

LOCAL DEMOCRACY AND BOUNDARY COMMISSION FOR WALES



Comisiwn Ffiniau a
Democratiaeth Leol
Cymru

Local Democracy and
Boundary Commission
For Wales

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

Final Recommendations Report

March 2020

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FOREWORD

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

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

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

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

Ceri Stradling

Deputy Chair

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

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

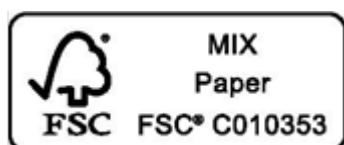
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Chapter 1. INTRODUCTION

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

Chapter 2. THE DRAFT PROPOSALS

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

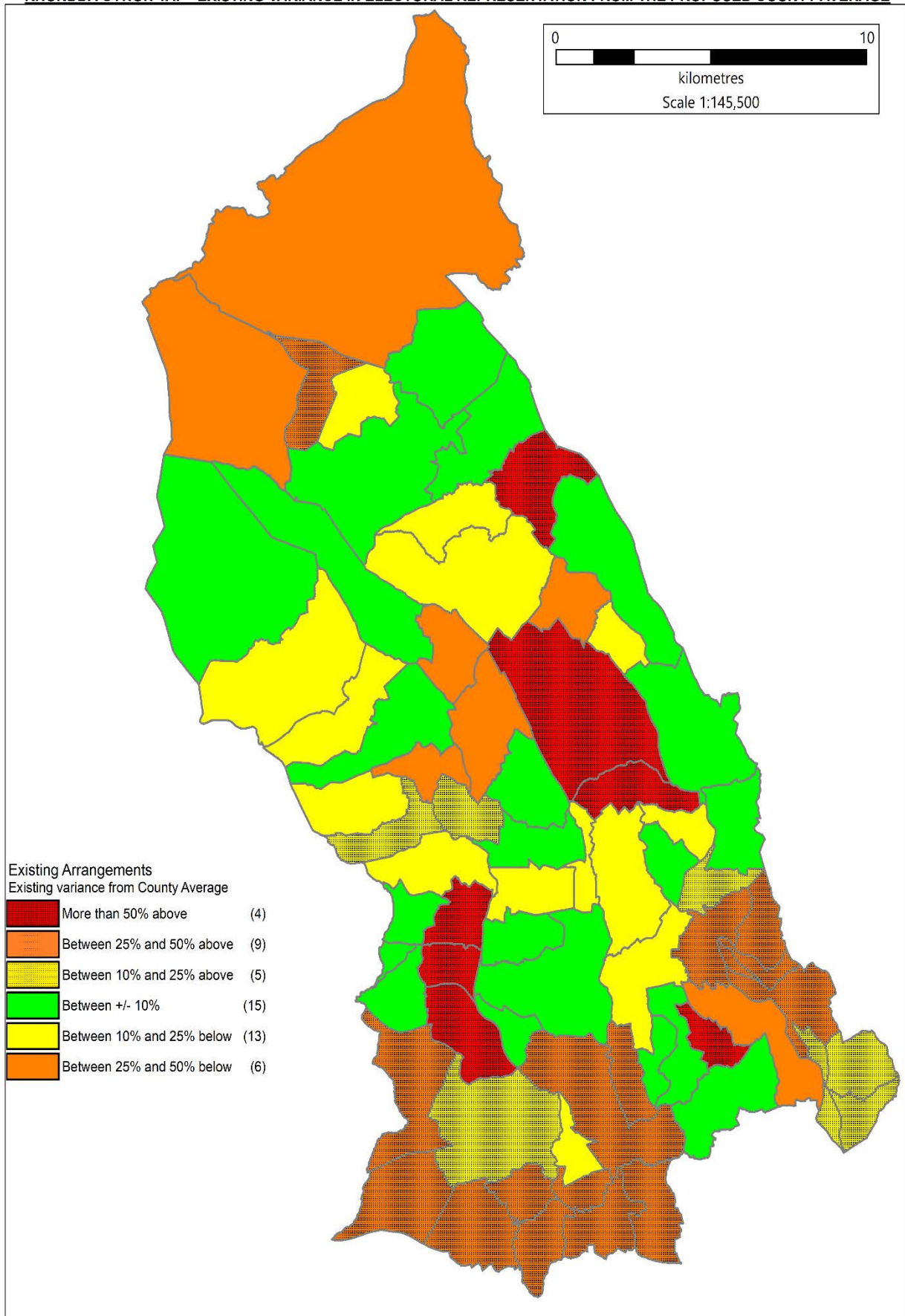
Chapter 3. SUMMARY OF FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS

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

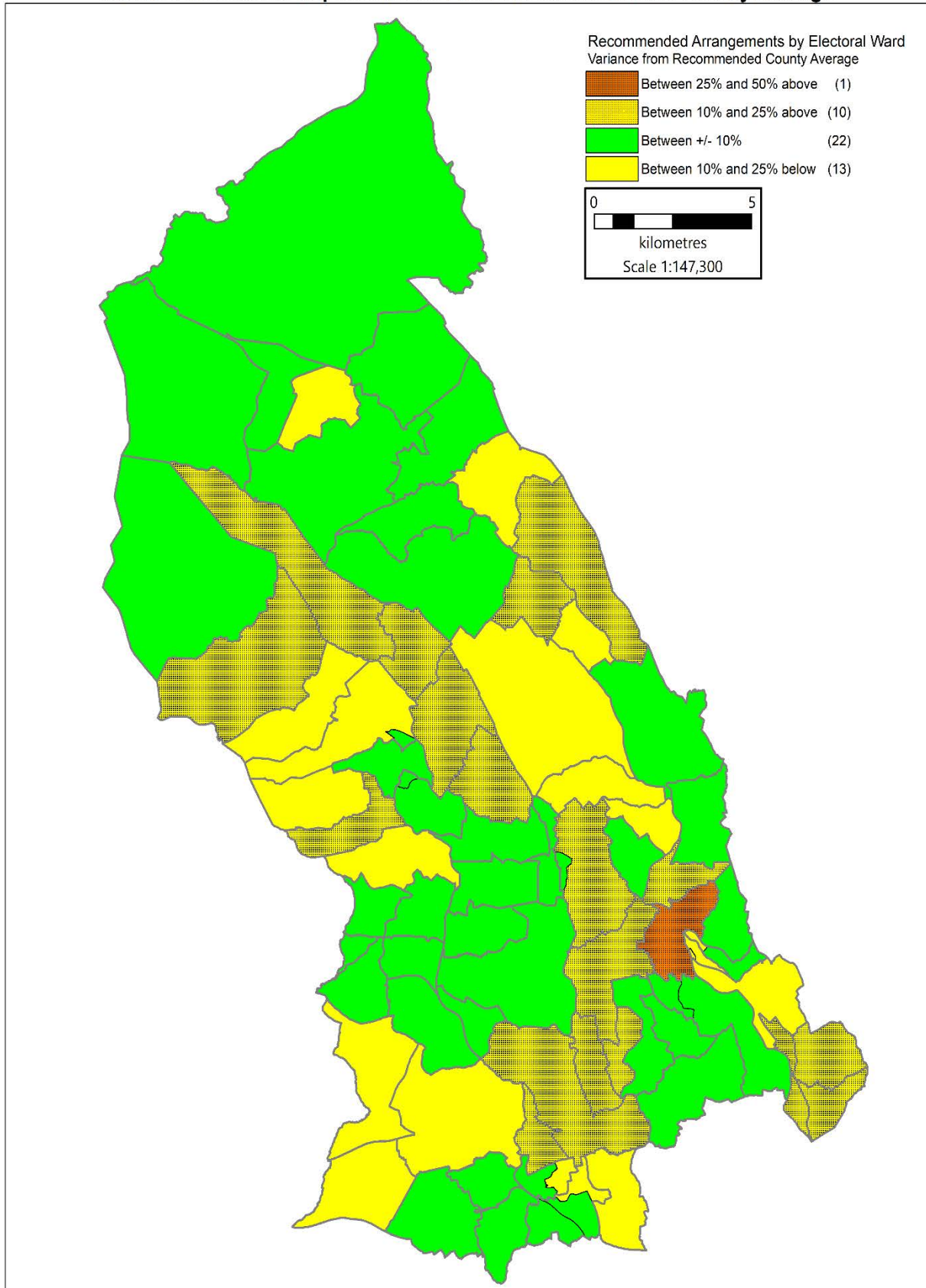
Summary Maps

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

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



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



Chapter 4. ASSESSMENT

Council size

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

Number of electors

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

Councillor to electorate ratio

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

Judgement and Balance

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

Electoral Ward Names

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

Community and Town Council Arrangements

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

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

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

Chapter 4. THE FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS

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

Retained Electoral Wards

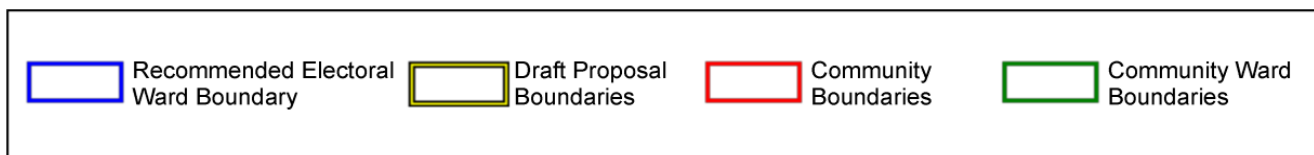
2. The Commission has considered the electoral arrangements of the existing electoral wards and the ratio of local government electors to the number of councillors to be elected. It is recommended that the existing arrangements should be retained within the following electoral wards. Names displayed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

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

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

Proposed Electoral Wards

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



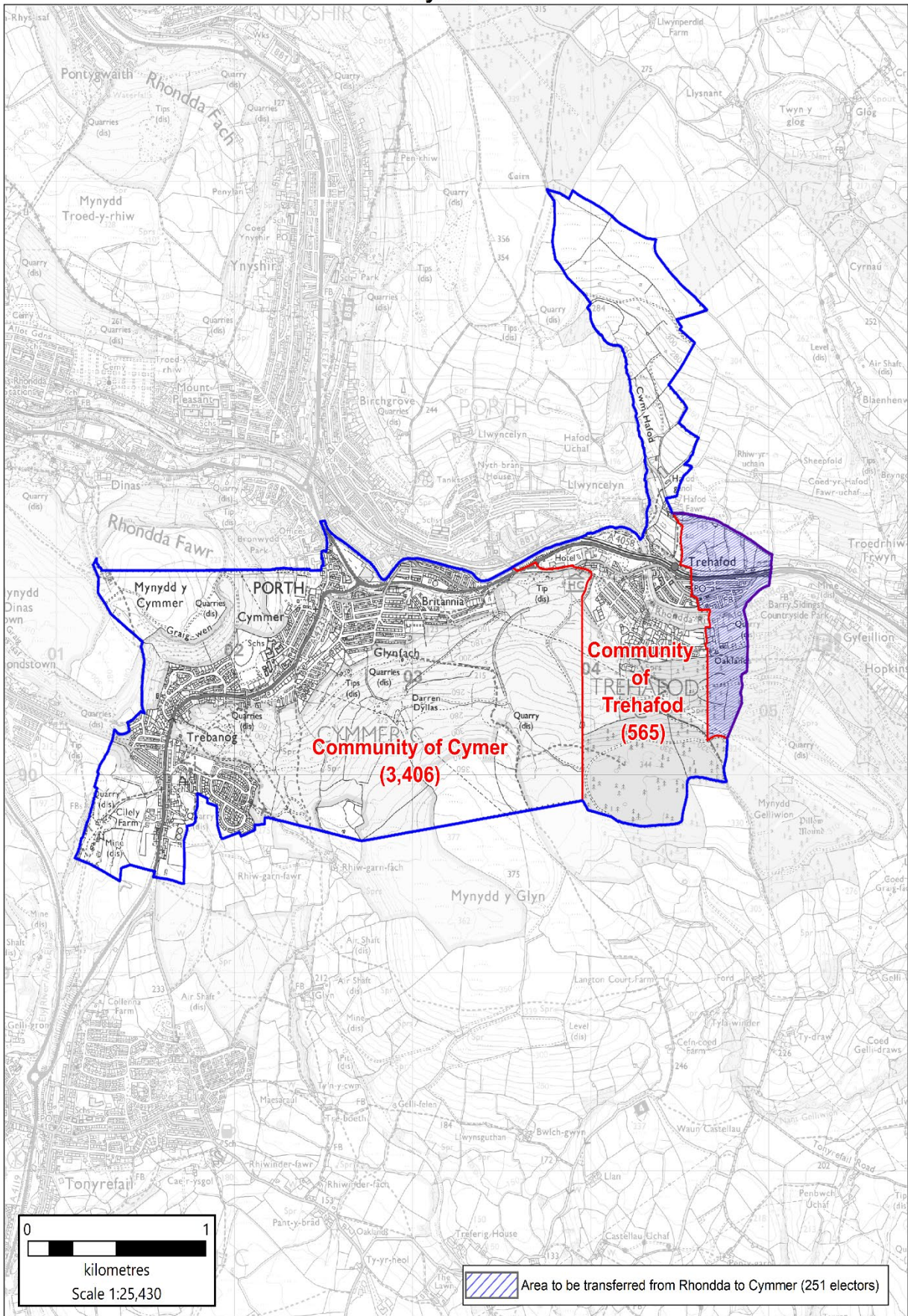
Cymmer, Graig and Rhondda

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

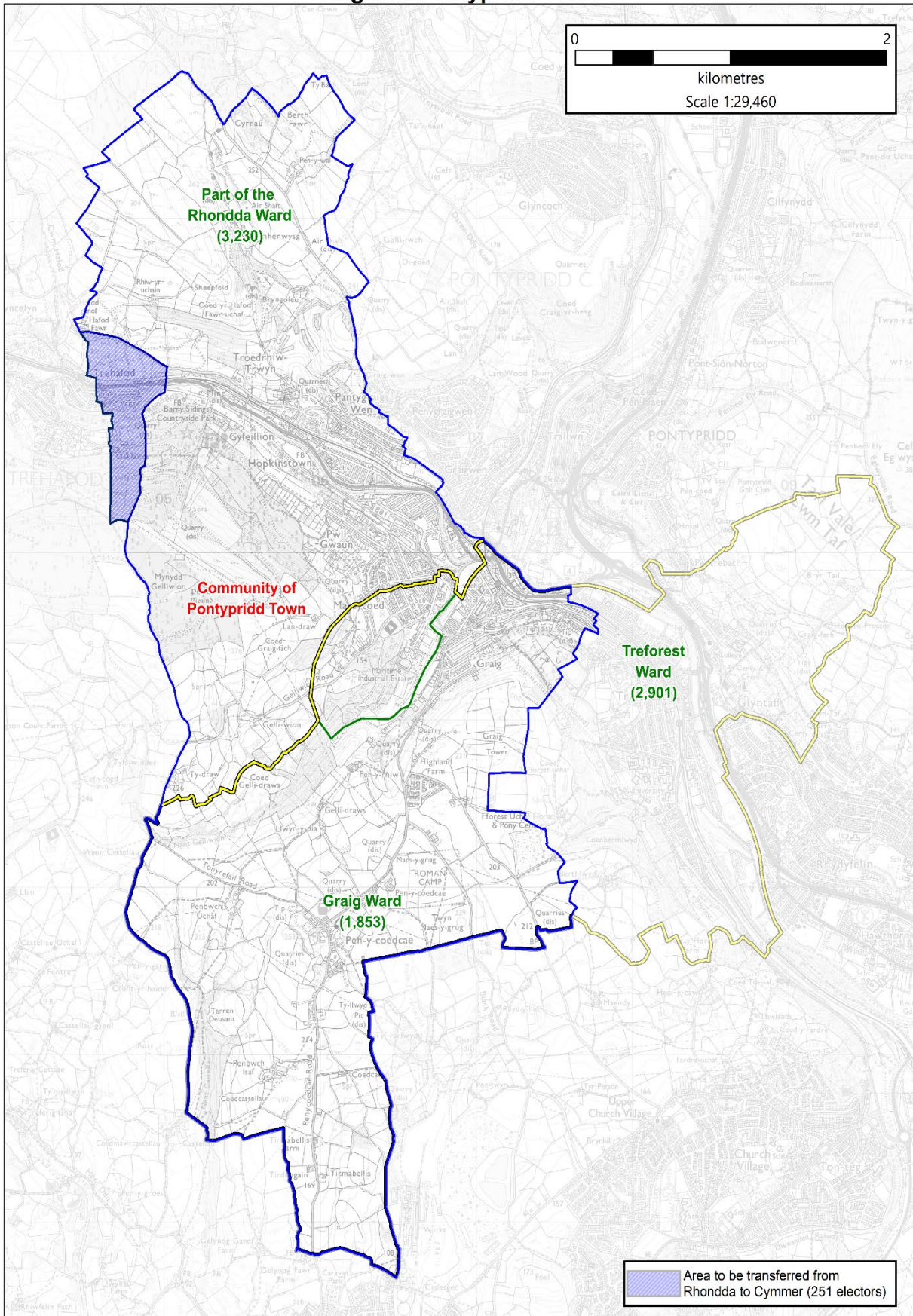
between the two areas. The resident stated a preference for the County Borough Council's alternative suggestion to combine the electoral wards of Graig and Rhondda, which would at least keep Maes-y-coed together even with the reduction in representation.

