



**Neath Port Talbot**  
**Castell-nedd Port Talbot**  
County Borough Council Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol

## **COMMUNITY REVIEW**

# **REVIEW OF THE COMMUNITY BOUNDARY AND ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS WITHIN THE COUNTY BOROUGH OF NEATH PORT TALBOT**

## **STAGE 3: FINAL PROPOSALS**

## **TERMS OF REFERENCE**

## **Community Review**

### **Review of the Community Boundary and Electoral Arrangements within the County Borough of Neath Port Talbot**

#### **Final Proposals**

##### **Introduction**

On 1<sup>st</sup> June 2013 Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council initiated a community review to consider what changes, if any, are needed to existing community arrangements across the whole of the County Borough of Neath Port Talbot.

The first stage of the review, which concluded in September 2013, was to ask all residents and interested parties to consider the current arrangements and submit their views of support or proposals for change. These submissions were reviewed and draft proposals drawn up and made available for public consultation from the 1<sup>st</sup> March 2014 to 31<sup>st</sup> May 2014.

Following the publication of the draft proposals and on advice from the Local Democracy and Boundary Commission for Wales, a further short four week consultation period will be undertaken from April 2015. This additional consultation will include some minor alterations to resolve certain community ward boundary anomalies primarily due to urban development.

##### **Review of Preliminary Submissions**

With regard to the Terms of Reference, Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council has undertaken an unbiased analysis of all the Stage one submissions received and has made nine proposed alterations to existing community arrangements and ten proposed changes to existing community ward boundaries, as itemised in the attached appendices.

For the purpose of the analysis, a community has been viewed as having a characteristic of a sense of identity that is often accompanied by a sense of separation from people living outside the area.

This characteristic stems from a combination of social, economic, geographical, economic and cultural influences. Submissions have been

rejected where there isn't a clear identifiable community being proposed.

The review also looked at community name changes and alterations to existing boundaries. Name changes will only be proposed where it is believed that the change will improve recognition and the identity of the community.

Boundary changes have been proposed where either an identifiable community has expanded beyond the current boundary due to housing development or change of land use or where a change to a physical barrier (river, main road, railway line) between two communities will give greater definition and clarity 'on-the-ground' to the communities in question.

### **Further Draft Proposals**

Further Draft proposals have been made on the basis of the review of preliminary submissions explained above. These proposals are technical submissions and advice and support from the Local Democracy and Boundary Commission. It is expected that the public consultation on these additional proposals will inform the final proposals by clarifying the position of all the affected residents.

A summary of all the further draft proposals has been attached in Appendix A and B.

### **Final Proposals**

A detailed breakdown of the submissions received and final proposals made has been split into the two main areas of the Council and attached in Appendix C (Aberavon) and Appendix D (Neath).

18 communities have no changes proposed for them. They are:

- Blaengwrach
  - Clyne & Melincourt
  - Coedffranc
  - Crynant
  - Cwmllynfell
  - Dyffryn Clydach
  - Glynneath
  - Gwaun-Cae-Gurwen
  - Pelenna
  - Resolven
  - Seven Sisters
  - Tonna
- 
- Baglan Bay
  - Bryn
  - Cwmavon
  - Glyncorrwg
  - Sandfields East
  - Sandfields West

13 communities have one or more changes proposed for them. They are:

- Aberavon
- Baglan
- Blaenhonddan
- Briton Ferry
- Cilybebyll
- Margam
- Margam Moors
- Neath
- Onllwyn
- Pontardawe
- Port Talbot
- Tai-bach
- Ystalyfera

Submissions have been received that proposed the creation of a new community council. These submissions have not been taken forward as this review may not physically create a community council. Where appropriate the review has put forward draft proposals for alterations to boundaries of the community. These alterations are in anticipation that once the review has concluded, the electorate within the community may consider taking forward proposals for the establishment of a new Community Council.

### **Timetable for the Review**

The review started on 1 June 2013 with the final recommendations being submitted for adoption in September 2014.

The public consultation on these further draft proposals will run from 13 April, 2015 to 8 May 2015. In order to be considered a submission, it must be received no later than midnight on 8 May 2015.

<b>Action</b>	<b>Period</b>	<b>Date</b>
Start of Review Further Proposals		13 April 2015
Preliminary Investigation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Invite initial submissions</li> </ul>	Four Weeks	13 April 2015 – 8 May 2015
Consideration of submissions received	Two Weeks	11 May 2015 – 22 May 2015
Final Proposal Publication <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Publish final proposals &amp; send recommendations to Local Democracy and Boundary Commission</li> </ul>		June 2015

### **Making a Submission**

All comments and submissions on the further draft proposals will be given due consideration in the review if the following criteria are met:

- Comments refer to the draft proposals. Other matters will not be considered as part of this review.
- Comments shall be received on the pro-forma submissions form or a form to like effect.
- Comments are received by midnight of the timetabled deadline.
- All comments are received with a name and address identifying the sender. Anonymous submissions will not be accepted, though personal details of members of the public will not be made public. Submissions from representative bodies and persons such as Councils, Councillors and AMs, MPs will be named within the report.
- Where an organisation or an individual is making a submission, it shall show how it is made “in the interests of effective and convenient local government”.

### **Supporting Information**

Further information relating to the review, including electorate figures, uncontested election results and maps showing existing boundaries are available at the Council’s main office’s and on the Councils Electoral Service website.

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[www.npt.gov.uk/elections](http://www.npt.gov.uk/elections)