Plan priority and strategic risk updates, exceptions were highlighted, explained and the corrective action to be taken included within reports. There was evidence of scrutiny challenge around financial and performance results to understand exceptions and seek assurance that corrective actions are planned / being taken.

### **Optimising achievement of intended outcomes**

5.9.12 On [28<sup>th</sup> September 2017](#) Cabinet agreed a way forward to deliver Corporate Plan priorities in a climate of funding reductions by investing in Rhondda Cynon Taf's future and by improving and delivering essential services in a different way. This involved the creation of 5 work-streams to invest in to improve essential services: Digitalisation, Commercialisation, Early Intervention and Prevention, Independence and Efficient and Effective Organisation.

5.9.13 During 2020/21 the Council's approach within the five work streams was focused on keeping residents and staff safe and significant progress made in relation to Digitalisation as more Council services were made available online. As part of this programme of work, all office-based staff and elected Members were provided with means by which they could work from home during the pandemic, with these arrangements continuing in place. The Council also set out its approach to commercialisation in a Capital Strategy Report to Council in [March 2021](#).

5.9.14 The on-going relevance of the above 5 work-streams were tested as part of the Council's [2021/22 Budget Consultation](#) and the feedback of respondents is set out below.

Workstream	Yes (%)	No (%)	Don't Know (%)
Digitalisation	80.3	10.3	9.4
Commercialisation	70.6	15.4	14
Early Intervention and Prevention	89.6	6.3	4.1
Independence	82	10	8
Efficient and Effective Organisation	88	6.6	5.4

## 5.10 DEVELOPING THE ENTITY'S CAPACITY, INCLUDING THE CAPABILITY OF ITS LEADERSHIP AND THE INDIVIDUALS WITHIN IT

### Developing the entity's capacity

5.10.1 The Council's performance management arrangements were refocused on recovery and contingency planning during 2020/21, this being within the priorities of the Corporate Plan; as a result, Service and Corporate Self Evaluations were not undertaken for 2020/21. The most recent Service Self Evaluations used to inform 'normal' service planning and the Corporate Assessment which considers the performance of the Council's corporate body remain those reported to Cabinet on [19<sup>th</sup> March 2019](#) and to the Finance and Performance Scrutiny Committee on [2<sup>nd</sup> April 2019](#). It is noted that self-evaluation arrangements will re-start in 2021/22 and will take account of the Council's new responsibilities as set out in the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021.

5.10.2 The arrangements in place during 2020/21 continued to evidence that the Council is able to re-prioritise its capacity within a very challenging financial climate and in the context of the Covid-19 pandemic, and remain focussed on Corporate Plan priority areas. This is evidenced by:

- Strong and focussed leadership from the Cabinet and Senior Leadership Team, in re-setting priorities and resources to ensure continued service delivery during the pandemic and also ensuring open and transparent decision making in line with the Council's Constitution;
- The delivery of significant capital programme investment during 2020/21 (£102Million), the majority of which was invested in Corporate Plan priority areas - this being progressed in collaboration with partners and Welsh Government, who have provided additional funding to support many of the projects;
- Accelerating service transformation in many areas, linked to the need to quickly provide alternative means of service delivery as a result of Covid-19 restrictions. This has included digitisation of more processes, an increase in the availability of on-line services for residents and businesses, optimising the use of Council accommodation alongside on-

going work to assess future accommodation requirements and significantly reducing the need for business travel;

- Additional services provided by the Council's Occupational Health Service, to support staff health and well-being, and the Human Resources Service working with service managers to effectively manage staff attendance; and
- The continued recruitment, development and management of staff together with graduate and apprenticeship programmes to create excellent job and training opportunities across a range of key service areas.

### **Developing the capability of the entity's leadership and other individuals**

5.10.3 Part 3(i) of the Council's Constitution, 'Responsibilities for Functions', sets out the responsibilities of the Leader of the Council, the Cabinet and designated employees of SLT (Section 3A) and is kept under on-going review.

#### Developing the capabilities of elected Members

5.10.4 During 2020/21, there has been continued focus on supporting the capabilities of elected Members. This has included:

- Members Personal Development Reviews undertaken the results of which will help form the basis of a training programme for the 2021/22 Municipal Year. In addition, the Council Business Unit have facilitated a number of informal sessions for Members to come together 'virtually' to share experiences with the aim of supporting well-being during the Covid-19 restrictions and at the same time have also been provided with updates in relation to scam calls and good practice guides for social media accounts.
- An update to Cabinet on [25<sup>th</sup> March 2021](#) summarising the various elements of the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 (noting that an overview of the Bill was reported to full Council on 15<sup>th</sup> January 2020). It was also noted that an overview of the new Act, specifically in relation to Governance and Audit, was reported to the Council's Audit Committee on [26<sup>th</sup> April 2021](#).
- Members working with the Council Business Unit and ICT Services to ensure they were equipped with the correct devices and received / were offered virtual training to enable them to conduct their roles in supporting constituents and fulfilling committee responsibilities remotely / virtually (the latter being delivered via Zoom). It was noted that:

- At the [Finance and Performance Scrutiny Committee](#) on the 15<sup>th</sup> March 2021, Members received a PowerPoint presentation from the Head of ICT in respect of 'Improving, Delivering & Supporting Services over last 12 months' which detailed the work undertaken with Members in this regard and also included reference to "E-Democracy - Committees & Members enabled for virtual meetings - 171 Zoom Committee Meetings (as at January 29<sup>th</sup> 2021)."
- There has been improved Member attendance at meetings, through the virtual meeting approach, and holding training sessions directly before full Council meetings have resumed, for example, the Council's Winter Maintenance Plan in November 2020 and Gypsy and Traveller Awareness training in January 2021. It is noted that this approach is to be built upon and an update was reported to the [Democratic Services Committee](#) on 1<sup>st</sup> March 2021.
- In parallel with the above (and in line with requirements of the Local Government & Elections (Wales) Act 2021), the Council has invested in infrastructure to enable hybrid meeting arrangements and to ensure the webcasting of meetings, supported in part by the Welsh Government Digital Democracy Fund. It is noted that this work is currently on-going in terms of installing the infra-structure and other key aspects of the project will continue in 2021/22 in respect of training requirements and consideration of any proposed changes to the Council's Constitution.
- Between December 2020 and January 2021 an on-line training needs analysis questionnaire was completed by Audit Committee Members, the result of which informed a Learning and Development Plan that was reported to the [22<sup>nd</sup> March 2021 Audit Committee meeting](#).
- Specific projects:
  - A Members Portal continues to be developed and a demonstration was provided to the October 2020 Democratic Services Committee. It was noted that the Portal is recognised as a form of good practice through the Members Charter and will be an area on the Council's website for Members to access which will allow them to submit questions / Notices of Motion to Council; submit scrutiny Call Ins; submit Research requests; and be a source of useful contact details for officers / external organisations. It was also noted that development of the Portal is on-going and will also include consideration of making e-learning modules available via this platform; and

- It is noted that the roll-out of Modern.Gov<sup>2</sup>, this being positively received by Members.
- The Council's arrangements for supporting and providing development opportunities for Members has been recognised through retaining the Members Charter over the past decade. It is noted that to ensure the Council's continued commitment to Member development, preparations are being made for the Council's Charter to be reviewed.

### Member Survey

5.10.5 In accordance with s6(2) of the Local Government (Wales) Measure, 2011 Member views have been sought on their preference for start times of meetings by means of a survey which was conducted in advance of the Council Annual General Meeting in September 2020. The results of the survey were reported to the Democratic Services Committee held on the 1<sup>st</sup> October 2020 and demonstrated that 97% of Members are happy with the level of support provided to them through the Council Business Unit, with Members indicating they had been well equipped to deal with the new ways of working through a support package of training as the virtual meetings were rolled out on an incremental basis. It is noted that further engagement will be undertaken with Members in due course.

### Developing the capabilities of employees

- 5.10.6 The Council has a Workforce Plan 2017-22, which was approved by Cabinet on [15<sup>th</sup> February 2018](#). The plan has set priorities that align to the Council's Corporate Plan in terms of developing a flexible and agile workforce that shares organisational knowledge; recruiting and retaining the best talent to create a diverse workforce; leadership and management development; enabling a high performing, engaged and committed workforce; and supporting health and wellbeing to maximise attendance. The Head of Organisational Development provided Audit Committee with a workforce planning update at the 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2021 on the basis of workforce planning being a strategic risk within the Council's Strategic Risk Register.
- 5.10.7 During 2020/21 staff development has been supported virtually through induction sessions, Leadership and Middle Management Development Programmes, Manager Briefings, 'Joint Cabinet and Senior Officer meetings' and a range of operational training such as health and safety, information management and dignity at work. This was supported by a Training Compendium that brought together all training available within the Council.

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<sup>2</sup> Modern-gov - is an app for automatically downloading, viewing, and annotating meeting papers

## 5.11 MANAGING RISKS AND PERFORMANCE THROUGH ROBUST INTERNAL CONTROL AND STRONG PUBLIC FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

### Managing risk

5.11.1 The Council's Risk Management Strategy was updated, reported to and endorsed by the Council's Audit Committee on [17<sup>th</sup> December 2018](#), and sets out the overall purpose and framework for risk management within the organisation. The framework sets out two levels of risk:

- Strategic Risks – those that the Council faces when delivering its Corporate Plan Priorities; and
- Operational Risks – those associated with the delivery of service objectives and included within Service Delivery Plans.

### Strategic Risks

5.11.2 The Council's strategic risks are set out in a Strategic Risk Register and updates were reported publicly to Cabinet and the Finance and Performance Scrutiny Committee during the year as part of performance reporting arrangements - the latest published strategic risk register update can be viewed by clicking [here](#) (noting that the 2020/21 year-end Strategic Risk Register will be reported to Cabinet in July 2021).

5.11.3 From reviewing the Strategic Risk Register for 2020/21, it was noted that:

- Updated Strategic Risk position statements were included on the register on a quarterly basis that set out in particular the implications of Covid-19 and the work being taken / planned to mitigate the impact as much as possible;
- A new Strategic Risk was incorporated into the Register at the start of the year in respect of Covid-19, this reflecting its strategic importance to the Council; and
- Risk scores were reviewed on an on-going, with one risk score revised during the year.

### Operational Risks

5.11.4 Operational Risks are monitored by Service Delivery Plan owners as part of the operational management of services.

5.11.5 In addition to the above, to assist Management in applying consistent risk management arrangements, a Risk Management Toolkit is in place.

#### Proposal for Improvement (Risk Management)

5.11.6 The Council's Risk Management Strategy was last reviewed and approved by Audit Committee in December 2018. The Strategy should be reviewed and where required proposed updates reported to Audit Committee for consideration. In addition, as part of the review, regard should be given to the findings and recommendations included within the 2020/21 Internal Audit report 'Risk Management'.

#### Audit Committee

5.11.7 The membership and planned meeting frequency of the Council's Audit Committee during 2020/21 was in line with the Council's Constitution and legal requirements. The Committee agreed its workplan at the [5<sup>th</sup> October 2020](#) meeting and all meetings during the year were held virtually. From a review of the 2020/21 workplan, all items were delivered with the exception of the Committee being provided with an overview of a core financial system of the Council, as part of the on-going learning and development of the Committee. It was noted that where core financial system audit assignments were finalised during the year, these were reported to Audit Committee as required; the reasons for the learning and development update not being actioned was due to the need to re-prioritise resources to support Covid-19 recovery work.

5.11.8 Arrangements were introduced during 2020/21 to improve Audit Committee's understanding and visibility of the Council's Strategic Risks, via a programme of updates to the Committee by individual Strategic Risk lead officers. It is noted that further updates will be reported in 2021/22. This approach supports Audit Committee's responsibilities as set out in the CIPFA Publication '*Audit Committees – Practical Guidance for Local Authorities and Police 2018 Edition*' in relation to risk management:

- Having assurance over the governance of risk, including leadership, integration of risk management into wider governance arrangements and the top level ownership and accountability for risks;
- Keeping up to date with the risk profile and the effectiveness of risk management actions; and
- Monitoring the effectiveness of risk management arrangements and supporting the development and embedding of good practice in risk management.



5.11.9 The 2019/20 Audit Committee Annual Report set out three areas for improvement, namely undertaking a skills assessment of Audit Committee members, agreeing a learning and development plan and piloting an approach to evaluate the impact of the Committee's work. It is noted that the skills assessment and learning and development areas have been implemented and work is on-going in respect of evaluating the impact of the Committee's work.

#### Proposal for Improvement

5.11.10 As part of compiling the 2021/22 Governance and Audit Committee work programme, finalised internal audit assignments for core financial systems should be supplemented by a more detailed overview of the area prior to the assignment being presented to Committee. This is to aid Members understanding of the main internal control requirements for key financial systems.

#### **Managing performance**

5.11.11 This area has been set out in Sections 5.8 and 5.9.

#### **Scrutiny**

5.11.12 This area has been set out in Section 5.9.

#### **Internal control**

5.11.13 Internal Control arrangements are covered within paragraphs 5.12.6 and 5.12.7.

5.11.14 With specific regard to the Council's Procedure Rules (Contract Procedure Rules and Financial Procedure Rules), it is noted that whilst an overview of the Council's Contract Procedure Rules was presented to the March 2021 Audit Committee, no overview of the Financial Procedure Rules was presented. In addition, both documents should be reviewed and updates reported to the Governance and Audit Committee for consideration / approval.

#### Proposal for Improvement

5.11.15 As part of the learning and development of Audit Committee, an overview of the Council's Financial Procedure Rules should be built into the 2021/22 Work Programme to support Members understanding of these requirements.

- 5.11.16 A review of the content of the Contract and Financial Procedure Rules should be undertaken and updates reported to the Governance and Audit Committee for consideration / approval.

### **Managing data**

- 5.11.17 An Information Management Plan is in place that sets out the framework, including legal requirements, for information management within the Council.

- 5.11.18 A review of the arrangements in place during 2020/21 identified they were in line with the agreed governance structure. More specifically (and in addition to the information set out at paragraph 5.7.1 – GDPR):

- Whilst working from home, the Council continued the arrangements in place for technical and cyber assurance:
  - Secured its annual accreditation to the Public Service Network (PSN) in 2020/21 i.e. The 'PSN' is the Council's connection to the wider public sector network (Council to Council, Council to Government e.g. Department for Work and Pensions) to enable the Council to communicate and share data securely across all public bodies; and
  - Participated in an all Wales Cyber Stocktake involving all Wales local authorities and the Audit Wales study on Cyber resilience, using their findings to further inform the Council's own work on cyber resilience.

- 5.11.19 With regard to the management of data, the Council has focused upon local, regional and national responses to the COVID-19 pandemic, in particular, effectively enabling new services such 'Track, Trace Protect' (TTP), Community Resilience Hubs, Mass Testing & Vaccinations and supporting the Council's workforce. More specifically:

- An All Wales Data Protection Officer (DPO) Forum was in operation from May 2020, to which the Council actively participated. The All Wales DPO Forum is a National Forum, led by Public Health Wales and attended by Local Government Data Protection Officers to support Welsh Government and Public Health Wales in dealing with the COVID-19 response; and
- The Council led the National 'Track, Trace Protect' (TTP) Finish Group and was attended by other Local Government Data Protection Officers, Public Health Wales and other Health Board partners. The purpose of the group was to map the flow of data relating to the TTP project, which in turn supported the establishment of the National Sharing Agreement for the COVID-19 pandemic.

- To aid the local response to the COVID-19 Pandemic, the Council's Information Management & ICT teams worked to support the wider organisation and its workforce in enabling users to work from home safely and securely and ensuring continuity of service provision.

5.11.20 It was noted that alongside the above activity, the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) investigated 7 self-referrals in respect of the Council during 2020/21. In all cases, the ICO determined that no further regulatory action was required and were satisfied with the Council's investigation of the breaches and the remedial measures identified.

#### Public Services Ombudsman for Wales (PSOW)

5.11.21 It has been noted that 4 referrals<sup>3</sup> were considered through the Council's Complaints and Concerns Procedure, the outcomes from which were that no further action was deemed necessary.

#### **Strong public financial management**

5.11.22 The Council has publicly demonstrated its commitment to strong and responsible financial planning and management, and has supported this through the continued delivery of sound financial performance during 2020/21. This is based on:

- A key cross-cutting principle within the Council's Corporate Plan is '*Living within our means*', in effect setting out the importance of sound financial planning and management within the organisation;
- The Council has a suite of protocols supporting financial planning and management that have been complied with, for example, 'Budget and Policy Framework Procedure Rules' and the 'Financial Procedure Rules';
- The Council set a Revenue Budget in 2020/21 after taking account of a £1.321Million budget gap and a 2-stage budget consultation process with a wide range of stakeholders (including the Finance and Performance Scrutiny Committee), with savings being delivered from areas that did not affect frontline services. As part of the [2020/21](#)

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<sup>3</sup> Referrals – referrals are where members of the public complain to the Ombudsman without exhausting the local authority's complaints procedure first. The Ombudsman therefore refers these back to the local authority to be considered in line with their complaints procedure

[Revenue Budget Strategy](#), the Council continued to take a responsible approach to Council Tax increases, having regard to residents feedback as part of the revenue budget consultation process, and set a 2.85% Council Tax increase (excluding Community Council precepts and excluding the Police and Crime Commissioner for South Wales Precept, both of which are outside of the Council's control) which was the lowest increase across Wales;

- Financial performance results were publicly reported every three months during the year and scrutinised by elected Councillors (with the quarter 4 (year-end) report scheduled to be publicly reported in July 2021);
- The Council kept its finances under on-going review throughout 2020/21 and was able to continue its strategy of releasing resources from earmark reserves (as referred to in 5.8.7) to support additional one-off investment in Corporate Plan priorities;
- The Council did not certify its draft 2020/21 Statement of Accounts in accordance with the statutory timeframe of 31<sup>st</sup> May 2021; however, in line with the regulations, a notice has been published on the Council's website setting out the reasons for non-compliance i.e. *'Due to the ongoing requirement to address the impact of COVID-19, the authority has continued to divert resources to support key frontline services, reprioritised work accordingly and revised its timescale for preparing the statement of accounts for financial year 2020/21. The statement of accounts will therefore be prepared and the Responsible Financial Officer will sign and certify the statement of accounts by the 30 June 2021'*.
- Audit Wales presented its latest 'Annual Audit Summary' for 2020 to full Council on [10<sup>th</sup> March 2021](#) - key information reported by audit Wales in relation to the audit of the 2019/20 Statement of Accounts was:
  - the Auditor General gave an unqualified true and fair opinion on the Council's financial statements on 26 November 2020, four days ahead of the statutory deadline;
  - the Council's Annual Governance Statement and Narrative Report were prepared in line with the CIPFA Code and relevant guidance. They were also consistent with the financial statements prepared by the Council and with our knowledge of the Council;
  - the quality of the draft statements presented for audit on 14 July 2020 was generally good;
  - a number of changes were made to the Council's financial statements arising from our audit work, which were reported to Full Council in our Audit of Financial Statements Report in November 2020; and

- in addition to the Auditor General's responsibilities for auditing the Council's financial statements, he also has responsibility for the certification of a number of grant claims and returns. Our work to date has not identified any significant issues
- The Annual Audit Summary for 2020 also made reference to other reports issued to RCT during 2020, including the report '[Financial Sustainability Assessment - Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council](#)' – overall conclusions were:
  - The Council is well placed to manage its financial sustainability over the short and medium-term;
  - The Council focusses on both short-term annual budgeting and medium term financial planning, which are clearly linked to supporting the achievement of corporate priorities and objectives;
  - The Council has a good track record of delivering services within agreed budgets;
  - The Council has made significant savings in recent years and planned savings have largely been achieved;
  - The Council has a reasonable level of useable reserves;
  - The Council collects a high proportion of council tax income; and
  - The Council takes a prudent approach to borrowing.
- Audit Wales also reported its 'Audit of Accounts Report Addendum' to Audit Committee on [1<sup>st</sup> February 2021](#) and related to the external audit of the Council's 2019/20 Statement of Accounts. The Audit Wales report set out 2 recommendations that have been agreed by RCT and have been implemented by 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021.
- The Council have well embedded Medium-Term Financial Planning arrangements (see also 5.8.5) and is in the process of updating its MTFP to cover the period 2021/22 to 2024/25.

### **Compliance with the CIPFA Financial Management Code of Practice**

5.11.23 The CIPFA Financial Management Code (the Code) was launched in November 2019 and is designed to support good practice in financial management and to assist local authorities in demonstrating their financial sustainability.

5.11.24 The Code sets the standards of financial management for local authorities and is based on a series of principles supported by specific standards and statements of practice which are considered necessary to provide the strong foundation to:

- Financially manage the short, medium- and long-term finances of a local authority;
- Manage financial resilience to meet foreseen demands on services; and
- Financially manage unexpected shocks in their financial circumstances.

5.11.25 Each local authority must demonstrate that the requirements of the Code are being satisfied, with compliance being a collective responsibility of elected members, the Chief Finance Officer and their professional colleagues in the leadership team. However, the Code is not expected to be considered in isolation and accompanying tools will form part of the collective suite of evidence to demonstrate sound decision making and a holistic view is taken. In addition, whilst the Code is designed to be flexible to the nature, needs and circumstances of individual authorities, it is up to each authority to determine the extent to which it complies with the Code and to identify what action it may wish to take to better meet the standards that the Code sets out.

5.11.26 Full compliance is expected for the 2021-22 financial year (i.e. from April 2021) with the 2020-21 financial year acting as a shadow year. In its Guidance Bulletin 06 (*Application of the Good Governance Framework 2020/21*), CIPFA has stated that the Annual Governance Statement for 2020-21 should include the overall conclusion of an assessment of the organisation's compliance with the principles of the Code and where there are outstanding matters or areas for improvement, these should be included in the action plan.

#### Proposal for Improvement

5.11.27 The Council has undertaken an assessment of its current arrangements against the Standards set out in the Code. The assessment process has demonstrated compliance with all of the standards, albeit, areas for improvement have been identified to further reinforce existing arrangements and are included in Section 7.

## 5.12 **IMPLEMENTING GOOD PRACTICES IN TRANSPARENCY, REPORTING, AND AUDIT TO DELIVER EFFECTIVE ACCOUNTABILITY**

## **Implementing good practice in transparency and reporting**

5.12.1 The Council has implemented an open and consistent approach to reporting its business, as set out in earlier sections of this Annual Governance Statement, with the aim of helping to ensure information is understandable to stakeholders and that they have the opportunity to challenge the Council's performance, plans and decisions, for example, as part of reporting the Council's Statement of Accounts and quarterly Performance Reports.

### Cabinet Attendance at Scrutiny

5.12.2 Cabinet Members have attended their relevant Scrutiny Committee(s) to support the delivery of Covid-19 reports in respect of responses and recovery, and the Council recognises the key role of engagement between the Executive and Scrutiny Committees in the development of forward work programmes and to discuss the identification of any matters within the Cabinet forward work programme which may warrant further review. This has been evidenced via Cabinet / Scrutiny engagement sessions and Scrutiny Chairs and Vice-Chair meetings to coordinate the work of scrutiny committees.

5.12.3 In order to increase the prominence / awareness of the Annual Governance Statement, arrangements have been put in place whereby a designated '[Governance](#)' section has been developed on the Council's website. As part of the suite of information on this web-age it is noted that the Local Code of Corporate Governance Section was published in 2019 and has not been reviewed since this time.

### Proposal for Improvement

5.12.4 The Council's Local Code of Corporate Governance should be reviewed and where proposed updates are deemed necessary, an updated document reported to the Council's Governance and Audit Committee for consideration / approval.

## **Assurance and effective accountability**

### Internal Audit

5.12.5 The Council's Cabinet approved for the Internal Audit Service to be transferred to a Regional Internal Audit Shared Service (hosted by the Vale of Glamorgan Council), with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2019. A review of information presented by the Regional Internal Audit Shared Service to Audit Committee during the year provides assurance that the Service continued to play a key part in enabling the Committee to fulfil its Terms of Reference.

5.12.6 An Internal Audit Charter was in place for the 2020/21 financial year that was approved by Audit Committee on [5<sup>th</sup> October 2020](#) and sets out the

Service's position within the organisation, for example, its authority to access records, personnel and physical properties relevant to the performance engagements.

5.12.7 The Head of Internal Audit has produced a Head of Internal Audit Report for 2020/21. Subject to Audit Committee consideration at its meeting in July 2021, the Head of Internal Audit Report states:

- *from the work undertaken during the financial year 2020/21 and taking into account other sources of assurance, the Head of Internal Audit's annual opinion on the adequacy and effectiveness of the Council's framework of governance, risk management and control for 2020/21 is: "Effective with a small number of areas identified for improvement".*
- *based on the work completed by the Regional Internal Audit Shared Service for the financial year no significant cross-cutting control issues have been identified that would impact on the Council's overall control environment. The weaknesses that have been identified are service specific.*

5.12.8 In addition, the Head of Internal Audit's Annual Report 2020/21 confirmed overall conformance to the Public Sector Internal Audit Standards. Covid-19 changed how audit work was carried out in 2020/21 and all staff have worked from home for the year. Audits have been conducted remotely using various digital solutions, holding remote meetings, sharing of screens and sending of data and evidence electronically. Whilst there was a steep learning curve both for audit staff and auditees all have adjusted well to the new ways of working.

5.12.9 Although the pandemic did have an impact on the delivery of the internal audit plan for 2020/2021 the level of Internal Audit coverage was still sufficient for the Head of Audit to be able to give an opinion. In respect of audit coverage; Internal Audit provided assurance on the processes put in place across Council services as a result of emerging risks during the year and many of the planned reviews for 2020/21 included a Covid related element in the audit scope and objectives. Audits have taken longer than usual, in particular where services have been under more pressure, or obtaining evidence has been more time consuming. Some planned reviews were not undertaken during the year, some due to requests from services that were under intense pressure. These will be considered in the 2021/22 plan.

## 5.13 OTHER KEY GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS

### **Amgen Cymru Ltd**



- 5.13.1 Rhondda Cynon Taf CBC holds 100% of the voting rights of Amgen Cymru Ltd., who in turn hold 100% of the voting rights of Amgen Rhondda. The Council also holds 100% of the allotted preference shares in Amgen Rhondda Ltd. The principal activities of Amgen Cymru is to provide waste management services and waste disposal facilities. Amgen Rhondda is responsible for the stewardship of the Nant y Gwyddon landfill site.
- 5.13.2 The directors of the companies are responsible for ensuring there are sound governance arrangements including a robust system of internal control.
- 5.13.3 The Council removed the “arm’s length” status of the companies during 2009/10, therefore many of the aspects of the Council’s governance arrangements such as policies, processes and controls apply to the companies.
- 5.13.4 During 2020/21 there have been no significant governance issues that have been identified by the Amgen Company directors, internal auditors or external auditors.

### **Pension Fund**

- 5.13.5 Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council is the Administering Authority for the Rhondda Cynon Taf Pension Fund. Whilst the governance arrangements detailed in this statement apply equally to the Council’s responsibilities to the Pension Fund there are further specific requirements for Pension Funds which are detailed in a number of key documents:
- Governance Statement of Compliance which indicates the Fund’s position against the Government’s best practice standards;
  - Governance Policy Statement which provides an overview of the management structure, decision making and employer engagement;
  - Communication Policy Statement which details the communication and information services to participating employers and scheme members;
  - Pension Fund Administration Strategy which seeks to improve efficiency in the delivery of agreed standards of quality and to ensure compliance with statutory requirements;
  - Investment Strategy Statement which details how Fund investments are managed, including the Fund’s policy on how social, environmental and corporate governance considerations are taken into account; and
  - Funding Strategy Statement which provides a summary of how we will fund our pension liabilities.
  - Pension Fund Risk Register, which identifies, prioritises and monitors risks associated with the Fund, against suitable mitigation controls.
- 5.13.6 All of these documents can be found at the following link:  
[www.rctpensions.org.uk](http://www.rctpensions.org.uk)
- 5.13.7 The Public Service Pensions Act 2013 introduced a number of changes to public service pension schemes, including some significant changes for the

governance of such schemes. In accordance with the Act, the Council established a Local Pension Board to assist Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council in its role of Administering Authority ('Scheme Manager') in:

- Securing compliance with the Principal Regulations and any other legislation relating to the governance and administration of the LGPS;
- Securing compliance with the requirements imposed in relation to the LGPS by the Pensions Regulator; and
- Ensuring the effective and efficient governance and administration of the LGPS by the Scheme Manager.

5.13.8 The Pension Board is made up of two employer representatives and two member representatives.

5.13.9 In 2016/17 the Council established a formal Pension Fund Committee (subject to the provisions of Section 101 of the Local Government Act 1972) to oversee its responsibilities with regard to the administration of the RCT Pension Fund. The Pension Fund Committee consists of 5 elected members and is politically balanced.

5.13.10 The Committee is responsible for the strategic management of the RCT Pension Fund with all operational matters continuing to be delegated to the Council's Chief Finance Officer (as the Section 151 Officer or in his absence the Deputy Section 151 Officer) who are supported by an Investment and Administration Advisory Panel with appropriate officer, independent advisor and professional support.

5.13.11 The Pension Fund Committee met 4 times during the 2020/21 financial year.

5.13.12 In 2017, a Joint Governance Committee (JGC) was established in accordance with an inter-authority agreement, responsible for oversight of the Wales Pension Partnership (WPP) investment pooling collaboration of the eight LGPS funds in Wales. The eight Welsh Pension Fund Committee Chairs or their nominated deputy (elected member) attend the JGC and are supported by an officer working group. In January 2018, the WPP appointed an 'Operator' to establish and run a collective investment vehicle for the sole use of the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) funds in Wales.

A summary of the pooling objectives of the WPP are:

- Generate consistent net of fee excess returns;
- Diversify manager risk;
- Reduce average manager fees;
- Achieve tax efficiency by reclaiming withholding tax on dividends (for non-UK equity sub-funds);
- Meet the Government deadlines by establishing one sub fund submission to the FCA; and
- Equitably share the costs of transitioning into sub-funds.

## **OVERALL ASSESSMENT OF THE COUNCIL'S ARRANGEMENTS**

6.1 Based on the assessment undertaken, it is considered that the Council's governance arrangements provided the basis to effectively manage service delivery, Corporate Plan priority areas and resources during an unprecedented period as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic. This overall conclusion, set in the context of the pandemic, is supported by:

- The timely introduction of revised decision making and democratic engagement arrangements, in line with new coronavirus regulations and the Council's Constitution, and an on-going programme of support to elected Members to enable the continued effective discharge of their responsibilities;
- Robust service planning and prioritisation of resources in parallel with the transformation of service delivery in many areas to ensure the continued provision of essential frontline services;
- An open approach to engaging with stakeholders, partners and the Council's scrutiny function in the planning and delivery of services, this primarily being delivered remotely / virtually during the year;
- Regular reporting and publishing of financial, operational performance and governance related information, and a range of service specific information such as Covid-19 recovery arrangements, customer feedback and Committee forward work programmes, to enable stakeholders to hold the Council to account in the delivery of services / Corporate Plan priorities and use of resources;
- Robust financial management and internal control arrangements underpinning the Council's business, ensuring the appropriate use of public funds;
- An unqualified audit opinion from the Council's external auditor on the Council's latest approved Statement of Accounts (2019/20) and assurance from the Head of Internal Audit's annual opinion on the adequacy and effectiveness of the Council's framework of governance, risk management and control for 2020/21;
- A medium-term approach to financial planning, within a challenging public sector financial climate;
- On-going awareness raising within the Council to promote probity and a zero-tolerance culture in respect of fraud, bribery and corruption, and also reporting on the Council's performance in these areas; and

- The Council having a track record of implementing Annual Governance Statement recommendations in previous years.

6.2 Notwithstanding this overall position, the assessment has identified areas where improvements are deemed necessary to further reinforce the effectiveness of the Council's current arrangements. These are set out in Section 7.

## 7. 7. PROPOSALS FOR IMPROVEMENT

7.1 Further to completing the assessment of the Council's governance arrangements, Table 2 summarises the proposals for improvement.

Table 2 – Proposals for Improvement

Core Principle / Area	Paragraph No.	Issue Identified	Recommendation	Timescale for Implementation	Responsible Officer(s)
<b>MANAGING RISKS AND PERFORMANCE THROUGH ROBUST INTERNAL CONTROL AND STRONG PUBLIC FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT</b>	5.11.7	The Council's Risk Management Strategy was last reviewed and approved by Audit Committee in December 2018.	The Strategy should be reviewed and where required proposed updates reported to the Governance and Audit Committee for consideration. In addition, as part of the review, regard should be given to the findings and recommendations included within the 2020/21 Internal Audit report 'Risk Management'.	December 2021	Head of Procurement Delivery
	5.11.10	Where core financial system internal audit reports are presented to Audit Committee, no separate overview of the required internal controls is provided to aid Members understanding of the area (as originally intended as part of the 2020/21 work programme)	As part of compiling the 2021/22 Governance and Audit Committee work programme, finalised internal audit assignments for core financial systems should be supplemented by a more detailed overview of the area prior to the assignment being presented to Committee. This is to aid Members understanding of the main internal control requirements for key financial systems.	From October 2021	Coordinated by the Service Director – Finance and Improvement Services

Core Principle / Area	Paragraph No.	Issue Identified	Recommendation	Timescale for Implementation	Responsible Officer(s)
<b>MANAGING RISKS AND PERFORMANCE THROUGH ROBUST INTERNAL CONTROL AND STRONG PUBLIC FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT</b>	5.11.15	<p>Although an overview of the Council's Contract Procedure Rules was presented to the Audit Committee in 2020/21, no overview of the Financial Procedure Rules was presented.</p>	<p>As part of the learning and development of Governance and Audit Committee Members, an overview of the Council's Financial Procedure Rules should be built into the 2021/22 Work Programme to support Members understanding of these requirements.</p>	November 2021	Service Director – Finance and Improvement Services
		<p>In addition, it was noted that a review of the information contained within both documents was not reviewed and reported to Audit Committee during 2020/21.</p>	<p>A review of the content of the Contract and Financial Procedure Rule documents should be undertaken and updates reported to the Governance and Audit Committee for consideration / approval (where deemed required).</p>	December 2021	Service Director – Finance and Improvement Services and Head of Procurement Delivery

Core Principle / Area	Paragraph No.	Issue Identified	Recommendation	Timescale for Implementation	Responsible Officer(s)
<b>MANAGING RISKS AND PERFORMANCE THROUGH ROBUST INTERNAL CONTROL AND STRONG PUBLIC FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT</b>	5.11.27	<p><u>Compliance with the CIPFA Financial Management Code of Practice</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Standard C - Governance and Financial Management Style</li> <li>○ No Council wide review of officer schemes of delegation has been undertaken during the past financial year</li> <li>○ Currently, progress updates in relation to Audit Wales recommendations are reported to Audit Committee annually.</li> </ul>	<p>Officer Schemes of Delegation should be reviewed and where required updated, approved by the Designated Officers and re-issued to post-holders.</p> <p>Updates on the progress being made by the Council to implement Audit Wales recommendations should be timetabled within the Governance and Audit Committee work programme for 2021/22 and provide a mid-year and year-end update of progress.</p>	<p>January 2022</p> <p>September 2021</p>	<p>Coordinated by the Director of Legal Services</p> <p>Director of Finance and Digital Services</p>

Core Principle / Area	Paragraph No.	Issue Identified	Recommendation	Timescale for Implementation	Responsible Officer(s)
<b>MANAGING RISKS AND PERFORMANCE THROUGH ROBUST INTERNAL CONTROL AND STRONG PUBLIC FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT</b>	5.11.27	<p><u>Compliance with the CIPFA Financial Management Code of Practice</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Standard G - The authority understands its prospects for financial sustainability in the longer term and has reported this clearly to members</li> <li>○ The Council's forward-looking planning period covers 3 / 4 years as part of its Medium-Term Financial Plan.</li> </ul>	As part of the Council's on-going forward planning arrangements, information on the longer-term outlook (5 years+) should be considered and relevant updates reported as appropriate.	March 2022	Director of Finance and Digital Services
<b>IMPLEMENTING GOOD PRACTICES IN TRANSPARENCY, REPORTING, AND AUDIT TO DELIVER EFFECTIVE ACCOUNTABILITY</b>	5.12.4	As part of the suite of information on the Council's Governance web-age, it is noted that the Local Code of Corporate Governance was published in 2019 and has not been reviewed since this time.	The Council's Local Code of Corporate Governance should be reviewed and where proposed updates are deemed necessary, an updated document reported to the Council's Governance and Audit Committee for consideration / approval.	February 2022	Head of Procurement Delivery



7.2 The Council's SLT has accepted the proposals for improvement and is committed to their implementation during 2021/22. The SLT has also confirmed that an update on progress will be reported to the Council's Governance and Audit Committee during the year to enable elected Members to review and scrutinise the extent of progress being made.

Leader: \_\_\_\_\_

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

## APPENDIX A

Examples of the key elements of the Council's governance arrangements

Good Governance Principles	Examples of key systems, processes and documents in place within the Council
Behaving with integrity, demonstrating strong commitment to ethical values and respecting the rule of law	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Elected Councillor and Officer Codes of Conduct</a> - setting out the standards of behaviour to be followed based on the principles of integrity, honesty, impartiality and objectivity.</li> <li>• <a href="#">Rules of Procedure</a> - covering Council, Open Government, Access to Information, Budget and Policy Framework, Executive, Overview and Scrutiny, Officer Employment and Contract and Financial Procedure Rules. The rules set out arrangements to be followed by elected Councillors and Officers when conducting the Council's business with the aim of publicly demonstrating accountability and openness.</li> <li>• <a href="#">Standards Committee</a> - the role of which includes, amongst other things, promoting and maintaining high standards of conduct by elected Councillors.</li> <li>• <a href="#">Whistleblowing Policy</a> - promoting the highest possible standards of service and setting out how workers can bring information about a wrongdoing to the attention of the Council.</li> <li>• Anti-fraud, Bribery &amp; Corruption Strategy.</li> <li>• Gifts and hospitality Policy.</li> <li>• <a href="#">Comments, Compliments and Complaints</a> - setting out how the Council handles and responds to feedback (complaints, compliments and comments).</li> <li>• Officer Guide.</li> </ul>
Ensuring Openness and comprehensive stakeholder engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A <a href="#">Publication Scheme</a> that aims to advise citizens how to request public information the Authority holds.</li> <li>• Clear and open <a href="#">Corporate &amp; Service Specific Privacy Notices</a>.</li> <li>• Forward plans for Committee meetings together with the matters to be considered, where appropriate.</li> </ul>
Developing the entity's capacity, including the capability of its leadership and the individuals within it	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Corporate and Service Self-Evaluation process.</li> <li>• Corporate Plan.</li> <li>• Programme of elected Councillor and Officer training and development.</li> <li>• Workforce Plan 2017-22.</li> <li>• Schemes of Delegation.</li> </ul>

<b>Good Governance Principles</b>	<b>Examples of key systems, processes and documents in place within the Council</b>
Defining outcomes in terms of sustainable economic, social and environmental benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Performance Management Framework.</li> <li>• Corporate Plan and Service Delivery Plans.</li> <li>• Quarterly Performance Report (including Risk Register up dates).</li> <li>• Risk Management Strategy.</li> </ul>
Determining the interventions necessary to optimise the achievement of the intended outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Annual Revenue Budget Strategy and three year Capital Programme.</li> <li>• Medium Term Financial Plan.</li> <li>• Scrutiny Committees.</li> </ul>
Managing risks and performance through robust internal control and strong public financial management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Corporate and Service Self-Evaluation process.</li> <li>• Risk Management Strategy.</li> <li>• Service Delivery Planning.</li> <li>• Quarterly Performance Report (including Risk Register up dates).</li> <li>• Corporate Performance Report (i.e. year-end annual report).</li> <li>• Audit Committee and a Regional Internal Audit function.</li> <li>• Information Management Plan (including General Data Protection Regulation).</li> <li>• Budget and Policy Framework Procedure Rules and Contract and Financial Procedure Rules.</li> <li>• Medium Term Financial Plan.</li> </ul>
Implementing good practices in transparency, reporting, and audit to deliver effective accountability.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reporting protocols and calendars (including forward looking work programmes, for example, for Cabinet and Scrutiny Committees).</li> <li>• Statement of Accounts.</li> <li>• Annual Governance Statement.</li> <li>• Production of Annual Reports on key areas of business e.g. Corporate Parenting, Annual Equality Report, Scrutiny Annual Report, Standards Committee Annual Report, Audit Committee Annual Report.</li> <li>• Internal Audit external assessment (every 5 years) and Internal Audit Charter.</li> <li>• Pension Fund Committee.</li> </ul>

## APPENDIX B

## PROPOSALS FOR IMPROVEMENT 2019/20 – POSITION STATEMENT

Core Principle / Area	Issue Identified	Recommendation	Responsible Officer
<b>Behaving with integrity, demonstrating strong commitment to ethical values, and respecting the rule of law</b>	<u>Whistle-Blowing</u>  Although the Council's Whistle-blowing policy is kept under on-going review at an operational level, the Policy was last reported to Audit Committee for consideration in October 2016.	The Council's Whistle-Blowing Policy should be subject to a full review, taking into account intelligence gathered since the last update, and reported to Audit Committee for review, challenge and sign-off.	Director of Human Resources  Status – Completed – reported to 26 <sup>th</sup> April 2021 Audit Committee
<b>Managing risks and performance through robust internal control and strong public financial management</b>	<u>Audit Committee</u> Risk Management – strengthen Committee's visibility of the Council's risk profile and provide Audit Committee Members with the appropriate support to further development their skills in this area.  Learning and Development – although individual elected Member training and development arrangements are in place, no skills assessment has been undertaken for Audit Committee members (informed by the CIPFA publication 'Audit Committees - Practical Guidance for Local Authorities & Police 2018 Edition')	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strategic Risk Register updates to be incorporated into the Audit Committee work programme.</li> <li>• Complete a skills assessment for members of Audit Committee the results from which will inform a refreshed programme of learning and development for the Committee (and should then be incorporated into an action plan for Audit Committee to support its on-going development and link to the Audit Wales project 'Rhondda Cynon Taf Audit Committee - Support and Development').</li> </ul>	Service Director – Finance and Improvement Services Status – Completed - from 1 <sup>st</sup> February 2021 Audit Committee  Service Director – Democratic Services and Communications and Service Director – Finance and Improvement Services Status – Completed - updates to 1 <sup>st</sup> February 2021 and 22 <sup>nd</sup> March 2021 Audit Committee meetings

Core Principle / Area	Issue Identified	Recommendation	Responsible Officer
<b>Managing risks and performance through robust internal control and strong public financial management</b>	<u>Operational Risk Management</u> Although operational risk management is undertaken at a service level (via local Service Delivery Planning and monitoring arrangements) assurance is required to determine whether the arrangements are operating as intended.	Undertake a review of operational risk arrangements.	Service Director – Finance and Improvement Services Status – Completed (year-end 2020/21)

## **The independent auditor's report of the Auditor General for Wales to the Members of Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council**

### **Report on the audit of the financial statements**

#### **Opinion**

I have audited the financial statements of Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council for the year ended 31 March 2021 under the Public Audit (Wales) Act 2004.

Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council's financial statements comprise the Movement in Reserves Statement, the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement, the Balance Sheet, the Cash Flow Statement, and the related notes, including a summary of significant accounting policies.

The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and international accounting standards as interpreted and adapted by the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2020-21.

In my opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the financial position of Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council as at 31 March 2021 and of its income and expenditure for the year then ended; and
- have been properly prepared in accordance with legislative requirements and international accounting standards as interpreted and adapted by the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2020-21.

#### **Basis for opinion**

I conducted my audit in accordance with applicable law and International Standards on Auditing in the UK (ISAs (UK)) and Practice Note 10 'Audit of Financial Statements of Public Sector Entities in the United Kingdom'. My responsibilities under those standards are further described in the auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of my report. I am independent of the Council in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to my audit of the financial statements in the UK including the Financial Reporting Council's Ethical Standard, and I have fulfilled my other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion.

#### **Conclusions relating to going concern**

In auditing the financial statements, I have concluded that the use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work I have performed, I have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the Council's ability to continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting

for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

My responsibilities and the responsibilities of the responsible financial officer with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

### **Other information**

The other information comprises the information included in the annual report other than the financial statements and my auditor's report thereon. The Responsible Financial Officer is responsible for the other information contained within the annual report. My opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in my report, I do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon. My responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or knowledge obtained in the course of the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If I identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, I am required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work I have performed, I conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, I am required to report that fact.

I have nothing to report in this regard.

### **Report on other requirements**

#### **Opinion on other matters**

In my opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of my audit:

- the information contained in the Narrative Report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements and the Narrative Report has been prepared in accordance with the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2020-21;
- The information given in the Governance Statement for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements and the Governance Statement has been prepared in accordance with guidance.

#### **Matters on which I report by exception**

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the Council and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, I have not identified material misstatements in the Narrative Report or the Governance Statement.

I have nothing to report in respect of the following matters, which I report to you, if, in my opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for my audit have not been received from branches not visited by my team;
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- I have not received all the information and explanations I require for my audit.

## Responsibilities

### Responsibilities of the responsible financial officer for the financial statements

As explained more fully in the Statement of Responsibilities for the Statement of Accounts set out on page 20, the responsible financial officer is responsible for the preparation of the statement of accounts, which give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the responsible financial officer determines is necessary to enable the preparation of statements of accounts that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the statement of accounts, the responsible financial officer is responsible for assessing the council's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless deemed inappropriate.

### Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

My objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes my opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. I design procedures in line with my responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud.

My procedures included the following:

- Enquiring of management, and those charged with governance, including obtaining and reviewing supporting documentation relating to Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council's policies and procedures concerned with:
  - identifying, evaluating and complying with laws and regulations and whether they were aware of any instances of non-compliance;
  - detecting and responding to the risks of fraud and whether they have knowledge of any actual, suspected or alleged fraud; and
  - the internal controls established to mitigate risks related to fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations.
- Considering as an audit team how and where fraud might occur in the financial statements and any potential indicators of fraud.
- Obtaining an understanding of Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council's framework of authority as well as other legal and regulatory frameworks that Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council operates in, focusing on those laws and regulations that had a direct effect on the financial statements or that had a fundamental effect on the operations of Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council.



In addition to the above, my procedures to respond to identified risks included the following:

- reviewing the financial statement disclosures and testing to supporting documentation to assess compliance with relevant laws and regulations discussed above;
- enquiring of management, the Audit Committee about actual and potential litigation and claims;
- reading minutes of meetings of those charged with governance and the Council;
- in addressing the risk of fraud through management override of controls, testing the appropriateness of journal entries and other adjustments; assessing whether the judgements made in making accounting estimates are indicative of a potential bias; and evaluating the business rationale of any significant transactions that are unusual or outside the normal course of business.

I also communicated relevant identified laws and regulations and potential fraud risks to all audit team and remained alert to any indications of fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations throughout the audit.

The extent to which my procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud, is affected by the inherent difficulty in detecting irregularities, the effectiveness of Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council's controls, and the nature, timing and extent of the audit procedures performed.

A further description of the auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website [www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities](http://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities). This description forms part of my auditor's report.

### **Certificate of completion of audit**

I certify that I have completed the audit of the accounts of Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council in accordance with the requirements of the Public Audit (Wales) Act 2004 and the Auditor General for Wales' Code of Audit Practice.

Adrian Crompton  
For and on behalf of the Auditor General for Wales

24 Cathedral Road  
Cardiff  
CF11 9LJ

## Glossary of Terms

### Accrual

An accrual is a sum shown in the accounts representing income or expenditure relating to the accounting period, which had not actually been received or paid as at the date of the Balance Sheet.

### Actuary

An actuary is an individual or organisation that calculates insurance premiums and liabilities and pension obligations.

### Agent

An Agent is where the Council is acting as an intermediary.

### Amortisation

Charges to revenue for the estimated reduction in the value of an intangible asset.

### Audit

An audit is an independent examination of activities.

### Budget

A budget (or estimate) is a plan of income and spending, based upon which Council Tax is set. Actual expenditure is subsequently monitored against this plan.

### Capital Expenditure

Capital expenditure is spending on long-term assets. These are assets that will be used for several years in the provision of services and are items such as buildings, equipment and vehicles.

### Capital Receipt

Capital receipts are proceeds from the sale of long-term assets such as land or buildings.

### CCRC – Cardiff Capital Region City Deal

The Cardiff Capital Region within the City Deal is comprised of 10 local authorities; Blaenau Gwent; Bridgend; Caerphilly; Cardiff; Merthyr Tydfil; Monmouthshire; Newport; Rhondda Cynon Taf; Torfaen; and the Vale of Glamorgan.

### Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA)

CIPFA is responsible for issuing financial guidance to public bodies.

### Creditor

A creditor is an organisation/individual owed money by the Council at the end of the financial year for goods/services received.

### Current Assets

These are short-term assets that are available for the Council to use in the following accounting period.

**Current Liabilities**

These are short-term liabilities that are due for payment by the Council in the following accounting period.

**Debtor**

A debtor is an organisation/individual who owes the Council money at the end of the financial year for goods/services received.

**Debt Management Office (DMO)**

The DMO is an Executive Agency of Her Majesty's Treasury. Its responsibilities include debt and cash management for the UK Government, lending to Local Authorities and managing certain public sector funds.

**Defined Benefit Scheme**

A defined benefit pension scheme is one that bases retirement benefits upon Career Average Re-Valued Earnings.

**Defined Contribution Scheme**

A defined contribution scheme is a type of retirement plan in which the amount of the employer's annual contribution is specified. Benefits are based on the amounts credited to these accounts (through employer contributions and, if applicable, employee contributions) plus any investment earnings. Only employer contributions to the account are guaranteed, not the future benefits.

**Delegated Schools**

A delegated school is one managed independently by its Governing Body. The funds of these schools are held outside of the Council Fund balances.

**Depreciated Historic Cost (DHC)**

Depreciated Historic Cost is obtained by recording the purchase price of an asset and reducing the value over its useful economic life.

**Depreciated Replacement Cost (DRC)**

DRC is an estimation of the market value for existing use plus current gross replacement costs less allowances for deterioration.

**Depreciation**

Depreciation is the estimated loss in value of tangible long-term assets that are presented in the Balance Sheet.

**Earmarked Reserves**

These are reserves set aside for a specific purpose.

**Fair Value Hierarchy**

Level 1 – Assets and liabilities at level 1 are those where fair values are derived from unadjusted quoted prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities.

Level 2 – Assets and liabilities at level 2 are those where quoted market prices are not available.

Level 3 – Assets and liabilities at level 3 are those with valuations derived from unobservable inputs, for example, assumptions about rent growth; discount rates, etc.

**Financial Year**

This is the accounting period. For local authorities it starts on 1<sup>st</sup> April and finishes on 31<sup>st</sup> March of the following year.

**Impairment**

Impairment occurs when the value of a long-term asset falls below the value it is currently held at in the Balance Sheet and Asset Register.

**International Accounting Standard (IAS)**

Financial Regulations to be followed as set by the International Accounting Standards Board (IASB).

**International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS)**

International Financial Reporting Standards are produced by the IASB (International Accounting Standards Board) with the aim of ensuring consistency within the countries adopting the standards.

**Inventories**

Inventories are raw materials purchased for day-to-day use. The value of these items that have not been used at the end of the financial year are shown as current assets in the Balance Sheet.

**Leasing**

This is a method of financing expenditure by paying the owner to use property or equipment for a number of years.

**Lessee**

User or renter of the leased asset or property. In case of capital leases, the lessee is also the 'debtor' to the lessor.

**Lessor**

Owner or the title holder of the leased asset or property. The lessor is also the lender and secured party in case of capital leases and operating leases.

**Liability**

A liability is an obligation to transfer economic benefits as a result of past transactions or events.

**Long-Term Asset**

These are assets that are used in the provision of services (usually for more than one year).

**Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP)**

MRP is a charge against revenue resources representing a repayment of debt. It is a method of paying for Capital Expenditure which was funded by borrowing.

**Modern Equivalent Valuation (MEV)**

Modern Equivalent Valuation is a method of valuation that calculates the cost of constructing modern equivalent buildings and structures, depreciating them to account for the age and future economic life.

**Non-Domestic Rates (NDR)**

The NDR, or Business Rate, is the charge to occupiers of business premises. NDR is set by central government and is a percentage of rateable values. The percentage is the same throughout Wales. The total collected is split between individual authorities in proportion to their adult populations.

**Net Realisable Value**

The selling price of an asset, reduced by the relevant (direct) cost of selling it.

**Non-Recurring Fair Values**

These relate to assets that are measured at fair value due to particular circumstances. The assets which meet the criteria for assets held for sale are valued at the lower of non-recurring value less cost to sell, and its carrying value.

**Operating Leases**

These are leases where risks of ownership of the asset remain with the owner.

**Post Balance Sheet Events**

Post Balance Sheet items are those that arise after the Balance Sheet date. These are items that did not exist at the time the Balance Sheet was prepared but should be disclosed if they are relevant to the understanding of the accounts.

**Precepts**

This is the amount paid to a non-rating body (for example a community council).

**Principal**

An entity is acting as a Principal when it has control of the goods and services it is providing.

**Prior Year Adjustment**

Material adjustments applicable to prior years arising from changes in accounting policies or from the correction of material errors.

**Projected Unit Method**

An actuarial method of calculating the liabilities of a pension scheme which allows for projected future increases in pensionable pay up to retirement or date of leaving service.

**Provision**

A provision is an obligation to transfer economic benefits as a result of past events where a reliable estimate can be made of the obligation, but the amount or timing of which cannot yet be determined accurately.

**Public Works Loan Board (PWLB)**

This is a Government agency that provides loans to local authorities for periods between 1 and 50 years.

**Recurring Fair Value**

These relate to assets that are measured at the end of each accounting period, within the rolling programme of valuations.

**Related Party**

A related party exists where there is control or influence by one party over another.

**Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors (RICS) Red Book**

RICS is a professional body enforcing the highest standards in valuations. The “Red Book” contains mandatory rules and best practice guidance on these valuations.

**Strain on Funds**

When an employee retires early and is immediately paid a pension, without actuarial reduction, the lost contribution income and interest cost arising from the associated earlier increased cash flow is referred to as pension strain cost. The pension strain cost is determined by actuarial calculation.

**Sub Lease**

A sub-lease is a lease between a tenant who already holds a lease to a commercial space or property and someone (the sub-lessee) who wants to use part or all of the tenant's space. The tenant is deemed to be a sub-lessor.

**Trust Fund**

Trust funds hold money on behalf of an individual or organisation. Trustees administer the funds for the owners.

**Valuation Technical & Performance Standards 3 (VPS3)**

This standard refers to valuation reports and specifies additional mandatory requirements designed to enhance client understanding and use of these valuation reports.

**Valuation Practice Guidance Applications 10 (VPGA 10)**

This guidance provides additional commentary on matters that may give rise to material valuation uncertainty in accordance with VPS 3 above. For example, market disruption.

**Voluntary Aided School**

Voluntary aided schools are mainly religious or faith schools, although anyone can apply for a place. The governing body employs the staff and sets admissions criteria. School land and buildings are normally owned by a charitable foundation, often a religious organisation, and the governing body contributes to building and maintenance costs.

