

BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

REVIEW OF ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE COITY HIGHER COMMUNITY COUNCIL WARDS

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Introduction

Bridgend County Borough Council is conducting a review of electoral arrangements to consider a request received from Coity Higher Community Council to revise the parity between the number of Community Councillors in one of their Community Wards, namely Coity due to the significant expansion in new homes. The current wards in Coity Higher are Coity with 2 members (3,566 electorate), Litchard with 5 members (2,172 electorate) and Pendre with 4 members (1,777 electorate)

The first stage of the review is to ask all interested parties to consider this proposal and submit their views of support or objection for this change. All submissions will then be considered and final proposals drawn up and made available for further public consultation. If there are no objections, then the final proposals will be drawn up, published and adopted.

The review will start on 17th November 2021 with final recommendations being provisionally scheduled to be submitted for adoption in March 2022

Why are we undertaking this review?

Bridgend County Borough Council has received an official request from Coity Higher Community Council to review the Community Councillor ratio for the Coity ward with the aim to revise the disparity between the wards.

What is the aim of the review?

Bridgend County Borough Council aims to ensure that community governance reflects the identities and interests of the community and that it is both effective and convenient.

What can be considered under this review?

This review will only look at the number of Community Councillors in the Coity ward. This is due to timescales as Local Election will take place in May 2022 and has to be finalised by the publication of Notice of Election.

Who will undertake this review?

Bridgend County Borough Council is responsible for undertaking the review within its area. It will consider all representations made at each stage of the review process. The review will be conducted under Section 31 of the Local Government (Democracy) (Wales) Act 2013. On completion of the review the Council may propose and make changes to the number of Councillors representing the Coity Ward.

Public Consultation and Submissions

When undertaking the review Bridgend County Borough Council is required to undertake such steps as it thinks fit to ensure that persons who may be interested in the review are informed of the proposal to conduct it and are informed of any draft proposals or recommendations. Bridgend County Borough Council undertakes to meet these duties by writing to:

- The Community Council, namely Coity Higher Community Council
- The Councillors representing the Coity, Litchard and Pendre Electoral Divisions
- The Senedd Member representing Bridgend Constituency,
- The Regional Senedd Members for South Wales West region,
- The Member of Parliament representing the Bridgend Parliamentary Constituency, and
- Local branches of political parties.

Bridgend County Borough Council will also give official notice at different stages of the review, deposit copies of reports and documents at the Council's Election Office and place appropriate documents on the Council's corporate website.

Comments and submissions may be made at two stages of the review, the draft proposals and then final proposals and recommendations.

All comments and submissions will be given due consideration in the review if the following criteria are met: -

- Comments shall be received on the pro-forma submissions form or a form to like effect.
- Comments are received by midnight of the timetabled deadline.
- All comments are received with a name and address identifying the sender. Anonymous submissions will not be accepted, though personal details of members of the public will not be made public. Submissions from representative bodies and persons such as Councillors and Members of the Senedd etc will be named within the report.
- Where an organisation or an individual is making submissions concerning the proposal, they shall show how either maintaining the status-quo or making changes are desirable in the interests of effective and convenient local government.
- Bridgend County Borough Council will publish its recommendations as soon as practicable and take such steps as it considers sufficient to ensure that persons who may be interested in the review, including all persons that made a valid submission, are informed of the recommendations and the reasons behind them.

Timetable for the Review

The review will start on 17th November 2021 with final recommendations being provisionally scheduled prior to the Local Elections in May 2022. Any changes that occur as a result of the review process would then come into effect for the Local Government Elections which are scheduled for May 2022.

Action	Period	Date
Start of Review		17 November 2021
Draft Proposal Consultation / Publication	6 Weeks	24 November 2021 to 5 th January 2021
Consideration of submissions received		6 th January 2022 to 13 th January 2022
Final Proposal Consultation / Publication	6 Weeks	20 th January 2022 to 03 rd March 2022

Supporting Information

Further information relating to the review, including electorate figures, are available at the Council's Elections Office and the Council's Electoral Service Website.

Elections Office
Bridgend County Borough Council
Civic Offices
Angel Street
Bridgend
CF31 4WB
www.bridgend.gov.uk

Appendix A

Electorate Summary

Community Council	Council Electorate	No. Of Cllrs at present	Cllr/Elector Ratio	Proposed number of Cllrs	Cllr/Elector Ratio
Coity Higher – Coity Ward	3,566	2	1,783	5	713
Coity Higher – Litchard Ward	2,172	5	434	4	543
Coity Higher – Pendre Ward	1,777	4	444	4	444