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

Cymer



Graig and Pontypridd West

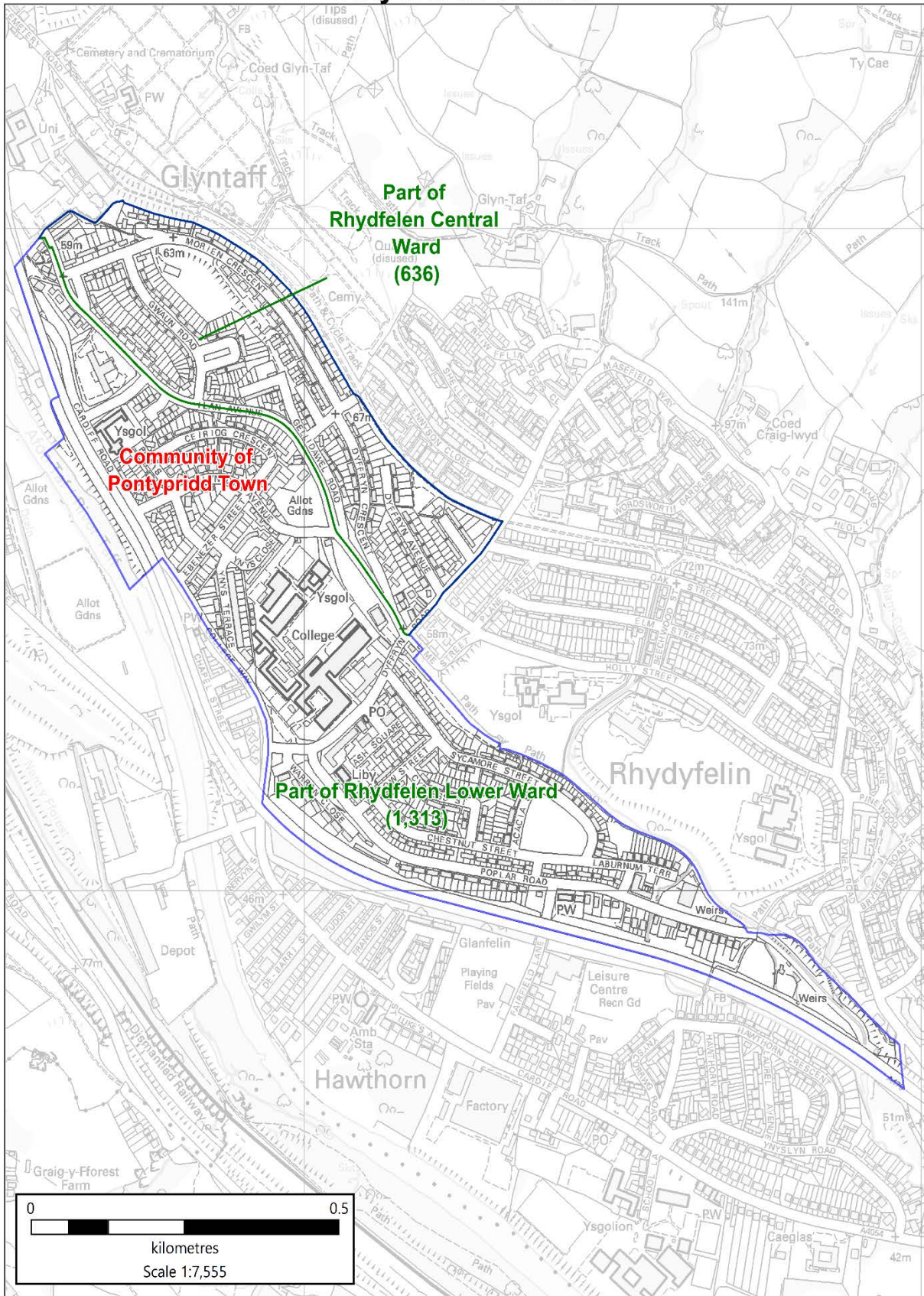


Hawthorn and Rhydfelen Central/Ilan

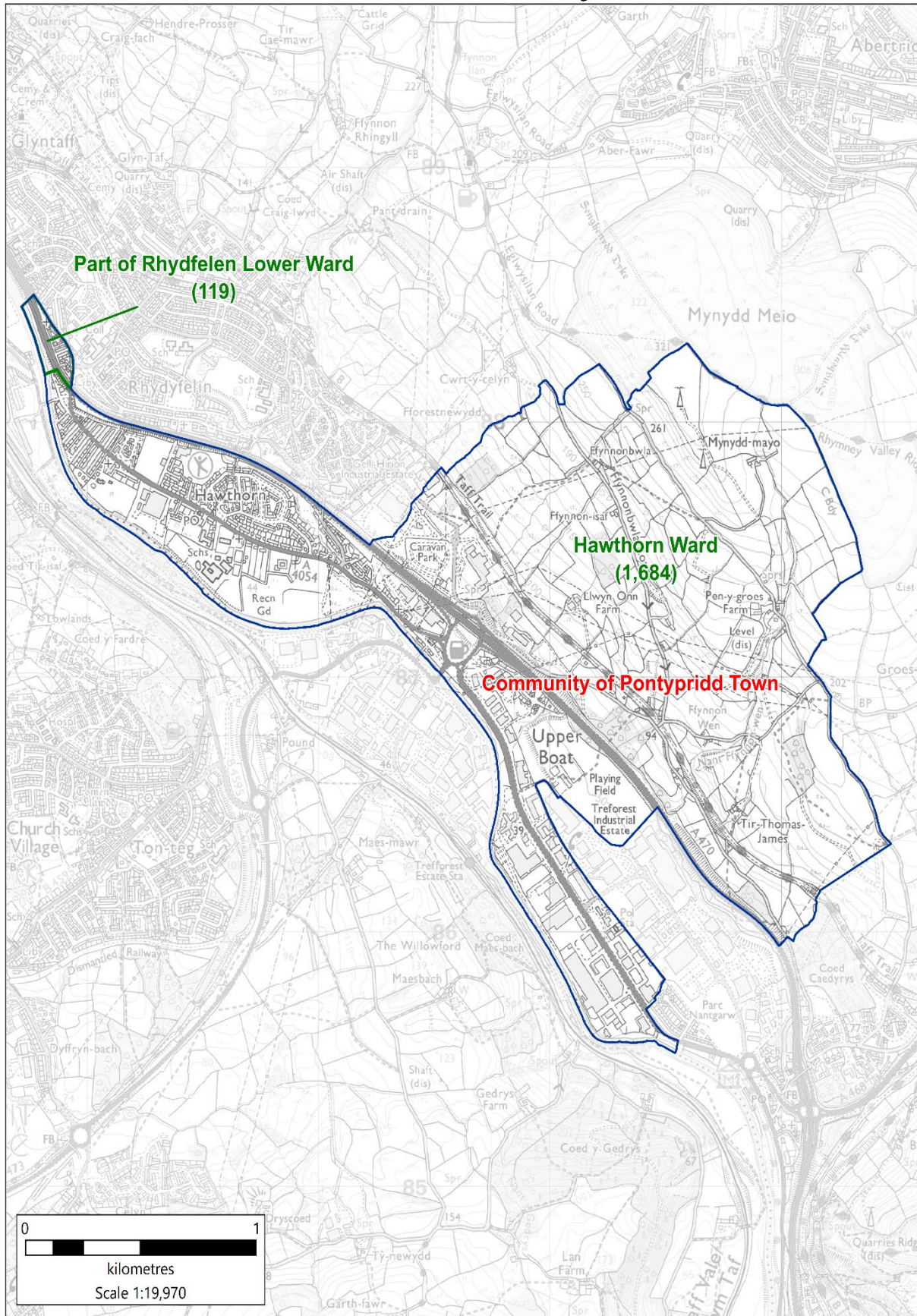
25. The existing Hawthorn electoral ward is composed of the Hawthorn and Rhydfelen Lower wards of the Town of Pontypridd. It has 3,116 electors (3,116 projected) represented by one councillor which is 35% above the recommended county average. The electoral ward has an estimated population of 3,138 eligible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

