Aberavon Electoral Ward	No. of Clirs		Electorate	
	Current	Proposed	Current	5 Year
				Projected
Aberavon	3	3	4,072	4,133
Aberavon Community Ward			2,681	2,742
Baglan Moors Community Ward		1,391	1,391	

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.

If the Electoral Ward was to change to a two member ward this would result in a variance of 11.4%.

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

Community Tie Arguments

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

Topographical Arguments

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.

The electoral ward contains Neath Port Talbot Hospital and a number of large retail and industrial units - primarily in Baglan Industrial Estate.

Rural/Urban Divide

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.

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.

Community Area and Community Ward

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.

Single Versus Multi-Member Wards

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

Option

No change to existing arrangements for the reasons outlined above.					
This creates a 5 year projected elector	This creates a 5 year projected electorate of 4,133.				
Proposed Councillor: Elector Ratio (based on current electorate)1 : 1,357Variance-25.8%					

Aberdulais Electoral Ward	No. of Clirs		Electorate	
	Current	Proposed	Current	5 Year
				Projected
Aberdulais	1	1	1,683	1,683
Aberdulais Community Ward		930	930	
Cilfrew Community Ward		753	753	

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.

Community Ties Arguments

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

Topographical Arguments

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 Ffforest.

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.

Rural/Urban Divide

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.

The Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation places Aberdulais as the 858th most deprived area in Wales (out of 1,909) which is the top 30-50%.

Community Area and Community Ward

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.

Single Versus Multi-Member Wards

Aberdulais is a single member ward.

Option

No change to existing arrangements.

This creates a 5 year projected electorate of 1,683.

Proposed Councillor: Elector Ratio	1:1,683	Variance	-7.9%
(based on current electorate)			

Alltwen Electoral Ward	No. of Clirs		Electorate		
	Current	Proposed	Current	5 Year	
				Projected	
Alltwen	1	1	2,011	2,137	

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 1,148th 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.

Proposed Councillor: Elector Ratio	1 : 2,011	Variance	10.0%
(based on current electorate)			

Baglan Electoral Ward	No. of Clirs		Electorate	
	Current	Proposed	Current	5 Year
				Projected
Baglan	3	3	5,291	5,625

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 704th, 1,123rd, 1,452nd and 1,773rd 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.

Proposed Councillor: Elector Ratio	1 : 1,764	Variance	-3.5%
(based on current electorate)			

Blaengwrach Electoral Ward	No. of Clirs		Electorate	
	Current	Proposed	Current	5 Year
				Projected
Blaengwrach	1	2* (when combined	1,468	1,501

	with Glynneath)			
Blaengwrach Community Ward		852	852	

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.

If Blaengwrach and Glynneath Electoral Wards were combined to form a two member ward this would result in a variance of 10.5%.

Community Tie Arguments

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.

Topographical Arguments

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.

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.

Rural/Urban Divide

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.

The Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation places Blaengwrach as 618th most deprived area in Wales (top 30-50%). Glynneath has been divided into two, one area is the 387th most deprived area in Wales (top 20-30%) and the other is the 1,011th most deprived (bottom 50%).

Community Area and Community Ward

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.

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 Ward to form a two member ward. This creates a 5 year projected elector	-	its neighbouring Glynn	eath Electoral			
Proposed Councillor: Elector Ratio 1: 2,020 Variance 10.5%						
(based on current electorate)						

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Briton Ferry East Electoral	No. of Cllrs		erry East Electoral No. of Clirs Electorate		
Ward	Current Proposed		Current	5 Year	
				Projected	

Briton Ferry East	1	1	2,124	2,124
Craig-Y-Darren Community Ward			710	710
Cwrt Sart Community Ward		1,414	1,414	

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.

Community Tie Arguments

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

Topographical Arguments

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.

Rural/Urban Divide

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 323rd and 864th most deprived areas in Wales (out of 1,909). This places them in the top 10-20% and top 30-50% respectively.

Community Area and Community Ward

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.

Single Versus Multi-Member Wards

Briton Ferry East is a single member ward.

Option

No change to existing arrangements.

This creates a 5 year projected electorate of 2,124.

Proposed Councillor: Elector Ratio	1 : 2,124	Variance	16.2%
(based on current electorate)			

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

Briton Ferry West	1	1	2,028	2,028
Brynhyfryd Community Ward			1,007	1,007
Shelone Wood Community W	ard		1,021	1,021

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.

Community Tie Arguments

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

Topographical Arguments

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.

