

# RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

## Review of Communities and Electoral Arrangements

### Council Size Policy

Ahead of Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council its community boundaries, this document seeks to set out our Council Size Policy. It has been drafted having consideration to section 3.11 to 3.14 of the [Local Democracy and Boundary Commission for Wales \(LDBCW\) guidance](#), published in 2022. Consideration has also been given to the experiences and lessons learnt from other Welsh Local Authorities.

The review will:

- Ensure that each town/community council area that is created is represented by a maximum of 23 councillors and a minimum of 7 councillors;
- Ensure that the ratio of councillors to electors are:
  - a minimum of 1 : 500 for urban areas, and
  - a minimum of 1 : 250 for rural/mixed areas;
- Ensure that a community council area has no fewer than a total of 700 electors (i.e. the total of the communities wards within that town/community council area);
- Consider strong, evidence-based arguments to create a community ward that has fewer than 250 electors;
- Where possible, community wards are removed and councillor representation is based on the whole community council area; and that the precept collected from smaller villages will be available to each community ward.

### General

The Council accepts that it will not be able to apply a one size fits all approach to the setting of town/community council areas and community wards in Rhondda Cynon Taf. However, the Council also believes that a consistent approach needs to be applied to the levels of representation that communities and community wards will provide.

The Council Size Policy should ensure community ties and land mass (i.e. the geographical size of any proposed Community Council).

It should be noted that the ratios stated above are **not prescriptive** to the review and are subject to consultation. The ratios in this policy will be used as a point of reference.

Each area should be considered on its own merits having regard to population, geography, and the pattern of communities.

In determining whether additional representation is required for a community, the council will have consideration to the levels of uncontested seats at community level. It should also be noted that the community boundaries will guide the review, not the electoral arrangements.

Whilst the Council acknowledges that these ratios will still provide varying levels of representation throughout Rhondda Cynon Taf, it will ensure that the level of representations received in communities with similar characteristics is consistent. At the same time the Council will also ensure that smaller, rural communities receive adequate representation at local government level.