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

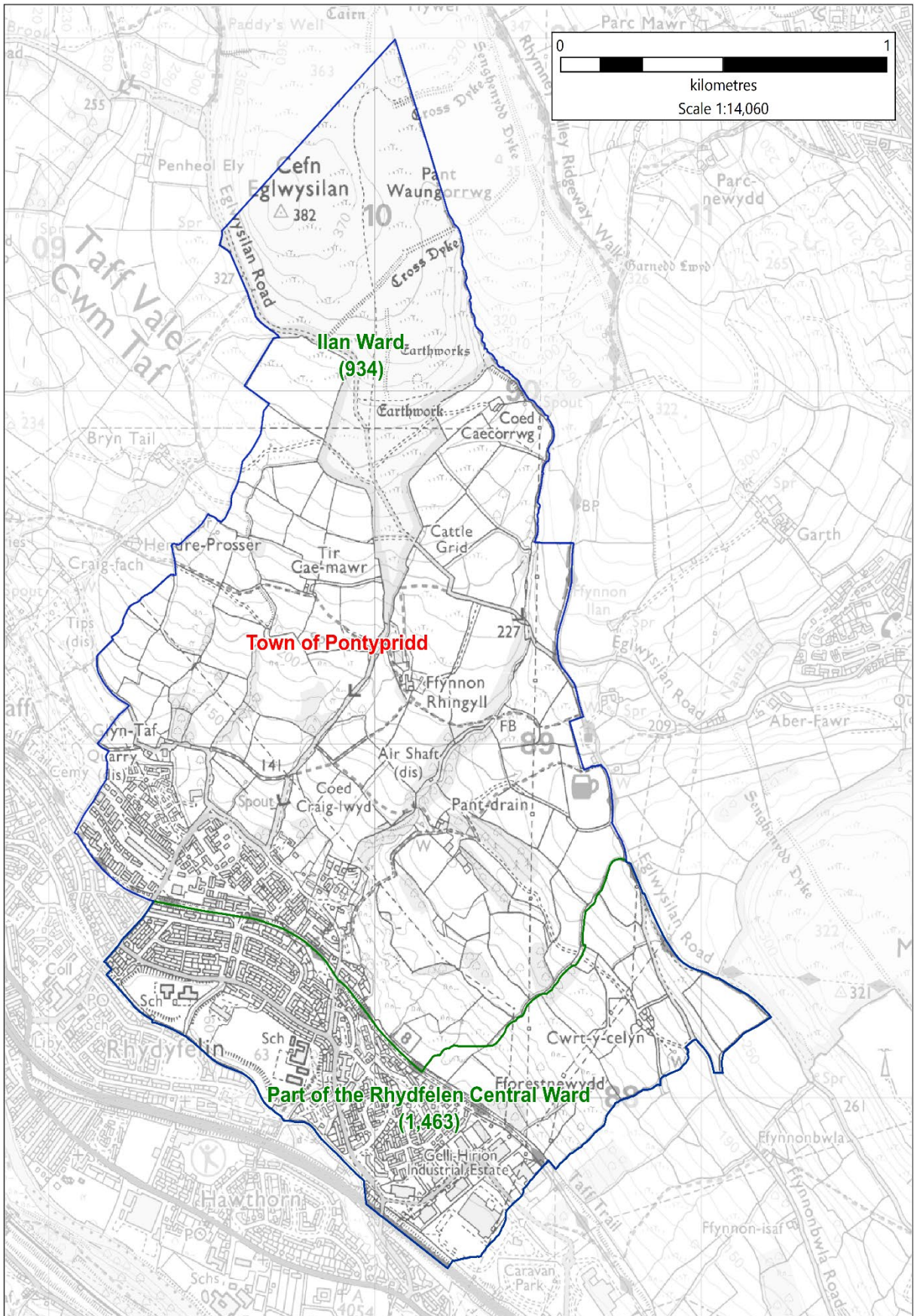
Rhydfelen Central



Hawthorn and Lower Rhydfelen



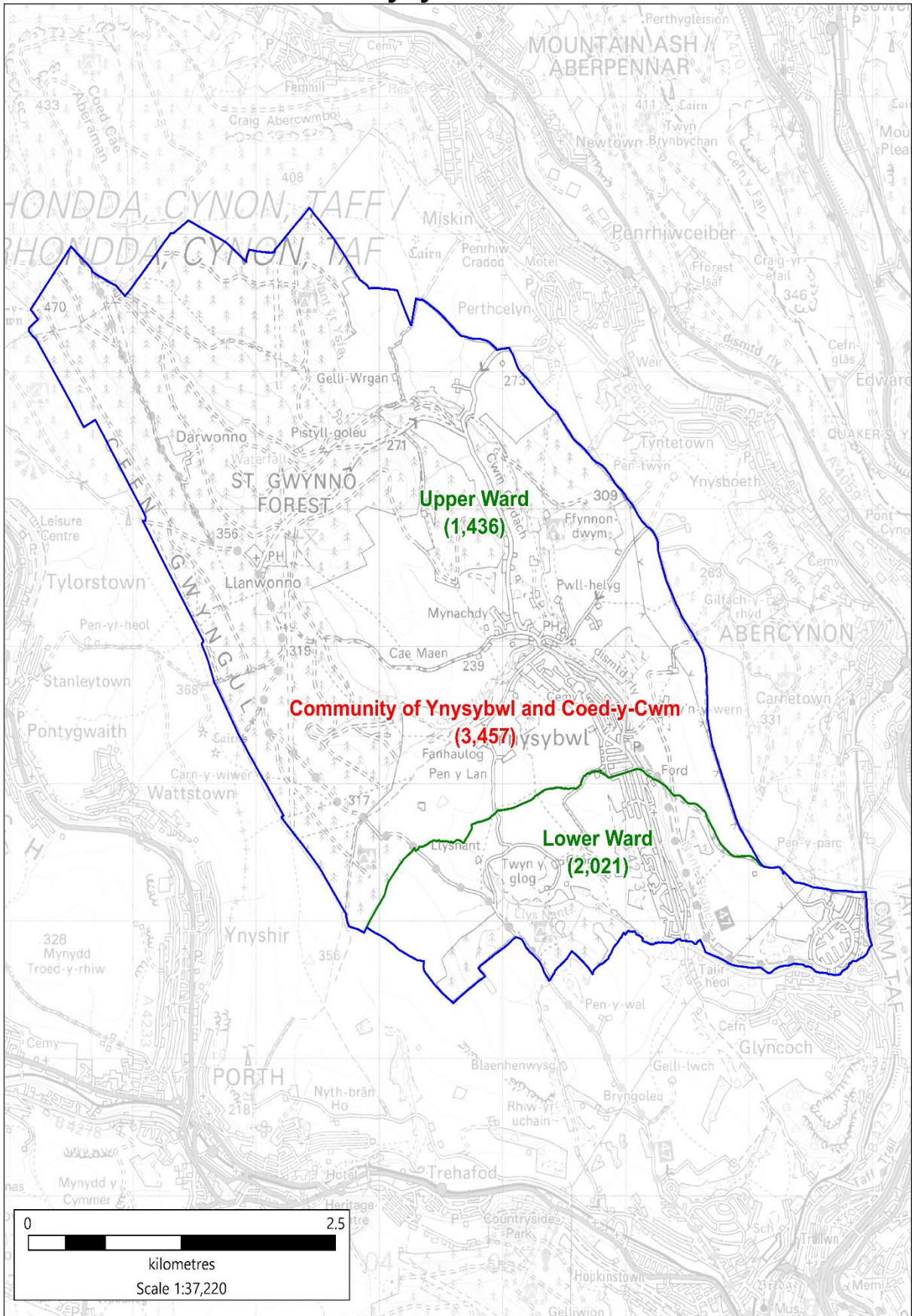
Upper Rhydfelen and Glyn-taf



Ynysybwl

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

Ynysybwl

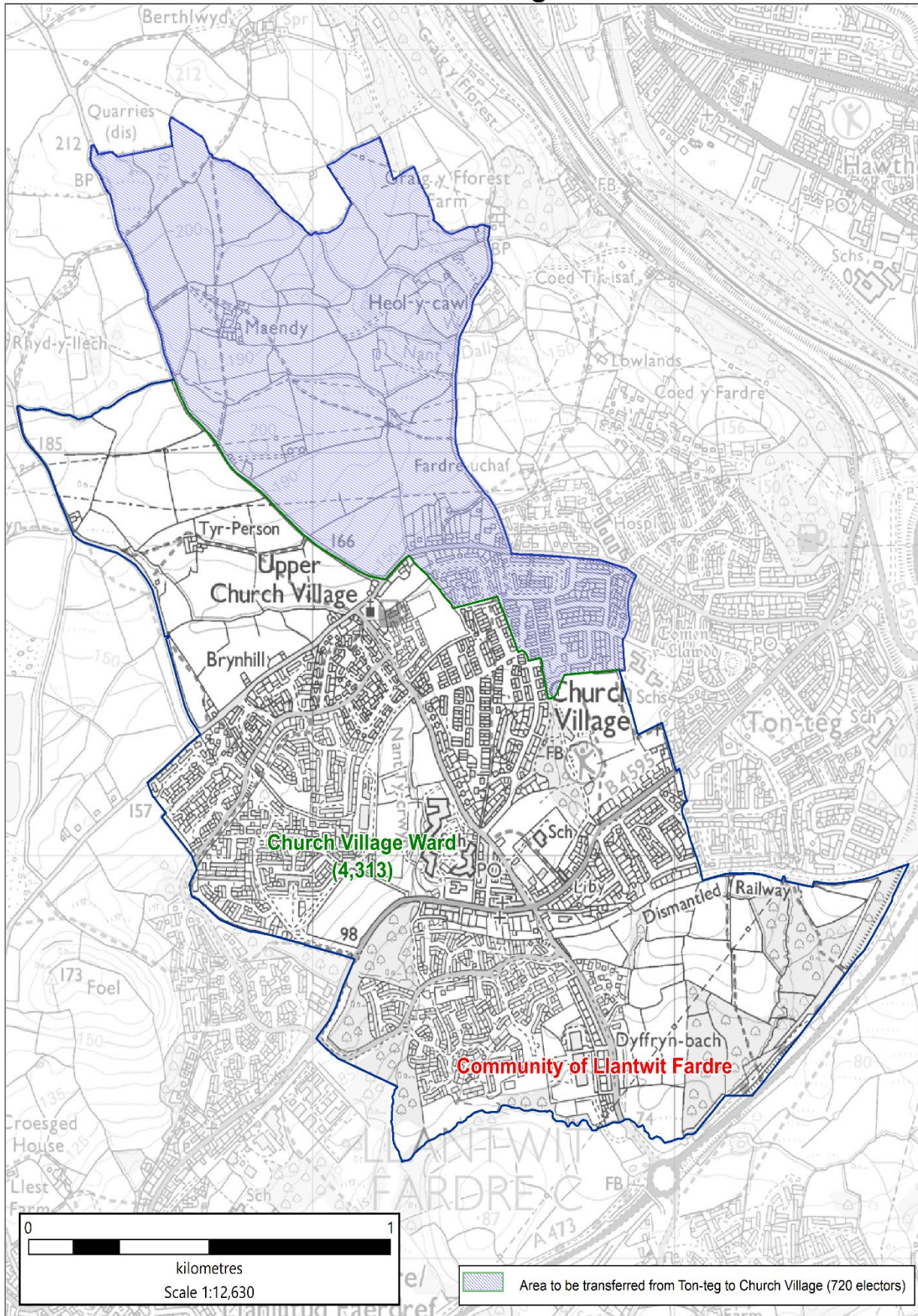


Church Village and Ton-teg

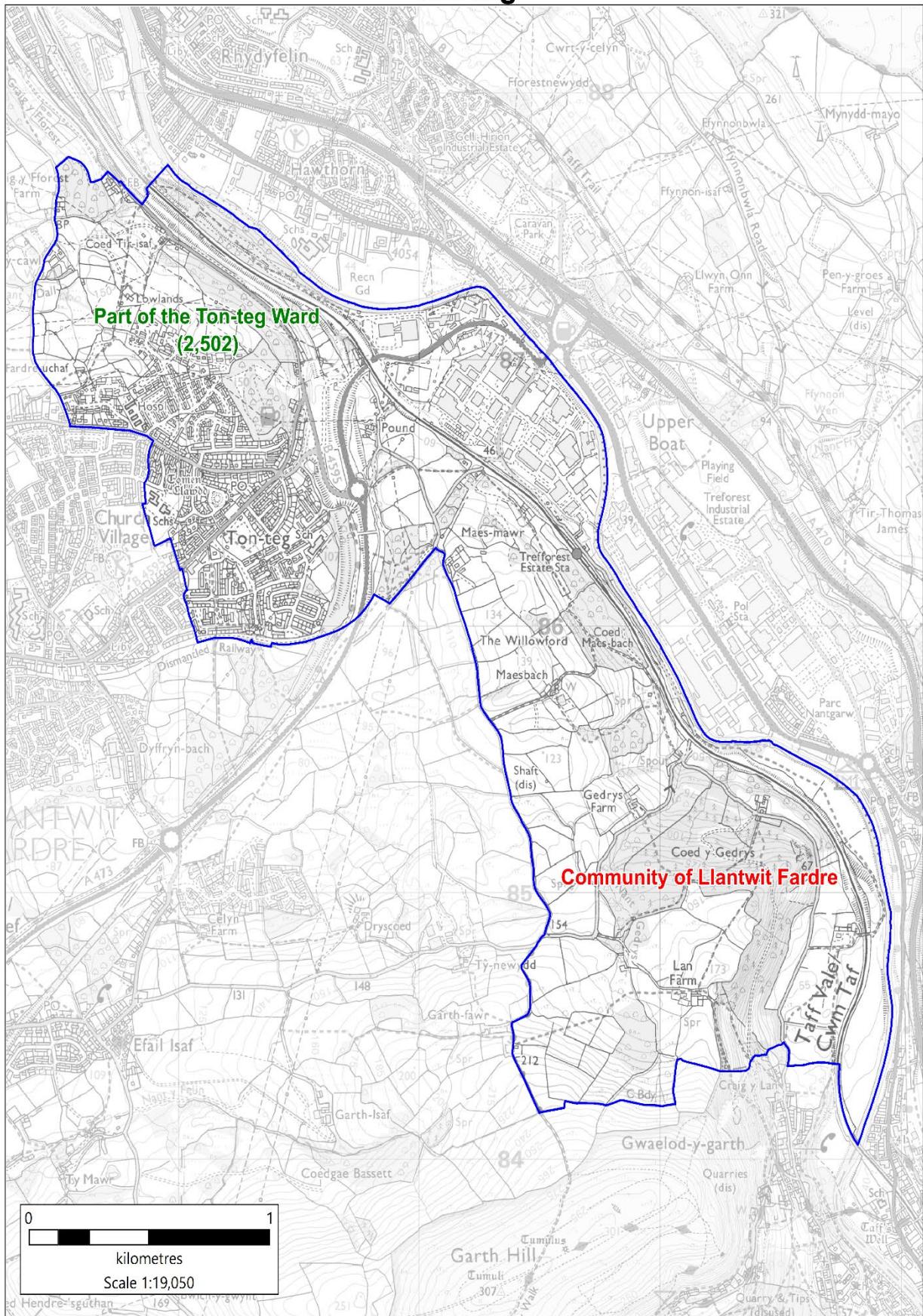
50. The existing Church Village electoral ward is comprised of the Church Village ward of the Community of Llantwit Fardre. It has 4,313 electors (4,350 projected) represented by one councillor which is 87% above the recommended county average. The electoral ward has an estimated population of 3,898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