Rural/Urban Divide

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^{rd} and 518^{th} 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^{th} 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%).

Community Area and Community Ward

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.

Single Versus Multi-Member Wards

Briton Ferry West is a single member ward.

Option

No change to existing arrangements.

This creates a 5 year projected electorate of 2,028.

Proposed Councillor: Elector Ratio	1 : 2,028	Variance	10.9%
(based on current electorate)			

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

Bryn and Cwmavon	3	3	5,130	5,316

Bryn and Cwmavon Electoral Ward currently deviates from the Commission's Councillor: Elector Ratio by -6.5%.

The neighbouring Electoral Ward of Pelenna currently deviates from the Councillor: Elector Ratio by -51.9%.

The Electoral Ward of Cimla, which also neighbours Pelenna currently deviates from the Councillor Elector Ratio by -15.0%.

Little population growth is anticipated in any of these electoral wards over the next five years.

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%.

Community Tie Arguments

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.

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.

Topographical Arguments

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.

Rural/Urban Divide

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.

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.

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 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%), 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.

Proposed Councillor: Elector Ratio	1 : 1,870	Variance	2.3%
 Combine Pontrhydyfen with 			
Bryn and Cwmavon			
(based on current electorate)			

Bryncoch North Electoral	No. of Clirs		Electorate	
Ward	Current	Proposed	Current	5 Year

				Projected
Bryncoch North	1	1	1,794	1,947

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.

Community Tie Arguments

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

Topographical Arguments

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.

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.

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 $1,443^{rd}$ and $1,760^{th}$ 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.

Community Area and Community Ward

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.

Single Versus Multi-Member Wards

Bryncoch North is a single member ward.

Option

No change to existing arrangements.

This creates a 5 year projected electorate of 1,947.

Proposed Councillor: Elector Ratio	1 : 1,794	Variance	-1.9%
(based on current electorate)			

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

				Projected
Bryncoch South	2	2	4,486	4,491

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 Dyffyrn 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 Dyffyrn 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 Dyffyryn 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.

Proposed Councillor: Elector Ratio	1 : 1,901	Variance	4%
(based on current electorate)			

Cadoxton Electoral Ward	No. of Clirs		Electorate	
	Current	Proposed	Current	5 Year

				Projected
Cadoxton	1	1	1,346	1,436

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.

Community Tie Arguments

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

Topographical Arguments

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.

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.

The River Neath and A465 create a natural boundary between Cadoxton and Neath North.

Rural/Urban Divide

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.

It is an affluent area of Neath Port Talbot. The Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation places Cadoxton as the 1,684th 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.

Community Area and Community Ward

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.

Single Versus Multi-Member Wards

Cadoxton is a single member ward.

Option

No change to existing arrangements.					
Proposed Councillor: Elector Ratio	1 : 1,346	Variance	-26.4%		
(based on current electorate)					

Cimla Electoral Ward	No. of Clirs	Electorate
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	Current	Proposed	Current	5 Year
				Projected
Cimla	2	2	3,108	3,117
Cefn Saeson Community Ward			2,118	2,118
Crynallt Community Ward			990	999

Bryn and Cwmavon Electoral Ward currently deviate from the Commission's Councillor: Elector Ratio by -6.5%.

The neighbouring Electoral Ward of Pelenna currently deviates from the Commission's Councillor: Elector Ratio by -51.9%.

The Electoral Ward of Cimla, which also neighbours Pelenna currently deviates from the Commissions' Councillor:Elector Ratio by -15.0%.

Little population growth is anticipated in any of these electoral wards over the next five years.

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%.

Community Tie Arguments

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.

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.

Topographical Arguments

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.

Rural/Urban Divide

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.

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.

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 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

Proposed Councillor : Elector	1: 1,754	Variance	-4%
Ratio – Combine Tonmawr with			
Cimla			
(based on current electorate)			

Coedffranc Central	No. of Clirs	Electorate

Electoral Ward	Current	Proposed	Current	5 Year
				Projected
Coedffranc Central	2	2	2,812	2,837
Central Ward			1,639	1,664
East Central Ward			1,173	1,173

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.

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.

Community Ties Arguments

See Topographical Arguments.

Topographical Arguments

Coedffranc Central is separated from Coedffranc North by the Rail Network Line and the A4230.

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.

Rural/Urban Divide

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.

The Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation divides Coedffranc Central into 3 Lower Super Output Area and are the 216th (top 10-20%), 659th and 830th (top 30-50%) most deprived areas in Wales (out of 1,909).

Community Area and Community Ward

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.

