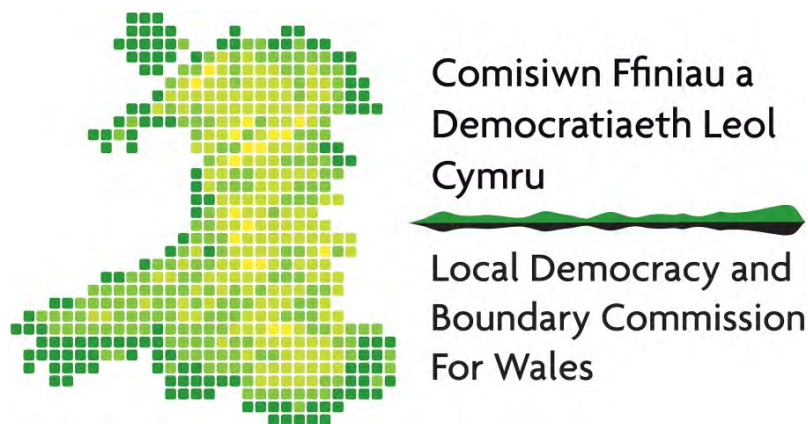


LOCAL DEMOCRACY AND BOUNDARY COMMISSION FOR WALES



Review of the Electoral Arrangements of the County Borough of Bridgend

Final Recommendations Report

October 2019

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FOREWORD

The Commission is pleased to present this Report to the Minister for Housing and Local Government, which contains its recommendations for revised electoral arrangements for the County Borough of Bridgend.

This review is part of the programme of reviews being conducted under the Local Government (Democracy) (Wales) Act 2013, and follows the principles contained in the Commission's Policy and Practice document.

The issue of fairness is at the heart of the Commission's statutory responsibilities. The Commission's objective has been to make recommendations that provide for effective and convenient local government, and which respect, as far as possible, local community ties. The recommendations are aimed at improving electoral parity, so that the vote of an individual elector has as equal a value to those of other electors throughout the County, so far as it is possible to achieve.

The Commission is grateful to the Members and Officers of Bridgend County Borough Council for their assistance in its work, to the Community and Town Councils for their valuable contributions, and to all who have made representations throughout the process.

Ceri Stradling

Interim Chair

LOCAL DEMOCRACY AND BOUNDARY COMMISSION FOR WALES
REVIEW OF THE ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS OF THE
COUNTY BOROUGH OF BRIDGEND
FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS REPORT

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1st Edition printed October 2019

The Commission welcomes correspondence and telephone calls in Welsh or English.

Mae'r ddogfen ar hon ar gael yn y Gymraeg.

This document has been translated into Welsh by Trosol.

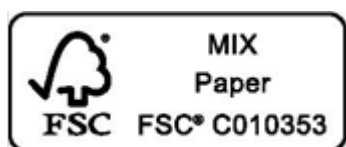
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Julie James, AM

Minister for Housing and Local Government

Welsh Government

Chapter 1. INTRODUCTION

1. The Local Democracy and Boundary Commission for Wales (the Commission) has conducted a review of the electoral arrangements of the County Borough of Bridgend. This review was conducted in accordance with the Local Government (Democracy) (Wales) Act 2013 (the Act), specifically Sections 29, 30 and 34-36.
2. Pursuant to the Act, the Commission has completed the review of the electoral arrangements for the County Borough of Bridgend and presents its final recommendations for future electoral arrangements.
3. This programme of reviews has come as a result of the former Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Local Government's Written Statement of 23 June 2016, where the Commission was asked to restart its programme of reviews, with an expectation that all 22 electoral reviews be completed in time for the new arrangements to be put in place for the 2022 local government elections. The Written Statement can be found at Appendix 6. The rules and procedures the Commission follows can be found in the Commission's *Electoral Reviews: Policy and Practice* [2016] and outlined in Appendix 4. A Glossary of Terms can be found at Appendix 1, providing a short description of some of the common terminology used within this report.
4. Section 35 of the Act lays down the procedural guidelines which are to be followed in carrying out a review. In compliance with Section 35 the Commission wrote to Bridgend County Borough Council, all the community and town councils in the area, the mandatory consultees and other interested parties on 25 January 2018 to inform them of the Commission's intention to conduct the review and request their preliminary views. This consultation ran from 1 February 2018 to 25 April 2018. The Commission also made copies of its *Electoral Reviews: Policy and Practice* [2016] document available.
5. The Commission published its Draft Proposals Report on 15 January 2019 and requested views on the proposals. This consultation ran from 22 January 2019 to 15 April 2019.
6. The Commission publicised the review on its website and social media channels and asked Bridgend County Borough Council to publicise the review and provided the Council with a number of public notices to display. These were also provided to the community and town councils in the area. In addition, the Commission made a presentation to both county, and town and community councillors to explain the review process and the Commission's policies. The County Borough Council was invited to submit a suggested scheme for new electoral arrangements.

Chapter 2. THE DRAFT PROPOSALS

1. Prior to the formulation of the draft proposals, the Commission received representations from the Group Leaders of Bridgend County Borough Council and four Town and Community Councils.
2. Bridgend County Borough Council Group Leaders proposed new electoral arrangements for areas which possess the highest levels of electoral variance within the county borough (which can be seen in full in the Commission's Draft Proposals Report, January 2019), which resulted in a scheme of 52 members. They also proposed boundary changes within 11 communities: Brackla, Bridgend Town, Cefn Glas, Coity Higher, Garw Valley, Laleston, Newcastle Higher, Pencoed, Porthcawl, Pyle and St. Bride's Minor.
3. These representations were taken into consideration and summarised in the Draft Proposals Report published on 15 January 2019. The listed mandatory consultees and other interested parties were informed of a period of consultation on the draft proposals which commenced on 22 January 2019 and ended on 15 April 2019. The Commission asked Bridgend County Borough Council to display copies of the report alongside public notices in the area. The Commission's draft proposals proposed a change to the arrangement of electoral wards that would have achieved a marked improvement in the level of electoral parity across the County Borough of Bridgend.
4. The Commission proposed a council of 52 members, a reduction from 54. This resulted in a proposed county average of 2,055 electors per member. The Commission proposed 32 electoral wards, a reduction from 39 existing electoral wards.
5. The largest under-representation (in terms of electoral variance) was proposed to be in Bridgend Central (24% above the proposed county average). At present the greatest under-representation is in Bryntirion, Laleston and Merthyr Mawr (56% above the proposed county average).
6. The largest over-representation (in terms of electoral variance) was proposed to be in Cefn Glas (20% below the proposed county average). At present the greatest over-representation is in Llangeinor (57% below the proposed county average).
7. The Commission proposed 15 multi-member wards in the County Borough consisting of ten two-member electoral wards and five three-member electoral wards.
8. The Commission proposed no changes to nine electoral wards.
9. The Commission proposed to have three electoral wards within the county borough which combined a part of a warded community, along with its neighbouring community. These community splits were present within the Communities of Brackla, Garw Valley and St Bride's Minor.

Chapter 3. SUMMARY OF FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS

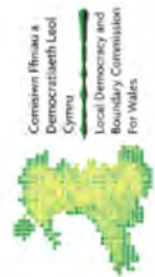
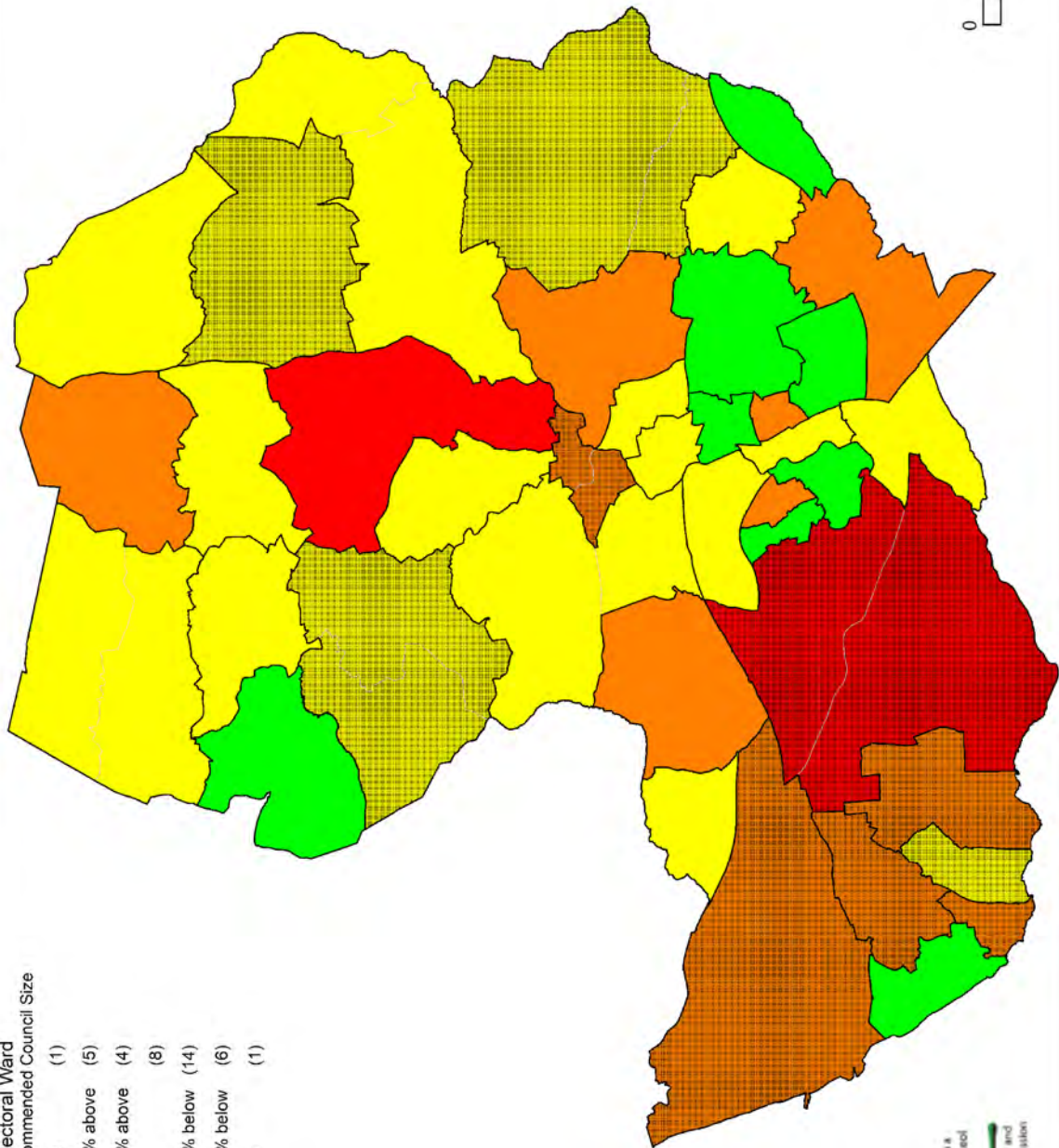
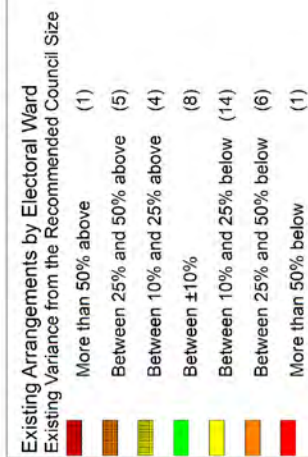
- The Commission received 45 representations from: Bridgend County Borough Council Group Leaders, ten town and community councils, a joint representation from Chris Elmore MP and Huw Irranca-Davies AM, eight county councillors, ten community councillors, 20 members of the public, a petition with 92 signatories and three other interested bodies. The Commission considered all these representations carefully before it formulated its recommendations. A summary of those representations can be found at Appendix 5.
- The Commission recommends a change to the arrangement of electoral wards that will achieve a marked improvement in the level of electoral parity across the County Borough of Bridgend.
- The Commission recommends a council of 51 members, down from 54. This results in a recommended county average of 2,096 electors per member.
- The Commission recommends 28 electoral wards, a reduction from 39 existing wards.
- The largest under-representation (in terms of electoral variance) is recommended to be in **Pencoed and Penprysg** (22% above the proposed county average). At present the greatest under-representation is in Bryntirion, Laleston and Merthyr Mawr (53% above the proposed county average).
- The largest over-representation (in terms of electoral variance) is recommended to be in **Cefn Glas** (22% below the proposed county average). At present the greatest over-representation is in Llangeinor (58% below the proposed county average).
- The Commission is recommending 15 multi-member wards in the County; consisting of seven two-member electoral wards and eight three-member electoral wards.
- The Commission has recommended no changes to nine electoral wards.
- The Commission recommends having one electoral ward within the county which combine a part of a warded community, along with its neighbouring community. This community split is present within the Community of Brackla.
- The Commission recommends making a number of boundary changes in the Community of Brackla and the Town of Porthcawl. The Commission has recommended consequential changes to Brackla Community Council and Porthcawl Town Council as a result of these boundary changes.

Summary Maps

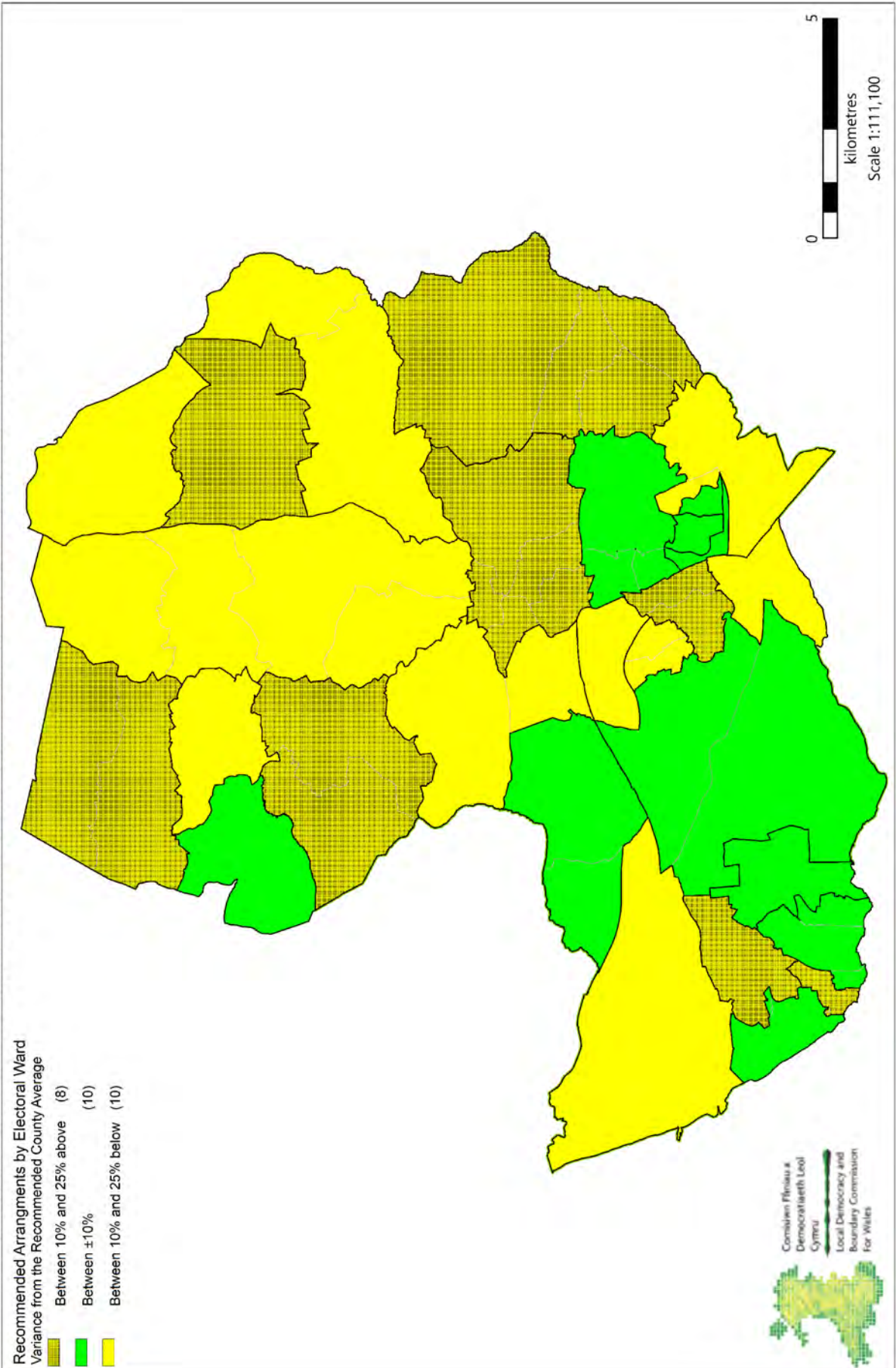
1. On the following pages are thematic maps illustrating the current and recommended arrangements and their variances from the proposed county average. Those areas in green are within $\pm 10\%$ of the county average; yellow and hatched yellow between $\pm 10\%$ and $\pm 25\%$ of the county average; orange and hatched orange between $\pm 25\%$ and $\pm 50\%$ of the county average; and, finally, those in red are over $\pm 50\%$ of the county average.
2. As can be seen from these maps, the new arrangements provide for a marked improvement in electoral parity across the County.

COUNTY BOROUGH OF BRIDGEND

EXISTING VARIANCE IN ELECTORAL REPRESENTATION FROM THE RECOMMENDED COUNCIL SIZE



COUNTY BOROUGH OF BRIDGEND
VARIANCE IN ELECTORAL REPRESENTATION FROM THE RECOMMENDED COUNTY AVERAGE



Chapter 4. ASSESSMENT

Council size

1. The council size for the County Borough of Bridgend has been determined by our council size policy and methodology. This policy can be found in our *Electoral Reviews: Policy and Practice* [2016] document. The methodology sets out a council size of 49 for the County Borough of Bridgend. At present the size of the council at 54 members is 5 members above the methodology aim.
2. The Commission reviewed the electoral arrangements for the County Borough of Bridgend in light of our methodology and took account of the representations which had been made. For the reasons given below, we consider that in the interests of effective and convenient local government, a council size of 51 would be appropriate to represent the County Borough of Bridgend.

Number of electors

3. The numbers shown as the electorate for 2017 and the estimates for the electorate in the year 2022 are those submitted to the Commission by Bridgend County Borough Council. The forecast figures supplied by Bridgend County Borough Council show a forecasted increase in the electorate from 106,876 to 114,874.
4. The Office for National Statistics (ONS) has also provided its estimated number of persons eligible to vote but who are not on the electoral register. This showed an estimated 7,238 more people eligible to vote than the 2017 electorate.
5. The Commission is aware that there are Welsh Government proposals to legislate to extend the franchise to include 16 and 17 year olds and foreign nationals, not currently eligible to vote, at the 2022 local government elections. The Commission's Council Size Policy utilises the entire population to determine council size and these two groups were included in the Council Size deliberations.
6. While current 16 and 17 year olds are not in the existing electoral figures provided by Bridgend County Borough Council, those individuals will have been included in the forecasted figures provided by the Council. Consideration of these figures has been included in the Commission's deliberations on its recommendations.
7. Foreign nationals are included in the census data provided by the ONS. Consideration of this data has been included as part of the Commission's deliberations on its recommendations.

Councillor to electorate ratio

8. In respect of the number of electors per councillor in each electoral ward, there is a wide variation from the current county average of 1,979 electors per councillor ranging from 56% below (879 electors) (Llangeinor) to 62% above (3,216 electors) (Bryntirion, Laleston and Merthyr Mawr). The determination of the council size above results in an average of 2,096 electors being represented by each councillor.
9. In its deliberations the Commission considered the ratio of local government electors to the number of councillors to be elected, with a view to proposing changes to ensure that the number of local government electors shall be, as near as may be, the same in every ward in the principal area. The Commission considered the size and character of the council and a wide range of other factors including local topography, road communications, and local ties.

Judgement and Balance

10. In producing a scheme of electoral arrangements, the Commission must have regard to a number of issues contained in the legislation. The Commission's recommended scheme has placed emphasis on achieving improvements in electoral parity whilst maintaining community ties wherever possible. The Commission has made every effort to ensure that the revised electoral wards, in the Commission's view, are an appropriate combination of existing communities and community wards.
11. The Commission has looked at each area and is satisfied that it would be difficult to achieve electoral arrangements that keep the existing combination of communities and community wards, without having a detrimental effect on one or more of the other issues that the Commission must consider.

Electoral Ward Names

12. The Commission is naming electoral wards and not the places within the proposed electoral wards. In the creation of these final recommendations, the Commission has considered the names of all the electoral wards proposed in Welsh and English, where appropriate. For these final recommendations the Commission has considered names of either electoral wards or communities that appear in Orders, where they exist; those recommended by the Welsh Language Commissioner; and, in the representations it has received.
13. The Commission consulted with the Welsh Language Commissioner on the suitability of the names in their draft form prior to the publication of these final recommendations, with a particular focus on the Welsh language names. This recognises the Welsh Language Commissioner's responsibility to advise on the standard forms of Welsh place-names and specialist knowledge in the field. It must be clear that these recommendations are not proposals for changes to any place names. At each recommendation an indication is given of the Welsh Language Commissioner's recommended alternative and, where they differ, the specific recommendation and why the Welsh Language Commissioner has proposed an alternative to the Commission's recommended name.

Community and Town Council Arrangements

14. The Commission received a number of representations during the draft proposals consultation period which included a misunderstanding as to the scope of the review. The Commission therefore wishes to highlight that this review of electoral arrangements is seeking to make improvements to electoral representation within Bridgend County Borough Council. This process, except where specifically described in Chapter 7, is independent from any changes to arrangements concerning community or town councils. Where combinations of communities are used to create single electoral wards, the individual communities in question will retain their existing community council arrangements. These councils will remain independent following the outcome of this review, any precepts generated or assets contained within a community council, will remain part of that community council.
15. Changes to community arrangements are dealt with under a separate part of the legislation, as part of a community review led by Bridgend County Borough Council.

Chapter 5. THE FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The Commission's recommendations are described in detail in this chapter. For each new proposal the report sets out:
 - The name(s) of the existing electoral wards which wholly or in part constitute the recommended ward;
 - A brief description of the existing electoral wards in terms of the number of electors now and projected, and their percentage variance from the recommended county average;
 - Key arguments made during the draft consultation (if any). Although not all representations are mentioned in this section, all representations have been considered and a summary can be found at Appendix 5;
 - The views of the Commission;
 - The composition of the recommended electoral ward and the recommended name;
 - A map of the recommended electoral ward (please see key at page 10).

Retained Electoral Wards

2. The Commission has considered the electoral arrangements of the existing electoral wards and the ratio of local government electors to the number of councillors to be elected. It is recommended that the existing arrangements should be retained within the following electoral wards. Names displayed in **bold** within the list below denote the electoral wards where the existing geography and electoral ward names have been prescribed within Orders, and which the Commission is recommending to retain.