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

Church Village



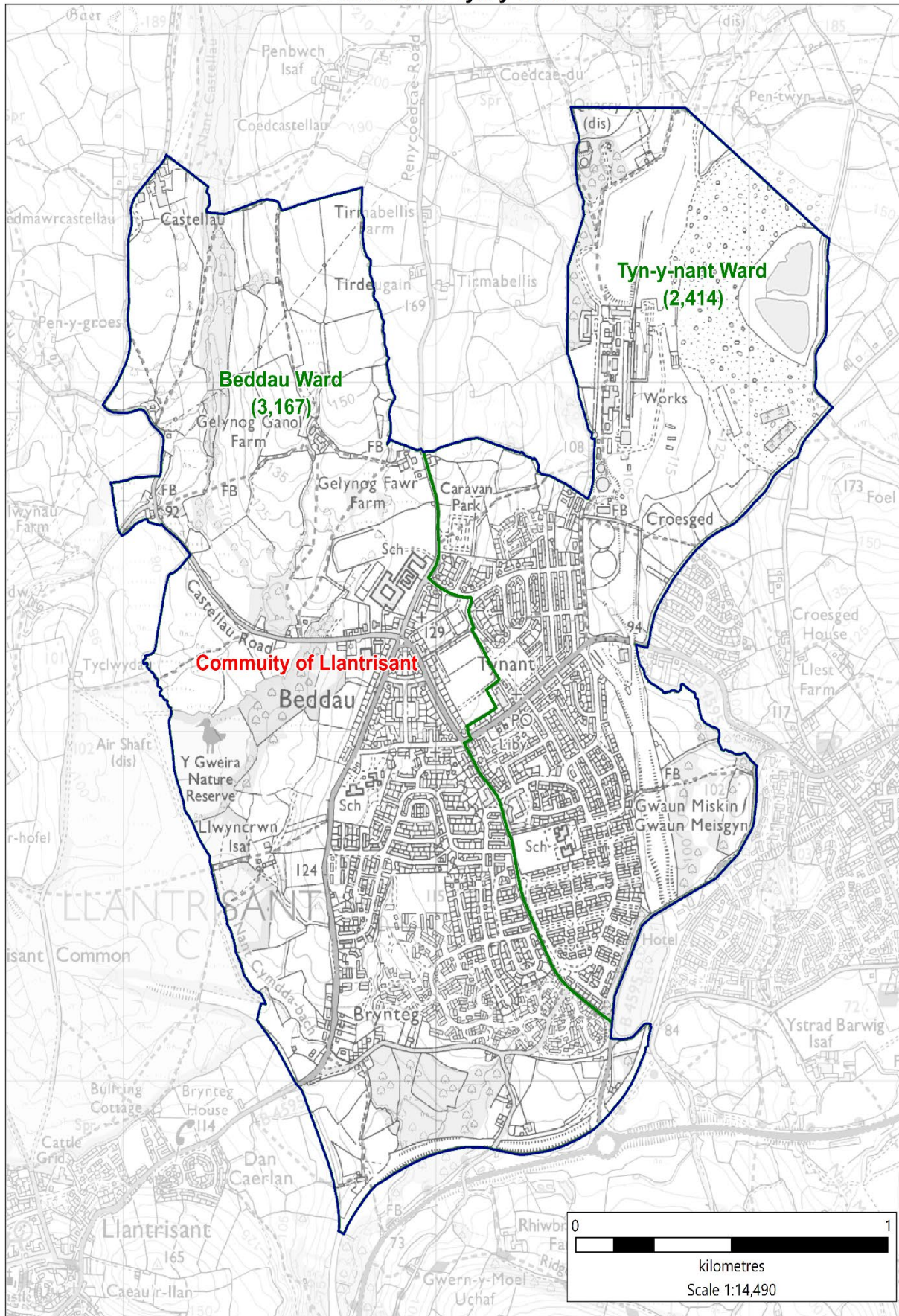
Ton-teg



Beddau and Tyn-y-nant

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

Beddau and Tyn-y-nant

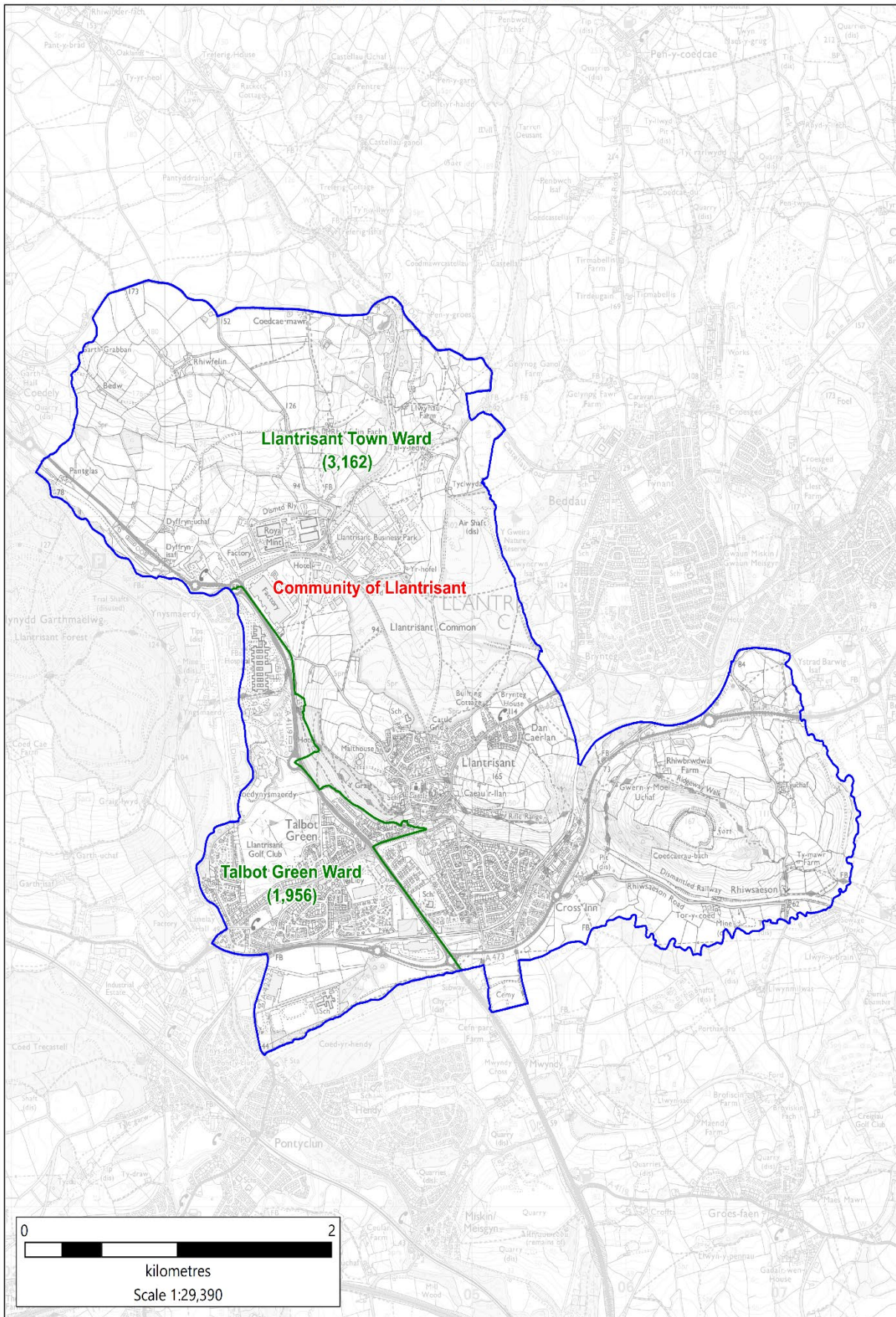


Llantrisant Town and Talbot Green

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

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

Llantrisant and Talbot Green



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Llanharry and Pont-y-clun

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

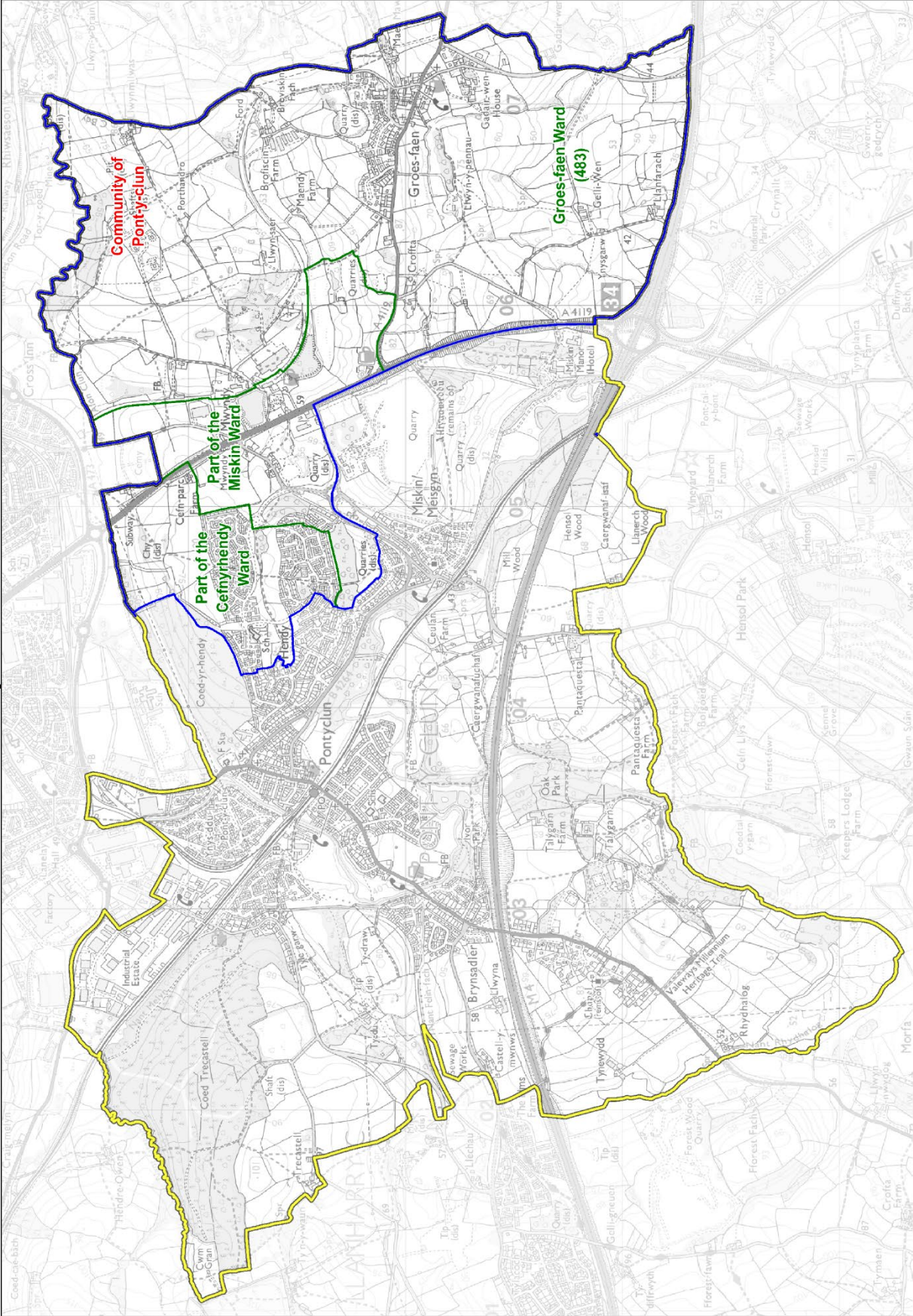
involved transferring the Community Ward of Tyle-garw to Pont-y-clun Community Council for representation. The pro-forma stated that this would impact the community council's ability to provide services to their residents and that the Council Tax precepts from Tyle-garw would be collected by Pont-y-clun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

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

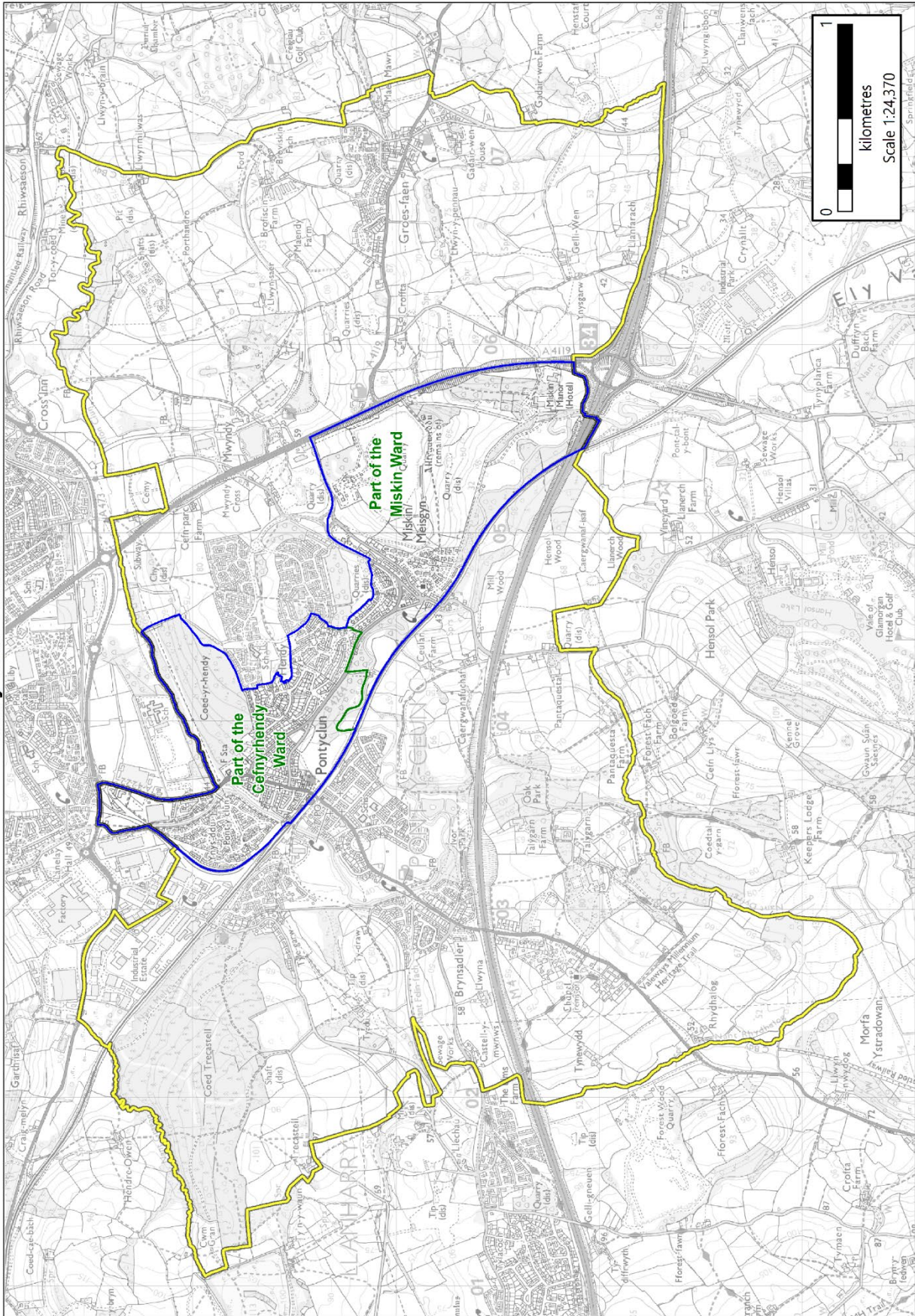
Language Commissioner agrees with the proposed name. The Commission received two representations concerning the ward name from Pont-y-clun Community Council and Councillor Margaret Griffiths (Pont-y-clun) who requested that the form of *Pontyclun* be used in both languages. Any comments on the recommended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