Single Versus Multi-Member Ward

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

Options

Move the following streets/electors to the Coedffranc Central Electoral Ward: Charles Street (47 electors) Christopher Road (42 electors) 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) Wern Road (61 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. Proposed Councillor : Elector 1 : 1,682 Variance -8% Ratio

(based on current electorate)

Coedffranc North Electoral No. of Clirs	Electorate
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Ward	Current	Proposed	Current	5 Year Projected
Coedffranc North	1	1	1,798	1,798

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.

Community Tie Arguments

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

Topographical Arguments

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.

Rural/Urban Divide

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.

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).

Community Area and Community Ward

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.

Single Versus Multi-Member Wards

Coedffranc North is a single member ward.

Option

No change to existing arrangements.

This creates a 5 year projected electorate of 1,798.

Proposed Councillor : Elector	1:1,798	Variance	-1.7%
Ratio			
(based on current electorate)			

Coedffranc West Electoral	No. of Clirs		Electorate	
Ward	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

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.

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.

Community Ties Arguments

See Topographical Arguments.

Topographical Arguments

Coedffranc West is separated from Coedffranc North by the Rail Network Line and the M4 Motorway.

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.

Rural/Urban Divide

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.

The Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation places Coedffranc West as the 1,344th most deprived area in Wales (out of 1,909) placing it in the bottom 50%.

Community Area and Community Ward

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.

Single Versus Multi-Member Ward

Coedffranc West is currently a single member ward.

Option

Move the following streets/electors to the Coedffranc Central Electoral Ward: Charles Street (47 electors) Christopher Road (42 electors) 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

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.

Proposed Councillor : Elector	1 : 1,342	Variance	-26.6% -
Ratio			
(based on current electorate)			

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

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 1,027th most deprived area in Wales, Onllwyn as the 598th most deprived and Seven Sisters as 519th 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.

Proposed Councillor: Elector Ratio	1:1,981	Variance	8.4%
(based on current electorate)			

Cwmllynfell Electoral Ward	No. of Clirs		Electorate	
	Current	Proposed	Current	5 Year
				Projected
> Cwmllynfell	1	2* (when comined with Gwaun-Cae- Gurwen and Lower Brynamman)	936	997
Cwmllynfell Community Ward			693	754
Penrhiwfawr Community Wa	rd		243	243

Cwmllynfell currently deviates from the Commission's Councillor: Elector Ratio by -48.8%.

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%.

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%.

Community Tie 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.

Cwmllynfell forms part of the Upper Swansea Valley.

Lower Brynamman and Gwaun-Cae-Gurwen form the Amman Valley.

Topographical Arguments

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.

The A4069 directly connects Lower Brynamman to Gwaun-Cae-Gurwen.

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.

Rural/Urban Divide

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.

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.

Penrhiwfawr is considered a dormitory settlement with minimal or no facilities, served by minimal or no public transport.

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

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.

Proposed Councillor: Elector Ratio	1 : 2,101	Variance	14.9%
– Combine Gwaun-Cae-Gurwen,			
Lower Brynamman and			
Cwmllynfell			
(based on current electorate)			

Cymmer Electoral Ward	No. of Clirs		Electorate	
	Current	Proposed	Current	5 Year
				Projected
Cymmer	1	2*(when combined	1,999	1,999
		with Glyncorrwg and Gywnfi)		

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. Gywnfi is the 177th most deprived area in Wales (out of 1,909 Lower Super Output Areas), Glyncorrwg is the 284th most deprived and Cymmer which is divided into two areas in Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation has the 22nd and 372nd 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 Gwyfni 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.

Proposed Councillor : Elector	1:1,844	Variance	0.8%
Ratio			
(based on current electorate)			

Dyffryn Electoral Ward	No. of Clirs		Electorate	
	Current Proposed		Current	5 Year
				Projected
Dyffryn	1	2	2,383	2,547

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 Dyffyrn 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 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 Dyffyrn 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 Dyffyryn 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 Dyffyrn 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.

Proposed Councillor : Elector	1 : 1,534	Variance	-16.1%
Ratio			
(based on current electorate)			

Glyncorrwg Electoral Ward	No. of Clirs		Electorate	
	Current	Proposed	Current	5 Year
				Projected
Glyncorrwg	1	2*(when combined	782	782
		with Cymmer and Gwynfi)		

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. Gywnfi is the 177th most deprived area in Wales (out of 1,909 Lower Super Output Areas), Glyncorrwg is the 284th most deprived and Cymmer which is divided into two areas in Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation has the 22nd and 372nd 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 Gwyfni 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.

