



CYNGOR BWRDEISTREF SIROL
RHONDDA CYNON TAF
COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

GWŶS I GYFARFOD PWYLLGOR

C Hanagan
Cyfarwyddwr Gwasanaeth – Gwasanaethau Democrataidd a Chyfathrebu
Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Rhondda Cynon Taf
Y Pafiliynau Parc Hen Lofa'r Cambrian
Cwm Clydach, CF40 2XX

Dolen gyswllt: Julia Nicholls - Gwasanaethau Democrataidd (01443 424098)

DYMA WŶS I CHI i gyfarfod rhithwir o **GYNGOR BWRDEISTREF SIROL RHONDDA CYNON TAF** sydd i'w gynnal ar **DYDD MERCHER, 20FED HYDREF, 2021** am **5.00 PM.**

AMSER (Munud)	EITEM	TUDALEN(N AU)
5 Munud	EITEM 1. DATGANIAD O FUDDIANT Derbyn datganiadau o fuddiannau personol gan Aelodau yn unol â gofynion Cod Ymddygiad y Cyngor 1. Mae gofyn i Aelodau ddatgan rhif a phwnc yr agenda y mae eu buddiant yn ymwneud ag e a mynegi natur y buddiant personol hwnnw; a 2. Lle bo Aelodau'n ymneilltuo o'r cyfarfod o ganlyniad i ddatgelu buddiant personol sy'n rhagfarnu, rhaid iddyn nhw roi gwybod i'r Cadeirydd pan fyddan nhw'n gadael.	
10 Munud	EITEM 2. CYHOEDDIADAU	
5 Munud	EITEM 3. COFNODION Cadarnhau cofnodion o gyfarfod y Cyngor, a gynhaliwyd ar 29 Medi 2021, yn rhai cywir.	5 - 24
	LLYWODRAETHU AGORED:	
10	EITEM 4. DATGANIADAU	

Munud	Yn unol â Rheol 2 o Weithdrefn Llywodraethu Agored Cyfarfodydd y Cyngor, derbyn datganiadau gan Arweinydd y Cyngor a/neu Gynghorwyr sy'n Aelodau Portffolio o'r Cabinet:	
20 Munud	<p>EITEM 5. CWESTIYNAU GAN YR AELODAU</p> <p>Derbyn cwestiynau'r Aelodau yn unol â Rheol 9.2 o Weithdrefn y Cyngor.</p> <p>(Nodwch: Caniateir hyd at 20 munud ar gyfer cwestiynau.)</p>	25 - 32
	<p>RHAGLEN WAITH Y CYNGOR – ER GWYBODAETH I AELODAU</p> <p>Rhaglen Waith y Cyngor – er gwybodaeth i Aelodau</p>	
	ADRODDIADAU'R SWYDDOGION	
10 Munud	<p>EITEM 6. GOSTYNGIADAU TRETH Y CYNGOR</p> <p>Derbyn adroddiad Cyfarwyddwr y Gwasanaethau Cyllid a Digidol</p>	33 - 36
20 Munud	<p>EITEM 7. ADRODDIAD AR GYFLAWNIAD CORFFORAETHOL Y CYNGOR AR GYFER 2021/22 (DRAFFT)</p> <p>Derbyn adroddiad y Prif Weithredwr.</p>	37 - 128
10 Munud	<p>EITEM 8. YMATEB I GYNIGION CYCHWYNNOL COMISIWN FFINIAU I GYMRU</p> <p>Derbyn adroddiad ar y cyd Cyfarwyddwr y Gwasanaethau Cyfreithiol a'r Cyfarwyddwr Gwasanaeth – Gwasanaethau Democrataidd a Chyfathrebu.</p>	129 - 294
10 Munud	<p>EITEM 9. ADOLYGU RHEOLIADAU, YMWHYBYDDIAETH A GORFODI DEDDFWRIAETH LLIFOGYDD A DŴR</p> <p>Derbyn adroddiad Cyfarwyddwr y Gwasanaethau Rheng Flaen.</p>	295 - 324
10 Munud	<p>EITEM 10. PENODI AELODAU LLEYG YCHWANEGOL AR GYFER Y PWYLLGOR LLYWODRAETHU AC ARCHWILIO</p> <p>Derbyn adroddiad y Cyfarwyddwr Gwasanaeth – Gwasanaethau Democrataidd a Chyfathrebu.</p>	325 - 332
10 Munud	<p>EITEM 11. CYFARFODYDD HYBRID - ADOLYGIAD O'R CYNNYDD HYD YMA</p> <p>Derbyn adroddiad y Cyfarwyddwr Gwasanaeth – Gwasanaethau</p>	333 - 342

	Democrataidd a Chyfathrebu.	
10 Munud	<p>EITEM 12. PENDERFYNIADAU BRYS O DAN SWYDDOGAETHAU GWEITHREDOL</p> <p>Derbyn adroddiad y Cyfarwyddwr Gwasanaeth – Gwasanaethau Democrataidd a Chyfathrebu.</p>	343 - 346
20 Munud	<p>EITEM 13. RHYBUDDION O GYNIGION</p> <p>13A Rhybudd o Gynnig</p> <p>Trafod y Rhybudd o Gynnig canlynol sydd wedi'i gyflwyno yn enwau Cyngorwyr y Fwrdeistref Sirol E Webster, K Morgan, P Jarman, S Evans, J Williams, A Cox, S Rees Owen, M Weaver, D Grehan, E Griffiths, H Fychan, E Stephens, L Jones, G Davies, A Chapman, J Davies a J Cullwick:</p> <p>"Bod y Cyngor yma'n ailystyried ei ddyletswydd o ran grymoedd gorfodi a'i ffordd o weithredu'r grymoedd hynny ar frys er mwyn sicrhau bod y strydoedd yn ddiogel ac yn hygyrch ac osgoi'r peryglon ynghlwm â thorri rheolau parcio yn ein cymunedau.</p> <p>Mae tystiolaeth gynyddol yn dangos bod plant mewn perygl o ganlyniad i fodurwyr yn parcio'n anystyriol ar briffyrdd a lonydd ger ysgolion ledled y Sir.</p> <p>Mae tensiwn cynyddol yn ein cymunedau a rhwystredigaeth nad yw cyrff cyhoeddus, fel y Cyngor a'r heddlu, yn gwneud digon i amddiffyn ein plant rhag niwed, ac mae'r cymunedau sy'n cael eu heffeithio gan achosion o barcio peryglus ac anystyriol yn achosi tensiynau yn mynegi'r farn yma.</p> <p>Er mwyn mynd i'r afael â materion o'r fath, a hynny ar frys, mae'r Cyngor yma'n penderfynu</p> <p>Cyfeirio'r mater at y pwyllgor craffu perthnasol, yn gofyn i sefydlu gweithgor craffu ar frys a fydd yn nodi ystod o fesurau cynaliadwy ynghyd â chynigion i'w gweithredu i fynd i'r afael â'r mater, gan gynnwys (ond nid yn gyfyngedig i):</p> <p>Cynnal adolygiad o'r hyn y gellir ei wneud i wella'r defnydd o bwerau cyfredol y Cyngor gan gynnwys defnyddio camerâu sefydlog cymeradwy mewn lleoliadau â phroblem a chynyddu patrolau.</p> <p>Archwilio beth fyddai budd ymarfer gwybodaeth gyhoeddus yn atgoffa modurwyr i barcio'n gyfrifol bob amser.</p> <p>Trafod galw ar Lywodraeth Cymru i greu deddfwriaeth ar gyfer troseddau traffig a nodwyd gan gamerâu cymeradwy fel ychwanegiad cadarnhaol at bwerau gorfodi cyfredol Cyngorau lleol</p>	

	EITEM 14. MATERION BRYD	
	Trafod unrhyw faterion sydd, yn ôl doethineb y Cadeirydd, yn faterion brys yng ngoleuni amgylchiadau arbennig.	

Cyfarwyddwr Gwasanaeth – Gwasanaethau Democrataidd a Chyfathrebu

At: Pob Aelod o'r Cyngor

PWYLLGOR CYNGOR RHONDDA CYNON TAF CYNGOR

Cofnodion o gyfarfod rhithwir y Cyngor a gynhaliwyd Dydd Mercher, 29 Medi 2021 am 5.00 pm.

Y Cynghorwyr Bwrdeistref Sirol - Cyngor Aelodau oedd yn bresennol:-:-

Y Cynghorydd S Powderhill (Cadeirydd)

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

Swyddogion oedd yn bresennol

Mr C Bradshaw, Prif Weithredwr
Mr C Hanagan, Cyfarwyddwr Gwasanaeth y Gwasanaethau Democrataidd a Chyfathrebu
Mr B Davies, Cyfarwyddwr Gwasanaethau Cyllid a Digidol
Mr P Mee, Cyfarwyddwr Cyfadran y Gwasanaethau Cymuned a Gwasanaethau i Blant
Mr A Wilkins, Cyfarwyddwr y Gwasanaethau Cyfreithiol
Mr R Evans, Cyfarwyddwr - Materion Adnoddau Dynol
Mr R Waters, Cyfarwyddwr Gwasanaeth – Gwasanaethau Rheng Flaen

50 Croeso ac Ymddiheuriadau

Croesawodd y Cadeirydd bawb i'r cyfarfod a chafwyd ymddiheuriadau gan Gynghorwyr y Fwrdeistref Sirol S Belzak, A Calvert, J Cullwick, A S Fox, E George, J James, K Jones, M Fidler Jones, W Owen, S Pickering, M Powell, S M Powell, M Tegg a R Turner.

51 Datganiadau o Fuddiant

Yn unol â Chod Ymddygiad y Cyngor, cafodd y datganiadau o fuddiant canlynol eu gwneud ynglŷn â'r agenda:

Eitem 12A - Rhybudd o Gynnig (codiadau cyflog yn y sector cyhoeddus)

- Cynghorydd y Fwrdeistref Sirol S Trask - "Mae fy ngwraig wedi'i chyflogi Cymru a chymrodd hi ran yn y bleidlais ar y cynnig".
- Cynghorydd y Fwrdeistref Sirol G Hughes - "Mae fy mam yn cael ei chyflogi yr Awdurdod Lleol"
- Cynghorydd y Fwrdeistref Sirol R Yeo - "Mae fy ngwraig yn gweithio i'r Awdurdod Lleol"
- Cynghorydd y Fwrdeistref Sirol M Weaver - "Rwy'n derbyn Pensiwn y Cyngor"
- Cynghorydd y Fwrdeistref Sirol R Lewis - "Mae gen i aelod agos o'r teulu yn gweithio i'r GIG."
- Cynghorydd y Fwrdeistref Sirol S. Evans – "Rwy'n gweithio i'r GIG".
- Cynghorydd y Fwrdeistref Sirol J Harries - "Mae gen i sawl aelod o'r teulu yn gweithio i'r GIG ac mae fy nhad yn gweithio i'r Awdurdod Lleol".
- Cynghorydd y Fwrdeistref Sirol K Morgan - "Rwy'n gyflogedig gan y GIG"
- Cynghorydd y Fwrdeistref Sirol W Treeby - "Mae gen i ddau fab sydd yn cael eu cyflogi gan yr Awdurdod Lleol a nai sy'n gweithio i'r GIG".
- Cynghorydd y Fwrdeistref Sirol S Morgans - " Mae fy merch yn gweithio i'r GIG".
- Cynghorydd y Fwrdeistref Sirol G Caple - "Mae fy mab yn feddyg ac yn gweithio i'r GIG".
- Cynghorydd y Fwrdeistref Sirol A Roberts - "Mae fy mab yn gweithio i'r Awdurdod Lleol".

- Cynghorydd y Fwrdeistref Sirol LM Adams - “Mae fy ngwraig yn derbyn Pensiwn y GIG fel cyn fydwraig”.
- Cynghorydd y Fwrdeistref Sirol D R Bevan - “Mae fy merch yn gweithio i'r Awdurdod Lleol”.
- Cynghorydd y Fwrdeistref Sirol E Griffiths - “Mae fy mrawd yn gweithio fel gweithiwr achlysurol i'r Awdurdod Lleol ”
- Cynghorydd y Fwrdeistref Sirol W Lewis - “Mae fy mab yn gweithio i'r Awdurdod Lleol”.
- Cynghorydd y Fwrdeistref Sirol J Williams - “Mae gen i gontract rhan amser gyda'r GIG”.
- Cynghorydd y Fwrdeistref Sirol L De Vet - “Mae fy nau fab yn gweithio i'r Awdurdod Lleol”.
- Cynghorydd y Fwrdeistref Sirol S A Bradwick - “Mae gen i berthynas agos sy'n gweithio i'r GIG ”.
- Cynghorydd y Fwrdeistref Sirol G Stacey - “Mae gen i fab, merch a ŵyr sy'n gweithio i'r Awdurdod Lleol”.
- Cynghorydd y Fwrdeistref Sirol M Forey - “Mae fy merch yn athrawes ac yn cael ei chyflogi gan yr Awdurdod Lleol ”.
- Cynghorydd y Fwrdeistref Sirol P Jarman - “Mae fy mab yn gweithio i'r Awdurdod Lleol”.
- Cynghorydd y Fwrdeistref Sirol T Williams - “Mae fy mab yn gweithio i'r Awdurdod Lleol”.

Cyhoeddodd y Cynghorydd y Fwrdeistref Sirol P Jarman y budd personol canlynol mewn perthynas â'r eitemau canlynol ar yr agenda:

Eitem 6 - Datganiad o Gyfrifon Rhondda Cynon Taf ac Adroddiad Archwilio Allanol

Eitem 7 - Adroddiad Cynnydd a Throsolwg - Lliniaru Llifogydd

Eitem 8 - Y Cynllun Ariannol Tymor Canolig – y Newyddion Diweddaraf

Eitem 9 - Blaenoriaethau Buddsoddi'r Cyngor

"Yr hawl i siarad a phleidleisio ar bob mater tra bod proses pennu Cyllideb 2020-2021 yn mynd rhagddi ac yn cael ei mabwysiadu, a hynny fel Arweinydd yr Wrthblaid".

- Cyflwynodd Cynghorydd y Fwrdeistref Sirol R Lewis ddeiseb i'r Cadeirydd ar ran aelod ward y Cynghorydd E George a preswylwyr mewn perthynas â 'Mesurau Lleihau Cyflymder ar gyfer Heol Abercynon'.
- Cyhoeddodd Cynghorydd y Fwrdeistref Sirol J Elliott gyflawniad Tom Matthews o Aberdâr wedi iddo ennill medal Efydd yn y gystadleuaeth tenis bwrdd yn ei ddigwyddiad Paralympaidd cyntaf yn ninas Tokyo. Cafodd ei groesawu gartref gan bawb yn yr ardal.
- Cyhoeddodd Cynghorydd y Fwrdeistref Sirol P Jarman fod Prifysgol Aberystwyth wedi cyhoeddi penodiad 10 cymrawd er anrhydedd newydd yn ddiweddar, gan gynnwys Rhuanedd Richards, Cyfarwyddwr Cynnwys a Gwasanaethau i BBC Cymru, am ei chyfraniad rhagorol i faes Darlledu. Roedd Rhuanedd yn arfer byw yng Nghefnpennar a Chwmaman, ac fe'i haddysgwyd trwy gyfrwng y Gymraeg. Mynychodd Brifysgol Aberystwyth, mae'n gyn-lywydd ar UCM Cymru ac mae bellach yn byw ym Mhontypridd. Roedd y Cynghorydd Jarman hefyd am anfon ei chydymdeimlad at ffrindiau a theulu cydweithiwr agos Rhuanedd, Magi Dodd, sef un o gyflwynwyr Radio Cymru, a fu farw yn 44 oed.
- Roedd Cynghorydd y Fwrdeistref Sirol E Griffiths hefyd yn dymuno talu teyrnged i Magi Dodd. Ganwyd Magi ym Mhontypridd a mynychodd Ysgol Gyfun Rhydfelen. Roedd hi'n gyflwynydd a chynhyrchydd a oedd yn angerddol am gerddoriaeth Gymraeg, ac roedd hi'n hyrwyddo llawer o fandiau fel 'Breichiau Hir' - dywedon nhw ei bod hi wedi gwneud iddyn nhw deimlo fel "sêr roc go iawn". Roedd hi'n unigryw a llwyddodd i gyrraedd cynulleidfifa ifanc trwy Radio Cymru. Cynhyrchodd lawer o raglenni radio gan gynnwys rhaglen y Cynghorydd S Rees-Owen. Roedd y Cynghorydd E Griffiths yn dymuno estyn ei chydymdeimlad i deulu ei Magi.
- Cyhoeddodd Cynghorydd y Fwrdeistref Sirol D Owen-Jones fod Hayley Jacobs, Arweinydd Gyrfa yn Ysgol Gyfun Bryncelynnog sy'n byw yn Ward Dwyrain Tonyrefail, wedi ennill gwobr Arweinydd y Flwyddyn y Sefydliad Datblygu Gyrfaoedd ar gyfer 2021. Mae hi wedi cyrraedd rhestr fer y wobwr ddwywaith. Cysylltwyd â Hayley hefyd i ysgrifennu ar gyfer cyhoeddiad cenedlaethol sy'n tarfod Arweinyddiaeth Gyrfa. Gofynnodd y Cynghorydd D Owen-Jones am pe byddai modd i Hayley dderbyn llythyr gan yr Aelod Cabinet perthnasol neu'r Cyfarwyddwr Addysg a Gwasanaethau Ymyrraeth yn cydnabod ei chyflawniad.

53 Cofnodion

PENDERFYNWYD cymeradwyo cofnodion y cyfarfodydd ar 30 Mehefin 2021 (5pm) a 14 Gorffennaf 2021 yn adlewyrchiad cywir o'r cyfarfod yn amodol ar ddileu'r dyblygu o dan 'Cyhoeddiadau' (30 Mehefin 2021) a nodi bod y Grŵp Ceidwadol wedi gadael y cyfarfod pan drafodwyd yr Hysbysiad o Gynnig (11B) (BEIS) (30 Mehefin 2021).

54 Datganiadau

Datganiad gan Arweinydd y Cyngor:

Estynnodd Arweinydd y Cyngor ei ddiolch i holl staff gofal cymdeithasol y Cyngor ac i'r staff yn y sector Annibynnol am eu holl waith drwy gydol y pandemig. Ychwanegodd fod staff wedi blino'n lân ar ôl gweithio sifftiau ychwanegol i gyflenwi dros y rhai sy'n gorfod hunan-ynysu ac mae staff hefyd yn delio â cholli cleifion yn ystod y pandemig.

Dywedodd yr Arweinydd fod y Cyngor, bedair blynedd yn ôl, wedi cyflwyno'r cyflog byw sylfaenol i holl staff gofal cymdeithasol y Cyngor, a dwy flynedd yn ôl symudodd holl staff gofal cartref y sector annibynnol i'r un cyflog a bydd adroddiad y Cabinet a gyhoeddir yn fuan yn cyfeirio at gyflwyno'r cyflog byw i weithwyr y sector annibynnol sy'n gweithio ym maes gofal preswyl, byw â chymorth a thaliadau uniongyrchol. Mae'r pwysau ar y gwasanaeth gofal yn RhCT ar hyn o bryd yn heriol.

Fel Arweinydd Cymdeithas Llywodraeth Leol Cymru, mae Arweinydd y Cyngor wedi cyfarfod â Gweinidogion ers hynny ynghylch y pwysau yn y sector hwn, a chynhelir cyfarfodydd pellach i drafod sefyllfa Cymru gyfan, gan fod nifer o awdurdodau lleol yn wynebu anawsterau wrth gynnal lefel y gofal. Dywedodd yr Arweinydd fod RhCT yn dal i lwyddo i gynnal lefelau gofal yn y maes gwasanaeth hwn wrth iddo weithio gyda'r sector gwirfoddol ac annibynnol. Nododd yr Arweinydd, ym marn Cyfarwyddwr y Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol, y bydd yr heriau o'n blaenau yn ddigynsail eleni.

Yn ystod y misoedd nesaf efallai y bydd angen i'r awdurdod lleol gymryd camau priodol i ddiogelu'r unigolion mwyaf agored i niwed yn y sector gofal cymdeithasol ac mae'r mater hwn yn cael ei drafod ar draws yr holl awdurdodau lleol. I gloi, estynnodd yr Arweinydd unwaith eto ei ddiolch, ar ran yr holl aelodau o bob grŵp gwleidyddol, i'r staff gofal cymdeithasol hynny am weithio'n ddiflino i gadw preswylwyr ac anwyliaid mor ddiogel â phosibl.

55 Cwestiynau gan yr Aelodau

Cafodd yr Aelodau wybod bod ymddiheuriadau am absenoldeb wedi'u derbyn gan y Cyngorydd A S Fox a chadarnhaodd y Cyfarwyddwr Gwasanaeth - Gwasanaethau Democrataidd a Chyfathrebu, na fyddai cwestiwn 5 yn cael ei gyflwyno i'r Aelod o'r Cabinet.

Cwestiwn gan Gyngorydd y Fwrdeistref Sirol . Treeby i Arweinydd y Cyngor – Cyngorydd y Fwrdeistref Sirol A. Morgan:

“A all yr Arweinydd wneud datganiad ar ddiogelwch cymunedol a phlisma lleol yn Rhondda Cynon Taf?”

Ymateb gan Gyngorydd y Fwrdeistref Sirol A. Morgan:

Dywedodd yr Arweinydd mai Bwrdd Partneriaeth Cymunedau Diogel Cwm Taf yw'r grŵp arwain strategol ar gyfer cynllunio, comisiynu a darparu gweithgareddau a gwasanaethau sy'n gysylltiedig â diogelwch cymunedol. Mae aelodau'r Bwrdd Partneriaeth yn cynnwys: Cyngorau RhCT a Merthyr Tudful, Heddlu De Cymru, y Gwasanaeth Prawf Cenedlaethol, Gwasanaeth Tân ac Achub De Cymru, Bwrdd Iechyd CTM, a hefyd aelodau anstatudol.

Dywedodd yr Arweinydd fod y Bwrdd yn delio â nifer o faterion yn ymwneud â lleihau troseddau a gwella diogelwch cymunedol yn Cwm Taf, gan

ganolbwyntio'n benodol ar feysydd fel Ymddygiad Gwrthgymdeithasol lle mae carfan Diogelwch Cymunedol y Cyngor yn gweithio'n agos gyda HDC i sicrhau bod pawb sy'n cyflawni ymddygiad gwrthgymdeithasol yn destun ymateb priodol. Mae grŵp strategol yn cyfarfod yn fisol i drafod y meysydd mwyaf problemus, gyda chynlluniau gweithredu ar waith i ymateb i faterion a nodwyd.

Mae maesydd arall yn cynnwys Rheoli Troseddwyd sy'n gweithio gyda'r Gwasanaeth Prawf, gwaith camddefnyddio sylweddau gyda Bwrdd Cynllunio Ardal CTM drwy ddarparu fframwaith rhanbarthol ar gyfer cefnogi Strategaeth Camddefnyddio Sylweddau LIC, trais yn erbyn menywod, cam-drin domestig a thrais rhywiol. Mae Carfan Cymunedau Diogel yn ail-lansio ymgyrch "Gofynnwch am Angela", a bydd hyn yn cael ei gyflwyno ar draws adeiladau trwyddedig yn y sir ar gyfer pobl sy'n teimlo'n fregus neu'n annïogel.

Yn ogystal, esboniodd yr Arweinydd fod y Bwrdd Partneriaeth Diogelwch hefyd yn cynnwys meysydd fel cydlyniant Cymunedol a Gwrthderfysgaeth sy'n dangos bod lluo wasanaethau ar waith.

Cwestiwn Ategol gan Gynghorydd y Fwrdeistref Sirol W Treeby:

"Yn dilyn buddsoddiad dros y blynyddoedd diwethaf mewn camerâu teledu cylch cyfyng yng nghanol trefi, pa effaith y mae'r buddsoddiad wedi'i chael ac a yw wedi bod yn werth chweil?"

Ymateb gan Gynghorydd y Fwrdeistref Sirol A. Morgan:

Dywedodd yr Arweinydd fod symud i'r camerâu digidol wedi bod yn werth chweil ac ychwanegodd ei fod wedi mynychu'r ganolfan teledu cylch cyfyng yn ddiweddar i weld y buddsoddiad dros ei hun. Dywedodd fod ansawdd y lluniau wedi gwella'n sylweddol ac mae'n cynorthwyo'r Heddlu i adnabod pobl yn hawdd ac yn gyflym, ac yn eu galluogi i weithredu gan gyfuno gwybodaeth leol â lluniau teledu cylch cyfyng. Mae adborth yr Heddlu wedi bod yn amhrisiadwy.

Cwestiwn gan Gynghorydd y Fwrdeistref Sirol R. Williams i Arweinydd y Cyngor - Cynghorydd y Fwrdeistref Sirol A. Morgan:

"A wnaiff yr Arweinydd amlinellu cynlluniau'r Cyngor hwn i ddatblygu Rhwydwaith Trafnidiaeth Integredig ar draws y Fwrdeistref Sirol?"

Ymateb gan Gynghorydd y Fwrdeistref Sirol A. Morgan:

Dywedodd yr Arweinydd, er bod awdurdodau lleol yn gweithio ar Gynllun Trafnidiaeth De Ddwyrain Cymru, a luniwyd gan awdurdodau lleol i drafod ôl troed rhanbarthol, mai'r Metro fydd yr effaith fwyaf. Dywedodd fod y cerbydau newydd wrthi'n cael eu creu, rhai yng Nghasnewydd ac eraill yn Ewrop. Bydd y gwelliannau i'r gwasanaeth yn aml yn cynyddu'r gwasanaeth i 4 trên yr awr i bob cyfeiriad ac yn cael effaith enfawr ar amllder trenau o ardaloedd Merthyr, Aberdâr a Treherbert thrwy Bontypridd.

Dywedodd yr Arweinydd fod y Cyngor yn buddsoddi mewn hybiau trafndiaeth,

fel y cyfleuster newydd yn ardal Porth, gorsafoedd bysiau, ac yn datblygu cynlluniau i gynyddu'r ddarpariaeth o lwybrau cerdded a beicio i orsafoedd trên er mwyn annog preswylwyr i adael eu cerbydau a chadw draw o ffyrdd prysur fel yr A470. Gyda'r cynlluniau hyn ar waith a chyllid gan Lywodraeth Cymru, nododd yr Arweinydd fod y newid sylweddol mewn cysylltiadau trafnidiaeth yn cyd-fynd yn well ag anghenion preswylwyr o fewn y 3-4 blynedd nesaf.

Cwestiwn Ategol gan Gynghorydd y Fwrdeistref Sirol R. Williams:

“A allwch chi ddweud wrthym am y buddsoddiad mewn cynnal a gwella'r cysylltiadau trafnidiaeth lleol ledled y Sir dros y blynyddoedd diwethaf?”

Ymateb gan Gynghorydd y Fwrdeistref Sirol A. Morgan:

Dywedodd yr Arweinydd fod cymysgedd o arian LIC a'r Cyngor wedi galluogi buddsoddiadau o ran troedffyrdd, ail-wynebu ffyrdd a chysylltiadau trafnidiaeth gwell, ac mae cyllid teithio llesol craidd gan LIC wedi galluogi cynnal a chadw a gwella nifer o lwybrau fel llwybrau Cynon a Taf. Defnyddir nifer o'r llwybrau teithio llesol gan lawer o bobl ac maent yn dioddef traul ar ôl blynyddoedd lawer felly mae cyllid refeniw LIC wedi helpu gyda gwelliannau megis rhwystrau a chanllawiau. Mae yna lawer o waith yn cael ei wneud. Yn ogystal, cyfeiriodd yr Arweinydd hefyd at uwchraddio'r seilwaith presennol, fel newid croesfan sebra i groesfan pâl, sy'n fwy diogel i'r cerddwr ac yn well ar gyfer llif traffig.

Cwestiwn gan Gynghorydd y Fwrdeistref Sirol G Jones i Arweinydd y Cyngor, Cynghorydd y Fwrdeistref Sirol A. Morgan:

“A all Arweinydd y Cyngor ddarparu diweddariad ar gynigion y Gronfa Lefelu a gyflwynwyd i Lywodraeth y DU gan y Cyngor hwn?”

Ymateb gan Gynghorydd y Fwrdeistref Sirol A. Morgan:

Dywedodd yr Arweinydd na chafwyd ymateb i gais y Cyngor ers iddo gael ei gyflwyno, er gwaethaf iddo ysgrifennu at y Gweinidog R Jenrick ar y pryd fel Arweinydd RhCT a Chymdeithas Llywodraeth Leol Cymru Mae llythyr arall wedi'i anfon ers hynny ar ran y 22 Awdurdod Lleol at y Gweinidog newydd M Gove yn gofyn am ddiweddariad.

Eglurodd yr Arweinydd fod pob cais yn cael ei gyflwyno fesul ardal etholaethol a gellir cyflwyno prosiect trafnidiaeth ychwanegol os mai'r awdurdod yw'r awdurdod arweiniol ar gyfer trafnidiaeth. Rhoddodd ddiweddariad ar bob cais unigol fel a ganlyn:

Etholaeth Pontypridd -Cais wedi'i gyflwyno i ailddatblygu Canolfan Gelf y Miwni yn llawn

Etholaeth Rhondda -Cyfraniad i Hwb Trafnidiaeth Porth ar gyfer y gwaith adfywio.

Cwm Cynon -Datblygu hen safle Ffatri Mayhew Chicken i greu safle defnydd cymysg ar gyfer diwydiant a thrafnidiaeth.

Prosiect Trafnidiaeth Ychwanegol -Mae Deuoli'r A4119 yn rhan annatod o rwydwaith priffyrdd strategol rhanbarthol ehangach, ac mae'n gysylltiedig â

chyfleoedd economaidd ardaloedd gorllewinol RhCT a Phrifddinas-Ranbarth Caerdydd.

Cwestiwn ategol gan Gyngorydd y Fwrdeistref Sirol G. Jones:

“Roeddwn i eisiau rhagor o wybodaeth am ddatblygiad y Ffatri yn Nhrecynon”

Ymateb gan Gyngorydd y Fwrdeistref Sirol A. Morgan:

Cadarnhaodd yr Arweinydd nad oes diweddariadau pellach ar y ceisiadau ond erbyn yr 17 Hydref 2021 mae'n bosibl y bydd modd cyhoeddi'r cynigion ar yr un pryd â'r adolygiad gwariant cynhwysfawr.

Ymhelaethodd yr Arweinydd ar ddatblygiad y Ffatri, a'r bwriad o greu maes Parcio a Rennir, a allai ddatblygu'n faes Parcio a Theithio pe bai estyniad rheilffordd Hirwaun yn cael ei gymeradwyo. Bydd y safle Parcio a Theithio yn cynnwys cyfleusterau gwefru trydan a bydd rhan o'r datblygiad yn cynnwys nifer o unedau diwydiannol ysgafn, tebyg i'r rhai sy'n cael eu hadeiladu ar hyn o bryd yn Nhresalem.

Cwestiwn gan Gyngorydd y Fwrdeistref Sirol G R Davies i Arweinydd y Cyngor, Cyngorydd y Fwrdeistref Sirol A. Morgan:

A wnewch chi ddatganiad ar isadeiledd trafnidiaeth ym mhen uchaf y Rhondda Fawr?

Ymateb gan Gyngorydd y Fwrdeistref Sirol A. Morgan:

Dywedodd yr Arweinydd y byddai ei ymateb yn debyg i'r ymateb a roddwyd i'r Cyngorydd R Williams ar y gwelliannau i drydaneiddio rhwydwaith Core Valley Lines i'r gogledd o Gaerdydd i Dreherbert, fel rhan o gynllun Metro De Ddwyrain Cymru. Mae hyn eto'n cynnwys cerbydau newydd, gwasanaethau amlach a gwelliannau i orsafoedd ynghyd â'r gwaith dichonoldeb o ran ymestyn y rheilffordd o Dreherbert i Dynewdd a hyd at Flaenrhondda.

Dywedodd yr Arweinydd fod yna gynigion i ymestyn a chynyddu capasiti'r gorsafoedd Parcio a Theithio a naill ai gwella'r cyfleusterau parcio a theithio presennol neu adeiladu cyfleusterau newydd. Mae cynlluniau teithio yn cael eu datblygu i ddarparu ar gyfer cerddwyr a beicwyr i sicrhau bod ardaloedd wedi'u goleuo'n dda ac yn ddiogel i bawb a gwella cyfleoedd teithio llesol. Bydd tocynnau integredig yn fudd enfawr, er enghraifft yn Hwb Trafnidiaeth Porth. I gloi, dywedodd yr Arweinydd fod angen buddsoddiad sylweddol a pharhaus ym maes teithio.

Cwestiwn Ategol gan y Cyngorydd G.R.Davies

“Rwyf wedi gofyn yn aml sut mae'r prosiectau trafnidiaeth yn y Rhondda Fawr yn datblygu, y prosiect lonydd beicio, y prosiect i ymestyn y rheilffordd i Dreherbert a Tynewydd a'r gwaith i oresgyn y tagfeydd o amgylch Sgwâr Stagg. A allwch ymrwymo, yn ystod datblygiad y CDLI, y byddwch o leiaf yn cefnogi llawer o wahanol brosiectau fel na cholir y cyfle i'w datblygu yn y dyfodol?”

Ymateb gan Gyngorydd y Fwrdeistref Sirol A. Morgan:

Ymatebodd yr Arweinydd y byddant, mewn egwyddor, yn cael eu cefnogi, er y bydd y gwaith dichonoldeb sy'n mynd rhagddo ar nifer o'r prosiectau hyn yn cael ei fwydo i'r adolygiad parhaus o'r CDLI. Fodd bynnag, os oes materion sylfaenol lle na ellir datblygu prosiect, yna ni fyddai'n gwneud synnwyr i amddiffyn llwybr neu leoliad coridor o fewn y CDLI gan fod yn rhaid iddo fod yn seiliedig ar dystiolaeth.

Cwestiwn gan Gyngorydd y Fwrdeistref Sirol H. Boggis i'r Aelod o'r Cabinet ar faterion yr Amgylchedd, Hamdden a Gwasanaethau Treftadaeth - Cyngorydd y Fwrdeistref Sirol A. Crimmings:

"A all Aelod y Cabinet ddarparu diweddariad ar fuddsoddiad y Cyngor mewn parciau a chadarnhau a yw hyn yn parhau i fod yn flaenoriaeth wrth symud ymlaen?"

Ymateb gan Gyngorydd y Fwrdeistref Sirol A. Crimmings:

Ymatebodd yr Aelod o'r Cabinet fod yr holl barciau a mannau chwarae yn parhau i fod yn flaenoriaeth allweddol gan eu bod yn darparu ystod o fuddion iechyd a lles i breswylwyr ac ymwelwyr, ac mae'r pandemig a'r cyfyngiadau ar fywydau preswylwyr mewn amrywiol ffyrdd wedi tynnu sylw at bwysigrwydd ardaloedd o'r fath.

Dywedodd yr Aelod o'r Cabinet fod yr ymrwymiad parhaus yn yr ardal hon wedi'i amlygu gan benderfyniad y Cabinet i gymeradwyo cynlluniau ar gyfer tir ym Mharc Cefn Gwlad Cwm Clydach, i'w ddynodi'n Barc Gwledig swyddogol. Yn hanfodol, gall y Cyngor weithio gyda'r Bwrdd Strategol a sefydlwyd yn ddiweddar i wneud cais am gyllid allanol i wella a datblygu'r safle, sydd eisoes yn boblogaidd, ymhellach. Cadarnhaodd yr Aelod o'r Cabinet fod y Parc Beicio Teulu Disgyrchiant newydd wedi agor ym Mharc Gwledig Cwm Dâr yn ddiweddar, tra bod ardal chwarae'r plant wedi'i gwella'n sylweddol yn ddiweddar fel rhan o'r pecyn buddsoddi cyffredinol o £1.5m (cyfuniad o £ 1 miliwn o Cyllid Canolfannau Darganfod Parc Rhanbarthol y Cymoedd a £500,000 o fuddsoddiad Cyfalaf y Cyngor ei hun).

Yn ddiweddar, cwblhawyd uwchraddiadau pellach ar oleuadau stryd ac adnewyddiad llawn o'r prif droedffyrdd ym Mharc Coffa Ynysangharad oherwydd buddsoddiad cyfun o raglen Parc Rhanbarthol y Cymoedd a chyllid y Cyngor ei hun. Bydd cam pellach o'r gwaith yn cychwyn yn fuan gan ddefnyddio Cyllid Loteri Treftadaeth sylweddol, a bydd hyn yn dod â rhai o'r nodweddion gwreiddiol yn ôl i'r Parc Rhestredig Gradd II - mae'r gwaith hwn yn cynnwys adfer y bandstand ac adnewyddu'r ardd suddedig

I gloi, nododd yr Aelod o'r Cabinet fod y parciau gwledig hefyd yn agwedd allweddol ar ein strategaeth dwristiaeth, a gymeradwyodd y Cabinet yn ddiweddar. Y nod yw rhoi hwb i'n heconomi leol trwy gynyddu nifer yr ymwelwyr â RhCT a'r rhanbarth ehangach - bydd hyn wedyn yn helpu i ddenu nifer cynyddol o ymwelwyr i ganol ein trefi.

Cwestiwn atodol gan y Cynghorydd H. Boggis:

“A allwch chi ddarparu rhagor o wybodaeth am y Parc Beicio Disgyrchiant?”

Ymateb gan Gyngorydd y Fwrdeistref Sirol A. Crimmings:

Dywedodd yr Aelod o'r Cabinet fod Parc Beicio Disgyrchiant yn cynnwys gwahanol lwybrau a'r trac codi, sy'n boblogaidd iawn, gyda'r holl sesiynau hyfforddi wedi'u bwcio'n llawn yn ystod mis Awst. Mae Pedal-A-Bike-Away yn gweithio mewn partneriaeth â'r Cyngor i ddarparu sesiynau wythnosol sy'n targedu menywod a merched ifainc, plant 2-5 oed ac oedolion dros 50 oed. Gall digwyddiadau fel y sesiwn Merched yn unig hefyd helpu gydag iechyd a lles preswylwyr trwy roi cyfle iddynt gymdeithasu â choffi wedyn.

Yn ogystal â'r cyfleuster newydd, mae'r Cyngor hefyd wedi canolbwyntio ar wella profiad yr ymwelydd trwy fuddsoddi mewn adnewyddu ac ymestyn y bloc cawodydd, gan gynnwys newid lleoedd teuluol a newid, mae llety'r gwesty a'r maes chwarae hefyd wedi'u huwchraddio.

56 Rhaglen Waith y Cyngor 2021/22

Cyflwynodd y Cyfarwyddwr Gwasanaeth Gwasanaethau Democrataidd a Chyfathrebu ddiweddariad ynghylch Rhaglen Waith y Cyngor, sydd wedi'i mabwysiadu a'i chyhoeddwyi, gan gynghori y byddai cyfarfod o Weithgor Rhyddid y Fwrdeistref, dan gadeiryddiaeth y Maer, yn cael ei gynnal i ystyried yr enwebiadau ac yn cael ei adrodd i'r Cyngor yn hwyrach na'r dyddiad a gynlluniwyd. Ar adeg briodol, bydd adroddiad yn amlinellu'r argymhellion a'r adborth ynghylch y Rhybuddion Cynigion a gyfeiriwyd at y Pwyllgorau Craffu yn cael eu cyflwyno i'r Cyngor ar y cyd a bydd diweddariad pellach mewn perthynas â darlledu cyfarfodydd a threfniadau gweithio hybrid hefyd yn cael ei roi ar ddiwedd ail gam y broses gyflwyno.

Nodwyd y byddai'r ddau ddiweddariad pellach yn cael eu hadrodd i'r Cyngor ym mis Hydref sef yr Adolygiad o Reoliad, Ymwbyddiaeth a Gorfodi Deddfwriaeth Llifogydd a Dŵr a gefnogwyd yn ddiweddar gan y Cabinet a'r CDLI. I gloi, cadarnhaodd y Cyfarwyddwr Gwasanaeth y byddai Bwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol Cwm Taf Morgannwg yn cyflwyno diweddariad i'r Cyngor ym mis Tachwedd.

57 Datganiad o Gyfrifon Rhondda Cynon Taf ac Adroddiad Archwilio Allanol

Cyflwynodd Mr M Jones, Archwilio Cymru, yr Adroddiad o ddatganiadau ariannol 2020-21 ar gyfer CBS Rhondda Cynon Taf, gan nodi bod yr adroddiad archwilio llawn ynghlwm yn Atodiad 2 ac mae'r holl gamddatganiadau a nodwyd wedi'u diwygio ac maent wedi'u nodi yn Atodiad 3.

Diolchodd yr Arweinydd i Archwilio Cymru am ei gymeradwyaeth ddiamod o'r datganiadau ariannol ar gyfer 2020/21 a gwnaeth sylwadau ar y gwaith da a lefel yr ymddiriedaeth rhwng Archwilio Cymru a Swyddogion RhCT. Cydnabu hefyd faint o waith a wnaed gan y Cyfarwyddwr Cyllid a Gwasanaethau Digidol a'i staff o ran cyhoeddi nifer o grantiau cymorth a thaliadau prydau ysgol am

ddim yn ystod y flwyddyn sydd wedi'u cynnwys er mwyn bodloni'r archwilwyr.

Mewn ymateb i ymholiad a godwyd, cadarnhaodd Cyfarwyddwr Gwasanaethau Cyllid a Digidol bod y Pwyllgor Llywodraethu ac Archwilio wedi ystyried y cyfrifon drafft ar 12 Gorffennaf 2021. Doedd y Pwyllgor ddim wedi nodi unrhyw broblemau, er nad oedd y cofnodion yn cyfeirio at hynny

PENDERFYNWYD:

1. Cymeradwyo a nodi Datganiad o Gyfrifon Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Rhondda Cynon Taf (Atodiad 1), a'r Llythyr Cynrychiolaeth cysylltiedig (Atodiad 2).
2. Cymeradwyo a nodi safle alldro terfynol y Cyngor, sydd wedi'i archwilio, ar gyfer blwyddyn ariannol 2020/21 a lefel y Balansau Cyllid Cyffredinol (paragraff 8.4 o'r adroddiad); ac
3. Nodi'r ystyriaethau a sylwadau yng nghyfarfodydd y Pwyllgor Llywodraethu ac Archwilio ar 12 Gorffennaf 2021 a 13 Medi 2021 fel sy'n ofynnol gan y Mesur Llywodraeth Leol (paragraffau 11.1 ac 11.2).

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Adroddiad Cynnydd a Throsolwg - Lliniaru Llifogydd

Cyflwynodd y Cyfarwyddwr Gwasanaeth adroddiad y Cyfarwyddwr Cyfadran, Materion Datblygu Ffyniant a Gwasanaethau Rheng Flaen a rhoddodd y wybodaeth ddiweddaraf i'r Aelodau am y cynnydd ar fesurau Lliniaru Llifogydd a gwaith cysylltiedig ar seilwaith ers Storm Dennis.

Dywedodd y Cyfarwyddwr Gwasanaeth y byddai cyflwyniad Power Point yn cyd-fynd â'r adroddiad a oedd yn rhoi trosolwg o rai o'r nifer o welliannau a wnaed ers Storm Dennis megis dros £3.5M wedi'i wario ar ddarparu gwaith cynnal a chadw i domenni glo ar draws RhCT ac ar y gwaith brys yn Nhyllorstown, dros £4M ar atgyweirio difrod i strwythurau a rhwydweithiau draenio, a bron i £2.3M ar Gynlluniau Lliniaru Llifogydd newydd.

Dywedodd y Cyfarwyddwr Gwasanaeth fod adroddiad i'r Cabinet ar 21 Medi 2021 wedi ystyried cynyddu adnoddau tuag at godi ymwybyddiaeth a gwaith gorfodi o ran llifogydd ac wedi argymhell y dylai'r Cyngor fabwysiadu rheoleiddio, codi ymwybyddiaeth a gorfodi deddfwriaeth llifogydd a dŵr yn dilyn Storm Dennis. Ychwanegodd, ochr yn ochr â'r adroddiad hwn, bod sesiwn frifio Aelodau mewn perthynas â Rheoli Perygl Llifogydd ac Is-ddeddfau wedi'i chynnal a bod nifer wedi'i fynychu. Dywedodd y bydd adroddiad mewn perthynas â'r is-ddeddfau yn cael ei gyflwyno i'r Cyngor ym mis Hydref, fel y cyfeiriwyd ato gan y Cyfarwyddwr Gwasanaeth - Gwasanaethau Democraidd a Chyfathrebu.

Cyflwynodd y Cyfarwyddwr Gwasanaeth Gwasanaethau Rheng Flaen ei gyflwyniad Power Point a ddangosodd y gwahanol gynlluniau gyda'r defnydd o ffotograffau gan gynnwys yr ystafell reoli argyfwng a sefydlwyd yn Nhŷ Elai pe bai unrhyw ddigwyddiad brys.

Yn dilyn y cyflwyniad, cafodd yr aelodau gyfle i ofyn cwestiynau a gwnaethant

hynny mewn perthynas â'r canlynol:

- A ddylai'r Cyngor fod yn gyfrifol am lle methodd ei seilwaith oherwydd nad oedd wedi'i gynnal yn y cyfnod cyn y llifogydd? A yw'r cofnodion cyn y llifogydd yn pennu pa mor fregus yw'r isadeileddau hynny?
- A gyflwynir unrhyw un o'r hawliadau yswiriant ar sail esgeulustod ar ran y Cyngor?
- Fel y nodwyd yn yr adroddiad i'r Cyngor, beth yw'r adroddiad terfynol sy'n ymwneud â chylfat Teras Campbell ac i bwy yr adroddwyd amdano?
- A oes trydydd cam i'w weithredu yn Nheras Bronallt yn Abercwmboi?
- A oes diweddariad ar y gwaith yn y gwaith uwch yng ngorsaf bwmpio Glenboi?
- Beth yw'r diweddaraf gan CNC ynglŷn â'r adolygiad o lifogydd afonydd yn y ward?
- Hunangymorth a mesurau lleol - A oes gwybodaeth bellach ar gael ynghylch pa eiddo sydd wedi cael gatiau llifogydd a phwy sydd ddim wedi'u cael gan ei bod yn ymddangos bod anghysondeb?
- Cynlluniau Ymateb y Gymuned Mewn Argyfwng - beth yw'r amserlenni ar gyfer cadarnhau'r cynllun drafft a'r rhestr o adeiladau posibl?
- A oes amserlen yn cadarnhau'r Adroddiadau Adran 19 sy'n weddill?
- Dywed yr adroddiad fod archwiliadau pellach yn cael eu comisiynu ar gyfer y wal ar hyd Heol Berw, a allwch roi amserlenni inni ar gyfer yr archwiliadau oherwydd er bod y wal wedi'i hatgyweirio, mae pryderon o hyd nad yw'r wal yn gweithio fel amddiffynfa?

Darparodd Arweinydd y Cyngor a Chyfarwyddwr Gwasanaeth, Gwasanaethau Rheng Flaen yr ymatebion a ganlyn:

Mae'r cylfat yn Nheras Bronallt yn Abercwmboi yn waith cam dau gyda cham tri yn y cam dichonoldeb a dylunio. Nid oes amserlen ar waith hyd yma ond mae'n dibynnu ar y tir a'i addasrwydd.

Dywedwyd wrth yr aelodau, o ran y llifddorau, bod y rhestr o eiddo a dderbyniodd arian grant LIC/ALI wedi'i chroesgyfeirio â chofnodion LIC a CNC i greu un rhestr gynhwysfawr y cysylltwyd â'r holl eiddo yr effeithiwyd arnynt. Yn dilyn yr ohebiaeth ymatebodd oddeutu 50% o'r eiddo. Dosbarthwyd trydydd llythyr dilynol yn ddiweddar a fydd yn cael ei ddilyn gan ymweliadau â'r eiddo hynny. Yn ardal Pentre, er gwaethaf ymweliadau â chartrefi, nid oedd rhai eiddo wedi ymuno â'r cynllun llifddorau o gwbl.

Cadarnhawyd bod y Cynllun Mewn Argyfwng wedi'i ddiweddarau ac y bydd yn cael ei gylchredeg i holl aelodau'r Cyngor.

Mae nifer o adroddiadau Adran 19 yn y camau olaf o'u cwblhau cyn eu cyhoeddi dros yr wythnosau nesaf. Lle nad yr Awdurdod Lleol yw'r awdurdod rheoli risg llifogydd, mae angen cynnal proses ymgynghori â phartneriaid ac mae angen llawer o waith er mwyn i'r adroddiadau Adran 19 gael eu hysgrifennu a'u cyhoeddi.

Rhoddodd y Cyfarwyddwr Gwasanaeth, Gwasanaethau Rheng Flaen, ddiweddariadau ar orsaf bwmpio Glenboi ac ar Deras Campbell yn ogystal ag adolygiad CNC o lifogydd afonydd yn Ffynnon Taf, a dywedodd fod yr Awdurdod Lleol, trwy'r Bwrdd Llifogydd, yn cwrdd yn rheolaidd â CNC a Dŵr Cymru. Mae CNC wedi nodi ei fod wedi cwblhau ei arolygon ar y Taf isaf tuag at Bontypridd, ac wedi datblygu Model Llifogydd Afonol. Bydd CNC

nawr yn ystyried goblygiadau'r wybodaeth y maen wedi'i chasglu trwy arolygon i ran isaf y Taf.

Dywedodd y Cyfarwyddwr Gwasanaeth fod pob Cyngor yn wynebu materion tebyg o ran materion atebolrwydd a buddsoddi ond dywedodd fod RhCT wedi buddsoddi cryn dipyn trwy'r amrywiol fentrau fel y nodir yn yr adroddiad. O ran yr isadeiledd, mae'r draeniad priffyrdd wedi'i gynllunio ar gyfer stormydd sy'n digwydd unwaith mewn 30 mlynedd ac roedd yr hyn a brofwyd yn fwy na hynny

Gofynnwyd cwestiynau pellach:

- Gwnaed gwaith sylweddol ar y cylfatiau ym Mharc Cae Felin yn Hirwaun er nad oes sôn am hyn na Hirwaun yn yr atodiadau, a yw hyn yn golygu nad oedd angen atgyweiriadau? A oes gennym ddyddiad ar gyfer adroddiad Adran 19 ar gyfer Hirwaun?
- Oes modd cael diweddariad ar gyfer gwaith yn Heath Terrace yn Ynyshir?
- Roedd adroddiad Pentre Adran 19 yr Awdurdod Lleol yn feirniadol o CNC a chyhoeddwyd argymhellion wedi hynny ond mae CNC wedi gwrthod cymryd cyfrifoldeb am ei ran. Mae preswylwyr yn haeddu cael eu digolledu, pwy sy'n gyfrifol a phwy fydd yn digolledu'r preswylwyr ym Mhentre?
- Effeithiwyd yn wael ar ardaloedd gogleddol y Rhondda Fawr, a allwch ddweud wrthym pa fesurau y mae'r Cyngor yn eu cyflwyno i liniaru effaith digwyddiadau tywydd yn y dyfodol, yn enwedig yr ardal o ffordd y tu allan i hen safle ysbyty Llwynypia?
- Ar hyn o bryd nid yw cynllun Trehafod yn cael ei ddyrannu i ffrwd ariannu benodol, o ystyried mai llifogydd afradlon a achosodd i'r 43 eiddo yn Nhrehafod orlifo, a allwch chi sôn am unrhyw welliannau eraill yn yr ardal a allai leihau llifogydd yn y dyfodol wrth i ni aros am y trafodaethau i'r orsaf bwmpio gael eu datrys?

Sicrhawyd yr aelodau bod meysydd gwaith eraill ac ymyriadau eraill yn cael eu cynnal ledled y fwrdeistref sirol er nad ydynt wedi'u cynnwys yn yr adroddiad cyfredol i'r Cyngor.

Fel mwyafrif y llifogydd, roedd y rhai ym Mharc Cae Felin yn deillio o'r afon, mae'r cyfrifoldeb yn gorwedd gyda CNC fel yr Awdurdod Rheoli Risg (RMA) sydd â phwerau i reoli risg llifogydd o brif afonydd, felly adroddiad terfynol ardal Hirwaun fydd adroddiad ymchwilio i lifogydd gyda CNC, gyda Chyfoeth Naturiol Cymru, yntau'r Awdurdod Rheoli Perygl Llifogydd.

Ymatebodd Arweinydd y Cyngor a'r Cyfarwyddwr Gwasanaeth i'r cwestiynau yn unigol

O ran yr adroddiad Adran 19 ynghylch Pentre, bu sesiwn gadarn gan gynnwys Mr Gareth O'Shea o CNC yn y Pwyllgor Trosolwg a Chraffu yn ddiweddar. O ran cyfrifoldebau, dywedodd y Cyfarwyddwr Gwasanaeth Gwasanaethau Rheng Flaen fod y Cyngor, ac yntau'n Awdurdod Llifogydd Lleol Arweiniol, yn gyfrifol am lunio adroddiad S19 wedi argymhell bod CNC yn adolygu ei arferion coedwig gan mai prif ffynhonnell llifogydd yn y llifogydd cychwynnol oherwydd rhwystr gan ddeunyddiau coediog gan gynnwys malurion, yng nghilfach cylfat Heol Pentre. Nododd, yn yr adroddiad yma, mae'r Cyngor, ag yntau'n Awdurdod Rheoli Llifogydd Lleol, yn cynnig nifer o gamau i leihau'r risg y bydd llifogydd o'r

fath yn digwydd eto.

Codwyd cwestiynau pellach mewn perthynas â:

- Sut mae trafodaethau'n datblygu gyda CNC ar y gwaith i Ystad Ddiwydiannol Treforest?
- A yw'r awdurdod lleol yn deall pam mae preswylwyr yn amharod i dderbyn y cynnig o gatiâu llifogydd, a yw'n gysylltiedig â materion atebolrwydd?
- A yw LIC yn deall i ba raddau y mae angen iddynt gynyddu eu cefnogaeth i lywodraeth leol o ran cynlluniau lliniaru llifogydd?
- A fydd wal Stryd y Nant, Britannia, yn cael ei symud ymlaen cyn gynted â phosibl er mwyn sicrhau preswylwyr y bydd mesur i reoli a lleihau'r risg o lifogydd yn cael ei leihau yn ardal Britannia?
- Ydyn ni'n targedu cilfachau penodol o ran y camerâu anghysbell?

Ymatebodd yr Arweinydd a'r Cyfarwyddwr Gwasanaeth Gwasanaethau Rheng Flaen i'r holl gwestiynau, o ran y ceisiadau i Lywodraeth Cymru, cadarnhaodd yr Arweinydd fod bron pob cais a gyflwynwyd wedi'i gymeradwyo ond mae argaeledd contractwyr i gyflawni'r gwaith yn peri problemau gan fod y mae graddfa'r gwaith yn ddigynsail. Sicrhaodd yr Aelodau y byddai gwybodaeth am y gatiâu llifogydd ac adborth o'r ymarfer curo drws yn cael ei darparu i'r Aelodau yn ddiweddarach fel gyda gwybodaeth ynglŷn â Heol Tuberville.

Cydnabu'r Cyfarwyddwr Gwasanaeth Gwasanaethau Rheng Flaen fod rhywfaint o waith wedi'i wneud gan CNC yn Ystâd Ddiwydiannol Treforest i atgyweirio a gwarchod y mesurau amddiffyn rhag llifogydd wrth ochr yr afon yn yr ardal, a hefyd i glirio'r afon. Ar ôl cwblhau'r arolygon, mae'r model ar gyfer rhan isaf y Taf yn cael ei ddatblygu i werthuso risg ac ystyried pa fesurau fydd yn cael eu nodi i wella cydnerthedd yn nhermau llifogydd yn yr ardal.

Atgoffwyd yr aelodau y dylai unrhyw Aelodau sydd â chwestiynau pellach e-bostio'r Arweinydd am ymateb.

Yn dilyn trafodaethau a chwestiynau a ofynnwyd i'r Arweinydd a'r swyddog arweiniol, **PENDERFYNWYD** nodi cynnwys yr adroddiad, y cynnydd sylweddol a wnaed hyd yma a'r biblinell helaeth o waith lliniaru, atgyweirio a gwella sydd o'n blaenau.

59 Y Cynllun Ariannol Tymor Canolig – y Newyddion Diweddaraf

Fe wnaeth y Cyfarwyddwr Cyllid a Gwasanaethau Digidol, roi diweddariad i'r Aelodau am y Cynllun Ariannol Tymor Canolig ar gyfer 2021/22 tan 2024/25, yn seiliedig ar y tybiaethau modelu presennol, cyn pennu'r cynigion manwl ar gyfer strategaeth cyllideb 2022/23 yn ystod misoedd yr hydref.

Hysbyswyd yr aelodau bod y pandemig wedi arwain at alw digynsail a phwysau ariannol ar draws holl wasanaethau'r Cyngor sydd, ar y cyfan, wedi'i ariannu gan gronfa caledi Llywodraeth Cymru. Yn genedlaethol bydd adolygiad gwariant 3 blynedd a gyhoeddir ar 27 Hydref 2021 a fydd yn allweddol wrth bennu lefel y cyllid sydd ar gael i genhedloedd datganoledig yng nghyd-destun yr adferiad economaidd a chyllidol ehangach.

Dywedodd y Cyfarwyddwr, fel y nodir yn adran 5 yr adroddiad, bod y Cynllun

Ariannol Tymor Canolig wedi'i ddiweddaru gan y Cyngor wedi'i lunio yn erbyn y cefndir hwn a thybiaethau modelu. Dangosir canlyniad y modelu yn ffigur 1 gyda bwlch yn y gyllideb ym mhob senario sy'n gyfystyr â bwlch o £26 miliwn ar draws y 3 blynedd mewn setliad positif o 4% i fwllch o £52 miliwn ar draws y 3 blynedd ar setliad positif o 2%.

Er mwyn parhau i gydbwysu'r gyllideb, dywedodd y Cyfarwyddwr y bydd angen i'r Cyngor barhau i ganolbwyntio a pharatoi'n dda ar gyfer ystod o sefyllfaoedd posibl a bydd y trefniadau tymor canolig ac ariannol a chynllunio gwasanaeth yn parhau i wasanaethu'r Cyngor yn dda yn hyn o beth.

I gloi, dywedodd y Cyfarwyddwr y byddai'r Cynllun wedi'i ddiweddaru yn cael ei gyflwyno i'r Pwyllgor Craffu Cyllid a Chyflawniad yn rhan o broses ymgynghori cyllideb 2022/23.

PENDERFYNWYD Nodi'r sefyllfa bresennol mewn perthynas â'r 'Cynllun Ariannol Tymor Canolig 2021/22 tan 2024/25' a chael diweddariad pellach yn yr hydref yn rhan o'r broses gosod cyllideb flynyddol.

60 **Blaenoriaethau Buddsoddi'r Cyngor**

Cyfeiriodd y Cyfarwyddwr Cyllid a Gwasanaethau Digidol at ei adroddiad sy'n nodi'r sefyllfa o ran cynnig bod y Cyngor yn buddsoddi ymhellach yn ei feysydd o flaenoriaeth, yn unol â'r Cynllun Corfforaethol, "Gwneud Gwahaniaeth" 2020-2024. Wrth gyflwyno ei adroddiad, gofynnodd am gytundeb y Cyngor o y trefniadau buddsoddi ac ariannu ychwanegol fel y'u nodir ym mharagraff 4 a fydd, os cytunir arnynt, yn cael eu hymgorffori yn Rhaglen Gyfalaf y Cyngor.

Ar ôl ystyried yr adroddiad **PENDERFYNWYD** cytuno ar y trefniadau buddsoddi ac ariannu ychwanegol fel y'u nodir ym mharagraff 4 a fydd yn cael eu hymgorffori yn Rhaglen Gyfalaf y Cyngor.

61 **ADOLYGIAD O ETHOLAETHAU SENEDDOL YNG NGHYMRU 2023 - CYNIGION CYCHWYNNOL COMISIWN FFINIAU CYMRU**

Cyflwynodd y Cyfarwyddwr Gwasanaethau Cyfreithiol ei adroddiad a'r atodiadau Cysylltiedig mewn perthynas â chyhoeddi cynigion cychwynnol y Comisiwn Ffiniau Cymru, a gyhoeddwyd ar yr 8 Medi 2021 mewn perthynas â'r etholaethau seneddol newydd arfaethedig yng Nghymru.

Cyfeiriodd y Cyfarwyddwr yr Aelodau at yr argymhellion a nodwyd yn yr adroddiad i gynnwys yr argymhelliad i gyfeirio'r mater i'r Pwyllgor Trosolwg a Chraffu i'w ystyried. Cadeirydd y Pwyllgor Trosolwg a Chraffu Cytunodd y Pwyllgor â'r cynnig a chynghori y dylid gwahoddiad i holl Aelodau'r Cyngor yn cael ei gylchredeg i fynychu a chyfrannu at y Mater

Ar ôl trafod yr adroddiad, **PENDERFYNWYD**:

1. Cyfeirio ystyriaeth o gynigion cychwynnol y Comisiwn Ffiniau at y Pwyllgor Trosolwg a Craffu a chytuno ar yr adborth ohonynt yn cael ei gyflwyno i'r Cyngor yn ei gyfarfod i'w gynnal ar yr 20th Hydref 2021, er mwyn gallu ymateb erbyn dyddiad cau'r 3rd Tachwedd 2021; a
2. Gwahodd holl Aelodau'r Cyngor i fynychu'r Pwyllgor Trosolwg a Craffu a

chyfrannu at y mater hwn.

