



Vale of Glamorgan Council Community Review

Cyngor Bro Morgannwg
Adolygiad Cymunedol

Context



- The principal council has a duty under the Local Government (Democracy)(Wales) Act 2013 to review its communities every 10 years
- The Vale of Glamorgan Council Community Review was due to commence in 2019
- This was postponed until 2023 as resolved at a cabinet meeting on 30th April 2018
- Our review is due to commence in January 2023.

The Commission



- The Local Democracy and Boundary Commission for Wales may undertake the Community Review on behalf of the principal council
- The Commission only have capacity to undertake 3 reviews
- We have requested the Commission undertake our review
- The review will last for approximately 12 - 18 months.



Types of Review

There are two different types of community review that may be carried out by principal councils, which are subject to different sections of the Local Government (Democracy) (Wales) Act 2013.

Section 25

- A review of community boundaries
- It should ensure that communities continue to reflect local identities and facilitate effective and convenient local government
- Offers the principal council the opportunity to put in place strong, clearly defined boundaries
- Offers the principal council the opportunity to remove any anomalous boundaries that exist.

Section 31

- A review of the electoral arrangements
- It identifies issues with electoral arrangements independent of any boundary issues
- Offer the principal council the opportunity to achieve “electoral parity” by considering the number of electors per councillor for each ward.



Which review will we undertake?

- A Section 25 review will be undertaken in order to review and make changes to the community boundaries within the Vale of Glamorgan.
 - at the conclusion of a Section 25 review, the principal council may recommend “community boundary changes”. This may include changes to the boundary of an existing community, but also the abolition of an existing community and the creation of a new community



Which review will we undertake?

- At the conclusion of a Section 25 review, consideration will be given to whether there is a need for the electoral arrangements of the communities to be reviewed under a Section 31 Review.
 - The electoral arrangements of a community refers to the number of members of the community council and any arrangements for the division of the community wards for the purposes of election to the community council. This includes the number, boundaries and names of wards and the number of members per ward.

Process



There are 4 essential steps when carrying out a review;

- **Initial publicity** – publicise the review, specifically bringing it to the attention of mandatory consultees, draw attention to any directions given by Welsh Ministers which are relevant to the review
- **Initial investigation and consultation** – consult with mandatory consultees, conduct investigations, should last between 6 – 12 weeks
- **Draft proposals including a consultation period** – report to be prepared that includes details of the review, set out proposals, consultation to follow lasting 6 – 12 weeks
- **Final recommendations** – review of proposals in light of any representation being made during consultation, recommendations for change/no change.

Mandatory Consultees



The Commission will make contact with persons who may be interested in the review. These will include

- The Principal Council
- The Town and Community Councils across the principal council
- The Senedd Member representing the area,
- The Regional Senedd Members for the area,
- The Member of Parliament representing the area
- The principal council elected members
- Welsh Language Commissioner
- The Welsh Government, and
- Ordnance Survey.

First Steps



- A terms of reference will be drawn up between the Commission and the Vale of Glamorgan Council, which will include;
- Indicative timetable
- Procedures and Process
- Explanations of Council Size Policy and Grouping Communities.



Procedures and Processes

Key procedures and processes includes;

- Public consultation on draft proposals and recommendations
- Official notice given at different stages of the review
- Copies of reports and documents deposited at the principal councils election office and on the commissions website
- Comments and submissions will be given consideration during the initial and draft proposal consultation period.



Council Size Policy

A key element of the Terms of Reference includes establishing a Council size policy.

- This policy will set out the number of electors that a community should include
- The minimum number of councillors that should represent a community
- A recommendation that communities should fall into one of three categories rural, urban or mixed
- An elector to councillor ratio for each category.



Considerations

The commission will have regard to

- The creation, abolition or merging of communities and community wards
- The name of the community and where warded, the name of community wards
- Where there are changes to the boundaries of communities or community, the number of councillors representing the community and, where warded, the number of councillors per ward.

Supporting Information



The Boundary Commission will also have regard to the following information;

- The number of Local Government electors in the Vale of Glamorgan
- The current population eligible to vote sourced from the Office for National Statistics mid-year estimates
- The 5 year projected number of electors based on planning information.



Any questions?