Proposed Councillor: Elector Ratio	1:1,844	Variance	0.8%
(based on current electorate)			

Glynneath Electoral Ward	No. of Clirs		Electorate	
	Current	Proposed	Current	5 Year
				Projected
Glynneath	2	2*(when combined	2,572	2,639
		with Blaengwrach)		
Central Community Ward			1,096	1,163
East Community Ward			738	738
West Community Ward			738	738
West Central Community Ward		616	616	

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%.

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%.

Community Tie Arguments

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.

Topographical Arguments

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.

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.

Rural/Urban Divide

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.

The Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation places Blaengwrach as 618th most deprived area in Wales (top 30-50%). Glynneath has been divided into two, one area is the 387th most deprived area in Wales (top 20-30%) and the other is the 1,011th most deprived (bottom 50%). There are varying levels of deprivation throughout the two electoral wards which is currently the case.

Community Area and Community Ward

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.

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.

Proposed Councillor: Elector Ratio	1 : 2,020	Variance	10.5%
(based on current electorate)			

Godrergraig Electoral Ward	No. of Clirs		Electorate	
	Current	Proposed	Current	5 Year
				Projected
Godrergraig	1	1	1,493	1,493

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%.

If Godreregraig and Ystalyfera Electoral Wards were combined to form a two member ward this would result in a variance of -0.8%.

Community Tie Arguments

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.

Ystalyfera and Godrergraig form part of the Upper Swansea Valley.

Topographical Arguments

The A4067 directly connects Ystalyfera and Godrergraig.

Rural/Urban Divide

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.

Godregraig is the 745th most deprived area in Wales placing it in the top 30-50%.

Community Area and Community Ward

Godrergraig has one community ward – Godrergraig, which form part of Ystalyfera Community Council.

Single Versus Multi-Member Ward

Godrergraig is a single member ward.

Option

No change to existing arrangements.

This creates a 5 year projected electorate of 1,1493.

Proposed Councillor: Elector Ratio	1 : 1,493	Variance	-18.3%
(based on current electorate)			

Gwaun-Cae-Gurwen	No. of Clirs		Electorate	
Electoral Ward	Current	Proposed	Current	5 Year
				Projected
Gwaun-Cae-Gurwen	1	2* (when combined with Lower Brynamman and Cwmllynfell)	2,235	2,235
Cwmgors Community Ward			866	866
Gwaun-Cae-Gurwen Community Ward		1,369	1,369	

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%.

The Electoral Ward at the top of the Swansea Valley, Cwmllynfell currently deviates from the Commission's Councillor: Elector Ratio by -48.8%.

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%.

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.

Cwmllynfell forms part of the Upper Swansea Valley.

Lower Brynamman and Gwaun-Cae-Gurwen form the Amman Valley.

Topographical Arguments

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.

The A4069 directly connects Lower Brynamman to Gwaun-Cae-Gurwen.

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.

Rural/Urban Divide

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.

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.

Penrhiwfawr is considered a dormitory settlement with minimal or no facilities, served by minimal or no public transport.

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 Brynamman is the 627th 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 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.

Proposed Councillor: Elector Ratio	1 : 2,101	Variance	14.9%
– Combine Gwaun-Cae-Gurwen,			
Lower Brynamman & Cwmllynfell			
(based on current electorate)			

Gwynfi Electoral Ward	No. of Clirs		Electorate	
	Current	Proposed	Current	5 Year
				Projected
Gwynfi	1	1^{*} (when combined	906	906
		with Cymmer and Glyncorrwg)		

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. Gywnfi is the 177th most deprived area in Wales (out of 1,909 Lower Super Output Areas), Glyncorrwg is the 284th most deprived and Cymmer which is divided into two areas in Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation has the 22nd and 372nd 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.

Proposed Councillor: Elector Ratio	1 : 1,688	Variance	-7.6%
(based on current electorate)			

Lower Brynamman Electoral	No. of Clirs		Electorate	
Ward	Current	Proposed	Current	5 Year
				Projected
Lower Brynamman	1	2* (when combined with Gwaun-Cae- Gurwen and Cwmllynfell)	1,031	1,031
Tai'r Gwaith Community Ward			333	333
Lower Brynmman Community	/ Ward		698	698

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%.

The other Electoral Ward at the top of the Swansea Valley, Cwmllynfell currently deviates from the Commission's Councillor: Elector Ratio by -48.8%.

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%.

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.

Cwmllynfell forms part of the Upper Swansea Valley.

