

Pontyclun Community Council

10 October 2018

Chair's Report on Electoral Review by the Local Democracy and Boundary Commission for Wales

Purpose of the Report

To allow the Community Council to consider its response to the review of electoral arrangements in Rhondda Cynon Taf particularly as they affect Pontyclun

Recommendations

The Council agrees to support the following in its response to the Local Democracy and Boundary Commission for Wales

- 1. the inclusion of Tyla Garw in the Pontyclun community and electoral ward**
- 2. the alignment of the northern boundary of Pontyclun with the A473**
- 3. the creation of three single member wards for the election of members of RCT Council in the Pontyclun community area**
- 4. Changes to the wards for the election of members to Pontyclun Community Council**

Background

The Boundary Commission has initiated its review of the electoral arrangements in Rhondda Cynon Taf and has invited submissions by 23 October 2018.

Rhondda Cynon Taf has published its draft response to Commission and is consulting on this response.

<https://www.rctcbc.gov.uk/EN/Council/CouncillorsCommitteesandMeetings/Meetings/Council/2018/09/19/Reports/AgendaItem9ReviewofElectoralArrangements.pdf>

Rhondda Cynon Taf Council currently has 75 members. This is the statutory maximum for a Council in Wales and it is an assumption of the review that the future RCT Council will also have 75 members. The average electorate per member is currently 2,300. The intended outcome of the review is to reduce the extent of variation around this average.

Pontyclun in 2018 has an electorate of 6014. With two members of RCT Council for Pontyclun to current ration if councillor to elector is 1: 3007 which is 31% above the RCT average.

RCT Council projects that in 2023 the electorate in Pontyclun will expand to 6873, primarily because the planning consent for over 400 new houses on Cefn yr Hendy. With no change to representation that would result in a ratio of 1:3437 - 45% above the RCT average.

RCT Council is proposing that the boundaries of Pontyclun ward and community are adjusted to include the 596 electors of Tyla Garw who would be transferred from Llanharry. On this basis it is proposed that Pontyclun is represented by 3 members on RCT Council. This would bring both Pontyclun and Llanharry close to the RCT average of 2300.

Issues for Pontyclun Community Council

Transfer of Tyla Garw

Tyla Garw consists of 596 electors, around 300 households. Most of the housing has been in developed in the past 20 years. Experience indicates that many of the residents believed that they were moving to Pontyclun rather than Llanharry. They are known to use Pontyclun Primary School as well as many of the shops and amenities of Pontyclun. However, no attempt has been made by RCT Council to test the views of Tyla Garw residents. If the transfer took place the funding for Pontyclun Community Council would increase by around £10,000 but there would be extra responsibilities potentially including the provision of the Tyla Garw Community Centre.

Possible further boundary changes

Although not recommended by RCT Council, consideration could be given to adjusting all of the northern boundary of Pontyclun so that it was aligned with the A473. This would bring into the community of Pontyclun the Coed Cae Lane Industrial Park, Leekes and the proposed Sainsbury site, Y Pant School, the Cemetery.

The A473 would provide a recognisable boundary. These changes would not increase the number of electors but would provide Pontyclun residents and the Community Council with influence over economic activity in which they have a strong interest.

Multi-member or Single-member wards

In establishing the review, the Commission states

“The Commission takes the view that in the first instance it is desirable that each electoral ward should return a single member.” It states that it would only consider multi-member wards if there was evidence that the character of the ward required the scale of two or three members.

The advantage of a single member ward lies in the clarity of accountability and greater opportunity for a close relation between electors and their representative.

RCT Council has recommended that Pontyclun should be a 3 member ward as this achieves the required ratio of electors to councillor.

It is possible to identify three single member wards which would be understood by residents and would bring representation closer to residents. In Appendix 1 details are given of 3 possible single member wards within the Pontyclun community.