**Voluntary Controlled School**

Voluntary controlled schools are similar to voluntary aided schools, but are run by the local authority. The local authority employs the school's staff and sets the admissions criteria. School land and buildings are normally owned by a charity, often a religious organisation, which also appoints some of the members of the governing body.

**Welsh Government (WG)**

The Welsh Government is the devolved Government for Wales. The Welsh Government consists of the First Minister, Welsh Ministers, the Counsel General and Deputy Ministers. They are supported by Civil Servants who work across devolved areas of public life such as health, education and the environment.

## Appendix 2

Date/Dyddiad:  
29<sup>th</sup> September 2021

Please ask for/Gofynnwch am:  
Barrie Davies  
(01443) 424026

Auditor General for Wales  
24 Cathedral Road  
Cardiff  
CF11 9LJ

Dear Adrian,

### **Representations regarding the 2020/21 Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council Financial Statements**

This letter is provided in connection with your audit of the financial statements of Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council (RCTCBC) for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021 for the purpose of expressing an opinion on their truth and fairness and their proper preparation.

We confirm that to the best of our knowledge and belief, having made enquiries as we consider sufficient, we can make the following representations to you.

In addition we have completed the questionnaires (Appendix A) provided to us regarding;

- ISA240 The auditor's responsibilities relating to fraud in an audit of financial statements
- ISA250 Consideration of laws and regulations in an audit of financial statements
- ISA550 Related parties

### **Management Representations**

#### **Responsibilities:**

We have fulfilled our responsibilities for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with legislative requirements and the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2020/21; in particular the financial statements give a true and fair view in accordance therewith.

We have fulfilled our responsibilities for the design, implementation, maintenance and review of internal control to prevent and detect fraud and error.

## **Information Provided:**

We have provided you with:

- Full access to:
  - all information of which we are aware that is relevant to the preparation of the financial statements such as books of account and supporting documentation, minutes of meetings and other matters;
  - additional information that you have requested from us for the purpose of the audit; and
  - unrestricted access to staff from whom you determined it necessary to obtain audit evidence.
- the results of our assessment of the risk that the financial statements may be materially misstated as a result of fraud;
- our knowledge of fraud or suspected fraud that we are aware of and that affects RCTCBC and involves:
  - management;
  - employees who have significant roles in internal control; or
  - others where the fraud could have a material effect on the financial statements.
- our knowledge of any allegations of fraud, or suspected fraud, affecting the financial statements communicated by employees, former employees, regulators or others;
- our knowledge of all known instances of non-compliance or suspected non-compliance with laws and regulations whose effects should be considered when preparing the financial statements; and
- the identity of all related parties and all the related party relationships and transactions of which we are aware.

## **Financial Statement representations:**

All transactions, assets and liabilities have been recorded in the accounting records and are reflected in the financial statements.

The methods, the data and the significant assumptions used in making accounting estimates, and their related disclosure that is reasonable in the context of the applicable financial reporting framework.

Related party relationships and transactions have been appropriately accounted for and disclosed.

All events occurring subsequent to the reporting date which require adjustment or disclosure have been adjusted for or disclosed.

All known actual or possible litigation and claims whose effects should be considered when preparing the financial statements have been disclosed to the auditor and accounted for and disclosed in accordance with the applicable financial reporting framework.



The financial statements are free of material misstatements, including omissions. The effects of uncorrected misstatements identified during the audit are immaterial, both individually and in the aggregate, to the financial statements taken as a whole.

*There are no misstatements identified in the accounts, which remain uncorrected.*

There are a number of misstatements that have been corrected by management, as set out in the Audit Wales ISA 260 Report.

**Representations by Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council:**

We acknowledge that the representations made by management, above, have been discussed with us.

We acknowledge our responsibility for the preparation of true and fair financial statements in accordance with the applicable financial reporting framework. The financial statements were approved by Members of RCTCBC on 29<sup>th</sup> September 2021.

We confirm that we have taken all the steps that we ought to have taken in order to make ourselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that it has been communicated to you. We confirm that, as far as we are aware, there is no relevant audit information of which you are unaware.

Signed by

Director of Finance & Digital Services  
(S.151 Officer)

Leading Member

Date

Date

## **Appendix 1**

### **Matters in relation to fraud**

International Standard for Auditing (UK and Ireland) 240 covers auditors responsibilities relating to fraud in an audit of financial statements.

The primary responsibility to prevent and detect fraud rests with both management and 'those charged with governance', which for the Council is the Full Council. Management, with the oversight of those charged with governance, should ensure there is a strong emphasis on fraud prevention and deterrence and create a culture of honest and ethical behaviour, reinforced by active oversight by those charged with governance.

As external auditors, we are responsible for obtaining reasonable assurance that the financial statements are free from material misstatement due to fraud or error. We are required to maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit, considering the potential for management override of controls.

#### **What are we required to do?**

As part of our risk assessment procedures we are required to consider the risks of material misstatement due to fraud. This includes understanding the arrangements management has put in place in respect of fraud risks. The ISA views fraud as either:

- the intentional misappropriation of assets (cash, property, etc); or
- the intentional manipulation or misstatement of the financial statements.

We also need to understand how those charged with governance exercises oversight of management's processes. We are also required to make enquiries of both management and those charged with governance as to their knowledge of any actual, suspected or alleged fraud, for identifying and responding to the risks of fraud and the internal controls established to mitigate them.

Enquiries of management - in relation to fraud	
Question	2020-21 Response
<p>1. What is management's assessment of the risk that the financial statements may be materially misstated due to fraud and what are the principal reasons?</p>	<p>Good governance flows from a shared ethos and culture, as well as from systems and structures. The Council expects all representatives (i.e. Members and Officers) to conduct their duties with the highest levels of honesty and integrity.</p> <p>Policies underpin the culture in place and the Regional Internal Audit Shared Service test compliance with relevant Policies linked to the core financial systems (in line with the approved Annual Audit Plan).</p> <p>To ensure a consistent approach to working practices and processes, all officers are subject to the Council's terms and conditions of employment. A comprehensive suite of information such as policies and procedures are available for officers on "The Source" such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Financial Procedure Rules</li> <li>• Contract Procedure Rules</li> <li>• Human Resources policies</li> <li>• Anti-Fraud, Bribery &amp; Corruption Strategy</li> <li>• Whistleblowing Policy</li> <li>• Gifts and Hospitality Policy.</li> </ul> <p>New employees attend a virtual corporate induction and an induction checklist encompasses key policies and procedures.</p> <p>Headteacher and Governor training takes place for Financial Management of Schools.</p> <p>All Members receive Code of Conduct training and newly elected Member and refresher training is available annually. Code of conduct training is also provided to co-opted Members. The following codes and protocols are included as part of the member induction programme and provided on a one to one basis if requested by a Member via the Council Business Unit.</p> <p><b>Codes and Protocols</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Members' Code of Conduct</li> <li>• Protocol Standard of Conduct to be followed by Members</li> </ul>

Enquiries of management - in relation to fraud	
Question	2020-21 Response
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Officers' Code of Conduct</li> <li>• Protocol for Member/Officer Relations</li> </ul> <p>Where Members and/or Officers do not undertake their duties in accordance with the expected standards then governance arrangements are in place within the Council to manage this process in an equitable, fair and transparent manner.</p> <p>Taking all of the above into account, our assessment of the risk of fraud arising and having a material impact on the financial statements is considered to be low.</p>
2. What processes are employed to identify and respond to the risks of fraud more generally and specific risks of misstatement in the financial statements?	<p>The Council has a number of governance arrangements in place that help in the prevention and detection of fraudulent and/or improper activities. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Financial &amp; Contract Procedure Rules</li> <li>• Systems of Internal Control</li> <li>• Recruitment Policies</li> <li>• Whistleblowing Policy</li> <li>• Local procedures within departments, for example, authorisation arrangements and quality assurance processes (a number of which were undertaken remotely during 2020/21 due to revised working arrangements as a result of the pandemic)</li> <li>• An independent Internal Audit Service (the 'scopes' for audit assignments included in the 2020/21 Audit Plan took account of revised working arrangements / potential risks as a result of the pandemic).</li> <li>• An independent Corporate Fraud Team</li> <li>• Combining with Others to Prevent and Fight Fraud, for example, Participation in the National Fraud Initiative</li> </ul> <p>The Anti-Fraud, Bribery &amp; Corruption Strategy provides a clear path for raising concerns and facilitating 'tip-offs', and the fraud response arrangements outlined enables such information or allegations to be properly dealt with and reported.</p> <p>The Council's Whistleblowing Policy also gives advice on how to raise a concern, as well as providing information on the safeguards and support that are available to those who raise concerns.</p> <p>Given the governance arrangements in place, management can give assurance that the risk of material misstatement is low.</p>

Enquiries of management - in relation to fraud	
Question	2020-21 Response
3. What arrangements are in place to report fraud issues and risks to the Audit Committee?	<p>Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council is resolute in its determination to maintain its reputation as a Council that will not tolerate fraud, bribery, corruption or abuse of position for personal gain, wherever it may be found in any area of Council activity.</p> <p><b><u>Arrangements in place to report fraud issues</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Whistleblowing</u></b></p> <p>An updated Whistleblowing Policy and Procedure for Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council was reported to and approved by the Council's Audit Committee at its meeting held on <a href="#">26th April 2021</a> together with the Whistleblowing Annual Report 2020/21. With regard to the Whistleblowing Policy and Procedure, it was noted at the meeting that the approved Policy and Procedure would be published on the Council's website and awareness raising undertaken across the Council.</p> <p>The purpose of the Policy is to provide a means by which complaints of malpractice or wrongdoing can be raised by those who feel that other avenues for raising such issues are inappropriate. The Policy confirms that so far as possible, those raising concerns under the Policy will be treated confidentially.</p> <p>Workers are encouraged to report any concerns they have via the Council's <a href="#">Whistleblowing webpage "Get Involved"</a>.</p> <p><b><u>Anti-Fraud, Bribery &amp; Corruption Strategy</u></b></p> <p>The purpose of the Strategy is to communicate the Council's main principles for countering fraud, bribery and corruption. It sets out the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Council's zero tolerance approach against fraud, bribery &amp; corruption;</li> <li>• Reporting avenues for suspected irregularities;</li> <li>• Resources that are in place to support a counter fraud, bribery &amp; corruption culture; and</li> <li>• Governance arrangements in respect of reporting to Audit Committee.</li> </ul> <p>In the Council's <a href="#">Report It</a> section of the website, instructions for those who wish to raise anti-fraud, bribery or corruption concerns are provided along with the means to complete an on-line form.</p> <p><b><u>Arrangements in place to report to Audit Committee:</u></b></p>

Enquiries of management - in relation to fraud	
Question	2020-21 Response
	<p>At the <a href="#">2<sup>nd</sup> November 2020 Audit Committee meeting</a>, an Anti-fraud, Bribery and Corruption Progress Report 2020/21 was presented and at the 12th July 2021 Governance and Audit Committee<sup>1</sup>, the Anti-Fraud Annual Report 2020/21 was reported that set out progress during 2020/21 and a workplan for 2021/22 (both of which were noted and agreed). This update helps to ensure the Council continues to operate within an effective anti-fraud culture across the organisation, with resilient preventative measures capable of identifying and addressing new threats.</p> <p>The <a href="#">1<sup>st</sup> February 2021 Audit Committee</a> meeting (that reported an update on the '2019/20 Annual Governance Statement Recommendations – Progress update') noted that the review of the Whistleblowing Policy will be reported to the April 2021 Audit Committee (at the same time as the Whistleblowing Annual Report for 2020/21).</p> <p>At the 26<sup>th</sup> April 2021 Audit Committee meeting, whistleblowing activity during 2020/21 was reported (as part of the Whistleblowing Annual Report) and concluded that arrangements were appropriate (note: the updated Whistleblowing Policy and Procedure was also reported to this meeting).</p> <p>Related information is also included under question 5 'Enquiries of management - in relation to fraud'.</p>

<sup>1</sup> Governance and Audit Committee – previously named Audit Committee up to the Council's Annual General Meeting in May 2021 where at this meeting it was agreed for the Committee to be re-named to the Governance and Audit Committee in line with the requirements of the Local Government and Election (Wales) Act 2021

Enquiries of management - in relation to fraud	
Question	2020-21 Response
4. How has management communicated expectations of ethical governance and standards of conduct and behaviour to all relevant parties, and when?	<p><b><u>Elected Councillors</u></b></p> <p>Following the Local Government elections held on 4<sup>th</sup> May 2017, all elected Councillors were provided with an induction and an on-going programme of support that included an overview of the Council's Code of Conduct.</p> <p>Every elected Councillor has signed up to his/her individual Role Description, a copy of which is retained by the Council's Democratic Services division.</p> <p>The Council's Scrutiny Committee meeting minutes were examined to determine whether proceedings were conducted in line with the Council's Code of Conduct. Declarations of interest were sought and declarations were made by elected Councillors, as a standard agenda item, where appropriate.</p> <p>On <a href="#">17th November 2020</a> Cabinet received the report on the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales – Annual Report and Letter 2019/20. In addition, a Standards Committee was in place during 2020/21 and received a <a href="#">summary of complaints against Members</a> submitted to the Ombudsman. Also, on 27<sup>th</sup> November 2020, the Standards Committee received information on proposed arrangements for Code of Conduct refresher training for County Borough Councillors.</p> <p><b><u>Council Employees</u></b></p> <p>The Council has a number of recruitment and selection Policies in place that help to ensure that new recruits have the integrity and ethical values of the organisation and also the competencies to undertake the duties required of them.</p> <p>Employees have contracts of employment and competency based job descriptions which set out grade, roles and responsibilities. The Human Resources Service oversees terms and conditions of employment, and the Council have a suite of policies and procedures that are available for officers to access.</p> <p>Each new recruit is provided with a 'Basic Rules – A Guide for Employees' booklet, via The Source, that gives each employee information in relation to (amongst other things) expected behaviour, use of social media, appearance and attendance. The expectations of each employee are set out from the outset.</p> <p>The Council describes what excellent behaviour looks like for each type of job, for example, 'always treat people with respect', and this information is used to test candidates suitability for jobs at interview and is used to inform discussions managers have with their staff as part of their development.</p>

Enquiries of management - in relation to fraud	
Question	2020-21 Response
5. Are you aware of any instances of actual, suspected or alleged fraud within the council since 1 April 2020?	<p>To support transparency and openness, the Council's arrangements during 2020/21 included:</p> <p><u>Whistle-blowing arrangements</u> A new Regulation came into force during April 2017 which placed a requirement upon the Council to report annually on whistle-blowing disclosures. The Regulation required the Council to publish the annual report on its website or by other means appropriate for bringing the report to the attention of the public. For Rhondda Cynon Taf, this requirement was met for the 2020/21 financial year via an Annual Report to Audit Committee on 26<sup>th</sup> April 2021.</p> <p><u>Anti-fraud, Bribery &amp; Corruption arrangements</u></p> <p>As set out for question 3 above, the Anti-Fraud Annual Report for 2020/21 was reported to the Governance and Audit Committee on 12<sup>th</sup> July 2021 and an in-year Anti-Fraud, Bribery and Corruption progress report was presented to the 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2020 Audit Committee meeting. Both updates included references / information on the specific work around financial probity in relation to the award of flooding support to businesses and residents (i.e. Storm Dennis related) and Covid-19 business support payments, and also the inclusion of data matching for Covid-19 business support payments paid by local authorities as part of the 2020/21 National Fraud Initiative programme of work.</p> <p>The Council included a payslip insert to all employees in August 2020 providing information on how Council employees could report any suspicions regarding Anti-fraud, Bribery and Corruption.</p>
6. Are you aware of any fraud within the council since 1 April 2020?	Please refer to the response to question 5, above.
7. Are you aware of any instances of actual, suspected or alleged fraud within the council since 1 April 2020?	Please refer to the response to question 5, above.



Enquiries of those charged with governance – in relation to fraud	
Question	2020-21 Response
1. How does the Full Council, exercise oversight of management's processes for identifying and responding to the risks of fraud within the audited body and the internal control that management has established to mitigate those risks?	<p>Full Council has ensured that the Audit Committee's Terms of Reference are comprehensive and compliant with the Local Government Measure 2011.</p> <p>Audit Committee has a detailed <u>work plan</u> for each Municipal Year that helps them ensure they meet their Terms of Reference.</p> <p>The Statement of Accounts and Annual Governance Statement are reported to full Council, alongside the external auditor's report, for consideration and if appropriate, approval.</p> <p>Audit Wales reports its Annual Audit Summary Report to full Council setting out, amongst other things, the results of its work undertaken within the Authority in the previous financial year. The most recent being reported <a href="#">10<sup>th</sup> March 2021</a>. Further to review by Council, this report is scrutinised by the Council's overview and scrutiny arrangements to monitor progress and is also reported to Audit Committee.</p>
2. Are you aware of any instances of actual, suspected or alleged fraud with the audited body since 1 April 2020?	Please refer to response within "Enquiries of Management" section, Question 5.

## Appendix 2

### Matters in relation to laws and regulations

International Standard for Auditing (UK and Ireland) 250 covers auditors responsibilities to consider the impact of laws and regulations in an audit of financial statements.

Management, with the oversight of those charged with governance (Full Council), is responsible for ensuring that the Council's operations are conducted in accordance with laws and regulations, including compliance with those that determine the reported amounts and disclosures in the financial statements.

As external auditors, we are responsible for obtaining reasonable assurance that the financial statements are free from material misstatement due to fraud or error, taking into account the appropriate legal and regulatory framework. The ISA distinguishes two different categories of laws and regulations:

- laws and regulations that have a direct effect on determining material amounts and disclosures in the financial statements;
- other laws and regulations where compliance may be fundamental to the continuance of operations, or to avoid material penalties.

#### What are we required to do?

As part of our risk assessment procedures we are required to make inquiries of management and the Full Council as to whether the Council is in compliance with relevant laws and regulations. Where we become aware of information of non-compliance or suspected non-compliance we need to gain an understanding of the non-compliance and the possible effect on the financial statements.

Enquiries of management – in relation to laws and regulations	
Question	2020-21 Response
1. How have you gained assurance that all relevant laws and regulations have been complied with?	<p>The accounts are prepared in accordance with the Accounts &amp; Audit Regulations.</p> <p>The Accounts and Audit (Wales) Regulations 2014 (as amended) require the Responsible Financial Officer (for Rhondda Cynon Taf, the Director of Finance and Digital Services) to certify unaudited accounts by 31<sup>st</sup> May following financial year-end. The regulations include a provision whereby if the Responsible Financial Officer does not certify the draft accounts by 31<sup>st</sup> May, there is a requirement to publish a statement setting out the reasons for non-compliance. RCT CBC published such a notice for the 2020/21 accounts in line with the timescales set out in the above regulations.</p> <p>As it did for 2019/20 accounts, Welsh Government has clarified its expectation for the timescales of the preparation and publication of statutory financial accounts for 2020/21 by confirming there is no requirement to amend regulations and permitting local authorities to prepare accounts in line with the 2019/20 timescales. This requires preparation and certification of draft accounts by 31 August 2021 and publication of final audited accounts by 30 November 2021 for all local government bodies in Wales. However, the Welsh Government encourages Councils to approve earlier wherever possible and engage with external auditors.</p> <p>Audit Wales have not raised any issues of non-compliance.</p>
2. Have there been any instances of non-compliance or suspected non-compliance with relevant laws and regulations since 1 April 2020, or earlier with an ongoing impact on the 2020-21 financial statements?	There are no instances of non-compliance with relevant laws and regulations. Full Council receives assurance on this from the appointed External Auditor.
3. Are there any potential litigations or claims that would affect the financial statements?	Any potential litigations and/or claims are accounted for in accordance with the Code of Practice and where appropriate, disclosed in the letter of representation.
4. Have there been any reports from other regulatory bodies, such as HM Revenues and	No.

Customs which indicate non-compliance?	
5. Are you aware of any non-compliance with laws and regulations within the council since 1 April 2020?	No.

**Enquiries of those charged with governance – in relation to laws and regulations**

<b>Question</b>	<b>2020-21 Response</b>
1. How does the Full Council, in its role as those charged with governance, obtain assurance that all relevant laws and regulations have been complied with?	Full Council appoints Audit Committee and sets its Terms of Reference.  Full Council ratifies the appointment of the Section 151 Officer and the Council's Monitoring Officer, whose roles are defined by statute and referenced within the Constitution.  Full Council receives assurance from the appointed External Auditor.
2. Are you aware of any instances of non-compliance with relevant laws and regulations?	There are no instances of non-compliance with relevant laws and regulations. Full Council receives assurance on this from the appointed External Auditor.

## **Appendix 3**

### **Matters in relation to related parties**

International Standard for Auditing (UK and Ireland) 550 covers auditors responsibilities relating to related party relationships and transactions.

The nature of related party relationships and transactions may, in some circumstances, give rise to higher risks of material misstatement of the financial statements than transactions with unrelated parties.

Because related parties are not independent of each other, many financial reporting frameworks establish specific accounting and disclosure requirements for related party relationships, transactions and balances to enable users of the financial statements to understand their nature and actual or potential effects on the financial statements. An understanding of the entity's related party relationships and transactions is relevant to the auditor's evaluation of whether one or more fraud risk factors are present as required by ISA (UK and Ireland) 240, because fraud may be more easily committed through related parties.

#### **What are we required to do?**

As part of our risk assessment procedures, we are required to perform audit procedures to identify, assess and respond to the risks of material misstatement arising from the entity's failure to appropriately account for or disclose related party relationships, transactions or balances in accordance with the requirements of the framework.

Enquiries of management – in relation to related parties	
Question	2020-21 Response
<p>1. Confirm that you have disclosed to the auditor:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the identity of any related parties, including changes from the prior period;</li> <li>• the nature of the relationships with these related parties;</li> <li>• details of any transactions with these related parties entered into during the period, including the type and purpose of the transactions.</li> </ul>	<p>Related party transactions are disclosed within the notes to the statement of accounts in accordance with the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting.</p>
<p>2. What controls are in place to identify, authorise, approve, account for and disclose related party transactions and relationships?</p>	<p>Governance arrangements are in place to ensure that a Register of Members Interests is in place and also that Declarations of Interest at each committee are asked for as a standard agenda item.</p> <p>Within the Annual Statement of Accounts of the Council, there is a requirement for the disclosure of “Related Party Transactions”. This relates to payments made to, or income received from, any organisation in which a Member or Chief Officer (who sits on the Senior Leadership Team) of the Council has an interest, financial or otherwise.</p> <p>Independent checks are also undertaken by finance officers against publicly available national databases to minimise the risk of non-disclosure.</p> <p>Additional controls are in place to ensure records of related parties are captured prior to a Member or officer of the Senior Leadership team leaving the local authority.</p> <p>Further additional Controls in place include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gifts &amp; Hospitality Policy</li> <li>• Contract Procedure Rules</li> <li>• The Anti-Fraud, Bribery &amp; Corruption Strategy</li> </ul>

Enquiries of the those charged with governance – in relation to related parties	
Question	2020-21 Response
1. How does the Council, in its role as those charged with governance, exercise oversight of management's processes to identify, authorise, approve, account for and disclose related party transactions and relationships?	<p>Governance arrangements are in place to ensure that a Register of Members Interests is in place and also that Declarations of Interest at each committee are asked for as a standard agenda item.</p> <p>Within the Annual Statement of Accounts of the Council, there is a requirement for the disclosure of "Related Party Transactions". This relates to payments made to, or income received from, any organisation in which a Member or Chief Officer (who sits on the Senior Leadership Team) of the Council has an interest, financial or otherwise.</p> <p>Additional Controls in place include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gifts &amp; Hospitality Policy</li> <li>• Contract Procedure Rules</li> <li>• The Anti-Fraud, Bribery &amp; Corruption Strategy.</li> </ul>



## RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

### COUNCIL

29<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2021

### UPDATE ON FLOOD ALLEVIATION

#### REPORT OF GROUP DIRECTOR PROSPERITY DEVELOPMENT AND FRONTLINE SERVICES IN DISCUSSIONS WITH THE RELEVANT PORTFOLIO HOLDER CLLR MORGAN, LEADER OF THE COUNCIL.

**Author: Roger Waters, Service Director Frontline Services.  
Tel 01443 494702**

#### 1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 This report provides members with an update on progress on Flood Alleviation measures and associated work on infrastructure since Storm Dennis.

#### 2. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that Members:

- 2.1 Note the content of the report, the significant progress made to date and the extensive pipeline of alleviation, repair and enhancement work ahead.

#### 3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 This report follows the report to Council on 25<sup>th</sup> November 2020 and the report to Cabinet of 18<sup>th</sup> December 2020. Members will also be aware that on 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2020, Natural Resources Wales also published a series of reports on the flooding;

<https://naturalresourceswales.gov.uk/february2020floods?lang=en>

- 3.2 More specifically, the report to Cabinet of 18<sup>th</sup> December included a series of recommendations for which a summary update is provided at Appendix 1.
- 3.3 The extreme weather events of February 2020 caused wide ranging and extensive flooding with almost 1,500 properties internally flooded. Unprecedented damage was also caused to the civil infrastructure that sustains and supports our communities. In particular, damage to our transportation and drainage networks was extensive.

- 3.4 The Council has worked closely with Welsh Government and has secured a range of funding to both repair and replace damaged infrastructure and to continue our flood alleviation work to enhance flood assets. Funding has also been secured to address the coal spoil slip at Tylorstown tip and to undertake enhanced maintenance on tips across RCT.
- 3.5 During the 2020/21 Financial Year almost £15M of works were delivered in response to Storm Dennis, comprised as follows;
- Almost £4.9M was secured through Resilient Roads Grant to enhance our highways network to increase resilience to flood events.
  - Over £3.5M was spent in delivering maintenance works to coal spoil tips across RCT and on the emergency works to the slip at Tylorstown.
  - Over £4M was spent on repairing damage to structures and drainage networks
  - Almost £2.3M was spent on new Flood Alleviation Schemes
- 3.6 During the 2021/22 Financial Year RCT expenditure in the areas set out above is anticipated to exceed £20M. This is in addition to the major programmes of capital investment established through the RCT Invest initiative and the annual grants for transport projects secured from Welsh Government.
- 3.7 The current situation relating to the programme of flood alleviation works and drainage repairs is set out at Appendix 2.
- 3.8 The current situation relating to repair works to damaged structures is set out at Appendix 3.
- 3.9 We continue to work closely with Welsh Government, the Coal Authority and the Tip Safety Task Force in managing tip safety in RCT and in establishing programmes of work to reduce risk.

#### **4. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS / SOCIO-ECONOMIC DUTY**

- 4.1 The report is for information only and to provide an update on activity following Storm Dennis. As a result, no Equality and Diversity impact assessment is required for the purpose of this report.

#### **5. CONSULTATION**

- 5.1 There are no consultation requirements relating directly to the report but the individual schemes will (or have) involve varying degrees of consultation.

**6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

6.1 Delivery of the programme of works beyond 2021/22 is reliant on close working with Welsh Government and continued financial support to fully address all the damage caused by Storm Dennis. The Flood Alleviation work is subject to grant funding based on business case development and stage gated approvals. Resilient Roads Funding is an annual grant which has been established for 2 financial years and requests have been made to extend this grant into the future.

**7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS OR LEGISLATION CONSIDERED**

7.1 The report provides an update on the Flood Alleviation and associated infrastructure works following Storm Dennis.

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

8.1 This investment programme supports the Council’s Corporate Plan Priority ‘Places – Where people are proud to live, work and play’. The work identified is critical to maintaining the fabric of our society and to protect our residents and businesses.

**9. CONCLUSION**

9.1 The events of Storm Dennis were devastating to the residents and businesses of RCT. This report highlights the physical work that is being undertaken to restore our infrastructure and to provide enhanced resilience in future storm events. The scale of damage will take several years to rectify with further works being identified on an ongoing basis as surveys and investigations continue across our extensive transport and drainage networks.

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## Appendix 1

### Progress in response to Cabinet Recommendation of 18/12/20:

Recommendation	Related to;	Actions to date
1	Joint Working	The Council has established a Flood Board comprised of Welsh Government, NRW, DCWW and RCT with each party represented at senior level. Meetings are Chaired by the Leader of the Council and take place quarterly with updates from each party provided, activities are coordinated and roles and responsibilities are clearly understood.
2	High Level Review of Flood Risk	The FRM team has reviewed Flood Risk on the basis of the new Flood Risk Assessment Wales maps and the experience of Storm Dennis and is developing a number of Strategic Flood Alleviation schemes to address the strategic risks. These schemes will look at entire catchment areas and develop a set of strategic proposals to reduce flood risk in these areas.
3	Flood Support Team	These proposals were included in the report to Cabinet of 21 <sup>st</sup> September and also covered in this meeting of Council.
4	Self-help and local measures	These proposals were included in the report to Cabinet of 21 <sup>st</sup> September and also covered in this meeting of Council and involve the introduction of drainage by-laws, additional enforcement resources. A scheme of Property Level Protection measures has been rolled out to provide residents with flood gates and flood sacks to defend their properties against flooding.
5	Emergency Planning – community response	We have completed a draft plan and list of potential premises suitable and available for use as local Community Response Centres for consideration by SLT, prior to the start of more detailed negotiations.

6	Infrastructure Maintenance and Enhancement	Completed, ongoing and pipeline projects are set out in the appendices to this report.
7	Remote Monitoring and Links to the new Control Room	All existing camera and alarm systems have been linked up to the new Control Room at Ty Elai and can be monitored remotely in real-time. A package of additional cameras and alarms has been secured and this is in the process of being installed. This system will also include cameras to observe river flows.
8	Communications	The establishment of the Control Room will enable an integrated team to be established to respond to events and to provide effective communications.
9	Pluvial Drainage Teams	A Drainage Manager has been appointed to lead on Pluvial Drainage Maintenance with a team established in each depot. A long-term contract has been let to secure the full-time services of a dedicated Vactor machine together with specialist CCTV survey team to cleanse and survey our drainage networks. In addition, specialist gully cleaning gangs were contracted to the Council over the summer to support an initiative where members of the public could submit requests to clear blocked gullies. This effectively clears a backlog enabling our existing crews to focus on scheduled maintenance.
10	Information for Flood Victims and S19 Reports	Three of nineteen S19 reports have been published. Two have been considered by Overview & Scrutiny. Others are progressing, several reports where Fluvial flooding is prevalent will be shared with NRW for comment and consideration in the coming weeks. An additional resource to support flood awareness is proposed in a separate report being considered by Council.
11	Environmental Strategy	Climate Change Cabinet Steering Group continues to make progress on the Climate Change Strategy with public engagement taking place through a wide ranging Climate Conversation – “Let’s talk Climate Change RCT”

**Appendix 2****Overview of FRM Projects being delivered by the Strategic Projects Service area – Sept 2021****Summary**

<b><u>Category</u></b>	<b><u>Number of Projects</u></b>	<b><u>Additional Since last Report</u></b>	<b><u>Construction Phase</u></b>	<b><u>Completed</u></b>
Flood Risk Management - Major Schemes. (WG 2021/22 pipeline £2.85m)	12	N/A	2	0
Flood Risk Management – Schemes – SOC “in Development”	9		N/A	
Flood Risk Management - Small Schemes (<£150k) (2021/22)	12	N/A	3	4
Flood Risk Management - Small Schemes advanced preparation (For 2022/23)	0	N/A	N/A	0
Resilient Road 2021/22	20	N/A	2	3
Emergency Repairs >£10k (Storm Dennis/Christoph)	6	N/A	0	2
<b>Total 2021/22 “live” Projects</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>9 (+)</b>

### Flood Risk Management - Major Schemes - Pipeline

Project	Brief Description	Benefits	Value	Current Status	Est Completion (pipeline)
Nant Gwawr (Phase 2)	Flood Alleviation Scheme	Increased standard of protection to Approx. 62 properties.	Not Known	Grant application required for OBC development	On WG Pipeline (£50k) - OBC 2021/22 2022/23
Oaklands Terrace, Cilfynydd	Flood Alleviation Scheme	Increased standard of protection to Approx. 78 properties	Not Known	Grant application required for OBC development	On WG Pipeline (£60k) - OBC 2021/22 2023/24
Park Lane Aberdare	Flood Alleviation Scheme using overland flow and natural attenuation areas.	Increased standard of protection to Approx. 31 properties	£530k	<b>Substantially complete Landscaping to follow on Spring 2021</b>	Spring 2020/21
Treorchy FAS - (Phase 1) Cemetery Road	Flood Alleviation Scheme. Phase 1 - diversion/upgrade of culverted watercourse	Increased standard of protection to Approx. 236 properties	£650-750k	BJC being developed. Preliminary Design ongoing VO Granted <b>Delays on D&amp;D Phase 1 - £300-400k.</b>	On WG Pipeline (£750k)- Construction 2021/22
Treorchy FAS - (Phase 2) - Column Street	Flood Alleviation Scheme	Increased standard of protection to Approx. 236 properties	Not Known (£2-3m)	Application for Grant being prepared for FBC/D&D. Cost increased	On WG Pipeline (£100k)- D&D 2021/22 2022/23
Cwmaman Phase 2	Flood Alleviation Scheme Phase 2 - Reduction in peak flows through upper catchment management and traditional methods	Increased standard of protection to Approx. 20 properties	£300-400k	<b>Application 3 Aug 21 for D&amp;D costs.</b> <b>Still queries being dealt with from WG</b>	On WG Pipeline (£400k)- Construction 2021/22

Project	Brief Description	Benefits	Value	Current Status	Est Completion (pipeline)
Glenboi Road – Mt Ash	Options to manage the highway drainage and exceedance flows from the ordinary watercourse.	Increased standard of protection to Approx. 24 properties	£1m -1.2m	Design and Development (Redstart) ongoing Detailed Design and <b>Delays due to service diversions and issues with design. Tenders out. Dedicated Substation required (4 Months) Advanced works in Oct 21</b>	On WG Pipeline (£850k) - Construction Winter 2021/22
Pentre FAS	Flood Alleviation Scheme	Increased standard of protection to Approx. 400 properties	£3-4m	OBC development (RPS) Being integrated with DCWW and NRW assists. Ongoing. <b>Complex network being built Catchment check completed. Delays to modelling</b>	On WG Pipeline (£353k) – D&D 2021/22  2022/23
Nant Ffrwd Culvert – Flood Routing	Flood Alleviation Scheme	Increased standard of protection to Approx. 18 properties	£300-400k	SOC being developed (Redstart) – May 2021  <b>SOC Draft report received. Looking at some minor works in advance.</b>	On WG Pipeline (£40k) – D&D 2021/22
Bronallt Terr – Phase 3	Flood Alleviation scheme – upland storage.	Increased standard of protection to Approx. 40 properties	£300-£400k	BJC submitted to WG (Est £300-350k) <b>D&amp;D grant received, GI completed</b> <b><u>“Landfill” materials hit. Could have serious consequences on the project. At least 1-2 months delay</u></b>	On WG Pipeline (£250k) - Construction 2021/22



Project	Brief Description	Benefits	Value	Current Status	Est Completion (pipeline)
Property Flood Resilience (PFR)	"loan" of interim PFR measures.	Increased standard of protection to Approx. 230+ properties	£230k	<p>Delivery Preparation – 347 letters sent out. Deadline 11 June 2021 for return.</p> <p><b><u>18 Added after floods in Tylorstown</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Equipment due for delivery by end of Sept</u></b></p>	2020/21 (new project (extension for 2021/22))
Pentre Road Inlet	New Inlet with 2 x overflow system and debris catcher	165 properties.	£400-500k	<p>Ongoing delays due to rock and slow progress. Main inlet completed. Finishing works to periphery</p>	Sept 2021/22

**Flood Risk Management - Schemes – “in development” (not currently on WG Pipeline or allocated to funding stream)**

Project	Brief Description	Benefits	Dev Money Req	Est Project Value	Current Status	Est Completion (pipeline)
Cardiff Road FAS (Aberaman)	Flood Alleviation scheme – upland storage and routing.		£5k	£300-400k	SOC development. Concept Design Completed.	NEW project for Pipeline. Likely 2022/23
Tuberville Road – FAS (Porth)	Flood Alleviation Scheme – overflow culverts and storage	May be difficult on Residential. Maybe need to map flooding. Maybe RRF as effects road	£10k	£200-350k	SOC development. Concept Design Completed.	NEW project for Pipeline/RRF. Likely 2022/23
Cefn Pennar Road - FAS	Upper catchment storage of flood water reducing peak flows to network	Currently system predicted to flood at 700m3.	£5k	£200-300k	SOC development. Concept Design completed.	NEW project for Pipeline. Likely 2022/23
Trehafod FAS	SW network capacity/Storage	Properties. Working in calibration with DCWW (pumping station)	£20-30k	£400-500k	SOC development.	NEW project for Pipeline. Likely 2022/23
Afon Cynon/Wellington St FAS	Upper Catchment Flood Storage by Ysguborwen House	Reduction in flows to Cynon via upland storage.	£10k	£100-200k	SOC development.	NEW project for Pipeline. Likely 2022/23
Cwmbach Canal FAS	Flow control on Canal, enhanced flood storage and upgrades for downstream watercourse	Need to quantify. TfW flooding (rail contribution?)	£10-20k	TBA	Initial Concept/scope	NEW project for Pipeline. Likely 2022/23
Cwmbach Under pass	Additional pump capacity required	School route not flooded	£10k	£40-50k	Initial Concept/scope	NEW project likely Core RCT funding
Ferndale/Tylorstown	Flooding to Properties and commercial	9 residential 10+ commercial	£25k	TBA	<b>Asset Surveys underway and consultant proposal under review. 18 Residential offered interim PFR.</b>	

Peat Bogs Restoration	NFM for peat bog restoration		£10k		Initial scoping and meetings being held with RCT countryside and NRW	
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### Flood Risk Management - Small Schemes for (2021/22)

Project	Brief Description	Benefits	Value	Current Status	Est Completion
Mt Ash A4059 Upper catchment scour	Repair and armouring/improvement of the scoured sections of the Ordinary Watercourse Channel and debris control		£150,000	In construction	2021/22
Victor Street - inlet	Replacement and upgrade of inlet with overflow arrangement (if Possible). Channel upgrades/capacity.		£50,000	In construction, nearing completion	2021/22
Pentre (Volunteer St) FAS (Advanced Works - Lower Nant y Pentre culvert)	Installation of an exceedance flow path on the lower section of the Nant y Pentre culvert, with debris control and some attenuation.		£150,000	<b>Detailed Design ongoing GI out to tender</b>	2021/22
Heath Terrace	Repair and armouring of the scoured sections of the Ordinary Watercourse Channel and replacement of two number ordinary watercourse inlet headwalls and debris screens.		£150,000	Detailed Design under Review prior to Tender. Tender WC13/9/21	2021/22
Tyn-Y-Wern	Lining of a structurally weakened ordinary watercourse culvert and rebuild of several Manhole structures.		£125,000	<b>Completed</b>	2021/22
Standard View	Lining of a structurally weakened ordinary watercourse culvert and rebuild of several Manhole structures.		£100,000	<b>Completed</b>	2021/22
Cefn Pennar Road	Culvert Inlet Upgrade		£50,000	<b>Completed</b>	2021/22
Tirfounder Road, Cwmbach	Upgrade of the ordinary watercourse culvert inlet with an enlarged headwall and debris screen structure and repair to the channel scour		£100,000	Difficulties with access, preliminary design options/scope being developed. <b>Likely to target Scour. Amey Appointed through SEWTAPS</b>	2021/22

Project	Brief Description	Benefits	Value	Current Status	Est Completion
Nant Cae Dudwg	Repair and armouring of scoured sections of the ordinary watercourse channel and replacement of damaged debris screen and channel base		£75,000	Detailed Design under Review prior to Tender incl. of repairs	2021/22
Mostyn Street	Rebuild of Culvert Inlet with inclusion of a debris platform/catchpit. Replacement of culvert The works will also re-channel the ordinary watercourse channel upstream of inlet.		£125,000	Detailed Design under review. Tender Oct 21	2021/22
Cross Street	Upgrade works to a number of surface water outfall structures which will be supported by an outfall control device intended to support the relative free discharge of the surface water drainage infrastructure and avoid hydraulic locking.		£15,000	<b>Within Structures contract.</b> <b>In construction</b>	2021/22
Fernhill Inlet	Upgrade of existing inlet		£15,000	<b><u>Completed</u></b>	2021/22

## Resilient Road 2021/22

Project	Brief Description	Work	Value	Current Status	Est Completion
Cwmbach Inst Estate, Canal Rd	Flood Alleviation Scheme using overland flow and flood routing to increase capacity in existing system.	Increased standard of protection to Approx. 69 properties	£300k	<b>Construction Phase Delays due to services Increase in costs. Nearing completion of drainage works plus additional fencing.</b>	Mid Oct 2021
A4059 Aberdare Bypass (CV1)	Improvements to the main culvert inlet to improve capacity and manage surface water flows from the highway	Design & Construction	£50k	<b>Scoping</b>	2021/22
Aberdare - Asda Roundabout (CV3)	Raising of the road by 200-400 mm to avoid flooding onto the highway (1km)	Construction	£750k	<b>Completed</b>	July 2021/22
Bronallt Terrace - Phase 3 (CV5)	Replacement of defective masonry culverted ordinary watercourse conveying through Bronallt Terrace highway	Construction	£180k	<b>Completed</b>	2021/22
A4061 Rhigos Road (CV6c)	Upsizing of culvert/overflow culvert to improve the capacity of the network to manage surface water flows from the highway	Construction	£650k	<b>Current discussions ongoing with BT/WPD. Orders placed</b>	2021/22
Abercynon - Mt Ash (CV8)	Further treatment works to the low point within the verge area required to add capacity and manage the low spot flooding.	Design & Construction	£125k	<b>Investigation works ongoing Very complex and at least 2 buried</b>	2021/22

				<b>manholes 75% full of silt found on lines. <u>Slow work.</u></b>	
A4059 Hirwaun Road (CV9)	Upsizing of culvert to increase and improve capacity of highway drainage network	Design & Construction	£25k	<b>Scoping Most work being carried out by A465 in next 12 months</b>	2021/22

Project	Brief Description	Work	Value	Current Status	Est Completion
Bwllfa Road, Cwmdare (CV10)	Upgrade works to improve the capacity of the highway culvert network	Design & Construction	£75k	Scoping	2021/22
Cynon Valley Monitoring Stations	Further expansion of telemetry monitoring equipment to be installed at various locations across the Cynon valley	Construction	£30k	Installation commenced	Oct 2021/22
A4058 Tonypany - Porth (RV3&4)	Remedial works to renew pipelines, investigate land drainage and increase gully connections to improve the capacity of the A4058 highway drainage network from Tonypany to Porth	Construction	£100k	First phase completed on site 2nd phase in scoping	2021/22
A4119 Bypass Ynysgrug - Tonypany - Coedely (RV7)	Upgrading the A4119 highway drainage to improve the capacity of the network	Construction	£100k	Scoping	2021/22
A4058 High Street, Treorchy (RV8)	Upgrades to the carrier line and improvement works to the highway drainage network	Design & Construction	£125k	DCWW determining capacity of PS. RCT to design system for Q100 +CC and then throttle to DCWW limit.	2021/22
A4058 Pentre Road (RV9)	Improvements to the highway drainage of surrounding streets to intercept the overland flow routes and alleviate flooding to the A4058	Design & Construction	£50k	Volunteer St - Design Pentre Rd – <b>Completed</b>	July 2021/22
A4061 Abertonllwyd Street (RV10)	Improvements to the highway drainage of surrounding streets to intercept the overland flow routes and alleviate flooding to the A4061	Design & Construction	£100k	Scoping	2021/22
B4278 Pontypridd Road (RV11)	Improvements to the highway drainage include the installation of additional gullies to improve the capacity of the B4278	Construction	£20k	Construction	2021/22
B4278 Cemetery Road, Porth (RV12)	Replacement of the existing highway drainage with a super gully/catchpit to improve the capacity of the drainage network	Construction	£25k	Construction	2021/22

<b>Project</b>	<b>Brief Description</b>	<b>Work</b>	<b>Value</b>	<b>Current Status</b>	<b>Est Completion</b>
A4093 Blackmill Road, Hendreforgan (RV13)	Increase the capacity of surface water drainage to the Blackmill Road	Design & Construction	£75k	<b>Scoping</b>	2021/22
Rhondda Valley Monitoring Stations	Further expansion of telemetry monitoring stations to be installed at various locations across the Rhondda valley	Construction	£30,000	<b>Installation commenced</b>	Oct 2021/22
B4278 Llwynceilyn Road (RV14)	Recovery works to stabilise the embankment and improve ground water drainage to avoid further flooding impacts to the highway	Design & Construction	£250,000	<b>Structures Team</b>	2021/22
Margaret Street, Pontygwaith (RV15)	Recovery works to stabilise the hillside and improve ground water drainage to avoid further flooding impacts to the highway	Design & Construction	£550,000	<b>Structures Team</b>	2021/22



**Flood Risk Management – Emergency Repairs (2021/22)**

Project	Brief Description	Benefits	Value	Current Status	Est Completion
Upper Allen St	Repair and armouring/improvement of the scoured sections of the Ordinary Watercourse Channel.		£60k	<b>Completed</b>	2021/22
Lower Allen St	Repair and armouring/improvement of the scoured sections of the culverted Ordinary Watercourse Channel		£20k	<b>Completed</b>	2021/22
Nant Y Frwd	Retaining Structure Temp Repairs		£30-50k	Scoping works	2021/22
Cwmbach – Tir founder fields outfall	Dredging existing ditches filled up due to storms.		£40k	To be completed as a VO to Cwmbach Phase 2 (Calibre), Quote agreed. Commencing late Sept 21	2021/22
Nant Cae Dudwg	Repairs to damage to debris catcher/reno mattresses	14 properties	£30k	To be tendered with small scale scheme.	2021/22
Hawthorn Terr	Repairs to flood wall (unknown ownership) at rear of properties	10-20 properties.	£130k	D&D awarded to Redstart. Access issues. Remaining scope Tender Oct 21	2021/22

## Storm Dennis

Lists all Storm Dennis projects and status with comment - note estimated **costs are under review** with the expectation that costs will escalate due to sharp rises in labour and material costs and availability

Storm Dennis Schemes		Est £k	Status	Anticipated Year	Comments
Hopkinstown Wall	Pontypridd	40	Complete		
Sion St Wall	Pontypridd	70	Complete		
Berw Rd Wall	Pontypridd	40	Complete		Further inspection commissioned
Tramway Culvert	Aberdare	200	Complete		
Ynysangharad Park Cable Stay	Pontypridd	500	Complete		
Blaencwm River Wall	Blaencwm	150	Temporary traffic mgt in situ	Ph1 20/21 Ph2 21/22	Phase 2 on site
Penydarren Tramroad Bridge	Aberdare	500	Works stage	2021/22 to 2022/23	Contract awarded – completion anticipated summer 2022
Ynyshir Community Route	Ynyshir	250	Design stage	2021/22	On site
Footbridge on FP72	Ynysybwl	15	Awarded	2021/22	Ordered with EDS, FRAP in place. Work to be completed by end of September.
Mill Farm Footbridge	Ynysybwl	25	Commissioning stage	2021/22	
Gelligaled Park Bridge	Ystrad	250	Design stage	2022/23	In design, planned for tender in January
Nant Clydach Bridge	Ynysybwl	50	Design stage	2021/22	
Gelli Culvert	Gelli		Design stage	Depends on scope	Inspection undertaken

Pontypridd Rd Wall	Porth	70	Ph1 complete Ph 2 Design stage	Ph1 20/21 Ph2 22/23	Phase 2 in design stage – will be 2022/23
Campbell Tce Culvert	Mountain Ash	150	Design stage	Emergency repairs completed	Final report updated and circulated.
Maindy St Bailey St Canning St	Ton Pentre	150	Emergency works complete	20/21 and 21/22	Scope of repairs to be developed
Feeder Pipe Bridge	Abercynon	300	Design ongoing	22/23	Meeting with SCAPE August 2021 to discuss project. Brief to be sent to SCAPE shortly.
Berw Rd Bridge	Pontypridd	1000	Feasibility/ Design stage	21/22 22/23	Opened August 2021; Trial repairs from CRL awaiting Listed Building Consent.
Castle Inn Bridge	Treforest	400	Design stage	22/23	Detailed design progressing; awaiting NRW river model in order for Listed Building Consent to progress
Heol y Bwnsi Culvert	Upper Boat	50	Design stage		No further work needed
Tonypandy River Wall	Tonypandy	250	Design stage		Design progressing, works 2022/23
Nant Gelliwion Bridge	Pontypridd	200	Design stage		Brief commissioned
Tynybryn F/B & Culvert	Thomastown	200	Ph1 Complete Ph2 Design stage	Ph1 20/21 Ph2 22/23	Phase 2 will be 2022/23 - brief being drafted to send to SCAPE
Hopkinstown River Wall	Pontypridd	150	Design stage	22/23	No tenders returned – to be reviewed for 2022/23
Maerdy Mountain Landslip	Maerdy		Design stage	21/22 and 22/23	Works to wall summer holidays 2021/22 completed
Gyfeillion Wall	Hopkinstown		Design stage	22/23	
Mill Road Culvert	Ynysybwl		Design stage		Lining being considered
Llanwonno Road Culvert	Ynyshir				Repairs being taken forward by FRM/Strategic Projects

Miskin River Bridge	Pontyclun				Scour repair complete 2021/22
Llanwonno river Bridge	Ynyshir				Works complete 2021/22
Maindy Arch Bridge	Ynyshir				Works complete 2021/22
Penrhiwceiber River Bridge	Penrhiwceiber				Cut water repair
Victoria Bridge Precinct	Pontypridd				Works complete
Merlin Bride	Pontypridd				Scour repairs complete
Cross Street Retaining wall	Ynyshir				Works ongoing
Blaennantgroes Culvert	Cwmbach				Works complete
Gelli Park River Wall (RCT Owned)	Gelli		Inspection		Scour repairs/Replacement
Treorchy River Walls (RCT Owned – Riverside Terrace))	Treorchy		Inspection		Scour repairs
Brook St River Wall	Porth		Design stage		Repairs in Design Stage
Treferig House FB	Llantrisant		Design stage		Repairs in Design Stage
Maes-y-Ffynnon FB	Graigwen		Design stage		Works planned for October 2021
Afon Dare Culvert	Aberdare		Complete		Works complete for September 2021
Pantybrad Footbridge	Llantrisant		Design stage		Works planned for October 2021

**RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**COUNCIL**

**29<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2021**

**MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN 2021/22 TO 2024/25**

**REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF FINANCE AND DIGITAL SERVICES IN DISCUSSION  
WITH THE RELEVANT PORTFOLIO HOLDER, COUNCILLOR M NORRIS**

**AUTHOR: Barrie Davies (01443 424026)**

**1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

- 1.1 This report provides Members with an update on the Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) for 2021/22 to 2024/25, based on current modelling assumptions in advance of formulating the detailed budget strategy proposals for 2022/23 during the autumn.

**2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 It is recommended that Members note the current position modelled in respect of the 'Medium Term Financial Plan 2021/22 to 2024/25' and receive further updates in the autumn as part of the annual budget setting process.

**3 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 3.1 The need to keep Members informed of the budget modelling work being undertaken as part of the Council's Medium Term Financial Planning arrangements. This work is in advance of the Provisional Local Government Settlement, due from Welsh Government later this year.

**4. BACKGROUND**

- 4.1 Each year as part of the Council's robust financial management arrangements, an update on the Medium Term Financial Planning assumptions is provided to Members in advance of the detailed budget strategy work in the autumn. In this regard, the Medium Term Financial Plan 2021/22 to 2024/25 was presented to Cabinet on the [20th July 2021](#).
- 4.2 The Public Sector has faced a prolonged period of real term reductions in funding levels for a number of years and unprecedented challenges lie ahead for services across local government, not least as a result of the national and international economic impact of the coronavirus pandemic. This position is also coupled with increasing demand and costs associated with many services,

in particular Social Care Services and the need for us to support our residents, businesses and communities in recovering from the pandemic.

- 4.3 Locally, this Council has demonstrated its ability and willingness to invest in services over a long term period, linked to our priorities as set out in the Council’s Corporate Plan “Making a Difference - 2020 – 2024”, in order to meet the changing needs of our people and communities. The significant ‘additional’ investment already agreed by Members during recent years is providing real improvements across many areas including Schools, Town Centres, Roads and Parks and Play Areas.
- 4.4 Whilst investment through the use of one off funds has been very positive, the Council recognises that it must still address projected base budget shortfalls and make difficult decisions to balance its ongoing revenue budget into the medium term. This report provides an updated view on the range and scale of the challenge faced and the arrangements being put in place to address any shortfalls across the planning period.
- 4.5 Members will note the latest indication from the UK Central Government is that a Spending Review is planned for the autumn 2021 (27<sup>th</sup> October 2021); this will be a key driver and determinant of the level of funding available to devolved nations and the prospects for settlement levels next year and beyond.
- 4.6 Whilst the majority of additional costs and income losses we have incurred as a direct consequence of the pandemic have to date been funded by Welsh Government, the continuation of these arrangements is increasingly important and will remain a key risk. In this context, our medium term approach to financial and service planning will be even more critical.

**5. CURRENT MODELLING ASSUMPTIONS**

- 5.1 The detailed modelling assumptions covering the period 2021/22 to 2024/25 have been updated.
- 5.2 Key assumptions used in the construction of the revenue budget modelling to 2024/25 are shown below:

5.3 Income

- Local Government settlement levels have been modelled on a range of planning scenarios:

Year	Potential Settlement	Potential Settlement	Potential Settlement
2022/23 to 2024/25	2.0% per annum	3.0% per annum	4.0% per annum

- Council Tax increases are currently being modelled at 2.65% per annum.
- One-off funding from Welsh Government assumed to continue in respect of Social Services and Children’s Services specific grants.

- Fees and charges uplifted by inflation only (other than where exceptions have already been agreed by Cabinet).

#### 5.4 Expenditure

- Service area pressures reflected which arise from statutory requirements, demand led pressures, demographics etc.
- Uplifts included for pay and non-pay inflation.
- Authority wide requirements reflected including Capital Financing, Levies and the Council Tax Reduction Scheme.
- Schools budget is modelled to cover, in full, pay and non-pay inflation plus specific budget pressures (and in the context of the projected range of local government settlement levels).

### 6. **CURRENT MODELLING OUTCOMES**

- 6.1 The modelling uses a number of assumptions which are all subject to change and will be reviewed as part of the detailed budget strategy work underway. Due to current uncertainty at a UK Central Government level around public sector funding levels, as set out in paragraph 4.5, a range of modelling assumptions have been compiled based on Welsh Government funding being at +2%, +3% and +4% per year for financial years 2022/23, 2023/24 and 2024/25. The variability of the potential level of the Settlement from Welsh Government has a significant impact on the budget gap, at £4.0M per 1% and Figure 1 illustrates the outcome of the range of modelling assumptions currently applied.