Lower Brynamman and Gwaun-Cae-Gurwen form the Amman Valley.

Topographical Arguments

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.

The A4069 directly connects Lower Brynamman to Gwaun-Cae-Gurwen.

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.

Rural/Urban Divide

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.

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.

Penrhiwfawr is considered a dormitory settlement with minimal or no facilities, served by minimal or no public transport.

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 Brynamman is the 627th 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 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.

Proposed Councillor: Elector Ratio	1 : 2,101	Variance	14.9%
– Combine Gwaun-Cae-Gurwen,			
Lower Brynamman & Cwmllynfell			
(based on current electorate)			

Margam Electoral Ward	No. of Clirs		Electorate	
	Current	Proposed	Current	5 Year
				Projected
Margam	1	1	2,275	2,598

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.

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.

Community Tie Arguments

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

Topographical Arguments

The natural divide between the Margam and Taibach Electoral Wards is the Arnallt Brook.

Rural/Urban Divide

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.

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.

Areas within the Margam Electoral Ward such as Ten Acre Wood, Eglwys Nunydd & St David's Park are described as Dormitory Settlement that is settlements with minimal or no facilities, served by minimal or no public transport.

The Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation divides Margam into 2 Lower Super Output Area and are the 576th (top 30-50%) and 1,433rd (bottom 50%) most deprived areas in Wales (out of 1,909).

Community Area and Community Ward

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.

Single Versus Multi-Member Wards

Margam is a single member ward.

Option

No change to existing arrangements. This creates a 5 year projected electorate of 2,598.

Proposed Councillor : Elector	1:2,275	Variance	24.4%
Ratio			
(based on current electorate)			

Neath East Electoral Ward	No. of Clirs		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

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 122nd, 148th, 328th and 340th 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 6th 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.

Proposed Councillor : Elector	1 : 1,473	Variance	-19.4%
Ratio			
(based on current electorate)			

Neath North Electoral Ward	No. of Clirs		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

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.

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.

Community Ties Arguments

No compelling arguments to suggest a change based on community ties.

Topographical Arguments

The Gnoll County Park acts as boundary between the Neath North and Neath South Electoral Wards.

Llantwit cemetery creates a boundary between the Neath North and Tonna Electoral Wards.

The A465 and River Neath separate Neath North from both the Bryncoch South and Cadoxton Electoral Wards.

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 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.

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 112th (top 10%), 334th (top 10-20%) and 1,456th (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.

Community Area and Community Ward

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.

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.

Proposed Councillor : Elector	1:1,477	Variance	-19.9%
Ratio			
(based on current electorate)			

Neath South Electoral Ward	No. of Clirs		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

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.

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 connecting point of the Afan Valley Road to Cimla Road at Cimla Common acts as a natural boundary between Neath South and Cimla.

The Gnoll County Park acts as boundary between the Neath North and Neath South Electoral Wards.

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.

In terms of the Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation, Neath South is divided into 3 Lower Super Output Areas and places them as the 249th (top 10-20%), 437th (top 20-30%) and 1,667th (bottom 50%) most deprived areas in Wales (out of 1,909).

Community Area and Community Ward

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.

Single Versus Multi-Member Ward

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.

Option

No change to existing arrangements

This creates a 5 year projected electorate of 3,660

Proposed Councillor : Elector	1 : 1,807	Variance	-1.2%
Ratio			
(based on current electorate)			

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

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 1,027th most deprived area in Wales, Onllwyn as the 598th most deprived and Seven Sisters as 519th 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.

Proposed Councillor: Elector Ratio	1:1981	Variance	8.4%
(based on current electorate)			

Pelenna Electoral Ward	No. of Clirs		Electorate	
	Current	Proposed	Current	5 Year
				Projected
Pelenna	1	2*(when combined	879	904
		with Cimla) O		
		3*(when combined		
		with Bryn & Cwmavon)		
Pontrhydyfen Community Ward			480	480
Tonmawr Community Ward			399	424

Bryn and Cwmavon Electoral Ward currently deviates from the Commission's Councillor: Elector Ratio by -6.5%.

The neighbouring Electoral Ward of Pelenna currently deviates from the Commissions' Councillor: Elector Ratio by -51.9%.

The Electoral Ward of Cimla, which also neighbours Pelenna currently deviates from the Commission's Councillor Elector Ratio by -15.0%.

Little population growth is anticipated in any of these electoral wards over the next five years.

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%.