62 Newid Aelodaeth Pwyllgorau

Cyflwynodd y Cyfarwyddwr Gwasanaeth Democrataidd a Chyfathrebu ei adroddiad i gynghori Aelodau o'r newid i'r gynrychiolaeth Lafur ar y Pwyllgor Llywodraethu ac Archwilio, y Pwyllgor Craffu Cyflenwi Gwasanaethau Cyhoeddus, Cymunedau a Ffyniant a'r Pwyllgor Craffu ar Blant a Phobl Ifanc.

Ar ôl trafod yr adroddiad, **PENDERFYNWYD**:

1. I nodi y byddai Cynghorydd y Fwrdeistref Sirol J Elliott yn cael ei enwebu i gymryd lle Cynghorydd y Fwrdeistref Sirol G Hughes ar y Pwyllgor Archwilio.
2. Bydd y Cynghorydd Bwrdeistref Sirol J Barton yn cael ei enwebu yn lle'r Cynghorydd Bwrdeistref Sirol J Harries ar y Pwyllgor Craffu Cyflenwi Gwasanaethau Cymunedol, Cymunedau a Ffyniant.
3. Bod Cynghorydd y Fwrdeistref Sirol R. Turner yn cymryd lle Cynghorydd y Fwrdeistref Sirol A. Davies-Jones ar y Pwyllgor Craffu – Plant a Phobl Ifanc;

63 Rhybudd o Gynnig

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Trafod Rhybudd o Gynnig sydd wedi'i gyflwyno yn enwau: 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. 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, R. Williams, T. Williams, a R. Yeo.

Dros y 18 mis diwethaf, mae arwyr ar y rheng flaen ym, mhob rhan o'r sectorau cyhoeddus a phreifat wedi arwain y frwydr yn erbyn COVID-19, gan roi eu hunain mewn perygl a gwneud aberthau personol enfawr i ddiogelu'r GIG, achub bywydau a chadw'r DU i fynd.

Mae eu cyfraniadau wedi cael eu cydnabod yn eang, gyda miliynau yn sefyll ar eu stepen drws i ddangos eu gwerthfawrogiad ar wahanol adegau yn ystod y pandemig. Mae Llywodraeth y DU hefyd wedi cyfleu ei werthfawrogiad mewn cyfres o ddyfyniadau gwag am arwyr y rheng flaen.

Serch hynny, yn yr Adolygiad Cynhwysfawr o Wariant un flwyddyn yr hydref diwethaf, cyhoeddodd Canghellor y Trysorlys "saib" tâl sector cyhoeddus ar gyfer y flwyddyn ariannol yma, gyda dim ond y rhai sy'n ennill llai na £24,000 a staff y GIG yn cael eu heithrio. Ym mis Mawrth, cafodd Llywodraeth y DU ei feirniadu'n chwyrn ar ôl i gynigion ar gyfer codiad cyflog o 1% ar gyfer y rhai sydd wedi'u heithrio o'r "saib" gael eu cyhoeddi, tra bod modd i'w gynnig gwell o 3%, yn dilyn argymhelliad gan gorff Adolygu Cyflogau'r GIG, arwain at gamau

gweithredu diwydiannol.

Mae arwyr rheng flaen ym mhob rhan o'r sector cyhoeddus bellach yn wynebu toriad cyflog gwirioneddol arall er gwaethaf eu hymdrechion diflino i sicrhau bod gwasanaethau'n cael eu cynnal a bod ein cymunedau'n cael eu cadw'n ddiogel dros y 18 mis diwethaf. Mae uwch gynrychiolwyr o heddluoedd ledled Cymru a Lloegr eisoes wedi mynegi eu siom a'u gwrthwynebiad i godiad cyflog o 0% - sy'n dod ar adeg pan mae swyddogion yr heddlu'n wynebu mwy na 100 o ymosodiadau y dydd (cynnydd o 20% ers y flwyddyn flaenorol). Yn ogystal â hynny, mae'r miloedd o staff a gaiff eu cyflogi gan y Cyngor yma wedi cael cynnig cynnydd cyflog o 1.75%, a bydd angen i'r Cyngor yma ariannu'r cynnydd yn llwyr o'i adnoddau ei hun os caiff ei dderbyn.

Yn ddiweddar, mae Gweinidog Addysg Llywodraeth Cymru, Jeremy Miles AS wedi cadarnhau ei fod yn bwriadu derbyn y codiad cyflog argymelledig o 1.75% i athrawon. Serch hynny, os cytunir arno, mae'n debygol y bydd angen dod o hyd i'r cyllid o'r adnoddau presennol hefyd, gan na dderbyniodd Llywodraeth Cymru unrhyw arian ychwanegol trwy fformiwla Barnett i ddarparu'r dyfarniadau cyflog ledled y sector cyhoeddus yn 2021-22. Llywodraeth y DU oedd yn gyfrifol am y penderfyniad yma, ond unwaith eto mae'n cael effaith uniongyrchol ar Gymru.

Mae'r Cyngor yma felly'n galw ar Arweinydd y Cyngor i ysgrifennu at Ganghellor y Trysorlys a'r Prif Weinidog i amlinellu barn y Cyngor yma bod ein harwyr ar y rheng flaen yn haeddu codiad cyflog gwirioneddol a theg, a bod yn rhaid i Lywodraeth y DU ariannu hyn i osgoi trosglwyddo baich y gost i Lywodraeth Cymru ac Awdurdodau Lleol Cymru.

Yn y cyfarfod, cyhoeddodd y Cadeirydd, yn unol â Rheol 10.4.1 o Weithdrefn y Cyngor, fod y diwygiad canlynol i'r Rhybudd o Gynnig wedi'i dderbyn gan Gynghorwyr y Fwrdeistref Sirol P. Jarman, G. Davies, S. Rees-Owen, M. Weaver, J. Williams, A. Cox, J. Davies, J. Cullwick, L. Jones, E. Stephens, H. Fychan, D. Grehan, K. Morgan, E. Webster, D. Macey, A. Chapman a S. M.

Roedd y Cynnig Diwygiedig yn nodi:

Dros y 18 mis diwethaf, mae arwyr ar y rheng flaen ym, mhob rhan o'r sectorau cyhoeddus a phreifat wedi arwain y frwydr yn erbyn COVID-19, gan roi eu hunain mewn perygl a gwneud aberthau personol enfawr i ddiogelu'r GIG, achub bywydau a chadw'r DU i fynd.

Mae eu cyfraniadau wedi cael eu cydnabod yn eang, gyda miliynau yn sefyll ar eu stepen drws i ddangos eu gwerthfawrogiad ar wahanol adegau yn ystod y pandemig. Mae Llywodraeth y DU hefyd wedi cyfleu ei werthfawrogiad mewn cyfres o ddyfyniadau gwag am arwyr y rheng flaen.

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Mae arwyr rheng flaen ym mhob rhan o'r sector cyhoeddus bellach yn wynebu

toriad cyflog gwirioneddol arall er gwaethaf eu hymdrechion diflino i sicrhau bod gwasanaethau'n cael eu cynnal a bod ein cymunedau'n cael eu cadw'n ddiogel dros y 18 mis diwethaf. Mae uwch gynrychiolwyr o heddluoedd ledled Cymru a Lloegr eisoes wedi mynegi eu siom a'u gwrthwynebiad i godiad cyflog o 0% - sy'n dod ar adeg pan mae swyddogion yr heddlu'n wynebu mwy na 100 o ymosodiadau y dydd (cynnydd o 20% ers y flwyddyn flaenorol). Yn ogystal â hynny, mae'r miloedd o staff a gaiff eu cyflogi gan y Cyngor yma wedi cael cynnig cynnydd cyflog o 1.75%, a bydd angen i'r Cyngor yma ariannu'r cynnydd yn llwyr o'i adnoddau ei hun os caiff ei dderbyn.

Er gwaethaf yr uchod, rydyn ni'n croesawu'r Datganiad Ysgrifenedig a wnaed ar 8 Medi 2021 gan Jeremy Miles AS, Gweinidog y Gymraeg ac Addysg yn adarnhau'r cynnydd o 1.75% i gyflog athrawon, wedi'i ôl-ddyddio i 1 Medi 2021 a dyfarnu £6.4 miliwn arall tuag at gost y dyfarniad cyflog mewn ysgolion a chweched dosbarth yn ystod y flwyddyn ariannol yma.

Mae'r Cyngor yma felly'n galw ar Arweinydd y Cyngor i ysgrifennu at Ganghellor y Trysorlys a'r Prif Weinidog i amlinellu barn y Cyngor yma bod ein harwyr ar y rheng flaen yn haeddu codiad cyflog gwirioneddol a theg, a bod yn rhaid i Lywodraeth y DU ariannu hyn i osgoi trosglwyddo baich y gost i Lywodraeth Cymru ac Awdurdodau Lleol Cymru.

Yn unol â Rheolau Gweithdrefn 12.7 y Cyngor, cynhaliwyd pleidlais mewn perthynas â'r diwygiad i'r Rhybudd o Gynnig a **PHENDERFYNNWYD** peidio â mabwysiadu'r diwygiad.

Yn dilyn trafodaeth bellach mewn perthynas â'r cynnig gwreiddiol ac yn unol â Rheolau Gweithdrefn y Cyngor 12.7, **PENDERFYNNWYD** mabwysiadu'r cynnig.

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Trafod Rhybudd o Gynnig sydd wedi'i gyflwyno yn enwau: 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. 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, R. Williams, T. Williams, a R. Yeo

Mae Cyngor Rhondda Cynon Taf yn parhau i sefyll yn erbyn pob math o hiliaeth a gwahaniaethu ac mae wedi ymrwymo i weithio gyda sefydliadau partner i frwydro yn erbyn credoau a gweithredoedd ffiaidd o'r fath.

Un math o hiliaeth a gwahaniaethu sydd wedi cynyddu yn ystod y blynyddoedd diwethaf yw Islamoffobia. Mae'r Comisiwn Cydraddoldeb a Hawliau Dynol (EHRC) wedi tynnu sylw at sut mae 70% o Fwslimiaid wedi profi rhagfarn ar sail crefydd yn ystod y 12 mis diwethaf. Mae Mwslimiaid yn wynebu rhai o'r canlyniadau gwaethaf o ran cyflogaeth, iechyd ac addysg, ac, yn ôl data'r

Swyddfa Gartref, cawson nhw eu targedu mewn mwy na hanner yr holl droseddau casineb crefyddol a gofnodwyd (2017-2019).

Yn dilyn dwy flynedd o ymgynghori, ar 27 Tachwedd 2018, cyhoeddodd y Grŵp Hollbleidiol Seneddol ar Fwslimiaid Prydain adroddiad o'r enw "Islamophobia Defined: the inquiry into a working definition of Islamophobia."

Roedd yr adroddiad hwn yn cynnwys y diffiniad canlynol:

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

Mae modd i enghreifftiau cyfoes o Islamoffobia mewn bywyd cyhoeddus, y cyfryngau, ysgolion, y gweithle, ac mewn sefyllfaoedd crefyddol neu anghrefyddol, gan ystyried y cyd-destun cyffredinol, gynnwys y canlynol (ond dydyn nhw ddim yn gyfyngedig i hyn):

- Galw am, cynorthwyo, ysgogi neu gyfiawnhau lladd neu niweidio Mwslimiaid yn enw ideoleg hiliol/ffasgaidd, neu farn eithafol ar grefydd.
- Gwneud honiadau celwyddog, dad-ddyneiddiol, gwahaniaethol, neu ystrydebol am Fwslimiaid fel y cyfryw, neu Fwslimiaid fel grŵp ar y cyd, megis rhannu cynllwynion am effaith Mwslimaidd ar wleidyddiaeth, y llywodraeth neu sefydliadau cymdeithasol eraill; y myth bod gan bobl Fwslimaidd duedd unigryw i gyflawni derfysgaeth, a honiadau o 'fygythiad' demograffig a berir gan Fwslimiaid neu o 'feddiant Mwslimaidd', ymhlith pethau eraill.
- Cyhuddo Mwslimiaid fel pobl o fod yn gyfrifol am gamwedd go iawn neu ddychmygol a gyflawnwyd gan berson neu grŵp Mwslimaidd unigol, neu hyd yn oed am weithredoedd a gyflawnwyd gan bobl nad ydynt yn Fwslimiaid.
- Cyhuddo Mwslimiaid fel grŵp, neu wladwriaethau mwyafrif Mwslimaidd, o ddyfeisio neu orliwio Islamoffobia, glanhau ethnig neu hil-laddiad a gyflawnwyd yn erbyn Mwslimiaid.
- Cyhuddo dinasyddion Mwslimaidd o fod yn fwy ffyddlon i'r 'Ummah' (cymuned Fwslimaidd draws-wladol) neu i'w mamwlad, neu i flaenoriaethau honedig Mwslimiaid ledled y byd, nag i fuddiannau eu cenhedloedd eu hunain.
- Gwadu hawl i boblogaethau Mwslimaidd i hunanbenderfyniad e.e., trwy honni bod bodolaeth Palestina neu Kashmir annibynnol yn ymdrech derfysgol.
- Bod yn rhagrithiol drwy fynnu bod Mwslimiaid yn ymddwyn mewn ffyrdd na ddisgwyllir nac y gofynnir amdanynt gan unrhyw grwpiau eraill mewn cymdeithas, e.e. profion teyrngarwch.
- Defnyddio'r symbolau a'r delweddau sy'n gysylltiedig ag Islamoffobia clasurol (e.e. dweud bod Muhammed yn bedoffeil, honiadau o Fwslimiaid yn lledaenu Islam gan ddefnyddio cleddyf neu'n darostwng grwpiau lleiafrifol o dan eu rheolaeth) i nodweddu Mwslimiaid fel pobl sy'n meinthrin perthnasau amhriodol er mwyn cael rhyw, pobl sy'n gynhenid dreisgar neu bobl sydd ddim yn gallu byw'n heddychlon mewn cymdeithasau cymysg.

- Dal Mwslimiaid yn gyfrifol ar y cyd am weithredoedd unrhyw wladwriaeth fwyafrifol Fwslimaidd, boed yn seciwlar neu'n Islamaidd yn gyfansoddiadol.

Mae'r Cyngor yma'n penderfynu mabwysiadu'r diffiniad uchod yn ffurfiol ac yn addo gwneud ei orau glas i fynd i'r afael ag Islamoffobia, cefnogi trigolion a chymunedau Mwslimaidd sy'n wynebu'r math o wahaniaethu a ddisgrifir yn yr enghreifftiau uchod, a meithrin dealltwriaeth gyffredin o'i achosion a'i ganlyniadau.

Yn dilyn trafodaeth ar y mater, **PENDERFYNWYD** – mabwysiadu'r Rhybudd o Gynnig.

(**Nodyn:** Roedd yr Aelodau canlynol bresennol o Grŵp Plaid Cymru yn dymuno iddo gael ei gofnodi fel un a bleidleisiodd o blaid yr Hysbysiad o Gynnig: Cynghorwyr Bwrdeistref Sirol P Jarman, A Cox, GR Davies, S. Evans, E Griffiths, S Rees-Owen, E Stephens, M Weaver, E Webster a J Williams).

- Yn ystod y drafodaeth **PENDERFYNWYD** parhau â'r cyfarfod yn unol â Rheol 8 - Dull Gweithredu'r Cyngor, er mwyn trafod gweddill yr eitemau ar yr agenda a pharhau â busnes y Cyngor.

Daeth y cyfarfod i ben am 8.00 pm

**Cllr S Powderhill
Cadeirydd.**

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL
COUNCIL

20th OCTOBER 2021

MEMBERS QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, DEMOCRATIC SERVICES & COMMUNICATION.

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

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

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that Members:

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

3. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

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

4. MEMBERS QUESTION ON NOTICE

- 4.1 The closing date for receipt of Members Questions on Notice to the Council Business Unit for the Council meeting on the 20th October 2021 was 5pm on the 7th October 2021.
- 4.2 Twenty-one questions were received and put forward to the Council Ballot held on the 12th October 2021, to determine the running order of the questions at the Council Meeting.
- 4.3 The results of the ballot are outlined below:-

Number	Corresponding Question
1	<p>Question from County Borough Councillor R. Yeo to the Leader of the Council, County Borough Councillor A. Morgan:</p> <p>“Can the Council Leader make a statement on the plans to develop the North West Transport Corridor?”</p>
2	<p>Question from County Borough Councillor E. George to the Leader of the Council, County Borough Councillor A. Morgan:</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>
3	<p>Question from County Borough Councillor L. M. Adams to the Cabinet Member for Corporate Services, County Borough Councillor M. A. Norris:</p> <p>“Will the Cabinet Member provide an update on the Council’s Free Town Centre Wi-Fi rollout?”</p>
4	<p>Question from County Borough Councillor S. Morgans to the Cabinet Member for Education and Inclusion Services, County Borough Councillor J. Rosser:</p> <p>“Can the Cabinet Member for Education and Inclusion Services please provide an update on the plans to develop a new Welsh Medium school in Ferndale to replace Ysgol Llyn-Y-Forwyn?”</p>
5	<p>Question from County Borough Councillor S. M. Powell to the Cabinet Member for Stronger Communities, Wellbeing and Cultural Services, County Borough Councillor R. Lewis:</p> <p>“How is this Council progressing plans for the introduction of Electric Charge Points throughout Rhondda Cynon Taf?”</p>
6	<p>Question from County Borough Councillor J. Bonetto to the Leader of the Council, County Borough Councillor A. Morgan:</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>

7	<p>Question from County Borough Councillor P Jarman to the Chair of the Licensing Committee County Borough Councillor A S Fox:</p> <p>“Please will you make a statement on the work of your Committee in relation to the granting, issuing and suspension of Licences?”</p>
8	<p>Question from County Borough Councillor W. Lewis to the Cabinet Member for Adult Services and the Welsh Language, County Borough Councillor G. Hopkins:</p> <p>“Can the Cabinet Member please make a statement on the recent decision of Cabinet to extend the payment of the Real Living Wage to Council contracted adult independent social care sector workers?”</p>
9	<p>Question from County Borough Councillor G. P. Thomas to the Leader of the Council, County Borough Councillor A. Morgan:</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>
10	<p>Question from County Borough Councillor G. Caple to the Cabinet Member for Adult Services and the Welsh Language, County Borough Councillor G. Hopkins:</p> <p>“Will the Cabinet Member please provide an update on the development of an Extra Care facility in Porth?”</p>
11	<p>Question from County Borough Councillor M. Forey to the Cabinet Member for Enterprise, Development and Housing, County Borough Councillor D. R. Bevan:</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>
12	<p>Question from County Borough Councillor J. Brencher to the Cabinet Member for Stronger Communities, Wellbeing and Cultural Services, County Borough Councillor R. Lewis:</p> <p>“Will the Cabinet Member please provide a progress update on the Muni in Pontypridd?”</p>

13	<p>Question from County Borough Councillor J. Edwards to the Deputy Leader of the Council, County Borough Councillor M. Webber:</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 there be an overview of the recent awards the Council received in relation to this scheme?”</p>
14	<p>Question from County Borough Councillor J. Elliott to the Leader of the Council, County Borough Councillor A Morgan:</p> <p>“Can the Council Leader please provide an update on the various flood schemes planned and ongoing across RCT, including for the Cwmbach ward?”</p>
15	<p>Question from County Borough Councillor K Morgan to the Cabinet Member for Environment, Leisure & Heritage Services, County Borough Councillor A Crimmings:</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>
16	<p>Question from County Borough Councillor D. Owen-Jones to the Leader of the Council, County Borough Councillor A. Morgan:</p> <p>“What implications does the recent Welsh Government announcement to pause major roadbuilding schemes in Wales have for Rhondda Cynon Taf?”</p>
17	<p>Question from County Borough Councillor J. Barton to the Leader of the Council, County Borough Councillor A. Morgan:</p> <p>“What action can the Council take to improve road safety and reduce speeding traffic in local communities?”</p>
18	<p>Question from County Borough Councillor P Howe to the Cabinet Member for Environment, Leisure & Heritage Services, County Borough Councillor A Crimmings:</p> <p>“Could you please give an update on the changing rooms at Ferndale Darren Park?”</p>
19	<p>Question from County Borough Councillor G R Davies to the Cabinet Member for Enterprise Development and Housing County Borough Councillor D R Bevan:</p> <p>“A wnewch chi ddatganiad ar twristiaeth my mhenuchaf y Rhondda Fawr? Can you make a statement on tourism in the Upper Rhondda Fawr area?”</p>

20	<p>Question from County Borough Councillor D. Williams to the Cabinet Member for Education and Inclusion Services, County Borough Councillor J. Rosser:</p> <p>“Are you able to provide more information on the recent announcement that the Cabinet has approved further funding for 21st Century Schools improvements, specifically relating to the proposal for Glyncoch?”</p>
21	<p>Question from County Borough Councillor G. Holmes to the Leader of the Council, County Borough Councillor A. Morgan:</p> <p>“Can the Council Leader update on the completion and subsequent marketing of Llys Cadwyn in Pontypridd?”</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

20 OCTOBER 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

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RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

MUNICIPAL YEAR 2021/22

COUNCIL

20th OCTOBER 2021

COUNCIL TAX DISCOUNTS – PRESCRIBED CLASS OF DWELLINGS

REPORT OF: THE DIRECTOR OF FINANCE AND DIGITAL SERVICES

Author: Barrie Davies (01443 424026)

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 This report satisfies the requirement for Council to annually review and reaffirm (or amend) the level of discount for prescribed classes of dwellings.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 It is recommended that Council:

- i) Agrees the continuation of no Council Tax discount in respect of Class A, B and C properties.

3.0 REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 To satisfy the requirement for Council to annually review and reaffirm (or amend) the level of discount for prescribed classes of dwellings.

4.0 BACKGROUND

COUNCIL TAX - PRESCRIBED CLASS OF DWELLING

- 4.1 In the case of a dwelling as defined in the Council Tax (Prescribed Class of Dwelling) (Wales) Regulations 1998, as amended, the Council has discretion to award up to

50% discount in respect of the two following prescribed classes of dwellings (usually described as second homes and holiday homes), i.e. Class A and Class B.

Class A

- (a) *which is not the sole or main residence of an individual;*
- (b) *which is furnished; and*
- (c) *the occupation of which is prohibited by law for a continuous period of at least 28 days in the relevant year.*

Class B

- (a) *which is not the sole or main residence of an individual;*
- (b) *which is furnished; and*
- (c) *the occupation of which is not prohibited by law for a continuous period of at least 28 days in the relevant year.*

- 4.2 The Council has previously determined not to allow a discount in respect of Class A and Class B properties.
- 4.3 The Council also has discretion to grant up to 50% discount on unoccupied and substantially unfurnished chargeable dwellings beyond the statutory 6 month exemption period, i.e. Class C.

Class C

- (a) *Unoccupied and unfurnished beyond a six month exempt period.*

- 4.4 The Council has previously determined not to allow a discount on Class C properties.

5.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS / SOCIO-ECONOMIC DUTY

- 5.1 A full Equality Impact Assessment is not required at this time as there is no change proposed to the existing arrangements.

6.0 CONSULTATION

- 6.1 There are no consultation requirements as there is no change proposed to the existing arrangements.

7.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATION(S)

- 7.1 The implications of the above arrangements, if agreed, will be taken into account as part of determining the Council Tax Base calculations for the financial year 2022/23.

8.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS OR LEGISLATION CONSIDERED

8.1 The relevant legislation is referenced at paragraph 4 of this report.

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

9.1 The recommendation for the continuation of no Council Tax discount in respect of Class A, B and C properties supports the Council's work in delivering its Empty Homes Strategy and in doing so contributes to the delivery of Corporate Plan priorities and well-being goals as set out in the Well-being of Future Generations Act.

10.0 CONCLUSION

10.1 This report recommends that Council reaffirm the current arrangements with regard to Council Tax discounts for Class A, B and C dwellings.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972
AS AMENDED BY
THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985
RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL
COUNCIL
20th October 2021

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF FINANCE AND DIGITAL SERVICES

Item: **COUNCIL TAX DISCOUNTS – PRESCRIBED CLASS OF DWELLINGS**

Background Papers

None.

Officer to contact: Barrie Davies



RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

COUNCIL

20 OCTOBER 2021

THE COUNCIL'S DRAFT CORPORATE PERFORMANCE REPORT 2021/22

REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE IN DISCUSSION WITH THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL, CLLR A. MORGAN

Author: Lesley Lawson – Performance Manager

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 This report outlines Rhondda Cynon Taf's draft Corporate Performance Report (CPR) which contains progress for 2020/21 and plans for 2021/22 in respect of the Council's strategic priorities. It also sets out how the CPR enables the Council to meet its statutory reporting requirements.

2. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Council:

- 2.1 Approve the draft CPR (Appendix 1) subject to the endorsement of Cabinet at its 18th October 2021 meeting.

3. REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 To ensure the Council publishes information on performance across its strategic priorities in line with statutory reporting requirements.

4. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 4.1 The Council's three key strategic priorities for the period 2020-2024 were agreed by Council [on 4 March 2020](#) and are set out in its Corporate Plan '[Making a Difference](#)'. 'Making a Difference' continues the positive work started in 2016 as part of the previous Corporate Plan, 'The Way Ahead', and is a key element of the Council's strategic and financial management arrangements to ensure it:

- is well placed to meet future ambitions, particularly in the context of challenging funding levels, changes in the demand for services (including the on-going impact of the Covid-19 pandemic) and legislation changes;
- sets a clear strategy and set of priorities for future years;
- allocates resources to priority areas; and

- puts in place plans to deliver the agreed priorities.
- 4.2 The Corporate Plan sets a clear direction for the Council, which all staff and Managers can see, understand and work toward through their Service Delivery Plans. There are transparent, robust and regular reporting and scrutiny arrangements in place which also ensure that residents and external stakeholders are able to hold the Council to account.
- 4.3 The three strategic priorities are:
1. Ensuring **People**: are independent, healthy and successful;
 2. Creating **Places**: where people are proud to live, work and play; and
 3. Enabling **Prosperity**: creating the opportunity for people and businesses to: be innovative; be entrepreneurial; and fulfil their potential and prosper.
- 4.4 Progress in the delivery of these priorities have been reported as part of the Council's quarterly Performance Reports to Cabinet and the Finance and Performance Scrutiny Committee during 2020/21, and have also been made available on the [Council's website](#).
- 4.5 There are currently two separate, but related, legislative reporting requirements on the Council that are met by the Corporate Performance Report:
- [The Well-being of Future Generations \(Wales\) Act 2015](#), which requires public bodies to set and publish well-being objectives, take all reasonable steps to meet those objectives and publish an annual report of progress; and
 - [The Local Government \(Wales\) Measure 2009](#), which requires all local authorities in Wales to make arrangements to secure continuous improvement in the exercise of their functions by setting Improvement Objectives and to make a public assessment of their performance for each financial year by no later than 31 October following the end of the financial year to which the information relates.
- 4.6 Improvement Objectives need to reflect the strategic priorities of the Council and to all intents and purposes, Well-being Objectives and Improvement Objectives can be treated as one and the same. Therefore, by integrating processes for setting and reporting on its Corporate Priorities, the Council can discharge its duties under both areas of legislation.
- 4.7 This approach was supported by Council in endorsing the Corporate Plan 'Making a Difference' on [4 March 2020](#) when it agreed that the Council's Corporate Priorities would also serve as the Council's Well-being Objectives.
- 4.8 Following on, 2020/21 is the last reporting year to which the requirements of the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009 will apply to Local Authorities. From April 2021, the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 put in place a new system for performance and governance based on Self-Assessment and Peer review, including the consolidation of the Welsh Ministers' support and intervention powers. As Members will be aware, the requirements of the Local Government and Election (Wales) Act 2021 were set out in a report to [Cabinet 25 March 2021](#).

5. THE COUNCIL'S CORPORATE PLANNING ARRANGEMENTS 2021/22

- 5.1 The Council has a consistent track record of setting and delivering its Vision to meet statutory reporting duties, with corporate planning arrangements for 2021/22 providing the necessary framework for services as they continue to both recover from the Covid-19 pandemic and focus on supporting the delivery of the Council's Corporate Plan priorities.
- 5.2 The Council's draft CPR for 2021/22 has been prepared against the backdrop of the Covid-19 pandemic and is included as **Appendix 1**. The content has been reviewed and challenged by Council officers and its purpose is to set out the:
- progress of the Council's priorities, **People, Places** and **Prosperity** during 2020/21 with more detailed evaluations of performance and progress, and other relevant support documents, included as electronic links; and
 - plans to deliver the priorities of **People, Places** and **Prosperity** in 2021/22, with electronic links included to the detailed action plan for each priority.
- 5.3 In this way, the draft CPR aims to provide elected Members, partners, residents, staff and regulators with an overview of progress and plans, as well as access to further detailed information. This approach also ensures the Council meets its legal duties as set out in paragraph 4.5.
- 5.4 On the 21st September 2021, Cabinet considered the Council's Quarter 1 Performance Report that included progress updates on the 2021/22 draft plans for People, Places and Prosperity, noting that these were subject to approval by full Council in October 2021. Where revisions are required to the content of the plans as part of the approval process, these will be incorporated into quarterly Performance Reports presented to Cabinet and the Finance and Performance Scrutiny Committee during the year.
- 5.5 For Members information, Audit Wales has a statutory duty to audit the extent to which Councils have met their statutory responsibilities and this will be formally reported to Council in due course.

6. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC DUTY

- 6.1 There are no equality and diversity or socio-economic duty implications to report.

7. CONSULTATION

- 7.1 There are no consultation requirements emanating from the recommendation set out in the report.

8. FINANCIAL IMPLICATION(S)

- 8.1 There are no financial implications as a result of the recommendation set out in the report.

9. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS OR LEGISLATION CONSIDERED

- 9.1 The report aims to ensure the Council complies with its legal duties under the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009 and 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 This report evidences how the Council is managing its Strategic Priorities, as set out in the Council's Corporate Plan, '[Making a Difference](#)'. The CPR also provides information and evidence of how the Council is meeting its duty to comply with the Sustainable Development Principle, as contained within the Well-being of Future Generations Act, as well as contributing to the seven national goals.

11. CONCLUSION

- 11.1 The Council's CPR 2021/22 demonstrates the positive progress made over the last year in the context of the global, national and regional challenges in 2020/21, and puts in place ambitious and clear plans for the Council for 2021/22.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT, 1972

as amended by

THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

THE COUNCIL'S DRAFT CORPORATE PERFORMANCE REPORT 2021/22

20 October 2021

Report of the Chief Executive in discussions with the Leader of the Council, Cllr A. Morgan

Author: Lesley Lawson – Performance Manager

Item - THE COUNCIL'S DRAFT CORPORATE PERFORMANCE REPORT 2021/22

Background Papers

Cabinet - [Council Performance Reports \(quarterly and year-end\)](#)

Cabinet – [Report 18 October 2021](#)

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The Council's draft Corporate Performance Report

2021-22

VERSION 8/10/21

All data included in this report will be subject to final checks

This document contains the Council's priorities which are the Improvement Objectives as required by the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009 and also the Council's Well-being objectives as required by the Well-being of Future Generations Act 2015. To all intents and purposes, Well-being objectives and Improvement Objectives can be treated as one and the same. Therefore, by integrating processes for setting and reporting on these key objectives, the Council has discharged its duties under both areas of legislation.

This document is available in other languages and formats on request.

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Making a Difference

This is the Council's annual Corporate Performance Report. It tells you about how we performed in 2020/21 and our new priorities for 2021/22.

We welcome your views on this report, our plans for the future and how we did last year. We would also like to know how you, your family and your community have been affected by our work to improve services.

You can get in touch

Via the web	www.rctcbc.gov.uk/sayit www.rctcbc.gov.uk/Reportit
Via Twitter	@rctcouncil or @Lets_Talk_Rct
Via Facebook	www.facebook.com/RCTCouncil
Via the Leader's Blog	www.rctcbc.gov.uk/TheLeadersBlog
Help us to improve by providing your comments, compliments and complaints	www.rctcbc.gov.uk/feedback
Join the Citizens' Panel	www.rctcbc.gov.uk/jointhepanel
Get involved in our Conversations	https://lets-talk.rctcbc.gov.uk/
Consultation Team	consultation@rctcbc.gov.uk
Cwm Taf Engagement Hub	www.ourcwmtaf.wales
Your Councillor	Find the contact details of your local Councillor www.rctcbc.gov.uk/councillors
If you are interested in taking over the running of a Council run building or service	www.rctcbc.gov.uk/rcttogether

A message from the Leader of the Council – Councillor Andrew Morgan

Welcome to the Council's Annual Corporate Performance Report for 2021.

The report helps us to meet many of the Council's legal reporting requirements, but mostly provides the reader with an open account of how we are performing and delivering for the residents of Rhondda Cynon Taf. As we have done in our previous annual reports, we have brought together information from across the Council's services reflecting on how well we delivered our priorities, where we can do better and our plans to deliver our ambitions in the coming year and the challenges we face.

This year, the report reflects our work during the most challenging of all times. The Covid-19 coronavirus that started its deadly journey across the world in early 2020, kept up its relentless march throughout 2020/21 and touched every one of us in some way.

On 23 March 2021, we joined the national [Day of Reflection](#) marking the anniversary of the first [National Lockdown](#). Here in the Council, we joined the silence and lit up our landmark buildings, marking and remembering those people who lost their lives through the virus, paying tribute to those who cared for and kept us safe and sharing the hope for a brighter future. There have been many other lives lost to the virus since that day, and behind each life lost there is a family, friends, colleagues and communities who grieve and whose lives were changed. There are also many others in our community whose health continues to be affected by the virus. Our thoughts are with them, and also how we can help people, communities and the local economy to recover from the pandemic is at the forefront our minds.

Like all public, private, and voluntary organisations, the Council was tested like never before. We all grew familiar with words and ways of working we could never have imagined. Throughout this report you will see how our contribution was key to setting up and running Covid Testing Centres, Community Testing, Track, Trace and Protect arrangements and Mass Vaccination Centre as well as other important work to keep people safe while continuing to provide key services and support businesses during the most challenging of times. We have also worked more closely than ever with partners including the Health Board, South Wales Police and the third sector to find better ways to get things done. Our responses to this unprecedented challenge, such as the roll-out of business support, were delivered at pace, in the best interests of residents and the health of our communities.

Despite the impact of Covid, we continued to deliver major projects and our ambitious work programme where we were able to do so. For example

- Continuing with the flood alleviation works across the County Borough.
- Keeping up with our programme of Town Centre developments in Pontypridd, Porth, Aberdare and Mountain Ash.
- Completing Bridge repairs in [Hopkinstown, Berw Road, Pontypridd](#) and Treherbert.
- Delivering the [Mountain Ash Cross Valley Link](#) and completed the award winning Llys Cadwyn development in Pontypridd.
- Completing repairs to Ponty Lido which was devastated by the floods of 2020.
- Continuing with our 21st Century school building and improvement programme and agreeing to progress a new school building on a new site for YGG Llyn-y-Forwyn.

- Opening new independent living accommodation and making good progress in our third [Extra Care facility, Cwrt yr Orsaf Pontypridd](#) so it remains on target to welcome residents later this year, and progressed our plans for a new Extra Care facility as part of the redevelopment of Dan y Mynydd in Porth.
- Building new high quality and low carbon industrial units at Coed Ely and Robertstown to support new and established businesses to grow.
- Employing more young people in [Graduate and Apprenticeship Schemes](#) than ever before, exceeded our recruitment target.
- Continuing to develop our work to reduce and tackle the impacts of climate change.

Overall, from the evidence we have presented in this report, we think the Council has made good progress throughout a year when we continually responded to new and fast moving events outside our control. The success of the vaccine programme is allowing us to slowly return to a 'new normal', to take the opportunities and meet those challenges that emerged over the last eighteen months as well as others such as Climate Change.

However, the Council remains positive and ambitious and as our services restart safely, we continue to be focused on making RCT the best place in Wales to live, work and play, where people and businesses are independent, healthy, and prosperous.

The Corporate Performance Report contains many examples of how the Council is working to improve the Economic, Social, Environmental and Cultural well-being of the residents and communities of Rhondda Cynon Taf. It also shows what the Council's Independent Auditors have said about our work and progress.

I could not be prouder of the way staff and Councillors have responded to the unprecedented challenges over the last year to support those people in most need and to keep residents safe and well. Staff have gone over and above the call of duty and continually exceeded expectations. From taking on new and unfamiliar jobs, finding new ways to deliver long standing services, particularly to those most in need, and at the same time adapting quickly to the need to master new IT skills to help them to continue their work from home. All this and more during the most challenging of professional and personal circumstances. I have been continually amazed by and grateful for the resilience shown by staff, residents and communities including the hundreds of volunteers, who together were vital to keeping our vulnerable residents safe.

This commitment to our community and how we strive to be the best is why Rhondda Cynon Taf continues to be one of the most successful Councils in Wales, setting a high bar for ourselves and others.

As we emerge from the worst of times, we know we have more tough times ahead, where ambition for our communities will be more important than ever if we are to continue the pace of change, we have delivered in recent years. We are keen to revisit the old challenges and to meet head on those that are more recent. We want to take the opportunities that presented themselves during the pandemic. We also want to get back on track and to deliver all the ambitions we have set for ourselves and those that you have told us are important to you. Hopefully, this year we can do all this, without the shackles of a pandemic to hold us back.

I hope this Report helps you to understand how the Council has continued to deliver services in the exceptional circumstances of 2020/21 and how we are approaching both the challenges and

opportunities of 2021/22 and beyond. Please let us know what you think of our progress, and our plans for the future. Tell us what matters to you, and give us your ideas, and tell us what we can do to further improve the positive impact of the Council's work on or your community, your family and on you.

Thank you for your continuing interest in the Council.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "A. Morgan".

Councillor Andrew Morgan

Leader, Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council

DRAFT

Continuing to Deliver

2020/21 was a year like no other. Across Council services, we adapted operations to respond to the Welsh Government's initial 'lockdown' in March 2020, phased reopening of some services in summer 2020, a short 'circuit breaker' in October 2020 and finally a second extended lock down beginning in December 2020. All these steps were put in place to stop the spread of the Covid-19 virus throughout communities, Wales and beyond. During this time the Council continued supporting and protecting residents, particularly those that were most vulnerable, supporting businesses and keeping staff safe, particularly those working on the 'front line'.

With the focus on keeping all our residents safe, we have worked more closely than ever with our partners including *the Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board* and the third sector. Many Council staff were heavily involved in organising, managing and supporting vital Covid-19 related work, ranging from the initial Track and Trace calls and the Covid Community Testing Centres to the roll out of vaccinations. Not only were our staff key to the success of this joint work but so were our buildings, IT systems and equipment.

The delivery of all Council services has been affected and you will see throughout this report many of the ways in which staff and services have responded. For example

To support vulnerable people, we

- Worked with the third sector to deliver food parcels and made contact with over 11,000 shielding residents by telephone or safely knocking doors where necessary. 3,393 of the shielding residents also received more direct help including with shopping, deliveries of prescriptions and food parcels, benefit advice and dog walking.
- Made sure that parents and carers of children who would normally receive free school meals were provided with funds to ensure the children had food at home.
- Supported businesses with grant payments and in Town Centres provided social distancing support and advice and ensured safe access to public toilets.
- Made sure that homeless people had access to temporary accommodation so that they were safe.
- Dealt with scammers that preyed on people at their most vulnerable.
- Continued to provide support to people experiencing Domestic Abuse.

To find new and different ways of keeping services and events going, we

- Blended face to face learning with online and distance learning for pupils of all ages in our schools.
- Introduced '[order and collect](#)' services at some of our libraries as well as some home deliveries.
- Put in place Birth Registrations online.
- Put some of our Leisure Classes and Adult Education classes online.
- Held our first [Virtual](#) Careers Fair, Virtual and Original '[Once Upon a Panto](#)' and also a [Virtual](#) Nos Galan.

To help those people who relied on services that are less visible, we

- Continued to support people and communities affected by floods.
- Kept vulnerable learners safe by opening learning Hubs.

- Found different ways to support the children and families who need extra help.
- Provided accommodation to keep homeless people safe and off the streets.
- Continued to provide help to people misusing substances.
- Put in place accommodation needed for Offenders on release.

As well as finding new and different ways of delivering business as 'unusual', we did not lose sight of our ambitions and our investment programme with work continuing whilst meeting social distancing Covid-19 requirements.

- We [Opened the Mountain Ash Cross Valley Link](#) to motorists, cyclists and pedestrians in October 2020.
- We progressed the work on the Porth Transport Hub which will bring together rail and bus journeys, scheduled to open in 2022.
- Contractor Willmott Dixon [completed the award winning Llys Cadwyn](#) in Pontypridd, providing business, services for residents and leisure facilities. Businesses and organisations started to open-up from the three buildings as restrictions allowed. A virtual tour is also [available](#). Bridge contractor Knights Brown also [completed the new Llys Cadwyn](#) bridge to Ynsyngarad Park which also serves as an extension to the Taff Vale walkway along the River Taff.
- We completed new school buildings and improvements in schools across the County Borough, including opening a new [low carbon primary school](#) building in Hirwaun.
- We progressed our programme of flood prevention work.
- We continued our waste and recycling collection services throughout the pandemic and continued to increase the amount of waste we recycled at - 66.74%, making progress towards our ambitious recycling target of 80% by 2025, also sending less waste to landfill than last year, 5,151 tonnes.
- We continued with the building works for [Cwrt yr Orsaf](#) the new Extra Care facility in Pontypridd.
- Lido Ponty was restored to its former glory with some additional improvements following the damage caused by the devastating Storm Dennis in February 2020 and [reopened in May 2021](#). Despite the early limits on numbers because of Covid restrictions, it has proved as popular as ever with visitors.

As restrictions lift and more of our residents are protected from the virus by vaccinations, we can safely start to return to resuming our ambitious programme for improvement delivering the range and levels of service that our residents have grown to expect, whilst at the same time keeping the best of the new ways of working that we have learnt throughout the last twelve months.

How we are performing

Much of the data we have presented throughout this report is Covid related. We have not needed or collected this previously. Nationally, we have become familiar with the graphs and trends of Covid-19 infections, hospitalisations and sadly, deaths. Within the Council, the collection and use of relevant data has also helped us to direct resources to the people that need it most and to show the size of the challenge that we faced with our partners to keep people safe. This includes data about the number of our residents shielding and needing help, requests for food parcels and vaccines administered.

Services within the Council have been affected by the pandemic in different ways and this has had a knock-on effect on the data we have available. For example, we can show data for those services that continued mostly unchanged throughout the pandemic e.g., how many empty properties have been brought back into use and the amount of recycling collected. However, our Leisure Centres have been closed for a large proportion of the year and more recently have been used as Mass Vaccination Centres so the usual measure of people visiting centres for physical activity is meaningless this year. It is also hard to compare some data over time, for example school attendance has been significantly impacted by school closures and self-isolation measures.

The usual national data collections for 2020/21 have been patchy and some data collected may not be as robust as usual or accurately show progress this year. Because of this we have little data to compare. However, we have continued to submit key data to Welsh Government e.g. Adults and Children's weekly returns to identify any capacity issues, which was used to plan and take action during the pandemic and we have continued to monitor our progress against national target e.g. we recycled 66.74% of our waste, which already almost meets the Welsh Government target of 70% by 2025 and bringing us closer to our own ambitious target of 80% by the same date.

We are keen to restart full national data collections as soon as possible. Comparing our performance with other councils can raise more questions than answers. This is positive as it can help us to better understand what we do, learn from better practice as well as provide us with an indication of how well we are performing and where we can set ourselves more ambitious targets. If we can see that our performance is not improving over time and remains below the Wales Average without good reason, we can then focus on what we need to do to improve.

If you would like to see information about Rhondda Cynon Taf and other Councils across Wales for the limited amount of information collected in an easy-to-read format, you can find it in [My Local Council](#) and [Infobase Cymru](#).

We are also strengthening our use of data that looks ahead, using this to help us prepare for the future e.g. the impact of extreme weather because of Climate Change and how we can best support an ageing population.

Performance indicators and data are not the only measures of how well services are performing, nor do they tell the whole story, but they can help. We also look at residents' views, survey responses and the comments, compliments and complaints we receive through our Customer Relationship Management (CRM) system and from social media channels to help complete a picture of our performance, see Sections 15 and 16.

Throughout this report, you will see many examples of how we seek and use feedback to shape and improve our services. We have learned much from our work to tackle the impacts of the pandemic and we know we have more to do if we are to build on this and understand more about our communities for future service planning.

We are also keen to learn from other Councils and organisations so that we keep up with, learn from and apply best practice that works for RCT, wherever it is from.

Our regulators regularly report on our work and provide independent feedback about where we are doing well and where we can improve. Our regulators include

- [Audit Wales](#) for making sure that public money is being spent and managed wisely.
- [HM Inspectorate for Education and Training in Wales](#) (ESTYN) for quality and standards in education and training providers in Wales.
- [Care Inspectorate Wales](#) (CIW) for social care and childcare in Wales.

The reports from our regulators are provided to Councillors for scrutinising and checking and we also make reports available for everyone to see in one place on our [Website](#).

We also need to contribute to the seven national Well-being goals for Wales set out in the Well-being of Future Generations Act, which is described in more detail in Section 18. In December 2020, the Welsh Government published its fourth report, '[Well-being of Wales 2020](#)' which sets out a summary of the progress being made across 44 public bodies in Wales, to meet these seven national goals, using [46 national measures](#). Whilst the update report is not about Rhondda Cynon Taf and analyses the data for 2019, we can consider how we are and can contribute to the 7 national goals as well as use using the findings to challenge ourselves.

Points from this national report providing national trends included

A prosperous Wales	<i>"The nature of employment in the sectors that have been impacted the most by the pandemic means that effects will tend to worsen inequalities. The most affected tend to be low paid, in insecure employment, and young people."</i>
A resilient Wales	<i>"Air pollution continues to be a significant health issue, with increases in the levels of two of the main air pollutants between 2017 and 2018."</i>
A healthier Wales	<i>"There has been little change in healthy lifestyle behaviours among adults in recent years. Unhealthy behaviours are generally less common among those in the least deprived areas."</i>
A more equal Wales	<i>"The more indirect impacts of socio-economic harms are more likely to be felt by young people, women, disabled people and ethnic minority groups. We expect this to have an impact on many of the national indicators during 2020/21."</i>
A Wales of cohesive communities	<i>"Data from the monthly National Survey for Wales shows that people who feel a sense of community has increased significantly, from 52% in 2018-19 to 75% in September 2020."</i>

A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language	<i>"The national indicators on the Welsh language are broadly consistent with previous years. However there has been a slight decrease in the percentage of people speaking Welsh daily and being able to speak more than just a few words of Welsh."</i>
A globally responsible Wales	<i>"April and May 2020 saw significant decreases in some pollutant levels (for example, nitrogen oxides), consistent with reduced traffic levels. However, levels of other pollutants, such as fine particulate matter and ozone increased."</i>

[The Thriving Places Index Wales for Local Conditions 2020](#) measures many different services and different providers categorised by Place and Environment, Mental and Physical health, Education and Learning, Work and Local Economy, People and Community. Across all categories, the 2020 data gives RCT an overall rating of 4.43 out of a possible 10. This is a slight increase from 2019. The highest rating category in 2020 was 5.56 for Place and Environment and the lowest was 3.58 for Mental and Physical health.

Delivering our priorities in 2020/21

The Council put in place its first [Corporate Plan *The Way Ahead* in 2016](#). This Plan set the direction for everything we did between 2016 and 2020 and set the firm foundations for our new [Corporate Plan for 2020-24, *'Making a Difference'*](#), setting out our new priorities that will help us to achieve our vision.

“To be the best place in Wales to live, work and play, where people and businesses are independent, healthy, and prosperous.”

We will do this by

- 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.*

These priorities are underpinned by more detailed commitments, plans and targets that we have set ourselves.

We implemented this new plan in April 2020, despite the significant challenges facing the Council arising from the unprecedented flooding in early 2020 and in the face of a global pandemic. All our services were affected in some way during the last year, with many at the forefront of responding directly to these challenges.

These events affected what we set out to achieve in 2020/21, and our revised plans were published in our [Corporate Performance Report for 2020](#). In the last year we have made positive progress in delivering these plans whilst also playing our part to keep residents and communities safe and to support local businesses during significant and ongoing periods of uncertainty, particularly as the country adapted to the changing Covid-19 alert levels.

Our work has been reviewed and checked by Councillors and at the same time, the [Quarterly performance reports](#) have been put on the Council’s website so that residents and other interested organisations can see our progress for themselves. We are now at the end of the 2020/21 reporting year, so this report contains the year-end assessment of our progress and provides examples of where our work has made a difference to the lives of people that live, work and visit Rhondda Cynon Taf, and also where we need to do better.

This year, the Welsh Government introduced a new law, the [Local Government and Elections \(Wales\) Act 2021](#). This new law introduced many changes for Councils in Wales which were set out in a report to [Cabinet in March 2021](#). One of these changes is about making sure that the Council knows where it is [strong and where it can do better](#). The Council has a strong performance culture in place. We are open and transparent about our work and have well established support and challenge processes in place to see what we are doing well and what we need to do to improve and our independent regulator, [Audit Wales](#) has confirmed that we have met our improvement planning and reporting duties. We also meet a wide range of [statutory planning and reporting duties](#). Because of this, we are already well placed to meet the requirements of this new law.

No single report or plan can tell you about the many services that we deliver directly to, or organise for our residents, communities, and businesses. However, you can find out more about all the services we deliver, the progress we continue to make and how we continue to support residents and communities, on the [Council's website](#), [Council's Twitter](#), [Council's Instagram](#) or [Council's Facebook](#) pages.

To continue to help us achieve our ambitions and to respond to the impact of increasing financial pressures, we are continually looking at ways we can make more of the resources we have available by tackling:

Digitalisation so that customers can access more of our services online and helping to increase access to technology for people and communities.

The unprecedented events of 2021-22, of necessity, increased the pace of our digital change plans, so that we were able to keep services accessible and the business of the Council running. Early work so that

- residents and community groups could be kept informed about service changes and help available.
- democratic processes could continue virtually.
- online virtual meetings with vulnerable people could be held

Working with our partners we supported the Cwm Taf Health Board with a digital solution to manage the vaccination programmes and to make the best use of the vaccines through request for short notice appointments. This meant as many of our residents as possible received their vaccines as the national priority group rollout continued.

Examples of digitalisation within the Council included putting in place a more joined up way for businesses to apply and provide evidence for Covid business grants. By putting the applications and the other grant requirements online in the same process, we were able to make quicker decisions and speedy payments to RCT businesses. We dealt with over 10,000 grant applications and paid out approximately £66 million pounds in grants.

We also

- progressed plans to digitalise our flood defences so that we can remotely monitor key flood defences from our central control room in Ty Elai.
- continued to roll out free Wi-Fi adding Porth, Tonypany and Treorchy town centres to Aberdare, Mountain Ash and Ferndale to support local businesses and encourage people to visit when it was safe to do so. Pontypridd will be live soon.

As part of the Welsh Government's '[Hwb](#)' digital Transformation Project, we are making sure that every school is able to deliver the requirements for digital skills at the heart of the new curriculum through installing new IT systems. In addition, we worked closely with schools to provide over 5,500 laptops, tablets and Wi-Fi access to learners without home access during the pandemic.

Our work to keep the Council's services and business going, our learners learning and our partners across the region supported was set out in a presentation to Councillors in [March 2021](#).

Digitalisation was key to continuing to deliver and also improving services during 2020/21 and we are building on the gains we made during the year to learn and improve further. We are working on a revised Digital Strategy which will be available by the end of 2021.

Other examples of ways that digitalisation is helping people and communities can be found in our detailed evaluations for [PEOPLE](#), [PLACES](#) and [PROSPERITY](#).

Commercialisation so that the Council takes more opportunities to act as a business to earn income rather than cut budgets.

Our high level approach and appetite to commercial opportunities was set out in a report to a meeting of [Council on 3 March 2021](#). Our approach includes how we will train our staff, achieve best value in cost and quality in what we buy and use our assets to generate income, such as renting our assets to create income and new jobs.

We also continue to trade commercially through our wholly owned company, [Ty Amgen](#) seeking opportunities to extend trading operations and maximise income generation and profit and we operate as part of a Joint Venture, Redstart, with Bridgend and Merthyr Tydfil for civil/municipal engineering services.

Other examples of commercialisation can be found in our detailed evaluations for [PROSPERITY](#) and [PLACES](#).

Early Intervention and Prevention so that we spend more on stopping problems and less on trying to fix them once they have happened.

We are committed to providing services that help people to avoid problems or to stop them getting worse. You will see many examples throughout this report. For example, for children and families the [Resilient Families Service](#) ensure families in RCT receive the right support at the right time, for young people we put in place cultural, sporting and other activities to prevent them from getting involved in crime and anti-social behaviour, for our older people we deliver training in our Libraries that help them to keep up to date with technology and prevent digital exclusion. We know that people of all ages can experience loneliness and isolation so we have a range of community based activities and support that can help.

During 2020/21 the way we were able to deliver these services was affected by the impact of Covid-19 restrictions and our work to keep people safe and prevent the spread of infection. In 2021-22 we will be accelerating the pace of our work to those services that were so badly disrupted.

Other examples of our early intervention and prevention work can be found in our detailed evaluations for [PEOPLE](#) and [PLACES](#).

Independence so that our vulnerable residents stay as well as they can for as long as they can.

Supporting our residents who are older, vulnerable or who have disabilities to remain independent and have a good quality of life is one of our key priorities. Examples of the services we deliver include providing technology that will help to keep them safe day to day through our [Lifeline+ service](#), providing support to help them to return home safely from hospital and providing safe and modern places that they can live in so that they can maintain a good quality of life.

During 2020/21 many of the services we deliver e.g. providing Aids and equipment and sensory services and service to support more complex needs, were affected by the impact of Covid-19 restrictions. During 2021-22 we will be accelerating the pace of our work to those services that were so badly disrupted.

Other examples of our early intervention work can be found in our detailed evaluation for [PEOPLE](#).

Efficient and Effective Organisation so that we challenge everything we do to see if we can do it better.

The necessity of home working with availability of appropriate ICT tools have continued to drive efficiencies, including reducing travel time and the cost of energy and 'consumables' in our buildings. The lessons we have learned and the feedback from our staff, residents and businesses will help us to shape the future as we emerge more fully from Government restrictions.

Many of our efficiencies have and will also be driven by digitisation as set out above, and within the Council we are also continuing our work to put in place a new HR and Payroll system iTrent that will make these processes seamless, more efficient, and effective as well as reduce administration of different associated systems.

The Council set its 2021/22 Revenue Budget on [10th March 2021](#), more information can be found in Section 10 – Making the Best of our Budget.

During 2020/21 we also continued to embed the [Well-being of Future Generations \(Wales\) Act 2015](#) into the Council's work and priorities. The Act means that as well as the Council continually improving its services, it also needs to carry out 'Sustainable Development' which is improving the Economic, Social, Environmental and Cultural well-being of the residents of Rhondda Cynon Taf. The Act also asks us to "maximise our contributions" to seven national Well-being Goals, which you will see throughout this report. This Act applies to 44 public bodies in Wales including all Councils, Health Boards, Fire and Rescue Services and Natural Resources Wales, further detail can be found in Section 18 which describes in more detail our approach to delivering the Act.

Over the last eighteen months, our work with partners has never been closer or stronger as we joined together to meet the unprecedented Health, Social, Economic and Environmental challenges created by both the floods and the Covid-19 pandemic. Throughout this time, we have learnt even more about what each of us has to offer and we will continue to build on these strong relationships to continue to improve the services to our residents, communities and businesses.

As we progress our plans, we will continue to involve people and communities, think about the effect what we do now has on people and communities in the future, carefully plan what we do so that we can work with others where it is best to do so, and put in place services that will help prevent problems from happening or getting worse.

We will be doing everything we can to make sure that all Council services continue to recover as quickly and as fully as they are safely allowed and that we continue to invest in major developments across the County Borough. We will also take full advantage of the lessons we are learning from dealing with the pandemic to better support our residents, communities and local businesses. By doing so, we will deliver our vision for RCT ***“to be the best place in Wales to live, work and play, where people and businesses are independent, healthy, and prosperous”*** through our three priorities, **PEOPLE, PLACES** and **PROSPERITY**.

Whilst there can be no doubt of the significant impact of the events of the last 12 months, the Council continues to pursue its ambitions to make a difference to everyone who lives, works and visits the County Borough.

The next sections of this report set out a summary of the progress we have made over the last year and our plans for the next.

PEOPLE in Rhondda Cynon Taf are independent, healthy and successful

We put in place plans to help PEOPLE to be independent, healthy and successful because we want to give people of all ages, abilities and backgrounds the best chance to live a good quality of life. We believe that by staying healthy and active and involved in communities we can help people to stay well, and where people do need help, we need to make it easier for them to find it. Residents told us this is important to them and their families.

During 2020/21, our commitment to keeping people in Rhondda Cynon Taf independent, healthy and successful was tested in ways we could not have imagined. Firstly, by the floods in early 2020 which were closely followed by the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic. Our plans and focus were on keeping all our residents, especially those most vulnerable, safe and well, both physically and mentally. We also needed to give people the right information at the right time as the Covid rules changed, and to work with partners to take steps to stop the spread of the virus. This included setting up new arrangements to Track and Trace people who either had, or were at risk of catching the virus. Our care staff worked in very challenging circumstances, with some moving out of their family homes to meet the many and fast-moving changes demanded by the various national lockdowns and the firebreak, to protect vulnerable people of all ages. From child-care in our Community Hubs, providing foster care, social work and support to families and caring for older people in residential care and in their own homes, services continued to care for and protect the most vulnerable people in communities.

During the early part of the pandemic, we contacted over 11,000 residents who were at risk of Covid to check they were safe and well and were able to safely organise any help they needed from family and friends. For those that needed help, people in RCT continued to show the community spirit for which they are famed, and we were overwhelmed with volunteering requests from residents. Volunteers came directly to the Council via Volunteering Wales and Interlink and from our staff. Working through [seven Community Resilience Hubs](#) across the County Borough, volunteers and staff helped 3,393 of our residents with shopping, food parcel delivery and prescriptions, employment and benefit advice and friendly phone calls and even dog walking. This help was vital to keeping residents safe and we received letters from residents showing their appreciation of the help they received

We strengthened our partnerships and worked closer than ever with the Health Board, Welsh Government, neighbouring local authorities, South Wales Police, the third sector and other partners to find every possible way we could make the best use of all our resources. This included providing practical help to shielded residents and foodbanks, turning one of our Leisure Centres into a Food Distribution Centre, administering food grants to community groups and setting up community and mobile Covid testing and Vaccine Centres.

You will see the many ways we worked within communities described within this section and throughout this report. However, as the pandemic continued, RCT residents and communities experienced a significant number of Covid related deaths. Unfortunately, the numbers were consistently amongst the [highest in Wales and the UK](#).

Whilst the reasons for the high death rates may be complex and varied, what we know is that people with underlying health conditions were at greater risk from the effects of the virus. We also know from [Welsh Government data](#) that the almost half of the population of RCT (47%) reported at least

one longstanding illness in 2018/19 and 2019/20, 35% had some limitation because of long standing illness and, that RCT has higher than Wales average levels of respiratory system complaints; Musculoskeletal complaints and Endocrine and metabolic diseases, which include diabetes and obesity.

[Latest available data](#) tells us that the population of RCT 241,873 (2020) has increased from 231,937, 4.28%, in 2001. Currently, almost 20% of our population is older than 65 years old. As people are living longer, the proportion of older people in RCT has grown by 23.7% from 37,807 in 2001 to 46,755 in 2020. We want to help our residents of all ages to stay as well as they can for as long as they can. However, age related conditions in more older people, will mean an increase in the need for health and social care including for people living with dementia, which is expected to rise by 64% by 2030.

We know that in RCT we have high numbers of vulnerable residents of all ages as well as deprived communities. In 2020/21 there were 694 children in the care of the Council with the greatest number for both boys and girls between the ages of 10 to 15 years old. We also know that over the next few years we need to plan for a post Covid recovery with uncertain funding. We will take the lessons we have learned from the past year and keep the best, including our stronger ties with residents, communities and our partners. The expectations and demands from our residents will be higher than ever.

The steps we are taking to help PEOPLE to be independent, healthy and successful are

- Supporting our residents who are older, vulnerable or who have disabilities, to remain independent and have a good quality of life.
- Encouraging residents to lead active and healthy lifestyles and maintain their mental well-being.
- 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.

PEOPLE

Latest available data tells us....

Population - Latest estimate [241,873](#), an increase of 0.25% on 2019.

0-15 years 18.6%	16-64 62%	65+ 19.3%
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Community & Equality

- 24% of children in RCT are living in poverty. However, when the cost of housing is deducted from household income, this figure increases to 32% - Source: [End Child Poverty](#).
- As at 31 March 2021, there were
 - 717 children in the care of the Council
 - 464 children on the Child Protection Register at significant risk of harm.