- | | |
|---------------------|----------------------|
| • Aberkenfig | • Nant-y-moel |
| • Blackmill | • Ogmere Vale |
| • Llangynwyd | • Oldcastle |
| • Maesteg East | • Pen-y-fai |
| • Maesteg West | |

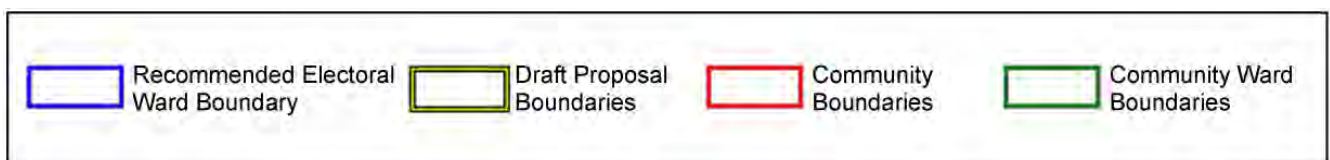
3. Whilst the Commission is recommending to preserve the geographical arrangements within the electoral wards listed above, it is recommending to introduce new electoral ward names for the following (names displayed in **bold** throughout the remainder of this report denote the Commission's recommended electoral ward names):
 - I. The Electoral Ward of Aberkenfig to retain the English language name of **Aberkenfig**, as prescribed in The County Borough of Bridgend (Electoral Arrangements) Order 1998 (1998 Order), and to be given the Welsh language name of **Abercynffig**. The Welsh Language Commissioner considered the name and proposed no change to the Commission's recommended name.
 - II. The Electoral Ward of Blackmill to retain the English language name of **Blackmill**, as prescribed in The County Borough of Bridgend (Electoral Arrangements) Order 1998 (1998 Order), and to be given the Welsh language name of **Melin Ifan Ddu**. The

Welsh Language Commissioner considered the name and proposed no change to the Commission's recommended name.

- III. The Electoral Ward of Maesteg East to retain the English language name of **Maesteg East**, as prescribed in The County Borough of Bridgend (Electoral Arrangements) Order 1998 (1998 Order), and to be given the Welsh language name of **Dwyrain Maesteg**. The Welsh Language Commissioner considered the name and proposed no change to the Commission's recommended name.
 - IV. The Electoral Ward of Maesteg West to retain the English language name of **Maesteg West**, as prescribed in The County Borough of Bridgend (Electoral Arrangements) Order 1998 (1998 Order), and to be given the Welsh language name of **Gorllewin Maesteg**. The Welsh Language Commissioner considered the name and proposed no change to the Commission's recommended name.
 - V. The Electoral Ward of Ogmore Vale to retain the English language name of **Ogmore Vale**, as prescribed in The County Borough of Bridgend (Electoral Arrangements) Order 1998 (1998 Order), and to be given the Welsh language name of **Bro Ogwr**. The Welsh Language Commissioner considered the name and proposed no change to the Commission's recommended name.
 - VI. The Electoral Ward of Oldcastle to retain the English language name of **Oldcastle**, as prescribed in The County Borough of Bridgend (Electoral Arrangements) Order 1998 (1998 Order), and to be given the Welsh language name of **Hengastell**. The Welsh Language Commissioner considered the name and proposed no change to the Commission's recommended name.
4. In its Draft Proposals report the Commission proposed to combine Aberkenfig and Pen-y-fai electoral wards to form an electoral ward by the name of Newcastle Higher. In light of the representations received the Commission has recommended that the existing arrangements are retained.

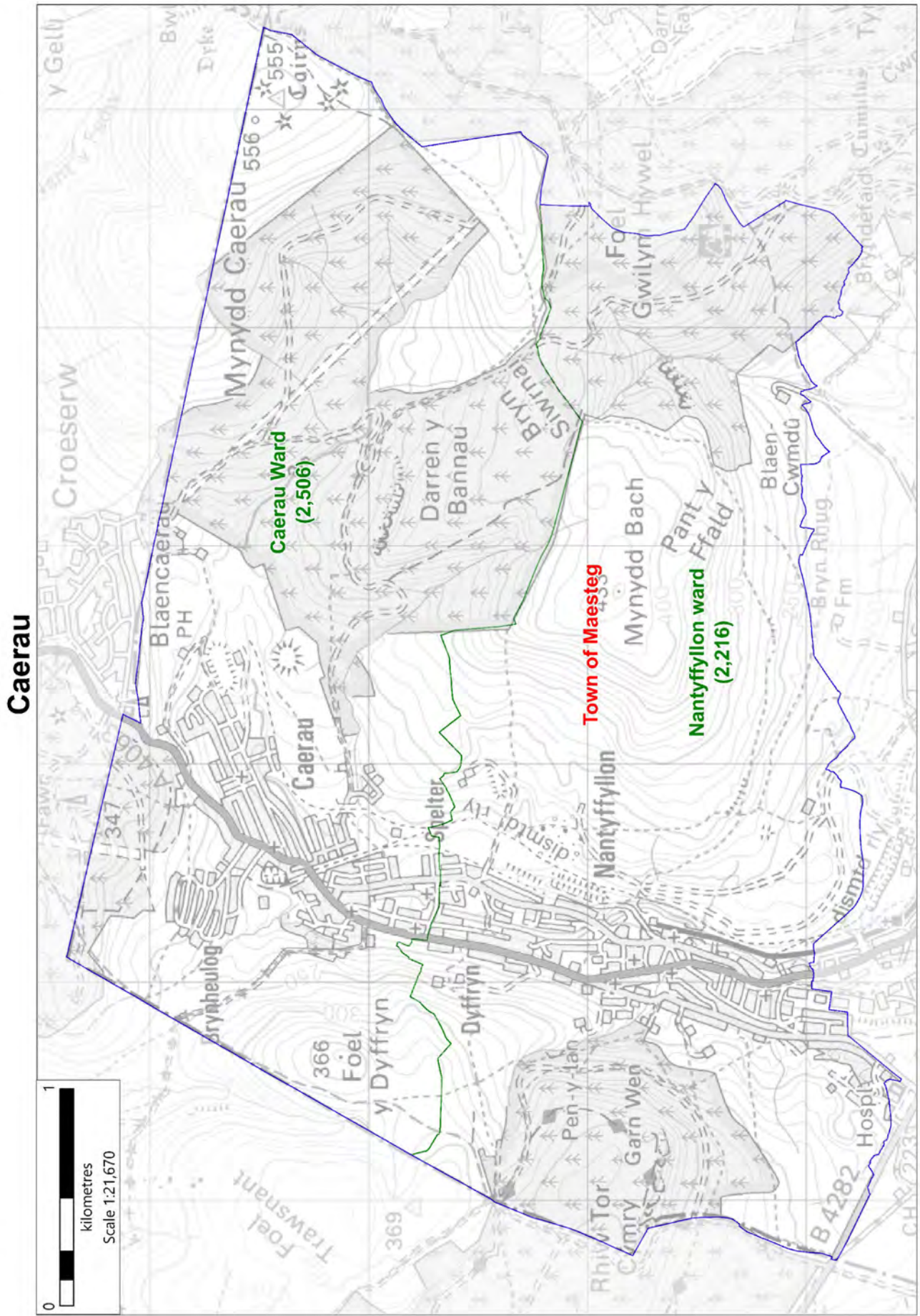
Proposed Electoral Wards

5. The Commission considered changes to the remaining 30 electoral wards. Details of the current electoral arrangements can be found at Appendix 2. The Commission's recommended arrangements can be found in Appendix 3.



Caerau

6. The existing Caerau electoral ward is composed of the Caerau and Nantyffyllon wards of the Community of Maesteg. It has 4,722 electors (4,847 projected) represented by three councillors which is 25% below the proposed county average. The electoral ward has an estimated population of 5,314 eligible electors.
7. In its Draft Proposals the Commission proposed to use the existing Caerau electoral ward to form a two-member ward. Reducing the number of councillors representing the ward by one.
8. The Commission received one representation in response to the Draft Proposals regarding this area from a resident of Nantyffyllon. The representation proposed to split the existing ward of Caerau using the current community wards to form two single member-wards.
9. The Commission recommends that the Caerau electoral ward is used to form an electoral ward of 4,722 electors (4,847 projected) which, if represented by two councillors, (a reduction of one councillor), would result in a level of representation that is 13% above the proposed county average.
10. The Commission considered the representation received and noted the level of electoral representation in the existing electoral ward. The Commission is of the view that by reducing the number of members in the existing ward, the level of electoral parity is significantly improved. The recommended arrangement retains the existing boundaries and is recognisable to the electorate.
11. The Commission proposed the single name Caerau in the Draft Proposals. The Welsh Language Commissioner agreed with the proposed name. The Commission received no representations regarding the name.
12. The Commission has given the recommended electoral ward the single name of **Caerau**. Any comments on the recommended name can be sent to the Minister for Housing and Local Government.
13. The Commission considers that this recommendation would be desirable in the interests of effective and convenient local government.



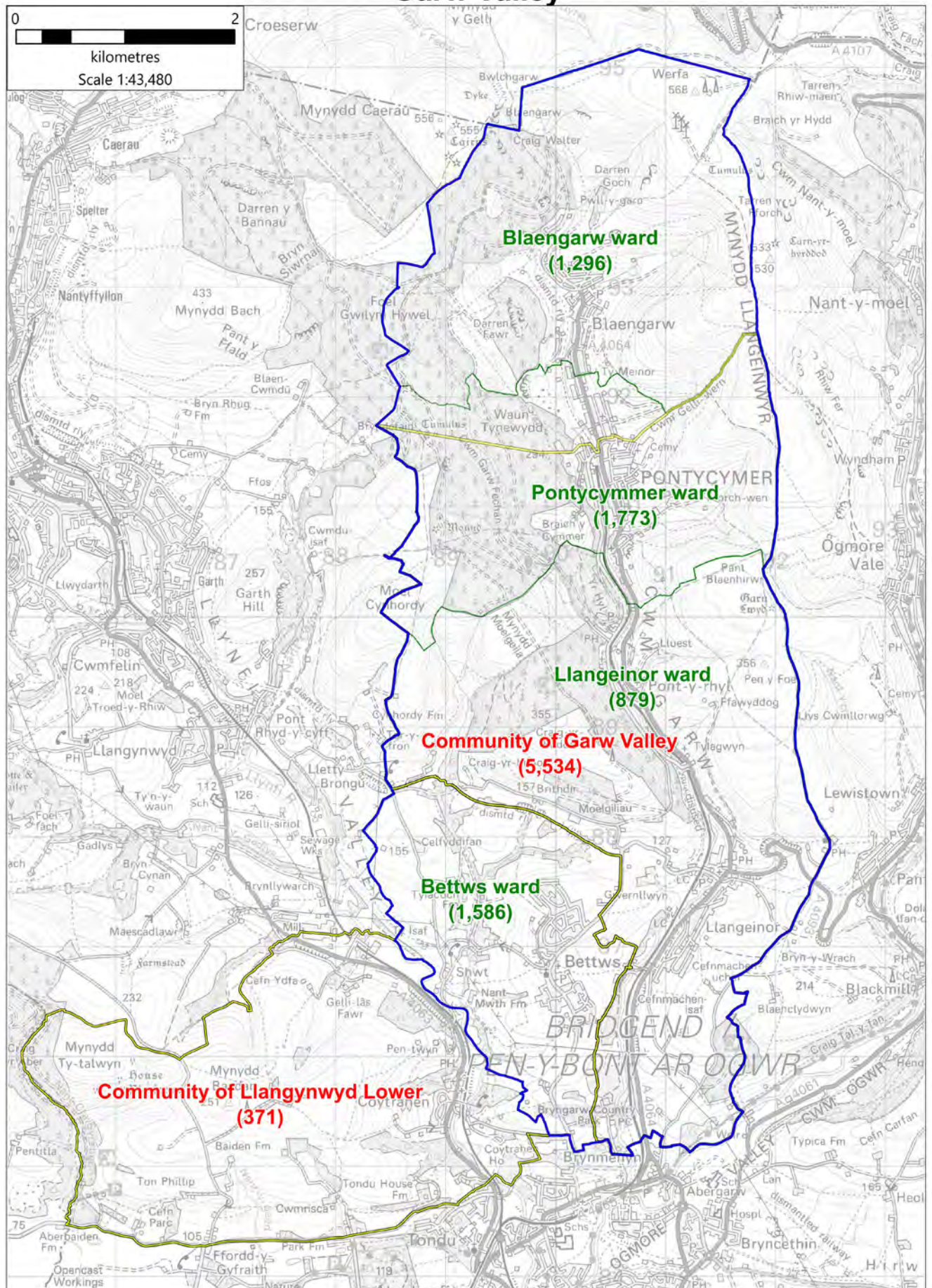
Blaengarw, Llangeinor and Pontycymmer

14. The existing Blaengarw electoral ward is comprised of the Blaengarw ward of the Community of Garw Valley. It has 1,296 electors (1,318 projected) represented by one councillor which is 38% below the proposed county average. The electoral ward has an estimated population of 1,358 eligible electors.
15. The existing Llangeinor electoral ward is comprised of the Llangeinor ward of the Community of Garw Valley. It has 879 electors (925 projected) represented by one councillor which is 58% below the proposed county average. The electoral ward has an estimated population of 949 eligible electors.
16. The existing Pontycymmer electoral ward is comprised of the Pontycymmer ward of the Community of Garw Valley. It has 1,773 electors (1,811 projected) represented by one councillor which is 15% below the proposed county average. The electoral ward has an estimated population of 1,958 eligible electors.
17. In its Draft Proposals the Commission proposed to apply the boundaries as submitted by Garw Valley Community Council to combine the northern part of the electoral ward of Pontycymmer with the electoral ward of Blaengarw and consequently the southern part of the electoral ward of Pontycymmer with the electoral ward of Llangeinor to create two single-member wards.
18. The Commission received four representations regarding the proposed names in response to the Draft Proposals from: Chris Elmore MP and Huw Irranca-Davies AM, Councillor Roderick Shaw (Garw Valley), the four community councillors that represent the Bettws ward of the Garw Valley Community Council and a petition with 92 signatories.
19. Chris Elmore MP and Huw Irranca-Davies AM stated their opposition to the proposed wards in the Garw Valley and stated that the residents of Pontycymmer have a strong sense of belonging and dividing the village is arbitrary. The elected members supported the desire to reduce the number of councillors in the area and therefore propose using the Community of Garw Valley to form a two-member electoral ward.
20. Councillor Roderick Shaw (Garw Valley) also opposed the draft proposals and proposed to use the Community of Garw Valley to form a two-member electoral ward.
21. The four community councillors that represent the Bettws ward of the Garw Valley Community Council support the draft proposal to combine the Bettws ward of the Community of Garw Valley with the Community of Llangynwyd Lower.
22. The Commission also received a petition with 92 signatories which supported the reduction in the number of councillors representing the area, however, the signatories did not support the draft proposal and propose using the Community of Garw Valley in its entirety to form a two-member electoral ward.
23. The Commission recommends combining the wards of Blaengarw, Llangeinor and Pontycymmer of the Community of Garw Valley to form an electoral ward with 5,534 electors (5,870 projected) which, if represented by three councillors, would result in a level of representation that is 12% below the proposed county average.
24. The Commission agrees with the alternative arrangements as proposed within the representations which avoid splitting the electoral ward of Pontycymmer by combining the

wards of the Community of Garw Valley into a multi-member ward. The Commission considers that the recommended electoral ward combining three electoral wards, which already form part of the Community of Garw Valley, promotes the desirability to maintain community ties, and will be able to utilise existing community, communication and social ties to form an effective electoral ward.

25. The Commission has given the recommended electoral ward the Welsh language name of **Cwm Garw** and the English language name of **Garw Valley**. The Welsh Language Commissioner is in agreement with the recommended name. Any comments on the recommended name can be sent to the Minister for Housing and Local Government.
26. The Commission considers that this recommendation would be desirable in the interests of effective and convenient local government.

Garw Valley



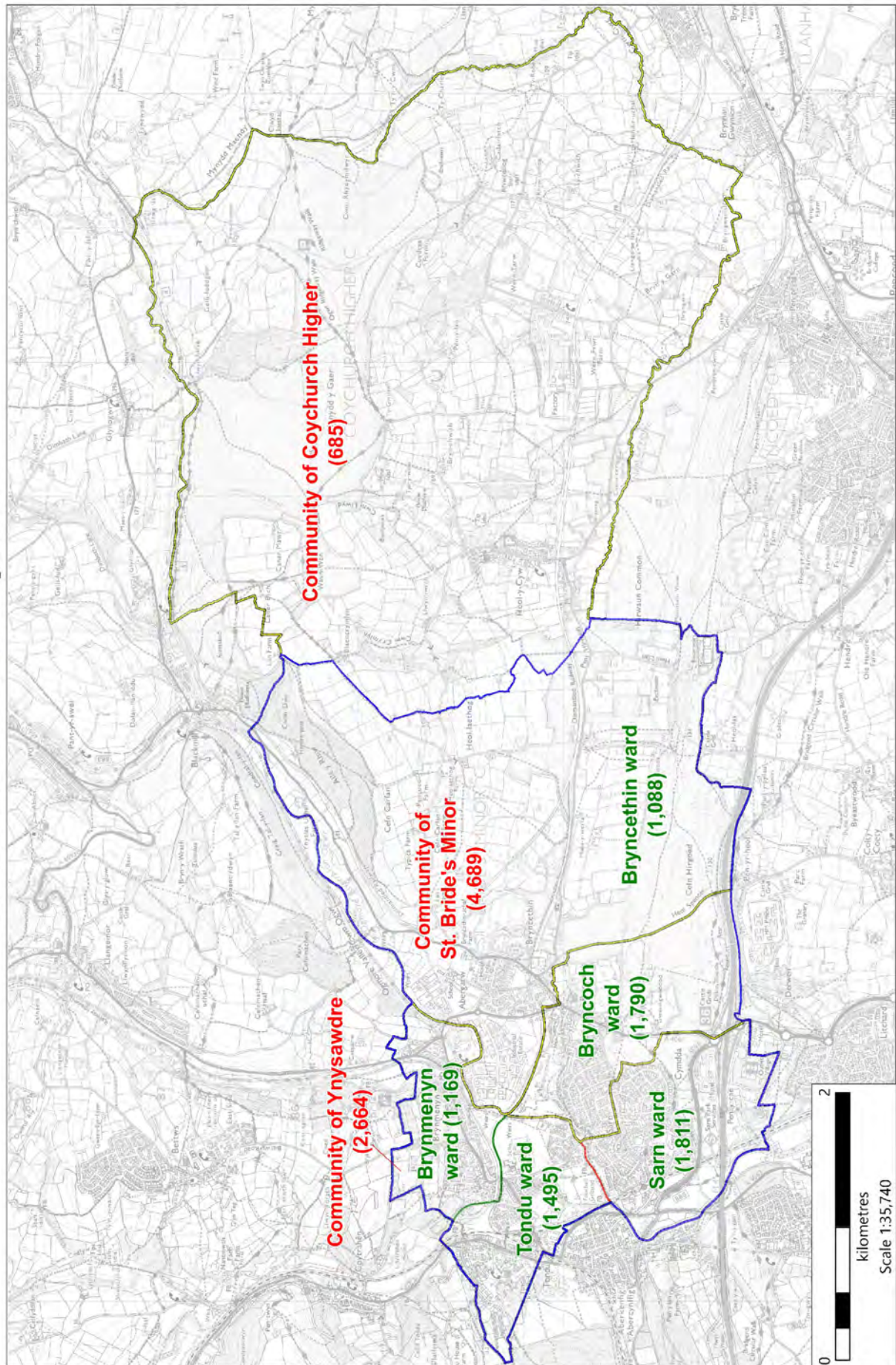
Bryncethin, Bryncoch, Sarn and Ynysawdre

27. The existing Bryncethin electoral ward is comprised of the Bryncethin ward of the Community of St. Bride's Minor. It has 1,088 electors (1,378 projected) represented by one councillor which is 48% below the proposed county average. The electoral ward has an estimated population of 1,083 eligible electors.
28. The existing Bryncoch electoral ward is comprised of the Bryncoch ward of the Community of St. Bride's Minor. It has 1,790 electors (1,820 projected) represented by one councillor which is 15% below the proposed county average. The electoral ward has an estimated population of 1,948 eligible electors.
29. The existing Sarn electoral ward is comprised of the Sarn ward of the Community of St. Bride's Minor. It has 1,811 electors (1,821 projected) represented by one councillor which is 14% below the proposed county average. The electoral ward has an estimated population of 1,958 eligible electors.
30. The existing Ynysawdre electoral ward is composed of the wards of Brynmenyn and Tondy of the Community of Ynysawdre. It has 2,664 electors (3,065 projected) represented by one councillor which is 27% above the proposed county average. The electoral ward has an estimated population of 2,852 eligible electors.
31. In its Draft Proposals the Commission proposed to retain the existing Bryncoch electoral ward as a single-member ward; to combine the Bryncethin ward of the Community of St. Bride's Minor with the Community of Coychurch Higher to form a single-member electoral ward; and, to combine the Sarn ward of the Community of St. Bride's Minor with the Community of Ynysawdre to form a two-member electoral ward.
32. The Commission received seven representations in response to the Draft Proposals regarding this area from: Coychurch Higher Community Council, St. Bride's Minor Community Council, Councillor Timothy Thomas (Ynysawdre), Councillor Alex Williams (Penprysg), three Community Councillors of St. Bride's Minor Community Council, the Tondy and Aberkenfig Community Association and a resident of Penprysg.
33. Coychurch Higher Community Council and Councillor Williams (Penprysg) opposed the draft proposal to combine Coychurch Higher and Bryncethin to form an electoral ward, stating that the residents of Heol-y-Cyw have a historic affinity to Pencoed.
34. The Commission received a representation from a resident of Penprysg that supported the draft proposal to combine the Community of Coychurch Higher with Penprysg.
35. St Bride's Minor Community Council requested that the wards of Bryncethin, Bryncoch and Sarn be combined into a two-member electoral ward.
36. The Commission received opposition to the combination of the Sarn ward and the Community of Ynysawdre from Councillor Timothy Thomas (Ynysawdre), three community councillors that represent the Community Council of St. Bride's Minor and the Tondy and Aberkenfig Community Association.
37. Councillor Thomas (Ynysawdre) supported the proposals as submitted by the Group Leaders in the initial consultation period and stated that there was no connection between the Sarn ward and the Community of Ynysawdre. Three of the community councillors that represent the Sarn ward opposed the draft proposal stating that the proposed ward would create a

six-mile journey. The community councillors proposed using the Community of St. Bride's Minor to form an electoral ward.

38. Tondu and Aberkenfig Community Association opposed the draft proposals for the area stating that the wards as proposed would cause confusion for Members of Parliament and Assembly Members as they would cross Parliamentary and National Assembly constituencies.
39. The Commission recommends combining the Communities of St. Bride's Minor and Ynysawdre to form an electoral ward with 7,353 electors (8,084 projected) which, if represented by three councillors, would result in a level of representation that is 17% above the proposed county average.
40. The Commission agrees with the recommendations made by St. Bride's Community Council to use the Community of St. Bride's to form an electoral ward. However, it was not possible to retain the existing Ynysawdre ward due to the inappropriate levels of electoral variance. The Commission is of the view that the Ynysawdre electoral ward is best served combined with the Community of St. Bride's Minor in a three-member ward. This arrangement combines two communities of similar character, promotes the desirability to maintain community ties, and will be able to utilise existing community, communication and social ties to form an effective electoral ward.
41. The Commission has given the recommended electoral ward the Welsh language name of **Llansanffraid-ar-Ogwr ac Ynysawdre** and the English language name of **St Bride's Minor and Ynysawdre**. The Welsh Language Commissioner is in agreement with the recommended name. Any comments on the recommended name can be sent to the Minister for Housing and Local Government.
42. The Commission considers that this recommendation would be desirable in the interests of effective and convenient local government.