Community Tie Arguments

Tonmawr Community Ward has community ties with the Cimla Electoral Ward, while the Pontrhydyfen Community Ward has community ties with the Bryn and Cwmanvon Electoral Ward due to part of Pontrhydyfen (Oakwood) already being situated there.

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.

Topographical Arguments

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.

Rural/Urban Divide

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.

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.

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
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Droposod Councillory Floster Datio	1.1.070	Variance	2.3%
Proposed Councillor: Elector Ratio	1 : 1,870	Variance	2.3%
– Combine Pontrhydyfen			
Community Ward with Bryn and			
Cwmavon			
(based on current electorate)			
Proposed Councillor : Elector	1: 1,754	Variance	-4%
Ratio – Combine Tonmawr			
Community Ward with Cimla			

(based on current electorate)		

Pontardawe Electoral Ward	No. of Clirs		Electorate	
	Current	Proposed	Current	5 Year
				Projected
Pontardawe	2	3*(when combined with Trebanos)	4,155	4,498
Pontardawe Community Ward			3,619	3,759
Rhyd-Y-Fro Community Ward			536	739

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.

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.

If Pontardawe and Trebanos Electoral Wards were combined to form a three member ward this would result in a variance of -4.2%.

Community Tie Arguments

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.

Topographical Arguments

Pontardawe and Trebanos are directly connected by the A474.

The River Tawe and the A4067 seperates both Pontardawe and Trebanos from the Alltwen and Rhos Electoral Wards.

Pontardawe is a considerable distance from both the Gwaun-Cae-Gurwen and Godrergraig Electoral Wards that neighbour it.

Rural/Urban Divide

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.

It has a large number of retail and commercial businesses but also has a high number of farms and rural settlements.

The Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation divides Pontardawe into 3 Lower Super Output Areas that are the 741st, 747th and 877th (top 30-50%) most deprived areas in Wales (out of 1,909). Trebanos is the 907th most deprived area in Wales placing it in the top 30-50%.

Community Area and Community Ward

Pontardawe has two community wards – Pontardawe and Rhyd-Y-Fro, which form part of Pontardawe Town Council, along with the Community Ward of Trebanos.

Single Versus Multi-Member Wards

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

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.

Proposed Councillor: Elector Ratio	1 : 1,752	Variance	-4.2%
(based on current electorate)			

Port Talbot Electoral Ward	No. of Clirs		Electorate	
	Current	Proposed	Current	5 Year
				Projected
Port Talbot	3	3	4,177	4,296

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.

Community Tie Arguments

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

Topographical Arguments

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.

Rural/Urban Divide

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.

Port Talbot has a large volume of retail and commercial business situated within the town centre area.

The Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation divides Port Talbot into 4 Lower Super Output Areas that are the 315th (top 10-20%), 674th (top 30-50%), 680th (top 30-50%) and 1,032nd (bottom 50%) most deprived areas in Wales (out of 1,909).

Port Talbot has the third highest incident rate of anti-social behaviour in the County Borough.

Community Area and Community Wards

Port Talbot Electoral Ward forms the Community Ward of Port Talbot. There are no community councils situated in the area.

Single Versus Multi-Member Wards

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

Option

No change to existing arrangements.

This creates a 5 year projected electorate of 4,296.

Proposed Councillor: Elector Ratio	1 : 1,392	Variance	-23.8%
(based on current electorate)			

No. of Clirs		Electorate	
Current	Proposed	Current	5 Year
			Projected
1	1	2,351	2,351
yne and Melincourt Community			585
rd		195	195
unity Ward		985	985
		586	586
	1	1 1 unity	1 1 2,351 nunity 585 rd 195 985

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.

Community Tie Arguments

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

Topographical Arguments

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.

Rural/Urban Divide

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.

Clyne, Melincourt and Abergarwed are described as villages with a settlement with at least one community facility and adequate public transport links.

The Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation divides Resolven into 2 Lower Super Output Areas that are the 634th (top 30-50%) and the 975th (bottom 50%) most deprived areas in Wales (out of 1,909).

The area has below average rates of anti-social behaviour and substance misuse treatement users for the County Borough and above average levels of pupils who achieve $5 A^*$ - C grades at key stage level 4.

Community Area and Community Ward

Resolven has 4 Community Wards – Clyne & Melincourt, Abergarwed, North and South.

The Clyne and Melincourt Community Ward form Clyne and Melincourt Community Council.

The Community Wards of Abergarwed, North and South form Resolven Community Council.

Single Versus Multi-Member Wards

Resolven is a single member ward.

