



## **C O U N C I L   S U M M O N S**

**To all Members of Council**

**You are hereby summoned to attend a**

**MEETING OF THE COUNCIL**

**to be held at 2.00 pm on**

**WEDNESDAY 7 November 2018**

**in the**

**COUNCIL CHAMBER - PORT TALBOT CIVIC CENTRE**

**Prayers will be said by the Mayor's Chaplain prior to the commencement of the meeting.**

### **--- A G E N D A ---**

#### **PART A**

1. Mayor's Announcements.
2. Declarations of Interest
3. To receive and, if thought fit, confirm the Minutes of the previous meeting of Council:  
  
Civic Year 2018/19 26 September, 2018
4. Statement by the Cabinet Member for Education, Skills and Culture re Minority Ethnic Achievement Service /Gypsy Traveller Funding

## **PART B**

5. Electoral Review (Pages 13 - 96)  
Report of the Chief Executive and the Assistant Chief Executive and Chief Digital Officer enclosed.
6. Changes to Committees to Reflect the Political Balance of the Council (Pages 97 - 104)  
Report of the Assistant Chief Executive and Chief Digital Office enclosed.
7. Capital Budget Monitoring 2018/19 (Pages 105 - 110)  
Report of the Head of Finance to Cabinet of 31 October 2018 enclosed.

## **PART C**

8. To receive the following-and any questions raised by Members, or any matters to be raised by Cabinet Members:- (Pages 111 - 156)  
  
Record of Executive Decisions of the Cabinet and Cabinet Boards.

## **PART D**

9. Notice of Motion under Section 10 of Part 4 (Rules of Procedure) the Council's Constitution, proposed by Cllr.S.ap Dafydd and seconded by Cllr.N.J.Hunt as follows:-

This Council opposes any plans by the Welsh Government to close any M4 motorway junction within the County Borough of Neath Port Talbot and in particular Junction 41 and would inform the Welsh Government accordingly.

This Council believes that the previous experimental closure of Junction 41 was damaging economically and environmentally to Port Talbot, the surrounding area and the County Borough.

The Council calls upon the Welsh Government to work with the Council to explore methods of reducing our own carbon footprint through such projects as the FLEXIS collaboration.

10. Notice of Motion under Section 10 of Part 4 (Rules of Procedure) the Council's Constitution, proposed by Cllr.S.Knoyle and seconded by Cllr.S.K.Hunt as follows:- (Pages 157 - 160)

Neath Port Talbot Council' adds its support to the Lucy's Law National Campaign to ban and outlaw third party puppy farming.

This Council will add its name to the growing list of supporting organisations and Local Authorities across Wales and will proactively highlight the campaign to our residents across the County Borough of Neath and Port Talbot.

This Council requests that the Leader of the Council writes to the UK Government, and Welsh Government supporting the call for urgent action on this.

11. To receive any questions from Members, with Notice, under Rule 9.2 of the Council's Procedure Rules.
12. Urgent Items  
Any urgent items (whether public or exempt) at the discretion of the Mayor pursuant to Section 100B (4) (b) of the Local Government Act 1972.



Chief Executive

**Civic Centre  
Port Talbot**

**Thursday, 1 November 2018**

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## COUNCIL

(Civic Centre, Port Talbot)

**Members Present:**

**26 September, 2018**

**The Mayor:** Councillor D.Keogh

**The Deputy Mayor:** Councillor S.Jones

**Councillors:** A.R.Aubrey, C.Clement-Williams, M.Crowley, S. ap Dafydd, A.P.H.Davies, D.W.Davies, O.S.Davies, R.Davies, C.Edwards, M.Ellis, S.E.Freeguard, C.Galsworthy, W.F.Griffiths, J.Hale, M.Harvey, N.T.Hunt, C.James, H.N.James, C.J.Jones, J.Jones, S.A.Knoyle, E.V.Latham, A.R.Lockyer, A.McGrath, R.Mizen, J.D.Morgan, S.Paddison, D.M.Peters, R.Phillips, M.Protheroe, L.M.Purcell, S.Rahaman, P.A.Rees, S.H.Reynolds, P.D.Richards, A.J.Taylor, J.Warman, D.Whitelock, C.Williams, A.Wingrave, R.W.Wood and A.N.Woolcock

**Officers in Attendance:** S.Phillips, H.Jenkins, G.Nutt, M.Roberts, C.Millis, A.Thomas, K.Warren, C.Griffiths, N.Chappel, C.Matthews, A.Turner, C.Furlow, A.Manchipp and T.Davies

**Representative of the Wales Audit Office** C.Davies

**Representatives of the Translation Service:** Present

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### 1. **MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS.**

It was with great sadness that the Mayor announced the death of the mother of Councillor Suzanne Paddison.

As a mark of respect Council stood for a minute's silence.

The Mayor then welcomed the newly elected Member for the Gwynfi Ward, Councillor Jane Jones, to her first meeting of Council.

On behalf of the Leader of the Independent Group, Councillor S. Knoyle welcomed both Councillor Jane Jones and Councillor Scott Jones to the Independent Group.

## 2. **MEMBER'S DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor M.Harvey	In relation to:- The Gambling Act 2005 – Review of the Gambling Policy, The Annual Report of the Director of Social Services for 2017/18, The Western Bay Youth Justice and Early Intervention Annual Plan 2018-19, As they refer to the South Wales Police as he is employed by them.
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## 3. **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS OF COUNCIL**

**RESOLVED:** That the Minutes of the following meetings of Council be confirmed:-

28 June, 2018  
25 July, 2018

## 4. **NOTICE OF MOTION UNDER SECTION 10 OF PART 4 (RULES OF PROCEDURE) THE COUNCIL'S CONSTITUTION, PROPOSED BY COUNCILOR R.DAVIES AND SECONDED BY COUNCILLOR N.J.HUNT AS FOLLOWS:-**

Council considered the following Notice of Motion proposed by Councillor R.Davies and seconded by Councillor N.J.Hunt:-

‘This Council agrees to follow the example of 7 other Councils in Wales to recycle nappies instead of sending them to landfill or incinerate.’

Some Members spoke in favour of the motion, wherein it was noted that between 5-10% of landfill was nappies and that the indiscriminate dumping of nappies caused the public great concern.

The Cabinet Member for Streetscene and Engineering reminded Members that the recycling of disposable nappies had been discussed several times during the reviews of the Authority's Waste Strategy in 2017 and 2018. Officers had costed the start-up costs associated with the proposal which was in the region of £500k, which included the purchase of bespoke vehicles and labour costs. It had been agreed that, in these times of austerity, this was unaffordable. A further proposal had been considered in relation to incentivising the public to participate in a reusable nappy scheme, however this too was not supported. Members noted that nappies included the issue of adult incontinence pads.

Officers advised that there was a private company in the region which recycled the nappies into fibre board. Unfortunately there was at present no market for the additional fibre board. An indepth Impact Assessment would be required to ascertain the environmental impact of current incineration via MREC against the alternative production of fibre board. In relation to achieving the 64% recycling target set by Welsh Government, the recycling of nappies represented a potential additional 1.5% on the current position. The fine associated with not achieving the Welsh Government's target by 1.5% was favourable when compared to the costs of setting up and running the scheme. The Deputy Leader indicated that should Members wish this to be considered in the future then it could be discussed when the next budget round is commenced.

Members were reminded that the Authority did provide a weekly hygiene collection service.

It was suggested that the Motion be either withdrawn or amended to support the recycling of nappies, in principle, and that Officers be requested to investigate different options which might be adopted in the future when it was affordable. Clarity was therefore sought on the Motion.

Following the above discussion Councillor R.Davies and Councillor N.J.Hunt withdrew their Notice of Motion.

5. **STATEMENT BY THE DEPUTY LEADER ON THE ELECTORAL REVIEW**

Council received a Statement from the Deputy Leader on the Electoral Review wherein it was noted that the Local Democracy and Boundary Commission for Wales had extended its consultation deadline to 9 November 2018. A report on the proposed response would be reported to Council on 7 November 2018.

6. **STATEMENT BY THE CABINET MEMBER FOR COMMUNITY SAFETY AND PUBLIC PROTECTION ON SUBSTANCE MISUSE**

Council received a Statement from the Cabinet Member for Community Safety and Public Protection advising Council that a joint meeting of the Neath Port Talbot and Swansea Public Services Boards had recently taken place in relation to substance misuse which had agreed that the situation warranted a heightened level of response. To this end a joint task force had been set up to identify actions that would seek to address the problems being experienced across the 2 Local Authority areas.

An All Member Seminar would shortly be arranged to update Members on the work being undertaken and also to receive from Members details of any local issues. A report would also be submitted to the Community Safety and Public Protection Sub Committee to enable scrutiny of the work going forward.

7. **WALES AUDIT OFFICE - ANNUAL IMPROVEMENT REPORT 2017-2018 NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL**

Council welcomed Colin Davies from the Wales Audit Office to present the Annual Improvement Report 2017-2018. The report gave a summary of the work undertaken over the last year by regulators such as the WAO and ESTYN. He also highlighted the review of scrutiny arrangements carried out by the WAO, the positive report received from ESTYN and the Annual Audit Letter which was also positive.

Members then raised the following points:-

- In relation to the Authority's scrutiny function Members felt that this was still being developed as it was a process not an event.



- The Cabinet Member for Education, Skills and Culture was asked to comment on the phrase which was again within the report 'performance in primary schools does not compare well with that of similar authorities'. The Cabinet Member responded that there were visible and tangible improvements however the issue remained that teacher assessments were carried out differently across Wales.
- In relation to the comment that the 'Council should strengthen the arrangements for engaging the public in scrutiny', Members asked whether Community Councils could assist and what other arrangements could the WAO suggest. Mr Davies responded that perhaps taking meetings into communities or increased advertising could be used. Items contained on the Forward Work Programmes were not generally of interest to the public.

Officers then outlined the second part of the report which gave details of the actions already taken by the Authority.

After being thanked by the Mayor Mr Davies withdrew from the meeting.

**RESOLVED:** That the report be noted.

8. **ANNUAL REPORT - PART 2 (CORPORATE PLAN 2017-22)**  
**PERIOD 1 OCTOBER 2017 TO 31 MARCH 2018**

Council received the Report of the Assistant Chief Executive and Chief Digital Officer which had been considered by Cabinet on 12 September 2018 and commended to Council for approval.

The Deputy Leader outlined the progress made on the 3 Wellbeing Objectives and noted that three quarters of the actions highlighted were on course.

Following the presentation the Deputy Leader was asked whether he thought the Plan to lack ambition but advised that, in the current climate with reduced financial and human resources he felt that the Plan was realistic.

**RESOLVED:** That the above Report be approved and that the Leader of Council be given delegated authority to make such changes as may be necessary to the Annual Report (Part Two) prior to publication,

provided that such changes do not materially alter the content of the document considered by Council.

9. **GAMBLING ACT 2005 - REVIEW OF GAMBLING POLICY**

Council received the Report of the Head of Legal Services on the Gambling Act 2005, which contained the draft revised Gambling Policy. Subject to Council approval this Draft document would be issued for a 6 week consultation period and thereafter reported back to Council for adoption.

Members were urged by the relevant Chairperson to take part in the consultation and in particular to support the maintaining of the non-casino policy.

Members were concerned that given the percentage of low income or non-working families in the County Borough and the fact that 17 of the Authority's electoral divisions were in the top 10% of the deprived areas in Wales, the possible addiction to gambling was a serious issue. In particular Members mentioned the gambling machine in betting offices, over which the Local Authority had no control.

**RESOLVED:** That the Draft Gambling Policy, contained as an Appendix to the circulated report, be approved for consultation purposes.

10. **DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL SERVICES' ANNUAL REPORT 2017/18**

The Cabinet Member for Adult Social Services and Health introduced the Director of Social Services Annual Report for 2017/18. The Report highlighted the achievements for 2017/18 and the priorities going forward for 2018/19.

Members noted that the Report had already been considered at the relevant Scrutiny Committee and Cabinet Board.

**RESOLVED:** That the Director of Social Services Annual Report for 2017/18, be noted.

11. **WESTERN BAY YOUTH JUSTICE AND EARLY INTERVENTION ANNUAL PLAN 2018-19**

Council received an introduction to the Report by the Cabinet Member for Children's Social Services wherein it was noted that the report had been commended to Council for approval by the relevant Cabinet Board held on 13 September 2018.

Members were advised that the production of the Plan was a statutory duty under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. In relation to the timing of the Report, Members noted that due to the logistics of collating the information it had not been possible to present the Report to the Cabinet Board earlier.

**RESOLVED:** That the Western Bay Youth Justice and Early Intervention Annual Plan 2018-19, as contained in the circulated Report, be approved.

12. **ANNUAL TREASURY MANAGEMENT OUTTURN REPORT 2017/18**

The Cabinet Member for Finance introduced the above Report.

**RESOLVED:** That the above Report be noted.

13. **WELSH LANGUAGE PROMOTION STRATEGY**

The Deputy Leader introduced the above Report and thanked Officers, Members of the Task and Finish Group together with Mentre Iaitn Castel Nedd for the work put into producing the Strategy and the accompanying Action Plan. The Strategy had been subject to a 4 week consultation period prior to it being presented to Cabinet. It was noted that there were no financial implications associated with the implementation of the Strategy.

Members were pleased to note that there had been a rise in the number of Welsh speakers in the County Borough since 2008.

Some Members were disappointed at the low number of staff who were Welsh speakers.

**RESOLVED:** That the Welsh Language Promotion Strategy for 2018-2023, as contained in the circulated Report, be adopted.

14. **CHANGES TO POLITICAL PROPORTIONALITIES AND RESULTANT AMENDMENTS TO COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIPS**

The above Report was withdrawn from consideration at today's meeting of Council.

15. **EXECUTIVE DECISIONS OF CABINET AND CABINET BOARDS 2018/19**

**RESOLVED:** That the undermentioned Minutes be noted:-

Cabinet	20 <sup>th</sup> June 2018
Cabinet	27 <sup>th</sup> June 2018
Cabinet	25 <sup>th</sup> July 2018
Cabinet	1 <sup>st</sup> August 2018
Education, Skills and Leisure	17 <sup>th</sup> July 2018
Education, Skills and Leisure	26 <sup>th</sup> July 2018
Social Care, Health and Wellbeing	2 <sup>nd</sup> August 2018
Regeneration and Sustainable Development	23 <sup>rd</sup> July 2018
Streetscene and Engineering	20 <sup>th</sup> July 2018

**CHAIRPERSON**

## NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

### COUNCIL

7 November 2018

### Report of the Chief Executive and Assistant Chief Executive & Chief Digital Officer

### ELECTORAL REVIEW: NEATH PORT TALBOT

#### Matter for Decision

**Wards Affected: Blaengwrach, Bryn & Cwmavon, Bryncoch South, Cimla, Coedffranc Central, Coedffranc West, Crynant, Cwmllynfell, Cymmer, Dyffryn, Glyncorrwg, Glynneath, Gwaun-Cae-Gurwen, Gwynfi, Lower Brynamman, Onllwyn, Pelenna, Pontardawe, Seven Sisters and Trebanos** (\*based upon the options identified in this report; but potentially others)

#### Purpose of Report

1. To present options for Member decision on proposed changes to electoral divisions and ward boundaries for submission to the Local Democracy and Boundary Commission for Wales (“the Commission”).

#### Background

2. Section 21(3) of the Local Government (Democracy) (Wales) Act 2013 provides that the Commission in carrying out its duties must seek to ensure effective and convenient local government. This is the paramount and primary function of the Commission and one of the duties provided for by the Act is the conduct of reviews of the electoral arrangements of principal areas.
3. Section 29 of the Act puts a duty upon the Commission to review the electoral arrangements for each principal area at least once every ten years including:
  - The number of Members of the Council for the principal area;

- The number, type and boundaries of the electoral wards into which the principal area is for the time being divided for the purpose for the election of Members;
  - The number of Members to be elected for any electoral ward in the principal area; and
  - The name of any electoral ward.
4. On 23 June 2016 the then Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Local Government published a Written Statement requiring the Commission to restart its ten year programme with a prioritised timetable plus an expectation that all 22 electoral reviews be completed in time for new arrangements to be in place for the 2022 local government elections.
  5. The review of this Council will commence shortly. The Commission attended a meeting of Council on 28 June 2018 as part of their pre-review procedure and provided Members with an overview of the statutory basis of the exercise and the timetable.
  6. The Commission outlined their initial assessment that the Council size should be 56 councillors, revised to 58 in light of the cap that would be applied to any reduction in Council size. Furthermore, they explained that the Councillor to electorate ratio had been assessed as being 1:1,828 and presented data to illustrate how current ward ratios varied from this standard. The Commission also explained a different approach to their predecessor in that they are inviting the Council at this stage to put forward its own options rather than formulating their own proposals initially and issuing them for consultation.
  7. The Commission emphasised that the numbers of Councillors determined by its methodology can be used to put forward locally generated schemes. They may, however, consider varying from this if provided with cogent reasons for doing so and if the variation is able to provide effective electoral arrangements.
  8. The issues identified above were also the subject of a Members Seminar on 17 July 2018. The initial timetable for submitting options to the Commission was September 2018; but the Chief Executive negotiated an extension given that the original timetable

coincided with the Council recess; there was a need to inform the options with comprehensive data and it has been necessary to consult with all political groups on this matter.

9. A response is now expected at the Commission by **9 November 2018**. This deadline will not be extended further. Council was informed of this extension by way of a statement by the Deputy Leader at the Council meeting on 26 September 2018.

### **Considerations for a Review of a Principal Area**

10. The legislation requires the Commission to exercise a balanced judgement taking on board all relevant considerations, with a view to making recommendations for electoral arrangements to meet the objectives outlined above. The Commission has a degree of discretion in the way that it attaches weight to the factors that aid it in making its decision; but are required by Section 30 of the Act to:

- Seek to ensure that the ratio of electors to the number of members of the Council to be elected is, as nearly as may be, the same in every electoral ward of the principal area; and;
- Have regard, amongst other things, to the desirability of fixing boundaries for electoral wards which are easily identifiable and not breaking local ties when fixing boundaries for wards.

11. The Commission recognises that reviews present a range of issues which require a judgement, taking into account matters, in addition to statutory requirements that include the following:

- Effective and convenient local government;
- Electoral equality;
- Community tie arguments that justify atypical levels of electoral equality;
- Topography of the land, hills/rivers creating natural boundaries and motorways/railways forming man-made boundaries;
- Rural/urban divide;

- Community area/ward (where community areas are warded) boundaries being used as primary building blocks; and
- Single versus multi-member wards.

12. The number of electors within electoral wards represented by Elected Members indicates the electoral ratios for those wards. Setting the number of Elected Members enables the average electoral ratio for the Council to be calculated. Although the Commission will seek to achieve ratios close to the Council average, they acknowledge that there will be variances. When considering what variance is acceptable, the Commission must comply with considerations set out in the legislation that state that they must seek to ensure that *“the ratio of local government electors to the number of members of the council to be elected is, as nearly as may be, the same in every electoral ward of the principal area”*. The Commission takes the view that departing from the average ratio for the Council can only be justified by clear evidence of other balancing factors, such as local ties or other relevant considerations.
13. Section 30(2) (a) of the Act places a further requirement on the Commission that account must be taken of *“any discrepancy between the number of local government electors and the number of persons eligible to be local government electors (as indicated by relevant official statistics)”*. The Council has already provided population projection data for the next five year period to the Commission and will also highlight in its response those areas of the Council where there are relatively low rates of electoral registration.

### **Points of Principle**

14. At Appendix 1 is a data set for each ward of the Council to inform deliberations as to whether the current arrangements should be changed. For those wards where the Commission have highlighted a significant deviation from their Councillor to electorate ratio, options to bring variances towards the ratio are set out for consideration.
15. Changes that deliver improved electoral equality, however, are not simply a matter of arithmetic as the Council has strongly argued in the past. Other factors must be taken into account.



16. On Council size, the Commission are proposing a Councillor to electorate ratio of 1:1,828. This compares to a Councillor to electorate ratio of 1:1,750 in recent exercises. A review of the position for this Council confirms that the actual Councillor to electorate ratio has changed little since the inception of the Council in 1996. In the Council's submissions to the Commission in 2009, we pointed out that the 2009 position was 1:1,744 rising to 1:1,790 by 2014. The position in 2018 is 1:1,657 rising to 1:1,738 by 2023. There has therefore been no material change to the electorate since 1996 which would suggest that **a reduction from 64 to 58 councillors is not justifiable**.
17. Moreover, in the period since 1996 Councillor work load has increased significantly. Upon reorganisation in 1996 there was a significant reduction in the number of Elected Members but at the same time workloads increased to include both former district and former county council functions.
18. Since then workloads have increased further as a result of:
- Changes to the devolution settlement which has seen a very significant increase in the duties placed upon local government;
  - A growth in regional and collaborative arrangements which has increased complexity in service delivery;
  - Growth in social media which has changed the way in which the electorate engage with the democratic process; and
  - The impact of austerity has seen a significant shift in policy and patterns of service delivery which have added to Councillor work load especially in terms of having to communicate, engage and consult local people about the impact of budget cuts. Typically, caseloads for Councillors representing the most deprived areas of the County Borough have increased.
19. On electoral equality, community ties, effective and convenient local government and single/multi-member wards, the Commission takes the view that, in the first instance, it is desirable that each ward should return a single member. The Commission may, however, recommend that wards be represented by up to three Members in cases supported by evidence as to the character of the ward and in

the interests of electoral parity. Moreover, they are of the view that multi-member electoral wards are more likely to be effective and convenient in urban areas rather than rural; but recognise that sometimes multi-member wards are the most effective means of balancing criteria and therefore may recommend them in rural areas.

## **Analysis & Conclusions**

20. There are no perfect or completely symmetrical solutions on offer across the County Borough. There are arguments that can be made against the proposals below and there are alternatives which have been considered. However, in the final analysis, the proposals seek to balance all the factors and criteria as best we can.
21. It is also worth noting that it is open to individual Members, Community Councils and others to put forward their own proposals to the Commission (and some have done so or are planning to do so). Similarly, all interested parties will have the opportunity to respond to the Commission's proposals once they are published for consultation.
22. In presenting its analysis of electoral parity, the Commission has highlighted **Cwmlllynfell, Glyncorrwg, Glynneath, Gwynfi, Lower Brynamman, Onllwyn, Pelenna and Trebanos**, amongst those wards which have the largest variance from the proposed councillor to electorate ratio in terms of **over-representation**.
23. The Council has previously argued that there is a case for maintaining representation in these areas due to the strong sense of community and relative levels of deprivation in many of the areas. The Council has also previously argued that creating multi-member wards in these and associated areas would lead to unfair workloads for Councillors due to the size of the resulting geography; confusion for electors and result in outlying communities of being marginalised.
24. The areas demonstrating the greatest variance are Valley communities where, arguably, communities already feel a greater sense of isolation and marginalisation as a result of the centralisation of services, de-population and poor public transport. If, however, more weight is given to electoral equality compared with these other factors, it would suggest a change to representation in every valley community, reducing the level of representation and moving away from single member wards to multi-member wards.

25. Additionally, the Commission has highlighted **Coedffranc West and Dyffryn** as two wards which have the largest variance from the proposed ratios in terms of **under-representation**. Recent and planned housing developments would suggest that there is a case to explore changes in terms of both ward boundaries and the level of representation for these and associated areas.
26. Taking account of all the factors described above, officers have identified the following option as representing the optimum balance:
- Merge Crynant, Onllwyn and Seven Sisters into **a new single ward resulting in a reduction of three Members to two;**
  - Merge Cymmer, Glyncorwg and Gwynfi – **as above;**
  - Merge Gwaun-Cae-Gurwen, Lower Brynamman and Cwmllynfell – **as above;**
  - Merge Glynneath and Blaengwrach – **as above;**
  - Remove the Pelenna ward (the Pontrhydyfen community ward would be combined with Bryn & Cwmavon and the Tonmawr community ward would be combined with Cimla). There would be **no change in the number of Members in Bryn & Cwmavon or Cimla** resulting in a reduction of one;
  - Increase representation in the Coedffranc West ward from **one Member to two** (largely as a consequence of the University Campus) – but see paragraph 28 below also;
  - Transfer circa 550 electors from Coedffranc West to the Coedffranc Central ward;
  - Transfer circa 700 electors from Bryncoch South to the Dyffryn ward **creating a two member ward in the latter** (this also reflects projected housing developments); and
  - Combine the Pontardawe and Trebanos wards into a three member ward. There would be **no change in the number of Members in the combined ward;** but this would address the major problem of over representation in the Trebanos ward. The combined ward (based on the projections) would be of similar

size to existing three Member wards. Other alternatives have been considered, but result in loss of community cohesion/identity or don't really solve the underlying issue.

**These options would result in a net loss of three Members overall reducing the Council from 64 Members to 61.**

**Next Steps**

27. Following the pre-review stage, the Commission will develop its draft proposals. The Commission will consult on them between 6-12 weeks following which final proposals will be submitted to Welsh Government. It is then for Ministers to decide how to proceed.

**Other Matters**

28. In July 2018, a report presented to the City and County of Swansea proposed their acquisition of large parts of the Coedffranc West ward and other minor changes. As we pointed out at the time (in response to media enquiries), this was not a valid proposal and would not be considered as part of the Electoral Review process because the Commission's policy and practice document precludes cross boundary changes as between principal local authorities. The only way this could be considered is as part of a boundary review which is not being anticipated by the Commission as a consequence of the current review. For completeness, however, officers recommend reiterating our opposition to any such proposal.
29. It is open to the Chief Executive (in his capacity as Returning Officer) to submit his own proposals to the Commission. He has concluded, however, that this would not be appropriate as options have more force if endorsed by Elected Members. Moreover, he regards the design of the electoral system as a separate matter from the administration of it (i.e. elections).