Figure 1 : Modelled Budget Gap 2022/23 to 2024/25

Budget Requirement	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
	£'000	£'000	£'000
<b>Additional Budget Requirement</b>	<b>28,353</b>	<b>29,150</b>	<b>29,713</b>
<b>Additional Resources</b>			
Council Tax	3,634	3,745	3,860
Transition Funding	- 711	-	-
Social Services and Children's Services Specific Grants	-	-	-
WG Resource at +2%	8,088	8,249	8,414
WG Resource at +3%	12,131	12,495	12,870
WG Resource at +4%	16,175	16,822	17,495

Remaining Budget Gap at Welsh Government Settlement Levels				3 Year Budget Gap
<b>2% Increase</b>	<b>17,343</b>	<b>17,156</b>	<b>17,439</b>	<b>51,937</b>
<b>3% Increase</b>	<b>13,299</b>	<b>12,910</b>	<b>12,983</b>	<b>39,191</b>
<b>4% Increase</b>	<b>9,255</b>	<b>8,583</b>	<b>8,358</b>	<b>26,196</b>

Note: a 2.65% Council Tax increase per year is assumed as part of the modelled gap

- 6.2 As shown above, all of our planning assumptions result in a budget gap being faced by the Council. The extent of the impact on our services is clearly going to be largely and directly determined by the level of settlement we receive from Welsh Government, noting the constraints they have themselves.
- 6.3 To further demonstrate the scale of our reliance on funding from WG, a cash flat level of settlement would result in a budget gap over each of the next 3 years as shown below.

	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
	£'000	£'000	£'000
<b>0% Increase</b>	<b>25,430</b>	<b>25,406</b>	<b>25,853</b>

## 7. **BALANCING THE BUDGET**

- 7.1 The Council continues to focus on the budget gap position over the medium term and has successfully implemented a strategy of early identification and delivery of base budget reducing measures in-year. This has enabled the Council to deliver financial savings early and to replenish the Medium Term Financial Planning and Service Transformation Reserve which has been used proactively as part of the budget strategy for a number of years.



- 7.2 Our immediate priority and focus remains responding and supporting the recovery from the pandemic and ensuring that our residents, communities and businesses are being protected and supported. Options are being developed which can help address the range of the potential budget gap which we will face but it is important that in doing so we ensure that we maintain our valued and critical services. Inevitably the focus at annual budget setting time is for the forthcoming financial year, that is, 2022/23, and the savings quantum required is still to be confirmed pending receipt of the Local Government Settlement from Welsh Government.
- 7.3 As part of developing options opportunity must be taken to ensure that we continue to “lock in” the transformation and service delivery changes which we have made across many, if not all of our service areas. The Council has taken the opportunity to make a step change in our working arrangements and become more efficient in terms of maximising the use of digital solutions where appropriate, recognising that such delivery does not meet the needs of all of our residents. Work continues to ensure that we maximise the opportunities afforded by technology and digital solutions.
- 7.4 In line with the above, the areas we will explore include the continued: maximisation of efficiency saving opportunities including on-going review of workforce requirements and resources; delivery of our Social Services Transformation Programme (including our significant commitment and investment in the provision of Extra Care facilities); review of our base budget requirements at both a service level and an authority wide level including our built assets; maximisation of opportunities to invest for the long term and collaboration with others; and a focus on the principles of Digitalisation, Commercialism, Early Intervention and Prevention, Independence and being an Efficient and Effective Organisation.
- 7.5 As work develops through the areas described in 7.4 above, this will be reported to Members as appropriate.
- 7.6 Greater clarity will be available on the level of savings required post the Provisional Local Government Settlement later in the year. The position will be reported to Members as soon as possible after the settlement publication and as referenced above, the continued focus across a medium term planning period is paramount.

## **8. EQUALITY & DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS / SOCIO-ECONOMIC DUTY**

- 8.1 There are no immediate equality and diversity or socio-economic duty implications to consider as an Equality Impact Assessment will be an integral part of the budget strategy itself that will be reported on later in the year.

## **9. CONSULTATION**

- 9.1 There are no specific consultation requirements at this time.

## **10. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 10.1 The financial modelling assumptions and implications are set out in the detail of the report. At this stage, the Council is not being asked to make any new financial decisions in respect of the Medium Term Financial Plan.

## **11. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 11.1 There are no legal implications aligned to this report.

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

- 12.1 The report supports our Corporate Plan cross-cutting priority of 'Living within our Means'.
- 12.2 The Medium Term Financial Plan is a key enabler for the delivery of the Council's Corporate Plan and its obligations to support wider partnership objectives.

## **13. CONCLUSIONS**

- 13.1 This report sets out the current position on the financial challenges facing the Council in the medium term. The report notes, that subject to the level of funding from Welsh Government, a significant budget gap is likely to be faced in 2022/23 and for the following two years.
- 13.2 The report clearly states that the proactive strategy adopted in recent years through early identification of savings and the targeting of key areas such as new ways of working and an increased emphasis on preventative approaches can still deliver significant efficiency savings.
- 13.3 The focus will switch to the 2022/23 budget strategy upon receipt of the Provisional Local Government Settlement and, as part of this, setting out a range of budget saving options to enable the Council to deliver a balanced budget for the forthcoming year.

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972**

**AS AMENDED BY**

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

**RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**29<sup>th</sup> September 2021**

**MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN 2021/22 TO 2024/25**

**REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF FINANCE AND DIGITAL SERVICES IN DISCUSSION  
WITH THE RELEVANT PORTFOLIO HOLDER (CLLR NORRIS)**

**Item:**

## **Background Papers**

- Medium Term Financial Plan 2020/21 to 2023/24  
<https://www.rctcbc.gov.uk/EN/Council/CouncillorsCommitteesandMeetings/Meetings/Cabinet/2020/10/13/Reports/Item8MediumTermFinancialPlan202021to202324.pdf>
- Council Performance Report (Year-end 2020/21)  
<https://rctcbc.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s29994/Report.pdf?LLL=0>
- Budget Strategy 2021/22, Capital Programme 2021/22 to 2023/24 and Council Tax Resolution  
<https://www.rctcbc.gov.uk/EN/Council/CouncillorsCommitteesandMeetings/Meetings/Council/2021/03/10/Council10Mar2021.aspx>

Officer to contact: Barrie Davies

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## RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

MUNICIPAL YEAR 2021 – 2022

COUNCIL

29<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2021

### COUNCIL CORPORATE PLAN – INVESTMENT PRIORITIES

**AUTHOR:** Barrie Davies, Director of Finance and Digital Services (01443 424026)

#### 1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 This report sets out the position regarding the opportunity for the Council to further invest in its priority areas, aligned to the Corporate Plan, “Making a Difference” 2020 – 2024.

#### 2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 It is recommended that Council:

2.1.1 Review and if acceptable agree the additional investment and funding arrangements as set out in paragraph 4 which, if agreed, will be incorporated into the Council’s Capital Programme.

#### 3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The importance of investment in areas supporting key Corporate Plan priorities has already been recognised by the Council with £123M of additional resources, over and above normal Capital Programme allocations, invested since October 2015.

- 3.2 A further opportunity for investment is now available for consideration.

#### 4. ADDITIONAL INVESTMENT

- 4.1 In line with the Council’s Corporate Plan priorities, additional investment is now proposed across the following areas.

Investment Priority	£M
Highways & Roads	1.500
Highways Structures	0.500
Parks Structures	0.500
A4119 Dualling	2.000
Llanharan Bypass	2.000
<b>Total Investment</b>	<b>6.500</b>

4.2 The Council's Audited Statement of Accounts for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021 (presented elsewhere on this agenda) show the Council has revenue stream earmarked reserves at the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021 of £73.791M which are set aside for a variety of purposes. In addition, there are specific reserves relating to Capital Funding, Insurance and Treasury Management.

4.3 The Investment/Infrastructure reserve is a specific reserve to fund the cost of maintaining and enhancing infrastructure across the County Borough. The balance of this reserve at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021 was £9.497M, therefore the proposed investment priorities shown at paragraph 4.1 can be fully funded from this reserve.

4.4 Further detail on the proposed additional investment is shown below.

a) Highways & Roads (£1.500M)

Funding will continue to support the enhanced investment in the Council's largest asset, building on sustained increases in annual funding for highways capital maintenance over recent years.

b) Highways Structures (£0.500M)

Funding will allow the continuation of the enhanced programme of capital repairs and maintenance of over 1,500 structures including, bridges, culverts, retaining walls, reinforced earth embankments and rock anchors. These structures are often critical to the continued safe operation of the highway network.

c) Parks Structures (£0.500M)

Funding will allow the continuation of the enhanced programme of capital repairs and maintenance of footbridges, retaining walls and other structures within our parks and countryside.

d) A4119 Dualling Coedely to Ynysmaerdy (£2.000M)

Additional funding will allow the continuation of the scheme through to the next stages. Detailed design is ongoing, Dwr Cymru Welsh Water sewer diversion works are progressing well and due for completion in September 2021, tender documents are at final review stage and due for issue in September 2021 and a public inquiry is scheduled for November 2021.

e) Llanharan Bypass (£2.000M)

Additional funding will allow the continuation of the scheme through to the next stages. Ecology surveys, ground investigations and preliminary designs are complete. Pre-planning application consultation is due to be launched late September 2021 with full planning application anticipated for early 2022.

The above investments support the Corporate Plan priority of **Places**: where people are proud to live, work and play.

**5. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS / SOCIO-ECONOMIC DUTY**

5.1 There are no equality and diversity implications as a result of the recommendations set out in the report.

**6. WELSH LANGUAGE IMPLICATIONS**

6.1 There are no welsh language implications as a result of the recommendations set out in the report.

**7. CONSULTATION**

7.1 There are no consultation requirements as a result of the recommendations set out in the report. Subject to the decision of Council, consultation will be undertaken on specific areas, as appropriate, as part of developing/implementing projects.

**8. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

8.1 The financial implications of the recommendations are set out in the report. The proposed investment priorities are fully funded from Council resources already set aside for this purpose.

**9. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS OR LEGISLATION CONSIDERED**

9.1 The recommendations have been compiled ensuring continued compliance with the Council's legal requirement to make arrangements for the proper administration of its financial affairs as set out in Section 151 of the Local Government Act 1972. In addition, the proposed investment areas support the delivery of the Council's Corporate Plan priorities, in line with the requirements of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.

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

10.1 The proposed investment areas are in line with the priorities included within the Council's Corporate Plan and support the sustainable development principle of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015, in particular, planning for the 'long term', helping to 'prevent' problems occurring or getting worse in the future and delivering services in 'collaboration' with others.

**11. CONCLUSION**

11.1 This report has identified the opportunity to invest a further £6.500M of additional resources in our local area including our own assets in order to improve our infrastructure and the services which are available to our residents.

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## RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

### MUNICIPAL YEAR 2021 – 2022

#### COUNCIL

#### 29<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2021

### 2023 REVIEW OF PARLIAMENTARY CONSTITUENCIES IN WALES – BOUNDARY COMMISSION FOR WALES' INITIAL PROPOSALS

#### REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF LEGAL SERVICES

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

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to inform Members of the publication of the initial proposals of the Boundary Commission for Wales which were published on the 8<sup>th</sup> September 2021 in respect of the proposed new parliamentary constituencies in Wales.

#### **2. RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended Members:

- 2.1 Note the publication of the initial proposals of the Boundary Commission for Wales in respect of the 2023 review of Parliamentary Constituencies which are attached at Appendix 1a to the report; and
- 2.2 Refer consideration of the initial proposals of the Boundary Commission to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and agree the feedback therefrom be presented to Council at its meeting to be held on the 20<sup>th</sup> October 2021, in order that a response can be made by the deadline of the 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2021.

#### **3. BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 In March 2020, the UK Government announced it would not implement the recommendations of the 2018 review. Instead, it announced, it would introduce a Bill to amend the rules by which boundary reviews are carried out. The Parliamentary Constituencies Bill 2019–21 was introduced on 19 May 2020. The Bill passed its final Parliamentary stages on 26 November 2020 and received Royal Assent on 14 December 2020 and became known as the Parliamentary Constituencies Act 2020. It abandoned the 2018 review, and therefore cancelled plans to reduce the size of the House of Commons to 600 seats. The size of the House of Commons remains fixed at 650 seats.



However, the calculation of the allocation of seats between the countries of the UK remains based on the proportion of the UK registered electorate in each country. This calculation results in a reduction in the number of Parliamentary constituencies in Wales – from the present 40 constituencies to 32.

- 3.2 Attached at Appendix 1a is a copy of the initial proposals report of the Boundary Commission for Wales, which was published on the 8<sup>th</sup> September 2021 and any comments in relation thereto are to be made by the 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2021. Also attached at Appendices 1b-1e are the proposed new constituency boundary maps for Merthyr Tydfil and Aberdare, Pontypridd, Rhondda, Cardiff North and Cardiff West.
- 3.3 The Act says that the Commission may take into account “local government boundaries” as it develops its proposals for parliamentary constituencies. The Act defines local government boundaries in Wales as the boundaries of counties, county boroughs, electoral wards, communities and community wards that existed or were “prospective” on the “review date”. For the 2023 Review, this means the local government boundaries referred to are those that were in force on 1 December 2020 (since there were no prospective boundaries in Wales on that date).
- 3.4 Schedule 2 to the Act sets out a number of Rules (attached at Appendix 2 (‘Guide to the Review’) that are relevant to the development of proposals for individual constituencies. Foremost among these is Rule 2, which provides that - apart from 5 specified exceptions in the UK - every constituency must have an electorate that is no less than 95% and no more than 105% of the ‘UK electoral quota’. The UK electoral quota for the 2023 Review is, to the nearest whole number, 73,393.
- 3.5 The only Welsh constituency that is not subject to the operation of the UK electoral quota is Ynys Môn.
- 3.6 Therefore, apart from the Ynys Môn, every constituency in Wales must have an electorate as at the review date that is no smaller than 69,724 and no larger than 77,062. These parameters are referred to as the ‘statutory electorate range’.
- 3.7 There are a number of other factors that the Commission may take into account as it develops proposals and recommendations for parliamentary constituencies, specifically:
  - special geographical considerations, including, in particular, the size, shape and accessibility of a constituency
  - Local government boundaries that existed or were prospective on 1 December 2020 (see 3.3 above)



- boundaries of existing constituencies
- any 'local ties' that would be broken by changes in constituencies
- the inconveniences attendant on such changes.

3.8 Although Welsh constituencies (other than the Isle of Anglesey) must comply with the statutory electorate range, the Act does not require the Commission to seek to create constituencies with electorates that are as close as possible to the UK electoral quota. Nor does the Commission consider it appropriate to pursue a policy objective of minimising divergence from the UK electoral quota. Such an objective would undermine the ability of the Commission to take properly into account the factors listed in para 3.7 above.

Therefore, for example, the Commission would prefer to recommend a constituency that had, say, a 4% variance from the UK electoral quota, but that respected existing electoral wards, in preference to an alternative that produced a constituency with only a 1% variance, but that would split existing electoral wards.

3.9 As far as possible, the Commission will seek to recommend constituencies:

- made up of whole electoral wards that are adjacent to each other
- that do not contain 'detached parts', i.e. where the only physical connection between one part of the constituency and the remainder would require passage through a different constituency.

3.10 The Commission is required to work on the basis of the numbers of electors on the electoral register as at 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2020. It is unable to take account of any alleged under-registration or over-registration of electors that may be claimed to have existed in particular areas as at that date.

### **Naming and Designating Constituencies**

3.11 In making its proposals, the Commission is also required by the Act to specify a name and designation for each proposed constituency. The Act contains little guidance on these points.

3.12 The Commission's policy on the naming of constituencies is that, if constituencies remain largely unchanged, the existing constituency name should usually be retained. In such cases constituency names are likely to be altered only where there is good reason for change.

3.13 For a new constituency, the name should normally reflect that of the principal council or principal councils wholly or mainly contained in the constituency. However, if there is an objection and a suitable alternative name which generally commands greater local support, the Commission will usually recommend that alternative.



- 3.14 The Commission adopts compass point names when there is not a more suitable name. The compass point reference used will generally form a prefix in cases where a constituency name refers to the principal council area or former district council but a suffix where the rest of the name refers to a population centre. Examples of existing constituencies that demonstrate this principle are 'Carmarthen West and South Pembrokeshire' and 'Swansea West'.
- 3.15 The Commission considers that it is appropriate for each constituency in Wales to have an alternate name in Welsh or English. The Commission has therefore provided for official alternatives in Welsh for those constituencies names in English, and vice versa. Where a constituency name is acceptable in both Welsh and English there will be no alternative.
- 3.16 The Act also requires that each constituency is designated as either a 'county constituency' or a 'borough constituency'. The Commission considers that, as a general principle, where constituencies contain more than a small rural element they should normally be designated as county constituencies. In other cases they should be designated as borough constituencies. The designation is suffixed to the constituency name and is usually abbreviated: BC for borough constituency and CC for county constituency.
- 3.17 The designation generally determines who shall act as Returning Officer for Parliamentary elections. The designation also determines the limit on the amount that a candidate is allowed to spend during a Parliamentary election in the constituency. The limit is slightly lower in borough constituencies, to reflect the lower costs of running a campaign in an urban, usually more compact, area.

#### **4. PROPOSALS FOR CONSTITUENCIES IN RHONDDA CYNON TAF**

##### **4.1 PONTYPRIDD**

The Commission proposes that a county constituency be created from:

1. The following electoral wards within the County Borough of Rhondda Cynon Taf (which currently form part of the existing Pontypridd CC): Beddau (3,172), Church Village (4,424), Graig (1,885), Hawthorn (3,180), Llantrisant Town (3,187), Llantwit Fardre (4,825), Pontypridd Town (2,208), Rhondda (3,458), Rhydfelen Central/Illan (3,037), Talbot Green (1,965), Ton-teg (3,183), Trallwng (2,824), Treforest (2,862) and Tyn-y-nant (2,454) and:
2. The following electoral wards within the County Borough of Rhondda Cynon Taf (which currently form part of the existing Cynon Valley CC): Aberaman North (3,609), Aberaman South (3,541), Abercynon (4,441),



Cilfynydd (2,110), Glyncoch (2,006), Mountain Ash East (2,254), Mountain Ash West (3,123), Penrhiwceiber (4,056) and Ynysybwl (3,433).

- 4.2 This constituency would have 71,237 electors, which is 2.9% below the UKEQ of 73,393 electors per constituency.
- 4.3 The proposed single name for the constituency is Pontypridd.
- 4.4 The existing Pontypridd constituency is currently below the statutory requirements in respect of the size of the electorate. The Commission considered several options, and proposes to combine electoral wards from the neighbouring Cynon Valley constituency to meet the statutory electorate range. The Commission considers that including electoral wards from Cynon Valley that are wholly within the Rhondda Cynon Taf principal council area creates a constituency that is retained within a single principal council area and that combining the electoral wards of Cilfynydd and Glyncoch with the rest of the town of Pontypridd as proposed would ensure the whole of the town of Pontypridd is included within one constituency, where it is currently split across two existing constituencies.
- 4.5 The Commission considers that combining electoral wards from the existing Pontypridd constituency and the existing Cynon Valley constituency in this way provides for an appropriate constituency that follows the valley roads from north to south.
- 4.6 The proposed constituency includes electoral wards that are wholly within the Rhondda Cynon Taf principal council area.
- 4.7 The Commission proposes that the existing constituency name of Pontypridd be the single name for this constituency, which the Commission considers to be recognisable and acceptable in both Welsh and English.
- 4.8 **Note:**
- It is proposed the electoral ward of Taffs Well (2,855) within the existing constituency of Pontypridd be transferred to Cardiff North.
- It is proposed the electoral ward of Pont-y-clun (6,061) within the existing constituency of Pontypridd be transferred to Cardiff West.
- It is proposed the electoral wards of Tonyrefail East (4,433) and Tonyrefail West (4,896) and 199 electors in the Llanharry Electoral Ward within the existing constituency of Pontypridd be transferred to Rhondda.
- 4.9 **RHONDDA**



- 4.10 The Commission proposes that a county constituency be created from:
1. The following electoral wards within the County Borough of Rhondda Cynon Taf (which currently make up the existing Rhondda CC): Cwm Clydach (1,987), Cymmer (3,977), Ferndale (3,114), Llwyn-y-pia (1,637), Maerdy (2,283), Pen-y-graig (3,929), Pentre (3,902), Porth (4,282), Tonypany (2,686), Trealaw (2,895), Treherbert (4,158), Treorchy (5,693), Tylorstown (3,054), Ynyshir (2,380) and Ystrad (4,285) and:
  2. The following electoral wards within the County Borough of Rhondda Cynon Taf (which currently form part of the existing Ogmores CC): Brynna (3,616), Gilfach Goch (2,437), Llanharan (2,819) and Llanharry (3,022) and:
  3. The following electoral wards within the County Borough of Rhondda Cynon Taf (which currently form part of the existing Pontypridd CC): Llanharry (199), Tonyrefail East (4,433) and Tonyrefail West (4,896).
- 4.11 This constituency would have 71,684 electors, which is 2.3% below the UKEQ of 73,393 electors per constituency.
- 4.12 The proposed official single name for the constituency is Rhondda.
- 4.13 The existing Rhondda constituency is currently below the statutory requirements in respect of the size of the electorate. The Commission considered several options, and proposes to combine the existing Rhondda constituency with electoral wards from the neighbouring existing Ogmores and Pontypridd constituencies to meet the statutory electorate range.
- 4.14 The Commission is proposing to include electoral wards from the neighbouring constituencies that are wholly within the Rhondda Cynon Taf principal council area. There are good road links throughout the proposed constituency, which follows the valley roads from north to south, to retain the integrity and identity of the valley.
- 4.15 The proposed constituency includes electoral wards that are wholly within the County Borough of Rhondda Cynon Taf principal council area and includes the whole of the existing Rhondda constituency.
- 4.16 The Commission proposes that the existing constituency name of Rhondda remains the single name for this constituency, which the Commission considers to be recognisable and acceptable in both Welsh and English.
- 4.17 **MERTHYR TYDFIL AND ABERDARE**
- 4.18 The Commission proposes that a county constituency be created from: 1. The entire County Borough of Merthyr Tydfil principal council area, comprising the



following electoral wards (which currently form part of the existing Merthyr Tydfil and Rhymney CC): Bedlinog (2,977), Cyfarthfa (5,457), Dowlais (5,014), Gurnos (3,477), Merthyr Vale (2,798), Park (3,296), Penydarren (3,818), Plymouth (4,096), Town (5,998), Treharris (5,270) and Vaynor (2,880) and:

2. The following electoral wards within the County Borough of Rhondda Cynon Taf (which currently form part of the Cynon Valley CC): Aberdare East (4,909), Aberdare West/Llwydcoed (7,404), Cwmbach (3,751), Hirwaun (3,167), Pen-y-waun (1,973) and Rhigos (1,370) and:

3. The electoral ward of Nelson (3,563) within the County Borough of Caerphilly (which currently forms part of the existing Caerphilly CC).

4.19 This constituency would have 71,218 electors, which is 3% below the UKEQ of 73,393 electors per constituency.

4.20 The proposed name for the constituency is Merthyr Tydfil and Aberdare. The proposed official alternative name for the constituency is Merthyr Tudful ac Aberdâr.

4.21 The existing Merthyr Tydfil and Rhymney and Cynon Valley constituencies are currently below the statutory requirements in respect of the size of the electorate. The Commission considered several options, and proposes to combine the whole of the Merthyr Tydfil principal council area with the electoral wards of Aberdare East, Aberdare West/ Llwydcoed, Cwmbach, Hirwaun, Pen-y-waun and Rhigos from the existing Cynon Valley.

4.22 The Commission acknowledges that a constituency formed of these areas does not follow the geography of the valleys from north to south. However, there are good road links across the Heads of the Valleys, which maintain an accessible link throughout the area. To meet the statutory electorate range, the Commission also proposes to incorporate the Nelson electoral ward from the existing Caerphilly constituency into this proposed constituency. This electoral ward is connected to the remainder of the proposed constituency by road, and is similar in character to the rest of the constituency.

4.23 The proposed constituency includes the whole of the Merthyr Tydfil principal council area, and is combined with electoral wards from the County Borough of Rhondda Cynon Taf and the County Borough of Caerphilly principal council areas. The Commission proposes that the names of Merthyr Tydfil and Aberdare are used in the constituency name to reflect the primary settlements within the proposed constituency.

## 5. **CONSULTATION**



## 5.1 Timetable for the review

**The initial outline timetable for the review is planned as follows:**

- 5 January 2021: Publication of electorate figures by ONS, BCW begin development of initial proposals;
- 16 March 2021: Publish 'Guide to the 2023 Review';
- 8 September 2021: Publish initial proposals and conduct eight-week consultation (ends 3<sup>rd</sup> November 21);
- December 2021: Publish responses to initial proposals
- January 2022: conduct six-week 'secondary consultation', including between two and five public hearings in each region;
- Late 2022: Publish revised proposals and conduct four-week written consultation;
- June 2023: Submit and publish final report and recommendations

## 6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1 There are no financial implications aligned to this report.

## 7. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

7.1 There are no direct equality and diversity implications arising from the report.

## 8. CONCLUSION

8.1 As can be seen from the proposals contained in Appendix 1a, there are many matters for consideration with the proposed new constituencies and boundaries, the naming and designations etc. It is therefore suggested that the matter be initially considered by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the feedback therefrom be presented to the Council Meeting in October in order that a response can be made by the deadline of the 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2021.





**LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972**

**AS AMENDED BY**

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

**RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**COUNCIL**

**29<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2021**

**REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF LEGAL SERVICES**

**Background Papers**

**2023 REVIEW OF PARLIAMENTARY CONSTITUENCIES IN WALES –  
BOUNDARY COMMISSION FOR WALES' INITIAL PROPOSALS**

Freestanding Matter

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Comisiwn Ffiniau  
i Gymru

Boundary Commission  
for Wales

2023 Review of  
Parliamentary Constituencies

# Initial Proposals

This document is available in Welsh  
The Commission welcomes correspondence  
and telephone calls in Welsh or English.

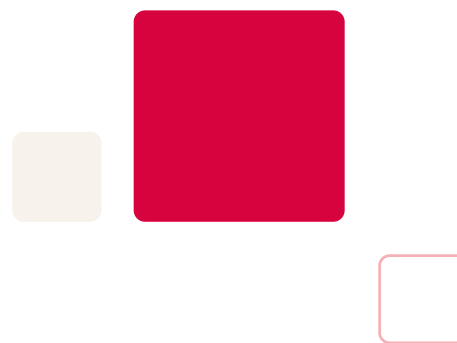
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1st Edition – printed September 2021.

# Foreword



The Boundary Commission for Wales (**‘the Commission’**) is responsible for reviewing Parliamentary constituency boundaries in Wales. This report contains the Commission’s initial proposals for Parliamentary constituencies in Wales. It is the beginning, not the end, of the Commission’s review process. These are our initial views. We look forward, during our review process, to hearing from the people of Wales on how these proposals might be amended and revised.

In March 2020, the UK Government announced it would not implement the recommendations of the 2018 review. Instead, it announced, it would introduce a Bill to amend the rules by which boundary reviews are carried out. The Parliamentary Constituencies Bill 2019–21 was introduced on 19 May 2020. The Bill passed its final Parliamentary stages on 26 November 2020 and received Royal Assent on 14 December 2020. The Bill made significant changes to the Parliamentary Constituencies Act 1986 (‘the Act’). It abandoned the 2018 review, and therefore cancelled plans to reduce the size of the House of Commons to 600 seats. The size of the House of Commons remains fixed at 650 seats. However, the calculation of the allocation of seats between the countries of the UK remains based on the proportion of the UK registered electorate in each country. This calculation results in a reduction in the number of Parliamentary constituencies in Wales – from the present 40 constituencies to 32. It represents the most significant change to Wales’s constituencies in a century.

This review has to be completed by 1 July 2023, and is based on the number of registered electors on 2 March 2020. The Commission’s recommendations will be implemented by the ‘automacity’ rule. As such, the recommendations will no longer require Parliamentary approval. The final recommendations must be implemented as set out in the Commission’s final report. The public consultation phase has been amended to allow public hearings to be held during the secondary consultation period – that is,

later than was previously the case. The Act now provides for five protected constituencies across the UK. The only Welsh constituency that is not subject to the operation of the UK electoral quota, and is therefore protected or exempt from the review, is Ynys Môn.

In developing its proposals, the Commission has had regard, where possible, to existing Parliamentary and local government boundaries. It has also sought to avoid or minimise the breaking of local ties. On occasion, the Commission has had regard to special geographic considerations.

The Commission is now starting its initial consultation. Members of the public, groups and organisations may submit written responses to the initial proposals described in this document from 8 September 2021 to 3 November 2021.

The Commission will look carefully at every representation it receives to see if the initial proposals can be amended and improved. However, the Commission will have to balance the issues raised in representations against all the other factors we have to consider, as well as the constraints set out in the legislation.

Finally, may I thank the Commissioners – Mr Huw Vaughan Thomas CBE and Mr Sam A Hartley – for their invaluable contributions, as well as the Secretary and the other officers of the Commission for their assistance in our work. I would also like to thank our statutory assessors in Ordnance Survey and the Office for National Statistics for their assistance and contributions.

**Mrs Justice Jefford DBE**

**Deputy Chair**

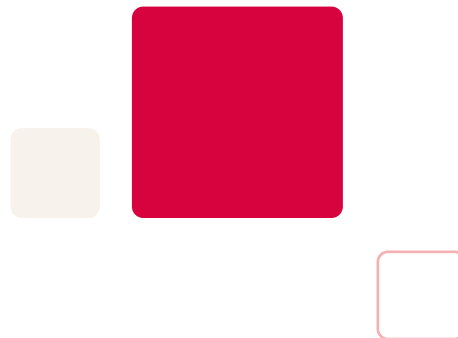
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1. On 5 January 2021, the Commission announced the start of the 2023 review of Parliamentary constituencies in Wales, in accordance with the provisions of the Parliamentary Constituencies Act 1986 (as amended). A summary of the relevant statutory framework and of the Commission's general approach to the review can be found in the Commission's 'Guide to the 2023 Review', which is available in English and Welsh on the Commission's website: [www.bcomm-wales.gov.uk](http://www.bcomm-wales.gov.uk).
2. The Commission is an independent and impartial non-departmental public body that is responsible for reviewing Parliamentary constituency boundaries in Wales. The Commission is comprised of the Chair, who is the Speaker of the House of Commons; the Deputy Chair, Mrs Justice Jefford DBE; and two other Commissioners, Huw Vaughan Thomas CBE and Sam Hartley. The Speaker of the House of Commons is a member and the Chair by reason of his or her office, but takes no part in the work of the Commission. The Commission is supported by a Secretary, Mrs Shereen Williams MBE OStJ, and a secretariat. The Deputy Chair and both Commissioners have considered and approved this report.
3. The Commission is now publishing its initial proposals for public consultation. These proposals take careful account of the relevant legislation and application of the March 2020 electoral figures.

## Chapter 2:

# Criteria for reviewing Parliamentary constituencies.

### Application of the provisions of the Parliamentary Constituencies Act 1986 (as amended)

1. The criteria described in this chapter apply to the review of Parliamentary constituencies.

### Review cycle

2. A requirement of the Parliamentary Constituencies Act 1986 (as amended) ('the Act') states that the Commission must submit a report on a review of all the constituencies in Wales by 1 July 2023, another report by 1 October 2031, and a report every eight years thereafter.

### Electorate data for the 2023 Review

3. The Act specifies which electorate figures the Commission must use when carrying out a review. For the 2023 review, the Commission is required to use the total number of persons whose names appeared on the published electoral register on 2 March 2020.
4. The Commission has obtained these electorate figures for the 2023 review from the Office for National Statistics. It has published these figures on its website: [www.bcomm-wales.gov.uk/reviews/01-21/2023-review](http://www.bcomm-wales.gov.uk/reviews/01-21/2023-review).

### The distribution of constituencies

5. The Act states there is to be a fixed number of 650 constituencies for the whole of the UK. The Act also provides a mathematical formula to determine how many constituencies should be allocated to each of the four parts of the UK (Wales, England, Scotland and Northern Ireland), based on their electorate figures.
6. In accordance with that formula, the number of constituencies allocated to Wales under the Act is 32. The Commission must therefore make recommendations, in its 2023 report, that are designed

to reduce the number of Parliamentary constituencies in Wales from their existing number of 40. Welsh constituencies must be wholly within Wales, and cannot include areas of another part of the UK.

### **Statutory electorate range**

7. Schedule 2 of the Act sets out a number of rules that are relevant to developing proposals for individual constituencies. Foremost among these is Rule 2, which provides that – apart from five specified exceptions in the UK – every constituency must have an electorate that is no less than 95% and no more than 105% of the UK electoral quota (UKEQ). To the nearest whole number, the UKEQ for the 2023 review is 73,393.
8. The only Welsh constituency that is not subject to the operation of the UKEQ is Ynys Môn.
9. Therefore, apart from Ynys Môn, every constituency in Wales must have an electorate that is no smaller than 69,724 and no larger than 77,062. The Commission refers to these parameters as the ‘statutory electorate range’.

### **Relevant local government boundaries**

10. The Act states that the Commission may take into account ‘local government boundaries’ when developing its proposals for Parliamentary constituencies. The Act defines local government boundaries in Wales as the boundaries of counties, county boroughs, electoral wards, communities and community wards that existed or were ‘prospective’ on the ‘review date’.
11. For the 2023 review, this means the local government boundaries referred to are those that were in force on 1 December 2020 (since there were no prospective boundaries in Wales on that date). These local government boundaries can be found in the Ordnance Survey’s ‘Boundary-Line’ mapping product (October 2020 version available at: <https://www.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/business-government/products/boundaryline>).

### **Other statutory factors**

12. Rule 5 in Schedule 2 of the Act specifies a number of other factors that the Commission may take

into account as it develops proposals and recommendations for Parliamentary constituencies.

Specifically, the Commission may take into account:

- special geographical considerations – including, in particular, the size, shape and accessibility of a constituency
- local government boundaries that existed or were prospective on 1 December 2020
- boundaries of existing constituencies
- any ‘local ties’ that would be broken by changes in constituencies
- the inconveniences such changes create

### **Special geographical considerations**

13. The Commission thinks the special geographical considerations that may impact on constituency boundaries will primarily relate to physical geography – such as mountains, hills, lakes, rivers, estuaries and islands – rather than human or social geography. Matters of culture, history, socioeconomics and other possible aspects of non-physical geography are more likely to arise as issues when considering the separate factor of local ties.

### **Local government boundaries and local ties**

14. The Commission may take into account local government boundaries in developing its proposals and recommendations for Parliamentary constituencies. These include both the external boundaries of principal councils and their internal electoral ward, community or community ward boundaries.

15. The Commission will seek to take account of principal council external boundaries as far as possible. However, it may frequently be necessary to cross these boundaries to form constituencies that comply with the statutory electorate range.

16. The Commission will use electoral wards as the basic building blocks for designing constituencies.

17. The Commission will seek to avoid dividing electoral wards between constituencies. Electoral wards are well-defined and well-understood units. They generally indicate areas that have a broad community of interest. However, there may be circumstances in which it will be desirable to divide

electoral wards, particularly when considering all the factors identified in Rule 5.

18. The Commission considers that existing community boundaries are likely to have been created in recognition of local ties, and are therefore likely to reflect local ties. The Commission's policy is therefore not to divide existing communities when it develops proposals and recommendations for Parliamentary constituencies, unless there is no other available solution that would enable compliance with the statutory electorate range.

### **Boundaries of existing constituencies**

19. The Commission intends to respect existing constituencies where it is possible to do so. However, this does not mean an existing constituency is protected from change simply because its electorate falls within the statutory electorate range. Nor does it mean a constituency that falls only slightly outside the statutory range will be only slightly amended to bring it within the statutory range. One of the effects of reducing the overall number of constituencies in Wales will be that existing constituencies with electorates within the statutory range may well need to be altered. This is because of the need to comply with the requirements of the Act across Wales.

### **The inconveniences such changes create**

20. The Commission recognises that changes may result in inconveniences. For example, they may affect how easy it is for people to vote in person. The Commission seeks to mitigate such issues by maintaining existing wards and recognising local ties.

### **Interplay of the considerations**

21. The policy of the Commission is to consider all the factors listed in Rule 5 as far as possible, subject to the primacy of the statutory electorate range under Rule 2.
22. Welsh constituencies (other than Ynys Môn) must comply with the statutory electorate range. However, the Act does not require the Commission to seek to create constituencies with electorates that are as close as possible to the UKEQ. Nor does the Commission consider it appropriate to pursue a policy objective of minimising divergence from the UKEQ. This would undermine the

Commission's ability to properly take into account the factors listed in Rule 5. For example, if one constituency had a 4% variance from the UKEQ and respected existing electoral wards, and another constituency had only a 1% variance but split electoral wards, the Commission would recommend the former constituency.

23. As far as possible, the Commission will seek to recommend constituencies that:

- are made up of whole electoral wards that are next to each other
- do not contain 'detached parts'; that is, where the only physical connection between one part of the constituency and the rest of it would require passage through a different constituency

### **Factors the Commission will not consider**

#### **Impact on future election results**

24. The Commission is an independent and impartial body. As such, existing voting patterns and the prospective fortunes of political candidates do not enter its considerations during a review.

#### **New local government boundaries**

25. The local government boundaries the Commission may take into account are those that existed in Wales on 1 December 2020 (since there were no 'prospective' boundaries in Wales on that date). As such, the Commission will not consider new local government boundaries that did not exist, and had not been provided for by legislation, on that date.

#### **Changes to electorates after 2 March 2020**

26. The Commission is required to work on the basis of the numbers of electors on the electoral register on 2 March 2020. It is unable to take account of any alleged under-registration or over-registration of electors in particular areas as of that date.

#### **Naming and designating constituencies**

27. In making its recommendations, the Act also requires the Commission to specify a name and designation for each proposed constituency. The Act contains little guidance on these points.

#### **Naming**

28. The Commission's policy on naming constituencies is that, if constituencies remain largely unchanged, the existing constituency name should usually be kept. In such cases, constituency names are likely to be changed only if there is good reason to do so.
29. For a new constituency, the name should normally reflect that of the principal council (or principal councils) wholly or mainly contained in the constituency. However, the Commission welcomes representations that offer alternative suggestions to the names proposed. Where a suitable alternative name generally commands greater local support, the Commission will usually recommend that alternative.
30. The Commission adopts compass-point names (North, South, East and West) when there is not a more suitable name. Where a constituency name refers to the principal council area or former district council, the compass-point reference used will generally form a prefix (for example, Mid and South Pembrokeshire). Where a constituency name refers to a population centre, the compass-point reference will generally form a suffix (for example, Swansea West).
31. The Commission considers that it is appropriate for each constituency in Wales to have alternative names in English and Welsh. This reflects the official status of the Welsh language in Wales. The Commission will therefore make recommendations that official alternatives should be provided in Welsh for constituency names in English, and vice versa. In this way, both languages shall be treated equally. Where a constituency name is acceptable in both Welsh and English, there will be no official alternative.

### **Designating**

32. The Act also requires that each constituency be designated as either a 'county constituency' or a 'borough constituency'. The Commission considers that, as a general principle, where constituencies contain more than a small rural element, they should normally be designated as county constituencies. In other cases, they should be designated as borough constituencies. The designation is suffixed to the constituency name, and is usually abbreviated: BC for borough constituency and CC for county constituency.



## Existing constituencies

### Number of electors

1. There are presently 40 constituencies in Wales. The number of electors in the constituencies ranges from 42,657 (Arfon CC) to 78,238 (Cardiff South and Penarth BC). Under the legislation the number of constituencies in Wales is reduced from 40 to 32 and the statutory electorate range of electors is between 69,724 and 77,062. As a result, only one existing constituency, Vale of Glamorgan CC, is within the statutory range. However, as we set out in the previous chapter, it is not the case that an existing constituency is protected from change simply because its electorate falls within the statutory range. This is because change may be needed to create viable constituencies in other areas. Indeed, as can be seen in the next chapter, we have chosen to alter the boundaries of Vale of Glamorgan CC to best meet the statutory rules in the surrounding area.

### Constituency size

2. The size (in terms of area) of existing constituencies ranges from 17 kilometres squared (km<sup>2</sup>) (Cardiff Central BC) to 3,014km<sup>2</sup>(Brecon and Radnorshire CC). The maximum size of a constituency permitted under the new legislation is 13,000km<sup>2</sup>. A constituency that size would cover about 61% of Wales.

### Pattern of electorate

3. There are relatively few electors in rural parts of Wales. It is therefore inevitable that, under the new arrangements, some constituencies will be very large (in terms of area). Furthermore, due to the relatively low numbers of electors in some of the South Wales Valleys, constituencies will have to encompass more than one valley. Similarly, in some urban areas, principal councils may need to be divided. Compromises will need to be made to create a pattern of constituencies across Wales that adheres to the rules in the legislation. It is important to understand that even small changes to one constituency will have consequences for nearby areas – and possibly more widely.

## Chapter 4:

# Summary of proposals

1. The new legislation has reduced the number of Parliamentary constituencies in Wales from 40 to 32.
2. The only existing constituency specified in the Act that is not subject to the operation of the UKEQ in Wales is Ynys Môn. Ynys Môn therefore remains unchanged in the Commission's initial proposals. For some other areas, the proposed changes are considerable.
3. The UKEQ is 73,393. There is a tolerance of between 95% and 105% of this figure (69,724 and 77,062 respectively). There are presently 38 constituencies below the minimum number of electors. One constituency is above the maximum number of electors. One constituency (Vale of Glamorgan CC) falls within the statutory range. Under the proposals, all constituencies (with the exception of Ynys Môn) would be within the statutory range, 17 would be below the UKEQ and 15 would be above the UKEQ.
4. Some electoral wards are currently split across more than one existing Parliamentary constituency because of changes to local government ward boundaries since the last review of Parliamentary constituencies. In these proposals, they have been combined to form one electoral ward within one existing constituency. For example, Dinas Powys is currently split: 3 electors are currently within the existing Cardiff South and Penarth BC constituency, and 6,385 electors are currently within the Vale of Glamorgan CC constituency. (See table on page 11.)
5. Under the proposals, six principal councils would be wholly contained within new constituencies (Blaenau Gwent, Ceredigion, the Isle of Anglesey, Merthyr Tydfil, Monmouthshire and Torfaen). Sixteen existing constituencies would be wholly contained within new constituencies (Aberconwy, Alyn and Deeside, Blaenau Gwent, Brecon and Radnorshire, Cardiff Central, Cardiff North, Cardiff West, Ceredigion, Dwyfor Meirionnydd, Islwyn, Llanelli, Montgomeryshire, Rhondda, Torfaen,

Wrexham and Ynys Môn). Eighteen of the existing constituency names would remain the same.

6. Under the proposals, six constituencies would have an area over 1,000km<sup>2</sup> (Aberconwy, Brecon and Radnor, Caerfyrddin, Ceredigion Preseli, Dwyfor Meirionnydd, and Montgomeryshire and Glyndwr). Four of these would be between 2,000km<sup>2</sup> and 3,000km<sup>2</sup> (Caerfyrddin, Ceredigion Preseli, Dwyfor Merionnydd, and Montgomeryshire and Glyndwr). One would be over 3,000km<sup>2</sup> (Brecon and Radnor).
7. The Commission has proposed that electoral wards currently split across more than one existing Parliamentary constituency should be allocated, in their entirety, to one existing constituency. This is shown in the following table.

<b>Electoral Ward</b>	<b>Existing constituency allocation (no. of electors)</b>	<b>Allocated Existing constituency (no. of electors)</b>
Dinas Powys	Vale of Glamorgan CC (6,385)	Vale of Glamorgan BC (6,388)
	Cardiff South and Penarth BC (3)	
Pontprennau/Old St. Mellons	Cardiff North BC (7,964)	Cardiff North BC (8,047)
	Cardiff South and Penarth BC (83)	
Martletwy	Carmarthen West and South Pembrokeshire CC (1,134)	Carmarthen West and South Pembrokeshire CC (1,603)
	Preseli Pembrokeshire CC (469)	
Llanharry	Ogmore CC (3,022)	Ogmore CC (3,221)
	Pontypridd CC (199)	
Pont-y-clun	Pontypridd CC (5,371)	Pontypridd CC (6,061)
	Ogmore CC (690)	
Talbot Green	Pontypridd CC (1,955)	Pontypridd CC (1,965)
	Ogmore CC (10)	
Clydach	Gower CC (5,713)	Gower CC (5,821)
	Swansea East BC (108)	
Cockett	Swansea West BC (10,003)	Swansea West BC (10,473)
	Swansea East BC (470)	
Dunvant	Swansea West BC (3,490)	Swansea West BC (3,494)
	Gower CC (4)	
Landore	Swansea East BC (4,712)	Swansea East BC (4,821)
	Swansea West BC (109)	
Llangyfelach	Gower CC (3,841)	Gower CC (3,946)
	Swansea East BC (105)	
Croesyceiliog North	Monmouth CC (2,664)	Monmouth CC (2,745)

## Chapter 5:

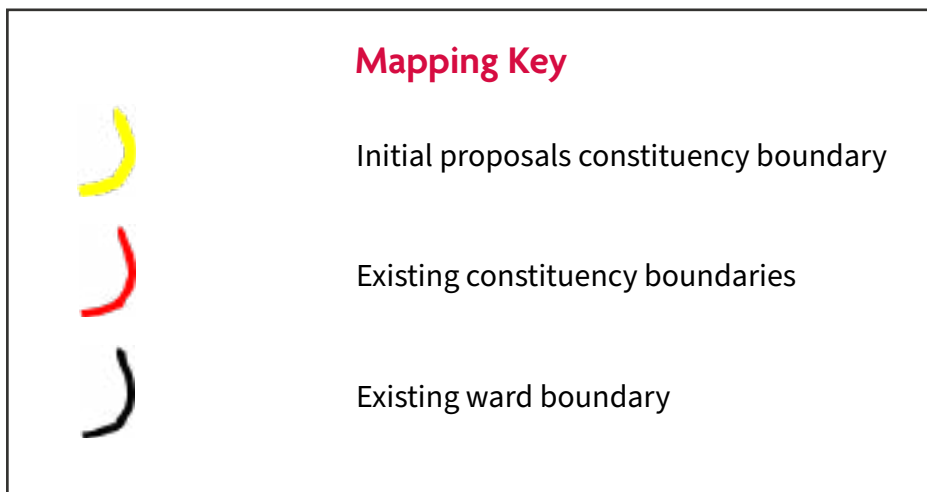
# Initial proposals

1. Chapter 6 describes each proposed new constituency in detail and illustrates them in outline maps (pages 15 and 16). More detailed maps of the proposed constituencies are available on the Commission's website: [www.bcomm-wales.gov.uk](http://www.bcomm-wales.gov.uk). The maps are also available in printed form, alongside copies of this document, at designated 'places of deposit' in each proposed constituency (see Appendix 3). The maps are to be used in conjunction with the statistical information relating to the electoral wards described in the proposals. This information is also available to download from the Commission's website in Excel format.
2. The Commission's initial proposals would, if adopted, result in a Parliamentary map of Wales very different from the one we are familiar with. The Commission has been faced with the task of devising proposals for the required 32 constituencies in place of the existing 40 constituencies. The Commission has endeavoured to give effect to the statutory considerations. However, its ability to do so is necessarily constrained by the overriding requirement that every constituency (other than Ynys Môn) must fall within the statutory range. Even comparatively minor boundary changes in one constituency have knock-on effects in other constituencies.
3. The Commission has sought to identify the most suitable solutions for local needs, throughout Wales, that can be accommodated within the statutory rules – particularly the statutory electorate range.
4. The Commission would like to emphasise that these proposals represent the Commission's initial views. The Commission welcomes representations from the public. Details of how to respond to the Commission's proposals are set out in Chapter 8.

## Chapter 6:

# Proposals in detail

1. This chapter describes the Commission's initial proposals in detail. For each proposed constituency, the report sets out:
  - the name and designation of the constituency proposed by the Commission, including the proposed official alternative name (if applicable)
  - the electoral wards it would contain and its variance from the UKEQ
  - the Commission's main reasons for proposing the constituency
  - an explanation of the proposed name
  - a map of the recommended constituency
2. The following two pages set out an overall picture of the existing arrangements and the Commission's initial proposals. The mapping key, shown below, explains the colours and lines used in each map.



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# Existing Constituencies

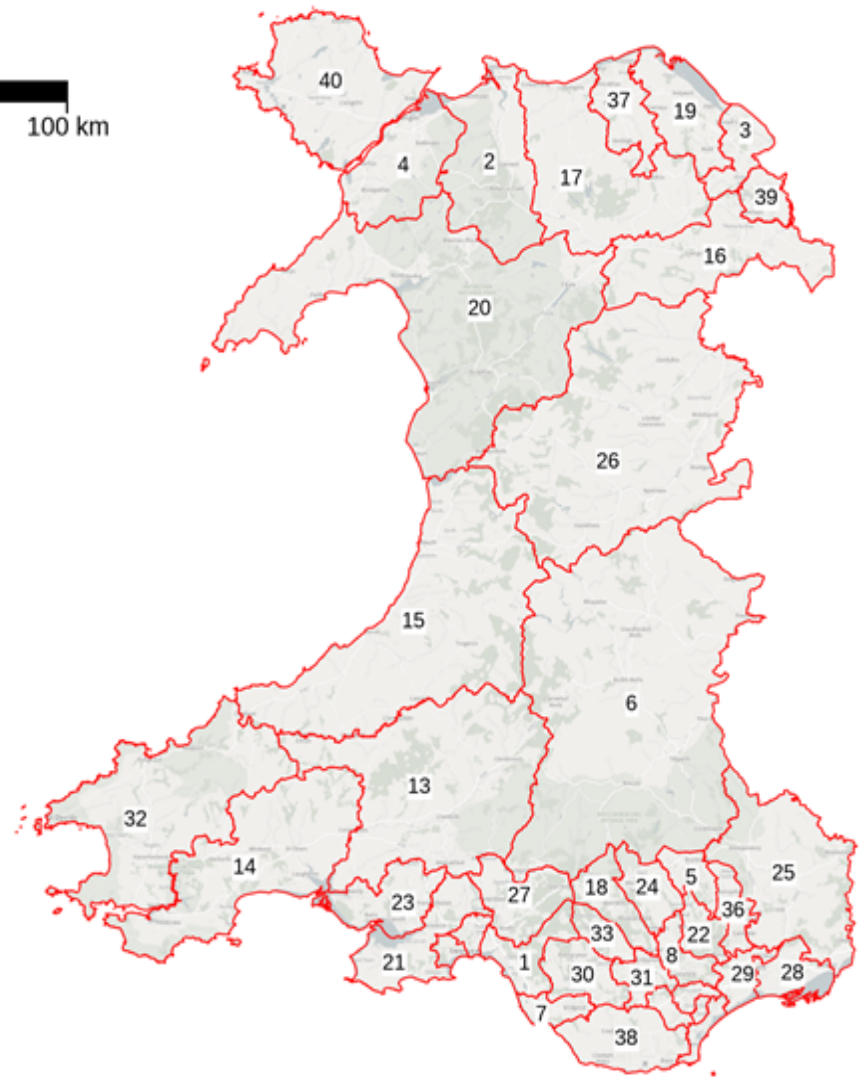
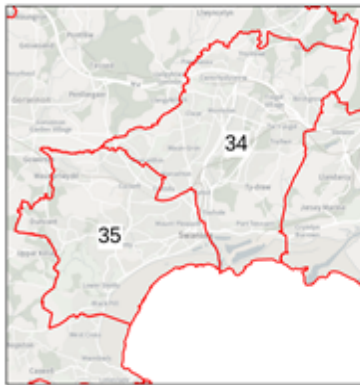
1 : 466,502



The City and County of Cardiff



The City of Swansea



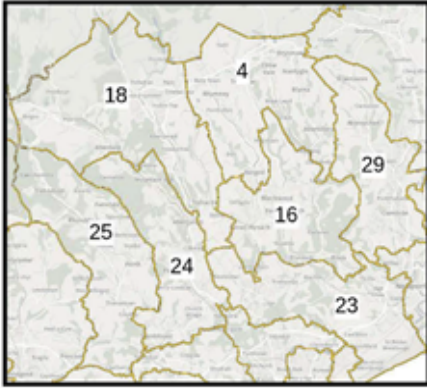
- |   |  |                                 |
|---|--|---------------------------------|
| 1 - Aberavon (51,053)                                 | 18 - Cynon Valley (51,147)               | 34 - Swansea East (59,156)      |
| 2 - Aberconwy (44,852)                                | 19 - Delyn (54,718)                      | 35 - Swansea West (57,680)      |
| 3 - Alyn and Deeside (63,045)                         | 20 - Dwyfor Meirionnydd (44,584)         | 36 - Torfaen (62,718)           |
| 4 - Arfon (42,657)                                    | 21 - Gower (62,410)                      | 37 - Vale of Clwyd (55,936)     |
| 5 - Blaenau Gwent (50,900)                            | 22 - Islwyn (56,501)                     | 38 - Vale of Glamorgan (76,811) |
| 6 - Brecon and Radnorshire (54,854)                   | 23 - Llanelli (60,766)                   | 39 - Wrexham (49,829)           |
| 7 - Bridgend (63,338)                                 | 24 - Merthyr Tydfil and Rhymney (56,589) | 40 - Ynys Mon (52,415)          |
| 8 - Caerphilly (64,531)                               | 25 - Monmouth (66,975)                   |                                 |
| 9 - Cardiff Central (60,192)                          | 26 - Montgomeryshire (49,100)            |                                 |
| 10 - Cardiff North (68,205)                           | 27 - Neath (56,777)                      |                                 |
| 11 - Cardiff South and Penarth (78,238)               | 28 - Newport East (59,029)               |                                 |
| 12 - Cardiff West (67,886)                            | 29 - Newport West (67,040)               |                                 |
| 13 - Carmarthen East and Dinefwr (57,700)             | 30 - Ogmore (57,673)                     |                                 |
| 14 - Carmarthen West and South Pembrokeshire (59,264) | 31 - Pontypridd (60,408)                 |                                 |
| 15 - Ceredigion (56,151)                              | 32 - Preseli Pembrokeshire (59,580)      |                                 |
| 16 - Clwyd South (53,921)                             | 33 - Rhondda (50,262)                    |                                 |
| 17 - Clwyd West (57,786)                              |  |                                 |

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# Initial Proposals

1 : 466,289



South Wales Valleys Area



City and County of Cardiff



- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1 - Aberafan Porthcawl (76,792)           | 19 - Mid and South Pembrokeshire (74,614) |
| 2 - Aberconwy (69,909)                    | 20 - Monmouthshire (72,681)               |
| 3 - Alyn and Deeside (74,144)             | 21 - Montgomeryshire and Glyndwr (72,363) |
| 4 - Blaenau Gwent and Rhymney (71,079)    | 22 - Newport East (76,159)                |
| 5 - Brecon and Radnor (72,113)            | 23 - Newport West and Caerphilly (74,394) |
| 6 - Bridgend (74,388)                     | 24 - Pontypridd (71,237)                  |
| 7 - Caerfyrddin (70,606)                  | 25 - Rhondda (71,684)                     |
| 8 - Cardiff Central (74,486)              | 26 - Swansea Central and North (76,199)   |
| 9 - Cardiff North (71,143)                | 27 - Swansea East and Neath (75,641)      |
| 10 - Cardiff South and Penarth (70,246)   | 28 - Swansea West and Gower (75,214)      |
| 11 - Cardiff West (73,947)                | 29 - Torfaen (70,591)                     |
| 12 - Ceredigion Preseli (76,269)          | 30 - Vale of Glamorgan (70,426)           |
| 13 - Clwyd (76,380)                       | 31 - Wrexham (75,596)                     |
| 14 - Delyn (76,074)                       | 32 - Ynys Môn (52,415)                    |
| 15 - Dwyfor Meirionydd (71,962)           |   |
| 16 - Islwyn (70,735)                      |   |
| 17 - Llanelli (71,972)                    |   |
| 18 - Merthyr Tydfil and Aberdare (71,218) |   |

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## 1. Aberafan Porthcawl

1.1 The Commission proposes that a county constituency be created from:

1. The following electoral wards within the County Borough of Neath Port Talbot (which currently form part of the existing **Aberavon CC**):

Aberavon (4,048), Baglan (5,383), Briton Ferry East (2,148), Briton Ferry West (2,033), Bryn and Cwmavon (5,220), Cymmer (2,011), Glyncorrwg (792), Gwynfi (879), Margam (2,309), Port Talbot (4,342), Sandfields East (5,038), Sandfields West (4,917) and Tai-bach (3,643)

a:

2. The following electoral wards within the County Borough of Bridgend (which currently form part of the existing **Bridgend CC**):

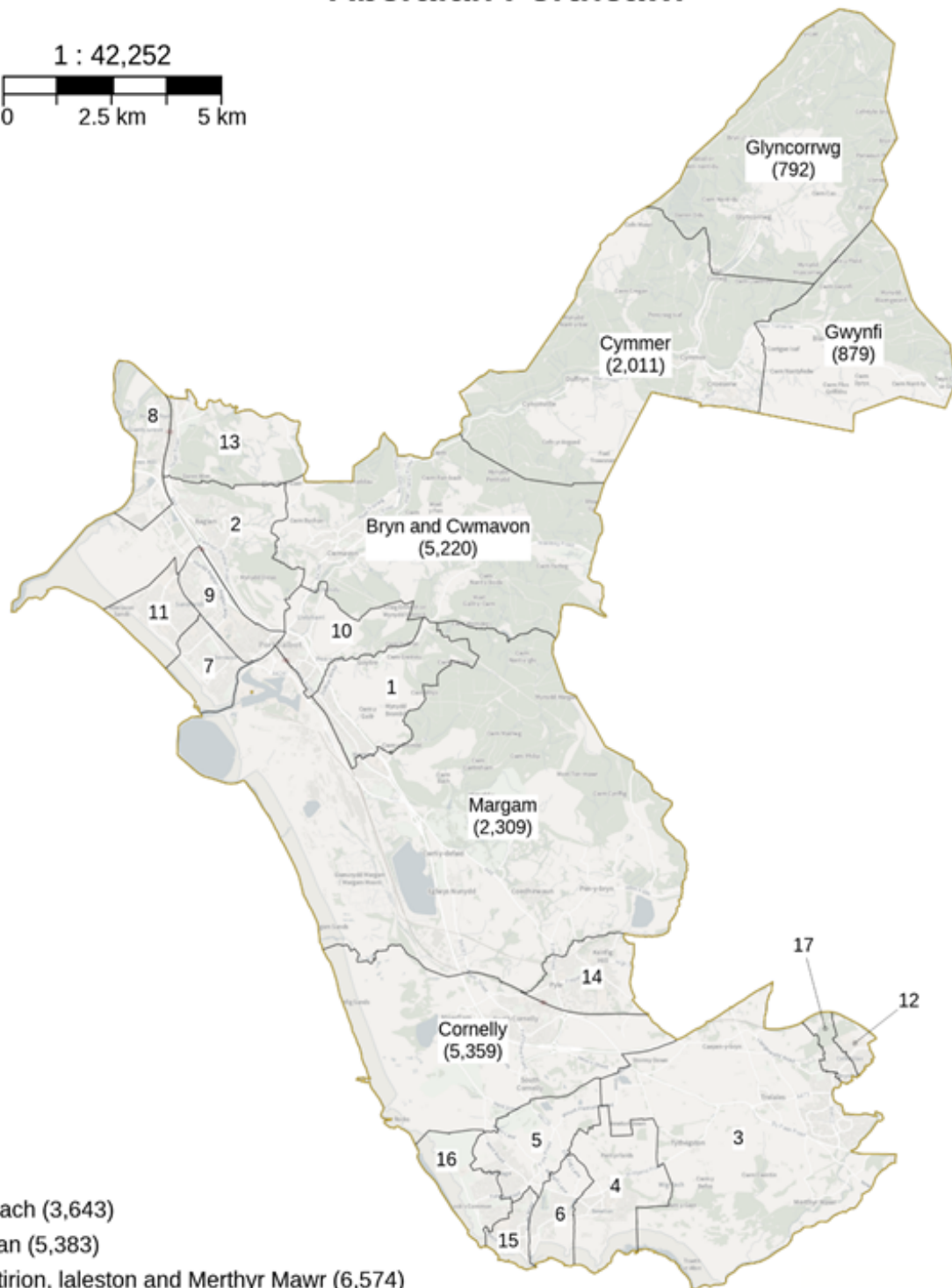
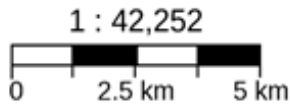
Bryntirion Laleston and Merthyr Mawr (6,574), Cefn Glas (1,360), Cornelly (5,359), Laleston and Merthyr Mawr (6,574), Llangewydd and Brynhyfryd (1,878), Newton (3,035), Nottage (2,741), Porthcawl East Central (2,580), Porthcawl West Central (2,967), Pyle (5,545) and Rest Bay (1,990).