St. Bride's Minor and Ynysawdre



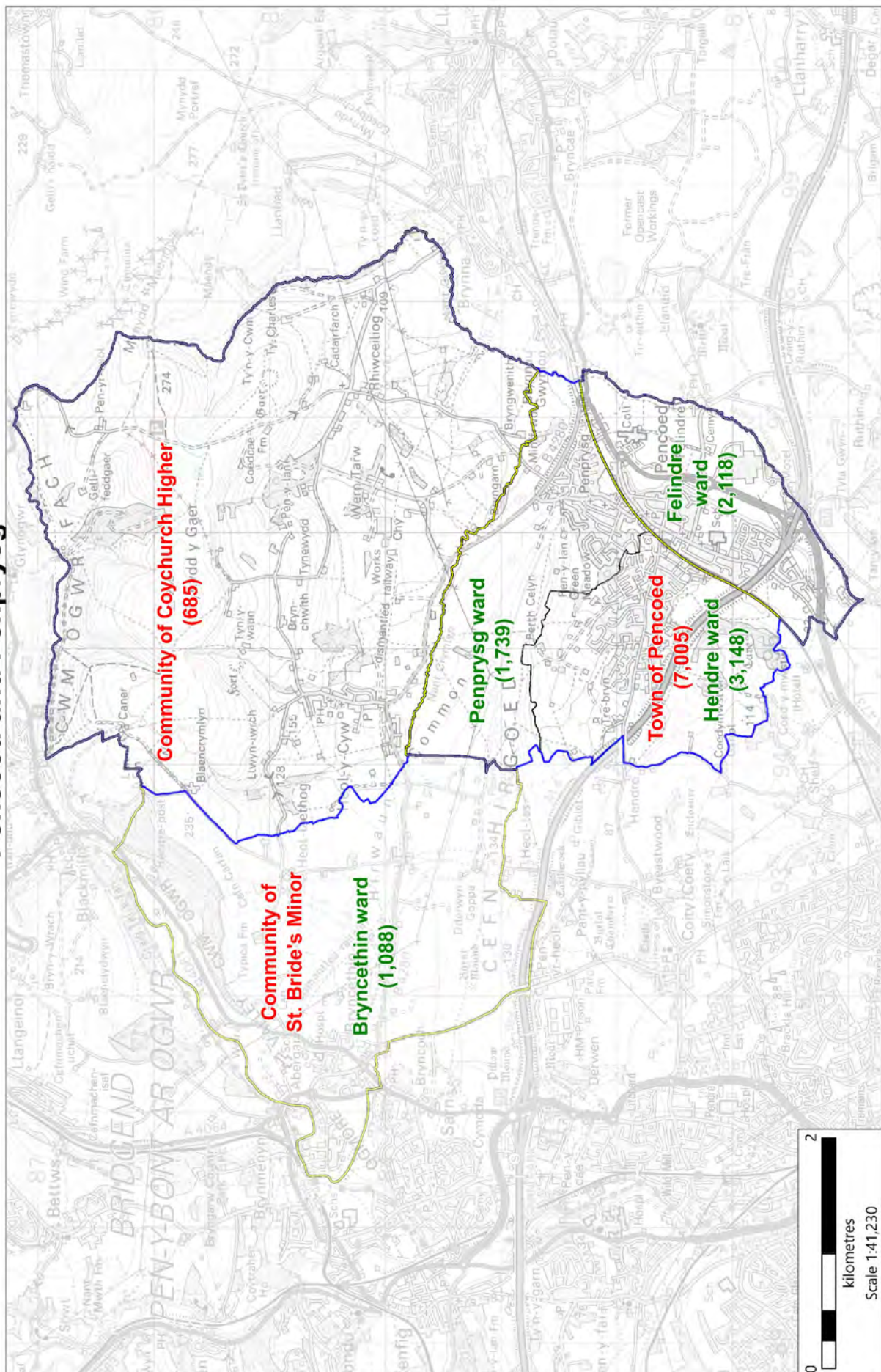
Felindre, Hendre and Penprysg

43. The existing Felindre electoral ward is comprised of the Felindre ward of the Community of Pencoed. It has 2,118 electors (2,144 projected) represented by one councillor which is 1% above the proposed county average. The electoral ward has an estimated population of 2,318 eligible electors.
44. The existing Hendre electoral ward is comprised of the Hendre ward of the Community of Pencoed. It has 3,148 electors (3,165 projected) represented by two councillor which is 25% below the proposed county average. The electoral ward has an estimated population of 3,306 eligible electors.
45. The existing Penprysg electoral ward is composed of the Community of Coychurch Higher and the Penprysg ward of the Community of Pencoed. It has 2,424 (2,518 projected) represented by one councillor which is 16% above the proposed county average. The electoral ward has an estimated population of 2,529 eligible electors.
46. In its Draft Proposals the Commission proposed to retain the existing Felindre electoral ward as a single-member ward and to combine the Hendre and Penprysg wards of the Community of Pencoed to form a two-member electoral ward.
47. The Commission received six representations in response to the Draft Proposals regarding this area from: Coychurch Higher Community Council, Pencoed Town Council, a joint representation from Chris Elmore MP and Huw Irranca- Davies AM, Councillor Alex Williams (Penprysg), a resident of Pencoed and a resident of Penprysg.
48. Coychurch Higher Community Council opposed the draft proposal to combine Coychurch Higher and Bryncethin to form an electoral ward, stating that the residents of Heol-y-Cyw have a historic affinity to Pencoed.
49. Pencoed Town Council reiterated their initial representations which would involve splitting the Hendre ward, however, the Town Council also stated that the whole Community of Pencoed would be well served in a three-member electoral ward.
50. The joint representation from Chris Elmore MP and Huw Irranca-Davies AM proposed an alternative name for the draft proposal of Felindre.
51. Councillor Williams (Penprysg) opposed the draft proposal to combine Coychurch Higher and Bryncethin to form an electoral ward, stating that the residents of Heol-y-Cyw have a historic affinity to Pencoed.
52. The Commission received an alternative arrangement from a resident of Pencoed that would see the boundary between Penprysg and Hendre moved along the Nant Heol Y Geifr stream.
53. The Commission also received a representation from a resident of Penprysg that supported the draft proposal to combine the Community of Coychurch Higher with Penprysg.
54. The Commission recommends combining the wards of Felindre, Hendre and Penprysg of the Community of Pencoed with the Community of Coychurch Higher to form an electoral ward with 7,690 electors (7,827 projected) which, if represented by three councillors, would result in a level of representation that is 22% above the proposed county average.
55. The Commission agrees with the recommendations made by Pencoed Town Council to use the Community of Pencoed to form an electoral ward. This recommended arrangement

combines three electoral wards, which already form the Community of Pencoed along with the Community of Coychurch Higher, promotes the desirability to maintain community ties, and will be able to utilise existing community, communication and social ties to form an effective electoral ward. It also accords with Coychurch Higher Community Council's wish not to be combined with Bryncethin.

56. The Commission has given the recommended electoral ward the Welsh language name of **Pencoed a Phen-prysg**, and the English language name of **Pencoed and Penprysg**. The Welsh Language Commissioner recommended the English language form of Pencoed and Pen-prysg. Stating that the hyphen is used in Welsh place-names in order to aid pronunciation by showing that stress does not fall on the penultimate syllable. The stress falls on the final syllable of this name and is therefore preceded by a hyphen. Any comments on the recommended name can be sent to the Minister for Housing and Local Government.
57. The Commission considers that this recommendation would be desirable in the interests of effective and convenient local government.

Pencoed and Penprysg

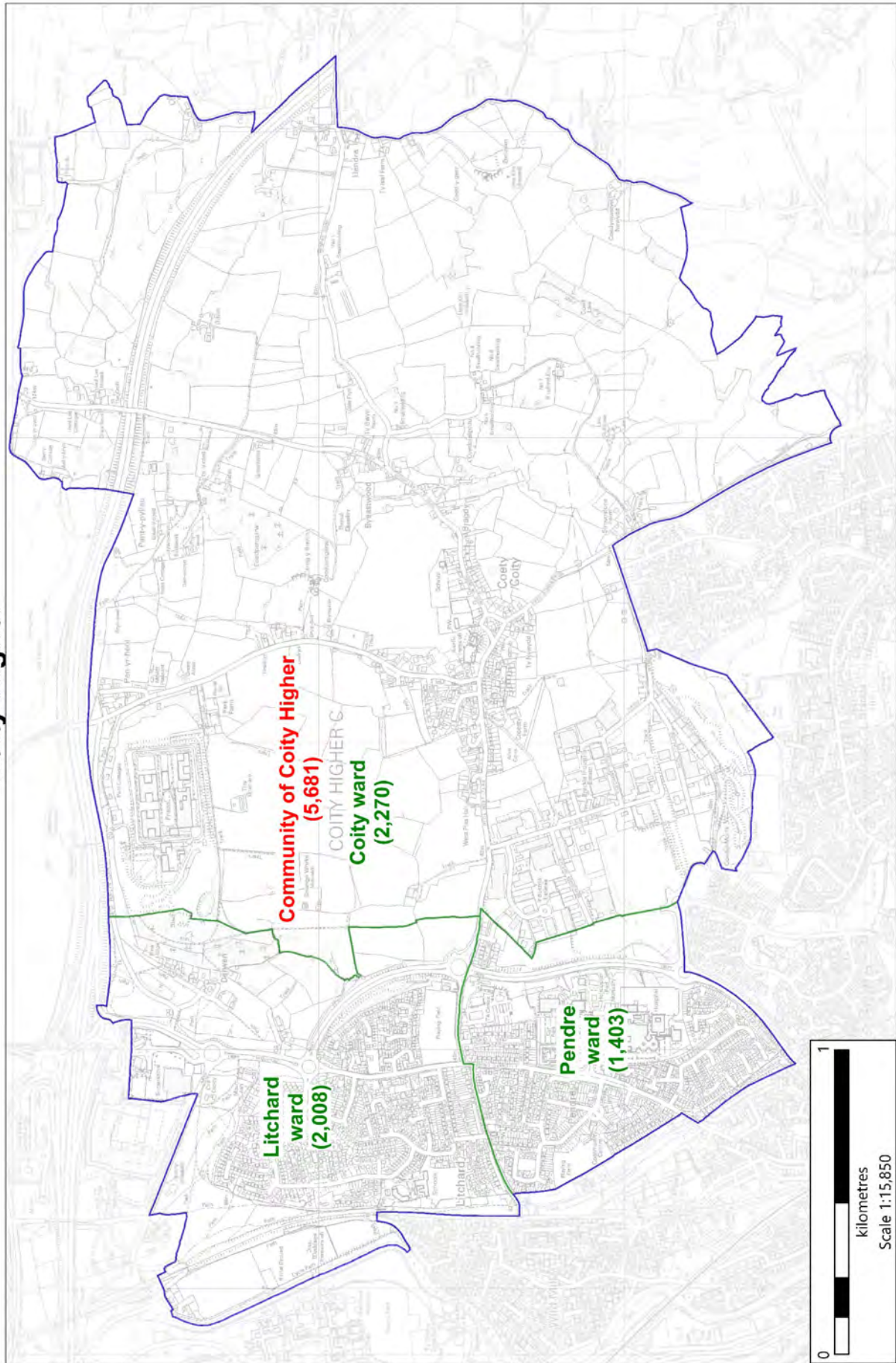


Coity, Litchard and Pendre

58. The existing Coity electoral ward is comprised of the Coity ward of the Community of Coity Higher. It has 2,270 electors (3,556 projected) represented by one councillor which is 8% above the proposed county average. The electoral ward has an estimated population of 3,390 eligible voters.
59. The existing Litchard electoral ward is comprised of the Litchard ward of the Community of Coity Higher. It has 2,008 electors (2,172 projected) represented by one councillor which is 4% below the proposed county average. The electoral ward has an estimated population of 1,850 eligible voters.
60. The existing Pendre electoral ward is comprised of the Pendre ward of the Community of Coity Higher. It has 1,403 electors (1,777 projected) represented by one councillor which is 33% below the proposed county average. The electoral ward has an estimated population of 1,518 eligible voters.
61. In its Draft Proposals the Commission proposed to combine the wards of Coity, Litchard and Pendre of the Community of Coity Higher to form an electoral ward.
62. The Commission received two representations in response to the Draft Proposals regarding this area from the Group Leaders of Bridgend County Borough Council and Coity Higher Community Council. Both representations provided alternative boundaries that would retain three single-member wards.
63. The Commission recommends combining the wards of Coity, Litchard and Pendre of the Community of Coity Higher to form an electoral ward with 5,681 electors (7,505 projected) which, if represented by three councillors, would result in a level of representation that is 10% below the proposed county average.
64. The Commission considered the representations from the Group Leaders of the Council and Coity Higher Community Council and considered the alternative arrangements proposed which retained three single-member wards within the community. Unfortunately, it has not been possible to retain these single-member wards in accordance with the representations due to the unacceptable level of electoral parity that would exist in the proposed Coity ward.
65. The Commission considers that the recommended electoral ward combining three electoral wards, which already form the Community of Coity Higher, promotes the desirability to maintain community ties, and will be able to utilise existing community, communication and social ties to form an effective electoral ward.
66. The Commission proposed the Welsh language name of Coety Uchaf and the English language name of Coity Higher. The Welsh Language Commissioner suggested the single name of *Coety Uchaf*. The Welsh Language Commissioner stated that the Place Names Standardisation Panel recommends moving towards adopting a single place name, however, the Commissioner acknowledges that the name Coity is well established. The Commission received no representations with regards to the name in response to the Draft Proposals.
67. The Commission has given the recommended electoral ward the Welsh language name of **Coety Uchaf**, and the English language name of **Coity Higher**. Any comments on the recommended name can be sent to the Minister for Housing and Local Government.

68. The Commission considers that this recommendation would be desirable in the interests of effective and convenient local government.

Coity Higher



Brackla and Coychurch Lower

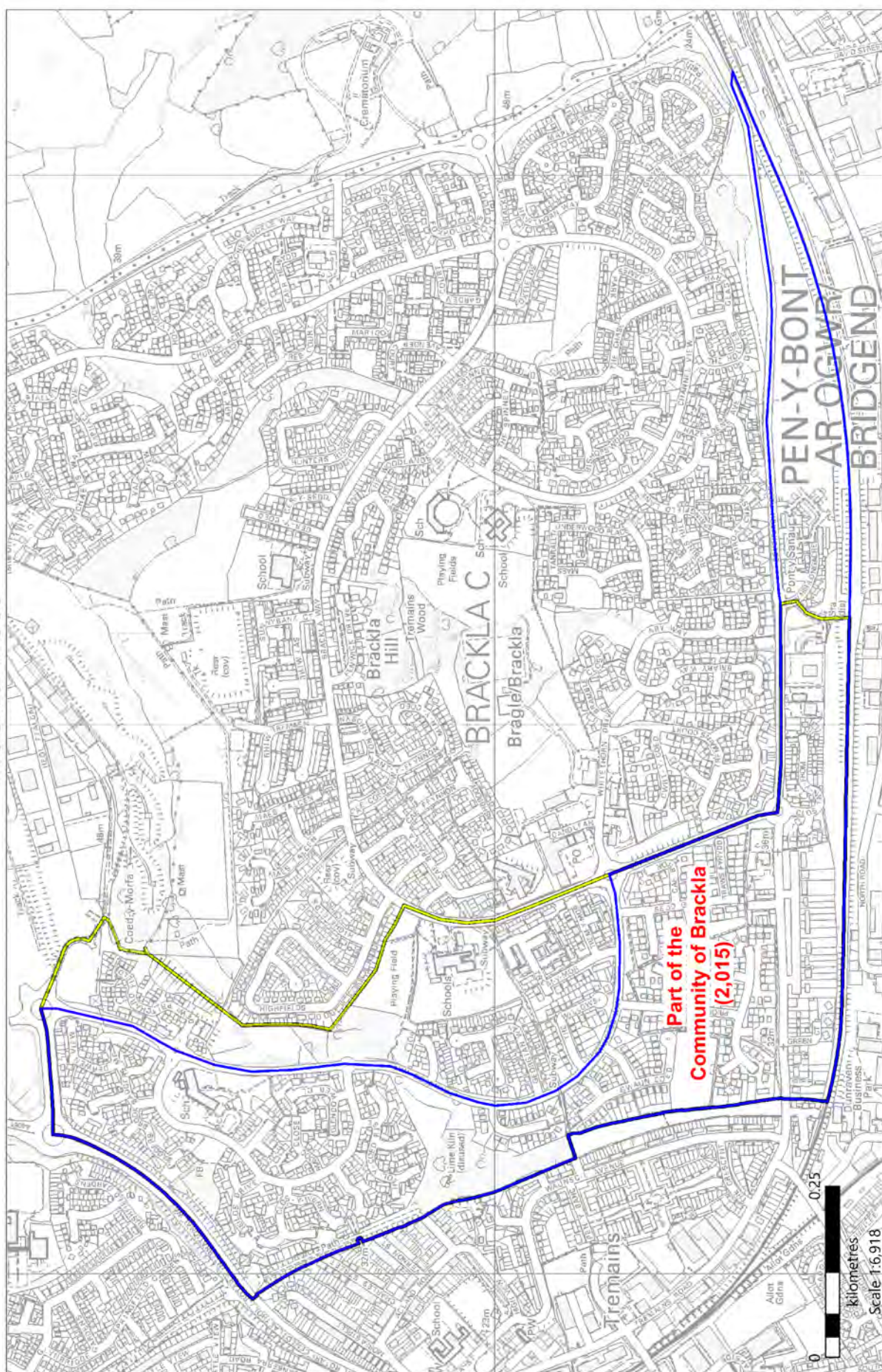
69. The existing Brackla electoral ward is comprised of the Community of Brackla. It has 8,461 electors (8,494 projected) represented by four councillors which is 1% above the proposed county average. The electoral ward has an estimated population of 8,986 eligible voters.
70. The existing Coychurch Lower electoral ward is comprised of the Community of Coychurch Lower. It has 1,158 electors (2,229 projected) represented by one councillor which is 45% below the proposed county average. The electoral ward has an estimated population of 1,198 eligible voters.
71. In its Draft Proposals the Commission proposed to split the Community of Brackla into four community wards and to use three of those wards to form three new single-member electoral wards. The Commission proposed to combine the fourth community ward with the Community of Coychurch Lower to form a new two-member electoral ward.
72. The Commission received fourteen representations in response to the Draft Proposals regarding this area from: The Group Leaders of Bridgend County Borough Council, Brackla Community Council, Coychurch Lower Community Council, Councillor Tom Giffard (Brackla), Councillor John Spanswick (Brackla), Councillor Elaine Venables (Coychurch Lower), three residents of Coychurch Lower, a resident of Bridgend and four residents of Brackla.
73. The Group Leaders of the Council clarified the boundaries that they had proposed in their initial submission that had been misinterpreted by the Commission; the proposed boundaries are listed below:
 - i) Princess Way is used as a boundary to form a ward to the west of the existing electoral ward. (Including Coychurch Road)
 - ii) The boundary at Brackla Way is utilised and the playing fields at Brackla Leisure Centre used to form another ward.
 - iii) The boundary along the playing fields (to the west) is utilised and the entirety of Channel View is used to form another ward. (This also includes Ger-y-Coed, Ger-y-Sedd, Hunters' Ridge & Foxfields)
 - iv) Church Acre is used to form the fourth ward and the existing external eastern boundary of Brackla is used. (This includes Garden Court, Lavender Court & Marigold Court)
74. Brackla Community Council, Councillor Tom Giffard (Brackla), Councillor John Spanswick (Brackla) and residents of Brackla supported the proposals to create four single member wards for Brackla, however, both Councillor Giffard and Councillor Spanswick provided alternative boundaries for the wards of Brackla.
75. Councillor Giffard recognised the need to propose a ward that would combine the Brackla East ward with the Coychurch Lower ward. Councillor Spanswick provided alternative arrangements to enable the Community of Coychurch Lower to remain as a single member ward.
76. The Commission received representations from Coychurch Lower Community Council, Councillor Elaine Venables (Coychurch Lower), four residents of Coychurch Lower and two residents of Brackla that opposed the proposed ward of Brackla East and Coychurch Lower.

This opposition was based on Brackla and Coychurch Lower being different communities that have differing needs for representation. They believed that preference would be given to the issues of the residents of Brackla over those of the residents of Coychurch Lower due to a large percentage of the residents of the proposed wards being from the Community of Brackla.