Physical Health

- Average life expectancy at birth in RCT was 77.53 for men and 81.1 for women (2016-2018) - Source: [Public Health Wales Observatory Profile](#).
- Average healthy life expectancy at birth in RCT is 61.7 for men and 64.2 for women (2016-18) - Source: [Public Health Wales Observatory Profile](#).
- On average, people living in less deprived areas in RCT live longer than those from more deprived areas. Men can expect to live 6.7 years longer, and women 4.3 years. However, this difference described as the 'inequality gap' is not as big as in some other parts of Wales - Source: [Public Health Wales Observatory Profile](#).
- 47% of adults in RCT reported at least one long-standing health condition in the last year. Source: [Stats Wales](#)
- RCT has the 3rd highest rate in Wales of people who are [Clinically Extremely Vulnerable \(CEV\)](#), 46.3 per 1,000 population.
- [RCT residents reporting their health to be](#)
 - "bad or very bad" is the second highest in Wales
 - "good or very good" is the third lowest in Wales.
- 26% of RCT residents participated in sporting activities 3 or more times per week.
- 12% of adults in RCT showed less than 2 healthy lifestyle behaviours.
- Men, middle-aged adults, and those in the most deprived areas were most likely to show less than two of the healthy behaviours.

Mental Health & Well-being

- 13% of people in RCT are lonely. Source: [Stats Wales](#)
- RCT 'scores' in the [Thriving Places](#) Wales index measuring aspects of well-being, i.e.
 - 4.47 for Social Isolation, the same as in 2018.
 - 3.58 for Mental and Physical Health, slightly higher than 3.36 in 2018.
10 is the best possible and 0 being the worst.
- Cwm Taf has the second highest rate of alcohol specific death in Wales 2016-18 - Source: *PHW The annual profile for substance misuse 2018-19* [Source: [Data Mining Report](#)].

Culture

- 48% of RCT residents agreed that they belong to the area; that people from different backgrounds get on well together; and that people treat each other with respect - *Source: WFG indicator.*
- 64% of RCT residents attended arts, culture or heritage events at least 3 times in the last year. *Source: [Stats Wales](#)*

Looking Ahead.....

By 2043, the population of

- Wales is projected to rise by 4.6% to 3.31 Million - *Source: [Stats Wales](#)*
- RCT is expected to rise by up to 4.7% to 254,145 - *Source: [Stats Wales](#)*
- RCT residents over the age of 65 is expected to climb by 18.2% to 57,429. This means that the % of the population that are over 65 will rise from 19.4% to 22.6% - *Source: [Stats Wales](#)*

Health & Well-being

- Life expectancy from birth in Wales is predicted to rise

	2020	2029
Males	88	89.1
Females	90.6	91.5

Source: [Public Health Wales Observatory Profile](#)

- By 2025, 68.7% of adults in Cwm Taf will be overweight or obese - *Source: [Public Health Wales Observatory Profile](#)*
- By 2035, the number of adults with a common mental health disorder in Wales will increase by 7.2% to 447,159 on the 2017 baseline, while the number of people aged 65+ living with dementia will increase by 64% to 72,769 in the same period - *Source: [Public Health Wales Futures for Wales Report Page 33](#)*
- By 2035, there will also be an increase in the number of adults with chronic conditions in Wales, including an increase of 18.2% of people with diabetes to 220,376, an increase of 27% of people with heart conditions to 321,986 and an increase of 29.5% of people suffering a stroke to 90,214 - *Source: [Public Health Wales Futures for Wales Report Page 33](#)*

General Statement of Progress

In 2020 we said we would continue our work to support PEOPLE to be independent, healthy and successful. Overall, despite the challenging circumstances faced by our clients and staff and introducing a new virus specific service, Track and Trace, we were able to make good progress as a Council and as part of wider partnerships. We changed our focus to support our most vulnerable residents and families and where we were able, continued the planned building work on new residential accommodation. We know that there is much to do help keep our residents of all ages and backgrounds safe and well particularly for those people whose support has been affected by the impact of the Covid pandemic.

Alongside our work in delivering our PEOPLE priority, we are continually building on our experience of doing things differently, what has worked and what we need to do better. We are also increasing

our understanding of the effect of the changes we are making for the people and communities of Rhondda Cynon Taf and the wider Cwm Taf Region.

We work as part of the [Cwm Taf Public Services Board](#) (PSB) to deliver the changes set out in the Cwm Taf Well-being Plan. During the pandemic the importance and value of volunteers and our third sector partners cannot be underestimated as they provided a lifeline to many of our residents who were shielding, vulnerable or lonely and afraid. We will be building on this strengthened relationship to continue to support strong communities.

We also work as part of the [Cwm Taf Morgannwg Regional Partnership Board](#) (RPB) which aims to make a difference to people's lives by involving them, listening and then taking action together to transform the way services are delivered. The priorities for the RPB are people with learning disabilities & autism; people with mental health problems; children & young people; unpaid carers; older people & dementia and physical disabilities and sensory impairment. Stay Well@home is one of the RPB's more well-known projects. From outside these arrangements the three councils, the UHB and PHW have come together to create a shared response to the health emergency created by the pandemic which has included the Test, Trace, Protect (TTP) service. The Board's work programme includes updating what we know about the health and social care needs of the people who live in the Cwm Taf Morgannwg region through a [Population Needs Assessment](#).

Our work within the People priority is overseen by Cabinet, relevant Scrutiny Committees and, where appropriate the [Cwm Taf Morgannwg Regional Partnership Board](#), [Cwm Taf Morgannwg Safeguarding Board](#) and [Cwm Taf Public Services Board](#). Some of the services delivering this Priority have also been inspected by independent Auditors i.e. Audit Wales and Care Inspectorate Wales. You can find out more about their findings on [our website](#).

<p>You can see more detail of our progress against what we set out to achieve in 2020/21 in our PEOPLE Performance Evaluation.</p>

In 2020 we said that we would

Support our residents who are older, vulnerable or who have disabilities, to remain independent and have a good quality of life

Among other things we

- worked with partners to make sure we focussed our resources to help people get out of hospital more quickly and safely and supported them in the community. This was especially important during the Winter 2020/21.
- restarting [Stay Well@Home \(Phase 2\)](#) which provides GPs, District Nurses and Welsh Ambulance Service with access to an assessment and rapid response preventative and rehabilitative services 7 days a week and avoids any unnecessary conveyancing or admissions to hospitals.
- continued to work in partnership with Linc Cymru to progress [Cwrt yr Orsaf](#), our new extra care housing scheme in Pontypridd that will be completed later this year. We also agreed proposals for a new Extra Care housing scheme as part of the redevelopment of Dan y Mynydd in Porth.
- worked with housing providers to complete modern Supported Housing accommodation including:
 - [Crown Avenue, Treorchy in January 2021](#), with twelve one-bed flats
 - [Oxford Street Mountain Ash in April 2021](#), with eight high quality apartmentsThis accommodation will provide adults with learning disabilities access to the support they need to live an independent life.
- helped Care Homes to put in place high levels of infection control, to keep their residents safe and allow safe visits from families when Welsh Government rules allowed.
[Covid restrictions](#), outbreaks and the Public Health Wales (PHW) restrictions resulted in fewer care home placements becoming available, particularly for nursing and dementia care. As a result, some people were in hospital for longer than usual.
- Reopened the [Regional Community Equipment Services](#) to meet increasing demand for community equipment in health and social care.
- launched the [RCT Lifeline+](#) Service, helping people to stay safe and independent in their homes whilst giving them and their families, reassurance at the touch of a button.
- reinstated the 'At Home' library service for vulnerable residents so that they got their books delivered safely to their door.

Our plans for 2021- 22 include

- Opening 'Cwrt yr Orsaf' Extra Care Housing Scheme in Pontypridd.
- Starting work on the new Extra Care Housing in Porth, subject to planning approval.
- Finalising the plans for the new Extra Care scheme in Treorchy.
- Allocating apartments to residents of the new Oxford Buildings Supported Housing Scheme.
- Opening the Elm Road Supported Housing Scheme in Llanhari.
- Progressing the plans for the changes to our Residential Care homes alongside the new Extra Care Housing so that together they are better able to meet the needs of our older residents.
- Continuing to use the new technology we put in place during the pandemic for people and families and see how others can benefit from this in the future for example virtual visits to ensure residents, where possible, can stay connected with residents.
- Finding out more about the needs of carers so that they can be helped to care for their loved ones at home.

- Providing support and equipment that allows people to stay more independent at home including helping them to manage their own care arrangements through direct payments.
- Providing outreach services in the community to residents who traditionally would have attended day services.
- Making sure that all our staff are trained to focus on people's strengths and talents so that we can better help with the things that are important to their well-being and what they want to achieve.

We will also show you our progress by...

- The number of reablement packages in place which improve independence and reducing the need for support.
- The number carers that take up our support to help them to care for their loved ones.
- How safe and happy the residents in our new housing schemes tell us they feel.

Encourage residents to lead active and healthy lifestyles and maintain their mental well-being

Among other things we

- provided a range of free online home and garden workouts via our [Leisure for Life app](#), safe running and cycling routes within Welsh Government guidelines, along with ideas and inspiration for family work outs.
- introduced open air classes, making good use of our parks and 3G pitches when Covid conditions allowed.
- promoted "essential exercise" for physical and mental health benefits to our residents and communities e.g. Walking Challenge, and used Social Media to celebrate the great ways our residents' kept themselves fit and active.

Our plans for 2021 - 22 include

- Getting leisure and fitness activities in our centres safely up and running.
- Opening new Leisure and Fitness Facilities at Llys Cadwyn, Pontypridd and reopening Hawthorn Swimming Pool.
- Providing more and better opportunities for people to exercise and be active outdoors.
- Live streaming more classes for people who choose to exercise at home.
- Developing activities for people experiencing long-Covid that will help them to improve their health and fitness.
- Increasing levels of engagement and participation in the arts and culture, by providing in person and online events.
- Continuing to develop our Community Hubs as places that people can meet and socialise, strengthening relationships with residents and community groups and finding out what is important to our residents.

We will also show you our progress by...

- The number of opportunities we provide for outdoor exercise and how many people take part.
- The opportunities we provide for people to engage in arts and cultural activities and how many people take part.

- What residents tell us is important to them.
- What people think of our Community Hubs.
- What people think of our new indoor and outdoor leisure and fitness facilities e.g. in Llys Cadwyn and Hawthorn

Integrate health and social care and providing support for those with mental health problems and complex needs

Among other things we

Put in place a Contact Tracing Service for RCT which was later expanded to include the whole Cwm Taf Morgannwg Region. This service was key to protecting communities by identifying Covid cases and the contacts with people who may have been at risk of passing on the infection. To manage the high rate of infection across RCT, the Council's public health team rigorously challenged and applied Welsh Government guidance, advising residents, care settings, schools and businesses about how to reduce the risk of infection. They also worked alongside South Wales Police where it was necessary to enforce these rules.

Behind the scenes

we worked with 115 schools across RCT to improve the way contact information for parents and carers was made available to Track and Trace Teams. This new, more efficient, system allowed Track and Trace teams to contact parents more quickly and easily and keep Covid infection and spread in schools under control.

Our plans for 2021- 22 include

- Continuing to help keep our residents safe from Covid by providing Track and Trace support and helping with community testing across the County Borough and social distancing in our Town Centres.
- Continuing to find new and better ways to get residents safely out of hospital with the care and support they need at home.
- Working with health to make sure that end of life care in communities meets the needs of people and families.
- Continuing to support people through social prescribing activities in the community including exercise classes, Adult Education classes, Digital Fridays and Library reading clubs.

We will also show you our progress by...

- Continuing to work with the Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board to reduce delays in people being discharged from hospital.
- Number of positive cases and contacts followed up successfully.
- Number of people attending adult education classes, Digital Fridays, library reading clubs, etc.

Improve services for children and young people and ensure the needs of children are considered in everything we do

Among other things we

- put in place 25 [emergency child care hubs](#) across RCT so that vulnerable children were able to continue to learn safely. Pre-school children with greatest support needs also received daily childcare in these hubs.
- worked with our partners to make sure that strong safeguarding arrangements remained in place for children and adults at risk.
- continued to protect those children at risk of harm. We have used technology to provide statutory services and made safe visits to those most at risk.
- opened a new residential home, 'Carn Igli', Aberdare for children between 8 and 18 with complex needs who cannot remain with their families.
- Streamed over 250 'virtual' activities for young people, a mix of fun and information sessions e.g. Sexual Health. We also continued to support young people, including with their mental health, through WhatsApp, telephone and Zoom calls and where necessary and safe in face-to-face discussions. When we were able, we restarted our street-based work and during the Autumn we contacted nearly 3,000 young people across RCT. Some of our young people who needed activities and 'something to do' were able to get involved in community projects like the '[Digital Bench](#)' project in Pontypridd.

Our plans for 2021- 22 include

- Working with families who are experiencing difficulties earlier so that they have the support they need to stay together.
- Providing more and better information, advice and support for
 - families by launching a new RCT Families website and
 - young people in a new App.
- Working with young people to help understand and shape a plan to involve them in sport, cultural and other activities and away from youth anti-social and criminal behaviour.
- Providing [school holiday fun and activities](#) in 15 of our schools.
- Making sure that those children that cannot remain with their families can be looked after closer to home.
- Making sure that the young people in our care are listened to and their experiences can be used to develop services in the future.
- Making sure that the children leaving our care have the right support e.g. finding the right housing, to support them to fulfil their potential.
- Making sure everyone, no matter where they live, can access Early Years support e.g. parenting support, early language support and regular access to health visitors.

Covid by Numbers

RCT Contact Tracing

June 2020 - March 2021

Covid Cases - 20, 686

Leading to 50,000 contacts

Investigated

365 clusters of Covid infection in hospitality, care settings, workplaces and the service sector.

Served

89 premises improvement notices.
18 closure notices to businesses inspected which breached Covid restrictions.

Cwm Taf Morgannwg Contact Tracing

1 September 2020 – 31 March 2021

Covid Cases – 39,525

Leading to 93,669 contacts

Cwm Taf Morgannwg Schools

16 September 2020 – 31 March 2021

2,795 cases reported but clusters of infection were contained through Contact Tracing.

We will also show you our progress by...

- Number of families with increased resilience following completed intervention with the Resilient Families Service.
- Supporting families at the earliest opportunity so that fewer children are looked after.
- Number of young people participating in summer holiday activities.
- Number of young people leaving our care who are in employment, education or training.

Prosperous	Resilient	Healthier	More Equal	Cohesive Communities	Vibrant Culture and Welsh Language	Globally Responsible
✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

You can see more detail about how we will continue our work to help PEOPLE in Rhondda Cynon Taf 'to be independent, healthy and successful' in our [2021-22 PEOPLE Plan](#).

PLACES where people are proud to live, work and play.

We know that having a clean, pleasant and well-maintained environment is important to residents. Having efficient recycling and waste collections, welcoming green spaces, clean streets and well-maintained roads are some of the ways we can make residents' daily lives more pleasant as well as for our visitors who come to enjoy all that Rhondda Cynon Taf has to offer. However, our greatest challenge will be to play our part in tackling Climate Change. We have set ourselves a goal of being a Carbon Neutral Council by 2030, and doing everything we can so that the whole County Borough is as close to Carbon Neutral by 2030 this includes improving public transport and generating our own energy from natural sources and waste.

During 2020/21, our biggest immediate challenges were dealing with the devastation caused by the floods Ciara, Dennis and Jorge which had such devastating effects on our residents, homes, communities and businesses, also continuing to deliver services during the Covid-19 pandemic.

The work arising from the floods which brought such devastation to the lives and homes of residents saw the Council working with partners and communities to provide help. This help ranged from delivering food, clothing, home items, helping people to clear and clean out their homes to providing financial assistance and emergency temporary accommodation for people affected, with Pentre amongst the worst hit areas. The floods also caused damage to bridges, river walls, culverts, roads and parks across the County Borough, including the recently reopened Lido. The repairs to these 'assets' have been completed or are underway. The damage also increased the risk of landslips and on Tylorstown Tip, over 60,000 tonnes of material off the hillside blocked the river valley, damaged a foul sewer, and covered a watermain and a cycle path. You will see more information about how the remediation works are progressing below. Managing flood risk remains one of our key priorities, and we are improving the steps we take as a Council and also working with our partners, including Natural Resources Wales and Dwr Cymru, to better protect our communities. You can see a review of the Council's response to Storm Dennis [here](#).

The emergence of Covid-19 as we were dealing with the devastating fall out of the floods was our other immediate challenge. However, even during the worst of the restrictions, by making sure that our staff were able to work safely, we were able to continue essential services e.g. collecting waste and recycling and making improvements to our roads, bridges and pavements. It also included keeping our Community Recycling Centres open when it was safe to do so and also prosecuting for fly tipping. Nevertheless, other services e.g. those that help keep people safe and active were affected by national lock down restrictions and the 'fire break'. Our services that support people with substance misuse problems and their families and also those people who were experiencing domestic abuse had to change as face-to-face meetings were not always possible. We also continued to deal with the rogue traders and scammers who found new and different ways to exploit people, particularly those who were isolated and vulnerable.

Many of our staff who couldn't do their 'normal' jobs or work from home, took on new and different jobs. This included staff who help to keep people active and fit in our Leisure Centres and Parks and also our Enforcement Teams. Staff were willing to do what was needed to support the people, communities and businesses of Rhondda Cynon Taf and to keep people safe. You will see many examples of this throughout this report.

We now have big challenges ahead. We have set ourselves ambitious targets to tackle flood risk, reduce, reuse or recycle our waste, preparing for other impacts of climate change and playing our part to protect the planet. We also want to prepare for a positive and safe future for our residents and communities making the most of our parks, green spaces and leisure centres to help people to stay mentally and physically fit and healthy.

The steps we are taking to make PLACES where people are proud to live work and play are

- Keeping RCT clean, sending as little waste as possible to landfill, meeting our recycling targets 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.

General Statement of Progress

In 2020, we said we would continue our work to ‘create PLACES where people are proud to live, work and play’. Despite the challenges created by flooding and the Covid-19 pandemic over the last year, we continued to make good progress as a Council, and as part of wider partnerships, exceeding many of our expectations including our recycling and road improvements. We also exceeded many of the short-term targets we set ourselves. However, we know we have more to do, especially in those services where Covid restrictions have slowed or even stopped progress, and also to achieve our longer-term ambitions.

Alongside our work in delivering our PLACES priority we are continually building on our experience of doing things differently, what has worked and what we need to do better. We are also increasing our understanding of the effect of the changes we are making for the people and communities of Rhondda Cynon Taf and the wider Cwm Taf Region.

Our work within the PLACES priority is overseen by Cabinet, relevant Scrutiny Committees and, where appropriate the [Cardiff Capital Region Cabinet](#), [Cwm Taf Public Services Board](#) and the [Cwm Taf Community Safety Partnership Board](#).

You can see more detail of our progress against what we set out to achieve in 2020/21 in our [PLACES Performance Evaluation](#).

Latest available data tells us....

Transport and Travel

- 1,100 Million vehicle miles were travelled throughout RCT in 2020 the second highest number of miles travelled in Wales for 2020 (Source: [GovUK Road Traffic Stats TRA8901](#)). The majority (77.7%) were travelled by car, a percentage decrease of 4.52% from the previous year (Source: [GovUK Road Traffic Stats TRA8902](#)).
- Approximately 33% of RCT residents walked for over 10 minutes every day, the second highest percentage in Wales. 4% of residents cycled more than once a month, the third lowest in Wales (Source: [GovUk](#)).
- RCT maintains 1,290km of roads across the County Borough.
- Across the County Borough there are 11 Walking routes and 19 Shared Use routes that accommodate both pedestrians and cyclists. (Source: [RCT Active Travel Monitoring Report](#)).
- In 2018 transport was responsible for 17% of Welsh greenhouse gas emissions. 62% from private car use, 19% from Light Goods Vehicles and 16% from bus and Heavy Goods Vehicles. (Source: [Llwybr Newydd: Wales Transport Strategy](#)).
- 52,330 [Concessionary Travel Cards](#) are held by RCT residents:
 - 47,212 hold aged 60+ cards.
 - 3,361 hold Disabled cards.
 - 1,757 have been issued with Disabled plus Companion cards.
- 20,609 RCT residents have been issued with [Blue Badge Parking permits](#).

Air quality, Emissions and Renewables

- There are currently 16 Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs) being monitored in RCT for breaches of Air Quality Objectives (AQO) (Source: [2020 Air Quality Progress Report](#)).
- 329 ultra-low emission vehicles (ULEV) registered in RCT in Q4 2020, 63.68% increase from 201 in Q4 2019. RCTs rank 11th out of 22 Local Authorities in Wales (Source: [Dept of Transport VEH0132a](#)).
- The latest estimates show that in 2018, 1,064.8 kilotonnes of carbon dioxide (CO²), the main greenhouse gas was emitted across RCT. This equates to 4.4 tonnes of CO² per resident ^{2,1}
- The Council generated 570,535 Mw/h of electricity through low-carbon or renewable technologies², approximately enough to power 65 homes for 1 year.³

Flooding

- 9,270 properties in RCT were considered to be at 'high-risk' of surface or river flooding, with a further 4,330 properties in the 'medium-risk' category. (Source: [Stats Wales](#)).
- RCT is one of four defined flood risk areas in Wales. 11.3% of the population of RCT is at risk from surface water flooding due to excess rainwater issues.
- There are over 700km of culverted watercourses across the County Borough. ([Internal Data source](#)).

Parks & Green Spaces

- There are 10 Green Flag Awards for parks and open spaces in Rhondda Cynon Taf.

¹ [Gov.uk - UK Local Authority and Regional Carbon Dioxide Emissions](#)

² [StatsWales - Low Carbon Energy Generation by Local Authority](#)

³ [OFGEM - Electricity Generation: Facts and Figures](#)

Waste & Hygiene

- 372 Fixed Penalty Notices were issued for dog fouling and other PSPO offences.
- 3,146 recorded incidents of fly-tipping throughout RCT.
- RCT waste that cannot be recycled or reused equates to 0.21kg per RCT resident.
- We recycled 94,558 tonnes of waste 66.74% and sent 5,151 tonnes of waste to landfill in 2020/21.

Looking Ahead.....

Transport

- By 2030, the number of miles travelled on roads in Wales is expected to increase by at least 5.7% (1.02 billion miles) from the 2017 baseline. (Source: [Department for Transport – Road Traffic Forecasts 2018 RTF18](#)).
- By 2035 between 47% and 59% of all cars on the road will be electric (or possibly hydrogen fuel cell), compared to a 6.6% market share in 2020. (Source: [Energy Saving Trust](#)).

Environment, Climate & Flooding

- Current trends suggest that compared to the 1981-2000 baseline, annual temperatures in Wales are expected to rise between approx. 1.2°C by the 2050s and between 1.3 and 2.3°C by the 2080s
 - summer rainfall is expected to decrease by approx. 15% by 2050s and between 18% and 26% by 2080s. Despite overall summer drying, projections suggest that when it does rain, the rainfall will be more intense.
 - winter rainfall is expected to increase by approx. 6% by 2050s and between 7% and 13% by 2080s (Source: [CCCRA3 Summary for Wales](#)).
- Flooding and coastal erosion are two of the biggest natural hazard risks affecting the safety and sustainability of Welsh communities. ([Internal Data Source](#)).

Energy & Waste

- The Welsh Government has set a goal of achieving 70% renewable energy consumption by 2030. (Source: [Welsh Government – Energy Generation in Wales 2018- Pages 3 & 8](#)).
- The energy demand in Wales is predicted to rise between 14% and 68% by 2035, from 2014 baseline. (Source: [Welsh Government - Renewable energy targets: evidence – Page 7](#)).

Keeping RCT clean, sending as little waste as possible to landfill, meeting our recycling targets and reducing our carbon footprint.

Measures we set out last year

- We recycled more waste - 66.74% compared to 64.78% in 2021.
- There were nearly 3,200 fly-tips across RCT last year. Although the average time taken to clear the tips was marginally shorter than last year at 2.2 days, we didn't clear as many tips within our five-day target as some were more difficult than usual to get to. 12 cases of fly-tipping by RCT residents were heard in Merthyr Magistrates Court, with one individual receiving a fine of £2,000. There are also over 100 cases of residents fly-tipping or not paying fixed penalties for littering currently being considered for prosecution.

Flooding and landfill

Most waste created by floods is contaminated and cannot be recycled or reused. Over 5,000 tonnes of flood waste was sent to landfill as a result of the storms during 2020/21.

Among other things we

- Continued our full waste and recycling collection and street cleaning, we also continued to tackle dog fouling and other littering.
- Extended the Public Spaces Protection Order to prevent dog fouling in the area in line with residents' views.
- opened the Community Recycling Centres (CRC) when it was safe to do so. We kept people informed of changes and safety measures in place through Social Media. To ensure that staff and visitors were safe and to meet the increased demand for recycling whilst people were in lockdown, we extended the opening hours and for a short time we opened two more CRCs. As a result, in 2020/21 the recycling across the CRCs increased by over 351 tonnes to 38,262.86.
- Increased our recycling target to 80% by 2025, which is higher than the Welsh Government has set for Councils in Wales.

In 2021-22 our plans include

- Supporting business and social landlords to comply with new laws that mean Trade Waste must be sorted by type.
- Working towards our recycling goal of 80% by 2025.
- Continuing to tackle environmental crimes e.g. littering, dog fouling, fly tipping and illegal parking.
- Working with Cardiff Capital Region City Deal partners to develop sustainable transport options across the area including trialling Electric Vehicle Taxis and buses and installing Electric Vehicle charging points.

We will also show you our progress by...

- Increasing the amount of waste we recycle.
- How far we have advanced the work to develop the Eco Park at Bryn Pica.
- The numbers of enviro crimes we have tackled and
- The level involvement of our residents in our campaigns.

Keeping the County Borough moving, including improvements to roads and pavements and public transport, whilst also improving air quality

Measures we set out last year

- We have seen improvements in our A, B and C roads. Although 4.6% of all our roads were reported as being in poor condition, this has fallen from 9.3% in 2014/15. You will see more about our [investment in road improvements](#) below.

Among other things we

- continued to improve the condition of our existing roads and highways e.g. resurfacing 105 of our roads and repairing 3,315 potholes. We also repaired bridges and river walls, replaced footways and put in place new road safety measures.
- opened the [Mountain Ash Southern Cross Valley Link](#) road and progressed major schemes including the A4119 dualling at Ely Valley Road; dualling and an Active Travel bridge at Coed Ely roundabout; Cynon Valley Gateway North and, Llanharan By-Pass.
- continued to improve and develop Active Travel schemes so that people can get around the County Borough more easily on foot or by cycling. Schemes will link existing routes, trails and town centres as part of the Town Centre regeneration. We are also investigating whether new routes are possible. This is being funded by Welsh Government.
- invested over £990k in Flood Drainage and Flood Risk Management which included monitoring of culverts to help prevent floods in our communities. Our work includes
 - installing, upgrading or strengthening culverts in Cwmbach, Pentre, Fernhill, Mountain Ash, Rhydyfelin and Treherbert.
 - replacing an underground pipe, manhole system and creating new surface water channel and pond at [Park Lane Trecynon](#). This pond will also help increase the biodiversity in the area.
 - repairing river walls above the [Nant Clydach river, Ynysybwll](#) and [Blaen-Y-Cwm Road, Blaencwm](#).
 - repairing the retaining wall at [A4054 Cardiff Road in Treforest](#) along the River Taff.
 - improving the watercourse at [Granville Terrace, Mountain Ash](#).
 - improving drainage at [Pleasant Street](#), Pentre and building a new catchpit manhole within Pentre Park.
 - upgrading the network at [Kingcraft Street, Mountain Ash](#).
 - using natural ways to manage flood risk, e.g. Ponty Rain garden in [Mill Street, Pontypridd](#) using tree pits and rain garden to tackle surface water, and installing ‘Hydroplanters’⁴ to collect rainwater and run off at [Canal Road, Cwmbach](#).
- focussed on unlawful and dangerous parking as restrictions relaxed, including outside schools, next to pedestrian crossings and at bus stops. We used mobile cameras to record incidents and processed over 15,000 Penalty Charge Notices to legal time scales in RCT and 40,000 across seven Local Authorities as part of the [South Wales Parking Group](#) (SWPG).
- made sure that the changing passenger transport requirements particularly for schools and community transport were safely met and were communicated to residents and parents. We also worked with Transport for Wales and Stage coach to a pilot ‘[fflecsi](#)’ scheme which originally

⁴ A sustainable and aesthetically pleasing flood alleviation method of greenery-filled crates that collect rainfall and water run-off, which is filtered into an outflow pipe

allowed residents to request a pick-up near them for essential travel e.g. from home, work or shops, via an App or by phone rather than following the bus timetable. The service is continuing on the 152 bus route from Tonypany to Hendreforgan via a number of communities in between. Users of this service provided positive feedback.

In 2021-22 our plans include

- Continuing to improve the condition of our roads and bridges.
- Completing flood schemes across the County Borough including at Pentre, Aberdare and Hirwaun.
- Continuing to improve monitoring of our key culverts and outlets so that we can alleviate flood risk.
- Working with Transport for Wales, Welsh Government, Cardiff Capital City Region to develop and put in place more and better public and active travel options.
- Putting in place new Electric Vehicle standards for RCT taxis.
- Helping RCT taxi drivers trial a free '[Try before you Buy](#)' scheme to test fully electric, wheelchair accessible taxis, with all costs funded by Welsh Government.

We will also show you our progress by...

- Improvements in the condition of our roads.
- Providing information about Air Quality.
- Our completed flood schemes.
- What Taxi Drivers thought of the electric taxis they trialled.

Ensuring the County Borough is one of the safest places in Wales, with high levels of community cohesion and where residents feel safe

Among other things we

- Continued to make help available for people of all ages misusing alcohol or other substances. Help was available via telephone, and with face-to-face appointments when needed. Some meetings were conducted virtually through 'Zoom' and in some cases, devices were funded by Welsh Government. Also, some offices have remained open for the Specialist Needle Exchange provision. Online self-help resources have also been made available and a weekly Cwm Taf Morgannwg Service User Involvement/Participation Group also continued over Zoom, supporting 65 people overall, with 15 people attending each session.
- Supported 1,497 people experiencing Domestic Violence, mostly by phone. In some cases, we have used 'safe' venues to meet face to face. More recently as circumstances allowed, face-to-face meetings have taken place.
- Introduced an '[Any Man Can....](#)' campaign to raise awareness of domestic violence against men and where they can get help.
- Experienced fewer incidents of anti-social behaviour as restrictions were in place but we dealt with more reported neighbourhood disputes as people spent more time at home.

- Posted regular information about scams, including Covid related scams on our website and Social Media, and we delivered Scam information leaflets in the food and support parcels we delivered to vulnerable people.
- Continued to help people avoid telephone scams by installing '[trueCall](#)' blocking units, we currently have 82 units in place. Information from RCT units is also helping in a South Wales wide project to identify patterns and scams that have increased during Covid restrictions as well as a UK Council on its investigation into insurance scams. *One of our trueCall Users told us "I'm so glad that I've got it, living alone these nuisance calls are such a worry".*

Tackling Rogue Traders

With the help of the South Police Wales Police and the courage of RCT residents we have contributed to a South Wales wide investigation and arrest of Rogue Traders who targeted older people who paid up to £4,500 for work that wasn't started or was of poor quality they when finished.

In 2021-22 our plans include

- Widening the reach of Substance Misuse Services so that we are able to contact more people that need our help within the community.
- Continuing to support vulnerable people at risk of becoming homelessness.
- Strengthening arrangements for licencing premises and taxis as well as town centre security to keep people safe.
- Asking our residents for their views about keeping 'No Alcohol Zones' in Pontypridd and Aberdare.
- Working with [Community Alcohol Partnerships](#) as part of a new Community Alcohol Partnership (CAP) in Aberdare.
- Putting in place a single point of contact to make it easier for people experiencing Domestic Abuse to seek help and support.
- Continuing to raise awareness of Hate Crime with residents across all communities, schools and colleges.
- Helping community groups to access Council land and buildings to meet their community needs through '[RCT Together](#)'.
- Helping residents to produce and share fresh produce through a Sustainable Food Network.

We will show you our progress by...

- Completing the changes to the Youth Offending Service.
- Increasing the number of people we are able to reach through our Substance Misuse Services.
- Telling you what residents thought about keeping 'No Alcohol Zones' in Pontypridd and Aberdare.
- Having a new Community Alcohol Partnership in place in Aberdare.
- The number of People experiencing Domestic Abuse using the new contact number to seek help and support.
- The number of people we have talked to, to raise awareness of Hate Crime across communities, schools and colleges and what they thought about what they learnt.
- The number of community groups access Council land and buildings to meet their community needs through 'RCT Together'.
- Helping residents to produce and share fresh produce through a Sustainable Food Network.

Getting the best out of our parks by looking after and investing in our greenspaces

Among other things we

- Completed a major refurbishment of Ynysangharad War Memorial Park Pontypridd including a new bowling green hedge, an improved and renewed main footpath and smaller paths, low energy lighting throughout the park and new a '[Changing Places](#)' Toilet so that people with a disability have space and equipment available to meet their needs with enough space for carers to help.
- Reopened Ponty Lido following the devastation caused by the flooding in 2020.
- Completed the upgraded play activities to provide more physical challenge for children of all abilities and progressed the improvements to Dare Valley Country Park including the Gravity Family Bike Park.
- Achieved 10 Green Flag awards from Keep Wales Tidy for well managed parks and green spaces.
- Helped to increase the variety of plants and animals and helped them to thrive by reducing grass cutting in some of our grass verges and land.
- Continued to invest in playgrounds sports pitches and parks' buildings. Throughout the year, Covid restrictions affected outdoor play areas, skate parks, multi-use games areas and courts. Our services were delivered as restrictions allowed.

In 2021-22 our plans include

- Continuing to improvement the facilities available in Dare Valley Country Park and encouraging visitors to enjoy what the park has to offer through a new Country Park website.
- Investigating how peatbogs on Council land can be used to capture and store carbon so it doesn't go into the atmosphere and contribute to global warming.
- Encouraging nature to thrive by using more Council land to develop into wildflower meadows
- Launching a new Biodiversity Web site where we can also encourage residents to get more involved with nature and with community groups on local sites.
- Identifying places where trees can be planted or protected and can thrive, also be part of the Queen's Green Canopy to celebrate the Platinum Jubilee in 2022.

We will show you our progress by...

- Setting out how we will start to restore and create peatbogs.
- The number of new wildflower sites in place.
- How residents are getting involved in nature and 'green' community projects.

Prosperous	Resilient	Healthier	More Equal	Cohesive Communities	Vibrant Culture and Welsh Language	Globally Responsible
✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

You can see more detail about how we will continue our work to make PLACES 'where people are proud to live, work and play' in our [2021-22 PLACES Plan](#).

PROSPERITY-Creating the opportunity for people and businesses to be innovative, entrepreneurial and fulfil their potential and prosper

We put in place plans for PROSPERITY because we want to create opportunities for people to reach their potential through education and training and for businesses across the County Borough to flourish. We are continuing to invest in our schools, early years settings and also our Town Centres, bringing in more jobs and creating new homes, along with opportunities for Leisure and Social Activities. We believe that RCT has much to offer, and we want to make sure that we make best use of our work with partners to improve the availability of low carbon public and accessible transport, strengthen tourism and create new jobs, especially in the 'green' economy.

During 2020/21 much of the work to create opportunities for people of all ages and support businesses and communities to prosper was affected by the impact of Covid-19. Schools and businesses were faced with many unprecedented challenges.

Our focus in schools was to keep our children and young people, particularly those who were most vulnerable, safe, engaged and supported. Schools had to respond quickly to meet the challenges arising from the speed and frequency of new safe Covid arrangements and to introduce new assessment procedures due to the cancellation of exams. This included providing online classes, IT equipment, Teacher Assessments, access to MiFi and the means for over 8,500 learners to continue to receive a lunch they would have had for free in school. For our most vulnerable learners and the children of key workers we set up emergency child-care hubs so that they could be in a safe environment and, so far as possible, continue learning and where necessary we provided safe transport to get them there. They were also able to join activities during the summer holidays in schools and childcare settings and for older children outside of school through our Youth Service.

Our focus on local businesses was supporting those that were affected by the flooding, also helping Town Centres to adapt to the changes demanded by Covid restrictions to keep people safe. We also learned more about our local business community, with many businesses helping to support the Council and contributing to the fight against Covid-19 by changing their processes to produce sanitiser, Protective Equipment and signage. As well as helping to keep people and communities safe, it showed how our local businesses can respond quickly and effectively to changes in demands.

Although Covid 19 slowed some of our progress, we were able to progress other areas of work including the new schools and school buildings, housing and developments within our Town Centres, e.g. Llys Cadwyn and the YMCA in Pontypridd and Oxford Buildings in Mountain Ash, and we continued to offer a range of training and work experience opportunities for our young people and held our first virtual Careers Fair where over 1,600 people registered to attend.

Our focus on housing was in supporting people affected by or at risk of homelessness, and providing suitable, quality and affordable homes to meet residents' needs. At the start of the pandemic, there was a 76% increase in homelessness applications and a significant increase in people placed in emergency temporary accommodation. We continued to work with property owners and Welsh Government to bring empty properties back into use and worked closely with social landlords to provide more good quality affordable housing, including adapted and supported housing. We also created a social letting agency to support tenants and landlords in the private rented sector, especially people at risk of homelessness.

Our strong relationship with schools and partnerships with the Central South Consortium, Welsh Government and businesses have been key to the way that the Council has been able to respond to the challenges of the last year. We will continue to strengthen our relationships and partnerships so that together, we create the best possible future for our residents, communities, businesses and visitors.

We know that the work to help children, young people and businesses affected by the floods and the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic will continue for some time, but we remain committed to our ambitious programme of work.

The steps we are taking for PROSPERITY, by creating the opportunity for people and businesses to be innovative, entrepreneurial and fulfil their potential and prosper are

- 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.
- Increasing the number of quality homes available and affordable to provide greater housing choice for residents.
- Ensuring we have good schools so all children have access to a great education.
- Helping people into work and better paid employment.

Latest available data tells us....

Economy

- Latest data, 2019, shows the value of goods and services (GVA) produced in the County Borough was £4,187M, 4th highest in Wales (Source: [StatsWales](#)).
- At the end of 2020, the average house price in RCT was £120,000, the 3rd lowest in Wales (Source: [Office for National Statistics](#)).
- Based on band D property rates, Council Tax in RCT was 5th highest in Wales for 2021-22. However, Council Tax increases have been the lowest in Wales over the last 4 years (Source: [StatsWales](#)).

Employment

- Latest data, Dec 2020, 67.3% of RCT residents aged 16+ were in employment, the second lowest LA in Wales and 5.5 percentage points lower than the Wales average (72.8%) (Source: [NOMIS](#)).
- According to latest figures 2018, the Public Administration, Education and Health industry is the largest employer throughout RCT (31% of workers), followed by Wholesale, Retail and Hospitality (28%) and Production (15%) (Source: [StatsWales](#)).
- According to 2020 estimates, the average weekly earnings of people working in the Rhondda Cynon Taf area was £521.20, an increase of 50p per week on the previous year and still lower than the Wales average (£537.80) (Source: [StatsWales](#)).

Education

- As of 2020, 9.3% of working age people in RCT had no qualifications, 1.7% higher than across Wales (7.6%). (Source: [NOMIS](#)).
- During 2019/20, there were 4,530 people employed within apprenticeship and trainee schemes in the RCT area. This was the second highest number in Wales, however it decreased by 14.2% compared to the previous year. Of these, 1.21% were from a BAME background, ranking 13th out of 22 Local Authorities. (Source: [StatsWales](#)).
- 19,675 people from RCT participated in further education during 2019/2020, a 32.9% decrease from the previous year (Source: [StatsWales](#)).

Housing

- As of 2019, there were 105,773 households in RCT. This is an increase of 0.8% from the previous year and 6.5% over the last 10 years (Source: [StatsWales](#)).
- 240 empty properties were brought back into use in 2020/21. This was 34% more than the previous year (179).

Looking Ahead....

Economy

- The pay difference between the highest and lowest earners is likely to grow across the UK to 2030. The pay difference in Wales is lower than the rest of the UK and this is projected to continue to 2030. Pre Covid-19 data. (Source: [UKCES future of work evidence](#)).
- Based on predictions, the UK economy is set to be £55bn smaller by 2030 than it would have been without Brexit. In a worst-case scenario, households may be up to £1,700 worse off per year. Pre Covid-19 data. (Source: [Institute of Public Policy Research](#)).

Employment & Skills

- The total number of people employed in Wales is expected to reach 1.466M by 2024, a 6.2% increase from the 1.380M employed in 2020. (Sources: [Working Futures 2014 – 2024](#) and [StatsWales](#)).
- From 2019 to 2024, Wales will see a decline in jobs in Engineering, Agriculture and Manufacturing. Jobs in Finance and Insurance, Information Technology and Health and Social work are set to increase (Source: [UKCES labour market projections for Wales 2014 – 2024](#)).

Education

- The total number of pupils in Wales is set to increase 1.36% between 2018 and 2028, with the greatest increase predicted in the number of students over 16, 12.31%. (Source: [StatsWales](#)).
- The number of people in the Welsh workforce without a qualification is set to drop from 3% to 2% between 2019 and 2024, while 70% of the workforce in 2024 will have qualifications at A level/equivalent or above, up from 65% in 2019 (Source: [UKCES labour market projections for Wales 2014 – 2024](#)).

Housing

- The number of households in RCT is projected to increase by 5.7% by 2028. RCT will also have one of the highest increases in Wales in the number of one person households, up 13.3%. (Source: [Local Authority household projections for Wales](#)).

General Statement of Progress

In 2020 we said we would continue our work to create the opportunity for people and businesses to be innovative, entrepreneurial and fulfil their potential and prosper. Overall, despite the challenging circumstances faced by our schools, staff and business we were able to make positive progress over the last year.

As part of our work towards our PROSPERITY priority, we will build on our experience of doing things differently, learning from what has worked and what we need to do better. We know that there is much to do help people and businesses to thrive and to make the most of opportunities we are helping to create in the future.

Our work within the PROSPERITY priority is overseen by Cabinet, relevant Scrutiny Committees and, where appropriate Partnership Boards including Public Services Board and we work as part of the Cardiff Capital Regional City Deal [to support regeneration and economic growth](#) in RCT and the wider region.

You can see more detail of our progress against what we set out to achieve in 2020/21 in our [PROSPERITY Performance Evaluation](#).

In 2020 we said that we would

Invest in our town centres, bringing jobs and homes into our town centres to create vibrant, thriving places people wish to live, work and socialise.

Among other things we

- Helped support social distancing in businesses in our eight main centres e.g. displaying information, providing posters for businesses, ensuring safe public areas and seating, providing information on business grant support available and encouraging people to join in community testing for Covid-19. We waived charges in our car parks in Aberdare and Pontypridd Town Centres for much of 2020 to encourage people to shop locally. We also changed the conditions for the payment of some grants available to business so that they were able to make changes to improve social distancing, including outdoor seating, awnings, canopies as well as improvements to courtyards and gardens.
- Supported 50 businesses with grants totalling £275,000 to help them adapt and diversify. Also 80 businesses were awarded grants worth £435,000 to help them make changes to improve social distancing, such as outdoor areas. We also processed in excess of 14,300 grants with a value of £76.9M for Non-Domestic Rates Relief, and anecdotally, we received positive feedback from businesses about the speed at which they received these grants.
- Continued work on the key Town Centre regeneration projects, including the new Transport Hub in Porth. We also completed the redevelopment of the Black Lion in Aberdare to provide living space on the first floor with flexibility to use the ground floor for commercial or additional living space.
- Started work to transform underused buildings in our Town Centres, including Mountain Ash Town Hall and Llwynypia Magistrates Court. Once complete they will be available for working and business development spaces.
- Put in place funding to demolish fire damaged buildings in Dunraven street, Tonypany, with the land to be used for new homes.
- Delivered the [award winning Llys Cadwyn development](#) in Pontypridd, providing office space, a Community Hub containing a 21st Century Library, gym, fitness/spin studio and a Riverside Walk and bridge linking to Ynysangharad War Memorial Park.

Our plans for 2021-22 include

- Continuing to support new and existing businesses to survive and thrive in our Town Centres.
- Finding ways to bring back into use, empty and disused sites in our Town Centres.
- Doing more to encourage visitors to RCT and promote attractions such as Zip World Tower, Gravity family bike park and the Rhondda and Abernant Tunnels projects.
- Putting in place more active travel routes so that people can reach Town Centres without using their cars and investigating possible new routes.

We will also show you progress through...

- % vacant retail premises in Porth, Pontypridd, Aberdare and Treorchy, and
- the average weekly number of visitors to Porth, Pontypridd, Aberdare and Treorchy

Deliver 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

Among other things we

- Continued to work with contractors to deliver a 30,000 square foot business unit at Coed Ely and begin construction of 22 modern business units at Robertstown, Aberdare.
- Completed [Llys Cadwyn](#) in Pontypridd with office space for 1,000 people, a library and gym, a restaurant and two hospitality outlets, with 'green' features which can be used for heating, lighting and power. The development also has 6 charging points for electric cars, and pre-laid cables so more can be added in future. We also opened a new footbridge between Llys Cadwyn and Ynysangharad War Memorial Park.
- Reopened the footbridge to Ynysangharad War Memorial Park following repairs to the damage caused by Storm Dennis.
- Started to [demolish](#) the Bingo Hall and Angharad's nightclub, Pontypridd.
- Made progress on the Porth Transport Hub which will bring together rail and bus journeys making it easier for people to travel without using their cars, scheduled to open in 2022.
- Worked with neighbouring Councils across South Wales to launch a new [Valley's Regional Park website](#) (VRP) to raise the profile of the Welsh Valleys and bring together information about activities, events and attractions that visitors and tourists can enjoy, including ten sites that will act as gateways to the VRP.
- Continued our work with businesses and neighbouring councils to encourage visitors to Rhondda Cynon Taf and the Valleys. Progress was slower than we had planned as Covid restrictions forced us to close or limit visitor numbers. However, in [April 2021](#), we saw the opening of Zip World with its Phoenix zip wire, the fastest seated zipline in the world and the only Zip World attraction in South Wales. In April, plans were announced to re-open Lido Ponty in May, following refurbishment and repairs to the devastation caused by Storm Dennis.
- Saw the completed construction of the steel frame of the YMCA building in Pontypridd, with the next phase of work on the building on target and aiming for completion by the end of 2021.
- Successfully [bid for funding](#) to develop a cultural hub in Treorchy, building on the existing theatre and library.

Our plans for 2021-22 include

- Continuing to develop our Town Centres in Mountain Ash, Tonypany and Porth that will increase employment, create homes and encourage shoppers.
- Continuing to progress the Council's new Local Development Plan, including talking to residents and communities about where we should develop and build new homes and commercial opportunities and where we need to protect our natural resources.
- Supporting Housing Development on former industrial and hospital sites at Beddau, Aberaman and Aberdare.
- Putting in place more car parking at Park and Rides in Porth, Treorchy and Llwynypia.
- Improving Wi-Fi availability across the County Borough including Pontypridd Town Centre.
- Continuing the development of Llanilid as part of wider South Wales Regeneration plans to bring life to the former open cast coal mining site, including new homes, leisure facilities as well as industrial and office space, a school and transport links.

- Promoting all that the County Borough has to offer in our landscape, greenspaces and heritage and talking to businesses, residents and visitors about how we can shape tourism for the future, bringing jobs and prosperity to the area.
- Creating energy for business and public transport by installing solar panels in the new Transport Hub in Porth and our Business Units in Tonyrefail, Trecynon and Aberdare.

We will also show you progress through...

- The number of businesses start-ups and closures across the County Borough.
- The number of businesses and organisations supported through grant support programmes.
- The number of jobs created and safeguarded in businesses through grant support programmes.

Ensuring we have good schools so all children have access to a great education.

Among other things we

- Put in place new ways to teach our pupils online. We provided over 5,500 devices to children to help them continue to study from home or provided printed work packs where this was more helpful to learners.
- Set up 25 emergency child-care hubs for the children of key workers and vulnerable children catering for both English and Welsh language learners.
- Supported schools and Pupil Referral Units to help pupils and vulnerable learners to continue to learn in English and Welsh speaking learning hubs, at school or at home, providing equipment where necessary.
- Put in place early intervention and support for learners with social, emotional and behavioural difficulties at four of our secondary schools and continued to work towards putting in place effective support for all learners with Additional Learning Needs between the ages of 0 and 25.
- Supported pupil's well-being and mental health, establishing practical ways to keep children and young people safe in schools and reduce the need for them to isolate.
- Continued to invest in our school buildings and facilities through 21st Century Schools including
 - Opening a [new low-carbon primary school](#) building in Hirwaun in Autumn 2020.
 - Completing the first phase of work at Ffynnon Taf primary school.
 - Progressing plans to invest £56.6M to improve school facilities across greater Pontypridd, including a new 3-16 school on the site of Pontypridd High School, more effective sixth form provision and more Welsh medium education places. As part of this investment, we have also completed early preparations for a new Welsh medium primary school in Rhydyfelin and a new 3-16 school building, with specialist provision for pupils with Additional Learning Needs at the site of Hawthorn High school.
- Obtained planning permission for improvements at Cwmlai Primary school and Ysgol Gyfun Rhydywaun, with a total investment of £13.72M.
- Agreed £3.5M funding for a new extension at Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg, Aberdar.
- Invested £5.78M in maintaining and making improvements in other schools e.g. refurbishing toilets, improving kitchens, replacing boilers, renewing roofs, installing IT and making it easier for children with mobility needs to get in and around school.

Our plans for 2021 - 22 include

- Continuing to support schools to provide high quality teaching and learning so that students can achieve their potential and working with our regional partners in the Central South Consortium to support schools with the greatest need and where learners' progress has been most affected by the pandemic.
- Safely improving pupil attendance at all schools and providing support and encouragement to learners and their families to improve their levels of engagement in school life.
- Continuing to help schools to put in place ways to improve the emotional and mental well-being of learners including more school-based counselling for children and young people.
- Making sure that children with additional learning needs and children in our care get the best possible support in our schools.
- Supporting children to get the best possible start through delivering 5 projects to improve the quality and availability of Early Years provision in our schools and providing support to the child-care sector.
- Providing our secondary school learners with new and better opportunities to prepare for work, training or further education through good career advice and guidance.
- Improving our school buildings through the 21st Century Schools programme to provide high quality learning facilities and reduce our impact on the environment, and involving parents, carers and communities in developing our plans for the future. Our programme includes
 - consulting with residents about a new Welsh Medium School for YGG Llyn y Forwen, Ferndale,
 - progressing school projects in the Pontypridd area including expanded 6th form and new buildings at Bryncelynog Comprehensive, a new 3-16 school at Hawthorn, a new 3-16 school at Pontypridd and a new Welsh Medium primary school,
 - starting to plan and prepare for three new school projects in Penygawsi Primary School in Llantrisant, Llanilltud Faerdref Primary School in Pontypridd and Pontyclun Primary School,
 - progressing the new buildings at Ffynnon Taf Primary school, including a new school block which will be heated by the Taff's Well Thermal Spring Heat Network, providing low carbon heating to the school.

You can see more about our 21 Century Schools progress and plans on [our website](#) where you will also find more information about improvements [within other schools](#).

- Encouraging our learners to get involved in changes that will help reduce the impact of climate change, e.g. by providing more vegetarian and vegan school meal options, reducing single use plastics in our schools and supporting school eco-committees to promote action on climate change.

We will also show you progress through...

- Our 21st Century Schools building and improvement programme.
- Information about pupil attendance in all our schools.

Increase the number of quality homes available and affordable to provide greater housing choice for residents

Among other things we

- Prioritised housing need in response to Covid-19 including homelessness, temporary accommodation and landlord support and developing an integrated Homelessness Recovery Plan.
- Put in place a social letting agency to rent private properties on behalf of landlords to provide affordable housing for people in need and at risk of homelessness.
- Worked with Registered Social Landlords to deliver 164 quality affordable homes across RCT through the Social Housing Grant. Housing types were chosen to meet the needs of our residents, and included accessible, adapted and specialist accommodation for people with specific needs, including supported accommodation for people with learning disabilities and adapted bungalows for people whose health is affected by weight. All the affordable homes were delivered by South Wales contractors, with 50% by contractors in RCT.

Our plans for 2021- 22 include

- Working with Housing Associations and other partners to put in place more low carbon housing.
- Looking at ways to fund the work to make existing homes low carbon.
- Finding ways to help new housing create its own energy.
- Bringing more empty properties across the County Borough back into use.

We will also show you progress through...

- The number of interventions to bring empty properties back into use, and how many properties are successfully brought back into use.
- The number of new homes delivered by Registered social landlords.

Help people into work and better paid employment.

Among other things we

- Were unable to do as much as we planned but we continued to support people to reach their potential through projects that best meet their needs. e.g.
 - Our support to people in our Employment Pathway programme, including providing access to ICT by lending Chrome books for those people without access to digital equipment.
 - Putting in place the UK [Government's KickStart](#) scheme to create jobs for young people between 16 and 24 years old.
 - We supported over 1,350 people with mentoring support, training or gaining qualifications. 545 people successfully gained employment following our support.
- Continued to help young people leaving our care by providing them with the chance to gain paid work experience with the Council. We have also continued to provide support to other young people in our care and those who are leaving, to identify training and work opportunities. For

young people with learning difficulties or disabilities the 'Gateway to Change' programme provides young people with the chance to gain work experience within the Council as part of their college course at Coleg y Cymoedd.

- Recruited 33 Apprentices, and 26 Graduates across the Council's services, our highest ever intake, providing quality training and work experience for local young people.
- Hosted our first [virtual Careers Fair](#) featuring 32 national and local employers with over 500 jobs and training opportunities on offer.

You can find more information about our Employment and Education programmes on our [website](#).

Our plans for 2021- 22 include

- Continuing to help residents to develop the skills and confidence they need for work or training.
- Supporting employers to provide work experience and job opportunities through the Government's [KickStart](#) programme
- Providing work experience placements across the Council's services for people who are leaving our care, are unemployed or have a learning disability.
- Holding two virtual Careers fairs that will help employers to reach residents looking for opportunities to work and train.

We will also show you progress through...

- The number of people on our Employment Support programmes.
- The number of people finding work from our Employment Support programmes.
- The number of 'KickStart' opportunities offered within the Council and across the County Borough.
- % of school leavers not in Education, Employment or Training.

Prosperous	Resilient	Healthier	More Equal	Cohesive Communities	Vibrant Culture and Welsh Language	Globally Responsible
✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

You can see more detail about how we will continue our work to support PROSPERITY by 'creating the opportunity for people and businesses to be innovative, entrepreneurial and fulfil their potential' in our [2021-22 PROSPERITY Plan](#).

Making the best use of our budget – Living within our means

Rhondda Cynon Taf, like the wider public sector, has experienced a prolonged period of real term reductions in funding for a number of years and more recently has faced the unprecedented challenges posed by the Covid-19 pandemic, an event that eclipses anything we have seen in recent decades.

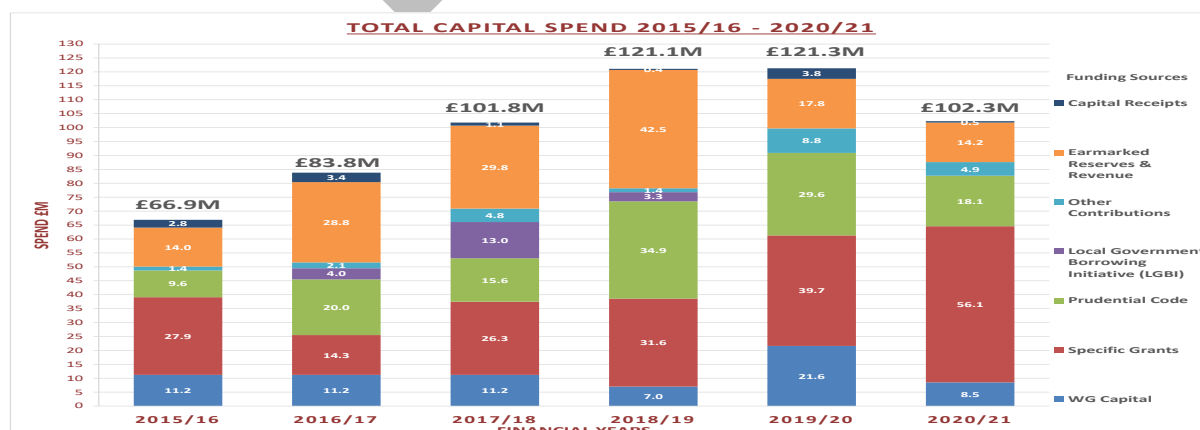
Against this backdrop, the Council's robust approach to financial management and planning has supported the continued delivery of a range of important services to residents and businesses, and maintained the financial health and stability of the Council.

Financial Performance - 2020/21

The Council's year-end revenue budget position was a £0.204Million overspend against a total budget of £508Million, with key budget pressures particularly across Adult Social Care Services and Children's Services. This position also took account of specific financial assistance, amounting to £49Million, claimed via the Welsh Government's Covid Hardship Fund that provided support to all local authorities in Wales to meet the additional costs and income losses incurred as a direct result of the pandemic, 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 income losses where there was a need to temporarily suspend or reduce services such as Leisure Centres and the provision of school meals.

Capital Programme investment for the year totalled £102Million, supported via Council resources and Welsh Government funding, and represented an ambitious programme of significant investment in line with Corporate Plan priorities. This investment is making visible improvements across the County Borough and includes a continued focus on: town centre regeneration and businesses; modernising accommodation options for older people via an on-going programme of new Extra Care facilities; new schools and the modernisation of existing schools; highways, bridge and footbridge improvements; flood alleviation works; and improvements to parks and play areas.

Importantly, the Council has been able to sustain significant levels of capital investment over a number of years through an approach that reviews and re-prioritises its own resources in a planned way, this enabling additional investment of £123Million over and above normal capital programme allocations since 2015, as set out below.



The Council has a legal requirement to compile a Statement of Accounts on an annual basis that sets out its financial position each year and this being subject to an independent external audit. For the 2020/21 financial year, the external audit has been completed with the auditor issuing an unqualified opinion (i.e. a clean bill of health), providing assurance on the robustness of the Council's arrangements and its general financial standing.

2021/22 and Looking Ahead

The Council approved a balanced revenue budget for 2021/22 on [10th March 2021](#) that took account of changing service demand, the emerging on-going impact of Covid-19 and inflationary pressures; ensured our schools were fully funded; and the continuation of additional investment in priority areas such as support to businesses, climate change and carbon reduction, staff well-being, public health and protection services and flood prevention support.

The 2021/22 revenue budget represents an increase in spending of £19.1Million compared to the previous year and is funded from a +3.8% increase in the money the Council receives from its main funding source, Welsh Government; the delivery of significant efficiency savings that will not impact on frontline services (£4.6Million); and the continuation of a responsible approach to setting the level of Council Tax, at +2.65%, the lowest increase across Wales for the fourth consecutive year.

Looking ahead, the Council has continued to take a medium term approach to service and financial planning, and published updated Medium Term Financial Plans on [13th October 2020](#) and [20th July 2021](#). The latest update forecasts the continuation of a very challenging environment, with the need to deliver significant budget savings over the next 3 years to meet rising demand for services, particularly social care services, and specific inflationary pressures, and also supporting the on-going and potential longer-term effects of the Covid-19 pandemic on our communities.

As part of our medium term approach to service and financial planning, a programme of work is on-going to identify budget saving options and encompasses: maximisation of efficiency saving opportunities including 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.

The Council is also a member of the Cardiff Capital Region City Deal, playing a central role in delivering an exciting and ambitious long-term plan to improve the economy of South East Wales.

A Fair and Equal County Borough

We want everyone in the County Borough no matter where they live or their background, to have a fair chance in life and to make Rhondda Cynon Taf a fair and equal place to live and work. We recognise and respect differences and adapt what we do so that everyone can benefit.

We value all our staff and their differences and around 79% of our staff live in RCT. To make sure that our staff value and respect the differences in people in our communities as part of their jobs, we provide training and raise awareness of the wide-ranging issues that affect our residents.

RCT Population (June 2020) Total - 241,873 Males - 118,518 (49%) Females - 123,355 (51%)	RCT staff data (March 2021) Over 79% of employees live in the Council area Total - 10,790 Male - 25.5% Female - 74.5%		
Age range 0-15 - 44,975 - (18.56%) 16-64 - 149,661 - (62.11%) 65+ - 46,628 - (19.33%) <i>Source: Stats Wales June 2020 population estimates</i>	Age Group	Total	% of Workforce
	16-24	746	6.8%
	25-34	2,038	18.6%
	35-44	2,597	23.7%
	45-54	3,140	28.6%
	55-64	2,157	19.7%
	65+	292	2.7%
Ethnicity 3.6% of RCT residents are Black Asian and Minority Ethnic. <i>Because of the small number of people surveyed, this might not be a true reflection.</i> <i>Source: Stats Wales June 2020.</i>	<i>More detailed information about the workforce can be found in the annual equalities monitoring report to Cabinet 19 March 2019.</i>		
18% of all Lower Super Output Areas, within RCT are amongst the 10% most deprived in Wales, while 45% are ranked amongst the 30% most deprived . <i>A Lower Super Output Area (LSOA) is a small geographical area of population of approx. 1,500 people. There are 154 LSOAs in RCT and 1,909 in Wales. Two of the ten most deprived areas in Wales are in Rhondda Cynon Taf, i.e., Tylorstown 1 and Penrhiwceiber 1. (Source: WIMD 2019).</i>			
The Thriving Places Index Wales for Equalities 2020 measures inequalities in Health, Income and Employment. The 2020 data gives RCT a rating of 4.43 out of a possible score of 10. The measure covers many different services and different providers at local, regional, national and international levels and the score for RCT has fallen from 5.26 since it was introduced in 2018.			

