

BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

INFORMATION REPORT TO COUNCIL

20 OCTOBER 2021

REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

ELECTORAL DIVISION BOUNDARY REVIEW

1. Purpose of Report.

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to inform Council on the outcome of the Electoral Division Boundary Review completed by the Local Democracy and Boundary Commission for Wales.

2. Connection to corporate well-being objectives / other corporate priorities

- 2.1 This report assists in the achievement of the following corporate well-being objective under the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015:-
- **Smarter use of resources** – ensuring that all resources (financial, physical, ecological, human and technological) are used as effectively and efficiently as possible and support the creation of resources throughout the community that can help to deliver the Council's well-being objectives

3. Background.

- 3.1 The Local Democracy and Boundary Commission for Wales (the Commission) has conducted a review of the electoral arrangements of the County Borough. This review was conducted in accordance with the Local Government (Democracy) (Wales) Act 2013, specifically Sections 29, 30 and 34-36.
- 3.2 The draft proposals were published in January 2019 and following consultation, the final proposals were published in October 2019.
- 3.3 The Minister for Finance and Local Government published a statement on the 15th July 2021, accepting the recommendations of the Commission except for making minor amendments to the names of two wards.
- 3.4 The Order has now be signed into law by the Minister on the 1st October 2021.

4. Current situation/proposal

- 4.1 The new arrangements will reduce the number of Wards from 39 to 28 and the number of Council Members from 54 to 51 with each member representing an average of 2096 electors. There will be 13 one-member wards, 7 two-member wards and 8 three-member wards. The list of Wards can be found at Appendix 1
- 4.2 A summary of the changes from the 39 to the 28 wards is shown below: -

- 9 have remained unchanged: Aberkenfig, Blackmill, Llangynwyd, Maesteg East, Maesteg West, Nant-y-moel, Ogmere Vale, Oldcastle and Pen-y-fai.
- Brackla has been split into 3 one-member wards: Brackla East Central, Brackla West, Brackla West Central; and 1 two-member ward with the inclusion of Coychurch Lower; Brackla East and Coychurch Lower.
- Morfa and Newcastle wards have been combined to form a three-member ward and renamed Bridgend Central.
- Brynryon, Laleston and Merthyr Mawr has had its member representation increased by one to a three-member ward.
- Caerau has had its member representation reduced by one to a two-member ward.
- Cefn Glas and Llangewydd & Brynhyfryd wards have been combined to create a two-member ward and renamed Cefn-glas.
- Coity, Litchard and Pendre have been combined to create a three-member ward and renamed Coity Higher.
- Cornelly has had its member representation increased by one to a three-member ward.
- Bettws, Blaengarw, Llangeinor and Pontycymmer wards have been combined to create a single three-member ward and renamed Garw Valley.
- The Porthcawl wards of Newton, Nottage, Porthcawl East Central, Porthcawl West Central and Rest Bay all remain as wards but the boundaries that make up those wards have changed and has increased the representation in Porthcawl East Central by one to a two-member ward.
- Fellindre, Hendre and Penprysg wards have been combined to form a three-member ward and renamed Pencoed and Penprysg
- Pyle and Cefn Cribwr wards have been combined to create a three-member ward and renamed Pyle, Kenfig Hill and Cefn Cribwr.
- Bryncethin, Bryncoch, Sarn and Ynysawdre wards have been combined to create a three-member ward and renamed St Bride's Minor and Ynysawdre

4.3 The Boundary Commission also recommended changes to both Porthcawl Town Council and Brackla Community Council to have the same consequential boundary changes as their respective County Borough Wards . These changes are shown in Appendix 2.

4.4 The new Boundaries will be implemented for the Local Elections in May 2022.

5. Effect upon policy framework and procedure rules

5.1 There is no direct effect upon the policy framework and procedure rules in respect of this information report. There will subsequently be amendments to the Constitution which will be presented to Council at a later date.

6. Equality Act 2010 implications

6.1 The protected characteristics identified within the Equality Act, Socio-economic Duty and the impact on the use of the Welsh Language have been considered in the preparation of this report. As a public body in Wales the Council must consider the impact of strategic decisions, such as the development or the review of policies, strategies, services and functions. This is an information report, therefore it is not necessary to carry out an Equality Impact assessment in the production of this report. It is considered that there will be no significant or unacceptable equality impacts as a result of this report.

7. Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 implications

7.1 The well-being goals identified in the Act were considered in the preparation of this report. It is considered that there will be no significant or unacceptable impacts upon the achievement of well-being goals/objectives as a result of this report.

8. Financial Implications.

8.1 A full assessment of the financial impact to the Council in respect of Elected Members' remuneration will be required. The assessment will take into consideration these changes and the final recommendations from the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales.

9. Recommendation.

9.1 To note the changes to the Electoral Division boundaries and wards coming into force for the Local Elections in May 2022.

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October 2021

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Background documents

Review of the Electoral Arrangements of the County Borough of Bridgend - Final Recommendations Report: -
https://ldbc.gov.wales/sites/ldbc/files/review/Bridgend%20Final%20Report_e_7.pdf