

Meeting of:	Cabinet
Date of Meeting:	Thursday, 26 February 2026
Relevant Scrutiny Committee:	Resources Scrutiny Committee
Report Title:	Democracy and Boundary Commission Cymru – Vale of Glamorgan Electoral Arrangements Review Final Recommendations
Purpose of Report:	To update Members on the Democracy and Boundary Commission Cymru – Vale of Glamorgan Electoral Arrangements Review Final Recommendations
Report Owner:	Executive Leader and Cabinet Member for Performance and Resources
Responsible Officer:	Chief Executive and Electoral Registration Officer
Elected Member and Officer Consultation:	This report has Council wide implications, and no Ward Member consultation has been undertaken.
Policy Framework:	This is an Executive decision by Cabinet, but the final outcome of the review by the Commission will be reported to Full Council
<p>Executive Summary:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Democracy and Boundary Commission Cymru etc. Act 2013 requires the Democracy and Boundary Commission Cymru (“the Commission”) to review the electoral arrangements for each principal area in Wales at least once every 12 years. • The electoral arrangements are defined as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The number of Members of the Council for the principal area; The number, type and boundaries of the electoral wards into which the principal area is for the time being divided for the purpose for the election of Members; The number of Members to be elected for any electoral ward in the principal area; and The name of any electoral ward. • The Commission commenced the Electoral Review for the Vale of Glamorgan on 5th June 2025. • Community Liaison Committee considered a report relating to the Electoral Arrangements Review and the Council’s preferred scheme for submission to the Democracy and Boundary Commission Cymru the minute of which can be found here. 	

- The report and Committee comments were referred to Council on 14th July 2025, the minute of which can be found [here](#).
- The Commission published the Final Recommendations on 29th January 2026 which can be found [here](#).
- The final recommendations have been submitted to Welsh Government Ministers and any further comments concerning the Commission's Final Recommendations should be addressed to Welsh Government and submitted by no later than 12th March 2026.
- The Commission has notified all mandatory consultees of the publication of their Final Recommendations.
- The purpose of this report is to update Cabinet of the Commission's Final Recommendations.

Recommendations

1. That the Final Recommendations as set in paragraphs 2.1 to 2.10 of this report be noted.
2. That Cabinet recommends to Full Council that the Final Recommendations are accepted and that this is conveyed to Welsh Ministers in advance of 12th March 2026.
3. That the report be referred to Full Council on 9th March 2026 for consideration.

Reasons for Recommendations

1. To note and consider the Commission's Final Recommendations
2. To recommend to Full Council that the Final Recommendations be accepted.
3. To allow consideration by Full Council, whilst being mindful that all Members are able to submit their own comments if they so wish.

1. Background

- 1.1** The Democracy and Boundary Commission Cymru etc. Act 2013 requires the Commission to review the electoral arrangements for each principal area in Wales at least once every 12 years.
- 1.2** The Commission commenced the Electoral Review for the Vale of Glamorgan on 5th June 2025.
- 1.3** The Commission published their Final Recommendations on 29th January 2026.

2. Key Issues for Consideration

- 2.1** Set out below are the Commission's Final Recommendations. A table of the existing and recommended arrangements can be found at Appendices 1 and 2.
- 2.2** In the Commission's Final Recommendations, they are proposing changes to the Electoral Ward arrangements for Cosmeston, Plymouth, Llandow and Cowbridge based on the areas of concern and suggestions received via representations.
- 2.3** In terms of Llandow, at the Draft Proposals Stage, the Commission proposed to transfer the Community of Colwinston and Llangan from the Llandow electoral ward into the St Brides Major electoral ward. Following a number of representations opposed to this proposal, the Commission has recommended that the Llandow electoral ward (as 'existing' following the Vale of Glamorgan Communities Order 2026) be

allocated a 2nd County Councillor. The Commission acknowledges that this results in a level of variance beyond the +/-20% variance tolerance. However, the level of variance is expected to reach 21% by 2030, and the Commission considers that this is acceptable due to the projected increase in the electorate of Llandow. The Commission recommends retaining the existing English Language electoral ward name of Llandow, and the existing Welsh Language electoral ward name of Llandŵ. The Welsh Language Commissioner agrees with the recommended names.