1 **‘Pontyclun West’** which would include Tyla Garw and all areas south of the railway line including Brynsadler and Talygarn. This currently would have an electorate of 2451

2. **‘Pontyclun Central’** which would include the existing Miskin ward and all areas north of the railway line including Ynys Ddu and all streets off Heol Miskin. This currently would have an electorate of 2372

3 **‘Pontyclun East’** which would include Groes Faen, Mwyndy and all streets off Ffordd Cegn yr Hendy. This currently would have an electorate of 1762 but RCT Council projects that this would increase to over 2500 by 2023.

Implications for Community Council wards

The existing Community Council wards are

Groes Faen – 1 member

Miskin – 1 member

Cefn yr Hendy – 5 members

Maesyfelin – 4 members

Taking account of the potential revisions to the community boundary and the RCT ward boundaries it is possible to propose the following warding for the Community Council

Groes Faen – 1 member

Miskin Heights – 3 members

Miskin Village– 1 member

Ynys Ddu - 1 member

Cefn yr Hendy – 2 members

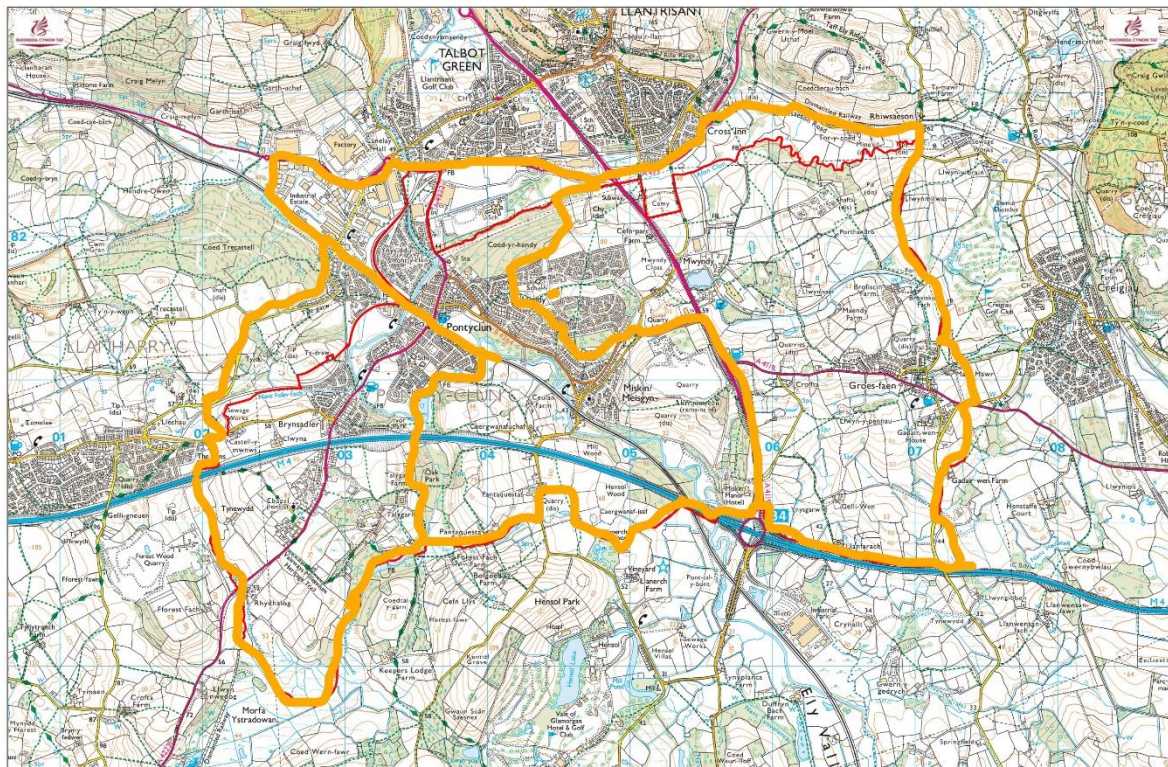
Tyla Garw – 1 member

Talgarn and Brynsadler – 1 member

Maesyfelin – 2 members

Appendix 1

Proposal for Three Single Member Wards



Title: Pontyclun Ward Boundary **Scale @ A3:** 1 : 20000 **Location:** 304710E 180940N **Date:** 06/08/2018
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