Before the pandemic, we were continuing to make good progress towards a fair and equal RCT with reasonable adjustments routinely made for our residents and staff across all our services. We can point to many positive examples of this throughout this report as well as in our Annual Equality Report which was presented to Cabinet in [March 2021](#) and which set out our work in 2019/20. These include

- achieving the Silver Insport Award [Valleys Gymnastics Academy earns Silver Insport Award for inclusion \(welshgymnastics.org\)](#) from [Disability Sport Wales](#) demonstrating inclusive sport and physical activity has become commonplace in the Sport RCT Team,
- continuing to offer learning opportunities to people with learning disabilities,
- offering a sensory line which promotes a dedicated 'text phone' for deaf customers and those hard of hearing,
- putting in place strategies to improve inclusion and well-being to support learners in under-represented groups including LGBTQ+, Young People who are not in education, employment or training and ethnic minorities including Gypsy, Roma and Traveller pupils, and pupils who face socio-economic disadvantage,
- designating 24/7 free parking spaces in our paid car parks for disabled users, 7% of the total spaces available which exceeds the number recommended in the [British Parking Association](#) guidance,
- making our crematories more accessible including toilet facilities, accessible ramps and doorways and hearing loop availability within the chapels,
- supporting residents in need of interpretation and translation. This included 313 bookings across 20 languages and British Sign Language. The five most requested languages being Portuguese, Mandarin, BSL, Arabic and Turkish.

During 2020/21 the impact of Covid-19 on our residents and communities worsened many existing inequalities, making life for those who are vulnerable even more challenging. Throughout this report, you will see many ways in which we and our partners supported our residents including

- offering, organising and delivering food packages to those who were highly vulnerable and at risk of infection, as well as supporting food banks for those in need,
- changing the way we supported families of children who were entitled to free school meals so that they were able to continue to benefit from this,
- providing access to IT equipment and 'MiFi' so that pupils could access learning at home,
- reinstating the 'At Home' library service so that our vulnerable residents got their books delivered safely to their door,
- providing residents, particularly those who are elderly or disabled, with information to support them to safely resume their day-to-day life as they emerge from lock down.

An important piece of our work over the last year has been to prepare to meet a new duty that the Welsh Government has put in place for all public bodies in Wales which will contribute to a more Equal Wales. The aim of this new duty, referred to as the 'socio economic' duty is to deliver better outcomes for those people that live in less favourable social and economic circumstances than others living in the same society. In other words, we should take account of the needs of people who are less well off than others in society. The duty means that when we make decisions, we need to understand how people will be affected so that their needs can be considered. The duty is set out in [A More Equal Wales – The Socio-economic Duty Equality Act 2010](#). You can find more information below.

We have also indicated our support for a call for the Welsh Government to implement a Universal Basic Income (UBI) trial in Wales and to lobby the UK Government for funding to extend this across Wales. Universal Basic Income would see everyone being paid a fixed sum by the Government to cover basic costs, regardless of whether they are rich or poor, or working or unemployed. Following a presentation from the UBI Lab Wales Network in [February 2021](#), we have committed to work with the Network to develop a pilot for the County Borough, subject to UK or Welsh Government funding.

As well supporting our residents, during 2020/21 we continued to work behind the scenes to deliver the things that would make a difference to the lives of people and communities, particularly as we emerge from lock down. In our [Strategic Equality Plan for 2019-22](#) we said we would focus on the five areas that our residents told us were most important to them to help to achieve a fairer Rhondda Cynon Taf.

1. Better understand the needs of our communities and the barriers they face to thrive.
2. Reduce inequalities that exist within our communities.
3. Promote safe communities.
4. Reduce the gender pay gap within the Council.
5. Create an inclusive workforce within the Council that represents the differences in our communities

Here is some of the progress we have made over the last year and our plans for 2021/22

We said we aim to better understand the needs of our communities and the barriers they face to thrive. Among other things...

As a result of our work with our partners, representative community groups and volunteers, over the last year, we have strengthened our relationships and learned more about the needs of communities and the barriers they face. These barriers include loneliness and isolation as well as getting into buildings, using technology, language and availability of transport.

Our Plans for 2021-22 include

- Continuing to engage with residents and community groups throughout RCT so that we can learn more about community needs and the barriers people face. We will use our libraries, neighbourhood networks, community hubs and organised meetings to meet residents and groups. We will also use the findings from the '[RCT Together](#)' survey about what people would like to see in their community, other '[Let's Talk](#)' conversations and other sources of community information including Social Media.
- Continuing to make our services more accessible to our residents and visitors including by the language and technology we use and the ways we communicate.
- Continuing the improvements to the Council's web site so that it can be easily used by as many people as possible and is better than the [Government's Accessibility Standards](#).
- Working within communities to improve the digital skills of our residents so that more people can get involved with the digital world.
- Learning from the lessons of the pandemic to strengthen the way we collect information about our staff in the first instance and so improve our knowledge of Rhondda Cynon Taf so we can better focus future support and services.

We said we aim to reduce inequalities that exist within our communities.

Among other things...

We continued to look at how our services can better support people to reach their potential e.g. in education, housing and employment. We also worked with many established networks across the County Borough to help people to reduce the inequalities they experience. We were unable to use 'virtual' ways to meet with the Disability Forum instead of our regular meetings, but we kept in regular telephone contact with members and have been continuing to discuss how service can be improved to better meet their needs.

Our work to reduce inequalities also included

- Reviewing the Council's recruitment and selection processes to increase the diversity of applicants.
- Recommending that the Council commits to increasing the number of adapted and accessible properties being built across the County Borough.
- Putting in place the Develop, Invest and Grow project to improve well-being, and equality and diversity outcomes in over 100 Small Medium Enterprises (SMEs) in Rhondda Cynon Taf.
- Providing information through a variety of accessible formats that best meet different needs, with a focus on the information we provide for people in the Deaf community.
- Developing information about LGBT+ for teachers in our school so that they are more confident to support and teach pupils on these specific topics.
- Setting up an LGBT+ working group to improve support to children and young people children who access Council services or attend any of our Schools.
- Providing information to managers and Councillors to raise their awareness of what is expected of them to meet the new 'socio economic' duty. We have also changed the way that information is provided in Council reports so that Councillors have the information they need to make more informed decisions so that more people in communities can enjoy a long healthy and successful life. The Welsh Government has prepared a short video about the Socio-Economic Duty which you can find on its [website](#).

Our Plans for 2021-22 include

- Improving accessibility to Council services, particularly for deaf and disabled people.
- Developing a Race Equality Action Plan that will focus on tackling racialised inequalities in the County Borough.
- Working within our schools to improve resources and awareness of anti-racism materials.
- Working towards improving opportunities for all people to access political life.
- Putting in place an equalities challenge for key Council decisions.
- Developing employment support through Communities for Work that can be offered online as well as face to face.
- Ensuring that well-being factors for young people and their families are central within our service delivery.
- Committing to RCT becoming a Disability Smart Organisation as defined by the [Business Disability Forum \(BDF\)](#). This will also help the Council to be [Disability Confident](#) and help services across the Council to make the most of the talents that disabled people can bring to the work place and improve the life opportunities and experiences of disabled people in employment, economic growth, and society more widely.

We said we aim to promote safe communities. Among other things...

- We continued to support people experiencing domestic abuse as safely as possible within Covid guidelines.
- We continued to work with South Wales Police, Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council and other partners to raise awareness of Hate Crime, telling people how to report it and where to get support by
 - talking to people in town centres.
 - releasing 5 short videos across Social media and other outlets on [Race](#), [Disability](#), [Gender Identity](#), [Sexual Orientation](#) and [Religion](#).
 - appearing on local radio station [GTFM](#).

- safely attending a local primary school as part of its Year 6 Citizenship Education Programme.
- Provided support and reassurance to a shopkeeper experiencing racial abuse.
- Developed positive relationships with the Beddau Gypsy Community and Muslim Community at Aberdare Mosque, providing information about how to report Hate Crime and encouraging them to do so.
- Attended the Older Persons Advisory Group to provide information and assurance following their concerns about increasing community tensions with younger people during lock down.
- Supported 9 Syrian families as part of the Welsh Government's settlement programme.

Our Plans for 2021-22 include

- Continuing to develop teachers' knowledge and understanding so that they can better support LGTB+ and minority ethnic learners.
- Continuing to raise awareness of Hate Crime in our schools, colleges and communities.
- Working with Women's Aid to strengthen our response and support for people experiencing Domestic Violence.
- Continuing to work with schools to support positive emotional and mental health and well-being in learners.
- Working with South Wales Police to [strengthen the ways](#) we keep woman and girls safe in RCT.

We said we aim to reduce the gender pay gap within the Council. Among other things year...

We continued to monitor the workforce data and have reported that the Gender Pay gap in the Council has reduced for the third year running, see our [annual Equality Report 2019/20](#).

Our Plans for 2021-22 include

- Developing a new Women in Leadership programme which will be in place in 2021-22.
- Improving our support for pregnant staff and those on maternity leave as part of the national '[Working Forward](#)' pledge to make the workplace the best it can be for pregnant women and new parents.
- Re starting our annual Performance Review discussions as part of our staff development arrangements.

We said we aim to create an inclusive workforce within the Council that represents the differences in our communities. Among other things

- We continued to meet our responsibilities under the '[Disability Confident](#)' Scheme so that as an employer we can make most of the talents disabled people can bring, including providing '[Read&Write](#)' computer software to support dyslexic and neurodiverse colleagues.
- We continued to focus on Mental Health by providing information and direct support to help staff to look after their mental health and well-being during the pandemic and to talk about their mental health without judgement.
- We retained our Stonewall top 100 ranking as part of which we have also been able to offer free training courses to our schools to support LGTB+ pupils with mental health and other specific challenges and issues they might face.
- We strengthened our focus on Race Equality by
 - taking positive action to appoint a member of staff who is helping to challenge our thinking and our work,

- putting in place a staff network for Black Asian and Minority Ethnic people ‘Spotlight’ which is helping us to understand the lived experience of being a black member of staff and resident in a community,
- commissioning research project to look at the experience of black pupils in our secondary schools.
- We [showed our support](#) to a Zero-tolerance approach to racism by signing the [Zero Racism Wales](#) pledge.
- We raised awareness of national and international awareness days with articles, activities or events for
 - International Day of Persons with Disabilities
 - World Menopause Day
 - Men’s Mental Health Month
 - Time to Talk Day
 - International Women’s Day
 - Black History Month
 - Black Lives Matter
 - LGBT+ History Month
 - Lesbian Visibility Day
 - Holocaust Memorial Day
- We have also supported RCT Staff Networks
 - ‘Perthyn’ our LGBT+ network
 - Allies network
 - Disability and Staff Carers network
 - ‘Spotlight’ our new Race Equality Network
 - We have led a Regional Network ‘Proud Councils’ promoting and achieving an inclusive workplace and community for all LGBT+ people across South Wales based Councils.

Our Plans for 2021-22 include

- Continuing to raise profile of the national and international awareness activities and events.
- Working with Trades Unions to
 - raise staff awareness of Sexual Harassment in the workplace,
 - develop further opportunities for staff training through the [Welsh Union Learning Fund \(WULF\)](#).
- Committing to the [Race at Work Charter](#), launched by Business in the Community, which aims to tackle “ethnic disparities in the workplace”.
- Developing a Race Equality Action Plan to demonstrate our Zero tolerance to racism.
- Putting in place an accessibility steering group. This group has members from various areas across the Council and will advise on ongoing accessibility work and improvements. We are also working on a proposal for Council service areas to become an Autism Aware organisation.

We are also continuing to strengthen our understanding of the needs of our Armed Forces Veterans, and supporting the local Armed Forces community, including serving and ex-Military personnel and their families, through our continued commitment to the [Armed Forces Covenant](#).

Our work includes

Supporting Service Children in Education:

by working with our partners in the Armed Forces and [Supporting Service Children in Wales](#) (SSCE Cymru) we are learning more about ‘Service Children’ in schools across RCT. We found that there

were 114 pupils that are defined as 'Service children' across 48 schools. As a result of this, in April 2021, we were awarded £15,500 to improve support for these children during the 2020/21 academic year. This support will include

- Little Troopers resources: Primary Resource Packs and Well-being packs which will be delivered across the summer term in schools attended by primary aged Service children. It also includes lesson plans and materials for teachers to use within each setting which explores topics such as separation, deployment, house moves as well as themes of belonging, identity and mindfulness.
- Forces Fitness workshops: which will be delivered in secondary and all through-schools. The focus of these workshops will be on health, well-being and resilience building.

Continuing the Veteran Advice Service:

meeting housing needs, helping to meet Social Care needs, supporting veterans through the Armed Forces Covenant Trust Fund. This will enable us to continue to provide dedicated advice and support to the Armed Forces community. Since launching the service in 2019, we have received over 300 direct referrals (to April 2021) and we have been able to help veterans in many ways including with benefit claims, financial issues and getting into employment.

Supporting Veteran Groups:

by continuing to build upon relationships with the Armed Forces community. During the pandemic we set up weekly virtual Zoom meetings for Valley Veterans and Cynon Valley Veterans Coffee mornings.

Armed Forces Covenant Training and Awareness:

by launching virtual Armed Forces Covenant training to raise awareness of the Armed Forces Covenant (AFC). The training is available to all Council staff and information about the AFC is included as part of the Council's induction arrangements for all new staff. The training is also free to organisations and businesses across RCT and can be tailored to meet their business needs and requirements. After delivering an awareness session to the Mid Rhondda Women's Institute about the AFC, we received positive feedback and importantly, we were able to identify more veterans in that area.

Veterans Connected project:

In March 2021 we were awarded £18,900 by the Armed Forces Covenant [Positive Pathways](#) Programme which helps to support the mental health and well-being of ex-forces. The funding will help us to buy electronic devices and make them available to Veterans for hire as part of our new 'Veterans Connected' project. The 'Veterans Connected' project aims to help improve Veterans' well-being by helping them to stay in touch with family and friends using digital technology. We will be working in partnership with four neighbouring Councils to deliver this project.

Our plans for 2021-22 include

Continuing to support armed forces personnel and veterans across Rhondda Cynon Taf by

- Holding conversations with people and communities across RCT to see if they are aware of the support that is available to our Armed Forces and Veterans.
- Encouraging more Veterans to get involved in our 'virtual' coffee mornings.
- Continuing to provide electronic equipment for hire to help reduce social isolation as part of the 'Veterans Connected' project.

- Raising Awareness about the range of services available to Armed Forces Veterans through social media and face to face events when it is safe to do so.
- Delivering Little Troopers Well-being packs across the summer term in schools attended by primary aged Service children. Packs also include lesson plans and materials for teachers to use.

For further information about our work to support the Armed Forces community email Armedforces@rctcbc.gov.uk.

We cannot describe all the work that the Council is doing to make RCT a fair and equal County Borough in this report, but you will find more detailed information about our work in our most recent annual [Equalities Report](#) and by following our Social Media.

Our work to deliver our plans helps us to show how we are contributing to a '[More Equal](#)' Wales - *a society that enables people to fulfil their potential no matter what their background or circumstances*. But it also seeks to support all the Well-being goals including a Wales of 'Cohesive Communities' and a 'Prosperous' Wales.

Contributing to an RCT and Wales that is

Prosperous	Resilient	Healthier	More Equal	Cohesive Communities	Vibrant Culture and Welsh Language	Globally Responsible
✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Welsh Language - delivering services in the language of your choice

We are committed to creating an environment which encourages residents to use Welsh when communicating with the Council and supports staff to use Welsh in the workplace. Despite the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on our speed of progress, we continue to make good headway in delivering services to you in the language of your choice and playing our part in helping Wales achieve One million Welsh speakers by 2050.

- The 2011 Census tells us there are 27,779 Welsh speakers in RCT, 12.3% of the population. More recent data from [ONS Annual population survey](#) in December 2020, suggests this has increased to 46,100, 20% of the population. However, the ONS survey involved fewer people so it might not be a true reflection.
- The greatest proportion of Welsh speakers are under 25 years old (Source: [2011 census](#))
- RCT continues to have the highest % of pupils taught Welsh as a first language from within the 5 Councils covered by the Central South Consortium Joint Education Service (18.8%).
- The number of 7-year-olds being taught through the medium of Welsh has increased slightly, 534 in 2019/20, 18 more than in 2018/19.
- In 2019 the Council committed to a number of projects to increase school capacity, including a new Welsh medium primary school in Rhydyfelin and investment at Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Aberdar and Ysgol Gyfun Rhydywaun, which will provide a further 690 Welsh medium education places by 2022.

During 2020–2021 we provided Welsh language training to 212 staff, with 144 undertaking Level 1 training and an additional 68 benefitting from Levels 2 & 3. All training was carried out virtually. The number of Welsh speakers on our staff continues to increase. In March 2021 there were 622 staff who self-identified as fluent Welsh speakers, 53 more than in 2019/20.

Throughout the Covid-19 pandemic, we ensured as far as possible, all information for residents has been available bilingually at the point of issue, and we have continued to look at where we can do better and actively address any problems. Residents were able to access Welsh language services throughout the pandemic, including accessing Welsh medium provision at school hubs and receiving services such as welfare phone calls in their language of choice. We have also continued with our longer-term plans to support and develop use of the Welsh language, although the impact of the pandemic on our frontline services has meant progress in some areas has been slower than planned. We remain committed to making it easier for all residents and businesses to contact and do business with the Council in the language of their choice.

At the census in 2011, the number of Welsh speakers in our communities was 12.3% of our population, lower than the Wales average at 19%. As a result, the number of local people applying for jobs in the Council who are able to speak Welsh is also relatively low, as the majority of Welsh speakers in RCT are not of working age. This means we need to continue to support and encourage our existing staff to use and improve their Welsh skills at work and encourage our residents to engage with us in Welsh.

We have a dedicated Welsh language tutor who continues to support our staff with training directly related to their job role so they can better respond to resident's needs and tutored 212 members of staff during 2020/21 via remote platforms like Microsoft Teams. We also continued to work in

partnership with the [Welsh Government's Cymraeg Gwaith \(Work Welsh\) project](#), with 99 staff completing online courses.

Another important part of encouraging Welsh language use and increasing the number of Welsh speakers is through Welsh Medium Education, and we continued our work to increase the availability of school places across the County Borough and encouraged parents to consider it for their children. We continue to deliver a number of projects to increase capacity in our Welsh medium schools and early years settings, including expanding Dolau primary school and increasing the capacity at Penderyn primary school to be a Welsh medium only school. Further detail can be found in the [Welsh in Education Strategic Plan annual update](#).

Rhondda Cynon Taf will [host the Royal National Eisteddfod](#) in 2024. Originally scheduled for 2022, this event is an exciting opportunity to further boost the use of the Welsh language in our communities. This event will also contribute to helping the Council to meet the national Well-being goal of a 'Wales of vibrant culture and Welsh language', a 'Prosperous Wales' as well as other national Well-being goals. We are engaging with the National Eisteddfod team and preliminary work is underway, which over time will involve local communities, schools and organisations.

As well as promoting the use of the Welsh language, the Council also needs to follow [Welsh language laws](#) and apply [national Welsh Language Standards](#), making sure that we:

- treat the Welsh language the same as the English language, and
- offer people the opportunity to receive their services from us, as well as from those funded by us, in Welsh.

The Welsh Language Standards apply to all parts of the Council's work, including to Council meetings, where text translation and simultaneous translation support is available to Members and senior officers, support which continued during virtual meeting arrangements introduced during the Covid-19 pandemic.

A national [Welsh Language Commissioner](#) is responsible for making sure that the Welsh Language Measure and the Standards are being implemented across Wales. We [report](#) our plans and progress to the Commissioner every year. We also have our own arrangements in place to check that we are making progress. We weren't able to do as much as we planned while services were focused on the dealing with the pandemic, but we reviewed our recruitment processes to see what difference they made to the Welsh language skills across the Council. We found that there is more we can do, and we are currently reviewing our procedures to have a positive impact on the Welsh language, specifically improving capacity in some key frontline services.

If we do not properly implement the Welsh Language Standards, we could receive a penalty of up to £5,000 for each 'breach'. In 2020/21, 40 complaints were received, or still under investigation, about how the Council is treating the Welsh language, which is more than the previous year (2019/20, 23 complaints). This increase is partly due to delays in closing some complaints as the Welsh Language commissioner paused investigations during initial stages of the Covid-19 pandemic. In the majority of cases, complaints were upheld by the Commissioner and action was taken to resolve the problems identified. Further details are available in the [Welsh Language Standards Compliance Report](#). We continue to work to quickly resolve any issues identified and to put in place measures to stop mistakes happening, including working closely with the Welsh Language Commissioner's office, and so far, have received no financial penalties.

As part of our duties under the laws, we must publish two documents:

1. [Welsh Language Standards Action Plan](#) explains how we intend to comply with the standards.
2. [Welsh Language Promotion Strategy](#) sets out how we will promote the Welsh language and facilitate its use more widely in the area.

To make sure that we keep on track and meet the Welsh Language Standards, a [Welsh Language Cabinet Steering Group](#) of Councillors and representatives from other interested public bodies and voluntary groups, including Fforwm Iaith, who bring together local Welsh language groups:

1. checks the progress we are making against our Promotion Strategy,
2. reviews the results of Welsh language audits to make sure that all services are delivering services in Welsh, and
3. approves major Welsh language policies that affect all services to our residents.

Our 5-year Welsh Language Promotion strategy came to an end in March 2021, and we are currently reviewing its impact, what worked well and what could be improved. A [report on our progress](#) to the [Welsh Language Cabinet Steering Group](#) in April 2021 found that significant progress had been made in a number of areas over the lifetime of the strategy, with achievements including:

- Relocation and/or extension of a number of primary schools leading to an increase in Welsh medium capacity, including at Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Aberdar and Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Llantrisant.
- Creation of [materials](#) to encourage parents to use Welsh with their children.
- Support for using the Welsh language in social and leisure activities, including organised activities in Welsh medium secondary schools, activities in libraries and youth services.
- Training for Welsh language champions in our leisure centres.
- Development of our strategic approach to Welsh language skills, including [recruitment](#), [job descriptions](#) and training.
- Internal improvements in the Council to encourage Welsh language use by staff, including resources on the staff intranet site, recording language preferences of staff, use of bilingual signage and email signatures and simultaneous translation made available for internal meetings.

To make sure that our new Welsh Language Promotion strategy meets the needs of our residents and supports the further growth of the Welsh language, we will be talking to local people and language groups, using guidance from the Welsh Language Commissioner and getting independent advice from language planning specialists to produce our new 5-year plan, which will be published towards the end of 2021. Alongside this new plan, we are also producing a new Welsh in Education Strategic Plan for publication in 2022, which will link closely with our language promotion strategy and set out our vision for Welsh language education.

In addition to our specific Welsh Language Strategy, our commitment to the Welsh language is increasingly integrated into other key organisational strategies and processes, including our Corporate Plan. Other internal policies, for example HR, also mainstream Welsh language requirements to make sure the language is considered across our work. However, we recognise that all decisions across Council services can have an impact on someone's ability to use the Welsh language, even if this is not consciously done. For example, changes to community facilities or transport could make it easier or harder for people to access Welsh language activities. To make sure that we are fully aware of the impact of our decisions on the language, we are introducing new processes to help us. Our Welsh language Impact Assessment and Guidance tools will help our staff,

managers and Councillors to make sure that policy decisions have a positive effect on the Welsh language wherever possible, and that if we can't avoid making decisions which will not support the use of Welsh then we will work hard to reduce their impact. This information will be included in relevant Council reports. Our Welsh Language Unit have provided support to help staff understand and apply the new processes, which were introduced in May 2021.

Usually, each service also looks at what they can do to improve and increase the services we provide in Welsh, however in 2020/21 formal processes supporting this work were suspended due to the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic. This evaluation will now be carried out in autumn 2021.

As well as challenging ourselves to do better, we also work with others to help us improve. We have continued this work virtually during the pandemic, working with forums and organisations including

1. the Welsh Language Forum, made up of local voluntary groups, schools, and other key Welsh-centric local and national public bodies to progress the promotional strategy and other key work streams,
2. Grŵp Deddf, the National forum for Welsh language officers in the Public Sector
3. Grŵp Deddf Llywodraeth Lleol a Llywodraeth Cymru, a South East Wales Regional workgroup to support compliance with the regulations and share best practice,
4. Fforwm Mwy Na Geiriau, a Cwm Taf Morgannwg regional forum for Social Services and the Health Sector,
5. Welsh in Education Strategic Plan Group, and
6. the Welsh Government and Welsh Language Commissioner who help us to develop and implement our plans for the Welsh language.

Progress in some areas during 2020/21 was limited due to the impact of Covid-19. However, we have still continued to make progress and improvements

last year we said we would	and among other things we
continue to work towards our target of increasing the number of Welsh speakers in RCT by 6.8%, by the next census date of 2021.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Developed a process for a Welsh language impact assessment (see above). Shared the RCT Bilingual Street and Place names register through the staff Intranet site to standardise the Council's approach, ensuring consistency across correspondence, maps and publications and increasing the visibility of the Welsh language on our roads. Refreshed the design and content of Bod Yn Ddwyieithog, a booklet for parents of young children which provides information and promotes the benefits of choosing Welsh medium Education.
continue to work with the Royal National Eisteddfod Committee on the arrangements to bring the Eisteddfod to Rhondda Cynon Taf in 2023 (now 2024)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Began preliminary planning work for the Eisteddfod, with the Council's Eisteddfod Project Officer in place to co-ordinate preparations across the Council and engaging with the National Eisteddfod officers and chair of the Working Committee (Pwyllgor Gwaith) on behalf of the Council. As a result of the impact of Covid-19, the Eisteddfod will be held in Rhondda Cynon Taf in 2024 and not 2022 as originally planned.

last year we said we would

and among other things we

highlight the significance of Welsh people and culture, including the Welsh language, in Council wide campaigns relating to UK and world events.

- Commissioned local artists to produce a song for schools to learn, which will be recorded and used to Celebrate 'Dydd Gŵyl Dewi' in 2022.
- Held a virtual quiz for staff to mark 'Dydd Gŵyl Dewi' which was completed by nearly 500 staff members.
- Promoted 'Welsh Language Rights Day' by highlighting areas of the Council with excellent Welsh language provision through our social media accounts, for example a quarter of staff in our Youth Education and Participation service are Welsh speaking.

continue to support staff to develop more advanced Welsh language skills so we can help more customers in their language of choice.

- Launched our first formal and integrated campaign to encourage our staff to learn Welsh, following this all Council run courses were fully booked.
- Worked with [Cymraeg Gwaith](#) (Welsh Government's Work Welsh scheme) to provide online and residential training courses to help staff improve their workplace specific Welsh language skills. 99 Members of staff fully completed various online taster courses, including the 'Welcome' course with everyday greeting and phrases, and tailored courses for Teaching and Tourism.
- Introduced 'mail-tips', which lets other staff know if someone is a Welsh speaker to encourage the use of Welsh in internal emails, increasing confidence in using written Welsh.
- Audited our recruitment processes and identified ways to improve processes to improve Welsh language capacity in key frontline services.

develop our processes so more customers can have their queries dealt with in Welsh by the first person they speak to.

- Launched a new bilingual consultation website to encourage more residents to get involved digitally with engagement activities across the Council in their language of choice.

help people use more online services in Welsh through developing bilingual software.

continue to review how well our services are offering and promoting Welsh.

- Reviewed the impact of our 5-year Welsh Language promotion strategy (see above).
- We were unable to fully review the work of our services because of the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on our usual performance management and audit processes but this work will be reinstated in 2021/22.

We have received positive feedback from the [Welsh Language Commissioner](#) about our progress, so we know we are on the right track, but there is always more to do.

Our Plans for 2021-22 include

- Developing and publishing our new 5-year Welsh Language Promotion plan, which will set out how we aim to encourage use of the Welsh language in the County Borough and increase the number of Welsh speakers, contributing to Welsh Government's vision for one million Welsh speakers by 2050.
- Implement further improvements to our recruitment processes to help increase the number of Welsh speaking staff in key areas.
- Continuing to work towards our target of increasing the number of Welsh speakers in the County Borough by 6.8%, by the next census date of 2021.
- Continuing to work with the Royal National Eisteddfod Committee on the arrangements to bring the Eisteddfod to Rhondda Cynon Taf in 2024, and so promote the Welsh language and culture.
- Strengthening our decision-making processes by using our impact assessment tools to review the impact of major decisions across the Council on the Welsh language.
- Continuing to help people use more online services in Welsh through developing bilingual software.
- Continuing to support staff to develop more advanced Welsh language skills so we can help more customers in their language of choice.

Our work to promote the Welsh language is contributing to an RCT and Wales that is

Prosperous	Resilient	Healthier	More Equal	Cohesive Communities	Vibrant Culture and Welsh Language	Globally Responsible
✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Climate Change

Key Information: Council

- The Council's Carbon Footprint [for 2019/20](#) has been estimated at 105,257 tCO₂e i.e. tonnes of Carbon Dioxide equivalent emissions, *net 98,757tonnes*.
- The Council purchases 100% of its electrical energy supply from renewable energy sources.
- All Street lights in RCT, approx., 29,700, have been converted to LED or equivalent resulting in a 75% reduction in the energy used since 2015/16.
- The County Borough covers an area of 424 square kilometres (163 sq miles).
- There are 16 Air Quality Management Areas in RCT, where we have plans in place to improve Air Quality. (Source: [2020 Air Quality Progress Report RCT](#)).
 - Smallest AQMA – Mwyndy, 1 property.
 - Largest AQMA – Broadway, 156 properties.
- Compared to other Welsh Councils, RCT is 9/17 for Nitrogen Dioxide (NO₂) - *1st is best*.
- Taff's Well Thermal Spring is the only Thermal Spring in Wales and 1 of 4 in the UK. Plans are in place for its use to provide low carbon heating for a new school extension block in Ffynnon Taf Primary School scheduled for completion in early 2022.
- 105 Solar Panel arrays installed across Schools and Corporate Buildings, total 1.58MW.
- 12 LED lighting schemes (saving £3.2m) across our schools, libraries, care Homes, Leisure Centres, offices, depots etc as part of our ongoing Carbon Reduction/energy conservation projects.
- 21 Hydrogen Fuel Cells throughout RCT installed in a leisure centre, schools and offices.
- 9 Biomass boilers consuming sustainable wood pellets, in use across RCT locations.
- As part of an incentive scheme for solar installations, we receive approx. £120K cashback every year for 20 years. We also save on our energy costs by generating our own energy.

Council Buildings - The amount of Energy used and its cost

Year	Gas		Electric		Total £M
	kWh	£M	kWh	£M	
2018-19	70,164,242	2,527,434.56	28,090,259	4,838,502.37	7,365,936.93
2019/20	67,210,969	2,626,752.22	25,675,889	4,905,199.69	7,531,951.91
2020/21	51,924,490	2,028,353.42	20,642,586	3,994,198.65	6,022,522.07

- At the end of 2019 there were 3,177 renewable electricity installations across at Local Authority Level generating 815, 279 MWh of renewable energy, compared to 119, 818MWh in 2014 (Source: [UK Gov](#)).

Key Information: County Borough

- 21% of land in RCT is Welsh Government Woodland Estate and is managed by Natural Resources Wales.
- In 2018, there were 3,862 low carbon energy generation projects in RCT (Source [Statswales](#)).
- 2019 [Government statistics](#), show that while RCT is the 6th largest producer of total carbon emissions in Wales, the County Borough is also 5th lowest when considered on a per-person basis (4.3t). 1,042.6 kilotonnes of carbon was emitted across the County Borough in 2019, equating to 4.3tCO₂e per resident. See below

Sector	Kilotonnes Carbon Emissions CO ₂ Infobase Cymru			
	2019	2018	2017	2009
Industry and Commercial inc. Agriculture	215.8	229.6	237	339.8
Public Sector	46.2	51.8	45.9	65.1
Domestic inc. Electricity Usage	355	359.7	358.3	506.4
Transport inc. road and diesel rail	438.8	453.2	454.6	461.5
Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry	-13.3	-13	-12.9	-24.1
TOTAL CO₂ emissions	1042.6	1081.3	1082.8	1348.7
Tonnes CO₂ emissions per resident	4.3	4.5	4.5	6.3

- RCT 'scores' 4.79 in the [Thriving Places](#) Wales index for Sustainability, i.e. below average compared to England. The sustainability score is made up from:
 - 5.07 for Energy Use - above average.
 - 4.29 for Waste - below average.
 - 4.93 for Green Infrastructure - below average.*10 is the best possible and 0 being the worst.*

Looking Ahead

- The evidence contained in the Evidence for the third UK Climate Change Risk Assessment (CCRA3) [Summary for Wales](#) indicates that current trends suggest that when compared to 1981-2000 baseline, annual temperatures in Wales are expected to rise between approx. 1.2°C by the 2050s and between 1.3 and 2.3°C by the 2080s.
 - summer rainfall is expected to decrease by approx. 15% by 2050s and between 18% and 26% by 2080s. Despite overall summer drying, projections suggest that when it does rain, the rainfall will be more intense.
 - winter rainfall is expected to increase by approx. 6% by 2050s and between 7% and 13% by 2080s.
- Depending on global efforts to reduce Green House Gas emissions, the frequency and intensity of extreme temperature and rainfall events may also increase in future.

The path to Net Zero and reducing emissions in Wales set out

- Demand for electricity is expected to double in Wales, and the UK, by 2050.
- Recommendations for interim targets to reach Net Zero in Wales, together with action in four key areas
 - Take up of low carbon solutions.
 - Expanding low carbon energy supplies.
 - Reducing demand for high carbon activities.
 - Transforming land.

Climate Change is the biggest threat facing our planet, extreme weather and rising seas are already affecting people and the natural world. In Rhondda Cynon Taf we have already seen the effects of heavy rainfall which so badly affected our communities in 2020, more heavy rainfall leaves us at greater risk of river and flash flooding causing damage to our homes, businesses and the environment.

Climate change is caused by increased carbon dioxide in the atmosphere, mostly from burning fossil fuels like coal, gas and oil. To stop climate change, these emissions must stop. This is a global challenge.

As temperatures rise, there will be more frequent heatwaves which will affect our health, the food we eat, our livelihoods and for many older and vulnerable people, life expectancy. We need to do everything we can to tackle the impact of climate change, to prevent illness and to protect the ageing population in Rhondda Cynon Taf.

Finding ways that everyone who lives and works in Rhondda Cynon Taf can play a part to help tackle Climate Change is a priority for this Council. We set this out in our latest [Corporate Plan for 2020-2024, Making a Difference](#) and we have set ourselves two Climate goals.

Our Climate Goals are that by 2030

- Rhondda Cynon Taf is a Carbon Neutral Council.
[baseline data](#) 2019/20 - 98,757 tonnes of CO² equivalent (net)
- The whole [County Borough](#) is as close as possible to Carbon Neutral.
2019 data 1042.6 kilotonnes CO² emitted (2009 baseline data 1348.7)

By setting these goals we have shown we are serious about reducing carbon and other greenhouse gasses and taking the urgent action needed by everyone if we are to protect the planet and play our part e.g. by reducing energy in our buildings, transport and all the services we deliver. Over the last few years, we have been saving energy in all our buildings, schools and streetlights and we are recycling more waste than ever, but we know we need to do much more and more quickly. Our goals also mean we need to show strong community leadership, bring people, groups and organisations together to tackle Climate Change issues in the County Borough to meet Welsh and UK Government targets.

In [April 2019](#), the Welsh Government declared a Climate Emergency in Wales and in June 2019 published a Low Carbon Delivery Plan: [Prosperity for All: A Low Carbon Wales](#) which set the ambition for the whole of the Welsh Public Sector to be Carbon Neutral by 2030.

In [June 2019](#), the Council started to strengthen plans e.g. to produce and save more energy, find cleaner low carbon fuelled ways of getting about and 'green up' more of RCT.

In November 2019 we held our first meeting of a [Climate Change Cabinet Steering Group](#) so that we could understand the carbon issues within the Council and the County Borough, publicly challenge ourselves to make sure that we do the right things and to check our progress so that we can meet our ambitious goals. The Steering Group is chaired by the Cabinet's Climate Champion and its members are from all political parties. The Group has community representatives from [Friends of the Earth](#), Pontypridd and [Welcome to Our Woods](#), a community partnership in the Upper Rhondda Fawr.

We made a strong early start and made progress on

- Making it easier for the community to use [underused vacant RCT land](#).
- Challenging what we have done so far to reduce our [energy use and carbon](#).
- Meeting our [legal duty for Biodiversity](#).
- Considering how Taff's Well Thermal Spring could provide [renewable energy](#) for a local Primary School.
- Finding ways that are legal, open and transparent that will help us to spend more of the Council's budget [with local businesses](#).
- Finding ways to [eliminate or reduce single use](#) plastics in Council's contracts and premises.
- Considering our [progress in recycling in RCT](#), which in turn lead to increasing our 2025 recycling target to a higher target than set by Welsh Government.
- Improving how we manage areas [of grassland to encourage wildflowers](#) and pollinating insects.
- Considering how we are working with others to put in place [sustainable travel options](#) across the County Borough, so that people are able to choose low carbon options including Active Travel.
- Taking action to [improve air quality](#) in the County Borough.
- Setting out how we raise awareness of [climate change issues and talk to residents](#) of all ages, communities, businesses and a wider range of other stakeholders so that everyone has the chance to shape our plans.
- Challenging our progress in [generating energy and calculating the Council's current](#) carbon footprint.
- Considering how we can best protect and use [Nature's Assets](#) to capture and store carbon.
- Taking early steps to make sure that Climate Change issues are considered in new homes, buildings, town centres and transport planning as part of the preparation of the [Council's Local Development Plan](#).

Resident's Climate comments

".....If the Council is serious in its consideration of the climate and biodiversity emergencies then these must be addressed in the budget."

".....I think we are already directly witnessing the impacts of climate change in RCT as we have already seen with the devastating impact of flooding throughout 2020....."

Whilst our early progress slowed during the pandemic when the focus was working to keep communities safe, behind the scenes work was continuing, including putting in place a core budget of [£100,000](#) to help increase the pace of our work.

By April 2021 the Steering Group had a draft [Climate Change Strategy](#) in place and was able to start the Climate Change Conversation '[Let's Talk Climate Change RCT](#)' so that everyone has the chance to shape our plans for the future. The draft strategy set out how we will reduce carbon and tackle Climate Change and in particular

- What we will do within the Council and across its services.
- What we will do within the County Borough.

We also started another conversation '[Let's Talk Electric Vehicle Charging](#)' and more Let's Talk Conversations will follow. You can see our video 'Think Climate' [here](#).

Our plans for 2021-22

We are keen to involve as many people as possible in the work to tackle the climate challenge in Rhondda Cynon Taf and providing the opportunity for people to have their say. We will continue talking to residents, communities, businesses and partners.

We will also be firming up some detailed plans so we can show you our progress and working with Welsh Government, Cardiff Capital Region City Deal and other partners to make sure that we are on track to meet our targets.

Within the Council's services we will also continue to

- Use less energy in our buildings, vehicles and equipment.
- Use our land and buildings to produce energy that we can use.
- Recycle more of the waste we collect.
- Make sure that what we buy for the Council today isn't harmful to people, nature or the planet in the future.
- Help staff to find new and different ways to work so that they use their cars less.
- Put council services closer to people or make them easier to get to by bus or train.

Across the County Borough our plans include

- Using wind, water, waste and energy from the sun to generate clean energy that we can use in local buildings and homes.
- Using and recycling more of the waste we collect.
- Helping people to get about more easily using more buses, trains and bikes.
- Making sure that fumes from traffic are kept as low as possible.
- Helping to put in charging points to make it easier for people to use electric cars.
- Using natural ways to help stop flooding, wildfires and keep carbon in the ground.
- Helping more people to get together to enjoy and protect nature and wildlife across RCT.

In homes, work and businesses our plans include

- Making sure that our plans for what and where we build,
 - don't add more carbon to the air, and
 - protect our biodiversity and the carbon stored in soils, trees and other plants across the County Borough.
- Helping people to use less energy in their homes.
- Helping to make sure new houses are not built on land that hasn't already been built on and people can get to them without a car.
- Helping to make sure that new houses and commercial buildings can make and store their own energy and have charging points for electric cars.
- Helping people and landlords to make changes to homes so they use less and greener energy.
- Encouraging and helping local businesses to find ways to waste less, reduce pollution and protect the environment.
- Helping local businesses to find products less harmful to nature.
- Finding ways to buy more of what the Council's services need locally.
- Planting trees and shrubs in town centres.
- Helping children and young people in our schools to understand more about nature and the climate.
- Helping people of all ages to train or retrain for new skills so that they can find jobs and create changes in companies that will help to protect the planet.

For people who live, work and visit RCT, our plans include

- Providing information that will help people to make choices in their lives that can help put less carbon in the air. For example, wasting less, recycling more, driving less, driving more slowly and not running the engine when the car is stopped.
- Encouraging and helping people to make their homes more energy efficient.
- Making space in Ynysangharad Park where people can learn about local nature, practice new skills and take part in activities that will help the climate and grow fresh vegetables for local foodbanks.
- Encouraging more people to join with others to enjoy and help nature.
- Offering land to people and groups so that they can grow their own fruit and vegetables and to share them with others.
- Giving more vegetarian meal choices to children and young people in schools and people who receive Meals on Wheels.

Governments around the world are making laws and signing agreements to show their commitment to speed up work that needs to be done to stop the temperature from rising. Countries will be coming together at a global conference '[COP 26](#)' hosted by the UK Government in Glasgow in November 2021 where they will be asked to show their plans to reduce carbon and are expecting the Welsh Government's Plan in the Autumn 2021.

The work to tackle Climate Change will not stop and no single plan or report can tell you about everything we are doing to play our part to tackle Climate Change, but Rhondda Cynon Taf is committed to playing its part.

Our work to tackle Climate Change is contributing to an RCT and Wales that is

Prosperous	Resilient	Healthier	More Equal	Cohesive Communities	Vibrant Culture and Welsh Language	Globally Responsible
✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Biodiversity

Key Information:

- Over 70% of land in Rhondda Cynon Taf is classed as countryside, while total tree coverage is approximately 33%.
- Urban tree coverage was estimated to be [18.5% in 2013](#) and RCT the 5th most tree clad County in Wales.
- There are at least 85 different kinds of bee throughout old coal tips in RCT, alongside a wide range of other insects, lichen, fungi and flowers.
- RCT supports at least 13 species of bats, including the rare Barbastelle and Lesser Horseshoe bats.
- Two thirds of the land within the County Borough has been identified as high-importance for wildlife, including Local Nature Reserves, Special Areas of Conservation, Sites of Special Scientific Interest and Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation.
- 120 hectares of grassland in RCT will be managed as meadow in 2021 – that’s nearly 126 Principality Stadium pitches.
- 10 parks and sites throughout the County Borough have been awarded Green Flag status for accessibility and exemplary management, recognising the high standards of our parks and green and outdoors spaces.
- According to the [State of Nature Report 2019](#), of the 6,500 plant and animal species in Wales, 523 (8%) are under threat of extinction from the UK, 666 (17%) are under threat of extinction from Wales, and 73 (2%) are already extinct in Wales.

Biodiversity is the variety of life on earth, comprising all plants and animals, as well as the ecosystems in which they live. Alongside all other Local Authorities, Rhondda Cynon Taf Council has a duty under [The Environment \(Wales\) Act 2016](#) to maintain and enhance its biodiversity, taking account of the diversity, scale, condition and adaptability within its local ecosystems. This is in addition to the requirements of the [Well-being of Future Generations Act \(Wales\) 2015](#), which itself compels public bodies to think about the long-term impact of their decisions and to safeguard our local environments in pursuit of becoming a [more resilient](#) and [more globally responsible Wales](#).

To meet the Biodiversity Duty of the Environment Act, the Council must also produce a report to the Welsh Government every 3-years outlining what has been done to improve biodiversity across the County Borough. The [first Biodiversity Report from Rhondda Cynon Taf](#), in 2019, demonstrated the positive work going on across the Council, and also set out where we could do better. This includes valuing our undisturbed grasslands and our unique coal spoil habitats as well as making more use of our schools’ grounds to provide opportunities for pupils to learn about and engage with nature.

Biodiversity plays a huge part in the work to tackle Climate Change and this was recognised in the [Council’s Corporate Plan 2020-24, ‘Making a Difference’](#). More detailed plans to support Biodiversity and other environmental issues are being developed in more detail as part of the work of the [Climate Change Cabinet Steering Group](#). You will find more information about how the Council is playing its part to tackle Climate Change in Section 13.

Despite the challenges created by the pandemic, we were able to progress much of the work we had planned.

Our work in 2020/21 included

- Finding ways to help capture more carbon by progressing our work to restore/'re-wet' around 700 hectares of peatlands which have dried out or degraded e.g. between wind turbines in the uplands.
- Began reviewing the publicly owned land across RCT to find sites where we can restore peat bogs.
- Continuing to update the [Action for Nature plan](#) for RCT. Although public and volunteer events could not take place due to Covid restrictions, we were able to hold a monthly programme of online events. The [Local Nature Partnership](#) was also able to gather information on what to include and how to present the new Plan. [Contact us you would like to get involved.](#)
- Focusing on [Natures Assets](#) in RCT, including our extensive existing semi-natural habitats and undisturbed soils, the natural regeneration of woodland and the development of 'Green Infrastructure'.
- Using Welsh Government funding to plant approx. 300 trees in our parks and cemeteries. The aim is to help tackle the impact of climate change and pollution in urban areas as well as to support local wildlife.
- Completing a review of Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation as part of the work to prepare the [new Local Development Plan for RCT](#).
- Residents have been invited to get involved in the development of the new plan in our Let's Talk Local Development Plan conversation so that they can have their say about where we build and how we protect our wonderful natural resources, historical heritage, wildlife habitats, open space and our beautiful landscapes.
- Looking at natural ways we can tackle the effects of Climate Change. This includes
 - the 'Pretty Ponty' rain garden scheme in Mill Street, which is funded by the Welsh Government Town Centre Initiative, and
 - managing Pant Marsh, near Y Pant school, Pontyclun, to maintain this important floodplain, a [video](#) is also available.
- Investigating the possibility of creating a coal spoil nature reserve and community area as part of the solution to safely remove the landslip material from the Rhondda Fach river and other unstable material on the hillside.

Supporting [Wildflowers and Grassland](#) in Rhondda Cynon Taf

The impact of Covid on Council grass cutting in early summer 2020 allowed a magnificent display of wildflowers on our verges to flourish. We also put more areas of RCT into a 'cut and collect' system of mowing which provides the best environment for wildflowers to grow and encourages bees, other pollinating insects and creatures. The 'cut and collect' machinery did the work but the '[Grab your Rake](#)' scheme that invites residents to help in areas that the machinery cannot reach was limited by the pandemic.

The good news is that the Welsh Government is relaxing Covid restrictions which means we are expecting to see more areas where wildflowers are allowed to flourish through the 'cut and collect' system of mowing and the return of 'Grab your Rake' activities. You can see where this is happening from September 2021 on [Let's Talk Wildflowers](#).

Our plans for 2021/22 include:

- Completing the Biodiversity website and providing more opportunities for people to get involved in Biodiversity in RCT through [‘Let’s Talk RCT’](#) projects.
- Increasing the areas that we manage in ways that encourage wildflowers to flourish through the ‘cut and collect’ system of mowing. We will also continue to invite residents to ‘grab you rake’ and to get involved by telling us what plants they see and to suggest other places where we can ‘cut and collect’.
- Working as part of the Local Nature Partnership we will review our ‘Action for Nature’ plan to show how we can help nature thrive in RCT. We will be setting out what action we need to take and how everyone can help.
- Taking forward the [‘Living Landscape’](#) projects to help with delivering the [Local Nature Plan](#) talking to residents and communities. Linking local sites and community groups with each other can show how working together benefits everyone, as well as the wildlife.
- Continuing to support the [Healthy Hillside](#)s projects at Penrhys slopes, Clydach Vale, land near Rhondda Heritage Park and Y Graig Common, Llantrisant.
- Continuing to assess Planning Applications for their impact on biodiversity. This includes wildlife management plans for a development, identifying opportunities to protect or improve habitats and making sure planning conditions and agreements are delivered by the developer. For example, the sustainable long-term management of public open spaces, protecting trees and hedges meadows and wildlife corridors.
- Making sure the new Local Development Plan considers natural ways to address the climate and nature emergencies.
- Continuing to investigate what more we can do to prevent carbon loss and promote more carbon capture in the peatlands across the County Borough.
- Considering the most effective ways to raise staff awareness of both the [climate](#) and [nature](#) emergencies declared in Wales, so that they inform everything we do in the Council.
- Contributing to the [Queen’s Green Canopy](#) - to mark her Majesty’s Platinum Jubilee, as part of our wider plans to for planting the ‘Right Tree in the Right Place’ across RCT and protecting our ancient woodland.
- Helping to increase the biodiversity in our schools, e.g. helping nature to thrive in waste ground and more children to get involved and be hands-on with nature in new Green Roof outdoor classrooms. The green roofs of the classroom will also provide a home for more plants and insects.

You can find out more about the rich Biodiversity in the County Borough on our [website](#).

Our work to tackle Biodiversity is contributing to an RCT and Wales that is

Prosperous	Resilient	Healthier	More Equal	Cohesive Communities	Vibrant Culture and Welsh Language	Globally Responsible
✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Involving people and communities

We have a good track record of talking to residents and communities and finding out what matters to them. We are always looking for better and easier ways for people to get involved and to give their views and opinions on the decisions that affect them. In 2020/21 we were unable to have our usual conversations with people face to face and so where possible we continue to have these conversations online. Our focus was on communicating the right information at the right time to provide support and assurance to our residents throughout the Covid-19 pandemic.

In recent years we have been out and about talking to residents in town centres, in supermarkets and at community events we have held in our parks and other public spaces. We have found that by talking to people face to face we get to know more about what is happening in communities when it isn't always obvious.

Over the last year we have, as far as possible, continued to engage and involve residents and communities in matters that affect them so that their voices are heard in Council decisions and in response to the actions we take. We have also continued to meet with the three youth fora to hear their concerns and contributions, including about how young people are being affected by Covid. We have used Zoom to hold public meetings and conversations and continued to use online surveys. We also gave the option of a telephone call back to people who were not online.

We are providing more 'easy to read' information to help people to give us their views. Working alongside Learning Disability Wales we produced an '[easy read](#)' pack for children and young people about our plans for Llyn y Forwyn school in Ferndale, alongside an easy to complete survey. We also produced a [video](#) so that children could see the plans in more detail.

Our work this year included:

- **[Setting the Council's Budget](#)** in which residents completed an online survey and also attended online 'Zoom' meetings to give us their views about our 2021-22 budget, Council Tax levels and our Investment and Saving plans. We also held Zoom meetings with young people's representatives from schools and colleges and our Older Persons' Advisory Group 'OPAG'. For those people who could not access online surveys or meetings we set up a telephone helpline and provided them with help to complete the survey if they needed it.
- **Flood survey** - during January 2021 [we asked people](#) whose lives had been affected by the flooding caused by storms in early 2020, to complete an online survey so that we could put together local knowledge and information about the flooding. Over 300 residents provided images and told us about their experiences. What people told has informed [Section-19](#) legal flood investigations. Once these investigations are complete, the Council will publish a report based on all the investigation findings and make recommendations about how the different organisations involved in preventing and tackling flooding can do better. You can see more about how the Council responded to the floods in the [PLACES evaluation](#).
- **Plans for the Muni Arts Centre Pontypridd** – We wanted to involve our residents in our ambitious plans for the 'Muni' in Pontypridd in a different way. We asked people to share their stories and pictures about the Muni's past as a Wesleyan Chapel and its more recent times. We then started talking to residents and stakeholders online on 'Zoom' about their

ideas and what they thought about our plans for its future. We also displayed pictures of our plans in the windows of Llys Cadwyn in Pontypridd so that everyone had the chance to see them from a safe distance and those people who were not able to join online could give us their views on a telephone helpline.

- [Renewing the Dog Fouling Public Spaces Protection Order \(PSPO\)](#) To get the views of residents and other interested parties about renewing the dog fouling PSPO for a further three years, we carried out an online survey and a virtual 'drop in' event via Zoom. At the same time, we used Social Media to promote the survey and 'drop in' and encouraged people to give us their views by e-mail. We also provided a telephone helpline number and freepost address so that those people who were not able to join online could easily get involved. You can see more about the PSPO consultation together with the results in the [PLACES evaluation](#).
- **Integrated Network Map Review** – As part of the Welsh Government's Active Travel funding we started the [review of the Council's Integrated Network Maps](#) which will set our plans for walking and cycling routes for the next 15 years. The review included an opportunity for residents to have their say about what they would like to see, what is currently good and where we could do better, in an online [consultation](#) which took place in early 2021. Over 650 responses were received. Active Travel can have significant economic, health and environmental benefits for residents, communities and business and the review will be submitted to Welsh Government during December 2021.

We also introduced a new way that everyone who lives, works and visits Rhondda Cynon Taf can give their views and opinions on our projects. '[Let's Talk RCT](#)' is a new online engagement tool that provides many different ways to get involved, including through easy to complete surveys quick polls and simple ways to drop in ideas and stories. The first two projects [Let's Talk Climate Change](#) and [Let's Talk Electric Vehicle Charging](#) were our pilots for the site and the lessons we learn have helped us to shape other 'Let's Talk' projects.

Putting in place online and virtual ways for people to give us views and opinions will continue to develop but they won't replace the valuable local information we get by getting out and about and talking to people. We are keen to restart these conversations with individuals and with representative groups as soon as it is safe to do so. Our plans for this year are set out in more detail below.

With the focus on tackling the impact of the pandemic, there was a greater need to communicate clear advice and keep residents informed about Covid-19 in RCT, the support available from the Council and our partners and how services were adapting to focus on keeping people safe.

To give information coming from Governments about Covid restrictions some local context, we regularly posted information about how that information applied in RCT on a [dedicated Covid-19 webpage](#) and through our Social Media channels. Because of how often and how quickly national information changed and the confusion between Welsh and English decisions, we wanted to make information clear and easy for everyone in RCT to see, including using graphics. We also used Social Media channels, [@rctcbc](#) and [Facebook](#), videos and our main [Website](#) to make other important information available to residents, businesses and communities throughout the different levels of restrictions, just a few of the hundreds of examples are listed below

- [where residents could get practical help to get food and shopping](#).

- [providing support through our Community Resilience Centres.](#)
- [funding for food banks and mental health support during firebreak lockdown.](#)
- [how business could access grants](#) and [residents could access financial help](#) available [or help towards rent arrears.](#)
- up to date health messages, [including stay at home](#) for people with Covid symptoms.
- [where and when residents and employers in the area](#) could access community testing.
- the steps that residents needed [to know about when and where](#) they would get vaccinated.
- [school opening and transport arrangements.](#)
- [the dangers of ‘Scammers’](#) who continued to prey on people’s vulnerability.
- where people who were at [risk of violence or abuse](#) could get help.

This is just some of the information we made available, and you can see much more in our [‘Newsroom’](#).

As the Council’s services re-open alongside the lives of our residents, we are planning ahead for 2021/22 and our plans include

- continuing to talk to and involve residents and communities in matters that affect them and encouraging them to get involved so that more voices are heard in Council decisions, returning to face to face conversations when it is safe to do so, including our continuing Climate conversation and plans for leisure, sport and fitness facilities.
- making sure that our arrangements for involving and engaging with residents and communities are still relevant following their experiences of the pandemic.
- making sure the Council meets its new legal duty to ‘increase public participation in local democracy and improving transparency’ this means doing more to get people interested and involved in the work of the Council and making it easier for them to get involved in the decisions the Council is making.
- continuing to make our surveys and information more accessible to residents, by increasing the use and availability of easy-to-read materials. We will also be training our staff to produce plain English materials.
- continuing to increase the use of digital engagement, by increasing our use of social and digital media.
- continuing to develop ‘virtual’ involvement and engagement whilst making sure that the voices of people without access to IT and technology are heard.

Our work to involve the people and communities is contributing to an RCT and Wales that is

Prosperous	Resilient	Healthier	More Equal	Cohesive Communities	Vibrant Culture and Welsh Language	Globally Responsible
✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Listening to and learning from your feedback

We have a good track record of talking to our residents and we continue to improve how we have these conversations, but we also need to learn from what people tell us when they call, email or contact us through social media.

The Council's services have thousands of contacts from residents and businesses every day. These contacts may be making an enquiry, asking for a service, paying a bill or making a booking in our leisure centres.

In 2020-21

- 465,229 customer contacts were dealt with by the Council's Contact Centre including emails, social media, Lifeline, bookings, payments and applications.
- Within our Corporate Feedback Scheme,
 - 66% of contact was through the Council's website.
 - emails increased to 20% from 8.5% in 2019/20.
 - telephone contacts reduced to 6% from 14% in 2019/20.
 as a result of the Council's usual contact centre arrangements being unavailable for a period of during the Covid restrictions.

You can see more about how we are using digital technology to improve our customer services in [Section 6](#).

As part of the Council's formal Complaints, Compliments and Comments processes the Council received:

- 750 complaints
- 221 compliments
- 132 comments

The Public Services Ombudsman for Wales reported receiving 39 complaints for RCT in his most recent report 2019/20. The second lowest of the 22 Councils in Wales

When we are looking at how our services are performing, we consider what our residents are telling us, and more importantly, what we do with this information.

This information is valuable as it helps us to understand what residents think, where we need to take action and how we can improve. It helps us to better understand the needs of residents, businesses and those who visit and work in the County Borough.

We also use the formal system of Comments, Compliments and Complaints that we receive through social media and our Customer Relationship Management (CRM) system. Councillors are able to check this information in reports to the [Overview and Scrutiny Committee](#). These reports also set out what has been done to improve services following feedback in previous reports.

We also [report to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee](#) so that Councillors can see the responses received through the [Council's Corporate Feedback Scheme](#). This also includes developments and improvements to the scheme in the previous 6 months. As part of our arrangements, we also provide

quarterly reports to [the Public Services Ombudsman \(PSOW\)](#). These reports provide information on the number of comments, compliments and complaints we have received and the outcomes of these. Should a customer disagree with the outcome of a complaint once it has been investigated by the Council, they can refer the matter to the Public Services Ombudsman to request an independent investigation.

It is important that as a Council we can evidence that we learn from our residents' feedback and from other Local Authorities where they have received recommendations for improvements from the PSOW. We have been working with the PSOW to help us compare the quality of our services, processes and policies with other Councils across Wales so that we can improve. The most recent PSOW was published in November 2020 [Annual Report for 2019/2020](#) ('AR'). The purpose of the AR is to report on the performance of the PSOW's office over the year, provide an update on developments and to deliver any key messages arising from their work carried out during the year.

Our work in 2020/21 included:

- Continuing to respond to formal feedback particularly complaints. Despite disruptions due to the Covid pandemic, of the 750 complaints we received 95% were resolved at Stage 1 with 5% dealt with at Stage 2. This is the same level of service provided before the pandemic.
- Using information and feedback received from social media and digital channels e.g. to help inform how services responded to Covid restrictions.
- Introducing a new Customer Feedback Scheme Policy, that meets the Welsh Language Commissioner's and the Public Service Ombudsman's requirements.

Our plans for 2021/22 include:

- Using our new website called 'Let's Talk RCT' to promote conversation with residents on specific topics e.g. Climate Change and more general feedback from residents on Council services.
- Providing more information about what we have done as a result of what people tell us.
- Putting in place a new system that will strengthen how we record, analyse, report and use customer feedback to inform service improvement.
- Providing more information about the level of service our customers can expect.
- Improving how we capture complaints, comments and compliments through social media.

We know we must get better at letting our residents know what we have done with the feedback they provide, and this will be our focus in 2021/22.

Contributing to an RCT and Wales that is

Prosperous	Resilient	Healthier	More Equal	Cohesive Communities	Vibrant Culture and Welsh Language	Globally Responsible
✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Giving Back

Throughout the year, the Council, Councillors and staff support many charities in their own time, in many different ways, giving back to the community they serve. The restrictions caused by Covid-19 particularly staff working from home, has meant many usual fundraising activities such as bake sales, dress down days and sponsored events have been less visible. However, staff have found other ways to support their local communities and charities.

Giving Gifts - Despite the challenges that faced us all in the last year, there remained a strong sense of community as residents, businesses and staff supported communities and people needing help. Staff as well as our residents continued to support our annual [Santa Appeal](#) to make sure no child missed out on a gift at Christmas. To meet the Welsh Government rules on social distancing and sanitising, the Santa appeal requested a donation of gift vouchers instead of the usual new toys or other gifts. 743 gift vouchers were received, among them a £1,000 donation from the Mayor's Charity.

Giving Money - Staff continued to donate cash to charity instead of sending Christmas cards and this year many more staff reported donating to charities and held virtual quizzes and events for [Red Nose day](#).

Giving essentials - At the beginning of the pandemic, Council staff were [redeployed to food distribution centres](#) helping distribute supplies to vulnerable and shielding residents in the county borough, as well as delivering food parcels. This also included a prescription collection/delivery service, and dog walking. Any surplus food left over from the distribution centres was donated to Homeless charities.