**Financial & Workforce Implications/Equality Impact Assessment**

30. None/not required.

**RECOMMENDATION**

That Members authorise the Chief Executive to immediately submit the preferred option to the Local Democracy and Boundary Commission for Wales, amended as seen fit.

### **Reasons for proposed decision**

To enable the Council to respond by the extended deadline of 9 November 2018.

### **Appendix**

Ward by Ward Data Set

### **Officer Contacts:**

Steven Phillips - Chief Executive

Tel: 01639 763305 E-mail: [s.phillips@npt.gov.uk](mailto:s.phillips@npt.gov.uk)

Karen Jones – Assistant Chief Executive & Chief Digital Officer

Tel 01639 763284 Email [k.jones3@npt.gov.uk](mailto:k.jones3@npt.gov.uk)

Clare Sim - Senior Electoral Services Officer

Tel: 01639 763180 Email: [c.sim@npt.gov.uk](mailto:c.sim@npt.gov.uk)

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Aberavon Electoral Ward	No. of Cllrs		Electorate	
	Current	Proposed	Current	5 Year Projected
➤ Aberavon	3	3	4,072	4,133
<b>Aberavon Community Ward</b>			2,681	2,742
<b>Baglan Moors Community Ward</b>			1,391	1,391
<p><b>Electoral Equality</b>  Aberavon Electoral Ward currently deviates from the Commission’s Councillor: Elector Ratio by -25.8% with this anticipated to increase to -28.1% in 5 years’ time.</p> <p>If the Electoral Ward was to change to a two member ward this would result in a variance of 11.4%.</p> <p>Aberavon Community Ward is statistically year on year the area within the county borough with one of the worst canvass response rates which suggests it is likely to be the area or areas with the largest percentage of missing electors</p> <p><b>Community Tie Arguments</b>  There are no known compelling arguments to suggest a change based on community ties.</p> <p><b>Topographical Arguments</b>  Aberavon is a distinct community in its own right. It is separated from the Baglan Electoral Ward by the rail network line and M4 Motorway. It is separated from Sandfields West and Sandfields East by the A4241 and from Port Talbot by the A48 and Heilbronn Way.</p> <p>The electoral ward contains Neath Port Talbot Hospital and a number of large retail and industrial units - primarily in Baglan Industrial Estate.</p> <p><b>Rural/Urban Divide</b>  The Local Development Plan (2011-2026), describes Aberavon as a large local centre which indicates settlements with adequate public transport links with clusters of one or more retail units and local services, with one or more community facilities and employment provision.</p> <p>Aberavon is an urban area characterised by it’s higher than average levels of deprivation. It is in the top 10% of the most deprived areas in Wales according to the Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation. It has the highest rate of anti-social behaviour for the whole of the County Borough and the highest number of looked after children. It has above average rates of people who receive employment related benefit, seek assistance from social services and the percentage of pupils attaining 5 A*-C at Key Stage Level 4 is below average.</p> <p><b>Community Area and Community Ward</b>  The Aberavon Electoral Ward does not have a Community Council. The recent Community Review of 2016 resulted in the creation of two community wards – Aberavon and Baglan Moors.</p> <p><b>Single Versus Multi-Member Wards</b>  Aberavon is currently a multi-member ward, where these arrangements are well understood by the electorate.</p> <p><b>Option</b></p>				

No change to existing arrangements for the reasons outlined above.

This creates a 5 year projected electorate of 4,133.

<b>Proposed Councillor: Elector Ratio (based on current electorate)</b>	<b>1 : 1,357</b>	<b>Variance</b>	<b>-25.8%</b>
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Aberdulais Electoral Ward	No. of Cllrs		Electorate	
	Current	Proposed	Current	5 Year Projected
➤ Aberdulais	1	1	1,683	1,683
<b>Aberdulais Community Ward</b>			930	930
<b>Cilfrew Community Ward</b>			753	753
<p><b>Electoral Equality</b>  Aberdulais Electoral Ward currently deviates from the Commission's Councillor: Elector ratio by -7.9% with this anticipated to increase to -12.2% in 5 years' time.</p> <p><b>Community Ties Arguments</b>  There are no known compelling arguments to suggest a change based on community ties.</p> <p><b>Topographical Arguments</b>  Aberdulais has clear natural boundaries. It is separated from the Tonna Electoral Ward by the A465 and the River Neath and Crynant Electoral Ward by the Coed Cae Fforest.</p> <p>While there is no clear physical boundary between Cadoxton and Aberdulais, it is widely acknowledged that Llangatwg Comprehensive School forms the boundary between the two electoral wards.</p> <p><b>Rural/Urban Divide</b>  The Local Development Plan (2011-2026) describes Aberdulais and Cilfrew as small local centres which indicates settlements with adequate public transport links with at least one shop and/or several community facilities.</p> <p>The Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation places Aberdulais as the 858<sup>th</sup> most deprived area in Wales (out of 1,909) which is the top 30-50%.</p> <p><b>Community Area and Community Ward</b>  Aberdulais Electoral Ward has two community wards – Aberdulais and Cilfrew that form part of Blaenhonddan Community Council, along with the Community Wards of Cadoxton, Bryncoch South and Bryncoch North.</p> <p><b>Single Versus Multi-Member Wards</b>  Aberdulais is a single member ward.</p> <p><b>Option</b>  No change to existing arrangements.</p> <p>This creates a 5 year projected electorate of 1,683.</p>				
<b>Proposed Councillor: Elector Ratio (based on current electorate)</b>		<b>1 : 1,683</b>	<b>Variance</b>	<b>-7.9%</b>

Alltwen Electoral Ward	No. of Cllrs		Electorate	
	Current	Proposed	Current	5 Year Projected
<b>Alltwen</b>	1	1	2,011	2,137

**Elector Equality**

Alltwen Electoral Ward currently deviates from the Commission's Councillor: Elector ratio by 10% with this anticipated to increase to 11.5% in 5 years' time.

**Community Tie Arguments**

There are no known compelling arguments to suggest a change based on community ties.

**Topographical Arguments**

Alltwen has a clear natural boundary from the Pontardawe Electoral Ward with both the A4067 and the River Tawe dividing the wards.

There appears to be no natural boundary between Alltwen and Rhos Electoral Wards with the two areas connected by the A474 and Pen Yr Alltwen.

**Rural/Urban Divide**

The Local Development Plan (2011-2026) describes Alltwen as a small local centre which indicates settlements with adequate public transport links with at least one shop and/or several community facilities.

The Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation places Alltwen as the 1,148<sup>th</sup> most deprived area in Wales (out of 1,909) which is in the bottom 50%.

**Community Area and Community Ward**

Alltwen Electoral Ward also forms the Community Ward of Alltwen. The Community Ward of Alltwen forms part of Cilybebyll Community Council, along with the community wards of Rhos and Gellinudd.

**Single Versus Multi-Member Wards**

Alltwen is a single member ward.

**Option**

No change to existing arrangements.

This creates a 5 year projected electorate of 2,137.

<b>Proposed Councillor: Elector Ratio (based on current electorate)</b>	<b>1 : 2,011</b>	<b>Variance</b>	<b>10.0%</b>
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<b>Baglan Electoral Ward</b>	<b>No. of Cllrs</b>		<b>Electorate</b>	
	Current	Proposed	Current	5 Year Projected
<b>Baglan</b>	3	3	5,291	5,625

### Electoral Equality

Baglan Electoral Ward currently deviates from the Commission's Councillor: Elector ratio by -3.5% with this anticipated to decrease to -2.2% in 5 years' time.

### Community Ties Arguments

There are no known compelling arguments to suggest a change based on community ties.

### Topographical Arguments

Baglan has clear natural boundaries. It is separated from the Sandfields West Electoral Ward by the A48. The rail network line and the M4 motorway separate Baglan from the Aberavon Electoral Ward and the M4 again separates Baglan from the Port Talbot Electoral Ward. The forestry area along with the roundabout that intersects on the A48 with Brunel Way and Neath Road acts as a clear boundary between Baglan and Briton Ferry East.

### Rural/Urban Divide

The Local Development Plan (2011-2026) describes Baglan as a large local centre which indicates settlements with adequate public transport links with clusters of one or more retail units and local services, with one or more community facilities and employment provision.

The Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation divides Baglan into 4 Lower Super Output Areas which are ranked as the 704<sup>th</sup>, 1,123<sup>rd</sup>, 1,452<sup>nd</sup> and 1,773<sup>rd</sup> most deprived areas in Wales (out of 1,909 areas) placing the majority of the ward in the bottom 50%.

### Community Area and Community Ward

Baglan Electoral Ward does not have a Community Council. The Electoral Ward is comprised of two Community Wards of Baglan and Baglan Bay. Baglan Bay has no residential properties situated within the Community Ward.

### Single Versus Multi-Member Wards

Baglan is currently a multi-member ward, where these arrangements are well understood by the electorate.

### Option

No change to existing arrangements.

This creates a 5 year projected electorate of 5,625.

<b>Proposed Councillor: Elector Ratio (based on current electorate)</b>	<b>1 : 1,764</b>	<b>Variance</b>	<b>-3.5%</b>
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Blaengwrach Electoral Ward	No. of Cllrs		Electorate	
	Current	Proposed	Current	5 Year Projected
➤ <b>Blaengwrach</b>	1	2* (when combined)	1,468	1,501

		with Glynneath)		
<b>Blaengwrach Community Ward</b>			852	852
<p><b>Electoral Equality</b>  Blaengwrach Electoral Ward currently deviates from the Commission’s Councillor: Elector Ratio by -19.7%. The neighbouring Electoral Ward of Glynneath currently deviates from the Commission’s Councillor: Elector Ratio by -29.7%. Little population growth is anticipated in either electoral ward over the next five years.</p> <p>If Blaengwrach and Glynneath Electoral Wards were combined to form a two member ward this would result in a variance of 10.5%.</p> <p><b>Community Tie Arguments</b>  Both Blaengwrach and Glynneath are valley communities situated in the Neath Valley which developed in response to mining in the local area and have strong community ties to each other that stem from this.</p> <p><b>Topographical Arguments</b>  The A465 and the River Neath/Afon Nedd divide the community ward of Blaengwrach from the community wards that make up Glynneath Electoral Ward and the Glynneath West Central Community Ward that comprises part of the Blaengwrach Electoral Ward.</p> <p>The West Central Ward is an anomaly as it has historically resulted in the Blaengwrach Electoral Ward being divided by the road and river which goes against the traditional topographical arguments. In this instance there have previously been no known objections to the existence of the electoral ward being split in such a manner.</p> <p><b>Rural/Urban Divide</b>  Glynneath is a significant settlement in this area with a distinct centre. Blaengwrach is a small local centre. While Glynneath would act as a focal point for residents in Blaengwrach to shop and socialise, the positioning of the local leisure centre and fast food restaurant in Blaengwrach would act as another focal point for residents from both electoral wards.</p> <p>The Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation places Blaengwrach as 618<sup>th</sup> most deprived area in Wales (top 30-50%). Glynneath has been divided into two, one area is the 387<sup>th</sup> most deprived area in Wales (top 20-30%) and the other is the 1,011<sup>th</sup> most deprived (bottom 50%).</p> <p><b>Community Area and Community Ward</b>  Blaengwrach Electoral Ward has two community wards – Blaengwrach and Glynneath West Central. Blaengwrach Community Ward forms an un-warded Community Council, Glynneath West Central forms one of the Community Wards that form Glynneath Town Council.</p> <p>Glynneath Electoral Ward has three community wards – East, West and Central that form Glynneath Town Council, along with the Glynneath West Central Ward.</p> <p><b>Single Versus Multi-Member Wards</b>  Blaengwrach is a single member ward; Glynneath is a two member ward.</p> <p>Historically, Town/Community Councillors have stood for election for both Blaengwrach Community Council and Glynneath Town Council with one current member sitting on both Town/Community Councils.</p>				

**Option**

The Blaengwrach Electoral Ward is merged with its neighbouring Glynneath Electoral Ward to form a two member ward.

This creates a 5 year projected electorate of 4,140.

<b>Proposed Councillor: Elector Ratio (based on current electorate)</b>	<b>1 : 2,020</b>	<b>Variance</b>	<b>10.5%</b>
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<b>Briton Ferry East Electoral Ward</b>	<b>No. of Cllrs</b>		<b>Electorate</b>	
	Current	Proposed	Current	5 Year Projected

➤ Briton Ferry East	1	1	2,124	2,124
<b>Craig-Y-Darren Community Ward</b>			710	710
<b>Cwrt Sart Community Ward</b>			1,414	1,414
<b>Electoral Equality</b>				
Briton Ferry East Electoral Ward currently deviates from the Commissions' Councillor: Elector ratio by 16.2% with this anticipated to decrease to 10.8% in 5 years' time.				
<b>Community Tie Arguments</b>				
There are no known compelling arguments to suggest a change based on community ties.				
<b>Topographical Arguments</b>				
Briton Ferry East has clear natural boundaries with the Baglan and Briton Ferry West Electoral Wards. It is separated from Baglan by forestry area along with the roundabout that intersects on the A48 with Brunel Way and Neath Road. The rail network line separates Briton Ferry East from Briton Ferry West.				
There is no distinctive natural boundary that separates Briton Ferry East from Neath East.				
<b>Rural/Urban Divide</b>				
The Local Development Plan (2011-2026) describes Briton Ferry as a district centre that is settlements with good transport links and a wide range of functions serving the immediate and surrounding communities.				
Briton Ferry East is a relatively deprived area. The Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation divides Briton Ferry East into 2 Lower Super Output Areas that are 323 <sup>rd</sup> and 864 <sup>th</sup> most deprived areas in Wales (out of 1,909). This places them in the top 10-20% and top 30-50% respectively.				
<b>Community Area and Community Ward</b>				
Briton Ferry East Electoral Ward has two community wards – Craig-Y-Darren and Cwrt Sart that form part of Briton Ferry Town Council, along with the Community Wards of Brynhyfyrd and Shelone Wood which make up the Briton Ferry West Electoral Ward.				
<b>Single Versus Multi-Member Wards</b>				
Briton Ferry East is a single member ward.				
<b>Option</b>				
No change to existing arrangements.				
This creates a 5 year projected electorate of 2,124.				
<b>Proposed Councillor: Elector Ratio (based on current electorate)</b>	<b>1 : 2,124</b>	<b>Variance</b>	<b>16.2%</b>	

Briton Ferry West Electoral Ward	No. of Cllrs		Electorate	
	Current	Proposed	Current	5 Year Projected

➤ Briton Ferry West	1	1	2,028	2,028
<b>Brynhyfryd Community Ward</b>			1,007	1,007
<b>Shelone Wood Community Ward</b>			1,021	1,021
<b>Electoral Equality</b>				
Briton Ferry West Electoral Ward currently deviates from the Commission's Councillor: Elector ratio by 10.9% with this anticipated to decrease to 5.8% in 5 years' time.				
<b>Community Tie Arguments</b>				
There are no known compelling arguments to suggest a change based on community ties.				
<b>Topographical Arguments</b>				
Briton Ferry West has clear natural boundaries with the Neath East and Briton Ferry East Electoral Wards. It is separated from Neath East by the rail network line and Shelone Wood. The rail network line separates Briton Ferry East from Briton Ferry West.				
<b>Rural/Urban Divide</b>				
The Local Development Plan (2011-2026) describes Briton Ferry as a district centre that is settlements with good transport links and a wide range of functions serving the immediate and surrounding communities.				
Briton Ferry West is a deprived area. The Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation divides Briton Ferry West into 2 Lower Super Output Areas that are 123 <sup>rd</sup> and 518 <sup>th</sup> most deprived areas in Wales (out of 1,909). This places them in the top 10 and top 20-30% respectively. It has the 8 <sup>th</sup> highest incidences of anti-social behaviour in the County Borough, 21% of working age population receive employment related benefits and 42.48% of pupils obtain 5 A* - C grades at Key Stage Level 4 (Welsh average is 59.51%).				
<b>Community Area and Community Ward</b>				
Briton Ferry West Electoral Ward has two community wards – Brynhyfryd and Shelone Wood that form part of Briton Ferry Town Council, along with the Community Wards of Craig-Y-Darren and Cwrt Sart which make up the Briton Ferry East Electoral Ward.				
<b>Single Versus Multi-Member Wards</b>				
Briton Ferry West is a single member ward.				
<b>Option</b>				
No change to existing arrangements.				
This creates a 5 year projected electorate of 2,028.				
<b>Proposed Councillor: Elector Ratio (based on current electorate)</b>	<b>1 : 2,028</b>	<b>Variance</b>	<b>10.9%</b>	

Bryn & Cwmavon Electoral Ward	No. of Cllrs		Electorate	
	Current	Proposed	Current	5 Year Projected

<b>Bryn and Cwmavon</b>	3	3	5,130	5,316
<p><b>Electoral Equality</b></p> <p>Bryn and Cwmavon Electoral Ward currently deviates from the Commission’s Councillor: Elector Ratio by -6.5%.</p> <p>The neighbouring Electoral Ward of Pelenna currently deviates from the Councillor: Elector Ratio by -51.9%.</p> <p>The Electoral Ward of Cimla, which also neighbours Pelenna currently deviates from the Councillor Elector Ratio by -15.0%.</p> <p>Little population growth is anticipated in any of these electoral wards over the next five years.</p> <p>If the Pontrhydyfen Community Ward and Bryn and Cwmavon were combined to form a three member ward this would result in a variance of 2.3% and if the Tonmawr Community Ward and Cimla were combined to form a two member ward this would result in a variance of -4%.</p> <p><b>Community Tie Arguments</b></p> <p>Tonmawr Community Ward has community ties to the Cimla Electoral Ward, while the Pontrhydyfen Community Ward has community ties to the Bryn and Cwmavon Electoral Ward due to part of Pontrhydyfen (Oakwood) already being situated there.</p> <p>The closure of Pontrhydyfen Primary School in 2015 saw the transfer of pupils to Cwmafan Primary School forging further community ties between the two areas. The planned closure of Cymmer Afan Comprehensive School has also seen the pupils resident in Tonmawr transferred to Cefn Saeson Comprehensive School in Cimla strengthening community ties between the two areas.</p> <p><b>Topographical Arguments</b></p> <p>The Pelenna River currently forms a natural boundary between Pelenna and both Cimla and Bryn and Cwmavon. Mynydd Pen Rhys forms a distinct natural boundary between Pelenna and the Cymmer Electoral Ward, while Mynydd Pen-hydd forms a natural boundary between Bryn and Cwmavon.</p> <p><b>Rural/Urban Divide</b></p> <p>The Local Development Plan (2011-2026) describes Cwmavon and Cimla as large local centres which indicates settlements with adequate public transport links with clusters of one or more retail units and local services, with one or more community facilities and employment provision.</p> <p>Tonmawr and Bryn are considered small local centres which indicates settlements with adequate public transport links with at least one shop and/or several community facilities.</p> <p>Pontrhydyfen is considered a village with a settlement with at least one community facility and adequate public transport links.</p> <p>The Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation places Pelenna as the 563<sup>rd</sup> most deprived area in Wales (out of 1,909) placing it in the top 20-30%. Bryn and Cwmavon has been divided into 4 Lower Super Output Areas which are the 310th (top 10-20%), 663<sup>rd</sup> (top 30-50%),</p>				



901<sup>st</sup> (top 30-50%) and 1597<sup>th</sup> (bottom 50%) most deprived areas in Wales. Cimla has been divided into 3 Lower Super Output Areas which are the 781<sup>st</sup> (top 30-50%), 1547<sup>th</sup> (bottom 50%) and 1,622<sup>nd</sup> (bottom 50%) most deprived areas in Wales.

**Community Area and Community Ward**

Bryn and Cwmavon has two community wards – Bryn and Cwmavon but have no Community Council.

Cimla has two community wards – Cefn Saeson and Crynallt which form part of Neath Town Council.

Pelenna has two community wards – Pontrhydyfen and Tonmawr which form Pelenna Community Council.

**Single Versus Multi-Member Wards**

Bryn and Cwmavon is currently a multi-member ward, where these arrangements are well understood by the electorate.

Cimla is currently a multi-member ward, where these arrangements are well understood by the electorate.

Pelenna is currently a single member ward.

**Option**

Pontrhydyfen Community Ward is merged with its neighbouring Bryn and Cwmavon Electoral Ward to form a three member ward.

This creates a 5 year projected electorate of 5,796.

<b>Proposed Councillor: Elector Ratio – Combine Pontrhydyfen with Bryn and Cwmavon (based on current electorate)</b>	<b>1 : 1,870</b>	<b>Variance</b>	<b>2.3%</b>
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Bryncoch North Electoral Ward	No. of Cllrs		Electorate	
	Current	Proposed	Current	5 Year

				Projected
<b>Bryncoch North</b>	1	1	1,794	1,947
<p><b>Elector Equality</b> Bryncoch North Electoral Ward currently deviates from the Commission's Councillor: Elector ratio by -1.9% with this anticipated to increase to 1.5% in 5 years' time.</p> <p><b>Community Tie Arguments</b> There are no known compelling arguments to suggest a change based on community ties.</p> <p><b>Topographical Arguments</b> The Clydach River and Dyffryn Wood create a natural boundary between the Bryncoch North and Dyffryn Electoral Ward. There are no clear physical boundaries between Bryncoch North with its neighbouring electoral wards of Bryncoch South and Rhos.</p> <p><b>Rural/Urban Divide</b> The Local Development Plan (2011-2026) describes Bryncoch as a large local centre which indicates settlements with adequate public transport links with clusters of one or more retail units and local services, with one or more community facilities and employment provision.</p> <p>It is an affluent area of Neath Port Talbot. The Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation divides Bryncoch North into 2 Lower Super Output Areas which are ranked as the 1,443<sup>rd</sup> and 1,760<sup>th</sup> most deprived areas in Wales (out of 1,909 areas) placing the ward in the bottom 50%. It has the lowest level of anti-social behaviour in the county borough and the highest level of pupils achieving 5 A* - C grades at Key Stage Level 4 in the County Borough.</p> <p><b>Community Area and Community Ward</b> Bryncoch North Electoral Ward also forms the Community Ward of Bryncoch North. The Community Ward of Bryncoch North forms part of Blaenhonddan Community Council, along with the community wards of Bryncoch South, Cadoxton, Aberdulais and Cilfrew.</p> <p><b>Single Versus Multi-Member Wards</b> Bryncoch North is a single member ward.</p> <p><b>Option</b> No change to existing arrangements.</p> <p>This creates a 5 year projected electorate of 1,947.</p>				
<b>Proposed Councillor: Elector Ratio (based on current electorate)</b>	<b>1 : 1,794</b>	<b>Variance</b>	<b>-1.9%</b>	

Bryncoch South Electoral Ward	No. of Cllrs		Electorate	
	Current	Proposed	Current	5 Year

				Projected
<b>Bryncoch South</b>	2	2	4,486	4,491

**Electoral Equality**

Bryncoch South Electoral Ward currently deviates from the Commission’s Councillor: Elector Ratio by 22.7%.

The neighbouring Electoral Ward of Dyffryn currently deviates from the Commission’s Councillor: Elector Ratio by 30.3%.

If a section of Bryncoch South had its boundary altered, with that section added to the Dyffryn Electoral Ward resulting in the transfer of 685 electors, this would result in a variance of 4% for Bryncoch South. In terms of Dyffryn, provided it was allocated an additional councillor making it a two member ward, it would result in a variance of -18.7% but has planned housing developments scheduled for the next 5 years which in turn should lead to an increase in population.

**Community Ties Arguments**

In March 2002 the then Local Government Boundary Commission for Wales under the instruction of Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council requested a review between the Communities of Blaenhonddan and Dyffryn Clydach under Section 57 of the Local Government Act.

The arguments presented at that time were the residents of Brookfield and Taillwyd Road identified themselves with Neath Abbey rather than Waunceirch. Mill Race was not yet built at this time but the correspondence made reference to the new housing development of Mill Race also falling into the revised boundary of Dyffryn Clydach. The Draft Report by the Commission on the matter indicated that of the 37% of consultation forms received, 56% were in support of the changes being made to the community boundaries of Bryncoch South and Dyffryn Clydach.

**Topographical Arguments**

Bryncoch South and Dyffryn have a natural boundary that follows the Clydach River. Recent housing developments in the area have created a distinct boundary limiting direct access within the Bryncoch South Electoral Ward. The Streets of Brookfield, Mill Race and Taillwyd Road are not accessible by car from the rest of Bryncoch South. The presence of permanent bollards separate Millbank and Mill Race and a movable barrier that is predominately always in place separates Brookfield from Heol Glynderwyn. The only direct access to these three streets by car is through the Dyffryn Electoral Ward.

The streets of Glynlerios Gardens, Llys Y Coed, Neath Abbey Road and Roman Way which are currently situated in Bryncoch South are separated from both Bryncoch South and Dyffryn by the A474 and have no obvious tie to either area.

**Rural/Urban Divide**

The Local Development Plan (2011-2026) describes Bryncoch as a large local centre which indicates settlements with adequate public transport links with clusters of one or more retail units and local services, with one or more community facilities and employment provision.

Dyffryn (referred to as Longford in the LDP) is considered a small local centre which indicates settlements with adequate public transport links with at least one shop and/or

several community facilities.

**Community Area and Community Ward**

Bryncoch South comprises of the Community Ward of the same name that form part of Blaenhonddan Community Council.

Dyffryn comprises of the Community Ward of Dyffryn Clydach that forms the unwarded Community Council of Dyffryn Clydach.

The transfer of 685 electors from Bryncoch South to Dyffryn would result in consequential changes to Blaenhonddan Community Council and Dyffryn Clydach Community Council boundaries and potentially electoral arrangements.

**Single Versus Multi-Member Wards**

Bryncoch South is currently a multi-member ward, where these arrangements are well understood by the electorate.

