

COUNCIL
4 DECEMBER 2018

BOUNDARY COMMISSION REVIEW OF THE ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR TORFAEN FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS REPORT

Report submitted by: Alison Ward, Chief Executive

Report written by: Nansi Salkeld, Business Support Team Leader, Democratic Services

1. Area Affected

1.1 County Borough wide

2. Purpose of Report

2.1 To advise members of the content of the final recommendations report of the Local Democracy and Boundary Commission for Wales on the review of the Electoral Arrangements for Torfaen.

3. Recommendation

3.1 It is recommended that members note the contents of the Local Democracy and Boundary Commission's final recommendations report.

4 Key Messages

4.1 The Local Democracy and Boundary Commission is proposing the following changes in their final recommendations report.

- A council of 40 members, down from 44.
- 18 electoral wards, which is a reduction of 1 from the first proposals and a reduction from 24 wards currently serving Torfaen, 14 of these wards will be multi-member wards.
- Combining some electoral areas, with some name changes.
- Retaining existing arrangements in 11 electoral wards.

These proposals will have no consequential changes for community wards.

5. Background

5.1 The Local Democracy and Boundary Commission published their draft report in May 2018 and a 12 week consultation was held where the Commission sought views on the proposed electoral arrangements identified in their draft report.

5.2 The views of the political groups and Councillor Kemp were sought and where unanimous support was identified, this was collated into a Torfaen Council response which was submitted in July 2018.

5.3 The Commission have now published their final recommendations report (Members have each been provided with a hard copy) which has been submitted to Welsh Government for consideration. Welsh Government, if it thinks fit, will make an order giving effect to any recommendations made to it by the Commission either as submitted or with modifications, the changes for Torfaen would be effective from the

next Local Government Elections, scheduled for May 2022.

6. Details of the Proposed Changes

6.1 Listed below are the final recommended changes. Several of these changes are directly included as a result of the Torfaen Council response.

6.2 Number of Members

The Commission recommends a Council of 40 members down from 44

6.3 Number of Electoral Wards

There are currently 24 wards in Torfaen, the Commission are recommending 18 electoral wards, (which is a reduction of 1 from the first proposal in the draft report).

The Commission are recommending 14 multi-member wards.

6.4 Proposed Changes to the Draft Report

- 9 wards remain unchanged, these are:

Abersychan, Blaenavon, Coed Eva, Fairwater, New Inn, Panteg, Pontnewydd, St Dials and Two Locks.

- 2 wards have name changes but keep all other existing arrangements

Llanyrafon East and Ponthir to be named Llanfrechfa and Ponthir
Llanyrafon West to be named Llanyrafon

- Combine Electoral areas and lose Councillors from

Croesyceiliog South/Croesyceiliog North (from 3 Councillors to 2)
Cwmynyscoy/Brynwern/Pontypool/Wainfelin (from 4 Councillors to 3)
Trevethin/St Cadocs & Penygarn (from 3 Councillors to 2)

- Combine electoral areas but retain the same number of Councillors

Pontnewynydd/Snatchwood (2 Councillors)

- Changes to Ward names

Croesyceiliog North / Croesyceiliog South to be combined and named
Croesyceiliog
Cwmynyscoy / Brynwern / Pontypool/Wainfelin to be combined and named
Pontypool Fawr
Trevethin / St Cadocs & Penygarn to be combined and named Trevethin and
Pen-y-garn
Pontnewynydd and Snatchwood wards to be combined and named
Pontnewynydd and Snatchwood

- No change to the following electoral area and name, but a decrease in councillors

Upper Cwmbrau (decrease from 3 Councillors to 2)
Greenmeadow (decrease from 2 Councillors to 1)

- No change to the following electoral area and name, but an increase in Councillors

Llantarnam (increase from 2 Councillors to 3)

- Consequential changes

There are no consequential changes to Community Council boundaries.

8. Well-being Assessment

8.1 Not required.

9. Risks

9.1 Not applicable.

10. Action to be taken following decision

10.1 None.

11. Recommendation(s)

12.1 It is recommended that members note the contents of the Boundary Commission's final recommendations report.

Appendices	None
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Background Papers	<p>Note: Members of the public are entitled, under the Local Government Act 1972, to inspect background papers to reports. The following is a list of the background papers used in the production of this report.</p> <p>Local Democracy and Boundary Commission for Wales, Review of the Electoral Arrangements of the County Borough of Torfaen - Final Recommendations Report http://ldbc.gov.wales/reviews/electoralreviews/curreviews/torfaen-final/?lang=en</p>
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For a copy of the background papers or for further information about this report, please telephone: Caroline Genever-Jones, Elections & Business Manager, 01495 766074 or email: Caroline.Genever-Jones@torfaen.gov.uk