Option						
No change to existing arrangements.						
This creates a 5 year projected elected	orate of 2,351.					
Proposed Councillor: Elector Ratio 1:2,351 Variance 28.6%						
(based on current electorate)						

Rhos Electoral Ward	No. of Clirs		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

Rhos Electoral Ward currently deviates from the Commmission's Councillor: Elector ratio by 6.9% with this anticipated to increase to 13.7% in 5 years' time.

Community Tie Arguments

No compelling arguments to suggest a change based on community ties.

Topographical Arguments

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.

Rural/Urban Divide

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.

Gellinudd is described as a village with a settlement with at least one community facility and adequate public transport links.

The Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation divides Rhos into 2 Lower Super Output Areas that are the 1,342nd and the 1,687th most deprived areas in Wales (out of 1,909) placing both areas in the bottom 50%.

Community Area and Community Ward

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.

Single Versus Multi-Member Wards

Rhos is a single member ward.

Option

No change to existing arrangements.

This creates a 5 year projected electorate of 2,181.

Proposed Councillor: Elector Ratio	1 : 1,955	Variance	6.9%
– No Change			
(based on current electorate)			

Sandfields East Electoral	No. of Cllrs		Electorate	
Ward	Current	Proposed	Current	5 Year
				Projected
Sandfields East	3	3	4,992	5,248
-1				

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.

Community Tie Arguments

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

Topographical Arguments

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.

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.

Rural/Urban Divide

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.

The Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation divides Sanfields East into 4 Lower Super Output Areas that are the 98th (top 10%), 278th (top 10-20%), 354th (top 10-20%) and 977th (bottom 50%) most deprived areas in Wales (out of 1,909).

Sandfields East has the fourth highest incident rate of anti-social behaviour in the County Borough and the 2nd highest level of substance misuse treatment users.

Community Area and Community Ward

Sandfields East Electoral Ward forms the Community Ward of Sandfields East. There are no community councils situated in the area.

Single Versus Multi-Member Wards

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

Option

No change to existing arrangements.

This creates a 5 year projected electorate of 5,248.

Proposed Councillor: Elector Ratio	1 : 1,664	Variance	-9.0%
(based on current electorate)			

Sandfields West Electoral	No. of Cllrs		Electorate	
Ward	Current	Proposed	Current	5 Year
				Projected
Sandfields West	3	3	4,920	5,153
-1				

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.

Community Tie Arguments

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

Topographical Arguments

Sandfields West is separated from the Aberavon Electoral Ward by the A4241 Afan Way and Seaward Parade.

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.

Rural/Urban Divide

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.

The Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation divides Sanfields West into 4 Lower Super Output Areas that are the 72nd (top 10%), 133rd (top 10%), 212th (top 10-20%) and 397th (top 20-30%) most deprived areas in Wales (out of 1,909).

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 3rd highest level of substance misuse treatment users.

Community Area and Community Ward

Sandfields West Electoral Ward forms the Community Ward of Sandfields West. There are no community councils situated in the area.

Single Versus Multi-Member Wards

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

Option

No change to existing arrangements.

This creates a 5 year projected electorate of 5,153.

Proposed Councillor: Elector Ratio	1:1,640	Variance	-10.3%
(based on current electorate)			

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

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 1,027th most deprived area in Wales, Onllwyn as the 598th most deprived and Seven Sisters as 519th 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.

Proposed Councillor: Elector Ratio	1:1981	Variance	8.4%
(based on current electorate)			

Taibach Electoral Ward	No. of Cllrs	No. of Clirs		
	Current	Proposed	Current	5 Year
				Projected
Taibach	2	2	3,613	3,613
	-	-	3)013	3)813

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.

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.

Community Tie Arguments

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

Topographical Arguments

The natural divide between the Margam and Taibach Electoral Wards is the Arnallt Brook.

Rural/Urban Divide

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.

The Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation divides Taibach into 3 Lower Super Output Area and are the 361st (top 10-20%), 582nd (top 30-50%) and 584th (top 30-50%) most deprived areas in Wales (out of 1,909).

Community Area and Community Ward

Taibach Electoral Ward forms the Community Ward of Taibach. There are no community councils situated in the area.

Single Versus Multi-Member Wards

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

Option

No change to existing arrangements.

This creates a 5 year projected electorate of 3,613.

Proposed Councillor : Elector	1:1,807	Variance	-1.2%
Ratio			
(based on current electorate)			

Tonna Electoral Ward	No. of Clirs		Electorate		
	Current	Proposed	Current	5 Year	
				Projected	
Tonna	1	1	1,913	2,121	

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.

