

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL

CABINET: 22ND FEBRUARY 2021

REFERENCE FROM CORPORATE PERFORMANCE AND RESOURCES
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE: 11TH FEBRUARY 2021

“ LOCAL DEMOCRACY AND BOUNDARY COMMISSION FOR WALES –
REVIEW OF ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS IN THE COUNTY BOROUGH OF THE
VALE OF GLAMORGAN: FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS REPORT (REF) –

The Local Democracy and Boundary Commission for Wales ('the Commission') had a duty under s29 of the Local Government (Democracy) (Wales) Act 2013 to review the electoral arrangements for each principal area at least once every ten years. Cabinet had, on 8th February 2021, referred the report to the Scrutiny Committee for consultation prior to it being presented to Full Council for consideration on 10th March, 2021. The Monitoring Officer / Head of Legal and Democratic Services, in presenting the report, stated that the Commission had commenced its Review of the Vale of Glamorgan Council ('the Council') on 8th May, 2019, and the Council had provided comments on the Commission's proposals as part of Stage 1 of the Review by 30th July, 2019. At Stage 2 of the Review, the Commission had published its Draft Proposals Report and re-opened its suspended consultation (suspended due to the COVID 19 pandemic) on 1st September, 2020 and closed on 20th October, 2020.

The report before the Committee included a copy of the Commission's Final Recommendations Report published on 5th February, 2021 (attached at Appendix A), outlined the Commission's final recommendations to Welsh Government, the timescale for comments to be submitted to Welsh Government and recommended that the Commission's report be noted with no further suggested comments.

Councillor Carroll commented on the importance of people responding to consultations referring to the Commission's original proposals that had advocated the abolition of Llandough Electoral ward with the proposal to combine the Cornerswell and Llandough Electoral wards and that following consultation the recommendation had subsequently been withdrawn.

Councillor Dr. Johnson drew attention to what he considered to be a possible typographical error in the Welsh translation for the name of St. Athan Community Council at paragraph 65 of the Appendix which he advised should read as Sain Tathan. The Monitoring Officer agreed to email the Commission in this regard and report back to Members.

The Chairman enquired as to whether the Council would be raising awareness of the Welsh Government's Order (in due course) and prior to the Local Government Elections in May 2022, and whether there would be funding available. In response the Monitoring Officer advised that awareness raising would be taking place and it

was hoped that once the Order was made that some funding would be provided by Welsh Government but there had been no indication to date of this yet. Following a further query from the Chairman as to the need for a review of polling stations as a direct consequence of the proposed changes, the Monitoring Officer advised that a robust review of polling stations had been undertaken at the end of 2019. Polling stations were always kept under review and any changes because of the proposals would be considered if appropriate.

Following consideration of the report, the Scrutiny Committee subsequently

RECOMMENDED to Cabinet

- (1) T H A T the report be noted.
- (2) T H A T the Commission's attention be drawn to the incorrect Welsh Translation of St. Athan at paragraph 65 of the Commission's report.
- (3) T H A T consideration be given to the raising of public awareness of the Welsh Government's Order (when available) and that a review of polling stations be undertaken, as deemed appropriate, following receipt of the Order.

Reason for recommendations

(1-3) Having regard to the contents of the report and discussions at the meeting.”