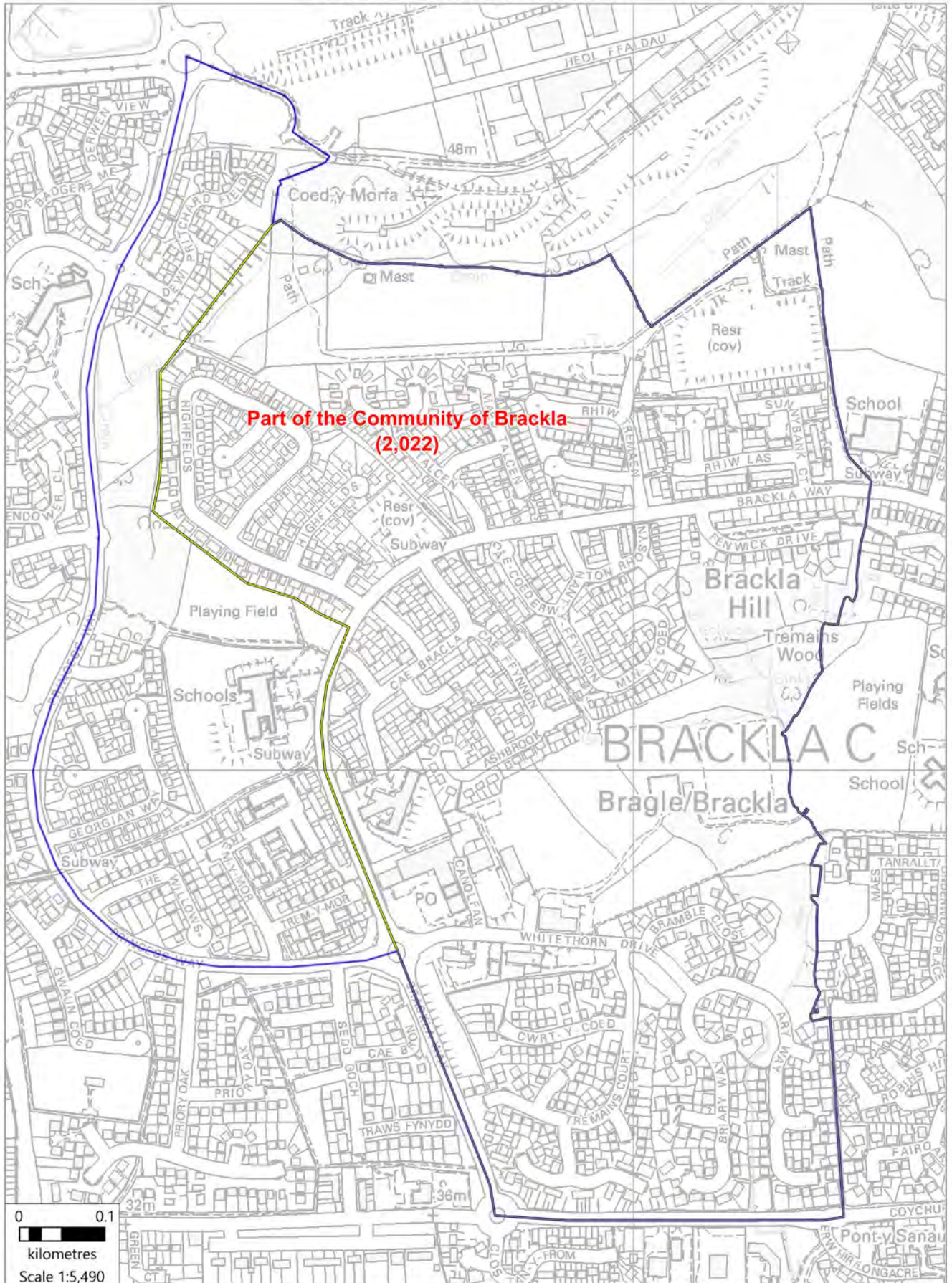
77. The Commission recommends to apply the boundaries as submitted by the Group Leaders at 70 i. (as illustrated on page 29) to form a ward with 2,015 electors which, if represented by one councillor, would result in a level of representation that is 4% below the proposed county average.
78. The Commission proposed the Welsh language name of Gorllewin Bracla and the English language name of Brackla West. The Welsh Language Commissioner suggested the Welsh form of *Gorllewin Brackla*. The Commission received no representation with regards to the name in response to the Draft Proposals.
79. The Commission has given the recommended electoral ward the Welsh language name of **Gorllewin Bracla** and the English language name of **Brackla West**. The Welsh Language Commissioner recommends *Gorllewin Brackla*. Any comments on the recommended name can be sent to the Minister for Housing and Local Government.
80. The Commission recommends to apply the boundaries as submitted by the Group Leaders at 70 ii. (as illustrated on page 30) to form a ward with 2,022 electors which, if represented by one councillor, would result in a level of representation that is 4% below the proposed county average.
81. The Commission proposed the Welsh language name of Canol Gorllewin Bracla and the English language name of Brackla West Central. The Welsh Language Commissioner suggested the Welsh form of *Canol Gorllewin Brackla*. The Commission received no representation with regards to the name in response to the Draft Proposals.
82. The Commission has given the recommended electoral ward the Welsh language name of **Canol Gorllewin Bracla** and the English language name of **Brackla West Central**. The Welsh Language Commissioner recommends *Canol Gorllewin Brackla*. Any comments on the recommended name can be sent to the Minister for Housing and Local Government.
83. The Commission proposes to apply the boundaries as submitted by the Group Leaders at 70 iii. (as illustrated on page 31) to form a ward with 2,207 electors which, if represented by one councillor, would result in a level of representation that is 5% above the proposed county average.
84. The Commission proposed the Welsh language name of Canol Dwyrain Bracla and the English language name of Brackla East Central. The Welsh Language Commissioner suggested the Welsh form of *Canol Dwyrain Brackla*. The Commission received no representation with regards to the name in response to the Draft Proposals.
85. The Commission has given the recommended electoral ward the Welsh language name of **Canol Dwyrain Bracla** and the English language name of **Brackla East Central**. The Welsh Language Commissioner recommends *Canol Dwyrain Brackla*. Any comments on the recommended name can be sent to the Minister for Housing and Local Government.
86. The Commission recommends to apply the boundaries as submitted by the Group Leaders at 70 iv. (as illustrated on page 32) to form a ward which would be combined with the

Community of Coychurch Lower to form a new ward of 3,375 electors which, if represented by two councillors, would result in a level of representation that is 19% below the proposed county average.

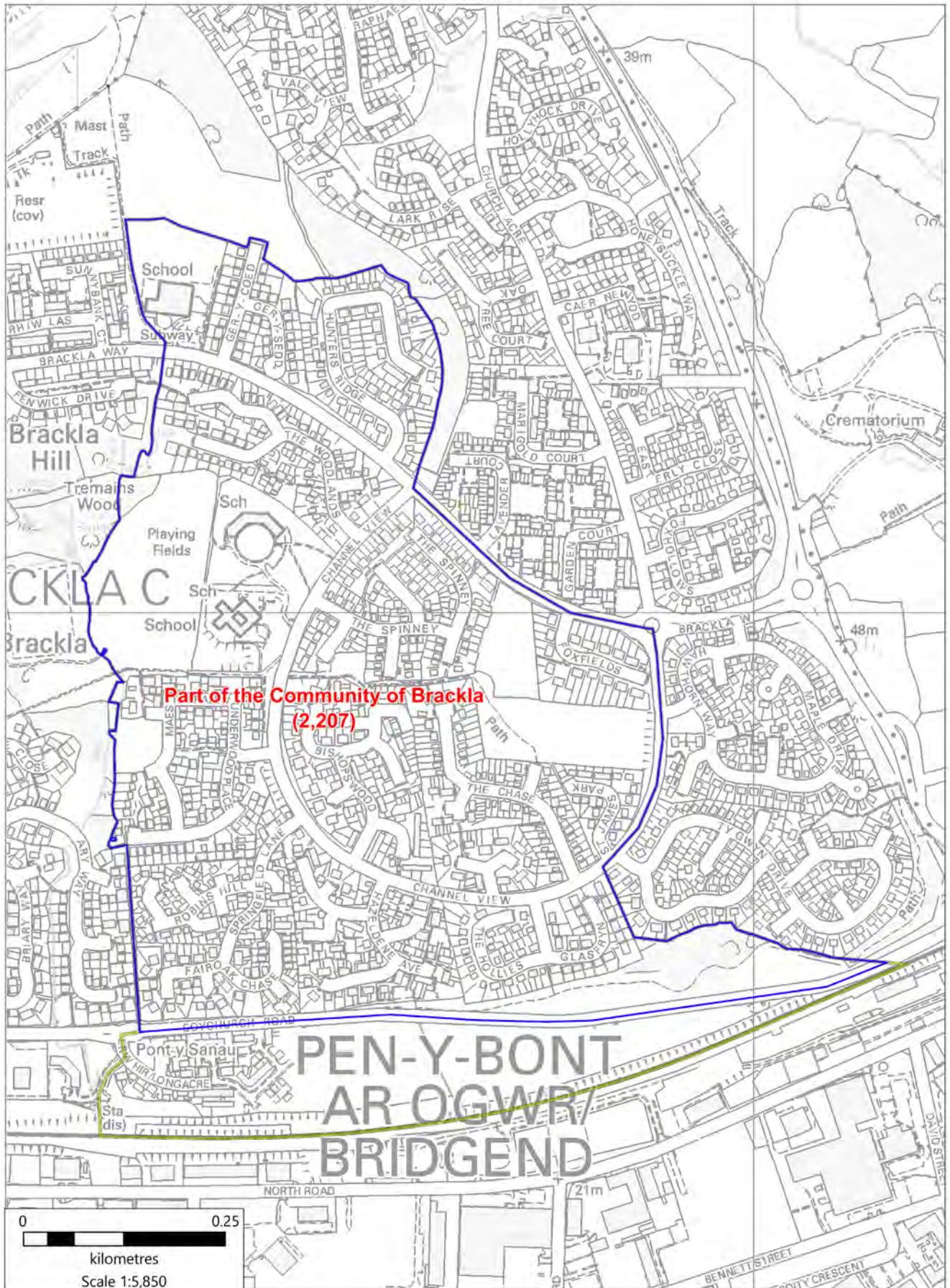
87. The Commission proposed the Welsh language name of Dwyrain Bracla a Llangrallo Isaf and the English language name of Brackla East and Coychurch Lower. The Welsh Language Commissioner suggested the Welsh form of *Dwyrain Brackla a Llangrallo Isaf*. The Commission received no representation with regards to the name in response to the Draft Proposals.
88. The Commission has given the recommended electoral ward the Welsh language name of **Dwyrain Bracla a Llangrall Isaf** and the English language name of **Brackla East and Coychurch Lower**. The Welsh Language Commissioner recommends *Dwyrain Brackla a Llangrallo Isaf*. Any comments on the recommended name can be sent to the Minister for Housing and Local Government.
89. The Commission considered the alternative arrangements proposed by Councillor John Spanswick (Brackla) and Councillor Elaine Venables (Coychurch Lower) which would enable the Community of Coychurch Lower to be retained as a single member electoral ward. It is the view of the Commission that, since no public consultation takes place on its Final Recommendations, it is inappropriate to propose such changes. The Commission felt that the extent of the changes would best be addressed as part of a community review, led by Bridgend County Borough Council.
90. The Commission considered the recommendation made by the Group Leaders for this area. The Commission considered that the changes to the recommended electoral wards are appropriate to provide for effective electoral wards and successfully removes the existing four-member electoral ward. The Commission has recommended electoral wards that provide an appropriate level of electoral parity at current levels. Should proposed future housing developments be realised, consideration may be given to the split of the recommended electoral ward of Brackla East and Coychurch Lower as part of a future electoral review.
91. The Commission considers that this recommendation would be desirable in the interests of effective and convenient local government.
92. The Commission has also recommended changes to the electoral arrangements for Brackla Community Council, which can be seen at Chapter 7.



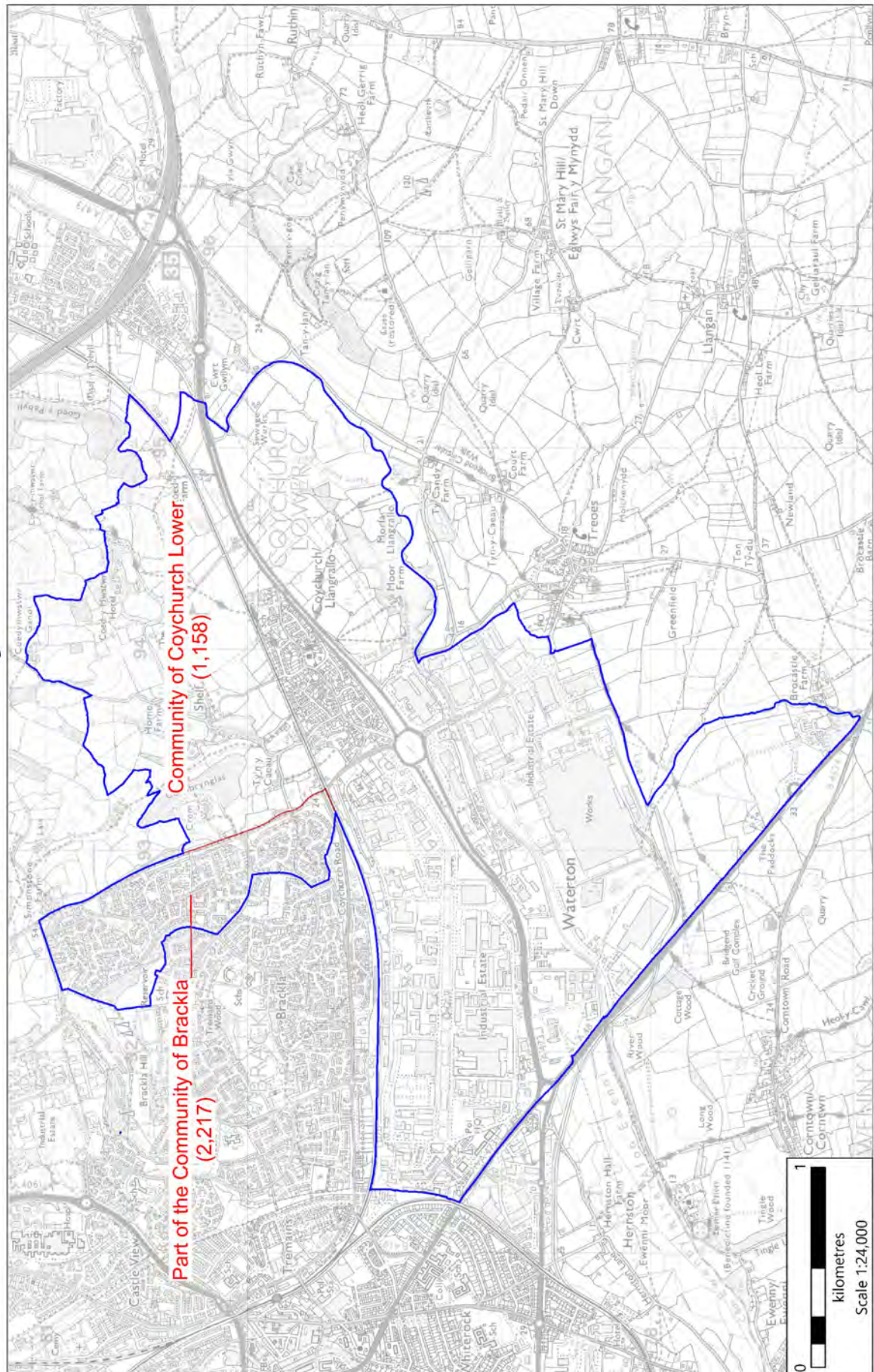
Brackla West Central



Brackla East Central



Brackla East and Coychurch Lower

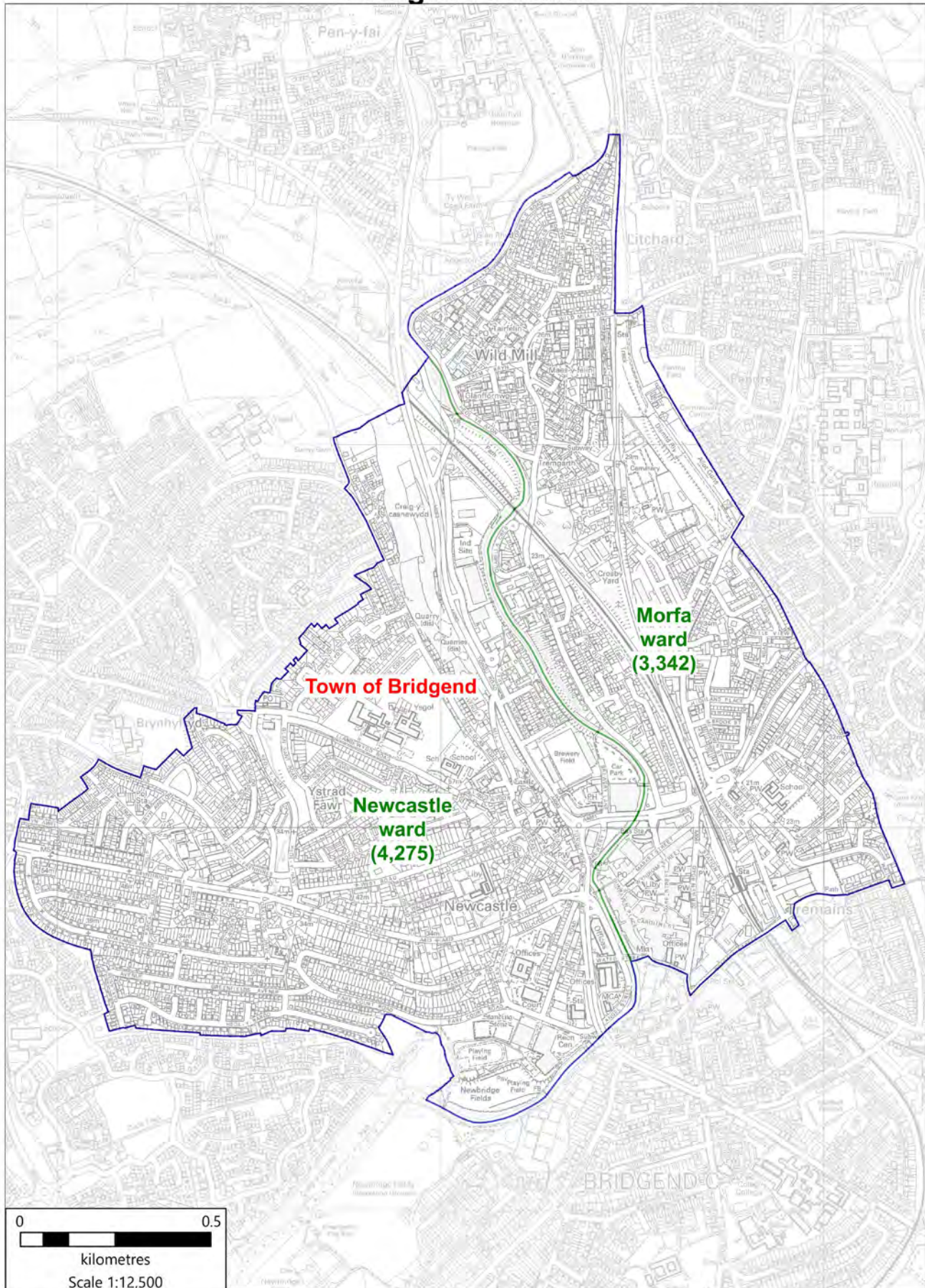


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Morfa and Newcastle

93. The existing Morfa electoral ward is comprised of the Morfa ward of the Community of Bridgend. It has 3,342 electors (3,430 projected) represented by two councillors which is 20% below the proposed county average. The electoral ward has an estimated population of 3,817 eligible voters.
94. The existing Newcastle electoral ward is comprised of the Newcastle ward of the Community of Bridgend. It has 4,275 electors (4,673 projected) represented by two councillors which is 2% above the proposed county average. The electoral ward has an estimated population of 4,441 eligible voters.
95. In its Draft Proposals the Commission proposed to combine the wards of Morfa and Newcastle of the Community of Bridgend to form an electoral ward.
96. The Commission received two representations in response to the Draft Proposals regarding this area from: Bridgend Town Council and Councillor Carolyn Webster (Newcastle).
97. The Town Council opposed the draft proposal, stating that both the existing electoral wards have their own character. The Town Council also opposed the reduction in representation for the area.
98. Councillor Carolyn Webster (Newcastle) also opposed the Commission's draft proposals to combine the existing Morfa and Newcastle wards to form a Bridgend Central ward. The Councillor proposes that a three-member ward would be unmanageable.
99. The Commission recommends combining the Morfa and Newcastle wards of the Community of Bridgend to form an electoral ward of 7,617 electors (8,103 projected electors) which, if represented by three councillors, would result in a level of representation that is 21% above the proposed county average.
100. The Commission considers that the recommended electoral ward combines two electoral wards, which already form part of the Community of Bridgend. The recommended electoral ward promotes the desirability to maintain community ties, and will be able to utilise existing community, communication and social ties.
101. The Commission proposed the Welsh language name of Canol Pen-y-bont and the English language name of Bridgend Central. The Welsh Language Commissioner suggested the Welsh form of Canol Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr. The Welsh Language Commissioner stated that although Pen-y-bont is an acceptable form, the full Pen- y-bont ar Ogwr is typically used in formal written contexts. The Commission received one representation with regards to the name in response to the Draft Proposals. Bridgend Town Council proposed the alternative name of Bridgend North West.
102. The Commission has given the recommended electoral ward the Welsh language name of **Canol Pen-y-bont** and the English language name of **Bridgend Central**. The Welsh Language Commissioner stated that although Pen-y-bont is an acceptable form, the full Pen- y-bont ar Ogwr is typically used in formal written contexts. Any comments on the recommended name can be sent to the Minister for Housing and Local Government.
103. The Commission considers that this recommendation would be desirable in the interests of effective and convenient local government.

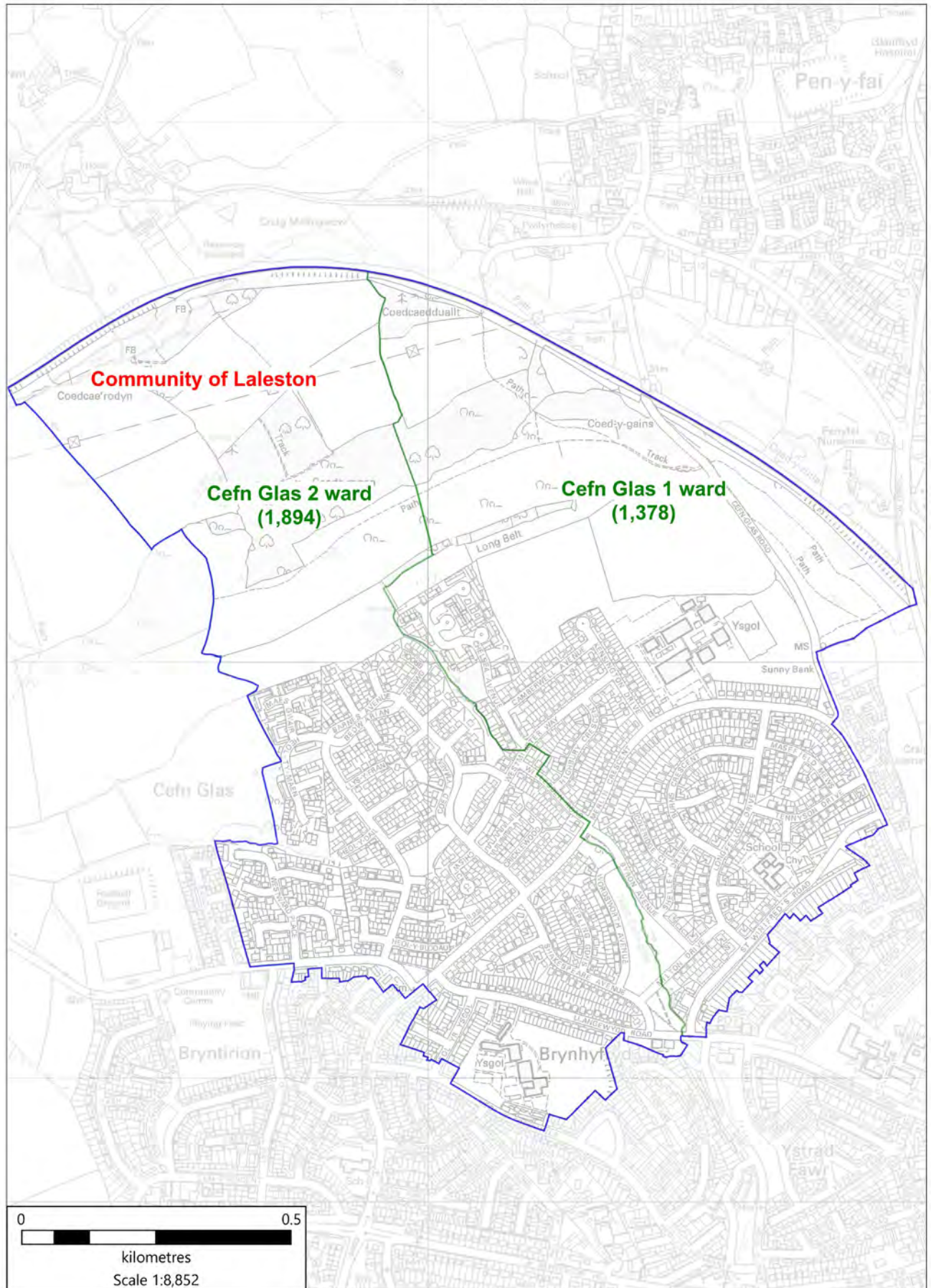
Bridgend Central



Cefn Glas and; Llangewydd and Brynhyfryd

104. The existing Cefn Glas electoral ward is comprised of the Cefn Glas 1 ward of the Community of Laleston. It has 1,378 electors (1,385 projected) represented by one councillor which is 34% below the proposed county average. The electoral ward has an estimated population of 1,298 eligible voters.
105. The existing Llangewydd and Brynhyfryd electoral ward is comprised of the Cefn Glas 2 ward of the Community of Laleston. It has 1,894 electors (1,894 projected) represented by one councillor which is 10% below the proposed county average. The electoral ward has an estimated population of 2,086 eligible voters
106. In its Draft Proposals the Commission proposed to combine the Cefn Glas 1 and Cefn Glas 2 wards of the Community of Laleston to form an electoral ward.
107. The Commission received no representations in response to the Draft Proposals regarding this area.
108. The Commission recommends combining the wards of Cefn Glas 1 and Cefn Glas 2 wards of the Community of Laleston to form an electoral ward with 3,272 electors (3,279 projected) which, if represented by two councillors, would result in a level of representation that is 22% below the proposed county average.
109. The Commission considered that the recommendation to combine the two Cefn Glas wards by the Group Leaders in the initial consultation period is appropriate and provides for an improvement in electoral parity in the area. The recommended electoral ward is recognisable to the electorate and would retain the established community, communication and social links within the area, as well as improve the electoral parity.
110. The Commission proposed the single name of Cefn Glas. The Welsh Language Commissioner suggested the single name of *Cefn-glas* due to the name of a settlement usually written as one word to distinguish between settlements and topographical features. The hyphen is used to aid pronunciation. The Commission received no representations with regards to the name in response to the Draft Proposals.
111. The Commission has given the recommended electoral ward the single language name of **Cefn Glas**. The Welsh Language Commissioner has suggested the single name of *Cefn-glas*. Any comments on the recommended name can be sent to the Minister for Housing and Local Government.
112. The Commission considers that this recommendation would be desirable in the interests of effective and convenient local government.