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

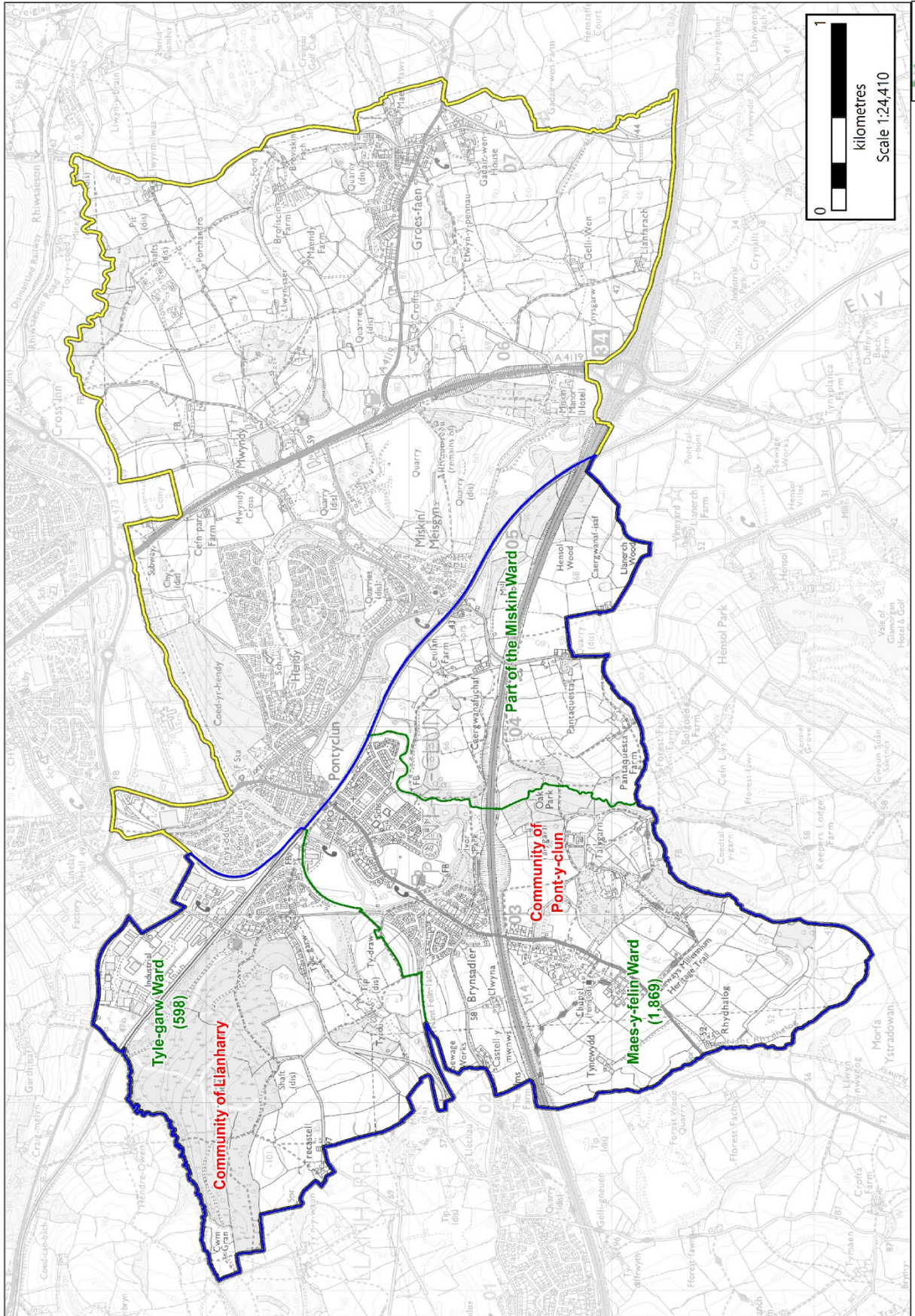
Pont-y-clun East



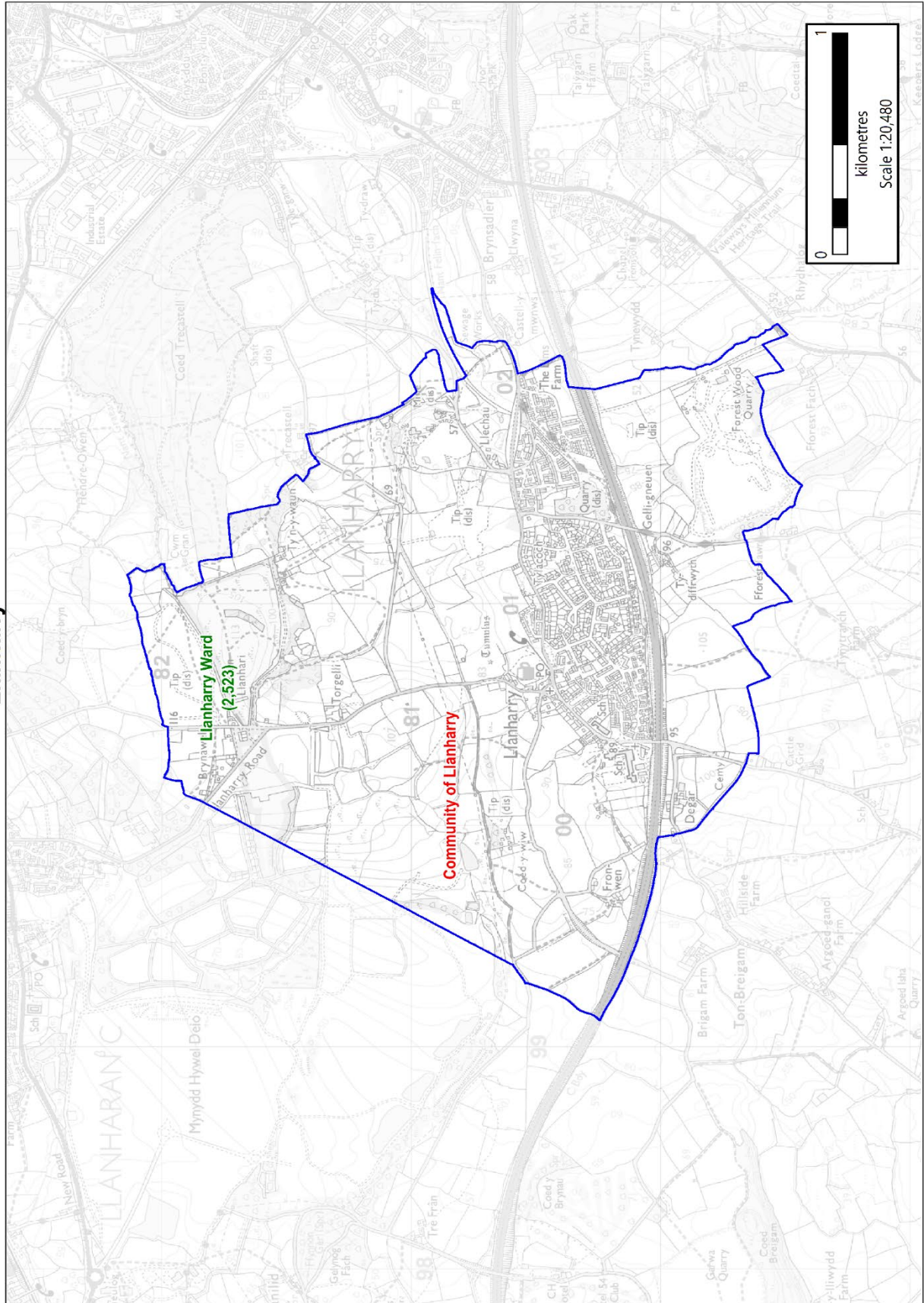
Pont-y-clun Central



Pont-y-clun West



Llanharry



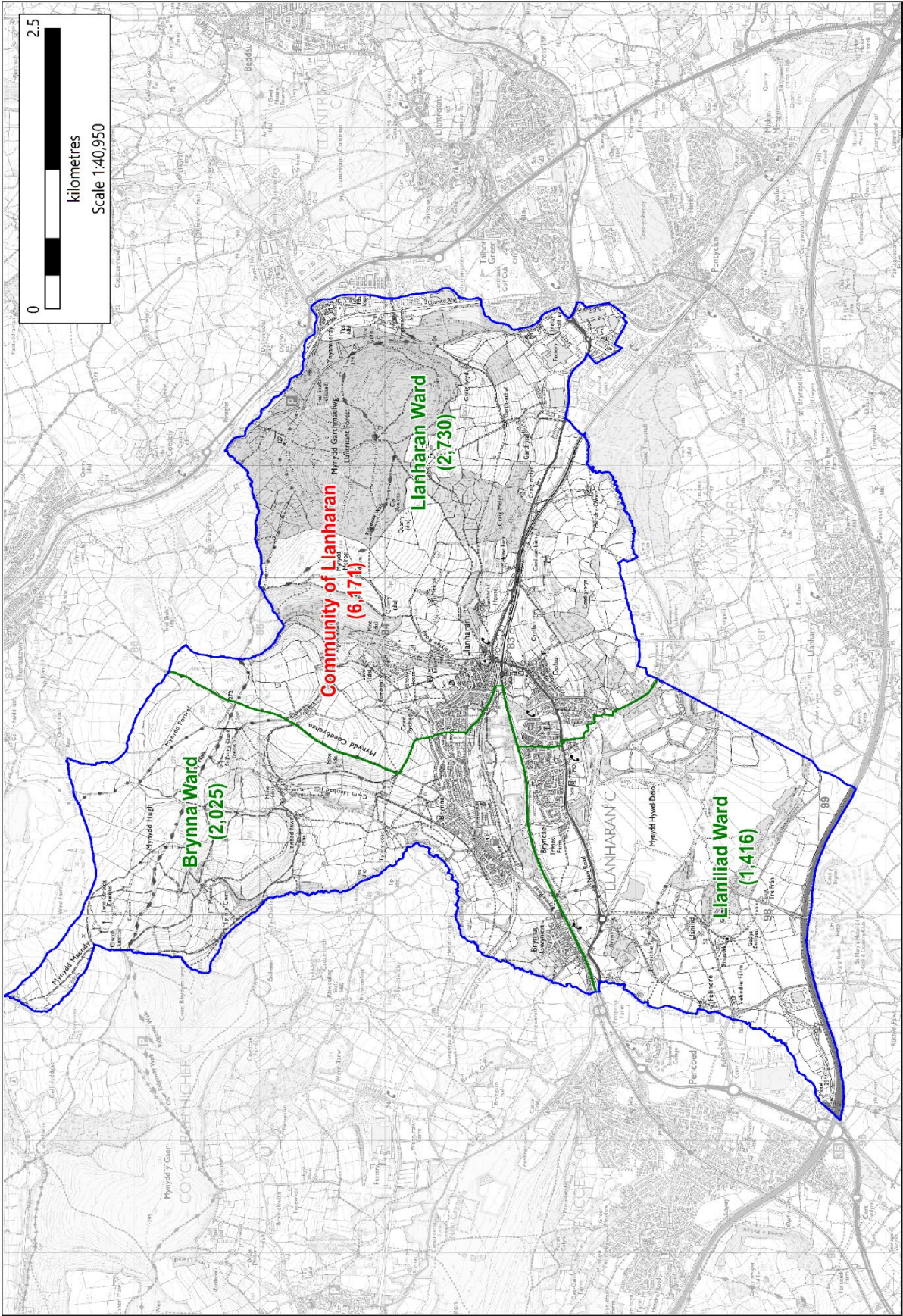
Bryнна and Llanharan

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

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

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

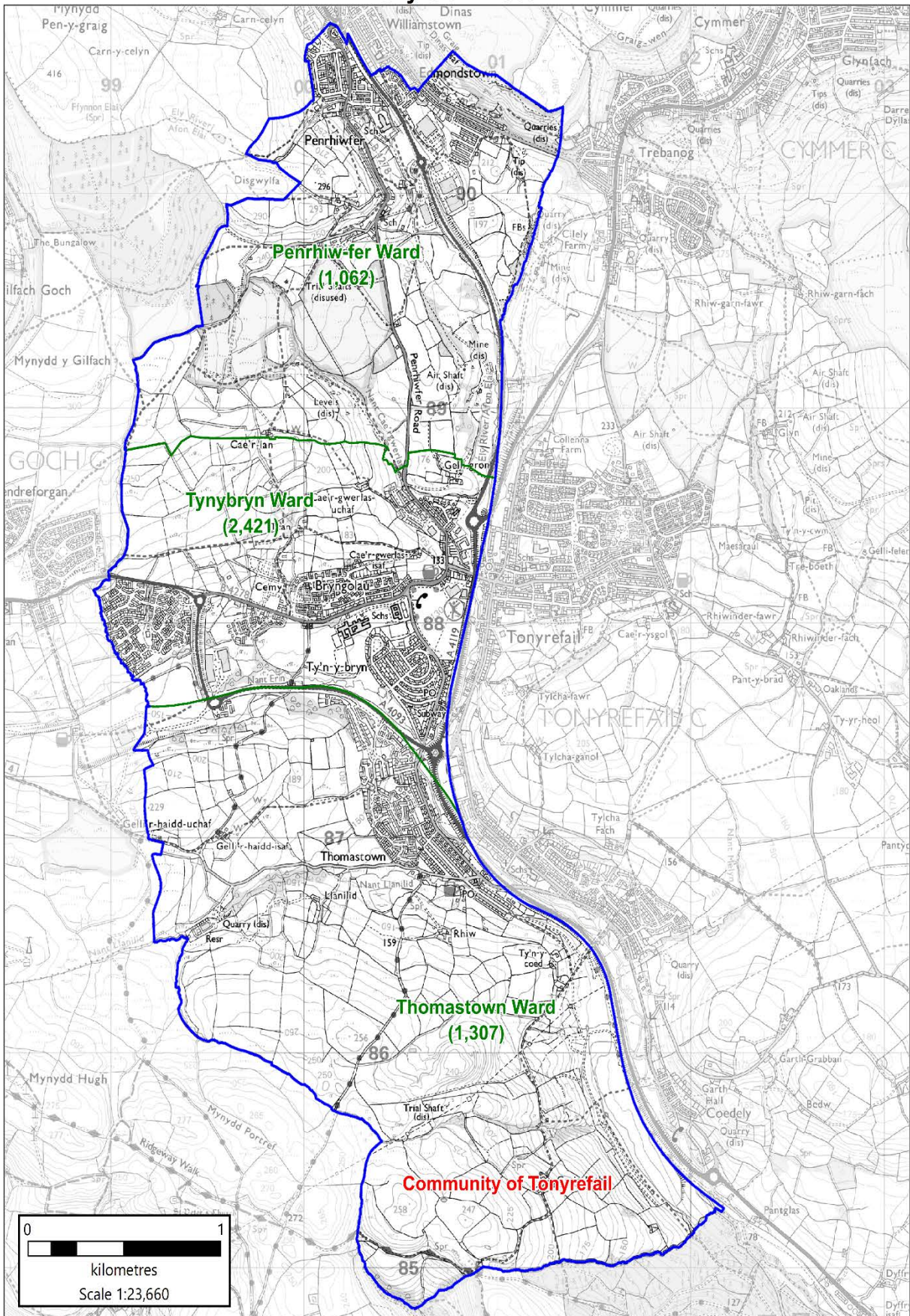
Bryna and Llanharan



Tonyrefail West

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

Tonyrefail West

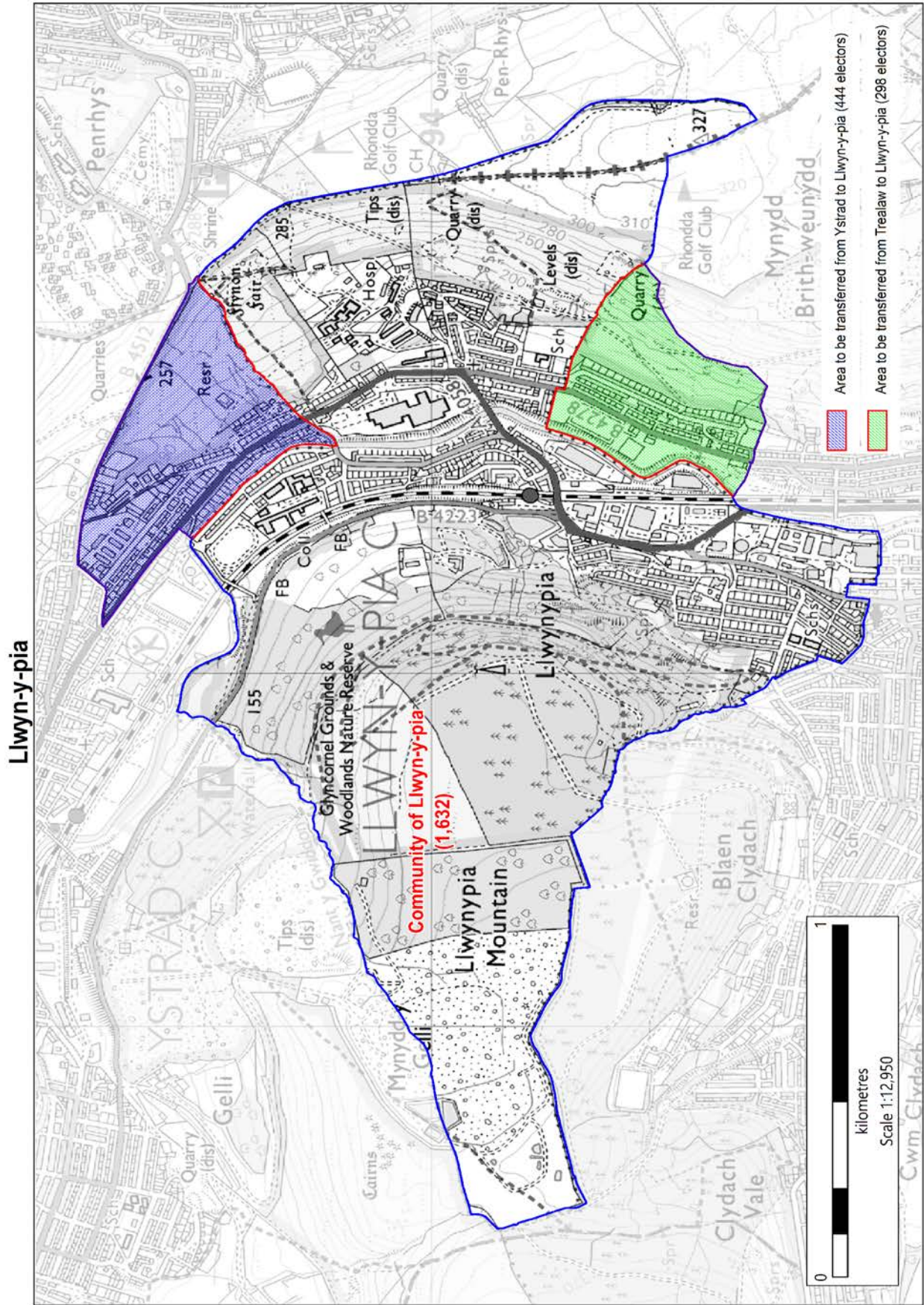


Llwyn-y-pia, Trealaw and Ystrad

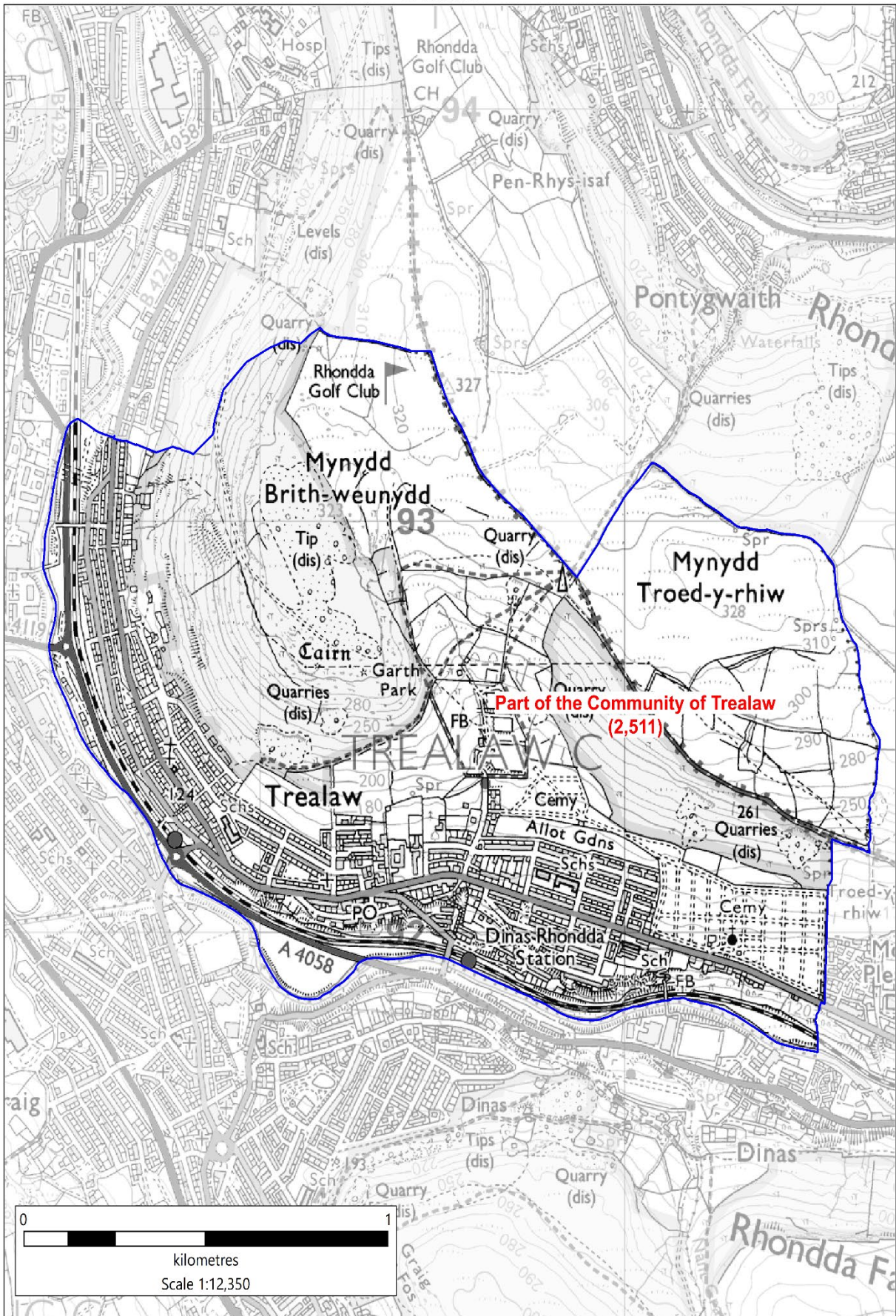
136. The existing Llwyn-y-pia electoral ward is comprised of the Community of Llwyn-y-pia. It has 1,632 electors (1,713 projected) represented by one councillor which is 29% below the recommended county average. The electoral ward has an estimated population of 1,858 eligible electors.
137. The existing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

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

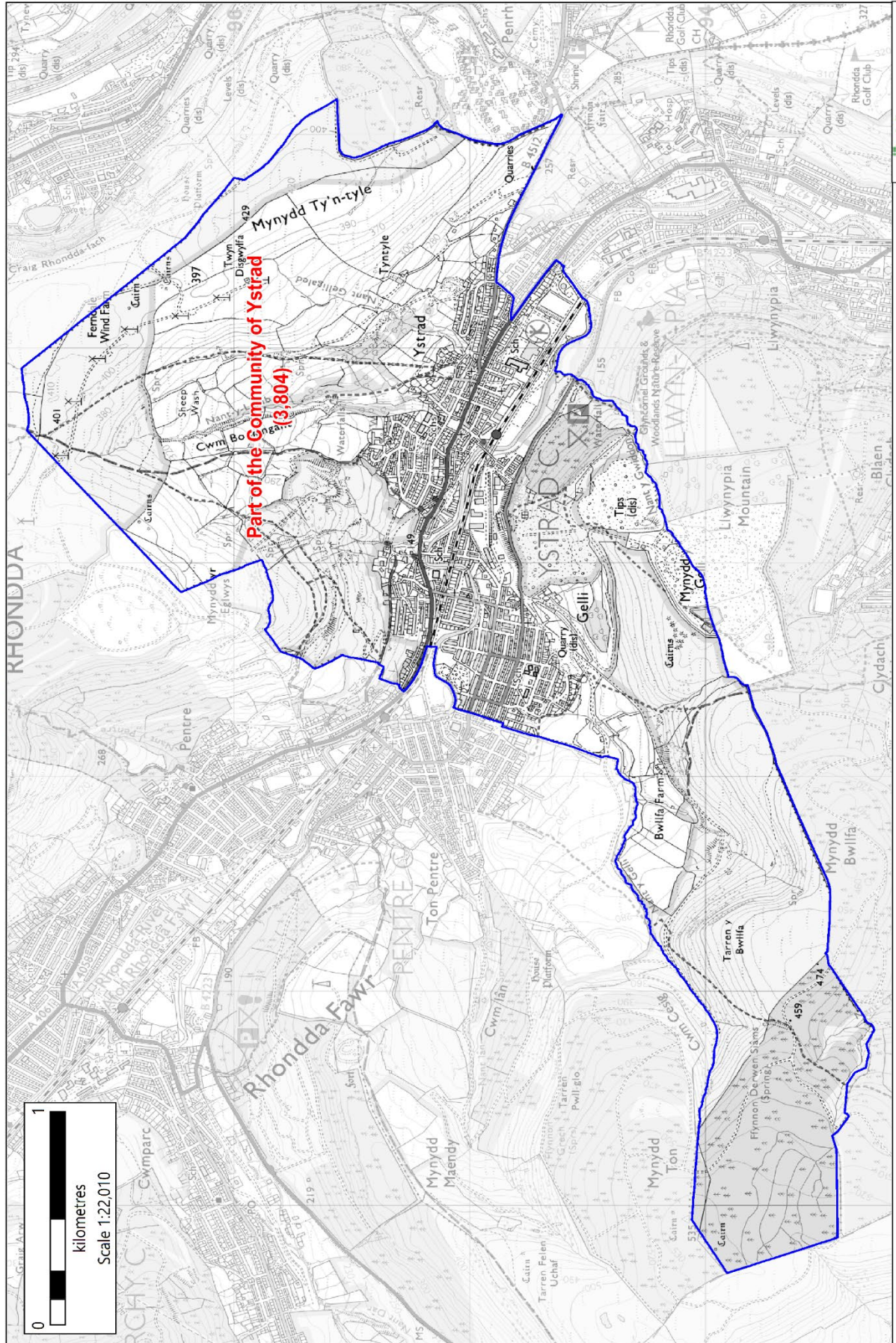
148. The Commission proposed the single name Ystrad in the Draft Proposals. The Welsh Language Commissioner agreed with the proposed name. The Commission received no representations with regards to the name in response to the Draft Proposals.
149. The Commission has given the recommended electoral ward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



