



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

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