Council staff also volunteered to move from their normal jobs to provide support to the Community and to work in the Test, Trace and Protect Service. Staff undertaking new roles included 120 working in Community Hubs, 95 providing phone calls to shielding residents and 30 in food banks. 40 staff supported Covid testing in our communities. 5 of our Occupational Health staff were transferred to work in vaccination centres and 30 more staff received training as vaccinators to enable the roll out of the vaccine to be quicker and more efficient. In addition, 275 staff received training to support our care homes and assist with home care in the event of staff shortages.

Giving well-being

Christmas Pantomime

Kilimanjaro to Clydach

A member of our staff, James, is a committed fund raiser for Cancer Research Wales. James was planning to follow up his 70km fundraising trek through Iceland in 2019 with a climb to Kilimanjaro in February 2020 before Covid restrictions made this impossible. So, he found alternative ways to raise funds during lockdown including.

- Running, cycling or hiking for 2.6 miles a day for 26 days.
- Completing a daily winter '10-minute dip a day' for 30 days in chilly Clydach lake.

Along with other fundraising activities James raised over £16,100 in the last year.

James said "I enjoy the challenge and it's great to be able to give something back and even in tough times it's been really humbling to have such fantastic support from people who always seem willing to donate".

It was not possible to stage the Council's traditional family 'Panto' in our theatres in 2020, so we put it [online for free](#). This allowed children and families to enjoy some Panto magic over the festive period. Comprising five short panto stories that ran every afternoon from 19-24 December, with each day telling a new story. On average each story was viewed by 2,000 households via YouTube, which was audio described and also featured BSL sign language.

Nos Galan Virtual race

Another of our annual events that was affected by the Covid restrictions was our Nos Galan, a 5k road race on New Year's Eve in Mountain Ash. So that we kept alive the spirit of the race and didn't disappoint the thousands of runners, we moved the event [online](#). We weren't able to feature the usual Mystery Runner or the excitement that the event traditionally brings to Mountain Ash, but we were able to attract [2,600 participants](#) in a virtual race, which gave competitors a month to complete the distance and upload the evidence, compared to 1,700 actual runners in 2019.

Photography Challenge

To celebrate Walking Month in May 2020 and to encourage residents to make the most of their walks, we [held a Smartphone Photography challenge](#), which encouraged residents to get outdoors and walk whilst taking photographs of whatever captured spring time for them.

Giving Opportunities

We recruited 26 Graduates and 33 Apprentices, which is more than our usual numbers, so that more young people had employment opportunities during these challenging times.

Giving the Spotlight

To people and groups in our communities e.g., International Women's Day, Black History Month and many Health Awareness campaigns. We continued to raise awareness of PRIDE Cymru and its alternative online event in August 2020 and we sponsored a panel discussion 'The Rainbow United' which looked at how people from all parts of the community can support each other.

Giving Blood

We also continued to encourage staff to donate blood, providing the opportunity to do so in work time if necessary. Since the pandemic staff have continued to attend sessions which are offered regularly to keep blood supplies stocked up.

Giving Support

by providing access to council buildings, parks and pitches to charities so that they can hold activities within communities when it is safe to do and globally as a partner in [PONT](#). PONT is a charity funded by local people based on friendship, commitment and respect and providing support and community-to-community links to Mbale Uganda. Among other things PONT has provided motorbike ambulances, trained thousands of healthcare workers and has twinned with over 100 local schools.

Contributing to an RCT and Wales that is

Prosperous	Resilient	Healthier	More Equal	Cohesive Communities	Vibrant Culture and Welsh Language	Globally Responsible
✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Working now for the well-being of future generations

Put simply, the [Well-being of Future Generations \(Wales\) Act 2015](#) is a Welsh law that makes sure that the decisions that are taken today are not at the expense of the well-being of the generations that follow.

The Act applies to 44 public bodies across Wales, including RCT, and puts a legal duty on the Council to improve the Social, Economic, Environmental and Cultural well-being of its residents.

Since the law came into force, we have been making sure that we embed what the law requires so that it becomes business as usual for all services. Our new Corporate Plan covering 2020-24 '[Making a Difference](#)', sets the scene for how we will improve the Social, Economic, Environmental and Cultural well-being of our residents, through our priorities of PEOPLE, PLACES and PROSPERITY.

The Act also asks us to contribute to seven national Well-being Goals and apply five ways of working to help to challenge what we do.



Applying the five Ways of Working means we

- balance the short term needs with planning for the future.
- work with other partners to deliver our objectives.
- involve those with an interest in our work and seek their views.
- put resources into preventing problems altogether or getting worse.
- consider the effect of our work with that of other public bodies and organisations.

You will see many examples of how we have applied these Ways of Working throughout this report, although we know that there is more to do.

The law also means we need to think more about our services that work behind the scenes so that they also help to deliver our plans and to meet the Well-being requirements. These 'back-room' services provide the best possible support to our frontline services, so that as a Council we can continue to focus and deliver our priorities at the pace required and to make best use of resources available. The work of these 'back-office' services are described by the Act as 'Core Activities' which are *"likely to most effectively secure the type of change required"*.

WFG Act Core Activity	RCT Progress
Corporate Planning	<p>This includes setting Well-being Objectives that will improve the Social, Economic, Environmental and Cultural well-being of our residents. In RCT, as part of agreeing our new Corporate Plan, Councillors agreed that our priorities should be considered as our Well-being Objectives. This Plan, 'Making a Difference' will direct our work between 2020 and 2024. The performance processes that underpin how we deliver our priorities include how we challenge ourselves to do better through our self-evaluation and assessment arrangements.</p> <p>Our experience and understanding of our strengths and where we can improve mean that we are well placed to meet the performance requirements of the new Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021.</p> <p>We continue to increase our knowledge and understanding of the how the Act should be applied, learning from residents' feedback and recognised good practice.</p>
Financial Planning	<p>Our budget strategy is key to the delivery of our Priorities. We spend our budgets on what matters most to residents and communities, directing our resources to our priorities and finding ways to work more efficiently, work better with partners and share our resources within continuing financial challenges.</p> <p>Applying the principles of the Act for all financial planning is challenging. Long term funding settlements are uncertain and opportunities to benefit from one-off funding opportunities are sometimes limited by grant conditions. Despite these challenges, we work hard to maximise opportunities from any additional funds that we can use to deliver our priorities.</p> <p>In 2020/21, we managed our budgets despite the financial impacts of significant storm damage and an unprecedented pandemic and agreed a Council Tax increase of 2.65%, the lowest in Wales for 2021/22.</p>
Work force Planning *internal links only	<p>Our *HR strategy sets out how we will deliver our priorities by</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recruiting and retaining the best possible employees in the labour market, and • Developing staff in order for the workforce to fulfil its potential by having the required skills, resilience and capability to meet future challenges and opportunities. <p>Our work force planning is also driven by our priorities. *Our Workforce Plan aims to make sure that our staff are trained and developed and able to meet the current and future challenges we face, so that the service for residents, communities and business are the best they can be. Our Workforce Plan sets out how we will make sure that we have the right people with the right skills in the right place at the right time.</p>

WFG Act Core Activity	RCT Progress
	<p>During 2020/21, our staff have been tested like never before and have worked tirelessly throughout the floods and pandemic, demonstrating the strength of an organisation that is committed to providing the best possible services to residents, communities and businesses. We have also continued to recruit graduates and apprentices and to provide employment opportunities for residents in the most challenging times.</p>
Procurement	<p>We continue to make sure that what we buy for the Council benefits society and has limited impact on the environment and that economic, social, environmental, and cultural well-being outcomes are included in our tenders. Last year, we also sourced and procured suitable and sufficient Personal Protective Equipment and other supplies needed to keep our staff and services operating safely.</p> <p>We are also preparing to implement the Social Partnership and Public Procurement (Wales) Bill 2021 which will be enacted in early 2022. The Bill puts in place a duty on all public services to “<i>ensure that public procurement is undertaken in a socially responsible manner, using the power of the public purse to the broad benefit of people and communities in Wales</i>”. As part of this work, we are reviewing our Procurement Strategy to make sure it meets the new duties and supports the delivery of the Council’s priorities.</p> <p>The arrangements we have in place mean that we are already well placed to meet this new duty. For example, buying electricity that is generated from 100% renewable energy sources, and spending with local business. Of our £232M spend with suppliers in 2020/21, almost £63M was with businesses within RCT, £151M in South East Wales and £155M in Wales, all of which supports and benefits the local economy and workforce. But we know we have more to do and we are also considering how we can use the recommendations contained within the Future Generations Commissioner’s report ‘Procuring Well-being in Wales’ published earlier this year and best practice to strengthen our arrangements.</p>
Managing our Assets	<p>In the last year, the Covid-19 restrictions have had a significant impact on how the Council’s buildings have been used. Office staff have worked differently, and at home, with many more of our services delivered ‘online’. Our experience over the last year will help us to plan and shape the use of office space in the future.</p> <p>We manage our assets to help us achieve our Vision of making Rhondda Cynon Taf ‘the best place in Wales to live, work and play, where people and businesses are independent, healthy and prosperous’ and to deliver our priorities. We make sure that we make best use of our buildings to benefit our residents and communities, e.g. community use of our schools and our RCT Together programme that supports local groups and organisations through the process of ‘taking-over’ the responsibility of managing Council buildings or land.</p>

WFG Act Core Activity	RCT Progress
	<p>We also have to live within our means, taking every opportunity to reduce the Council's running costs and reduce the Council's Carbon Footprint to 'Net Zero' by 2030. In June 2020, we reported to the Climate Change Cabinet Steering Group that the overall Net Emissions for the Council was 98,757tonnes of Carbon Dioxide equivalent (98,757 tCO2e), providing the base data on which to measure our progress. We know we have more to do to strengthen the data within the Footprint and to meet the recently issued Welsh Government Public Sector Net Zero Reporting Guide and this will remain a priority for the Council.</p>
Managing Risks	<p>We identify short, medium and long-term risks that will need to be mitigated to help us to deliver our Corporate Priorities. These are set out in our Strategic Risk Register.</p>
Managing our Performance	<p>We continue to make information about what we do and how well we do it, widely available on our website. Our performance planning and monitoring arrangements are focused on meeting our priorities. This report is one of the ways we make this information more accessible to people, communities and our partners. We make sure that everything we do is focussed on what people have told us are important to them and continue to find new and different ways to involve residents and communities in our work and the decisions that affect them.</p> <p>We continue to look for ways we can share relevant data with our partners to help us improve all public services in RCT and strengthen the information we have available. We also continue to lobby national bodies, e.g. Data Cymru, the Future Generations Commissioner and Welsh Government to improve access to a wider range of consistent, timely and relevant information about Future Trends that will help us with our long-term planning.</p>

With a clear focus on the response to Covid-19 and recovery planning, a scheduled review of our approach to implementing the Act during 2020 by our independent regulators Audit Wales, could not take place.

However, we continue to build on findings from our most recent review to strengthen our processes. The findings from this review of investment for [leisure facilities](#), were generally positive i.e. *"There are clear examples of how the Council is applying the sustainable development principle to its investment in leisure facilities, but there are opportunities to develop longer term planning and involve people in shaping future leisure provision"*. We will use these findings to help us to improve how we develop our new plans for leisure that will appear later this year.

As well as learning from these reviews we also

1. use advice, guidance and feedback from the Future Generations Commissioner, Audit Wales reports and best practice to challenge what we do, how we continue to embed the Act into our work, and to lobby for more national support where necessary.

2. apply what we learn from our own pilot projects in the Council to test and further improve our arrangements.
3. continue to work with national bodies, e.g. Welsh Government, Welsh Local Government Association and Future Generations Commissioner so that collectively we can improve how we join together different national policies.
4. work with national partners to find stronger and more consistent information about future trends that will help us to improve our long-term thinking.
5. continue to seek a solution that will allow/enable appropriate data sharing with partners.
6. contribute positively and support the work of the Cwm Taf Public Services Board and the Regional Partnership Board. In 2021/22, this includes the Well-being and Population Assessments.

We know we can't do everything ourselves and we have a strong track record of working with others, which has been strengthened even more during the last year. You will see many examples throughout this report. We have also continued to work in regional partnerships such as the Cardiff Capital Region City Deal to smaller local partnerships. You can see some examples of how and where we work with others on our [Working with Others](#) page on our website. There are also many other everyday examples of where we talk to and work with other public bodies so that we can overcome shared local difficulties. The strength of these relationships was key to the speed with which we were able to respond to local challenges arising from Covid-19, particularly with the Health Board and the Third sector where we worked to provide residents and communities with direct support in their communities.

The Act also puts a legal duty on the Council to work in a formal partnership with other public bodies in a Public Services Board (PSB). What this means is public services covering the Council's area, must work as part of a Public Services Board, finding out how they can make the biggest difference to people and communities by working better together.

As RCT works with many of the same public bodies as Merthyr Tydfil CBC, e.g., South Wales Fire and Rescue, South Wales Police and former Cwm Taf University Health Board, in 2016 the Councils agreed to join together to form a joint PSB, the [Cwm Taf Public Services Board](#) (PSB), covering the Cwm Taf areas of Rhondda Cynon Taf and Merthyr Tydfil. I

In April 2019 the Cwm Taf UHB was joined by the Bridgend Council area to form the Cwm Taf Morgannwg (CTM) University Health Board.

There are currently no clear plans in place to expand the Cwm Taf PSB to reflect the changes in the Health Board boundaries. However, there is commitment for closer and more regional working and better integration between the work of the various Partnership Boards e.g. the Regional Partnership Board, to make better use of partnership resources. This is evidenced by the Cwm Taf and Bridgend PSBs work to produce a joint [Well-being Assessment](#) to cover the CTM area. The new CTM Well-being Assessment is scheduled for completion in 2022 and will refresh and replace the Assessments for the two separate areas completed in 2017. The Assessment will drive and shape new arrangements that will bring together the two PSBs for a new joint Well-being Plan on and from early 2023.

At the same time, Regional Partnership Board will be working on a Population Needs Assessment. The two Boards will be sharing resources, data, and information to minimise duplication and overlap.

The Cwm Taf PSB set out how it would improve the Well-being of the Cwm Taf area through four Well-being Objectives in its first [Well-being Plan](#), published in 2018. The four Well-being Objectives are

Thriving Communities	promoting safe, confident, strong, and thriving communities improving the well-being of residents and visitors and building on our community assets.
Healthy People	helping people live long and healthy lives and overcome any challenge.
Strong Economy	growing a strong local economy with sustainable transport that attracts people to live, work and play in Cwm Taf.
Tackling Loneliness and Isolation	finding new ways to channel the undoubted strengths of our communities, including volunteering to tackle more effectively the loneliness and isolation which often exists within many of them.

The Council is a lead partner for the Thriving Communities objective and is also actively involved in the other three Well-being objectives. You can see more information about the PSB's work and progress on its [website](#). How we are working with our PSB partners has been described throughout this report. The PSB published its first annual report in [July 2019](#) and its latest report was published in [July 2021](#).

The most recent PSB cycle has seen some challenges but one of the undoubted strengths was the success of partnership working in managing and responding to the Covid-19 pandemic. The collaborative working and relationships that were forged in the PSB meant that response structures could quickly be mobilised and implemented to meet the challenges all partners faced, including using the community hubs and networks that were piloted through the Board.

The PSB has also strengthened its commitment to regional working, most noticeably in terms of social prescribing, working within the Test, Trace, Protect regional structures and working with the Centre for Local Economic Strategies (CLES). The purpose of the project is to pursue progressive procurement, which help anchor institutions, such as public services, better achieve their core priorities.

The PSB work on prevention has also continued with the Early Years Vulnerability Profiling Model. The model aims to identify the individual level of need amongst families, including the investigation and removal of potential barriers to sharing information. These needs will be compared with the geographically based eligibility criteria for Flying Start support. The draft Vulnerability Profiling model is currently being finalised for piloting in RCT with a high significance placed on prevention and early identification with the focus on improved targeting of individuals in need of support including pre-conception and pregnancy.

The Future Generations Commissioner has also set out six areas of work that people across Wales have told her are the biggest challenges facing the country and where she could have the most impact. These areas are

1. [Skills](#) – our work includes helping people into work and better paid employment. For more information see [section 9 Prosperity](#).
2. [Housing](#) – our work includes increasing the number of quality homes available and affordable housing to provide greater housing choice for residents. For more information see [Section 9 Prosperity](#).

3. [Transport](#) - our work includes keeping the County Borough moving, including improvements to roads and pavements and public transport, whilst also improving air quality. For more information see [Section 8 Places](#).
4. [Land use planning and place making](#) – our work includes considering a radically different approach to mobility in the new Local Development Plan to create a socially just, zero-carbon mobility plan. This shifts mobility away from the car by eliminating the conditions that make cars necessary. For more information see [Section 9 Prosperity](#).
5. [Adverse childhood experiences \(ACEs\)](#) - our work includes helping children and young people and their families to cope with the difficulties they face including through our Resilient Families Service and providing work opportunities for young people leaving care. For more information see [Section 7 People](#) and the [Cwm Taf Public Services Board Report](#) July 2021.
6. [Health and Wellness system](#) our work includes introducing a social prescribing model for referring people to interventions in the community, including exercise classes, adult education classes, Digital Fridays, Library reading clubs etc. For more information see [Section 7 People](#).

You can give your thoughts and experiences on the Commissioner's priorities on the [People's Platform](#) and see the Commissioner's first [Future Generations Report](#) published in May 2020. This report analyses the progress of all public bodies subject to the Act, including Welsh Government, in implementing the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act since it became law in 2015.

Some of the ways we are contributing to the 7 National Well-being Goals

National Well-being Goal	PEOPLE Ensuring 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
Prosperous	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supporting Children and Young People by giving them a great start in life through our Resilient families programme. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Keeping people and traffic moving on well-maintained roads and pavements. Progressing schemes that will benefit communities now and in the future. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supporting businesses to adapt and diversify. Building new homes Supporting people to develop new skills. Providing schools where children can achieve the best they can.
Resilient	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reducing site disturbance and material waste with shorter construction schedules by using modular construction methods in the construction of our Extra Care facilities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investing in and valuing our Green Spaces. Increasing flood alleviation measures. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promoting biodiversity by protecting existing habitats where possible and creating new areas for wildlife on our school sites. Integrating biodiversity into planning arrangements.
Healthier	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Helping people to stay as well as they can by encouraging increased activity in a setting that is right for the individual e.g. at home, in our leisure centres, in our outdoor green spaces and in community facilities in schools. Supporting the roll out of Covid-19 vaccines and testing. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Progressing and maintaining Green Flag status in our parks and sites. Re-opening our parks following flood repairs. Continuing to tackle environmental crime. Putting in place Walking Routes for residents and visitors and safe routes to school for children and young people. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Providing well-being support to children and young people. Finding ways to protect air quality and promote health through active travel and local amenities when planning new developments.
More Equal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Making sure that residents can access services, no matter what their background or circumstances. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supporting national campaigns for Hate Crime Awareness. Making sure that our residents of all ages and abilities can enjoy our parks and green spaces through improved access and changing spaces. Ensuring domestic abuse support is available to all that need it. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Providing sanitary products to help tackle period poverty for girls and women in our communities. loaning devices and mifi to children, young people and job seekers to help them continue education and training online. Freezing prices in Leisure Centres and minimal pricing in the Lido.

National Well-being Goal	PEOPLE Ensuring 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
Cohesive Communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Helping people to stay in their own homes for longer and enabling them to contribute to communities and strengthen social relationships. Continuing 'Food & Fun' during School holidays. 	<p>Keeping people safe and helping them to feel safe by</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> responding to community requests for action. tackling anti- social behaviour. Protecting those vulnerable to doorstep crime. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improving housing for all our residents and creating pleasant neighbourhoods in which communities can thrive.
Vibrant Culture & Welsh Language	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Providing and promoting more opportunities for our residents to communicate with the Council and each other in Welsh. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implementing standardised place names in Welsh and English on all our new signage and correspondence, protecting Welsh heritage by preserving Welsh place names. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Celebrating the culture and history of the area in our theatres and parks and developing the Valleys Regional Park. Promoting RCT as a visitor destination, including the Eisteddfod.
Globally Responsible	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Our work with PONT, a volunteer-based charity organisation in RCT which is making a difference to lives in Mbale, Eastern Uganda and which aims to support Ugandan organisations who have the potential to tackle poverty in their towns and villages. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Accelerating our recycling and reuse Progressing our plans to tackle and reduce the impact of Climate Change throughout the Council's services and the County Borough and to meet of 2030 targets. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supporting Fair Trade Initiatives. Developing renewable energy projects like Taff's Well Thermal Spring.

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

COUNCIL

20th OCTOBER 2021

2023 REVIEW OF PARLIAMENTARY CONSTITUENCIES IN WALES – BOUNDARY COMMISSION FOR WALES' INITIAL PROPOSALS FEEDBACK OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

**JOINT REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR OF DEMOCRATIC SERVICES AND
COMMUNICATION AND DIRECTOR OF LEGAL SERVICES.**

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to provide Council with the feedback following consideration by Members, on a cross party basis, through the Overview & Scrutiny Committee held on the 12th October 2021, of the initial proposals of the Boundary Commission for Wales, in respect of the proposed new parliamentary constituencies in Wales as referred by Council.
- 1.2 The feedback, following in-depth consideration, forms the basis of the draft formal response of the Council which is attached at Appendix 1.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that Council:

- 2.1 Consider the response contained within the attached letter, set out at Appendix 1, formulated from feedback from the Overview & Scrutiny Committee on the 12th October 2021, with regards to the proposed new parliamentary constituency arrangements;
- 2.2 Adopt the comments contained within the draft letter as the formal response of the local authority (subject to any further comments from Council);

3. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 The need for Council to be aware of the responses following in depth consideration of the initial proposals, on a cross-party basis through the Overview and Scrutiny Committee prior to submission by the deadline set by the Commission of 3rd November 2021.

4. BACKGROUND

- 4.1 The initial proposals of the Boundary Commission for Wales, which were published on the 8th September 2021, in respect of the proposed new parliamentary constituencies in Wales have undergone an eight-week consultation which ends on the 3rd November 2021.
- 4.2 Council resolved to refer the initial proposals to the Overview & Scrutiny Committee (with an invitation to all members of the Council) to formulate a response back to Full Council at its meeting to be held on the 20th October 2021 and in advance of the response deadline of the 3rd November 2021.
- 4.3 It is recognised that scrutiny is a vital component of good governance and improves Councils' decision making, service provision and cost effectiveness. The consideration of the initial proposals by the Overview and Committee (and invitation to all Elected Members to engage on this matter) will strengthen accountability and assist Council in taking any future decisions on these matters.

5. COMMENTS OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

- 5.1 The Overview and Scrutiny Committee and wider membership met on the 12th October 2021 to consider the initial proposals of the Boundary Commission Wales in respect of the 2023 review of Parliamentary Constituencies. Members were provided with the following background information (attached at Appendix 1A)
- Report to Council on the 29th September 2021;
 - Copy of the initial proposals report of the Boundary Commission for Wales, which was published on the 8th September 2021;
 - Proposed new constituency boundary maps for Merthyr Tydfil and Aberdare, Pontypridd, Rhondda, Cardiff North and Cardiff West.
 - Guide to the 2023 Review
- 5.2 The Director of Legal Services was in attendance to present the proposals and respond to any queries.
- 5.3 Following in-depth consideration and discussion on a cross party basis through the Overview & Scrutiny Committee, a response was formulated as set out in the attached draft letter (Appendix 1) for Council to consider and subject to any additional comments, adopt as the formal Council response.

6. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS OR LEGISLATION CONSIDERED

- 6.1 There are no legal implications arising from the report.

7. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 There are no equality or diversity implications as a result of the recommendations set out within the report.

8. WELSH LANGUAGE IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 There are no welsh language implications arising from the report.

9. CONSULTATION / INVOLVEMENT

- 9.1 The process of engagement will steer the scrutiny consideration and methodology going forward and enable it to formulate well balanced and objective recommendations.

10. FINANCIAL IMPLICATION(S)

- 10.1 There are no financial implications directly aligned to this report at this stage.

11. CONCLUSION

- 11.1 The opportunity has been afforded to scrutiny to consider and respond to the initial proposals of the Boundary Commission for Wales in respect of the proposed new parliamentary constituencies in Wales for consideration by Full Council. In doing so, the proposed approach has provided the opportunity for all Elected Members to contribute to the review and inform the formal response of the Council.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

AS AMENDED BY

THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

COUNCIL

20TH OCTOBER 2021

**JOINT REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR OF DEMOCRATIC SERVICES AND
COMMUNICATION AND THE DIRECTOR OF LEGAL SERVICES**



XX October 2021

The Boundary Commission for Wales,
Hastings House,
Fitzalan Court,
Cardiff,
CF24 0BL.

Dear Sir/Madam

Re: 2023 Review of Parliamentary Constituencies

I am writing to present the formal response of Elected Members to your initial consultation in respect of the 2023 Review of Parliamentary Constituencies in Wales. This response was adopted by Council Members at a recent full Council meeting, following in-depth consideration of your proposals, on a cross party basis, through the Council's Overview & Scrutiny Committee.

The matter was considered by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee at its meeting on the 12th October 2021, with an open invitation to all Elected Members. At this meeting Members acknowledged the complexities of the task you have been required to undertake, in line with the prescribed ratio for constituency electorate numbers, as defined by the UK Government. Members acknowledge that there will be limited scope for you as a Commission to move away from your initial proposals purely in response to the comments and concerns of elected members in Rhondda Cynon Taf, when the impact upon the four parliamentary constituencies which currently represent this County Borough at a UK level, are a small part of the current and proposed parliamentary map of Wales, of which you are required to review in-line with legislative requirements. On that basis Members identified the need to restrict their comments to broad principles and particular areas of concern, in anticipation that such comments would be able to be reflected as part of your considerations when formulating your next stage of proposals.

Where possible Members were keen to avoid any confusion that these new proposals would cause for the public when relating their local representation at a Senedd and Council level. On this point Members expressed concern that neighbouring constituencies in their current form, such as Cardiff North and Cardiff West appear to be retained within your proposals, albeit with the addition of individual wards from Rhondda Cynon Taf, to 'balance' the level of

representation within these two respective constituencies. The Members who represented the electoral wards of Pontyclun and Taffswell & Nantgarw, expressed concerns on the divorce of these two southern electoral divisions, to the proposed new Cardiff West and Cardiff North constituencies respectively, when there was limited local connection between those communities and very clearly no direct connection in terms of local authority administration boundaries. Furthermore, both communities are physically separated both in terms of transport and community connections by the M4 motorway. Members felt this proposal would limit the ability for future members of Parliament to represent these amended constituencies effectively and specifically the communities of Pontyclun and Taffs Well & Nantgarw. On this point all Members expressed a view that there could conceivably be a public perception that the four constituencies of Rhondda Cynon Taf, have been 'carved up', as an 'easier option' than instead of proposing fundamental redesign of the capital city's Parliamentary boundaries.

On a similar point of effective future representation, members expressed similar concerns in respect of proposals relating to the communities of Llanharan and Brynna becoming part of a future 'Rhondda' parliamentary constituency. Again, concern was expressed on the basis that there is no connection between such communities either historically or in terms of how residents live their daily lives, and more concerningly it is impossible to travel between the Rhondda Valleys and the communities which run along the m4 corridor at the south of the County Borough, which proposed to form part of the new Rhondda parliamentary constituency, in effect meaning that the areas listed would be physically divorced from the main urban part of the new Rhondda constituency as part of these proposals. Members acknowledged that if there is a requirement for these communities representation arrangements to be changed, as part of your proposals, that there was much greater affinity within these communities towards the new Bridgend and Vale of Glamorgan parliamentary constituencies or as part of your newly proposed Pontypridd Constituency. Members commended the retention for the Rhondda name within any future constituency arrangements as a result of its historical significance in the history of modern Wales and wider County Borough.

Members queried why your proposals do not address the anomaly of Evanstown being located in the Ogmore constituency, even though the community directly connects with Gilfach Goch, which is to form part of the new Rhondda constituency.

Members were unanimous in their opinion that splitting the Cynon Valley constituencies is more an 'exercise of convenience' and referred to the Commissions' comments that a 'constituency formed of these areas does not follow the geography of the valleys from north to south'. Members acknowledged that many Aberdare residents would have a greater connection with Merthyr Tydfil than Pontypridd for example but pointed out that this would similarly be the case for residents of Aberaman. Members pointed out that Aberaman North has a CF44 postcode, Mountain Ash has a CF45 postcode, and so forming part of the constituency of Pontypridd is not a natural alignment or constructive proposal for these reasons.

Importantly Members cited the importance of future proposals taking consideration of the future electoral arrangements for Rhondda Cynon Taf recently introduced by the Welsh Government, which come into effect from May 2022.

In addition to our formal reply, I am aware that individual members will make representations on behalf of their electoral wards and likewise the political parties represented on the Council.

Yours Sincerely,

County Borough Councillor Steve Powderhill

Presiding Officer on behalf of Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council

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RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

MUNICIPAL YEAR 2021 – 2022

COUNCIL

29TH 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 8th 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 20th October 2021, in order that a response can be made by the deadline of the 3rd 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 8th September 2021 and any comments in relation thereto are to be made by the 3rd 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 2nd 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/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).

- 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), 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): 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 Ogmore 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 3rd 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 3rd November 2021.



LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

AS AMENDED BY

THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

COUNCIL

29TH 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



**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.

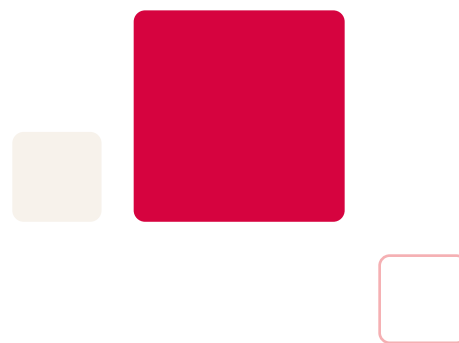
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Any enquiries regarding this publication should be sent to us at bcw@boundaries.wales

This document is also available from our website at www.bcomm-wales.gov.uk

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

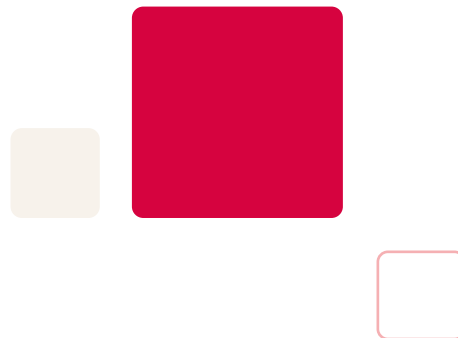
Deputy Chair

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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.
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.

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.

Chapter 3:

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^2) (Cardiff Central BC) to $3,014\text{km}^2$ (Brecon and Radnorshire CC). The maximum size of a constituency permitted under the new legislation is $13,000\text{km}^2$. 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.

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 1,000km² (Aberconwy, Brecon and Radnor, Caerfyrddin, Ceredigion Preseli, Dwyfor Meirionnydd, and Montgomeryshire and Glyndwr). Four of these would be between 2,000km² and 3,000km² (Caerfyrddin, Ceredigion Preseli, Dwyfor Merionnydd, and Montgomeryshire and Glyndwr). One would be over 3,000km² (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.

Electoral Ward	Existing constituency allocation (no. of electors)	Allocated Existing constituency (no. of electors)
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:

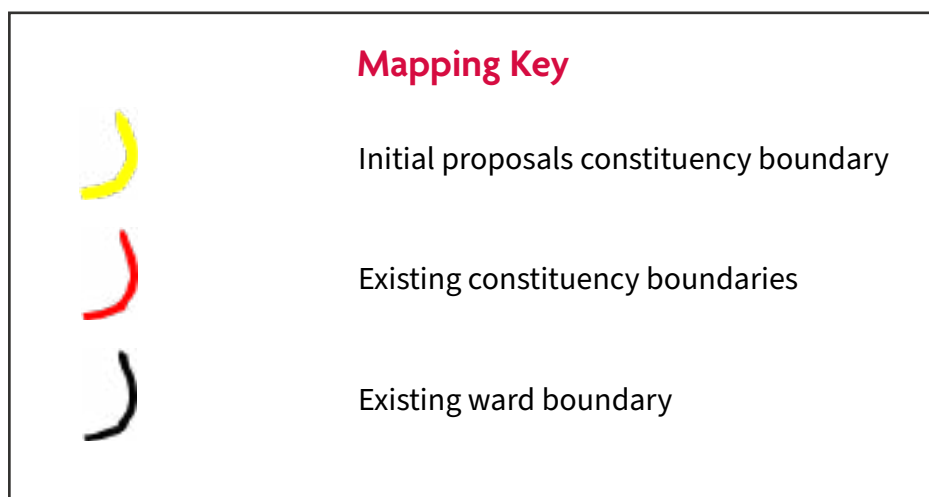
Initial proposals

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. 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:

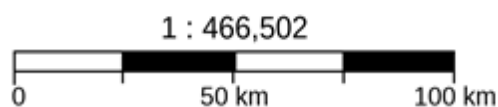
Proposals in detail

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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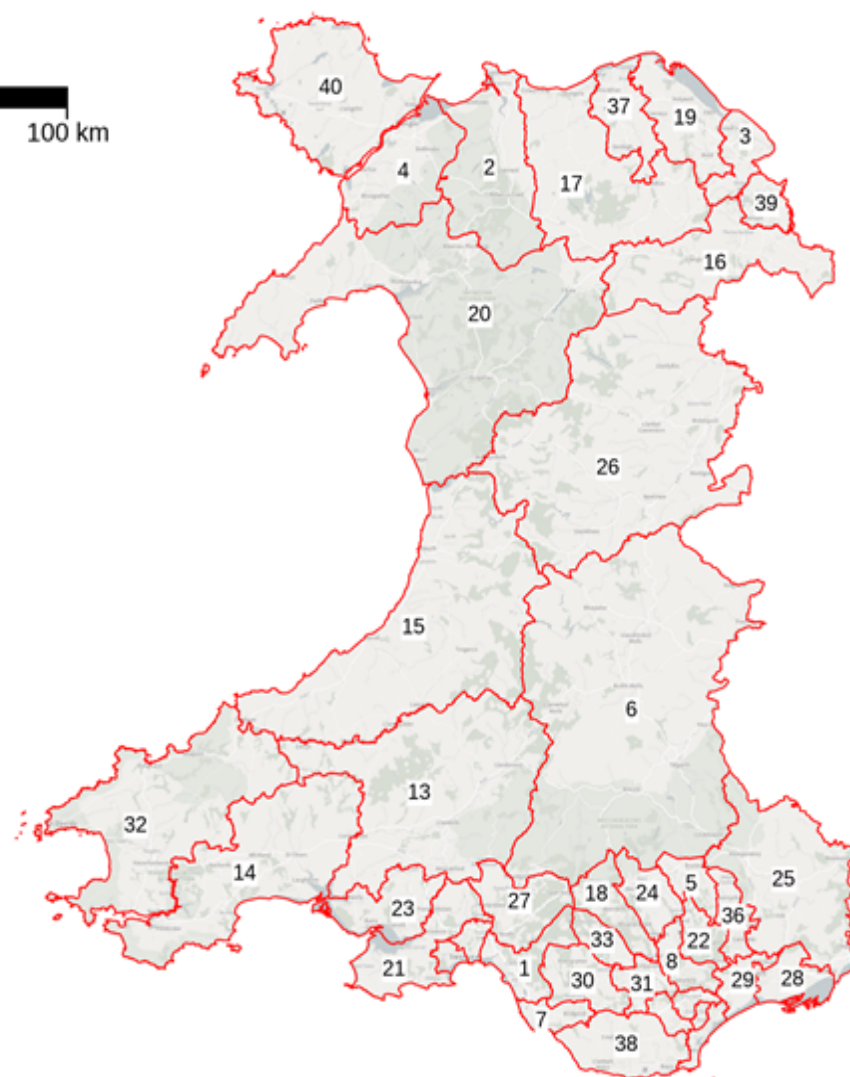
Existing Constituencies



The City and County of Cardiff



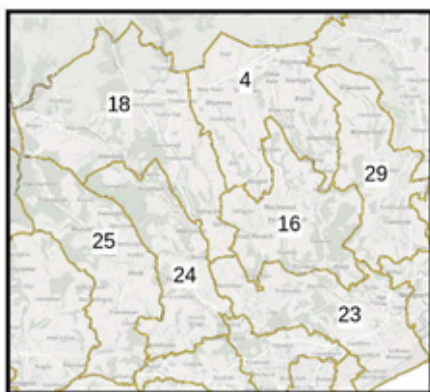
The City of Swansea



- | | | |
|---|--|---------------------------------|
| 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



South Wales Valleys Area



City and County of Cardiff

1 : 466,289

0 50 km 100 km



- 1 - Aberafan Porthcawl (76,792)
- 2 - Aberconwy (69,909)
- 3 - Alyn and Deeside (74,144)
- 4 - Blaenau Gwent and Rhymney (71,079)
- 5 - Brecon and Radnor (72,113)
- 6 - Bridgend (74,388)
- 7 - Caerfyrddin (70,606)
- 8 - Cardiff Central (74,486)
- 9 - Cardiff North (71,143)
- 10 - Cardiff South and Penarth (70,246)
- 11 - Cardiff West (73,947)
- 12 - Ceredigion Preseli (76,269)
- 13 - Clwyd (76,380)
- 14 - Delyn (76,074)
- 15 - Dwyfor Meirionydd (71,962)
- 16 - Islwyn (70,735)
- 17 - Llanelli (71,972)
- 18 - Merthyr Tydfil and Aberdare (71,218)

- 19 - Mid and South Pembrokeshire (74,614)
- 20 - Monmouthshire (72,681)
- 21 - Montgomeryshire and Glyndwr (72,363)
- 22 - Newport East (76,159)
- 23 - Newport West and Caerphilly (74,394)
- 24 - Pontypridd (71,237)
- 25 - Rhondda (71,684)
- 26 - Swansea Central and North (76,199)
- 27 - Swansea East and Neath (75,641)
- 28 - Swansea West and Gower (75,214)
- 29 - Torfaen (70,591)
- 30 - Vale of Glamorgan (70,426)
- 31 - Wrexham (75,596)
- 32 - Ynys Môn (52,415)

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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

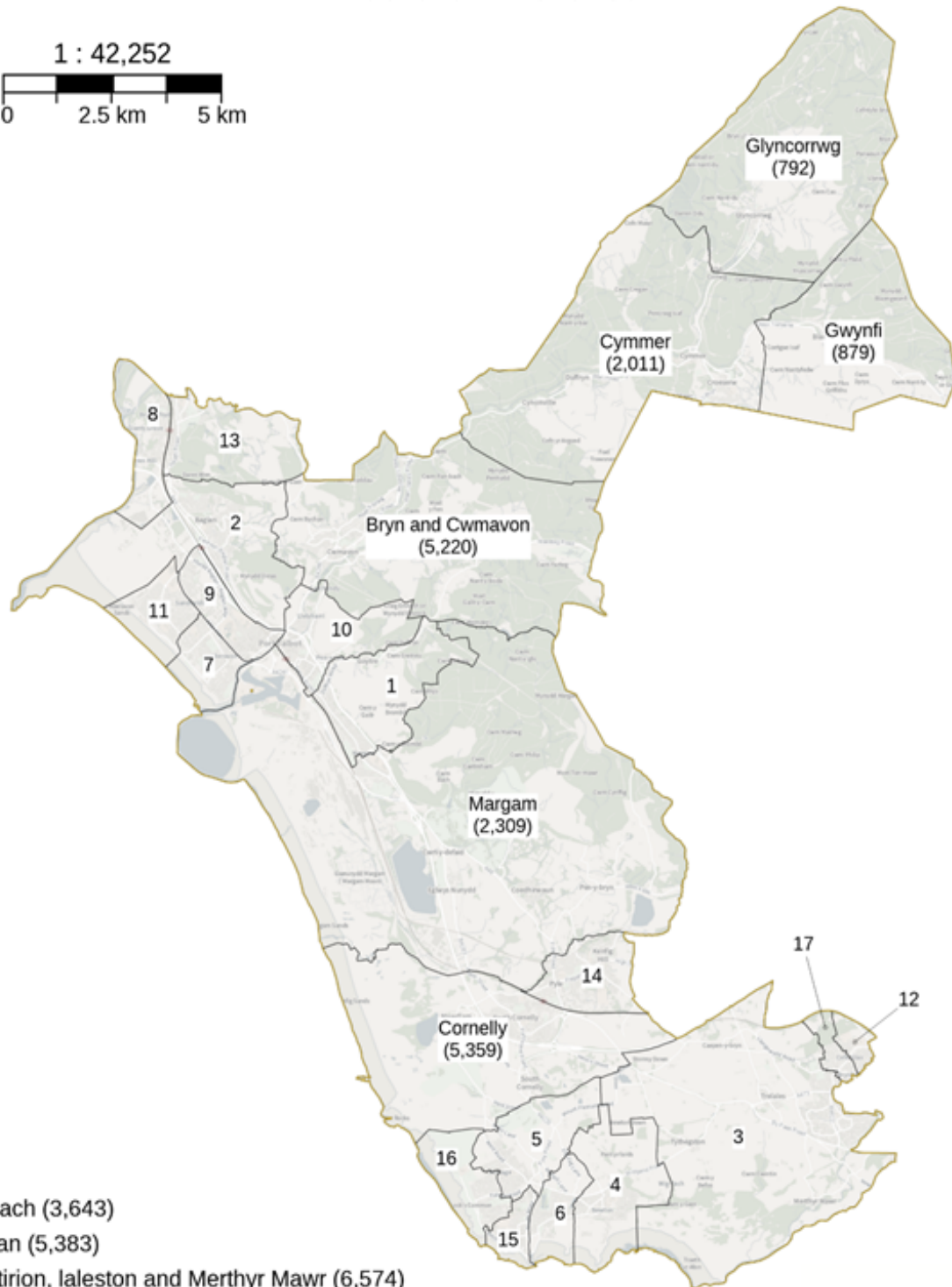
The proposed constituency includes electoral wards that form parts of the Bridgend and Neath Port Talbot principal council areas. The Commission has proposed the single name of Aberafan Porthcawl to represent the constituency. The two parts of this name represent the two main settlements in the areas 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 : 42,252
0 2.5 km 5 km



- 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), Hiracl (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



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.

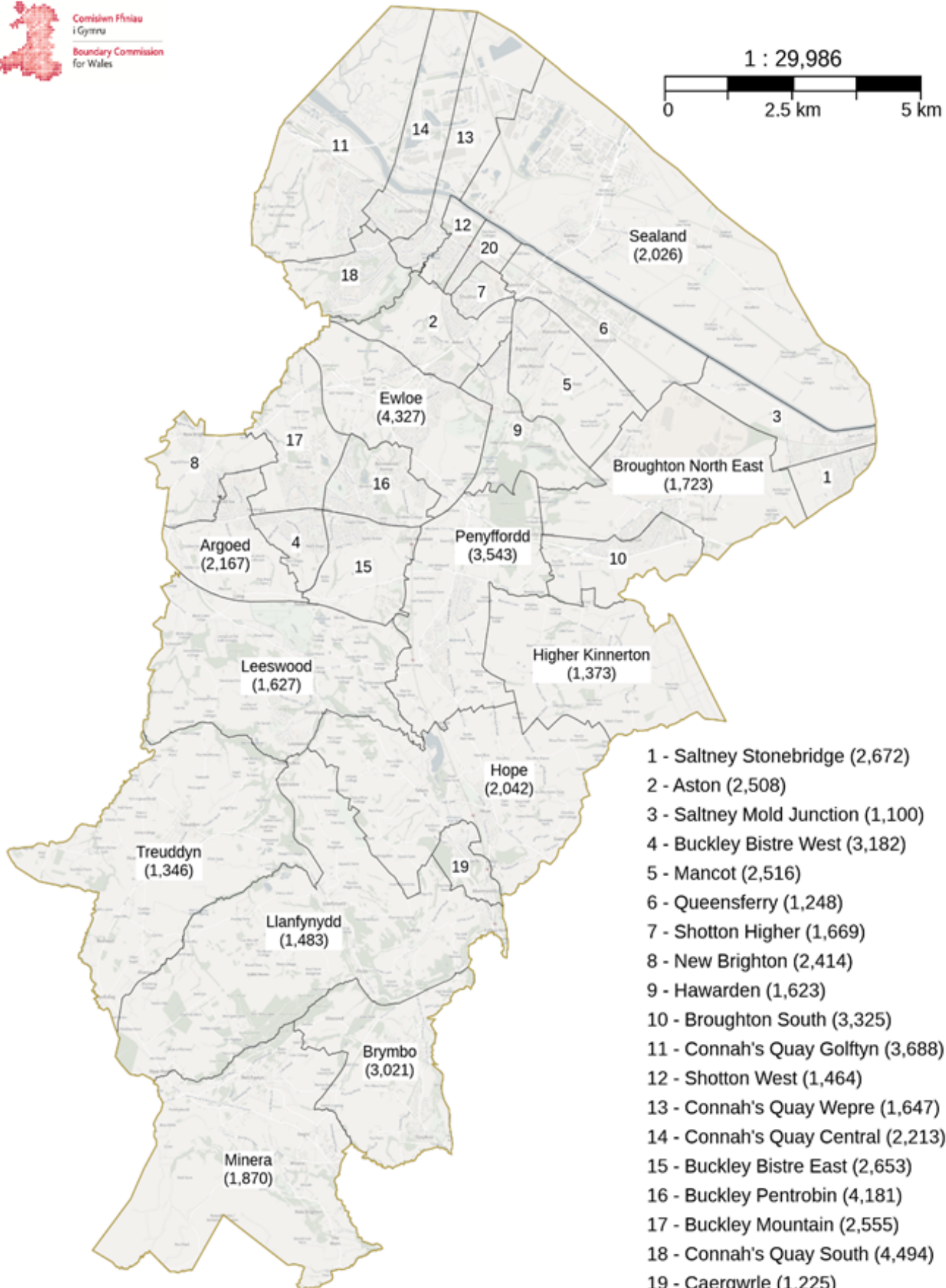
Alyn and Deeside (Alun a Glannau Dyfrdwy)



Comisiwn Ffiniau
i Gymru
Boundary Commission
for Wales

1 : 29,986

0 2.5 km 5 km



- 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 Goffyn (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), Pontlloftyn (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

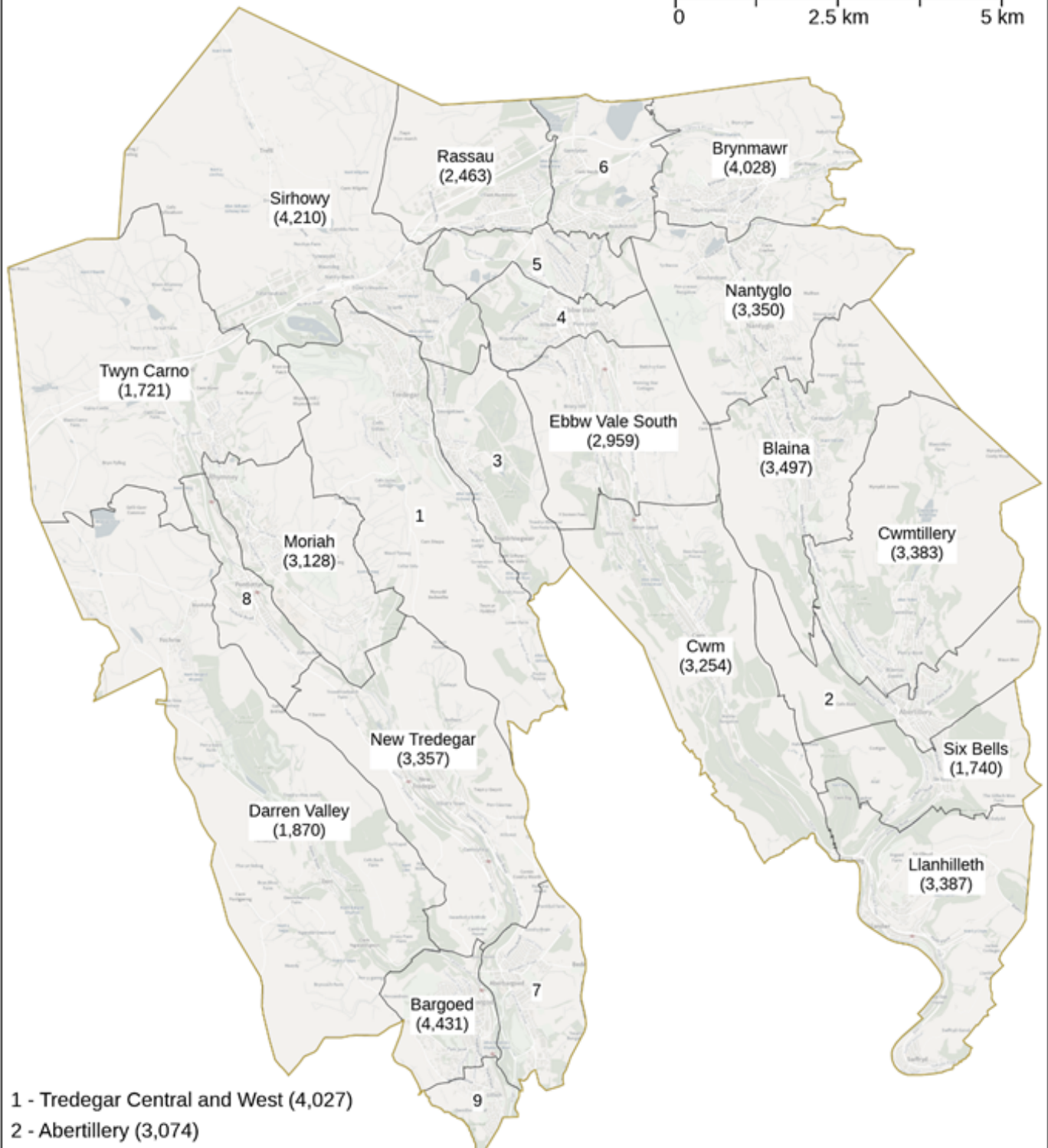
in respect of the size of the electorate. The Commission has considered several options, and proposes to combine the whole of the existing Blaenau Gwent constituency with electoral wards from the existing Merthyr Tydfil and Rhymney, Islwyn and Caerphilly constituencies to meet the statutory electorate 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 - Pontlloftyn (1,432)

9 - Giffach (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), Dissert 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

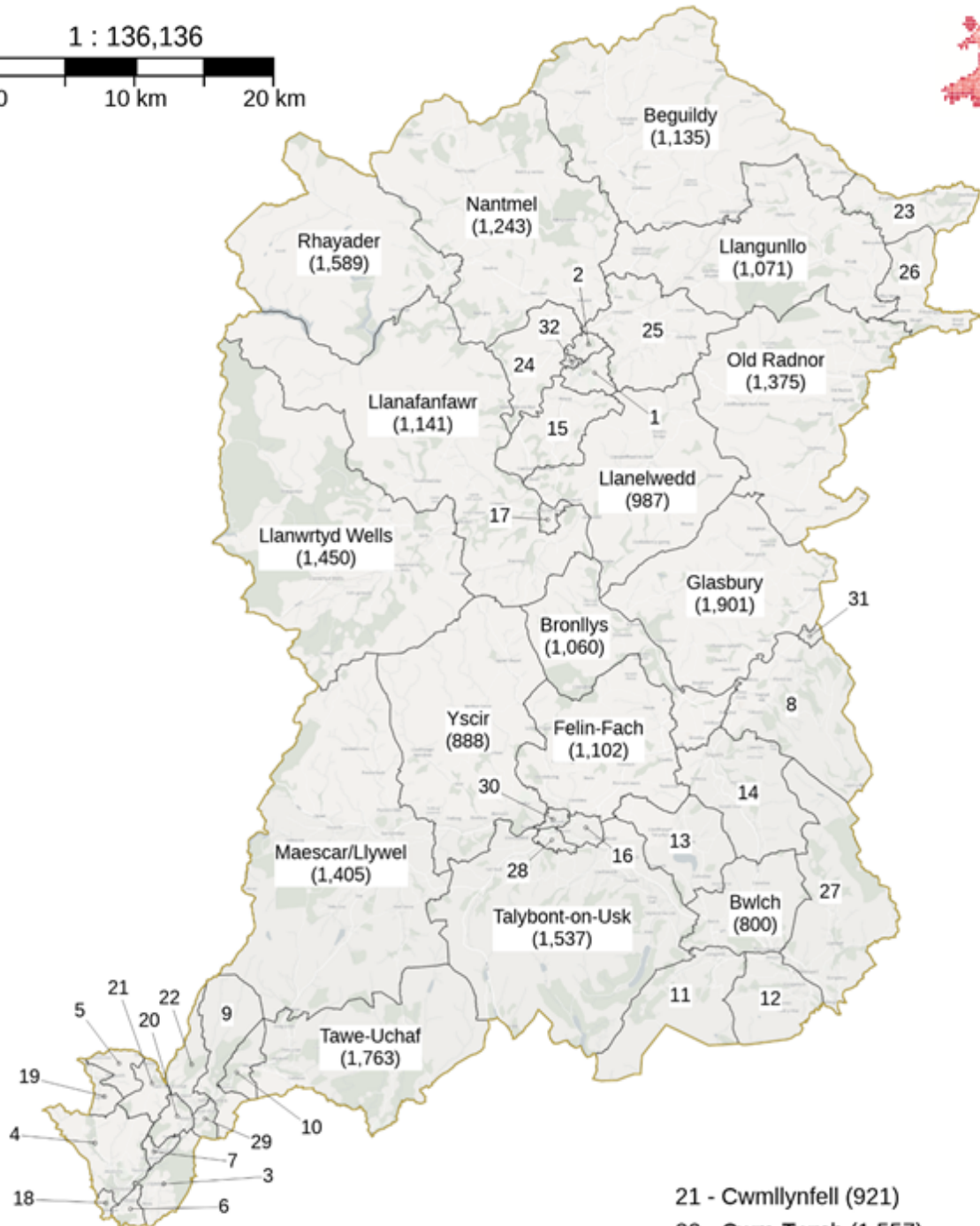
Neath constituency to meet the statutory electorate range. The Commission considers that including electoral wards from the Neath constituency would combine two areas which are similar in character with the Pontardawe area sharing a similar semi-rural nature to the Ystradgynlais area. The Commission 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
0 10 km 20 km



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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

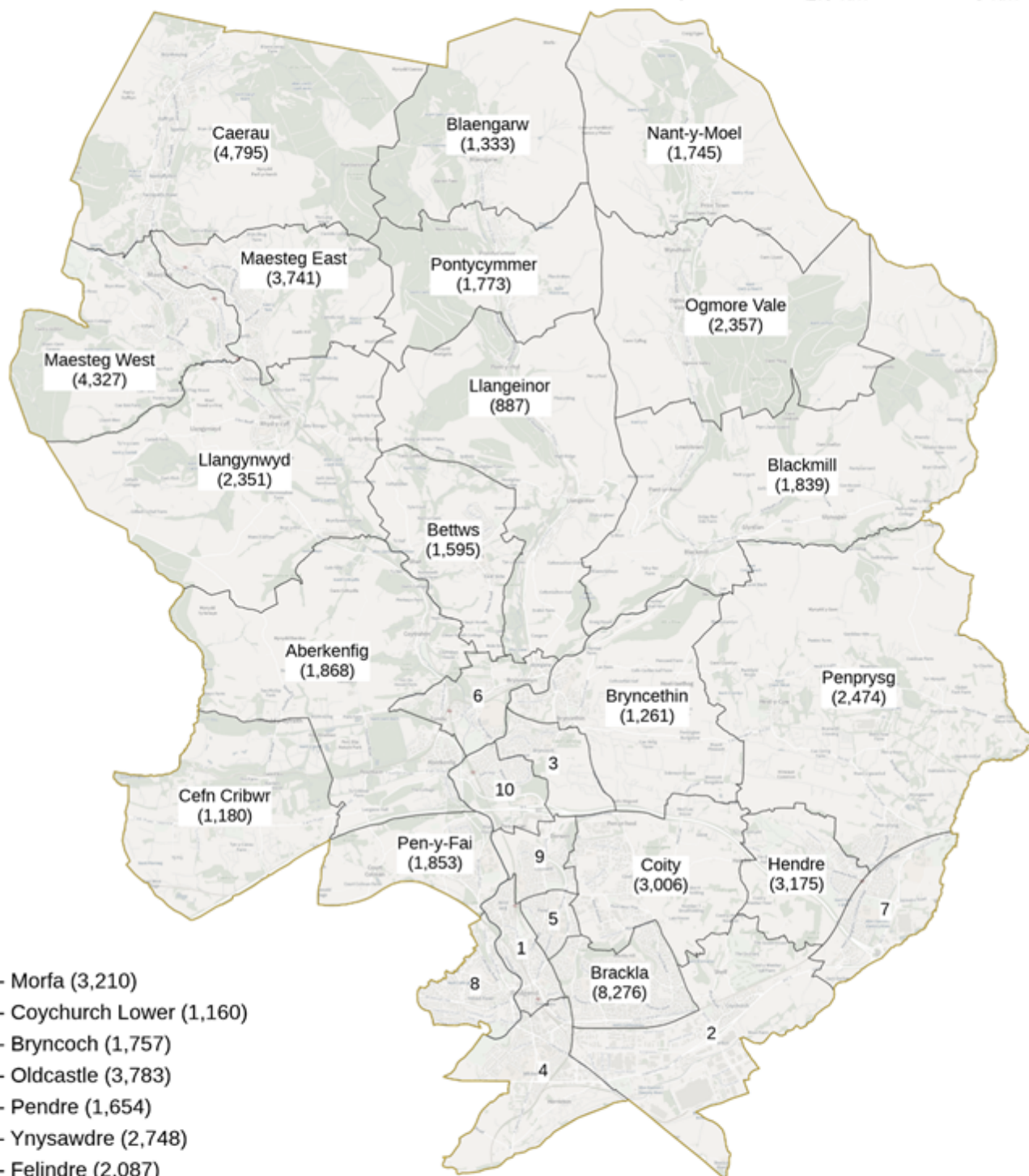
this new constituency is named Bridgend.

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**.

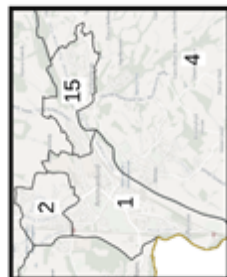
7.3 The existing constituencies of Carmarthen East and Dinefwr, and Carmarthen West and South Pembrokeshire, both fall significantly below the statutory electorate range. The Commission considers that it would be appropriate to combine the electoral wards in the existing constituency of Carmarthen East 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.

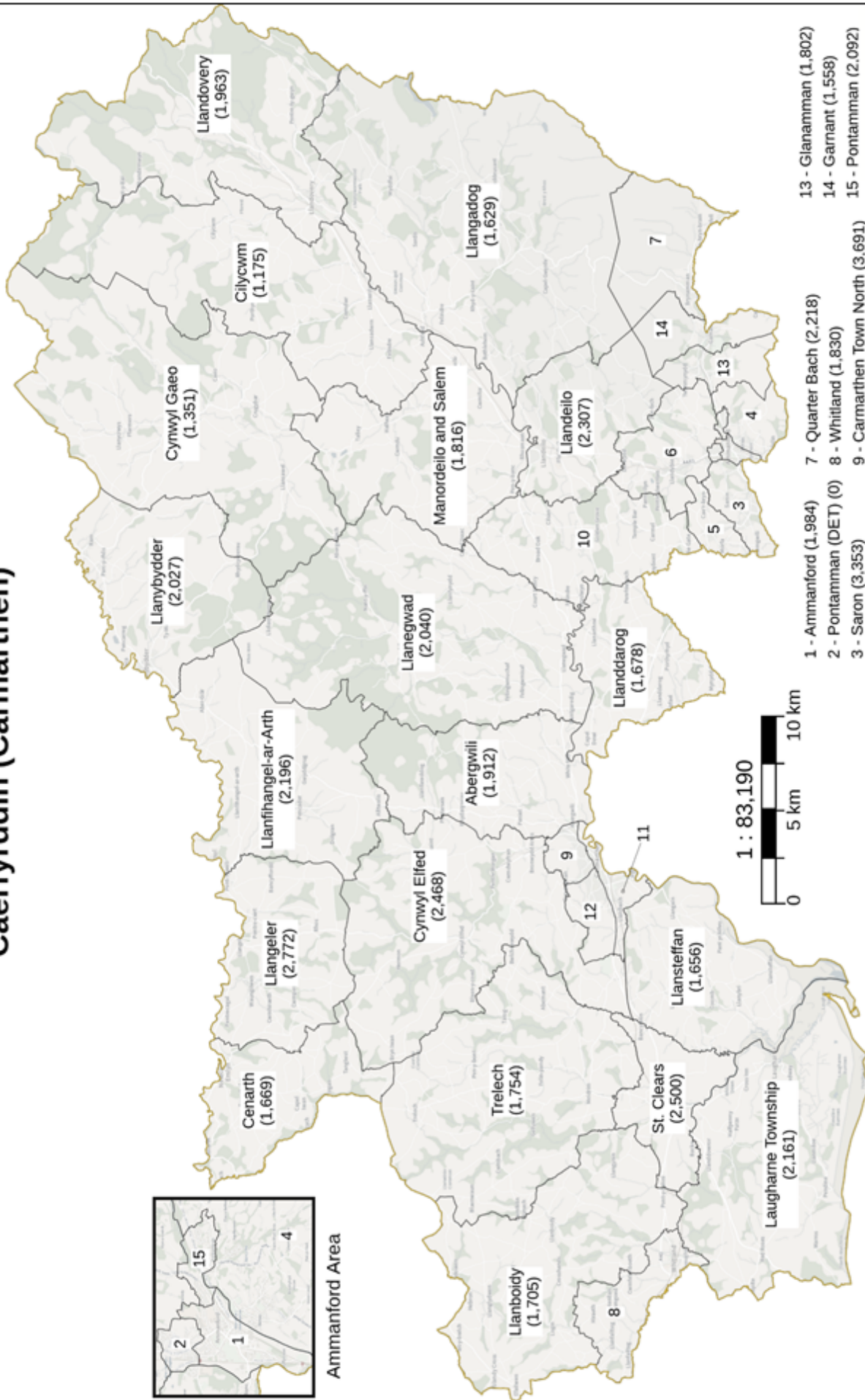
7.4 The proposed constituency includes electoral wards that are wholly within the principal council area of Carmarthenshire. Having regard to the linguistic characteristics of the area, the Commission has proposed a Welsh-language official name and an English-language official alternative name for the 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)



Ammanford Area



1 : 83,190



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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**.