Trealaw



Ystrad



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Treorchy

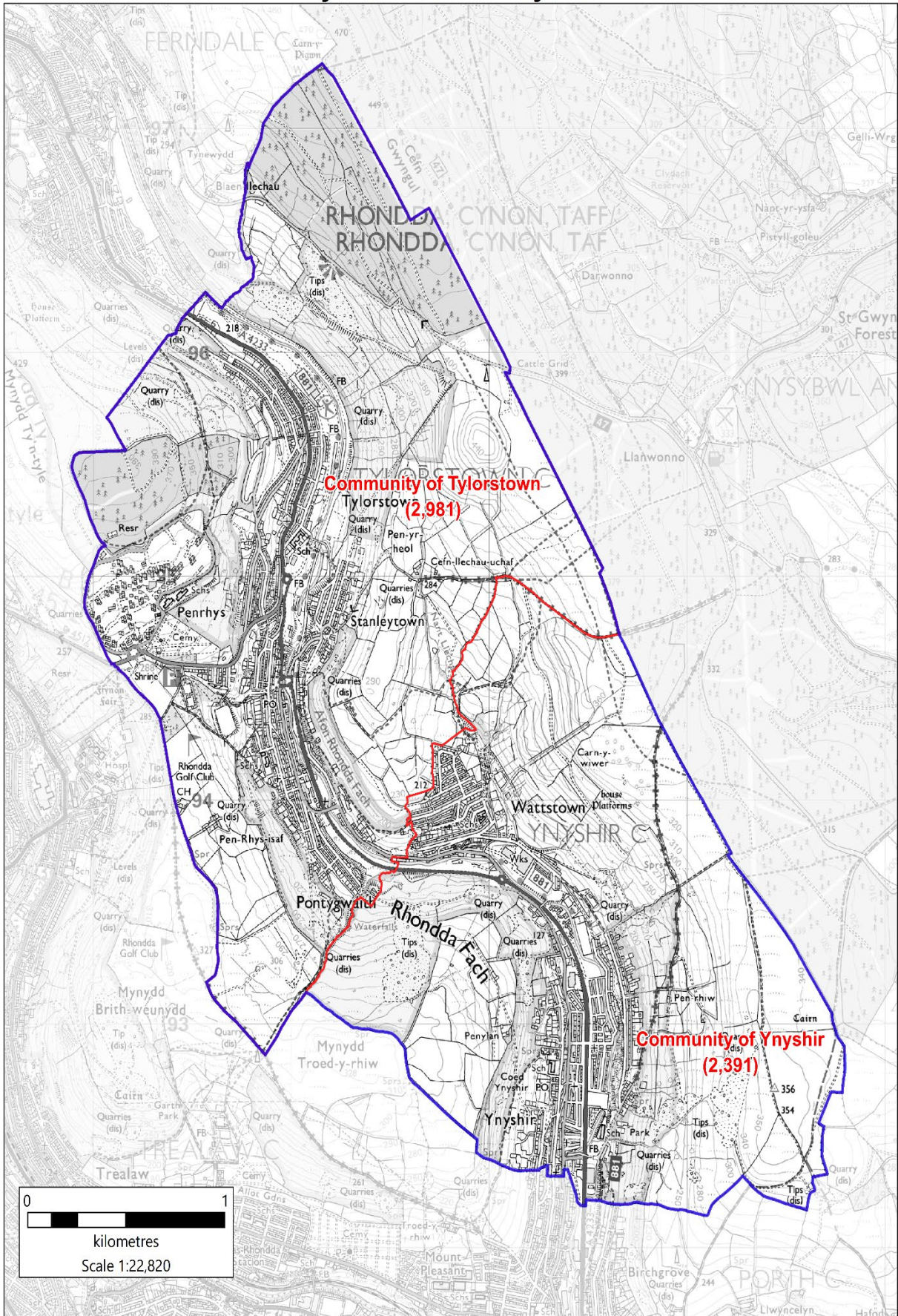
153. The existing Treorchy electoral ward is comprised of the Community of Treorchy. It has 5,652 electors (5,750 projected) represented by three councillors which is 18% below the recommended county average. The electoral ward has an estimated population of 6,118 eligible voters.
154. In its Draft Proposals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

Tylorstown and Ynyshir

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

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

Tylorstown and Ynyshir

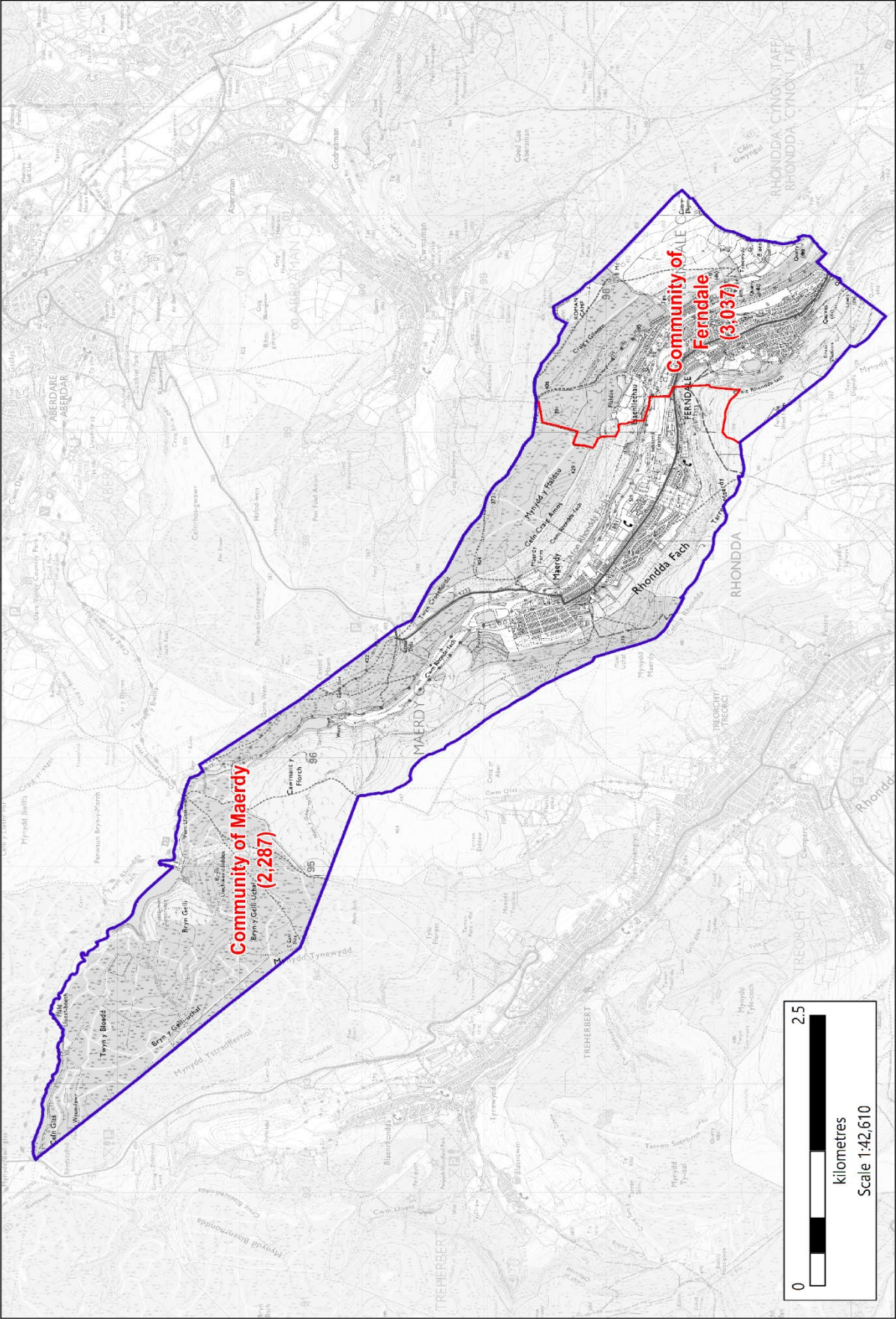


Ferndale and Maerdy

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

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

Ferndale and Maerdy



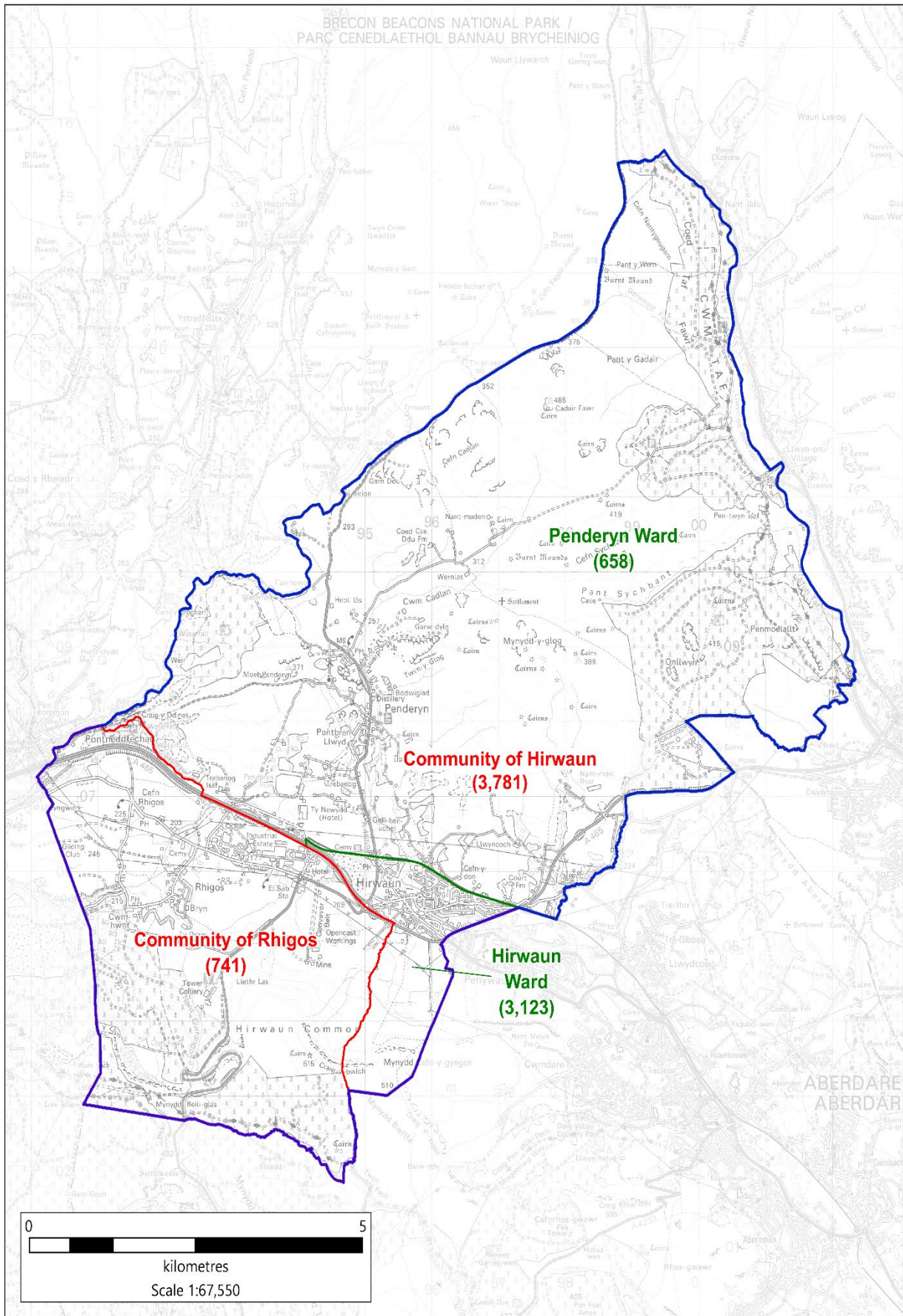
Hirwaun and Rhigos

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

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

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

Hirwaun, Penderyn and Rhigos

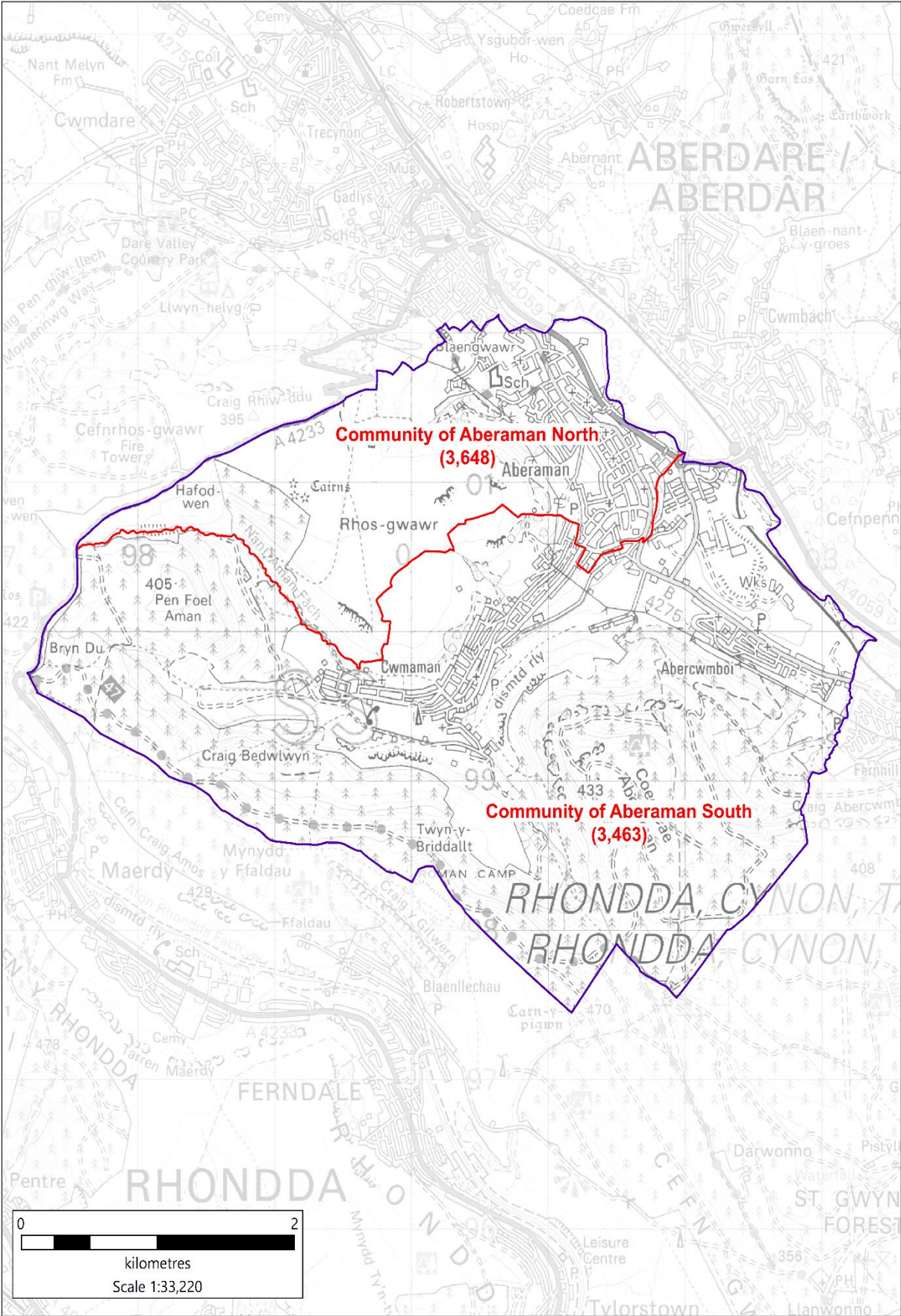


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Aberaman North and Aberaman South