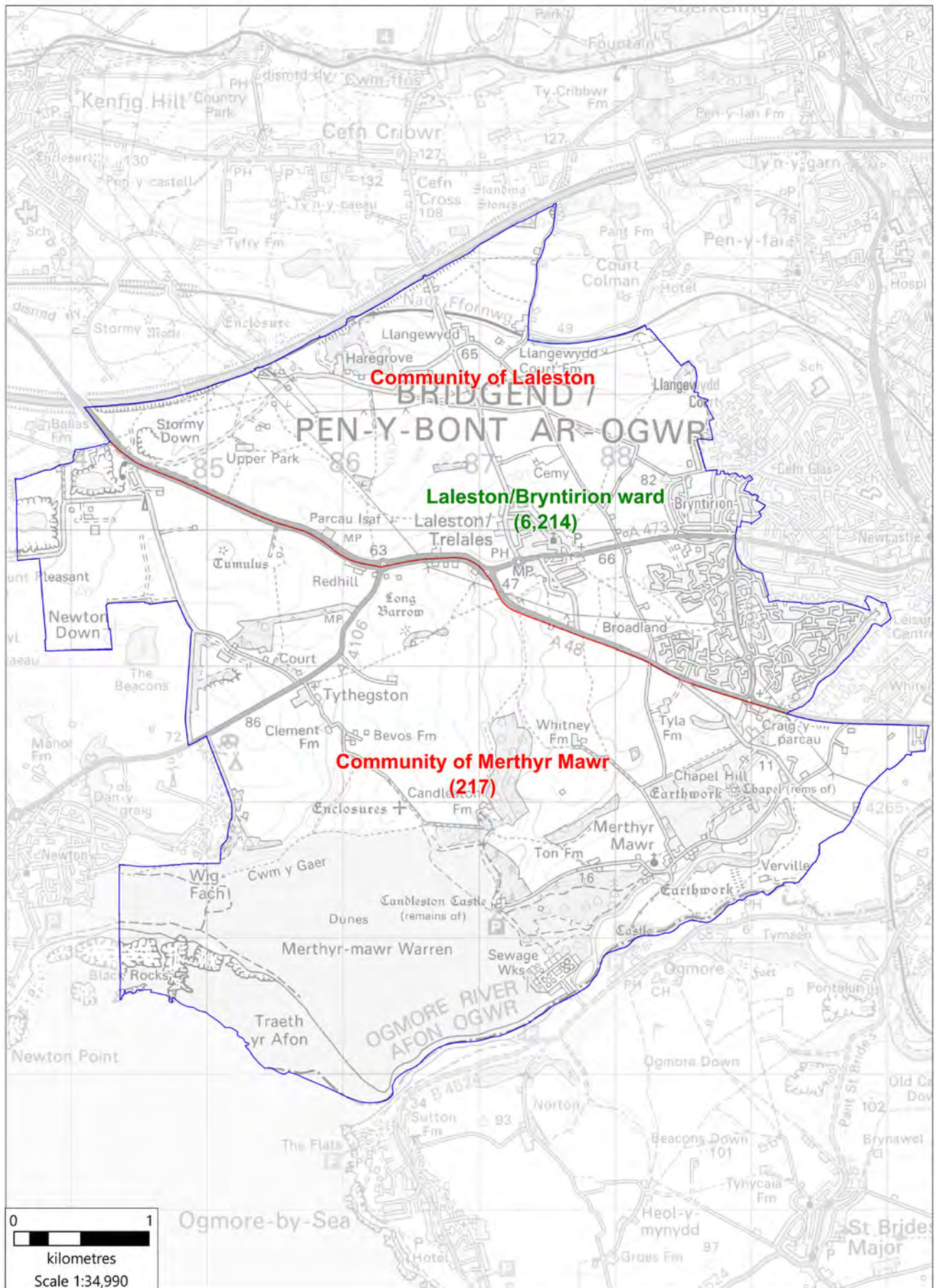
Cefn Glas



Bryntirion, Laleston and Merthyr Mawr

113. The existing Bryntirion, Laleston and Merthyr Mawr electoral ward is composed of the Community of Merthyr Mawr and the Laleston/Bryntirion ward of the Community of Laleston. It has 6,431 electors (6,856 projected electors) represented by two councillors which is 53% above the proposed county average. The electoral ward has an estimated population of 6,949 eligible voters.
114. In its Draft Proposals the Commission proposed to use the boundaries of the existing Bryntirion, Laleston and Merthyr Mawr electoral ward to form a three-member ward; increasing the number of councillors representing the ward by one.
115. The Commission received two representations in response to the Draft Proposals regarding this area from Merthyr Mawr Community Council and Community Councillor David Unwin (Merthyr Mawr). The Community Council supported the Commission's Draft Proposal. Community Councillor Unwin proposed that parts of Merthyr Mawr could be transferred to the existing Oldcastle ward in the Community of Bridgend or that Tythegston and Stormy Down could be combined with Laleston.
116. The Commission recommends that the existing electoral ward of Bryntirion, Laleston and Merthyr Mawr is used to form an electoral ward of 6,431 electors (6,856 projected) which, if represented by three councillors, (an increase of one councillor), would result in a level of representation that is 2% above the proposed county average.
117. The Commission considered the representations received for this area and is of the view that proposed boundary changes to the existing electoral ward are not necessary to provide for effective electoral wards in the area. The Commission has therefore recommended an electoral ward that is recognisable to the electorate and which would retain the established community, communication and social links within the area, as well as improve the electoral parity.
118. The Commission proposed the Welsh language name of Bryntirion, Trelales a Merthyr Mawr and the English language name of Bryntirion, Laleston and Merthyr Mawr. The Welsh Language Commissioner agreed with the proposed name. The Commission received no representations with regards to the name in response to the Draft Proposals.
119. The Commission has given the recommended electoral ward the Welsh language name of **Bryntirion, Trelales a Merthyr Mawr** and the English language name of **Bryntirion, Laleston and Merthyr Mawr**. Any comments on the recommended name can be sent to the Minister for Housing and Local Government.
120. The Commission considers that this recommendation would be desirable in the interests of effective and convenient local government.

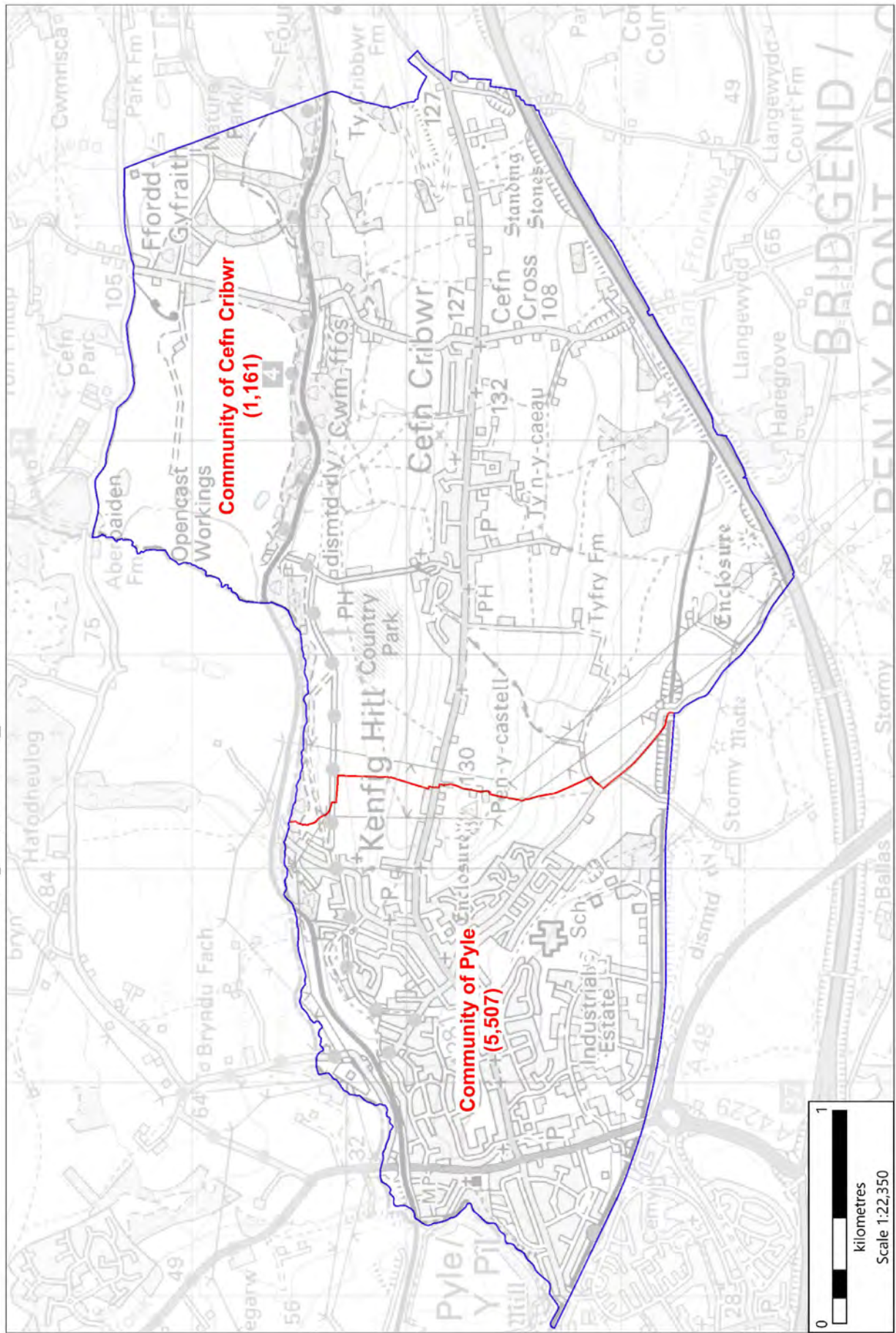
Bryntirion, Laleston and Merthyr Mawr



Cefn Cribwr and Pyle

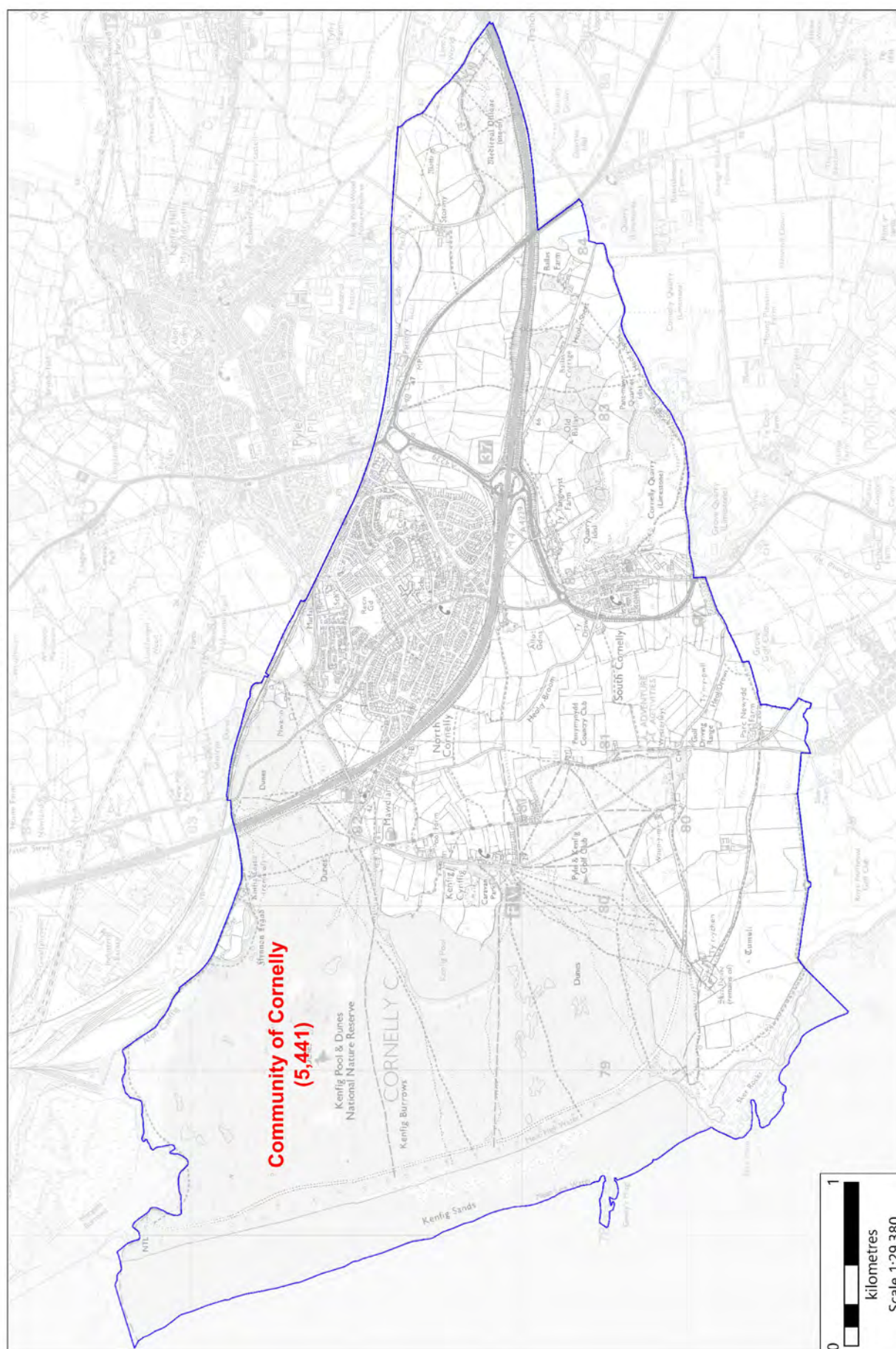
121. The existing Cefn Cribwr electoral ward is comprised of the Community of Cefn Cribwr. It has 1,161 electors (1,218 projected) represented by one councillor which is 45% below the proposed county average. The electoral ward has an estimated population of 1,177 eligible electors.
122. The existing Pyle electoral ward is comprised of the Community of Pyle. It has 5,507 electors (5,573 projected) represented by three councillors which is 12% below the proposed county average. The electoral ward has an estimated population of 5,941 eligible electors.
123. In its Draft Proposals the Commission proposed to combine the Communities of Cefn Cribwr and Pyle to form a new electoral ward.
124. The Commission received no representations in response to the Draft Proposals regarding this area.
125. The Commission recommends that the Communities of Cefn Cribwr and Pyle are combined to form an electoral ward with 6,668 electors (6,791 projected electors) which, if represented by three councillors, would result in a level of representation that is 6% above the proposed county average.
126. The Commission considers that this recommendation improves the levels of electoral parity, and that the recommended electoral ward shares a good communication link in the B4281 which spans the width of the recommended ward.
127. The Commission proposed the Welsh language name of Y Pîl, Cynffig a Chefn Cribwr, and the English language name of Pyle, Kenfig Hill and Cefn Cribwr. The Welsh Language Commissioner agreed with the proposed name. The Commission received no representations with regards to the name in response to the Draft Proposals.
128. The Commission has given the recommended electoral ward the Welsh language name of **Y Pîl, Cynffig a Chefn Cribwr**, and the English language name of **Pyle, Kenfig Hill and Cefn Cribwr**. Any comments on the recommended name can be sent to the Minister for Housing and Local Government.
129. The Commission considers that this recommendation would be desirable in the interests of effective and convenient local government.

Pyle, Kenfig Hill and Cefn Cribwr



Cornelly

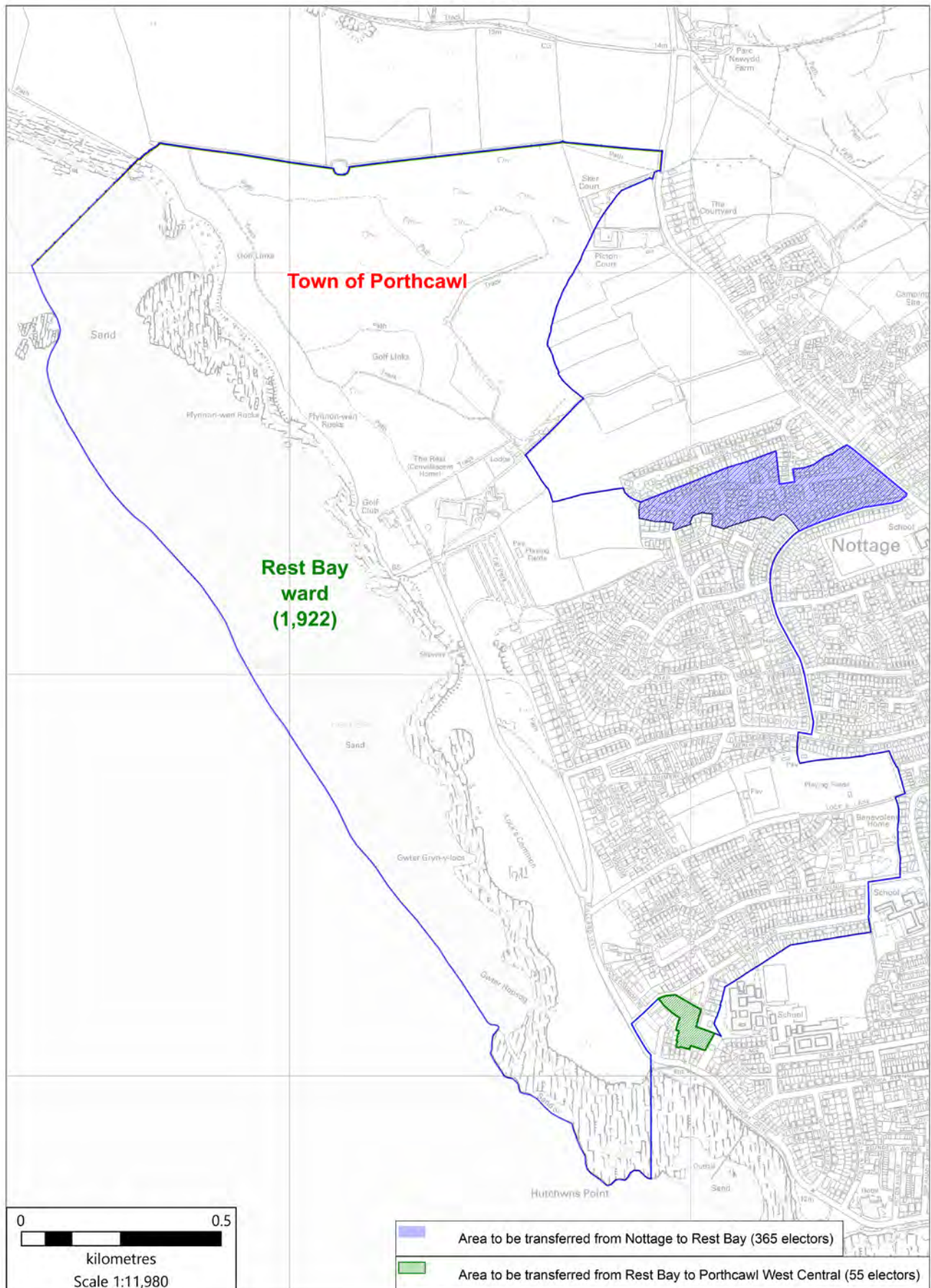
130. The existing Cornelly electoral ward is comprised of the Community of Cornelly. It has 5,441 electors (5,594 projected) represented by two councillors which is 30% above the proposed county average. The electoral ward has an estimated population of 5,814 eligible electors.
131. In its Draft Proposals the Commission proposed to use the existing Cornelly electoral ward to form a three-member ward; increasing the number of councillors representing the ward by one.
132. The Commission received no representations in response to the Draft Proposals regarding this area.
133. The Commission recommends that the Cornelly ward is used to form an electoral ward of 5,441 electors (5,594 projected) which, if represented by three councillors, (an increase of one councillor), would result in a level of representation that is 13% below the proposed county average.
134. The Commission is of the view that by increasing the number of members in the existing ward the level of electoral parity is significantly improved. The recommended arrangement retains the existing boundaries and is recognisable to the electorate.
135. The Commission proposed the Welsh language name of Corneli and the English language name of Cornelly. The Welsh Language Commissioner agreed with the proposed name. The Commission received no representations with regards to the name in response to the Draft Proposals.
136. The Commission has given the recommended electoral ward the Welsh language name of **Corneli**, and the English language name of **Cornelly**. Any comments on the recommended name can be sent to the Minister for Housing and Local Government.
137. The Commission considers that this recommendation would be desirable in the interests of effective and convenient local government.