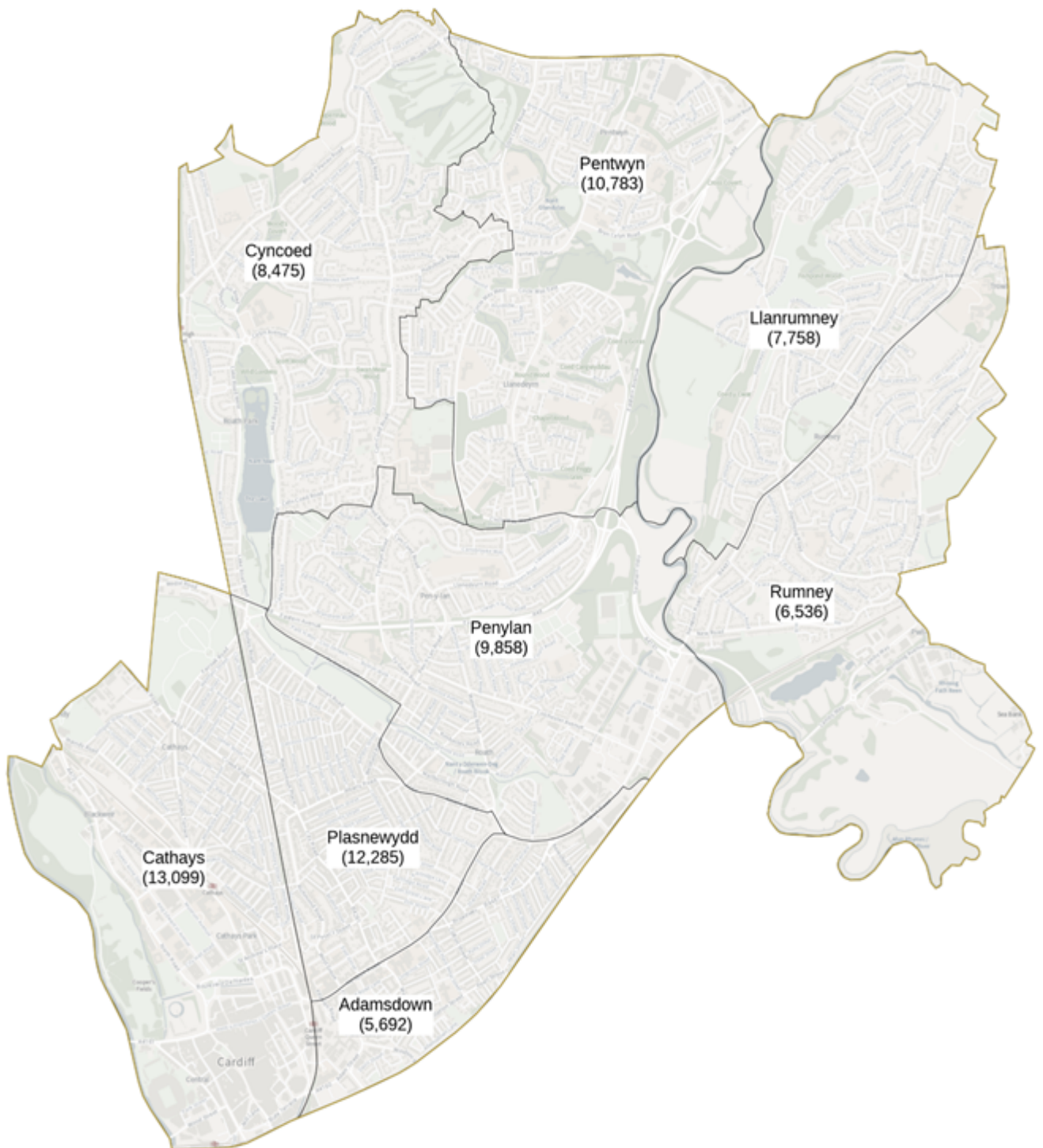
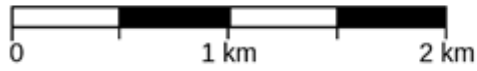
8.3 The existing Cardiff Central constituency does not meet the statutory requirements in respect of the size of the electorate. The Commission considered several options, and proposes that the electoral wards of Llanrumney and Rumney in the existing constituency of Cardiff South and Penarth be combined 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.

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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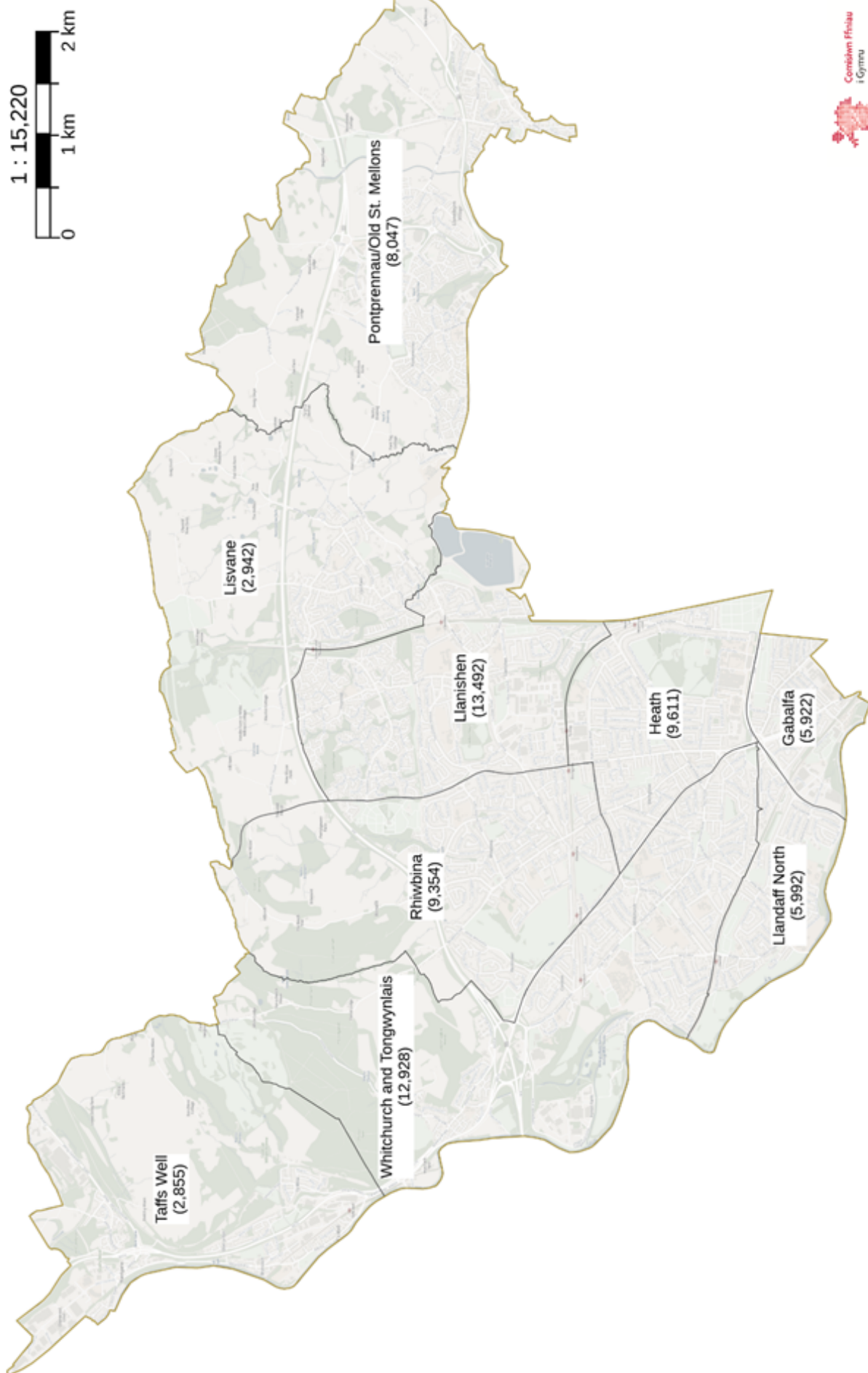
9. Cardiff North (Gogledd Caerdydd)

- 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)



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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

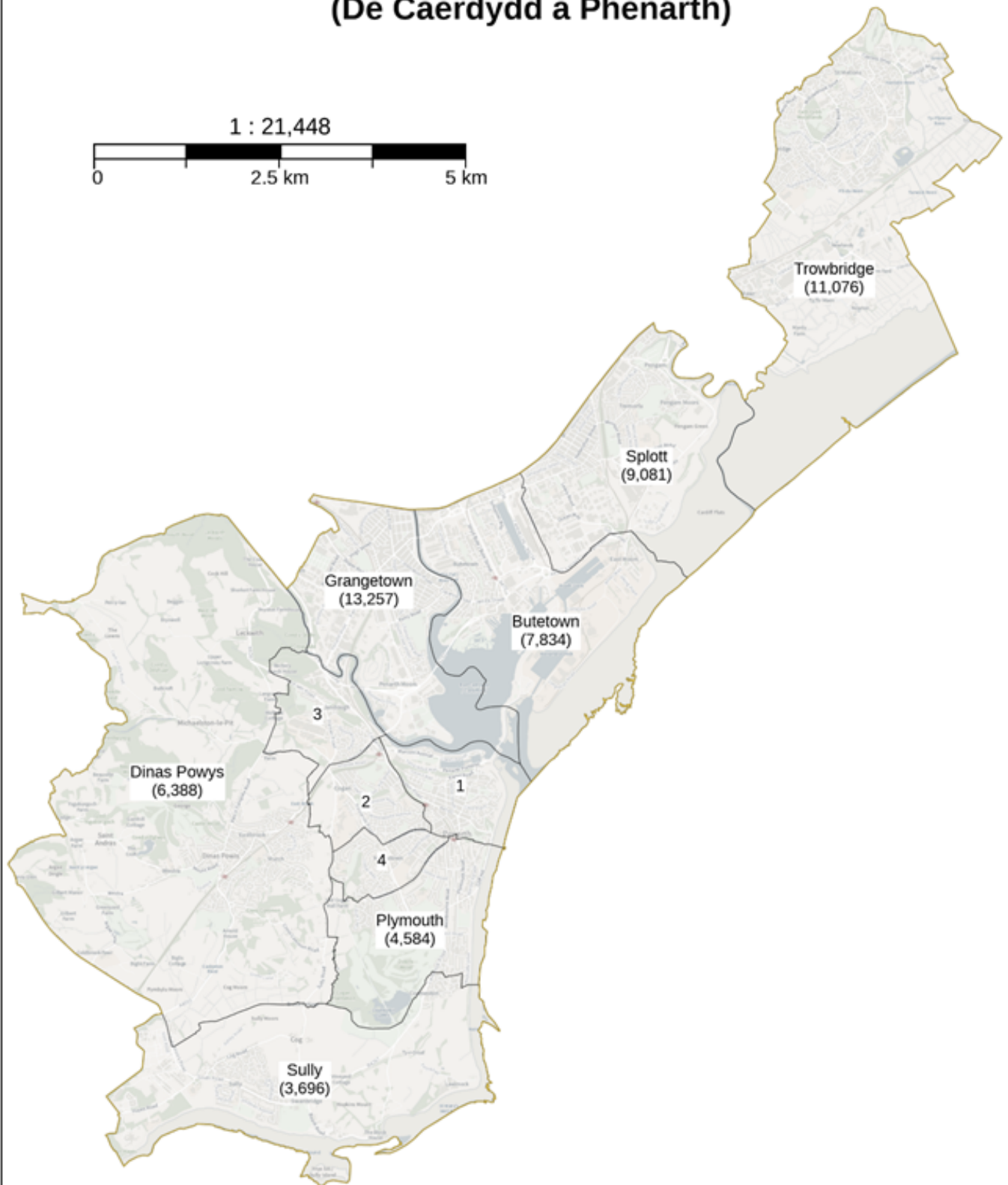
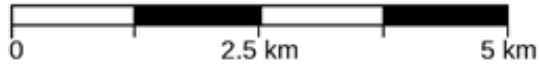
well connected by road links to the remainder of the proposed constituency.

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)

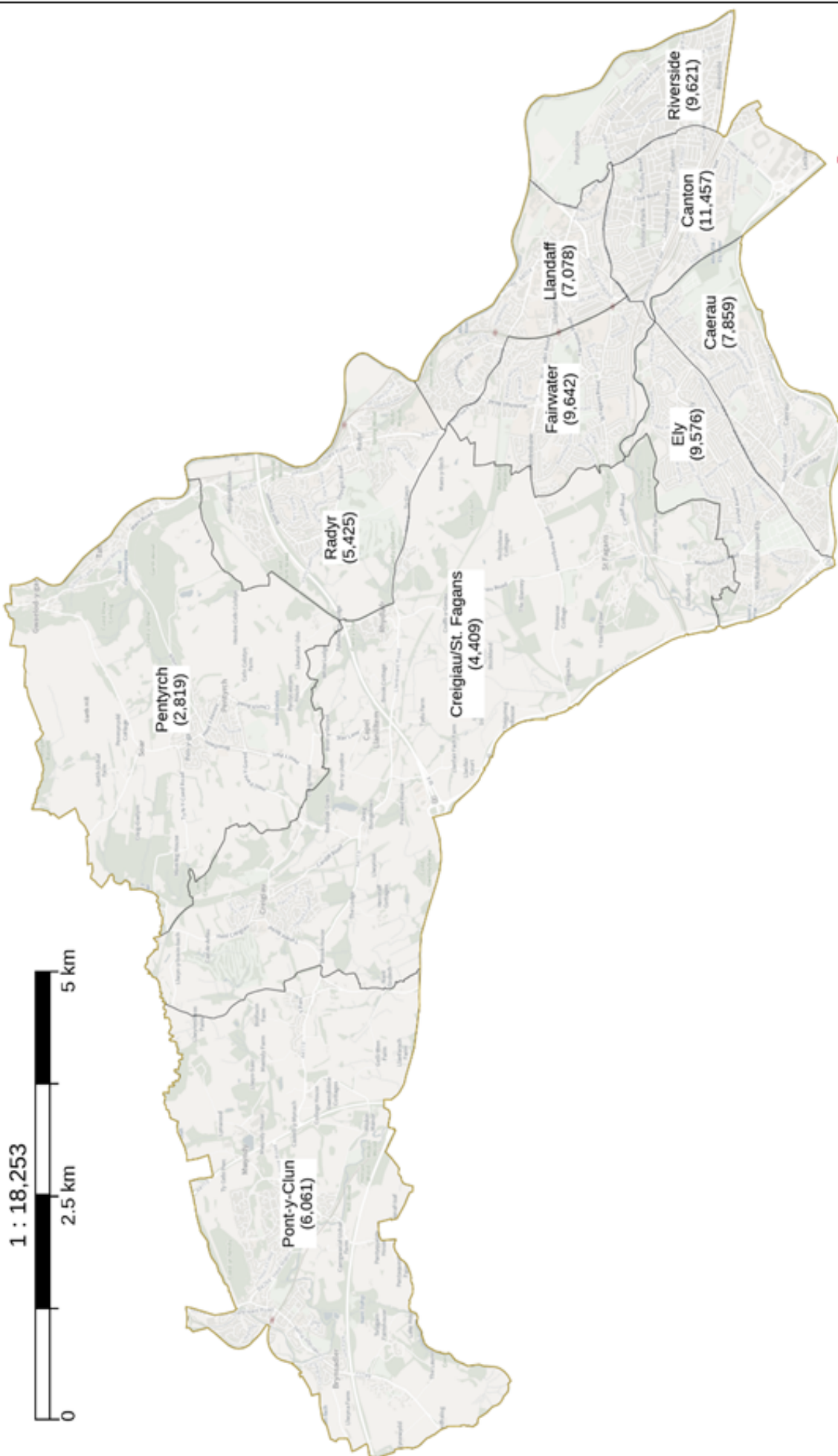
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11. Cardiff West (Gorllewin Caerdydd)

- 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**):

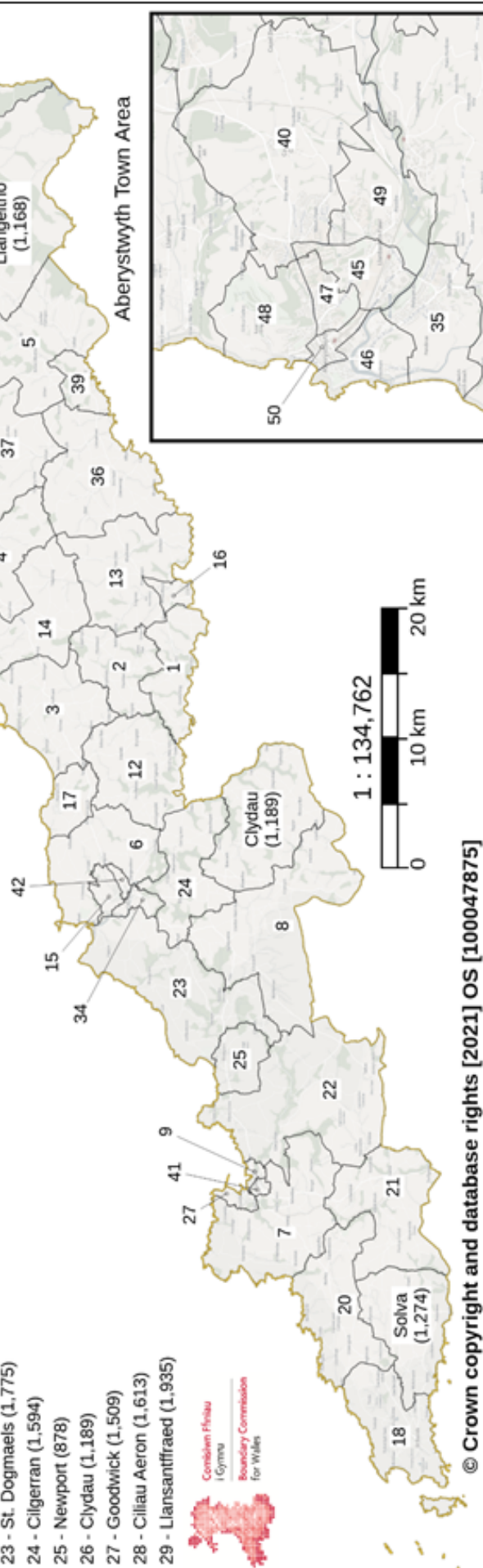
Cilgerran (1,594), Clydau (1,189), Crymych (2,099), Dinas Cross (1,313), Fishguard North East (1,495), Fishguard North West (1,208), Goodwick (1,509), Letterston (1,873), Llanrhian (1,232), Newport (878), St David's (1,521), St Dogmael's (1,775), Scloddau (1,158) and Solva (1,274).

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) | 30 - Llanfihystyd (1,255) |
| 2 - Troedyrour (1,110) | 31 - Llanfarian (1,193) |
| 3 - Penbryn (1,762) | 32 - Trefeurig (1,382) |
| 4 - Llanarth (1,222) | 33 - Tirymynach (1,403) |
| 5 - Llangybi (1,186) | 34 - Aberteifi/Cardigan-Teifi (824) |
| 6 - Pen-parc (1,933) | 35 - Aberystwyth Penparcaw (2,084) |
| 7 - Sceddau (1,158) | 36 - Llanwenog (1,419) |
| 8 - Crymych (2,099) | 37 - Llanfihangel Ystrad (1,666) |
| 9 - Fishguard North East (1,495) | 38 - Tregaron (951) |
| 10 - Borth (1,677) | 39 - Lampeter (1,660) |
| 11 - Ceulanamaesmawr (1,551) | 40 - Faenor (1,985) |
| 12 - Beulah (1,413) | 41 - Fishguard North West (1,208) |
| 13 - Capel Dewi (1,068) | 42 - Aberteifi/Cardigan-Rhyd-y-Fuwch (895) |
| 14 - Llandysilio-gogo (1,653) | 43 - New Quay (810) |
| 15 - Aberteifi/Cardigan-Mwdan (1,522) | 44 - Aberaeron (1,088) |
| 16 - Llandysul Town (1,067) | 45 - Llanbadarn Fawr-Sulien (973) |
| 17 - Aberporth (1,839) | 46 - Aberystwyth Rheidol (1,776) |
| 18 - St. David's (1,521) | 47 - Aberystwyth Bronglais (936) |
| 19 - Ystwyth (1,673) | 48 - Aberystwyth Gogledd/North (1,478) |
| 20 - Llanrhian (1,232) | 49 - Llanbadarn Fawr-Padarn (767) |
| 21 - Letterston (1,873) | 50 - Aberystwyth Canol/Central (1,358) |
| 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 - Llansantffraed (1,935) | |



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**.

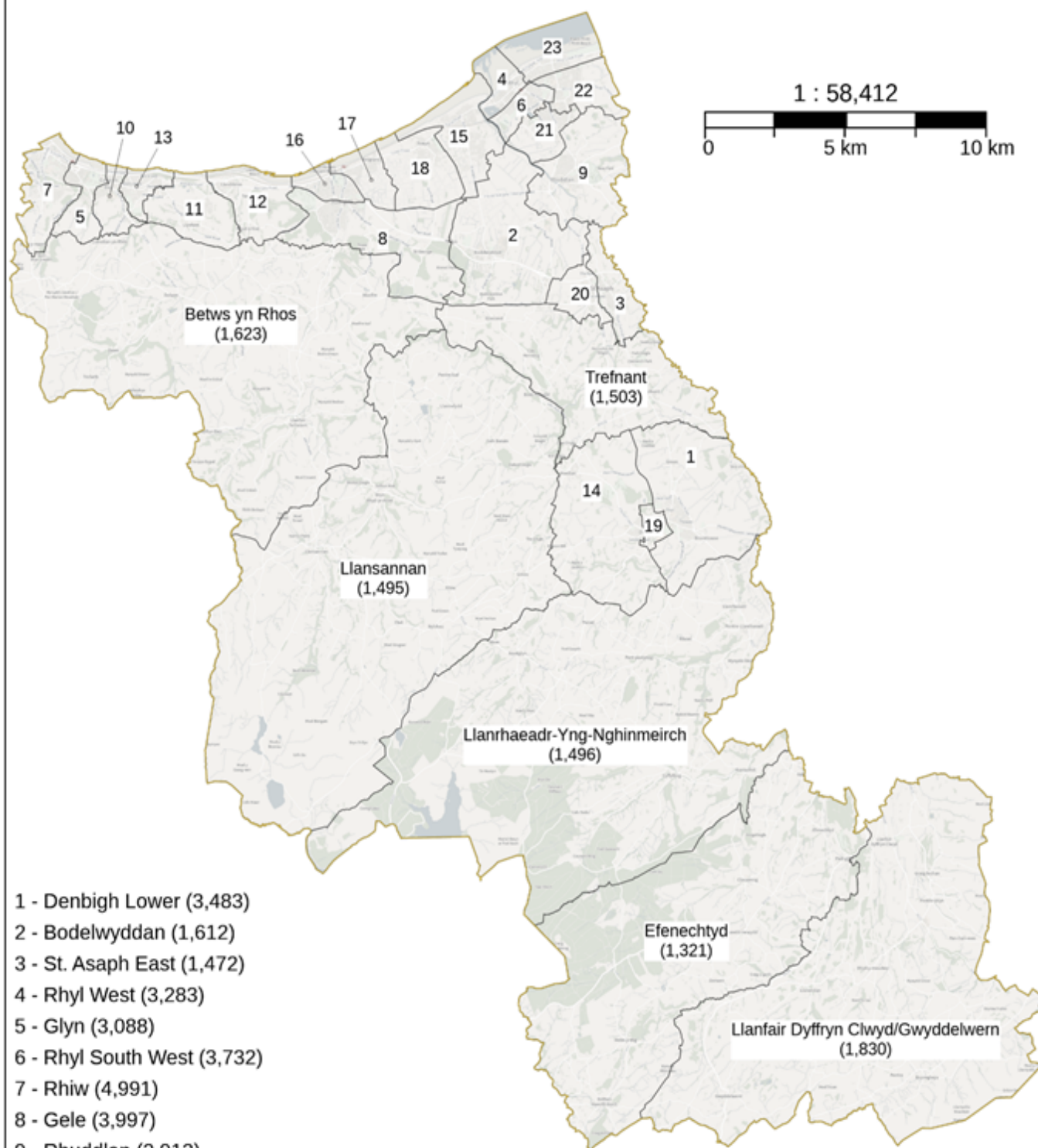
13.3 The existing Vale of Clwyd and Clwyd West constituencies are currently below the statutory requirements in respect of the size of the electorate. The Commission considered several options, and proposes to combine the majority of the existing Vale of Clwyd constituency with part of the existing Clwyd 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 - Denbigh Lower (3,483) | 17 - Abergele Pensarn (1,959) |
| 2 - Bodelwyddan (1,612) | 18 - Towyn (1,845) |
| 3 - St. Asaph East (1,472) | 19 - Denbigh Central (1,462) |
| 4 - Rhyl West (3,283) | 20 - St. Asaph West (1,290) |
| 5 - Glyn (3,088) | 21 - Rhyl South (2,874) |
| 6 - Rhyl South West (3,732) | 22 - Rhyl South East (6,253) |
| 7 - Rhiw (4,991) | 23 - Rhyl East (3,693) |
| 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) | |

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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.

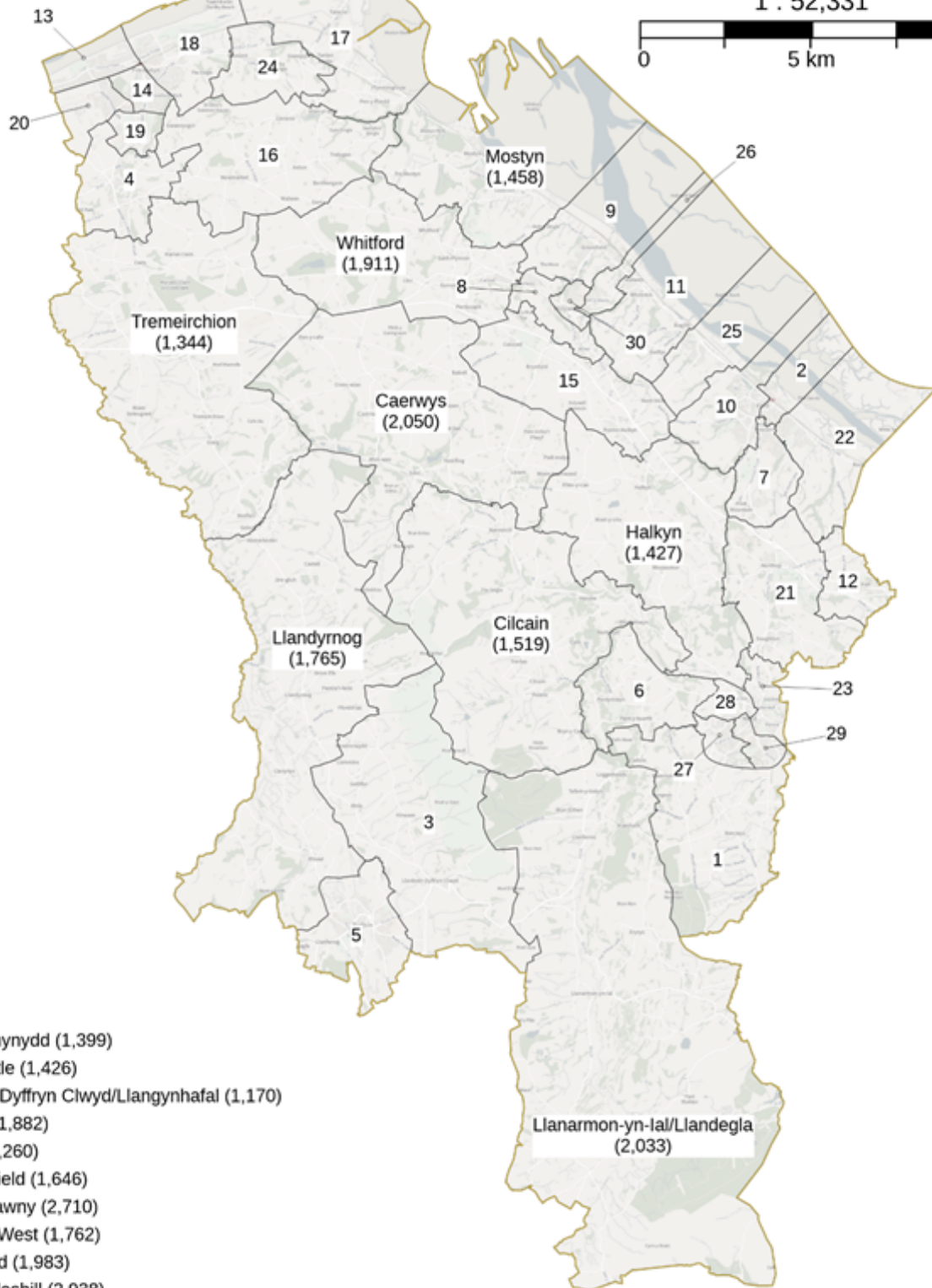


Comisiwn Ffiniau
i Gymru
Boundary Commission
for Wales

Delyn

1 : 52,331

0 5 km 10 km



- 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**.

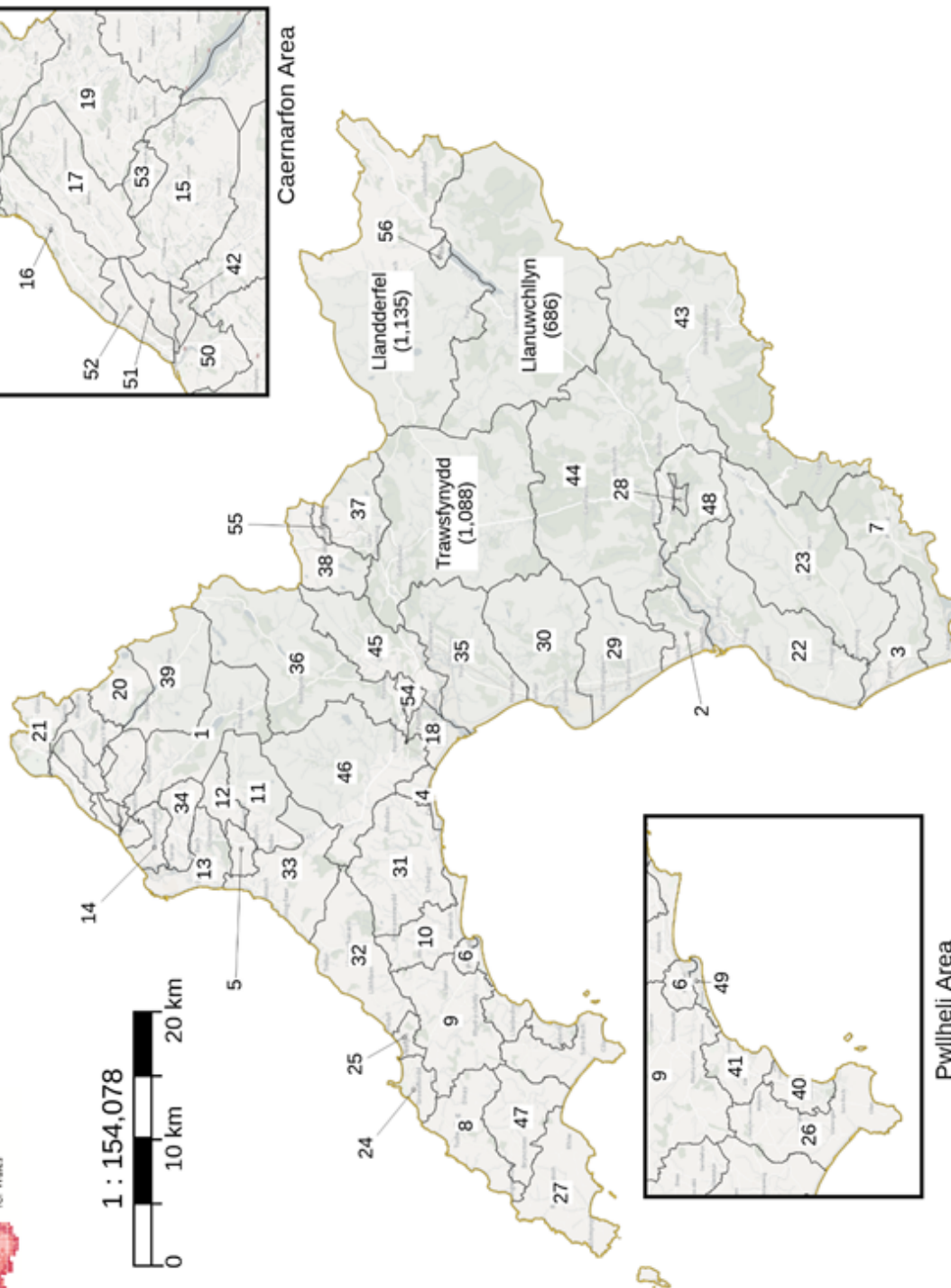
- 15.3** The existing Dwyfor Meirionnydd constituency is currently below the statutory requirements in respect of the size of the electorate. The Commission considered several options, and proposes to combine the whole of the existing Dwyfor Meirionnydd constituency with electoral wards from the existing 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

- 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 (668)
- 9 - Efail-newydd/Buan (1,026)
- 10 - Abererch (986)
- 11 - Llanllyfni (915)
- 12 - Talysarn (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 - Penisarwaun (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 Ardudwy (1,169)
- 30 - Llanbedr (768)
- 31 - Llanystumdwy (1,547)
- 32 - Llanellhaearn (1,187)
- 33 - Clynog (736)
- 34 - Llanwnda (1,507)
- 35 - Harlech (1,516)
- 36 - Porthmadog-Trenadog (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/Ganllwyd/Llanellhyd (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 - Ddwyys 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**.

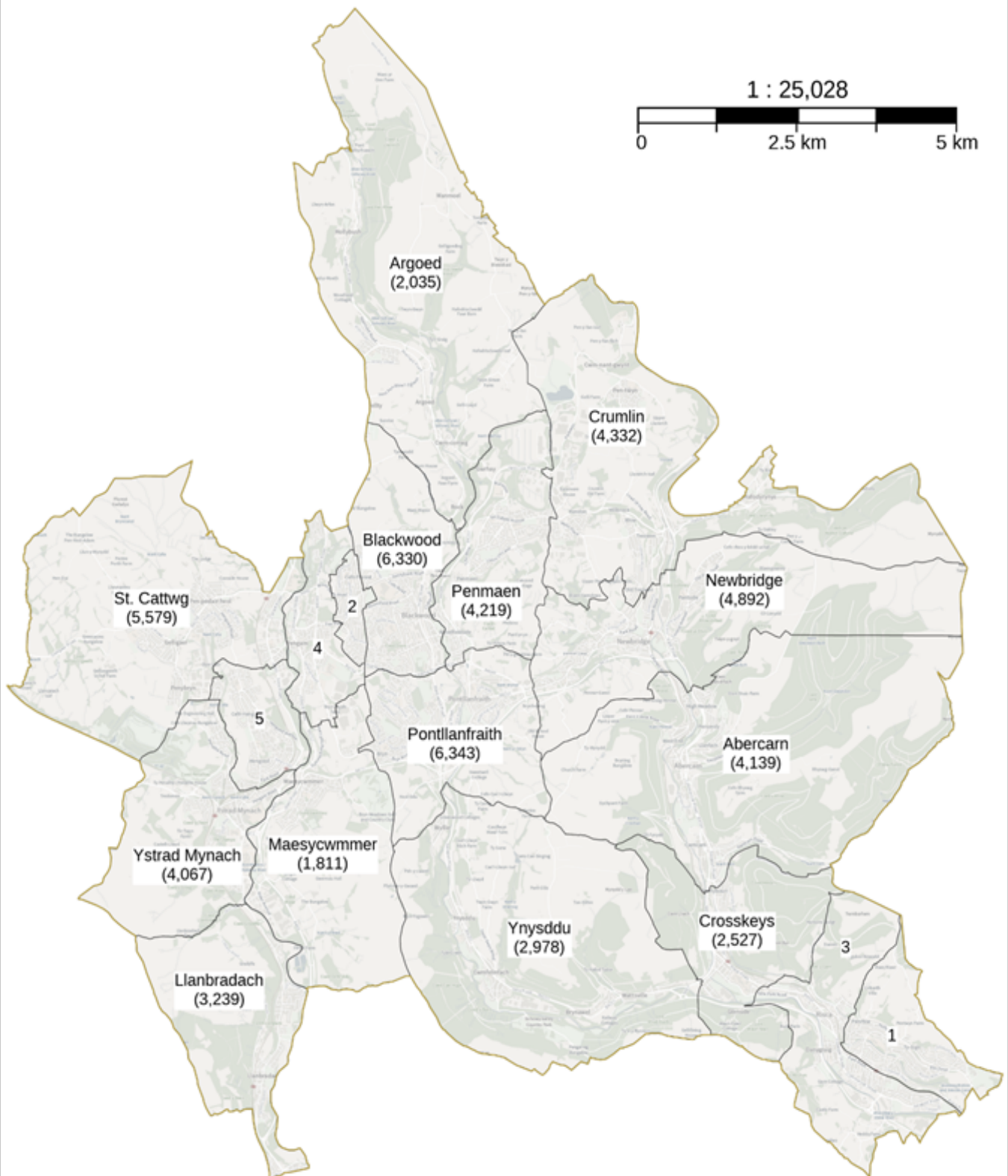
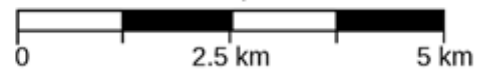
16.3 The existing Islwyn constituency is currently below the statutory requirements in respect of the size of the electorate. The Commission considered several options, and proposes to remove the Aberbargoed electoral ward and instead include this ward in the proposed Blaenau Gwent and Rhymney constituency, 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).

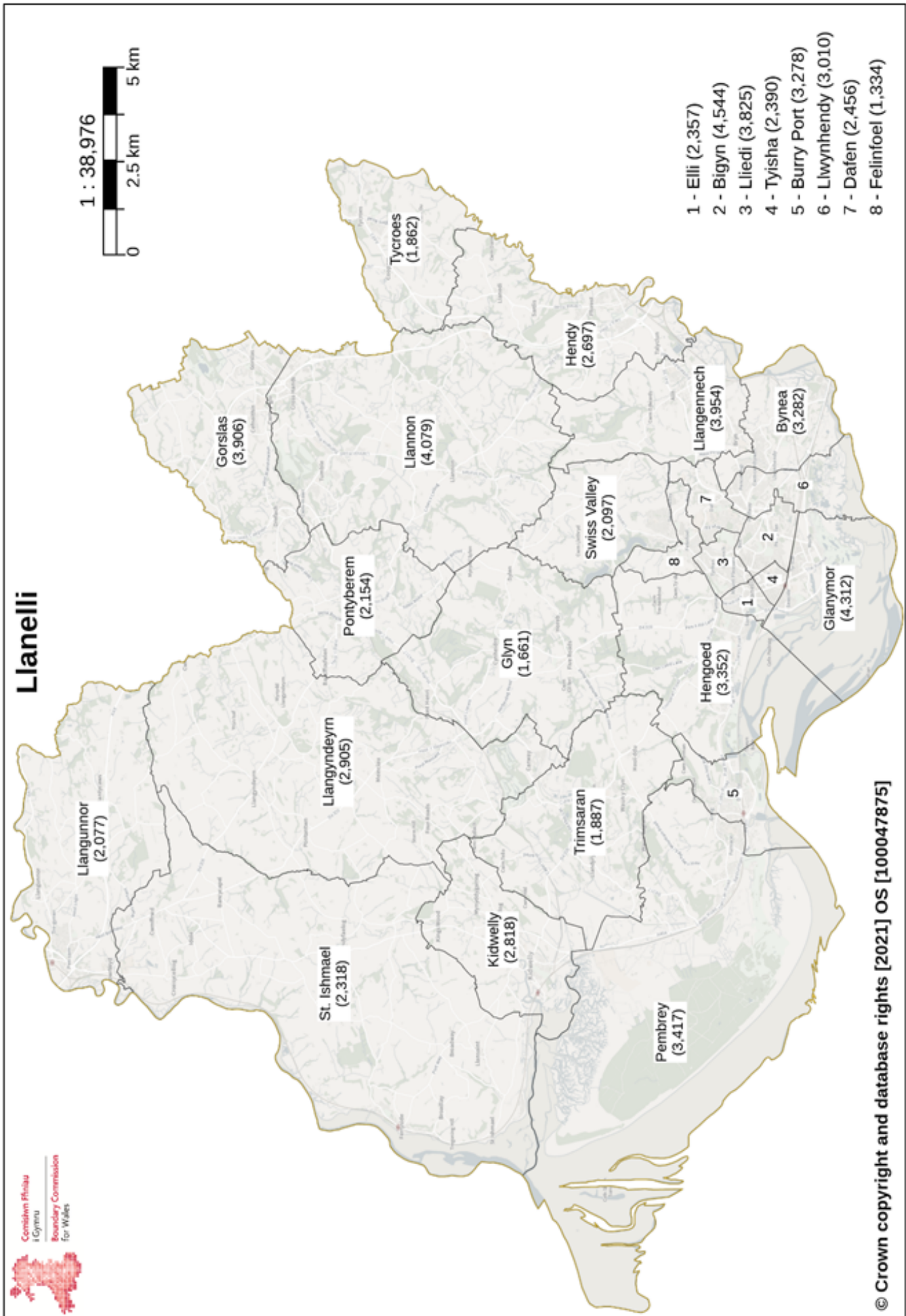
17.2 This constituency would have 71,972 electors, which is 1.9% below the UKEQ of 73,393 electors per constituency. The proposed single name for the constituency is **Llanelli**.

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

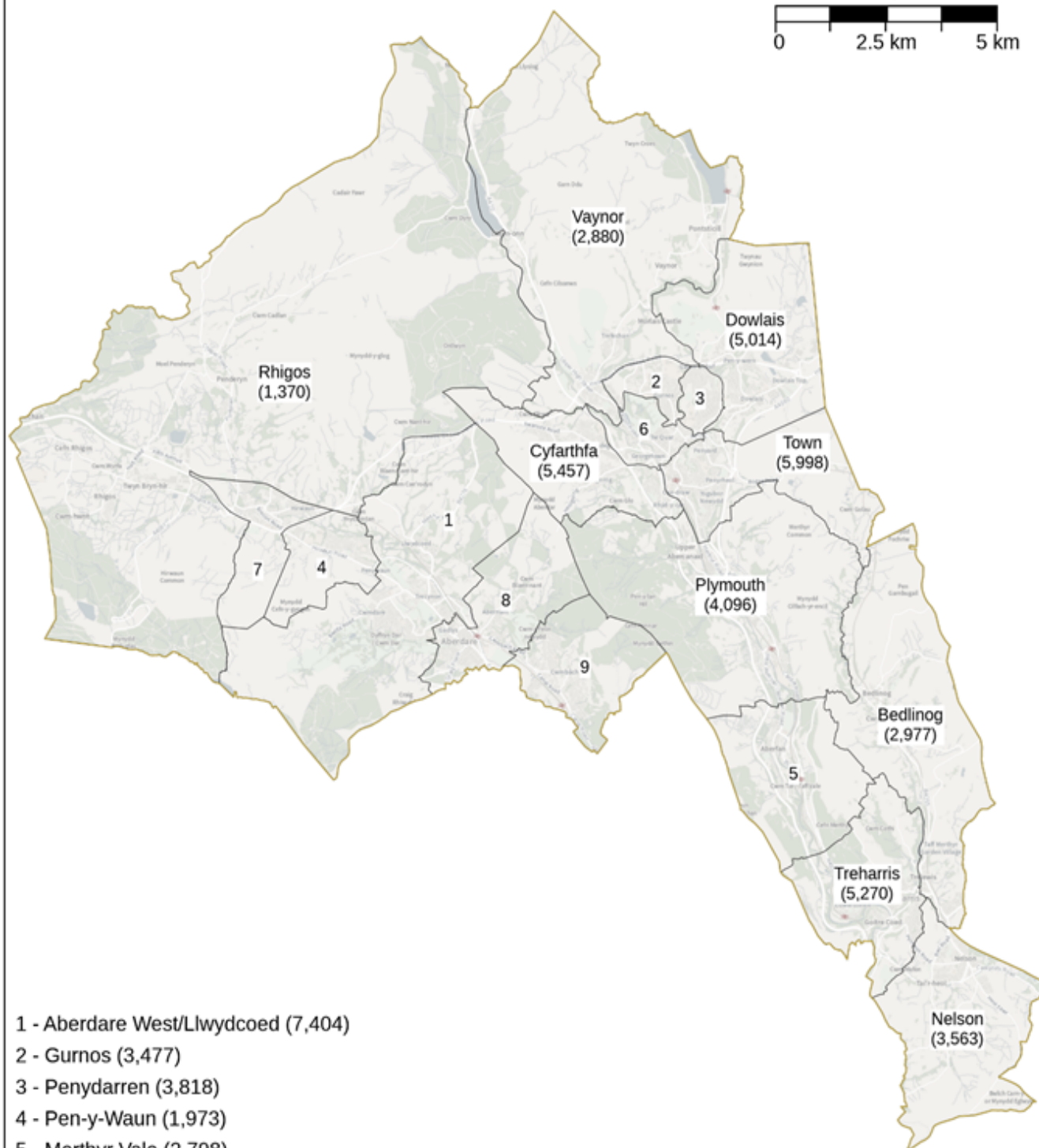
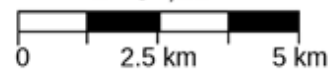
constituency. The Commission acknowledges that a constituency formed of these areas does not follow the geography of the valleys from north to south. However, there are good road links across the Heads of the Valleys, which maintain an accessible link throughout the area. To meet the statutory electorate 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**.

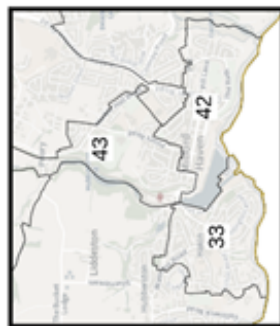
19.3 The existing constituencies of Preseli Pembrokeshire and Carmarthen West and South

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)



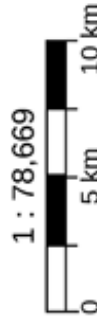
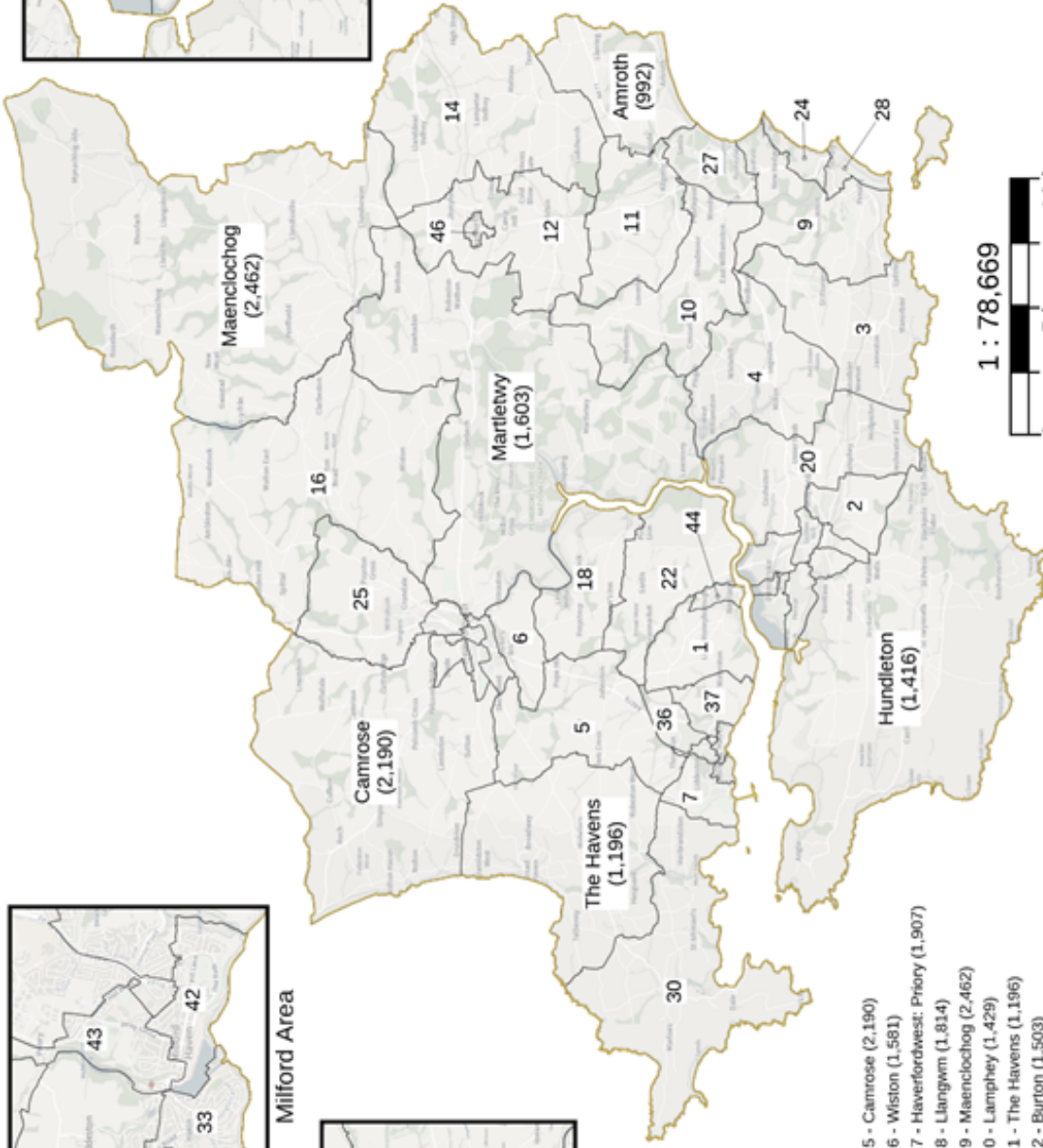
Milford Area



Pembroke Dock Area



Haverfordwest



- 1 - Neyland: West (1,590)
- 2 - Pembroke: St. Michael (2,082)
- 3 - Manorbier (1,655)
- 4 - Carew (1,179)
- 5 - Johnston (2,044)
- 6 - Merlin's Bridge (1,619)
- 7 - Milford: Hubberston (2,004)
- 8 - Martletwy (1,603)
- 9 - Penally (1,398)
- 10 - East Williamston (1,965)
- 11 - Kilgetty/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

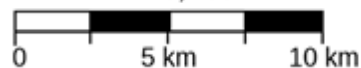
constituency.

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.

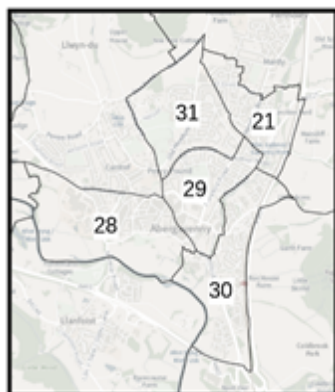
Monmouthshire (Sir Fynwy)

1 : 68,409

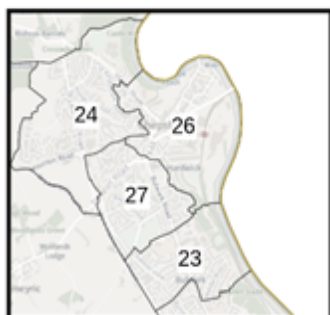


- 1 - Shirenewton (1,850)
- 2 - The Elms (2,523)
- 3 - Llanwenarth Ultra (1,128)
- 4 - Llanfoist Fawr (DET) (0)
- 5 - Llanfoist Fawr (1,971)
- 6 - Cantref (1,668)
- 7 - Wyesham (1,701)
- 8 - Dixon with Osbaston (1,968)

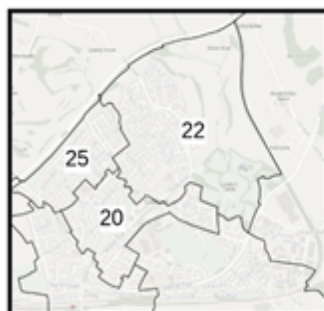
- 9 - St. Arvans (1,304)
- 10 - Llanelly Hill (3,286)
- 11 - Usk (1,930)
- 12 - Overmonnow (1,662)
- 13 - Caerwent (1,699)
- 14 - Drybridge (3,034)
- 15 - Rogiet (1,365)



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.

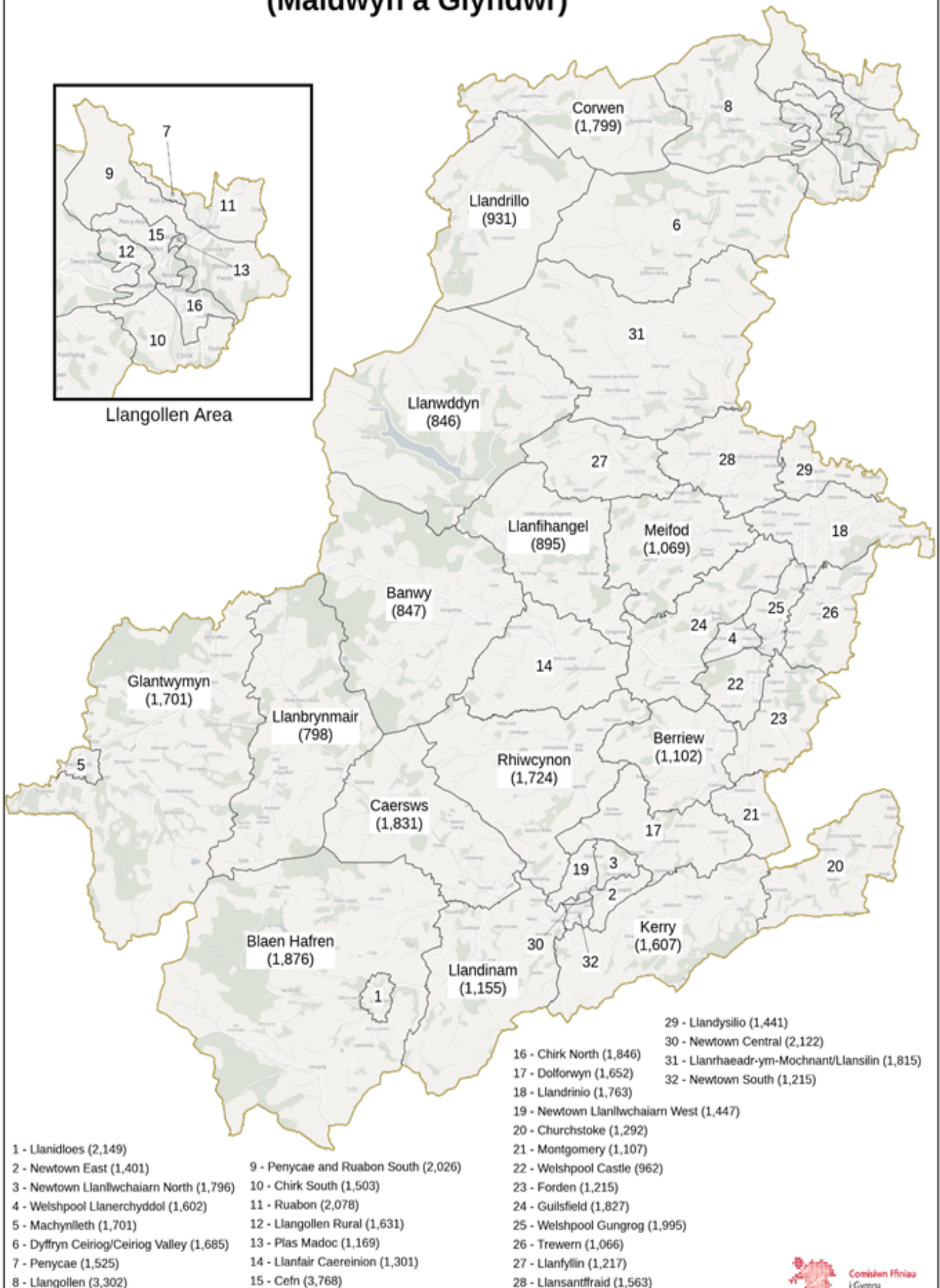
21.4 The proposed constituency includes the whole of the existing Montgomeryshire and part of the existing Clwyd South constituencies. The Commission considers that the proposed name represents the area, while acknowledging that the proposed constituency includes areas that are outside of the existing 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



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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**.

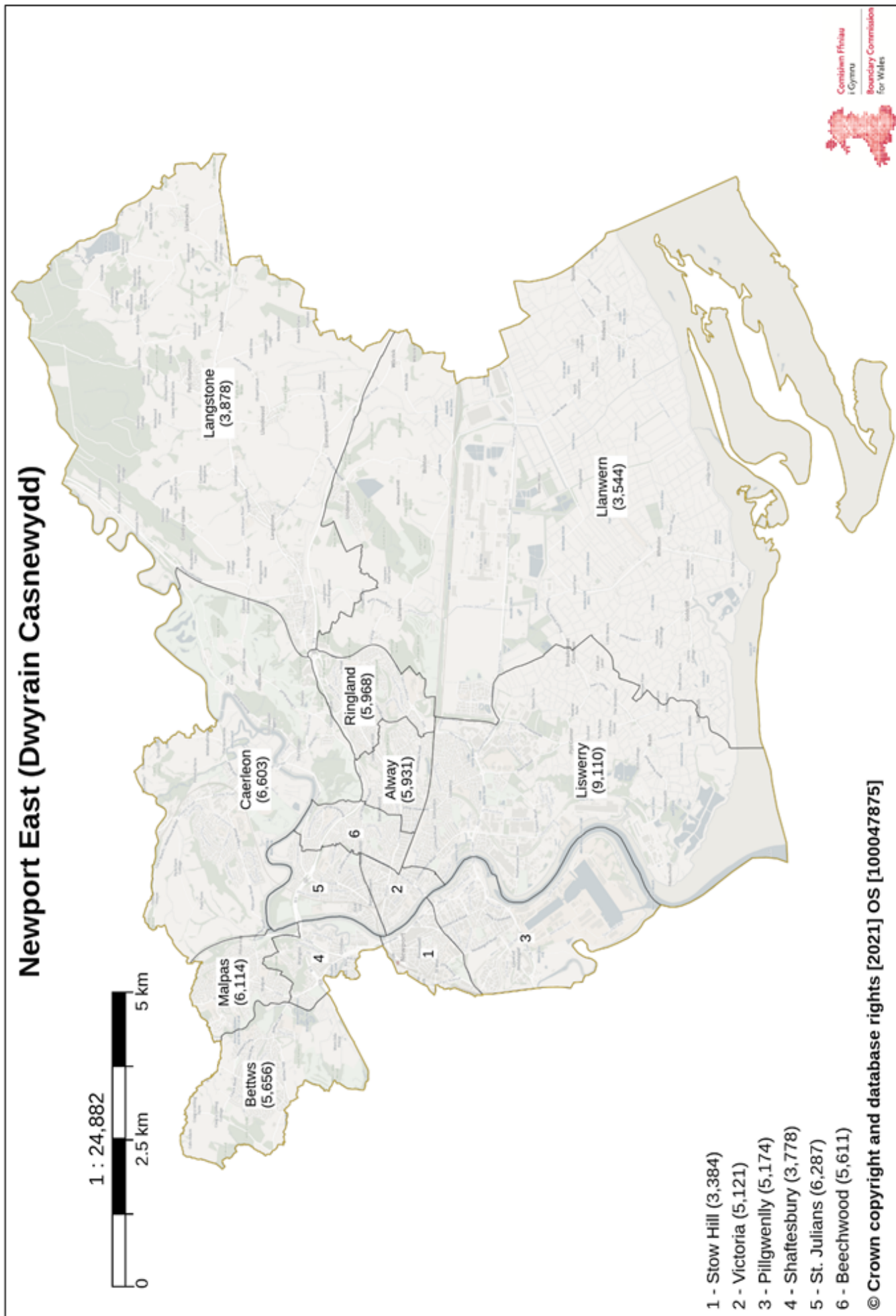
22.3 The existing Newport East constituency is currently below the statutory requirements in respect of the size of the electorate. The Commission considered several options, and decided to propose removing the electoral wards that are within the Monmouthshire principal council area and include those 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.



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**.