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

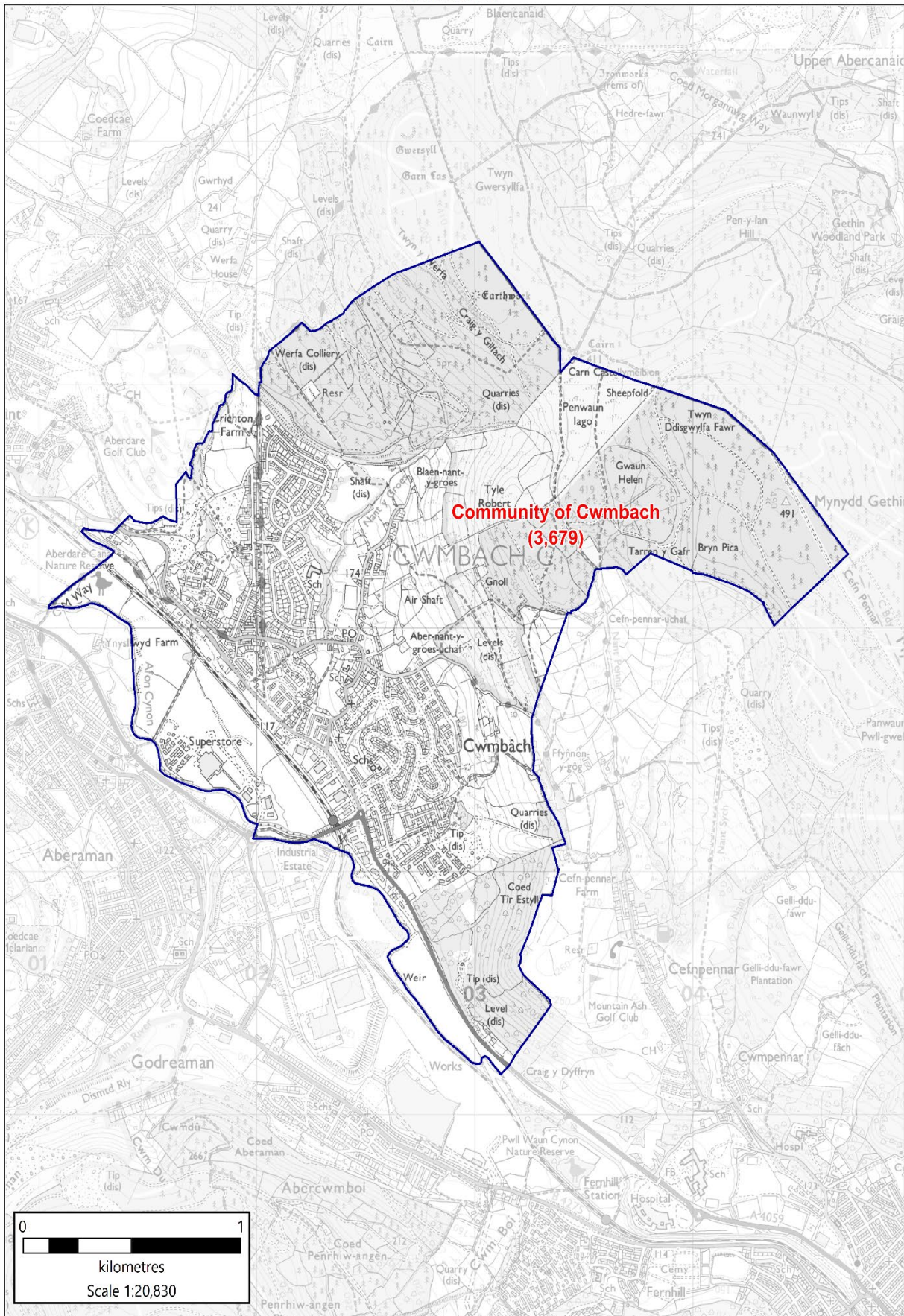
Aberaman



Cwmbach

214. The existing Cwmbach electoral ward is comprised of the Community of Cwmbach. It has 3,679 electors (3,959 projected) represented by one councillor which is 60% above the recommended county average. The electoral ward has an estimated 3,940 eligible voters.
215. In its Draft Proposals the Commission proposed that the Cwmbach electoral ward be represented by two members (an increase of one) as proposed by Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council in the Initial Consultation stage.
216. The Commission received no representations in response to the Draft Proposals concerning the area.
217. The Commission recommends that the Community of Cwmbach form an electoral ward with 3,679 electors (3,959 projected) which, if represented by two councillors (an increase of one), would result in a level of representation that is 20% below the recommended county average.
218. In its Draft Proposals the Commission proposed the single name of Cwmbach. The Welsh Language Commissioner agreed with the proposed name. The Commission received no representations in response to the Draft Proposals concerning the name.
219. The Commission has given the recommended electoral ward the single name of **Cwmbach**. Any comments on the recommended name can be sent to the Minister for Housing and Local Government.
220. This proposal provides significant improvement to electoral parity in the ward and received support of representations at the Initial consultation stage. The Commission believes that the proposed electoral ward would build on the existing community, communication and social links within the Cwmbach electoral ward.
221. It is the view of the Commission that this proposal is desirable in the interest of effective and convenient local government.

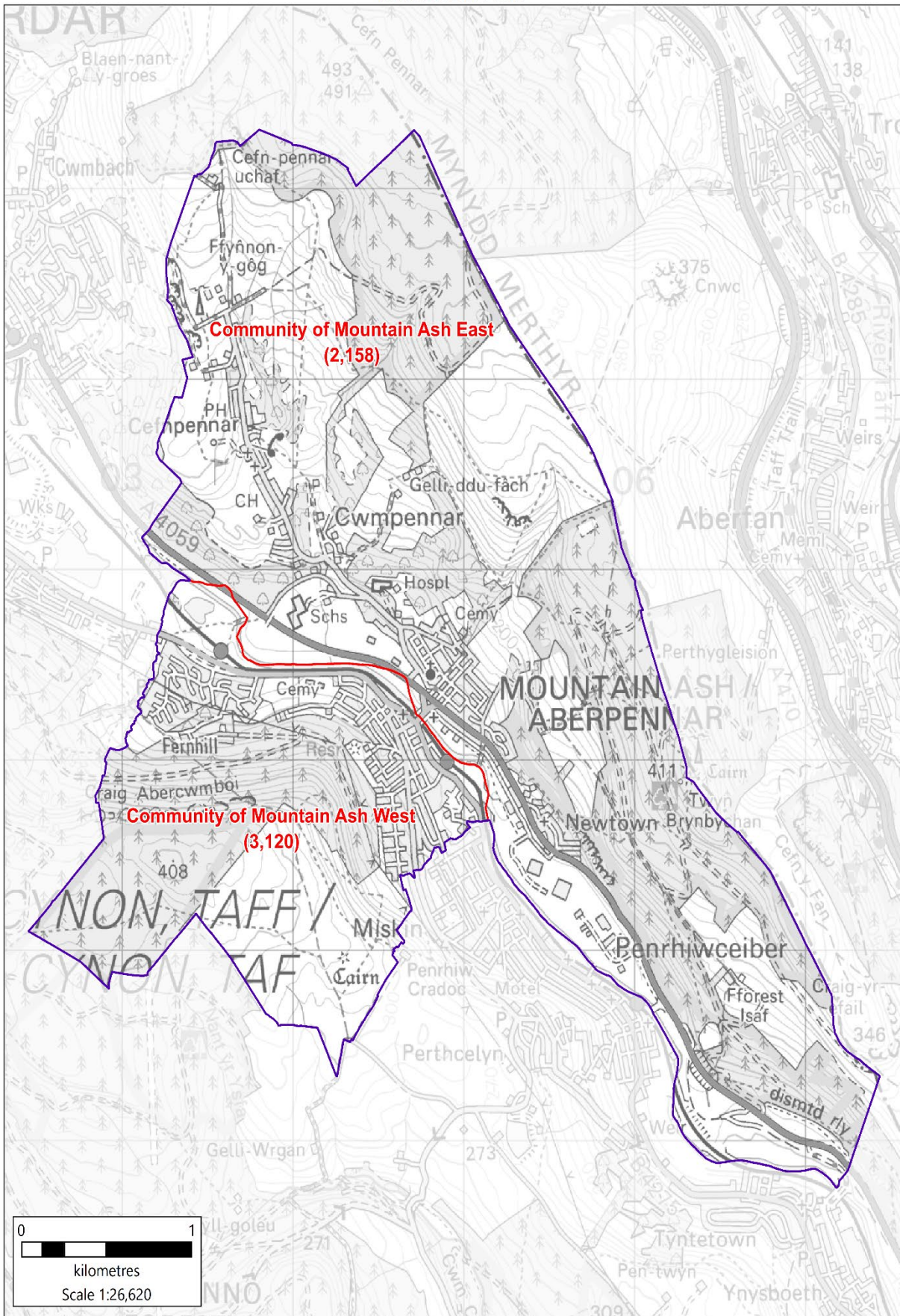
Cwmbach



Mountain Ash East and Mountain Ash West

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

Mountain Ash



Chapter 5. SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDED ARRANGEMENTS

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

Chapter 7. CONSEQUENTIAL ARRANGEMENTS

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

Community and Community Ward Boundaries

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

Llantwit Fardre Community Council

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

Pontypridd Town Council

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

Llwyn-y-pia, Trealaw and Ystrad Community areas

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

Pont-y-clun Community Area

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

Trehafod Community Area

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

Town and Community Council Electoral Arrangements

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

Llantwit Fardre Community Council

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

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

Pont-y-clun Community Council

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

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

Pontypridd Town Council

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

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

Chapter 8. RESPONSES TO THIS REPORT

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

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

Or by email to:

lgdtmailbox@gov.wales

Chapter 9. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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

CERI STRADLING (Deputy Chair)

DAVID POWELL (Member)

JULIE MAY (Member)

THEODORE JOLOZA (Member)

SHEREEN WILLIAMS (Chief Executive)

[March 2020]

APPENDIX 1 – GLOSSARY OF TERMS

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

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

**RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL
EXISTING COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP**

No.	NAME	DESCRIPTION	No. OF COUNCILLORS	ELECTORATE 2018	2018 RATIO	% variance from County average	ELECTORATE 2023	2023 RATIO	% variance from County average	Population Eligible to Vote
1	Aberaman North	The Community of Aberaman North	2	3,648	1,824	-21%	3,781	1,891	-20%	4,143
2	Aberaman South	The Community of Aberaman South	2	3,463	1,732	-25%	3,609	1,805	-24%	3,758
3	Abercynon	The Community of Abercynon	2	4,487	2,244	-3%	4,537	2,269	-5%	4,968
4	Aberdare East	The Community of Aberdare East	2	4,900	2,450	6%	5,077	2,539	7%	5,243
5	Aberdare West/Llwydcoed	The Communities of Aberdare West (5,943) [6,295] and Llwydcoed (1,233) [1,266]	3	7,176	2,392	4%	7,561	2,520	6%	7,601
6	Beddau	The Beddau ward of the Community of Llantrisant	1	3,167	3,167	38%	3,174	3,174	34%	3,575
7	Brynna	The Brynna (2,025) [2,084] and Llaniliad (1,416) [2,153] wards of the Community of Llanharan	1	3,441	3,441	49%	4,237	4,237	78%	3,496
8	Church Village	The Church Village ward of the Community of Llantwit Fardre	1	4,313	4,313	87%	4,350	4,350	83%	3,898
9	Cilfynydd	The Cilfynydd ward of the Town of Pontypridd	1	2,095	2,095	-9%	2,136	2,136	-10%	2,260
10	Cwm Clydach	The Community of Cwm Clydach	1	1,944	1,944	-16%	2,049	2,049	-14%	2,177
11	Cwmbach	The Community of Cwmbach	1	3,679	3,679	60%	3,959	3,959	67%	3,940
12	Cymmer	The Communities of Cymmer (3,406) [3,427] and Trehafod (565) [585]	2	3,971	1,986	-14%	4,012	2,006	-16%	4,417
13	Ferndale	The Community of Ferndale	2	3,037	1,519	-34%	3,072	1,536	-35%	3,369
14	Gilfach Goch	The Community of Gilfach Goch	1	2,434	2,434	6%	2,495	2,495	5%	2,723
15	Glyncoch	The Glyncoch ward of the Town of Pontypridd	1	2,021	2,021	-12%	2,023	2,023	-15%	2,310
16	Graig	The Graig ward of the Town of Pontypridd	1	1,853	1,853	-20%	1,910	1,910	-20%	1,901
17	Hawthorn	The Hawthorn (1,684) [1,684] and Rhydfelen Lower (1,432) [1,432] wards of the Town of Pontypridd	1	3,116	3,116	35%	3,116	3,116	31%	3,138
18	Hirwaun	The Hirwaun ward of the Community of Hirwaun	1	3,123	3,123	36%	3,239	3,239	36%	3,374
19	Llanharan	The Llanharan ward of the Community of Llanharan	1	2,730	2,730	19%	2,783	2,783	17%	2,717
20	Llanharry	The Community of Llanharry	1	3,121	3,121	36%	3,167	3,167	33%	2,999

No.	NAME	DESCRIPTION	No. OF COUNCILLORS	ELECTORATE 2018	2018 RATIO	% variance from County average	ELECTORATE 2023	2023 RATIO	% variance from County average	Population Eligible to Vote
21	Llantrisant Town	The Llantrisant Town ward of the Community of Llantrisant	1	3,162	3,162	37%	3,247	3,247	37%	3,935
22	Llantwit Fardre	The Efail Isaf (1,025) [1,029] and Llantwit Fardre (3,778) [3,785] wards of the Community of Llantwit Fardre	2	4,803	2,402	4%	4,814	2,407	1%	4,795
23	Llwyn-y-Pia	The Community of Llwyn-y-Pia	1	1,632	1,632	-29%	1,713	1,713	-28%	1,858
24	Maerdy	The Community of Maerdy	1	2,287	2,287	-1%	2,398	2,398	1%	2,387
25	Mountain Ash East	The Community of Mountain Ash East	1	2,158	2,158	-6%	2,381	2,381	0%	2,335
26	Mountain Ash West	The Community of Mountain Ash West	2	3,120	1,560	-32%	3,197	1,599	-33%	3,608
27	Pen-y-Graig	The Community of Pen-y-graig	2	3,924	1,962	-15%	3,983	1,992	-16%	4,307
28	Pen-y-Waun	The Community of Pen-y-waun	1	2,011	2,011	-13%	2,122	2,122	-11%	2,345
29	Penrhiwceiber	The Community of Penrhiwceiber	2	4,114	2,057	-11%	4,136	2,068	-13%	4,561
30	Pentre	The Community of Pentre	2	3,857	1,929	-16%	3,885	1,943	-18%	4,147
31	Pont-y-clun	The Community of Pont-y-clun	2	6,014	3,007	31%	6,873	3,437	45%	6,470
32	Pontypridd Town	The Town ward of the Town of Pontypridd	1	2,153	2,153	-6%	2,217	2,217	-7%	2,279
33	Porth	The Community of Porth	2	4,301	2,151	-7%	4,426	2,213	-7%	4,799
34	Rhigos	The Penderyn ward (658) [658] of the Community of Hirwaun and the Community of Rhigos (741) [785]	1	1,399	1,399	-39%	1,443	1,443	-39%	1,441
35	Rhondda	The Rhondda ward of the Town of Pontypridd	2	3,481	1,741	-24%	3,520	1,760	-26%	3,703
36	Rhydfelen Central/Ilan	The Ilan (934) [934] and Rhydfelen Central wards (2,099) [2,101] of the Town of Pontypridd	1	3,033	3,033	32%	3,035	3,035	28%	3,435
37	Taffs Well	The Community of Taffs Well	1	2,826	2,826	23%	2,830	2,830	19%	3,123
38	Talbot Green	The Talbot Green ward of the Community of Llantrisant	1	1,956	1,956	-15%	1,991	1,991	-16%	2,302
39	Ton-Teg	The Ton-Teg ward of the Community of Llantwit Fardre	2	3,222	1,611	-30%	3,222	1,611	-32%	3,282
40	Tonypanyd	The Community of Tonypanyd	1	2,638	2,638	15%	2,695	2,695	13%	3,001
41	Tonyrefail East	The Coedely (1,347) [1,474], Collena (1,619) [1,623], and Tylcha (1,294) [1,312] wards of the Community of Tonyrefail	2	4,260	2,130	-7%	4,409	2,205	-7%	4,701
42	Tonyrefail West	The Penrhiw-fer (1,062) [1,066], Thomastown (1,307) [1,441], and Tynybryn (2,421) [2,718] wards of the Community of Tonyrefail	1	4,790	4,790	108%	5,225	5,225	120%	5,145