1.2 This constituency would have 76,792 electors, which is 4.6% above the UKEQ of 73,393 electors per constituency. The proposed single name for the constituency is **Aberafan Porthcawl**.

1.3 The existing Aberavon and Bridgend constituencies are currently below the statutory requirements in respect of the size of the electorate. The Commission considered several options, and proposes to combine parts of the existing Bridgend and Aberavon constituencies. The Commission considers that combining the areas as proposed is appropriate due to the good transport and communication links within the proposed constituency.

- 1.4** The proposed constituency includes electoral wards that form parts of the Bridgend and Neath Port Talbot principal council areas. The Commission has proposed the single name of Aberafan Porthcawl to represent the constituency. The two parts of this name represent the two main settlements in the areas that are proposed to be combined within the constituency. The Commission considers that both parts of the name are recognisable and acceptable in both Welsh and English.
- 1.5** The remainder of the electoral wards of the existing constituency of **Aberavon** can be found on page 93, and of **Bridgend** on page 32.

# Aberafan Porthcawl



- 1 - Tai-bach (3,643)
- 2 - Baglan (5,383)
- 3 - Bryntirion, Ialeston and Merthyr Mawr (6,574)
- 4 - Newton (3,035)
- 5 - Nottage (2,741)
- 6 - Porthcawl East Central (2,580)
- 7 - Sandfields East (5,038)
- 8 - Briton Ferry West (2,033)
- 9 - Aberavon (4,048)
- 10 - Port Talbot (4,342)
- 11 - Sandfields West (4,917)
- 12 - Cefn Glas (1,360)

- 13 - Briton Ferry East (2,148)
- 14 - Pyle (5,545)
- 15 - Porthcawl West Central (2,967)
- 16 - Rest Bay (1,990)
- 17 - Llangewydd and Brynhyfryd (1,878)

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## 2. Aberconwy

**2.1** The Commission proposes that a county constituency be created from:

1. The following electoral wards within the County Borough of Conwy (which currently make up the existing **Aberconwy** CC):

Betws-y-Coed (967), Bryn (1,390), Caerhun (1,677), Capelulo (1,284), Conwy (3,295), Craig-y-Don (2,685), Crwst (1,581), Deganwy (3,289), Eglwysbach (1,257), Gogarth (2,795), Gower (850), Llansanffraid (1,814), Marl (3,539), Mostyn (2,758), Pandy (1,463), Pant-yr-Afon/Penmaenan (2,167), Penrhyn (3,874), Pensarn (2,274), Trefriw (1,026), Tudno (3,591) and Uwch Conwy (1,276)

and:

2. The following electoral wards within the County Borough of Conwy (which currently form part of the existing **Clwyd West** CC):

Llandrillo yn Rhos (6,110), Llangernyw (1,104), Mochdre (1,425) and Uwchaled (1,139)

and:

3. The following electoral wards within the County of Gwynedd (which currently form part of the existing **Arfon** CC):

Arllechwedd (1,091), Deiniol (920), Dewi (1,301), Garth (556), Gerlan (1,696), Glyder (1,257), Hendre (940), Hirael (1,066), Marchog (1,579), Menai (Bangor) (1,548), Ogwen (1,697), and Tregarth and Mynydd Llandygai (1,628).

**2.2** This constituency would have 69,909 electors, which is 4.7% below the UKEQ of 73,393 electors per constituency. The proposed single name for the constituency is **Aberconwy**.

**2.3** The existing Aberconwy constituency is currently below the statutory requirements in

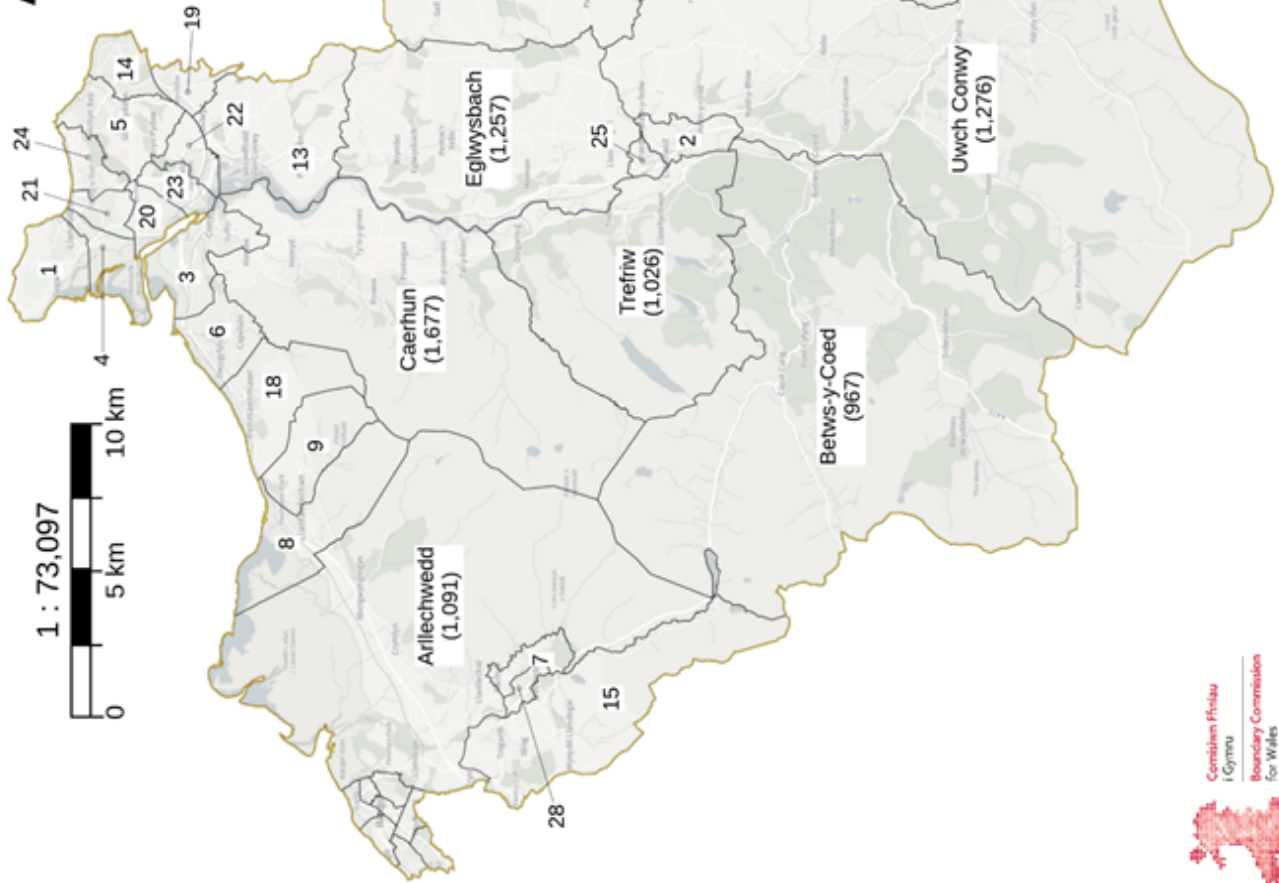
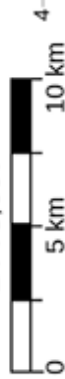
respect of the size of the electorate. The Commission considered several options, and proposes to combine the whole of the existing Aberconwy constituency with electoral wards from the existing Clwyd West and Arfon constituencies to meet the statutory electorate range. The Commission has proposed to include the Llandrillo yn Rhos, Llangernyw, Mochdre and Uwchaled electoral wards from the existing Clwyd West constituency, as well as the eastern electoral wards of the existing Arfon constituency. The Commission is of the view that these areas are well connected to the existing Aberconwy constituency by transport links, and are similar in character. The Commission is therefore of the view that the proposed arrangement creates a cohesive constituency.

**2.4** The Commission proposes keeping the existing constituency name of Aberconwy as the single name for this constituency, which the Commission considers to be recognisable and acceptable in both Welsh and English.

**2.5** The remainder of electoral wards of the existing constituency of **Clwyd West** can be found on pages 51 and 54, and of **Arfon** on page 57.

# Aberconwy

1 : 73,097



## Bangor Area



- 1 - Gogarth (2,795)
- 2 - Cnwst (1,581)
- 3 - Conwy (3,295)
- 4 - Mostyn (2,758)
- 5 - Penrhyn (3,874)
- 6 - Capelulo (1,284)
- 7 - Gerlan (1,696)
- 8 - Bryn (1,390)
- 9 - Pandy (1,463)
- 10 - Hendre (940)
- 11 - Deiniol (920)
- 12 - Hirael (1,066)
- 13 - Liansanffraid (1,814)
- 14 - Llandrillo yn Rhos (6,110)
- 15 - Tregarth & Mynydd Llandygai (1,628)
- 16 - Glyder (1,257)
- 17 - Dewi (1,301)
- 18 - Pant-yr-Afon/Pennaenan (2,167)
- 19 - Mochdre (1,425)
- 20 - Deganwy (3,289)
- 21 - Tudno (3,591)
- 22 - Pensarn (2,274)
- 23 - Marl (3,539)
- 24 - Craig-y-Don (2,685)
- 25 - Gower (850)
- 26 - Menai (Bangor) (1,548)
- 27 - Marchog (1,579)
- 28 - Ogwen (1,697)
- 29 - Garth (556)



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### 3. Alyn and Deeside (Alun a Glannau Dyfrdwy)

3.1 The Commission proposes that a county constituency be created from:

1. The following electoral wards within the County of Flintshire (which currently make up the existing **Alyn and Deeside** CC):

Aston (2,508), Broughton North East (1,723), Broughton South (3,325), Buckley Bistre East (2,653), Buckley Bistre West (3,182), Buckley Mountain (2,555), Buckley Pentrobin (4,181), Caergwrle (1,225), Connah's Quay Central (2,213), Connah's Quay Golftyn (3,688), Connah's Quay South (4,494), Connah's Quay Wepre (1,647), Ewloe (4,327), Hawarden (1,623), Higher Kinnerton (1,373), Hope (2,042), Llanfynydd (1,483), Mancot (2,516), Penyffordd (3,543), Queensferry (1,248), Saltney Mold Junction (1,100), Saltney Stonebridge (2,672), Sealand (2,026), Shotton East (1,219), Shotton Higher (1,669), Shotton West (1,464) and Treuddyn (1,346)

and:

2. The following electoral wards within the County of Wrexham (which currently form part of the existing **Clwyd South** CC):

Brymbo (3,021) and Minera (1,870)

and;

3. The following electoral wards within the County of Flintshire (which currently form part of the existing **Delyn** CC):

Argoed (2,167), Leeswood (1,627) and New Brighton (2,414).

3.2 This constituency would have 74,144 electors, which is 1% above the UKEQ of 73,393 electors per constituency. The proposed official name for the constituency is **Alyn and Deeside**. The proposed official alternative name is **Alun a Glannau Dyfrdwy**.

3.3 The existing Alyn and Deeside constituency is currently below the statutory requirements in respect of the size of the electorate. The Commission has considered several options,



and proposes to combine the whole of the existing Alyn and Deeside constituency with electoral wards from the existing Clwyd South and Delyn constituencies to meet the statutory electorate range. The Commission proposes to include the electoral wards of Brymbo and Minera from the existing Clwyd South constituency, and the Argoed, Leeswood and New Brighton electoral wards from the existing Delyn constituency. The Commission is of the view that these areas are well connected to the existing Alyn and Deeside constituency by transport links, and are similar in character. The Commission is of the view that the proposed arrangement creates a cohesive constituency.

**3.4** The proposed constituency includes the whole of the existing Alyn and Deeside constituency and electoral wards from the existing Clwyd South and Delyn constituencies. The Commission proposes keeping the existing constituency name of Alyn and Deeside as the name for this constituency.

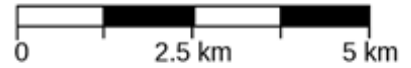
**3.5** The remainder of the electoral wards of the existing constituency of **Clwyd South** can be found on pages 75 and 105, and of **Delyn** on page 54.

# Alyn and Deeside (Alun a Glannau Dyfrdwy)



Comisiwn Ffiniau  
i Gymru  
Boundary Commission  
for Wales

1 : 29,986



- 1 - Saltney Stonebridge (2,672)
- 2 - Aston (2,508)
- 3 - Saltney Mold Junction (1,100)
- 4 - Buckley Bistre West (3,182)
- 5 - Mancot (2,516)
- 6 - Queensferry (1,248)
- 7 - Shotton Higher (1,669)
- 8 - New Brighton (2,414)
- 9 - Hawarden (1,623)
- 10 - Broughton South (3,325)
- 11 - Connah's Quay Goflynn (3,688)
- 12 - Shotton West (1,464)
- 13 - Connah's Quay Wepre (1,647)
- 14 - Connah's Quay Central (2,213)
- 15 - Buckley Bistre East (2,653)
- 16 - Buckley Pentrobin (4,181)
- 17 - Buckley Mountain (2,555)
- 18 - Connah's Quay South (4,494)
- 19 - Caergwrle (1,225)
- 20 - Shotton East (1,219)

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## 4. Blaenau Gwent and Rhymney (Blaenau Gwent a Rhymni)

4.1 The Commission proposes that a county constituency be created from:

1. The following electoral wards within the County Borough of Blaenau Gwent (which currently make up the existing **Blaenau Gwent** CC):

Abertillery (3,074), Badminton (2,452), Beaufort (2,717), Blaina (3,497), Brynmawr (4,028), Cwm (3,254), Cwmtillery (3,383), Ebbw Vale North (3,268), Ebbw Vale South (2,959), Georgetown (3,091), Llanhilleth (3,387), Nantyglo (3,350), Rassau (2,463), Sirhowy (4,210), Six Bells (1,740), and Tredegar Central and West (4,027)

and:

2. The following electoral wards within the County Borough of Caerphilly (which currently form part of the existing **Merthyr Tydfil and Rhymney** CC):

Darren Valley (1,870), Moriah (3,128), New Tredegar (3,357), Pontlottyn (1,432), and Twyn Carno (1,721).

and:

3. The electoral ward of Aberbargoed (2,706) within the County Borough of Caerphilly (which currently forms part of the existing **Islwyn** CC)

4. The following electoral wards within the County Borough of Caerphilly (which currently form part of the existing **Caerphilly** CC):

Bargoed (4,431) and Gilfach (1,534).

4.2 This constituency would have 71,079 electors, which is 3.2% below the UKEQ of 73,393 electors per constituency. The proposed name for the constituency is **Blaenau Gwent and Rhymney**. The proposed official alternative name is **Blaenau Gwent a Rhymni**.

4.3 The existing Blaenau Gwent constituency is currently below the statutory requirements

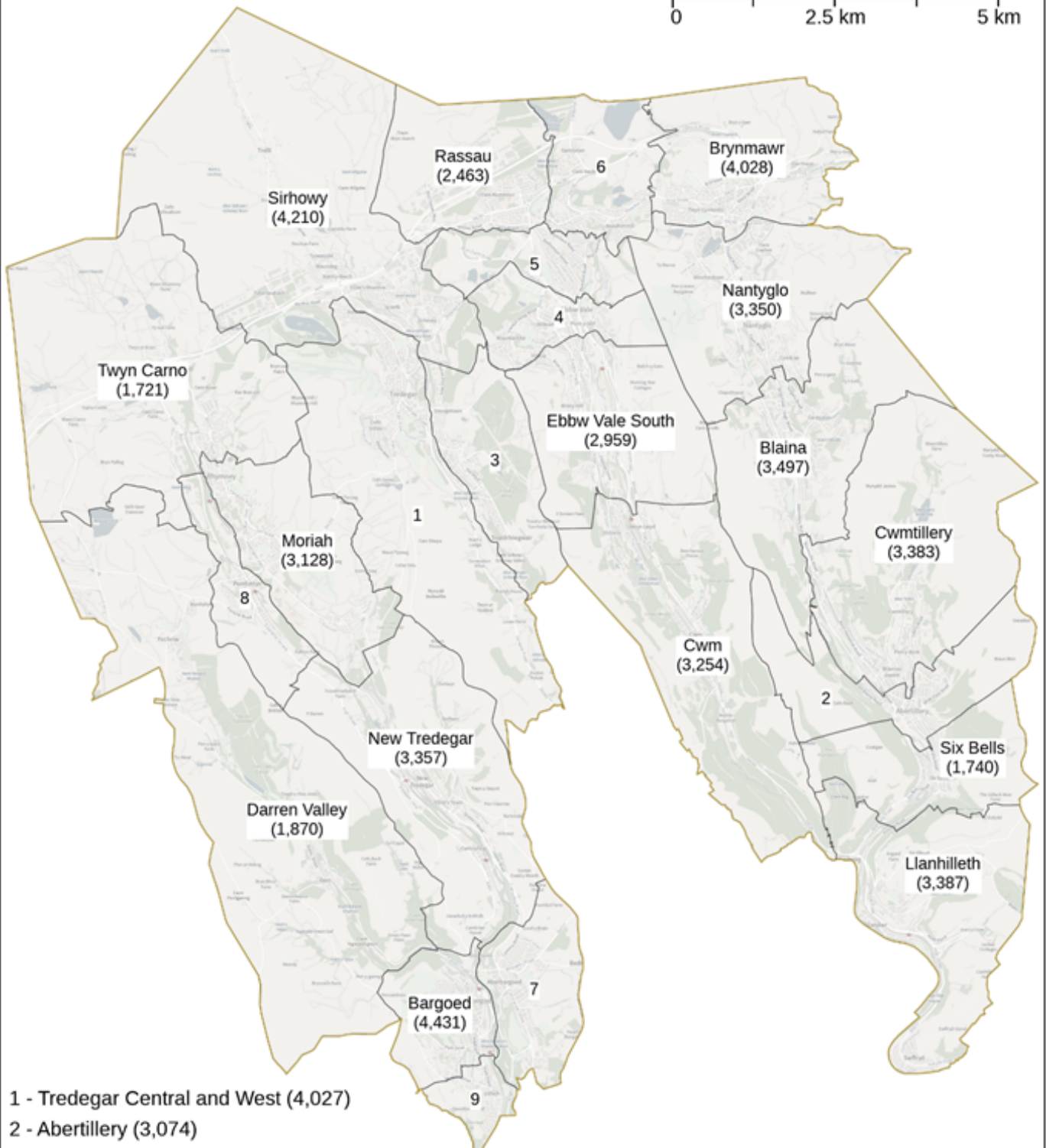
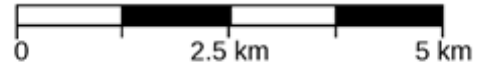
in respect of the size of the electorate. The Commission has considered several options, and proposes to combine the whole of the existing Blaenau Gwent constituency with electoral wards from the existing Merthyr Tydfil and Rhymney, Islwyn and Caerphilly constituencies to meet the statutory electorate range. Including the electoral wards of Aberbargoed, Bargoed and Gilfach within this new constituency would ensure the whole community of Bargoed would be included within one constituency (it is currently split across two existing constituencies). The Commission is of the view that these areas are well connected to the existing Blaenau Gwent constituency by transport links, and are similar in character. The Commission therefore considers that the proposed arrangement creates a cohesive constituency.

**4.4** The proposed constituency includes the whole of the existing Blaenau Gwent constituency and electoral wards from the existing Merthyr Tydfil and Rhymney, Islwyn and Caerphilly constituencies. The Commission has proposed that the existing constituency name of Blaenau Gwent be combined with Rhymney, as this would reflect the area within the existing Merthyr Tydfil and Rhymney constituency that is included within this proposed constituency.

**4.5** The remainder of the electoral wards of the existing constituency of **Merthyr Tydfil and Rhymney** can be found on page 66, of **Islwyn** can be found on page 60, and of **Caerphilly** can be found on pages 60, 66 and 81.

# Blaenau Gwent and Rhymney (Blaenau Gwent a Rhymni)

1 : 25,311



- 1 - Tredegar Central and West (4,027)
- 2 - Abertillery (3,074)
- 3 - Georgetown (3,091)
- 4 - Ebbw Vale North (3,268)
- 5 - Badminton (2,452)
- 6 - Beaufort (2,717)

- 7 - Aberbargoed (2,706)
- 8 - Pontlottyn (1,432)
- 9 - Gilfach (1,534)

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## 5. Brecon and Radnor (Aberhonddu a Maesyfed)

5.1 The Commission proposes that a county constituency be created from:

1. The following electoral wards within the County of Powys (which currently make up the existing **Brecon and Radnorshire** CC):

Aber-craf (1,143), Beguildy (1,135), Bronllys (1,060), Builth (1,849), Bwlch (800), Crickhowell (2,410), Cwm-twrch (1,557), Dissersh and Trecoed (1,055), Felin-fâch (1,102), Glasbury (1,901), Gwernyfed (1,178), Hay (1,355), Knighton (2,296), Llanafanfawr (1,141), Llanbadarn Fawr (925), Llandrindod East/Llandrindod West (949), Llandrindod North (1,517), Llandrindod South (1,726), Llanelwedd (987), Llangattock (762), Llangors (901), Llangunllo (1,071), Llangynidr (865), Llanwrtyd Wells (1,450), Llanyre (978), Maescar/Llywel (1,405), Nantmel (1,243), Old Radnor (1,375), Presteigne (2,174), Rhayader (1,589), St David Within (1,263), St John (2,365), St Mary (2,194), Talgarth (1,305), Talybont-on-Usk (1,537), Tawe-Uchaf (1,763), Ynyscedwyn (1,705), Yscir (888) and Ystradgynlais (1,935).

and:

2. The following electoral wards within the County Borough of Neath Port Talbot (which currently form part of the existing **Neath** CC):

Allt-wen (2,023), Cwmllynfell (921), Godre'r Graig (1,514), Gwaun-Cae-Gurwen (2,220), Lower Brynamman (1,040), Pontardawe (4,283), Rhos (1,997), Trebanos (1,092) and Ystalyfera (2,169).

5.2 This constituency would have 72,113 electors, which is 1.7% below the UKEQ of 73,393 electors per constituency. The proposed name for the constituency is **Brecon and Radnor**.

The proposed alternative official name for the constituency is **Aberhonddu a Maesyfed**.

5.3 The existing Brecon and Radnorshire constituency is currently below the statutory requirements in respect of the size of the electorate. The Commission considered several options and believes it would be appropriate to include electoral wards from the existing

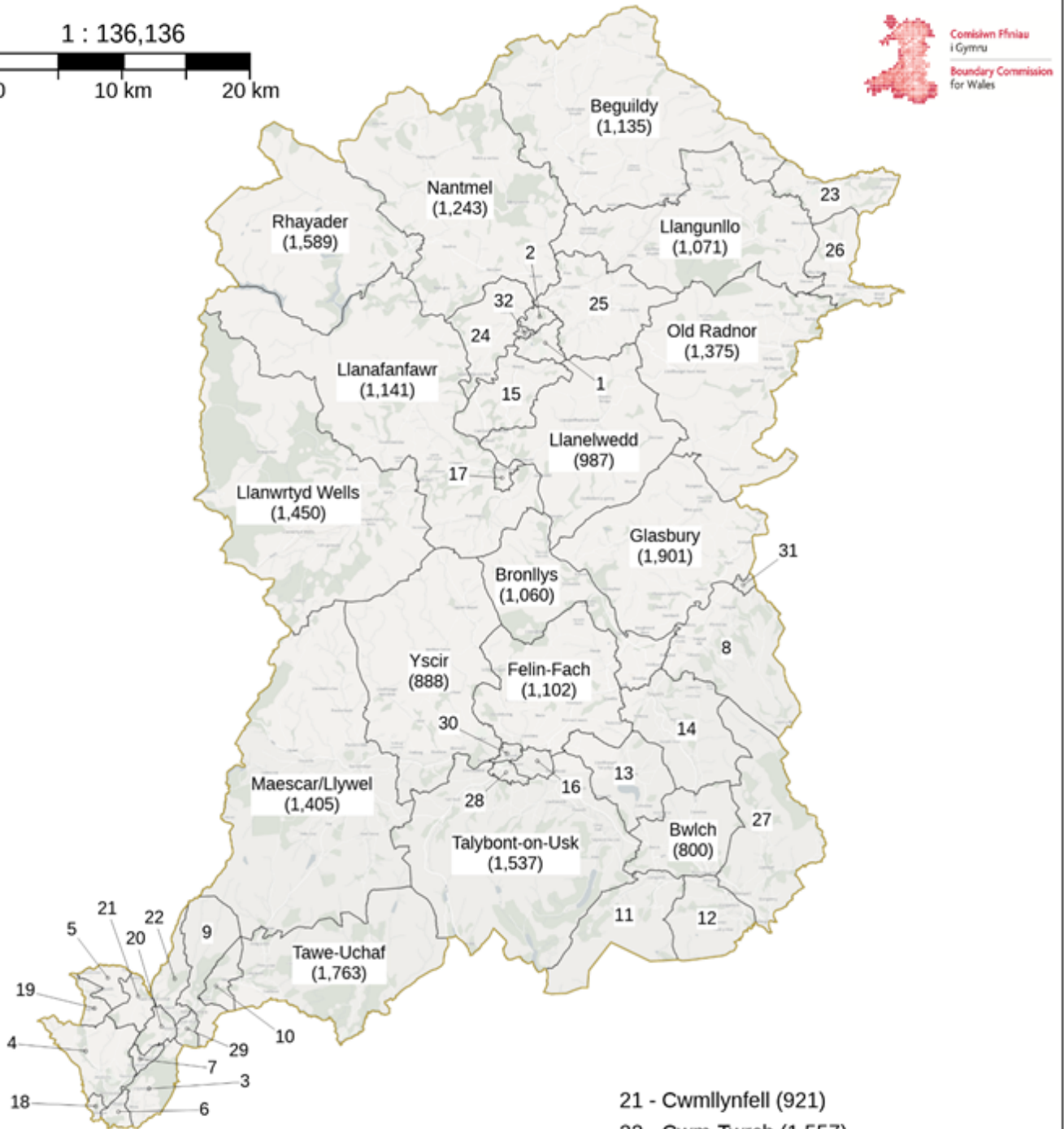
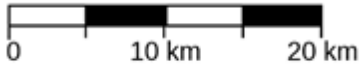
Neath constituency to meet the statutory electorate range. The Commission considers that including electoral wards from the Neath constituency would combine two areas which are similar in character with the Pontardawe area sharing a similar semi-rural nature to the Ystradgynlais area. The Commission is therefore of the view that the proposed arrangement creates a cohesive constituency that has good road and communication links.

**5.4** The proposed constituency includes the whole of the existing Brecon and Radnorshire constituency and electoral wards from the existing Neath constituency. The Commission considers that the proposed name represents the area, while acknowledging that the proposed constituency includes areas that are outside of the existing Brecon and Radnorshire constituency.

**5.5** The remainder of the electoral wards of the existing constituency of **Neath** can be found on page 93.

# Brecon and Radnor (Aberhonddu a Maesyfed)

1 : 136,136



- |                               |                                     |  |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|
| 1 - Llandrindod South (1,726) | 11 - Llangynidr (865)               | 21 - Cwmllynfell (921)                       |
| 2 - Llandrindod North (1,517) | 12 - Llangattock (762)              | 22 - Cwm-Twrch (1,557)                       |
| 3 - Rhos (1,997)              | 13 - Llangors (901)                 | 23 - Knighton (2,296)                        |
| 4 - Pontardawe (4,283)        | 14 - Talgarth (1,305)               | 24 - Llanyre (978)                           |
| 5 - Lower Brynamman (1,040)   | 15 - Disserseth and Trecoed (1,055) | 25 - Llanbadarn Fawr (925)                   |
| 6 - Allt-Wen (2,023)          | 16 - St. Mary (2,194)               | 26 - Presteigne (2,174)                      |
| 7 - Godre'r Graig (1,514)     | 17 - Builth (1,849)                 | 27 - Crickhowell (2,410)                     |
| 8 - Gwernyfed (1,178)         | 18 - Trebanos (1,092)               | 28 - St. David Within (1,263)                |
| 9 - Ystradgynlais (1,935)     | 19 - Gwaun-Cae-Gurwen (2,220)       | 29 - Ynyscedwyn (1,705)                      |
| 10 - Aber-Craf (1,143)        | 20 - Ystalyfera (2,169)             | 30 - St. John (2,365)                        |
|                               |                                     | 31 - Hay (1,355)                             |
|                               |                                     | 32 - Llandrindod East/Llandrindod West (949) |

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## 6. Bridgend (Pen-y-bont)

**6.1** The Commission proposes that a county constituency be created from:

1. The following electoral wards within the County Borough of Bridgend (which currently form part of the existing **Ogmore CC**):

Aberkenfig (1,868), Bettws (1,595), Blackmill (1,839), Blaengarw (1,333), Bryncethin (1,261), Bryncoch (1,757), Caerau (4,795), Cefn Cribwr (1,180), Felindre (2,087), Hendre (3,175), Llangeinor (887), Llangynwyd (2,351), Maesteg East (3,741), Maesteg West (4,327), Nant-y-moel (1,745), Ogmore Vale (2,357), Penprysg (2,474), Pontycymmer (1,773), Sarn (1,786), Ynysawdre (2,748)

and:

2. The following electoral wards within the County Borough of Bridgend (which currently form part of the **Bridgend CC**):

Brackla (8,276), Coity (3,006), Coychurch Lower (1,160), Litchard (2,080), Morfa (3,210), Newcastle (4,287), Oldcastle (3,783), Pendre (1,654) and Pen-y-fai (1,853).

**6.2** This constituency would have 74,388 electors, which is 1.4% above the UKEQ of 73,393 electors per constituency. The proposed name for the constituency is **Bridgend**. The proposed official alternative name for this constituency is **Pen-y-bont**.

**6.3** The existing Bridgend constituency is currently below the statutory requirements in respect of the size of the electorate. The Commission considered several options, and proposes to combine the parts of the existing Bridgend and Ogmore constituencies that are all within the Bridgend principal council area to form a constituency that would meet the statutory electorate range. There are good transport links throughout the area, and the proposed constituency is contained within a single local authority area.

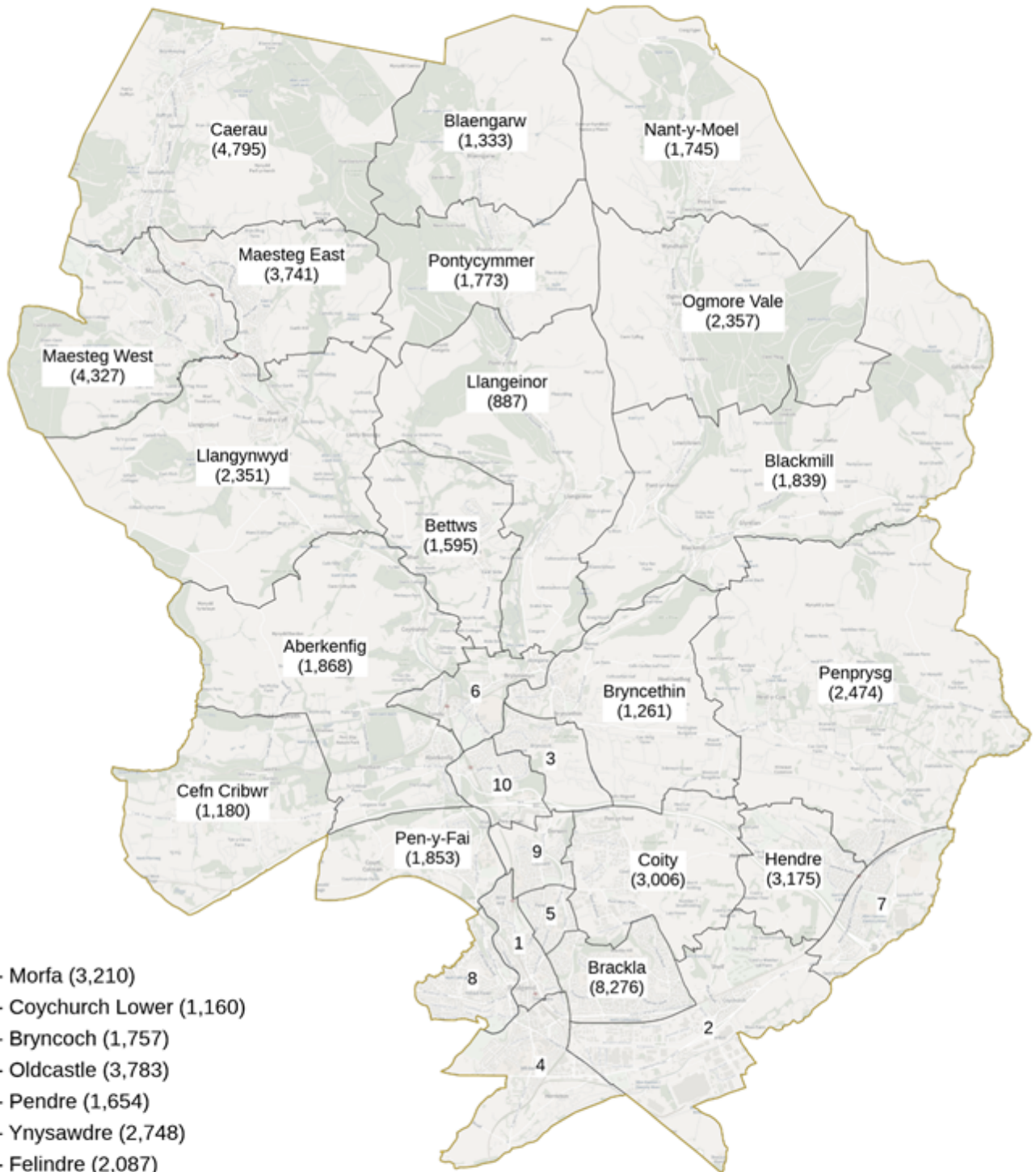
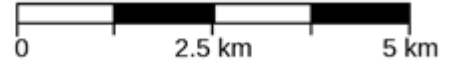
**6.4** The proposed constituency includes electoral wards that fall wholly within the County Borough of Bridgend principal council area. The Commission therefore proposes that

this new constituency is named Bridgend.

**6.5** The remainder of the electoral wards of the existing constituency of **Bridgend** can be found on page 17, and of **Ogmore** can be found on page 87.

# Bridgend (Pen-y-bont)

1 : 26,962



- 1 - Morfa (3,210)
- 2 - Coychurch Lower (1,160)
- 3 - Bryncoch (1,757)
- 4 - Oldcastle (3,783)
- 5 - Pendre (1,654)
- 6 - Ynysawdre (2,748)
- 7 - Felindre (2,087)
- 8 - Newcastle (4,287)
- 9 - Litchard (2,080)
- 10 - Sarn (1,786)

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## 7. Caerfyrddin (Carmarthen)

**7.1** The Commission proposes that a county constituency be created from:

1. The following electoral wards within the County of Carmarthenshire (which currently form part of the existing **Carmarthen East and Dinefwr** CC):

Abergwili (1,912), Ammanford (1,984), Betws (1,825), Cenarth (1,669), Cilycwm (1,175), Cynwyl Gaeo (1,351), Garnant (1,558), Glanamman (1,802), Llanddarog (1,678), Llandeilo (2,307), Llandovery (1,963), Llandybie (3,277), Llanegwad (2,040), Llanfihangel Aberbythych (1,503), Llanfihangel-ar-Arth (2,196), Llangadog (1,629), Llangeler (2,772), Llanybydder (2,027), Manordeilo and Salem (1,816), Penygroes (2,347), Pontamman (2,092), Quarter Bach (2,218) and Saron (3,353).

and:

2. The following electoral wards within the County of Carmarthenshire (which currently form part of the existing **Carmarthen West and South Pembrokeshire** CC):

Carmarthen Town North (3,691), Carmarthen Town South (2,746), Carmarthen Town West (3,601), Cynwyl Elfed (2,468), Laugharne Township (2,161), Llanboidy (1,705), Llansteffan (1,656), St Clears (2,500), Trelech (1,754) and Whitland (1,830).

**7.2** This constituency would have 70,606 electors, which is 3.8% below the UKEQ of 73,393 electors per constituency. The proposed name for the constituency is **Caerfyrddin**. The proposed official alternative name is **Carmarthen**.

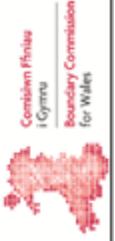
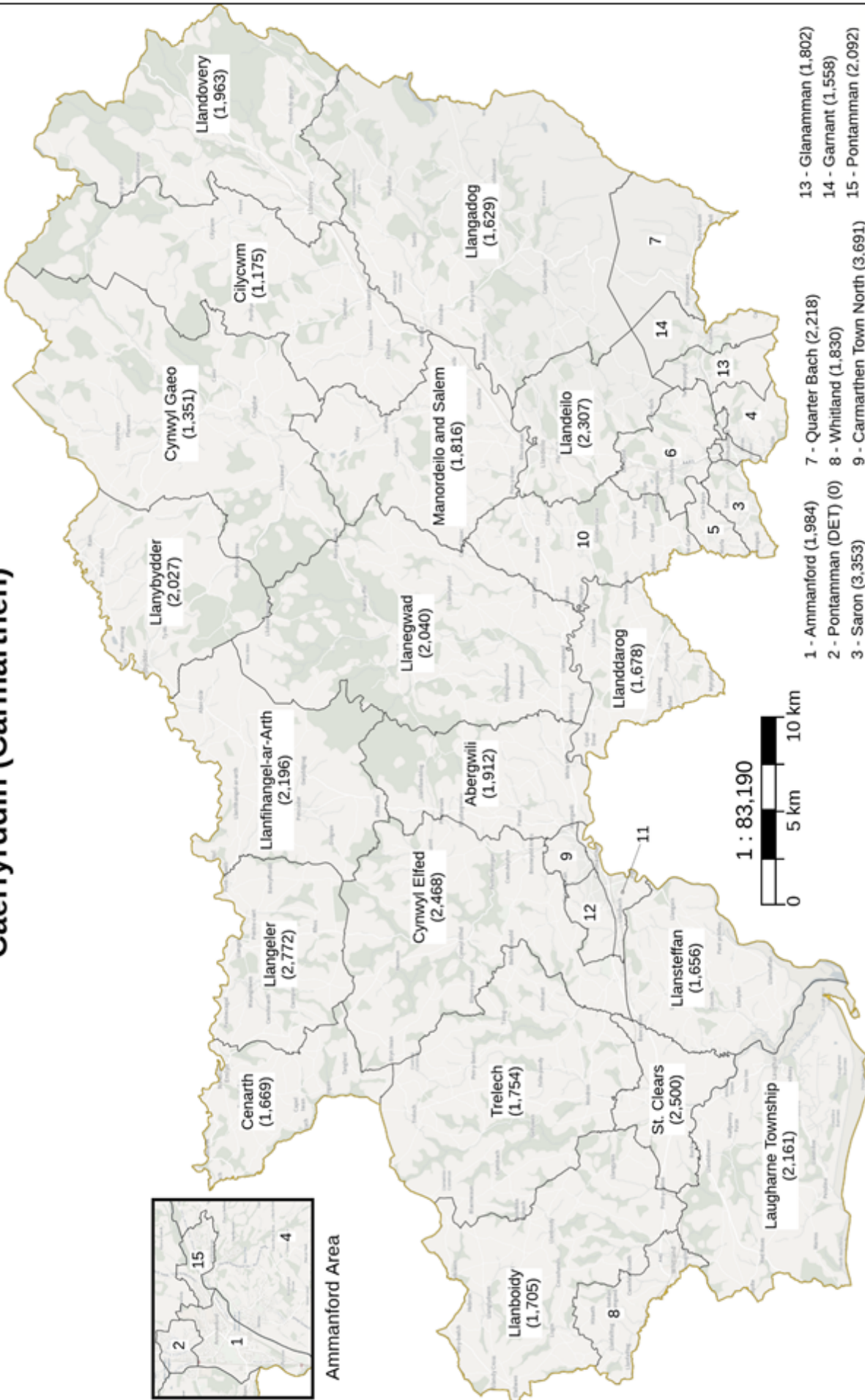
**7.3** The existing constituencies of Carmarthen East and Dinefwr, and Carmarthen West and South Pembrokeshire, both fall significantly below the statutory electorate range. The Commission considers that it would be appropriate to combine the electoral wards in the existing constituency of Carmarthen East and Dinefwr with the electoral wards in the existing Carmarthen West and South Pembrokeshire constituency as described above. The combined areas form a constituency that is wholly within the Carmarthenshire

principal council area and would meet the statutory electorate range.

**7.4** The proposed constituency includes electoral wards that are wholly within the principal council area of Carmarthenshire. Having regard to the linguistic characteristics of the area, the Commission has proposed a Welsh-language official name and an English-language official alternative name for the proposed constituency.

**7.5** The remainder of the electoral wards of the existing constituency of **Carmarthen East and Dinefwr** can be found on page 63, and of **Carmarthen West and South Pembrokeshire** can be found on page 69.

# Caerfyrddin (Carmarthen)



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## 8. Cardiff Central (Canol Caerdydd)

- 8.1** The Commission proposes that a borough constituency be created from:
1. The following electoral wards within the City and County of Cardiff (which currently make up the existing **Cardiff Central** BC):  
Adamsdown (5,692), Cathays (13,099), Cyncoed (8,475), Pentwyn (10,783), Penylan (9,858) and Plasnewydd (12,285).  
and:
  2. The following electoral wards within the City and County of Cardiff (which currently form part of the existing **Cardiff South and Penarth** BC):  
Llanrumney (7,758) and Rumney (6,536).
- 8.2** This constituency would have 74,486 electors, which is 1.5% above the UKEQ of 73,393 electors per constituency. The proposed name for the constituency is **Cardiff Central**. The proposed official alternative name is **Canol Caerdydd**.
- 8.3** The existing Cardiff Central constituency does not meet the statutory requirements in respect of the size of the electorate. The Commission considered several options, and proposes that the electoral wards of Llanrumney and Rumney in the existing constituency of Cardiff South and Penarth be combined with the whole of the existing Cardiff Central constituency to form a constituency that would meet the statutory electorate range. There are good transport links throughout the city, and combining these areas would create a constituency wholly within the City and County of Cardiff principal council area.
- 8.4** The existing constituency of Cardiff Central is wholly included within the proposed constituency and is combined with the Llanrumney and Rumney electoral wards, which are also within the City and County of Cardiff principal council area. The Commission proposes keeping the existing constituency name of Cardiff Central as the name for this constituency.

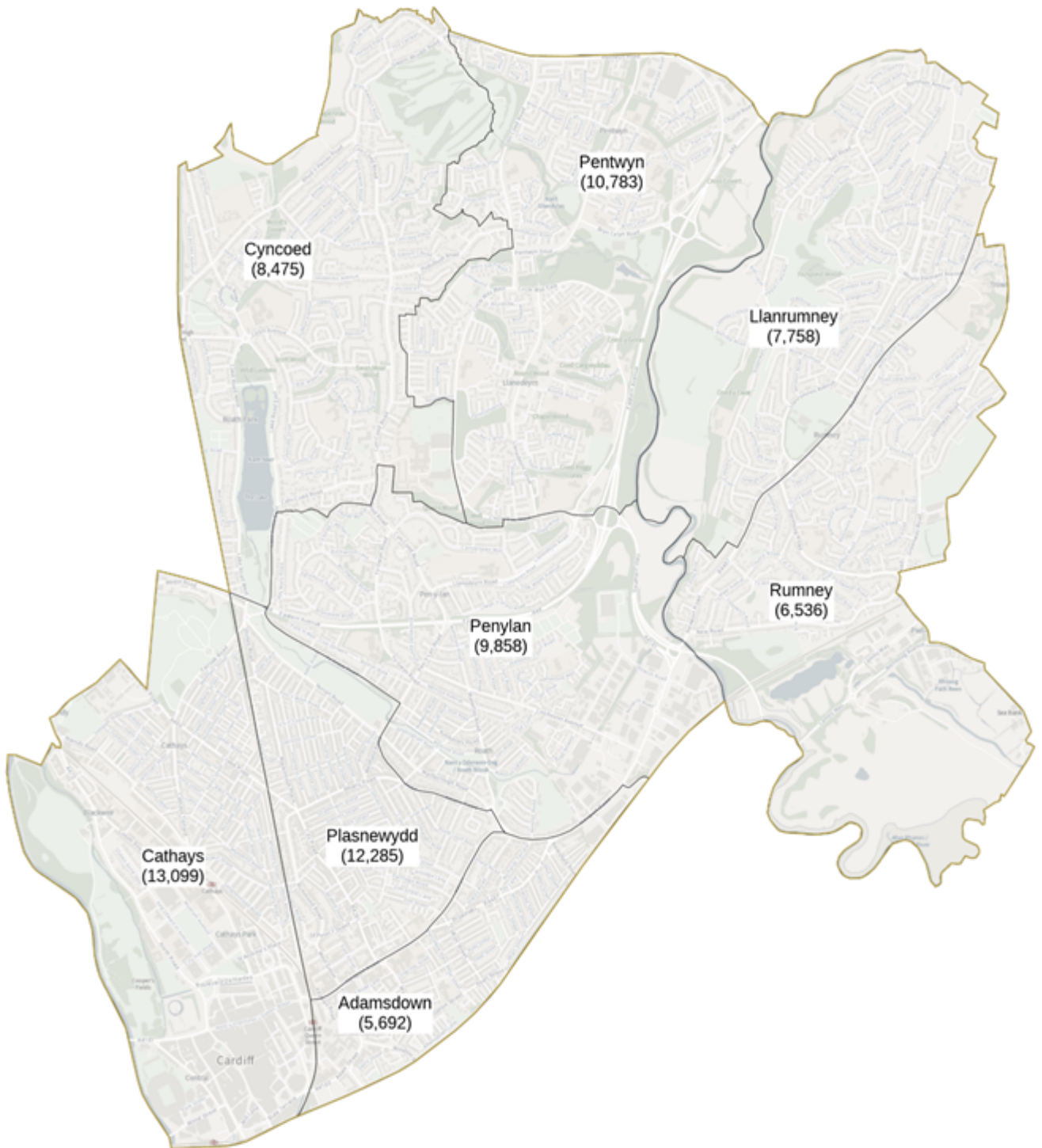
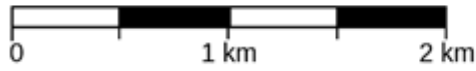
**8.5**

The remainder of the electoral wards of the existing constituency of **Cardiff South and Penarth** can be found on page 43.



# Cardiff Central (Canol Caerdydd)

1 : 9,721



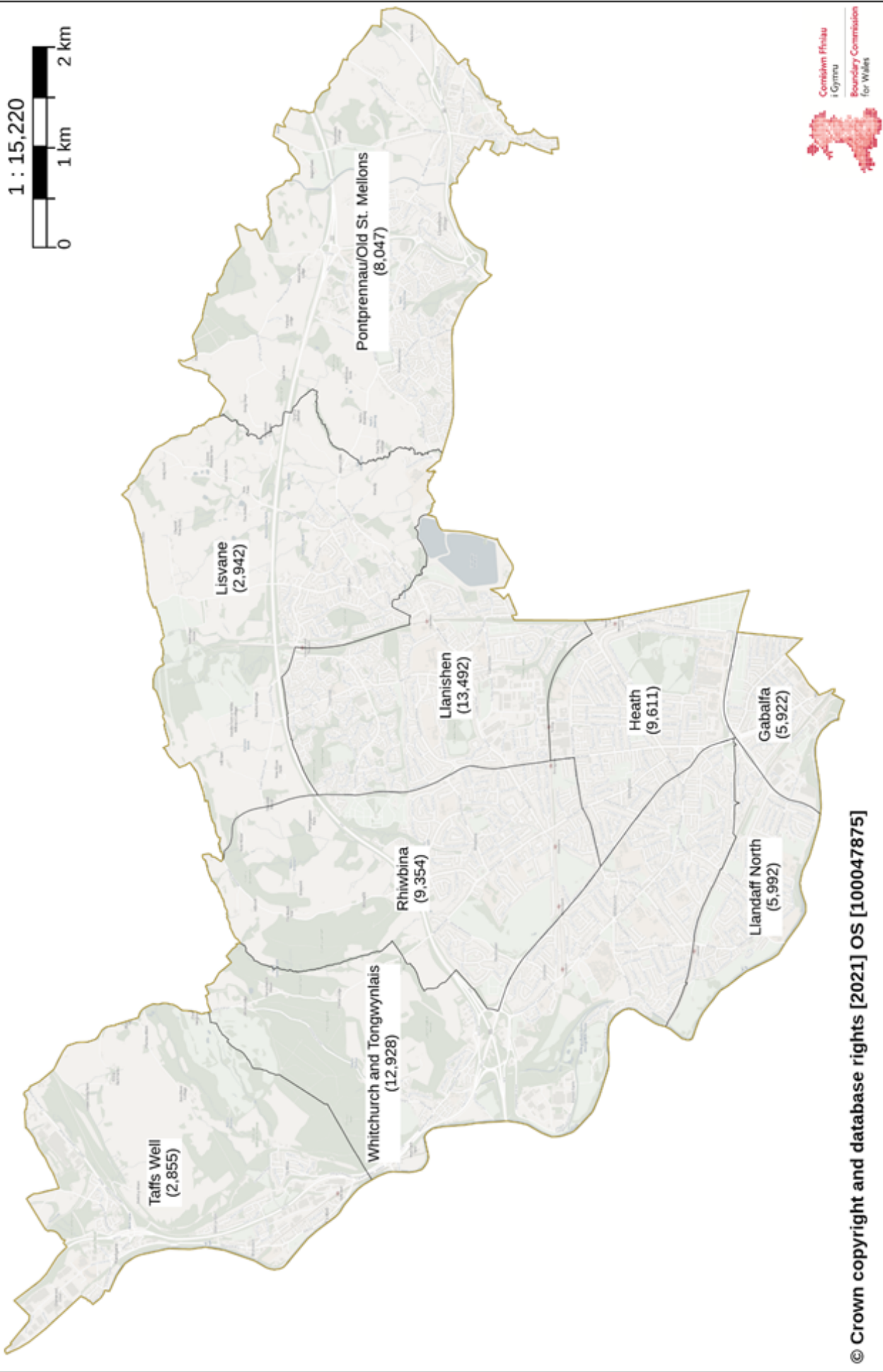
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## 9. Cardiff North (Gogledd Caerdydd)

- 9.1** The Commission proposes that a borough constituency be created from:
1. The following electoral wards within the City and County of Cardiff (which currently make up the existing **Cardiff North** BC):  
Gabalfa (5,922), Heath (9,611), Lisvane (2,942), Llandaff North (5,992), Llanishen (13,492), Pontprennau/Old St Mellons (8,047), Rhiwbina (9,354) and Whitchurch and Tongwynlais (12,928)  
and:
  2. The electoral ward of Taffs Well (2,855) within the County Borough of Rhondda Cynon Taf (which currently forms part of the existing **Pontypridd** CC).
- 9.2** This constituency would have 71,143 electors, which is 3.1% below the UKEQ of 73,393 electors per constituency. The proposed name for the constituency is **Cardiff North**. The proposed official alternative name is **Gogledd Caerdydd**.
- 9.3** The existing Cardiff North constituency does not meet the statutory requirements in respect of the size of the electorate. The Commission considered several options, and proposes that the electoral ward of Taffs Well, in the existing constituency of Pontypridd, be combined with the whole of the existing Cardiff North constituency to form a constituency that would meet the statutory electorate range. There are good transport links via the A470 and Manor Way between the combined areas.
- 9.4** The existing constituency of Cardiff North is wholly included within the proposed constituency, and is combined with the Taffs Well electoral ward from the Rhondda Cynon Taf principal council area. The Commission proposes keeping the existing constituency name of Cardiff North as the name for this constituency.
- 9.5** The remainder of the electoral wards of the existing constituency of **Pontypridd** can be found on pages 46, 84 and 87.