Nottage and Rest Bay

138. The existing Nottage electoral ward is comprised of the Nottage ward of the Town of Porthcawl. It has 2,704 electors (2,737 projected) represented by one councillor which is 29% above the proposed county average. The electoral ward has an estimated population of 2,772 eligible electors.
139. The existing Rest Bay electoral ward is comprised of the Rest Bay ward of the Town of Porthcawl. It has 1,922 electors (2,052 projected) represented by one councillor which is 8% below the proposed county average. The electoral ward has an estimated population of 1,835 eligible electors.
140. In its Draft Proposals the Commission proposed to apply the boundaries as proposed by the Group Leaders of the Council and Porthcawl Town Council to combine part of the ward of Nottage (365 electors) with the ward of Rest Bay to form a new Nottage electoral ward.
141. The Commission received two representations in response to the Draft Proposals regarding this area from the Group Leaders of the Council and from Porthcawl Town Council. Both representations were with regard to the consequential arrangements for Porthcawl Town Council and have been addressed on page 54.
142. The Commission recommends applying the boundaries as proposed by the Group Leaders of the Council and Porthcawl Town Council as illustrated on page 44 to form a new Rest Bay electoral ward with 2,232 electors which, if represented by one councillor, would result in a level of representation that is 7% above the proposed county average.
143. The Commission considers that the recommendation made by the Group Leaders and Town Council for this area provides improvement in electoral parity. The Commission considers that the recommended electoral ward shares a common identity and combining the areas would provide for an effective electoral ward which would build on the communication and social links within the area.
144. The Commission proposed the single name of Rest Bay. The Welsh Language Commissioner agreed with the proposed name. The Commission received no representations with regards to the name in response to the Draft Proposals.
145. The Commission has given the recommended electoral ward the single language name of **Rest Bay**. Any comments on the recommended name can be sent to the Minister for Housing and Local Government.
146. The Commission considers that this recommendation would be desirable in the interests of effective and convenient local government.
147. The Commission has also recommended changes to the electoral arrangements for Porthcawl Town Council, which can be seen at Chapter 7.

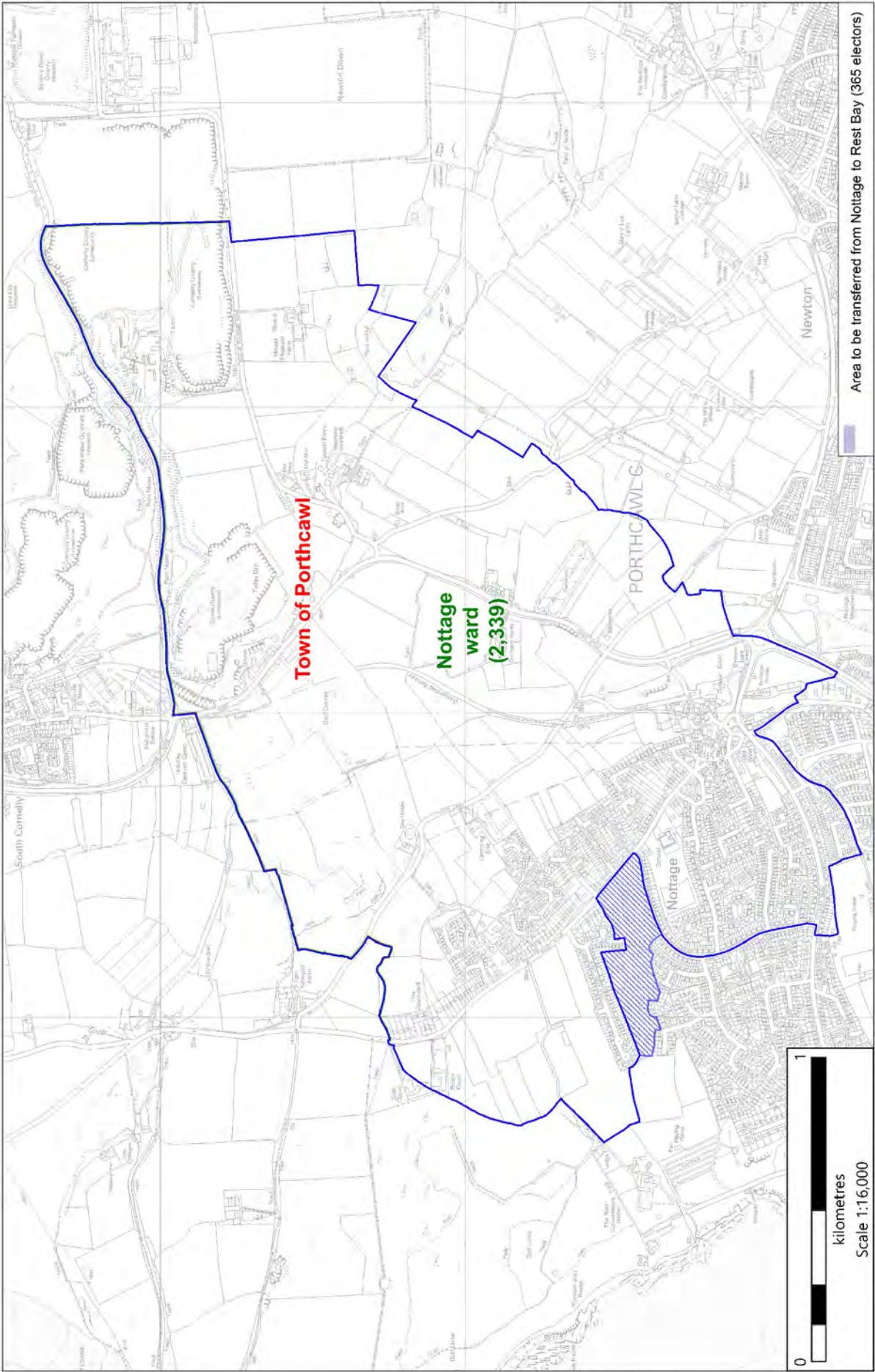
Rest Bay



Nottage and Rest Bay

148. The existing Nottage electoral ward is comprised of the Nottage ward of the Town of Porthcawl. It has 2,704 electors (2,737 projected) represented by one councillor which is 29% above the proposed county average. The electoral ward has an estimated population of 2,772 eligible electors.
149. The existing Rest Bay electoral ward is comprised of the Rest Bay ward of the Town of Porthcawl. It has 1,922 electors (2,052 projected) represented by one councillor which is 8% below the proposed county average. The electoral ward has an estimated population of 1,835 eligible electors.
150. In its Draft Proposals the Commission proposed to apply the boundaries as proposed by the Group Leaders of the Council and Porthcawl Town Council to combine part of the ward of Nottage (365 electors) with the ward of Rest Bay to form a new Nottage electoral ward.
151. The Commission received two representations in response to the Draft Proposals regarding this area from the Group Leaders of the Council and from Porthcawl Town Council. Both representations were with regard to the consequential arrangements for Porthcawl Town Council and have been addressed on page 54.
152. The Commission recommends applying the boundaries as proposed by the Group Leaders of the Council and Porthcawl Town Council as illustrated on page 46 to form a new Nottage electoral ward with 2,339 electors which, if represented by one councillor, would result in a level of representation that is 12% above the proposed county average.
153. The Commission considers that the recommendation made by the Group Leaders and Town Council for this area provides improvement in electoral parity. The Commission considers that the recommended electoral ward shares a common identity and combining the areas would provide for an effective electoral ward which would build on the communication and social links within the area.
154. The Commission proposed the Welsh language name of Notais and the English language name of Nottage. The Welsh Language Commissioner agreed with the proposed name. The Commission received no representations with regards to the name in response to the Draft Proposals.
155. The Commission has given the recommended electoral ward the Welsh language name of **Notais**, and the English language name of **Nottage**. Any comments on the recommended name can be sent to the Minister for Housing and Local Government.
156. The Commission considers that this recommendation would be desirable in the interests of effective and convenient local government.
157. The Commission has also recommended changes to the electoral arrangements for Porthcawl Town Council, which can be seen at Chapter 7.

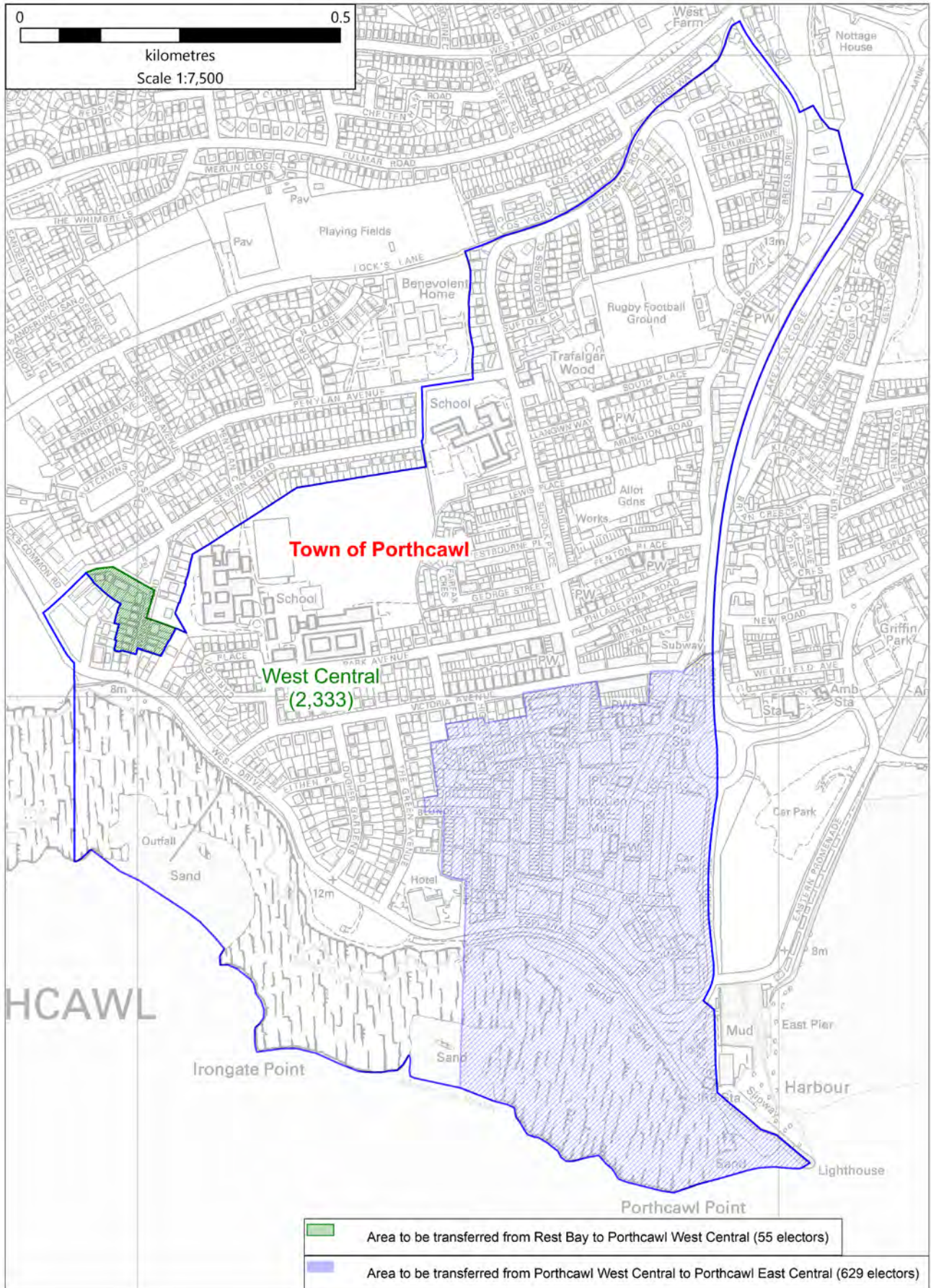
Nottage



Porthcawl East Central, Porthcawl West Central and Rest Bay

158. The existing Porthcawl East Central electoral ward is comprised of the East Central ward of the Town of Porthcawl. It has 2,572 electors (3,260 projected) represented by one councillor which is 23% above the proposed county average. The electoral ward has an estimated population of 2,714 eligible electors.
159. The existing Porthcawl West Central electoral ward is comprised of the West Central ward of the Town of Porthcawl. It has 2,907 electors (2,925 projected) represented by one councillor which is 39% above the proposed county average. The electoral ward has an estimated population of 2,910 eligible electors.
160. The existing Rest Bay electoral ward is comprised of the Rest Bay ward of the Town of Porthcawl. It has 1,922 electors (2,052 projected) represented by one councillor which is 8% below the proposed county average. The electoral ward has an estimated population of 1,835 eligible electors.
161. In its Draft Proposals the Commission proposed to apply the boundaries as proposed by the Group Leaders of the Council and Porthcawl Town Council to combine part of the ward of Rest Bay (55 electors) with the ward of West Central to form a new Porthcawl West Central electoral ward.
162. The Commission received two representation in response to the Draft Proposals regarding this area from the Group Leaders of the Council and from Porthcawl Town Council. Both representations were with regard to the consequential arrangements for Porthcawl Town Council and have been addressed on page 54.
163. The Commission recommends applying the boundaries as proposed by the Group Leaders of the Council and Porthcawl Town Council as illustrated on page 48 to form a new Porthcawl West Central electoral ward with 2,333 electors which, if represented by one councillor, would result in a level of representation that is 11% above the proposed county average.
164. The Commission considers that the recommendation made by the Group Leaders and Town Council for this area provides improvement in electoral parity. The Commission considers that the recommended electoral ward shares a common identity and combining the areas would provide for an effective electoral ward which would build on the communication and social links within the area.
165. The Commission proposed the Welsh language name of Canol Gorllewin Porthcawl and the English language name of Porthcawl West Central. The Welsh Language Commissioner agreed with the proposed name. The Commission received no representations with regards to the name in response to the Draft Proposals.
166. The Commission has given the recommended electoral ward the Welsh language name of **Canol Gorllewin Porthcawl**, and the English language name of **Porthcawl West Central**. Any comments on the recommended name can be sent to the Minister for Housing and Local Government.
167. The Commission considers that this recommendation would be desirable in the interests of effective and convenient local government.
168. The Commission has also recommended changes to the electoral arrangements for Porthcawl Town Council, which can be seen at Chapter 7.

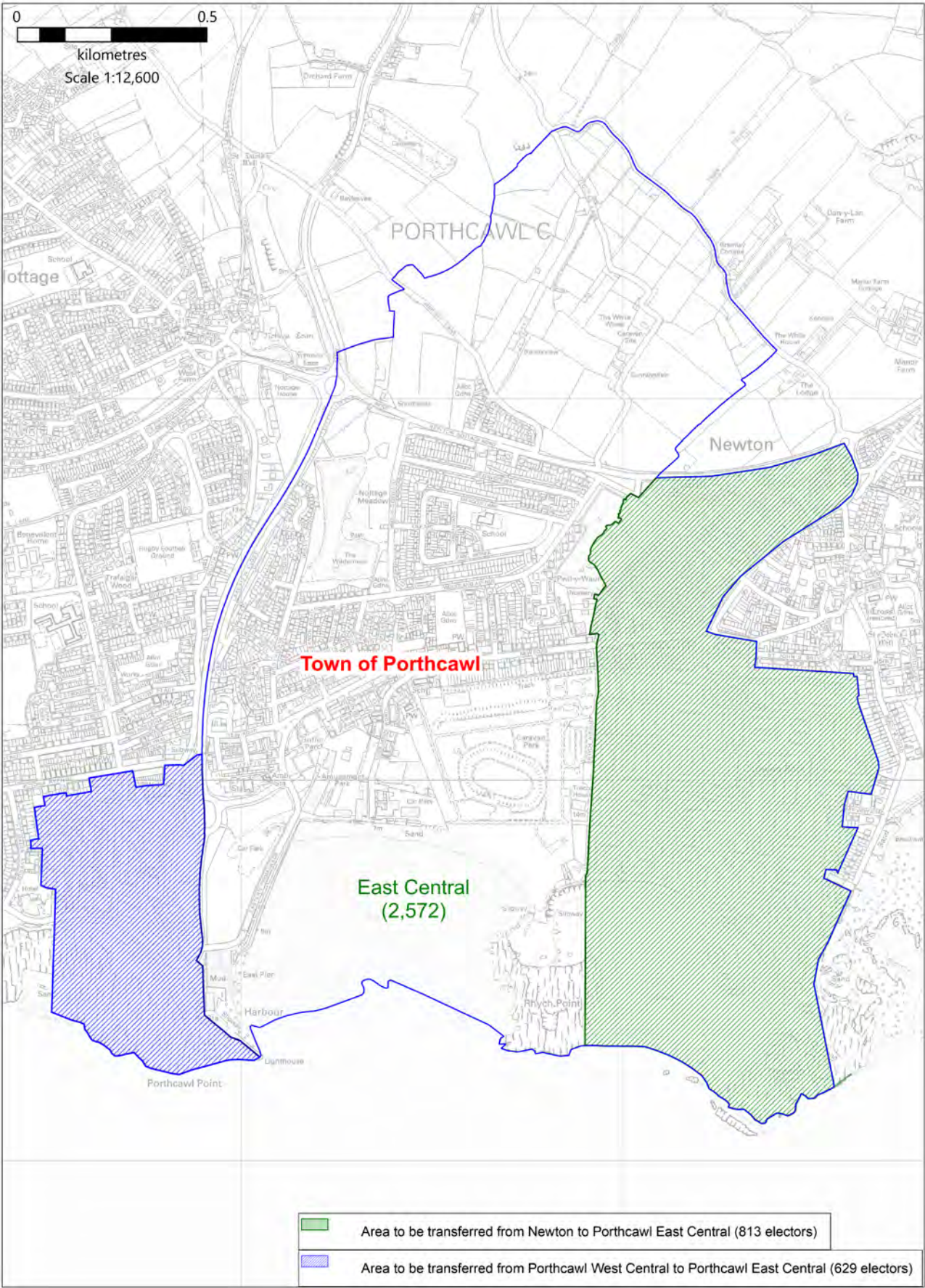
Porthcawl West Central



Newton, Porthcawl East Central and Porthcawl West Central

169. The existing Newton electoral ward is comprised of the Newton ward of the Town of Porthcawl. It has 3,022 electors (3,055 projected) represented by one councillor which is 44% above the proposed county average. The electoral ward has an estimated population of 3,051 eligible electors.
170. The existing Porthcawl East Central electoral ward is comprised of the East Central ward of the Town of Porthcawl. It has 2,572 electors (3,260 projected) represented by one councillor which is 23% above the proposed county average. The electoral ward has an estimated population of 2,714 eligible electors.
171. The existing Porthcawl West Central electoral ward is comprised of the West Central ward of the Town of Porthcawl. It has 2,907 electors (2,925 projected) represented by one councillor which is 39% above the proposed county average. The electoral ward has an estimated population of 2,910 eligible electors.
172. In its Draft Proposals the Commission proposed to apply the boundaries as proposed by the Group Leaders of the Council and Porthcawl Town Council to combine part of the ward of West Central (629 electors) and part of the ward of Newton (813 electors) with the ward of East Central to form a new Porthcawl East Central electoral ward.
173. The Commission received two representations in response to the Draft Proposals regarding this area from the Group Leaders of the Council and from Porthcawl Town Council. Both representations were with regard to the consequential arrangements for Porthcawl Town Council and have been addressed on page 54.
174. The Commission recommends applying the boundaries as proposed by the Group Leaders of the Council and Porthcawl Town Council as illustrated on page 50 to form a new Porthcawl East Central electoral ward with 4,014 electors which, if represented by two councillors, would result in a level of representation that is 4% below the proposed county average.
175. The Commission considers that the recommendation made by the Group Leaders and Town Council for this area provides improvement in electoral parity. The Commission considers that the recommended electoral ward shares a common identity and combining the areas would provide for an effective electoral ward which would build on the communication and social links within the area.
176. The Commission proposed the Welsh language name of Canol Dwyrain Porthcawl and the English language name of Porthcawl East Central. The Welsh Language Commissioner agreed with the proposed name. The Commission received no representations with regards to the name in response to the Draft Proposals.
177. The Commission has given the recommended electoral ward the Welsh language name of **Canol Dwyrain Porthcawl**, and the English language name of **Porthcawl East Central**. Any comments on the recommended name can be sent to the Minister for Housing and Local Government.
178. The Commission considers that this recommendation would be desirable in the interests of effective and convenient local government.
179. The Commission has also recommended changes to the electoral arrangements for Porthcawl Town Council, which can be seen at Chapter 7.

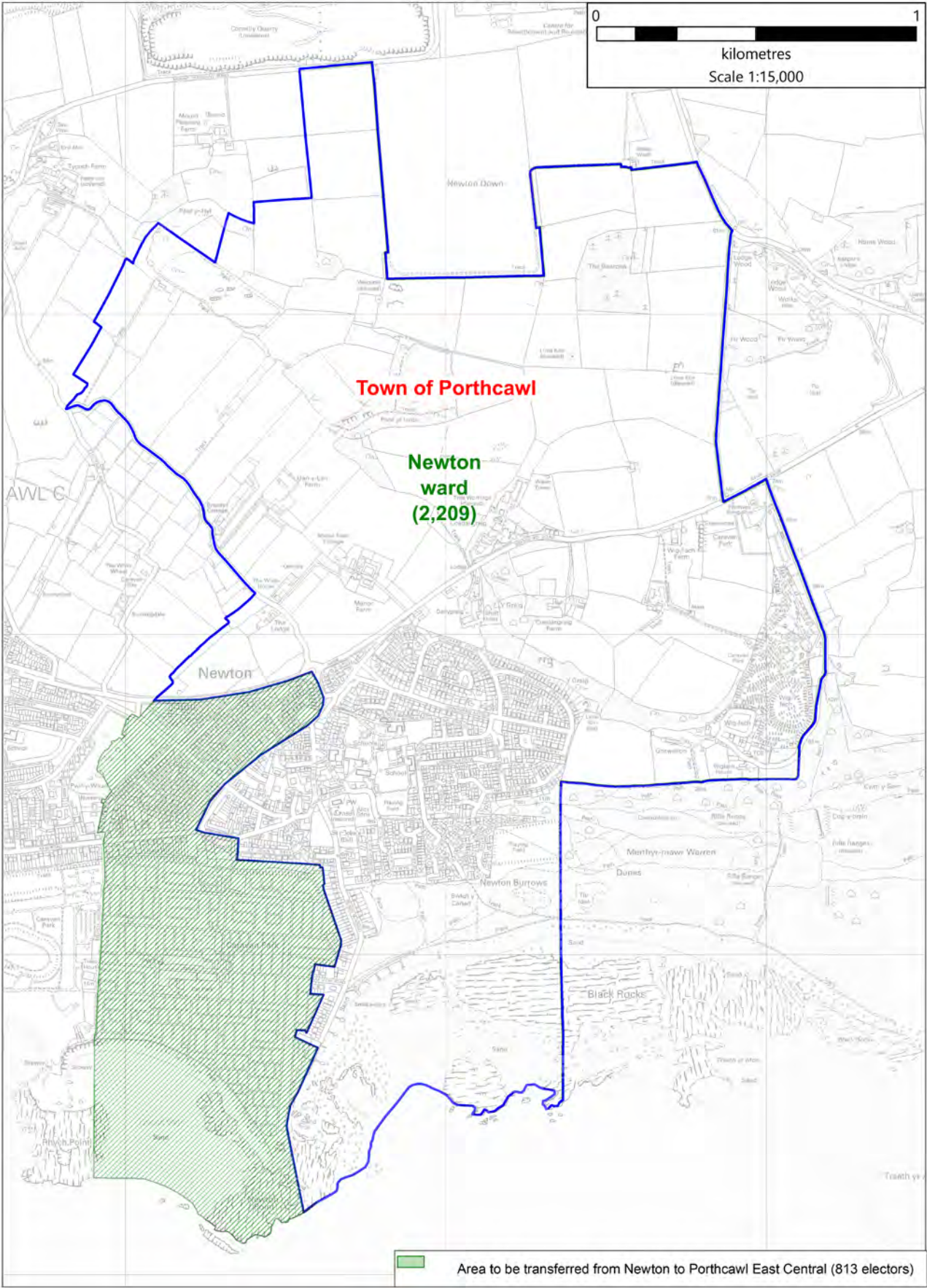
Porthcawl East Central



Newton and Porthcawl East Central

180. The existing Newton electoral ward is comprised of the Newton ward of the Town of Porthcawl. It has 3,022 electors (3,055 projected) represented by one councillor which is 44% above the proposed county average. The electoral ward has an estimated population of 3,051 eligible electors.
181. The existing Porthcawl East Central electoral ward is comprised of the East Central ward of the Town of Porthcawl. It has 2,572 electors (3,260 projected) represented by one councillor which is 23% above the proposed county average. The electoral ward has an estimated population of 2,714 eligible electors.
182. In its Draft Proposals the Commission proposed to apply the boundaries as proposed by the Group Leaders of the Council and Porthcawl Town Council combining part of the Newton ward (813 electors) with the East Central ward.
183. The Commission received two representations in response to the Draft Proposals regarding this area from the Group Leaders of the Council and from Porthcawl Town Council. Both representations were with regard to the consequential arrangements for Porthcawl Town Council and have been addressed on page 54.
184. The Commission recommends applying the boundaries as proposed by the group Leaders of the Council and Porthcawl Town Council as illustrated on page 52 to form a new Newton electoral ward with 2,209 electors which, if represented by one councillor, would result in a level of representation that is 5% above the proposed county average.
185. The Commission considers that the recommendation made by the Group Leaders and Town Council for this area provides improvement in electoral parity. The Commission considers that the recommended electoral ward shares a common identity and combining the areas would provide for an effective electoral ward which would build on the communication and social links within the area.
186. The Commission proposed the Welsh language name of Drenwydd, and the English language name of Newton. The Welsh Language Commissioner suggested the Welsh form of *Drenwydd* or *Drenwydd yn Notais*. The Welsh Language Commissioner stated that the Place-Names Standardisation Panel recommends adopting the full *Drenwydd yn Notais* as the settlement name. However, the Commission may wish to consider using *Drenwydd* only in order to differentiate between this ward and the ward of Nottage/Notais. The Commission received no representation with regards to the name in response to the Draft Proposals.
187. The Commission has given the recommended electoral ward the Welsh language name of **Drenwydd**, and the English language name of **Newton**. The Welsh Language Commissioner suggested the Welsh language name of *Drenwydd yn Notais*. Any comments on the recommended name can be sent to the Minister for Housing and Local Government.
188. The Commission considers that this recommendation would be desirable in the interests of effective and convenient local government.
189. The Commission has also recommended changes to the electoral arrangements for Porthcawl Town Council, which can be seen at Chapter 7.