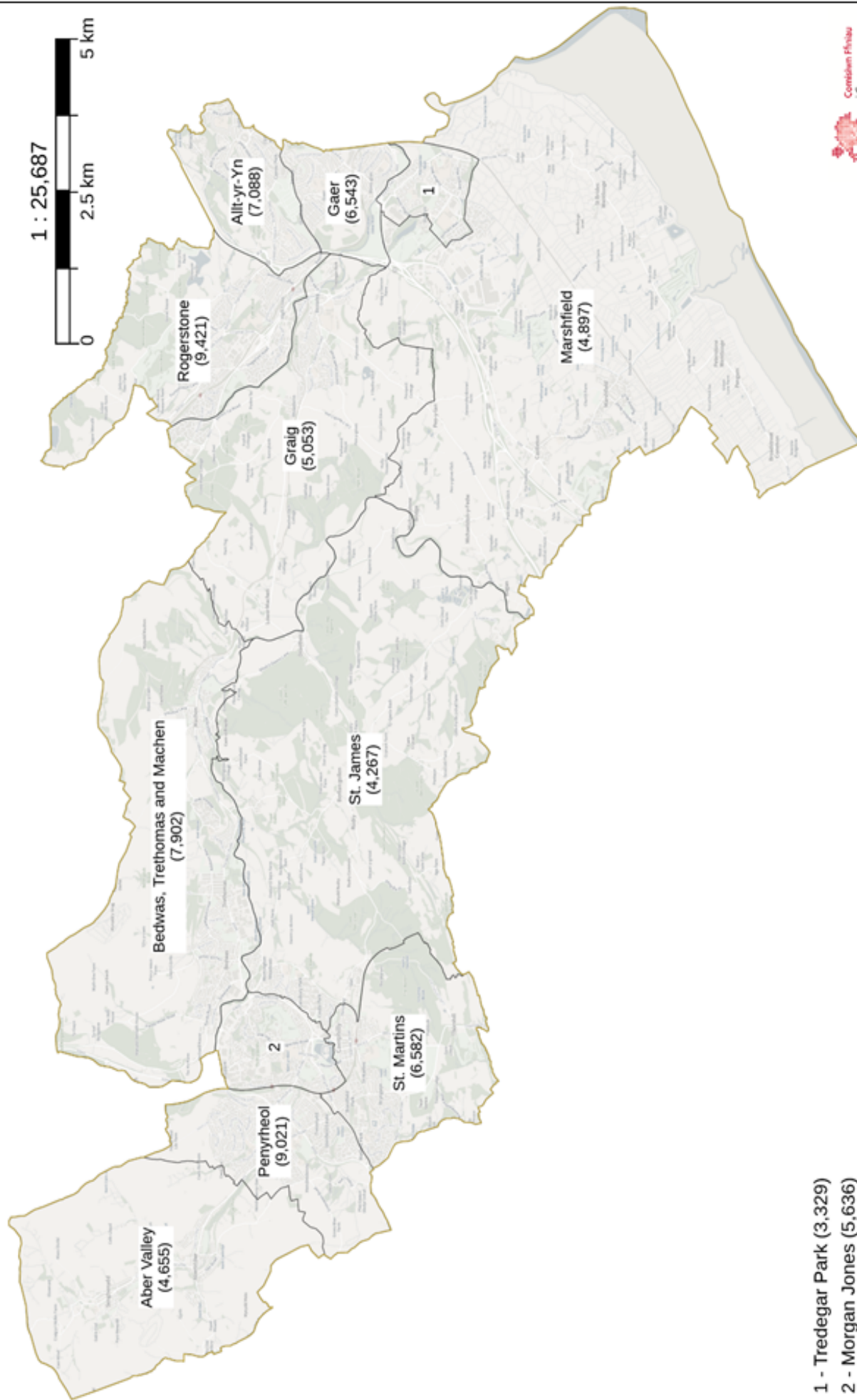
23.3 The existing Newport West and Caerphilly constituencies are currently below the statutory requirements in respect of the size of the electorate. The Commission considered several options, and proposes to combine electoral wards from both constituencies to reach the required electorate size. The 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 - Tredegar 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.

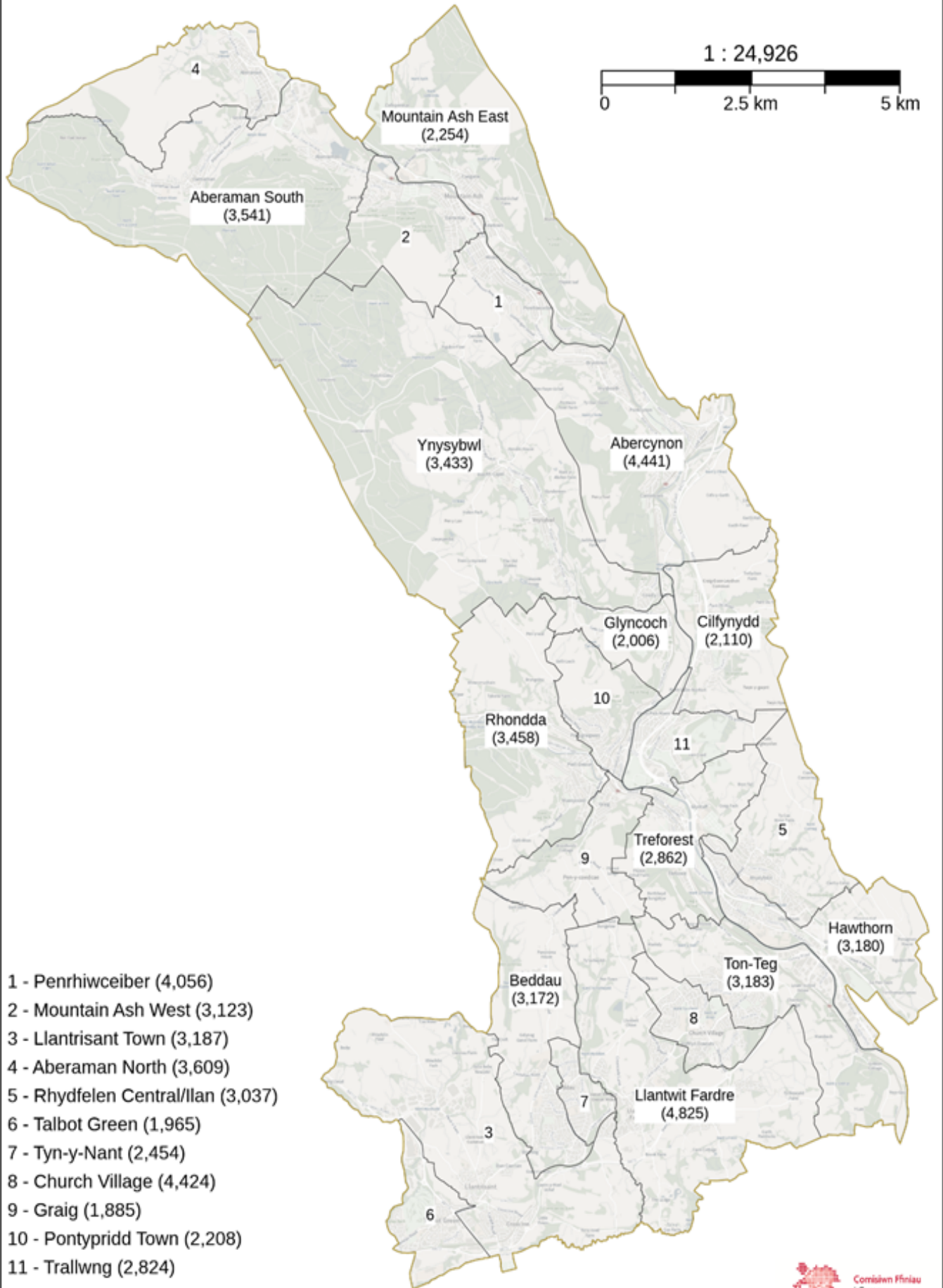
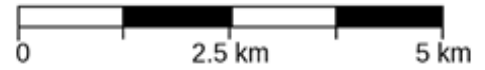
The Commission considers that combining electoral wards from the existing Pontypridd constituency and the existing Cynon Valley constituency in this way provides for an appropriate constituency that follows the valley roads from north to south.

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):

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).

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.

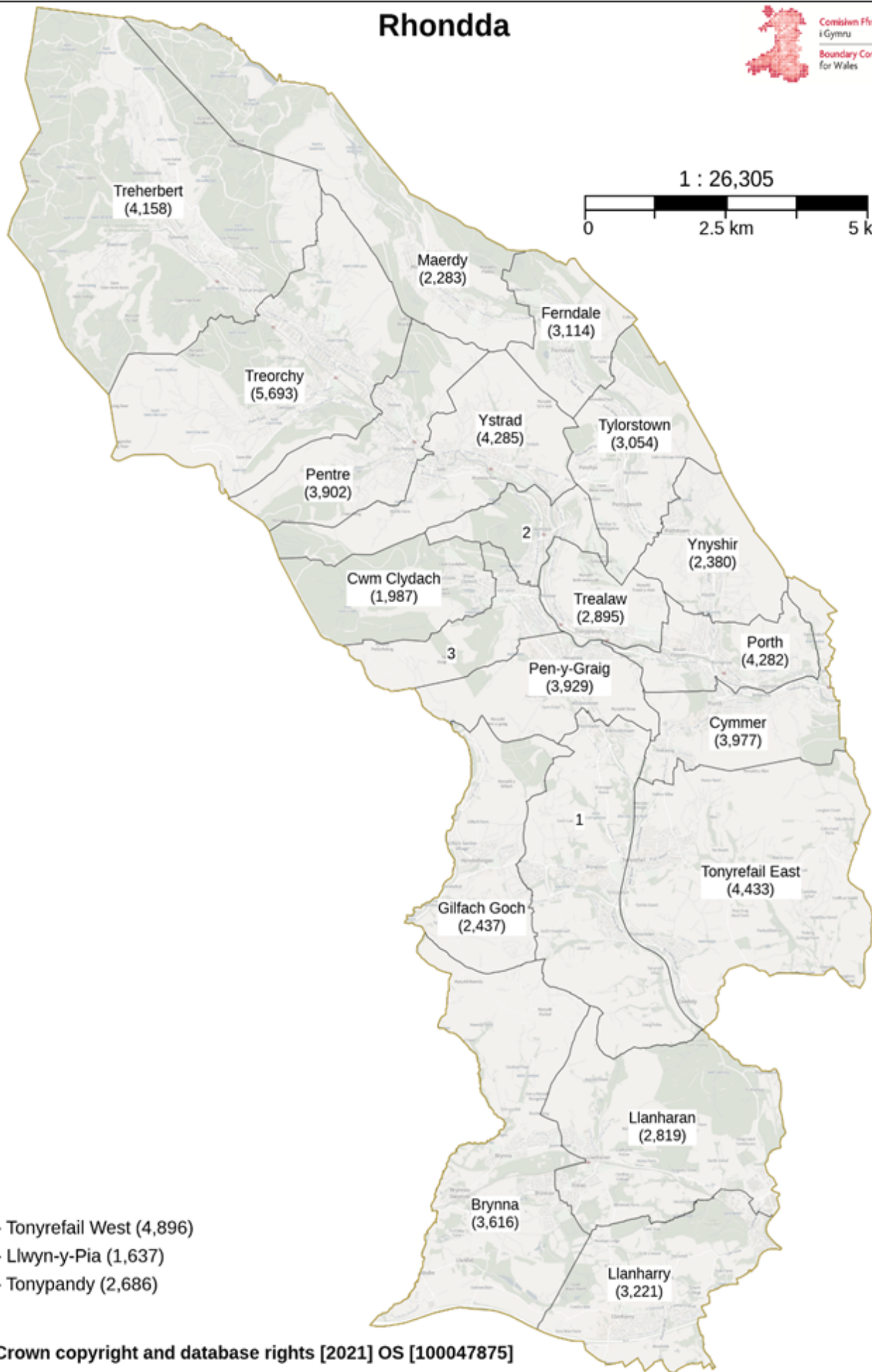
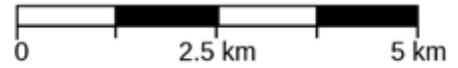
25.4 The proposed constituency includes electoral wards that are wholly within the County Borough of Rhondda Cynon Taf principal council area and includes the whole of the existing Rhondda constituency. The Commission proposes that the existing constituency name of Rhondda remain the single name for 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.

Rhonddda



1 : 26,305



- 1 - Tonyrefail West (4,896)
- 2 - Llwyn-y-Pia (1,637)
- 3 - Tonypandy (2,686)

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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**.

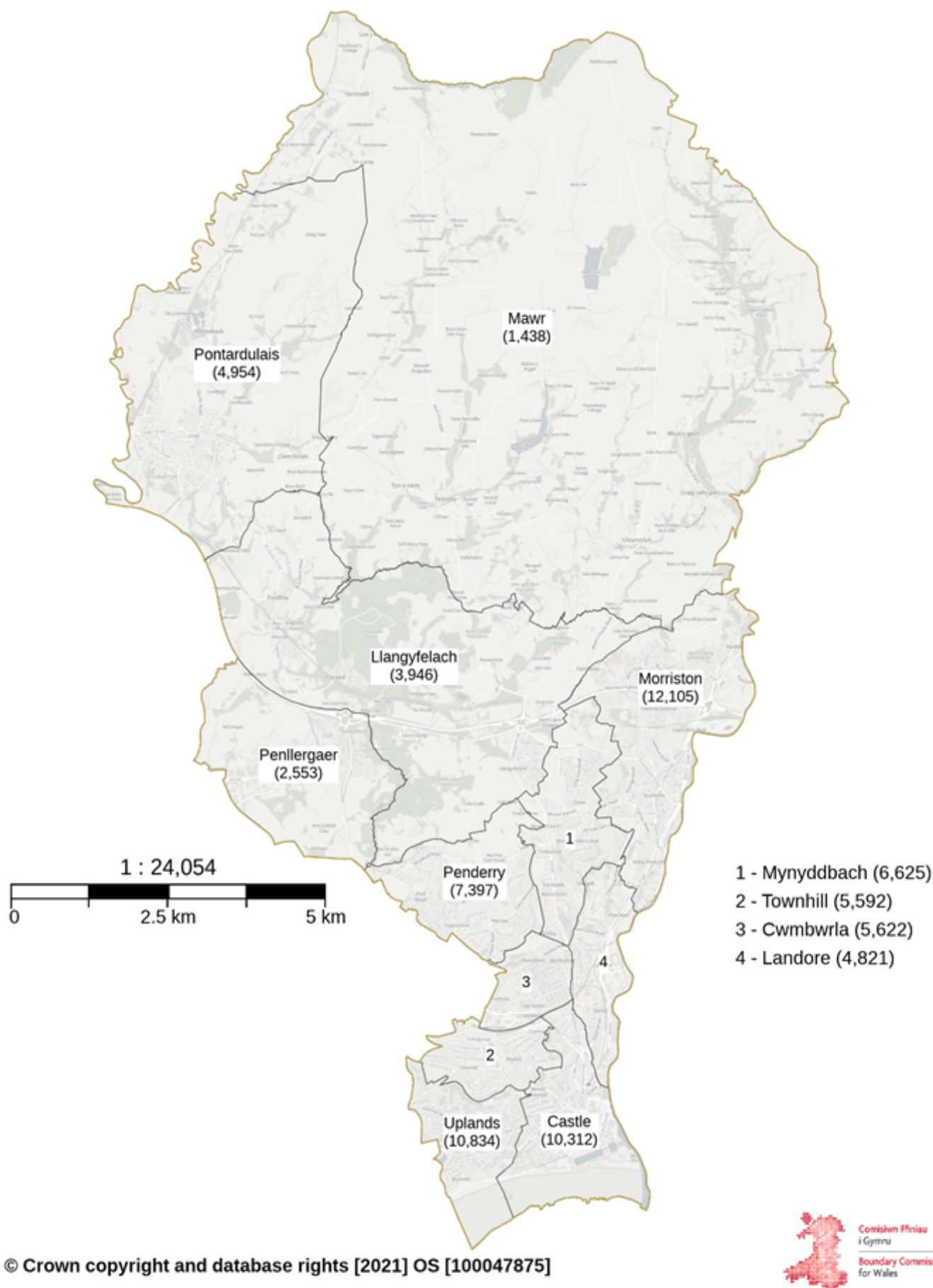
26.3 The existing Gower, Swansea East and Swansea West constituencies are currently below the statutory requirements in respect of the size of the electorate. The Commission considered several options, and proposes to combine the central and northern electoral wards within the principal council area 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)



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**.

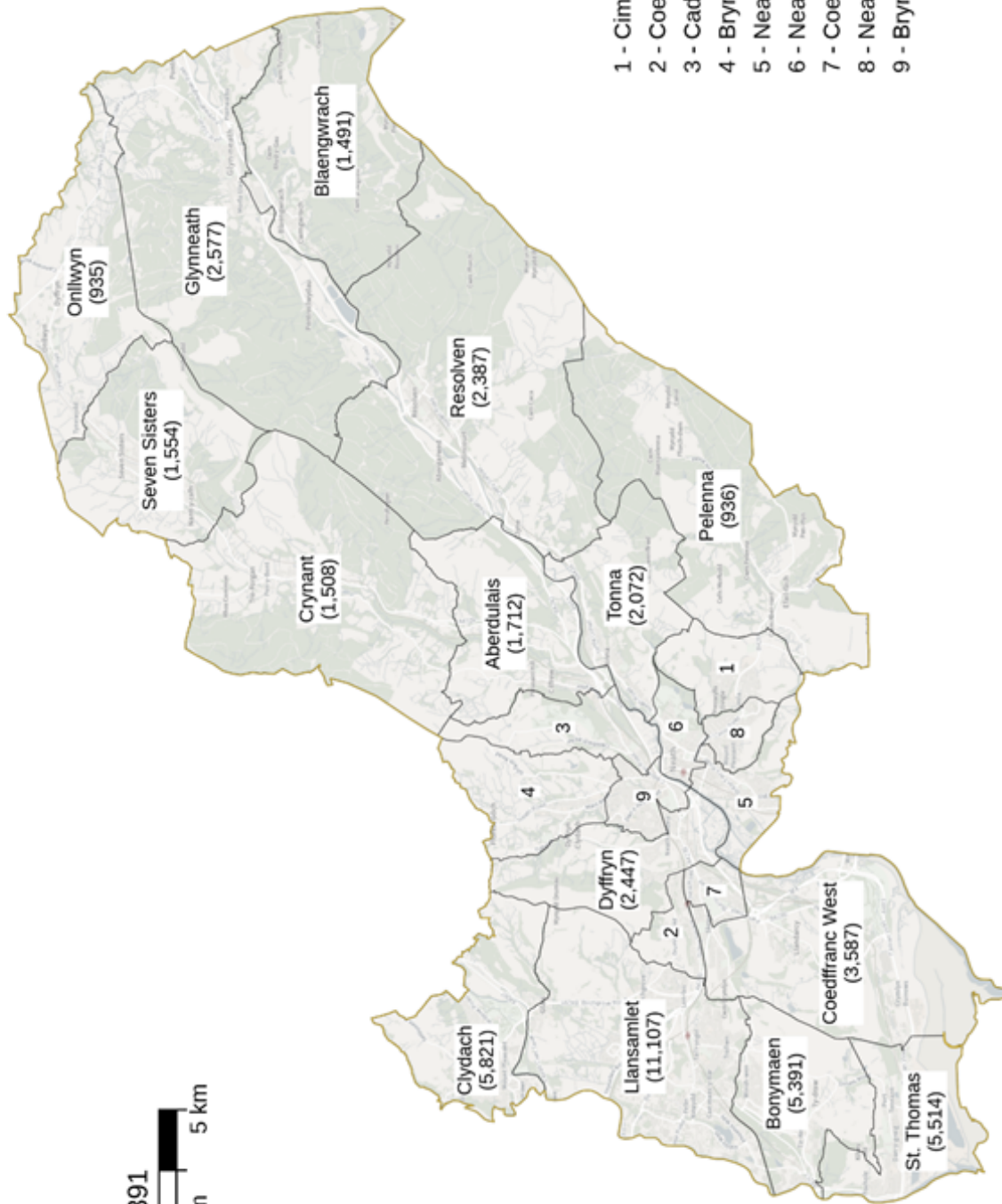
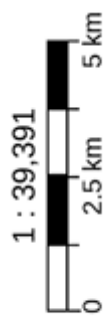
27.3 The existing Neath and Swansea East constituencies are currently below the statutory requirements in respect of the size of the electorate. The Commission considered several

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

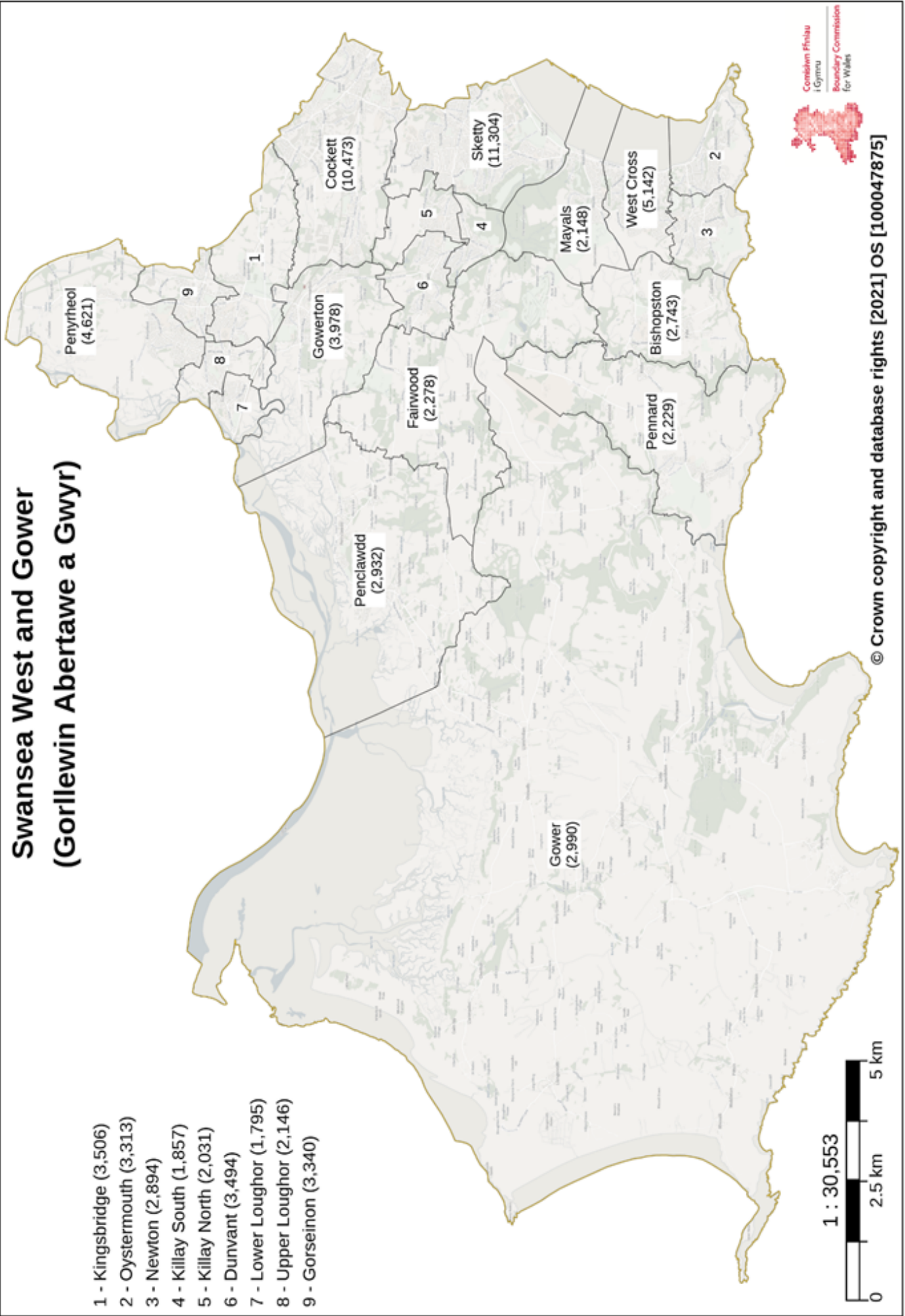
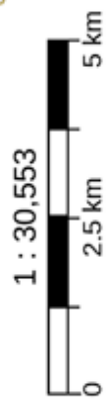
transport and communication links.

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)



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**.

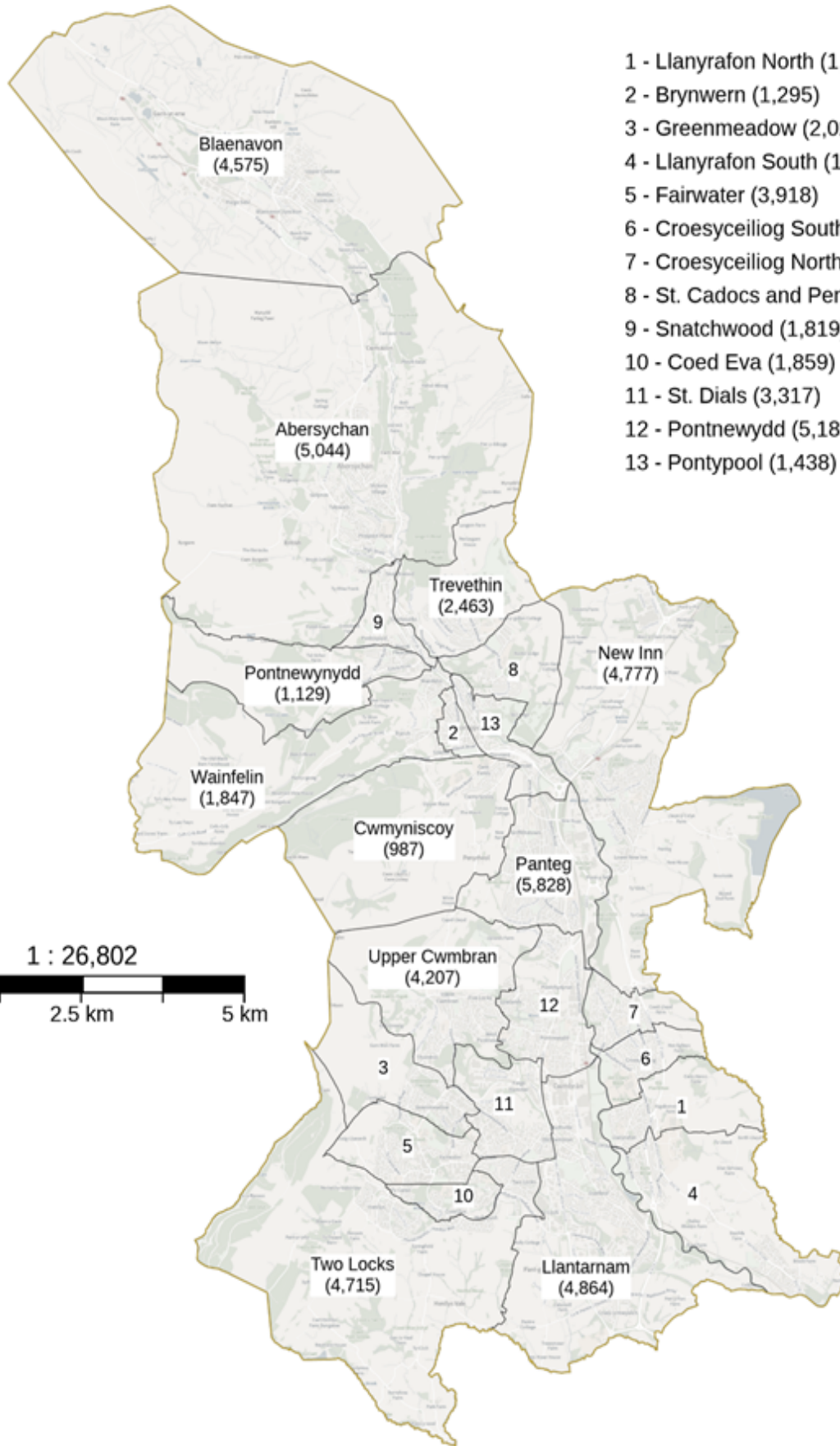
29.3 The Commission proposes to use the whole of the principal council area of Torfaen to create a constituency. This proposed constituency falls within the statutory electorate range.

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

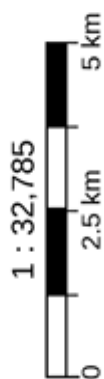


30. Vale of Glamorgan (Bro Morgannwg)

- 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)



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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**.

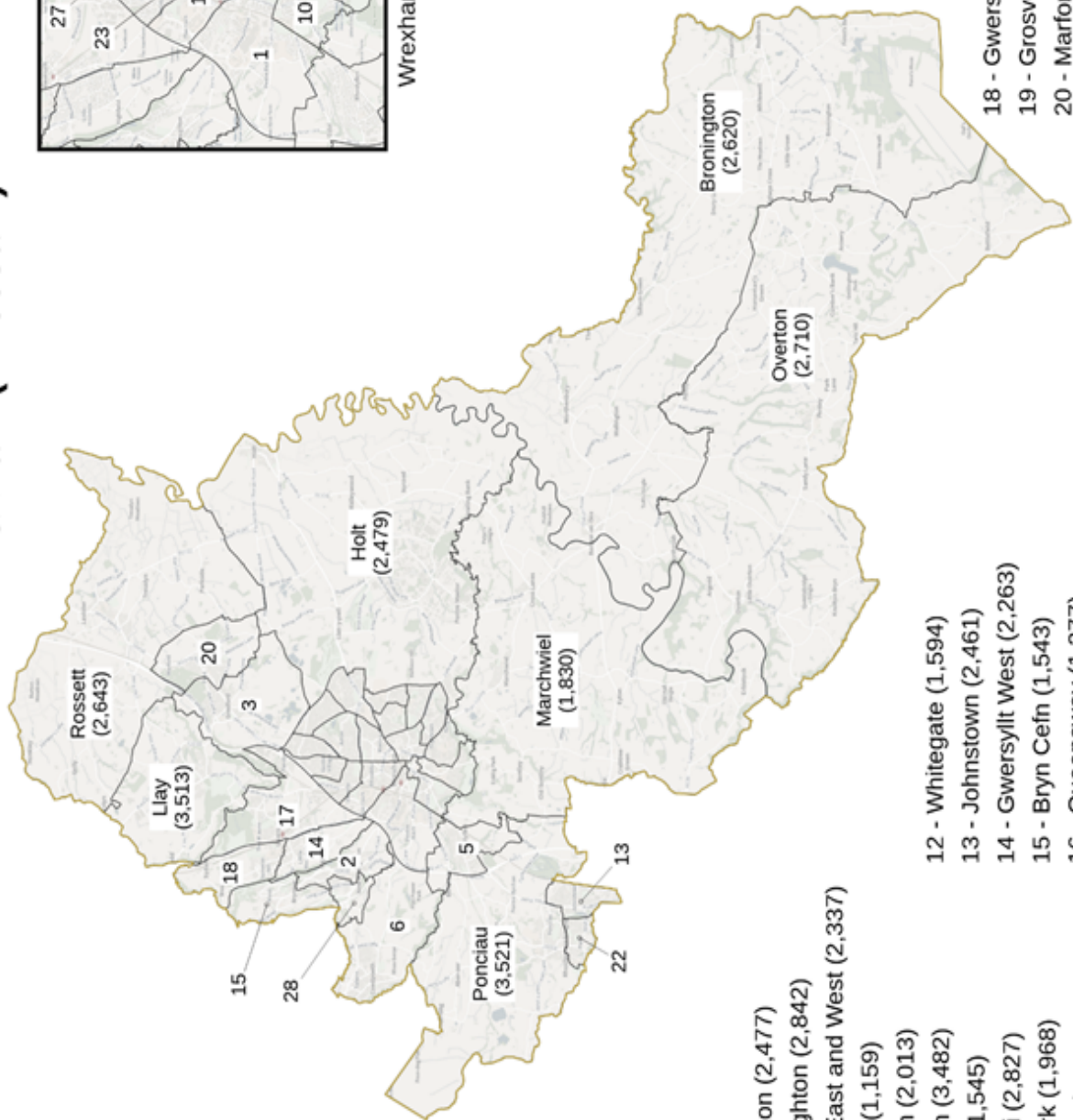
31.3 The existing Wrexham constituency is currently below the statutory requirements in respect of the size of the electorate. The Commission considered several options, and proposes to combine the electoral wards making up the existing Wrexham constituency with surrounding areas, to include electoral 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 (Wrecsam)



- 1 - Brynffynnon (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 - Borras Park (1,968)
- 10 - Offa (1,428)
- 11 - Smithfield (1,376)

- 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)

- 23 - Stansby (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)

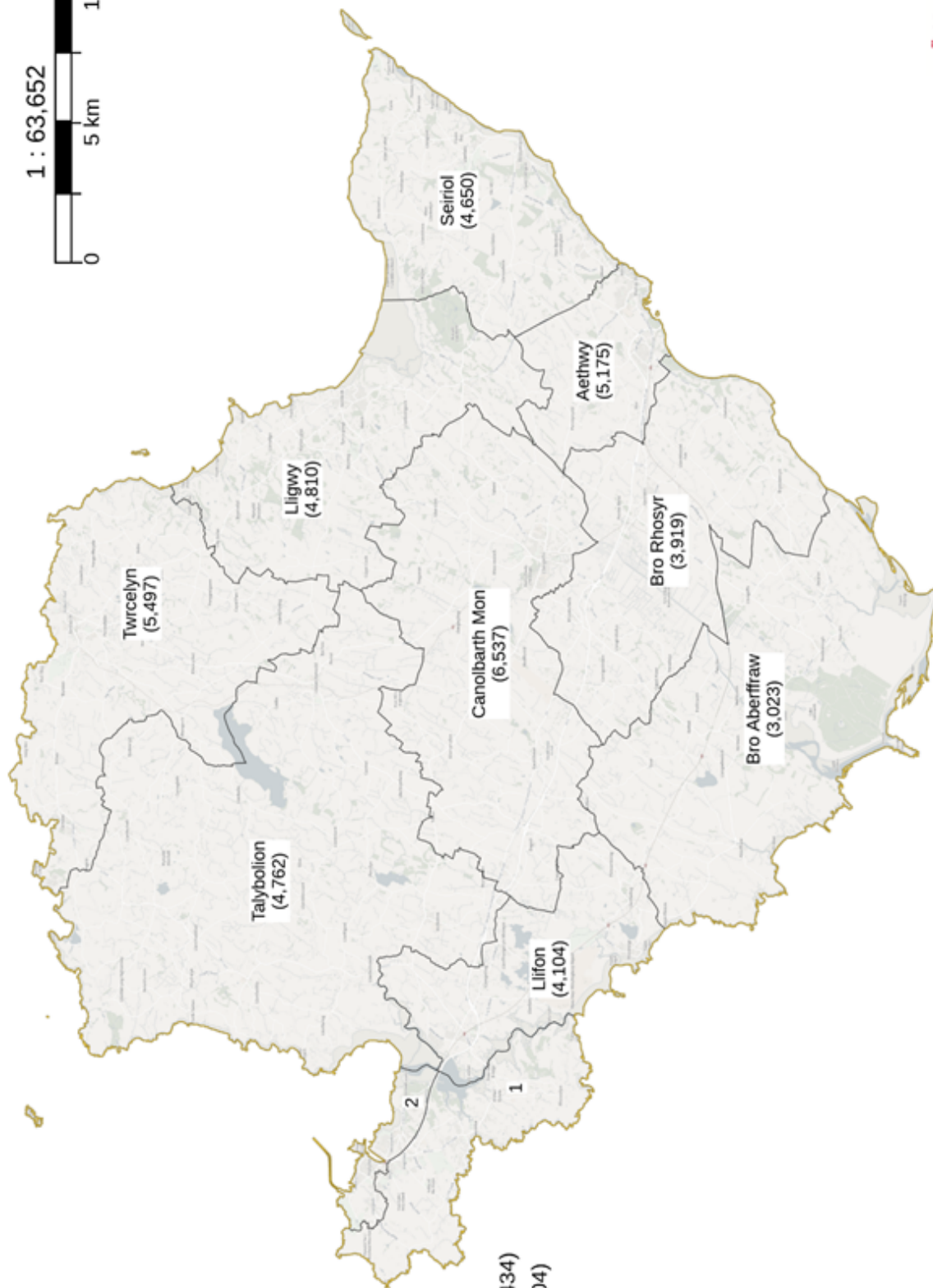
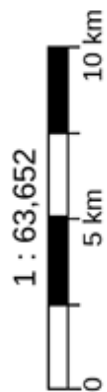


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32. Ynys Môn

- 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



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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 and on the Commission's consultation portal at: 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
 - by email: 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

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

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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

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Telephone: 029 2046 4819

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Email: bcw@boundaries.wales

Website: 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	Wreccsam	75,596	3.0%
Ynys Môn		52,415	-28.6%

Appendix 2:

Index of existing constituencies

Existing constituency	Page number
Aberavon	17, 93
Aberconwy	20
Alyn and Deeside	23
Arfon	20, 57
Blaenau Gwent	26
Brecon and Radnorshire	29
Bridgend	17, 32
Caerphilly	26, 60, 66, 81
Cardiff Central	38
Cardiff North	41
Cardiff South and Penarth	38, 43
Cardiff West	46
Carmarthen East and Dinefwr	35, 63
Carmarthen West and South Pembrokeshire	35, 69
Ceredigion	48
Clwyd South	23, 75, 105
Clwyd West	20, 51, 54
Cynon Valley	66, 84
Delyn	23, 54
Dwyfor Meirionnydd	57

Existing constituency	Page number
Gower	90, 93, 96
Islwyn	26, 60
Llanelli	63
Merthyr Tydfil and Rhymney	26, 66
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Neath	29, 93
Newport East	72, 78
Newport West	78, 81
Ogmore	32, 87
Pontypridd	41, 46, 84, 87
Preseli Pembrokeshire	48, 69
Rhondda	87
Swansea East	90, 93
Swansea West	90, 96
Torfaen	99
Vale of Clwyd	51, 54
Vale of Glamorgan	43, 102
Wrexham	105
Ynys Môn	108

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 Ffiniau
i Gymru**

**Boundary Commission
for Wales**

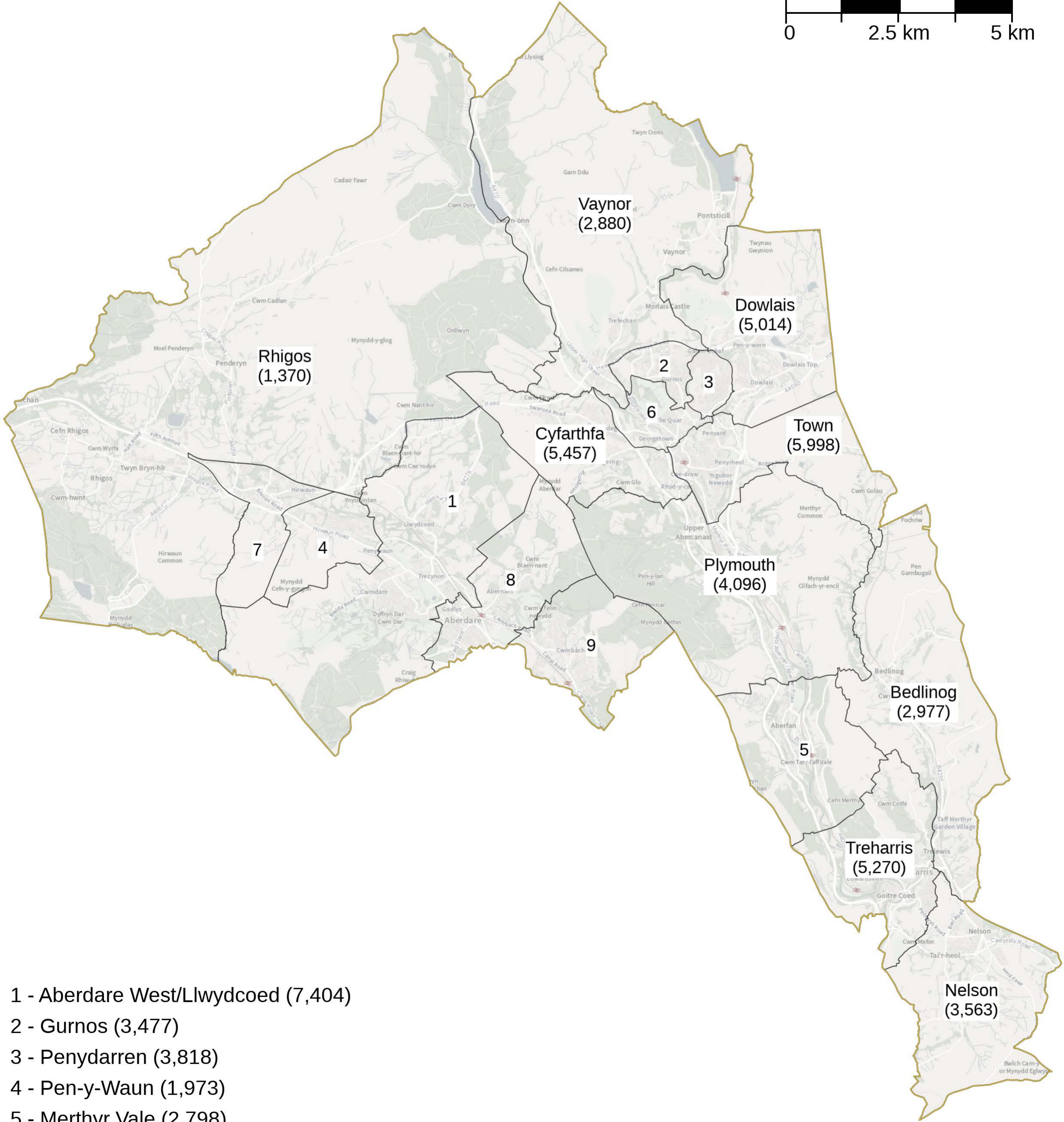
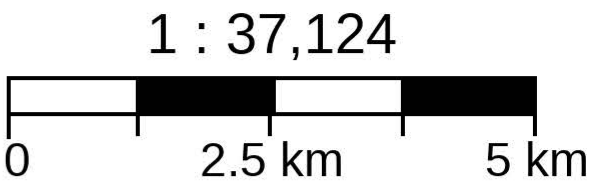
The Commission welcomes correspondence, e-mails and telephone calls either in English or Welsh.
To contact the Commission, please write to:

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Ground Floor, Hastings House, Fitzalan Court
Cardiff, CF24 0BL

Telephone: +44 (0)29 20464819
Telephone: +44 (0)29 21055521
E-mail: bcw@boundaries.wales

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Merthyr Tydfil and Aberdare (Merthyr Tudful ac Aberdâr)



- 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)

Pontypridd

1 : 24,926



Mountain Ash East
(2,254)

Aberaman South
(3,541)

Ynysybwl
(3,433)

Abercynon
(4,441)

Glyncoch
(2,006)

Cilfynydd
(2,110)

Rhondda
(3,458)

Treforest
(2,862)

Hawthorn
(3,180)

Beddau
(3,172)

Ton-Teg
(3,183)

Llantwit Fardre
(4,825)

- 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)



Rhonddda



1 : 26,305



Treherbert
(4,158)

Maerdy
(2,283)

Ferndale
(3,114)

Treorchy
(5,693)

Ystrad
(4,285)

Tylorstown
(3,054)

Pentre
(3,902)

Cwm Clydach
(1,987)

Trealaw
(2,895)

Ynyshir
(2,380)

Porth
(4,282)

Pen-y-Graig
(3,929)

Cymmer
(3,977)

Tonyrefail East
(4,433)

Gilfach Goch
(2,437)

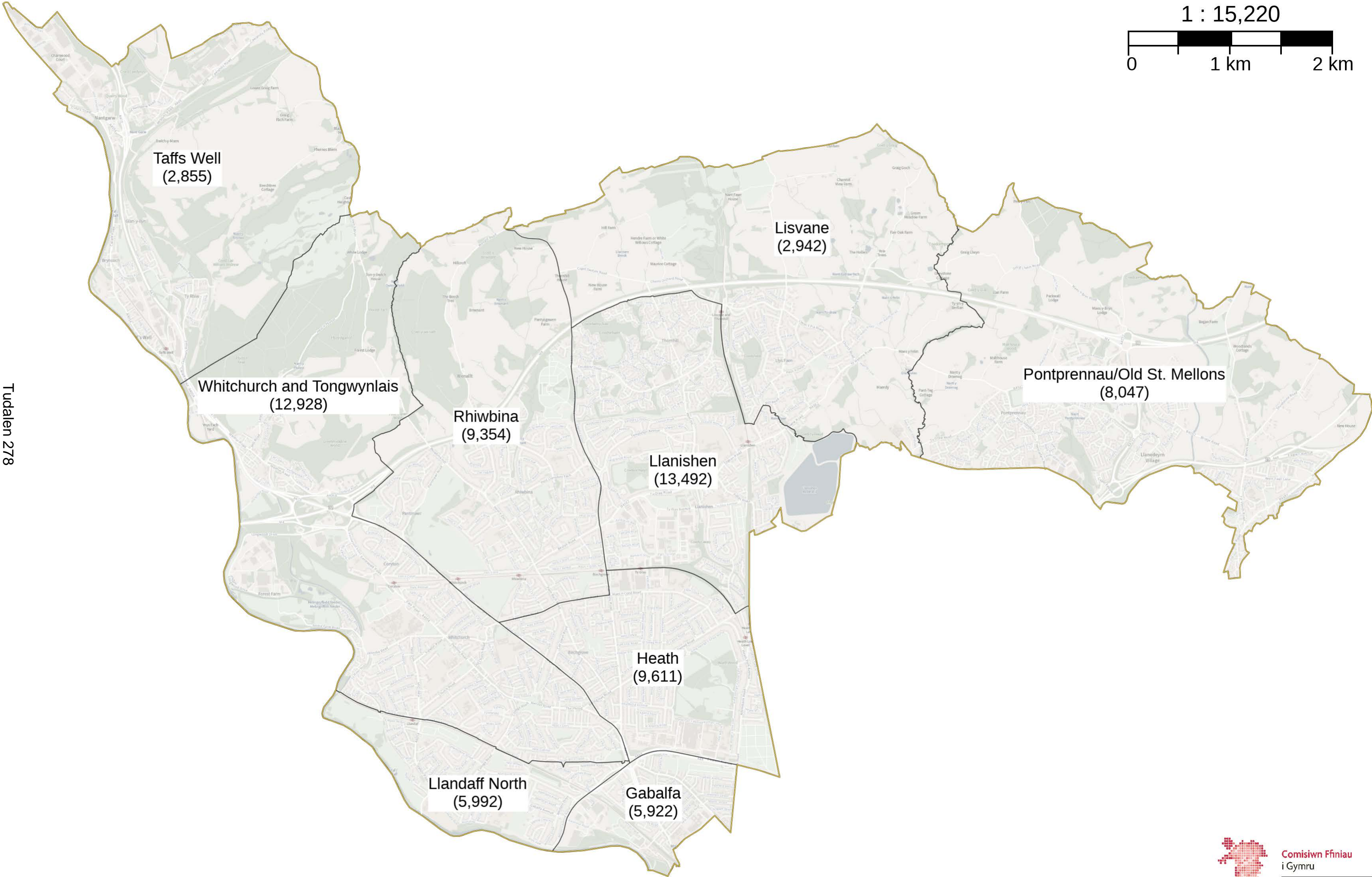
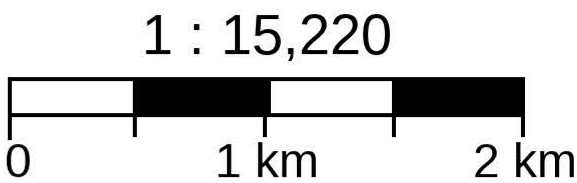
Llanharan
(2,819)

Brynna
(3,616)

Llanharry
(3,221)

- 1 - Tonyrefail West (4,896)
- 2 - Llwyn-y-Pia (1,637)
- 3 - Tonypandy (2,686)

Cardiff North (Gogledd Caerdydd)



Tudalen 278

Cardiff West (Gorllewin Caerdydd)

1 : 18,253



Tudalen 279

Pont-y-Clun
(6,061)

Pentyrch
(2,819)

Radyr
(5,425)

Creigiau/St. Fagans
(4,409)

Fairwater
(9,642)

Llandaff
(7,078)

Ely
(9,576)

Caerau
(7,859)

Canton
(11,457)

Riverside
(9,621)



Comisiwn Ffiniau
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Boundary Commission
for Wales 2023 Review of
Parliamentary Constituencies

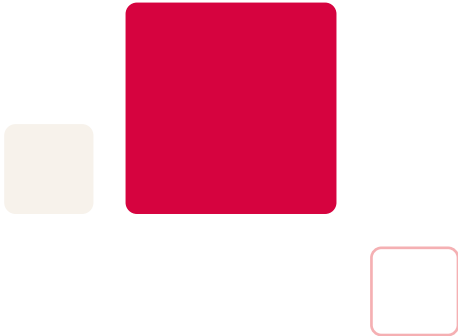
Guide to the 2023 Review

This document is available in Welsh
The Commission welcomes correspondence
and telephone calls in Welsh or English.

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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:

Chair	The Speaker of the House of Commons
Deputy Chair	Mrs Justice Jefford DBE
Commissioners	Sam A Hartley
	Huw Vaughan Thomas CBE
Secretary	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

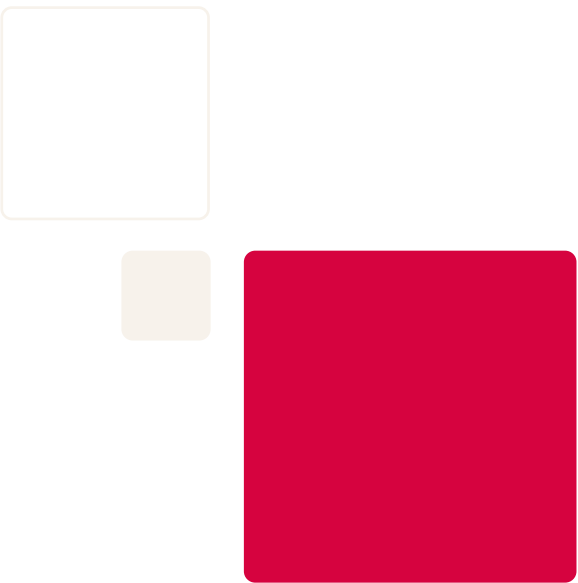
We hope this guide will clarify our processes and policies. We also hope that it will encourage those who may be thinking of making their views known to do so in a well-informed and effective manner. However, we recognise that individuals may wish to ask questions and we would ask that these be addressed to us at:

The Boundary Commission for Wales	Telephone:	029 2046 4819
Hastings House	Fax:	029 2046 4823
Fitzalan Court	Email:	bcw@boundaries.wales
Cardiff	Website:	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.



Chapter 2:

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.

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).

Chapter 3:

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.
- 3.5
- Special geographical considerations**
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.
- 3.6
- Local government boundaries and local ties**
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: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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	TThe 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.

Appendix B:

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 – (a) no less than 95% of the United Kingdom electoral quota, and (b) 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 – (a) it has an area of more than 12,000 square kilometres, and (b) 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 – (a) special geographical considerations, including in particular the size, shape and accessibility of a constituency, (b) local government boundaries that exist, or are prospective, on the review date, (c) boundaries of existing constituencies, (d) any local ties that would be broken by changes in constituencies, and (e) 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) a constituency named Orkney and Shetland, comprising the areas of the Orkney Islands Council and the Shetland Islands Council, (b) a constituency named Na h-Eileanan an Iar, comprising the area of Comhairle nan Eilean Siar. and (c) 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– (a) 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), (b) 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 (c) 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 – (a) any power under that section to prescribe a later date, or (b) 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 –
- (a) in England, the boundaries of counties and their electoral divisions, districts and their wards, London boroughs and their wards and the City of London,
 - (b) in Wales, the boundaries of counties, county boroughs, electoral divisions, communities and community wards,
 - (c) 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
 - (d) in Northern Ireland, the boundaries of wards.
- (3A) A local government boundary is ‘prospective’ on a particular date if, on that date –
- (a) it is specified in a provision of primary or secondary legislation, but
 - (b) that provision is not yet in force for all purposes.
- (3B) For that purpose –
- (a) ‘primary legislation’ means –
 - (i) an Act of Parliament,
 - (ii) an Act of the Scottish Parliament,
 - (iii) an Act of Senedd Cymru, or
 - (iv) Northern Ireland legislation, and
 - (b) ‘secondary legislation’ means an instrument made under primary legislation.
- (4) ‘Ordinary council-election day’ is –
- (a) in relation to England and Wales, the ordinary day of election of councillors for local government areas,
 - (b) in relation to Scotland, the day on which the poll is held at ordinary elections of councillors for local government areas, and
 - (c) 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 –
- (a) 1 December 2020 in the case of a report required to be submitted before 1 July 2023, and
 - (b) 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.

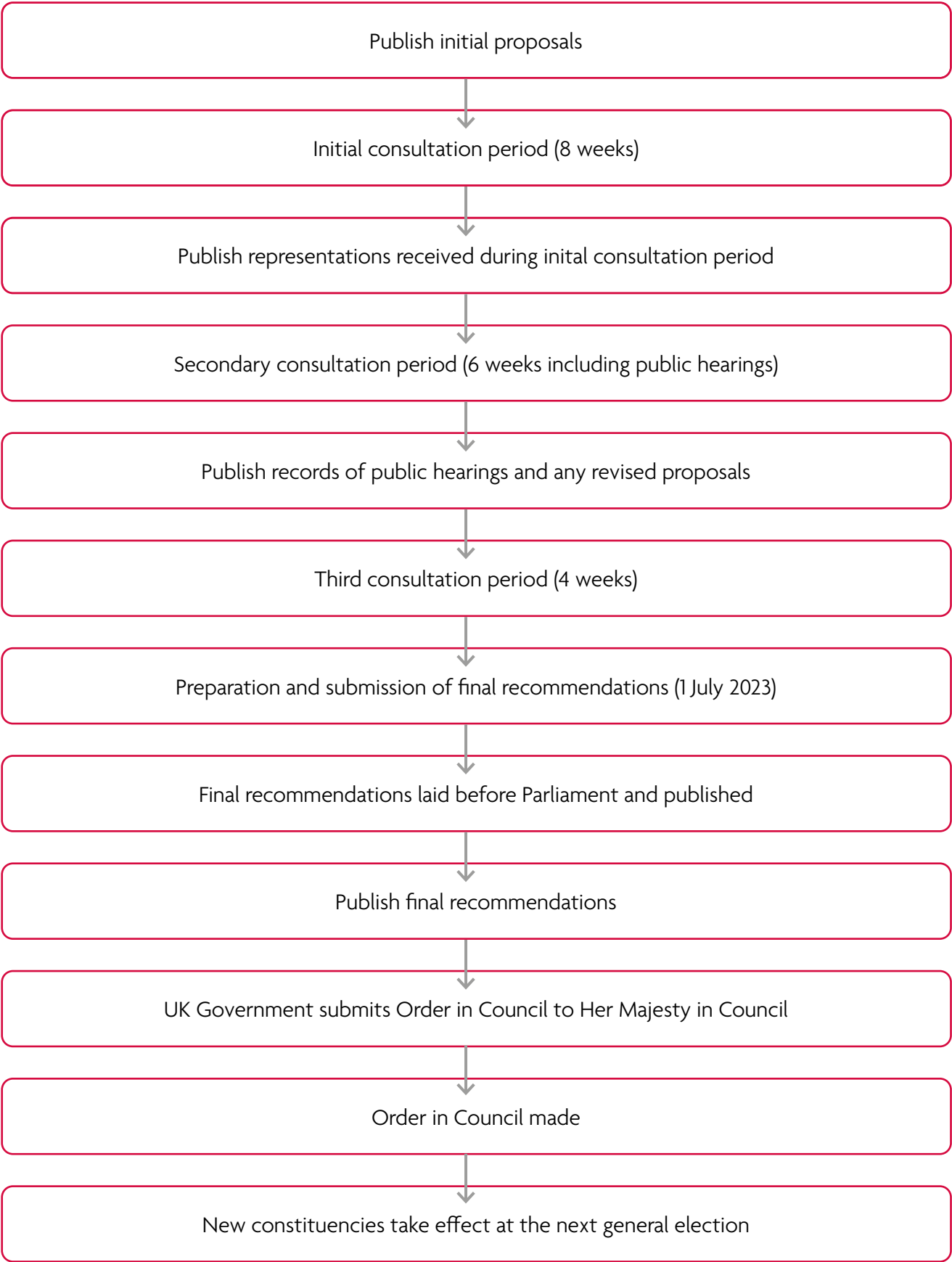
Appendix C:

Glossary and abbreviations

The Act	The Parliamentary Constituencies Act 1986 (as amended).
Assessor	Statutorily appointed technical adviser to the Commission, being either the Statistics Board or the Director General of the Ordnance Survey.
Assistant Commissioner	Person appointed by the UK Government at the request of the Commission to assist the Commission in the discharge of its functions.
Borough constituency – Abbreviated to BC	Parliamentary constituency containing a predominantly urban area.
Community (areas and wards)	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.
County constituency – Abbreviated to CC	Parliamentary constituency containing a significant rural element.
Designation	Classification as either a borough constituency or as a county constituency.
Electoral quota	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).
Electoral ward	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.
Electorate	The number of registered parliamentary electors in a given area.
Final recommendations	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.
Initial consultation period	A designated period of 8 weeks within which individuals and organisations may make written representations to the Commission in relation to its initial proposals.
Initial proposals	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 Ffiniau
i Gymru

Boundary Commission
for Wales

The Commission welcomes correspondence, e-mails and telephone calls either in English or Welsh.

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RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

COUNCIL

20th OCTOBER 2021

REVIEW OF REGULATION, AWARENESS AND ENFORCEMENT OF FLOOD AND WATER LEGISLATION.

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR of FRONTLINE SERVICES

AUTHOR(s): Andrew Stone, Head of Flood Risk Management and Strategic Projects

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to detail the review of the regulation, awareness and enforcement of flood and water legislation within the Council following Storm Dennis.
- 1.2 The Report will further advise members in respect of the implementation of an enhanced Flood Awareness and Enforcement team following agreement by Cabinet and proposed increased regulation via the enactment of Land Drainage Byelaws under Section 66 of the Land Drainage Act 1991.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 It is recommended that Council:
 - 2.1.1 Notes the recommendations that were approved by Cabinet at its meeting held on the [21st September 2021](#) and as set out at 4.1.2 of the report;
 - 2.1.2 Note that a Members' briefing session in respect of the proposed adoption of Model Byelaws under the Land Drainage Act 1991 was held on the 28th September 2021, to which all Members were invited; and
 - 2.1.3 Authorises Officers to commence the process of formally adopting the Model Land Drainage Byelaws as attached at Appendix 1 to the report (and as recommended by Cabinet at its meeting on 21st September 2021) in accordance with the Local Government Byelaws (Wales) Act 2012.

3. **REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

3.1 Flooding remains a key threat to communities across Wales and managing this risk is important to minimise the risk to communities. The consequences of flooding can include loss of life, damage to the economy, social implications and environmental damage. Climate change is predicted to increase the frequency and the intensity of flooding, increasing the risk in RCT and across the UK. Though flooding is an inevitable natural process, through careful management the probability of flooding along with its impact can be reduced.

3.2 From an RCT perspective, the following summaries the current situation

- 10,071 properties in RCT were considered to be at 'high-risk' of surface water (8,611) or main river flooding (1,460), with a further 4,221 properties in the 'medium-risk' category. [Source: Communities at Risk Register \(CaRR\)](#) published as at 2019.
- RCT has 25 of the top 5% (111 communities) of Wales' highest flood risk communities meaning that RCT has 22.5% of the highest ranked communities considered to be at a high risk of flooding in Wales. RCT is ranked as number 1 in Wales for properties at risk of flooding from Surface water flooding (Pluvial). [Source: Communities at Risk Register \(CaRR\)](#) published as at 2019.
- RCT has 3 out of 33 communities defined as nationally significant high flood risk areas in Wales [Source: Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment](#).
- It is also currently predicted that by the year 2039 the peak water flows within rivers and watercourses will increase from 2015 levels by between 10% – 25% , by 2069 20%–40% and by 2115 25%-75% [Source: Adapting to Climate Change: Guidance for Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Authorities in Wales](#)

4. **BACKGROUND**

4.1.1 After the Unprecedented Storms in February 2020. The Council published a Cabinet paper on [18 December 2020](#) on "Review of Council's Response to Storm Dennis". Which the Cabinet agreed the following actions:

RECOMMENDATION 3 – The Council will create a Flood Support Team alongside the Housing Grants Service that supports landowners, residents and businesses in high risk flood areas to

procure local flood prevention measures, provides advice and guidance

RECOMMENDATION 4 – Individual landowners and property owners, particularly in high flood risk areas, will be requested to consider and evidence how best they can protect their land, homes, and businesses through local measures.

Extract – “It is proposed that we will appoint a small team of Flood Enforcement Officers including legal support to ensure landowners take their flood responsibilities seriously and are fully compliant with the relevant legislation.”