# Cardiff North (Gogledd Caerdydd)



## 10. Cardiff South and Penarth (De Caerdydd a Phenarth)

**10.1** The Commission proposes that a borough constituency be created from:

1. The following electoral wards within the City and County of Cardiff (which currently form part of the existing **Cardiff South and Penarth BC**):

Butetown (7,834), Grangetown (13,257), Splott (9,081) and Trowbridge (11,076).

and:

2. The following electoral wards within the County of the Vale of Glamorgan (which currently form part of the existing **Cardiff South and Penarth BC**):

Cornerswell (4,069), Llandough (1,578), Plymouth (4,584), St Augustine's (5,318), Stanwell (3,365) and Sully (3,696).

and:

3. The electoral ward of Dinas Powys (6,388) within the County of the Vale of Glamorgan (which currently forms part of the **Vale of Glamorgan CC**).

**10.2** This constituency would have 70,246 electors, which is 4.3% below the UKEQ of 73,393 electors per constituency. The proposed name for the constituency is **Cardiff South and Penarth**. The proposed official alternative name is **De Caerdydd a Phenarth**.

**10.3** The existing Cardiff South and Penarth constituency currently exceeds the statutory requirements in respect of the size of electorate. The Commission considered several options, and proposes that the electoral wards of Llanrumney and Rumney, in the existing constituency of Cardiff South and Penarth, be combined with the whole of the existing Cardiff Central constituency to form a constituency that would meet the statutory electorate range. As a consequence, the Commission decided it would be appropriate to include the electoral ward of Dinas Powys, from the existing Vale of Glamorgan constituency, within the proposed Cardiff South and Penarth constituency. Dinas Powys and the Penarth area, from the Vale of Glamorgan principal council area, are

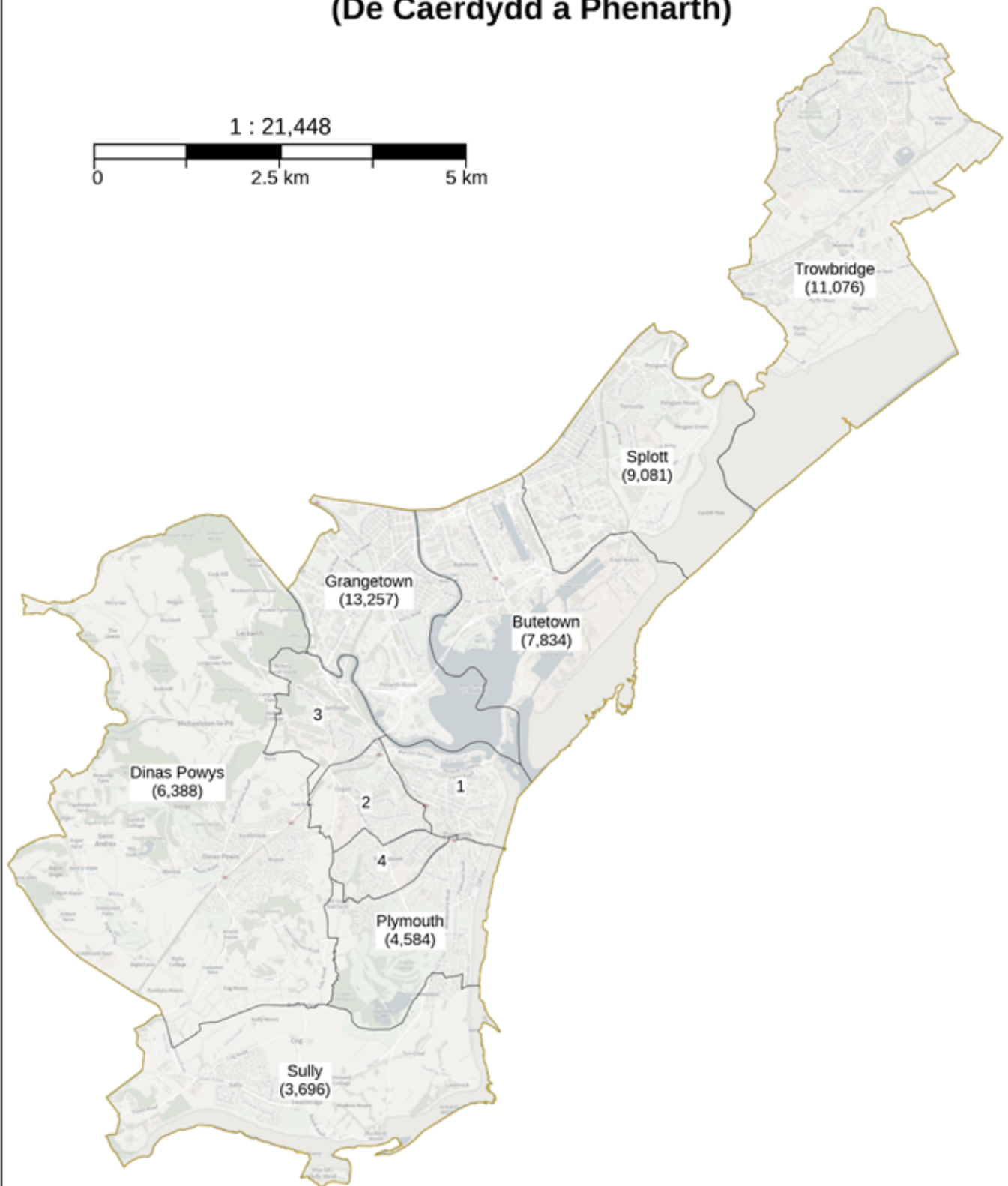
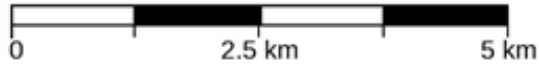
well connected by road links to the remainder of the proposed constituency.

**10.4** The proposed constituency includes all but two of the electoral wards from the existing Cardiff South and Penarth constituency, and includes electoral wards from both the City and County of Cardiff principal council area and the Vale of Glamorgan principal council area. The Commission proposes keeping the existing constituency name of Cardiff South and Penarth as the name for this constituency.

**10.5** The remainder of the electoral wards of the existing constituency of **Cardiff South and Penarth** can be found at page 38, and of **Vale of Glamorgan** can be found on page 102.

# Cardiff South and Penarth (De Caerdydd a Phenarth)

1 : 21,448



- 1 - St. Augustine's (5,318)
- 2 - Cornerswell (4,069)
- 3 - Llandough (1,578)
- 4 - Stanwell (3,365)

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## 11. Cardiff West (Gorllewin Caerdydd)

- 11.1** The Commission proposes that a borough constituency be created from:
1. The following electoral wards within the City and County of Cardiff (which currently make up the existing **Cardiff West** BC):  
Caerau (7,859), Canton (11,457), Creigiau/St Fagans (4,409), Ely (9,576), Fairwater (9,642), Llandaff (7,078), Pentyrch (2,819), Radyr (5,425) and Riverside (9,621)  
and:
  2. The electoral ward of Pont-y-clun (6,061) within the County Borough of Rhondda Cynon Taf (which currently forms part of the existing **Pontypridd** CC).
- 11.2** This constituency would have 73,947 electors, which is 0.8% above the UKEQ of 73,393 electors per constituency. The proposed name for the constituency is **Cardiff West**. The proposed official alternative name is **Gorllewin Caerdydd**.
- 11.3** The existing Cardiff West constituency falls below the statutory electorate range. The Commission has considered several options, and proposes that the electoral ward of Pont-y-clun in the Rhondda Cynon Taf principal council area be combined with the whole of the existing Cardiff West constituency to form a constituency that would meet the statutory electorate range. There are good transport links via the M4 and Llantrisant Road between the two areas.
- 11.4** The existing constituency of Cardiff West is included wholly within the proposed constituency, and is combined with the Pont-y-clun electoral ward from the Rhondda Cynon Taf principal council area. The Commission proposes keeping the existing constituency name of Cardiff West as the name for this constituency.
- 11.5** The remainder of the electoral wards of the existing constituency of **Pontypridd** can be found on pages 41, 84 and 87.

# Cardiff West (Gorllewin Caerdydd)



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## 12. Ceredigion Preseli

**12.1** The Commission proposes that a county constituency be created from:

1. The following electoral wards within the County of Ceredigion (which currently make up the existing **Ceredigion CC**):

Aberaeron (1,088), Aberporth (1,839), Aberteifi/Cardigan-Mwldan (1,522), Aberteifi/Cardigan-Rhyd-y-Fuwch (895), Aberteifi/Cardigan-Teifi (824), Aberystwyth Bronglais (936), Aberystwyth Canol/Central (1,358), Aberystwyth Gogledd/North (1,478), Aberystwyth Penparcau (2,084), Aberystwyth Rheidol (1,776), Beulah (1,413), Borth (1,677), Capel Dewi (1,068), Ceulanamaesmawr (1,551), Ciliau Aeron (1,613), Faenor (1,985), Lampeter (1,660), Llanarth (1,222), Llanbadarn Fawr – Padarn (767), Llanbadarn Fawr – Sulien (973), Llandyfriog (1,466), Llandysilio-gogo (1,653), Llandysul Town (1,067), Llanfarian (1,193), Llanfihangel Ystrad (1,666), Llangeitho (1,168), Llangybi (1,186), Llanrhystyd (1,255), Llansantffraed (1,935), Llanwenog (1,419), Lledrod (1,812), Melindwr (1,578), New Quay (810), Penbryn (1,762), Pen-parc (1,933), Tirymynach (1,403), Trefeurig (1,382), Tregaron (951), Troedyr aur (1,110) and Ystwyth (1,673)

and:

2. The following electoral wards within the County of Pembrokeshire (which currently form part of the existing **Preseli Pembrokeshire CC**):

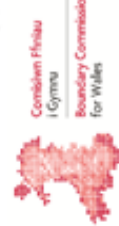
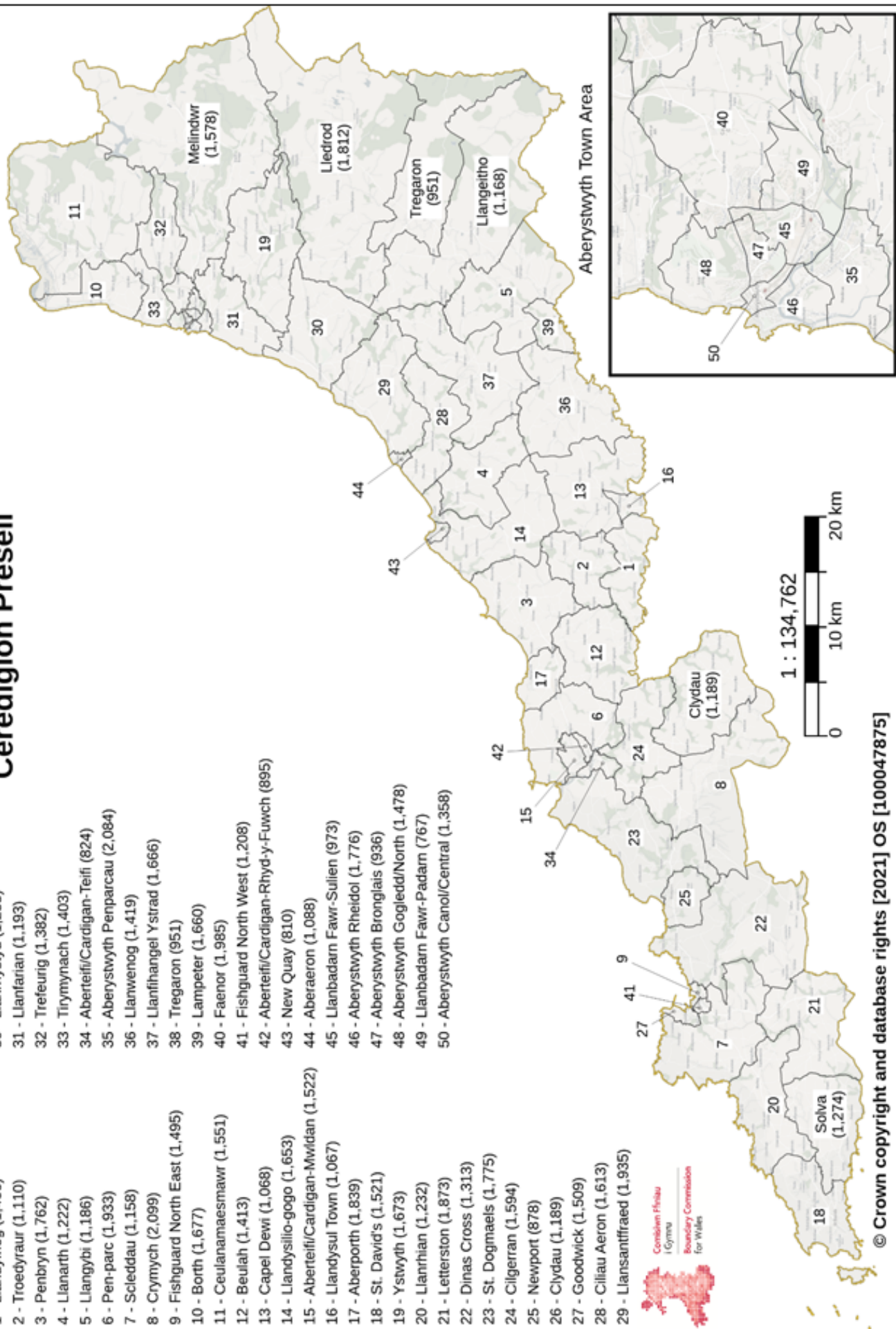
Cilgerran (1,594), Clydau (1,189), Crymych (2,099), Dinas Cross (1,313), Fishguard North East (1,495), Fishguard North West (1,208), Goodwick (1,509), Letterston (1,873), Llanrhian (1,232), Newport (878), St David's (1,521), St Dogmael's (1,775), Scloddau (1,158) and Solva (1,274).

**12.2** This constituency would have 76,269 electors, which is 3.9% above the UKEQ of 73,393 electors per constituency. The proposed single name for the constituency is **Ceredigion Preseli**.

- 12.3** The existing constituency of Ceredigion falls significantly below the statutory electorate range. The Commission considered several options, and proposes to combine the existing Ceredigion constituency with the northern electoral wards of the existing Preseli Pembrokeshire constituency. The proposed combined areas are of similar character, sharing similar rural and coastal characteristics, and the A487 provides a good road link between them.
- 12.4** The existing constituency of Ceredigion is included wholly within the proposed constituency, and is combined with electoral wards from the Pembrokeshire principal council area, which are to the north of the Preseli mountains. The Commission considers that the constituency name should reflect both areas within the proposed constituency, and has therefore proposed the name of Ceredigion Preseli. The Commission considers that this name is recognisable and acceptable in both Welsh and English.
- 12.5** The remainder of the electoral wards of the existing constituency of **Preseli Pembrokeshire** can be found on page 69.

# Ceredigion Preseli

- 1 - Llandyfriog (1,466)
- 2 - Troedyraur (1,110)
- 3 - Penbryn (1,762)
- 4 - Llanarth (1,222)
- 5 - Liangybi (1,186)
- 6 - Pen-parc (1,933)
- 7 - Scleddau (1,158)
- 8 - Crymych (2,099)
- 9 - Fishguard North East (1,495)
- 10 - Borth (1,677)
- 11 - Ceulanamaesmawr (1,551)
- 12 - Beulah (1,413)
- 13 - Capel Dewi (1,068)
- 14 - Llandysilio-gogo (1,653)
- 15 - Abertefi/Cardigan-Mwdian (1,522)
- 16 - Llandysul Town (1,067)
- 17 - Aberporth (1,839)
- 18 - St. David's (1,521)
- 19 - Ystwyth (1,673)
- 20 - Llanrhian (1,232)
- 21 - Letterston (1,873)
- 22 - Dinas Cross (1,313)
- 23 - St. Dogmaels (1,775)
- 24 - Cilgerran (1,594)
- 25 - Newport (878)
- 26 - Clydau (1,189)
- 27 - Goodwick (1,509)
- 28 - Ciliau Aeron (1,613)
- 29 - Liansantffraed (1,935)
- 30 - Llanfystyd (1,255)
- 31 - Llanfarian (1,193)
- 32 - Trefeurig (1,382)
- 33 - Tirymynach (1,403)
- 34 - Abertefi/Cardigan-Teifi (824)
- 35 - Aberystwyth Penparcaw (2,084)
- 36 - Llanwenog (1,419)
- 37 - Llanfihangel Ystrad (1,666)
- 38 - Tregaron (951)
- 39 - Lampeter (1,660)
- 40 - Faenor (1,985)
- 41 - Fishguard North West (1,208)
- 42 - Abertefi/Cardigan-Rhyd-y-Fuwch (895)
- 43 - New Quay (810)
- 44 - Aberaeron (1,088)
- 45 - Llanbadarn Fawr-Sulien (973)
- 46 - Aberystwyth Rheidol (1,776)
- 47 - Aberystwyth Bronglais (936)
- 48 - Aberystwyth Gogledd/North (1,478)
- 49 - Llanbadarn Fawr-Padarn (767)
- 50 - Aberystwyth Canoll/Central (1,358)



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## 13. Clwyd

**13.1** The Commission proposes that a county constituency be created from:

1. The following electoral wards within the County of Denbighshire (which currently form part of the existing **Vale of Clwyd** CC):

Bodelwyddan (1,612), Denbigh Central (1,462), Denbigh Lower (3,483), Denbigh Upper/Henllan (2,265), Rhuddlan (2,913), Rhyl East (3,693), Rhyl South (2,874), Rhyl South East (6,253), Rhyl South West (3,732), Rhyl West (3,283), St Asaph East (1,472), St Asaph West (1,290) and Trefnant (1,503)

and:

2. The following electoral wards within the County of Denbighshire (which currently form part of the existing **Clwyd West** CC):

Efenechtyd (1,321), Llanfair Dyffryn (1,830) and Llanrhaeadr-Yng-Nghinmeirch (1,496)

and:

3. The following electoral wards within the County Borough of Conwy (which currently form part of the existing **Clwyd West** CC):

Abergele Pensarn (1,959), Betws yn Rhos (1,623), Colwyn (3,373), Eirias (2,800), Gele (3,997), Glyn (3,088), Kinmel Bay (4,607), Llanddulas (1,353), Llansannan (1,495), Llysfaen (1,906), Pentre Mawr (2,861), Rhiw (4,991) and Towyn (1,845).

**13.2** This constituency would have 76,380 electors, which is 4.1% above the UKEQ of 73,393 electors per constituency. The proposed single name for this constituency is **Clwyd**.

**13.3** The existing Vale of Clwyd and Clwyd West constituencies are currently below the statutory requirements in respect of the size of the electorate. The Commission considered several options, and proposes to combine the majority of the existing Vale of Clwyd constituency with part of the existing Clwyd West constituency. The Commission acknowledges that the whole principal council area of Denbighshire could form a constituency of its

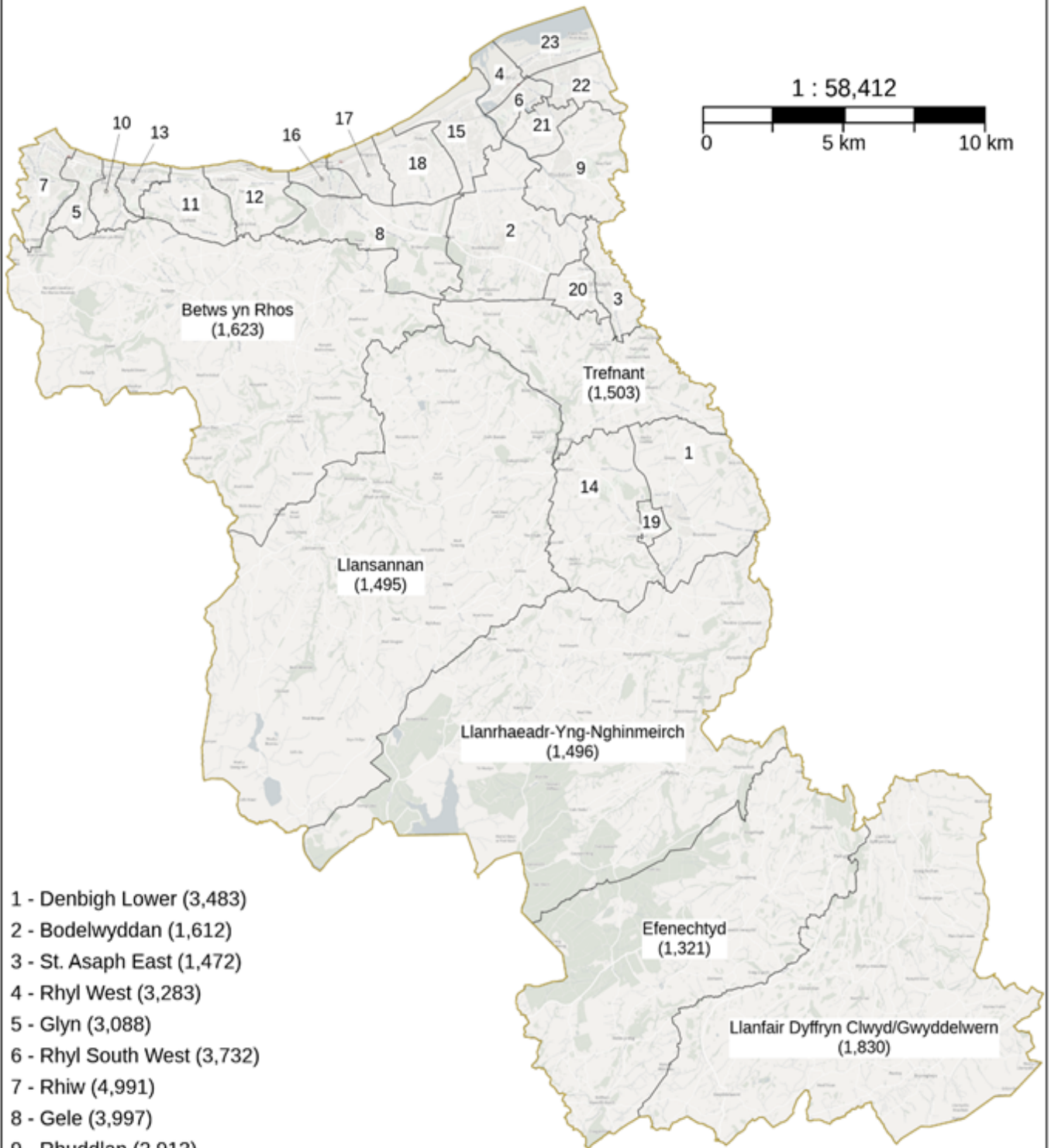
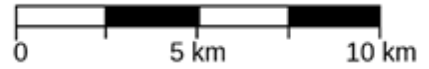
own. However, to create cohesive constituencies across the whole of North Wales, the Commission has proposed alternative arrangements. The Commission is of the view that the proposed arrangements create a cohesive constituency that has good transport and communication links.

**13.4** The proposed constituency includes electoral wards that form part of the existing Vale of Clwyd and Clwyd West constituencies, and includes areas from both the County of Denbighshire and the County Borough of Conwy principal council areas. The Commission is proposing the single name of Clwyd for the constituency. The Commission considers that this name is recognisable and acceptable in both Welsh and English.

**13.5** The remainder of the electoral wards of the existing constituency of **Vale of Clwyd** can be found at page 54, and of **Clwyd West** can be found on pages 20 and 54.

# Clwyd

1 : 58,412



1 - Denbigh Lower (3,483)

2 - Bodelwyddan (1,612)

3 - St. Asaph East (1,472)

4 - Rhyl West (3,283)

5 - Glyn (3,088)

6 - Rhyl South West (3,732)

7 - Rhiw (4,991)

8 - Gele (3,997)

9 - Rhuddlan (2,913)

10 - Eirias (2,800)

11 - Llysfaen (1,906)

12 - Llanddulas (1,353)

13 - Colwyn (3,373)

14 - Denbigh Upper/Henllan (2,265)

15 - Kinnel Bay (4,607)

16 - Pentre Mawr (2,861)

17 - Abergele Pensarn (1,959)

18 - Towyn (1,845)

19 - Denbigh Central (1,462)

20 - St. Asaph West (1,290)

21 - Rhyl South (2,874)

22 - Rhyl South East (6,253)

23 - Rhyl East (3,693)

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## 14. Delyn

**14.1** The Commission proposes that a county constituency be created from:

1. The following electoral wards within the County of Flintshire (which currently form part of the existing **Delyn CC**):

Bagillt East (1,413), Bagillt West (1,625), Brynford (1,789), Caerwys (2,050), Cilcain (1,519), Ffynongroyw (1,474), Flint Castle (1,426), Flint Coleshill (2,938), Flint Oakenholt (2,538), Flint Trelawny (2,710), Greenfield (1,983), Gronant (1,257), Gwernaffield (1,646), Gwernymynydd (1,399), Halkyn (1,427), Holywell Central (1,465), Holywell East (1,383), Holywell West (1,762), Mold Broncoed (2,134), Mold East (1,556), Mold South (2,201), Mold West (1,956), Mostyn (1,458), Northop (2,596), Northop Hall (1,398), Trelawnyd and Gwaenysgor (1,496) and Whitford (1,911)

and:

2. The following electoral wards within the County of Denbighshire (which currently form part of the existing **Vale of Clwyd CC**):

Dyserth (1,882), Llandyrnog (1,765), Prestatyn Central (2,829), Prestatyn East (3,162), Prestatyn Meliden (1,529), Prestatyn North (4,729), Prestatyn South West (2,861) and Tremeirchion (1,344).

and:

3. The following electoral wards within the County of Denbighshire (which currently form part of the existing **Clwyd West CC**):

Llanarmon-yn-Ial/Llandegla (2,033), Llanbedr Dyffryn Clwyd/Llangynhafal (1,170) and Ruthin (4,260).

**14.2** This constituency would have 76,074 electors, which is 3.7% above the UKEQ of 73,393 electors per constituency. The proposed single name for the constituency is **Delyn**.

**14.3** The existing Delyn, Vale of Clwyd and Clwyd West constituencies are currently below

the statutory requirements in respect of the size of the electorate. The Commission considered several options, and proposes to combine electoral wards from these existing neighbouring constituencies to meet the statutory electorate range. The Commission has proposed that three of the existing Delyn electoral wards – Argoed, Leeswood and New Brighton – are included within the proposed Alyn and Deeside constituency. The remainder of the existing Delyn constituency is to be combined with electoral wards that form part of the existing Vale of Clwyd and Clwyd West constituencies. The Commission is of the view that the proposed arrangement creates a cohesive constituency that has good transport and communication links.

**14.4** The proposed constituency includes electoral wards that form part of the existing Delyn, Vale of Clwyd and Clwyd West constituencies, and includes areas from the County of Flintshire and the County of Denbighshire principal council areas. The Commission proposes keeping the existing constituency name of Delyn as a single name for this proposed constituency, which the Commission considers to be recognisable and acceptable in both Welsh and English.

**14.5** The remainder of the electoral wards of the existing constituency of **Delyn** can be found at page 23, and of **Vale of Clwyd** can be found at page 51, and of **Clwyd West** can be found on pages 20 and 51.

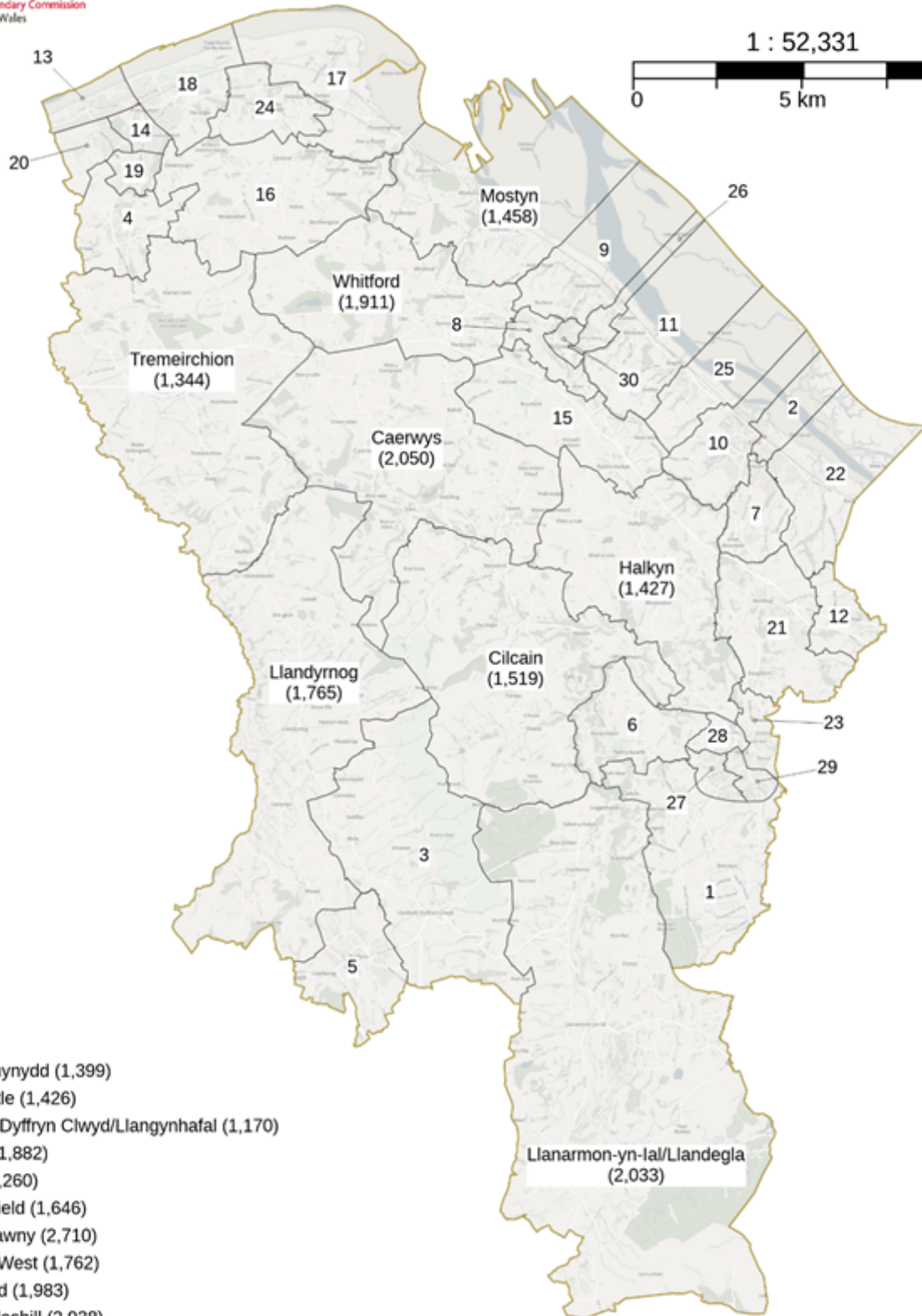




Comisiwn Ffriniau  
i Gymru  
Boundary Commission  
for Wales

# Delyn

1 : 52,331



- 1 - Gwernymynydd (1,399)
- 2 - Flint Castle (1,426)
- 3 - Llanbedr Dyffryn Clwyd/Llangynhafal (1,170)
- 4 - Dyserth (1,882)
- 5 - Ruthin (4,260)
- 6 - Gwernaffield (1,646)
- 7 - Flint Trelawny (2,710)
- 8 - Holywell West (1,762)
- 9 - Greenfield (1,983)
- 10 - Flint Coleshill (2,938)
- 11 - Bagillt West (1,625)
- 12 - Northop Hall (1,398)
- 13 - Prestatyn North (4,729)
- 14 - Prestatyn Central (2,829)
- 15 - Brynford (1,789)
- 16 - Trelawnyd and Gwaenysgor (1,496)

- 17 - Ffynnongroyw (1,474)
- 18 - Prestatyn East (3,162)
- 19 - Prestatyn Meliden (1,529)
- 20 - Prestatyn South West (2,861)
- 21 - Northop (2,596)
- 22 - Flint Oakenholt (2,538)

- 23 - Mold East (1,556)
- 24 - Gronant (1,257)
- 25 - Bagillt East (1,413)
- 26 - Holywell East (1,383)
- 27 - Mold South (2,201)
- 28 - Mold West (1,956)
- 29 - Mold Broncoed (2,134)
- 30 - Holywell Central (1,465)

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## 15. Dwyfor Meirionnydd

**15.1** The Commission proposes that a county constituency be created from:

1. The following electoral wards within the County of Gwynedd (which currently make up the existing **Dwyfor Meirionnydd** CC):

Aberdaron (698), Aberdovey (907), Abererch (986), Abermaw (1,591), Abersoch (519), Bala (1,413), Botwnnog (734), Bowydd and Rhiw (1,235), Brithdir a Llanfachreth/Ganllwyd/Llanelltyd (1,132), Bryn-crug/Llanfihangel (772), Clynnog (736), Corris/Mawddwy (1,023), Criccieth (1,280), Diffwys and Maenofferen (779), Dolbenmaen (900), Dolgellau North (953), Dolgellau South (1,072), Dyffryn Ardudwy (1,169), Efail Newydd/Buan (1,026), Harlech (1,516), Llanbedr (768), Llanbedrog (709), Llandderfel (1,135), Llanelhaearn (1,187), Llanengan (847), Llangelynin (1,625), Llanuwchllyn (686), Llanystumdwy (1,547), Morfa Nefyn (945), Nefyn (1,003), Penrhyndeudraeth (1,826), Porthmadog East (1,178), Porthmadog Tremadog (933), Porthmadog West (1,329), Pwllheli North (1,528), Pwllheli South (1,310), Teigl (1,355), Trawsfynydd (1,088), Tudweiliog (668) and Tywyn (2,476).

and:

2. The following electoral wards within the County of Gwynedd (which currently form part of the existing **Arfon** CC):

Bethel (1,025), Bontnewydd (865), Cadnant (1,514), Cwm-y-Glo (753), Deiniolen (1,463), Groeslon (1,374), Llanberis (1,613), Llanllyfni (915), Llanrug (1,396), Llanwnda (1,507), Menai (Caernarfon) (1,724), Peblig (Caernarfon) (1,603), Penisarwaun (1,365), Pentir (2,159), Penygroes (1,369), Seiont (2,233), Talysarn (1,399), Waunfawr (1,298) and Y Felinheli (1,803).

**15.2** This constituency would have 71,962 electors, which is 1.9% below the UKEQ of 73,393 electors per constituency. The proposed single name for the constituency is **Dwyfor Meirionnydd**.

- 15.3** The existing Dwyfor Meirionnydd constituency is currently below the statutory requirements in respect of the size of the electorate. The Commission considered several options, and proposes to combine the whole of the existing Dwyfor Meirionnydd constituency with electoral wards from the existing Arfon constituency, which are wholly within the Gwynedd principal council area, to meet the statutory electorate range. The Commission considers that combining the whole of the existing Dwyfor Meirionnydd constituency with electoral wards from Arfon – which are similar in nature and character, as rural areas – creates a cohesive constituency that has good transport and communication links.
- 15.4** The proposed constituency includes the whole of the existing Dwyfor Meirionnydd constituency and electoral wards from the existing Arfon constituency. The Commission proposes keeping the existing constituency name of Dwyfor Meirionnydd as the single name for this constituency, which the Commission considers is recognisable and acceptable in both Welsh and English.
- 15.5** The remainder of the electoral wards of the existing constituency of **Arfon** can be found on page 20.

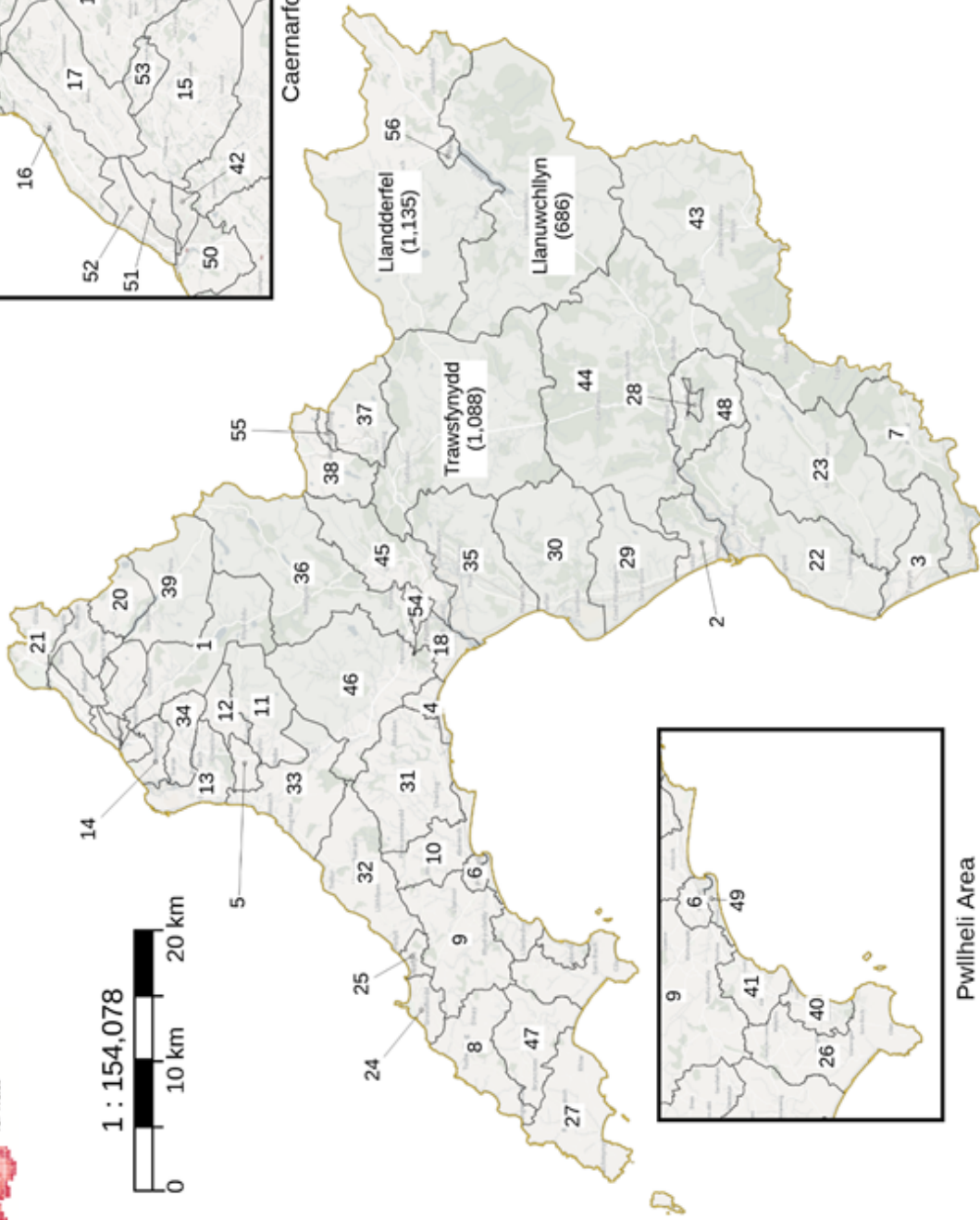


# Dwyfor Meirionnydd

1 : 154,078



Caernarfon Area



Pwllheli Area

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- 1 - Waunfawr (1,298)
- 2 - Abermaw (1,591)
- 3 - Tywyn (2,476)
- 4 - Criccieth (1,280)
- 5 - Penygroes (1,369)
- 6 - Pwllheli North (1,528)
- 7 - Aberdovey (907)
- 8 - Tudweiliog (568)
- 9 - Efall-newydd/Buan (1,026)
- 10 - Abererch (986)
- 11 - Llanllyfni (915)
- 12 - Talyssam (1,399)
- 13 - Groeslon (1,374)
- 14 - Bontnewydd (865)
- 15 - Cwm-y-Glo (753)
- 16 - Y Felinheli (1,803)
- 17 - Bethel (1,025)
- 18 - Porthmadog West (1,329)
- 19 - Penisarwau (1,365)
- 20 - Deiniolen (1,463)
- 21 - Pentir (2,159)
- 22 - Llangelynin (1,625)
- 23 - Bryn-crug/Llanfihangel (772)
- 24 - Morfa Nefyn (945)
- 25 - Nefyn (1,003)
- 26 - Llanengan (847)
- 27 - Aberdaron (698)
- 28 - Dolgellau North (953)
- 29 - Dyffryn Arduwy (1,169)
- 30 - Llanbedr (768)
- 31 - Llanystumdwy (1,547)
- 32 - Llanaelhaearn (1,187)
- 33 - Clynog (736)
- 34 - Llanwnda (1,507)
- 35 - Harlech (1,516)
- 36 - Porthmadog-Tremadog (933)
- 37 - Teigi (1,355)
- 38 - Bowydd and Rhiw (1,235)
- 39 - Llanberis (1,613)
- 40 - Abersoch (519)
- 41 - Llanbedrog (709)
- 42 - Peblig (Caernarfon) (1,603)
- 43 - Corris/Mawddwy (1,023)
- 44 - Brithdir and Llanfachreth/Ganllwydf/Llanelltyd (1,132)
- 45 - Penrhyndeudraeth (1,826)
- 46 - Dolbenmaen (900)
- 47 - Botwnnog (734)
- 48 - Dolgellau South (1,072)
- 49 - Pwllheli South (1,310)
- 50 - Seiont (2,233)
- 51 - Cadnant (1,514)
- 52 - Menai (Caernarfon) (1,724)
- 53 - Llanrug (1,396)
- 54 - Porthmadog East (1,178)
- 55 - Diffwys and Maenofferen (779)
- 56 - Bala (1,413)

## 16. Islwyn

**16.1** The Commission proposes that a county constituency be created from:

1. The following electoral wards within the County Borough of Caerphilly (which currently form part of the existing **Islwyn** CC):

Abercarn (4,139), Argoed (2,035), Blackwood (6,330), Cefn Fforest (2,845), Crosskeys (2,527), Crumlin (4,332), Maesycwmmmer (1,811), Newbridge (4,892), Pengam (2,760), Penmaen (4,219), Pontllanfraith (6,343), Risca East (4,611), Risca West (3,973), Ynysddu (2,978)

and:

2. The following electoral wards within the County Borough of Caerphilly (which currently form part of the existing **Caerphilly** CC):

Hengoed (4,055), Llanbradach (3,239), St Cattwg (5,579) and Ystrad Mynach (4,067).

**16.2** This constituency would have 70,735 electors, which is 3.6% below the UKEQ of 73,393 electors per constituency. The proposed single name for the constituency is **Islwyn**.

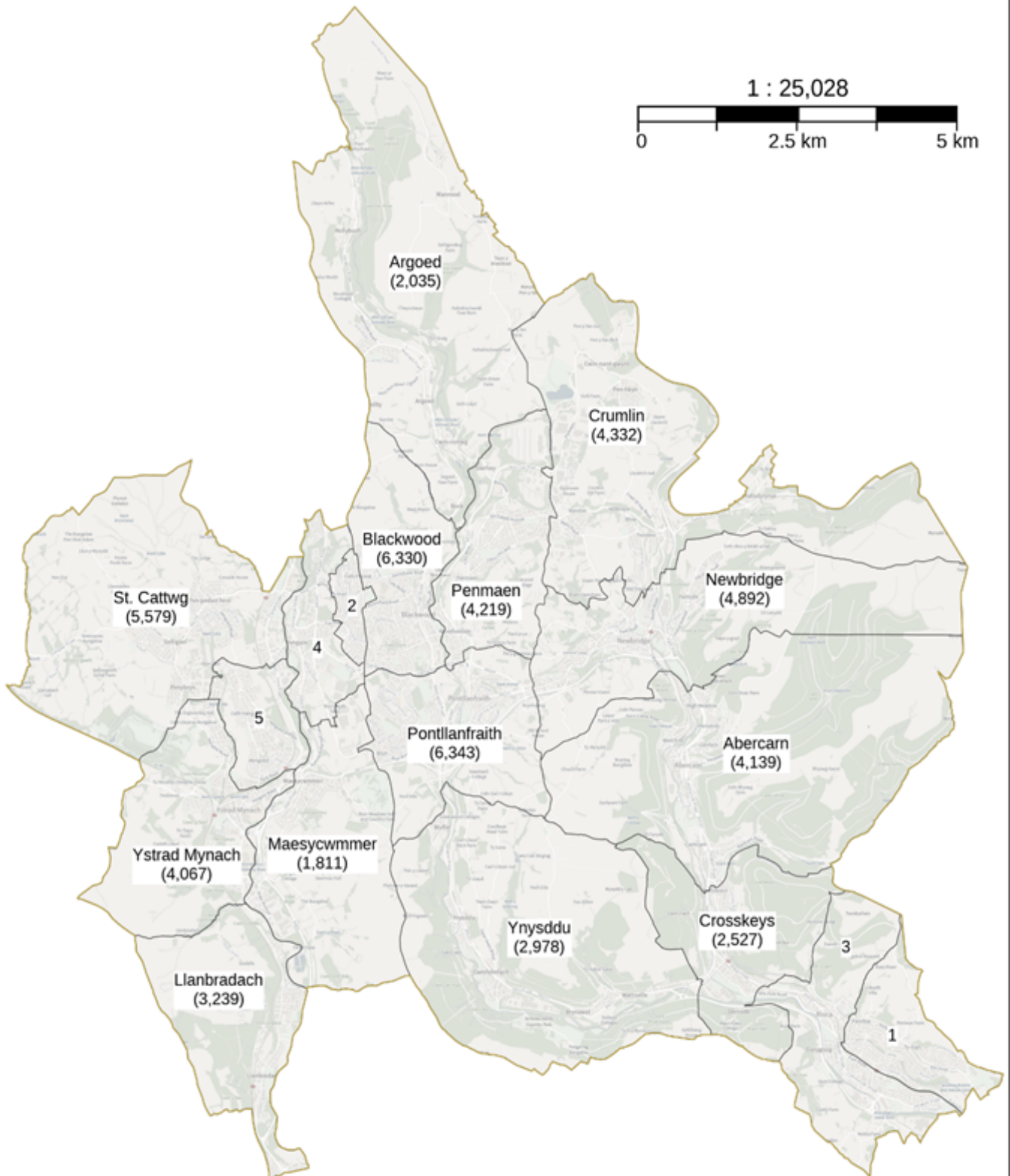
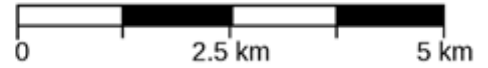
**16.3** The existing Islwyn constituency is currently below the statutory requirements in respect of the size of the electorate. The Commission considered several options, and proposes to remove the Aberbargoed electoral ward and instead include this ward in the proposed Blaenau Gwent and Rhymney constituency, thus enabling the Commission to include the entire community of Bargoed within one constituency. The Commission therefore proposes to include the electoral wards of Hengoed, Llanbradach, St Cattwg and Ystrad Mynach (from the existing Caerphilly constituency) within the proposed new Islwyn constituency to meet the statutory electorate range. The Commission is of the view that it is appropriate to combine these electoral wards, which are wholly within the Caerphilly principal council area. The Commission considers that the proposed arrangement creates a cohesive constituency that has good transport and communication links.

**16.4** The proposed constituency is formed of electoral wards that are wholly within the Caerphilly County Borough principal council area, and includes all but one of the existing electoral wards within the existing Islwyn constituency. The Commission proposes keeping the existing constituency name of Islwyn as the single name for this constituency, which the Commission considers to be recognisable and acceptable in both Welsh and English.

**16.5** The remainder of the electoral wards of the existing constituency of **Islwyn** can be found on page 26, and of **Caerphilly** can be found on pages 26, 66 and 81.

# Islwyn

1 : 25,028



- 1 - Risca East (4,611)
- 2 - Cefn Fforest (2,845)
- 3 - Risca West (3,973)
- 4 - Pengam (2,760)
- 5 - Hengoed (4,055)

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## 17. Llanelli

**17.1** The Commission proposes that a county constituency be created from:

1. The following electoral wards within the County of Carmarthenshire (which currently make up the existing **Llanelli** CC):

Bigyn (4,544), Burry Port (3,278), Bynea (3,282), Dafen (2,456), Elli (2,357), Felinfoel (1,334), Glanymor (4,312), Glyn (1,661), Hendy (2,697), Hengoed (3,352), Kidwelly (2,818), Llangennech (3,954), Llannon (4,079), Lliedi (3,825), Llwynhendy (3,010), Pembrey (3,417), Pontyberem (2,154), Swiss Valley (2,097), Trimsaran (1,887), Tycroes (1,862) and Tyisha (2,390)

and:

2. The following electoral wards within the County of Carmarthenshire (which currently form part of the existing **Carmarthen East and Dinefwr** CC):

Gorslas (3,906), Llangunnor (2,077), Llangyndeyrn (2,905) and St Ishmael (2,318).

**17.2** This constituency would have 71,972 electors, which is 1.9% below the UKEQ of 73,393 electors per constituency. The proposed single name for the constituency is **Llanelli**.

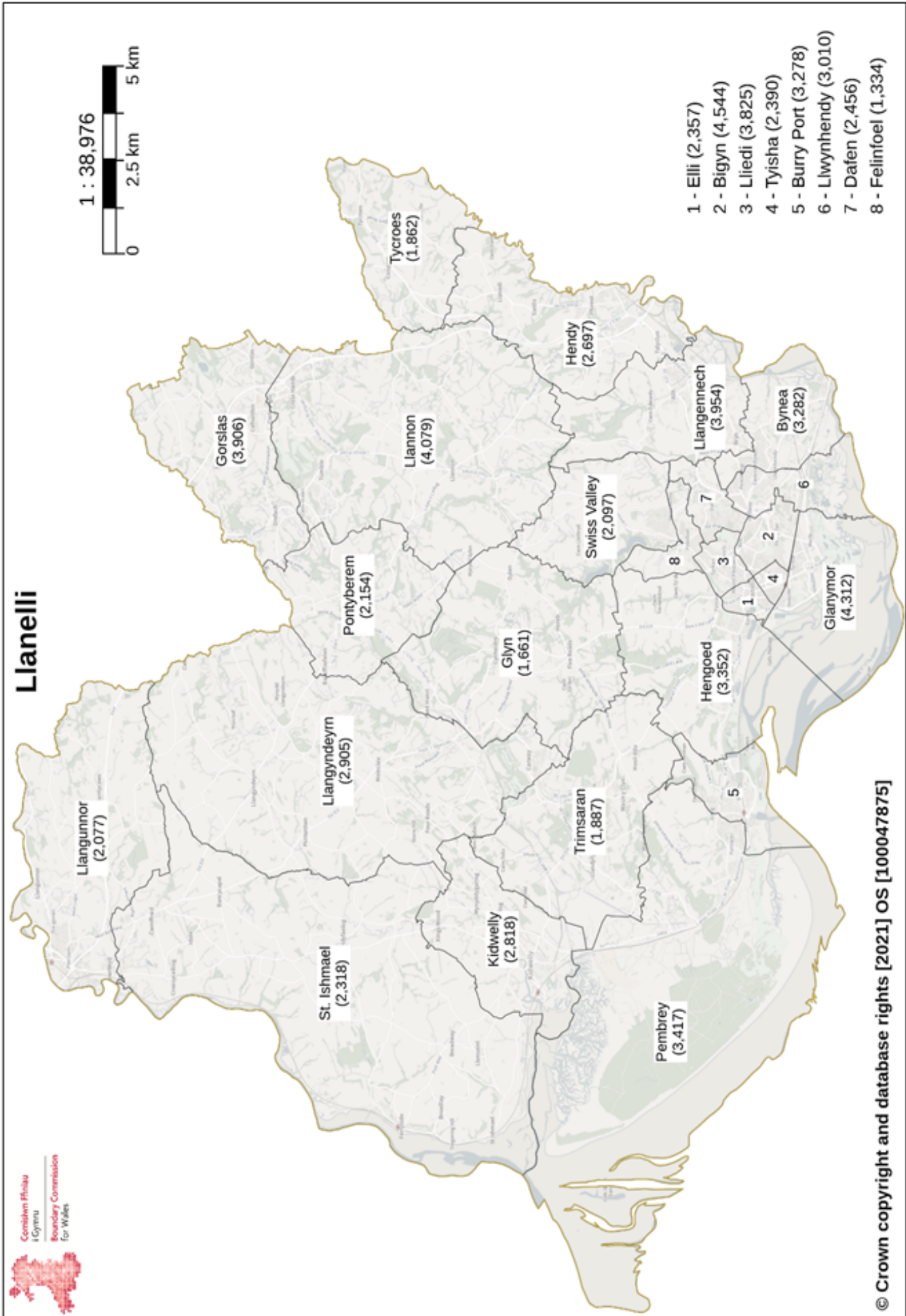
**17.3** The existing Llanelli constituency is currently below the statutory requirements in respect of the size of the electorate. The Commission considered several options, and proposes to combine the existing Llanelli constituency with electoral wards from the existing Carmarthen East and Dinefwr constituency to meet the statutory electorate range. The Commission is of the view that it is appropriate to combine these electoral wards as they are within the Carmarthenshire principal council area. The Commission considers that the proposed arrangement creates a cohesive constituency that has good transport and communication links.

