

## **The Vale of Glamorgan Council**

### **Cabinet Meeting: 5 February, 2018**

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

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

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

1. To seek Cabinet's endorsement of the Electoral Registration Officer's (ERO) proposal of no change in respect of the community review of the boundary between Cowbridge with Llanblethian Town Council and Penllyn Community Council.

#### **Recommendations**

1. T H A T Cabinet endorse the proposal as set out in [Appendix A](#) of this report.
2. T H A T the Electoral Registration Officer be authorised to continue with the 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.
3. T H A T Cabinet endorse the revised timetable.

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

1. To inform and seek the views of Cabinet on the proposal of the ERO.
2. To comply with the Local Government (Democracy) (Wales) Act 2013.
3. To endorse the amendment to the timetable which now makes reference to this report coming to Cabinet.

#### **Background**

2. A request was received from the Cowbridge with Llanblethian Town Council, ("the Town Council"), for a review to be undertaken of the community boundary between Cowbridge with Llanblethian Town Council and Penllyn Community Council.
3. The request highlighted that the Town Council considered that due to the planned development on the land north west of Cowbridge (known as Darren Farm) this would impact on community services provided by the Town Council however there

was a concern that the Town Council would not benefit from an increased precept. The Town Council have therefore requested a community boundary review of its boundary with Penllyn Community Council.

4. Consequently, Cabinet received a report at its meeting on 18 September 2017 when it resolved:

“(1) THAT delegated authority be granted 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) THAT the terms of reference of the review attached at Appendix A to the report be approved.”

(minute no.C71)

## Relevant Issues and Options

5. In line with the terms of reference for the review:

- The review was brought to the attention of the mandatory consultees and such other persons the ERO considered likely to be interested in the review;
- The ERO consulted the mandatory consultees on its intended procedure and methodology for the review;
- The ERO conducted investigations as considered appropriate;
- The ERO after the initial consultation has prepared a report as set out in Appendix A containing the proposal for no change and the reasons for this proposal.
- Appendix A will be subject to wider consultation in line with statutory requirements.
- The review has been published electronically and continues to be available for public inspection.
- Copies of the report were 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 to date.

6. [Appendix B](#) summarises the submissions received during the initial consultation which have been taken into account by the ERO together with the application from the Town Council referred to in paragraph 3 of this report.

7. Of particular relevance is an email from the Vale of Glamorgan Council’s Planning Department dated 2 January 2018 states:

“The Darren Farm site has been approved in outline for up to 475 dwelling.

The reserved matters for Phase 1 have been approved for a total of 169 properties. I cannot confirm timescales of the completion of Phase 1 but would have thought it would be between 3-4 years.

The remaining development is described as Phase 2 and should be for the remaining 306 units. An application for reserved matters has not yet been submitted and is obviously subject to approval by Planning Committee. I can’t give you a timeframe for completion.

There are no proposals currently for any residential development (on the hatched land).”

Phase 1, 2 and the hatched area are marked on the third plan in Appendix A of this report.

The Planning Department has also confirmed that the hatched land has not been identified for residential development in the Vale of Glamorgan Council’s Local Development Plan 2011-2026.

8. Revised timetable for endorsement:

Date	Action
Friday 29 <sup>th</sup> September 2017	Start of Review
Friday 29 <sup>th</sup> September – Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> December 2017	Preliminary investigation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Invite initial submissions</li> <li>• Publish review on website</li> </ul>
Monday 25 <sup>th</sup> December – Friday 16 <sup>th</sup> February 2018	Consideration of submissions received
Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> February 2018	Report to Cabinet for approval
Monday 19 <sup>th</sup> February – Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> April 2018	Draft Proposal Consultation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Publish draft proposals</li> <li>• Consultation period</li> </ul>
Monday 30 <sup>th</sup> April 2018 – Friday 25 <sup>th</sup> May 2018	Consideration of submissions received
June / July 2018	Report to Cabinet for approval
September 2018	Report to Council for approval
September 2018	Final Proposal Publication
October 2018	Final recommendations reported to Local Democracy Boundary Commission for Wales
November 2018 onwards	Local Democracy Boundary Commission for Wales to consider recommendations (if agreed Order to be made)

**Resource Implications (Financial and Employment)**

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

**Sustainability and Climate Change Implications**

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

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

11. Section 25 of the Local Government (Democracy) (Wales) Act 2013 places the Council under a legal duty to conduct a review of community boundaries in its area of its own initiative, or at the request of a community council in its area or a community meeting in its area.

## **Crime and Disorder Implications**

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

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

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

## **Corporate/Service Objectives**

14. 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**

15. 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 the Council for consideration and approval.

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

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

## **Relevant Scrutiny Committee**

17. Corporate Performance and Resources

## **Background Papers**

Letter received from Local Democracy and Boundary Commission for Wales dated 21 January 2016

List of non-mandatory consultees

## **Contact Officer**

Rebecca Light (Electoral Services Manager, Legal Services)

## **Officers Consulted**

Rob Thomas (Managing Director)

## **Responsible Officer:**

Debbie Marles (Electoral Registration Officer)