

The Vale of Glamorgan Council

Cabinet: 30th April, 2018

Report of the Electoral Registration Officer

Vale of Glamorgan Community Review

Purpose of the Report

1. To apprise Members of the duty to conduct a community review and agree the commencement date for the next review.

Recommendations

1. T H A T a full community review for the Vale of Glamorgan be commenced in June 2023 having regard to the timing of the Local Democracy and Boundary Commission for Wales' principal area review for the Vale of Glamorgan and the need to avoid the risk of voter confusion during election years in 2021 and 2022.
2. T H A T the Local Democracy and Boundary Commission for Wales and all other mandatory consultees be formally notified of the timescale for the next Vale of Glamorgan community review.
3. T H A T a copy of this report be referred to the Community Liaison Committee and all Town and Community Councils in the Vale of Glamorgan for information.

Reasons for the Recommendations

1. To determine the commencement date of the community review.
2. To advise parties in line with the Local Government (Democracy) (Wales) Act 2013.
3. To apprise the Committee and Town and Community Councils.

Background

2. The Council has a duty under s22 of the Local Government (Democracy) (Wales) Act 2013 ('the Act') to report every ten years on a community review having regard to the Local Democracy and Boundary Commission for Wales' (LDBCW) timetable for conducting the reviews of principal areas' electoral arrangements required by section 29(1) of the Act.

Relevant Issues and Options

3. The last community review for the Vale of Glamorgan was conducted in 2009 and therefore ordinarily the next community review would be due in 2019, however given that the LDBCW will be conducting the electoral review for the principal area commencing in April 2019, LDBCW have recommended that the community review be postponed. As the principal area review will not be concluded until December 2020, and both 2021 and 2022 are election years, it is proposed that the Vale of Glamorgan community review is postponed to commence in June 2023. The LDBCW have indicated that they support the proposed timescale.
4. Consultation with LDBCW regarding the timing of a community review is required to ensure that LDBCW have sufficient time to make any Orders that are consequent following a community review and that it would not have an adverse impact on the work LDBCW has programmed.
5. Attached at [Appendix A](#) is the LDBCW's Guidance for Principal Councils on the Review of Communities which will be followed when developing the project plan in advance of the proposed 2023 community review which will have regard to:
 - the boundaries and electoral arrangements for communities;
 - the Local Government (Democracy) (Wales) Act 2013;
 - ensuring effective and convenient local government;
 - Association of Electoral Administrators best practice;
 - the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015, Welsh Language Standards and the Equality Act 2010
 - research into the existing arrangements and the activities for the Council including Scrutiny Committee arrangements for overseeing the review for the Council;
 - consideration being given to either grouping or amalgamating existing Town and Community Council, in light of a Community Amalgamation/Grouping Policy (if any);
 - initial consultation in line with section 35(1) of the Act with mandatory consultees and conducting investigations as appropriate.
 - in line with Appendix A, reports will follow in advance of the 2023 community review to establish:
 - Terms of Reference for the review
 - Town and Community Council Size Policy;

Resource Implications (Financial and Employment)

6. The publishing and administrative costs of the community review will be assessed in 2022/23 and if necessary will be the subject of a cost pressure bid.

Sustainability and Climate Change Implications

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

Legal Implications (to Include Human Rights Implications)

8. S22 (2) Local Government (Democracy) (Wales) Act 2013 provides that a principal council must have regard to LDBCW's timetable for conducting the reviews of

principal areas' electoral arrangements when determining when to conduct a community review.

9. Section 34 of the Act stipulates the 'mandatory consultees' for a community review.

Crime and Disorder Implications

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

Equal Opportunities Implications (to include Welsh Language issues)

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

Corporate/Service Objectives

12. 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

13. This is an executive decision by Cabinet.

Consultation (including Ward Member Consultation)

14. As this report has Council wide implications Ward Member consultation is not relevant.

Relevant Scrutiny Committee

15. Corporate Performance and Resources

Background Papers

Local Government (Democracy) (Wales) Act 2013.

Contact Officer

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Officers Consulted

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