Dyffryn is currently a single member ward. If the changes to the boundaries of Bryncoch South and Dyffryn were made and the status quo in terms of member representation retained, this would result in a variance of 67.8%. The population growth anticipated in Dyffryn over the next five years would increase this variance to 76.8%.

**Option**

Move the following streets/electors to the Dyffryn Electoral Ward:

- Brookfield (231 electors)
- Mill Race (169 electors)
- Taillwyd Road (104 electors)
- Glynleiros Gardens (19 electors)
- Llys Y Coed (19 electors)
- Neath Abbey Road (25 electors)
- Roman Way (118 electors)
- Total Electors = 685

And retain Bryncoch South as a two member ward.

This creates a 5 year projected electorate of 3,806.

<b>Proposed Councillor: Elector Ratio (based on current electorate)</b>	<b>1 : 1,901</b>	<b>Variance</b>	<b>4%</b>
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Cadoxton Electoral Ward	No. of Cllrs		Electorate	
	Current	Proposed	Current	5 Year

				Projected
<b>Cadoxton</b>	1	1	1,346	1,436
<p><b>Electoral Equality</b> Cadoxton Electoral Ward currently deviates from the Commission's Councillor: Elector ratio by -26.4% with this anticipated to decrease to -25.1% in 5 years' time.</p> <p><b>Community Tie Arguments</b> There are no known compelling arguments to suggest a change based on community ties.</p> <p><b>Topographical Arguments</b> Cadoxton is separated from Bryncoch North and South by Gilfach Quarry. The roundabout where the A474 (Penywern Road) and A4230 (Cadoxton Road) intersect form a natural boundary between Cadoxton and Bryncoch South.</p> <p>While there is no clear physical boundary between Cadoxton and Aberdulais, it is widely acknowledged that Llangatwg Comprehensive School forms the boundary between the two electoral wards.</p> <p>The River Neath and A465 create a natural boundary between Cadoxton and Neath North.</p> <p><b>Rural/Urban Divide</b> The Local Development Plan (2011-2026) describes Cadoxton as a small local centre which indicates settlements with adequate public transport links with at least one shop and/or several community facilities. Cadoxton has a small retail park that has a Lidl's supermarket.</p> <p>It is an affluent area of Neath Port Talbot. The Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation places Cadoxton as the 1,684<sup>th</sup> most deprived areas in Wales (out of 1,909 areas) placing it in the bottom 50%. It has the second lowest number of incidences of anti-social behaviour and the fourth lowest percentage of working age population receive employment related benefits in the County Borough.</p> <p><b>Community Area and Community Ward</b> Cadoxton Electoral Ward also forms the Community Ward of Cadoxton. The Community Ward of Cadoxton forms part of Blaenhonddan Community Council, along with the community wards of Bryncoch South, Bryncoch North, Aberdulais and Cilfrew.</p> <p><b>Single Versus Multi-Member Wards</b> Cadoxton is a single member ward.</p> <p><b>Option</b> No change to existing arrangements.</p>				
<b>Proposed Councillor: Elector Ratio (based on current electorate)</b>	<b>1 : 1,346</b>	<b>Variance</b>	<b>-26.4%</b>	

<b>Cimla Electoral Ward</b>	<b>No. of Cllrs</b>	<b>Electorate</b>
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	Current	Proposed	Current	5 Year Projected
➤ <b>Cimla</b>	2	2	3,108	3,117
Cefn Saeson Community Ward			2,118	2,118
Crynallt Community Ward			990	999
<p><b>Electoral Equality</b></p> <p>Bryn and Cwmavon Electoral Ward currently deviate from the Commission's Councillor: Elector Ratio by -6.5%.</p> <p>The neighbouring Electoral Ward of Pelenna currently deviates from the Commission's Councillor: Elector Ratio by -51.9%.</p> <p>The Electoral Ward of Cimla, which also neighbours Pelenna currently deviates from the Commissions' Councillor: Elector Ratio by -15.0%.</p> <p>Little population growth is anticipated in any of these electoral wards over the next five years.</p> <p>If the Pontrhydyfen Community Ward and Bryn and Cwmavon were combined to form a three member ward this would result in a variance of 2.3% and the Tonmawr Community Ward and Cimla were combined to form a two member ward this would result in a variance of -4%.</p> <p><b>Community Tie Arguments</b></p> <p>Tonmawr Community Ward has community ties with the Cimla Electoral Ward, while the Pontrhydyfen Community Ward has community ties with the Bryn and Cwmavon Electoral Ward due to part of Pontrhydyfen (Oakwood) already being situated there.</p> <p>The closure of Pontrhydyfen Primary School in 2015 saw the transfer of pupils to Cwmafan Primary School forging closer community ties between the two areas. The planned closure of Cymmer Afan Comprehensive School has also seen the pupils resident in Tonmawr transferred to Cefn Saeson Comprehensive School in Cimla strengthening community ties between the two areas.</p> <p><b>Topographical Arguments</b></p> <p>The Pelenna River currently forms a natural boundary between Pelenna and both Cimla and Bryn and Cwmavon. Mynydd Pen Rhys forms a distinct natural boundary between Pelenna and the Cymmer Electoral Ward, while Mynydd Pen-hydd forms a natural boundary between Bryn and Cwmavon.</p> <p><b>Rural/Urban Divide</b></p> <p>The Local Development Plan (2011-2026) describes Cwmavon and Cimla as a large local centre which indicates settlements with adequate public transport links with clusters of one or more retail units and local services, with one or more community facilities and employment provision.</p> <p>Tonmawr and Bryn are considered a small local centre which indicates settlements with adequate public transport links with at least one shop and/or several community facilities.</p> <p>Pontrhydyfen is considered a village with a settlement with at least one community facility and adequate public transport links.</p>				

The Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation places Pelenna as the 563rd most deprived area in Wales (out of 1,909) placing it in the top 20-30%. Bryn and Cwmavon has been divided into 4 Lower Super Output Areas which are the 310th (top 10-20%), 663rd (top 30-50%), 901st (top 30-50%) and 1597th (bottom 50%) most deprived areas in Wales. Cimla has been divided into 3 Lower Super Output Areas which are the 781st (top 30-50%), 1,547th (bottom 50%) and 1,622nd (bottom 50%) most deprived areas in Wales.

**Community Area and Community Ward**

Bryn and Cwmavon has two community wards – Bryn and Cwmavon but have no Community Council.

Cimla has two community wards – Cefn Saeson and Crynallt which form part of Neath Town Council.

Pelenna has two community wards – Pontrhydyfen and Tonmawr which form Pelenna Community Council.

**Single Versus Multi-Member Wards**

Bryn and Cwmavon is currently a multi-member ward, where these arrangements are well understood by the electorate.

Cimla is currently a multi-member ward, where these arrangements are well understood by the electorate.

Pelenna is currently a single member ward.

**Option**

Tonmawr Community Ward is merged with its neighbouring Cimla Electoral Ward to form a two member ward.

This creates a 5 year projected electorate of 3,541

<b>Proposed Councillor : Elector Ratio – Combine Tonmawr with Cimla (based on current electorate)</b>	<b>1: 1,754</b>	<b>Variance</b>	<b>-4%</b>
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<b>Coedffranc Central</b>	<b>No. of Cllrs</b>	<b>Electorate</b>
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Electoral Ward	Current	Proposed	Current	5 Year Projected
➤ <b>Coedffranc Central</b>	2	2	2,812	2,837
Central Ward			1,639	1,664
East Central Ward			1,173	1,173
<p><b>Elector Equality</b>  Coedffranc Central Electoral Ward currently deviates from the Commission’s Councillor: Elector ratio by -23.1% with this anticipated to increase to -26% in 5 years’ time.</p> <p>The neighbouring Electoral Ward of Coedffranc West deviates from the Commission’s Councillor: Elector Ratio by 76.9% with this anticipated to increase to 156.5% in 5 years’ time.</p> <p><b>Community Ties Arguments</b>  See Topographical Arguments.</p> <p><b>Topographical Arguments</b>  Coedffranc Central is separated from Coedffranc North by the Rail Network Line and the A4230.</p> <p>There are a number of streets within the West Central Community Ward that from part of the Coedffranc West Electoral Ward that are separated from the rest of the West Central Community Ward and the whole of the West Ward by the M4 Motorway. There are also streets that are split between the Coedffranc Central and Coedffranc West Electoral Wards. For example, Evelyn Road has 22 properties in Coedffranc Central and 9 properties in Coedffranc West. Christopher Road has 13 properties in the Coedffranc Central Ward and 26 properties in the Coedffranc West Ward. Wern Road has 31 properties in Coedffranc Central and 66 properties in Coedffranc West.</p> <p><b>Rural/Urban Divide</b>  The Local Development Plan (2011-2026) describes Skewen as a district centre which indicates settlements with good transport links and a wide range of functions serving the immediate and surrounding communities.</p> <p>The Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation divides Coedffranc Central into 3 Lower Super Output Area and are the 216<sup>th</sup> (top 10-20%), 659<sup>th</sup> and 830<sup>th</sup> (top 30-50%) most deprived areas in Wales (out of 1,909).</p> <p><b>Community Area and Community Ward</b>  Coedffranc Central has two Community Wards – Central and East Central. Both Community Wards form part of Coedffranc Town Council with the other Community Wards of Coedffranc North, Coedffranc West Central and Coedffranc West.</p> <p><b>Single Versus Multi-Member Ward</b>  Coedffranc Central is currently a multi-member ward, where these arrangements are well understood by the electorate.</p> <p><b>Options</b>  Move the following streets/electors to the Coedffranc Central Electoral Ward:  Charles Street (47 electors)  Christopher Road (42 electors)</p>				



Coombes Road (32 electors)  
 Evelyn Road (17 electors)  
 New Road (80 electors)  
 Tennant Grove / Llwyn Tennant (68 electors)  
 The Meadows / Y Waun (86 electors)  
 Wern Road (118 electors)  
 Winifred Road (61 electors)  
 Total Electors = 551

And retain Coedffranc Central as a two member ward.  
 This creates a 5 year projected electorate of 3,338.

<b>Proposed Councillor : Elector Ratio (based on current electorate)</b>	<b>1 : 1,682</b>	<b>Variance</b>	<b>-8%</b>
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<b>Coedffranc North Electoral</b>	<b>No. of Cllrs</b>	<b>Electorate</b>
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Ward	Current	Proposed	Current	5 Year Projected
<b>Coedffranc North</b>	1	1	1,798	1,798
<p><b>Electoral Equality</b> Coedffranc North Electoral Ward currently deviates from the Commission's Councillor: Elector ratio by -1.7% with this anticipated to decrease to -6.2% in 5 years' time.</p> <p><b>Community Tie Arguments</b> There are no known compelling arguments to suggest a change based on community ties.</p> <p><b>Topographical Arguments</b> Coedffranc North is separated from Coedffranc West by the M4 Motorway. It is separated from Coedffranc Central by the Rail Network Line and the A4230. Darran Woods acts as a natural boundary between the Coedffranc North and Dyffryn Electoral Wards.</p> <p><b>Rural/Urban Divide</b> The Local Development Plan (2011-2026) describes Skewen as a district centre which indicates settlements with good transport links and a wide range of functions serving the immediate and surrounding communities.</p> <p>The Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation divides Coedffranc North into 2 Lower Super Output Area and are the 1,097th and 1,110th (bottom 50%) most deprived areas in Wales (out of 1,909).</p> <p><b>Community Area and Community Ward</b> Coedffranc North Electoral Ward also forms the Coedffranc North Community Ward. Coedffranc North Community Ward forms part of Coedffranc Town Council with the other Community Wards of Coedffranc Central, Coedffranc East Central, Coedffranc West Central and Coedffranc West.</p> <p><b>Single Versus Multi-Member Wards</b> Coedffranc North is a single member ward.</p> <p><b>Option</b> No change to existing arrangements.</p> <p>This creates a 5 year projected electorate of 1,798.</p>				
<b>Proposed Councillor : Elector Ratio (based on current electorate)</b>	<b>1 : 1,798</b>	<b>Variance</b>	<b>-1.7%</b>	

Coedffranc West Electoral Ward	No. of Cllrs		Electorate	
	Current	Proposed	Current	5 Year Projected
➤ Coedffranc West	1	2	3,235	4,918
West Ward			1,522	3,005
West Central Ward			1,713	1,913
<p><b>Elector Equality</b> Coedffranc West Electoral Ward currently deviates from the Commission's Councillor: Elector ratio by 76.9% with this anticipated to increase to 156.5% in 5 years' time.</p> <p>The neighbouring Electoral Ward of Coedffranc Central deviates from the Commission's Councillor: Elector Ratio by -23.1% 76.9% with this anticipated to increase to -26% in 5 years' time.</p> <p><b>Community Ties Arguments</b> See Topographical Arguments.</p> <p><b>Topographical Arguments</b> Coedffranc West is separated from Coedffranc North by the Rail Network Line and the M4 Motorway.</p> <p>There are a number of streets within the West Central Community Ward that form part of the Coedffranc West Electoral Ward that are separated from the rest of the West Central Community Ward and the whole of the West Ward by the M4 Motorway. There are also streets that are split between the Coedffranc Central and Coedffranc West Electoral Wards. For example, Evelyn Road has 22 properties in Coedffranc Central and 9 properties in Coedffranc West. Christopher Road has 13 properties in the Coedffranc Central Ward and 26 properties in the Coedffranc West Ward. Wern Road has 31 properties in Coedffranc Central and 66 properties in Coedffranc West.</p> <p><b>Rural/Urban Divide</b> The Local Development Plan (2011-2026) describes Skewen as a district centre which indicates settlements with good transport links and a wide range of functions serving the immediate and surrounding communities.</p> <p>The Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation places Coedffranc West as the 1,344<sup>th</sup> most deprived area in Wales (out of 1,909) placing it in the bottom 50%.</p> <p><b>Community Area and Community Ward</b> Coedffranc West has two Community Wards – West and West Central. Both Community Wards form part of Coedffranc Town Council with the other Community Wards of Coedffranc North, Coedffranc Central and Coedffranc East Central.</p> <p><b>Single Versus Multi-Member Ward</b> Coedffranc West is currently a single member ward.</p> <p><b>Option</b> Move the following streets/electors to the Coedffranc Central Electoral Ward: Charles Street (47 electors) Christopher Road (42 electors) Coombes Road (32 electors)</p>				

Evelyn Road (17 electors)  
 New Road (80 electors)  
 Tennant Grove / Llwyn Tennant (68 electors)  
 The Meadows / Y Waun (86 electors)  
 Wern Road (118 electors)  
 Winifred Road (61 electors)  
 Total Electors = 551

AND

Coedffranc West forms a two member Electoral Ward to accommodate the current and future expansion of the area which includes the Coed Darcy and Swansea University Developments.

This create a 5 year projected electorate of 4,367.

<b>Proposed Councillor : Elector Ratio (based on current electorate)</b>	<b>1 : 1,342</b>	<b>Variance</b>	<b>-26.6% -</b>
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Crynant Electoral Ward	No. of Cllrs		Electorate	
	Current	Proposed	Current	5 Year Projected
<b>Crynant</b>	1	2* (when combined with the Seven Sisters and Onllwyn)	1,567	1,597

### Electoral Equality

Crynant Electoral Ward currently deviates from the Commission's Councillor: Elector Ratio by -17.5%.

The neighbouring Electoral Ward of Seven Sisters currently deviates from the Commission's Councillor: Elector Ratio by -14.3%.

The other Electoral Ward in the Dulais Valley of Onllwyn currently deviates from the Commission's Councillor: Elector Ratio by -51.5%.

If all three Electoral Wards were combined to form a two member ward this would result in a variance of 8.4%.

### Community Ties Arguments

Crynant, Onllwyn and Seven Sisters are valley communities situated in the Dulais Valley which developed in response to mining in the local area and have community ties with each other that stem from this.

### Topographical Arguments

Crynant, Seven Sisters and Onllwyn are all connected by the A4109 that runs through the three Electoral Wards. There are no natural or physical boundaries that create a permanent boundary between the three areas.

### Rural/Urban Divide

The Local Development Plan (2011-2026) describes Crynant as a large local centre which indicates settlements with adequate public transport links with clusters of one or more retail units and local services, with one or more community facilities and employment provision.

Seven Sisters and Onllwyn are considered a small local centre which indicates settlements with adequate public transport links with at least one shop and/or several community facilities.

There are varying levels of deprivation within the Dulais Valley. The Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation places Crynant as the 1,027<sup>th</sup> most deprived area in Wales, Onllwyn as the 598<sup>th</sup> most deprived and Seven Sisters as 519<sup>th</sup> most deprived (out of the 1,909 Lower Super Output Areas). All three areas have similar levels of anti-social behaviour and population receiving employment related benefit.

### Community Area and Community Ward

Crynant Electoral Ward forms the un-warded Community Council of Crynant.

Seven Sisters Electoral Ward forms the un-warded Community Council of Seven Sisters.

Onllwyn Electoral Ward forms the un-warded Community Council of Onllwyn.

**Single Versus Multi-Member Wards**

All three Electoral Wards are single member wards.

**Option**

The Crynant Electoral Ward is merged with its neighbouring Seven Sisters Electoral Ward and Onllwyn Electoral Ward to form a two member ward.

This creates a 5 year projected electorate of 4,028.

<b>Proposed Councillor: Elector Ratio (based on current electorate)</b>	<b>1 : 1,981</b>	<b>Variance</b>	<b>8.4%</b>
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Cwmllynfell Electoral Ward	No. of Cllrs		Electorate	
	Current	Proposed	Current	5 Year Projected
➤ Cwmllynfell	1	2* (when comined with Gwaun-Cae-Gurwen and Lower Brynamman)	936	997
<b>Cwmllynfell Community Ward</b>			693	754
<b>Penrhiwfawr Community Ward</b>			243	243
<p><b>Electoral Equality</b> Cwmllynfell currently deviates from the Commission’s Councillor: Elector Ratio by -48.8%.</p> <p>Gwaun-Cae-Gurwen Electoral Ward currently deviates from the Commission’s Councillor: Elector Ratio by 22.2%. The neighbouring Electoral Ward of Lower Brynamman currently deviates from the Commission’s Councillor Elector Ratio by -43.6%.</p> <p>If Gwaun-Cae-Gurwen, Lower Brynamman and Cwmllynfell Electoral Wards were combined to form a two member ward this would result in a variance of 14.9%.</p> <p><b>Community Tie Arguments</b> All three electoral wards are valley communities that developed in response to mining in the area and have community ties that stem from this.</p> <p>Cwmllynfell forms part of the Upper Swansea Valley.</p> <p>Lower Brynamman and Gwaun-Cae-Gurwen form the Amman Valley.</p> <p><b>Topographical Arguments</b> The A4068 in Cwmllynfell intersects with the A4069 at the boundary between Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council and Carmarthen County Council to provide direct access to Lower Brynamman.</p> <p>The A4069 directly connects Lower Brynamman to Gwaun-Cae-Gurwen.</p> <p>The River Amman runs throughout the three electoral wards but doesn’t serve to divide but to connect them. The river provides the natural boundary between Neath Port Talbot and Carmarthen.</p> <p><b>Rural/Urban Divide</b> The Local Development Plan (2011-2026) describes Gwaun-Cae-Gurwen as large local centres which indicates settlements with adequate public transport links with clusters of one or more retail units and local services, with one or more community facilities and employment provision.</p> <p>Cwmgors, Tai’rgwaith and Cwmllynfell are considered small local centres which indicates settlements with adequate public transport links with at least one shop and/or several community facilities.</p> <p>Penrhiwfawr is considered a dormitory settlement with minimal or no facilities, served by minimal or no public transport.</p> <p>There are varying levels of deprivation between the three electoral wards. Cwmllynfell is the 993rd most deprived area in Wales (out of 1,909) placing it in the bottom 50%. Lower</p>				

Brynamman is the 627nd placing it in the top 30-50%, and Gwaun-Cae-Gurwen which is divided into two Lower Super Output areas is 525th and 355th placing it in the top 20-30% for one and top 10-20% for the other.

**Community Area and Community Ward**

Gwaun-Cae-Gurwen has two community wards – Cwmgors and Gwaun-Cae-Gurwen. Both wards form part of Gwaun-Cae-Gurwen Community Council.

Lower Brynamman has two community wards – Lower Brynamman and Tai’r Gwaith. Both wards form part of Gwaun-Cae-Gurwen Community Council. The four community wards within Lower Brynamman and Gwaun-Cae-Gurwen therefore are all part of the same community council.

Cwmllynfell has two community wards – Cwmllynfell and Penrhiwfawr that form Cwmllynfell Community Council.

**Single Versus Multi-Member Ward**

All three electoral wards of Gwaun-Cae-Gurwen, Lower Brynamman and Cwmllynfell are single member wards.

**Option**

Gwaun-Cae-Gurwen Electoral Ward is merged with its neighbouring Lower Brynamman and Cwmllynfell Electoral Ward to form a two member ward.

This creates a 5 year projected electorate of 4,263.

<b>Proposed Councillor: Elector Ratio – Combine Gwaun-Cae-Gurwen, Lower Brynamman and Cwmllynfell (based on current electorate)</b>	<b>1 : 2,101</b>	<b>Variance</b>	<b>14.9%</b>
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Cymmer Electoral Ward	No. of Cllrs		Electorate	
	Current	Proposed	Current	5 Year Projected
Cymmer	1	2*(when combined with Glyncorrwg and Gwynfi)	1,999	1,999

### Electoral Equality

Cymmer Electoral Ward currently deviates from the Commission's Councillor: Elector Ratio by 9.3%.

The neighbouring Electoral Wards of Glyncorrwg and Gwynfi currently deviate from the Commission's Councillor: Elector Ratio by -57.2% and -50.4% respectively.

If the Cymmer Electoral Ward was combined with the Glyncorrwg and Gwynfi Electoral Wards to form a two member ward, this would result in a variance of 0.8%.

There are no planned housing developments or population growth anticipated in any of the three electoral wards over the next five years.

### Community Ties Arguments

All three electoral wards are valley communities that developed in response to mining in the area and have community ties that stem from this.

### Topographical Arguments

Cymmer is connected to Gwynfi by the A4107 and connected to Glyncorrwg by the A4063. Both roads intersect within Cymmer and provide direct access to the three Electoral Wards.

The River Afan runs through Gwynfi into Cymmer where it intersects with the Afon Corrwg that runs through Glyncorrwg into Cymmer. While the rivers form a historically natural boundary between the three electoral wards, the way in which both rivers intersect do not create an unbreachable physical divide and provides to connect the three areas.

### Rural/Urban Divide

The Local Development Plan (2011-2026) describes all three Electoral as small local centres which indicates settlements with adequate public transport links with at least one shop and/or several community facilities.

All three areas are rural characterised by higher than average levels of deprivation. Gwynfi is the 177<sup>th</sup> most deprived area in Wales (out of 1,909 Lower Super Output Areas), Glyncorrwg is the 284<sup>th</sup> most deprived and Cymmer which is divided into two areas in Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation has the 22<sup>nd</sup> and 372<sup>nd</sup> most deprived areas in Wales. This places all three Electoral Wards in the top 20% of the Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation.

All three Electoral Wards have similar levels of anti-social behaviour, similar demands of services provided by social services and higher than average rates of the working age population receiving employment related benefits.

### Community Area and Community Ward

The Electoral Wards of Cymmer, Glyncorrwg and Gwynfi also form the Community Wards of the same name and prior to it being dissolved all three wards comprised Glyncorrwg

Community Council.

**Single Versus Multi-Member Ward**

All three Electoral Wards are single member wards.

**Options**

The Cymmer Electoral Ward is merged with its neighbouring Glyncorrwg and Gywnfi Electoral Wards to form a two member ward.

This creates a 5 year projected electorate of 3,687.

<b>Proposed Councillor : Elector Ratio (based on current electorate)</b>	<b>1 : 1,844</b>	<b>Variance</b>	<b>0.8%</b>
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Dyffryn Electoral Ward	No. of Cllrs		Electorate	
	Current	Proposed	Current	5 Year Projected
Dyffryn	1	2	2,383	2,547

**Electoral Equality**

Bryncoch South Electoral Ward currently deviates from the Commission’s Councillor: Elector Ratio by 22.7%.

The neighbouring Electoral Ward of Dyffryn currently deviates from the Commission’s Councillor: Elector Ratio by 30.3%.

If a section of Bryncoch South had its boundary altered, with that section added to the Dyffryn Electoral Ward resulting in the transfer of 685 electors, this would result in a variance of 4% for Bryncoch South. In terms of Dyffryn, provided it was allocated an additional councillor making it a two member ward it would result in a variance of -18.7% but has planned housing developments scheduled for the next 5 years.

**Community Ties Arguments**

In March 2002 the then Local Government Boundary Commission for Wales under the instruction of Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council requested a review between the Communities of Blaenhonddan and Dyffryn Clydach under Section 57 of the Local Government Act.

The arguments presented at that time were the residents of Brookfield and Taillywd Road identified themselves with Neath Abbey rather than Waunceirch. Mill Race was not yet built at this time but the correspondence made reference to the new housing development of Mill Race also falling into the revised boundary of Dyffryn Clydach. The Draft Report by the Commission on the matter indicated that of the 37% of consultation forms received, 56% were in support of the changes being made to the community boundaries of Bryncoch South and Dyffryn Clydach.

**Topographical Arguments**

Bryncoch South and Dyffryn have natural boundary that follows the Clydach River. Recent housing developments in the area have created a distinct boundary limiting direct access within the Bryncoch South Electoral Ward. The Streets of Brookfield, Mill Race and Taillywd Road are not accessible by car from the rest of Bryncoch South. The presence of permanent bollards separate Millbank and Mill Race and a movable barrier that is predominately always in place separates Brookfield from Heol Glynderwyn. The only direct access to these three streets by car is through the Dyffryn Electoral Ward.