Community Tie Arguments

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

Topographical Arguments

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.

Rural/Urban Divide

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 590th (top 30 - 50%) and 1,614th (bottom 50%) most deprived areas in Wales (out of 1,909).

Community Area and Community Ward

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

Single Versus Multi-Member Wards

Tonna is a single member ward.

Option

No change to existing arrangements.

This creates a 5 year projected electorate of 2,121.

Proposed Councillor: Elector Ratio	1 : 1,913	Variance	4.6%
(based on current electorate)			

Trebanos Electoral Ward	No. of Cllrs		Electorate	
	Current	Proposed	Current	5 Year
				Projected
Trebanos	1	3 * (When combined with Pontardawe)	1,101	1,101

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.

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.

If Pontardawe and Trebanos Electoral Wards were combined to form a three member ward this would result in a variance of -4.2%.

Community Tie Arguments

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.

Topographical Arguments

Pontardawe and Trebanos are directly connected by the A474.

The River Tawe and the A4067 seperates both Pontardawe and Trebanos from the Alltwen and Rhos Electoral Wards.

Pontardawe is a considerable distance from both the Gwaun-Cae-Gurwen and Godrergraig Electoral Wards that neighbour it.

Rural/Urban Divide

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.

It has a large number of retail and commercial businesses but also has a high number of farms and rural settlements.

The Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation divides Pontardawe into 3 Lower Super Output Areas that are the 741st, 747th and 877th (top 30-50%) most deprived areas in Wales (out of 1,909). Trebanos is the 907th most deprived area in Wales placing it in the top 30-50%.

Community Area and Community Ward

Trebanos has one Community Ward – Trebanos, which form part of Pontardawe Town Council, along with the Community Wards of Pontardawe and Rhyd-Y-Fro.

Single Versus Multi-Member Wards

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

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 elected	orate of 5,599.								
Proposed Councillor: Elector Ratio	1 : 1,752	Variance	-4.2%						
(based on current electorate)									

Ystalyfera Electoral Ward	No. of Cllrs		Electorate				
	Current	Proposed	Current	5 Year			
				Projected			
Ystalyfera	1	1	2,134	2,314			

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%.

If Godreregraig and Ystalyfera Electoral Wards were combined to form a two member ward this would result in a variance of -0.8%.

Community Tie Arguments

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.

Topographical Arguments

The A4067 directly connects Ystalyfera and Godrergraig.

Rural/Urban Divide

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.

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%.

Community Area and Community Ward

Ystalyfera has one community ward – Ystalyfera which forms part of Ystalyfera Community Council.

Single Versus Multi-Member Ward

Ystalyfera is a single member ward.

Option

No change to existing arrangements.

This creates a 5 year projected electorate of 2,314.

Proposed Councillor: Elector Ratio	1 : 2,134	Variance	16.7%
(based on current electorate)			

Existing and Proposed Council Membership

<u>Changes to the number of Councillors related to wards where a single option</u> <u>is put forward for consideration</u>

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

*Boundary Change

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

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

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

Wards where no change is proposed

Electoral Ward	Current	Variance	New Electoral	Proposed	Variance
			Ward		
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	1	16.2%	Briton Ferry	1	16.2%
East			East		
Briton Ferry	1	10.9%	Briton Ferry	1	10.9%
West			West		
Bryncoch North	1	-1.9%	Bryncoch	1	-1.9%
			North		
Cadoxton	1	-26.4%	Cadoxton	1	-26.4%
Coedffranc	1	-1.7%	Coedffranc	1	-1.7%
North			North		
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	3	-9%
			East		
Sandfields West	3	-10.3%	Sandfields	3	-10.3%
			West		
Taibach	2	-1.2%	Taibach	2	9.2%
Tonna	1	4.6%	Tonna	1	4.6%
Ystalyfera	1	16.7%	Ystalyfera	1	16.7%
Total	39			39	

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 (<u>http://wimd.wales.gov.uk/explore?lang=en#z=12&lat=51.659&lng=-3.776&domain=overall</u>)
- Fire Incidences Obtained from the Wales Index of Multiple Deprivation 2014 (<u>http://wimd.wales.gov.uk/explore?lang=en#z=12&lat=51.659&Ing=-3.776&domain=overall</u>)
- 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 (<u>http://wimd.wales.gov.uk/explore?lang=en#z=12&lat=51.659&lng=-3.776&domain=overall</u>)

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
Bryncoch North		5	5		3			1		7				5		5		1		4		36
Bryncoch 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
Cymmer (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				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