



## **FULL COUNCIL - INFORMATION REPORT**

Date Written	19 <sup>th</sup> August 2021
Report Author	Ann Taylor
Service Area	Democratic Services
Exempt/Non Exempt	Non Exempt
Committee Date	8 <sup>th</sup> September 2021

To: Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen

# **Boundary Reform Confirmation - Review of the Electoral Arrangements of the County Borough of Merthyr Tydfil**

## **1.0 SUMMARY OF THE REPORT**

- 1.1 The Local Democracy and Boundary Commission for Wales (LDBCW) conducted a review of the electoral arrangements of the County Borough of Merthyr Tydfil in accordance with the Local Government (Democracy) (Wales) Act 2013.
- 1.2 The final proposals report from LDBCW was submitted to Welsh Government in October 2019.
- 1.3 On 11<sup>th</sup> August 2021 the Minister for Finance and Local Government confirmed a decision to accept the recommendations contained in the final report, with modifications.

## **2.0 INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 The Local Government and Boundary Commission for Wales has a duty to conduct a review of all 22 of Wales' Principal Councils every ten years.
- 2.2 This ten-year programme was originally due to commence in 2014 but due to uncertainties in local government at the time, the Commission suspended its programme and all the reviews that had been undertaken were shelved.

- 2.3 The re-establishment of the programme in 2016 was introduced with the expectation that all authorities would be reviewed in time for the new arrangements to be put in place for the 2022 local government elections.

### **3.0 FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 3.1 A hard copy of the Final Recommendations Report from the LDBCW was provided to each elected member when it was published in October 2019.

- 3.2 The Commission proposed 11 multi-member wards in the County Borough consisting of four two-member electoral wards, six three-member electoral wards and one four-member electoral ward.

- 3.3 There were no changes to eight electoral wards.

- 3.4 A reduction of one member was proposed in the:

3.4.1 Dowlais Ward - from four members to three members;

3.4.2 Gurnos Ward - from four members to three members; and

3.4.3 Park Ward - from three members to two members.

- 3.5 Whilst the Commission recommended the preservation of the geographical arrangements within the electoral wards, it did recommend a number of changes to the names to be prescribed in Orders, some of which the Welsh Government accepted and others that were modified.

- 3.6 The final list of name changes approved were:

3.6.1 Merthyr Vale to be given the Welsh name of Ynysowen;

3.6.2 The Welsh name for Vaynor to be amended to Faenor;

3.6.3 The Welsh name for Park to be amended to Y Parc;

3.6.4 The name for Dowlais be amended to Dowlais and Pant in English and Dowlais a Phant in Welsh; and

3.6.5 The name for Bedlinog be amended to Bedlinog and Trelewis in English and Bedlinog a Threlewis in Welsh.

### **4.0 IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 4.1 Having completed the review of the County Borough of Merthyr Tydfil and submitted their recommendations to the Welsh Government, the Commission has fulfilled its statutory obligations.

4.2 Welsh Government has given effect to these recommendations with modifications and will take forward work to progress the drafting of the Order required to implement the decision.

## 5.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 There are no financial implications.

## 6.0 INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT

6.1

	Positive Impacts	Negative Impacts	Neutral/Not Applicable	
1. Merthyr Tydfil Well-being Objectives	0 of 4	0 of 4	4 of 4	
2. Sustainable Development Principles - How have you considered the five ways of working? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Long term</li> <li>• Prevention</li> <li>• Integration</li> <li>• Collaboration</li> <li>• Involvement</li> </ul>	0 of 5	0 of 5	5 of 5	
3. Protected Characteristics (including Welsh Language)	0 of 10	0 of 10	10 of 10	
4. Socio-economic Disadvantage	0 of 6	0 of 6	6 of 6	
5. Consultation and Engagement	Undertaken	Due to be Undertaken	Not Required	
	0 of 1	0 of 1	1 of 1	
6. Data and Evidence to inform the proposal	Yes		No	
	0 of 1		1 of 1	
7. Biodiversity and the resilience of Ecosystems	Maintained	Enhanced	Reduced	Neutral/Not Applicable
	0 of 1	0 of 1	0 of 1	1 of 1
<b>Summary</b>				
The main positive impacts are:	N/A			
The main negative impacts are:	N/A			

**ELLIS COOPER**  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

**LISA MYTTON**  
LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

<b>BACKGROUND PAPERS</b>		
<b>Title of Document(s)</b>	<b>Document(s) Date</b>	<b>Document Location</b>
Final Recommendations Report – LDBCW	October 2019	Democratic Services
WG Statement	August 2021	Democratic Services
<b>Does the report contain any issue that may impact the Council's Constitution?</b>		<b>Yes</b>

***Consultation has been undertaken with the Corporate Management Team in respect of each proposal(s) and recommendation(s) set out in this report.***