The streets of Glynlerios Gardens, Llys Y Coed, Neath Abbey Road and Roman Way which are currently situated in Bryncoch South are separated from both Bryncoch South and Dyffryn by the A474 and have no obvious tie to either area.

**Rural/Urban Divide**

The Local Development Plan (2011-2026) describes Byrncoch as a large local centre which indicates settlements with adequate public transport links with clusters of one or more retail units and local services, with one or more community facilities and employment provision.

Dyffryn (referred to as Longford in the LDP) is considered a small local centre which

indicates settlements with adequate public transport links with at least one shop and/or several community facilities.

**Community Area and Community Ward**

Bryncoch South comprises of the Community Ward of the same name that form part of Blaenhonddan Community Council.

Dyffryn comprises of the Community Ward of Dyffryn Clydach that forms the unwarded Community Council of Dyffryn Clydach.

The transfer of 685 electors from Bryncoch South to Dyffryn would result in consequential changes to Blaenhonddan Community Council and Dyffryn Clydach Community Council boundaries.

**Single Versus Multi-Member Wards**

Bryncoch South is currently a multi-member ward, where these arrangements are well understood by the electorate.

Dyffryn is currently a single member ward. If the changes to the boundaries of Bryncoch South and Dyffryn were made and the status quo in terms of member representation retained, this would result in a variance of 67.8%. The population growth anticipated in Dyffryn over the next five years would increase this variance to 76.8%.

**Options**

Move the following streets/electors to the Dyffryn Electoral Ward:

- Brookfield (231 electors)
- Mill Race (169 electors)
- Taillwyd Road (104 electors)
- Glynleiros Gardens (19 electors)
- Llys Y Coed (19 electors)
- Neath Abbey Road (25 electors)
- Roman Way (118 electors)
- Total Electors = 685

And Dyffryn forms a two member ward.

This creates a 5 year projected electorate of 3,232.

<b>Proposed Councillor : Elector Ratio (based on current electorate)</b>	<b>1 : 1,534</b>	<b>Variance</b>	<b>-16.1%</b>
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Glyncorrwg Electoral Ward	No. of Cllrs		Electorate	
	Current	Proposed	Current	5 Year Projected
<b>Glyncorrwg</b>	1	2*(when combined with Cymmer and Gwynfi)	782	782

### Electoral Equality

Cymmer Electoral Ward currently deviates from the Commission's Councillor: Elector Ratio by 9.3%.

The neighbouring Electoral Wards of Glyncorrwg and Gwynfi currently deviate from the Commission's Councillor: Elector Ratio by -57.2% and -50.4% respectively.

If the Cymmer Electoral Ward was combined with the Glyncorrwg and Gwynfi Electoral Wards to form a two member ward, this would result in a variance of 0.8%.

There are no planned housing developments or population growth anticipated in any of the three electoral wards over the next five years.

### Community Ties Arguments

All three electoral wards are valley communities that developed in response to mining in the area and have community ties that stem from this.

### Topographical Arguments

Cymmer is connected to Gwynfi by the A4107 and connected to Glyncorrwg by the A4063. Both roads intersect within Cymmer and provide direct access to the three Electoral Wards.

The River Afan runs through Gwynfi into Cymmer where it intersects with the Afon Corrwg that runs through Glyncorrwg into Cymmer. While the rivers form a historically natural boundary between the three electoral wards, the way in which both rivers intersect do not create an unbreachable physical divide and provides to connect the three areas.

### Rural/Urban Divide

The Local Development Plan (2011-2026) describes all three Electoral Wards as small local centres which indicates settlements with adequate public transport links with at least one shop and/or several community facilities.

All three areas are rural characterised by higher than average levels of deprivation. Gwynfi is the 177<sup>th</sup> most deprived area in Wales (out of 1,909 Lower Super Output Areas), Glyncorrwg is the 284<sup>th</sup> most deprived and Cymmer which is divided into two areas in Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation has the 22<sup>nd</sup> and 372<sup>nd</sup> most deprived areas in Wales. This places all three Electoral Wards in the top 20% of the Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation.

All three Electoral Wards have similar levels of anti-social behaviour, similar demands of services provided by social services and higher than average rates of the working age population receiving employment related benefits.

### Community Area and Community Ward

The Electoral Wards of Cymmer, Glyncorrwg and Gwynfi also form the Community Wards of the same name and prior to it being dissolved all three wards comprised Glyncorrwg

Community Council.

**Single Versus Multi-Member Ward**

All three Electoral Wards are single member wards.

**Option**

The Cymmer Electoral Ward is merged with its neighbouring Glyncorrwg and Gywnfi Electoral Wards to form a two member ward.

This creates a 5 year projected electorate of 3,687.

<b>Proposed Councillor: Elector Ratio (based on current electorate)</b>	<b>1 : 1,844</b>	<b>Variance</b>	<b>0.8%</b>
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Glynneath Electoral Ward	No. of Cllrs		Electorate	
	Current	Proposed	Current	5 Year Projected
➤ Glynneath	2	2*(when combined with Blaengwrach)	2,572	2,639
<b>Central Community Ward</b>			1,096	1,163
<b>East Community Ward</b>			738	738
<b>West Community Ward</b>			738	738
<b>West Central Community Ward</b>			616	616
<p><b>Electoral Equality</b>  The Electoral Ward of Glynneath currently deviates from the Commission's Councillor: Elector Ratio by -29.7%. Blaengwrach Electoral Ward currently deviates from the Commission's Councillor: Elector Ratio by -19.7%.</p> <p>Little population growth is anticipated in either electoral ward over the next five years. If Blaengwrach and Glynneath Electoral Wards were combined to form a two member ward this would result in a variance of 10.5%.</p> <p><b>Community Tie Arguments</b>  Both Blaengwrach and Glynneath are valley communities situated in the Neath valley which developed in response to mining in the local area and have community ties to each other that stem from this.</p> <p><b>Topographical Arguments</b>  The A465 and the River Neath/Afon Nedd divide the community ward of Blaengwrach from the community wards that make up Glynneath Electoral Ward and the Glynneath West Central Community Ward that comprises part of the Blaengwrach Electoral Ward.</p> <p>The West Central Ward is an anomaly as it has historically resulted in the Blaengwrach Electoral Ward being divided by the road and river which goes against the traditional topographical arguments. In this instance there have previously been no known objections to the existence of the electoral ward being split in such a manner. Therefore, in terms of topography the combination of Blaengwrach and Glynneath would be a continuation of this historic accepted anomaly.</p> <p><b>Rural/Urban Divide</b>  Glynneath is a significant settlement in this area with a distinct centre. Blaengwrach is a small local centre. While Glynneath would act as a focal point for residents in Blaengwrach to shop and socialise, the positioning of the local leisure centre and fast food restaurant in Blaengwrach would act as another focal point for residents from both electoral wards.</p> <p>The Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation places Blaengwrach as 618<sup>th</sup> most deprived area in Wales (top 30-50%). Glynneath has been divided into two, one area is the 387<sup>th</sup> most deprived area in Wales (top 20-30%) and the other is the 1,011<sup>th</sup> most deprived (bottom 50%). There are varying levels of deprivation throughout the two electoral wards which is currently the case.</p> <p><b>Community Area and Community Ward</b>  Blaengwrach Electoral Ward has two community wards – Blaengwrach and Glynneath West Central. Blaengwrach Community Ward forms an un-warded Community Council, Glynneath West Central forms one of the Community Wards that form Glynneath Town</p>				

Council.

Glynneath Electoral Ward has three community wards – East, West and Central that form Glynneath Town Council, along with the Glynneath West Central Ward.

**Single Versus Multi-Member Wards**

Blaengwrach is a single member ward; Glynneath is a two member ward.

Historically, Town/Community Councillors have stood for election for both Blaengwrach Community Council and Glynneath Town Council with one current member sitting on both Town/Community Councils.

**Option**

The Blaengwrach Electoral Ward is merged with its neighbouring Glynneath Electoral Ward to form a two member ward.

This creates a 5 year projected electorate of 4,140.

<b>Proposed Councillor: Elector Ratio (based on current electorate)</b>	<b>1 : 2,020</b>	<b>Variance</b>	<b>10.5%</b>
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Godrergraig Electoral Ward	No. of Cllrs		Electorate	
	Current	Proposed	Current	5 Year Projected
<b>Godrergraig</b>	1	1	1,493	1,493
<p><b>Electoral Equality</b>  Godrergraig Electoral Ward currently deviates from the Commission’s Councillor: Elector Ratio by -18.3%. The neighbouring Electoral Ward of Ystalyfera currently deviates from the Commission’s Councillor: Elector Ratio by 16.7%.</p> <p>If Godrergraig and Ystalyfera Electoral Wards were combined to form a two member ward this would result in a variance of -0.8%.</p> <p><b>Community Tie Arguments</b>  Both electoral wards of Godrergraig and Ystalyfera are valley communities that developed in response to mining in the area and have community ties that stem from this.</p> <p>Ystalyfera and Godrergraig form part of the Upper Swansea Valley.</p> <p><b>Topographical Arguments</b>  The A4067 directly connects Ystalyfera and Godrergraig.</p> <p><b>Rural/Urban Divide</b>  The Local Development Plan (2011-2026) describes Godrergraig as a small local centre which indicates settlements with adequate public transport links with at least one shop and/or several community facilities.</p> <p>Godrergraig is the 745<sup>th</sup> most deprived area in Wales placing it in the top 30-50%.</p> <p><b>Community Area and Community Ward</b>  Godrergraig has one community ward – Godrergraig, which form part of Ystalyfera Community Council.</p> <p><b>Single Versus Multi-Member Ward</b>  Godrergraig is a single member ward.</p> <p><b>Option</b>  No change to existing arrangements.</p> <p>This creates a 5 year projected electorate of 1,1493.</p>				
<b>Proposed Councillor: Elector Ratio (based on current electorate)</b>	<b>1 : 1,493</b>	<b>Variance</b>	<b>-18.3%</b>	

Gwaun-Cae-Gurwen Electoral Ward	No. of Cllrs		Electorate	
	Current	Proposed	Current	5 Year Projected
➤ Gwaun-Cae-Gurwen	1	2* (when combined with Lower Brynamman and Cwmllynfell)	2,235	2,235
<b>Cwmgors Community Ward</b>			866	866
<b>Gwaun-Cae-Gurwen Community Ward</b>			1,369	1,369
<p><b>Electoral Equality</b></p> <p>Gwaun-Cae-Gurwen Electoral Ward currently deviates from the Commission’s Councillor: Elector Ratio by 22.2%. The neighbouring Electoral Ward of Lower Brynamman currently deviates from the Commission’s Councillor Elector Ratio by -43.6%.</p> <p>The Electoral Ward at the top of the Swansea Valley, Cwmllynfell currently deviates from the Commission’s Councillor: Elector Ratio by -48.8%.</p> <p>If Gwaun-Cae-Gurwen, Lower Brynamman and Cwmllynfell Electoral Wards were combined to form a two member ward this would result in a variance of 14.9%.</p> <p><b>Community Ties Arguments</b></p> <p>All three electoral wards are valley communities that developed in response to mining in the area and have community ties that stem from this.</p> <p>Cwmllynfell forms part of the Upper Swansea Valley.</p> <p>Lower Brynamman and Gwaun-Cae-Gurwen form the Amman Valley.</p> <p><b>Topographical Arguments</b></p> <p>The A4068 in Cwmllynfell intersects with the A4069 at the boundary between Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council and Carmarthen County Council to provide direct access to Lower Brynamman.</p> <p>The A4069 directly connects Lower Brynamman to Gwaun-Cae-Gurwen.</p> <p>The River Amman runs throughout the three electoral wards but doesn’t serve to divide but to connect them. The river provides the natural boundary between Neath Port Talbot and Carmarthen.</p> <p><b>Rural/Urban Divide</b></p> <p>The Local Development Plan (2011-2026) describes Gwaun-Cae-Gurwen as a large local centre which indicates settlements with adequate public transport links with clusters of one or more retail units and local services, with one or more community facilities and employment provision.</p> <p>Lower Brynamman, Cwmgors, Tai’r Gwaith and Cwmllynfell are considered a small local centre which indicates settlements with adequate public transport links with at least one shop and/or several community facilities.</p> <p>Penrhiwfawr is considered a dormitory settlement with minimal or no facilities, served by minimal or no public transport.</p> <p>There are varying levels of deprivation between the three electoral wards. Cwmllynfell is</p>				

the 993<sup>rd</sup> most deprived area in Wales (out of 1,909) placing it in the bottom 50%. Lower Brynamman is the 627<sup>th</sup> placing it in the top 30-50% and Gwaun-Cae-Gurwen which is divided into two Lower Super Output areas is 525<sup>th</sup> and 355<sup>th</sup> placing it in the top 20-30% for one and top 10-20% for the other.

**Community Area and Community Ward**

Gwaun-Cae-Gurwen has two community wards – Cwmgors and Gwaun-Cae-Gurwen. Both wards form part of Gwaun-Cae-Gurwen Community Council.

Lower Brynamman has two community wards – Lower Brynamman and Tai’r Gwaith. Both wards form part of Gwaun-Cae-Gurwen Community Council. The four community wards within Lower Brynamman and Gwaun-Cae-Gurwen therefore are all part of the same community council.

Cwmllynfell has two community wards – Cwmllynfell and Penrhiwfawr that form Cwmllynfell Community Council.

**Single Versus Multi-Member Wards**

All three electoral wards of Gwaun-Cae-Gurwen, Lower Brynamman and Cwmllynfell are single member wards.

**Option**

Gwaun-Cae-Gurwen Electoral Ward is merged with its neighbouring Lower Brynamman and Cwmllynfell Electoral Ward to form a two member ward.

This creates a 5 year projected electorate of 4,263.

<b>Proposed Councillor: Elector Ratio – Combine Gwaun-Cae-Gurwen, Lower Brynamman &amp; Cwmllynfell (based on current electorate)</b>	<b>1 : 2,101</b>	<b>Variance</b>	<b>14.9%</b>
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Gwynfi Electoral Ward	No. of Cllrs		Electorate	
	Current	Proposed	Current	5 Year Projected
<b>Gwynfi</b>	1	1*(when combined with Cymmer and Glyncorrwg)	906	906

### Electoral Equality

Cymmer Electoral Ward currently deviates from the Commission's Councillor: Elector Ratio by 9.3%.

The neighbouring Electoral Wards of Glyncorrwg and Gwynfi currently deviate from the Commission's Councillor: Elector Ratio by -57.2% and -50.4% respectively.

If the Cymmer Electoral Ward was combined with the Glyncorrwg and Gwynfi Electoral Wards to form a two member ward, this would result in a variance of 0.8%.

There are no planned housing developments or population growth anticipated in any of the three electoral wards over the next five years.

### Community Ties Arguments

All three electoral wards are valley communities that developed in response to mining in the area and have community ties that stem from this.

### Topographical Arguments

Cymmer is connected to Gwynfi by the A4107 and connected to Glyncorrwg by the A4063. Both roads intersect within Cymmer and provide direct access to the three Electoral Wards.

The River Afan runs through Gwynfi into Cymmer where it intersects with the Afon Corrwg that runs through Glyncorrwg into Cymmer. While the rivers form a historically natural boundary between the three electoral wards, the way in which both rivers intersect do not create an unbreachable physical divide and provides to connect the three areas.

### Rural/Urban Divide

The Local Development Plan (2011-2026) describes all three Electoral Wards as small local centres which indicates settlements with adequate public transport links with at least one shop and/or several community facilities.

All three areas are rural characterised by it's higher than average levels of deprivation. Gwynfi is the 177<sup>th</sup> most deprived area in Wales (out of 1,909 Lower Super Output Areas), Glyncorrwg is the 284<sup>th</sup> most deprived and Cymmer which is divided into two areas in Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation has the 22<sup>nd</sup> and 372<sup>nd</sup> most deprived areas in Wales. This places all three Electoral Wards in the top 20% of the Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation.

All three Electoral Wards have similar levels of anti-social behaviour, similar demands of services provided by social services and higher than average rates of the working age population receiving employment related benefits.

### Community Area and Community Ward

The Electoral Wards of Cymmer, Glyncorrwg and Gwynfi also form the Community Wards of the same name and prior to it being dissolved all three wards comprised Glyncorrwg

Community Council.

**Single Versus Multi-Member Ward**

All three Electoral Wards are single member wards.

**Option**

The Cymmer Electoral Ward is merged with its neighbouring Glyncorrwg and Gywnfi Electoral Wards to form a two member ward.

This creates a 5 year projected electorate of 3,687.

<b>Proposed Councillor: Elector Ratio (based on current electorate)</b>	<b>1 : 1,688</b>	<b>Variance</b>	<b>-7.6%</b>
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Lower Brynamman Electoral Ward	No. of Cllrs		Electorate	
	Current	Proposed	Current	5 Year Projected
➤ Lower Brynamman	1	2* (when combined with Gwaun-Cae-Gurwen and Cwmllynfell)	1,031	1,031
<b>Tai'r Gwaith Community Ward</b>			333	333
<b>Lower Brynmman Community Ward</b>			698	698
<p><b>Electoral Equality</b></p> <p>Gwaun-Cae-Gurwen Electoral Ward currently deviates from the Commission's Councillor: Elector Ratio by 22.2%. The neighbouring Electoral Ward of Lower Brynamman currently deviates from the Commission's Councillor Elector Ratio by -43.6%.</p> <p>The other Electoral Ward at the top of the Swansea Valley, Cwmllynfell currently deviates from the Commission's Councillor: Elector Ratio by -48.8%.</p> <p>If Gwaun-Cae-Gurwen, Lower Brynamman and Cwmllynfell Electoral Wards were combined to form a two member ward this would result in a variance of 14.9%.</p> <p><b>Community Ties Arguments</b></p> <p>All three electoral wards are valley communities that developed in response to mining in the area and have community ties that stem from this.</p> <p>Cwmllynfell forms part of the Upper Swansea Valley.</p> <p>Lower Brynamman and Gwaun-Cae-Gurwen form the Amman Valley.</p> <p><b>Topographical Arguments</b></p> <p>The A4068 in Cwmllynfell intersects with the A4069 at the boundary between Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council and Carmarthen County Council to provide direct access to Lower Brynamman.</p> <p>The A4069 directly connects Lower Brynamman to Gwaun-Cae-Gurwen.</p> <p>The River Amman runs throughout the three electoral wards but doesn't serve to divide but to connect them. The river provides the natural boundary between Neath Port Talbot and Carmarthen.</p> <p><b>Rural/Urban Divide</b></p> <p>The Local Development Plan (2011-2026) describes Gwaun-Cae-Gurwen as a large local centre which indicates settlements with adequate public transport links with clusters of one or more retail units and local services, with one or more community facilities and employment provision.</p> <p>Lower Brynamman, Cwmgors, Tai'r Gwaith and Cwmllynfell are considered a small local centre which indicates settlements with adequate public transport links with at least one shop and/or several community facilities.</p> <p>Penrhiwfawr is considered a dormitory settlement with minimal or no facilities, served by minimal or no public transport.</p> <p>There are varying levels of deprivation between the three electoral wards. Cwmllynfell is</p>				

the 993<sup>rd</sup> most deprived area in Wales (out of 1,909) placing it in the bottom 50%. Lower Brynamman is the 627<sup>th</sup> placing it in the top 30-50% and Gwaun-Cae-Gurwen which is divided into two Lower Super Output areas is 525<sup>th</sup> and 355<sup>th</sup> placing it in the top 20-30% for one and top 10-20% for the other.

**Community Area and Community Ward**

Gwaun-Cae-Gurwen has two community wards – Cwmgors and Gwaun-Cae-Gurwen. Both wards form part of Gwaun-Cae-Gurwen Community Council.

Lower Brynamman has two community wards – Lower Brynamman and Tai’r Gwaith. Both wards form part of Gwaun-Cae-Gurwen Community Council. The four community wards within Lower Brynamman and Gwaun-Cae-Gurwen therefore are all part of the same community council.

Cwmllynfell has two community wards – Cwmllynfell and Penrhiwfawr that form Cwmllynfell Community Council.

**Single Versus Multi-Member Wards**

All three electoral wards of Gwaun-Cae-Gurwen, Lower Brynamman and Cwmllynfell are single member wards.

**Option**

Gwaun-Cae-Gurwen Electoral Ward is merged with its neighbouring Lower Brynamman and Cwmllynfell Electoral Ward to form a two member ward.

This creates a 5 year projected electorate of 4,263.

<b>Proposed Councillor: Elector Ratio – Combine Gwaun-Cae-Gurwen, Lower Brynamman &amp; Cwmllynfell (based on current electorate)</b>	<b>1 : 2,101</b>	<b>Variance</b>	<b>14.9%</b>
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Margam Electoral Ward	No. of Cllrs		Electorate	
	Current	Proposed	Current	5 Year Projected
<b>Margam</b>	1	1	2,275	2,598
<p><b>Elector Equality</b>  Margam Electoral Ward currently deviates from the Commission’s Councillor: Elector Ratio by 24.4% with this anticipated to increase to 35.5% in five years’ time.</p> <p>The neighbouring Electoral Ward of Taibach currently deviates from the Commission’s Councillor: Elector Ratio by -1.2% with this anticipated to increase to -5.8% in five years’ time.</p> <p><b>Community Tie Arguments</b>  There are no known compelling arguments to suggest a change based on community ties.</p> <p><b>Topographical Arguments</b>  The natural divide between the Margam and Taibach Electoral Wards is the Arnallt Brook.</p> <p><b>Rural/Urban Divide</b>  The Local Development Plan (2011-2026) describes Margam as a large local centre which indicates settlements with adequate public transport links with clusters of one or more retail units and local services, with one or more community facilities and employment provision. It is home to largest industry within the County Borough in the form of Tata Steel.</p> <p>Coed Hirwaun which forms a large part of the Margam Electoral Ward is described as a Small Local Centre which are settlements with adequate public transport links with at least one shop and/or several community facilities.</p> <p>Areas within the Margam Electoral Ward such as Ten Acre Wood, Eglwys Nunydd &amp; St David’s Park are described as Dormitory Settlement that is settlements with minimal or no facilities, served by minimal or no public transport.</p> <p>The Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation divides Margam into 2 Lower Super Output Area and are the 576<sup>th</sup> (top 30-50%) and 1,433<sup>rd</sup> (bottom 50%) most deprived areas in Wales (out of 1,909).</p> <p><b>Community Area and Community Ward</b>  Margam Electoral Ward does not have a Community Council. The Electoral Ward is comprised of two Community Wards of Margam and Margam Moors. Margam Moors has no residential properties situated within the Community Ward.</p> <p><b>Single Versus Multi-Member Wards</b>  Margam is a single member ward.</p> <p><b>Option</b>  No change to existing arrangements.  This creates a 5 year projected electorate of 2,598.</p>				
<b>Proposed Councillor : Elector Ratio (based on current electorate)</b>	<b>1 : 2,275</b>	<b>Variance</b>	<b>24.4%</b>	



Neath East Electoral Ward	No. of Cllrs		Electorate	
	Current	Proposed	Current	5 Year Projected
➤ Neath East	3	3	4,419	4,468
Melincrythan Ward			1,979	1,983
Penrhiwtyn Ward			2,440	2,485

### Electoral Equality

Neath East Electoral Ward currently deviates from the Commission's Councillor: Elector Ratio by -19.4% with this anticipated to increase to -22.3% in five years' time.

If the Electoral Ward was to change to a two member ward this would result in a variance of 20.9%.

Neath East is statistically year on year the area within the county borough with one of the worst canvass response rates therefore implying it is likely to be the area or areas with the largest percentage of missing electors.

### Community Ties Arguments

There are no known compelling arguments to suggest a change based on community ties.

### Topographical Arguments

Neath East is separated from the Neath South Electoral Ward by the Crythan Brook. The A474 connects Neath East to Briton Ferry East Electoral Ward and has no physical boundary that permanently separates the two areas from each other. The Rail Network Line and Shelone Wood separate Neath East from Briton Ferry West.

The A474 flyover that connects to the A465 creates a physical divide between Neath East and Neath North. There is access by car between the two areas via Pendrill Street but Henry Street and Brookdale Street are effectively cut in half by the A474 flyover.

### Rural/Urban Divide

The Local Development Plan (2011-2026) describes Neath as a town which is a regionally important settlement providing the widest and most diverse range of functions. Located on the strategic road network, it is fully accessible by a range of transport options.

Neath East is an urban area characterised by higher than average levels of deprivation. In terms of the Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation, Neath East is divided into 4 Lower Super Output Areas and places them as the 122<sup>nd</sup>, 148<sup>th</sup>, 328<sup>th</sup> and 340<sup>th</sup> most deprived areas in Wales (out of 1,909) and in the top 20%. It has the highest number of substance misuse treatment users in the county borough, the 6<sup>th</sup> highest incident rate of anti-social behaviour and second highest number of children who are receiving care and support, child protection cases and looked after children.

### Community Area and Community Ward

Neath East Electoral Ward have two community wards – Melincrythan and Penrhiwtyn that form part of Neath Town Council. The Electoral Wards of Cimla, Neath North and Neath South provide the other community wards that complete the make-up of Neath Town Council.

### Single Versus Multi-Member Ward

Neath East is currently a multi-member ward, where these arrangements are well

understood by the electorate.

**Option**

No change to existing arrangements.

This creates a 5 year projected electorate of 4,468.

