

NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

Policy and Resources Cabinet Board

15 February 2017

Report of the Head of Corporate Strategy and Democratic Services

Matter for Decision

Wards Affected: All Wards

Review of the Seaward Boundaries of the City and County of Swansea and the County Borough of Neath Port Talbot

Purpose of the Report

1. To inform the Cabinet Board of the Local Democracy and Boundary Commission for Wales' proposals emanating from its review of the seaward boundaries of the City and County of Swansea and the County Borough of Neath Port Talbot and to approve the Council's response to the proposals.

Background

2. The Local Democracy and Boundary Commission for Wales is an independent and impartial non-departmental public body which is responsible for reviewing all local government areas in Wales, and the electoral arrangements for the principal areas, and to make such proposals to the Welsh Government as seem desirable in the interests of effective and convenient local government.

3. The Commission are currently conducting a review of the seaward boundaries of the City and County of Swansea and the County Borough of Neath Port Talbot.
4. As part of the Commission's review it will aim to determine what changes (if any) to the current boundaries may be desirable in the interest of effective and convenient local government and to make recommendations accordingly to Welsh Ministers.

Legal Framework

5. The review will be conducted under Section 28 of the Local Government (Democracy) (Wales) Act 2013.

Commission Proposal

6. The Commission chose to undertake the current review following a request by Tidal Lagoon Swansea Bay PLC to extend the seaward boundaries of the City and County Council of Swansea and Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council to allow them to monitor, regulate and (if need be) conduct enforcement activities relating to the construction and operation of the proposed Swansea Bay Tidal Lagoon Project.
7. The proposal submitted to the Commission is for an initial extension of the seaward boundaries to encompass the construction phase of the project. Once the construction is complete the boundary is to be realigned so as to just encompass the operational extent of the Tidal lagoon (See Appendix A).
8. The Commission is aware of the Council's role in the current review process and has requested initial views by 23 February 2017.
9. After this date the Commission will consider all the evidence and prepare a Draft Proposals Report.
10. The second stage of the review will start with the publication of these Draft Proposals.

11. This will present a further opportunity for comments and representations to be made. The Commission will then consider these representations and prepare their Final Proposals report.
12. These will be published and submitted to the Welsh Ministers, who may give effect to the proposals either as submitted or with modifications.

The Council's Response

13. In response to the Commission's request for initial views, and in consultation with the Head of Planning and Public Protection, it is recommended that Members support the Commission's proposal, as outlined in Appendix A, in the interests of effective and convenient local government ensuring clear jurisdictional boundaries to allow for robust monitoring, regulatory and enforcement activities, as and when necessary.

Financial Impact

14. There are no financial impacts associated with this report.

Equality Impact Assessment

15. A screening assessment has been undertaken to assist the Council in discharging its Public Sector Equality Duty under the Equality Act 2010, after completing the screening assessment it has been determined that this decision does not require a Full Equality Impact Assessment.

Workforce Impacts

16. There are no workforce impacts associated with this report.

Legal Powers

17. Local Government (Democracy) (Wales) Act 2013
<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/anaw/2013/4/contents>

Risk Management

18. There are no significant risk management issues associated with this report.

Consultation

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

Recommendations

20. That the draft response to the Local Democracy and Boundary Commission for Wales' relating to the Review of Seaward Boundaries between the County and County of Swansea and the County Borough of Neath Port Talbot, be recommended for approval by the Cabinet Board.

Reason for Proposed Decision

21. To allow the Council to formally respond to the Local Democracy and Boundary Commission for Wales' consultation which is due to conclude on Thursday, 23 February, 2017.

Implementation of Decision

22. The decision is for immediate implementation.

List of Background Papers

Seaward Boundary Reviews: Policy and Practice 2017

<http://ldbc.gov.wales/publications/guidance/58893653/?lang=en>

Appendices

Appendix A - Extent of Seaward Boundaries at Swansea Bay

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