



RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

MUNICIPAL YEAR 2024 - 2025

**2026 REVIEW OF SENEDD CONSTITUENCIES
– BOUNDARY COMMISSION FOR WALES' INITIAL PROPOSALS**

OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

18TH SEPTEMBER 2024

**REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR DEMOCRATIC SERVICES &
COMMUNICATIONS.**

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To advise the Overview and Scrutiny Committee in respect of the revised proposals for the Senedd constituencies in Wales, and to seek the Committee's views, comments and recommendations in respect of the initial proposals.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that Members: -

- 2.1 Consider the initial proposals of the Boundary Commission for Wales, and formulate recommendations in order that a response can be made by the deadline of the 30th September 2024;
- 2.2 Delegate to the Director of Legal Services & Service Director Democratic Services & Communication, to draft the substantive reply of the Council, following consideration by the Overview & Scrutiny Committee

3. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 To engage scrutiny in the process of responding to the Boundary Commission for Wales' proposals and to meet the deadline set by the Commission of 30th September 2024.

4. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 4.1 In September 2023, the Welsh Government announced a bill to amend the Senedd constituencies. The Senedd Cymru (Members and Elections) Bill was introduced on 18 September 2023. The bill received royal assent on 24 June 2024.
- 4.2 On 18 July 2024, the Commission announced the start of the 2026 review of Senedd constituencies, in accordance with the provisions of the Senedd Cymru (Members and Elections) Act 2024.
- 4.3 The review must be completed by 1 April 2025, and will use the 32 new UK Parliamentary constituencies in order to create 16 new Senedd constituencies. The Commission's recommendations will be implemented by the 'automaticity' rule. As such, the recommendations will not require Senedd approval. The final decisions must be implemented as set out in the Commission's final report.
- 4.4 On the 3rd September the Boundary Commission published their initial proposals for the review and initiated a four-week public consultation which will close on 30th September 2024.
- 4.5 To assist Members in their consideration, the following documents are attached:
- [Appendix 1](#) -Copy of the initial proposals report of the Boundary Commission for Wales, which was published on the 3rd September 2024;
 - [Appendix 2](#) – Guide to the 2023 Review
 - A link to the detailed [map](#).

5. SCRUTINY INVOLVEMENT

- 5.1 The Consultation proposes the following questions:
- Do you agree with the Commissions proposed constituencies?
 - Can you provide further information or an alternative proposal?
- 5.2 Members representations will be submitted to the Boundary Commission for their consideration, prior to the conclusion of the consultation.
- 5.3 The response of the Committee will form the response of the Council, however, Members are able to submit individual responses to the consultation.

6. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 Equality and diversity implications will be considered as part of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee's feedback and comments and any subsequent implementation arrangements.

7. FINANCIAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 Financial and resource implications will be considered as part of any feedback and subsequent implementation arrangements.

8. CONSULTATION

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

9. CONCLUSION

- 9.1 This is an opportunity for scrutiny to consider and respond to the initial proposals of the Boundary Commission for Wales in respect of the proposed new Senedd constituencies in Wales. In doing so, the proposed approach will provide the opportunity for Elected Members to contribute to the review and inform the formal response of the Council.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

as amended by

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

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LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS:

OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 18th September 2024

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