- 2.4** In terms of Plymouth and Cosmeston, at the Draft Proposals stage the Commission proposed to combine the electoral wards of Cosmeston (as 'existing' following the Vale of Glamorgan Communities Order 2026) and Plymouth to form an electoral ward. The Commission received five representations concerning the Plymouth and Cosmeston electoral wards during the draft consultation period. In their Final Recommendations the Commission recommends combining the existing electoral wards of Cosmeston and Plymouth in order to address the levels of variance from the recommended county average in both existing wards. The Commission recommends the new single electoral ward name of Cosmeston Plymouth which will be represented by 3 County Councillors. The Welsh Language Commissioner agrees with the recommended single name for the new ward.
- 2.5** In terms of Cowbridge, at the Draft Proposals stage the Commission proposed to create two new electoral wards for the area with the Town of Cowbridge with Llanblethian forming a two-Member electoral ward, and the Community of Penllyn forming a single Member electoral ward. The Commission received four representations concerning the Cowbridge electoral ward during the draft consultation period. In their Final Recommendations the Commission recommends creating a new single Member electoral ward formed of the Community of Penllyn. The Commission also recommends creating a new two-Member electoral ward formed of the Town of Cowbridge with Llanblethian. The Commission considered the representations received during the Draft Proposals consultation period and recommends that the proposals are adopted. The Commission recommends retaining the existing English language electoral ward name of Cowbridge, and the existing Welsh language electoral ward name of Y Bont-faen. The Commission recommends applying the single electoral ward name of Pen-llin. The Welsh Language Commissioner agrees with the recommended names and advises that Pen-llin is the only standard form recommended in the Standard Welsh Place.
- 2.6** The Commission has recommended to retain the existing electoral arrangements of 22 electoral wards. Baruc, Buttrills, Cadoc, Castleland, Cornerswell, Court, Dinas Powys, Dyfan, Gibbonsdown, Illtyd, Llandough, Llantwit Major, Peterston-super-Ely, Rhoose, St Athan, St Brides Major, St Augustines, St Nicholas and Llancarfan, Stanwell, Sully, Waterfront and Wenvoe.

- 2.7** The Commission has considered the electoral arrangements of the existing electoral wards, taking into account the ratio of local government electors to Councillors. It is recommended that the current arrangements be retained for these wards, as all but three (Illtyd, Llandow and Wenvoe) fall within the accepted +/- 20% variance from the recommended County Average. Wenvoe was previously part of the St Nicholas and Llandarfarn ward, with the current arrangement introduced at the last electoral review. As it has only been in place for one election cycle, the Commission considers it appropriate to give further consideration to its retention. Electors have only experienced one cycle under these boundaries and changing them again, knowing that the variance will improve in future, would create unnecessary confusion. Projected 2030 electorates also fall within the +/- 20% variance, and the Commission is therefore content to retain the existing arrangements for both Illtyd and Wenvoe.
- 2.8** As part of an electoral review, the Commission considers the names of electoral wards in the area under review. The Commission's general practice will be to recommend changes to the name of an electoral ward if it considers that the name can be improved, irrespective of whether the Commission is recommending changes to other electoral arrangements affecting that ward. In light of the Commission's duty to promote the use of the Welsh language, the Commission's general preference will be for electoral wards to bear a single name in the Welsh language which is acceptable for use in English. The Final Recommendations are set out below. Where there is one name, the Commission is recommending a single name;

Baruc	Llantwit Major/Llanilltud Fawr
Buttrills	Peterston-super-Ely/Llanbedr-y-fro
Cadog	Y Rhws
Castleland	St Athan/Sain Tathan
Cornerswell	St Brides Major/Sant-y-brid
Court	St Augustine's
Dinas Powys	Stanwell
Dyfan	St Nicholas and Llandarfarn/Sain Nicolas Llandarfarn
Gibbonsdown	Sully/Silli
Illtud	Waterfront/Glannau'r Barri
Llandough/Llandochoau	Wenvoe/Gwenfo