**17.4** The proposed constituency includes electoral wards wholly within the Carmarthenshire principal council area, and includes the whole of the existing Llanelli constituency. The



Commission proposes keeping the existing constituency name of Llanelli as the single name for this constituency, which the Commission considers to be recognisable and acceptable in both Welsh and English.

**17.5** The remainder of the electoral wards of the existing constituency of **Carmarthen East and Dinefwr** can be found on page 35.



## 18. Merthyr Tydfil and Aberdare (Merthyr Tudful ac Aberdâr)

**18.1** The Commission proposes that a county constituency be created from:

1. The entire County Borough of Merthyr Tydfil principal council area, comprising the following electoral wards (which currently form part of the existing **Merthyr Tydfil and Rhymney** CC):

Bedlinog (2,977), Cyfarthfa (5,457), Dowlais (5,014), Gurnos (3,477), Merthyr Vale (2,798), Park (3,296), Penydarren (3,818), Plymouth (4,096), Town (5,998), Treharris (5,270) and Vaynor (2,880)

and:

2. The following electoral wards within the County Borough of Rhondda Cynon Taf (which currently form part of the **Cynon Valley** CC):

Aberdare East (4,909), Aberdare West/Llwydcoed (7,404), Cwmbach (3,751), Hirwaun (3,167), Pen-y-waun (1,973) and Rhigos (1,370)

and:

3. The electoral ward of Nelson (3,563) within the County Borough of Caerphilly (which currently forms part of the existing **Caerphilly** CC).

**18.2** This constituency would have 71,218 electors, which is 3% below the UKEQ of 73,393 electors per constituency. The proposed name for the constituency is **Merthyr Tydfil and Aberdare**. The proposed official alternative name for the constituency is **Merthyr Tudful ac Aberdâr**.

**18.3** The existing Merthyr Tydfil and Rhymney and Cynon Valley constituencies are currently below the statutory requirements in respect of the size of the electorate. The Commission considered several options, and proposes to combine the whole of the Merthyr Tydfil principal council area with the electoral wards of Aberdare East, Aberdare West/Llwydcoed, Cwmbach, Hirwaun, Pen-y-waun and Rhigos from the existing Cynon Valley

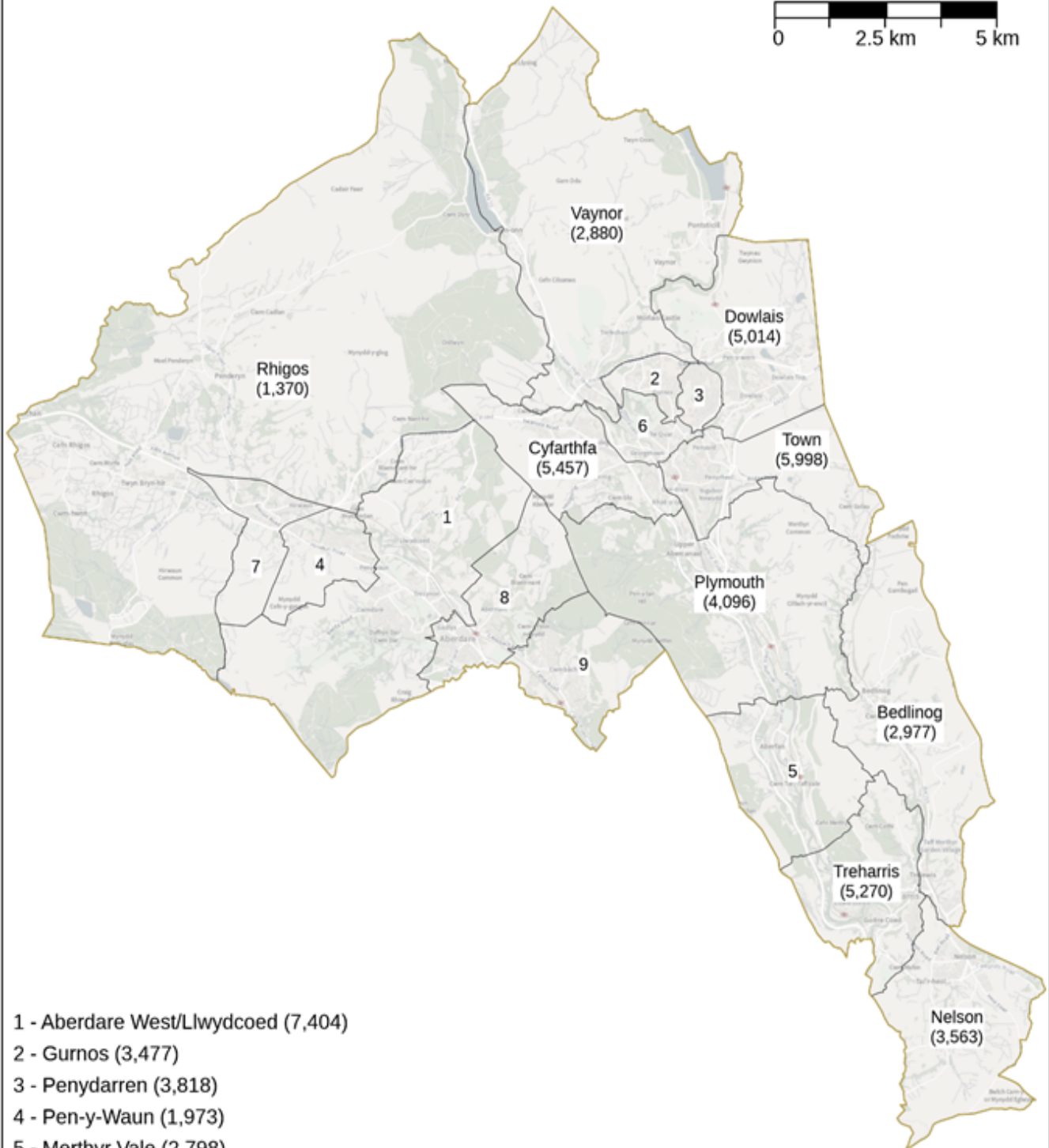
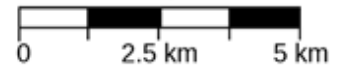
constituency. The Commission acknowledges that a constituency formed of these areas does not follow the geography of the valleys from north to south. However, there are good road links across the Heads of the Valleys, which maintain an accessible link throughout the area. To meet the statutory electorate range, the Commission also proposes to incorporate the Nelson electoral ward from the existing Caerphilly constituency into this proposed constituency. This electoral ward is connected to the remainder of the proposed constituency by road, and is similar in character to the rest of the constituency.

**18.4** The proposed constituency includes the whole of the Merthyr Tydfil principal council area, and is combined with electoral wards from the County Borough of Rhondda Cynon Taf and the County Borough of Caerphilly principal council areas. The Commission proposes that the names of Merthyr Tydfil and Aberdare are used in the constituency name to reflect the primary settlements within the proposed constituency.

**18.5** The remainder of the electoral wards of the existing constituency of **Merthyr Tydfil and Rhymney** can be found on page 26, and of **Caerphilly** can be found on pages 26, 60 and 81, and of **Cynon Valley** can be found on page 84.

# Merthyr Tydfil and Aberdare (Merthyr Tudful ac Aberdâr)

1 : 37,124



- 1 - Aberdare West/Llwydcoed (7,404)
- 2 - Gurnos (3,477)
- 3 - Penydarren (3,818)
- 4 - Pen-y-Waun (1,973)
- 5 - Merthyr Vale (2,798)
- 6 - Park (3,296)
- 7 - Hirwaun (3,167)
- 8 - Aberdare East (4,909)
- 9 - Cwmbach (3,751)

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## 19. Mid and South Pembrokeshire (Canol a De Sir Benfro)

**19.1** The Commission proposes that a county constituency be created from:

1. The following electoral wards within the County of Pembrokeshire (which currently form part of the existing **Preseli Pembrokeshire CC**):

Burton (1,503), Camrose (2,190), Haverfordwest: Castle (1,674), Haverfordwest: Garth (1,660), Haverfordwest: Portfield (1,765), Haverfordwest: Prendergast (1,628), Haverfordwest: Priody (1,907), Johnston (2,044), Llangwm (1,814), Maenclochog (2,462), Merlin's Bridge (1,619), Milford: Central (1,578), Milford: East (1,571), Milford: Hakin (1,774), Milford: Hubberston (2,004), Milford: North (2,047), Milford: West (1,523), Neyland: East (1,793), Neyland: West (1,590), Rudbaxton (945), St Ishmael's (1,125), The Havens (1,196) and Wiston (1,581)

and:

2. The following electoral wards within the County of Pembrokeshire (which currently form part of the existing **Carmarthen West and South Pembrokeshire CC**):

Amroth (992), Carew (1,179), East Williamston (1,965), Hundleton (1,416), Kilgetty/Begelly (1,830), Lampeter Velfrey (1,284), Lamphey (1,429), Manorbier (1,655), Martletwy (1,603), Narberth (1,704), Narberth Rural (1,293), Pembroke Dock: Central (1,091), Pembroke Dock: Llanion (1,915), Pembroke Dock: Market (1,357), Pembroke Dock: Pennar (2,442), Pembroke: Monkton (1,022), Pembroke: St Mary North (1,675), Pembroke: St Mary South (1,063), Pembroke: St Michael (2,082), Penally (1,398), Saundersfoot (1,904), Tenby: North (1,658) and Tenby: South (1,664).

**19.2** This constituency would have 74,614 electors, which is 1.7% above the UKEQ of 73,393 electors per constituency. The proposed name for the constituency is **Mid and South Pembrokeshire**. The proposed official alternative name is **Canol a De Sir Benfro**.

**19.3** The existing constituencies of Preseli Pembrokeshire and Carmarthen West and South

Pembrokeshire are currently below the statutory requirements in respect of the size of the electorate. The Commission considers that it would be appropriate to combine the electoral wards in the existing constituency of Carmarthen West and South Pembrokeshire with the southern electoral wards of the existing Preseli Pembrokeshire constituency. The combined areas form a constituency that is wholly within the Pembrokeshire principal council area and meets the statutory electorate range.

**19.4** The proposed constituency would be wholly within the principal council area of Pembrokeshire. The Commission considers that the proposed name would accurately reflect the electoral wards in the proposed constituency, and would differentiate the area from the northern electoral wards of Pembrokeshire principal council area, which are not included within the proposed constituency.

**19.5** The remainder of the electoral wards of the existing constituency of **Carmarthen West and South Pembrokeshire** can be found on page 35, and of **Preseli Pembrokeshire** can be found on page 48.

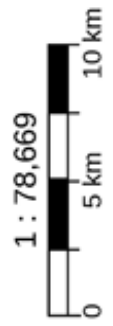
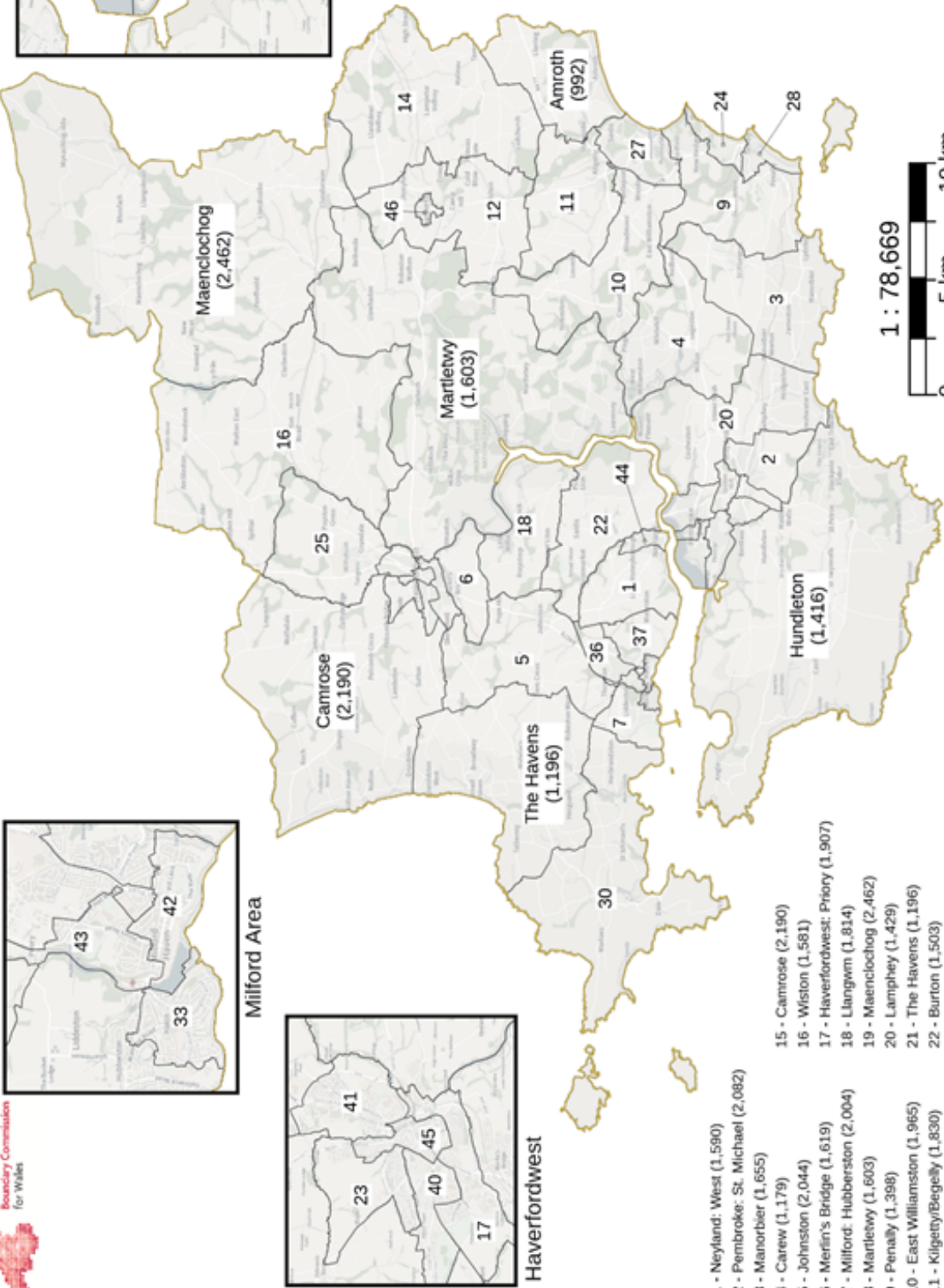
# Mid and South Pembrokeshire (Canol a De Sir Benfro)



Milford Area



Pembroke Dock Area



- 1 - Neyland: West (1,590)
- 2 - Pembroke: St. Michael (2,082)
- 3 - Manorbier (1,655)
- 4 - Carew (1,179)
- 5 - Johnston (2,044)
- 6 - Merlins Bridge (1,619)
- 7 - Milford: Hubberston (2,004)
- 8 - Martletwy (1,603)
- 9 - Penally (1,398)
- 10 - East Williamston (1,965)
- 11 - Kilgety/Begelly (1,830)
- 12 - Narberth Rural (1,293)
- 13 - Amroth (992)
- 14 - Lampeter Velfrey (1,284)
- 15 - Camrose (2,190)
- 16 - Wiston (1,581)
- 17 - Haverfordwest: Priory (1,907)
- 18 - Llangwm (1,814)
- 19 - Maenclochog (2,462)
- 20 - Lamphey (1,429)
- 21 - The Havens (1,196)
- 22 - Burton (1,503)
- 23 - Haverfordwest: Garth (1,660)
- 24 - Tenby: North (1,658)
- 25 - Rudbaxton (945)
- 26 - Pembroke Dock: Central (1,091)
- 27 - Saundersfoot (1,904)
- 28 - Tenby: South (1,664)
- 29 - Hundleton (1,416)
- 30 - St. Ishmael's (1,125)
- 31 - Pembroke Dock: Market (1,357)
- 32 - Pembroke: St. Mary South (1,063)
- 33 - Milford: Hakin (1,774)
- 34 - Pembroke: Monkton (1,022)
- 35 - Pembroke Dock: Pennar (2,442)
- 36 - Milford: North (2,047)
- 37 - Milford: East (1,571)
- 38 - Pembroke: St. Mary North (1,675)
- 39 - Pembroke Dock: Llanion (1,915)
- 40 - Haverfordwest: Portfield (1,765)
- 41 - Haverfordwest: Prendergast (1,628)
- 42 - Milford: Central (1,578)
- 43 - Milford: West (1,523)
- 44 - Neyland: East (1,793)
- 45 - Haverfordwest: Castle (1,674)
- 46 - Narberth (1,704)

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## 20. Monmouthshire (Sir Fynwy)

**20.1** The Commission proposes that a county constituency be created from:

1. The following electoral wards within the County of Monmouthshire (which currently form part of the existing **Monmouth CC**):

Caerwent (1,699), Cantref (1,668), Castle (1,611), Croesonen (1,609), Crucorney (1,773), Devauden (1,228), Dixton with Osbaston (1,968), Drybridge (3,034), Goetre Fawr (2,045), Grofield (1,308), Lansdown (1,644), Larkfield (1,484), Llanbadoc (1,099), Llanelly Hill (3,286), Llanfoist Fawr (1,971), Llangybi Fawr (1,477), Llanover (1,781), Llantilio Croesenny (1,527), Llanwenarth Ultra (1,128), Mardy (1,430), Mitchel Troy (985), Overmonnow (1,662), Portskewett (1,885), Priory (1,546), Raglan (1,618), Shirenewton (1,850), St Arvans (1,304), St Christopher's (1,756), St Kingsmark (2,346), St Mary's (1,539), Thornwell (1,961), Trellech United (2,249), Usk (1,930) and Wyesham (1,701)

and:

2. The following electoral wards within the County of Monmouthshire (which currently form part of the existing **Newport East CC**):

Caldicot Castle (1,768), Dewstow (1,404), Green Lane (1,482), Mill (2,256), Rogiet (1,365), Severn (1,325), The Elms (2,523) and West End (1,456).

**20.2** This constituency would have 72,681 electors, which is 1% below the UKEQ of 73,393 electors per constituency. The proposed name for the constituency is **Monmouthshire**. The proposed official alternative name is **Sir Fynwy**.

**20.3** The Commission proposes to use the whole of the principal council area of Monmouthshire to create a constituency.

**20.4** The proposed constituency would be made up of the whole of the Monmouthshire principal council area. The Commission therefore considers that this would create a coherent constituency, and that the proposed name would reflect the proposed

constituency.

**20.5** The remainder of the electoral wards of the existing constituency of **Monmouth** can be found on page 99, and of **Newport East** can be found on page 78.

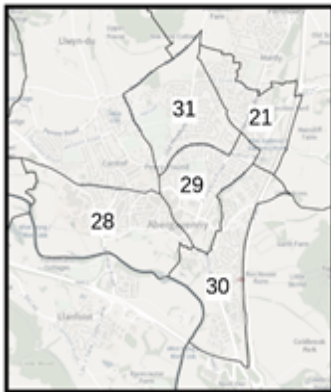
# Monmouthshire (Sir Fynwy)

1 : 68,409

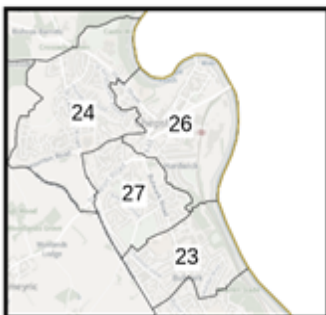


- 1 - Shirenewton (1,850)
- 2 - The Elms (2,523)
- 3 - Llanwenarth Ultra (1,128)
- 4 - Llanfoist Fawr (DET) (0)
- 5 - Llanfoist Fawr (1,971)
- 6 - Cantref (1,668)
- 7 - Wyesham (1,701)
- 8 - Dixon with Osbaston (1,968)

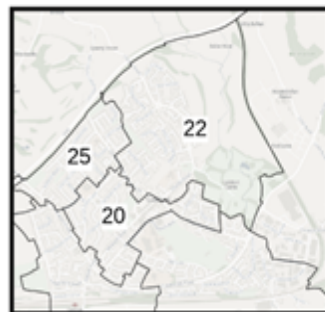
- 9 - St. Arvans (1,304)
- 10 - Llanelly Hill (3,286)
- 11 - Usk (1,930)
- 12 - Overmonnow (1,662)
- 13 - Caerwent (1,699)
- 14 - Drybridge (3,034)
- 15 - Rogiet (1,365)



**Abergavenny Area**



**Chepstow Area**



**Caldicot Area**



- 16 - Portskewett (1,885)
- 17 - Severn (1,325)
- 18 - West End (1,456)
- 19 - Thornwell (1,961)
- 20 - Green Lane (1,482)
- 21 - Croesonen (1,609)

- 22 - Caldicot Castle (1,768)
- 23 - St. Christopher's (1,756)
- 24 - St. Kingsmark (2,346)
- 25 - Dewstow (1,404)
- 26 - St. Mary's (1,539)
- 27 - Larkfield (1,484)
- 28 - Grofield (1,308)
- 29 - Priory (1,546)
- 30 - Castle (1,611)
- 31 - Lansdown (1,644)

## 21. Montgomeryshire and Glyndŵr (Maldwyn a Glyndŵr)

**21.1** The Commission proposes that a county constituency be created from:

1. The following electoral wards within the County of Powys (which currently make up the existing **Montgomeryshire CC**):

Banwy (847), Berriew (1,102), Blaen Hafren (1,876), Caersws (1,831), Churchstoke (1,292), Dolforwyn (1,652), Forden (1,215), Glantwymyn (1,701), Guilsfield (1,827), Kerry (1,607), Llanbrynmair (798), Llandinam (1,155), Llandrinio (1,763), Llandysilio (1,441), Llanfair Caereinion (1,301), Llanfihangel (895), Llanfyllin (1,217), Llanidloes (2,149), Llanwddyn (846), Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant/Llansilin (1,815), Llansantffraid (1,563), Machynlleth (1,701), Meifod (1,069), Montgomery (1,107), Newtown Central (2,122), Newtown East (1,401), Newtown Llanllwchaiarn North (1,796), Newtown Llanllwchaiarn West (1,447), Newtown South (1,215), Rhiwcynon (1,724), Trewern (1,066), Welshpool Castle (962), Welshpool Gungrog (1,995), and Welshpool Llanerchuddol (1,602)

and:

2. The following electoral wards within the County Borough of Wrexham (which currently form part of the existing **Clwyd South CC**):

Cefn (3,768), Dyffryn Ceiriog/Ceiriog Valley (1,685), Chirk North (1,846), Chirk South (1,503), Llangollen Rural (1,631), Penycae (1,525), Penycae and Ruabon South (2,026), Plas Madoc (1,169) and Ruabon (2,078)

and:

3. The following electoral wards within the County of Denbighshire (which currently form part of the existing **Clwyd South CC**):

Corwen (1,799), Llandrillo (931) and Llangollen (3,302).

**21.2** This constituency would have 72,363 electors, which is 1.4% below the UKEQ of 73,393 electors per constituency. The proposed name for the constituency is **Montgomeryshire**

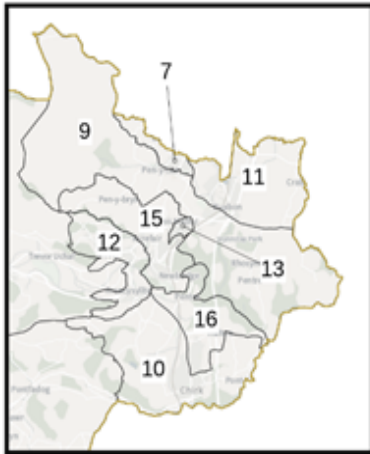
and **Glyndŵr**. The proposed official alternative name is **Maldwyn a Glyndŵr**.

**21.3** The existing Montgomeryshire and Clwyd South constituencies are currently below the statutory requirements in respect of the size of the electorate. The Commission considered several options, and proposes to combine the existing Montgomeryshire constituency and the electoral wards to the north to include electoral wards from the existing Clwyd South constituency to meet the statutory electorate range. The Commission considers that including electoral wards from the existing Clwyd South constituency would combine areas that are similar in nature and share similar rural characteristics. The Commission is of the view that the proposed arrangement would combine the existing Montgomeryshire constituency with an area that would consist of the southern electoral wards of the former Glyndŵr district council area.

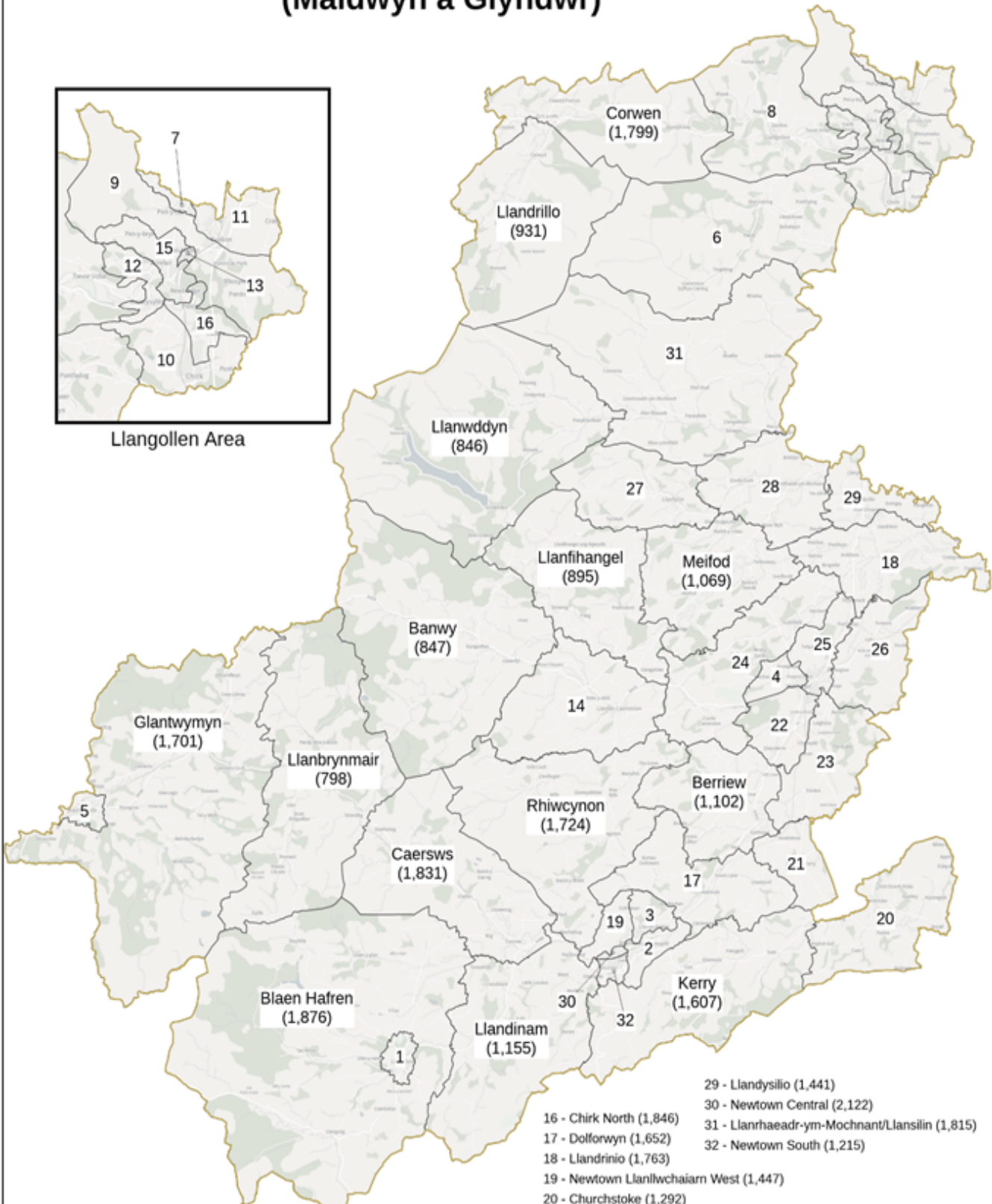
**21.4** The proposed constituency includes the whole of the existing Montgomeryshire and part of the existing Clwyd South constituencies. The Commission considers that the proposed name represents the area, while acknowledging that the proposed constituency includes areas that are outside of the existing Montgomeryshire constituency.

**21.5** The remainder of the electoral wards of the existing constituency of **Clwyd South** can be found on pages 23 and 105.

# Montgomeryshire and Glyndwr (Maldwyn a Glyndwr)



Llangollen Area



- 1 - Llanidloes (2,149)
- 2 - Newtown East (1,401)
- 3 - Newtown Llanllwchaearn North (1,796)
- 4 - Welshpool Llanerchydol (1,602)
- 5 - Machynlleth (1,701)
- 6 - Dyffryn Ceiriog/Ceiriog Valley (1,685)
- 7 - Penycae (1,525)
- 8 - Llangollen (3,302)

- 9 - Penycae and Ruabon South (2,026)
- 10 - Chirk South (1,503)
- 11 - Ruabon (2,078)
- 12 - Llangollen Rural (1,631)
- 13 - Plas Madoc (1,169)
- 14 - Llanfair Caereinion (1,301)
- 15 - Cefn (3,768)

- 16 - Chirk North (1,846)
- 17 - Dolforwyn (1,652)
- 18 - Llandrinio (1,763)
- 19 - Newtown Llanllwchaearn West (1,447)
- 20 - Churchstoke (1,292)
- 21 - Montgomery (1,107)
- 22 - Welshpool Castle (962)
- 23 - Forden (1,215)
- 24 - Guilsfield (1,827)
- 25 - Welshpool Gungrog (1,995)
- 26 - Trewern (1,066)
- 27 - Llanfyllin (1,217)
- 28 - Llansantffraid (1,563)
- 29 - Llandysilio (1,441)
- 30 - Newtown Central (2,122)
- 31 - Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant/Llansilin (1,815)
- 32 - Newtown South (1,215)

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## 22. Newport East (Dwyrain Casnewydd)

**22.1** The Commission proposes that a borough constituency be created from:

1. The following electoral wards within the City of Newport (which currently form part of the existing **Newport East** CC):

Alway (5,931), Beechwood (5,611), Langstone (3,878), Liswerry (9,110), Llanwern (3,544), Ringland (5,968), St Julians (6,287) and Victoria (5,121)

and:

2. The following electoral wards within the City of Newport (which currently form part of the existing **Newport West** CC):

Bettws (5,656), Caerleon (6,603), Malpas (6,114), Pillgwenlly (5,174), Shaftesbury (3,778) and Stow Hill (3,384).

**22.2** This constituency would have 76,159 electors, which is 3.8% above the UKEQ of 73,393 electors per constituency. The proposed name for the constituency is **Newport East**. The proposed official alternative name is **Dwyrain Casnewydd**.

**22.3** The existing Newport East constituency is currently below the statutory requirements in respect of the size of the electorate. The Commission considered several options, and decided to propose removing the electoral wards that are within the Monmouthshire principal council area and include those wards in the proposed Monmouthshire constituency. The Commission therefore has proposed to include six electoral wards from the existing Newport West constituency to meet the statutory electorate range. The proposed Newport East constituency would be formed wholly of electoral wards within the City of Newport principal council area. The Commission considers that it is appropriate to include well-connected electoral wards from Newport West, which are wholly within the City of Newport principal council area.

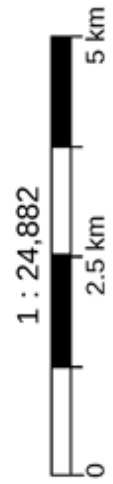
**22.4** The proposed constituency includes electoral wards that are wholly within the City

of Newport principal council area. The Commission proposes keeping the existing constituency name of Newport East as the name for this constituency.

**22.5** The remainder of the electoral wards of the existing constituency of **Newport East** can be found on page 72, and of **Newport West** can be found on page 81.



# Newport East (Dwyrain Casnewydd)



- 1 - Stow Hill (3,384)
- 2 - Victoria (5,121)
- 3 - Pillgwenlly (5,174)
- 4 - Shaftesbury (3,778)
- 5 - St. Julians (6,287)
- 6 - Beechwood (5,611)

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## 23. Newport West and Caerphilly (Gorllewin Casnewydd a Chaerffili)

**23.1** The Commission proposes that a county constituency be created from:

1. The following electoral wards within the City of Newport (which currently form part of the existing **Newport West** CC):

Allt-yr-yn (7,088), Gaer (6,543), Graig (5,053), Marshfield (4,897), Rogerstone (9,421), and Tredegar Park (3,329)

and:

2. The following electoral wards within the County Borough of Caerphilly (which currently form part of the existing **Caerphilly** CC):

Aber Valley (4,655), Bedwas, Trethomas and Machen (7,902), Morgan Jones (5,636), Penyrheol (9,021), St James (4,267) and St Martins (6,582).

**23.2** This constituency would have 74,394 electors, which is 1.4% above the UKEQ of 73,393 electors per constituency. The proposed name for the constituency is **Newport West and Caerphilly**. The proposed official alternative name is **Gorllewin Casnewydd a Chaerffili**.

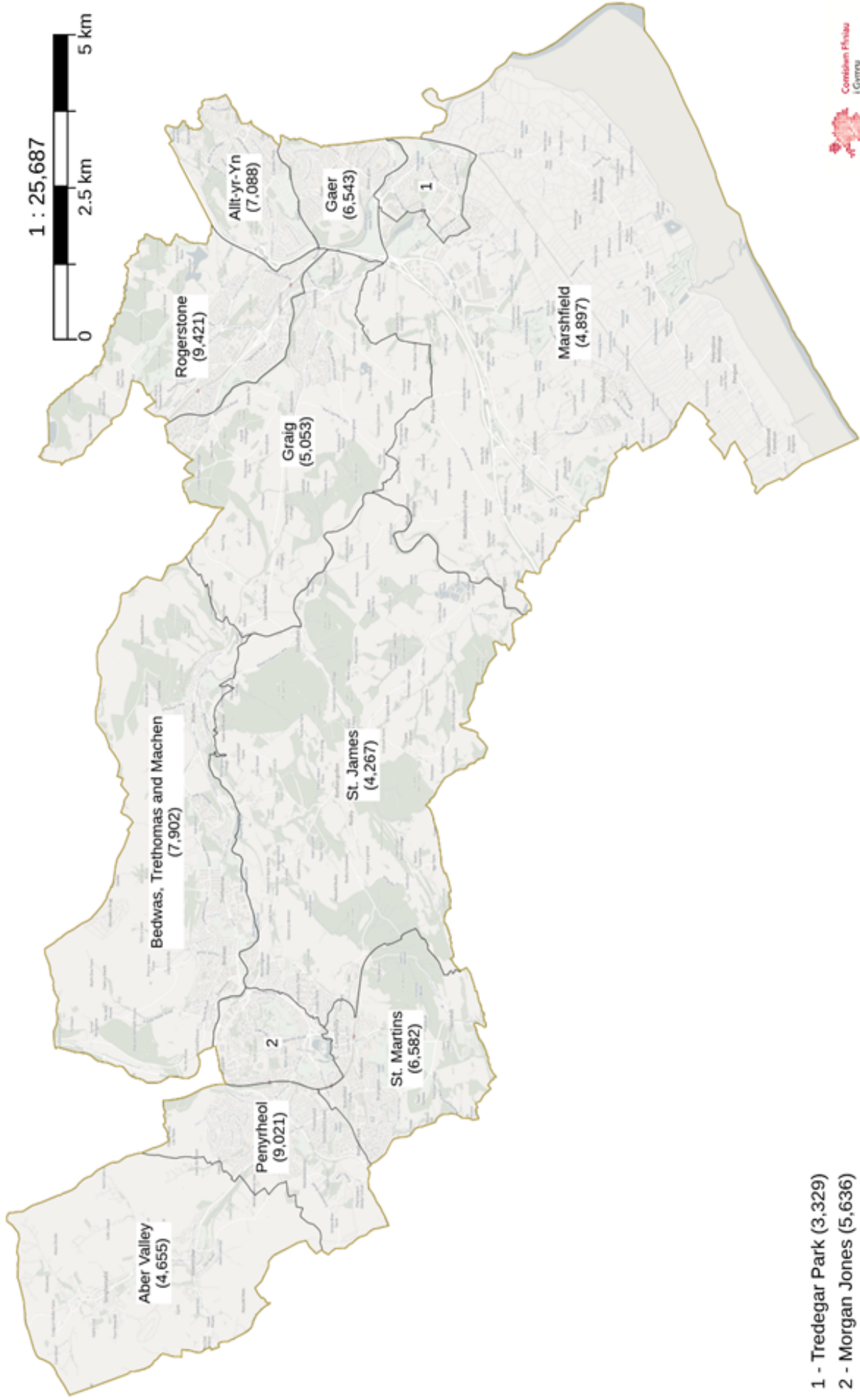
**23.3** The existing Newport West and Caerphilly constituencies are currently below the statutory requirements in respect of the size of the electorate. The Commission considered several options, and proposes to combine electoral wards from both constituencies to reach the required electorate size. The Commission considered it appropriate to combine electoral wards from the existing Caerphilly constituency with electoral wards from the existing Newport West constituency to form a new constituency within the statutory electorate range. The electoral wards within this proposed constituency form part of Newport and Caerphilly principal council areas, which share a health board. The Commission is of the view that there are good road links between the two areas.

**23.4** The proposed constituency includes electoral wards from the City of Newport principal council area and the Caerphilly County Borough principal council area. The Commission

proposes to combine the existing constituency names to form the proposed name for this constituency. The town of Caerphilly is proposed to be included in this constituency and, for this reason, the Commission proposes to include Caerphilly within the constituency name. The status of Newport as the city within this constituency gives it preference in the order that the names appear in the constituency name.

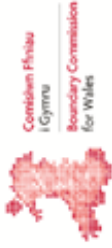
**23.5** The remainder of the electoral wards of the existing constituency of **Caerphilly** can be found on pages 26, 60 and 66, and of **Newport West** can be found on page 78.

# Newport West and Caerphilly (Gorllewin Casnewydd a Chaerffili)



- 1 - Tredgar Park (3,329)
- 2 - Morgan Jones (5,636)

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## 24. Pontypridd

**24.1** The Commission proposes that a county constituency be created from:

1. The following electoral wards within the County Borough of Rhondda Cynon Taf (which currently form part of the existing **Pontypridd** CC):

Beddau (3,172), Church Village (4,424), Graig (1,885), Hawthorn (3,180), Llantrisant Town (3,187), Llantwit Fardre (4,825), Pontypridd Town (2,208), Rhondda (3,458), Rhydfelen Central/Ilan (3,037), Talbot Green (1,965), Ton-teg (3,183), Trallwng (2,824), Treforest (2,862) and Tyn-y-nant (2,454)

and:

2. The following electoral wards within the County Borough of Rhondda Cynon Taf (which currently form part of the existing **Cynon Valley** CC):

Aberaman North (3,609), Aberaman South (3,541), Abercynon (4,441), Cilfynydd (2,110), Glyncoch (2,006), Mountain Ash East (2,254), Mountain Ash West (3,123), Penrhiwceiber (4,056) and Ynysybwl (3,433).

**24.2** This constituency would have 71,237 electors, which is 2.9% below the UKEQ of 73,393 electors per constituency. The proposed single name for the constituency is **Pontypridd**.

**24.3** The existing Pontypridd constituency is currently below the statutory requirements in respect of the size of the electorate. The Commission considered several options, and proposes to combine electoral wards from the neighbouring Cynon Valley constituency to meet the statutory electorate range. The Commission considers that including electoral wards from Cynon Valley that are wholly within the Rhondda Cynon Taf principal council area creates a constituency that is retained within a single principal council area. Combining the electoral wards of Cilfynydd and Glyncoch with the rest of the town of Pontypridd as proposed would ensure the whole of the town of Pontypridd is included within one constituency, where it is currently split across two existing constituencies.

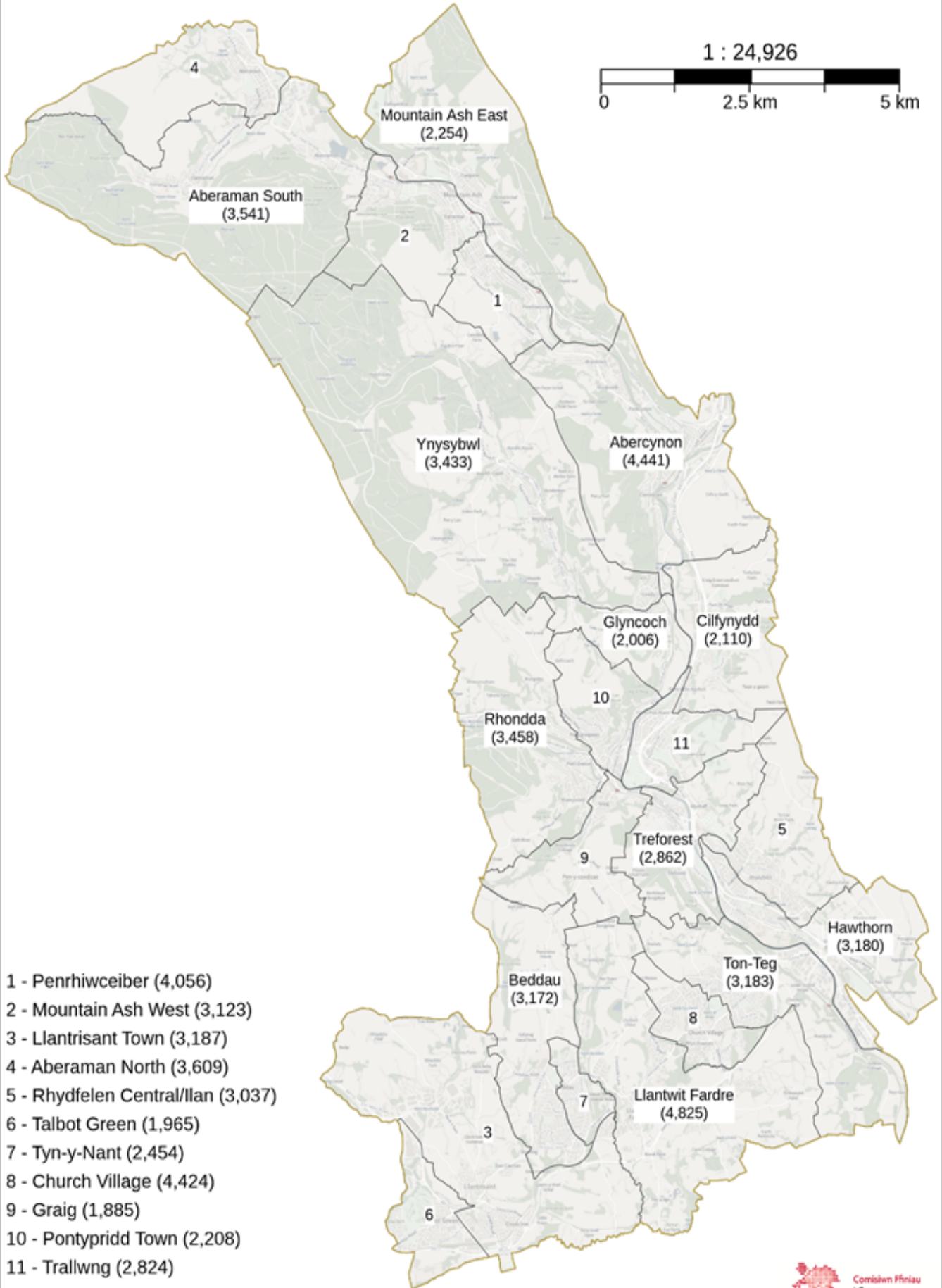
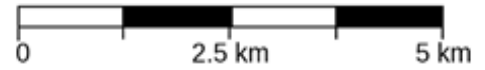
The Commission considers that combining electoral wards from the existing Pontypridd constituency and the existing Cynon Valley constituency in this way provides for an appropriate constituency that follows the valley roads from north to south.

**24.4** The proposed constituency includes electoral wards that are wholly within the Rhondda Cynon Taf principal council area. The Commission proposes that the existing constituency name of Pontypridd be the single name for this constituency, which the Commission considers to be recognisable and acceptable in both Welsh and English.

**24.5** The remainder of the electoral wards of the existing constituency of **Cynon Valley** can be found on page 66, and of **Pontypridd** can be found on pages 41, 46 and 87.

# Pontypridd

1 : 24,926



- 1 - Penrhiwceiber (4,056)
- 2 - Mountain Ash West (3,123)
- 3 - Llantrisant Town (3,187)
- 4 - Aberaman North (3,609)
- 5 - Rhydfelen Central/Ilan (3,037)
- 6 - Talbot Green (1,965)
- 7 - Tyn-y-Nant (2,454)
- 8 - Church Village (4,424)
- 9 - Graig (1,885)
- 10 - Pontypridd Town (2,208)
- 11 - Trallwng (2,824)

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## 25. Rhondda

**25.1** The Commission proposes that a county constituency be created from:

1. The following electoral wards within the County Borough of Rhondda Cynon Taf (which currently make up the existing **Rhondda** CC):

Cwm Clydach (1,987), Cymmer (3,977), Ferndale (3,114), Llwyn-y-pia (1,637), Maerdy (2,283), Pen-y-graig (3,929), Pentre (3,902), Porth (4,282), Tonypandy (2,686), Trealaw (2,895), Treherbert (4,158), Treorchy (5,693), Tylorstown (3,054), Ynyshir (2,380) and Ystrad (4,285)

and:

2. The following electoral wards within the County Borough of Rhondda Cynon Taf (which currently form part of the existing **Ogmore** CC):

Bryнна (3,616), Gilfach Goch (2,437), Llanharan (2,819) and Llanharry (3,022)

and:

3. The following electoral wards within the County Borough of Rhondda Cynon Taf (which currently form part of the existing **Pontypridd** CC):

Llanharry (199), Tonyrefail East (4,433) and Tonyrefail West (4,896).

**25.2** This constituency would have 71,684 electors, which is 2.3% below the UKEQ of 73,393 electors per constituency. The proposed official single name for the constituency is **Rhondda**.

**25.3** The existing Rhondda constituency is currently below the statutory requirements in respect of the size of the electorate. The Commission considered several options, and proposes to combine the existing Rhondda constituency with electoral wards from the neighbouring existing Ogmore and Pontypridd constituencies to meet the statutory electorate range. The Commission is proposing to include electoral wards from the neighbouring constituencies that are wholly within the Rhondda Cynon Taf principal

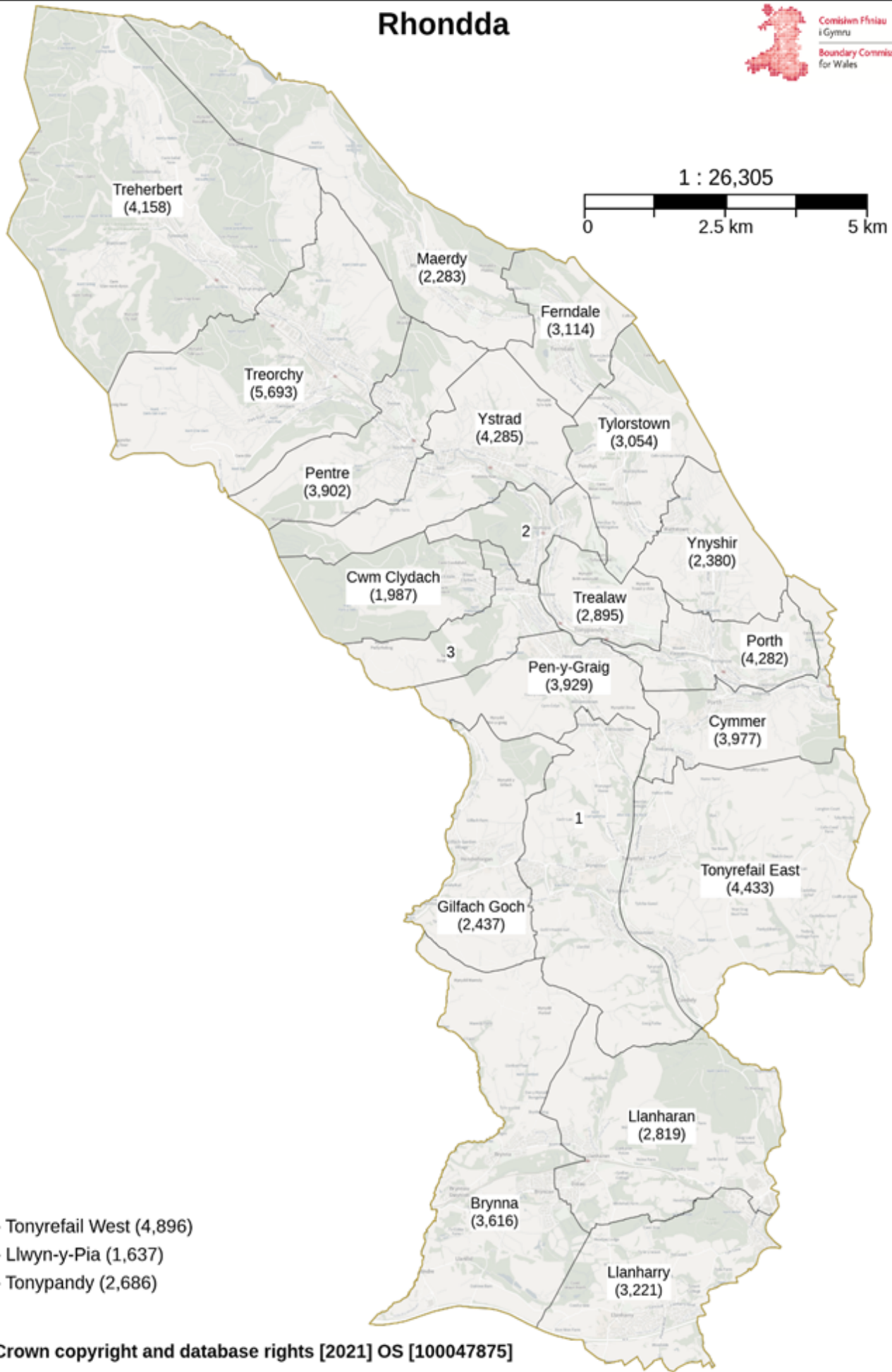


council area. There are good road links throughout the proposed constituency, which follows the valley roads from north to south, to retain the integrity and identity of the valley.

**25.4** The proposed constituency includes electoral wards that are wholly within the County Borough of Rhondda Cynon Taf principal council area and includes the whole of the existing Rhondda constituency. The Commission proposes that the existing constituency name of Rhondda remain the single name for this constituency, which the Commission considers to be recognisable and acceptable in both Welsh and English.

**25.5** The remainder of the electoral wards of the existing constituency of **Ogmore** can be found on page 32, and of **Pontypridd** can be found on pages 41, 46 and 84.

# Rhondda



## 26. Swansea Central and North (Canol a Gogledd Abertawe)

**26.1** The Commission proposes that a borough constituency be created from:

1. The following electoral wards within the City and County of Swansea (which currently form part of the existing **Gower CC**):

Llangyfelach (3,946), Mawr (1,438), Penllergaer (2,553) and Pontardulais (4,954)

and:

2. The following electoral wards within the City and County of Swansea (which currently form part of the **Swansea East BC**):

Cwmbwrla (5,622), Landore (4,821), Morriston (12,105), Mynyddbach (6,625) and Penderry (7,397)

and:

3. The following electoral wards within the City and County of Swansea (which currently form part of the existing **Swansea West BC**):

Castle (10,312), Townhill (5,592) and Uplands (10,834).

**26.2** This constituency would have 76,199 electors, which is 3.8% above the UKEQ of 73,393 electors per constituency. The proposed name for the constituency is **Swansea Central and North**. The proposed official alternative name for the constituency is **Canol a Gogledd Abertawe**.

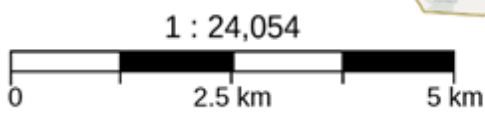
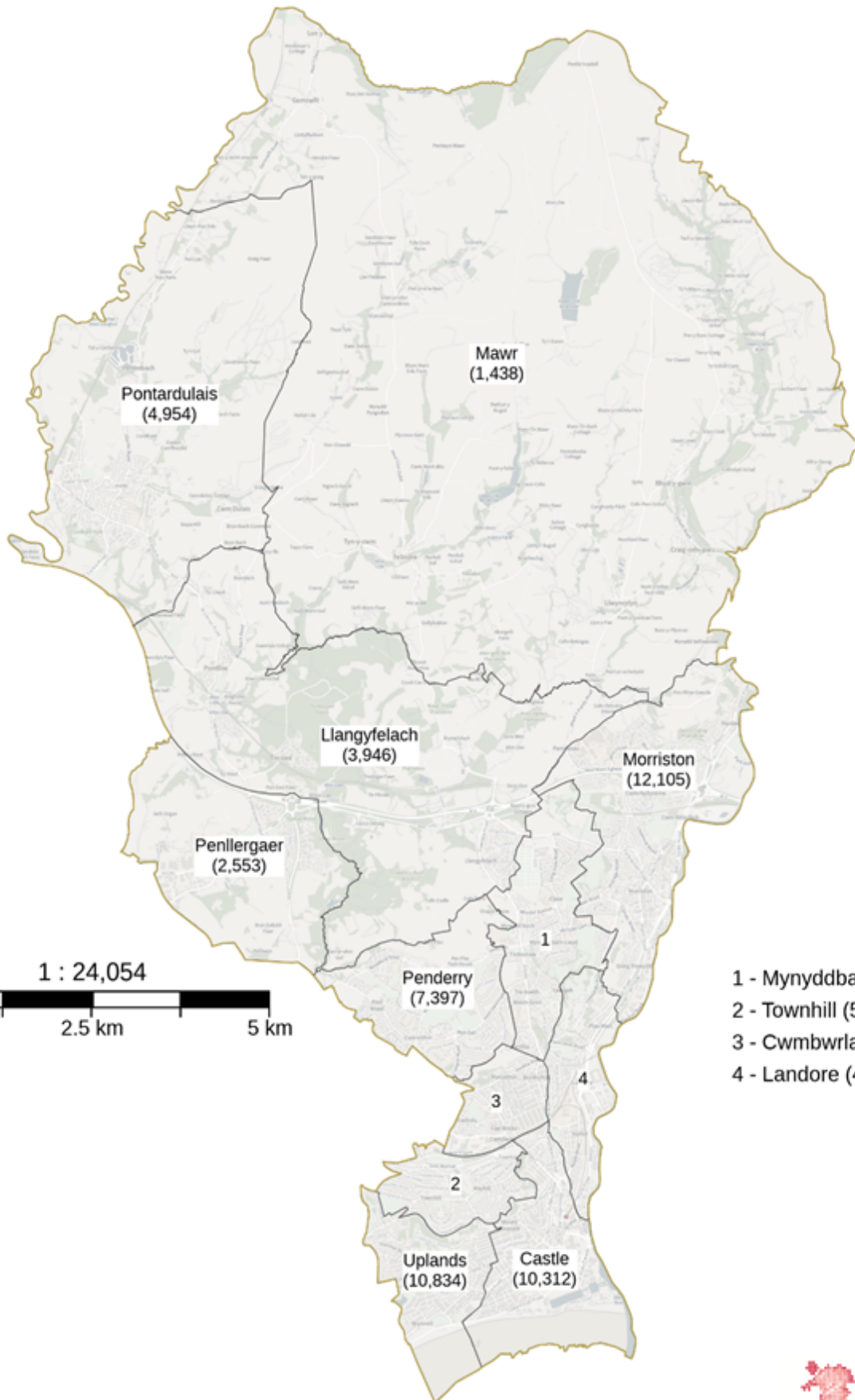
**26.3** The existing Gower, Swansea East and Swansea West constituencies are currently below the statutory requirements in respect of the size of the electorate. The Commission considered several options, and proposes to combine the central and northern electoral wards within the principal council area of Swansea to form a constituency within the statutory electorate range. The Commission is of the view that it is appropriate to combine these areas to meet the statutory requirements. The Commission is also of the view that the proposed arrangement creates a cohesive constituency, which has good transport

and communication links and is formed of electoral wards that are wholly within a single principal council area.

