

The Vale of Glamorgan Council

Cabinet Meeting: 18 September, 2017

Report of the Electoral Registration Officer

Community Review – St. Brides Major Community Council

Purpose of the Report

1. To agree a community review of the number of members on the St. Brides Major 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 electoral arrangements relating to the number of members representing the St. Brides Major 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 s31 of the Local Government (Democracy) (Wales) Act 2013 ("the Act") to conduct a review of the electoral arrangements 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 St. Brides Major Community Council, ("the Community Council"), for a review to be undertaken of the number of members elected to the Ogmore by Sea Ward.
4. The request highlights that the Community Council consider that due to the increase in properties there is an unfair ratio of members to electors in the Ogmore by Sea Ward, proposing that the total number of members for the Ogmore by Sea Ward be increased from five to six.

5. St Brides Major Community Council is currently made up of five members for the Ogmore by Sea ward and six members for the St Brides Major ward. The current electorate for Ogmore By Sea is 942 which gives a ratio of 1:189. The current electors for St Brides Major is 798 which gives a ratio of 1:133. The planning forecast indicates an additional 100 dwellings in the Ogmore By Sea ward between 2017-2019.
6. It is proposed that as part of the review that the number of members elected to all wards on the St Brides Major Community Council be reviewed in light of the number of community councillors on the council.

Relevant Issues and Options

7. 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 Welsh Ministers 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)

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

Sustainability and Climate Change Implications

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

Legal Implications (to Include Human Rights Implications)

10. Sections 31 - 40 of the Act places the Council under a legal duty to conduct a review of electoral arrangements for a community at the request of the community council.

Crime and Disorder Implications

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

Equal Opportunities Implications (to include Welsh Language issues)

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

Corporate/Service Objectives

13. 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

14. 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)

15. Consultation has been undertaken with the relevant ward Councillors.

Relevant Scrutiny Committee

16. Corporate Performance and Resources

Background Papers

Email from St. Brides Major Community Council dated 26 June 2017.

Local Government (Democracy) (Wales) Act 2013

Contact Officer

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Officers Consulted

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