- 2.9** As stated above and within the Executive Summary, the commentary in paragraphs 2.1 to 2.10 is the Commission’s Final Recommendations that have been submitted to Welsh Government Ministers. All those with an interest in the matter can also make further comments by no later than 12th March 2026. These should be addressed to Elections Division, Welsh Government, Cathays Park, Cardiff, CF10 3NQ or by email to etholiadau.elections@gov.wales .
- 2.10** Whilst all Members are encouraged to submit representations directly to the Welsh Government, either individually or as Groups, it is considered appropriate that the Council also provides a stance of the final recommendations. To this end, and on balance, it is considered that the final recommendations represent an appropriate and balanced approach and should be supported. It is therefore recommended that the Welsh Government Minister be advised that there are no objections to the final report from this Council.

3. How do proposals evidence the Five Ways of Working and contribute to our Well-being Objectives?

- 3.1** The review of Electoral Arrangements safeguards the long-term needs of local residents to ensure an effective and convenient local government and electoral equality.

4. Climate Change and Nature Implications

- 4.1** There are no direct climate change implications associated with the undertaking of the review.

5. Resources and Legal Considerations

Financial

- 5.1** There are no financial implications associated with this report.

Employment

- 5.2** There are no employment implications arising as a result of this report.

Legal (Including Equalities)

- 5.3** The statutory requirements relating to an electoral arrangements review are set out in the Democracy and Boundary Commission Cymru etc. Act 2013.

6. Background Paper

Democracy and Boundary Commission Cymru – Vale of Glamorgan Electoral Arrangements
Review Final Recommendations

THE COUNTY BOROUGH OF THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL
EXISTING COUNTY COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP
VARIANCE FROM THE EXISTING COUNTY AVERAGE

