

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL

COUNCIL: 24TH APRIL, 2023

REFERENCE FROM CABINET: 30TH MARCH, 2023

“C265 THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL’S COMMUNITY BOUNDARY AREA REVIEW (REF) –

The reference from Community Liaison Committee of 23rd March, 2023 was presented.

The Leader said there had been comprehensive discussion regarding the proposals at the meeting concerning effective political representation across the Vale of Glamorgan, clarification of some boundaries and suitable levels of representation. The key considerations used as the foundation to the review were listed in Paragraph 2.8 of the report which were looked at by a cross-party working group with the Electoral Registration Team to produce suggestions for Community Liaison Committee to consider.

Matters discussed included Community Councils working together, increases in population, the size of Community Councils and the number of electors within them.

Comments received at the Community Liaison Committee had already been forwarded to the Local Democracy and Boundary Commission for Wales (“Boundary Commission”) and it was recommended that the comments from Cabinet also be forwarded to the Boundary Commission alongside the views of the Electoral Registration Team and Town and Community Councils from across the Vale of Glamorgan to take on to the next stage.

The Leader had received two further messages on the matter; one related to St. George’s and St. Brides’ Community Council which was not happy with the proposals and whose comments would be forwarded to the Boundary Commission but were also able to make their own representations to the Commission. The other was from Councillor Perry who was broadly supportive but also discussed the change to the number of Clerks to Community Councils who may be needed if the proposals were to be agreed.

Councillor Wilson, as Vice-Chair of the Community Liaison Committee, said that there had been good contributions from Town and Community Councillors at the meeting whose suggestions had been noted. He said that they had to remain viable bodies going forward where they had elections that represented the community and hoped to see Community Councils working together more in future.

Councillor John said that as he had been involved in giving advice and drafting a response for a constituent he would abstain from voting on the matter.

Having considered the reference, it was subsequently

RESOLVED –

(1) T H A T the comments of the Community Liaison Committee from its meeting on 23rd March, 2023 in relation to the review be noted as already forwarded to the Local Democracy and Boundary Commission for Wales (“the Boundary Commission”).

(2) T H A T the suggestions raised by the Vale of Glamorgan Council, as set out within the Community Liaison Committee report, be forwarded to the Boundary Commission.

(3) T H A T the use of the urgent decision procedure as set out in Section 15.14 of the Council's Constitution be approved in order that the comments of Cabinet in relation to the review can be forwarded to the Boundary Commission urgently following the consultation deadline of 28th March, 2023.

Reason for decisions

(1&2) Having regard to the contents of the reference and discussions at the meeting.

(3) In order to meet the consultation deadline of 28th March, 2023.”