Newton



Chapter 6. SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDED ARRANGEMENTS

1. The existing electoral arrangements (as shown at Appendix 2) provide for the following levels of electoral representation within the County Borough of Bridgend:
 - Electoral variance ranges from 56% below the current county average (Llangeinor) to 62% above the current county average (Bryntirion, Laleston and Merthyr Mawr) of 1,979 electors per councillor.
 - Three electoral wards have levels of representation more than 50% above or below the current county average of 1,979 electors per councillor.
 - 11 electoral wards have levels of representation between 25% and 50% above or below the current county average of 1,979 electors per councillor.
 - Ten electoral wards have levels of representation between 10% and 25% above or below the current county average of 1,979 electors per councillor.
 - 15 electoral wards have levels of representation less than 10% above or below the current county average of 1,979 electors per councillor.
2. In comparison with the existing electoral arrangements shown above, the recommended electoral arrangements (as shown in Appendix 3) illustrate the following improvements to the electoral representation across the County:
 - Electoral variance ranges from 22% below the recommended county average (**Cefn Glas**) to 22% above the recommended county average (**Pencoed and Penprysg**) of 2,096 electors per councillor.
 - 18 electoral wards have a level of representation between 10% and 25% above or below the proposed county average of 2,096 electors per councillor.
 - 10 electoral wards have a level of representation less than 10% above or below the proposed county average of 2,096 electors per councillor.
3. As described in Chapter 4 and Appendix 4, in producing a scheme of electoral arrangements the Commission must have regard to a number of issues contained in the legislation. It is not always possible to resolve all of these, sometimes conflicting, issues. In the Commission's recommended scheme the Commission have placed emphasis on achieving improvements in electoral parity whilst maintaining community ties wherever possible. The Commission recognises that the creation of electoral wards which depart from the pattern which now exists would inevitably bring some disruption to existing ties between communities and may straddle community council areas. The Commission has made every effort to ensure that the revised electoral wards do reflect logical combinations of existing communities and community wards.
4. The Commission has looked at each area and is satisfied that it would be difficult to achieve electoral arrangements that keep the existing combination of communities and community wards without having a detrimental effect on one or more of the other issues that it must consider.

Chapter 7. CONSEQUENTIAL ARRANGEMENTS

1. In considering the changes to electoral wards where the Commission has recommended boundary changes, it has also been necessary to consider the consequence of these changes to the boundaries and electoral arrangements of the community and town councils. This section of the report details our recommendations for such consequential changes. The electoral statistics used in this section were also provided by Bridgend County Borough Council.

Community and Community Ward Boundaries

2. There are a number of changes to electoral wards which, as a consequence, the Commission must consider the underlying community and community ward arrangements. The proposed changes to community and community ward boundaries are as follows:

Brackla Community Council

3. The Commission recommends to create four new community wards as a consequence of the recommended electoral wards. These are described in the following paragraphs.
4. To create a new community ward of Gorllewin Bracla in Welsh and Brackla West in English as a consequence of the recommended electoral ward of Brackla West as illustrated on the map at page 28.
5. To create a new community ward of Canol Gorllewin Bracla in Welsh and Brackla West Central in English as a consequence of the recommended electoral ward of Brackla West Central as illustrated on the map at page 29.
6. To create a new community ward of Dwyrain Bracla in Welsh and Brackla East in English as a consequence of the recommended electoral ward of Brackla East and Coychurch Lower as illustrated on the map at page 31.
7. To create a new community ward of Canol Dwyrain Bracla in Welsh and Brackla East Central in English as a consequence of the recommended electoral ward of Brackla East Central as illustrated on the map at page 30.

Porthcawl Town Council

8. The recommended electoral ward of Newton is recommended to have the same consequential change to the warding arrangements within the Porthcawl Town Council, as illustrated on the map at page 51.
9. The recommended electoral ward of Nottage is recommended to have the same consequential change to the warding arrangements within the Porthcawl Town Council, as illustrated on the map at page 45.
10. The recommended electoral ward of Porthcawl East Central is recommended to have the same consequential change to the warding arrangements within the Porthcawl Town Council, as illustrated on the map at page 59.
11. The recommended electoral ward of Porthcawl West Central is recommended to have the same consequential change to the warding arrangements within the Porthcawl Town Council, as illustrated on the map at page 47.

12. The recommended electoral ward of Rest Bay is recommended to have the same consequential change to the warding arrangements within the Porthcawl Town Council, as illustrated on the map at page 43.

Town and Community Council Electoral Arrangements

13. The Commission is required to consider the consequential changes to the community electoral arrangements that would occur following the recommendations detailed above. The existing electoral arrangements and the recommended changes to those arrangements are shown below:

Brackla Community Council

Brackla Community Council Electoral Arrangements									
Wards	Electors	Community Councillors	Electors per Councillor	Variance		Electors	Community Councillors	Electors per Councillor	Variance
Brackla	8461	11	769	0%		-	-		
	-	-	-	-	Brackla West	2015	3	672	-5%
					Brackla West Central	2022	3	674	-4%
					Brackla East Central	2207	3	736	4%
	-	-	-	-	Brackla East	2217	3	739	5%
Total	8461	11	769			8461	12	705	

14. The Commission is satisfied that the existing electoral arrangements are appropriate and are in the interests of effective and convenient local government.

Porthcawl Town Council

Porthcawl Town Council Electoral Arrangements								
Existing					Proposed			
Wards	Electors	Town Councillors	Electors per Councillor	Variance	Electors	Town Councillors	Electors per Councillor	Variance
Newton	3022	4	756	-2%	2209	3	736	4%
Nottage	2704	4	676	-12%	2339	3	780	11%
Rest Bay	1922	3	641	-17%	2232	3	744	6%
West Central	2907	4	727	-6%	2333	3	778	10%
East Central	2572	4	643	-16%	4014	6	669	-5%
Total	13127	19	691		13127	18	729	

15. The Commission received two representations with regard to its proposed consequential arrangements for the Town of Porthcawl from the Group Leaders of Bridgend County Borough Council and from Porthcawl Town Council. The representations recommended reducing the number of members for the East Central ward of the Town from seven to six.
16. The Commission is satisfied that these recommended changes are appropriate and are in the interests of effective and convenient local government.

Chapter 8. RESPONSES TO THIS REPORT

1. Having completed the review of the County Borough of Bridgend and submitted the Commission's recommendations to the Welsh Government on the future electoral arrangements for the principal authority, the Commission has fulfilled its statutory obligations under the Act.
2. It now falls to the Welsh Government, if it thinks fit, to give effect to these recommendations either as submitted, or with modifications. The Welsh Government may also direct us to conduct a further review.
3. Any further representations concerning the matters in this report should be addressed to the Welsh Government. They should be made as soon as possible and, in any event, not later than six weeks from the date the Commission's recommendations are submitted to the Welsh Government. Representations should be addressed to:

Local Government Democracy Team
Democracy, Diversity and Remuneration Division
Welsh Government
Cathays Park
Cardiff
CF10 3NQ

Or by email to:

lgdtmailbox@gov.wales

Chapter 9. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

1. The Commission wishes to express its gratitude to the principal council, all the town and community councils and other interested bodies and persons who made representations to us during the course of developing these final recommendations. We, the undersigned, commend this recommendations report.

CERI STRADLING (Interim Chair)

DAVID POWELL (Interim Deputy Chair)

JULIE MAY (Member)

THEODORE JOLOZA (Member)

SHEREEN WILLIAMS (Chief Executive)

[October 2019]

APPENDIX 1 – GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Commission	The Local Democracy and Boundary Commission for Wales.
Community (area)	The unit of local government that lies below the level of the Principal Council.
Community Council	An elected council that provides services to their particular community area. A Community Council may be divided for community electoral purposes into community wards.
Community / Town ward	An area within a Community Council created for community electoral purposes.
Directions	Directions issued by Welsh Ministers under Section 48 of the Act.
Electoral wards	The areas into which Principal Councils are divided for the purpose of electing county councillors, previously referred to as electoral divisions.
Electoral review	A review in which the Commission considers the electoral arrangements for a Principal Council.
Electoral variance	How far the number of electors per councillor in a ward varies from the county average; expressed as a percentage.
Electorate	The number of persons registered to vote in a local government area.
Estimated Population of Eligible Voters	The estimated number of eligible persons (18+) within a local government area who are eligible to vote. These figures have been sourced from the Office of National Statistics' 2015 Ward population estimated for Wales, mid-2015 (experimental statistics).
Interested party	Person or body who has an interest in the outcome of an electoral review such as a community or town council, local MP or AM or political party.
Order	Order made by an implementing body, giving effect to proposals made by the Principal Council or the Commission.
Over-representation	Where there are fewer electors per councillor in a ward compared to the county average.
Principal area	The area governed by a Principal Council: in Wales a county or county borough.

APPENDIX 1

Principal council	The single tier organ of local government, responsible for all or almost all local government functions within its area. A county or county borough council.
Projected electorate	The five-year forecast of the electorate.
Split Community	A Community which is divided between two, or more, Electoral Wards.
The Act	The Local Government (Democracy) (Wales) Act 2013.
Town Council	A Community Council with the status of a town are known as Town Councils. A Town Council may be divided for community electoral purposes into wards.
Under-representation	Where there are more electors per councillor in a ward compared to the county average.

BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL
EXISTING COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP

No.	NAME	DESCRIPTION	No. OF COUNCILLORS	ELECTORATE 2017	2017 RATIO	% variance from County average	ELECTORATE 2022	2022 RATIO	% variance from County average	Population Eligible to Vote
1	Aberkenfig	The Community of Llangynwyd Lower (371) [375] and the Aberkenfig ward (1,478) [2,016] of the Community of Newcastle Higher	1	1,849	1,849	-7%	2,391	2,391	-7%	1,896
2	Bettws	The Bettws ward of the Community of Garw Valley	1	1,586	1,586	-20%	1,816	1,816	-20%	1,701
3	Blackmill	The Blackmill (1,160) [1,252] and Evanstown wards (723) [761] of the Community of Ogmore Valley	1	1,883	1,883	-5%	2,013	2,013	-5%	1,927
4	Blaengarw	The Blaengarw ward of the Community of Garw Valley	1	1,296	1,296	-35%	1,318	1,318	-38%	1,358
5	Brackla	The Community of Brackla	4	8,461	2,115	7%	8,494	2,124	0%	8,986
6	Bryncethin	The Bryncethin ward of the Community of St. Bride's Minor	1	1,088	1,088	-45%	1,378	1,378	-35%	1,083
7	Bryncoch	The Bryncoch ward of the Community of St. Bride's Minor	1	1,790	1,790	-10%	1,820	1,820	-14%	1,948
8	Bryntirion, Laleston and Merthyr Mawr	The Community of Merthyr Mawr (217) [217] and the Laleston/Bryntirion ward (6,214) [6,639] of the Community of Laleston	2	6,431	3,216	62%	6,856	3,428	61%	6,949
9	Caerau	The Caerau (2,506) [2,543] and Nantylfyllon (2,216) [2,304] wards of the Community of Maesteg	3	4,722	1,574	-20%	4,847	1,616	-24%	5,314
10	Cefn Cribwr	The Community of Cefn Cribwr	1	1,161	1,161	-41%	1,218	1,218	-43%	1,177
11	Cefn Glas	The Cefn Glas 1 ward of the Community of Laleston	1	1,378	1,378	-30%	1,385	1,385	-35%	1,298
12	Coity	The Coity ward of the Community of Coity Higher	1	2,270	2,270	18%	3,556	3,556	67%	3,390
13	Cornelly	The Community of Cornelly	2	5,441	2,721	37%	5,594	2,797	31%	5,814
14	Coychurch Lower	The Community of Coychurch Lower	1	1,158	1,158	-41%	2,229	2,229	5%	1,198
15	Felindre	The Felindre ward of the Community of Pencoed	1	2,118	2,118	7%	2,144	2,144	1%	2,318
16	Hendre	The Hendre ward of the Community of Pencoed	2	3,148	1,574	-20%	3,165	1,583	-26%	3,306
17	Litchard	The Litchard ward of the Community of Coity Higher	1	2,008	2,008	1%	2,172	2,172	2%	1,850
18	Llangeinor	The Llangeinor ward of the Community of Garw Valley	1	879	879	-56%	925	925	-57%	949
19	Llangwydd and Brynhyfryd	The Cefn Glas 2 ward of the Community of Laleston	1	1,894	1,894	-4%	1,894	1,894	-11%	2,086
20	Llangynwyd	The Cwrtfein (1,056) [1,093] and Pont-rhyd-y-cyff (1,270) [1,276] wards of the Community of Llangynwyd Middle	1	2,326	2,326	18%	2,369	2,369	11%	2,441
21	Maesteg East	The East ward of the Community of Maesteg	2	3,682	1,841	-7%	3,968	1,984	-7%	3,793
22	Maesteg West	The West ward of the Community of Maesteg	2	4,311	2,156	9%	4,720	2,360	11%	4,598
23	Morfa	The Morfa ward of the Town of Bridgend	2	3,342	1,671	-16%	3,430	1,715	-19%	3,817
24	Nant-y-Moel	The Nant-y-Moel ward of the Community of Ogmore Valley	1	1,730	1,730	-13%	1,754	1,754	-18%	1,888
25	Newcastle	The Newcastle ward of the Town of Bridgend	2	4,275	2,138	8%	4,673	2,337	10%	4,441
26	Newton	The Newton ward of the Town of Porthcawl	1	3,022	3,022	53%	3,055	3,055	44%	3,051
27	Nottage	The Nottage ward of the Town of Porthcawl	1	2,704	2,704	37%	2,737	2,737	29%	2,772
28	Ogmore Vale	The Ogmore Vale ward of the Community of Ogmore Valley	1	2,314	2,314	17%	2,351	2,351	11%	2,471
29	Oldcastle	The Oldcastle ward of the Town of Bridgend	2	3,768	1,884	-5%	3,898	1,949	-8%	4,076
30	Pendre	The Pendre ward of the Community of Coity Higher	1	1,403	1,403	-29%	1,777	1,777	-16%	1,518
31	Penprysg	The Community of Coychurch Higher (685) [685] and the Penprysg ward (1,739) [1,833] of the Community of Pencoed	1	2,424	2,424	22%	2,518	2,518	18%	2,529
32	Pen-y-Fai	The Pen-y-Fai ward of the Community of Newcastle Higher	1	1,858	1,858	-6%	1,902	1,902	-11%	2,003
33	Pontycynner	The Pontycynner ward of the Community of Garw Valley	1	1,773	1,773	-10%	1,811	1,811	-15%	1,958
34	Porthcawl East Central	The Porthcawl East Central ward of the Town of Porthcawl	1	2,572	2,572	30%	3,260	3,260	53%	2,714

BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL
EXISTING COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP

No.	NAME	DESCRIPTION	No. OF COUNCILLORS	ELECTORATE 2017	2017 RATIO	% variance from County average	ELECTORATE 2022	2022 RATIO	% variance from County average	Population Eligible to Vote
35	Porthcawl West Central	The Porthcawl West Central ward of the Town of Porthcawl	1	2,907	2,907	47%	2,925	2,925	37%	2,910
36	Pyle	The Community of Pyle	3	5,507	1,836	-7%	5,573	1,858	-13%	5,941
37	Rest Bay	The Rest Bay ward of the Town of Porthcawl	1	1,922	1,922	-3%	2,052	2,052	-4%	1,835
38	Sarn	The Sarn ward of the Community of St. Bride's Minor	1	1,811	1,811	-8%	1,821	1,821	-14%	1,958
39	Ynysawdre	The Community wards of Brynneryn (1,169) [1,515] and Torddu (1,495) [1,550] of the Community of Ynysawdre	1	2,664	2,664	38%	3,065	3,065	44%	2,852
TOTAL:			54	106,876	1,979		114,874	2,127		114,114

Ratio is the number of electors per councillor

Electoral figures supplied by Bridgend County Borough Council

Population figures supplied by the Office for National Statistics

Greater than + or - 50% of County average
Between + or - 25% and + or - 50% of County average
Between + or - 10% and + or - 25% of County average
Between 0% and + or - 10% of County average

2017	2022
3	4
11	10
10	16
15	9
8%	10.3%
28%	25.6%
26%	41.0%
38%	23.1%

**BRIDGEND
RECOMMENDED COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP**

Appendix 3

Nº	NAME	DESCRIPTION	Nº OF COUNCILLORS	2017 ELECTORATE	2017 RATIO	2017 % variance from County average	2022 ELECTORATE	2022 RATIO	2022 % variance from County average
1	Aberkenfig	The Aberkenfig ward (1,478)[2,016] of the Community of Newcastle Higher and the Community of Llangynwyd Lower (371) [375]	1	1,849	1,849	-11.8%	2,391	2,391	6%
2	Blackmill	The Blackmill (1,160) [1,252] and Evanstown (723) [761] wards of the Community of Ogmore Valley	1	1,883	1,883	-10.1%	2,013	2,013	-11%
3	Brackla East and Coychurch Lower	The Brackla East ward (2,217) [2,216] of the Community of Brackla and the Community of Coychurch Lower (1,158) [2,229]	2	3,375	1,688	-19.5%	4,445	2,223	-1%
4	Brackla East Central	The Brackla East Central ward of the Community of Brackla	1	2,207	2,207	5.3%	2,190	2,190	-3%
5	Brackla West	The Brackla West ward of the Community of Brackla	1	2,015	2,015	-3.8%	2,026	2,026	-10%
6	Brackla West Central	The Brackla West Central ward of the Community of Brackla	1	2,022	2,022	-3.5%	2,062	2,062	-8%
7	Bridgend Central	The Morfa (3,342) [3,430] and Newcastle (4,275) [4,673] wards of the Town of Bridgend	3	7,617	2,539	21.2%	8,103	2,701	20%
8	Bryntyrion, Laleston and Merthyr Mawr	The Laleston/Bryntyrion ward (6,214) [6,639] of the Community of Laleston and The Community of Merthyr Mawr (217) [217]	3	6,431	2,144	2.3%	6,856	2,285	1%
9	Caerau	The Caerau (2,506) [2,543] and Nantffyllon (2,216) [2,304] wards of the Town of Maesteg	2	4,722	2,361	12.7%	4,847	2,424	8%
10	Cefn Glas	The Cefn Glas 1 (1,378) [1,385] and Cefn Glas 2 (1,894) [1,894] wards of the Community of Laleston	2	3,272	1,636	-21.9%	3,279	1,640	-27%
11	Coity Higher	The Community of Coity Higher	3	5,681	1,894	-9.6%	7,505	2,502	11%
12	Cornelly	The Community of Cornelly	3	5,441	1,814	-13.5%	5,594	1,865	-17%
13	Garw Valley	The Community of Garw Valley	3	5,534	1,845	-12.0%	5,870	1,957	-13%
14	Llangynwyd	The Cwmfelin (1,056) [1,093] and Pont-rhyd-y-cyff (1,270) [1,276] wards of the Community of Llangynwyd Middle	1	2,326	2,326	11.0%	2,369	2,369	5%
15	Maesteg East	The East ward of the Town of Maesteg	2	3,682	1,841	-12.1%	3,968	1,984	-12%
16	Maesteg West	The West ward of the Town of Maesteg	2	4,311	2,156	2.9%	4,720	2,360	5%
17	Nant-y-moel	The Nant-y-Moel ward of the Community of Ogmore Valley	1	1,730	1,730	-17.4%	1,754	1,754	-22%
18	Newton	The Newton ward of the Town of Porthcawl	1	2,209	2,209	5.4%	2,242	2,242	0%
19	Nottage	The Nottage ward of the Town of Porthcawl	1	2,339	2,339	11.6%	2,372	2,372	5%
20	Ogmore Vale	The Ogmore Vale ward of the Community of Ogmore Valley	1	2,314	2,314	10.4%	2,351	2,351	4%
21	Oldcastle	The Oldcastle ward of the Town of Bridgend	2	3,768	1,884	-10.1%	3,898	1,949	-13%
22	Pencoed and Penprysg	The Town of Pencoed and the Community of Coychurch Higher	3	7,690	2,563	22.3%	7,827	2,609	16%
23	Pen-y-Fai	The Pen-y-Fai ward of the Community of Newcastle Higher	1	1,858	1,858	-11.3%	1,902	1,902	-16%
24	Porthcawl East Central	The East Central ward of the Town of Porthcawl	2	4,014	2,007	-4.2%	4,702	2,351	4%
25	Porthcawl West Central	The West Central ward of the Town of Porthcawl	1	2,333	2,333	11.3%	2,351	2,351	4%

Appendix 3

	Ratio is the number of electors per councillor
Electoral figures supplied by Bridgend County Borough Council	

All figures supplied by Bridgend County Borough

Greater than: 50% of County average	0	0%	0	0%
Between $\pm 25\%$ and $\pm 50\%$ of County average	0	0%	0	0%
Between $\pm 10\%$ and $\pm 25\%$ of County average	18	64%	13	46%
Between 0% and $\pm 10\%$ of County average	10	36%	15	54%

RULES AND PROCEDURES

Scope and Object of the Review

1. Section 29 (1) of the Local Government (Democracy) (Wales) Act 2013 (the Act) lays upon the Commission the duty, at least once in every review period of ten years, to review the electoral arrangements for every principal area in Wales, for the purpose of considering whether or not to make proposals to the Welsh Government for a change in those electoral arrangements. In conducting a review the Commission must seek to ensure effective and convenient local government (Section 21 (3) of the Act).
2. The former Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Local Government of the Welsh Government asked the Commission to submit a report in respect of the review of electoral arrangements for the County Borough of Bridgend before the 2022 local government elections.