No.	NAME	DESCRIPTION	No. OF COUNCILLORS (Existing)	ELECTORATE 2025	Ratio 2025	% variance from existing County average	ELECTORATE 2030	Ratio 2030	% variance from existing County average	Population Eligible to Vote
1	Baruc	The Baruc (4,364), [4369] ward of the Town of Barry	3	4,364	1,455	-18%	4,369	1,456	-22%	8,882
2	Buttrills	The Buttrills (3,107), [3,222] ward of the Town of Barry	2	3,107	1,554	-13%	3,222	1,611	-14%	6,308
3	Cadoc	The Cadoc (7,080), [7,174] ward of the Town of Barry	4	7,080	1,770	-1%	7,174	1,794	-4%	9,961
4	Castleland	The Castleland (3,367), [3,484] ward of the Town of Barry	2	3,367	1,684	-6%	3,484	1,742	-7%	4,928
5	Cornerswell	The Cornerswell (4,069), [4,120] ward of the Town of Penarth	2	4,069	2,035	14%	4,120	2,060	10%	5,257
6	Cosmeston	The Cosmeston (693), [693] ward of the Town of Penarth	1	693	693	-61%	693	693	-63%	N/A
7	Court	The Court (3,782), [3,894] ward of the Town of Barry	2	3,782	1,891	6%	3,894	1,947	4%	4,800
8	Cowbridge	The Town of Cowbridge with Llanblethian (3,734), [4,074] and the Community of Penllyn (1,526), [2,045]	3	5,260	1,753	-2%	6,119	2,040	9%	6,789
9	Dinas Powys	The Community of Dinas Powys (6,367), [6,348]	4	6,367	1,592	-11%	6,348	1,587	-15%	8,409
10	Dyfan	The Dyfan (5,485), [5,508] ward of the Town of Barry	3	5,485	1,828	3%	5,508	1,836	-2%	5,608
11	Gibbonsdown	The Gibbonsdown (3,732), [4,160] ward of the Town of Barry	2	3,732	1,866	5%	4,160	2,080	11%	5,512
12	Illtyd	The Illtyd (6,332), [6,303] ward of the Town of Barry	2	6,332	2,111	18%	6,303	2,101	13%	7,820
13	Llandough	The Community of Llandough and Cwrtyrall (1,801), [2,334]	1	1,801	1,801	1%	2,334	2,334	25%	2,127
14	Llandow	The Communities of Colwinston and Llangan (1,111), [1,116], and Llandow, Llanfair and Llanmaes (1,420), [1,770]	1	2,531	2,531	42%	2,886	2,886	55%	2,128
15	Llantwit Major	The Town of Llantwit Major (7,577), [7,623]	4	7,577	1,894	6%	7,623	1,906	2%	9,880
16	Peterston-super-ely	The Communities of Pendoylan and Welsh St. Donats (807), [850], Peterston and St Georges (934), [943]	1	1,741	1,741	-2%	1,793	1,793	-4%	1,973
17	Plymouth	The Plymouth (4,548), [4,586] ward of the Town of Penarth	2	4,548	2,274	28%	4,586	2,293	23%	5,703
18	Rhoose	The Community of Rhoose (5,369), [5,794]	3	5,369	1,790	0%	5,794	1,931	3%	6,812
19	St Athan	The Community of St Athan (3,181), [3,527]	2	3,181	1,591	-11%	3,527	1,764	-6%	4,213
20	St Brides Major	The Communities of Ewenny and St. Brides Major (2,573), [2,588], and St Donats and Wick (1,067), [1,087]	2	3,640	1,820	2%	3,675	1,838	-2%	4,635
21	St Nicholas and Llancafarn	The Communities of Llancafarn (591), [587], and St Nicholas and Bonvilston (1,207), [1,348]	1	1,798	1,798	1%	1,935	1,935	4%	2,337
22	St Augustine's	The St Augustine's (5,539), [5,554] ward of the Town of Penarth	3	5,539	1,846	4%	5,554	1,851	-1%	6,901
23	Stanwell	The Stanwell (3,393), [3,786] ward of the Town of Penarth	2	3,393	1,697	-5%	3,786	1,893	1%	4,728
24	Sully	The Community of Sully and Lavernock (3,308), [4,138]	2	3,308	1,654	-7%	4,138	2,069	11%	4,728
25	Wenvoe	The Community of Wenvoe (2,155), [2,128]	1	2,155	2,155	21%	2,128	2,128	14%	3,053
26	Waterfront	The Waterfront (3,140), [3,140] ward of the Town of Barry	2	3,140	1,570	-12%	3,140	1,570	-16%	N/A
TOTAL:			58	103,359	1,782		108,293	1,867		

Appendix 1

Ratio is the number of electors per councillor

Electoral figures supplied by the County Borough of the Vale of Glamorgan Council
Population Eligible to Vote figure provided by ONS (No data held for Cosmeston and Waterfront wards)

	2025		2030	
Greater than + or - 50% of County average	1	4%	2	8%
Between + or - 20% and + or - 50% of County average	3	12%	3	12%
Between + or - 10% and + or - 20% of County average	7	27%	8	31%
Between 0% and + or - 10% of County average	15	58%	13	50%

**THE COUNTY BOROUGH OF THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL
RECOMMENDED COUNTY COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP**

