

BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

INFORMATION REPORT TO COUNCIL

17 NOVEMBER 2021

REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS IN COITY HIGHER COMMUNITY COUNCIL

1. Purpose of report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to inform Council of a Community review of electoral arrangements in the Coity Higher Community Council following a formal request during the recent Boundary Review, due to the significant increase in electorate in the Coity ward of the Community Council.

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 review was reported to Council at the meeting on the 20 October 2021. Whilst there was recognition of the significant changes to the electorate in the Coity ward, they made no consequential changes recommended to the Coity Higher Community Council (CHCC). A formal request has been received from CHCC to review the electoral arrangements to improve the parity between the the three wards, Coity, Litchard and Pendre prior to the Local Elections in May 2022.

4. Current situation/proposal

- 4.1 The Council will be undertaking a full Community Review from next year but such a review requires extensive consultation and will take many months to complete with any changes being effective for the Local Government Elections in 2027.
- 4.2 CHCC currently has three wards: Coity with 2 members (3,566 electorate), Litchard with 5 members (2,172 electorate) and Pendre with 4 members (1,777 electorate) . There has been a significant increase in CHCC electorate with the large housing development at Parc Derwyn that has created the disparity and they have made a formal request for the parity between the wards to be reviewed.
- 4.2 Normally, the council would prefer to undertake a full community review of CHCC including looking at the boundaries that make up the wards, whether there should be more or less wards and look at the electoral arrangements at the same time.

Following on from the conclusion of the Electoral Boundary review, there is not sufficient time to prepare a proposal, consult and make final recommendations prior to the publication of the Notice of Election for the Local Elections in May 2022.

- 4.4 However, as the Council has received a formal request from CHCC, there is sufficient time to undertake just a review of the electoral arrangements providing there are no major objections received, which is likely to lead, if approved, to a re-balancing of the number of elected members for each ward, based on current population numbers. The Terms of Reference for the review are attached at Appendix 1. At the conclusion of the consultation period, an Order will be made by the Boundary Commission to implement the recommendations which must be made prior to the the Publication of the Notice of Election at the end of March 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 been 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 There are no financial implications arising from this review for the Council, any work will be undertaken within existing budgets.

9. Recommendation

- 9.1 To note the proposed review of the electoral arrangements in Coity Higher Community Council.

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November 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
Letter from Coity Higher Community Council