

## **The Vale of Glamorgan Council**

### **Cabinet Meeting: 18 September, 2017**

#### **Report of the Electoral Registration Officer**

#### **Community Review – Cowbridge with Llanblethian Town Council and Penllyn Community Council**

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

1. To agree a community review of the boundary between Cowbridge with Llanblethian Town Council and Penllyn Community Council.

##### **Recommendations**

1. T H A T Cabinet notes the report and grants delegated authority to the Electoral Registration Officer to conduct a review of the community boundary between Cowbridge with Llanblethian Town Council and Penllyn Community Council, in accordance with the Local Government (Democracy) (Wales) Act 2013.
2. T H A T Cabinet approves the terms of reference of the review attached at [Appendix A](#) to this report.

##### **Reasons for the Recommendations**

1. To inform Cabinet of the key requirements in conducting such a review; and to authorise the Electoral Registration Officer to act accordingly.
2. To comply with the Local Government (Democracy) (Wales) Act 2013.

##### **Background**

2. The Council has a duty under s25 of the Local Government (Democracy) (Wales) Act 2013 ("the Act") to conduct a review of the community boundary for a community in its areas either of its own initiative or at the request of the community council for the community.
3. A request has been received from the Cowbridge with Llanblethian Town Council, ("the Community Council"), for a review to be undertaken of the community boundary between Cowbridge and Llanblethian Town Council and Penllyn Community Council.
4. The request highlights that the Town Council consider that due to the planned development on the land north west of Cowbridge known as Darren Farm this will

impact on community services provided but the Town Council will not benefit from an increased precept. Cowbridge with Llanblethian Town Council have therefore requested a community boundary review with Penllyn Community Council.

## **Relevant Issues and Options**

5. The attached terms of reference at [Appendix A](#), cater for the key statutory requirements for the review which are:
  - bring the review to the attention of the mandatory consultees and any other person it considers likely to be interested in the review;
  - consult the mandatory consultees on its intended procedure and methodology for the review;
  - conduct investigations as it considers appropriate;
  - after the initial consultation the Council must prepare a report containing any proposals for change or if it does not consider any change appropriate, a proposal to that effect and details of the review it conducted.
  - the review will be published electronically and will be available for public inspection. Copies of the report will also be sent to the Local Democracy and Boundary Commission for Wales and the mandatory consultees and a response will also be provided to all representatives who took part in the review.

## **Resource Implications (Financial and Employment)**

6. The publishing and administrative costs of the review will be met from the Electoral Registration Services existing budget.

## **Sustainability and Climate Change Implications**

7. There are no direct implications arising from this report.

## **Legal Implications (to Include Human Rights Implications)**

8. Sections 23 - 38 of the Act places the Council under a legal duty to conduct a review of electoral arrangements for a community at the request of a relevant community council.

## **Crime and Disorder Implications**

9. There are no direct implications arising from this report.

## **Equal Opportunities Implications (to include Welsh Language issues)**

10. There are no direct implications arising from this report, however, any proposed changes will be subject to an Equality Impact Assessment.

## **Corporate/Service Objectives**

11. Electoral Registration has links to the following corporate priority:

'Citizens of the Vale of Glamorgan can easily access efficiently managed services that are focused around their needs, have confidence in how decisions are made and are proud to live in the Vale.'

## **Policy Framework and Budget**

12. This report is a matter for Executive decision by Cabinet. A report detailing the outcome of the review will be presented to Cabinet in due course and thereafter Council for consideration and approval.

## **Consultation (including Ward Member Consultation)**

13. Consultation will take place as part of the review with the relevant ward Councillors.

## **Relevant Scrutiny Committee**

14. Corporate Performance and Resources

## **Background Papers**

Letter received from Cowbridge with Llanblethian Town Council dated 3 July 2017.

Local Government (Democracy) (Wales) Act 2013

## **Contact Officer**

Rebecca Light (Electoral Services Manager, Legal Services)

## **Officers Consulted**

Rob Thomas (Managing Director)

## **Responsible Officer:**

Debbie Marles (Electoral Registration Officer)