**26.4** The proposed constituency includes electoral wards that are wholly within the City and County of Swansea principal council area. The Commission is proposing to use the geographic areas contained within the proposed constituency to form the proposed name for this constituency.

**26.5** The remainder of the electoral wards of the existing constituency of **Gower** can be found on pages 93 and 96, and of **Swansea East** can be found on page 93, and of **Swansea West** can be found on page 96.

# Swansea Central and North (Canol a Gogledd Abertawe)



- 1 - Mynyddbach (6,625)
- 2 - Townhill (5,592)
- 3 - Cwmbwrla (5,622)
- 4 - Landore (4,821)

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## 27. Swansea East and Neath (Dwyrain Abertawe a Chastell-nedd)

**27.1** The Commission proposes that a county constituency be created from:

1. The following electoral wards within the City and County of Swansea (which currently form part of the existing **Swansea East** BC):

Bonymaen (5,391), Llansamlet (11,107) and St Thomas (5,514)

and:

2. The electoral ward of Clydach (5,821) within the City and County of Swansea (which currently forms part of the existing **Gower** CC)

and:

3. The following electoral wards within the County Borough of Neath Port Talbot (which currently form part of the existing **Aberavon** CC):

Coedffranc Central (2,892), Coedffranc North (1,811) and Coedffranc West (3,587)

and:

4. The following electoral wards within the County Borough of Neath Port Talbot (which currently form part of the existing **Neath** CC):

Aberdulais (1,712), Blaengwrach (1,491), Bryn-côch North (1,787), Bryn-côch South (4,547), Cadoxton (1,365), Cimla (3,107), Crynant (1,508), Dyffryn (2,447), Glynneath (2,577), Neath East (4,468), Neath North (2,931), Neath South (3,694), Onllwyn (935), Pelenna (936), Resolven (2,387), Seven Sisters (1,554) and Tonna (2,072).

**27.2** This constituency would have 75,641 electors, which is 3.1% above the UKEQ of 73,393 electors per constituency. The proposed name for the constituency is **Swansea East and Neath**. The proposed official alternative name for the constituency is **Dwyrain Abertawe a Chastell-nedd**.

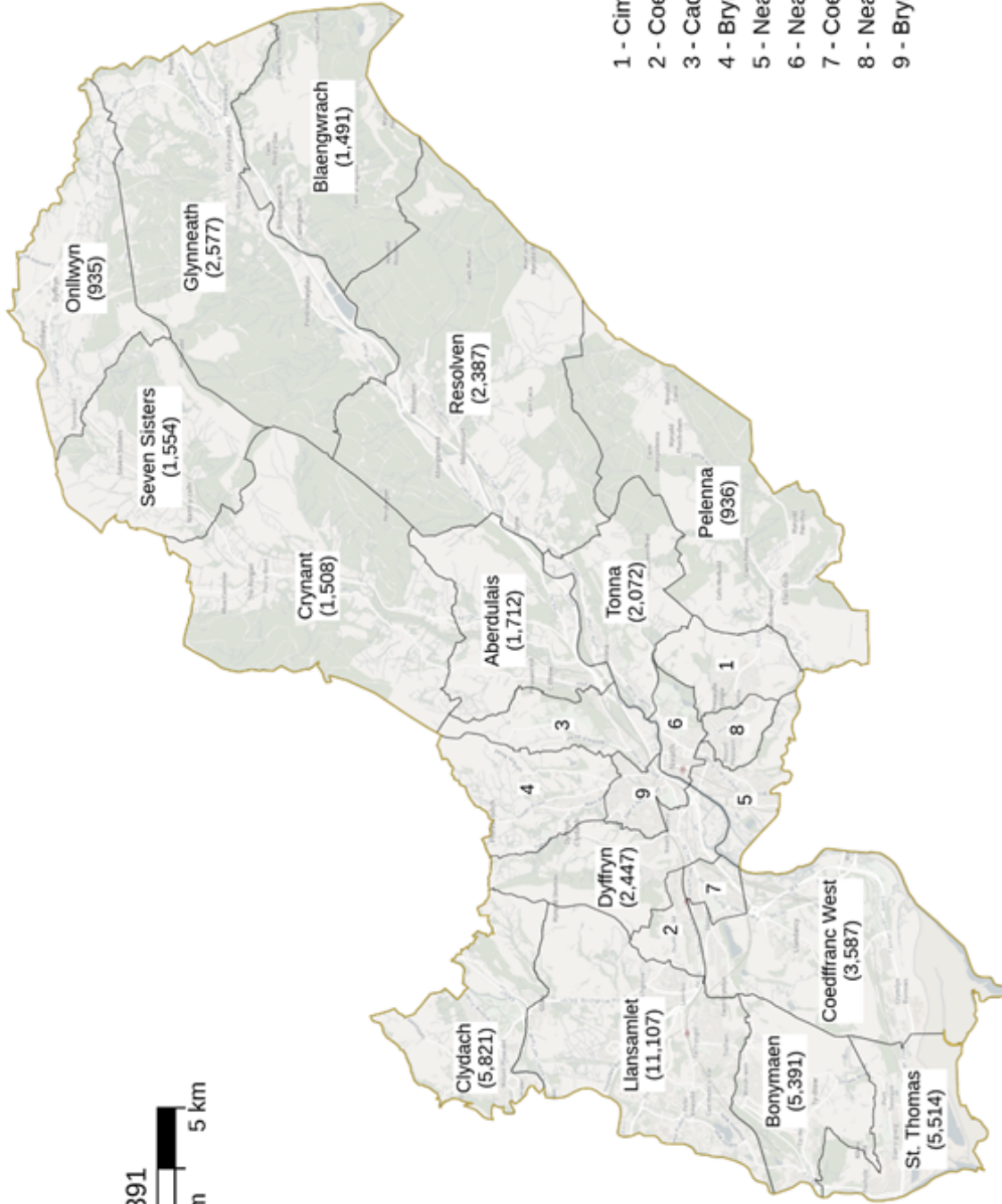
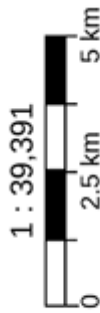
**27.3** The existing Neath and Swansea East constituencies are currently below the statutory requirements in respect of the size of the electorate. The Commission considered several

options, and proposes to combine all but 10 of the existing Neath constituency electoral wards with the Bonymaen, Llansamlet and St Thomas electoral wards from the existing Swansea East constituency. The Commission is also proposing to include the Coedffranc Central, Coedffranc North and Coedffranc West electoral wards from the existing Aberavon constituency, and the Clydach electoral ward from the existing Gower constituency. This would create a constituency that shares a similar character as mixed-rural areas and has good transport links between the combined areas.

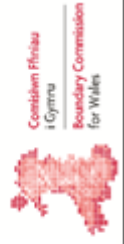
**27.4** The proposed constituency includes electoral wards from both the City and County of Swansea and the County Borough of Neath Port Talbot principal council areas. The Commission proposes to combine the existing constituency names of Neath and Swansea East for this constituency.

**27.5** The remainder of the electoral wards of the existing constituency of **Swansea East** can be found on page 90, and of **Aberavon** can be found on page 17, and of **Neath** can be found on page 29, and of **Gower** can be found on pages 90 and 96.

# Swansea East and Neath (Dwyrain Abertawe a Chastell-nedd)



- 1 - Cimla (3,107)
- 2 - Coedfranc North (1,811)
- 3 - Cadoxton (1,365)
- 4 - Bryn-Coch North (1,787)
- 5 - Neath East (4,468)
- 6 - Neath North (2,931)
- 7 - Coedfranc Central (2,892)
- 8 - Neath South (3,694)
- 9 - Bryn-Coch South (4,547)



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## 28. Swansea West and Gower (Gorllewin Abertawe a Gŵyr)

**28.1** The Commission proposes that a county constituency be created from:

1. The following electoral wards within the City and County of Swansea (which currently form part of the existing **Gower CC**):

Bishopston (2,743), Fairwood (2,278), Gorseinon (3,340), Gower (2,990), Gowerton (3,978), Kingsbridge (3,506), Lower Loughor (1,795), Newton (2,894), Oystermouth (3,313), Penclawdd (2,932), Pennard (2,229), Penyrheol (4,621), Upper Loughor (2,146) and West Cross (5,142)

and:

2. The following electoral wards within the City and County of Swansea (which currently form part of the existing **Swansea West BC**):

Cockett (10,473), Dunvant (3,494), Killay North (2,031), Killay South (1,857), Mayals (2,148) and Sketty (11,304).

**28.2** This constituency would have 75,214 electors, which is 2.5% above the UKEQ of 73,393 electors per constituency. The proposed name for the constituency is **Swansea West and Gower**. The proposed alternative name for the constituency is **Gorllewin Abertawe a Gŵyr**.

**28.3** The existing Gower and Swansea West constituencies are currently below the statutory requirements in respect of the size of the electorate. The Commission considered several options, and proposes to combine all but three of the existing Swansea West electoral wards with the Gower Peninsula area of the existing Gower constituency to form a constituency within the statutory electorate range. The Commission is of the view that it is appropriate to combine these areas to meet the statutory requirements. The Commission considers that including electoral wards from Gower that are wholly within the Swansea principal council area would create a cohesive constituency with good

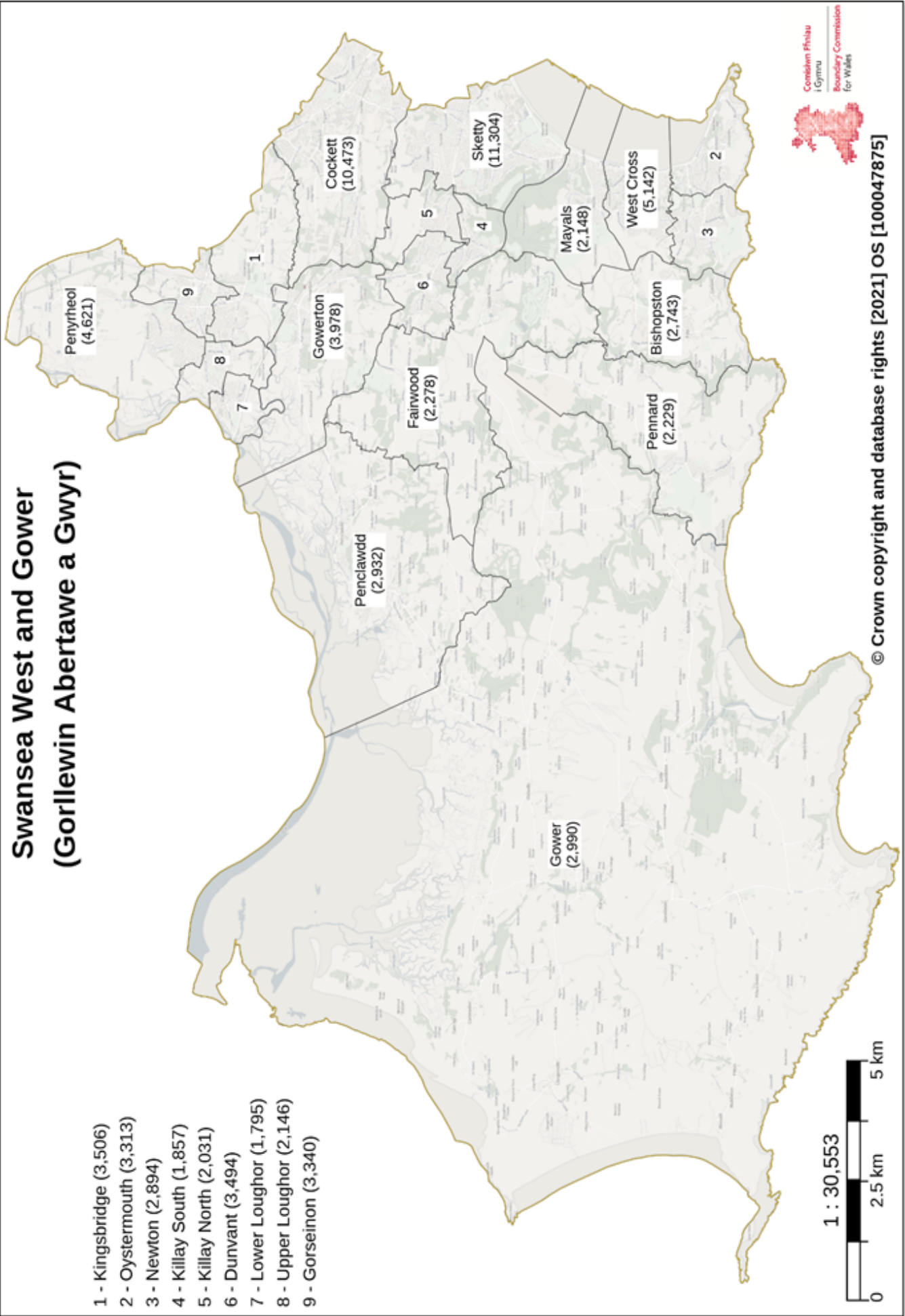
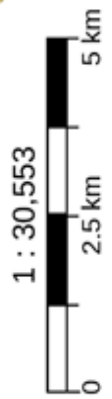
transport and communication links.

**28.4** The proposed constituency includes electoral wards that are wholly within the City and County of Swansea principal council area. The Commission is proposing to combine the existing constituency names to form the proposed name for this constituency.

**28.5** The remainder of the electoral wards of the existing constituency of **Gower** can be found on pages 90 and 93, and of **Swansea West** can be found on page 90.

# Swansea West and Gower (Gorllewin Abertawe a Gwyr)

- 1 - Kingsbridge (3,506)
- 2 - Oystermouth (3,313)
- 3 - Newton (2,894)
- 4 - Killay South (1,857)
- 5 - Killay North (2,031)
- 6 - Duvant (3,494)
- 7 - Lower Loughor (1,795)
- 8 - Upper Loughor (2,146)
- 9 - Gorseinon (3,340)



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## 29. Torfaen

**29.1** The Commission proposes that a county constituency be created from:

1. The following electoral wards within the County Borough of Torfaen (which currently make up the existing **Torfaen CC**):

Abersychan (5,044), Blaenavon (4,575), Brynwern (1,295), Coed Eva (1,859), Cwmyniscoy (987), Fairwater (3,918), Greenmeadow (2,028), Llantarnam (4,864), New Inn (4,777), Panteg (5,828), Pontnewydd (5,186), Pontnewynydd (1,129), Pontypool (1,438), St Cadocs and Penygarn (1,341), St Dials (3,317), Snatchwood (1,819), Trevethin (2,463), Two Locks (4,715), Upper Cwmbran (4,207) and Wainfelin (1,847)

and:

2. The following electoral wards within the County Borough of Torfaen (which currently form part of the existing **Monmouth CC**):

Croesyceiliog North (2,745), Croesyceiliog South (1,460), Llanyrafon North (1,803) and Llanyrafon South (1,946).

**29.2** This constituency would have 70,591 electors, which is 3.8% below the UKEQ of 73,393 electors per constituency. The proposed name for the constituency is **Torfaen**.

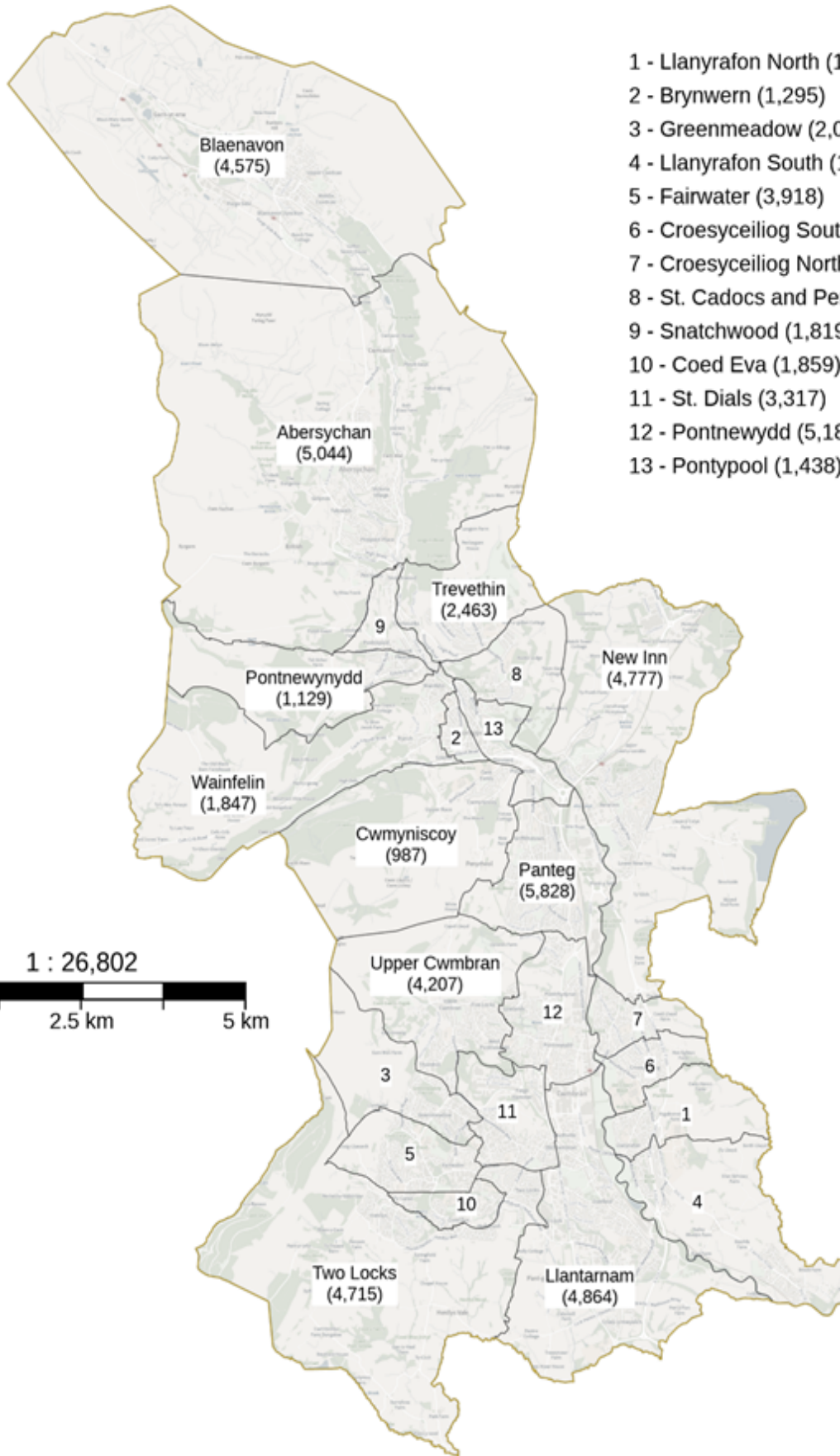
**29.3** The Commission proposes to use the whole of the principal council area of Torfaen to create a constituency. This proposed constituency falls within the statutory electorate range.

**29.4** The proposed constituency would include the whole of the Torfaen principal council area. The Commission therefore considers that the suggested name would reflect the proposed constituency. The Commission proposes keeping the existing constituency name of Torfaen as the single name for this constituency, which the Commission considers to be recognisable and acceptable in both Welsh and English.

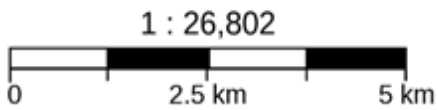
**29.5** The remainder of the electoral wards of the existing constituency of **Monmouth** can be

found on page 72.

# Torfaen



- 1 - Llanyrafon North (1,803)
- 2 - Brynwern (1,295)
- 3 - Greenmeadow (2,028)
- 4 - Llanyrafon South (1,946)
- 5 - Fairwater (3,918)
- 6 - Croesyceiliog South (1,460)
- 7 - Croesyceiliog North (2,745)
- 8 - St. Cadocs and Penygarn (1,341)
- 9 - Snatchwood (1,819)
- 10 - Coed Eva (1,859)
- 11 - St. Dials (3,317)
- 12 - Pontnewydd (5,186)
- 13 - Pontypool (1,438)



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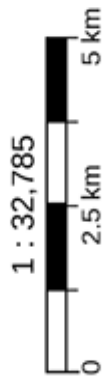
## 30. Vale of Glamorgan (Bro Morgannwg)

- 30.1** The Commission proposes that a county constituency be created from:
- The following electoral wards within the County Borough of the Vale of Glamorgan (which currently form part of the existing **Vale of Glamorgan CC**):
- Baruc (6,080), Buttrills (4,447), Cadoc (7,244), Castleland (3,442), Court (3,370), Cowbridge (5,240), Dyfan (4,170), Gibbonsdown (3,827), Illtyd (6,242), Llandow/Ewenny (2,362), Llantwit Major (7,939), Peterston-super-Ely (1,855), Rhoose (5,796), St Athan (2,765), St Brides Major (2,732) and Wenvoe (2,915).
- 30.2** This constituency would have 70,426 electors, which is 4% below the UKEQ of 73,393 electors per constituency. The proposed name for the constituency is **Vale of Glamorgan**. The proposed official alternative name is **Bro Morgannwg**.
- 30.3** The existing Vale of Glamorgan constituency is the only constituency in Wales whose existing electorate is within the statutory range. The Commission considered several options, and proposes that the electoral ward of Dinas Powys from within the existing Vale of Glamorgan constituency should instead be included within the Cardiff South and Penarth constituency to form a constituency within the statutory electorate range.
- 30.4** The Commission proposes that the remaining electoral wards within the existing Vale of Glamorgan constituency (after the electoral ward of Dinas Powys is removed) should form a new constituency. That new proposed constituency remains within the statutory electorate range, and is wholly formed of electoral wards from the Vale of Glamorgan principal council area.
- 30.5** The proposed constituency of Vale of Glamorgan would include electoral wards wholly from within the existing Vale of Glamorgan constituency and Vale of Glamorgan principal council area.
- 30.6** The remainder of the electoral wards of the existing constituency of **Vale of Glamorgan**

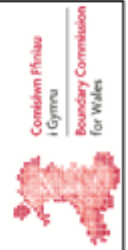
can be found on page 43.



# Vale of Glamorgan (Bro Morgannwg)



- 1 - Dyfan (4,170)
- 2 - Cadoc (7,244)
- 3 - Castleland (3,442)
- 4 - Illyd (6,242)
- 5 - Buttrills (4,447)
- 6 - Gibbonsdown (3,827)
- 7 - Court (3,370)



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## 31. Wrexham (Wreccsam)

**31.1** The Commission proposes that a county constituency be created from:

1. The following electoral wards within the County Borough of Wrexham (which currently make up the existing **Wrexham** CC):

Acton (2,177), Borrass Park (1,968), Brynyffynnon (2,477), Cartrefle (1,545), Erddig (1,444), Garden Village (1,656), Gresford East and West (2,337), Grosvenor (1,698), Gwersyllt East and South (3,601), Gwersyllt North (1,995), Gwersyllt West (2,263), Hermitage (1,544), Holt (2,479), Little Acton (1,843), Llay (3,513), Maesydre (1,420), Marford and Hoseley (1,824), Offa (1,428), Queensway (1,377), Rhosesni (2,827), Rosset (2,643), Smithfield (1,376), Stansty (1,641), Whitegate (1,594) and Wynnstay (1,159)

and:

2. The following electoral wards within the County Borough of Wrexham (which currently form part of the existing **Clwyd South** CC):

Bronington (2,620), Bryn Cefn (1,543), Coedpoeth (3,482), Esclusham (2,013), Gwenfro (1,217), Johnstown (2,461), Marchwiell (1,830), New Broughton (2,842), Overton (2,710), Pant (1,528) and Ponciau (3,521).

**31.2** This constituency would have 75,596 electors, which is 3% above the UKEQ of 73,393 electors per constituency. The proposed name for the constituency is **Wrexham**. The proposed official alternative name is **Wreccsam**.

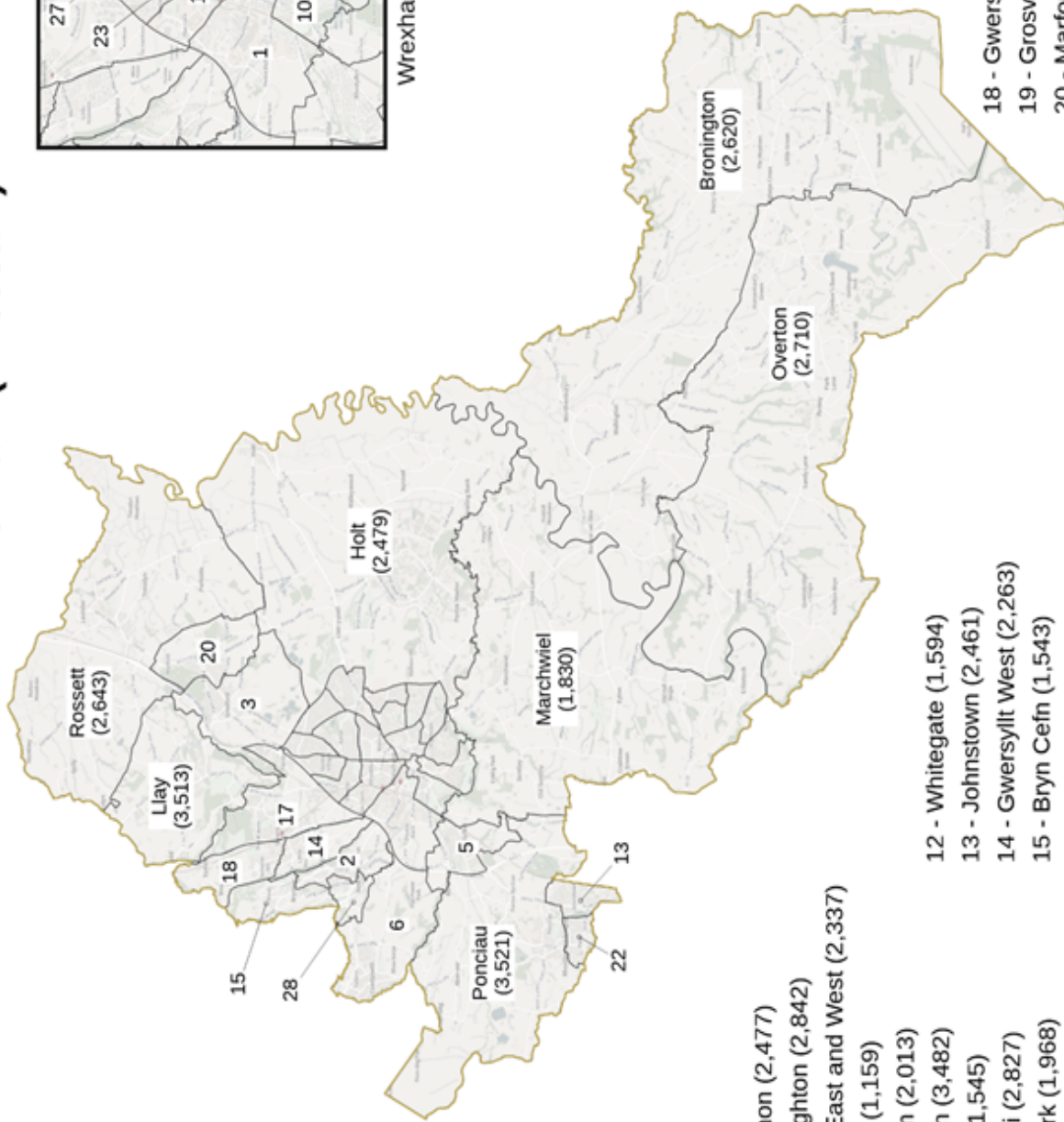
**31.3** The existing Wrexham constituency is currently below the statutory requirements in respect of the size of the electorate. The Commission considered several options, and proposes to combine the electoral wards making up the existing Wrexham constituency with surrounding areas, to include electoral wards from the existing Clwyd South constituency that are wholly within the Wrexham principal council area. The proposed constituency formed on this basis falls within the statutory electorate range. The

Commission considers that combining the whole of the existing Wrexham constituency with electoral wards from Clwyd South that are within the Wrexham principal council area, and are similar in nature, creates a cohesive constituency that has good transport and communication links.

**31.4** The proposed constituency includes the whole of the existing Wrexham constituency and electoral wards from the existing Clwyd South constituency. The proposed constituency is wholly within the Wrexham principal council area. The Commission proposes keeping the existing constituency name of Wrexham as the name for this constituency.

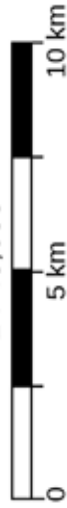
**31.5** The remainder of the electoral wards of the existing constituency of **Clwyd South** can be found on pages 23 and 75.

# Wrexham (Wrexamsam)



Wrexham Town Area

1 : 48,633



- 1 - Brynyffynnon (2,477)
- 2 - New Broughton (2,842)
- 3 - Gresford East and West (2,337)
- 4 - Wynnstay (1,159)
- 5 - Esclusham (2,013)
- 6 - Coedpoeth (3,482)
- 7 - Cartrefle (1,545)
- 8 - Rhosnesni (2,827)
- 9 - Borrass Park (1,968)
- 10 - Offa (1,428)
- 11 - Smithfield (1,376)

- 23 - Stansly (1,641)
- 24 - Erddig (1,444)
- 25 - Acton (2,177)
- 26 - Hermitage (1,544)
- 27 - Garden Village (1,656)
- 28 - Gwenfro (1,217)
- 29 - Little Acton (1,843)

- 12 - Whitegate (1,594)
- 13 - Johnstown (2,461)
- 14 - Gwersyllt West (2,263)
- 15 - Bryn Cefn (1,543)
- 16 - Queensway (1,377)
- 17 - Gwersyllt East and South (3,601)

- 18 - Gwersyllt North (1,995)
- 19 - Grosvenor (1,698)
- 20 - Marford and Hoseley (1,824)
- 21 - Maesydre (1,420)
- 22 - Pant (1,528)

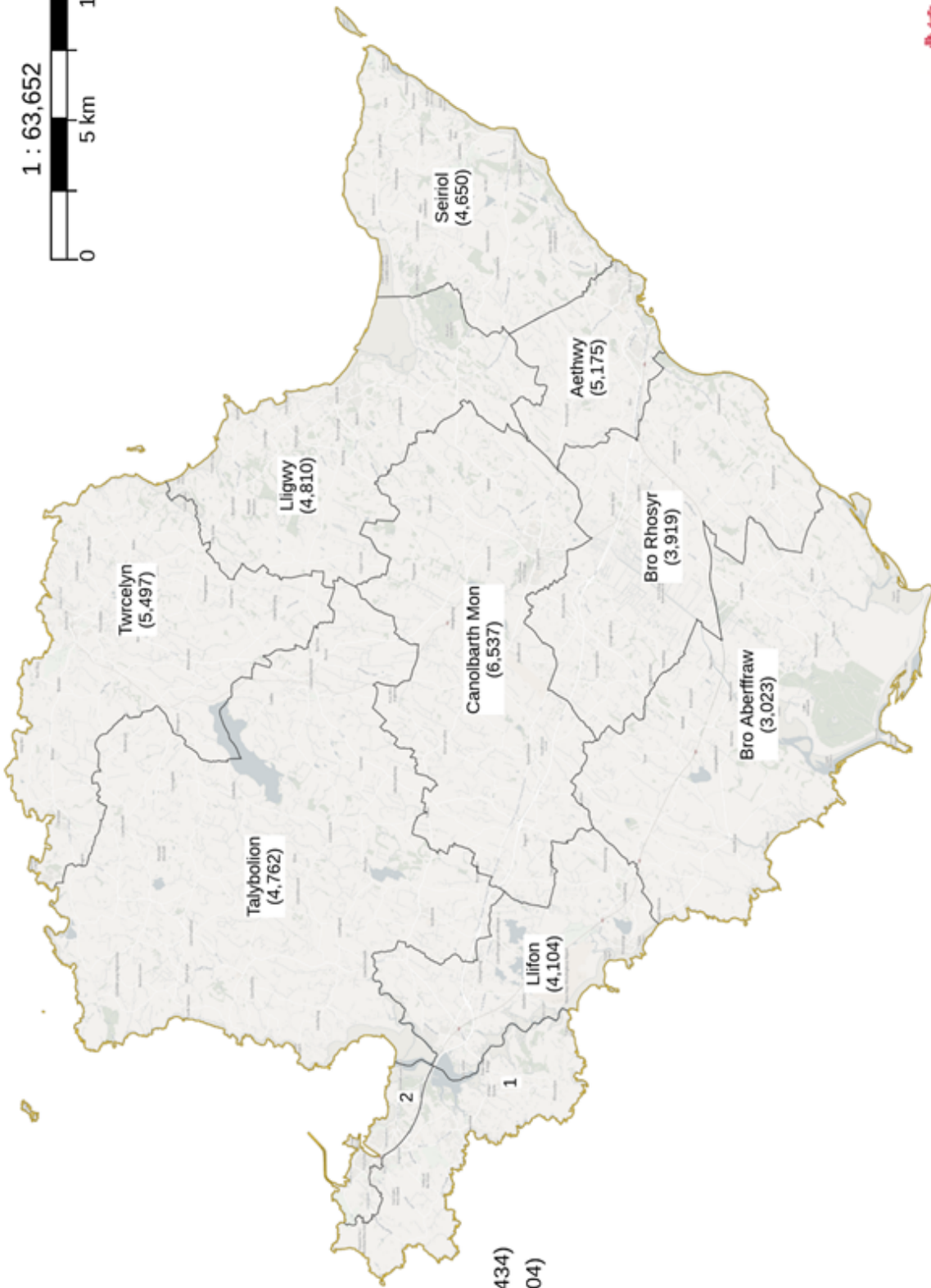
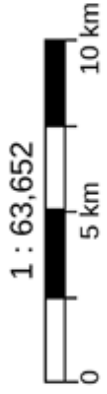
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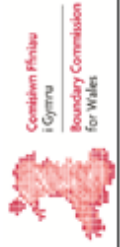
## 32. Ynys Môn

- 32.1** Schedule 2 of the act requires a single constituency to be created for the area of the Isle of Anglesey County Council. This constituency is not subject to the statutory UKEQ.
- 32.2** The Commission therefore proposes that the existing county constituency of **Ynys Môn** be kept, comprising the following electoral wards within the County of the Isle of Anglesey: Aethwy (5,175), Bro Aberffraw (3,023), Bro Rhosyr (3,919), Caergybi (5,504), Canolbarth Môn (6,537), Llifon (4,104), Lligwy (4,810), Seiriol (4,650), Talybolion (4,762), Twrcelyn (5,497) and Ynys Gybi (4,434).
- 32.3** This constituency would have 52,415 electors, which is 28.6% below the UKEQ of 73,393 electors per constituency. The proposed name for the constituency is Ynys Môn. Ynys Môn is a recognised name, and is the current constituency name used in both Welsh and English. The Commission therefore considers that this name is acceptable in both Welsh and English.

# Ynys Môn



- 1 - Ynys Gybi (4,434)
- 2 - Caerigybi (5,504)



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## Chapter 7:

# Publication details

### Publication of initial proposals

1. The proposals and maps in this report have been published on the Commission's website at: [www.bcomm-wales.gov.uk](http://www.bcomm-wales.gov.uk) and on the Commission's consultation portal at: [www.bcw-reviews.org.uk](http://www.bcw-reviews.org.uk). Welsh principal councils, MPs and all political parties have been sent a copy of these proposals.

### Places of deposit

2. In Appendix 3 of this report, the Commission provides the addresses within each proposed parliamentary constituency where a copy of these proposals, and a more detailed map illustrating them, has been made available for inspection by the public.

## Chapter 8:

# The initial consultation period: 8 September 2021 to 3 November 2021

1. The Commission is now starting its initial consultation in relation to its initial proposals. The initial consultation period begins on 8 September 2021 and ends on 3 November 2021.
2. During the initial consultation period, members of the public, groups and organisations may provide their views in writing ('written representations') on any or all of the Commission's initial proposals. Written representations may be made in Welsh or English, and may be provided to the Commission in one of the following ways:
  - using the Commission's consultation portal: [www.bcw-reviews.org.uk](http://www.bcw-reviews.org.uk)
  - by email: [bcw@boundaries.wales](mailto:bcw@boundaries.wales)
  - by fax: 02920 464820
  - by post: the Boundary Commission for Wales, Hastings House, Fitzalan Court, Cardiff, CF24 0BL.
3. The Commission will acknowledge receipt of all written representations that are submitted by any of these methods.
4. The Commission requests that all written representations make clear which area or areas of Wales they relate to. The Commission also requests individuals, groups and organisations that submit written representations to make clear whether they approve of or object to the Commission's initial proposals, and to give their reasons for their approval or objection.
5. The Commission recommends that, if individuals, groups or organisations submit written representations objecting to the Commission's proposals, those representations should include counter-proposals. An objection accompanied by a viable counter-proposal is likely to carry more weight than a simple statement of objection. Furthermore, because of the requirement that the electorate of every proposed constituency must fall within the statutory range, the Commission has had to prepare its proposals on the basis of Wales as a whole. Even comparatively minor boundary changes in one constituency will have knock-on effects in other constituencies. Accordingly,



the Commission will generally view a counter-proposal that addresses the composition of each affected constituency as more persuasive than a proposal that only addresses the composition of one constituency, without addressing any consequences on other constituencies.

6. The Commission wishes to stress that its initial proposals relate solely to parliamentary constituencies in Wales. They do not affect Senedd constituencies. Nor do they affect principal council, electoral ward or community boundaries, taxes or services. The Commission will therefore not take account of any representation made about those issues. The Commission also wishes to stress that it will not consider any representations, or parts of representations, where comment is made on the number of parliamentary seats allocated to Wales or on the statutory electorate range. These have been set by Parliament, and the Commission cannot change them.
7. The Commission will not take into account representations that are received outside the initial consultation period, except where those representations are submitted in the course of subsequent stages of the 2023 review. The Commission therefore asks that all written representations in response to the Commission's initial consultation be made within the eight-week period of 8 September 2021 to 3 November 2021.
8. The subsequent stages of the 2023 review are described in the Commission's 'Guide to the 2023 Review', which is available on the Commission's website at: [www.bcomm-wales.gov.uk](http://www.bcomm-wales.gov.uk)

### **Publication of representations**

9. The act obliges the Commission to publish representations it receives during the initial consultation period (as well as during subsequent stages of the 2023 review).
10. To protect the privacy of individuals participating in the 2023 review, the Commission will take the following approach to redacting personal information contained in the written representations

that the Commission publishes.

11. Representations from public figures and officials (such as councillors, Members of Parliament or Members of the Senedd) acting in an official capacity:

- the Commission will publish the name of any public figure or official writing in an official capacity
- however, all postal and email addresses, telephone numbers and signatures will be redacted

12. Representations from members of the public, and from public figures or officials writing in a personal capacity:

- the Commission will redact the name and postal address of individuals submitting representations, but will publish the approximate location of the individual's postal address – that is, by reference to the village, town or city stated
- all email addresses, telephone numbers and signatures will be redacted

13. The Commission will also redact anything in a representation that could be illegal, libellous or both.

14. The Commission's 'Data protection and privacy policy information' provides information about the Commission's processing of the personal data of individuals who participate in the 2023 review.

This can be accessed at: <https://bcomm-wales.gov.uk/page/data-protection-and-privacy-policy>

## Welsh language

15. The Commission is committed to the use of the Welsh and English languages on the basis of equality, and welcomes correspondence in either language.

16. The Commission will publish all its guidance documents, reports and the representations it receives throughout the 2023 review in both Welsh and English on its website.

## Additional information

### Crown copyright

1. The Boundary Commission for Wales provided the detailed maps, available at the places of deposit, under licence from Ordnance Survey. Those detailed maps, and the maps that form part of this document, 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 initial proposals should first contact the Copyright Office at Ordnance Survey.

### Enquiries

2. Should you require further information about the Commission's initial proposals, or about other aspects of the Commission's work, please contact:

Boundary Commission for Wales

Hastings House

Fitzalan Court

Cardiff

CF24 0BL

Telephone: 029 2046 4819

Fax: 029 2046 4820

Email: [bcw@boundaries.wales](mailto:bcw@boundaries.wales)

Website: [www.bcomm-wales.gov.uk](http://www.bcomm-wales.gov.uk)

## Appendix 1:

# Initial proposals: constituencies

Constituency name	Alternative name	Electorate	Variance from UKEQ
Aberafan Porthcawl		76,792	4.6%
Aberconwy		69,909	-4.7%
Alyn and Deeside	Alun a Glannau Dyfrdwy	74,144	1.0%
Blaenau Gwent and Rhymney	Blaenau Gwent a Rhymni	71,079	-3.2%
Brecon and Radnor	Aberhonddu a Maesyfed	72,113	-1.7%
Bridgend	Pen-y-bont	74,388	1.4%
Caerfyrddin	Carmarthen	70,606	-3.8%
Cardiff Central	Canol Caerdydd	74,486	1.5%
Cardiff North	Gogledd Caerdydd	71,143	-3.1%
Cardiff South and Penarth	De Caerdydd a Phenarth	70,246	-4.3%
Cardiff West	Gorllewin Caerdydd	73,947	0.8%
Ceredigion Preseli		76,269	3.9%
Clwyd		76,380	4.1%
Delyn		76,074	3.7%
Dwyfor Meirionnydd		71,962	-1.9%
Islwyn		70,735	-3.6%
Llanelli		71,972	-1.9%
Merthyr Tydfil and Aberdare	Merthyr Tudful ac Aberdâr	71,218	-3.0%
Mid and South Pembrokeshire	Canol a De Sir Benfro	74,614	1.7%
Monmouthshire	Sir Fynwy	72,681	-1.0%
Montgomeryshire and Glyndwr	Maldwyn a Glyndŵr	72,363	-1.4%
Newport East	Dwyrain Casnewydd	76,159	3.8%
Newport West and Caerphilly	Gorllewin Casnewydd a Chaerffili	74,394	1.4%
Pontypridd		71,237	-2.9%
Rhondda		71,684	-2.3%
Swansea Central and North	Canol a Gogledd Abertawe	76,199	3.8%

Constituency name	Alternative name	Electorate	Variance from UKEQ
Swansea East and Neath	Dwyrain Abertawe a Chastell-nedd	75,641	3.1%
Swansea West and Gower	Gorllewin Abertawe a Gŵyr	75,214	2.5%
Torfaen		70,591	-3.8%
Vale of Glamorgan	Bro Morgannwg	70,426	-4.0%
Wrexham	Wrecsam	75,596	3.0%
Ynys Môn		52,415	-28.6%

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## Appendix 3:

# Places of deposit

Proposed constituency	Deposit address
Aberavon Porthcawl	Council Offices, Civic Centre, Port Talbot SA13 1PJ
Aberconwy	Council Offices, Bodlondeb, Conwy LL32 8DU
Alyn and Deeside	Ty Dewi Sant, St Davids Park, Ewloe CH5 3FF
Blaenau Gwent and Rhymney	The General Offices, Steelworks Road, Ebbw Vale NP23 6DN
Brecon and Radnor	Council Offices, Cambrian Way, Brecon LD3 7HR County Hall, Llandrindod Wells LD1 5LG Knighton Library and Community Hub, Bowling Green, Knighton, Powys LD7 1DR.
Bridgend	Civic Offices, Angel Street, Bridgend CF31 4WB Maesteg Library, North Lane, Maesteg CF34 9AA Pencoed Library, Pen-y-bont Road, Pencoed CF35 5RA
Caerfyrddin	Carmarthen Customer Service Centre, 3 Spilman Street, Carmarthen, SA31 1LE Statutory Services, Block 4, Parc Myrddin, Richmond Terrace, Carmarthen SA31 1HQ
Cardiff Central	County Hall, Cardiff CF10 4UW
Cardiff North	Whitchurch Library, Park Road, Whitchurch CF14 7XA
Cardiff South and Penarth	Grangetown Hub, Havelock Place, Grangetown CF11 6PA Penarth Library, Stanwell Road, Penarth CF64 2YT
Cardiff West	Canton Library, Library Street, Canton CF5 1QD
Ceredigion Preseli	Council Offices, Neuadd Cyngor Ceredigion, Penmorfa, Aberaeron SA46 0PA
Clwyd	Civic Offices, Colwyn Bay LL29 8AR Rhyl Library, Church Street, Rhyl LL18 3AA
Delyn	County Hall, Wynnstay Road, Ruthin LL15 1YN County Hall, Mold CH7 6NB
Dwyfor Meirionnydd	County Offices, Caernarfon LL55 1SH Council Offices, Ffordd y Cob, Pwllheli LL53 5AA Council Offices, Cae Penarlâg, Dolgellau LL40 2YB
Islwyn	Penallta House, Tredomen Park, Ystrad Mynach, Hengoed CF82 7PG Blackwood Library, 192 High Street, Blackwood NP12 1AJ
Llanelli	Llanelli Library, Llanelli SA15 3AS
Merthyr Tydfil and Aberdare	Central Library, High Street, Aberdare CF44 7AG Civic Centre, Castle Street, Merthyr Tydfil CF47 8AN

Proposed constituency	Deposit address
Mid and South Pembrokeshire	Electoral Services, Unit 23 Thornton Industrial Estate, Milford Haven, Pembrokeshire SA73 2RR Riverside Library, 20 Swan Square, Haverfordwest SA61 2AN
Monmouthshire	Abergavenny Library, Baker Street, Abergavenny NP7 5BD Monmouth Community Hub, Rolls Hall, Monmouth NP25 3BY Chepstow Community Hub, Manor Way, Chepstow NP16 5HZ Gilwern Library, Community Education Centre, Common Road, Gilwern NP7 0DS Usk Community Hub, 35 Maryport Street, Usk NP15 1AE Caldicot Community Hub, Woodstock Way, Caldicot NP26 5DB
Montgomeryshire and Glyndwr	Llangollen Library, Y Capel, Castle Street, Llangollen LL20 8NY Y Lanfa/The Wharf, The Canal Wharf, Welshpool, Powys SY21 7AQ Area Office, The Park Offices, Newtown SY16 2NZ
Newport East	Ringland Library, 6 Ringland Centre, Newport NP19 9HG
Newport West and Caerphilly	Civic Centre, Newport NP20 4UR Penallta House, Tredomen Business Park, Ystrad Mynach, Hengoed CF82 7PG
Pontypridd	Electoral Services, The Old Courthouse, Courthouse Street, Pontypridd CF37 1JW
Rhondda	Council Offices, The Pavilions, Cambrian Park, Clydach Vale CF40 2XX
Swansea Central and North	Morrison Library, Treharne Road, Swansea SA6 7AA Civic Centre, Oystermouth Road, Swansea SA1 3SN
Swansea East and Neath	Council Offices, Civic Centre, Neath SA11 3QZ
Swansea West and Gower	Gorseinon Library, 15 West Street, Gorseinon, Swansea SA4 4AA Gowerton Library, Mansel Street, Gowerton, Swansea SA4 3BU
Torfaen	Civic Centre, Pontypool NP4 6YB
Vale of Glamorgan	Civic Offices, Holton Road, Barry CF63 4RU
Wrexham	The Guildhall, Wrexham LL11 1WF
Ynys Môn	Election Services, Swyddfeydd y Cyngor, Llangefni LL77 7TW







**Comisiwn Ffniiau  
i Gymru**

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**Boundary Commission  
for Wales**

The Commission welcomes correspondence, e-mails and telephone calls either in English or Welsh.