Electoral Arrangements

3. The changes that the Commission may recommend in relation to an electoral review are:
 - (a) such changes to the arrangements for the principal area under review as appear to it appropriate; and
 - (b) in consequence of such changes:
 - (i) Such community boundary changes as it considers appropriate in relation to any community in the principal area;
 - (ii) Such community council changes and changes to the electoral arrangements for such a community as it considers appropriate; and
 - (iii) Such preserved county changes as it considers appropriate.
4. The “electoral arrangements” of a principal area are defined in section 29 (9) of the 2013 Act as:
 - i) the number of members for the council for the principal area;
 - ii) the number, type and boundaries of the electoral wards;
 - iii) the number of members to be elected for any electoral ward in the principal area; and
 - iv) the name of any electoral ward.

Considerations for a review of principal area electoral arrangements

5. Section 30 of the Act requires the Commission, in considering whether to make recommendations for changes to the electoral arrangements for a principal area, to:
 - (a) seek to ensure that the ratio of local government electors to the number of members of the council to be elected is, as near as may be, the same in every electoral ward of the principal area;
 - (b) have regard to:
 - (i) the desirability of fixing boundaries for electoral wards which are and will remain easily identifiable;
 - (ii) the desirability of not breaking local ties when fixing boundaries for electoral wards.
6. In considering the ratio of local government electors to the number of members, account is to be taken of:
 - (a) any discrepancy between the number of local government electors and the number of persons that are eligible to be local government electors (as indicated by relevant official statistics); and
 - (b) any change to the number or distribution of local government electors in the principal area which is likely to take place in the period of five years immediately following the making of any recommendation.

Local government changes

7. Since the last local government order in 1998 there has been a number of changes to local government boundaries in Bridgend.
 - The Bridgend (Cynffig, Cornelly and Pyle Communities) (Electoral Changes) Order 2002
 - The Bridgend (Brackla and Coity Higher) Order 2006
 - The County Borough of Bridgend (Communities) Order 2009

Procedure

8. Chapter 4 of the Act lays down procedural guidelines which are to be followed in carrying out a review. In compliance with this part of the Act, the Commission wrote on 25 January 2018 to Bridgend County Borough Council, all the Community Councils in the area, the Members of Parliament for the local constituencies, the Assembly Members for the area, and other interested parties to inform them of our intention to conduct the review and to request their preliminary views. The Commission invited the County Borough Council to submit a suggested scheme or schemes for new electoral arrangements and also requested

Bridgend County Borough Council display a number of public notices in their area. The Commission also made available copies of the *Electoral Reviews: Policy and Practice* document. In addition, the Commission made a presentation to both County and Community Councillors explaining the review process. The initial consultation period closed on 25 April 2018.

9. In line with Section 35 of Chapter 4 of the Act, the Commission published its Draft Proposals Report on 15 January 2019, notifying the listed mandatory consultees and other interested parties of a period of consultation on the draft proposals would commence on 22 January 2019 and end on 15 April 2019. The Commission met with Bridgend County Borough Council Group Leaders and Chief Executive to discuss the Draft Proposals and the process of developing the Final Recommendations. The Commission invited the County Borough Council and other interested parties to submit comments on the Draft Proposals and how they could be improved. The Commission also asked Bridgend County Borough Council to display copies of the report alongside public notices in the area.
10. The boundaries of the proposed electoral wards are shown by continuous blue lines on the map placed on deposit with this Report at the Offices of Bridgend County Borough Council and the Office of the Commission in Cardiff, as well as on the Commission's website (<http://ldbc.gov.wales>).

Policy and Practice

11. The Commission published the *Electoral Reviews: Policy and Practice* document in November 2016. This document details the Commission's approach to resolving the challenge of balancing electoral parity and community ties; it sets out the issues to be considered and gives some understanding of the broad approach which is taken towards each of the statutory considerations to be made when addressing a review's particular circumstances. However, because those circumstances are unlikely to provide for the ideal electoral pattern, in most reviews compromises are made in applying the policies in order to strike the right balance between each of the matters the Commission must consider.
12. The document also provides the overall programme timetable, and how this was identified, and the Commission's Council Size Policy. The document can be viewed on the Commission's website or are available on request.

Crown Copyright

13. The maps included in this report, and published on the Commission's website, were produced by the Local Democracy and Boundary Commission for Wales under licence from Ordnance Survey. These maps are subject to © Crown Copyright. Unauthorised reproduction will infringe Crown Copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings. Any newspaper editor wishing to use the maps as part of an article about the draft proposals should first contact the copyright office at Ordnance Survey.

SUMMARY OF REPRESENTATION RECEIVED FOR THE COMMISSIONS DRAFT PROPOSALS CONSULTATION ON THE REVIEW OF ELECTORAL ARRANGMENTS IN THE COUNTY BOROUGH OF BRIDGEND

1. **Group Leaders Bridgend County Borough Council** emailed 15 April opposing the proposal to combine the three wards of Coity Higher Community Council into one ward stating that all three wards are separate and have individual identities. The Group Leaders proposed alternative arrangements to enable the retention of three single member wards.

The Group Leaders also stated that the Brackla wards as stated in the Commission's Draft Proposals report were not as they had stated in their representation and re-stated what they had suggested in their initial representation.

The Group Leaders also stated their support for the consequential arrangements for Porthcawl Town Council to be changed so that the Porthcawl East Central ward be represented by six not seven Town Council members as proposed by the Commission.

2. **Councillor Alex Williams (Penprysg)** emailed on 13 February stating that the residents of Heol-y-Cyw, Rhiw Ceiliog and Wern Tarw gravitated towards Pencoed and not Bryncethin for their services. The Councillor suggests that the electoral link between those areas and Pencoed is maintained.
3. **Councillor Roderick Shaw (Garw Valley)** wrote on 28 March to the Commission objecting to the proposal in the Garw Valley. The Councillor proposed an alternative arrangement that would create a single two-member ward called Garw Valley.
4. **Councillor John Spanswick (Brackla)** emailed 02 April supporting the Commission's proposal to create single member wards in Brackla. The Councillor however provided alternative arrangements which would allow the Coychurch Lower ward to take a part of Brackla to enable a retention of a single-member ward for Coychurch Lower avoiding the combination of Brackla East and Coychurch Lower as proposed.
5. **Councillor Tom Giffard (Brackla)** submitted on the portal. The Councillor broadly supported the proposal to single member wards in Brackla. The Councillor provided alternative arrangements for some of the wards. The Councillor however recognised the need for combining Brackla East and Coychurch Lower in order to propose wards that are acceptable within the guidance.

6. **Councillor Elaine Venables (Coychurch Lower)** emailed 10 April opposing the Commission's proposal to combine Coychurch Lower with part of Brackla. The Councillor proposes that Coychurch Lower remains a single member ward based on the projected figures. The Councillor states that the two areas have separate school catchment areas and that there would be a lack of representation for the residents of Coychurch with over 60% of the electorate being from Brackla. The Councillor however provides alternative arrangements which would allow the Coychurch ward to take a part of Brackla to enable a retention of a single-member ward for Coychurch Lower if the Commission feels it must increase the number of electors in Coychurch Lower.
7. **Councillor Altaf Hussain (Pen-y-Fai)** emailed 12 April stating that all residents of Pen-y-Fai are opposed to the proposal to combine Aberkenfig and Pen y Fai. The Councillor objects to the proposals on the following grounds: the anticipated number of residents in Pen-y-fai is understated, the geographical split of the M4 is obvious, each village is separate and has its own churches and schools and a separate sense of community with both villages asking for separate community councils. Combining the areas would result in a loss of communal belonging and conflict over local needs.
8. **Councillor Carolyn Webster (Newcastle)** emailed 15 April opposing the Commission's proposal to combine the existing Morfa and Newcastle wards to form a Bridgend Central ward. The Councillor proposes that the new three-member ward would be unmanageable and proposed alternative arrangements.
9. **Councillor Timothy Thomas (Ynysawdre)** emailed 11 March stating strong concerns about the Draft Proposals and expressed disappointment that the recommendations of the party leaders on Bridgend County Borough Council had been ignored. The Councillor is opposed to the combination of Ynysawdre and Sarn and states there is no evidence of these communities being coterminous.

The Councillor also states his confusion over the proposed Aberkenfig and Pen-y-fai ward. Which in his view would see the new ward straddle the constituency boundary between Bridgend and Ogmores, resulting in potential difficulties in working between elected members.

The Councillor proposes uniting the Community of Tondur, and recommends the proposals put forward by the leaders of the political parties.
10. **Merthyr Mawr Community Council** emailed on 14 April supporting the proposal to retain the existing Bryntirion, Laleston and Merthyr Mawr electoral

ward. They also supported the proposed Welsh language name and stated that changes were not necessary to provide for effective electoral ward in the area.

11. **Coychurch Higher Community Council** emailed on 13 April opposing the proposal to combine Bryncethin with the Community of Coychurch Higher. Stating that the residents of Heol-y-Cyw in Coychurch Higher have a historic affinity to Pencoed and therefore gravitate to Pencoed.
12. **Porthcawl Town Council** emailed on 20 February requesting that the Commission amend the proposal for the consequential changes to Porthcawl Town Council. The Town Council are requesting that the number of councillors proposed to represent the Porthcawl East Central ward of the Town Council is reduced from seven to six.
13. **Pencoed Town Council** emailed on 07 February stating that the Town Council believes that their original proposal to split the Hendre ward should be accepted, however, the Town Council also states that the whole area of Pencoed could be well served with three elected members.
14. **Bridgend Town Council** wrote on 28 March to the Commission regarding the proposed Bridgend Central and Oldcastle wards. The Town Council does not agree with the amalgamation of the Morfa and Newcastle wards to create the proposed Bridgend Central electoral wards. The Town Council is opposed to the resulting reduction in the number of councillors. The Town Council also states that the two wards have their own characteristics and have no historical connections. The Town Council also questions the proposed name specifically the 'Central' and proposed an alternative name of Bridgend North West. The Town Council state that they would prefer to retain the current arrangement for these wards.

The Town Council believes that by not altering the boundaries of the Oldcastle ward the Commission is missing the opportunity to put right the obvious anomalies that exist. The Town Council proposed boundary changes that would move a small number of electors.

15. **Brackla Community Council** emailed on 09 April agreeing that it may be beneficial for Brackla to have four wards, especially for election costs.
16. **St Bride's Minor Community Council** emailed on 14 April requesting that the wards of Bryncethin, Bryncoch and Sarn be combined into an electoral ward represented by two members which would be co-terminous with the community council.

17. **Coychurch Lower Community Council** emailed 14 April opposing the Brackla East and Coychurch Lower proposed electoral ward. The opposition is based on the fact that a new residential housing has been granted planning consent and further developments in the Coychurch Lower ward will more than justify its own councillor by 2022. The Community Council expressed concern that the current system of voting could result in both proposed councillors being from Brackla and that residents of Coychurch Lower will no longer have the same access to their Borough Councillor.
18. **Newcastle Higher Community Council** emailed 14 April opposing the proposal to combine the Aberkenfig and Pen-y-fai electoral wards. The community council notes that the Commission has tried to make it fairer based on population. The community council states that the current arrangement of having one dedicated member to each ward works well. Residents expressed concerns that having two members representing one large ward could lead to disagreement leading to services suffering and needs being unmet. The Community Council believes that the best arrangement would be for two wards to be retained as the M4 divides the two areas.
19. **Coity Higher Community Council** emailed on 14 April opposing the proposal to combine the three existing wards into one electoral ward. The Community council believe that merging the three wards is a disproportionate response to the challenge of achieving electoral parity and doesn't take into account the individual identity of its constituent wards. The Community Council provided alternative suggested arrangements to address the imbalance that exists between Coity and Pendre, whilst retaining three single member wards.
20. **Community Councillor Meryl Wilkins (Newcastle Higher Community Council)** wrote on 08 April opposing the proposal to combine the existing wards of Aberkenfig and Penyfai.
21. **Community Councillors David Lewis, Janice Lewis and Gary Thomas** emailed on 15 April opposing the proposal to merge Sarn and Ynysawdre stating that this proposal could create a six-mile journey to visit two different residents. The representation requests that the wards of Bryncethin, Bryncoch and Sarn be combined into an electoral ward of St Brides Minor which existed until 1998, represented by two members which would be coterminous with the community council. The Community Councillors also stated that the Community Council arrangements would need to be changed as a result of the proposal made by the Commission.
22. **Four Community Councillors that represent the Bettws ward (Garw Valley Community Council)** emailed on 12 April supporting the proposal to

combine the existing ward of Bettws with the Community of Llangynwyd Lower. The councillors also propose taking Bettws out of the Garw Valley Community Council and merging it with the Llangynwyd Lower Community Council.

- 23. Community Councillor David Unwin (Merthyr Mawr Community Council)** wrote on 11 April requesting that the Commission look again at where the various parts of Merthyr Mawr Community Council are placed within Bridgend. The Community Councillor states that having a better relationship with the Oldcastle ward would make infinite sense or joining the Tythegston and Stormy Down wards with the Laleston ward. The Community Councillor acknowledges that the electorate numbers are small and would have little effect to the ratios.
- 24. Community Councillor Christine Taylor (Merthyr Mawr)** emailed on 25 March supporting the proposal to retain the existing Bryntirion, Laleston and Merthyr Mawr electoral ward. They also supported the proposed Welsh language name and stated that changes were not necessary to provide for effective electoral ward in the area.
- 25. Chris Elmore MP and Huw Irranca-Davies AM** jointly wrote to the Commission on 2 April stating that they fully support the majority of the proposals contained within the Draft Proposals Report. They suggest an alternative name for the Felindre ward to reflect the change of names in the area. The elected members propose that the Felindre ward be named Pencoed East in English and Dwyrain Pencoed in Welsh. The elected members state their opposition to the proposed wards in the Garw Valley and state that the residents of Pontycymmer have a strong sense of belonging and dividing the village is arbitrary. The elected members support the desire to reduce the number of councillors in the area and therefore propose using the Community of Garw Valley to form a new electoral ward represented by two councillors.
- 26. A Resident of Pen-y-fai** emailed on 04 February opposing the proposal to combine the existing community wards of Aberkenfig and Pen-y-fai to create a new Newcastle Higher electoral ward. The resident states that the estimated figures for Pen-y-fai are understated given the granting of planning permissions for new housing. The resident states that the two villages are separated by the M4 and are totally different communities.
- 27. A Resident of Pen-y-fai** emailed on 05 February opposing the proposal to combine the existing community wards of Aberkenfig and Pen-y-fai to create a new Newcastle Higher electoral ward. The resident states that both wards

have very different historical heritage, and still have separate political outlook and economic needs arguing that one size will not fit all.

28. **A Resident of Penprysg** emailed on 12 February supporting the proposal to merge Heol Y Cyw with Bryncethin in one ward.
29. **A Resident of Coychurch** emailed on 20 February stating that no consideration has been given to the fact that large geographical and diverse rural wards require more work and travel for a councillor than compact urban wards. The resident highlights the fact that the five year projected figures sees an increase in the electorate in the Coychurch Lower ward and that this increase justifies retaining the existing arrangements. The resident states that there is a significant difference between the communities of Brackla and Coychurch Lower.
30. **A Resident of Brackla** emailed on 28 February requesting that the boundary between Brackla and Coity is moved to include the ammunition barracks within the Brackla electoral ward.
31. **Two Residents of Coychurch Lower** emailed on 07 March opposing the proposal to combine part of Brackla with the Community of Coychurch Lower. The residents are concerned that the Coychurch Lower residents would be outnumbered by the Brackla residents on issues. The residents state that the proposed merger is based on cold statistics and not the needs of the electorate.
32. **A Resident of Bridgend** emailed on 26 March opposing the proposal to combine the electoral wards of Abercynffig and Pen-y-Fai, stating that the use of a county average as a means of determining ward members is meaningless, and is only a statistical fact. They also opposed to the combination as the areas are not similar, Abercynffig is a small town built around industrialisation, whereas Pen-y-Fai is a historic village. The combination would please none and offend all.
33. **A Resident of Coychurch** emailed on 01 April opposing the proposal to combine Coychurch Lower with Brackla. The resident requested that the proposal be reconsidered, as Coychurch Lower has its own identity.
34. **A Petition with 92 signatories** was submitted to the Commission on 28 March which proposes an alternative to the proposed boundaries affecting the Garw Valley. The signatories support the Commission's proposal to reduce the number of councillors representing the area. The signatories propose to combine the three existing wards to form a new ward represented by two councillors.

35. **A Resident of Pen-y-Fai** emailed on 06 April opposing the proposed alteration to the boundaries of Pen-y-Fai.
36. **A Resident of Pencoed** emailed on 05 April proposing an alternative boundary change between Hendre and Penprysg that would see the boundary run along the Nant Heol y Geifr stream. With houses to the west of the stream having more in common with Hendre than they do with Penprysg.
37. **A Resident of Pen-y-Fai** emailed on 14 April opposing the proposal for Pen-y-Fai and Aberkenfig to become one electoral ward. Stating that the two villages are sperate and that they should not share councillors.
38. **A Resident of Bridgend** emailed on 05 April opposing the merging of the Brackla East and Coychurch areas. The resident believes that the Coychurch residents will not be sufficiently represented and issues relating to Coychurch will be given less time than those of Brackla East.
39. **A Resident of Brackla** emailed 15 April supporting the Commission's proposal to create single member wards in Brackla. The resident however provided alternative arrangements which would allow the Coychurch Lower ward to take a part of Brackla to enable a retention of a single-member ward for Coychurch Lower, avoiding the combination of Brackla East and Coychurch Lower as proposed.
40. **A Resident of Brackla** submitted on the portal. The resident supported the proposed boundaries for the Brackla East Central electoral ward. The resident provided alternative arrangements for the Brackla West and Brackla West Central electoral wards.
41. **A Resident of Nantyffyllon** emailed on 24 January 2019 supporting the proposal to reduce the number of members in the Caerau ward from three to two. The resident proposes that the Caerau electoral ward should be split in two using the existing community wards to form two new single member wards.
42. **Three Residents of Pen-y-Fai** emailed on 13 April opposing the proposal of combining the Newcastle Higher Community Council into a multi-member electoral ward, stating that the two villages have changed substantially. They are also opposed to a multi-member ward. And believe that the projected electorate will grow substantially in Pen-y-Fai. The residents state that the Newcastle Higher Community Council is made up of community councillors from each ward and works well.

43. **Pen-y-fai Village Community Association** emailed 15 April opposing the proposal of combining the Newcastle Higher Community Council into a multi-member electoral ward, stating that the two villages have changed substantially. They are also opposed to a multi-member ward and believe that the projected electorate will grow substantially in Pen-y-fai. The residents state that the Newcastle Higher Community Council is made up of community councillors from each ward and works well.
44. **Tondu and Aberkenfig Community Association** emailed on 08 March opposing the draft proposals for the Valleys Gateway area. The Association believes that the proposed wards will create confusion for Members of Parliament and Assembly Members that represent the area as the proposals would include areas from two different constituencies. The Association believe single-member wards give residents better representation. The Association has provided alternative arrangements for the wards.
45. **Ynysawdre Elderly Residents Association** wrote on 08 April requesting that Ynysawdre Community Council is amalgamated with another local Community Council.



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

WRITTEN STATEMENT BY THE WELSH GOVERNMENT

TITLE **LOCAL ELECTIONS AND ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS**

DATE **Thursday 23rd JUNE 2016**

BY **MARK DRAKEFORD, CABINET SECRETARY FOR FINANCE AND
LOCAL GOVERNMENT**

The Local Authority Elections (Wales) Order 2014 provided for local elections in Wales to be delayed for a year, from May 2016 to May 2017. This allowed the elections to be separated from the Assembly elections.

At the present time, the Local Government Act 1972 provides that ordinary elections to local government in Wales take place on the first Thursday of May every four years. Therefore, the next local government elections would normally take place in May 2021. Since the implementation of the provisions of the Wales Act 2014, elections to the National Assembly take place on a five-yearly cycle. The policy of the Welsh Government is that elections at local level should also be placed on a five year cycle. It is intended that councillors elected next May will therefore hold office until May 2022.

The Wales Bill, currently before Parliament, includes provisions which would enable the Assembly to legislate to determine the term of office for local government. As the Bill is currently in draft form and should these provisions, for any reason, not come into force, the Welsh Government could use the same powers under the Local Government Act 2000 as we did in 2014 to delay the elections by a year. This statement therefore provides clarity to local government as to the length of office of those to be elected next year.

In the light of this, I have considered the decision made last year in relation to the electoral arrangements of some principal councils. It was determined that reviews conducted by the Local Democracy and Boundary Commission for Wales in relation to nine principal areas would not be implemented, given the intention that councils elected in 2017 would only serve a short term prior to mergers.

However, even though the elections in May next year will now result in a full term, due to their proximity, the arrangements which would be required and the disruption for potential candidates, I do not intend to implement any changes to current electoral arrangements in advance of the 2017 elections resultant from those reviews. The councils concerned are Carmarthenshire, Ceredigion, Conwy, Denbighshire, Gwynedd, Monmouthshire, Pembrokeshire, Powys and Torfaen.

The decision that councils will be elected for a full term also means that the Local Democracy and Boundary Commission (the Commission) will return to its normal ten-year cycle of reviews of electoral arrangements. I expect the Commission to publish a new, prioritised programme as soon as possible which takes into account the age of the current arrangements in some areas and the amount of change since the last review was undertaken. I will ask the Commission, in planning their work, to start by revisiting the nine outstanding reviews, with a view to presenting fresh reports on these at the very start of their programme.

It is my intention that reviews of electoral arrangements in principal councils will be conducted against a set of common criteria to be agreed through the Commission. I also expect electoral reviews to have been completed for all 22 authorities within the next local government term.

These arrangements provide clarity for those considering standing for election in 2017 and also set out a long term planning horizon for local authorities and their public service partners. However, I want to be clear that discussions on the reform agenda are on-going with local authorities and other stakeholders. I will be proposing a way forward on local government reform in the Autumn.