<b>Proposed Councillor : Elector Ratio (based on current electorate)</b>	<b>1 : 1,473</b>	<b>Variance</b>	<b>-19.4%</b>
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Neath North Electoral Ward	No. of Cllrs		Electorate	
	Current	Proposed	Current	5 Year Projected
➤ Neath North	2	2	2,861	2,954
Castle Ward			516	591
Llantwit Ward			2,345	2,363
<p><b>Electoral Equality</b>  Neath North Electoral Ward currently deviates from the Commission's Councillor: Elector Ratio by -21.8% with this anticipated to increase to -23% in five years' time.</p> <p>Neath North is statistically year on year the area within the county borough with one of the worst canvass response rates therefore implying it is likely to be the area or areas with the largest percentage of missing electors.</p> <p><b>Community Ties Arguments</b>  No compelling arguments to suggest a change based on community ties.</p> <p><b>Topographical Arguments</b>  The Gnoll County Park acts as boundary between the Neath North and Neath South Electoral Wards.</p> <p>Llantwit cemetery creates a boundary between the Neath North and Tonna Electoral Wards.</p> <p>The A465 and River Neath separate Neath North from both the Bryncoch South and Cadoxton Electoral Wards.</p> <p>The A474 flyover that connects to the A465 creates a physical divide between Neath East and Neath North. There is access by car between the two areas via Pendrill Street but Henry Street and Brookdale Street are effectively cut in half by the A474 flyover.</p> <p><b>Rural/Urban Divide</b>  The Local Development Plan (2011-2026) describes Neath as a town which is a regionally important settlement providing the widest and most diverse range of functions. Located on the strategic road network, it is fully accessible by a range of transport options.</p> <p>Neath North has a large volume of retail and commercial business situated within the town centre area which has further development planned over the next few years as part of the regeneration program of Neath Town Centre.</p> <p>Neath North is an urban area characterised by it's higher than average levels of deprivation. In terms of the Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation, Neath North is divided into 3 Lower Super Output Areas and places them as the 112<sup>th</sup> (top 10%), 334<sup>th</sup> (top 10-20%) and 1,456<sup>th</sup> (bottom 50%) most deprived areas in Wales (out of 1,909). It has the second highest number of incidences of anti-social behaviour in the County Borough and the second highest level of recorded crime within the County Borough.</p> <p><b>Community Area and Community Ward</b>  Neath North Electoral Ward have two community wards – Castle and Llantwit that form part of Neath Town Council. The Electoral Wards of Cimla, Neath East and Neath South provide the other community wards that complete the make-up of Neath Town Council.</p>				

**Single Versus Multi-Member Ward**

Neath North is currently a multi-member ward, where these arrangements are well understood by the electorate. If the electoral ward was to be split into community wards present with the aim of creating single member wards, it would not address electoral parity. It would simply result in greater inequality in representation.

**Option**

No change to existing arrangements.

This creates a 5 year projected electorate of 2,954.

<b>Proposed Councillor : Elector Ratio (based on current electorate)</b>	<b>1 : 1,477</b>	<b>Variance</b>	<b>-19.9%</b>
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Neath South Electoral Ward	No. of Cllrs		Electorate	
	Current	Proposed	Current	5 Year Projected
➤ Neath South	2	2	3,614	3,660
Gnoll Ward			823	823
Mount Pleasant Ward			2,791	2,837
<p><b>Electoral Equality</b> Neath South Electoral Ward currently deviates from the Commission's Councillor: Elector Ratio by -1.2% with this anticipated to increase to -4.6% in five years' time.</p> <p><b>Community Ties Arguments</b> There are no known compelling arguments to suggest a change based on community ties.</p> <p><b>Topographical Arguments</b> Neath East is separated from the Neath South Electoral Ward by the Crythan Brook. The connecting point of the Afan Valley Road to Cimla Road at Cimla Common acts as a natural boundary between Neath South and Cimla.</p> <p>The Gnoll County Park acts as boundary between the Neath North and Neath South Electoral Wards.</p> <p><b>Rural/Urban Divide</b> The Local Development Plan (2011-2026) describes Neath as a town which is a regionally important settlement providing the widest and most diverse range of functions. Located on the strategic road network, it is fully accessible by a range of transport options.</p> <p>In terms of the Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation, Neath South is divided into 3 Lower Super Output Areas and places them as the 249<sup>th</sup> (top 10-20%), 437<sup>th</sup> (top 20-30%) and 1,667<sup>th</sup> (bottom 50%) most deprived areas in Wales (out of 1,909).</p> <p><b>Community Area and Community Ward</b> Neath South Electoral Ward has two community wards – Gnoll and Mount Pleasant that form part of Neath Town Council. The Electoral Wards of Cimla, Neath East and Neath North provide the other community wards that complete the make-up of Neath Town Council.</p> <p><b>Single Versus Multi-Member Ward</b> Neath South is currently a multi-member ward, where these arrangements are well understood by the electorate. If the electoral ward was to be split into community wards present with the aim of creating single member wards, it would not address electoral parity. It would simply result in greater inequality in representation.</p> <p><b>Option</b> No change to existing arrangements</p> <p>This creates a 5 year projected electorate of 3,660</p>				
<b>Proposed Councillor : Elector Ratio (based on current electorate)</b>	<b>1 : 1,807</b>	<b>Variance</b>	<b>-1.2%</b>	

Onllwyn Electoral Ward	No. of Cllrs		Electorate	
	Current	Proposed	Current	5 Year Projected
<b>Onllwyn</b>	1	2*(When combined with Seven Sisters and Crynant)	886	886

### **Electoral Equality**

Crynant Electoral Ward currently deviates from the Commission's Councillor: Elector Ratio by -17.5%.

The neighbouring Electoral Ward of Seven Sisters currently deviates from the Commission's Councillor: Elector Ratio by -14.3%.

The other Electoral Ward in the Dulais Valley of Onllwyn currently deviates from the Commission's Councillor: Elector Ratio by -51.5%.

If all three Electoral Wards were combined to form a two member ward this would result in a variance of 8.4%.

### **Community Ties Arguments**

Crynant, Onllwyn and Seven Sisters are valley communities situated in the Dulais Valley which developed in response to mining in the local area and have community ties to each other that stem from this.

### **Topographical Arguments**

Crynant, Seven Sisters and Onllwyn are all connected by the A4109 that runs through the three Electoral Wards. There are no natural or physical boundaries that create a permanent boundary between the three areas.

### **Rural/Urban Divide**

The Local Development Plan (2011-2026) describes Crynant as a large local centre which indicates settlements with adequate public transport links with clusters of one or more retail units and local services, with one or more community facilities and employment provision.

Seven Sisters and Onllwyn are considered a small local centre which indicates settlements with adequate public transport links with at least one shop and/or several community facilities.

There are varying levels of deprivation within the Dulais Valley. The Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation places Crynant as the 1,027<sup>th</sup> most deprived area in Wales, Onllwyn as the 598<sup>th</sup> most deprived and Seven Sisters as 519<sup>th</sup> most deprived (out of the 1,909 Lower Super Output Areas). All three areas have similar levels of anti-social behaviour and population receiving employment related benefit.

### **Community Area and Community Ward**

Crynant Electoral Ward forms the un-warded Community Council of Crynant.

Seven Sisters Electoral Ward forms the un-warded Community Council of Seven Sisters.

Onllwyn Electoral Ward forms the un-warded Community Council of Onllwyn.

**Single Versus Multi-Member Wards**

All three Electoral Wards are single member wards.

**Option**

The Onllwyn Electoral Ward is merged with its neighbouring Seven Sisters Electoral Ward and Crynant Electoral Ward to form a two member ward.

This creates a 5 year projected electorate of 4,028.

<b>Proposed Councillor: Elector Ratio (based on current electorate)</b>	<b>1 : 1981</b>	<b>Variance</b>	<b>8.4%</b>
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Pelenna Electoral Ward	No. of Cllrs		Electorate	
	Current	Proposed	Current	5 Year Projected
➤ Pelenna	1	2*(when combined with Cimla) OR 3*(when combined with Bryn & Cwmavon)	879	904
<b>Pontrhydyfen Community Ward</b>			480	480
<b>Tonmawr Community Ward</b>			399	424
<p><b>Electoral Equality</b></p> <p>Bryn and Cwmavon Electoral Ward currently deviates from the Commission's Councillor: Elector Ratio by -6.5%.</p> <p>The neighbouring Electoral Ward of Pelenna currently deviates from the Commissions' Councillor: Elector Ratio by -51.9%.</p> <p>The Electoral Ward of Cimla, which also neighbours Pelenna currently deviates from the Commission's Councillor Elector Ratio by -15.0%.</p> <p>Little population growth is anticipated in any of these electoral wards over the next five years.</p> <p>If the Pontrhydyfen Community Ward and Bryn and Cwmavon were combined to form a three member ward this would result in a variance of 2.3% and the Tonmawr Community Ward and Cimla were combined to form a two member ward this would result in a variance of -4%.</p> <p><b>Community Tie Arguments</b></p> <p>Tonmawr Community Ward has community ties with the Cimla Electoral Ward, while the Pontrhydyfen Community Ward has community ties with the Bryn and Cwmavon Electoral Ward due to part of Pontrhydyfen (Oakwood) already being situated there.</p> <p>The closure of Pontrhydyfen Primary School in 2015 saw the transfer of pupils to Cwmafan Primary School forging closer community ties between the two areas. The planned closure of Cymmer Afan Comprehensive School has also seen the pupils resident in Tonmawr transferred to Cefn Saeson Comprehensive School in Cimla strengthening community ties between the two areas.</p> <p><b>Topographical Arguments</b></p> <p>The Pelenna River currently forms a natural boundary between Pelenna and both Cimla and Bryn and Cwmavon. Mynydd Pen Rhys forms a distinct natural boundary between Pelenna and the Cymmer Electoral Ward, while Mynydd Pen-hydd forms a natural boundary between Bryn and Cwmavon.</p> <p><b>Rural/Urban Divide</b></p> <p>The Local Development Plan (2011-2026) describe Cwmavon and Cimla as large local centres which indicates settlements with adequate public transport links with clusters of one or more retail units and local services, with one or more community facilities and employment provision.</p> <p>Tonmawr and Bryn are considered a small local centre which indicates settlements with</p>				



adequate public transport links with at least one shop and/or several community facilities.

Pontrhydyfen is considered a village with a settlement with at least one community facility and adequate public transport links.

The Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation places Pelenna as the 563rd most deprived area in Wales (out of 1,909) placing it in the top 20-30%. Bryn and Cwmavon has been divided into 4 Lower Super Output Areas which are the 310th (top 10-20%), 663rd (top 30-50%), 901st (top 30-50%) and 1,597th (bottom 50%) most deprived areas in Wales. Cimla has been divided into 3 Lower Super Output Areas which are the 781st (top 30-50%), 1547th (bottom 50%) and 1,622nd (bottom 50%) most deprived areas in Wales.

**Community Area and Community Ward**

Bryn and Cwmavon has two community wards – Bryn and Cwmavon but have no Community Council.

Cimla has two community wards – Cefn Saeson and Crynallt which form part of Neath Town Council.

Pelenna has two community wards – Pontrhydyfen and Tonmawr which form Pelenna Community Council.

**Single Versus Multi-Member Wards**

Bryn and Cwmavon is currently a multi-member ward, where these arrangements are well understood by the electorate.

Cimla is currently a multi-member ward , where these arrangements are well understood by the electorate.

Pelenna is currently a single member ward.

**Option**

Pontrhydyfen Community Ward is merged with its neighbouring Bryn and Cwmavon Electoral Ward to form a three member ward.

This creates a 5 year projected electorate of 5,796.

AND

Tonmawr Community Ward is merged with its neighbouring Cimla Electoral Ward to form a two member ward.

This creates a 5 year projected electorate of 3,541

<b>Proposed Councillor: Elector Ratio – Combine Pontrhydyfen Community Ward with Bryn and Cwmavon (based on current electorate)</b>	<b>1 : 1,870</b>	<b>Variance</b>	<b>2.3%</b>
<b>Proposed Councillor : Elector Ratio – Combine Tonmawr Community Ward with Cimla</b>	<b>1: 1,754</b>	<b>Variance</b>	<b>-4%</b>

(based on current electorate)			
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Pontardawe Electoral Ward	No. of Cllrs		Electorate	
	Current	Proposed	Current	5 Year Projected
➤ Pontardawe	2	3*(when combined with Trebanos)	4,155	4,498
<b>Pontardawe Community Ward</b>			3,619	3,759
<b>Rhyd-Y-Fro Community Ward</b>			536	739
<p><b>Elector Equality</b></p> <p>Pontardawe Electoral Ward currently deviates from the Commission's Councillor: Elector ratio by 13.6% with this anticipated to increase to 17.3% in 5 years' time.</p> <p>Trebanos Electoral Ward currently deviates from the Commission's Councillor: Elector ratio by -39.8% with this anticipated to increase to -42.6% in 5 years' time.</p> <p>If Pontardawe and Trebanos Electoral Wards were combined to form a three member ward this would result in a variance of -4.2%.</p> <p><b>Community Tie Arguments</b></p> <p>Both Pontardawe and Trebanos are Swansea Valley Communities that developed in response to mining in the area and have community ties that stem from this. They belong to the same Town Council.</p> <p><b>Topographical Arguments</b></p> <p>Pontardawe and Trebanos are directly connected by the A474.</p> <p>The River Tawe and the A4067 separates both Pontardawe and Trebanos from the Alltwen and Rhos Electoral Wards.</p> <p>Pontardawe is a considerable distance from both the Gwaun-Cae-Gurwen and Godrergraig Electoral Wards that neighbour it.</p> <p><b>Rural/Urban Divide</b></p> <p>In the Local Development Plan (2011-2026), Pontardawe (which includes Trebanos) is described as a town which is a regionally important settlement providing the widest and most diverse range of functions. Located on the strategic road network, it is fully accessible by a range of transport options.</p> <p>It has a large number of retail and commercial businesses but also has a high number of farms and rural settlements.</p> <p>The Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation divides Pontardawe into 3 Lower Super Output Areas that are the 741<sup>st</sup>, 747<sup>th</sup> and 877<sup>th</sup> (top 30-50%) most deprived areas in Wales (out of 1,909). Trebanos is the 907<sup>th</sup> most deprived area in Wales placing it in the top 30-50%.</p> <p><b>Community Area and Community Ward</b></p> <p>Pontardawe has two community wards – Pontardawe and Rhyd-Y-Fro, which form part of Pontardawe Town Council, along with the Community Ward of Trebanos.</p> <p><b>Single Versus Multi-Member Wards</b></p> <p>Pontardawe is currently a multi-member ward, where these arrangements are well understood by the electorate.</p>				

Trebanos is currently a single member ward.

**Option**

Pontardawe Electoral Ward is merged with its neighbouring Trebanos Electoral Ward to form a three member ward.

This creates a 5 year projected electorate of 5,599.

<b>Proposed Councillor: Elector Ratio (based on current electorate)</b>	<b>1 : 1,752</b>	<b>Variance</b>	<b>-4.2%</b>
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Port Talbot Electoral Ward	No. of Cllrs		Electorate	
	Current	Proposed	Current	5 Year Projected
<b>Port Talbot</b>	3	3	4,177	4,296
<p><b>Electoral Equality</b>  Port Talbot Electoral Ward currently deviates from the Commission's Councillor: Elector ratio by -23.8% with this anticipated to increase to -25.3% in 5 years' time.</p> <p><b>Community Tie Arguments</b>  There are no known compelling arguments to suggest a change based on community ties.</p> <p><b>Topographical Arguments</b>  Port Talbot has clear natural boundaries that separate it from its neighbouring electoral wards. It is separated from Aberavon and Baglan Electoral Wards by the A48 Heilbronn Way. The River Afan and B4286 Cwmavon Road act as a natural boundary between Port Talbot and Bryn and Cwmavon Electoral Wards. Margam Mountain and the Ffrwdwyllt River create a natural divide between the Port Talbot and Taibach Electoral Wards.</p> <p><b>Rural/Urban Divide</b>  The Local Development Plan (2011-2026) describes Port Talbot as a town which is a regionally important settlement providing the widest and most diverse range of functions. Located on the strategic road network, they are fully accessible by a range of transport options.</p> <p>Port Talbot has a large volume of retail and commercial business situated within the town centre area.</p> <p>The Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation divides Port Talbot into 4 Lower Super Output Areas that are the 315<sup>th</sup> (top 10-20%), 674<sup>th</sup> (top 30-50%), 680<sup>th</sup> (top 30-50%) and 1,032<sup>nd</sup> (bottom 50%) most deprived areas in Wales (out of 1,909).</p> <p>Port Talbot has the third highest incident rate of anti-social behaviour in the County Borough.</p> <p><b>Community Area and Community Wards</b>  Port Talbot Electoral Ward forms the Community Ward of Port Talbot. There are no community councils situated in the area.</p> <p><b>Single Versus Multi-Member Wards</b>  Port Talbot is currently a multi-member ward, where these arrangements are well understood by the electorate. If the electoral ward was to be split with the aim of creating single member wards, it would not address electoral parity and not serve to deliver convenient or effective local government</p> <p><b>Option</b>  No change to existing arrangements.</p> <p>This creates a 5 year projected electorate of 4,296.</p>				
<b>Proposed Councillor: Elector Ratio (based on current electorate)</b>	<b>1 : 1,392</b>	<b>Variance</b>	<b>-23.8%</b>	

Resolven Electoral Ward	No. of Cllrs		Electorate	
	Current	Proposed	Current	5 Year Projected
➤ Resolven	1	1	2,351	2,351
<b>Clyne and Melincourt Community</b>			585	585
<b>Abergarwed Community Ward</b>			195	195
<b>North Community Ward</b>			985	985
<b>South Community Ward</b>			586	586
<p><b>Electoral Equality</b>  Resolven Electoral Ward currently deviates from the Councillor: Elector ratio by 28.6% with this anticipated to decrease to 22.6% in 5 years' time.</p> <p><b>Community Tie Arguments</b>  There are no known compelling arguments to suggest a change based on community ties.</p> <p><b>Topographical Arguments</b>  Resolven is separated from Aberdulais Electoral Ward by the A465 and Neath Canal. Mynydd Resolven creates a natural boundary between Resolven and Blaengwrach although there is direct access to both Blaengwrach and Glynneath via the A465. There is no clear natural boundary with Tonna but the two electoral wards are some distance away from each other.</p> <p><b>Rural/Urban Divide</b>  The Local Development Plan (2011-2026) describes Resolven as a large local centre which indicates settlements with adequate public transport links with clusters of one or more retail units and local services, with one or more community facilities and employment provision.</p> <p>Clyne, Melincourt and Abergarwed are described as villages with a settlement with at least one community facility and adequate public transport links.</p> <p>The Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation divides Resolven into 2 Lower Super Output Areas that are the 634<sup>th</sup> (top 30-50%) and the 975<sup>th</sup> (bottom 50%) most deprived areas in Wales (out of 1,909).</p> <p>The area has below average rates of anti-social behaviour and substance misuse treatment users for the County Borough and above average levels of pupils who achieve 5 A*- C grades at key stage level 4.</p> <p><b>Community Area and Community Ward</b>  Resolven has 4 Community Wards – Clyne &amp; Melincourt, Abergarwed, North and South.</p> <p>The Clyne and Melincourt Community Ward form Clyne and Melincourt Community Council.</p> <p>The Community Wards of Abergarwed, North and South form Resolven Community Council.</p> <p><b>Single Versus Multi-Member Wards</b>  Resolven is a single member ward.</p>				

**Option**

No change to existing arrangements.

This creates a 5 year projected electorate of 2,351.

<b>Proposed Councillor: Elector Ratio (based on current electorate)</b>	<b>1 : 2,351</b>	<b>Variance</b>	<b>28.6%</b>
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Rhos Electoral Ward	No. of Cllrs		Electorate	
	Current	Proposed	Current	5 Year Projected
➤ Rhos	1	1	1,955	2,181
Gellinudd Community Ward			366	366
Rhos Community Ward			1,589	1,815
<p><b>Elector Equality</b> Rhos Electoral Ward currently deviates from the Commission's Councillor: Elector ratio by 6.9% with this anticipated to increase to 13.7% in 5 years' time.</p> <p><b>Community Tie Arguments</b> No compelling arguments to suggest a change based on community ties.</p> <p><b>Topographical Arguments</b> The A464 connects Rhos to Bryncoch North with the River Clydach acting as a natural boundary between the two areas. The River Tawe separates Pontardawe from Rhos Electoral Ward. There appears to be no natural boundary between Alltwen and Rhos Electoral Wards with the two areas connected by the A474 and Pen Yr Alltwen.</p> <p><b>Rural/Urban Divide</b> The Local Development Plan (2011-2026) describes Rhos as a Small Local Centre which indicates settlements with adequate public transport links with at least one shop and/or several community facilities.</p> <p>Gellinudd is described as a village with a settlement with at least one community facility and adequate public transport links.</p> <p>The Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation divides Rhos into 2 Lower Super Output Areas that are the 1,342<sup>nd</sup> and the 1,687<sup>th</sup> most deprived areas in Wales (out of 1,909) placing both areas in the bottom 50%.</p> <p><b>Community Area and Community Ward</b> Rhos Electoral Ward has 2 Community Wards – Rhos and Gellinudd. The Rhos and Gellinudd Community Wards form part of Cilybebyll Community Council, along with the Community Ward of Alltwen.</p> <p><b>Single Versus Multi-Member Wards</b> Rhos is a single member ward.</p> <p><b>Option</b> No change to existing arrangements.</p> <p>This creates a 5 year projected electorate of 2,181.</p>				
<b>Proposed Councillor: Elector Ratio – No Change (based on current electorate)</b>		<b>1 : 1,955</b>	<b>Variance</b>	<b>6.9%</b>



Sandfields East Electoral Ward	No. of Cllrs		Electorate	
	Current	Proposed	Current	5 Year Projected
<b>Sandfields East</b>	3	3	4,992	5,248
<p><b>Elector Equality</b> Sandfields East Electoral Ward currently deviates from the Commission's Councillor: Elector ratio by -9% with this anticipated to decrease to -8.8% in 5 years' time.</p> <p><b>Community Tie Arguments</b> There are no known compelling arguments to suggest a change based on community ties.</p> <p><b>Topographical Arguments</b> Sandfields East is separated from the Aberavon Electoral Ward by the A4241 Afan Way and the River Afan. It is separated from the Port Talbot Electoral Ward by the River Afan and Port Talbot Docks.</p> <p>There is no clear physical boundary between the Sandfields East and Sandfields West Electoral Wards but Dalton Road has long been established as the dividing line between the two areas.</p> <p><b>Rural/Urban Divide</b> The Local Development Plan(2011-2026) describes Sandfields as a large local centre which indicates settlements with adequate public transport links with clusters of one or more retail units and local services, with one or more community facilities and employment provision.</p> <p>The Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation divides Sandfields East into 4 Lower Super Output Areas that are the 98<sup>th</sup> (top 10%), 278<sup>th</sup> (top 10-20%), 354<sup>th</sup> (top 10-20%) and 977<sup>th</sup> (bottom 50%) most deprived areas in Wales (out of 1,909).</p> <p>Sandfields East has the fourth highest incident rate of anti-social behaviour in the County Borough and the 2<sup>nd</sup> highest level of substance misuse treatment users.</p> <p><b>Community Area and Community Ward</b> Sandfields East Electoral Ward forms the Community Ward of Sandfields East. There are no community councils situated in the area.</p> <p><b>Single Versus Multi-Member Wards</b> Sandfields East is currently a multi-member ward, where these arrangements are well understood by the electorate. If the electoral ward was to be split with the aim of creating single member wards, it would not address electoral parity and not serve to deliver convenient or effective local government</p> <p><b>Option</b> No change to existing arrangements.</p> <p>This creates a 5 year projected electorate of 5,248.</p>				
<b>Proposed Councillor: Elector Ratio (based on current electorate)</b>	<b>1 : 1,664</b>	<b>Variance</b>	<b>-9.0%</b>	

Sandfields West Electoral Ward	No. of Cllrs		Electorate	
	Current	Proposed	Current	5 Year Projected
<b>Sandfields West</b>	3	3	4,920	5,153
<p><b>Elector Equality</b> Sandfields West Electoral Ward currently deviates from the Commission's Councillor: Elector ratio by -10.3% with this anticipated to increase to -10.4% in 5 years' time.</p> <p><b>Community Tie Arguments</b> There are no known compelling arguments to suggest a change based on community ties.</p> <p><b>Topographical Arguments</b> Sandfields West is separated from the Aberavon Electoral Ward by the A4241 Afan Way and Seaward Parade.</p> <p>There is no clear physical boundary between the Sandfields East and Sandfields West Electoral Wards but Dalton Road has long been established as the dividing line between the two areas.</p> <p><b>Rural/Urban Divide</b> The Local Development Plan(2011-2026) describes Sandfields West as a large local centre which indicates settlements with adequate public transport links with clusters of one or more retail units and local services, with one or more community facilities and employment provision.</p> <p>The Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation divides Sandfields West into 4 Lower Super Output Areas that are the 72<sup>nd</sup> (top 10%), 133<sup>rd</sup> (top 10%), 212<sup>th</sup> (top 10-20%) and 397<sup>th</sup> (top 20-30%) most deprived areas in Wales (out of 1,909).</p> <p>Sandfields West has the highest level of children who are receiving care and support, child protection cases and looked after children in the County Borough, the fifth highest incident rate of anti-social behaviour and the 3<sup>rd</sup> highest level of substance misuse treatment users.</p> <p><b>Community Area and Community Ward</b> Sandfields West Electoral Ward forms the Community Ward of Sandfields West. There are no community councils situated in the area.</p> <p><b>Single Versus Multi-Member Wards</b> Sandfields West is currently a multi-member ward, where these arrangements are well understood by the electorate. If the electoral ward was to be split with the aim of creating single member wards, it would not address electoral parity and not serve to deliver convenient or effective local government</p> <p><b>Option</b> No change to existing arrangements.</p> <p>This creates a 5 year projected electorate of 5,153.</p>				
<b>Proposed Councillor: Elector Ratio (based on current electorate)</b>	<b>1 : 1,640</b>	<b>Variance</b>	<b>-10.3%</b>	

Seven Sisters Electoral Ward	No. of Cllrs		Electorate	
	Current	Proposed	Current	5 Year Projected
Seven Sisters	1	2*(When combined with Onllwyn and Crynant)	1,567	1,597

### Electoral Equality

Crynant Electoral Ward currently deviates from the Commission's Councillor: Elector Ratio by -17.5%.