4.1.2 At it's meeting held on the 21st September 2021 Cabinet agreed to the following recommendations:

- To the creation of an enforcement team and post;
- To the creation of a flooding awareness and support officer post
- That officers commence the process for the adoption of the drainage byelaws and refer the matter to Council for consideration, with a briefing session provided to all Members prior to the Council meeting;
- To note the proposal to review the practical operational implications within 12 months of establishing the new byelaws and enforcement team to consider resourcing implications based on actual workload; and
- That the financial implications for the current year are met from existing resources and to update the Medium-Term Financial Plan for 2022/23 onwards with the additional ongoing revenue costs

Current Enforcement and Regulation for Flood Risk Management Activities.

4.1.3 The following table briefly sets out the current legislative situation :-

Legislation	Enforcement/Regulation Activity
Land Drainage Act 1991	S14– Power to carry out drainage works
	S14A – Power to carry out flood risk management works

	S23 – Prohibition of structures in ordinary watercourses.
	S24 – Enforcement powers in respect of unconsented structures in ordinary watercourse.
	S25 – Powers to require works for maintaining flow of a watercourse.
	S64 – Powers of enter onto land.
	S66 – Powers to make Byelaws (currently none in force in RCT) (See section 4.2)
Flood and Water Management Act 2010	S14 – Power to request information
	S15 – Civil Sanctions (not providing information under S14).
	Schedule 1 – Designation of Features - Ability to designate “private” structures as a significant asset and protect it from alteration. (cannot enforce maintenance)
	Schedule 3 – Sustainable Drainage Systems. The Sustainable Drainage (Enforcement) (Wales) Regs (2018)

- 4.1.4 The aftermath of Storm Dennis and the inspection and survey of over 50km of watercourse highlighted a significant number of instances where some form of enforcement was required. The amount of enforcement activity since Storm Callum in 2018 has slowly increased and after Storm Dennis in February 2020 a large increase with currently 15 items of enforcement activity ongoing.
- 4.1.5 This suggests that as regulation, asset surveys and inspections continue there will be a steady increase in the requirement for enforcement, whether by warning, notice or prosecution.
- 4.1.6 However, it should be noted that the current Land Drainage Act 1991 does not give full regulatory control or “protect” existing watercourses from alteration. Additional regulation of watercourses through the adoption and making of byelaws will be required.
- 4.1.7 Taken into consideration the review and recommendation made in the Cabinet Report dated 18 December 2020; the following actions are proposed
1. Regulation – The regulation of Flood Assets is increased by Adoption of Land Drainage Byelaws – Section 4.2
 2. Enforcement – A Team of enforcement officers with legal support is created. (Section 4.3)

3. Awareness and Support – The bridge between Regulation and Enforcement is built with the introduction of a Flood Risk Support Officer. (Section 4.4)

4.2 Increased Regulation - Adoption of Land Drainage Byelaws

Background

Under the Flood & Water Management Act 2010, councils in Wales were given additional powers and responsibilities for managing flooding from surface water, groundwater and ordinary watercourse. As part of these new powers, the responsibility for issuing ordinary watercourse consent under Section 23 Land Drainage Act 1991 passed from Natural Resources Wales (NRW) to Lead Local Flood Authorities in April 2012.

Since taking on this consenting duty and wider flood risk management function, practitioners have noted that powers under current legislation are limited and certain activities which are not currently consented could potentially increase the risk of flooding especially in more built-up areas. It was therefore decided in 2013 to set-up a Task & Finish Group to oversee a review of current byelaws with the aim of creating a new set to help LLFAs in Wales manage more effectively and consistently activities along ordinary watercourse. For example, building over culverts, diversion of watercourses, restrictions to access for maintenance.

DEFRA model byelaws have for a number of years been widely used across the UK by the Environment Agency and Natural Resources Wales to manage activities along main rivers, and several English LLFAs and Internal Drainage Boards also enforce the same byelaws. However, these byelaws have remained unchanged, not suitable for ordinary watercourse and the majority are rarely enforceable due to their inappropriateness.

A new set of byelaws have been drafted by key strategic partners in response to concerns about measures available to manage risk arising from potential flooding. As such they draw on the experience of a wide range of practitioners thus offering sensible and balanced powers consistent with other agencies across the region.

These standard set of byelaws have been ratified by the appropriate Welsh Minister and provides for a standard and consistent approach by the Welsh Lead Local Flood Authorities. These are included at Appendix 1.

The primary function of the new Land Drainage Byelaws is to assist Lead Local Flood Authorities manage the risk of flooding through better regulation. However, through careful revised wording and a wide range of activities being covered these byelaws can also benefit the wider environment. By doing so, they will benefit other functions within local government and help with the

delivery of other legislation including the Water Framework Directive and the Habitat Directive.

Ultimately, this holistic approach to flood risk management through the use of Land Drainage Byelaws will be in line with the principles of the Well-Being and Future Generations Act and assist the LLFA its goals.

Welsh Government and the WLGA are encouraging local authorities to adopt the model byelaws without any modification to ensure consistency across Wales and avoid potential legal hurdles and lengthy approval process.

How can byelaws benefit flood risk management and the wider environment

The primary function of the new Land Drainage byelaws is to help LLFAs manage the risk of flooding where it is the highest through better control. However, through careful revised wording and a wide range of activities covered these byelaws can also benefit the wider environment. By doing so, they will benefit other functions within local government and help with the delivery of other legislations including the Water Framework Directive and Habitat Directive.

Ultimately, this holistic approach to flood risk management through the use of Land Drainage byelaws will be in line with the principles of the Well-Being of Future Generations Act and help LLFAs deliver its goals.

Legal Framework and extent of powers

Under Section 66 of the Land Drainage Act 1991, local authorities in Wales have the powers and authority to make byelaws. These byelaws however can only be made for 4 specific purposes:

- a- To secure the efficient working of a drainage system in the land drainage authorities' district or area;
- b- To regulate the effects on the environment in the land drainage authorities' area of a drainage system;
- c- To secure the effectiveness of flood risk management work¹; or
- d- To secure the effectiveness of incidental flooding or coastal erosion works²

Byelaws cannot repeat, contradict or overrule any other legislation but are nevertheless a statutory tool at the disposition of local authorities and other public bodies. Byelaws are local laws designed to complement rather than

¹ As defined in section 14A of the Land Drainage Act 1991

² As defined in sections 38 and 39 of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010.

replace existing laws. As such, they should be used in conjunction with relevant legislation.

These byelaws are intended to prevent third parties undertaking unconsented activities which may increase the risk of flooding. They cannot however stop anyone who has already a right or a duty under any other legislation such as an Act or Regulation or permit to act accordingly.

For example, if a riparian owner has obtained planning permission to build a structure within the byelaws distance, the planning permission would override the byelaw. Having the byelaws in place would however ensure early discussion with the developer and planning colleagues and the inclusion of conditions is necessary.

There are 3 main legal limitations to these byelaws:

1. they cannot relate to main rivers, the banks of main rivers or any drainage work in connection with a main river³;
2. they cannot prevent reasonable facilities being afforded to allow stock to access drinking water⁴ and
3. they cannot conflict with or interfere with the operation of any byelaws made by a navigation authority, harbour authority or conservancy authority

Local Authority's Adoption Process

The ordinary watercourse byelaws confirmed by the Welsh Minister for Environment and Rural Affairs have been designed as model for local authorities to either use in their current format **as a whole** or to help develop their individual byelaws if they wish to depart from the model.

These byelaws have been designed by experienced FRM practitioners following extensive consultation with various local authority's departments and Natural Resources Wales. Welsh Local Government Association is encouraging local Authorities to adopt the model byelaws as they are, without any modifications, to ensure consistency across Wales and avoid potential legal hurdles and a lengthy approval process.

If for any reason the authority wishes to depart from the model confirmed by the Welsh Ministers, it can do so. However, the decision would need to be justified and the Welsh Ministers would need to be satisfied with such departure before approving these byelaws.

³ Section 66(3)

⁴ Section 66(4)

Although already confirmed by the Welsh Ministers, to be in a position of implementing the byelaws locally, the authority must be adopted under the provisions set out in sections 7-8 of Local Government Byelaws (Wales) Act 2012.

Section 7 deals with the formalities regarding the confirmation of byelaws. This involves the Council:-

- publishing on its web site an initial written statement which describes the issue which the Council thinks may be addressed by making the byelaws;
- consult any person (including, where applicable, a community council) who the Council thinks is likely to be interested in, or affected by, the issue;
- following the consultation, considering the responses and deciding whether making the byelaws is the most appropriate way of addressing the issues;
- publishing on its web site a second statement which contains the original written statement, a summary of the consultation and the responses and its decision as to whether to make the byelaws;
- if the decision is to proceed with the adoption of the byelaws they must be submitted to Welsh Ministers for confirmation but at least 6 weeks prior to their submission notice of the Council's intention to adopt the byelaws must be published in one or more local newspapers circulating in the areas to which the byelaws are to apply and on the Council's website; and
- in addition to the notice referred to above the Council must publish the byelaws on their web site, deposit copies of the byelaws in each of the areas to which they apply, send a copy of the byelaws to all community councils affected and ensure that a copy of the byelaws are open to public inspection at all reasonable hours without payment. In addition any person is entitled to a copy of the byelaws without charge.

As mentioned above the byelaws must be submitted to the Welsh Ministers for confirmation. They come into effect on the date fixed by the Welsh Ministers as confirming authority but if no date is fixed they come into force at the end of one month from the date they are confirmed.

Once confirmed the Council must publish the date of confirmation and copies of the byelaws on their web site, deposit copies of the byelaws in each of the areas to which they apply, send a copy of the byelaws to all community councils affected and ensure that a copy of the byelaws are open to public inspection at

all reasonable hours without payment. In addition, any person is entitled to a copy of the byelaws without charge.

The power to make byelaws is a function of the Council and not the Executive.

Enforcement and penalty

Non-compliance with the byelaws can lead to two proceedings: first the offender will be fined and the land drainage authority can remedy the breach and recover the costs incurred.

Under section 66(6) of the LDA every person who acts in contravention of or fails to comply with any of the foregoing Byelaws is liable on summary conviction in respect of each offence to a fine not exceeding the amount prescribed for level 5 (currently £5,000) on the standard and a further fine not exceeding £40 for every day on which the contravention or failure is continued after conviction.

By section 66(7) of the Act if any person acts in contravention of or fails to comply with any of these Byelaws the LLFA may without prejudice to any proceedings under section 66(6) of the Act take such action as may be necessary to remedy the effect, of the contravention or failure and may recover the expenses reasonably incurred by it in doing so from the person in default.

Purpose and Layout of byelaws

The “model” set, See Appendix 1, comprises of 16 individual byelaws designed to work in parallel and complement the Land Drainage Act 1991(especially sections 23, 24 and 25), Flood & Water Management Act 2010, and Natural Resource Wales’ *guide to your rights and responsibilities of riverside ownership in Wales*⁵ which sets out riparian owner’s rights and responsibilities.

The complete set comprises of 7 sections but byelaws themselves are only grouped under 4 distinct chapters:

- I. Control the introduction of water and increase in flow or volume, or water
- II. Control any potential to cause impediment or obstruction to flow
- III. To ensure the condition of the banks of a watercourse are maintained
- IV. To cover incidental provisions

Chapter II which focusses on controlling the introduction of water and increase in flow or volume, or water comprises of 4 individual byelaws aimed at

⁵ The document can be downloaded on:

<https://naturalresources.wales/flooding/managing-flood-risk/riverside-property-owners-know-your-rights-and-responsibilities/?lang=en>

controlling activities that may alter the natural level or direction of the flow of water in, into or out of any watercourse. Additional wording has also been added to ensure better control over the creation or extension of watercourses which had been highlighted as an issue by practitioners. This chapter also covers unconsented interference with assets controlling flow or level of water.

Chapter III which focusses on controlling the potential to cause impediment or obstruction to flow comprises of 3 byelaws. These byelaws cover activities on land liable to flooding and watercourse banks as well the building and repairs of structures. Additional wording has been added to provide better control related to building over culverts which was raised as a concern period by practitioners.

Chapter IV comprises of 3 byelaws which have been drafted to ensure the condition of ordinary watercourse banks and avoid damages to the banks. Byelaws included in this section will also benefit WFD by protecting river banks and water quality. Please note that byelaw 14 may be challenged for the purpose of enabling animals to drink.

4.3 New Enforcement Team.

Previous enforcement actions have been carried out by non-dedicated and non-specialist officers within the Flood Risk Management Team (FRM). This has been partially successful but has been very much a reactive rather than proactive service.

The enforcement activities after Storm Callum in 2018 and recently Storm Dennis in 2020 has shown a step-by-step increase in enforcement actions required. There has also been an increase in complexity of the type of enforcement required. With also the introduction of the Sustainable Drainage Approval Body (SAB) in 2019 and potentially the adoption of Byelaws there is a need for a dedicated specialist team of officers. This was also found in the Storm Dennis review in December 2020.

With 2 pieces of new legislation, The Sustainable Drainage (Enforcement) (Wales) Order 2018, and the potential byelaws it is very difficult to predict the enforcement effort that will be required. There is a risk that enforcement activities will vary greatly. However, by positioning the enforcement team within the FRM team and introducing a specialist technical element into the role the team will be flexible enough to also assist with investigations, consents and approvals.

A review of the Resource required to undertake the regulation and enforcement function of the LLFA has been undertaken taking into consideration the effects of an increased proactive approach and the adoption of byelaws on the existing FRM team and legal services team:

Additional Posts within the Flood Risk Management Team:-

No. Enforcement Officer (GR10) 1 No. Enforcement Assistant (GR7/8)

Legal support will be required to assist the new enforcement team consisting of providing legal advice and support to the officers and undertaking prosecutions.

However, due to the unknown nature of the new legislation and the work required prior to implementation and the drafting of procedures it is recommended that the Enforcement Officer be implemented immediately.

A review of the implications on workload and resources will be undertaken around 12 months after the full establishment of the service to inform future resource requirements based on actual rather than perceived workload for both the FRM and Legal Services teams.

4.4 Flood Risk Awareness and Support

Flood Risk Management is very data heavy and is very complex for communicating risk to the public. Advice and guidance on what to do if your property is within a high-risk area is not always easily accessible once the risk is communicated and access to insurance before or after an event is sometimes difficult.

It is felt that to bridge the gap between the “data” and regulation and ultimately to improve awareness and community resilience and avoid enforcement action wherever possible is a specialist role. The role will cover, but not be limited to:-

- Enhance and maintain RCTs website.
- To develop guidance on property resilience measures and insurance for residential and business.
- Develop a communications strategy to include Risk data, interventions (projects), riparian responsibilities, regulation requirements, Insurance and property and/or community resilience.
- Develop community and/or individual flood plans. Liaison with community groups.
- Help with wider consultations, for example, Local Flood Risk Strategy.
- Liaise with colleagues in Housing Grants, public health and Emergency planning to develop a support plan for communities affected by flooding.

A review of the Resource required to undertake the above role has been undertaken taking into consideration the effects of an increased proactive approach and increased awareness and regulation.:

Additional Post within the Flood Risk Management Team:-

1 no. Flood Risk Awareness and Support Officer (GR10GR8)

5 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 An Equality Impact Assessment screening form has been prepared for the purpose of this report. It has been found that a full EIA is not required. There are no negative or adverse equality or diversity implications associated with this report.

6 CONSULTATIONS

1. Finance
2. Legal

7 FINANCIAL IMPLICATION(S)

Implementation of Byelaws.

Although there will be an increase in consenting and regulation, it is felt that this additional burden can be absorbed into the current Flood Risk Management Team Resources as some current duties such as awareness and communications and enforcement will be carried out by additional posts.

There is therefore a **NIL** financial implication on the existing Team.

Creation of Enforcement Team. (Section 4.3)

Establishment of new post (Annual cost to service) = £42,265

ICT Establishment One off charge = £3k

A review of resources/workload will be undertaken around 12 months after the service has been established to inform long-term resource requirements.

Creation of Flood Awareness and Support officer. (Section 4.4)

Establishment of new post = £35,460

Printed/Publicity Materials =£1k

Consultants = £2k

Total annual additional cost to service = £38,460

ICT Establishment One off charge = £3k

There will be a part year impact on the budget for this financial year (2021/22) depending on when the appointments to the new posts are

made. This can be met from existing one-off resources within the overall Frontline Services revenue budget.

The ongoing annual impact on the revenue budget will be included in the Medium Term Financial Plan for 2022/23 onwards.

8 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS OR LEGISLATION CONSIDERED

There are legal implications and the relevant legislation has been considered in Section 4.

9 LINKS TO THE COUNCILS CORPORATE PLAN / OTHER CORPORATE PRIORITIES/ SIP / FUTURE GENERATIONS – SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT.

9.1 National Strategy for Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management in Wales

9.1.1 Required by the Flood and Water Management Act 2010, the National Flood Risk Management Strategy (NFRMS)⁶ for Wales, produced by Welsh Government, provides a policy framework for flood and coastal erosion risk management in Wales. The second iteration of the National Strategy was published In October 2020, within which sets out the following Aim of the strategy:

‘Reduce the risk to People and Communities from Flooding and Coastal Erosion’.

To facilitate the overarching aim, the strategy sets out 5 core Objectives which require the following:

1. Improve our understanding and communication of risk
2. Preparedness and Building Resilience
3. Prioritising investment to the most at risk Communities
4. Preventing more people becoming exposed to risk
5. Providing an effective and sustained response to events

In delivering the regulation and awareness raising as described within section 4.3 and 4.4 the authority will directly support the delivery of Objective 1, 2, 4 and 5 of the NFRMS.

9.2 Local Flood Risk Management Strategy

⁶ National Strategy for Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management in Wales: <https://gov.wales/national-strategy-flood-and-coastal-erosion-risk-management-wales>

9.2.1 Rhondda Cynon Taf has published a Local Flood Risk Management Strategy (LFRMS)⁷ in January 2013 in accordance with Section 10 of the FWMA 2010. The LFRMS defines who the 'Risk Management Authorities (RMA) are, what their function is and what their responsibilities are. The strategy further identifies the Local Objective and Measures being implemented for the short, medium and Long term to manage flood risk within the authority.

9.2.2 Within the LFRMS RCT is identified as a Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA) which is identified as the RMA responsible for managing the risk of flooding from local sources, which includes regulation and enforcement. This function is set out within five specific measures aimed at delivering 9 Local objectives, Table 2 provides a summary of the LFRMS local objectives and measures.

Table 2: LFRMS Objectives and Measures

LFRMS Measure Number	LFRMS Measures	LFRMS Strategy Objective
16	Power to request information and civil sanctions	1, 2, 3, 4, 11
18	Designation of Structures	1, 2, 3, 4, 10
20	Consenting of Structures Ordinary Watercourses to	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
21	Enforcement to maintain flow in watercourses	1, 2, 3, 4
22	Enactment of Land Drainage Byelaws	1, 2, 3, 4

Table 2: Provides a summary of the LFRMS Measures and how they Link to the LFRMS Objectives; related to regulation and enforcement.

9.2.3 Whilst Table 2 provides a range of measures aimed at regulation and Enforcement, the LFRMS further includes for a wider range of measures aimed at managing the risk before, during and after the event with a particular focus on flooding awareness; which aims to ensure communities are prepared for flooding events, ensuring they are resilient and capable of recovering. Table 3 summarises the LFRMS local objectives and measures related to flooding awareness.

⁷ RCT Local Flood Risk Management Strategy:
<https://www.rctcbc.gov.uk/EN/Resident/ParkingRoadsandTravel/Roadspavementsandpaths/FloodAlleviation/LocalFloodRiskManagementStrategy.aspx>

LFRMS Measure Number	LFRMS Measures	LFRMS Strategy Objective
5	Flood Awareness	1, 2, 3, 4, 10, 11, 12
6	Flood Warning	1, 2, 3
8	Community Flood Plans	10, 11, 12, 13, 14
26	Local Flood Resilience Property-Level Mitigation –	12
27	Local Flood Resistance Property-Level Mitigation –	12
35	Community/Public Engagement/Consultation	10, 11

Table 3: Provides a summary of the LFRMS Measures and how they link to LFRMS Objectives; related to flooding awareness.

9.3 **Corporate Plan**

- 9.3.1 The Highway Maintenance and Management Delivery Plan for the 2020/21 financial year identifies areas for improvement. Specifically Service Priority 5 which specifies:

‘To provide services related to flood risk management as required of the Lead Local Flooding Authority under Flood and Water Management Act 2010, Flood Risk Regulations 2009 and as the Land Drainage Authority under the Land Drainage Act 1991.’

- 9.3.2 The service priority aligns with two corporate plan priorities specifically;

- 1 Place – Creating neighbourhoods where people are proud to live and work
- 2 Economy – Building a strong economy

9.4 **Well-being of Future Generations Act (Wales) 2015**

- 9.4.1 **A resilient Wales** - focuses on the development of a *‘Biodiverse natural environment with healthy functioning ecosystems that support social, economic and ecological resilience and the capacity to adapt to change’*.

To support the delivery of this goal, the development of an enforcement team and adoption of the bylaws will contribute to the enhancement of the local aquatic and semi aquatic environments, specifically through the regulation of ordinary watercourse environments to reduce the loss of habitat and enforce upon those individuals that would seek to damage it.

Furthermore, the creation of a flooding awareness and support officer will enhance the authority's communication of flood risk to our communities. Whilst encouraging the interconnectivity between the natural environment and urban communities. This approach will focus on the integration of green infrastructure to manage the risk of flooding, which will promote the development of new habitats and outline the adaptability of the natural environment to manage the impacts of climate change which in turns ensures a more resilient environment that benefits the community.

- 9.4.2 **A Wales of Vibrant Culture & Thriving Welsh Language** provides a 'Society that promotes and protects culture, heritage and the Welsh Language, and which encourages people to participate in the arts, and sports and recreation.

In delivering this role, the flood awareness and enforcement officers will enable the communication of flood risk management in a bilingual manor to ensure the community understand their risk and the responsibility of the community to manage the risk of flooding.

In enhancing the engagement with the wider communities' opportunities to encourage community groups and organisations to engage with flood risk management activities will develop and provide a more resilient community network which will support a vibrant culture.

- 9.4.3 **A Healthier Wales** is a society in which peoples physical and mental well-being is maximised and in which choices and behaviours that benefit future health are understood.

In delivering this goal, the flooding awareness officer will provide a mechanism for communicating the cycle of risk management i.e. preparation, response, recovery, prevention, and mitigation to ensure the mental wellbeing of communities impacted as a result of flooding are healthier and more resilient.

The regulation of ordinary watercourse's and expansion of the bylaws will further contribute to ensuring the local communities' natural environments are not detrimentally impacted. This enables the maintaining and enhancement of these environments, through consenting activities. Such activities could provide amenity value which in turn enables the communities to enhance their physical well-being.

- 9.4.4 **A more equal Wales** is a society that enables people to fulfil their potential no matter what their background or circumstances.

To deliver this goal the flooding awareness officer will provide a platform of flood risk management advice, to those communities identified to be at highest risk of flooding, regardless of their background or circumstances that surround those communities. This will enable communities to participate in community engagement and will assist with the decision making around future flood risk management activities.

9.4.5 **A Wales of cohesive communities** promotes an 'Attractive, Safe, Viable and Well-Connected Community'.

In delivering this goal both the enforcement team and flood awareness officer will support community engagement and will focus upon the education of riparian land owners to ensure they are aware of their responsibilities to manage ordinary watercourse infrastructure and ensure they are safe, attractive and viable to minimise the potential for community disruption.

9.4.6 **A globally responsible Wales** is a 'Nation which, when doing anything to improve the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales, takes account of whether doing such a thing may make a positive contribution to global well-being'.

In delivering this goal the enforcement team and flood awareness team will support the education and encourage the behavioural change related to our natural environment. This communication will focus upon the importance of the earth's resources and the need to enhance the natural environment in a sustainable manner that takes into account the effects of climate change.

10 **CONCLUSION**

10.1 The Storms of Feb 2020 showed how vulnerable the communities of RCT are to intense rainfall. Climate change projections suggest a 25% to 75% increase in flows within large watercourses and rivers in the next 93 years. This is exacerbated by the way RCT's urban areas have been developed over the last 150 years, which is typical of valleys communities and not unique to RCT, with natural routes for water from the hillsides towards rivers "buried" in culverts with no space for water to travel overland once the capacity those culverts are exceeded, with urbanised areas providing very little natural attenuation or infiltration.

It is clear that RCT has challenges ahead in managing the current and future risk from flooding.

The Welsh Government's National Flood Risk Strategy being published in October 2020 triggers the requirement under S10 of the Flood and

Water Management Act 2010 for the Council as Lead Local Flood Authority to review the Local Flood Risk Management Strategy. There is therefore a huge opportunity within this review to set a sustainable strategy to manage flood risk and build resilience and facilitate adaption for future generations. This will be progressed over the next 12-18 months.

The adoption of the byelaws and creation of the enforcement team and flooding awareness and support officer will help protect the assets we have, prevent new risks from being created, build resilience within our community and ultimately help communities adapt to this particular consequence of climate change, whilst providing valuable information to feed into the Local Flood Risk Strategy Review to provide a robust strategy to manage the increasing risk of flooding through climate change.

A 12-month review will enable the assessment of the future resource requirements based on actual rather than perceived workload for both the FRM and Legal Services teams.

Appendix 1

Model Byelaws.

Land drainage (Wales) Byelaws

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Land Drainage (Wales) Byelaws

[Name of Local Authority] under and by virtue of the powers and authority vested in them by section 66 of the Land Drainage Act 1991, do hereby make the following Byelaws which are considered necessary for [one or more of] the following purposes:

- a) securing the efficient working of a drainage system in the Council's area,
- b) regulating the effects on the environment in the Council's area of a drainage system,
- c) securing the effectiveness of flood risk management work within the meaning of section 14A of that Act, or
- d) securing the effectiveness of works done in reliance on section 38 or 39 of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 (incidental flooding or coastal erosion),

Chapter I - Administrative

1. Citation and commencement

These Byelaws have been approved by the Cabinet Secretary for Environment and Rural Affairs Lesley Griffiths and may be cited as **[Name of Local Authority]** Land Drainage Byelaws [2017] and they shall commence on [date].

2. Application of Byelaws

These Byelaws apply to ordinary watercourses situated within the area in Wales of the local authority [or: under the control of the Internal Drainage Board] making these byelaws.

3. Definition and Interpretation

In these byelaws, unless defined below or the context otherwise requires, the terms and expressions to which meanings are assigned by the Water Resources Act 1991, the Land Drainage Act 1991, the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 and the Interpretation Act 1978 shall have the same meanings in these byelaws.

In these byelaws:

The expressions “bank”, “drainage”, “drainage body”, “Internal Drainage Board”, “land”, “local authority”, “ordinary watercourse” have the same meaning as defined in the Land Drainage Act 1991.

“the Act” means the Land Drainage Act 1991

"Animal" means any animal including birds, any horse, cattle, sheep, deer, goat, swine, goose or poultry; but excluding fish and human beings;

"Byelaws distance" means any land lying landward within the following distances measuring horizontally from any watercourse bank:

- (i) if it includes a wall or embankment 8 metres from its landward extent; or
- (ii) in other cases 8 metres from the top of the watercourse bank; or
- (iii) any land lying 8 metres horizontally from the outer perimeter of a culvert measured from the widest part of the culvert.

“Building or structure” means any structure or erection, and any part of a building so defined, but does not include plant or machinery comprised in a building; It also includes a fence, post, pylon, wall, wharf, bridge, loading stage, piling, groyne, pontoon, revetment, and an engine or any mechanical contrivance; any formwork, falsework, scaffold or other structure designed or used to provide support or means of access during construction work, and any reference to a structure includes part of a structure.

“Consent of the authority” means the prior written agreement, either by email or formal documentation, of any person authorised on behalf of the Authority, and which may include any conditions/restrictions as deemed necessary by the Authority.

"Culvert" means an enclosed channel pipe or conduit for the carrying of a watercourse and any other structure forming part of a culvert including headwall, outlet and trash screen.

"Embankment" means a natural or artificial mound or other raised defence.

"Flood Defence works " means tidal, fluvial or pluvial flood defence structures and works including walls, gates, embankments or bypasses constructed or used for these purposes as well as man-made or natural sand dunes and earth retaining structures or structures constructed or used as a defence against inundation of any land by raising water levels.

“Flood warning system” means any apparatus used by the Authority for obtaining or providing information in relation to and warnings of flood.

"Land liable to flooding" means all land over which watercourse water flows in times of flood, including areas where that water is stored in times of flood.

“Nets” includes

- (a) a stake net, bag net or keep net;

(b) any net secured by anchors and any net, or other implement for taking fish, fixed to the soil or made stationary in any other way;

(c) any net placed or suspended in any inland or tidal waters unattended by the owner or a person duly authorised by the owner to use it for fish, and any engine, device, machine or contrivance, whether floating or otherwise, for placing or suspending such a net or maintaining it in working order or making it stationary.

"Occupier" means any tenant, licensee or other person either in occupation of any land or entitled to its occupation.

"Objects or matters" means natural or man-made liquid or solid matters or objects or materials including trees, roots of trees, branches, timber, tins, bottles, boxes, tyres, bricks, stones, soil, wire, rubbish.

"Owner" means the owner of a legal estate, and when the owner is not in immediate occupation shall include an occupier.

"Person" includes where appropriate, reference to more than one person, including a body of persons corporate or non-corporate.

"Sea defence" means any artificial or natural defence against sea water or tidal water including natural or artificial high ground (including sand dunes and cliffs) and any works constructed or used as a defence against inundation of any land by sea or tidal waters, or for securing adequate watercourse outfalls provided it shall not include any sea defence works which are vested in or under the control of a Coast Protection Authority, a local authority or any Navigation Harbour or Conservancy Authority.

"Tidal control works" means any floodgate, lock, sluice or other structure or appliance provided or constructed for the purpose of defence against sea or tidal water.

"Vegetation" means trees, willows, shrubs, weeds, grasses, reeds, rushes or other vegetation growths;

"Vessel" means any ship, boat, or any other waterborne craft, including hovercraft and any remains of any vessel.

"Watercourse" means any river, stream, ditch, channel or other passage through which water flows including the channel of any watercourse that is for the time being dry but excluding public sewers within the meaning of the Water Industry Act 1991.

"Watercourse bank" means any bank, wall, revetment or embankment adjoining or confining any watercourse from the top to the bottom of the sloping or upright part.

"Watercourse bed" means land forming any part of a watercourse over which water normally flows.

"Water control structure" means a structure or appliance for introducing water into any watercourse and for controlling or regulating or affecting flow, and includes any sluice, slacker, floodgate, lock, weir, pump or pumping machinery;

4. Causing or knowingly permitting

Where by or under these byelaws the doing of any act is prohibited or restricted the same prohibition or restriction shall extend to causing or knowingly permitting the act or restriction to be done.

Chapter II - Control of introduction of water and increase in flow or volume of water

5. Control of the introduction of water, altering flow and volume of water

(1) Without prejudice to sections 23 and 25 of the Land Drainage Act 1991 no person shall without the consent of the authority take any action to:

- (a) stop up any watercourse; or
- (b) divert; or
- (c) impede; or
- (d) alter

the level of or direction of the flow of water in, into or out of any watercourse.

(2) In this byelaw 'alter' includes creating or extending a watercourse and introducing water which directly or indirectly increases the flow or volume of water in any watercourse within the local authority's area.

(3) In this byelaw impede includes blocking off or infilling of any watercourse channel, and obstruction of any arch of any bridge or causeway designed of, or which permits the passage of water in any watercourse or land liable to flooding.

6. Interference with sluices, flood and tidal defences

(1) No person shall without consent of the authority operate or interfere with any sluice, flood gate, flood or tidal defence or other water control structure or appliance or flood warning or monitoring system used for controlling, regulating or monitoring the flow of water in, into or out of an ordinary watercourse.

(2) In this byelaw "interfere" includes removing, damaging or disturbing materials forming part of a flood or tidal defence.

7. Operation of watercourse or tidal control works

Any person having control of

- (a) any sluice or flood gate; or

(b) any water control structure or appliance for controlling or regulating or affecting the flow of water in, into or out of a watercourse shall use and maintain such structure or appliance in a proper state of repair and efficiency with a view to:

- (a) the prevention of flooding or of any shortage in the flow or supply of water and
- (b) the efficient working of the drainage system in the area of the (local authority/ internal drainage board)

8. Tidal Outfalls

No person shall place or abandon upon the foreshore any object or matter or vegetation which, whether immediately or as a result of subsequent tidal action, may

- (a) impede or be likely to impede the flow of water through the sluices, flood gate, or outfall pipes through the tidal banks or through the watercourses on such foreshore; or
 - (b) impede or be likely to impede the operation of such sluices, flood gate, or outfall pipes; or
 - (c) cause or be likely to cause damage to such sluices, flood gate, or outfall pipes.
-

Chapter III - Potential to cause impediment or obstruction to flow

9. Maintenance of land liable to flooding and watercourse banks

(1) No person shall without the consent of the authority plant any tree, deposit or store objects or matters, light a fire or interfere with a watercourse bed or bank within the byelaw distance in such a manner as is likely to:

- (a) cause flooding,
- (b) impede the flow, or
- (c) cause or be likely to cause damage to, or
- (d) endanger the stability of, or
- (e) affect the efficiency of

a culvert, watercourse bank, watercourse control work, flood defence, tidal control work or sea defence.

(2) In this byelaw:

“interfere” includes to dredge, remove, damage or disturb materials forming part of a flood or tidal defence or of a watercourse bank or bed; and to make any excavation or do anything in, to or upon any land like to damage a watercourse bank or bed.

“light a fire” includes committing any action liable to cause any fire to be lit on any land adjoining any watercourse where such action is liable to set on fire any peat land forming the banks of the watercourse or any vegetation growing on land forming the banks of the watercourse.

“store objects or matters” includes depositing or stacking or keeping objects and solid or liquid matters including vegetation and vegetation cuttings.

“objects” include vessels.

10. Building of structures, pipes, etc. on land liable to flooding

(1) No person shall without the consent of the authority:

(a) erect or construct any building or structure

(i) in, on, under or over any watercourse or in or on any bank of a watercourse;

(ii) within the byelaws distance;

(iii) on any watercourse control work, flood defence, tidal control work or sea defence; or

(iv) over any part of a culvert, or within the byelaws distance on either side of it; or

(b) make or cut any excavation or any tunnel or any drain, culvert or other passage for water in, into or out of any watercourse or in or through any bank of any watercourse;

in such a manner or for such length of time as to cause damage to the watercourse bed or banks; or obstruct the flow of water in, into or out of such watercourse.

(2) This byelaw does not apply to any temporary work executed in an emergency.

(3) In this byelaw:

“Emergency” means causing immediate danger to life or property.

11. Repairs to buildings and structures

The person having control of any building, fence or structure in, on, under or over any watercourse, culvert, watercourse bank, flood defence works, tidal control works, tidal or sea defence shall maintain such building, fence or structure in a proper state of repair and efficiency with a view to preventing such building, fence or structure from:

(a) impeding the flow of water in into or out of any watercourse;

(b) damaging any watercourse bank, flood protection works, tidal control works or sea defence; or

(c) creating danger or obstruction to the carrying out of flood defence works by the (local authority/internal drainage board)

Chapter IV - Ensuring the condition of the banks of a watercourse

12. Vegetation

The owner or occupier of any land through which any watercourse flows or on which any sea defence is situated or any adjoining land over which the local authority [/internal drainage board] needs access to get to such land shall maintain all vegetation situated within the byelaws distance and shall remove such vegetation from the watercourse or bank immediately after such cutting so that it does not impede the flow of the watercourse.

13. Driving of animals and vehicles

No person shall use or drive any cart or vehicle of any kind on, over or along any bank of a watercourse control work, flood protection work, tidal control work, or sea defence in such manner as to cause damage to such bank, control work, flood protection work, tidal control work, or sea defence.

14. Damage by grazing animals

No person shall graze, keep or water any animal on any watercourse, watercourse bed or bank, flood protection work or sea defence without:

- (a) taking all such steps as are necessary to prevent the watercourse, the watercourse bed or bank, flood protection work or sea defence from being damaged by such use and
- (b) reporting to the local authority [/internal drainage board] any damage caused to the watercourse, the watercourse bed or bank, flood protection work or sea defence by the grazing, keeping or watering of animals, as soon as practicable following the occurrence of such damage.

Chapter V – Incidental provisions

15. Control of animals

The owner or occupier of any land through which any watercourse flows or on which any sea defence is situated or any adjoining land over which the local authority [/internal drainage board] needs access to get to such land to carry out any work or inspection, shall ensure that, during the progress of any work or any inspection animals on such land are kept under proper control and supervision or, if such control and supervision is not possible, are not kept on such land.

16. Interference with local authority [/internal drainage board]'s functions

No person shall interfere with:

- (a) access required to any land by the local authority [/internal drainage board] or of their agents to carry out their flood management functions; or
 - (b) the carrying out of their functions.
-

Chapter VI – Exemptions

17. Emergency works

These Byelaws shall not apply to any work executed in an emergency but a person executing any work so excepted shall, as soon as practicable, inform the Council in writing of the execution and of the circumstances in which it was executed and comply with any reasonable directions the Council may give with regard thereto.

18. General Permitted Developments

These byelaws shall not apply to any development by a drainage body in, on or under any watercourse or land drainage works and required in connection with the improvement, maintenance or repair of that watercourse or those works.

19. Ladders and scaffold towers

- (1) These Byelaws shall not apply to any work requiring the temporary erection and use of ladders and scaffold towers ("equipment").
- (2) For the purposes of this paragraph, the specific conditions are—
 - (a) the suitability of river conditions is reviewed by the operator each working day;
 - (b) the equipment is erected on each working day on which it is required; and
 - (c) the equipment is removed at the end of each working day and is stored outside the river and its banks.

Chapter VII – Miscellaneous

20. Penalty

By section 66(6) of the Act every person who acts in contravention of, or fails to comply with, any of the foregoing Byelaws, is liable on summary conviction in respect of each offence to a fine not exceeding the amount prescribed from time to time for level 5 (£5,000) on the standard scale referred to in section 37 of the Criminal Justice Act 1982 and a further fine not exceeding forty pounds for every day on which the contravention or failure is continued after conviction.

By section 66(7) of the Act if any person acts in contravention of, or fails to comply with any of these Byelaws the Council may without prejudice to any proceedings under section 66(6) of the Act take such action as may be necessary to remedy the effect of the contravention or failure and may recover the expenses reasonably incurred by it in doing so from the person in default.

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RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL
COUNCIL

20th OCTOBER 2021

GOVERNANCE & AUDIT COMMITTEE – APPOINTMENT OF LAY MEMBERS

REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, DEMOCRATIC SERVICES & COMMUNICATION

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to advise Council of the arrangements taken forward in respect of the appointment of Lay Members to the Governance & Audit Committee, in accordance with the relevant Local Government & Elections (Wales) Act 2021 provisions which come into force in May 2022.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that Council:

- 2.1 Notes the arrangements as set out in the report, relating to the appointment of new Lay Members to the Governance & Audit Committee for a term of office commencing from the beginning of the 2022-2023 Municipal Year until the next ordinary Local Government Elections;
- 2.2 Agrees, that following the recruitment process detailed in the report, a further report be presented to Council in order to receive recommendations from the Appointments Committee in respect of the appointment of Lay Members to the Governance & Audit Committee; and
- 2.3 For the reasons set out in the report agrees an extension to the term of office of the current Lay Member appointed to the Governance & Audit Committee, Mr. Christopher Jones, until the ordinary Local Government Elections following May 2022 (currently scheduled for May 2027).

3. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 To ensure compliance with the legislative requirement set out in the Local Government & Elections Wales Act 2021 that at least one third of the Governance & Audit Committee consist of Lay Members.
- 3.2 Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council must ensure that the necessary arrangements are in place to appoint for the position of Lay Member.

4. BACKGROUND

- 4.1 In 2012, Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council successfully appointed a Lay Member to its Audit Committee in accordance with the requirements of the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011.
- 4.2 With the introduction of the Local Government & Elections (Wales) Act 2021 further amendments now need to be taken forward in respect of the membership and role of the Committee, as outlined below.
- 4.3 In respect of appointments to the Committee, the selection process has previously been undertaken through the Council's Appointments Committee who then made a recommendation to Council in respect of a recommended appointment. This process was considered to be successful and it is therefore suggested that a similar process is adopted this time.

5. LOCAL GOVERNMENT & ELECTIONS (WALES) ACT 2021

- 5.1 In line with the requirements of the Act, the Council's Audit Committee was re-named as the 'Governance and Audit Committee', with these changes reported and adopted by Council in May 2021.
- 5.2 The Act amends Section 82 ('Membership') of the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011 (the 'Measure') in order to increase the number of Lay Members on a Governance & Audit Committee.
- 5.3 Presently the situation under section 82 of the Measure is that at least two thirds of the members of a Governance & Audit Committee must be Members of the Authority and at least one member of the Committee must be a Lay Member.
- 5.4 From 5th May 2022, two thirds of the members of a Governance & Audit Committee must be Elected Members of the Authority and one third must be Lay Members (or lay persons as defined in the Act).
- 5.5 In addition from 5th May 2022 the Governance & Audit Committee Chair, who is appointed by the Committee, must be a lay person and the deputy chair must not be a member of the local authority's executive or an assistant to its executive.
- 5.6 The Council already take forward a positive approach with regards to chairing the Governance & Audit Committee, with the lay Member being appointed as chair of the Committee, a practice that has continued over a number of years.

6 APPOINTMENT PROCESS

- 6.1 The Council's Service Director for Democratic Services & Communications has recently taken forward the advertising of the position for Lay Members

of the Governance & Audit Committee on behalf of the Council with the aim of having appointments in place for the first meeting of the 2022-2023 Municipal Year. It is important these arrangements are in place as the Governance & Audit Committee have a number of important responsibilities with regards to the Council's Accounts and Governance that need to be considered early in the new Municipal Year following the Annual General Meeting. Delaying the appointment of lay persons would therefore risk the Authority not being able to meet those responsibilities.

- 6.2 As all Authorities will be undertaking a similar process, the WLGA produced a draft advert and application form (which officers within the Council commented upon) to assist with the process and to ensure a consistent approach across all Authorities.
- 6.3 In order to comply with legislation, national adverts have been placed in conjunction with the WLGA, as well as on the Council's website, to advertise the positions. In addition, to promote greater awareness and encourage wider applications, details of the position will be sent to as many stakeholder organisations and networks as possible.
- 6.4 In line with other Local Authorities the advert was promoted on the Council website on the 11th October 2021 with a close of applications by the 1st November 2021.
- 6.5 The Lay Person appointed should:
- Be independent of politics;
 - Recognise and understand the value of the audit function;
 - Have no business connections with the Council;
 - Have an understanding of Local Government; and
 - Have the ability to meet the time commitment involved
- 6.6 Once the applications for the post have been received, it is proposed a meeting of the Appointments Committee then be scheduled. The Appointments Committee consists of a cross-party membership of five County Borough Councillors.
- 6.7 Following an interview and selection process, the Appointments Committee would then make its recommendation(s) back to Council in respect of the recommended candidate(s) for ratification.
- 6.8 It is proposed the Lay Members be appointed for a term of office until the next ordinary Local Government Elections (currently scheduled for May 2027).

7 MEMBERSHIP

- 7.1 With the current committee membership size of 14, the Council would need to look at the appointment of at least 5 lay persons to the Committee to achieve the one third lay person membership requirement. The Committee

already have one lay member appointed in September 2020 in accordance with the current requirements of the Measure.

- 7.2 Following on from the good practice taken forward through the Planning and Development Committee, where numbers were reduced in the last Council term, to reflect the specialist nature of the Committee's responsibilities and provide the maximum opportunity to provide focussed development and advice to Committee members it is proposed to reduce the membership of the Governance & Audit Committee in response to the new membership requirements.
- 7.3 It is therefore proposed that the membership size of the Governance & Committee is reviewed and reduced to total membership size of 9 for the Municipal Year 2022-2023. This would mean a committee constituted of 6 Elected Members and 3 lay persons. This is similar to practices being proposed in other Local Authorities in response to the new legislative requirements. This would mean the appointment of 2 additional lay persons to the Committee (subject to paragraph 8 below). The appointment of the Committee and allocation of seats to the Committee would, of course, be determined at the Annual General Meeting on the 25th May 2022 in accordance with the political composition of the Council at that time.
- 7.4 It is hoped this focused approach will ensure the recruitment of appropriate candidates to undertake this important role, who have appropriate experience and skills to perform the role. Good practice of a smaller membership number is planned to be taken forward by other Councils, allowing a more dedicated approach by Committee Members to the role of the Committee and ensuring appropriate support and development opportunities are provided to enhance the dedicated and specialist skill set necessary for membership of this key committee within the Council's wider governance arrangements.
- 7.5 In respect of the Committee quorum there is no requirement for a minimum number of lay persons to be in attendance at a meeting to allow a meeting to be quorate. Therefore the general quorum principle will apply.

8. TERM OF OFFICE OF EXISTING LAY MEMBER

- 8.1 The term of office of the existing Lay Member on the Governance & Audit Committee, Mr. Christopher Jones, finishes at the end of the current Municipal Year.
- 8.2 This report provides Members with a timely opportunity to consider whether the Council would wish to extend that term of office for a further period, namely until the next ordinary Local Government elections following May 2022. Such an extension would be in accordance with the provisions of the Measure and associated Statutory Guidance.

- 8.3 Such an extension would also ensure some continuity in the Committee membership and lay persons who sit on the committee. The individual currently chairs the committee and has built up knowledge and experience during their time in the role which it is felt would be advantageous to carry over into the Committee's work post May 2022.

9. CONSULTATION / INVOLVEMENT

- 9.1 This report is for information purposes and therefore, no consultation is required.

10. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS INCLUDING SOCIO ECONOMIC DUTY

- 10.1 There are no equality and diversity implications aligned to this report. The recruitment process advised upon provides an equitable chance of recruitment to all.

11. WELSH LANGUAGE IMPLICATIONS.

- 11.1 The Council positively supports the promotion and utilisation of the Welsh language within the Democratic process and welcomes applications from bilingual candidates. Translation provision is available at Committee meetings and Committee papers are provided bilingually in accordance with the Welsh Language Standards.

12. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 12.1 The Annual Report of the Independent Remuneration Panel states that a Member on an Audit Committee is entitled to remuneration and as such, the Rhondda Cynon Taf Member's Schedule of Remuneration can be accessed [here](#).
- 12.2 This entitlement comprises the daily fee of £238 (£119 for a half day). Should the Lay Member be appointed Chairman of the Committee, the respective fees payable would increase to £286 and £134.
- 12.3 For the purposes of claiming, a half day meeting is defined as up to four hours, with a full day meeting defined as over four hours. The payment will be capped at a maximum of the equivalent of 10 full days a year for each Committee to which an individual may be co-opted or is eligible to attend.

13. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS OR LEGISLATION CONSIDERED

- 13.1 Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011 in relation to the membership of the Governance & Audit Committee (and associated Statutory Guidance), as amended by the Local Government & Election (Wales) Act 2021

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

- 14.1 The work of the Governance & Audit Committee supports the delivery of the priorities contained within the Council's Corporate Plan – *The Way Ahead*, in particular 'Living Within Our Means' through ensuring that appropriate internal controls are in place to effectively manage resources.

15. CONCLUSION

- 15.1 Following the requirements of the Local Government & Elections (Wales) Act 2021 there is a need to put in place arrangements to appoint additional Lay Members to the Governance & Audit Committee. This report sets out a proposed way forward to meet those requirements.

Other Information:-

Relevant Scrutiny Committee – Finance & Performance Scrutiny Committee

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

AS AMENDED BY

THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

COUNCIL

20 OCTOBER 2021

AUDIT COMMITTEE – APPOINTMENT OF LAY MEMBERS

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Freestanding Report

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RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

20TH OCTOBER 2021

COUNCIL

HYBRID MEETINGS – REVIEW OF PROGRESS TO DATE

REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, DEMOCRATIC SERVICES & COMMUNICATION.

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of the report is to provide Members with details of the meetings undertaken during July – September through hybrid webcasting arrangements and to provide the opportunity for council to be updated future arrangements for implementation supported by the Democratic Services Committee.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 It is recommended that Council:

- (i) Note the further progress made with the phased roll out approach to hybrid meetings and detailed within section 3 of the report.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 At the Council meeting on the 30th June, Members considered a report in respect of the introduction arrangements to enable the broadcasting of committee meetings and the ability to operate through a hybrid approach.
- 3.2 Within this report, Members were provided with a proposed roll out programme for the introduction of such meetings
- 3.3 Through discussions at Council and within the Democratic Services Committee meetings, Members have positively supported the arrangements discussed in respect of a phased roll out of the hybrid approach with a series of mock demonstration meetings in advance.
- 3.4 Most recently the Democratic Services considered proposals for the future roll-out of hybrid meetings at its meeting on the [6th September 2021](#).

4 HYBRID MEETINGS

- 4.1 During the months of July and September the following mock demonstration meetings were undertaken:

- 12th July – Cabinet
- 19th July – Overview & Scrutiny Committee
- 24th August – Planning & Development Committee
- 6th September - Democratic Services Committee

- 4.2 On the 20th July the Cabinet undertook its first hybrid meeting. This meeting was also webcast although not live streamed. Since this date, all meetings of the Cabinet have been taken forward using the hybrid setting and webcast through the new recording system.
- 4.3 On the 6th September the Democratic Services Committee undertook its first hybrid meeting and have undertaken its most recent meeting using the hybrid set up.
- 4.4 The Overview & Scrutiny Committee undertook its first hybrid meeting on the 12th October.
- 4.5 A link to the recordings for these meetings can be found here. [English](#) / [Welsh](#)

5 REVIEW OF THE PROGRESS MADE TO DATE

- 5.1 At both the Cabinet and Democratic Services Hybrid meetings and the demonstration meetings there was a good mix between those Members that attended the meeting virtually, through the zoom platform and those that physically attended the Chamber, adhering to the strict covid safety measures in place.
- 5.2 In preparation for all meetings the following requirements were necessary
- a) Due to Covid Safety Measures, Member and Officer attendance at the Council Chamber was required in advance to ensure no more than the allowed 26 capacity was adhered to.
 - b) A seating plan was provided in advance to Members and Officers to ensure social distancing requirements and to assist attendees when entering the Chamber with the one-way system. This seating plan was also clearly provided on the door of the Chamber.
 - c) The Circulation of a Committee meeting Covid Safety Measure document was provided to ensure all Members and Officers were aware of the safety measures needed to be undertaken prior / during and after the meeting.
 - d) Lateral Flow tests were provided to all Committee Members and Officers for them to utilise if they so wished.
 - e) A Video tutorial of the new Chamber layout was circulated to all Committee Members to again assist them with the new layout prior to the meeting. <https://youtu.be/5uqVqGxDv9g>

- f) Instruction sheet in respect of the new Microphone system was provided for those Members in attendance at the Chamber
 - g) Zoom invite details as per the usual process to those Members attending virtually.
- 5.3 The Mock demonstration meetings allowed Members to utilise the new equipment available in the Chamber, for all Members to see how best to engage in the meetings, for Chairs to gain a better understanding of how to ensure all Members felt included in the meeting, for all Members to test the translation system and for general comments and feedback to be provided.
- 5.4 As illustrated in the webcast hybrid meeting of the Cabinet and Democratic Services Committee, the recording allowed interaction with the agenda items discussed at the meeting and highlighted the names of the Members and officers that spoke during the meeting.
- 5.5 The feedback obtained by Members during the demonstration meetings and the hybrid committee meetings themselves were reported to the Democratic Services Committee. Officers from the Council Business Unit have taken forward discussions with Public I and are confident that the issues identified will be resolved.
- 5.6 The Council Business Unit are also developing advice and protocols to support good practice moving forward with the implementation of these new working arrangements.
- 5.7 During the August recess the mutli location policy guidance note has been published by Welsh Government and the Council are confident that the practices taken forward adhere to the guidance provided.

6 FUTURE ARRANGEMENTS

- 6.1 Following the review of the work undertaken to date in respect of hybrid meetings by the Democratic Services Committee, it is considered that the Council is in a positive place going forward and has made steady progress with the introduction of the hybrid meeting approach. Member engagement has been instrumental to the progress made to date, allowing where possible equipment to be refined to suit the Committees needs.
- 6.2 It is important that this momentum of the introduction of hybrid meetings is not lost and it is proposed that the planned phased roll out as previously suggested is continued, subject to the delay to the roll out of Planning and Development Committee, due to the special requirements needed for the Committee to undertake each meeting - presentation sharing / public speakers and to allow both Members and Officers to become comfortable with the new way of working. At each point, the familiarisation of members and their confidence in conducting their role through a hybrid approach should remain the determining factor for confirming progress to a formal committee meeting under these new arrangements.

- 6.3 The resource implications on the Council Business unit to support hybrid meetings has been noted and further supports the need for the incremental approach to the roll out of hybrid meetings to continue as planned.
- 6.4 Voting arrangements will continue to be explored in advance of facilitating a full Council meeting, where an agreed approach will need to be arrived at to secure the smooth running of this meeting.
- 6.5 In respect of the covid safety measures in place within the Council Chamber and the limited capacity it is suggested that the Council continue a cautious approach with the easing of restrictions from Welsh Government. The Council will still therefore continue to promote the covid safety measures in place which include the reduced capacity in the Council Chamber and the confirmed attendance arrangements in advance of meetings to ensure that these measures are adhered too.
- 6.6 The proposed roll out of hybrid meetings will now include the following Committees, taking forward a combination of scrutiny, regulatory and governance themed committees and a revised schedule is listed below:

Next Steps	Outcome	Scheduled	Progress:
Briefing on new arrangements to Cabinet members and officers	To familiarise Cabinet & SLT with the new operation arrangements for webcast and hybrid meetings	Late June/early July	Complete
Briefing on the new arrangements to members of the Democratic Services Committee (DSC)	To familiarise the DSC with the new operation arrangements for webcast and hybrid meetings	September	completed
Briefing on new arrangements to Overview & Scrutiny Committee (O&S) members	To familiarise O&S members with the new operation arrangements for webcast and hybrid meetings	July	Complete
Broadcast meeting of Cabinet	Utilise the Public-I infrastructure to webcast a Cabinet meeting including hybrid attendance	July	Complete
Briefing on new arrangements to Planning & Development (P&D) Committee members	To familiarise P&D members with the new operation arrangements for webcast and hybrid meetings	August	Complete
Broadcast meeting of Democratic	Utilise the Public-I infrastructure to	September	Complete

Services Committee (DSC)	webcast a DSC meeting including the ability for hybrid attendance		
Review progress to date	DSC to review progress and feedback from members	September	Complete
Broadcast meeting of Overview & Scrutiny	Utilise the Public-I infrastructure to webcast a O&S meeting including the ability for hybrid attendance	September	Complete
Broadcast meeting of Planning & Development Committee	Utilise the Public-I infrastructure to webcasting a P&D meeting including the ability for hybrid attendance	September	Delayed Potential Date 4 th November (this date will be reviewed and brought forward if appropriate)
FUTURE PLANNED ROLL OUT			
Briefing on new arrangements to Children & Young People Scrutiny Committee	To familiarise C&YP members with the new operation arrangements for webcast and hybrid meetings	November	11 th November
Broadcast meeting of Children & Young People Scrutiny Committee	Utilise the Public-I infrastructure to webcast a C&YP meeting including the ability for hybrid attendance	November	11 th November
Briefing on new arrangements to Audit & Governance Committee	To familiarise A&G members with the new operation arrangements for webcast and hybrid meetings	November	Date to be Confirmed
Broadcast meeting of Audit & Governance Committee	Utilise the Public-I infrastructure to webcast a A&G meeting including the ability for hybrid attendance	December	6 th December 2021
Briefing on new arrangements to Standards Committee	To familiarise Standards members with the new operation arrangements for webcast and hybrid meetings	November	3 rd November 2021

Broadcast meeting of Standards Committee	Utilise the Public-I infrastructure to webcast a A&G meeting including the ability for hybrid attendance	November	19 th November 2021
Briefing on new arrangements to Appeals Committee	To familiarise Appeal Committee members with the new operation arrangements for webcast and hybrid meetings	October	18 th & 22nd October
Hybrid meeting of Appeals Committee	Utilise the Public-I infrastructure to run a hybrid meeting of the Appeals Committee	October	22 nd October
Wider briefing on new arrangements to all members, including committee by committee engagement	Subject to review To familiarise members not already briefed on new ways of working (including specific session for Chairs & Vice-Chairs)	November	
Wider committee roll-out	Subject to review work towards Implementing webcasting and hybrid arrangements across all functions	December / January	

6.7 It is proposed that the due to overlapping of Memberships on certain Committees the future roll out of the system will be a smooth and quicker process as Members will have potentially already used the system when undertaking their role on a different Committee.

6.8 The roll out will look to run a meeting of Council by the New Year. This will involve further planning due to the reduced capacity seating arrangements in the Council Chamber and discussions will be taken forward with Group Leaders in respect of this matter.

7. LIVE STREAMING

7.1 As previously reported the Cabinet Democratic Services Committee and most recently Overview & Scrutiny Committee have successfully undertaken hybrid meetings and will continue to take forward this approach to meetings.

7.2 The recordings of the meetings are pushed live on the same day (following morning if an evening meeting) with a dual feed (one English one welsh) being made available in the public domain. The recording provides interactive features for viewers providing information regarding the agenda item being discussed and the Members and Officer contributing to the discussions.

- 7.3 The next step will be to sync the meetings with the Modern Gov system so that the public will be provided with even further information in respect of a meeting including access to the agenda link (agenda and report information) and a Members Modern Gov Profile.
- 7.4 Currently through the work of the Council Business Unit details of those Members and officers contributing through the zoom platform are added retrospectively to the recordings.
- 7.5 Going forward, it will be the intention that the Cabinet meeting in October is live streamed to the public and that the same live streaming will be taken forward for the Democratic Services Committee in November.
- 7.6 This roll out will continue with other Committees as the phased roll out of hybrid meetings is progressed.
- 7.7 In light of the above we will need to monitor the usage and hours used for webcasting and live streaming to ensure that we remain within the contracted hours taken forward with Public I.

8 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS / SOCIO-ECONOMIC DUTY

- 8.1 The provision of a webcasting service would promote democracy and encourage public engagement. By removing potential barriers for members of the public to attend meetings at the chamber, webcasting opens up opportunities for wider public engagement and transparency. The aspect of hybrid and virtual meetings also promotes the democracy agenda, allowing the undertaking of Council business by Members to be more accessible and manageable.

9 WELSH LANGUAGE IMPLICATIONS

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

10 CONSULTATION

- 10.1 The opportunities offered by web-casting have been considered by members as part of the business of full Council, Cabinet, the Overview & Scrutiny Committee, the Corporate Governance and Constitution Committee, formal meetings of Chairs & Vice-Chairs.

- 10.2 Promoting public engagement in the democratic processes, including webcasting, has also been discussed in the recently introduced meeting between the Chief Executive and Political Group Leaders, which the Head of Democratic Services attends.

11 FINANCIAL IMPLICATION(S)

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

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

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

13 CONCLUSION

- 13.1 Through the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 Councils will be legally required to webcast meetings to strengthen local democracy and encourage public participation.
- 13.2 The provision of webcasting, has received cross-party support in the Council for the reasons set out, in particular for supporting positive engagement with the public going forward.
- 13.3 The Council has made good progress with the introduction of hybrid meetings in a short period of time. It is proposed that this progress is maintained through the phased roll out approach previously agreed by the Committee.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972
AS AMENDED BY
THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985
RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL
COUNCIL
20TH OCTOBER 2021
REPORT OF THE HEAD OF DEMOCRATIC SERVICES

BACKGROUND PAPERS – none.

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RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

COUNCIL

OCTOBER 2021

URGENT EXECUTIVE DECISIONS TAKEN FORWARD

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

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

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

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that Members:

- 2.1 Note the information contained within the report.

3. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

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

4. URGENT DECISIONS OF THE CABINET COMMITTEE

- 4.1 There were no urgent Decisions of the Cabinet Committee taken forward during this time period.

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

- 5.1 As outlined in Section 3 of the Leader's Scheme of Delegation, Cabinet Members are permitted to make decisions falling under their portfolio if deemed urgent to protect the interest of the Council, subject to prior consultation with the relevant Senior Leadership Team Officer(s).
- 5.2 The Leader can take urgent decisions in the absence of the appropriate portfolio holder.
- 5.3 The confirmation and signature of the Presiding Officer or Deputy Presiding Officer to the proposed decision must be sought in accordance with the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules 17.2(a)
- 5.4 There were no urgent Cabinet Member Decisions taken forward during this time period.

6. DELEGATION OF EXECUTIVE FUNCTIONS TO OFFICERS.

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

Date	Decision Taken	Reason for Exemption
15.06.21	<u>School Holiday Enrichment Programme, Summer 2021</u>	To allow for the timely delivery of the SHEP Programme by the Summer.

7. CONSULTATION

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

8. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS INCLUDING SOCIO ECONOMIC DUTY

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

9. WELSH LANGUAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 9.1 A Welsh Language Impact Assessment is not needed because the contents of the report are for information purposes only.

10 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

10.1 There are no financial implications aligned to this report.

11. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS OR LEGISLATION CONSIDERED.

11.1 There are no legal implications aligned to this report.

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

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

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

13. CONCLUSION

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

Other Information:-

Relevant Scrutiny Committee – Overview & Scrutiny Committee

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

AS AMENDED BY

THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

COUNCIL

OCTOBER 2021

URGENT EXECUTIVE DECISIONS TAKEN FORWARD

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

Item: URGENT EXECUTIVE DECISIONS TAKEN FORWARD

Background Papers

- Annual General Meeting – May 2016