To contact the Commission, please write to:

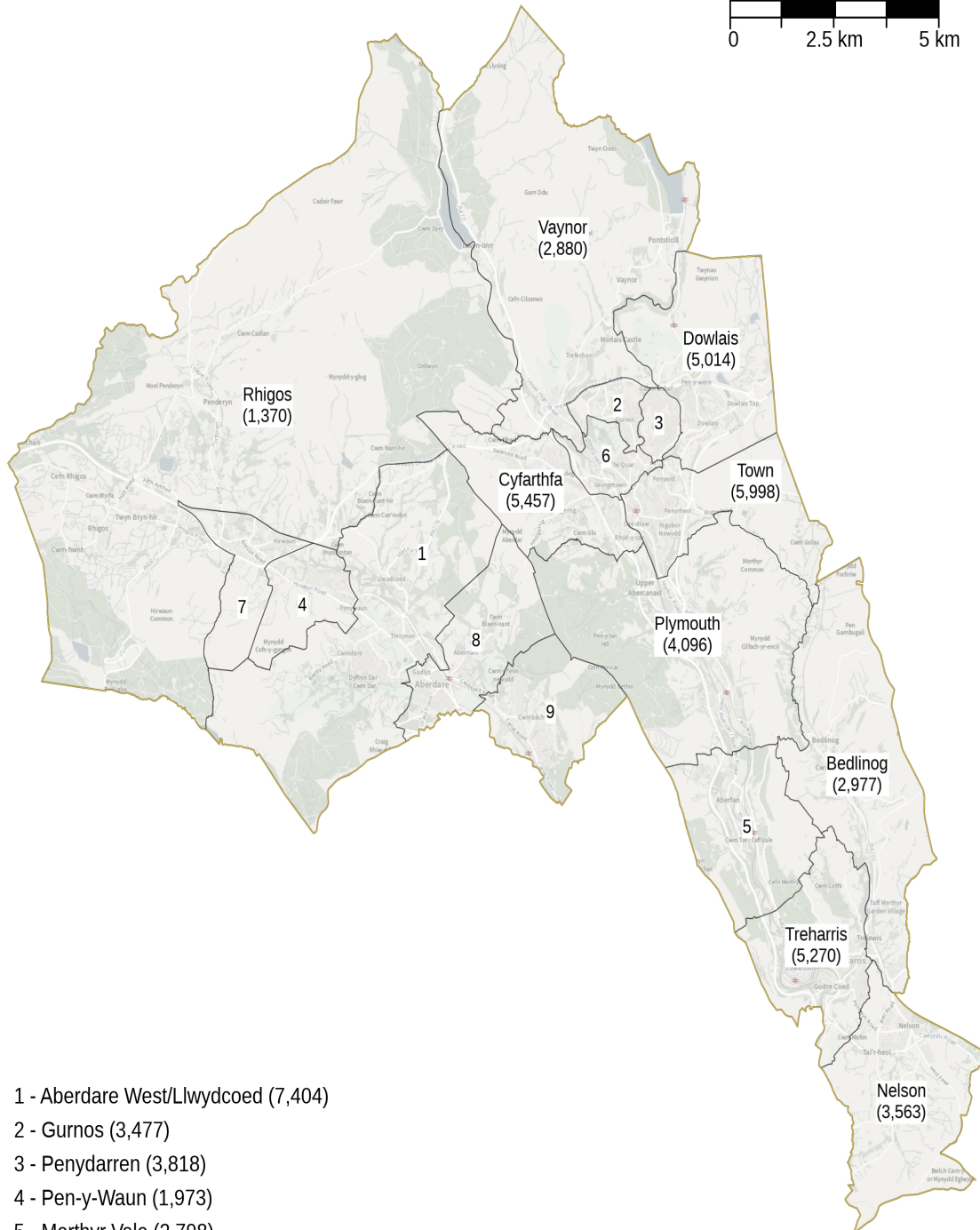
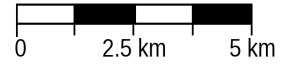
Boundary Commission for Wales  
Ground Floor, Hastings House, Fitzalan Court  
Cardiff, CF24 0BL

Telephone: +44 (0)29 20464819  
Telephone: +44 (0)29 21055521  
E-mail: [bcw@boundaries.wales](mailto:bcw@boundaries.wales)

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# Merthyr Tydfil and Aberdare (Merthyr Tudful ac Aberdâr)

1 : 37,124



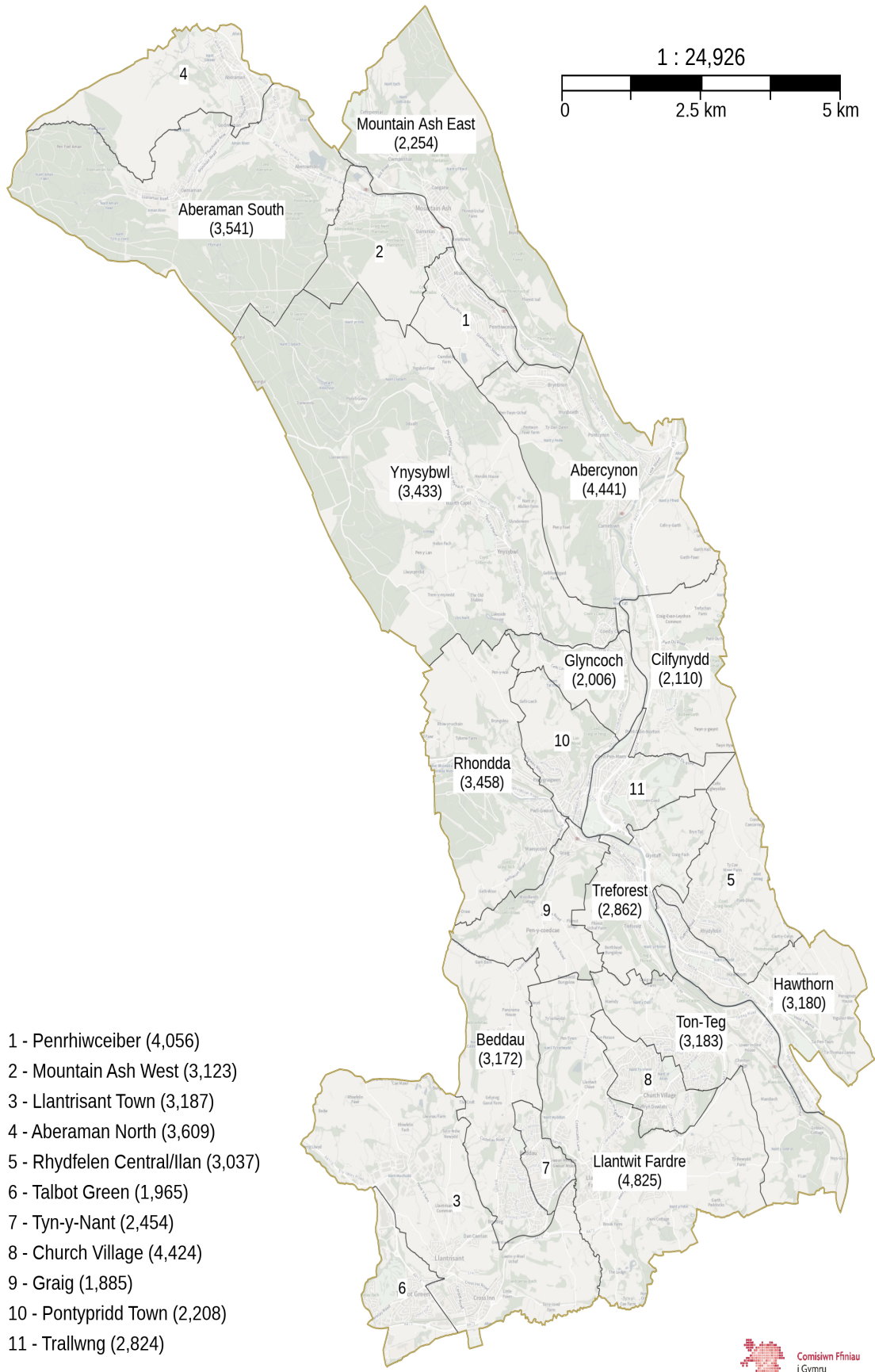
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- 2 - Gurnos (3,477)
- 3 - Penydarren (3,818)
- 4 - Pen-y-Waun (1,973)
- 5 - Merthyr Vale (2,798)
- 6 - Park (3,296)
- 7 - Hirwaun (3,167)
- 8 - Aberdare East (4,909)
- 9 - Cwmbach (3,751)

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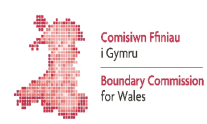
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# Pontypridd



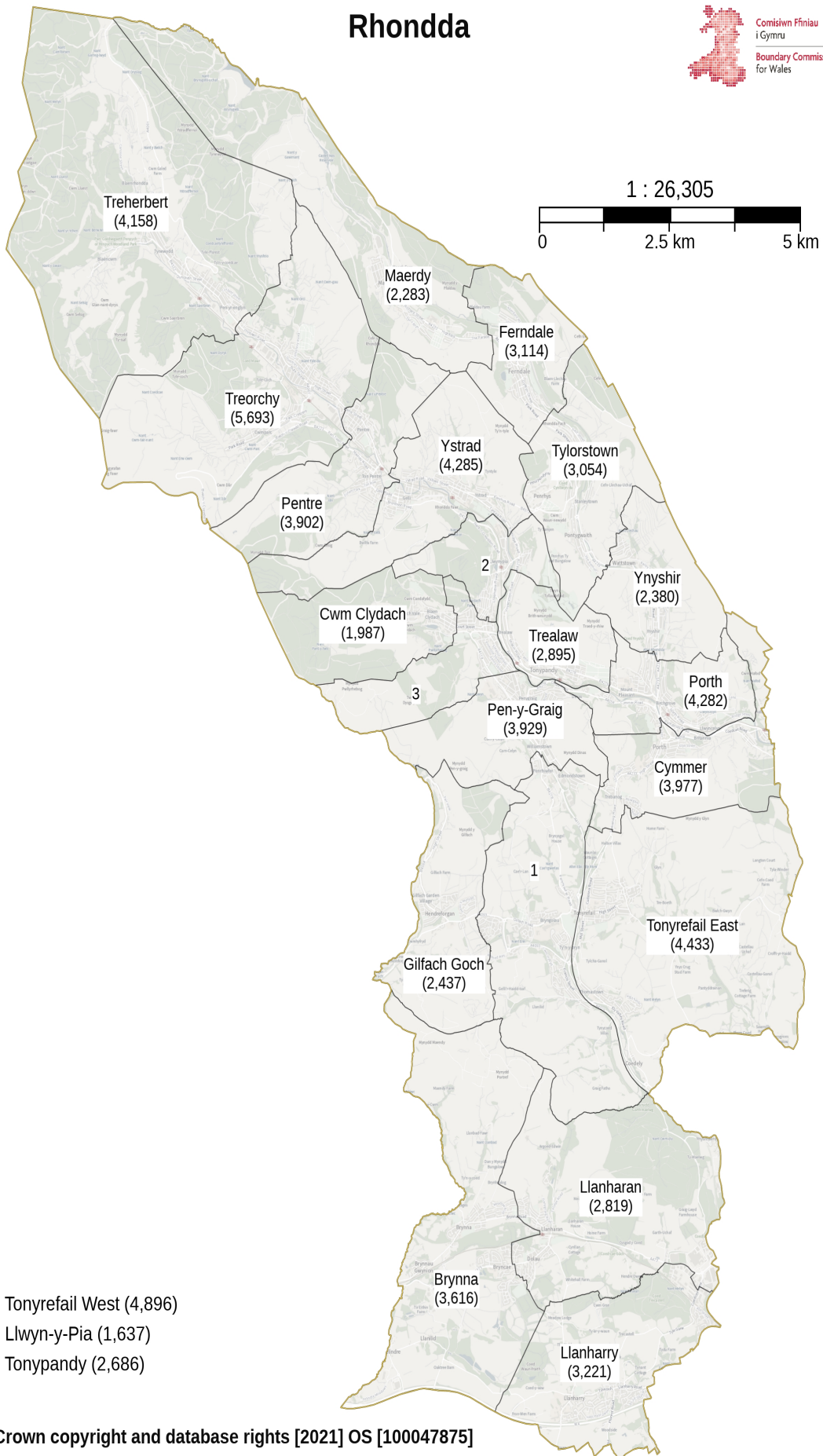
- 1 - Penrhiwceiber (4,056)
- 2 - Mountain Ash West (3,123)
- 3 - Llantrisant Town (3,187)
- 4 - Aberaman North (3,609)
- 5 - Rhydfelen Central/Ilan (3,037)
- 6 - Talbot Green (1,965)
- 7 - Tyn-y-Nant (2,454)
- 8 - Church Village (4,424)
- 9 - Graig (1,885)
- 10 - Pontypridd Town (2,208)
- 11 - Trallwng (2,824)

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# Rhondda



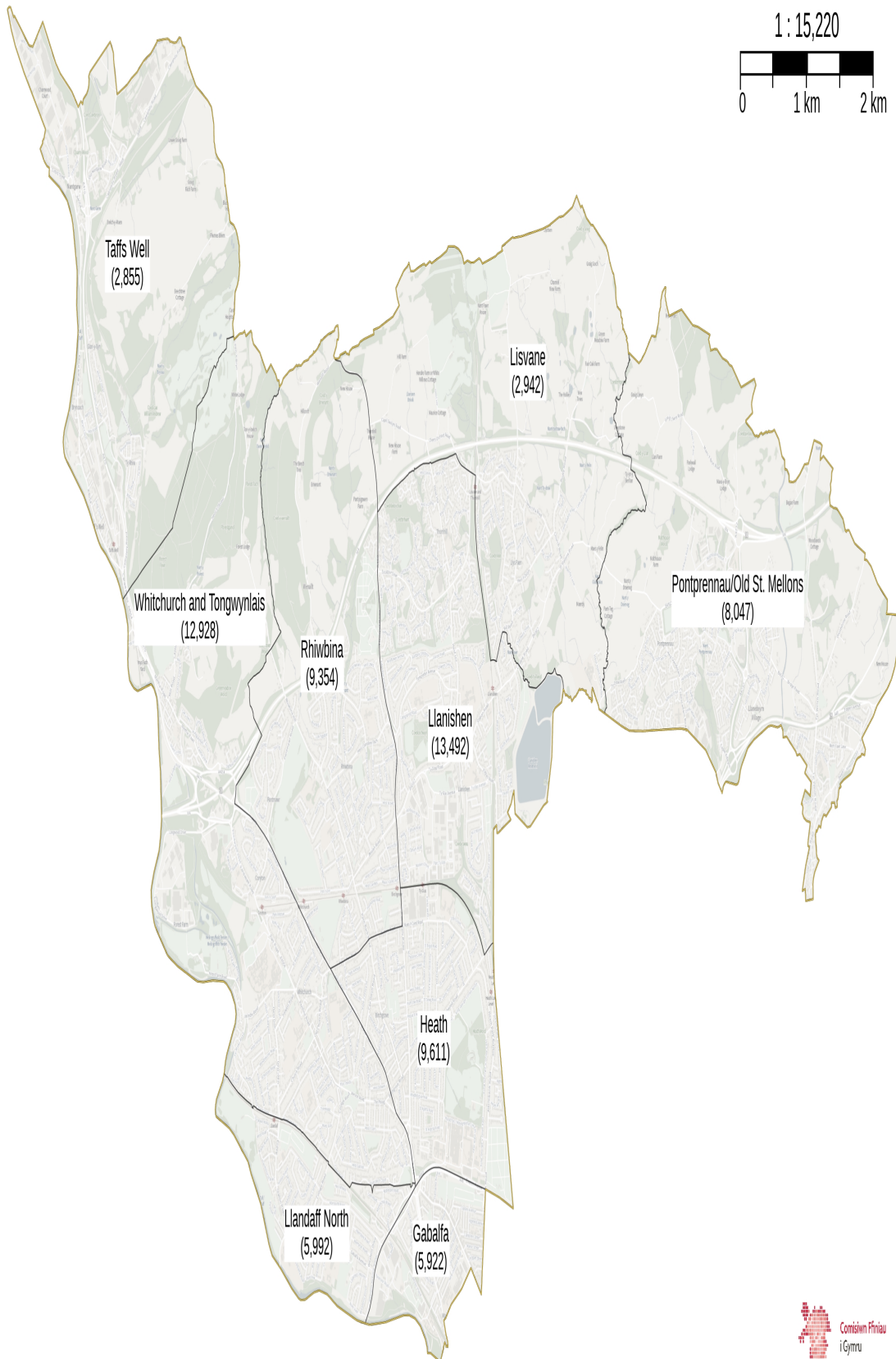
- 1 - Tonyrefail West (4,896)
- 2 - Llwyn-y-Pia (1,637)
- 3 - Tonypandy (2,686)

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# Cardiff North (Gogledd Caerdydd)

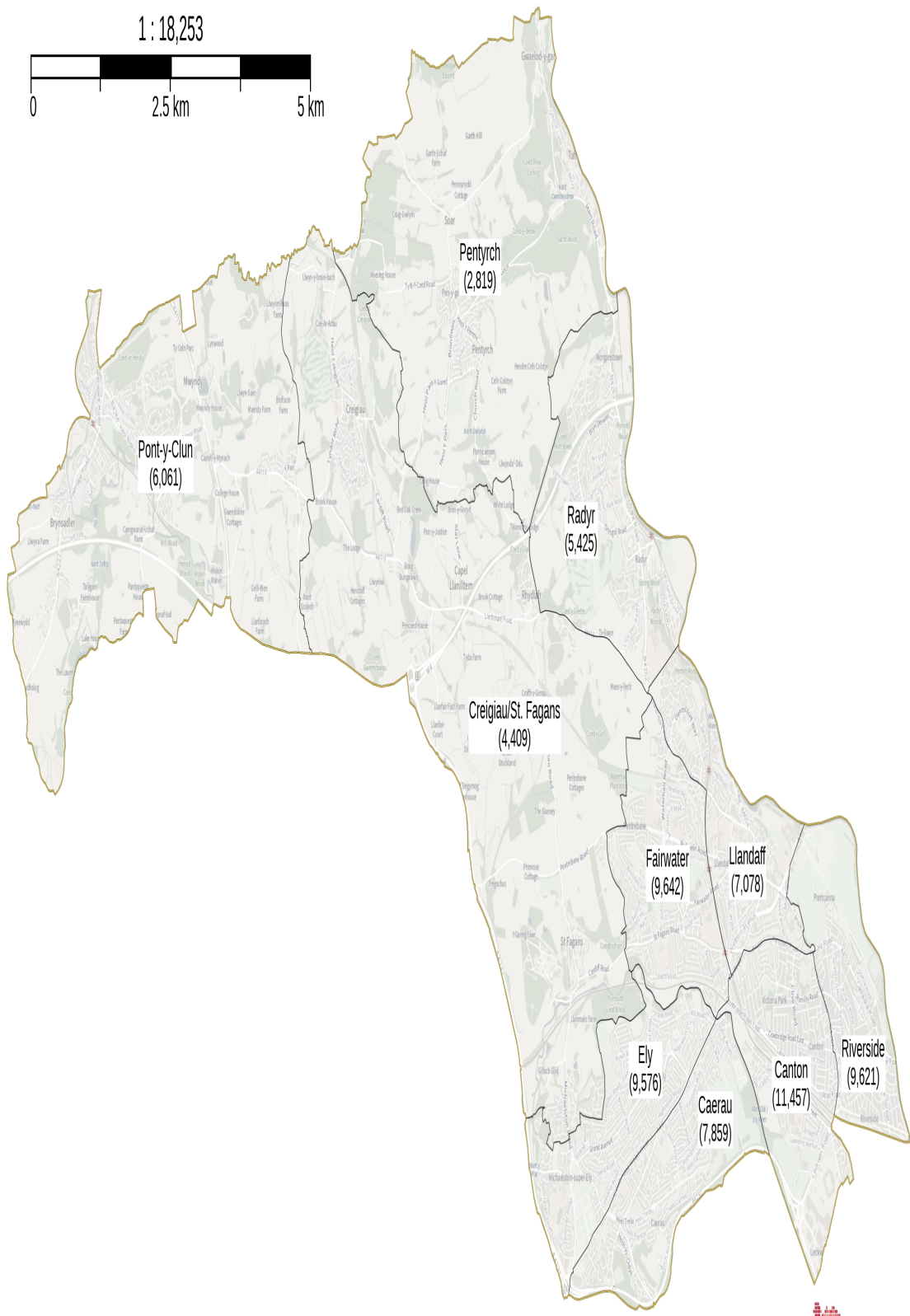


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# Cardiff West (Gorllewin Caerdydd)



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Comisiwn Ffiniau  
i Gymru

Boundary Commission  
for Wales

Boundary Commission  
for Wales 2023 Review of  
Parliamentary Constituencies

# Guide to the 2023 Review

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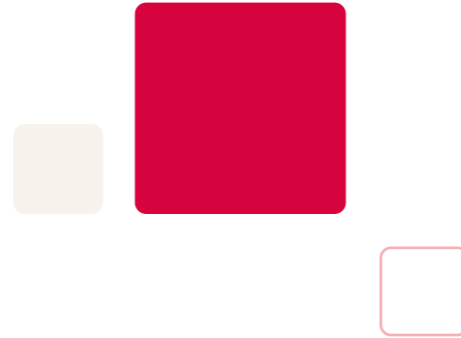
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This document is also available from our website at [www.bcomm-wales.gov.uk](http://www.bcomm-wales.gov.uk)

1st Edition – printed March 2021.

# Chapter 1: Introduction



## Who we are and what we do

1.1 The Boundary Commission for Wales ('the Commission') is an independent and impartial non-departmental public body. Our constitution is set out in Appendix A, and our current membership is:

<b>Chair</b>	The Speaker of the House of Commons
<b>Deputy Chair</b>	Mrs Justice Jefford DBE
<b>Commissioners</b>	Sam A Hartley Huw Vaughan Thomas CBE
<b>Secretary</b>	Shereen Williams MBE OStJ

1.2 We are responsible for reviewing parliamentary constituency boundaries in Wales on the basis of rules laid down by Parliament. We are currently required to submit a formal report by 1 July 2023 on the basis of rules set out in the Parliamentary Constituencies Act 1986 (as amended by the Parliamentary Constituencies Act 2020). This will involve a significant reduction in the number of constituencies in Wales from the current 40 to 32.

1.3 In order to prepare our report we will carry out a review process. We refer to this process as 'the 2023 Review'.

1.4 Public consultation will play an important part in the 2023 Review. We will develop and publish initial proposals setting out the changes we believe to be appropriate to the distribution, size, shape, name or designation of constituencies across Wales. We will then take into account written and oral representations from the public about our proposals, in a structured process designed to help us prepare recommendations for inclusion in the final report we will prepare for Parliament. The recommendations included in our report will be implemented by a subsequent process in Parliament.

1.5 We have produced this guide to help explain in more detail how the process for the 2023 Review will work. This guide is not intended to be a full statement of the law about the review. Instead, it covers what legislation says the Commission must do and the policies the Commission has decided to adopt in developing its proposals and final recommendations.

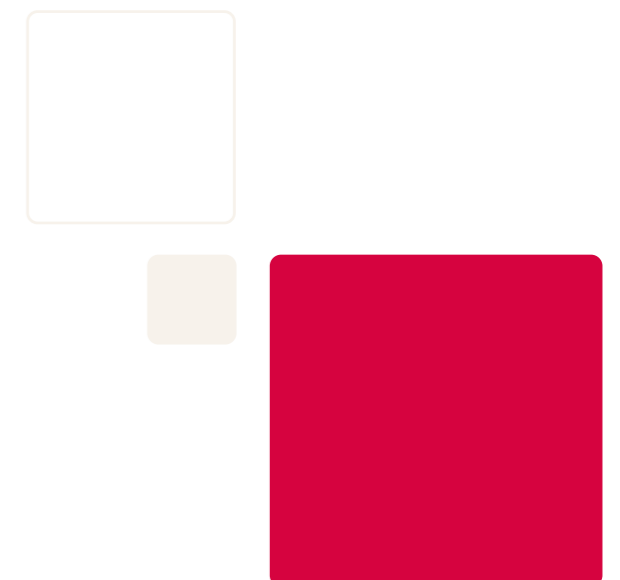
1.6 We hope this guide will clarify our processes and policies. We also hope that it will encourage those who may be thinking of making their views known to do so in a well-informed and effective manner. However, we recognise that individuals may wish to ask questions and we would ask that these be addressed to us at:

The Boundary Commission for Wales	<b>Telephone:</b>	029 2046 4819
Hastings House	<b>Fax:</b>	029 2046 4823
Fitzalan Court	<b>Email:</b>	bcw@boundaries.wales
Cardiff	<b>Website:</b>	www.bcomm-wales.gov.uk
CF24 0BL		

We will be updating information on our website throughout our review process and key documents will be available through the website.

1.7 Please note that there are separate Parliamentary Boundary Commissions for England, Scotland and Northern Ireland. There are also separate bodies with responsibility for the review of local government boundaries, including the Local Democracy and Boundary Commission in Wales and similar bodies in other parts of the UK. This guide is not intended to address the functions of these other boundary commissions and bodies.

1.8 We wish to stress that this review relates solely to the parliamentary constituencies and does not affect Senedd constituencies; principal council, electoral ward or community boundaries; taxes; or services. There is no requirement that the 40 Senedd constituencies be reviewed following any review of Westminster constituencies.



## Preparing for the review

### Electorate data for the 2023 Review

- 2.1 The Parliamentary Constituencies Act 1986 (as amended) (which we refer to in this guide as ‘the Act’) specifies which electorate figures are to be used by the Commission when carrying out a review. For the 2023 Review, the Commission is required to use the total number of persons whose names appeared on the published electoral register on 2 March 2020.
- 2.2 The Commission has obtained these electorate figures for the 2023 Review from the Office for National Statistics, and has published these figures on its website – [www.bcomm-wales.gov.uk/reviews/01-21/2023-review](http://www.bcomm-wales.gov.uk/reviews/01-21/2023-review).

### The distribution of constituencies

- 2.3 The Act states that there is to be a fixed number of 650 constituencies for the whole of the UK. The Act also provides a mathematical formula to determine how many constituencies should be allocated to each of the 4 parts of the UK (Wales, England, Scotland and Northern Ireland), based on the electorate figures referred to above.
- 2.4 In accordance with that formula, the number of constituencies allocated to Wales under the Act is 32. Welsh constituencies must be wholly within Wales, and cannot include areas of another part of the UK.

### Relevant local government boundaries

- 2.5 The Act says that the Commission may take into account “local government boundaries” as it develops its proposals for parliamentary constituencies. The Act defines local government boundaries in Wales as the boundaries of counties, county boroughs, electoral wards, communities and community wards that existed or were “prospective” on the “review date”.
- 2.6 For the 2023 Review, this means the local government boundaries referred to are those that were in force on 1 December 2020 (since there were no prospective boundaries in Wales on that date). These local government boundaries can be found in the Ordnance Survey’s BoundaryLine mapping product (October 2020 version available at [www.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/business-government/products/boundaryline](http://www.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/business-government/products/boundaryline)).

## Developing proposals – requirements and policy

### Statutory electorate range

- 3.1 Schedule 2 to the Act sets out a number of Rules (reproduced in Appendix B to this guide) that are relevant to the development of proposals for individual constituencies. Foremost among these is Rule 2, which provides that – apart from 5 specified exceptions in the UK – every constituency must have an electorate that is no less than 95% and no more than 105% of the ‘UK electoral quota’. The UK electoral quota for the 2023 Review is, to the nearest whole number, 73,393.
- 3.2 The only Welsh constituency that is not subject to the operation of the UK electoral quota is Ynys Môn.
- 3.3 Therefore, apart from the Ynys Môn, every constituency in Wales must have an electorate as at the review date that is no smaller than 69,724 and no larger than 77,062. We refer to these parameters as the ‘statutory electorate range’.

### Other statutory factors

- 3.4 Rule 5 in Schedule 2 to the Act specifies a number of other factors that the Commission may take into account as it develops proposals and recommendations for parliamentary constituencies, specifically:
- special geographical considerations, including, in particular, the size, shape and
  - accessibility of a constituency
  - local government boundaries that existed or were prospective on 1 December 2020 (see 2.5 above)
  - boundaries of existing constituencies
  - any ‘local ties’ that would be broken by changes in constituencies
  - the inconveniences attendant on such changes.

#### Special geographical considerations

- 3.5 The Commission considers that special geographical considerations that may have an impact on the boundaries of constituencies will primarily relate to physical geography such as mountains, hills, lakes, rivers, estuaries and islands, rather than to human or social geography. Matters of culture, history, socio-economics and other possible aspects of non-physical geography are more likely to arise as issues when considering the separate factor of local ties.

#### Local government boundaries and local ties

- 3.6 The Commission may take into account local government boundaries in developing its proposals and recommendations for parliamentary constituencies. These include both the external boundaries of principal councils, and their internal electoral ward, community, or community ward boundaries. More information about the local government boundaries that are relevant for these purposes is provided in Chapter 2 of this guide.
- 3.7 While the Commission will seek to take account of principal council external boundaries as far as practicable, it may nevertheless frequently be necessary to cross these boundaries to form constituencies that comply with the statutory electorate range.



3.8 The Commission will use electoral wards as the basic building blocks for designing constituencies.

3.9 The Commission will seek to avoid dividing electoral wards between constituencies. Electoral wards are well-defined and well-understood units, which are generally indicative of areas that have a broad community of interest. However, there may be circumstances in which it will be desirable to divide electoral wards, particularly when considering all the factors identified in Rules 2 to 5.

3.10 The Commission considers that existing community boundaries are likely to have been created in recognition of local ties, and are therefore likely to reflect local ties. The Commission's policy is therefore not to divide existing communities when it develops proposals and recommendations for parliamentary constituencies, unless there is no other available solution that would enable compliance with the statutory electorate range.

#### Boundaries of existing constituencies

3.11 The Commission intends to respect existing constituencies where it is possible to do so. However, this does not mean that an existing constituency should be considered to be protected from change simply because its electorate falls within the statutory electorate range. Nor does it mean that a constituency that falls only slightly outside the statutory range can necessarily expect to be only slightly amended to bring it within the statutory range. One of the effects of reducing the overall number of constituencies in Wales will be that existing constituencies with electorates within the statutory range may well need to be altered as a result of the need to comply with the requirements of the Act across Wales.

#### The inconveniences attendant on such changes

3.12 The Commission may take into account the inconveniences attendant on such changes, as set out in Rule 5 of Schedule 2 of the Act. The Commission is aware that the inconvenience of changes in Wales will be great due to the significant reduction in the number of constituencies in Wales that will result from the 2023 Review. This will mean that all existing constituencies (except for Ynys Mon) are very likely to be subject to a degree of change to enable the Commission to create a set of constituencies across the whole of Wales. The Commission will therefore try to reduce the inconvenience by creating constituencies that take into account local government boundaries and by using whole communities and whole electoral wards where possible.

### Interplay of the considerations

3.13 The policy of the Commission is to consider all the factors listed in Rule 5 as far as possible, subject to the primacy of the statutory electorate range under Rule 2.

3.14 Although Welsh constituencies (other than the Isle of Anglesey) must comply with the statutory electorate range (as described in paragraph 3.3 above), the Act does not require the Commission to seek to create constituencies with electorates that are as close as possible to the UK electoral quota. Nor does the Commission consider it appropriate to pursue a policy objective of minimising divergence from the UK electoral quota. Such an objective would undermine the ability of the Commission to take properly into account the factors listed in Rule 5.

Therefore, for example, the Commission would prefer to recommend a constituency that had, say, a 4% variance from the UK electoral quota, but that respected existing electoral wards, in preference to an alternative that produced a constituency with only a 1% variance, but that would split existing electoral wards.

3.15 As far as possible, the Commission will seek to recommend constituencies:

- made up of whole electoral wards that are adjacent to each other
- that do not contain 'detached parts', i.e. where the only physical connection between one part of the constituency and the remainder would require passage through a different constituency.

### Factors the Commission will not consider

#### Impact on future election results

3.16 The Commission is an independent and impartial body. As such, existing voting patterns and the prospective fortunes of political parties do not enter its considerations during a review.

#### New local government boundaries

3.17 The local government boundaries that the Commission may take into account are – as explained in Chapter 2 – those that existed in Wales on 1 December 2020 (since there were no 'prospective' boundaries in Wales on that date). Consequently, the Commission will not consider new local government boundaries that did not exist and had not been provided for by legislation on that date.

#### Changes to electorates after 2 March 2020

3.18 The Commission is required to work on the basis of the numbers of electors on the electoral register as at 2 March 2020. It is unable to take account of any alleged under-registration or over-registration of electors that may be claimed to have existed in particular areas as at that date.

### Naming and designating constituencies

3.19 In making its recommendations, the Commission is also required by the Act to specify a name and designation for each proposed constituency. The Act contains little guidance on these points.

#### Naming

3.20 The Commission's policy on the naming of constituencies is that, if constituencies remain largely unchanged, the existing constituency name should usually be kept. In such cases, constituency names are likely to be changed only where there is good reason for change.

3.21 For a new constituency, the name should normally reflect that of the principal council or principal councils wholly or mainly contained in the constituency. However, if there is an objection to the name proposed and there is a suitable alternative name that generally commands greater local support, the Commission will usually recommend that alternative.

3.22 The Commission adopts compass point names (North, South, East, West) when there is not a more suitable name. The compass point reference used will generally form a prefix in cases where a constituency name refers to the principal council area or former district council but a suffix where the rest of the name refers to a population centre. Examples of existing constituencies that demonstrate this principle are 'Carmarthen West and South Pembrokeshire' and 'Swansea West'.

3.23 The Commission considers that it is appropriate for each constituency in Wales to have alternative names in English and Welsh. This reflects the official status of the Welsh language in Wales. The Commission will therefore make recommendations that official alternatives should be provided in Welsh and English. Where a constituency name is acceptable in both Welsh and English there will be no alternative.

### Designating

- 3.24 The Act also requires that each constituency be designated as either a ‘county constituency’ or a ‘borough constituency’. The Commission considers that, as a general principle, where constituencies contain more than a small rural element they should normally be designated as county constituencies. In other cases, they should be designated as borough constituencies. The designation is suffixed to the constituency name and is usually abbreviated: BC for borough constituency and CC for county constituency.

### Welsh language

- 3.25 The Commission is committed to the use of the Welsh and English languages on a basis of equality and welcomes correspondence in either language.
- 3.26 Simultaneous translation facilities will be provided at the public hearings (See Chapter 4).
- 3.27 The Commission will publish all its guidance documents, reports and the representations it receives throughout the 2023 Review in both Welsh and English on its website.

### The impact of the legislation

- 3.28 As has been described above, the Act will mean that the number of constituencies in Wales will be reduced from 40 to 32, and every constituency (other than the Isle of Anglesey, as noted in paragraph 3.2) must have an electorate that is no less than 95% and no more than 105% of the UK electoral quota. The result will be a fundamental change to the existing pattern of constituencies in Wales.
- 3.29 The Commission wishes to make clear from the outset that, given the relatively small number of electors in rural parts of Wales, it is inevitable that there will be some geographically large constituencies. Also, due to the limited numbers of electors in some of the South Wales Valleys areas, constituencies may be formed that encompass more than one valley. Furthermore, in some areas the division of principal councils may be unavoidable. Compromises will need to be made in order to create a pattern of constituencies across Wales that adheres to the Rules of the legislation. It is important to understand that even small changes to one constituency may impact on adjacent areas and possibly the whole of Wales.

## Chapter 4:

# Developing proposals

- 4.1 The 2023 Review will follow a detailed process laid down by the Act. That process involves the development of proposals by the Commission, followed by opportunities for individuals and organisations to submit written representations and to make oral representations at public hearings.
- 4.2 At the conclusion of the process, the Commission will prepare a final report containing its recommendations for parliamentary constituencies in Wales. Those recommendations will then be implemented by a process in Parliament, and will take effect at the following UK general election.

### The importance of participation

- 4.3 The Commission wishes to encourage individuals and organisations interested in its proposals for their area to make written or oral representations to the Commission, whether for or against the proposals.
- 4.4 Those who give their views – whether orally or in writing – are requested to say whether they approve of, or object to, the Commission’s proposals. Objectors are particularly advised to say what they propose in place of the Commission’s proposals. An objection accompanied by a viable counterproposal is likely to carry more weight than a simple statement of objection. In this respect – and particularly in light of the importance of the statutory electorate range – a counterproposal addressing the composition of each constituency in an area will generally be viewed as more persuasive than a proposal for the composition of only one constituency that does not address any knock-on effects on the electorate figures of other constituencies.
- 4.5 Individuals and organisations are particularly encouraged to make representations at the appropriate stage of the statutory process. For example, people who do not submit representations in support of the Commission’s initial proposals may find that the Commission subsequently publishes, in the light of objections received from others, revised proposals or final recommendations that they do not support. It is therefore important (by way of example) that people who support the Commission’s initial proposals should say so during the initial consultation period (which is described further below).
- 4.6 Full and timely participation in the 2023 Review will help the Commission to understand local opinion on its proposals more accurately and will increase the likelihood that the Commission’s final recommendations will be generally acceptable to the majority of those who will have to live and work with them.
- 4.7 If you would like to be informed when the Commission publishes documentation in relation to the 2023 Review, you can sign up for updates on our website.

## Preparation of initial proposals

- 4.8 At the start of the statutory process, the Commission will prepare its initial proposals for parliamentary constituencies in Wales.
- 4.9 The Commission will develop its initial proposals in the light of the rules and factors referred to in Chapter 3 of this guide. The Commission will not use a single, predetermined geographic starting point for the development of its proposals. Instead, a wide range of options will be considered. Only after the consideration of a number of schemes of constituencies for the whole of Wales will the Commission decide on initial proposals.

## Publication of initial proposals

- 4.10 When the Commission has decided on its initial proposals, it will publish the proposals and an accompanying report on its website, together with detailed information about how and when views on those proposals can be submitted. At the same time, it will send hard copies of the proposals to various local ‘places of deposit’, where the public may view the proposals.
- 4.11 The places of deposit where the public may inspect the proposals will usually be the offices of the relevant local authority, although other places such as public libraries may be used, particularly in the areas of geographically larger constituencies. A full list of places of deposit will be published on the Commission’s website at the same time as the proposals.
- 4.12 In addition to the initial proposals and its report on them, to help the public better understand the proposals, the Commission will provide at places of deposit and on its website detailed maps showing, among other information, the proposed name, designation and boundary of each proposed constituency.
- 4.13 To publicise the initial proposals, the Commission will embark on an advertising campaign focused on bringing the proposals and the opportunity to submit views on the proposals to the attention of the public. The Commission will also send copies of its proposals to interested parties (for example, principal councils and MPs). Principal councils and the House of Commons Library will also receive copies of the detailed maps.

## Initial consultation period

- 4.14 Following publication of the Commission’s initial proposals, there will be an 8-week period during which written representations can be made to the Commission in relation to the initial proposals. This is known as the ‘initial consultation period’.
- 4.15 Details of how individuals and organisations can make written representations during the initial consultation period, including the last date for receipt of representations, will be published alongside the initial proposals themselves. It is crucial that representations are submitted in enough time to ensure that they are received within the initial consultation period.

## Secondary consultation period

- 4.16 As soon as possible after the end of the initial consultation period, the Commission will publish all the representations it receives during that period on its website in both Welsh and English.
- 4.17 Once the representations have been published, there will be a further 6-week period during which people can submit written comments on the representations received by the Commission during the initial consultation period. This further 6-week period is known as the ‘secondary consultation period’.
- 4.18 Therefore, during the secondary consultation period comments can be submitted to the Commission challenging or supporting assertions made by others in previous written representations.
- 4.19 During this period the Commission must also hold public hearings.

### Public hearings

- 4.20 Legislation requires the Commission to hold at least 2 and no more than 5 public hearings in Wales. The public hearings in Wales will concern the Commission’s initial proposals for Wales and will between them cover the whole of Wales.
- 4.21 The details of locations and dates for the hearings will be announced on the Commission’s website .
- 4.22 A public hearing is intended to provide an opportunity for people to make oral representations about any of the Commission’s initial proposals (including the naming of constituencies) and to present any counterproposals.
- 4.23 Representations at each public hearing are likely to focus on proposals for the area closest to the location of the hearing, but representations may be made that relate to any part of Wales.
- 4.24 Each hearing will be chaired by an independent Assistant Commissioner, who controls proceedings. The chair may decide on the order in which participants are invited to speak, the time allotted to individual speakers, and (if necessary due to shortage of time) on who is permitted to speak. The chair will also control questioning of individuals making representations and others at the hearing.
- 4.25 Once details of the dates and locations of the public hearings have been published, individuals wishing to make oral representations at one of the hearings are encouraged to give advance notice to the Commission. Details of how to request a speaking slot at a public hearing will be published following the initial consultation period. The Commission will try to accommodate individual requests for a particular time or date but it cannot guarantee that this will be possible.
- 4.26 The duration of speaking slots may be limited, so representations should ideally be clear, concise, and focused. Those intending to speak at a public hearing may also need to be reasonably flexible about when exactly they are asked to start and finish their representations.
- 4.27 To aid the Assistant Commissioner in managing the hearing, it is likely to be helpful if a synopsis or outline of the points each speaker wishes to make is provided in advance. For practical reasons, the Commission will also need advance notice and supply of any visual aids to be used during the making of oral representations at public hearings.
- 4.28 As far as possible, details of the procedures to be followed at public hearings will be published in advance of the hearings.

4.29 The public hearings will be live-streamed on the Commission’s website with closed caption and simultaneous translation options available.

4.30 The Commission is considering the alternative arrangements that it will need to put in place should the current COVID-19 restrictions still be in place at the time of its public hearings. More information will be given on any alternative arrangements in due course.

### Consideration of representations and revised proposals

4.31 Following the Commission’s public hearings, Assistant Commissioners will consider all the written representations received during the initial consultation period and the secondary consultation period, as well as all oral representations made at public hearings during the secondary consultation period. A ‘lead’ Assistant Commissioner will then write a report for the Commission, summarising and considering the representations and recommending whether – and, if so, how – the Commission’s initial proposals should be revised in the light of those representations.

4.32 The Commission will consider the report and determine whether and to what extent revisions should be made to its initial proposals.

### Third consultation period

4.33 After the end of the secondary consultation period, the Commission will publish on its website all the written representations received during the secondary consultation period, together with transcripts of its public hearings in both Welsh and English.

4.34 Once these representations and transcripts have been published there will be a further 4-week period during which individuals and organisations can submit written comments in relation to representations made at the Commission’s public hearings. Comments may be made challenging or supporting assertions and arguments made at the hearings.

4.35 This further 4-week period is known as the ‘third consultation period’.

4.36 If, following the secondary consultation period, the Commission decides to revise its initial proposals, it will also publish its revised proposals, together with an accompanying report, before the start of the third consultation period. Any revised proposals and accompanying materials will be published on the Commission’s website and sent to local places of deposit in the same manner described in paragraphs 4.10 to 4.12 above.

4.37 Representations in relation to any revised proposals can be made during the 4 weeks of the third consultation period. However, there are no public hearings in relation to revised proposals, nor does the Act provide for a subsequent opportunity to make representations in response to the representations of others.

4.38 The Commission will publish all the written representations received during the third consultation period in relation to any revised proposals in both Welsh and English on the Commission’s website at the same time as it publishes its final recommendations.

### Final recommendations and report

4.39 After the end of the third consultation period the Commission will consider what final recommendations to make for parliamentary constituencies in Wales. The Commission will take into account all written representations received during the initial consultation period, the secondary consultation period and the third consultation period (including in relation to any revised proposals published by the Commission prior to the third consultation period) and all representations made at the Commission’s public hearings. The manner in which a representation was made (whether orally or in writing) will not influence the weight that the Commission gives to that representation when considering its final recommendations.

4.40 Once the Commission has decided on its final recommendations for Wales, it will then prepare and submit a formal written report to the Speaker of the House of Commons by 1 July 2023. The report, which will be published by the Commission once the Speaker has laid it before Parliament, will contain a description of the Commission’s review, a description of the Commission’s final recommendations, and a set of maps to illustrate the existing constituencies and those recommended by the Commission.

4.41 The submission of the formal final report will conclude the Commission’s role in the review process. The procedure for implementing recommended constituencies is the responsibility of the United Kingdom Government and Parliament and is set out in the next chapter.

## Chapter 5: After the final report

### Parliamentary procedure

- 5.1 After the Speaker has received the Commission's final report, he or she must lay it before Parliament. Once reports from all 4 UK Boundary Commissions have been laid before Parliament, the Secretary of State or the Minister for the Cabinet Office must submit to Her Majesty in Council a draft of an Order in Council for giving effect to the recommendations in the reports.
- 5.2 In preparing that draft, the Government may not modify the recommendations of any of the Parliamentary Boundary Commissions, unless it has been expressly requested to do so (in writing and with reasons) by the relevant Parliamentary Boundary Commission.
- 5.3 After the Order in Council has been made, the new constituencies will take effect at the next general election. Any by-elections held in the meantime must be held on the basis of the old (existing) constituencies.

## Appendix A: Constitution of the commission

### In accordance with Schedule 1 to the Parliamentary Constituencies Act 1986 (as amended).

1. **Chair**  
The Speaker of the House of Commons is the Chair of each of the 4 Boundary Commissions. This is an ex officio appointment and the Speaker generally plays no part in the substantive work of the Commission.
2. **Three other members**
  - i.) The Deputy Chair who presides over the Commission's meetings, is a judge of the High Court appointed by the Lord Chancellor.
  - ii.) Two other members are appointed by the UK Government.  
Current membership of the Commission can be found on the website.
3. **Two assessors** (available to provide technical advice and support as necessary)
  - i.) The Statistics Board.
  - ii.) The Director General of the Ordnance Survey.
4. **Secretary**  
The secretary is appointed by the UK Government.
5. **Assistant Commissioners**  
The UK Government may, at the request of the Commission, appoint one or more Assistant Commissioners to assist the Commission in the discharge of their functions. Assistant Commissioners appointed may, for example, serve as Chairs at the public hearings.

# Rules For Constituencies

## (Schedule 2 to the Parliamentary Constituencies Act 1986 (as amended))

### Number of constituencies

1 The number of constituencies in the United Kingdom shall be 650.

### Electorate per constituency

- 2 (1) The electorate of any constituency shall be –
- no less than 95% of the United Kingdom electoral quota, and
  - no more than 105% of that quota.
- (2) This rule is subject to rules 4(2), 6(3) and 7.
- (3) In this Schedule the ‘United Kingdom electoral quota’ means –  $U/645$  where U is the electorate of the United Kingdom minus the electorate of the constituencies mentioned in rule 6.

### Allocation of constituencies to parts of the United Kingdom

- 3 (1) Each constituency shall be wholly in one of the 4 parts of the United Kingdom (England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland).
- (2) The number of constituencies in each part of the United Kingdom shall be determined in accordance with the allocation method set out in rule 8.

### Area of constituencies

- 4 (1) A constituency shall not have an area of more than 13,000 square kilometres.
- (2) A constituency does not have to comply with rule 2(1) (a) if –
- it has an area of more than 12,000 square kilometres, and
  - the Boundary Commission concerned is satisfied that it is not reasonably possible for the constituency to comply with that rule.

### Factors

- 5 (1) A Boundary Commission may take into account, if and to such extent as it thinks fit –
- special geographical considerations, including in particular the size, shape and accessibility of a constituency,
  - local government boundaries that exist, or are prospective, on the review date,
  - boundaries of existing constituencies,
  - any local ties that would be broken by changes in constituencies, and
  - the inconveniences attendant on such changes.
- (1A) In the case of a local government boundary that is prospective on the review date, it is that boundary rather than any existing boundary that it replaces, that may be taken into account under sub-paragraph (1)(b).  
[...]
- (3) This rule has effect subject to rules 2 and 4.

### Protected constituencies

- 6 (1) There shall be 2 constituencies in the Isle of Wight.
- (2) There shall continue to be –
- a constituency named Orkney and Shetland, comprising the areas of the Orkney Islands Council and the Shetland Islands Council,
  - a constituency named Na h-Eileanan an Iar, comprising the area of Comhairle nan Eilean Siar. and
  - a constituency named Ynys Môn, comprising the area of the Isle of Anglesey County Council.
- (3) Rule 2 does not apply to these constituencies.

[...]

### The allocation method

- 8 (1) The allocation method referred to in rule 3(2) is as follows.
- (2) The first constituency shall be allocated to the part of the United Kingdom with the greatest electorate.
- (3) The second and subsequent constituencies shall be allocated in the same way, except that the electorate of a part of the United Kingdom to which one or more constituencies have already been allocated is to be divided by –  $2C+1$  where C is the number of constituencies already allocated to that part.
- (4) Where the figure given by sub-paragraph (3) above is the same for 2 or more parts of the United Kingdom, the part to which a constituency is to be allocated shall be the one with the smaller or smallest actual electorate.
- (5) This rule does not apply to the constituencies mentioned in rule 6, and accordingly–
- the electorate of England shall be treated for the purposes of this rule as reduced by the electorate of the constituencies mentioned in rule 6(1),
  - the electorate of Scotland shall be treated for the purposes of this rule as reduced by the electorate of the constituencies mentioned in rule 6(2)(a) and (b), and
  - the electorate of Wales shall be treated for the purposes of this rule as reduced by the electorate of the constituency mentioned in rule 6(2)(c).

### Interpretation

- 9 (1) This rule has effect for the purposes of this Schedule.
- (2) Subject to sub-paragraph (2A), the ‘electorate’ of the United Kingdom, or of a part of the United Kingdom or a constituency, is the total number of persons whose names appear on the relevant version of a register of parliamentary electors in respect of addresses in the United Kingdom, or in that part or that constituency.

For this purpose the relevant version of a register is the version that is required by virtue of subsection (1) of section 13 of the Representation of the People Act 1983 to be published no later than the review date, or would be so required but for –

- any power under that section to prescribe a later date, or
- subsection (1A) of that section.

- (2A) In relation to a report under section 3(1) that a Boundary Commission is required (by section 3(2)) to submit before 1 July 2023, the ‘electorate’ of the United Kingdom, or of a part of the United Kingdom or a constituency, is the total number of persons whose names appear on a register of parliamentary electors (maintained under section 9 of the Representation of the People Act 1983) in respect of addresses in the United Kingdom, or in that part or that constituency, as that register has effect on 2 March 2020.

- (3) ‘Local government boundaries’ are –
- in England, the boundaries of counties and their electoral divisions, districts and their wards, London boroughs and their wards and the City of London,
  - in Wales, the boundaries of counties, county boroughs, electoral divisions, communities and community wards,
  - in Scotland, the boundaries of local government areas and the electoral wards into which they are divided under section 1 of the Local Governance (Scotland) Act 2004, and
  - in Northern Ireland, the boundaries of wards.
- (3A) A local government boundary is ‘prospective’ on a particular date if, on that date –
- it is specified in a provision of primary or secondary legislation, but
  - that provision is not yet in force for all purposes.
- (3B) For that purpose –
- ‘primary legislation’ means –
    - an Act of Parliament,
    - an Act of the Scottish Parliament,
    - an Act of Senedd Cymru, or
    - Northern Ireland legislation, and
  - ‘secondary legislation’ means an instrument made under primary legislation.
- (4) ‘Ordinary council-election day’ is –
- in relation to England and Wales, the ordinary day of election of councillors for local government areas,
  - in relation to Scotland, the day on which the poll is held at ordinary elections of councillors for local government areas, and
  - in relation to Northern Ireland, the day of an election for any district council (other than an election to fill a casual vacancy).
- (5) The ‘review date’, in relation to a report under section 3(1) of this Act that a Boundary Commission is required (by section 3(2)) to submit before a particular date, is –
- 1 December 2020 in the case of a report required to be submitted before 1 July 2023, and
  - in the case of a report required to be submitted before any other particular date, the date which is 2 years and 10 months before that date.
- (For example, 1 December 2028 in the case of a report required to be submitted before 1 October 2031).
- (6) ‘The United Kingdom electoral quota’ has the meaning given by rule 2(3).
- (7) A reference in rule 6(2)(a) or (b) to an area is to the area as it existed on the coming into force of Part 2 of the Parliamentary Voting System and Constituencies Act 2011, and the reference in rule 6(2)(c) to the area of the Isle of Anglesey County Council is to the area as it existed on the coming into force of the Schedule to the Parliamentary Constituencies Act 2020.

## Appendix C:

# Glossary and abbreviations

<b>The Act</b>	The Parliamentary Constituencies Act 1986 (as amended).
<b>Assessor</b>	Statutorily appointed technical adviser to the Commission, being either the Statistics Board or the Director General of the Ordnance Survey.
<b>Assistant Commissioner</b>	Person appointed by the UK Government at the request of the Commission to assist the Commission in the discharge of its functions.
<b>Borough constituency – Abbreviated to BC</b>	Parliamentary constituency containing a predominantly urban area.
<b>Community (areas and wards)</b>	The whole of Wales is divided into community areas. Many community areas have community or town councils. Where a community area has a community or town council, then these areas may be divided into wards for electoral purposes. The electoral wards of Wales are created using these community areas (and wards) as their building blocks.
<b>County constituency – Abbreviated to CC</b>	Parliamentary constituency containing a significant rural element.
<b>Designation</b>	Classification as either a borough constituency or as a county constituency.
<b>Electoral quota</b>	The average number of electors per constituency in the United Kingdom, calculated by dividing the total electorate of the United Kingdom by 645 (the number of parliamentary constituencies for the United Kingdom minus those with specific exemptions).
<b>Electoral ward</b>	The areas into which principal council areas in Wales are divided for the purpose of electing members of the principal council; previously referred to as electoral divisions.
<b>Electorate</b>	The number of registered parliamentary electors in a given area.
<b>Final recommendations</b>	The recommendations contained in the Commission’s report to the Speaker of the House of Commons at the end of a review under the Act.
<b>Initial consultation period</b>	A designated period of 8 weeks within which individuals and organisations may make written representations to the Commission in relation to its initial proposals.
<b>Initial proposals</b>	The initial proposals for parliamentary constituencies in Wales that the Commission will publish during the 2023 Review.

**Principal council**

The single tier organ of local government responsible for all or almost all local government functions within its area, which in Wales replaced the two tier system of county councils and district councils: a county council, or a county borough council.

**Public hearing**

Formal opportunity in a given area for people to make oral representations in relation to the Commission’s proposals, chaired normally by an Assistant Commissioner. There must be at least 2 and no more than 5 public hearings in Wales, and each must be completed within 2 days.

**Representations**

Views and arguments provided by individuals or organisations to the Commission in relation to its proposals, either for or against them, including counterproposals and petitions.

**Revised proposals**

Revised proposals for parliamentary constituencies in Wales that may be published by the Commission after the end of the secondary consultation period.

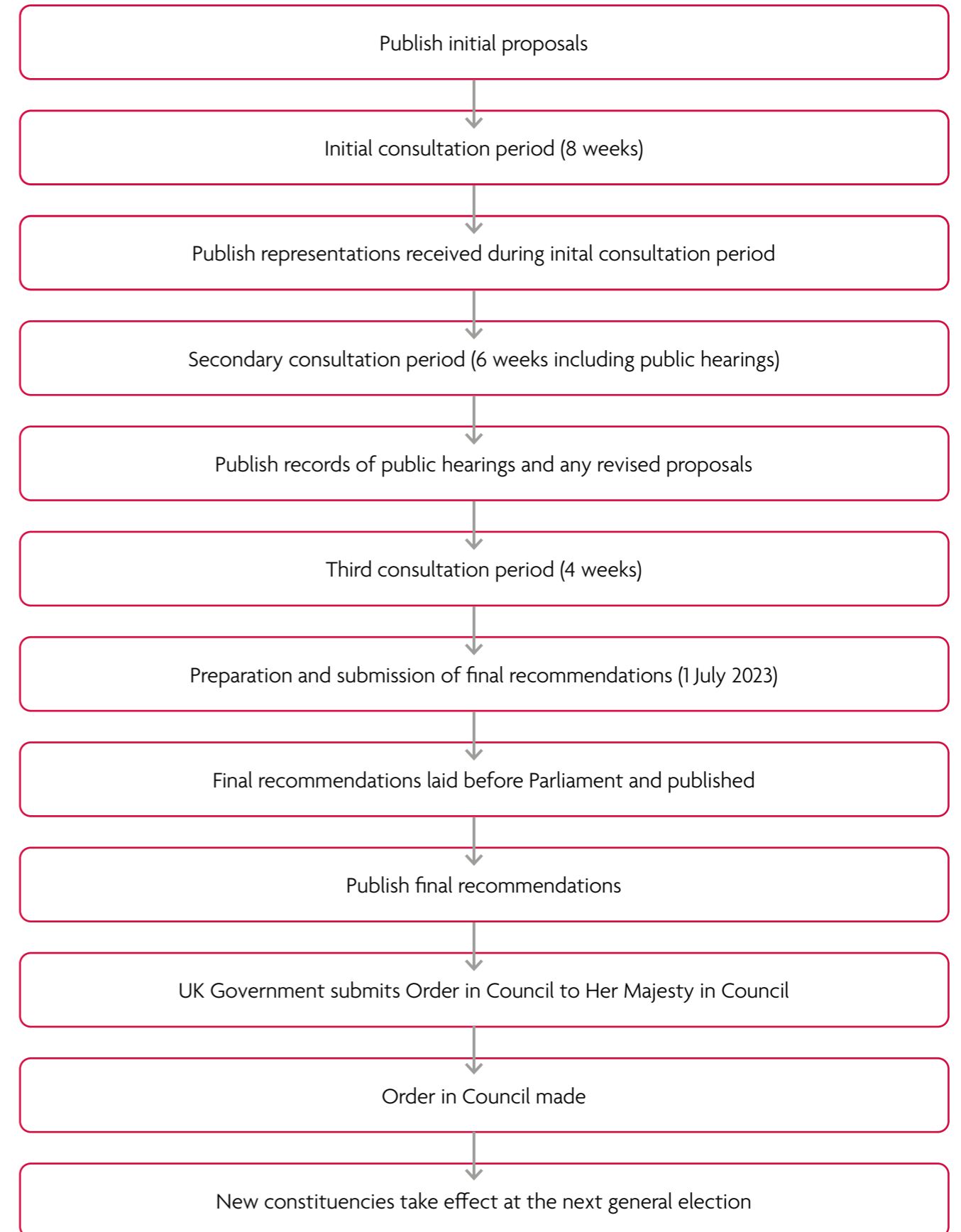
**Secondary consultation period**

A designated period of 6 weeks during which individuals and organisations may submit written representations to the Commission in relation to representations previously submitted during the initial consultation period, and during which public hearings will be held.

**Third consultation period**

A designated period of 4 weeks during which individuals and organisations may submit written representations to the Commission in relation to oral representations that were made during public hearings, and in relation to any revised proposals that the Commission may publish.

## Appendix D: Process flow chart







**Comisiwn Ffniâu  
i Gymru**

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**Boundary Commission  
for Wales**

The Commission welcomes correspondence, e-mails and telephone calls either in English or Welsh.

To contact the Commission, please write to:

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## RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

### COUNCIL

29<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2021

### CHANGES TO MEMBERSHIP

#### REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR OF DEMOCRATIC SERVICES & COMMUNICATIONS

**Author:** Emma Wilkins – Council Business Unit – Democratic Services.

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

- 1.1 To advise Members of the change to the Labour representation on the Children & Young People Scrutiny Committee, Public Service Delivery, Communities and Prosperity Scrutiny Committee and the Governance & Audit Committee.

#### **2. RECOMMENDATION**

- 2.1 To note that County Borough Councillor J Barton is to be nominated in place of County Borough Councillor G Caple on the Governance and Audit Committee.
- 2.2 To note that County Borough Councillor J Barton is to be nominated in place of County Borough Councillor J Harries on the Public Service Delivery, Communities and Prosperity Scrutiny Committee.
- 2.3 To note that County Borough Councillor J Barton is to be nominated in place of County Borough Councillor D Owen-Jones on the Children & Young People Scrutiny Committee.

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

- 3.1 The need to advise Members of the changes put forward by the Labour group in respect of scrutiny and Governance & Audit Committee Membership.

#### **4 CHANGES TO MEMBERSHIP**

- 4.1 In accordance with the decision taken by Minute No.9 of the Council meeting held on the 26<sup>th</sup> May, 2021, I have received notification from the labour group of the following change in membership:
  - A change to its membership for the Governance & Audit Committee in that County Borough Councillor J Barton is to be nominated in place of County Borough Councillor G Caple

- A change to its membership for the Public Service Delivery, Communities and Prosperity Scrutiny Committee in that County Borough Councillor J Barton is to be nominated in place of County Borough Councillor J Harries
- A change to its membership for the Children & Young People Scrutiny Committee in that County Borough Councillor J Barton is to be nominated in place of County Borough Councillor D Owen-Jones

## **5. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS**

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

## **6. CONSULTATION**

- 6.1 There are no consultation implications aligned to this report.

## **7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

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

## **8. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 8.1 As in accordance with the Council's Scrutiny Committee membership requirements – Council Constitution.

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

- 9.1 The work of scrutiny encompasses all of the Council's Corporate Plan objectives, therefore it is important to ensure the Committees membership is complete and accurate to undertake such scrutiny.

## **10 CONCLUSION**

- 10.1 To provide Members with information in respect of the Committee memberships going forward.

### **Other Information:-**

*Relevant Scrutiny Committee – Not applicable*

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972**

**AS AMENDED BY**

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

**RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**COUNCIL**

**29<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER, 2021**

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

**CHANGE OF MEMBERSHIP**

**Background Papers**

Freestanding Matter

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