No.	NAME	DESCRIPTION As Recommended	No. OF COUNCILLORS (Recommended)	ELECTORATE 2025	Ratio 2025	% variance from recommended County average	ELECTORATE 2030	Ratio 2030	% variance from recommende d County average
1	Baruc	The Baruc (4,364), [4369] ward of the Town of Barry	3	4,364	1,455	-17%	4,369	1,456	-21%
2	Buttrills	The Buttrills (3,107), [3,222] ward of the Town of Barry	2	3,107	1,554	-11%	3,222	1,611	-12%
3	Cadoc	The Cadoc (7,080), [7,174] ward of the Town of Barry	4	7,080	1,770	1%	7,174	1,794	-2%
4	Castleland	The Castleland (3,367), [3,484] ward of the Town of Barry	2	3,367	1,684	-4%	3,484	1,742	-5%
5	Cornerswell	The Cornerswell (4,069), [4,120] ward of the Town of Penarth	2	4,069	2,035	16%	4,120	2,060	12%
6	Cosmeston Plymouth	The Cosmeston (693), [693], and Plymouth (4,548), [4,586] wards of the Town of Penarth	3	5,241	1,747	0%	5,279	1,760	-4%
7	Court	The Court (3,782), [3,894] ward of the Town of Barry	2	3,782	1,891	8%	3,894	1,947	6%
8	Cowbridge	The Town of Cowbridge with Llanblethian (3,734), [4,074]	2	3,734	1,867	7%	4,074	2,037	11%
9	Dinas Powys	The Community of Dinas Powys (6,367), [6,348]	4	6,367	1,592	-9%	6,348	1,587	-14%
10	Dyfan	The Dyfan (5,485), [5,508] ward of the Town of Barry	3	5,485	1,828	4%	5,508	1,836	0%
11	Gibbonsdown	The Gibbonsdown (3,732), [4,160] ward of the Town of Barry	2	3,732	1,866	7%	4,160	2,080	13%
12	Illtud	The Illtud (6,332), [6,303] ward of the Town of Barry	3	6,332	2,111	20%	6,303	2,101	14%
13	Llandough	The Community of Llandough and Cwrtyrall (1,801), [2,334]	1	1,801	1,801	3%	2,334	2,334	27%
14	Llandow	The Communities of Colwinston and Llangan (1,111), [1,116], and Llandow, Llanfair and Llanmaes (1,420), [1,770]	2	2,531	1,266	-28%	2,886	1,443	-21%
15	Llantwit Major	The Town of Llantwit Major (7,577), [7,623]	4	7,577	1,894	8%	7,623	1,906	4%
16	Pen-llin	The Community of Penllyn (1,526), [2,045]	1	1,526	1,526	-13%	2,045	2,045	11%
17	Peterston Super-Ely	The Communities of Pendoylan and Welsh St. Donats (807), [850], Peterston and St Georges (934), [943]	1	1,741	1,741	-1%	1,793	1,793	-2%
18	Y Rhws	The Community of Rhoose (5,369), [5,794]	3	5,369	1,790	2%	5,794	1,931	5%
19	St Athan	The Community of St Athan (3,181), [3,527]	2	3,181	1,591	-9%	3,527	1,764	-4%
20	St Brides Major	The Communities of Ewenny and St. Brides Major (2,573), [2,588], and St Donats and Wick (1,067), [1,087]	2	3,640	1,820	4%	3,675	1,838	0%
21	Sain Nicolas Llancafarn	The Communities of Llancafarn (591), [587], and St Nicholas and Bonvilston (1,207), [1,348]	1	1,798	1,798	3%	1,935	1,935	5%
22	St Augustine's	The St Augustine's (5,539), [5,554] ward of the Town of Penarth	3	5,539	1,846	5%	5,554	1,851	1%
23	Stanwell	The Stanwell (3,393), [3,786] ward of the Town of Penarth	2	3,393	1,697	-3%	3,786	1,893	3%
24	Sully	The Community of Sully and Lavernock (3,308), [4,138]	2	3,308	1,654	-6%	4,138	2,069	13%
25	Waterfront	The Waterfront (3,140), [3,140] ward of the Town of Barry	2	3,140	1,570	-10%	3,140	1,570	-14%
26	Wenvoe	The Community of Wenvoe (2,155), [2,128]	1	2,155	2,155	23%	2,128	2,128	16%
TOTAL:			59	103,359	1,752		108,293	1,835	

Appendix 2

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

	2025		2030	
Greater than + or - 50% of County average	0	0%	0	0%
Between + or - 20% and + or - 50% of County average	3	12%	3	12%
Between + or - 10% and + or - 20% of County average	4	15%	10	38%
Between 0% and + or - 10% of County average	19	73%	13	50%