APPENDIX 2

No.	NAME	DESCRIPTION	No. OF COUNCILLORS	ELECTORATE 2018	2018 RATIO	% variance from County average	ELECTORATE 2023	2023 RATIO	% variance from County average	Population Eligible to Vote
43	Trallwng	The Trallwng ward of the Town of Pontypridd	1	2,795	2,795	21%	2,819	2,819	19%	3,087
44	Trealaw	The Community of Trealaw	1	2,809	2,809	22%	2,840	2,840	19%	3,244
45	Treforest	The Treforest ward of the Town of Pontypridd	1	2,901	2,901	26%	2,997	2,997	26%	4,449
46	Treherbert	The Community of Treherbert	2	4,165	2,083	-10%	4,242	2,121	-11%	4,583
47	Treorchy	The Community of Treorchy	3	5,652	1,884	-18%	5,750	1,917	-19%	6,118
48	Tylorstown	The Community of Tylorstown	2	2,981	1,491	-35%	3,034	1,517	-36%	3,404
49	Tyn-y-Nant	The Tyn-y-Nant ward of the Community of Llantrisant	1	2,414	2,414	5%	2,414	2,414	2%	2,657
50	Ynyshir	The Community of Ynyshir	1	2,391	2,391	4%	2,398	2,398	1%	2,649
51	Ynysybwl	The Community of Ynysybwl and Coed-y-Cwm	1	3,457	3,457	50%	3,485	3,485	47%	3,619
52	Ystrad	The Community of Ystrad	2	4,248	2,124	-8%	4,266	2,133	-10%	4,630
TOTAL:			75	172,673	2,302		178,294	2,377		188,406

Ratio is the number of electors per councillor

Electoral figures supplied by Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council

Population figures supplied by the Office for National Statistics

	2018		2023	
Greater than + or - 50% of County average	4	8%	4	8%
Between + or - 25% and + or - 50% of County average	15	29%	15	29%
Between + or - 10% and + or - 25% of County average	18	34%	23	44%
Between 0% and + or - 10% of County average	15	29%	10	19%

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL
RECOMMENDED ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS

APPENDIX 3

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

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL
RECOMMENDED ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS

APPENDIX 3

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

Ratio is the number of electors per councillor

Electoral figures supplied by Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council

Population figures supplied by the Office for National Statistics (ONS)

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

RULES AND PROCEDURES

Scope and Object of the Review

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

Electoral Arrangements

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

Considerations for a review of principal area electoral arrangements

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

Local government changes

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

Procedure

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

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

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

Policy and Practice

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

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

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

5. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY CONSIDERATION

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

5.2 Brynna & Llanharan

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

Graig and Treforest Wards

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

Maerdy, Ferndale, Tylorstown and Ynyshir

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Mountain Ash East and West

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

Treorchy

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

Rhigos & Hirwaun

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

6. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

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

7. CONSULTATION

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

8. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

8.1 A full equality and diversity assessment is not required at this time. This position will be re-evaluated on an ongoing basis as related actions are delivered.

9. CONCLUSION

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

Overview & Scrutiny Committee – 22.07.19

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

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

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

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

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

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

Regards,

Cllr Graham Thomas.

Rhigos/Penderyn Division.

RCTCBC

APPENDIX 1

Extract from the Overview & Scrutiny Committee Minutes – 22.07.19

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

10. **Councillor Martin Fidler-Jones (Hawthorn)** wrote on the 1 July 2019 to oppose the Commission's proposal for the Rhydfelen and Hawthorn electoral wards. Councillor Fidler-Jones stated that the Commission's proposals make no use of natural boundaries and will be impossible to describe to residents going forward. The proposal also includes a section of the Lower Rhydfelen Town Council ward, requiring a commensurate amendment to the existing Town Council ward to facilitate it. Councillor Fidler-Jones also stated that the initial representations from residents of the area which were opposed to the proposals put forward by the Commission, appear to have been ignored. Councillor Fidler-Jones also suggested that, should the Commission continue with its proposals, then the Hawthorn electoral ward should be re-named Hawthorn and Lower-Rhydfelen in order to acknowledge the significant proportion of the lower Rhydfelen community that would sit within the revised ward. Councillor Fidler-Jones suggested that the boundary changes proposed by him at the initial consultation stage be taken forward as an alternative to the Commission's proposal.
11. **Councillor Roger Turner (Brynna)** wrote on the 13 September 2019 to oppose the Commission's Draft Proposals for the Brynna and Llanharan electoral wards. Councillor Turner opposed the Commission's proposal to create a multi-member ward consisting of Brynna, Llanilid and Llanharan. Councillor Turner felt that, as single member wards, constituents would clearly know who their elected representative is and, consequently, can hold that person to account. Similarly, a single member ward councillor can promote their achievements, which would prove difficult in a multi-member ward. Councillor Turner also understood that the Commission has a preference for single-member representation where possible and he is firmly satisfied that the Council's preferred option for three single-member wards complies with this. Councillor Turner further stated that the areas of Brynna and Llanilid are quite unique and felt that consideration should be given to both the nature and scale of the development. Councillor Turner also stated that the electorate for the Brynna ward has stagnated due to an embargo on connecting any new properties to the mains sewer, however, Councillor Turner has identified an opportunity to negotiate the development of approximately 242 new properties in Brynna. Councillor Turner advised that work to develop the site has already commenced. Councillor Turner is confident that over half of the 242 properties will be built by 2023, with the remainder to follow thereafter. The development in Llanilid consists of a planned 125 properties each year with planning permission for a total of 1,850 properties in the Llanilid Polling District. Councillor Turner hoped that this information provides an indication as to why single-member representation would provide the best arrangements for the area.
12. **Councillor Jill Bonetto (Taff's Well)** wrote on the 12 September 2019 to suggest that the boundary for the Taff's Well electoral ward be amended to the Upper Boat Roundabout as the peculiar shape of the current boundary causes

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Pontyclun West

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

Pontyclun Central

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

Pontyclun East

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

**WRITTEN STATEMENT
BY
THE WELSH GOVERNMENT**

TITLE LOCAL ELECTIONS AND ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS

DATE Thursday 23rd JUNE 2016

BY MARK DRAKEFORD, CABINET SECRETARY FOR FINANCE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

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

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

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

APPENDIX 6

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

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

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

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

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

APPENDIX 1 – GLOSSARY OF TERMS

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

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

**RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL
EXISTING COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP**

No.	NAME	DESCRIPTION	No. OF COUNCILLORS	ELECTORATE 2018	2018 RATIO	% variance from County average	ELECTORATE 2023	2023 RATIO	% variance from County average	Population Eligible to Vote
1	Aberaman North	The Community of Aberaman North	2	3,648	1,824	-21%	3,781	1,891	-20%	4,143
2	Aberaman South	The Community of Aberaman South	2	3,463	1,732	-25%	3,609	1,805	-24%	3,758
3	Abercynon	The Community of Abercynon	2	4,487	2,244	-3%	4,537	2,269	-5%	4,968
4	Aberdare East	The Community of Aberdare East	2	4,900	2,450	6%	5,077	2,539	7%	5,243
5	Aberdare West/Llwydcoed	The Communities of Aberdare West (5,943) [6,295] and Llwydcoed (1,233) [1,266]	3	7,176	2,392	4%	7,561	2,520	6%	7,601
6	Beddau	The Beddau ward of the Community of Llantrisant	1	3,167	3,167	38%	3,174	3,174	34%	3,575
7	Brynna	The Brynna (2,025) [2,084] and Llaniliad (1,416) [2,153] wards of the Community of Llanharan	1	3,441	3,441	49%	4,237	4,237	78%	3,496
8	Church Village	The Church Village ward of the Community of Llantwit Fardre	1	4,313	4,313	87%	4,350	4,350	83%	3,898
9	Cilfynydd	The Cilfynydd ward of the Town of Pontypridd	1	2,095	2,095	-9%	2,136	2,136	-10%	2,260
10	Cwm Clydach	The Community of Cwm Clydach	1	1,944	1,944	-16%	2,049	2,049	-14%	2,177
11	Cwmbach	The Community of Cwmbach	1	3,679	3,679	60%	3,959	3,959	67%	3,940
12	Cymmer	The Communities of Cymmer (3,406) [3,427] and Trehafod (565) [585]	2	3,971	1,986	-14%	4,012	2,006	-16%	4,417
13	Ferndale	The Community of Ferndale	2	3,037	1,519	-34%	3,072	1,536	-35%	3,369
14	Gilfach Goch	The Community of Gilfach Goch	1	2,434	2,434	6%	2,495	2,495	5%	2,723
15	Glyncoch	The Glyncoch ward of the Town of Pontypridd	1	2,021	2,021	-12%	2,023	2,023	-15%	2,310
16	Graig	The Graig ward of the Town of Pontypridd	1	1,853	1,853	-20%	1,910	1,910	-20%	1,901
17	Hawthorn	The Hawthorn (1,684) [1,684] and Rhydfelen Lower (1,432) [1,432] wards of the Town of Pontypridd	1	3,116	3,116	35%	3,116	3,116	31%	3,138
18	Hirwaun	The Hirwaun ward of the Community of Hirwaun	1	3,123	3,123	36%	3,239	3,239	36%	3,374
19	Llanharan	The Llanharan ward of the Community of Llanharan	1	2,730	2,730	19%	2,783	2,783	17%	2,717
20	Llanharry	The Community of Llanharry	1	3,121	3,121	36%	3,167	3,167	33%	2,999

No.	NAME	DESCRIPTION	No. OF COUNCILLORS	ELECTORATE 2018	2018 RATIO	% variance from County average	ELECTORATE 2023	2023 RATIO	% variance from County average	Population Eligible to Vote
21	Llantrisant Town	The Llantrisant Town ward of the Community of Llantrisant	1	3,162	3,162	37%	3,247	3,247	37%	3,935
22	Llantwit Fardre	The Efail Isaf (1,025) [1,029] and Llantwit Fardre (3,778) [3,785] wards of the Community of Llantwit Fardre	2	4,803	2,402	4%	4,814	2,407	1%	4,795
23	Llwyn-y-Pia	The Community of Llwyn-y-Pia	1	1,632	1,632	-29%	1,713	1,713	-28%	1,858
24	Maerdy	The Community of Maerdy	1	2,287	2,287	-1%	2,398	2,398	1%	2,387
25	Mountain Ash East	The Community of Mountain Ash East	1	2,158	2,158	-6%	2,381	2,381	0%	2,335
26	Mountain Ash West	The Community of Mountain Ash West	2	3,120	1,560	-32%	3,197	1,599	-33%	3,608
27	Pen-y-Graig	The Community of Pen-y-graig	2	3,924	1,962	-15%	3,983	1,992	-16%	4,307
28	Pen-y-Waun	The Community of Pen-y-waun	1	2,011	2,011	-13%	2,122	2,122	-11%	2,345
29	Penrhifceiber	The Community of Penrhifceiber	2	4,114	2,057	-11%	4,136	2,068	-13%	4,561
30	Pentre	The Community of Pentre	2	3,857	1,929	-16%	3,885	1,943	-18%	4,147
31	Pont-y-clun	The Community of Pont-y-clun	2	6,014	3,007	31%	6,873	3,437	45%	6,470
32	Pontypridd Town	The Town ward of the Town of Pontypridd	1	2,153	2,153	-6%	2,217	2,217	-7%	2,279
33	Porth	The Community of Porth	2	4,301	2,151	-7%	4,426	2,213	-7%	4,799
34	Rhigos	The Penderyn ward (658) [658] of the Community of Hirwaun and the Community of Rhigos (741) [785]	1	1,399	1,399	-39%	1,443	1,443	-39%	1,441
35	Rhondda	The Rhondda ward of the Town of Pontypridd	2	3,481	1,741	-24%	3,520	1,760	-26%	3,703
36	Rhydfelen Central/Ilan	The Ilan (934) [934] and Rhydfelen Central wards (2,099) [2,101] of the Town of Pontypridd	1	3,033	3,033	32%	3,035	3,035	28%	3,435
37	Taffs Well	The Community of Taffs Well	1	2,826	2,826	23%	2,830	2,830	19%	3,123
38	Talbot Green	The Talbot Green ward of the Community of Llantrisant	1	1,956	1,956	-15%	1,991	1,991	-16%	2,302
39	Ton-Teg	The Ton-Teg ward of the Community of Llantwit Fardre	2	3,222	1,611	-30%	3,222	1,611	-32%	3,282
40	Tonypanyd	The Community of Tonypanyd	1	2,638	2,638	15%	2,695	2,695	13%	3,001
41	Tonyrefail East	The Coedely (1,347) [1,474], Collena (1,619) [1,623], and Tylcha (1,294) [1,312] wards of the Community of Tonyrefail	2	4,260	2,130	-7%	4,409	2,205	-7%	4,701
42	Tonyrefail West	The Penrhif-fer (1,062) [1,066], Thomastown (1,307) [1,441], and Tynybryn (2,421) [2,718] wards of the Community of Tonyrefail	1	4,790	4,790	108%	5,225	5,225	120%	5,145

APPENDIX 2

No.	NAME	DESCRIPTION	No. OF COUNCILLORS	ELECTORATE 2018	2018 RATIO	% variance from County average	ELECTORATE 2023	2023 RATIO	% variance from County average	Population Eligible to Vote
43	Trallwng	The Trallwng ward of the Town of Pontypridd	1	2,795	2,795	21%	2,819	2,819	19%	3,087
44	Trealaw	The Community of Trealaw	1	2,809	2,809	22%	2,840	2,840	19%	3,244
45	Treforest	The Treforest ward of the Town of Pontypridd	1	2,901	2,901	26%	2,997	2,997	26%	4,449
46	Treherbert	The Community of Treherbert	2	4,165	2,083	-10%	4,242	2,121	-11%	4,583
47	Treorchy	The Community of Treorchy	3	5,652	1,884	-18%	5,750	1,917	-19%	6,118
48	Tylorstown	The Community of Tylorstown	2	2,981	1,491	-35%	3,034	1,517	-36%	3,404
49	Tyn-y-Nant	The Tyn-y-Nant ward of the Community of Llantrisant	1	2,414	2,414	5%	2,414	2,414	2%	2,657
50	Ynyshir	The Community of Ynyshir	1	2,391	2,391	4%	2,398	2,398	1%	2,649
51	Ynysybwl	The Community of Ynysybwl and Coed-y-Cwm	1	3,457	3,457	50%	3,485	3,485	47%	3,619
52	Ystrad	The Community of Ystrad	2	4,248	2,124	-8%	4,266	2,133	-10%	4,630
TOTAL:			75	172,673	2,302		178,294	2,377		188,406

Ratio is the number of electors per councillor

Electoral figures supplied by Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council

Population figures supplied by the Office for National Statistics

	2018		2023	
Greater than + or - 50% of County average	4	8%	4	8%
Between + or - 25% and + or - 50% of County average	15	29%	15	29%
Between + or - 10% and + or - 25% of County average	18	34%	23	44%
Between 0% and + or - 10% of County average	15	29%	10	19%

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

APPENDIX 3

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

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

APPENDIX 3

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

Ratio is the number of electors per councillor

Electoral figures supplied by Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council

Population figures supplied by the Office for National Statistics (ONS)

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

RULES AND PROCEDURES

Scope and Object of the Review

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

Electoral Arrangements

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

Considerations for a review of principal area electoral arrangements

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

Local government changes

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

Procedure

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

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

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

Policy and Practice

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

Crown Copyright

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

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

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

5. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY CONSIDERATION

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

5.2 Brynna & Llanharan

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

Graig and Treforest Wards

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

Maerdy, Ferndale, Tylorstown and Ynyshir

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Mountain Ash East and West

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

Treorchy

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

Rhigos & Hirwaun

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

6. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

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

7. CONSULTATION

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

8. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

8.1 A full equality and diversity assessment is not required at this time. This position will be re-evaluated on an ongoing basis as related actions are delivered.

9. CONCLUSION

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

Overview & Scrutiny Committee – 22.07.19

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

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

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

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

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

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

Regards,

Cllr Graham Thomas.

Rhigos/Penderyn Division.

RCTCBC

APPENDIX 1

Extract from the Overview & Scrutiny Committee Minutes – 22.07.19

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Pontyclun West

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

Pontyclun Central

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

Pontyclun East

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

WRITTEN STATEMENT BY THE WELSH GOVERNMENT

TITLE LOCAL ELECTIONS AND ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS

DATE Thursday 23rd JUNE 2016

BY MARK DRAKEFORD, CABINET SECRETARY FOR FINANCE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

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

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

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

APPENDIX 6

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

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

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

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

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

