

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL

COUNCIL: 10<sup>TH</sup> MARCH, 2021

REFERENCE FROM CABINET: 8<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY, 2021

**“C475 LOCAL DEMOCRACY AND BOUNDARY COMMISSION FOR WALES - REVIEW OF ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS OF THE COUNTY BOROUGH OF THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN: FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS REPORT (LRPS) (SCRUTINY – CORPORATE PERFORMANCE AND RESOURCES) –**

**(Urgent by reason of the need to apprise Cabinet of the Final Recommendations Report of the Local Democracy and Boundary Commission for Wales published on 5<sup>th</sup> February 2021 and the commencement of the 6 week period for comments to Welsh Government)**

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.

The Commission commenced its Review of the Vale of Glamorgan Council ('the Council') on 8<sup>th</sup> May, 2019, and the Council provided comments on the Commission's proposals as part of Stage 1 of the Review by 30<sup>th</sup> July, 2019.

At Stage 2 of the Review, the Commission published its Draft Proposals Report and re-opened its suspended consultation (suspended due to the COVID-19 pandemic) on 1<sup>st</sup> September, 2020 and closed on 20<sup>th</sup> October, 2020.

The report included a copy of the Commission's Final Recommendations Report published on 5<sup>th</sup> 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.

The Cabinet Member for Legal, Regulatory and Planning Services noted that some of the recommendations that had been addressed at Council had now been addressed by the Commission, and that there was further opportunity for comment at both Scrutiny and Council.

The Leader asked to amend Recommendation (4) to state that the report be referred to the 11<sup>th</sup> February, 2021 Corporate Performance and Resources Scrutiny Committee meeting for consideration, rather than for information, which was agreed.

It was further noted that any further comments concerning the Commission's recommendations to Welsh Government would be considered by Welsh Government

and the final decision would be made before and in advance of the May 2022 local government elections.

This was a matter for Executive decision.

Cabinet, having considered the report and all the issues and implications contained therein and subject to the alteration to Recommendation (4)

RESOLVED –

(1) T H A T Cabinet recommends to Council that the Local Democracy and Boundary Commission for Wales' recommendations for the Vale of Glamorgan Council's electoral arrangements (as detailed in its February 2021 Final Recommendations Report attached at Appendix A to the report) be noted with no further suggested comments.

(2) T H A T the deadline of 19<sup>th</sup> March, 2021 for comments to Welsh Government regarding the Local Democracy and Boundary Commission for Wales' Final Recommendations Report be noted.

(3) T H A T any comments on the recommended names of the electoral wards be submitted to the Welsh Government's Minister for Housing and Local Government.

**(4) T H A T the report be referred to the 11<sup>th</sup> February, 2021 Corporate Performance and Resources Scrutiny Committee meeting for consideration and to Council for consideration on 10<sup>th</sup> March, 2021.**

Reasons for decisions

(1) To note and consider the Commission's Final Recommendations Report.

(2) To note the deadline for the submission of comments to Welsh Government.

(3) To advise where to submit comments regarding recommended electoral ward names.

(4) For both Corporate Performance and Resources Scrutiny Committee's and Council's consideration."

## **NB FOR MEMBERS' INFORMATION**

The report, including a copy of the Commission's Final Recommendations Report published on 5<sup>th</sup> February, 2021, was considered by the Corporate Performance and Resources Scrutiny Committee on 11<sup>th</sup> February, 2021 which

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.

**Cabinet**, on 22<sup>nd</sup> February, 2021, having considered the reference from the Scrutiny Committee

RESOLVED –

(1) T H A T the report be noted.

(2) T H A T Cabinet noted that attention had been drawn to both Welsh Government and the Commission to the incorrect Welsh Translation of St. Athan at paragraph 65 of the Commission's report by the Monitoring Officer.

3) T H A T Cabinet noted that consideration would be given to the raising of public awareness of the Welsh Government's Order, once the Order becomes available. A review of polling stations had recently been carried out within the last year and any required changes as a result of changed ward boundaries would be addressed following receipt of the Order.

**Full Council is therefore requested by Cabinet, and as detailed above in Resolution (1) of 8<sup>th</sup> February, 2021, as follows:**

(1) T H A T Cabinet recommends to Council that the Local Democracy and Boundary Commission for Wales' recommendations for the Vale of Glamorgan Council's electoral arrangements (as detailed in its February 2021 Final Recommendations Report attached at Appendix A to the report) be noted with no further suggested comments.