The neighbouring Electoral Ward of Seven Sisters currently deviates from the Commission's Councillor: Elector Ratio by -14.3%.

The other Electoral Ward in the Dulais Valley of Onllwyn currently deviates from the Councillor: Elector Ratio by -51.5%.

If all three Electoral Wards were combined to form a two member ward this would result in a variance of 8.4%.

### Community Ties Arguments

Crynant, Onllwyn and Seven Sisters are valley communities situated in the Dulais Valley which developed in response to mining in the local area and have strong community ties to each other that stem from this. They share a similar sense of community identity with strong local traditions.

### Topographical Arguments

Crynant, Seven Sisters and Onllwyn are all connected by the A4109 that runs through the three Electoral Wards. There are no natural or physical boundaries that create a permanent boundary between the three areas.

### Rural/Urban Divide

The Local Development Plan (2011-2026) describes Crynant as a large local centre which indicates settlements with adequate public transport links with clusters of one or more retail units and local services, with one or more community facilities and employment provision.

Seven Sisters and Onllwyn are considered a small local centre which indicates settlements with adequate public transport links with at least one shop and/or several community facilities.

There are varying levels of deprivation within the Dulais Valley. The Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation places Crynant as the 1,027<sup>th</sup> most deprived area in Wales, Onllwyn as the 598<sup>th</sup> most deprived and Seven Sisters as 519<sup>th</sup> most deprived (out of the 1,909 Lower Super Output Areas). All three areas have similar levels of anti-social behaviour and population receiving employment related benefit.

### Community Area and Community Ward

Crynant Electoral Ward forms the un-warded Community Council of Crynant.

Seven Sisters Electoral Ward forms the un-warded Community Council of Seven Sisters.

Onllwyn Electoral Ward forms the un-warded Community Council of Onllwyn.

**Single Versus Multi-Member Wards**

All three Electoral Wards are single member wards.

**Option**

The Seven Sisters Electoral Ward is merged with its neighbouring Crynant Electoral Ward and Onllwyn Electoral Ward to form a two member ward.

This creates a 5 year projected electorate of 4,028.

<b>Proposed Councillor: Elector Ratio (based on current electorate)</b>	<b>1 : 1981</b>	<b>Variance</b>	<b>8.4%</b>
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Taibach Electoral Ward	No. of Cllrs		Electorate	
	Current	Proposed	Current	5 Year Projected
<b>Taibach</b>	2	2	3,613	3,613
<p><b>Elector Equality</b>  Taibach Electoral Ward currently deviates from the Commission's Councillor: Elector Ratio by -1.2% with this anticipated to increase to -5.8% in five years' time.</p> <p>The neighbouring Electoral Ward of Margam currently deviates from the Commission's Councillor: Elector Ratio by 24.4% with this anticipated to increase to 35.5% in five years' time.</p> <p><b>Community Tie Arguments</b>  There are no known compelling arguments to suggest a change based on community ties.</p> <p><b>Topographical Arguments</b>  The natural divide between the Margam and Taibach Electoral Wards is the Arnallt Brook.</p> <p><b>Rural/Urban Divide</b>  The Local Development Plan (2011-2026) describes Taibach as a district centre which indicates settlements with good transport links and a wide range of functions serving the immediate and surrounding communities.</p> <p>The Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation divides Taibach into 3 Lower Super Output Area and are the 361<sup>st</sup> (top 10-20%), 582<sup>nd</sup> (top 30-50%) and 584<sup>th</sup> (top 30-50%) most deprived areas in Wales (out of 1,909).</p> <p><b>Community Area and Community Ward</b>  Taibach Electoral Ward forms the Community Ward of Taibach. There are no community councils situated in the area.</p> <p><b>Single Versus Multi-Member Wards</b>  Taibach is currently a multi-member ward, where these arrangements are well understood by the electorate. If the electoral ward was to be split with the aim of creating single member wards, it would not address electoral parity and not serve to deliver convenient or effective local government</p> <p><b>Option</b>  No change to existing arrangements.</p> <p>This creates a 5 year projected electorate of 3,613.</p>				
<b>Proposed Councillor : Elector Ratio (based on current electorate)</b>	<b>1 : 1,807</b>	<b>Variance</b>	<b>-1.2%</b>	

Tonna Electoral Ward	No. of Cllrs		Electorate	
	Current	Proposed	Current	5 Year Projected
<b>Tonna</b>	1	1	1,913	2,121
<p><b>Elector Equality</b> Tonna Electoral Ward currently deviates from the Commission's Councillor: Elector ratio by 4.6% with this anticipated to increase to 10.6% in 5 years' time.</p> <p><b>Community Tie Arguments</b> There are no known compelling arguments to suggest a change based on community ties.</p> <p><b>Topographical Arguments</b> The River Neath and A465 dual carriageway separate the Tonna and Aberdulais Electoral Wards.  Llantwit cemetery creates a boundary between the Neath North and Tonna Electoral Wards.  There is no clear natural boundary with Resolven but the two electoral wards are some distance away from each other.</p> <p><b>Rural/Urban Divide</b> The Local Development Plan (2011-2026) describes Tonna is described as a small local centre which indicates settlements with adequate public transport links with at least one shop and/or several community facilities.  The Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation divides Tonna into 2 Lower Super Output Areas that are the 590<sup>th</sup> (top 30 - 50%) and 1,614<sup>th</sup> (bottom 50%) most deprived areas in Wales (out of 1,909).</p> <p><b>Community Area and Community Ward</b> Tonna Electoral Ward forms the un-warded Community Council of Tonna.</p> <p><b>Single Versus Multi-Member Wards</b> Tonna is a single member ward.</p> <p><b>Option</b> No change to existing arrangements.  This creates a 5 year projected electorate of 2,121.</p>				
<b>Proposed Councillor: Elector Ratio (based on current electorate)</b>	<b>1 : 1,913</b>	<b>Variance</b>	<b>4.6%</b>	

Trebanos Electoral Ward	No. of Cllrs		Electorate	
	Current	Proposed	Current	5 Year Projected
Trebanos	1	3* (When combined with Pontardawe)	1,101	1,101
<p><b>Elector Equality</b></p> <p>Pontardawe Electoral Ward currently deviates from the Commission’s Councillor: Elector ratio by 13.6% with this anticipated to increase to 17.3% in 5 years’ time.</p> <p>Trebanos Electoral Ward currently deviates from the Commission’s Councillor: Elector ratio by -39.8% with this anticipated to increase to -42.6% in 5 years’ time.</p> <p>If Pontardawe and Trebanos Electoral Wards were combined to form a three member ward this would result in a variance of -4.2%.</p> <p><b>Community Tie Arguments</b></p> <p>Both Pontardawe and Trebanos are Swansea Valley Communities that developed in response to mining in the area and have community ties that stem from this. They belong to the same Town Council.</p> <p><b>Topographical Arguments</b></p> <p>Pontardawe and Trebanos are directly connected by the A474.</p> <p>The River Tawe and the A4067 separates both Pontardawe and Trebanos from the Alltwen and Rhos Electoral Wards.</p> <p>Pontardawe is a considerable distance from both the Gwaun-Cae-Gurwen and Godrergraig Electoral Wards that neighbour it.</p> <p><b>Rural/Urban Divide</b></p> <p>The Local Development Plan (2011-2026) describes Pontardawe (which includes Trebanos) is described as a town which is a regionally important settlement providing the widest and most diverse range of functions. Located on the strategic road network, they are fully accessible by a range of transport options.</p> <p>It has a large number of retail and commercial businesses but also has a high number of farms and rural settlements.</p> <p>The Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation divides Pontardawe into 3 Lower Super Output Areas that are the 741<sup>st</sup>, 747<sup>th</sup> and 877<sup>th</sup> (top 30-50%) most deprived areas in Wales (out of 1,909). Trebanos is the 907<sup>th</sup> most deprived area in Wales placing it in the top 30-50%.</p> <p><b>Community Area and Community Ward</b></p> <p>Trebanos has one Community Ward – Trebanos, which form part of Pontardawe Town Council, along with the Community Wards of Pontardawe and Rhyd-Y-Fro.</p> <p><b>Single Versus Multi-Member Wards</b></p> <p>Pontardawe is currently a multi-member ward, where these arrangements are well understood by the electorate.</p> <p>Trebanos is currently a single member ward.</p>				

**Option**

Pontardawe Electoral Ward is merged with its neighbouring Trebanos Electoral Ward to form a three member ward.

This creates a 5 year projected electorate of 5,599.

<b>Proposed Councillor: Elector Ratio (based on current electorate)</b>	<b>1 : 1,752</b>	<b>Variance</b>	<b>-4.2%</b>
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Ystalyfera Electoral Ward	No. of Cllrs		Electorate	
	Current	Proposed	Current	5 Year Projected
<b>Ystalyfera</b>	1	1	2,134	2,314
<p><b>Electoral Equality</b>  Godrergraig Electoral Ward currently deviates from the Commission’s Councillor: Elector Ratio by -18.3%. The neighbouring Electoral Ward of Ystalyfera currently deviates from the Commission’s Councillor: Elector Ratio by 16.7%.</p> <p>If Godreregraig and Ystalyfera Electoral Wards were combined to form a two member ward this would result in a variance of -0.8%.</p> <p><b>Community Tie Arguments</b>  Both Godrergraig and Ystalyfera electoral wards are valley communities that developed in response to mining in the area and have strong community ties that stem from this. They share a similar sense of community identity with strong local traditions.</p> <p><b>Topographical Arguments</b>  The A4067 directly connects Ystalyfera and Godrergraig.</p> <p><b>Rural/Urban Divide</b>  The Local Development Plan (2011-2026) describes Ystalyfera as a large local centre which indicates settlements with adequate public transport links with clusters of one or more retail units and local services, with one or more community facilities and employment provision.</p> <p>Ystalyfera which is divided into two Lower Super Output areas is 570th and 446th most deprived areas in Wales placing it in the top 20-30%.</p> <p><b>Community Area and Community Ward</b>  Ystalyfera has one community ward – Ystalyfera which forms part of Ystalyfera Community Council.</p> <p><b>Single Versus Multi-Member Ward</b>  Ystalyfera is a single member ward.</p> <p><b>Option</b>  No change to existing arrangements.</p> <p>This creates a 5 year projected electorate of 2,314.</p>				
<b>Proposed Councillor: Elector Ratio (based on current electorate)</b>	<b>1 : 2,134</b>	<b>Variance</b>	<b>16.7%</b>	

**APPENDIX 1 – COMPARISON OF EXISTING COUNCIL  
ARRANGEMENTS WITH OPTIONS LISTED**

**Existing and Proposed Council Membership**

**Changes to the number of Councillors related to wards where a single option is put forward for consideration**

Electoral Ward	Current	Variance	New Electoral Ward	Options	Variance
Blaengwrach	1	-19.7%	Blaengwrach & Glynneath	2	10.5%
Glynneath	2	-29.7%			
Crynant	1	-17.5%	Crynant, Onllwyn & Seven Sisters	2	8.4%
Onllwyn	1	-51.5%			
Seven Sisters	1	-14.3%			
Cymmer	1	9.3%	Cymmer, Glyncoed & Gwynfi	2	0.8%
Glyncoed	1	-57.2%			
Gwynfi	1	-50.4%			
Pontardawe	2	13.6%	Pontardawe & Trebanos	3	-4.2%
Trebanos	1	-39.8%			
Bryn and Cwmavon	3	-6.5%	Bryn and Cwmavon & Pontrhydyfen	3	2.3%
Pelenna	1	-51.9%			
Cimla	2	-15%	Cimla & Pelenna or Tonmawr	2	-4%
Pelenna	1	-51.9%			
Cwmllynfell	1	-48.8%	Cwmllynfell, Gwaun-Cae-Gurwen & Lower Brynamman	2	14.9%
Gwaun-Cae-Gurwen	1	22.2%			
Lower Brynamman	1	-43.6%			
<b>*Coedffranc West*</b>	1	76.9%	Coedffranc West	2	<b>** -26.6%*</b>
<b>*Dyffryn*</b>	1	30.3%	Dyffryn	2	-16.1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>23</b>			<b>20</b>	

\*Boundary Change

\*\*Based on 5 year population estimates this figure will change to 19.4%

**Wards where no change is proposed to the number of councillors but where some proposed boundary changes have been identified for consideration**

Electoral Ward	Current	Variance	New Electoral Ward	Proposed	Variance
<b>Bryncoch South</b>	2	22.7%	Bryncoch South	2	4%
<b>Coedffranc Central</b>	2	-23.1%	Coedffranc Central	2	-8%
<b>Total</b>	<b>2</b>			<b>2</b>	

### Wards where no change is proposed

Electoral Ward	Current	Variance	New Electoral Ward	Proposed	Variance
Aberavon	3	-25.8%	Aberavon	3	-25.8%
Aberdulais	1	-7.9%	Aberdulais	1	-7.9%
Alltwen	1	10%	Alltwen	1	10%
Baglan	3	-3.5%	Baglan	3	-3.5%
Briton Ferry East	1	16.2%	Briton Ferry East	1	16.2%
Briton Ferry West	1	10.9%	Briton Ferry West	1	10.9%
Bryncoch North	1	-1.9%	Bryncoch North	1	-1.9%
Cadoxton	1	-26.4%	Cadoxton	1	-26.4%
Coedffranc North	1	-1.7%	Coedffranc North	1	-1.7%
Godrergraig	1	-18.3%	Godrergraig	1	-18.3%
Margam	1	24.4%	Margam	1	3.6%
Neath East	3	-19.4%	Neath East	3	-19.4%
Neath North	2	-19.9%	Neath North	2	-19.9%
Neath South	2	-1.2%	Neath South	2	-1.2%
Port Talbot	3	-23.8%	Port Talbot	3	-23.8%
Resolven	1	28.6%	Resolven	1	28.6%
Rhos	1	6.9%	Rhos	1	6.9%
Sandfields East	3	-9%	Sandfields East	3	-9%
Sandfields West	3	-10.3%	Sandfields West	3	-10.3%
Taibach	2	-1.2%	Taibach	2	9.2%
Tonna	1	4.6%	Tonna	1	4.6%
Ystalyfera	1	16.7%	Ystalyfera	1	16.7%
<b>Total</b>	<b>39</b>			<b>39</b>	

Current	Proposed
64	61

**APPENDIX 2 – ELECTORAL WARD DATA ON WIMD,  
SUBSTANCE MISUSE AND ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR**

Electoral Ward	Substance Misuse Treatment Users	Anti-Social Behaviour	Children receiving care and support, child protection cases and looked after children	Percentage of working age people receiving employment-related benefits	Fire Incidences	The percentage of pupils attaining at least 5 A* to C grade GCSEs including Maths and English/Welsh
Aberavon	40	261	91	18.25	1.27	54.23
Aberdulais	4	30	23	11	0.15	62.79
Alltwen	7	25	19	9	0.16	62.44
Baglan	20	52	31	9.5	0.23	68.66
Blaengwrach	10	23	9	13	0.38	57.89
Briton Ferry East	21	56	19	17	0.3	52.8
Briton Ferry West	19	81	43	21	0.71	42.48
Bryn and Cwmavon	23	50	45	13	0.33	57.18
Bryncoch North	3	4	3	7.5	0.14	86.23
Bryncoch South	18	58	28	10	0.14	77.28
Cadoxton	3	5	2	8	0.27	67.65
Cimla	1	47	16	8	0.07	63.92
Coedffranc Central	24	44	43	14	0.21	57.64
Coedffranc North	12	18	2	9	0.21	62.83
Coedffranc West	1	37	10	7	0.54	67.61
Crynant	2	10	11	10	1.36	65.63
Cwmllynfell	4	10	7	12	0.63	64.76
Cymmer	12	38	14	21	1.81	45.53
Dyffryn	12	18	6	12	0.17	66.12
Glyncorrwg	5	13	8	18	0.48	57.58
Glynneath	11	45	21	13.5	0.6	53.15
Godrergraig	4	21	7	11	0.18	44
Gwaun-Cae-Gurwen	2	11	18	16	0.4	57.61
Gwynfi	10	12	12	17	0.61	34.04
Lower Brynamman	1	11	9	15	0.52	60.36
Margam	5	86	31	9.5	1.22	57.13
Neath East	103	122	93	21	0.45	54.77
Neath North	24	178	29	19	0.44	67.46

Electoral Ward	Substance Misuse Treatment Users	Anti-Social Behaviour	Children receiving care and support, child protection cases and looked after children	Percentage of working age people receiving employment-related benefits	Fire Incidences	The percentage of pupils attaining at least 5 A* to C grade GCSEs including Maths and English/Welsh
Neath South	32	45	53	15	0.25	58.66
Onllwyn	8	15	7	13	0.48	48.74
Pelenna	14	10	12	14	0.54	54.35
Pontardawe	17	119	37	13	0.68	64.05
Port Talbot	33	158	45	13	0.54	65.1
Resolven	6	35	23	12	0.28	61.8
Rhos	3	21	11	7.5	0.04	85.54
Sandfields East	42	153	62	19	0.24	51.22
Sandfields West	36	127	114	20	0.35	42.56
Seven Sisters	4	19	19	14	1.15	53.01
Taibach	20	68	52	18	0.49	41.54
Tonna	5	9	9	9	0.2	67.38
Trebanos	2	6	5	11	0.07	64.6
Ystalyfera	16	47	19	17	0.6	48.99

- Substance Misuse Treatment Users – Figures as of 22 August 2018 – Number of clients per ward accessing Substance Misuse Treatment Services (Services provided by WCADA, Welsh Centre for Action on Dependency and Addiction and CDAT, Community Drug and Alcohol Team under the umbrella Newid Cymru)
- Anti-Social Behaviour – Period April 2017 – March 2018
- Children Receiving Care and Support, Child Protection Cases and Looked After Children – Figures as of 31 March 2018
- Percentage of working age people receiving employment-related benefits – Obtained from the Wales Index of Multiple Deprivation 2014 (<http://wimd.wales.gov.uk/explore?lang=en#z=12&lat=51.659&lng=-3.776&domain=overall> )
- Fire Incidences - Obtained from the Wales Index of Multiple Deprivation 2014 (<http://wimd.wales.gov.uk/explore?lang=en#z=12&lat=51.659&lng=-3.776&domain=overall> )
- The percentage of pupils attaining at least 5 A\* to C grade GCSEs including Maths and English/Welsh - Obtained from the Wales Index of Multiple Deprivation 2014 (<http://wimd.wales.gov.uk/explore?lang=en#z=12&lat=51.659&lng=-3.776&domain=overall> )

**APPENDIX 3 – RECORDED CRIME BY ELECTORAL WARD  
2016-17**

Recorded Crime 2016/17 Neath Port Talbot by Beat	Homicide	Violence with injury	Violence without injury	Rape	Other serious sexual	Other sexual offences	Robbery	Domestic burglary	Non-domestic burglary	Vehicle offences	Bicycle theft	Theft from the person	Shoplifting	All other theft offences	Arson	Criminal damage	Drug trafficking	Possession of drugs	Possession of weapon offences	Public order offences	Miscellaneous crimes against society	Grand Total
Aberavon	1	87	136	6	12	5	4	26	39	28	11	4	158	86	9	133	2	24	2	68	16	857
Aberdulais		8	12	1		2		3	3	12	2			5	1	15	1	4		8	3	80
Alltwen		17	17	1	3	1		1	4	13	1		16	19		9		3		7		112
Baglan		32	50		3	1		8	7	27	2	2	3	26		50	3	10	2	18	7	251
Blaengwrach		2	14	3		1			5	4	1		1	4		2	1			6		44
Briton Ferry East		31	45	1	3	2		9	18	41	1	2	35	19		57	1	9	1	19	8	302
Briton Ferry West		25	43	5	2		1	10	7	13	3		1	14	1	37	2	6	2	21	5	198
Bryn and Cwmavon		23	70		7	1	1	10	19	25	1	1	29	14	1	75	2	4		14	7	304
Brynoch North		5	5		3			1		7				5		5		1		4		36
Brynoch South		20	49	4	3	1		3	4	15	1		2	11		26		7	1	14	11	172
Cadoxton		2	7	2	3	2		3		5			6	2		2		1	1	3	4	43
Cimla		14	33	1	1	3		1	2	6				6	2	7		1	1	9	3	90
Coedfranc Central	1	25	62	1	4			8	17	18			7	19	4	33	3	4		21	7	234
Coedfranc North		12	23		1	1		1	7	26	2		3	17		13		4	2	6		118
Coedfranc West		24	29	2	1	1			17	29	6	1	3	51		26	1	5	1	18	8	223
Crynant		11	16	2		2		4	9	10				6	2	7	2	2		5	4	82
Cwmllynfell		2	8	1	1				4	2			1	6	2	8				5	1	41
Cymer (GP)		25	50		3	1		9	13	26	3	1		11	4	29	2	2	4	30	15	228
Dyffryn		16	39		3	1		8	15	14			19	31	1	17	1	3	1	14	4	187
Glyncorrwg		6	4		1			3	3	5				2		2			1	4	2	33
Glynneath		28	47	1	2			3	9	12	1		4	15	1	30	3	9		36	2	203
Godregraig		9	17					1	3	6				3		9	1	4		5	2	60

Gwaen Cae Gurwen		10	21	1	1	1	1	2	4	3				8		8		1		5	7	73
Gwynfi		16	16	2	6	1		2	4	2				3	2	3	2	2		5	1	67
Lower Brynamman		8	8		1	1		1	2	2				7		4	1		1	7	2	45
Margam		21	31			3	2		5	7	1		3	14	3	24	1	4		11	18	148
Neath East		78	121	5	2	1	2	26	15	46	5	6	48	54	3	94	8	21	4	72	15	626
Neath North		94	82	2	12	1	5	6	14	22	6	26	268	78	5	58	1	34	6	93	18	831
Neath South		47	72	3	4	2	1	2	6	15	1	1	6	13	3	41		2	1	21	5	246
Onllwyn		6	11		1				1	4				2		5		2		5		37
Pelenna		3	15	3				3	6	5				2		8				10	1	56
Pontardawe		57	57	3	2	1		15	22	37	1	1	15	38	1	50	2	8		41	9	360
Port Talbot		98	128	4	7	3	3	19	62	31	15	11	71	83	7	84	3	25	7	77	15	753
Resolven		18	34	1	2	1		3	4	12			1	10		19	4	6		9		124
Rhos		3	8					1	1	8	1			6		6		1		3	1	39
Sandfields East		66	103	1	10	1	2	11	34	33	18	2	23	30	4	84	2	12	1	41	6	484
Sandfields West		58	147	4	7	3	1	11	17	19	9		19	35	8	73	1	12	4	67	16	511
Seven Sisters		10	11		2	1		5	3	4	1			3	1	18		1		7	2	69
Taibach	1	46	72	4	3		1	13	32	20	4	1	23	18	5	45	3	6		24	6	327
Tonna		4	15			1		4	2	3	1			6		5				2		43
Trebanos		2	4			1		2	1	3				1		1				1		16
Ystalyfera		25	36	2	4			2	3	7	1		10	16	4	27	1	2	1	24	3	168
Grand Total	3	1099	1773	66	120	48	24	241	445	630	101	59	775	801	75	1253	54	242	44	863	234	8950

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**NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL  
CYNGOR BWRDEISTREF SIROL CASTELL-NEDD PORT TALBOT**

**COUNCIL  
7 November, 2018**

**REPORT OF THE ASSISTANT CHIEF EXECUTIVE AND CHIEF  
DIGITAL OFFICER**

**SECTION A – MATTER FOR DECISION**

**WARDS AFFECTED: ALL**

**CHANGES TO COMMITTEES TO REFLECT THE POLITICAL  
BALANCE OF THE COUNCIL**

## **Purpose of the Report**

1. To agree changes to the allocation of seats on the Council's committees to the political groups so as to reflect changes to the overall political balance of the Council.
2. To approve the resultant changes to the memberships of the various committees.

## **Proposals**

### **1. Allocation of seats to the Political Groups**

Following changes to the overall political balance of the Council it is necessary to review the allocation of seats on the Council's committees to the political groups. The proposed allocation of seats is set out at in Appendix 1 for approval.

### **2. Committee Membership**

Provided that Council approves the proposed allocation of seats, it is also necessary for Council to approve changes to the membership of the various committees. The proposals received from Group leaders are set out below for Council to consider and approve:

#### **a. Labour Group**

Cllr.J.Warman and Cllr.H.N.James be removed from Cabinet Scrutiny Committee and replaced by Cllr.L.Jones  
Cllr.R.L.Taylor be removed from Education, Skills and Culture Scrutiny Committee and Leisure and Culture Scrutiny Sub Committee and replaced by Cllr.H.N.James on that Sub Committee  
Cllr.A.N.Woolcock be removed from Social Care, Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee  
Cllr.S.Purseby be removed from Regeneration and Sustainable Development Scrutiny Committee

#### **b. Independent Group**

Cllr. S.Knoyle be added to the Cabinet Scrutiny Committee  
Cllr.J.Jones be added to the Education, Skills and Culture Scrutiny Committee  
Cllr.S.Knoyle be added to the Social Care, Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee  
Cllr. J.Jones be added to the Regeneration and Sustainable Development Scrutiny Committee

In addition the Plaid Cymru Group has also asked that the following changes be approved:-

**c. Plaid Cymru Group**

Replace Cllr.J.Evans with Cllr N.T.Hunt on Cabinet Scrutiny Committee.

Replace Cllr.N.T.Hunt with Cllr.S.Bamsey on Regeneration and Sustainable Development Scrutiny Committee and the Community Safety and Public Protection Sub-Committee.

In relation to the nominations to the Council's Outside Bodies the following amendments/additions be approved:-

**d. Outside Bodies**

City Deal Joint Scrutiny Committee – Cllrs.A.N.Woolcock, S.Freeguard and A.Llewelyn

Cllr.R.L.Taylor be replaced on the Schools Admissions Forum by Cllr. R.Mizen and as a substitute on the Schools Standards Partnership by Cllr.D.Whitelock

**Financial Impact**

There are no financial impacts.

**Equality Impact Assessment**

There are no Equality Impacts.

**Workforce Impacts**

There are no Workforce Impacts.

## **Legal Powers**

Section 15 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1989/42/contents>

## **Risk Management**

There are none.

## **Consultation**

There is no requirement under the Constitution for external consultation on this item.

## **Recommendations:**

1. That Council approves the proposed allocation of seats on the various committees to the political groups as set out in Appendix 1.
2. That Council approves the changes set out in Section 2 of this report to the memberships of the various committees and the outside bodies listed.

## **Reason for Proposed Decisions:**

To update the Council's membership arrangements as a result of the change in the political balance of the Council and to confirm which Members will take up the Council's seats on the Joint Scrutiny Committee established under the City Deal arrangements

## **Implementation of Decisions**

The decisions are for immediate implementation.

## **List of Background Papers**

The Constitution and the City Deal Joint Working Agreement

## **Officer Contact**

Karen Jones, Assistant Chief Executive and Chief Digital Officer  
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## APPENDIX 1

### SIZE OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES AND APPORTIONMENT OF SEATS TO THE POLITICAL GROUPS - 2018/2019 as at 1 NOVEMBER 2018

COUNCIL COMMITTEES	TOTAL NO. OF SEATS 64	Labour  (41)	Plaid Cymru  (15)	Independent Democrats  (8)
<b>CABINET SCRUTINY COMMITTEE</b>	16	10	4	2
<b>SOCIAL CARE, HEALTH AND WELLBEING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE</b>	13	8	3	2
<b>EDUCATION, SKILLS AND CULTURE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE</b>	15† (+8)	9	3	3
<b>LEISURE AND CULTURE SCRUTINY SUB-COMMITTEE</b>	9	6	2	1
<b>REGENERATION AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE</b>	12	7	3	2
<b>COMMUNITY SAFETY AND PUBLIC PROTECTION SCRUTINY SUB-COMMITTEE</b>	9	6	2	1

<b>STREETSCENE AND ENGINEERING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>PLANNING COMMITTEE</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>REGISTRATION AND LICENSING COMMITTEE</b> $\phi$	<b>15</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>*LICENSING AND GAMBLING ACTS COMMITTEE</b> $\phi$	<b>15</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>
<i>*Licensing and Gambling Acts Sub Committee</i>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>AUDIT COMMITTEE</b>	<b>12† (+1)</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>DEMOCRATIC SERVICES COMMITTEE</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>PERSONNEL COMMITTEE</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>SPECIAL APPOINTMENTS COMMITTEE</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>176</b>	<b>114</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>21</b>

*APPEALS PANEL	(5)	3	1	1
*(Appeals Panel Substitutes)	(20)	13	5	2
*(STANDARDS COMMITTEE)	(2)	2	-	-
*(Standards Committee Substitute)	(1)	1	-	-
STAFF COUNCIL	12	<b>Cabinet Members</b>	<b>Opposition Leader or sub</b>	<b>Opposition Leader or sub</b>

- Notes:** (1) † In context of voting co-optees - 4 voting Co-optees (with 4 non voting Co-optees) for the Scrutiny Committee; 1 voting Lay Member for the Audit Committee.  
(2) φ Registration and Licensing / Licensing and Gambling Acts Committees – same Chair/Vice Chair and Committee Membership.  
(3) # Comprises Chair & Vice Chair of the Committee plus one other Member on a rota/availability basis  
(4) \* 1989 Act does not apply. Separate substitute arrangements also.



## NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

### CABINET

#### REPORT OF THE HEAD OF FINANCE

31<sup>st</sup> October 2018

#### SECTION A – MATTERS FOR DECISION

#### WARDS AFFECTED – ALL

#### CAPITAL BUDGET MONITORING 2018/19

##### **Purpose of Report**

1. To provide Members with information in relation to delivery of the 2018/19 Capital Programme.

##### **Background**

2. On 21<sup>st</sup> February 2018 Council approved its Capital Programme for 2018/19; the report detailed planned Capital Expenditure totalling £43.608m for the financial year.

On 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2018 Council approved the current Capital Budget as at 30<sup>th</sup> June 2018, the report detailed planned Capital Expenditure totalling £41.048m for the financial year.

The purpose of this report is to update Members as to the delivery of this Programme as at 30<sup>th</sup> September 2018 and to seek approval for a further updated budget position.

##### **Targeted Achievements**

3. As Members are aware the following achievements are being targeted during this financial year:
  - Completion of the Council's Band A 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools programme with the following due to open during 2018:
    - Ysgol Cwm Brombil - a new 3-16 School in Margam to replace the Lower and Upper sites of Dyffryn Comprehensive as well as Groes Primary School.

- Ysgol Gymraeg Ystalyfera (Bro Dur) – A new primary school on the site of the North Campus and a 11-16, provision on the South Campus, on the site of the former Sandfields Comprehensive School. This opened at the beginning of September 2018 ready for the new school term.
  - Ysgol Carreg Hir- a new primary school in Briton Ferry, on the site of the former Cwrt Sart Comprehensive School. The project will see three primary schools (Brynhyfryd, Llansawel and Ynysmaerdy) with significant surplus capacity and backlog maintenance close. This school opened at the beginning of September 2018 ready for the new school term.
- Major bridge strengthening work is ongoing with work due to start on the A474 bridge between the A465 Saltings roundabout and the Neath Abbey Court Herbert roundabout.
  - County Borough regeneration including the next phase of the Neath Town Centre redevelopment.
  - Further investment of £3m into Disabled Facility Grants to assist people to live at home and investment of over £3m in Schools Capital Maintenance and Highways and Engineering Maintenance improvements.

### **Changes to the approved Budget**

4. The updated Capital Programme now totals £47.721m with the main changes proposed being:
  - A budget of £1.932m for Port Talbot Magistrates Court – the building is being refurbished through the Welsh Government Building for the Future programme. The refurbishment will result in 1,054 m2 of office floor space which will be let at market rate to businesses.
  - A £2.2m budget has been included in 2018/19 in relation to the Crown Building, Neath.

- A budget of £1.048m has been included for regeneration schemes in Port Talbot such as the redevelopment of the Plaza Cinema, and Green Park Riverside phase 2
- A £650k budget for Commercial/Property Enhancements and Heritage Works throughout the county borough has been included
- A £429k budget has been included for redevelopment work at Margam Park Turbine House, along with drainage works in the park.
- A £540k budget has been added as an Active Travel Fund. This looks at cycle path development/improvements across the county borough.

## 2018/19 Capital Expenditure

5. Details of Capital Expenditure as at 30<sup>th</sup> September 2018 is outlined in the table below:

**Table 1 – Capital Budget and Spend 2018/19**

	<b>Current Budget £'000</b>	<b>Proposed Budget £'000</b>	<b>Actual @ 30<sup>th</sup> Sept 2018</b>
Ysgol Cwm Brombil	12,946	12,946	7,230
Ysgol Gymraeg Ystalyfera (Bro Dur) – North Campus 11-16	685	555	881
Ysgol Gymraeg Ystalyfera (Bro Dur) – South Campus 11-16	5,017	5,147	4,500
Ysgol Carreg Hir	3,003	3,048	3,242
Schools Capital Maintenance	1,100	1,100	93
Highways and Engineering Maintenance	2,347	2,411	1,468
Highways Infrastructure Investment	769	769	797
Street Lighting Replacement	422	422	92
A474 Vale of Neath Bridge	350	447	3
Flood and Coastal Risk Projects	118	118	58
Cwmafan Emergency Landslip work	700	700	579
Health and Safety	850	850	301
Road Safety Grant – Accident Reduction Measures	468	468	28
Safe Routes in Communities	185	185	23

Local Transport Network Improvements	445	810	270
Recycling Initiatives	1,300	1,300	342
Vehicle Replacement Programme	1,463	1,529	84
Regeneration - Neath Town Centre Redevelopment	2,000	900	135
Regeneration - Port Talbot Magistrates Court	0	1,932	126
Regeneration - Crown Building	0	2,200	0
Regeneration – Port Talbot	0	1,048	321
Commercial/Property/Heritage Regeneration projects	0	650	7
Margam Park – Drainage/Turbine House	0	429	54
Harbourside Strategic Employment Site	120	266	81
Social Services Capital Maintenance	447	150	126
Disabled Facilities Grants	3,000	3,000	1,238
Schools and Fleet – Asset Financing	640	640	302
Housing Energy Efficiency Works	206	206	0
Active Travel Fund	0	540	0
Contingency	154	528	
Remaining Capital Programme	2,313	2,427	1,206
<b>Total</b>	<b>41,048</b>	<b>47,721</b>	<b>23,587</b>

## 6. Financial Appraisal

The Capital Programme as set out in this report can be funded via the use of several resources including capital grant, reserves and borrowing.

### Risk Management

- The capital programme is actively managed by managers and the Capital Programme Steering Group to comply with all relevant planning conditions, legislation, regulations and health and safety.

### Consultation

- There is no requirement under the Constitution for external consultation on this item.

## 9. **Equality Impact Assessment**

This report does not require an Equality Impact Assessment.

### **Recommendations**

#### 10. Cabinet commends to Council:

- The approval of the proposed 2018/19 budget totalling £47.721m.
- And note the position in relation to expenditure as at 30<sup>th</sup> September 2018.

### **Reason for proposed decisions**

11. To update the capital programme for 2018/19 and inform Members of the current year spend to date.

### **Implementation of Decision**

12. The decisions are proposed for implementation after consultation with the Scrutiny Committee and approval by Council

### **List of Background Papers**

13. Capital Programme working files

### **Officer Contact**

14. For further information on this report item, please contact:

Mr Huw Jones – Head of Finance

Tel: 01639 763575; E-mail: [h.jones@npt.gov.uk](mailto:h.jones@npt.gov.uk)

Mr Ross Livingstone – Group Accountant - Capital and Corporate

Tel: 01639 763624; E-mail: [r.livingstone@npt.gov.uk](mailto:r.livingstone@npt.gov.uk)

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## EXECUTIVE DECISION RECORD

6 SEPTEMBER, 2018

### CABINET

#### **Cabinet Board Members:**

Councillors: A.J.Taylor, C.Clement-Williams, D.Jones, E.V.Latham, A.R.Lockyer, P.A.Rees, P.D.Richards and A.Wingrave

#### **Officers in Attendance:**

S.Phillips, H.Jenkins, A.Evans, G.Nutt, K.Jones, A.Jarrett, N.Headon, C.Davies, J.Davies, M.Shaw, A.Thomas, R.Gordon and R.Crowhurst

#### **Invitees:**

Councillor A.L.Thomas (Chairperson of the Scrutiny Committee)  
Councillor A.N.Woolcock (Vice Chairperson of the Scrutiny Committee)

#### **Observers:**

Councillors: S.Ap.Dafydd, N.E.Davies, S.E.Freeguard, S.Harris, M.Harvey, S.Hunt, H.N.James, J.Jones, S.Jones, A.Llewellyn, S.Miller, J.D.Morgan, S.M.Pendry, R.Phillips, M. Protheroe, L.M.Purcell, S.Renkes, S.Rahaman, A.J.Richards, R.L.Taylor, D.Whitelock

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#### 1. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

The following Members made a declaration of interest at the commencement of the meeting:

Councillor A.J.Taylor	Re: Report of the Director of Education, Leisure and Lifelong Learning on the Strategic School Improvement Programme, Future of Secondary Education in the Upper Afan Valley
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as he is a Governor at Eastern Primary School Ysgol Cwm Brombil and has children of school age who will attend Ysgol Cwm Brombil and confirmed his dispensation to speak in respect of the report but not to vote thereon.

Councillor P.A.Rees Re: Report of the Director of Education, Leisure and Lifelong Learning on the Strategic School Improvement Programme, Future of Secondary Education in the Upper Afan Valley as he is a Governor at Cefn Saeson Comprehensive School and Crynallt Primary School and has a daughter in law who works at Dyffryn Comprehensive School and confirmed his dispensation to speak in respect of the vote but not to vote thereon.

Cllr. C.Clement-Williams Re: Report of the Director of Education, Leisure and Lifelong Learning on the Strategic School Improvement Programme, Future of Secondary Education in the Upper Afan Valley as she is a Governor of Baglan Primary School, and confirmed her dispensation to both speak in respect of the report and to vote thereon.

Councillor D.Jones Re: Report of the Director of Education, Leisure and Lifelong Learning on the Strategic School Improvement Programme, Future of Secondary Education in the Upper Afan Valley as she is a Governor at Cilffriw Primary School and Llangatwg Community School, and confirmed her dispensation to both speak and vote thereon.



Councillor A.R. Lockyer Re: Report of the Director of Education, Leisure and Lifelong Learning on the Strategic School Improvement Programme, Future of Secondary Education in the Upper Afan Valley as he is a Governor at YGG Castell-nedd and Gnoll Primary School, and confirmed his dispensation to both speak in respect of the report and to vote thereon.

Councillor E.V.Latham Re: Report of the Director of Education, Leisure and Lifelong Learning on the Strategic School Improvement Programme, Future of Secondary Education in the Upper Afan Valley as he is a Governor at Tywyn Primary School and Ysgol Bae Baglan, and confirmed his dispensation to both speak in respect of the vote and to vote thereon.

Councillor P.D.Richards Re: Report of the Director of Education, Leisure and Lifelong Learning on the Strategic School Improvement Programme, Future of Secondary Education in the Upper Afan Valley as he is a Vice Chair of Governors at Baglan Primary School and Blaenbaglan Primary School, and confirmed his dispensation to both speak in respect of the vote and to vote thereon.

## 2. **APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRPERSON**

Agreed that Councillor E.V. Latham be appointed as Chairperson.

3. **STRATEGIC SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMME - FUTURE OF SECONDARY EDUCATION IN THE UPPER AFAN VALLEY**

The Chairperson thanked Local Members, Members of the Public and Officers involved in the programme.

The Head of Transformation gave Members an overview of the circulated report.

Officers explained that the consultation process had been a rigorous and thorough process, and it was paramount to recognise all impacts.

Members highlighted parents' concerns regarding the transition and travel to a different school. Officers explained that they are committed to supporting pupils and will engage and work with the school community to provide assistance with transition arrangements.

It was noted that Officers would liaise with the Transport Section in order to ensure that correct transport checks are in place and to monitor home to school transport for the first year of travel.

Members emphasised that every participant in this process wants to provide the best education and start in life for the children in the Upper Afan Valley.

**Decision:**

1. That having given due regard to the objections and the impact assessments in relation to equality, risk, community usage and Welsh language together with the legal implications, in line with Section 53 of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013, the proposal to make arrangements for pupils who would otherwise attend Cymer Afan Comprehensive school to receive their secondary education at Ysgol Cwm Brombil and to close Cymer Afan Comprehensive, be approved.
2. That the date of implementation be 1 September, 2019.
3. That the site and buildings be declared surplus to the operational requirements of the Education Leisure and Lifelong Learning Service.

**Reason for Decision:**

1. This decision is necessary to comply with the legislative requirements that provide for the implementation of the proposal.
2. A decision to implement the proposal will enable the Council to:
  - promote high standards and the fulfilment of every child's potential; and
  - meet its duty to secure efficient education in its area.

**Implementation of Decision:**

The decision will be implemented after the three day call in period.

**CHAIRPERSON**

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**EXECUTIVE DECISION RECORD**

**12 SEPTEMBER, 2018**

**CABINET**

**Cabinet Board Members:**

Councillors: C.Clement-Williams, D.W.Davies, D.Jones, E.V.Latham,  
P.A.Rees and A.Wingrave

**Officers in Attendance:**

S.Phillips, K.Jones, H.Jenkins, A.Evans, C.Griffiths, G.Nutt, C.Furlow,  
N.Headon and C.Davies

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1. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 25 JULY 2018 AND 1 AUGUST 2018**

Noted by Committee.

2. **FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME**

Noted by Committee.

3. **BUDGET SETTING - THE CONTEXT FOR MEMBERS**

**Decision:**

That Members use the information contained in the circulated report as the basis for engaging with Assembly Members, Members of Parliament, other stakeholders and their wider communities.

**Reason for Decision:**

To set the context for the 2019/20 Budget Round.

**Implementation of Decisions:**

The decision will be implemented after the three day call in period.

4. **INSURANCE ARRANGEMENTS 2018/2019**

**Decision:**

That approval be granted for Council's Insurance Renewal Arrangements, co-ordinated by Insurance Broker, Marsh Limited, effective from 1 October 2018.

**Reason for Decision:**

To provide a decision in relation to the Council's Insurance arrangements, which need to be in place before 1 October 2018.

**Implementation of Decisions:**

The decision will be implemented after the three day call in period.

5. **OPERATIONAL RISK REGISTER**

That the report be noted.

6. **MEMBERS COMMUNITY FUND APPLICATION**

**Decision:**

That approval be granted under the Members Community Fund, to provide financial support of £5,760 in order to extend the working hours of a part-time Community Development Coordinator to Canolfan Maerdy Welfare Support, to facilitate the operation of locally based drop in wellbeing and welfare support service.

**Reason for Decision:**

To approve the application for funding that has been received under the Members Community Fund.

**Implementation of Decisions:**

The decision will be implemented after the three day call in period.

7. **ANNUAL REPORT - PART 2 (CORPORATE PLAN 2017-22) PERIOD:  
1 OCTOBER 2017 TO 31 MARCH 2018**

**Decisions:**

1. That part two of the Annual Report 2017-2018, as detailed in the circulated report, be commended to Council for approval.
2. That the three well-being objectives set out in the current Corporate Plan, as detailed in the circulated report, be approved.
3. That the Leader of Council be given delegated authority to make such changes as may be needed to the Annual Report (part two) prior to publication, provided that such changes do not materially alter the content of the document considered by Council.

**Reason for Decisions:**

To meet the statutory requirements set out in the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009 and the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.

**Implementation of Decisions:**

The decision will be implemented after the three day call in period.

8. **WALES AUDIT OFFICE - ANNUAL IMPROVEMENT REPORT 2017-  
2018**

That the report be noted.

9. **CORPORATE PLAN KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS 2018/2019 -  
QUARTER 1 PERFORMANCE (1 APRIL 2018 - 30 JUNE 2018)**

Members highlighted the excellent quality of the report and commended everyone who contributed towards it.

That the report be noted.

**CHAIRPERSON**



**EXECUTIVE DECISION RECORD**

**3 OCTOBER, 2018**

**CABINET**

**Cabinet Board Members:**

Councillors: D.W.Davies, D.Jones, R.G.Jones, E.V.Latham,  
A.R.Lockyer, P.A.Rees, P.D.Richards, A.J.Taylor and  
A.Wingrave

**Officers in Attendance:**

S.Phillips, H.Jenkins, A.Evans, C.Griffiths, G.Nutt, H.Jones, N.Headon and  
C.Davies

**Invitees:**

Councillor A.N.Woolcock (Vice Chairperson of Scrutiny Committee)

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1. **APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRPERSON**

Agreed that Councillor A.J.Taylor be appointed as Chairperson.

2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

The following Members made a declaration of interest at the  
commencement of the meeting:

Councillor R.G. Jones      Re: Report of the Head of  
Transformation, Agenda Item 5 on  
the Project Proposal made to  
Members Community Fund for  
Margam, as he is a Ward Member  
for Margam.

Councillor R.G.Jones left the  
meeting before the start of this item.

Councillor A. Wingrave Re: Report of the Head of Transformation, Agenda Item 6 on the Project Proposal made to Members Community Fund for Cadoxton and Aberdulais, as she is a Ward Member for Cadoxton.

Councillor A. Wingrave left the meeting before the start of this item.

Councillor D. Jones Re: Report of the Head of Transformation, Agenda Item 6 on the Project Proposal made to Members Community Fund for Cadoxton and Aberdulais, as she is a Ward Member for Aberdulais.

Councillor D.Jones left the meeting before the start of this item.

Councillor A. Lockyear Re: Report of the Assistant Chief Executive and Chief Digital Officer and the Head of Legal Services, Agenda Item 4 on the Reduction in number of elected member's representatives to the board of Tai Tarian Limited, following changes introduced by the Regulation of Registered Social landlords (Wales) Act 2018, as he is a sitting Board Member.

3. **FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME 2018**

Noted by Committee.

4. **REDUCTION IN THE NUMBER OF ELECTED MEMBER REPRESENTATIVES TO THE BOARD OF TAI TARIAN LIMITED FOLLOWING CHANGES INTRODUCED BY THE REGULATION OF REGISTERED SOCIAL LANDLORDS (WALES) ACT 2018**

**Decision:**

That delegated authority be granted to the Head of Legal Services for the variation of the Transfer Agreement with Tai Tarian Limited to reduce the number of Members from four to two, as detailed in the circulated report.

**Reason for Decision:**

To ensure that the Council continues to have nominated appointees to the Tai Tarian Limited voluntary board and to ensure that Tai Tarian Limited and the Council comply with the obligations now implemented in the Regulation of Registered Social Landlords (Wales) Act 2018.

**Implementation of Decision:**

The decision will be implemented after the three day call in period.

5. **PROJECT PROPOSAL MADE TO THE MEMBERS COMMUNITY FUND - MARGAM**

**Decision:**

That approval be granted under the Members Community fund, to provide financial support of £1,159.94, for supply and installation of two benches in Abbots Close, Margam.

**Reason for Decision:**

To approve the Application for funding that has been received under the Members Community Fund. The Members Community Fund will continue to receive bids until the due deadline date of 31.03.2020.

**Implementation of Decision:**

The decision will be implemented after the three day call in period.

6. **PROJECT PROPOSAL MADE TO THE MEMBERS COMMUNITY FUND - CADOXTON AND ABERDULAIS**

**Decision:**

That approval be granted under the Members Community fund, to provide financial support of £4,000, Member for Cadoxton and Member for Aberdulais each contributing £2,000, for development of woodland trails, school resource pack, surveys and Management Plan for Craig Gwladus County Park, Cilfrew.

**Reason for Decision:**

To approve the Application for funding that has been received under the Members Community Fund. The Members Community Fund will continue to receive bids until the due deadline date of 31.03.2020.

**Implementation of Decision:**

The decision will be implemented after the three day call in period.

**CHAIRPERSON**

**EXECUTIVE DECISION RECORD**  
**EDUCATION, SKILLS AND CULTURE CABINET BOARD**  
**20 SEPTEMBER 2018**

**Cabinet Members:**

Councillors: A.R.Lockyer (Chairperson) and P.A.Rees

**Officers in Attendance:**

K.Gilbert, I.Guy and J. Woodman-Ralph

1. **APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRPERSON**

Agreed that Councillor P.A.Rees be appointed Chairperson for the meeting.

2. **APPOINTMENT AND REMOVAL OF LA GOVERNOR REPRESENTATIVE**

**Decision:**

That in line with the approved policy, Mr. Adrian Parker be approved as the Local Authority Governor representative at Bryncoch Church-in-Wales Primary School up to and including the end of the Autumn Term 2018/19.

**Reason for Decision:**

To enable the Authority to contribute to effective school governance through representation on school governing bodies.

**Implementation of Decision:**

That the decision is for immediate implementation.

**CHAIRPERSON**

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**EXECUTIVE DECISION RECORD**  
**CABINET BOARD - 20 SEPTEMBER 2018**  
**EDUCATION, SKILLS AND CULTURE**

**Cabinet Board Members:**

Councillors: A.R.Lockyer and P.A.Rees (Chairperson)

**Officers in Attendance:**

C.Davies and J.Woodman-Ralph

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1. **APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRPERSON**

Agreed that Councillor P.A Rees be appointed Chairperson for the meeting.

2. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

That the minutes of the 26 July 2018 be noted.

3. **CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR OPENING TIMES, LIBRARIES, THEATRES, COMMUNITY CENTRES, MARGAM COUNTRY PARK, LEISURE CENTRES AND SWIMMING POOLS 2018**

**Decision:**

That the Christmas and New Year 2018 opening and closure times for Libraries, Theatres, Community Centres, Margam Country Park, Leisure Centres and Swimming Pools as detailed in Appendix One and Appendix Two to the circulated report be approved.

**Reason for Decision:**

To ensure that the Council's facilities are available to the public when there is a demand for them to be open and to enable managers to make appropriate arrangements with front line staff over their annual leave.

**Implementation of Decision:**

That the decision will be implemented after the 3 day call in period.

4. **QUARTER 1 PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT DATA 2018 - 2019  
(1ST APRIL 2018 - 30 JUNE 2018)**

**Decision:**

That the report be noted.

5. **FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME 18/19**

**Decision:**

That the report be noted.

**CHAIRPERSON**



**EXECUTIVE DECISION RECORD**  
**CABINET BOARD - 14 SEPTEMBER 2018**  
**REGENERATION AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT CABINET**  
**BOARD**

**Cabinet Board Members:**

Councillors: D.W.Davies (Chairperson) and A.Wingrave

**Officers in Attendance:**

S.Brennan, N.Jones, C.Davies and T.Davies

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1. **APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRPERSON**

Agreed that Councillor D.W.Davies be appointed Chairperson for the meeting.

2. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

Noted by the Committee.

3. **QUARTER 1 KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS 2018**

**Decision:**

That the monitoring report be noted.

4. **RIGHTS OF WAY IMPROVEMENT PLAN REVIEW**

**Decision:**

1. That a review be undertaken of the Rights of Way Improvement Plan (2008-2018);

2. That the Rights of Way Improvement Plan Review Delivery Schedule as set out in Appendix 1 to the circulated report, be implemented.

**Reason for Decisions:**

To ensure compliance with the CROW Act 2000, and to put a framework in place for the management and improvement of our Rights of Way network for the next 10 years.

**Implementation of Decisions:**

The decisions will be implemented after the three day call in period.

**Consultation:**

This item has been subject to external consultation.

5. **ALLEGED PUBLIC FOOTPATH - COMMUNITY OF CRYNANT**

**Decision:**

That a modification order be made to recognise a public footpath from Main Road to Woodland Road, in the Community of Crynant between points A and D at the widths specified in paragraphs 4.2 and 4.3.

**Reasons for Decision:**

1. There is sufficient use of the path throughout the relevant period, in addition to using the way to access the Rugby Club and Community Centre;
2. Those who make use of the path can be said to represent the public at large;
3. The installation of street lighting and the relatively recent improvement works were evidently done to improve access for all members of the public.

**Implementation of Decision:**

The decision will be implemented after the three day call in period.

**Consultation:**

This item has been subject to external consultation.

6. **ALLEGED PUBLIC FOOTPATH - COMMUNITIES OF BRITON FERRY AND NEATH**

**Decision:**

That the report be noted.

7. **TAI TARIAN LOCAL LETTINGS POLICIES**

**Decision:**

That consideration of the report be deferred to such time as Officer's from Tai Tarian be present to present the report.

**Reason for Decision:**

To allow relevant Officers to be present to answer any questions Members may have.

8. **FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME 2018/19**

**Decision:**

That the Forward Work Programme be noted.

9. **URGENT ITEM**

Because of the need to deal now with the matter contained in Minute No. 10 below, the Chairperson agreed that this could be raised at today's meeting as an urgent item pursuant to Statutory Instrument 2001 No.2290 (as amended).

Reason: Due to the time element.

10. **PORT TALBOT BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT FUNDING**

**Decision:**

That the offer of grant funding from the Welsh Government in order to pursue the potential establishment of a formal Business Improvement District for Port Talbot Town Centre, be approved.

**Reason for Decision:**

In order that the potential for establishing a Business Improvement District in Port Talbot town centre can be pursued.

**Implementation of Decision:**

The decision will be implemented after the three day call in period.

**Consultation:**

This item has been subject to external consultation.

11. **ACCESS TO MEETINGS**

**RESOLVED:** That pursuant to Regulation 4(3) and (5) of Statutory Instrument 2001 No. 2290, the public be excluded for the following items of business which involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 14 of Part 4 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972.

12. **FORMER BRYNSIRIOL SENIOR CITIZENS CENTRE, CYMMER, PORT TALBOT**

**Decision:**

That the report be withdrawn from consideration at the meeting.

13. **FORMER BRYNHYFRED PRIMARY SCHOOL, GIANTS GRAVE ROAD, BRITON FERRY**

**Decision:**

That the terms for the grant of a sublease to Me Myself and I Neath Port Talbot, of the majority of the former Brynhyfyrd Primary School site at Giants Grave Road, Briton Ferry, Neath, as detailed in the private circulated report, be approved.

**Reason for Decision:**

To allow the premises to be used for the benefit of the local charity and the local community.

**Implementation of Decision:**

The decision will be implemented after the three day call in period.

14. **LONLAS VILLAGE WORKSHOPS, SKEWEN, NEATH**

**Decisions:**

1. That Officers of Property and Regeneration in conjunction with Legal Services continue to try and negotiate a sensible and realistic rent and terms for a new head lease of the Workshops which, if tentatively agreed, be reported to Cabinet Board for resolution;
2. Failing the above, the Authority hand back control and management of the Workshops to the Landlords and then seek to negotiate tenancies of the operational units and offices it wishes to continue to occupy on terms and conditions to be agreed by the Head of Property and Regeneration.

**Reason for Decisions:**

To agree the way forward in respect of ongoing negotiations with the Landlord in respect of the renewal of the head lease.

**Implementation of Decisions:**

The decisions will be implemented after the three day call in period.

**Consultation:**

The Local Member has been consulted on this item.

15. **FORMER SCHOOL HOUSE AT ST HELIER DRIVE, SANDFIELDS, PORT TALBOT**

**Decision:**

That the recommended offer for the former Sandfields Comprehensive School House, 74 St Helier Drive, Sandfields, Port Talbot, as detailed in the private circulated report, be accepted.

**Reason for Decision:**

To enable the disposal of a surplus property and attain a capital receipt.

**Implementation of Decision:**

The decision will be implemented after the three day call in period.

**Consultation:**

The Local Members have been consulted on this item.

16. **TY ARIAN, SILVER COURT, SANDFIELDS, PORT TALBOT**

**Decision:**

That the terms and conditions for the release of the restrictive covenant on the New Sandfields Aberavon building 'Ty Arian', at Silver Court, Sandfields, Aberavon, Port Talbot be agreed, which will allow the surplus building to be sold and used as a dental practice.

**Reason for Decision:**

To enable the proposal to progress.

**Implementation of Decision:**

The decision will be implemented after the three day call in period.

**Consultation:**

The Local Members have been consulted on this item.

17. **THE PAVILION/CHANGING ROOMS AT TAIBACH MEMORIAL PARK,  
PORT TALBOT**

**Decision:**

That the grant of the lease to the Trustees of Goytre Afc of the pavilion/changing rooms at Taibach Memorial Park, Port Talbot, on the terms set out in the private circulated report, be approved.

**Reason for Decision:**

To allow the unused pavilion/changing rooms to be used by the club, for the benefit of the local community.

**Implementation of Decision:**

The decision will be implemented after the three day call in period.

**Consultation:**

The Local Members have been consulted on this item.

**CHAIRPERSON**

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**EXECUTIVE DECISION RECORD**  
**CABINET BOARD - 7 SEPTEMBER 2018**  
**STREETSCENE AND ENGINEERING CABINET BOARD**

**Cabinet Board Members:**

Councillors: E.V.Latham (Chairperson) and A.Wingrave

**Scrutiny Chair and Vice Chair:**

Councillors: S.M.Penry and S.apDafydd

**Officers in Attendance:**

T.Davies and D.Griffiths

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1. **APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRPERSON**

Agreed that Councillor E.V.Latham be appointed as Chairperson for the meeting.

2. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 20 July 2018, be noted.

3. **CORPORATE PLAN KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS 2018/2019 - QUARTER 1 PERFORMANCE (1 APRIL 2018 - 30 JUNE 2018)**

**Decision:**

That the monitoring report be noted.

4. **WINTER SERVICE OPERATIONS**

**Decision:**

That the report be noted.

5. **3 YEAR REVIEW OF GRIT BIN PROVISION IN NEATH PORT TALBOT**

**Decision:**

That the existing policy be continued (as detailed within the circulated report), subject to review in a further three years.

**Reason for Decision:**

To review policy in line with previously determined timescales.

**Implementation of Decision:**

The decision will be implemented after the three day call in period.

6. **PROHIBITION OF WAITING AT ANY TIME: A4109 DULAIS ROAD, SEVEN SISTERS**

**Decision:**

That the objection be overruled and the objector informed accordingly, and the Prohibition of Waiting at Any Time Order be implemented at A4109 Dulais Road, Seven Sisters, as advertised.

**Reason for Decision:**

To prevent indiscriminate parking in the interest of highway safety.

**Implementation of Decision:**

The decision will be implemented after the three day call in period.

**Consultation:**

This item has been subject to external consultation.

7. **PROHIBITION OF WAITING AT ANY TIME: A4109 MAIN ROAD, THE SQUARE AND BRYNAWEL, CRYNANT**

**Decision:**

That the Prohibition of Waiting at Any Time Order at the A4109 Main Road, The Square and Brynawel, Crynant be reduced after taking the objector's comments on board, and implemented as detailed at Appendix C to the circulated report, and the objectors informed accordingly.

**Reason for Decision:**

To prevent indiscriminate parking in the interest of highway safety.

**Implementation of Decision:**

The decision will be implemented after the three day call in period.

**Consultation:**

This item has been subject to external consultation.

8. **PROHIBITION OF WAITING AT ANY TIME ORDER AND TRAFFIC CALMING MEASURES: B4287 MAIN ROAD/QUEEN STREET, PONTRHYDYFEN**

**Decision:**

That the objections be over ruled, the Prohibition of Waiting at Any Time Order and Traffic Calming Measures at the B4287 Main Road/Queen Street, Pontrhydyfen be implemented as advertised, and the objectors informed accordingly.

**Reason for Decision:**

To prevent indiscriminate parking and reduce speed in the interest of highway safety.

**Implementation of Decision:**

The decision will be implemented after the three day call in period.

**Consultation:**

This item has been subject to external consultation.

9. **PROPOSED INDIVIDUAL DISABLED PARKING PLACE: NO. 6 GALLIPOLI ROW, TAIBACH, PORT TALBOT**

**Decision:**

That the proposed Individual Disabled Parking Place at No. 6 Gallipoli Row, Taibach, Port Talbot be advertised, and if no objections are received, the Traffic Order be implemented.

**Reason for Decision:**

To allow the successful applicant to maintain the independence and quality of life of the person or persons requiring assistance.

**Implementation of Decision:**

The decision will be implemented after the three day call in period.

**Consultation:**

This item will be subject to external consultation when the scheme is advertised.

10. **PROPOSED NO WAITING AT ANY TIME ORDER: A4109 MARY STREET, HEOL Y FELIN AND HEOL Y WAUN, SEVEN SISTERS**

**Decision:**

That the objections be over ruled, the No Waiting at Any Time Order at the A4109 Mary Street, Heol Y Felin and Heol Y Waun, Seven Sisters be implemented as advertised and the objectors be informed accordingly.

**Reason for Decision:**

To prevent indiscriminate parking in the interest of highway safety.

**Implementation of Decision:**

The decision will be implemented after the three day call in period.

**Consultation:**

This item has been subject to external consultation.

11. **PROPOSED NO WAITING, NO LOADING OR UNLOADING AT ANY TIME TRAFFIC REGULATION ORDER: CRYMLYN ROAD, SKEWEN**

**Decision:**

That the proposed No Waiting, No Loading or Unloading at Any Time Traffic Regulation Order at Crymlyn Road, Skewen be advertised, and if no objections are received, the Traffic Order be implemented.

**Reason for Decision:**

To prevent indiscriminate parking/advertising in the interest of highway safety.

**Implementation of Decision:**

The decision will be implemented after the three day call in period.

**Consultation:**

This item will be subject to external consultation when the scheme is advertised.

12. **SCHOOL TERM TIME PERMIT/POLICE PERMITS**

**Decisions:**

1. That a school term time permit for parking in the Neath multi-storey car park be introduced at £39.00 per annum, as detailed in the circulated report;
2. That South Wales Police and Administrative Officers be allowed to purchase a permit to park in the Neath multi-storey car park for the

same monthly rate as Council employees, as detailed within the circulated report.

**Reason for Decisions:**

To allow parents to drop off their children in a safe environment and to stop indiscriminate parking on Water Street, as well as to allow South Wales Police and Administrative Officers based at Neath Police Station authorisation to park in Neath multi-storey car park.

**Implementation of Decisions:**

The decisions will be implemented after the three day call in period.

13. **TO DELEGATE AUTHORITY TO OFFICERS IN UNDERTAKING THE STATUTORY AND REGULATORY DUTIES OF SCHEDULE 3 OF THE FLOOD AND WATER MANAGEMENT ACT (FWMA) 2010 AND ASSOCIATED ORDERS AND REGULATIONS**

**Decisions:**

1. That the Director of Environment, Head of Engineering and Transport, Head of Streetcare, Highway Development Control Manager and Highway Development Control Team Leaders, be granted delegated authority in respect to the legislation and standards set out within the circulated report, in accordance with the delegated scheme (detailed at Appendix 1 to the circulated report) hereto:
  - Schedule 3 of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010,
  - The Sustainable Drainage (Approval and Adoption Procedure) (Wales) Regulations 2018,
  - The Sustainable Drainage (Application for Approval Fees)(Wales) Regulations 2018,
  - The Sustainable Drainage (Enforcement) (Wales) Order 2018,
  - The Sustainable Drainage (Approval and Adoption) (Wales) Order 2018,

- The Sustainable Drainage (Appeals) (Wales) Regulations 2018,
  - Sustainable Drainage Systems Standards for Wales,
  - Welsh Government Statutory Guidance for local authorities on the implementation of Schedule 3 of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010, the mandatory use of SuDS on new developments and approval and adoption by the SuDS approving body (the SAB),
  - Design guides deemed appropriate by this Authority,
  - Subsequent updated orders, regulations, standards, statutory guidance and design guides;
2. That delegated powers be granted to the Director of Environment to establish a pre-application service to deal with all sustainable drainage related queries for proposed developments;
  3. That Council amend the Constitution in due course to reflect the new delegation arrangements above (and detailed at Appendix 1 to the circulated report).

**Reason for Decisions:**

To allow officers to determine submitted sustainable drainage systems within the time frames set in the legislation, and to enable Officers to give advice (both written and verbally) to applicants, prior to any application being submitted, to assist in reducing time frames a formal application would take, by front loading the system.

14. **LIST OF APPROVED CONTRACTORS**

**Decision:**

That the Contractors in section 6 of the circulated report be included on the Approved List for the relevant categories, as detailed below:

<u>FIRM</u>	<u>CATEGORY</u>
Dean Heycock Carpentry Ltd	77, 84, 104, 106, 107
Taziker Industrial Ltd	71, 72, 73, 74, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 99, 100
Machinery Movement Wales Ltd	88, 96, 97
Cleanpark UK Ltd	105

**Reason for Decision:**

To keep the Approved List up to date and as far as possible ensure a competitive procurement process, as well as for the purpose of supplying a List of Contractors for invitation to tender within the relevant category.

**Implementation of Decision:**

The decision will be implemented after the three day call in period.

**Consultation:**

The Approved List of Contractors is promoted on NPT web pages through local events.

**CHAIRPERSON**



**EXECUTIVE DECISION RECORD**  
**SOCIAL CARE, HEALTH AND WELLBEING CABINET BOARD**  
**13 SEPTEMBER 2018**

**Cabinet Members:**

Councillors: A.R.Lockyer (Chairperson) and P.D.Richards

**Officers in Attendance:**

A.Jarrett, K.Warren, A.J.Thomas, J.Woodman-Ralph, N.Jones

**Invitees:**

Cllr.S.Freeguard (Scrutiny Vice Chair)

1. **APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRPERSON**

Agreed that Cllr.A.R.Lockyer be appointed Chairperson for the meeting.

2. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

That the minutes of the 2 August 2018 be noted by Committee.

3. **DIRECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT**

**Decision:**

That the report be noted by Committee.

4. **WESTERN BAY YOUTH JUSTICE AND EARLY INTERVENTION ANNUAL PLAN 2018-19**

**Decision:**

That the Western Bay Youth Justice and Early Intervention Youth Justice Plan 2018-2019 be commended to Council for approval.

### **Reason for the Decision:**

To enable the Western Bay Youth Justice and Early Intervention Service on behalf of Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council to undertake its duties to deliver youth justice services in line with the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. Services include preventing children and young people from entering the youth justice system, supervising young people in the community, the secure estate, supporting families and victims in partnership with other agencies.

### **Implementation of Decision:**

The decision will be implemented after the 3 day call in period.

## 5. **QUARTERLY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS - CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SERVICES**

### **Decision:**

That the report be noted.

## 6. **QUARTERLY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS - ADULT SERVICES**

### **Decision:**

That the report be noted.

## 7. **COMMISSIONING OF LEARNING DISABILITY SERVICES**

### **Decisions:**

1. That the Head of Commissioning, Support and Direct Services take the lead in commencing a procurement exercise in order to establish a framework for the provision of supported living schemes and specialist domiciliary care services for people with a learning disability, which can be capable of being used by Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council and Abertawe Bro Morgannwg University Health Board;

2. That following the procurement process, the Head of Commissioning, Support and Direct Services be granted delegated authority to enter into a framework agreement with the bidder(s) evaluated as offering the most economically advantageous tender (taking into account the quality and cost of the bids), for the provision of supported living and specialist domiciliary care service for people with a learning disability;
3. That when the framework has been established the Head of Commissioning, Support and Direct Services to use the framework, where appropriate to purchase supported living and specialist domiciliary care services;
4. That subsequent to the establishment of the framework, the Head of Commissioning, Support and Direct Services use the framework to commence a mini-competition for the re-procurement of existing supported living schemes and specialist domiciliary care services for people with a learning disability;
5. If required, public consultation be undertaken to implement the proposal;
6. That the Head of Commissioning, Support and Direct Services enter into an agreement with Abertawe Bro Morgannwg University Health Board to lead and host the framework.

**Reason for Decisions:**

Undertaking a procurement exercise to establish a framework for supported living schemes and specialist domiciliary care services for people with a learning disability will ensure that the Council is legally compliant when purchasing these services. In addition, this will ensure that the Council is best placed to continue meeting the needs and demands of those that require these services through the purchasing of high quality and financially sustainable services.

Re-procuring supported living schemes and specialist domiciliary care services for people with a learning disability provides an opportunity to review current services and ensure that they are best placed to meet current and future needs. In addition, the re-procurement exercise will ensure that the Council is compliant with the Public Contract Regulations 2015 and the Council's Contract Procedure Rules.

If the decision results in a change to the type or level of service, entering into a public consultation will ensure that the views and opinions of the public inform the Council's decision making.

Entering into an arrangement with ABMU Health Board in regards to the development and hosting of the framework will offer protection to the Council in the event of a dispute between partner authorities.

### **Implementation of Decisions:**

That the decisions will be implemented after the three day call in period.

### **Consultation:**

There was no requirement under the Constitution for external consultation on this item but there may be a requirement to undertake public consultation if it is identified that the procurement exercise represents a change to the nature or level of service. However, at this stage it is not believed that the procurement exercise will result in a change to the nature or level of service as the services are based on the service users care plan.

As detailed in the decisions point 5 Officers will undertake a public consultation exercise if there is an identified need to do so.

To ensure co-production in the commissioning of services, officers will undertake engagement with all key stakeholders, including those that use services and their families/carers. Feedback from this engagement will support both the establishment of the framework and the purchasing of services through the framework.

## 8. **FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME 2018/19**

### **Decision:**

Noted

9. **ACCESS TO MEETINGS**

**Decision:**

That pursuant Regulation 4 (3) and (5) of Statutory Instrument 2001 No. 2290, the public be excluded for the following item of business which involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 14 of Part 4 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972.

10. **CONTRACTUAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR NEATH PORT TALBOT CARER RELATED SERVICES (EXEMPT UNDER PARAGRAPH 14)**

**Decisions:**

1. That the Head of Commissioning, Support and Direct Services be granted delegated authority to enter into a new contract with NPT Carers Service for the provision of Carer related services until 31 March 2018, with an option to extend this contract for a further period of up to 12 months;
2. That if required a public consultation to be undertaken to support the recommissioning and procurement of Carer related services;
3. That subsequent to a review of the current Carer related services, a competitive open procurement exercise be commenced to re-procure these services;
4. That following the procurement process, the Head of Commissioning, Support and Direct Services be granted delegated authority to enter into a new contract(s) with the bidder(s) evaluated as offering the most economically advantageous tender (taking into account the quality and cost of the bids) for the provision of Carer related services.

**Reason for Decisions:**

To enable the Council to enter into a new contract with NPT Carers Service will provide the Council with a legally binding agreement setting out the approved terms of working with NPT Carers Service and ABMU Health Board. This will offer protection to the Council in the event of a dispute and ensure that the provider delivers in line with the Council's expectations.

### **Implementation of Decisions:**

That the decision will be implemented after the three day call in period.

### **Consultation:**

There is no requirement under the Constitution for external consultation on this item but following a review of the current service mode, there may be a requirement to undertake public consultation if it is identified that the new service model to be commissioned requires a change to the nature or level of service.

## 11. **REVIEW OF HOMECARE SERVICES (EXEMPT UNDER PARAGRAPH 14)**

### **Decisions:**

1. That the Head of Commissioning, Support and Direct Services undertake a review and consider options in regards to the Councils Homecare Service model;
2. That the Head of Commissioning, Support and Direct Services as part of the review and consideration of options commences engagement and communication with the Homecare Workforce.

### **Reason for Decisions:**

To ensure that we have a sustainable Homecare service that is able to meet the changing needs and demands of our local population and to ensure that the workforce has an opportunity to shape and inform decision making in regards to the future Homecare model.

### **Implementation of Decisions:**

The decision will be implemented after the three day call in period.

## 12. **PROPOSED NEW LEASE FROM TAI TARIAN (EXEMPT UNDER PARAGRAPH 14)**

### **Decision:**

That approval be granted in principle to renew the Lease for a further 5 years on terms and conditions to be agreed by the Head of Property and Regeneration in consultation with the Head of Commissioning, Support and Direct Services.

**Reason for Decision:**

The reason for the decision is to enable the Service to enter into a lease agreement with Tai Tarian for 32 Southville Road, Port Talbot SA12 7DS for the continuation of the service.

**Implementation of the Decision:**

That the decision will be implemented after the three day call in period.

**CHAIRPERSON**

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**EXECUTIVE DECISION RECORD**  
**CABINET BOARD - 11 OCTOBER 2018**  
**SOCIAL CARE, HEALTH AND WELLBEING CABINET BOARD**

**Cabinet Board Members:**

Councillors: P.D.Richards (Chairperson) and A.R.Lockyer

**Invitees:**

Councillors: L.M.Purcell (Scrutiny Chairperson)  
S.Freeguard (Vice Scrutiny Chairperson)

**Officers in Attendance:**

A.J.Thomas, Ms.K.Warren, N. Jones and N. Headon

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1. **APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRPERSON**

Agreed that Councillor P.D. Richards be appointed Chairperson for the meeting.

2. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

That the minutes of the 13 September 2018 be noted by Committee.

3. **WESTERN BAY SAFEGUARDING BOARDS ANNUAL REPORT 2017 - 2018**

**Decision:**

That the report be noted

4. **FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME 18/19**

Noted by Committee.

5. **ACCESS TO MEETINGS**

**Decision:**

That pursuant to Regulation 4 (3) and (5) of Statutory Instrument 2001 No. 2290, the public be excluded for the following item of business which involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraphs 13 and 14 of Part 4 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972.

6. **PROPOSAL TO EXTERNALLY COMMISSION PAYROLL, MANAGED ACCOUNT AND SUITABLE PERSON SERVICES**

**Decisions:**

1. That approval be granted to cease the Support Providers Framework;
2. That Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council commission a single organisation to provide payroll, managed accounts and suitable person services.

**Reason for Decisions:**

1. To alleviate micro commissioning responsibility of direct payment recipients;
2. To improve the efficiency of services;
3. To improve access between these functions and the Direct Payment Support Service;
4. To exercise greater control over these services;
5. To contribute to Forward Financial Plan savings targets.

**Implementation of Decisions:**

That the decisions will be implemented after the three day call in period.

7. **THE MANAGER'S REPORT ON HILLSIDE SECURE CHILDREN'S HOME**

**Decision:**

That the report be noted.

8. **THE CHILDREN'S HOME (WALES) REGULATIONS 2002**

**Decision:**

That the report be noted.

**CHAIRPERSON**

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## **(Lucy's Law)**

### **Ban the sale of puppies by pet shops and all commercial 3<sup>rd</sup> party dealers in Wales**

We call on the National Assembly for Wales to urge the Welsh Government to implement a ban on the sale of puppies by pet shops and all commercial third-party dealers.

A ban on third-party sale of puppies for profit has been named "Lucy's Law" and its implementation in England was recently announced. Lucy's Law has huge public, media and cross-party support and we call on the National Assembly for Wales to urge the Welsh Government to deliver Lucy's Law for Wales as a matter of urgency.

Removing puppies for sale from their mum often creates sick, traumatised, dysfunctional dogs. Puppies should be seen with their mum in the place they were born. Transporting them to a different place for sale harms their welfare. Regulating commercial third-party puppy selling is ineffective in preventing harm and a ban is therefore necessary for the welfare of puppies.

Breeding dogs kept in puppy farms are hidden from public view and often suffer from years of physical and psychological trauma. Regulating commercial third-party puppy selling is ineffective in preventing harm to breeding dogs and a third-party ban on puppy selling is therefore necessary for the welfare of breeding dogs.

A ban on the third-party sale of puppies will have a positive impact on breeding dogs, ensuring their visibility and enabling the public to act on best practice advice to view the puppy with the mum where the puppy was born.

In addition, illegal, unlicensed puppy farmers and puppy smugglers currently use licensed third-parties to sell their puppies, making it possible for them to operate under the radar and without the health and welfare of breeding dogs and puppies able to be monitored by local authorities. Regulating commercial third-party puppy selling is ineffective in preventing illegal puppy farming and puppy smuggling and a third-party ban on puppy selling is therefore necessary for the protection of dogs, puppies and the public as well as in the prevention of criminal activity.

There is no welfare advantages in selling puppies through commercial dealers. This practice only ensures breeding dogs are kept hidden from the public. As well as welfare concerns for animals, third party sales create additional risks for public health and safety.

Puppy sales direct from reputable breeder or reputable rescue centre protects all parties through greater transparency and accountability. A ban on dealing in puppies for profit can only raise health and welfare standards for breeding dogs and puppies as well as providing greatly needed public protection.

The implementation of Lucy's Law in Wales is also vital if we are to address the damage that has been done to the reputation of Wales, which continues to be acknowledged as the puppy farming hub of the United Kingdom.



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